



INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION_“LONDON 2008”

With their design for Omnibus, a floating art gallery on the Thames, Iconstrux transforms the iconic double decker bus into a moveable feast of cyborg architecture. Commissioned for a competition overseen by Peter Cooke, founder of the Archigram movement and a professor to both Iconstrux principal Chris Doray and his design lead Waqar Aziz when they were graduate students at the Bartlett, the design pays clever homage to the futurist nature of the movement, while achieving its own unique aesthetic.

The amphibious landform acts as a high tech lotus flower unfolding its raw exoskeleton onto a lily pad base. Mechanics generate architecture as every single joint functions as a three-way hinge, offering maximum flexibility and mobility.

The result is extraordinary. The Omnibus becomes a gallery, dining room, self-styled aquatic piazza and even an amphitheatre, changing as it moves through ports of call – the South Bank, the Tate Modern and the City Hall. The vehicle loses its original DNA, mutating into a curious creature with a sense of humour, its playful quality recalling Monty Python and the swinging 60's. This could be the brainchild of a Doctor Who time traveling to 2008.

But as the contortionist bus is mirrored by the water, so its windows frame the city skyline, offering a cool, forward thinking and design-savvy Britannia.

Principals

Chris Doray

Arno Matis

Design Lead

Waqar Aziz

Design Team

Alasdair Hamilton

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