

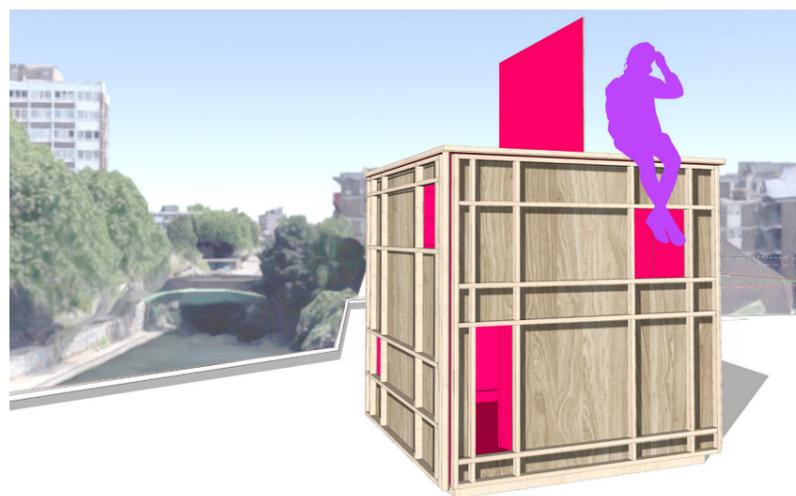
Rubino Box

We have developed a compact micro-dwelling space that when unfolded open, doubles as an installation/exhibition space that invites viewers at street and roof-level. This semi-functioning live-in studio provides a model for an alternative way of living in the built-up city landscape.

London is constantly shifting creatively and architecturally, a feeling enhanced by the trend for pop-up exhibition and design spaces that populate the East End and beyond into the surrounding areas. The idea of an experimental city rooftop thus reflects the desire to utilize every corner. The structure is a response to the individuals and small companies that make up the creativity community, while providing opportunity for collaboration. When the closed box is viewed from the outside the bright pink interior is hinted at to speak of architectural and design language. Inside the highly visible, clean surfaces, continue to reference the cool, stark identity of any one of the creative studios in East London, considered the design and artistic hub of the City. The closed form is, however, reminiscent of the cardboard box, reflecting the image of shipping containers. An element that responds to the local environment but also suggestive of the very visible homelessness on our London streets.

We have taken the 'ante' from 'antepavilion' to mean 'before', extending this to consider the idea of the incomplete, or the 'unfinalizable.' The creative world and the cityscape of London almost resists the notion of ending, both in terms of a transient population and the unending building and shifting of the landscape. This creates the potential for continuous dialogue and new methods of 'becoming', of participation and exchange that is specific to London. With this comes the discussion of survival and adaption, as we attempt to challenge institutional boundaries and social constructs of how to live.

As an architect and arts professional living in East London, our aim is to reflect on our experience of living and working in London and on the careers and lives of artists, designers, and architects that make up our community of friends and colleagues. Our aim is to consider the built-up nature of London living, but also the positive potential for exchange of ideas and collaboration that we have experienced. Comprised we have worked for several architectural offices and arts organisations, curated projects, and worked as part of academic research programmes resulting from independent work within the Fine Arts Sector. We know that spaces and funding are sparse, so our intention is to present a way to utilize our resources, creating a single environment where one can live, work and exhibit.

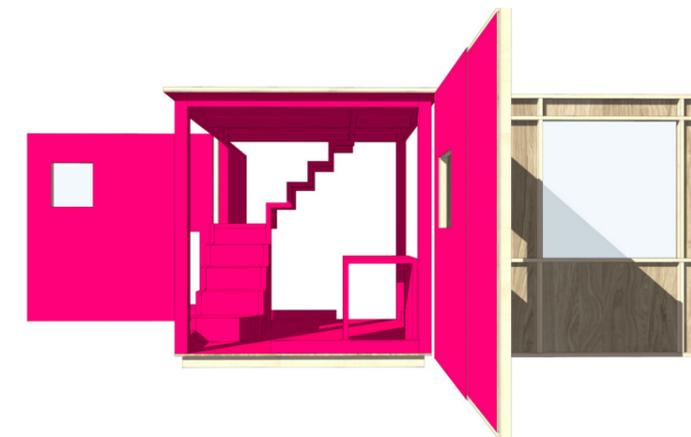


Scheme

We believe that this living/studio/exhibition space provides an innovative way of living within the city. We propose a new way for urban dwelling that utilizes the often small spaces one individual or more, has to live in, while finding ways to presents their creative practice. The project will attract visitors and passersby, given that there will be a unique view depending on the angle from which the pavilion is seen, and depending on whether it is open or closed. This will allow their engagement with the structure that, in its seeming simplicity, will provide something of an antidote and comment on the complexity of current architectural projects that make up the visual landscape of the city.

Location

The easily and quickly built structure that can be assembled by users, reflects the adaptability one has to accept when living in London. We have responded directly to the context bringing in aspects of the local area by thinking about the creative lifestyle among new built apartments and offices that enhance the image



By involving colleagues through studio practice and exhibition, our aim to bring creative vision together can be actualized. The unfolded cube symbolizes shared experience as part of a creative community, while the closed box represents the entrepreneurial individual, living in small spaces that act as home and workplace. The cube represents the boxes one lives out of, while in constant transition between different parts of London, and the urban reality of homelessness, found in close proximity to the gentrified spaces we inhabit. With living spaces becoming so small, we might ask, how far do we go to persuade people that creative life in London outweighs the need for decent living standards?

We want to challenge the questions faced by creative individuals in London, who choose to remain and build lives for themselves in the city. Rising house prices and a depleting welfare system are pushing people away, so while London thrives on cultural diversity and the young that make this city the spearhead of creativity and innovation, we want to consider solutions to the problems faced by those who attempt to settle down. While our private and vocational lives are enriched by those determined to stay and find ways of living a creative life in London, inevitably London constantly risks the loss of valuable and diverse experience.

The unfolded cube is a purpose-built open space for exhibitions providing an opportunity to present practices of a multiplicity of artists, architects and designers that we engage with on a daily basis. We would spearhead this through events that bring together all areas of the wider London community through an engagement and participation through art, architecture, fashion, theatre and music.



of the canals and surrounding boathouses, and artist's studios. The idea of a fast built, light weight structure is a response to the transient nature of London living.

Materials

In order to engage with issues of sustainability and the use of recycled and recyclable materials, we have chosen to create a box-like structure made out of timber that also acts as a wood found on response to local boats and barges. It reflects the industrial heritage of the area while the outside of the structure has the appearance of shipping cartons used by local galleries to exchange art works. This could also be interpreted as critique of substandard living that many face in the inner city.

Exhibition

For the initial exhibition we will present wall texts that reflect on aspects related to ideas behind the structure. We will invite artists, designers, architects and other creative professionals working and living in London to respond. The four spaces generated by the open box will each have a theme to respond to. Continuing on we hope that individuals from the creative community will use the living/studio space to develop works and present in exhibitions at the Antepavilion.