



Designing the future

New environments for work, rest and play

What will the future look like?

A big question, but one we can start to answer by examining the work currently being done by a number of leading designers around the world for different types of environments. In the following pages, we bring together a selection of cutting-edge designers to explore the issues of form, content, purpose and style that inform their creations.

David Marks of Marks Barfield, creators of the London Eye, introduces us to the radical thinking behind his company's latest venture, the Skyhouse, an attempt to provide sophisticated, high-rise accommodation in urban settings without falling into the traps of the tower block fiascos of earlier decades. Through David's analysis, we see how advanced design is being used to find ways of providing communities with comfortable, safe and affordable inner-city accommodation on brown-field sites, thereby averting further damage to the environment.

Sustainability is the key principle informing two of the projects discussed by Pamela Buxton, the Venus Project and the Freedom

Ship, both of which are being planned to create self-sufficient floating destinations for residence and commerce on the Earth's oceans. Pamela goes beyond the hype to ask why these and other leisure-focused projects, such as Offshore in London, are taking to the water rather than seeking to develop on land.

Mark Hilferty of McNeece introduces us to a pioneering project underway to create a new type of passenger ship, designed not simply for cruising but for much more. Destination Brisbane will be a floating craft that looks and acts nothing like a conventional cruise ship. Mark talks us through the conceptual and functional requirements that informed the design process, and how they were met. He also discusses the state of the cruise industry's relationship with the design community, and argues that a leap forward in mould-breaking creativity, of the kind which is being displayed so vividly through the Destination Brisbane project, is desperately needed to guarantee a bright future for all parties.

And what about the environment in which we all spend so much time, the office? Sarah Jane James of TTSP takes a look at the current and future direction of design for the workplace, using her own experience of working with a variety of clients to illustrate the changes in approach by employers to workspace provision. As companies fight for the brightest staff, the challenge for business leaders is to create places in which workers feel prioritised as valuable assets, while simultaneously retaining first-class technological functionality. Sarah Jane explains in detail how particular challenges have been met by TTSP, through working in partnership with clients, understanding corporate objectives, and delivering leading-edge design solutions utilising state-of-the-art technology.

