

## NEWS

# Brady urges mayor to keep Design for London

David Rogers & Will Hurst

Riba president-elect Angela Brady has this week written to London mayor Boris Johnson asking him to do everything he can to save Design for London.

The design agency is set to disappear once the London Development Agency, which includes the 18-strong Design for London team, is absorbed into the mayor's empire.



**"It does not take many years of... poor decision making to change a city like London forever"**  
Angela Brady

Already, Richard Rogers, former chief adviser to Johnson and his predecessor Ken Livingstone, has said getting rid of Design for London, which he helped found, would be "mind blowing" and a "disgrace". Terry Farrell has also joined the chorus of architects opposing the move.

In her letter to the mayor, Brady said it would risk the capital being blighted by bad design.

"It does not take many years of neglect and poor decision making to change the character of a city like London forever," she wrote. "Design for London is an essential tool you cannot be without."

BD understands Johnson is hatching plans to save its core advisory role with key functions incorporated into an economic development unit, which is likely

to be set up at City Hall once the final post-spending review settlement is known.

This is not expected until next month, but the Treasury has promised to give the mayor a pot of money for economic development in the capital.

Johnson wants some of this reserved for design because he sees an attractive urban realm as crucial to keeping London globally competitive.

At the launch of Thomas Heatherwick's new Routemaster bus last week, he vowed to prioritise design even though he will have fewer advisers.

Johnson said: "The government is committed to economic development in London... we are working on a new development and housing agency and have confirmed that all the advantages of Design for London will continue."

But he admitted jobs would be lost: "Of course there are going to be reductions in head count — that's just part of life, but we are confident that many good people will be staying and many more good people will come."

Staff at the LDA were told last month more than 200 of them would lose their jobs by the end of March after its budget was cut to £159 million for 2011, down from £480 million this year. A spokesman for the mayor admitted more cuts might have to be made once the settlement is known.

**DESIGN FOR LONDON IN RAINHAM**  
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## Competition seeks uses for moribund sites

A competition to find interim uses for three key brownfield sites in east London has been launched.

London mayor Boris Johnson and Newham mayor Robin Wales, working with BD's sister publication Property Week, are behind the Site Life competition, which aims to find "meanwhile" uses for the moribund spaces in the Royal Docks and Canning Town in the run up to and during the 2012 Olympics.

Both sites lie on the route between Stratford and the ExCel Centre, which will host events during the games.

Projects should animate the brownfield sites, promote entrepreneurial activities, create jobs and activities for young people, be sustainable and — most important of all — be deliverable.

The three sites are: a 0.5ha site opposite Canning Town station in the heart of an area earmarked for



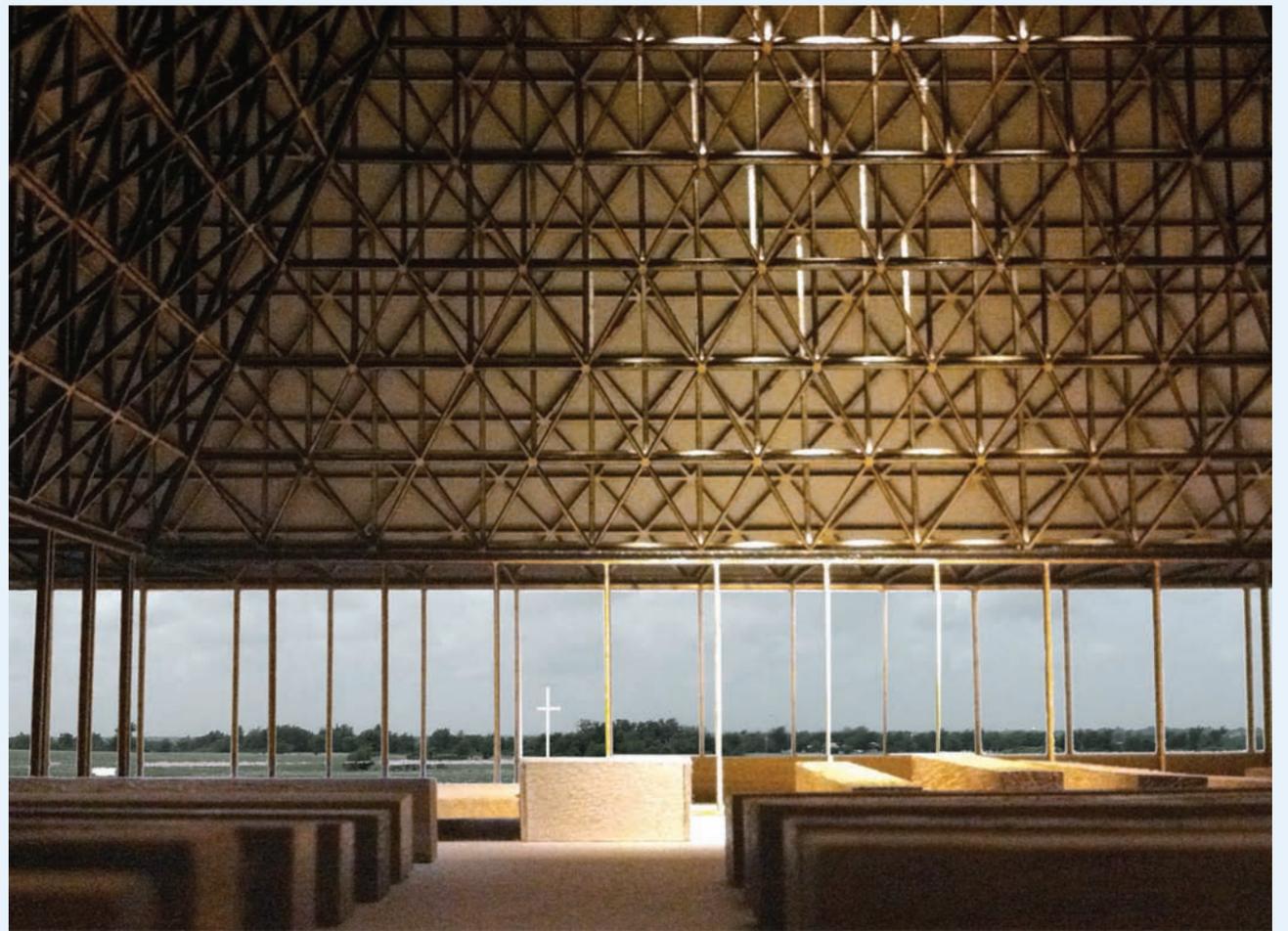
**The Millennium Mills building on the Royal Victoria Dock site.**

major regeneration; a 0.9ha dock-side site at the Royal Albert Dock; and a 0.8ha site at the Royal Victoria Dock.

The competition is open to everyone from architects to entrepreneurs. The jury comprises BD editorial director Amanda Bailieu, Giles Barrie, Tom Bloxham, Sarah Ichioka and Roger Madelin. Deadline is January 24.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO**  
[Propertyweek.com/MeanwhileLondon](http://Propertyweek.com/MeanwhileLondon)

## FIRST LOOK



The geometry of the main hall roof echoes crucifix forms when the light catches it from above.

## DRDH Architects raises the roof for Baptist church in Oklahoma

DRDH Architects has unveiled plans for a Baptist church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The £1.2 million project, which will house a congregation of around 300, sits in a rolling 40ha site on the edge of the city.

"Building on the southern Baptist tradition, we have conceived the church as a tabernacle, an ensemble of parts," says co-director Daniel Rosbottom.

The central congregational hall is surrounded by four satellite "houses": an entrance pavilion, fellowship hall, children's chapel and baptistry bell tower. A hierarchy is developed by the wayward roof forms, the central hall having the only centred pitch.

The client was keen on a courtyard form, so DRDH has proposed the church itself as a roofed courtyard, surrounded by an ambulatory to form a permeable boundary of entrances from all sides, each defined by pairs of close-centred columns. The surrounding buildings frame loose courts between them for activities to extend outside.

Conceived as a room within a room, the main hall has a timber space-frame

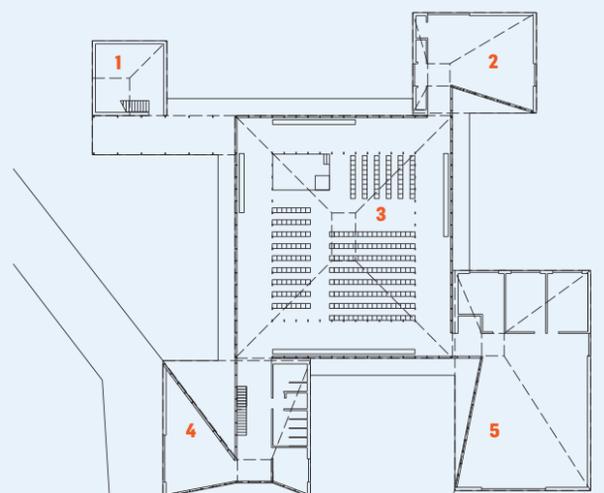


The buildings are to be clad with charred shingles.

roof structure, developed with engineer Greig-Ling, a triangulated geometry that conjures crucifix forms when the light catches it from above. Three independent "fields" of seating fill the hall below, to allow for different sized congregations.

With self-building in mind, the structure has been designed in the local vernacular of timber balloon framing, to be clad with charred shingles. The project will begin with the digging of a baptism lake and construction of a memorial pavilion to honour two of the congregation killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

### FLOOR PLAN



- 1 Library
- 2 Baptistry
- 3 Congregational worship
- 4 Congregational fellowship
- 5 Children's room

Model of timber space-frame roof.

