

BUILDINGS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



THE JURY

- Ken Shuttleworth, founder, Make
- Mark Walker, managing director, RIW
- Sarah Patrick, marketing manager, RIW
- Andy Cassie, managing director, CIB Communications
- Nick Gill, account director, CIB Communications
- Rory Olcayto, editor, The Architects' Journal

WINNER

Serpentine Columbarium
By MSMR Architects

This gorge carved around the side of the Serpentine's Long Water creates a space for people to remember the dead

In February this year the AJ launched #goingunderground, an imaginative design competition in partnership with structural waterproofing manufacturer RIW. The task was simple: entrants were asked to choose a landmark British building or structure – the Houses of Parliament for example, or the Angel of the North – and propose an underground project to sit beneath it. The proposals could be political, witty, off-the-wall, or – for the braver competitors – maybe even practical.

The response was nothing if not varied. Entries were virtually impossible to compare. So, as a guide for the jury – which included AJ editor Rory Olcayto and Make's Ken Shuttleworth – an essay by the late, great Philip K Dick was cited. Dick is the science-fiction writer whose stories inspired Hollywood movies including *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall* and *Minority Report*. In 1978 he gave a lecture entitled *How to Build a Universe That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later*. Among its many messages was this very simple observation: if a fiction of any kind – a short story, a drawing, an architectural idea – obeys the rules it has set for itself, then the story, or world, it creates, will be coherent and can be considered viable, or even 'real'.

So while some of the projects selected for the shortlist, and perhaps even our winner, may seem far-fetched, or even impossible, their execution, and the ideas behind them suggest a consistent 'world'. This, then, allowed the jury to select seven strong projects, which included one unanimous winner. They were: a fun palace beneath the Houses of Parliament, a fracking rig in Whitehall, a skatepark beneath London's South Bank, an engine room below the Gherkin, a bus station below Marble Arch, student housing under Somerset House, and our winner, a cemetery in Hyde Park.

During a celebratory lunch for the creators of all the shortlisted schemes, the prize – £1,000 of holiday vouchers – was awarded to The Serpentine Columbarium (left) by MSMR Architects. The London-based practice then surprised the room by announcing it was donating its winnings to charity.



ONLINE

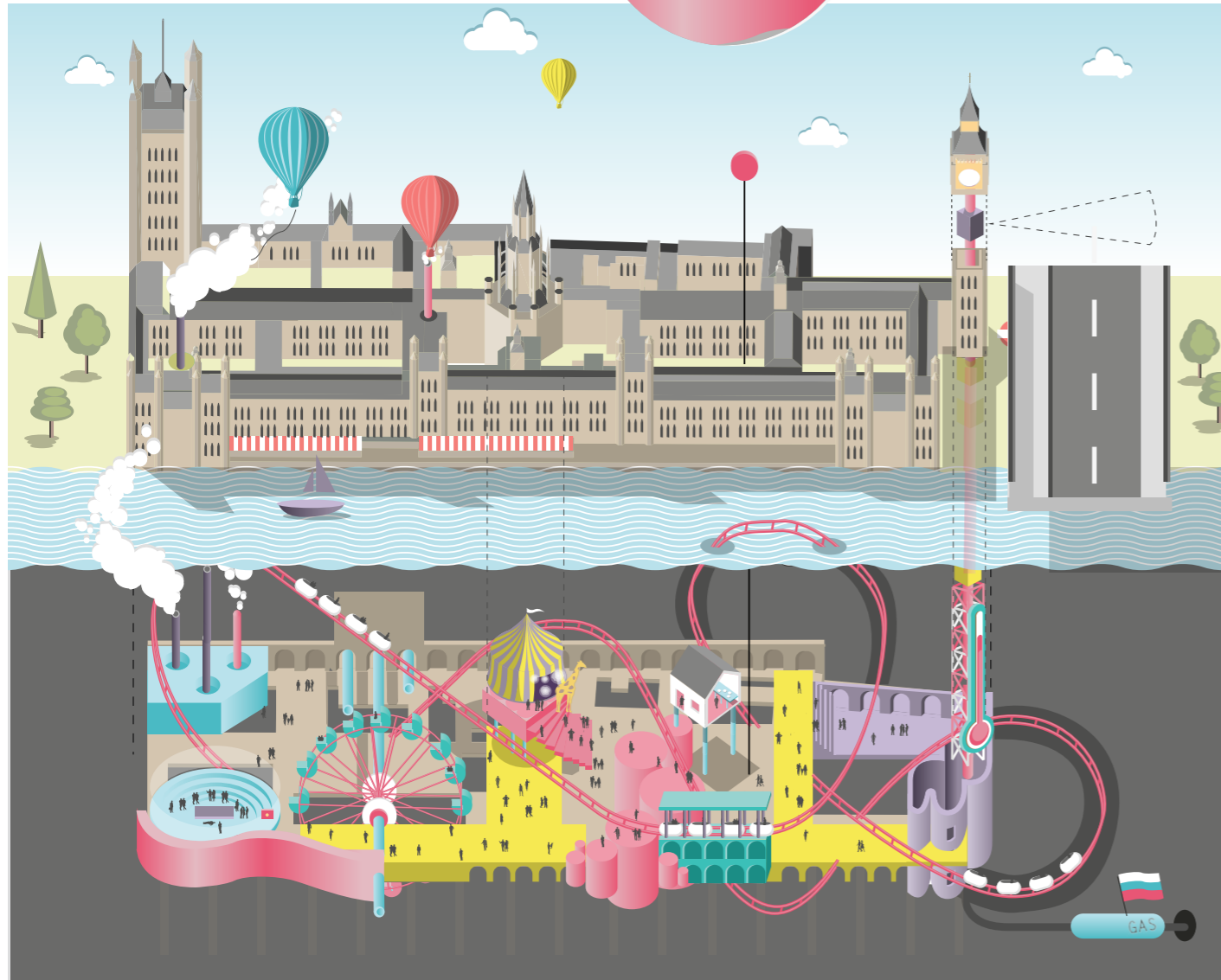
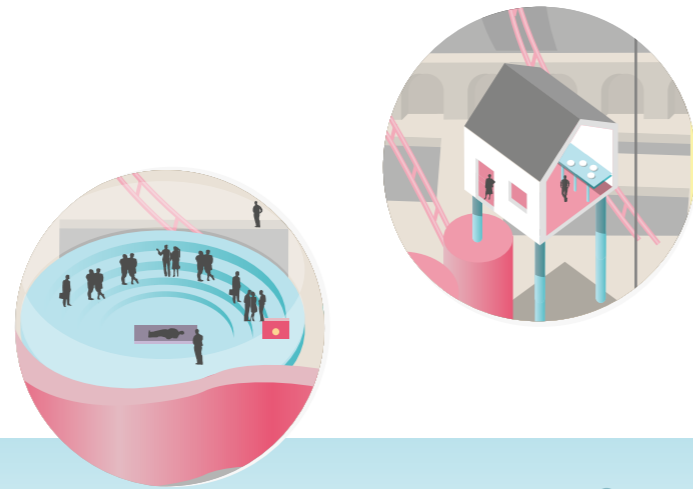
See every #goingunderground competition entry at TheAJ.co.uk

#GOING UNDERGROUND



SHORTLISTED

Fun Palace of Westminster
By Edward Crooks
Politics as entertainment in today's leisure economy



The Fun Palace of Westminster acts as an extension to both the political and tourist programmes of the Houses of Parliament, creating a direct dialogue between politicians and the public. Drawing on the mass appeal of the Palace, a theme park beneath the building acts as a social barometer for the political programme above.

A range of theme park attractions react to and rely on global political issues to function, and as such provide a better or worse experience for the visitor depending on the success of British politics. Customer satisfaction with the park acts as an indication of the current political consensus.

THE FUN PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

SHORTLISTED

The Gherkin Programme
By Sean Cassidy
The secret at the heart of the City of London: an underground space port



SHORTLISTED

Can subterranean housing solve London's housing crisis?
By Tom Bestwick
Sixty student residences in the ditch at Somerset House

SHORTLISTED

Marble Arch Coach Exchange

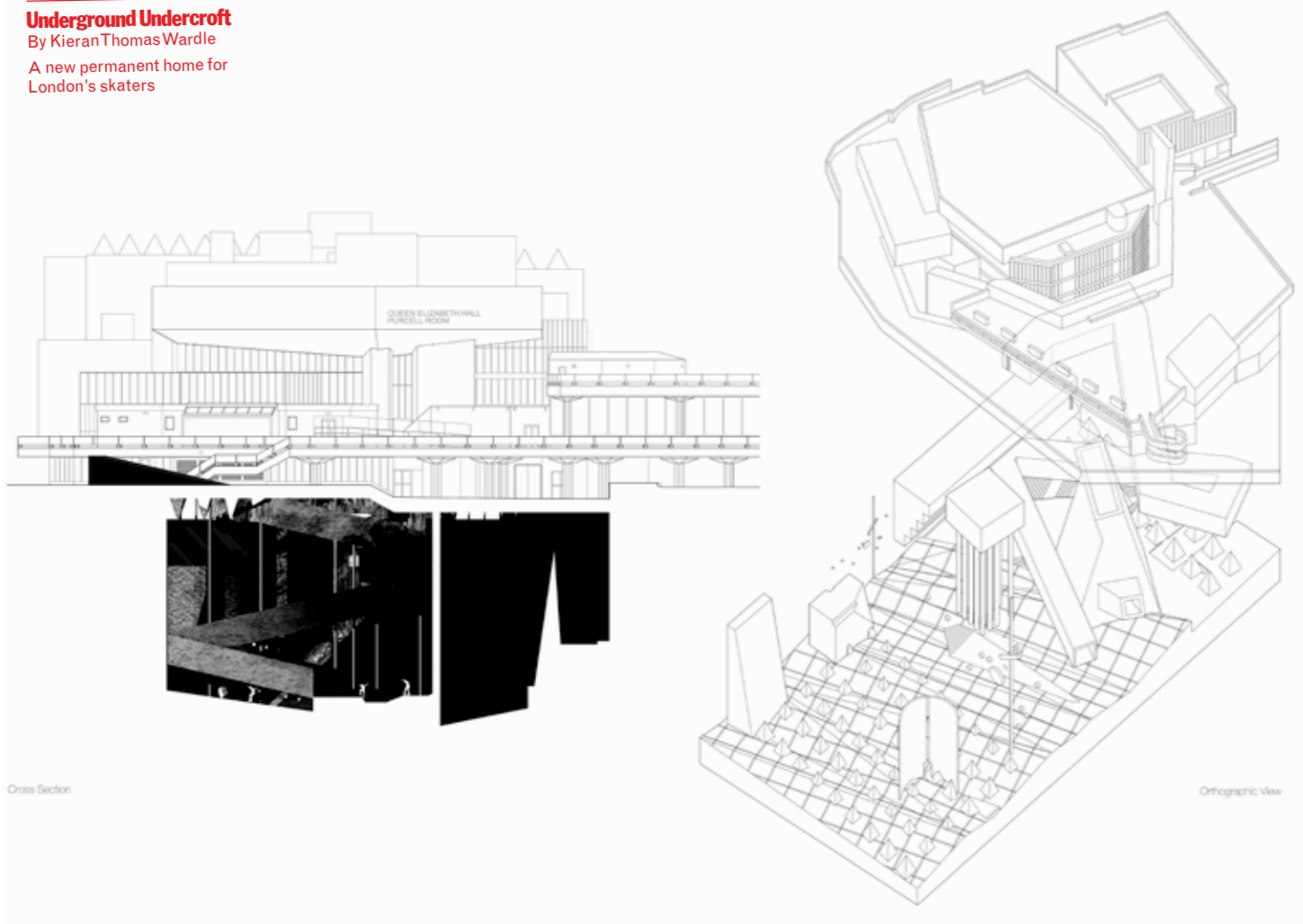
By Hannah Cordell
Art blends with infrastructure in a new bus station beneath Marble Arch



SHORTLISTED

Underground Undercroft

By Kieran Thomas Wardle
A new permanent home for London's skaters



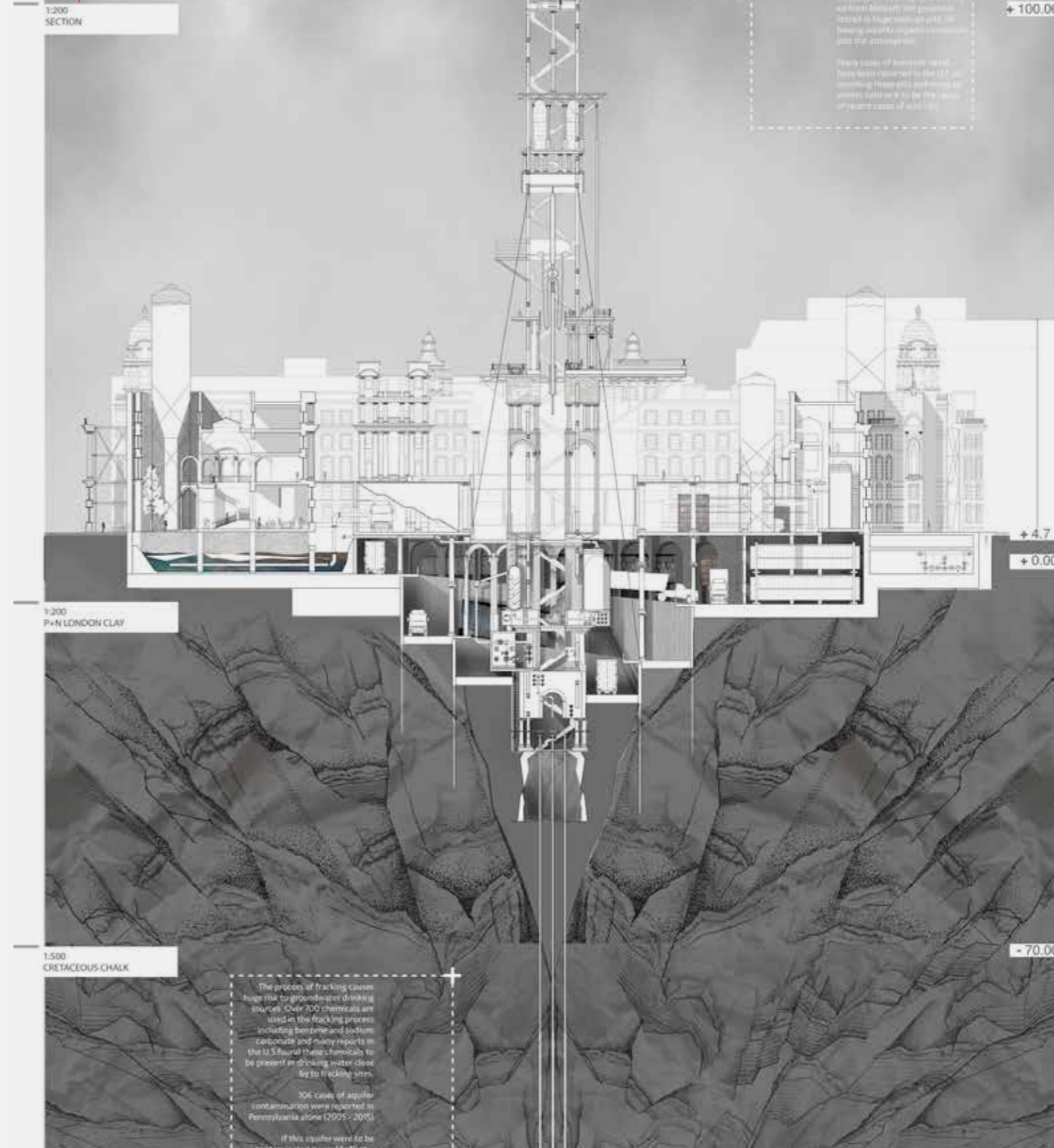
Cross Section

Orthographic View

SHORTLISTED

Urban Fracktures

By Charlotte Wilson
What if shale gas exploration took place in central London?



1:200 SECTION

1:200 P+N LONDON CLAY

1:500 CRETACEOUS CHALK

+100.00

+4.7
+0.00

-70.00

The idea of going underground is not new. In fact, it's been around since the beginning of time. But what if we went underground to find shale gas? The idea of shale gas exploration in central London is a bold one. It's a project that would require a lot of infrastructure and a lot of investment. But it's also a project that would have a big impact on the city. It would create jobs, it would generate revenue, and it would help to reduce the city's carbon footprint. It's a project that's worth considering.

The process of fracking causes huge risk to groundwater drinking sources. Over 200 chemicals are used in the fracking process including benzene and sodium carbonate and many reports in the US found these chemicals to be present in drinking water close by to fracking sites.

306 cases of aquifer contamination were reported in Pennsylvania alone (2005 - 2015).

If this equated were to be...