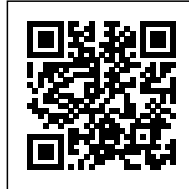




THE SMILE

Posted on March 15, 2017 by urbanNext



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The Smile

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'The Smile' was a hugely successful Landmark Project for the 2016 London Design Festival. Located in the Chelsea College of Art (UAL) Parade Ground this 136sqm public pavilion was constructed entirely with cross-laminated American tulipwood.



ISSN : 2575-5374

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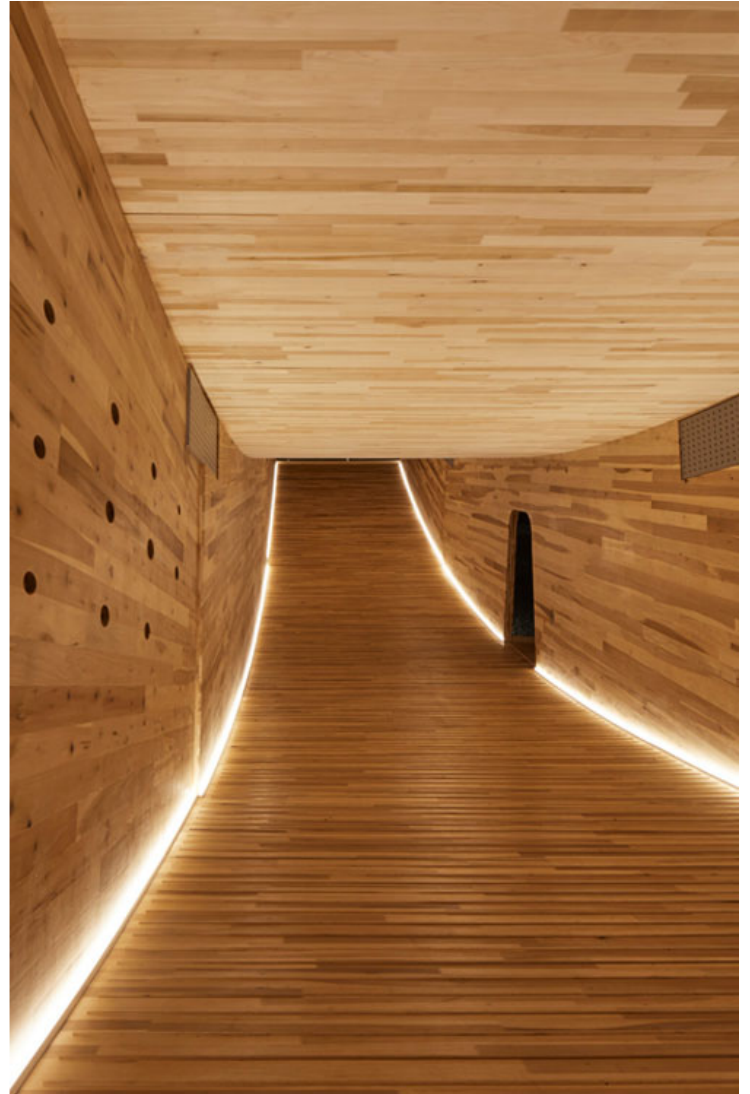
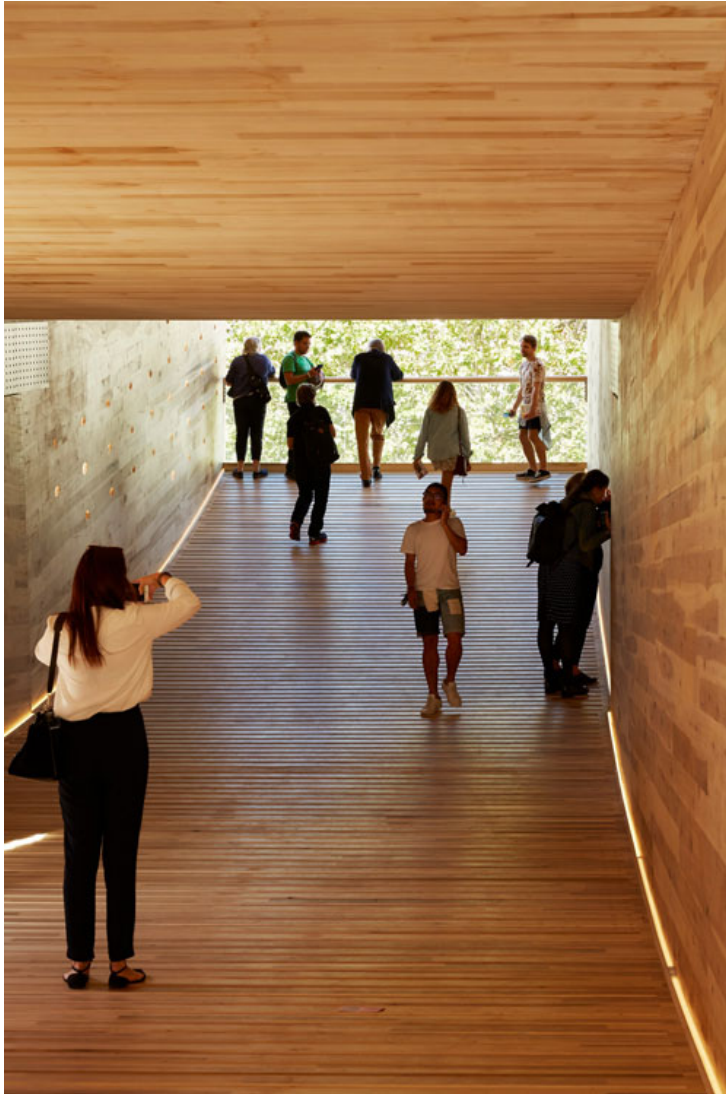
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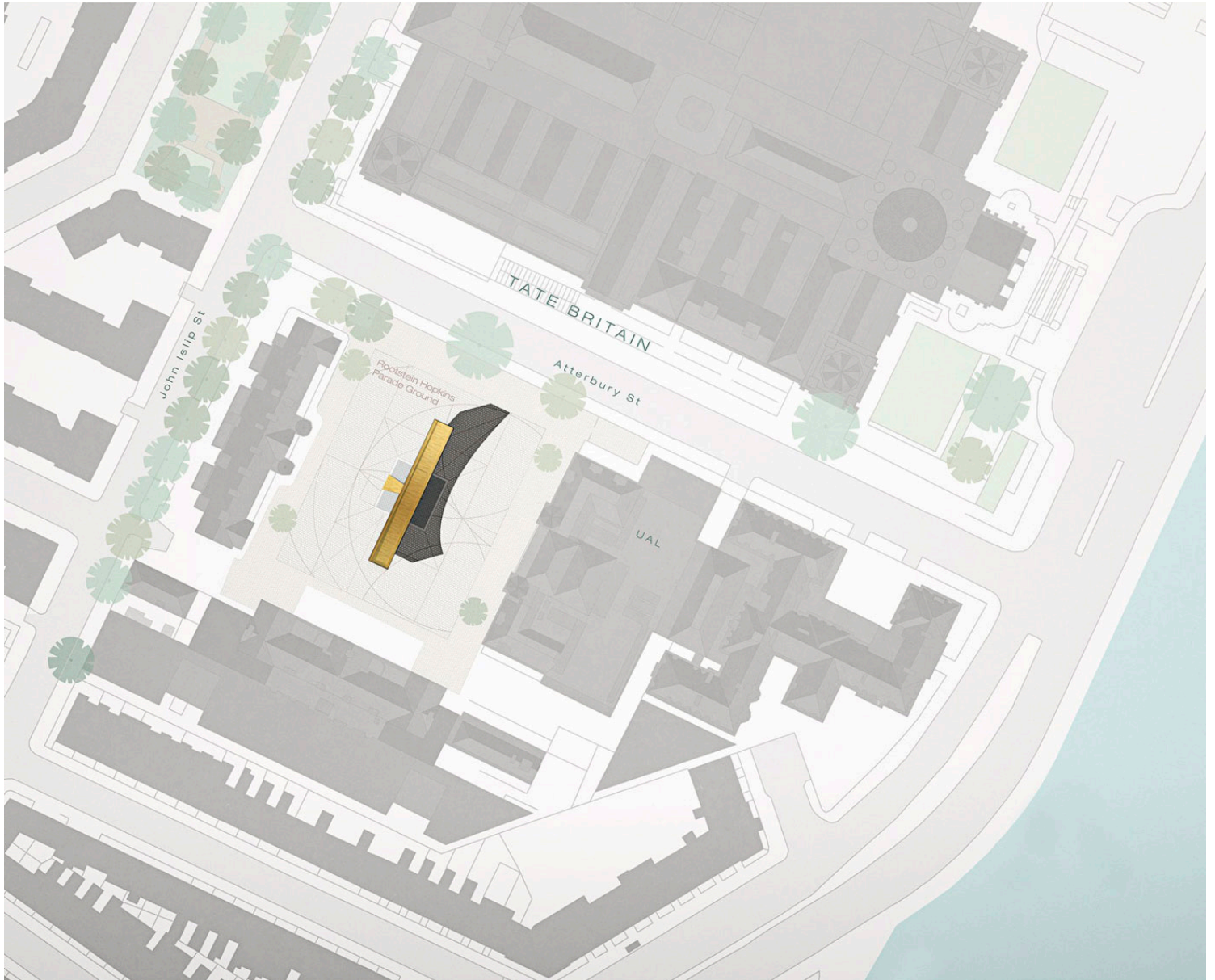


Conceived as a habitable arc poised on the horizon, the Smile was a four sided curved timber tube that cantilevered 12 meters in two directions from its centre point – a world first. Entering The Smile through an opening where the arc touched the ground, the visitor could walk (or run!) from end to end of the 34-metre-long dynamically curved space, gradually rising toward light. Each open end of the tube offered a viewing platform to enjoy unique, focussed views of London. A segment of a 100m diameter circle, the Smile offered an immersive sensory environment integrating structure, surface, space and light.

ISSN : 2575-5374

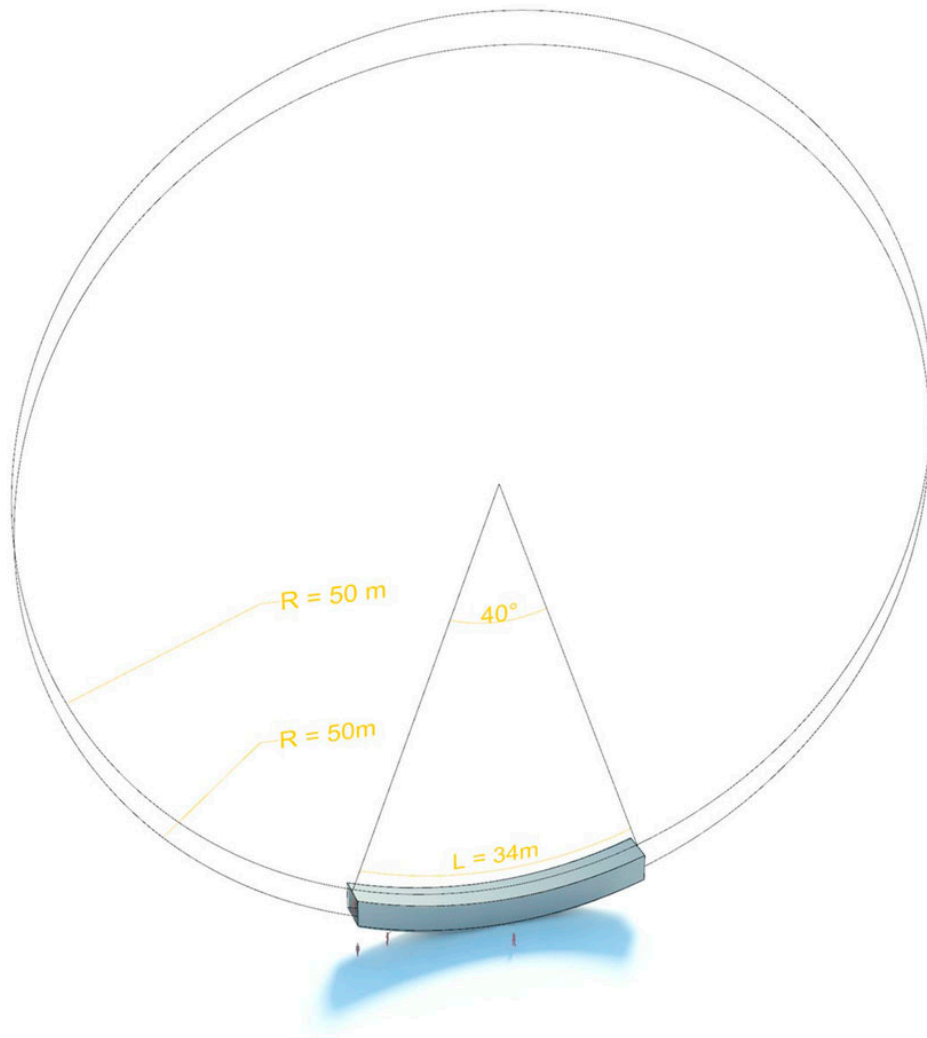
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Site Plan

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Axonometric View



Longitudinal Section

The Smile was prefabricated as 12 industrial-sized tulipwood CLT panels by CLT pioneers, Züblin-Timber in Germany. Up to 14m long and 4.5m wide, these were the largest ever to make it into production. We introduced perforations in the walls — concentrating where there is less stress on the structure and dispersing where the timber is working harder — to create a form of structural ornament, bringing dappled sunlight to the interior. At night, when the interior was lit, the pavilion became a giant lantern.



Arup applied their latest timber research to devise a structural connection system of 4000 screws over a foot long that can be installed with an ordinary rechargeable screwdriver. At the tube's mid-span four 1m long steel plates connected the main structural panels at high level, also using screws.

The Smile - construction process from Alison Brooks Architects.

With 30,000 visitors and 290m online views, the Smile sparked a global audience through its pure form, its inventive use of material and its extraordinary engineering achievement.

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