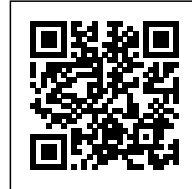




THE SMILE

Posted on March 15, 2017 by urbanNext



Categories: [Alison Brooks Architects](#), [Architizer](#), [High Density](#), [Middle Density](#), [Project](#), [Senseable Technologies](#), [Technology and fabrication](#), [Urban Paradigms](#)

Tags: [Active Public Spaces](#), [Experimental Fabrications](#), [Experimental installations](#), [Experimental public space](#), [Installation](#), [London](#), [Metaphor](#), [Prefabrication](#), [Project](#), [Public space role](#), [Structural Plywood](#), [Technological Approach](#), [Technopoetry](#), [Timber](#), [United Kingdom](#), [Urban conditions](#), [Wooden panels](#)

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>

'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

urbanNext Lexicon

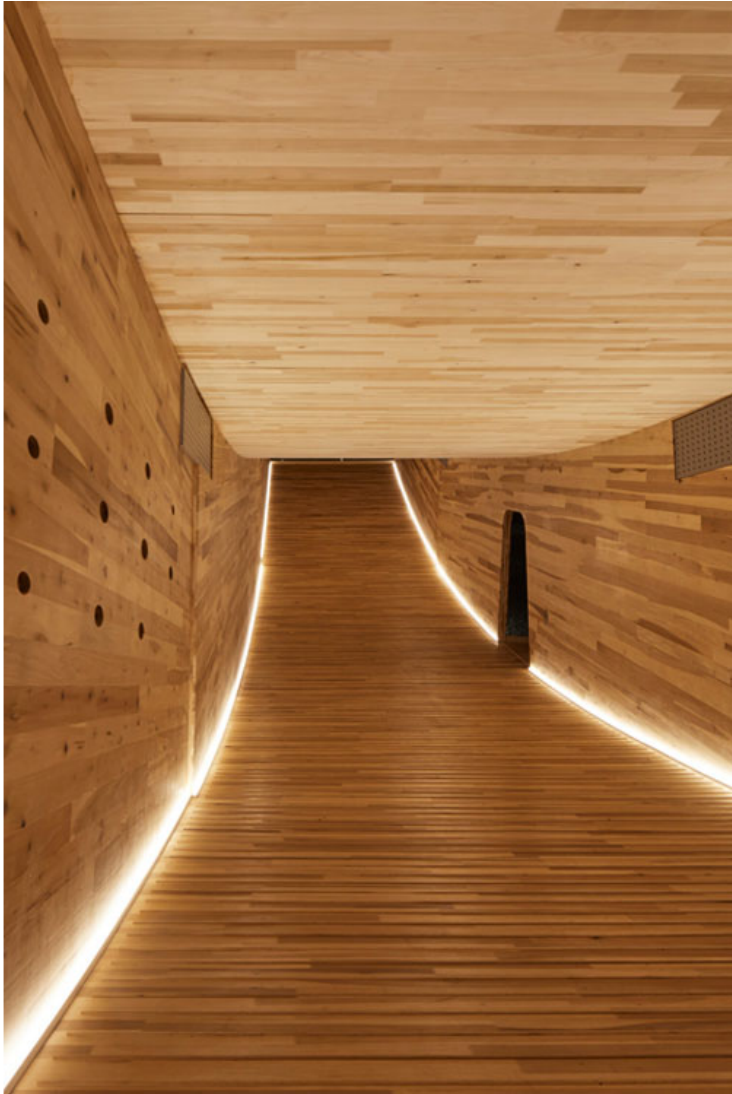
The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>

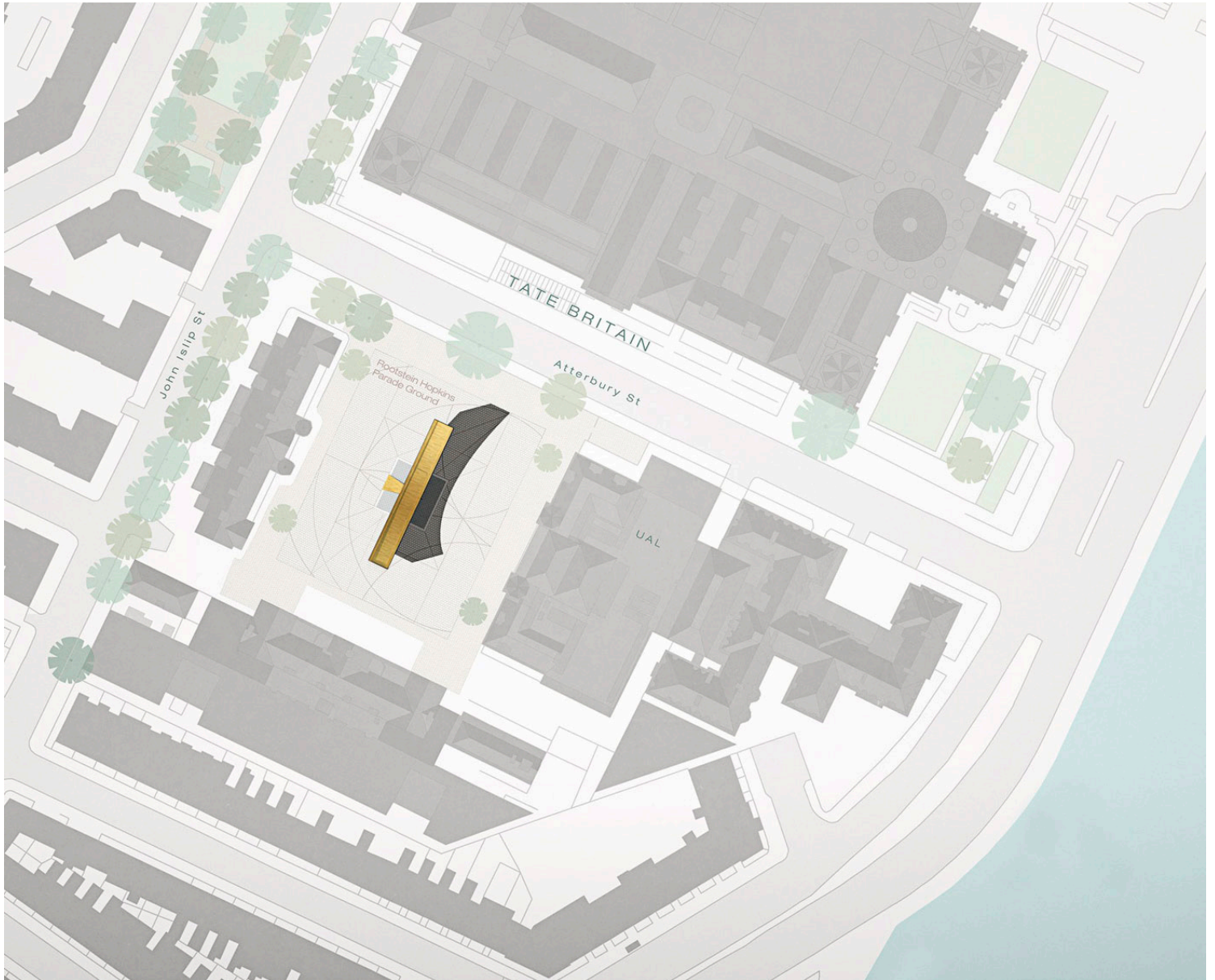


Conceived as a habitable arc poised on the horizon, the Smile was a four sided curved timber tube that cantilevered 12 meters in two directions from its centre point – a world first. Entering The Smile through an opening where the arc touched the ground, the visitor could walk (or run!) from end to end 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

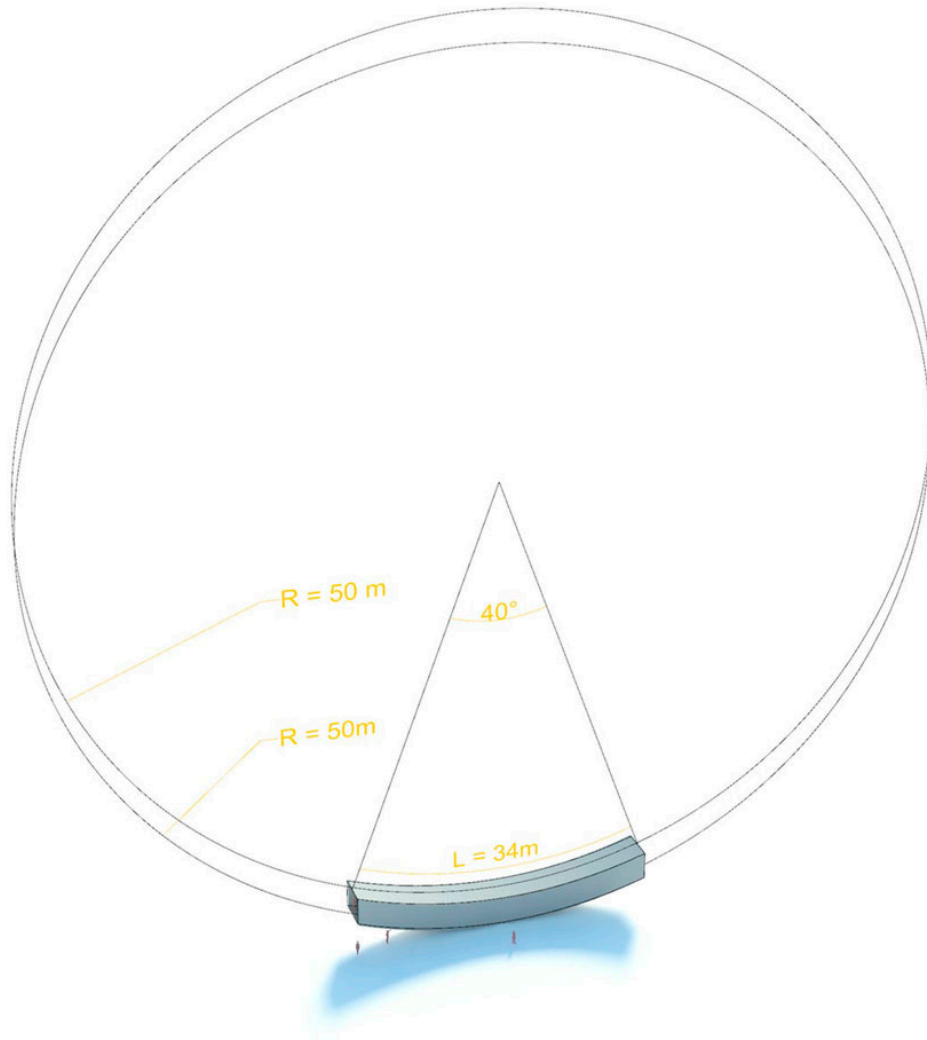
urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



Site Plan

ISSN : 2575-5374



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.

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>



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.

ISSN : 2575-5374

urbanNext Lexicon

The Smile
<https://urbannext.net/the-smile/>

ISSN : 2575-5374