



**London Y-Z: A Century of Tourism**

Architectural Association Project Publication

This Page: Cover + "Straightening the Thames River" object by Charles Stankieveh, 2008.

Following Pages: Extract from the book of Stankieveh's work: pp. 68-77.

G.1.-G.2.  
Vere van Gool, Charles Stankieveh,  
curators

At the end of the 21st Century, two visions for London centering on the Thames River competed for the region's approval. The one, a proposal to confine tourism to a barge in the river and isolate Londonland by exploding the Thames bridges, was implemented by popular referendum in 2101. The other, "Proposals for the Irationalization of Greater London," a series of studies completed by the Urbanlondongroup over three decades, was conclusively rejected by the Office of the Mayor in 2099.



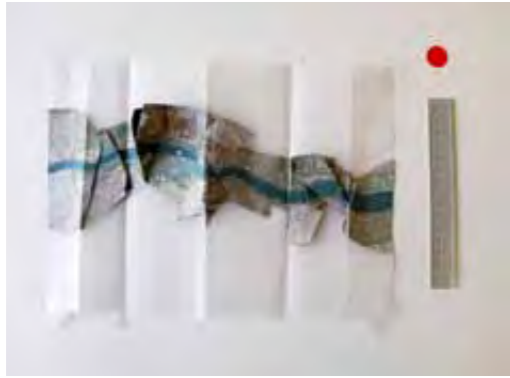
G.1.1.The Times of Londonland Newspaper clipping, "Tourists Banned from London", 2064. Paper, 27cm x 20 cm.



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**G.1.**  
**Quarantined Thames Cruises, the Blowout**

After tourism was banned in London in 2064—due to population excesses and rampant terrorist threats on tourist sites—several bids were proposed to create a renewed source of capital to recover the loss in tourist revenues. Urban planners from Venice, Italy and Los Vegas, USA were consulted to re-envision London at the end of the 21-century. Combining the tourists zoning introduced to Venice in the first half of the 21-century (which allowed tourists restricted access to historic sites) and the overwhelming success of building replica sites in Vegas, London introduced the strategy of consolidating all tourist activity in the city to the Thames River corridor. Tourists wanting to visit London were quarantined to massive cruise ships complete with

replicated architecture of major tourist sites, including pubs, theatres, double-decker buses, art museums, a cornucopia of shopping outlets, and all the rest of celebrated tourist fare. While enjoying the constructed reality of London on the cruise ship, tourists were always able to look out of the shop windows across the Thames and see the real historical London skyline, which supplemented their artificial experience with real vantage points. In order to actualise the cruiser strategy (primarily to accommodate the sheer size of the ships that needed to manoeuvre up and down the Thames) five central bridges were truncated. The sacrifice of the bridges was deemed acceptable by the public in exchange for the increased revenue and created jobs—all while maintaining a functional London outside of the Thames corridor that proved successful since banning the tourists several years earlier.

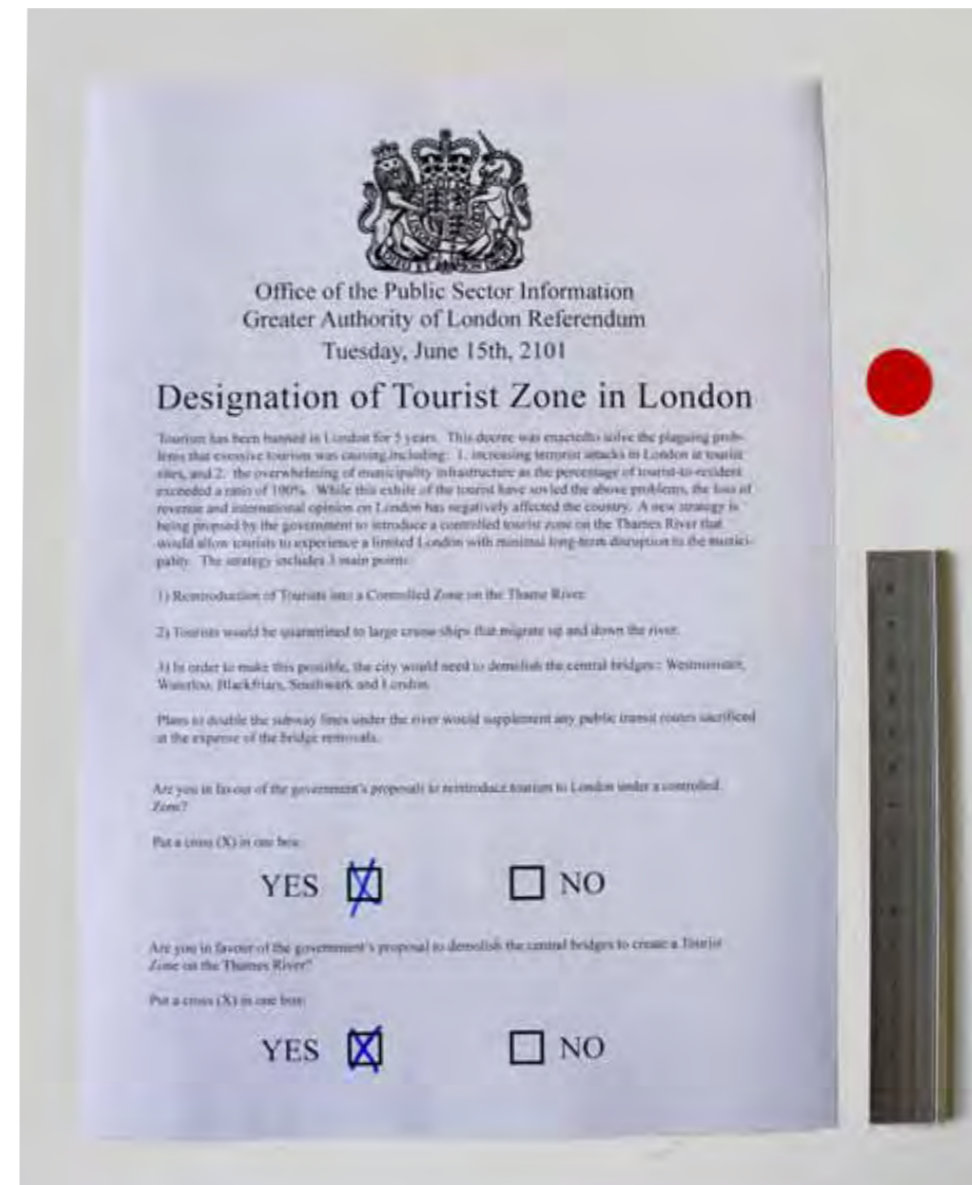
These four key artefacts from 2064-73 have been selected to give us an insight to the pivotal moments in the production of the Quarantined Thames Cruises.



G.1.3. Quarantined Thames Cruises Pamphlet, 2073. Paper, 42cm x 17cm



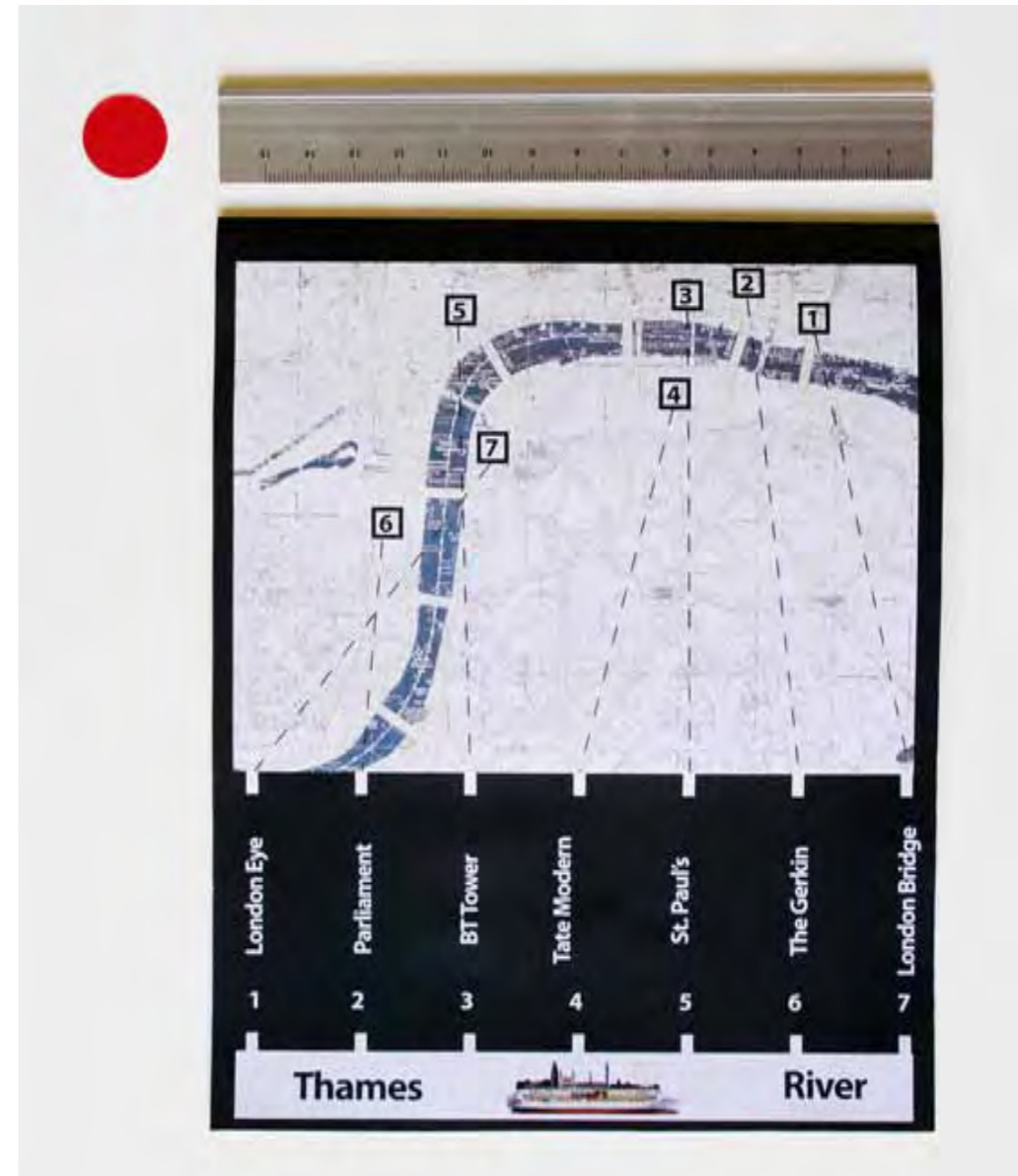
G.1.1. The Times of Londonland Newspaper clipping, "Tourists Banned from London", 2064. Paper, 27cm x 20 cm.



G.1.2. Referendum Ballot (with marks), "Designation of Tourist Zone in London", 2069. Paper, 21cm x 29.7cm.



G.1.3. Quarantined Thames Cruises Pamphlet,  
2073. Paper, 42cm x 17cm



G.1.3. Quarantined Thames Cruises Pamphlet,  
2073. Paper, 42cm x 17cm

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THAMES RIVER