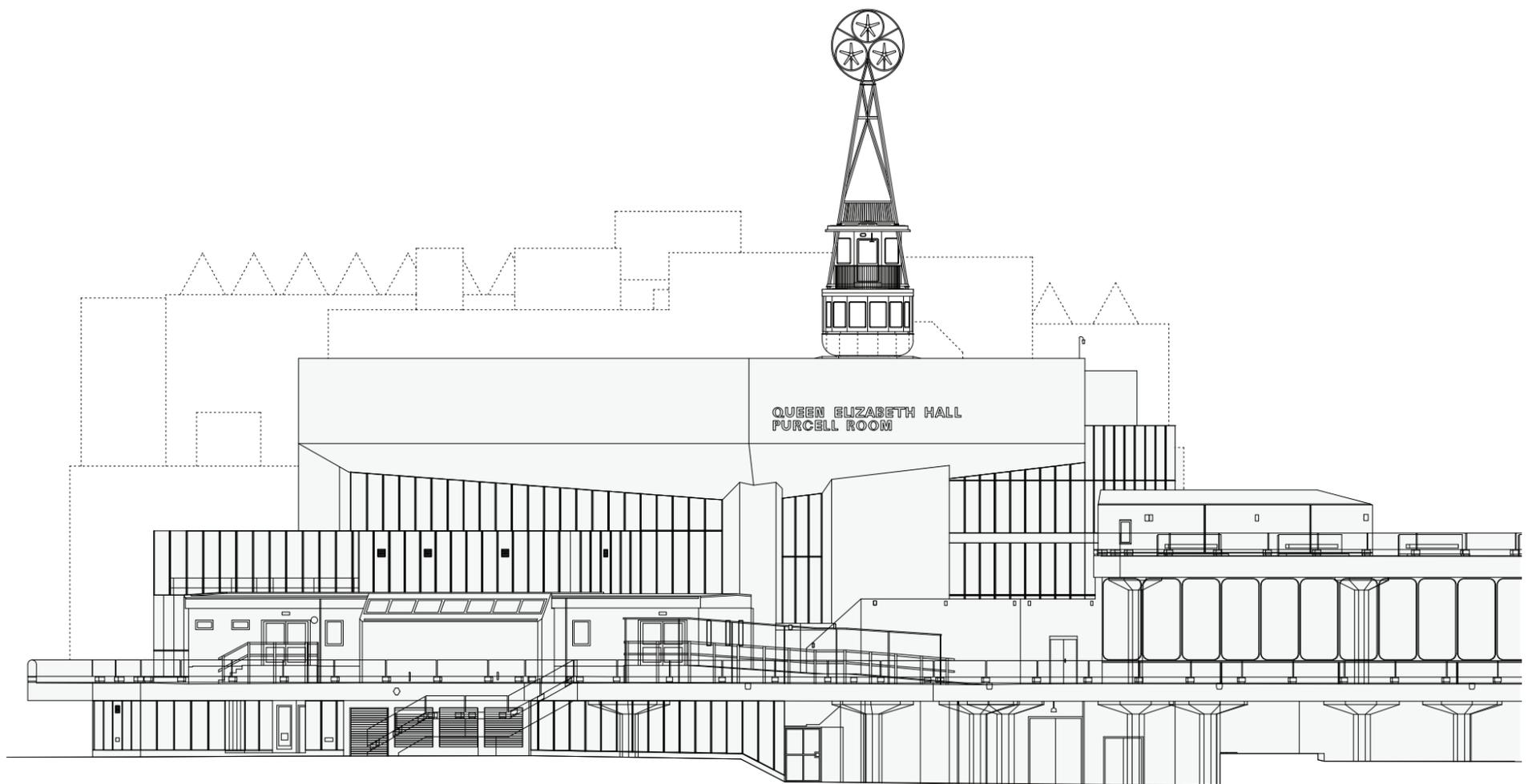


A ROOM FOR LONDON

DAVID KOHN ARCHITECTS WITH FIONA BANNER



North Elevation of Queen Elizabeth Hall

David Kohn Architects and artist Fiona Banner have designed 'A Room for London', a temporary installation that will sit on top of the Queen Elizabeth Hall at Southbank Centre, London, during the Olympic Year of 2012. The room, on one of the most visible sites in the British capital, allows up to two people at a time to spend a unique night in an exemplary architectural landmark.

Kohn and Banner's design is for a boat, called 'Roi des Belges', which, perched on the Queen Elizabeth Hall roof, will appear to have come to rest there, grounded, perhaps from the retreating waters of the Thames below.

The idea evolved from narratives of travel and displacement in literature, in particular Joseph Conrad's novella 'Heart of Darkness,' a story that begins beside the River Thames. The boat takes its name from the steamboat that Conrad himself captained on the Congo.

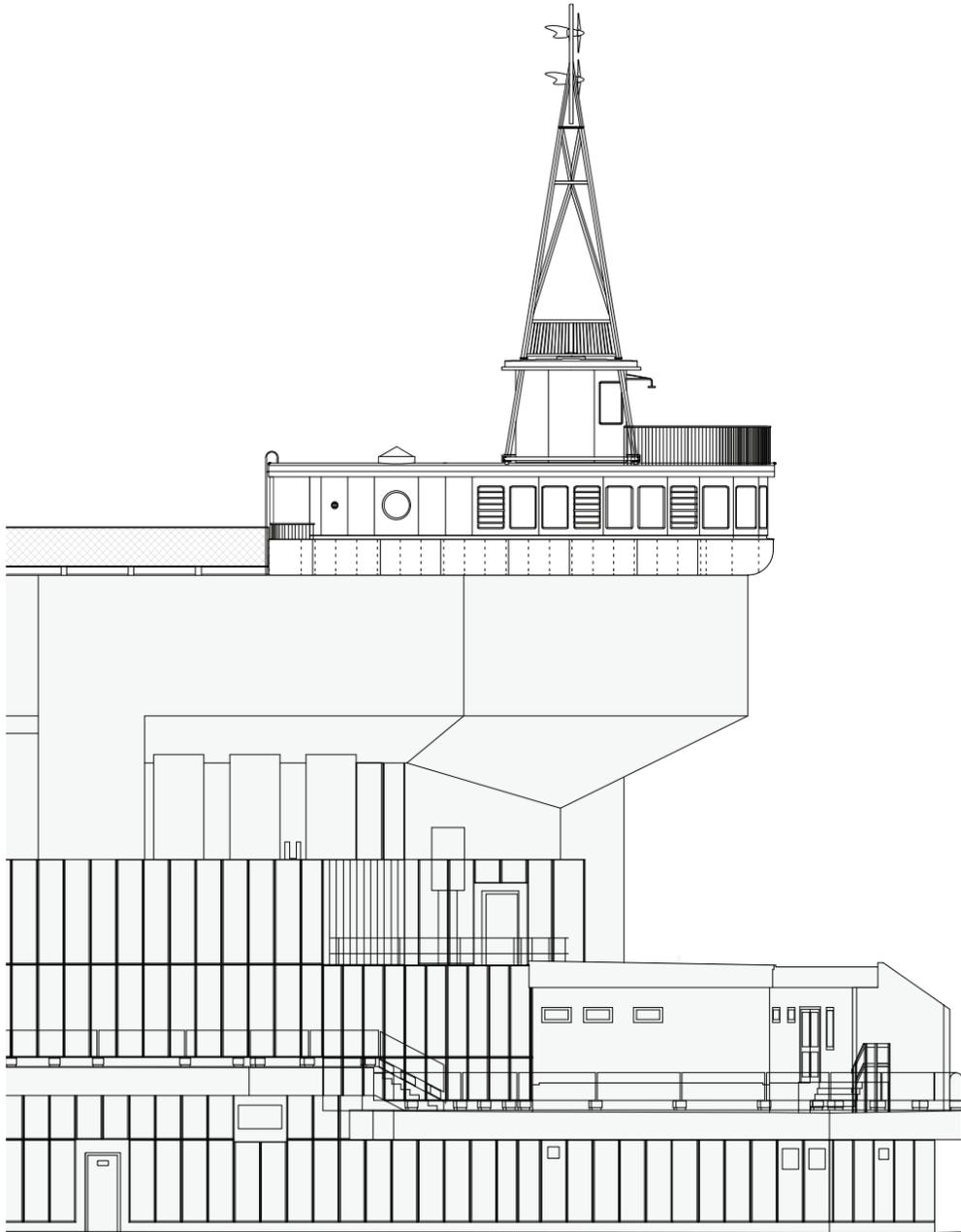
Visitors to the boat will be invited to create their own narrative by recording their experience on board. On arrival 'aboard', visitors will be invited to fill in a logbook on the 'bridge' of the boat, detailing what they have experienced during their stay, out of the window as much as within themselves.

Alongside public booking, the Room will play host to a guest programme of special visitors – artists, writers and cultural commentators of all kinds. These 'thinkers-in-residence' will be invited to stay and encouraged to reflect on the city at a moment in time, through writing, image-making, online postings or live webcasts from the Room itself, as their own entries in the logbook. Some contributions will be instantly experienced by the public; others will develop slowly during the course of the year.





Construction Photograph



East Elevation of Queen Elizabeth Hall

