

Futuristic UN think tank building looks like it belongs on Star Trek

from DVICE by Kevin Hall



San Francisco is getting ready to break ground on the [Federation Council](#) UN Global Compact Center, which — besides looking like a concept sketch for some sci-fi movie — is made notable because of where it's being built. It will take over the location of the Hunter's Point Shipyard, which has been deemed one of the most polluted sites in the nation by the US Environmental Agency. Step one is clean all that gunk up. Step two? Build a structure that will serve as an example against that kind of [pollution](#), as well as help stop it from ever happening.

The center itself will act as the site for a think tank that will mull over green technologies and policies to help combat detrimental climate change. The building will ultimately be an 80,000-square-foot center that's LEED certified, cost \$20,000 \$20 million and is scheduled to begin construction in 2011. Let's hope that cleanup is effective, but hey — if not, a third eye or grossly enlarged brain could only help the UN thinkers, right?

[UN Global Compact Center](#), via [Inhabitat](#)

Lamborghini Hybrid Coming In 2015

from Green Options by Christopher DeMorro



Even supercar makers are getting into the green game. Hot on the heels of Mercedes announcement that the famous gullwing would return as an all-electric supercar, and Ferrari's plan to unveil a hybrid of their own at November's L.A. Autoshow, Lamborghini is now planning a hybrid of their own.

Lamborghini is known for many things; sexy sounding V12 engines, outrageous, egregious bodykits, and low fuel efficiency (often in the single digits). But a hybrid?

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Israeli company Atlantium Develops Pathogen Water Purification System Without Chemicals

from Green Options by Amiel Blajchman



Have you noticed how all sorts of high end resorts and hotels have started converting their chlorine pools to salt water? And

an sorts of high end resorts and hotels have started converting their chlorine pools to salt water. And it's not just the health and hospitality industry that wants to figure out a way to purify their water without resorting to chemicals. Other industries, including the food and beverage, dairy, aquaculture and municipal drinking water providers need to ensure that the water they use contain no micro-organisms or pathogens of any kind. A company based in Israel, [Atlantium](#) has developed what may be one of the first industrial-grade solutions to water micro-organism purification without chemicals.

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New Green Star to shape Frasers Broadway, Barangaroo – Architecture and Design

from [greenstar location:australia](#) – Google News



New Green Star to shape Frasers Broadway, Barangaroo

Architecture and Design

The Green Star rating tool could shape the VicUrban township in Melbourne's south-east, Fraser's Broadway (pictured), as well as Sydney's Barangaroo, ...

Green precincts agreement between GBCA and vicurbanEcoGeneration

Architecture and Design

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Archimedialab's Built Landscape Opens in Germany

from [Bustler.net News](#) by Vanilla Hustler

Nearly 4 years after the competition for a new **administration building** of the **Schwandorf Incineration Plant in Bavaria, Germany** was won by Stuttgart-based [archimedialab](#), this unique ensemble of building and landscape has now been officially inaugurated.



[Click above image to enlarge](#)

Built landscape: the new administration building of the Schwandorf Incineration Plant by archimedialab

Here is how archimedialab describe their project:

The task to design a new administration building, reorganize the power station compound and create a new noise protection barrier offered the chance to dissolve the dichotomy of landscape and building to realize the deconstruction of those categories into one designed environment, to be experienced in a dynamic and curious fashion.



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Main Entrance

OFF Architecture's Bering Strait Project Allows Views at Arctic Marine Fauna

from [Bustler.net News](#) by Vanilla Hustler

In June, [Bustler published](#) the winning entries of the **Bering Strait Project** competition that seeks to connect the short stretch of **Arctic Ocean** between **Russia** and the **United States** via a bridge or a tunnel

states had a bridge or a tunnel.

Here is the proposal by Paris-based [OFF Architecture](#) (Team comprised of Manal Rachdi, Tanguy Vermet, Mathieu Michel, Takanao Todo, and Lily Nourmansouri) that won the **2nd Prize** in the **Professional Category**:



[Click above image to enlarge](#)
Site Plan Zoom Out

The project does not simply concern itself with the construction of a commercial or railway link, nor a bridge connecting one continent to another. The amplitude, siting, geopolitical context as well as the global ecological conscience entails a proposal far more audacious, an active project sensitive to the conditions of the site.



[Click above image to enlarge](#)
Site Plan

A threshold between the arctic and pacific oceans, the Strait manifests a highly fragile and sensitive climate, linked to the fabrication of ice, acting as a strategic zone for global climate. An incredibly particular ecosystem connected to the surrounding climate is composed of very rare and fragile species which includes belugas, walrus, polar bears, blue whales, dolphins, and orcas, to name a few.

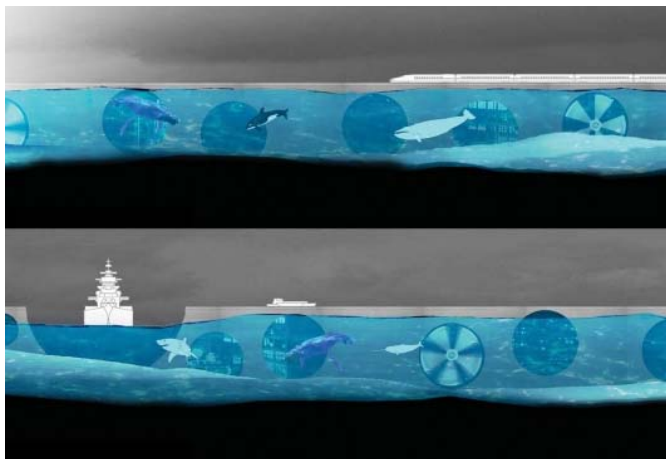
Due to the Straits relatively shallow water levels; the proposed structure is able to descend to the bottom of the ocean, with only a few meters floating above the water level.



[Click above image to enlarge](#)
Facade

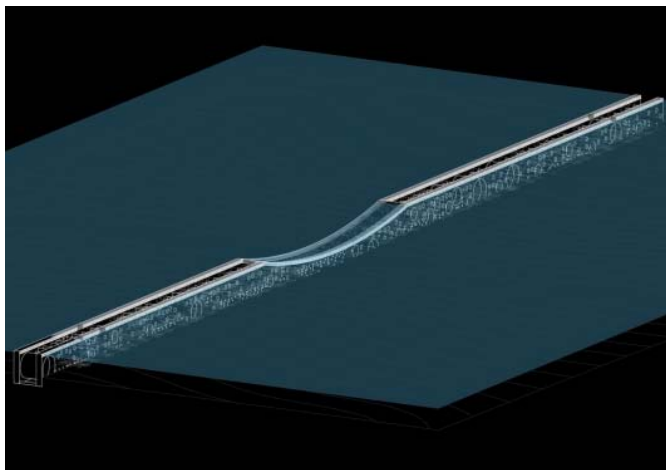
The structure works in compression. Two parallel walls cut through the adjacent bodies of water, held apart with bracing, which at times is habitable. Each wall, 10 meters wide, respectfully provides train and vehicle infrastructures at its apex. The massive structure

requires simplicity, a trait only achieved with a direct line that connects the two sides of the Strait.



Click above image to enlarge
Section Zooms

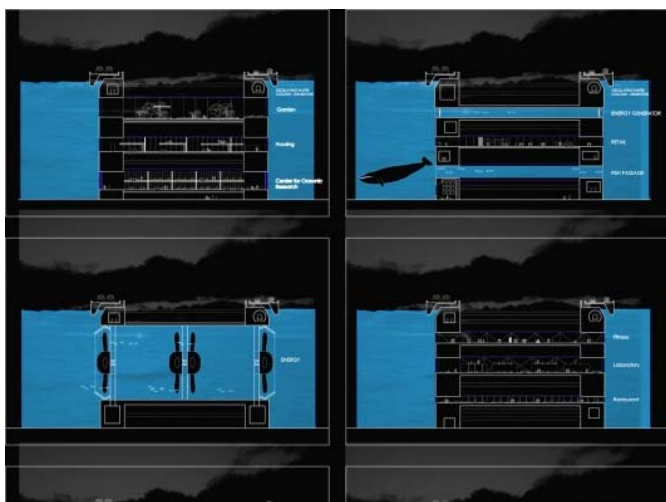
The interstitial space created by this vast separation, spanning 50 meters, becomes an interface for human passage and exchange, providing visitors and inhabitants the opportunity to traverse the Strait by foot, as was originally intended by primary civilizations. Constant views of the marine landscape travelling across the perforating tubes pierce the linear horizon of the space, constructing a new ground floor plane, submerged 50 meters below water level.

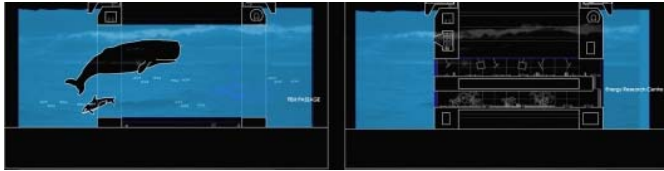


Click above image to enlarge
Structure Axonometric

The project creates a milieu dependant on green energy, taking advantage of the site and it's inherent currents, to install a completely ecological, renewable system.

The delicate ecosystem embodied in the site is enriched through the implication of perforations in the main structure, across which local fauna can permeate, providing adjacent laboratories direct access for research, as well as inviting the public to explore and witness this unique habitation. A protected space is thus created for these ecologies to flourish. This filter allows things to occur naturally in terms of energy, fishing and observation, but under controlled circumstances.





Click above image to enlarge
Diagrams

Furthermore, the separation of the Arctic from the Pacific can only improve temperature isolation, gradually decreasing water temperatures in the Arctic as there is much less exchange between the two bodies of water. The Arctic ice sheet will stabilize itself, protecting the cap from melting. Salinity levels are also stabilized seeing as there is a decrease inflow of the salty Pacific waters, further decreasing ice melt, hence reducing global climate change.



Click above image to enlarge
View from Tube

The structure takes advantage of the existing currents in the channel. Certain perforations in the structure act as marine current turbines, accelerating water movement and currents. Because the water level in the Strait is relatively shallow, flows tend to be faster, generating more energy.



Click above image to enlarge
Residence

Because of their large scale, the turbines move in such a slow manner, that fauna is still able to pass through, diminishing any repercussions on marine life. The energy produced from this action is channelled into programmatic zones of the schemes, such as the residences and the laboratories. Furthermore, the structure's walls rise 2 meters above the level of the sea, utilizing the energy produced from storm fetch, waves that crash and break on the boundary walls.



Click above image to enlarge
Interior Shot