

Competition

## HASTINGS PIER IDEAS COMPETITION

**£6,000 prize money**  
Sponsored by Hastings  
Borough Council,  
Building Design and  
SENews

Judges include Cedric  
Price, Piers Gough and  
Paul Finch

### Introduction

Hastings Pier, built to designs by Eugenius Birch in 1869, is a working pier, privately owned, which has seen better days. A popular venue during summer months, it has only a few year-round uses, mainly amusement arcades.

The current owners are naturally interested in finding potential additional uses, not least to help fund the annual repair and maintenance work needed for a pier frequently subject to inclement weather.

Hastings council has suggested this competition, as an initiative to spark off fresh thinking, as part of work by the Hastings Urban Conservation Project (director Nick Wates). It forms part of a general programme to devise improvements for the town, which will be the focus of Hastings Environment Week this April.

Having visited the pier on a cold windy day in January, a few thoughts occur about what competitors might consider as part of their thinking. One concerns the landing stage at the pier end, now virtually unused, but once a staging point for cross-channel crossings. Could more use be made of it?

At the shore end, it might be advisable to leave enough space for a potential tram route which could bring visitors from various car parks not necessarily very near the pier.

Self-cleaning is another factor which might be considered, since the

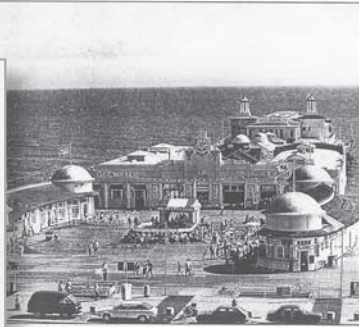


Sea view, damage done by salt water, and the cost of maintenance, are significant to the pier's owners.

But the main point of the competition is to find new uses. These could involve taking advantage of natural factors (rising and falling tides?), or the insertion/addition of social/leisure/sporting facilities. Any ideas should ideally be feasible in commercial terms, and preferably concern uses which would work the year round — and for local people as much as tourists.

The last pier competition with which *BD* was involved concerned Brighton's West Pier — a stimulating batch of designs resulted. I hope we will see a repeat for Hastings.

Paul Finch



serious damage each winter.

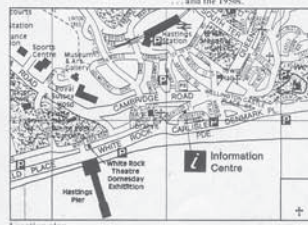


### Action

signs by working has seen enduring by a few



Sea view, damage done by salt water, and the cost of maintenance, are significant to the pier's owners. But the main point of the competition is to find new uses. These



Location plan.



and the 1950s.

### Conditions

- Aim of competition: The aim is to find new uses/additional uses for Hastings Pier, respecting the existing listed structure, though not necessarily precluding extensions. New uses should be viable commercially, and should preferably attract the public all the year round rather than simply in the summer.
- Eligibility: The competition is open to all, as individuals or teams. Competitors must register by completing the form on this page and sending a registration fee of £5. The form must be sent by March 9.
- Submissions: Up to three A1 boards, any media. Entries should include a brief text (up to 250 words) as part of a board. The registered entrant's name, address and telephone number should be attached to the back of a board. Entries will be returned.
- Inspection of pier: The pier owners will give entrants a tour of the pier, starting at noon, on the following Saturdays: February 24, March 3, 10 and 17.
- Deadline for entries: Entries must be submitted by Tuesday, April 17 (5pm) for Pier Competition, Tourism and Leisure Department, Hastings Borough Council, 5 Robertson Terrace, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1JE.
- Judges: Cedric Price and Piers Gough (architects), *BD* editor Paul Finch, and two representatives from Hastings Borough Council, council leader Pamela Brown and the Mayor, Paul Saunders.
- Publication: The winning entries and a selection of other schemes will be published in *Building Design*. An exhibition of entries will form part of Hastings Environment Week (April 27-29), and will take place on the pier. The organisers reserve the right to use images of entries for publicity purposes.
- Prize money: £6,000 prize money is available. The intention is to award £2,500 as a first prize, £1,000 for second and third prizes, and three commendations of £500 each. The judges reserve the right to redistribute this money as they think fit.
- The decision of the judges will be final and no correspondence will be undertaken.
- Copyright: Should any design be adopted by the pier owner it will be the subject of a separate commission.

### Registration form

I hereby register for the Hastings Pier Ideas Competition.

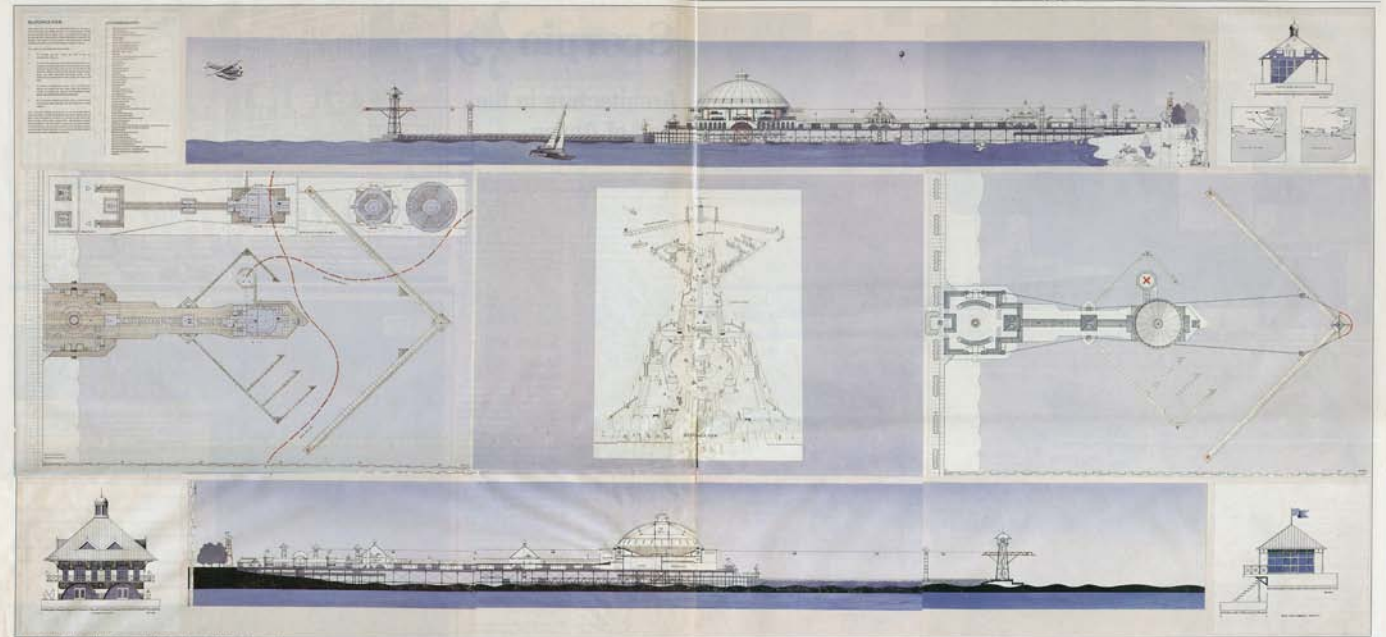
**Key**

- A stage
- B main
- C lounge bar
- D cellar
- E shop
- F amusements
- G offices
- H store
- I bingo
- J theatre
- K restaurant
- L parking
- M balcony
- N upper
- O landing stage

Competition

Hastings Pier

Hastings Pier



First prize: BKB Architects, Mark Kenney and Ray Finch - elements of delight without pastiche.

# BATTLE OF HASTINGS

As part of this year's Hastings Environment Week, the council, in conjunction with *BD*, sponsored an ideas competition for the local pier, privately owned and still open. Here we present the prize-winners, ranging from the fantastic to the conservationist.

HASTINGS Pier Ideas Competition was judged by Cedric Price (architect), Piers Gough (designer), Paul Finch (editor, *Building Design*), Pam Brown (leader of Hastings Borough Council) and the Mayor of Hastings, Paul Smith.

The number of entries — 114 — was considered good and the variety of ideas was unexpectedly wide. Much impressive effort had been put into the presentation, and there was evidence of research into both the building type and the location, perhaps the result of brief which gave competitors plenty of leeway. Entrants had not tried to be too clever on the whole; the overall impression was one of robust gaiety, the judges said.

The initial 114 entries were reduced to forty-five, on the basis that a single vote would keep an entry in. The forty-five were reduced to fifteen on the basis of three votes being needed for each entry. Individual votes were then made to produce a first and second prize, and five equal thirds.

First prize, £2,500: BKB Architects, Lewes, Mark Kenney and Ray Finch (in relation to Paul Finch).

This traditional image is transformed elsewhere on the pier, which incorporates new air and sea transport links, suggests a cinema and sports hall and an international mixed use venue. Other uses include a library, offices and a market. A cable car is incorporated, and beyond the pier a protective barrier is suggested, which would include pavilions producing electricity from wave power.

The judges praised the appropriate scale and attractive profile of the proposal, and the intelligent use of new technology. They thought it would provide a sufficient variety of enclosures for hitherto unconsidered activities; they liked the mixture and progression of spaces, and the attention paid to giving good views. The dome would produce an attractive space beneath. The only doubt was over the symmetrical sea barrier — prevailing winds might make the symmetry a problem. But overall, the scheme contained elements of delight, achieved without resorting to pastiche.

Second prize, £1,000: Graham Harris, Neil Hogan, David Spence, London.

This dramatic proposal extended the idea of the pier well into the shore, with a plan for parking within the cliff opposite and a cable car link to the pier itself. Split-level buildings at the pier end provide a wide range of uses which the judges praised. They also liked the

quality of the views throughout the design, and the ingenious security aspect of incorporating a swing bridge as part of the design. The entry was presented excellently, and provided echoes of the marine aesthetic of the 1930s, resembling in profile a liner.

Equal third, £500 each: P Clayton, S Smith, P Rawstorne, C Michael, Hove.

An attractive design with good access facilities and sensible use of wind power.

Richard Marsh, London.

A comprehensive approach to energy generation was admired, as was the cantilevered observation tower/ride.

# BATTLE OF HASTINGS

As part of this year's Hastings Environment Week, the council, in conjunction with *BD*, sponsored an ideas competition for the local pier, privately owned and still open. Here we present the prize-winners, ranging from the fantastic to the conservationist.

HASTINGS Pier Ideas Competition was judged by Cedric Price (architect), Piers Gough (designer), Paul Finch (editor, *Building Design*), Pam Brown (leader of Hastings Borough Council) and the Mayor of Hastings, Paul Smith.

The number of entries — 114 — was considered good and the variety of ideas was unexpectedly wide. Much impressive effort had been put into the presentation, and there was evidence of research into both the building type and the location, perhaps the result of a brief which gave competitors plenty of leeway. Entrants had not tried to be too clever (on the whole); the overall impression was one of robust gaiety, the judges said.

The initial 114 entries were reduced to forty-five, on the basis that a single vote would keep an entry in. The forty-five were reduced to fifteen on the basis of three votes being needed for each entry. Individual votes were then made to produce a first and second place, and five equal thirds.

First prize, £2,500: BKB Architects, Lewes, Mark Kenney and Ray Finch (no relation to Paul Finch).

This beautifully presented entry envisages the creation of a public square at the shore end, and the restoration of a bandstand as a

centre-piece. This traditional image is transformed elsewhere on the pier, which incorporates new air and sea transport links, suggests a cinema and sports hall and an international mixed use venue. Other uses include a library, offices and a market. A cable car is incorporated, and beyond the pier a protective barrier is suggested, which would include pavilions producing electricity from wave power.

The judges praised the appropriate scale and attractive profile of the proposal, and the intelligent use of new technology. They thought it would provide a sufficient variety of enclosures for hitherto unconsidered activities; they liked the mixture and progression of spaces, and the attention paid to giving good views. The dome would produce an attractive space beneath. The only doubt was over the symmetrical sea barrier — prevailing winds might make the symmetry a problem. But overall, the scheme contained elements of delight, achieved without resorting to pastiche.

Second prize, £1,000: Graham Harris, Neil Hogan, David Spence, London.

This dramatic proposal extended the idea of the pier well into the shore, with a plan for parking within the cliff opposite and a cable car link to the pier itself. Split-level buildings at the pier end provide a wide range of uses which the judges praised. They also liked the

quality of the views throughout the design, and the ingenious security aspect of incorporating a swing bridge as part of the design. The entry was presented excellently, and provided echoes of the marine aesthetic of the 1930s, resembling in profile a liner.

Equal third, £500 each: P Clayton, S Smith, P Rawstorne, C Michael, Hove.

An attractive design with good access facilities and sensible use of wind power.

Richard Marsh, London.

A comprehensive approach to energy generation was admired, as was the cantilevered observation tower/ride.

Adams Johns Kennard Ltd, Hastings.

Elegant, simple and weather conscious — plus a dramatic puller of crowds.

A Richie, I Green, N Southard, London.

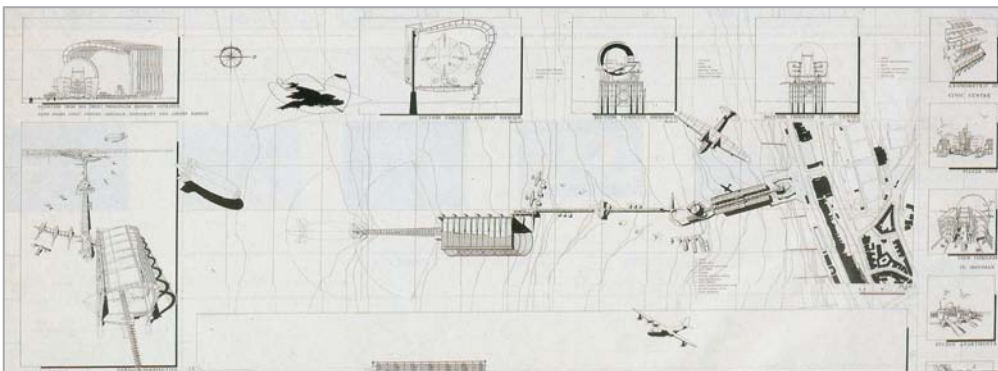
A bravura approach to scale and transport access.

Fergus Henderson and Jack Barnett Stuart, London.

A tribute to the generosity, powers of perception and suspension of disbelief on the part of the jury. A single idea perfectly executed.

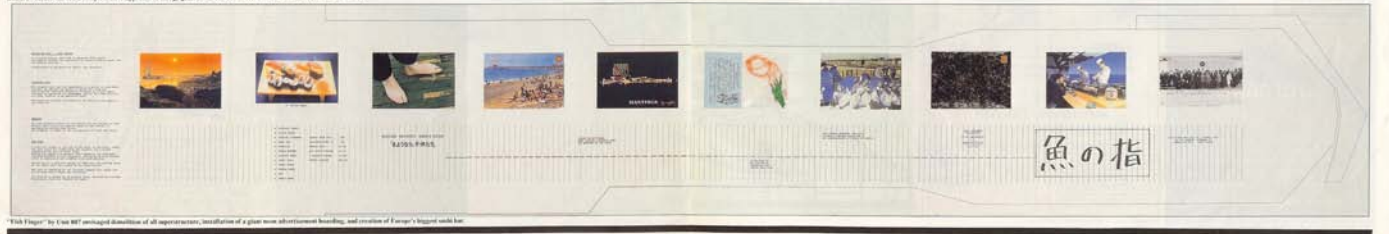
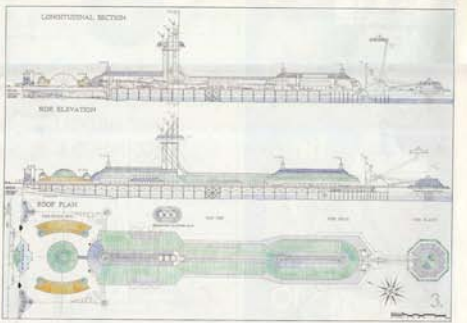
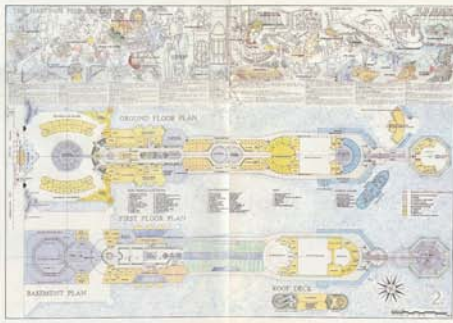
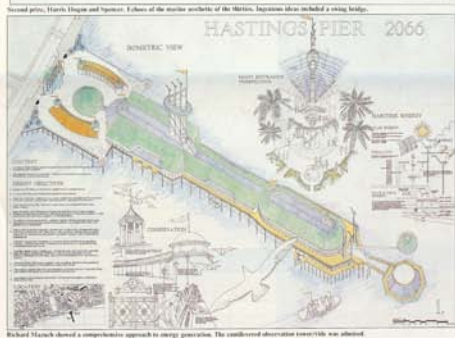
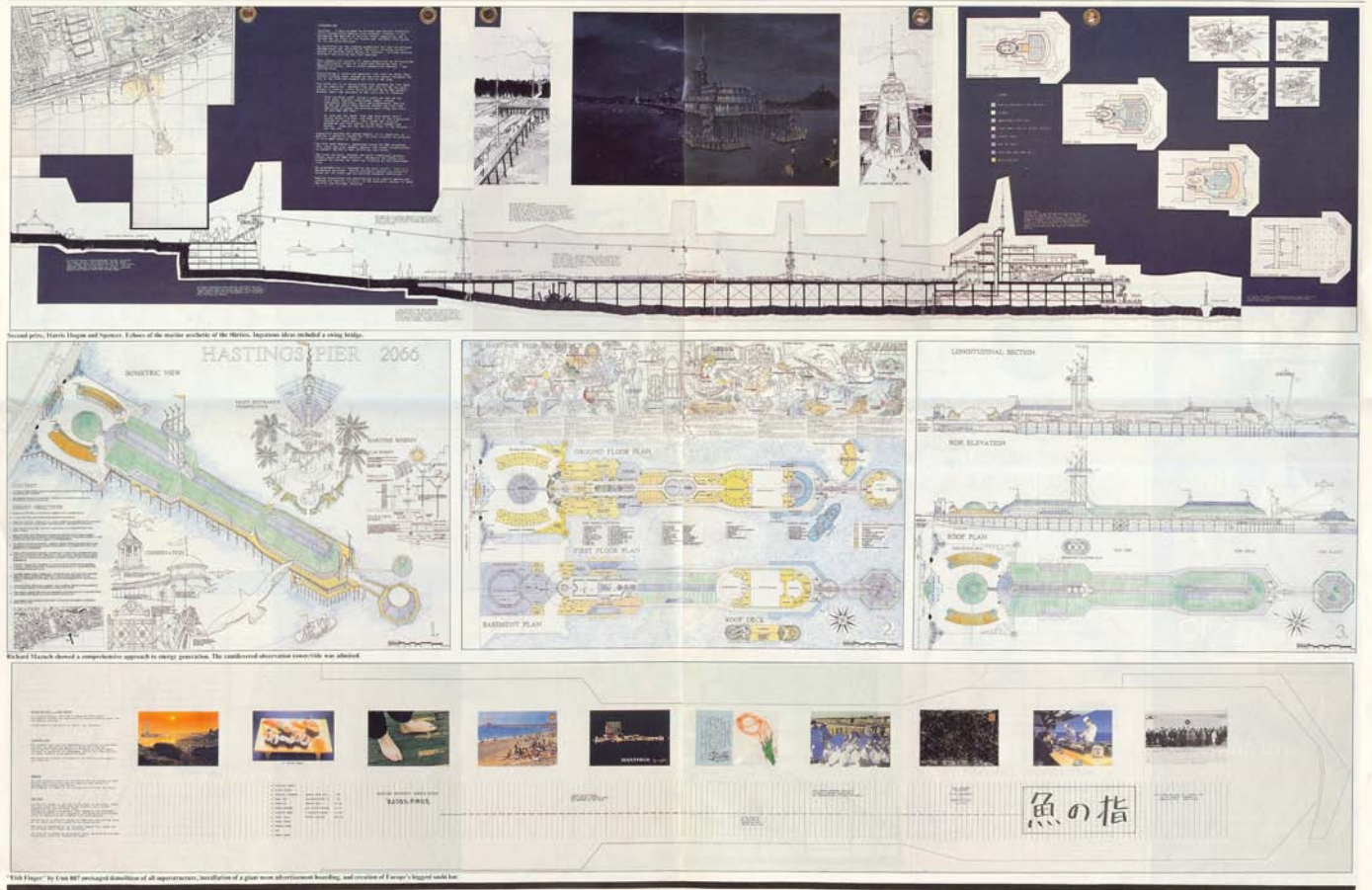
Above: Spread from *Building Design* Nov 16 1990.

Right: 'Battle of Hastings' details of the competition and the successful entrants



Above: Detail, First prize: BKB Architects, Mark Kenney and Ray Finch - elements of delight without pastiche

Left: Detail, Third equal: A Richie, I Green and N Southard - a bravura approach to scale and transport access



Above: Spread from Building Design Nov 16 1990.

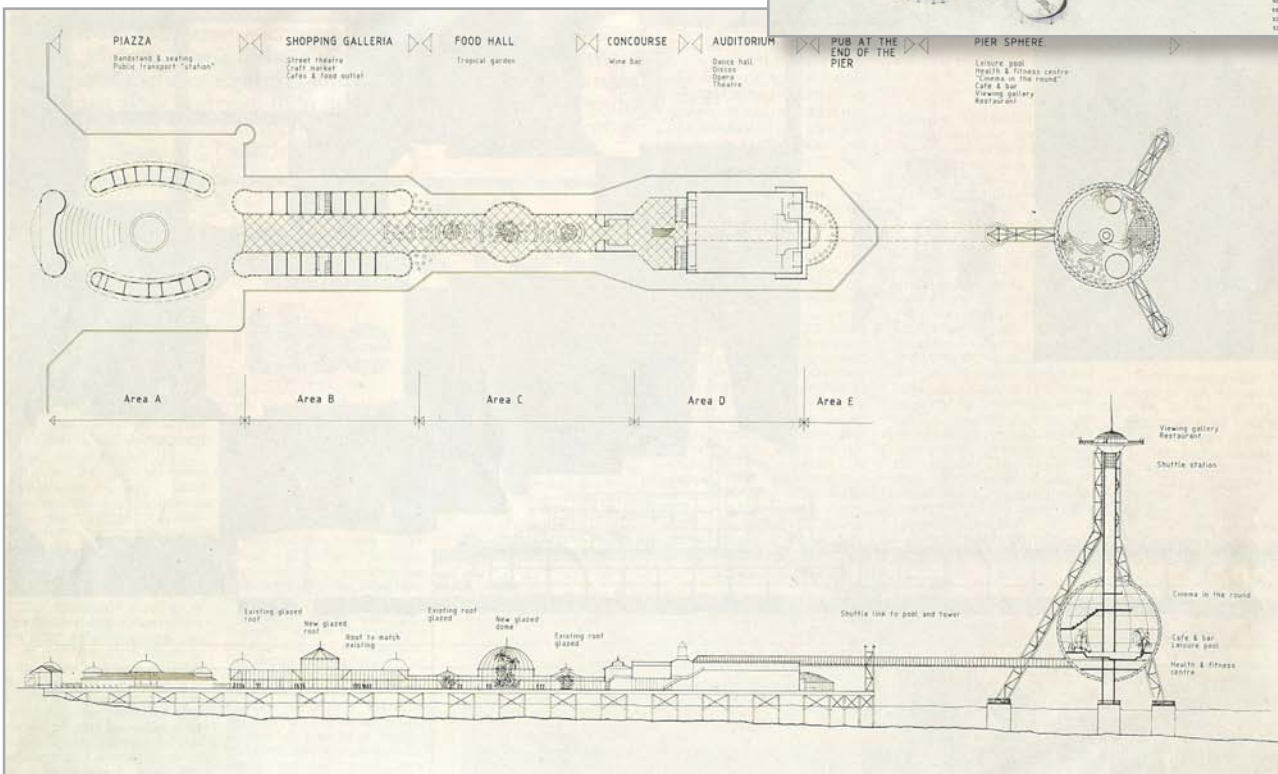
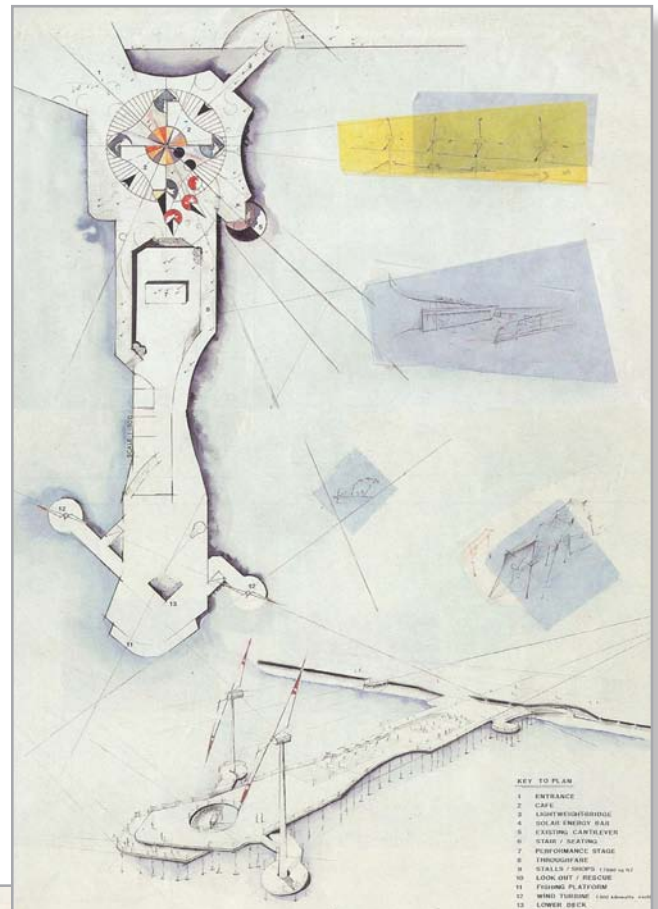
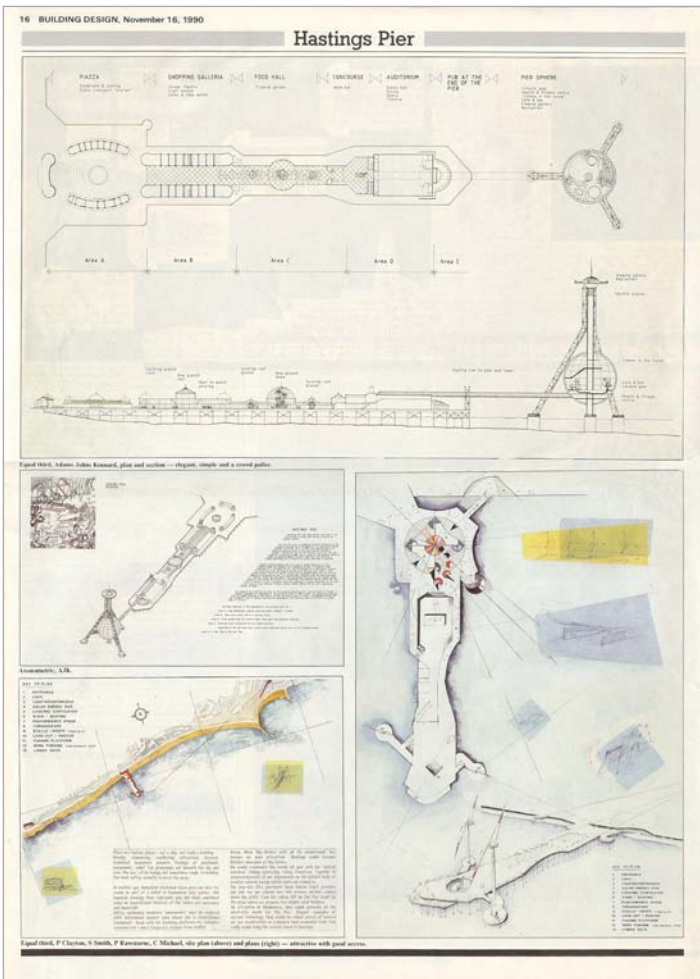
Left: Detail, Second prize: Harris Hogan and Spenser. Echoes of the marine aesthetic of the thirties. Ingenious ideas include a swing bridge

Right: Detail, Richard Mazuch showed a comprehensive approach to energy generation. The cantilevered observation tower/ride was admired



Left: Page from Building Design Nov 16 1990.

Below: Detail, Equal third: P Clayto, S Smith, P Rawstone, C Michael, – attractive with good access



Above: Detail, Equal third: Adams Johns Kennard, plan and section – elegant, simple and a crowd puller