Two major crises have begun to dominate our lives: climate change and the loss of affordable, high-quality housing. As we shape our buildings, and our buildings shape us, it will become clear that this is one of the most important challenges of our time. It is an opportunity to make buildings that work for the mass of humanity and for nature, that will be resilient to the challenges of the future.

PROJECT AIMS

- Understand the benefits of building on the water in terms of climate change (low-lying, floating), risk mitigation (tides, waves) and future network and regeneration.
- Investigate the feasibility of building on water, to balance financial sustainability with the need for social and affordable housing.
- Develop a design for the world’s first self-sustaining community, called the “zero point house”, a model for living off the grid, with minimal environmental impact and minimal cost. The design is adaptable to different parts of the world, offering new possibilities for affordable and sustainable living.
- Develop a planning application for an affordable floating community, with infrastructure, public engagement and consultation. This will be a research opportunity for students, architects and engineers.

We will use our academic time to build up a portfolio that will have an impact on the built environment both during and once I graduate. My research will feed into this tangible future project. The outputs will benefit from the technical information and financial information.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS

- We can learn best practice for the UK by combining real-world experience in the Netherlands and in Nigeria, with the potential for a more diverse and creative approach to building in the UK.
- We can develop new forms of housing providing us with creative and sustainable solutions, which can be applied to other parts of the world.
- We can work with McAslan and Partners, developing with the Mayor of London and Carillion Igloo.
- We can develop new forms of housing providing us with creative and sustainable solutions, which can be applied to other parts of the world.

Outputs

- Gathering technical building information, visiting manufacturers, attending workshops with architects / fabricators / engineers.
- Hosting participatory design workshops where the residents can contribute to the development of new forms of housing.
- Developing a planning application for an affordable floating community, with infrastructure, public engagement and consultation. This will be a research opportunity for students, architects and engineers.
- Working with McAslan and Partners, developing with the Mayor of London and Carillion Igloo.
- Developing new forms of housing providing us with creative and sustainable solutions, which can be applied to other parts of the world.