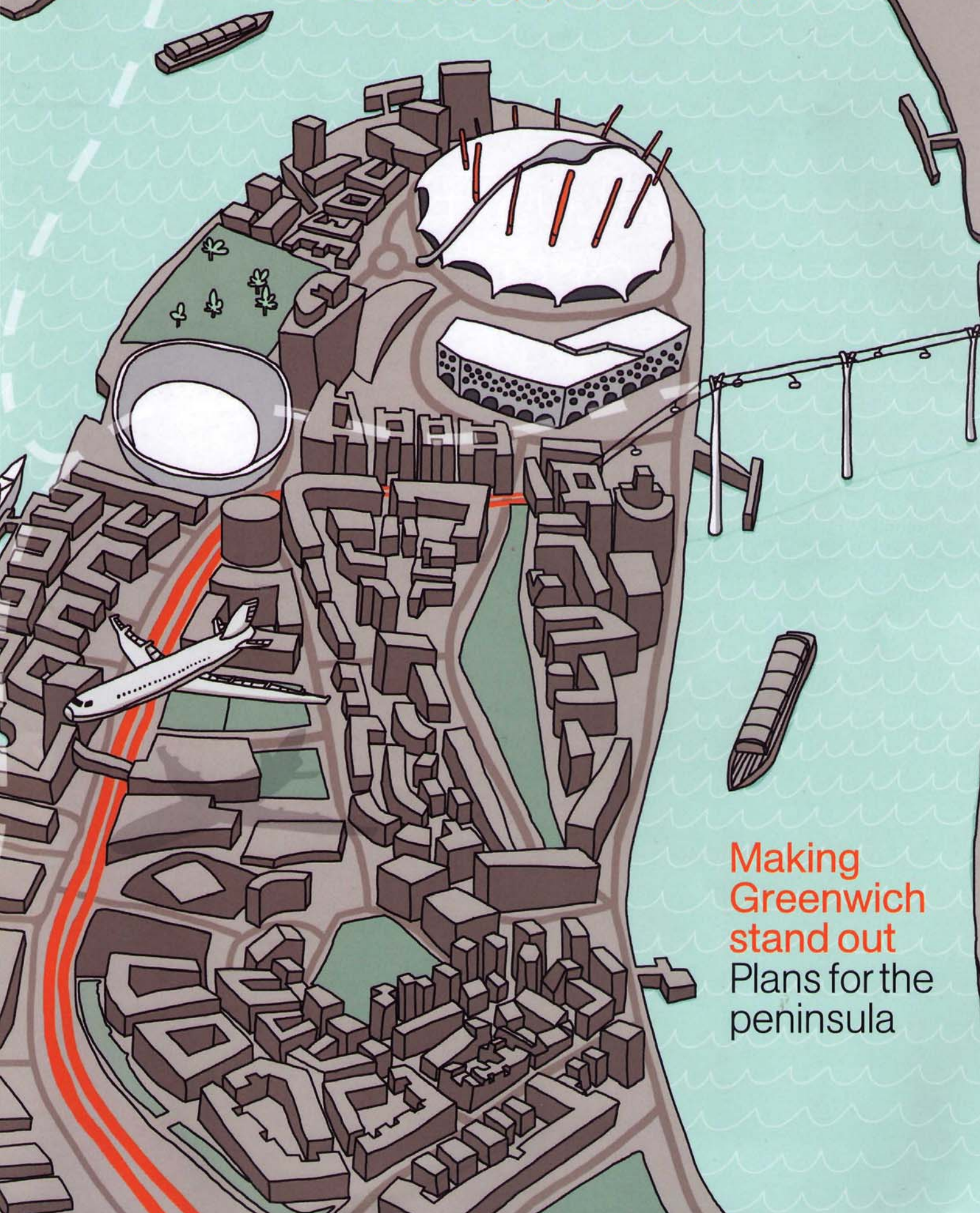




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# THE MONTH

## Ca'rousing St John

Twice Stirling Prize nominated architect Caruso St John, with engineer Price and Myers, has won the competition to refurbish Liverpool's 1939 Grade II listed Philharmonic Hall (right), home of the city's Philharmonic orchestra. The refurbishment

comes on the back of the organisation securing nearly £650,000 in seed funding, and running a competitive tendering process, in which four other firms were shortlisted.

The overall refurbishment, worth £10m (fundraising is ongoing), will look at improving

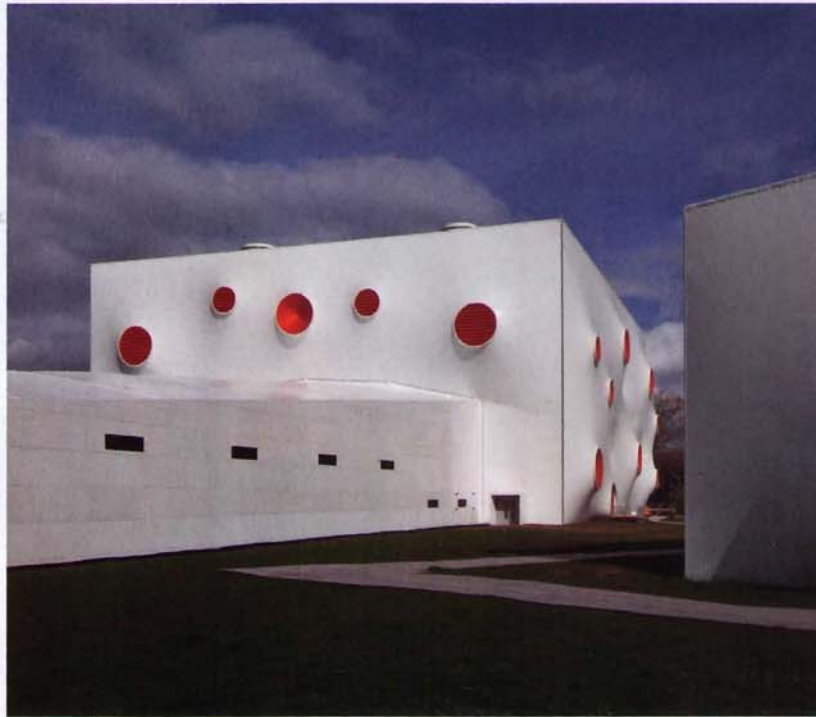
the user experience – both front and back of house, concentrating on lobbies, the auditorium and the backstage areas.

Design team consultant Max Fordham will be charged with improving the building's overall sustainability. **CK**



## Banged up

A new £150m building in the Midlands? What wonder is this? Ah, it's a prison, one of the few growth areas of construction in the public sector. HMP Oakwood, on a 20ha site in South Staffordshire, is interesting, however. Its arrangement of radiating wings may be very familiar but this is a large-scale exercise in offsite manufacture and prefabricated construction, masterminded by architect Pick Everard. Using UK manufacturers, a panellised cast-concrete system was developed which cast-in services, windows and cell doors, even underfloor heating pipes. No masonry was built on site, no floor screed or plastering was required. The prison is now filling up. By October it will reach its design capacity of 1,065 category C prisoners. **HP**



JL DIEHL

## Stairway to Heaven

Architecture critic Jules Lubbock, Professor of Art History at the University of Essex, is fighting moves by the university authorities to demolish part of the Albert Sloman university library. At risk are a staircase and entrance corridor, known as The Cloisters, designed by the university's original architect, Kenneth Capon of the Architects' Co-Partnership. Lubbock describes The Cloisters, completed in 1967, as 'highly original'. He and a group of academics and alumni have backed a campaign by the 20th Century Society to get the library listed, supported by English Heritage but refused by heritage minister John Penrose. **HP**



## Best shot

Martin Ostermann of Magma Architects has been coming over from Berlin weekly to keep up with the pace of his first UK building, which opened recently. The 14,500m<sup>2</sup> Olympic shooting venue at the Royal Artillery Banks in Woolwich for London 2012 is a far cry from the Imperial War Museum North, which he worked on while at Studio Libeskind. But he sees it as all about the visitor experience, a

development from his practice's work with exhibitions. He is excited by the dramatic building the firm was able to create within the planning envelope – the PVC membrane punctuated by round vents that draw warm air up through the double skin. And it looks pretty impressive from across south east London. But as soon as the Games are over the venue will be dismantled and sent off to be reused and recycled. **EY**

