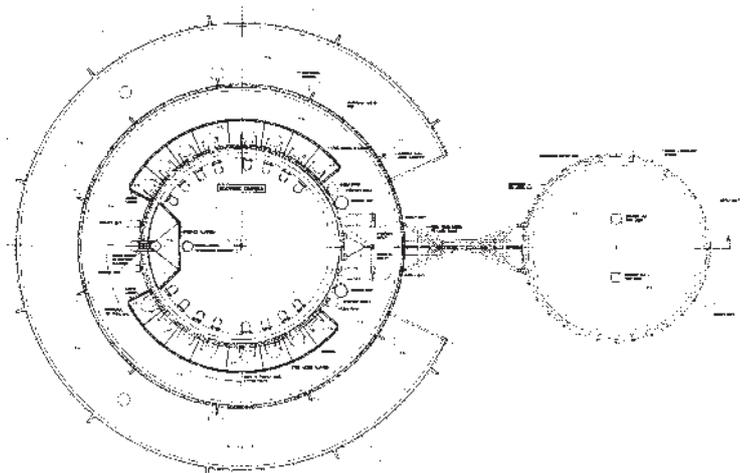




Tidal Basin Pumping Station

London





Place
London, UK

Date
1987 – 1988

Client
LDDC/Sir William Halcrow
& Partners

Area
850 m²

Structural Engineer
Sir William Halcrow &
Partners

Services Engineer
Sir William Halcrow &
Partners

Main Contractor
Nuttall

Awards

1992
Constructa Preis



From the outset the building was meant to be a visual delight, an oasis in the drab industrial environment of Silvertown

This bright and cheerful structure is actually a series of storm-water pumping stations, required as part of the development of London Docklands. The buildings are effectively containers for pumping machinery and therefore durability and security are the principal requirements but the practice has imbued a sense of joy into an otherwise very practical project.

Most of the machinery is 25 m below ground level. The main structure is of blue painted concrete – one circular drum placed concentrically within the radius of another. The

curtain walls of the outer circle are made of translucent polycarbonate, providing a view of the 'keep' within this 20th century industrial castle.

The form of this building was generated through the close collaboration between architect and the engineer, Halcrow & Partners. The end result clearly expresses the nature of the operations performed within, while at the same time celebrates our great Victorian engineering tradition.