

VISITOR CENTER

Cambridgeshire, UK 2013

Skycatcher

Architect	Lacey & Saltykov
Client	The Great Fen
Area	500 m ²
Cost	£2 million
Landscape Designer	Robert Myers Associates
Cost Consultants	Davis Langdon
Project Stages	Competition

"The experience is like having your head in the clouds: you can literally see nothing but sky," says Andrei.

In January 2013, this ideas competition for a visitors centre located in Cambridgeshire Fenland saw Lacey and Saltykov shortlisted for the top 20 from more than 200 entries. Built from glulam timber, their pier-like viewing platform creates a unique yet harmonious structure from which to better understand and enjoy the Fens' rich variety of natural habitats, further explored via unobtrusive boardwalks and

discrete pathways across the varied landscape below.

The platform's arresting sculptural centrepiece is the Skycatcher, a vast dish with an entirely reflective interior in which visitors can stand and immerse themselves in the sky. The dish's exterior is covered with discs made from tree trunk, creating a warm, earthy glow that is at one with the surrounding landscape.

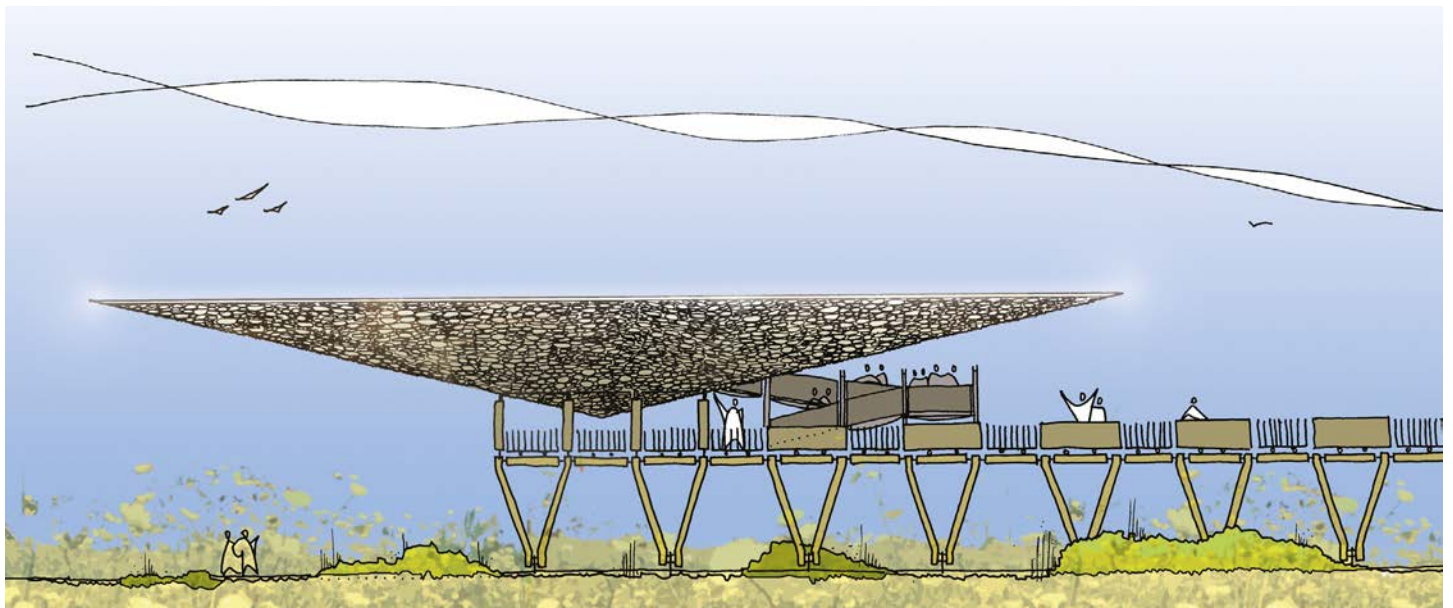
1 - Skycatcher elevation

2 - Skycatcher section

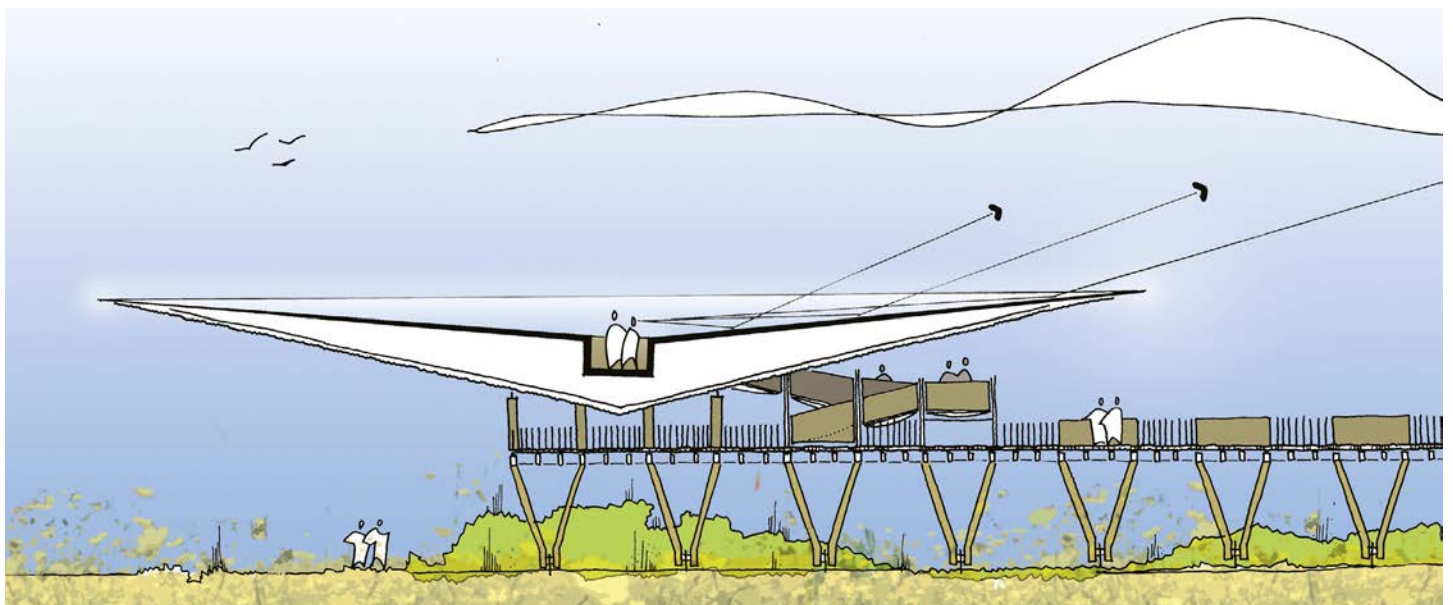
3 - View of the Visitor Center pier

4 - View from within the Skycatcher - photomontage

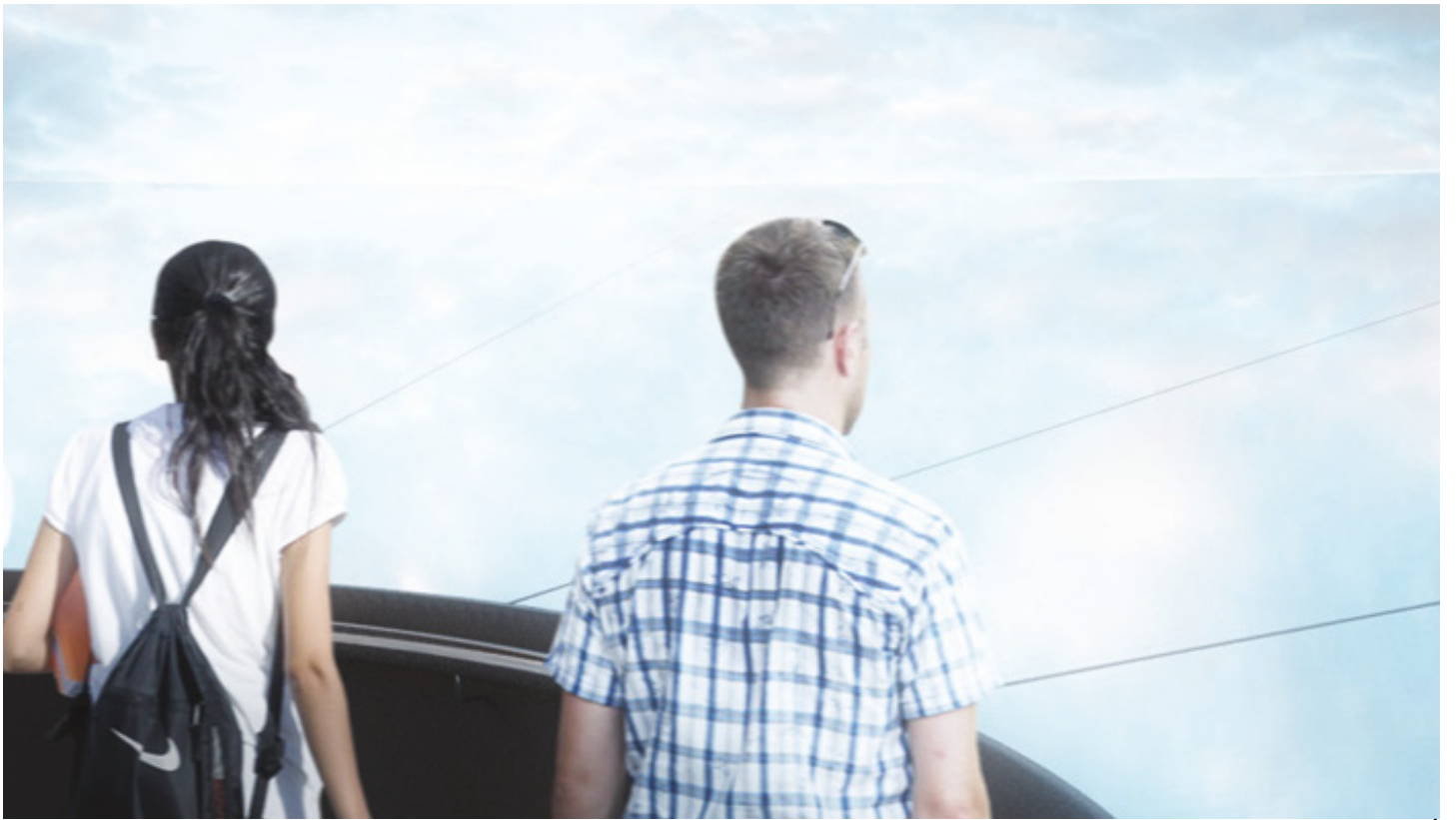
1-2 © 2014 Copyright Lacey & Saltykov
3-4 © 2014 Copyright 7-T



1



2



4



3