

Another Architecture

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# MARK

## Room for Imagination

Centre for literature in Prague



***'The US election  
killed social  
media for me'***  
Mimi Zeiger

***'I thought  
games would be  
the bliss zone of  
architecture'***  
Nick Leavy

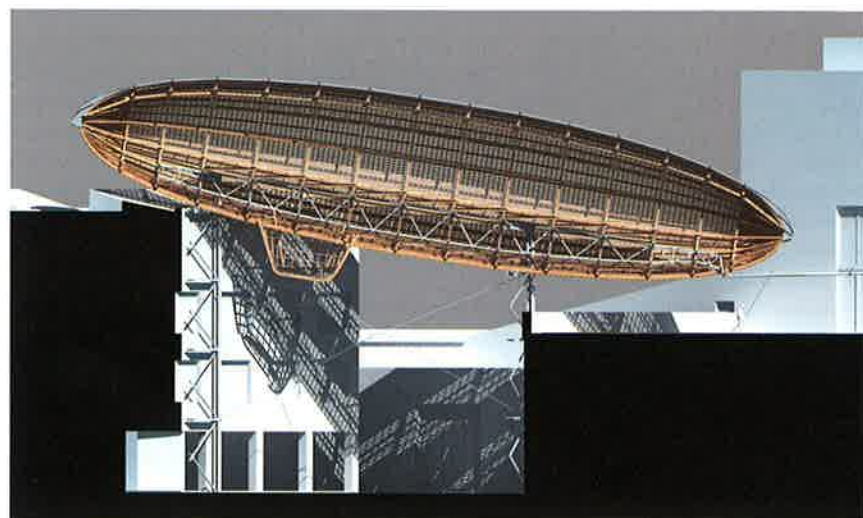
***'From a plant's  
perspective,  
manmade borders  
don't exist'***  
Kentaro Kurihara



BP 8 7 109661 14 12671  
EUR 1995 GBP 14 CHF 30 CAD 29.50  
USD 1995 JPY 3990 KRW 40000



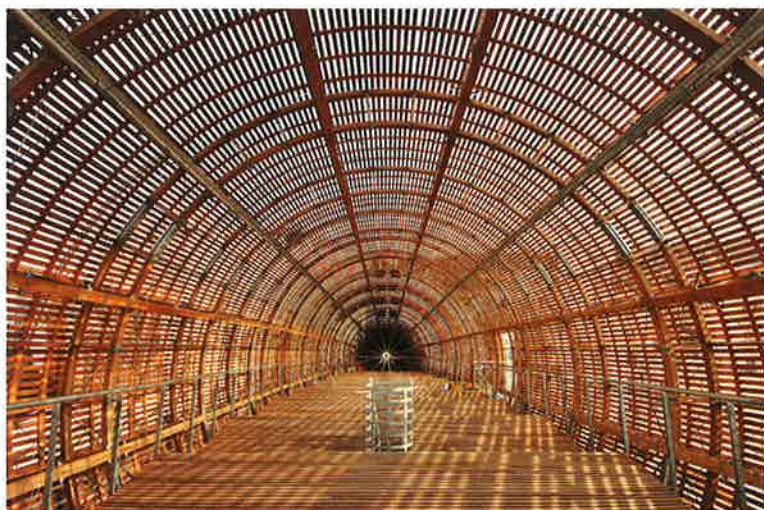
## Long Section



An airship has landed on top of DOX Contemporary Art Centre.

# Letting It Fly

Huf Architektury boosts an art centre with an airship called Gulliver.



The new space will be used for readings and discussions about literature.

Photo Petr Králík



Text Adam Štěch  
Photos Jan Slavík

Floating over the courtyard of DOX Contemporary Art Centre, Gulliver is the latest architectural addition to the booming Prague cultural scene. Designed by Czech architects Martin Rajniš and David Kubík of Huf Architektury, the 42-m-long steel and wooden structure, in the shape of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century airship, opened at the end of last year as a new permanent centre for literature.

DOX Contemporary Art Centre is an ambitious private museum, focused on displaying contemporary art of all disciplines. It opened in 2008 in a former brewery in Prague's Holešovice district, remodelled by Czech architect Ivan Kroupa according to his characteristic pure minimalist white forms. Rajniš, who already built several experimental wooden structures during his extensive career, created with this airship-like space a strong contrast to DOX's existing building, both in material and appearance. In developing their design, the architects were assisted by art enthusiast and philanthropist Leoš Válka, founder of DOX, as well as by wood and steel specialists.

The architects used the shape of the airship as a symbolic reminder of the optimistic times of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century technological progress and the artistic avant-garde. The 10-m-wide structure, which bears the name of one of the most famous characters in utopian literature, sits on steel columns and is made of wooden planks and covered by a curved plastic shield. It will serve as a space for reading and public discussions of literature, related to the themes of DOX's exhibitions, which typically offer a critical view of particular aspects of the contemporary human situation.

hufarchitektury.cz

