

norwich gallery

location
St George Street

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Norwich Gallery Projects with Tyndall Centre
for Climate Change Research 2001 to 2005

4 to 30 September 2006

Reception with the artists present
Tuesday 5 September 5.30 to 7.30pm

Open to the public admission free
Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm

This event is part of the BA Festival of Science in
Norwich from 2-9 September 2006. Details of all events
are available online at www.the-ba.net/festivalofscience

Janice Kerbel's *Home Climate Gardens* drawings were the result of a collaborative project between the Norwich Gallery NSAD and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research UEA. The project was funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Arts Council England, Canadian High Commission and Norwich City Council. The Curator Lynda Morris wrote in 2003: Janice Kerbel learnt that in 1980 NASA had promoted the benefits of plants inside space stations as an inexpensive, low-tech, eco-friendly means of removing pollutants from the air of the home and workplace. Under laboratory conditions, spider plants could remove 96% of carbon monoxide, toxic exhaust gas. Lady Palm (*Rhapis excelsa*) was found to aid in the removal of formaldehyde fumes. Plants 'breathe in' our carbon dioxide exhalations and 'breathe out' vital fresh oxygen, making them our 'perfect partners'. Nature's own air purification system. *Home Climate Gardens* situates itself between dystopian visions of environmental disaster and traditional utopian idylls of landscape and architectural design. The work is generated out of an interest in the contradictions at the centre of our relationship to climate change. Our love of nature is secondary to our desire for the technology of a modern metropolitan lifestyle, with all the energy requirements of our expectations for cleanliness, warmth, refrigeration, mobility, light, entertainment and communication. A humid bathroom may offer similar climatic conditions as an island in the South Pacific, without the risk of El Niño and coastal erosion. The climate of a central-heated office block is a fragile desert habitat. The climate of the future remains unclear, but it will be effected as a result of the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and human habits. There is nothing that can be done now to stop our climate changing. *Home Climate Gardens* is an allegorical meditation on the future conditions of a world marked by increasingly uncertain environmental conditions that we are going to have to learn to live with.

Norwich Lido was a project by Elizabeth Wright in collaboration with Norwich Gallery NSAD, Tyndall Centre at UEA and Wysing Arts Cambridgeshire. Elizabeth Wright wrote: The Government financed and built Lidos throughout Britain in the 1930's. They were motivated by the need to create a healthier work force. After the First World War the level of animal fat in the population's diet was depleted due to its use in making high explosives. Cod liver oil was used as a food supplement but in the summer months the incidence of rickets and tuberculosis (two of the illnesses associated with vitamin depletion) declined. A connection was drawn between the medicinal properties of sunlight and people's health. It required a public 'leap of faith' to believe that the climate had become more like that of Southern Europe. There was no literal change in the climate, a psychological change had taken place. *Norwich Lido* aims to link this perceived change in climate in the 1930's with our own uncertainties about the climate change in the future. In the 80's when the Lidos become the responsibility of local councils across the country, the vast majority fell into disrepair and were later demolished. Research at the Tyndall Centre has examined how interactive games may be an alternative method for visualizing the effect that certain policy decisions may have. A 'simulation game' creates hypothetical situations where players experience the consequences of their decisions. *Norwich Lido* presents a scenario and a simulation game in which a viewer may participate. Using enamelled swimming pool signage: 'Deep End,' 'Shallow End,' 'No Diving', '1.0M', '1.8M' and 3.8M', six virtual pools were placed within the city infrastructure of Norwich. On entering any of the *Norwich Lido* sites the viewer creates their own 'scenario' and method of negotiating the site, imagining the 'virtual pool' to be either full or empty.

Dr Simon Torok wrote his *Predictions for East Anglia in 2003*: By 2080, East Anglia is likely to warm by between 2 and 4.5 degrees. Over the same period, winter precipitation could increase by between 15 and 35%, while summer precipitation could decrease by between 20 and 50%. Taking into account land movement and global sea-level change, local sea level could rise by between 22 and 82 centimetres by 2080. Just as the coast holds its warmth long past the height of summer, the slow response time of the oceans means they will continue to warm as a result of human activities. East Anglians will have to manage rising sea levels for many decades to come.

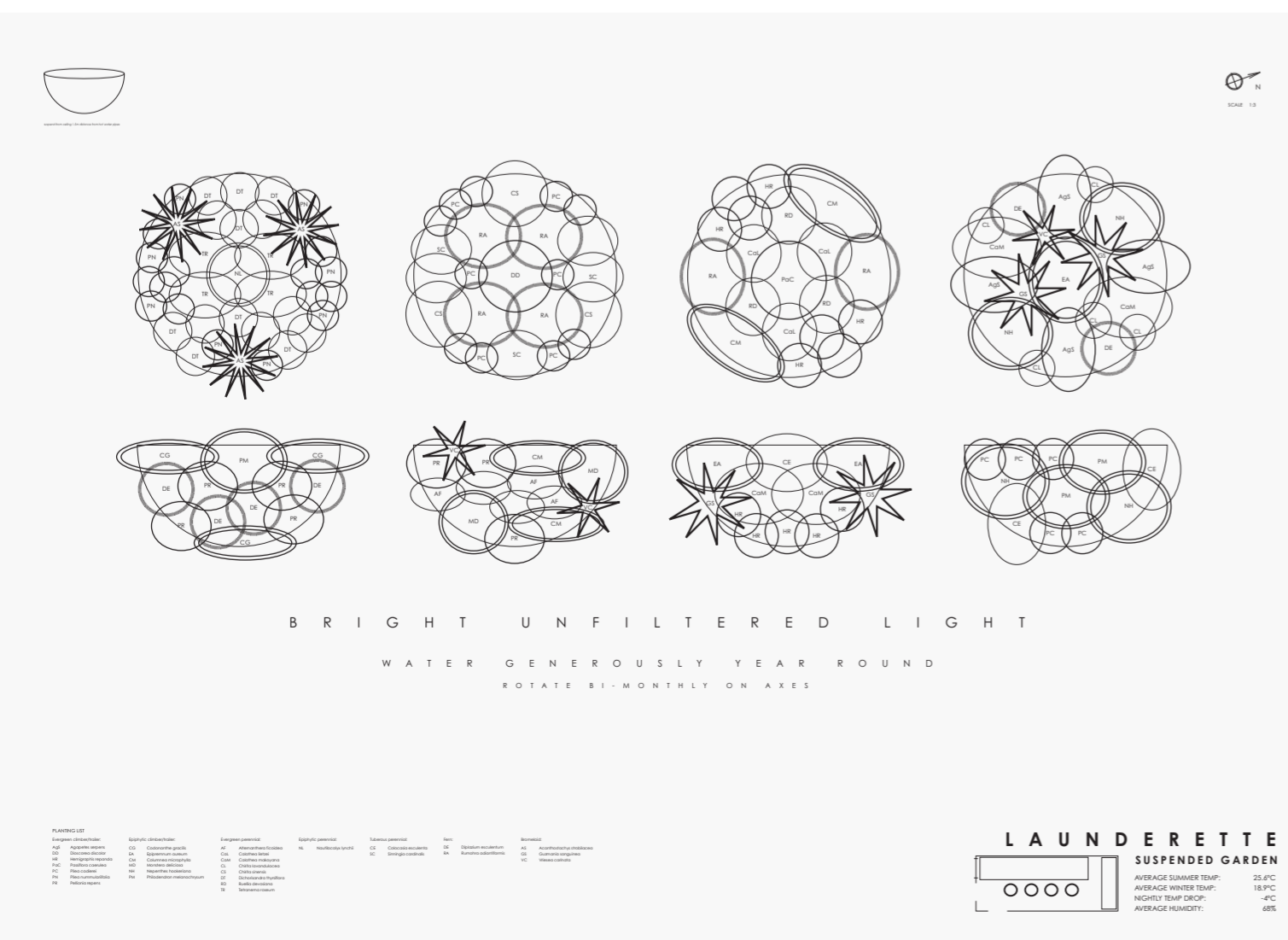
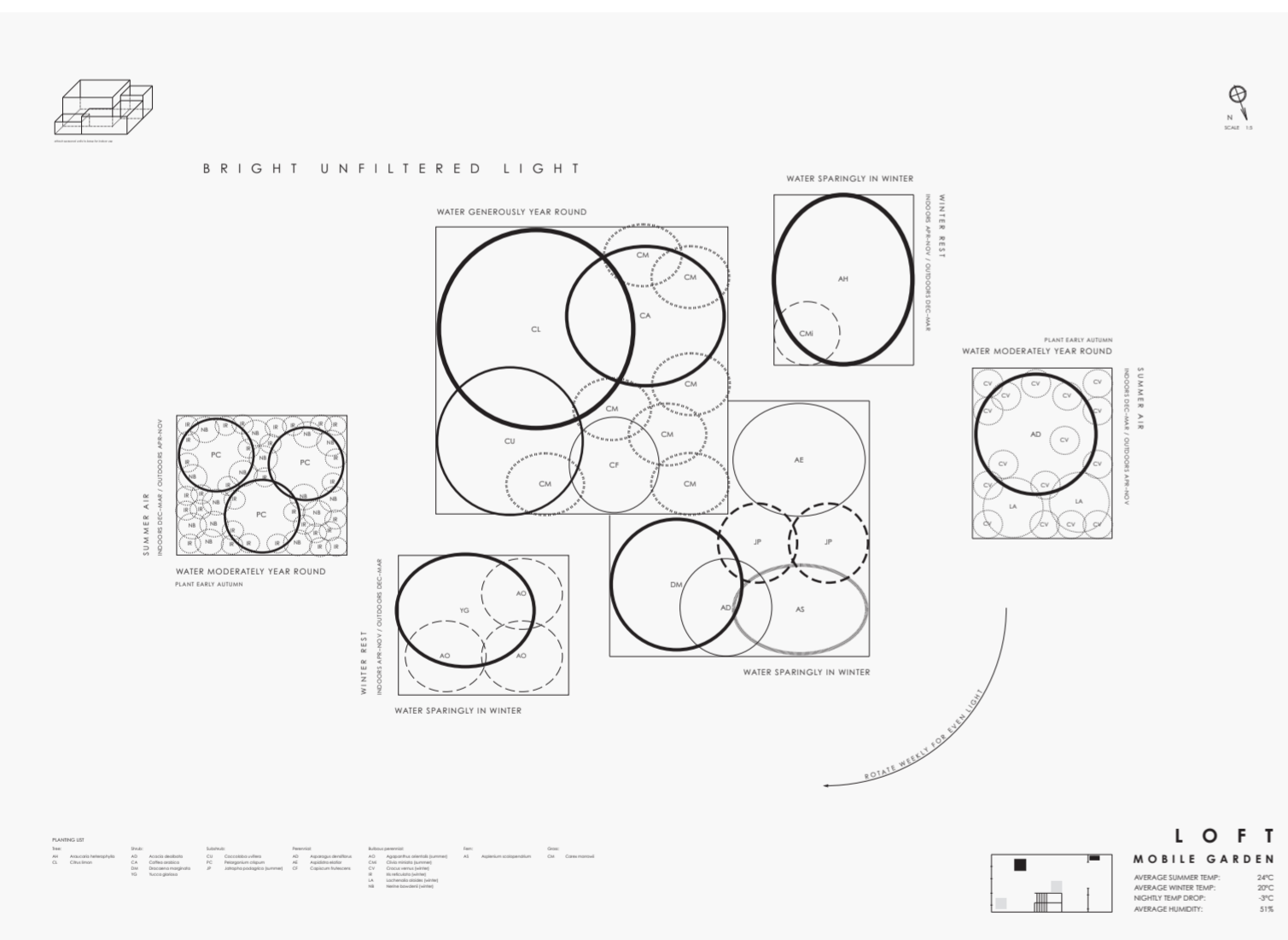
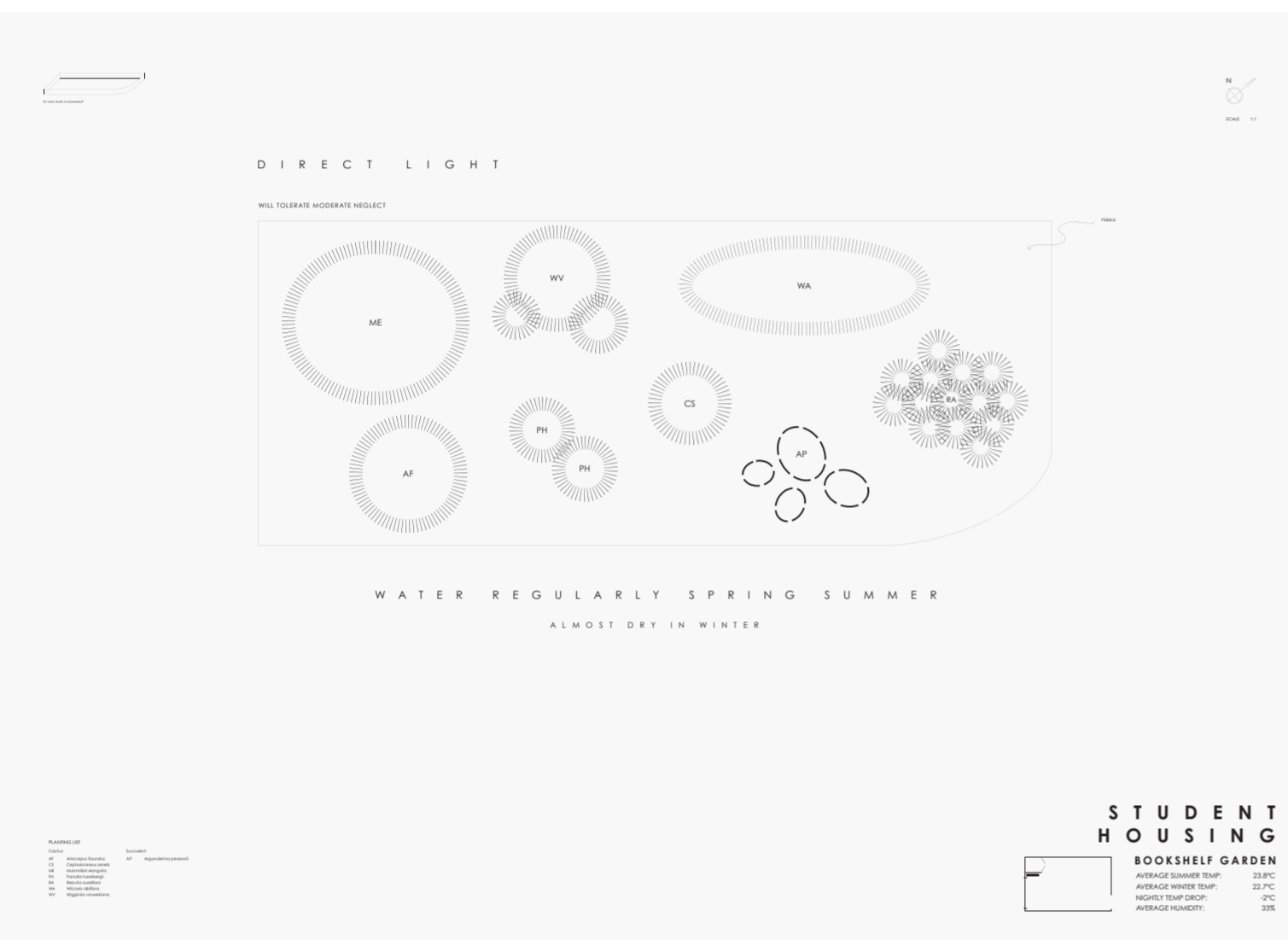
In *Pictures, scenarios or probabilities: how should we portray dangerous climate change?* Professor Mike Hulme of the Tyndall Centre proposed that the communication of potential climate change outcomes should be placed in the everyday experience of individuals. He suggests using icons that matter to individual people and are clearly understood locally.



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JANICE KERBEL HOME CLIMATE GARDENS

ELIZABETH WRIGHT NORWICH LIDO



St Georges Street Lido



Davey Place Lido



Suffolk Square Lido

