



Greetings & Happy New Year!

Ka mihi mahana o te Tau Hau – warm greetings for the New Year!

I hope the beginning of a new year brings optimism and hope for change that improves our world and although I know a cliché but kindness and a willingness to look out for each other would be values that will assist us to cope with the ongoing changes we are experiencing.

U3A Dunedin begins our year with congratulations to Richard Higham, a member of U3A Dunedin for some time and a Board member for the past two years. He was awarded a Queens Service Medal in the New Year honours list for services to sport and education. Well done, Richard, a fantastic achievement.

U3A looks forward to a year of interesting and stimulating courses, a year of growth in Interest Groups and a year where we work with your ideas to enhance what we achieve. We also look forward to new challenges of technologies for accessing talks and lectures from our homes if we choose to do so and the potential of archiving great talks for members to view at some later date. Of course, we need to trial these first, receive feedback and meet the 'tipping' point of the market in terms of reasonable costs.



Linda Kinniburgh

EXCITING TIMES FOR 2023 AND ONWARD

I read recently on LinkedIn (Cathy Anderson, Editor, 2023) of three top concerns for CEO's in the future. These are listed as 'Talent acquisition' 'Digital Transformation' and 'Cyber-security'.

I believe these are also the qualities we seek for our organisation. We are fortunate to have such talent and capabilities in facilitating Interest Groups, setting up courses through the Programme Committee, through good governance and management. We continue to adapt and upgrade our digital skills, not always easy as we are not the digital natives our children and grandchildren are. Lastly, we must always be aware of cyber security, ensuring safe and secure

systems, and protection of our data.

The U3A Dunedin AGM will be held on Thursday February 9th at the Otago Golf Club, commencing at 10:30am. We plan for Dr Tony Ballantyne, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Otago to talk to us at this meeting. We welcome your attendance and participation, and any further nominations for the Board for 2023. The agenda will be on the website soon for your perusal. We will require a RSVP as we provide a light lunch at the conclusion of the formalities.

Do enjoy the sunshine, the activities you love to do over summer, time with friends and family, reading a good book, relaxing. As February approaches we will be organising ourselves once again for regular courses and meeting.

Be vigilant, COVID is not over yet. Take good care out there, drive safely and I look forward to meeting you all again over the year.

Noho ora, kia ora, stay safe and well

**Linda Kinniburgh
Chairperson,
Board U3A Dunedin
2021-2022**

Programme Committee Report

THE IDEAL SERIES

Usually, the Programme Committee report previews the series immediately ahead.

However, as this year's Autumn series is already open for enrolment this is a good opportunity to explain a most important aspect of the Committee's work, series design, as it constructs and delivers high-quality courses in three annual instalments, eighteen each year. Almost uniquely within New Zealand Dunedin U3A offers complete courses rather than stand-alone single lectures. It is a big task to satisfy member expectations for interest and variety in our offerings.

So, what is the ideal design of a series of six courses? As a general guide, there is an idealised pattern more or less adhered to: health/well-being, literature, music, science/technology, current affairs/social issues, and art. But there are constraints. Not every significant interest can be catered for under these headings. History and travel, for example, have no special place, and then there are smaller topics

of considerable interest, but which cannot be sustained over our usual six sessions. These may have to be accommodated under a general umbrella, such as Pot Pourri, Speakers' Corner or My Hobby. Street Art is a possible illustration. Then we need to provide for a range of intellectual levels. Some like to be stretched with for example Philosophy at Otago; others want a less demanding experience or one more relevant personally, as with always well supported health courses.

And then there is question of speaker availability with the right expertise. We have many fine ideas for courses submitted to us, but it is not always possible find the equivalent of twelve speakers for each suggestion, and for a particular area it can be quite easy to use up the pool of willing presenters, say with always popular music. Most fortunately, we have benefitted from the willingness of some speakers to deliver whole courses, sometimes repeatedly. John Drummond, Doug Hart, and Chris Ackley have been absolutely outstanding in giving of their time in

**Stuart
Strachan**



this way and continue to do so. And we will long remember Colin Gibson, now sadly no longer, who so vividly brought to us the wonders of the Gloria and Magnificat. But there have been others, among them recently Ross Grimmett, Ron Palenski, Yoram Barak and Peter Brook.

Our closeness to the university has been crucial in supplying talented, knowledgeable speakers for our courses. The Let There be Light course would have been quite impossible without drawing on university science departments, and the planned National Epics course for our forthcoming winter series will be completely dependent on university staff past and present. Indeed, Otago University offers such a huge pool of expertise that most courses have some local academic input. The other important, impressively diverse source of willing expertise, is of course our very large membership. Here we might mention at random the Smiths, Lloyd and Charmian, Gretchen Kivell, Barrie Peake, John Hale, Richard Higham and many more.

The ongoing challenge for the Programme Committee, sixteen or so members constantly racking their brains, is to meld these resources together into interesting series that engage our diverse membership. It is hard work, occasionally frustrating, but in the end always rewarding.

**Stuart Strachan
Linda Kinniburgh
Co-Chairs,
Programme Committee**

Notice to all U3A Dunedin members

The AGM of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust
will be held on :

Thursday 9th February 2023

10:30 a.m. at the **Otago Golf Club**

Guest speaker: Dr Tony Ballantyne,
Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Otago

Following the meeting a light lunch will be served.

Notices of Motion and/or Board Nominations must be
with the Secretary to the Board, Phyll Esplin,
phyllsplin@gmail.com, by 1 February.

News Bits

Immune-boosting drug could lessen COVID-19

Queensland researchers have identified a key cause of severe COVID-19, paving the way for a potential new treatment.

Key points:

- The drug differs from antivirals, targeting the immune system rather than the virus
- The drug has successfully been tested in mice
- An expert says antivirals might be less effective as the CoV-2 virus continues to mutate

Unlike antiviral treatments, Mater Research biochemist Katharina Ronacher said the experimental medication would not attack SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, but was designed instead to target the immune system.



Katharina Ronacher, Stacey Bartlett and Cheng Xiang Foo are conducting the research on a drug called NIBR189

They found patients with severe COVID-19 produce enzymes that lead to the creation of cholesterol in the lungs.

"These cholesterol molecules actually are a signal for immune cells in the blood to leave the bloodstream and to migrate to the site of infection ... the lungs," Dr Ronacher said.

"While we know we need immune cells at the site of infection to fight the infection, and to control the virus, what we observed in severe COVID-19 patients is that they have excessive infiltration of

immune cells and, particularly, of a type of immune cell called macrophage. These macrophages cause a lot of inflammation and tissue damage in the lung."

Dr Ronacher said NIBR189 worked by blocking cholesterol receptors on immune cells, thereby stopping the signal for macrophages, a type of white blood cell, to leave the bloodstream.

Human trials will depend on funding. If NIBR89 is successful as a COVID-19 drug in human trials, it would form a completely new class of drug that could have benefits beyond treating COVID-19. (<https://www.abc.net.au/news>)

'Hi Mum' scam

In case you've been lucky enough not to have received one of these 'Hi Mum' messages, scammers typically send a text message from an unknown number, impersonating a child. It almost always begins with: 'Hi Mum'.

Police say they continue with something along the lines of "I've changed provider/lost/broken my phone – I'm temporarily using this number for now." The most common tactic is claiming to have lost or broken their phone as a justification for a funds transfer, because they can't access their online banking. The scammers may also ask for personal information, which may then be used to scam other family members.

Victims usually then transfer funds to bank accounts provided by the scammers, which are often set up fraudulently.

(<https://www.abc.net.au/news>)

U3ADUNEDIN CHARITABLE TRUST

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Chair: Linda Kinniburgh,
Phone- 473-8443

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Feature Articles

Word Wonders

John Hale, U3A

Spindrift

Charming as a word, a sound, and in image, spindrift is somewhat mysterious. Of course it is a spin which has been driven, but where does that get us! Just as snow that winds have driven along ends up as a snow drift, spindrift is spooned water, spray and such, flung around as a boat “spoons” or “spens” or “spins,” hurtling along before the wind. Nothing to do with cutlery, everything to do with how different regions of Scotland pronounced the vowel in Old Scots. By extension it gives its name to many a fizzy drink.

Spinnaker

And perhaps to spinnaker, the extra sail used when a yacht is running downwind.

This sounds likelier to me than the orthodox account, which says it was named from the first boat to use one, the Sphinx. The name sounds Dutch



to me: does anyone reading this know better?

Maar

Faulden Maar has been in the news, and rightly so, making me wonder what a maar is? It is a broad flattish crater, from German maar from Vulgar mara, standing water, from Latin mare, sea. Geology often borrows its names from things as first identified or researched.

Blue John

Other German terms which have travelled are spar and felspar or feldspar: crystalline materials found in fields. In *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth Bennett proposes to visit Derbyshire and “rob it of a few spars.” Probably blue john., or Derbyshire spar. When at home it has a cousin, black jack.

Darby and Joan

Speaking of Derbyshire, who were Darby and Joan? Characters in a 1920s movie, deriving however from a popsong of 1735. But couldn't Darby spell his own name, since he must have had a link with Derbyshire? No, I think the trouble began with spelling that fair county with an /e/ despite pronouncing it with an /sa/— like Clark and clerk.

Olde words:

Words which are “olde” are implied to be fake or fanciful, like cafés named “Ye olde thatched Cottage.”



Some words sound older than others. Erstwhile means “former” but stands closer to OE and German again: erst = first, while as noun means “a while”, so erstwhile = in a first or former time, like a surname from a first marriage.

Howbeit and albeit

I do like these Olde Englishe conjunctions, to direct which way reasoning shall go next. That central /-be-/ is not the /be-/ of begin, bedazzle, or belabour (albeit I like them even more). This /-be-/ is the subjunctive of the verb to be; howbeit is how(ever) it (may) be, “be that as it may.”

Notwithstanding

My favourite adversative, for a truly heavyweight reversal of the direction of argument! Why do I like it? “What's to like” as New Yorkers say? I think it's the oddness and oldfangledness. X “withstands” or countermands Y. “With” has its old meaning of “against.” But nothing and nobody are X and Y, doing the withstanding: it's an absolute construction, like “That said.”

Newfangled ineptitude

Lastly a word, or rather a usage, which I do not like, is the screen message denying you access by saying “This content not available.” This content has been back-formed—or deformed—from “the contents,” a plural with no singular which expresses the collective holdings within some holder. “Whatsoever the holder holds,” that is, not a particular item. Grrrrr. Now is the winter of my discontent.

Historian Rachel Buchanan creates a taonga of her own

The celebrated art critic Ernst Gombrich identified Māori carving (whakairo) as a triumph of human culture. Unfortunately, beautiful artefacts often attract the attention of plunderers, unscrupulous dealers and complicit collectors.

Rachel Buchanan's Te Motunui Epa tells the story of a set of exquisitely carved pātaka (storehouse) panels that were illegally removed from the country in the early 1970s and acquired by a Swiss-based collector. The panels were eventually repatriated, at great cost to the government, and restored to Taranaki in 2014.

Like many such stories, the facts are convoluted and novelistic. But unlike the research of other New Zealand art crime experts, notably Penelope Jackson and Arthur Tompkins, for Buchanan (Taranaki, Te Ātiawa) the illegal removal of the Motunui panels is both personal and communal.

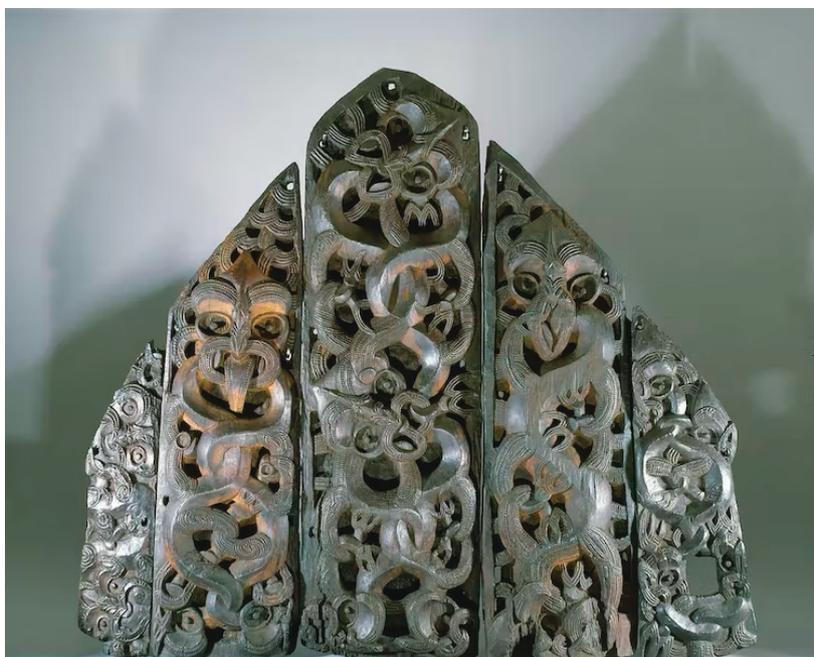
In a European worldview, we generally believe artists have a special psychological connection to the works they create. So-called moral rights under copyright law give some legal effect to that belief. Also, when an identifiable person is the subject of an artwork, their descendants may hold strong emotional links to that image.

Nevertheless, when Buchanan explores the meaning of utu, the non-Māori reader may gain some understanding of the importance of repatriation. Utu has many meanings, depending on context. Buchanan tells us: "Utu is about relationships [... it] is a return or payback, reciprocity, a satisfaction, a ransom, a reward, a price, a reply, evening

things up". When taonga have been taken from a community, only return can restore utu as harmony.

The broad story of the panels is generally well known. Finlayson, for example, presented an insider narrative at the first Art Crime Symposium in Wellington in 2015. But Buchanan delves deep into numerous archives, Hansard, Official Information Act requests, and even interviewed the unrepentant dealer who spirited the panels out of the country.

Whereas carving involves the removal of material to create, Buchanan is a skilful weaver who draws different strands – the narrative, legal arguments, politics, human emotions, te ao Māori – into a cohesive whole.



Buchanan's writing is unashamedly poetic and spiritual. That does not detract from the rigour of her research but might distance a reader who likes their history plain, factual and passionless. Her anthropomorphising of the panels makes sense – they are tūpuna (ancestors) – but that approach can lead to overwrought language.

For example, "In that dark place, our tūpuna began to write their thoughts on the underside of the coffin lids" smacks of improbable magical realism. There is some unnecessary repetition of facts, and the eminent lawyer (later judge) Sir Ted Thomas is referred to as Edward rather than Edmund.

Like Gombrich, I'm awed by Māori whakairo. But as an outsider, I can't fully appreciate what it means to the communities from which taonga emerge and where they belong. For Pākehā, this represents a generous sharing of insights into te ao Māori, in particular the world of the Indigenous people of Taranaki.

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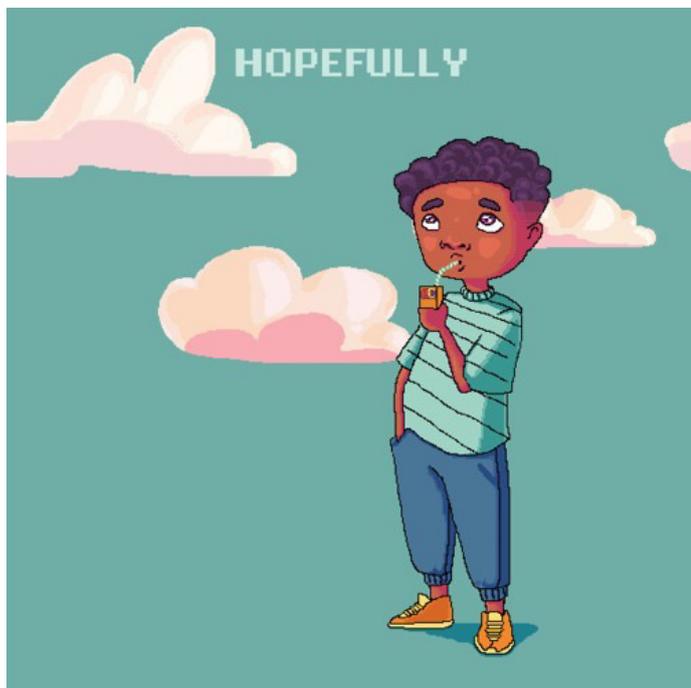
Troublesome Adverbs

John Hale, U3A

Adverbs are words which, in grammar, “qualify” verbs, adjectives or phrases. ‘Scratch me gently,’ icily regular, splendidly null.’ Essential to us, but they can give trouble. For instance, they may get too big for their boots, by aiming to “qualify” — modify or characterise— a whole sentence.

Hopefully

Consider “Hopefully.” Time was, ‘hopefully’ in English meant “in a spirit of hope.” So we were told, “It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.” In any race, where only one contestant can be first, the majority enjoy the doing, the travelling hopefully; and good for them.



But when “hopefully” qualifies the whole statement, behaving like a conjunction, we get “Hopefully, it is better to travel than to arrive.” Really!? Doubt and trouble are created when “Hopefully” is substituted for “I hope that...” It may sound brisker, but it sounds more doubtful. Also, it has the same number of syllables, and monosyllables will always sound less ponderous than words of three or more syllables. “Unquestionably” has five, which means sacrificing brevity, not gaining it.

Change and Fashion

Ah but this is not allowing for change and fashion. German had “Hoffentlich” before English set up

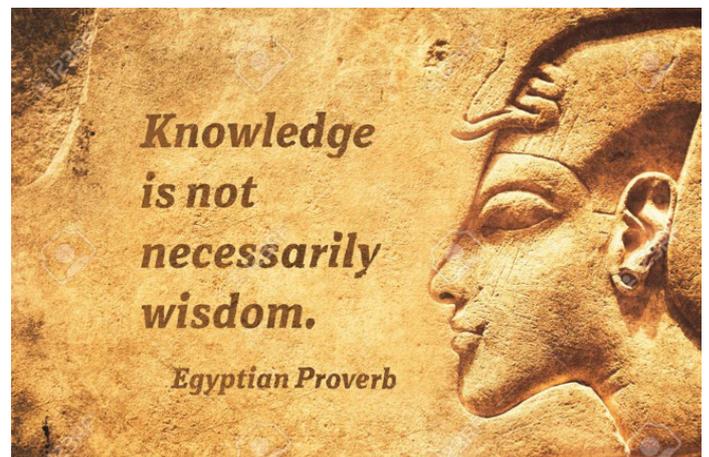
“Hopefully” as a conjunction, to launch a whole thought or sentence, not as adverb to express a state a spirit. US usage absorbed the disputed practice. I recall my father disliking it at first, then using it himself later. There is nothing wrong with it. We happily begin a sentence with “Presumably,” to mean “I presume that...” or “Sadly,” to mean “I regret that.”

The moral is:

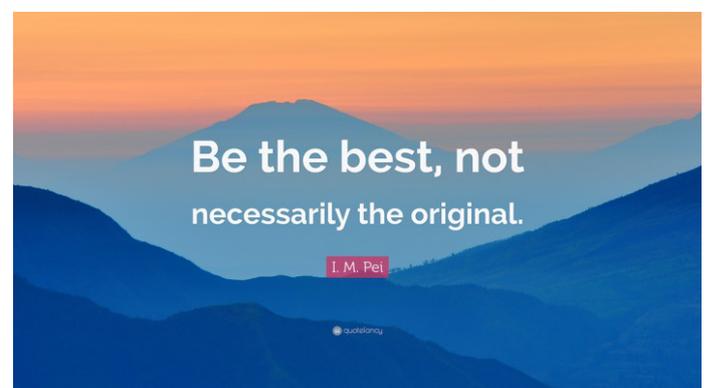
Some specimens still work better than others. Which are which?

Not necessarily

A different development of the ponderous polysyllabic adverb is the craze for saying something is “not necessarily” X or Y. We have the simple auxiliary “may” to express this, and the blunter adverbs ‘maybe’ and ‘perhaps’. Why then has the clunky six-syllable “not necessarily” sneaked in, adding to the sibilant saliva of the air?



Could it be that Gershwin song, “It ain’t necessarily so,” which does have lilt and bounce (so we bumbled into saying it where it has no bounce and just sounds clunky? The need to hedge one’s assertions is made to sounds more judicious, fair-



minded, pseudo-precise. But also pompous. Better to say, “That may not be necessary” than “that is not necessarily necessary.” Not necessarily is not necessary!

QUIZ

High School again...

Can you spot the answers to the following questions?

1 Glucose levels are maintained by the hormones insulin and glucagon. Which statement best describes the changes in hormone levels of a healthy human soon after a high glucose meal??

- a. *Insulin levels fall and glucagon levels rise*
- b. *Insulin levels fall and glucagon levels fall*
- c. *Insulin levels rise and glucagon levels fall*

2 Which of the following statements correctly describes the gravitational interaction between the Earth and the Moon?

- a. *The Earth accelerates towards the Moon*
- b. *The net force acting on the Earth is zero*
- c. *The force acting on the Moon is smaller*

3 Which pair of business functions is conducted by human resource management?

- a. *Pricing and scheduling*
- b. *Scheduling and induction*
- c. *Induction and recruitment*

4 A manufacturing business is cost leader in their industry. Which combination of features of the transformation process are they most likely to demonstrate?

- a. *Low volume, low variety*
- b. *High volume, low variety*
- c. *Low volume, high variety*

5 A car manufacturer's marketing manager suggests to the operations manager that they increase the warranty period from 3 to 5 years in order to increase market share. The operations manager would agree to this suggestion if

- a. *It provided increased production speed*
- b. *Quality management could support it*
- c. *It increased sales commissions*

6 A person has been found guilty of stealing money from retirement home residents to fund a luxury overseas holiday. Which factor has most likely affected their criminal behaviour?

- a. *Economic*
- b. *Political*
- c. *Self-interest*

7 Which body has discretion to determine the early release of a prisoner before they complete their full sentence?

- a. *The Police Force*
- b. *The Parole Authority*
- c. *Director of Public Prosecutions*

8 New Zealand is unable to resolve a territorial dispute with a neighbouring nation. The United Nations instructs both parties to undertake compulsory conciliation that reaches a resolution.

- a. *It will be enforced by both parties*
- b. *Either could appeal to an International Court*
- c. *Places pressure on the NZ government*

(Answers on p.8 below...)

Tweet of the week

"Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay ... for the 23rd time."

One-liner of the week

"I was having dinner with former world chess champion Garry Kasparov the other day and there was a check tablecloth. It took him two hours to pass me the salt!"

U3A Email Directory

Sending email correspondence to U3A Dunedin? Using addresses below will take your messages to the person who can assist.

General information: contact@u3adunedin.org.nz

Courses: courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Membership: membership@u3adunedin.org

Forum: newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz

U3A Phone Directory

To discuss any problem with U3A Dunedin please phone the appropriate person:

Chairperson: Linda Kinniburgh 021-735-614

Board matters Phyll Esplin 467-2594

Membership : Lynda Jackson 473-6947

Interest Groups: Trish Irvine 482 1651

Programme:Committee

Stuart Strachan 482-2339

Design Corner

Floating Homes

Danish maritime architecture studio MAST has developed Land on Water, a system for constructing floating buildings that aims to be more flexible and sustainable than traditional methods.

The system designed by Copenhagen-based MAST consists of modular containers that can be filled with various floatation elements, similar to how gabion cages are used in the construction industry.

Made from recycled reinforced plastic, these flat-pack modules could be easily transported around the world and assembled in different configurations to suit a range of building types.

Land on Water is a flat-pack modular system for building floating homes. The system could be used to create a range of buildings on water.

Land on Water offers a range of benefits when compared with typical systems on the market, which include plastic pontoons, steel pontoons or concrete foundations filled with polystyrene.

The design consists of recycled plastic cages that can be filled with locally sourced floatation material. MAST's system is designed to be filled with floatation material sourced locally.

As well as making the floats easy to ship, this means they can potentially work with structures of various sizes and weights.

Another benefit is that the floatation material can be easily adjusted or added to if the building's weight increases or the balance of weight changes. The modules can be more easily shipped than traditional floating building systems.

Land on Water is also designed to promote biodiversity. Niches within the floats are expected to encourage the growth of molluscs and seaweed and provide habitats for fish and crustaceans.

MAST is building a prototype to present at the UIA World Congress of Architects in 2023

With Land on Water, it's hoped to show that floating homes can be a flexible and attractive option for homeowners, and enable the creation of climate-resilient and biophilic communities.



Visualisation produced by MAST suggests the system could be used to build floating parks, cafes and swimming baths.

The studio believes the system could be used to create climate-resilient and biophilic neighbourhoods

The project is intended to offer an alternative to large-scale visions for floating cities, such as the BIG-designed Oceanix City, which MAST believes are fraught with issues.

"They repeat a lot of the mistakes that urban designers made in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, when they designed megacities without much consideration of the small scale,"

MAST is currently developing a prototype of the Land on Water system, which it plans to present at the UIA World Congress of Architects taking place in Copenhagen in 2023.

(<https://www.dezeen.com>)

Quiz : 1c, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5b, 6c, 7b & 8c

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