

Architects~
Will Alsop,
Sarah Featherstone,
Piers Gough

Client~
Jeremy Paxton

Completed~
To be completed

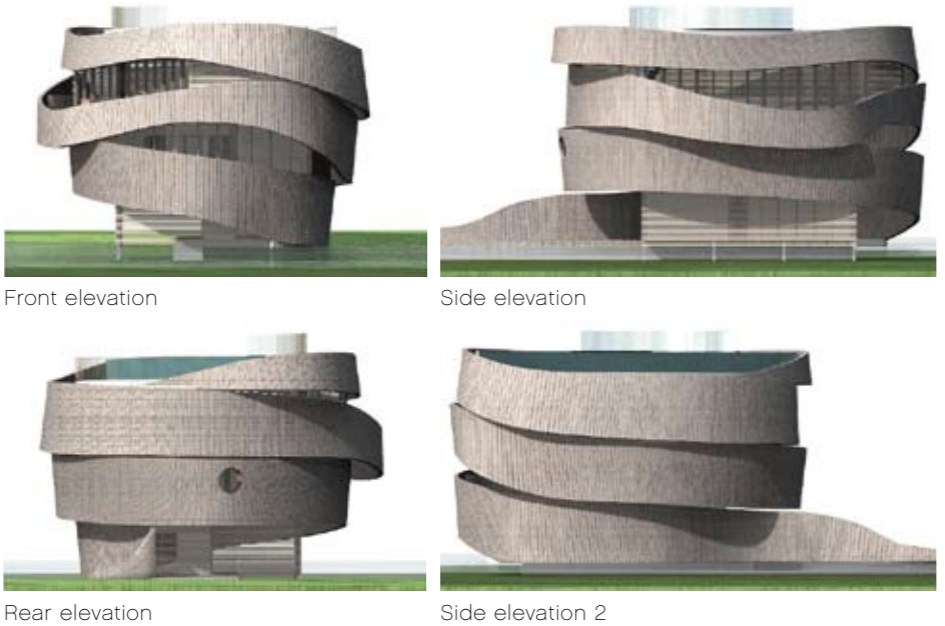
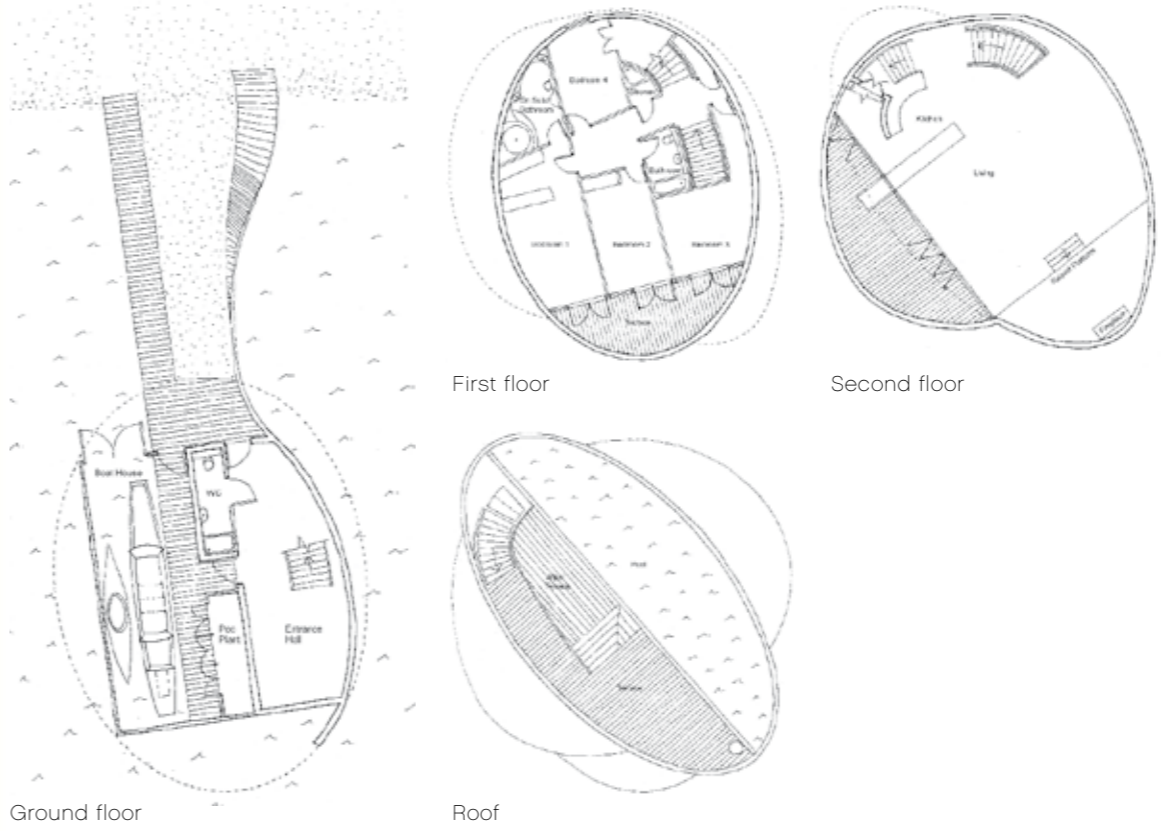
Website~
www.lowermillestate.com

Renderings by
CGI and Smoothe

Howels Mere, located in the Cotswolds of Gloucestershire, represents the third stage of property mogul Jeremy Paxton's Lower Mill Estate, a 450-acre development designed to include 140 houses that respond to their natural environment, many of which 'hover' over one of the estate's seven lakes. Each has an open-plan interior and windows that run the length of the façade and overlook the surrounding countryside. Eight have been designed by leading UK architects. Paxton, who is adamant that these eight fulfill the same criteria as the rest of the estate, wants them 'to fit within a certain footprint', 'to be built for a certain price' and 'to be environmentally responsible'. He says 'they have to grow from nature rather than just land on it'. Resembling a tunnel segment, architect Will Alsop's design features a timber-clad arch that develops into a fully glazed winter garden. A sculptural, double-height, freestanding concrete structure divides the entrance and reception area from an otherwise open ground floor. The three bedrooms upstairs—'pods' suspended above

the living space—are connected by a gallery. A one-lane swimming pool stretches along the eastern façade. Sarah Featherstone's façade for Orchid House, inspired by the camouflage of the bee orchid—here burnt into the timber, looks like a partly peeled orange. Made from veneer ribs and clad in timber shingles, the organic form seems eager to perch on any waterfront site. Living and dining wings fan out from a centrally positioned kitchen to generate an intimate courtyard with terraces, a gangway and a pontoon cascading forth like the petals of an orchid. On the ground floor of Piers Gough's Watermark House, a boathouse and entrance hall are separated by a changing area. Architectural ribbons skirting a central core mark the exterior walls of the house, which spiral up in the opposite direction to the staircase indoors, overlapping and undulating to create open terraces. Inside, the double-width staircase curves round two floors to arrive at an 18-m-long rooftop 'infinity pool'.

01~
Elevations of Gough's
Watermark House.

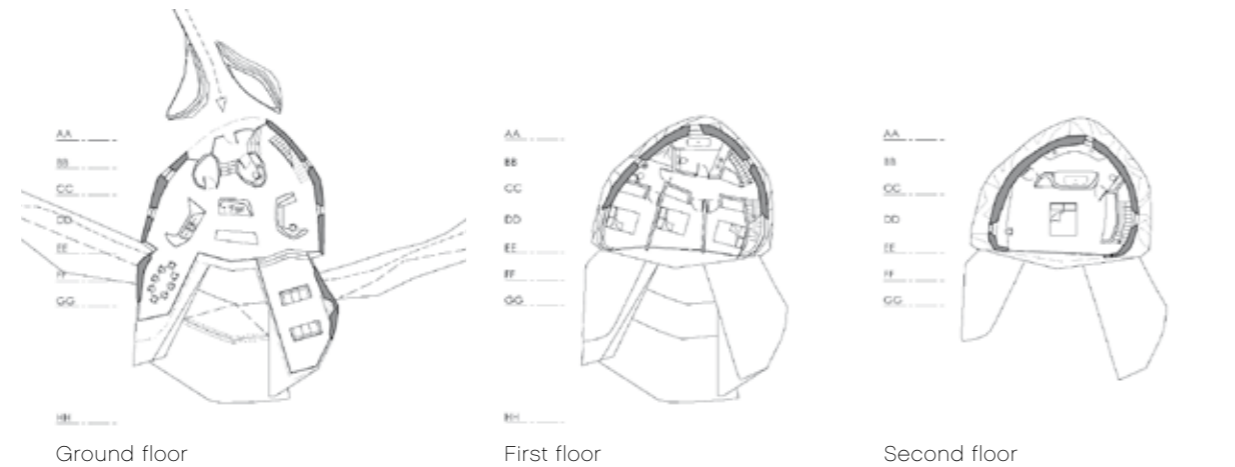


Landmark Houses Gloucestershire, UK





02



02 | 03
 Beachlife~
Restaurants and Café Buildings
 Project~
 East Beach Café
 Littlehampton, UK



02~
 Orchid House by Featherstone Associates.

03—04~
 The Alsop House by Will Alsop.

03



04