

Domine, Dirige Nos

Early in the morning, the inaugural barge, surrounded by the futility of his entourage, proceeds west from Westminster to survey all of the lands who pay tribute to City Hall and to affirm the dedication of the Thames Gateway. The Herma.

In the year of the London Olympics, the Thames Gateway was so named The Herma after the Greek deity Hermes. Constructed primarily of AEC Routemaster buses, its secondary structure of arches, ginnels, walkways, ramps and crutches are adorned by hermetic dragons - agents of rejected metals, combined in such a way as to induce an alchemical electrolysis, so they crackle and fizz with electrical discharges in the rain. The Herma was built directly on the riverbed, so the whole edifice is constantly sinking and in danger of toppling over.

Whilst the traveller in Albion may perceive echoes of the Greek god's terrible symbol of luck in the passages through the Gateway, ultimately, like Dickens' mudlarks, they are left searching for their fortune at the end of the day rainbow in the dark waters and the silt of the Thames. For, as the young Richard Whittington found in first arrival, the streets of London are not paved with gold, silver or bronze.

Waterbound's Expedition scale 1:200

Landward Expedition scale 1:500

