# SCAN ISLAND

by
Alex Cox

Scan Island an area of Hackney Wick, situated in East London.

Hackney Wick has received an unusual amount of attention recently due to the 2012 Olympic Games. Transformations currently taking place in Hackney Wick will impact the demographic of the area pricing many residents out of their homes. Hackney Wick's impending transition will see the area change quickly and many features of its industrial and residential past will be lost, only to be revisited in the photographs of its citizens.
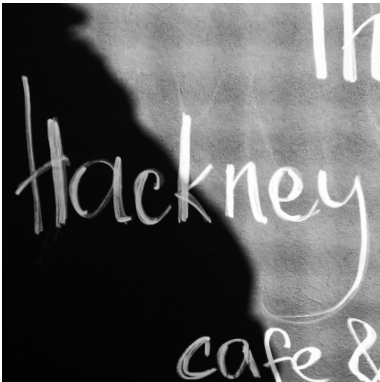
A common theme throughout present-day Hackney Wick is 'repetiiton'. From signage to industrial elements to todays new housing repetition of building elements is as common in Hackneys residential buildings as it is in its industrial.

The Trowbridge Estate, close to both Scan Island sites.

Above are the residential tower blocks of the Trowbridge Estate. When the towers were set to be demolished, the artist Rachel Whiteread captured the event. The photographs stand as a record of a moment in time as well as a record of a lost building. How will Hackney Wick be remembered by the citizens who fear being 'priced out'?


As industry declined in the area, some vacant sites had temporary installations designed for them.

Recently the 'Folly For A Flyover' cinema project chose to redevelop a vacant underpass and construct a full-scale outdoor cinema. The project was a success and paved the way for other installations to make use of Fish Island's ex-industrial land.

The Hackney Wick Area Action Plan   In 2012, the Hackney Wick Area Action Plan outlined a strategy to consolidate the area's existing small business offering into one 'Soho-style' zone near the Overground station.   Links to the centre of London would help the expansion of the residential offering to create a new commuter zone. However, in 2013 these plans were put on hold, providing the opportunity to reflect on and re-assess the changes planned.   These visualisations show the scale of the intended regeneralion with the Olympic Park at its centre.

Lea Valley
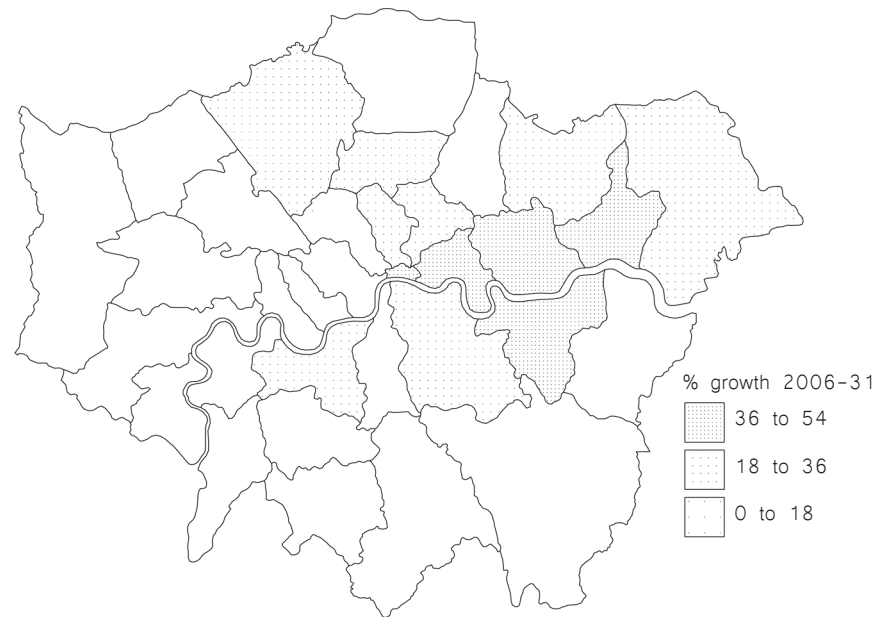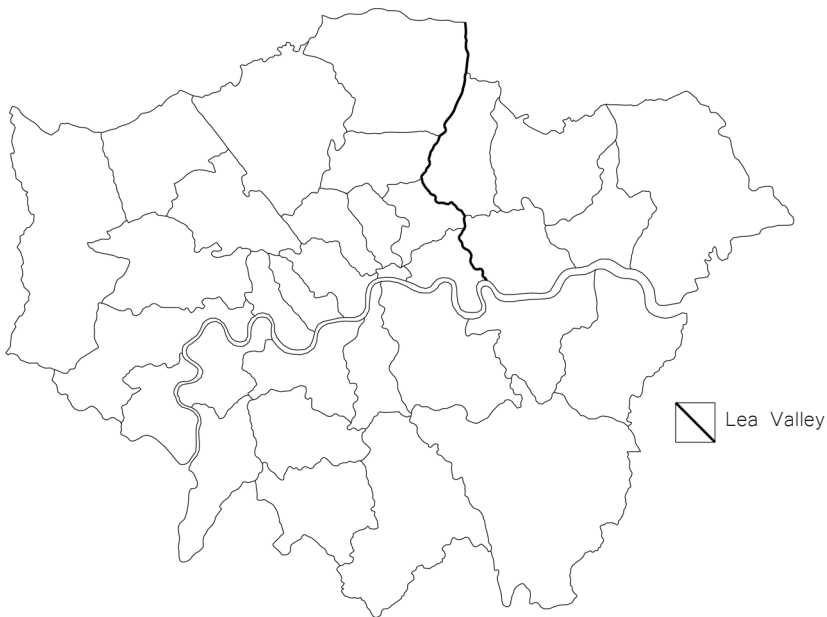
Strategic Walking Routes

% growth 2006-31

36 to 54

18 to 36

0 to 18
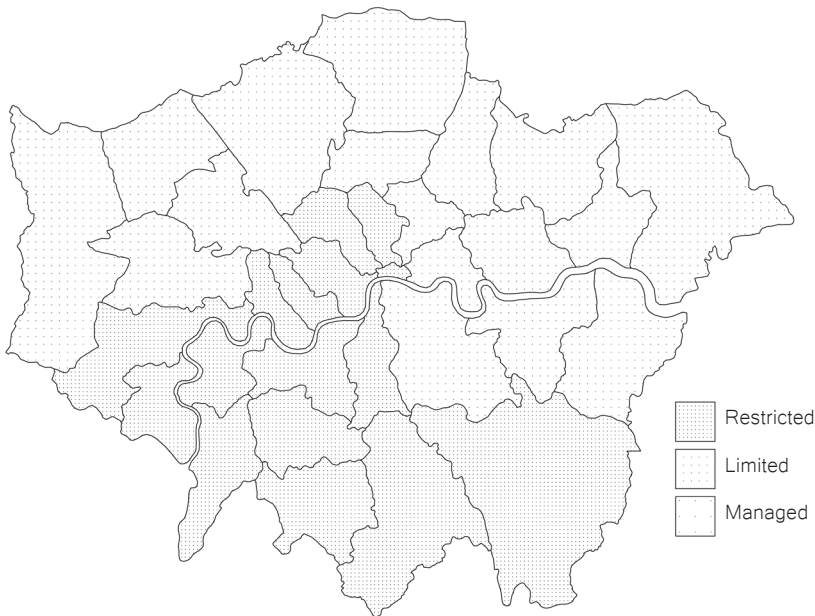
Distribution of Population Growth 2006-2031

Restricted

Limited

Managed
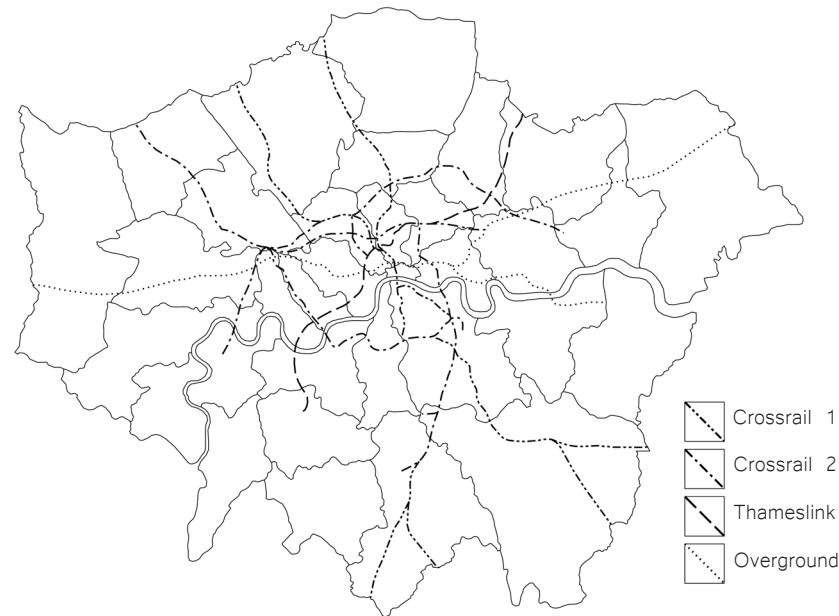
Borough level groupings for transfer of industrial land to other uses

Crossrail 1

Crossrail 2

Thameslink

Overground

Major Transport Schemes

Photoautomats

In East Berlin, a way of recording people's likenesses in a specific area was to install Photoautomat Machines that produce four small photos capturing a fleeting personal moment in the occupant's life. The immediacy of the printed record and their availability and ease of use make the machines a useful social tool.


Photoautomat Film

These Photoautomats can even be seen on the streets of East London, where they are used for a similar purpose. Much like a passport photo machine, they take a series of photographs, though due to the cheap, disposable nature of the print they are not suitable for official use. However, the machines are popular with people capturing moments in their lives.

In this short film I record someone using one ot these machines in East London and the step by step process of capturing four photographs.

Site Film   This film explores the possibility of installing one of the Photoautomat Machines on the fringes of Hackney Wick as the area transforms. Perhaps the machine can be modernised along with the changes taking place around it. The machine could produce scaled 3D replicas of a person instead of a photograph using 3D scanning and printing technology. This acts as an attraction and also serves a purpose by recording the people passing by in a form of physical census.
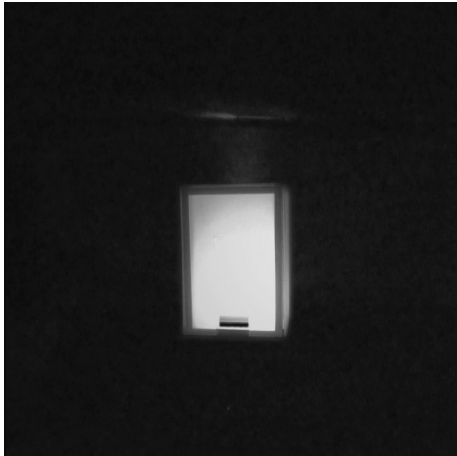
In the film, a passerby, intrigued by the illuminated machine, ventures inside and is scanned and recorded as part of a physical census intent on recording a snapshot of Hackney Wick's population during this time of transition.

After the visitor has been scanned the data is then transferred to an onsite 3D printer to produce a 3D scaled replica of their likeness.

At the end of the film she looks up to see her scaled replica join the other 'citizens' in the archive suspended underneath the A12 underpass located at the Gateway into Hackney Wick.

Terracotta Warriors

The use of scaled replicas as a means of recording the physical side of human existence can be seen in the Terracotta Warrior statues in China, which all align on a grid.


Yayoi Kusama

A smilar technique was used by the pattern-obsessed artist Yayoi Kusama in her window display for Selfridges in 2012.
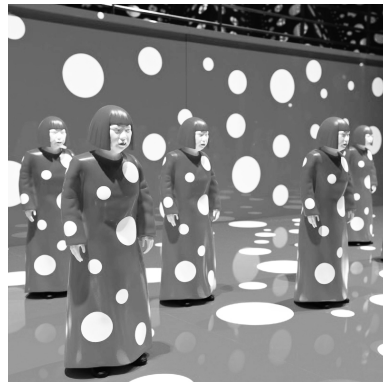

2001: A Space Odyssey

In Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey, the use of an illuminated grid provides a futuristic feel to this otherwise familiar scene. Here the grid is juxtaposed with period fixtures creating a new aesthetic of 'past meets future'.
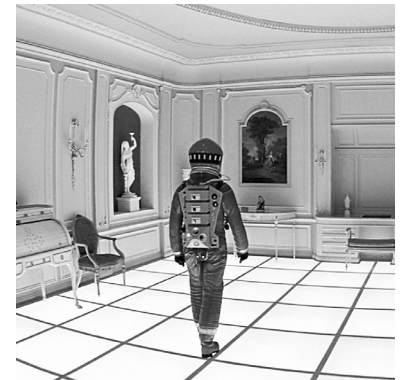
Superstudio and the Grid

The relationship between people and grids was also a theme investigated by Superstudio in these photomontages.
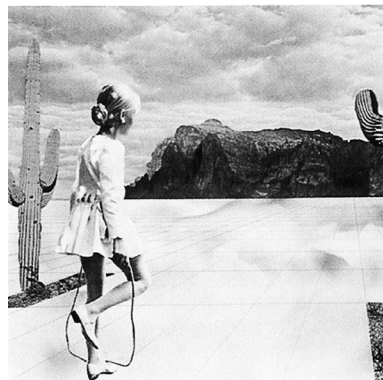
3D Scanning – Replicas

In Fish Island, 3D scanning was used to capture house interiors and their occupants.

The scheme scanned outgoing or incoming residents to record the Exodus and Eisodus occurring in the area.

A technician visited residents and captured their likenesses and the interiors of the homes using a handheld 3D scanner.
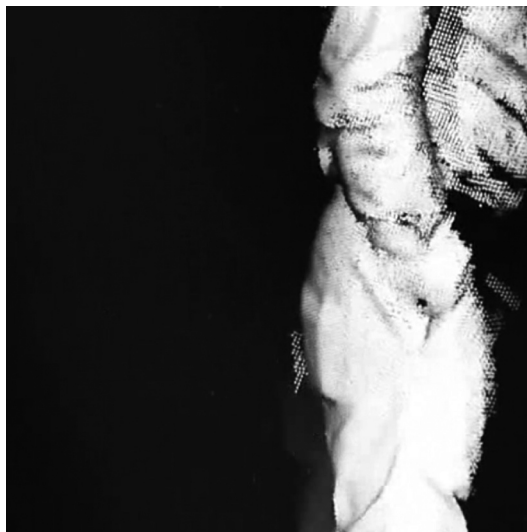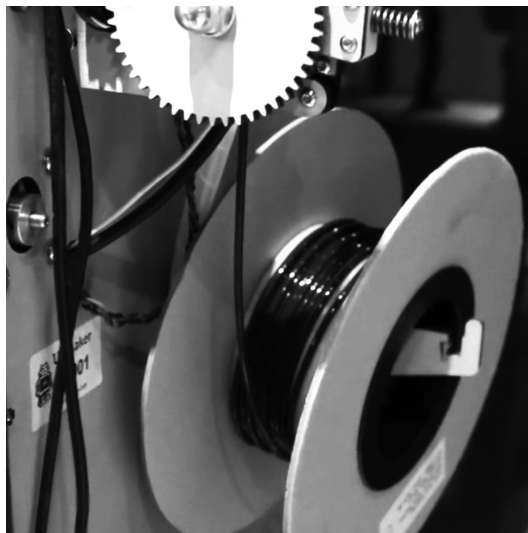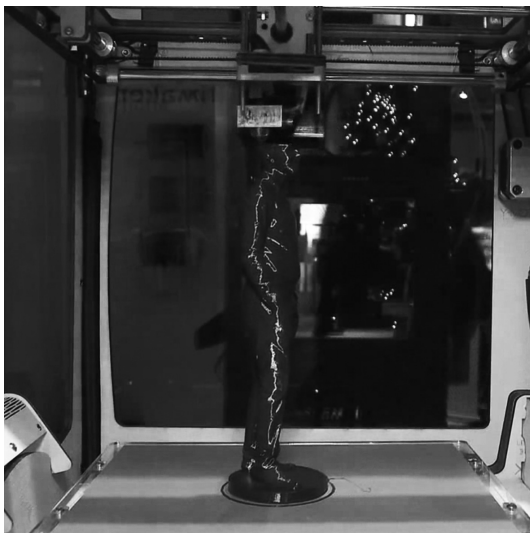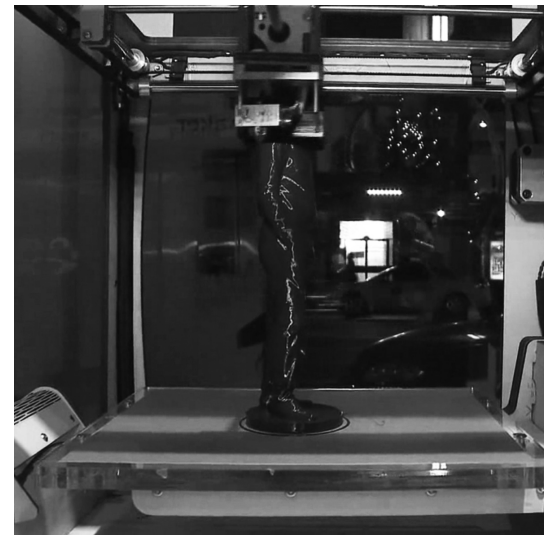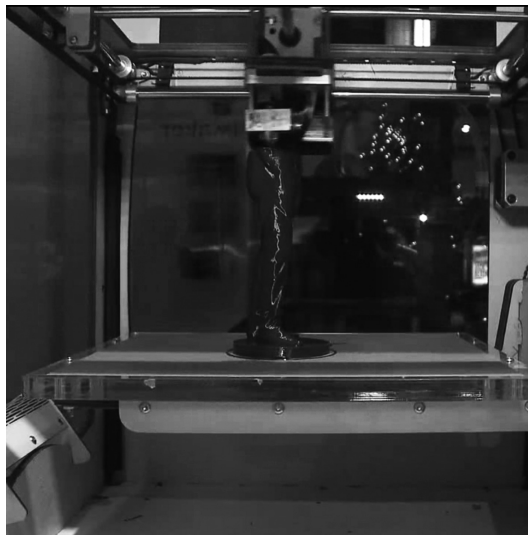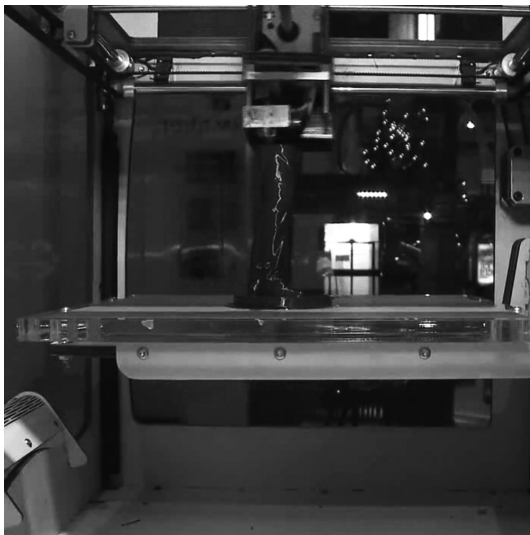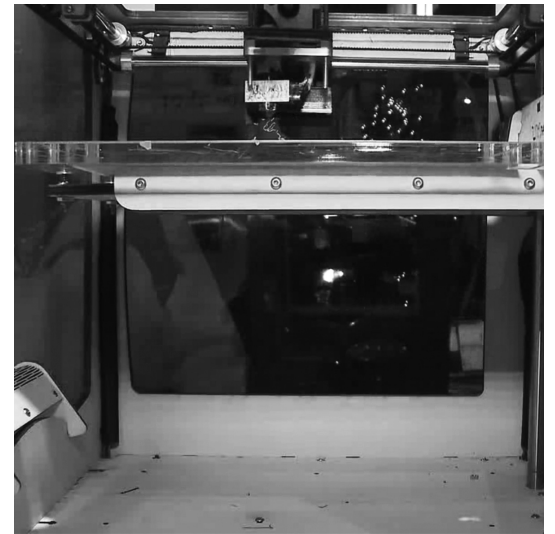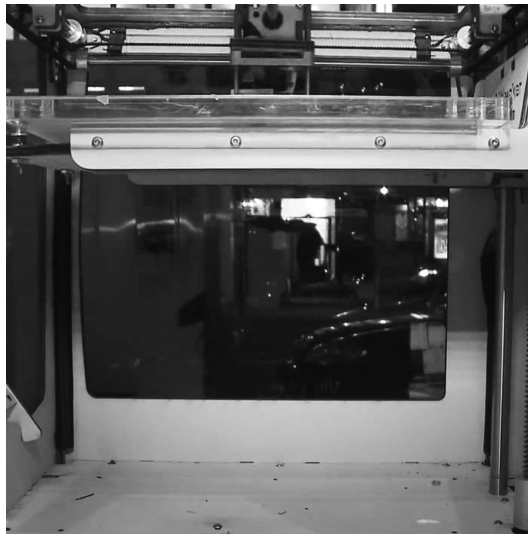
3D Printing – Replicas

The mesh created by the 3D scanner can be physically reproduced using an additive manufacturing technique called Fused Deposition Modelling or FDM.

This lays successive layers of a thin polycarbonate filament on top of previous layers that instantly solidify, creating a shell of variable thickness.
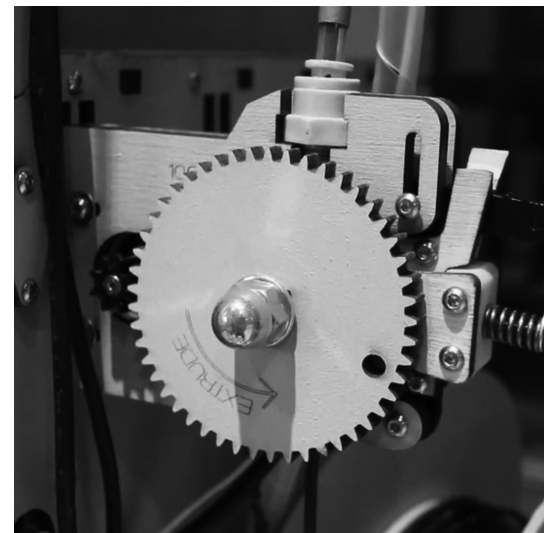
Exodus Film

The film Exodus explores the
possibilities of creating a physical
record of a period of transition in
Hackney Wick. A local resident uses
his handheld 3D scanner to capture
the likenesses of residents he meets
in order to recreate them for display
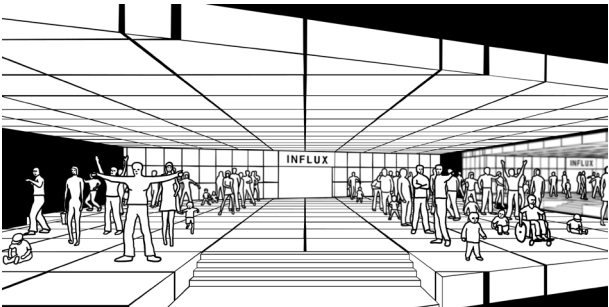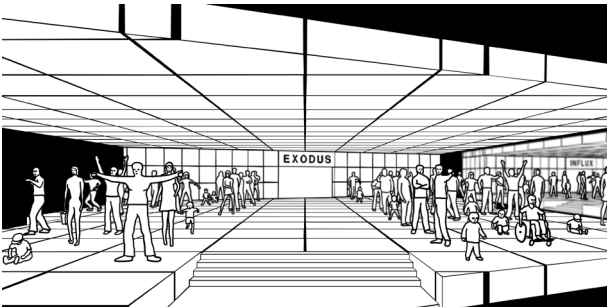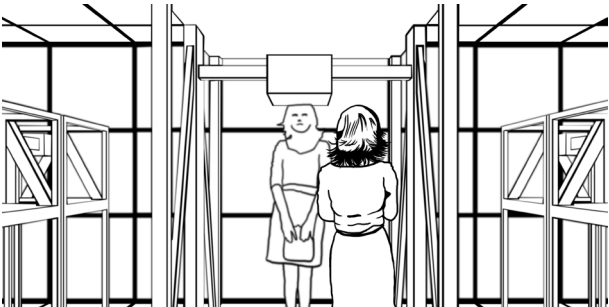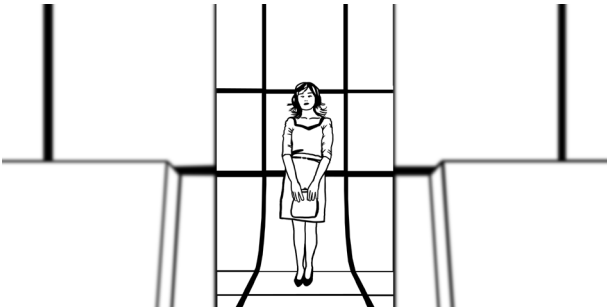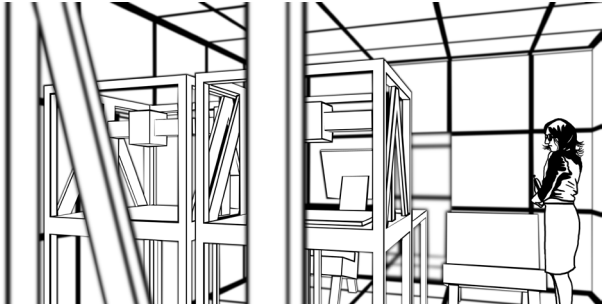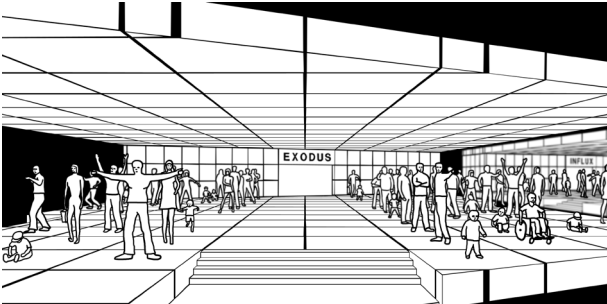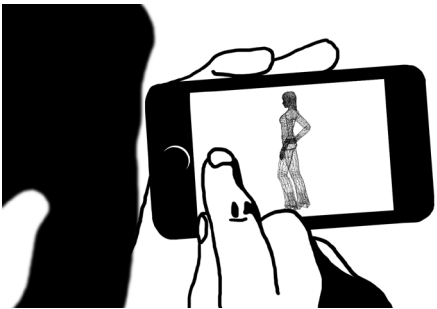in a gallery located on the periphery
of Hackney Wick.

The Exodus and Eisodus Galleries
record the human traffic leaving and
arriving in Hackney Wick in order to
create a physicla real time
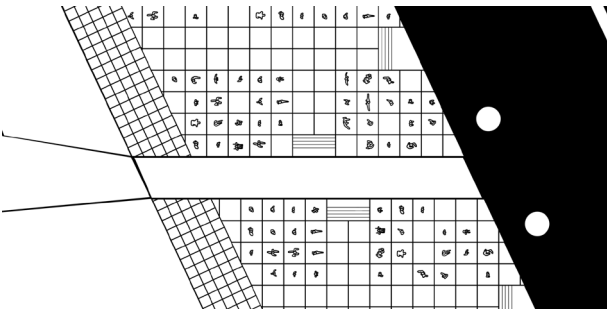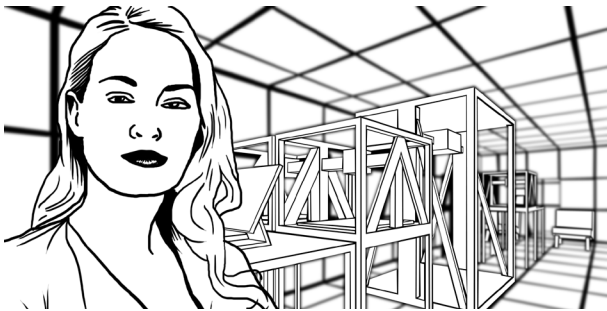census of population change in
Hackney Wick.
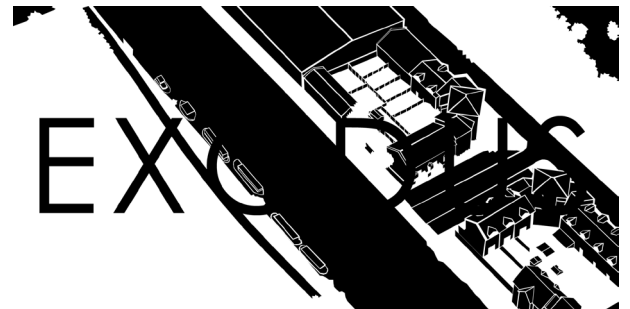
Exodus Film

A scanning laboratory and 3D print
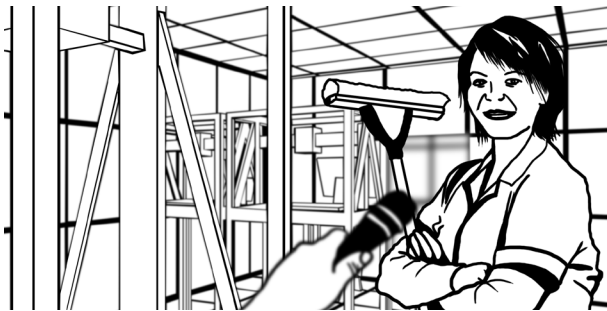worshop are set up on site to scan
passers by.

Exodus Film

Those residents who are leaving give
reasons for their departure.

WE INTERVIEWED SOME PEOPLE NEARBY TO GET
THEIR OPINION OF THE PLACE AND ANTONIO'S
EFFORTS TO PRESERVE A PART OF IT.

DO YOU THINK THE EXODUS GATEWAY HAS
SUCCEEDED IN PRESERVING A MOMENT IN TIME?


WHY ARE YOU LEAVING HACKNEY WICK?

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE MADE YOU LEAVE
HACKNEY WICK, WHAT WAS THE FINAL STRAW?

Exodus Film

These 'pop-up' style galleries can be assembled quickly and are temporary structures suitable for occupying vacant sites on the fringes of Hackney Wick. From their ringside seat the Replicas reflect the transitions occuring within Hackney Wick.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW 'IMPROVED' HACKNEY WICK?



WHAT MADE YOU MOVE TO HACKNEY WICK?
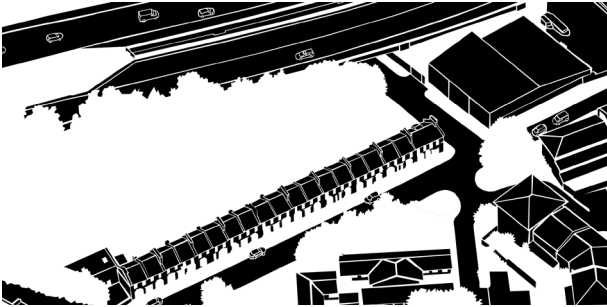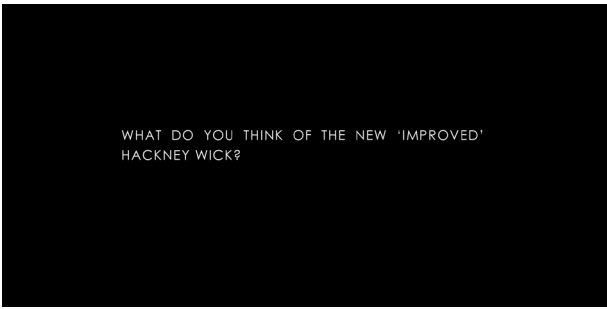
The Scan Island Gateway   The Scan Island Gateway's location under the A12 underpass is significant because it straddles a junction where water, road and footpath interact and was highlighted by the Hackney Wick Area Action Plan as one of the main planned Gateways into the area.
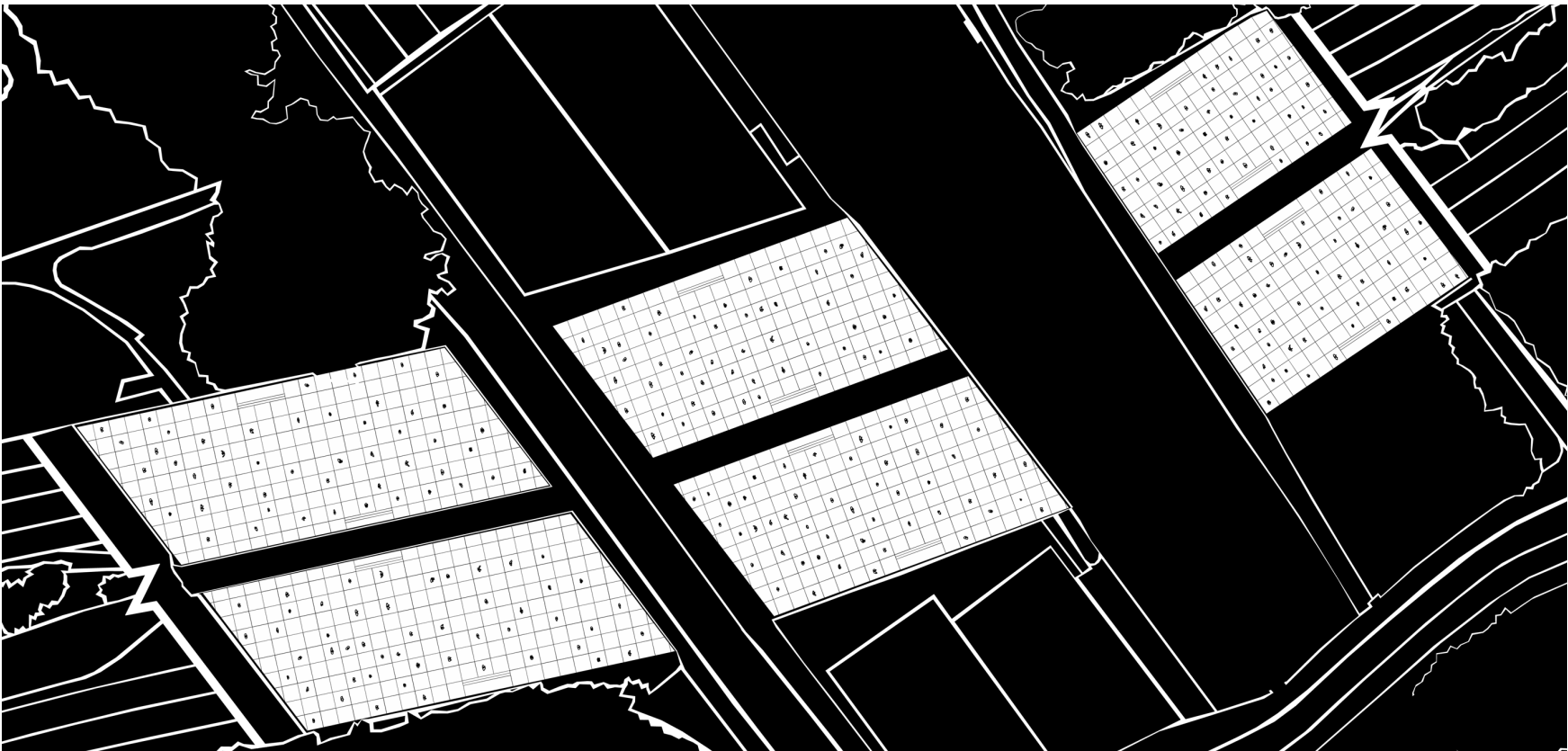
The gallery acts as a toll booth recording human traffic in the area.   The grid is constructed using scaffolding with a clip on translucent tile that will allow underfloor LED lighting to illuminate the space in all weathers. The statues are assembled on the grid with a reference so that a person's information can be stored and easily recalled.
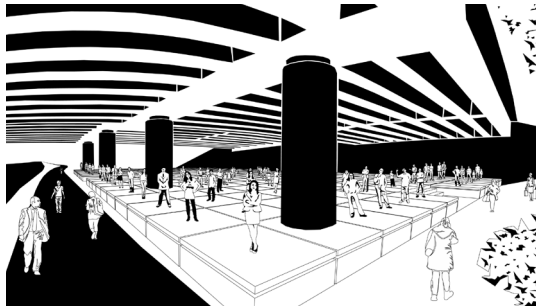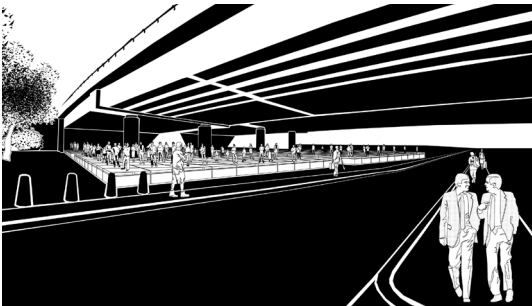
Their presence will show population change over time and provide a similar attraction to the Terracotta Warriors of China and more recently, Yayoi Kusama's window display at Selfridge's.   The scans will form a new physical census for Hackney Wick.
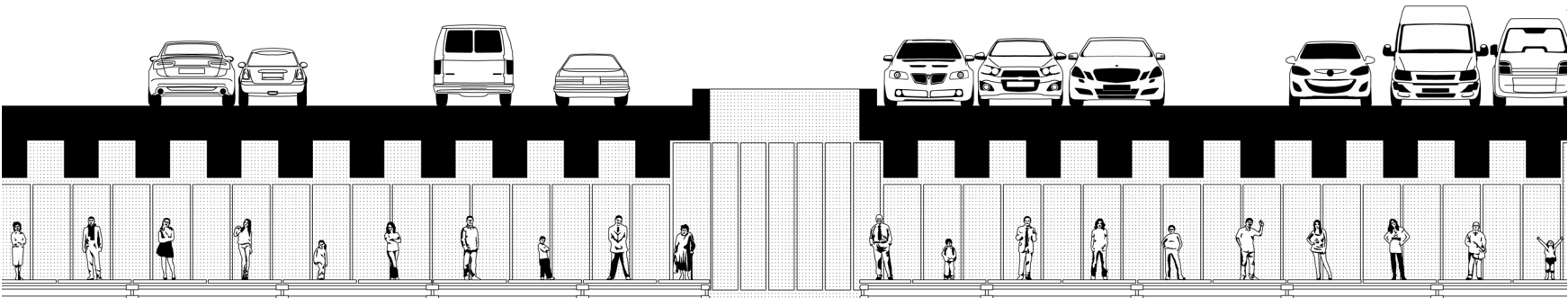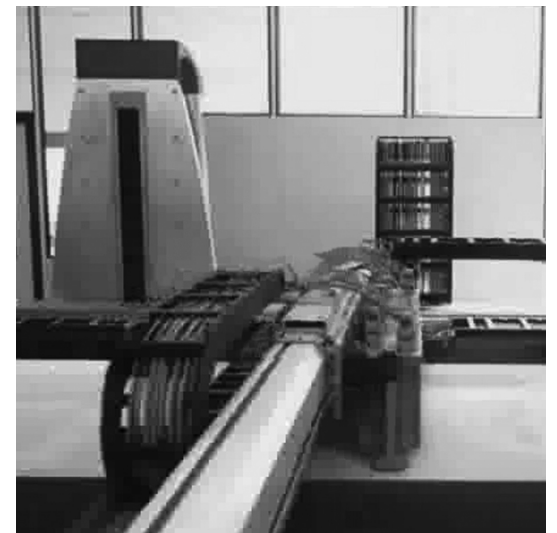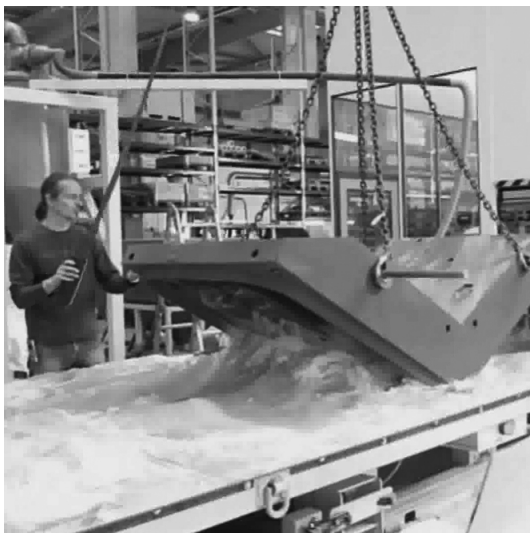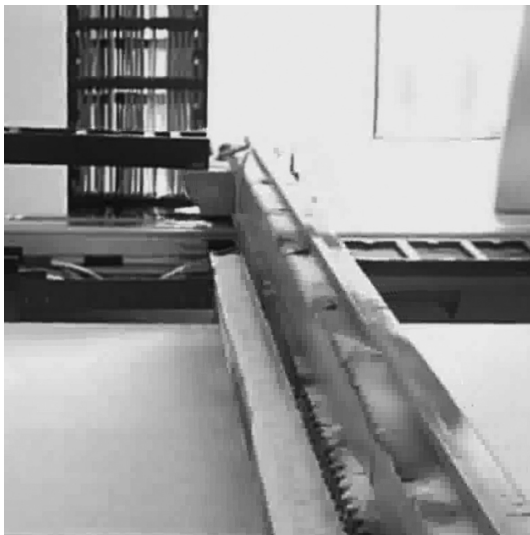
3D Scanning - Rooms

The 3D scanner can also be used to record the living spaces of Hackney Wick's citizens. In much the same way, the scanner can be set up and, by projecting its point-cloud, a scan can be recorded.

3D Printing – Rooms

A larger 3D printer can also produce the panels
created by the 3D scanner in the residents' homes.

The Scan Island Hotel   The Scan Island Hotels structure houses 'clip-on' pods that each contain reproduced sections of Hackney Wick residents' homes. It plans to provide rooms for the short-term visitors involved in the regeneration of Hackney Wick.

Rachel Whiteread

Influenced by the artist Rachel Whiteread's project in which she created the physical inverse of a house, reproduced using a casting technique, to record forgotten spaces and voids.
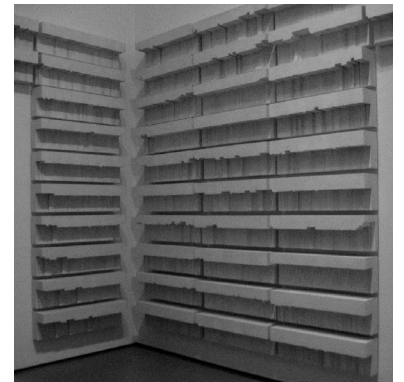
The Lloyd Hotel

The Lloyd Hotel, Amsterdam, was previously a halfway house for immigrants. Today many of the original features have been retained and the building has been transformed into a boutique hotel offering a unique 'historical' holiday experience in a 'cultural embassy'.

The Scan Island Hotel   Located near Scan Island Gateway, the hotel benefits from views out over Scan Island and has become a vertical repository for lost spaces.

Using 3D scanning and printing technology, the hotel becomes, a physical record of a period of time, consolidating and transforming Hackney Wick's residences into one efficient space as an attraction for prospective buisness investors so they can get to know the area better.


The scanned interiors have been reproduced in Polycarbonate using 3D printing. These reproductions are then fixed to a prefabricated modular system similar to the pod-like additions to the Lloyds building in London.

The Scan Island Hotel   These heritage rooms are then craned into place and cantilevered from the vertical structure that provides their access. The hotel rooms are designed to accommodate the needs of visiting investors and tourists alike. Both will receive a subliminal education in Scan Island's history.
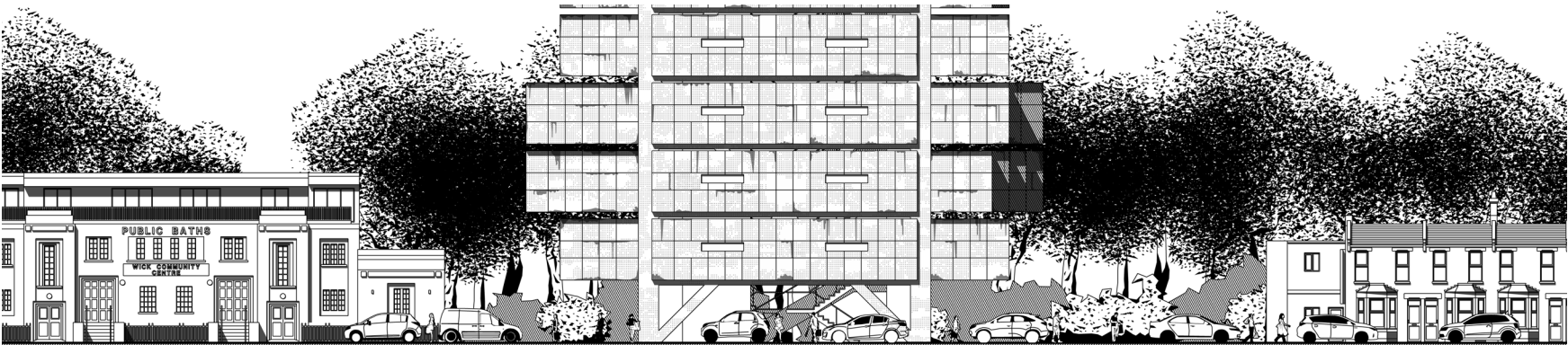
3D scanning and printing technology have again been utilised to incorporate forgotten interiors into hotel rooms, encouraging an interaction with Fish Island's past.
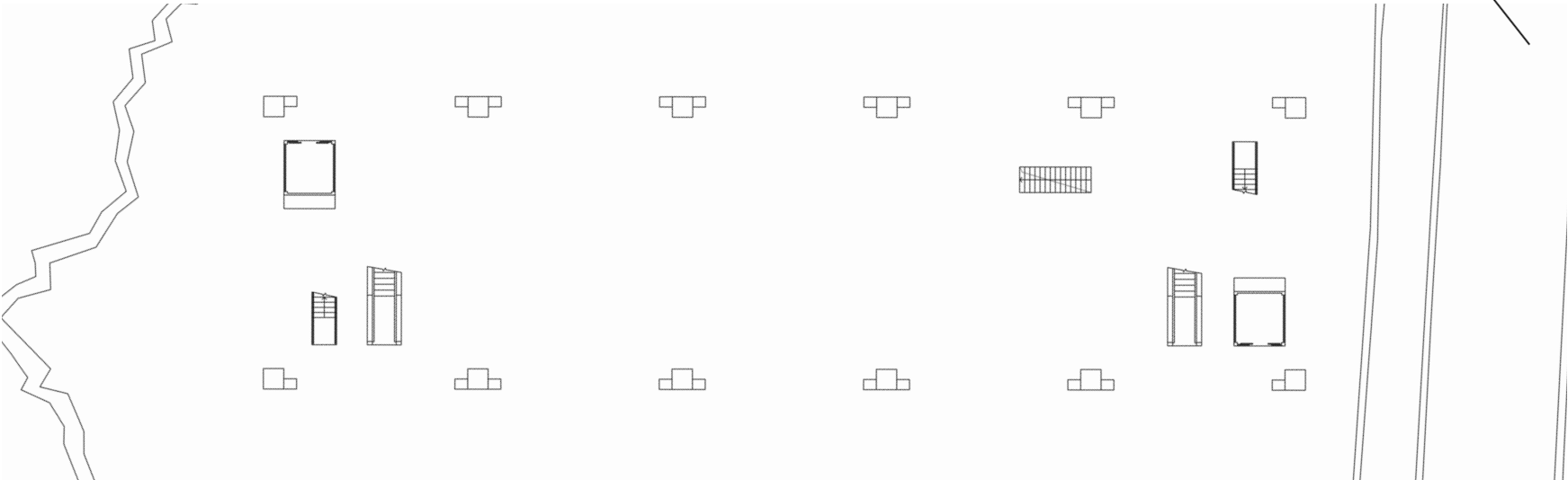
The hotel is reminiscent of London's historic coaching inns, being located on similar arterial routes and designed to support the passage and interactions of tourists and investors alike. Its primary mission is to become a cultural institute for Scan Island: a continually changing monument to the area's ability to transform itself.
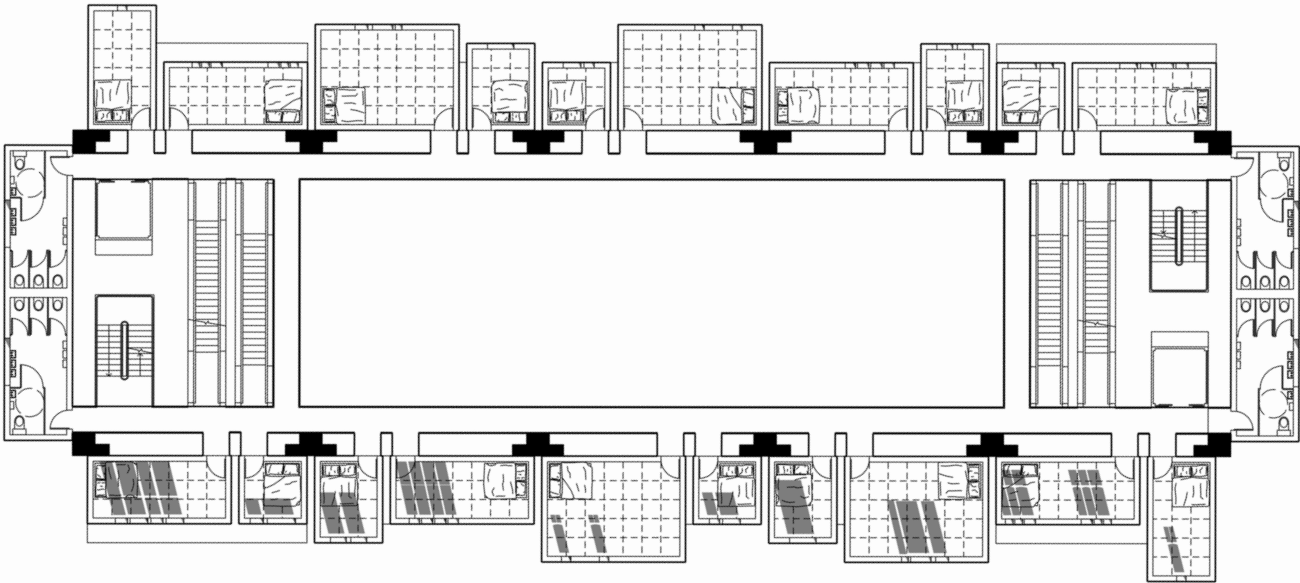
The Scan Island Hotel   With each room containing a unique representation of Hackney Wick's past, the visitor's stay will be an educational experience.
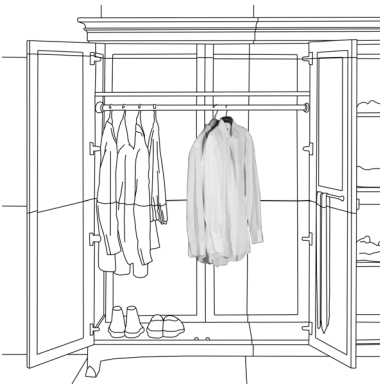
The Scan Island Hotel supports this transition by providing a place for future investors to stay whilst in the area and contributes to the spatial efficiency in the area.