

# word of mouth

MARCH 2010 A thrilling Swedish flick . . . The starchitecture hub making Mongolia the next Asian must-go . . . Bingo in London . . .

*the*  
**BUZZ**  
*(exhibit)*

NEW YORK CITY

## The Life Aquatic

By 2020, the water level in New York Harbor could rise by two feet, and storm surges could mire Manhattan in deluges three stories high. To doom-and-gloomers, those stats spell apocalypse, but to emerging architects, they mark a chance to create a more aqueous Big Apple. PS1 and the Museum of Modern Art's "Rising Currents: Projects for New York's Waterfront" is an archi-think tank created to propose how New York might respond to the sea rises and wave walls brought about by climate change. MoMA curator Barry Bergdoll divided the city's waterfront into five regions

and assigned a team of architects to each. During their eight weeks in residence, they conjured the inspiring plans on exhibit at MoMA. The studio Scape envisioned an "Oyster-tecture" to solve the dual problems of contamination and rising tides around Brooklyn's Red Hook and Gowanus Canal: Armatures would attenuate waves and support oyster reefs like the ones that existed in the 1600s, when 350 square miles of oysters filtered the Hudson Estuary. LTL Architects planned to carve the crescent-shaped coast around Liberty and Ellis islands into "fingers" that would "strategically allow water in rather than attempting to keep it out," says team leader David Lewis (212-708-9400; March 24-Aug. 10).

*passport*  
**CONTROL**

*Songstress*  
*Lykke Li on a trip to Los Angeles*  
(page 28)

*raw*  
**INGREDIENT**

*Get your paws on an Aussie finger lime, hitting up Cali menus everywhere*  
(page 35)

*master*  
**CLASS**

*Fashion trendsetter par excellence Jean Paul Gaultier on Paris fleas*  
(page 35)

WEDGING LAND PIERS INTO ELLIS ISLAND

OYSTER FARMING IN THE GOWANUS CANAL

GLAMMING AND GIRDING THE FDR DRIVE

CREATING A RECYCLED-GLASS CRYSTAL REEF IN JERSEY BAY

INITIATING AQUEOUS TRANSIT AROUND STATEN ISLAND



Water world: In East River State Park (from left) are Paul Lewis, Marc Tsurumaki, and David Lewis of LTL Architects; Stephen Cassell of Architecture Research Office; Kate Orff of Scape; Matthew Baird of Matthew Baird Architects; and Mimi Hoang and Eric Bunge of nArchitects.