

public rather than frightening them off with overly radical plans.

The In-Between house by Jarmund/Vignæs is especially interesting because it is the most literal response to this problem. The Norwegians designed the holiday house, located on the Suffolk coast, as an 'intermediary' between the existing and the new, or modern.

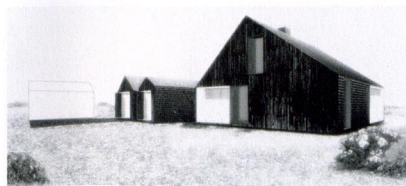
The geometrically complex timber roof is a playful reference to the surrounding, typically British houses and, according to the architects, 'brings to mind a romantic remembrance of holidays at bed- and breakfasts while travelling through the UK'. In total contrast to this roofscape, the ground floor level is all concrete, glass and aluminium. There are other typically modernist features, too, like the corners, which open up by means of sliding doors.

Will these holiday houses give Britons a taste for modern architecture? Living Architecture obviously thinks so; more houses are in the pipeline. Renting commences this year with the first four houses due to be completed in 2010. Zumthor's project will follow in 2011. ←

#### HOLIDAY HOUSES, 2009–2010/11

Architect: Hopkins Architects (Long House), Nord Architecture (Shingle house), Peter Zumthor (A Secular Retreat), MVRDV (Balancing Barn)  
Jarmund/Vignæs Architects (In-Between House)  
Client: Living Architecture  
Info: www.living-architecture.co.uk

#### ↓ Shingle house in Kent by Nord Architecture



#### ↓ Long house in Norfolk by Hopkins Architects



→  
Street section with artificial rubble dune



## Residential landscape, Jūrmala

*Sergey Kisselev & Partners designed a 'fingerscape'.*

■ LATVIA — TEXT: ANITA ANTENIŠĶE

The serene and peaceful landscape of the Baltic shores is regarded as an ideal place to live by both locals and foreigners. Jūrmala, Latvia's largest seaside resort, has long since been one of the best addresses for villas and out-of-town flats. Proximity to the capital and airport combined with the mild climate attracts not only summer visitors but also permanent residents. Despite the generally idyllic character, Jūrmala also has some less attractive areas like the abandoned industrial sites on the outskirts of the town.

One of those sites attracted local investors looking for new opportunities in the changing economic situation. Located on a cape at the eastern extremity of the linear town, the site overlooks the River Lielupe just before it flows into the Gulf of Riga. It is occupied by a fish-processing factory from the second half of the 20th century. The building regulations allow only small-scale development on this site bordered by seaside dunes dotted with pine trees – a tricky challenge considering the investment required for the regeneration of the site. Hence the decision to organize an open architectural competition for conversion of the site into a very contemporary and innovative upmarket residential area.

The Russian firm of Sergey Kisselev & Partners won the eight-entry competition, proposing a very sensitive and ecologically inspired solution. Their main idea was to utilize the rubble from the demolished industrial buildings in the creation of a new residential landscape on the rather flat site. Or, as they like to call it, a 'fingerscape'. Their concept is to use elongated artificial dunes and man-made structures (called fingers) filled with the rubble to create irregular, angular partitions between the individual plots, and between the plots and the main street. Similar structures serve as flood barriers, as the area is low-lying and prone to flooding.

The entrance to the area is from the north where a marina for residents' and visitors' yachts will be dug into the shore. A building containing a small hotel, a café and yacht club separates the marina from a small park to the east. The main street, which runs parallel to the river, is flanked on either side by sixteen plots. Riverside plots have small private jetties, while the plots on the north side of the street enjoy a denser pine-tree growth. At the western end of the development there is an administration building, a boat shed and workshops. In the middle of the area there is a public pathway leading to the riverbank.

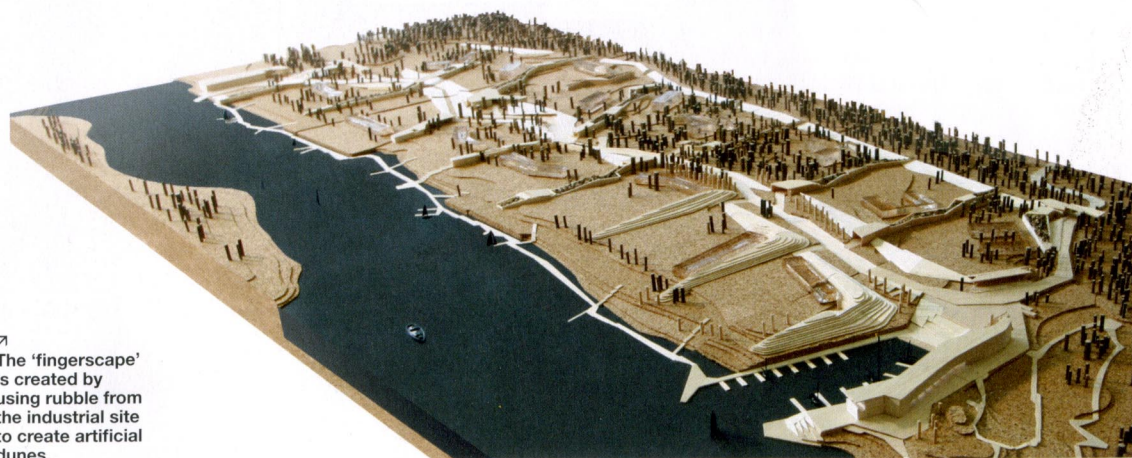
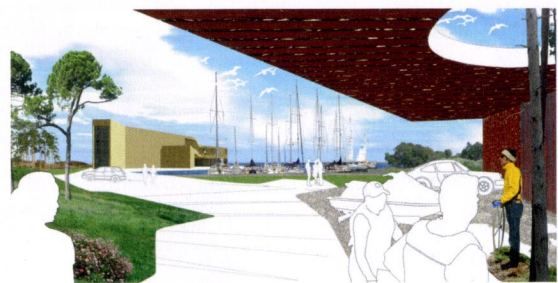
The plots are irregularly shaped with the borders between them defined by the timber-clad, green-roofed 'fingers' which will also serve as utility rooms, garages, saunas and even guest rooms. These long structures function more like landscape elements than fences, simultaneously ensuring maximum privacy while avoiding any feeling of separation from the rest of the world. The houses will be individually designed, but, for the competition entry, the architects proposed rational, elongated structures with a simple geometry and large areas of glazing.

Redevelopment of former industrial areas is a growing trend and there are already several examples of former factories and warehouses being converted to new purposes. In this case, a large site will be completely regenerated, erasing all memories of former industrial activities. However, it will remain a 'gated' area, this time to ensure the privacy and peace of its residents, supposedly rich foreigners, rather than to protect factory premises. Still, there is hope that the site will be a testing ground for new approaches and ideas thanks to the clients' craving for new, advanced, and ecologically sound design. ←

#### COMPLEX OF GUEST HOUSES AND INDIVIDUAL HOUSES, 2009–

Architect: Sergey Kisselev & Partners Ltd  
Client: Baltā kāpa Ltd.  
Address: Lašu iela 11, Jūrmala  
Info: www.baltakapa.lv, www.sk-p.ru

#### ↓ Building with hotel and yacht club



↗  
The 'fingerscape' is created by using rubble from the industrial site to create artificial dunes.