



Millions of split-second decisions drive footfall in the city, determining the fate of a neighbourhood and its economy. At Custom House, global wealth is pouring into a new area of city. Alongside it is an established community whose young people need new opportunities. Our proposal leapfrogs some fairly small physical barriers to build a more inclusive flowing city. This will help the Royal Docks to become an authentic, joined-up piece of London, and enable Custom House to draw on old skills and build new ones. It brings some of Excel's prosperity across the tracks, and gives the dockside an injection of city life from local people coming to play at the water's edge, where rebuilt piers and dockside restaurants draws in locals and visitors.

In place of the meanest possible link bridge, our proposal creates a seamless connectivity across the railways. There is a proper, generous approach down into Custom House, and up to the stations and the dockside. A new ground floats people across the tracks, lined with kiosks serving the themes of Excel's exhibitions, mixed in with lively, experimental pop-ups and well-loved regular pit stops. The urbanism of the new Freemasons Quarter is fine-grained with plenty of circular routes through small squares with canopies of trees delicately lit in the evening. Mid-rise apartments sit above locally-run restaurants, cafes, social enterprises, playspaces and shops, making Custom House one of London's most sought-after destinations.