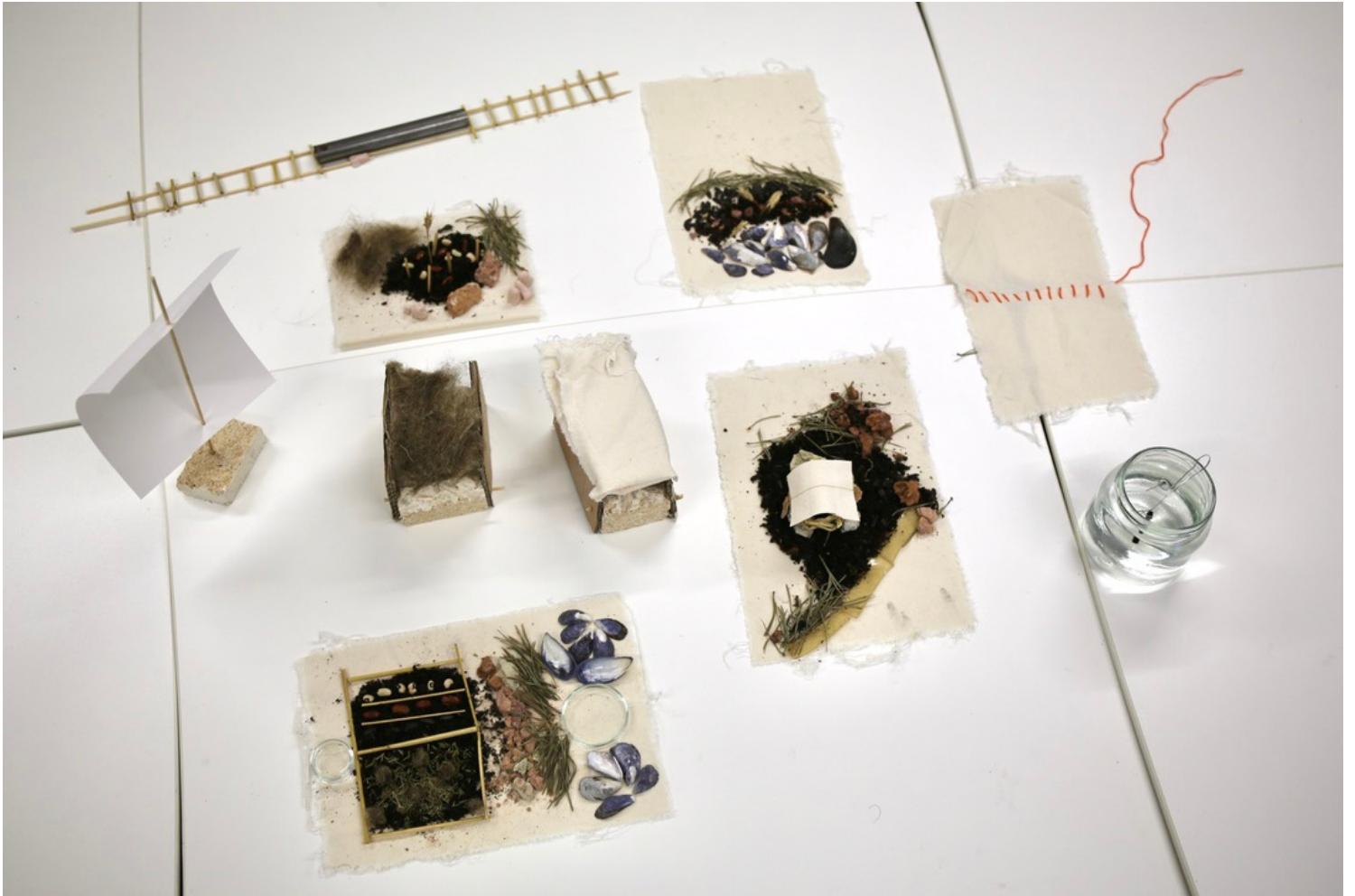


SPECULATIVE FUTURES

**A SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE SOCIETY
2073**

CREATED BY
RESEARCHERS FROM
THE INSTITUTE
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

THE COLLECTIVELY CREATED SOCIETY



"The models were made with the ideas of sustainable housing in mind. An enormous volume of material is used in construction every year and it would be wonderful to use recycled or sustainably sourced materials as a substitute for things like virgin plastics, non-sustainably sourced wood, and concrete. Recycling efficiency and housing demand are both on the rise so I could definitely see it happening."

MATTHEW CULLEN



"In a utopian world people would be well connected by efficient public transport such as trains illustrated in this work but also through strong communities with communal gardens for example, to create more links, more interactions between the people with complementary skills. More people would grow their own food together with more green spaces. Strongly efficient public transports are key to reduce our emissions, they would be free and easy to use and accessible for everyone. Trains are one of the most sustainable ways to connect spaces and people, they would be fast for people to travel efficiently but people would have more time for a slower life. Wind would also be used more to travel on the water or even on the ground like a wind skateboard."

FANNIE BURGEVIN



"In thinking about a utopian future, it was clear that many areas of society need to be transformed two of which were personal transport and reducing global heating. The first piece was based on personal transport where hydrogen was highlighted as one of the main fuels of the future. I made a crude representation of an electrolysis cell to highlight the challenge of large scale water splitting to make cleaner energy. The second piece was based on reducing global heating where coastlines and carbon capture were chosen as the focus. Mussels, soil, seeds and pine needles were used as materials to represent a coastline with sea, forest and agricultural landscapes which can all be natural methods of carbon capture but also draw attention to our need to develop new carbon capture technologies."

ELEANOR TRUDINGER CHARNLEY



"I imagine a post-Waste Age future, where construction is non-toxic, zero-carbon, and low-energy, and materials are either re-used or cultivated. Through assemblage, bricolage, and adhocism, I materialised a vision of this future in the form of a more-than-human scale shelter. I improvised on the basis of the available resources, drawing on a diverse range of materials, objects, debris, and fragments. This shelter speaks to the imagined landscape that it sits within – a marshy wetland in East Anglia, a place of rural practice. The walls are made of woven reed panels, while the foundations are made from solid stone, the roof an untreated naturally-waterproof fabric held down by twine and rocks – material choices that avoid industrial processing, eschewing preservatives, and proofing agents, in a truly zero-carbon form. Local reeds are grown and harvested using a technique called Paludiculture, which both restores the peatlands and creates productive landscapes. The shelter requires periodic maintenance but keeps technical know-how alive through regular cycles of repair. Each maintenance cycle can be used to train new labourers and is income for local workers, promoting self-sufficiency. At the end of it's life, building components will compost into the soil or be re-used again and again."

CHARLOTTE TAYLOR



"Throughout my studies, I've come to see how connected many of the seemingly very different topics of sustainability research are. For my art piece, I tried to represent the key themes linked to my research (sustainable water disinfection and decontamination) while keeping the broader picture in mind too. Access to clean water is a problem in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries and remote communities. Many countries have rivers which are contaminated with agricultural run-off and sewage, which adversely affects aquatic life in rivers and seas, as well as have negative health implications for humans reliant on those water and food sources. Food and water scarcity are also a concern from a global sustainability perspective. Therefore, ensuring sustainable farming practices are implemented is key to maintaining food supplies and minimising water usage. Minimising the impact of agricultural run-off and effluent water is also important - the implementation of natural filtration and reed-bed systems can help to reduce the contamination in rivers.

During a PhD, it's easy to become so focused on you niche research topic but it's refreshing every now and then to step back, connect with other researchers, and take a look at the big picture."

ELEANOR ROAKE

