

Short story by Anthea Fraser Gupta.

There is no such place as Linbeck. All characters are fictional.

Reference as :

Gupta, Anthea Fraser. 2006. Planning permission. [Available from
< anthea.id.au/stories.html >]

Planning permission

A short story by

Anthea Fraser Gupta

*[if you print this out, be sure to do it on two sides of
the paper, so that you can make a Linbeck lightboat]*

“Linbeck the memorial city” — 66 years of guilt and grief

Thomas Clubley

For the 66th time, the people of Linbeck lined the banks of their river. On a cold, still night, the fragile boats were carried away by the Lin.

When the boats crossed the city limits they were greeted with delight by the assembled visitors, many of whom had travelled long distances and waited for hours on the cold riverbank.

The people of Linbeck were silent and grim. The only sound was the Lament of the Lost City, played by the solitary piper standing on the bailey bridge.

At Linbeck's 66th Lightboat Commemoration the memorial city seemed intact in its perpetual brokenness.

Yet there is change afoot even in Linbeck.

Every year there are more green boats. That should be something to celebrate. Are the old divisions between Blue and Yellow breaking down at last?

But this year some of the green boats were not launched by people of dual heritage. Activists have begun to argue that it is time Linbeck moved on. These

new Greens may be of pure Blue or Yellow ancestry but claim the right to describe themselves as Green. M

Edbella, a 32-year old teacher, has collected over 100 signatures from fellow Linbeckers who support “a normal life”.

“I want my children to live like children elsewhere,” she said, “not in a sick atmosphere that wallows in guilt and death, while profiting from it.”

The petition asks that Linbeckers be allowed to adopt new “clean sweep surnames” of their own choice. The signatories also want planning permission to be given to use pukka materials to build schools and clinics..

The Lord Mayor of Linbeck, Windavid, repeated that Linbeck would remain a permanent memorial.

“There will remain one place in the world where atrocities will not be papered over,” he added, “Linbeck cannot be healed.”

Tomorrow the tour buses will roll into Linbeck for another day of sightseeing in the ruins. Tonight the city belongs to its residents, as they commemorate the terrible history of their once beautiful city.

Linbeck Lightboats

Linbeck lightboats must biodegrade to fish food. The candles used must be biocandles, made of vegetable oil or beeswax, which leave a residue harmless to the river's ecosystem.

Most lightboats are made from Linbeck Lightboat Paper. This is rice paper coated with an organic lacquer and it stays waterproof for about 4 hours.

Linbeck lightboats are often made from the skins of fruit and vegetable. Green and yellow peppers are popular, and are often provided with carved domes to protect the candle from the wind. Gourds and squashes of various sorts are also used, and local gardeners vie to grow them into the shape of boats.

As you can imagine, it is hard to find suitable fruit and veg skins if you are launching a blue lightboat. Blue lightboats are therefore usually made of paper.

Most lightboats are in the old Linbeck tradition of plainness and simplicity, although some companies and societies now create more ornate boats, which are, of course, real crowd pleasers.

Linbeck's famous confectioners make elaborate lightboats of sugar paste and spun sugar. They colour the sugar blue, green or yellow, and coat the hull with lightboat lacquer to prevent it from dissolving too soon. These stunning boats have revived the art of *pastillage* conceits. Such works of art made of sugar would once have ended an Elizabethan banquet or a grand Regency dinner. In Linbeck they float down the river and become food for the fish.

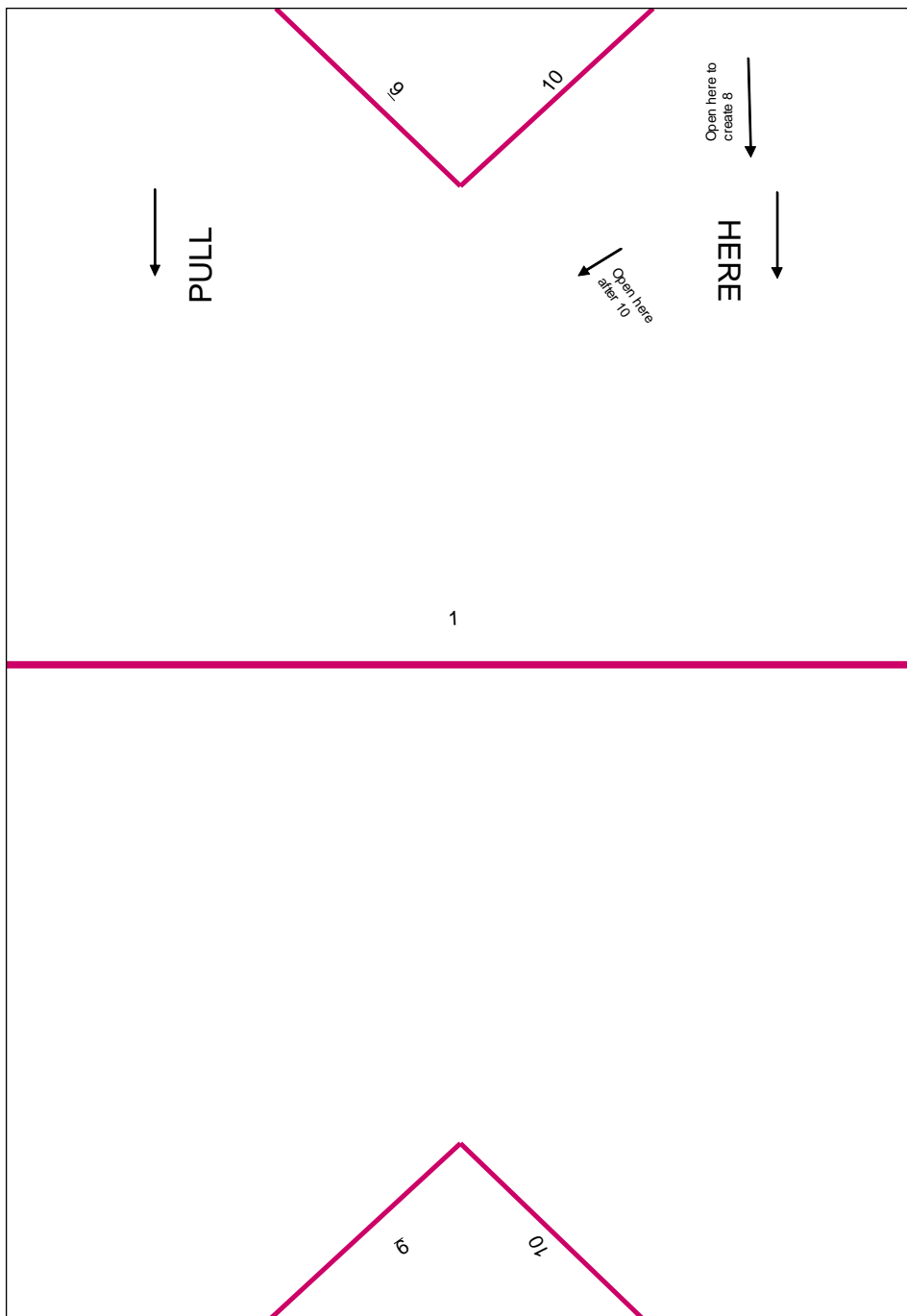
Other highly skilled Linbeckers mould or carve ice to create a boat. They hope for a frosty night so that their boat will not melt too soon.

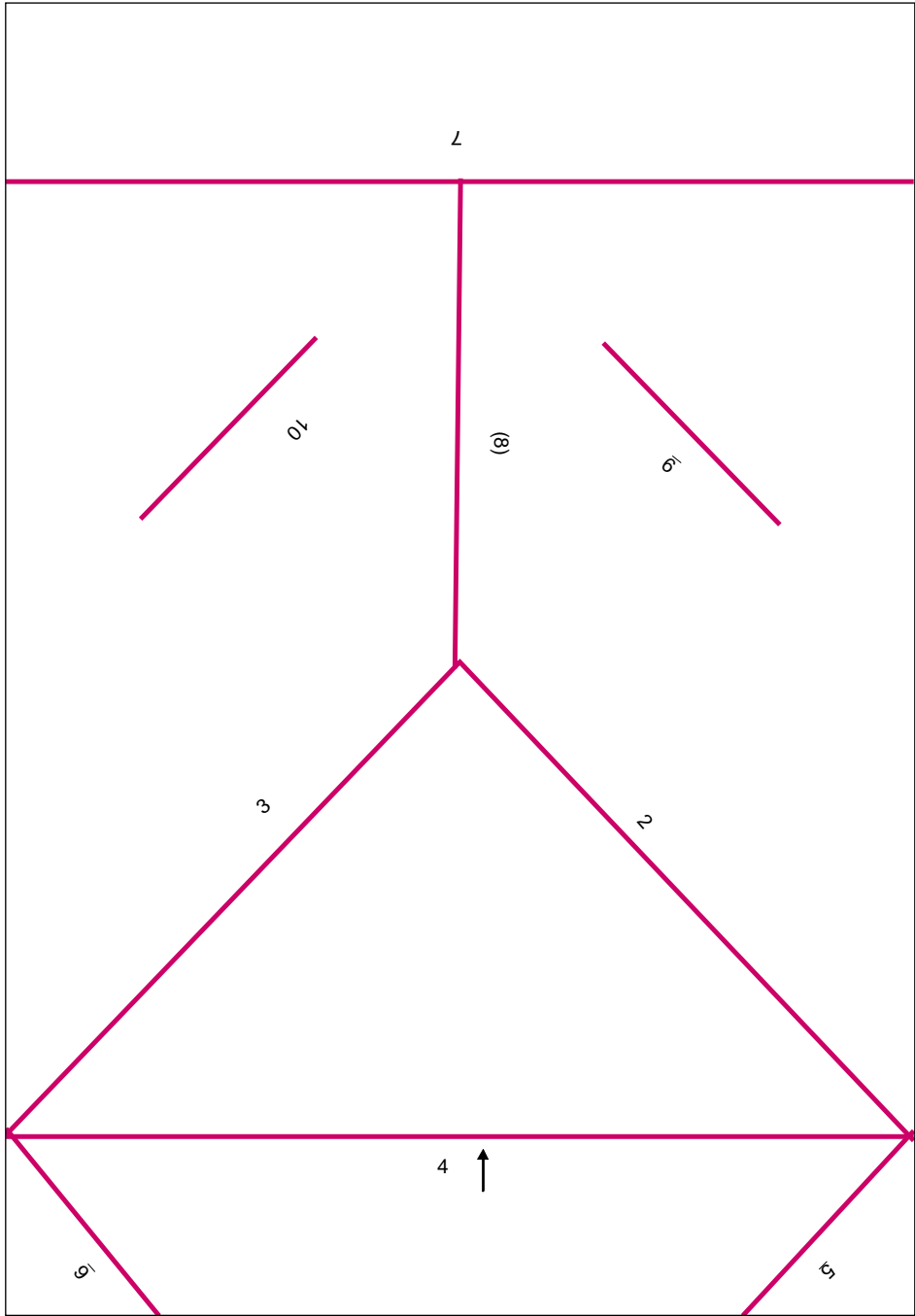
How to make a Linbeck Lightboat

If you can't find Linbeck Lightboat Paper in your local stores, most types of paper will make a boat that will hold a candle and float. But if you can't buy fish food paper and biocandles, be careful — don't pollute your local river.

To learn how to make a basic Linbeck lightboat, practice the sequence of folds using attached guide.

1. Cut around the black lines.
2. Fold the numbered lines in order, always folding so that the line is inside the fold. (Note that 6 and 9 are underlined, so that you do not confuse them). The lines may not be exact -- the thickness of the paper can make quite a difference.
3. After you have made the basic boat, press on the top of the sail to turn it inside out. This is where you will put your candle.
4. After you know how to fold, do it on a full-size sheet of paper without the lines to help you!





Architecture of Linbeck

For those interested in architecture, Linbeck has much to offer.

First, you can see the remains of its mediaeval and renaissance buildings. Although of course you will feel sad that they no longer stand, however even so Linbeck allows a unique view of construction. It's like seeing how the builders saw them.

Even in ruins, it is seen that Linbeck was a divided city. A city of a thousand bells in its heyday, it can still be seen that the different places of worship had different designs and were grouped by type.

Linbeck is the new Pompeii.

But, the new Linbeck is also of great interest. All new buildings (called 'bivouac's') must be of temporary construction. 'Pukka' materials ie stone, brick, and concrete is not permitted. So, bivouac's are made of canvas, plywood panels, corrugated iron sheets, and wattle and earth. They cover the whole range of caravan, tent and hut. It's possible to make very fancy buildings of such materials, therefore strict planning regulations prevent this.

New buildings must be inside old ones, with a clearance of at least one meter inside the old walls. New foundations are not allowed. The new buildings must be free standing on the foundations of the ruined buildings, or must be braced into them or tethered in a way that does not damage the original buildings. Linbecker architects and bivouacers have found some ingenious solutions!

Most visitors think that the bivouac's are beautiful, like Shaker furniture. Most bivouacs are unpainted. Some are painted green, which is the colour of peace in Linbeck. They are plain and elegant, and have rightly been imitated elsewhere.

After seeing them you might want to live in a "Linbeck Bivouac" yourself. We can put you in touch with architects and bivouac makers in Linbeck who can get you one. They can also help you sort out the planning permission in your own local council, which is likely to have rules very different from Linbeck! Although many local councils elsewhere have been sympathetic to applications, especially where a bivouac is being built (like in Linbeck!) inside a ruined building. You could have your own memorial city feel.

Follow the [links](#) to see the range of architecture you can see on your trip to Linbeck.

We are delighted that you have chosen Stradishall Culture Tours for your trip to Linbeck.

Enjoy your trip to this unique city.

MEMORIAL CITY OF LINBECK

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING CONSENT

1. **Applicant** (in block capitals)

Name: EDBELLA
(on behalf of Green Linbeck, Registered Society 3968)

Address: 28 WEST STREET
LINBECK 5

Tel. No.: 5425221
Email: edbella@linbeck

Affiliation: ~~Blue~~ / ~~Yellow~~ / Green [*delete as applicable: all claims subject to verification*]

2. Full address or location of the building and/or building site to which this application relates

Lord's Mission Hall
Mission Square
Linbeck 5

3. Details of building and building site (Predestruction nature, current condition)

Place of worship (Blue). Foundations and walls (1-4 courses of stone), raised on plinth with 3 steps (stone, repaired) on south face. Plinth and walls 13th century construction with 20th century sewage outlet accessible from west end (manhole in situ, currently not in use). Interior partly stone flags (various dates, some inscribed) and partly ceramic tiles (19th century). Building stands in public square with no curtilage beyond line of foundation.

4. Details of any current bivouac(s) in building to which application applies

Bivouac of maximum size in site. Wood supports, canvas roof and sides. Information centre for Green Linbeck. Not linked to water or sewage. Solar power supply for heating and lighting only.

5. Particulars of the applicant's interest in this building [*delete as applicable*]

~~Hereditary owner~~ / ~~tenant of hereditary owner~~ / tenant of city of Linbeck

6. Describe briefly the proposed works (eg construction, demolition, alteration, extension of bivouac, consolidation or repair of building) and give the reasons why the works are considered necessary.

Raising of walls of building to an even 4 courses of stonework. Installation of steel girders braced on and by existing walls and foundations to support glass screens on perimeter walls, and slated roof. Insertion of glass door with steel frame on site of building's former door. Connection to water and sewage. Laying of floor of glass tiles.

Building will provide a suitable base for Green Linbeck. This is a growing association. The building will be used for meetings and educational activities in an outreach to both residents and visitors.

The conservation of the historic building will be enhanced. The interior will be better displayed to the public than at present, a full view currently being obscured by the canvas bivouac. Surviving historic tiling and inscribed stones will be fully protected and viewable at all times through the glass screens and tiles.

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7. List of drawings and plans submitted with the application

Plan of historic Mission Hall.

Archival photograph of Mission Hall Predestruction.

Plan of building in present condition.

Photograph of current building and bivouac.

Plan of proposed development of building.

Plan of Mission Square showing adjacent buildings and bivouacs.

Note: The plans should be sufficient to identify the building or bivouac and all alterations and extensions to any bivouac should be shown in detail; the works should also be shown in relation to any adjacent buildings and bivouacs.

NOTES

1. 'Building' refers to any Predestruction building on the site.
 2. 'Building site' refers to the curtilage of the building, as defined by any standing perimeter walls or walls or foundations of associated building or by legal tenure or custom and use.
 3. 'Bivouac' refers to any temporary structure within the curtilage of the building.
 4. Any pukka object or permanent structure fixed to a building or forming part of the land and comprised within the curtilage of the building is treated as part of the building.
-

From: Windavid [mailto:lordmayor@linbeck]
To: chiefplanningofficer@linbeck
Subject: RE: Green planning applic

Agreed. Sensible suggestions. Will put to planning committee on Wed.

Wd

-----Original Message-----

From: Hildiruth [mailto:chiefplanningofficer@linbeck]
To: lordmayor@linbeck
Subject: Green planning applic

> Windavid....
>
> You'll have got yr copy of Edbella's planning application of the
> Mission Square site.
>
> A number of considerations here.
>
> In a way it is quite moderate compared to what we might have
> expected, and it could serve to defuse the situation, I feel. It's
> true that it is worded as a renovation of the actual building
> (honestly, it has to be said) and there's no way this could be called
> a bivouac.
>
> It's a radical move away from the norm, that's for sure. But I don't
> think we shd reject it out of hand.
>
> The design is quite lovely -- a sort of glass box floating above the
> old Mission Hall. It wd glow at night and I think it could be quite
> an attraction. And tho it is a permanent structure (steel, glass,
> slate) it's somehow in the spirit of Linbeck. It's braced and
> tethered rather than being dug in or on piles, and it is fragile. I
> wouldn't say it's really a building in the normal sense of the word
> either. I suppose you could call it a pavilion rather than a bivouac
> or a building.
>
> Chedjohn designed it, and I think it could also be a marketable
> design, and similar designs might allow people in other cities get
> around some of the problems they've had when they wanted to make
> bivouacs outside Linbeck. It would be attractive for places wanting
> to renovate their ruins in a sensitive way. It cd extend our image
> identity even more in places where the planning regulations have been
> intractable.
>
> I wonder if we could go with it, protem anyway, maybe with a view to
> extending the regulations to cover a new category of slightly pukka
> structures that we cd call pavilions? Limited pukka materials and
> closer to (or on) the building line, but with supervision till we get
> a sense of what's appropriate? There's a parallel with the lightboats
> here: even tho we do allow the superstructures most people still
> launch the basic ones.
>
> I imagine it will be a minority of people who go for pavilions over
> bivouacs and it wd be public buidlings rather than residemcial. But
> something new is attractive as well, and we might get new people or
> re-visitors who actually come for the pavilions.

>
> There's just one thing worries me slightly. Altho Edbella says she is
> a Green herself, she's actually Yellow -- both sides of her parentage
> and her maternal grandfather was no less a fighter than Cadlac
> Gunnarsson. Little known fact. I don't know if that wd present any
> problems with it being a Blue site. Maybe YOU could check Blue
> sensitivities on this one? Obviously not one for me to follow up!

>
> And BTW shd we pursue the verification of her affiliation or just let
> her self declare as green? I incline to the latter -- for a quiet
> life.

>
> This isn't the response from me that you might have expected (esp
> given the run-ins I've had with 'Green Linbeck' but I'm minded to say
> yes to this actually.

> Hildiruth
> -----
> Hildiruth
> Chief Planning Officer
> City Hall
> Linbeck 1
> -----