

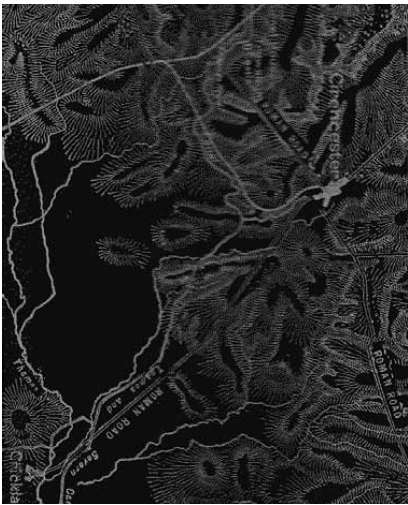
an anti-material, a void, a vacuum that incites the need for action, an energy source, a breath, a pause, a thought



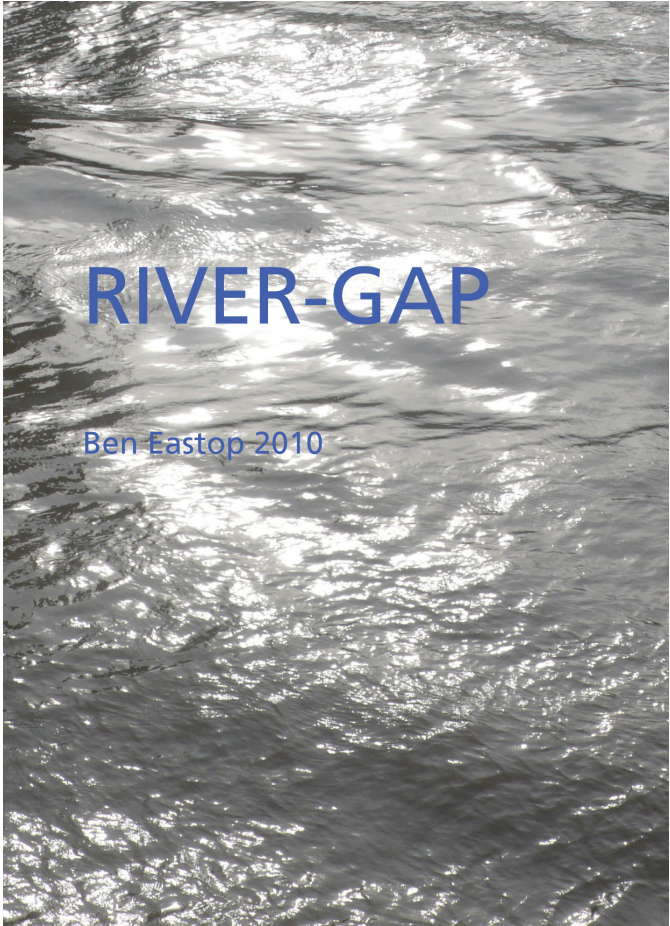
during the last two or three decades a considerable change has taken place in this respect, and a large number of huge blocks have sprung up in almost every part of the metropolis, which present features similar to those of the French and Scotch systems. In the poorer districts, these buildings, some of which accommodate several hundred families, have been erected chiefly for the benefit of artisans and the labouring classes

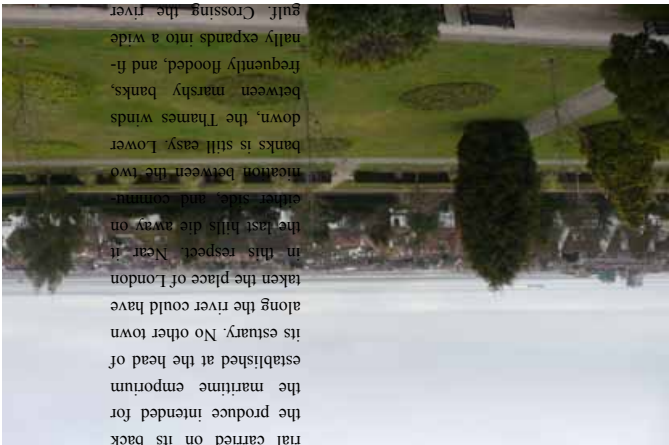


RIVER-GAP



but after a while we perceive that in this moving chaos there are two well-marked currents, fed by the numerous side-streets as by so many affluents, and that these currents, though flowing in opposite directions, carefully avoid each other. Beneath the crowd passing along the tops of omnibuses, and in carriages, there moves another crowd, which glides between the wheels, dives beneath the horses' heads, and flows in contrary streams along the pathways.





The deep yet gentle river which drains that basin has from time immemorial carried on its back the produce intended for the maritime emporium established at the head of its estuary. No other town along the river could have taken the place of London in this respect. Near it the last hills die away on either side, and communication between the two banks is still easy. Lower down, the Thames winds between marshy banks, frequently flooded, and finally expands into a wide gulf. Crossing the river

was sometimes attended with danger and frequent-ly the dwellers on the Lower Thames desirous of crossing from shore to shore, preferred to journey up to London in order that they might effect their purpose with ease and safety.



a space, a break, a distance between one state and another, from one kind of consciousness to another, a punctuation or interregnum, a break in continuity that replenishes the imagination



Ben Eastop 2010

the edge, from stationary to a state of motion, eddies of movement, the point of departure, the middle, the journey

DIFFUSION

River Gap

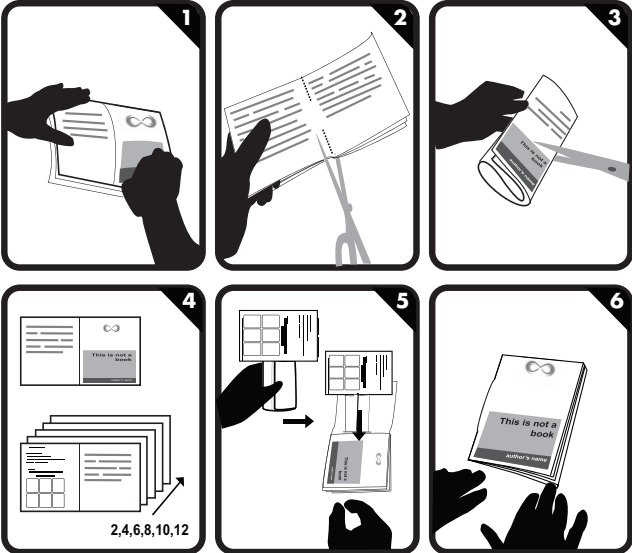
Ben Eastop

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going through, getting over, getting around, a physical education, bridging



London has often been likened to a province covered with houses. If we but enter this labyrinth of streets, we feel as if steam-power alone were able to extricate us. Even the hardest pedestrian yelds to fatigue when traversing this interminable city. Street follows street, and the chance of obtaining a glimpse of the horizon is a remote one.



Standing upon this bridge and looking seawards, we see both banks fringed with a forest of masts, the intervening space being hardly wide enough for the manoeuvring vessels, carried along by the current or struggling against the tide. Above the bridge, numerous small steamers, crowded from stem to stern with passengers, appear and disappear under the arches of a railway bridge quivering almost incessantly beneath passing trains. These miniature steamers, which stop every instant at some pier, and start as soon as they have discharged man cargoes, may be likened to moving quays traveling from one end of the town to the other.



anticipation, foreboding, portent, the unknown, just around the corner, hidden, expectant, leaning and wondering

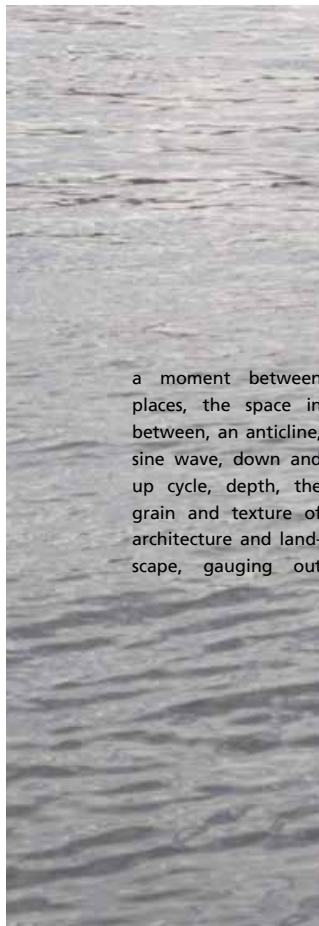


a division, a jurisdiction, a boundary of identity or ownership, a fault or slippage, history, a thing to watch

Thus the formation of fetid mudbanks has been arrested, and large quantities of valuable fertilising substances are no longer allowed to run to waste. Extensive tracts of barren land have been brought under cultivation or transformed to rich meadows and grazing grounds.



So prestigious is the extent of London that there exists no point of vantage where the whole of it can be seen spread out beneath us, even though the prospect be not obscured by fog or smoke. From the top of the Monument raised in the centre of the City, we merely see the roofs of numberless houses, the steeples of hundreds of churches, and a crescent-shaped reach of the river



a moment between places, the space in between, an anticline, sine wave, down and up cycle, depth, the grain and texture of architecture and landscape, gauging out

