

The Pier House, Wapping, London.



The houseboat owners living at the Hermitage Community Mooring on the Thames, near Tower Bridge, needed a building to provide common services to their community.



Key Facts

Square metres: **75m²**

Frame cost: **£22,000**

Cost per m²: **£283**

Completion date: **Dec 2008**

Architect:
**IVANOWERSTEEG
ARCHITECTURE**

Engineer: **Price & Myers**

Timber :
Green Douglas fir & oak

On-site installation time: **3 days**

The building had to be light enough to float on a steel pontoon, work aesthetically with the river and be as green as possible.

"We came to EmanuelHendry with an unconventional project, a tight budget and an even tighter programme. But they engaged with the brief straight away, helped to develop an imaginative timber frame design to minimise the time on-site and delivered an outstanding result within the time constraints for a sharp price." Anna Versteeg, Architect.

EmanuelHendry worked from the architect's initial concept to design a frame that applied traditional techniques to a modern frame design. The solid Douglas fir frame incorporates a Howe truss that runs the length of the building and has an oak sill plate.

The Pier House is unusual as it rises and falls seven metres a day with the tide. The tidal movement is so great that sometimes the team were working off the solid foundation of the silt then at high tide they were level with the quay and moving with the flow of the water!

