ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL AND NATIONAL THEATRE ZONE

It must be pointed out at the start that the proposals shown here are put forward on its own responsibility by the review, and are not based on official schemes. The proposals involve the siting of the National Theatre right on the river wall. There are in fact only two possible alternative sites for the building: either on the river or set back to line up, approximately, with the façade of the Royal Festival Hall. The latter position cuts up the available open space into two pieces when it would seem desirable to increase the sense of space on a small site by making one large courtyard and utilizing the space of the river itself. It would further have the effect of establishing a linear development along the river bank which may be desirable with a continuity of building but may not be so successful with the axial monumentality already established. If, as we hope, Hungerford Bridge becomes pedestrian, then a meandering causeway linking it to Waterloo Bridge at high level would bring the pedestrian to any desirable point of the site in all weathers. (An important consideration in the attempt to popularize the South Bank after the Festival has closed.) The Thames-side restaurant would be kept, and approached as at present along the embankment, but under the overhang of the National Theatre. Also preserved is the Seaside Section, the only change being the substitution of shops for the exhibition displays. The courtyard which gives access to both the Royal Festival Hall and the National Theatre, would be treated as a water square; out of the water rises the shot-tower.