The foundations had yet to be dug, but customers queued up to buy the unusual

part-submerged houses, whose back wall consists of a grassy mound and whose front is a long

glass gallery

Ironically, says Graham Dodd, of consulting engineers Arup in London, the oldest pane of

toughened glass known to have failed due to nickel sulphide inclusions was in Pilkington’s glass

research building in Lathom, Lancashire.