



Live Community Architecture – a transformative feminist practice?

A critical exploration of the experiences of students involved in live community-based architecture projects.

Dr Rachel Sara, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of the West of England

HANDS-ON-BRISTOL

HOME

NEWS

RESEARCH

PROJECTS

PARTICIPATE!

Welcome to Hands-on-Bristol,

A collaboration between the Bristol School of Architecture, University of the West of England and the Bristol community, that seeks to encourage and strengthen knowledge exchange between education programmes and local communities through collaboration in live projects.

This site becomes a 'knowledge hub' where best 'live' practice initiatives undertaken by students and staff at UWE is displayed. Hands-on-Bristol serves as an information link: between UWE students and the Bristol community, as well as UWE academics and the research community. The site is designed primarily to be used in two ways: as a resource that documents and archives the research and knowledge generated through the live projects; and as a site where students and community groups can gain an understanding of the kind of projects that we are engaged in: learning to collaborate and collaborating to learn.

See what we are up to by looking at our upcoming **events**; follow our progress by checking out our **blog** or **twitter**. Want to be apart of Hands-on-Bristol? See how you can get **involved**, or try **connecting** with collaborators.

Rachel Sara, Elena Marco, Ann de Graft-Johnson, Sally Daniels, Matthew Jones and James Burch.

This project received Start-up funding as part of HEIF and The University of the West of England Better Together Community Grant.

Search

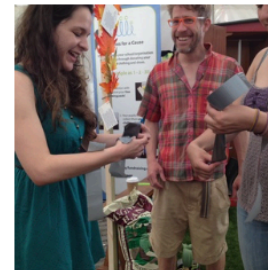
SUBSCRIBE

Sign up with your email address to receive Hands-on-Bristol news and updates.

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

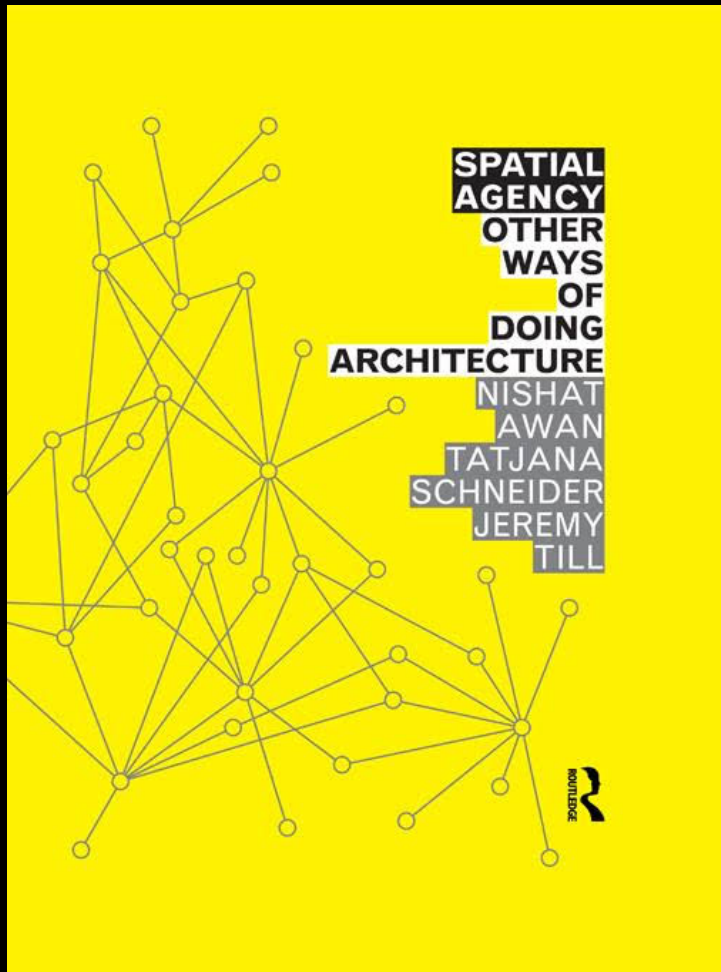


Response proposed:

- Challenging the confrontational crit culture
- Move away from macho culture of all-nighters
- Increased emphasis on communication and teamwork
- a more connected design studio environment
- The process of a project is valued as much as the product
- design projects set within real and contingent contexts
- Increased emphasis on collaboration rather than competition
- Shift in understanding of architectural production

Asked:

- Are different kinds of engagement with clients or community partners practicable?
- How it might be possible to design through civic engagement?

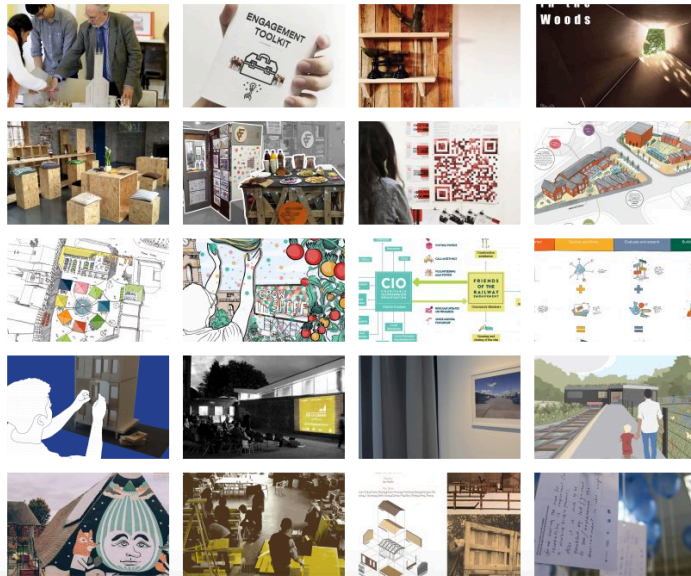


Other ways of doing architecture



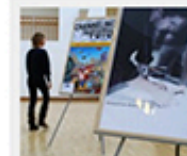
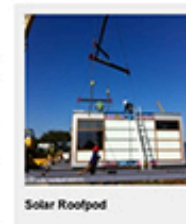
Welcome to the Live Projects Index.

Live Projects are a pioneering architectural education initiative run by the University of Sheffield School of Architecture.



Abc

Location	University	Client	Discipline	Group size
All	All	All	All	All
Southampton	University of	Initiated by institution	Architecture	0-10
London	Portsmouth	Commissioned	Interior Architecture	11-60
Oxford	University of the	Collaboration		51-100
Montreal	West of England			101+
Bristol	Oxford Brookes			
Portsmouth	University			



Other ways of teaching architecture

Transformative Feminist Praxis:

- Collaborative community co-creation
- Participatory placemaking
- Negotiated
- Connected
- Inclusive
- Empathetic
- Emergent (incomplete?)
- Civic spatial agency (reclaiming the city)
- Embraces multiple voices
- cultural and/or community activism in which knowledge is generated collectively throughout the process

transformative feminist pedagogy focusses on 4 key areas:

- the role and authority of the teacher
- the epistemological challenge of experience (in particular the source of the claims for knowledge and the inherent 'truth' in personal experience and feeling)
- the challenge of questions of difference (in particular feminist postmodernisms, experiences of race and othering).
- the positioning of learning as (and within) a community.

The transformative approach shifts the focus from teaching as transmission, to a model where the teacher is a partner in the learning practice

Transformative Community Learning:

Students learn to *'deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.'* (Shault 1970:15).

Spatial literacy raising – communities learn through the process

Critical Practice – co-critique – outside position allows challenge to the hegemony



ROUTLEDGE RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE

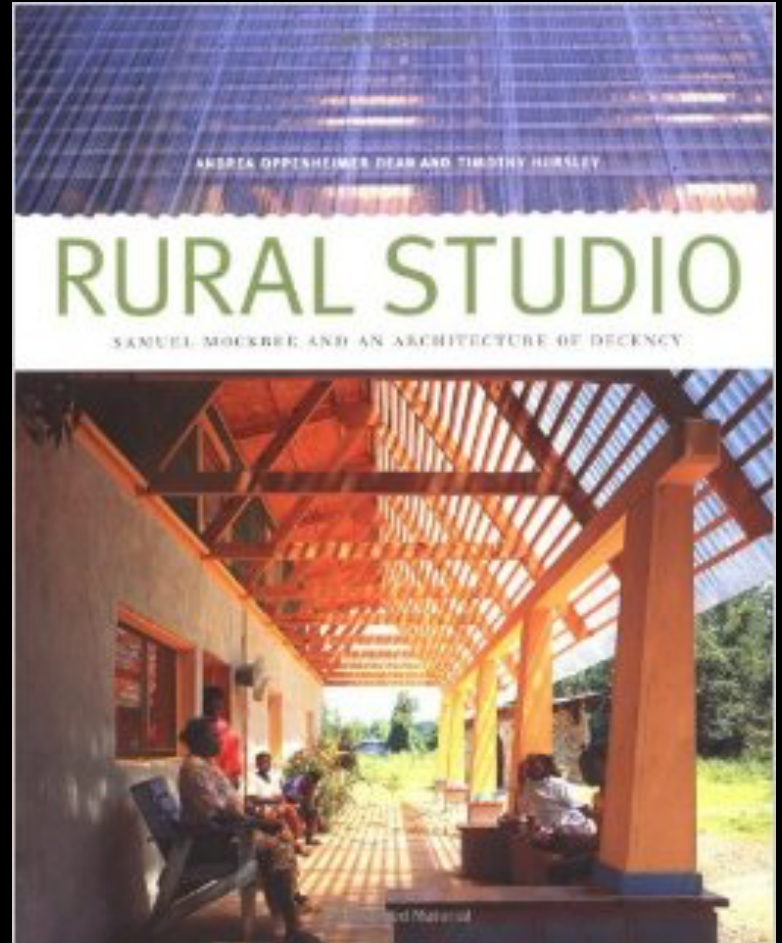
SPACE UNVEILED

Invisible cultures in the design studio

EDITED BY
CARLA JACKSON BELL



Copyrighted material




“A live project comprises the negotiation of a brief, timescale, budget and product between an educational organisation and an external collaborator for their mutual benefit. The project must be structured to ensure that students gain learning that is relevant to their educational development.”

Live Projects Network site: <http://liveprojectsnetwork.org/about/>

Live Community Architecture:

A form of spatial agency which involve a community or not-for-profit organization in collaborating with architects and/or architecture students to co-create a brief, timescale, budget, product and process for their mutual benefit, with the intention of making a positive impact in these communities.



**YOUR
ART**



**YOUR
STREET**



**YOUR
STREET
GALLERY**

FIND OUT MORE:

TUE 2ND DECEMBER,

TIME: 14:00

LOCATION:

THE STEAM CRANE

**4-6 NORTH STREET,
BRISTOL,
BS3 1HT**



**MAKE LIFE
MAKE LIFE
MORE**

ABSURD

#ABSURDSTREET

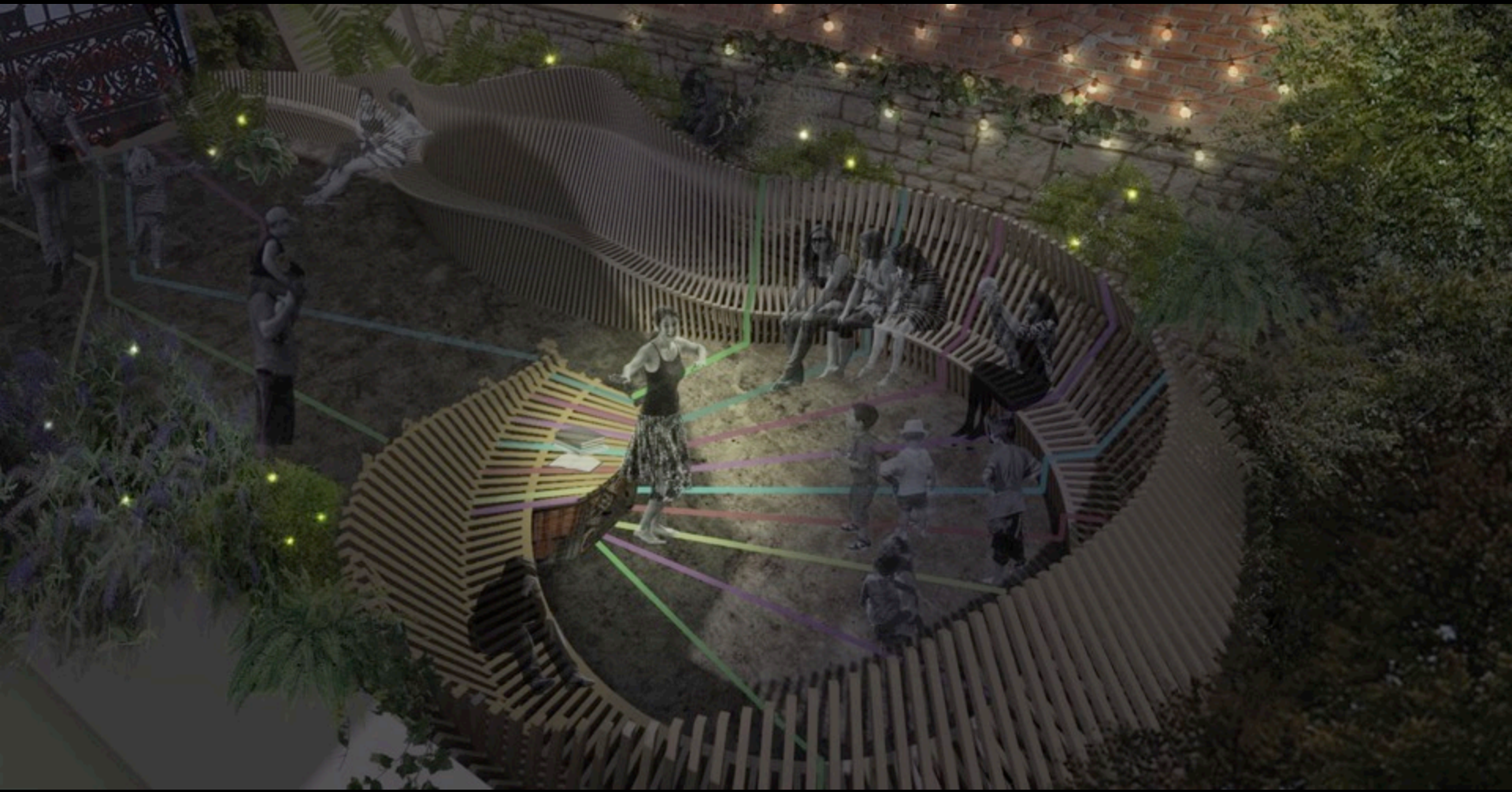
















Pocket Park name: Ebenezer Gate Garden

Application number: 64

Community Group Bedminster Town Team

The Department for Communities and Local Government (the Department) is issuing a grant of £8000 to Bristol City Council under powers set out in section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to support the work set out in your application for the Pocket Parks programme, attached.

The Pocket Parks programme will support up to 100 communities and their partners to establish a pocket park as a small area of inviting public space where people can enjoy relief from the hustle and bustle of city streets.

The Department will:

- Provide you, via your local authority partner, with a grant of £ 8000 capital money.
- Provide each community and local authority partnership with a Relationship Manager and signposting to networks and other sources of further advice and support.
- Share the learning and good practice from pocket park projects widely and, in particular, amongst people interested in taking on the management of public space.

We expect you to:

- Establish your pocket park as proposed in your application and deliver within the timeline you set out.
- Produce a sustainability plan for the future of the park by 31 March 2016
- Confirm your match-funding by 31 March 2016
- Maintain effective and professional relationship with your local authority partner towards achieving delivery.
- Follow the terms of the grant funding agreement entered into with your local authority partner.
- Consider applying for the Green Flag Community Award by the end of the 2017 judging round
- Consider applying for Local Greenspace Designation and to be listed as an asset of community value.
- To confirm to the Department any other designations you intend to seek apply.
- Keep your Relationship Manager informed on request of progress including spend, issues, variations and risks.

← come on in





Inclusive co-creation

The most powerful live community architecture projects seek out the voices of silenced others to challenge questions of difference and engage in inclusive co-creation.













Learning Community

live community architecture projects might be understood as a practice of freedom which bring into consciousness the conditions that shape a community's places in their world.



