**EBENEZER GATE POCKET PARK**



Image credit: Marcus Way Photography

**Full project title:** Ebenezer Gate Community Garden: Pocket Park

**Duration:** October 2015 – October 2016

**Funded by:** Department for Communities and Local Government

**Project lead:** Associate Professor Rachel Sara

**Project team:** Matthew Jones; Louis Rice; Sally Daniels; Ann de Graft-Johnson; Eve Zetlina; Constance Gregory; Anna Blamire-Brown.

**Project Partners:** George Lovesmith (architect); OOMA design; George Grace (TownCentred); Bedminster Town Team

**Project summary**

The Hands-on-Bristol collective worked with local residents, community groups artists, architects and makers to co-create a community run pocket park.

**Aim**

**To use action-based design-research processes to explore how collaborative processes can positively empower communities in place-making.**

This aim was broken down into the following sub-aims:

To explore how can abandoned pockets of urban space be reclaimed for community use through participatory design processes

To develop techniques which empower communities in place-making

**Objectives**

* To develop methods of engagement that facilitate working closely with a wide section of the community in collaboration with students and professionals
* To generate initial ideas for sustainable community place-making through organizing creative consultation and co-design events
* To identify abandoned pockets of urban space and stimulate debate around what should happen to them.
* To work with local stakeholders to negotiate the opening up of a disused pocket of land for community use
* To use co-design principles to design and build a community space
* To empower the community to take ownership of a community managed space.

**Impact**

**Competitions:**

2017 SEED Awards, Live projects network honorable mention Available from: https://designcorps.org/seed-awards-about/

AD Editorial Team (2016), 'The Best Student Design-Build Projects Worldwide 2016'. Available from: <http://www.archdaily.com/794566/the-best-student-design-build-projects-worldwide-2016>

**Articles:**

Jeffries, D., (2015), '[Can “co-creation” help cities find a new way to solve their problems?](http://www.citymetric.com/horizons/can-co-creation-help-cities-find-new-way-solve-their-problems-1624)', *City Metric,* 02.12.15. Available from: <http://www.citymetric.com/horizons/can-co-creation-help-cities-find-new-way-solve-their-problems-1624>

New Start (2016) ‘Live’ architecture helps residents reclaim streets in Bristol’, *New Start,* 17.10.16. Available from: <https://newstartmag.co.uk/articles/live-architecture-helps-residents-reclaim-streets-in-bristol/>

**Academic papers:**

Sara, R (2016) ‘Live community architecture — a transformative feminist practice?

a critical exploration of the experiences of students involved in live community-based architecture projects’ Architecture and Feminisms; 13th international AHRA conference, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology) Stockholm, Sweden. November 17–19, 2016. Available: http://architecturefeminisms.org/abstracts/

Burch, J, Daniels, S, Marco, E, Sara, R, (2014) ‘A Taxonomy of Live Projects and the Ethical Implications of the University as Creative Host to Architectural Agency’, AAE conference, Sheffield University, 3rd – 5th September, 2014

**Lectures:**

Sara, R. Daniels, S. and Jones, M (2016) HANDS-ON-BUILDING: INVOLVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIVE BUILD PROJECTS – Public lecture: Architecture Centre: Wednesday 20 January 2016, 18:00 http://www.architecturecentre.co.uk/hands-on-building



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