

CASSprojects



CASSprojects (The Projects Office) provides professional support to students and staff to undertake consultancy commissions and research projects, as well as providing project management support to live projects carried out by students as part of their course work.

We are committed to supporting socially engaged creative projects where students, academics and practitioners from the art, architecture and design schools can come together to deliver live projects.

This newsletter serves as an update on the work of The Projects Office in 2013, and the exciting projects we are developing for 2014.

03 Newsletter



Above: Record Player Orchestra, Made in Hayes, image credit Martin Thomas.

Below: Made in Hayes high-street hub



Below: Cass and Faculty of Business and Law float, Lord Mayors Show 2013



Street furniture for the City

Ahead of major reworking to the urban area of Aldgate, the City of London is organising a number of temporary interventions throughout Aldgate's public spaces in 2013 and 2014, called Aldgate Experiments. As part of this series The Cass Projects Office is collaborating with the Corporation of London to organise a competition for students at The Cass to design seating installations to be located in the public realm. The intention is for a first wave of these installations to be on site in the Spring of 2014. More could be produced at a later stage as the scheme progresses. If successful, the winning design or a variation of the design could also be included in the final Aldgate Landscaping scheme. The first round of the competition is for students to enter concept sketch ideas, with a judging process to follow, where four proposals will each be awarded £500 to develop their design in more detail. A winning design will be selected, to be fabricated and located on site. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop proposals for street furniture installations. The successful winner will have their idea fabricated and sited in the public realm, within the immediate area of Aldgate.

Lord Mayor's Parade

The Cass was asked by the Faculty of Business and Law to design a float for the

annual Lord Mayor's Parade in the City of London. The parade inaugurated the second female Lord Mayor(ess) since 1215. Staff and students from across the Faculty worked intensively to produce the float designed and curated by Cass Projects. The Upholstery team produced a luxurious plinth in red velvet, and First Year Fine Art students with tutor Mel Brimfield made eye-catching adornments. Student society members pedal powered the speaker system for music by Hackney Colliery Band. Cheerleaders' costumes and pom poms provided an exciting and challenging live project for first year Textiles and Jewellery and Silversmithing students. The high-energy float certainly made the crowd smile and was televised on the BBC, and seen by thousands of visitors to the public event.

Made in Hayes

Throughout the academic year 2012/13 we curated a series of cross faculty projects in Hayes, West London. A lot happened. In March, the projects took over an empty shop in the High Street. The opening was celebrated along with John McDonnell MP presenting local volunteers with 'gifts' made by Jewellery and Silversmithing students. The Shop has since been a popular a space for meetings, exhibitions and as a studio-base; hosting events ranging from 'open surgeries' on the Hayes Map, to pop up photo booths and record player orchestras. In May, Architecture Studio 3 brought their live built project to Hayes for a festival of events and workshops. In June, an exhibition celebrating the year of work was shown in the Hayes 'shop', as well as at the CASS Summer Shows, with work by Jewellery and Silversmithing, Photography, Fine Art, Spatial Planning and Urban Design, Architecture Free Unit and Architecture Studio 3. Over the Summer, MA Spatial Planning and Urban Design hosted a local business 'Meet and Greet' session.

The project has built on its links in 2013 and into 2014 with local businesses, Hillingdon Play Association, Cathedral Group and Hillingdon Community Trust. Architecture Studio 3 have recently won funding that will enable them to continue their project work with a local housing estate into this year. David Brough, Chairman of Hayes Town Partnership said of the Hayes Project "The



are being created regularly, including new Restoration and Illustration courses on the horizon, so keep your eyes peeled. Cass staff and students are eligible for a 20% discount so why not visit our website and see which courses gets your creative juices flowing. www.thecass.com or contact us at: TheCass.ShortCourses@londonmet.ac.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about CASSprojects, please contact Anne Markey, Director of the Projects Office: a.markey@londonmet.ac.uk

Left: New studio spaces at Central House are celebrated at opening night.

Below, top: Timber furniture workshop at Ivor Leigh Memorial School, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Image: Dominic Dudley

Below, bottom: Completed classroom furniture at Ivor Leigh Memorial School, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

work done has introduced imaginative ways of engaging with local people, and the project acts as a timely reminder about what has been achieved in the past and what can be achieved in the future.”

Central House works

The most recent phase of works on the internal refurbishment of Central House came to a close in December. The Projects Office has been acting as Lead Consultant on the project, supporting the Architecture Research Unit in delivering the additional phase of works. Based on the principles already established on the 3rd and 4th Floors, which was realised in the summer 2012, the refurbishment creates more teaching and studio spaces, lecture halls, offices, computer labs, darkrooms and workshops.

The Cass gets gardening

We are working on a proposal to transform the rooftop of Central House into an urban garden, to be used by students and staff of The Cass and shared with the local community. The project is being developed as part of the GLA's Pocket Park Programme – it will see the roof becoming a space for growing, gardening and an outdoor space for the creative activities of the Faculty. Community engagement is an essential element to the scheme and we are in conversation with local stakeholders, discussing communal use of the garden to create a shared rooftop urban allotment garden.

Architecture of Rapid Change and Scarce Resources (ARCSR) in Sierra Leone

In July 2013 ARCSR researchers working with Cass Projects, and architecture and furniture students hosted a timber workshop in Freetown, continuing their collaboration

with local NGO CESO. Investigations were based around cultural and physical surveys of two urban neighbourhoods alongside a furniture-making workshop at the Ivor Leigh Memorial School in Kanningo, designed by Cass researchers Bo Tang and Shamoan Patwari in 2011. Working closely with community carpenters and apprentices, furniture student, Tom Harvey, from the Cass School of Design led the team, using locally sourced timber to prototype classroom desks, benches, blackboards and shelving. Learning from existing techniques, the group adapted and refined techniques involving the sole use of hand tools to develop appropriate furniture for the school.

New Publication

ARCSR will be launching their newest publication “The Architecture of Three Freetown Neighbourhoods” on Tuesday 4th February 2014 with an exhibition and talk by Professor Maurice Mitchell. This folio is the culmination of ongoing research over the past 5 years, documenting changing city topographies in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This has been made possible through the support and close collaboration of students and researchers from the CASS, NGO CESO, The Water Trust and the British Council (UK and Sierra Leone).

Short Courses

Last year was a busy year for The Cass Short Courses team, expanding the programme and we now offer an exciting new range of courses including Photography, Software, Jewellery and Silversmithing, Rapid Prototyping, Furnishing, Architecture, Sketching, Performance Art and Dress Making. We're also delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the team, Maeva Khachfe, who will be able to deal with all your short course enquires. New courses

