

CASS Projects (The Projects Office) supports staff and students in the delivery of live projects through the curriculum as well as supporting students in their work related learning.

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

This newsletter serves as an update on the work of The Projects Office in 2017-2018, and the exciting projects we are developing for 2018-2019.



Ventilation Casing, Aldgate Square

## Aldgate Ventilation Casing

Following the successful Aldgate Street furniture installation in 2017, Cass students were invited by the City of London Corporation to propose designs for a ventilation casing on the new Aldgate Square. 80 entries from Architecture, Fine Art, Jewellery and Silversmithing were shortlisted, and reviewed by a panel from the Cass and City of London Corporation.

The winning entry was by BA Jewellery and Silversmithing student Dominik Wiecek, with runners up Andrew Brown (BA Architecture) and Nicola Margai (BA Jewellery and Silversmithing). All the entries were awarded a £250 prize from the City of London.



Chair for the 21C Reformer, Toynbee Hall

## Toynbee Hall

In 2016 Cass Projects and Toynbee Hall ran a competition to propose furniture pieces for Toynbee's building. The building is now open, and the heritage exhibition features BA Furniture and Product Design student James Whittam's chair. His 'Chair for the 21C Reformer' was chosen by Toynbee's chief executive Graham Fisher, and Toynbee Hall have commissioned further pieces from James for other areas of the building.

The collaboration between Toynbee and BA Textile Design has also been installed in the Residential Volunteer rooms. Third year student Denise Lewis referenced the Booth poverty maps in her design, which has now

been installed in other communal areas of the building.

## Brick Lane Façade Competition

Cass Projects and Tower Hamlets Council launched an artwork competition for the north wall of 28 Brick Lane.

Cass students were invited to submit concept designs responding to Tower Hamlets desire to improve wayfinding in the local area, and to improve connectivity between Brick Lane and Petticoat Lane. Two designs were shortlisted, by BA and MArch Architecture students Dan Stilwell and Stavros Skordis, and will be installed next year.

## Calcutta House Roof Garden

Cass Projects designed seating for London Met's Estates department to facilitate better use of the Calcutta third floor rooftop. The planting and seating plan covers the previous roof service structures, to encourage flexibility for future student installations and events.

The first installation on the roof was designed and built by students from Architecture and Interior Design Extended Degree, who held a design competition, and worked in groups to develop and build 5 versions of the winning entry. The installation provided welcome shading for summer use of the roof garden.

## Sandy's Row Synagogue

For our 2017 cross-school project, BA Interiors and BA Creative Writing worked with the renowned artist and writer Rachel Lichtenstein at Sandy's Row synagogue, a 160 year old building in Spitalfields. The synagogue has applied for funding to provide "a unique flexible space through which rich oral histories can be told to impart cultural significance to the wider community".

BA Interiors students made proposals for a new cultural and heritage centre in the currently unused basement space. The proposals were successfully presented to the synagogue board, and exhibited at the synagogue for European Day of Jewish Culture 2018.

BA Creative Writing and English Literature students studied Rachel Lichtenstein's Spitalfields writing and worked with her to understand the history of the synagogue and its community. As part of their work related learning module, the students were trained in digital and paper archive skills at the Bishopsgate Institute. They worked over several months transferring fragile and uncatalogued



London Festival of Architecture 2018





Roof Garden, Calcutta House

archival documents into digital and catalogued form. The records are now accessible at both Bishopsgate Institute and the National Library of Israel.

#### Cass at the London Festival of Architecture

Cass Foundation, Architecture Studio 4 and Architecture Studio 8 all hosted successful events at the London Festival of Architecture in June 2018.

Cass Foundation's Chianna Roberts presented a film and talk on identity and diversity at Calcutta House; Architecture Studio 4's Ludwig Willis Architects presented 'Places for Play' - a consultation event at the bustling opening of Aldgate Square; and Architecture Studio 8's what if: projects hosted 'Planning Action Old Kent Road' with Cass Cities - a two day workshop where urban design professionals worked with residents, businesses and members of the public responding to local development sites.

#### Making a Living

Building on the success of Cass Making a Living 2016, the 2017 festival of employability and entrepreneurship went university wide. At the Cass in November, a week of events included talks, workshops, panel discussions, careers advice, recruitment and volunteering fairs, taster sessions, successful alumni testimonials, training, interactive experiences and matchmaking between employers and new recruits.

#### London Design Festival

In September 2017, as part of London Design Festival, the Cass presented Making Matters#2 at the Wash Houses, an exhibition exploring the process of designing and making. Twenty design graduates and alumni displayed pieces that included fashion and textiles, furniture, interiors, architecture, jewellery, product and visual communications. The pieces were all produced by socially engaged designers,

embodying bold innovation, careful craft and material adventures.

Also as part of London Design Festival, The Cass hosted Awash with Ideas, a day of textile design workshops at a street party on Old Castle Street. The event explored dyeing linen with natural dyes using Shibori techniques. In a series of four 90-minute workshops participants from local schools and communities created their own Shibori patterned sample squares, to be exhibited later at The Cass.

#### Fulham Scout Camp

In 2016, Cass Projects was approached by the 15th Fulham Scouts to design washroom facilities for their campsite in Biggin Hill, Bromley. The final proposal, a lightweight timber design, was endorsed by the Scout Leaders and is in application for planning approval.

The scout group then also commissioned a second phase - Meeting Room and Leader facilities for the site. This brief was been taken up by the 2017/18 Applied Technology group, successfully presented to the Leaders and is now being detailed and costed.

#### Made in Hayes

Following the invitation from John McDonnell MP to deliver art, architecture and art projects in Hayes, Cass students delivered fine art, architecture, jewellery, silversmithing, spatial planning and urban design projects throughout the area.

A research funding grant was awarded to document the wide range of projects, which includes student proposals, events that students hosted, and community impacts of the projects. The website was produced by BA Graphics alumni Lisa Wallius and Finn Kidd:

[cassmadeinhayes.com](http://cassmadeinhayes.com)

#### Short Courses

The past year has seen the final phase of moves for The Cass over to Calcutta House, The Short Courses team have been delighted to welcome students to our new Photography and J&S workshops. The facilities have been well received, and having settled into our new home, we have been able to introduce new courses to our portfolio, including one-day workshops and master-classes, most notably in Photography, Furniture/Upholstery and Graphics and Illustration.

Other notable successes this year have been our collaboration and sponsorship of the Upholstery: Evolution to Revolution exhibition at the Geffrye Museum, curated by long time partners and collaborators, Second Sitters; as well as a British Furniture Manufacturers award for one of our Upholstery students. We're always on the look out for new ideas and collaborations so if you have an idea, get in touch!



Making Matters #2, Wash Houses Old Castle St



Awash with Ideas, Old Castle St



Making a Living festival 2017