



## The Projects Office @ The Cass



The Projects Office @ The Cass 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 2012, and the exciting projects we are developing for 2013.

## 02 Festive newsletter

We are delighted to have worked with many of you this year, and look forward to collaborating with you on live projects in the future. **Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and all happiness for the New Year, from The Projects Office team.**



Top: Solar Decathlon students awarded prestigious RIBA Silver medal in November 2012.



Middle: Opening of 'Eight Buildings, Twenty Four Pictures' - photographs by David Grandorge of projects by Sergison Bates architects, displayed in the Bank.

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



### New studio spaces

Our newly designed studios, designed by the Faculty's own Architecture Research Unit (ARU) have officially opened to students. Inspired by the idea of a city street the 4th floor - which will be occupied by RIBA (Part II) Professional Diploma students - has been designed to create a stimulating studio environment incorporating a boulevard, open plan spaces, galleries and domestic staircases to encourage dialogue between disciplines. The floor is Phase 1 of a project which will see other levels transformed over the coming year. This exciting re-imagining of the Estate complements developments to the curriculum, including the new studio approach, which have been central to the new Faculty's vision.

### A Christmas Gift with Strings Attached

The Cass has launched an extensive package of new short courses offered at every stage - from introductory level through to refining the skills of practising professionals. In our well equipped studios students learn through making, experiment with process and technique and develop skills for personal and professional practice. We offer exciting courses across our art, architecture and design disciplines including guitar making, soft furnishings and traditional upholstery, furniture making, puppet making for animation, introduction to animation, audio recording

techniques, introductions to photography and a range of computer aided design and graphics courses. **The perfect Christmas present for those who enjoy making, crafting, cutting, stitching, strumming and threading!** For more information visit our new website: [www.thecass.com/short-courses](http://www.thecass.com/short-courses)

### The Bank gallery space

In August 2011 we took over The Bank in our Central House building that sits on the corner where Whitechapel High Street meets Commercial Road. This site had previously been rented to a commercial bank. The Projects Office brought this raw, redundant space back into use through a series of curated pop-up shows, exhibitions and events. In the Autumn 2012 semester Architecture Diploma Unit 7 tutored by David Grandorge reworked the space, designing and building new steps, a ramp and partition walls. Beautifully crafted these new elements have refined and improved the space. The reworking of the Bank was celebrated in November with the opening of 'Eight Buildings, Twenty Four Pictures' - an exhibition of David Grandorge's photographs of recent projects by Sergison Bates architects. Along with the Events Team we will be co-organising an exciting programme of exhibitions in 2013 to be held throughout our gallery spaces - keep up to date with these at [www.thecass.com/news-events](http://www.thecass.com/news-events)

### The Cass Christmas Cracker

Held on December 18th from 5.00 pm in The Bank space **The Christmas Cracker is an annual School of Art winter show of work.** Students and tutors warmly invite you round to come and see the work and have a good time. This year, as well as art set up in students' studio spaces, there will be a 'Forest of the Singing, Ringing Trees' created in 3D, paint, photo, video or print. Join art staff and art students as we make, craft and shape our way into winter.

### Made in Hayes

MP John McDonnell (Lab, Hayes and Harlington) has invited The Cass to develop a number public art and architecture projects in the London Borough of Hayes. MA Fine Art and Photography students and staff will be presenting works inspired by the EMI factory



Left and Below: Made In Hayes, a series of live projects on the EMI music vinyl-making site in the London Borough of Hayes.

site at the Bandstand, Station Road between 12 – 2pm on Monday 17 December. The group will ask visitors 'Do you remember your first record?' and will be playing vinyl records from EMI's archive. John McDonnell MP will be joining in from 1pm, and promises to reveal which record tempted him to part with his pocket money.

The event heralds the beginning of Made in Hayes, a series of projects initiated by Cass students that consider what great things *have been, are being and will be* made in Hayes. Projects include Silversmithing and Jewellery students making gifts for Hillingdon Play Association Ambassadors, architecture students testing 'Conversation Kits' for community gardening at the Austin Estate and artists, architects and designers contributing to stalls on the canal side at Station Road bridge in March.

### Solar Decathlon wins RIBA Medal

The Cass School of Architecture is delighted to announce that team Heliomet have been awarded the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Silver Medal for the best postgraduate Part 2 project worldwide for their SunBloc proposal – a prototypical house that students of Diploma Unit 4 developed in the academic year 2011/2012. The RIBA President's Medals Students Awards are internationally considered the most prestigious awards in architectural education. Each year the RIBA invites approximately 300 schools of architecture from over 60 countries to nominate design projects and dissertations produced by their students. The Royal Gold Medal is awarded to an established architect or group of people whose influence on architecture has over years had an international effect. On Thursday 5th December our students were presented

with their medals. SunBloc is a proposal developed by a student-led design team in response to Solar Decathlon Europe, an international competition amongst universities that promotes research in the development of energy efficient houses. The project has been facilitated by Jen Ng of The Projects Office, and we are supporting students in the next project phase.

### Solar Decathlon goes to China

The research carried out by the Heliomet team will inform the second phase of this project in the academic year 2012/13 as The Cass enters the Solar Decathlon China competition. This next phase of the Heliomet project will involve students from The Cass working in collaboration with students and staff from China's Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts (GAFA) developing proposals in response to the competition brief. To support the project in this international phase David Rieser, a Part II graduate who was part of the award winning SunBloc student team, has joined The Projects Office to support and facilitate a submission to Solar Decathlon China.

### Urban making on the Isle of Dogs

School of Architecture Unit 6 have spent 7 weeks developing a collaborative live project in a large, overgrown garden plot in Harbinger Road, Isle of Dogs provided by the Housing Association: East End Homes. This is an experimental project where structures were constructed to draw out and define the character, identity and topography of this 'secret garden' site. Using salvaged and low cost materials students designed and built a series of small-scale structures that explored the site's relationship with its surroundings, both physical and cultural. The Projects Office first started working with East End

Homes through the Aldgate Project in 2011/2012 and this collaborative relationship has successfully been extended through this latest live project, lead by tutors Maurice Mitchell and Francesca Pont. East End Homes have been delighted with the work produced by students. Mark Hyams, Estate Manager of Islands Gardens Neighborhood Gardens congratulated the students on "... an excellent job. I have spoken to many residents who have had nothing but praise for the hard work and enthusiasm your students have shown." The experience, skill and obsessions derived from this project will be used to drive forward Unit 6's Peckham Pockets project.



Unit 6 built a lamella roof on a redundant garden site on the Isle of Dogs for social housing group East End Homes.

