



The Cass Projects Office

Cass Projects 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. Formerly known as ASD Projects Office, we were founded in 2004. 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, providing a taster of what's happened over the past year, and what to expect in the coming months. We also hope it will act as a further invitation for others to become involved. If you wish to find out more about how we work and the support we offer please visit us on the 3rd Floor of Metropolitan Works or email a.markey@londonmet.ac.uk

01 Newsletter



Top: EMI Records factory, Hayes
Middle: Judging at Clerkenwell Design Week
Bottom: Members of public with Conversation Pieces

News and New Projects Our new name and identity

In August 2012 the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Media and Design and the Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Design (ASD) merged to become the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design. This officially recognises the process of collaboration that has already been underway since 2011 when we first started working on cross-disciplinary projects with students and staff from the Schools of Art, Architecture and Design. We are looking forward to developing a number of projects in 2012/13 that will further this collaborative cross-disciplinary approach, delivering live projects and research across the Schools.

Art, architecture and design in Hayes

John McDonnell MP (Lab, Hayes and Harlington) has invited the Schools of Art, Architecture and Design to propose and establish public art and architecture projects in Hayes: "We want to explore the potential for launching over the next few years a series of public art projects in Hayes that could create a focal point for community activity." Project proposals working with public and private institutions are encouraged in response to the themes of: Play, Greening the City and Signage and Storytelling. The ex EMI Records site has been offered

by Cathedral Developers as a site and resource for projects. Other locations encouraged in the town centre are: the High Street, bandstand, and surrounding areas. Other partners include Hillingdon Play Association, a local housing estate, West London Floating Classroom and BAA. Further project proposals are welcomed.

Bank of England pilot films

The Bank of England has invited third year BA Level 6 Film and Broadcast students (Media Practice) to produce a series of pilot films for the Bank's own webpages. Tutors Charlotte Worthington and Jane Barnwell are overseeing the production of micro short films that demonstrate the diversity of staff working at the Bank and the wide range of work-related and community engagement activities they take part in. This live project is being explored through a series of interviews carried out by students who will produce and edit the films. Working with a live client the work will be produced to a real brief to create a pilot that has the potential to be expanded into a further series of filmed projects.

City Dressing for London 2012

Eight 'Conversation Pieces' have been delivered for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games as part of the GLA funded City Dressing project. The Conversation Pieces are large furniture objects conceived as ethnographic instruments, used by students to engage inhabitants of the City in conversations about themselves - their lives, their work and ways in which they experience London. The pieces have been developed from work created for a project titled Mobile Sound Pieces taught by Pierre d'Avoine and Daniel Serafimovski at the School of Architecture. Seventeen students in their 4th and 5th Year worked in groups to design and fabricate six large furniture and musical objects. Jen Ng of The Projects Office has co-ordinated and supported the pieces being crafted and delivered as a series of live installations that have been located on various sites throughout the City including Christchurch Spitalfields, Thames Path at Millennium Bridge and outside St Paul's Cathedral. The project has drawn extensively on the skills of staff at The Cass drawing on the knowledge of musical instrument making and furniture making and using the workshops at Commercial Road. The project was celebrated at an evening event in The Bank at Central House on the 6th September.



Musicians engage with Unit 5 City Dressing: Conversation Pieces on the Banks of the Thames during the Olympics



Providence Row: proposed urban garden, a view into the courtyard

Aldgate Project

Work in Progress and cross-crit

The Aldgate Project is a cross-disciplinary project that has seen students of art, architecture and design working on a series of projects based in and in response to the area of Aldgate. The project has been co-ordinated by Zoe Berman of The Projects Office who has helped to organise a series of lectures, exhibitions and cross-crits that seek to celebrate the series of projects that have developed over the past year - see the dedicated website www.aldgateproject.org To celebrate and share the projects developing as part of the Aldgate Project we organised the Work in Progress exhibition in February. Work produced by students of jewellery, interior design, media, spatial planning and urban design, architecture and textiles went on display in The Bank space in Central House. Students, staff and visitors were invited to view each others work, with an afternoon private view with tea and cake for all. The exhibition was felt to be a great success and marked the half-way point for this year-long project.

Clerkenwell Design Week

The Aldgate Project went on display as part of this years Clerkenwell Design Week. Projects by BA (Hons) Interior Design and Technology students taught by Kaye Newman and Janette Harris explored the use of sites in Aldgate and Whitechapel. Work was displayed in the gallery of Humanscale, and a panel of judges including the former festivals creative director Aidan Walker judged the work with the winner awarded an internship to Humanscale's London and New York studios.

Podium Award

We were delighted the project gained recognition by being awarded a Bronze medal at the Podium Awards in the Creative Cultural awards category, for projects related to the Olympic and

Paralympic Games through partnerships produced by Higher Education providers across the UK.

Providence Row urban garden

Providence Row is a charitable organisation in Aldgate that supports homeless and vulnerable people in London. In January they contacted us with a view to our carrying out an initial feasibility study for the design of a new teaching garden in their courtyard. Zoe Berman, Part II architectural assistant produced an initial study for them that went on display at the opening of their new arts centre. The work we produced has secured interest from potential funders. We are exploring the possibility of students from The Cass developing further design ideas for the site, to include a potential semi-public park space, rooftop garden and outdoor horticultural spaces.

Live Projects and Research Solar Decathlon at EcoBuild

Throughout the academic year 2011/12 Architecture Unit 4 (Team HelioMet) have worked on the Solar Decathlon project, designing and fabricating a fully sustainable house using solar energy as the only energy source to power a fully operational house complete with working kitchen, bathroom and living space. Team HelioMet displayed a 1:1 section of the house at the EcoBuild construction fair in March and the project was nominated for the RIBA Silver Presidents Medal. Work has started on a design for Solar Decathlon China 2013.

Architecture of Rapid Change and Scarce Resources (ARCSR)

Following the success of the Quarry Schools live project in Mumbai, India in 2010 where two classrooms were

constructed by Unit 6 students and ASD Projects assistants, ARCSR are planning to return to build a third and final classroom in October 2012 in collaboration with NGO ARPHEN. In Freetown, Sierra Leone ongoing research that began in 2008 has led to the construction of a primary school in Kaningo, the Ivor Leigh Memorial and Preparatory School in collaboration with the NGO CESO. The school was completed in 2012 and photographs went on show as part of 'Sierra Leone: The Architecture of 3 Freetown Neighbourhoods.' The exhibition held was part of the British Council London 2012: International Architecture and Design Showcase in September.

Short Courses and Conferences Studio Culture Symposium

In June the Projects Office managed this 2-day symposium funded by the UK Higher Education Academy Centre for Education in the Built Environment (CEBE), and targeted at design studio teachers of Architecture. The theme of this years symposium was The Intercultural Studio, with a series of workshops and presentations of papers by a number of eminent design tutors from the UK and Europe. This 2 day event explored ideas surrounding the culture of studio teaching, the studio as a place of production, criticality and held a number of forums for discussion led by practitioners.

Short and CPD Courses at The Cass

Building on its history of short course provider for more than 100 years, The Cass is now expanding its programme to offer a new range of short and CPD courses. The Short Course team along with the Projects Office has been designing courses which will facilitate return to practice, top-up skills and inspire creativity. Whilst continuing to run courses in Design, The Cass will soon be running courses in Architecture, Fine Art, and Media as well as Professional Practice and Software courses. New courses include the RIBA Mini MBA, Model Making, Visualisation, Photography and Portfolio Creation. Further courses will be developed in the coming year - more information can be found on the website: www.thecass.com or contact us at: TheCass.ShortCourses@londonmet.ac.uk



Primary school in Kaningo, the Ivor Leigh Memorial and Preparatory School by ARCSR