

Architecture Centres' Offer to Schools of Architecture, Urban Design and Built Environment

January 2012

1. About the Network

[Architecture Centre Network](#) is the national development, support and advocacy organisation for the 20+ architecture and built environment centres in England and Northern Ireland. Centre members are independent organisations who offer a range of innovative activities across the architecture and built environment sector, with the shared aim ***to help people to make better places.***

Architecture centres work in schools, education institutions and communities to:

- create better understanding about the importance of good design and stronger connections between professionals and the public;
- celebrate good design in places and spaces as a powerful contributor to personal, economic and community wellbeing.

We are a national network of local organisations with local expertise and knowledge. With a collective expert staff of 130+, supported by 450+ volunteers and 250+ built environment professionals, the Network is a well-established large resource delivering significant impact and with a large reach.

Our members work with, and for, a wide range of national and regional agencies and practitioners including: architects and built environment professionals, artists, communities, designers, developers, registered social landlords, local authorities, planners, regeneration companies, schools and the general public.

Centres collectively and individually deliver extensive 'built environment education' programmes to and with schools and teachers and further and higher education institutes. The education teams are comprised of former teachers, architects and community and education professionals. Many centres have accreditation status and belong to national schemes such as the Homes and Communities Agency, RIBA and other professional bodies accredited CPD providers.

2. What the centres can offer

Built environment education and placemaking activity can comprise:

- visits and study tours to buildings and places;
- project work delivered by architecture centre professionals with artists, architects and design professionals;
- creative learning projects that use a site as a site of inquiry;
- portfolio themes such as placemaking, sustainability, public art, community, civic pride;
- mentoring and support for employability including: CV and portfolio clinics, interview coaching etc.

Placemaking is about much more than just looking at buildings and design – it's about civic participation. It empowers people to take an active role in shaping their communities and creating places and spaces that are safe, habitable and benefit everyone. Placemaking is part of a democratic process that students should feel part of. Centres' programmes support lecturers and students as well as those involved in employability.

With the increasing emphasis of government policy on localism and the notion of a 'Big Society', decisions about how communities will look in the future are shaped more and more by local people. It is even more important, therefore, that students and teachers and lecturers are given the skills and confidence to engage successfully with communities and their built environment.

2.1 Our approach

Centres can work with you to create a bespoke learning package which will respond to your needs and develop with you a relevant and meaningful training or CPD programme for your teachers and/or lecturers which will include risk assessments and safeguarding information.

Your training could be residential, one day or one session long; and be delivered on or off site. It could involve students in its planning and delivery; bring in artists, architects and other professionals; meet particular HEI needs; address a number of different learning styles; be aimed at cross-disciplinary and peer learning.

Centres also have pre-prepared CPD offers that have been successfully tried and tested. This can provide a more cost-effective way to deliver a programme, but may limit the flexibility to tailor the programme to particular needs.

There are a number of free resources available online in the Architecture Centre Network Learning library. You will also find listings here of training opportunities, programmes and events for professionals and students.

If you are interested in bespoke activities, please contact your local architecture centre. If you are unsure which centre delivers in your area or if you have any further queries about the work of Architecture Centre Network or centres please contact us via our [website](#) or by [email](#).

3. Snapshot of current activities by member centres

ARC

Arc is based in Hull and operates across the Humber area. <http://www.arc-online.co.uk>.

Arc is hosting an exhibition by the Leeds School of Architecture, who have been exploring Hull as a case study of a sustainable city. Postgraduate students at Leeds Metropolitan University have investigated post-industrial cities in the North of England and looked at how they might be regenerated in the context of a global imperative for cities to become sustainable. The resultant images illustrate some very exciting ideas for Hull as a sustainable city.

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE DEVON & CORNWALL

Architecture Centre Devon & Cornwall is based in Plymouth and operates across the south west counties. www.acdandc.org.uk.

ACD&C has worked primarily with Plymouth University, including assisting in securing the British Art Show 7, arguably the most significant visual arts event ever to come to Plymouth.

‘British Art Show 7: In the Days of the Comet’, the UK’s biggest and best exhibition of current British contemporary art, arrives in Plymouth on 17 September 2011 and remains in the city until 4 December 2011. Plymouth is one of only three locations outside London selected by the capital’s Hayward Gallery to host this prestigious touring exhibition, which is supported by Arts Council England and Plymouth City Council and delivered by the Plymouth Visual Arts Consortium (PVAC).

BAS7 Fringe

A number of fringe activities involving local artists some of which have distinctly architectural themes are taking place over the next few months so keep an eye on the fringe calendar. <http://plymouthbas7.org/fringe>.

Architecture Centre Devon & Cornwall will be collating architectural highlights from the show which already takes in the award winning Levinsky Building and Royal William Yard development by Urban Splash.

THE ARCHITECTURE CENTRE, BRISTOL

The Architecture Centre, based in Bristol, works throughout the South West region. <http://www.architecturecentre.co.uk>

The Architecture Centre, Bristol, offers conferences, seminars, lectures, training and CPD opportunities, visits and study tours, and links to sources of information and guidance. It works in partnership with regional agencies and professional institutions in the region such as the RIBA and the RTPI. It is working closely with UWE Faculty of Built Environment, organising joint conferences and collaborating on events linked to its exhibitions for built environment professionals and students and is currently strengthening its links with Bath University School of Architecture and Engineering. It has exhibited student work on Bristol masterplanning and is collaborating on a Pavilion project, the winning design of which is expected to be built later in the year.

The Gallery has held an exhibition, *Altered Landscapes*, in Sept/Nov 2011 by the Design Research Unit Wales (DRUw) is a young, research-led practice combining award-winning design, teaching, and research, based in the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff.

BEAM

Beam is based in Wakefield and operates across Yorkshire. www.beam.uk.net.

Beam has worked with education institutions by:

1. helping with the development and delivery of a post graduate course;
2. providing opportunities for students to be involved in real projects (either Architecture Students – or what it finds more interesting, inter-disciplinary work);
3. using the Spaceshaper toolkit as a way of talking to architecture students about community engagement – and provided them with training and actual case work, this is being delivered with a number of Universities, including Sheffield.

Orangery Academy – Seville – 2011/12

Beam has secured European Funds to support 30 work placements in Spain. The placements will support the mobility of workers, whether employed, self employed or recently graduated; and will seek to develop practice on energy efficiency, allow exchange of ideas between practitioners and policy makers, and explore how art in different cultures informs the development of public spaces. This is in partnership with Huddersfield, Leeds Met & Sheffield Hallam Universities, each of whom will help source candidates for the programme.

Huddersfield University - 2010

In 2010 Beam undertook some work with Huddersfield University on the design of an Urbanism post graduate qualification. A discussion document was prepared by Department of Architecture and 3D Design following the Course Development Forum held in conjunction with BEAM at The Orangery, Wakefield in May 2010 and subsequent email notes.

The course is proposed as an MA or an MSc to allow a degree of optionality to appeal to a broader audience. .

Leeds Metropolitan University 2003 - 2008

Over a number of year's undergraduate students from LMU have undertaken 4 – 7 week projects at The Orangery, where they have been challenged through a brief to work in interdisciplinary teams and create imaginative interventions that take into account the history and nature of The Orangery and the realities of the city centre around it. This approach was also adapted to the needs of graduate students from Sheffield Hallam University, studying heritage and town planning.

Design Re-viewed - 2011

Following the conference Beam and Integreat Yorkshire developed a series of workshop sessions titled 'Design Re-viewed', conceived to take place alongside the Regional Design Review Panel sessions in different locations in the region. These workshops provided an introduction to Design Review as well as a unique insight into the Design Review process through observing a live Design Review panel session in action. Participants also had an opportunity to look at particular schemes in each location with a guided site visit and opportunity for discussion and networking. This workshop format was also developed for students studying architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, planning and engineering with a focus on how to present well for Design Review, exploring presentation styles and techniques, and observing a live panel session, in preparation for the students to present their own scheme to panel members (from the Yorkshire Design Review Panel) at a

following mock Design Review session.

Spaceshaper 9-14, 2011

Beam, in collaboration with the School of Architecture at Sheffield University, trained a group of circa 15 MA Architecture students to co-facilitate a Spaceshaper 9-14 workshop. The students were trained at The Orangery to use the tool after which a practice workshop was held at Woodseats Primary School in Sheffield, based on a public open space Barbers Field, due for redevelopment by the Sheffield City Council. The students are now fully trained co-facilitators for the tool and can be involved in future workshops.

Westgate Station Public Art Project, 2011

Beam is currently working with architecture students from Manchester University providing them with a live brief based on Westgate station public art project that they have been commissioned by Wakefield Council to deliver.

York Initial Teacher Education Workshops, 2010

In October 2010 Beam worked with 2 groups of 30 undergraduate teaching students from York St John University delivering two half day workshops. The overall aim was for students to leave the workshops wanting to and understanding how they can use buildings and places to enrich their teaching.

Sorrell Foundation - Young Design Programme 2007-09

For 3 years Beam acted as a mentor for groups of students from Leeds College of Art as part of the Sorrell Young Design programme.

THE BUILDING EXPLORATORY

The Building Exploratory is the architecture education and resource centre in East London.
<http://www.buildingexploratory.org.uk/>.

Widening Participation

Queen Mary University commissioned the Building Exploratory learning team for the second year running to deliver the majority of its four day Widening Participation Summer School for Year 10 students in June 2011. The programme focussed on the Olympics and included a mapping and stadium building workshop exploring the Olympic Park legacy; an engaging and inspiring talk by a member of Hopkins Architects, designers of the Velodrome; and a creative activity examining the range and needs of stakeholders in the Site. This year the Building Exploratory arranged for the participating students to record their experiences on blogs, allowing the students to reflect upon the activities and providing invaluable evaluation.

During this year The Building Exploratory has also delivered 'Shelter', a model-making workshop to 14-16 year old Widening Participation programme participants at City University and University College London.

Student placements

For four weeks in 2011 The Building Exploratory hosted a Cultural Heritage Studies Masters Student, from University College London, on a work placement. A programme of activity allowed the student to develop research skills and presented opportunities to gain engagement experience with a range of audiences.

2010

During 2010 The Building Exploratory worked in partnership with CABE to deliver activities to PGCE students at the University of Greenwich. Its workshops were designed to develop trainee teachers' understanding of, and skills in, using the built environment to support and enhance learning across the curriculum.

CUBE

CUBE is an internationally acclaimed gallery based in central Manchester which operates and exhibition and outreach programme for the wider Manchester and Salford area.

<http://www.cube.org.uk>.

CUBE is hosting '[Not Content](#)' a series of workshops and an exhibition by Manchester School of Architecture Projects Office (MSAP). The Projects Office was set up by the school to engage with the broader life of the city and its citizens, to both enrich the discipline and attempt to share its gifts. The book was launched to accompany an exhibition and workshop events including a showcase for a wide range of short films exploring the relationship between architecture, the city and its citizens.

The work of the Projects office has been funded over the last two years by the Cabinet Office and is actively being used to promote an inclusive urban design agenda at local and national government in the UK (including consultation on these issues by The Centre for Social Justice) as well as for developing an inclusive urban design research network with partners in Berlin, Brussels and Keele. They have engaged over 700 members of the public in discussions about inclusive urban design in the last two years.

FUNDAMENTAL ARCHITECTURAL INCLUSION

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion is an architecture centre based in and working from the east of London. <http://www.fundamental.uk.net/>.

Fundamental Architectural Inclusion has shared its practice and methods of engaging the Legacy Youth Panel's in devising the Legacy Community Strategy over the last 3 years with Development Planning Unit at The Bartlett, University College London, and assisted it with its field studies and work in east London. It is actively seeking new HEI collaboration, projects and delivery.

KENT ARCHITECTURE CENTRE

Based in Chatham, Kent Architecture Centre operates across the South East region.

<http://www.architecturecentre.org>.

Kent Architecture Centre was part of the consortium working with the [Places from Spaces](#) programme, funded by SEEDA, which comprised a partnership between Solent Centre for Architecture and Design and Kent Architecture Centre with University of Southampton, University of Portsmouth and University of Brighton. This was supplemented with specialist advisors from Project for Public Space (New York), Snug and Outdoor (London), University of Helsinki and University of Kent.

Kent Architecture Centre has also participated with the SEEDA funded [UniverCities](#) project.

MADE

MADE is based in Birmingham and operates across the West Midlands.
<http://www.made.org.uk>.

MADE ran the CABA Urban Design Summer School, which in 2010 took place in Birmingham, with over a hundred delegates from various built environment professions coming together for 4 days to learn about how to make great places.

It has developed a module on The Sustainable Built Environment for Aston University (http://www.made.org.uk/areasofwork/CPD/projects/the_sustainable_built_environment) and held Talking Cities lectures with Birmingham City University.

NORTHERN ARCHITECTURE

Northern Architecture is based in Newcastle and operates across the north east.
<http://www.northernarchitecture.com>.

Northern Architecture offers training and support for architecture and design students to become volunteers on its education workshop programme giving them training and experience in participatory learning in architecture and design with a wide range of school pupils. Volunteers can work towards V Award volunteer awards and a CRB check is part of the recruitment process.

It operates the [GRAD](#) programme to support recently graduating architecture and design graduates which alongside a core GRAD projects programme includes CV and [portfolio advice](#) sessions for local students to meet with local practices and get bespoke 1-2-1 advice.

Northern Architecture works with local universities architecture/design schools to help promote their events to a wider audience/ work in partnership to develop joint events and has previously aided local architecture schools source and develop potential student projects and got involved in student projects and charrettes as partners.

It currently offers two of its staff team teaching time at Newcastle University and are involved in student reviews and crits and is looking into opportunities for future research projects and funding and will be approaching local universities as potential research partners in projects they wish to pursue but also offering the centre as external engagement partner in their research projects.

OPEN-CITY

Open-City operates across London and runs the Open House festival. <http://www.open-city.org.uk/index.html>.

Accelerate into University! is a mentoring scheme Open-City is developing and delivering in partnership with UCL and Make Architects to support young people from hard to reach backgrounds into careers in architecture and the built environment. A key aspect of this, as well as its aim being to effect change in the demographic of future architects and engineers, is involving current architecture students as mentors to the Accelerate students. The higher education students taking part receive comprehensive training into how to best communicate and share their skills with the Accelerate students.

Architecture in Schools: Both the secondary and primary programmes involve current architecture students being partnered with an architectural practice and school team to respond to a design brief (over 30 teams across London for each programme). Last year's secondary schools programme involved 50 architecture students from the Bartlett, Westminster University, Ravensbourne College and Central St Martins attending Open-City training in schools work and then going into schools across London. It gave them the opportunity to put into practice the presentation skills they are learning on their courses to a real and diverse non-professional audience, as well as to experience, and therefore better understand, the current school learning system and environment.

Open House Junior Festival: A fun and informal opportunity to develop large scale model making techniques to create an eco-city of the future, in collaboration with children and their families during the Open House London Weekend.

OPUN

OPUN is the architecture centre for the East Midlands, based in Leicester.
<http://www.opun.org.uk>.

OPUN is the Architecture and Design Centre working for the creation of better quality neighbourhoods, buildings and public spaces across the region, hosted by De Montfort University in Leicester. It is developing a programme of activity with De Montfort and collaborates on delivery of conferences and events currently.

PLACE

PLACE is the architecture centre for Northern Ireland based in Belfast.
<http://www.place.uk.net>.

PLACE's collaboration and collegiate working with Universities is well established. It has strong links with University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast and specific working practice includes studio tutorial design activities for urban design, planning and architecture students. It particularly helps inform issues such as cultural context.

The annual Student Design Charrette is designed to gather students of different design backgrounds from various schools to bring innovative and creative responses to challenging urban design issues. The emphasis is on working as a team to find the best multi-disciplinary approach to a real-world problem, with schemes judged by an expert panel with wide-ranging experience.

Architects-in-Practice working with Architects-in-Education: PLACE has a partnership with the University of Ulster and The Higher Education Academy aimed at encouraging crossovers between architects in practice and those working in universities. The University of Ulster School of Architecture & Design, in association with PLACE, are seeking enthusiastic architects with an interest in education to participate in an exciting collaborative research project entitled Architects-in-Practice working with Architects-in-Education. The call for expressions of interest is ongoing.

PLACE's work with the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) includes research conference partnerships, notably QUB hosted the 8th International conference of the Architectural Humanities Research Association (UK): PERIPHERIES October 2011 and the PLACE Director is a member of the conferences' Scientific Committee in charge of reviewing submitted abstracts.

PLACE has worked collaboratively with world-leading award winning architects and academics including: Liza Fior (muf architecture + art), Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale University; its Patron Daniel Libeskind, Architect; and John Tuomey (O'Donnell & Tuomey Architects, Dublin), Professor of Architecture at University College Dublin.

It is able to facilitate public engagement with academia and design practice and is interested in exploring a model for international participatory learning in line with its developed practice to date.

SOLENT CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

Based in Southampton the Solent Centre for Architecture + Design operates across the Solent area. <http://www.solentcentre.org.uk>

Solent Centre for Architecture + Design is working with University of Portsmouth developing various strands of activity, including a major charrette looking at re-planning the City, in the mould of the '24hrs to Save Winchester' organised in 2010 by SCA+D. This involved teams including artists, engineers, students from Universities of Portsmouth and Southampton, architects and politicians working continuously for 24hrs, on a selection of sites around the city to imagine a low carbon future.