Architecture & Design Scotland
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

2005 DECADE 2015

A collection of reflections to mark 10 years of Architecture and Design Scotland
Since its establishment in 2005, Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS) has been Scotland’s champion for the advantages of good design. It has been a key organisation in influencing positive change in Scotland’s built environment to the benefit of communities all around the country.

The built environment touches upon so many aspects of our lives, and the potential scope of work for A&DS is immense. The areas upon which its influence can be felt include healthier living, successful learning, environmental performance, tackling inequalities, doing business and economic success, security, developing resilient communities and improving the quality of our public services.

Well-designed buildings, landscapes and places are vitally important to our quality of life. A&DS’s aims align with those in ‘Creating Places’, the Scottish Government’s policy on architecture and place, which seeks to raise aspirations within the built environment and create the conditions in which these aspirations can be realised.

Encouraging the creation of successful, sustainable places is a key focus of A&DS. Sustainable places are not only green places, they are places where people want to be, and they are places where communities will flourish. A&DS plays a critical role in getting this message across and in working to ensure that sustainable thinking is mainstreamed in development processes.

A&DS has promoted and supported many practical projects where the benefits can be understood and felt on the ground, and from which successful processes can be replicated. The organisation has made an important contribution, in particular, with regard to healthcare buildings, schools and regeneration.

The Scottish Government is committed to community empowerment, and the work of A&DS plays a very important part in strengthening and promoting community participation in design and planning. Its programmes inspire people to get more involved in shaping the places in which they live or improving the design of the buildings that they use. For example, ‘Stalled Spaces Scotland’ – a national programme managed by A&DS to encourage and support communities to bring stalled spaces or derelict and vacant land back into temporary use – illustrates its practical approach to influencing and effecting positive change of this kind.

As well as supporting and enabling the development of high quality architecture and successful places, A&DS has continuously worked to promote an understanding of the value and benefits of good architecture and the design process involved in its creation.

Since 2010, the organisation has delivered successful, public-facing programmes of events, exhibitions and seminars from a base within The Lighthouse, helping to generate a great deal of interest and to catalyse public involvement in debates on issues affecting the future built environment of Scotland. ‘Green 2014’, which was its seven-month programme of exhibitions, events and activities to get behind the scenes of the environmental legacy of the Commonwealth Games 2014, is just one example of its successful approach to drawing in significant public interest.

For the last ten years, A&DS has been making inroads in driving up design quality in Scotland’s built environment and in mainstreaming an understanding of the benefits of better architecture and better places, I believe that the general level of awareness and commitment to good, sustainable design is continuing to improve across Scotland, but I can see that there is still an immense task ahead for A&DS in helping to raise aspirations across all sectors and in effecting positive change in our built environment. This, of course, will be an important aspect of its work in 2016, during the Scottish Government’s Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

I would like to use this opportunity to publicly thank the Chair, Board and staff of A&DS for their many years of outstanding work. I wish them the very best with their task in the future. Scottish Ministers will be continuing to look to A&DS to provide us with its expertise and to support this government’s ambition to help to make Scotland’s built environment a better place to live for all of us.
Our purpose is to promote the value good architecture and sustainable design adds to everyone’s lives. Our role is to help people – whether by enabling them to get more involved in shaping the places they live in, or improving the design of the buildings they use. Well-designed buildings and places make the very best use of our resources and create places that help people and communities to flourish.

Through our work, we help to implement the policies of the Scottish Government, and while we are involved across a number of policy areas, our principal policy is on implementing Creating Places, Scotland’s Policy for Architecture and Place. We were set up in 2005 by the Scottish Government and we are an executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB).

We engage directly with development clients on a range of projects, including working on the development of Scotland’s schools and health buildings. We can help people to get involved in shaping their places and to learn more about Scottish architecture and design. Sustainability is a key factor in our work and we provide access to a range of resources on the topic.

This publication pulls together articles from contributors to our DECADE series of events – celebrating ten years of A&DS by exploring ten key topics. Please note that the views expressed are those of the individual authors and organisations.

Find out more about Architecture and Design Scotland: www.ads.org.uk

@ArcDesSco

DECADE: introduction
Jim MacDonald, Chief Executive, A&DS

In considering how we might mark our first ten years as Scotland’s design champion, we quickly realised that learning should be at its heart. Learning both from the legacy of the world-class buildings that have emerged and from the challenges that have arisen and, in some instances, deepened since then – challenges that need to be addressed if the aspirations we champion are to be realised.

For this reason, we lighted upon the idea of DECADE – a series of ten dialogues, each focusing on what we might have learned from the last ten years and how we could apply this knowledge to the next ten. The focus ranged from sustainable building to designing green space, and from building for wellbeing to engaging communities. The debates encompassed a broad range of interests and, we hope, touched the issues most relevant to designing places for and with people.

Across the series, we were entertained by lively presentations, enjoyed an outdoor event where the participants got to wear different hats, streamed one event via Periscope and explored participation and community regeneration. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of all of our speakers. Their willingness to participate in the events, provoke debate and contribute to this publication is a testament both to their passion for what they do and to their readiness to share this with others. Thanks are also due to our own team of staff who made everything happen and to those from our Board who participated in the series.

A&DS has come a long way in the last ten years, a period of remarkable change in Scotland – socially, economically and politically. We face the next ten years with the benefit of lessons learned, and in the knowledge that what we do matters to everyone in Scotland, and that creating well-designed places is about empowering communities, sustaining our economy and offering opportunities to everyone.

Our role in this is to champion the value that design can add to and to use our skills and expertise to support those who deliver these buildings and places we rely on. It is something we believe in and something we look forward to developing over the next ten years.

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DECADE: Retrofit
Is the only green building the one that already exists?

The role of the existing, sitting alongside the new, is paramount in creating successful places. But in the recent past, a piecemeal approach to improving the performance of existing buildings to address energy targets has resulted in questionable decisions – from wholesale demolitions to uncoordinated insulation of post-war housing stock – often without input from construction professionals or building occupants.

Notwithstanding, we have to meet EU, UK and Scottish Climate and Energy Legislation, including an EU Energy Efficiency Directive requiring the establishment of long-term strategies for mobilising investment in the renovation of all existing buildings (public and private; domestic and non-domestic).

There are also societal pressures. 945,000 households in Scotland are predicted to be in fuel poverty by 2016 – 40% of Scottish homes – and the investment cost of alleviating this would be £7.4 billion/£7,800 per property.

So why is this important to A&DS?

Over the last ten years, housing has been a key issue for A&DS – from issues around placemaking and involvement in Scotland’s first Housing Expo in Inverness, to our role in policies such as Designing Streets and the new Place Standard. We also participated in the Scottish Government’s Sustainable Housing Strategy Group, which addressed housing needs, fuel poverty and climate change, and provided an opportunity to explore economic, environmental and social sustainability impacts of housing and housing supply from new ways of delivery, to new funding models; to skills and training needs.

In this chapter:

The Glasgow Renaissance
Chris Leslie, Photographer

Saving Glengate Hall: a collaborative approach
Kirsty Macari, Angus Council

Community-based retrofit: The beginnings and the outcome
Raymond Young

From the ground up: building communities in Glasgow’s high-rises
Cathy Houston and Rupert Daly, Collective Architecture

Lori McElroy
Head of Sust. and Access Programmes, A&DS

From the ground up: building communities in Glasgow’s high-rises
Cathy Houston and Rupert Daly, Collective Architecture
DEMONSTRATION CONTRACTS, EXPLOSIVES DEVELOPED BY NASA AND WRECKING BALL HAS BEEN REPLACED BY MULTI-MILLION POUND RISE FLATS WERE NO LONGER A SOLUTION, BUT A PROBLEM. THE NATURE OF THE WORST SLUM CONDITIONS IN EUROPE AT THAT TIME.

DEMOlITION IS, OF COURSE, FAMILIAR TO GLASGOWIANS. IN THE 70s, TENs OF THOUSANDS OF GLASWEGIANS WERE DECHANTED OR REBIRTH – AS A CITY OF CULTURE AND ‘SECOND CITY OF EUROPE’.

THE CITY’S MANY REGENERATIONS ARE NO DIFFERENT TO OTHER DEINDUSTRIALISED CITIES IN WESTERN EUROPE, BUT THE REALITY OF THIS ‘RENAISSANCE’ IS HARD TO CREDIT.

HE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS ARE IN THE CITY CENTRE AND YOU’LL FIND VAST BROWNFIELD WASTELANDS AND DEMOLISHED HOUSING SCHEMES IN DESPERATE NEED OF INVESTMENT.


HISTORICAL AND MORAL AND 1960’s ARCHITECTURAL ‘DISASTERS’, GLASGOW IS ALSO LOSING PART OF ITS HISTORY, ITS COMMUNITIES AND MEMORIES – JUST AS IT DID IN THE 60s.

NO ONE CAN ARGUE THAT GLASGOW NEEDS REGENERATION, OR THAT A ‘RENAISSANCE’ COULD BRING POSITIVE CHANGE. BUT FOR MANY OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE DEPRIVED AND FAILED HOUSING SCHEMES IN THE NORTH AND EAST OF THE CITY, THE SCENARIO OF ‘RENAISSANCE’ IS BADLY WROTE. BUT THE REALITY OF THIS ‘RENAISSANCE’ IS HARD TO CREDIT.


The word ‘renaissance’ literally translates from the French as ‘rebirth’, and Glasgow has a long history of referring to itself as a city that markets its renaissance through its diverse cultural scene.

But, as the number and vacancies increased, the condition of them deteriorated. Services and businesses moved away from multiple building locations; more and more ‘interesting’ buildings became vacant; and, as the number and vacancies increased in condition of their former life, it was the catalyst in positively driving forward the town’s regeneration and the opportunity for the community to remember the beauty and history of the building. The mixed, and often negative, views of the building concerned its ownership and the local authority.

The Category C-listed Glengate Hall in the rural town of Kirriemuir, Angus had lain empty for over ten years. The former church, and former hall, no longer served its original function as an important part of the community. The mixed, and often negative, views of the building and its condition concerned the new owner and the local authority.

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IT WAS THE CATALYST IN POSITIVELY DRIVING FORWARD THE TOWN’S REGENERATION AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO REMEMBER THE BEAUTY AND HISTORY OF THE BUILDING.

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In the beginning, this was not about retrofit. It was about providing bathrooms for families living in Glasgow tenements that were to be torn down in a planned programme of demolition and new construction. The Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) programmes were to take up to 15 years to complete, and families were expected to share an outside toilet with their neighbours during that period. Could a short-life, low-cost, high-maintenance upgrade, including installing a simple dry toilet, make their lives better? And, equally important, could the residents (some owner-occupiers and some tenants) participate or even control the process?

Govan CDA was chosen as a place where these questions might be answered by a student architect-based project, which became known as ASSIST. Govan CDA was chosen because the local civic society – the New Govan Society – was participating in the redesign of the old burgh following the recommendations of the Skeffington Report. Within Govan, the Taransay Street area was chosen because the local civic society – the New Govan Society – was participating in the redesign of the old burgh following the recommendations of the Skeffington Report. Within Govan, the Taransay Street area was chosen as a place where these questions might be answered by a student architect-based project, which became known as ASSIST. Govan CDA was chosen because the local civic society – the New Govan Society – was participating in the redesign of the old burgh following the recommendations of the Skeffington Report. Within Govan, the Taransay Street area was chosen because the local civic society – the New Govan Society – was participating in the redesign of the old burgh following the recommendations of the Skeffington Report. ASSIST provided a free architecture, coordination and community based housing associations, the story of which is told in a book ‘Annie’s Loo’, published by Argyll. And money? The project was funded by grants from the government and the Wates Foundation. And improved flats rolled off the assembly line – with residents living through the two weeks and acting as excellent clerks of works.

Two major hurdles remained. What about those who neither wanted nor were able to have the flat improved? A housing association was created to acquire the buildings and getting the number of units to financially ‘stack up’.

While the dilemma, or at least the decision to demolish, may have been defined by the existing building typology, the question of how many flats were needed, and whether the building itself (e.g. poor quality of the building fabric, communal areas and the external environment, configuration and the quality of life) could be improved? A housing association was created to acquire the buildings and getting the number of units to financially ‘stack up’.

The differences invoked the housing associations, not architects, being the coordinator. With proper funding, those houses were bought by them. But the fundamental difference was that short-life improvement gave way to 30-year rehabilitation and, therefore, retrofit. Whole areas surrounding the central business district benefitted from a change of policy from wholesale demolition to area renewal, including selective new building.

Over the last 50 years, Glasgow has seen the rise and then demise of the high-rise building typology. Our work questions the demolition of many high-rise residential buildings, and argues that some could provide sustainable communities for the future.

As the typology progressed we saw the ambition dissolve. Physical factors such as the local environment, configuration and the quality of construction became secondary to economics of scale, funder requirements and getting the number of units to financially ‘stack up’.

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Key messages for the next decade: Given the right technical and administrative support, communities can become clients and transform their neighbourhoods and their lives.

Community development processes saw resident commitment; fitting bathrooms into existing tenements that were to be torn down in a planned programme of demolition and new construction. The Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) programmes were to take up to 15 years to complete, and families were expected to share an outside toilet with their neighbours during that period. Could a short-life, low-cost, high-maintenance upgrade, including installing a simple dry toilet, make their lives better? And, equally important, could the residents (some owner-occupiers and some tenants) participate or even control the process?

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After Raymond Young
They are working to promote sustainable design and off-site manufacture. They are enjoying their work and spreading that ‘feel good’ factor to wider communities and business.

As Michael Marra outlines in his summary, Scotland still faces future economic and social challenges. I believe our design and graduate community can meet those challenges. I hope that in the decade to come, the Scottish Government and Scotland as a whole are able, by policy and practice, to increase their contributions to our public and private investment in the built environment and communities.

Karen Anderson, Chair, A&DS

DECADE: Emerging practice
The recession: a catalyst for change?

Few architectural practices were untouched by the economic changes of the last ten years. The implosion of private investment saw the architectural opportunities of the late 90s and early ‘noughties’ disappear for established practices – thus, emerging practices and graduates faced a challenging prospect for work. Public procurement processes compounded the problem by awarding commissions based specifically on previous experience, and by preferring to use large consortia appointments.

Faced with this adverse climate, and with limited support, a creative community of architects and designers has emerged in Scotland. They are self-starting, motivated and innovative. This generation is tackling some of the important issues we face: involving people in shaping their surroundings; making architecture and design more useful to society as a whole; designing new types of spaces for our changing needs; and, critically, building to minimise waste.

Freed from the constraints of the prevailing, conventional ‘this is how we do it’ structures, and with emphasis on cross-discipline collaboration, imaginative teams are exploring new ways of working and challenging established assumptions. Their effort and innovation is influencing conventional practice and approaches.

Emerging practice demonstrates hugely positive future directions and the conversations from this Decade event were inspiring. These architects and designers are developing briefing, service design and community capacity building and skills development.

In this chapter:
Design in action: chiasma
Michael Marra, Design in Action

Will jamming save the world?
Keira Anderson, Snook

Build small, build smart, build beautiful
Sam Booth, Echo Living

Agency in architecture
Helen Frosting and Bob Morrison, TAKTAL

Karen Anderson, Chair, A&DS

< Photo: Sam Booth
While the annual performance of the Scottish economy has closed in on that of the UK as a whole, it continues to underperform other EU regions and small nations: and is arguably narrowly dependent on a small number of high performing sectors to maintain any semblance of a balance of payments. So the success or otherwise of these strategies is a messed bag at best. Suffice to say that repetition of diagnosis is no sign that old challenges have been met successfully.

Innovation remains particularly weak. Private sector R&D investments are only increasing in a short space of the lowest of the developed nations. The 2001 prescription of growth through commercial exploitation remains a key priority in government strategy. The 2000 and 2009 strategies in succeeding in addressing the R&D deficit, there was a 2% reduction in the value across the UK as firms sought to under invest in concrete and cash rather than people and ideas.

So, what of the decades ahead? There will be little change in this, but we might prepare for the possibility of a return to a relaunched or rehashed of an out-dated economy. Real change will only be driven by new relationships, paradigm shifts, and government and risk in the market place. The Scottish Government is going to have to start focusing on the business of making markets relevant to a modern Scotland.

We have a rapidly ageing population, an explosion in self-employment and the next generation of automation. Between 2000 and 2009, rather than growth through commercial exploitation remains a key priority in government strategy. The 2000 and 2009 strategies in succeeding in addressing the R&D deficit, there was a 2% reduction in the value across the UK as firms sought to under invest in concrete and cash rather than people and ideas.

The recently published Scottish Government Economic Strategy is little more than the fourth edition of ‘Smart Success Scotland’ published in 2001. The focus on innovative development policies is we are to foster innovation.

My prediction for the next decade is this: if we find ourselves asking the same questions, let alone providing the same tired answers in ten years’ time, then we won’t just be treading water, we will be drowning.

We believe the same spasm to the organic nature of creating new concepts and the nurturing role that government and risk in the market place. The Scottish Government is going to have to start focusing on the business of making markets relevant to a modern Scotland.

I hope that we are cautious in using rhetoric about finding new ways of working or innovating, without putting this into meaningful practice. I hope we can all stop talking and start doing.

Mostly, I hope that all of this happens before anyone realises we’re no longer in recession.
Recessions are a construct, defined as an economic decline over two quarters of GDP, a reduction in the monetary value of the stuff we make, sell and consume. Apparently, we are now out of recession. The value of what we are producing as a nation has increased by a few fractions of percentage points. We are back on track and things will be all right... except it doesn’t feel like that.

If our climb out of recession is based on a low-wage economy and a London-centric boom, while a practice with the vision of Malcolm Fraser’s can fold, then the economy and a London-centric boom, while a practice with the vision of Malcolm Fraser’s can fold, then the

Fourteen years on, after all the highs of Glasgow 1999 and, under current measures, we sow the seeds for ‘recession’. Perhaps I am naïve, but it seems to me we should not be looking at how we avoid another recession but at how we can prevent the recurrence of Wh per M2, we could also look at saving energy and resources by reducing the overall measure of our homes, not by compromising on their quality, but by being clever in how we organise space and daylight.

As a small-scale business, Echo’s impact will probably remain marginal, rural and funded by the holiday-let market, but I believe the approach of manufacturing modules in the workshop with a few weeks, and delivering to site complete, small buildings that can be added to and grow with the needs of the users of the space, could become an important part of an answer to genuinely affordable homes and sustainable communities. We realised we had to have a ‘foot in both camps’, connecting the users of spaces and the parties responsible for developing them. This trend is gaining momentum in many creative industries as the gap closes between producers and consumers. Our ambition is to explore how cultural projects can be more responsive to their communities and customers. By sharing innovative business models and practices, we aim to support grass-roots projects in delivering products, and the world’s leading brands

Agency in architecture
Social sciences define agency as the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices, influenced by the belief structures which they have formed through their experiences. Our experience has been affected by the unique economic circumstances of the recession, and the particular pressures presented to architects to explore alternative forms of practice and development relationships with regeneration companies to develop buildings. Our decision to operate as an agency has been informed through a consolidation of our varied experience. In times of economic, climatic and social change, we feel the ability to work fluidly suit our urban context of Glasgow, allowing our work to not be predefined by architecture alone, and we have little recourse to build them. We use less ‘stuff’, make less ‘stuff’, consume less ‘stuff’ and, under current measures, we see the seeds for recession:

Perhaps I am naive, but it seems to me that we should not be looking at how we avoid another recession but at how we can re-evaluate the measure of a nation’s health.

Agency in architecture by Helen Teeling and Rob Morrison, TAKTAL

Build small, build smart, build beautiful
by Sam Booth, Echo Living

About the author:
SAM BOOTH, Echo Living is a designer and skilled cabinetmaker who uses his skills in the creation of a collection of functional, hand-built, small buildings. He divides his time between the design studio and the workshop and aims to bring designs into the built environment. A holistic approach is required – one that doesn’t isolate each skill or professional role, but recognises that all forms of practice and develop relationships with regeneration companies to develop buildings. Our ambition is to explore how cultural projects can be more responsive to their communities.

Agency in architecture
Social sciences define agency as the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices, influenced by the belief structures which they have formed through their experiences.

Build / test / learn – alternative approaches to education and development

About the authors:
TAKTAL, a design and agency that presents creative projects and presents people with space. With work in architecture, events and space management, TAKTAL collaborates with artistic, cultural organisations, property owners and national agencies to initiate the creative use of space.

Alternative means of financing development
We believe in initiating projects through alternative means of financing and partnering, moving away from the traditional models of funding that exist between funders and service providers. And we are excited to see how alternative means can be applied to urban projects.

Having worked within the creative industries, we feel the ideas of democratising investment opportunities and developing community wealth are especially fruitful. In cities all over the world, it is common for the creative and cultural sectors to become the victims of gentrification instead of benefiting from engagement with the regeneration process.

Agency in architecture
Social sciences define agency as the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices, influenced by the belief structures which they have formed through their experiences.

Research and understanding alternative business models
To further our understanding and promote new approaches to grass-roots development, we have started a research project entitled ‘Agile City’, which aims to explore how cultural projects can be more responsive to their communities. The ambition of the project is to explore and document the processes, business models and delivery strategies of the nation’s best creative sustainable projects. We research urban projects while looking to other industries such as manufacturing, design and the tech sector, where the consumption of finite global resources is high. We believe in initiating projects through alternative means of financing development and, by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale and by its nature smaller and more sustainable in scale.
DECADE: Cultural buildings in Scotland
Can buildings tell our story?

We live in remarkable times. The last 20 years have witnessed an unprecedented renewal of Scotland’s cultural estate, largely supported by lottery funding and delivered by some of our best architects. It just so happens that, while all this was taking place, Scotland was changing, too.

In exploring the relationship between buildings and culture, the third event in A&DS’s Decade series looked upon the nature of the stories they tell and the relationships they support. We heard that sometimes the buildings become part of the story, they influence how the story is told or heard and, increasingly, they demonstrate how our approach to cultural consumption continues to change.

In reflecting on the nature of this influence, we can start to understand what makes a particular building memorable or successful. The consensus seemed to be that the best designs are those that grasp this on their own terms, responding intelligently and creatively to the needs of those who use the buildings. These designs only happen when the relationships are right.

Above all, the event suggested that the appeal of our museums and galleries, theatres and concert venues seems to lie not just in the cultural activities they house, but also in the place they hold in people’s memories and their sense of identity as a citizen, community and nation. Together, it seems these buildings also have a bigger story to tell.

Jim MacDonald, Chief Executive, A&DS

In this chapter:

From dark and dusty to social and civic spaces: the new museum
Stephen Allen, National Museum of Scotland

Going to battle: interpreting the Battle of Bannockburn
Chris Walker, Bright White Ltd.

The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum – a building in an imaginary landscape
Nat Edwards, National Trust for Scotland

How cultural buildings help us understand our places
Philip Long, V&A Dundee

< Dance Base and Edinburgh Castle. Image by Keith Hunter
The past ten years have seen a huge amount of change at the National Museum of Scotland, and in the curatorial and exhibition sectors. First, initiated in 1866 as the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art, the National Museum of Scotland received Treasury funding in 1998. The nature of museum audiences has changed hugely since 2011, we are currently the most visited museum or gallery outside of London and Scotland’s museum was needed, and this resulted in an overall master plan framing the transformation of the building and internal fabric of the building and the displays were completed in 2005. The lead architect was Gareth Hoskins Architects. With over 6 million visitors since 2011, we are currently the most visited museum in the UK's largest museum company in 1995. In 2004 he co-founded Bright White Ltd – helping a wide variety of communities to tell their story in innovative and memorable ways. About the author: \(
\text{The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government supported this £50m project, and the lead architect was Gareth Hoskins Architects. With over 6 million visitors since 2011, we are currently the most visited museum or gallery outside of London and Scotland’s most visited tourist attraction.}
\end{equation}

The nature of museum audiences has changed hugely over the past few decades. Museums are no longer viewed as dark and dusty places attracting few visitors. Today, they are often seen as much as social and civic spaces as places for learning and entertainment. Interpretation is tailored to suit varied learning styles, with greater emphasis on digital and interactivity.

Significant challenges have been involved in the interpretation of the Battle of Bannockburn was a unique challenge; there were no artefacts to display because no authenticated object had survived the 700 years since the battle. Normally, an interpretive narrative is written, but here we have a direct connection to the past, as well as evidence. The evidence for the National Trust for Scotland’s visitor scheme came instead from the written historical record, supported by the study of landscape processes such as terrors, ephemerals and ephemerals. The object we interpreted was the battlefield, and the story we told was how Robert Bruce skilfully turned the landscape against the invading army. A museum panel of experts in their respective fields of academia provided crucial reference material and advice throughout the project.

Interpretation methods have developed significantly over the last ten years with the introduction of digital facilitation and the possibilities that digital approaches can bring. The next ten years will be revolutionary. We will still create spaces that people visit, but the models of engagement will change radically – for good, evidence-based practice.

Looking towards non-traditional interpretive means for a fortess that proudly stands firm in the landscape but that fortress has a soft, light, traditional courtyard at its core – the building creates and defines space to tell stories of the landscape. The primary area of collaboration between interpretation design and architecture was how this fortification and internal space was worked with the narrative and the supporting technical infrastructure. Outdoors, visitors move from the visitor centre up to the Rotunda, a 1960s’ memorial structure, which has been fully restored and augmented with a poem written by Kathleen Jamieson, inscribed into the 120m-long ring beam.

We viewed Reiach and Hall’s building concept as a fortress that proudly stands firm in the landscape but that fortress has a soft, light, traditional courtyard at its core – the building creates and defines space to tell stories of the landscape. The primary area of collaboration between interpretation design and architecture was how this fortification and internal space was worked with the narrative and the supporting technical infrastructure.
The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum – a building in an imaginary landscape

By Nat Edwards, National Trust for Scotland

The various monuments of Burns's Alloway birthplace, which are real, like the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and the 18th-century Auld Brig o' Doon, stand together the physical elements of Alloway with the work, legacy and multitudes of imagination in Burns' poetry, the landscape and world of his imagination.

For a literary museum (often with, at first glance, visually uninspiring buildings and spaces) in which the visitor can move comfortably between the living and the dead, and where the visitor can come comfortably between the culture and the imagined is critical.

The challenge of designing a museum for language, poetry and song

With a legacy of physical landscape and monuments, and a silent, living history (the Auld Brig of Doon, and the Burns collection), the literary museum has a challenge to make a building that is meaningful in both a narrow field, anxiety about resources and the competition for funding (is it fit for purpose), and a green roof all contribute to an environmentally innovative building that has more than 200 species living and growing on its roof.

Museums are expensive to build and really expensive to fit out. Using the example of places like the Silk Mill at Derby, museums need to create hackable spaces, to fit out. Using the example of places like the Silk Mill at Derby, museums need to create hackable spaces, which people may pass through on their way to work or to get to the train station, where genuine co-creation and user-generated content can help to create fluid, evolving and democratic spaces where genuine co-creation and user-generated content can help to create fluid, evolving and democratic spaces.

About the author:

Nat Edwards has worked in museums, galleries and archives for most of his professional life. He is currently Assistant Director with responsibility for the north portfolio of National Trust for Scotland properties. He was the founding director of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway.

How cultural buildings help us understand our places when designed

By Philip Long, V&A Dundee

At the heart of V&A Museum of Design Dundee’s mission is a desire to help people understand Scotland’s history, especially our remarkable design heritage. Whether it’s of the Adam family’s architecture, Telford’s engineering, or of contemporary architectural, fashion or digital design, awareness of our design achievement gives us greater confidence in our creative ability. The architectural design for V&A Dundee, part of the city’s ambitious waterfront plans, is also focusing on local history. And this is encouraging us to reflect on our past, in particular about the design decisions taken by previous generations.

One important design feature of Kengo Kuma’s new museum is the recreation of the city and the River Tay and the city and the river, the relationship between the two. The combination of spending power focusing to local government and independent museums has declined. The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is the reconnection of the city and the River Tay and the city, the reason for Dundee’s success in a narrower field, anxiety about resources and the competition for funding (is it fit for purpose).

Cities are recognisable in many ways, none more so than through their physical design. For over one hundred years, the eighteenth-century V&A was demolished to make way for the riverside urban plan developed in Dundee in the 1960s to help it regain its industrial and commercial prosperity during the period that followed has continued to be challenging, but now the city has a new confidence.

Cultural buildings have been an important marker along the way: the return of Scott’s ship Discovery, the development of Dundee Rep, Dundee Contemporary, the opening of the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum at the McManus. The city and how it is perceived has changed in part because of them. At the forefront of this growing ambition is V&A Dundee, set to be an international centre for design, with an impressive architectural design signalling that intention.

As well as helping to re-establish a connection between the river and the city, the riverside urban plan development of Dundee Rep, Dundee Contemporary, the opening of the McManus. The city and how it is perceived has changed in part because of them. At the forefront of this growing ambition is V&A Dundee, set to be an international centre for design, with an impressive architectural design signalling that intention.

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DECADE: Greenspace in Scotland
The grass is always greener?

Over the past ten years, more and more communities in Scotland have come together to animate and revive the spaces 'in between' – greenspace.

One such place is Hayburn Play Park, Glasgow, where we held our DECADE event. It is being developed into an even greater asset for residents, providing a space for children, young people and adults to enjoy nature in the middle of a city.

But all greenspace projects are not the same. The jury’s still out on the relationship between council governance and real community engagement – there are still too many examples where one part of a council supports a group while another hinders the way.

Groups need support to maximise their ideas, win funding and deliver projects. However, in the public sector, the support is diminishing and, in the third sector, staff often can’t be retained by the projects once the initial capital grants run out. Inadequate revenue funding must be addressed if greenspace projects are to be sustained.

Consultation has to be meaningful, not tokenistic. It has to happen on site, with everyone (locals, professionals, politicians) who needs to be involved in the change process so consensus can be reached. And the conversations must continue as the project develops and is delivered.

Scotland’s Greenspace Map is a helpful tool for decision-making, used to identify areas of greenspace deficit and oversupply. In areas short of greenspace, elements of greenspace (at least) must be factored into redevelopment plans. In places with lots of poor quality and underused greenspace, it might make more sense to develop areas to take the pressure off greenbelt and rural land.

In Scotland, we remain risk averse and opportunities for natural play, using materials like sand and gravel, aren’t forthcoming. Unlike our European neighbours, we don’t seem to have the mechanisms in place to look after these features to ensure they’re safe and well-maintained. We need these.

Effective greenspace should be good for people and wildlife – it needs to be accessible, managed, connected and provide a variety of uses and species. Everyone in ‘the greenspace movement’ can work to raise expectations about the use, design, management and maintenance of parks and green areas.

We must be bold, state the benefits and win support.

Sue Evans, Board Member, A&DS
Greenspaces – whether parks, playing fields, allotments or a wee green corner at the end of the street – make a big difference to our lives. But is Scotland’s greenspace getting better or worse? With the current focus on community empowerment, how easy is it for communities and local groups to shape and manage their local spaces? On a beautiful late summer evening in September, around 50 people gathered in Hayburn Play Park in Glasgow’s West End to explore ‘Is the grass always greener?’

The Concrete Garden in Glasgow, the Play Association at Hayburn and the Friends of Dunfermline Public Park shared their grassroots experiences of developing community greenspace projects. We heard that developing a locally led project can be hugely challenging, bringing a great sense of achievement but also very real frustrations.

We explored how different people and agencies can contribute to, or hinder, locally led projects. The audience was encouraged to take on various voices and explore issues from different perspectives by wearing different hats – we had hats for the local activist, the designer, the local sceptic, the environmentalist and the housing association, while the politician stepped up onto a soapbox. It was noted that seeing things from a different perspective can generate new insights and potential solutions.

Some of the points raised during the discussion:

• Increasing pressures on public sector resources mean reduced support for local groups and real concerns about the future management and maintenance of spaces.

• While some communities have no shortage of ideas and ambitions, in other areas people may need to be inspired and supported to raise aspirations.

• Working with councils and public agencies can be very challenging, time-consuming and frustrating – while one department can be very supportive, another may raise barriers. Groups can feel overwhelmed by bureaucracy.

• Small changes can make a big difference – transforming a space that looks unloved and uncared for into a vibrant community asset.

• Events and activities don’t have to cost a lot, but can bring a park to life – encouraging more people to use and support it.

Key challenges and priorities for the future:

• How can councils and other public agencies work more effectively with local communities and support locally led projects?

• How do we create and manage greenspaces that are good for people and wildlife?

• How do we develop a measured approach to risk, particularly for natural play?

• How can we ‘green the grey’ – retrofitting greenspaces and green infrastructure (trees, pocket parks, rain gardens and ponds) into areas which are lacking in greenspace?

• How do we resource, maintain and manage our parks and greenspaces?

We know that greenspaces are at the heart of happy, healthy and strong communities. Extensive research sets out the benefits of greenspace for health and wellbeing, early years and lifelong learning, community cohesion, biodiversity and economic development. The importance of quality greenspace is embodied in a range of national policies. But in the most recent Scotland’s People and Nature Survey one-third of urban Scots said the quality of their local greenspace had deteriorated in the last five years.

Our collective challenge over the next ten years is to work together across disciplines and sectors, working with and supporting communities, to ensure that everyone living and working in Scotland experiences the benefits of good quality greenspace and green infrastructure.

A walk in the park
by Russell McLarty and Julie Procter, greenspace scotland

Feedback
A small selection of contributions from the event participants

“Parks are sometimes the only exposure young people get to nature.”

“We need energetic driven people, who are good at motivating and drawing others together!”

“My neighbours don’t care about our commonspace. How can I make a difference?”

“Even if I don’t use the park, seeing it every day is good.”

“We want to know more about successful ‘risky’ places in the UK.”

“How can we help people (planners) think outside the box of what a park should be?”

About the authors:
RUSSELL McLARTY is a trustee at greenspace scotland and initially he trained as an architect. For 21 years he was Parish Minister in one of Glasgow’s most disadvantaged communities. JULIE PROCTER is Chief Executive of greenspace scotland, with over 20 years experience, working in the environmental sector.

About the author:
The challenge of twenty-first century learning is in creating spaces to succeed, based on equity of access that’s personalised to learner needs. This is about the design of relationships, methods of interaction and the whole learning experience. It changes our concept of ‘school’.

Twenty-first century learning is about learners co-creating their own learning journey. This involves trust, blended learning experiences, social learning and adapting to need. It’s also about ensuring relevance and a richness of experience. It means using different spaces in different places and re-using the same space for different purposes to create distinctive, relevant, purposeful and responsive experiences.

The Commission for Developing Scotland’s Young Workforce has asked how all learners, young and old, can be the best they can be. The school experience is vital for many, an opportunity to build social and collaborative skills, as well as technical knowledge. So, how we design spaces within schools and in places really matters.

At the DECADE event, participants identified four priorities for the design of twenty-first century learning environments:

- A focus on creating places where people want to be—a prerequisite for participation.
- Equity of access, so no matter who you are or where you’re from, you can access learning in a supportive environment.
- Schools as spaces to connect learning, services and enterprise opportunities. Learning should be without boundaries and supported within the community.
- Evaluation and adaptability. Why do we build for 20 years? How do we know what we build today will work in 20 years? Shouldn’t we build to adapt, test settings and evaluate what works as we go, changing things as required?

Our learners learn in a time and place beyond the building. And people should have a sense of ownership of buildings and learning decisions. That’s the key if every learner is to find his or her space to succeed.

Diarmaid Lawlor, Head of Urbanism and Schools, A&DS Campbeltown Grammar. Image by Alan Dimmick

In this chapter:

Nurturing this space
Angela Edwards, Inverclyde Council

Within, across and beyond: ‘third spaces’ in tertiary education
Keith Smyth, University of Highlands and Islands

Tapping into the potential of the pupil’s phone
Ian Stuart, Scottish Government

Creating quality spaces to nurture learning
Maggie Barlow, Space Strategies

Bridge21 model and learning spaces
Ciarán Bauer, Bridge 21, Trinity College Dublin
Nurturing this space

By Angela Edwards, Inverclyde Council

How might we conceptualise the nature of educational spaces – physical, digital and intangible – within the context of further and higher education? Furthermore, how might we think about learner engagement within educational spaces, and the relationship between formal educational spaces and the communities within which they sit?

There are two propositions to consider here. The first concerns the importance of spaces and places – and not framing it so strongly in terms of collaborative spaces, we tend to create dedicated spaces and locations – and not framing it so strongly in physical, digital and intangible spaces – physical, digital and intangible – within the context of further and higher education? Furthermore, how might we think about learner engagement within educational spaces, and the relationship between formal educational spaces and the communities within which they sit?

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It is recognised that there are many modes of learning, so there is a greater emphasis on choice and variety in both the curriculum and the learning environment – learning must be relevant and engaging. There is also a focus in the application of knowledge, rather than the passive acceptance of that knowledge. And this is all intrinsically connected to a recent increase in appetite to use a new school building to catalyse change.

When considering school design, new space typologies have emerged. Schools must be about more than teaching and learning; they mirror the global education landscape as part of the global society. We should be embedding an understanding that learning is not just in a classroom in school, but is learning that happens as a result of our increasing connectivity. We can use our phones as our piped-in knowledge and increased access to the education and learning that we require, whether that be learning on demand, or using the latest technologies to support lifelong learning.

As a society, we now have easy access to information, and the amount of information available will only continue to grow – something both awe-inspiring and terrifying. So how has education dealt with this? As a result, any discussion of the impact of the recent increase in appetite to use a new school building to catalyse change.

Tapping into the potential of the pupil’s phone by Ian Stuart, Glow Product Owner, Scottish Government

Creating quality spaces to nurture learning by Maggie Barlow, Space Strategies

About the author: Maggie Barlow has been an architect for 30 years, with a focus on the efficient, effective and sustainable use of space in buildings. Space Strategies has been supporting authorities who have been looking to use the opportunity of the investment in school buildings to catalyse new ways of learning.

Tapping into the potential of the pupil’s phone by Ian Stuart, Glow Product Owner, Scottish Government

Creating quality spaces to nurture learning by Maggie Barlow, Space Strategies

Today, almost everyone is walking about with what would have been considered in the 1980s as a ‘supercomputer’ in their pocket – something that could have been used for space flight. A supercomputer with a host of sensors… it is, of course, their smartphone. And, according to Ofcom, it’s taking over as the device for accessing the internet:

... in 2015 33% chose their smartphone, and 30% chose their laptop [to connect to the internet], compared with 23% and 40% respectively in 2014. Furthermore, smartphones are now the most widely owned internet-enabled device (66%), on par with a laptop (65% of households).

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Tapping into the potential of the pupil’s phone by Ian Stuart, Glow Product Owner, Scottish Government

Creating quality spaces to nurture learning by Maggie Barlow, Space Strategies
Although society has long since moved from an industrial age to an information age, little has changed for students in many modern-day classrooms. A classroom design of desks in rows, established in Victorian times, reflects a pedagogical approach which has remained constant since its origins in a 19th-century industrial society.

Today’s information-age society requires an information-age pedagogy that focuses on active, collaborative, and creative qualities, where students can develop competencies for lifelong learning. A learning of factual knowledge and being able to apply, analyse and create new knowledge go hand in hand. The best educators understand that higher-order thinking and problem-solving must be emphasised in order for students to learn how to learn for themselves.

Bridge21 is an education programme based in Trinity College Dublin. Since 2007, over 10,000 students and teachers have taken part in Bridge21 activities, both in TCD and in their own schools. The Bridge21 learning model is grounded in a social constructionist philosophy. The key components of the model are a highly structured team-based pedagogy, project-based learning, sharing of ICT resources, the use of mentors to support learning, team and individual reflection and the adoption of a strategic approach to scaffolding a team’s work. This model of 21st-century (21C) learning is designed to empower students through teamwork, technology and project-based learning. The physical space is configured to support this approach.

The design and layout of the learning space supports the collaborative nature of the learning activity and allows students to comfortably work together, share resources and interact easily with their peers. It also considers the use of classroom space when teachers take on the role of facilitator (rather than directly instructing the learning) allowing for free movement between groups to monitor progress. Research has also shown that configuring a learning space to provide for group learning through breakout areas and alcoves is essential to facilitating social learning and stimulation.

In 2014 a second learning space was opened to further research and develop the Bridge21 learning model in practice. This space mirrors a standard one-room classroom and concentrates on maximising resources and utilising flexible furniture to incorporate 21C design patterns in a typical school classroom of today. Bridge21 continues to explore the synthesis of learning research with best practice in school planning and design. Our mission statement advocates an education transformation where classrooms of tomorrow move away from an industrial society pedagogy and adopt the skills which support critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration to achieve student self-directed learning in a 21C learning world.

The Bridge21 learning spaces are designed to support learning and offer a stimulating environment for students and teachers to participate in active and lifelong learning for all.

“Our learners learn in a time and place beyond the building. And people should have a sense of ownership of buildings and learning decisions. That’s the key if every learner is to find his or her space to succeed.”

– Diarmuid Lawlor, A&DS

About the author:
CIARÁN BAUER spent twenty-five years in the IT industry before joining Bridge21, a research programme based in Trinity College (TCD), as Programme Manager. Bridge21 offers a new model of learning designed to support an innovative 21st-century teaching environment within school classrooms.

1. Voogt and Pelgrum, 2005
2. Lawlor, et al., 2010
DECADE: Housing
I don’t live in a house, I live in a community

Scotland has a focus to deliver better outcomes, address fairness and equality, empower citizen engagement and participatory processes, manage public service delivery in a time of constrained finances and create opportunity for all through a flourishing society. The key challenges of the day point to ‘new ways of doing’ with public, private and third-sector partnerships uniting across different agendas to make a tangible difference to people’s lives. The delivery of housing and infrastructure is an integral part of enabling positive change.

Over the past decade, a housing story mostly rooted in numbers (for example, build rates and need-versus-demand analysis) has become increasingly wider ranging and inclusive. The emphasis has shifted from ‘house’ to ‘home’, stronger links between housing and wellbeing have been recognised and it’s now understood that single land use zoning hinder the creation of vibrant communities.

Important though the considerations are, it is no longer sufficient to narrowly describe housing provision in terms of providing ‘a roof over the head’ or delivering target numbers. Housing provision is now more correctly understood to represent a long-term place investment that supports broader aims and life chances, for example, better health and wellbeing, social cohesion and a reduction in the segregation between the poor and better off.

Scotland today faces challenge and change. Housing has an important role in supporting the progression towards a wealthier, fairer country. Investment in housing is essential, but this is no longer about delivering mere unit value; it is key to building place value that supports better lives and stronger communities.

Eric Dawson, A&DS

Along with NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, A&DS has been developing the Place Standard which is helping to develop and promote this understanding and inform practical action.

In this chapter:
The Place Standard
Rory Mitchell, Health Scotland
Continuing the tradition of great placemaking
Kevin McGeough, Homes and Communities Agency
Places and palaces - planning policies vs. people’s expectations
Mark Hamilton, Springfield
Connection, independence and being at home in a place ... we want it all!
Yvette Burgess, Housing Support Enabling Unit
Mixed communities: looking back
Keith Kintrea, University of Glasgow

< Commonwealth Games Celebration, Hayburn Crescent, Glasgow. Image by HPPA
The Place Standard
by Rory Mitchell, Health Scotland

What is the purpose of a Place Standard?

The purpose of Place Standard is to support the delivery of high quality places in Scotland and to maximise the potential of the physical and social environment in supporting health, wellbeing and a high quality of life. It did so by articulating what makes a good, sustainable place, and by setting a framework for processes which deliver places of high quality.

Why are we developing one?

The environment that surrounds us has substantial influence over our health and wellbeing, and is part of the causal chain that leads to health inequalities. In recognition of the opportunities for action that this affords, Good Places Better Health (an initiative launched in 2008 as the Scottish Government’s strategy to improve the health of the population of Scotland) has focused on health and the environment. The Place Standard complements other health initiatives, providing a complementary approach for structured conversations, supporting public and private sectors and communities to work together to deliver high quality places.

What's been happening?

The Place Standard is being developed by a partnership between Scottish Government Architecture and Design Scotland, supported by the Urban Design Compendium 1 and 2. A good resource for understanding these principles and processes in order to learn from the best is the book ‘Great Placemaking’ by Kevin McGeough, Homes and Communities Agency.

The Place Standard provides a real challenge, and will build on the principles of developing case studies and sharing learning. Users and stakeholders have a key role to play. To date, there has been a lot of interest in the Place Standard, we need to ensure that its potential is matched by its impact.

What's happening next?

The Place Standard will be launched in December 2015. The focus will then shift to ensuring that it achieves the impact necessary to meet the aims of delivering high quality places, improving health and wellbeing, and reducing health inequalities.

About the author:

RORY MITCHELL joined NHS Health Scotland in 2008 as part of the Public Health Observatory team. His current role as Good Places Better Health Information Strategy Leader focuses on maximising the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities across Scotland. RORY MITCHELL joined NHS Health Scotland in 2008 as part of the Public Health Observatory team. His current role as Good Places Better Health Information Strategy Leader focuses on maximising the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities across Scotland. RORY MITCHELL joined NHS Health Scotland in 2008 as part of the Public Health Observatory team. His current role as Good Places Better Health Information Strategy Leader focuses on maximising the contribution of place to reducing health inequalities across Scotland.

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About the author:

KEVIN MCGEOUGH is Head of Corporate Strategy at the Homes and Communities Agency, England, where he supports the executive team to meet the future housing needs of all sectors. He is also a visiting professor at the University of the West of England where he teaches on planning and housing. KEVIN MCGEOUGH is Head of Corporate Strategy at the Homes and Communities Agency, England, where he supports the executive team to meet the future housing needs of all sectors. He is also a visiting professor at the University of the West of England where he teaches on planning and housing.

Continuing the tradition of great placemaking by Kevin McGeough, Homes and Communities Agency

Scotland and the UK have some of the best examples of placemaking in the world, such as New Lanark, Edinburgh New Town, Salford and Bath which are listed in UNESCO World Heritage sites. This status elevates such places to the highest levels of urban planning and environs. Furthermore, these places are consistently rated highly for quality of life surveys and are among the most valuable real estate in their respective local locations.

Central to creating sustainable new communities and neighbourhoods is ensuring that they are designed for good health, social inclusion, and for people to live their lives to the full. To date, there has been a lot of interest in the Place Standard, we need to ensure that its potential is matched by its impact.

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placemaking? wonder – could that principle be applied in some way to their internal environment works, so it leads us to avoid the formulaic approach to house building. In our of their dwelling to suit their own lifestyle, we can place. By giving clients the control to design the layout the principle that ‘everyone’s different’, and so is every However, at Springfield, we base our approach around protecting margin – unit volume is what it’s all about. material costs, availability, land cost, repetition and tends to be formulaic, shaped only by square footage, Design integrity has to be one aspiration, fashion led or otherwise. As designers, we have to offer everything that the volume house builder purports to provide, and more. We have to do it smarter – working within the tight parameters of square-foot build cost and accommodation provided, but perhaps providing Design integrity has to be one aspiration, fashion led or otherwise. As designers, we have to offer everything that the volume house builder purports to provide, and more. We have to do it smarter – working within the tight parameters of square-foot build cost and accommodation provided, but perhaps providing

Suggestions going forward:

• Clearer guidelines to local authorities under the Scottish Government’s direction.
• Consistency across local authorities, but recognition of local values and relevant historical contexts/differences.
• Support of entrepreneurs, ideas and big thinking.
• Future flexibility in master planning and policy.
• More choice for the public, and house typologies which fit and can adapt as families expand and contract – a house for life for communities that can thrive.

The contribution that housing and the environment more generally have on a person’s health and wellbeing is widely understood, and the integration of health and social care provides an opportunity to pursue better ‘placemaking’.

Feeling at home in a place is fundamental to wellbeing and requires finding a balance between living independently and connecting with others outside our own four walls. As we use the ever greater spaces and services in an area can be fundamental to achieving such balance. For those with support needs an area going through a period of transition after bereavement, homelessness, leaving care, loss of physical ability or illness, there may be particular challenges in achieving this sort of balance. For those with support needs or those going through a period of transition after bereavement, homelessness, leaving care, loss of physical ability or illness, there may be particular challenges in achieving this sort of balance.

The way a person thinks about the place where they live may be affected by how they came to live there and how they choose to live there. Do they see a ‘house for life’ in the area or do they feel that they were ‘placed’ there?

Over the last 15 years, we have pursued social policies focused on reducing institutional care for people with learning disabilities, particularly in rural areas. Over the last 15 years, we have pursued social policies focused on reducing institutional care for people with learning disabilities, particularly in rural areas.

The Place Standard tool being developed relates well to formal housing support services which seek, at an individual level, to support people to live independently in the community. Most themes within the Place Standard tool can be grouped within the five headings used in the Bitter Futures outcomes tool (accommodation, health, safety and security, social and economic wellbeing, employment and meaningful activity), which is used by some housing associations.

The sorts of discussions that take place at an individual level about these issues could offer useful insights for discussion about the themes associated with the Place Standard, may help individuals to reflect further about their relationship with the people, spaces and services in the area where they live. The sorts of discussions that take place at an individual level about these issues could offer useful insights for discussion about the themes associated with the Place Standard, may help individuals to reflect further about their relationship with the people, spaces and services in the area where they live.

My role at Springfield Properties has provided us with the opportunity to influence house-building design, with the aim of changing (the overall) negative perception that people have of volume house building. However, a design, quality and place perspective, seeking to positively change volume house building is like turning an oil tanker. Eat, sleep, rave, repeat

Volume house building in Scotland is ‘a bit average’ at best and place is a word which simply doesn’t feature in the formulae employed by most large-scale house builders. ‘Designing Streets’ is often just a hurdle to jump. Many promise the earth but don’t deliver, instead potato-stamping standard boxes all over the country. There are now examples of almost every architectural ‘style’ in Scotland. Unfortunately, few of these are driven by quality, people, place, or even by being ‘style’ in Scotland. There is a shortage of housing and land supply for housing in Scotland; however, surely we must limit the amount of mediocrity that gets through the system?

About the author:

MARK HAMILTON is head of architectural Design at Springfield, covering the north and central offices delivering a diverse range of projects across the country. He is a solicitor. Who graduated from the University of Strathclyde in 1996. He is an architect

About the author:

YVETTE BURGESS has worked in supported housing across the south east of England and up The Areas Focus, a health, housing and social work service to the elderly in Edinburgh. Since 2004, Yvette has led the Housing Support Enabling Unit to assist providers of housing support across Scotland. Since 2004, Yvette has led the Housing Support Enabling Unit to assist providers of housing support across Scotland.

Dr Yvette Burgess is head of supported housing across the south east of England and up The Areas Focus, a health, housing and social work service to the elderly in Edinburgh. Since 2004, Yvette has led the Housing Support Enabling Unit to assist providers of housing support across Scotland.

Housing support services have long recognised the importance of helping people to make and/or retain connections, and find ways of contributing to community life. Housing associations have an important role in delivering housing support services as well as promoting community initiatives more generally.

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Mixed communities: looking back
by Keith Kintrea, University of Glasgow

In the 2000s, there was an upsurge in the idea that developing mixed communities could be beneficial to society as a whole as well as to community members. Powerful ideas from political science and urban sociology suggested that ‘bridging social capital’, derived from diversified social networks, could help people ‘get on’, reconnecting residents into ‘mainstream society’.

The Scottish Government, building on the established concept of tenure diversification, strong within 1990s’ housing policy, arrived at ‘social mix’ as a policy prescription. By the mid-2000s, all the main housing, planning and regeneration policy statements talked about creating ‘mixed communities’.

The idea was an important one. Conventional area-based initiatives were showing their limitations. Poor places were physically improved but appeared locked into circuits of poor health, unemployment and low educational achievement. Social mix promised a social fix.

Ten years on and this idea has decayed. Look hard at policy statements now and it’s still there, but fading away. There have been some important ‘mixed-income new developments’ created, although all the successful ones in Scotland have been directly leveraged by the public sector, and are few in number.

Most large council-built estates have become more diverse, mainly through Right to Buy and low-cost home ownership. However, the social distance between buyers and renters in the same neighbourhoods is often narrow, and private renting is starting to supplant home ownership in many estates as the market changes. In most of Scotland, though, there was little change. It probably didn’t help that the social theory that underpinned mixed communities was also contested and questionable, and that research produced mixed messages about its benefits. But a key problem was that policy wasn’t ready to take on the forces leading to the lack of mix in the first place.

In particular, social housing continues its strong focus on needs and, therefore, concentrates poverty, while new social housing – supported by public investment – mainly gets built in places that are already poor (and being made even poorer by welfare reform). The planning system can do very little to promote social mix in new developments. Most developer-led schemes (the majority of new housing in Scotland) were and remain unmixed.

Even considered generously, social-mix policy this last decade has been an uneven success. But perhaps it was naive to have thought that it could prevail. Even if the evidence of the benefits of social mix was unambiguous, it’s difficult for policy to mount a challenge to the pervasive sorting effects of residential choice processes in a marketised housing system without huge amounts of public spending. In most circumstances, the market obstructs the possibilities of building new houses for low-income people in rich places and vice versa.

Overall, preferences and constraints are likely to continue to shape residential areas in Scotland along social class and income lines. And housing needs, rather than social geography, will continue to inform the majority of public sector housing investment, especially in straitened times.

‘Overall, preferences and constraints are likely to continue to shape residential areas in Scotland along social class and income lines. And housing needs, rather than social geography, will continue to inform the majority of public sector housing investment, especially in straitened times.’

– Keith Kintrea, University of Glasgow

About the author: KEITH KINTRA is Professor of Urban Studies and Housing at the University of Glasgow. He has published a wide variety of books concerning housing, communities, inequalities, regeneration and young people. He is currently working on a study of international housing and places in Scotland.
DECADE: Participation
How can people shape a building, place or service?

Ten years ago, there was a certainty about the design agenda and the role of built-environment professionals in changing places. There was a new policy on architecture. Designing Places was published. We had urban regeneration companies, specialist urban design firms, the emergence of charrettes and a lot of talk about master planning.

Today, society’s challenges are increasingly complex. We have structural changes: the recession, austerity, the Community Empowerment Act and migration. But we also want more representation and participation in decision-making, informed by local narratives, service needs and making more of what we already have.

Increasingly, the ‘now’ is about the uneasy journey of defining problems and solutions collaboratively, between citizens, politicians and professions. True participation means that the role of the professional in ‘changing places’ is changing.

Together, we need to address three future challenges:

1. **Trust** – We must build a bridge between citizen participation to shape outcomes, and decision-maker collaboration to deliver them.

2. **Purpose** – Dealing with large economic crises is about helping governments to change things for the better, faster. Public budget holders need to rethink their way of doing things. What skill sets do we need to reinvent, and are we asking the right questions?

3. **Organisation** – Some things need to be planned centrally, like infrastructures and sewers. But we also need spaces for co-creation and doing things differently. Can we move the public sector from direct service provision to platforms for co-delivery? This would channel activitism, distribute ideas and openly share knowledge between neighbourhoods. Co-creation is about better and faster, together.

These challenges demand a new approach to professional practice – from control of ideas, to facilitating possibilities. It demands a new form of institution, which is localised, collaborative and system organised, not silo based. It implies a new form of empowered citizen with the capacity to act.

Participation could make placemaking central to the new politics of public space for the next decade. The question is, can we deliver?

Diarmaid Lawlor, Head of Urbanism and Schools, A&DS

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In this chapter:

The case of Toronto’s waterfront
James White, University of Glasgow

An afterthought
Cathy McCulloch, Children’s Parliament

Participation: who, why, how ... and then?
Keira Anderson, Snook

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< Image: Snook>
The case of Toronto's waterfront
by James White, University of Glasgow

Participation has been one of the central tenets of planning since the 1960s when thinking shifted from 'top-down' towards more 'bottom-up' decision-making. The reality is very different and efforts to broaden participation processes as places change. A building, such as Waterfront Toronto, is to adapt its mechanisms that planning policymakers can use to shape the 'big picture' agendas. I frequently find myself in the feature.

About the author: JAMES WHITE is lecturer in Urban Design at the University of Glasgow. He studied at Cardiff University and the University of Bath in the UK. His research focuses on the mechanisms that planning policymakers can use to shape the built environment.

An afterthought by Cathy McCulloch, Children's Parliament

Sometimes, when we're trying to get to grips with something new, we keep making up new words in the hope that people will not find it strange. It may work at first. I was reflecting on this during the Dace session when we were discussing 'who is the community?'. Truthfully, I was thinking, 'huh? We don't know what we mean by 'community'. And then I thought, hanging on - is there a theme developing?'

'The community' is 'residents', 'citizens', 'stakeholders', 'local people', 'tenants', 'homeowners', 'community process' as a 'Waterfront Toronto' process. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement and some of those involved consider it as much a 'community process' as a 'Waterfront Toronto' process. Some of them have got anything particularly useful to contribute to the participation processes you're aware of, I'd be surprised...’

We need to start building alliances to support one another in making sure the processes we create to ensure the views of children and young people influence policy and practice. Great – a start. Now we must guard against the biggest block to effective change – tokenism.

Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 to ensure children and young people's views will make a difference, not so they can tick the participation box. Let's not make up any new words. Can we agree that 'community engagement' means everyone; the young, old and other. ‘The engaged, the unengaged, the care for, the uncared for? Don’t leave it to those of us who work with children in our day job – join with us, ask us to join you – ask questions, challenge, encourage.

About the author: CATHY MCCULLOCH is the full time Co-Director of Children’s Parliament, an organisation that came from children being involved in built environment modelling project in Ipswich. Children’s Parliament exists to bring children’s voices into the main social, cultural and political landscape.
Participation: who, why, how ... and then?

by Keira Anderson, Snook

Use this opportunity to build a supportive community around your project for the long term.

2. Why?

Give clear purpose for engagement. Establish this in participants’ minds from the start and reiterate throughout. Aim to be transparent about goals and processes. Participants must see that they’re a piece of the puzzle. Will they develop skills working with you? How can you highlight and support this?

3. How?

Design is an evolutionary process. Co-production cannot be achieved through one workshop. Exercises which ask communities to approve decisions already taken are manipulative. It’s not enough to engage communities only in research. Instead, work collaboratively through the full design process. We must do more than placate users and clients alike. Create an atmosphere which draws on assets, allowing ideas to be born and flourish.

4. And then?

You’ve conducted a gold-standard participation process. What happens next? When and why? Set clear expectations for participants. They must see the bigger picture, understand why certain decisions are taken or why their ideas might not appear as part of the final outcome. Without this follow-up, you will create a disengaged, disenchanted audience who won’t be so quick or willing to participate again.

Carried out honestly, with respect for participants and with a clear strategy for outcomes and further actions, co-production delivers more than just comprehensive solutions which meet the needs of your users. Users will understand, respect and be invested in the process you undertook to develop your outcome together.

The community of participants built around your project, and the extended community surrounding them, will also take ownership of and embrace the final outcomes. In the long term, nothing can be more cost effective than that.

Participative processes are labour intensive, time-consuming, resource heavy and expensive. Why subject yourself, your colleagues and your clients to this?
Our concept of health has changed. Health used to be seen simply as the absence of physical illness, and medicine was aimed at removing the problems – the bacteria, the virus, the cause. But with many of us living longer, and with long-term physical and mental conditions, health is now about helping us to improve and maintain our own feeling of wellbeing throughout our lives.

In parallel, how we look at the health – the wellness – of our built environments is also changing. Just 20 years ago, we needed legislation to tell us to design buildings to give access to people who did not fit into the narrow ergonomic norms used at that point. At the same time, we discovered ‘sick-building syndrome’ – we were designing buildings that made us ill!

In the last decade, the principle of designing for physical access has become mainstream, although the practice of doing that well is still evolving. Other barriers to access such as those faced by people with sensory impairments or cognitive impairments, like dementia, have started to be tackled. As with medicine, we’ve been looking at removing the problems.

But the designed environment, both building and landscape, can do much more: it can support our health and help our feeling of wellbeing.

Schools designed for children with special educational needs are crafted to create spaces that enliven the experience of the hypo-sensitive, and calm the experience of the hyper-sensitive; techniques we could transfer to areas where people may be anxious or confused.

In this event, we explored the idea that what we design, and how we engage people in the process, can improve health and our feeling of wellbeing – from reducing asthma through the building fabric, through promoting exercise and movement, to communities taking back stewardship of sites and using them for social interaction and exercise, improving mental and physical wellbeing.

A&DS will continue to share the experiences of communities and practitioners to ensure that we put health at the heart of our considerations, and that we truly build for a society to be equally well.

Heather Chapple, Head of Design Forum and Health Programme, A&DS

In this chapter:

- The right to healthy buildings
  - Sam Foster, Sam Foster Architects
- Designs to keep us fit
  - Ian McKenzie, McKenzie Sports Architecture
- Grounds for health – Cuningar Loop
  - Hugh McNish, Forestry Commission Scotland
- Castlemilk woods
  - Richard Bolton, Cassiltoun Housing Association

Children from Cassiltoun Stables Nursery enjoying a forest kindergarten session in the woods of Castlemilk Park.
The right to healthy buildings by Sam Foster, Sam Foster Architects

Here are some interesting statistics:

- Over five million people in the UK are receiving treatment for asthma, and the NHS spends around £1 billion every year treating and caring for asthmatics.
- Indoor air in a typical home contains over 500 chemicals, more than 100 of which can be carcinogenic.
- Indoor air is typically 2-5 times more polluted than outdoor air and we spend about 90% of our time indoors.
- In 2003 research indicated over 12% of the US population was affected with severe Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS).
- Between 1950 and 2000, the number of building materials available increased from around 50 to over 50,000.

It is fair to assume that buildings have a direct impact on the health of occupants.

Construction industry professionals – especially architects – have managed to ignore this for over fifty years.

We routinely design poorly orientated, complicated buildings that require very effective ventilation systems – causing dryness and irritation, nausea and dust mite activity (which can cause asthma), as well as dampness and mould spores (more asthma).

Volatile Organic Compounds – VOCs – routinely off-gas for years from panels, floor and wall finishes and furnishings. Effects include nausea, headaches, cancer, birth defects and mutations. Despite some materials having their own specific levels of emissions (which may be very low), scientists still have no idea how effectively moisture and VOCs are diluted and removed.

Designing an attractive, healthy, properly ventilated, well-insulated and draughtproof building isn’t that difficult, there are lots of good examples across the UK. But why are they the minority? Why do we still pay more attention to building design in a fantasy (brick and solar panels) than to one that improves the quality of its occupants’ breathing?

There are many reasons for this, from flawed design training and price-led procurement methods to clever marketing and minimal insulation and draughtproofing, specifying a variety of low quality and toxic materials that trap moisture. And then we allow them to be built badly.

Relative humidity in buildings should be between 40–60% for good health. Due to lack of ventilation, construction and poor non-internal finishing, this typically swings between 10–90% in most buildings – causing dryness and irritation, nausea and dust mite activity (which can cause asthma), as well as dampness and mould spores (more asthma).

An accessible and inclusive environment is fundamental to the concept of equity. Are we building ‘equally well’? Is it a valid subject? But this event focused on delivering buildings and environments that promote participation in sport and physical activity.

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Grounds for health – Cuningar Loop
by Hugh McNish, Forestry Commission Scotland

There is a growing body of evidence that links greenspace use to a number of positive health outcomes, including mental health benefits, mood improvement, reduced stress and enhanced immune function. Four types of interaction with nature have been shown to be beneficial to health: viewing nature, being in nature (interacting with plants and gardens), being close to nature (being in the vicinity of plants and gardens), and dealing with risks of historical contamination, to help create this particular greenspace. There have been over 15,000 trees planted on the Cuningar site, with as wide a range as possible to introduce visitors to a variety of species.

Community engagement has been central throughout development and construction of the site. Community groups of all ages have been involved with providing insights and feedback, including archery workshops, stone carving workshops, welding workshops and the design of the active gardens. The site includes a 400-metre boardwalk along the Clyde, 2.5km of paths, open grassland, a trim trail, cycle opportunities for cycling, bouldering and playing. A bridge will span the Clyde, connecting with the Clyde Walkway, providing access for the new residents of the area’s village and the surrounding area.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games was the catalyst for the development of Cuningar Loop. The site includes a 400-metre boardwalk along the Clyde, 2.5km of paths, open grassland, a trim trail, cycle opportunities for cycling, bouldering and playing. A bridge will span the Clyde, connecting with the Clyde Walkway, providing access for the new residents of the area’s village and the surrounding area.

Casting Mills Woods
by Richard Bolton, Cassiltoun Housing Association

The woods of Castlemilk Park run through the heart of Castlemilk, a place that is in the top five percent of the most deprived areas in Scotland. Over the past five years, through a community-led, multi-partner project, the woods have been transformed from a no-go area to a community asset.

In 2010 Cassiltoun Housing Association formed the Castlemilk Park Steering Group. Members included Glasgow City Council, who own and manage the park, Forestry Commission Scotland, Clydesdale Bank, Glasgow Life, Scottish Natural Heritage, and community representatives. The Woods of Castlemilk Park Stakeholder Group was formed, bringing together a variety of voices, ensuring a representative group.

One of the key challenges at this time was to break the spiral of decline and break both physical and perceived barriers to accessing the woodland. The first year was about getting the basics right and working with the local community and other key partners to improve the woods and the path network. An extensive programme of community events and activities has been delivered in the woods of Castlemilk Park. These free events are designed to cater for the whole community and promote the woodland and its path network for informal recreation. To date, over 800 events have taken place, involving over 10,000 people, and include outdoor theatre performances, guided walks, foraging, health walks and photography and history clubs. The woods of Castlemilk Park are a Commonwealth Wood and, as such, many of the events are linked to the Commonwealth, for example, our Olympics activities in 2012.

In 2012 funding was secured to create an employability project. During each eight-week block, five local unemployed people will spend around 3½ days a week carrying out practical improvements to the woodland and 1½ days training and working towards qualifications – for example, CSCS card and SCQF Level 4 in horticulture (a walk where we brew up under the canopy) and our daily project. During each eight-week block, five local unemployed people will spend around 3½ days a week carrying out practical improvements to the woodland and 1½ days training and working towards qualifications – for example, CSCS card and SCQF Level 4 in horticulture (a walk where we brew up under the canopy) and our daily project.

Activities such as health walks, Picnic in the Park (a walk we breaze up under the canopy) and our Photo Walking Club have helped to improve people’s physical and mental health. Working with Forestry Commission Scotland, we also deliver Branching Out (a walk where we brew up under the canopy) and our daily project. During each eight-week block, five local unemployed people will spend around 3½ days a week carrying out practical improvements to the woodland and 1½ days training and working towards qualifications – for example, CSCS card and SCQF Level 4 in horticulture (a walk where we brew up under the canopy) and our daily project.

The transformation over the past five years from a no-go area to a well-maintained and well-managed woodland has had a positive impact on people’s lives, improving their health and enhancing their educational opportunities and employability.
Letting people lead

The global economic crisis of the late noughties caused a major recession, the bail out of the country's top banks and a significant reduction in public expenditure to reduce the national debt. Consequently, there has been a marked move away from physical regeneration driven by public funding.

Perhaps due to the loss of confidence in major institutions, a distinctly more people-based approach to regeneration has been developing. Genuinely community-led, it seeks to address physical, social and economic change, inequality and general wellbeing. And with its strong and growing commitment to community empowerment across the whole of Scotland, the Scottish Government has set the framework for this approach.

The community right-to-buy is transforming some of our rural communities, and the extension of this to our urban areas is requiring cultural change and trust by all layers of government.

This game-changing approach in how we deliver regeneration will encounter challenges, successes and some failures along the way. There will undoubtedly be a huge commitment and a growing enthusiasm from communities to engage. However, we must take care to match aspirations and expectations with timescales, the availability of resources and the requirement for good governance. We will also need to share good practice, and integrate and realign resources, to ensure added value.

There is no doubt that community-led regeneration is here to stay and that it will flourish both in the number of projects and their scope. Allowing local people, including our young and old, to participate and to lead their communities will increase their confidence, develop their skills and produce better places and outcomes.

The professionals will provide expertise and assist in facilitating and delivering options for implementation. The key messages being flexibility in approach, a readiness to adopt measured risk-taking and a desire to build on a community-led ‘can do’ culture.

The enthusiasm, commitment and intent are there. The message is … go for it!

Alan Sim, Board Member, A&DS
Asset ownership – a catalyst for community-led regeneration

Linda Gillespie, Development Trusts Association

Community ownership is seen as key part of this process of acquiring sites and opportunities and potentially transforming communities by giving them control of key local assets. Where an established community anchor organisation is in place, the process of acquiring an asset is often transacted more quickly, in terms of the negotiation and acquisition process, creating jobs and opportunities and potentially transforming communities by giving them control of key local assets.

Excluding community-controlled housing associations, community asset ownership of land and buildings has historically tended to take place in more rural communities. Currently, there is estimated to be 480,000 acres of land in community ownership, of which 60% is in remote rural areas with a further 15% in accessible rural areas. Although yet to match the levels of ownership in the Highlands, in COS2's Experience, interest in asset acquisition has been reasonably equally spread across the country, including interest from communities in urban areas.

The desire to own and control assets stems from a number of motivations. It could be to protect and enhance key local services which may otherwise be lost, to transform communities by giving them control of key local assets, to enhance key local services which may otherwise be lost, to transform communities by giving them control of key local assets.

While community organisations, the identification of creative governance structures to identifying enterprise and income generating potential. A man called Einstein once said, ‘We can’t solve our problems with the same thinking we used to create them.’ The plastic bag levy raised £7m for good causes; creating community led bodies which support and prove the values of an integrated people and place-based approach.

There are reasons for optimism, specifically in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the three principle rights which it will extend to community-led bodies. ‘Partnership working’ is a phrase too readily used, but the power extended by the right to have community involvement in decision-making might just provide us with the opportunity to sit at several equal tables as an equal. And ‘extending the community right to buy land’ and ‘transferring public assets to community-led bodies’ suggest an intent to do things differently and by bringing communities more to the fore.

Helpful? Absolutely. Sufficient? Well, ... mmm! Too often, the costs – both social and financial – of developing any project really paid off for community organisations. We need an approach that is more creative, much less process driven and, critically, more risk sharing.

Local authority equity to match community-raised funds would make a significant difference. Co-ownership and shrewder co-operation between institutions, in terms of their fiscal approach to new development, is an exciting partnership delivery format waiting to be piloted.

In 2011 the Scottish Government reviewed the various iterations of urban regeneration in the UK since the 1990s, identifying the various reasons for optimism, specifically in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the three principle rights which it will extend to community and development trust organisations. ‘Partnership working’ is a phrase too readily used, but the power extended by the right to have community involvement in decision-making might just provide us with the opportunity to sit at several equal tables as an equal. And ‘extending the community right to buy land’ and ‘transferring public assets to community-led bodies’ suggests an intent to do things differently and by bringing communities more to the fore.

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About the author:
CORYNNE COX, Programme Manager for the Community Land Trust Support Service, Development Trusts Association. Scotland, is currently leading a research project funded by Scottish Government, working with hundreds of community led organisations and local enterprises.

Community-led regeneration – support the creators not the processors!

by Neilston Development Trust

Neilston Development Trust was formed in 1978, in response to the various iterations of urban regeneration in the UK since the 1990s, identifying the various reasons for optimism, specifically in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the three principle rights which it will extend to community-led bodies. ‘Partnership working’ is a phrase too readily used, but the power extended by the right to have community involvement in decision-making might just provide us with the opportunity to sit at several equal tables as an equal. And ‘extending the community right to buy land’ and ‘transferring public assets to community-led bodies’ suggest an intent to do things differently and by bringing communities more to the fore.
About the author:

“A community taking control or ownership of an asset is not an easy option for either the community or the previous public asset owner. But, as demonstrated by the significant range of successes over the past 20 years, where there is clear community support and a sustainable proposition, community asset ownership can indeed act as a catalyst for community-led regeneration.”

– Linda Gillespie, Development Trusts Association

From 2011 to 2012, SURF – the independent regeneration network for Scotland – carried out a participative study on the impacts of, and responses to, recession-based policy decisions in two contrasting areas with similar challenges: Govan, Glasgow and Gallatown in Kirkcaldy, Fife. SURF noted an enthusiasm for a more coordinated approach towards connecting assets and investments from a wide range of local and national partners.

In March 2013 the Scottish Government supported SURF’s proposal to use its unique role, experience and cross-sector networks to develop collaborative ‘Alliance for Action’ initiatives in Govan and Kirkcaldy. In 2014 SURF established a similar initiative in Rothesay.

The two aims are:

• to support enhanced resilience and practical outcomes in the communities of concerted focus;
• to identify learning and promote constructive debate on wider policy and resource considerations.

Practical progress

Some of the practical outcomes of Alliance for Action include new investment in local groups in East Kirkcaldy via Creative Scotland to support more creative community participation, and support for sourcing and linking a £950k physical regeneration investment from the Scottish Government in the ‘Gateway to Gallatown’ project.

In Govan the Alliance focus has supported significant investments in GalGael – a highly successful community-owned creative project – and in the major refurbishment of the community-owned Kinning Park Centre. It has also linked substantial GCC City Deal infrastructure investment to broader economic and social regeneration processes.

In Rothesay the early Alliance model supported a successful community application for substantial investment in a charrette town-centre planning process, which begins in January 2016.

Shared aims

A shared aim across all three Alliance sites has been to enhance collaborations in, and between, the areas covered. This has included collaboration with NHS Health Scotland to reduce health inequalities, and with the University of Glasgow to allow post-graduate students to use Govan as a focus of practical engagement in providing useful research.

In Govan, local art groups are forming a new cooperative partnership - Creative Collective – to overcome divisive and inefficient issues around competitive funding processes.

Other positive collaborations include shared learning on practice and policy in cooperative links between food, nutrition, land, growth and access; a community research exercise in support of managing safety and community benefits from a public transport development programme; and support in securing investment for a cycle and pedestrian bridge connecting Govan Waterfront and the Riverside Museum.

The Alliance process has been able to cross-connect community context and experience. Activists in the Govan and Gallatown communities have hosted shared-learning events, exploring common ground, varied perspectives and examples of best practice. SURF has used its capacity and connections to record, present and channel relevant policy lessons with local and national government.

The influential and constructive nature of Alliance for Action has enabled disparate agencies to recon sider their options and enter into constructive discussions with each other. SURF has been an effective medium for rebuilding mutual understanding, thereby enhancing levels of trust and active cooperation.

Conclusion

SURF believes that successful and sustainable regeneration is only achievable when all aspects of physical, social, economic and cultural regeneration are addressed in a holistic approach, and that the intended beneficiaries of any regeneration effort must be meaningfully involved in the process. It is to be successful in planning, implementation and maintenance.

SURF: Alliance for Action

by Brian MacDonald, SURF

BRIAN MACDONALD is a regeneration consultant with significant experience in local government in Scotland, including being Assistant Chief Executive at North Ayrshire Council from 2006-2011. He was Chair of SURF (2012–2015) and is currently acting as facilitator for the Alliance for Action in Rothesay.
DECADE: Sustainable design and procurement
How do we build sustainable places?

Our view of sustainability, and how we measure and target public investment to achieve it, is changing. The new Sustainable Procurement Duty requires public authorities to think more strategically about how they use their spending power to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability. This will require a shift of focus upstream, and the ability to think locally and globally simultaneously.

Previously, the focus on sustainability in public projects was on improving practice in the building fabric – for example, looking at the type and source of raw materials used. And Architecture and Design Scotland supported this learning – sharing research from buildings in use and developing a Materials Library to help in the consideration of alternative approaches.

A greater focus on these issues has helped draw attention to the environmental sustainability of our built environment. We now see more onerous technical standards, improvements in building performance and the increased use of performance indicator tools to guarantee a building’s green design.

However, these changes have brought their own challenges. We’re learning more about the impact of heat-retaining fabric on thermal comfort, air quality and even water quality in our buildings – an issue that’s becoming more pressing as we face a warmer future, and which requires us to think harder about how every aspect of a building contributes to creating a habitable climate.

Economic sustainability also matters, with a growing focus on training and employment opportunities for local people and businesses during the construction phase.

More recently, there’s been a drive to look at the size of the public estate, to check we’re building, heating and lighting no more than we need. There’s also a renewed focus on adaptation and re-use of our existing buildings.

There is now, enshrined in statute, a greater emphasis on a broader concept of sustainability which includes better social and economic outcomes for communities.

Innovations in service design, community participation and empowerment, building design and methods of construction will support more sustainable investment. We will see more collaboration between communities, authorities, businesses, products, processes and service innovation.

It’s crucial that we continue to share our knowledge and experiences, and to ensure that we continue to build truly sustainable places.

Heather Chapple, Head of Design Forum, A&DS

< Image: ETH Zurich Gramazio & Kohler

In this chapter:
Innovation and transformational change in construction
Bruce Newlands, The Construction Scotland Innovation Centre

Building design: the new basics
Mark Palmer, Max Fordham LLP

Revitalising Scotland’s canals
Richard Miller, Scottish Canals

< Image: ETH Zurich Gramazio & Kohler
Sustainable building design

The construction industry has seen an unprecedented shift in sustainability awareness and aspiration over the last decade, driven primarily by financial legislation, guidance, assessment methods and funding models that have been subject to significant change and require a new level of engagement from all professionals involved.

The drive for new and improved building design processes has led to the emergence of a new generation of product manufacturers. With the introduction of low and zero carbon technologies (LZCT) into the built environment, the诱惑 of photovoltaics has increased dramatically, delivering significant carbon savings. However, many of the more complex LZCT installations have failed to produce the predicted carbon savings due to inappropriate deployment, operation and maintenance.

In future, we must learn from these experiences to ensure these expensive technologies are implemented appropriately.

Building services design to meet the standards

In 2007 the requirement to carry out building energy modelling was introduced to demonstrate compliance with Building Standards and to establish EPC ratings. These compliance calculations rarely provide an accurate way of estimating the energy performance of completed buildings as they exclude unregulated loads (such as appliances and IT) and use standard occupancy profiles which may not reflect reality.

In future, energy predictions and building services design must be based on the energy efficiency of the actual building, and the unregulated loads.

Closing the performance gap

Recent focus on building performance has shown that new buildings are often failing to achieve comfort, and typically consume twice the energy predicted during the design stage. This is partly attributable to the inaccuracies of the energy predictions, but also due to a lack of engagement and understanding between designers, constructors and building users during the design, construction and occupation periods.

Soft Landings is a process which attempts to bring buildings and their users closer together by focusing on improving all these aspects of the design and construction process. In short, the process is gaining traction in the industry and improving both the energy and comfort performance of buildings.

Procurement

Procurement routes which compress design programmes and squeeze design fees can often result in a lower quality, handover process and building performance.

In future, a combination of Soft Landings and performance guarantees will help improve the performance of these projects.

About the author:

MARK PALMER is a building services engineer with over 30 years of experience with Max Fordham LLP. He has delivered complex renewable energy projects, from rooftop buildings, to large scale industrial and commercial sites. He is also a member of the CIBSE Research group investigating how buildings, placed in their wider urban context, can perform sustainably.

Innovation and transformational change in construction

by Bruce Newlands, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre

This is an exciting moment in the history of construction.

New demands see age-old site processes being carried out differently, and the industry is increasingly becoming a manufacturing one. Digital fabrication processes have been steadily transferring to the construction industry, allowing accelerated delivery of projects and making construction more efficient.

The emergence of multi-material 3D printers will likely offer the prospect of mass customisation, ‘the internet of things’ and, potentially, the democratisation of design. Design that breaks free from the traditional role of the architect, where the architect is traditionally seen as being ‘client’ and perhaps introduces new ethical dilemmas about design responsibility and the origins of components used in our buildings.

Notions of intellectual property will be challenged through approaches such as the ‘open source’ movement, where you can download someone’s work in return for publishing your work under the same licence and sharing back any changes. The ‘hacking’ culture that encourages people to dismantle, understand and do ‘mod(ify) existing products with new functions and share the results. ‘Hacking’ clubs work in return for publishing your work under the same licence and sharing back any changes. ‘Hacking’ clubs encourage people to dismantle, understand and do ‘mod(ify) existing products with new functions and share the results.

Automation and the use of sophisticated fabrication processes have abstracted the ability to source things locally and have, to a large extent, opened up global markets for product manufacturers.

However, it’s not all been easy. Innovative processes have grown from ancient techniques and the use of materials such as timber, with its sustainable characteristics, will always give local production an edge over rivals.

Materials that will give an edge over rivals.

Incentivised to surpass minimum standards, so there’s behind project specification in housing. Constructors are of carbon emissions have become the key drivers of materials such as timber, with its sustainable characteristics, will always give local production an edge over rivals.

Sustainable procurement of materials and the reduction of mainstream discussion. Thinking about which components are used in our homes and workplaces, and the consideration of lifecycle, maintenance, serviceability, have always been part of modern construction but are now perhaps taking a more central role.

It is an increasingly sophisticated, networked industry that is sustained through sharing of experiences, co-operating and collaborating. Practices and techniques are now embedded within a landscape where development never happens in isolation. Lessons are learned, carried forward and shared with others.

Increasingly, we will see construction as high value manufacturing, requiring specialist operatives and driving technological innovation through regulatory compliance and incentives. Being willing to embrace change, acknowledging the power of the network and creating and sharing knowledge will be vital going forward.

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Building design: the new basics

by Mark Palmer, Max Fordham LLP

Building form and fabric

The design of a building’s form and fabric can have the largest impact on its energy performance for the least capital cost. Building guidelines have encouraged improvements in insulation values, air tightness, thermal bridge, glazing and fabric energy efficiency, natural daylight and natural ventilation. However, in practice, many projects fail to realise an optimised building due to unresolved architectural conflicts, cost pressures, inadequate detailing or poor quality control on site.

In future, we must increase focus on optimising the design and construction of the building fabric to benefit the internal environment and energy consumption.

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Sustainable building design

The construction industry has seen an unprecedented shift in sustainability awareness and aspiration over the last decade, driven primarily by financial legislation, guidance, assessment methods and funding models that have been subject to significant change and require a new level of engagement from all professionals involved.

The drive for new and improved building design processes has led to the emergence of a new generation of product manufacturers. With the introduction of low and zero carbon technologies (LZCT) into the built environment, the allure of photovoltaics has increased dramatically, delivering significant carbon savings.

However, many of the more complex LZCT installations have failed to produce the predicted carbon savings due to inappropriate deployment, operation and maintenance.

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Building services design to meet the standards

In 2007 the requirement to carry out building energy modelling was introduced to demonstrate compliance with Building Standards and to establish EPC ratings. These compliance calculations rarely provide an accurate way of estimating the energy performance of completed buildings as they exclude unregulated loads. Sadly, many projects fail to realise an optimised building due to unresolved architectural conflicts, cost pressures, inadequate detailing or poor quality control on site.

In future, we must increase focus on optimising the design and construction of the building fabric to benefit the internal environment and energy consumption.

Renewables integration

Enhanced energy performance targets and funding schemes have resulted in the widespread adoption of low and zero carbon technologies (LZCT) into the built environment. The use of photovoltaics has increased dramatically, delivering significant carbon savings.

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Scotland’s canals were once the thoroughfares that stoked the fires of the Industrial Revolution – transport arteries that carried coal, goods and life through the communities of the nation. Their rich, 250-year-long history is tied intrinsically to that of the country itself. The birth of the railway effectively sounded the death knell for the waterways as trade routes. Following WWII, dwindling use and the march of rail and road freight meant that the canals became more and more disused and derelict until, in the 1960s, many of Scotland’s canals – particularly in the Lowlands – were filled in and replaced by motorways. Stagnant and woefully undervalued, the canals became places of decay and danger – dark and dingy backwaters that mothers warned their children to stay away from. It would take almost 40 years and the biggest canal restoration project ever attempted in Britain to bring Scotland’s canals back to life. The £83.5 million Millennium Link project saw British Waterways – Scottish Canals’ predecessor – work with canalside communities, local authorities and a committed group of volunteers and societies to restore Scotland’s waterways to a navigable state for the first time in a generation. A monumental undertaking, the project saw the creation of more than 30 new bridges; the refurbishment of 32 historic locks and 38 masonry spans; the construction of nine new locks; and the creation of five kilometres of new canal. The 300,000 tonnes of silt removed during the project served as a stark reminder of the scale of undertaking and the decay that had befallen Scotland’s canal network. The centerpiece of the project, the iconic Falkirk Wheel, was – and remains – the world’s only fully-rotating boat lift. A marvel of modern engineering, when the Wheel opened in 2002 it reconnected the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals for the first time in over 70 years and quickly became a major tourist destination. Today, the Wheel attracts 300,000 visitors a year and sits at the centre of the local community. The Wheel signaled the rebirth of Scotland’s canals as -ribbons of regeneration – key destinations for leisure and tourism that bring life and new opportunities to the communities that lie on their banks. But, like the Millennium Link all those years ago, working alongside the communities themselves remains key to everything Scottish Canals does. From the ongoing development of a flourishing cultural quarter and sports hub in North Glasgow, to the epic undertaking of The Helix and The Kelpies and a huge number of smaller projects, Scottish Canals is working with canalside communities across the country to deliver lasting, positive change from the water to the banks and beyond. The role of Scotland’s canals has changed, but they’re still as vital today as they were when they were first carved from the nation’s rugged landscape 250 years ago.

Revitalising Scotland’s canals by Richard Millar, Scottish Canals

“...It is an increasingly sophisticated, networked industry that is sustained through sharing of experiences, co-operating and collaborating. Practices and techniques are now embedded within a landscape where development never happens in isolation – lessons are learned, carried forward and shared with others.”

– Bruce Newlands, Construction Scotland Innovation Centre

Richard Millar is Director of Heritage, Enterprise and Sustainability at Scottish Canals. His current remit covers caring for the heritage and environment of the nation’s inland waterways, as well as project development, fundraising and the promotion of marine and canal-led tourism.

About the author: Richard M. is Director of Heritage, Enterprise and Sustainability at Scottish Canals. His current remit covers caring for the heritage and environment of the nation’s inland waterways, as well as project development, fundraising and the promotion of marine and canal-led tourism.
The DECADE events recorded in this publication have been vital for Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS). They have given us a significant state-of-play, with our partners and the communities we work for, on what has been happening over the last ten years. Listening to the conversations has been important in considering where to focus our work in the future.

When A&DS was established in 2005, the built environment and its impact on Scotland’s prosperity were not as widely understood as they are today. There was a buoyant development market and the challenges were different. Today, in a changed climate of opportunity and challenge, it is evident that we need to care about collective society and want to contribute to a better future.

The DECADE conversations ranged from Castlemilk, and across the generations to the beginning of community-based housing association movement. But the focus of all the thinking was firmly place-based.

Looking back, then moving forward
Karen Anderson, Architecture and Design Scotland

We know that a lot could be done to make Scotland’s public services requiring significant development and investment. All of this is set against a backdrop of economic challenges that we will promote in the future.

DECADE reinforced our conviction that well-designed, attractive places and buildings with access to quality greenspace are the only truly sustainable form of development as they are loved and enjoyed. People go to them to socialise, learn, exercise or recuperate. Successful places flourish economically and socially. Communities are not universally understood as a collective whole. Now is the time to focus on who we live and work in, and how we invest in, occupy and look after our buildings, settlements and landscapes, creatively and wisely.

In the last decade, A&DS has worked to energise and empower communities in building design decisions and their use of the built environment – with commissioners of public buildings to ensure best design decisions in their investment, and with planners to support better physical planning. However, to deliver better places in this economy, the Board believes that we must use our power to convene to broaden our work and support others to work together, more responsively and flexibly than in the past. Service providers, developers, building managers, commissioners, planners and designers all need to work ‘out of the box’, and move firmly away from singular, walled interests.

We need to focus efforts on what’s best for the specific conditions in our built in, and for the people who care about collective society and want to contribute to a better future.

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DECADE events have allowed us to discuss how others to this end.

Over the next ten years, community groups will be increasingly involved in owning buildings and public decision making. We will work with them, and local authorities, to support a culture of ‘place ownership’ and ‘stewardship’, and to ensure that our work continues to promote the use of healthy construction and materials used in our buildings, and A&DS will continue to promote the use of healthy construction.

Over the last decade, the environmental performance of our buildings has become much more important, and the use of sustainable materials is much more prevalent. Our health depends on the air quality and materials used in our buildings, and A&DS will continue to promote the use of healthy construction.

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I feel privileged to be part of an organisation that can convene, and is supported by, some of the most talented and knowledgeable people working in Scotland. On behalf of the Board of A&DS, a huge thank you to all of you who have given us your time and effort in sharing your insights, energy and commitment. Please stay with us over the next ten years, and challenge us if we don’t deliver in supporting better practice in the future.
Your views on DECADE
This publication would not be possible without the generosity and support of each individual DECADE event participant and speaker. The speakers engaged our audiences throughout 2015 at our events and have contributed their writing to this document. Throughout the series we collaborated with over 110 organisations. We would like to extend a special thank you to Creative Scotland for their support of the DECADE event series. The DECADE publication was designed and edited by A&DS staff, assisted by Jill Broom.

All views and opinions expressed are those of the individual authors.

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