

## Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

**Our vision is that we live in a Scotland where a well-designed built environment supports sustainable resilient communities which meet the needs of all.**

### *Help us deliver our vision*

In 2017 we launched our Corporate Strategy for the coming four years. It sets out how we will support communities to shape the places that matter to them and how we will work with decision makers to achieve our vision.

As part of our plans, we are highlighting four areas of focus which are:

- the delivery of inclusive growth through more and better housing
- creating better schools, hospitals and other public investment
- improving the design quality of infrastructure and public space
- increasing the emphasis on community empowerment.

In this Annual Review for 2017, we have highlighted some of the work we have done in these four focus areas, as well as providing a snapshot of activities throughout the year.

You can find much more information about our work on [www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk)

### *How can we help you?*

Are you involved in creating Scotland's places?

Maybe you are involved in shaping your community?

Get in touch today to find out how we can work together to create a built environment to meet the needs of all.



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Architecture and Design Scotland

### **Architecture & Design Scotland**

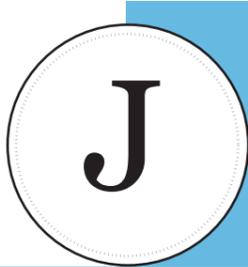
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The Lighthouse, Level 2, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow, G1 3NU

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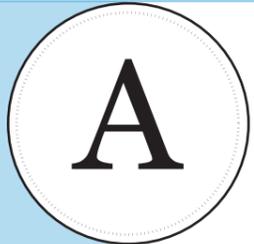
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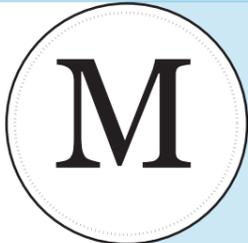
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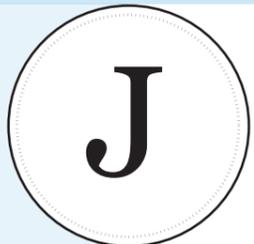
	<p><b>Exhibition: Disappearing Glasgow</b> Photographer Chris Leslie documents the changing face of Glasgow's high rise housing.</p>	<p><b>Newsletter: LAUDF</b> The first Local Authority Urban Design Forum newsletter of 2017, looking at place in quality housing.</p>	<p><b>Workshop: Orkney</b> Working with Orkney Islands Council to explore the educational landscape on the islands.</p>
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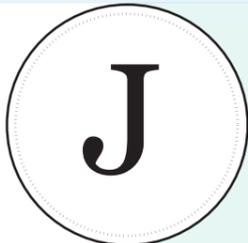
<p><b>Masterclass: Place Standard</b> Supporting the City of Edinburgh Council locality planning process with two days of workshops and site visits.</p>	<p><b>Conference: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors</b> Attending the conference which looked at how built environment professionals can support Scotland in a time of economic and political uncertainty.</p>	<p><b>Workshop: West Dunbartonshire</b> Addressing underused school spaces and how to redefine their use to suit students and educators.</p>	
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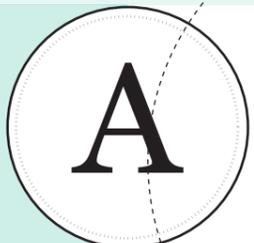
	<p><b>Advice: A9 Dual Carriageway</b> Addressing issues relating to the current status of the road and how to ensure a safer experience.</p>	<p><b>Publication: Five Years of Timber Awards</b> Published together with the Forestry Commission for Scotland and Wood for Good to celebrate the best of use of timber.</p>	<p><b>On Tour: Simplified Planning Zones</b> Supporting the pilot project in Dumfries and Galloway, with visits to see how these have been used in Dublin.</p>
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<p><b>CPD: Hempcrete</b> Highlighting the potential and uses of this sustainable building material.</p>	<p><b>Workshop: Apprenticeship Week</b> Supporting this event, organised by Glasgow City Heritage Trust, with workshops for over 60 children.</p>	<p><b>Event: Places and Spaces for Wellbeing</b> Supporting a conference that examines the connections between health and wellbeing, placemaking and use of urban built landscape.</p>	
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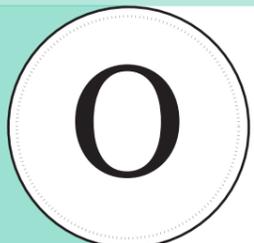
	<p><b>Advice: Design Advice Housing</b> Hosting a workshop to review the Dallas Dhu housing expansion site in Forres.</p>	<p><b>Event: Seeding Success</b> Celebrating the lessons learned from the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme, together with the publication of a special toolkit.</p>	<p><b>Networking: UK Counterparts</b> Meeting with Ministerial Advisory Group (N.I.), Design Commission for Wales and Design Council/CABE (England) in Cardiff.</p>
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<p><b>Workshop: Renfrew to Yoker Bridge</b> Assisting with plans for a new crossing over the Clyde, as part of a wider development in Renfrew.</p>	<p><b>Awards: Place Standard</b> Place Standard wins Planning for Wellbeing category at the RTPI National Awards.</p>	<p><b>Event: World Towns Summit Malmö</b> Attending and discussing implementation of the 12 principles of the World Town Leaders framework.</p>	
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	<p><b>Event/Exhibition: Student Awards</b> A&amp;DS and RIAS Scottish Student Awards for Architecture took place at a ceremony in Edinburgh, followed by an exhibition at The Lighthouse.</p>	<p><b>Project: Scotland + Venice 2018</b> Work began pulling together partners and ideas for our proposed contribution to celebrate the Year of Young People in 2018.</p>	<p><b>Workshop: Granton Waterfront</b> Exploring the future vision for the Granton Waterfront in Edinburgh, with the City of Edinburgh Council and partners.</p>
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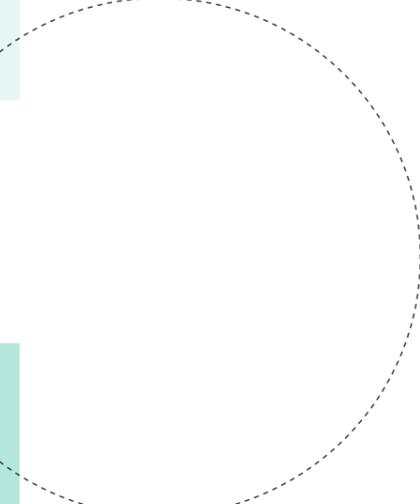
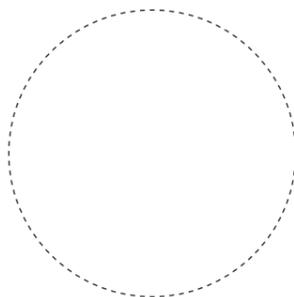
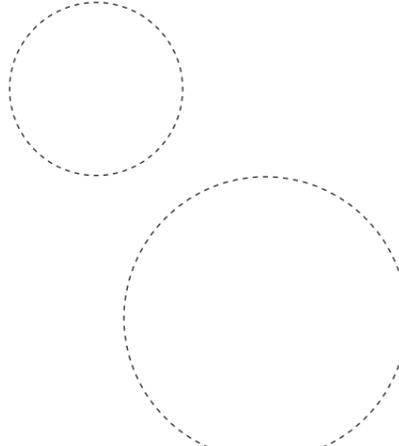
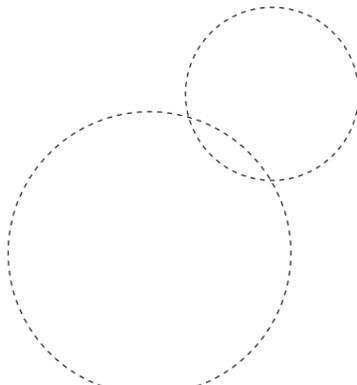
<p><b>Advice: Design Advice Health</b> Meeting on the development of Rowanbank Mental Health Facility.</p>	<p><b>Advice: Design Advice</b> Work on the Durieshill Masterplan, Stirling.</p>	<p><b>Workshop: Place Standard</b> Training event and public engagement in Portlethen, Aberdeenshire, using the Place Standard.</p>	
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	<p><b>Event: Doors Open Day</b> Showcasing the materials library and traditional building skills at the Glasgow Doors Open weekend at The Lighthouse.</p>	<p><b>Event: Custom Build Event</b> Supporting the Custom Build Event organised by Scottish Government.</p>	<p><b>Event: City Link Festival, Copenhagen</b> Presenting Place Standard at this international festival exploring the city.</p>
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<p><b>Event: Scottish Creative Industries Partnership</b> Participating in a workshop looking at Scotland's creative industries.</p>	<p><b>Project: Scotland + Venice</b> Following a tendering process, a creative team was appointed to lead the curation of the work of the Scotland + Venice partnership.</p>	<p><b>Event: Public Sector Client Forum</b> Hosting this event looking at putting education at the heart of the community.</p>	
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	<p><b>Event: Education Buildings Conference</b> Highlighting inspirational learning spaces together with Scottish Futures Trust and Scottish Government.</p>	<p><b>Event: Scotbuild 2017</b> Introducing sustainable building materials from our Materials Library at this two-day event in Glasgow.</p>	<p><b>Event: Designing for Age Friendly Places</b> Sharing learning from the Mobility, Mood and Place programme at an event in Edinburgh.</p>
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<p><b>A&amp;DS Board: Site visit</b> Visiting recently completed buildings and projects in East Renfrewshire, including the Eastwood Health Centre.</p>	<p><b>Event: Local Authority Urban Design Forum</b> Hosting the latest meeting of our network of design professionals.</p>	<p><b>Charity Event: Sleep in the park</b> Participating in the Sleep in the Park event raising over £4,000 and highlighting homelessness in Scotland.</p>	
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## Improving the design quality of infrastructure and public space

### Supporting the design of the Queensferry Crossing

When it comes to infrastructure projects, they don't come much bigger than the new Forth crossing. The Queensferry Crossing was officially launched by Her Majesty the Queen in early September 2017 and will provide a new significant route through Scotland.

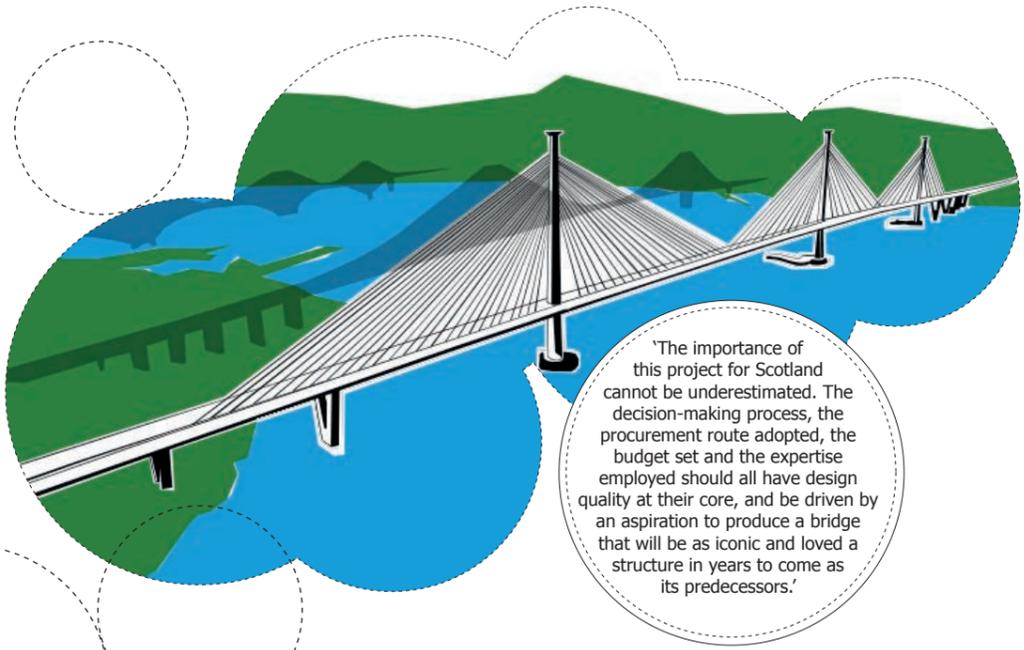
Architecture and Design Scotland started working with Transport Scotland in 2008. Our role was to provide advice on design options, through a series of design workshops.

Throughout the process, A&DS enjoyed positive and constructive dialogue with the project team who responded well to comments and suggestions related to a variety of issues ranging from strategic considerations to detailed aspects of

the main crossing, the landings and approaches, aesthetic considerations and the procurement of the project.

A&DS, and its expert panel members, advocated that the design team kept options open for a more slender design of the bridge until the uncertainty of the existing Forth Road Bridge was resolved.

By adapting the so called Managed Crossing Strategy, the existing Forth Road Bridge will be used for public transport and active travel, such as cycling and walking, enabling the new bridge to take its final, slender shape. The adoption of this approach allowed a significantly different design of the new bridge and produced an estimated cost saving of 50%, from £4bn to £2bn.



'The importance of this project for Scotland cannot be underestimated. The decision-making process, the procurement route adopted, the budget set and the expertise employed should all have design quality at their core, and be driven by an aspiration to produce a bridge that will be as iconic and loved a structure in years to come as its predecessors.'

## Increasing the emphasis on community empowerment

### How Stalled Spaces Scotland set out to create a legacy

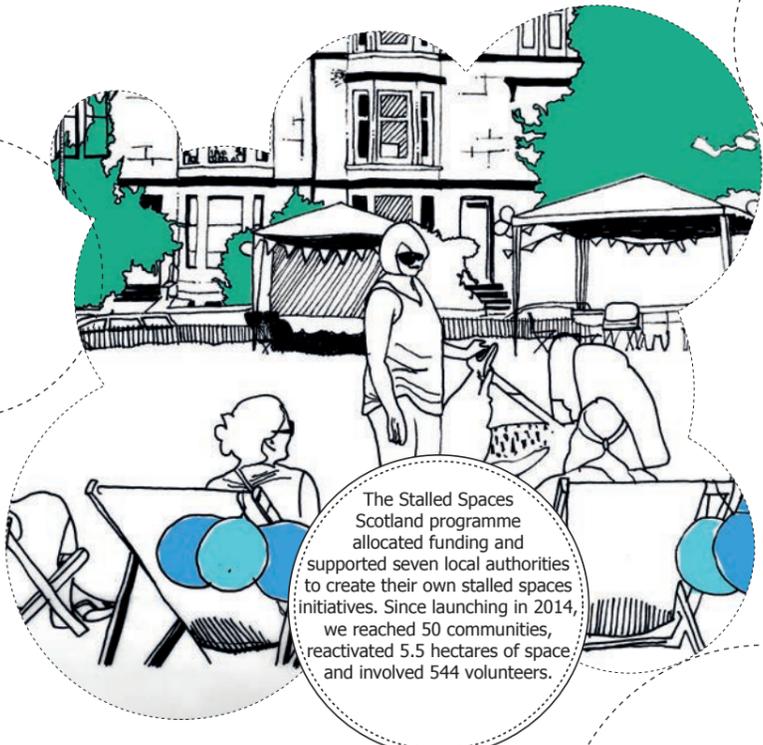
In 2017 A&DS brought people together to celebrate the achievements of the first three years of the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme.

There were plenty of benefits to evaluate, such as, the acres of land transformed, number of volunteers involved and additional funding attracted. But there are also benefits which are not as easy to quantify: friendships forged; vegetables grown and eaten; and kids who've learned to make mud pies for the first time.

We hope that the idea will continue to spread. To help this we launched the Stalled Spaces Toolkit which gives practical information for any community group, anywhere in Scotland, who would like to transform a stalled space. David Cowan, head of the Scottish Government's Regeneration Unit, hopes that the success of the project so far will encourage other groups and local authorities around the country to explore its potential.

He said: 'A little plot of land can create a negative atmosphere and, if it can be turned around, it can make a massive difference. This is a fairly cost-effective way not only of tackling some of these gap sites but also in bringing the community together. I think what we have got now is the means to encourage local authorities and communities across Scotland to look at this and see how it might work for them.'

It's also an important building block for town centre regeneration. 'The Stalled Space becomes a focus for the community working together, people getting involved and engaged and finding a solution as opposed to waiting for someone else to do something about it. It's also about developing the relationship between the community and the local authority, and starting to build confidence about community empowerment.'



The Stalled Spaces Scotland programme allocated funding and supported seven local authorities to create their own stalled spaces initiatives. Since launching in 2014, we reached 50 communities, reactivated 5.5 hectares of space and involved 544 volunteers.

## The delivery of inclusive growth through more and better housing

### More and better homes

Whether it's a house or a flat, a castle or a cottage, where we call home matters. Our health and wellbeing, our educational attainment, and many of our life choices depend on where we live.

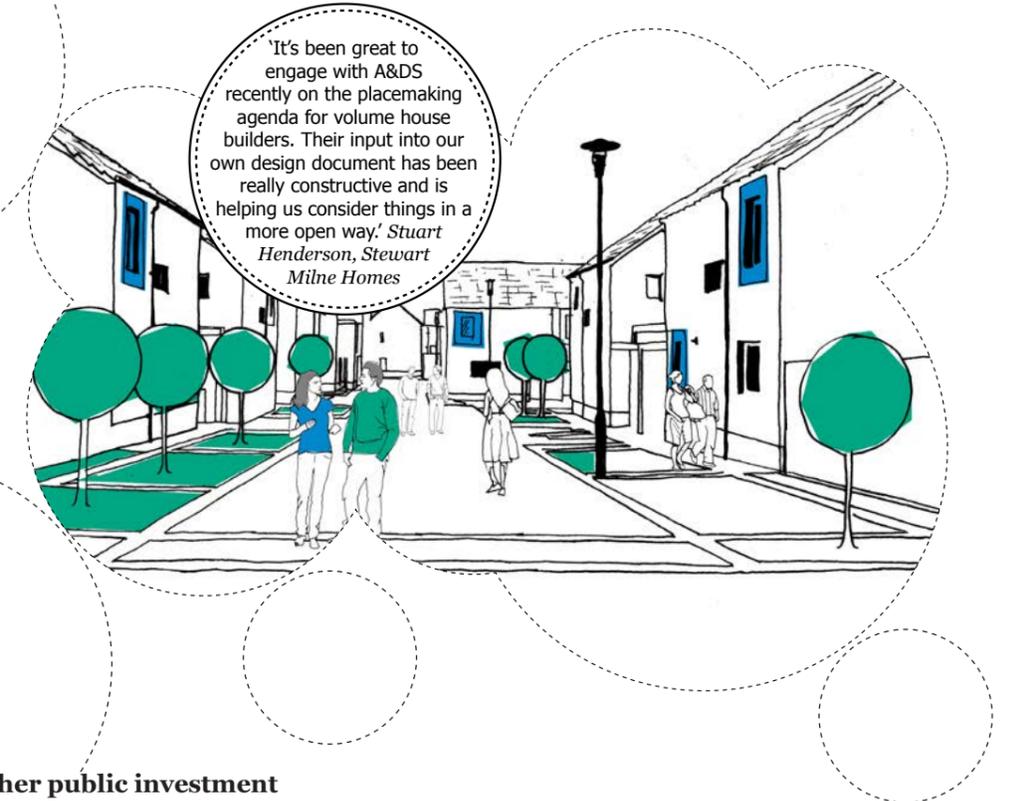
For some, home is a springboard to success but, for others, it means taking what you get in a world where the orthodoxy of ownership is out of reach. As a result, housing is one of our biggest challenges and the overwhelming reliance on the market as the go-to provider is looking increasingly in need of a reboot. For these reasons, A&DS has made support for the delivery of more and better homes one of its top priorities.

Over 75% of Scots currently rent or buy in the private sector and within this, the proportion who own their own homes has been falling steadily from its peak in 2000. As rents and prices continue to rocket, this means more of us face the prospect of higher costs and reduced access to decent housing.

#### What can A&DS do?

In 2017 Architecture and Design Scotland initiated a number of projects to support the delivery of inclusive growth through more and better housing.

Throughout 2018, we will continue to expand our design advice and support for the development of more and better homes across Scotland.



'It's been great to engage with A&DS recently on the placemaking agenda for volume house builders. Their input into our own design document has been really constructive and is helping us consider things in a more open way.' Stuart Henderson, Stewart Milne Homes



'Their advice, support and positive challenge was first class. We needed to cover a lot of ground in a short space of time and they added value at every turn.' - Wilfred Weir, Orkney Islands Council

## Creating better schools, hospitals and other public investment

### Reimagining the education landscape of Orkney

When Orkney Islands Council started to work on planning the future of their services (The Council's Service Plan), they took the opportunity to reimagine the education landscape across the islands.

Responding to the changing needs of families and communities, the plan also needed to achieve significant budget savings. To help them explore the opportunities and possibilities for the future of the education landscape, they invited Scottish Futures Trust, Architecture and Design Scotland and members of the Northern Alliance to a workshop.

Over two days, a number of themes emerged, including the opportunity to connect to centres of education,

exploring opportunities for sharing infrastructure in communities and re-using empty spaces. The workshops engaged with the idea of school as a service that can be anchored anywhere in the community.

The workshops – which included working with stakeholders – started to explore why families chose a certain place to live, and how the islands could respond to issues of sustainability, employment and community. Discussing possible ways services, places and buildings could change, a story of opportunities emerged. Practical suggestions included collaborative use of spaces, digital learning and learning across the generations, tapping into resources already available in the community.

This was captured as an animation to help Council officers, elected members and the communities across the islands to share the story.

Wilfred Weir, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, Orkney Islands Council, explained the impact of the engagement with A&DS: '[...the] ability to summarise the discussions succinctly was very impressive and the video was fantastic and has hugely supported my conversations with my colleagues here in Orkney. We look forward to working with the A&DS team further as we move forward into the next stage.'