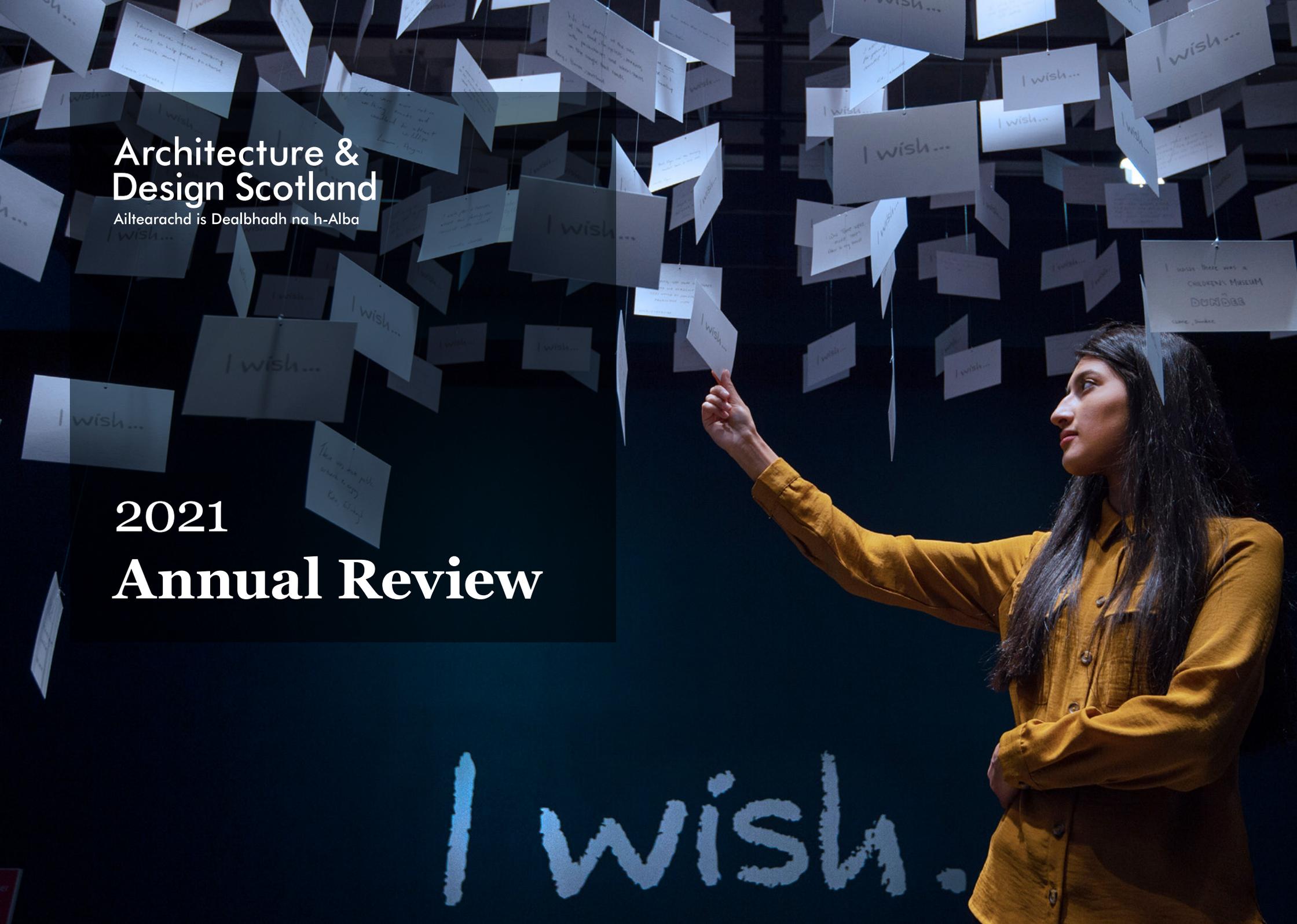


Architecture & Design Scotland

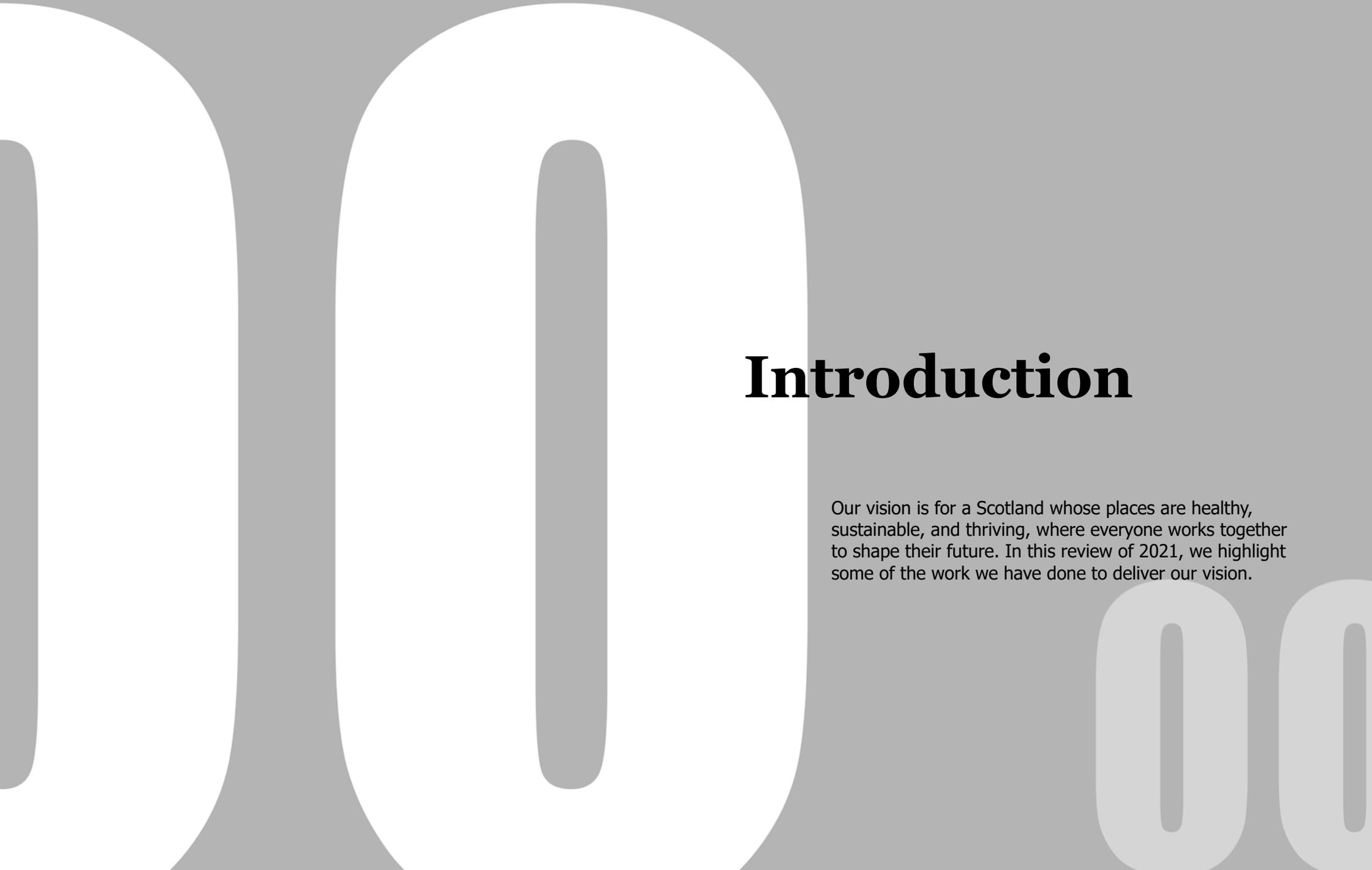
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

2021 Annual Review



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Introduction

Our vision is for a Scotland whose places are healthy, sustainable, and thriving, where everyone works together to shape their future. In this review of 2021, we highlight some of the work we have done to deliver our vision.

In 2021 we set out our plans for the coming decade in our new Corporate Strategy for 2021-31. Our role will be to provide leadership on the spatial aspects of the Place Principle to transform how Scotland's places are planned, designed, delivered and sustained.

We will work with our partners to demonstrate what a joined-up approach looks like and the benefits it brings. We will use our experience and professional skills to inspire and support all those involved in creating, adapting and sustaining Scotland's places.

Ultimately, our strategy is to use our remit and expertise to tackle the big challenges we all face by bringing people together to create better places for everyone.

Design can help realise the country's ambitions, captured in initiatives such as [Housing to 2040](#), [20 Minute Neighbourhoods](#), [Community Wealth Building](#), [Town Centre Regeneration](#) and [Community-Led Regeneration](#). In this context the design of our places is central to realising the National Outcomes in the Scottish Government's [National Performance Framework](#).

A core part of our strategy is to create the conditions for the Place Principle to become the 'new normal' when planning future investment in our public services and assets.

We also know from experience that a place is better when the people who live there work together to shape it. The Place Principle, adopted by the Scottish Government in 2019, asks agencies in a place to collaborate with the people who live there to create a shared vision for its future. It is this that we have embarked on supporting this year.

And as we start this journey, the early signs are encouraging. Through working in places to apply the Place Principle – often with the help of Zoom – we are supporting change while building evidence of its benefits. Through What If...?/Scotland, we were able to celebrate the potential of design to transform the way we engage with communities.

In this annual review you can read about some of this work as we begin to implement our strategy and make its aims a reality.

Ann Allen



Working together to create thriving places

A more collaborative approach to services, land and buildings – across all sectors within a place – enables better outcomes for everyone. It increases opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives. Working together in this way can transform our places and the lives of the people in them. In this section we look at projects where collaboration is helping create thriving places.



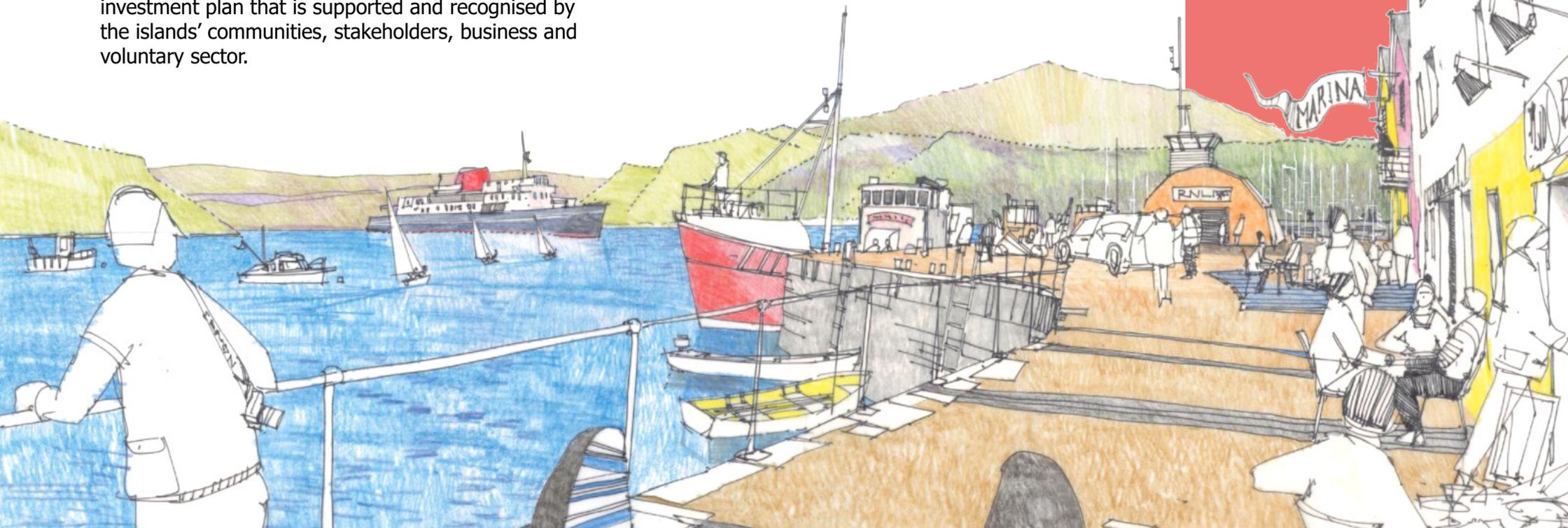
Skye and Raasay Future Project

The support offered to the Skye and Raasay Future project has been considered a bridge between the A&DS Carbon Conscious Places pilot and the ways of working outlined and promoted by our new corporate strategy. The Investment Plan, a partnership between The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and community groups, is an attempt to organise all the good work (current and future) planned across the islands to help secure funding to invest in the islands as a 'place'.

The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are working in collaboration to deliver an investment plan that is supported and recognised by the islands' communities, stakeholders, business and voluntary sector.

The plan is iterative and responds to the changing needs of the islands, supporting a thriving future that can adapt to the impacts of climate change.

In 2019, A&DS established a programme to assist public sector organisations to take a place-based approach to designing for the changing climate. Through this work, A&DS has been able to support The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to champion a whole-place approach to the net-zero carbon challenge and the implementation of the Place Principle.



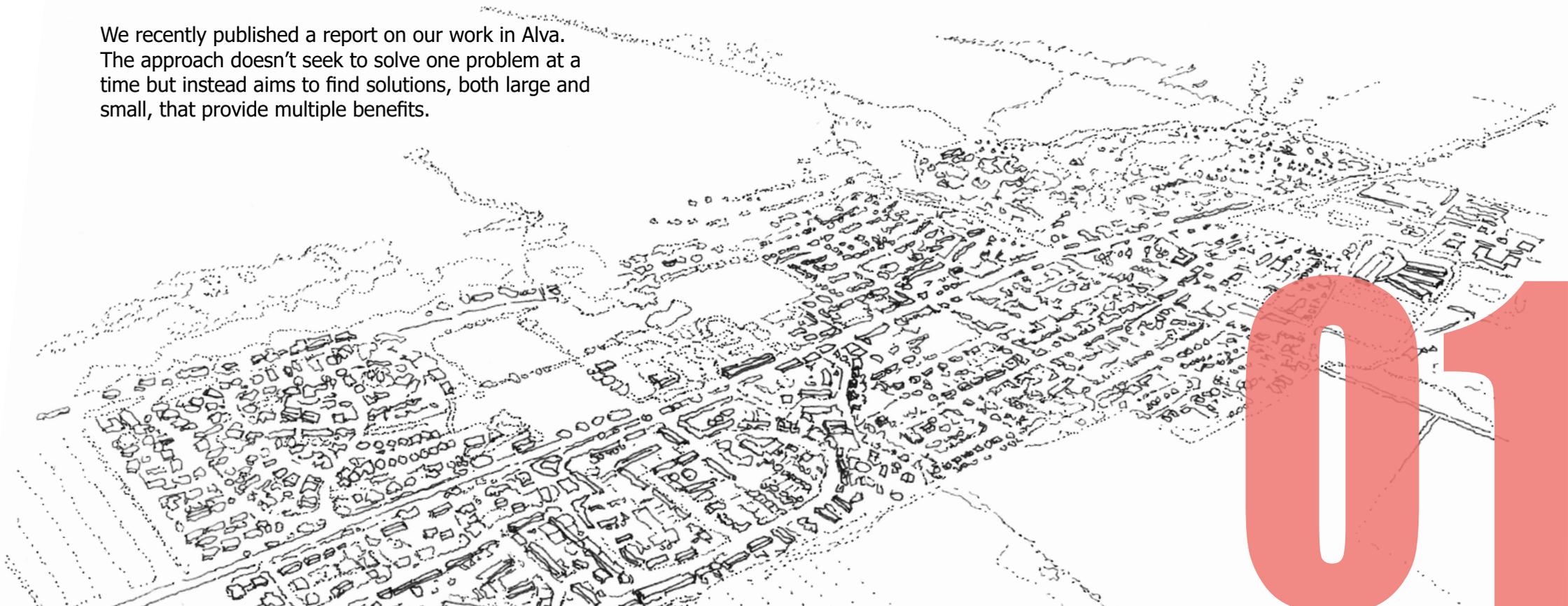
01

Whole Place Collaboration: Alva Pathfinder

Following our recent work on Carbon Conscious Places, meeting the needs of an ageing population (Caring Place) and addressing health and wellbeing in Alloa using the Place Standard, A&DS has brought all these strands together in a whole place collaborative approach to the regeneration of Alva. The aim of the work was to initiate a post-pandemic change in Alva, meeting housing needs, improving health, reducing inequality, adapting to climate change, and empowering communities.

We recently published a report on our work in Alva. The approach doesn't seek to solve one problem at a time but instead aims to find solutions, both large and small, that provide multiple benefits.

Our work in Alva aimed to help Clackmannanshire Council to manage the improvement of Alva town centre over time. It identifies opportunities for the re-use of the former Glentana Mill site on West Stirling Street as a catalyst for regeneration, whilst illustrating the potential for the physical, social and economic regeneration of the town.





We have worked closely with local people, communities of interest and across professional boundaries. The partnership approach has turned a housing initiative at the vacant Glentana Mill building into a multi-faceted community project linked to a series of subtle stitching and repair projects across Alva town centre.

This pilot project was led by Architecture and Design Scotland in collaboration with Clackmannanshire Council, Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and the Alva community. It has tested the role of collaboration in providing a 'whole-place' brief and a catalyst for town centre regeneration, a pilot project for local authorities and communities across Scotland.

Outdoor Learning Hub

In 2021 we adapted our support for Scotland's Learning Estate, as schools closed due to the pandemic.

We started collaborating with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, to deliver an Outdoor Learning Hub on their campus in Musselburgh, East Lothian. The project will create a centre for local and national engagement in outdoor learning practice, leadership, and professional development. It will equip current and future teachers, community educators and volunteer leaders with the knowledge and skillset to confidently use outdoor spaces and places to enhance the learner journey of young people across Scotland.

The Outdoor Learning Hub will support sustainable access to the natural world for the university's staff and students, local community and Scotland's teaching professionals. It will also become a backdrop for discussions about how to design with place in mind, opening up ideas to collaborative approaches with the learner at the centre, supporting change and learning from ground level approaches, and to wider conversations about place-based design at a local authority level.



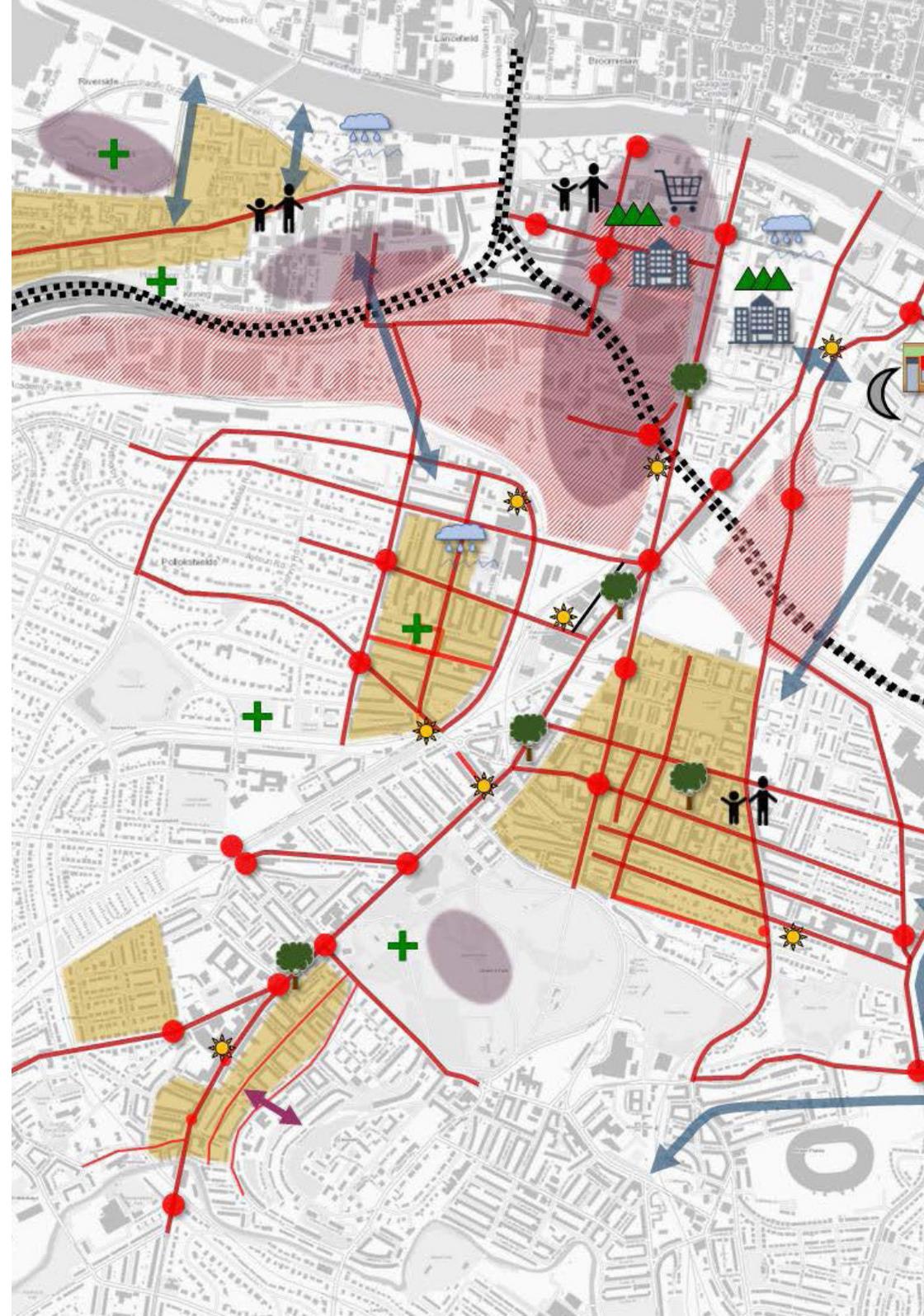
Glasgow South Central

Since 2020 we have supported the Glasgow Spatial Policy Team to engage the community and plan the improvement of Glasgow South Central. We have addressed issues such as climate change, flooding, traffic congestion, vacant and derelict land, high streets, community safety, inequality, and requirements for regeneration. This has involved:

- Analysing nine city districts
- Recording more than 300 residents' views using the Place Standard
- Testing four scenarios: Health & Wellbeing, 20-minute neighbourhood, Carbon Conscious Places, and bridging M74 motorway infrastructure
- 40 local workshop participants
- Timeframes of 10, 20 and 30 years

We helped our colleagues from Glasgow City Council chart what is good, bad and needed, during and after Covid-19. We helped translate baseline evidence and survey responses into spatial strategy and service planning (a Local Development Framework), checking in with elected members.

To share our learning from this process we are developing a visual case study on our digital platforms. This will monitor how the project brings about real change and share learning through the experience of professional and community participants.



01 Key Agencies Group and the Green Recovery

A&DS and the Key Agencies Group have been collaborating to get people to come together around a place-based approach and vision. This is specifically linked to the Green Recovery following the pandemic.

In Fife – Scotland’s third largest local authority area by population – A&DS and the Key Agencies Group have been providing support to the Fife Local Development Plan team to establish a place-based approach to preparing their plan. Our brief was to ensure that departments collaborated to achieve a shared vision. The support addresses the whole Fife local authority area, including Fife’s relationship to other places in Scotland, as well as support to one or more specific priority places for collaborative action at a local level.

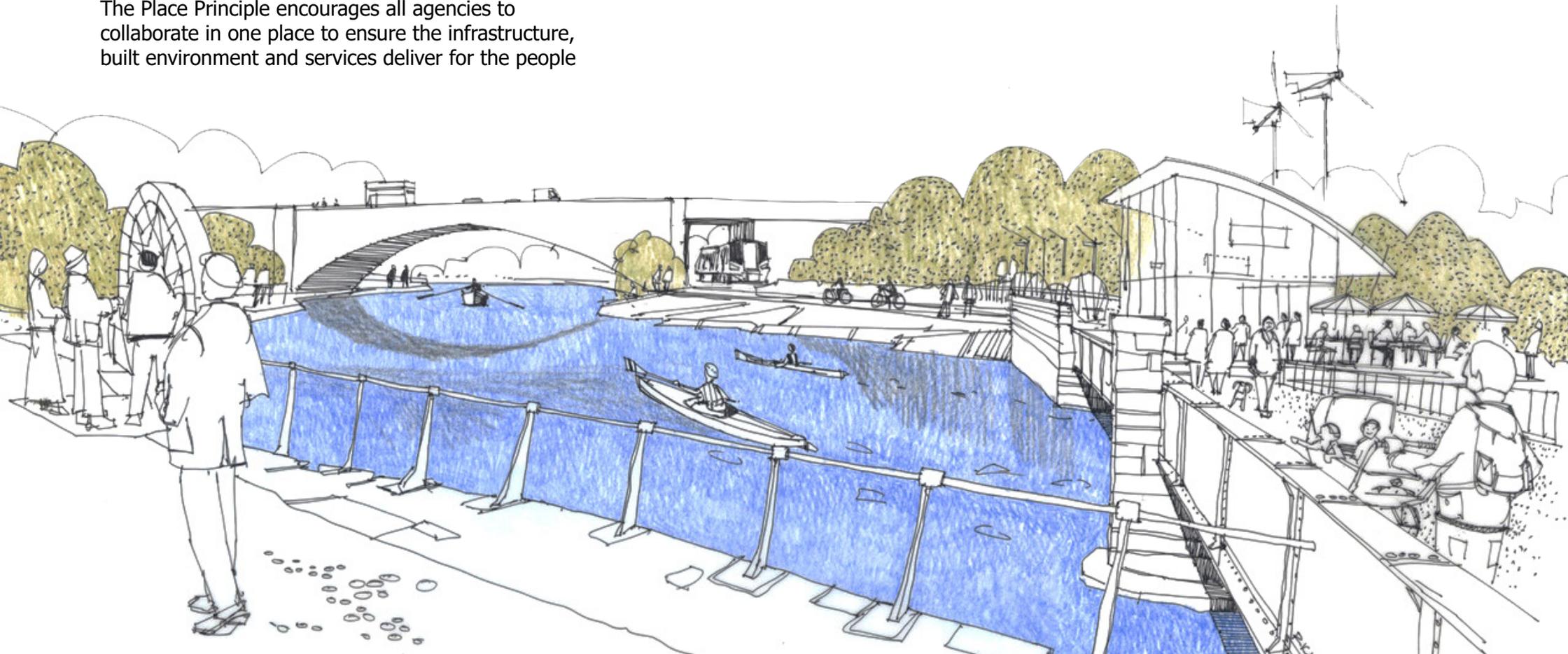
The work has involved working with the council to establish a shared understanding of the existing place qualities and developing an agreed “story of change” to support the delivery of a Local Development Plan.

Stewarton, in East Ayrshire, is considered an early adopter of using a place-based approach to create a Development Framework. Working with the Key Agencies Group, we are supporting the planning department to take a collaborative approach to their plan for Stewarton. By helping them to also put people at the heart of the decision-making process we helped them foster a series of recommendations to be considered in their plan preparation.

Recommendations include testing the 20-minute neighbourhood approach when housing is developed. This is currently being progressed in partnership with the Scottish Government Planning Digital Strategy Team to use Stewarton as a live site to test the principles using various mapping techniques and data analysis.

The Place Principle encourages all agencies to collaborate in one place to ensure the infrastructure, built environment and services deliver for the people

that are living in or using the place. A&DS can bring a whole-place perspective to a range of places across Scotland. Developing a place takes time and involves many partners. Our role is to ensure that people and agencies come together to develop an agreed and shared vision at the very start.



Design Advice Health

From Airdrie to Thurso, our work through NDAP (NHS Scotland Design Assessment Process) has covered the length and breadth of the country. Our engagements have remained virtual throughout 2021, but we have been as busy as ever engaging with health boards and their stakeholders across the country. Over the past 12 months we have supported 18 projects across nine health boards with a total value of circa £700m.

Our support for NHS Highland on their redesign of health and social care services in Caithness began back in early 2020. This is an ambitious and significant project, being one of three national pathfinder schemes to test how to implement and roll out local care. Our initial support was helping stakeholders and end users to develop two Design Statements (one for Caithness General Hospital and another for Caithness Hubs) for the project which is essentially a strategic brief based on local and service needs. The Design Statement is an integral part of NDAP and forms part of the board's statement of need and commitment to government on the nature and quality of the proposed facility, as well as the basis for future design assessment by NDAP. This year we undertook a review of their Initial Agreement (IA) and were impressed with the thorough and comprehensive submission which, if delivered upon, could lead to examples of innovative (in the case of the Hubs) practice in terms of patient, staff and visitor environments.



We have been supporting NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde on their North East Glasgow Health & Care Hub since 2017. The project aims to bring together a range of primary and social care services under one roof. It aims to reduce pressure on hospital services through the delivery of integrated service models and deliver improved population health through the co-location of services.

This year we reviewed the Final Business Case (FBC) submission for the project and were very encouraged by the well-considered design proposals. We think it will not only provide a flagship hub of services within the heart of one of Scotland's most deprived communities but will also provide a positive addition to the local urban environment.



Championing good design and collaboration

We live our lives in places. Places can be inspiring and challenging. They reflect the needs, interests and ambitions of those who shaped them. In turn, they shape the way we think about ourselves and the choices we make. In this section we look at ways that we that we highlighted design in 2021.

Best Use of Timber Awards

After a year of hiatus due to the pandemic, the Best Use of Timber Awards returned.

There was a clear winner: An Cala designed by Mary Arnold-Forster Architects and built by Carbon Dynamic. A low-impact, low-energy, modular home, located in a small area of croft land in Assynt. An Cala sits between two outcrops and is lifted off the ground. It makes the landscape a feature by framing intimate views of Loch Nedd and Quinag, and beyond.

The building consists of prefabricated modules featuring Douglas Fir-lined Cross Laminated Timber. It has a wood fibre external insulation and a charred larch rainscreen cladding which can be taken off and repaired when necessary. Consideration of the building's impact also led to the careful removal and reinstatement of the peat on the plot.

02



What if...?/Scotland



What does the future of your place look like?
What if you could change it?

What if...?/Scotland was designed to be staged in Venice as part of the 17th International Architecture exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, responding to the Biennale theme *How will we live together?* Due to the pandemic the exhibition was restaged at V&A Dundee from May – November 2021.

What if...?/Scotland sought to re-engage the civic role of design professionals by asking communities from across Scotland to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the places they call home. It encouraged collaborative thinking and demonstrated how community grassroots engagement can stimulate local discussions that become global conversations.

At the start of 2020 and prior to the first nationwide lockdown, 7N Architects paired 25 people from across Scotland with 25 designers, architects, and artists to share their hopes, dreams and wishes for the future of the place where they live. They came from Wester Hailes in Edinburgh, Paisley in Renfrewshire, Annan in Dumfries and Galloway, Elgin in Morayshire, and Lerwick in Shetland.

The architects and designers then used these wishes to begin exploring ideas in response to community challenges. A year later, their responses went on public display at V&A Dundee. As we emerge from the pandemic, the notion of people in Scotland's communities coming together to plan for a better future has never been more important.

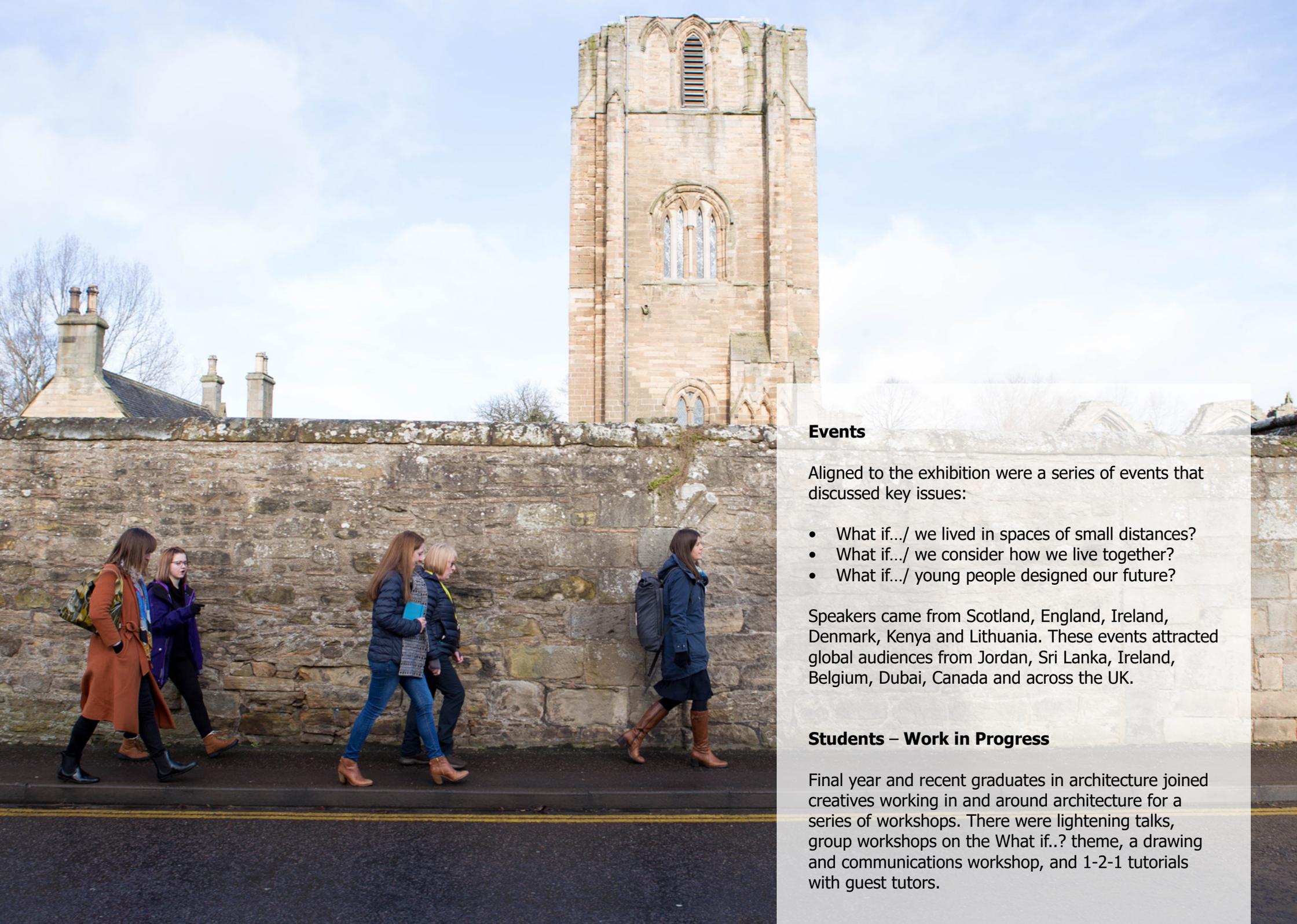
What if...?/Scotland was commissioned by the Scotland + Venice partnership and developed by 7N Architects with Architecture and Design Scotland. The stories of each place, as told by its citizens, were captured in a series of short films by film maker [Basharat Khan](#). They were presented in an immersive environment designed by [7N Architects](#) with [O Street](#).

We developed a new relationship with V&A Dundee and the exhibition was able to grow further by asking local citizens to explore what they want the city of Dundee to look and feel like in the future, working together with designers, architects, and citizens. The outcomes were exhibited along a cloud of wishes from visitors to the exhibition.

What if...?/Scotland won the Edinburgh Architecture Association Ambassadors Award.

What if...?/Scotland welcomed over 80,000 visitors and collected over 10,000 wishes from the people of Scotland and beyond.

02



Events

Aligned to the exhibition were a series of events that discussed key issues:

- What if.../ we lived in spaces of small distances?
- What if.../ we consider how we live together?
- What if.../ young people designed our future?

Speakers came from Scotland, England, Ireland, Denmark, Kenya and Lithuania. These events attracted global audiences from Jordan, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Belgium, Dubai, Canada and across the UK.

Students – Work in Progress

Final year and recent graduates in architecture joined creatives working in and around architecture for a series of workshops. There were lightning talks, group workshops on the What if..? theme, a drawing and communications workshop, and 1-2-1 tutorials with guest tutors.

Studies in Shared Learning Spaces

Through our work we look at school buildings of different sizes and scales, ranging from remote schools in rural locations to community campus buildings that cater for learners of all ages.

We support schools and local authorities to explore different settings for learning which respond and adapt to new ways of teaching and learning, embracing the experiences that will equip young people to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As part of our work we encourage participation to identify the learning needs and aspirations. We help teachers and learners reimagine their environments as inspiring learning places, using a process to test temporary solutions.

In November 2021 we published the Studies in Shared Learning Spaces resource which will be of use to those who are looking to explore changing their learning spaces. It supports teachers and pupils to work together by using design-principles and tools to enhance the quality of learning in our schools. The document introduces the principles, as well as a range of case studies where schools have worked together to transform their spaces.

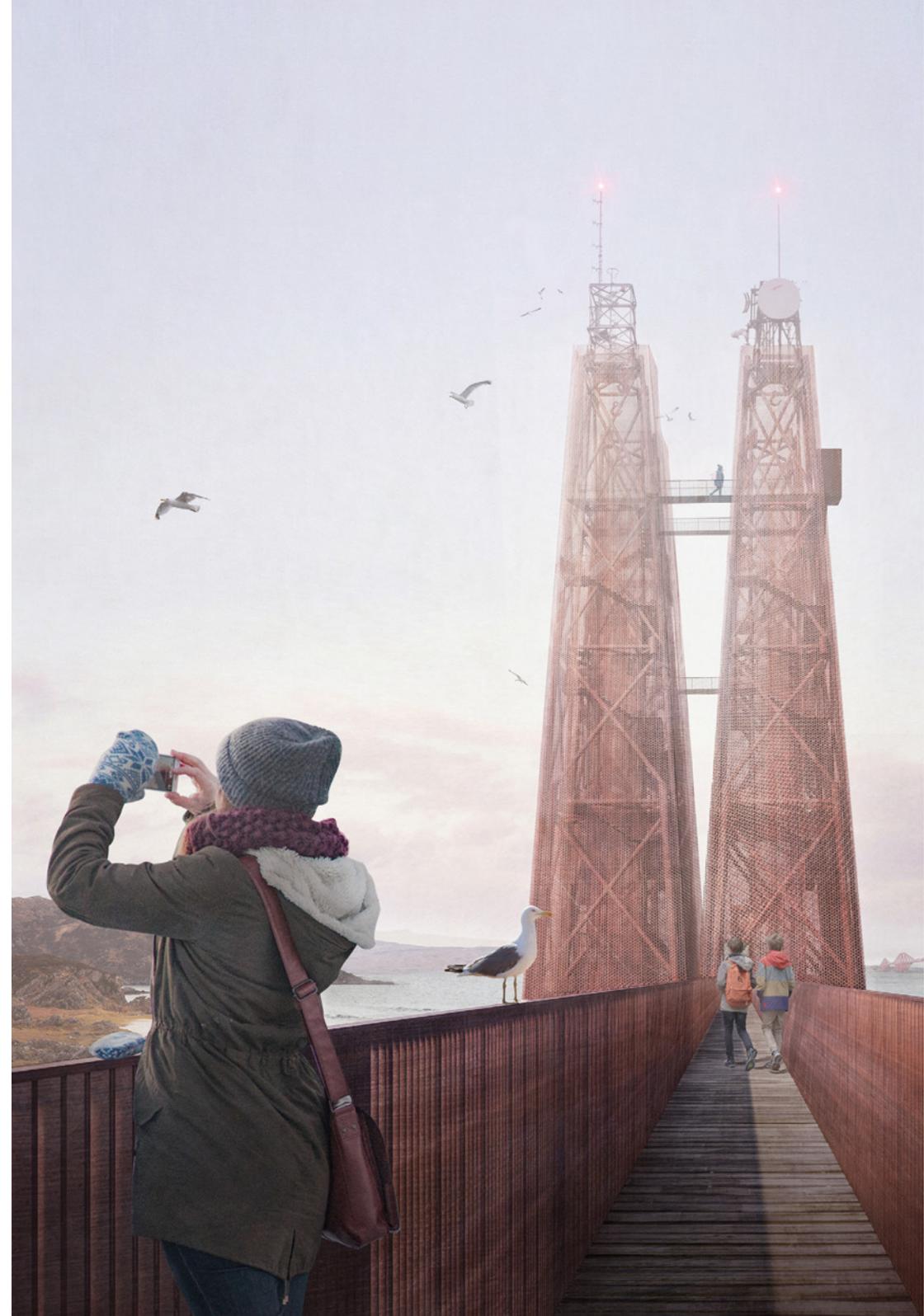


A&DS and RIAS Student Awards for Architecture

The annual A&DS and RIAS Student Awards for Architecture offer a rare opportunity to see all five Scottish schools of architecture together. The awards recognise the achievement of individual students and their schools. They are a mark of the continuing high standards of Scottish architectural education and enable both the public and the profession to enjoy the creativity and vision of Scotland's future architects.

Over 75 entries were submitted for the awards this year from all five schools. Following a challenging year of online courses, the proposals highlighted the resilience and creativity of architecture students in Scotland. The projects, from the Scottish Highlands to Souika, Ahmedabad and Tokyo, tackled a variety of social and environmental issues and had a strong focus on the climate emergency.

This year's Andy MacMillan Memorial Lecture was given by The Bartlett's Dr Jos Boys, Co-founder of The DisOrdinary Architecture Project, who also was the guest judge for the awards.





The A&DS and RIAS Student Awards Categories:

- RIAS Rowand Anderson Silver Medal for Best Fifth Year Student
- A&DS Award for Best Third Year Student
- A&DS Urban Design Award
- A&DS Sustainable Design Award
- The RIAS Andy MacMillan Drawing Award

The 2021 winning projects can be found [here](#).

Acting on the climate emergency

The climate emergency is our greatest challenge and touches almost every aspect of our lives. Places created or adapted to tackle climate change are also better places for people. Whilst climate is a key consideration in all our work, in this section you can read about some of our work that is specifically focussed on climate.

Kilmarnock Blue Green Workshop



Our Key Agencies Group Green Recovery Offer to East Ayrshire Council saw us facilitating a workshop in August, bringing a place-based collegiate approach to managing flood risk in Kilmarnock's town centre, industrial areas and derelict sites.

In the words of our agency colleagues: "We saw an identifiable change in mindset where the council started to see water as an asset, rather than just flooding as the issue."

The presentations and focus groups we curated helped to open up the conversation, to show the 'art of the possible' and to translate that learning into achievable actions and leadership by the council. These presentations, including three by our Design Advice panellists, played a key part in showing what is possible with the added benefit of creating a series of training videos now shared more widely on our digital platforms.

03

Climate Action Towns

To enable us to adapt to the impacts of the climate and ecological emergency, we need to work together to deliver change.

Over 50% of Scotland's population live in towns. It is therefore key that local authorities and communities are empowered to respond to the climate emergency. However, every town has its own unique set of circumstances, demographics, and geography so there is no one-size-fits all approach for adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Action Towns project, which is funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Architecture and Design Scotland, works with local people and organisations in small towns across Scotland to empower and support communities to take place-based climate action. We do this reflecting the unique challenges and opportunities each town faces.

Launched in 2021, the Climate Action Towns project is focusing on the power of 'place-based' action. This can include a wide spectrum of approaches: from the creation of resilient food networks; to the adoption of the 20-minute neighbourhood by place planning; to the creation of community renewable energy co-operatives; right down to simple principles like whether we choose to build new buildings or refurbish and adapt existing ones.





The towns involved in the Climate Action Towns project are:

- Invergordon – Highlands
- Alness – Highlands
- Blackburn – West Lothian
- Campbeltown – Argyll & Bute
- Stevenston – North Ayrshire
- Holytown – North Lanarkshire
- Annan – Dumfries & Galloway

Climate Beacons for COP26

Climate Beacons for COP26 is a Scotland-wide collaborative project between climate change or environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead-up to and following COP26.

Seven beacons, made up of partnerships between multiple organisations, have been established in Argyll, Caithness, Fife, Inverclyde, Midlothian, the Outer Hebrides and Tayside. Each beacon is organising a range of locally relevant events and activities running until June 2022.

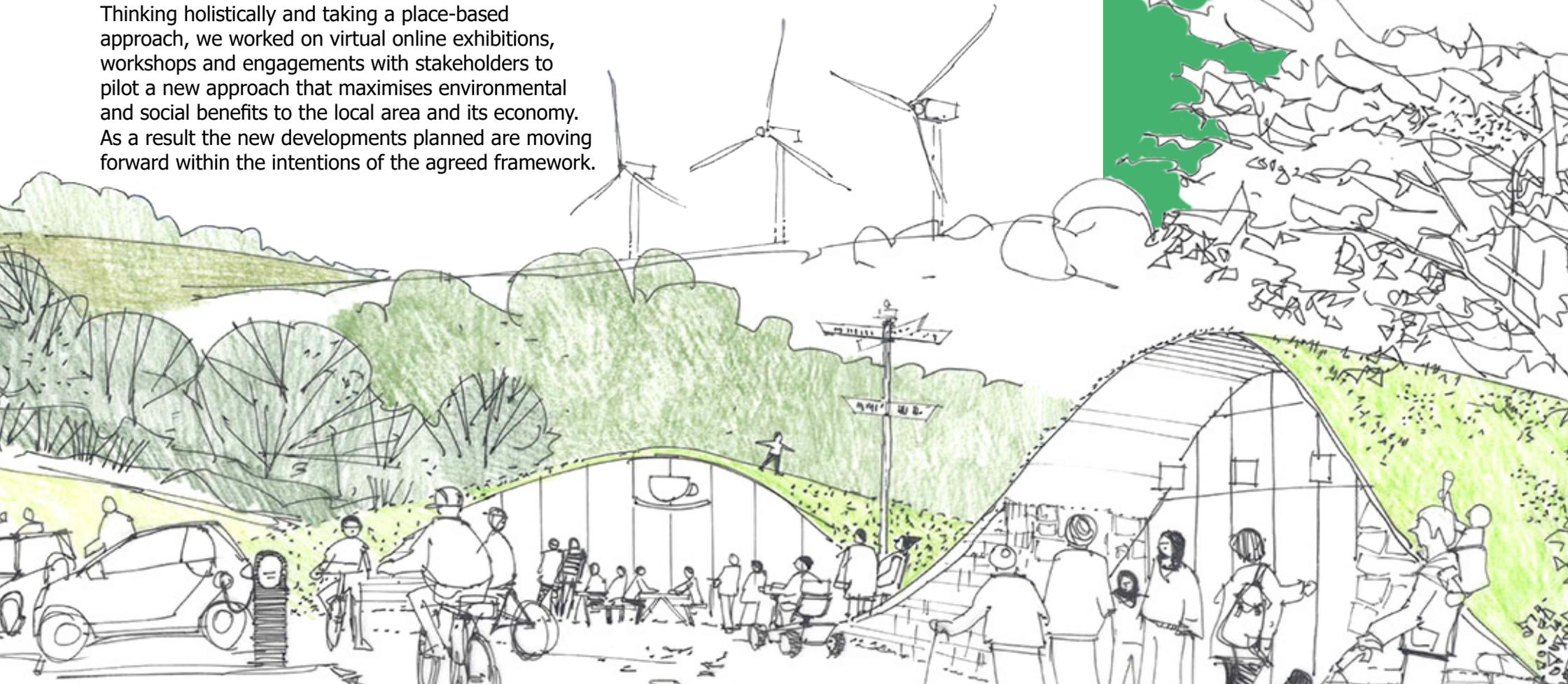
The project is led by Creative Carbon Scotland, connecting the seven beacons and offering support throughout, alongside six co-ordinating partners: Architecture & Design Scotland, Creative Scotland, Edinburgh Climate Change Institute, Museums Galleries Scotland, Scottish Library and Information Council, and Sustainable Scotland Network. Funding comes from the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland, and Museums Galleries Scotland.



Hagshaw Hill

The infrastructure supporting renewable energy is a significant part of our places and our landscapes. This year we worked with NatureScot, East Ayrshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and LUC to pilot a new development framework for a cluster of windfarms at Hagshaw Hill.

Thinking holistically and taking a place-based approach, we worked on virtual online exhibitions, workshops and engagements with stakeholders to pilot a new approach that maximises environmental and social benefits to the local area and its economy. As a result the new developments planned are moving forward within the intentions of the agreed framework.





Our snapshots and what you said

Working directly with people we create examples of what working together in a place means. It allows us to gather evidence of the benefits of collaboration. This is an important part of our work. In this section we look at a snapshot of our work in 2021.

You can find out more about our work on www.ads.org.uk and by signing up to our newsletter.



SpACE

We supported [SpACE](#), a pop-up public exhibition and events venue in Edinburgh that addressed the biggest issue of our time – the climate emergency – and how the built environment affects it. The exhibition, timed to coincide with the COP26 summit, showcased Edinburgh's built environment in the context of the climate emergency as a way of promoting design-based solutions to the issues.

Design for Planet

A&DS participated in the Design for Planet event at V&A Dundee in November. It was a physical and virtual event hosted by Design Council, bringing together the UK's design community to address the climate emergency.

What if...?/Scotland

The award-winning exhibition What if...?/Scotland collected over 10,000 wishes from the people of Scotland and beyond.

COP26 Events

We participated in 14 events in and around COP26.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Material Flows

We supported [a case study](#) looking to understand, categorise and ultimately transform single use PPE waste into new products.

Keeping in touch

We sent 12 newsletters in 2021, tweeted 389 times and grew our Twitter following with 373 new followers.

Media coverage

The work of A&DS was highlighted in the media in 2021, including significant coverage on the What if...?/Scotland exhibition, the launch of Climate Action Towns and profiling our work on learning spaces.

Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (Round 4)

In October 2021, A&DS helped review 25 submissions received from 11 Local Authorities. Of those, a total of 10 projects were approved for funding, and 2 provisionally approved, totalling £2.68m worth of funding.

04

Education buildings

We published [a case study](#) in Further Education buildings, and delivered a workshop at the Learning Places Scotland event in Glasgow.

Lossiemouth High School

We supported Moray Council and the teaching staff moving into the new Lossiemouth High School. We helped staff prepare for a range of dynamic learning environments and an approach to community integration. We prepared a questionnaire to help identify opportunities and any potential barriers. We supported the production of a document, a series of 'success story' videos from other schools, and the commission of a 3D walkthrough model to help staff orientate themselves around the new building, which has just reached completion.

KAG Green Recovery reflection

We received 100% positive feedback in response to the question "Are you seeing the value or benefits of working collaboratively in this way?"

Policy consultations

In 2021 we provided input on a number of policy areas, including local development plans, housing and net zero nation.

Materials Library animation

We published [an animation](#) explaining why our choice of building materials matters.

Climate emergency Training

A&DS staff members took part in Climate Emergency Training, delivered by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Through online sessions staff highlighted practical actions that individuals and A&DS could take to reduce emissions and adapt. A&DS staff reviewed the organisational footprint and discussed ways to use their influence to reduce emissions in the sector and help design a lower carbon Scotland.

“One key benefit of participating in the workshop was becoming aware of the degree of consensus that exists around what is needed on Skye & Raasay.”

Skye & Raasay workshop participant

“The whole conversation and narrative has changed since the workshop with both agencies, colleagues and the council looking at things differently.”

Kilmarnock workshop – East Ayrshire Council

“[...] It’s been a joy to have an opportunity to discuss with other educators and practitioners just what we value about good work in our discipline and why we value it. I found these incredibly productive discussions. Although we had a range of different approaches, there was an absolute enthusiasm on all sides to value work that engaged with formal spatial technological complexities, but that also had a strong social agenda and showed a real sense of care around inhabitation and use.”

Dr Jos Boys, Co-founder of The DisOrdinary Architecture Project, and guest judge of the A&DS and RIAS Scottish Student Awards for Architecture

“The council were frustrated at the multiple voices they were hearing from agencies, often conflicting. The workshop has changed that.”

Kilmarnock workshop – East Ayrshire Council

“The plan considers the area as a whole rather than small pockets of development, getting the pockets of development to work better together.”

Skye & Raasay workshop participant

“It has been invaluable having the support of A&DS and KAG partners. They have challenged us to think differently, to broaden our understanding of place. They have helped to bring others around the table and to raise the profile (and awareness of the significance) of our Local Development Plan. They have provided a high level of added value to the workshops that have been run.”

Fife KAG workshop participant

“In the areas in which KAG is assisting us, we have made more progress in the last few months than has been made in the last five years. Relationships have been formed which has made it easier to continue conversations and get nearer to solutions for our communities.”

KAG Stewarton workshops – East Ayrshire Council

“As Scotland's design museum, we have been delighted to host What if...?/Scotland. The exhibition has created space for visitors to reflect on what really matters about a place, and has celebrated the joy and value of places that we all use every day that are so crucial to our communities [...] It's been a privilege to bring the knowledge of citizens together with designers and architects to consider together how to design better places for everyone.”

Leonie Bell, Director, V&A Dundee – on What If...?/Scotland

“The key benefits of the KAG workshop and report and recommendations were the relationships it fostered, the connections made between people. The wider understanding of all of the issues rather than people thinking in their own silos. The ability to start to make connections between different problems and equally solutions.”

KAG Stewarton workshops – East Ayrshire Council

Staff highlights and “what ifs” for the future

In 2021 Architecture and Design Scotland helped deliver the successful What if...?/Scotland exhibition, together with 7N Architects and the Scotland + Venice partnership.

The project asked a simple question: what is your dream, hope or wish for your place? In this section we asked A&DS staff to share a highlight from 2021, as well as add their own What if...?

I guess my highlight was the increase in our funding from the Scottish Government – a huge vote of confidence in us and our work. This has allowed us to expand our team and extend our reach. A close second was our away-day at V&A Dundee in November and the chance to see so many people again after so long.

Jim

Hi, It's Alex (second best voice of BT 1999 and DJ at second best Hip Hop club in the UK 2006 Hip Hop Connection readers poll). This year I have enjoyed exploring my new role as a 'voice over specialist'. My BT skills came in to play 22 years late...

Alex

Joining the Learning and Communications Team after getting a permanent contract is my highlight. One of my first pieces of work with the team was creating the carbon conscious animations... For me this combined my knowledge with my great love of drawing and communication. But I know this is just the beginning... for me and the team... so watch this space.

Gerard



UNDERSTANDING

APPRECIATING

WORKING WITH

05



Definitely the staff meeting at What if...?/Scotland at the V&A Dundee. Good to see people away from online meetings and be reminded of the important work that this project holds.

Morag

Launching What If...?/Scotland at V&A Dundee, and after a challenging few months, finally being able to sit back and watch the films and seeing and hearing the insightful voices of citizens and designers across Scotland come across.

Andrew

Opening the What if...?/Scotland exhibition in V&A Dundee was a highlight: meeting colleagues for the first time in months, seeing the exhibition "in person", having a series of successful events with substantial media coverage and building new professional contacts with V&A Dundee was great!

Anja

Contributing to What If...?/Scotland – a project with a local focus and an international presence – and finally visiting the exhibition after many months of restrictions.

Erini

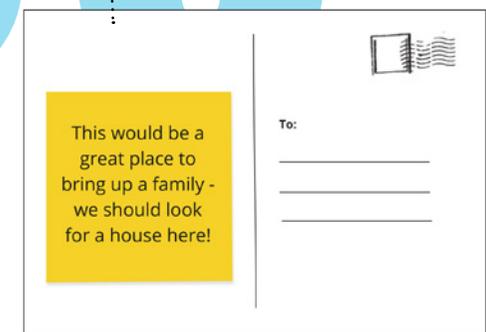
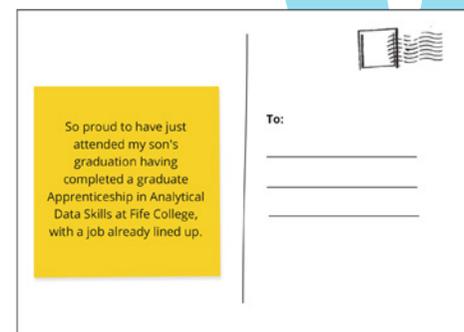
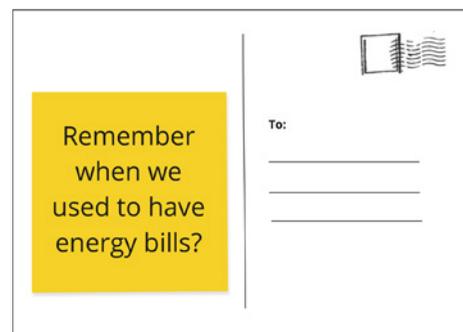
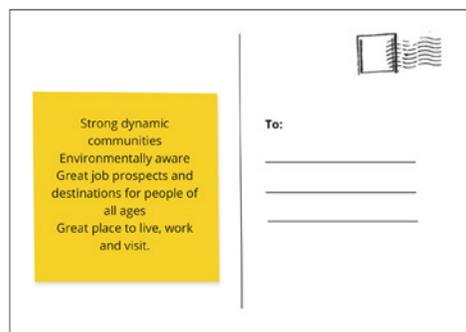
A key highlight of the year has been seeing the work we do with Key Agencies Group colleagues really find its feet. We've held a whole range of collaborative online workshops to support local authority partners across the country to take a place-based approach. It's been great to develop creative new ways of working together online along the way. Some postcards from Fife 2050...

Working with our colleagues in the Key Agencies Group was a highlight. At a crucial time in the development of the planning system and NPF4, it's been fantastic to play a role in providing design advice around the green recovery and the place principle.

Kate G

Tim

05

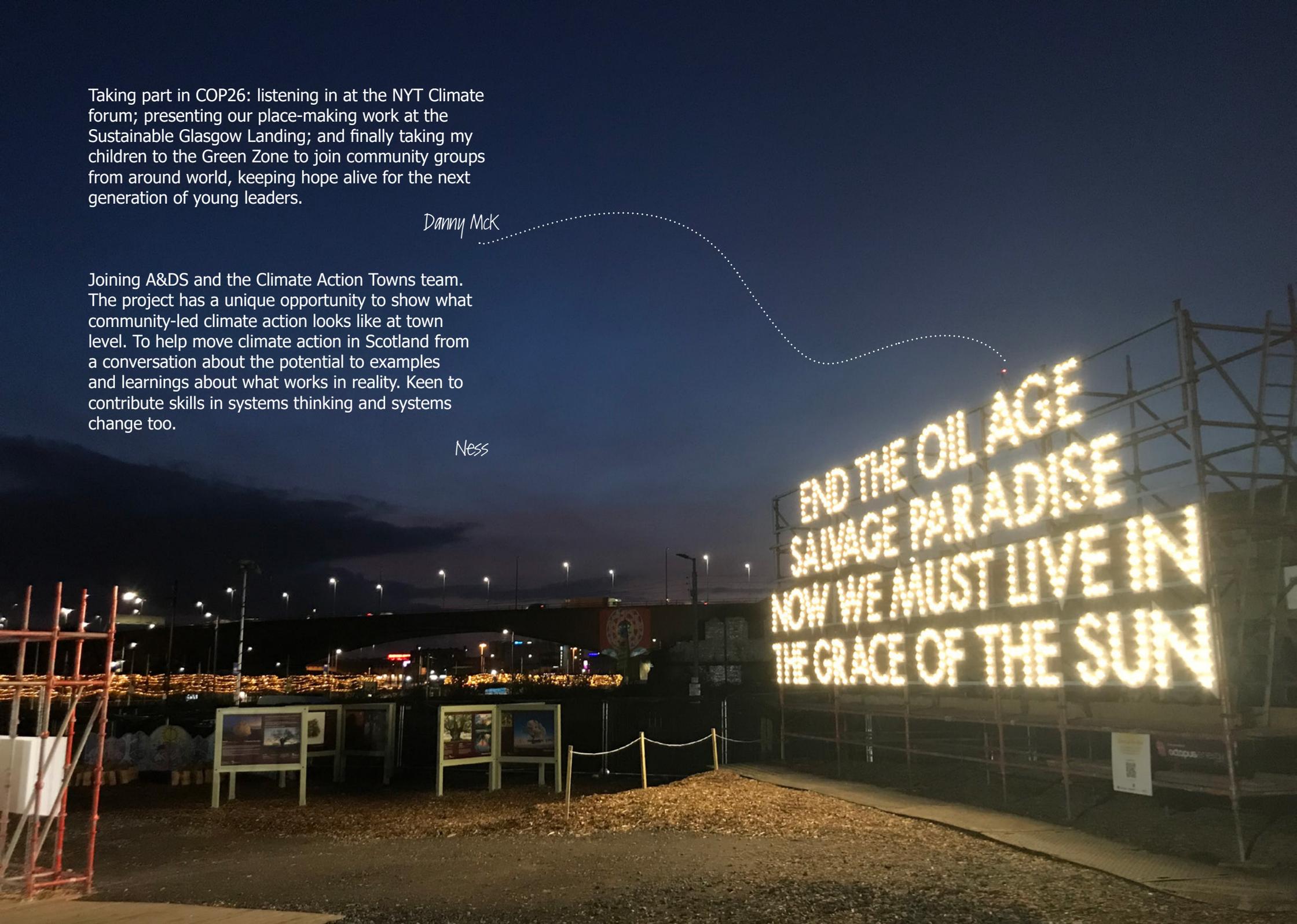


Taking part in COP26: listening in at the NYT Climate forum; presenting our place-making work at the Sustainable Glasgow Landing; and finally taking my children to the Green Zone to join community groups from around world, keeping hope alive for the next generation of young leaders.

Danny McK

Joining A&DS and the Climate Action Towns team. The project has a unique opportunity to show what community-led climate action looks like at town level. To help move climate action in Scotland from a conversation about the potential to examples and learnings about what works in reality. Keen to contribute skills in systems thinking and systems change too.

Ness



Working with Steve on the Alva pathfinder. Our first comprehensive whole-place collaborative approach – bringing it all together rather than one agenda at a time. Hard work but very rewarding in a product much appreciated by our client authority and with illustrated prompts and ideas accessible to a far wider audience.

Johnny

A wise woman said early on in the work on the new strategy that crises will keep happening and it's by focusing on the long-term goal that we can learn to handle these. My highlight for this year is seeing efforts to take on the challenges of our time are aligning around people, place and collaboration.

Emelie

Key highlight for the year has been the ability to work remotely with a local authority or place on a regular basis. We have been able to support teams and communities in a manner that geography and travel time would have previously limited. We have built relationships online and demonstrated good work can be achieved in difficult and unpredictable circumstances.

Whilst still feeling the impact of Covid-19 and all colleagues working from home, finding new ways to deliver our work and coming together to support each other.

Karen

Lynne



What if... we could maintain the pedestrian/cyclist/people-friendly approaches we adopted during lockdown.

Anja

What if... we learned to dialogue with landscape (place). This requires us knowing place, really knowing and listening...

Gerard

What if... young people had places to be, to call their own, to be trusted with...

Morag

What if... we stopped pushing the responsibility of climate change on to those who are less advantaged and made larger, more powerful agencies, people and companies take change with how they operate; you could call it leading by example. This responsibility pushing is pretty evident in more affluent areas of a city for example.

Alex

What if... design was fun again, fun for everyone, not just for designers.

Johnny

What if... not commuting means that we pay more attention and care to our local places and neighbourhoods, connecting to people around us, to give us balance for all the "big" problems we have to solve.

Emelie

What if... we positively encourage people not to go back to 'normal'.

Danny Mck

What if... we opened up all of Edinburgh's private parks and gardens (like Charlotte Square and Queen Street Gardens) to the public?

Andrew

What if... the water at Wardie Bay was sparkling clean for wild swimming.

Lynne

What if... everyone would rethink their driveways – could tarmac be replaced by another material that would aid with water run-off and adsorb carbon?

Karen

What if... we looked and listened to a place rather than tailoring a place to our agenda.

Johnny

What if... A&DS had place 'hit squads' to turn 'what if' into 'what next'

Danny Mck

What if... we converted all of Edinburgh's on-street parking into allotments? Instead of most households having a car parking space, they would have their own patch for growing their own seasonal produce. The footprint of all of this space, when added up, would be equal to something like the Meadows.

Andrew

What if... young people have safe places to meet and socialise.

Lynne

What if... the good things we have had to prioritise continue – outside meetings, recognising that people need our support, appreciation of nature...

Morag

What if... what if became like a meme... What if designers took on their places, talked to their neighbours... and together designed their place.

Gerard

What if... people felt they have a choice to get out of their cars, to seek alternatives that meet their needs, that are affordable and an enjoyable experience. I want them to see the potential for the spaces that are then made available in our public realm that were dominated by cars.

Karen

05

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