

# FERGUS PURDIE

Before establishing Fergus Purdie Architects, a broad range of educational and professional experiences informed practice and teaching interests. These included graduate studies at the University of Dundee, postgraduate research and internship at the architecture studio of Herman Hertzberger, Amsterdam, and founding partner of Architecture Unlimited, Edinburgh. All have informed and inspired a continuing interest to develop a collaborative, design-led practice.

A long-term commitment to education has also been central towards establishing a generalist approach to architecture. The practice has been recognised locally, nationally and internationally for its project work. In 2012, this reputation was acknowledged by the Royal Scottish Academy when Fergus was elected an Academician, RSA.

[ferguspurdiearchitect.co.uk](http://ferguspurdiearchitect.co.uk)



1. Perth City Study, memory mapping by local primary school children. 2017 © Fergus Purdie Architects
2. Camera Obscura, graduate architects participating in self-build fieldwork, Cairngorms 2009 © Fergus Purdie Architects
3. Studios for an artist and architect with workshops and living space © Fergus Purdie Architects



## MANIFESTO:

Our practice preoccupation with residual and leftover spaces, draws much from the work of Patrick Geddes (1854 – 1932). Place Making – encouraging people’s participation in the growth and change of their cities.

### Progressive practice is important to us.

In our projects, we endeavour to continue this Scottish generalist tradition of active citizenship through democratic design and procurement methods, from open dialogue to direct action.

### Making architecture is important to us.

Our project work, over several decades, seeks to be collaborative and, where opportunity allows, experimental, which leads towards a community of purpose.

### Creative exchange is important to us.



4. Blueprint of the design of Galeron’s Hollow Celestial Sphere. University of Strathclyde. Research for the exhibition A BOTANIST LOOKS AT THE WORLD – The Life and Work of Patrick Geddes (1854 – 1932). Conceived and curated by Fergus Purdie Architects
5. Aldo van Eyck: Playground in Zeedijk, Amsterdam 1956. © Amsterdam City Archive. From the exhibition A BOTANIST LOOKS AT THE WORLD – The Life and Work of Patrick Geddes (1854 – 1932). Conceived and curated by Fergus Purdie Architects
6. Patrick Geddes image and quotation © Fergus Purdie Architects



## INFLUENCES:

Our practice preoccupation with residual and leftover spaces, draws much from the ideas and values of the Scottish Polymath, Patrick Geddes (1854 – 1932). An advocate of urban regeneration, known as conservative surgery and social change led by direct action, resulted in making the ordinary, everyday, and overlooked into meaningful people’s spaces. Geddes’s approach to the city also emerged in the work of 20th century architects such as Giancarlo De Carlo, Aldo van Eyck and many others, a progressive tradition still relevant, and much-needed, today. The selected images, sourced from our practice research, represents this architecture of creative realism; full of optimism and hope in the present – the here and now.

‘He could make young men have dreams and old men see visions... What are you going to do, to create?’

