Street Studio: Derry/Londonderry 2017


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Derry/Londonderry 2017
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This document presents the outcomes of Street Studio – a design studio in the Masters of Architecture Course at Queen’s University Belfast that ran September to December 2017. Street Studio is the result of a collaboration between Community Organisations in Derry/ Londonderry, the Urban Villages Team (within The Executive Office) and QUB.

Street Studio evolved from Street Society: A pedagogical event that has been running in Queen’s University Belfast for the last 8 years. Street Society is a week-long annual design event that enables students and community representatives to work together to generate a new vision for their neighbourhoods. For the last 2 years, Street Society has been funded by the Department of Communities in support of Urban Villages: an initiative driven by the NI Executive Office, and a headline action of the ‘Together Building a United community.’ (T:BUC) Strategy.

Street Society provides a rich, live learning experience for students of architecture but significantly it also creates a place where residents and community organisations can collaborate with students to capture and visualize ideas that evolve into proposals about the future use of local spaces and buildings.

Over the last 2 years Street Society has worked on 26 projects across all 5 of the Urban Villages and from these collaborations projects have successfully entered the capital pipeline and are moving towards potential investment and delivery. The community clients and the Urban Village team were keen to expand the process of Street Society beyond a single week, and engage a group of masters students in Street Studio over a more intensive 10 week long process. The students have examined in greater detail, one of the identified proposed capital project areas: The Lecky Road in the Bogside, Derry/Londonderry, with a specific focus on the potential of the Meenan Square site.

The overall brief, aims, objectives and outputs of Street Studio were developed by the Urban Villages Capital Team with QUB to capture information including site, local history, context and area information. Design strategies were generated to inform the future site brief, and the procurement and development of ideas by any formally appointed Integrated Consultant Team in the future.

In order to achieve the overall aim, the students:
1. Researched models of best practice related to community development.
2. Carried out site and area analysis: Asset mapping (including analysis of historical/physical/cultural/ organisational context).
3. Consulted with community representatives, Urban Villages team and other stakeholders.
4. Evolved and tested accessible and engaging forms of representation.
5. Developed and presented outline design strategies.

Street Studio involved:
Gavin Gribben, Adrienne Barr, Shauneen Donaghy (2nd year masters students) 
Safa Sharif and Emilie Houdmon (1st year Masters Students) 
Tom McKeogh, practicing architect, acting as Studio Tutor and Ruth Morrow, Professor of Architecture.

Street Studio was supported by Carl Southern (Urban Villages Capital Technical Project Sponsor Architect) and Maureen Fox (Urban Villages Bogside / Fountain Local Co-Ordinator)
STREET STUDIO
Site Analysis
STREET STUDIO

Aerial image to identify the location of the Bogside, Derry/Londonderry, within Northern Ireland and its relationship with the Donegal border, and Belfast City.
STUDY AREA
STUDY AREA & ITS RELATIONSHIPS

The Meenan Square site has a prominent location within the Bogside Area of Derry/Londonderry with a strong connection to the city walls. It has the potential to act as a gateway/hub on the Lecky Road, creating a link between the Gasyard and the Museum of Free Derry.
EXISTING FIGURE GROUND
Mapping to indicate the solid and void within the surrounding context of the site.
The site location is of strong historical significance. It is within close proximity to the city walls and several listed buildings. It is vital that the proposal for Meenan Square remains sensitive to this context to maximise the value of the area.
GREEN SPACE

Existing urban green spaces beyond the site extents illustrate the deficit of green space within the residential area.
TRAFFIC NETWORK

The site is situated on the Lecky road, on the corner of Westland Street. Due to the close proximity of the Meenan site to the fly-over there are significant issues with safe vehicular access to the site off the Lecky Road.
MEENAN SITE AREA
BOUNDARY OF MEENAN SITE STUDY

EXISTING MEENAN SITE STUDY AREA

MEENAN SITE STUDY AREA
The site limits and site area.
SITE MODEL
Constructed at scale 1:200.
SITE MODEL
Constructed at scale 1:200.
CURRENT VEHICULAR ACCESS

SITE CONNECTIVITY
VIEWS ON & OFF MEENAN SITE STUDY AREA
Meenan Square has a significant presence within the community. The surrounding residential streets have strong visual connections to the site from all directions. It has developed into a landmark within the Bogside area.
VIEWS: VEHICULAR APPROACH FROM THE FLYOVER
VIEWS: VEHICULAR APPROACH FROM LECKY ROAD
VIEWS: MEENAN SQUARE
VIEWS: CULTURAL HERITAGE ON LECKY ROAD

The cultural value and heritage of the site is of great value, particularly the presence of the Bogside Murals. Development of the site has the potential to become a complimentary link to these murals and, therefore, enhance the value of the area.
CONNECTION WITH THE CITY WALLS

The strong visual connection of the site to the city walls enhances the identity of Meenan Square as a focus within the area. The site has the potential to encourage tourists down from the city walls towards the site, increasing the footfall to Lecky Road. As seen above, the roof-scape of the site and surrounding area has a particular visual significance from the walls.
COMMUNITY
STAKEHOLDERS
RECOGNISED ORGANISATIONS

The diagram shows the twenty-seven recognised organisations within the Urban Villages core area of Derry/Londonderry. The development of Meenan Square has the potential to assist these active organisations with provision of new and improved facilities for the existing communities.
STUDY AREA ORGANISATIONS

Existing community organisations recognised by Urban Villages have been mapped in relation to the study areas and Meenan Square site. Successful development of the site has the potential to compliment the above organisations. This indicative mapping has been undertaken to ensure that the development of Meenan Square is supportive of organisations within the study area.
DESIGN GENERATORS FOR MEENAN SQUARE DEVELOPMENT
TWO FACADES
The residential facade and the city facade.
There is the potential to enhance urban green space, with the introduction of a pedestrian greenway.
VIEWS
There is the potential to reinforce transparency and existing sight-lines.
The students explored functions that have the potential to increase the Socio-Economic value of the site as well as building capacity and skills. Successful examples of these active functions can be found within the studio’s *best-practice* precedent book ‘Forms of Engaged Practice’
This diagram shows the relationship between what the community have asked for and the overall site area.
FUNCTION MASSING
These series of diagrams indicate the area allowances on the Meenan site, based on student analysis.
INDICATIVE APPROACHES TO MASSING
The students prepared a number of ‘massing options’ for indicative proposals on the Meenan Square site.
LECKY ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS
Interactive information points, improved green and spaces for seating, play an important role in street regeneration.
WAY-FINDING
Solar powered glow-in-the-dark footpaths offer a vibrant and distinctive way-finding solution.
Various new forms of public furniture improve perception and experience of space.
WAY FINDING

Street Signage links the culture of the community, wayfinding strategies, possible future heritage trails, and interactive experiences via websites and apps.
Street markers along the Lecky Road trail provide wayfing oppotunity.
GREENING THE LECKY ROAD
Green vertical walls on the existing gables along Lecky Road where murals aren’t present provide welcome splashes of nature.
THE POTENTIAL STREET

The street is thought of as a cross section of activity, combining heritage, culture information points, way-finding, seating, cycle and pedestrian lanes and public gardens.
URBAN ORCHARD

Seasonal vegetation, and fruit bearing trees are considered as part of the new urban green space.
GREEN BOULEVARD

The Meenan Square site is considered as a ‘hub’ of activity along a revitalised green Lecky Road.
THE EXISTING
Lecky Road today.
REFERENCE: LIDZBARK WARMINSKI, POLAND
Solar powered glow-in-the-dark footpaths
REFERENCE: VAN GOGH-ROOSEGAARDE CYCLE PATH, NETHERLANDS
Dan Roosegaarde
REFERENCE: CAIXA FORUM, MADRID

Herzog de Meuron
DEVELOPMENT OF MEENAN SQUARE DESIGN IDEAS
DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Five key principles were developed to guide design thinking around the Meenan Square site.
**MAKING PLACE SUCCESSFUL**

Further design principles are considered here as a means to understand the qualities that will help make the Meenan Square site a successful place.
CATALYSTS BEHIND THE CONCEPTS

The themes that the students explored and developed across the Meenan Square site were inspired by the above models of best practice, detailed within our 'Forms of Engaged Practice' book produced at the beginning of the semester. The four themes that are explored in detail are:

1. Fresh From The Bog  2. Do It Together  3. The Story House  4. The Epicentre
“Fresh from the Bog” brings forms of ‘green living’ to the Bogside. The project benefits both the individual and the community. Sources of inspiration come from the studio’s visit to projects in Paris: specifically ‘Passage 56’ and ‘La Recyclerie’.

‘Fresh From The Bog’ proposes a series of spaces that promote a socially and economically sensitive means of food production. This project strives to change local attitudes and aims to encourage better lifestyle choices. The edible garden allows for participatory activities centered around cultivation. It is a place where local people can gain skills and training, building capacity within the community.

The community kitchen will educate families regarding healthy and affordable food choices. The kitchen will hold classes on meal planning and food economics, promoting healthier alternatives to processed food. This space will welcome people of all age groups, targeting current and future ‘meal makers’.

‘Fresh From The Bog’ proposes a weekly farmers market. The market will invite local farmers to sell their goods, as well as selling food grown on site.

One of the main economic drivers of this project will be a landmark venue. This venue will aim to attract multiple events to the Bogside. Located on an elevated level, ‘The Bogside Towers’ will become an iconic venue for local people to hold a range of events from weddings to conferences, exhibitions, and trade fairs.
Passage 56

Passage 56 is a community garden, located in a previously disused passageway in Paris. The local community use the garden for growing, as well as holding multiple events such as shows, exhibitions, debates, festivals, workshops, screenings, concerts and seminars. Passage 56 regularly hosts a market, selling organic produce grown locally. The space minimises its ecological footprint through the use of composting, recycling and solar panels.
La Recyclerie
see p. 306 & 320 FORMS OF ENGAGED PRACTICE

La Recyclerie is a restaurant, bar, café, and a vegetable garden featuring daily DIY workshops. Situated in a disused railway, La Recyclerie is a repurposed space that also houses a mini farm: a chicken coe, beehives, and an aquaponic greenhouse. Every Thursday evening, a weekly market brings together local producers for farmers to sell their goods to the public.
Incredible Edible Todmorden

Incredible Edible is an urban gardening project which was started in 2008 by Pamela Warhurst, Mary Clew and a group of like minded people in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, England. The project aims to bring people together through actions around local food, helping to change behaviour towards the environment and to build a kinder and more resilient world. In some cases, it also ensures to have the groups become self-sufficient in food production, hence having all food being produced locally.

FRESH FROM THE BOG
Precedent: Incredible Edible Todmorden
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Economic/Social flow diagram
HOMEGROWN FARMERS MARKET

FRESH FROM THE BOG

EVERY SUNDAY 10am - 2pm
AN ASSORTMENT OF JAMS

DERRY’S VERY OWN

OPEN EVERYDAY 8am - 6pm

FRESH FROM THE BOG
Promotional Poster
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Promotional Poster

BEE KEEPING AND HONEY MAKING
ROYAL GARDEN
EVERY MONDAY 11am - 2pm
A VENUE FOR ANY OCCASION

BOGSIDE TOWERS

REQUEST A VIEWING

FRESH FROM THE BOG
Promotional Poster
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Community Allotments
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Farmers Markets & Local Produce
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Community Kitchens
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Community Agriculture
FRESH FROM THE BOG
Multi-purpose Venue
‘Do It Together’ is inspired by a burgeoning tech economy in the larger Derry/Londonderry area, while also identifying an absence of technology and engineering services in the Bogside.

‘Do It Together’ creates a space to build capacity within the community and enable local enterprises and professionals to develop their businesses and grow the culture of making in the neighbourhood. The project builds upon the culture of making in the city, evidenced in the work of organisations such as the Nerve Center, and seeks to expand on these ideas with the introduction of an open source fabrication laboratory (Fablab) on the Meenan Square site. The project also takes inspiration from a network of fabrication sites emerging across Europe including Fablab Brussels, Denmark and Caen, were experimental research and workshop environments promote the next generation of makers.

The project offers a space of innovation, giving people access to a range of advanced digital manufacturing technologies and knowledge – inspiring people to turn ‘ideas’ into ‘things’.

As a way to foster processes of making, an innovative aspect of the fablab is the idea of a ‘big bench’. The bench is a platform of knowledge and exchange for skills acquired through a range of activities that take place within the project.
DO IT TOGETHER
Precedents: Fablab Brussels, Caen
FABLÀB FESTIVAL TOULOUSE
7,500 visitors discovered DIY robots, drones, 3D printing or bioluminescence; Meeting is also one for the community that has structured itself into the French network of fablabs.

FABLÀB DENMARK
Creative programming and electronic workshops.

DO IT TOGETHER
Precedents: Fablab Toulouse, Denmark
BRISTOL BIKE PROJECT

Working with the whole community to provide an inclusive and supportive workshop environment for volunteers and project users alike.

Encourage and promote skill sharing and independence and the ideas of reuse within the community and offer an alternative to simply buying new.
DO IT TOGETHER

Project Flow Diagram: Social and Local Enterprises
DO IT TOGETHER
Project Functions & Activities
DO IT TOGETHER
Site Use Diagram
DO IT TOGETHER

View from the Flyover
DO IT TOGETHER

Lecky Road Activity
DO IT TOGETHER
Activities in the Workshop
DO IT TOGETHER
The Big Bench
The Story House project introduces a cultural tourism trail to Derry/Londonderry. It will include the Lecky Road with its many points of cultural interest. Meenan Square is a key location along the trail offering the opportunity to tie together the disparate, fragmented history of the Bogside. The project provides spaces where local voices can be heard – memories made manifest in artifacts, recordings, and literature.

The Story House App
An app will accompany, and offer interpretations of the heritage trail. Visitors to the trail can access the app which compliments the trail’s way-finding strategies. The app tells the story of each mural and gives previews of stories available at the story house. It is a portal for information relating to the facilities available to the public within the Meenan Square development.

The Memory Wall
The memory wall is a structure that includes digital technology and physical artifacts. A large screen allows users to engage with an indexed catalogue of stories. The range of engaging elements includes touch screens, listening devices, scrolling text, fixed drawers and pull out display containers.

The collection of stories from the local community and ‘outsiders’ will become a place for people to get their story heard; a place to exchange memories.
THE STORY HOUSE
Heritage Trail
THE STORY HOUSE
Project Flow Diagram
The Story House Website

An app is proposed as an accompaniment to the heritage trail. The idea is that people on the trail can access a website which would be visible throughout the heritage trail wayfinding signposting. The website will tell the story of each mural and give a small preview of some of the stories available at the story house.

The website will give information about the facilities available and open to the public within the Mosman Sq site.
THE STORY HOUSE
App Development
THE STORY HOUSE
App Development

BOGSIDE

The Bogside Murals
"The people's Voice"
The Bogside Artists

Listen to the symbolism of each mural.

BOGSIDE MURALS
mural audio description

Story House Facilities
Rehearsal Space
Recording Space
Performance Space
Function Space
Wedding Reception

STORY HOUSE FACILITIES
ads incorporated within app to produce income
Story House Facilities

Conversation is the Key

Online Booking
Use the form below to book an appointment with us.

- First Name
  Paul
- Surname
  Smith
- Brief description of your problem
  Lower back pain
- Contact Number
  077897333666
- Email
  paul.smith@gmail.com

Book

Purchase Tickets

Our tickets are a final sale. No refunds, exchanges, or cancellations. Tickets do not guarantee entry or access to the events in our Heart of Omnia VIP Lounge. Advance tickets are sold out. Additional tickets will be available at the door.
THE STORY HOUSE
App Development

ONLINE CRAFT PURCHASE

SIDE BAR NAVIGATION
THE STORY HOUSE
Interactive Public Spaces & Way-finding
THE STORY HOUSE
Way-finding and Information points
THE STORY HOUSE
Way-finding and Information points
THE STORY HOUSE
Spaces for Conversations
THE STORY HOUSE
Recording Space
THE STORY HOUSE
Memory Wall: Interactive Surfaces
THE STORY HOUSE
Memory Wall: Pull Out Archive
THE STORY HOUSE

Memory Wall: Artifact Storage
During Street Studio’s trip to Paris, I was inspired by ‘Cent Quatre, a public cultural centre that forms the heart of the 19th arrondissement, a flagship neighbourhood for urban regeneration in the city.

A diverse range of people come together and use the space for events, performances and meeting friends. The most moving part of the experience to Cent Quatre was that within one space many different activities such as football, dancing, studying, drama performances, reading, drawing, music lessons and this all could happen alongside each other in a single space.

This project asks the question: Can we create one space at Meenan Square that could be used for Community Gatherings in a variety of ways?

‘The Epicentre’ is a flexible multi-use space for ‘activities and performances’ at Meenan Square. ‘The Epicentre’ acts as a catalyst within the Bogside for changing internal perceptions as well as external perspectives.

The project demonstrates how different events, activities, and performances can come together and take place within a single flexible space surrounded by other fixed core community facilities. Two options are described for this large flexible space that offer different vantage points in relation to the city walls and the local community.
THE EPICENTRE
Precedent: Cent Quatre, Paris.
THE EPICENTRE
Activities Matrix
Meenan Square as the Missing Link
THE EPICENTRE
User Flow Diagram
THE EPICENTRE
Flexible + Transformable Spaces
THE EPICENTRE
Flexible + Transformable Spaces: Markets, Community Groups, Sports
THE EPICENTRE
Flexible + Transformable Spaces: Dance, Performance, Cookery Schools
THE EPICENTRE
Flexible + Transformable Spaces: Theatre, Performance, Cinema
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Craft Market</th>
<th>Boating (Grand)</th>
<th>Yoga (6am)</th>
<th>Sunday Art</th>
<th>Weight Management</th>
<th>Performance Residency</th>
<th>Cinema Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Play Group</td>
<td>Dance Club</td>
<td>Keep Fit</td>
<td>Bookings</td>
<td>Keep Fit</td>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>Pink Ladies Club (Brisbane)</td>
<td>Keep Fit</td>
<td>Day Training</td>
<td>Music Lessons (Outback)</td>
<td>Boating (Grand)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mothers &amp; toddlers</td>
<td>Autumn Club</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
<td>Community Kitchen</td>
<td>Keep Fit</td>
<td>Irish Dancing Party</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>How to Sink</td>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>Youth Club</td>
<td>Youth Club</td>
<td>Drama Performance (Outback)</td>
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<td>Mother &amp; toddlers</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>Music Lessons</td>
<td>24/7 Dieting</td>
<td>Music Performance</td>
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<td>Food Market</td>
<td>Sunday Morning</td>
<td>Youth Cinema</td>
<td>Youth Cinema</td>
<td>Slot Booked</td>
<td>Art Club</td>
<td>Sunday Follow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE EPICENTRE
Community Activities Calendar
THE EPICENTRE
Central Courtyard + Flexible Barn
THE EPICENTRE
Central Courtyard + Outdoor Activities
THE EPICENTRE
Central Courtyard + Flexible Barn on First Floor
THE EPICENTRE
Central Courtyard + Flexible Barn on First Floor - Open for Events
THE EPICENTRE
Central Courtyard + Flexible Barn on First Floor - Extended Footprint
THE EPICENTRE
Evening and Nighttime Activity
“This semester’s group studio set up was exciting and engaging. Working with UV and representatives from the Bogside Community offered us a more realistic design process, something that encouraged and inspired us all.” -- Adrienne Barr

“This semester offered me a new vision of practicing architecture and provided a new learning experience through participation and engagement in ways I have not encountered before. Being involved in a real project with collaboration between architecture students, community organisations and government bodies was great. The process of questioning forms of representation, interaction and language through visuals has been a challenge but enable us to develop a new way of seeing the potential of this public realm transformation project.” -- Emilie Houdmon

“Street Studio has given me the opportunity to address a challenge specific to Derry, an entirely new context for me. Working on this project has presented us with a unique perspective into communities and highlighted the key role that some organisations play within them. The support from studio tutors and representatives from UV has greatly benefited this process” -- Safa Sharif

“For me personally it was a highly rewarding experience to collaborate as part of Street Studio alongside UV and the Meenan Square Stakeholders, co-creating and then building upon an idea which ultimately formed a brief for the Bogside community. I have taken a lot from reflecting the value, strength and ambition of the community while also looking to the future and the ever-changing needs of a blossoming place. If the last four months, the process has taught me that the end result will be about putting the completed building back into the hands of the community; this is going to be a spectacular journey to follow.” -- Gavin Gribben

“I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside Urban Villages in the transformation project of Meenan Square throughout semester one, sharing and developing the same fundamental philosophy for the project. The studio set-up and design process were both an engaging and a rewarding experience. Our continued collaboration with UV and the realistic nature of the project hugely benefited my skill sets and my professional development. Working within a group we learned to work collaboratively, combining our skills together to visualise and propose ideas with the aim of realistically regenerating the existing community, and enhancing the value of Meenan Square in a sustainable way. We hope our analysis and design concepts assist the proposal of the design brief, and public realm.” -- Shauneen Donaghy

STUDENT REFLECTION
M. Arch I & M. Arch II students at Queen’s University Belfast