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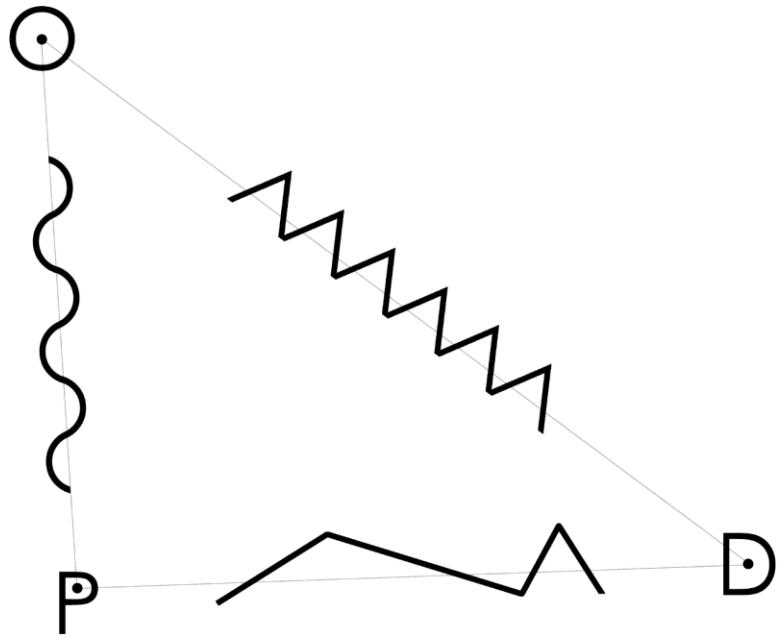
<b>Title</b>	Other People's Dreams
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<b>Type</b>	Conference or Workshop Item
<b>Publication title</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	
<b>ISSN/ ISBN</b>	
<b>Publication Date</b>	10 March 2025
<b>Version</b>	
<b>DOI</b>	
<b>Repository link</b>	<a href="https://ube.repository.guildhe.ac.uk/id/eprint/233/">https://ube.repository.guildhe.ac.uk/id/eprint/233/</a>
<b>Link to publication</b>	

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# OTHER PEOPLE'S DREAMS

**Lee Ivett + Ecaterina Stefanescu**  
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*participating with place* — learning through doing and thinking through making

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**I'VE NEVER REALLY KNOWN HOW TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER I DID IT**  
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**WHAT IS THE SMALLEST ACT THAT WE MIGHT TAKE IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION TO EFFECT A CHANGE?**

**HOW DOES THAT INITIAL SIMPLE AND RESPONSIVE ACT BECOME THE CATALYST FOR FURTHER ACTS OF INCREASING AMBITION, COMPLEXITY AND DURATIONAL IMPACT?**

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We value our ideas and our agency and appreciate how lucky we are to get to express them. Contemporary society is increasingly fearful of, ideas, agency and self-determination, and this is often reflected in the types of space and buildings that we now create within and for our communities

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Regeneration is rarely a regenerative act – it is often wilfully and celebratorily destructive, wiping the slate clean. The next big idea often become the next failed utopia

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If we can learn anything from the last 150 years of development in our collective built environment it should be that a generational and cyclical process of demolition and re-making, or ripping it up and starting again, doesn't lead to sustained and maintained changes in the wellbeing, empowerment and opportunities for those most marginalised and most peripheral within society.

How is it then that we can conceive and propose new infrastructures of place that ensure that renewal and repair is a holistic, organic and responsive component of everyday life, one that is conceived and enacted by the people of that place?

How can the potential and the necessity for sustainable and sustained change be identified, actioned and manifested by those that reside and work within the place itself, rather than be imposed by those out-with and for the economic benefit and empowerment of peoples, institutions and other actors unseen and remote from the place itself.

In other words, rather than 'Place-making' - the soft power, supposedly people-friendly first responder of neo-liberal 'regeneration' - how might we instigate a new condition of '**place making place**' where communities are empowered to establish a social and cultural condition of constant learning, evolving and repairing as an inherent experience of daily life.

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Despite a growing appreciation of the role of participation and ‘co-production’ within community art, architecture and design these processes are often applied to places, with people being compelled or encouraged to participate in the work rather than the work participate in the place.

Community consultation increasingly adopts processes and attitudes which appear to emotionally coerce members of the public into providing information and knowledge through obscure exercises in mapping, game playing, post-it-notes and questionnaires, later to be disseminated back to the community by community engagement professionals as banal phrases and pithy hashtags.

Instead of learning within the context of the contrived realities of contemporary participatory practice – through an enforced collection of words, pictures, phrases, sketches – we believe in a process of **participating in many aspects of a place through the act of making** to create an embedded and responsive process of critical and creative enquiry.

Participation as a continuous, situated and durational process of **reciprocal learning and knowledge exchange**.

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Richard Sennet talks about the “evolutionary dialogue between the hand and the brain” (2009, 151). He writes that the information received through the hands is richer, more sensate than through the eye, and argues for the tacit knowledge created by “hand habits” (Sennett, 2009, 10).

Through the act of making, anthropologist Tim Ingold argues that the Maker at once exists as observer and participant, and there is no differentiation between implicit knowledge and told, articulated knowledge. Through practice and experience, the transfer of knowledge between the different actors involved in this process takes place and the Maker, through the vector of the thing they create, simultaneously observes, documents and analyses (Ingold, 2013).

In the same way that Richard Sennet and Tim Ingold articulate the potential, through making, for the individual to gain knowledge and insight, communities of people and place might collectively acquire and retain knowledge through shared, collaborative, situated and participatory making.

The act of making is then both representational and interventional, and as such becomes transitional, offering a means of suggesting and testing new possibilities which are generated by the very people of that place.

Making is re-positioned not as a finite act, but as a series of empathic and responsive actions that situate the researcher/maker within the physical, cultural and social conditions of ordinary life.

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**Beith 2012 - 2025**

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*Prototype – Place – Permanence*



## Key

### Routes + Trails

- Railway Line
- All Roads/Major Paths
- Country Trail
- Town + Heritage Trail
- Loch Trail

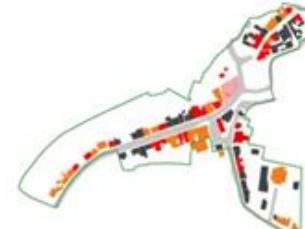
### Landmarks

- Spier's Old School Grounds
- Geilisland School
- Beith Primary School
- Beith High Church
- Auld Kirk
- Willoway Estate
- Kilbirnie Loch
- Golf Course
- Whisky Bond

## DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



**A - RESEARCH:** conditions of the town are thoroughly researched, recorded and analysed



**B - OBSERVATION:** the nature + character of the town is observed + recorded



**C - ENGAGEMENT:** our observations tested through engagement + consultation



**D - DESIGN:** ideas sketched out and presented through models and drawings

## BEITH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

all of the ideas presented respond directly to the comments, thoughts and suggestions of local people



### 5. Canoe Club Centre

"The loch is not utilised, it has potential but needs access, roads, signage etc. It accommodates a canoe club, swim groups, anglers and a ski club and more could be made of this asset."



### 1. Community Well Being Centre

"The community centre currently has low day time activity and high evening activity, it needs something to pull people in at all times... the astro is an asset to the town, if more activities were run this way Beith would have plenty for kids to do!"



### 12. Pedestrianising Main Street

"Main Street was once pedestrianised, now cars litter the street and there is little room to walk on. There is a car park round at the library for parking"



### 6. Pop Up Shops [UNIT-E]

"Main Street looks like a prison camp with the ugly shutters everywhere - we had friends staying and we went for a walk to see Beith, I was embarrassed, you can't even see in to windows of the shops. There are plenty ideas for the vacant spaces"



### 2. Trinity Arts Centre

"Can it be used by the community once it has been closed? Multipurpose building that meets community aspirations-Music facilities, recording studio, practice space and gigs, gallery, cinema, cafe, meetings, entertainment etc great acoustics in the Trinity"



### 8. Beith Craft Interpretation Centre

"Furniture making is such a big part of Beith's heritage, however furniture making no longer exists in Beith. Continuing the legacy? Skills are lost, semi-skilled production would be more appropriate. Smaller skilled businesses could locate here and a training scheme could be set up for locals."



### 3. Artistic Residencies around Beith

"All the late food shops have shutters down on the shops during the day because they only open at night, even if the shutters got put up and the windows were used for something else that folk could look at. Various vacant sites in Beith could also be utilised"



### 7. Expansion of Beith Townhouse

"The location of the Townhouse is at the heart of the community. It currently holds art sales and temporary exhibitions on certain days but more space could allow more events and subsequently more demand for it to be open all week."



"Both Barmill crossroads and Head street cross roads are in need of a roundabout/footbridge over the bypass. Difficult to cross over to Spier's Grounds."



### 15. Widening of Eglinton Street Pavement

"Eglinton street's even side (Innes side) has at least 11 houses which are vacant, regenerate the street front, maybe widen the pavement to allow privacy for the doorways into the houses, this will encourage tenants into the houses."



### 4. Walking Trails

"Somewhere to walk the kids/dog... Beith has plenty heritage in and around the town such as St. Ian's chair that many people don't know about."

**BAXENDALE**





**RECIPE SHARE**  
Thursday 30th January  
School Night Favourite  
Come along and share a quick and tasty dish that you love and is quick and easy enough to make after a busy day.

**CRAFTY DAY CARE**  
11am - 3pm  
What better way to entertain the kids on a school holiday than letting us keep them busy with an extra special Crafty afternoon.

**POp- Up CINEMA**  
6pm -8pm  
Bring the whole family along to enjoy a movie, popcorn and sweeties together in our candlelit cinema. A fun filled evening for free!

**GET YOUR HEART PUMPING**  
12pm - 4pm  
A charity relay event with a spin. Begin your mission at POP-UP Bath on our spin bikes then head to Curves Gym to finish off the challenge. All proceeds go to securing a defibrillator for the community of Bath. Get your valentine's heart pumping for a good cause. Contact us now to book your place.

**PANCAKE SATURDAY**  
11am - 3pm  
Friday 7th February  
Monday 10th February  
Tuesday 11th February  
Pancake day is a tradition that the whole family loves, we will be celebrating with a little flip on the tradition by making our pancakes with just a candle and tin cans. Both children and the young at heart are welcome.

**CRAFTERNOON**  
11am - 3pm  
Join us as we create some wonderful recycled crafts, let the kids enjoy tie-dying and potatoe printing at our famous Crafternoons.

**COREY CUP**  
Kicks off at 12.30pm  
The Corey cup is to be an annual football tournament held at Bath Astro for all primary schools within the Garmock Valley in memory of Corey Hamilton. The winning team will receive an engraved silver trophy.  
Monday 24th March

**SWAP SHOP**  
10am - 4pm  
Saturday 8th February  
Sunday 9th February  
1pm - 4pm  
Need a new pair of jeans or a new jacket to keep you cosy in the approaching Scottish Spring, well pop along and take advantage of our free Swap Shop.

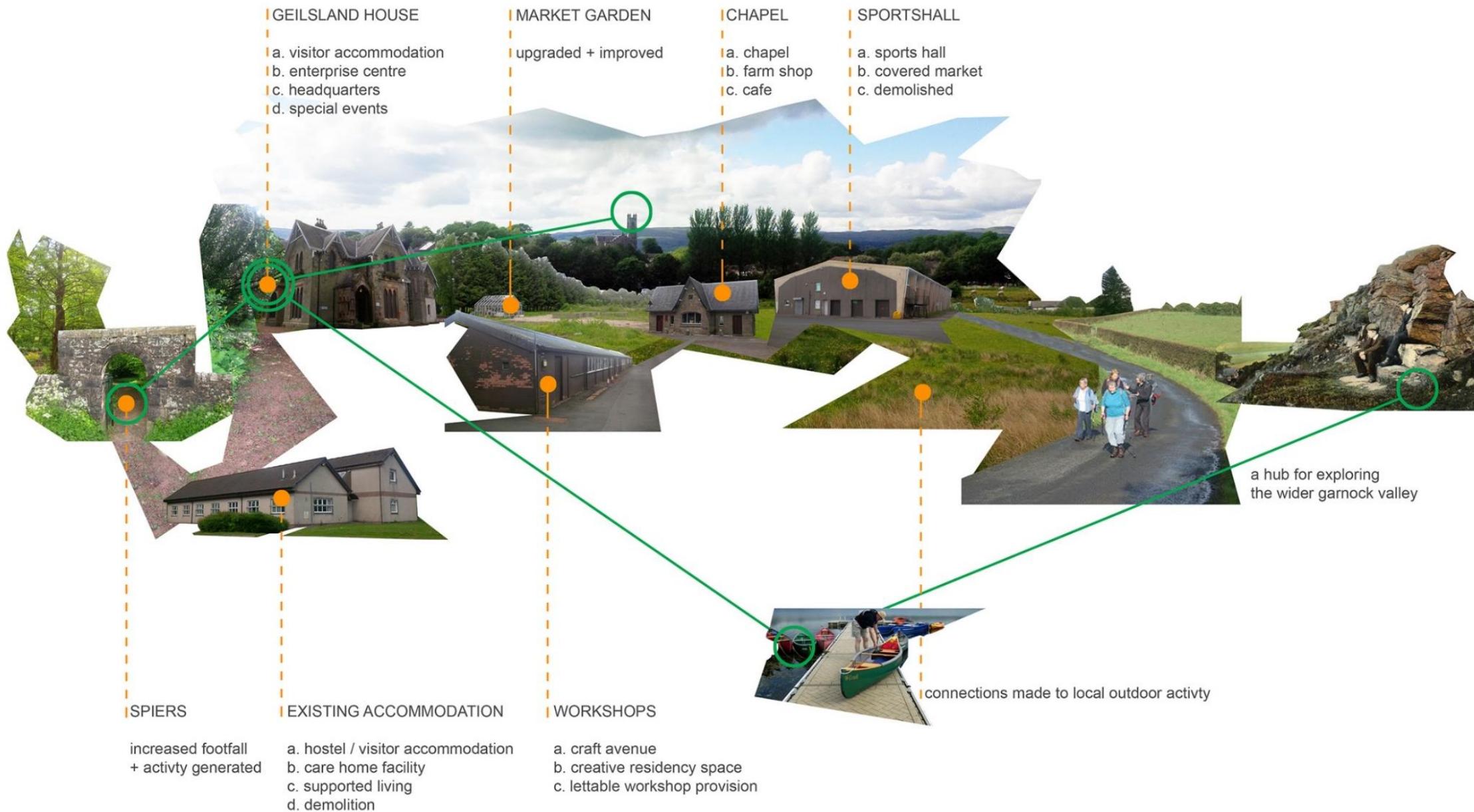
**JUNIOR ART EXHIBITION**  
Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd March  
12pm - 4pm  
A whole week dedicated to Garmock Valley's own young artists and creative masters.  
Please join us to celebrate the work of these from primary to secondary school.

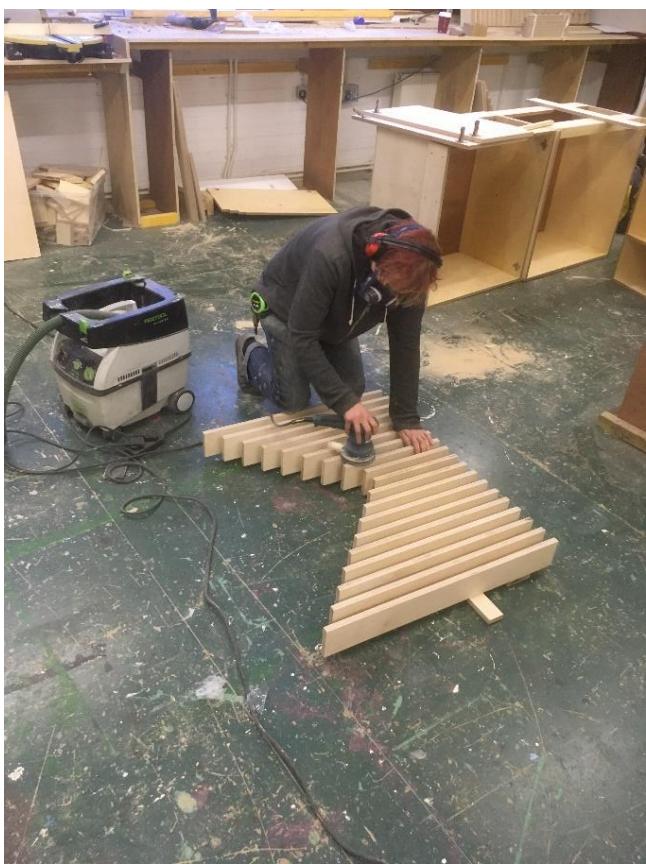
**ECO DRIVING SCHOOL**  
10am - 5pm  
Thursday 6th March  
Friday 7th March  
Saturday 8th March  
Do you want to pick up a few tips on saving fuel whilst driving? Well POP-UP Bath will have an eco-driving simulator, fuel efficient driver trainers and an electric vehicle for you to try out and learn from. Along with energy efficiency experts helping you save cash elsewhere too.



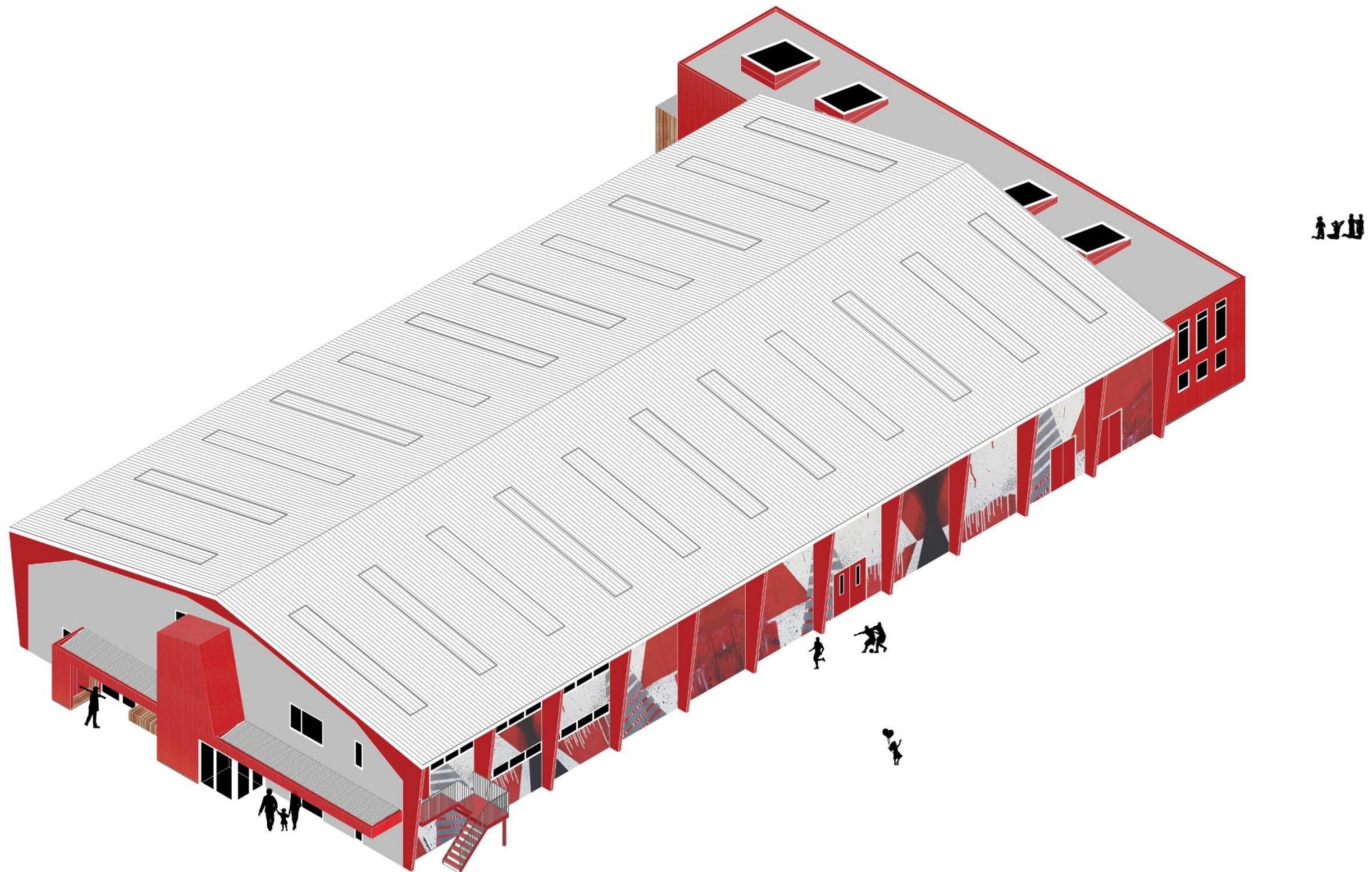














BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF BEITH

# A thriving community and a flourishing place.

[GET INVOLVED](#)





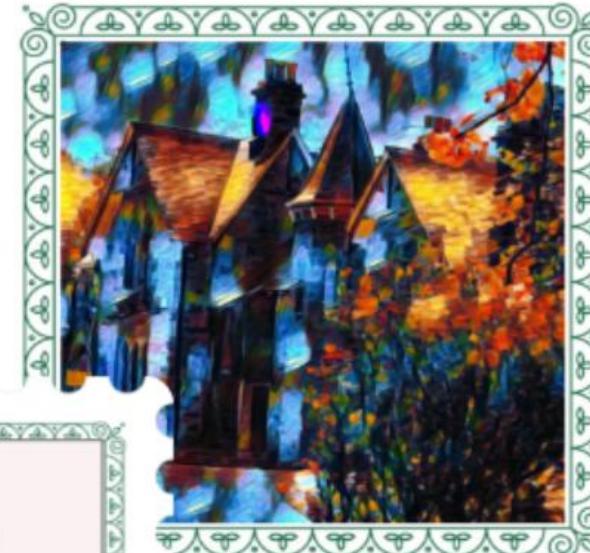
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celebrations, festivals, community and enterprise  
events.

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## The Happenstance: Venice Biennale - 2018

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*Practice becomes research*





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## **Ethnographic modelmaking**

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*Documenting, analysing and revealing the value of everyday spaces through modelmaking*



# Rooms



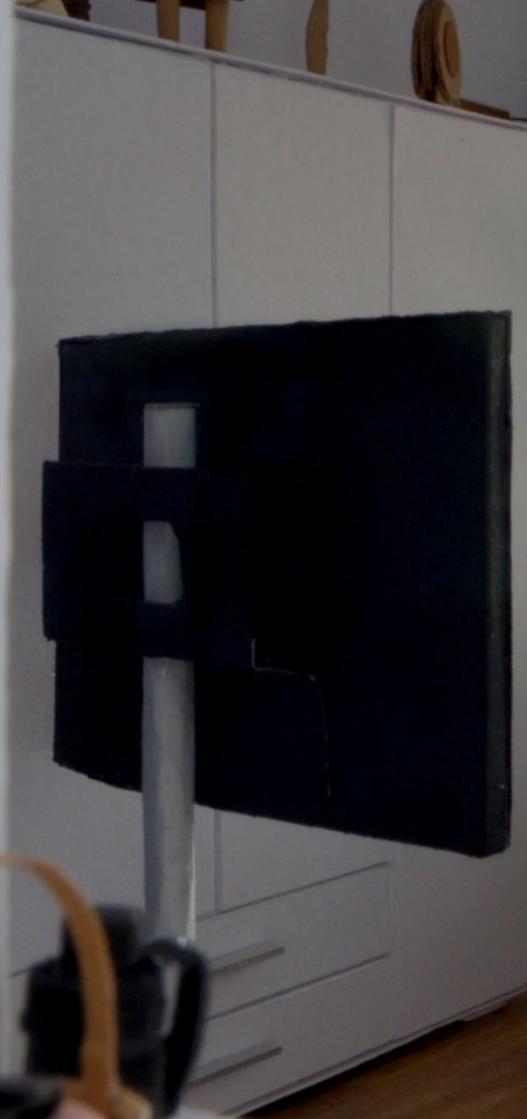
Berlin, 2021-22 (as Estudio ESSE)  
**Urban National Museum Art Residency**



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Using models as a slow, durational ethnographic method encourages a deeper level of observation, exploration and community engagement, and fosters a profound connection between the maker, the subject of research or the site of co-production.

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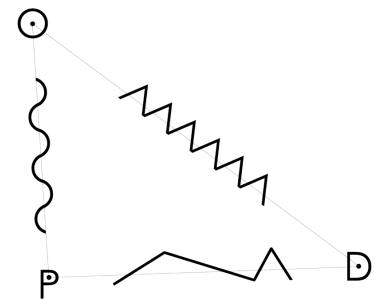
## **Other People's Dreams**

OPD was originally established within the Grenfell-Baines Institute of Architecture and operates simultaneously as a live action research office and Master of Architecture course. OPD engages in a critical and durational way with community organisations in the northwest region, exploring modes of participation with marginalised groups, situations and ideas in order to rethink the potential of people and place. We explore that which is often 'unseen' within architectural education and practice: everyday life as experienced by everyday people, born and often made peripheral through birth, migration and circumstance.

We re-evaluate the concept of an architect as facilitator for other people's dreams. We question what it is to dream and to what extent our individual aspirations and dreams align with collective need and desire?

OPD currently comprises of architects, designers and academics Lee Ivett, Ecaterina Stefanescu and Sam Eadington.

Over the past 5 years, OPD has been developing strategic and impactful relationships with the following third sector community arts organisations:



**LeftCoast** (Blackpool)



**Super Slow Way** (Blackburn)



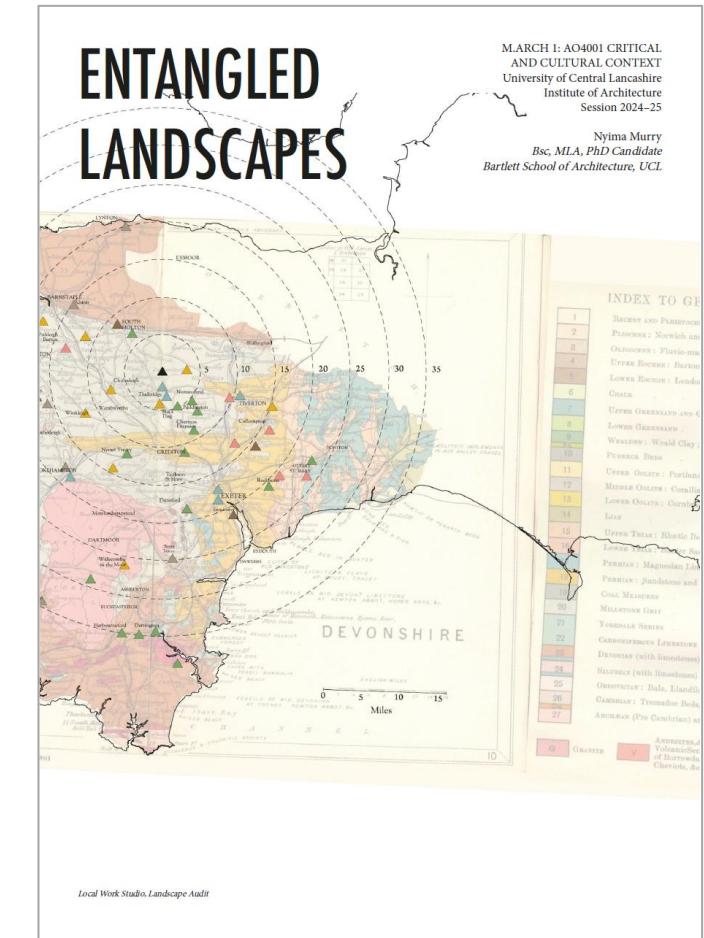
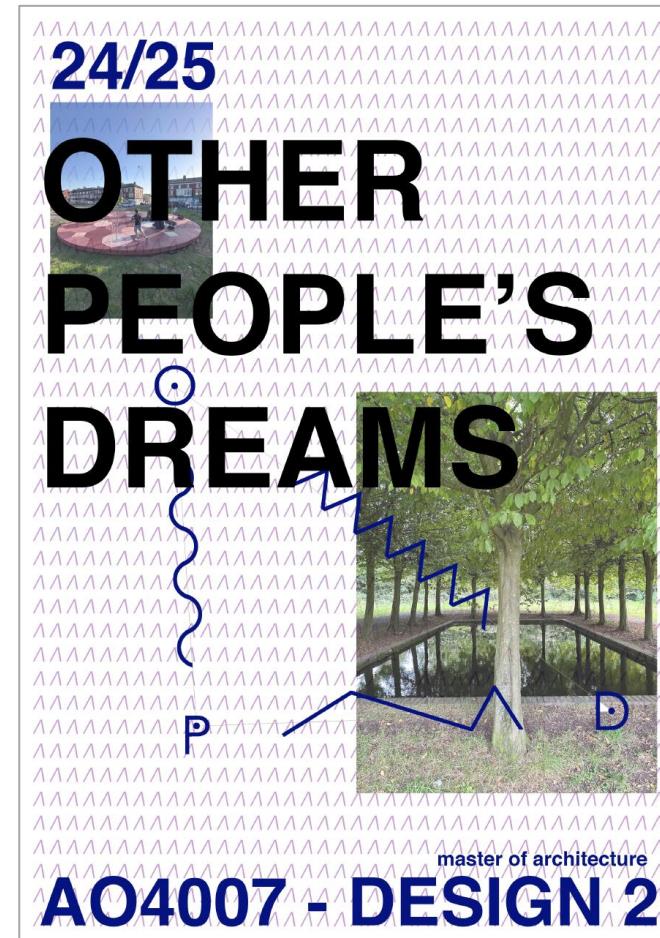
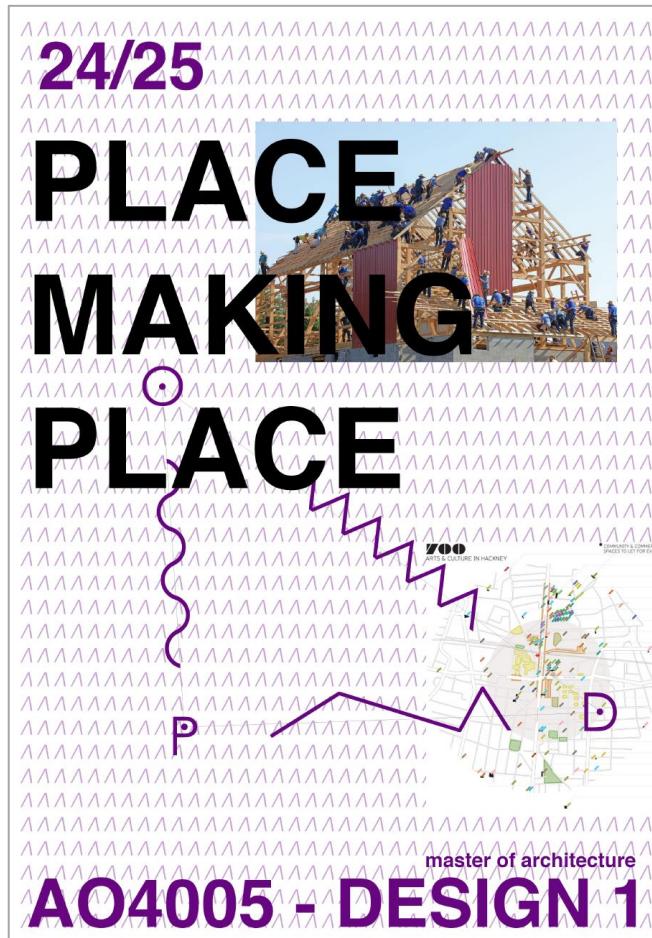
**Grizedale Arts** (Crake Valley)



**Glassball Studio** (Skelmersdale)



These relationships and projects also now align with and inform our Master of Architecture courses:



Module briefs situated in the collaborative communities



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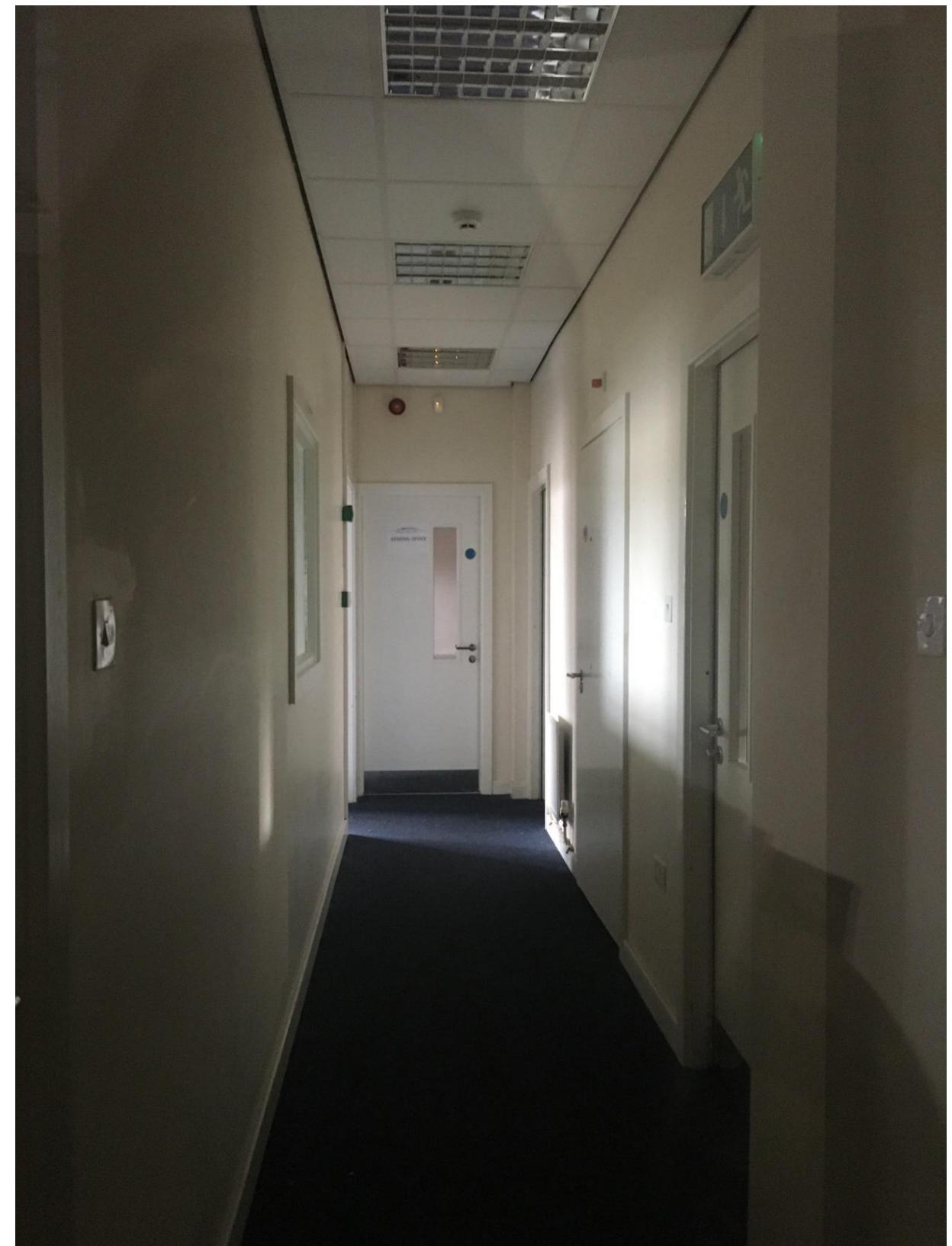
**Blackpool 2021 - 2025**

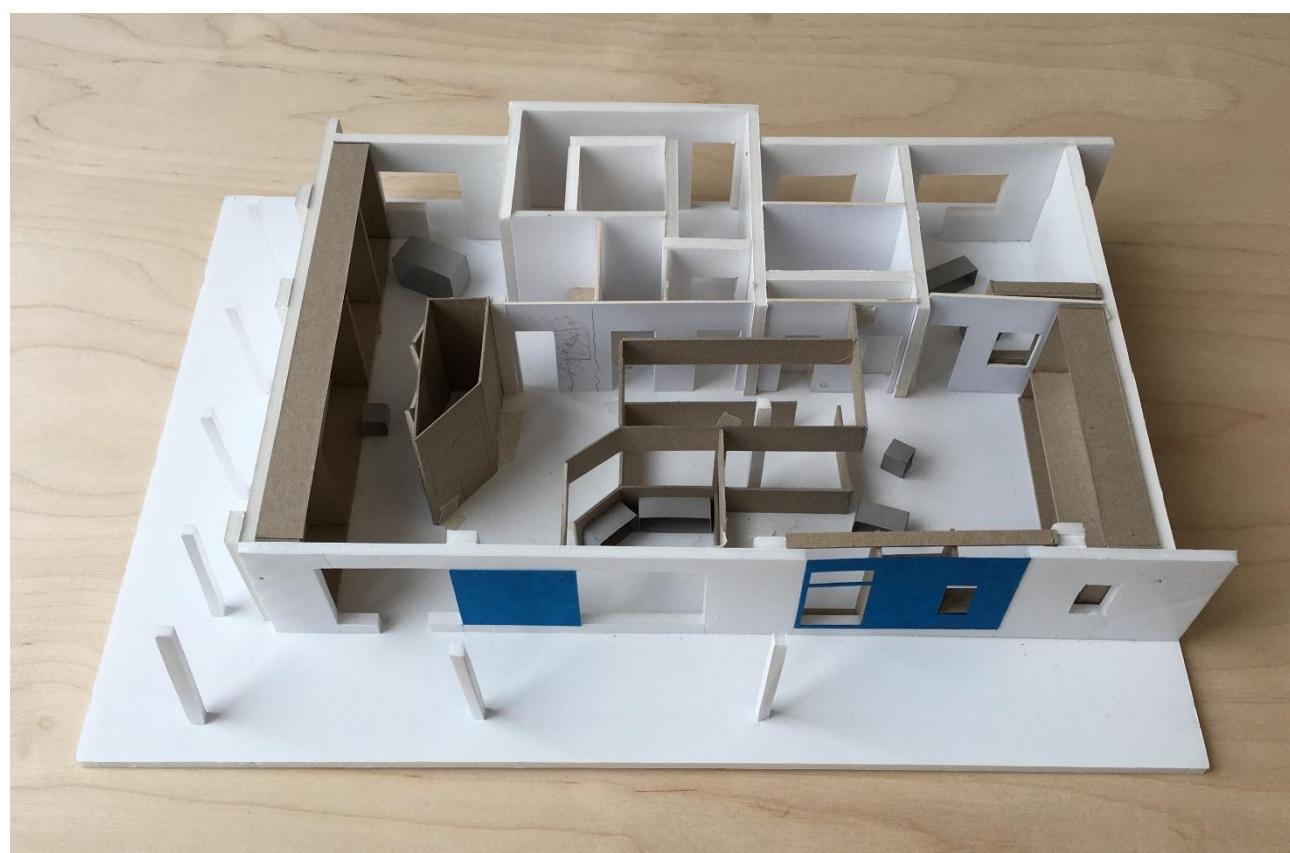
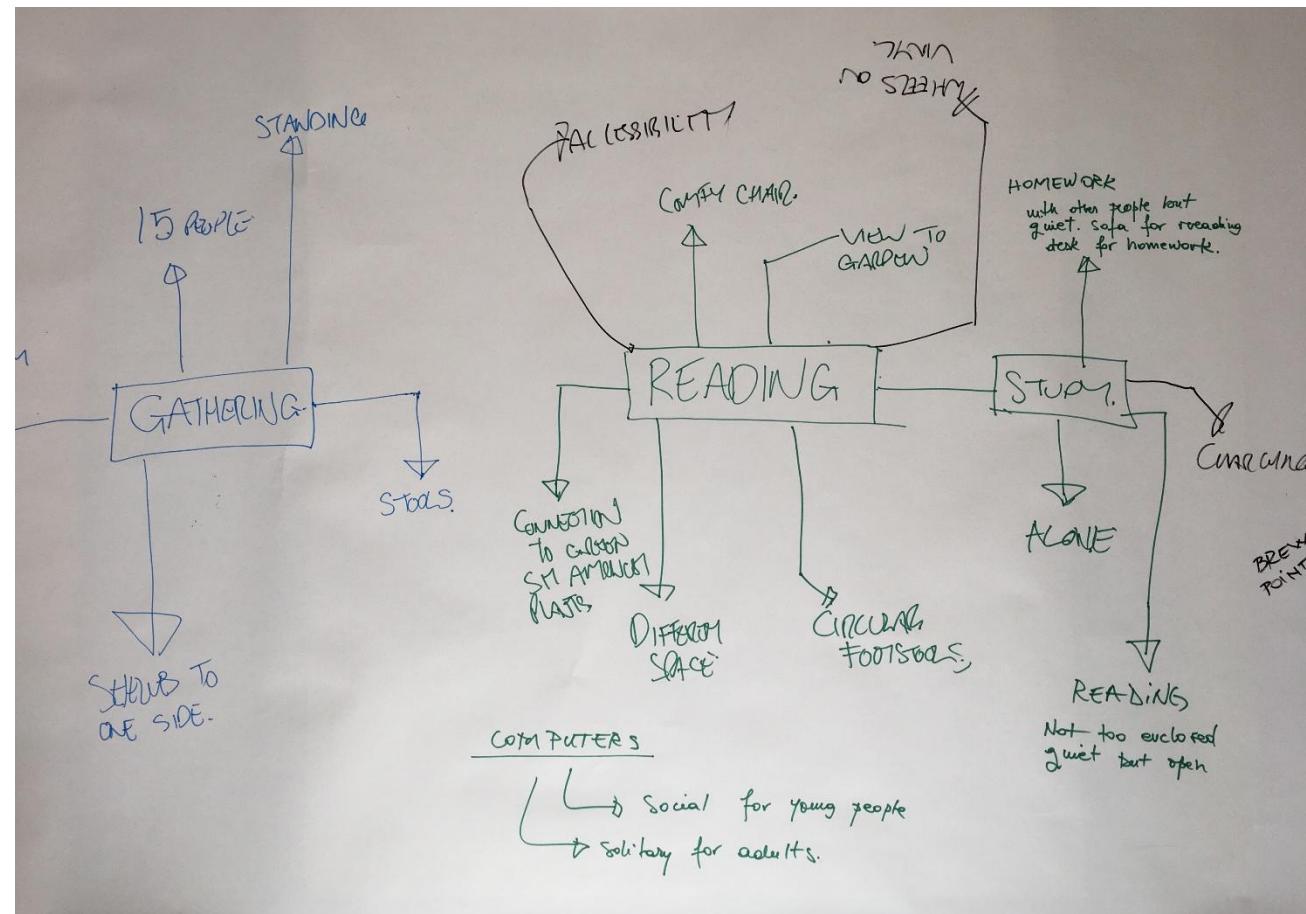
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*Prototyping and challenging typologies of community infrastructure*



**Wash Your Words - Langdale Library and Laundry Room**













## NEWS

Home | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech

England | Local News | Regions | Lancashire

## Blackpool library and laundry room shortlisted for RIBA award

18 January



CLARE GRIFFITHS

Judges described Wash Your Words as a "joyful design" which "raised expectations"

### Top Stories

**Dozens of migrants killed in shipwreck off Italy**

1 hour ago

**Sunak 'giving it everything' to get NI Brexit deal done**

52 minutes ago

**LIVE Progress made on NI Brexit deal, says Raab**

4 hours ago

### Features

**The story of Scottish independence - what next?**

# Unique Blackpool community project combining reading and laundry

Wash Your Words at the Langdale Library and Laundry Room on Mereside is in the running for the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Journal's MacEwen Award

NEWS By [Shelagh Parkinson](#) Local democracy reporter

05:00, 22 JAN 2023

Bookmark



Comments



### MOST READ

**Nicola Bulley TikTok ghoul who tricked police to covertly film mum's body being removed from river unmasked****Manchester Airport issues warning over action that could see travellers holidays "ruined"****Noel Radford asks 'is it time to retire?' as Sue expresses family**

## The Gazette

News you can trust since 1873



10 pictures as pupils take first look inside development set to take Lytham St Annes High School into a new era

World Book Day across

The community building on Langdale Parade was praised for its 'joyful design' and said it raises expectations of the quality of architecture people should demand of social housing estates.



## RIBA J

Design in the making

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Buildings  
MacEwen Award  
2023

### MacEwen Award 2023 commended: Wash your Words adds books to chores







Visit to Wharf Building, UCLan  
November 2022

**Buildings**  
MacEwen Award  
2023

# MacEwen Award 2023 commended: Wash your Words adds books to chores

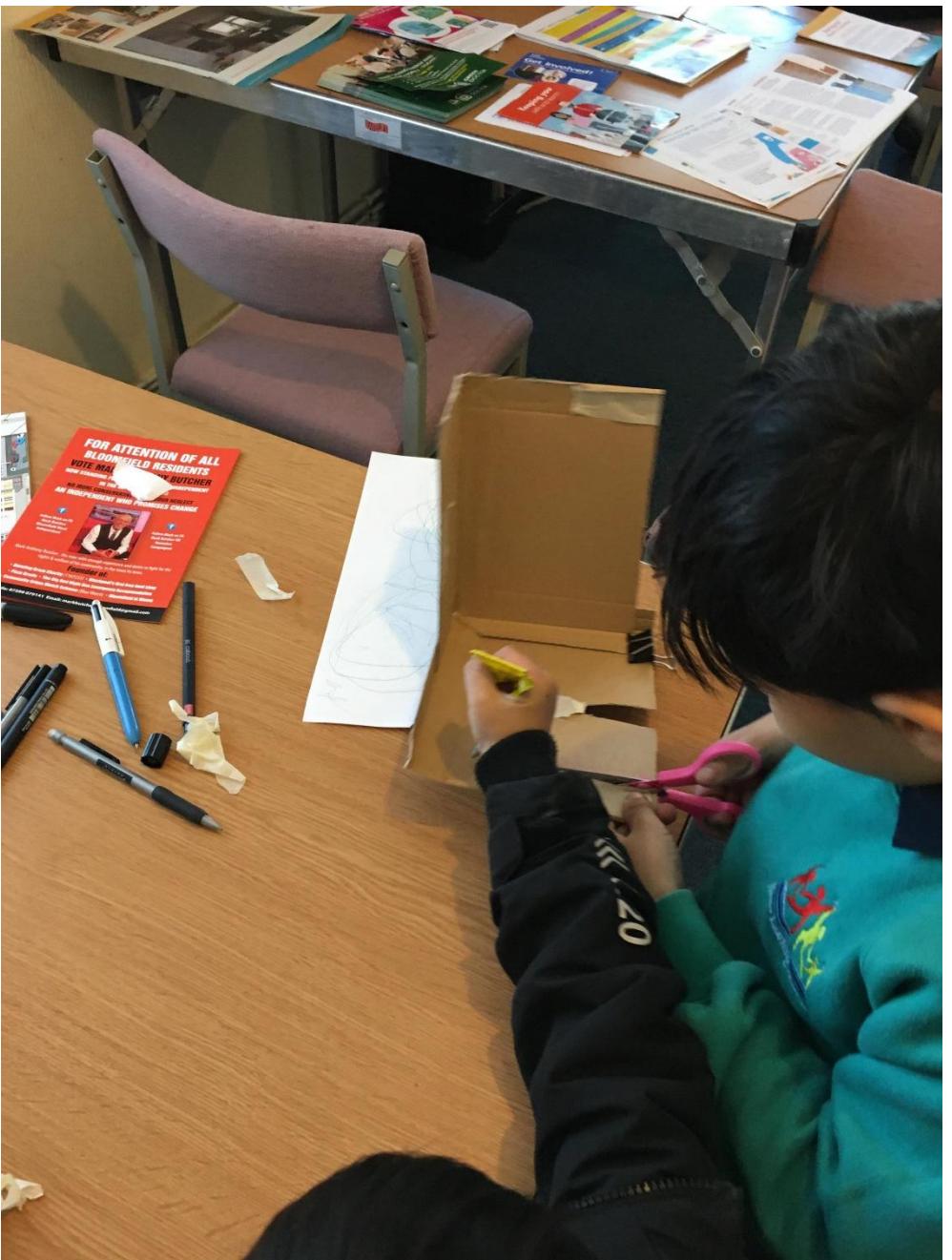


## In numbers

Total budget £30,000  
Internal floor area 130m<sup>2</sup>  
Cost per m<sup>2</sup> £231

## Credits

**Client** LeftCoast  
**Architect** Lee Ivett and Ecaterina Stefanescu Grenfell-Baines Institute of Architecture, UCLan  
**Partners** Blackpool Council Libraries, Blackpool Coastal Housing  
**Graphic designer** Dan Astbury



**Revoe: Modelling Migrancy and Community**



Models created with the Romanian community during engagement workshops



# MacEwen Award 2025 commended: Blackpool's Revoe Public Square



27 January 2025

Words: Flo Armitage-Hookes

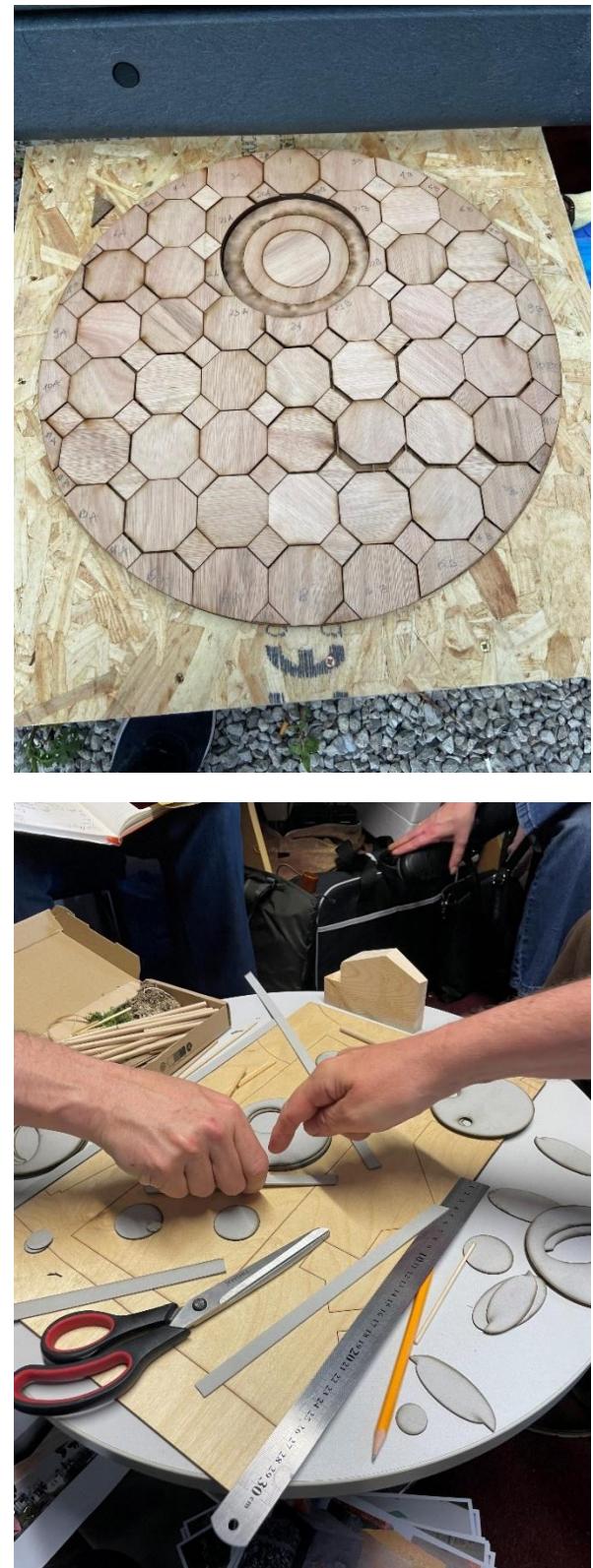
The square, co-conceived, designed and constructed by residents, is fostering collaboration, agency and hopes for the future in an area facing deprivation

'Apart from the tower, there's nothing touristy about this part of Blackpool,' explains Lee Ivett, who runs University of Central Lancashire's live-action studio Other People's Dreams. Although the iconic tower peeks over rooftops in the Revoe neighbourhood, the leisure industry and seafront are a world away. The area faces significant deprivation, has few green spaces and is home to a range of disparate communities.

Until recently, a fenced-off wasteland lined the high street, following demolition in 2020 of the George Hotel pub – 'a rough but loved establishment'. Pressure to transform and open up the space was growing. Today, a new temporary public square on the site, co-conceived, designed and constructed by residents, is fostering collaboration, agency and hopes for the future.

## Most popular

- 1 Rising Stars 2025: meet the shortlist
- 2 Sanei + Hopkins' Housestead: rigorous and refined, yet right...
- 3 Diplomatic framework: how London's hulking former US Embassy...
- 4 The new benchmark for low carbon concrete
- 5 Stirling Prize 2025 shortlist: the six

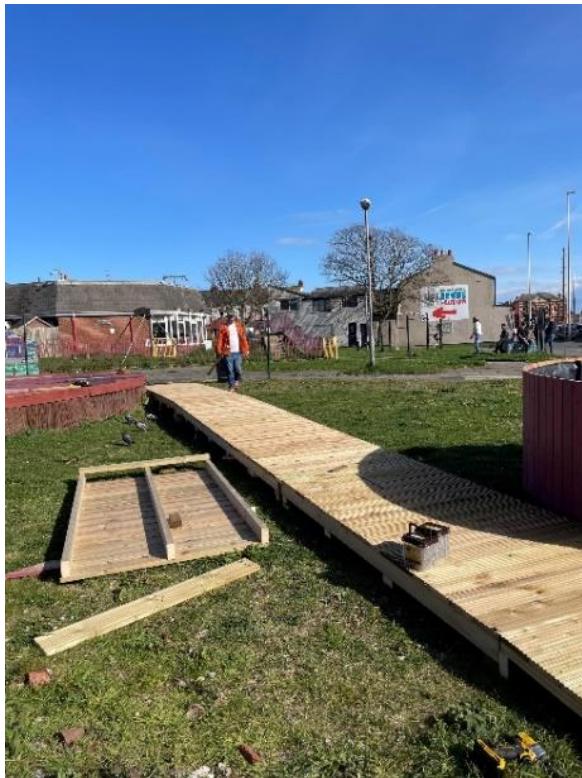




“simple acts of collaborative making bringing people together through shared objectives”

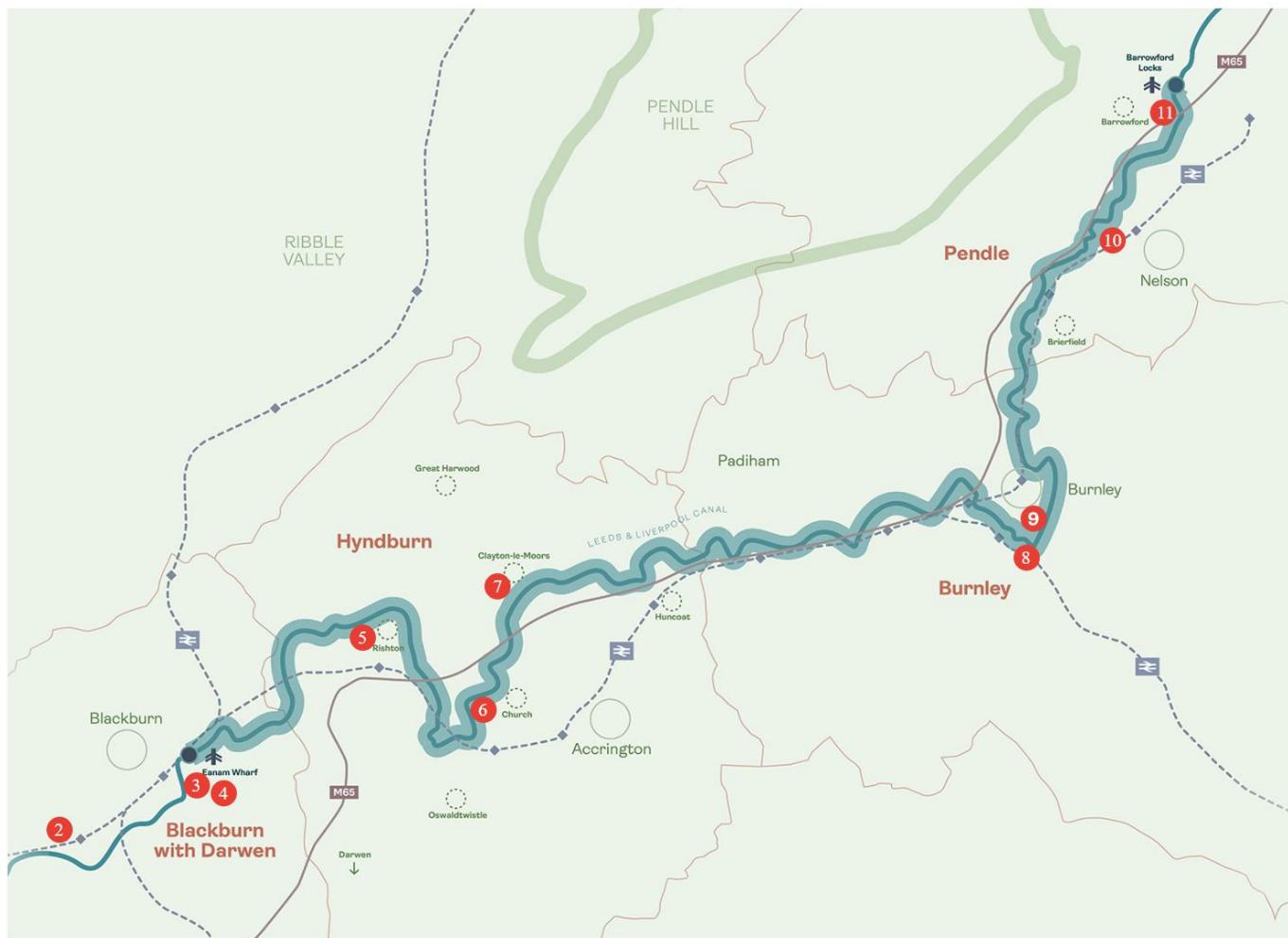


Square terrazzo tiles being made on site with members of the community, including the local Romanian Roma families and asylum seekers currently placed in the former Metropole Hotel on Blackpool's promenade. The community centre back garden is transformed into a casting and wood workshop.









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## The Super Slow Way 2023 - 2025

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## DRIFT: Bill Hunt Barge Community Radio

Blackburn, 2024 (Estudio ESSE & Super Slow Way)



**DRIFT On Tour: Community Pop-up Radio Station**  
Blackburn, Nelson, 2025 (with Super Slow Way)





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Prototyping ideas in public space to inform sustainable community led and community owned processes of 'regeneration'

Incrementally developing local knowledge, agency and capacity through acts of making: making events, making things, making places. Thinking through making and Learning through doing

Building capacity and agency; utilising the act of making and producing both place and programme as a tool for developing local empowerment and transferring knowledge and skills

Making EXISTING culture, people and education the foundation upon which regenerative strategies and conceived and enacted

Considering what is already there as the resource from which a progressive, gradual and sustained change might occur

An interdisciplinary approach to regeneration through the simultaneous development of both programme and place; transforming economy, culture and community

Sustainability by connecting people with place. A wealth of knowledge, resources, actions, capacity, ideas, agency actions and opportunity

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