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Project Office

Vol 3

Project Office is a design and research collaboration of staff and students. It is an architecture consultancy making ethical, social and resilient architecture. We work with like-minded communities, organisations and individuals.



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

PROJECT
OFFICE

/ ABOUT US

Project Office has undertaken more than 25 projects, most within the Leeds City region. It offers a full architectural service that includes feasibility studies, design guides and design advocacy, research, fabrication and construction. Students and staff work together to produce design and research for organisations such as charities and community groups who are unable to afford standard architectural consultancy. Student participants are always paid for their time, either through the University currency of 'credits' awarded towards their degree, or financially working directly for Project Office.

Project Office's approach equips students with a fantastic learning experience relating to real world complexities through the vehicle of live projects, whilst simultaneously supporting the needs of socially conscious organisations.

Project Office is co-directed by;
Craig Stott MEng, BArch, MA, ARB, FHEA
and
Simon Warren BA(Hons), Dip(Arch), ARB, RIBA, SFHEA



Richmond Hill Parkour Playground Activity Day
Photo by Graham Davey



STaLRC Alumni Competition Presentation Event
Photo by Graham Davey

/ PEDAGOGIC BRIDGE

Designers are well placed to challenge the contemporary paradigm of neoliberalism through their practice. It follows that design students should be exposed to these realities during their formal education. This is one of the reasons Project Office exists. For architectural education to remain relevant, students' incredible talent and energy must be harnessed to critically address the societal, political and environmental issues facing humankind.

It follows that, if designers are able to decide to act as agents of change, then educational institutions can also choose an ethical and social position as a starting point for educational projects. Such 'Anchor Institutions'¹ can "promote economic, social and cultural regeneration" by embedding themselves within their local community and working with regional partners to bridge the pedagogic gap between practice and academia. Thus the role of universities becomes one intent on advancing society for the greater good through the productive output of student endeavour, in addition to the classic creation and dispersion of knowledge.

¹. Social Mobility Advisory Group (2016) *Working In Partnership; Enabling Social Mobility In Higher Education*. London: Universities UK, 24.

Edited excerpt from; Stott & Warren (2018) 'The Pedagogic Value of Architectural Co-Design' in Ferdous & Bell (eds) *All-Inclusive Engagement in Architecture*. NY: Routledge.

/ NEW WORTLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Completed in May 2016, New Wortley Community Centre is the culmination of enthusiastic participation by local residents and volunteers with Leeds Beckett University. The process took over six years and involved 196 individuals including community members, professionals, and staff and students from Architecture, Landscape, Graphics, Cultural Studies, Product Design and Architectural Technology.

The outcomes are a result of an experimental co-design process where exposure to working professionally in multi-disciplinary environments equipped students with the necessary skillset for professional careers whilst simultaneously providing vital support for a third sector organisation.



Photo by Graham Davey





Photo by Will Phuc Ton

The original high street has been deconstructed since the slum clearances of the 1960s. New Wortley no longer has a centre and lacks urban cohesiveness. The new centre is a small civic building that recreates an urban situation by fronting on to New Wortley's main thoroughfare becoming a local landmark for the community and the start of re-establishing the high street building line.

Red brick and grey zinc remind people of the predominant material colours originally seen throughout the area. Large windows permit passers-by to see into the centre as a response to the invisibility of social life within the area.

The architectural concept, a 'work of many hands', underpins New Wortley Community Centre, where discrete elements have been the design responsibility of specific student participants. Project Office has managed and choreographed the work into a singular architectural statement.

The new building has proved a remarkable catalyst attracting a host of fresh users, volunteers and opportunities. Previously just 2 members of paid staff and 8 volunteers ran the organisation; today the centre has 21 members of paid staff and 53 volunteers. Consequently, NWCC now plays a pivotal role in the city's most disadvantaged community.



New Wortley Comm

Mariam Aslam
Rachel Berry Lauren Moriarty Will Page
Delphine Boardman David Fuller Tobias Bridger Rob Hilton
AbdulZ
elvin Bateson Callum Hairsine Krebs Sameerah Khalid Richard Allen Andrew Gaunt Anis
osemar Da Costa Christopher Newbold Hannah Elliott Leo Braga Nicholas Curtis Alex D
Matthew Pickersgill Amy Featherstone Kate Hopkins Maro Antonakou Adrian O'Ha
Alex Bingley Chris Paraskos Sarah Harvey Nick Jones Peter Baldock
Liam Pyman Yue Zheng Vahagn Mkrtchyan Freddie Garside Haroulla Geor
Joe Morizzo Imran Zulfqar Gareth Roberts Nick Husband Asma Dau
Owen Toms Stephen McCloy Anisah Parveen Tristan Cox Jujah S
Stuart Norman John Murphy Stephanie Wilding Jack Hyslop
James Ballard Jason Cheung Nathan Aston Rachael Brai
Usman Ali Rachel Mackenzie Gerson Almei
Harry Winfield Carla Izurieta Andrew Du
Kevin Wade Ray Bantug Anna R
Adam Fulton Hamid Isl

Names of all 196 contributors are engraved on the entrance
Photo by Will Phuc Ton

/ SEED AWARD WINNER

In 2017 Project Office won the Live Projects Network Category at the SEED (Social Economic Environmental Design) Awards for the process underpinning the New Wortley Community Centre.

The award was collected at the SFI2017 (Structures for Inclusion 2017) Conference at Portland State University, Oregon. Project Office was also invited to present the 'Story of New Wortley' at the conference.

Professor Peter Slee, Leeds Beckett University Vice Chancellor said: "Everyone here at Leeds Beckett University is proud of the pioneering work of our University's Project Office. Simon Warren and Craig Stott have led a talented team of students and staff in ground-breaking work. The New Wortley Community Centre is everything a building should be; functional, sustainable and beautiful. Their international award demonstrates very clearly the world class nature of the work undertaken at Leeds Beckett University."

“The New Wortley Community Centre project has empowered all actors involved, realising their shared vision in a meaningful and sustainable way. Project Office was key to this success, coordinating the energy and potential of both the community and Leeds Beckett University. We commend their evolution and implementation of such a coherent design strategy in a complex and fluid context.”



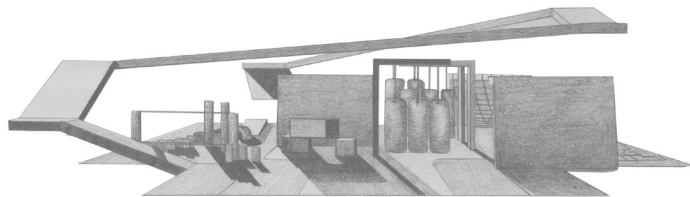
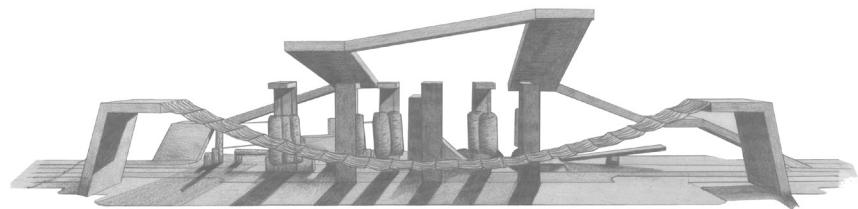
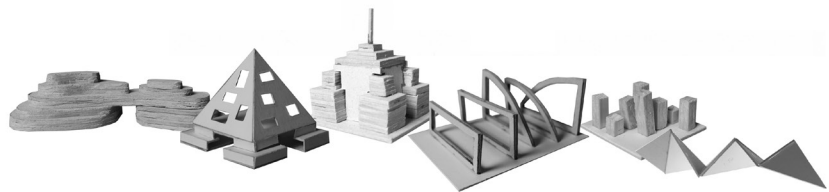
/RICHMOND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARKOUR PLAYGROUND

Richmond Hill Primary School, widely recognised as forward thinking, resides within one of Leeds' most disadvantaged areas. To further their Outdoor Learning Module the school sought to develop a parkour playground.

BA2 & 3 students tackled the design in groups, including planning an activity with school pupils determining requirements for their Parkour Playground. The completed work was exhibited at The Tetley Centre for Contemporary Art and Learning, attended by pupils, staff, students and the public.

The winning proposal, chosen for its clever way of achieving inclusive use was designed by students Tarran Coward-Willis, Alex Moriarty, Matthew Glegg, Daniel Peinado and Alex Rinder.

Photo by Graham Davey



Pupil drawings and student design work



Parkour Playground

Richmond Hill Primary School
& Leeds Beckett University's
Project Office



Exhibition of work at The Tetley
Photo by Graham Davey



Richmond Hill Parkour Playground Activity Day
Photo by Graham Davey

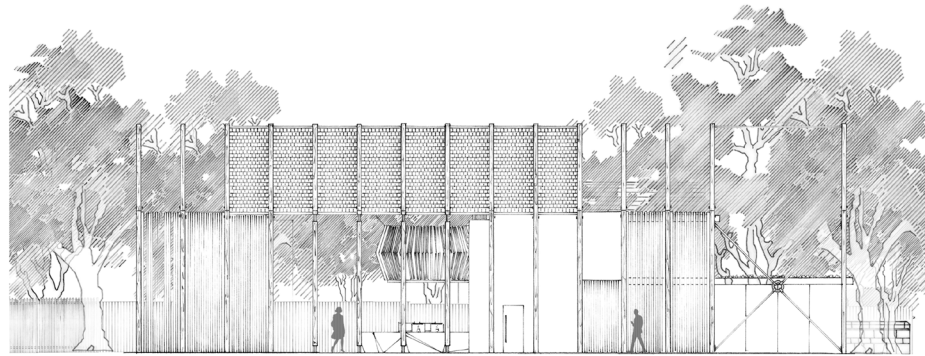
/ BRAMLEY HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE

Health and Wellbeing Centres allow users an opportunity to live longer, healthier lives that are full, active and independent through a more holistic response to patient care.

Manor Park GP Surgery in Bramley intend on providing a place where healthcare, social care and third sector colleagues can collaborate and innovate to provide improved methods of treatment outside the non clinical environment.

BA2 students were set the task of designing a building that met all Manor Park's needs whilst being flexible enough to host a range of activities and allow future development.

The design work will be used to support the client's fund raising.



An initial sketch scheme by BA2 student Louis Smith



Social Hub Space

/'HAUS' - 30 CHAPEL STREET, BRADFORD

In the heart of Bradford's historic Little Germany, the SoCo Company is establishing a hub for innovation and enterprise for start up companies and individuals.



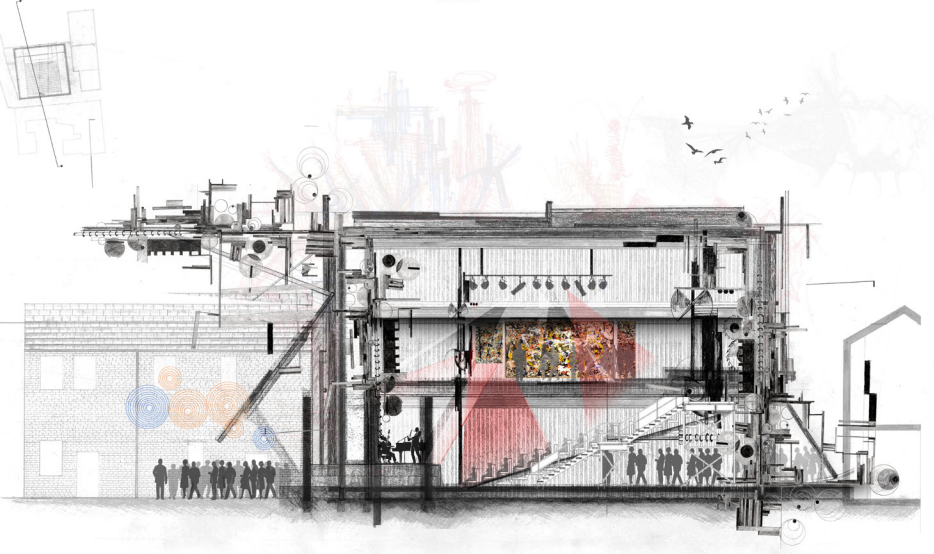
Co-working Space

The School of Architecture runs a week long work placement programme for undergraduate students called 'Speed Dating'. Many Leeds city region practices participate each year, including Project Office.

A group of BA2 & 3 students undertaking a Speed Dating work placement with Project Office devised an initial brief and concept design to aide SoCo's fundraising for the next stage of the project.

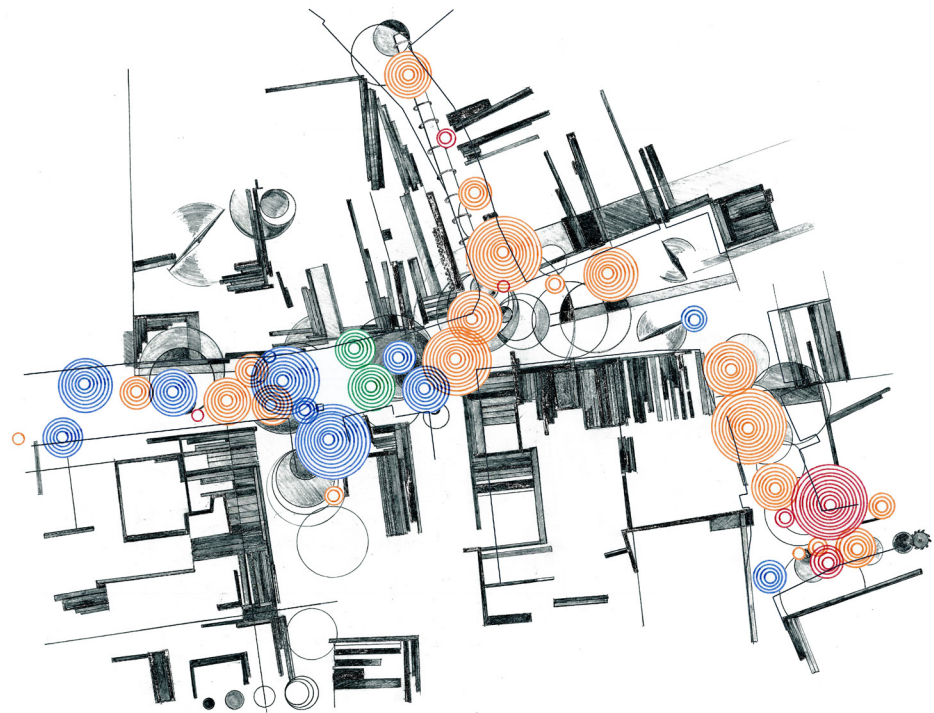
"Just want to say how impressed we are with your designs, it far exceeded what we were expecting and you have presented us with a huge amount of work that we will be able to use, not to mention that we are seriously reconsidering the name of the project to use 'Haus'".

Kamran Rashid, Director SoCo Company



/OTLEY COURTHOUSE

Otley Courthouse is a community arts centre in a re-purposed nineteenth century magistrates court, run by volunteers.



A proposed urban strategy at Otley Courthouse by BA2 student Dominiq Oti

Currently the Courthouse's desired reach is limited by a lack of specialist facilities and a main auditorium of just 140 seats. BA2 students redesigned the town block in which the existing building sits to include a new 400-seat auditorium, exhibition gallery, and associated ancillary spaces. The ideas generated are now being discussed by the client with the local council.

/ CRESCENT ARTS SCARBOROUGH

Crescent Arts supports and promotes contemporary visual arts and artists in Scarborough offering exhibitions, studio space, professional development, workshops, film screenings and artists' talks.



Photo by Sarah Gharbi

Working closely with the client, BA2 students produced proposals for converting and extending a derelict sunbathing building, originally constructed in 1924, into the new home for Crescent Arts. In conjunction with Scarborough Council this work is being developed into a feasibility study with grant funding by the Architectural Heritage Fund.

“Project Office understands the education and nurturing of young talent, and does a good job to promote it by actively demonstrating the value of architecture.”

Alumnus Steven McCloy

“Architecture, indeed, everything that is built, cannot help playing some kind of role in the lives of the people who use it.”

Herman Hertzberger

/ ALUMNI PEDAGOGY

The institution's association with its students is almost severed after graduation. By extending pedagogy, through a competition, Project Office explores new possibilities between the School of Architecture and its former students, linking academia and practice.

Competitions provide a valuable strategy within an educational setting as they expose the entrant to the canon of advancing architectural knowledge and empower them with the ability to challenge the establishment. Consequently the architectural competition is a relevant tool to push the boundaries of architectural education, here of live project education, as it confronts the contradictions of advancing knowledge, experimentation and production of real work for a client.

As alumni competitions are framed in an educational setting, the learning outcomes of participants are of equal importance to the quality of entries. This methodology ensures continued pedagogical value in the transition between formal education and the profession. Recent alumni are vital and unencumbered fledgling professionals and through entering alumni competitions are provided a space to fly.

Edited excerpt from; Stott & Warren (2016) 'Experimenting with Alumni Pedagogy' Conference Paper at ICC 2016 *The Competition Mesh*. Leeds Beckett University.



Alumnus Steven McCloy Presenting at STaLRC Competition Event
Photo by Graham Davey

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Cra Stott // Simon Warren

/RESEARCH

Project Office's research explores the underpinning pedagogy and social value impact of architectural live projects.

In addition to the two PhD studies Project Office supports, numerous research outputs are produced, a selection of which are listed below:

Stott & Warren (2018) 'The Pedagogic Value of Architectural Co-Design' Book Chapter in Ferdous & Bell (eds) *A77-Inclusive Engagement in Architecture*. New York: Routledge.

Stott & Warren (2018) 'Competitions and Educational Structures' Book Chapter in Theodorou and Katsakou (eds), *The Competition Grid: Experimenting With and Within Architecture Competitions*. London: RIBA Publications.

Stott & Warren (2017) 'The Making of a Liveable Community at New Wortley' Conference Paper at *AMPS 2017; Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Liveable?* University of Derby.

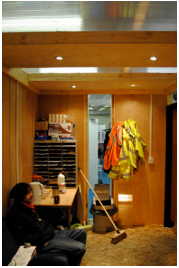
Stott & Warren (2017) 'Advocating a Co-Design Methodology Across Academy and Community' Conference Paper at *AAE 2017; Architecture Connects*. Oxford Brookes University.

Stott & Warren (2017) 'The Story of New Wortley' Invited Presentation at *SFI17 Structures for Inclusion Conference*. Portland State University, Oregon.

Stott & Warren (2016) 'Experimenting with Alumni Pedagogy' Conference Paper at *ICC 2016 The Competition Mesh*. Leeds Beckett University.

Stott & Warren (2016) 'Emergent Community Governance; a new model of socially sustainable transformation in New Wortley' Conference paper at *SEEDS 2017*. Leeds Beckett University.

/ PREVIOUS PROJECTS



Fareshare Office
2010



Arc Light
Orwin House
2010 to 2011



House of Hope
Haiti
2011



Old Chapel
Studios
2011



Basement Arts
Leeds
2012



Hunslet Urban
Framework
2012 to 2013



Garden Gate
Hunslet
2012 to 2013



Morley Newlands
Primary School
2013 to 2014



The Orangery
Beam
2013 to 2014



Bardsey Scout
Hut
2014



Leeds Film
School
2014



Nunburnholme
Heritage Centre
2015

“There are a million ideas that can change the world, but if you don’t build it, it doesn’t exist.”

Cameron Sinclair

/ WHO WE ARE

SIMON WARREN

Project Office Co-Director

I am interested in the role of the architect. How do architects practice with ethical grace and respond to climate change and energy depletion imperatives? How should architects make their skills available to underrepresented communities so that they can make positive changes to their environments? I am currently working towards a PhD; the working title is 'Live Project Pedagogy - Architecture in the Making'.

CRAIG STOTT

Project Office Co-Director

I am interested in the impact of 'Live' project learning within architectural education by establishing its value for both the students involved and the communities who act as client for the work undertaken. The intention is to utilise the power of student design to foster ecological and social sustainability in deprived communities through this pedagogic tool.

PROJECT OFFICE STAFF 2013-2017

Hanzla Ashgar / Part 2 Architectural Assistant
Graham Davey / Part 1 Architectural Assistant
Paul Hansell / Part 2 Architectural Assistant
Andrew Pye / Part 2 Architectural Assistant / Architect

/ Vol 3. PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

STUDENTS

Aaron Jones
Adam Lloyd
Alex Bingley
Alexander Moriarty
Alexander Spencer
Alexandra Rinder
Ali Jasim
Amy Ferguson
Andrew English
Anna Rosiak
Ashley Murray
Barney Stonelake
Ben Regan
Ben Rimmer
Callum Bleasdale
Callum Hairsine
Krebs
Connor Buckler
Daniel Fox
Daniel Peinado
Daniel Wright
Delphine Boardman
Dominiq Oti
Edward Baxter-Garbett
Francis Henry
Hardev Singh
Harry Cox
Idris Idris Haladu
Jack Hyslop
Jack Whitehouse
Jamie Williams
Jason Paley
Joseph Chapman
Joseph Johnson
Joshua Jenje
Josiah Sherwood
Kate Hopkins
Kieran Dobinson
Laura Kershaw
Leyla Scarlattella
Louis Smith
Magdalena Panasewicz
Maira Salfate Herrera
Marco Chan
Maro Antonakou
Marvin Schmitt
Matthew Glegg

Matthew Richardson
Megan Fitzmaurice
Michal Maksymiszyn
Mohammad Farooq
Mohit Gera
Nadia Luhar
Nathan Aston
Nathan Blackledge
Nicholas Curtis
Noor Al-Boinin
Raheem Johanneson
Rahim Razaq
Ray Bantug
Reece Smith
Rhiannon Evans
Rob Hilton
Roberts Opincans
Ross Kennedy
Ryan Ainsley
Sameerah Khalid
Samuel Richardson
Sarah Gharbi
Stuart Norman
Tarran Coward-Willis
Thomas Ford
Thomas O'Callaghan
Tin Ho
Tobias Bridger
Tristan Cox
Umer Mahmood
Vanessa Baer
Westley Forleo
Will Page
William Gains
William Maddinson

TUTORS

Andrew DuFeu
Andy Edwards
Jen Chalkley
Jessica Bryne-Daniel
Lauren Moriarty
Maurice Shapero
Robin Brinkworth
Steven Heywood

ORGANISATIONS

Big Lottery
Leeds Beckett
University

CONSULTANTS /

CONTRACTORS
Dobsons Construction
Chippendale Projects
Giddy Frog

COLLABORATORS

Gareth Roberts
Nicholas Wright
Daniel Wallace
Daniel Ingram-Brown
Katy Shaw
Nuala Cavanagh
Rachel Connor
Ben Lear
Dan Hird
Jonathan Crosby
Neil Masterman
Ricky Adam

CLIENTS

New Wortley Community
Association
Richmond Hill Primary
School
Crescent Arts
Manor Park Surgery
Otley Courthouse
SoCo Bradford

STEERING GROUP

Amy Featherstone
Dominiq Oti
Irena Bauman
Janet Mulcrone
John Orrell
Les Webb



Project Office
Leeds Beckett University
B504, Broadcasting Place
Woodhouse Lane
Leeds
LS2 9EN

+44 (0)113 81 26752
e: projectoffice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
t: @projectoffice
i: project_office_leeds
w: leedsbeckett.wixsite.com/projectoffice