

Context

This Vertical Studio takes place in the context of a community led library located in Maindee, Newport, with redevelopment led by architecture 00 & integrated workshop.

The project provides an opportunity to reflect on a number of key concepts within the design process and contemporary culture.

Co-authorship through Human Centred Design

These approaches to design development have become major influences, from multinational companies to local community groups alike, from leading design consultancies such as IDEO to the Maker Movement.

Involving the group of people who will be using the Library interior at an early stage provides many benefits. All sorts of assumptions may be challenged through sympathetic observation and interaction. Engagement through collaboration can deepen understanding of the issues involved and can lead to innovative solutions.

Hacking and Maker Culture

This is a process commonly associated with Makerspaces where experimenting through modifying existing artefacts and applying new production techniques facilitate innovative bespoke design solutions.

Participation in WSA Generosity Conference

It is intended that students will share their working processes at the conference and exhibit their prototypes as a demonstration of participatory research practice and creative co-production in architectural change.

Save the dates: 27-29 June 2018

The Brief

Participants will be working directly with local user groups to hack, appraise, customise and re-purpose a dysfunctional library shelving system.

To experiment with materials and fabrication processes to develop prototypes for new manifestations of the existing furniture system that work for the library community in new ways.

In the spirit of collaboration, students are invited to participate in the WSA Generosity Conference with their work for the project.



Timetable

19th April	Thursday	pm	DH	Cardiff	Introduction to the brief, background and location.
20th April	Friday	pm	GL, LV	Newport	Start of co-authorship process, initial ideas, working with Library Volunteers.
Independent Student Desk based work				Cardiff	
23rd April	Monday	am	DH,	Newport	Thinking through cardboard modelling. Progress review and feedback.
23rd April	Monday	pm	DH, LV	Newport	Co-authorship, working with Library Volunteers.
Independent Student Desk based work				Cardiff	
25th April	Wednesday	am	DH	Newport	Progress review and feedback.
25th April	Wednesday	pm	DH	Newport	On site, iterative design through cardboard modelling.
Independent Student Desk based work				Cardiff	
1st May	Tuesday	pm	DH	Newport	Progress review and feedback.
Independent Student Desk based work				Cardiff	
3rd May	Thursday	pm	DH	Newport	Validation through Library Volunteer feedback
4th May	Friday	pm	DH	Cardiff	Vertical Studio Presentation

LV - Library Volunteers
 GL- George Lovegrove
 DH - David Henshall

Start times and room numbers, to be announced

Deliverables

Students are asked to respond to the brief by producing 2D drawings and sketch models of the Library shelving. These should demonstrate to Library Volunteers how an adapted Library shelving system might better suit the new function of the Library. Students are also asked to record their decision making process.

For Vertical Studio the project concludes with an exhibition to demonstrate the spirit of the work, potentially not a complete record.

Assessment

Assessment is based on a Pass/Fail basis on engagement with the project.

An attendance record will be kept as part of the project.

Travel expenses and materials

Travel to Newport can be claimed. An expenses form will be available which will need to be submitted along with relevant travel receipts.

Prototyping materials will be provided on site such as:

Cardboard, glue guns, steel rulers, craft knives.

Please bring along your own: Sketchbooks, pens, pencils, tape-measure, preferably a camera for documentation.

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