

Prefigurative Architecture
COMMUNITY LINK

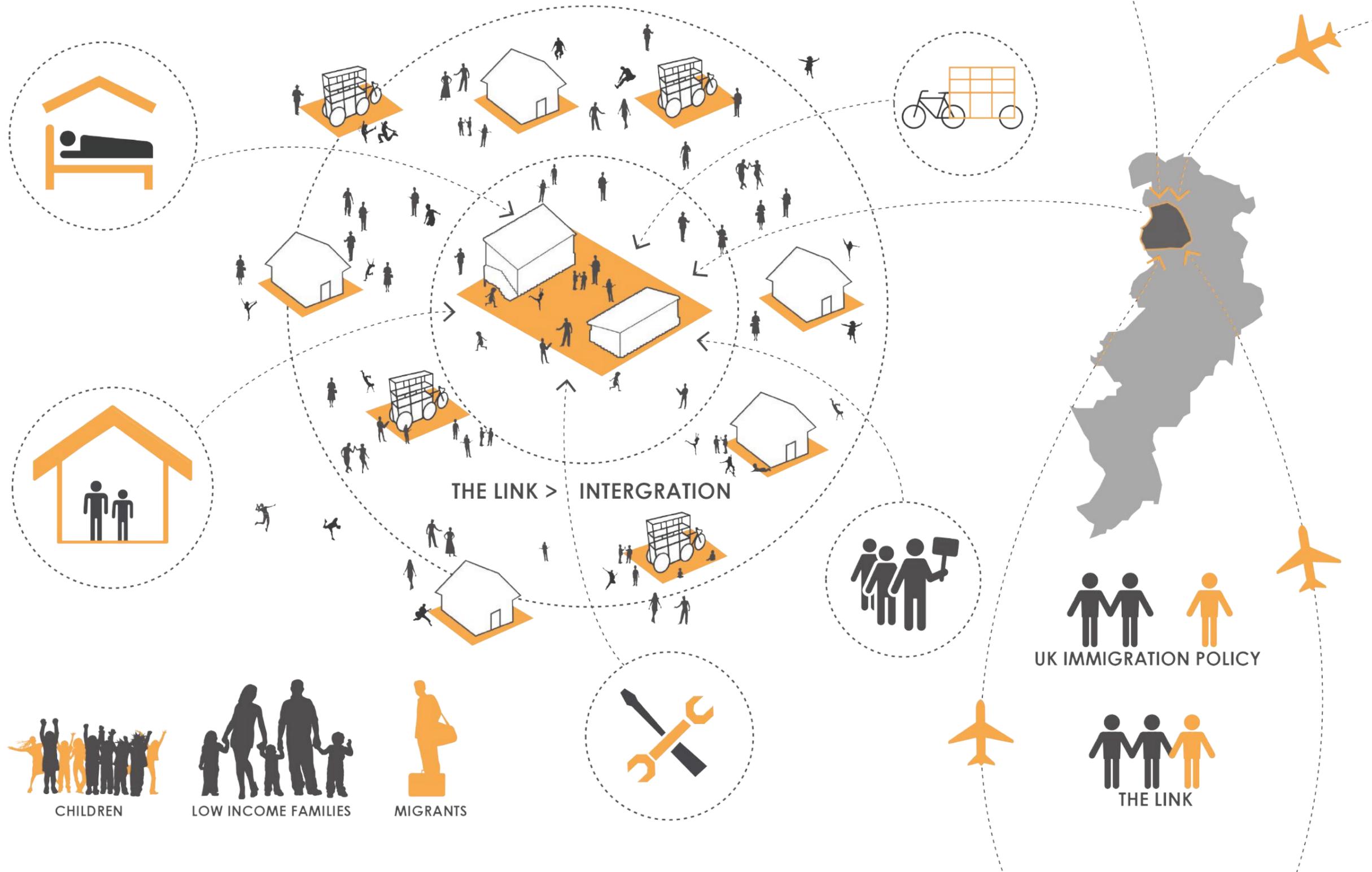
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COMMUNITY LINK

We focus on the **failed integration** of low income families, currently not catered for by political infrastructure.

This spatial experiment will facilitate and accelerate the process of integration of families into society.

Pedagogical space and cultural infrastructure can **challenge the unequal societal conditions** and aims to carve out new economic, cultural, social and political relations. [McFarlane]



Context

Cheetham Hill



“A lack of integration of immigrants has resulted in British hostility towards immigration.”
- [Oxford Migration Observatory, 2016]

Image Source : <http://www.northernsoul.me.uk/photos-cheetham-hill/>

There is no consensus on the meaning and application of the notion of integration.

Within government organisations “integration is a chaotic concept: a word used by many but understood differently by most.” [Ager, 2004].

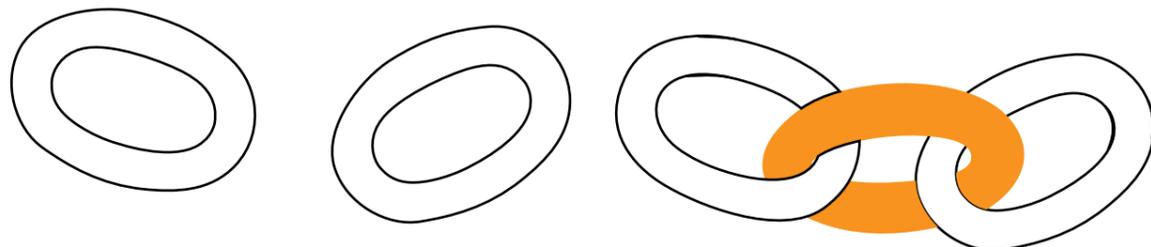
“Government policy initiatives need to explicitly define what is meant by integration, which specific area is targeted, and how success will be measured.”

- [Galandini, S. and Lessard-Phillips, L., 2015]

How can we provide this in Cheetham Hill, an area famous for migration?

“Integration is mainly presented in the media as a one-way process, with the onus being on immigrants to adapt.” [Galandini, S. and Lessard-Phillips, L., 2015]

Missing link



Ignoring the issue



Finding a Solution

“...placelessness has become the essential feature of the modern condition, and a very acute and painful one in many cases.”

[Escobar 2001]

The Indicators of Integration

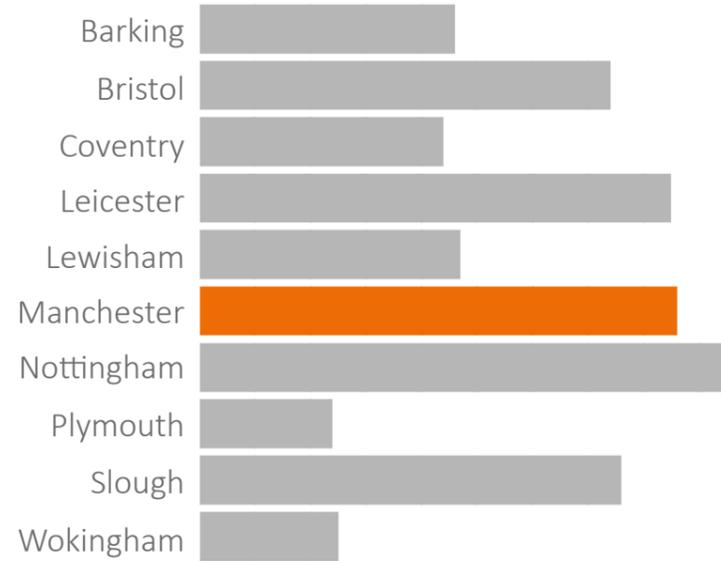


[Ager, A. and Strang, A., 2004]

Ethnicity Groups

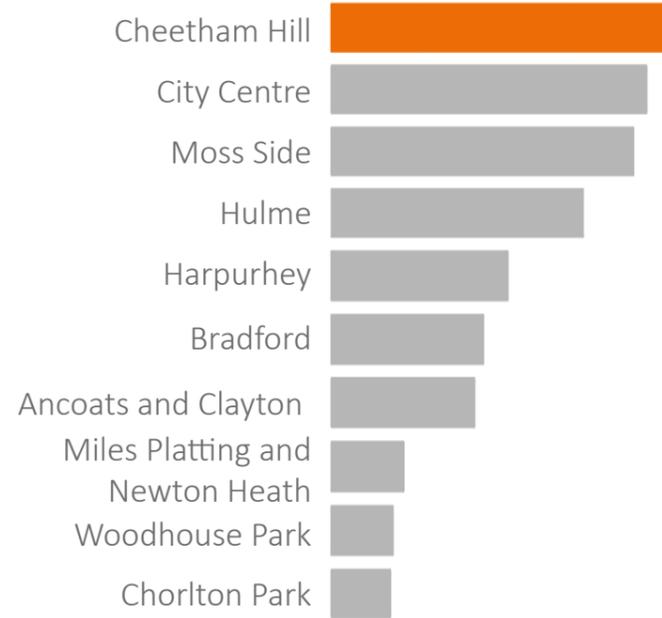
“Ethnicity appears to play an important role in the degree of integration, regardless of country of birth.” [Galandini, S. and Lessard-Phillips, L., 2015]

Net International Migration Rate (2009)



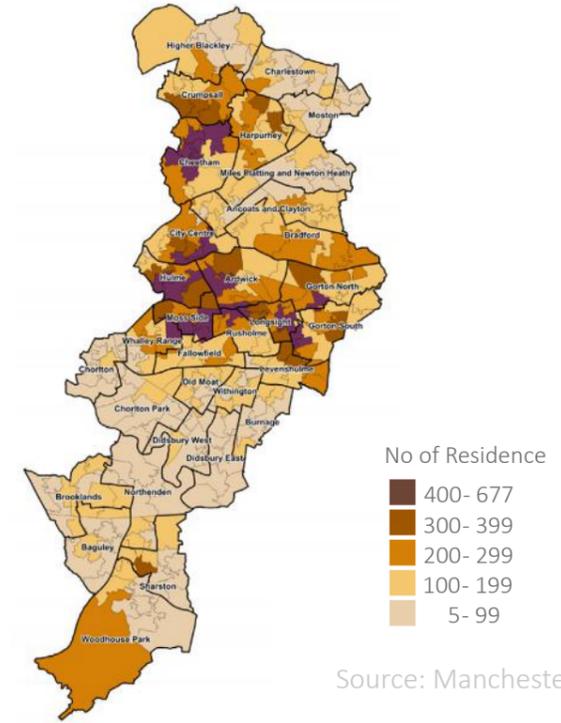
Source: migrationwatchuk.org, 2010

Residents arriving in the UK (between 2001 and 2011)



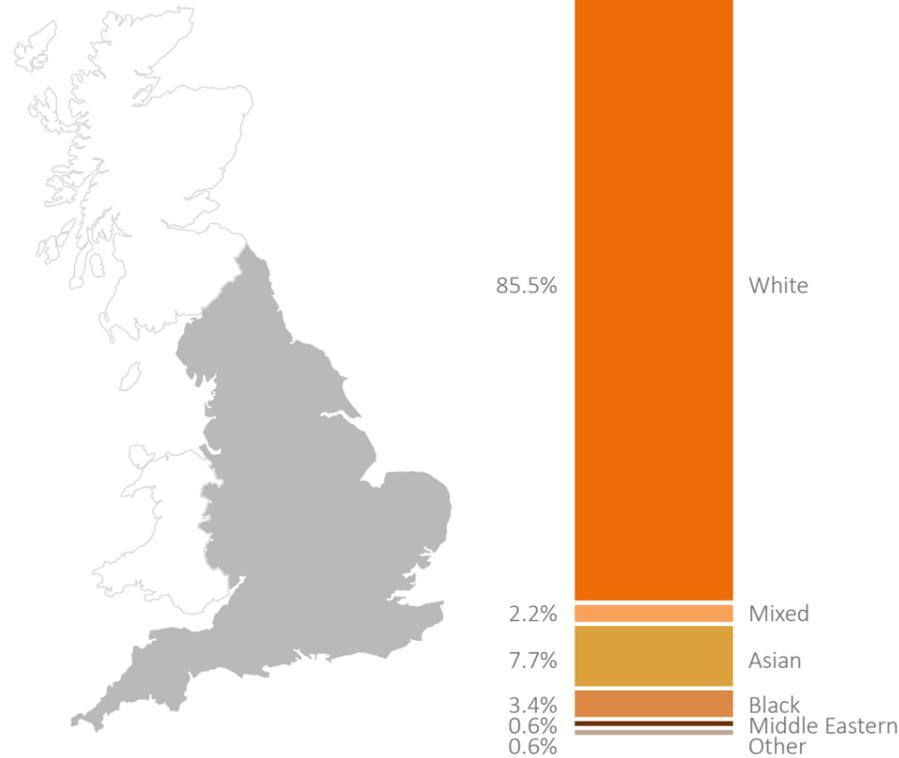
Source: Manchester City Council, 2015

Location of residents arriving in the UK (between 2004 and 2009)

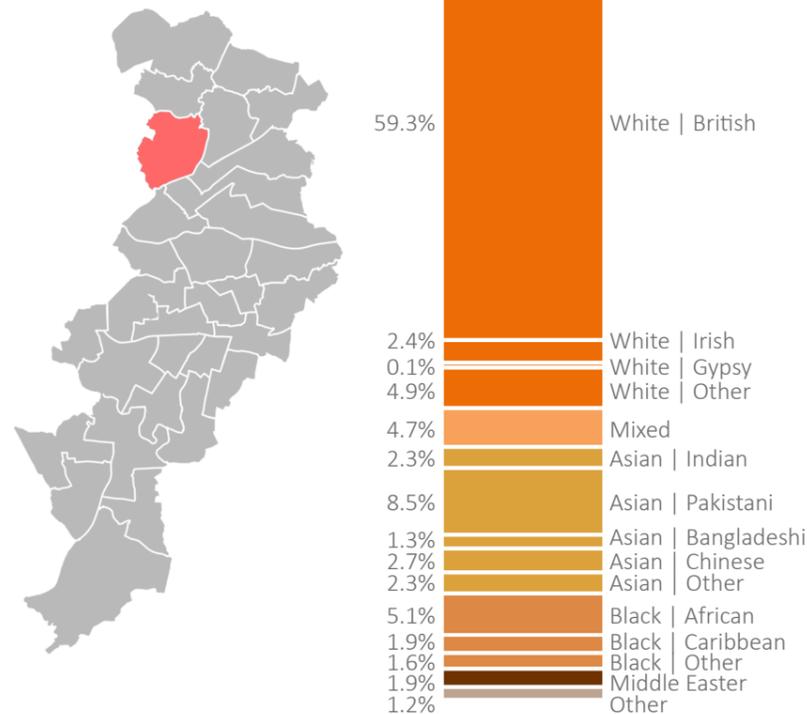


Source: Manchester City Council, 2015

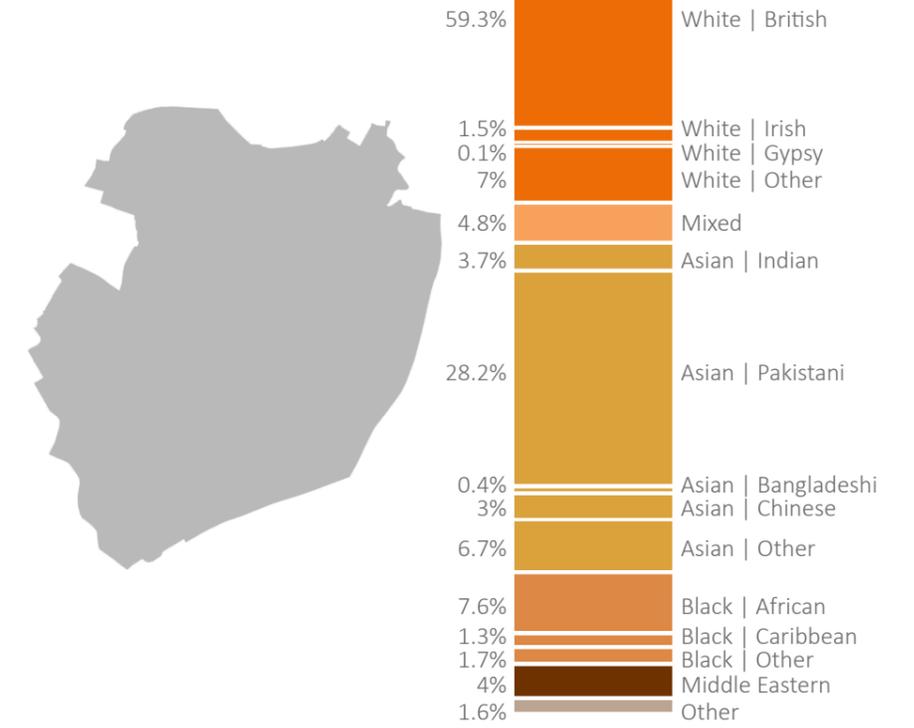
England
Population- 53,012,456



Manchester
Population- 503,127

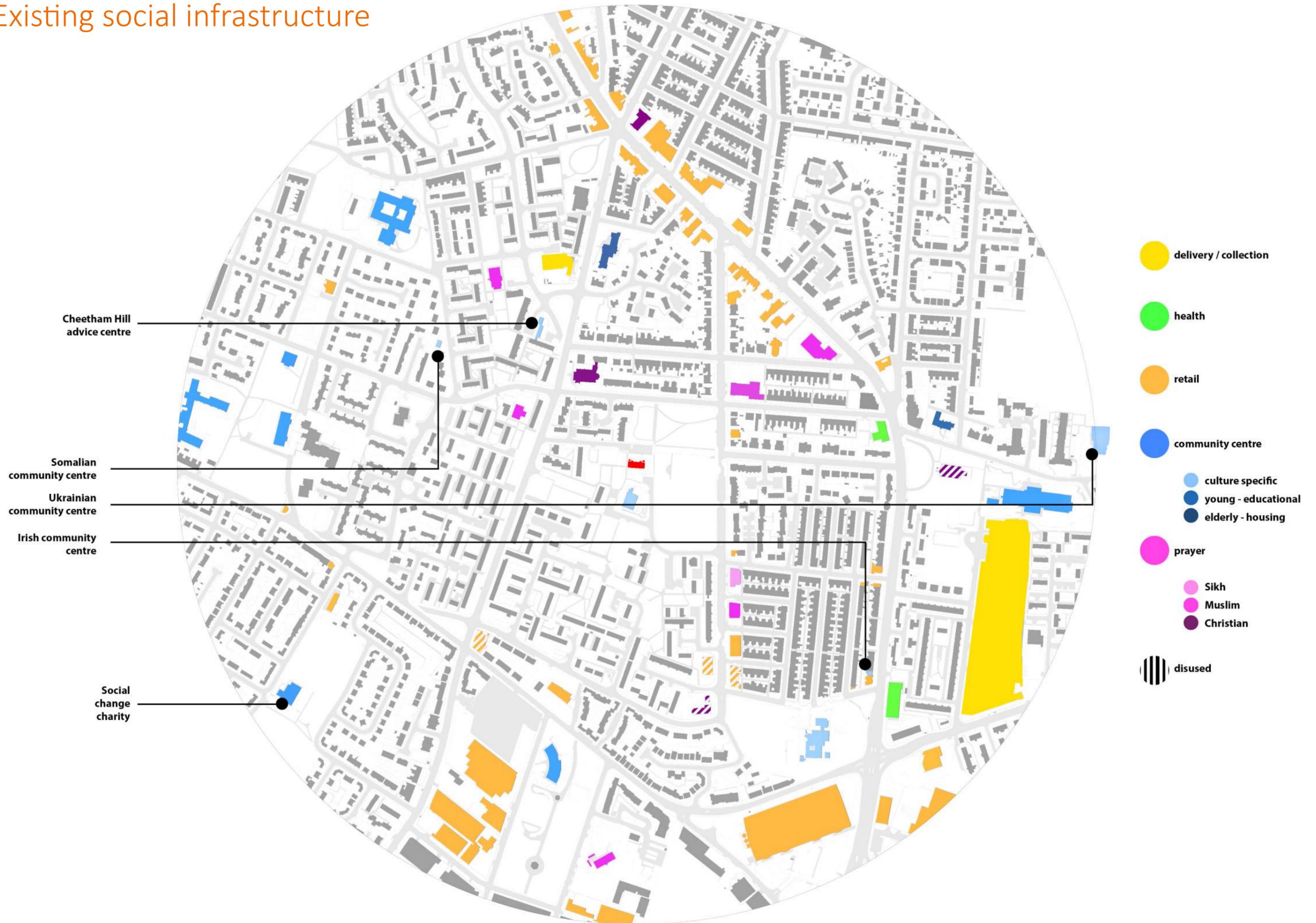


Cheetham Hill
Population- 22,562



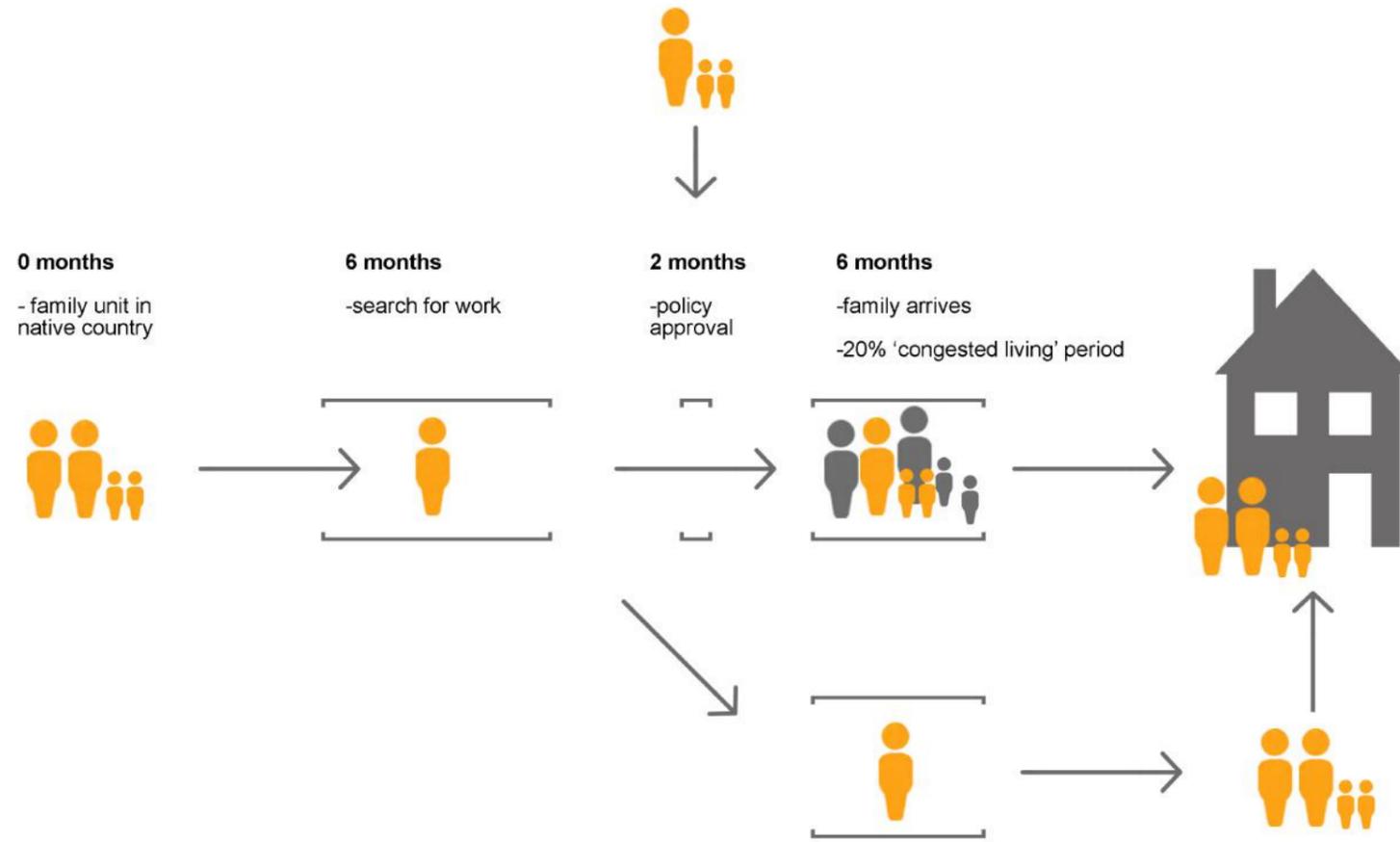
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 (Updated 2013)

Existing social infrastructure



IMMIGRATION PATTERNS & POLICY

-segregated migration

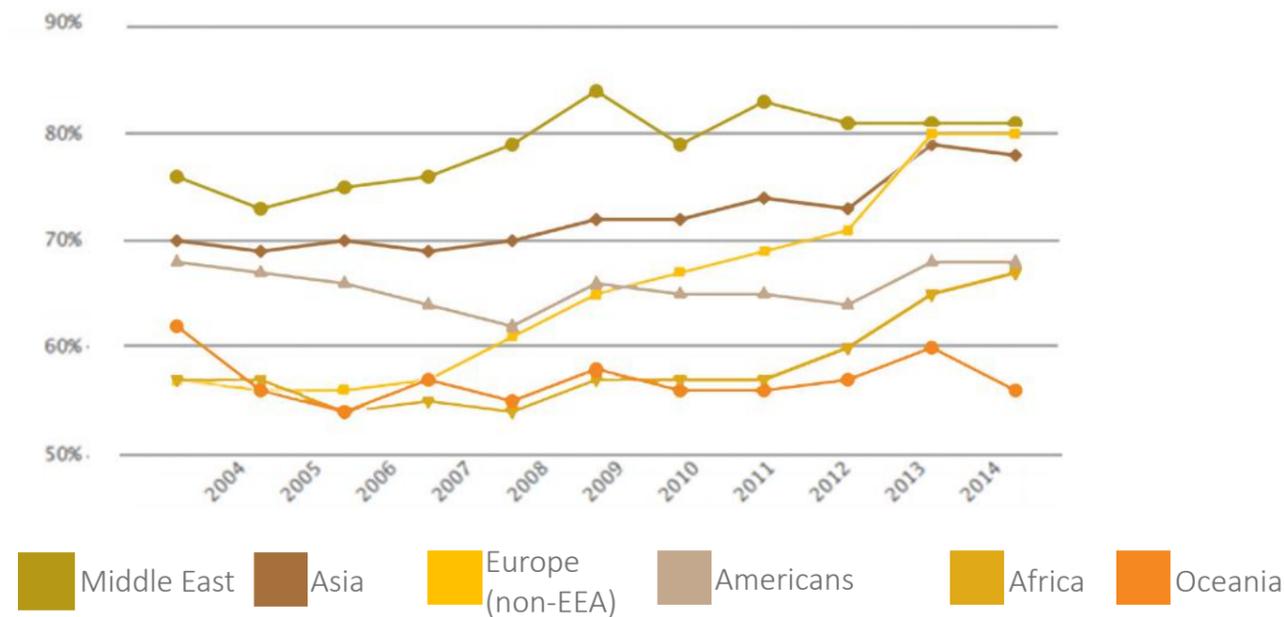


"...the public are not aware of facts about migration trends and policies."
- The Migration Observatory, 2015

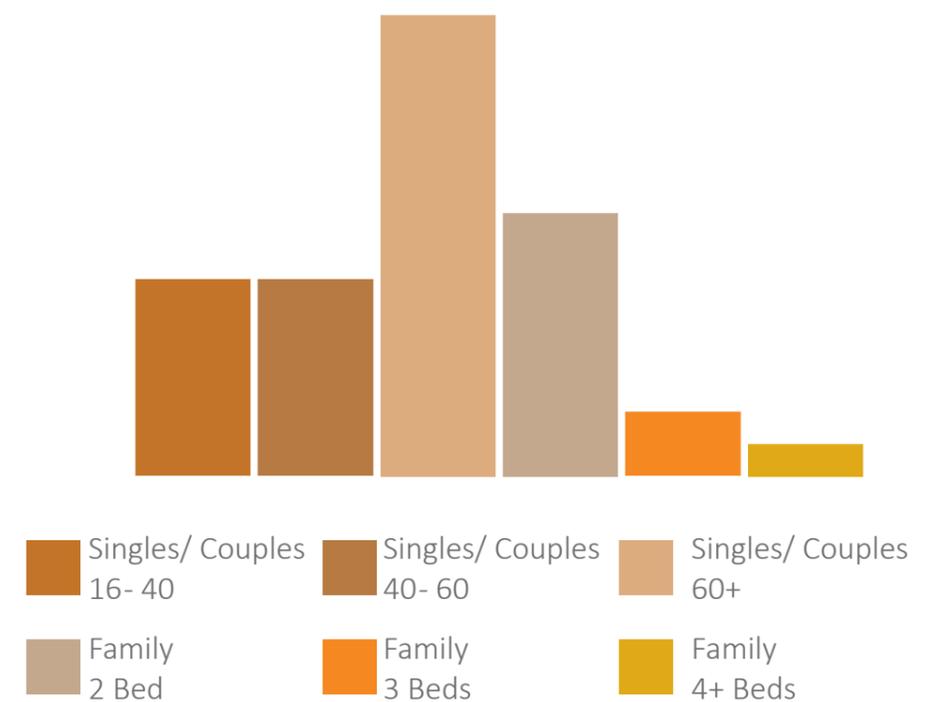
75% Migrating Women reunited with partner or family after 6 months

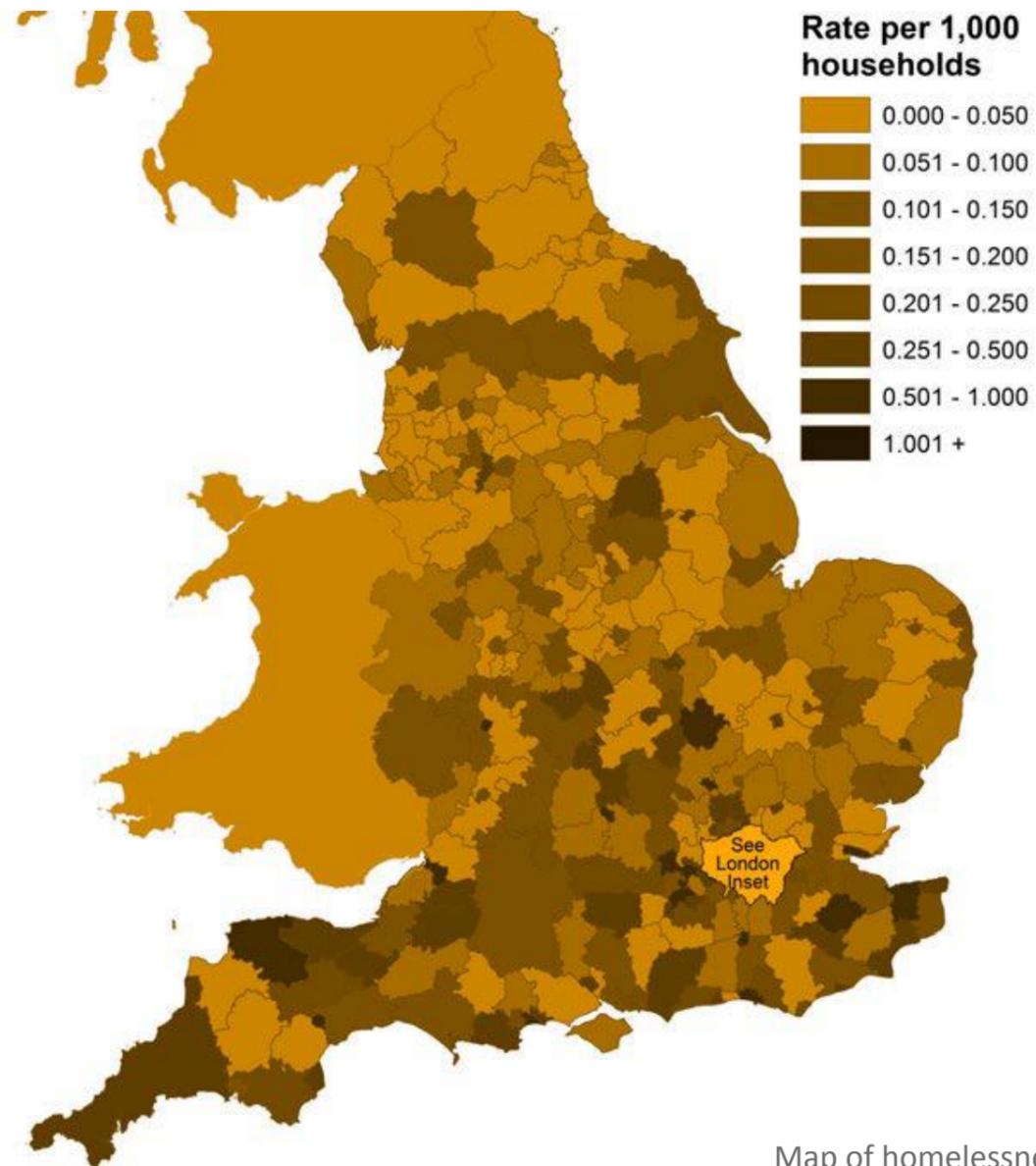
15% Migrating children reunited with family after 6 months

Percentage female of marital partner migrants



Cheetham Hill - Housing Availability





Map of homelessness



If you live permanently in the UK, you'll usually be eligible for assistance. If you're from abroad, you may not be eligible because of your immigration status.

<https://www.gov.uk/emergency-housing-if-homeless>



Approximately 25% of homeless people in Manchester are EU / EEA nationals.

<http://www.citycentrevoice.co.uk/homelessness>

Reasons why migrants become destitute:

'local is now part of the global, that national interests are related to transnational systems, and the environment is an inherently global condition outside any single country's partial interests.' (De Caute, 2008)



They may not know about the benefits or services they are allowed to claim.



The people administering benefits and services may refuse them to migrants who are allowed to claim them, because they do not understand the rules or are administering them wrongly.



There may be delays in paying benefits or providing housing: this is a particular problem for people who have just got refugee status, for example.



Some people are in the UK with leave to remain on condition they can accommodate and support themselves with 'no recourse to public funds' and so cannot claim many benefits or apply for some council housing services.



Citizens of EEA countries may be told that they have 'no right to reside' in the UK or that the right to reside they have does not allow them to claim benefits or housing.

<http://www.housing-rights.info/people-who-are-destitute.php>

Thus, we can identify the areas that need intervention.

The Indicators of Integration



[Ager, A. and Strang, A., 2004]

Housing is a feature in Cheetham Hill that can catalyse the process of integration.

It is **preventing complete migration of the family unit**, thus integrating health and education will follow.

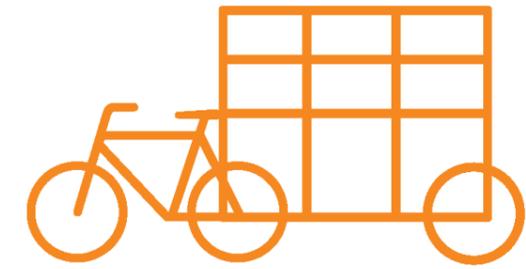
Three Key Elements of Integration



Connections with relevant public services.



Having sufficient linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, a sense of security and stability reflecting shared notions of nationhood and citizenship.

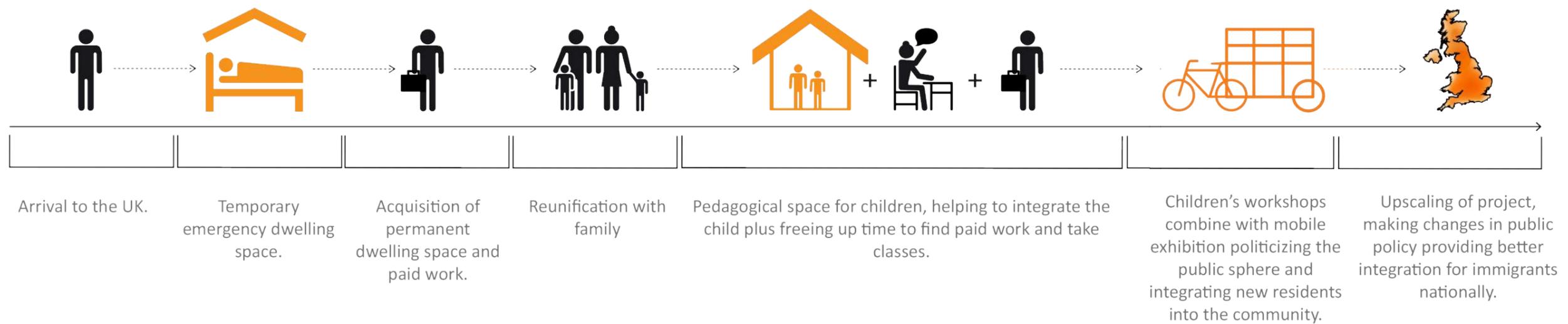
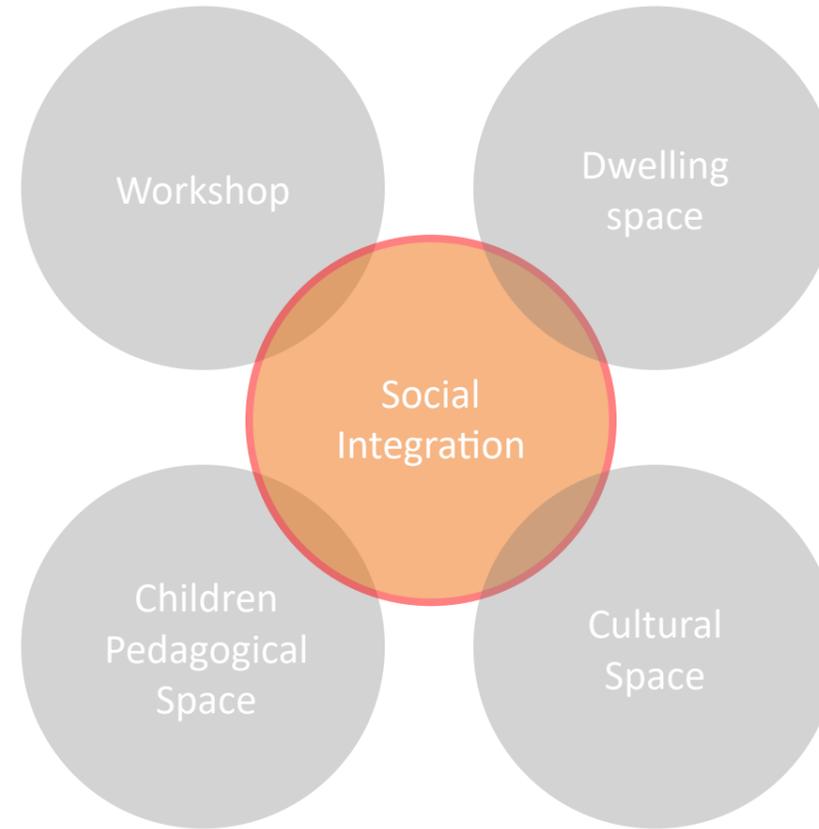


Social connection with their own community, social connections with members of other communities.



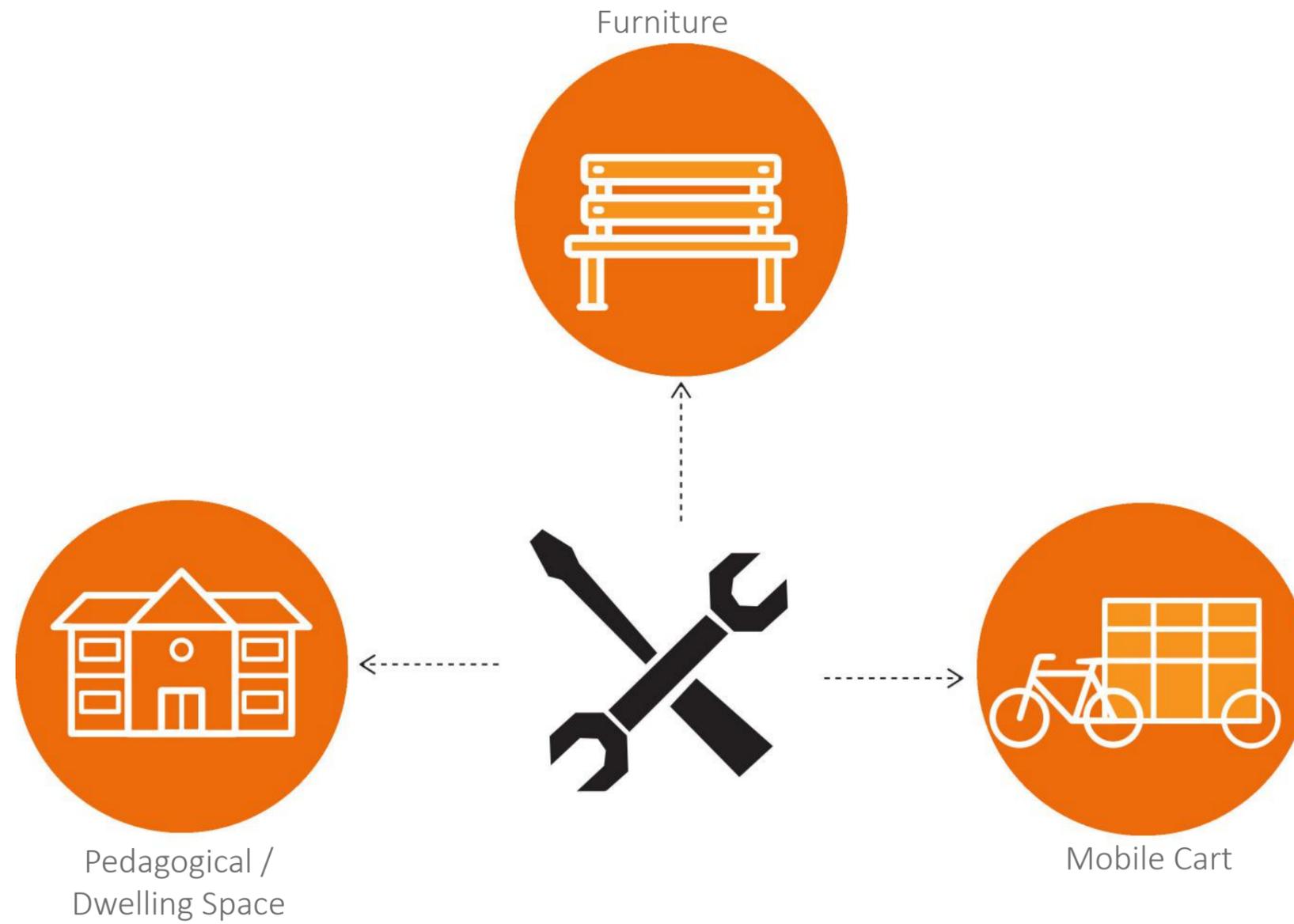
- Existing Community Centre
- Workshop
- Dwelling / Pedagogical Space
- Existing Workshop

The Proposal



The Workshop

the hearth of the community centre



“The principles of activism and volunteerism are folded back into constructive practices: the de-commodification of the moment of construction extends beyond the nonpayment of the labour force involved in the building process.”

[Leandro Minuchin, 2016]



Tiuna el Fuerte Cultural Park, Caracas, Venezuela

Representation of space – act to “pin down” inseparable connection between places, people actions and things [Simone, 2004].



Anti-social behaviour



Community Centre educates



Alternative to violence through art



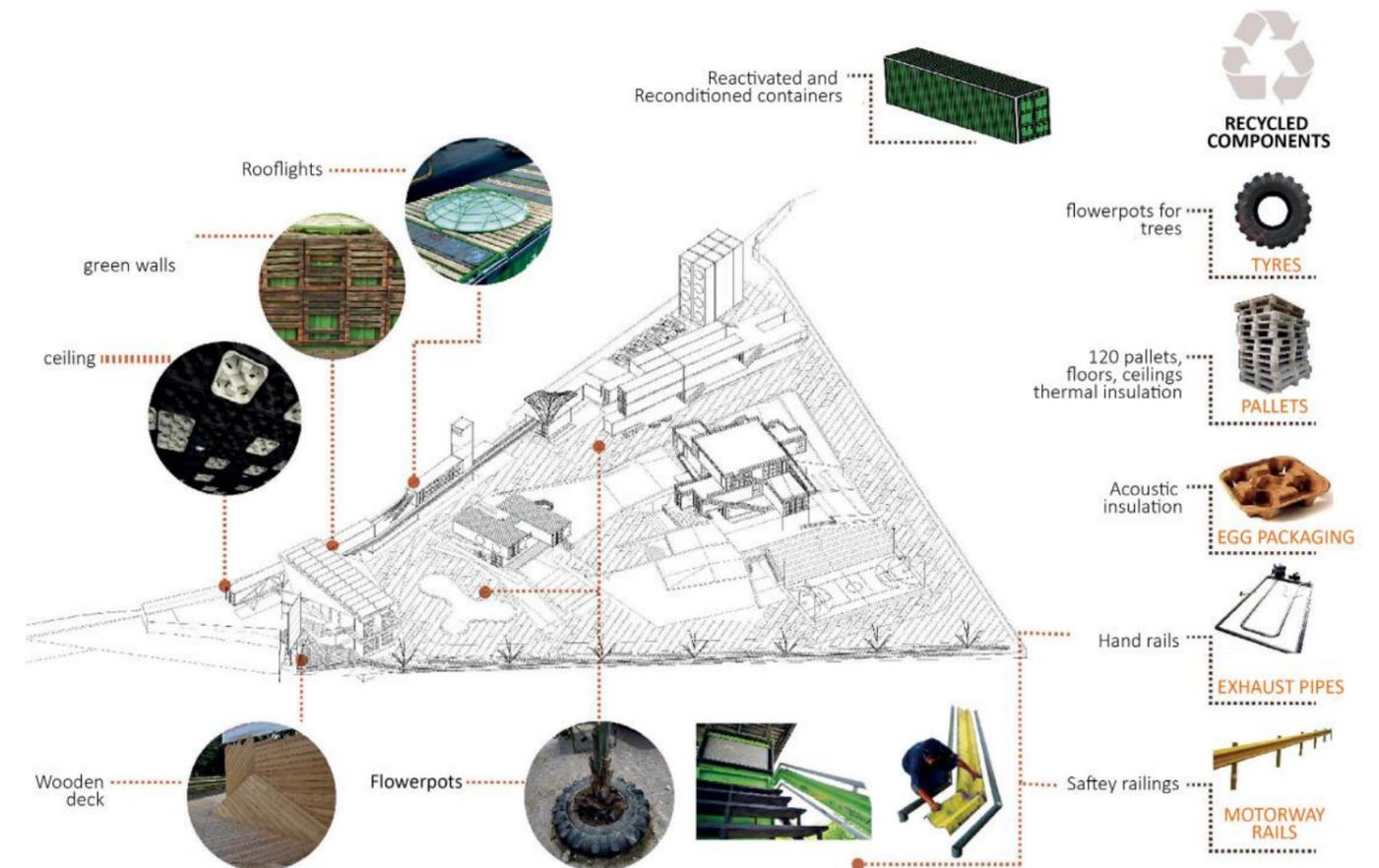
Organisations/ Individulas needing a space



Use the community Centre's spaces



Pay the centre through teaching



The Workshop

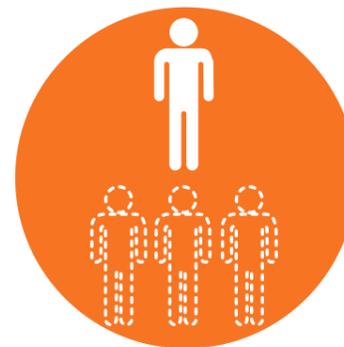
Princes trust enterprise program

The princes trust enterprise scheme is for 18 to 30 year olds, living in the UK and unemployed, or working fewer than 16 hours a week. The princes trust provides support to plan and test ideas and give you the opportunity to apply for funding.



De-commodification

Individuals and organisations may use the workshops facilities but inexchange they will have to create a workshop day or teach at the Pedagogical Space.



Revenue stream

Identified possible revenue streams. Consistent revenue streams to supply furniture too. Depending on the buyers needs bespoke furniture can be designed and built to supply an income to the workshop.



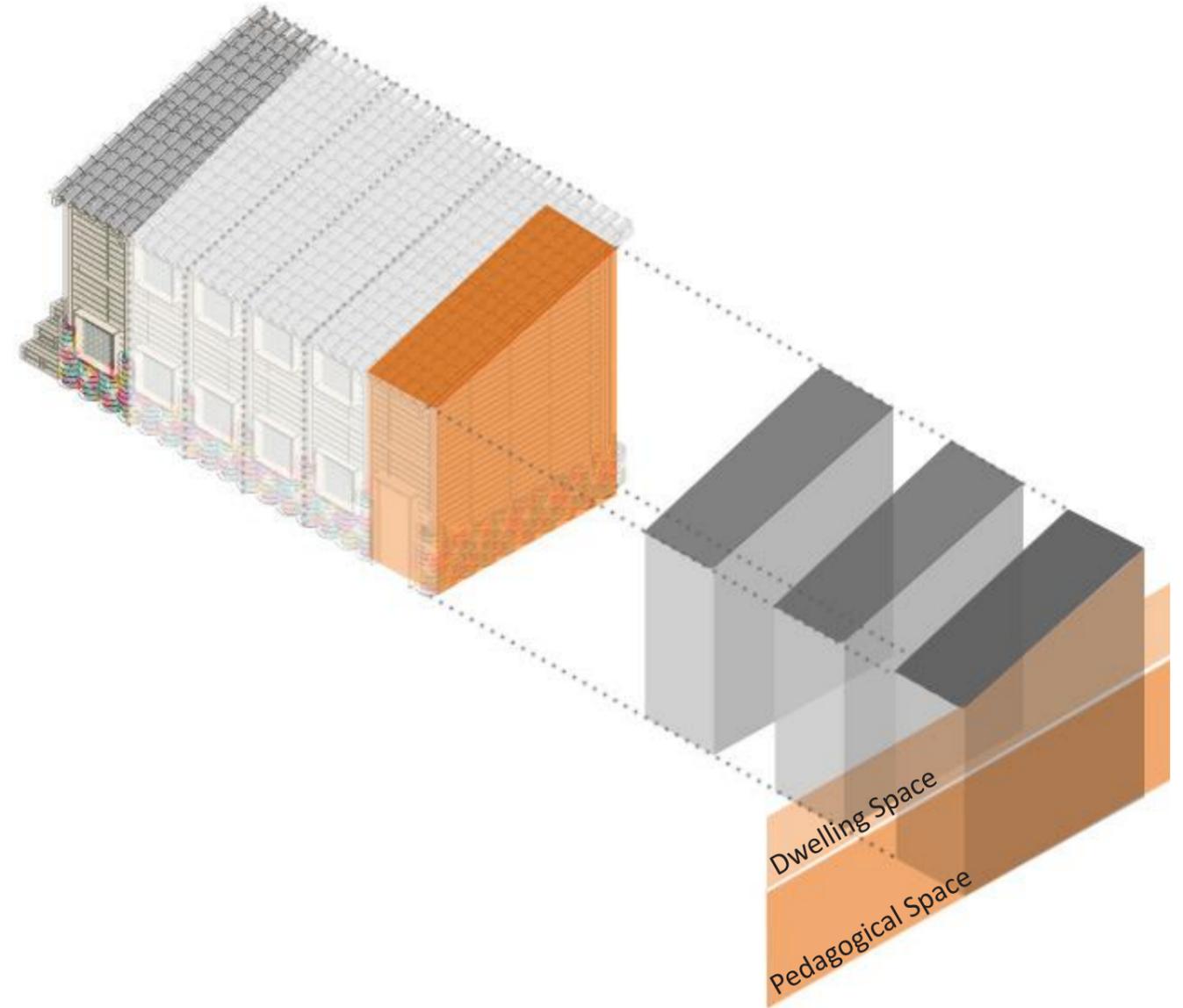
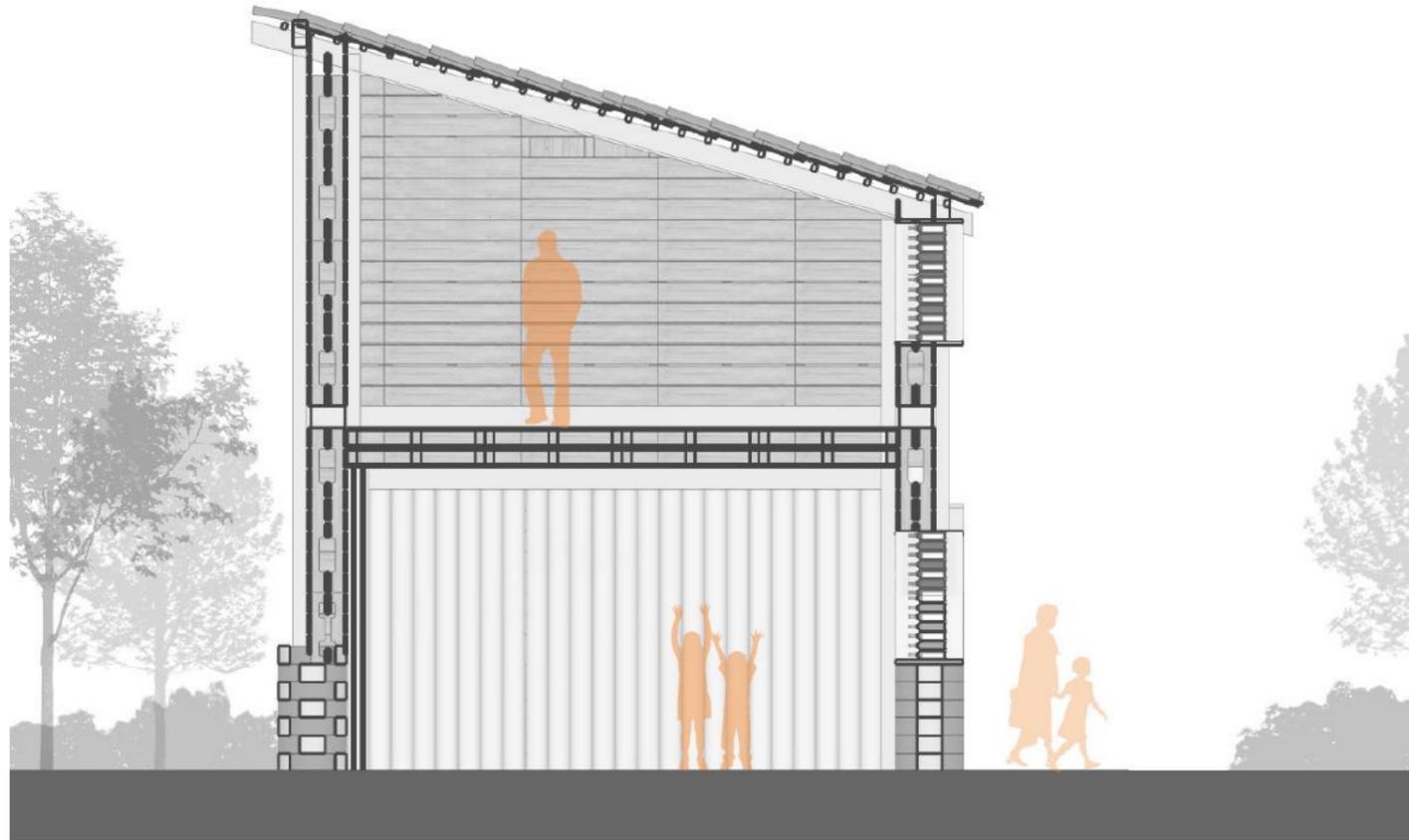
Furniture

We will design some furniture to be built for a consistent revenue stream. This will provide a basis to teach wood working skills. When established the workshop be used to build panels for housing.

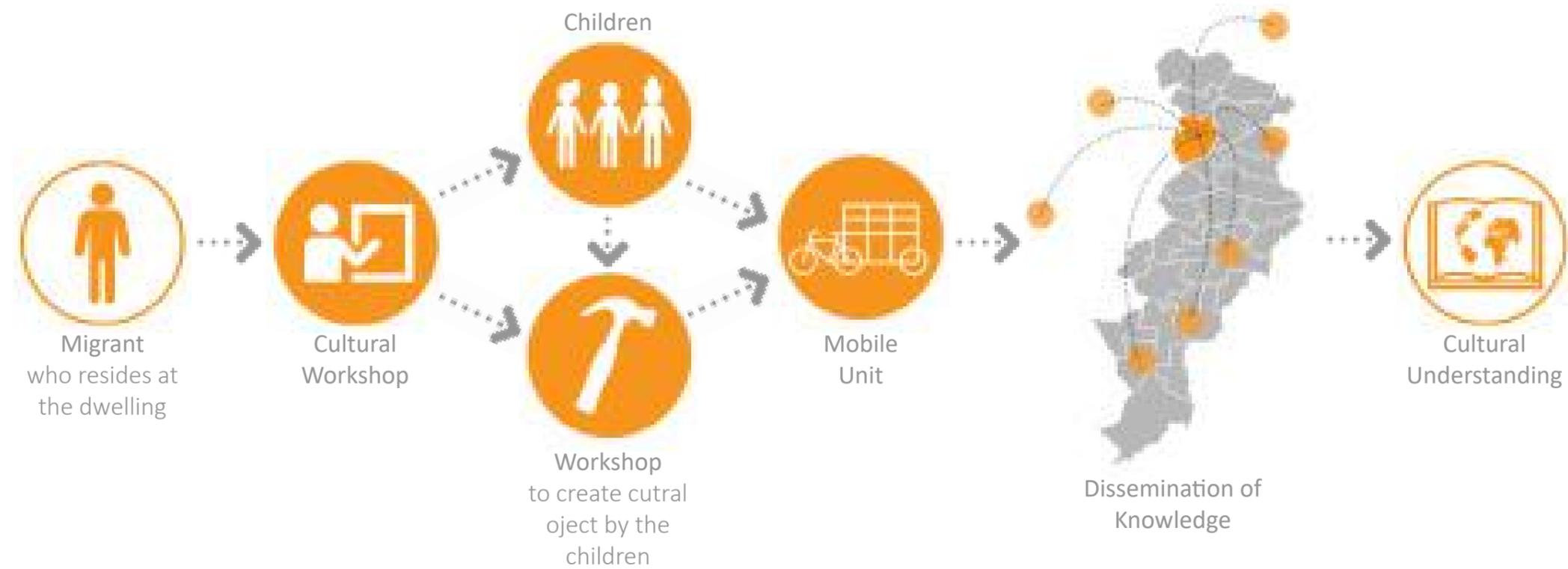
Dwelling Space

“The relationship between learning and representation is important not just because it influences the nature of knowledge creation, but because it is central to learning translocal political organization.”

[McFarlane, Learning in the City P.12]



Dwelling and Cultural Relationship

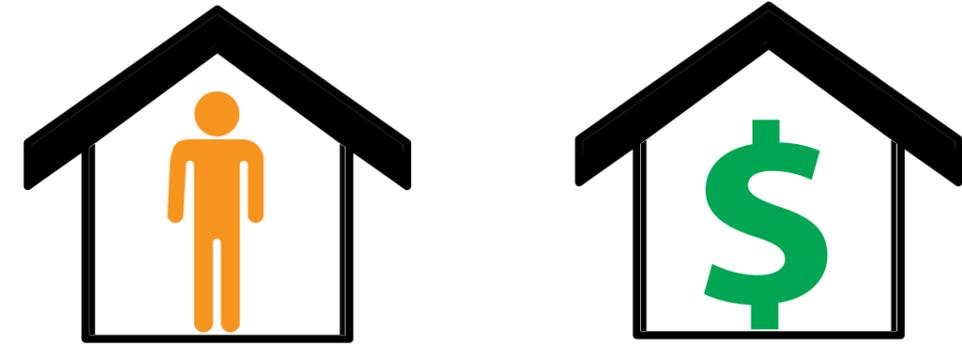
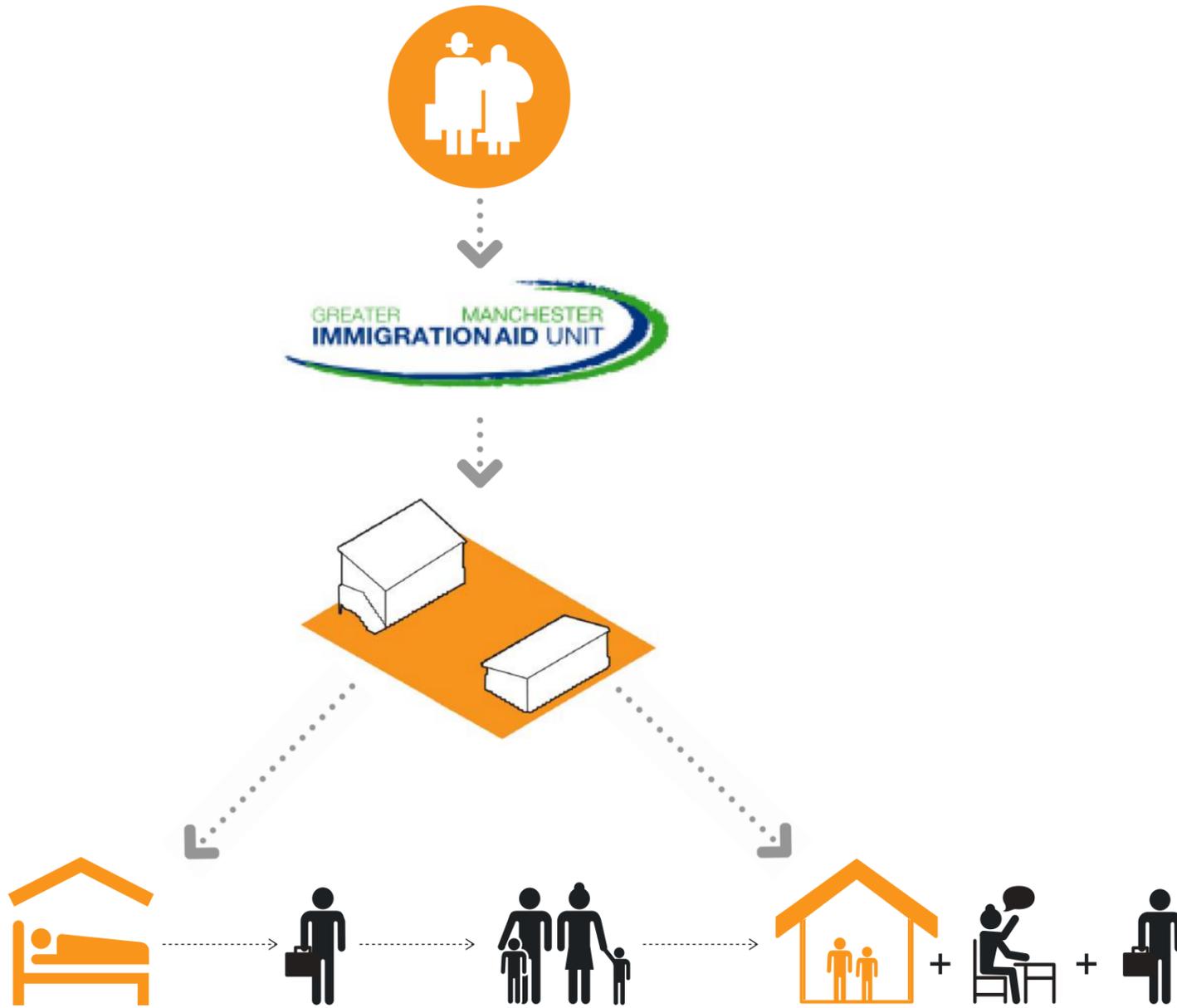


“Transnational civic networks’ are an example of knowledge transfer between different social movements that help us understand that civil knowledge travels as a necessity in most cases.”

[McFarlane, 2011]

“The residential is political- which is to say that the shape of the housing system is always the outcome of struggles between different groups and classes. Housing necessarily raises questions about state action and the broader economic system.”

[Marcuse, In Defense of Housing P.4]

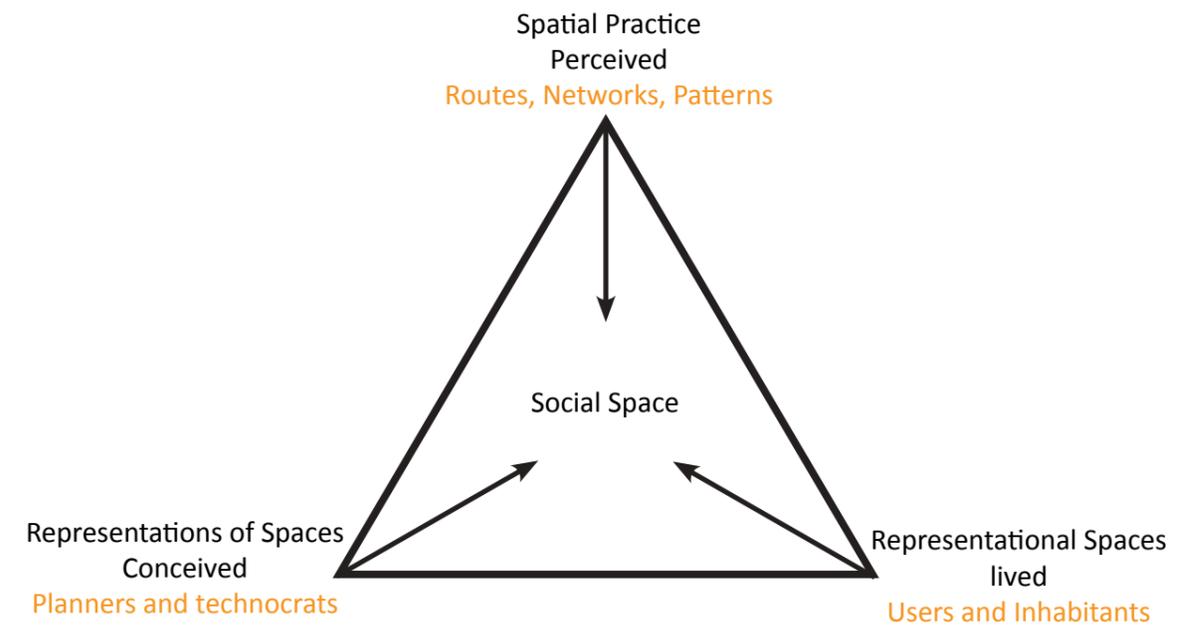


USE VALUE

EXCHANGE VALUE

‘commodification is the name for the general process by which the economic value of a thing comes to dominate its other uses.’

‘housing is becoming ever less an infrastructure for living and ever more an instrument for financial accumulation.’



Henri lefebrve

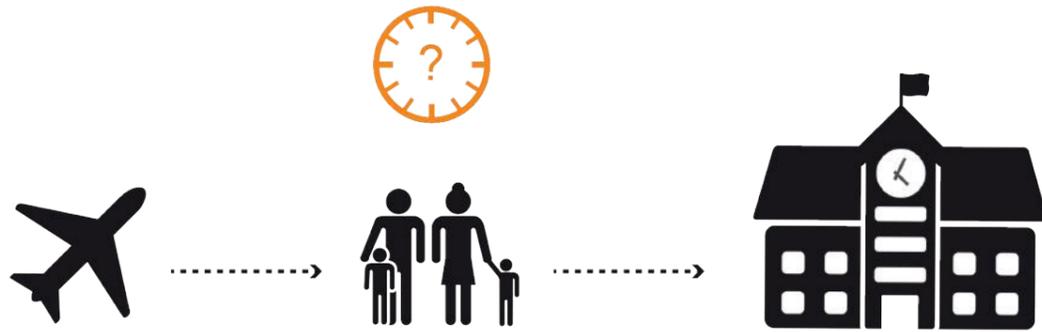
The Pedagogical Space



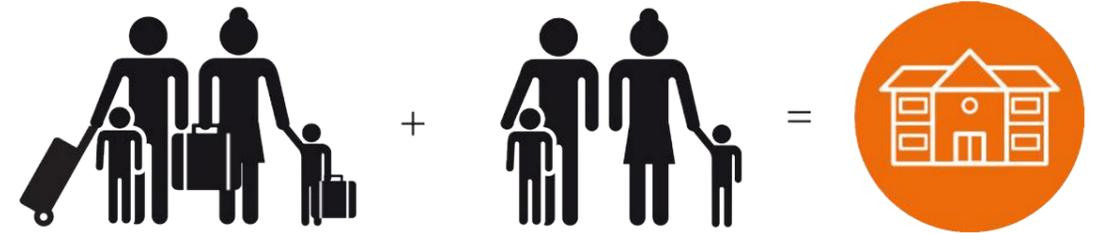
Interview analysis

Italian family arrived in UK 2 months ago. Children waiting to be enrolled in a school, thus, constant care from parent is required.

Present



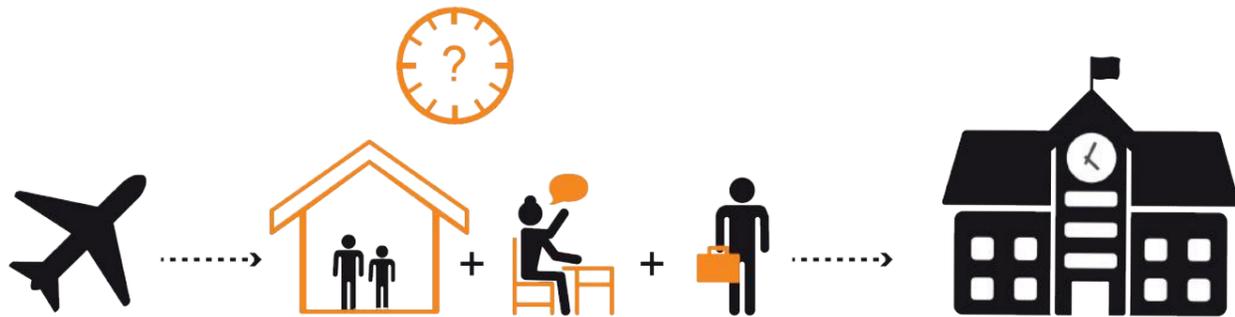
Due to a shortage of schools, migrants arriving in the UK experience several months of waiting times before their children start school. This results in parents having to take care of children during this period so cannot attend language and skills classes or find paid work



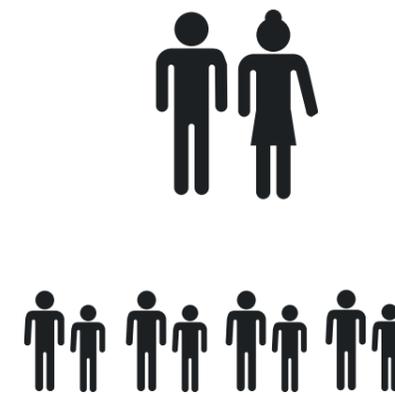
Immigrant families

UK national families

Proposal - Pedagogical Space



This proposal provides a space for a co-operative of parents to take care of the children whilst on the School waiting list, freeing up time to find paid work and take classes. This proposal may also act as an informal school or play group.



Children's learning space



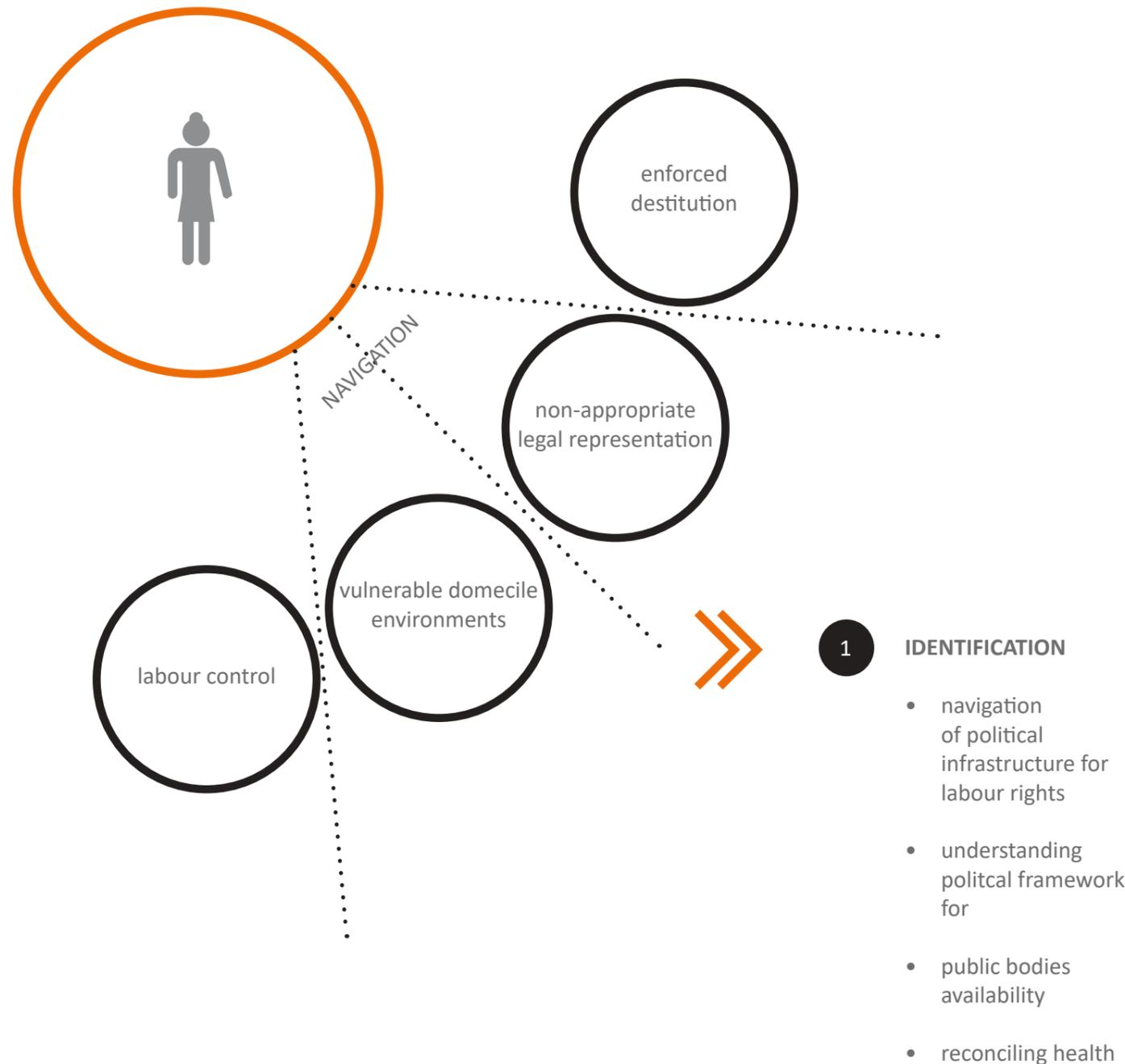
Meeting space for parents

ORGANISING A NEW RELATIONSHIP

what childcare means, the value of a liberated gender

Gender is performative, however, culturally it is not treated like this. [Butler]

Thus, when considering the process of one crossing a cultural barrier, problems related to traumas and deprivations are compounded.



Spatial heirachies that govern the family

“the very notion of domesticity seems to emerge as a negative category where sexual identities are compartmentalised, gender roles are solidified, and the female element is repressed...domesticity is not a notion to be disregarded, but one that needs to be thought about differently”

[G. Baydar]

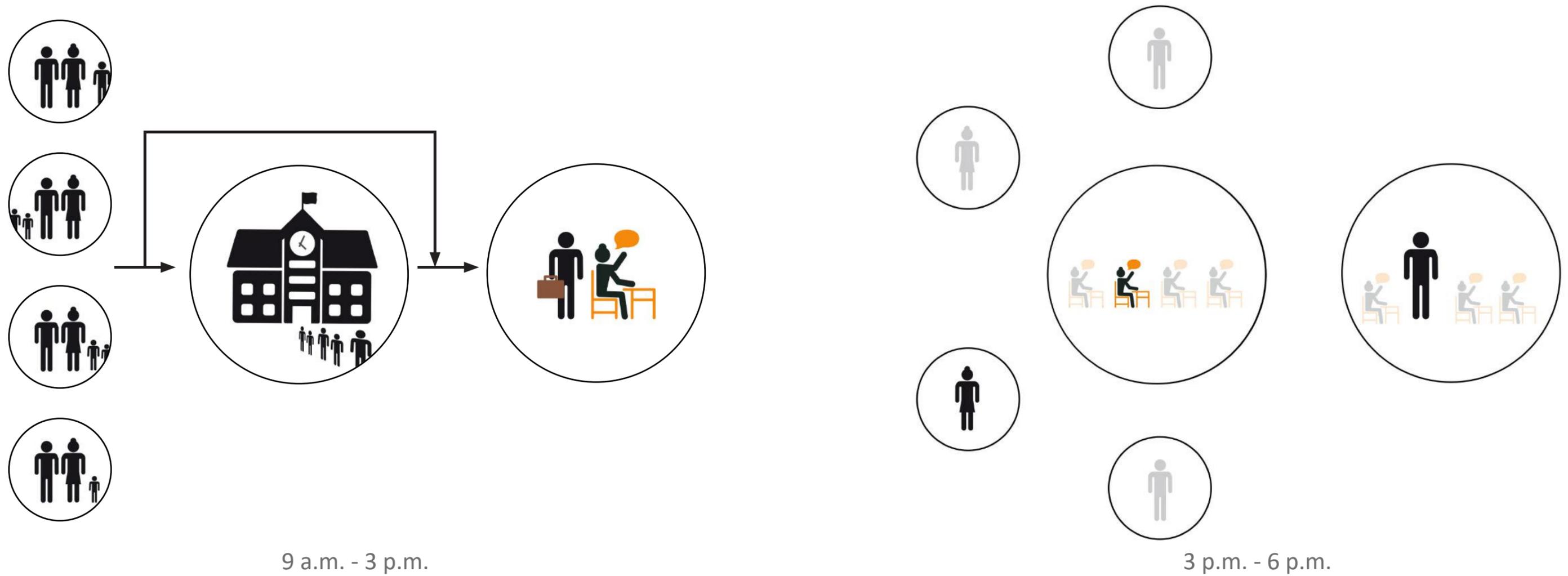
If childcare is thought about differently current spatial models which constrain the labour and political dynamics can be addressed.

Organisation

“Keck and Sikkink (1998:24) highlighted the importance of communicative action in transnational advocacy networks - ‘vehicles for communicative and political exchange, with the potential for mutual transformation of participants.’”

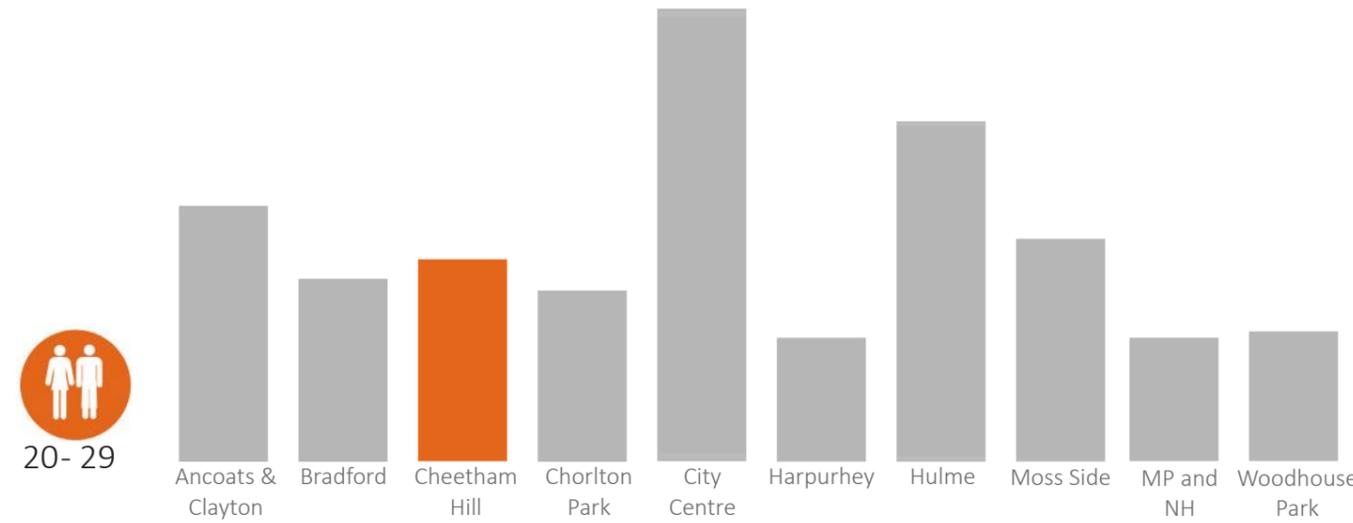
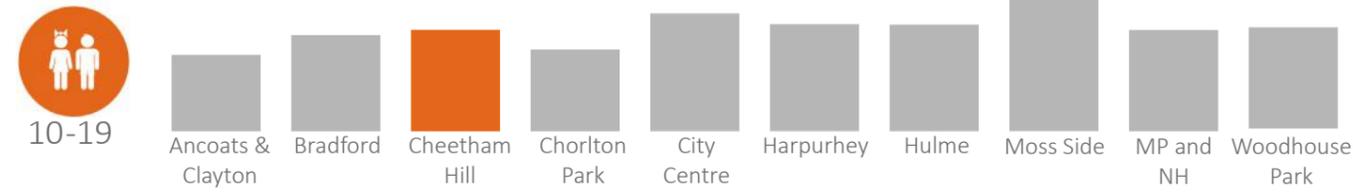
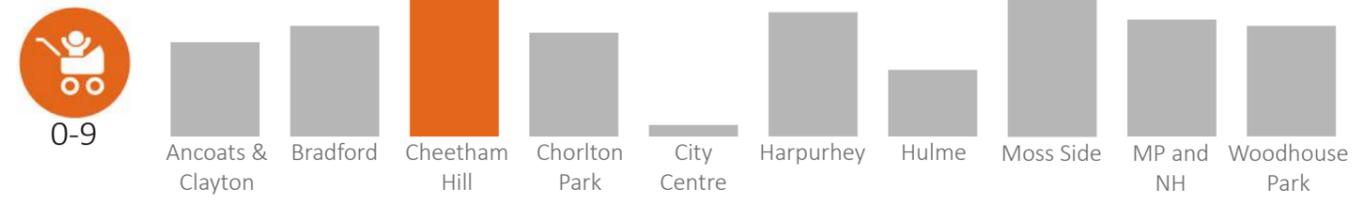
[Colin McFarlane, Learning the City - P.75]

Cooperative



Age Groups

Age Groups in selected wards in Manchester



Age Groups in Cheetham Hill



Childcare



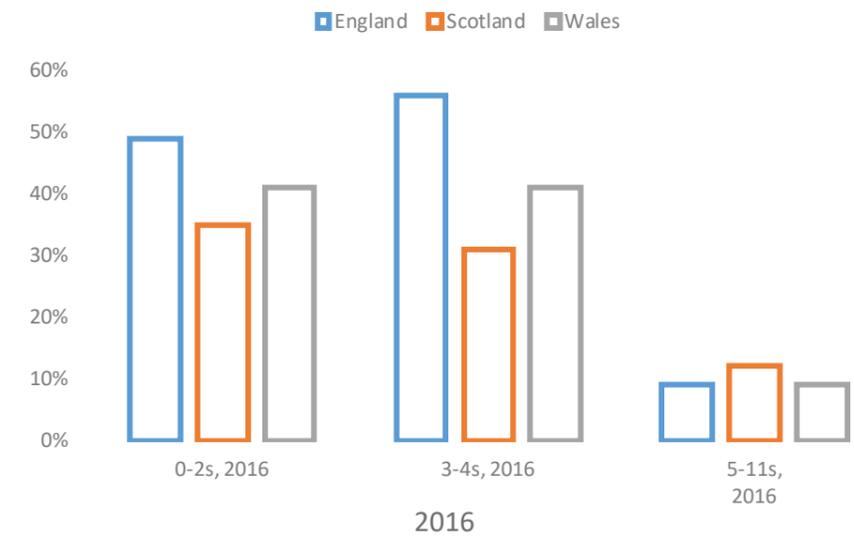
'...our problem now is that many nurseries have a long waiting list'
Parent, Edinburgh

<http://workingmoms.about.com/od/childcareissues/a/5-Important-Infant-Daycare-Questions.htm>

UK Childcare Shortage

Since last year, the number of English local authorities reporting a shortage of free early education places for three and four year olds has more than doubled. More than a third of councils are now struggling to meet demand. These gaps mean that children are missing out from free early education, parents are prevented from working and the Government may find it more difficult to deliver on its pledge of expanding free childcare in 2017.

Percentage of local authorities reporting sufficient childcare



Parents with atypical working hours



27%

Families use informal childcare during term time.

'Shiftparenting' is another caring strategy, where parents work at different times and share care between them.

Parents with a disabled child



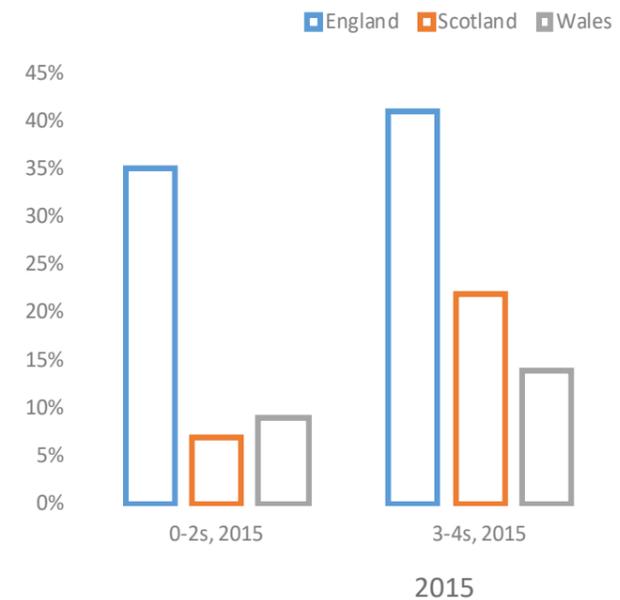
15%

English local authorities have enough space for disabled children needing childcare.



Household

Cheetham hill (M8 TW0) has twice the amount of lone parents compared with the national average.



Childcare



UK Childcare Costs

Childcare remains a substantial item of family expenditure. High costs remain a barrier to parental employment. Parents often still struggle to find the flexible childcare that enables them to work.

The price of sending a child under two to nursery part-time (25 hours) is now £116.77 per week in Britain, or £6,072 per year, which is a 1.1 per cent rise since 2015.

The poorest parents get help with their childcare costs through Working Tax Credit, although there is a maximum cap on the money they can get. In 2016, there are 11 local authorities where the average cost of part-time childcare exceeds this cap, leaving the poorest working parents having to pay an average of £81.53 per week or £4,240 per year out of their own pocket.

High Income Families



Low Income Families



The Pedagogical Space

Creating a platform to develop social connections for both children and families with the wider community, creating a service for learning languages, freeing up parents time therefore providing them with time for paid work and language classes.

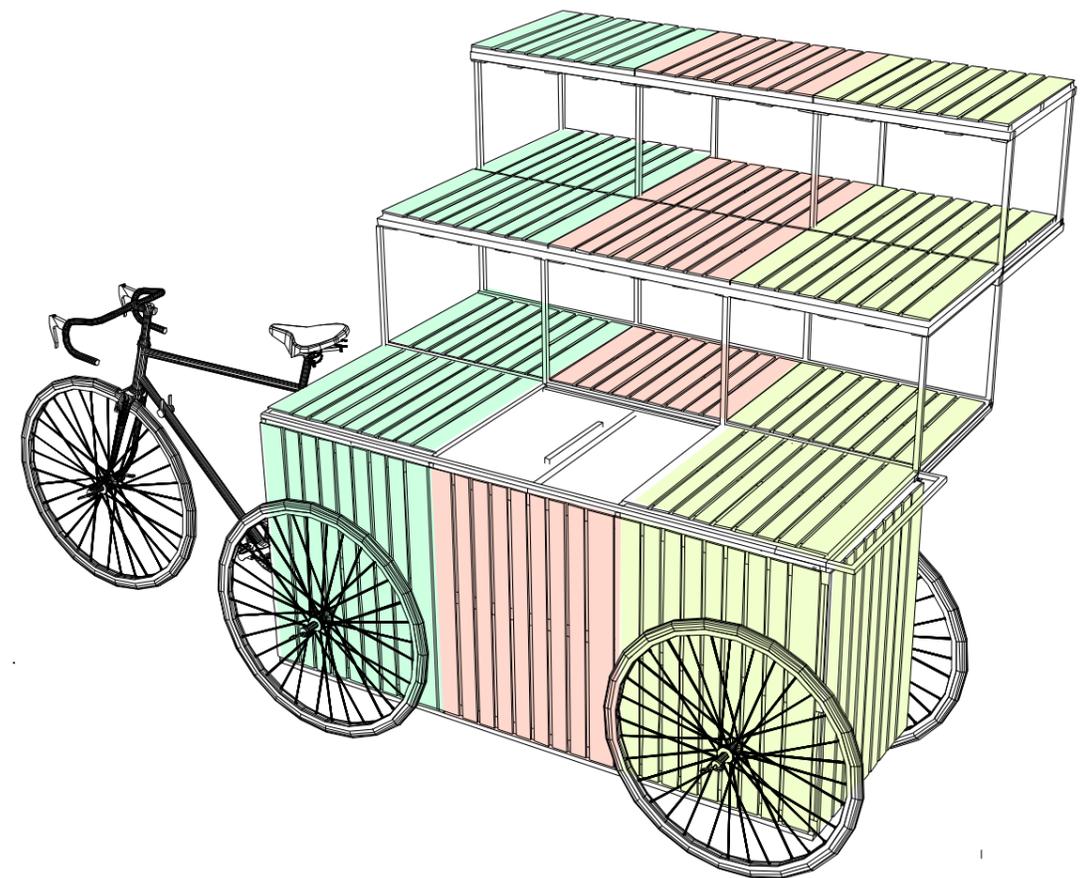
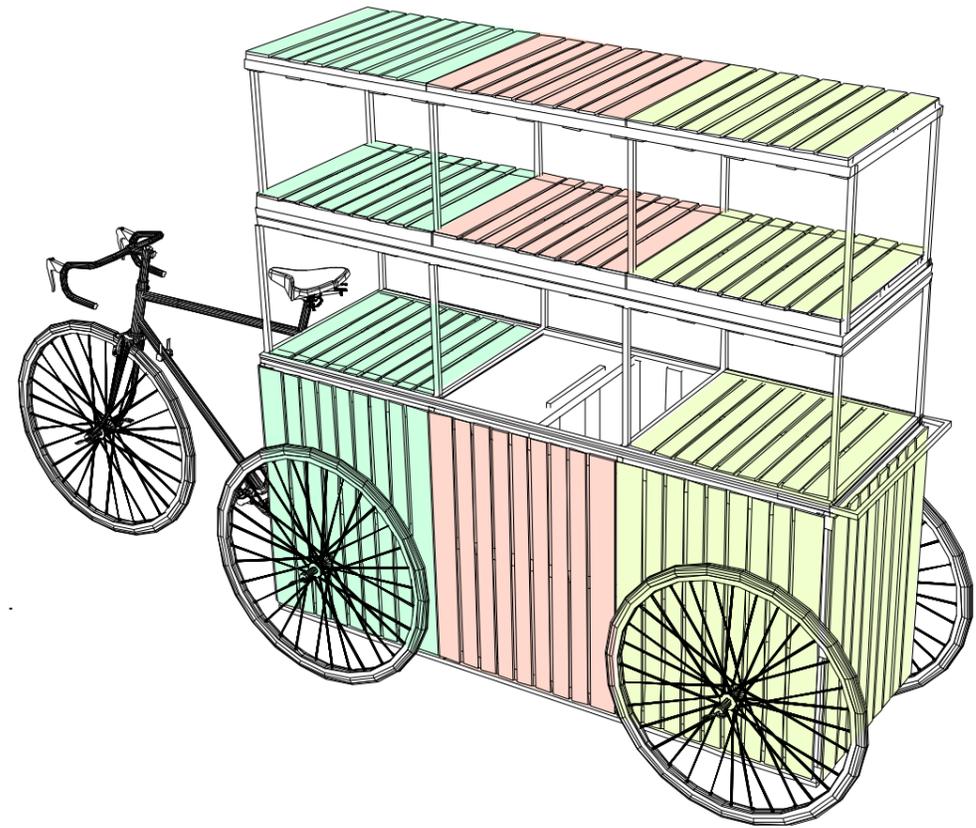
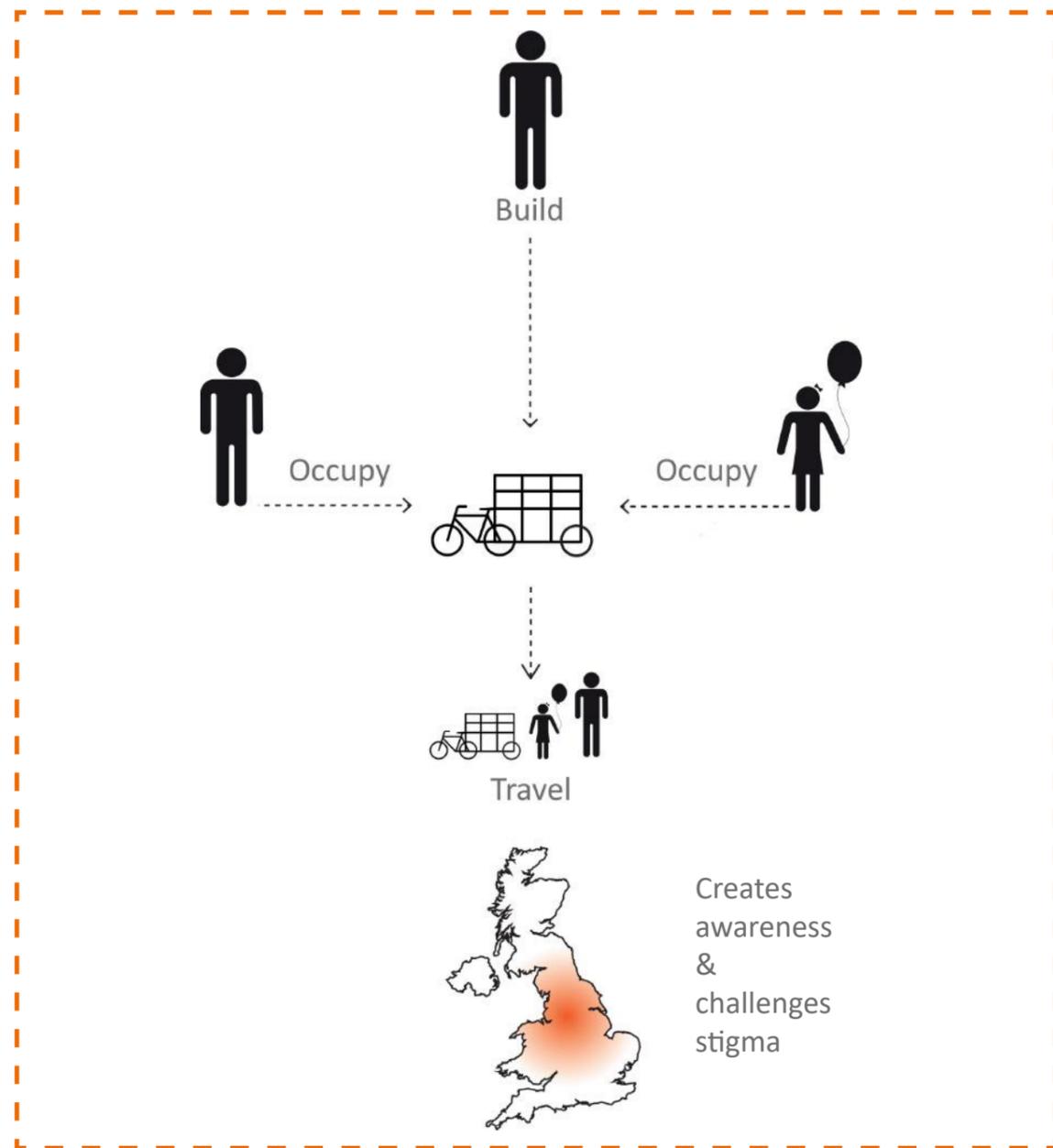
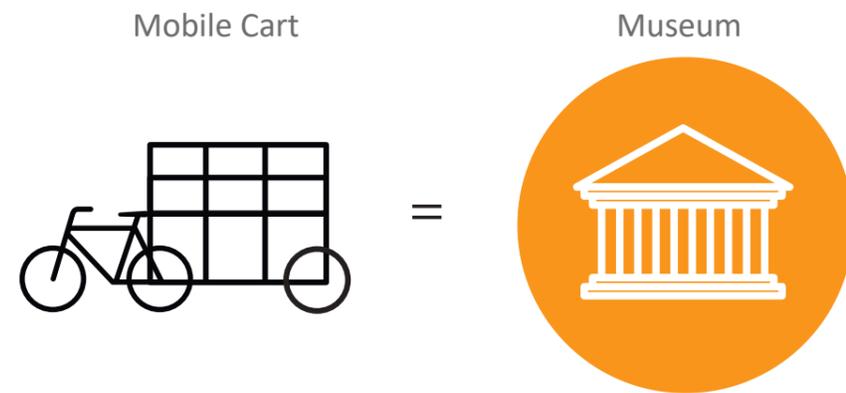
“The struggle for education has always been and remains a struggle for recognition of people’s right...”

“...the production of knowledge is, in itself, a social practice and what distinguishes it from other social practices is the thinking or reflecting on actors, actions and their consequences in the contexts where they take place.”

[Raul Zibechi, Territories In Resistance]



The Link



Benefits for the Community



COMMUNITY WELCOME CENTER



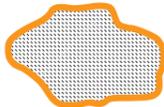
FUNDING FOR PROJECT / MOBILE UNIT



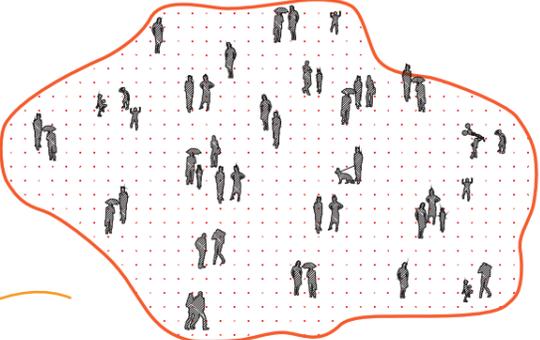
VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY



WORKSHOP



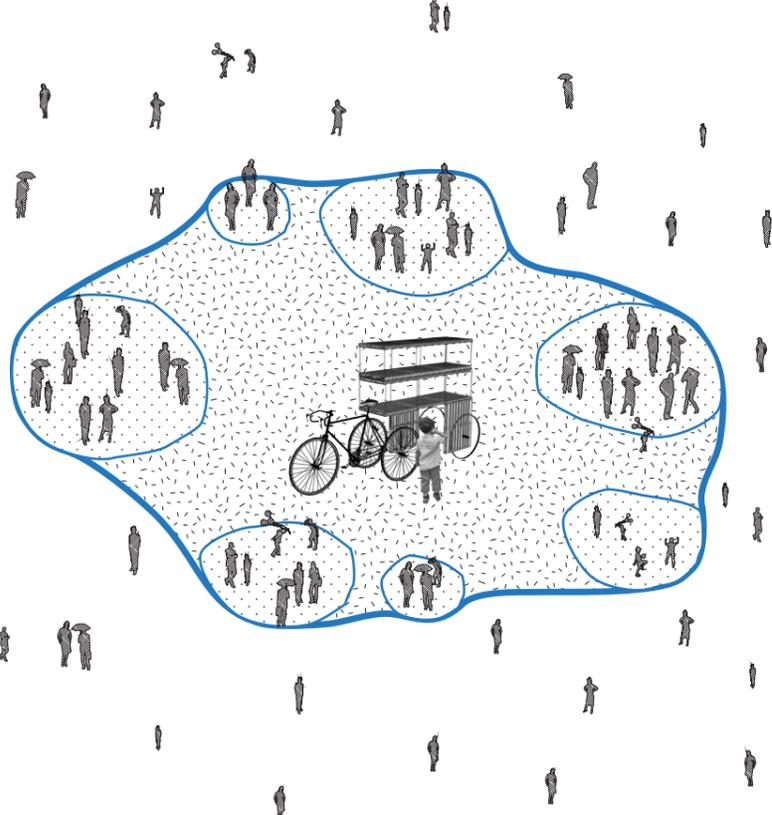
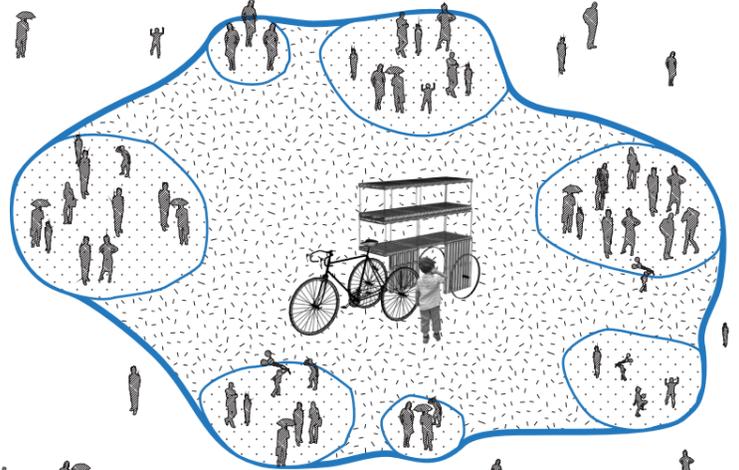
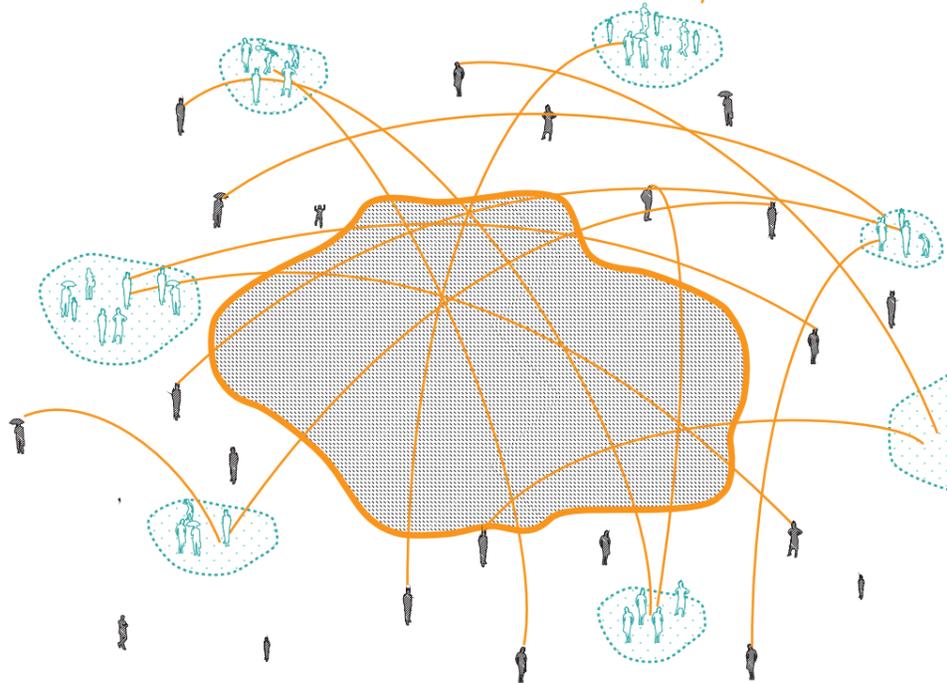
PEDAGOGICAL SPACE



FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY

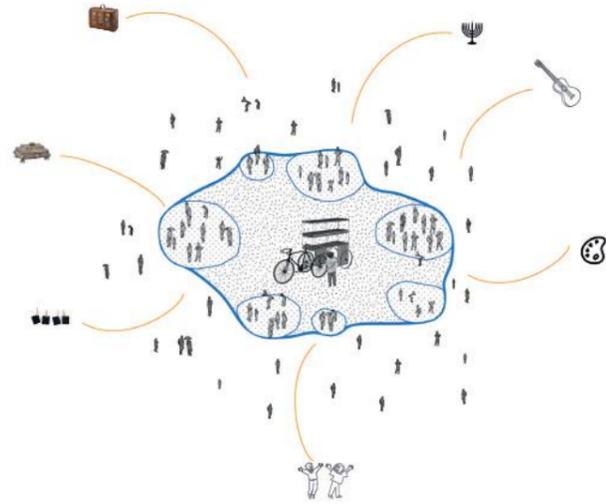


work for community



“horizontal exchanges are translocal urban learning assemblages of materials, practices, knowledge, personal stories, local histories,... fundraising and state donor connections.”

- Colin McFarlane, Learning the City - P.69



“How integration, immigration and diversity are discussed in the public arena has an important impact on people’s attitudes.”

- Galandini, S. and Lessard-Phillips, L., 2015

THE LINK

A chance to join the debate on migration policy, take part in a cultural exchange and participate in the education of your community.

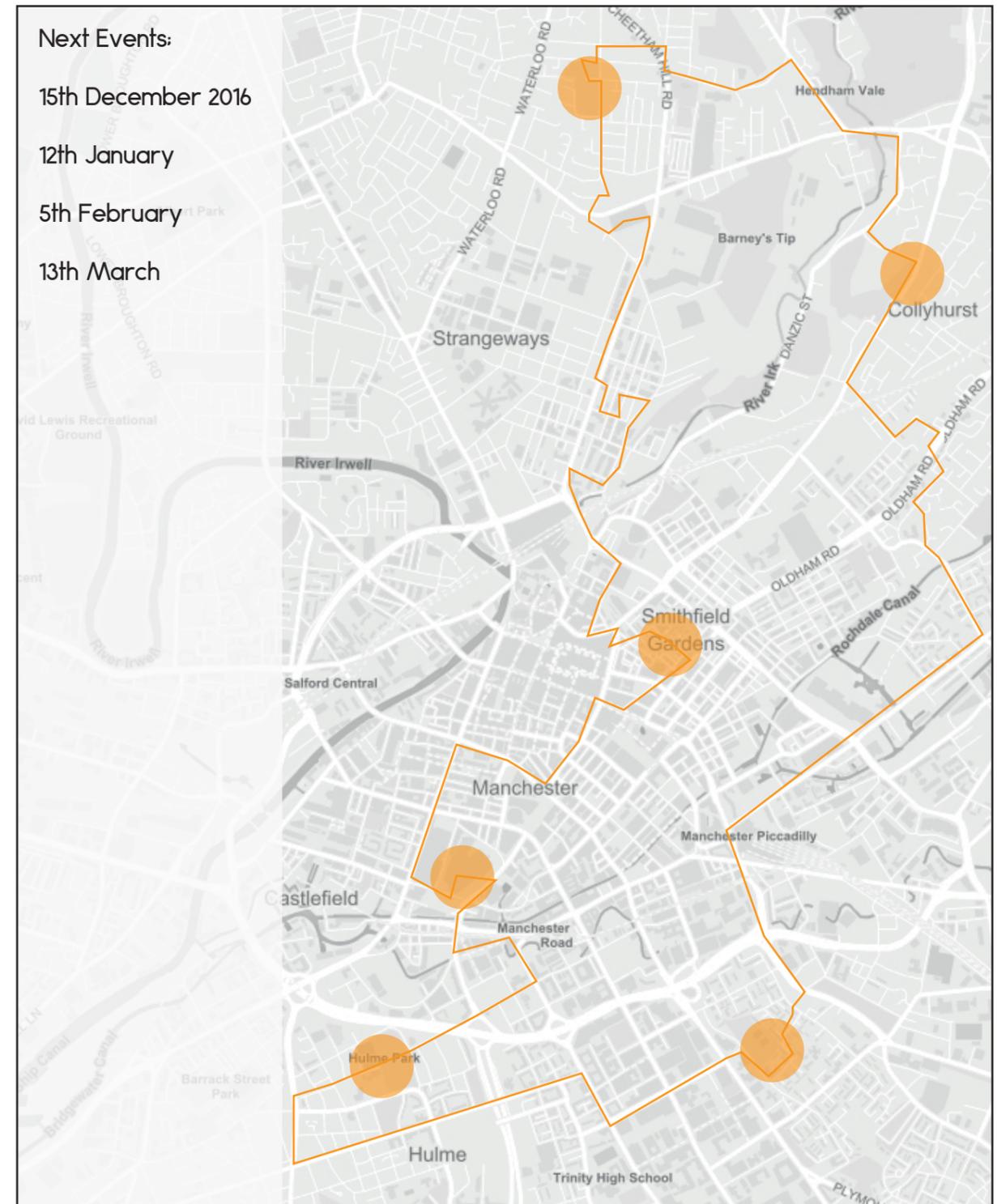
<https://www.facebook.com/thelink/>
<https://twitter.com/thelink>

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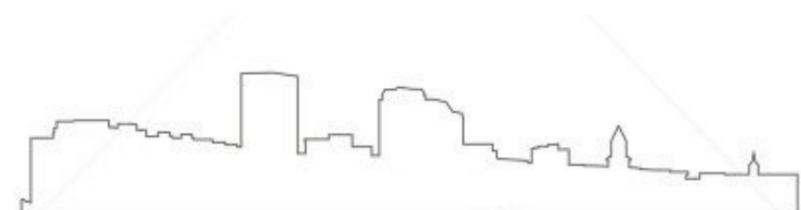
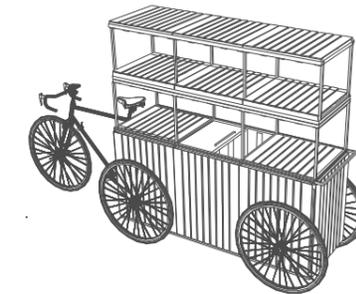
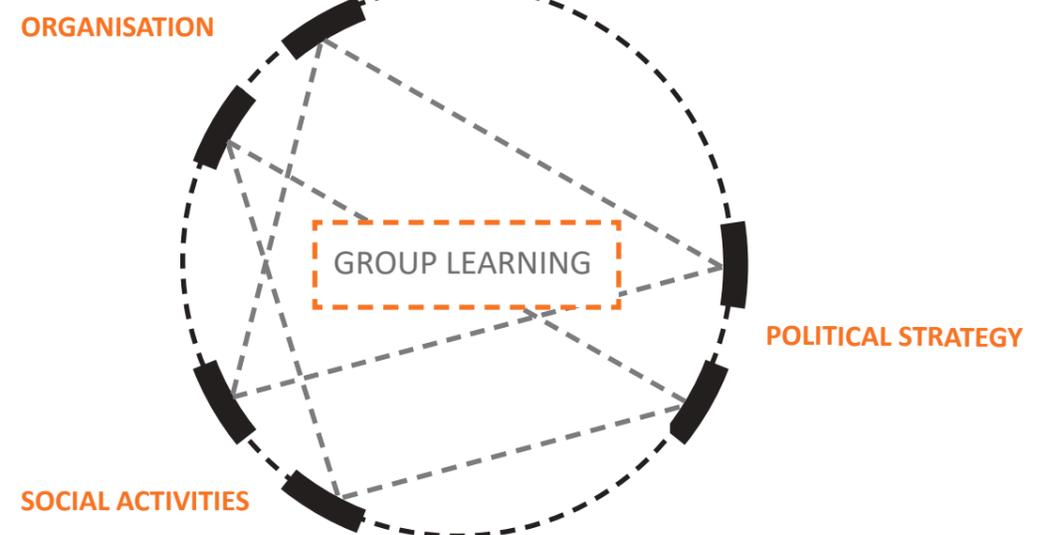
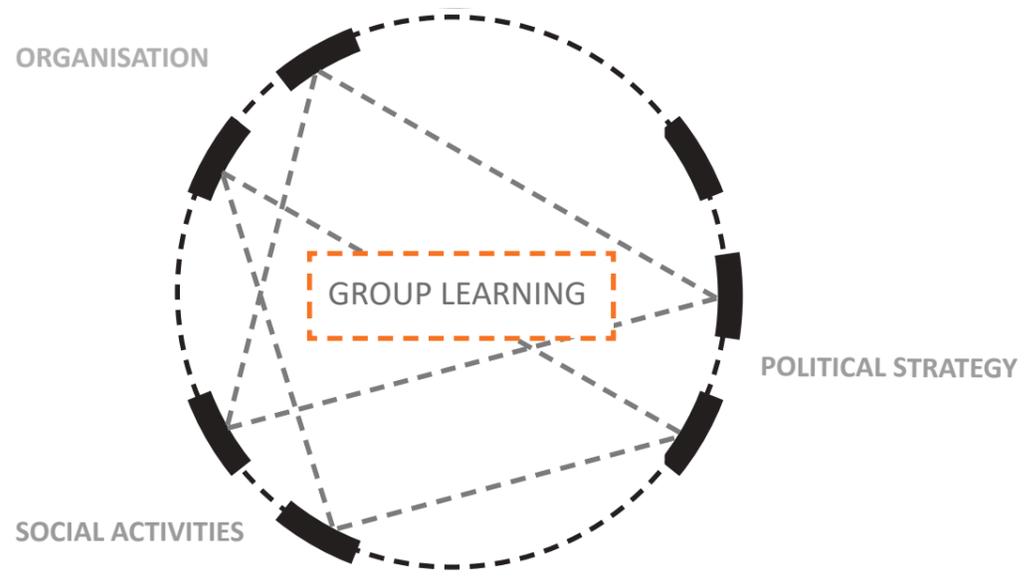


Slum Shack Dwellers International (SDI)

SDI is an example social practice which emphasises in learning in groups. This is key for the formation of their political organisation. At the core of this movement is learning and documenting how urban assemblages work, especially in informal settlements.

'Transnational civic networks' are an example of knowledge transfer between different social movements that help us understand that civil knowledge travels as a necessity in most cases. SDI represents an experiment to create a new way of urban sociality characterized by horizontal exchanges of knowledge.

In making learning an explicit and central part of its activities, SDI acknowledges what many accounts of social movements fail to account for: the central role of learning in the activities, organisation and political strategies.



1. 'Community Link' project focuses on promoting 'learning the city' through the perspective of producing and spreading knowledge in groups.
2. By associating a pedagogical space with dwelling units we are encouraging integration in society by learning about the history of the place, in this case Cheetham Hill.
3. Integration is achieved by learning about the history, the language, the habits and traditions of the new 'home' of the immigrants and refugees. Knowledge production is also represented by techno popular expertise encouraged through the running of the workshop.
4. As a continuation of this knowledge exchange between new comers and the locals, we are proposing knowledge circulation by using mobile units that go out in the city and collect and exhibit memories and stories of the previous homes of the new comers.



Image Source: <http://skoll.org/organization/slum-dwellers-international/>

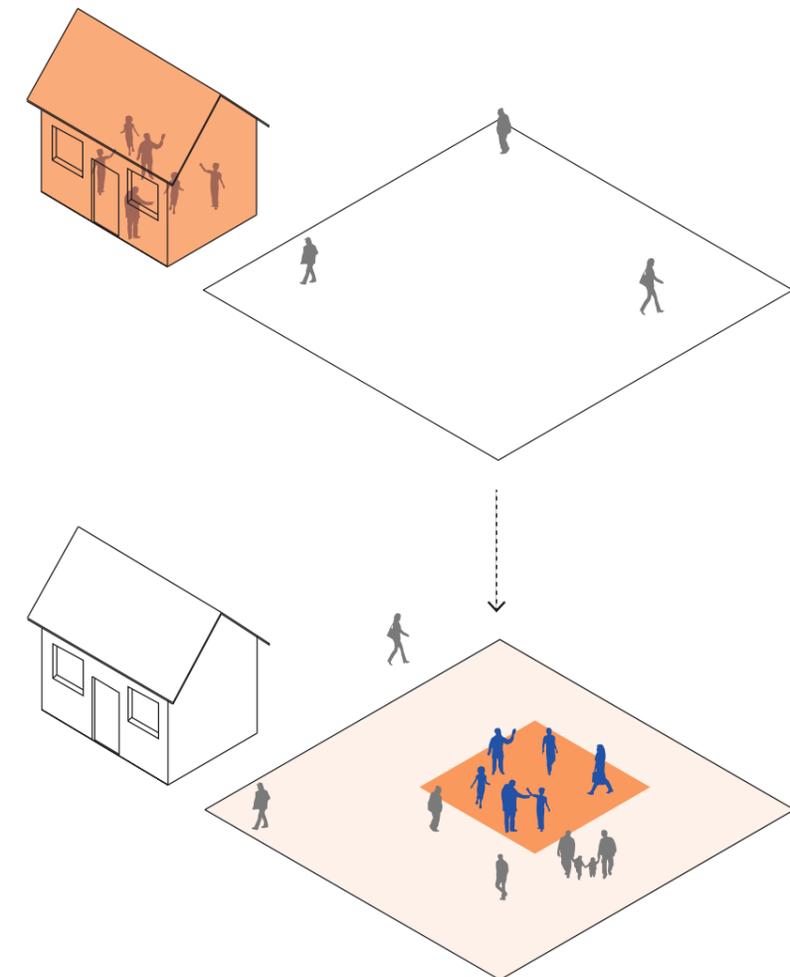


Mme Ruetabaga, Grenoble, France

The group is interested in the political function of the creation of public space, Mass movements and challenging global capitalism. They Set up workshops reclaiming public space for children in a social housing neighbourhood in Grenoble.

The workshops have been born from a critique of the education system; of public space; of capitalism and in favour of a public that doesn't find a place anymore in traditional institutions (Dababi, 2012).

Parents indeed have complex relations with institutions and school in particular as a result of the **disqualification, stigmatization and relegation that they may experience**. The values carried out by the association are the horizontality of relationships, autonomy, no taking power over, no measuring of performances and no judgement.



The Link- Prototype I (the linkster)

1



4



2



5



3



6



1. Collect four pallets.
W Saw one pallet in half.
2. Screw the two halves on the side of another pallet.
3. Insert metal threads through disused bike wheels and secure with nut and bolt.
4. Dismantle other pallets with chisel and point and remove nails with claw hammer. Screw these to base to build up the frame.
5. Apply slats to frame where necessary; it is suggested you consider weight and functionality in the approach.
- 6.

The Link- Potential Collaborators

The Jewish Museum - walking tours



Wai Yin Society - satellite sites

Family Unit Programming -
“The Family Unit has four projects running; CHOPSTIX (Youth) Project, Family Learning Project, Parenting and Women Project and Safe in the Northwest Project.”



Cheetham Hill Community Centre



The Mobile Cart

Having sufficient linguistic competence, cultural knowledge, a sense of security and stability reflecting shared notions of nationhood and citizenship.” [Agar, 2004]

Building a welcoming sense of national identity is currently not a subject with public policy programs. These cultural infrastructures are essential for integration of immigrants into the UK.

Manchester council provides space for linguistic support through the community centre.

However, it lacks cultural infrastructure that provides cultural knowledge and shared notions of nationhood and citizenship essential to create a sense of inclusion and sense national identity.

Nor does public policy encourage the development of space to create a sense of place, which provides security and stability need for successful integration.

CULTURAL / DWELLING PARADIGM

Through the mobile unit, we can develop cultural knowledge of both the UK and develop notions of nationhood and citizenship. We aim to aid integration by:

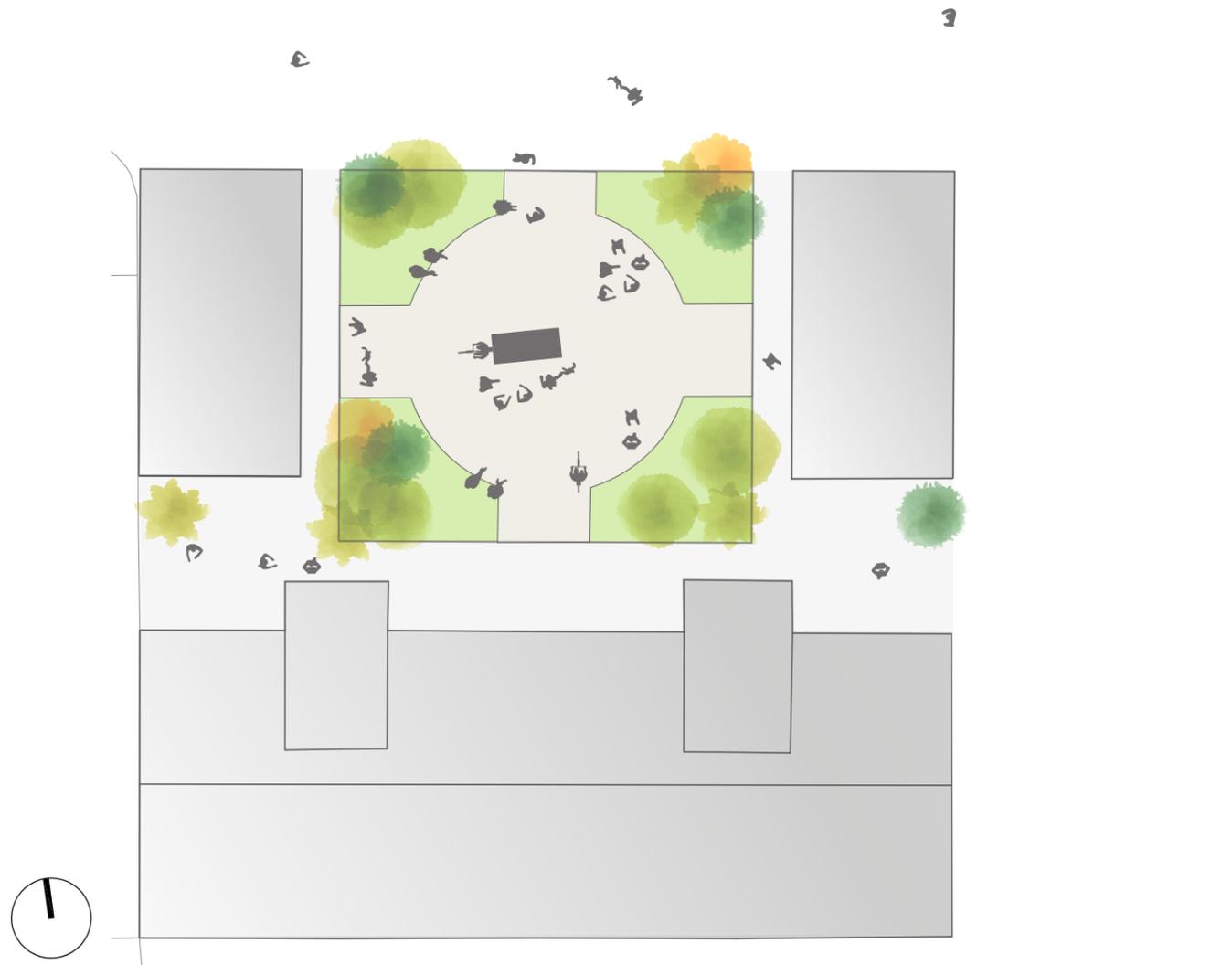
-taking migrant communities into the public sphere with children’s workshops integrated with cultural workshops.

- using a soft approach to activism whilst positively affecting the integration of the people of Manchester.

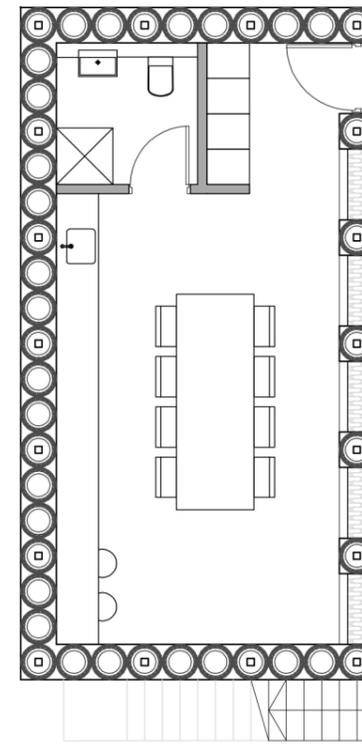
- developing a sense of national identity whilst reflecting on virtues of nationhood and citizenship.



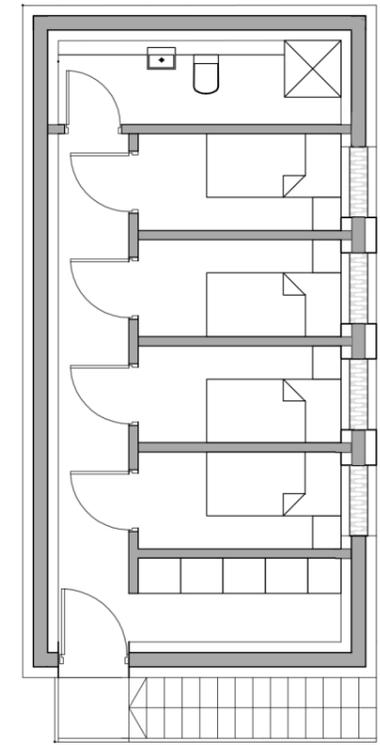




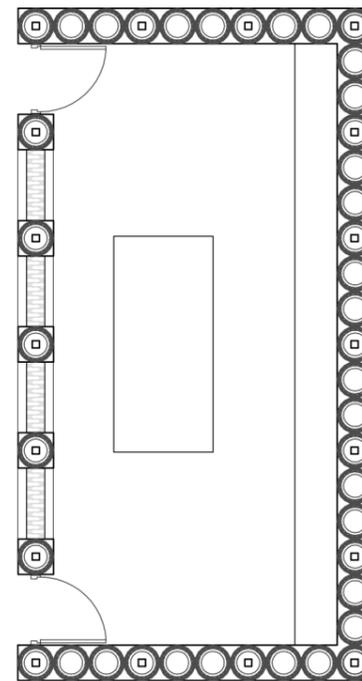
Site Plan
Scale 1:200



Pedagogical Space - Ground Floor
Scale 1:100

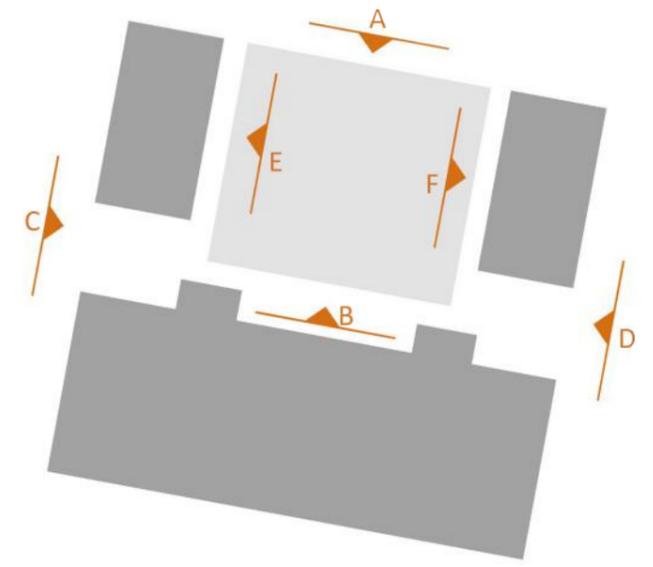


Pedagogical Space - First Floor
Scale 1:100



Workshop - Ground Floor
Scale 1:100

Scale 1:100
0m 5m



Elevation A



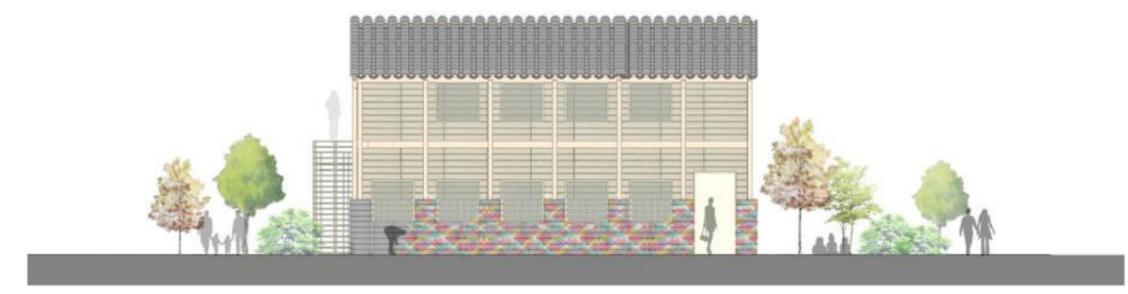
Elevation B



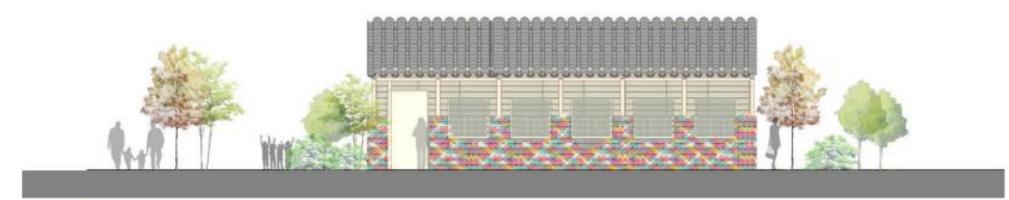
Elevation C



Elevation D



Elevation E

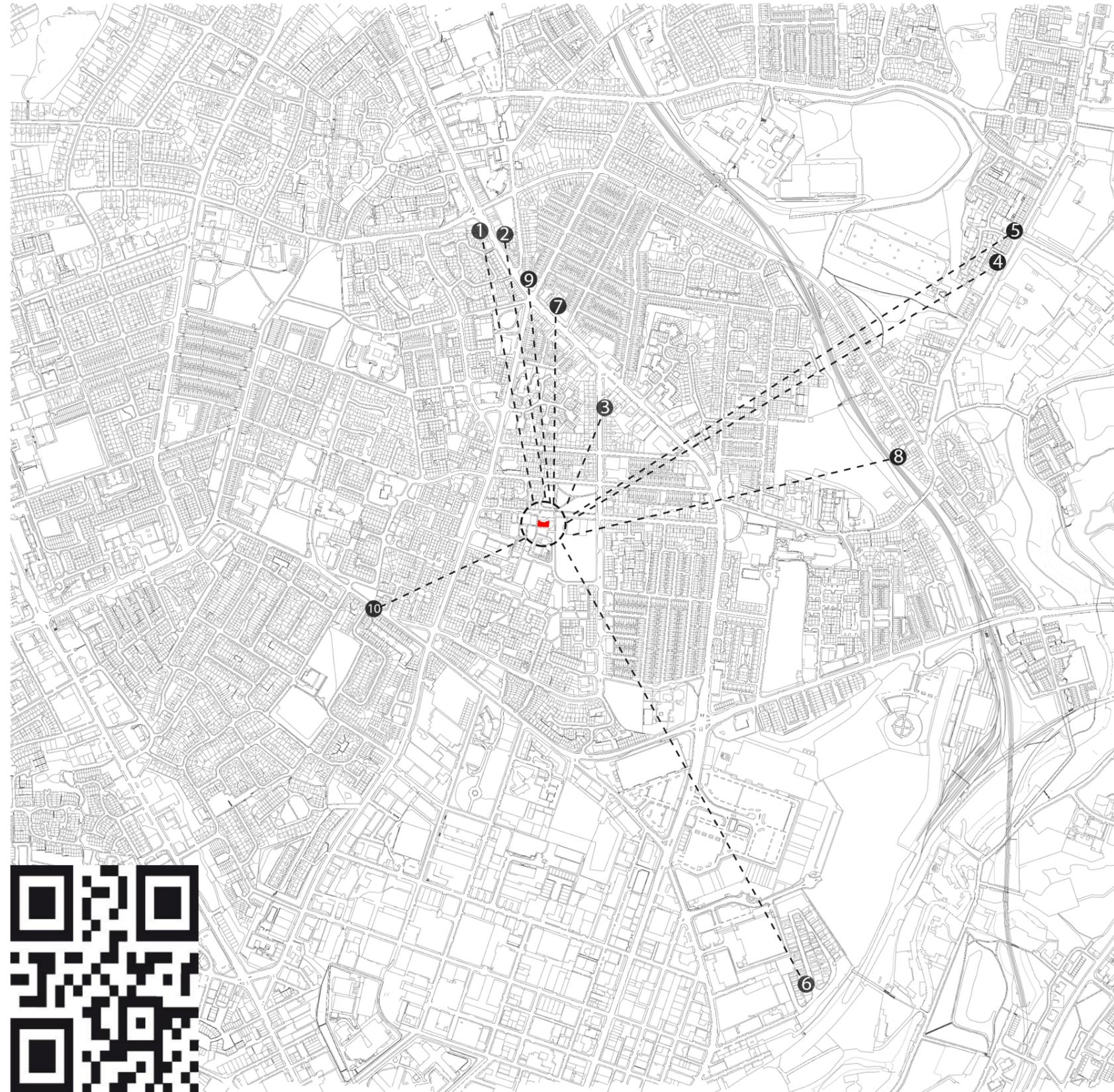


Elevation F



Construction Manual
CULTURAL INTERVENTION

Library of Materials



Base Map of Cheetham Hill NTS Source: <https://digimap.edina.ac.uk/>

1.SUPREME CARPETS
446 Cheetham Hill Road
M8 9LE

MEHMOOD PATEL
Operation Manager
07818 001 978

2.BHATTI FABRICS
515 Cheetham Hill Road
M8 9HD



1.SUPREME CARPETS
446 Cheetham Hill Road
M8 9LE

MEHMOOD PATEL
Operation Manager
07818 001 978

2.BHATTI FABRICS
515 Cheetham Hill Road
M8 9HD



3. D M TYRES
180 Heywood St
M8 0PD
0161 740 7797

5. SK HAWK
Unit 3, Hazel Bottom Rd
M8 0GQ

4. M8 AUTO CENTRE
Unit 5, Hazel Bottom Rd
M8 0GQ

ABDUL MATEEN MIAN
07428 643 616

BERRY
07713 241 856

6. M8 TYRES
Unit 1 Collingham St
M8 8RQ
0161 834 84 83



7. MANCHESTER SUPERSTORE
382-386 Cheetham Hill Roadchester
M8 9LS
0162 721 4495



8. DEMOLITION SITE
8 Smedley Ln
M8 8XG



9. MILES NEWSAGENT
75 Cheetham Hill Rd, Manchester
M4 4ER
0161 839 8225



10. DEMOLITION SITE
10-12 Whitworth Street
M1 3BG



Material Library

Cardboard Tubes



HAZARDS:
tubes may have protruding staples on the end

WEIGHT:
1.72 kg per 3.65 metre (12 feet) roll

SIZE:
12 feet long and unable to be cut on site; large vehicle required.
160mm diameter.

COST:
free

DURABILITY:
can be treated to improve weather and fire resistance.



Tools required:



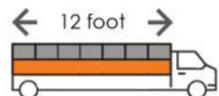
Skill level:



Building performance:



Transport needed:



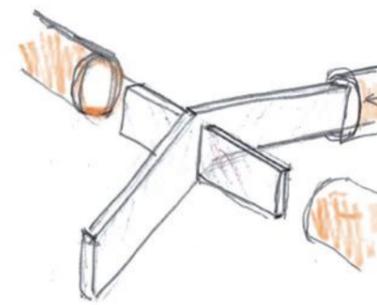
Manpower needed:



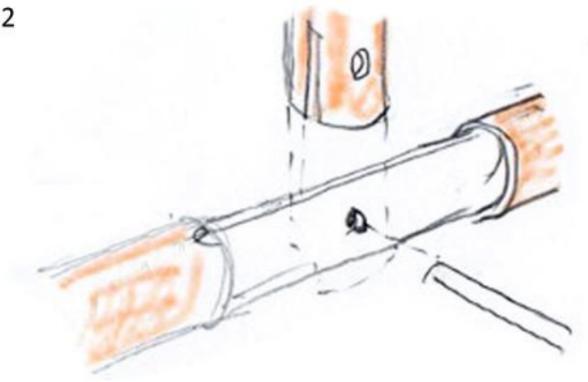
Availability:



joint 1



joint 2



Joint of frame



1.3

Assembly



1.4

SUITABLE FOUNDATION

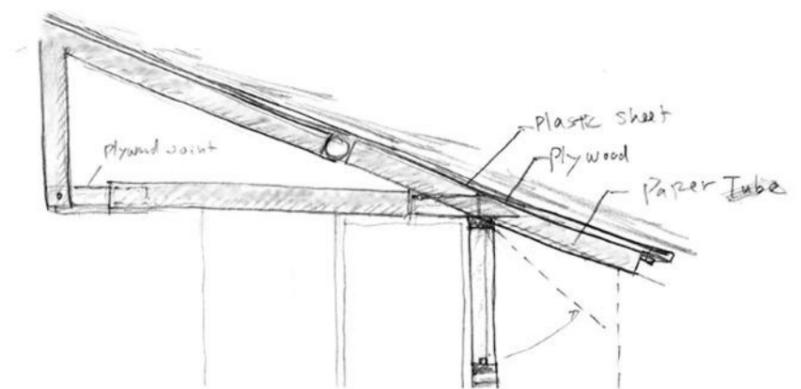
beer crates filled with sandbags



1.5

ROOF CLADDING

apply roof build up as shown below:



1.1 <https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/443252788298610735/>

1.2 http://www.shigerubanarchitects.com/works/1995_paper-house/

1.3 <https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/273945589808448287/>

1.4 <http://www.peluangproperti.com/berita/ragam/perhal=100/page=4>

1.5 <http://www.peluangproperti.com/berita/ragam/perhal=100/page=4>

Material Library

Pallets



HAZARDS:
tubes may have protruding staples on the end

WEIGHT:
1.72 kg per 3.65 metre (12 feet) roll

SIZE:
12 feet long and unable to be cut on site; large vehicle required.

COST:
free

DURABILITY:
can be treated to improve weather and fire resistance.



1.1



Tools required:



Skill level:



Building performance:



Transport needed:



Manpower needed:



Availability:



1.1 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/c8/d6/39/c8d6391a0fe88a0ebcfd7b382634e26.jpg>

1.2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iC8ywmdwB8>

PANELLING WITH INSULATION

STEP 1



1.2

Once nailed in place, fill the cavity with earth and wood chip.

STEP 2



1.3

Nail a 2x6 to the top of the cavity to seal up the unit.

STEP 3



1.4

Render the outside as necessary with the wood chip and earth mix.

SUITABLE FOUNDATION

Screw the metal channel on top of the pallet, then screw the brackets to the channel on one side and the batons on the base of the structure to the other. Place each pallet with 2-4m distance between.



1.3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iC8ywmdwB8>

1.4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iC8ywmdwB8>

Material Library

Hoardings



HAZARDS:
 'skin' method will have sharp tacs
 cutting tyres into strips requires supervision

WEIGHT:
 5-6kg per metre panel

SIZE:
 varies, usually 2-2.5metres in height

COST:
 free

DURABILITY:
 typically soft wood that can be sanded down to be repurposed.



Tools required:



Skill level:



Building performance:



Transport needed:



Manpower needed:



Availability:



MULTI PURPOSE PRODUCT

Screed / flooring



1.2



1.3

Plasterboard

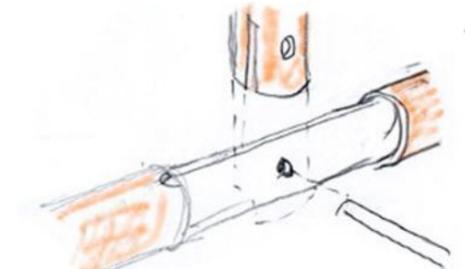
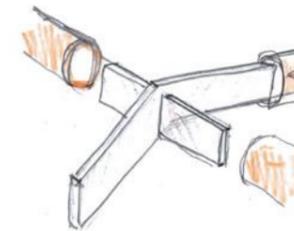


1.4

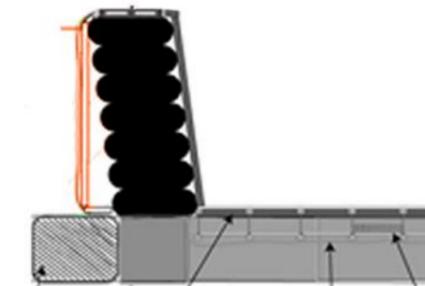


1.5

Joints



Reinforcement for earth berming



1.6

- 1.1 https://www.thisoldhouse.com/sites/default/files/styles/content_box_mp/public/migrated/images/03-paint-finisha.jpg?itok=3Hu1Dhl×-tamp=1470183155
- 1.2 <http://www.tensquaremetres.com/images/utilities/screed/duct.jpg>
- 1.3 <http://travisperkins.scene7.com/is/image/travisperkins/lay-plywood-2?scl=1>

- 1.4 <http://www.gyprock.com.au/In%20Page%20Images/Gyprock%20%20installation.jpg>
- 1.5 <http://www.gyprock.com.au/News%20Images/Gyprock-SupaCeil-120.jpg>
- 1.6 <https://redoubtreporter.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/earthship-packing-tires-web.jpg>

Material Library

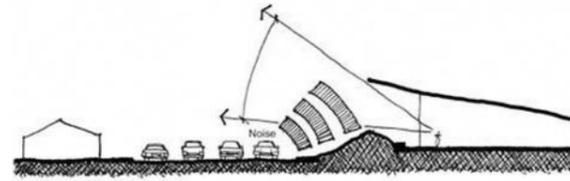
Earth



HAZARDS:
toxic materials may be found within pile

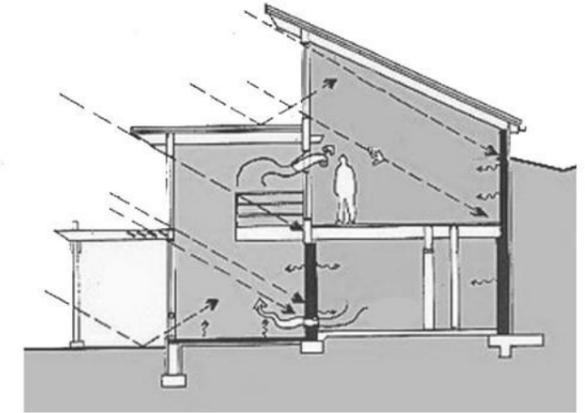
WEIGHT:
1200-1700kg per m³

COST:
free



1.2

Placement of a wall away from the building as a means of creating a micro-climate.



1.3

Less heat loss due to insulation and mediated temperature difference year round.



1.1



SOFT LANDSCAPING



1.4

Tools required:



Skill level:



Building performance:



Transport needed:



Manpower needed:



Availability:



1.1 <http://assets.inhabitat.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2013/07/Eatwell-farm-house-7.jpg>

1.2 https://buildingdata.energy.gov/sites/default/files/styles/slideshow_image/public/nv_data/projectfiles/project_1060/Berm%20copy.jpg?itok=lyTNzZob

1.3 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/25/9b/2e/259b2ee24c0a10bc5beadfb9d7431bc7.jpg>

1.4 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/cd/0e/b7/cd0eb746d49f8867d0c35603500c0d36.jpg>

Material Library

Tyres



Hazards:

- 'skin' method will have sharp tacs
- cutting tyres into strips requires supervision

Weight:

75/65 R14 = 6.5 - 7.2 kg

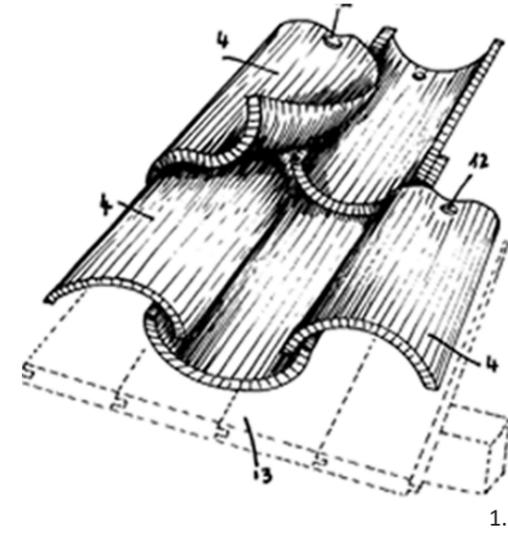
Size:

most often 508 mm in diameter

Cost:

free (governemnt recycling incentives may change this in the near future)

Module Typology 01



Module Typology 02



Tools required:



Skill level:



Building performance:



Transport needed:



Manpower needed:



Availability:



1.1 <http://www.recyclart.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/tire-roof.jpg>

1.2 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/65/bb/15/65bb151b4092c2c68c23c24eb815bad4.jpg>

1.3 https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3101/2927986424_41f4a32216_b.jpg

1.4 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/25/9b/2e/259b2ee24c0a10bc5beadfb9d7431bc7.jpg>

1.5 http://www.madehow.com/images/hpm_0000_0003_0_img0133.jpg http://www.madehow.com/images/hpm_0000_0003_0_img0133.jpg

1.6 <https://redoubtreporter.files.wordpress.com/2010/04/earthship-packing-tires-web.jpg>

1.7 <http://bristolgreenhouse.co.uk/site/pics/mon-14th-aug-4b.jpg>

Material Library

Fabric



1.1

HAZARDS:
Minimum danger

WEIGHT:
Extremely light

SIZE:
Different sizes

COST:
Free (but limited in monthly amounts around 1-2 bin bags per month)

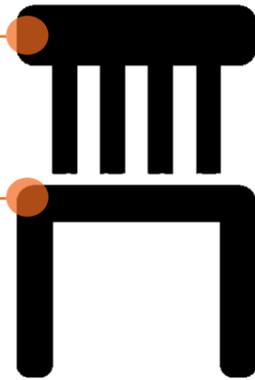
DURABILITY:
5 years maximum



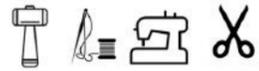
1.2



1.3



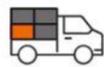
Tools required:



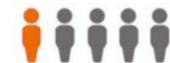
Skill Level:



Transport Needed:



Manpower Needed:



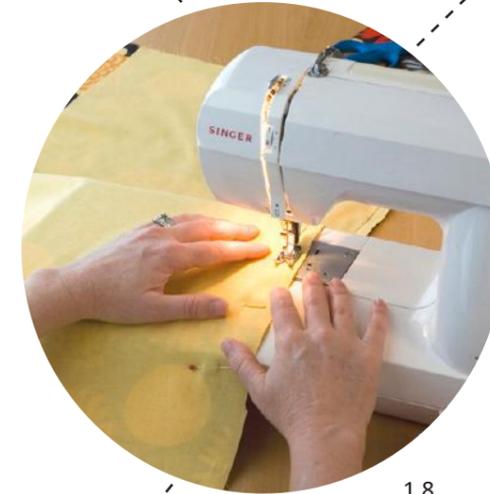
Availability:



1.4



1.5



1.8



1.6



1.7

1.1 https://img0.etsystatic.com/130/0/6862231/il_340x270.1013940058_29gb.jpg

1.2 http://blog.thebehaviourexpert.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/IMG_0172.jpg

1.3 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/8a/22/68/8a226842c2a2656d0d7f9b6223b8affd.jpg>

1.4 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/56/a3/84/56a384a95d921a3d4249066b0d409658.jpg>

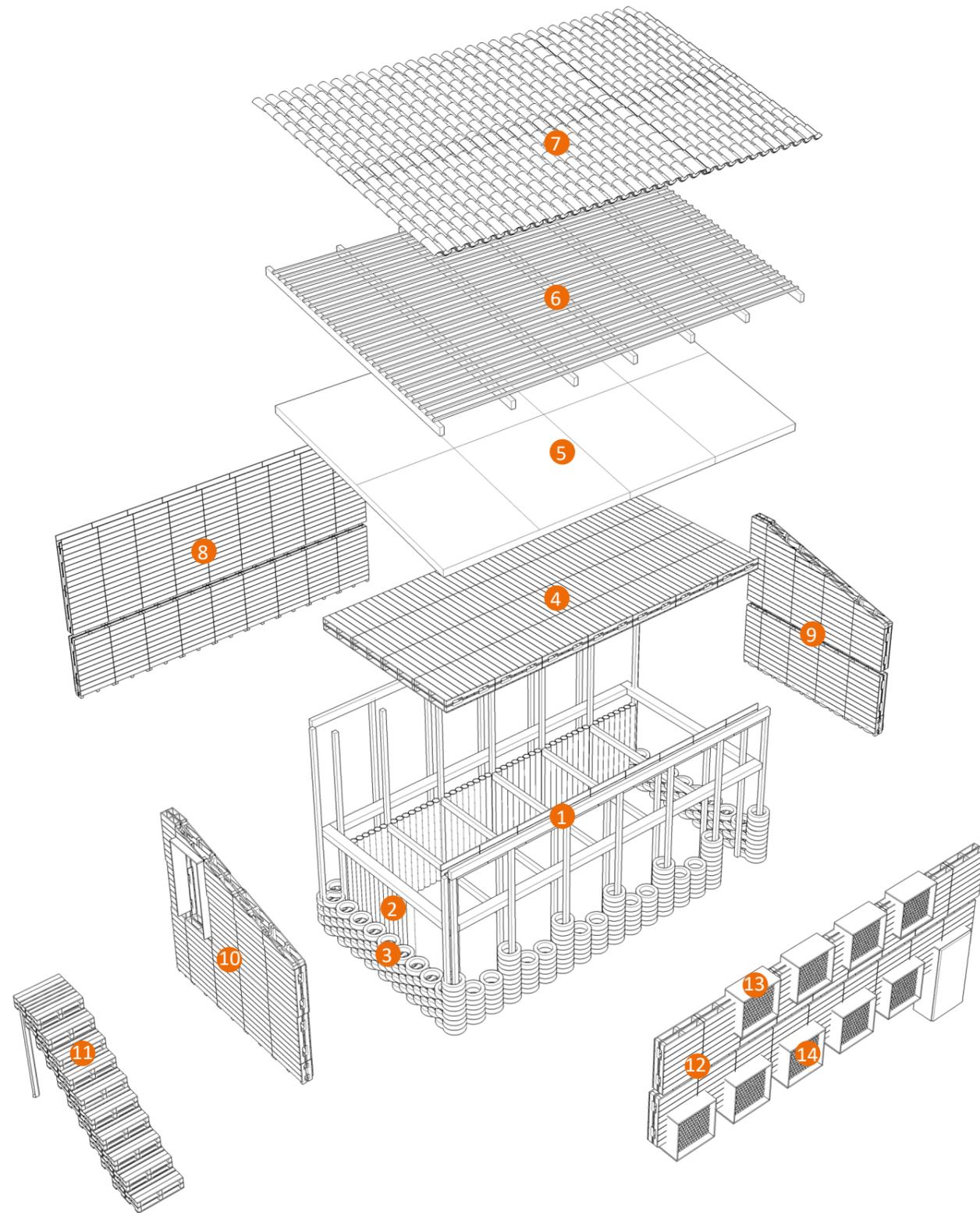
1.5 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/f4/cf/5d/f4cf5d14b56e58ddf7ae76adfc98e08.jpg>

1.6 <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/09/7c/08/097c08529d98ae40a5075fdcf9b21baf.jpg>

1.7 <https://www.glicksfurniture.com.au/image/cache/data/Replica/eames%20armless%20patch%20work%20wood%20small%20web-600x600.jpg>

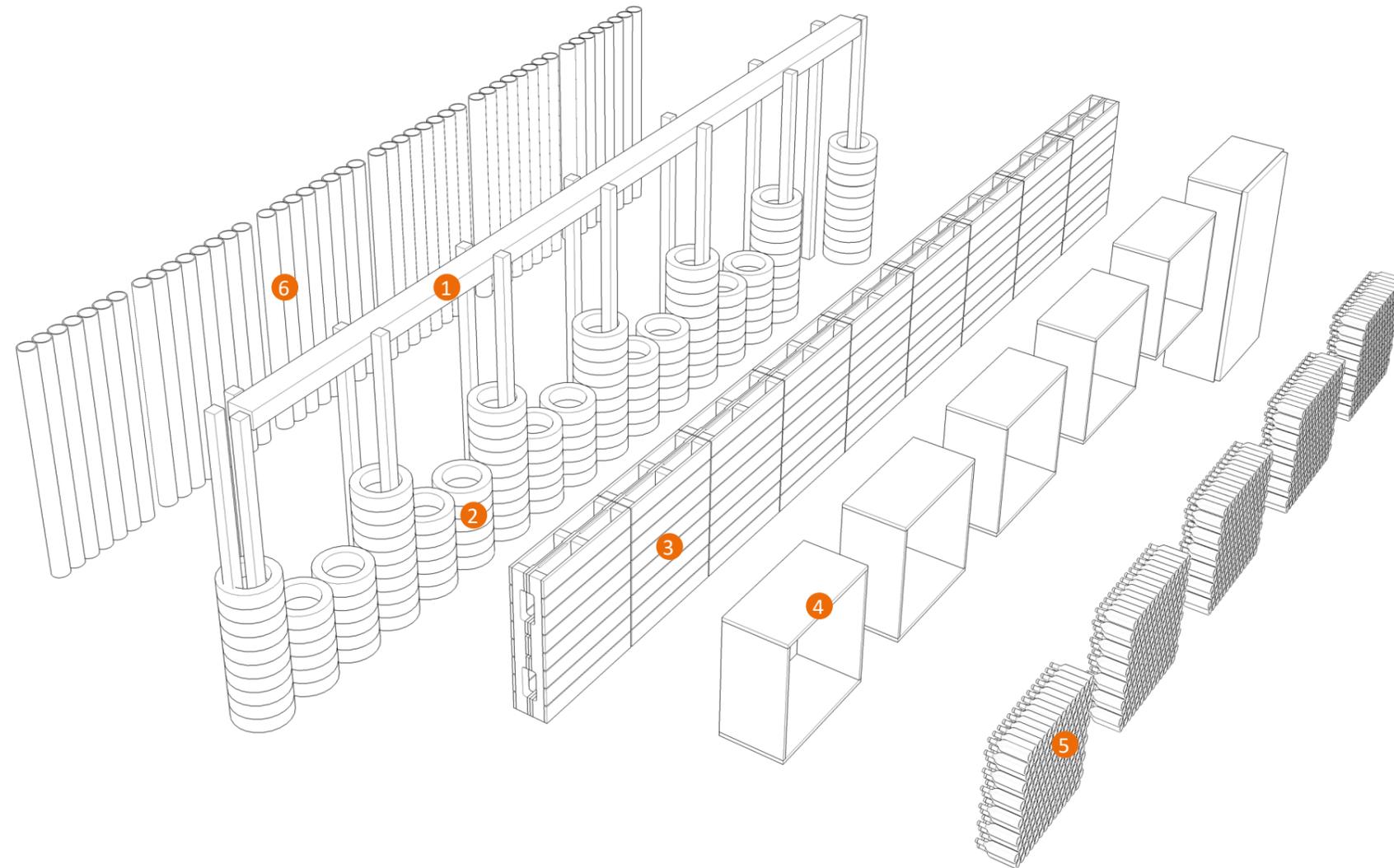
1.8 <http://runningwithsisters.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Step-2-Sew-Fabrics-Together.jpg>

Module Construction



1. Timber Structural Pillars and Frame
2. Cardboard Tubes
3. Tyres
4. Pallets Slab
5. Kingspan Insulation Boards
6. Timber Frame
7. Flatten Tyres 2 Layers
8. Pallet Wall
9. Pallet Wall
10. Pallet Wall with Door Opening
11. Exterior Pallet Stair
12. Pallet Wall and Shredded Paper Insulation
13. Timber Window Frame
14. Glass Bottles

Ground Floor Wall Construction



1. Wood Structural Pillars and Wood Frame
2. Tyres
3. Pallets
4. Timber Window Frames
5. Glass bottles
6. Cardboard Tubes

BUILDING METHOD



Wall framing using automotive tyres

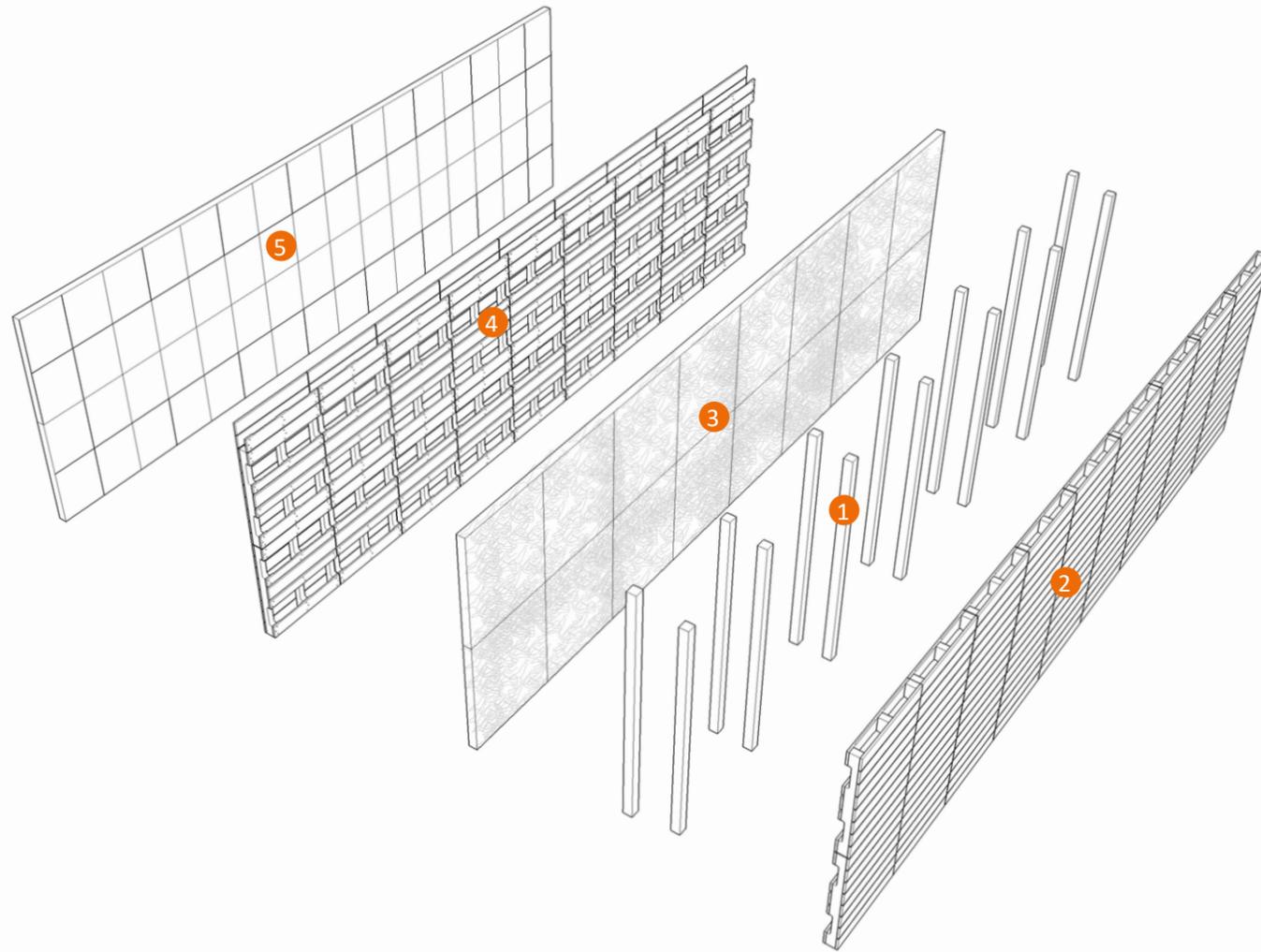


Soil is then shovelled into the tyre and compacted by repeated blows with a sledge hammer. Once pocked with dirt, the tyre walls bulge, interlocking with the row below.



The walls of the rammed-earth tyre house are constructed by stacking tyres on top of each other in a running bond type. Each row is off $\frac{1}{2}$ tire from the one above and below.

First Floor Wall Construction



1. Wood Structural Pillars
2. Reclaimed Pallets
3. Shredded Paper Insulation Blocks
4. Reclaimed Pallets
5. Cladding obtained from wood hoardings

18X



14 X



16 X



16 X



BUILDING METHOD



Old News Papers and Magazines



Paper is shredded in order to form compact blocks of insulation. Paper is compacted and mixed with water. After this is put into cast forms.

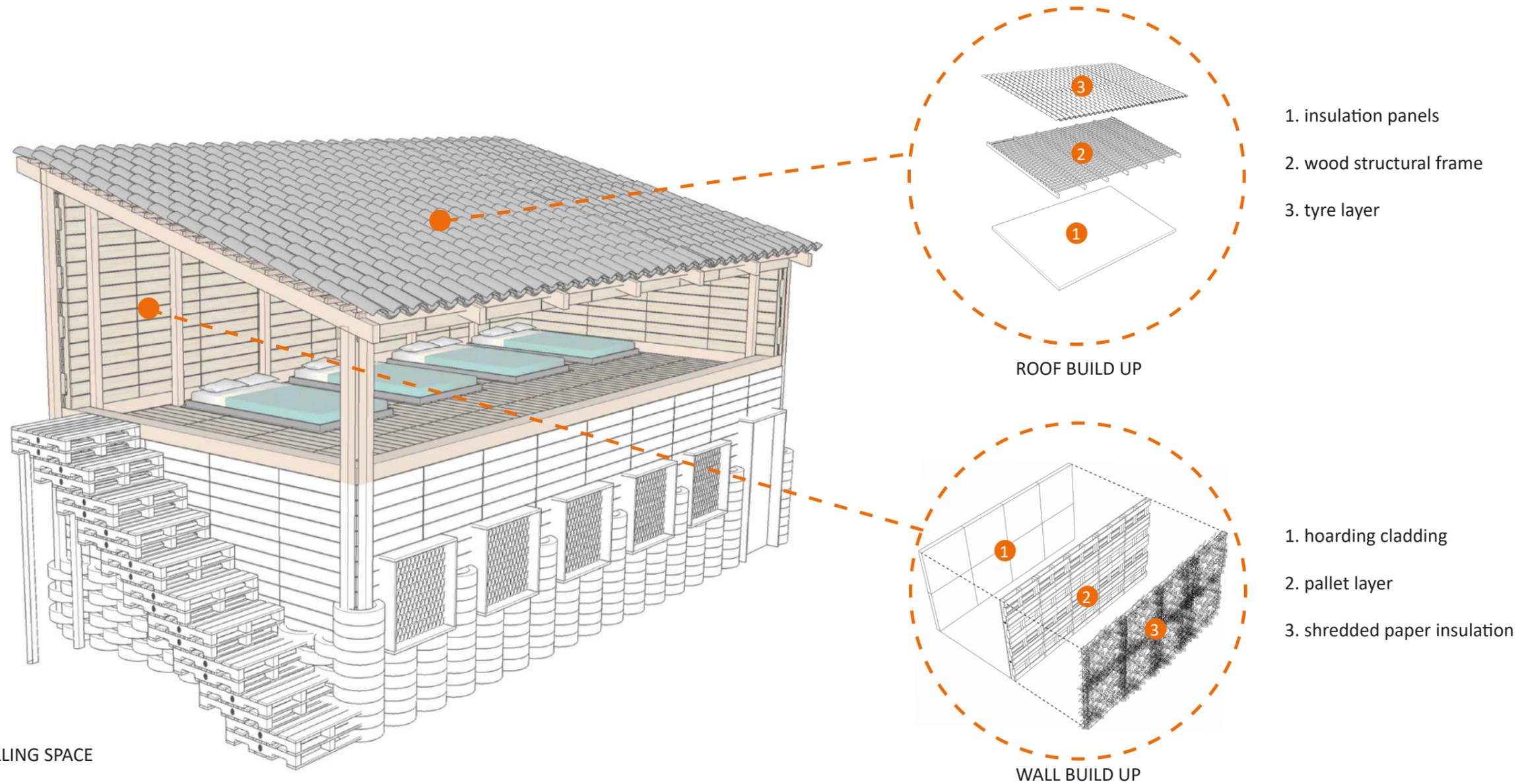


Compact insulation blocks are put in place in between the pallets. The material is quite flexible so it can be forced into any shape easily.

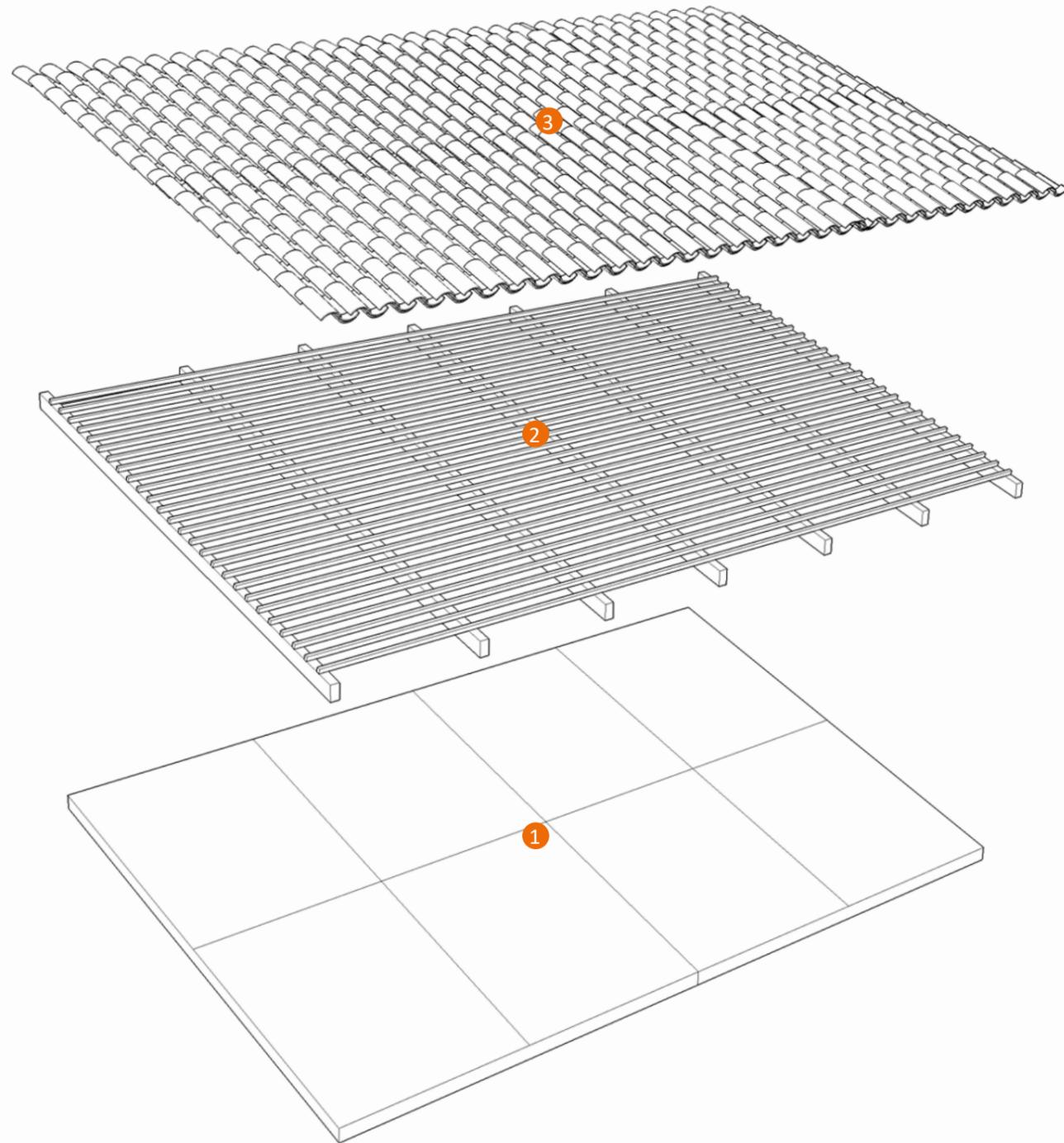
Dwelling Space

'The residential is political- which is to say that the shape of the housing system is always the outcome of struggles between different groups and classes. Housing necessarily raises questions about state action and the broader economic system.'

Marcuse, In Defense of Housing pg.4



Roof Construction



1. Kingspan Insulation 200 mm
2. Recycled Wood Frame
3. Flatten Tyres Layer

128 X



7 X



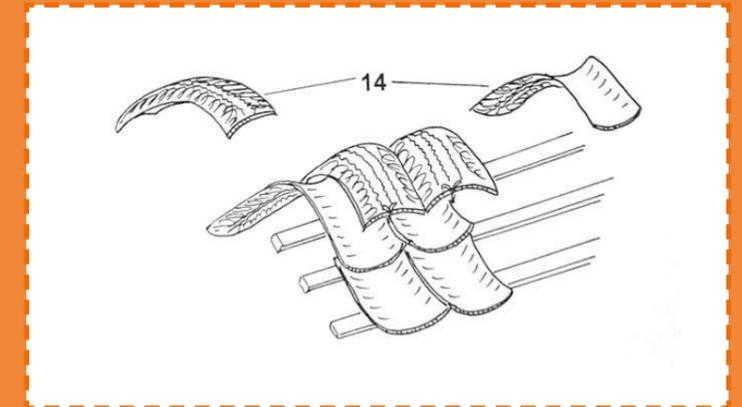
26 X



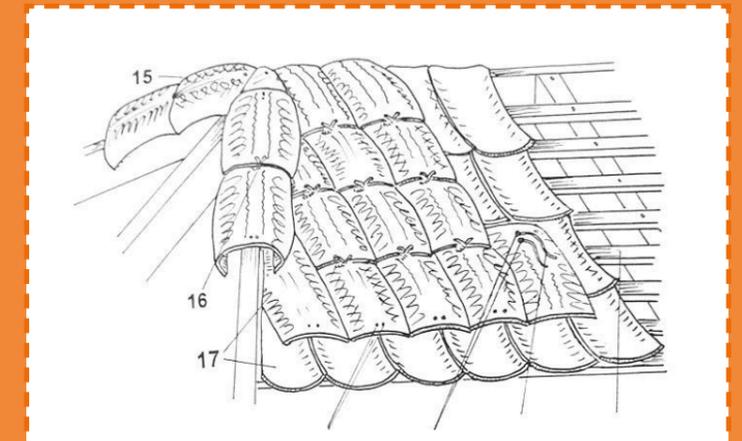
8 X



BUILDING METHOD



Old News Papers and Magazines

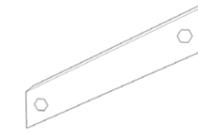
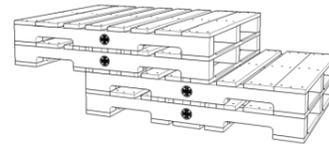
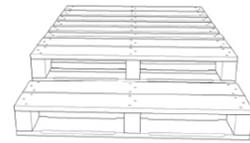
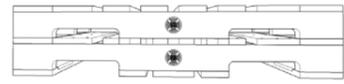


Paper is shredded in order to form compact blocks of insulation. Paper is compacted and mixed with water. After this is put into cast forms.



Compact insulation blocks are put in place in between the pallets. The material is quite flexible so it can be forced into any shape easily.

Stair Construction



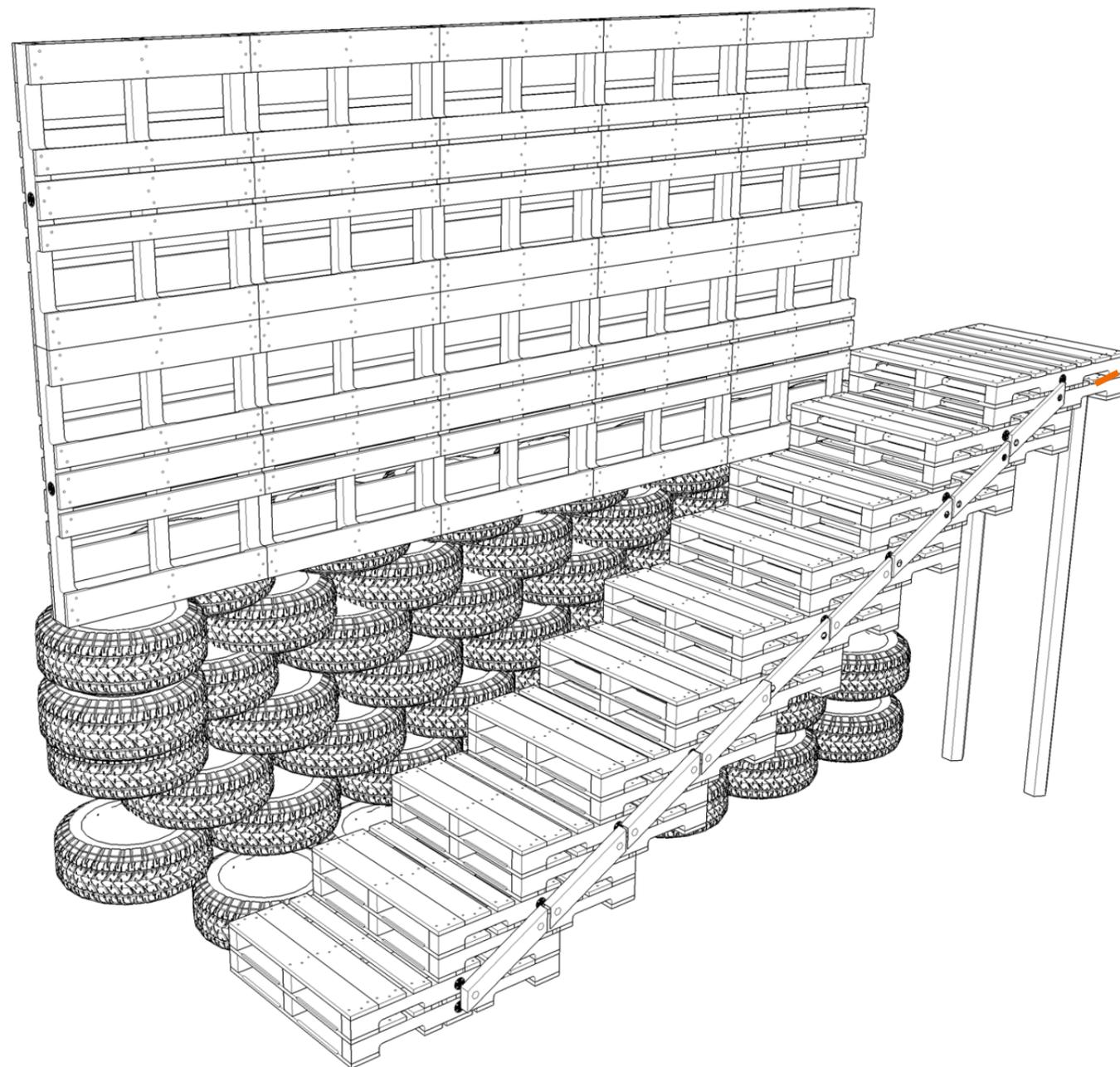
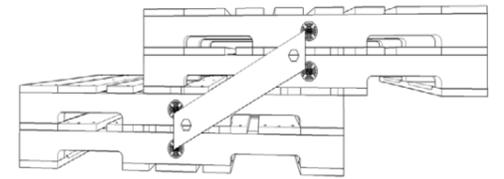
Stairs material :

- pallets
- hammer
- nail



20 pallets
pallet dimension :
1016 mm x 1220 mm
x 143 mm
stairs height : 2.80 m

Metal bar fixation

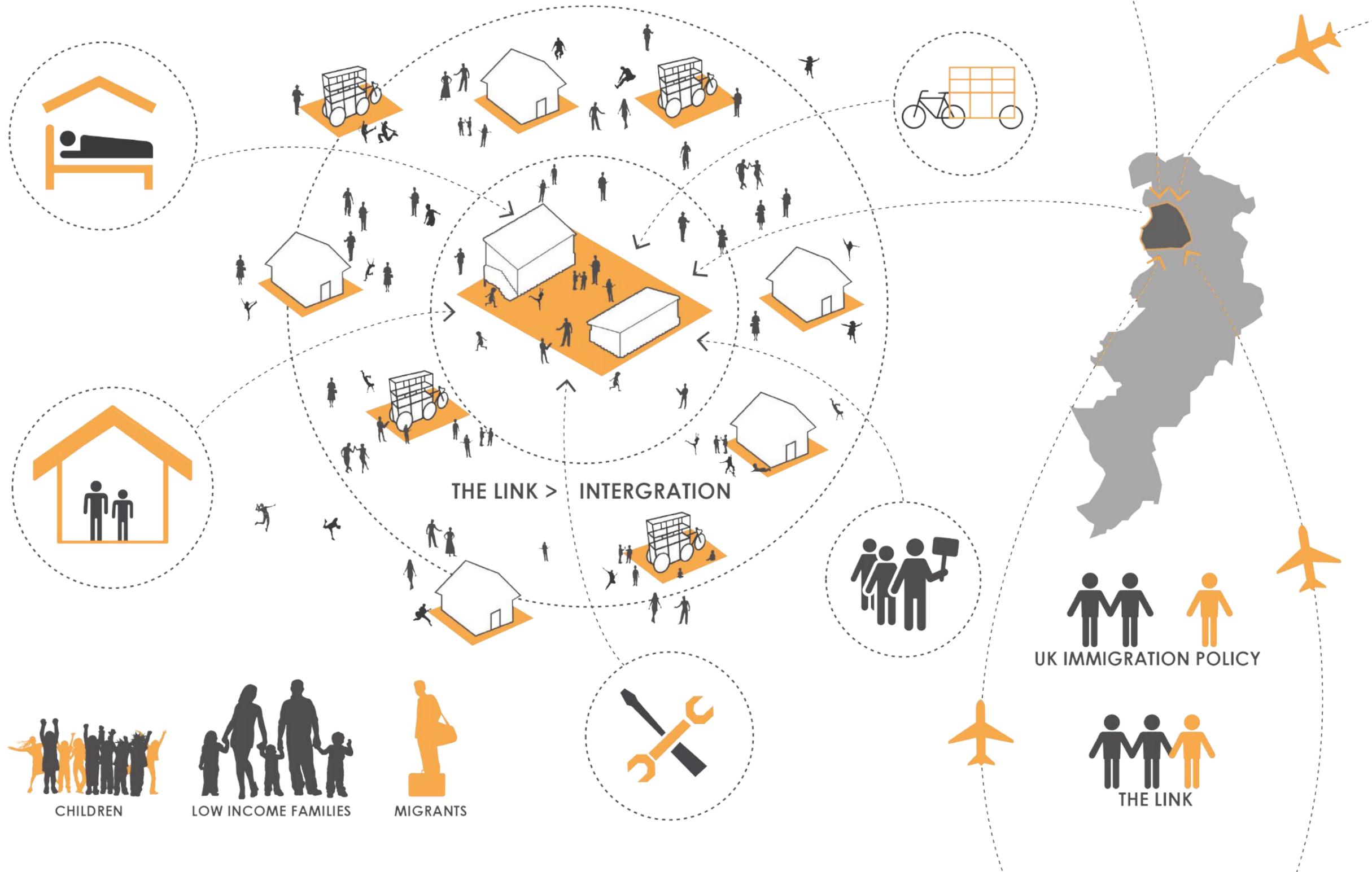


COMMUNITY LINK

We focus on the **failed integration** of low income families, currently not catered for by political infrastructure.

This spatial experiment will facilitate and accelerate the process of integration of families into society.

Pedagogical space and cultural infrastructure can **challenge the unequal societal conditions** and aims to carve out new economic, cultural, social and political relations. [McFarlane]



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Prefigurative Architectures

A compilation of 5 exemplary projects

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ARCHITECTURE AND ACTIVISM

5 EXEMPLARY PROJECTS

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2016

Introduction

Nowadays, design and architecture caters for only a small percentage of the population. Economic prospects are constraining design services, especially for those who have limited or no access to lending, banking and investment industries. By doing this, as a profession we are excluding a vast amount of potential clients. It is in our duty to offer our help and we can only do that by changing the way we practice architecture. By expanding the population we serve and the services we offer we can address the most critical issues we face in the world today. (Bell et al., 2008)

The fact that architecture discourses and practices are now almost completely apolitical is nevertheless alarming. Change can only come with systemised progressive and inclusive plans from both practice and education. Experimentation in architectural education has the potential to expand the field of engagement and to initiate students and academia into the political aspects of architecture. (Bell et al., 2008)

In order to reconfigure the practice from within, we need to intervene in the architecture education by:

- Introducing in teaching the Economic effects and evaluations of design proposals. This will enable us not to blindly accept the market as a guiding principle and to have the power to control it.
- Learning how to engage actively with communities and make participatory architecture
- Learning that design should be a proactive process not a reactive one
- Challenging, questioning and offering alternative solutions



Fig.1

THE WORKSHOP

The workshop 'Prefigurative Architectures' represents an attempt to investigate the political dimensions of architecture and experiment in a live project by prototyping temporary housing solutions in Cheetham Hill, a deprived area of Manchester. It was a great achievement for myself to be part of this workshop this semester. This workshop offered me the possibility to critically reflect on the architecture and construction practices today and realise that space making is mainly political.

The profession is at a turning point and as a future practitioner I believe that by finding alternative ways to promote and practice architecture are skills to be developed further. Making and doing delimit new terrains of architecture where autonomous funding enables correcting and updating action plans.

I learned how to record and trace a material libraries and building solutions in a deprived area, where financial resources are minimum. I also learned the tools to get involved in community-led projects, where participatory design transcends beyond including design input from the community to cooperative building, where the community becomes autonomous and uses tools provided by us. Such tools are construction manuals, building techniques and recorded material maps and circulation in the area.



Fig.2

The Notion of Prefiguration

Being first manifested in social movements in the 1970's in the US, prefiguration precedents can be found in linguistics and politics but cannot clearly be identified in the field of architecture.

In prefigurative politics alternative ways of social organisation, production, exchange and inhabitation are permanently tested and experienced. Prefiguration is associated with a temporal disruption, where the future becomes operable in the present. Making and doing become synonyms and the prefigurative act is represented by action. In the field of architecture, prefiguration demands revisiting the margins of design in the socio-economic and politic productions of space.

This booklet seeks to offer 5 examples, each of which tackles a different facet of the term prefigurative architecture. It is do to be mentioned that most of the examples reflect one or more attributes of prefiguration.

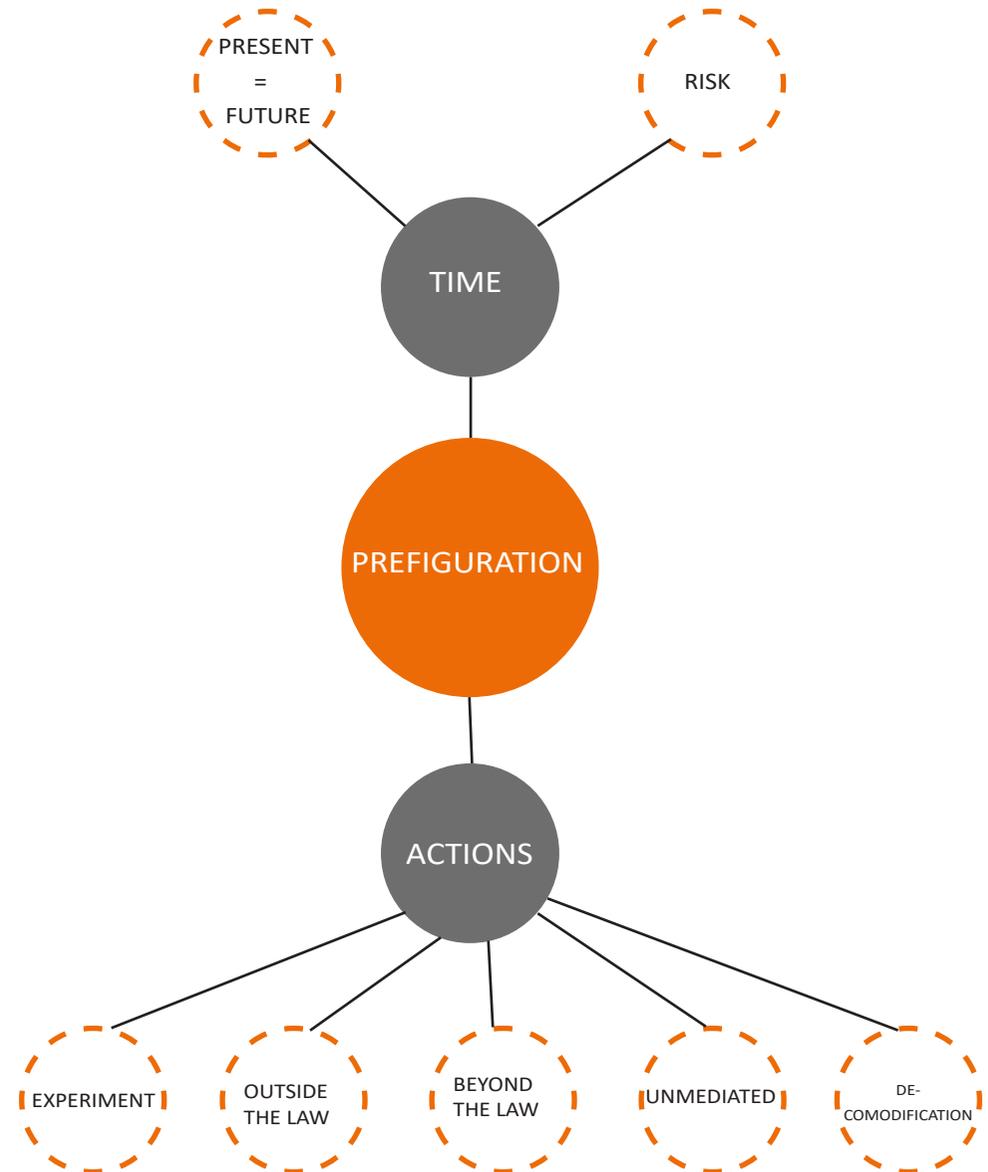
What is prefiguration?

Prefiguration in architecture is defined by being beyond space subordination by:

- 1) questioning socio- political dynamics of construction practices
- 2) prefiguration as disruption : the reconfiguring of the sensible
- 3) prefiguration as de-comodification: construction and recuperation of the use- value
- 4) prefiguration as un-mediated interventions in policy and planning
- 5) prefiguration as recuperation of techno-popular knowledges

'Prefiguration [...] a translation of political action into immediate practice.' (Minuchin, 2016: 898)

KEY DIMENSIONS OF PREFIGURATION



01 Farm, Rural Studio

Architects : Rural Studio, Auburn University

Location: Alabama, USA

Area: 5000.0 sqm

Project Year: 2009

Execution Time : 6 years

Client : Rural Studio and the Community of Hale County

Budget : not known

Materials: barrels, wood, recycled materials

Description: Rural Studio Farm is a 5year project, in efforts to create a self- efficient cycle while also being able to give back to and engage the community. The first phase of the Rural Studio Farm, The Morissette Kitchen and Garden, which spanned the 2009-2010, focused on the design and construction of a commercial kitchen for the Studio based on the desire to "think, act, and eat locally." The new kitchen gave the Studio the opportunity to cook food that was grown and harvested on-site. This kick-started the Rural Studio Farm's long-term plan of food self-efficiency.

Phase 2 of the Rural Studio Farm, which began in the 2010-2011 consists of the design and construction of a solar greenhouse. The structure of the greenhouse includes a northern thermal mass wall, built of recycled fifty-five gallon barrels filled with water, which will keep the greenhouse warm at night. The solar greenhouse will help extend the Studio's food production through the winter months and will function as a tool to demonstrate architectural solutions to local agricultural needs.

Finally, the team worked at a plan for irrigating the Rural Studio garden. The plan consists of on-site water collection and storage in an elevated water tower. The projects of the Rural Studio Farm not only focus on the creation of solutions to architectural problems but also address larger ideas of sustainability and regionalism. They are lessons that the students can carry with them far beyond their semester.

'The practice of architecture not only requires participation in the profession but it also requires civic engagement.'(Mockbee, 2009)

1

Phase 1: Kitchen



Fig.3

2

Phase 2: Green House



Fig.4

3

Phase 3: Irrigation System



Fig.5

Prefiguration as recuperation of techno-popular knowledges

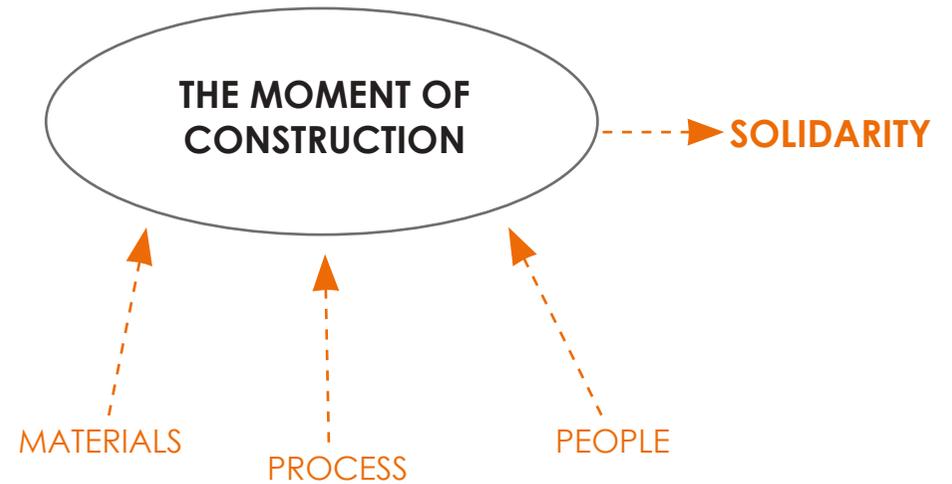
The practice of construction is the moment of coming together from some form of solidarity, materials and technologies. This moment precedes the possibility of prefiguration. (Zibechi and Ryan, 2012) This is the reason why, through their organisation and aims, Rural studio work for and alongside the community they live in. In achieving so, Rural Studio distributes knowledge and gains construction knowledge from the locals.

Looking at how social movements depend on collation and organisation of techno- popular knowledges, Rural Studio enables prefiguration in a distinctive manner. They recuperate and utilise local techno- popular knowledges that help in the consolidation of a local academic activism built around construction processes. (Minuchin, 2016)

In doing so they claim that to date, Rural Studio has built more than 170 projects and educated more than 800 "Citizen Architects."

In addition, Ruben translates technical knowledges into moves that can be taught and replicated in order to reduce the need to outsource the constructive process. Rural studio is a platform of experimentation though building. The built projects are presented as actualised desired urban future where knowledge is rehearsed, tested and displayed. (Minuchin, 2016)

With their project Rural Studio Farm, the practice enables prefiguration in an academic context, enabling student not only to get involved in community projects but also to eat, learn and live with the community. By maintaining this intimate connection with the local community, Rural Studio manages to make a difference in their projects by having a clearer picture of the need of the locals.



Rural Studio and Superuse

Students from Rural Studio are introduced to the social responsibilities of architectural practices that would provide enriching and well-constructed buildings through the use of materials once classified as waste. Students are encouraged to explore alternative building methods, unique building materials and innovative solutions. It is, in a way, the ultimate sustainability—use of the elements naturally at hand, within reach, both physically and economically.”

Through their practice, Rural Studio can be associated with the movement of Superuse. Superuse is a way of creating architecture by reducing the flow of products and elements from their maximum added value to dissipated value. (Van Hinte, Peeren, and Jongert, 2013)

In order to demonstrate the adherence of Rural Studio to Superuse, one needs to look at scale of the projects. Most of the projects built by Rural Studio are small in scale. Waste materials are tracked and collected locally and assembled together through known and rehearsed building techniques.

Nevertheless, they started by building small in order to gain experience and set convincing examples. Large-scale application of Superuse might involve big developers that can't afford to operate with the uncertainty that comes from using unusual building materials. Ultimately the practice, from their approach to materials and construction they open up the question: How can the community get involved in the building process and learn to deal with the freedom given by a new perspective on what makes up a building? (Van Hinte, Peeren, and Jongert, 2013)

Ultimately, by maintaining close relationships with their local community Rural Studio created a platform where to experiment with other forms of social relations. The space in the local community becomes therefore a vehicle to conceive de-commodified zones.

WASTE



Fig.6

NO WASTE



Fig.7

WASTE



Fig.8

NO WASTE



Fig.9

WASTE



Fig.10

‘We want to be a source of resources, and not waste them.’ (Mockbee, 2009)

Rural Studio at the Venice Biennale 2016

Being loyal to the basis of ‘what should be built, rather than what can be built’- Miriam Sitz ,Rural’s studio design philosophy is concerned with the afterlife of materials. The common theme in their work is utility. By expanding on these 2 concepts, Rural Studio propose that instead of building and installation from new materials and trying to recycle it in the best possible matter, they identified needed materials across Venice (in this case steel tables, chairs, insulation panels and metal spring-coil beds), keeping them in their casing so that they can be transported to their destination straight after the Biennale finishes. All the materials from Theater of the UseFULL were picked by 2 Venetian organisations Assemblea Sociale per la Casa (ASC) and the Cooperativa Caracol, which are, respectively, involved in reclaiming abandoned social housing and providing shelter to the homeless.

The design also concerns transforming this list of items into construction materials and architectural elements. Everything brought to the Biennale was installed in such a way as to express the idea of being in transit. The act of hanging turns a bed into a wall and so on. This installation seems to be an extensive lesson in architecture.

It’s clear that the installation’s final objective isn’t the display at the Biennale, which actually becomes a step in a broader course, dismantling the traditional exhibition mechanism and, at the same time, recreating it in an even more powerful manner.

Prefiguration inside the Biennale is achieved by reinterpreting the exhibition, its materiality and by working with local communities directly. In this manner, Rural Studio is moving away from just the architectural context of the Biennale.

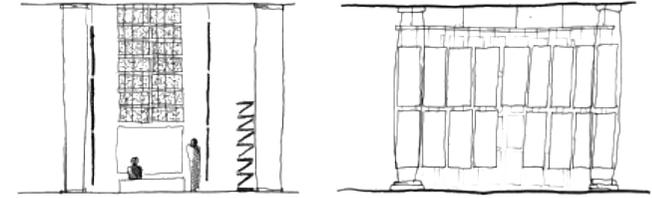


Fig.12

0 WASTE EXHIBITION



LIST OF MATERIALS



Fig.11

EXHIBITION BUILT



Fig.13

MATERIALS ARE TRANSPORTED TO BE USED IN LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS



Fig.14

‘We believe that our designs grow in strength when coming into contact with the locals, because this explains what we normally do: we work with local communities.’ (Sitz, 2016)

02 Ulaanbaatar Smart Collection Points, Rural Urban Framework

Architects : Rural Urban Framework (RUF)

Location: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Area: first floor 12 m² and a bridge of 1,8 m², second floor 7,2 m², plot 25,2 m²

Project Year: 2006

Execution Time : 9 months

Client : The Asia Foundation, Mongolia and the Mayor's Office, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,
Design Institute: Toronto Grand

Materials: concrete, earth

Cost: \$USD 40,000 / collection point

Description: Seeing the prerequisite for innovation, The Asia Foundation and the Mayor's Office of Ulaanbaatar commissioned design group Rural Urban Framework to construct a new infrastructure of communal spaces and services. As the members of these communities have little previous experience in living in permanent dense settlements the plan needed to gradually assimilate residents into the new living patterns of the city.

First stage of development was built around the basic services of urban life: access to clean water and disposal of sewage and waste. For rural nomads, waste in the form of plastic bottles, glass and cans is an unfamiliar urban phenomenon and without a clear systems of collection, garbage accumulates in streams, ditches and along the roadside. To fix this issue, Rural Urban Framework designed and constructed 2 "Smart Collection Points," where trash can be sorted and consolidated. Constructed of concrete and built to fit the topography of the landscape, the structures also act as local landmarks, serving as bus stops and even displaying maps of local playgrounds, clinics, schools and water kiosks that had been previously unmapped.

As it continues, the project will evaluate how the buildings perform, both architecturally and socially. As these buildings are used, more knowledge will be accumulated on the needs of the population. Eventually, the framework of these settlements will start to reveal itself, and residents can begin to take advantage of the bustling civic benefits of the modern metropolis.



Fig.15



Fig.16



Fig.17

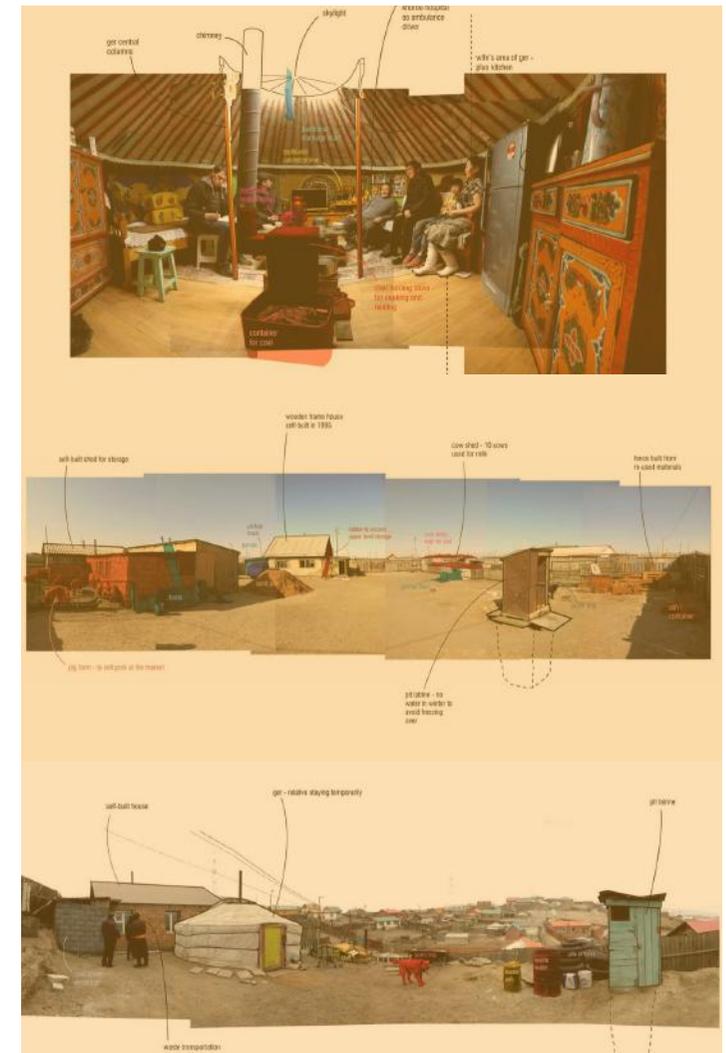
Prefiguration as de-comodification: construction and recuperation of the use-value

Mongolia is facing a critical moment in its urban evolution. The economic reforms following Soviet withdrawal in 1990 coupled with the discovery of vast reserves of coal, gold, and copper has led to massive rural migration to the capital city of Ulaanbataar. This has resulted in the doubling of the population over the past 25 years and the expansion of the city's territory to over 30 times its original size from 130km² to 4700 km². Unfortunately, the infrastructure of the city hasn't yet had a chance to catch up to these rapid growth patterns, resulting in sprawling slum-like settlements consisting mainly of traditional felt tents - known as gers - encircling the city. Civic buildings throughout these neighbourhoods are rare, and even travelling within the city is difficult due to the lack of official maps.

In a current context of crisis in social housing rapid urbanisation at a global level, Rural Urban Framework proposes a slow assimilation approach in order to incorporate nomad population into the life of the city in Mongolia.

'The shape of the housing system is always the outcome of struggles between different groups and classes.' (Butler and Chris, 2009:63) Following this statement, Rural Urban Framework studied in detail the behaviour and needs of the nomads moving into the city. They identified that the most immediate need for them is not housing, which they provide with ad hoc gers from themselves, but basic urban services such as clean water, disposal sewage and waste. By providing this infrastructure, Rural Urban Framework are decommodifying the production of mass housing which can host the new comers. Space in the urban city can be occupied and used according to the user's needs without being censured by building laws and regulations. In doing so, this project not only prefiguring with decommodification of the urban space but are creating the possibility to be temporary accommodated in the city. This experimental process of slow assimilation is slowly recorded and analysed. This process is incomplete and flexible, offering the people time to accommodate in their new environment, but in the same time to start settling down.

In addition, Rural Urban Framework recognise that housing is a political and economic problem, but also 'housing is seen as the domain of experts like developers, architects, or economists.' (Marcuse and Madden, 2016: 8) Rural Urban Framework are moving away from this notion, offering the users the power to determine their own future. This is achieved by a gradual accommodation the new metropolitan life rather than an abrupt displacement.



'unlike in the cities, where industrial corporatism is an important global force, in the rural world the connection with local building traditions, crafts, and family businesses is more evident... our proposal explores the use of incremental architecture so as not to eradicate nomadic traditions, but channeling that energy into permanent houses instead.' – (Lynch, 2016:3)

Rural Urban Framework and Learning the City

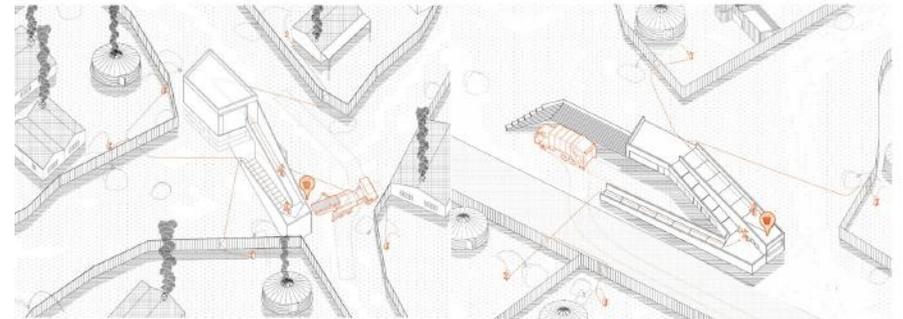
Rural Urban Framework produced an interactive community map of ger districts from data gathered through numerous meetings with local residents. The map provides a database for local services such as bus stops, playgrounds, clinics, schools and water kiosks. It also shows areas of illegal dumpsites alongside official sites for waste collection. From this data, the Foundation identified the worst areas for rubbish build up alongside certain neighbourhoods or Khorooos that they had forged good relationships with local leaders.

Their aim was to create a demonstration project that could facilitate the hygienic collection of rubbish. They named the project Smart Collection Points as the project had to engage neighbourhood participation and outreach; improve the scheduling of trucks; and influence policy from the Mayor's office to alter how they administered city-wide waste collection. Based on their site research two locations were selected to implement and test the viability of the prototypes: one in the fringe district of Khan-Uhl and the other in the mid-ger area of Chingeltei.

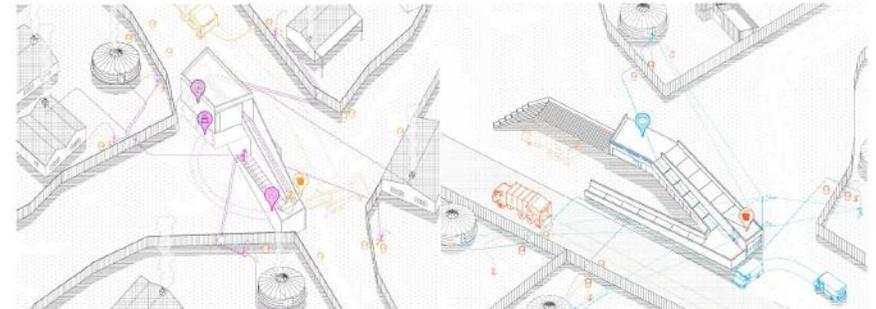
Documents and artefacts play a crucial role in organising, framing, narrating and contesting urban life. 'Transnational civic networks' are an example of knowledge transfer between different social movements that help us understand that civil knowledge travels as a necessity in most cases. (McFarlane, 2011)

Smart Collection points project represents an experiment to create a new way of urban sociality characterized by horizontal exchanges of knowledge. In achieving this, Rural Urban Framework places urban learning at the centre of integration in the city life.

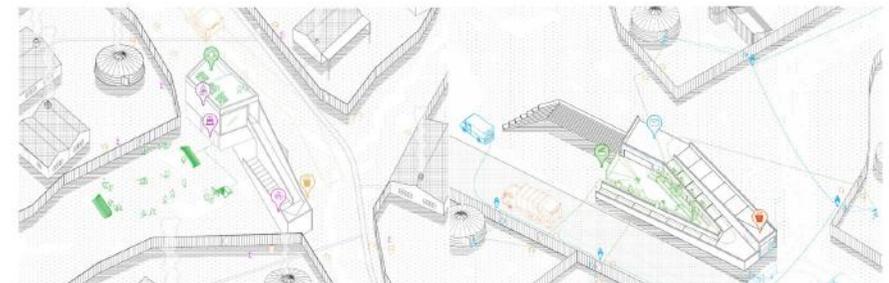
'This provides Ulaanbaatar with a specific mechanism for urbanisation that resides in its nomadic culture, rather than a generic and imported form.' (Rural Urban Framework, 2016)



local schools and playgrounds



local clinics



local water kiosks

Rural Urban Framework at the Venice Biennale 2016

At the Architecture Biennale 2016 , Rural Urban Framework decided to exhibit different types of gers in order to trigger the public's imagination on the problems that are associated with this type of dwelling.

The nomads settle on any available land, occupying residual inner areas, slopes and the periphery of the city. When migrants arrive they erect a traditional felt tent - a ger – and surround the plot with a wooden fence. The extent and rapidity of their growth has meant that the provision of the most basic services of urban life has not been viable: water is fetched from kiosks; pit latrines are dug on site; and garbage goes uncollected. Compounding these issues is widespread unemployment, alcoholism and health problems.

As this population has no prior experience living amongst others, a slow assimilation to city life is crucial for them.

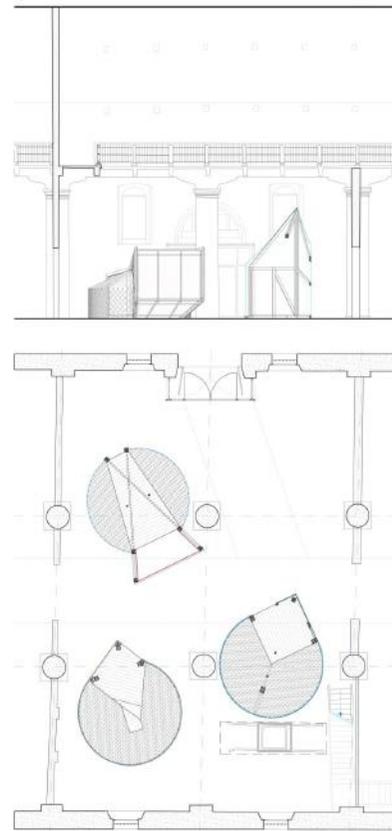


Fig.18



Fig.19



Fig.22



Fig.20



Fig.23



Fig.21



Fig.24

'Cities should be able to host from modern to archaic ways of living if they want to properly tackle the migration of people towards them.' Rural Urban Framework (Lynch, 2016: 4)

03 Wiki House, Architecture 00

Architects : Architecture 00

Location: Worldwide

Area: different sizes

Project Year:

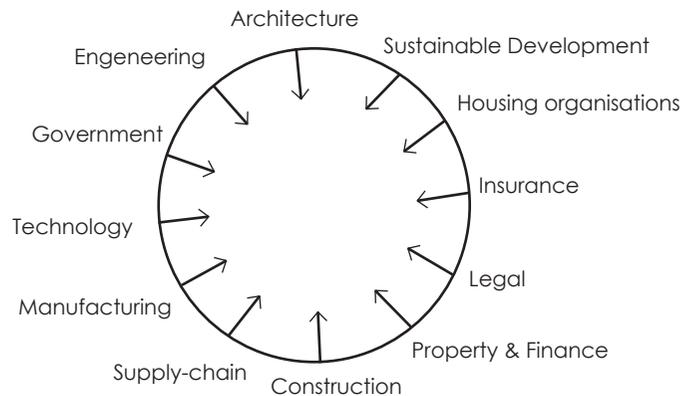
Execution Time : 24 hours

Materials: plywood, peg and wedge connections

Description:

WikiHouse was designed as an open-source construction kit that lets people create and share home designs and then “print” pieces using machines available for as little as a few thousand dollars. It is part of the effort by the WikiHouse collective of professionals who volunteer to give consumers information and tools about home design and construction.

The WikiHouse frame is a modular construction system made from SmartPly OSB boards that have been CNC machined into numbered parts. It is assembled with wedge and peg connections rather than bolts and with the final panels held into place using ordinary screws. The 70 square metre structure beautifully demonstrates how a simple, easily assembled wooden frame becomes air-tight, waterproof and secure.



‘We are at a point where it is not innovative; it is just that architecture is behind the game.’(Solhoff, 2014: 2)



Fig.25



Fig.26



Fig.27



Fig.28

Prefabrication as questioning socio-political dynamics of construction practices

In his text, *In Defense of Housing*, Marcuse states that ‘Housing is a political and economic problem. The residential is political.’ (Marcuse and Madden, 2016 : 10)

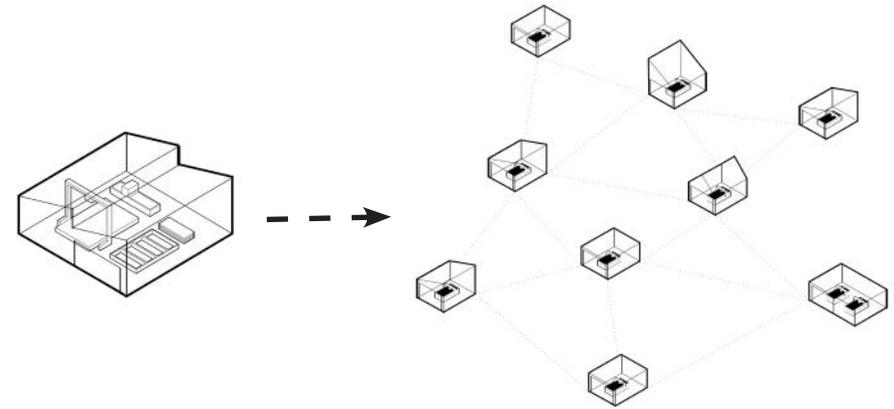
The state of housing sector is the reflection of the social and economic struggles between different groups and classes. When looking into the capitalist model, the housing crisis stems from the inequalities and antagonisms of different social groups. The house is not assessed as a home but as a way of accumulating capital.

Deregulation, financialization, and globalization led to housing being a commodity more than before. Arguably, no matter how many actors and institutions treat it as such, housing can never be fully liquid, exchangeable commodity. Communities require continuity and stability. Extracting housing out of its context obliterates this social dimension.

(Marcuse and Madden, 2016 : 10)

In current situation in the UK, housing was absorbed into two polarising ideological silos, between opponents of ‘big government’ who saw markets as more efficient, and opponents of ‘big markets’ who saw a market oligopoly as dangerous, and the state as more responsible. Although these two actors militate for different things they operate according to the same principle. The assumption behind both has been that only a top-down, professional ‘big provider’ model is fit for the scale of the task. The core assumption remained unchanged: houses should be mass-produced by professionals, and mass-consumed by consumers. Bigger is better. (Parvin, no date)

The first misconception associated with this practice is that only big-provider models are viable for large scale industrial production. In part this is based on a Fordist emphasis on efficiency - a belief that large companies can provide a greater number of mass-produced houses for the least amount of money due to their size, experience and ability to exploit economies of scale. While this may still be true in a narrow sense, new (particularly web-based) technology in other fields is demonstrating that with the ability to aggregate their knowledge and resources, and attract the attention of large companies supporting their needs, the huge crowd of small producers can be more efficient than ever before. In the context of a scarce land market, large housebuilders’ ability to build a greater number of properties for less translates simply into increased profit margins. The second misconception is that all markets are somehow the same, and as such are universally ‘good’ or ‘bad’ (depending on your political viewpoint). It is now widely recognised that markets vary in the way that they encourage or discourage competition, preference larger or smaller companies, support different kinds of behaviour and produce or exploit different kinds of value over different periods of time. Just because a particular kind of market works for one thing that does not mean the same model will be an effective solution to a fundamentally different problem. (Parvin, no date)

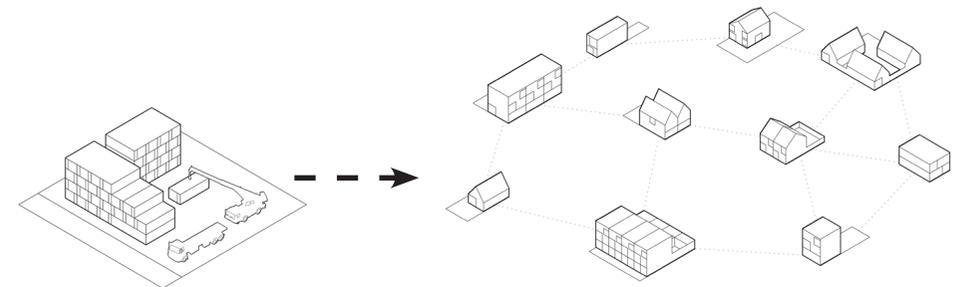


CENTRALISED PREFABRICATION

£5m+ factory setup cost
Purpose built for one product
No capacity to scale
No resilience to demand gaps

DISTRIBUTED MANUFACTURING

£15k factory setup cost
Many products on demand
Limitless capacity to scale
High resilience to demand gaps



LARGE SITES

One size fits all / speculative manufacturing

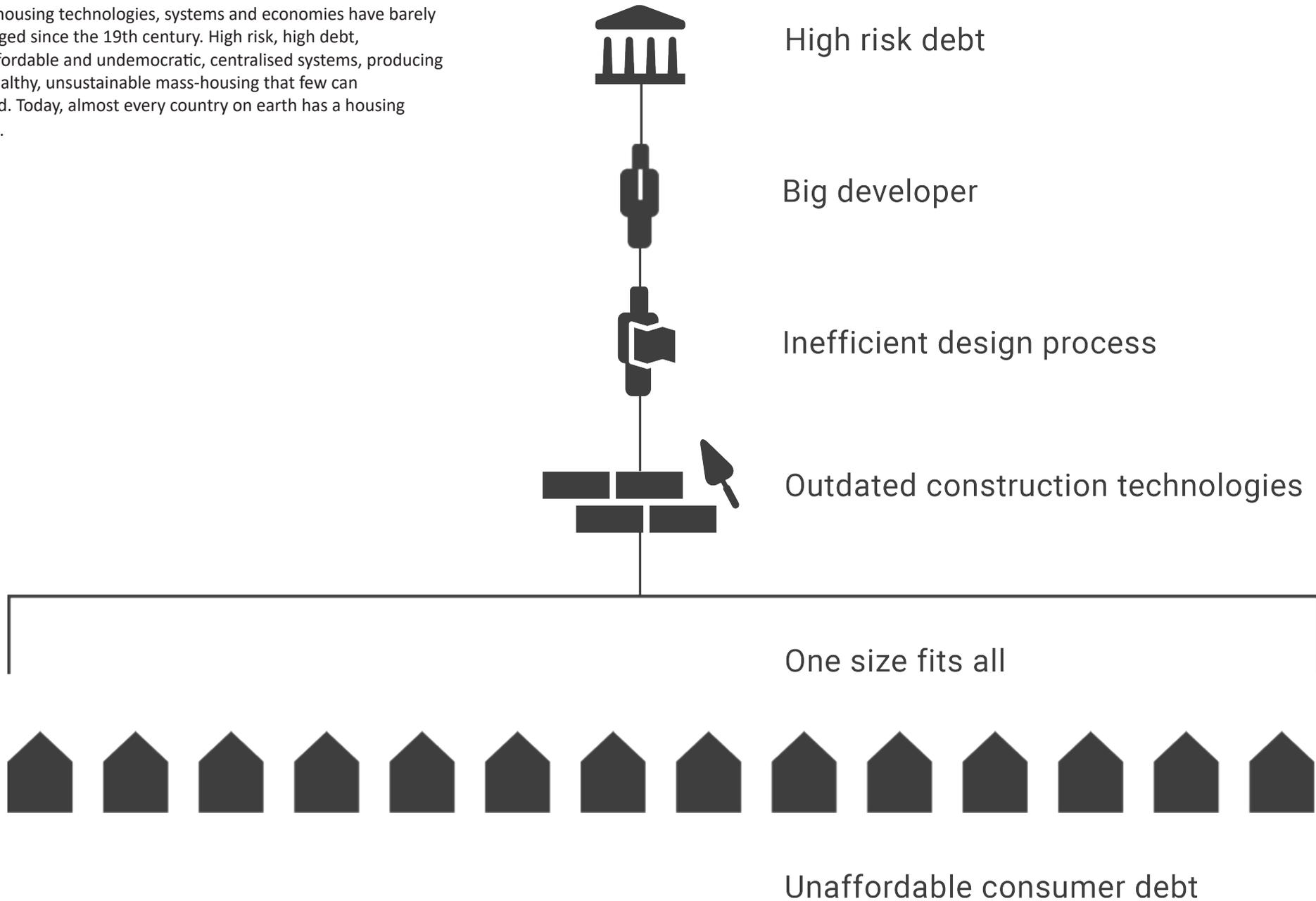
SMALL SITES

Mass customised / on-demand

‘We don’t believe that WikiHouse is the only solution to the current housing crisis, but we do want to host a disruptive debate and challenge landowners, urban planners and policy makers to think differently about the barriers - such as land or building costs.’ (Parvin, no date)

The age of mass housing

Our housing technologies, systems and economies have barely changed since the 19th century. High risk, high debt, unaffordable and undemocratic, centralised systems, producing unhealthy, unsustainable mass-housing that few can afford. Today, almost every country on earth has a housing crisis.



Prefiguration as questioning socio-political dynamics of construction practices

The model of WikiHouse considers flexibility much wider than design permutations looking at finance, participation, sustainability and technology. In financial terms, the whole life cost of the building is associated with flexibility. If all technological systems, service strategies and spatial principles are flexible, the building will last longer and be cheaper by eliminating the frequency for wholesale refurbishment. (Scheider and Till, 2005)

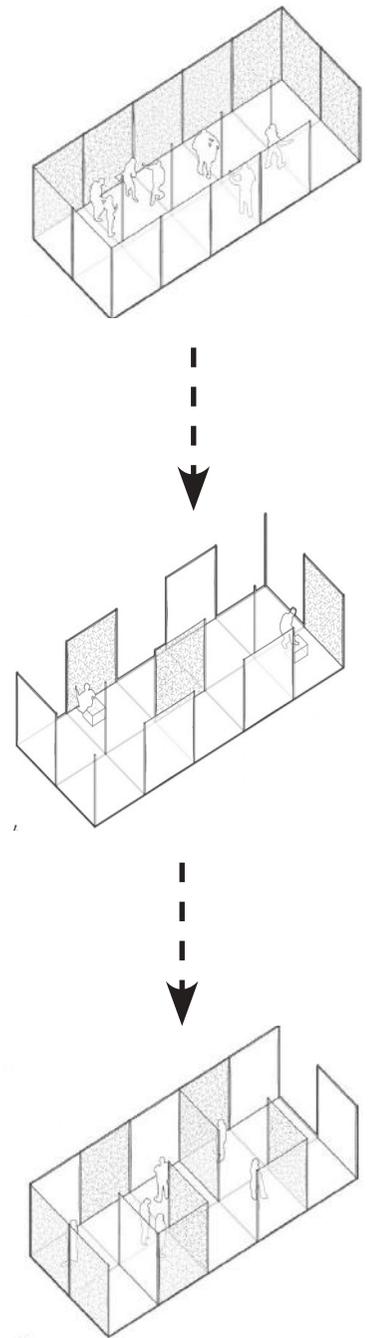
In participatory process, in the Wikihouse philosophy is about dissolving the control of the architect and empowering users directly in the design process. Flexible housing not only provides users with the control of their environment after occupation, but also during design stages. (Scheider and Till, 2005)

When looking at technology and flexible housing, Habraken differentiated 'support' or base building is different from 'infill' or the interior fit-outs. (Scheider and Till, 2005)

Critique

My main critique addressed to the system of Wiki House is its inflexibility in adapting to the environment, blending in the surrounding. Construction materials are minted to plywood and timber and while this is economic it's not necessarily the best solution for all the possible sites. In addition, I would question whether this system could incorporate waste materials such as cardboard, hoardings or plastic sheets.

'To allow the development of natural relationship in the urban situation we must [...] regard each dwelling as an independent one.' (Habraken, 1999 : 59)



04 ColoNY Installation, A77

Architects : A77 Gustavo Diéguez and Lucas Gilardi

Location: NY, Queens

Area: first floor 12 m2 and a bridge of 1,8 m2, second floor 7,2 m2, plot 25,2 m2

Project Year: 2013

Execution Time : 1 week

Client : MoMA

Materials: containers, scaffolding

Description:

As part of the “Expo 1: New York” festival, the courtyard of the MoMA PS1 has been occupied by a series of caravans, brought by Argentine architecture firm a77. Their project is part of the festival module Colony, which has been interpreted by curator Pedro Gadanho as an open experiment, an opportunity to rethink the political and social function of architecture within the festival’s general theme — an exploration of ecological challenges in the context of early 21st century economic and socio-political instability.

At the ColoNY, the museum opens its doors to become liveable. The museum becomes a house, hotel, community or neighbourhood, a portion of city to think about the future of cities and the environment.

Colony is a collective experiment, an agent of transformation, a hybrid interface between the museum and the city. It is an experiment that will stage a series of questions. How far can a museum unfold? How many filters and barriers inscribed in their statutes is it determined to dissolve? And a question that is rooted in critical moments of changing times: Which protocol requiring the new collective experiments? (Latour, 2001)

‘The experimental construction in the public spaces [...] is what we want to happen more often, as an example of horizontal collaboration and at different scales.’ (A77, 2013)



Fig.29



Fig.30



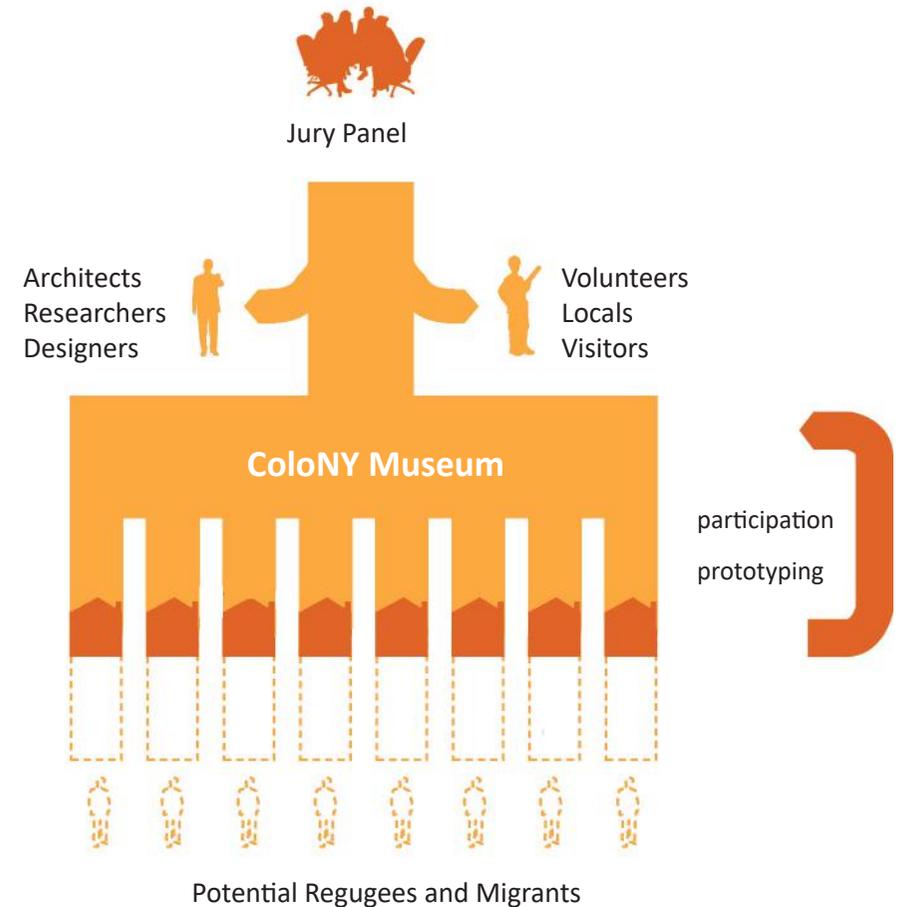
Fig.31

Prefiguration as disruption : the reconfiguring of the sensible

The moments of crisis, economic or natural, are opportunities to rethink and redefine partnerships and new settings, between institutions and individuals, to give new meanings to reality. The experimental construction in the public space, funded by institutions, is what we want to happen more often, as an example of horizontal collaboration and at different scales.

Prefigurative movements are 'movements that are creating the future in their present social relationships[...] social change isn't deferred to a later date by demanding reforms from the state, or by taking state power and eventually instituting these reforms.' (Sitrin 2006: 4)
'Prefiguration on the other hand is associated with personhood, identity and culture.' (Maeckerebergh, 2011: 4)

By proposing an experimental museum in the form of temporary housing, A77 simulate in the present the need for housing future refugees in the city of NY. In addition, they cleverly conduct this by working in the public space, opening up the debate to the wider audience. By putting themselves in the position of possible inhabitants of their structures, A77 and the volunteers of the project acquired valuable information on potential inhabitation problems that new comers might encounter.



Critique

My main critique of this project is the lack of continuation of the process of experimentation with alternative ways of accommodating refugees in the city. The caravans could have easily been donated to some people in need. It would have been with this action that the experiment created in Colony would have been truly successful.

'Prefiguration is thought to be cultural, unorganizes and without any goal beyond the enactment of new cultural relations in the here and now and among movement actors.' (Maeckelbergh, 2011 :6)

A77 and Slum Shack Dwellers International

SDI (Slum Shack Dwellers International) is an example social practice which emphasises in learning in groups. This is key for the formation of their political organisation. At the core of this movement is learning and documenting how urban assemblages work, especially in informal settlements. SDI represents an experiment to create a new way of urban sociality characterized by horizontal exchanges of knowledge. In achieving this, SDI places urban learning at the centre of social and political relations. (McFarlane, 2011)

As an example, SDI document the histories of urban struggle associated with housing demolition in different localities in Mumbai. These histories are translocal and mechanism by which common struggle is amplified and put to light. Learning occurs in model house construction through an emancipation of the relationship body-group-materials. This process is learning of technocratic knowledge. In SDI travelling documents are a useful way of thinking about the role that learning to make documents plays in political organisation. In making learning an explicit and central part of its activities, SDI acknowledges what many accounts of social movements fail to account for: the central role of learning in the activities, organisation and political strategies. (McFarlane, 2011)

ColoNY installation is a project that focuses on promoting 'learning the city' through the perspective of producing and spreading knowledge in groups. By associating a museum space with dwelling units, integration is connected to learning about the history of the place. Integration is achieved by learning about the history, the language, the habits and traditions of the new 'home' of the immigrants and refugees. Knowledge production is also represented by techno popular expertise encouraged through the construction process of the informal caravans.

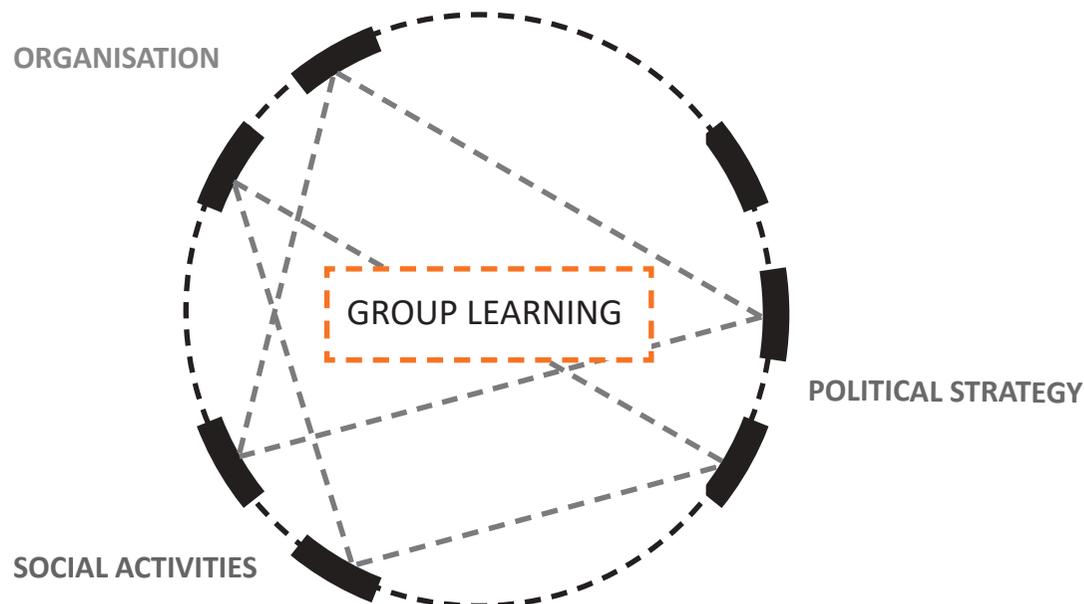


Fig.32



Fig.33



Fig.34

05 Puzzle House, Santiago Cirugeda

Architects : Santiago Cirugeda

Location: Seville, Spain

Area: first floor 12 m2 and a bridge of 1,8 m2, second floor 7,2 m2, plot 25,2 m2

Project Year: 2006

Execution Time : 9 months

Client : owner of the plot of land, Sebastian De Alba and his team, Paula

Materials: composite panels, timber frame

Description: The subsequent occupations of empty lots with the closet strategy came into being, in a personal manner, from my living experience in the Puzzle-House, situated for one month in the Plaza de la Mina of Cadiz.

An attitude to situated at the very limits of the legal, an intellectual embezzlement, which emancipates itself from what urban planning proposes as the patrimony of the stone cardboard or from what the old city is beginning to look like, that is, an inhabitable amusement park.

Using the Puzzle-House as the prototype, in its various possible configurations, the idea is to start occupying different empty lots of the old city for a maximum of two years per lot, thus achieving a nomadic, disperse, and impermanent way of living an urban plot that tends towards temporal mummification. (Minidoc, 2012)

'With limited institutional and financial capital, the majority of urban residents have to make what they can out of their bare lives.'

(Simone, 2004: 428)



Fig.35



Fig.36

Prefiguration as un-mediated interventions in policy and planning and disruption into the system

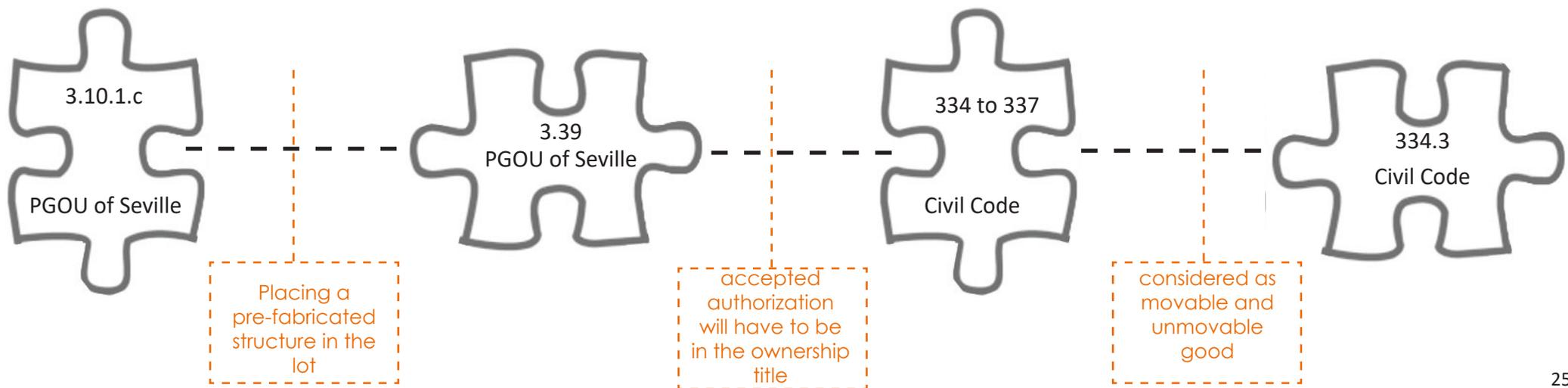
This project is a perfect representation of prefiguration above the law. By finding gaps in the planning system, unused urban plots which tend to be left to temporal mummification can be occupied for a period up to one year. This was possible by classing the collapsible house-studio as a movable good which is not fixed to empty plot in any manner. This structure can house cultural debate, political and tenants' meetings, and of course many drinking parties and urban barbecues well-attended by friends and acquaintances.

The other important element of prefiguration is the ownership of the land in this equation of nomadic inhabitation. The use of the empty plot will be authorised by the owner and be indicated in the ownership title. This strategy guarantees its use for an agreed minimum period of 4 months, extendable to a maximum of a year, for the installation of the collapsible house-studio. An agreement to obtain an electrical connection from an individual close to the land being used, and some portable chemically-operated toilets that would work by collecting rainwater (that ended up not being installed, due to the lack of financial resources), would help make this urban residence more habitable.



Fig.37

Ioana Andrada Calin

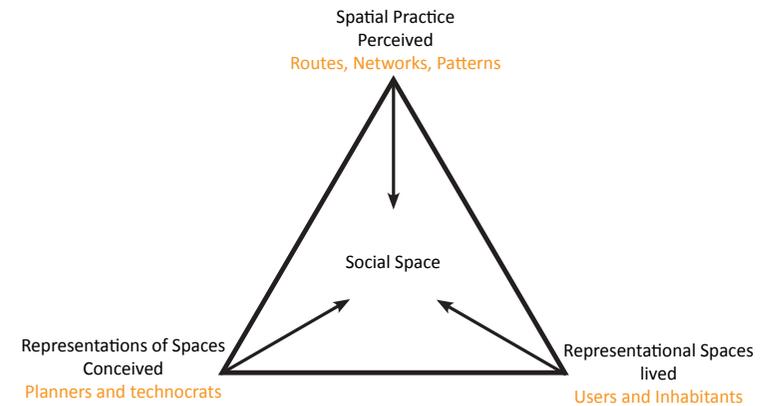


Puzzle House and 'People as Infrastructure'

Land prices in Spain are expensive, especially in the heart of the cities like Sevilla. In the same time, inner space and small land plots are left unused because of building legislation. By providing an alternative way to inhabit these spaces, Santiago Cirugeda translates urban space as functional destinations for people living in the city.

Following this idea, Henri Lefebvre calls 'representations of space'- act to 'pin down' inseparable connections between places, people, actions and things. (Lefebvre, 1976: 33) Furthermore, Lefebvre identifies a clear separation between the representation of space conceived normally by planners and technocrats and the spaces lived by users and inhabitants.

In addition, the architect encouraged the celebration of the space by social activities. This structure housed cultural debate, political and tenants' meetings, and of course many drinking parties and urban barbecues well-attended by friends and acquaintances. These acts represent civic manifestations of the locals who are proud to be in the heart of the city. None of this would have been achievable if it wasn't for the good communication between the tenant the future inhabitants. As Simone indicates in his text 'People as Infrastructure', residents need to generate concrete acts of social collaboration inscribed in multiple identities rather than to oversee transactions between different population groups. (Simone, 2016)



Henri lefebrve

Simone uses the term infrastructure to refer to people in the city, to the "ability of residents to engage complex combinations of objects, spaces, people, and practices" to form "conjunctions", which "become an infrastructure – a platform providing for and reproducing life in the city". (Simone, 2016 :429)

Conclusion

In conclusion, by presenting five different aspects associated with prefiguration in the field of architecture one can identify some limitations. Most of the projects presented in this booklet are small in scale, isolated and located in the heart of the communities in need. This happens due to the urgency of 'doing' associated with imperative needs of the users. In these situations, prefiguration almost happens sporadic. Therefore, it is sometimes difficult to amplify the scale of some of these projects. In the architectural field, it is worth considering scale even from inception stage of the project. But in most cases, replication of design in different urban and economic scenarios has to face complying to local rules and regulations.

Overall, it was a fulfilling experience to take part in this workshop this semester. Reflecting on my experience, I can declare that working within a local community proved engaging and challenging in the same time. Even though, we had time to develop and present our proposals, building stage has only been touched upon briefly. I hope that one of the three design proposals will be realised by the end of this year. I believe that by conceiving small civic gestures in the communities around us, we, as Manchester School of Architecture can make an impact in our community. In addition, it was fulfilling to work alongside with colleagues who were passionate and professional for the entire duration of the workshop. Even though the workshop is over on the 12th of December, I hope I can stay involved and help with building the final proposal for the Community Centre in Cheetham Hill.

As a future practitioner it is worth taking on board some of the things I have been introduced in this workshop. One of the things that is worth considering, from my point of view, is the political DNA that comes with every form of building space. As future practitioners, I believe we should embrace this fact and take sides instead of being unmindful of the wider implications of our designs. We need to stop decoupling ourselves from the political scene and affirm that architecture is not political. It is the mission of our profession to conceive our design is order to serve the greater needs of the people.



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Figures

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 : photos from personal archive

Fig. 3, 4, 5: <http://studioapla.auburn.edu/content/rural-studio-challenges-students-use-land-creatively-rural-studio-farm>

Fig. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 : photos taken from group project : Prefigurative Architectures Community Link

Fig. 11, 12, 13, 14 : http://www.domusweb.it/en/architecture/2016/10/26/the_theatre_of_the_usefull.html

Fig. 15, 16, 17 : <https://urbannext.net/ulaanbaatar-smart-collection-points/>

Fig. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 : <http://www.archdaily.com/783044/rural-urban-framework-brings-urban-amenities-to-ulaanbaatars-tent-cities/>

Fig. 25, 26, 27, 28 : <http://www.e-architect.co.uk/products/wikihouse-london>

Fig. 29, 30, 31: <http://www.archilovers.com/stories/3501/q-a-with-argentinean-studio-a77.html>

Fig. 32, 33, 34: <http://skoll.org/organization/slum-dwellers-international/>

Fig. 35, 36, 37: <http://www.recetasurbanas.net/index1.php?idioma=ENG&REF=1&ID=0006>

Fig. 38: photo from personal archive