

Re-envisioning Phoenix: Broadening the Conversation

A *Fourth Door* exhibition, workshop and events proposal



Fourth Door Research

www.fourthdoor.co.uk

Introduction

Broadening the Conversation is an exhibition and events programme aimed at providing a snapshot overview of self and community building and architecture in Britain and parts of Europe today.

Broadening the Conversation consists of a diverse, informed and inspiring programme divided between exhibition, talks and workshops.

The *Broadening the Conversation* exhibition is comprised of a mixture of built (the majority) and unbuilt (a few) projects. Focusing on housing, community, and creative use, the exhibition is intended to provide an eye-opening introduction to a range of actual and imagined projects.

The *Broadening the Conversation* series of events and exhibition is envisaged to take place in Lewes between September and December 2013.

The Exhibition

The *Broadening the Conversation* exhibition will feature seven projects primarily from Britain (5), though complemented by a number of European examples (2).

Each of the projects will be featured on stand alone panels, with a number also including models, and other additional material. There will be fact and contact information sheets available which will also be found on *Fourth Door's* website.

There will be a support programme of talks and workshops by a number of the organisations, architects, and self-building groups featured in the exhibition.

The British projects

Willowater - Roger Dean

Roger Dean, the artist famed for his record cover artwork for the progressive rock group Yes, who lives and has often exhibited in Lewes, is known for his fantastic otherworldly landscape art. Less familiar is how some of the designs first imagined on record sleeves, have also been developed at the practical design, engineering and building levels.

Dean has a number of different architectural concepts, and the exhibition will include his Willowater design project, one of the recent designs Dean has been working on.

www.rogerdean.com/home-for-life/willowater/
www.rogerdean.com/home-for-life/starting-point/



The British projects

The LILAC Affordable Ecological Co-Housing Project, Leeds.

LILAC stands for Low Impact Living Affordable Community, and has recently opened after several years preparatory and participatory work. Six varyingly scaled block houses, are home to the first 21 LILAC residents, living in this inner-city and contemporary version of Co-Housing localism. The Co-Housing project includes allotments, community and individual gardens and is considered a pioneering example of new style community localism.

LILAC is designed through community participation with the Bristol practice, White Design. The low energy housing uses ModCell straw bale cassettes and structural cross-laminated timber, two cutting edge 'bio-based' building materials, which have been becoming increasingly popular, particularly in attaining zero carbon emissions and low impact buildings.

www.lilac.coop

www.white-design.com

www.modcell.com/projects/lilac-affordable-ecological-co-housing/



Ashley Vale Bristol - Self Build Utopia

Ashley Vale is a community and self-build eco district in the heart of Bristol. Taking nearly fifteen years to complete its 17 buildings, the self-build projects show where self-build can be taken if the community are committed to do so.

The buildings, since they have been self-built, are diverse, and demonstrate a completely non-doctrinaire aesthetic which is both compelling and inspiring.

Out of Ashley Vale a number of self-build organisations have emerged, which are spreading the self build message on a national level. These include the following (see below.) Jackson Moulding, one of the founders of Ashley Vale, and director of the self-build organisation, EcoMotive, notes that surveys have shown that over 50% of UK's population have expressed a desire to self-build, yet an average 12000 self-build projects happen each year. EcoMotive will run a self-build workshop during *Broadening the Conversation*.

www.ecomotive.org

www.communitybuild.org.uk

www.nasba.org.uk

www.selfbuildportal.org.uk

www.bristolcct.wordpress.com

www.ashleyvale.org.uk



The British projects

Siobhan Davies Dance & Performance Studio - Recycled and bricolage architecture

The leading contemporary dancer, Siobhan Davies, commissioned and then worked with architect, Sarah Wigglesworth (SWARCH) to develop a redesign that would turn an old 19th century Victorian school into a contemporary dance studio and centre for the Siobhan Davies Dance group, close to Elephant and Castle, South London.

The result demonstrates SWARCH's individual and inspiring 'bricolage' approach to mixing old and new materials, techniques and design. Given the Phoenix Estate also includes Victorian industrial buildings, SWARCH's dance studio is thought-provoking brain food for what sorts of imaginative re-creations of retro-futurist Industrial Victoriana could yet happen in Lewes.

Sarah Wigglesworth has indicated she would be happy to give a talk about her approach as one of the events.

www.siobhandavies.com/studios/about/building.html
www.swarch.co.uk/projects/siobhan-davies-dance-studios



The Remakery, Transition Town Brixton -

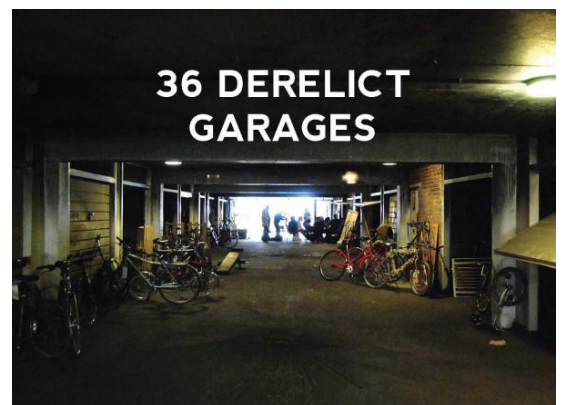
A Centre for upcycling originated by Transition Town Brixton

A group of makers, artists and other recycling advocates from Transition Town Brixton, one of the early Transition Town groups, developed the concept of a centre dedicated to the reuse of materials.

TTB invited the local chapter of Architecture for Humanity UK, a plan-wide network of architects involved in humanitarian, social, development and emergency projects, to work together using a participatory approach, to design and create The Remakery, the centre for recycling. This inspiring, social and environmental innovative project is now complete and about to open during the autumn.

With Lewes a centre for all things Transition Town, the Remakery is an exciting exemplar that the town community of makers, craftspeople and recyclers could be sparked to learn from.

www.remakery.org
www.transitiontownbrixton.org/category/projects/brixton-remakery/
www.london.architectureforhumanity.org/projects/brixton_remakery



The European examples

Svartlamon, Trondheim, Norway

Svartlamon was and is an alternative district in Norway's second city, Trondheim. Squatted and lived in by a mixture of punks and alternative lifestyle greens, the Svartlamon community initiated an architectural programme in the early 2000's involving local Trondheim architecture students Geir Brendeland and Olav Kristofferson to design student housing within Svartlamon.

The resulting Svartlamon four-storey timber student-housing block, became a highly popular and influential contemporary timber building within the international sustainable architecture world. The community has since continued with several further re-build projects, including a kindergarten built and designed within an old motor showroom, a recording studio, flats for musicians to stay in while recording and a pioneering recycling culture education centre.

Svartlamon demonstrates the marriage of alternative culture and forward looking architectural vision, integrating the built environment in ways which work with rather than replace local communities.

www.svartlomoen.org

www.bkark.no/projects/svartlomoen-housing

www.bkark.no/projects/svartlomoen-nursery



Vauban, Freiburg, Germany

Vauban is one of the earliest continental eco-districts, which developed in the 1990s and early 2000s into one of the most ambitious housing project on the continent. Vauban was originally a response to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power disaster in 1986, with its early stages of creation driven by a community of environmentalists working to develop sustainable approaches to living.

Today Vauban, on the site of a one time French military barracks at the edge of South West city, Freiburg, is one of Germany's prime examples of a leading edge eco-district and is known across the housing and planning world. With over 5000 residents, Vauban is one of the few eco-districts which demonstrates, showcases and provides an exemplar of large-scale low energy living, while retaining a strong community ethos. The main central part of the eco-district, with a tram line running down its central spine, is car-free, with interlinking pedestrian and cycle paths connecting much of the housing, significant tree cover, and natural features (including boulders and large stones) acting as nature playgrounds for children, and gardening areas for adults. Schools, health-centres, whole and organic food stores are part of the wider eco-district.

Vauban is a pioneering example of how eco-district and community can be co-created for the ecological future.

www.vauban.de/info/abstract.html

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vauban,_Freiburg



Design of the exhibition

As part of the community ethos to *Broadening the Conversation*, the exhibition design could be developed in a workshop format. This could include school children, students, the local Lewes community, as well as those within the Phoenix Estate community.

Talks and Workshops

Alongside the exhibition and exhibition workshops a series of events, workshops and talks will be held.

Talks - These include the following:

Adam Khan - 'On optimising good practice in architectural masterplanning' Adam Khan, Adam Khan Architects and architectural representative on the Southdowns National Parks Planning Committee.

Sarah Wigglesworth - 'The future of Bricolage', the Siobhan Davies Studio and other experiments, Sarah Wigglesworth, SWARCH.

Ashley Vale - Experiments in self build, Jackson Moulding, EcoMotive and NASBA.

Remaking Architecture - Transition Town Brixton Remakery and Architecture for Humanity UK.

The format of these talk are to be decided, but could be around a one day event or as a series of events.

Workshops

A self-build workshop would be another feature of the events run by Ashley Vale EcoMotive and NASBA.

Further events will be added as *Broadening the Conversation* develops.

This completes this initial scoping document for *Broadening the Conversation* exhibition and events. Developed by *Fourth Door Research*, August 2013.

For further information please contact *Fourth Door*:

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