

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



INSPIRE BRADFORD

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**MSA
LIVE 21**

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Partners

Inspire Bradford will be working in live collaboration with Bradford Civic Society and their representative Kieran Thompson.

Since 1942, the organisation has championed Bradford's heritage and built environment, with the mission to inspire Bradfordians to love where they live. They encourage higher standards of design and architecture in future developments and intend to achieve this within the proposed site area of Little Germany.

Agenda

Inspire Bradford

In live collaboration with Bradford Civic Society, our team Inspire Bradford focuses on the heritage area of Bradford's city centre, Little Germany. With an emphasis on building reuse and retrofitting, the project encourages our team to explore through a variety of scales as we consider the adaptation of existing buildings and master-planning. The project brief is drawn from Bradford District's Economic Recovery Plan (2020), in which the heritage site Little Germany is considered for a 'Neighbourhood Retrofit'. The project explores the themes surrounding creating a '15-minute neighbourhood' in which access to local work, retail and services are sustained within the area. Through the development a masterplan for the site, we aim to offer solutions for the city that inspire the adaptive reuse of the existing structures. Our team will work collaboratively to investigate and understand the area of Bradford, consider relevant precedents and create a design proposal that creates a 'Sustainable District'.

Inspire Bradford will predominantly tackle master-planning solutions for the Little Germany district. Within this the team will therefore develop skills in building reuse, which are becoming increasingly important as the world endures the climate emergency. On a large scale the task therefore introduces issues that are relevant in today's society and challenges that architects and urban planners will have to consider in the future. On a smaller scale our team will consider particular heritage values of buildings, deciphering the need to remove and retain aspects and study the smaller details of a building fabric. The proposed masterplan output will therefore summarise the team's explorations through site analysis, understanding the site's history, heritage, precedent explorations and propose solutions that regenerate the area of Little Germany.

Extended publication document:

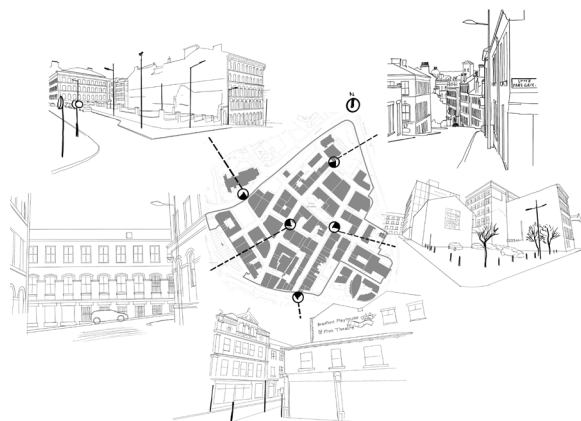


SITE ANALYSIS

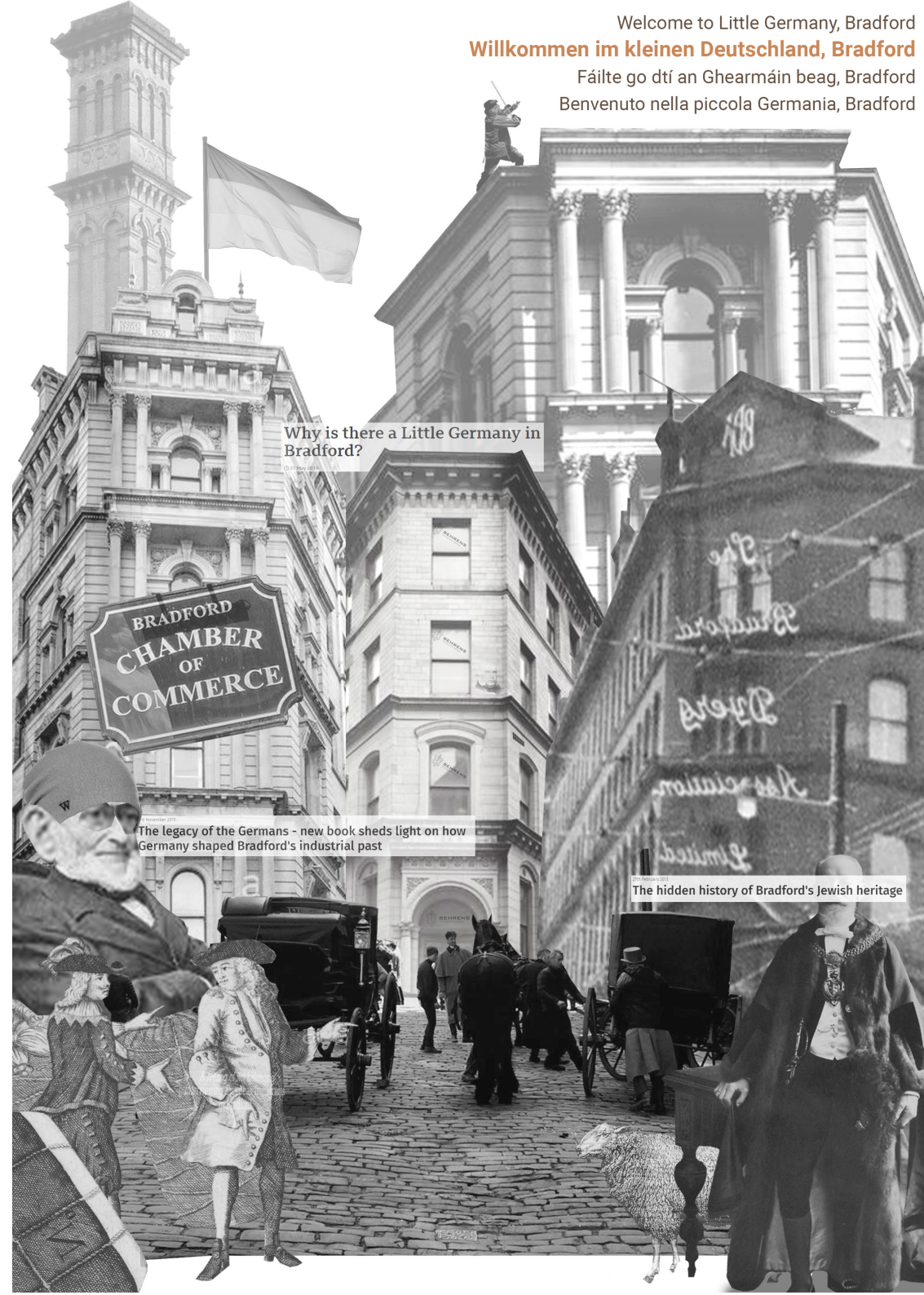
Historic Analysis

We looked into mapping this history, both chronologically through historic figure ground analysis and timelines as well as in more abstracted ways like the experimentation of photomontages. Additionally we produced mappings of the various listed buildings that are spread across the site as well as understanding what used to be in the vacant plots that are now used as car parking. Such studies encouraged constructive discussion on how building reuse might be considered in the development of masterplans and how the history of an area can be interpreted in a modern intervention.

Many of the original buildings in little Germany have been retained due to their highly decorative facades that add great historic value to the city as a whole. Mainly seen around Vicar Lane and Burnett Street, these important buildings are mostly vacant and offer no permeation from the street. The external values of Little Germany have been identified by a number of period drama shows for their historical accuracy and so bring a unique industry into the area. Other plots have seemingly been flattened and opened as city car parking spots as the car slowly took over Bradford's planning.



Welcome to Little Germany, Bradford
Willkommen im kleinen Deutschland, Bradford
Fáilte go dtí an Ghearmáin beag, Bradford
Benvenuto nella piccola Germania, Bradford



Why is there a Little Germany in Bradford?

The legacy of the Germans - new book sheds light on how Germany shaped Bradford's industrial past

The hidden history of Bradford's Jewish heritage

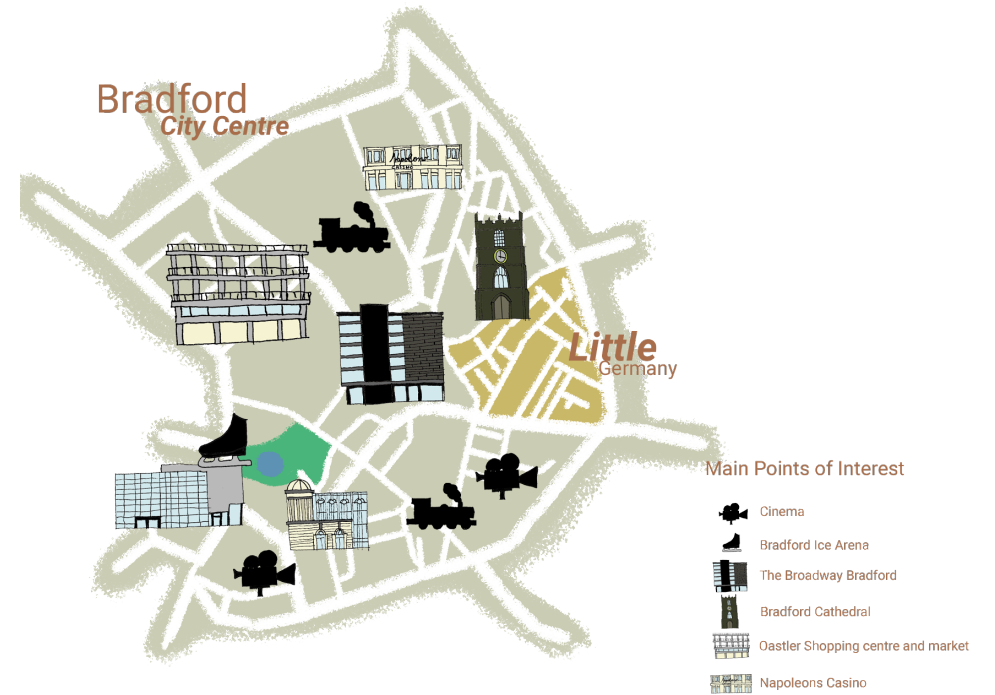
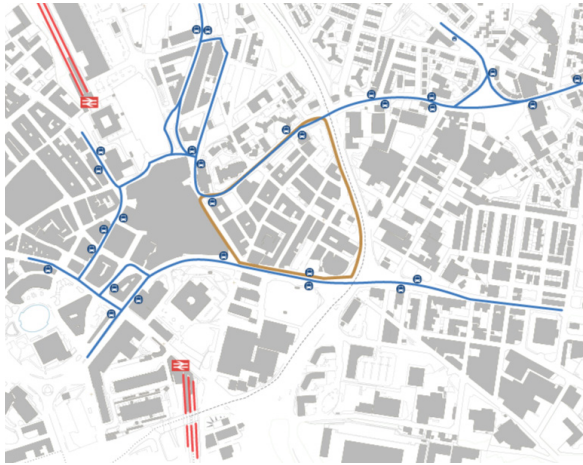
Pragmatic Analysis

To analyse the site further we looked into the current pragmatic qualities of the site such as public transport connections, traffic and pedestrian routes through Little Germany. Additionally, considering the current function of existing buildings helped formulate our approach as we better understood what should be retained and what could be lost. Looking into social aspect of the site and the amenities that already existed helped form our ideas into what might be included in our fifteen minute neighbourhood studies.

The surrounding of Little Germany provides decent public transportation. There are numerous bus stops in the south and north border of Little Germany. The site is also sandwiched between two train stations, both no further than 10 minutes walk away.

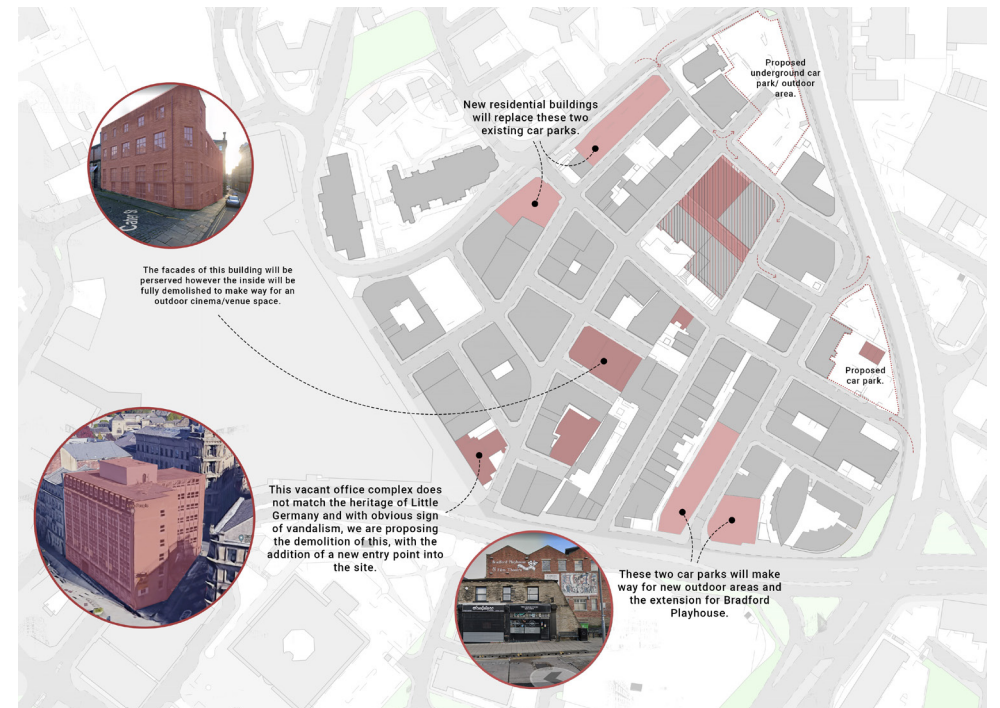
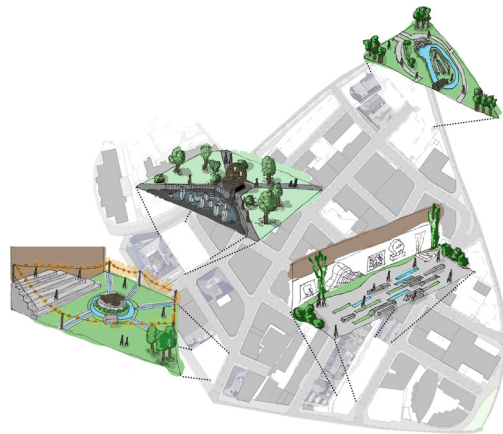
Little Germany is well-accessed from several points around the site. It is encircled by primary route on the southern and eastern side and secondary route on the north side. They create in total of nine easy access points to Little Germany.

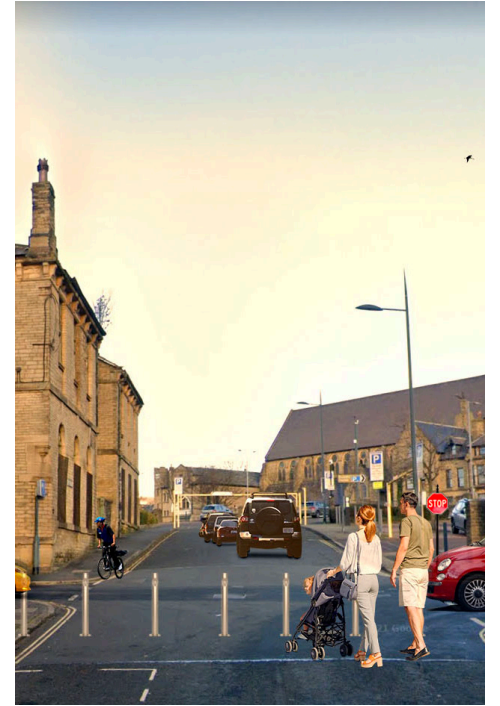
Pedestrian flow is concentrated in the south part of Little Germany as there is a pathway heading from city centre to the shopping centre that is located right next to the site. The main flow then continues around the site, heading to the cathedral in the north and other parts of city centre in the south of the site. The major movement inside Little Germany is predominantly in the car parks areas.

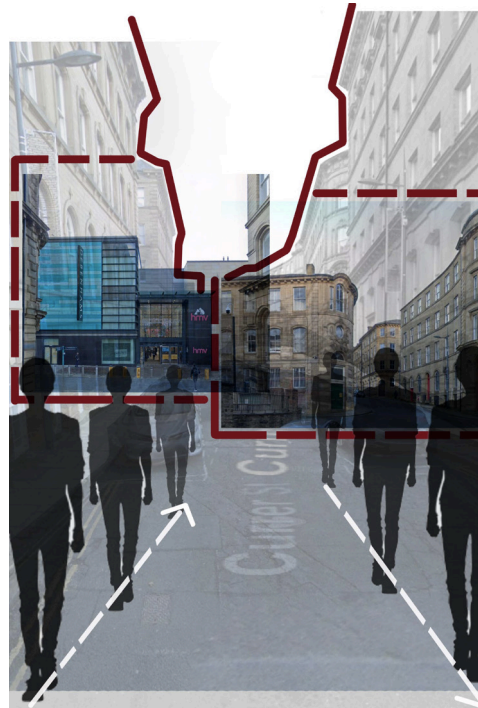


Masterplan Representation

The finalized master-plan is a culmination of the concept and approaches outlined from our mission statement and early site analysis. It looks to include social space deep into the site through the implementation of new openings within Little Germany's built fabric and the introduction of new green spaces. This inner social space is built from various public and civic buildings such as a large event space, outside cinema space and new art and design museum and work space, making the area a new destination in Bradford. These new civic and cultural spaces will be of a transient nature and not impose on the existing buildings, rather supporting it for modern day uses. Supporting these civic proposals is an economy of media and retail related businesses that inhabit the old heritage buildings within the site, providing a source of income and attraction for people to work within the city. The filmic qualities of Little Germany are then retained in this respect as the historic facades used in recent period dramas. Using Miro, two groups developed ideas for the masterplan based on our outlined principles for Little Germany. Both groups developed similar strategies for the site, locating parking and residential areas around the peripheral areas of the site and using the center as a social core for bringing new visitors into Little Germany. New pedestrian routes are introduced as cars are pushed to the outside, this opened up the center further to become a pedestrian friendly zone.







ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:
b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2021

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