

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

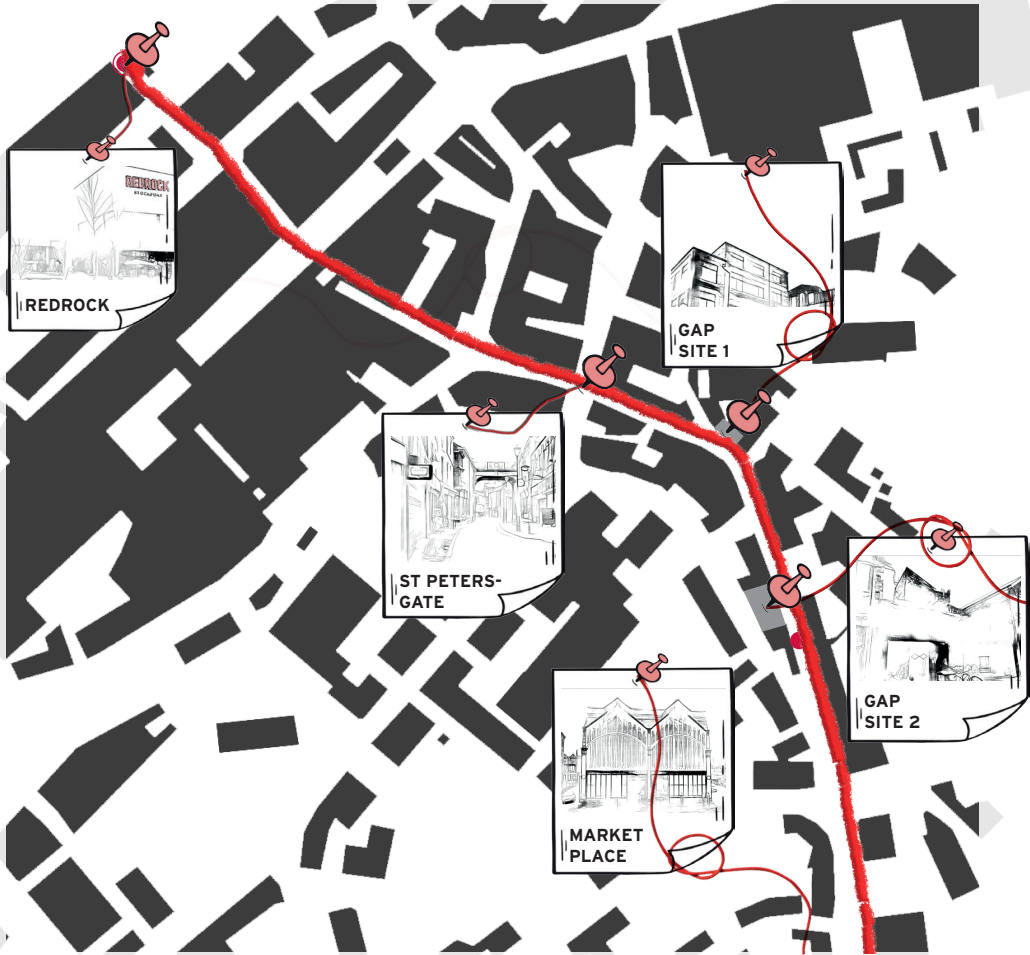
NAVIGATING STOCKPORT

AGENDA

We are Navigating Stockport, a student-led MSA team partnering with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to develop an innovative wayfinding scheme in the town center. Our project aims to establish connections between the Redrock Entertainment Complex and the Underbanks area by implementing interventions along Little Underbanks. Additionally, we will be addressing the development of two vacant sites earmarked for future projects.

TEAM

Jason Yeung
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Neeladit Nandi



Visit msa.ac.uk for more information



MSA LIVE 24

TEAM

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Jason Yeung (MArch1)

Alyssa Binti Adam Nasir (BA1)
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Jiya Yuan (BA2)
Mohammad Usman (BA2)
Pal Rishikesh Mandviwala (BA2)
Sambhav Soni (BA2)
Bowe Liu (MLA1)
Ning-Hung Kaov (MLA1)

PRINCIPLES



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY



COMMUNITY ORIENTED



ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL



SAFE + WELL MAINTAINED



COST EFFECTIVE

PARTNERS

In collaboration with Peter Haymes, an urban regeneration specialist from Stockport Council, our project focuses on establishing a new connection between Redrock Entertainment Complex and the Underbanks area by designing a wayfinding scheme along Little Underbanks, as well as redesigning two currently vacant sites.

The client has asked for an initiative that will revitalise the isolated and overlooked Underbanks, and bring awareness to the small businesses that are negatively affected by the minimal footfall in the area. While the official client is Stockport Borough Council, the small businesses will gain the most from the influx of potential customers. This project aims to benefit everyone in the community.



GROUP SITE VISIT

NAVIGATING STOCKPORT

INTRODUCTION

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, in collaboration with local stakeholders, is embarking on an exciting project aimed at revitalising the urban landscape of Stockport town centre. The initiative focuses on two key aspects: improving the walking route from Redrock through the town center to the Underbanks. As it is currently disconnected by the imposing mass of a 1960s shopping centre. Additionally designing and repurposing two derelict and vacant sites. This project seeks to bridge this gap by transforming the existing walking route into a well-lit, clearly signposted, and visually engaging pathway. By doing so, we aim to create a seamless and inspiring journey for visitors, encouraging exploration and increasing footfall across the town's Underbanks area.

The benefits of this project extend to a wide range of stakeholders including local businesses, particularly those in the food and beverage sector which will see increased patronage as improved wayfinding and appealing public spaces draw more visitors.

The ultimate vision is a transformed urban landscape that not only meets the needs of the community but also sets the stage for future growth and development.



ST PETERSGATE BRIDGE SKETCH

MSA
LIVE 24

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Throughout the first week, the team focused on precedent re search, initial concept development, and digital modelling. Activities included group discussions, sketching initial ideas, and proposing 3D site models. By the end of the first week, the team had developed refined concept proposals and began to bring ideas to reality. The second week was dedicated to further refining these concepts and preparing for the final presentation. The week was full of daily meetings and progress checks ensured that the output remained cohesive and aligned with the project goals. The team worked on finalising 3D models, concept renderings, and preparing presentation materials.

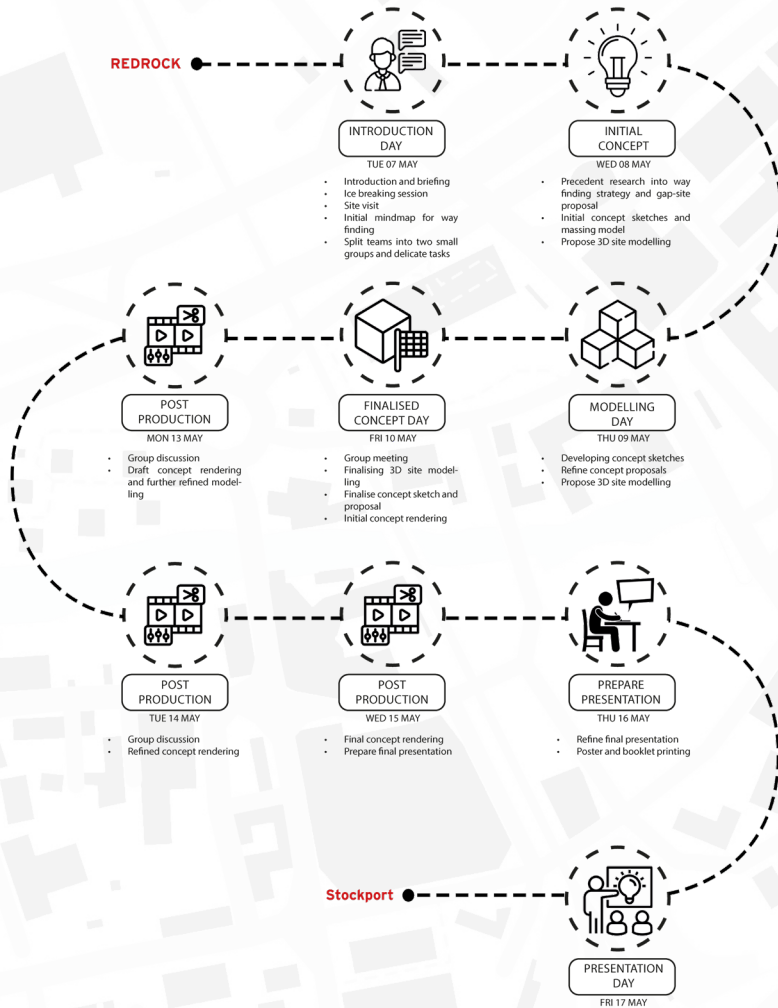
THE SITE

Our project is located along Little Underbanks in the centre of Stockport. On the first day of the action weeks, the group visited the site and walked the route where the wayfinding scheme will be implemented, via the two gap sites. This was a useful introduction to the site and people started brainstorming ideas almost immediately. The two gap sites are relatively small, so it was helpful to visit and get an understanding of the scale in reality. It was similarly helpful to walk the wayfinding route as it hard to grasp from images how long the route is, and where the best spots for installations would be. There are a few limitations to the site, in particular the narrow streets. While there isn't general vehicle access, there still has to be access for bin collection and delivery vans meaning we can't design anything permanent that will take up large amounts of space.



LITTLE UNDERBANKS SKETCH

There is also an old city wall and culvert at gap site one, a feature that must be designed around. The main constraint to the project is the cost as while the SMBC can apply for start-up costs, it has to be easy and cheap to maintain and manage in the long-term.









PROPOSED SCHEME: WAYFINDING

ABOUT

Our original strategy ideas fell under several headings: lighting, planting, installations, signage and visual indicators. Alongside these topics, we wanted to incorporate a narrative relating to the local history of Stockport and especially the Underbanks area. One main constraint that we needed to take into account was vehicular access - because while sections of the Underbanks wayfinding route aren't open to normal traffic, there still has to be access for bin collection and maintenance services and delivery vans.

This led to us to focus our efforts on interventions that either utilised space above or beside the street or ones that were portable or temporary.

KEY

-  Proposed Lighting Intervention
-  Gap Site Location
-  Sketch Viewpoint Location
-  Fabric Street Cover
-  'NEST' Module Location
-  Signage Point
-  Planting Interventions (Management of which TBC with shop owners)

LIGHTING

We have proposed low-maintenance hanging bulb strings between the buildings as this will increase luminance as well as maintaining an inviting atmosphere, this will reduce the need for fixed obtrusive lighting within the narrow Underbanks pavement.

FABRIC

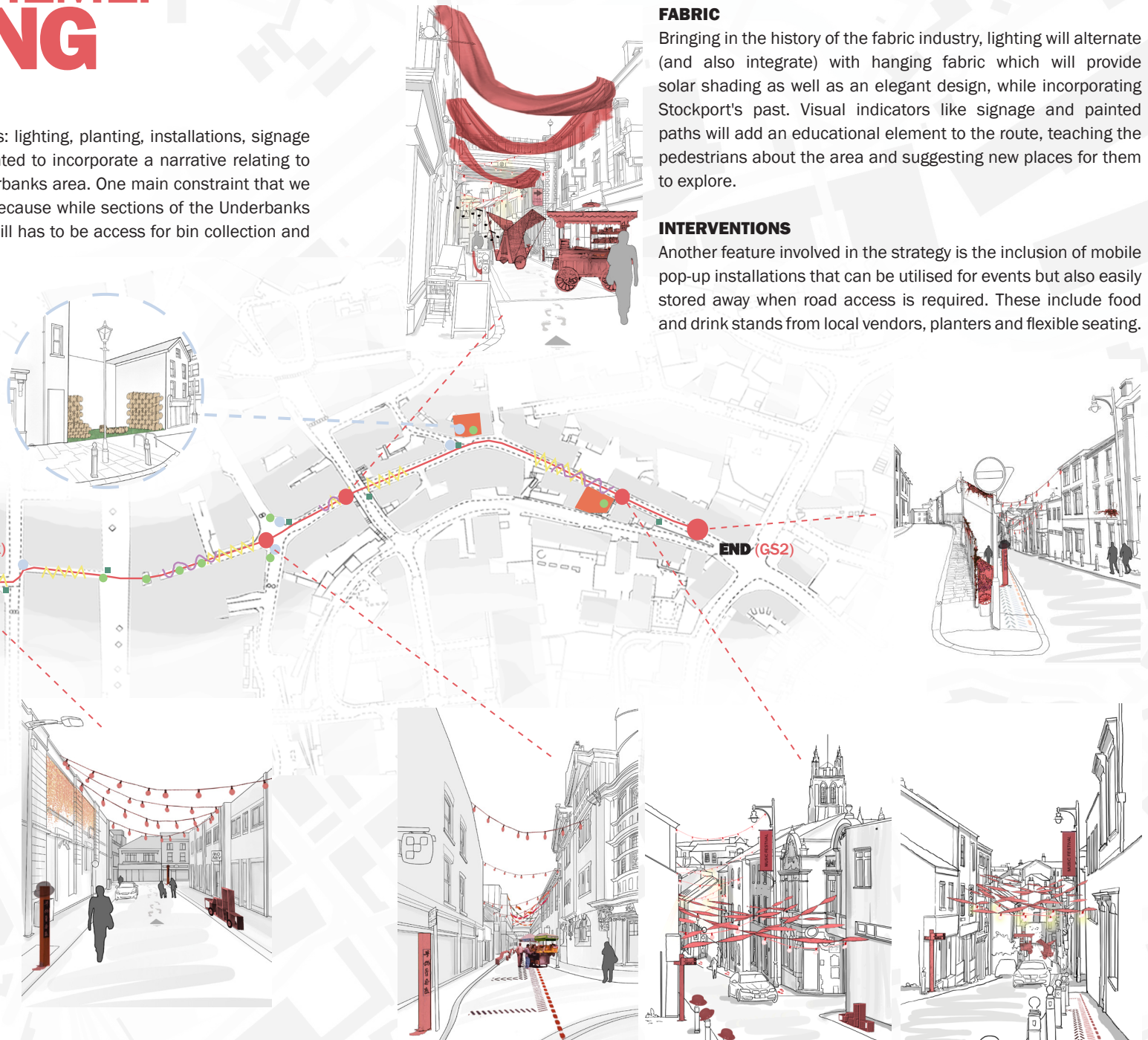
Bringing in the history of the fabric industry, lighting will alternate (and also integrate) with hanging fabric which will provide solar shading as well as an elegant design, while incorporating Stockport's past. Visual indicators like signage and painted paths will add an educational element to the route, teaching the pedestrians about the area and suggesting new places for them to explore.

INTERVENTIONS

Another feature involved in the strategy is the inclusion of mobile pop-up installations that can be utilised for events but also easily stored away when road access is required. These include food and drink stands from local vendors, planters and flexible seating.

START (RedRock)

END (GS2)



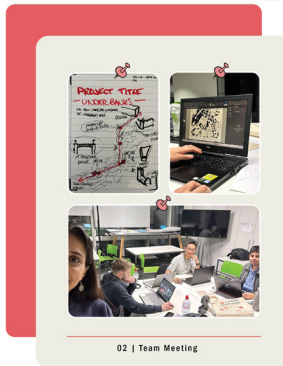
PROCESS + OUTPUTS

BUILDING UP TO MSA LIVE ACTION WEEKS

The team meticulously planned and prepared for the two-week project ahead, ensuring a comprehensive approach to revitalising Stockport's Underbanks area and the route to the Redrock. Preparation began with organising meeting schedules and outlining the project's objectives. The team conducted multiple site visits, where they explored key areas like the Underbanks and gap sites with guidance from Stockport Council collaborators.

These visits provided crucial insight into the existing conditions and the needs of the community. Client meetings were held regularly to align the project's goals with the council's vision. These discussions were instrumental in understanding the materiality, available funding, and potential outputs. The team also engaged deeply with the local community through interactive surveys, gathering valuable feedback to inform their design interventions.

SITE INTRODUCTION VISIT



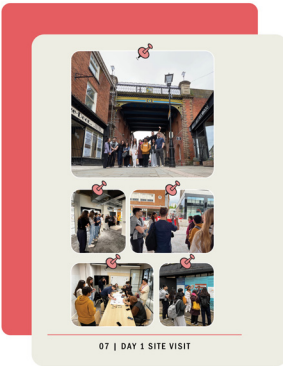
02 | Team Meeting



06 | Client Meeting

MSA LIVE BLOG POSTS

Running alongside the project, the group have been carrying out daily blog posts, keeping a record of our progress and outlining the tasks that we undertook at each stage during the project.



07 | DAY 1 SITE VISIT



12 | DAY 6 - CONCEPT MODELLING + PROGRAMME REFINEMENT



1:100 GAP SITE 1 PLAN



GAP SITE 1 VISUAL

GAP SITE 01: 'THE NEST'

ASSEMBLING MODULAR TIMBER PANELS

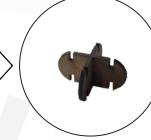
01 TIMBER PANEL
MOULD PIECE



02 COMBINATION
OF 2 PANELS



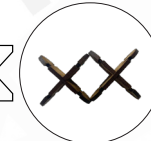
03 'X' SHAPED
STRUCTURE CREATED



06 REPEATING STEPS
01-05 TO CREATE
STRUCTURES



05 'X' MODULES SLOT
TOGETHER TO BUILD
LARGER STRUCTURE



04 REPETITION OF
STEP 03 TO CREATE
FURTHER MODULES

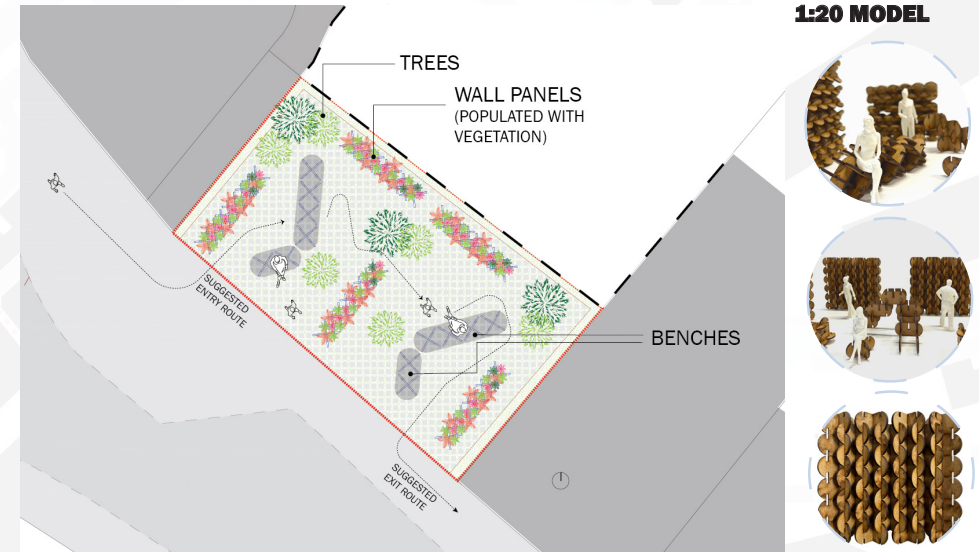
PROCESS

For Gap site 1, we wanted to create a lively interactive space populated with vegetation to enhance the dull space's biodiversity. Hence, we devised a strategy for installing modular flat pack panels that can be configured for different purposes, ensuring a low-cost yet versatile use of panels. The primary use of these panels is to create a wall system to enable the growth of different flowers/plants. This construction of the system is shown in the instruction manual below.



GAP SITE 1 CONCEPT SKETCH

These panels are not limited to creating the wall system; after creating a physical prototype of the panels, we came up with various uses, such as seating areas, steps, etc. Once developments were made, we devised a proposed floor plan consisting of the various uses of these modular panels.



1:100 GAP SITE 1 PLAN

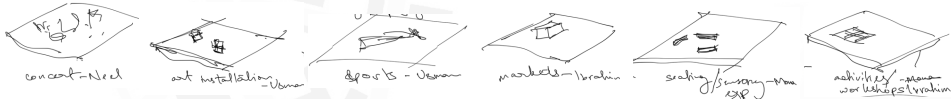
1:20 MODEL



GAP SITE 1 VISUAL

GAP SITE 02: 'POCKET PLAZA'

CONCEPT DIAGRAMMING



The aim of our project was to create a vibrant, multi-use space that appeals to younger generations while celebrating the history and diverse cultures of Stockport. Our approach involved extensive research into Stockport's heritage, followed by creating concepts that are suitable for the community, as well as the site's environment. The design is split into three distinct sections:

1. A skatepark designed to attract the younger generation that are interested in skateboarding and similar activities - promoting both physical activity and community interaction.
2. A concealed bin area for the local businesses .
3. A multi-use open space designed for a variety of recreational activities. The vibrant colours are intended to bring an inviting and aesthetically pleasing atmosphere to the space.



GAP SITE 2 CONCEPT

The open space is envisioned to be versatile with the possibility for a range of community activities. Some potential uses of the space considered were a concert space, local produce markets, a workshop platform or even an exhibition space. This would give local artists and small businesses an opportunity to display their products and bring in new customers. The overall aim is for this gap site to be a community hub designed to bring people together, celebrate local heritage, and support a wide range of activities.

GAP SITE 2 OPTIONS



ART EXHIBITION

CONCERT SQUARE

LEISURE SPACE

MARKET SPACE



GAP SITE 2 VISUAL

SMBC FEEDBACK

Feedback from Peter Haymes at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council:

- *Very professional presentation by the project team on Teams*
- *A high quality and well thought through deliverable proposal, addressing the initial brief presented.*
- *Welcome creative ideas from a fresh perspective*
- *Consideration of issues raised in the site visits, e.g. ongoing maintenance and need for bin storage.*
- *Proposal would create some much-needed sociable spaces alongside urban greening / habitat creation.*

VERBAL FEEDBACK VIA PRESENTATION

We presented our project proposal to our client via Teams, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The client appreciated the professionalism of our project team and the high-quality, of our output deliverables, thoroughly addressing the initial brief from SMBC. They welcomed our creative ideas, which brought a fresh perspective to the project. The client noted our careful consideration of issues identified during site visits, such as ongoing maintenance and the need for adequate bin storage. They were pleased with how our proposal incorporated sociable spaces and urban greenery, which would bring life to the Stockport Underbanks area as well as connecting it back to the higher footfall areas in the town centre such as Redrock entertainment centre and the Merseyway shopping high-street. Specifically, the client liked our ideas around making use of the town's industrial history with fabric and hats, as well as the modern lighting options complimenting the contemporary and historical architecture of Little Underbanks. They were very impressed with the Gap Site 2 concept proposal adjacent to the brewery and saw real potential in the proposed skatepark, which could promote partnerships with local businesses to create a dedicated skating area. Overall, the client complimented the organisation and styles of the overall outcome and presentation. They appreciated our focus on low maintenance costs and budget-friendly options, highlighting the practical benefits of our concept ideas.



IMAGES FROM PRESENTATION WITH SMBC

FINAL PROJECT REFLECTIONS

Upon reflection, the project from our perspective ran very smoothly and gave us validation in our ideas with the really positive feedback from the client following our final presentation. The team worked well from the beginning and managed to delegate tasks fairly and evenly across all the participating BA, BA+AR and MLA students that accompanied us in the two action weeks. Following the conclusion of our project and the completion of all outputs agreed with the client, we believe that the successes far outweighed the limitations, as all the students involved adapted well and showcased their talents at different stages throughout the duration of MSA Live. The group communicated efficiently through the use of WhatsApp with channels for students to communicate directly with us on their individual tasks, with a shared cloud set up for group file share. Student engagement with the project was extremely good. Limitations of the project were mostly technical, with differences in software skills causing a few hiccups in the streamlining of work. This was overcome with compromises between the students willing to use new programs to achieve the shared outcome. The main hurdle that the team had to face was management of other active deadlines alongside MSA Live - especially understanding the workloads of the BA, BA+AR and MLA students.

Overall, as a group we are thrilled with both the quality of the output and the feedback received from the client.



GROUP COLLABORATION

ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 and Masters of Architecture & Adaptive Reuse students with those in BA foundation, year 1 and year 2 and Masters Landscape Architecture 1 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 are for community benefit or 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 joined 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 6 cohorts in MSA have worked on 40 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA LIVE please contact the MSA LIVE team: msalive@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

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SOCIAL

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WEBSITE

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