

MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE

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MANCHESTER  
1824  
The University of Manchester



Metropolitan  
University



I am out  
therefore  
I am

Capital Gay  
Manchester fury  
at club raid

LOVE

MSA  
LIFE 22

MANCUNIAN GAY  
LLOYD GEERING  
PUBLIC MEETING  
OPERA HOUSE

## Team

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**Wan Yee Shiak** (BA 02)

**Madeleine Thacker** (BA 02)

**Charlotte Olivia Farrell** (BA 02)

## Partners

Our primary collaborator for this project is Anmar Azzouz, an analyst at Ove Arup & Partners; London. He is a member of the CITY Collective, and his research interests include divided cities, local and international responses to destruction and displacement, and the politics of reconstruction. Anmar's work has been published in different platforms including LSE Middle East blog, New Statesman, the Independent, CITY and the Conversation. Additionally, it was also shortlisted for the RIBA's President Research Awards, and one of his papers, Young Syrian Architects (YSA) at the time of crises, was awarded the best international paper in 2019 by the Chartered Institute of Building.

Our second collaborator is the Proud Trust, an LGBTQ+ organisation that supports young LGBTQ+ people through youth groups, peer support, mentoring programs and the Proud Connections chat service. Their roots can be traced back to the 1970's and the Gay Youth Group that met in Manchester.

They became a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2005, after extensive consultation with LGBTQ+ young people and youth workers across the north-west of England.

In the years since, they have continued to put LGBTQ+ young people at the forefront of their work. Supporting young people across the north-west and beyond through youth groups, peer support, mentoring programmes and more. They work with and support adults in trusted positions, including schools and other children's services, helping them make spaces more LGBTQ+ inclusive as well as improving confidence in tackling discrimination and celebrating diversity.

## Agenda

For our 2022 Manchester School of Architecture Live Project we have researched the history of LGBTQ+ communities in Manchester, exploring the spaces and places that shaped these communities, and have been shaped by them.

Creating a magazine was the main focus of our project. This allowed us to present a history of the LGBTQ+ community in Manchester in a way that is easy to digest for those reading it. Additionally, we wanted to be able to give something back to ARUP and The Proud Trust. Once we had designed this magazine we were able to print copies, and these physical copies are now on their way to our partners, as well as all those who helped in the creating and researching process.

Our magazine aims to explore the following eras:

1960- Pre-decriminalisation, The New Union, The North West Homosexual Law Reform Committee is founded, Rose Robertson sets up Parents Enquiry.

1970 - Post-decriminalisation, Manchester Gay Alliance Switchboard opens in the basement of University of Manchester, and the first edition of The Mancunian Gay is published.

1980- Manchester Pride is born, Europe's first purpose built gay centre is built on Sidney Street, Manchester City council forms the Equal Opportunities Committee led by Paul Fairweather and Maggie Turner, AIDs Epidemic and Section 28.

1990- Manto opens as the first bar in the area not to be hidden away, Albert Kennedy Trust opens in Manchester and Mardi Gras is established.

Modern day- The Proud Trust, The Lesbian and Gay Foundation is formed, Manchester hosts Europride, Carl Austin-Behan becomes Manchester's first openly gay Lord Mayor, and Gaydio commences full-time broadcasting.

We have aimed to accomplish this through collaborating as a community, holding workshops, expanding our expertise, and displaying our findings in the magazine. Simultaneously, we hope we have successfully improved the skills of the undergraduate students with tutorials and seminars using multiple software for modelling, creating and curating.



# Tour

## Manchester Gay Village

As a part of the project we arranged to take the undergraduate students to Canal Street to familiarise themselves with the areas of the Gay Village as it is today.

Some of the locations visited included G-A-Y building, Proud Trust location on Sidney St, Bloom St and the Alan Turing Memorial in addition to the remainder of Canal Street. These location contextualised the research and the understanding the students had of the history of Manchester and of the Proud Trust organisations which Emily Crompton presented to the students about but also gave a background knowledge for some of the scheduled

presentations and interviews planned later in the week.

During the tour we were able to introduce some of the iconic people and buildings that have established Manchester as a LGBTQ+ friendly city.

Throughout the day we asked for each student to produce an individual creative output from their visit of something that resonated with them, or that they felt captured their experience within the Gay Village. These could be a sketch, collage, painting or any preferred

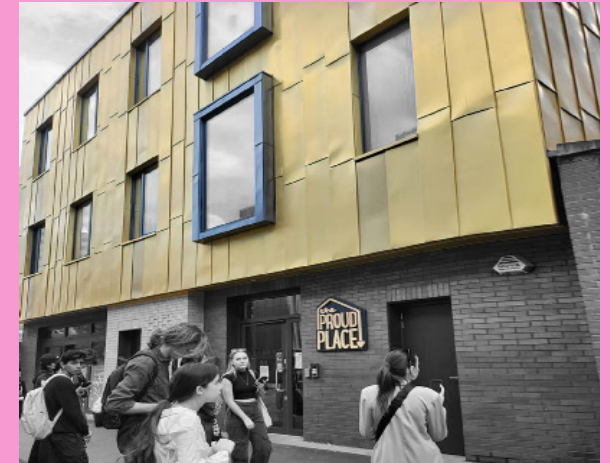
medium.

Although the tour was a success in familiarising the students with the existing LGBTQ+ spaces around Manchester the tour was focussed on the popular locations and gave an overview of the history and due to limited knowledge at this stage of the project we weren't able to introduce smaller stories, profiles or locations which may have made for a more personal connection with the spaces visited. After speaking with Paul Fairweather who works with the Proud Trust in Greater Manchester about his experiences, HIV and work we were made aware of many more locations and shared his own tour notes which although include many of the spaces we did visit would add to the experience and provide a broader perspective of Manchester history.

Additionally, Paul was able to enlighten us on some of the lost history of Manchester including the Lewis's store cafe, which stands where Primark now does, which became an unofficial Gay Cafe whilst homosexuality was not something that was openly accepted.

### The Proud Trust

Visiting The Proud Place located just off Oxford Road. following our talks with Emily Crompton and in preparation for the talk with Paul Fairweather, the students were able to visit a location that has developed from an underground basement to a gold and proud centre for the trust to operate and act as a home for Manchester's LGBTQ+ youth. Illustrating the progress made since the Proud Trust was established.



### The New Union

The New Union Hotel first opened in 1860 and was one of the first openly queer space in Manchester, hosting night-life and show events including Drag Carabet and karaoke nights. Located in the heart of Canal st. its presence as a openly gay space aided in the development of the village from a concealed underground space to the welcoming and inclusive landmark it has developed into today.



### Alan Turing Memorial

Noted as 'Founder of Computer Science' Alan Turing's Bronze memorial can be found in Sackville Park where his contribution to the allied victory of WWII following his success in cracking the enigma code and contributions to mathematics is celebrated.

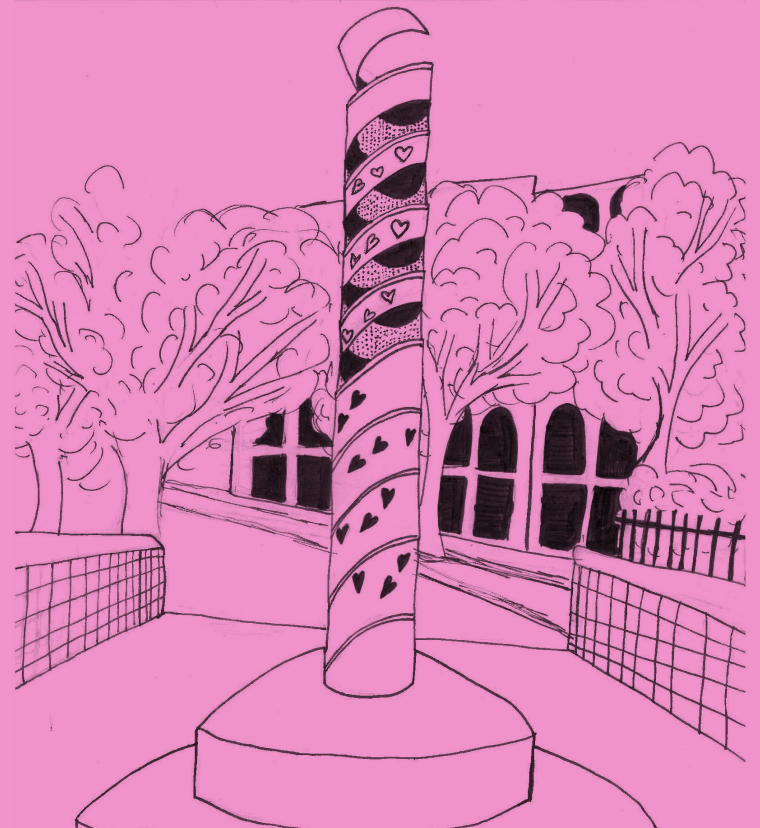


# OUT PUTS FROM THE TOUR FROM THE STUDENTS

Canal Street Tour sketches  
by Madeleine Thacker



The Beacon of Hope Sketch  
by Safeya El Dardiri



Canal Street Sketch by  
Cheng Tianmo



Emergence of Queers  
collage by Chen Yaxin



# Archive & Interviews

Collecting primary and secondary materials

was an essential component of our study since it allowed us to connect with and learn about the many periods of the LGBTQ community.

Our students took on the challenge of visiting Manchester's Central Library to acquire an abundance of archive information to help in the historical background utilised as content for the zine. We appreciate the numerous discussions, presentations and community figures keen to share their stories and experiences.

The group first started with an in-depth archive search by Manchester Central Library. Then, to divide the tasks, we allocated each member to a specific era of their choice, and they subsequently extracted all the relevant data for the project.

This was done with Google Drive so that everyone could read what each individual was found, and it could be organised chronologically. So, while rainbow flags are regularly seen flying on the walls and outside places where drag queens, the LGBTQ+ community, and supporters publicly enjoy themselves nowadays, the papers date back to the 1960s, when legal discrimination against homosexual people existed.

Many team members were taken aback by their findings since they had no idea how much history existed behind the LGBTQ+ community and how it had all been kept hidden. As a result, we had a lengthy debate about what inclusive interventions we can do as architects for the community. But, as a result, people have a sense of belonging, and their pasts are not hidden.

After the undergraduates extracted the information from the archives, it was time to compile and organise it into particular eras and themes. These formed the significant pages of the zine, and the website' produced a graphic chronology. Along with the text, the team worked

on creating collages and illustrations to help tell the story of the LGBTQ+ Centre with the medium of their choice. Following creating their collages and illustrations, the team began work on the Zine pages, integrating historical information with visually appealing pages. We divided the students into three groups based on their talents, and three of them demonstrated their digital and physical abilities. Finally, the curation team began selecting and generating the zine and website pages using InDesign.

As well as the archival research, it was essential to require primary data. As a result, we organised a few presentations, speeches and interviews to give students a sense of what it was like for individuals in the community and the changes since then.

Guest speaker 1 – Emily Crompton

In collaboration with The Proud Trust, Emily has played a significant role in discovering and tracking the history and design of the Manchester LGBTQ+ Centre. She assisted The Proud Trust in rebuilding the centre by acting as an expert advisor on the strategy. We were lucky enough to get her to give us an insight into how the LGBTQ+ centre has developed over time and what her role was as an architect, how she was involved during different times and why. Now that the building has been completed, Emily's involvement does not end here. She continues to research and study the rebuilt centre and provide walking tours on how Manchester became the first city to utterly public fund an LGBTQ+ centre.

Guest speaker 2 – Ammar Azzouz

We had the opportunity to work with Ammar Azzouz, Architect in ARUP and Research Associate at the University of Oxford, alongside us throughout this project. Firstly we presented our outputs to him to gain some direction on

how we could take this project forward during the first few weeks of starting. Ammar gave us a great insight into the work on inclusive design and queer in public space he is working on in collaboration with the University of Westminster. We looked into how we can make cities accessible and safe for different communities and how can we move beyond the community. Ammar gave a presentation that allowed us to look at other issues related to inclusion and responsive cities, such as accessibility, memory and heritage, focusing on the built environment. It was essential for us to think about the emerging and the disappearance of queer space and its meaning. This struck discussions between students on the questions we need to ask as architects, such as why these spaces emerge and where they occur.

Guest speaker 3 – Paul Fairweather

Paul Fairweather gave us an inspiring talk. In 1978 he left college to work for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality. Then started to work at Manchester Gay Centre, which was round the corner in Bloom Street, and was involved in the organisation's base there and the Manchester Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. During the 1980s, he set up a magazine called Mancunian Gay. Then at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, he worked on writing about AIDS in the magazine. In 1985, with a group of people, gay men mainly based around the Manchester Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, they set up the Manchester AIDS line. Since then, many organisations and issues have occurred with Section 28, which have had a massive impact on the new generation of younger gay people. We were influenced and happy to hear how slowly the youth group have benefited from The Proud Trust and the community spaces emerging within Manchester. Paul currently gives tours to people explaining Manchester's rich history from the 1950s and 1960s as the community and spaces were being hidden to now ways of emerging and creating a sense of belonging for the community.



# Basement Mag

## OUR FINAL OUTPUT

The main output for the project was a magazine called 'Basement', the name inspired by the basement office which was the first location of the now Joyce Layland LGBTQ+ in Manchester. The history of the LGBTQ+ centre is presented in both pictures (photos, collages and sketches, etc) and literary compositions (short paragraphs and interview records, etc). The zine aims to not only help educate on the LGBTQ+ history in an interesting way, but also will hopefully contribute to the Proud Trust's resources, attracting attention and support toward them and their work.

In the magazine, the LGBTQ+ history of Manchester is separated into four eras: 1960-1970: the pre-decriminalization, 1970-1980: emergence of queerness, 1980-1990: section 28 and AIDs, and 1990 till now: liberation. During the two weeks, the group researched this period of history from a variety of information resources.

Presentations from architects working on LGBTQ+ community spaces and people from the Proud Trust helped the students understand this history from different perspectives. The group were able to access to the valuable archival paper publications including the Mancunian Gay through a deep search of the Central Library Archive. Incorporating outputs and information learnt during a field trip to the gay village and the Proud Trust, we tried to discover signs of LGBTQ+ history. For example, we found the history of AIDs is printed on the railing in the Sackville Garden, which is easy to read for those visiting the garden. Collating all this research in a digital drive for the group to share and pull information from to inspire individual pieces to feature in the magazine where each of the undergraduate students chose an era they found interested in the process and produced a piece of work—a paragraph, a collage or whatever they want regarding their strengths.









Puzzles

Along with curating historical material for the Zine, we wanted to incorporate a few puzzles at the end to encourage readers to engage and interact with the information they read. The curation team students were assigned this task to create a crossword and word search based on the knowledge and research they have collected since the start of this project.

Mancunian Gay

Researching the 1960s history of Mancunian gay, it was evident to see that the students found several events taking place from the discrimination against LGBTQ+ to also many public figures such as Freddie Mercury, the lead vocalist of the rock band queen, stood out for the LGBTQ+ community and manifested that it is nothing wrong to pursue the right sexual preferences and orientation. Luckily, the situation has been mitigated, and people are starting to understand and accept this community today; the LGBTQ+ community are accepted and are free from society. Do not need to care about what others think, and be who you are.

Please find a QR code below, for access to entire magazine.



# Wordsearch

A I F O R I E N T A T I O N H I V Y O J Q A A C  
J T K G O S M A T T A C H I N E S O C I E T Y W  
O U G B B Z H E O X Q G L S S T H G I R N A M U H  
L H I N J X A W Y M H D C M J O Q F Z P K X P G  
M A O Z E C I H U S I S M A I L L I W R J V E R  
O I U Z U E P C I V E V N O T A C H O I C E E I  
B T D X C X U E C N E T P E C C A Q O D V L S Y  
E K T E E U X Q S T T I A E G B V W I E N E I H  
R N E Q N S L C G R O O V X S T N W U C N S T G  
G W R S K T I E S A I D R L Z S Y F M P O B I L  
E J O U K U I B Q N R T B E G P G Z N D N I L L  
F U J B S G F T Y S L D H P T M Z E R V F A I E  
E Q B I N W V T Y G L G A K T E Q O N A I N B T  
L K C J H I F J T E A I R I K V H W X D I P F T  
L Y W N C H A W J N W V V Y A R Y F V U E D O N  
V P C K O V P R V D E E E R U C G J V C I R S O  
H F Y D M M G Z L E N F Y N Z A I J V U L O R D  
O B D Y I H H W S R O N M U R T M I L Z Z B E K  
D N D G N O I L X M T I I X F F P C P M W T S  
G Y M L G Y H I E U S C L O D Z U Y L T O X H A  
E K I A O G R R R Z W L K G C O N E I N C G G T  
S N Y A U Z R F Z R S Y T I L A U Q E V H U U N  
F R S D T M E N O S R S I X Y R A G Z P A W A O  
P F Y T I L A U X E S O M O H Q W U S C T R D D

Acceptance	AIDS	Bisexual	CIS
Coming Out	Daughters of Bilitis	Dont Ask Dont Tell	Drag Queen
Equality	Gay	Gender	GLAAD
Harvey Milk	Hetero	HIV	Identity
Human Rights	Homosexuality	Lesbian	Mattachine Society
Not a Choice	Obergefell v. Hodges	One Inc	Orientation
Pride	Rainbow	Rev. J. R. Williams	Stonewall Riot
Transgender	Zhe		

# 1960

## pre-decriminalisation

### GAY LEGAL ADVICE

Legal problems just because you're gay?  
For confidential help and advice contact

**GLAD 01-821 7672**

7-10 every evening

### THE DANCE FACTORY

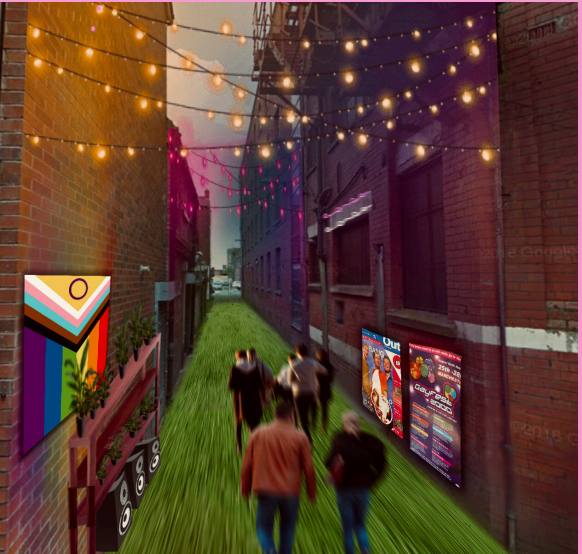
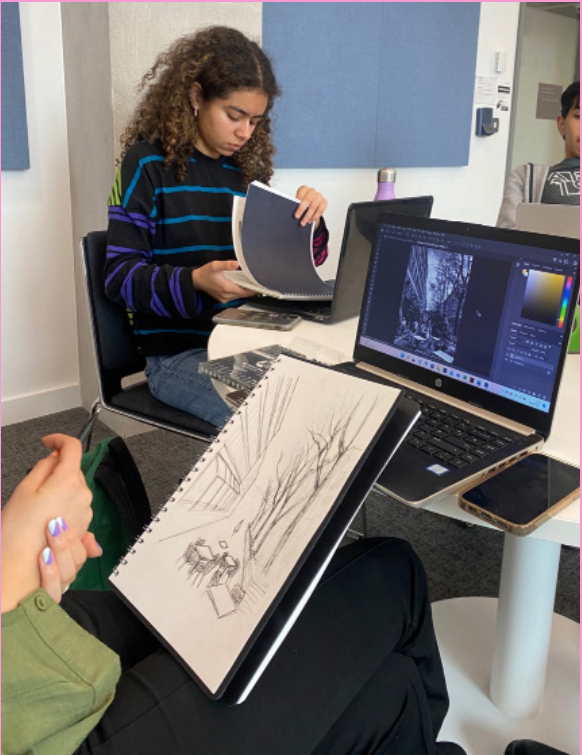
WEDNESDAYS 10 PM - 1 AM  
CABARET EVERY WEEK  
FEB 13th "LIPS & LASHES"  
IN THE OUTRAGEOUS PINK SHOW  
101 BRADSHAWGATE BOLTON TEL: 25209

# Reflections

Skills Workshop : Initially intending to host a skills workshop for the undergraduates to ensure they can learn any publishing, modelling or rendering software. Although after assessing their skills during the first week and enquiring about what software they wish to use many already had established skills in the software chosen. Thus this was no longer necessary and any software queries were answered as and when they occurred during the week.

Online Exhibition : During the planning phase of the project we intended to create both a zine and online exhibition of the work produced and found. This was intended to be a 3D modelled space intended for online viewers to meander through. This although due to time constraints and re-assessing the scope of the project following background research and planning before the two weeks commenced this was reduced to the zine as sole output. This enabled us to better capture the research, interviews and creative output produced by the student without compromising the quality. Although to add a digital viewing method the zine will be distributed digitally and accessible via QR Code.

The project outcome was successful in depicting the chosen eras and the student creative work exceeded expectations. The redefined scope of the project enabled additional time to refine the outputs and ensure





## ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE 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 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 550 students from 4 cohorts in MSA have worked on 35 projects with partners.

## QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA LIVE please contact the MSA LIVE team:

**[msalive@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:msalive@mmu.ac.uk)**

## BLOG

**[live.msa.ac.uk/2022](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2022)**

## SOCIAL

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**@MLA\_TheMSArch**

## WEBSITE

**[www.msa.ac.uk](http://www.msa.ac.uk)**