# MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE YOUNG MA(R)KERS

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MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester

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### Team

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### Partners

**Based in Greater Manchester, the Architecture** School for Children (TASC) has been working with young people of all ages over the past 18 years. Managed by Dan Wheatley and **Catherine Clements, TASC has worked with** children and communities to bring together people and the wider community to view their environment in a creative perspective. They aim to develop people's creative talents from a young age, help children to form lifelong relationships with the community and the city, and raise aspirations of young people to create healthy and happy communities. They have also partnered with organisations such as MMU. UoM and RIBA to engage with architecture students and achieve the aims of TASC.

Didsbury High School is keen to develop students' awareness towards the power of design from an early age. The role of a designer is to provide solutions for basic human needs. Built around real-world problem-based learning, the curriculum of CAD/CAM allows students to understand iterative design processes, in addition to the importance of sustainability and materiality in this day and age. A cohort of talented Year 8 students, who are eager to learn about architecture, are able to develop new skills about drawing, model making, and designing through this project.

# Agenda

#### Young Ma(r)kers

Young Ma(r)kers is a collaborative project with The Architecture School for Children (TASC), who are aiming to create a mobile gallery for young people of Manchester. The goal of the project is to help young artists make a mark in the city by creating an art gallery that is transportable, adaptable and flexible to be placed anywhere in Manchester. As a creative space for young people designed by young people, the space will encourage young people to express their creativity and showcase their artwork.

Our team has worked closely with year 8 students from Didsury High School (DHS) to design the gallery and workshop space. Our final design consists of a symmetrical box with operable extensions on both ends. The building form likens to a tunnel, for visitors to gain an immersive experience surrounded by creative work. Divided into three parts, the middle section of the gallery is the main exhibition space, and the extensions provides more multi-functional space as required. Although the target demographic of this project is the young people of Manchester, we are also considering people of all ages, therefore interactive facades are installed for people to engage with each other.

Collaboration is imperative in this project. In the process of co-designing a gallery, we believe in exchanging ideas within and beyond the discipline of architecture. We hope to promote the notion of sustainability from a young age, so our choice of materiality and construction is kept as simple as possible. The structure of the gallery consists of timber columns and beams, in addition to plywood panels, so there is a combination of interior and exterior space. The frames are easily assembled and disassembled, and can be easily transported due to its compactness.

In celebration of the young people of Manchester, this project will form part of an exhibit as part of Manchester City Council's initiative, 'Our Year 2022'. We hope to contribute to the local community and inspire the wider community as the mobile gallery becomes a creative hub that celebrates the young people within the community. Before starting the design process, it was crucial to acknowledge the key points we wanted to achieve for this project. Our main objectives for the gallery is that it should be mobile, flexible and adaptable.

To explore the dynamics and categorise the different motions of the mobile gallery, we split the students into two teams with each team focusing on a specific functional movement. The first group focused on the movement of situating the mobile gallery on wheels (refer to images on page 3). They took inspiration from simple structures on wheels such as a caravan and trailer. further developing the flexbile mechanism that these mobile structures allow. such as opening of a canopy or a full extension to the back of the structure. The second aroup focused on the movement of folding (refer to images on page 4). They took forward the idea of creating a flexible skeletal frame that can bend and shape itself to the site, a concept true to the function of folding. The brief was to design a mobile gallery that is simple, cheap and easy to install, with emphasis on simple connections.

Experimenting with different forms of communicating the design ideas,we hve produced a variety of work ranging from sketches to models. The manual action of drawing and folding paper allowed a more physical approach to the process design that resulted in a simple, yet effective design that suited our brief.





In collaboration with the Didsbury High School, we held workshops to share ideas and lean technical skills. The first workshop focused on producing a new mobile gallery design, yet again focusing on the movement of folding and wheels. The sharing of the ideas through discussions enabled a design from a younger perspective. It was important for us to start a brand new design to allow the DHS students to truly be expressive with their ideas. The sketches and models all focused on the mobility and flexibility of the mobile gallery. It was imperative that we listened to the inputs from the DHS students. since the mobile gallery is designed by young people for young people.

The combination of the ideas resulted in a multi-functional interactive space that could be used as an exhition space or a workshop space. The central box referenced the initial ideas of the MSA students, while the extension of the timber frames was developed by the DHS students. The workshops allowed the students from both schools to engage with each other. New skills, such as technical drawings, were taught to the DHS students. by the MSA students.

This project was a successful collaboration and a rewarding experience for both the MSA and the DHS students. The success stemmed from the creativity and belief that young people from various age groups can come together and produce a piece of art designed by the youth for the youth.





It had been a great pleasure to collaborate with the DHS students on this project. During the design process, they contributed great ideas and they produced amazing sketches and models. The final design was an integration of the ideas of the MSA and DHS students, which showed the power of collaboration between young people. As a team, we also created a physical scale model together to demonstrate how the extending mechanism of the mobile gallery worked.





































## 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 coordination 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

#### BLOG live.msa.ac.uk/2022

#### SOCIAL

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#### WEBSITE

www.msa.ac.uk