

**MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE**

**NEW SPACE, NEW SONG**

**GROUP 19**



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**MSA  
LIVE 23**

## Team

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**CHENG PENG** (BA2)

**MANKI JASMINE HO** (BA2)

## Partners

Kingdom Life, formerly Sharon Church and Youth Centre, are an Old Trafford-based community that currently has a local landmark church and facility on Chorlton Road. Their mission: Restoring the Spirit, Renewing the Soul, Rebuilding Lives, Replicating Kingdom Life.

Kingdom Life are more than a church, they provide a hub for the surrounding community to congregate, help each other and reach out to build real relationships with those in need in Manchester, through Sunday morning gatherings, BBQs, walks out in the wilderness, or exercise in the gym.

The site currently consists of a church, built in 1877, and a youth centre, built in 1972, with a large amount of surrounding land. The site is located adjacent to Merlins Park, and a mix of high-rise housing and 2-storey terraced housing, and a number of historic buildings that are now used as an industrial estate.

Kingdom Life would like to expand these facilities to accommodate a larger community on site, enhancing their current programme with classrooms, an industrial kitchen, a multi-functional hall, a gym, and short-term housing, both for local students and for anyone looking to rebuild their lives with Kingdom Life.

Site Address: Chorlton Rd, Old Trafford, Stretford, Manchester M16 7WQ

Find out more on Kingdom Life's media platforms:

- Youtube: @KingdomLifeManchester

(<https://www.youtube.com/@KingdomLifeManchester/featured>)

- Facebook: KingdomLifeManchester

(<https://www.facebook.com/KingdomLifeManchester/>)

- Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/kingdom-life-intl-church-31666735263>

# Agenda

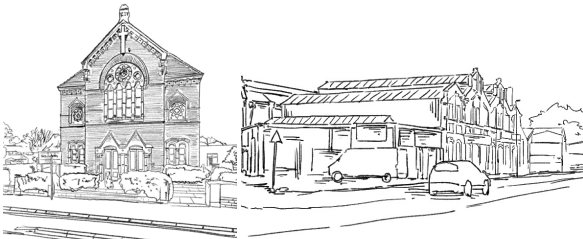
## New Space, New Song

New Space, New Song is a strategic planning project, collaborating with the Old Trafford-based church and youth centre, Kingdom Life. Kingdom Life provides support for community members to learn, play, and grow through their adult educational programmes, community services, and youth centre facility with space for education in the arts, sports, and building children's futures. The core members of Kingdom Life are doing a fantastic job of this already but feel limited by their existing facilities: 1) the congregation hall is too small, and has inappropriate circulation that is distracting for those in worship, and limited supporting amenities for the hall's functions. 2) The youth centre is not appealing to the youth community and has limited flexibility for different types of learning activities. 3) there is a broken connection between the church and the youth centre, and limited usefulness of the current surrounding land

The collaborative project was for Kingdom Life to get some help from the MSA students to visualize an overall site strategy for the community base to expand, both by maximizing the potential of the existing facilities, and by adding new spaces, suitable for the diverse community's needs. Please continue through this publication to see how our two action weeks went, and how our proposed site strategy was developed.

# UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

Our project site is located on Kingdom Life and Sharon Youth Center. It's in southwest of Manchester city center. At the beginning of the project, we visited the site as a team and conducted documentation and research on the surrounding area and the interior of the buildings. Through observation and communication with collaborators, we gained a comprehensive understanding of the current state of the site. Based on the site visit, we created sketches of the site, made collages depicting the site, and produced site analysis diagrams, showcasing everyone's understanding of the design possibilities for the site.

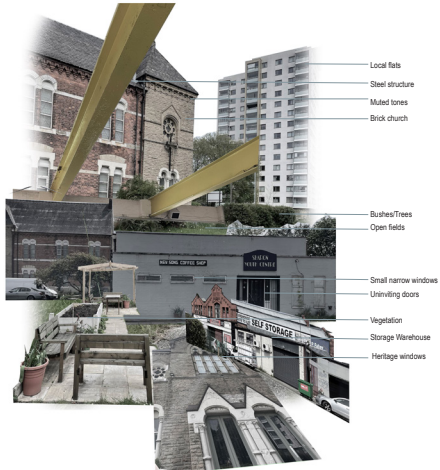


Top Image: Photo of Site Visit

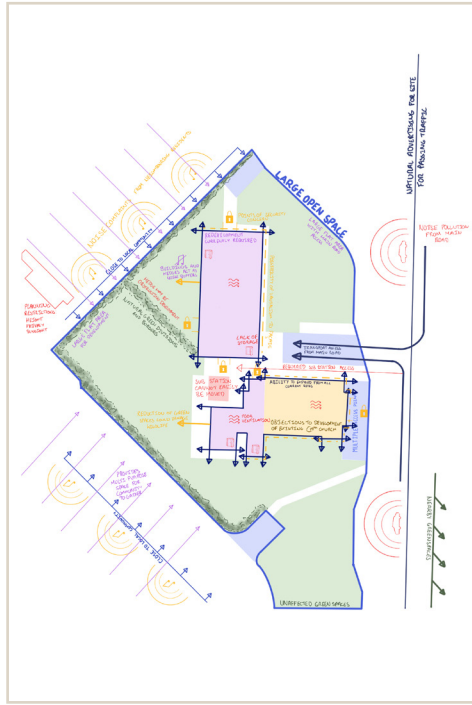
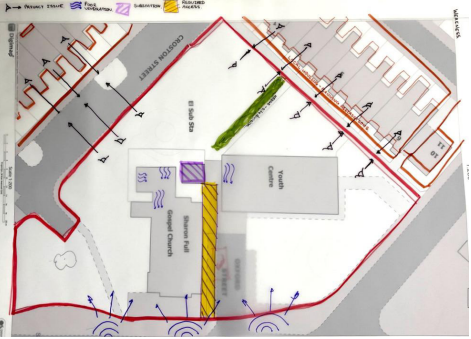
Middle Images: Sketch around the site

Bottom Image: Analysis of current situation around the site

# COLLAGES AROUND THE SITE



# SWOT ANALYSIS



# CONCEPT SITE STRATEGY 1

The first concept site strategy is focused on retaining the existing buildings and extending them to fit in the increased building programme. A new glazed entrance was proposed between both buildings along with an extension to the side of the existing church and an extension to the front of the youth centre to help create an active frontage.

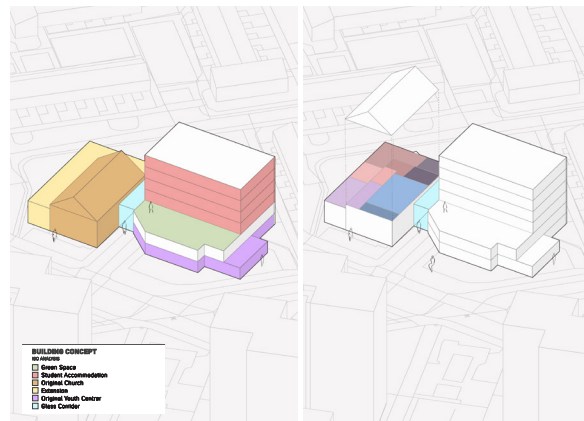
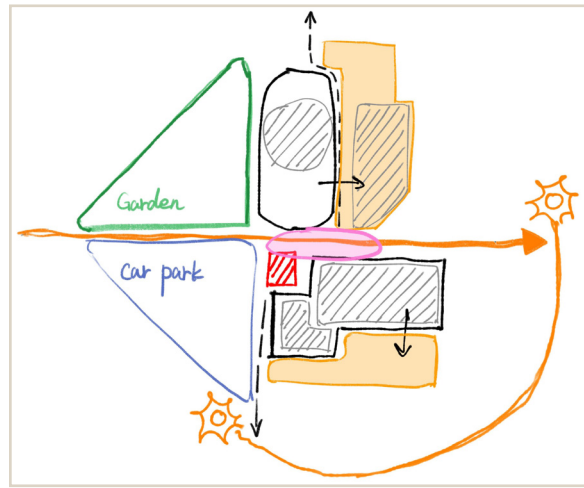


Image on top: Concept strategy diagram showing the idea about extension

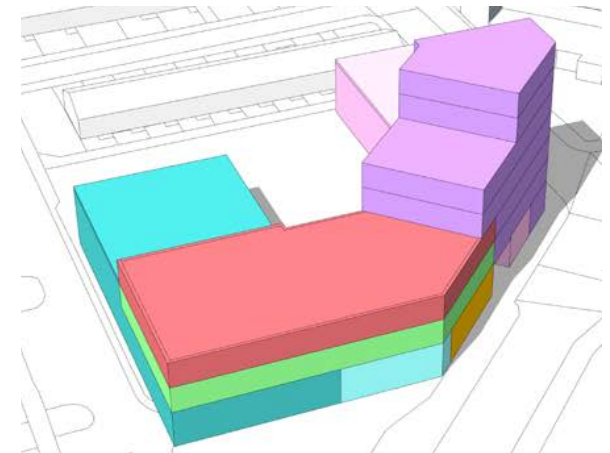
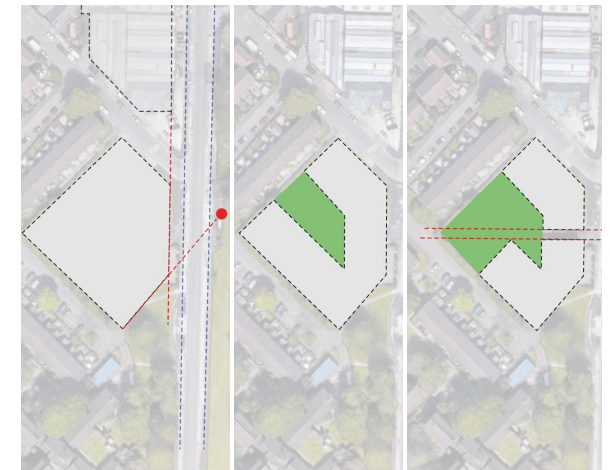
Middle images: Initial Massing idea showing different functional space

# CONCEPT FLOOR PLAN LAYOUT



# CONCEPT SITE STRATEGY 2

Our second design strategy focused on removing the existing youth center and church on the site and constructing a new community center and student dormitories. In this strategy, our principle is to align the main portion of the building along Chorlton Road side and enclose a garden space on the western side of the site, closer to the community. Additionally, we aim to establish a connection between the garden area and the main entrance, as well as the main road, by creating an entrance space that spans across the building in an east-west direction.



Top Images: Design Concept Diagrams

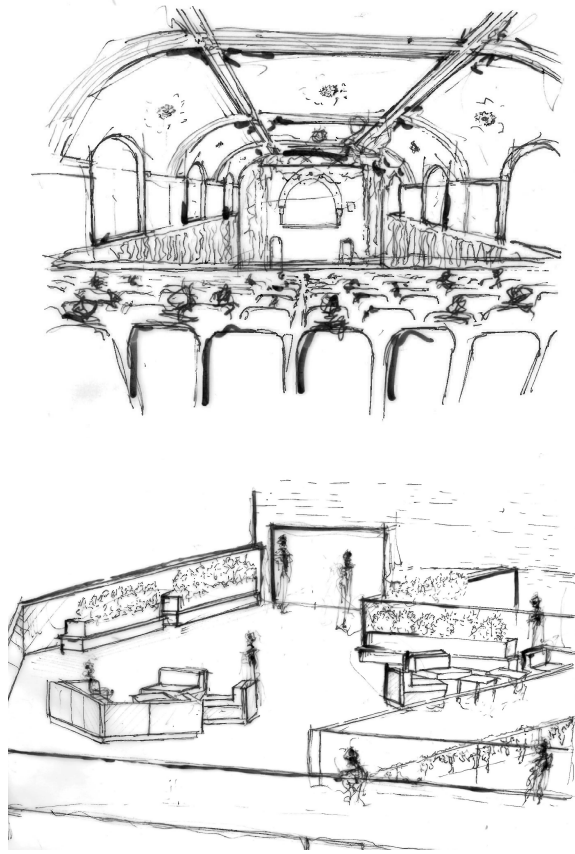
Middle Image: Concept Massing

# CONCEPT FLOOR PLAN LAYOUT



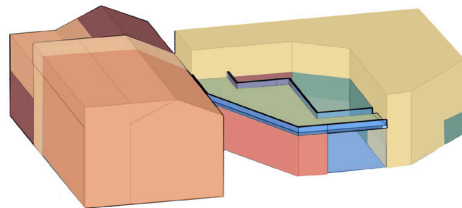
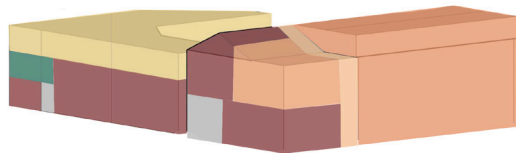
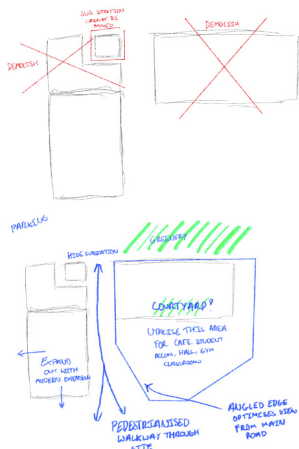
# CONCEPT SITE STRATEGY 3

The third design strategy advocates for the preservation of the historically significant and visually stunning church building while redesigning and constructing the community space currently occupied by the youth center. In this strategy, we propose retaining the main space of the church and expanding it. Simultaneously, we aim to remove the existing youth center and construct a new community center and student dormitories in its original area. We intend to preserve the entrance space between the church and the community center and transform it into a vital public space that connects the two.



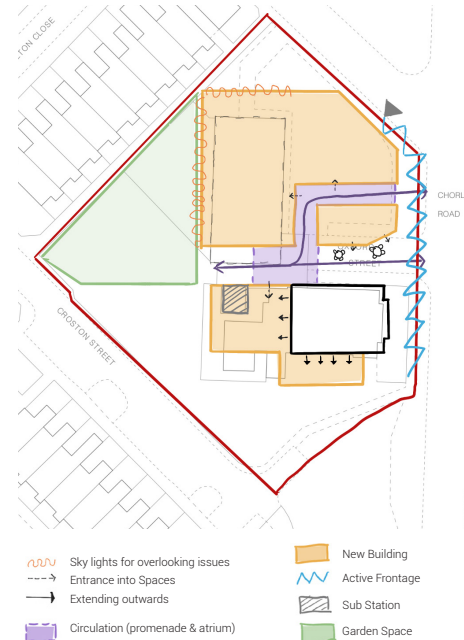
Right Images: Initial sketches of the strategy

## INITIAL DIAGRAM AND MASSING



## PLAN LAYOUT DEVELOPMENT

### Building SWOT Diagram



### Plan Layout



After team discussions and consultations with collaborators, we have decided to continue with the third concept strategy as the foundation for further design development.

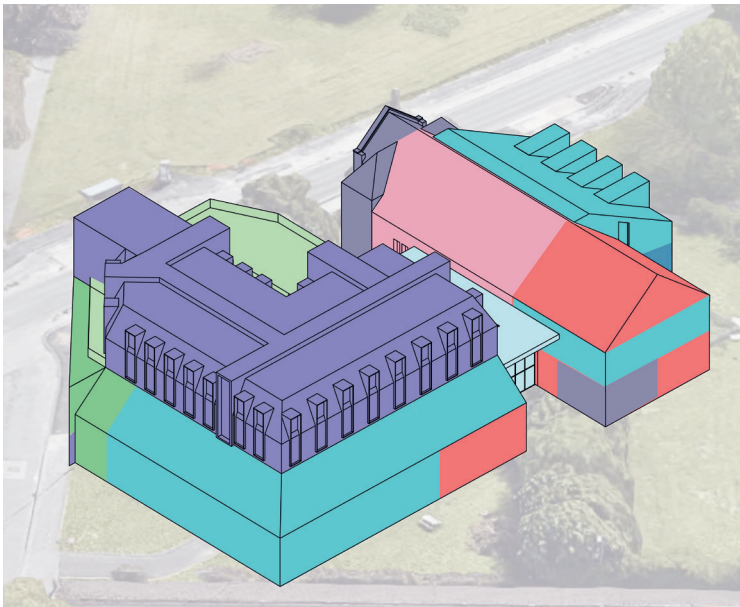
Based on strategy 3, we aim to incorporate an independent café space on the side adjacent to the main road, surrounded by the church to the south and the community center to the north, thus becoming the new social hub of the site. By incorporating glass corridors, our intention is to connect the main entrance facing the road, the community center, the café, the church, and the garden space at the back of the site, creating a vibrant and lively circulation space.

After finalizing the initial floor plan, we proceeded to further refine the building facade, rooftop garden space, and functional areas of the building. Our aim was to consider the experience within the spaces, natural light on the site, and the relationship and impact of the architecture on the surrounding area.

Right Images: Axonometric view of the functional area and the further design

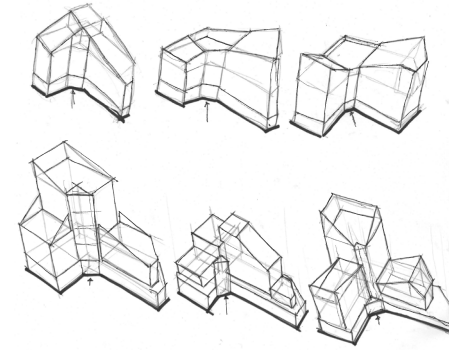


- Student Accomodation
- Cafe
- Circulation (promenade and atrium)
- Gym
- Office and Admin
- Community centre (hall/classrooms)
- Auxillary
- Cafe
- Performance Space

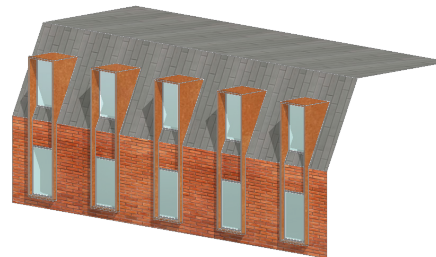
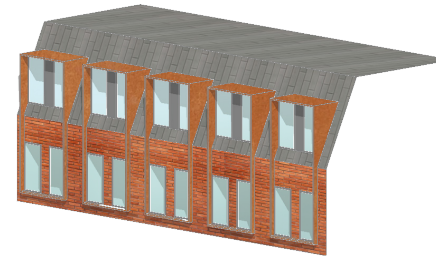


## ROOF DEVELOPMENTS

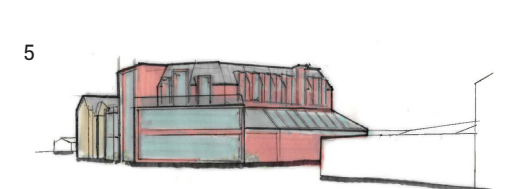
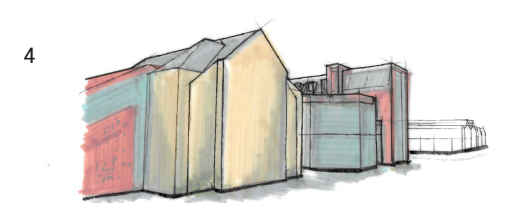
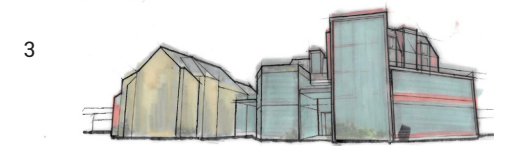
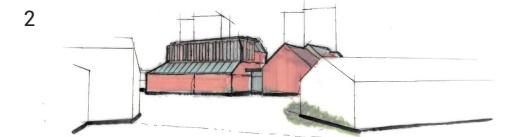
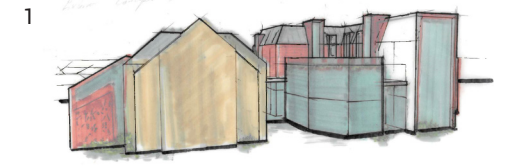
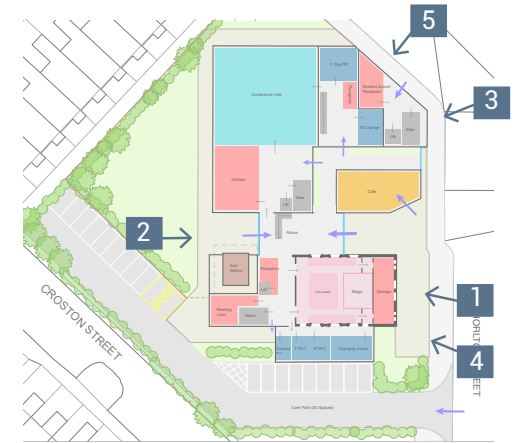
### Roof Exploration Sketches



### Roof Design Iterations



## APPROACHING THE SITE SKETCHES



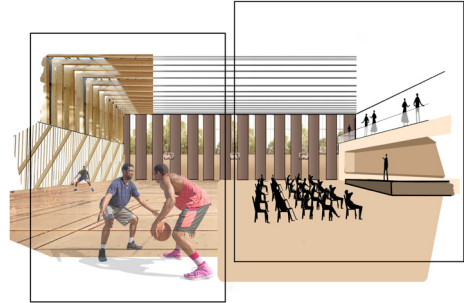
# FINAL VIGNETTES



Proposed elevation along Chorlton Road



Multi-functional Classroom

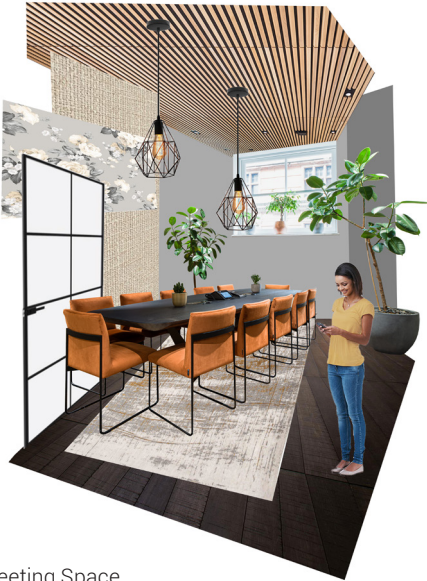


Multi-functional Hall



Recording Studio

# FINAL VIGNETTES



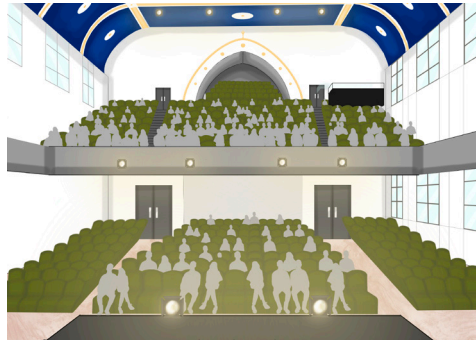
Meeting Space



The Gym



Building Reception Area



Performance Space in Church



Internal Promenade



Cafe Area

# CONCLUSION

## REFLECTION OF THE PROJECT

Over the past few years, the number of community centers in the Old Trafford area has been decreasing. Being involved in a renovation and planning project for such a community center at this time is both interesting and meaningful to us. Our site is rich and diverse, including a church building, which adds complexity to the design process as we must consider not only the construction of new buildings but also the protection and renovation of existing structures.

Collaborators envision the site to become the heart and vibrant hub of the community in the future, and this has inspired us in our design efforts. Throughout the two weeks, we have collaborated closely with the young individuals from BA1 and BA2, fostering good communication with the collaborators. Engaging in this project has been a new and collaborative experience, presenting us with challenges and opportunities.

We hope that our work during this period will have a positive impact on the future development of the site. We also look forward to witnessing the transformations of Kingdom Life and the site in future urban renewal and development initiatives, as well as the effects they will bring to the local community. We aspire to maintain ongoing follow-up and attention to the changes that occur on the site even after the completion of the project.



## WORKING MOMENTS





## ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 students with those in BA 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 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 650 students from 4 cohorts in MSA have worked on 42 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/2023](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2023)**

## SOCIAL

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## WEBSITE

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