

# MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



## STREET AND A HALF

### TEAM GROUP 15

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Visit [msa.ac.uk](https://msa.ac.uk) for more information



MSA  
LIVE 25

## Group 15

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## Kindred LCR

SnA represents the result of nearly two years of collaboration between SHBC (St. Helens Borough Council) and Kindred, along with various socially-trading organizations (STOs) and multiple partners in St Helens. It aims to assist in fostering and enhancing the development of the thriving social economy throughout the Borough. Kindred is supported by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Power to Change. The SnA is an innovative incubator aiming to provide resources and support for local social enterprises, fostering a strong community spirit.

The project is led by Christine Spriggs from Kindred and Claire Weetman, who was our direct project partner, they drive the entire vision and execute ideas to reality for the street and a half. We have worked directly with Claire sharing ideas about the future of the space in St Helens, taking in feedbacks and having a continuous collaboration with her throughout the project.

The main objective of the project was to revitalize the SnA building and the surrounding area of the street, in an attempt to transform the underutilized spaces into community driven hubs that encourages collaboration and innovation among local businesses. This project also aims to meet the property demand by providing flexible and affordable spaces.



# Introduction

## Street and A Half

Our project is situated between Haydock street and Bickerstaffe street, it occupies a prime location of the St Helens giving it a huge advantage of being the town centre. It's position on the map facilitates accessibility and visibility for new people coming from major transport infrastructures as well as the local community's interaction and economic activities.

The main project goal was to create a set of proposals to decide on the future of the street with the help of proper design ideas and visualizations. The Street and a Half re-imagined to create a space for proper utilization and to help the existing communities thrive. The proposals push the idea of making the space more vibrant and bright, bringing more people participation in the activities of St Helens town.

We concluded with a mutual decision of proposing three different ideas on how to revitalize the space. We were also able to collaborate with Claire, showing her the different approaches that SnA could take to bring momentum to the streets. Each proposal had visual representations 3d prototyping models and presentation sheets explain each design idea for the client.







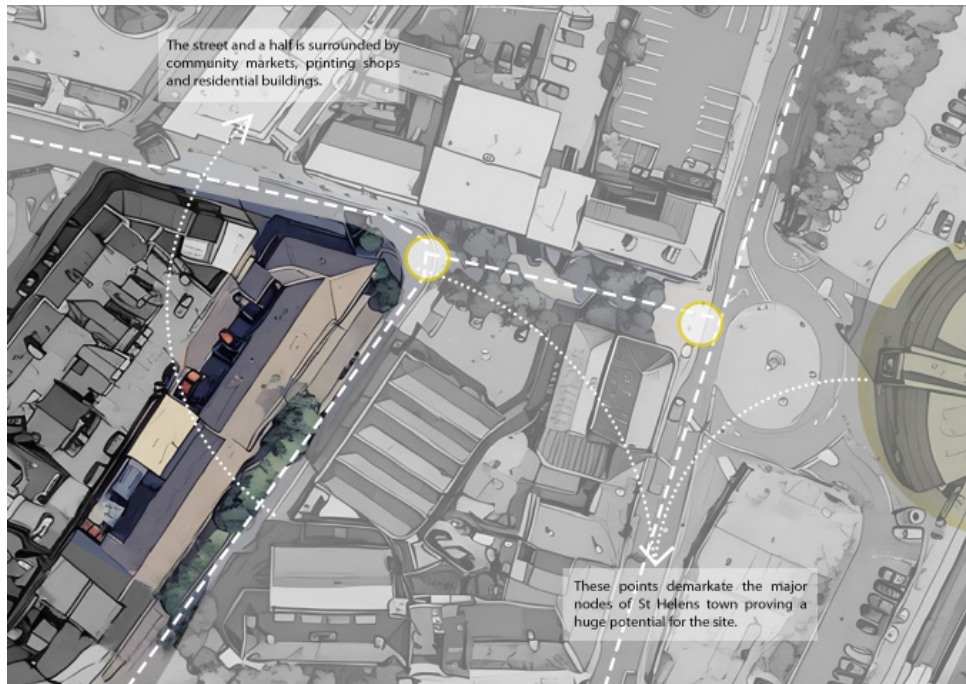
# St Helens

St Helens, situated in the Liverpool region, North West England. Historically known for their coal-mining and glass-making. The Street and A Half site sits primarily in between the railway station and the city centre, the prime location for the passengers and the local communities. This is key to make a powerful impact with socially engaged and community-led projects. It also demonstrates a growth of ethnic groups in their diverse society. Some of the social issues can be spotted in their unemployment, educational gaps and economic deprivation.

Efforts in urban regeneration and social support aim to revitalise the town and in this case, the street. The main focus for the Street and A Half is to bring the community around, and make the street shine!!!







## About the Site

The street and a half is wedged between the Haydock street and Bickersttafe street. As one enters the street from the railway station, they are greeted by rows of trees on either side and then enters into the street. The site is currently used by the local Art community of St Helen's, who hosts different installations and art works.

Surrounding the site is residential complexes and small businesses that are run by the people who live in the area. The street overall seems to have faded despite its prime location and efforts to revitalize it.

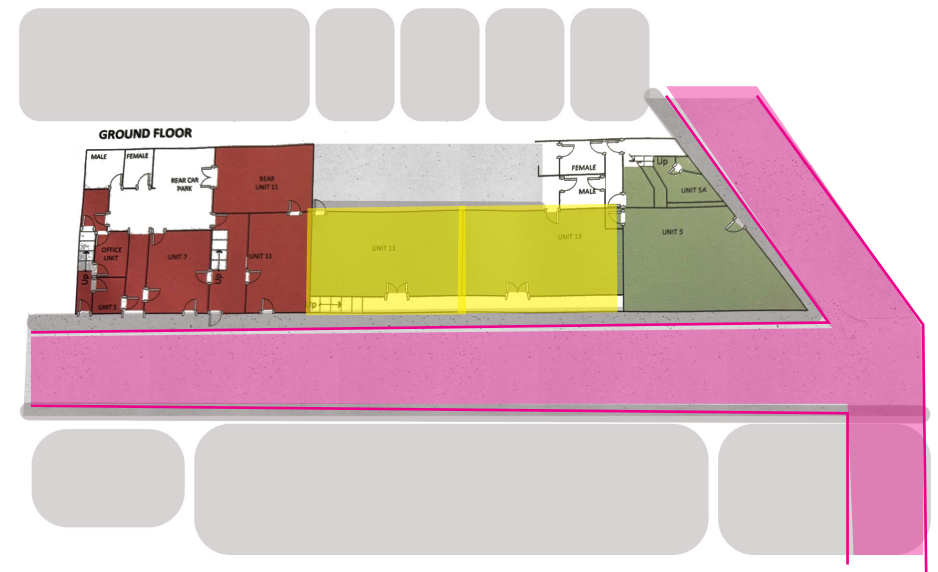
Our Vision for the street is to bring back its vibrant nature all the while retaining the community events that exists in the space.



## People of St Helens

The St Helen's community is very close knit and support each other through continuous involvement in making the town better. They have an impressive number of artist specialised in different kinds of arts like glass, clay, and even sustainable seed banks.

The main goal of our designs aligns with developing a fantastic new opportunity for local people who want to set up or who are already running a social business, to be supported to rent space at Street and a Half.



We were allotted event space 1 and 2 highlighted in yellow and further design explorations were also done to the street opposite to the building and the pedestrian path one takes while coming into the street.



# Action Weeks

We kicked off the Action Weeks with ice breaker games and fun activities and introductions. The following weeks were continuous explorations and iterations of different ways we could design the Street and a half project. We divided ourselves into 3 groups, each group taking the design ideas further to produce prototypes and 3d models for each proposals. The design approach was to revitalize the area and making it bright with the help of interventions like outdoor seating, extending canopies and making the place more brighter with colours and textures, all at the same time involving the existing artist community using the building. The week was concluded by a client meeting with the collaborators who gave us their valuable feedback on the design approaches.



Day 2-3: Site and concept mapping

Developing design ideas  
and precedent studies



Day 4-5



Day 10: Final outcome!



Day 6-7

Final proposal  
presentation and  
model making



Day 8-9



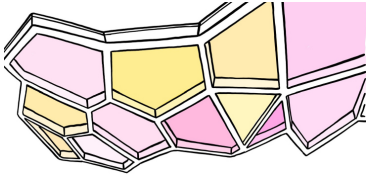
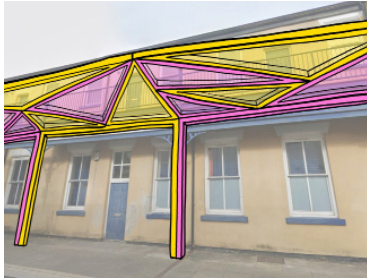
Mission accomplished!!!

week 1

week 2



# Group 1

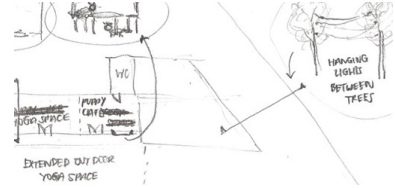


This Proposal focused on creating an inviting environment and atmosphere through a cafe and social area which will extend outside - blurring boundaries.

We were able to explore this by creating glass panels that make a colourful canopy that allows light to shine through creates a more lively element to the street promoting engagement among the locals. Important focus is on how the canopy does not disrupt movement and flow on the street.



# Group 2



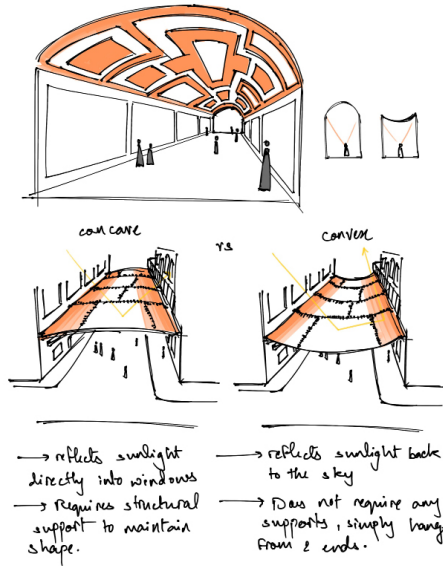
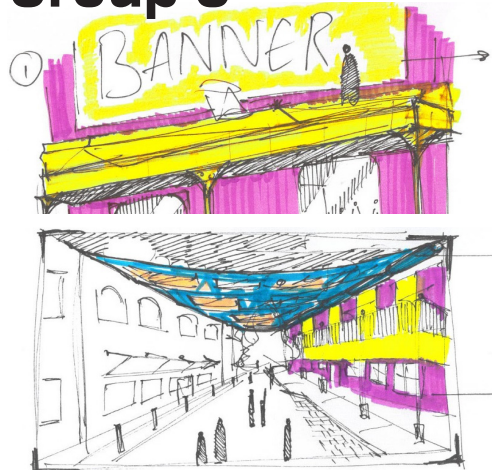
The main concept behind this proposal was to create inclusive spaces for all different kinds of people who visit St Helen's.

Anchored by a year round puppy cafe and provisions for an outdoor yoga space based on the weather constrictions, the space is re imagined to promote well-being and community interaction. Instagramable façades and playful urban design inviting artist partners for the week promoting local artisans.

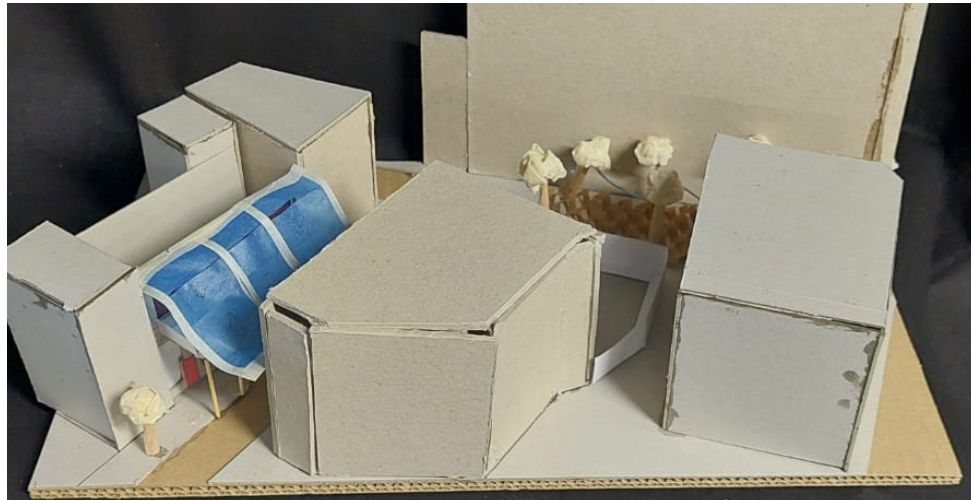
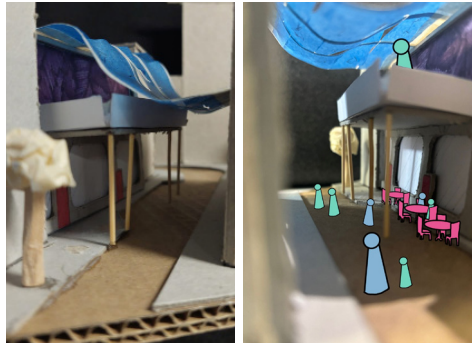




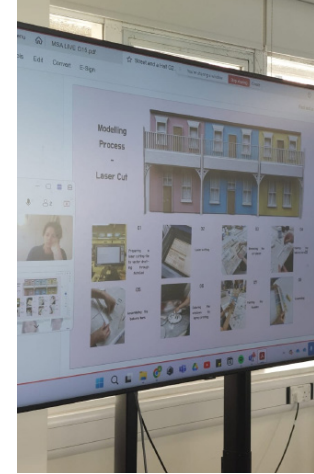
# Group 3



In this concept an extended canopy is suggested. An overhanging exhibition for local artists and their works, which can be viewed from Bickerstaffe street and Haydock road. The 'sheet' of artworks is connected to the opposing Lantern House and the extended balcony, where live performances take place weekly in order to attract more visitors. Another extension from the balcon space is also possible, this space can be used for events to take place and the floors below can be used as a backstage for the events happening on the first floor.



# Client Interaction

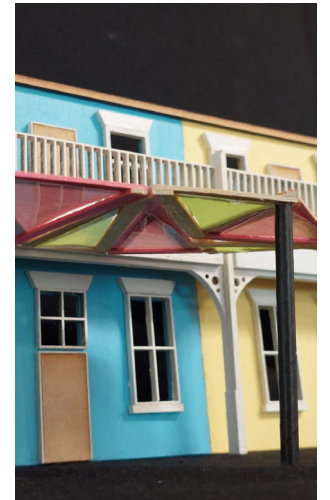


Our BA students did a fantastic job presenting their ideas, showing the work they've developed over the past two Action Weeks. It was a great opportunity to build their confidence and communication skills.

As we wrapped up, Claire's feedback was that we were successful in our approach - bringing a meaningful balance between younger and artistic communities!

# Three Prototypes

After finishing the assembly of the model, the BA students also processed the details of the model. They used corresponding colors to highlight the different functions of different areas. At the same time, during the whole project closing stage, they were more focused and active, and we felt their enthusiasm for the project.





# Final Outcomes



# Reflections

## Street and A Half

Reflecting on the two-week collaboration with the undergraduate students for the Street and a Half project in St Helens, we found the experience both fulfilling and insightful. These two weeks allowed us to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world challenges, while helping the BAs transform their ideas into coherent, community-led proposals.

Our shared approach was to develop design interventions that not only responded to the urban context but also contributed meaningfully to the town's social and economic revitalization, making the street more inviting and lively.

Throughout the project, the undergraduates showed great enthusiasm and creativity, even from the initial stages. They explored ways to transform the street into a more vibrant and welcoming environment, encouraging both community engagement and a stronger sense of local identity. Their proposals incorporated bold visual elements such as colourful canopies, light projections, and interactive façades, aimed at enhancing both the aesthetics and flexibility of the space.





## ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 and Masters of Architecture & Adaptive Resuse 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 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 650 students from 5 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](mailto:msalive@mmu.ac.uk)**

## BLOG

**[live.msa.ac.uk/2025](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2025)**

## SOCIAL

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## WEBSITE

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