

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

THE CANOPY COLLECTIVE

PARTNER

Growing Togetherness CIC

TEAM

Frances Reynolds
Huigen Khor
Luo Wen
Renyu Liu
Tsz Kiu Jackie Cheung
William Gregory

SKILLS

Community Engagement
Creative Problem Solving
Teamwork
Ecological Design
Visual Rendering
Collage and Diagramming
Model Making
Digital Modeling (Sketchup/Rhino)
AutoCAD
Photoshop
Illustrator
InDesign

AGENDA

Growing Togetherness CIC in Bule Hill Park, Salford, welcomes everyone of all ages and backgrounds into their community. Our involvement is to design a structure within the community garden which provides shelter for the processing and working of the willow that they grow. This structure should be resourceful in its constitution and in keeping with the natural surroundings. We hope we can help them with this new intervention, which is just one part of their greater scheme of garden improvements.

Visit msa.ac.uk for more information



MSA
LIVE 25



Team

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Huigen Khor (MArch1)

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Renyou Liu (MA AR)

Tsz Kiu Jackie Cheung (MArch1)

William Gregory (MArch1)

Chang Lu (BA1)

Laiba Ejaz (BA1)

Raya Fakhri (BA1)

Utkan Celik (BA1)

Alexandra Davies (BA2)

Huang Linya (BA2)

Jing Ip Min Wan (BA2)

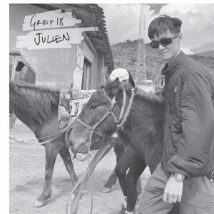
Symn Chng (BA2)

Chen Yili (MLA1)

Yiding Liu (MLA1)

Partners

The project is in collaboration with Growing Togetherness CIC, and other partners including Friends of Buile Hill Park, Incredible Edible Salford, Salford Croquet Group, Salford Junior Park Run.



Introduction

The Canopy Collective

The Canopy Collective, a project by MSA live in collaboration with Growing Togetherness CIC from Buile Hill Park, Salford, is aimed to foster inclusivity and community engagement across people from different age groups and backgrounds. Being a piece of the puzzle for the bigger Growing Togetherness development plan, the project targets to design a canopy structure within the site's community garden that offers a shelter for processing and working with the locally grown willows and plants, alongside water capture units for gardening purposes. The construction is envisioned to be made out of natural materials and harmoniously blend in with the natural environment, aligning with the garden's ethos of sustainability.

The design process was carried out through a consultation day with the community groups who use the site and share a common love for nature exploration and sustainable cultivation. Through community engagement, the aim was to enhance the gardening area for the team at the Seedly Pavillion.

Our project's social impact lies in fostering community activities that demonstrate sustainability in practice. Through enhancement in their community farming facilities, we wish to reflect the community's involvement in the project's evolution, fostering natural construction and shared responsibility. Not only does the new structure enhance the physical environment and functionality of the community garden, it also promotes a deeper sense of community empowerment and connectivity.

Site Location

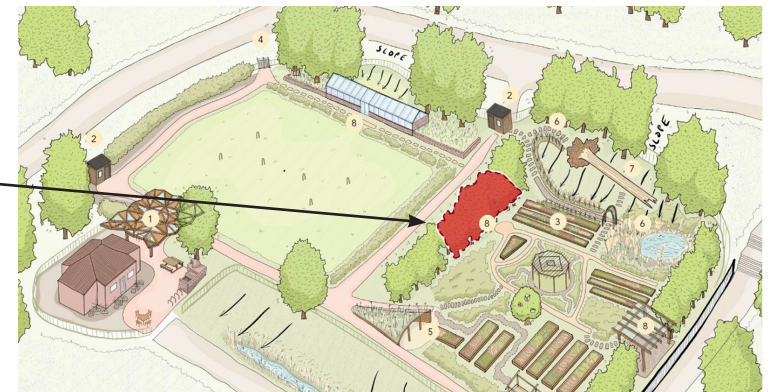


Image Source: Growing Togetherness Masterplan by Buttress (2024)

Preparation before Consultation

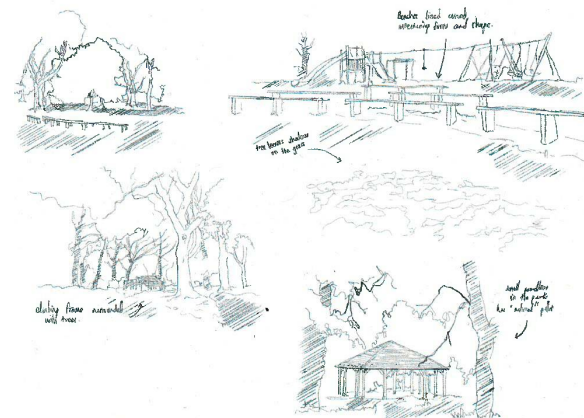
Due to the limitation in the opening days of our site, we were unable to visit the site earlier in the week. Nonetheless, before heading to the garden site for the community consultation day, our group worked diligently laying the groundwork for our collaborative design process.

We started as a group to look at precedent studies, delving into architectural inspirations and innovative structures around the world. We liked the ways some of these utilize natural building materials.

We also started sketching, quick concept modeling, and brainstorming sessions, drawing stimulations from the natural world and the surrounding greenery around the campus. Driven by our thorough research and initial concepts, we then got into the stage of hands-on creation, experimenting with different forms, considering functionality and material applications.



Community Consultation Day



On the community consultation day, we were excited to see many enthusiastic community members from the Seedly Pavillion. We were kindly welcomed by our collaborator with sandwiches and the members of the community were also extremely friendly by inviting us to join their croquet games. Our group members have really become part of the community and engagement was carried out through participating in their activities. We got to talk about some ideas, wants and needs for the covered structure we are designing in the allotment area.

Our preparation work inspired conversations with community members and they are invited to put down their ideas on sticky notes to let us know what they envision for the new structure. The sketches also efficiently showcase the creativity of our team members and the precedent studies are really helpful in letting people grasp an idea of the potential outcomes.

The consultation day was a huge success speaking to members of the running club, the ukulele club, those there for a cup of tea and even the BBC! We were excited to translate those wonderful ideas into our designs.

Community Consultation Feedback

Talaricheruvu Rural School / CollectiveProject



What do you like/not like about it?

- Nice outdoor space for all ages
- Just like in Africa
- Openness of design

Living Willow Structures



What do you like/not like about it?

- I like the living willow structure
- Use of natural resource
- Very good use of willow

People Pavilion, Elevated Ground / sp/n + nerd studio



What do you like/not like about it?

- I like this one in the open - lots of space, but I would like to have enough shade and some sort of canopy on top?
- Lovely leaning space
- Good spaces
- I like the look of the moss and grass, but I like the structure
- Like the shaded sitting area

National Teachers Colleges Uganda / bkvv architects



What do you like/not like about it?

- I like the natural look, can be used to grow plants on top?
- The design was not too open
- I like the open aspect allowing breeze and sunlight
- I like this one so natural
- This one seems more natural and warm looking
- This is a lovely structure but I think it would be damaged by fire and vandalism

KEY DRIVING CONCEPTS

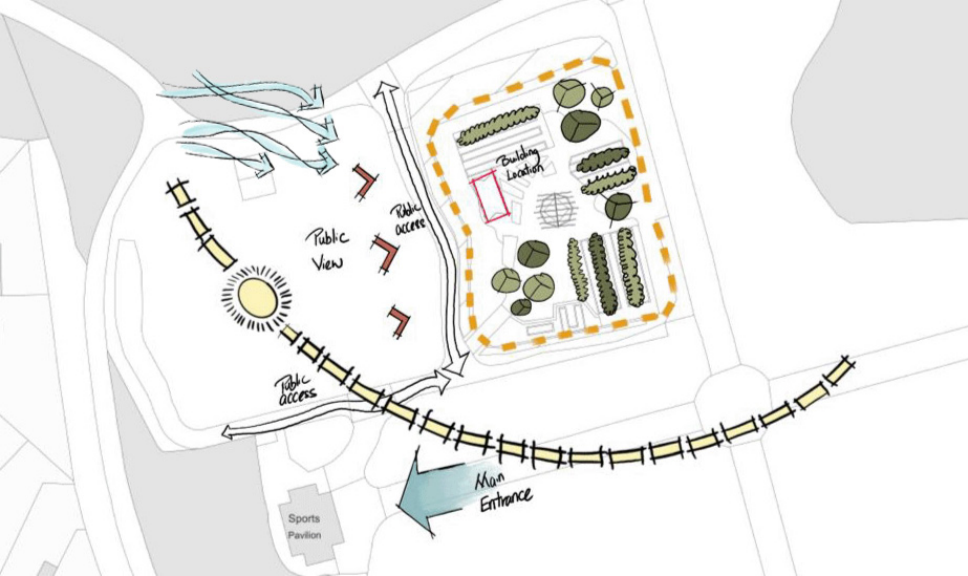
1 SHELTER

2 NATURAL

3 WATER CATCHING

Based on the feedbacks collected from the specific precedent studies favoured by the community, we identified three essential guiding principles for shaping our concept development: **shelter**, **natural**, and **water catching**.

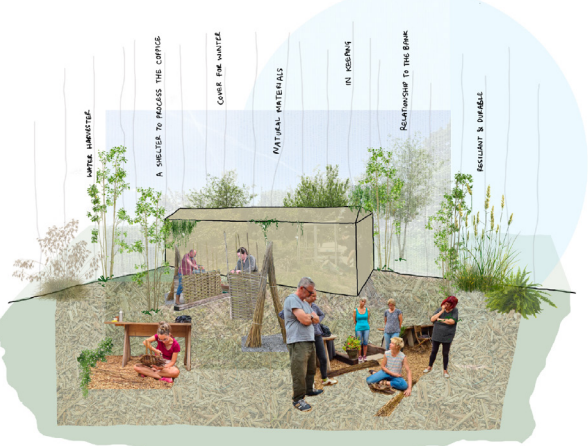
Site Analysis



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

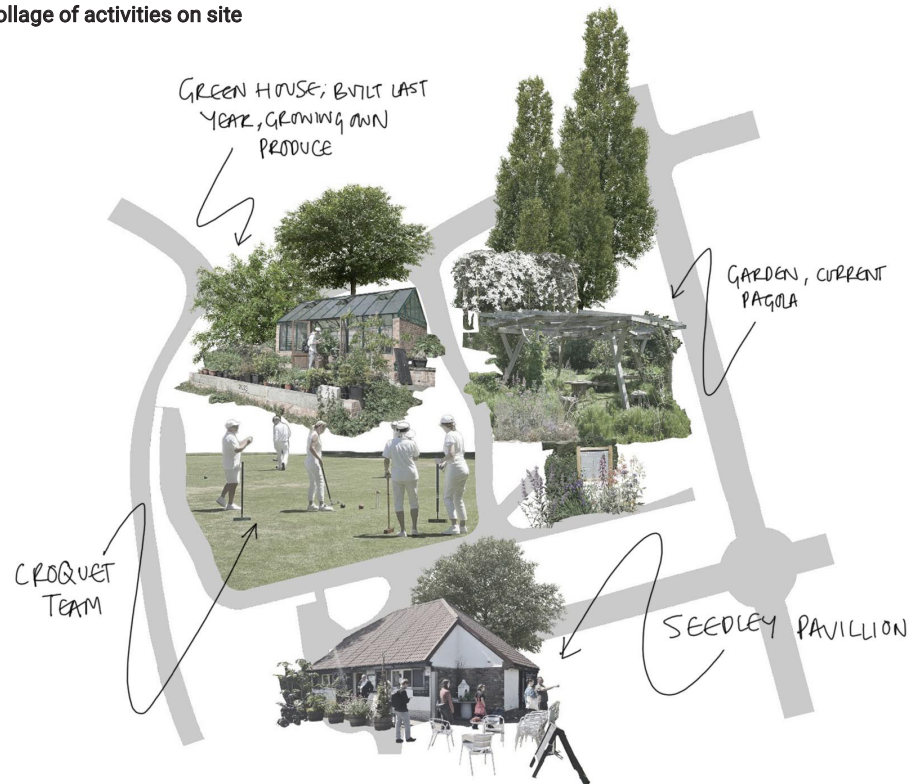
FIRE RESISTANCE	CLIMBING	LEAVES	CONTEXT	MAINTENANCE

The site is located in the Buile Hill Park, Salford. The site consists of a cafe, croquet field and allotments popular among the local communities around Salford. Allotments are located at the eastern part of the garden where people come to cultivate, engage with the local community, and experiment amongst the landscape. The materiality of the site is a key consideration for our design strategies with the use of natural materials such as timber and willow. Other considerations expressed by the community was to prevent children climbing on top of it and include a water harvesting system.

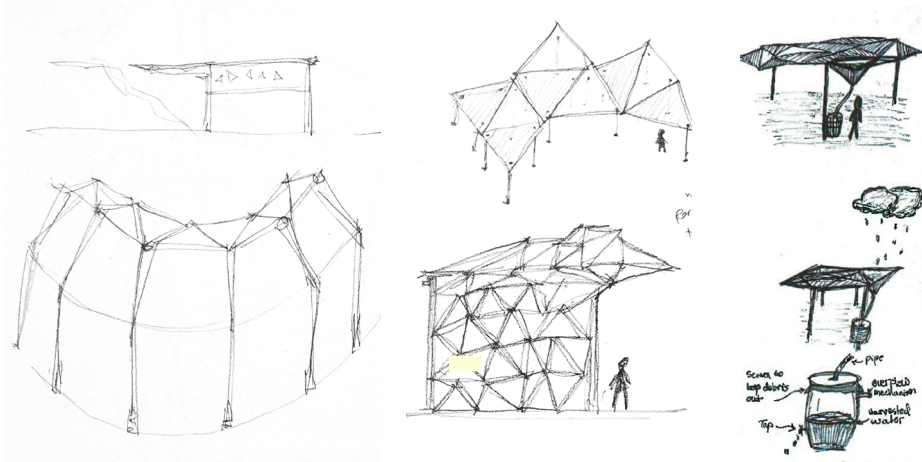


Concept Development

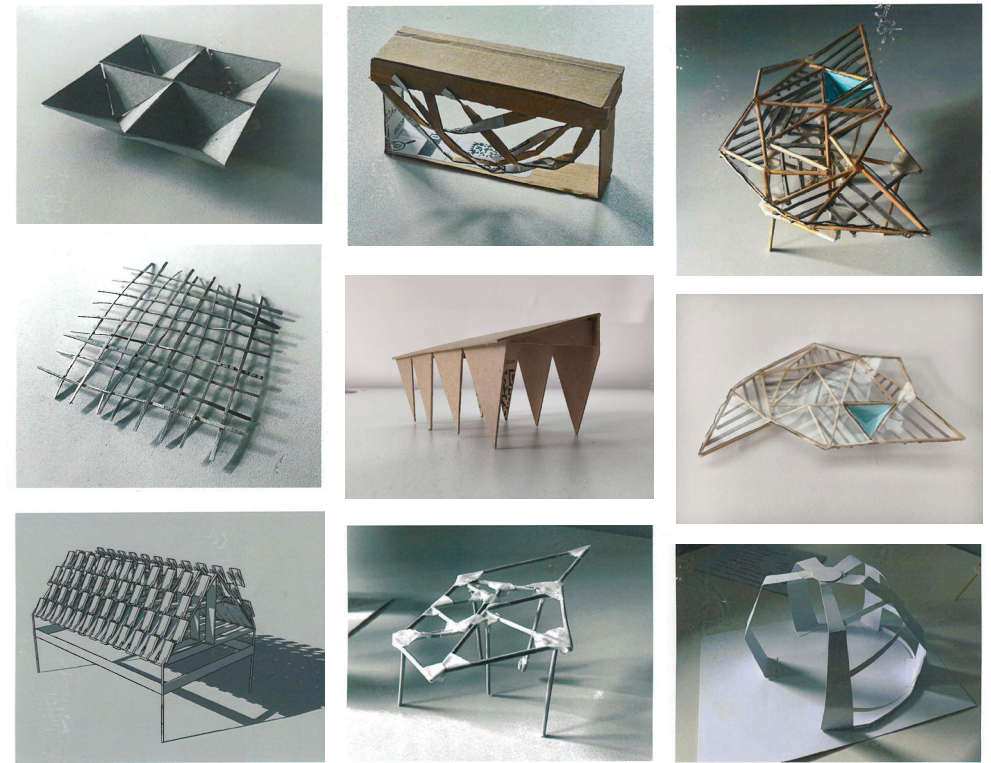
Collage of activities on site



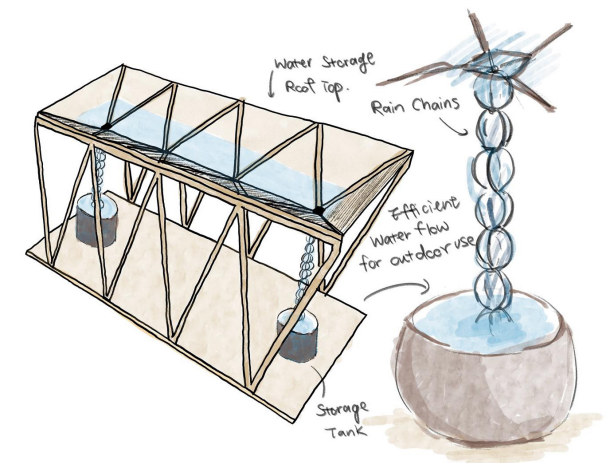
Sketch development



Design & Tectonics Development

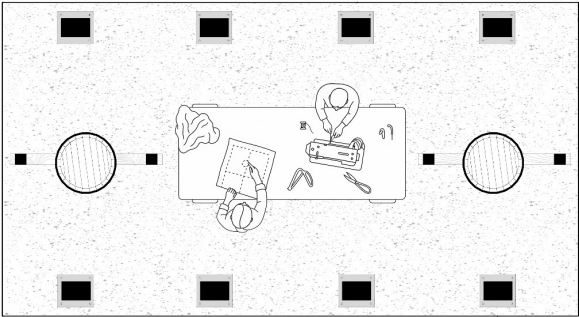


We focused on exploring structural iterations and developing a water harvesting system. We iteratively modeled our design process and experimented with form, structure, and materiality. The sketches show a conceptual roof design where slanted plates can collect the rainwater to the rainwater chains, guiding it efficiently into barrels below. This creates a strong sensory experience through the ambiance created by the water traveling down the chains.



Final Proposal

Site Plan (1:400 @A5)



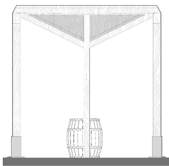
Plan showing people processing willow (1:100 @A5)



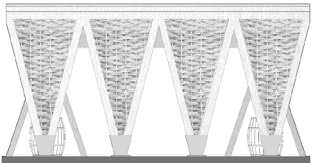
Render

The materiality of the pavilion used sustainably sourced timber for the overall structural frame. The timber materiality allows natural warmth, low embodied carbon, and it will fit well with the surrounding site. Timber shingles were chosen as the roof material, which is eco-friendly to the site and allows easy maintenance. The design allows for triangular willow installations on both sides to enable growth of the willow into the structure. The structure will therefore change with the seasons as the garden does.

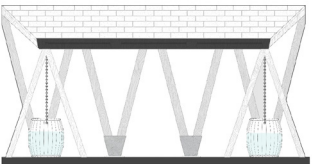
The design focuses on the central part of the pavilion, where the local community can engage in hands-on crafting. Two water collection barrels are positioned to harvest rainwater from the roof. These barrels support sustainable strategies that encourage environmental awareness to those who use and visit the garden.



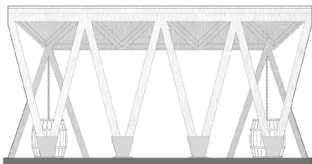
Side Elevation



Front Elevation with willow



Section



Front Elevation
(1:200 @A5)

Final Proposal

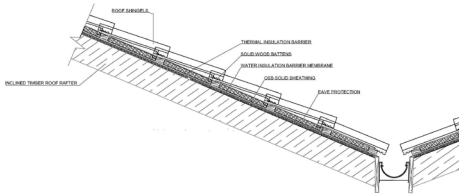
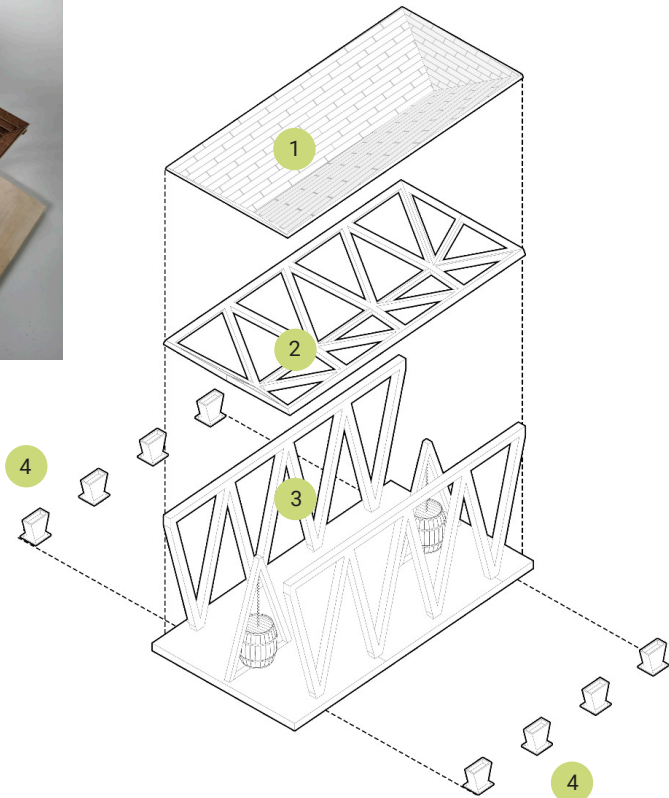
Physical Model (1:25)



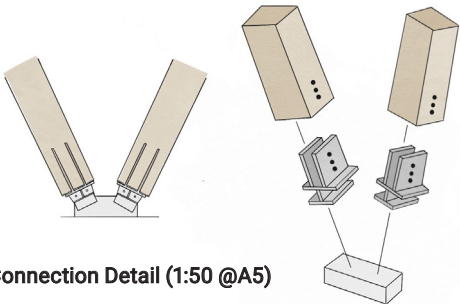
Whilst computationally modeling the structure, we also thought it is important to make a physical model to bring to the community presentation day.

Exploded Axonometric

- 1. Roof Shingles
- 2. Timber Truss
- 3. Timber Post
- 4. Metal Knife Plates



Roof Detail (1:50 @A5)



Connection Detail (1:50 @A5)



Render images of structure in context



Community Presentation Day



Community presentation day! Presenting in front of those we consulted and new faces too, we delivered our pitch and we think it went well! We got questions about the design language to which we answered to their satisfaction, and questions about feasibility to which our collaborator jumped in to explain how they intend to make our ideas a reality! Our collaborator Mark was incredibly supportive throughout the presentation and was great at explaining how our project feeds into the wider plan for Seedley Pavilion and the garden. We have been made to feel so welcome by the community and we hope that some of our group will think to stop by and get involved, as they have done the days that we've been on site.



Reflection

We have really enjoyed having two weeks of uninterrupted time to spend on this project. Our collaborator- Growing Togetherness CIC, and the community surrounding this organization, has been so welcoming and enthusiastic about the project and moving their site forward. We hope that our design can contribute to the eventual building of this shelter on the site, but either way, it has been fantastic to see how the model of a circular economy is being put into practice by local communities. It is also been great working with multiple year groups and we hope that they got as much out of the experience as we have. I think that we are all ending MSA Live encouraged about taking on live projects in the future.



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

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2025

SOCIAL

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WEBSITE

www.msa.ac.uk