MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE







SALE **HIGH SCHOOL**

OF TRANQU





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Team

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Partners

Trafford Youth Centre

Trafford YES supports young people across Greater Manchester with guidance, community projects, and safe spaces for personal development. Working with Ben from YES, we ensured that young voices shaped the garden design through engaging workshops and feedback sessions. His support helped align the project with the needs and aspirations of local youth.

Sale High School

Sale High School is a secondary school in Greater Manchester committed to fostering academic and personal growth. Collaborating with Gareth, a key staff member, we tailored the garden redevelopment to suit the school's culture and student wellbeing. His input was vital in making the garden a reflective and inclusive space for all pupils.

Introduction

The Garden of Tranquility

The Garden of Tranquility project focuses on leading itself through the youth The design driven project looks to redevelop the neglected garden space of Sale High School. The underused space will serve as a foundation for creative development and collaborative transformation. The project aims to bring together the youth to imagine the space they can use for education and relaxation. Providing real use for the youth and educators of Sale High School.

Over the span of two weeks, the team engaged a lot with Sale High School's eco club, gaining insights from the students of the club to develop a series of thoughtful designs. The workshop included hands-on-prototyping, and sketching, to imagine the possibilities in the vision of the eco club.

The project's core ambition was to make a multifunctional garden that balances ecological sensitivity with educational and emotional value. Far from just being a empty but tidy outdoor space. The Garden of Tranquility was conceived as a living classroom and a peaceful retreat. The space aims to be adaptive where the students can learn about sustainability, practice hands-on gardening skills, reflect in quiet moments or just simply gather an talk around a calm space full of decorated nature.

The garden integrates principles of ecological and architectural design, it includes native pllanting, natural materials and flexible spatial arrangements. All the elements of the garden aim to be designed to support a range of activities that range from solitary study and mindfulness to small group collaborations within a calming and sheltered natural setting. The result is a space that enhances the physical environment while also contributing to the wellbeing, and ecological awareness of its students.

At its heart, The Garden of Tranquility represents a model for how participatory design can empower young people and enrich everyday schoo life. It is a space shaped by those who will use it and is rooted in care, creativity and the shared vision of a more connected, restorative learning environment.



Environmental Analysis

Sun Path



Sun Path helped us analyse better suitable locations for vegitation compared to shaded seating areas in the space

Wind Direction



With wind direction it lets us decide better on where we can incoorporate design strategies that can make use of airflow.

Trees

We had to understand where the current growth of trees were and how it will shade the space due to their size

Access Point



The access point is where we can start designing the initial space and understand how the entering of the site should feel.

Initial Site Investigation









First Design Workshop w/ Eco Club

Initial Group discussions and brainstorming



This is where we asked the students to put together their ideas on paper in a sketch over a site-plan drawing. This allowed us to visualise their ideas in an architectural style and understand what they would like to have while having an opportunity to discuss with us so we can explain what concepts may be more viable and give them an idea on the process.



Second Site Visit Update









Second Design Workshop w/ Eco Club

Second Group teamwork project with BA1's and BA2's



This time we had the opportunity to work cohesively and brainstorm strongly on massing models of the site. The students together with the design team were able to work together and figure out the most interesting strategies to be useful for the garden. This allowed us to distinguish what would actually be necessary to the site in comparison what would not be necessary.



Environmental Strategies and Zoning

Water collection system and spatial separation



Environmentally we wanted to make use of the rain in the garden space and save water more efficiently for watering plants. By understanding where the flow of water is coming from it allow us to create the concept of using rainchains to guide the water even further into controlled boxes or mini tanks that store the water for use later on when watering plants in the garden. Therefore efficiently collecting useful rain to use within the site itself.



This is an example drawing that shows in more detail how these tanks work. The rain chain is right above a small hole that can be covered in a mesh to prevent larger particles such as leaves or rocks from falling into the tank. The hole would be just wide enough to allow the water falling from the chain to enter the tank, where it would collect any useful water. As the lid would pop on and off, it can be easy for the students to water the plants



Site Plan

Final site layout design and materiality





Physical Model

Diagramatic layout and Final Model



The Physical Model was first planned out digitally after finalising all the design decisions we wanted to include. The model shows the main features of the design such as the landscaping, seating and structures such as the entrance archway, the kinematic pavilion and butterfly conservatory (lepidopterarium).

Visual Development

Materiality and Concept Features





Final Visuals







Reflection

Couldn't have done it without the Eco Club



The Garden of Tranquility project focused on redisgning the neglected garden at sale High School. We coordinated with Ben from the Trafford Youth Centre and with Gareth from Sale High School, the Eco Club students we had get involved with design decisions and then the bachelors through their workshop with the eco club, developed a great concept with a physical and digital model which we helped with through some software tutorials and by developing the final renders of the project. The project lead to a well thought out, and student informed design. The experienceed strengenthed our skills in cumminity engagement and collaborative design, helping us understand what it's like working with different age groups, how to accomodate and design for them and deliver a real worl project concpt.

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

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