

# New Practice

## Community Engagement

Workstream Booklet #4

Meanwhile Use

Retrofit

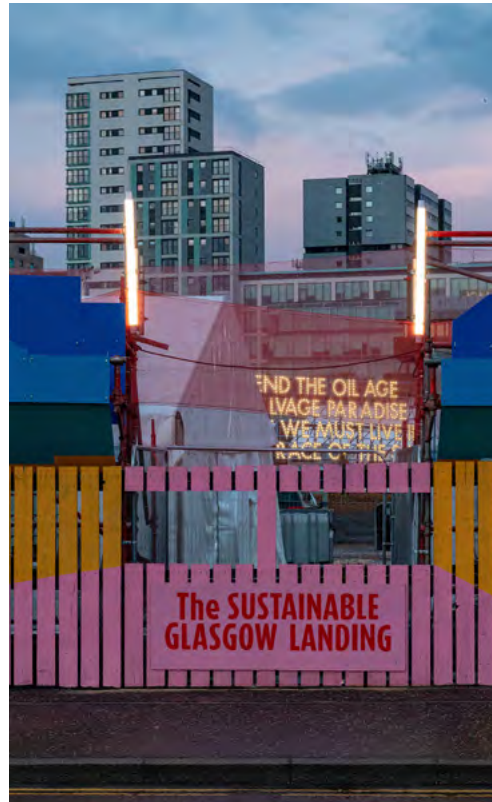
Spaces for Communities

**Community Engagement**

**New Practice has four core workstreams:  
(1) Meanwhile Use, (2) Retrofit, (3) Spaces  
for Communities, and (4) Community  
Engagement.**

We deliver work across a range of scales and sectors - from identifying potential uses for derelict buildings and developing vital community facilities for local communities, to working on £1 billion masterplans and managing statutory engagement processes for international architecture

practices. Within this breath of work the four themes of Meanwhile Use, Retrofit, Spaces for Communities, and Community Engagement repeat across our projects. This booklet is part of a series that looks at each workstream in turn, exploring how it influences our approach and output.



New Practice are recognised for our ability to develop thoughtful designs and craft clever responses to briefs using a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach.

In addition to our portfolio of architectural work, over the past decade our Directors - Becca Thomas and Marc Cairns - have contributed critical research, delivered best practice community engagement and provided leadership for built environment policy across the UK.

New Practice champions creativity and openness in our industry through a number of senior appointments across our team, including: Mayor of London's ADUP II; Glasgow Urban Design

Panel; Associate for Design Council; RIAS Council; and Scotland Lead for ArchitectureLGBT+.

New Practice was listed by RIBA Journal as one of their five '2022 Future Winners.' In 2023 we are nominated for an AJ Retrofit award in the Health and Community category; we will also feature as part of RIBA Design Studio Volume 7, this book will showcase how small and emerging practices can adapt, remain resilient and harness the opportunities of collective power.





# New Practice

**We exist to develop the community, creative and cultural capacity of cities and to connect people with the decision making processes that underpin their urban experience.**

New Practice is a women and LGBTQ+ led architecture practice based between Glasgow and London. We work at the forefront of place-based practice, ensuring that community-led briefs and shared decision making shape the future of our built environment.

We work with public and private sector clients and enable shared participation through public consultation, creative engagement, temporary intervention, research, studies and strategic long-term design across the built environment.

New Practice is led by Becca Thomas (ARB) and Marc Cairns. We have an energetic, socially and politically active team who use New Practice as a platform to work meaningfully in their chosen industry.





# Community Engagement

**We work with people across diverse and under-represented communities, ensuring that projects are accessible and relevant for as many as possible.**

At New Practice we work directly with communities to encourage and support individual, social, civic and inter-cultural participation with the built environment

Through positive stewardship, active collaboration and digital/in-person conversations with every part of the community we draw out local knowledge, strengthen networks, create new links and enhance what already exists.

Creative collaboration is central to our practice. We believe that it is a powerful tool to bring people directly into decision-making processes and to



support the creative capacity of communities. Over the past ten years we have built honest relationships with communities across the UK through the design and delivery of creative engagement and co-design programmes which use strategic devices such as public facing activities, temporary events and built interventions to support the creation of compelling and realistic recommendations for our clients.

[above] Public engagement in Northolt, London.

[left] Community events for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2012



## Selected Projects

Street consultation for public realm improvements, Victoria, London



Pop-up orchestra in a Hospital to promote the Glasgow Culture Plan



Redesigning Grosvenor Square public consultation, London



Buchanan Galleries walking tour with Glasgow Disability Alliance



Buchanan Galleries stakeholder consultation, Glasgow



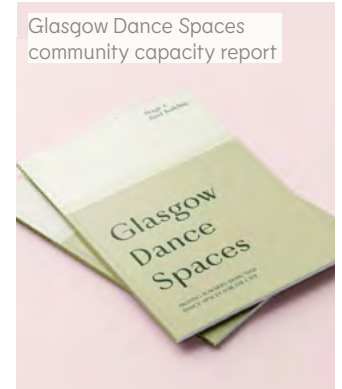
Pop-up market in the Barras, Glasgow



Glasgow Culture Plan



Glasgow Dance Spaces community capacity report



Dean Gardens community event, Ealing



'Northolt Day' community event, Ealing



Theatrical community event



'Wee Architect' youth engagement programme





# High St Heritage

Public consultation integrated with a celebration of architectural and cultural heritage to help inform a future vision for Glasgow's oldest High Street.

**What** New Practice carried out consultation to assist in the future reinvigoration of one of Glasgow's oldest streets, creating a new strategy for its interpretation. Through focussed conversations and considered branding, this project allowed our team to have conversations across the entirety of High Street's diverse communities, and understand and interpret the concerns of those local to its exemplar heritage sites and beyond.

**Client** Glasgow City Council

**Collaborator** Dr Alan Leslie (Heritage Expert)

**When** 2021-22



Walking tours open to the public, led by Dr Alan Leslie



Illustrators worked in numerous high street shopfronts during our community event day.

The project spanned research, analysis, community engagement and schematic masterplanning, with a celebration of built and cultural heritage at its core.

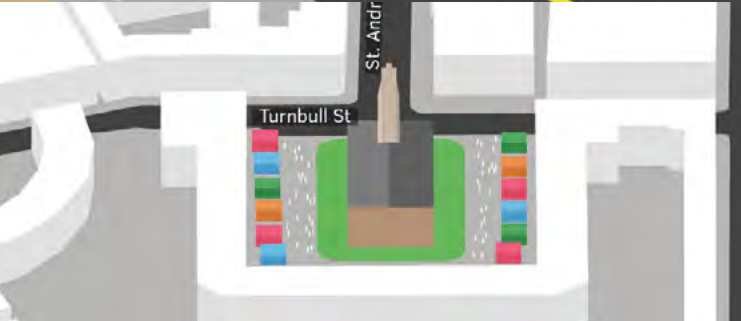


Pop-up shop to invite participation from passers by during our community event day



Masterplan model for consultation purposes

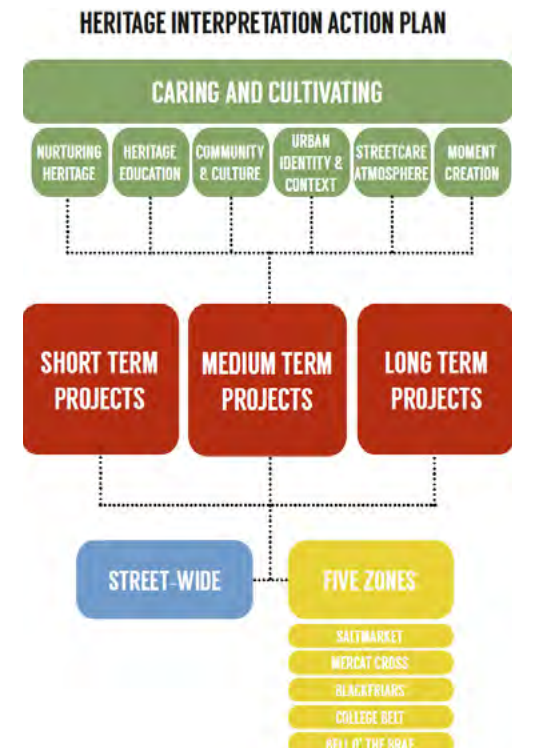




[left] Proposition for a regular market around a heritage asset  
 [above] Character areas  
 [below far right ] Our concluding proposed action plan  
 [below right ] Walking tour  
 [below] Musician attracting the public to our pop-up shop  
 [below left] Re-issue of Glasgow's first newspaper.  
 200 copies were distributed

Custodianship and cultivation were fundamental themes of the project. It showed us that heritage must be nurtured not

only in its physical landmarks but also within its intangible, cultural forms held within the communities tied to it.





# Northolt

Wide reaching engagement with local people to inform a vision for the future of a neighbourhood in west London.

**What** As part of a an interdisciplinary team, we worked alongside a number of local residents, organisations and key stakeholders with the aim of turning an array of local aspirations into a community-led vision statement and a series of proposals.

**Where** Northolt, London Borough of Ealing

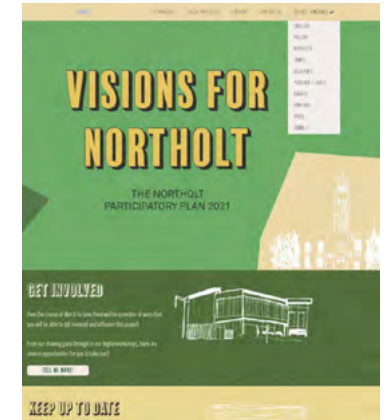
**Client** Ealing Council

**When** 2021-ongoing



Our approach dedicated time and resources toward understanding the various priorities of a number of communities, initiatives, and individuals within Northolt.





[above] Resident led walking tours  
[above right] Bespoke project website  
[right] Northolt Day  
[below] Local promotion of engagement opportunities



[top] Outdoor engagement  
[above] Resident led walking tours  
[right] On-street surveys and engagement



# Meet Our Waterfront

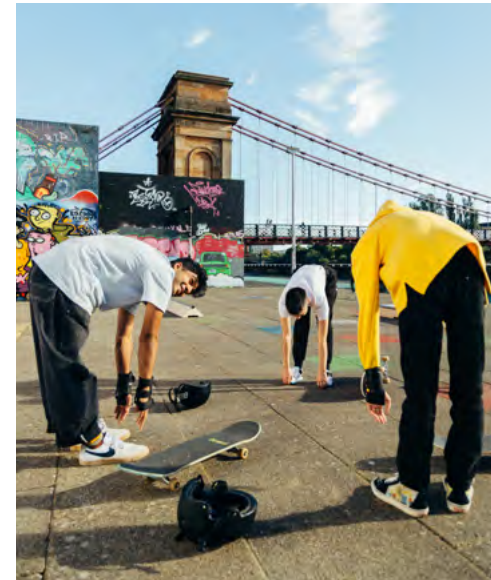
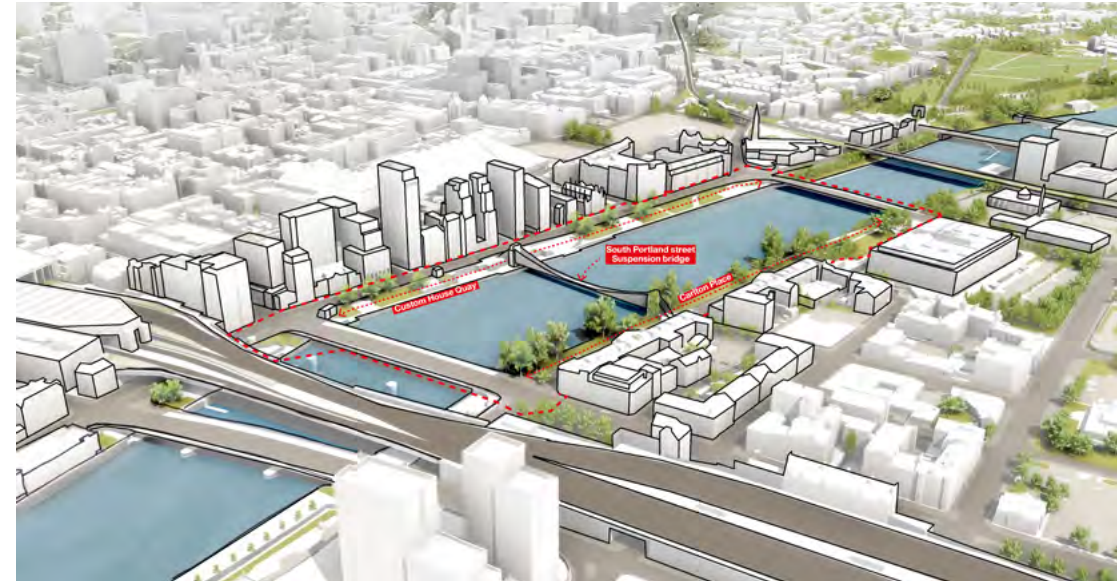
A variety of creative methods to inform and engage the city of Glasgow with the masterplan for Custom House Quay and Carlton Place.

**What** In direct collaboration with Hawkins\Brown and Civic Engineers, we are working in Glasgow on a once in a generation opportunity to 'meet our waterfront' again and produce a community-led vision to activate (the area currently known as) Custom House Quay and Carlton Place, located on the north and south bank (respectively) of the River Clyde.

**Where** Glasgow

**Client** Glasgow City Council

**When** 2021 - Ongoing



[top] Masterplan design

[right] Walking tour

[above] Summer skate workshops with local youth

[left] Boat Ride Discussions inviting the public onto the River Clyde to discuss the masterplan





Glasgow's River Clyde is one of the city's greatest assets and has the potential to contribute greatly to the city's quality of life, identity, and economy. Its regeneration is of a national scale priority, in terms of improving the environment and resilience of the city.



[left above] Public exhibition  
[right] Various walking tours with invited stakeholders  
[left] Walking tours with Glasgow City Council



The next phase will commence in Spring 2023 with community engagement central to the masterplan's outcomes.



## Selected Clients:

- Aberdeen City Council
- Barclays
- British Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Creative Scotland
- Croydon Council
- Design Council
- Dumfries & Galloway Council
- East Renfrewshire Council
- Ealing Council
- Elderpark Housing Association
- Get Living London
- Glasgow City Council
- Glasgow Life
- Grosvenor
- Historic England
- Kinning Park Complex
- Landsec
- Local Energy Scotland
- Many Studios CIC
- Mayor of London
- Newham Council
- New Gorbals Housing Association
- Orkney Islands Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- Scottish Canals
- Scottish Government
- Scotland's Urban Regeneration Forum
- Sustrans
- TEDx Glasgow
- TOWN
- Transport for London
- Waltham Forest Council
- Watford Council

## Selected Awards:

### Nominated 2023:

- AJ RetroFit Awards, Health and Community

### Finalists 2022:

- AJ Awards, Community and Faith Project
- GIA Awards, Best Small Works Under £250K and Best Leisure & Arts

### Finalists 2021:

- The Pineapples by The Developer, Best in Community Engagement
- GIA Awards, Best Small Works Under £250k
- Landscape Institute Awards, Best Partnership

### Awards 2020:

- Archiboo, Best Newcomer
- Archiboo, Best Digital Workspace





