

New Practice

Meanwhile Use

Workstream Booklet #1

Meanwhile Use

Retrofit

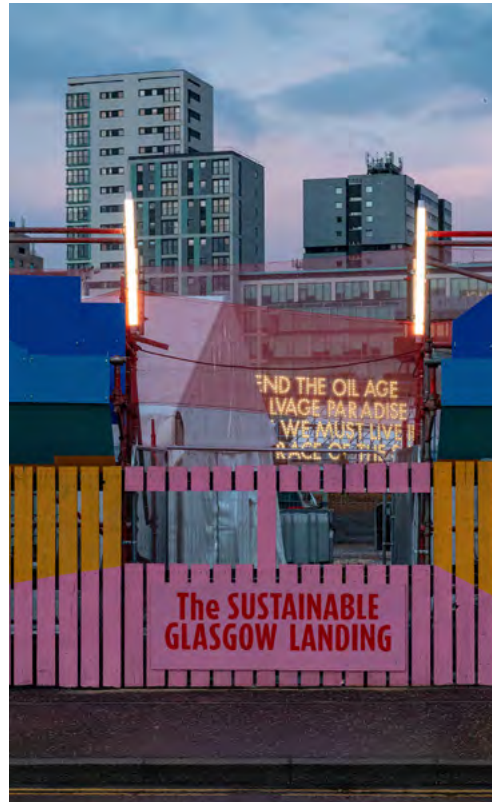
Spaces for Communities

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.



Meanwhile Use

Setting the tone for future approaches to place-based activity and providing a platform for innovation and early stage engagement.

Meanwhile Use projects provide a relatively quick and low-cost way to prototype and pilot ideas.

Often these projects introduce new and unexpected activity onto a site to raise awareness of a cause and opportunity. They have the potential to establish new perceptions of place, local identities and set plans in motion for the future.

Our work as Meanwhile Use architects provides our clients with an instant impact within often lengthy regeneration programmes and a direct way to engage local audiences in decision-making processes.



[above] Walk Up Avenue, Edinburgh, 2022



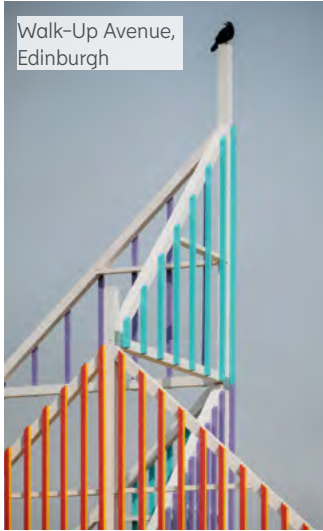
[left] The Sustainable Glasgow Landing for COP26, 2021

These projects also create the opportunity to build partnerships between wide ranging stakeholders and partners, trialling relationships and ways of working for future significant investments.

At New Practice our Meanwhile Use approach is focussed on creating places that provide a hyper-local celebration of community and connect socially impactful enterprises through creativity, learning and assembly.

Selected Projects

Walk-Up Avenue,
Edinburgh



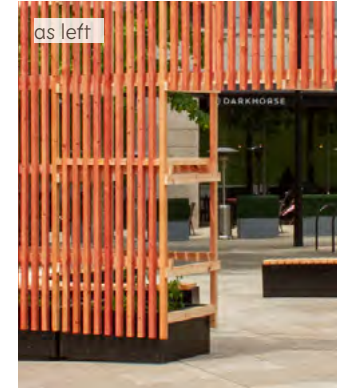
Installation for TEDx, Glasgow



Subtle Shifts pavilion, London as above



as left



Barras market stalls, Glasgow



as above



A Corner for Johnstone



Shawlands' parklets, Glasgow



as left



The Landing Hub for COP26, Glasgow



as left



Walk-Up Avenue

Transformation of a vacant town centre gap site into a biodiverse and vibrant public space for gathering, learning, growing, play, commerce and relaxing.

What The 0.25hectare multi-purpose site supports small business and creates an energetic town centre gathering space. It includes a sculptural entranceway, commercial unit, stage structure, central events space, play structures and seating – all positioned among extensive biodiverse greenspace.

Where Craigmillar, Edinburgh

Client City of Edinburgh Council

When 2021–2022



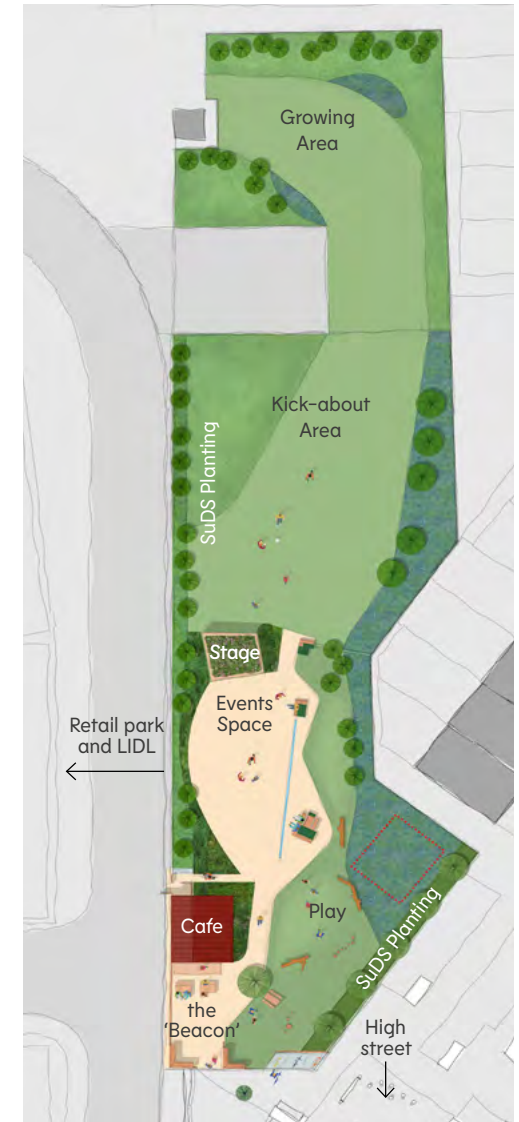
[left] Entrance beacon and cafe unit [above] Stage and events space [below] Beacon structure, looking up

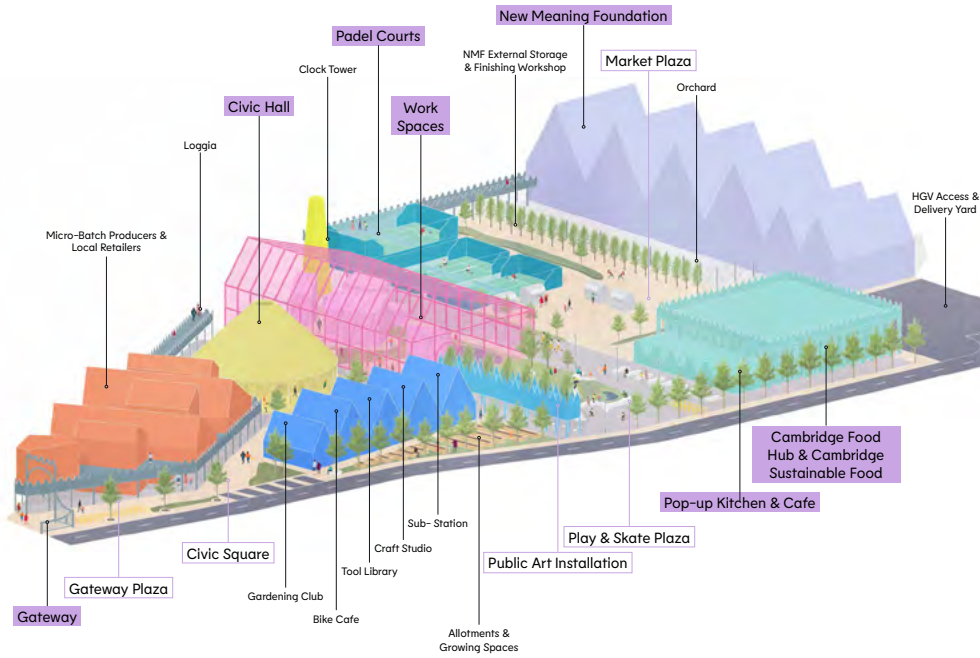




Craigmillar's high street had become disjointed with stretches of inactive frontage. Walk-Up Avenue's entrance is marked by a 9m tall brightly coloured 'beacon' structure which clearly signals a community use, attracting people from the main road.

It is not a prescriptive space, but one that provides the foundational infrastructure which invites the community to make use of it as they require. The commercial unit is leased to the local group 'Trade Unions in Community' who are running a cafe alongside employment services. The green space is under the stewardship of the community group Edible Estates.





[above] Play and skate plaza, [below] Undercroft of retail space looking towards the Civic Hall



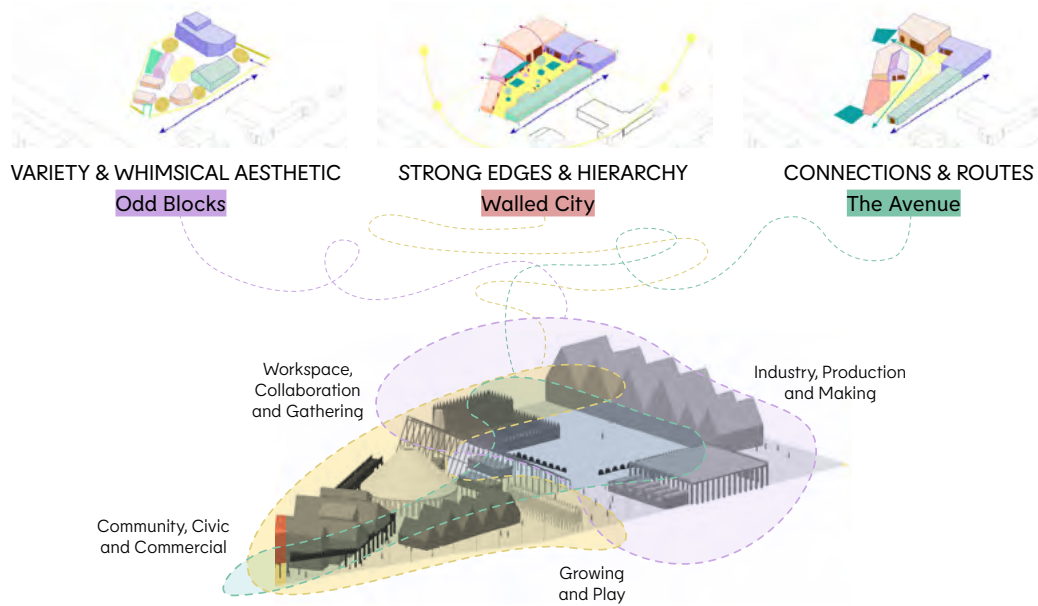
Cambridge Worthwhile-use

The transformation of a 1.4 hectare greenfield site into a bustling mixed-use destination championing the chaotic alchemy of creative production.

What A new neighbourhood of 5000 homes is being planned for North Cambridge. Alongside this, New Practice have been designing a large meanwhile-use site to help set the tone for this new neighbourhood and to seed its community resources. Over the 20 year lifespan of the meanwhile-use site, it will host numerous micro-medium sized organisations working towards social and ecological impact - alongside a number of public-facing commercial, cultural and civic uses.

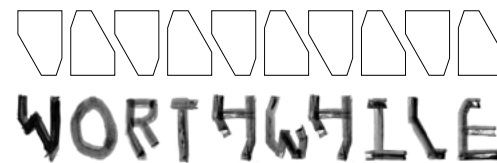
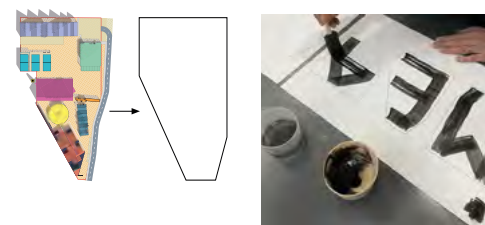
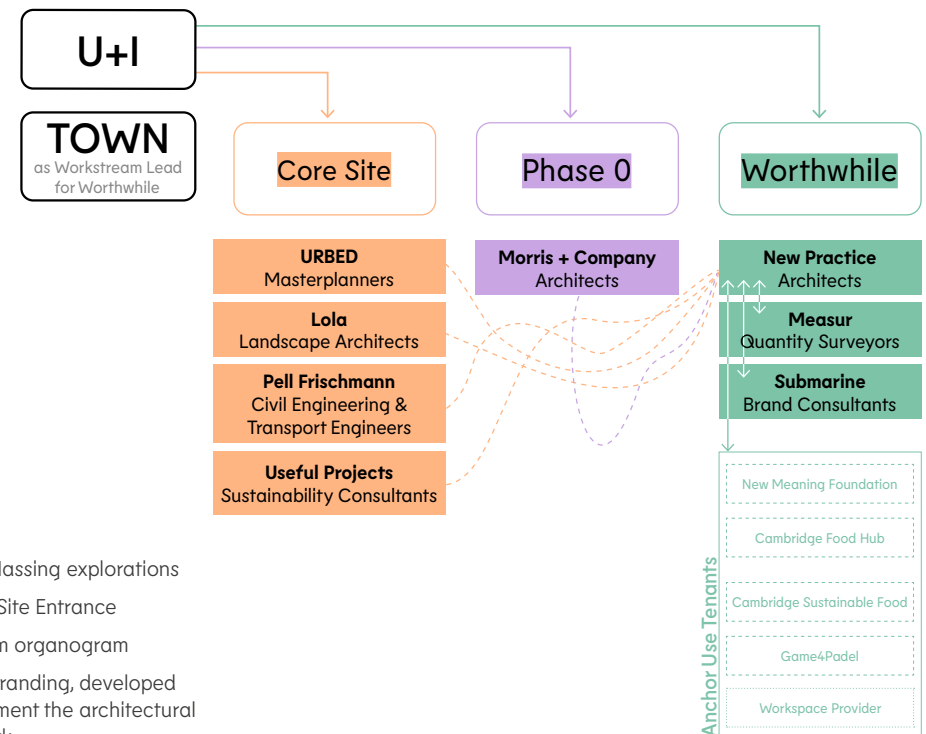
Client U+I and Town

When Ongoing



Our meanwhile-use site was small-scale in relation to the wider masterplan, but it had the not-so-small task of setting the tone for the entire multi-billion pound, multi-stakeholder masterplan. We had

to understand and complement the ambitions of all contributors. We distributed regular work-in-progress to ensure shared threads stitched together the overall vision.



[top left] Massing explorations

[top right] Site Entrance

[right] Team organogram

[left] Site branding, developed to complement the architectural design work

The Sustainable Glasgow Landing

Temporary events and exhibition space hosting local and global organisations responding to the climate crisis – for the duration of COP26 in Glasgow

What We delivered a large scale public outdoor exhibition and events arena, to coincide with Glasgow's hosting of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). It included green technology exhibitors alongside a jam-packed fringe programme of events platforming climate and social justice. We worked in collaboration with the event managers InHouse CIC. The project was delivered to a very tight timeline, with only two months between receiving the brief and the site opening.

Client Glasgow City Council

When Nov 2020



Site boundary: designed to attract the general public while providing a robust barrier to protesters and vehicle attacks.



Secondary site entrance





[left] Lecture by Indigenous group
[left middle] Theatre performance
[left bottom] Vertical farm, as visited by Scotland's First Minister



[right top] Walkway exhibition of local sustainable development
[far right top] The 'People's Summit for Climate Justice' used the site as their main events space
[right] Solar-light artwork
[far right] Art workshop
[right bottom] Publicity in The Scotsman newspaper



Across 17 days there the site saw 10,000+ visitors including activists, international COP delegates, Glaswegians, government officials and even the First Minister of Scotland.

Each day there was a back-to-back full programme including screenings, panel discussions, music, parties, performance and workshops. These ranged from sobering lectures given by Indigenous groups to light-hearted karaoke sessions.



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



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