

MANCHESTER |
URBAN DESIGN | LAB

Showcase

This publication has been designed and produced to showcase the work of the Manchester Urban Design LAB [MUD-Lab] at University of Manchester. This includes project work from staff and students of the MUD-Lab from over the years.



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Graphic Design by Aaron Coey

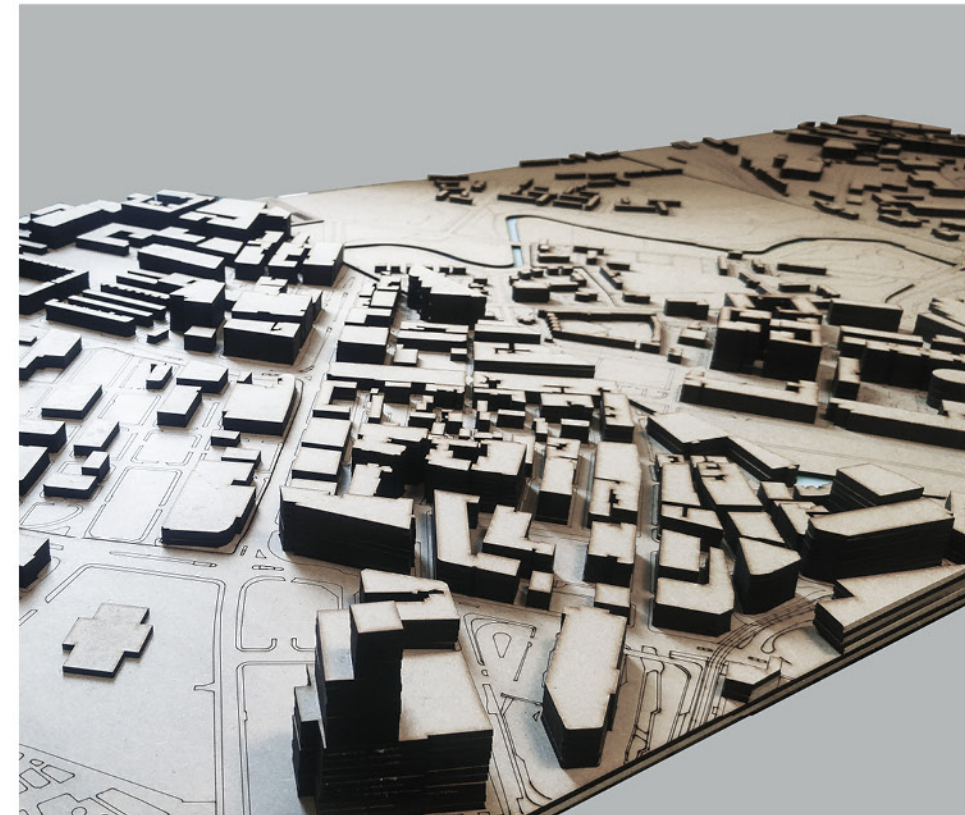
Introduction

The Manchester Urban Design LAB was established in 2020 to support the ongoing work of the urban design staff and students within the University of Manchester.

MUD-Lab serves as a world-class urban design laboratory providing a wide range of resources, physical and digital; top-class design focused research and publications; high quality engagement and impact with practice; and training for the current and next generation of urban designers in the UK and internationally.

The MUD-lab promotes and teaches an applied studio-based technical approach to urban design.

www.manchester.ac.uk/mudlab



MUD-Lab Team

Leadership Committee

Dr Philip Black [Director]

Philip established MUD-Lab in 2020 and is currently the Director. He is also a Senior Lecturer in Urban Design and Programme Director for MSc Urban Design and International Planning.



Dr Taki Sonbli [Manager]

Taki is the MUD-Lab's Manager and Technical Specialist. He supports all technical and graphical aspects in our Masters programme and the wider MUD-Lab.



Ms Rachel Kerr [Secretary]

Rachel is the Secretary for MUD-Lab. She is involved in the organisation of events, training, and linking with professional practice. Rachel maintains the MUD-Lab website and social media presence.



Staff

Mr Robert Phillips

[Honorary Lecturer (Teaching)]
Bob is Director at local planning and design consultancy Urban Imprint Ltd. He is also an Honorary Teaching Lecturer with MUD-Lab.

Dr Razieh Zandieh

Lecturer in Urban Design and Planning

Dr Ian Mell

Reader in Landscape Planning

Ms Aya Badawy

MUD-Lab Tutor

Dr May Newisar

MUD-Lab Tutor



MUD-Lab

Resources

Facilities

These facilities ensure we offer a world-leading urban design experience and education.

MUD Lab Studio

Our design studio is in the Humanities Bridgeford Street building. It provides a space in which to teach and work on projects.

The studio space offers equipment to assist in design and delivery, including:

- drawing boards,
- lightboxes,
- panel boards to present work,
- personal storage facilities,
- state-of-the-art teaching screens and software,
- technical equipment.

The studio also acts as a space for our students to relax and work on their projects.

MUD Lab Workshop

In 2022 we opened our state of the art MUD-Lab workshop - a dedicated 3D physical modelling space for students.

The Workshop is equipped with state-of-the-art:

- 3d printers,
- large format laser cutters,
- tools and materials for the production of high-class models,
- foam cutters,
- paint booths.

Print Room

Our dedicated printer resource studio offers A0+ plotting, large format laser printing and binding machines.

This studio ensures those training with us can print their design projects and present professionally at crits and final defences.

Computer Clusters

Our 100+ seat computer cluster is next to our design studio.

Each of the computers is pre-loaded with key software.

Here, we teach all the necessary software skills in an ideal learning environment.

Dr Taki Sonbli assists those training with us through their technical development. He is supported by qualified studio assistants.



Applied Urban Design Skills

Technical Sessions

The urban design applied technical skills sessions are a year-long series of bespoke workshops that take students through the various techniques of visualising information. The workshops are more than simply software sessions, with sketching and technical drawing playing a key role also. They are directly relevant to the materials presented in the urban design studio lectures in which students learn how to visualise what they have learned.

The sessions are split between the urban design studio and the dedicated computer clusters. Students use the softwares provided free by the university and have access to a range of equipment and tools.

Technical Support

The urban design team here at University of Manchester has a full-time Technical Lead to assist students through their technical requirements. This involves the opportunity for one-to-one sessions; personal mentoring; and an online advice and guidance service for general troubleshooting and more specific problems encountered.

All studio sessions are supported by our Technical Lead and a number of qualified studio assistants to ensure students have year-round support on all technical matters.



MUD-Lab Toolkit

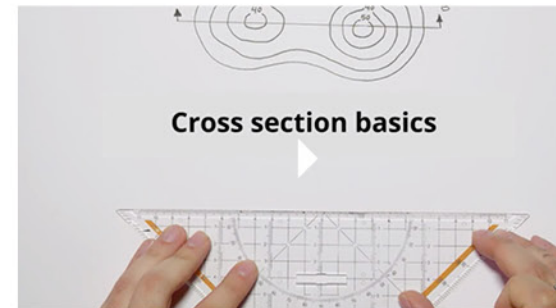
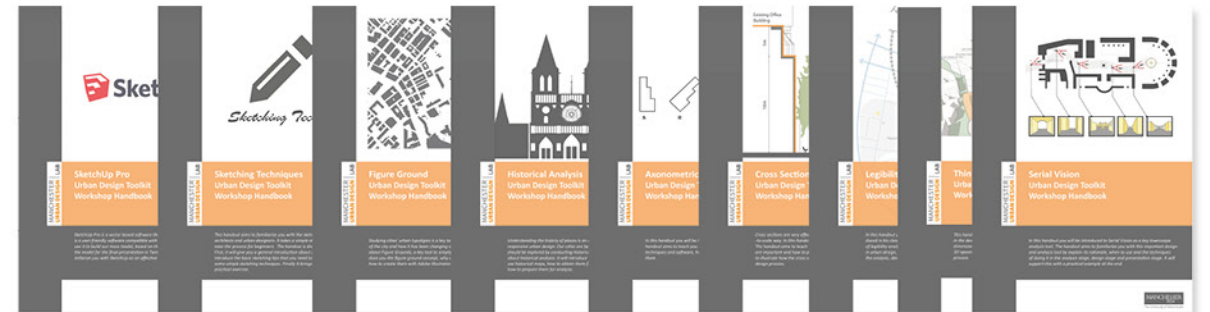
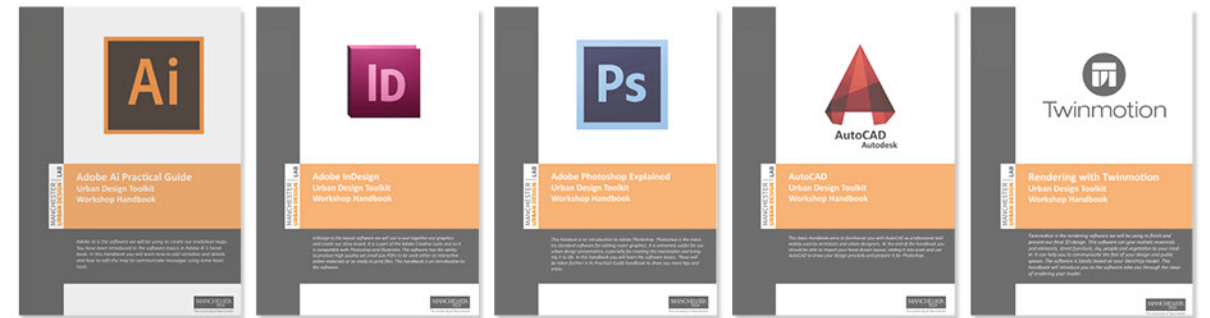
Training

The MUD-Lab toolkit is a bespoke series of hand-outs and videos designed to provide University of Manchester students with a free to use accessible resource to assist their urban design software skills and develop their techniques in a wide range of core urban design techniques, approaches, and methods. The Toolkit offers students outside the classroom learning opportunities in how to develop urban design analysis, ideas, and proposals.

The toolkit includes simple to use step-by-step guides through the core design software packages, including Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Sketch-Up, Twin-Motion, and AutoCAD. It also has extensive hand sketching/drawing and technical drawing guidance. This is a unique and invaluable resource for

students and is continually being updated and added too.

To compliment the toolkit urban design students are also provided with a series of technical workshops to develop their competencies in the core design software. These workshops are aimed at beginners and are designed to present how software is utilised in an urban design professional practice setting.



MUD-Lab Projects

Project Types

MUD-Lab engages in a broad range of urban design focused projects funded by a range of partners and sponsors. All our projects aim to have a practice-based element to them, considering urban design as an applied field with the aim to provide outputs and publications that make a difference to professional practice.

The Urban Design Process

This framework enables students to practice urban design within the year-long time frame of MSc Urban Design and International Planning.

It was written by Dr Philip Black and Dr Taki Sonbli, and published in 2019 by Lund Humphries Ltd.

Urban Design Process structures a contextually responsive approach to understanding and designing. It allows students to develop projects along a logical pathway yet still requires:

- flexible and creative approaches and thinking;
- a full commitment to engage and deliver.

Design and Landscape Tapes

This podcast series links policy and practice with academic thinking and teaching.

It is hosted by Dr Philip Black and Dr Ian Mell and sponsored by Pegasus Group. We engage with leaders in urban design, green infrastructure, urban development, and planning, to explore:

- the influences that shape investment in urban landscapes;
- how design and landscape thinking frame development;
- the types of investment that are currently popular and how this might change in the future;
- why specific designs are used in specific locations.

Applied Urban Design

The Applied Urban Design framework promotes the practice of contextually responsive urban design.

It is designed by Dr Philip Black, Mr Robert Phillips, Dr Taki Sonbli, and Dr Michael Martin (Aalborg University).

Applied Urban Design will be published with Routledge New York in late 2022/early 2023. It seeks to allow readers to:

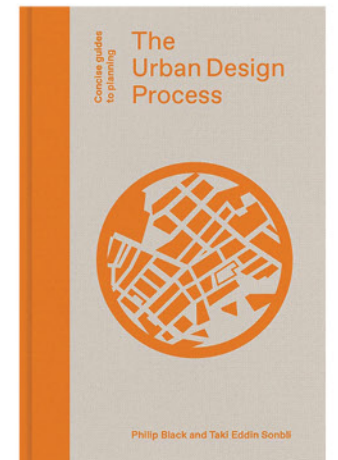
- perceive urban design as a unique vocational applied discipline;
- precisely understand applied urban design;
- better appreciate the distinct practice of urban design;
- better understand how designers can champion and deliver contextually responsive solutions.

Design Quality Evaluation

We regularly conduct studies and publish outputs on the issue of design quality and evaluation.

This includes research projects on the subjects of:

- development management;
- design review;
- urban design;
- architectural principles and qualities.



MUD-Lab Study

Courses and training

We offer an urban design master's course, as well as ateliers and summer schools.

Ateliers

These day-long events explore the full urban design or master planning process.

The ateliers are usually hosted in our Manchester Urban Design LAB (MUD-Lab) studio and are interactive with group working, soft modelling, and presentations. We have hosted ateliers with a range of partners.

These include URBED and the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA).

CPD

We offer a range of CPD training events, often working in conjunction with a range of partners including Urban Design Group.

These CPDs can be tailored to the needs of your practice or local authority. We provide half-day and full-day options across a variety of themes and topics such as:

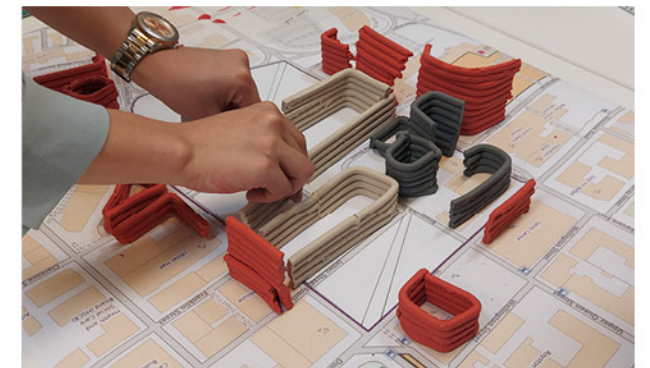
- the urban design process;
- urban design governance;
- urban design analysis;
- developing a brief;
- the strategic design framework;
- design concepts and options;
- design delivery;
- urban design qualities and principles;
- unpacking/evaluating design (including design review);
- masterplanning;
- public realm design.

Summer Schools

We offer bespoke summer schools for universities and other organisations. We can tailor these day-long or 3–5-day programmes to your needs, to focus on:

- developing design frameworks and briefs;
- master planning;
- urban analysis;
- urban design project development and delivery.

All summer schools are hosted on campus and make use of our facilities and resources.



MSc Urban Design
and International
Planning [MSc UDIP]

The Programme

Launched in September 2015 our MSc Urban Design and International Planning programme has gone from strength to strength. We now accept 60+ students each year to study with us, and have graduated more than 300 students.

The MUD-Lab's MSc UDIP at University of Manchester is a 1 year [2 year P/T] fully RTPI accredited programme that focuses on a specialist understanding of the relationship between urban design and planning and provides students with the core competencies and knowledge to specialise in the discipline of urban design.

The programme centres around an applied studio-based approach to teaching and learning, equipping students with the fundamentals of design, skills in design development and delivery across multiple scales, and technical knowledge within the core softwares utilised in professional practice.

Students get to choose a specialist pathway when they enter semester 2 of their studies - focusing on either a balance of urban design and planning, or a full urban design experience including a design dissertation. Each student on MSc UDIP will develop their own personal design portfolio upon completion of the programme.

Modules

Core

- Urban Design Studio
- International Urban Design
- International Planning Systems
- Urban Design Project
- UDIP Study Tour
- Dissertation [Regular OR Design]

Optional

- Masterplan Studio
- Design for Healthy Places Urban Regeneration
- GI and Sustainable Cities of the South
- Future Cities
- Infrastructure Planning
- Design Futures Studio



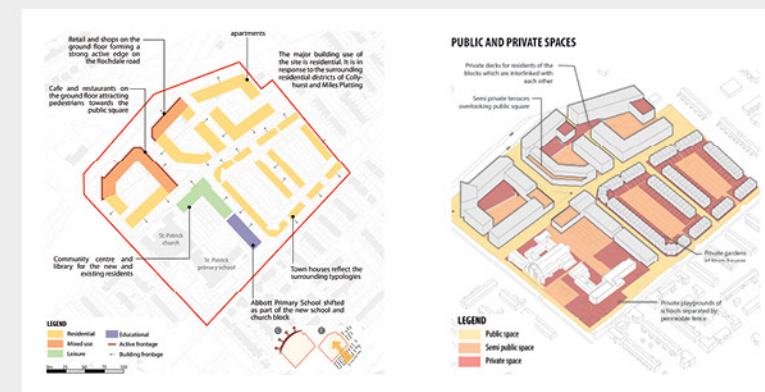
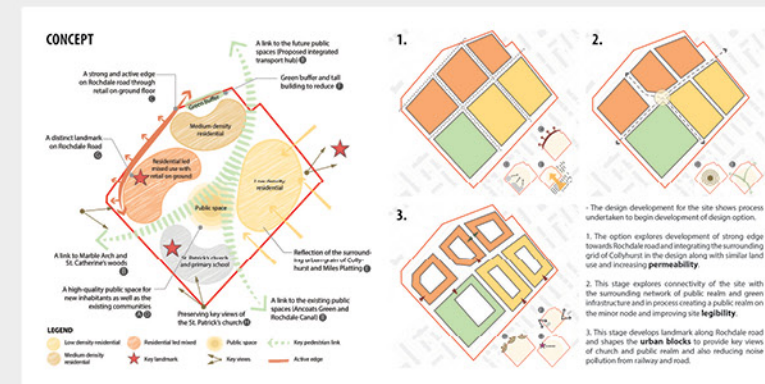
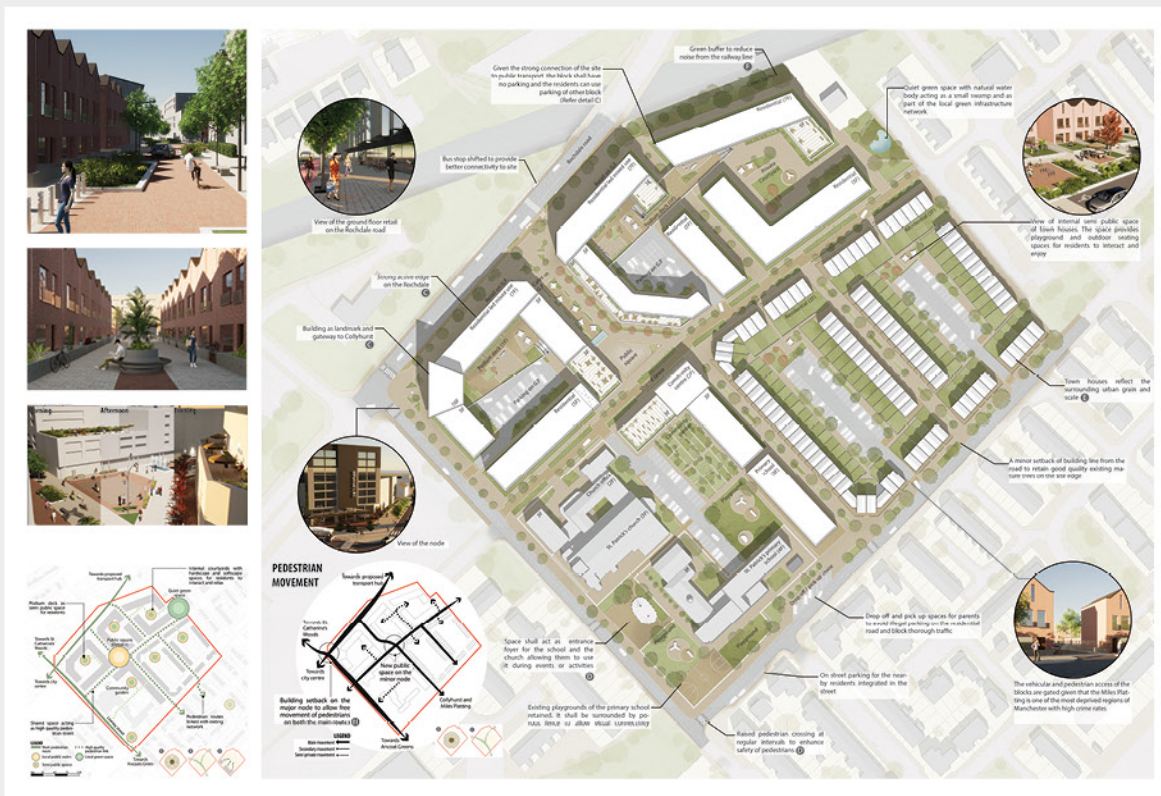
MUD-Lab Student Work

Urban Design Project

This year-long studio-based project allows students to develop a project-orientated approach to urban design; apply site analysis techniques to support urban design proposals; explore urban design principles and their relationship with practice; design and communicate an urban design scaled intervention; and develop skills of design, presentation, and 3D physical modelling.

The project involved the delivery of a detailed urban design analysis and proposed design intervention on a city centre site [approx. 4-5 ha.] in Manchester – utilising the MUD-Labs bespoke Applied Urban Design Process.

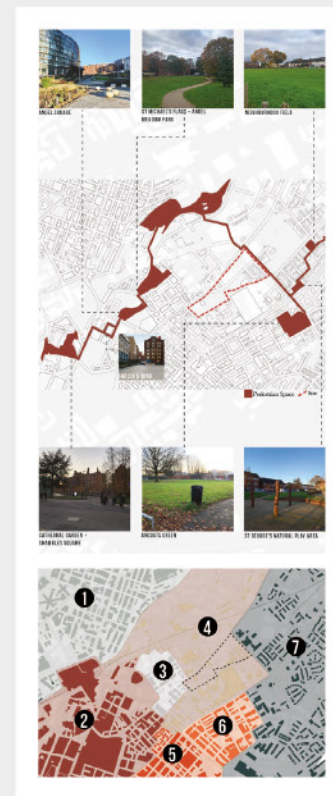
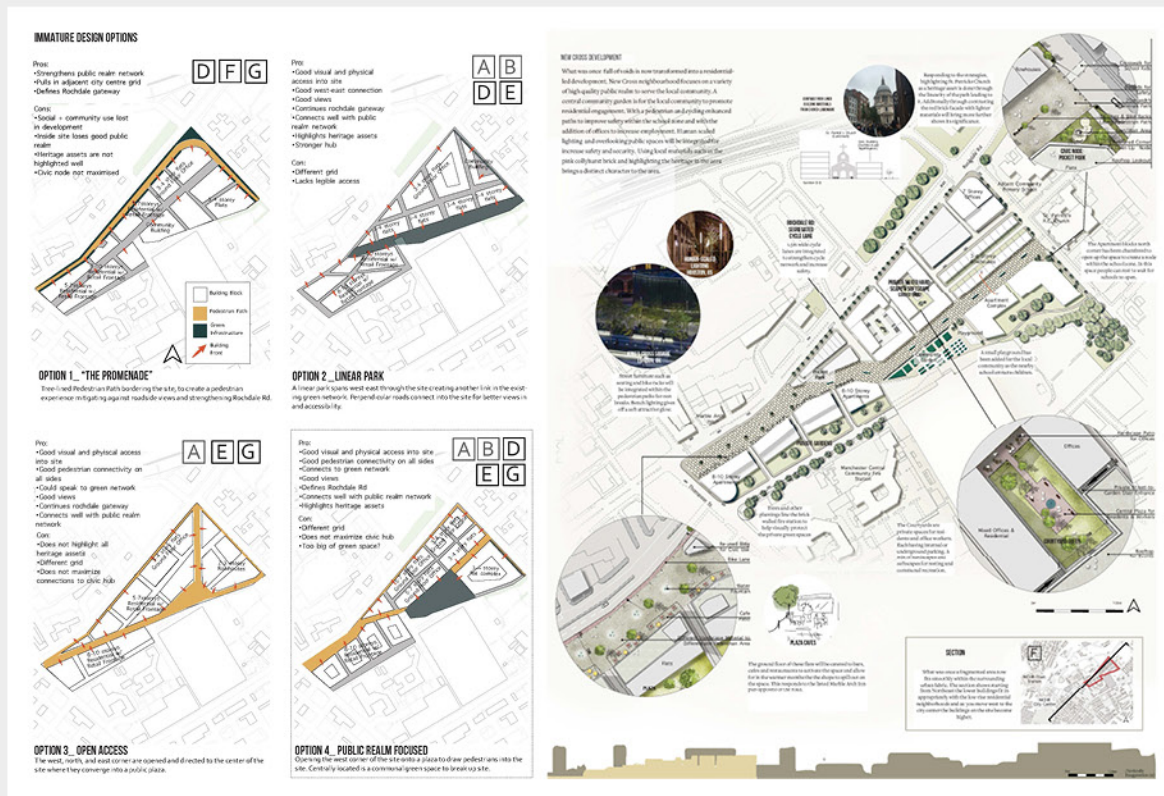
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Pegasus Group
Award Winner 2022

Project
Miles Platting, Manchester
Design Project

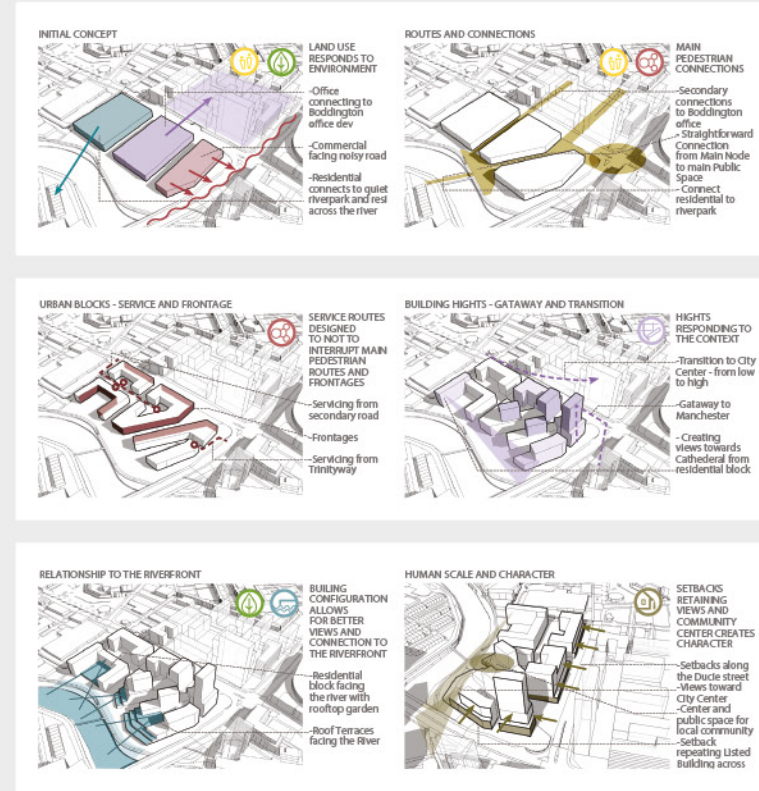
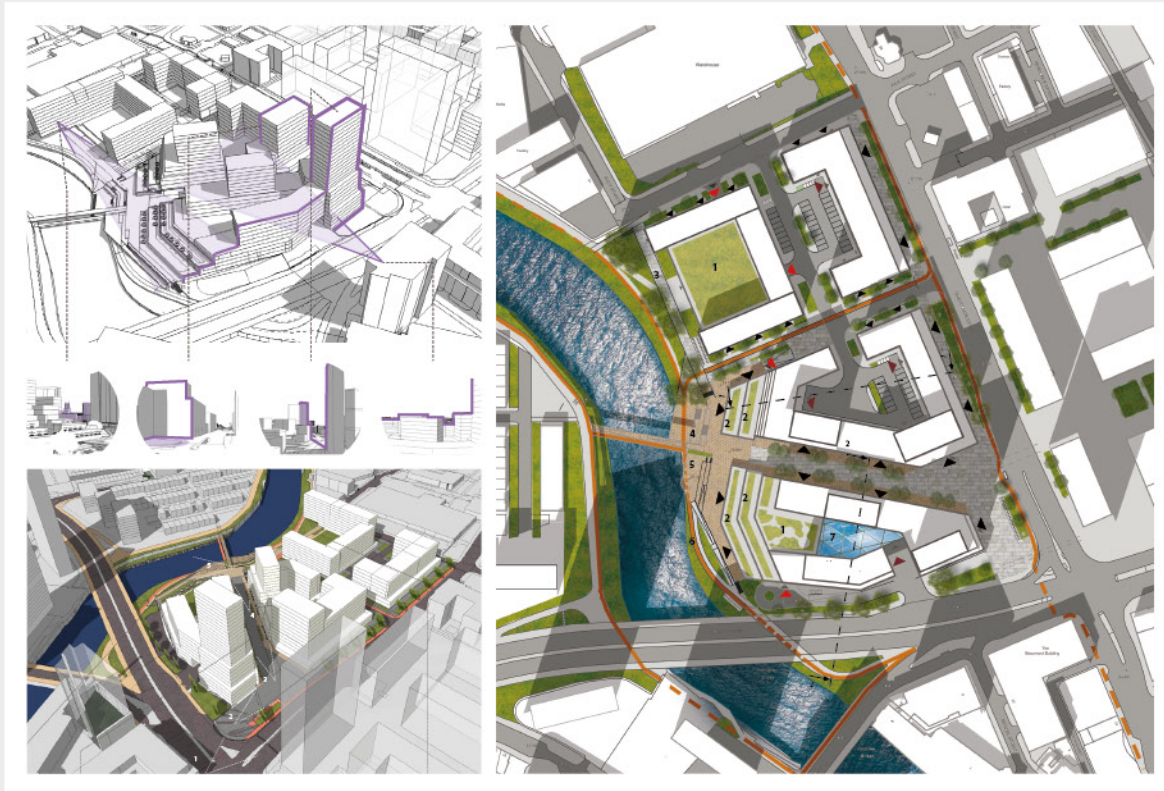
Student
Raghav Ajmera



Pegasus Group
 Award Winner 2021

Project
New Cross, Manchester
 Analysis and Design

Student
 Anita Collins

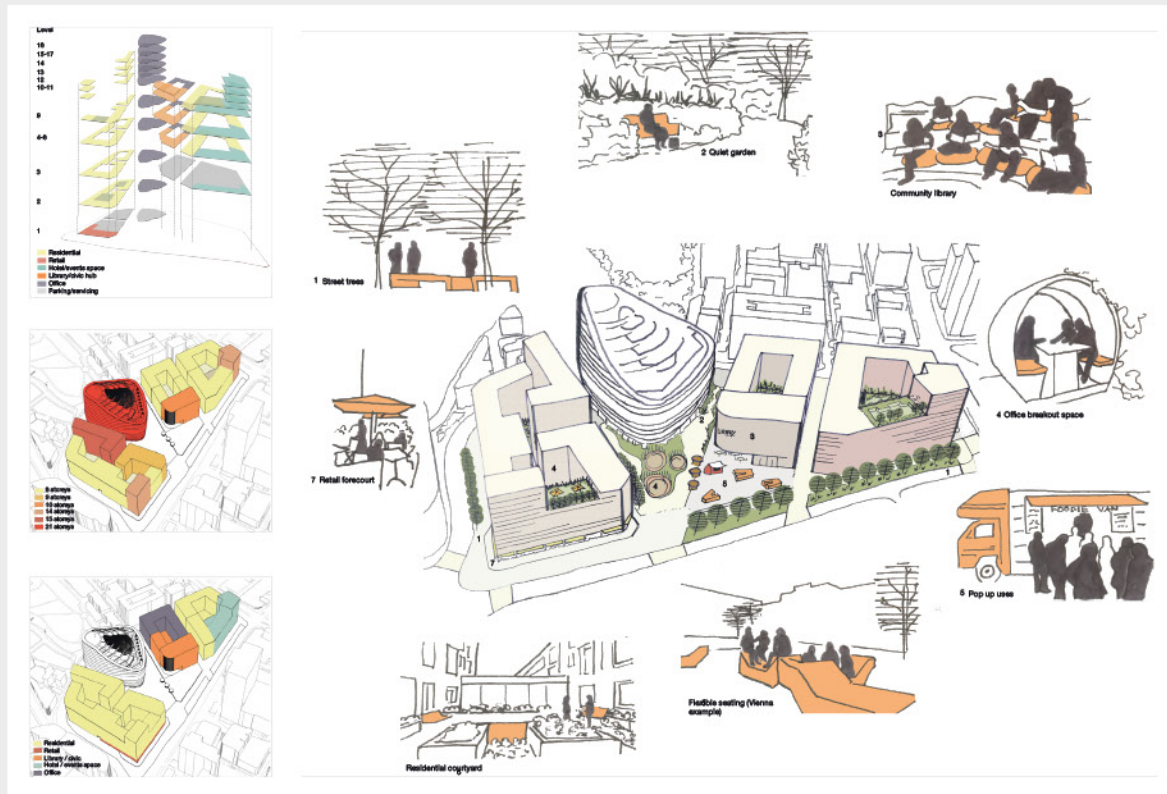


Award Winner 2020

Project
Cheetham Hill Road,
Manchester

Analysis and Design

Student
Marina Fomina

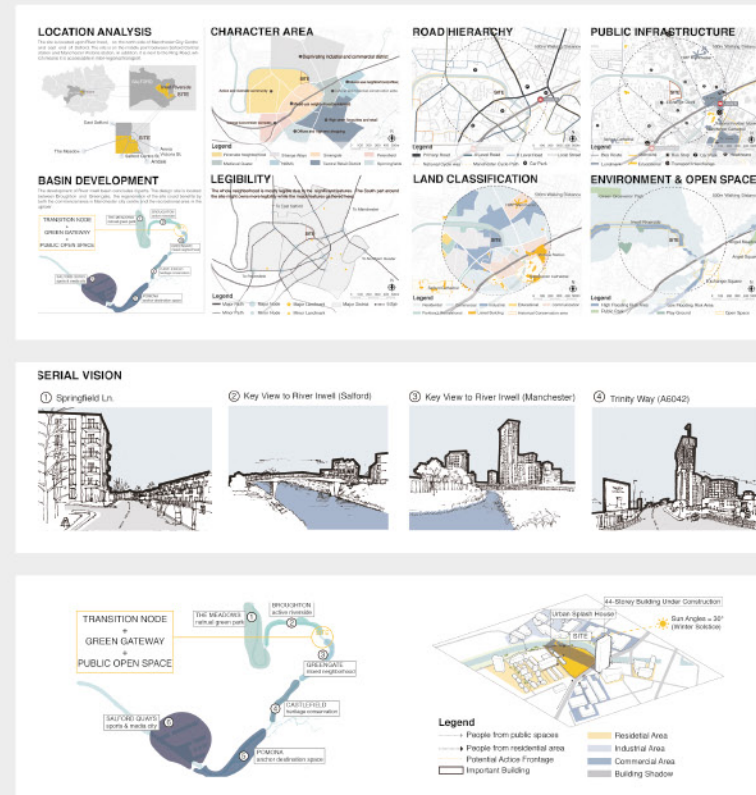
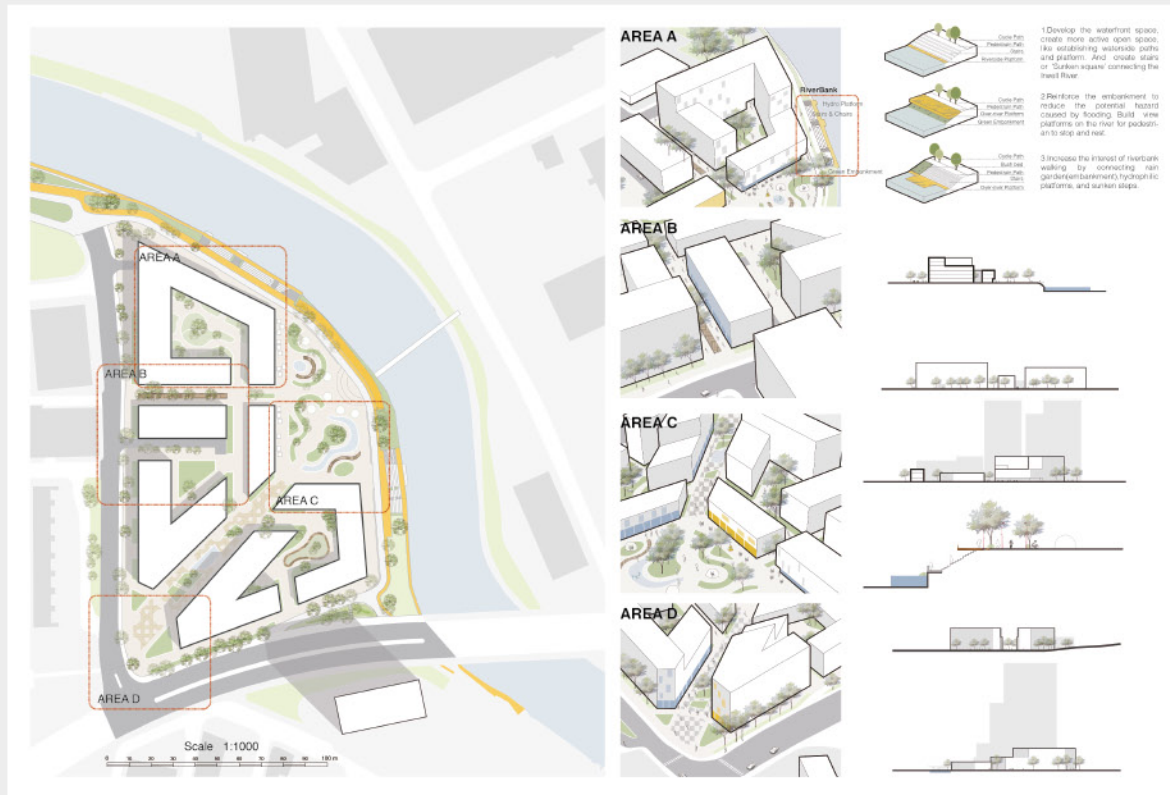


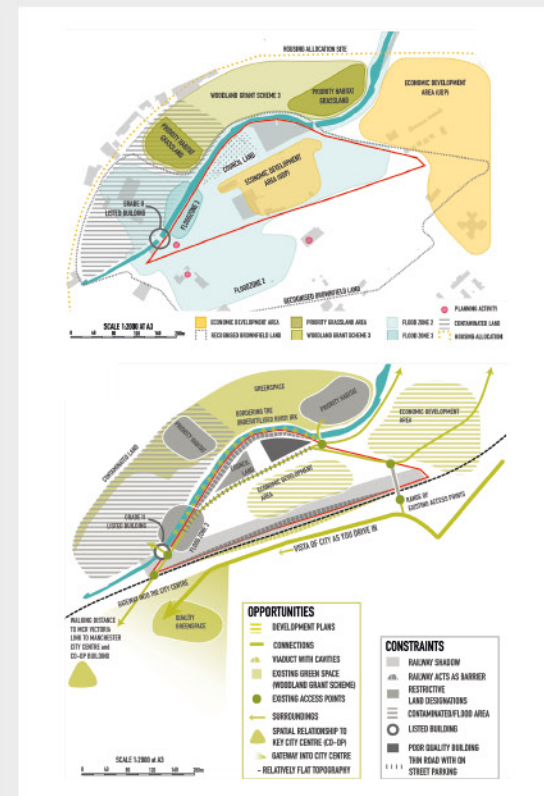
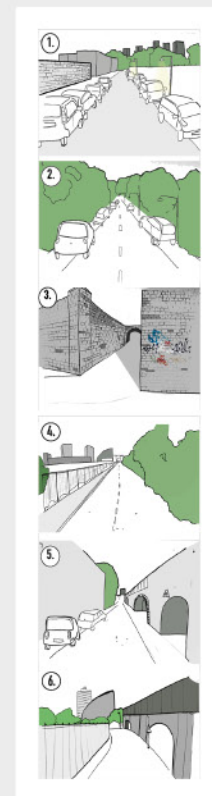
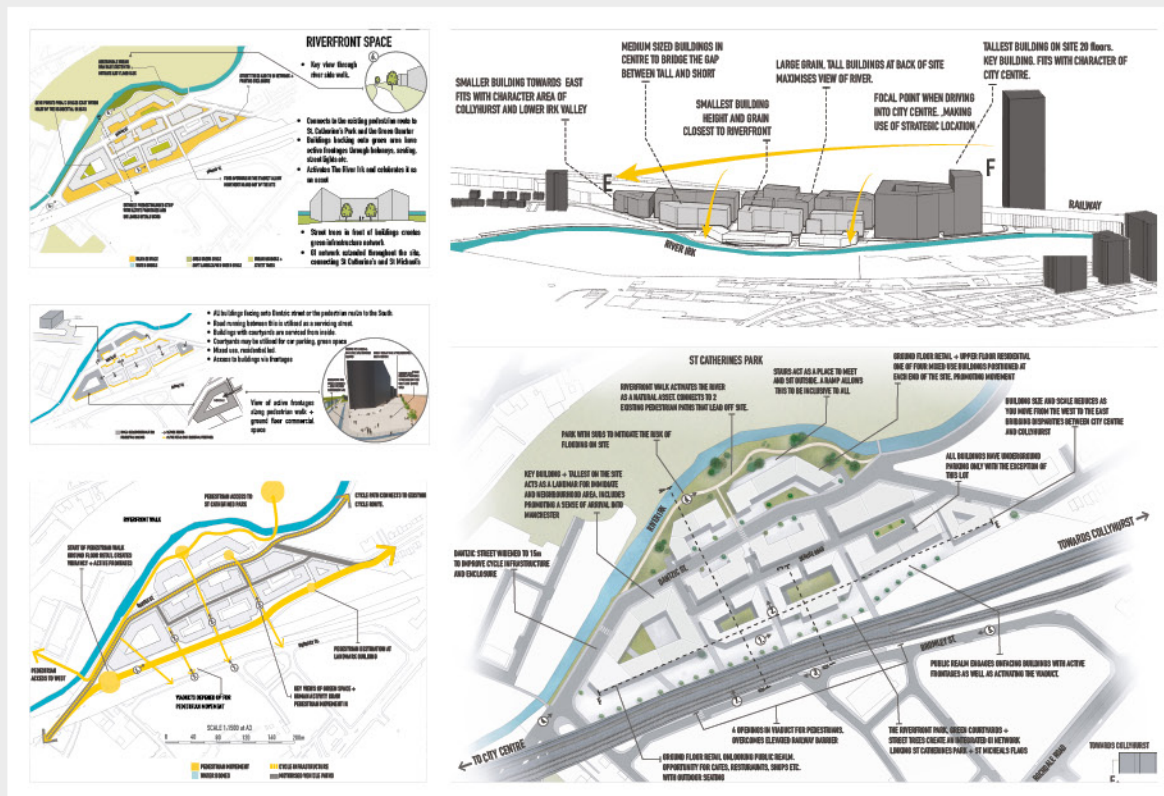
Award Commendation 2020

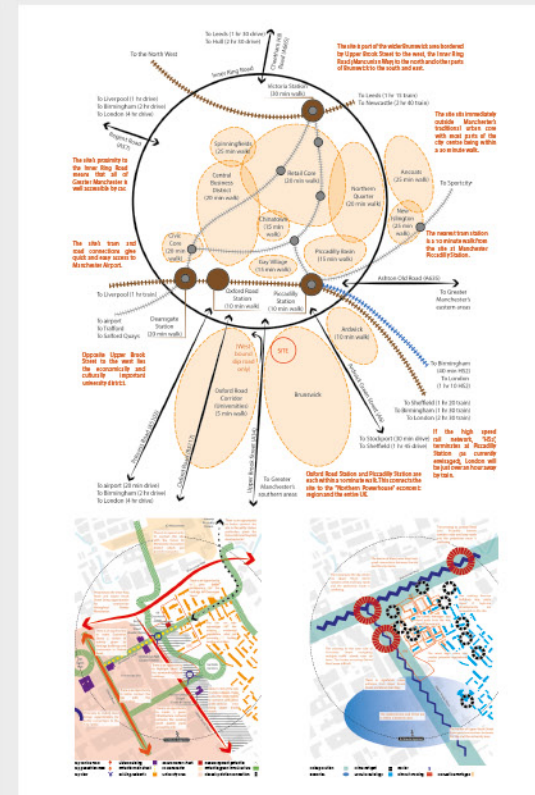
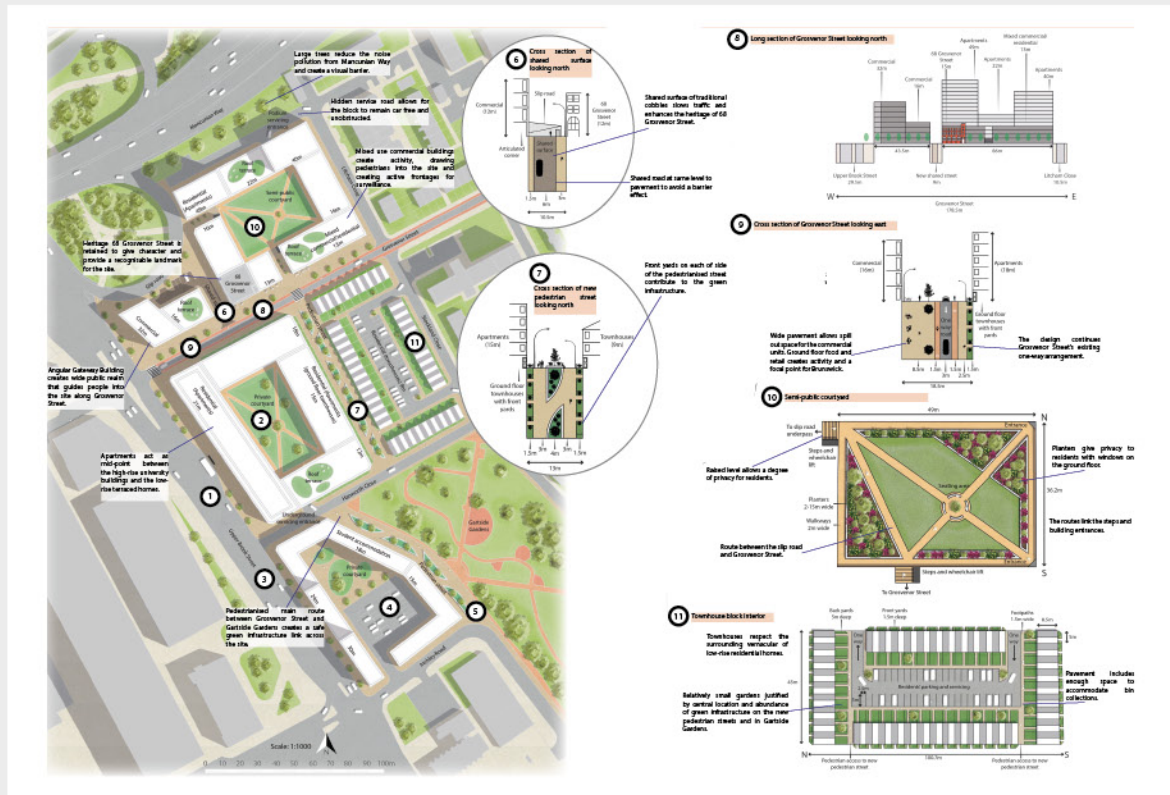
Project
Angel Square, Manchester

Analysis and Design

Student
Josephine Gregory

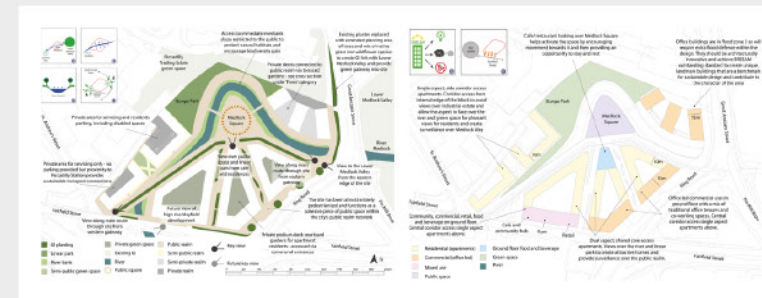
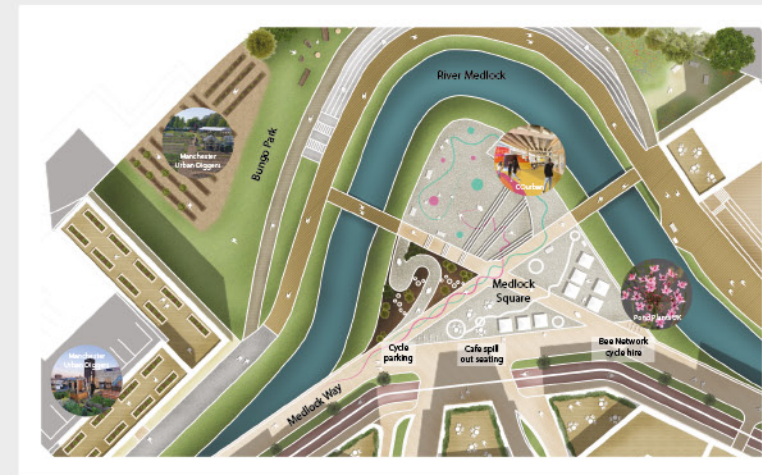


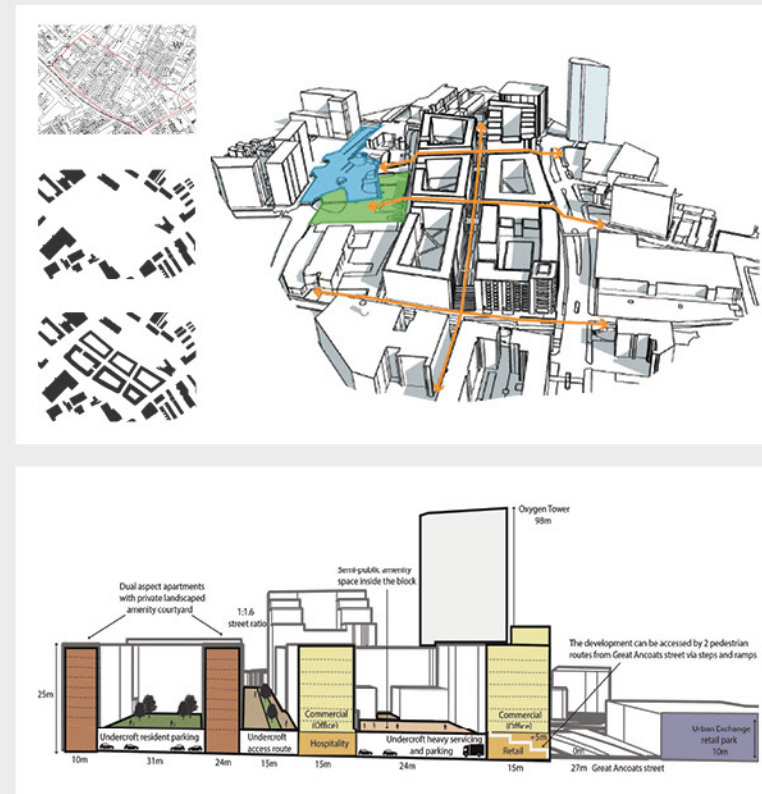
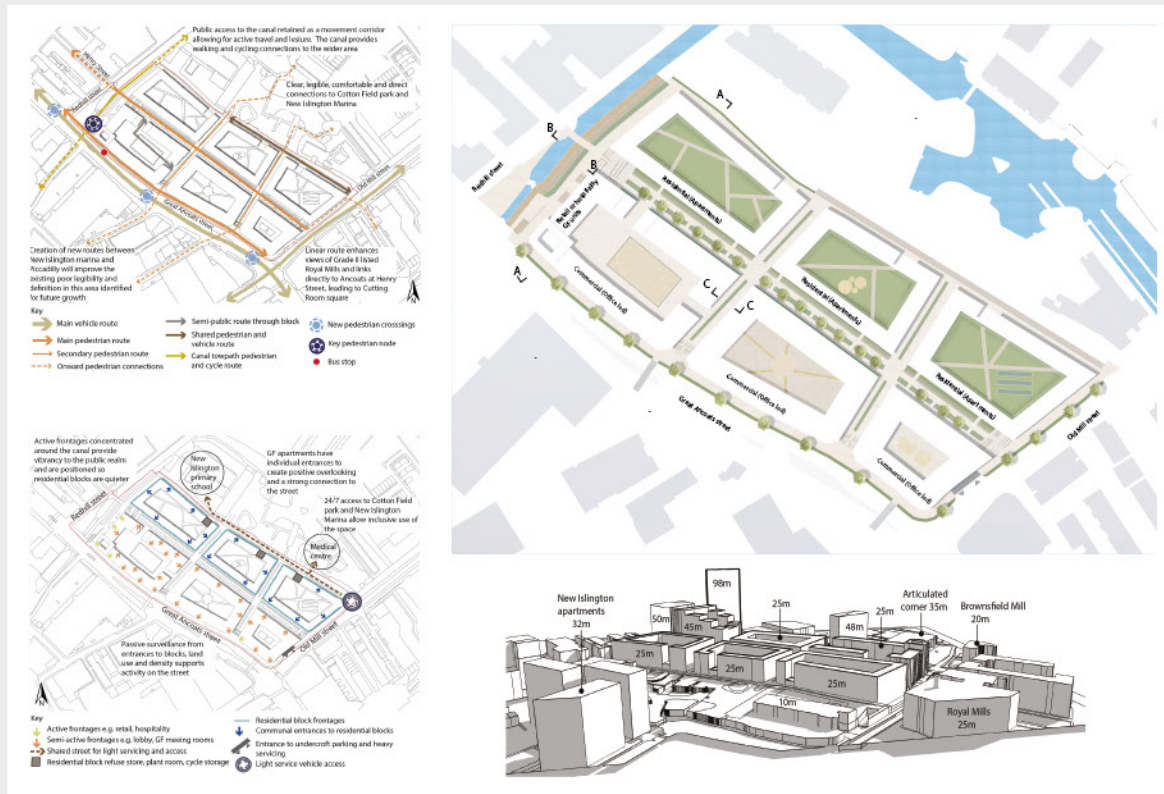




Project
Upper Brook Street,
Manchester

Analysis and Design

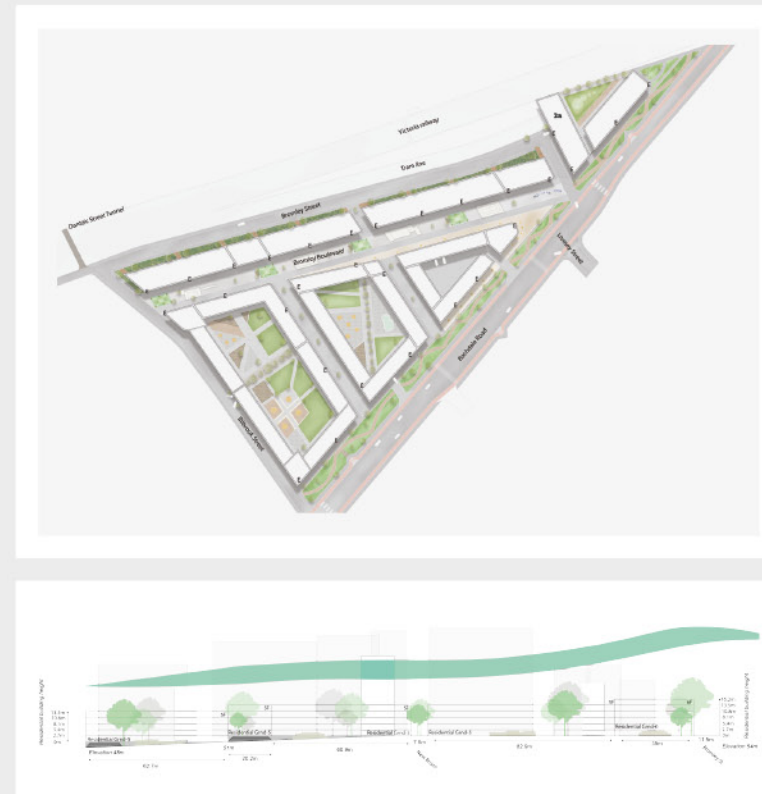




Project
Ancoats, Manchester

Design Project

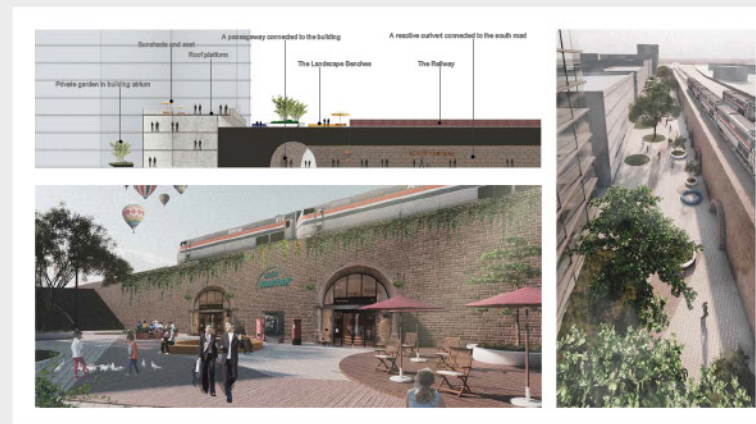
Student
Lilly Feasby



Project
Bromley Street, Manchester

Design Project

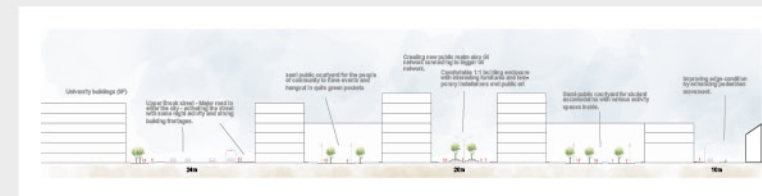
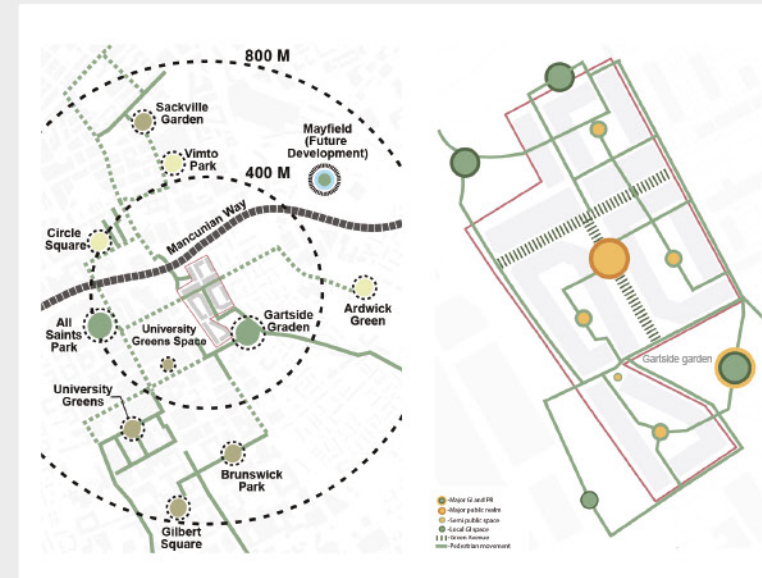
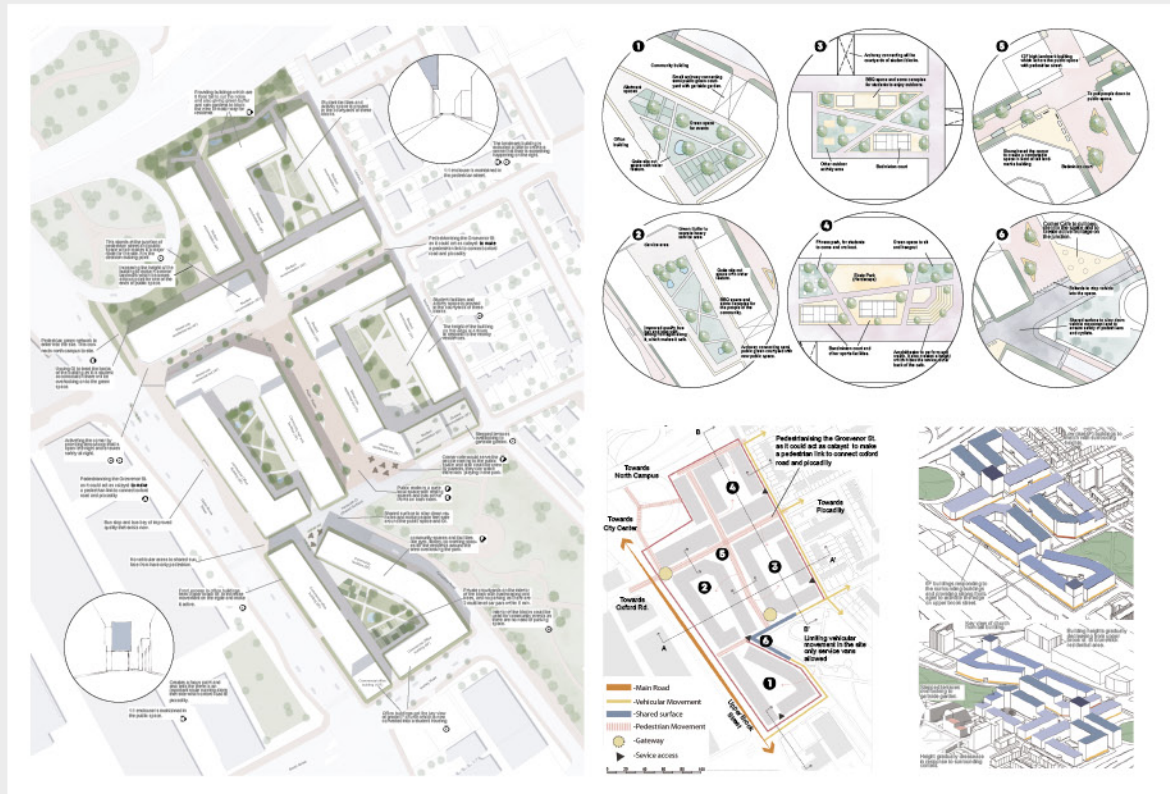
Student
Seb Burchell



Project
Dantzic Street, Manchester

Design Project

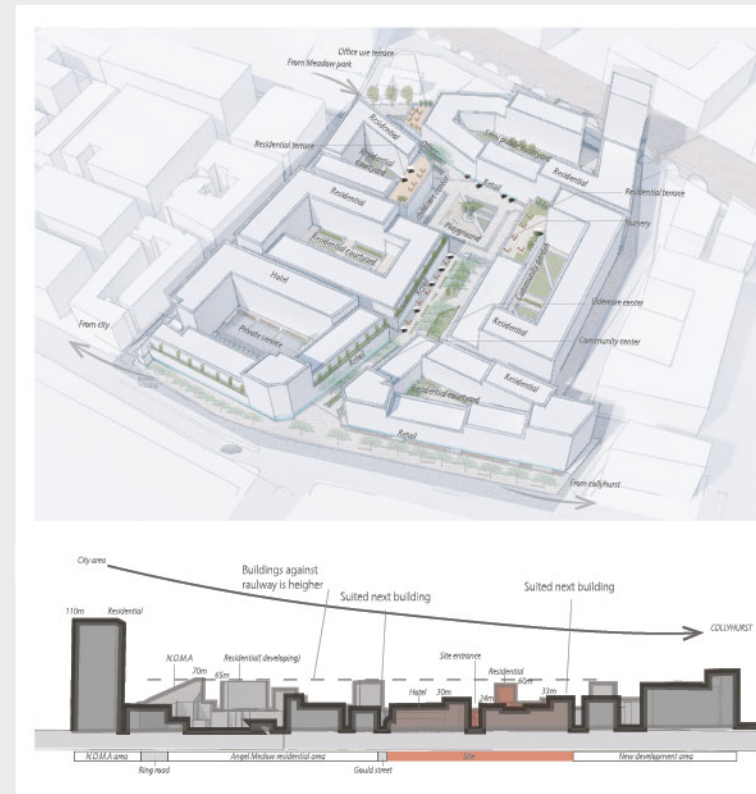
Student
Xukan Liu



Project
Upper Brook Street,
Manchester

Design Project

Student
Raj Sahoo



Project
Marble Arch, Manchester

Design Project

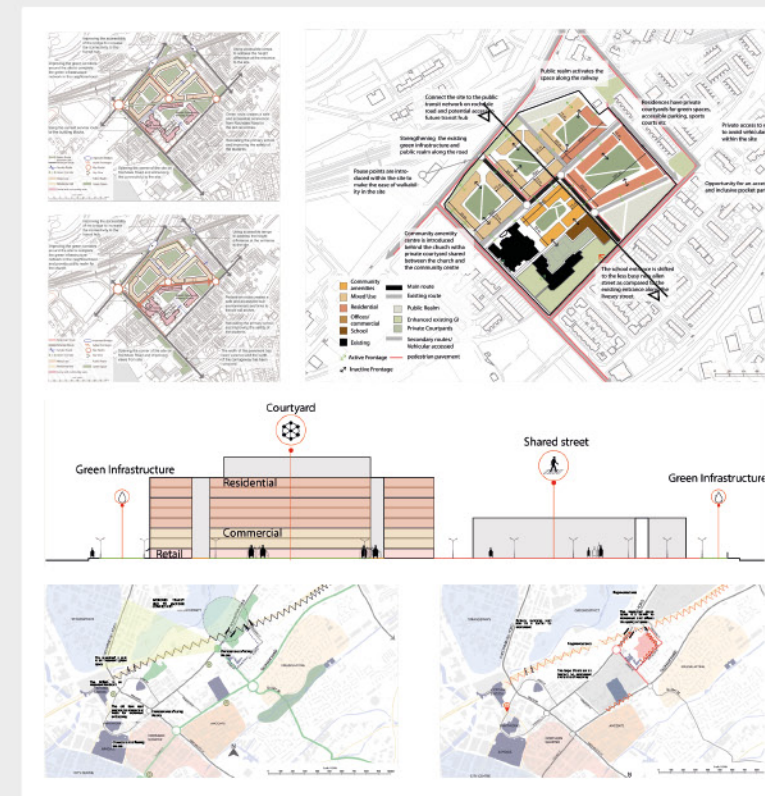
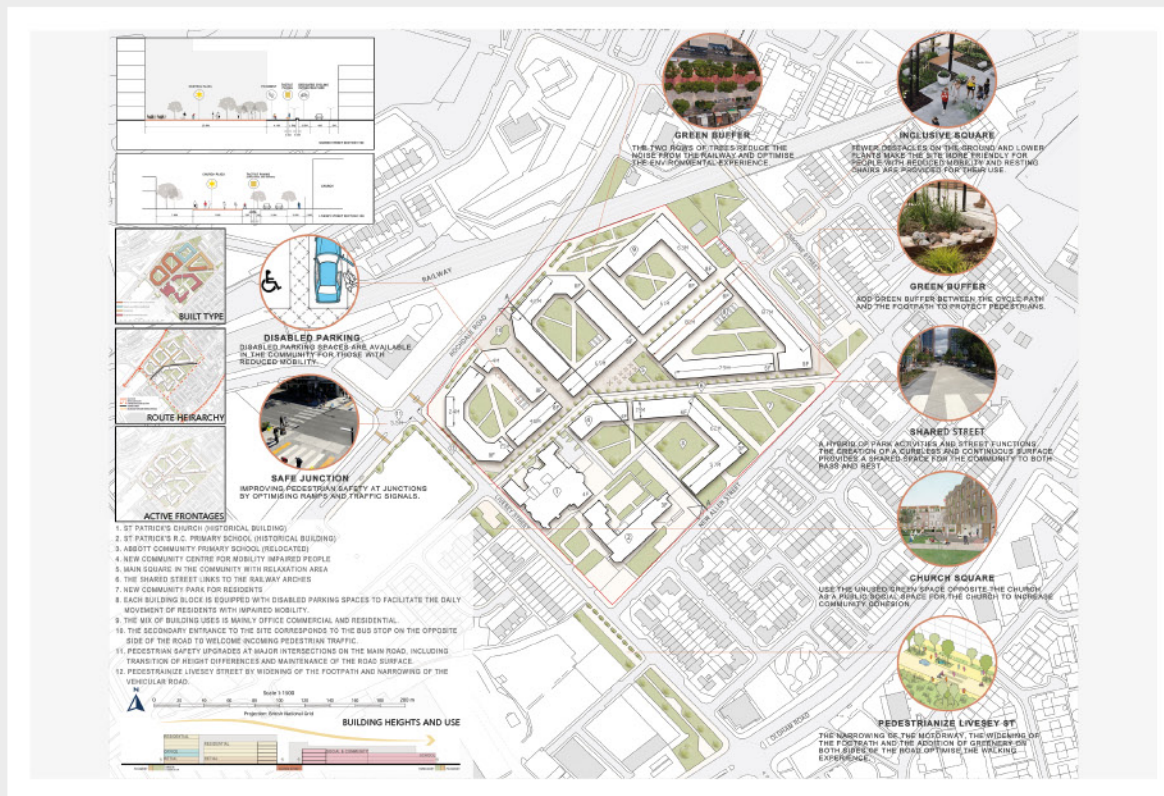
Student
Ayumi Sadatoshi

MUD-Lab Student Work

Urban Design Futures

Students on this studio-based project are tasked with responding to emerging and future urban design challenges – including climate change, informality, inclusivity, digital futures, and globalisation. Students are expected to deliver focused and more tactically aware schemes on their sites ensuring they explore international best practice and showcase an awareness of urban design composition and complexity in different contextual settings.

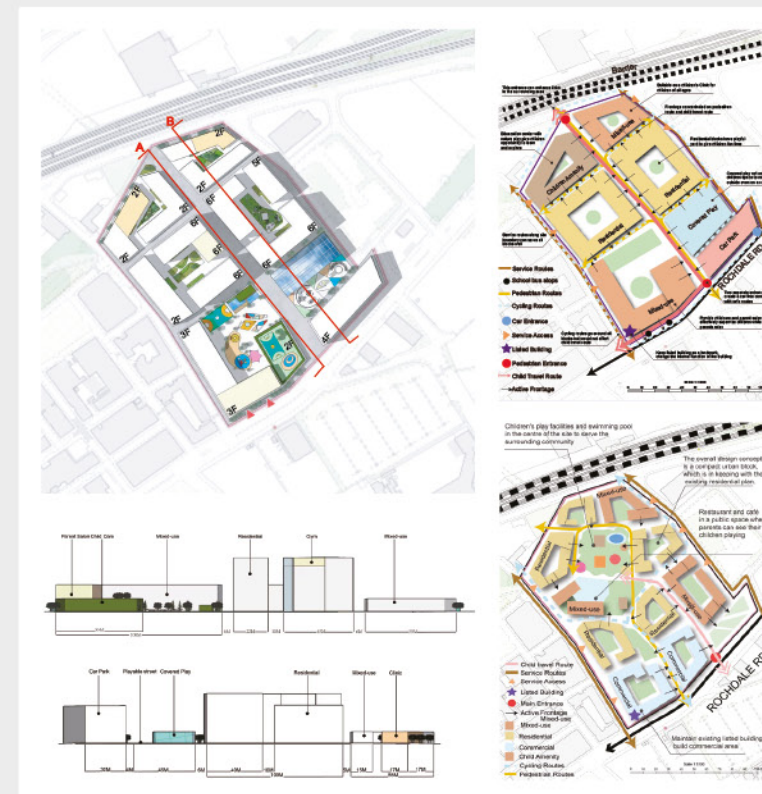
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Project
Designing for Accessibility

Miles Platting, Manchester

Students
Gayathri Mayanatt
Xiaoxuan Yu

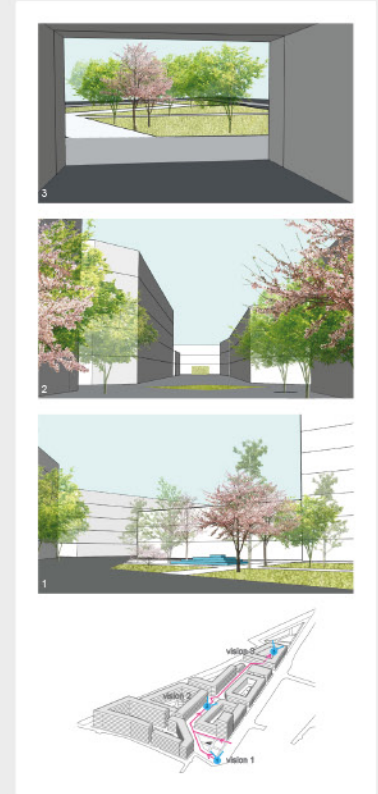
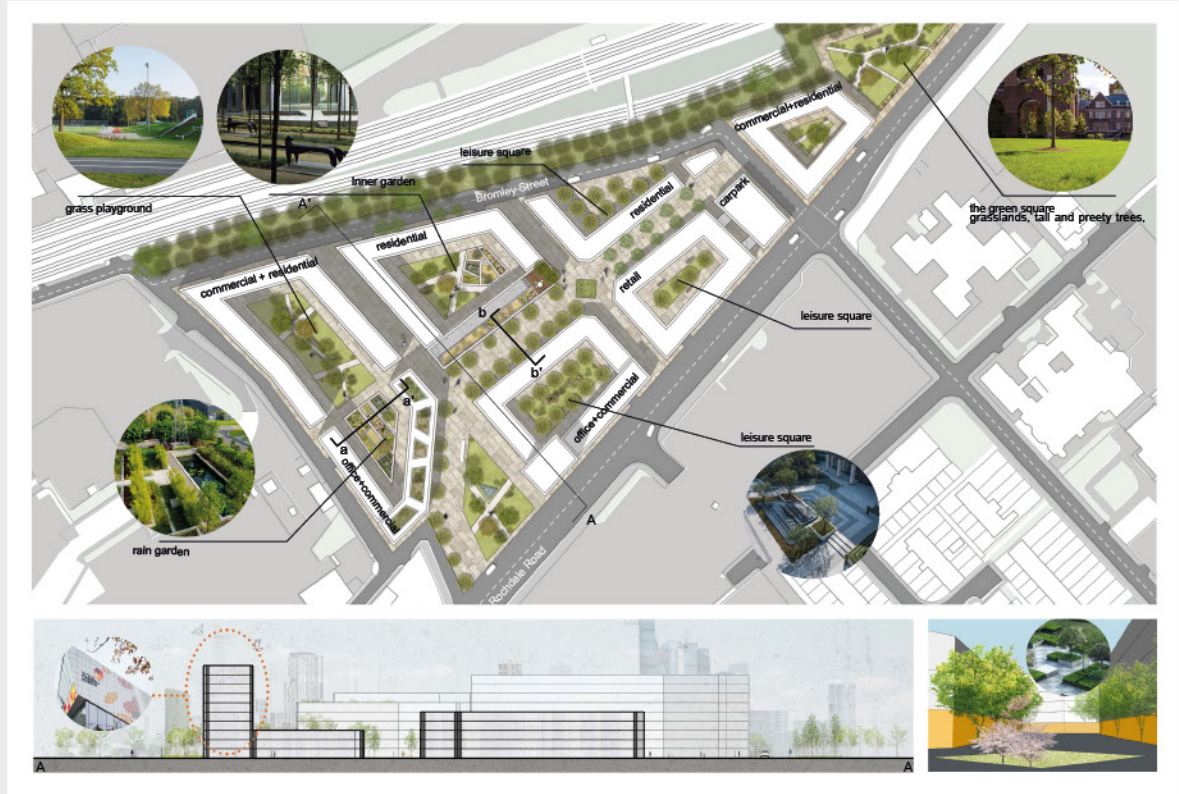


Project
Inclusive Design for Children

Marble Arch, Manchester

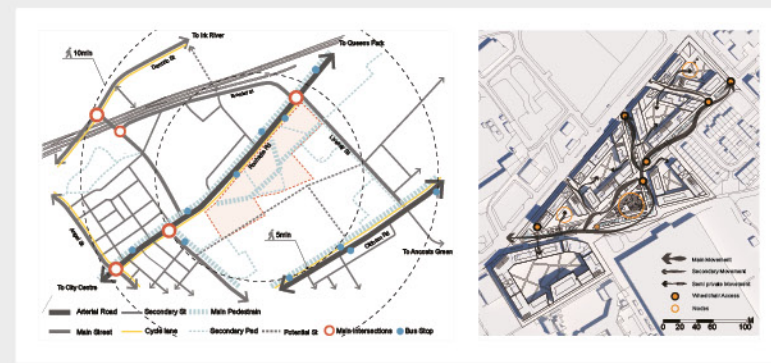
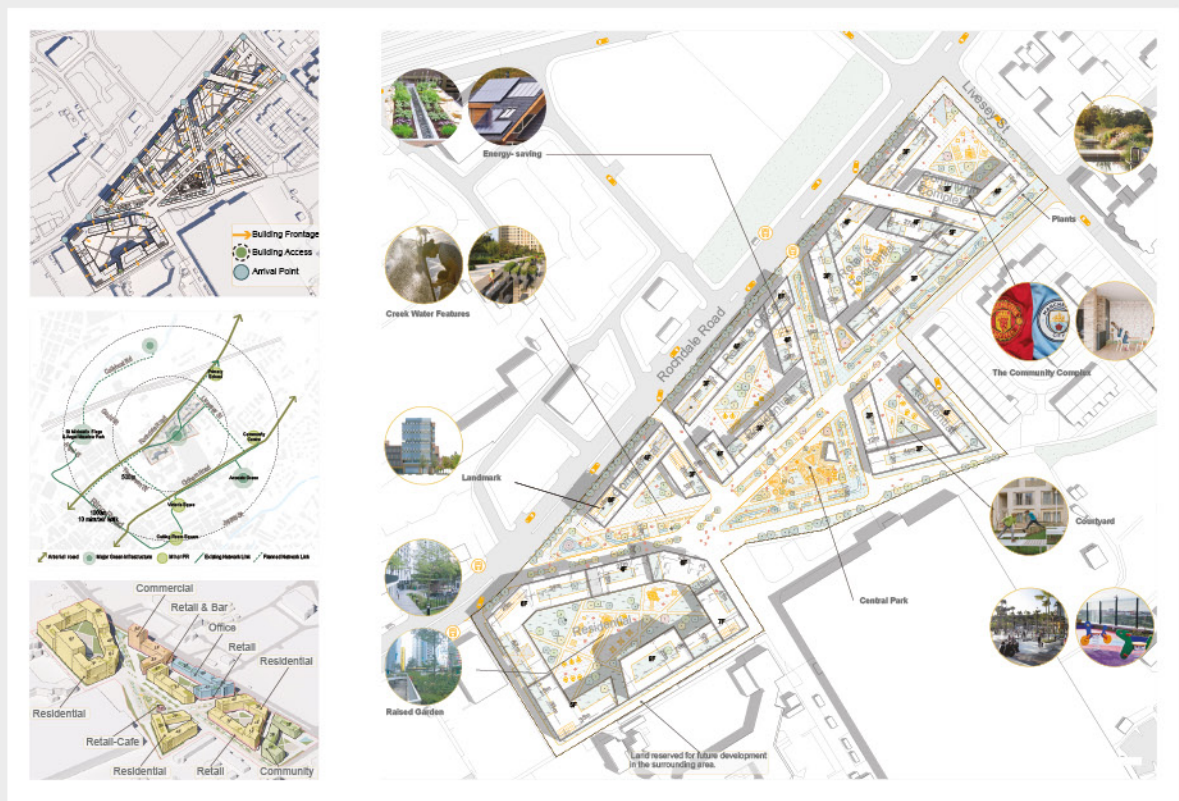
Students

Jianxin Huang
Yidan Zhang
Benzhao Liu



Project
Sustainable Urban Design
 Rochdale Road, Manchester

Student
 Jiayin Guo



Project
Sustainable Urban Design

Rochdale Road, Manchester

Student
Jihao Wang



Project
Sustainable Urban Design

Rochdale Road, Manchester

Student
Xueqi Li



Project
Sustainable Urban Design

Lower Medlock, Manchester

Student
Yanyu Yang

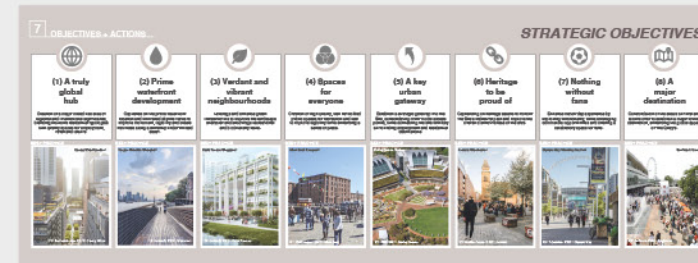
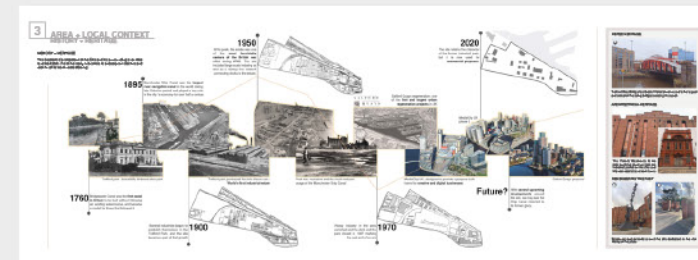
MUD-Lab Student Work

Masterplanning

This studio-based project aims to introduce students to the process of master-planning, providing skills in analysis at larger scales; design option development and testing; working to a brief; and detailing a masterplan scheme at 2D technical, human scale detail, and illustrative 3D.

The project asks for the delivery of a spatial masterplan draft framework [group work] and technical proposal [individual] for a selected 20-25 hectare site within Greater Manchester.

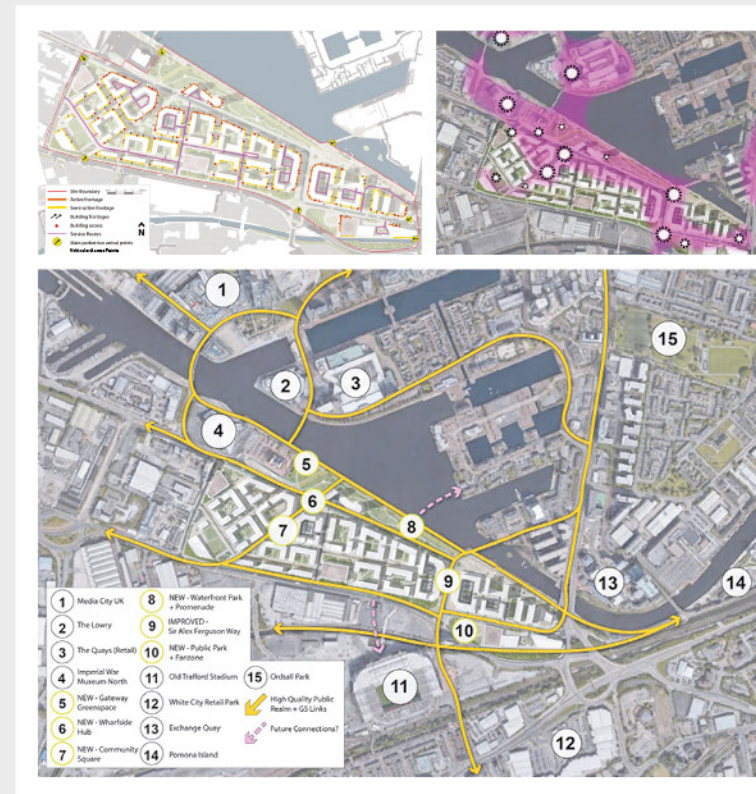
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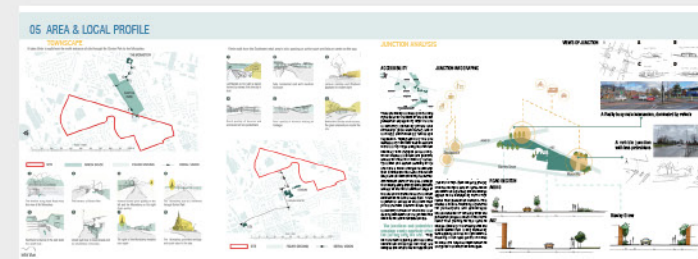
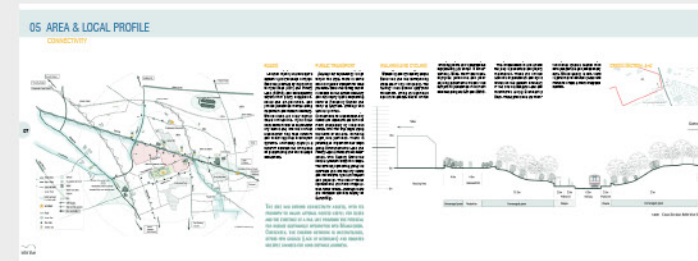
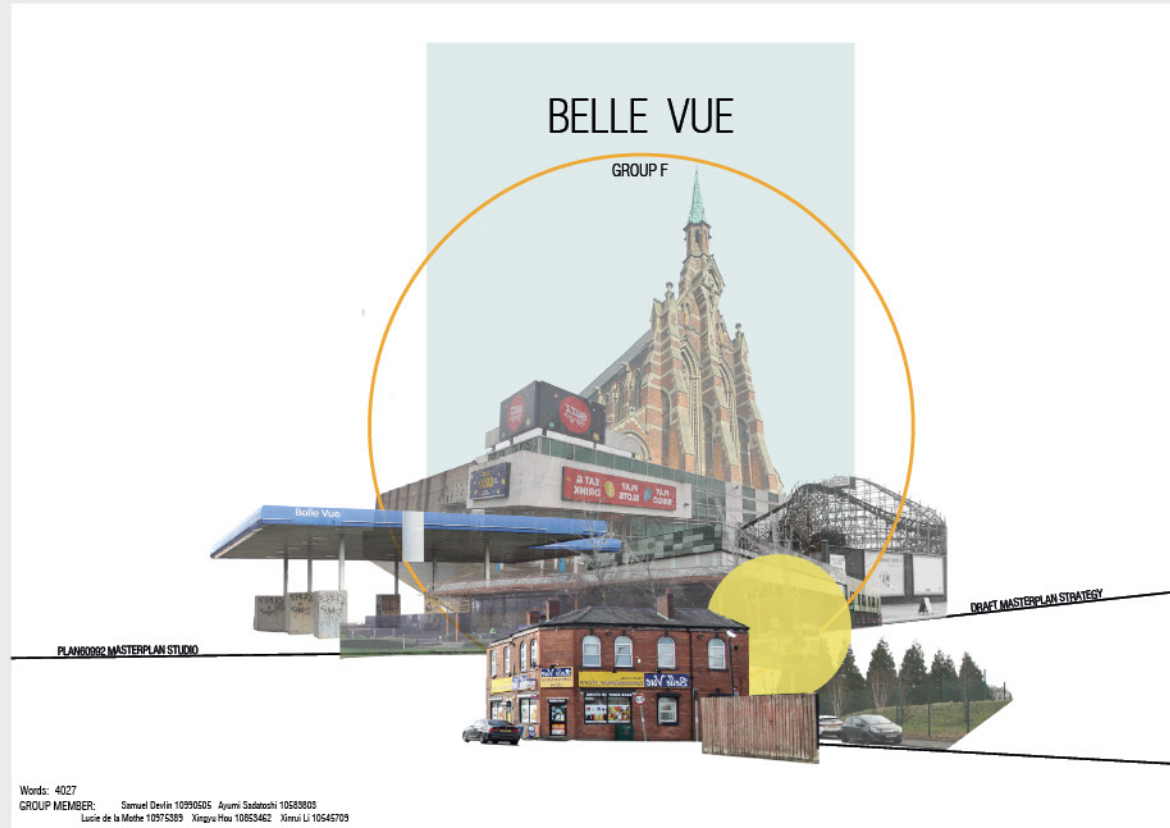


Project
Trafford Wharfside

Strategic Masterplan Framework

Students
Chris Talbot Benedict Lancaster
Raghav Ajmera Xingyu Li
Xukan Liu





Project
Belle Vue

Strategic Masterplan Framework

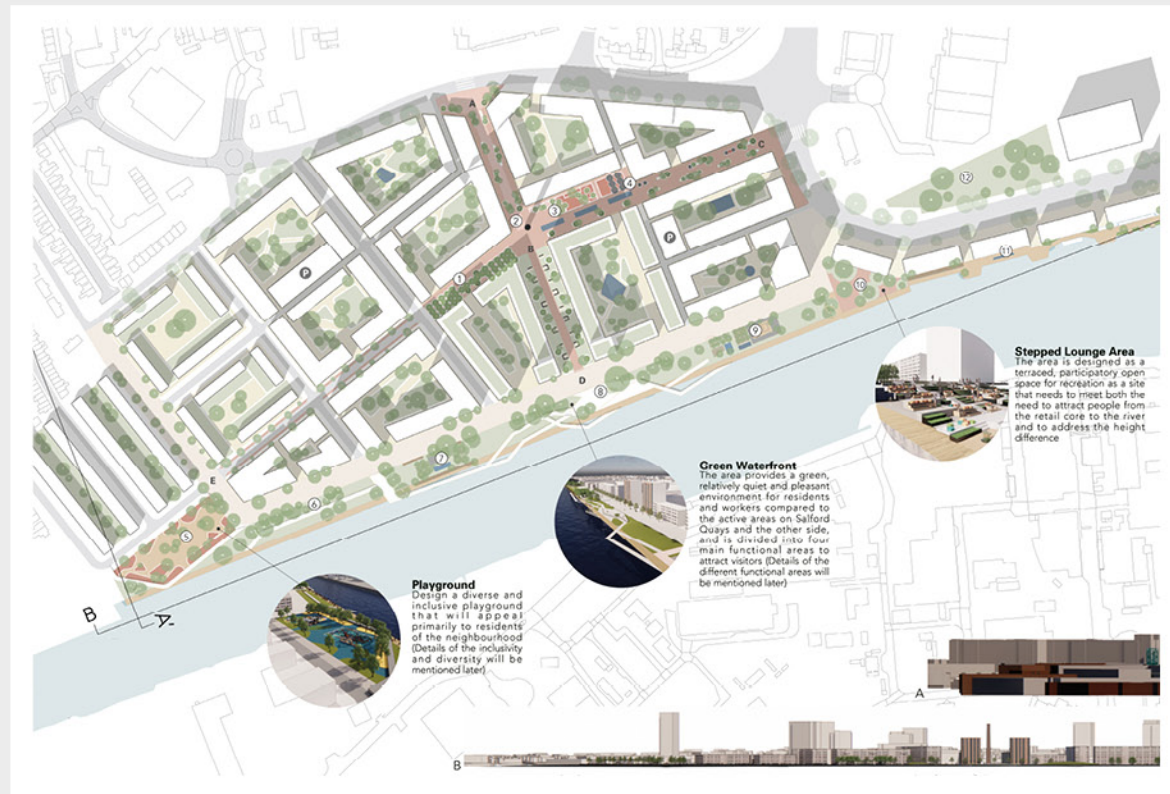
Students
Samuel Devlin Xingyu Hou
Ayumi Sadatoshi Xinrui Li
Lucie de la Mothe



Project
Eccles Waterfront

Strategic Masterplan Framework

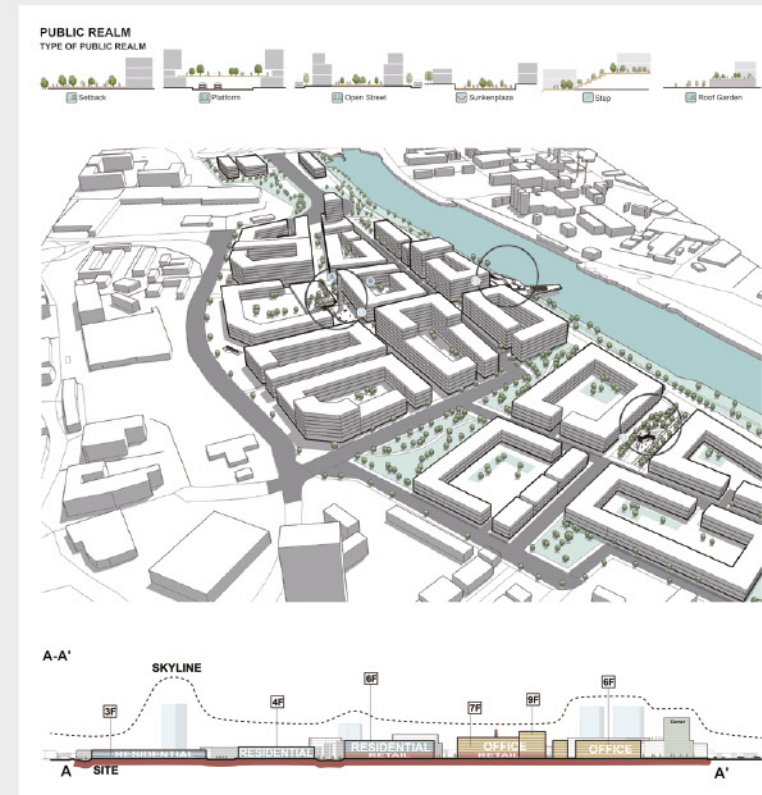
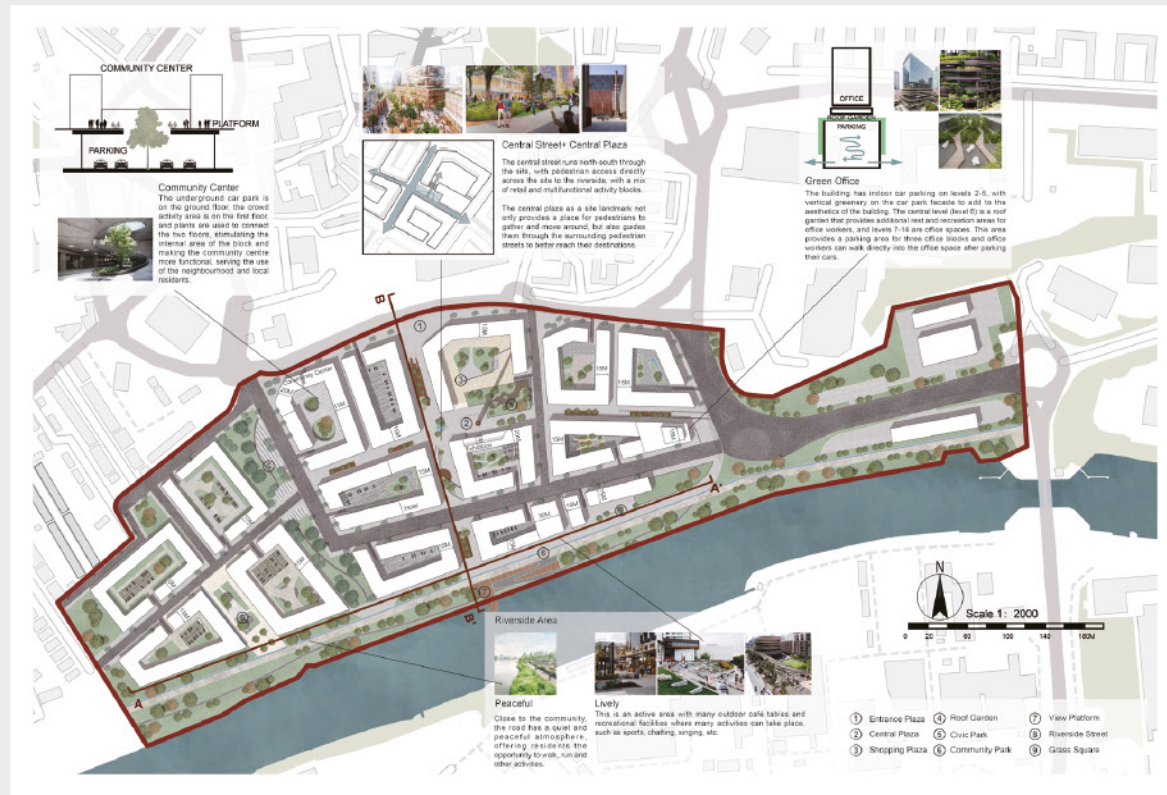
Students
Nan Zhang Jinyao Yu
Raj Sahoo Harkrishna Ajayakumar
Yu Gan

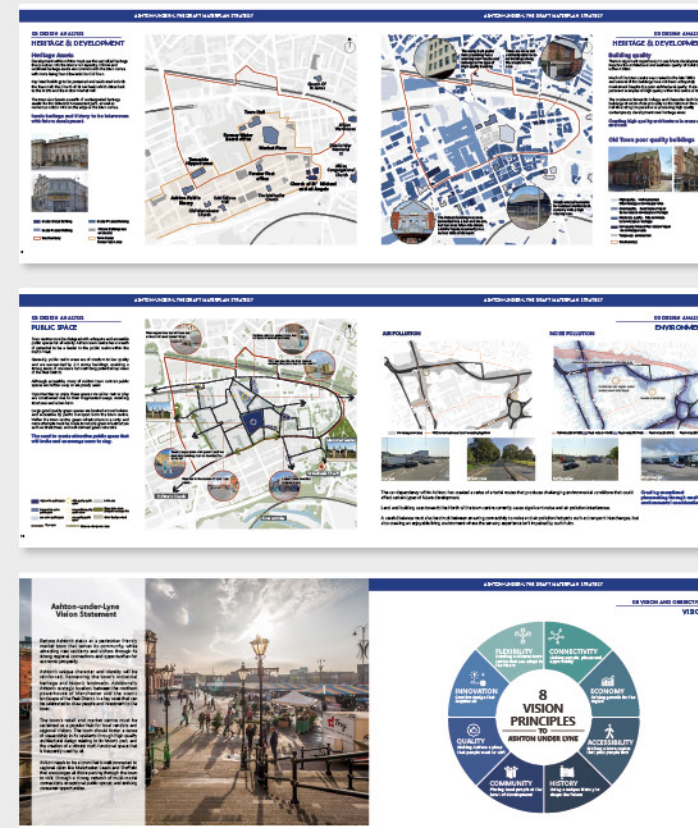


Project
Eccles Waterfront

Design Project

Student
Nan Zhang

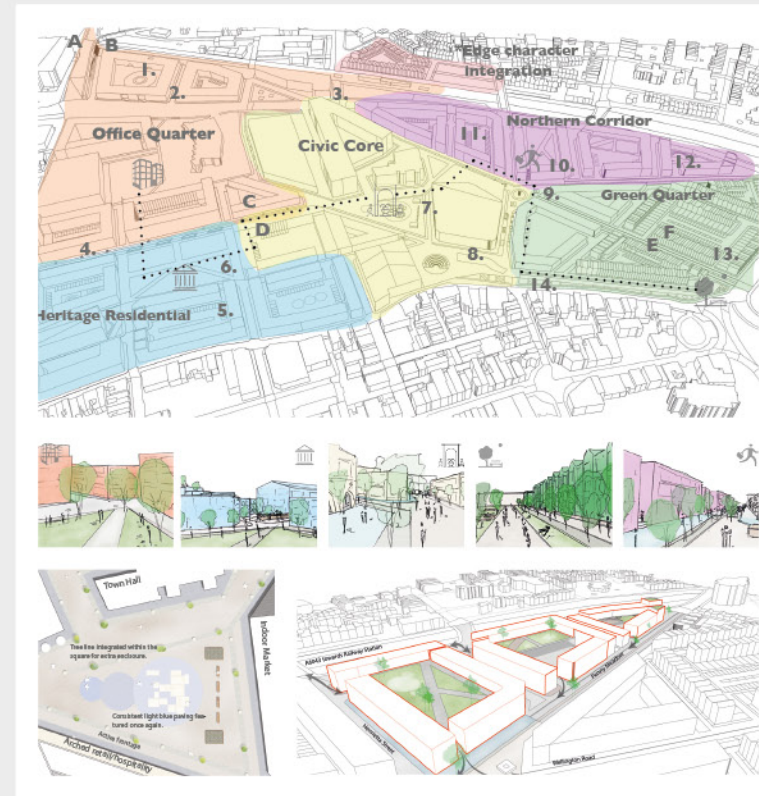




Project
Ashton-Under-Lyne

Strategic Masterplan Framework

Students
Chris Mason Yuanji Yu
Seb Burchell Zhihui Luo
Yifei Zheng



Project
Ashton-under-Lyne

Design Project

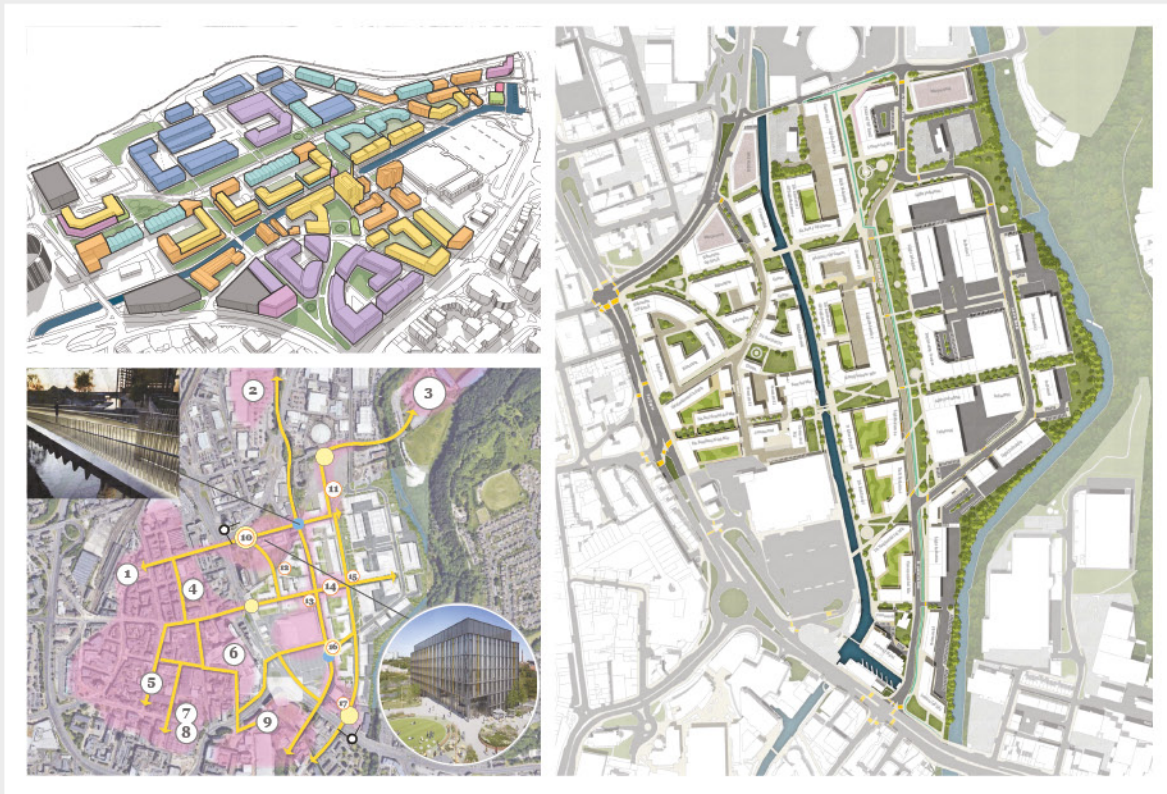
Student
Seb Burchell

MUD-Lab Student Work

Design Dissertations

Design Dissertations are the culmination of the year-long Master's programme and tests the students ability to independently complete a full in-depth design project to the highest standard. They are supported throughout by MUD-Lab specialist design tutors and supervisors. Design dissertations see the students choose their own unique urban challenge and setting.

Each student's entry is for illustrative purposes only – only selected graphics/images from the full design proposal could be showcased due to space constraints.



LDA Design Dissertation Winner 2022

Dissertation
**Integrating Industrial Uses
into Urban Contexts**

Huddersfield, UK

Student
Chris Talbot



LDA Design Dissertation Winner 2021

Dissertation
Queer-Led Regeneration

Manchester, England

Student
Joseph Greenhalgh

6.1 UPPER PARLIAMENT ST. | PARLIAMENT ST.

Major vehicular route connecting Liverpool to the Wirral and wider Merseyside, residential in the east, mixed use in the west.

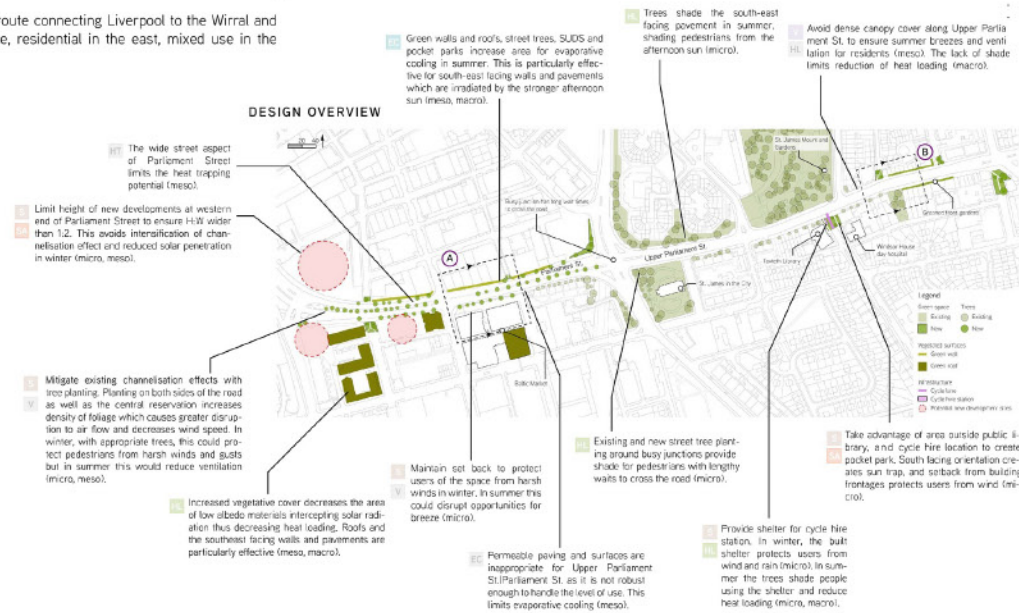
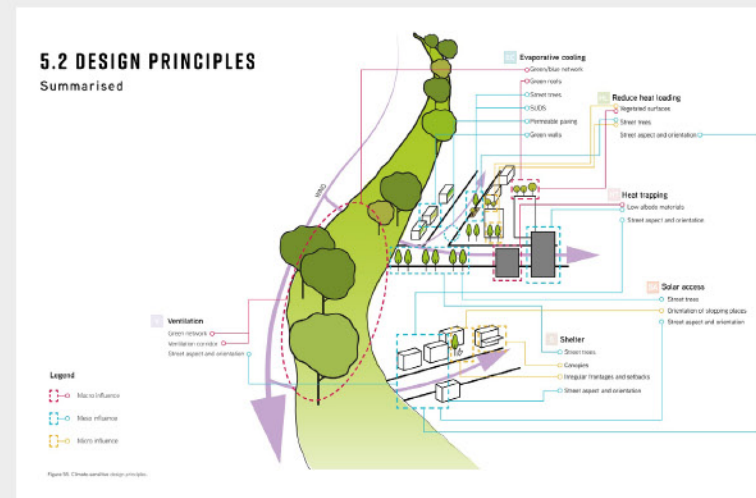
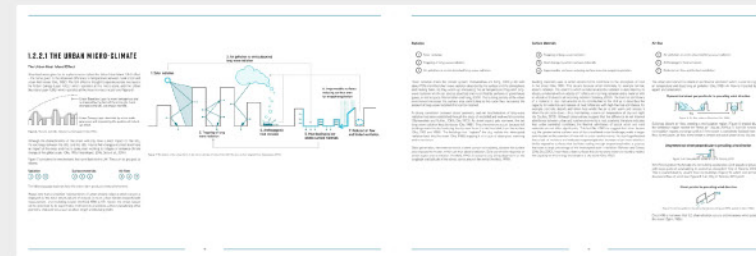


Figure 54. Design overview and evaluation against climate-sensitive design principles for Upper Parliament St. | Parliament St.



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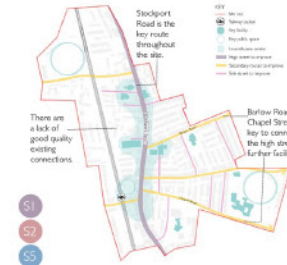
Student
 Natalie Mortlock

5.5 OPTION DEVELOPMENT

1. IDENTIFY THE KEY FACILITIES AND SPACES



2. UNCOVER EXISTING CONNECTIONS



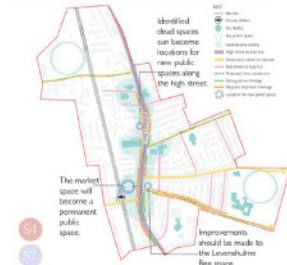
3. IDENTIFY CONNECTIONS TO BE ENHANCED



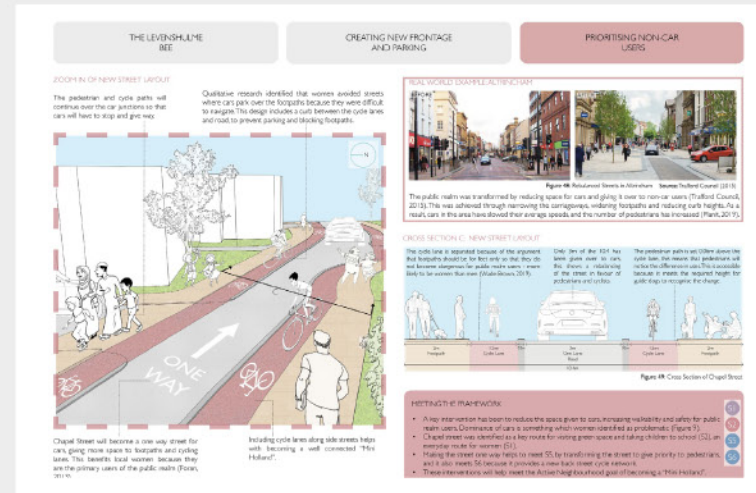
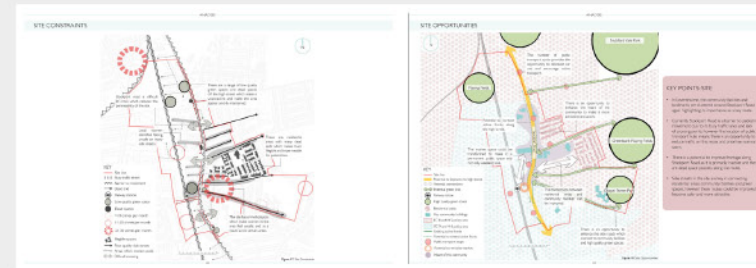
4. IDENTIFY KEY FRONTAGES



5. FINALISE LOCATIONS FOR NEW PUBLIC SPACES



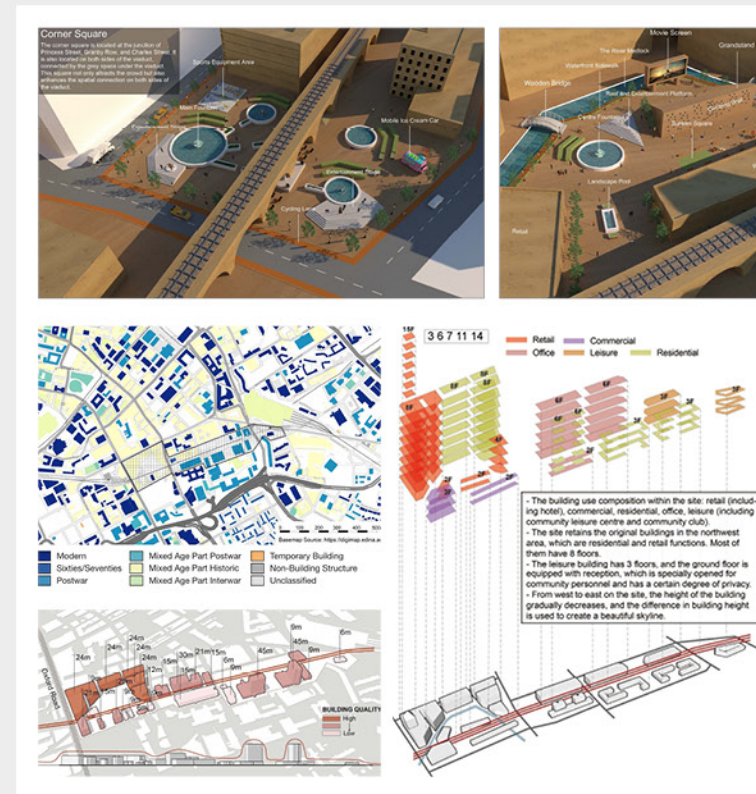
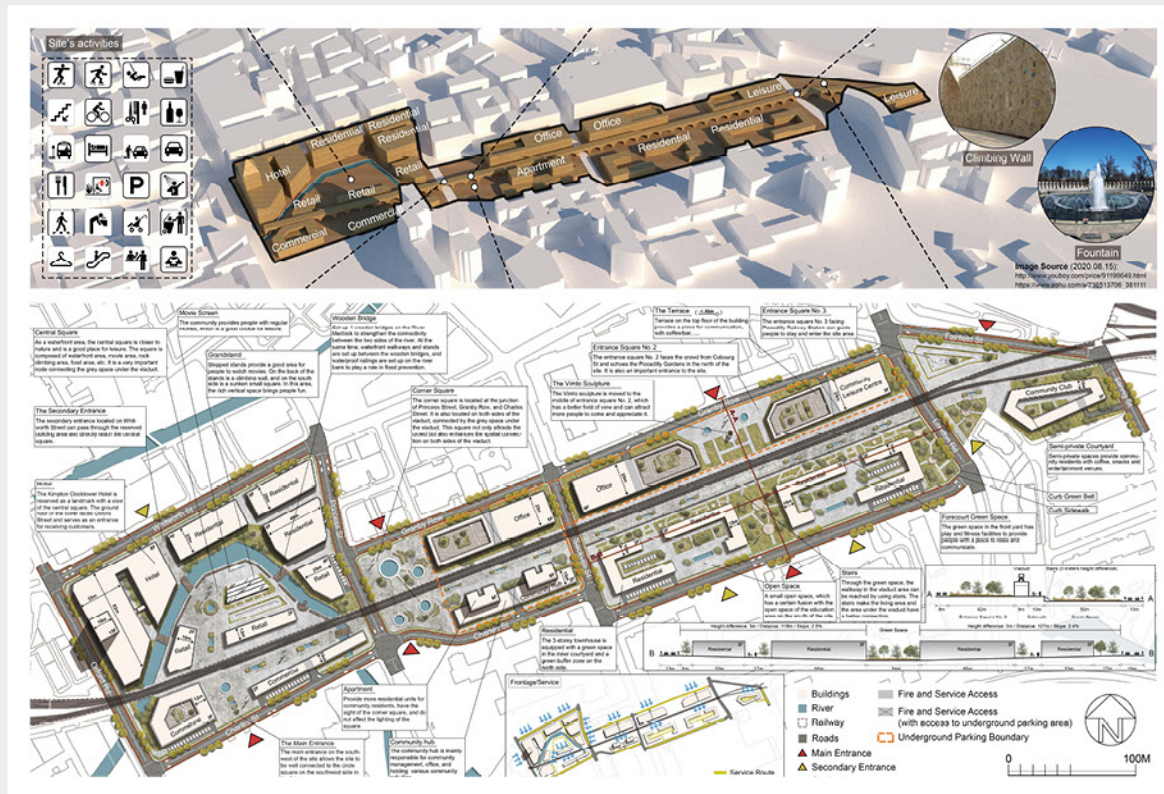
6. STRATEGICALLY LOCATE NEW CROSSING POINTS



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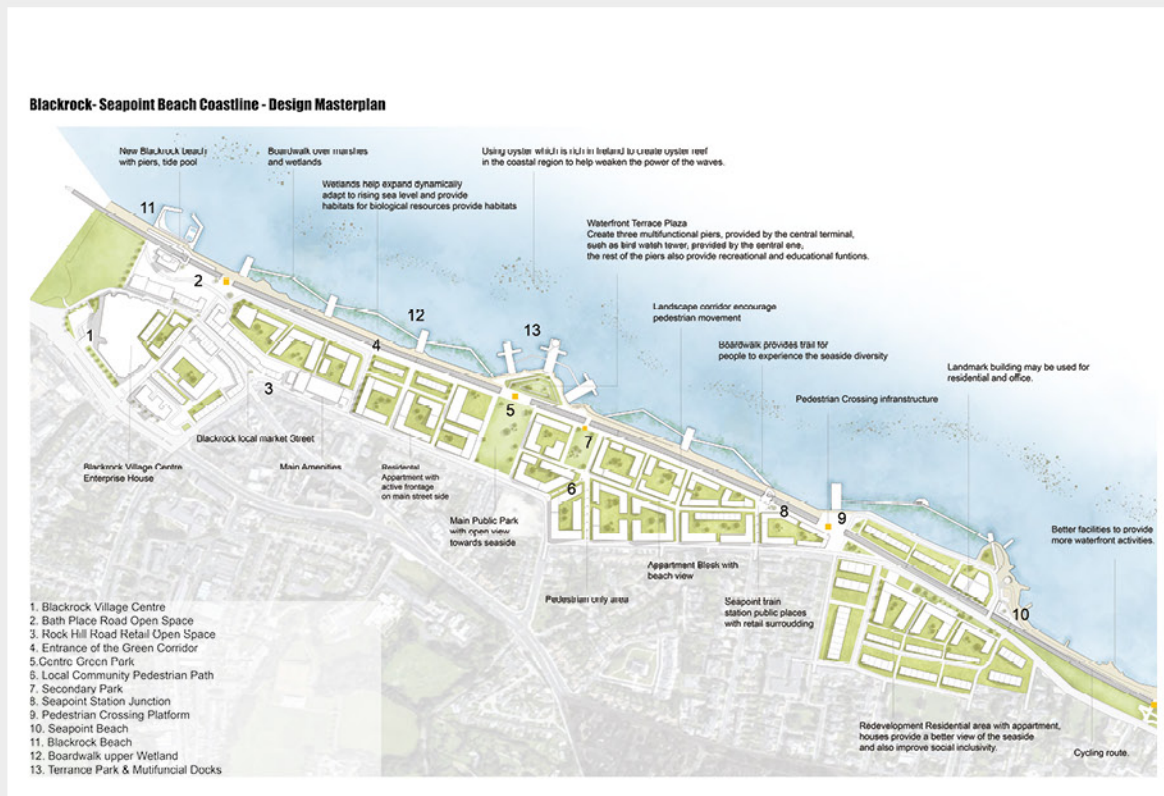
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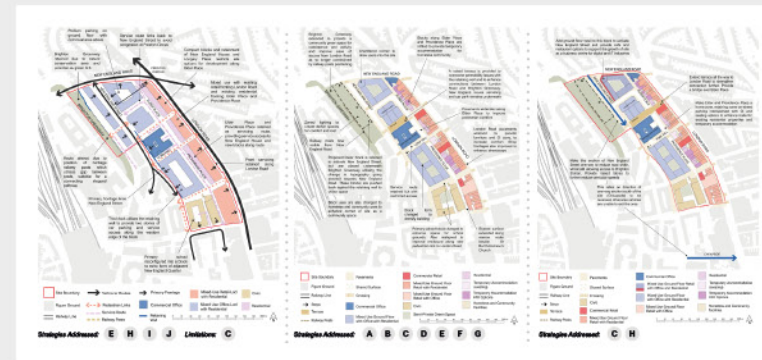
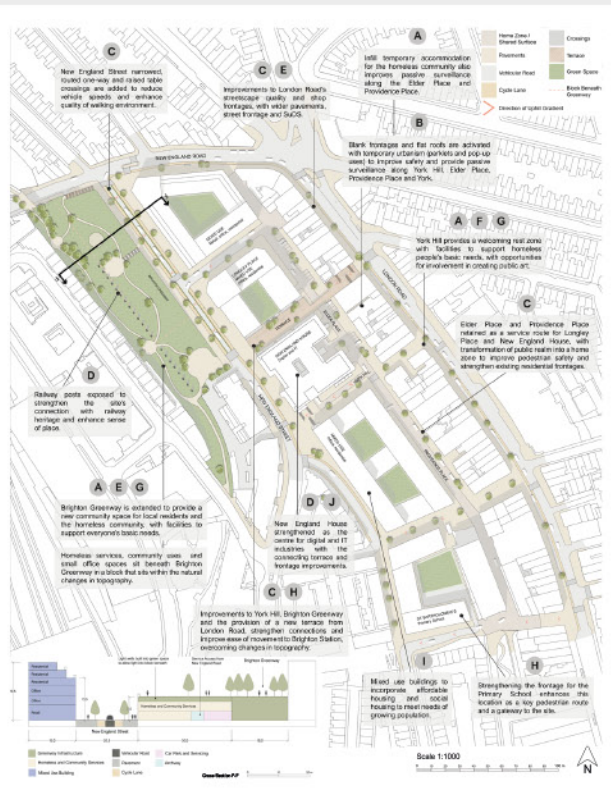
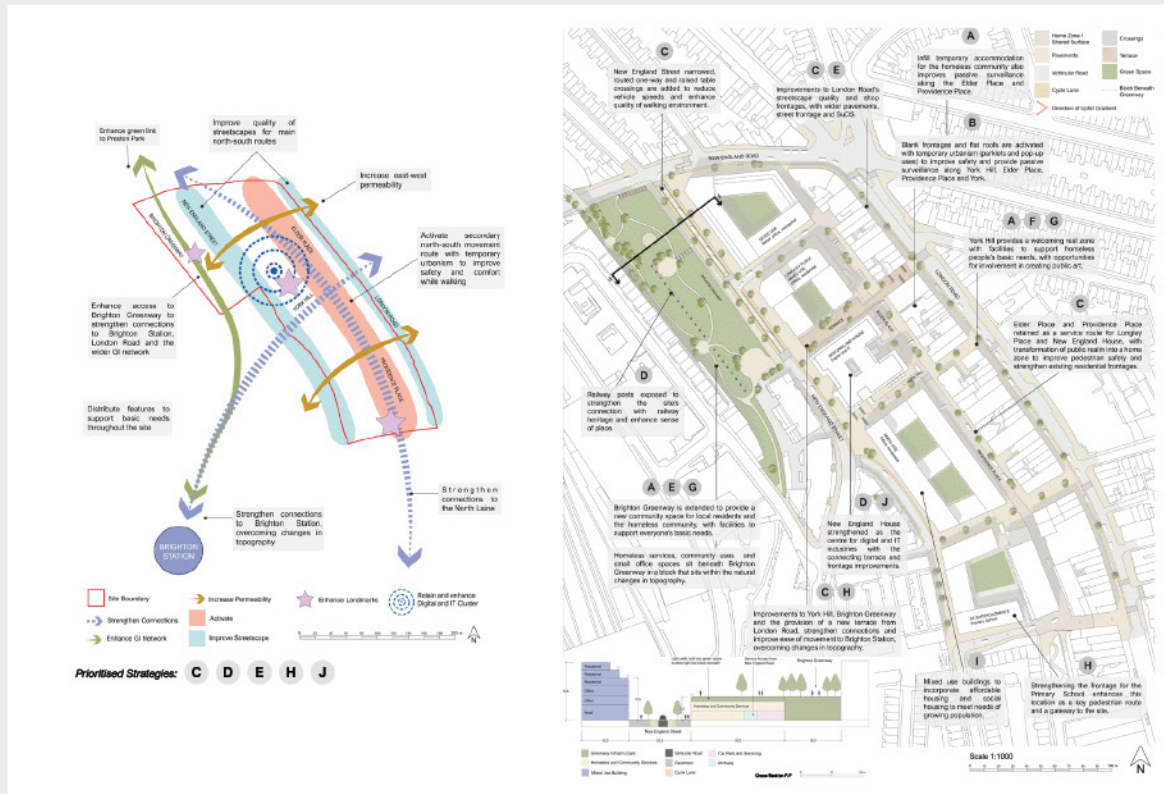
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