

Community Building Infrastructures Within The Stow Grounds by Ned Prizeman

These infrastructure within the Fine Art Community implements; relaxing, cross-pollinating, a space to push projects, recreational and creative activities that helps sustain positive morale and student welfare. Building the catalyst for creativity that enables a fluid practice, alongside spaces that students can use to put on social events; these acts as markers for claiming *We are here, this is us and this is what we are doing. We are not here just here to get a tick next to our name. We are building a sustainable community that allows us to continue to be artists.*

The students are the schools currency in regards to what they achieve whilst being there and for the time post graduation. The whole of fine art is under one roof, a big family - a currently a dysfunctional one at that. Whilst communal space exists, there is potential for more to be offered within the grounds. The simple, cheap features and functions I am proposing can fix these issues. With every day that passes without an accommodating, nurturing infrastructure, the productivity of the students of G.S.A. is held back.

G.S.A. has not had a lot of luck since 2014. There is understanding that implications have been slow but I am worried G.S.A.'s approach to facilitating the building of the community will not be eco-friendly. Building new spaces have a detrimental impact on the planet, such as the latest £50m development by US architect Steven Holl which is riddled with unsustainable materials. Despite the efforts of creating a new space for students, many report that the space is dysfunctional and hindering their personal creativity. Building sustainably won't just have an impact on reducing G.S.A.'s carbon footprint, but as a place of education, it will inspire the next generation who has to face the climate emergency and Covid-19 pandemic.

Moving forward to today, the new Stow building of G.S.A. in my opinion doesn't reflect the fine art practices that are carried out within it. In the following, I am proposing a wholesome shabby chic style achieved by recycled materials and eco-friendly building methods that fit within a limited budget. Approaching it by thinking practically, with a method with the least carbon footprint and waste, and by turning to what is around us to transform G.S.A into a functional, creative space.

There are 7 shipping containers in the carpark of the stow which could be converted into functional spaces for students use, with as much recycled materials possible. These containers can be converted to achieve good air and moisture flow.

The conversion of the containers is a quick job that could be done over a weekend by a technician and could be completed with the help of students as a beautiful home building exercise and will allow the students to feel a sense of autonomy of the functioning space of which they can be proud.

Alternatively, if new materials are to be used, there is a greener building method that can open an exciting opportunity for students across G.S.A. to collaborate and build a communal space, similar to how the mackintosh building was a student competition.

Suggested Community building infrastructures features functions:

Exchange of information:

Notice boards and an agreed space, a dynamic visual sight specific variation of information; events, projects, open calls, opportunities, advisement. A space for people to be in control of what they see. It is coherent accesses to information that enables a fluid understating benefiting the student experience. With the information that is sent out to students emails. Also some sort of wipe-board for “the drawing of the day” this has an exiting potential ,for non stagnate visual information which people can show off their styles and views.



Outside Stage:

Airtime for speeches, performances, announcements, social initiation. As artist all we are basically doing is framing an action. This infrastructure could potentially help students public speaking skills because public speaking will be normalised with routine and the occurrence of open an armed audience. I have also heard exiting potential of an “acting association” forming now students are doing more stage base works this will curate a fluid practice. This amphitheatre could be universal with a screen for student screenings. This exiting feature will unlock a lot of different opportunities!



Outdoor Seating:

More communal space that enable Meetings, working relaxing communicating witnessing various outdoor activities, laptop tapping with clarity of fresh-air. artists loitering within the ground sets a good example or students to attend studios and timetabled activities because of students will follow their class mates.



Material Swap shop:

Immediate access to various materials enables a fluid practice. In a safe and efficient way. A sort of artists breakers, old works and objects for repurposing . With a Technician who could stock the recycled material and spread knowledge about the materials, also advise activities carried out in the outside work space. With the recent instant payment system. For materials within workshops. Students with a limited budgets could have equal access to materials. This also will prevent students from diving into dumpsters hurting them self as it has proven in the past when students access skips. As there are future plans of relocating the processing of all the wast from the whole G.S.A. With cardboard compressors and the various skips. located with in the stow grounds This infrastructure will allow access to waste materials in a safe and efficient way. A process that is often carried out within the students practice. Is a student will notices an object and it is the part they acquire , upon the original owners decision. These kinds of process's could be facilitated too. The benefits of it will be firstly promote productivity. It also could give students the skills of trading and material understanding. This also reduces waste firstly it reuses waste and also prevents new materials for being in demand.



Temporary Outside Work Spaces:

As theres future plans of a large workshops in the stow grounds potential Temporary outside stations preferably with rain cover: a couple sturdy benches with vices and anvils; outside work prevents unwanted noise within workshops. This feature could also unlock more collaborative projects. Elevating the limited workshop hours; risks are involved with unsupervised activities with tools involved. But just as much as what goes on in studio spaces.



Universal Project Spaces:

Bookable for projects that may need surrounding by fresh walls, musical rehearsals, public exhibitions with the easy access from where the refreshments are located.

Also meeting rooms for unions and student run talks. These spaces are just as important as students studios spaces, as external spaces help collaborative work or if its done in one of the participants spaces it confuses the symbiotic relationship that happens with collaborative work



Cafe/bar:

Refreshments, pastries, soup of the day and wrapper free snacks dispensing methods with vending machines with efforts of limiting waste, student bake sales could be sold through the till for those frequent fluid fundraisers, student employment and external strict line management to not allow what pushed the vic to liquidation. Because the cafe/bar is located under a slip road a comical potential name could be "the sip road"



New Pedestrian Entrance:

Another entrance in the northern easterly corner of the grounds, To promote smoking off the grounds with a comfortable convenient pavement space To be utilised by smokers. To encourage There could be ash trays rain cover and inviting benches conveniently located by refreshments. Also with a gain of access for retail attraction geographically connects our competitors civic house and the vic. To on which this fluid pedestrianised retail hub is made.



Inside seating:

Inviting indoor seating for those less beautiful days. Facilitating Spaces for students to meet and conspire and tap away at laptops enabling students to process new ideas. Visiting such a space will have definite interaction with like minded people/friends.

Pushing away feeling left out and demanding social medias. Building an inviting recreational space with regulars enables a community. Personally i'm fond of booths; seating could be customisable for those in-prompt events



Plants & garden:

Make an attractive outside surrounding, there's plant beds in the northern eastern corner; fill with plants to attempt to drown out cars. Unfortunately because the toxicity of the traffic it will make it unsuitable for edible food production so ornamental plants; shrubs, flowers and trees should be planted. Plants could be planted that can be incorporated in students projects such as bamboo makes a wonderful light weight structures and flax can be used to weave. Also there is enough room for G.S.A.'s bees within the grounds along side a healthy sprinkling of wild flowers, in the south easterly quarter. Also some sort of allotment could be fitted in the of the grounds to get students hands dirty and be in touch with the change of seasons. With the correct risk assessments the gardens could be opened up as a sculpture park enabling a new outside gallery space.



Bike tools:

As a healthy number of students and staff commute on bikes basic bike tools won't just help peoples bike home, it promotes fixing which is a dying art within our society. also It will support the biking community within G.S.A.

Bike Tools

Community
Infrastructure
Suggestions for
G.S.A.
by Ned Perleman

