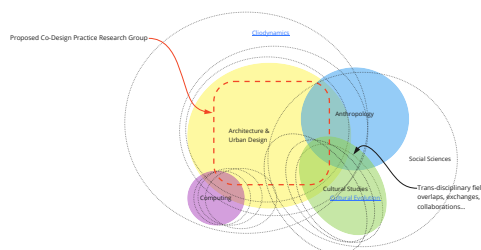


Call for Abstracts : UEL Research Conference Feb 2021  
Workgroup 1: SUSTAINING INNOVATION:  
Knowing Place - Making Place - Sustaining the City

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## CO-DESIGN PRACTICE

**Can a collaborative approach to analysis and production of space promote knowledge transfer that enhance social and spatial capital for local communities?**

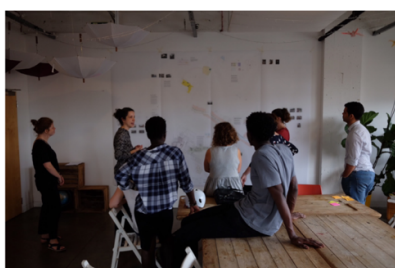
Over the last three years we have initiated, raised funds, managed and delivered a number of successful collaborative design- and research projects across Dalston, East London. As award winning and internationally practicing architects and urban designers, we embed relevant topics into the centre of the studio-based design teaching at UEL to create a 'field of opportunity' for overlaps between professional disciplines, institutions and local authorities, for mutual benefit. As a response to challenging urban contexts of conflict, deprivation and climate change, our design-studio approach to research aims to explore and develop alternative forms of collaborative design practice and co-design methodology.



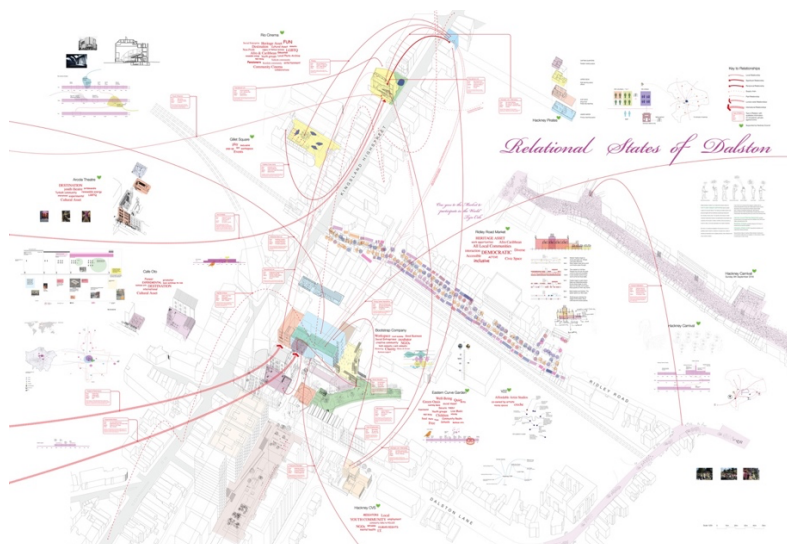
Visit & interview with stakeholder Rio Cinema



Visit to stakeholder Hackney Pirates



Progress meeting discussing our findings with Hackney Council at Bootstrap Company in Dalston



For 'Relation States of Dalston' we initiated a £10,000 funded research project between UEL architecture students and the planning department of London Borough of Hackney to deliver socio-spatial analysis that became part of Hackney's evidence base for Dalston's Area Action Plan. The innovative working method we developed for analysis of urban context combines aspects of 'social arrangements' and 'spatial conditions' through relational and multi-dimensional narrative, that allows new ways to discover and represent complexities and conflicts of processes related to urban change. Through this method, the collaborating partners and involved community stakeholders gained new ways of understanding the significance of place as correlation between cultural, social and spatial values. It was also utilised as tool for knowledge exchange as part of the public participation process that engaged in discussion about opportunities for change across the neighbourhood, through responsible and sustainable interventions. This technique engages all

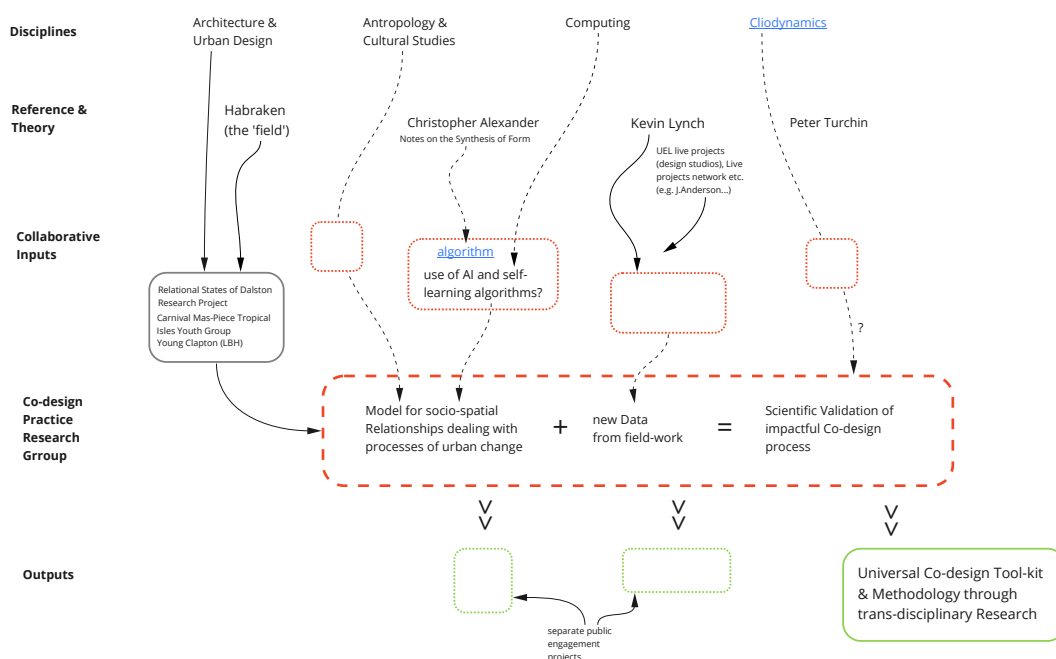
involved parties to participate in the production of a ‘collective drawing’; as a result of this process, it allows multiple narratives and representations in context to emerge, and establishes relationships between urban actors, users, ownership, behaviours, networks and time. Alternative readings of qualities of place enable a common understanding between all participating members.

By engaging with issues of local context, community stakeholders and constructing collaborative partnerships with local authorities, we set out to explore innovative modes of knowledge transfer. Can these become universal models to enable positive change for people at neighbourhood scale?

More examples of research projects we have initiated and delivered include architectural interventions (Dalston Roof Park), academic output (Contested Porosities) and the Co-design of a 1:1 Carnival Mas-piece in collaboration with Tropical Isles Carnival Youth Group. This hybrid approach to design-led research has commonality independent of scale and connects across categories of practice, research and studio-based learning.

The experience we gained from this series of connected research projects has resulted in qualitative & relational conclusions and we wonder how those can now be transferred into outcomes of more universal value in order to become accessible to a wider audience of design-related disciplines?

The diagram below sets out a speculative and scalable research trajectory, that is open and aims to build on trans-disciplinary collaboration to develop a Co-design Methodology and Tool-kits for complex socio-spatial situations in urban neighbourhoods.



To expand the developed model for understanding space production in broader terms especially from the social and the behavioural perspectives, we are interested to collaborate with disciplines across social sciences, especially with anthropology and cultural studies.

In “Notes on the Synthesis of Form” (from 1964), Christopher Alexander sets out to describe evolution of spatial form as directly relational to its society and its production through mean mathematical abstractions. Since then, knowledge of coding and algorithms has advanced considerably, and we are also interested to revisit some of those relational conclusions with help of today’s computational capabilities. We wonder how the analytical socio-spatial models we developed can evolve to become even more adaptive and interactive through knowledge exchange across those disciplines?

## Links to evidence of impact

### RELATIONAL STATES OF DALSTON MAP

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zBJtboLkyFr9PdsKceqi\\_TNLUI5crXBi/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zBJtboLkyFr9PdsKceqi_TNLUI5crXBi/view)

### HACKNEY COUNCIL: DALSTON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

<https://hackney.gov.uk/dalston-spd>

### DALSTON CONVERSATION: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

<https://dalstonplan.commonplace.is/about>

### EXHIBITION AT PRINT HOUSE GALLERY

<https://uel23ua.blogspot.com/2018/10/exhibition-relational-states-of-dalston.html>

### DESIGN RESEARCH FOR CHANGE SHOWCASE 2019 AT LONDON DESIGN FAIR

<https://www.designresearchforchange.co.uk/design-research-for-change-showcase-2019-at-london-design-fair/>

### DESIGN RESEARCH FOR CHANGE SHOWCASE 2019 DIGITAL CATALOGUE

[www.designresearchforchange.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DR4C\\_Showcase\\_2019\\_Catalogue\\_digital\\_LRes.pdf](http://www.designresearchforchange.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DR4C_Showcase_2019_Catalogue_digital_LRes.pdf)

### CONTESTED POROSITIES (article in above publication): by C. Jungfer and N. Kling

<https://www.degruyter.com/view/book/9783035615784/10.1515/9783035615784-055.xml>

### CONTESTED POROSITIES (ROAR UEL) <https://repository.uel.ac.uk/item/848w6>

### MUNICH ARCHITECTURE AWARD 2020 JURY REPORT (FÖRDERPREISE 2020 DER LANDESHAUPTSTADT MÜNCHEN

[https://www.muenchen.de/rathaus/Stadtverwaltung/Kulturreferat/Bildende-Kunst/Preise-Stipendien-Kunst/Foerderpreise\\_Kunst/2020.html#Architektur](https://www.muenchen.de/rathaus/Stadtverwaltung/Kulturreferat/Bildende-Kunst/Preise-Stipendien-Kunst/Foerderpreise_Kunst/2020.html#Architektur)

### MUNICH ARCHITECTURE AWARD 2020

<http://www.zectorarchitects.net/index.php?/architecture/munich-architecture-award-2020/>

### DALSTON ROOF PARK <http://www.zectorarchitects.net/index.php?/architecture/dalston-roof-park/>

### THE TIMES: Notting Hill Carnival 2019

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/in-pictures-notting-hill-carnival-2019-87pj08pkp>

### BANGLA MIRROR: Architecture students from the University of East London score carnival success

<http://banglamirrornews.com/2019/09/04/architecture-students-from-the-university-of-east-london-score-carnival-success/>