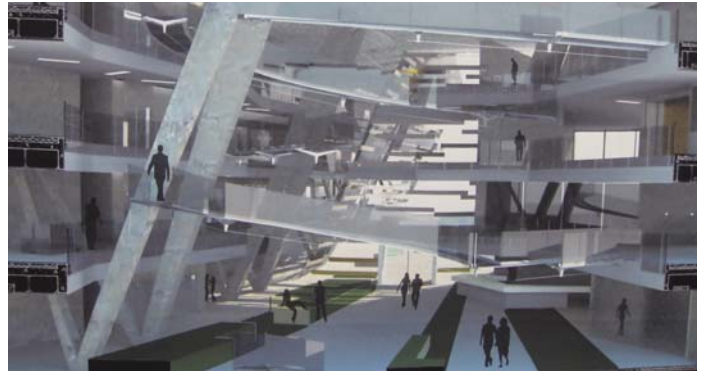


Headlines

- Student field trip makes the papers
- School to host EU partners in major project



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La Isleta, seen through the eyes of an architect from Newcastle

The house of “Ramon the torero” or a plot for sale in Coronel Rocha street caught the attention of around 30 British students from architecture and urban design who are currently visiting La Isleta. Their objective is to come up with proposals that will improve the quality of life in the area through small scale interventions ‘without demolitions’.

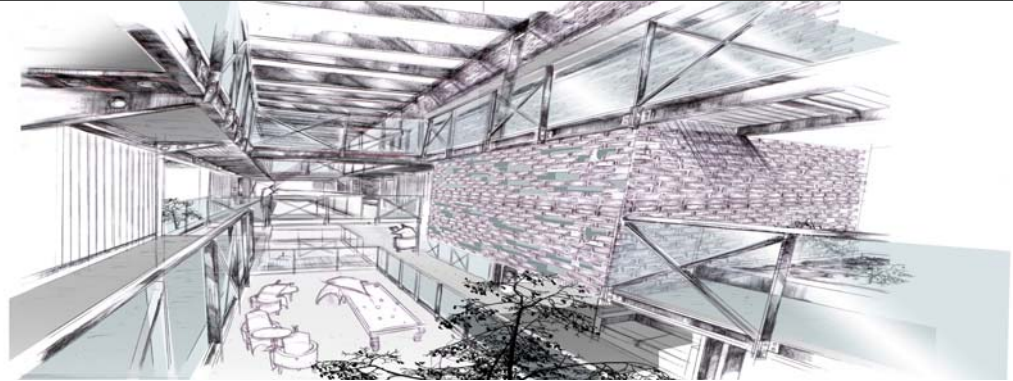
They have been noticed. In La Isleta we are not used to tourists other than a couple of lost foreigners who are not sure how to get to Agaete [a seaside town North of Island]. But yesterday the residents of the area were quite surprised to see a group of 30 English people taking pictures of their streets and homes and talking about the corner of their block. This was not a group of tourists. This was a group of architects and urban designers from Newcastle University who are undertaking an analysis of the neighbourhood with a view to presenting proposals to improve the quality of life of the residents.

One of the coordinators of the group, [Armelle Tardiveau](#), stated that there is a dire lack of space for this very active civic society. This is why these young people are undertaking analysis focusing on five typologies: roof-terraces, ground floor units, empty plots, empty buildings and public spaces. ‘The objective is to associate at least two of these typologies to create a space which will allow for social activation of the area’, added Tardiveau.

(Continues on page 2)

Canarias 7 published an article about SAPL architecture and urban design students on the European Visit field trip in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The students were in La Isleta in Las Palmas undertaking a public consultation exercise which would inform their designs for the area.

The article can be seen left, with the translation below.


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The students were guided by the architect Vicente Diaz, a tutor in architecture at the Universidad de Las Palmas, who is in charge of the master plan for the conservation of La Isleta. The young British architects and urban designers did not satisfy themselves by just observing the area from an architectural or urban design point of view, but they also met the owners of some of the bars in the area as well as residents, to get a human feel for the area. At times it took more than a shot of rum to win the trust of the locals. They will present their first proposals in the Franchy Roca school. Vicente Díaz suggested that they will consist of small interventions with a view to maximising the potential of the area and more specifically its public spaces.

One of the aspects to which particular attention will be given is space for the children of the area. This would require the use of disused private plots, considering that La Isleta is overbuilt without space for development, if demolition or expropriation is to be avoided.

To that end, Armelle Tardiveau proposes an agreement between all neighbours as 'the will of all parties is essential for the success of such a proposal'.



2. Gateshead Members Training

[Georgia Giannopoulou](#) was asked by Northern Architecture to help deliver two sessions of Urban Design Training for council members in Gateshead. The initiative came from Gateshead council and was funded through the [Business Voucher Scheme](#). The events ran in February and March, and consisted of two interactive lectures and workshops themed around "What is Urban Design?-The Value of Good Design" (session 1), and "Residential Developments" (session 2). Georgia used local case studies of public spaces, mixed use schemes and successful and unsuccessful residential schemes in the North East

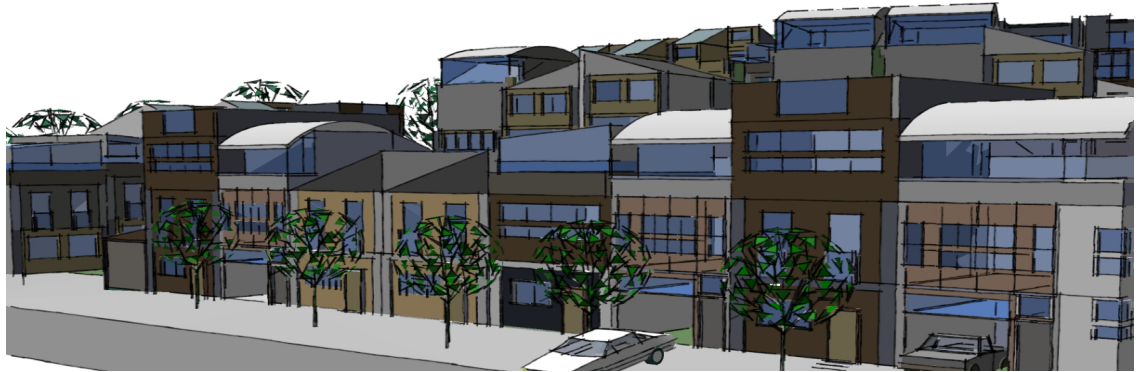
seen under the light of the Building for Life Criteria to demonstrate key points. The sessions were well attended by members and Urban Design officers, threw up interesting views and preconceptions and sparked up lively debate. The feedback was excellent, and members stated they would like more of these sessions.

3. ISPA Call for Papers

The International Society for the Philosophy of Architecture is hosting a conference at Newcastle University on 14th June. Professor Andrew Ballantyne will be delivering a keynote presentation and the School's [Tectonic Cultures Research Group](#) will be participating. The call for papers is now open and further details can be found on their [website](#).

4. School to host partners in major EU project

SAPL are hosting a workshop involving the partners in a major EU-funded project, Sustainable Urban Metabolism for Europe ([SUME](#)). The three year project seeks to link the urban metabolism approach to urban planning theory and practice to foster more sustainable development of urban areas in the


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future. Four SAPL staff are working on the project – Professors [Simin Davoudi](#) & [Ali Madanipour](#) and Drs [John Sturzaker](#) & [Zan Gunn](#). This fourth project workshop is being hosted in Newcastle between 14 and 16 April, and the School is taking the opportunity to share some of the project expertise via a multi-disciplinary seminar on Sustainable Cities, to be held on 13 April.

SUME is part of the EU's FP7 research programme which has a total budget of € 2.7 billion. The hosting of this prestigious meeting is part of the work undertaken by researchers in SAPL which influences policy development at the heart of Europe.

5. Staff News

On 2nd March [Professor Mark Shucksmith](#) presented a preview of the Commission for Rural Communities' forthcoming Uplands Inquiry report to an audience of over 100 rural development practitioners at Mickleton Village Hall. His presentation may be heard, and the powerpoint slides viewed, on the Northern Rural Network website at www.northernruralnetwork.co.uk/archive/future-of-the-uplands This presentation also received prominent coverage in The Journal.

Later in March, Mark Shucksmith also gave an invited keynote presentation at a TCPA conference in London on Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities: the Challenge of Climate Change. He also attended a meeting in Brussels as a member of the European Commission's expert group on Local Development Actions, helping to shape policy for the EU post-2013.

On 22/23 March a meeting was held in Newcastle between researchers from Cornell University, Penn State University, Newcastle University, Aberdeen University, Queens University Belfast, the UHI Millenium Project's Centre for Remote and Rural Studies and others who are all contributing to a forthcoming book on Rural Transformations and Rural Policies in the UK and US, edited by Mark Shucksmith, David Brown, Sally Shortall, Jo Vergunst and Mildred Warner. At the meeting drafts of each chapter were critiqued and discussed. The book will be published by Routledge during 2011.

[Maggie Roe](#) has been invited to be a member of the ESRC Peer Review College which is being established as part of its new peer review process.

[Professor Simin Davoudi](#) has been invited by the Republic of Slovenia's Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to present a keynote

address to an audience of senior civil servants and policy makers, at a 'Transnational Conference on potential for territorial cooperation with Western Balkans', 19-20 April in Maribor.

[Professor Steve Graham's](#) new book '[Cities Under Siege: The New Military Urbanism](#),' was published on April 5th in the USA by Verso with a launch at the Studio X Architecture Centre in New York City. It will be published in the UK in May.

6. Student News

In April three students from the Diploma in Town Planning: Justine Bailey, Josh Crawford and Ed Green, together with [Stuart Cameron](#), will be attending an Erasmus Intensive Programme at the Royal Technical University in Stockholm, Sweden. The programme will bring together students from 17 universities across Europe for a period of two weeks to study the impact of a major regeneration scheme in the Värtan/Frihamnen area of Stockholm.

If you would like any further details about any news item featured in this edition please contact anne.fry@ncl.ac.uk