



Housing – A Critical Perspective.

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Constructing Community: Synthesizing Lay and Professional Knowledge in Architecture

2. Format: Written paper

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4. University or Company Affiliation: Glasgow School of Art and Baxendale

5. Abstract (300 words):

Architectural development practices for marginal communities have, in recent decades, sought to mediate conflicts between donors and recipients through participatory design exercises. These have been undertaken with the intention of developing greater reciprocity between parties and within communities, better "fit" between product and user needs, as well as the promotion of broader democratic concerns, in pursuit of a more responsive built environment, in-line with pluralist agendas. In short, participation is seen to promote political representation and further to concretize it in the built fabric of settlements, building in local identities and establishing physical spaces for communal discourse. The value of participation as a strategy has, however, been challenged in recent years with the suggestion that, in contrast to the rhetoric, "there is little evidence of the long-term effectiveness of participation in materially improving the conditions of the most vulnerable people" (Cleaver 1999). This constitutes a real issue for architecture, which has had until recently few alternative tools to ensure meaningful "user" representation in the design and construction of housing. This paper describes the work of Baxendale, a multi-disciplinary architecture and design company based in Glasgow, Scotland, which practices

alternative models of urban development towards addressing this problem, engaging community, local and state actors in iterative and needs-centred design and production processes. Looking at case-study projects, this paper describes how synergistic processes of design and production can be used to mediate between competing interests in urban development towards producing inherently pluralistic, networked and empowering urban environments.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Lee Ivett

Architect and founder of Baxendale

Lee Ivett is an architect and founder of Baxendale. He works with artists, makers, dancers, choreographers, growers, academics and musicians, creating work within the home, the public realm, the theatre and the gallery in places as diverse as Los Angeles, Preston, Nuremburg, Kirkcaldy, Ljubljana, Hungary, Gdansk, Glasgow and Beith. Baxendale work with communities and individuals with an ambition to improve their experience of life through an active intervention in their spiritual, social, economic, physical and cultural context. Lee is co-pilot to Stage 2 in the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art. Baxendale were a featured practice in New Architecture 3.

Ambrose Gillick

Researcher and lecturer, Glasgow School of Art

Ambrose Gillick is a researcher and lecturer at the GSA. He got his doctorate from the University of Manchester with a thesis on the architecture of post-disaster reconstruction in Gujarat, India. Ambrose cut his academic teeth as an assistant on Robert Proctor's AHRC-funded Building the Modern Church project; and with Florian Urban as researcher on the Leverhulme Trust-funded The New Tenement. He is returning to practice with Baxendale, one of RIBA's New Architects 3, to get his Part 3, as well as continuing to lecture at the Mac.