

Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title: The Portsmouth Elephant Cage

2. Format:

written paper

3. Author(s) Name:

Walter Menteth & Francis Graves

4. Abstract (300 words):

The Elephant Cage is an international design research process which is drawing together Anglo-Dutch architectural, landscape and engineering design expertise into collaborative practices in different competitive teams working towards developing innovative, polemical design research and outputs that respond to the need for new and enlarged coastal defences that can address climate induced rises in sea level along the Portsmouth sea front. This process, its intent and remit are described in the competition call for participants [HERE](#).

This unique international research exercise is being organised and funded in partnership by the Dutch Architectuur Lokaal, Project Compass CIC (UK) with the University of Portsmouth School of Architecture, where the process is taking place. It is being undertaken in collaboration with the East Solent Coastal Partnership, a consortium of local coastal public authorities. It is engaging through public presentations and exhibitions wider stakeholders and the public.

Whilst the objective are ostensibly is to explore evaluate and hypothesis solutions to the coastal defenses specific to the Portsmouth and Southsea frontages, the purpose of this design research process is the forward development of new sustainable design

approaches and solutions to urban and regional resilience that can inform coastal cities defenses more globally.

The purpose of this paper and presentation would be to present this uniquely collaborative and inclusive design research programme, its process, purpose and its as yet unreported outcomes and outputs.

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

Walter Menteth

Walter Menteth RIBA, FRIAS is an architect, planner, writer and educationalist. He is a lead consultant architect; director of Walter Menteth Architects, a part time senior lecturer at the Portsmouth School of Architecture, and an RIBA National Councillor. He was chair of the RIBA Procurement Reform Group 2011 → 2013 and synthesised many of the RIBA's responses during consultations stages leading to adoption of Public Works Directive EU 2014/24; and was a member of the UK Cabinet Office SME Panel 2011 → 2015.

Walter is a director of the UK's first architectural procurement intelligence service, Project Compass CIC (est. 2014) is a founder member of thefulcrum.eu, a digital pan european architectural competitions and procurement intelligence service and network; and is chair of the Trustees of the North Southwark Environment Trust.

For his work entitled 'Pathways to construction Procurement reform' Walter received the RIBA President's Medal for Research 2015 and RIBA President's Award for Practice-located Research in 2015.

His architectural practice has received a number of architectural awards with works published internationally. Walter's authored and published works, research activities and outputs maybe found [HERE](#), outputs which include addressing Portsmouth's resilience and sustainability and of.

Walter has been a member of the Portsmouth University Environmental Network since 2014, is a CI in the Portsmouth University Coastal Cities Network (CCN) and member of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities.

Francis Graves

Francis Graves BSc (Arch). BArch. AHEA RIBA is an architect and Senior Lecturer at the Portsmouth School of Architecture. Francis has written on international contract administration, the use of medial representation as a tool in the creative process, and has contributed to group research through the study/proposals of urban futures for traditional cluster villages in the South of France.

He has participated in and publish international reviews of Architectural Education in France and Belgium, initiating the continuing European Schools of Architecture teaching exchange between Portsmouth and Paris Val de Seine schools of architecture, sharing experiences and research interests. Francis has undertaken collaborations between the Portsmouth School of Architecture and the diocesan Council for Social Responsibility (CSR) developing a design guide for the redevelopment and re-use of under used church buildings.

He is currently working with the University of Portsmouth Coastal Cities Network's (CCN) group and East Solent Coastal Partnership (ESCP) developing Portsmouth's response to climate change induced rise in sea levels.

His interests have lead to Knowledge Transfer (KT) outputs: I am currently collaborating with local SMEs, Low Carbon Construction Ltd. & Pegasus Life developing bids for funding consultancy/research work with potential for direct impact on both organisations.

Francis's research outputs and activities maybe viewed [HERE](#).