

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

The Way We Live Now: How Architectural Education can Aid the Urban Development of Small Settlements

- **Format:**

Written paper

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

One of the most significant aspects of twenty-first century society is the need for the individual to lay claim to the control of many aspects of the circumstances of life. Traditional government, in which policy is formed by experts and administered by state officials, is increasingly being challenged. Top-down enforcement of regulations, rules or directives is no longer acceptable to many people who feel that the individual or small collective is much better placed to make important decisions about things that happen within their own neighbourhood.

It is well documented that the UK has a shortage of well-constructed and affordable housing. Neighbourhood Planning was part of the Localism Bill introduced in 2011 by the British Government. It passes responsibility for important decisions about the development of the built environment from the centralised government to the local community.

This should, in theory be a very good thing. The community is much better positioned to understand the needs and capability of their environment. Neighbourhood Planning certainly enables communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work. It provides an opportunity for communities to set out a vision for how they want their community to develop in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people. However, there is the danger of well-meaning, but ill-informed individuals making decisions that have massive implications for the community.

Continuity in Architecture, a studio for research, practice and teaching at the Manchester School of Architecture have been working directly with the local communities to develop meaningful and productive proposals for the development of the built environment. This paper will examine the evolution of Neighbourhood Planning, then discuss the projects that the studio have been involved with before offering some thoughts for the development of future initiatives.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Sally Stone leads Continuity in Architecture; a studio for research, practice and teaching at the Manchester School of Architecture. The atelier seeks to find ways of deriving delightful, rigorous, and measured responses to small settlements and historically sensitive contexts.

Sally Stone is an internationally recognised expert on the subject of the interior and the interpretation and remodelling of the existing situation. She has written extensively about the subject, and her research profile includes a number of published books, inclusion in edited books and journals, invitations to keynote or speak at international conferences, and requests to direct European workshops. Her next book, ReReadings Volume 2 will be published in the summer of 2017.

Sally Stone is the co-recipient of the UK Government sponsored 2014 Heritage Heroes Award in recognition of the work she conducted to save the Preston Bus Station

Laura Sanderson is a senior lecturer and qualified architect at Manchester School of Architecture. Laura has developed an interest in the process of site reading and the idea of relating the concept of architecture to the wider ideal of the city. This is examined at the smallest scale in the development of live projects and built interventions in the city and on a slightly larger scale by exploring the connection of memory and place through building reuse. Laura is Year Leader for BA01 and Atelier Leader for the Postgraduate Unit Continuity in Architecture. It is these roles that have been the main influence of her academic exploits to date which focus on the reading of sites and existing buildings and the process of applying this research to new situations, buildings, interventions and interiors. Most notably Laura worked on the Atelier Zero project in 2012, Sinister Dialogues in 2014 and has on going projects

focussing on Neighbourhood Planning in the North of England with key exhibitions
Oddments and Epigrams in 2015 and Bollington : Real / Imagined in 2016.