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# INTRODUCTION: Collective intelligence building successful teams

2020 presented a considerable change in the way we had to interact collectively as a practice. Our working patterns, where we worked, and how we interacted with our colleagues changed considerably and in some ways perhaps irrevocably. We found new ways of staying connected and invested time to build and maintain our culture. But the personal and incidental time we were used to spending together has been severely restricted. We may need to get used to working in different ways for some time to come, and the ability to adapt both our cultural approach and our work settings is a vital component to maintain positivity and drive for the success of the practice.

We set an individual and collaborative task to the entire practice, breaking it down into groups. The task was to simply take a 15 minute walk, record their thoughts and reflections on what the restrictions of lockdown had meant to them and then to create something (hopefully poignant and beautiful) that would take a positive outlook on what the future may look like. Each individual then had 45 minutes to make something, then 15 minutes to share and discuss within their group.

Without the potential of physically being able to get together, the virtual conference provided the platform to share ideas and thoughts and generally embrace some focussed time together.

The purpose of the virtual conference held in November 2020 was to share ideas together as a company and proactively and collectively look forward to a reimagined future for the practice and for us all as individuals within it. The way we worked and interacted across 2020 will have a lasting effect, but it has been and continues to be fundamentally important that we build on the successful elements we have experienced and seek to eradicate any negative aspects. Seeking to maintain the positive culture we have and the ability to collaborate whilst acknowledging that "Collaboration is about defining...and then maintaining the channels to innovation".

The conference was essentially structured to explore and understand how we could all face a positive future together. Four main elements were explored:

- Engaging in supporting and developing strategy and purpose
- Allowing space and time to interact and connect with each other.
- Enjoyment serious work and play
- Culture how we see it evolving

The intent of the outcome of the focussed time together was to support and embrace the notion that, "Social connection leads to more effective teamwork and that socially connected teams with empathy are proven to have higher collective intelligence".

Staff discuss the positives and challenges of Lockdown prior to the conference. <u>Click for video</u>

We set an individual and collaborative task to the entire practice, breaking it down into groups. The task was to simply take a 15 minute walk, record their thoughts and reflections on what the restrictions of lockdown had meant to them and then to create something (hopefully poignant and beautiful) that would take a positive outlook on what the future may look like. Each individual then had 45 minutes to make something, then 15 minutes to share and discuss within their group.

At the end of the day, a person would then present what was considered the best outcome by the group (but it could not be their own work – listening and understanding were as important as doing).

The task was very much inspired by some of the work of the Bloomberg CityLab. A very particular moment that would capture and record a unique moment in the history of Scott Brownrigg.

But it was also supposed to assist in notions of well-being (through the activities of walking, reflecting and making), of sharing experiences with colleagues that one may not normally engage with and of course, generating a forum of creativity and connections that were the central thrust of the conference purpose.

It is important to note that everybody in the practice participated – not just those normally considered to be 'designers'.

The output was extraordinary.

This addition of iA showcases this body work – this special moment in time. It is not what one would normally conceive to be part of the orthodoxy of architecture or design, but is a very relevant aspect of critical observation, research thinking, broad and personal reflection and perspectives, individual and collective creativity.

We have organised the work into themes; there are clearly blurred boundaries, constant cross-overs and recurrent subject matter. Part of the (serious) fun is for you to decide where each piece may sit and which theme they speak to and about •



### **HOME + THE EVERYDAY**

These studies and reflections focus clearly on the personal and intimate. The scale of space in which our lives operate has fundamentally shifted.

Some of the ideas are reliant on the safety of repetitive actions with family and loved ones – yet intimate at the things that are missing, that are yearned for as an antidote to that very sameness.

There is however, a greater and welcomed connection to home and those we share our lives with that might just allude to a necessary and appropriate adjustment in home/work balance. But the ideas also point towards some of the inherent dangers and tensions – a world that is potentially claustrophobic and where extended family, friends, colleagues and wider social contact is absent.

There are observations on notions around the replacement (temporary or otherwise) and augmentation of physical space with virtual environments. The consensus seems to suggest that whilst the new form of spatial environment and mode of operation provides some welcome relief, it is not the same thing at all in terms of satisfying the soul. That existential requirement, articulated by Jean-Paul Sartre "I only know I exist because I see my reflection in your eyes", appears to remain as a constant aspect of the human condition.

## JOURNEY MAP By Olga Mikhaleva

My creation maps out what work-life balance looks like when your world is reduced to the size of the house. Looking into transition from the domestic space to the work space when your journey to work is a flight of stairs, rather than escalator on the tube and your gym is a stationary bike placed next to your desk.

# COMMUNICATION DURING LOCKDOWN By Joseph Spour

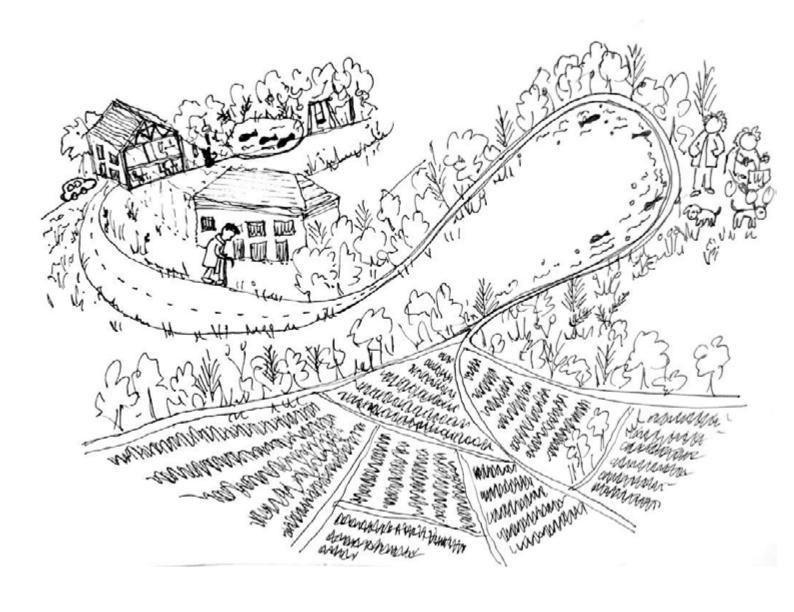
Something that was important to me over this Lockdown period was getting to know my flatmates, as we did not see or talk to one another a lot before this time. And although we do not come from the same field of work, we have been able to share ideas and learn from each other while working from home.





## FROM TOP

Journey Map by Olga Mikhaleva, Communication During Lockdown by Joseph Spour



### ABOVE

Lunch Escape by Fatima Salman

#### RIGHT TOP

The String Phone by James de Leyser

### RIGHT BELOW

Life In Front Of A Screen by Michael Olliff

# LUNCH ESCAPE By Fatima Salman

Moving into my parents' house in the suburbs has really helped slow down the pace of everyday life. Having a bit more space, more greenery and more free time has really helped me achieve better mental clarity in this strange period of time. My regular lunchtime walk to itsu through the busy Neal's Yard have been replaced with aimless wanderings through the park down the street, walking alongside a little brook that leads to an endless maze of wheat fields. It's a great place to get lost in your throughts, get some fresh air and connect with nature before heading back indoors to look at some more revit models.

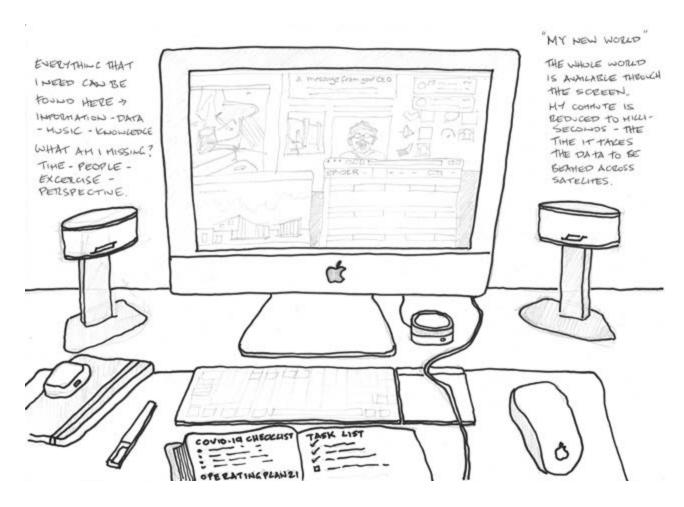


# THE STRING PHONE By James de Leyser

I left the family home and walked up towards Epsom Downs Racecourse (a 5-minute walk away) and walked past the neighbour houses of friends I would play with and are still friends with to this day. As I reached the Downs and looked across the racecourse, it reminded me of times spent at Derby Day, BBQs on the Downs and growing up with friends. The importance of friends and family was therefore highlighted, drawing me to make my own cup and string phone, resembling a sense of connection and communication with those people, all the while at a 'social distance'.

## LIFE IN FRONT OF A SCREEN By Michael Olliff

The whole world is available through the screen. My commute is reduced to milli-seconds – the time it takes the data be beamed across satellites. Everything that I need can be found here: Information, Music, Knowledge. What am I missing? The People, Exercise, Perspective.





### ABOVE

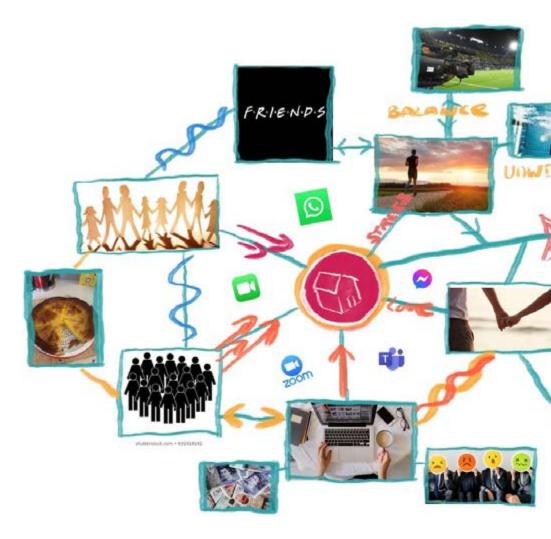
Don't Fall by Jay Clancy

### RIGHT TOP

**Stepping Stones by Ian Pratt** 

## RIGHT BELOW

Connected Cultures by John Roberton





Health



Home (Improvement)



Hope

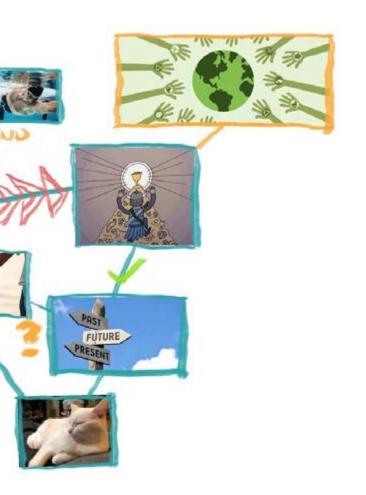




Nature



Imagination



Happiness

### DON'T FALL By Jay Clancy

This was the concept I was left with after taking a walk surrounded by the vibrant colours of Autumn, during a pandemic that was bringing communities together even though people couldn't necessarily be in physical contact.

# STEPPING STONES By Ian Pratt

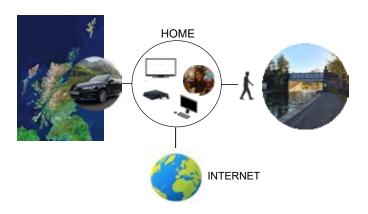
Lockdown helped me take steps to rebalance and reprioritise. Important steps to reallocate commuter time to daily exercise, moments in nature, overdue home improvement and more frequent conversations with loved ones. Nieces and nephews provided hope for the future and happiness along the way - shining brightly even on the darkest of days. It's these stepping stones that have kept me going and will continue to.

# CONNECTED CULTURES By John Roberton

At a time when the world is more restricted than I have ever known, the norms we often take for granted feel further away than ever. Our day-to-day cultures, interests, habits, hobbies and routines have become more inter-connected than ever before. The blurring of work and home life, family and friends, goals and practicalities, stresses and relaxations have changed forever.

# CONNECTIONS By Craig Wallace

My piece reflects on the restricted connections I had to the outside world, family, and friends, during Lockdown and tells the story of my time in Lockdown. The home bubble represents my flat and the connections that helped keep my girlfriend and I linked to the outside world. The canal bubble represents the closest area we could reach for exercise outside of the city streets of Edinburgh. The car bubble and image of the Scotland represent the brief moment in August when Lockdown momentarily lifted and we could travel and see a limited number of friends.



# CONNECTION By Aleksandra Paduch

The tree symbolises reconnecting with family, treasuring each day you get to spend with them. The changing colour theme from colder at the bottom to warmer and brighter at the top reflects the mood changes over the last few months including reconnecting with peers after a long break.

# **GETTING THROUGH LOCKDOWN By Giulia Ferrari**

I walked and thought about the things that helped me during Lockdown in many different ways.

#### **ABOVE TOP**

**Connections by Craig Wallace** 

#### BELOW

Getting Through Lockdown by Giulia Ferrari

#### RIGHT

Connection by Aleksandra Paduch





















### A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN 15MIN By Albena Atanassova

The sketches summarise what I imagined a 15min journey would be, walking around the block in the sunshine, listening to music. This was interrupted by a phonecall that I have post, which turned out to be an early hand drawn birthday card from my dad. We often communicate via old school letters and sketches and receiving this in the post brought me joy and a reminder that sometimes the simple things and images can communicate much more than the digital means that we are used to using everyday.



### LEFT

A Lot Can Happen In 15min by Albena Atanassova

#### BELOW

A Healthy Smoothie for a Healthy Journey by Howard Lindsay, Covid Pansy by Rowena Challies

# A HEALTHY SMOOTHIE FOR A HEALTHY JOURNEY By Howard Lindsay

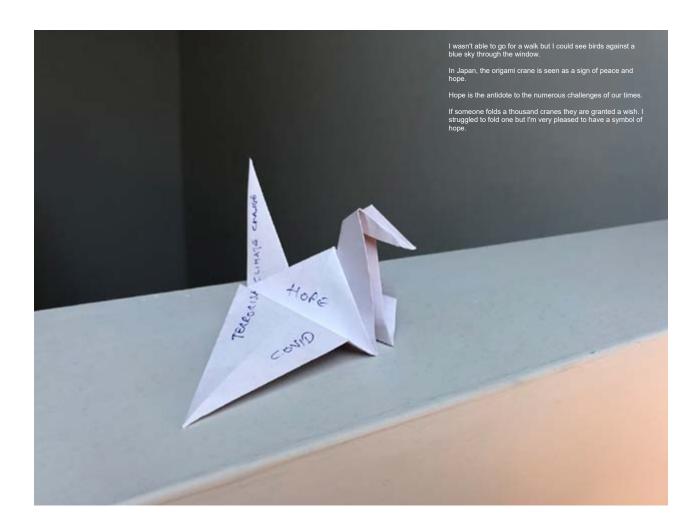
Lockdown 2.0 gives us an opportunity for a fresh start and an opportunity for a reboot, so planning to make my journey ahead a healthy one, starting with my blueberry, banana and spinach smoothie.

### COVID PANSY By Rowena Challies

Pansy petals made from items close to hand – face masks







# CRANE By Martin Wright

I wasn't able to go for a walk but I could see birds against a blue sky through the window. In Japan, the origami crane is seen as a sign of peace and hope. Hope is the antidote to the numerous challenges of our times. If someone folds a thousand cranes they are granted a wish. I struggled to fold one, but I'm very pleased to have a symbol of hope.

# COLLAGE By Lesya Khymych

During my walk I focussed on the aspects and important elements in my life and how these have helped get me through Lockdown. From my family and my hobbies, to my strength and my mind. The importance of helping others and looking at the beauty that surrounds me. Remembering how it feels to be as free as a bird, and importantly to not being afraid of your shadow.

#### ABOVE

Crane by Martin Wright

#### RIGHT

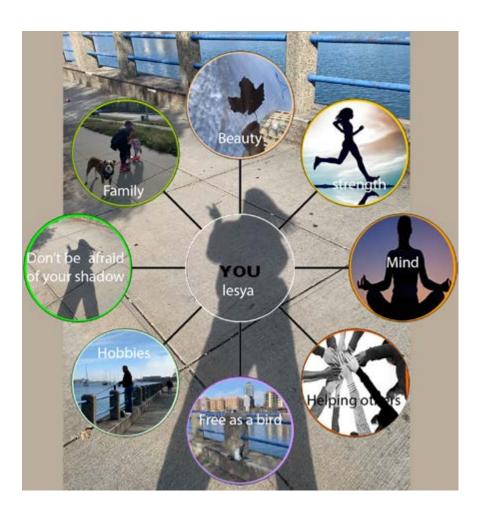
Collage by Lesya Khymych

#### FAR RIGHT

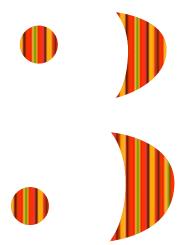
Twisted But Still Going by Alex Phaedona

# TWISTED BUT STILL GOING By Alex Phaedona

A few unexpected twists and turns but the fire is still burning so the show must go on.







## RIGHT

Connectivity by Annabel Chapman-Smith

## **JOURNEY**

In this thematic group, journey can mean the physical, meta-physical or metaphorical.

The observations often refer to life becoming more static and contained, with a longing for travel that might take us further.

The material analyses the essential elements of what might constitute a journey, relevant to design themes and ourselves. They are of course, made up of beginnings and ends, but also take stock of moments along the route. Some do not follow the obviously linear, but can be circular, layered, repetitive and constant. In this way, like other studies in the other topics, they oscillate between comfort, relief and aspiration.

Within these reflections, there are thoughtful insights into actual measurements – dimension, distance and time. Certainly, two metres as a measurement, it could be argued, is much less abstract than it previously was and become ingrained in our understanding of distance and spatial consciousness.

In Lyndon and Moore's 'Chamber of a Memory Palace', they articulate the idea of 'Axes that Reach/Paths that Wander' – axes that stretch across space, that are mental constructs that help position ourselves and make alliance with people, buildings and spaces. Paths are where our feet actually tread, facilitate exploration, choices and put things in sequence.

In this sense, there is a very positive outcome that talks about the direction of travel: moving forward.

Journey then, becomes a story, a narrative that not only describes our world and environment, but offers a view as to how it might be in the future.

# CONNECTIVITY By Annabel Chapman-Smith

This is an image of the crematorium across the road which to some may be considered a depressing place, but actually serves as a connection to many things. It is a green oasis in suburbia, which connects local shops and schools to the nearby park, playground and train station. The link through it has only just reopened which was a reminder of the importance green routes have.









#### ABOVE

Forgotten Places by Helen Taylor

#### RIGHT TOP

The Ups And Downs Of My Daily Walk by Fiona Grieve

#### RIGHT BELOW

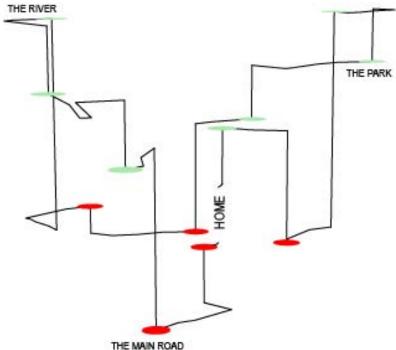
Destination Diagram by Jack Williamson

### FORGOTTEN PLACES By Helen Taylor

I followed the wall at the end of my road, a very old wall on a road that used to connect Richmond Palace (now mostly demolished) and Kew Palace. The royal laundry used to be at the end of my road! I stopped by the Triple Crown pub, formerly the Tulip Tree, sadly up for sale since it closed in the first Lockdown. It faces an unloved gateway to London Scottish rugby ground/the old athletic ground (also historic horseracing course and host of early concerts by The Who). None of that history is visible. I photographed it and drew it as a record of that moment in time.

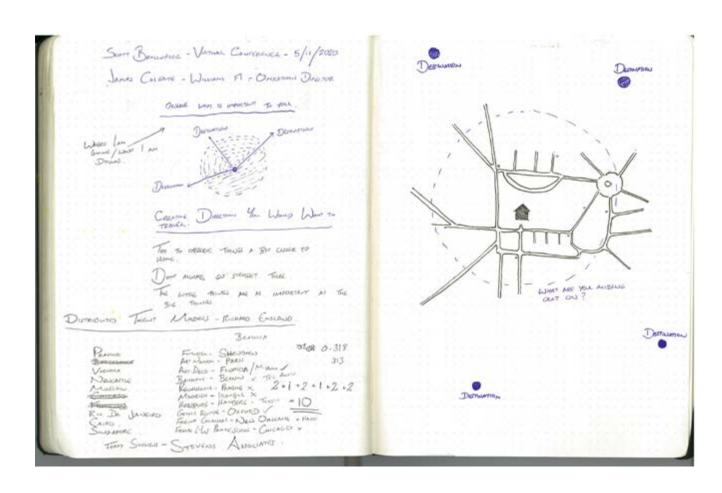
### DESTINATION DIAGRAM By Jack Williamson

Having only had a short amount of time I found myself walking a route I had never taken before as it doesn't lead anywhere. However it was a beautiful walk and one I have expanded upon since. In terms of 'direction you would want to travel', there isn't always a need to go straight there. You can still reach the destination, aim or target with a bit of variation.



# THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MY DAILY WALK By Fiona Grieve

I walked my everyday route taking the time to stop, take a breath and engage with how I felt in that very spot at that point in time. So often I do this walk, marching past in my own world not taking the time to interact with what is around me and feel the good and sometimes the bad.



### TEXTURE OF LIFE By Steve Anderson

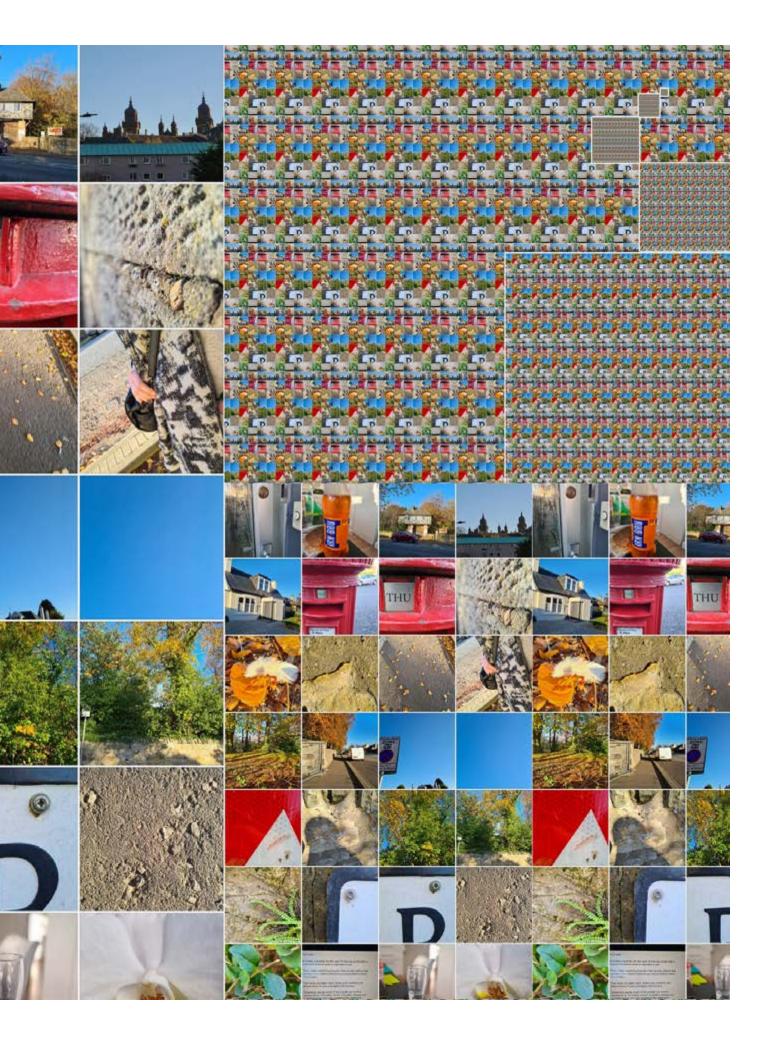
How do we appreciate and absorb the experience of our everyday lives these days into something meaningful – should we? The image is an experiment of visual distillation, of texture and scale, colour and surface. Is there an overriding aspect, experience or characterisation that captures our life at this time?

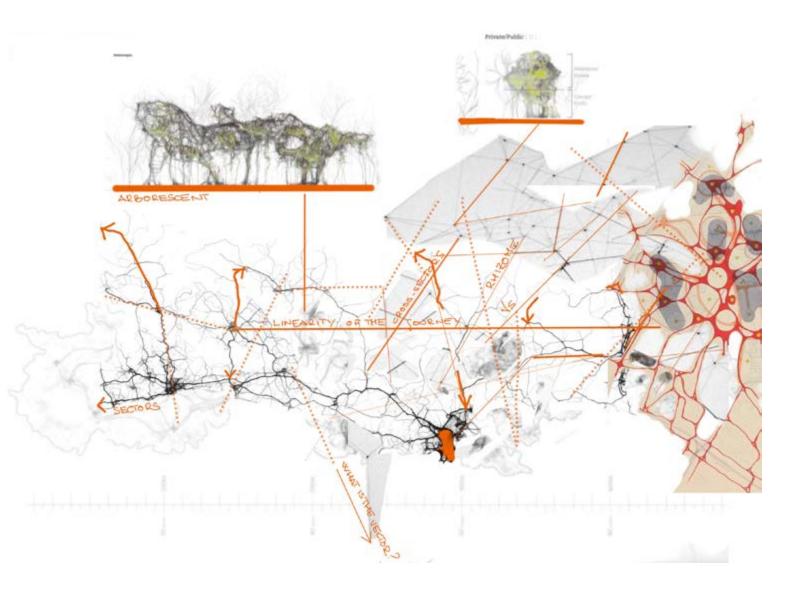
The experiment served to suggest that the visual textures of a 15 min walk in my home surroundings provides moments for reflection on the everyday single units of experience each of us go through during this pandemic, and that this is where the beauty or peace is found, rather than the more murky and overcomplicated assimilation of these experiences.

#### RIGHT

Texture of Life by Steve Anderson







#### ABOVE

Rhizome by Massimiliano Martinenghi

### RIGHT TOP

Navigate by Teresa Kokot

### RIGHT BELOW

A Journey Through My Garden of Memories.... by Mary-Jane McQuillan

## RHIZOME By Massimiliano Martinenghi

'The self is only a threshold, a door, a becoming between two multiplicities'

[...]' This map has been drawn as a rhizome. It is composed of plateaus. We have given it a linear form, but only for laughs. Each morning we would wake up, and each of us would ask himself what plateau he was going to tackle, writing or drawings five lines here, ten there. We had different experiences, we watched lines leave one plateau and proceed to another like columns of tiny ants '[...]

Customising Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari, A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia

### **NAVIGATE By Teresa Kokot**

As I proceed on my journey I set my direction, navigate and stay focussed. I catch the wind in the sail, head towards the light, manoeuvre around obstacles and reach out to my journey mates by sending a message in a bottle through unexplored waters of 'emerging culture'.

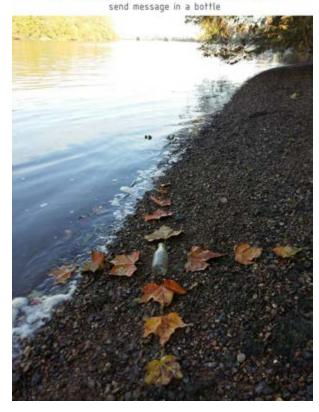
### A JOURNEY THROUGH MY GARDEN OF **MEMORIES....** By Mary-Jane McQuillan

"What two people see is truly different and tied at a neural level to their own personal experiences."

(Christie Nicholson Institute for Innovation and Communicating Complexity)

My garden to others may be an outside space in need of some attention. My journey through it today was intensely personal, evoking an experience through a myriad of memories that no other person would experience; happy days, change, loss, growth, success, failure and above all hope.

set direction - navigate - be focused - head towards the light use compass - observe - manoeuvre - reach out -





View from my room



Charlie's deck ..... the now and the future

A journey through my garden of memories....



Boys in a bush





Failed allotment....



The tree the magpies nested in has died..



The difference between my sons



Decimated hedge.... is there hope?



The swing seat finally gave way and became a nursery.....



Bamboo in memory of



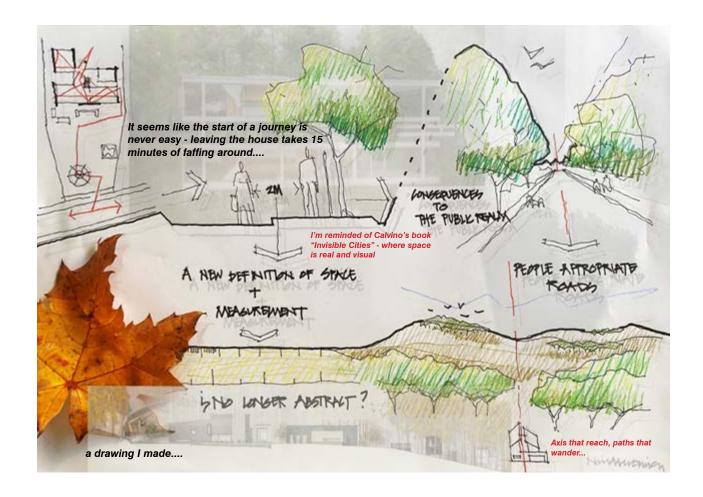
The garden studio has had many iterations...



I found one of their

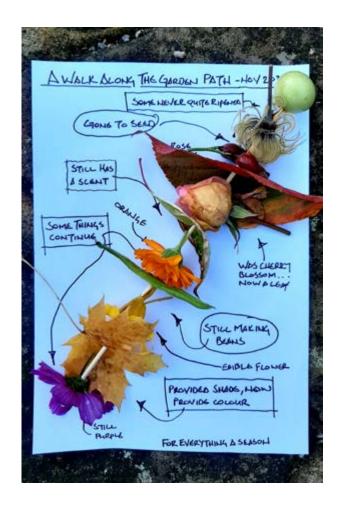


The ex-eucalytpus tree the boys used to climb



# A WALK DOWN THE GARDEN PATH (THE KEBAB STICK OF CHANGE) By Stephen Hope

The garden was a place where my family spent a lot of time during Lockdown. Now that autumn is here, it looks and feels different. Some change represents an end; flowers become seeds. Some change creates a different direction; such as the cherry tree, which had blossom in spring but now has beautiful autumn leaves. Some things still preserve their special qualities; like the rose, which still has a scent. Some things continue to endure; there are still beans. Some things never reached their potential; green tomato. Our world changes and we need to accept this. For everything a season!



#### LEFT

Starting, Contemplating, But Never Finishing.... by Neil MacOmish

#### LEFT BELOW

A Walk Down the Garden Path (The Kebab Stick of Change) by Stephen Hope

#### BELOW

The Routine of Creating Familiarity by Nyasa Beale

# STARTING, CONTEMPLATING, BUT NEVER FINISHING....

### By Neil MacOmish

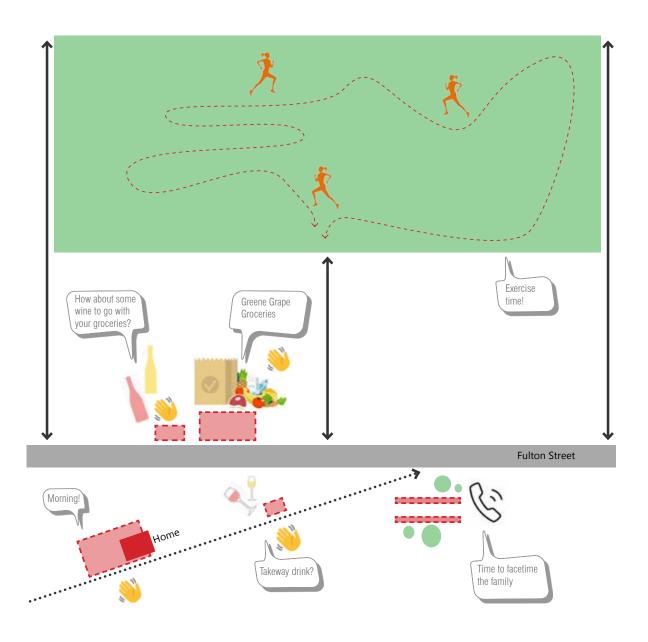
"It's a dangerous business going out of your door. You step onto the road and, if don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to..."

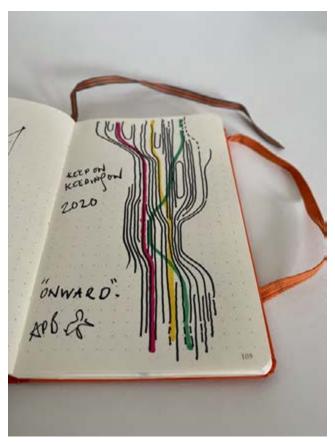
JRR Tolkien – Lord of the Rings

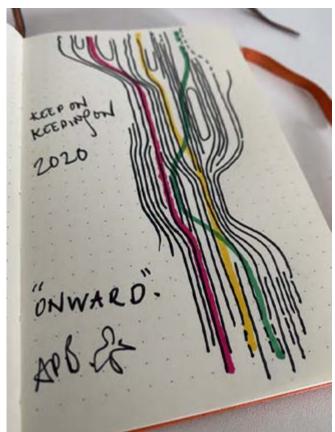
Two metres is no longer an abstract measurement – we clearly understand what this looks like and how it has changed and framed our spatial perception. This reminds me of one of the *Cities and Memory* in Italo Calvino's book, *Invisible Cities*, where real distance is understood by the length of a scarf found on some railings, a bride's veil or the distance between a man (who has been hung) foot and the floor.

# THE ROUTINE OF CREATING FAMILIARITY By Nyasa Beale

With family and friends so far away, comfort can be found through creating a routine to encourage neighbourhood connections...









As I took a physical journey to explore the countryside around me, my mind wandered back to work, to home renovations and to the constant chatter going on in my head. However each step and each breath slowly allowed me to leave those things behind and appreciate the subtle nuances of my surroundings - the colours, the sounds, the smells. It was a moment of peace during a chaotic time.



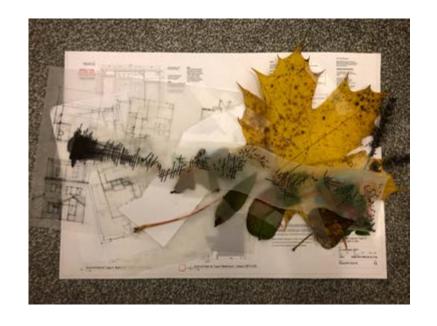
2020 Continuum by Alistair Brierley

#### RIGHT

A Multifacated Journey by Jo Wickham

#### FAR RIGHT

Journey by David Blackwells



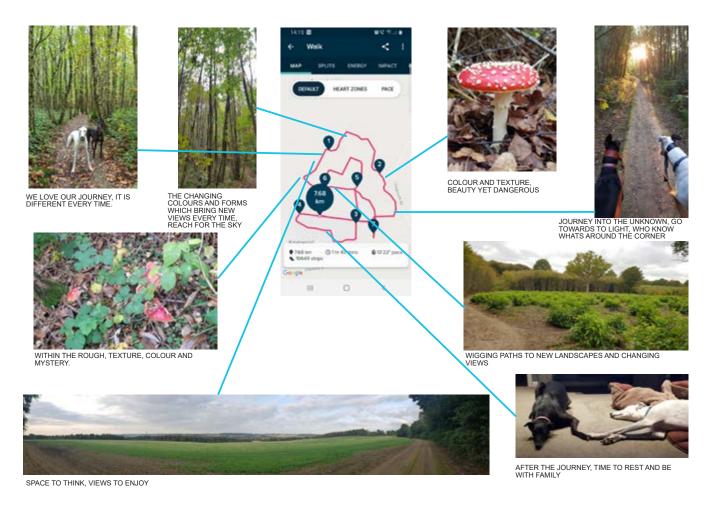


# 2020 CONTINUUM By Alistair Brierley

In 2020 we went into the unknown. Reflecting on this during my short walk, I saw the year as an array of mutually inclusive, (and exclusive) threads. Moments of impetus were offset by times of stasis. My own path had twisted and turned, veered off and aligned, converged and diverged with a series of events, some life changing, and some just 'moments' along the way. I have represented this in a flow of undulating transitions that carried me along through the days, weeks and months that saw my world irrevocably changed.

# JOURNEY By David Blackwell

My daily journey if I need to think and have a bit of time. Every time a different route, every time a new view of life around me.





Morning Walk - 05/11/2020

Hilly Fields is where I walk, Lost souls at dusk, No-one talks,

The mist is thick, The trees are tall, Dogs run quick, 'Where's the ball!'

I must leave so early, I have places to be, There's a teams call at 12:30, Will you join me?

Phoebe Wood

### GLYN'S 15MIN WALK By Glyn Hurrey

The physical journey of an initial uphill walk reflects the current situation and amplifies my key feelings and thoughts, but the constant change, variety, beauty and ability to also connect with the city continues to console me

### MORNING WALK By Phoebe Wood

Walks have become part of my routine. Here is a poem that reflects these daily walks.

#### LEFT

Glyn's 15min Walk by Glyn Hurrey

#### LEFT BELOW

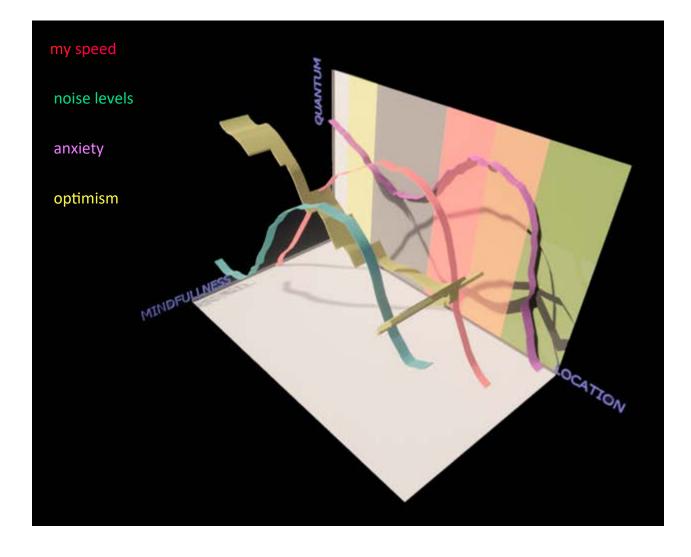
Morning Walk by Phoebe Wood

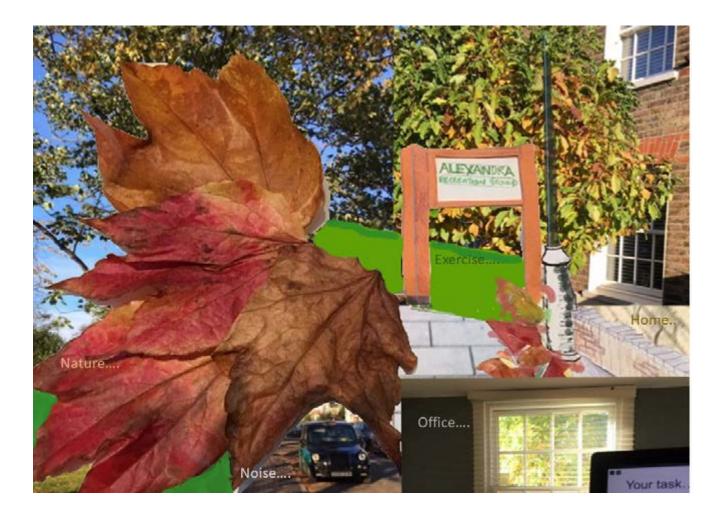
#### RFIOW

Analysis of a Walk by Craig Wallace

### ANALYSIS OF A WALK By Craig Wallace

After spending a week locked in watching the american election polls rolling in, my mind tackled this subject with a statistical bias. In a world of 'big data', people will try to break down our experiences into a stream of data that can be reviewed and analysed. The graph maps my walk. Firstly I focused on two 'dimensions' of time and distance, in which I mapped more traditonal sensory assessments including: my speed / noise levels / colours associated with my settings. Then I tried to map my emotonal response to these locatons with anxiety and optmism. Finally, my conclusion was to map a third dimension of my sense of well-being when in these spaces. All of which may help us design and learn about peoples experience of a space.





# ALISON'S LUNCHTIME JOURNEY By Alison Carveley

My creation documents my lunch time walk. Looking outside to my magnolia tree from my desk, eager to get out in the fresh air. Walking along my street, thinking how lucky I am to live in this quiet conservation area. Identical Victorian cottages line the street, then I hit the main road, and the noise level increases. Over the road, I step out into nature, Alexandra Recreation Ground lined with large Oak trees.



## DISTRACTION VS INTROSPECTION By Michael Santora

Whilst on my walk I observed that most people were focused on their mobile device. I also notice that most people spend time on various platforms regurgitating the same thought being fed to them through such platforms. I believe that people need to be expanding their minds, they should learn to filter and tune out the distractions we are constantly bombarded with through these platforms and replace the time spent with introspection. For example I have made significant progress on some forward thinking ideas thanks to new found time as a result of Covid, and I am grateful that I spent that time developing my own thoughts rather than be distracted by others.

We as architects are an excellent example of the type of people that accept the right amount of input from our environment (inspiration). Through internal processes we take our unique concepts and merge, mold and grow it with our inspiration into a creation we can share with the world. That creation is more than just a functional space; it is a work of art to inspire others.

The hope is that what we do inspires people in other fields to trade in the distractions for some introspection and see what they can find in themselves. The brain is a big place, we need everyone to show it some attention, the next idea that will change the world is in there somewhere!

#### LEFT

Alison's Lunchtime Journey by Alison Carveley

#### LEFT BELOW

Distraction vs Introspection by Michael Santora

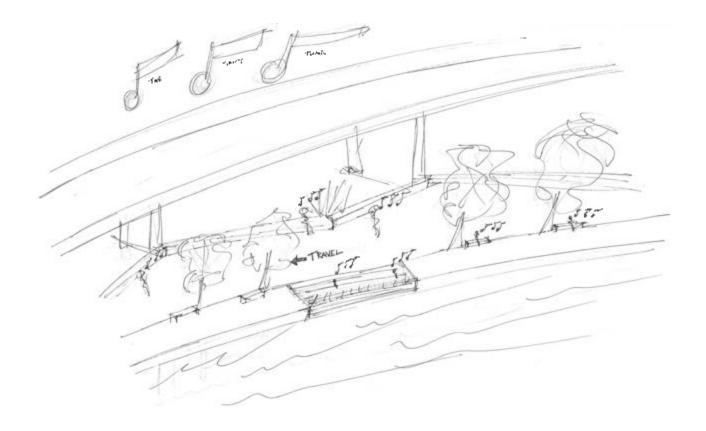
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Immense Events > Small
Changes > Life Quality
Enhancements by Stuart
Cudmore

# IMMENSE EVENTS > SMALL CHANGES > LIFE QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS By Stuart Cudmore

Being physically and mentally displaced in a frighteningly unknown world by sudden imposed Lockdown 1.0 restrictions and a driver annihilating our home in the early hours of 21 March 2020; thus leading to being temporarily re-housed, months of uncertainty and simultaneously a push to explore and find solace and a happy place within easy reach of pre-Lockdown life. The result of which is a very, very short journey to a place of better life quality in the face of Lockdown 2.0....





### DANCING TO THE SAME TUNE By Jeremy Riback

It is during the most difficult times that you see society stepping up to help others; we are all dancing to the same tune and can rise above anything that gets thrown our way. A single act of kindness spreads like a wildfire.

#### ABOVE

Dancing to the same tune by Jeremy Riback

#### RIGHT

"Urban Boundaries"
Walk to Long Meadow by
Dagmar Binsted



The way home...turning into Thors



Spot the De 1

# "URBAN BOUNDARIES" WALK TO LONG MEADOW By Dagmar Binsted

This video shows the walk to a local park. I chose to make a video in order to include some of the sounds into the experience of this walk. A walk I now do regularly but hardly ever bothered with before Lockdown.

This walk crosses a borough boundary from Lambeth into Southwark. The boundary is a road called Gipsy Hill. It is a 20mph road that is straight and comes down a hill. Nobody ever does 20mph not even some bicycles as they race down the hill. Lockdown has heightened the perception of this barrier. Why is there still so much traffic? Why do people drive even faster?

But once this boundary is negotiated, tranquility and nature awaits. The video is intended to show off the natural beauty of this manmade urban space. It is a remainder of a village common, now part of an inner London borough. It gets very muddy after rain because it is at the bottom of the hill. An urban myth that this is an old plague pit is unfortunately not true. However the River Effra flows somewhere below it near the edge of Gipsy Hill.

This space was only used by dog walkers before Lockdown. It has now become outdoor gym and living room for all of us living around it. I used to go to a regular yoga class here throughout summer. It was good place to take my youngest daughter for playing while the playgrounds were closed. We had many conversations about how playgrounds could be re-opened while walking around this meadow. Now we use the little playground again but still walk around the meadow to check on the trees we made friends with in summer.

The value of this little space of green, in terms of being a community asset, has risen tremendously in this crisis. It has made city living not just bearable but enjoyable. It feels like home to many. People, birds, foxes and many local dogs. And when lockdown finally eases and people are allowed to gather again this space will host a summer fete once again that will celebrate and bring together our diverse community. Meanwhile, quiet walks can be enjoyed and the connection to nature is there for all of us who bravely cross the boundary of Gipsy Hill.

The walk ends back in my house, in Lambeth. The unlocking of a door that needs to be replaced soon. An entrance hall that is waiting for renovation works. Some stickers from sports days past proudly stuck to the laundry door by both of our daughters. And the motto that greets all who enter our house.

My walks always start and end here. The threshold, the ultimate urban boundary between home and the world outside.

Click for video





den Way.

Unlocking the door and crossing the threshold

The house motto..



orean



### ABOVE

A 'New Normal' Lunchtime Walk by Rob Cullen

#### ABOVE RIGHT

The Lockdown 'Journey' by Matthew Humphreys

#### RGHT

Ad-lib Walk by Rob & Toby Lintern

# A 'NEW NORMAL' LUNCHTIME WALK By Rob Cullen

Covid-19 restrictions have been a disruptor to our behavioural patterns. In this instance, as if overnight, the working day lunchtime walk has changed from being through a bustling urban environment to a quiet rural one. We can work successfully remotely, and appreciate nature, sounds, texture and colour more than before. The concept of the commute, and the need to travel long distances at high speeds will have been challenged by our ability to adapt to new ways of working. Whilst there are positive out-takes from remote working, an aircraft in the sky is a reminder of travel, and of freedom .. and is a sign of hope that once we as a society have learnt to live with Covid, we can physically connect with others again.

### AD-LIB WALK By Rob & Toby Lintern

Me: We're going to walk for 15 mins—where would you like to go? Toby: Follow me......

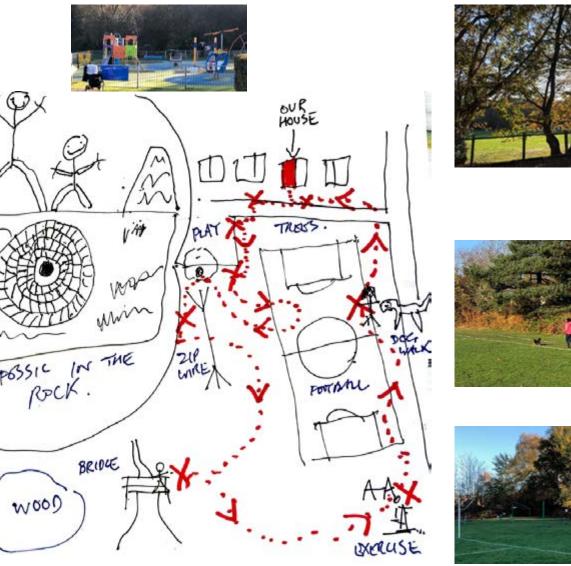


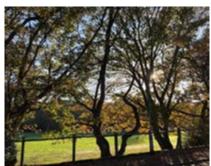


### THE LOCKDOWN 'JOURNEY' **By Matthew Humphreys**

My time-lapse 'Lockdown journey' was created walking around my local common – a very familiar and regularly trodden route. During the walk I began to think and challenge the reason for decisions I was subconsciously making – why did I turn there? Was I following a safe route, avoiding the weed smokers on the park bench? Was I following the sun, avoiding the shade? Keeping to the path or deliberately going 'off piste'? It was a moment in time to reflect about the past Lockdown and look forward to what was coming - poignantly finishing at the pedestrian crossing roads-sign 'look both ways' - ensuring metaphorically to look to the past to, learn from it and allow it to inform the future.

Click for video









#### NEW ROADS TO TRAVEL By Oliver Thomas

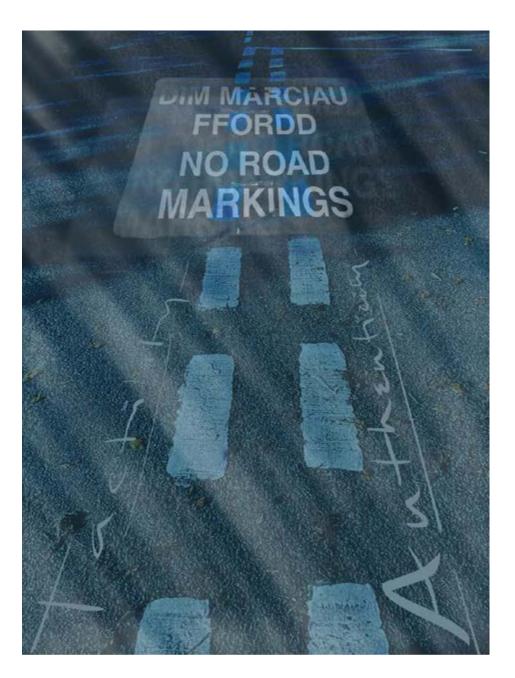
Lockdown forced us all to re-evaluate everything. From a free environment to living within intangible restrictions in a matter of days – everything changed. A world without restrictions became a world without tangible restrictions – the imposition brought about by our conscience, responsibilities and need for compliance.

I took to cycling more, the pseudo-commute at the end of the day provided the structure and freedom that we seek as reference points and markers within our day. The conversion from 'work' mode to 'home' mode facilitated by a 40 minute ride facilitated this to happen, all in one space.

Cycling rather than driving, walking or taking the train got me far more connected to my locality and its fabric, providing variety during the monotony of Lockdown. Some local roads were resurfaced during Lockdown – a resounding 'Yes!' having suffered their unevenness but I realised how much my bike travels were structured by the distinct differences of those bumps that, if you experienced it with your eyes closed, told you exactly where you were in the world.

My local walk allowed me to find this road sign that resonated with me - the lack of road markings reiterated Lockdown – a new situation without familiarity or guidance - be it the texture of the road or no white lines - forced us to travel with care, take responsibility for our own actions, abiding by our own application of rules on ourselves to assist our society to progress safely.

The authenticity of our personal behaviour underpins the integrity of our society.

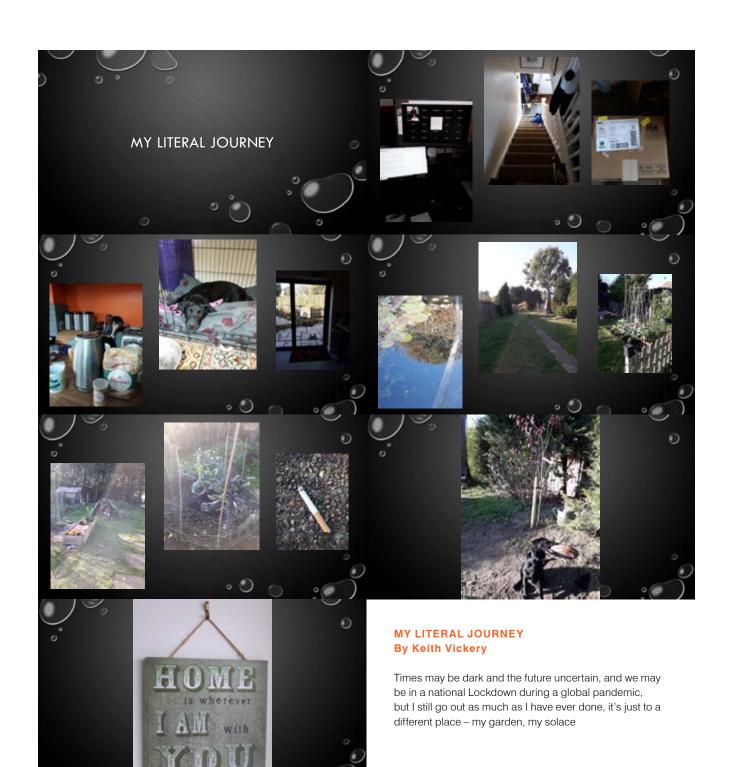


#### LEFT

New Roads To Travel by Oliver Thomas

#### RIGHT

My Literal Journey by Keith Vickery



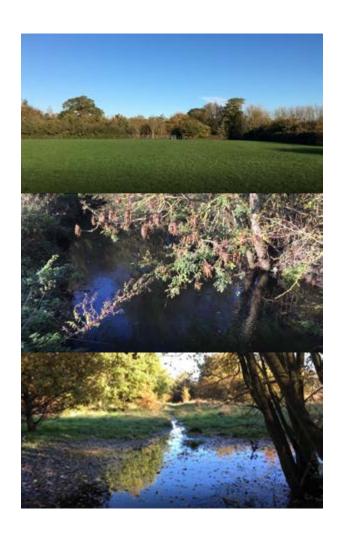
### THE STORY OF ONE WALK By Steve Jell

On my break I went for a walk, as far as I could get away from home in seven and a half minutes. It's a walk I have done to death over the summer this year, but even now it brings me a bit of respite from the sometimes chaos of my home.

I'm a bit of a rubbish photographer so I thought I would video my walk instead and, when I got the videos back into iMovie, I realised it enabled me to play around with the clips and try to tell a bit of a story. Obviously it's not very refined, but I tried to use quick cuts and increase the speed through all the clips which dealt with the built up and noisy area I live in, slowing down and becoming calmer and longer as I got into the relative green space of a local nature trail.

It demonstrated my thoughts, the way the landscape affects me and even my breathing during my walk. I was rushing to leave the busy roadside, and hurried, head down, through the grey asphalt and steel of the industrial estate near my home to get to a little bit of green space where I could breathe deeper and let the stresses unwind from my body and mind.

Click for video





## CIRCULAR DAYS By Darren Comber

The notion of circular days and living within an area of inspirational surroundings where people used to travel from all over the world to see icons such as Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. Now they are the backdrop to empty streets to cycle through past the everyday reminder of being socially distanced. Returning back to work in the warehouses that were originally at the centre of the Spice Trade before being converted to residential...now they are once again the host to workers of a different kind!

### LEFT

The story of one walk by Steve Jell

#### LEFT BELOW

Circular Days by Darren Comber

#### **BELOW**

Run by Richard McCarthy

### RUN By Richard McCarthy

Me, running by the Thames every day; That Groundhog Day feeling you can get in lockdown;

A McCarthy family lyric - being 'Down by the River', Where we watch Jack play his football on Dessie Island, Take the kids for ice creams and us for beer in The Swan or

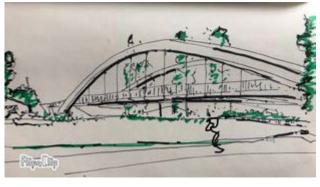
Something poetic, about it being the same River running under Walton Bridge (home),

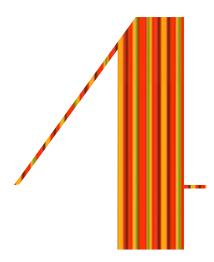
As the one I normally cross, walking over Waterloo Bridge, to the office.

#### Click for video









### **NATURE**

In Professor Raymond Williams¹ book, 'The Country and the City', we are reminded that nature contains an extraordinary amount of human history, and that what we often purport to be 'natural' (wild, untouched pristine environments) is no such thing. That 'human' and 'nature' are set up as a false dichotomy.

What is clear in this group is an innate desire to have contact with green and blue spaces, flora and fauna, the connection with other living things and environments that facilitate growth, fresh air and spaces of collective contemplation and reflection. Spaces to play, to socialise and to share and take in the constant change of season.

There is a great potential in just finding things from the organic material around us and turning them into something new. The submissions in this theme are creative, artful and poetic. They might well be described as primal and make reference to those desires above.

Within this potential and critical thinking, there may be fields of investigation that identify equally creative ways of dealing with the threat to climate change and how we can, as designers, make this world better. These may sit alongside those initiatives which we are already undertaking, at a technological and empirical level, but also best describing how we can embed such thinking at an emotional one.

### **EVOLUTION**By Amy Allwood

Whilst taking my 15min walk I realised how I have watched the surrounding environment change throughout the Lockdown period. I wanted to represent growth and our gradual development throughout the year.

#### CHANGE = LIFE'S JOURNEY By Amy von Engelhardt

Appreciation, Colors, Home is where he heart is, Family, Change = Life's journey. Sometimes you just got to stop, look, take in, breath, appreciate, keep going

<sup>1</sup> Raymond Williams was a writer, philosopher and political commentator. Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge and Professor of Drama.



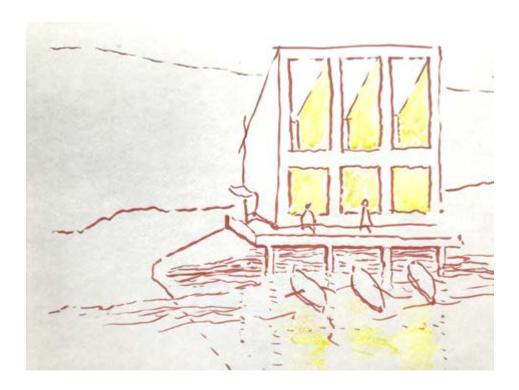


#### ABOVE

**Evolution by Amy Allwood** 

#### LEFT

Change = Life's Journey by Amy von Engelhardt



#### ABOVE

Flood by Sam Utting

### RIGHT

**Grounded by Amy Bourne** 

### FLOOD By Sam Utting

February 2020 was the wettest since 1766 in England and Wales. Engineering responses to the challenges of living with flooding are based on assumptions of normalised housing typologies that ignore the benefits of living near water. This sketch for a site on the banks of the river Wye is an idea about how we might continue to live near water: accepting the impact of the changing climate "...we must be a beacon of hope, because if you tell people there's nothing they can do, they will do worse than nothing."

Margaret Atwood, The Year of the Flood

### GROUNDED By Amy Bourne

Grounded is a reflection of where one has come from and the steps we are consciously or unconsciously taking. After rerooting during the pandemic, the piece is a record of the new streets and pathways that normally would go unnoticed and underappreciated





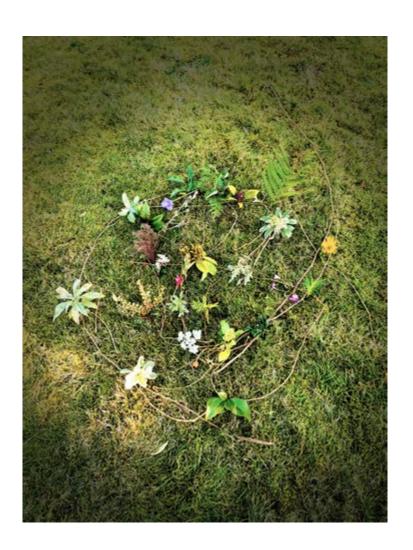
## FORAGING By Ross McWatt

During the first Lockdown I took my 15 month daughter out into the countryside every other day. To begin with I would take her in her push chair and let her out to do a little bit of exploring. We would usually go to similar local country parks, exploring more and more each time. Joanna would pick up everything she found interesting and I would bring home the fir cones, she collected. As time went by, we explored more countryside and Joanna developed in her ability to walk, then toddle, then run.

The collected fur cones in the picture are arranged in an outward spiral representing our countryside walks. The cones at the centre of the spiral represent the first short local walks. Places within easy walking distance from home. As the circle grows larger, our countryside walks become longer and further afield from home and my curiosity for finding new countryside to explore grows. The spiral also represents my daughter's development over a number of months.

The fir cones were arranged on freshly fallen leaves on my front drive, representing the many woodlands we walked through and giving a seasonal taste and sense of time to the piece.





## THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE BIGGER PICTURE By Lucy Fineberg

Michel Foucault as inspiration – history is not a linear process as we are taught, it is constantly evolving every second from each individual and their experiences into a web of knowledge and reflection. My piece reflects on the significance of the individual within the overall picture. Each element of the piece is a different flora species, which vary in their compositions; a network of vines, with a species clipping located at each point of connection. The symbolism stretches from us in our work structure, to our existence as a species, culture, evolution, and our place within the galaxy and universe. Each individual brings their own USP to life, and when each is able to be their authentic self, the wider web sits with more harmony.

#### NATURE IS By Barry Clarke

When the patterns of our technological, complex lives get too much, we seek refuge in the simplicity of the natural world. But, the basis of this too is complex mathematical patterns, it's just a matter of how you see things. We just need to learn to see differently.

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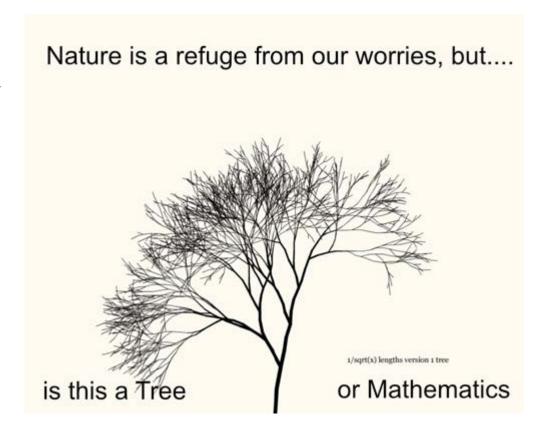
Foraging by Ross McWatt

#### ABOVE

The Individual In The Bigger Picture by Lucy Fineberg

#### RIGHT

Nature Is by Barry Clarke





### STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY By Jessica Moar

Inspired by my baby niece who has an extra big heart but always has a big beautiful simile and an infectious giggle though all the challenges she has faced in the past year. A valuable trait for us all to learn when surviving a difficult situation.



#### FAR LEFT

Strength In Adversity by Jessica Moar

#### LEFT

In Memory of 2020 by Katherine Neathercoat

#### BELOW

Awareness of Nature and Reconnect Going Forward by Mark Walker

### IN MEMORY OF 2020 By Katherine Neathercoat

This is my submission in the design exercise. It is formed of the foliage from my neighbour's hedges that I have walked past twice a day for the last 8 months walking my dog. I have watched the seasons change and people come and go in an urban environment throughout this exceptional time. It solidifies a moment in time as it was created on the first day of the second Lockdown and days away from Remembrance Day. I thought it was poignant to combine the two sentiments and create something that simply and visually symbolised memory, remembrance and hope.

### AWARENESS OF NATURE AND RECONNECT GOING FORWARD By Mark Walker

My creative output represents the positive changes I have felt during this period. I am more aware of the nature that surrounds me and of the importance of not only reconnecting with it, but also reconnecting with family and friends.









IMG-9779.jpg IMG-9782.jpg IMG-97



### WILDLIFE IN THE CITY By Barbara Toscani

This is London E2. Moments from City of London. There's a small City Farm and a small Woodland Walk in the local park. Confined to this square mile for so many months, this space has saved mine and my family's sanity. Every neighbourhood should have a tiny patch of wilderness.

## WEAVING THE IMPERFECTIONS OF NATURE By Felicity Meares

We spend so much of our time inside, surrounded by perfectly manufactured objects. I bookend my day meandering through the countryside with my dogs where everything is imperfect, natural. It is refreshing, feel good, the counterpoint of man made.

### A WALK AROUND MY SOUL By Ralph Isitt

My soul is in my garden. It's a cycle of life and death; it's my safety value from Lockdown.

### ABOVE

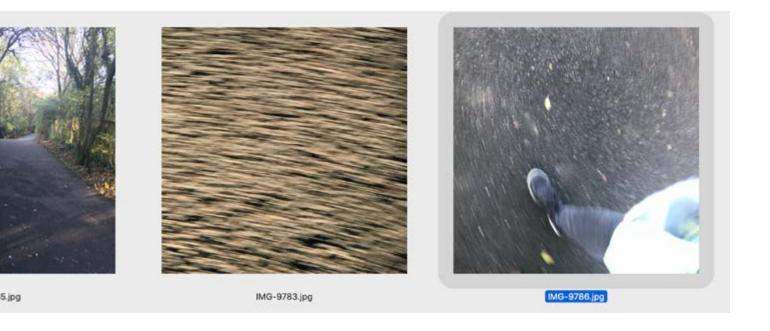
Wildlife In The City by Barbara Toscani

#### LEFT

Weaving the Imperfections of Nature by Felicity Meares

#### RIGHT

A Walk Around My Soul by Ralph Isitt







### A VESSEL FOR NATURE By Jo Hart

No beginning, no end - a handmade structure carefully holds and protects nature

### URBAN OASIS By Rachel Hain

Creating an urban oasis, selecting architectural plants which thrive in a changing climate, nurturing new plants indoors, supporting bees and other wild garden visitors.

## VICTORIA PARK, CARDIFF INSPIRED By Dawn Davies

My inspiration was based on Victoria Park, Cardiff. The soft white sand of the empty volley ball seating area combined with the backdrop of the trees is a relaxing, tranquil spot and reminds me of the natural coast line around Wales.

### LEAF MAP By Maggie-Leigh O'Neill

Palmistry on a naturally occurring element. Using a leaf I mapped out along its veins the elements of astrology elements: Water, Earth, Fire and Air. I took time to reflect on these and how I felt my Life, Heart, Head and Fate fitted into these phases of seasonal change and growth.



#### LEFT ABOVE

A Vessel for Nature by Jo Hart

#### LEFT BELOW

Urban Oasis by Rachel Hain

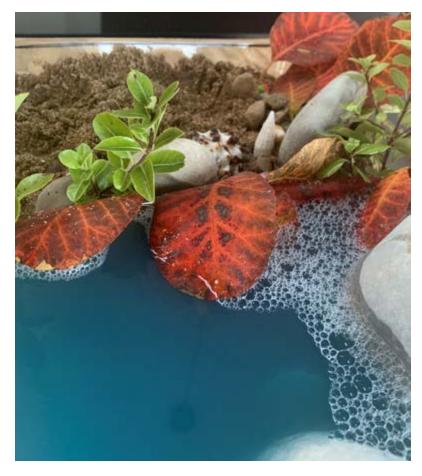
#### RIGHT ABOVE

Victoria Park, Cardiff Inspired by Dawn Davies

#### RIGHT BELOW

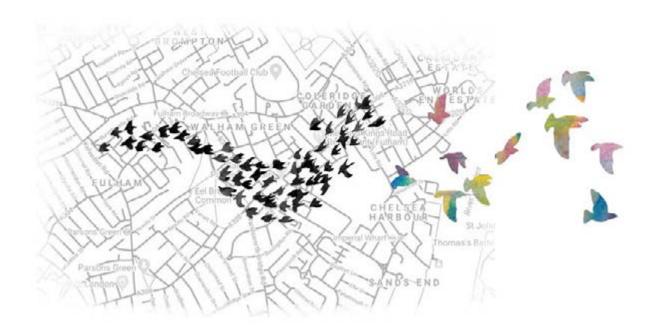
Leaf Map by Maggie-Leigh O'Neill







### SPACE TO BREATHE + FREEDOM OF DECISION



Opportunity to connect to locals - Greater 'commute' choices - Time for thought

## SPACE TO BREATHE + FREEDOM OF CHOICE By Kari Carter

Spotting a flock of birds flying as a group in a seemingly random route around the houses on my walk gave me the realisation that Lockdown has ironically given me more freedom. I have greater choice in my route or 'commute' as I am not restricted by trying to get from A-to B in the shortest possible time, I am not rushing as I have gained two hours and I have time to breathe. Staying in my area also allows me to engage with locals more often as I allow myself to lock up and not rush

### FROM NATURE TO ARCHITECTURE By Johann van Rensburg

Nature looks after its own. Nature gives shelter. Nature is life but life ultimately leads to decay and death. Architects make shelter. Shouldn't we learn from nature? Harmony with nature should be our goal.

#### LEFT

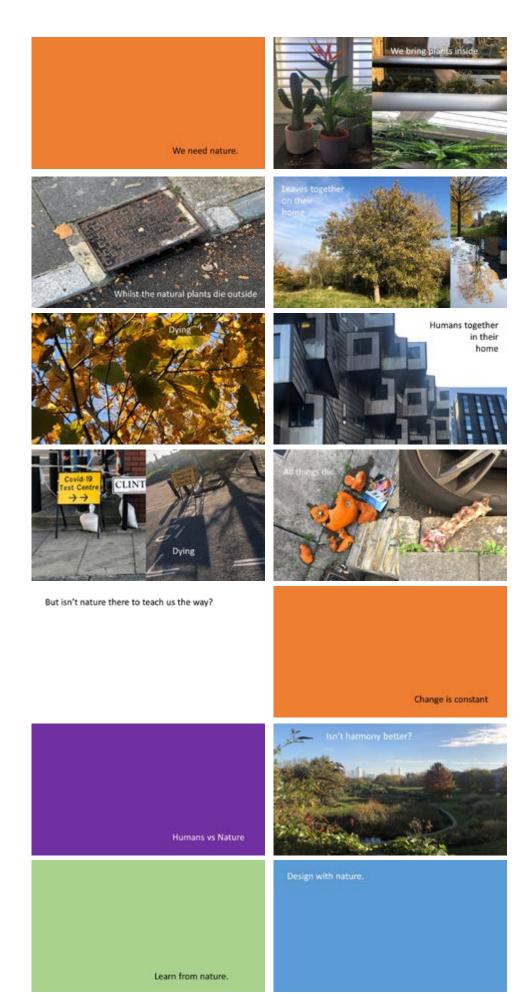
Space To Breathe + Freedom Of Choice by Kari Carter

#### LEFT BELOW

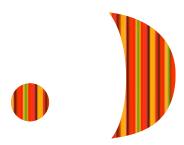
Journey To The Sun by Robyn Thorne

#### RIGHT

From Nature to Architecture by Johann van Rensburg







Place creation is not just visual – it is experiential. It can be made up from all of our senses. Well-documented evidence shows that the most significant contribution to memory is our sense of small. That place and memory are intrinsically linked shows that, as designers, we need to consider all aspects of experience – explore all the opportunities and potential to capture any given special genius loci.

### **PLACE**

What generates a sense of place? How do we articulate or make manifest any particular 'genius loci'?

Christian Norberg-Schulz, in his seminal book, 'Genius Loci; Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture', describes the importance of moment, threshold; the transition of moving from one world or place to another. The solitary tree that stands alone in a field. A public square with legible spatial syntax. Space, monument and memory. A room with a view. Hearth and home. A celebration or event.

Place creation can happen inside or outside. It can be a mood, a moment in time or everlasting.

The pieces in this theme show that place can be exception or part of the everyday. They comment on what has been found, made or can be made and such observations can lead to a better understanding of what might constitute place. Equally, they also make reference to wanting a sense of belonging and meaningful identity.

#### MICRO GARDEN MACRO PARK By Bruce Calton

2020 has shown us that appreciation of space, parks and gardens and the ability to play, socialize and enjoy space outside of our boundaries of our own home is very important. We remind ourselves of the images in the press of the population emerging from Lockdown to populate streets, gardens and parkland, sometimes for the very first time, exercising their rights to access and enjoy space on their doorstep.

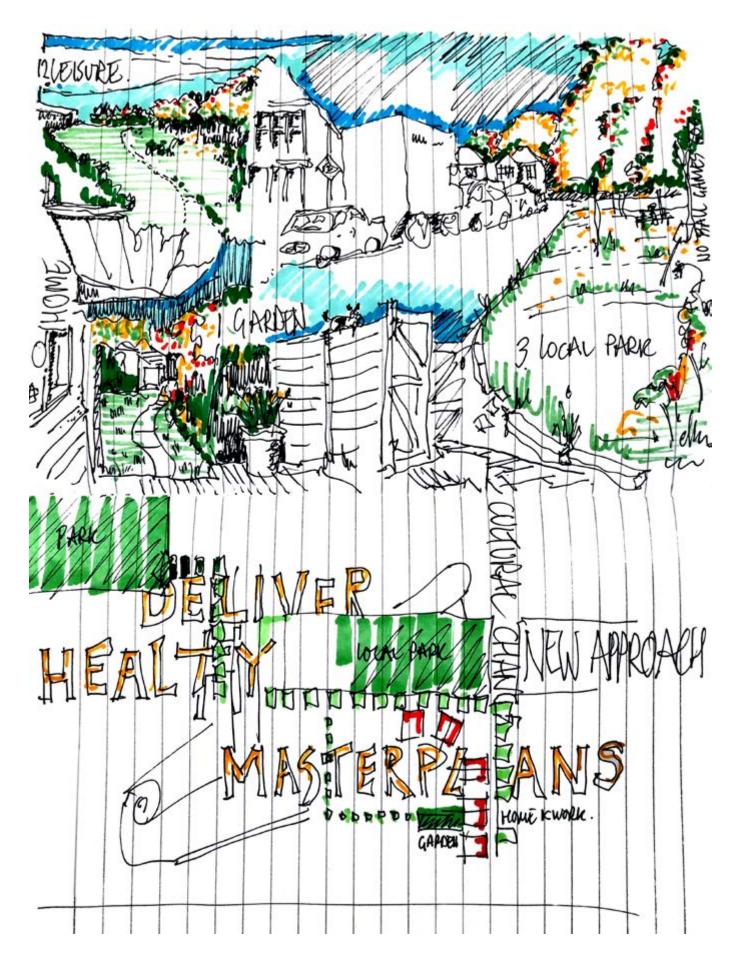
Spatial planning in the past has delivered pockets of open space, much of which is signposted to dissuade use. How many 'No ball games' signs exist on parks and open spaces just on our doorstep and how little activity happens in these controlled environments where a few trees, grass and the line of cars parked up along the muddy grass edges, compressing the green space to a linear inactive environment.

Walking from the back door, I explored the experience that has been the same since the 1930's when this West London estate was built. Where the space has not changed in 90 years and where today people have tried to populate and enjoy what has been but just a visual pleasure in the urban fabric of society.

A small back garden leads just three minutes to a local park where six people were sitting in, chatting – a previously unusual sight, and 10 minutes' walk from the local park is a major park, full of activity and social interaction – the space enabling distancing but a wealth of activity to occur for all ages.

How can we populate and re-activate the myriad of smaller local parks that are sign posted to dissuade their use and enjoyment and bring this valuable green infrastructure back into better, more active and an enjoyed piece of our city scape? Future design of small parks should work harder to create active enjoyment, not just a pretty picture from the kitchen window.

My 15 minute observation sketch captured the garden to park experience for the Scott Brownrigg Virtual Conference 2020.



ABOVE

Micro Garden Macro Park

by Bruce Calton

#### **BELOW**

River Thames by Amber Luscombe

#### RIGHT

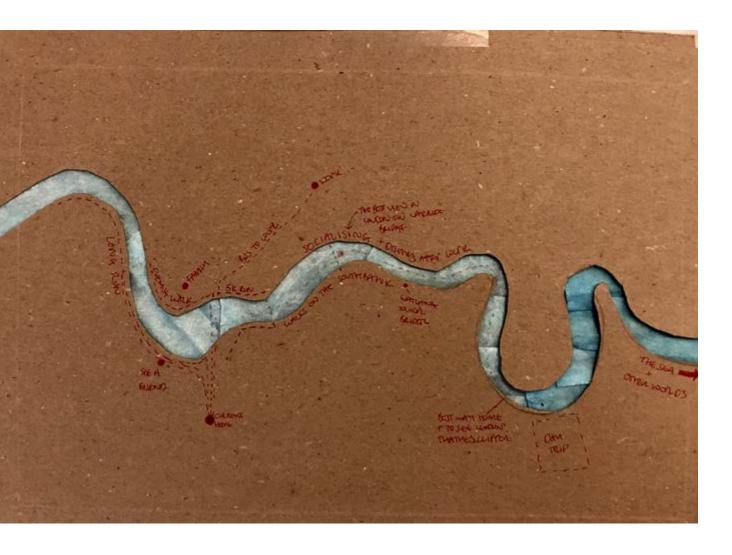
Bracelet Found on a Tree by Nick Ridout

### RIVER THAMES By Amber Luscombe

During the 15 minute walk I was able to walk to the River Thames. During the Lockdown the River Thames was an anchor for my daily exercise and walks to maintain sanity. It's my connection to the city I love living in, the memories created, and the knowledge that it leads out to open seas and other worlds not attainable during the Lockdown This journey was created out of the objects I had to hand - disposable face masks and cardboard from Amazon delivery boxes.

## BRACELET FOUND ON A TREE By Nick Ridout

Walking around my local park, I came across this bracelet and small charm tied around a branch. One of the joys of Lockdown has been being forced to engage much more with my immediate locality than I have in the past, and exploring and noticing details that I have never taken the time to notice before. I have also tried to make time to draw more, hence the drawing. I used to draw a lot, and I am trying to make myself do it more. It is a great way to be absorbed and clear my mind of other things, as well as being an essential skill for an architect.



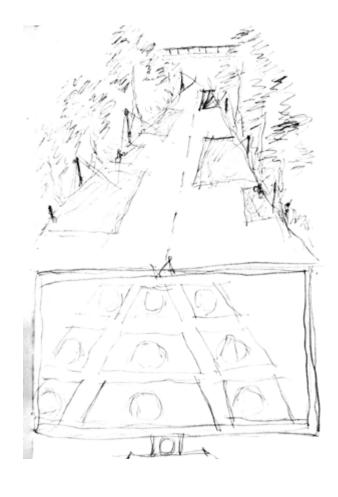


### NIGHT BREEZE By Shirley Tan

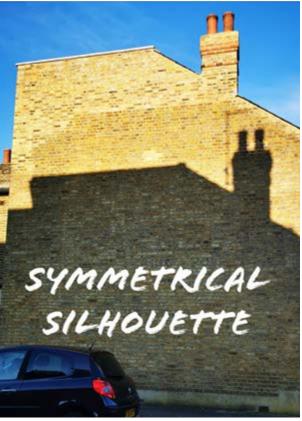
My output depicts the virtual conference taking place whilst I'm waiting for a cab standing at the lobby area of our office tower, looking out of the window onto a Singapore night and a silent road. The only sound being the breeze in the trees and I felt the calmness of the night.

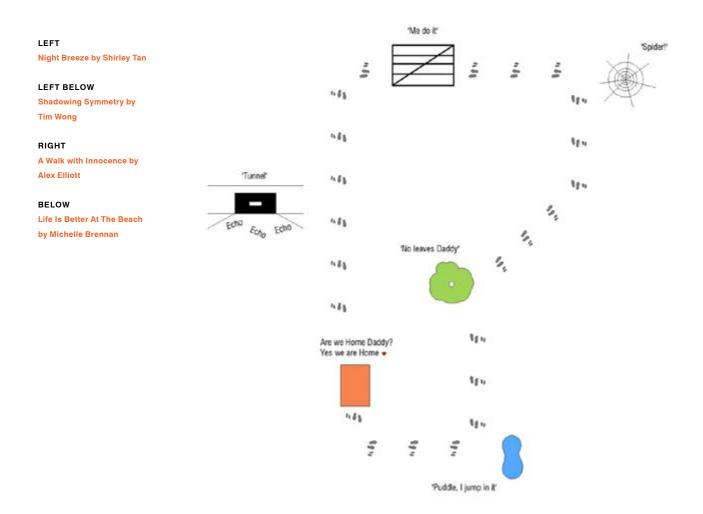
### SHADOWING SYMMETRY By Tim Wong

Terraces in harmony on a London Street











## A WALK WITH INNOCENCE By Alex Elliott

I took a walk with my son Harrison and these were his observations. I find it very rewarding to follow his path and listen to his narration of the world. It's important to take joy in the simple things.

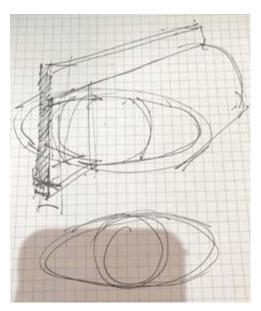
## LIFE IS BETTER AT THE BEACH By Michelle Brennan

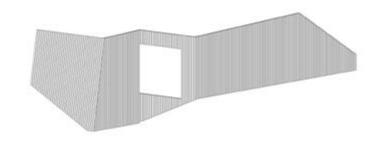
A stroll along the beachfront. A perfect reminder that we are all free to breath in the beauty of nature. Feeling very fortunate to live here during a year of restrictions. Location: Southsea Beach

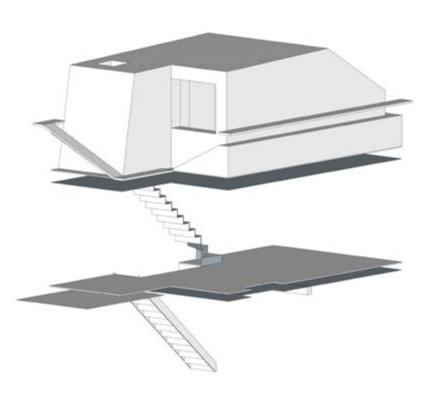












#### ABOVE

**Connection Pod by David Mason** 

#### LEFT

Reflections Of A Soul by Nigel Rayner

# CONNECTION POD By David Mason

My journey wasn't about the route but rather the culmination of my walk. This park and place was a sanctuary during the initial Lockdown when we could head out for just an hour a day. It was somewhere for me to reflect and connect with myself and I realised it was still as important for me today. Recognising that many people had different experiences I want to propose a structure which would gather our thoughts, pictures, words, songs, laughter, anger. A safe space to download and share and to remind each other we are not alone and working through this together.

## REFLECTIONS OF A SOUL By Nigel Rayner

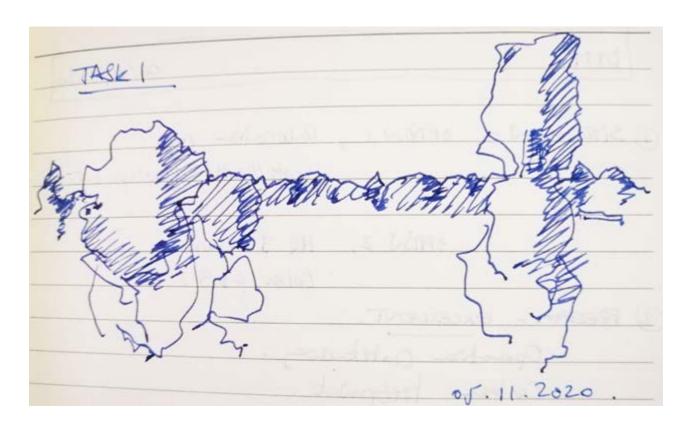
Cosmological model of universal harmony that had operated as an "interface" between the world of essences and that of appearances. . . . . .

Reflections of a soul:Eric Alliez & Michel Feher



## THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND By Andrew Postings

The Duke of Northumberland's River is a man-made waterway constructed in the 15th century which weaves through Hounslow and into the Thames. It flows across open land past 1930s semis, turns at the corner of the end of a mixed block of Georgian and Victorian houses and two groups of alms-houses towards the Thames. It's a liminal space, both a route and a barrier with interesting interactions between the built and the natural.



### LOOKUP By Alejandro Chicharro

"If you spend your life over analysing every encounter you will always see the tree, but never the forest."

Shannon L. Alder

#### ABOVE TOP

The Duke of Northumberland by Andrew Postings

#### ABOVE

Lookup by Alejandro Chicharro



## JOURNEY By Mark Thompson

What is important to me? A journey around the garden . I took around my garden with my daughter Holly and these were my thoughts....

Limited mobility over the last 8 or 9 months has given people the opportunity to connect to a greater extent with the environment around them. For those of us lucky enough to have a garden, or easy access to the countryside or parks, it has presented an opportunity to reconnect with nature in a way we might not have had time to do it the past.

Since the first Lockdown, my family and I have started growing our own fruit and vegetables in the garden, and have acquired a number of Polish chickens who provide us with a steady flow of eggs. Our latest project, which we have just commenced, is to build a garden pond. The image submitted is a mock-up of the pond we are looking to build, and reflects our desire to increase bio-diversity in the garden.

### MY LOCAL WALK By Ian Maile

Most journeys start in the car, in the current world the car parking was full, where as it would be empty. Walking along the canal, I see the reflection of the world, symbolic of our world being turned upside down, but the real world is still there. I walk along the path through the woods, where man made meets nature. There's a hill and life has its uphill struggles, but then you get to go downhill which is easier. You then get home and hopefully it's blue skies and sunshine (back to the car park picture).



### MOMENT OF PEACE By Ana Salazar Sala

A pause and a moment of reflexion. The vibrant colours of nature, those with us and those gone. The buzzing sounds of life and cheer all around.

LEFT
Journey by Mark Thompson

#### ABOVE

Moment Of Peace by Ana Salazar Sala

#### RIGHT

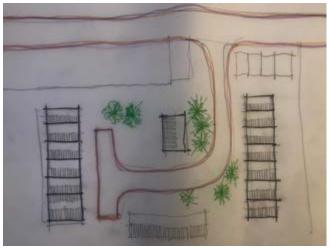
My Local Walk by Ian Maile



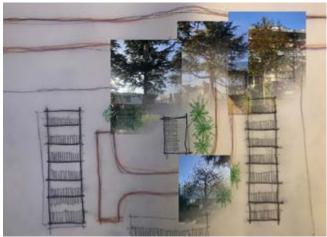














### ABOVE

Surrounded By Trees by Laurence Orsini

#### RIGHT

Instant Composition by Nicola Lombardi and team 25

## SURROUNDED BY TREES By Laurence Orsini

Life and pleasures have simplified during Lockdown, including a heightened appreciation of the surrounding beautiful cedar trees and the interplay of sunlight that greets me every day with a different storey. Even on the day that one of their enormous branches fell onto my car and modified its bonnet!



## INSTANT COMPOSITION By Nicola Lombardi and Team 25

Nicola Lombardi with Team 25 (Aleksandra Paduch, Nigel Rayner, Steven Anderson, Leisl Domisse, Hien Dao).

A short piece of music recorded and produced in 30 minutes, based on a field recording taken on a short walk on New River, in north London. The piece takes inspiration from our everyday surroundings, their landscape and the details that reveal themselves through everyday fruition. This is piece is about instants, and produced in an instant. Music and part of the photos are by Nicola Lombardi, other images are from team 25 members, as mentioned above.

Click for video

#### BELOW

Postcards From A
Lockdown by Elena Remirez

#### RIGHT

Claim Back The Street by Fernando Mesquita

## POSTCARDS FROM A LOCKDOWN By Elena Remirez

Covid-19 is changing the concept of community. Being in Lockdown means that there are fears of social breakdown and loneliness. However something meaningful is happening in terms of our relationships with people we don't know, including outpourings of charity, togetherness and empathy for complete strangers. These photos taken around Cardiff reflect this message.

# CLAIM BACK THE STREET By Fernando Mesquita

Widen the narrow pavements. Improve the green structure, make it pleasant. Put more emphasis on pedestrian use. Encourage safe walking, running and cycling. Narrow the carriageway to reduce vehicle speeds. Segregate vehicles from pedestrians and cyclists. Claim back the street.



