

LONDON ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

Date: 2006
 Location: London
 ASF Team: D. Moreau, P. Newton & M. Kinnear
 Partners: N/A
 Donors: N/A
 Project type: Exhibition & Event

PROBLEM ADDRESSED



ASF-UK participated in the LAB06 programme with the intention of designing and building something in an underutilised square within central London. The aim of the installation was to demonstrate: how peoples' interactions with the city and its built environment are changing, to raise awareness about issues of development, society and sustainability in relation to urban settlement.

GOAL ACHIEVED

Vernon Square close to King's Cross Station was chosen as the square for the intervention. After two hard days of designing and building, the final installation allowed local people and visitors to experience the potential in the space and consider possible ideas for future change.



METHODOLOGY OF WORK



The programme involved a team of students and architects, led by Peruvian architect Mariana Leguia, which ran over two weekends. Traditional design practice was abandoned in favour of more participatory and democratic methods. Through unconventional mapping techniques the participants discovered contrasts, idiosyncrasies, and qualities that might have otherwise been missed.

Inclusive methods were used for generating design ideas, encouraging students to take on the roles of 'user', 'negotiator' and 'technician', exploring the potential of the site and resources available. All of the materials had been salvaged or donated including pallets, carpet tiles, plastic bottles, two sails and three doors.



FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The design and building process was a part of the exhibition and we 'opened for business' at 16h00, on the final Sunday for a party with Malawian musician, Ron Nkomba strumming some tunes from the stage to a mellow audience reclining on the 'urban lounge' furniture across the square.