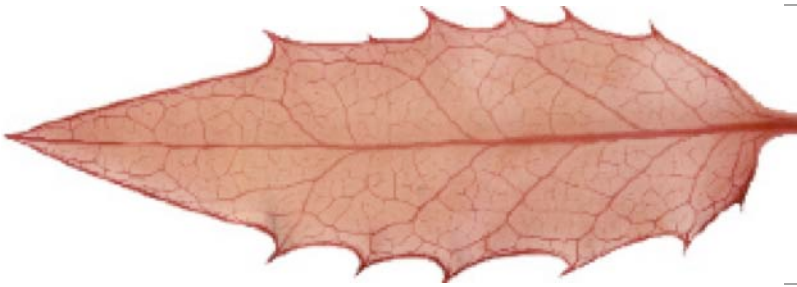


Haghill/Milnbank Spatial Development Framework | Project Brief | October 2010



1. The Unit

The Urban Design Studies Unit (UDSU) covers the Urban Design part of four areas of knowledge practiced in the Department of Architecture at University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK, which also include Architectural Design, Sustainability and Technology, and Cultural Studies. UDSU was set up in 1989 by Hildebrand Frey, to address problems of urban rehabilitation, renewal and restructuring. Its research originally focused on the city and its origin, its development, form and structure and expanded to its impact on people and community engagement. It has developed over time within the areas of ecological, urban and economic sustainability, the history of urban design, minorities and the built environment. Research within the group has been sponsored by the EU, ESRC, AHRC, RTP1 and other grants. UDSU has a strong expertise on urban analysis, planning and design, street design and traffic calming, community engagement in urban policies and design, identity and sociability of public spaces.

Currently the Unit, led by Professor Sergio Porta and Dr. Ombretta Romice, is expanding further towards an interpretation of urban form and dynamics as layered manifestations of complex relationships that require different ways of interpreting, representing and managing space. This shift towards an understanding of how urban space changes, i.e. a concept of *adaptive space*, may provoke innovations in Urban Design practice by means of contributions from many disciplines of the built environment like urban morphology and geography.



Darren Baird and Mark Feeley: students' Masterplan for the regeneration of Govan district in Glasgow, UK, 2010.

Since 2006 the Unit has been running the MSc in Urban Design course at the fifth year, open to students from architecture, planning, sociology, anthropology, environmental psychology, geography and other disciplines of the built environment, as well as to professionals. The course has often concentrated on the problems of urban peripheries, with a special focus on the segregation of large social housing estates, the interface between space and social behaviours, crossing between geography, design, perception and community involvement.

Currently UDSU involves 14 people at different levels under the direction of Professor Sergio Porta and Doctor Ombretta Romice.

The quantitative Analysis of Urban Form

In recent years UDSU has developed a strong record of international and multidisciplinary research on the quantitative analysis of urban spaces, involving a range of different methods and models which are particularly useful in assessing comparatively the potential of spatial configurations to sustain socially and environmentally sound communities. Among others, the Unit has developed modelling tools for the analysis of *spatial complex networks*, in particular networks of streets and intersections and their impact on land-use and people collective behaviour in cities, as well as for the evaluation of *environmental performance of urban fabric* at the scale of neighbourhoods and districts.

Dr. **Sergio Porta** is Professor of Urban Design and Director of the Urban Design Studies Unit at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK. He is member of the Environmental Structure Research Group, the Academy of Urbanism and the editorial boards of leading international journals like "Environment and Planning B" and "Urban Design International". Dr. Porta has substantially contributed to a major EPSRC funded research entitled "City Form" and a Leverhulme Trust research entitled "Experiential Landscape". Dr. Porta has published over 30 works overall, 15 in the last 3 years, on peer reviewed international journals.

Dr. **Ombretta Romice** is Senior Lecturer in Urban design at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She is also President of IAPS, the International Association for People-Environment Studies; in this role she has been on the organizing board of several Congresses (IAPS 2008, Rome; IAPS, 2010, Leipzig) and Symposia. She has been successful in securing the 22nd IAPS Congress in Glasgow in 2012. The Congress will be jointly organized with Dr Edward Edgerton of the University of West of Scotland.

Emanuele Strano is a bachelor in Architecture at Polytechnic of Milan. During the last four years he has shifted from Architecture to scientific research following a multidisciplinary approach embracing complex network theory, urban morphology, geo statistics/GIS, and evolutionary biology. His focus is on dynamics, form and ecology of urbanization processes. At UDSU he leads international research projects in partnership with leading groups in unconventional computing, biology and physics.



2. The Project

The Haghill/Milnbank Spatial Development Framework Project was commissioned by Milnbank Housing Association to UDSU in order to define a strategy for the development of the HA's assets in connection to the local community of Haghill and the complex of conditions, planning strategies and projects in the wider context of the East End of Glasgow.

The commission falls in a moment of great transformations that will concern the East End as a whole in view of the 2014 Commonwealth Games and related major infrastructural interventions planned and under realization¹. In particular, the construction of the new M74 motorway to the south/east and the East End Regeneration Route that borders the area north/south are determining new opportunities in terms of accessibility but also may reiterate a history of territorial fragmentation at the local scale that draws back to the original urbanization process of the East End.

It is a specific aim of this project to reconstruct and understand this process to determine what have been the causes of the current sense of isolation which is pervasive in Haghill, one of the supposedly most accessible areas in the UK, and which seems standing behind some of the most evident dynamics of local economic and social decay.

However, Milnbank HA is not funding a study in urban geography or sociology: rather, it is investing in the construction of a set of arguments and visions capable of delineating feasible strategies for the development of the area in the short and medium term, which are shared and supported by the local community and its various components while, at the same time, showing the capacity to fit into the wider picture related to the developing East End and Glasgow metropolitan region at large.

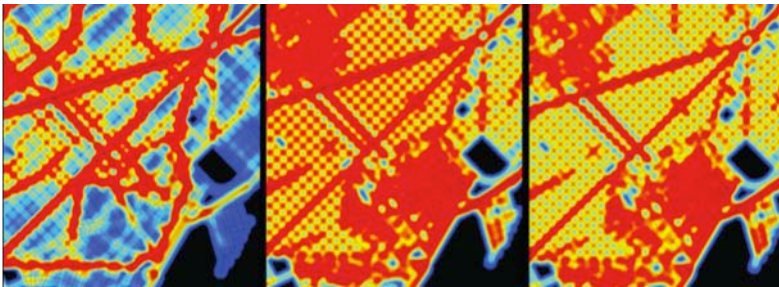


Argyle Street in central Glasgow is an example of a very popular central street that has in time developed a remarkable fine-grained retail commerce vocation.

Its centrality is so high that it could even be partially pedestrianized without hampering – but rather improving – the commercial attractiveness of the place.

This is a good example of how policies such as that of pedestrianization and commerce regeneration can greatly benefit from a preventive understanding of the geography of street centrality.

¹ Major interventions in the Glasgow East End are for example: Clyde Gateway (private and public sector investment); extension of the M74 Motorway; East End Regeneration Route; Glasgow Fort Phase II and Easterhouse Town Centre renewal; National Indoor Sports Arena and Velodrome; Commonwealth Games Athletes Village at Dalmarnock; College Lands Development at High Street.



3. The Workplan

The Haghill/Milnbank Spatial Development Framework project is set to commence in mid November 2010 and terminate by mid March 2011.

The plan of activities in the project includes two kinds of processes to be run in parallel, an *interactive* one (based on local consultation) and a *professional* one (based on specialist expertise), throughout all the three phases of the project, namely:

1. Diagnostic.
2. Project and Planning Framework.
3. Propositional.

Phase 1. Diagnostic

Mid November 2010 – end of January 2011.

Within the diagnostic phase the interactive application (Activity 1.1. Perceived status and visions) includes a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders in the study area. The agenda of interviews, as well as the list of interviewees, will be defined by Milnbank HA. Interviews will be undertaken separately with each subject, aiming at mapping problems and opportunities as perceived by the interviewee.

The professional application (Activity 1.2. Observed status) includes a range of analytical packages that focus on prevailing activities and functions as well as their distribution, hierarchy of mobility channels, accessibility to shops and services and location of potential community centres, shape and connectivity of the street layout, centrality of streets, conditions of traffic. Outputs of this professional set of analysis are thematic maps which highlight the role played by local and adjacent factors in shaping the problems in Haghill.

WP_1 DIAGNOSTIC	
1.1	
PERCEIVED STATUS AND VISIONS	Report and maps on local perceptions of assets and weaknesses
1.1.1	
Setting the agenda	
1.1.2	
Meeting local actors	
1.1.3	
Mapping problems	
1.2	Report and maps on territory performance
OBSERVED STATUS	
1.2.1	
Urban Functions and Mobility Infrastructures	
1.2.2	
Community potential	
1.2.3	
Permeability and connectivity	
1.2.4	
Settlement structure	
1.2.5	
Multiple Centrality Assessment	
1.2.6	
Traffic flows and instant speed	
1.3	Summative report and maps
DIAGNOSTIC SEMINAR	
1.3.1	
Diagnostic seminar preparation	
1.3.2	
Delivering diagnostic seminar and agreement	

The diagnostic phase performs one interactive process of analysis which is based on extensive consultation of local actors and is aimed at the formation of a shared idea of what the problems are in the area, what visions everyone is holding and how they support or detract to each other.

Equally, in this phase a set of activities of territorial analysis and modelling will be undertaken in office by the UDSU team, which will terminate with a documentation of what are the spatial causal factors of problems in the area.

Both these two kinds of understanding will then be put together in a community event at the end of January 2011, where a synthesis will be constructed that constitute the agreed problematic platform for the project.

The knowledge raised through both the interactive and professional applications will be then presented in what we regard as the most important event in this project: the mid-term seminar (Activity 1.3. Diagnostic seminar). The seminar's objective is to achieve a vision of what the problems are in the area that is shared by the largest possible number of local stakeholders and the UDSU team. The seminar will therefore be organized in order not just to communicate the results of the two packages of analyses as well as to use them as instruments to achieve that common vision that we are seeking.

Phase 2. Project and Planning Framework

Mid November 2010 – January 2011.

The second phase of the project is run in parallel with the first. Public officials are interviewed in order to gather information regarding future developments in the study area that have been already entered the process of examination and approval in the local planning system. The scope of this activity is the formation of a geo-referenced database of all projects that are currently under development or potential, though at different stages, in Glasgow planning system and that show an impact on the study area. The output of this phase is an important picture of all future developments that also offers, for each development, several basic information and a precise cartographic definition.

Phase 3. Propositional

February 2011 – mid March 2011.

Once a clear idea of what are the problems in the area as perceived by local stakeholders and as emerging from professional analysis is achieved, and once the largest possible agreement has been set on them, the project team elaborates solutions in terms of:

1. A proposed set of actions and strategies for the study area, that defines what to do and where in the short and medium and long term.
2. A proposed hierarchy of future settlements that highlights the most convenient location of neighbourhood and district centres to best benefit from: a) the hierarchy of streets and mobility channels identified, and b) the distribution of functions. It is only with reference to this configuration that new residential developments can be targeted in terms of density, character and type.
3. A proposed hierarchy of streets and mobility channels that interpret the proposed changes in the major road network in the wider context of the street network as a whole and the proposed developments of residential and other functions.

These three scenarios will be cross-tested so that their reciprocal impacts are visualized and mapped. Alternative configurations are therefore defined, assessed, discussed with Milnbank Housing Association and finally merged together – by mid March 2011 – in a unified propositional strategy, the **Haghill/Milnbank Spatial Development Framework Strategy**. The Strategy is then opened to the wider discussion within the Haghill community and beyond after the completion of the project.

WP_2 PROJECT AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK	
2.1 PROJECT AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK	Georeferenced database of projects and plans
2.1.1 Setting the agenda	
2.1.2 Meeting officials	
2.1.3 Mapping projects and plans	

The project and planning framework phase is aimed at the construction a reliable map of all developments that are currently in the pipeline in the local planning system.

WP_3 PROPOSITIONAL	
3.1 PROPOSITIONAL	Final strategies and alternative scenarios modeling and comparison
3.1.1 Actions and strategies	
3.1.2 Settlement structure	
3.1.3 Mobility infrastructures	
3.1.4 Final Report	

The propositional phase leads to the definition of a Strategy in terms of actions, settlements and mobility for the study area that is discussed and shared with Milnbank Housing Association.

