



Designing Environments for Life

Workshop Four

Wednesday 16th December – Thursday 17th December 2009

Guiding principles

Workshop four will concern itself with the participants coming together to work towards both meeting the aims, objectives and outputs we have agreed to under the requirements of the IAS funding and the exploration of and commitment to further connections and continuing relationships which have revealed themselves through our time together.

To enable us to do so we have outlined below the original funded aims, objectives and outputs some prerequisites and the schedule for the fourth and final IAS workshop.

Aims and objectives:

Driven by the overall aim of exploring the scope and potential of research in art and design, anthropology and architecture to reshape our understanding of how environments are perceived and created in practices of habitation, the objectives of the programme are:

- To further the initiative to create a Scottish Centre for Art, Architecture and Anthropology, by engaging with communities of practice out-with the academic sector.
- To develop a research agenda for the emergent field of Design Anthropology.
- To close the gap between everyday understandings of 'environment' and those adduced in the discourses of techno-science and policy-making.
- To challenge conventional thinking regarding the nature of design and creativity, in a way that acknowledges the improvisatory skills and perceptual acuity of inhabitants.
- To disseminate the results of our deliberations to a wider public through a programme of lectures and exhibitions, and a series of working papers.

The programme will contribute towards the aims of IAS in the following respects:

- It will challenge established ways of thinking about human-environmental relations.
- It will build an interdisciplinary collaboration in which Scotland leads the world.
- It will engage academic researchers with practitioners, from Scotland and beyond.
- It will have a direct impact on policy for a rapidly changing environment.
- It will involve a sustained programme of lectures, exhibitions and workshops.
- It will lead to the establishment of a cross-institutional research centre within Scotland.

Though its remit is worldwide, the programme has strong historical and intellectual roots in Scotland, for example in the commonsense philosophy of Thomas Reid and in the interdisciplinary approach to urban planning and environmental management pioneered by Patrick Geddes. Internationally, the programme draws particularly on Scotland's connections

with the Nordic countries. However as the list of potential invitees shows, we have an impressive spread of connections with international organisations.

Outcomes:

We envisage four sets of outcomes:

- A series of working papers contributing to critical thinking in areas of policy development, particularly addressing the implications for cultural participation in Scottish Government priority areas including community regeneration, the local ecological footprint project initiative, the energy efficiency strategy, the Scottish Forestry Strategy and Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
- At least three academic papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of art and design, anthropology and architecture.
- An exhibition of work arising from group activities to be displayed in Glasgow and Dundee.
- A series of four public lectures in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee.

Prerequisites:

As this is a short, intensive and focused workshop we would ask you to come prepared:

- (a) Think about how these IAS workshops have affected / changed your research / practice
- (b) Begin to outline ideas for outputs, collaborations and extensions coming from these IAS workshops
- (c) Give some thought to how you may wish to contribute to the exhibition

Programme:

Wednesday 16th December

Chair: Ian Grout

Understanding and Revising: The aim of the day is to both enjoy a creative willow workshop, to evaluate what we have done so far and to reveal the "threads" that have run through the three previous workshops

09.00 Arrival - tea/coffee

09.30 Stephanie Bunn: Willow sculpture

Please, bring secateurs or such tools. This activity will take place in the park outside IAS, so Stephanie advises to bring something waterproof and soft to kneel on.

1.00 Lunch

2.00 Welcome from conveners, Tim Ingold, Emilia Ferraro, Mike Anusas, Anne Douglas and Ian Grout - quick roundtable introductions

2.10 Introduction of workshop objectives, tasks and activities relating to the original objectives and brief – Tim Ingold

2.20 Group activity - 1

- (a) What has emerged from the previous workshops?

Are there common threads that we can identify?

What has changed within us with respect to our individual projects/interests that we originally brought to the IAS programme?

In what ways have we changed the objectives of the programme?

(b) What have we joined up in these workshops?

What will we want continue?

What new things will we grow?

3.40 Break - tea/coffee

4.00 Group Activity 2

(a) Are we meeting our funded requirements for outputs?

In what ways may we be transcending them?

How may we reframe our outputs?

(b) Compare the initial aims and objectives for the workshops with what has now emerged

Reframe the aims and objectives accordingly

Prepare a reflection on the process of our engagement with each other

5.00 Presentations, Discussions, consolidation of Activities 1, 2 and preparations for day 2

6.00 Close / open use of IAS / tea, coffee and wine

8.00 Workshop dinner at Dahkin

Thursday 17th December

Chair: Emilia Ferraro

Exhibition / Development and Consolidation of Outputs: The aim of the day is to define what our outputs will be both in meeting the requirements of the programme and in manifesting the flow of new developments emanating from it.

9:00 Arrival/Coffee

9:30 Anne Douglas: Exhibition proposal presentation and discussion

10.30 Group activity -3

Exploring and mapping our collective outputs and continuing collaborations - who, what, why, how, when?

12.00 Group activity - 4

Drafting potential outputs

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Group activity - 4

Drafting potential outputs

3:45 Coffee break

4:00 Presentations, Discussions and consolidation of Activities 3,4

Roundtable discussion and agreement of the proposed outputs and our next activities

5:00 Finish and Conveners meeting