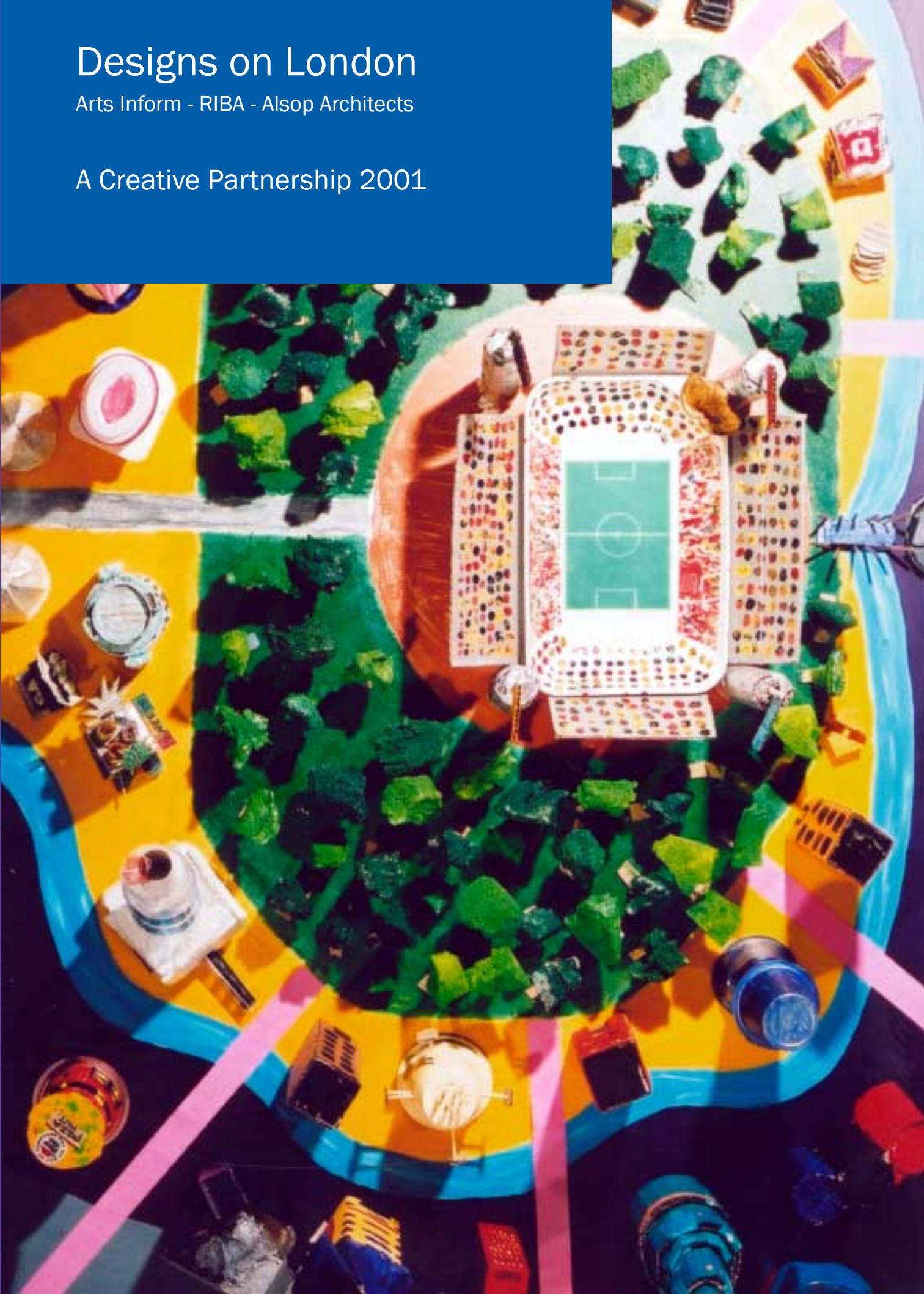


Designs on London

Arts Inform - RIBA - Alsop Architects

A Creative Partnership 2001





About the project

Designs on London was established to give 14 - 19 year old London art and design students the opportunity to contribute their ideas on the spatial development of London to the Mayoral policy consultations which took place in 2001.

Arts Inform established the project in partnership with RIBA and in association with Alsop Architects. Arts Inform is an agency set up by London Arts with the mission of bringing the arts industries closer to the education system.

Nine leading architectural practices were invited by RIBA to support the seventeen schools from across London that wished to work on the project.

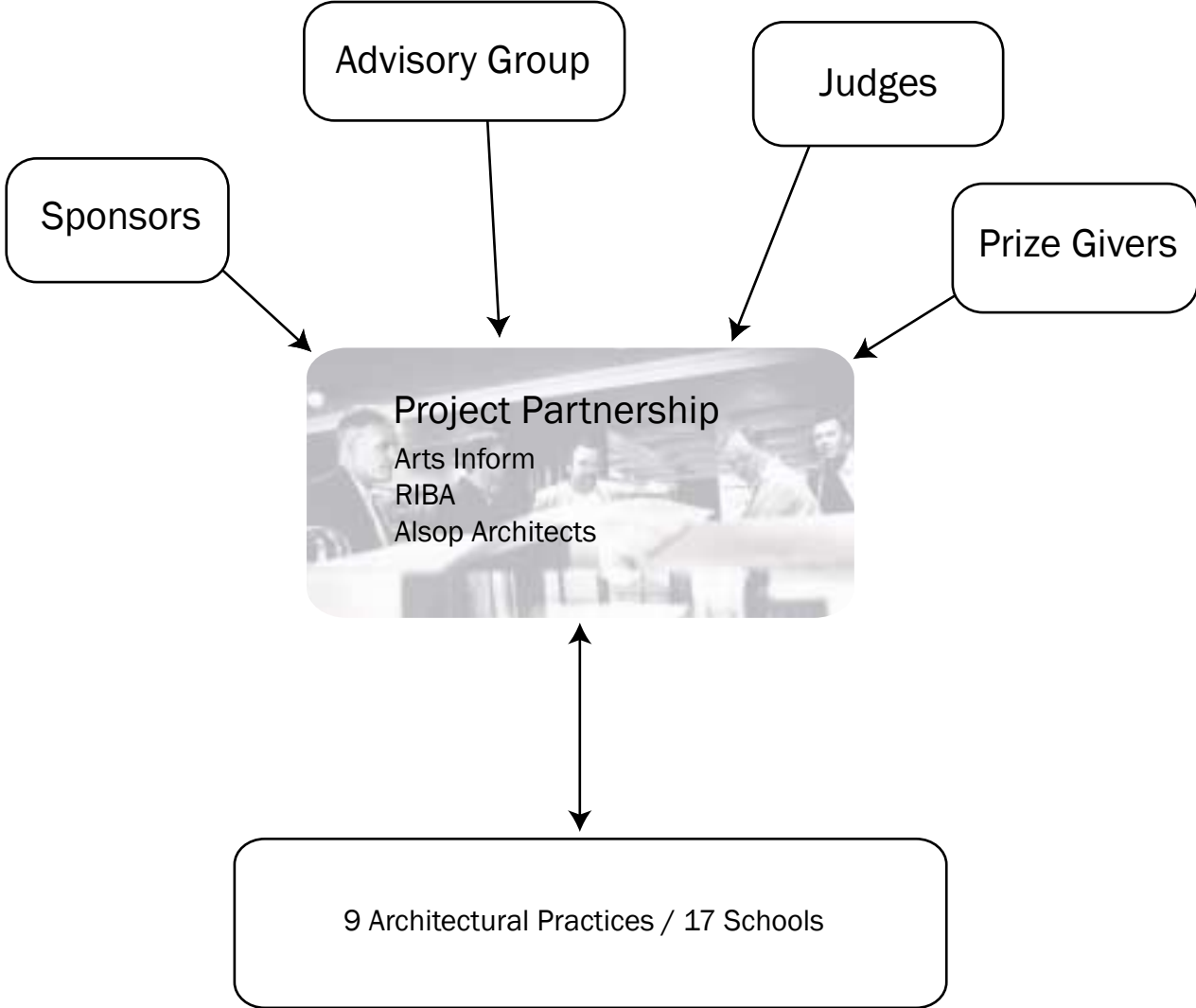
A major exhibition of best work was held at RIBA during Architecture Week. The first part of the exhibition *Commentaries Visions and Warnings* showed comments on London present and future, through a range of art forms. The second part of the exhibition *Proposals* featured suggestions in the form of drawings, and models, for the improvement of specific areas of London.

The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone visited the exhibition and the work was formally presented to him by student representatives.

The Mayor's Prize was awarded by Ken Livingstone for Best Proposal. Mrs Doreen Lawrence of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust awarded the prize for Best Vision.



Partnership Structure



What the students were asked to do

Students were invited to submit work developed by individuals, or by teams for presentation to the Mayor. Work was sought in the following categories:

Commentaries Visions and Warnings

These contributions showed positive or negative visions of what London was or might become in the form of sketches and final pieces of artwork

Proposals

Students were asked to answer the question *What Isn't There that Should Be?* in relation to a specific area of London. Answers were to take the form of drawings and models.

Students were asked to situate their work within one of four visions of the city : Global/European City, Healthy/Green/Safe City, Full Flow/Water City, City of Villages/Multi Cultural City.



Timetable

2000

January	Advisory Group set up.
Feb-May	Consultation with partners
June	Framework of Designs on London Project agreed
July	Invitation to all schools and colleges in GLA area to take part
October	Consultation Conference at London Arts for teachers Outline plan agreed
November	Choice of sites by schools Detailed plan agreed
December	Invitation from RIBA to 9 architectural practices to take part Architectural practices accept invitation

2001

January	Planning meeting with each architectural practice
February	Meeting between each architect and teacher partner First visit by each architect to school to meet students Launch of project at RIBA for all teachers and architects Final plan agreed Brief for architects and teachers issued
Feb-May	Architects work with students in schools
March	Exhibition Organiser begins programme of visits to schools Project Private View: Century City at Tate Modern Presentation for students by Christophe Egret at RIBA
April	Training in model making for teachers at Crafts Council Project Private View: Making Buildings at Crafts Council
May	Mayor's Prospectus published Selection of work for the <i>Proposals</i> Exhibition
June	<i>Proposals</i> Exhibition opens at RIBA Selection of work for <i>Commentaries, Visions and Warnings</i> <i>Commentaries, Visions and Warnings</i> Exhibition opens
June 29	Students present work to Judges Judges choose Best Proposal, Best Vision, Best Model Mayor visits Exhibitions and meets students Mayor addresses students on My Vision for London Mayor and Mrs Doreen Lawrence present prizes
July- September	Evaluation
Sept-December	Creation of education pack based on Designs on London

2002

Next Steps: National Partnership Project



How it worked

Example One

Wembley: Wembley High School with the Richard Rogers Partnership

Wembley High School elected to consider the 100 hectare site surrounding Wembley Stadium for their masterplan study. Groups of approximately six students each developed initial masterplan concepts whilst developing intriguing building ideas with a view to amalgamating buildings within a comprehensive plan.

After six weeks working with the various groups a masterplan was chosen to be further developed that would provide the urban structure for all selected buildings to be integrated.

The chosen masterplan placed the stadium within a parkland setting formed by a fringe of new public buildings that have both a national and international emphasis, forming a mixed use and multicultural community. The scale of the buildings complements the students proposal for the new national stadium whilst relating to the surrounding area. The River Brent is also diverted to form a moat around the whole development and create a lake for new water based activities.

So called 'pink routes' bridge the water from key transport and community points penetrating into the landscape setting making the park the heart of the masterplan - a real place for Wembley, day to day and event to event.



How it worked

Example Two

Bermondsey: St. Michael's RC Secondary School with Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners

We began our term by taking a close look at the historic dock-side neighbourhood surrounding St. Michael's School in Bermondsey. Through sketching sessions and historic walks we identified a series of derelict sites adjacent to the school that seemed ready for re-inhabiting. After pacing out and documenting these empty patches of land, we began to create a series of urban pavilions to bring colour and life to the school's surrounding semi-industrial cityscape.

Our proposals emerged from the students' interests and needs: a milkbar, a swimming pool, music and games rooms etc. Mid-way through the project we took a break to visit Nicholas Grimshaw's design studios to experience the atmosphere and activities of a busy design firm. Following this we took a trip to Paddington Station to look at the practice's recently completed additions to the Victorian railway terminal. At Paddington we discussed materials, detailing, and the challenge of creating new architecture in historic environments. With this introduction to the profession of architecture and design in London - the group returned to the Art room at St. Michael's and 'got busy' with wood, glue and pencils creating a collection of spicy urban proposals, some of which are shown here.



Best Model : Winner - Year 10 St. Michael's school, Bermondsey
(aged 14-15) working with Nicholas Grimshaw Architects

How it worked

Example Three

Croydon: John Ruskin College with Rick Mather Architects

Aims of the group: Having already looked at strategic London in earlier projects, it was decided that John Ruskin College could continue in this theme by taking the whole city as the site, rather than be limited entirely to the South Croydon area. If possible though, there would be a connection to the college and the daily lives of the students, many of whom do not often visit the rest of London.

To help limit the task of such a huge site with many possibilities, the first project, a group model called 'My London' was a representational 10 day project to distil very quickly what the personal enthusiasms, concerns and hopes were as the students saw their city. Elements were pulled out into individual work forming a series of proposals, visions and warnings for the rest of the project.

This, the final piece of work, has elements of each stage, from identification of issues, to ways of highlighting and solving. There has been a strong element of collage/ assemblage throughout the project, not only in materials, images and techniques, but also in a continual overlap of individual and group working



What everyone said

Comments from pupils

It makes you feel proud to see so many people looking at your work.

If it wasn't for this, I'd never get the opportunity of visiting a building like this. It makes you feel special and privileged.

I now know more about architecture and might consider it as a career - I wouldn't have thought about it before

It's helped us work as a team, share our ideas, made us think about our environment. It's also broadened our thinking

Comments from teachers

As an outcome of this project, I feel that each of the students will achieve a higher grade for this unit of work

Working with the architect has been such a great experience - they wouldn't normally get such an opportunity. It's also opened their eyes to the world around them

I've watched the pupils grow over the 6 to 10 weeks - previously some knew nothing about the concepts and working practices of architecture

Comments from architects

They now appreciate that their environment can be shaped

It's been really good because it's taken me into a totally different area of the City from where I work. It's important that we get this experience of life from time to time.

It's opened the floodgates about what they think of the City

I've learned a lot about communicating with 14 year olds - previously I'd only lectured to architecture students

We are supporting a good cause and helping to bring the best out of the pupils. We're also showing that architecture is an enjoyable profession - we are advocates for our work.





Best Drawing - St.Catherine's / Zaha Hadid Architects

Best Inspiration - Holland Park School / Barfield Marks Architects

Best 2D Work - St. Angela's Ursuline / Wilkinson Eyre Architects



Architects / School Partnerships

Alsop Architects: Christophe Egret
Goldsmiths College: Juliet Sprake

Haberdashers' Askes's Hatcham CTC
Kidbrooke School
Northbrooke School
Thomas Tallis School
Colfe School

Edward Cullinan Architects: Dinah Bornat, Kristina Rosynski, Nita Sharma, Chris Whitman. The Crafts Council: Sarah Mossop and Brady & Mallalieu Architects: Angela Brady

CIC Sixth Form Centre
Islington Green School
William Ellis School & Laswap 6th form

Barfield Marks Architects: David Marks

Holland Park School
John Lyon School

Richard Rogers Partnership: Ivan Harbour, Mark Darbon

Vyners School
Wembley High School

Zaha Hadid Architects: Silvia Forlatti & Graham Modlen

St. Catherine's School

Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners: Benny O'Looney

St. Michael's RC Secondary School

Wilkinson Eyre Architects: Chris Wilkinson, Paul Baker

St Angela's Ursuline School

Penoyre & Prasad Architects: Gillian Horne

Rush Croft School

Rick Mather Architects: Peter Culley

John Ruskin College

Judges

Christophe Egret, Alsop Architects
Arthur Timothy, The Stephen Lawrence Trust
Rowan Moore, Evening Standard
Juliet Sprake, Goldsmiths College
Adrian Chappell, London Arts
Marco Goldschmied, President, RIBA
George Nicholson, Arts Inform

Advisory Group

Christophe Egret, Alsop Architects
Leslie Fraser, Govt. Office for London
Sharon Moore, Learning & Skills Development Agency
Sarah Mossop, The Crafts Council
Ian Munt, London Rivers Association
George Nicholson, Arts Inform Board
Paddy O'Hagan, QCA
Charlie Salter, Arts Inspectorate
Juliet Sprake, Goldsmiths College
Prof. Drew Stevenson, Univ. of East London
Ruth Tennant, King's Fund
Arthur Timothy, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
Richard Wentworth, Artist
Rob Wilson, RIBA

Prize Givers

Mayor's Prize for Best Proposal
Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London

Best Vision
Mrs Doreen Lawrence
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

Sponsors

DFEE
Peabody Trust
The Berkeley Group plc
The King's Fund

Project Partnership

Arts Inform:
Project Managers - Frances Morrell / Linda Payne
Exhibition Organiser - Elaine Forde

In partnership with:
RIBA and Alsop Architects

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