

Knowledge of the project also continues to spread by word of mouth, especially amongst individuals outside mainstream disabled peoples support networks. The researchers are currently accommodating these contributions by arranging mixed user group sessions, as well as conducting one to one interviews for those who cannot, or prefer not, to attend focus groups.

Work Package 8: Since the ICT support solutions work package started in November 2003, the research team have been conducting a literature review on current technology used in sustainable urban design decision-making and a technology review report has been produced. A conference paper focusing on the overall project and the vision of ICT implementation in sustainable urban design was published and presented at the SCRI International Symposia in March 2004.

The research team is currently using information modelling technology to create a generic urban conceptual model that will be used to analyse and understand the complex urban phenomenon. It aims to identify generic urban objects, their attributes and the relationships between them. The final conceptual model will guide the research team to define the layers (tables) of a GIS system and the structure of the databases linked to the GIS system. The research team is working closely with the other work packages to organise and, in the future, collect their data for use in this GIS system, which may be used as one of the project's final decision-making tools. Currently, the team is building-up GIS data for Manchester City Centre.

News + + + + + + + + + + + + +

- Look out for an upcoming article in the EPSRC publication *Newsline* focussing on VivaCity and The University of Salford's SCRI research programme.
- There is a commissioned book chapter in *Small Cities* (Jayne, M. & Bell, D. eds.) 'Small Cities and the Urban Renaissance?' (Evans and Foord), Routledge. The book is due out in the autumn of 2004 and includes case studies and comparatives, including Sheffield.
- There is also a book chapter in *City of Quarters* (Clerkenwell creative cluster), Ashgate, April 2004.
- Ashgate publishers have approached Professor Rachel Cooper asking for a book to be written about VivaCity. Although it is a little early in the project at the moment, it is yet another great opportunity for the project to disseminate its findings.
- The first London Architecture Biennale is to be held in Clerkenwell (location of the VivaCity pilot case study) on 19-28 June 2004. You can find more details at www.londonbiennale.org.uk
- The new VivaCity website is up and running. View it at www.vivacity2020.org and let us have your comments.

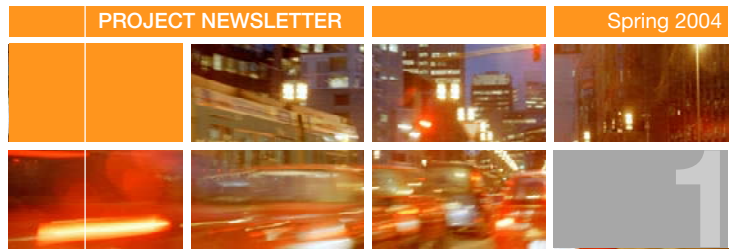
If you have details of any event or news item that you think is relevant to the VivaCity2020 project, please send it to:

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VivaCity 2020



Welcome to the first edition of the VivaCity project newsletter! I am very pleased to have this opportunity to bring you the latest news and updates from the project.

VivaCity will be one year old in May, and it has been an interesting year. There has been a great deal of enthusiasm from all parties involved, especially our industry partners, many companies who are not (yet) industry partners, city councils, other research consortia and the EPSRC (our funding body). We held a successful project launch last November and another event is planned for November this year, so look out for details.

The VivaCity team would like to thank all those individuals and companies who supported our bid and are supporting us now. I will be producing this newsletter every six months to keep everyone up-to-date on our progress. If you have any information relevant to our project that you would like me to include in a future newsletter, please send it to me and I will be happy to do so.

Joanne Leach
Project Manager

Reflections

Professor Rachel Cooper

The VivaCity project is an ambitious one. We have a multidisciplinary team of researchers across four universities and the past year has been interesting in that we have been exchanging knowledge and understanding between the various disciplines and building our approach to integrating our work.

We have spent time and care recruiting people with the most appropriate expertise and holding events to ensure that all disciplines are able to share their working practices and approaches to the research.

One such event was held in January: the whole team met and explored Clerkenwell, a pilot case study from which we could discuss all aspects of sustainable design decision-making in the urban environment and where the potential trade-offs need to be made between social, environmental and economic issues.

Recruitment has taken some time, but everyone is now in place and research is moving rapidly. Our industry partners have given much help and we are pleased to see enquiries from other organisations, often recommended by word of mouth. Progress for each of the work packages follows.

If any organisation or individual is interested in the work we are doing and would like to be involved or receive further detailed information, please contact Joanne Leach or me.



Research update

Work Package 1: Process Mapping will map the design decision-making process with a view to integrating the data from the other seven work packages to create informative and useful decision-making support tools and guidelines. At the beginning of May, Christopher Boyko joined came over from America to join the team. In order to help him 'hit the ground running' the work package is currently seeking a PhD student to work with him and Professor Cooper. Chris has started the literature review and will be looking to identify case studies and interviewees in the near future. He will also be setting a detailed timeline over the next three years and producing a justification of research document.

Work Package 2: The Generation of Diversity work package has been up and running since May 2003. The researchers are currently working on the first pilot case study in Clerkenwell, London. Specifically, this involves land use mapping and analysis of spatial and socio-economic properties of the area. They have already completed a pedestrian and vehicle movement survey for the area covering from Roseberry Ave. to Smithfield St. and from Farringdon Rd. to St. John's St. They are working closely with Ordnance Survey, utilizing their *Mastermap* data for the whole of London. Future research includes continuing to import land use survey data for the area covering from Gray's Inn Road to Goswell Road and from Pentonville Road to High Holborn into their GIS system. They will also be continuing spatial analysis for the same area including mapping census and related socio-economic and land-use data at Output Area level within the Clerkenwell ward. Stakeholder interviews with residents, planning authority, developers/agents and workspace organisations have been completed and questionnaires piloted with local residents and businesses. An initial presentation to the second case study city Sheffield has also been made, with the WP4 team.

Work Package 3: This work package is unique in bringing together two innovative quantitative and qualitative methodologies to generate evidenced-based tools and resources:

- From a quantitative perspective, UCL will undertake a rigorous analysis of crime patterns in selected areas of London (Brent) and Manchester (city centre and Hulme).
- From a qualitative perspective, Salford will undertake case studies in London (Brent, Clerkenwell), Manchester (city centre and Hulme) and Sheffield (city centre).

Both institutions now have staff in place and time has been spent integrating the different approaches. Salford recruited Lesley Mackay in November 2003. Lesley has spent time understanding the different crime prevention approaches, including Space Syntax, before starting the case studies. In April 2004, Bill Hillier (UCL) recruited Ozlem Sahbaz, who has conducted research into the relationship between spatial design and robbery using Space Syntax. The case studies being conducted by Salford are as follows, the Manchester and London ones will link with UCL's research:

Case studies	Manchester	London	Sheffield
Residential areas	Hulme	Housing in Brent	TBA
City centre facilities	Shopping Leisure (e.g. bars/clubs)	Facilities in Brent Facilities in Clerkenwell	TBA

The first case study on Hulme (due end of May 2004) is 90% complete, although it will be updated once UCL has collected and analysed the crime figures, and work has begun on the shopping case study. UCL has begun work on the Brent data.

Work Package 4: Environmental and quality of life issues have been on the political agenda for a few years now, but little data has been collected from city centres. In examining environmental quality, this work package is using a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques to aid understanding of the urban environment. The quantitative data to be collected is CO, CO₂, PM_{2.5}, noise and daylight from the indoor environment and CO, PM_{2.5} and noise from the outdoor environment. They will also enrol respondents to undertake a more personal involvement in the project. Using innovative and participatory methods, including photo surveys, walkabouts and interviews, they will create a profile of the existing environment and develop an understanding of how city centre residents perceive their environment. Currently, monitoring equipment is on order and a pilot study is scheduled for the end of July in Clerkenwell.

Work Package 5: The Evolution of Land Use will develop a theoretical understanding of urban growth and change processes over historical timescales, particularly those aspects that emerge from the interaction of independent decision-makers and pedestrian movement patterns. It is due to start in May of 2006 and will build on the work produced in work package 2.

Work Package 6: Community Pattern Book is looking at black and minority ethnic housing provision. Compelling evidence already exists of social inequality for black and minority ethnic (BME) communities with respect to housing of all kinds. These groups are more likely to live in deprived inner city areas, to suffer from overcrowding or to live in neighbourhoods that are physically or socially segregated.

The aim of this research is to produce a matrix of quality of life variables, sustainability indicators and architectural outcomes that are inclusive and relevant to all of the UK's communities and that can be used to evaluate existing and proposed housing solutions. The research output will be culturally sensitive design principles that ensure tomorrow's homes and housing will be socially inclusive.

This work package is producing a telephone/postal survey of 100 house-builders nationwide, 100 registered social landlords and local authority housing departments in the 3 study areas of London, Manchester and Sheffield. The survey will ask if they make any special housing or design provision for their black and minority ethnic customers/clients in respect of location, layout of scheme or design of individual units. Fieldwork will begin in the summer.

Work Package 7: Research into the Inclusive Design of Public Toilets in City Centres has continued with the distribution in Clerkenwell of the 'Provision of the DDA' survey to bars, clubs, restaurants and galleries. Clerkenwell provides a good example of an area with a noticeably lack of on street provision. This is especially problematic for the areas' growing late night bar and club economy, provision becoming the responsibility of these establishments. Many pubs and bars have noticed an increase in members of the public asking to use their toilets and consequently have introduced 'customer only' toilet policies. Some businesses have also voiced concern regarding a perceived rise in street urination, and it's accompanying odour, a possible consequence to the lack of late night or 24-hour on-street provision within the area.

As provision within the Clerkenwell area has also become the responsibility of private enterprises, and the research has seen a number of varied designs in accessible toilet facilities. In some premises that do not provide accessible toilets 'reasonable adjustments' are underway, and the research is in contact with the management of such premises.

As well as speaking with providers the research also continues to conduct focus groups with users. The work package has had contact with a number of support groups for disabled people, as well as carers and minority ethnic groups.