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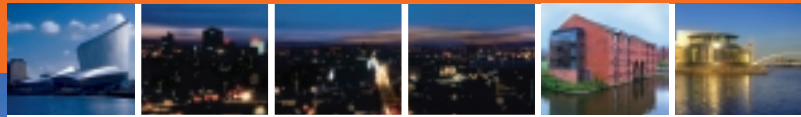
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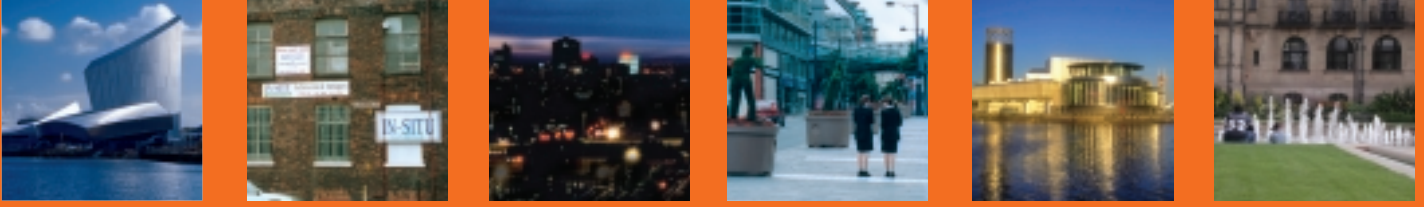


VivaCity2020

Urban Sustainability for the Twenty-four Hour City

Development of design decision-making tools & resources

VivaCity2020 is an ambitious, five-year research project developed by a Sustainable Urban Environments consortium. Commencing May 2003, this EPSRC-funded research initiative will deliver practical tools and resources to support sustainable and socially responsible urban design decision-making.



The consortium comprises the University of Salford, University College London, London Metropolitan University and Sheffield Hallam University, together with more than 30 partner organisations. Adopting an action research methodology, VivaCity2020 will analyse urban planning, design and consultation processes to identify when and how key decisions related to urban sustainability are made. Research will capture stakeholders' requirements, identify relevant technologies and consider future scenarios for urban development. Urban design decision-making processes will be mapped, and a specification formulated for the development of decision-making support tools and resources to enable widened stakeholder participation.

These Knowledge Units will be integrated to form a Knowledge Platform to support dissemination and the development of practical issue-focused tools. Such tools will assist in the identification of conflicting objectives, and inform decisions about complex sustainability trade-offs. Importantly, the Knowledge Platform will be designed to allow for its future extension through further research.

VivaCity 2020

Individual work packages will produce Knowledge Units—comprising standards, guidance, databases, case studies, tools and techniques—focused around key urban sustainability issues, including:

-  **Diversity generation**
How can policies and practices that promote mixed land use and design quality impact positively on the urban economy, social vitality and environmental quality?
-  **Secure urban environments**
How can the design of the urban environment prevent crime, improve the urban experience and ensure economic vitality?
-  **Social inclusion**
How can residential areas and support services be designed to better meet the needs of ethnically and culturally diverse communities? And how can high quality, accessible public amenities be provided cost effectively?
-  **Environmental quality**
How do issues of urban ecology, such as noise and traffic pollution, impact on user perceptions of the city environment and their quality of life?

All tools and resources produced will be validated and refined on live development projects in London, Sheffield and Manchester. This will ensure that support materials developed are practical and appropriate for use by urban planners, designers and developers, engage key stakeholder groups, support sustainable decision-making and improve the quality of urban living.

