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<p>Institution: London Metropolitan University</p>
<p>Unit of Assessment: UoA 16 Architecture</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Impact is built into the methodology of our research, the ethos of our School and Faculty. The contribution made by the CASS School of Architecture to the discipline and practice of architecture and urbanism is primarily in the form of impacts outside academia. The research / teaching / practice relationship that underpins our impact strategy is discussed in more detail in the Environment Statement. This research environment is designed to support the types of work we undertake, and define our areas of impact. The work and its impact is oriented around our dictum 'duty of care' and reflects our professional obligations as architects. Our view is outward looking to clients and users and the network of policy makers, funders and experts that mediate their needs. The context in which we work is largely 'live' rather than abstract or theoretical. The strength and success of our impact strategy has materially contributed to the recent faculty merger and relocation of the architecture school. This new context offers a rich collection of expertise, facilities and people and a broader scope for impact-oriented research in the future.</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>Characteristically we do a great deal of work on the ground and are directly involved with clients and users. This engagement happens on our doorstep in the heart of London, abroad in London's forgotten margins, and far afield; whether in economically and socially deprived communities in Africa and India, or with leading technological communities in China and South Korea. The social commitment that underpins this approach appears in practices that vary in scale and range: from small design proposals, polemical exhibitions and debates, to inclusion in institutional and government policy frameworks and the realisation of buildings, landscapes and urban quarters.</p> <p>Our approach to impact can be traced back to the founding of ARU (Architecture Research Unit) as a live practice within the School. This model has been expanded and diversified radically over the last decade. Professor Florian Beigel founded ARU as architectural design laboratory in 1979 and was joined by Professor Philip Christou, ARU tests ideas through built projects that are widely acknowledged to be design as research. Their research examines the enduring principles of architectural practice and the continuity of architectural knowledge using narrative and at times poetic analogies. Their central interest is 'Architecture as City', which they work at a number of scales from the regional to the urban to the design of interior rooms and furniture. All these design research projects at all scales make a real contribution to the city and have had a lasting influence on the architectural community. The effectiveness of their approach is recognised by a wide range of clients, including London Metropolitan University and their many years of work in South Korea, as well as within the culturally oriented and scholarly communities in academia and the public arts. The remarkable range of impacts ARU have had internationally is detailed in their Impact Case Study, culminating in the award in March 2013 to Florian Beigel of the Grand Art Prize 2013, by the Academy of the Arts, Berlin.</p> <p>ARU have also had a profound impact within the School, helping create a discourse about architecture and the city that, over the years, has drawn a host of interesting practices to work alongside ARU teaching in the design studios. One such practice is East that has run a Diploma unit in the School since 1996. Founder member Mark Brearley led the Design for London team from 2008-2013 where he defined and pushed forward city-wide initiatives including the London Green Grid, the Mayor's Great Spaces and the Outer London Fund. He has been closely involved with hundreds of live projects, helped craft the growth of over 90 London localities, worked on the formulation of policy and the creation of planning frameworks and masterplans. He initiated the Mayor's work focused on London's high streets, led research on their significance and steered the programmes. Brearley now runs the new umbrella organisation CASS Cities for interdisciplinary research in urban phenomena across the Faculty. It concentrates on London's urban issues and development projects, providing analysis, influencing plans, and helping deliver informed urban change, as well as instigating events and initiatives on the ground. Brearley's new Office and urban research practice is located in the School, together with Lara Kinneir's Urban Research Projects London. They have been directly involved in research for temporary uses and lessons learnt for the London Legacy Development Corporation and produced 'After the Party: Housing & Community around the Olympic Park'. Students on their MA Spatial Planning and Urban Design</p>

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course have carried out survey work of Tottenham High Street in collaboration with Design for London Haringey Council, setting live briefs for students, which were designed with members of local community at the 'Tottenham Design Charette' with Mark Smith.

On the international front **ARCSR** (Architecture of Rapid Change and Scarce Resources) represents another long-term research unit within the School. Deeply committed to the sustainable use of resources, under Professor Maurice Mitchell **ARCSR** has developed new methodologies for the self-empowerment of subsistence communities through collaborative architecture. **ARCSR's** research has had a world leading impact on the understanding of the role of architecture and the design process in the context of the informal city. **ARCSR** has been working with **CASS Projects** since 2007, delivering and developing live projects in India. These include the micro-planning of a resettlement colony outside Delhi and the Kachhpura Sanitation Upgrading Project in Agra and a series of community classrooms for migrant quarry workers of Navi Mumbai, the first of which was shortlisted for the Architect's Journal Small Projects Award 2010. Bo Tang and Shamoon Patwari, **ARCSR** graduates, have been working on the design and construction of a new primary school for the community of Kaningo in Sierra Leone. As detailed in their Case Study and outputs, **ARCSR** are developing viable models of practice within the scope of local and international NGO's.

CASS Projects was founded in 2004 as ASD Projects, an RIBA Chartered Practice embedded within the School under Professor Mull and Anne Markey. Inspired by **ARU** but with a different remit, it is positioned between the European professor-led research studio and American model of Design Build projects. **CASS Projects** is now an established organisation that undertakes and generates research and third stream income for the Faculty. It does not run a single design studio or specialist MA programme (like the previously mentioned research units) but supports 'live projects' as a type. **CASS Projects** has effectively developed a pedagogic model that seeds creative research in environments where impact is needed. It has developed ways of formulating collaborative 'briefs' that rework the conventional boundaries between expert and non-expert. It uses its professional status to institute a disciplined working environment subject to contracts, ethical practice, performance criteria, health and safety and so on. This constitutes the critical bridge between research, pedagogy and practice. The disciplinary apparatus works as equivalent to a conventional research environment but one geared to embedding research within practice rather than as a separate activity. It might be described as providing a model of sustained and embedded impact rather than approaching impact as a resultant.

CASS Projects delivered, in partnership with the Institute of Education, University of London and the RIBA, a 'Schools Design' CPD course in response to a request from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The course was attended by clients, contractors and designers and included taught sessions of the history of school design as well as workshops on client engagement, brief making and case studies. The DCSF and the RIBA also approached **CASS Projects** to co-ordinate a national academic and research programme with schools of architecture linked to 'Building Schools for the Future'. The research was disseminated through symposia with speakers from the Sorrell Foundation, Croydon Council and the DCSF and at an exhibition at the RIBA in September 2010. **CASS Projects** also directed the International Architecture Student Festival for London Festival of Architecture (formerly the London Architecture Biennale) in 2006, 2008 and 2010, bringing together design students from all over the world with local communities in London to create a series of site-specific interventions in key public spaces.

CASS Projects supplies professional consultancy and **live projects** services to external clients. Live projects can involve multiple partners ranging from other schools of architecture and university faculties in the UK and abroad, to government agencies and NGOs, school children, artists and educators. A typical local example of a live project is the Millfields School Play Area (in collaboration with artist Martin Kaltwasser), a small masterplanning project that enabled staff and parents to critically evaluate proposals for an extension of the school. **CASS Projects** also works in areas subject to change across the globe. It enables staff and students to develop some of these projects initiated through research and teaching in a number of international contexts including Germany, India, China and Sierra Leone. London Met was one of just 20 institutions from around the world and the only UK university chosen to take part in the **2013 Solar Decathlon China** competition. Through **CASS Projects** London Met formed a cross-Faculty team of students and academics who worked closely with professionals to deliver an innovative design which was

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assembled and tested on site in Datong, China in Summer 2013, with 50,000 visitors in 10 days.

The Cities Institute in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, delivers a more conventional but still far reaching range of impacts that shares our socially oriented brief.. For example, Sue Bagwell's results have been presented at a national policy conference and subsequently influenced policy development by health boards across the UK, in Europe and the USA. A briefing paper commissioned by the GLA is being used to inform policy and practice in London Boroughs and within Health England, and has attracted knowledge-transfer funding from the ESRC to develop viable healthier business models and toolkit for the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health. Research by Dr. Frances Holliss on **The Workhome Project** has lead to changes in the standard tenancy agreements of the Newlon Housing Trust to include provision for home-working and has improved the socio-cultural sustainability of the 10,000 residents of Newlon. This lead to Holliss' participation in the 2012 Whitby Enquiry into social housing. The **PhD Programme** supports the school ethos through its emphasis upon Practical Wisdom. 10 of 17 PhD's are by practice in the UK, India, South Africa, Angola.

c. Strategy and plans

The strong home and international impact of our research is the outcome of our research strategy. This nurtures the combined strengths of research, teaching and practice in specific research models and sees the design studios as the incubator for emerging researchers and research projects. Our strategy for the future is to build on our well-grounded success and expand our remit and network of collaborators. This underwrites our new venture with art, media and design, and our new shared location and resources in Whitechapel.

A critical aspect of our strategy is embodied in our staffing policy. We work with practitioners who are themselves engaged in the cutting edge of practice. They see their pedagogic work in the Faculty as enhancing the research aspects of their practice: their lead in running design studios continually opens up new ideas and approaches. The calibre of their work is reflected in their impact. Although not submitted as research for the REF, their range of impacts can be had from the awards they have achieved. These include a Stirling Prize (job captain), four RIBA awards including London Building of the Year, English Heritage Award, first in international competition [Zurich Hauptbahnhof], 5 Brick Awards for best Educational Building, WAN awards, AJ small projects award, Stirling Prize shortlist, Olympic Dressing Award, 3 exhibits in the last two Venice Biennales. Other significant examples of staff impacts include a report 'East London Green Enterprise Project' for the GLA and DFL, commended in the RIBA President's Awards for practice-based research (with Ove Arup), membership of the Newham Design Review Panel (arising directly from studio teaching), collaboration with the architecture schools in Odessa and Reykjavik attracting national attention, collaboration with Tate Modern on local empowerment through art/architecture, community interest groups established through *Wick on Wheels* and *DIY Common* [North Manchester]. Finally, under the rubric of a new grouping under **CASS Culture** we are developing strong institutional collaborations to strengthen our research base, including the Whitechapel Gallery, Soane Museum, the V&A, Geffrye Museum, Charterhouse and Museum of London.

d. Relationship to case studies

The Case Studies of **ARU** and **ARCSR**, their relation to the activities of the **CASS School of Architecture**, grows out of a body of experience and a research focus that involves collaboration through design and making, and a concern for the empowerment of the constituents. Both run Diploma-level design studios and lecture in other courses. Administratively, they differ slightly: **ARU** runs as a design-research studio embedded within the faculty with three support staff, usually in collaboration with local architects on their international projects, but also occasionally with **CASS Projects**. **ARCSR** has a long history of working with disadvantaged communities in India (Delhi, Agra), Sierra Leone, and Kosovo through the Diploma Studio, in a complex collaboration with **CASS Projects**, local NGO's, civic and national institutions, and the inhabitants themselves.

As these case studies show, we avoid nurturing 'starchitects', encouraging instead architectural collaborators with rich architectural skills, developing and empowering constituencies oriented around well-considered projects. This longstanding commitment reflects the mission of the University and the needs of our constituencies, which extend beyond the confines of academia.