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| <p><b>Institution: University of East London</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Unit of Assessment: 16</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>a. Overview</b></p> <p>In October 2011 the <i>School of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (ACE)</i> was created, recognising our shared research history, ambitions, methodologies and practice-based focus; placing architectural research within the <i>Sustainability Research Institute (SRI)</i> and underpinning the UEL <i>Sustainability</i> research theme. The resulting unit demonstrates real strength in knowledge-transfer and consultancy (see REF3) reflecting the applied nature of our collective research. This submission is made up of 12 staff (5.2 FTE) and is based around two research groups, with expertise in environmental and social sustainability, architecture and urban planning. <b>The Environmental Research Group (ERG)</b> has expertise in landscape and urban ecology and connects intrinsic issues of place to the definition of appropriate sustainable strategies and urban green space policies, developing tools to enhance urban resilience and sustainability. The <b>Place Research Lab (PRL)</b> undertakes research on the concept of Places and their complexities, and works at defining new cultural understandings of urban ecology through place-based and material collaborations with architecture practices, communities and the public/third sector. In 2013 the <i>Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)</i> confirmed UEL as convener of the <i>East London Society of Architects</i>, a key hub, bridging practice, research and knowledge exchange in East London.</p> <hr/> <p><b>b. Research strategy</b></p> <p>In RAE2008 the <i>Centre for Research into Environment and Design (RED)</i> was entered within our Art and Design submission (UOA63) and a key stated objective was to build upon existing staff and postgraduate research in Architecture, and raise UEL's profile in this area. We have built the new Architecture submission for REF2014 by developing a high quality 'academic core' of research work building on our existing and established industrial and knowledge transfer base. In line with the <i>UEL Research Strategy</i> we have sought to support and develop our groups, and where necessary to recruit new specific expertise. We have actively pursued 4 strategic aims since 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) to attract new high quality research staff and develop early career researchers</li> <li>ii) to enhance our research culture</li> <li>iii) to develop high quality research in our groups</li> <li>iv) to build our collaborations, networks and reputation</li> </ul> <p>i) The recruitment of a new professor, the award winning architect <b>Fretton</b>, to lead the unit; 3 new readers; <b>Clarke</b>, co-founder of Muf architecture/art; Gold-medal-winning architect, <b>Segantini</b>; influential writer, <b>Minton</b>; and a full-time ECR researcher, <b>Pace</b> (from IUAV); all with considerable international status, has strengthened the existing research priorities of the unit. In addition to these appointments, we have also promoted and supported internal staff e.g. <b>Karthus &amp; Chandler</b>. We have also developed our ECRs through investment and support (see section c).</p> <p>ii) We have made significant progress in developing a vital and sustainable research culture within the School that can support our architectural vision. Research activities embedded within our pedagogy are now delivering high quality research outputs in their own right (<b>Chandler's</b> fabricformwork developed through student teaching becoming consultancy for practices such as <i>Heatherwick Studio</i>). The School organises research seminars for external speakers, at least 10 of which are organised per academic year, with speakers from academia and industry contributing to staff and student development. These seminars are highly interactive and provide a good opportunity for both students and staff to discuss research and for students to present their work to a wider audience (see section c).</p> <p>iii) Our architectural research has developed a distinctive ethos focused around the social and environmental contexts that develops our pedagogical commitment to social responsibility into practice based or 'action research', frequently resulting in knowledge exchange and consultancy roles. Our research groups are driven by the belief that architecture and practice can effectively challenge and shape policy, delivering material interventions that bring socio-cultural value and wellbeing to local people through the regeneration of the public realm and shared spaces:</p> |
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The **Place Research Lab's (PRL)** main areas of research are '*Materials and Practice*' and '*Public Realm*'. Its strategy is to develop new understandings of urban ecology through place-based collaborations with practice (Muf architects, Heatherwick Studios, Buro Happold, ARUP), third sector NGO's (Article 25, Les Ateliers), London local government (Camden, Newham, Westminster, Design for London), localised community groups and international institutions (US Green Building Council, Royal Society of Arts), in order to actively address public and professional needs. Projects such as the 2010 British Biennale Pavilion, Venice (see **Clarke** portfolio), and 'New Conservation' (see **Chandler** portfolio) shape international research agendas, with books such as 'Ground Control' (see **Minton**) influencing the London Mayor's policy on the public realm. Two distinct areas of achievement includes the USGBC partnered application of the UEL developed '*LEED ND sustainable urban benchmarking tool*' (**Karthaus**) tested and adapted to different urban areas within London to extend the functionality of the LEED ND evaluation system to effectively deal with the historic urban city, and the '*Live Project Workshop programme*' - (**Chandler** with **Karthaus, Scott-Whitby, Clarke, Pace**), community based research instigating projects to make direct change to the built environments of people. This programme has been presented at conferences and workshops in England, Northern Ireland, Canada, Russia, Chile, India and Germany, its results published in books and journals, on the website [liveprojectsnetwork.org](http://liveprojectsnetwork.org) and has been recognised by the United Nations University as part of its London Centre for Excellence in Place based Education. **Karthaus** is currently appointed by Lambeth Council to work on an interdisciplinary community engagement and capacity-building project with the social policy unit, Social Life in Cressingham Gardens, a 1970's housing estate in South London. The project runs through 2014.

The **Environmental Research Group's** main area of research is 'Biodiversity and Environment' (see also REF3), through which the group established a core of expertise in both landscape and urban ecology delivering appropriate sustainable strategies to enhance urban resilience and sustainability. Relevant achievements include the field based research for the **TURaS project** (*Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability*, a €6.8 m EU FP7 project), developing sustainable solutions to address the challenges of climate change, and consolidating an understanding of the ecosystem service value of green infrastructures within local communities – the unit is the leader University for the section 'Greening Public and Urban Infrastructure' and coordinating the work of the College of Dublin, University of Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Ljubiana, La Sapienza, the Council of Rome, Barking Riverside Limited and the Institute for Sustainability (Connop, Newport); and the '**Carbon trading Scheme and critical assessment of peatlands**' (**Lindsay**) used to promote scientific significance of peatlands and their carbon management in relation to the Kyoto Protocol, research that has delivered significant policy impact and directly affected the deployment of wind farms in sensitive locations and communities.

iv) We have undertaken significant work in building key collaborative networks in the UK and internationally. Since 2008 we have secured co-operation agreements with key organisations, such as the *US Green Building Council, Russian Green Building Council, Verband Region Stuttgart, the German Climate Alliance, Institute Bruxellois Pour La Gestion de l'Environnement*, and the *Institute for Sustainability* in the UK. Relations were established with local, national and international government and quasi-government agencies, NGOs and charitable foundations, small and medium-sized enterprises and major industry, planners and local development agencies, the European Commission, Inter-governmental organisations, media audiences and consumer groups. Projects such as TURaS, FLASH, LEED ND led to consultancy activities able to shape urban environment analysis, sustainable neighbourhood planning, relationships between social structure and urban space (**Karthaus, Pace**); habitat management, brown-field regeneration, peatland drainage and 'wetland agriculture', and green roof research for water attenuation and biodiversity (**Lindsay, Connop**). These are outlined further in section e.

#### **Future strategy**

The strategy for the unit up to 2019 is to enhance our distinctive interdisciplinary, multi-scale approach: we are one of very few research centres that maintains expertise in technical and social sustainability at the scale of architecture and urban planning, ensuring that research is properly contextualised and demonstrates a strong realism in its application and engagement with

## Environment template (REF5)

people and places. We have 5 aims:

1) *Increasing research income in relation to research and knowledge exchange*: we have had considerable expertise in securing consultancy and knowledge transfer funding for projects such as TURaS and FLASH. In collaboration with colleagues in ACE Computing and Engineering, our unit is participating in an FP7 proposal (2.5 million euro) entitled “Smart Assisted Living for the Visually Impaired” – SALVI is to be submitted to the forthcoming *Horizon 2020*.

2) *Developing policy and practice oriented research through engagement activity*: the presence among the staff of many practitioners facilitates the integration of practice, research and teaching – leading to the setting up of an academic research protocol between teaching staff and the new *Architecture Research Board* (**Chandler, Fretton, Segantini, Minton** and senior architecture staff). We have put this in place to inform and shape research ‘needs’ and opportunities in a wider practice community, and to facilitate dissemination directly to those who can use and test the project outcomes. Future goals include:

- (i) fostering integrated projects in relation to the issues that affect the way people use and occupy the built environment – the RIBA recognition of UEL as the facilitator for the East London Society of Architects will actively link research, professional development and knowledge exchange from 2013 onwards;
- (ii) supporting the exchange of skilled academics (visiting professors, research contracts, lecturers) with Venice, anchored through the IUAV visiting professorship of **Karthaus**, and the research links of **Pace** and **Segantini**. Professor Ruth Morrow (Queens University, Belfast) and Dr Chris Pyke (Vice President USGBC) were appointed Honorary Visiting Professors for UEL Architecture in 2013;
- (iii) improving the facilities and essential supporting spaces for the realization and delivery of projects and research by doctoral students (section d).

3) *The promotion of interdisciplinarity through collaboration with companies, external organisations, and institutions*: we aim to consolidate relationships with external bodies that both commission and take part in research with social and/or environmental impact; to enhance our strong international consultancy activities in Italy, Brasil, India and Chile and finalise new Memorandae of Understanding with comparable institutions (with TU Delft via **Fretton** and Washington DC via **Pyke/USGBC**). Future events include co-ordinated 'Instant Ateliers' in Mestre, (**Segantini, Pace, Scott-Whitby**), bringing together local experts (economists, architects, planners, environmentalists) on selected territorial themes (expanding on **Karthaus'** role in “Les Ateliers”), and the exchange of students and professors with partner institutions (**Chandler's** site based conservation research with the Universidad Catolico, Santiago).

4) *The development and promotion of research*: dissemination has a high priority, with teaching feeding research and direct collaboration in the field ensuring the research is tested and shared with external participants and beneficiaries beyond students and staff. The integration of active research and practice builds dissemination into the research projects, with wider impact delivered through practice oriented texts, publications in leading journals and in specialist construction journals (e.g. Journal of Environmental Quality, RPA journal, RSA, Journal of Education in the Built Environment, Garden Design Journal, Arquitectura Viva). Seminars and conferences (e.g. Construction workshops, TPoP, Instant Ateliers), learning resources and catalogues of research (e.g. Field Guide for IUCN), media coverage of research (e.g. BBC wildlife Peatland Study, Chilean press on **Chandler's** 'Palacio Pereira', Radio 4 on **Minton's** 'Ground Control'), reinforces reputation. The involvement of staff as speakers at high profile workshops and conference events for research and industry communities (e.g. CIDA, MARK, ISFF, NOCMAT), professional institutions (RIBA, USGBC, and DfL) and with local government provides further evidence of the value of our research. In the next two years we aim to use funding surpluses on large grant funded projects to enhance innovative collaboration with external partners, upgrade ongoing research with high potential and start new projects that intertwine with the current interests (we received invitations to take part in projects such as *The Thames Open Mosaic Habitat* on post industrial sites, the *Interreg V Programme, Horizons 2020, Venice Biennale 2014*).

## Environment template (REF5)

5) *The development of group activity through staff support and expansion:* We are maturing as a grant-winning centre within UEL, and will continue to build on European success. Within **ERG** and **PRL** there is capacity for growth, and the international connectivity with respected institutions allows for expertise transfer between small research groups and larger scale partners for developing deliverable innovation. Staff support and expansion is facilitated by:

- (i) increasing the size and quality of our research community through additional staff and non academic partnerships fulfilling international opportunity through academic partnership.
- (ii) making greater use of the networks to build relationships with other leading institutions, our visiting professors (Pyke and Morrow) will support early career research and design staff, through workshops on publication, methodology and the representation of research.
- (iii) enhancing [www.uelarchitecture.org](http://www.uelarchitecture.org) to facilitate open access to significant Unit research.
- (iv) the creation of two new **MRes** programmes (see section c).

**c. People, including:****i. Staffing strategy and staff development**

Since 2008 staff appointments have increased and have been driven by two aims – to strengthen funded research areas and to develop new activities as part of the research strategy. Project based income generation facilitates the engagement of specialist researchers who augment core academic staff. Within Architecture, fractional posts within the academic team have been the mechanism for practice collaboration and widening the range of participating staff. A primary consideration when appointing new architecture staff is their individual research potential and the possibility to collaborate with the wider group. Recruitment across the REF period include active Knowledge Exchange staff: Raguckiene, Kadas, Molineux, Vandergert, Stevens, Borland, Clough, Peskett, Brimson (feeding into Biodiversity: TURaS, C2C, FLASH, Thames Water, Peatland management, FLASH, Eureka); and researchers: **Clarke, Fretton and Segantini** (Architectural Practice and studio); **Pace, Minton, Karthaus, Scott-Whitby**, Sakyi Ansah (Public realm), together with category C visiting professors Morrow and Pyke in late 2013. Our goal is that every member of academic staff should be clearly located within **ERG** or **PRL**, and that these groups provide the context for mentoring staff, setting staff research output goals and monitoring them. The visiting professors play a key mentoring-role for new staff as they make the transition from practitioners who teach to becoming early career researchers.

The UEL Staff Development Review process identifies research ambitions, with possibilities targeted to enable specific outcomes to be achieved. Reviewers are members of **PRL** providing a consistent overview of staff research ambition and initiative. The new **Architecture Research Board** under **Fretton** will review the research content within academic programmes as well as outputs for publication, PhD applications, ethics and the implementation of the Concordat for Integrity in Research. Through expertise in place based participation, **Clarke** and **Karthaus** will be working with staff from other UoAs (Sociology, Psychology, Social Policy, Cultural Studies) to bring cultural and place memory research deeper into the working methods and pedagogy of the School at graduate and post-graduate level. Team-working provides key routes for early-career staff to acquire expertise, and for mid-career staff to develop new areas of authority (e.g. IUAV visiting professorship - **Karthaus**), and for high-profile staff to coordinate research streams involving international teams (Venice Biennale 2014 – **Karthaus, Chandler, Pace, Scott-Whitby, Segantini**).

**Career development** To develop UEL researchers across their careers the *UEL Researcher Development Programme* offers a wide range of skills development workshops and on-line resources designed to meet the needs of research-active staff and postgraduate research students. This training curriculum uses the *Vitae* framework and is designed to help UEL meet the UK Concordats for researcher development and integrity. UEL has recently been awarded the *HR Excellence in Research Award*. In this period **Pace** and Connop have moved from research fellows to senior researchers, **Scott-Whitby** from visiting critic to fractional Senior Lecturer, Spencer from hourly paid lecturer to MRes and PhD supervisor). Research-active members of staff are given lighter teaching and administrative duties, with research activities explicitly included in the school's academic work allocation model. The UEL Research Development and Support services (ReDS) provides enhancement mechanisms for the unit by encouraging ECR and midcareer researchers. This includes support for internal research funding applications, sabbaticals and secondments to academia and industry. Sabbaticals have been awarded to **Lindsay** in 2011 when he undertook a funded visiting professorship at the University of Tokyo, and **Chandler** in 2013 to complete the

TPop conference publication. Both Sabbaticals will result in online publications by the end of 2013. Research contract staff are an integral part of the Research Groups activities and are encouraged to engage with the School beyond specific projects (**ERG** staff contribute and lead biodiversity teaching in architecture workshops), but also to act as studio tutors and contribute to Masters teaching modules: the aim is to help them gain experience for future academic careers and to interact with the School community and leading professionals and academics while enhancing the influence of the research group.

## ii. Research students

The research strategy builds on existing synergies between innovative teaching and action research, and takes two distinct forms: *critical analysis* (using rigorous analytical tools and methodologies to reappraise common knowledge about sustainability), and *direct action* (that affects change with and on behalf of a particular community). **PRL** has been recognised by the *United Nations University* as part of its London Centre for Excellence in Place-based Education. Research student seminars take place frequently (at least once per month), in which PhD students present their research work to staff, PhD students and also a number of our MA and MSc students. Also present at the School Research showcase, where staff and PhD students present their works are ACE staff and students and also external collaborators (both from industry and academia). Staff and students alike are also encouraged to present at the UEL annual research conference.

The development of two new **MRes** courses *Architectural Practice* (led by **Chandler**) and *Environmental Sustainability* (led by **Lindsay**) supports the development of strong theoretical positions and opening routes to doctorates, and is linked with professional activity and knowledge transfer in the built environment. The MRes is our vehicle for enabling the Unit's research activity based on practice to mature. Each course commences in 2014. *Architectural Practice* will focus on the critical intellectualisation of architectural practice, allowing architects and building professionals to articulate their positions within architecture under the supervision of **Fretton, Minton, Segantini** and **Clarke**. This programme will be offered to our professional studio tutors as a supported route to research generation and a PhD. *Environmental Sustainability* is based on practical fieldwork and has been developed in partnership with *Natural England, IUCN* and the *Environment Agency*, contributing to a unique research programme which explores the nature and implications of practice and research methodology on the making of place. In addition to postgraduate students, fractional staff are invited to participate to develop their practice and contribute to a rigorous research skills base within the School.

We have 4 PhD completions, and currently have 6 PhD registered research students undertaking biodiversity research dissertations under **ERG** supervision, and are developing capacity for architectural PhD students in line with our practice based approach - three are starting their doctorates in 2013. PhD students maintain strong relationships with external industries to delivering field-tested results (*Bailey* was funded by and working for Aggregate Industries and Gaia while doing her PhD, and is now working for the major national company TRL; Latif was awarded on 'Bio base nature fibre insulation' research, based on a joint project with industries funded by the Technology Strategy Board). Development and delivery of significant outputs is highly supported: research students are helped to prepare papers for publication and encouraged to present their research at conferences (e.g. Connop- Bruxelles - DG environment conference), and special purchases have been made to realize specific projects such as the Barking Green Roof experiment (Nash and Connop) for which £20k was put in place for the provision of the equipment for materials testing.

Following this research, Nash and Connop were invited to the 'Integrated habitat Design Competition' at the National History Museum in 2012 receiving High Commendation for the work on 'Barking Riverside Development'. A green roof innovation workshop being led by Connop with architecture and Masters students is scheduled for October 2013, extending the original research. Research students have a dedicated suite within the **SRI** offices and are supported with specific training on issues relating to ethics in research. A new collaboration with the UEL School of Psychology is refining current consultation methodologies in relation to place based engagement. A regular series of both internal and external research seminars which are organized by staff (including 'Research Development' and 'Research Skills' workshops), provide an opportunity for

PhD students to present their work-in-progress. Postgraduate Diploma and MA Sustainability students are also involved in specific research projects giving them the opportunity to test academic studies for external stakeholders such as the London Borough of Camden (a student led research project in 2012 defined appropriate low carbon retrofit strategies within 30 designated 'Conservation Areas', with LEED ND Studies for Camden, Westminster and the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Legacy team in 2013). Significant exchange initiatives include 'Science Without Borders' – Brazilian Students focusing on Architecture, Civil and Electrical Engineering (a fully funded PhD in Architecture and four research students working on TURaS). EU funded POR and Leonardo scholarships made contact with the Universities of Cagliari (Lai - Environmental Waste Management and MARC), and Bologna (Bandini -GABI5 on carbon foot-printing).

#### **d. Income, infrastructure and facilities**

**Income:** The Unit obtained diverse sources of external funding, much of which lies outside conventional HESA parameters (which counts for only £88k income). Since 2008 the unit has undertaken consultancy and knowledge transfer, of over £1.5m, with commissions of £294,000, coming from partnerships with, and direct commissions from: the European Commission, IUCN, RSPB, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Olympic Delivery Authority, SME's, Camden and Newham Councils, Schools, private sector bodies etc. Constant requests for collaboration from external partners and clients has underpinned the research, allowing grant capture and outcomes of international relevance (Chelsea Flower Show and fabric formed concrete – see **Chandler** portfolio), Altab Ali Park (see **Clarke** portfolio), contributing to our reputation and recognition. Successful grant capture is an ongoing trend that requires ever-greater use of internal and external peer review. The expertise to facilitate that high level review is now in place (**Fretton** et al) to rebalance the funding streams and match KTP/consultancy based research with grant capture. This is a priority for the Unit following 2014. Supporting the HESA recognised research activity at UEL is the Research and Development Support team (ReDS), who help with research bid writing, consultancy and tender evaluation, project funding and enabling/managing cross-University collaboration. ReDS also arrange visits from Research Council representatives to develop funding objectives. Other initiatives include a funded UEL Research Internship scheme.

**Infrastructure and Facilities:** The School provides a well-equipped research environment occupying a range of purpose-built buildings on the University campus. **PRL** has a dedicated **PRL** office in the 2006 AVA Building as part of a studio/workshop environment linked to the Sustainability MA which **Chandler** leads. The research requirements span design studio space, photography and video, academic referencing, structural testing, geotechnical evaluation, biology, computer based form generation and building construction. **Land Surveying equipment** mainly supports the fieldwork of the **ERG** (Green roof monitoring, aggregate testing, Molecular ecology, Species ID, Field survey and surveying tools); **Technical Laboratories** support the field work of the **ERG** and is shared with **PRL** (Geotechnical, Hydraulics, Materials laboratory, and a small structures Lab including dedicated computers and software); Our **Physical modelling workshops** mainly supports **PRL's** research (Wood, Metal, concrete and Plaster Workshops). Full access to workshops and digital fabrication facilities provide the facilities for postgraduate community engagement projects, materials research and commissions. The workshops are staffed and supervised by full-time technicians with access provided on an 'open door' basis. The workshops are essential components of the hands-on approach that underpins the Unit's commitment to the research revolving around live projects (e.g. prototyping materials for disaster relief NGO Article 25, with projects in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Sierra Leone Nigeria). Architecture and sustainability are built and tested in the real world, so research in this area cannot exclude practice in favour of a purely lab-based approach. Therefore the Unit and School has made significant investment in building facilities, supporting both academic and research needs (£50,000 on a digital laser cutter and a dedicated large format printing facility in 2013), and is committed to continuous maintenance, assistance and space allocation that this form of research requires. In addition, the Unit utilises over 100 MAC and PC stations with updated software, fully equipped media suites, multimedia equipment, professional print services and the 24 hour Campus Academic Library. Future investment will include improving the laboratory for **ERG** with a dedicated space that allows integrated testing, monitoring and modelling.

#### e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

**Competitions and awards:** **Chandler** participated in the significant international competition for the redevelopment of the national monument 'Palacio Pereira' advising the Chilean Government on developing new conservation strategies for change, and in the UK's professional institution as *RIBA Conservation Committee* expert on education and examiner for the RIBA Conservation Register. This has allowed direct implementation of the 'New Conservation' research. **Segantini**, **Fretton** and **Clarke** worked on internationally recognized projects providing an exemplary quality of design in different regulatory and cultural environments. **Segantini** was awarded the *Italian Gold Medal for Architecture 2013*, **Fretton** received consecutive *RIBA International Building of the Year* awards, **Clarke's** practice winning the *Mies van der Rohe Award, Barcelona 2009* and the *British Pavilion for the 2010 Venice Biennale*.

**Networks and Partnerships:** The international conference '**The Production of Place**' was hosted at UEL in 2012 ([www.tpop2012.co.uk](http://www.tpop2012.co.uk)) and resulted in invitations for partnerships from the University of Applied Science (Niederrhein, Germany), Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and from TU Delft (Holland) to collaborate; and formalised on-going research collaboration with the US Green Building Council and contributed to the appointment of keynote speaker **Fretton** as Professor of Architecture at UEL. We have developed collaborative agreements with external partner universities (Universities of Kazan, St Petersburg, Venice, Santiago) supporting the involvement of international students and researcher exchange, with research students from Russia working with local communities in East London in 2013. Moreover, it has strengthened relationships with world leading associations (United States Green Building Council, Russian Green Building Council, RIBA – **Karthus**, **Chandler**, **Scott-Whitby**) and encouraged the transfer of specialist knowledge for the making of national territorial policies (Chilean government on New Conservation - see **Chandler** portfolio). Academic links are the groups' primary means of establishing local bases through which engagement projects can generate, for example research links with IUAV (**Pace**, **Scott-Whitby** and **Segantini**) are delivering a ten month community study in Venice culminating in built and published work within the 2014 Venice Biennale. Direct action research underpins collaboration on EU funded programmes such as Horizon 20-20, and the collaborative linkage of wetlands ecology and architecture specialisms within the Veneto (**Lindsay**, **Pace**). *Production of Place 2014* will take place in Venice.

**Public engagement** is key to the two groups' activities, attracting media coverage that includes the BBC on **Lindsay's** Peatland study, the international media and journal publications on **Chandler's** 'New Conservation' and leading journal/television coverage on his Chelsea Flower Show project for horticulturalist Paul Hensey. **Clarke's** work on the design of British Pavilion at the 2010 Venice Biennale broke new ground with its high profile participation agenda with local communities, and her work in Barking Town Centre achieved a top ten place in the Guardian 'Best Public Works of Art' as well as a European Public Space prize in 2008. **Minton** has her research published and reviewed in the *New Statesman*, *the Guardian*, *the Financial Times*, *The Independent* and *BBC Radio 4*. **Segantini** has her research on a water filtration building and sustainable school design in Ponzano published in the UK, Italy, Holland, Spain, Germany, Finland, Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, China and Taiwan. Members within **PRL** have successfully collaborated with national and international bodies developing new policies tied to sustainable development. **Karthus** is a long-standing member of the international jury for "Les Ateliers" ([www.ateliers.org](http://www.ateliers.org)), where he has contributed to influential **multi-disciplinary workshops** in the Greater Paris region, Dunkirk (France), Irkutsk (Siberia), Chandigarh (India) and Guandong (China). A future Interreg V funding application between "Les Ateliers", **Connop** and **Lindsay** for the Thames Gateway post-industrial rehabilitation is in process. **Karthus** is also a Fellow of the RSA to which he has contributed through the RSA Journal and his commission to advise the RSA Transitions project on prisoner resettlement in the UK. **Minton**, an award winning journalist focused on the issues around the ownership of public space (Arts Council, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, CABE, Demos, New Economics Foundation, the BBC) is an important new collaborator able to broaden and inspire critical areas of enquiry for PRL. Within **ERG**, **Lindsay's** critical research has underpinned key policy developments concerning peatland management in the UK and in the wider global community, informing the UK Committee of Climate Change in terms of peatland ecosystem dynamics and responses, and was used as part of the decision-making process to include peatlands as part of the carbon-accounting process for the Kyoto Protocol.