

SuperStudio Advocacy and Agency (2020-21) Connectivity and Resilience



1



2



3

Our contextual studio centres on live-issues and real-world engagements. We challenge our students to develop architectural, environmental and spatial responses, whether pragmatic or fantastical, whilst reflecting on how they understand their work within personal and professional values. Simply put: What is your work contributing within this space? What agendas might it engage with?

The studio so far has examined the post-industrial, post-conflict northern edge of the city of Belfast, along a route from McArt's Fort down to Titanic Belfast. This route encompasses physical structures from the Bronze Age to the contemporary branded city, and covers a wide range of cultural, environmental and demographic contexts.

Studio projects are contingent upon live-issues as identified through evolving and widening engagements. The distinction between live-issues and live projects is significant. Our studio offers space for those involved to explore spatial opportunities informed by, but not limited to, local conditions. Modern Belfast's history of technocratic conflict management followed by reliance on free-market dynamics has left little enough room for speculation and lateral thinking in the work of practicing and emerging architects.

Our approach explores the relative local limits of architectural determinacy in various fora (cultural, environmental, economic, political and legislative) and through that speculates on a range of potential progressive clients and drivers for architectural design. Studio outputs are, where possible, formed as products to extend dialogue, knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building within the context. The

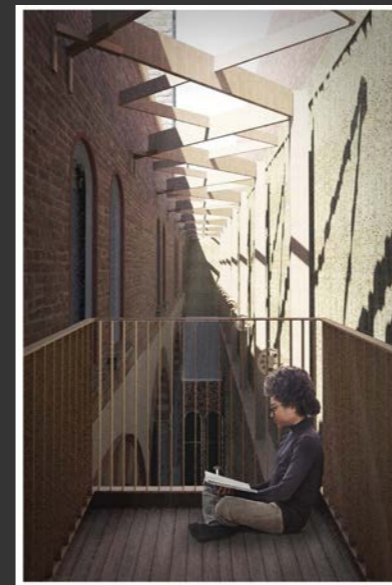
Students: Ronan Kerr, Jordan Beattie, Aidan Foster, Maria Falconitin, Eimile Kelly, Kaylin McMullan, Órlaith Rice, Jon Cowan, Patrick Herceda, Alexander Gawne, Gideon Pambid, Mahdiyattull Jannat, Philia Jost, Ruairi McCarney, Lars Pedersen, Carla Reinhardt, Syeda Zahrah Ali, Emma McClenaghan, Aishlinn Fitzpatrick, Peter McQuade, Francesca Silvestri, Laura Dominguez (2018-19)

Studio Leads : Mike McQueen, Rachel Bevan

4



5



6



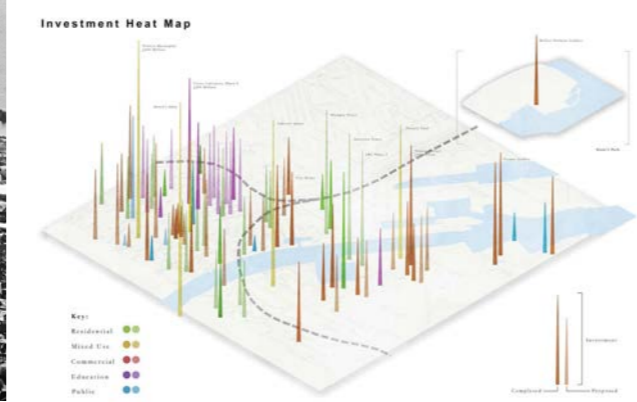
7



8



9



10



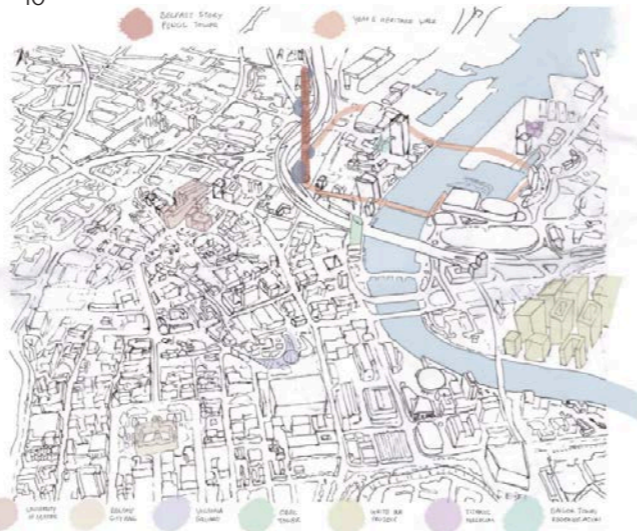
14



15



17



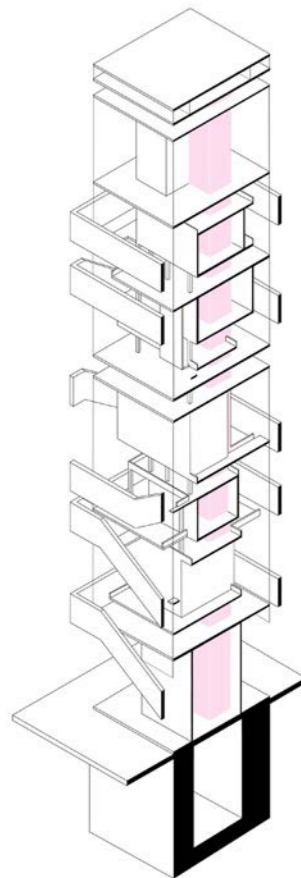
13

overall approach recognises, and aims to address, well-established criticisms of professional self-referencing and limited relevance in both the 'black box' of conventional architectural studio education and commission-dependent professional practice.

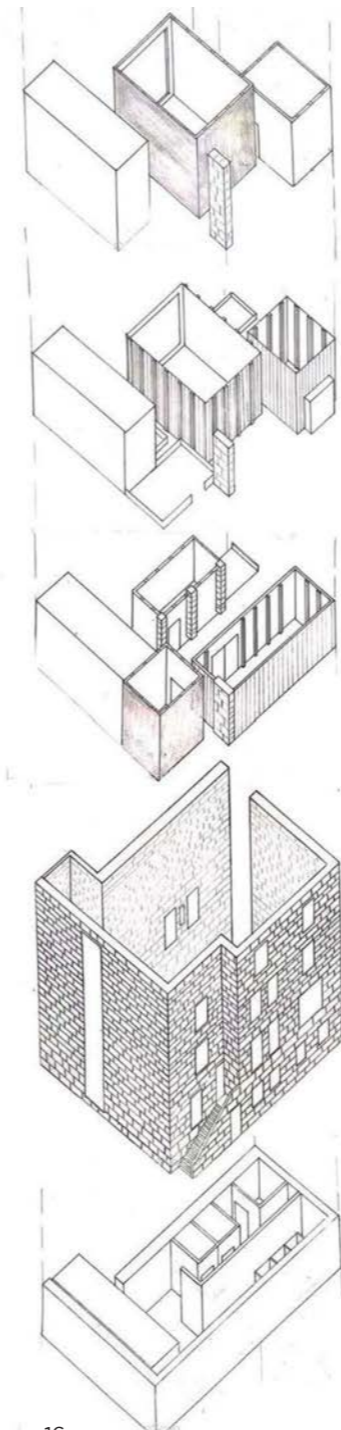
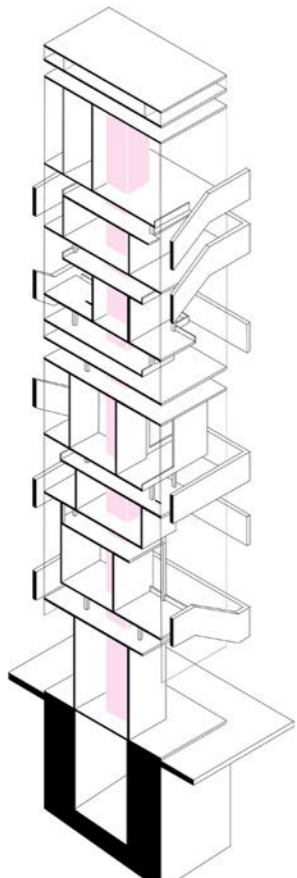
In recent years, with Sailortown Regeneration Group, Household Arts and others, we have developed architectural opportunities from cultural themes relevant to our evolving city context. In 2020-21, studio projects for years 1-5 are drilling down into the complex challenges associated with existing conditions and proposed road and property development around the York Street Interchange 'shatter zone'. We are moving from an appreciation of cultural and built heritage to consider Climate Change and a city-view of shatter zone and Titanic Quarter connections that could support progressive development of north Belfast. Student projects are exploring issues around connectivity (physical, social, economic) and resilience (environmental, cultural).

By 6th year, students are encouraged to develop projects around their own professional ambitions. This year, thesis projects are exploring low-carbon and community-centred potentials for a site within the greater Village area of south Belfast and the sensitive question of building on the former site of Andersontown RUC station. ○

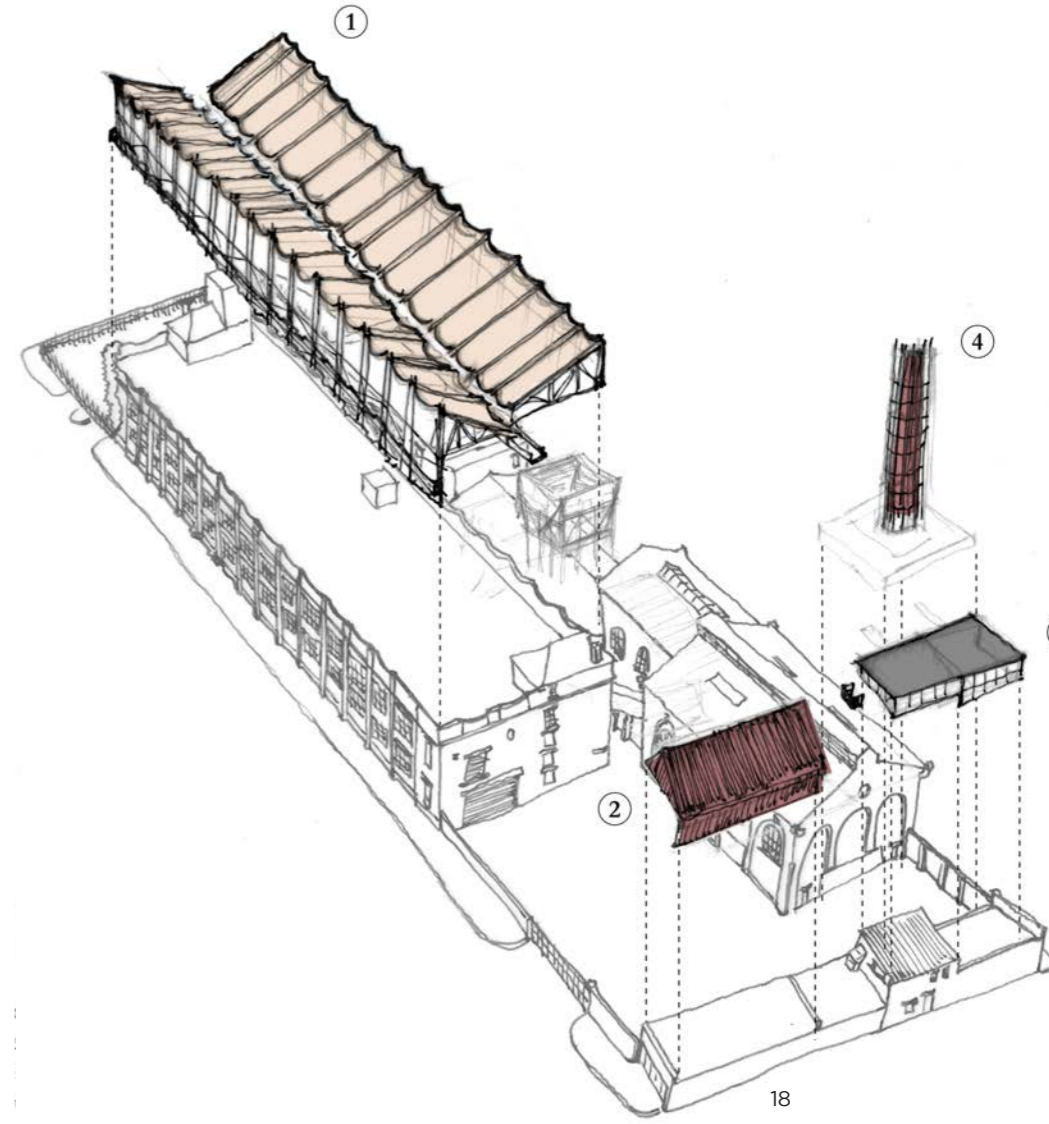
Ulster University



11



16



18

- 1. YSI and TQ Connections (with VU.City model) - AF
- 2. Studio Context
- 3. YSI and TQ Connections
- 4. YSI and TQ Section Analysis -A&A Studio/AF
- 5-7. St Joseph's & Parochial House adaptive reuse - JB
- 8. Cave Hill Cottage - LD
- 9. Cave Hill Cottage Context - MF
- 10. YSI and TQ Connections - JB
- 11. Belfast Story / YSI and TQ Connections - JC
- 12. Pontoon Village - LP
- 13. Belfast Story / YSI and TQ Connections - OR
- 14-16. St Joseph's Parochial House Adaptive Reuse - EK
- 17-18. Future Temenos - JB

