

A photograph of a man in a blue jacket holding a young child's hand as she balances on a wooden ledge at a beach. The man is on the left, looking towards the child. The child is on the right, wearing a pink jacket and patterned boots, balancing on the ledge. The background shows a beach with sand and a building in the distance.

Architecture &
Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

Reflections and
projections

Annual Review 2022

Introduction

We have called this review of 2022 reflections and projections. Working to make changes to our places takes time. So, whilst we look back and celebrate our achievements, we are always looking ahead at what is next.

This document is structured around our approach and how we deliver our ten-year strategy:

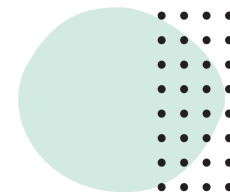
- we provide **advice** on projects bringing a range of skills
- we **connect** people and organisations to create thriving places
- we **share** insight from our work to grow capacity across Scotland
- we **champion** good design and collaboration

We have collected stories of how we have worked with partners to deliver better places in Scotland.

On our website, you can also read snapshots of our work to give you a richer picture. You can also explore how we are working to make Scotland's Place Principle the way we all plan and develop our places – where we collaborate and maximise the impact of our investments.

At the core of our work is collaboration. In this document and on our website, you will see the range of partners and organisations that we continue to work with. We want to say a big thank you to all those who have engaged with us.

We hope you enjoy our reflections, and we invite you to be part of our projections in 2023 and beyond, working with us to deliver our strategy and aims.



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1

We provide advice on projects bringing a range of skills

We provide advice on projects across Scotland. The work varies in size - from a single building through to a region.

This work is done in collaboration with a range of partners. We work with local authorities and the Key Agencies Group, and on capital investment projects in education, health and care.



Climate Ready School Grounds

The outdoor areas of Scotland's schools make up 14% of local authority-owned land in Scotland. However, 97% of that area is either grassland or hard surface. These are poor environments for biodiversity, learning and play.

There is a great opportunity to do more to use school grounds to address climate risk, while creating an outdoor environment that supports learning and play.



Partnership approach

Architecture and Design Scotland and Learning through Landscapes are working together on a new project - the Climate Ready School Grounds.

Our partnership connects national, regional, and local place-making and education estate strategies with building users, teaching staff and the wider school community.

The Climate Ready School Grounds project will provide guidance on the design, creation, and use of outdoor spaces. The resources will be informed by the engagement and co-design workshops with three schools from three local authorities.

We are working to create climate-adapted visions for their school grounds and to understand the barriers to

delivering physical change that responds to local climate risks.

Local impacts of climate change

The project offers the opportunity to support all schools (teachers, staff, and pupils), designers and local authority learning estate teams that are keen to understand and develop their grounds to do more, to adapt to the anticipated local impacts of climate change, help to increase biodiversity, improve air quality, and encourage community engagement and participation in climate action.

After a series of workshops, the outputs will be published in Spring 2023.



“High quality climate education has never been more important. As the stark reality of the impact of climate change is seen we need all children and young people to not only understand the science of climate change but witness real world adaptations in their school grounds and communities.

This will inspire them to think critically and creatively about what can be done to tackle and mitigate the climate emergency.”

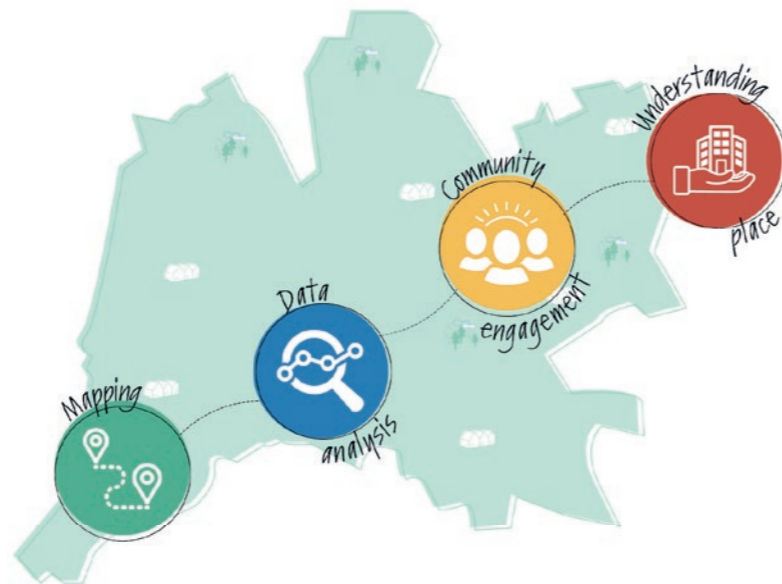
Carley Sefton, CEO at Learning through Landscapes



Stewarton: working on a whole-town scale

From holidaymakers to new residents, Stewarton in East Ayrshire is a popular place to stay. The town's population has steadily been growing and it has seen several new developments. East Ayrshire Council believes this growth will continue.

But with this growth comes added pressure on the town's health, education, social care, and transportation infrastructure. The council felt it needed a plan to address the existing infrastructure. They got in touch with the Key Agencies Group to establish a plan for Stewarton, taking a whole-place approach.



Our work with Stewarton

As part of the Key Agencies Group, our purpose was to bring departments from East Ayrshire Council and relevant key agencies together. We also helped establish a partnership programme with the Scottish Government's Digital Planning team.

Together we looked at Stewarton through the lens of a 20-minute neighbourhood. The Digital Planning team helped collate key information from the council and agencies.

We looked at residents' experiences of travelling to access everyday facilities from residential areas such as:

- local shops
- train stations
- schools
- healthcare facilities

The experience and local knowledge gave us a better understanding of the town's character and identity. To gather more information, we also ran the Place Standard

with a Climate Lens exercise with community groups and the council.

By using this whole-place approach, the council is now better able to identify appropriate sites for facilities and services based on distances, experiences, and the community's needs for walkable and cyclable places.

A new way of working

Our approach to understanding Stewarton was appreciated and recognised by the council - from mapping the town from the experience of individuals (the human scale) to using the data collected.

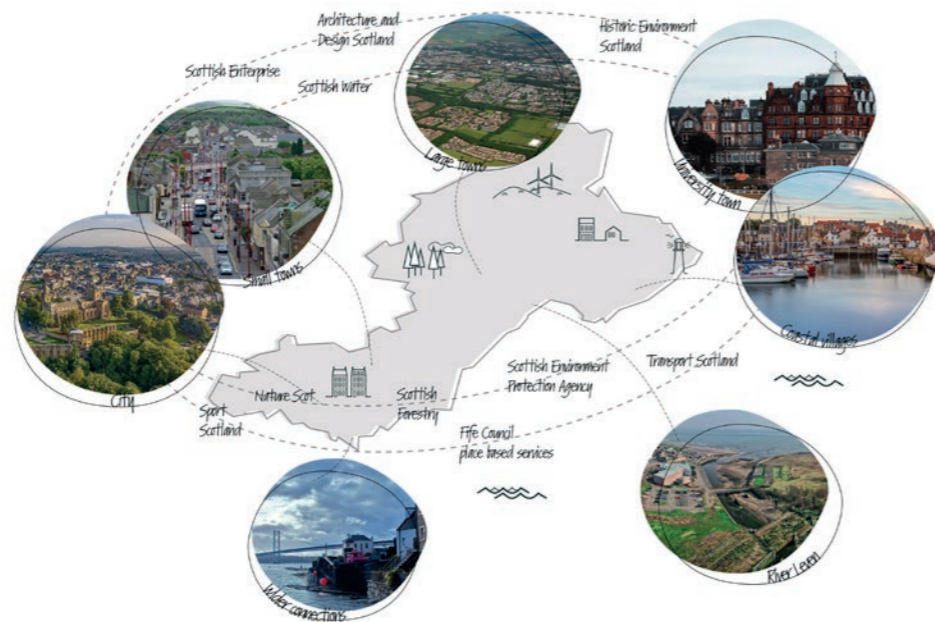
The new Development Framework Supplementary Guidance and Action Plan has been drawn from our work with Stewarton, this is now available on the council's website.

Our next round of support to Stewarton is to help the council consider the best and preferred location for new schools.

Fife Local Development Plan: navigating the complexities of new legislation

Fife Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Development Plan. It seeks to include the needs and hopes of its communities across Fife.

However with new national policy and legislation, including draft National Planning Framework 4, which requires local authorities to work differently on their plan preparation, the council wanted support to take a place-based approach. We were able to support Fife Council through the Key Agencies Group Green Recovery Offer.



Our work with Fife

We worked with the council's Planning Policy & Place team to guide early planning from focusing on technical aspects towards seeing the bigger picture. We helped them develop a collective approach to gathering and reporting evidence for the area. Our brief was to ensure that departments and different levels (from officer to heads of service) collaborated to achieve a collective, place-based approach.

Through workshops, we looked at Fife as a whole. What were the common issues, challenges, and opportunities? We asked, "What kind of a place is Fife 2050?" and used the responses to create a shared story of change.

Whole-place workshops

Through a whole-place collaborative workshop, we helped lay the foundations for a collaborative corporate approach and a new way of developing the Local Development Plan.

Services from across the council were encouraged to collaborate. Their ongoing conversations were needed to make sure that strategies, investments, and activities pulled in the same direction. By collaborating they could address common challenges and opportunities.

Local area workshops

Through local area collaborative workshops, we were able to start pinpointing data and information gaps to see what the local area's priorities were. A new approach was agreed to help further discussions and analysis of what needed to be developed. The new approach has been taken on by the planning team.

Storyboarding workshops

Through a storyboarding workshop, we helped the council develop methods and approaches to map the format and visual content for a place-based evidence report. The methods introduced have been taken forward by the planning team.

Bertha Park: collaborating to reimagine flagship specialist care

In 2022 Architecture and Design Scotland started to work with Capability Scotland to support the charity's ambitious proposals that will rewrite how care is provided to those with complex needs.

Capability Scotland is working to deliver a flagship £25 million facility at Bertha Park, Perth. The project will deliver residential and specialist care facilities at a new site.



We have worked together to find out the needs, aspirations and visions of the staff and families that will use the facilities. We have drawn from our extensive experience of working in the health sector to explore options and approaches.

Re-imagining care facilities

Stephen Oswald, Capability Scotland Project Lead, said:

"We have a rare opportunity to start with a blank canvas and completely re-imagine our services to create a leading facility that pushes the boundaries of housing and care for people with complex needs.

Through sharing learning and working together we will challenge stereotypes of what is possible for disabled people and ensure we are achieving equality in all aspects of life – with key stakeholders making the decisions from the outset."

Developing briefs

The process has included exploring a typical day in the life of the facility – from the perspective of a resident, their families and the staff providing the care. This has helped us identify the key priorities and benchmarks for the project. The output will help to inform the development brief for the project.

We have drawn on our experience from other major health projects, our engagement with the people who will use the space and learning from Capability Scotland who are the experts on providing care for people with complex needs. We have hosted three hands-on workshops with the people who will be relocating to live in the new community.

In 2023 we will continue to work with Capability Scotland to support the development of this groundbreaking facility. We plan to share our learning from this project.

Alloa town centre: from housing to town centre regeneration

The Primrose Street project was awarded the 2022 Scotland Loves Local Town Centre Living Award. It formed part of 'Living Alloa' which was the winner of the 2022 SURF Awards in the 'Improving Scotland's Places' category.

Both these wins demonstrate how a place-based approach moved away from a quick physical makeover in favour of a "forever" project that is rooted in delivering positive long-term outcomes for the people and the place.



Wee goldcrest mural, by Ross Hastie and Michael Corr. The goldcrest is the smallest bird in Scotland. Here it is used as a symbol for Clackmannanshire, the smallest county in the country.

The award-winning Primrose Street project is at the heart of Alloa. By creating intergenerational homes in the town centre, it also aims to act as a catalyst for wider regeneration. The development provides a housing solution that supports older people to stay within their own homes for as long as possible.

Design advice

We have been involved in the project since 2018 when we were invited by Clackmannanshire Council. We supported the project through a series of design advice workshops.

The workshops brought together stakeholders - from planners and architects to dementia and social care professionals - to help ensure the

highest standard of living environment, inside and out. These workshops happened in parallel with our support to the council to improve the town centre.

Beyond the site boundary

Bringing the housing at Primrose Street to our advice workshops ultimately led to a completely different take.

Not only on the delivery of the housing within the specific site but on the whole approach to the town centre.

2

We connect people and organisations to create thriving places

Bringing people together to deliver thriving places is at the heart of our work. We can all learn from each other. We are here to help share the experiences of those who have done, with those who will do.

In this section, you can read about the networks we support to build wider capacity in the sector. You can also find out about our community climate action approach in the Climate Action Towns project where we help create connections within and among towns.



Climate Week 2022: exploring community-based climate action

The climate emergency touches all aspects of our work. In the year after COP-26 in Glasgow, Scotland's Climate Week in September was a great opportunity to reflect on our work on the climate emergency – especially from the perspective of communities.

We organised an online event that attracted an audience of 245 people. Chaired by our board member Kirsty Macari, it featured speakers from Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Improvement Service. Audiences were able to hear about community-based climate action from across Scotland.

We also profiled the data-driven work we have been doing through the Climate Action Towns project.

Wider learning

Catriona Laing from the Energy and Climate Change Directorate, Scottish Government, opened the event by giving the perspective of how the three profiled projects fit into the bigger picture.

This event demonstrates the benefit of collaboration – both internally and with other agencies. All guest speakers contributed blogs prior to the event. We summarised our own climate work on our website.

The Climate Week event was an excellent opportunity to share learning from our work with a wide audience. We are already planning Climate Week 2023.

Climate Action Towns:

gathering to exchange experience

Across Scotland, initiatives are moving beyond our cities to consider what can be done to reduce the effects of climate change in towns and villages. Our Climate Actions Town project supports community-based climate action in a network of towns across Scotland.

In 2022 we were delighted to add on two new communities. They were Drongan, Rankinston, and Stair in East Ayrshire and the Benarty communities in Fife.

Throughout the year we have been working with the individual towns in the network. However, a key aim for this year was to connect the towns

to open up wider conversations. By collaborating with each other we encouraged peer support and wider learning.

Town gathering

As themes are beginning to emerge, we convened the first gathering of all nine towns. Hosted in a virtual space, the event brought together people from across the Climate Action Towns to meet, share learning, exchange ideas and get to know one another.

As an introduction we shared the common themes – illustrated by stories from the towns. The issues and themes that emerged included:

- access to transport
- community energy and efficiency
- access to local employment and training
- access to greenspace and nature
- access to local services and supplies
- community capacity

Selecting key topics

The discussion continued in smaller groups. The participants agreed on topics that they would like to explore further in 2023. In response we are planning a series of topic-based sessions, collaborating with other organisations.

We received feedback from the participants at the gathering that they valued the opportunity to meet a variety of partners supporting community-based climate work. They also mentioned the benefit of finding out the different stages towns are at in their work.



Supporting networks:

creating opportunities to learn from each other

In 2022 we continued to host the Local Authority Urban Design Forum. The Fom is a space for local authority professionals to meet and exchange ideas and their experience.

At the start of the year, the theme was learning from COP-26. In November we ran a hybrid event on 20-minute neighbourhoods. It provided a great opportunity to share what we have learned from our work with the Key Agencies Group with an audience from across Scotland. The Forum also provided us with insights into the issues that are key concerns for our colleagues working in local government.

Place and the public sector

In March 2022 we hosted a Public Sector Client Forum on the theme of Rural Futures. When it comes to planning their places, rural communities need to work differently from cities and towns, especially around housing and transport. Community organisations in rural places also need to understand what each other is doing to pool effort and resources.

3

We share insight from our work to grow capacity

As we work on projects across Scotland, we hear what works, and sometimes what doesn't. We are there to gather this insight and help identify the barriers to creating thriving places in Scotland. This means that we need build and maintain good relationships and partnerships to help influence this change.

In this section, you can read about how we have shared examples of great projects and the methods we have used to do so.



Outdoor Learning Hub:

making space for outdoor learning

We are continuing to work with Queen Margaret University (QMU) on an outdoor learning project. This partnership is helping us develop and create resources for teachers, trainee teachers, students, and schools to support outdoor learning.

QMU identified unused and underdeveloped areas within the campus. These have been developed to become an Outdoor Learning Hub. We realised that the hub could form the basis of action research, allowing us to capture and record the process of development from an unused space to a thriving outdoor educational resource.



An outdoor educational resource

Leading the project is Patrick Boxall, Lecturer in Initial Teacher Education at Queen Margaret University. He explained:

“We are preparing different outdoor learning spaces and are excited about the opportunities that these and the Hub will be able to offer our own students, staff, the local community, and educators across Scotland [...] The Hub will become a place to connect people and communities, and a space for creative learning, research and professional development.”

This project has developed beyond our initial expectations. It has grown to include further organisations, including NatureScot’s Wee Forest project – creating a small woodland area to encourage biodiversity.

Interest in outdoor learning continues to grow. QMU has recently established a short course designed to support leaders and practitioners from a range of educational organisations and communities to help them to help them to acquire skills needed to develop outdoor places for learning.

Tests of Change: reimagining the outdoor space

Tests of Change is a process that tries out new ways of working to create learning spaces. It is a process where we engage with learners and teachers to highlight issues and opportunities in a learning environment.

Tests of Change works with the learners and teachers to develop spatial strategies for schools - old and new. We have used it as a tool to rethink learning spaces and create better spaces to learn, teach and inspire.



Monquitter Primary school outdoor learning feasibility study project

Different environments

In 2022 our main focus was to re-imagine outdoor spaces to maximise the opportunities for learning and play.

We worked with Mearns Primary, East Renfrewshire and Skene Square Primary, Aberdeen City. These are two very different environments. One is surrounded mainly by grass and mixed surfaces, while the other is a very traditional concrete urban playground wrapping around a Victorian school.

Feasibility studies

In both places, we worked with the pupils, teachers, and parent councils to create designs and feasibility studies. The idea is to maximise their outdoor area based on the way they want to teach and learn, whilst using limited budgets.

Researching and observing how the spaces are already being used will ensure that the spaces grow with the schools' aspirations.

The proposed new spaces will support the Curriculum for Excellence, giving pupils opportunities to experience and thrive in outdoor learning environments.

Website: sharing examples of a whole-place approach

A key part of our work is to share our insights with others.

Our website and social media channels are key to helping us connect with the public and those creating places. In 2022, as part of our digital strategy, we completed a re-design of our website. It launched in June 2022.

Accessibility is key

Accessibility was the key consideration during the design process with a key aim to make sure our language is easy to understand. We also introduced a specific section

introducing the Place Principle. The site also aims to build a common understanding of a whole-place collaborative approach.

We do this by sharing examples and evidence of its benefits. We have tried to simplify those examples, using video or other formats where possible. We are also developing ways to reduce the climate impact of our website.

Positive feedback

Since the site was launched in June, we have received positive feedback. Although we significantly reduced the number of pages, our visitor numbers have increased. The new site is supported with social media campaigns.

In 2023 we will continue to analyse how our users access our materials and respond as needed.

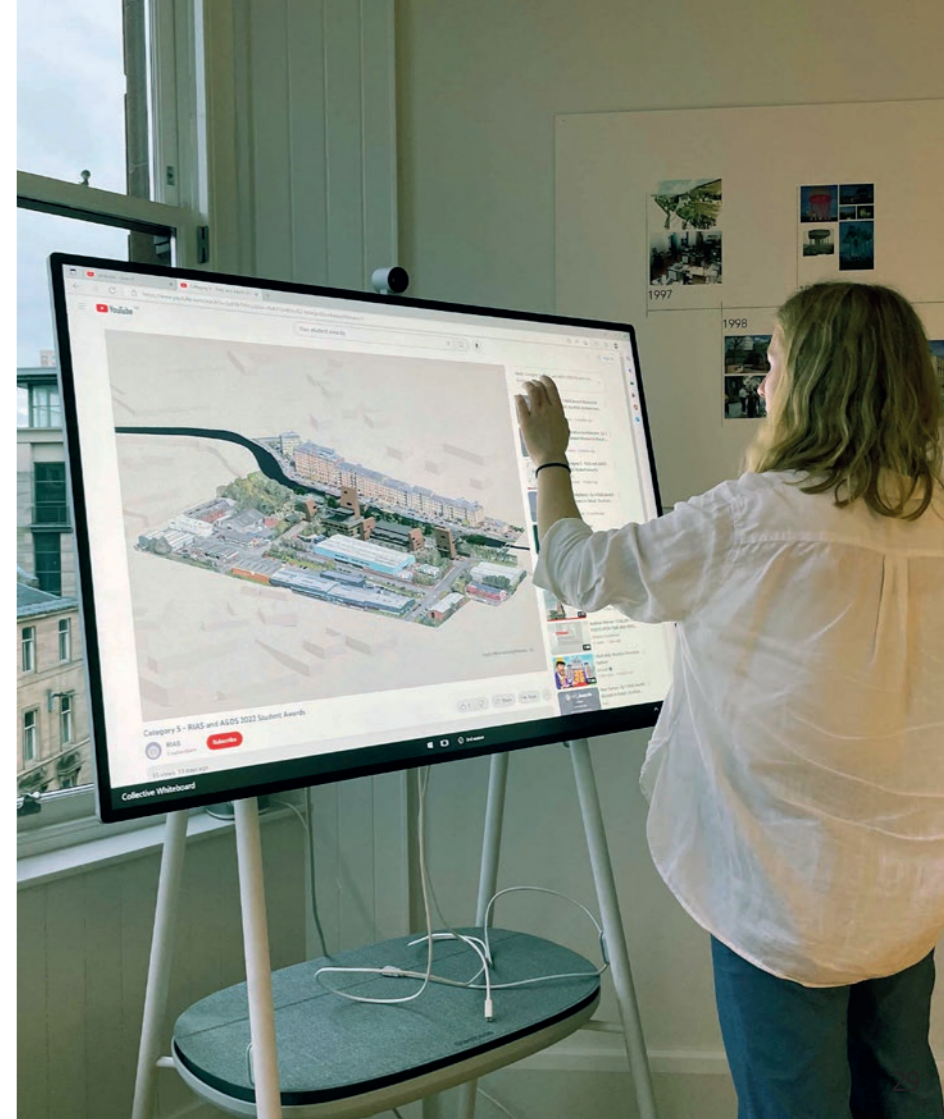
4

We champion good design and collaboration

As Scotland's design agency we champion good design and collaboration.

We collaborated with the Royal Incorporation of Architects Scotland and the architecture profession to host and celebrate the Student Awards for Architecture. In 2022 the projects brought creative and inspiring approaches to big challenges.

We also started our preparation for Scotland + Venice 2023 and we were able to announce the successful creative team.



Scotland + Venice 2023:

selecting the creative team

In 2022 we worked with the Scotland + Venice partnership to select the team that has been invited to develop a project for the 18th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia 2023.

The partnership has commissioned a creative team consisting of the Architecture Fringe, ism and /other to develop new work. Their initial proposal has been submitted as a collateral event proposal to the Biennale.

New approaches

Taking inspiration from Biennale curator Lesley Lokko's The Laboratory of the Future theme, the project will draw out new perspectives from Scotland. The project is anchored in communities in three distinct regions of Scotland. By exploring local languages, the team will provide insight into how land is perceived and used. Communities will work with creative collaborators to inform a new inclusive lexicon of their place.

The research in Scotland will inform a place of shared imagination, where new approaches to land and the global climate emergency will emerge.

Team image by Matthew Arthur Williams

The creative team - from left to right:
Amy McEwan, Aoife Nolan, Carl Jonsson, Neil McGuire, Mia Pinder-Hussein, Kristina Enberg, Alissar Riachi, Alyesha Choudhury and Andy Summers.

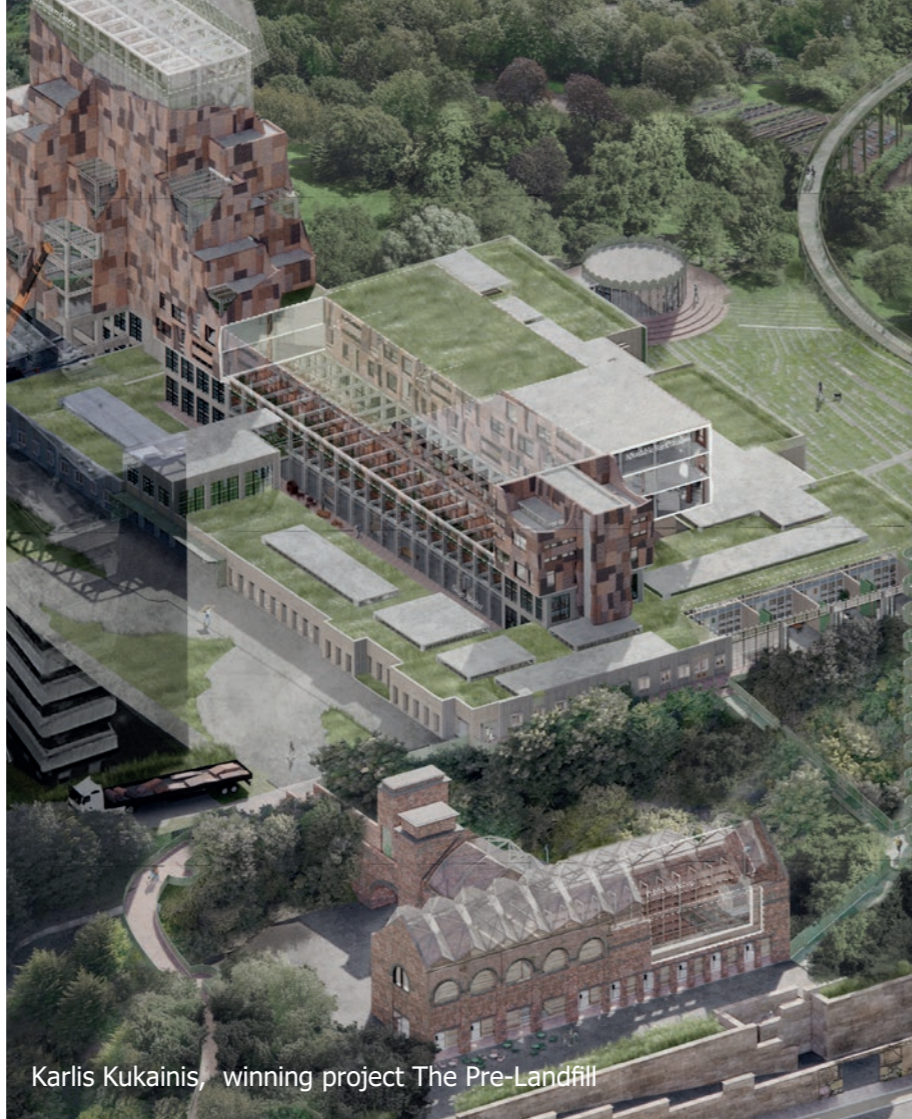


Student Awards 2022:

tackling the big challenges

The Architecture and Design Scotland and Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) Scottish Student Awards for Architecture took place in October 2022. Over 60 projects were submitted, and the judges selected three winners across five categories.

The winning projects included ideas on tackling the climate emergency through reusing materials, social sustainability in public housing development and responding to urban sprawl.



Karlis Kukainis, winning project The Pre-Landfill

For the first time since the pandemic, the awards were held in person. Paul Stellan, Design Director of Stellan-Brand and guest judge of the awards delivered a thought-provoking Andy MacMillan Memorial lecture titled the Glasgow Affects.

The event, held in Collective Architecture's Glasgow studio, was sold out and attended by students and the public. It provided the perfect opportunity to bring together academia, practice and the public. In 2023 we hope to continue to see students submitting such high-quality projects and to get the chance to celebrate Scotland's emerging talent.

The winners are:

- **Karlis Kukainis** from Mackintosh School of Architecture, awarded the Rowand Anderson Silver Medal for Best 5th year Student and the Architecture and Design Scotland Sustainable Design Award
- **Inka Eismar** from Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (ESALA), awarded the Architecture and Design Scotland Award for Best 3rd year student
- **Sam Morman** from the University of Dundee, awarded the Urban Design Award and Andy MacMillan Drawing Award

Projections for 2023

Already in 2023, we have had the launch of the new National Planning Framework – with climate, place and design at its heart.

At Architecture and Design Scotland we are looking forward to another amazing year of supporting projects, places and people up and down the country, as well as planning our work to 2027.

Place Forum

In March, we will be launching our new Place Forum which will bring together practitioners and decision-makers from all sectors and all parts of the country.

The aim of the Forum is to share experience and learning and capture issues related to place-based working. Our hope is that the Forum is very beneficial to those who attend and allows us to better understand the barriers that still exist in changing the way we plan, design and build our places.

Scotland + Venice 2023

In May, ArchiFringe, ism and /other, supported by Architecture and Design Scotland will unveil Scotland's latest contribution to the Venice Architecture Biennale and our first in Scotland's permanent home in Venice at the Docks Cantieri Cucchini, close to the Arsenale.

Our Climate Plan

In the last half of 2022, we began actively measuring our organisation's carbon footprint. Our longer-term Climate Plan became more tangible in 2022 when we submitted our very first Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report. As well as recording our emissions, we set out our aspirations and goals for achieving net zero by 2045 as per Scottish Government targets. Throughout 2023 we will continue to explore how we can be more carbon-conscious when delivering our projects.

Place Principle

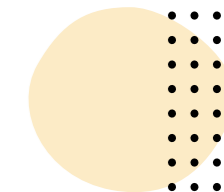
Throughout the year our teams will be working with partners to support public sector investment through new buildings for learning and healthcare buildings, develop place-based plans for our neighbourhoods, towns and cities and tackle the climate emergency.

We will also be taking stock of our efforts to drive change in the way our places are planned and designed. In 2021, we set out to support the adoption of the Place Principle and two years on, we will be speaking to the widest range of people to understand the Principle's impact.

We are looking forward to working with all of our partners to achieve our vision of a Scotland whose places are healthy, sustainable and thriving, where everyone works together to shape their future.

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