

Bridgend Community-Led Design Training Day

Report

A Training in Community-Led Design towards the possible renovation of Bridgend Farmhouse.
Saturday 3rd September 2011 9.45-1.45
Bridgend Allotments and Farmhouse
With Maja luna Jorgesson and Hannah Gibbs from Glasshouse Community-Led Design

Graphic/Visual Vision for the building exercise:

Emerging themes:

- ⤴ i. Build and design projects that the community can take part in
- ⤴ ii. Permeability of outdoor/indoor relationship and playful interaction and blurred boundaries
- ⤴ iii. Traditional feel relevant to its history/Modern and unique style with renewable technologies. I.e old and new connections
- ⤴ iv. Making use of and responding to local environmental, resources and people
- ⤴ v. Dynamic spaces that allow for a variety of uses and learning needs and styles

Comments and words written on visioning sheets with accompanying images:

Group 1

- ⤴ Growing, Permaculture, Welcoming, People Enjoying Nature, Modern Selfsufficient
- ⤴ Calm and relaxed, Tranquillity, good use of space, buzz, colourful, pathways defined, natural/traditional stone material, building/structure communication, space, colour, open structure, outside area for living and parking, relaxed yet functional space, wood walkway, fun
- ⤴ Interactive, playful, natural, time for reflection too, absorbed in activities together for having fun

Group 2

- ⤴ Locally sourced natural material, Make the space accessible to people and uses in a dynamic way, Kitchen garden? Sunny walls, wood and modern glass – views, making use of resources locally, Tea room
- ⤴ Individuality, inside out, light manipulation, modern interjections in existing settings, Passive and solar energies integral to building form
- ⤴ Celebrate and interpret history of site/building, Relevant in a way to future regeneration

Group 3

- ⤴ Dynamic learning spaces responding to different learning needs and styles, Collective learning outdoors for young people, strong lighting inside to highlight old stone walls
- ⤴ Functional unique features, bespoke crafted wooden decking around house
- ⤴ Made with the community – willow sculpture and sculptural spaces as part of the house design, drystone walling moving into land, Environmental arts responding to land, wooden crafts and gates built, projects that the community can take part in
- ⤴ Sustainable energy, unique signage, outdoor/indoor space

Design Basics (Basic summary of some of the points):

- ⤴ Think about the general vision and ideas and actions rather than just the specifics.
- ⤴ Articulate your experiences of a space and how you feel there
- ⤴ How to draw on environmental setting and how will it contribute to this setting too?
- ⤴ Multiple uses in a space – do these things fit into the same space?
- ⤴ Think about what the intention is rather than just a hub
- ⤴ Approach your architect with a community-led strategic design brief reflecting Form, Function and Feeling
- ⤴ How can a place become somewhere to also just linger and appeal to visitors to do so?
- ⤴ You don't need training to know what good design is
- ⤴ Who will use it, when, how and set milestones for the project and renovation: How will the type of people using the space affect the design
- ⤴ Throughout appraisal and community discussion expectation must also be managed though in case not all visions can be realised. Begin to refine and define vision and design for further in depth

appraisal and discussion.

- ⤴ Can outline a number of policies in the development agreement. For example; having to include a number of apprenticeships
- ⤴ Where to go from here...?

Strategic Design and planning:

- ⤴ Find further ways of continuing to develop our strategic design brief from the communities' input and involvement utilising all aspects of Form, Function and Feeling.
- ⤴ This is a continual working document that outlines the vision and uses of the building that is always re-presented back for comments, analysis and further adaptation.
- ⤴ It is to be accompanied by the business plan which outlines the finances and technical feasibility of this vision, design and use.
- ⤴ Find an appropriate noticeboard and information space to publish updates.
- ⤴ Take design collage with other images to public events and ask people to keep adding to the images.
- ⤴ Then identify emerging generative themes for people to then develop thoughts and designs around as a second stage.

Project development:

- ⤴ Use brief and business plan to apply for funding to further these and to start beginning full architectural plans, design and costing. This doesn't need to be entirely concrete but a general idea.
- ⤴ Later when plans are clearer launch the vision and possibilities at large public event and fayre with exhibition and information with drinks and a big lunch.
- ⤴ Identify clear tasks of what people can do to get involved.
- ⤴ Participation and community involvement:
- ⤴ Identify special interest and geographical interest liaison contacts within our group spreading responsibility, horizontal networks of contact and more continued personal interaction with an area or group.
- ⤴ Develop our online portfolio
- ⤴ Find appropriate public space to inform public on a regular basis of updates and information (Bridgend Allotments and at Inch Community Centre).
- ⤴ Go forward with our study visit and look to other ones too. (One in Newcastle with Glasshouse Design on December 8th).
- ⤴ Develop good relationships with specific contacts in the local press and media.
- ⤴ Utilise various other methods of participating and providing thoughts and suggestions at public events.
- ⤴ Social events, informal settings and other activities that are not just regular formal meetings.
- ⤴ Providing information regularly to as many people as possible.
- ⤴ Invite specific representatives along and partner with specific organisations.
- ⤴ Adapt the methods and technologies to who you are speaking to and want to get more involved.
- ⤴ Present back progress and vision so far to wider community for second level of discussion, review and visioning.