### School of Architecture SAUL

**University of Limerick**
- Boat-building School
- Bike Repair Shop
- Community Gym
- Garryglass
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- Canal

### Design Studio Projects

- Séamus Bairéad
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- Philip Dawson
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**Exhibition from 18 to 21 February 2010**

ALL OUT Space, 5 Sarsfield Street, Limerick

Opening Thursday, 18 February 2010 at 8 pm
This exhibition documents proposals for a Social Club, designed by third-year architecture students in SAUL, the School of Architecture at the University of Limerick, in the autumn semester 2009. These projects shall serve as a basis for a wider discussion on the aspirations and demands regarding contemporary community facilities in Limerick.

Architecture can and does produce positive effects when the liberating intentions of the architect coincide with the real practice of people in the exercise of their freedom... it is somewhat arbitrary to try to dissociate the effective practice of freedom by people, the practice of social relations, and the spatial distributions in which they find themselves. If they are separated they become impossible to understand. Each can only be understood through the other. [Foucault]

Health can be considered as infrastructure – a built environment that is predicated on the sustenance of health and well-being acts to save both lives and money. As we are aware, health and environment are intimately connected, to the point where government policy now requires public buildings for health, education and related uses to undergo a Health Impact Assessment.

In this projects the students develop programmes, and eventually buildings, on peripheral or interstitial sites, that have a direct bearing on the well-being and quality of life of the City’s inhabitants. It is the intention of this work that architectural projects define new thresholds between disparate urban conditions. We are looking at persistent elements of the civic dimension of a society, things that will help to consolidate the identity of neighbourhoods, and, by extension, the region.

We consider the programmatic implications of a mix between physical priorities such as health care and sport, and social activities such as meeting and congregating, which might produce a harmonic of composition and use. Programmatic overlay is a technique to be used not to posit “solutions” but to coincide with the real practice of people in the exercise of their freedom.

In a world that incessantly consumes images, in a constantly expanding metropolitan culture, in a universe whose buildings are no more than a few of the infinite number of figurative and informative dwellings that surround us, there nonetheless exists the architectonic event. This event is like an extended chord, like an intensity at an energetic crux of streams of communication, a subjective apprehension offered by the architect in the joy of producing a polyphonic instant in the heart of the chaotic metropolis. […] The groundlessness emerging out of the singularity of an event has nothing to do with a lack of ability to manifest the conditions of contemporary culture. Quite the contrary. This weakness is precisely the architectonic manifestation of the condition of contemporary culture. [de Solá-Morales]

Through the detailed study of architectural references, a concept of ‘now’ relative to the past history of societal and architectural ideas informs each student’s proposition since both are researched and presented in parallel. The material realisation of these social and cultural concepts is capable of conveying meaning in a contribution that the strictly functional provision of buildings does not make.

Jan Frohburg, Maria Donoghue, Simon Walker
February 2010
Programme

The Social Club provides a programmatic overlap of sporting and social activities, creating a collective space and relating to the public realm. The social activity extends to cross-generational functions; eating and drinking, convenience shopping, meeting neighbours, reading and internet-access ensure all day use. Workshops and maintenance facilities create the possibility of education and apprenticeship. There a three general uses to choose from: a bike repair shop, a boat-building school and a community gym on respective sites. Additional parts of the programme remain interchangeable and complement the chosen use.

Bike Repair Shop

This project seeks to establish a nodal point within a network of cycle routes in and around Limerick city, and accessing routes to the surrounding countryside. Cyclists become catalysts in the development of safe, affordable, non-polluting transportation in the neighbourhood. Small actions have immense consequences – design projects examine the recircularity between small elements and urban systems by proposing small interventions that instigate social and ecological chain reactions in the neighbourhood. This goes hand in hand with an intention to challenge the widespread association of cycling with poverty and brand a positive image through all aspects of architecture. A workshop for the repair and maintenance of bicycles is part of the remit of the programme, and the external space of the building are developed to include the possibility of a change in the mode of transportation – rail to bike and vice versa.

Boat Building School

The project for a boat building school or boat club is to cultivate the city’s relationship to its waterways. It is envisaged as a set of spaces combining activities related to boating and fishing and shall encourage Limerick citizens to take stewardship of these natural and man-made resources. The boat building school shall act as a bridge between the river’s past and its future. The aspiration of providing community support combines with an educational mission through hands-on production. It does not depend on the immediate proximity of a body of water, although this may be the case. It also functions as a school and training centre for boating. At the same time, the appropriation of the site and the choice of materials and construction techniques becomes a major issue.

Community Gym

In a society that is increasingly reliant on road transport, physical activity is more and more discouraged. The community gym aims to provide a fun, friendly and supportive environment in which people can exercise and take part in educational opportunities. The project should provide facilities for non-traditional gym users, including inactive men, women suffering from low esteem and older people, and support actions that address health inequalities. Rather than being a ‘machine hall’ the gym is meant for exercising together in groups of different sizes. The gym may be centred on a particular sport, such as boxing or basketball, or may focus primarily on activities such as yoga, or may be driven by an arts programme such as dance. In all cases provision are made for spectators. External ball courts are also catered for.

Community facilities

The Social Club shall equally provide for small and large groups of people to gather – be it in an intimate situation (with a fireplace) or in a formal assembly. The association of sport with alcohol needs to be challenged – typically the sale of alcohol is the modality by which we experience collective social space. Equally, the notion of club is associated with a private or commercial – but rather a project to reaffirm the primacy of collective space, to ‘plan’ for neighbourhoods. However, the social dissonance which characterises the perception of the larger city remains susceptible to re-inscription into a vision of the place – the proximity of natural landscapes in all parts of the centre, the Riverlands, the Island and Castle, and the customary leisure-time activities of its people – boating, fishing, horse-racing, rugby, etc. Narrative space, the understanding what draws neighbourhood together, is predicated on connections being made across the built fabric of a place, recognising flows that can be encouraged, and generating new ones. However, the fabric needs to be considered as something more than just development – whether private or commercial – but rather a project to re-affirm the primacy of collective space, to ‘plan’ for neighbourhoods.

Sites

The Irish sense of place is always in a state of becoming, never fixed, always temporal. This does not make Ireland an easy place for the communication of architecture. Yet, SAUL is challenged to demonstrate that architecture has the potential to achieve continuity in its environment through mediation between disparate conditions. In this project students develop programmes, and eventually buildings, on peripheral or inter-stitial sites, that have a direct bearing on the well-being and quality of life of the city’s inhabitants.

Three hypothetical sites have been selected – one along the rail tracks of the Limerick-Ennis line, the other on the banks of the Park Canal and a third just off a main traffic artery. All three sites relate to transport routes, at least two different ones at a time, and are wedged between adjoining neighbourhoods or between city and hinterland. In all cases, a local connection to the railway is assumed to be an imminent development at or beside the sites.

Limerick is an artificially complicated map – communities are divided by physical barriers designed to keep people ‘in’ or ‘out’. The ill-defined demarcations of City and County have created the phenomenon of chaotic commercial development along their boundaries, directly encroaching on neighbourhood patterns of life and movement in such a way as to render them invisible, or at least indistinguishable. Added to this map, overlaid but mutually exclusive transit corridors result in an archipelago of disparate ‘island’ communities. Just as these neighbourhoods are on the physical urban edges, the communities who live in them are on the margin of society, locally and nationally.

Three interstitial sites in Limerick: Moyross, Garryglass & Park Cannal
The design is concerned with connecting space diagonally though the use of light. It is this overviewing of various functions that create a dynamic interaction and gives it a community feel.

The main room is an external space covered by a deep concrete roof and surrounded by concrete walls to protect from harsh Atlantic weather. It is an open space serviced by a workshop and changing facilities. The local children can use this facility as a biking area or in any way they see fit as the large floor space and high roof give it a great sense of flexibility.

Elevations

Perspectives, facing towards the Clare hills
The given site is located in a residential area with many shops and services in close proximity. The main problem identified was that these services are randomly dispersed throughout the area and there is currently no collective space for residents to meet and spontaneously interact with one another.

After examining a number of statistics, a striking issue with educational standards in the area was noted. Education immediately became a prominent theme in the scheme. Also, the surrounding area around the site is laden with barriers and fences. Rather than remove these boundaries, a sense of control within was to be translated into the building. This was achieved by manipulating the existing sloping ground plane.
"My concept is of the TENSION and MOVEMENT related with dance and how the MITHYOCR way be ABSTRACTED to a design for a building. The spacial in my scheme are ELEMENTS which SUPPORT and another CONNECT to each other and show how important the relationship between the space in a PERFORMANCE is. The building wants the idea of this SYMBOUS relationship, it is the DANCE as much as it is the STAGE."

Jean Brellethoud H. McCormin
Corbally social club

The ground floor facilitates the people who use the canal. There is a bike repair shop and a park and ride facility. The first floor addresses Corbally estate. It contains restaurant, gallery and library.

There are two separate communities which don't interact with each other. They needed to be brought together, so that they could benefit from each other presence. The most important part of the brief for this project is the outdoor auditorium, it's the centre of the building, which brings these two communities together.
Garryglass Social Club

The social club plays on the ideas of threshold and boundaries which exist upon the site in its present state. The central ground is raised to create a central plateau or open living room which acts as a temporary communal space during the day. A second private courtyard is located off the main central space. This outdoor space is shared as a communal garden or allotments by the dwellings which are found within the Social Club. The external spaces are flanked by a series of public buildings, handball allys, theatre and living rooms. The club acts as a self contained organism, a microcosm, a community within a community. The club acts as a fulcrum about which the dwellings/units find their individual ‘places’.
The site is situated upon a green open space, bordered on four sides by dwellings. The area, Querystan, Hyde Road, Limehouse has a strong sense of community. A previous “community hall” existed upon the site, however it was demolished after local objections. The new social club should cater for the needs and desires of the local population and provide a venue for social interaction. The initial response to the site involved occupying the whole of the green space, in essence creating a square within a square, centred around a public external space.
architectural mnemonic: remembering place

a social club for limerick city

The site for this project is South Dock, located locally as ‘Troy Lock’, the second lock on the Port Canal that runs west towards Limerick city to the River Shannon near Thomond Bridge. Currently, it is a poorly designed and under-utilised public square along the popular pedestrian and cycle route that follows the canal, and then the river, cut from the city centre to Kilkee via the University of Limerick in recent decades, and then out of Corktown to the suburbs. It is also one of only three places where pedestrians can cross the canal along its length, the others being located at either end of the waterfront. It is adjacent to a mixture of housing estates, and one-off developments, as well as sporting facilities such as rugby and GAA pitches, and small factories on Cheer Island.

The site’s prominent characteristics are the remains of historic monuments now a static shadow of its former public space, where dog-walking parents playing children in tugboats adored, but few stop beside the bridge to linger for a moment on the footpath. It is deepened occasionally during high tides by a small number of old men and, under cover of darkness, by teenagers looking for somewhere to conceal smoking from the watchful eyes of their families. Indeed, the history of crime has a long legacy on the site, an evident when one considers the seizure of both the canal itself, namely to facilitate the transport of heavy goods to and from Limerick by barge. By 1855, however, the canal was no longer used for the transport of goods, and was gradually replaced by an more efficient road network of rail transport, the canal and river, with regular maintenance, huge sections of the canal have been shortened. The lock keepers’ house at Troy Lock was redeveloped by fire in 1979, and the lock’s works were closed, reducing the canal usable.

This project proposes to renew the site by establishing a linear for stone activity in the form of visual and associated programme, including a walk and bar, while also recognising the power of the canal, both contemporary and historic, that defines its genius loci. The idea is a complex set of interventions: existing, adaptive, and integrated, that extends both down through the lower floors of the site, and up into the upper floors of the intervention. In this way, the project is to be woven from possibilities that become real in the ground, establishing itself as another point of the narrative of the site through time, as a moment that is historically related to what came before, and what will come after.
The schemes engage with the formalism of a rich tradition of architecture. Where a principle of the ground as a base is evident, the scheme of the shaded floor established on level is expressed by perimeter walls and by the output of a central mezzanine level. The scheme does more than just trace the position of the scheme outline in a simple, familiar fashion. As well as extending the scheme to the boundary of the building, it presents the scheme as an extension of the building and into another layer of the site. Associated with this extends the scheme as a means of expressing an idea in a way that makes it clear in the way it is interpreted by the building site. The scheme is complemented by the idea of a grid of a base that offers a means of structuring the site and the buildings.

Ultimately, what is most interesting is the coherence of the building in the way it is interpreted by the building site. This coherence is in the way it is interpreted by the building site and the way it is interpreted by the building site. It is in the way it is interpreted by the building site and the way it is interpreted by the building site. It is in the way it is interpreted by the building site and the way it is interpreted by the building site. It is in the way it is interpreted by the building site and the way it is interpreted by the building site.
Moyross Social Club

This project aims to give the community a building which can help identify the area as having both an active and successful community. The concept was to negotiate the level change from the road to the railway track using a series of platforms or ground planes. Two separate routes lead from the roadside entrance to the tracks. One weaves its way through the building passing each of the community based spaces and the other is a more direct route to the train station.

Concept Sketches

1:200 Site Plan

Section A-A

Section B-B

Section C-C

1:200 Long Sections

Sketch Models
1:200 Short Sections

1:20 Section Perspective

Walkthrough Perspectives
Located south of Limerick City Centre, Garryglass Avenue is a 1960’s housing development and is adjacent to one of the busiest roads out of Limerick. The houses enclose a square, currently unused and neglected. In the 80’s and early 90’s one would have witnessed a vibrant and an untroubled environment on site. ‘Curley’s’ Social Club was at the heart of the community until an arson attack in ’94. Preceding that, a metal shed, as described by a resident, was erected by the council as a means of satisfying the community. Shortly after, due to antisocial behaviour it was removed. The last community meeting was 7 years ago. Ever since the burning of ‘Curleys’, crime has surged in this area.

This building is a response to this lost community feeling. The idea of strengthening the community occurs from the very first of the building process. The building would be built in phases and involving the community in all phases. This would reinforce the relationship between the community and the building. The initial meetings would take place where the cafe would be. This is centre of the community. The cafe opens out under an outdoor concrete pergola which is based on the parting walls of the houses, reinforcing the connection with its surroundings. The space between the boxing gym and the cafe is where the community meet each other from day to day. This is a bright space at night and can be seen from the main road as a welcoming area.

Phase 01  Community meeting takes place. A temporary structure will be placed at the centre of the proposed project.

Phase 02  After strip foundations, the primary load bearing insta-concrete walls are placed.

Phase 03  Glulam timber frames are placed against concrete walls, and sit on shed foundations. The frames are fixed to the concrete walls with a steel base. The precast concrete portal frames are then placed. They span 160m. Internal walls are built.

Phase 04  External insulated timber frames are fixed to the glulam frames, along with the roof.

Phase 05  Final phase consists of the polycarbonate outer skin.
Moyross Social Club

The boundary force of the Moyross area creates an isolated community. This community is physically split in two by the train line which has only one crossing. Accepting Moyross as an island presents the opportunity to emphasize and focus on shared social infrastructure. A social club located in the center of the area provides the focal and the new crossing point between the two sides of the island. The building becomes a type of bridge.

The division of the two sides of the island is enforced by a parallel alignment of infrastructure as shown in the diagram below. The proposed building breaks and connects this boundary.

In touching the ground at three points the building allows perpendicular access through it for the existing train line and a new bicycle track. These three points of contact become key concrete elements in which the vertical circulation and service areas are housed.

The sequence of diagrams below describe the intervention elements. A crossing is the first and most important of the additions. A raised viewpoint is then added to provide further connection with the surrounding community. A new bicycle track and repair shop are cut into the existing hill. Community spaces are located along the new crossing route.
SOCIAL CLUB; COLLECTIVE INCLUSIVE SPACES FOR ALL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. BUT THIS IS NOT FOR EVERYBODY, IS IT? WHAT ABOUT THOSE THAT ARE TRYING TO NAVIGATE THE DIFFICULT TIME BETWEEN CHILDHOOD AND ADULTHOOD? AS A TEENAGER WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO EMBRACE THE IDEAL OF THE SOCIAL CLUB, SOCIALIZING WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN THE BUILDING YOUR PARENTS, AND PERHAPS EVEN YOUR GRANDPARENTS, WERE DOING THE SAME THING?

DEFINITELY NOT.

HOW DO YOU INCLUDE TEENAGERS IN THE IDEA OF THE SOCIAL CLUB WITHOUT OFFENDING THEIR INDIVIDUALISM, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE PROPOSED SITE FOR THIS SOCIAL CLUB HAPPENS TO ALREADY BE ONE OF THEIR FEW PUBLIC SOCIALIZING SPACES?


PARK CANAL - SOCIAL CLUB

The canal requires the regulation of a number of disparate factors: the site is at the point where the city begins to merge with a rural suburb, leaving it as something of a non-place. The linearity of movement along the banks is undermined by the near constant stream of runners and dog walkers using the path, however there is little or no cross directional movement between the surrounding housing estates and the canal path, thus denying its use as a link to the city.

The Park Canal was once an industrial corridor within the city, however as its industrial use ceased the land adjacent to the canal was not reused in a successful manner and as a result is under used. The intervention on the site seeks to maintain the linearity of movement which exists on the site, whilst also allowing for an anxiety of perpendicular movement. By introducing a new use the site also establishes itself as a node on a larger network of movement around Limerick’s waterways, by doing so its opens views to the city and River Island understating the connections between the site and the city centre. Marc Augé defines the non-place as a space which is not anthropological: does not integrate into earlier places, a place which has surrendered to the fleeting, the temporary and ephemeral. To establish the site as a node, a place, it was necessary to build a patchwork of activity and network, in which to quote Augé, “identity and relations are repeatedly rewritten”.

[Diagram of canal and surrounding area]
After identifying the inherent problems associated with the solely diurnal use of the site, it became clear that new night-time uses were required. The programme evolved to include an auditorium, bar and restaurant as well as the boat building hall and library. By inhaling the building around the clock one aims to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour on the site as well as increasing the collective life of the surrounding housing estates.

In plan the scheme aims to allow continuity of movement along the existing cycle route and also create a stopping point in the space trapped between the two buildings. The dialogue between the two storey canal building and the single storey building on the green site is to encourage movement between the relatively structured utility in the boat building hall and the more casual inhabitation of the library and cafeteria, integrating those learning boat building skills with the wider community. As the project progressed further the external spaces became paramount, with soft spaces for sporting activities and hard spaces for movement. External terraces were established with the city via the continuity of the canal cycle route and with the Abbey housing estate by means of a newly created route running perpendicularly to the flow of movement.

Materials were used as an expression of the intended use of a space, with the mainly external boat building hall and the retaining wall of the library cast in concrete, while the more intimate space of the bar/buffet was constructed from timber sandwich panels and wrapped internally in ply.
THE AIM OF MY PROJECT WAS TO PLACE EMPHASE ON THE LINER ASPECT OF THE CANAL AND TO MAINTAIN THE MOVEMENT THROUGH THE SITE. THE USE OF RAMPS THROUGHOUT ENCOURAGES THIS FLOW TO CONTINUE, WHILE ALSO BRINGING PEOPLE CLOSER TO THE WATER.

COMPUTER MODELS OF WORKSHOP AND RESTAURANT
The site lies on a point half way along the canal, between the city of Limerick and the surrounding countryside. The canal establishes an important link between the two. This link attracts between the university, Limerick city centre and encompasses various other communities along the waterways in the region.

The site is predominantly used by people in the nearby community as well as a myriad of people who walk, run and cycle the paths and routes along the canal. It is situated beside a bike path which provides access to both sides of the canal and is part of the "important public space for the local as well as passers by."

In contrast to this dynamic energy of life on the banks of the canal, the water remains stagnant. This situation is due to the fact the existing locks at the site have not been used for over twenty years. Presently there is an opportunity for the site to reform itself. I am proposing a "link" space on the banks of the canal. The intention of this space is to harness and control the flow of people through the site in order to generate an energy that will manifest itself in the social club. With the inclusion of a boat building facility I hope to see the canal valued as an important resource and integral part of the social club. In time there may be a possibility that the locks are re-opening. Linking the social club to Shannon River club, the University rowing club and the various other clubs and communities along the river Shannon.

facade concept: modules of boat section

concept model of lock space: controlling the flow through the site

concept section: developing a relationship with the canal

concept drawing for internal relationships
The project site is located in Moyross, a housing estate on the North side of Limerick City. Groups of houses and green spaces make up Moyross. Moyross is in close proximity to the new Thomond Park stadium and they are both linked through Ballyvanny, another smaller north side housing estate.

The project site is also accessed from the main road through moyross. The site slopes down to a main road that links the city’s train station with the west of Ireland. The site currently has a community centre, credit union and creche that are in operation.

The project aims to create a fluid route between two tall stand alone buildings. A tower sits like a lantern on top of a heavy concrete base that is level to the main street. This tower, designed in a different language to the surrounding houses, reflects the height and different language of Thomond Park, creating two points that enclose this route between them.

Within the site itself, the architecture of the proposed building aims to create a sense of movement. On entering the building from either the train stop or the road the architecture promotes constant movement, navigat-
Health As Infrastructure
Garryglass site, Limerick City
Piaras Ó Bolgoidh

Garryglass site:
A sense of detachment from the overall cityscape exists on entering the site. Although there is no physical separation, a different, less tangible barrier exists between those entering the site. A transitional stage, a feeling of being left in a parallel plane to the city and immersed in a private world. A feeling of being watched.

A peripheral site within Limerick City, removed from the site lacking defined edges to the site, as comforted centre.

The distinct elements of the Garryglass site:

Reinterpretation of the Garryglass site by means of an ambiguous sequence of spaces within the indefinite extent of the site.

Dock trade (primary trade, leading through sequence of spaces)

Roof plan

Ground floor

Service space (secondary trade, defining service square)
1:500 Site Plan

1:200 Cross Section

1:200 Cross Section
Limerick has a beautiful location by the river Shannon and boating has a strong history in the city. The brief of this project was to provide a boat building space for the community around the canal as a social club. The site at the bridge has a designated public space and is a place to sit down on a well-frequented running walking and cycling route. The concept revolved around the floor level of the workshop being below the water table allowing the entry/exit of a person working to be same as a person kayaking. The canal would again become operational by replacing new gates at the lock, thus flushing the dirty water from the canal and replacing it with a constantly regulated water flow. Only then does the canal present itself as an amenity for a kayaking and boat building community.

The building is largely open to the elements and may even frequently flood. The ground floor is accessed by the water and the first floor is accessed at the level of the running path. The insulated shell of the building is split in two with a meeting room, hardware shop, store room, restaurant and kitchen all contained on the first floor. The first floor is a suspended mezzanine where the public can look upon the water as it enters the shell of the building. A 1.5 m in-situ reinforced concrete beam 3.7 m long supports the cross beams leaving a totally open facade for kayakers and boatersmen to enter and exit the workshop. A rear park area overlooking the lock mechanism is also provided between the east facade of the building and the beautiful stone park bridge.
Moyross Social Club

The area of Moyross is extensively surrounded by run-down, security fencing, Cold, harsh and menacing it appears to envelope the community. The site we were presented with (an area intended for community use) is itself surrounded by this imposing architectural element. When one considers the function of the fence, it serves to either keep in or keep out but its extra presence in the neighborhood suggests a more serious problem is at hand. I attempted to address this issue of the fence as a boundary and how through penetrating these borders, possibilities may arise for a new, or even slightly different social order.

The site itself has great potential in that it lies sandwiched between a main road running through the community (to the south of the site) and a railway line adjacent to the north of the site which could connect the site to Limerick city (the East) and Ennis (the West). So this area can become a focal point of connection to the city proper and the rest of Ireland. The idea of connection is something to a wider area is something that could be of benefit to the community on the edge of the city. A place that literally borders the countryside. My project proposes the placement of a railway platform behind the building to fulfill this potential.

Another thing that characterizes the site is the slope. The ground gently slopes about 5m from the road at the front of the site to the crest of the bank at the railway line. It seemed that this natural ground condition needed to be taken into account during the design process.

The building consisting of two separate volumes linked on the first floor sits at the back of the site. The break in building allows for a threeway/entrance to the railway platform to be created. Approaching the building one is met by a group of big steps separating the entrance of the building and the threeway. The dimensions of the steps offer one to comfortably sit or tally, lie back while watching an outdoor performance or local festivities. At the foot of these stairs lies the entrance.

The plan of the building lies open with few doors. Opportunities arise where the function of one room may overlap the other and sometimes there is a chance to interrupt a scene if a certain room is in use. The social club needed to have limited boundaries in the hope of creating a place that nurtures mutual respect.
Garryglass Square.
My initial interpretation was that the social housing area, which Garryglass Square is a part of, was somehow cut off or segregated in some way from the city as a whole.

The area seemed to be suffering from a stagnation of sorts. The manifestation of this is a gangland mentality and a somewhat hostile environment.

The design solution should attempt to address this by creating an attraction that would draw people to the area from the greater area.

Burren, Rock and Tree.
What on a visit to the Burren, another hostile environment, I observed this rock and tree and the relationship they had.
They are situated in an area that has a strong westerly prevailing wind that prevents the growth of thick vegetation.
I admired the strategy of the tree, which used the shelter of the rock in order to gain a foothold, from there was able to grow, gather strength and edge its way slowly into the wind.
The weaker more delicate entity takes advantage of it relationship with the stronger entity to provide a situation which nurtures growth. This is the strategy I hoped to apply to my scheme.

Below left: A plan of light at the top of a room in the Alhambra.
Below centre: The limited use of light in the Arabic Baths creates a protected feeling in the room.
Below right: The site is a square that has a slight intersection with the Hyde Road.
Throughout the project I referred back to the Rock and Tree, to examine their relationship. I used them as a metaphor to explain the relationship between Club, Community and City. I also referred to them to dictate forms taking on the hard and impermeable nature of the rock, for a structural concept mimicking the tree and its delicate, complex and well-articulated timber structure.
My initial reaction to the site was inspired by the lack of playing spaces for the kids of the area. The children we met on site put up an automatic defensive front which led me to think about where they could go to escape feeling that they had to act this way. In similar housing estates a simple tree proved enough to inspire play and imagination in the local kids, in Garryglass even nature was absent. My project, therefore, aims to provide a place for the kids to go to be themselves with a separation from the “adult world”.
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