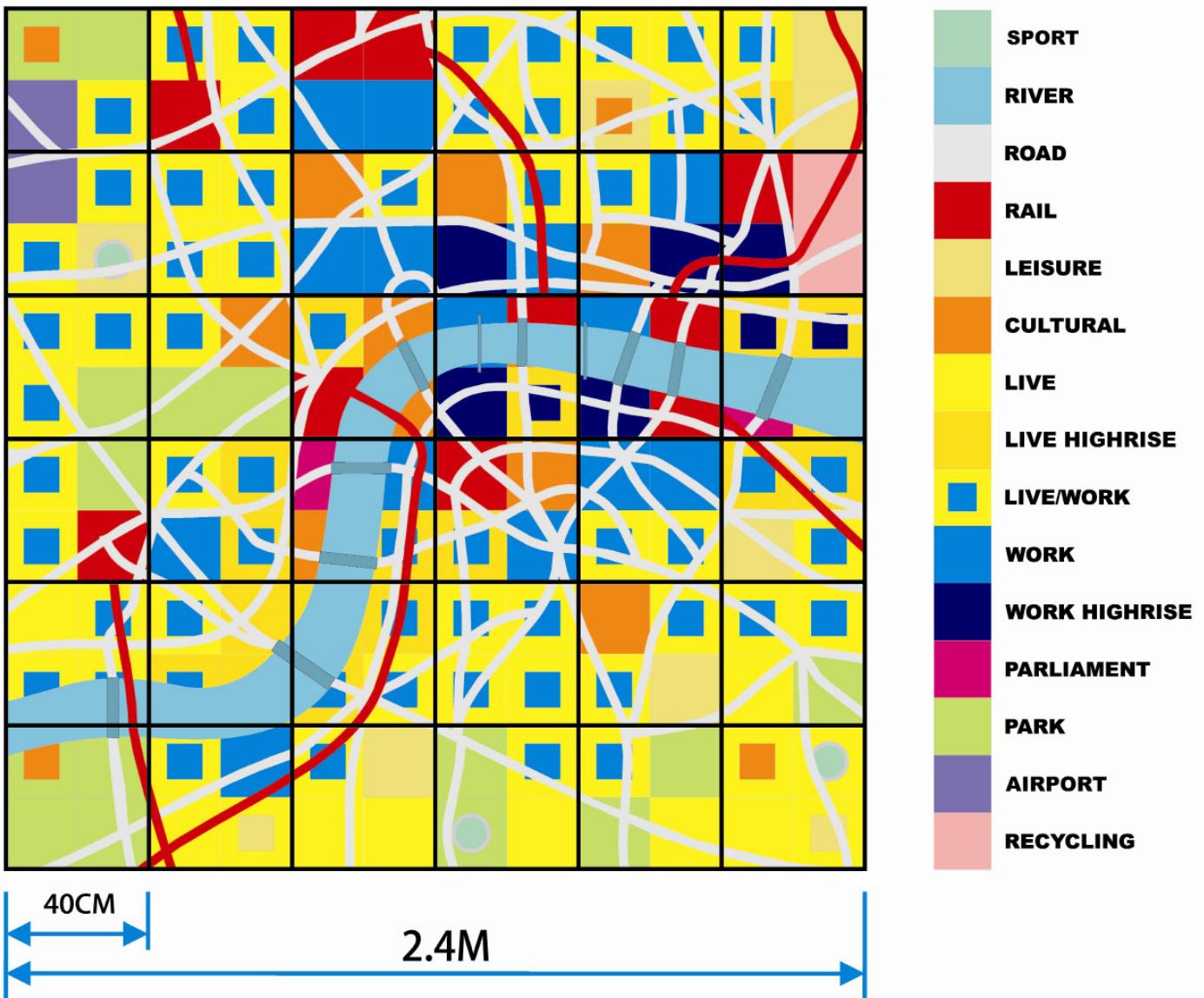


From the House to the City

Children's Workshop



Concept and design
by Mike Fairbrass



Taipei Fine Arts Museum – Family Workshops



Design Museum – Family Workshops

Workshop Proposal

Description

The workshop is designed to introduce children to architecture, from the house to the city, by giving them an overview of the processes of design – discuss ideas, sketch a design for a building and create a model within the context of a city.

Using a map of London, each child will be allocated a plot of land and building type such as residential, office, park, cultural centre etc and asked to create a design. Children are encouraged to consider the layout of the city and how building types relate to each other and how this may influence their design. An architectural modelmaker will give a brief overview of each building type and the modelmaker and volunteers will give hands-on advice and guidance on how to realise the children's model design using recycled and modelmaking materials.

The children will gain knowledge of how buildings are designed within a city and the relationship between buildings and public spaces. They will also develop their communication skills by sharing their ideas within the group. At the end of the workshop, all children will present their designs to the group and their models will be displayed on the map to create a new city.

Preparation

I will provide the artwork for a 2.4 m x 2.4m paper map of London. It is assumed Open City will print out the artwork ie two copies of the map - one to use as a map and another copy to cut and mount each square onto foam board to represent the 30 plots of land (2 per child). One square foamboards represent a building or development area.

Open City will provide a venue to host the workshop and supply tables and chairs for the children to work on. They will also recruit architecture students to volunteer on the day. On the day, the volunteers will prepare 15 boxes full of mixed materials to allow one materials box per child.

It is assumed Open City will advertise the workshop and recruit participants in advance.

How the activity will be run

The modelmaker will give a brief introduction to the workshop, explain the map, the plots of land and the difference between building types. The facilitators will provide each child with paper and pencil to sketch their design and give them a box containing a selection of materials such as card, cotton, straws etc to build their design. The facilitators and volunteer students will help all children with their designs. The workshop would run for two hours with one hour either side to set up the room and clear the room after the workshop.



Taipei Fine Arts Museum – Workshop



Taipei Fine Arts Museum – Complete City Model



Taipei Fine Arts Museum – Group Photo



Taipei Fine Arts Museum – Gallery Space

The importance of the Workshop

The workshop is a hands-on creative activity which teaches children to use models as part of design. By designing a model using various materials, each child will learn how different materials, including recycled materials can help to communicate ideas. Children will also be encouraged to think about their surrounding space and the built environment in the context of the city.

Result of Workshop

Each child will take away their models.

Evaluation

Once the city map is complete with models, the whole map will be photographed by one of the volunteers. Also, each child will be individually photographed with their final models (permission from parents to be sought in advance).

The event will be evaluated by asking children/and or parents to complete a short evaluation form prepared in collaboration with Open City.

Resourcing

The workshop will be run in collaboration with Open City facilitators, a modelmaker and possibly two architecture students from local universities to volunteer to help on the day. I would suggest a maximum of 15 children aged 5 – 10 in the group, with one family member or carer in addition.

Budget

It is anticipated the venue would be supplied for free but hopefully in a public area where passers-by have the opportunity to view the live activity. In addition, allow £500 to buy a selection of materials as listed below, printing costs for the maps and foamboard for the squares.

Materials

Participants to be encouraged to bring in recycled materials such as paper cups, magazines, cereal boxes, straws, drink cartons etc from home where possible but also a small selection of materials will be provided and include:
Thin card various colours, some with patterns/mirror/metallic; foamboard sheets 3mm / 5mm thick; acetate thin clear sheet; string; sellotape / double sided sticky tape; PVA glue; pins / staplers / round end scissors; water based colouring pens / glitter / metallic pens etc; packs of balsa strip/square section; flock – green stuff to show planting; cutting mats; safety knives / snap off blades; coloured bendy straws; pritt stick/ Uhu glue; cotton; coloured acetate; sand paper; colour photocopies of images of trees of local landmarks/trees etc to cut out ; Balsa wood strips, flat pieces, easy to cut; and metal safety rulers



Taipei Education Space – Workshops



Taipei Education Space – Workshops

Key messages concerning architecture and design

Each child will gain an insight into scale, from the house to the city, and how models are used in design. They will be asked to think about questions such as which way does the sun move across your site? Do you want a view from your building? Is there a road next to your development generating noise? All of these questions will help children to understand the real constraints architects face when designing a building.

Experience

I have over 20 years experience as a modelmaker and am a visiting lecturer on the BA Modelmaking course at Bournemouth Arts Institute.

I have run this workshop at the Design Museum in 2008 and at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum in 2010. I will prepare and run the workshop again in collaboration with the British Council in Hong Kong in June 2012.

Quote from Chaoying Wu, Chief Curator, Taipei Fine Arts Museum

"During the family workshops, kids are having fun with their parents when they create models together. They shared their ideas and tried to visualise thoughts by making models of buildings."

Quote from Michael Czerwinski, Public Programme Coordinator Design Museum, London

"As a little boy said after the workshop "Architecture is no longer a single building, but a part of the environment." It's remarkable to see children considering their architectural designs in the context of a city."

I regularly run workshops at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners where I am the Head of Modelmaking. Recently I organised a workshop for 13-14 year olds in collaboration with the Sorrell Foundation. During the workshop, the teenagers were invited to make models of their school with my guidance.

I have also taken part in Open House at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners and given tours for adults and children of the modelshop.

Please contact me for more details:

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