

State of the Legacy: interrogating a decade of 'Olympic regeneration' in east London

Participatory Action & Arts Research around the Olympic Park: from citizen science to socially engaged practice

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Participatory – PAR/PAR

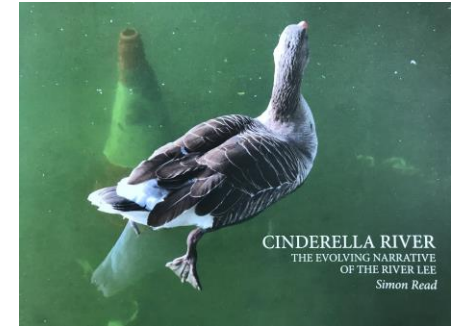
Participatory Action Research

- it is driven by participants (a group of people who have a stake in the issue being researched), rather than an outside sponsor, funder or academic
- it offers a democratic model of who can produce, own and use knowledge
- it is collaborative at every stage, involving discussion, pooling skills and working together
- it is intended to result in some action, change or improvement on the issue being researched
- Follows a Cycle: *Planning, Action, Reflection, Evaluation*
- PAR is an approach not a method; including **Participatory Arts...**

...Participatory Arts Research

- Participatory arts research involves the process of research/action (art production/engagement) and reflection on a phenomenon, issue or expressed problem
- often site, community and thematic based
- uses participatory art & design activities and experiences
- promotes creative agency in participants
- findings of the research can confirm that participatory arts can be a transformative, facilitating tool for stimulating relational knowledge and critical consciousness, making the research process a shared experience of collaboration and learning

Methods & Practice



- 1. Governance and stakeholder mapping**
- 2. Walking and static interviews** Map walks, cycles; route maps with local groups (London Wildlife Trust, Thames Water, LB Waltham Forest/Hackney, LLDC, Canals Trust) & rangers, birders, anglers, local communities and (non)-users; guided walks/surveys
- 3. Secondary data textual analysis** archive of community consultation documents and social media data (from platforms: official/non-official Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram accounts re. these hydro sites); spatial data analysis & mapping (GIS)
- 4. Cultural mapping/GIS participation** surveys & workshops with local communities regarding access, use, safety, perceptions/ecosystems values & heritage around Olympic Park, Lee River/Canal, Hackney Wick, Fish and Three Mills Islands
- 5. Collaborative community engagement events/festivals** (Hackney Wick CC Festivals, *Love the Lea* (Walthamstow Marshes), Hidden (New)River, National Mills Festival, London Architecture Festival (Three Mills))
- 6. Co-designed installations** design/citizen science: *Active Energy* Turbine @Three Mills, water quality/sediment sampling, Wetlands Exhibition; architecture student heritage re-use design project and exhibitions @Three Mills; Water Turbine Aerator refurbished and installed by Aquatic Centre, Olympic Park + Geezers workshops with Bow School - design and constructing models of turbines, launch in Park.

Hackney Wick & Fish Island *Connected Communities Festival*





DEN-CITY

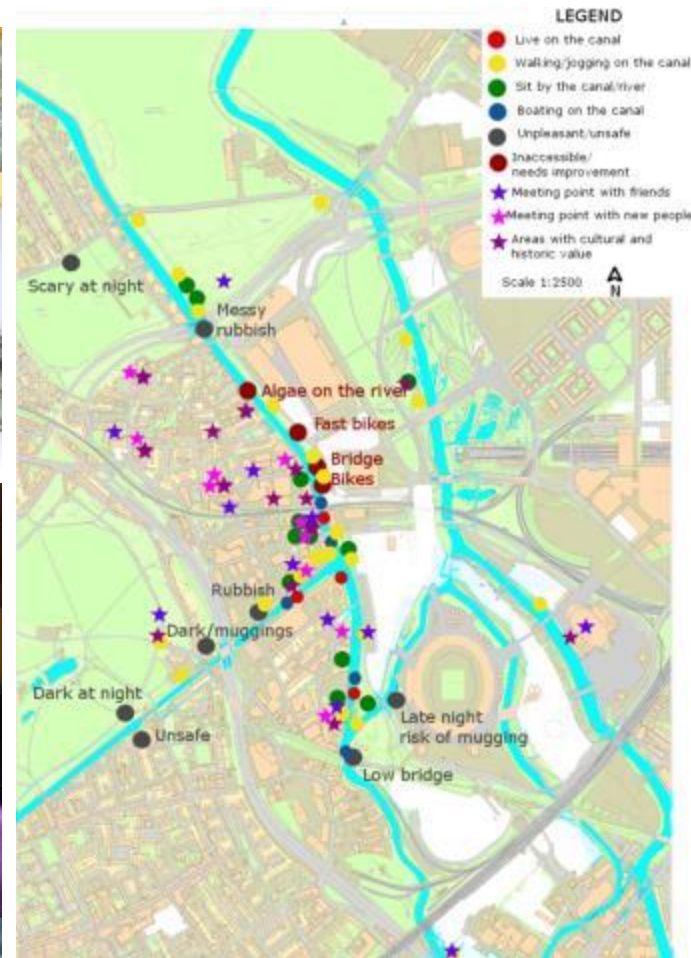
WITH LONDON FESTIVAL ARCHITECTURE
 JUNE 26-28 - HACKNEY WICK
 Curated by REBECCA FEINER

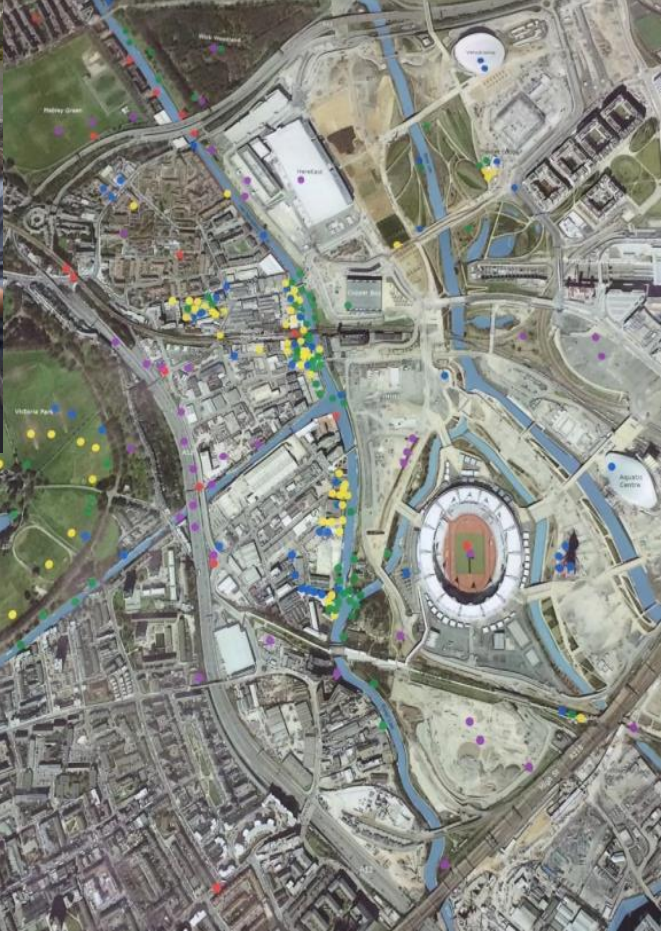




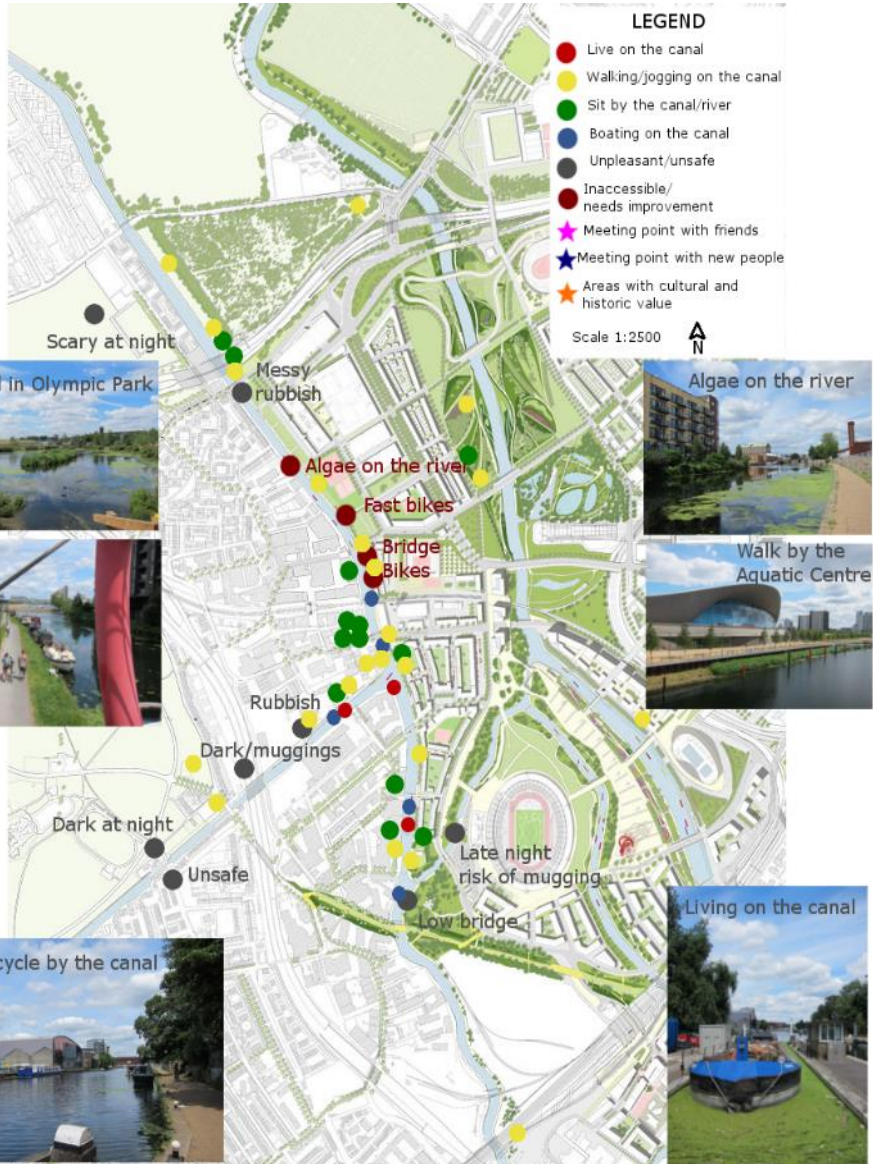
Cultural Mapping

Using visualisation and participation to capture uses and perceptions of space





Mapping Analysis



The river Lea is one of the most polluted rivers in the UK. Recent storm water surges (after a long dry spell) washed pollutants from the roads into the Lea killing hundreds if not thousands of fish (the pollutant depriving the fish of oxygen)...



Save the River

The River Lea is one of the most polluted rivers in the UK. Raw sewage and waste water flows through the Lea Valley every day.

Water & Sediment quality sampling

Evaluating the impacts of an urban catchment on water and sediment quality of a receiving river

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The European Union Water Framework Directive (EU WFD) aims to ensure that all European surface and groundwaters achieve good chemical and ecological status by 2027. Whilst water quality has been the focus of much research, little has been done with regard to sediment quality. Within this context, this study will evaluate the impacts of an urban catchment on water and sediment quality of a receiving river.

The Lower Lee catchment in North London is the focus of this research project. It is a local example of an urban water body which has been heavily modified over the last 100 years to cope with increasing urbanisation by reducing flood risk. It receives major discharges of treated sewage effluent and is also in receipt of multiple surface water discharges from both combined and separate surface water sewer systems.



The research will involve a combination of field, laboratory and desk-based studies. Field work will involve the collection of water and sediment samples from 10 sites selected to represent variations in drainage and land use activities. Samples will be analysed for heavy metals (cadmium, lead, mercury, nickel, zinc and copper) and persistent organic pollutants (PAHs (anthracene, fluoranthene, naphthalene, benzo(a)pyrene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, benzo(e)pyrene), diphenylhexyl phthalate, polychlorinated biphenyls and dieldrin).

Map of the Lower Lee catchment pilot

Laboratory work will focus on the use of batch tests to further enhance understanding of the process of pollutant release from sediment to water. In combination with field data, these results will be used to ground truth the results of a substance flow analysis (a theoretical approach to predicting pollutant loads entering surface waters).



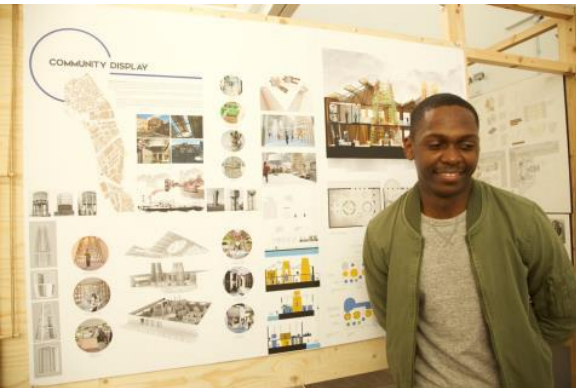
The general concept of substance flow analysis. The different colours represent different applications of a substance, such as use in different goods, production processes, etc.

The combined output of this research will inform the development of a GIS-based model to enable stakeholders, e.g. the Environment Agency, to identify and prioritise pollutant sources within a catchment based on their potential to negatively impact water and sediment quality.

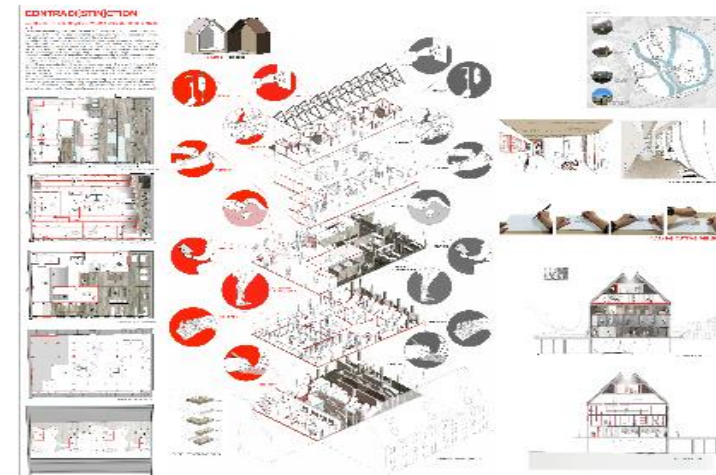


Water quality/Sediment testing, mapping of land-use, sources of pollution, environmental impacts and community engagement (site catchments); touring exhibition and visualisation of results – **sediment=heavy metals but not recorded in official measure of water quality...**

Waterside heritage re-use design

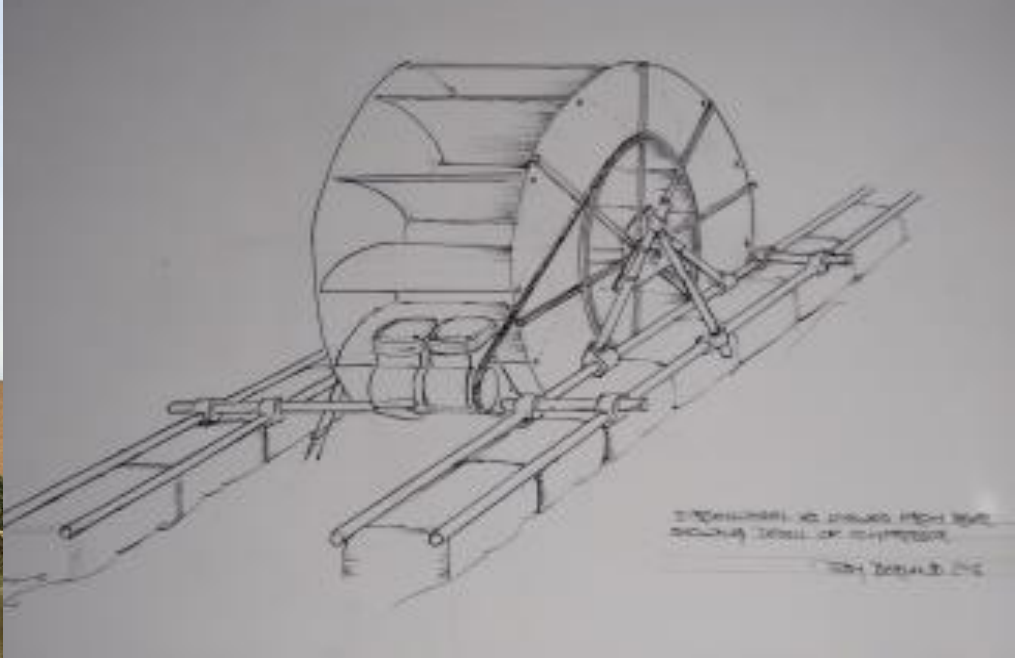


- 2nd & 3rd year projects
- Exhibition @ Hub 67 Centre
- London Festival of Architecture @ Three Mills

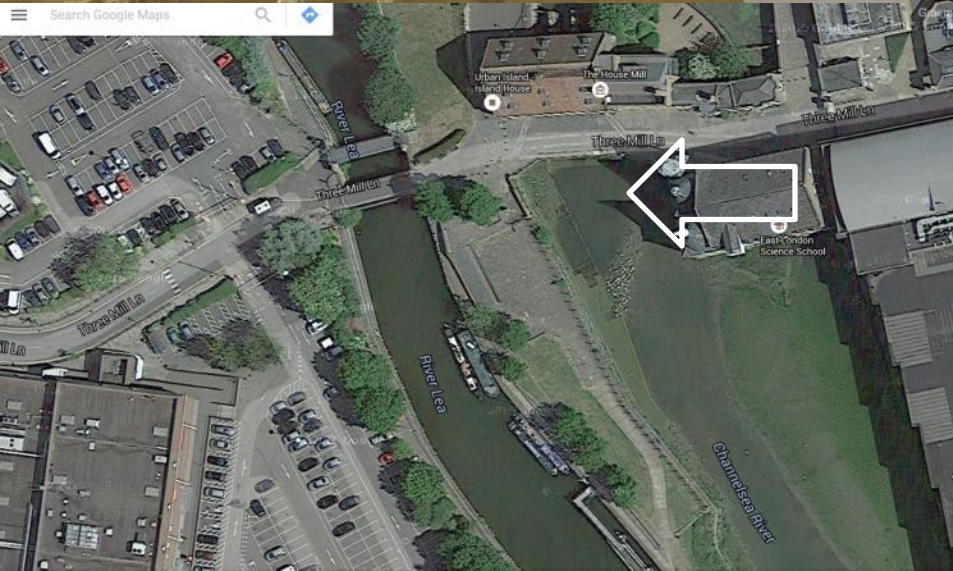


Active Energy and The Geezers at Three Mills, Bow

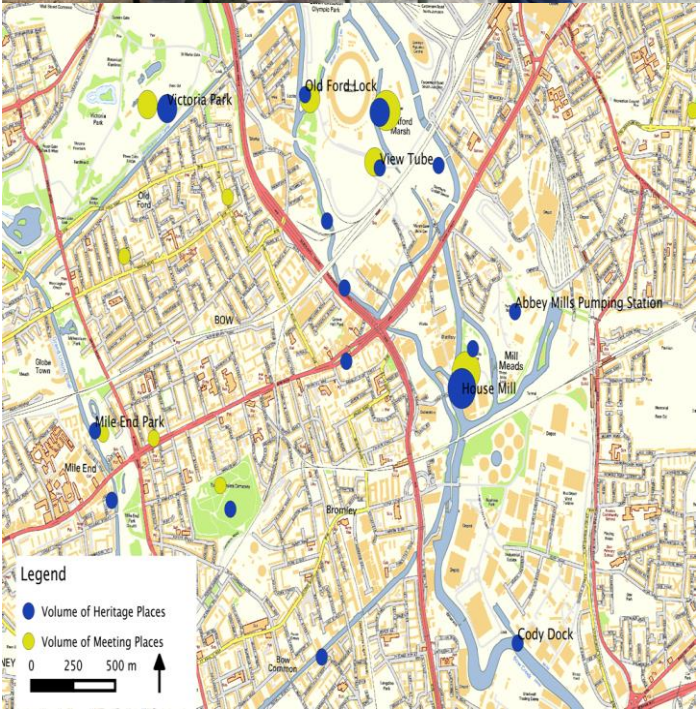




ENGINEERING AS DRAWN FROM THE
DRAWING BOOK OF 1847
THE ZEPHYRUS

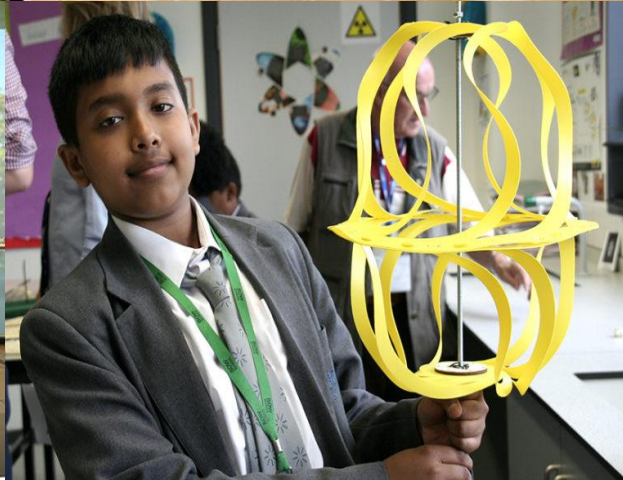


Community engagement and heritage mapping at Three Mills



Phase II

Water Turbine redesigned and relocated to Aquatic Centre;
Workshops with Bow School and launch in Olympic Park



Publications

(2023 *in progress*) London 2012 (4th edn.) & 3rd edn (2017) London 2012. In: Gold & Gold (eds) *Olympic Cities: City Agendas, Planning and the World's Games, 1896-2020*. Routledge: 378-399

(2021) Community Engagement in Climate Change Policy: The Case of Three Mills East London, In: *Governance of Climate Responsive Cities - Exploring Cross-Scale Dynamics*. Springer: 59-78

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(2017) *The role of culture, sport and heritage in place shaping*. London: DCMS CASE Evidence

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(2016) The Lee Valley: an industrial river system and heritage landscape, In: *Necessit. Dell'oblio Patrimoni E Paesaggi Costruiti Dall'acqua*, University of Venice, Dipartimento di Culture del Progetto: 90-102

(2015) Cultural Mapping and Planning for Sustainable Communities. In: *Cultural Mapping as Cultural Inquiry*. Routledge: 45-68

(2014). Designing legacy and the legacy of design: London 2012 and the Regeneration Games. *Architectural Research Quarterly*, 18(4), 3534-366.

Questions

