

MAPPING LLANDEILO

What

- We are running a three-week project with 1st and 2nd year BA architecture students at the Welsh School of Architecture (<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/archi/vs2013/>).
- The project focuses on the collaborative production of a living vision document that can be used by community stakeholders, planners, designers and architects to inform a coherent strategy for improving the public realm.
- We would like to use Llandeilo as the context of our project. At the core of our project we are planning to hold a mapping workshop with the residents of Llandeilo and the architecture students. The main idea is to come together to discuss the local environment of Llandeilo, to identify the needs and wishes of the community and to create a series of experimental, mixed-media maps informed by local knowledge, stories and dreams for the future.
- Beyond the two-day workshop in Llandeilo, the students will work on collating the outcomes of the mapping workshop in a living vision document in the form of a blog. We would like to handover the blog to the residents of Llandeilo following the conclusion of the three-week project.

How

- The core of the project will revolve around a series of activities in Llandeilo where residents and students meet and work together to survey, map and re-imagine Llandeilo. This will be a mix of focused and ad-hoc activities.
- A resident-led walk with the students to talk about different aspects of the local environment and to identify spaces for potential transformations. Students will document and collect local stories and knowledge using various media.
- A mapping workshop. Following the walks residents and students will collage their findings in the form of maps of Llandeilo.
- Outside the focused activities we hope that Llandeilo residents will pop-in to our temporary workshop space to share their thoughts about Llandeilo with the students.

Who

- Llandeilo residents who live, work and care about Llandeilo. We would like to include as many different community members as possible so as to create as rich and diverse a picture of the town.
- Approximately ten 1st and 2nd year BA architecture students from the Welsh School of Architecture
- Project tutors: Hannah Jones & Mark Hauenstein
- Hannah is a lecturer in design futures and a researcher based in the department of design at Goldsmiths, University of London. Originally from Cardiff, Hannah has

facilitated 2 previous projects with the students from the Welsh School of Architecture, mapping spaces in the Cardiff Bay area and the Civic Centre of Cardiff. Hannah's doctoral research focuses upon how we collectively practice 'awkward space' in cities and her methodology supports a creative and collaborative approach to working with spaces that urban inhabitants define as awkward.

(<http://www.gold.ac.uk/design/staff/jones/>)

- Mark is a research fellow based in the Interaction Research Studio at Goldsmiths, University of London. Mark's research focuses upon how people engage with digital technologies in their everyday lives. Mark is currently working on the development of a range of digital mapping tools.

(<http://www.gold.ac.uk/interaction/>)

Where & When

- We envisage the mapping workshop to happen over two days in Llandeilo between April 24th and April 28th. We would like to establish concrete dates with the people who indicate their interest in participating in the workshop.
- We imagine occupying a vacant space in the centre of Llandeilo that can become a temporary base for our group activities with residents and students.
- Two weeks later, following the conclusion of the student project we would like to hold a small exhibition / event in Llandeilo to show the final maps produced by the students. This will also be an opportunity to handover the blog that we will setup to document the project.
- The complete student project will run from April 22nd to May 10th

Why

Following a meeting and discussion with local residents and design professionals, we think that Llandeilo with its diverse range of local groups and wonderful landscape would provide an ideal context for our project.

- **Benefits for the residents of Llandeilo**
 - an opportunity to come together, take part in a local event and discuss the local environment
 - to enjoy working with students to co-produce a series of experimental and creative maps
 - to work towards a living vision document and inform and stimulate future developments/improvements in the town
 - to create positive momentum in the town following the disruptive impact of the currently ongoing road works
- **Benefits for the project tutors**
 - to apply their ongoing research that covers a combination of interdisciplinary collaboration methods and spatial mapping techniques
 - to create a reference project that can lead to future projects in other localities

- to use their methods and processes in a rural context following previous case studies in urban contexts, such as Hackney, London
- **Benefits for the students**
 - to experience working directly with inhabitants of a space and understand why their local knowledge matters
 - to learn about participatory design and alternatives to top-down approaches to development
 - to learn about map making and acquire skills in hands on as well as digital mapping techniques

Requests

- **Participants**

We are looking for residents to participate in our mapping workshop in Llandeilo.
- **Space**

We are looking for an accessible and empty venue in the centre of Llandeilo that we can use to run our group activities with residents and students. We also need tables and chairs for the workshop. An ideal space would be an empty shop or an easily accessible room in a communal building.
- **Dates**

Due to project dates set by the Welsh School of Architecture, our ideal window for coming to Llandeilo with the students for a couple of days is from April 24th to April 28th. One suggestion from our side is to hold the focused workshop on Friday 27th and to use Saturday 28th for more ad-hoc discussions between students and residents where residents can pop-in to the temporary workshop space.
- **Funding**

We are looking for funding to cover some of the cost for transport, accommodation and creative tools.

Diolch, thank you

Contacts

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