

Studio 3 - Jonathan Hendry / Mark Tuff

Periphery

We are interested in exploring the underlying potentials of working in the periphery, away from the city in less charted territory. We will explore the potential for making architecture that challenges the usual constraints associated with working within a social-political framework driven by traditionalism. We will seek to make contemporary architecture that relates to its place and at the same time addresses a wider cultural discourse.

This regional, non-metropolitan question is an important one. Around 91% of land in the UK is non-urban but as our developed land spreads, the need to make specific and memorable places and buildings becomes ever more urgent.

Understanding your relationship with place will require you to get under its skin; to explore its background and the memories stitched into its fabric. These memories will help you shape your thoughts, grounding your proposals in a specific, local way.

We hope for unpredictable outcomes that are motivated by an understanding of a place through a rigorous process of observation, selective abstraction and analysis.

Place

We will start the year by visiting Robin Hoods Bay on the exposed North East coast of England, with a view to understanding the settlement. Through careful and thoughtful looking, recording and interpreting, you will be expected to investigate the town's structure, layout, scale, complexity, orientation, materiality, landscapes. These investigations will be explored against the backdrop of the seasons, its economy, its social structure/integration, issues of viability and concepts of sustainability.

The outcomes of this study will form the basis of a studio catalogue - a point of reference for the rest of the year's work.



Top
We will explore issues of memory, impression and spatial reading/mis-reading

Above
Robin Hoods Bay is at once vulnerable, sublime, raw and intricate

Settlement

You will use these observations and understandings to develop strategic proposals for Robin Hoods Bay. These settlement-wide strategies will consider questions of urban form and public realm configuration. They will encompass a broad range of programmes, each one relevant to the economic and community issues that you have found in Robin Hoods Bay.

Material

You will then go on to develop one of these programmes, drawn from the consequences of understanding the settlement. You will find a place within the settlement that has the potential to support your project's programme(s). You will sniff out and record the characteristics that make this place; like your settlement study - only this time at a larger scale. Addressing issues like material compatibility, proximity, connections, perception, surrounding objects, tensions, the light, views, surroundings, coherence and form. You will forage locally looking for a material that will enable you to make a building that has specific atmospheric qualities but at the same time deals with imposed constructional requirements technical limitations and sustainability. Your studies at this stage will be large, immersive and real, working with the physical, not the imaginary.

Atmosphere

You will conclude your work with a spatial investigation of a chosen space within your building. You will test and record the appropriate three dimensional, spatial and atmospheric qualities specifically required for their use. You will again address issues (this time at the micro scale) like material compatibility, air, sound, memory, perception, judgment, emotion, surrounding objects, tensions, the light, functionality, arrangement, finish and habitation.



Above

We will work with a material understanding

Right

The specifics of spatial atmosphere, material and occupation will be explored



Jonathan Hendry is principal of Jonathan Hendry Architects

Mark Tuff is a partner at Sergison Bates architects