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# 2018 Annual Review

Architecture and Design Scotland



# Be part of our network

**Architecture and Design Scotland** is a small organisation with a big vision - a well-designed built environment that supports sustainable, resilient communities meeting the needs of all.

We can't achieve that on our own – we work with a whole range of people that help shape the places around us. In 2018 we continued to grow our network – through the work we did and by making new contacts in communities.

The benefits are clear: rather than duplicating work that is already being done we join the dots, share our experience and provide support.

Our experience and networks allow us to bring organisations together to create the best places for Scotland – everything from housing and early years' experiences to meanwhile spaces and significant infrastructure investments.

Here are some highlights of our work in 2018.

## Design Advice: Health

£650m

We delivered advice on health-related projects worth over £650m throughout Scotland. We worked with 146 people to develop briefs for 8 new projects.

## Housing

15,000

We advised on the delivery of over 15,000 new homes through our design advice.

## Design Advice: Schools

300

We worked with over 300 people through our design support for schools.

## Making Places

27

We helped 27 communities understand more about their places and the potential to develop their project ideas.

## Town Centre Living

16

We published 16 guest blogs on A Caring Place.

## LAUDF

99

99 representatives from 30 organisations attended the Local Authority Urban Design Forum in 2018.

## The Place Standard

1,600

Reached 250 local authority officers and 1,600 individuals with The Place Standard. There have been 2 translations of the Place Standard – Danish and Dutch.

## Materials Library

3188

A new digital resource was launched in January gaining 3188 new users in the process. We took part in 17 events this year.

## Tests of Change

100

100 pupils and design students showcased our Tests of Change process at the Education Buildings Scotland Conference in November.

## The Happenstance

52,000

35,000 visitors during a six-month run at the Architecture Biennale in Venice. We welcomed 17,000 people to the exhibition in Scotland and engaged with over 1,300 young people to create its content.

## Best Use of Timber Awards

1,940

The exhibition toured to 3 venues. Visitors cast 1,940 votes to share their favourite project.

## Pre-Design Advice Housing

We met with 18 organisations and agencies to introduce this new service.

18

## Communications

886

In 2018 we produced 14 newsletters and attracted 886 new Twitter followers. We gained an additional 574 new followers on Instagram.

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“It demonstrates the power of architecture, however rough and ready, to bring people together in an open, messy, joy-filled space.”  
*Oliver Wainwright, The Guardian.*



Image: Basharat Khan

## Scotland+Venice: The Happenstance

2018 was Scotland’s Year of Young People. It was also the year of the International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia. For A&DS these two facts came together in The Happenstance.

The Happenstance explored how public spaces can change depending on how we choose to use them.

Artists WAVEparticle (supported by the Scotland + Venice partnership) brought together a collective of architects and artists. They worked with groups of children and young people in

Scotland to explore freespace. Their stories were shared, and experiences repeated, with communities in Venice.

In Venice we created a “freespace” in the garden of Palazzo Zenobio. This space was opened to the local community. This was a space where they could create, play, sit in the shade or show a film they had made.

Everyone who came into the space was given permission to contribute. This was a truly free space.

### *How we helped...*

- *Profiled Scotland on an international stage.*
- *Worked with communities to explore place.*
- *Brought together a network of communities.*



Image: Basharat Khan

## Linking Communities – Design Advice on Clyde Waterfront

The Renfrew Riverside Project aims to regenerate the Clyde Waterfront as an attractive riverside and urban destination to link communities and business on both sides of the river. The project brings significant investment to run down areas both sides of the river.

In 2018 A&DS provided design advice support to the City Deal team at Renfrewshire Council. The proposals included a new opening bridge link and adjacent masterplan. We facilitated two workshops with the project team and relevant planning authorities (Renfrewshire, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire Councils). We helped the client to get the best out of the routes and

development site. This included ensuring that the best urban design, landscape design and engineering solutions were brought together in successful placemaking. A&DS also supported the Local Planning Authorities on the planning application.

Through the sessions the master plan developed and we saw a stronger vision for the design of the site evolve. The vision included a greater appreciation of the landscape, and ways in which the project could 'lock' into this particular place. The project team presented an ambitious design for a twin cantilever bridge.



Image:(Detail) Kettle Collective

“While the project is an infrastructure intervention, the challenge to prove that it could [...] contribute to the overall sense of publicly accessible space and drive good quality private sector design was a positive experience.”

*Renfrewshire Council City Deal Team*

### *How we helped...*

- *Provided Design Advice on an infrastructure project.*
- *Supported the client to look at wider placemaking issues.*
- *Connected the client to our panel of experts (The Design Forum Panel).*

## Achieving a shared vision: Northern Elective Care Centre

In 2018 A&DS, together with Health Facilities Scotland, was involved with a major health project in the Highlands. The proposal was to create an innovative healthcare and life sciences multidisciplinary centre. The project is jointly delivered by NHS Highland, the University of the Highlands, and Islands and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

We worked with the project team and a range of stakeholders to help develop a shared brief for the project. This meant looking at what the patient and staff experience needed to be. It also looked at shared working and learning between health, research and business.

Early design work was driven by many constraints, some due to the site. Working with three bodies, with different financial and operational requirements also demanded careful negotiation to ensure the project would deliver for all. In aiming to resolve these issues A&DS helped keep the project focussed on the bigger picture and the experience of the building users.

Refocussing on the initial shared brief, the project team significantly developed the proposal challenging the constraints. The client was able to negotiate the site boundaries to free up some of the constraints. This meant that the build process would be more economical, freeing up funds to be spent on the patient and staff environments.

### How we helped...

- *Provided Design Advice on a health project.*
- *Supported the client to engage with the user experience.*
- *Shared our experience, learning and examples.*



Image:(Detail) Highland Council Planning Website

“The comments and the support we have had has without a doubt driven the design forward in a very positive direction and we now have a much better building for the same cost as a result of the process. Patients and staff will have a significantly better experience as a result.”

*Eric Green, NHS Highland*

## Town Centre Living: A Caring Place

In 2018 A&DS started a project to look at housing, town centres and the potential to create Caring Places. The project supports the Scottish Government's Town Centre First principle. It looks at the changing needs of care. It also responds to recent work on tackling social isolation and loneliness. We believe that Scotland's town centres can provide some of the solutions in facing these challenges.

We have been gathering evidence through international and national case studies. We have also been bringing together experts in the public and third sectors to help us understand emerging issues around care and place. We developed

placemaking 'scenario tools' to test what some of the possible components of a Caring Place might be. This shaped our thinking about how the design of services, the built environment and public realm in our town centres can better support the needs of a spectrum of older people and carers.

In 2018 we invited a range of people from across Scotland to contribute their thoughts on what constitutes and could contribute to a Caring Place. We did this through a series of blogs on our website, culminating in an event in early September. We are taking forward the learning from 2018 to offer a series of services to encourage and support town centre living.



Image: A&DS

### *How we helped...*

- *Provided Design Advice on housing.*
- *Grew a network for clients and new links with communities.*
- *Shared information for professionals involved in our town centres.*

# Architecture & Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

## Your A&DS story

In this review we have given you a snapshot of our work in 2018.

We are here to help people and organisations to create the best places for everyone in Scotland.

We are here to provide direct support – for example a range of design advice – or share some of the learning we have collected over the years. We want to highlight good work and great examples of collaboration.

## Share your stories with us:

How have we helped you in 2018?  
How would you like to work with us in the future?

Tweet your thoughts and ideas to @ArcDesSco  
#myarcdessco  
Email us [info@ads.org.uk](mailto:info@ads.org.uk)  
Call us on 0131 556 66 99.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## What you said

*“Many thanks to you all for putting together such a creative consultation. We all really enjoyed it [...] you are welcome to visit our peedie school any time you are passing.”*

*Shirley Stuart, Head Teacher,  
North Walls Community School, Orkney*

*“Congratulations to A&DS for the launch of its excellent resource for the construction sector.”*

*Stephen Boyle, Construction Waste Manager,  
Zero Waste Scotland on the online Materials resource*

*“[...] your team’s input has materially improved the scheme, which I believe is a benefit to all involved.”*

*Client, Edinburgh Park*

*“@ArcDesSco is one of the most innovative organisations working in design and environment today” (from Twitter)*

## Find out more

[www.ads.org.uk/annualreview18](http://www.ads.org.uk/annualreview18)

[@ArcDesSco](https://twitter.com/ArcDesSco)

Cover: Image from the opening of The Happenstance – Scotland’s contribution to the 16th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia. Photo by Brian Hartley.