

### STUDIO 4 EDINBURGH

Studio 4 has been concerned with the contribution that architecture can make in establishing a welcome invitation for those who feel peripheral to the perceived central stage and concerns of the city. In the way that the Fringe theatre has established its place in the Edinburgh Festival we too wish to acknowledge the potential contribution of those on the fringes of society. For the homeless, drug rehabilitators, victims of abuse, actors and artists, the poor, and others, we proposed two related projects; first a small **Urban Café** and then a **Community Health Centre**. Edinburgh was chosen because of its wide range of public spaces, the drama of its terrain, a strong tradition of urban theatre, manifestations of civic pride as represented in its architecture and the complexity of socio-political struggles between classes and cultures. There are fine buildings but urban decay erodes the health of the fabric and the people.

We worked in the Old Town focussing on the Grassmarket and adjacent areas as sites for restoration of both city and body. A space with an ambivalent role in the City, the Grassmarket has a colourfully theatrical history as a market place, a site for both medical care and crime, a gateway for royal state entry as well as departure via the gallows. As compared to the civic spaces along the Royal Mile, the Grassmarket embodies a sense of grassroots ownership and belonging, especially with its makeshift provision of day centres and shelters between burgeoning tourist and cultural facilities.

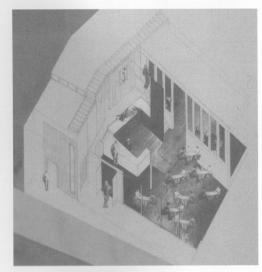
The **Urban Café** was sited on Candlemaker Row - central, but on the Grassmarket margins. The brief invited the provision of internet facilities for all participants but the homeless in particular can gain from having an email 'address' to help integrate them into the urban infrastructure of job opportunities and financial assistance.

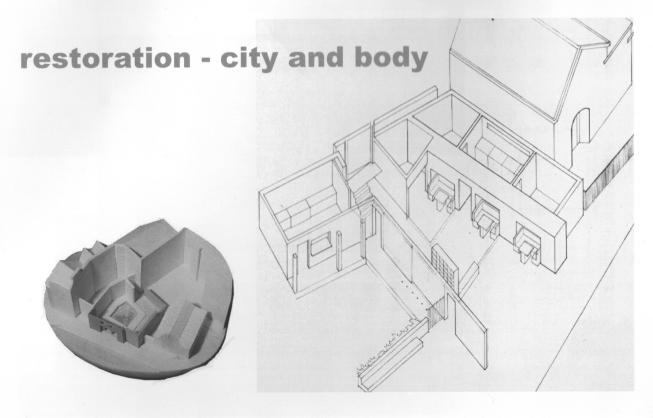
For the **Health Centre** a choice of two sites was offered, within and without the Mediaeval walls; both on steep pedestrian routes linking both upper and lower levels and upper and lower social strata: **Old Fish Market Close** is a mediaeval wynd linking Festival Fringe offices to a drop-in shelter with a three storey municipal staff carpark between; **Grannies' Green** lies below the Castle and outside the Flodden Wall. Both sites fall 20m and had much potential for community integration. One adjoined inner-city housing estates, night shelter, theatre, nursery and Parliament Square on the Royal Mile; the other adjoining Malcolm Fraser's new dance centre, a sports café, and a range of community workshops. The brief emphasised the need to situate any new proposal within the immediate and wider cultural, political, and architectural contexts.

The promotion of health was viewed by the studio in the broadest terms with the help of specialists ranging from NHS governmental advisers to artists and actors working with children and the mentally ill. We learned that community health and well-being are assured not only through traditional and complementary medical attention but also through engagement with creative and physical activities such as music, drama, art, and sports. Thus each student proposal is based on unique personal research into their selection of medical and cultural issues, encouraging social integration and health maintenance rather than crisis management. This studio aims to put the human being centre stage and we seek our architecture to be, at once, enabling, restorative and poetic.

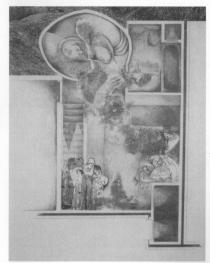
#### urban café

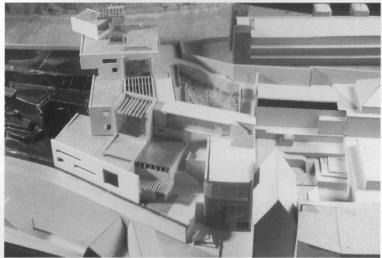


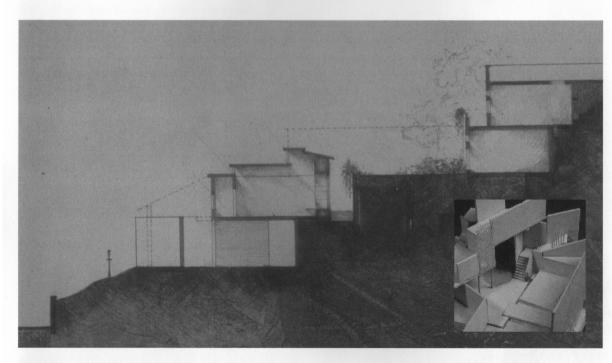


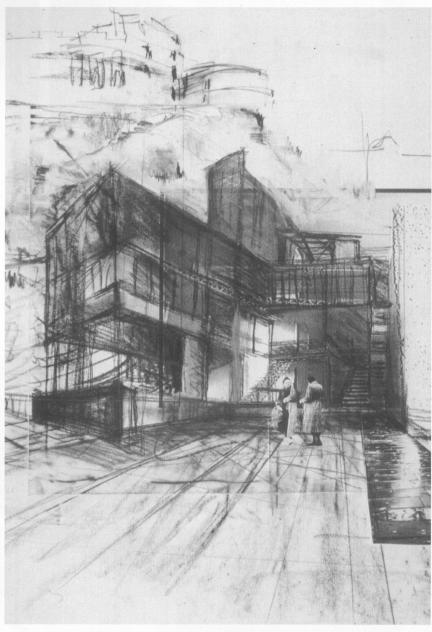


## health centre





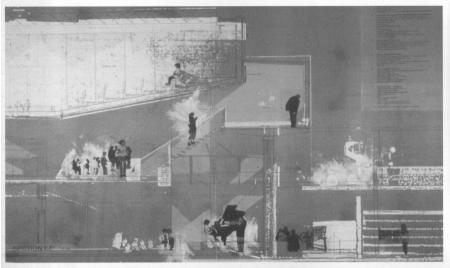


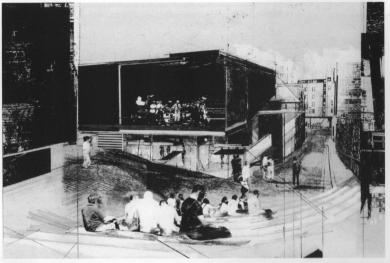


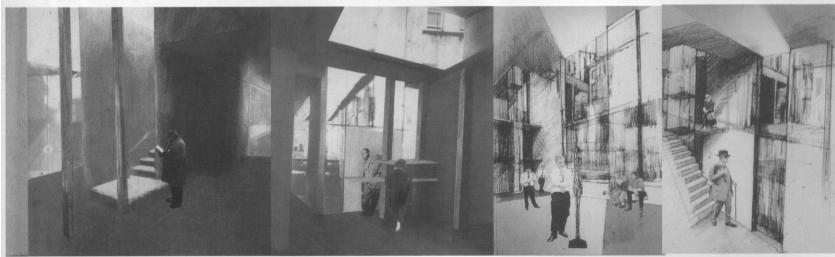
Page 20: Cafés in Candlemaker Row. Top left: Rachel Coll, café and laudromat view; top right: Robert Hirshfield, internet café, axonometric; bottom left: Louisa Bowles, café and shelter for mothers and children, a model to be held in the hand; bottom right: Emma Toogood, rehabilitation café for the homeless, axonometric.

Page 21: Health Centres on Grannies' Green. Top left: Louisa Bowles, water birth clinic, plan of birthing room; top centre: Ed Shinton, clinic and research for sports injuries, model; bottom: Emma Toogood, mood disorders clinic, section and (inset) central court model; right, Nancy Peskett, music centre, view from Grassmarket to Castle.

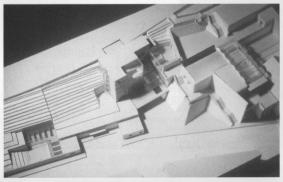
#### health centre













Page 22:

Health Centres in Old Fishmarket Close.

Top left and right, Phil Veall, centre for children's art and music, section and view of external performance in the Close;

Middle: Susie Hyden, eye clinic, four internal views - entry hall, exhibition and waiting spaces;

Bottom left: Robert Hirschfield, City Arts and Drama Centre, view of theatre;

Health Centres on Grannies' Green.

Bottom middle: James Horgan, minor emergencies clinic, model;

Bottom right: Vincent Liu, skin disorders clinic, view from café to herbal medicine greenhouse.

Page 23:

Health Centres on Grannies' Green.

Top left: Louisa Bowles, water birth clinic, axonometric,

Top middle: Vincent Liu, study model for entry hall; top right: Lucy Muggeridge, prosthetic limb clinic, section and (inset) study for articulated wall; Bottom left: Lisa Stango, eating disorders and nu-

Bottom left: Lisa Stango, eating disorders and nutrition clinic, model;

Bottom right: Nancy Peskett, music centre, first and second floor plans and view of museum.

#### staff:

Lorna Mc Neur and Peter Sparks members of the studio:

Year 3 Louisa Bowles, Lucy Muggeridge, Nancy Peskett, Lisa Stango, Emma Toogood, Phil Veall,

Year 2: Rachel Coll, Robert Hirschfield, James Horgan, Susie Hyden, Vincent Liu, Ed Shinton.

#### with many thanks to:

Clive Albert, Janet Balaskas, Marion Busch, Gary Butler, Peter Carl, John Ford, Malcolm Fraser, Gavin Hogben, Deborah Howard, Elspeth Latimer, Tom Ling, Michael McEvoy, Dagmar Motycka, Richard Murphy, Adrian Robinson, Peter Soar, Pippa Sparks, Emma Thompson, Chris Tine, Rene Tobe, Renata Tyszczuk, Jenny Holland, Pedro White, Tracey Eve Winton, Martin Ungless, Dalibor Vesely, Suzanna Wikström.

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