

Case Study 007	from www.communityplanning.net
<i>Theme</i>	Environmental education
<i>Project Title</i>	Eastbourne Schools Art & Architecture
<i>Location</i>	Eastbourne, East Sussex, UK
<i>Project leader</i>	Towner Art Gallery



Interesting use of a major building project for a new landmark art gallery in a coastal town to promote understanding and awareness for young people of the language of art, architecture and spatial planning. Professional organisations worked in partnership with the gallery to develop a programme of environmental education activity with local primary and secondary schools.

Context

- Eastbourne's Towner Art Gallery is moving from an historic Georgian building in the old Town to a new state of the art landmark building close to the seafront, scheduled to open in spring 2008.
- As part of the Gallery's education programme it was decided to use this major design and planning process to inform a series of projects and activities involving local children and young people.
- The Gallery assembled the partners and expertise necessary to mount a programme in local schools which has directly informed the design of key learning spaces within the new building.

Process

Year Month Activity

2005	Jul/ Aug	Planning	Planning meetings and discussions with partners, including: Towner Art Gallery staff; architect from local firm BBM architects; artist from Tate Gallery; educational consultants in the Primary and Secondary school sectors; community planner from Planning Aid; teachers from local schools.
2005	Sep/ Oct		
2005	Nov/ Dec	Workshops – Willingdon Primary School	<p>Four half day workshop sessions with a class from Willingdon Primary School, Eastbourne:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory – the language of art, architecture and spatial planning. Slides of architect/artist designed buildings and public spaces. 2. Visit existing Towner Art gallery – looking at the function and spaces of the gallery at its current home in an historic building. 3. Visit site of the proposed new Towner Art Gallery – looking at the context and design of the new landmark building, exploring design alternatives. 4. The classroom environment – looking at the spaces within the school which are little used or feel unwelcoming. Working in small groups to address poor design issues and make ideas for improvements.
2006	Jan	Workshops – Rattton Secondary School	<p>Four half day workshop sessions with young people from Rattton Secondary School, Eastbourne:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory – the language of art, architecture and spatial planning. Slides of architect/artist designed buildings and public spaces. 2. The classroom environment – looking at the spaces within the school which are little used or feel unwelcoming. Working in small groups to address poor design issues and make ideas for improvements. 3. Visit existing Towner Art gallery – looking at the function and spaces of the gallery at its current home in an historic building. 4. Visit site of the proposed new Towner Art Gallery – looking at the context and design of the new landmark building, exploring design alternatives.
2006	Feb/ Dec	Report back to public	Feedback from partners to educational consultants. Production of 'multimedia template' of activities as a teachers resource so the programme could be run in other schools

Outcomes

- Programme of environmental education mounted in one secondary and one primary school, involving 25 young people in each.
- Better understanding and experience amongst 50 young people of the language and issues relating to design, art and spatial planning. It is hoped that they will go on to make comments and have an influence on future developments affecting their area.
- A 'teachers resource' to enable other schools in the town and elsewhere to run similar programmes.

Outcomes – Lessons

- Forward planning, bringing together contributions from different partners, is key.
- More formal content on the spatial planning system may be of benefit for older children particularly, so that they are better aware of the legal framework within which proposals for development are assessed.

Parties involved

<i>Party</i>	<i>Role</i>
Towner Art Gallery Contact: Education and Learning Manager www.eastbourne.gov.uk/leisure/museums-galleries/towner	Project leader
BBM architects Contact: Abe Mohsin www.bbm-architects.co.uk	Architectural input
Alex Julyan , Artist Katy Minns , Trainee architect alex.julyan@virgin.net katie.minns@virgin.net	Artistic input
Planning Aid (South East) Contact: Georgia Wrighton, community planner www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk	Planning input
Willingdon School, Eastbourne staff and children www.willingdon.e-sussex.sch.uk	Participants
Ratton School, Eastbourne staff and children www.ratton.e-sussex.sch.uk	Participants

Funding and resources

Staff, materials and resources supplied by partner organisations

Photos

Eastbourne Schools Art and Architecture Workshops with school children, winter 2005/6



Ratton Secondary School

Pupils discuss their ideas for a new gallery with an architect

*Eastbourne workshops01.jpg
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Ratton Secondary School

Pupil's design ideas for the new town art gallery

*Eastbourne workshops02.jpg
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Ratton Secondary School

Expressing ideas for a new town art gallery.

*Eastbourne workshops03.jpg
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Willington Primary School

Children design improvements to school spaces and discuss with their teacher.

*Eastbourne workshops04.jpg
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Contacts and links

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