



# place shapers

An architecture-  
urban design project  
for young people,  
initiated by the  
Irish Architecture  
Foundation and Fingal  
County Council



# Introduction

The Place Shapers project teamed up architects with second level students from two Fingal schools, North County Dublin, to investigate the architecture and urban design of their own neighbourhoods.

Transition year students from Luttrellstown Community College, Dublin 15 and Skerries Community College worked with architects Robert Bourke, Maria Tarsouli, Kate Dowling, Lisa Kenney, Myrto Dowling and filmmaker Peter Kelly. Supported by this creative team, the participating students learned about architecture, urban design and film. The skills acquired equipped them to critically appraise their built and natural environment. The film captures their creative responses to specific issues discovered during their investigations and a timeline identifying the stages of the project is presented in this booklet.

The students displayed a level of capability and intelligence that reached beyond our initial expectations, given that this was a new subject matter to them. They shared personal experiences relating to their local neighbourhoods and expressed particular interest in how design can improve life for communities.

Place Shapers highlights the value of including young people in the design and planning processes that shape our environment, enabling positive dialogue between young citizens and those with responsibility for its design. By distributing the Place Shapers film and presenting the project outcomes through screenings and public discussions, we aim to continue and expand this model of communication nationally.

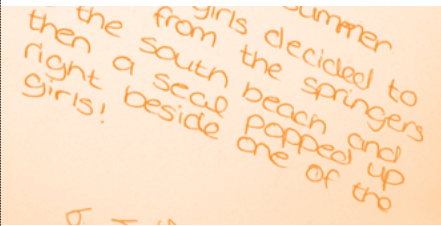
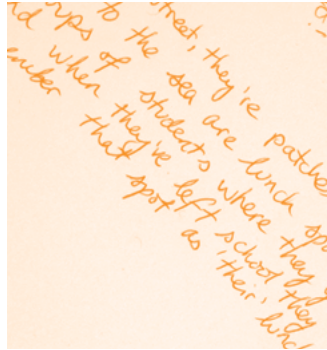
*Rachel McAree, Education Curator, Irish Architecture Foundation and  
Julie Clarke, Youth and Education Officer, Fingal County Council.*

*Place Shapers is a joint initiative of the Irish Architecture Foundation and Fingal County Council Arts Office, made possible by the support of the Arts Council and the Government Policy on Architecture Implementation Programme 2009 – 2015, with additional support from Draiocht.*

# idea

May 2012

Rachel McAree, Education Curator, Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) and Julie Clarke, Youth and Education Officer, Fingal County Council (FCC) have an idea for a new project to get young people involved in shaping their local environment.



# funding

July 2012

Funding is received following an application to the Arts Council's Engaging with Architecture Award. Jubilation! This means that the project can go ahead and the planning phase begins in earnest with the architects, filmmaker and schools.

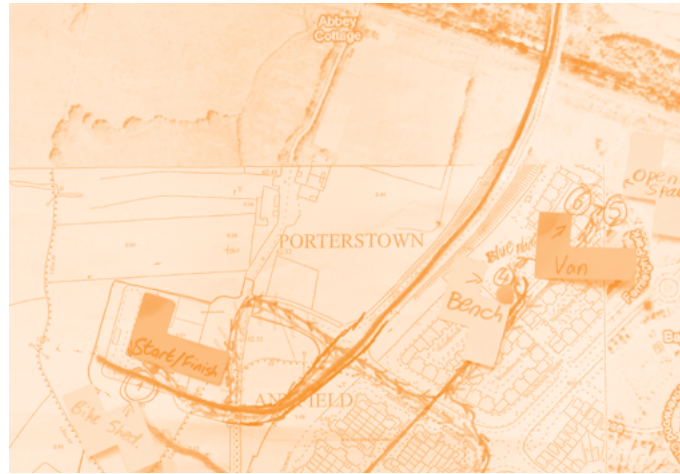


June 2012

IAF and FCC partner with Sarah Beirne, Draíocht to develop a detailed brief for the project. Architects Robert Bourke, Kate Dowling, Maria Tarsouli, Lisa Kenney and filmmaker Peter Kelly join the team. Luttrellstown Community College and Skerries Community College are selected to participate following an open call to all second level schools in Fingal.

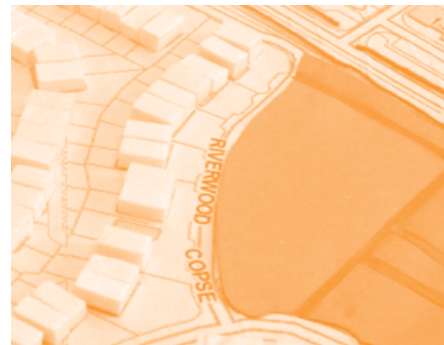


# open call



### August – October 2012

Team meetings take place to work out the details of the programme. The architects and filmmaker have planning meetings with the teachers. Timetables are confirmed and preparatory work is organised.

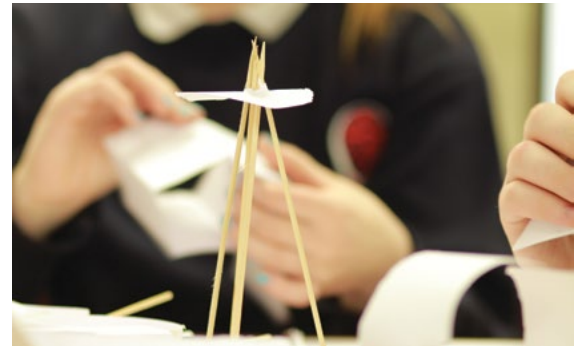


# team-work



During the summer  
10 of the girls decided to  
swim from the springers  
to the south beach and  
then a seal popped up  
right beside one of the  
Girls!

Street, they're patrolling  
to the sea are lunch they  
groups of students where they  
add when they've left school they  
remember that spot as 'their' bit







# workshops

November 2012

The Place Shapers programme begins in schools. The architects and filmmaker start workshops with groups of Transition Year students. Activities begin with investigations of local architecture and public space. Classroom sessions introduce the students to sketching and map-making.



**“This is an attempt to be constructive with an issue that elsewhere we have had difficulties and the students are to be commended”**

Councillor David McGuinness,  
Fingal County Council



December 2012 - January 2013

The Place Shapers teams identify sites of interest in their local areas and raise questions about the role of design in everyday life. The teams explore and develop design solutions to address issues raised.

# questions



# local interventions

February 2013

Myrto Dowling joins the Skerries team. Both teams work on plans for local interventions to stimulate public discussion about their design proposals.



April 2013

Manufacturing of the design structures begins, in preparation for the public events in Skerries and Luttrellstown. Survey forms are designed for the on-site public consultations led by the students.



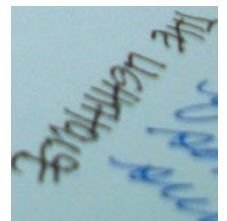
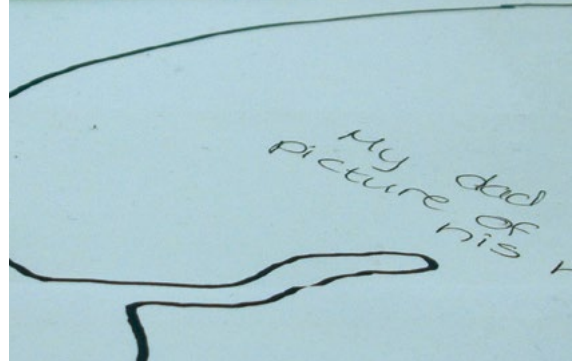
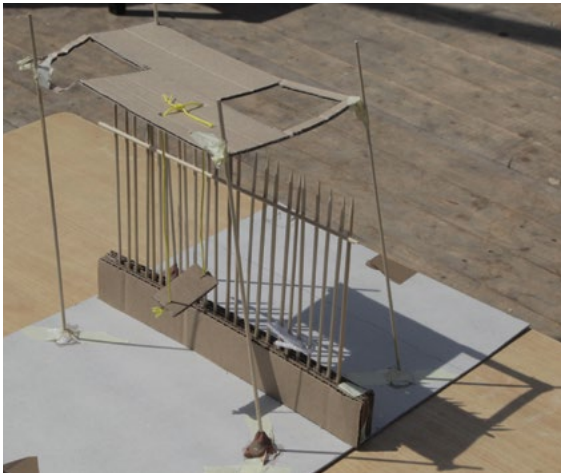
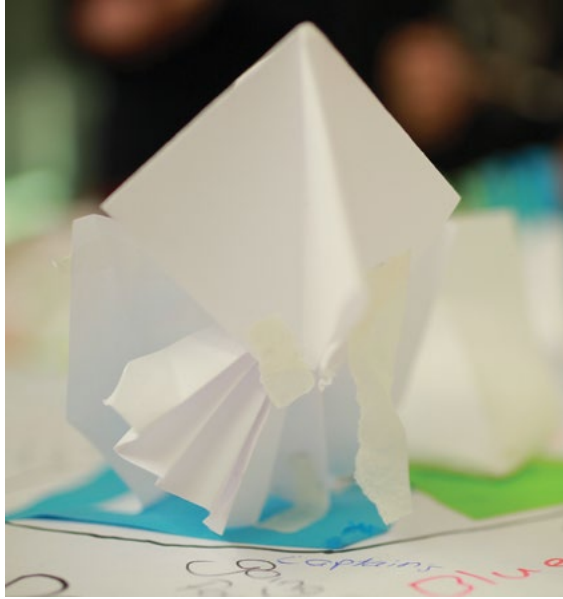
March 2013

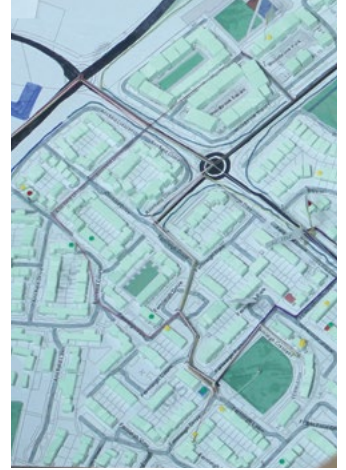
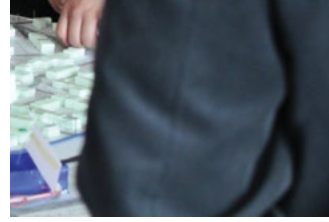
Permissions are sought from the Local Authority for temporary installations in public areas of Skerries and Luttrellstown. The Luttrellstown team meets with the Greater Blanchardstown Initiative and attends an official Council meeting to gain support.

**“It’s wonderful to see young people getting involved and maybe if they were involved prior to all of this we might be living in a better place”**

Councillor Peggy Hammil,  
Fingal County Council

## council meetings







# Skerries event

May 2013

## 15/05 Skerries event: *Place Shapers Picnic*

An on-site exhibition displays the team's design proposals to enhance community use of the coastal path. **Shelter**, **Ramp** and **Boxes** are the three chosen concepts and a student-led public consultation takes place with local residents, community leaders and passers-by.

# editing

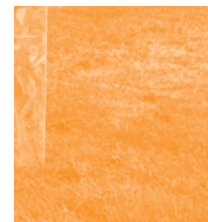
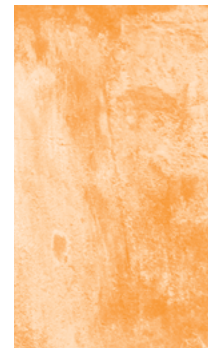
June – August 2013

The Place Shapers team edit the documentary film and develop the booklet to capture the story of the Place Shapers project.



## 30/05 Luttrellstown event: *Location Luttrellstown*

The **shortcut structure**, a life-sized design solution to issues of urban permeability, is the focus of the Luttrellstown event. This temporary installation addresses the issue of restricted movement in the area due to multiple fences. A student-led consultation process takes place on site during the public event.



# Luttrellstown event



# distribution

October – December 2013

The project is disseminated to schools and youth groups nationwide. Place Shapers screenings and presentations continue as part of Irish Architecture Foundation, Fingal County Council and Draíocht programmes.



September 2013

Film premiere at Draíocht, Dublin 15.

The film is screened to an audience of students, teachers, architects, planners, council officials and the general public, followed by a Q&A session with the Place Shapers team.

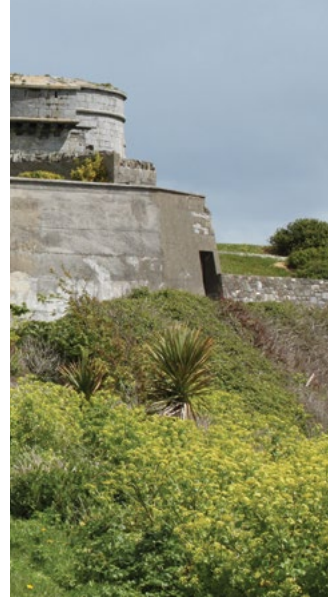


January 2014 onwards

The Place Shapers project continues to inspire and inform young people and built environment professionals. Exciting new projects emerge across Ireland.

# presentation

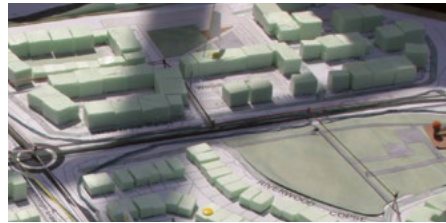
# onwards



Entrance to  
and Hiding  
floors of  
heavy rain







# Acknowledgements

Irish Architecture Foundation and Fingal County Council would like to thank a number of individuals and organisations involved in the planning and implementation of **Place Shapers**.

## Luttrellstown Community College

### Students

Ross Airoldi  
Octavian Alimanescu  
Ciprian Anton  
Plamedie Bayine  
Aron Hoffman  
Franklin Izudo  
Aoife Lynch  
Francesco Mancuso  
Ugo Onuke  
Aleksandra Ostapczuk  
Divya Rudraraju  
Austeya Serzintaite  
Amanda Siadvytyte  
Philip Simango  
Edvinas Zilinskas

### Teachers

Fionnuala Ní Chaisil  
Dorothy Laffoy  
Kevin Brennan  
Tomás Loughney

## Skerries Community College

### Students

Cathal Dowd Smith  
Cara Hunter  
Aoife McNicholas  
Aoife Ward  
James Kelly  
Jamie Louise Maguire  
Caroline Lynam  
Scott McGloughlin  
Tara O'Flaherty  
Tom Mulvany

### Teacher

Joe Stafford

## Architects

Robert Bourke  
Kate Dowling  
Myrto Dowling  
Lisa Kenney  
Maria Tarsouli

## Film maker

Peter Kelly

## Photography

Johnny Savage  
Luís Pedro  
Síle Stewart

## Thanks

Sarah Beirne, Draíocht  
Greater Blanchardstown  
Initiative, FCC  
Systemplus  
Flemming's Carpentry

**Irish  
Architecture  
Foundation**

**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council



**Fingal Arts**



**draíocht**



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Place Shapers blog:**

[www.placeshapers.  
wordpress.com](http://www.placeshapers.wordpress.com)

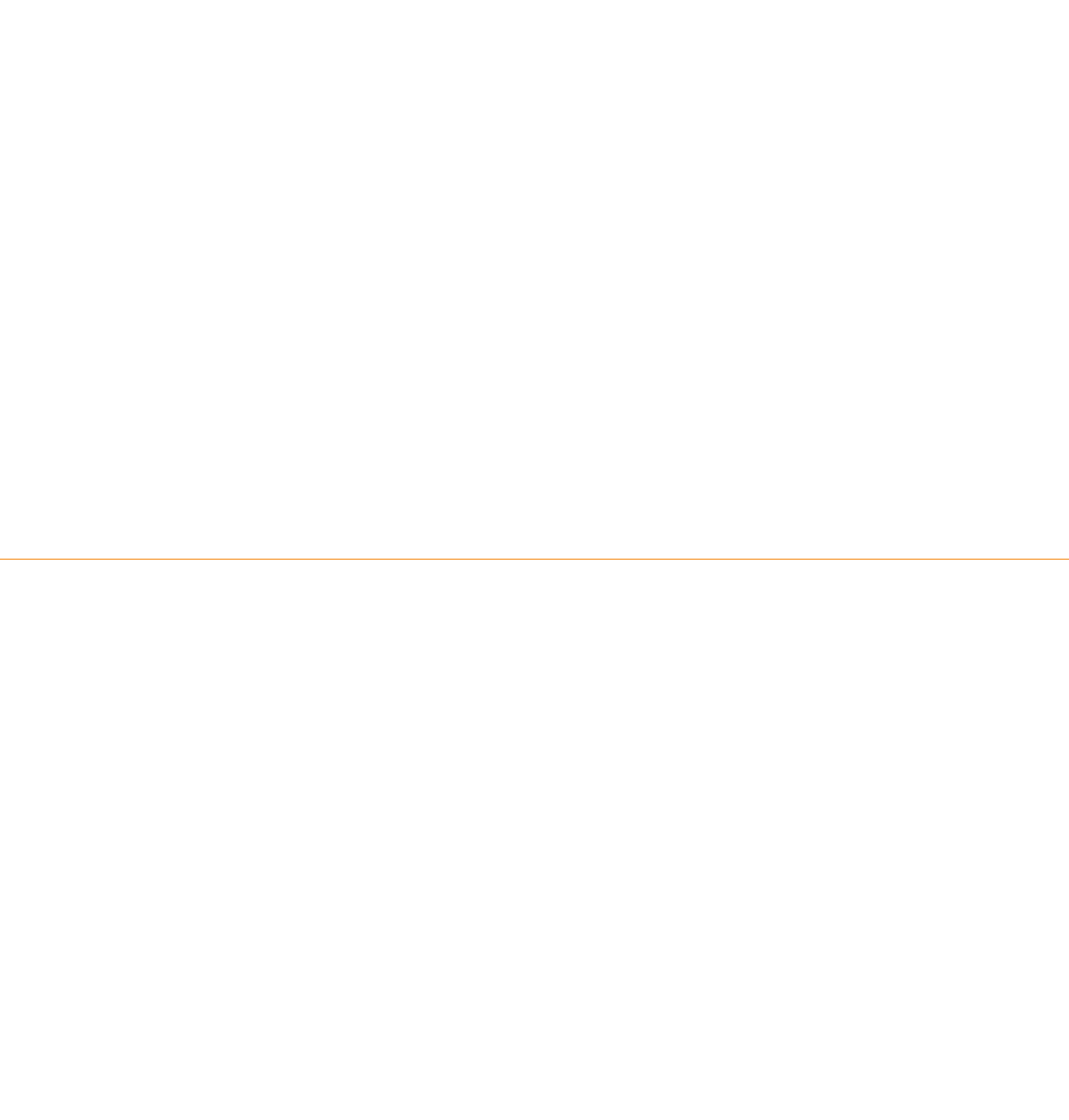
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# ANNFIELD

SITE NOTICE LOCATION

*Tree Poles*

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