



MATT+FIONA
BUILD



BUILD | LEARN | CONNECT

MATT+FIONA

Who We Are

MATT+FIONA is a social enterprise committed to making a better built environment for everyone. We empower young people to shape their own spaces through a unique, integrated process of designing, making and building. We call this process BUILD.

BUILD puts children and young people at the centre of this process. It can inject creativity into your programming or workstream through unconventional means, with a real-world output: a new temporary or permanent space made by, for and with young people.

Since 2016 we have worked with leading community and cultural organisations, universities and schools to create nearly 30 buildings and installations, collaborating with more than 3,000 young people and almost 200 volunteers across the UK.

Find out here why our work is needed, how BUILD works, what it achieves, and how it can help you.

Our achievements so far in numbers:

 **3017** children + young people

 **4646** engagements

 **194** volunteers

 **29** buildings + installations

Why Our Work Is Needed

We improve the quality of the built environment and creative education for young people, particularly those from under-represented backgrounds in the design industries.

Children and young people will inherit the spaces we create. But too often they have no voice in shaping these.

When people are asked in surveys if they are able to bring about change in the places around them, they often say they feel disillusioned and powerless. Young people, especially those who are marginalised, feel this lack of influence even more strongly.

At the same time, not all young people 'fit the mould' set by the current UK school curriculum. Children and young people have fewer ways to explore a broader range of activities and interests, especially in creative fields such as art and design.

MATT+FIONA believes everyone should have the right to shape their built environment. We ask young people how their built environment could be improved and empower them to bring that vision to life.

Image: Mega Maker Lab, Institute of Imagination, 2019, Fiona MacDonald



Why should young people directly shape their built environment?

- They are experts on their places and spaces.
- Their imagination leads to innovation.
- They feel ownership from start to finish.

Through our process they see at first-hand how they can directly shape their worlds.



“The value in these types of projects lies in the faith and the trust you place in young people, which is incredible. It doesn’t happen that often. For me, and for MATT+FIONA, the result we wanted to achieve was to show how the young people could have an outcome for themselves in their own space.”

- Ian Read, Head of Engagement & Content at Lakeland Arts

“It’s really inspiring to see the potential of what architecture education could be for young people. I think MATT+FIONA were doing something that was really different from anything I had seen before. They were thinking much bigger and that’s continued to be an inspiration since then.”

- Xuhong Zheng, Associate at Hawkins\Brown

The BUILD Process

MATT+FIONA: BUILD enables young people to set the brief, to design and to build their own spaces and places in truly life-transforming experiences.

Our tried-and-tested method has seen award-winning temporary and permanent structures and installations – planned, designed and built by young people – emerge in places in and around major museums, galleries, universities, schools and festivals across the UK.

The builds are scalable. The typical BUILD process results in a full-scale place or installation, briefed, designed and built by the children and young people. However, they can be smaller and temporary (Pre-BUILD) or larger and more complex, requiring professional fabricators to be involved too (BUILD+).



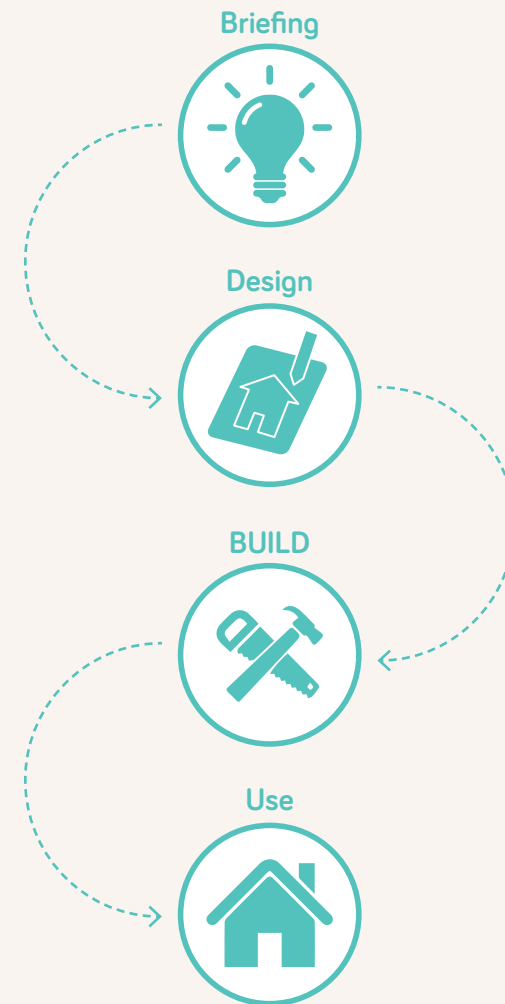
PRE-BUILD



BUILD



BUILD+



Mega Maker Lab, Institute of Imagination, 2019, Peter Savage
Made in Oakfield, Hull UK City of Culture, 2017, French & Tye
Room for Art, Lansbury Lawrence Primary School and the Whitechapel Gallery, 2018



'It was just a great experience to be able to go from the stages of looking at in on paper, to actually then seeing it being built at the allotment. Every other one was small and brown and then you just saw this big, green thing. So we won this award. Architects really want to get this. A group of eleven young people had come together and just put our designs on paper. You do get a lot out of it.'

- Dan Kelsey, Year 9 student at Oakfield School,
designer and builder of Made in Oakfield, 2017

How **BUILD** Can Benefit Your Work

Our partners and collaborators across the UK value the ambition of our projects at a time when risk-taking, creativity, problem-solving and real-world relevance are at odds with the curriculum, but are needed more than ever. Commissioning a BUILD from MATT+FIONA can offer:

- **A fun, immersive and intelligent project** with a real, tangible output designed and made by, for and with young people
- **Tried-and-tested, safe and secure** ways for all young people to develop their critical thinking, test their creative boundaries and build their confidence
- **Access to our expertise** gathered from working across the fields of architecture, culture and all levels of education, from primary schools to universities
- **Valuable, hands-on experience** of education and learning projects for your employees, co-workers and students through volunteering opportunities
- **Innovative strategies** to bring a more diverse range of collaborators into your programming

Made in Oakfield, Hull UK City of Culture, 2017, French & Tye

Work With Us

Our Partner Organisations

Amsterdam International Community School,
Architecture at the Edge, Brixton House, Bywater Properties,
Clarion, Greater London Authority, Grosvenor,
Hull UK City of Culture, Institute of Imagination, Kew Gardens,
Lakeland Arts, London Festival of Architecture,
Museum of Architecture, National Maritime Museum,
National Saturday Club, Royal Academy of Arts,
RSPCA Mallydams, Sutton House, The Bartlett, UCL,
Turner Contemporary, U+I, Walthamstow Forest Council,
Whitechapel Gallery, Young V&A

Our Industry Sponsors

MATT+FIONA is grateful to our Industry Champions for their support of our pioneering mission, to enable children and young people to make their own spaces and places.

The Happold Foundation

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