



MATT+FIONA

CONNECT



BUILD | LEARN | CONNECT

MATT + FIONA

Who We Are

Our transformational live BUILD projects show what young people are capable of, and how much richer the world can be when they are involved. But a true shift can happen only on a much bigger scale, in collaboration with the people who plan, design and build our cities and towns.

We train built environment professionals to work with young people, to ensure that they are truly involved in the shaping of their neighbourhoods. We call this process CONNECT.

CONNECT gives you and your teams the skills, knowledge and confidence to build constructive dialogue with young people around placemaking and development, from the very beginning of a project.

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. Our CONNECT strand will ultimately reach thousands more.

Find out here why our work is needed, how CONNECT 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.

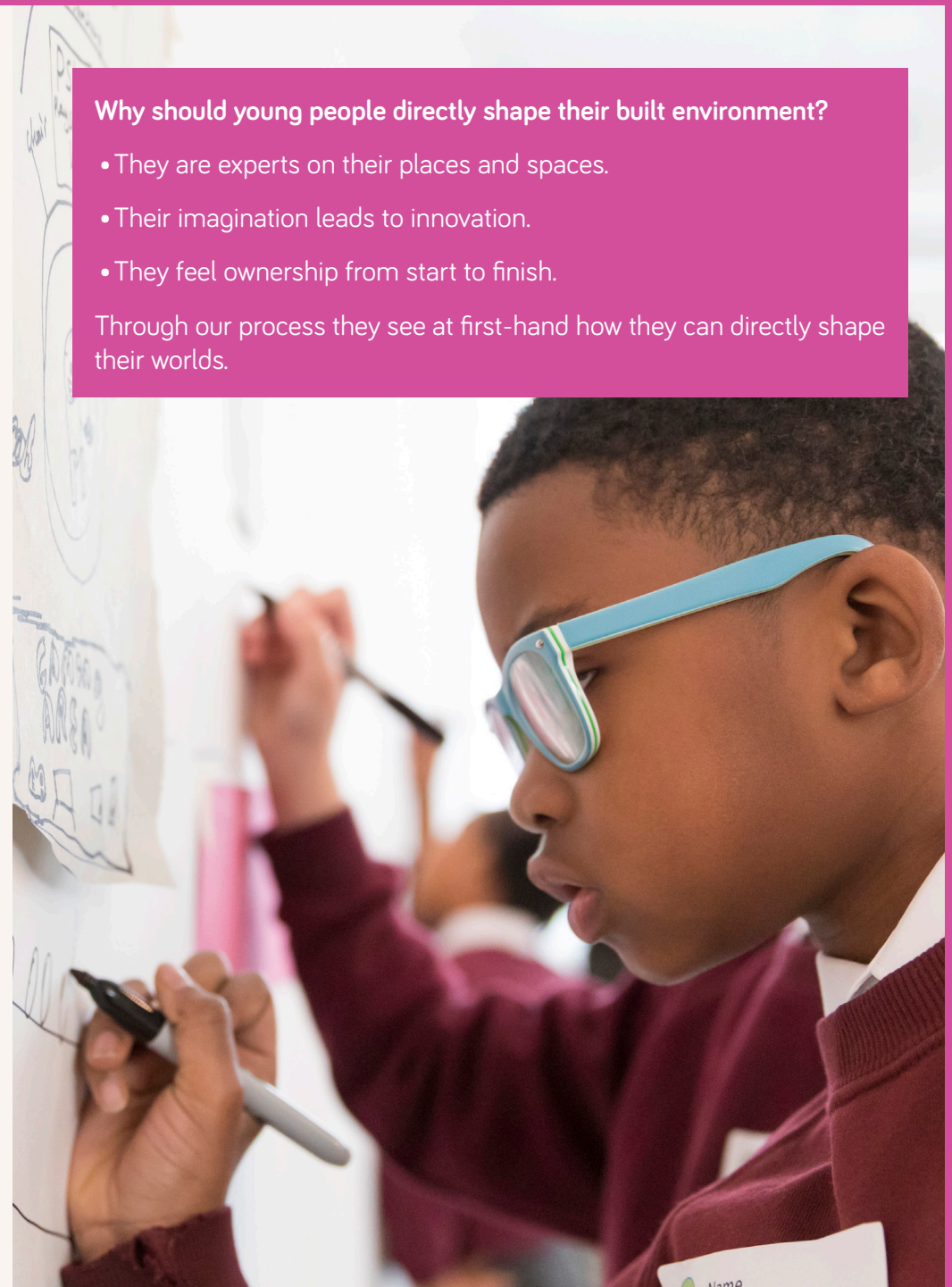
At the same time, not all young people 'fit the mould'. Children and young people have fewer ways to explore a broader range of interests, and to learn how they can actively influence the design and development of the places and spaces they use.

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.

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.





“Working with MATT+FIONA was a real highlight for the [Mayfair youth] forum as they learnt about different materials, construction techniques and even got to visit their studio, but most importantly they felt heard. A meanwhile project like this helps create positive change quickly, whilst giving young people tangible evidence of their voice and influence.”

- Nicola Rochfort, Senior Community Engagement Manager, Grosvenor

“The benefits and payback to Buro Happold and us as individuals are ten-fold the effort that we put in. We are proud to be a part of MATT+FIONA's journey and I would challenge you to consider the value they could bring to you and your organisations too.”

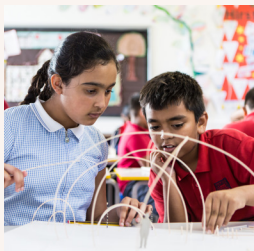
- James Bruce, CEO, Buro Happold

The **CONNECT** Process

MATT+FIONA: CONNECT puts children and young people at the heart of shaping neighbourhoods, from beginning to end.

Our **BUILD** projects are real demonstrations of how young people can contribute positively to making better places and spaces. But only through genuine participation and engagement can places be truly sustainable, accessible and inclusive.

Through **CONNECT** we enable professionals to build confidence, trust and better communication with young people in the design and development process. This will in turn have a positive outcome, as the young people become more confident about influencing their built environment.



**WORKSHOPS &
RESOURCES**

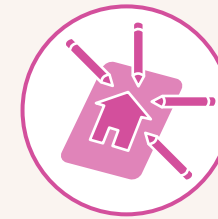


**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



CO-DESIGN

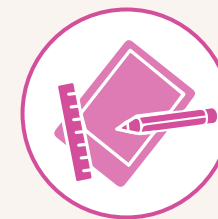
Co-design



Community Engagement



Workshops & Resources





How **CONNECT** 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 needed more than ever. Working with MATT+FIONA on a **CONNECT** programme can offer:

- **An accredited, comprehensive process** giving you the skills, confidence and knowledge to create and deliver an immersive, fun and intelligent **BUILD** project with young people
- **A feasible way of engaging** young people in a real building project, in terms of cost, resources and positive outcomes
- **Inventive strategies** to support your ambitions to build positive social value and community engagement
- **Access to our expertise** gathered from working across the fields of architecture, culture and education, at all levels
- **Valuable, hands-on experience** of education and learning projects for you and your colleagues.

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

BURO HAPPOLD

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