LANES, COURTS AND COMMUNITY

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03 Architecture + Design Scotland Urban Design Award
Mackintosh School of Architecture
Stage 4 “Urban Housing” project - City dwelling, creating urban communities

General Statement

Inspired by the idea of the re-conquered street, our project proposes a sustainable urban community within contemporary Glasgow, in the Merchant City. Traditionally, this historic part of Glasgow was characterised by vibrant street life with ground floor activity, markets and stalls opening onto the street. Using the street as a communal living room, we have tried to inject a spirited street life back into the area through a variety of sustainable and community based ground floor uses.

Historical investigations lead us to recreate historic routes through the site. Through this and introducing a variety of public and private courts, we have opened up the block allowing it to contribute to the urban landscape.

The result is a vibrant residential area for people of all ages, classes and cultures. Offering new patterns of movement, nodes, attractions and new venues, has allowed us to revitalise the urban community of the Merchant City.

Sustainability Statement

The site currently sits derelict within a prime central location. Our proposal takes a holistic approach in respect of the surrounding area using design and social measures to create a safe, diverse and vital neighbourhood. Identity, densification, variation and interaction are key.

We have retained existing and historic buildings and routes to maintain character and create historic links giving the block a strong identity within the area and allowing people to positively identify themselves with their new neighbourhood. Variations in flat size, tenures, and housing types allow a diverse range of people to live within one area.

The ground floor plan adds a variety of community functions to supplement existing facilities and encourage the use of bikes striving to make residents less dependent on cars.

The core of the proposal is interaction through shared spaces and activities allowing for the creation of sustainable communities, and supporting local economies.
Place in the City