



Ruthin Future

AVAILABILITY:

BA (Hons) Landscape / Architecture / Interior Architecture & Design / DfFL / MArch / MALA -
Wednesdays

COORDINATOR/S:

Matthew Jones / Professor Rachel Sara

PROJECT PARTNER:

Ruthin Town Council

SYNOPSIS:

Town centres are a vital part of everyday life in the UK, a focal point for exchange, social interactions, public services and cultural activity. However, they are facing well-documented challenges- the impact of booming online shopping, growth of out of town retail, the closure of public services, lack of investment, ageing populations and decreasing footfall. In order for them to survive and thrive we need to reconsider what and who town centres are for. But what could this look like, and how can we bring our creative skills as designers to bear on the challenge?

Since 2010, Ruthin Town Council have been working with the local community, architects, planners, students and specialists to develop a community-led plan for the future of Ruthin, North Wales. Working closely with the Town Council our Co.LAB will use design research to analyse the town from different perspectives to build an understanding of people and place. Through research, mapping and analysis will aim to understand the physical and social nature of the town and how it is changing at a range of different scales. This stage of the project will culminate in the offering of a 'gift', a made object crafted by each student from found materials that aims to reveal something hidden or overlooked, draw attention to a certain aspect of the context, trigger memories, or make an aspect of the town more tangible or memorable.

The group will then work through participatory processes to imagine the future of the town founded upon regenerative design principles. Working from a vision of 2032, we will imagine the stepping stones needed to create positive change. Students will explore new physical and social infrastructure to support the gradual shift from pandemic response and recovery toward a longer-term, people-led renewal of the town centre. The process and learning from the project will be shared with Ruthin Town Council and exhibited in the town as part of the next stage of the Ruthin Future community-led town plan.

COLLABORATIVE SKILLS:

Client engagement, design process, futures thinking, sustainability, presentation, debate and critique

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Students will be visiting Ruthin, North Wales (tbc)