

# Metadesign tools

## Designing the seeds for more creative and sustainable cities

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### Abstract

This project sets out to explore the cultural, social, economic and ecological diversities that exist within an urban regeneration site in the Butetown district of Cardiff. Leading members of Butetown's up-and-coming creative industries will introduce the students to the local-context. The project will adopt a team-based approach to mapping the site and co-designing prototypes for small-scale architectural interventions that aim to foster a 'diversity-of-diversities' (Wood, 2008) within this community.

This 'metadesign' process requires architects to step out of their orthodox role as 'chief builder' to engage in a set of consensual, cross-disciplinary practices. Here, 'design as planning' is replaced with 'design as seeding' (Ascott cited in Giaccardi, 2005) and 'design as problem solving' gives way to 'design as possibility seeking' (Mizuuchi, 2006) to envision a more creative and sustainable city. This is a highly complex and ambitious task.

Students will participant in a series of workshops co-facilitated by metadesign experts from Goldsmiths, University of London. The metadesign tools and processes selected for the workshops have been adapted for designers from the fields of gestalt psychology, traditional story-telling, future studies and management theory. The outcomes of the workshop will be documented through mapping, modelling, photography, filming and prototyping the collaborative design process.