Saul Golden + Liam McComish
Designing Place 2012

Urban Research Belfast: Lessons from Empty Space
Inter-disciplinary Tools for Urban Enquiry and Place Investigation
PROBLEMS OF THE CITY:
Poor quality public space
PROBLEMS OF THE CITY:
Loss of active streetscape
social and community engagement
Can Collaborative, Field-based Approaches to Urban Design Improve the Connection Between Theory and Practice as Currently Taught to Future Design Professionals?

**PEDAGOGIC FRAMEWORK: T.A.L.K.**

- **Teaching**
  - Abstract Theory
  - Place-based Storytelling
  - Experiential Activities

- **Action**
  - Individual
  - Collective

- **Learning**
  - Words & Images
  - Concrete Experiments

- **Knowledge**
  - ‘How’ & ‘That’
  - Questioning and Exploring
  - Reflection & Application

Pedagogic Theory adapted from Race, Biggs & Tang, Agyris & Schön, Kolb, and Bloom
Architecture and Visual Communications Students:
World Café Reading and Theory Mapping (© World Cafe)
team-working

COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE:
Collaboration
triangulation
(whyte 1980)
Machines for Experiential Urban Learning

The MEUL is the translation of your site analysis and insight into a temporary work in each location; a physical intervention that should help reveal the location or highlight its existence or perceived character, relevant to the wider urban and socio-economic context.
A walkway constructed out of poles and string in colours denoting both the unionist and nationalist parties highlighted an issue that was both literally and metaphorically a difficult obstacle to get around.
Urban Storytelling

These violent delights have violent ends and in their triumph die like fire and powder which as they kiss consume.

R&J William Shakespeare

L'amour éphémère

Past - Present - Future

Cultural - how to convey

Images - mental/physical

Past/Present

Emotion

Connections to audience

Places

Setting

Cultural - how to convey

Sally to boots to buy tissues because she had the cold.

The cold from being outdoors in the rain. After bout of cold and flu.

Trigger: seeing someone.
COLLECTIVE EXPERIMENTS:
Machines for Experiential Urban Learning (M.E.U.L.)
negotiating difference and complexity