PLACED Environmental Academy Project Brief 1: Independent Task

You will need to develop an idea for a project, building, space, artwork, or activity that could exist in your local area and has a positive impact on the environment.

Your idea needs to:
- **have a physical presence at a site, or multiple sites, local to you**
- **have a positive environmental impact, or raise awareness of an environmental issue**

You will give a 10-minute presentation of your work in session 4. There is no right or wrong idea and you will not be assessed. In your presentation, we would like to see:
- **What is your idea? What does it look like?**
- **What environmental issue(s) does your idea respond to?**
- **Where does your idea happen and why?**
- **Who would benefit from it?**
- **What inspired you?**

We will be showing our projects digitally, so you will need to upload your work to your computer to share with the group.

What could I do?
Below are a few examples of the types of projects you could think about. It might be that some of your ideas cross over more than one category, and that's fine. You might think of something else yourself to do too.

Building:

Is there an under-used or empty building in your area?

Should there be a new building?
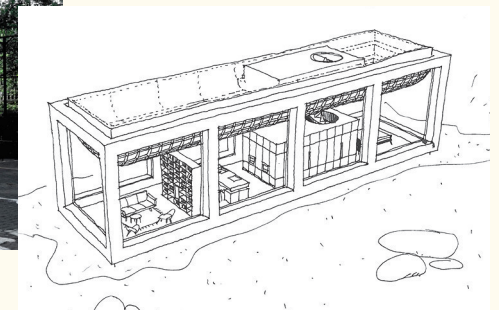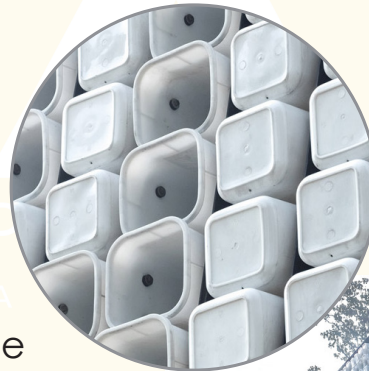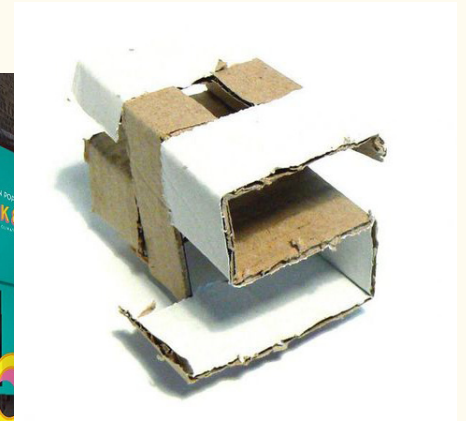
What does the building look like?

What does it offer?

You could develop your ideas through:
- sketches
- collages
- SketchUp designs
- model-making
- something else!

Think about
- Your building should try to improve, or raise awareness about, the environment.
- Could your materials be environmental?
- What happens in the main space of the building?
- How could local people benefit?

Urban Design/ Landscape Architecture:

Is there a space or area not being used that could be redesigned in a better way?

How could the landscape benefit the environment?

How could the space be used by different people with different needs?

You could develop your ideas through:
- sketches
- collages
- SketchUp designs
- model-making
- something else!

Think about
- Your design should try to improve, or raise awareness about, the environment.
- What happens in this space or area?
- How could local people benefit?

Interventions:

Big impact can come from small designs – think creatively!

Is there a wall or vertical space that could be used for greening or biodiversity?

What about alleyways, pavements, communal bins etc?

What could happen here to make sure the environment can thrive in every nook and cranny?

You could develop your ideas through:
- sketches
- collages
- SketchUp designs
- model-making
- something else!

Think about
- Your design should try to improve, or raise awareness about, the environment.
- How could local people benefit? Could they help make this project happen?
- If your design is small, why not make it happen and photograph it?

Artwork:

Art can be used to raise awareness of certain issues. It can be created by a single artist or by many people in a community.

Art can be practical, have a purpose, stay forever or be a one-off event.

Some examples you could search:
- Painting
- Mural
- Land art
- Digital (VR, AR, games)
- Performance and dance
- Community / social art
- Graffiti
- Guerrilla art (public interventions)
- Video
- Photography

Think about
- What is your key message about the environment and what is the best way to tell it?
- How and where will people experience your artwork?
- How should people feel after they have seen / heard / tasted or felt your artwork?
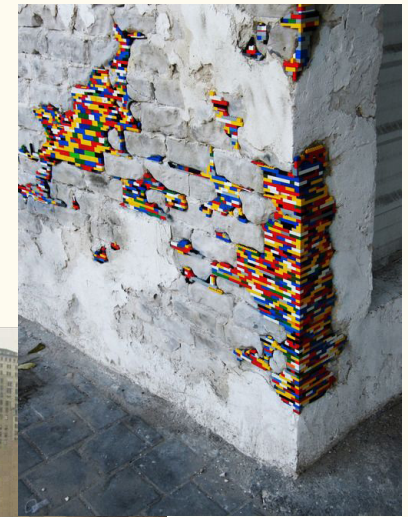
Activities:

Think about how your site or building could bring people together.

What would they do or learn there?

How would they benefit?

What equipment or materials would you need to do this and how would you get them?

How do you make sure people know about and come to your events?

Some ideas for activities:
- Education
- Art
- Music
- Workshops
- Activism
- Protest
- Sports
- Wellbeing
- Exchanging
- Growing or planting
- Fundraising

Remember:

Do something you find exciting and interesting, have fun and enjoy it!

Research and try out different things: learn through doing and you'll discover what you love.

Keep remembering your site and what issues, environment or community you care about.

Don't worry about things being perfect or finished, it's about hearing your ideas and we are not judging or assessing you.

If you get stuck, take a break, go for a walk or chat to us, we are here to help you. Don't put too much pressure on yourself.