

VOYAGE

Voyage is a collaborative project designed to bring the community of Stockport together again by restoring its ever flowing river to its former glory.

Created by students from:

Interior design
+
Graphic design
+
Illustration.



The main focus of this brief was to develop a project in association with other interdisciplinary students, national partners, and international partners.

We worked closely with **The British University in Egypt** communicating throughout using online platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Miro. This was an enriching experience seeing how the same project can be interpreted in different ways. Inspiring our own projects.

Externally we also worked with **Zoetmulder** adopting their design toolkit to stimulate our research process and **Future Everything** a company which is currently working within Stockport to improve its community outlook. Working with these companies gave us a deeper insight into the town itself and new ways of exploring it for ourselves.

Research and Initial Sketches.

Extracts from an interview with local members of Stockport.

Local Shop Owner:

How do you feel about the current state of Stockport?

'I feel as though Stockport has been given a bad name because all anyone sees is the Merseyway shopping centre. That is no longer the centre to me, **once the river got bricked over the community that surround that area dispersed.**'

What was that community

'One willing to help one another, spend time in public spaces, play a part in keeping the town running. Not the commuters we now see hurry through the space grab a sandwich and leave again. There is no life in the space anymore.'

What do you think is needed in the future to improve this?

'I see a positive future. With the increase in house prices Stockport is becoming an option to more who wouldn't normally consider it as it is a more affordable area. This brings more people in, families. The demographic here tends to be older.

Foodie Friday is the best thing to have happened to the town, just a shame it is in the Underbank' (an area of stockport which already has a higher footfall compared to Merseyway Shopping Centre.)

Cafe Customers:

How do you feel about the current state of Stockport?

'Dodgy people.'
'Homeless problem.'
'Soulless new buildings.'
'Kids are no longer left to explore, their imaginations aren't allowed to grow. They are of a different generation I suppose, always on their tablets.'

What do you think is needed in the future to improve this?

'Flats are being built, that's a bonus.'
'More footways, greenspace, things to explore.'
'**More awareness**, the under bank is filled with low cost art, music, food, it just needs to be advertised and made aware of.'

A member of staff in Stockport Air Raid Shelter:

How do you feel about the current state of Stockport?

'[sighed] its a lost town. I have lived here nearly 70 years, the place it used to be is gone. And this isn't me saying i don't like change, I just don't feel it has changed for the good. There is a need for it to mimic Manchester with the towering buildings, but that's not Stockport. Stockport was a booming town with mills and factories keeping the community connected. Everyone knew everyone.'

'The bridges I used to cross the **river** are more or less all gone now, I used to called it my **Little Venice**, I loved **seeing and hearing** the river flow beneath me.'

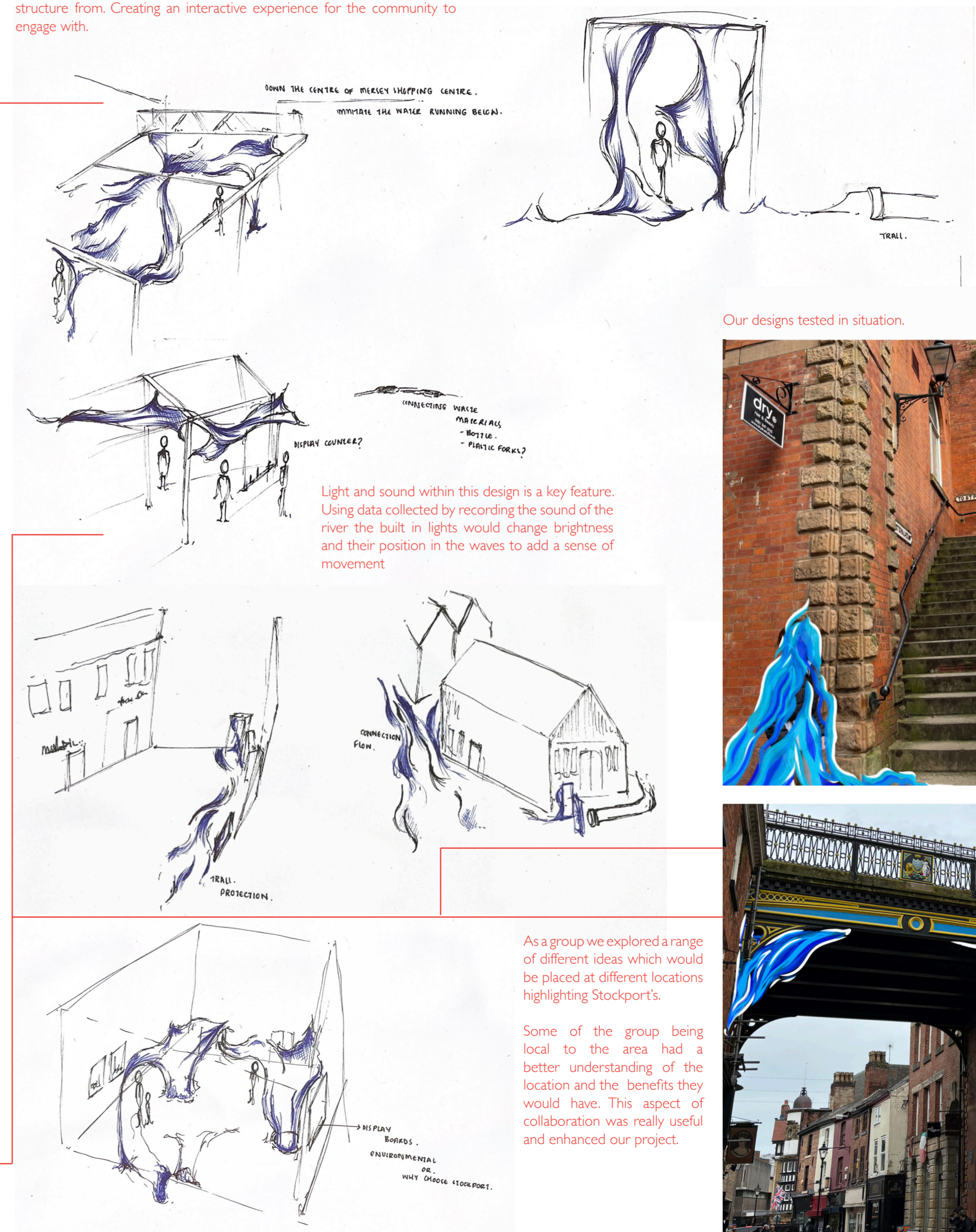
Would do you think is needed in the future to improve this?

'I think it needs to bring back its core, not this 'flashy shopping centre' . Drive its independent shops, create communal areas in passing which encourage people to talk and move and play!'

Installation Ideas.

This idea stemmed from the group interviews we conducted resulting in a participatory design.

Sketches for the main installation - a wooden frame to suspend the wave structure from. Creating an interactive experience for the community to engage with.

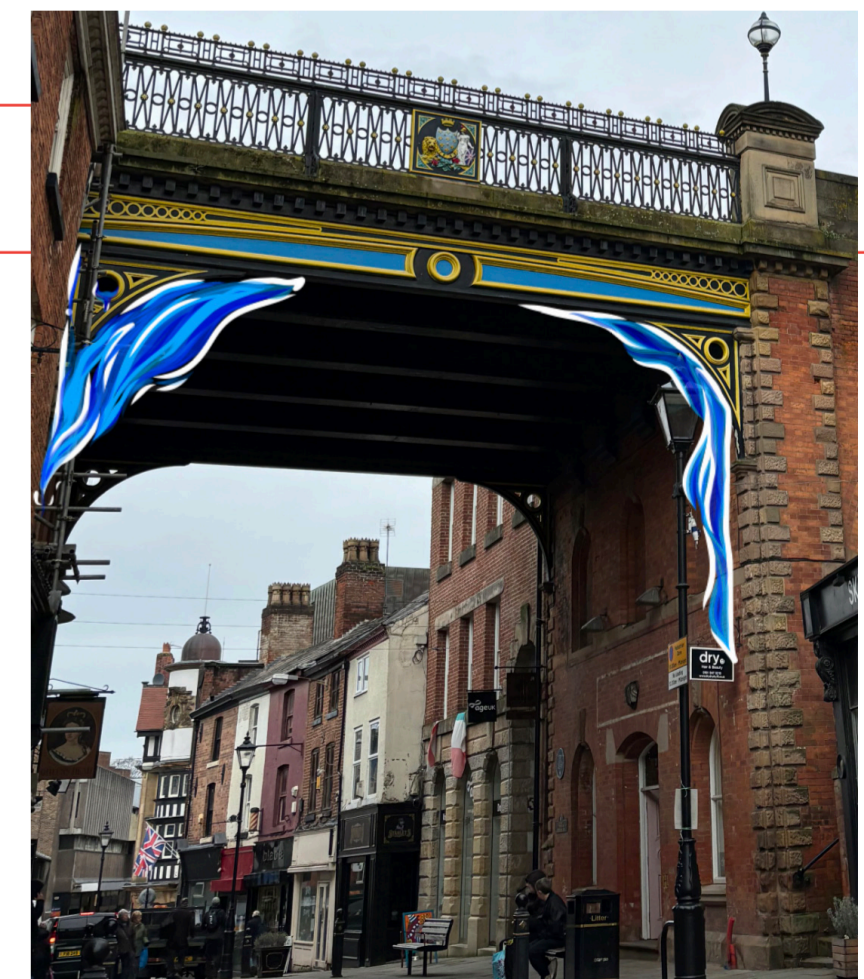


Light and sound within this design is a key feature. Using data collected by recording the sound of the river the built in lights would change brightness and their position in the waves to add a sense of movement

As a group we explored a range of different ideas which would be placed at different locations highlighting Stockport's.

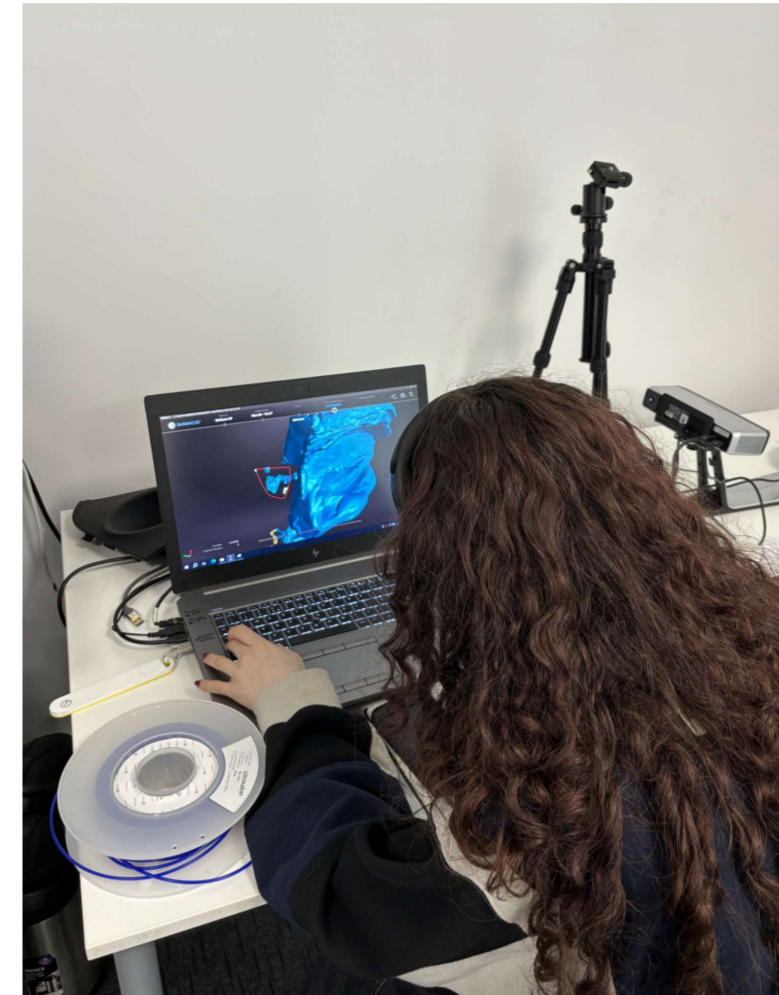
Some of the group being local to the area had a better understanding of the location and the benefits they would have. This aspect of collaboration was really useful and enhanced our project.

Our designs tested in situation.



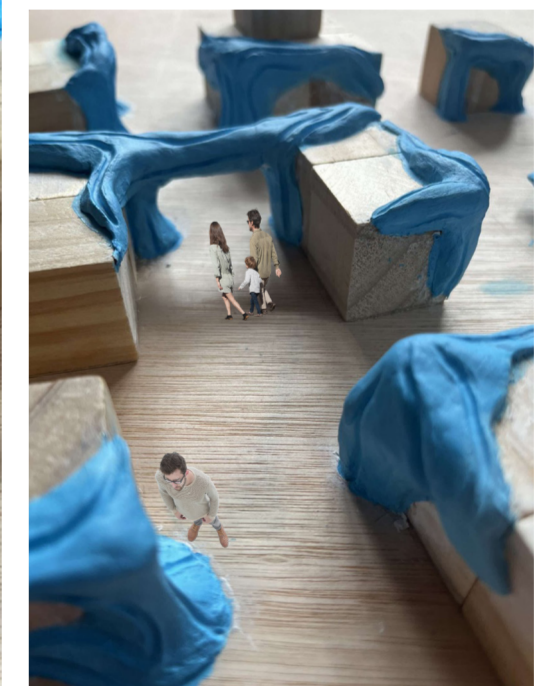
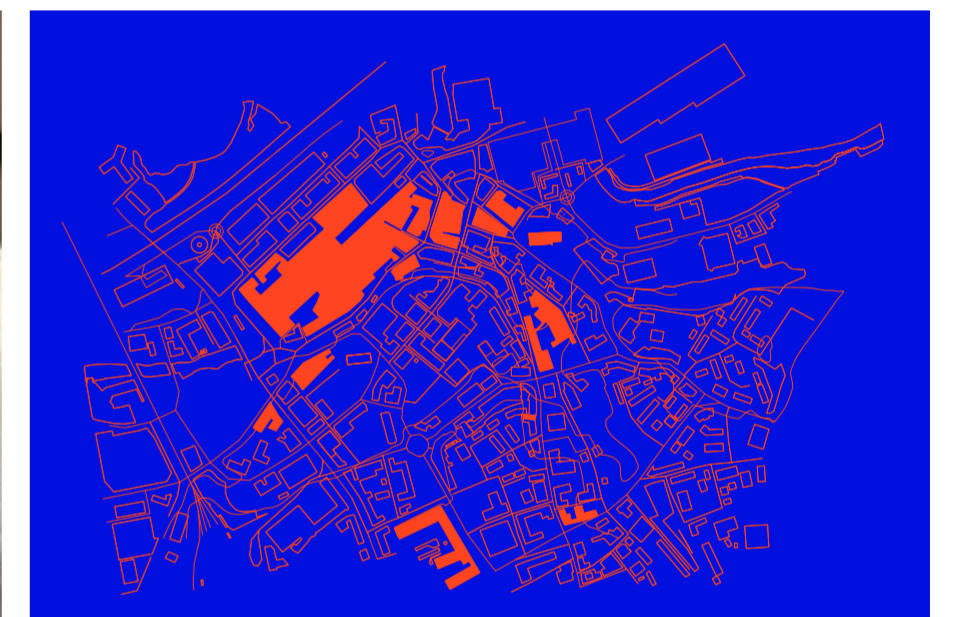
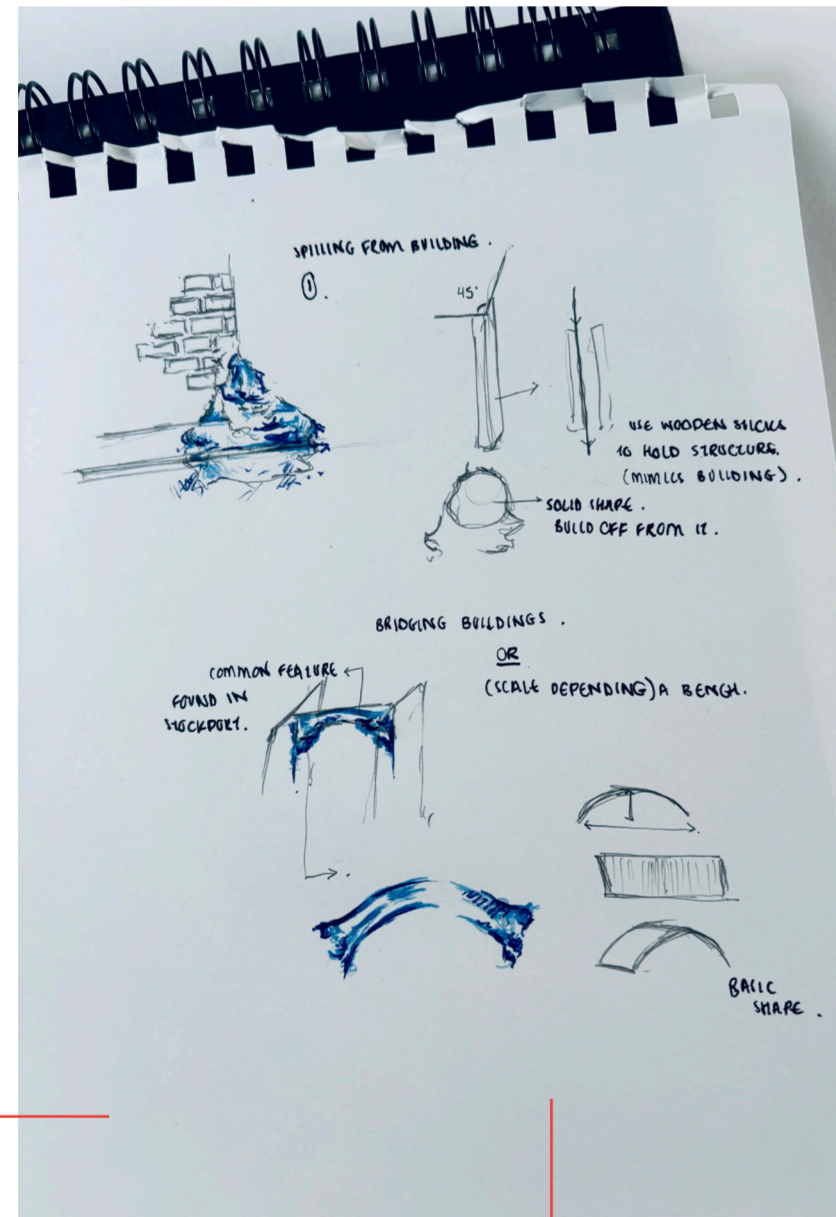
Exploration.

Teams call with BUE. This was a useful experience as I was able to use my own experiments to give interesting feedback and potential areas for them to explore.



We co collaborated when working on Shining 3D as this process was new to us all and this helped gain a better all round understanding of the software.

Rapid prototypes - we found 3D printing our quickest way of testing and the most sustainable as we could recycle our misprints back into the process. As I was already inducted on this process I was able to share my knowlegde with my group and



Through visual representations like this, the group were able to envision the overall outcome. This is a simple 'map' of Stockport using its structural forms to develop our ideas.



Model testing in the wood workshop - testing different shapes and sizes.

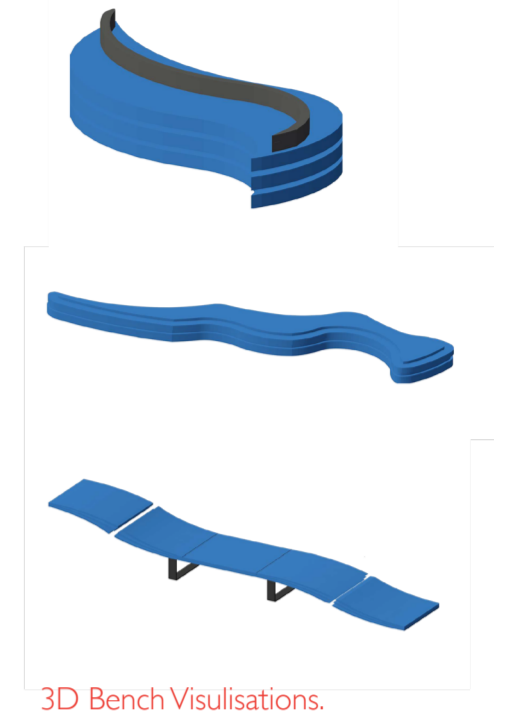


Model testing in the wood workshop - melted waste acrylic.

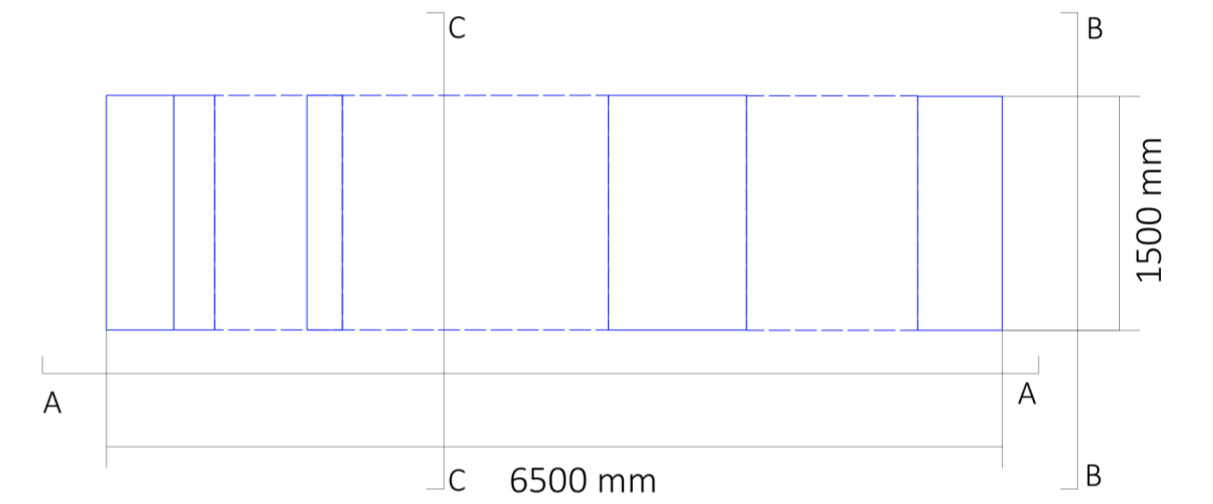


Model testing in the wood workshop - being explored differently.

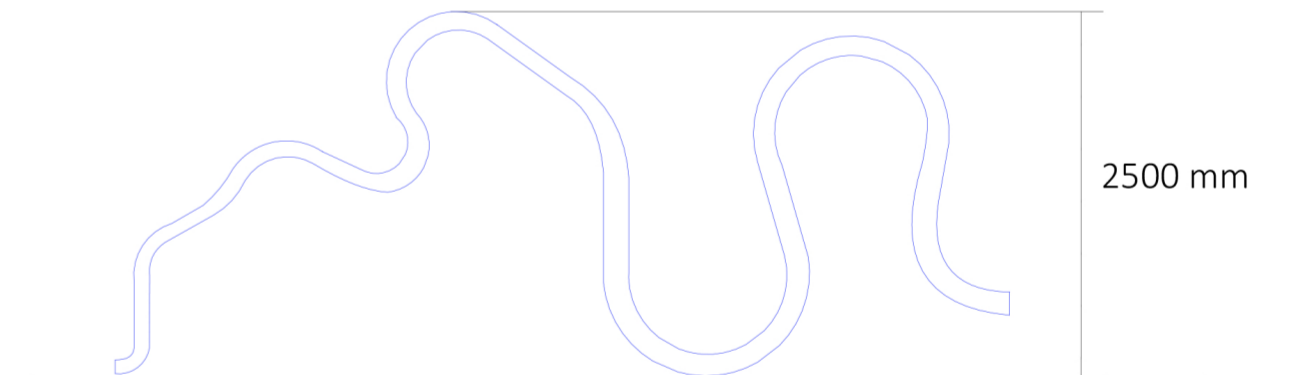
Using scrap plastic from the workshop not only allowed us to produce numerous iterations but also allowed us to feedback back on each model as we did it. The rapport which occurred during this process was the only way to come out with a successful model. This wasn't always done through conversation, finding each other's ways of understanding was crucial in this project and fortunately all being from creative disciplines we often found it easier to draw out our thoughts.



3D Bench Visualisations.



Detail Plan
Scale: 1:50



AA Side Elevation
Scale: 1:50



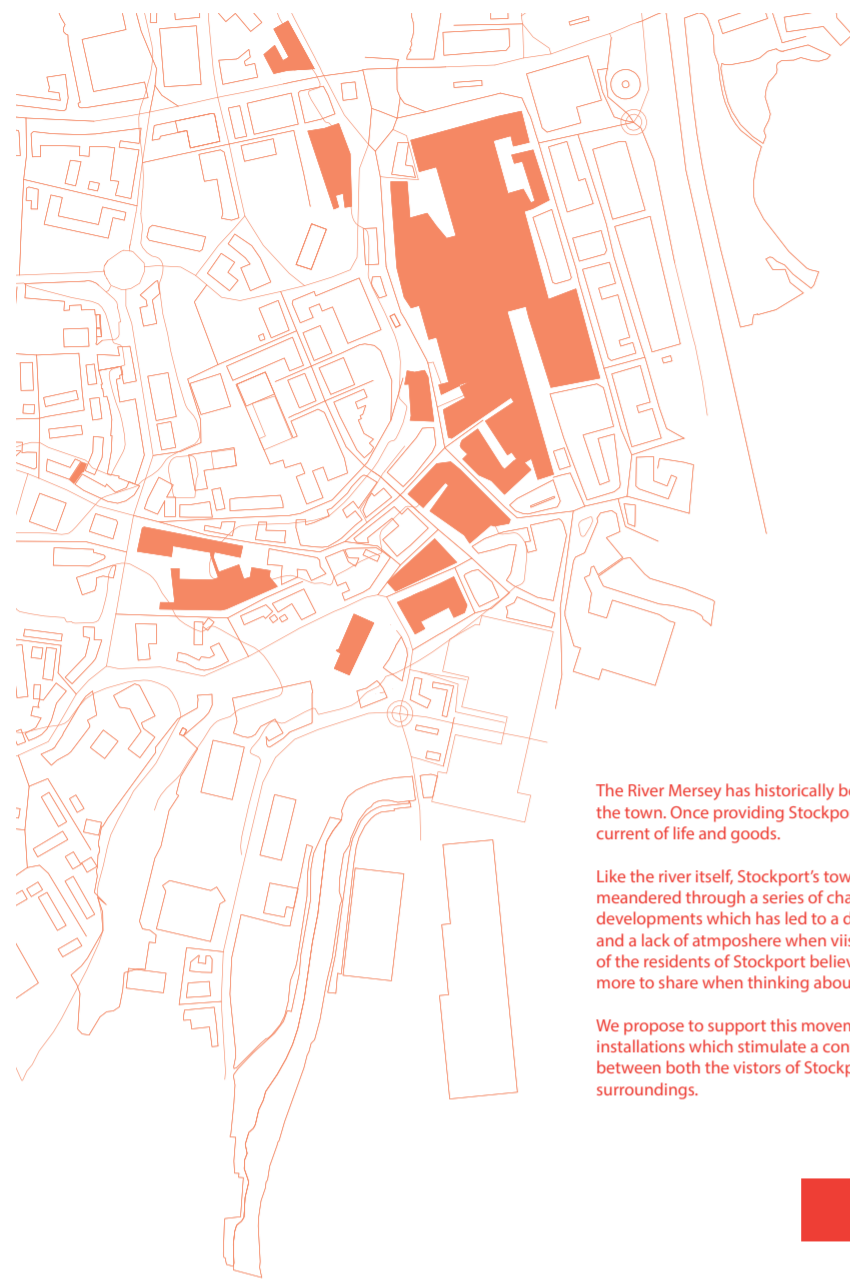
BB Front Elevation
Scale: 1:50



CC Section
Scale: 1:50

Technical Drawings of Main Structure.
Not to scale.

Exhibition.



The River Mersey has historically been the heartbeat of the town. Once providing Stockport with a constant current of life and goods.

Like the river itself, Stockport's town centre has meandered through a series of changes and developments which has led to a decline in popularity and a lack of atmosphere when visiting the town. As many of the residents of Stockport believe, the town has much more to share when thinking about its future.

We propose to support this movement through the use of installations which stimulate a conversation to be started between both the visitors of Stockport and their surroundings.

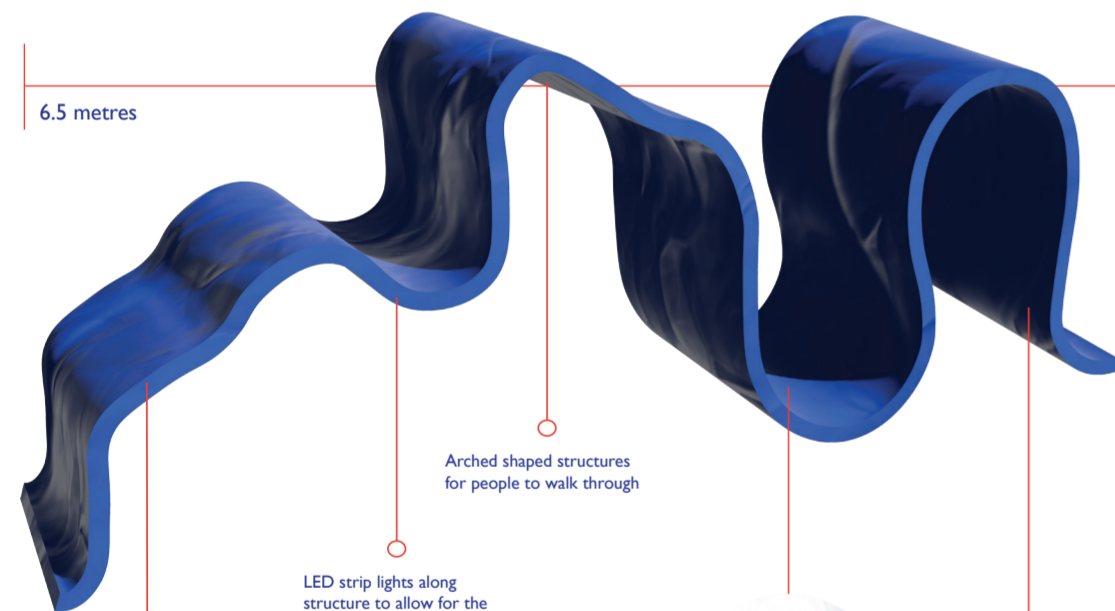
VOYAGE

EXHIBITING MAY 2ND

Bringing the community of Stockport together again by restoring its ever beating heart.



Visual of benches in Market Hall

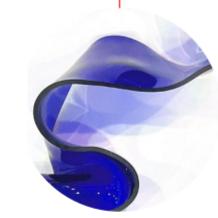


6.5 metres

Arched shaped structures for people to walk through

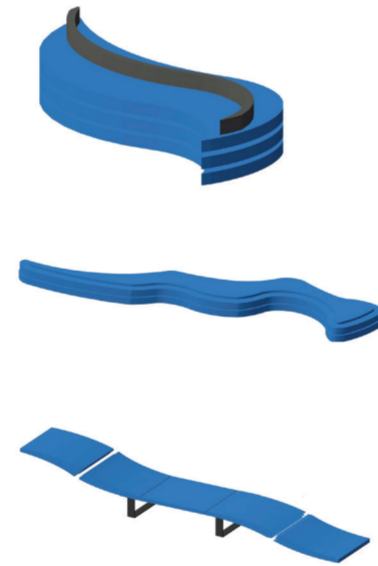
LED strip lights along structure to allow for the full effect

Material will be made from recycled plastic



Lighting will be fitted under or along installation

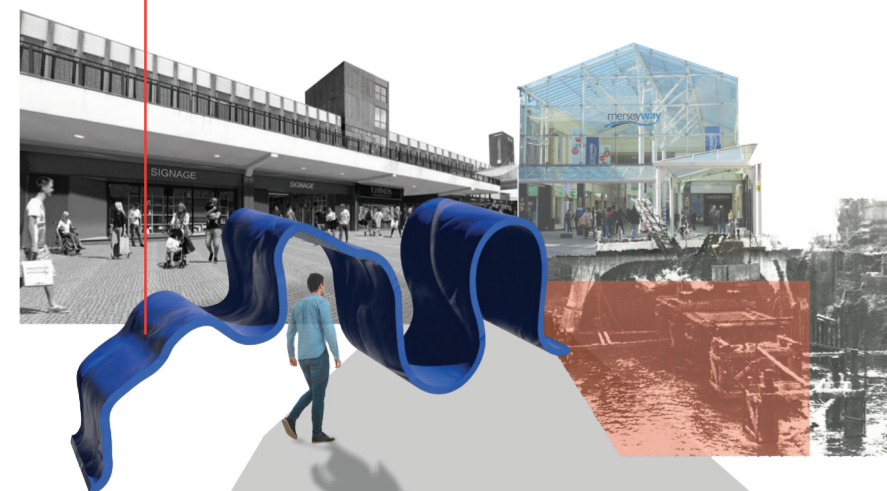
Installation stands on it's own



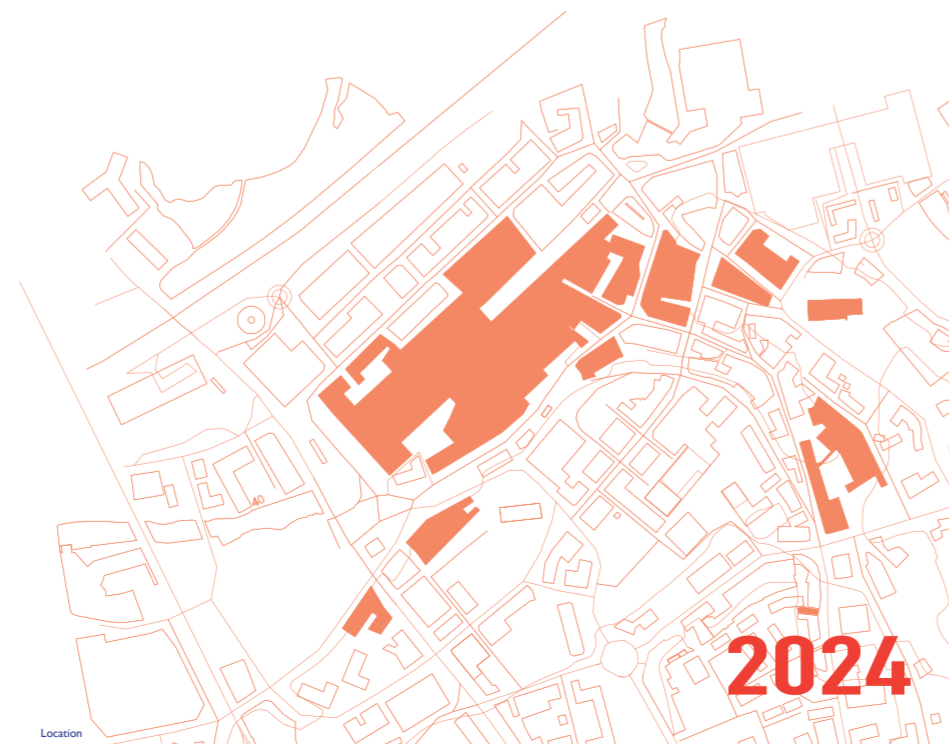
3D drawings of benches

2.5 metres

Our series of installations will take on different forms as they flow through the town highlighting Stockport's hidden gems. As we know litter/ pollution levels in the River Mersey are high we consciously chose to make this structure out of recycled plastic from the river. This allows for a second lease of life to be given to both the material and Stockport.



Visual displaying main installation



Location



Interview with Design Factory. One of the external collaborators on this project.

Being part of the exhibition team meant I was able to collaborate with a new group of students and other courses. The space where our work was being displayed was also being used by another course. This meant we had to communicate with each other and also be flexible, we realised that things don't always go exactly as planned but by working together to redraw floor plans and group set ups everything was resolved and the exhibition was a success. We also had to be organised when it came to each group as everyone had their own desires for the show so found ways of communicating with the entire project through forms etc.



Bus Shelter Advertisement.

