Moment: A year at The Bartlett

2015 Review

We are The Bartlett: UCL's global faculty of the built environment.

Our sections span the entire area of study and research. Individually, they lead their fields. In partnership, they develop new responses to pressing world issues. As a whole, they represent a world-leading, multidisciplinary faculty, united by the radical spirit of UCL.

Our vision is of a world where everything that's built aims to add to the wellbeing of people and the environment.

Through education, ideas and research that are inventive, forward-thinking and cross-disciplinary, we seek to encourage more innovative, collaborative responses to the world's challenges from those involved in the creation of our cities, towns and settlements.

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Dean Alan Penn on site at 22 Gordon Street

A personal message from our Dean, Alan Penn

Organisations above a certain scale face the question of how much can be planned, and to what degree management, at its best, must remain reactive. In order to work responsively, planning is all-important.

For The Bartlett growth has been planned. We are a comprehensive faculty of the built environment – one of only a few to be able to make this claim in the UK at present – and so we have aimed to ensure that each of our disciplines has the critical mass required to perform at a world leading level in education, enterprise and research. We have aimed to build the volume of our funded research in line with leading institutions in our field. We have worked to professionalise our administration and management to ensure that academic staff can focus on those aspects that require academic expertise and judgement, and have increased the proportion of professional services to academic staff.

We have also had to become more responsive because UK universities have made the transition from public-sector organisations to operating in a market. The quid pro quo for giving students direct access to the loan book was that individual students should be free to take their loans where they will.

We have recognised that as student fees increase, so too do expectations. At the same time, pressure on staff not only to teach, but also to engage in research and enterprise, all at the top 'world-leading' level, require both time to think, and space in which to do so. We have therefore worked to reduce student-staff ratios to best in sector levels, and to improve both the quality and extent of our estate. Meanwhile our turnover has nearly quadrupled. The whole faculty has become more efficient, more effective and more productive.

One measure of productivity is the Research Excellence Framework, the national evaluation of research in all UK universities, in all subject disciplines. On 'research power', a measure of the proportion of our staff assessed to be at the top 4* and 3* ranking, UCL outperformed both Oxford and Cambridge. The Bartlett also took pole position. In fact we submitted more staff whose research was rated at the highest level than the next three institutions in the league combined. Over 30% of those were early career researchers, something that bodes well for the future.

In terms of education, we have again topped the league tables for the built environment, and architecture: the Guardian and the AJ employer survey of the best UK school of architecture. Meanwhile the international QS league places us second in the world to MIT. Perhaps most pleasing is a top place for UCL in LinkedIn's list of 'Design Schools'. This is a carefully calculated league table based on which employers LinkedIn members who include 'design' in their job description work for, and from which university those employers recruit their design staff. UCL is truly a world-leading producer of design talent in Engineering and Computing as well as Architecture, Planning and Construction disciplines.

All of this raises a question around the limits to growth. To put it simply, small can be beautiful, but at the same time it can risk becoming limiting; scale allows diversity, and can offer efficiencies in administration. What is most important is that the structure of an organisation fits its driving logic.

In the case of The Bartlett, scale allows us plurality. Different viewpoints can be taken on any issue, creating the conditions for critical debate. It affords efficiency in administration while allowing a portfolio of activity to be balanced, helping manage the risks inherent to different funding streams and economic cycles. The real benefits come if the parts, which tend to specialise in particular viewpoints or methods, can come together around projects or programmes. With this in mind last year we restructured to create three new Institutes: the Institutes of Sustainable Heritage, and Environmental Design and Engineering join the Institute of Sustainable Resources and the UCL Energy Institute in the newly formed Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources (BSEER) at Central House, while the UCL Institute of Global Prosperity has been established in new accommodation in Maple House.

In the last year we moved The Bartlett School of Planning and the Library to join BSEER in Central House, and The Bartlett School of Architecture and the Space Syntax Laboratory into temporary space in Hampstead Road. These moves make way for the major rebuild, retrofit and extension of 22 Gordon Street (formerly Wates House), which after 40 years was desperately needed. The project is due to complete in time for the 2016-17 academic year.

Even more exciting perhaps are our plans to take on a new 'big space' at the Here East development near Hackney Wick in early 2017, together with UCL Engineering. Here East offers a great opportunity for The Bartlett to lay the groundwork for UCL's future presence in this emerging creative centre. The new spaces will allow us and our partners to bring groundbreaking research in architecture, infrastructure, transport, robotics, healthcare, manufacturing to East London and its surrounding communities, and in turn become a site for innovation on the national and international stage.

Research

Responding to global challenges through innovative thinking

Building an alliance for better places

Find out more and join in at: www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/placealliance

By Carina Schneider

Sometimes, all it takes for grass-roots initiatives to develop is a combination of good timing, the right conversations, and a network of partners willing to take it forward. In the case of the Place Alliance, a collaborative cross-sector alliance encouraging a greater focus on place quality in England, the movement is also based on solid research.

Tentatively, it works towards answering the question of how we can ensure that design and place quality are at the core of what we do - not only in government, industry and local authorities, but also as part of our every day culture. This is not a novel question, and has been addressed in various ways over the years, most influentially by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) that made very significant contributions to raising the design quality agenda during the noughties.

Matthew Carmona, Professor at The Bartlett School of Planning, conducted research into the work of CABE between 1999-2011 as part of an AHRC-funded project titled 'Evaluating the Governance of Design: the CABE experiment and beyond'. The findings, to be published in 2016, revealed that while CABE had been key to driving national interest in design and design quality, it had also occasionally been criticised for being too top-down in its approach.

The research project had always been intended to inform policy and ultimately contribute to encouraging the creation of well-designed places, which in turn would have a positive impact on wider issues of public policy. But how much impact can research realistically have, on policy and on the ground?

The funded research completed just as the 2014 Farrell Review made a call for more 'place leadership'. Matthew says of the review: "It was great to have such a high-profile voice calling for design and place quality, but I thought some of the recommendations in the report could have gone further, especially in terms of bringing the different built environment professions together and creating a bottom-up dialogue to fill the leadership gap."

After publishing a paper on the review, Matthew found that the wider built environment community supported its premise. Together with colleague Dr Lucy Natarajan, he organised a first stakeholder meeting, bringing together around 100 people from different organisations, industry and the community at UCL in a 'Big Meet'. Endorsed by Terry Farrell and followed quickly by a second Big Meet attended by Minister of State for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Ed Vaizey, the discussions successfully concluded with a shared set of recommendations on how to move forward.

"We agreed that place leadership was needed, not in a top down, but a collaborative way" Matthew says. "It's about giving direction and continually making the case for good design. The quality of the built environment underpins so many aspects of our lives – socially, economically, environmentally, and in terms of health and wellbeing."

For Matthew the question of agency is crucial: "This type of leadership can come from any of us: working in academia, within the industry, with community organisations. We can work with the professions and government particularly, but don't necessarily need to rely on them to take the lead."

The critical point to make is that Place Alliance is not going to be an organisation, or a professional institute, it is primarily providing a space that will allow the diverse range of groups and parties who shape the built environment to come together and engage with each other.

"We needed a starting point, so we set down what we meant by place quality and published a document called 'Place Matters', setting out a vision defined by 'five Fs': friendly, fair, flourishing, fun, free.

These are very broad, aspirational qualities that can take different shapes depending on locality and context." Matthew explains. "Now we are all on the same page we can move forward together to encourage their implementation".

This grass-roots initiative has been going for almost a year. There is a core support group hosted at UCL, and anyone can join the free and regular 'Big Meet' conventions aimed at bringing together parties working within the sector. Place Alliance also has a series of working groups focusing on topics its supporters consider relevant and is putting together a series of local nodes in other universities around the country to host events and bring together key players in the built environment around topics relevant to the locality.

To enable the sharing of resources and ideas between the different localities, Place Alliance is also developing an open source web platform that enables registered users to upload resources about place-making and for others to comment and rate these, which will be launched in the autumn.

Place Alliance is close to what's happening on the ground, but at the same time in constant conversations with policy makers and Government, with Professor Matthew Carmona also recently being appointed as Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment.

"As academics we sometimes have to learn to put our heads above the parapet. If we don't really engage we cannot hope to have an impact." Matthew says of the successes of Place Alliance so far. "The movement has gained real momentum, but it would not have been possible without the real support we have had and continue to receive from The Bartlett."

REF confirms The Bartlett as built environment research heavyweight

The Bartlett was named the faculty with the most world-leading research in its field in the UK by the Government's Research Excellence Framework (REF2014). As one of UCL's 11 faculties, The Bartlett's performance directly contributed to the institution's overall success and its confirmation as the top-rated university in the UK for research strength, calculated by a measure of average research score multiplied by staff numbers submitted.

REF2014 was part of a series of reviews of university research conducted to determine how the funding councils allocate the annual £2bn of funding from 2015/2016 onwards. The review found that 46% of The Bartlett's research was rated 4* world-leading and a further 35% was rated 3* internationally excellent.

The Bartlett's submission stood out for its inclusiveness; it submitted 151 scholars, which was over twice the size of the nearest other submission to the REF sub-panel, and represents 94% of eligible staff. A third of the submitted staff were early career researchers – the most of any university in the sub-panel – and the research environment was graded 4* by almost 90%.

These results confirmed The Bartlett's position as the UK's most comprehensive faculty of the built environment in terms of scale, breadth and depth of programmes, departments and disciplines.

Read more

UCL-ISR publishes essential climate change research on fossil fuels

A study conducted by the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources states that if global warming is to stay below the 2°C target agreed by policy makers, a third of oil reserves, half of gas reserves and over 80% of current coal reserves globally should remain in the ground.

The study, published in Nature and funded by the UK Energy Research Centre, shows that the majority of coal reserves, over 260 billion barrels of oil reserves and over 60% of the gas reserves, should remain unused. It also states that the development of resources in the Arctic and increases in unconventional oil would be inconsistent with policy goals.

Researchers developed an innovative method for estimating the qualities, locations and nature of the world's reserves and resources. They then used an integrated assessment model to explore which of the reserves should be used by 2050 to meet the world's energy needs. This model improves on previous models, providing a world-leading representation of long-term production dynamics and resource potential of fossil fuels.

The results are consistent with a variety of alternative modelling approaches from groups across the globe. Future work will investigate shifts in cumulative fossil fuel production between scenarios that lead to different long-term average global temperature rises.

Read more

BSA publishes digital Design Research Portfolios

The Bartlett School of Architecture has launched a new online publication series that features some of the innovative design research produced by its staff. The design portfolio resource showcases original and experimental works completed by both established and early career design researchers at the School of Architecture.

The series reflects the School of Architecture's overall outstanding research production and environment. The folios present studies into a wide variety of subjects and approaches to architectural research. Each focuses on a single project to provide readers with an in-depth visual and textual exploration of its questions, methods and outcomes. Research titles include 'Universal Tea Machine,' 'Bishop Edward King Chapel,' 'Seasons Through the Looking Glass,' 'Banyoles Old Town Refurbishment' and many more.

The online publication is an illuminating series that celebrates the creative role that design practice plays in today's architectural research. The folios all contributed to The Bartlett's top-rated performance in the Government's Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF2014), and demonstrate the world-leading research conducted at The Bartlett.

See the Design Research Portfolios

CASA helps launch the new Knowledge Quarter

The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis Teaching Fellow in Big Data Analytics, Steven Gray, met Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, for the launch of the Alan Turing Institute for Data Science at the British Library. The Institute, which CASA helped to establish, will be dedicated to studying data science and big data.

Data science is a staple of CASA's research into the Smart City, and CASA was invited to showcase some of the visualisations created by its researchers on the London Data Table, which projects real-time animations and visualisations of data to tell compelling stories about how Londoners use the city.

The Institute for Data Science is at the centre of the new Knowledge Quarter which is a result of the collaboration of academic, cultural, research, scientific and media organisations based in Kings Cross, Euston and Bloomsbury. UCL is a proud partner alongside 34 other organisations, including the British Library, British Museum, Wellcome Trust, Google and more.

The Knowledge Quarter was established to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration opportunities in the support of the local community. The launch event marked the start of bigger investments into data science within UK academia.

Visit the Knowledge Quarter website

Government invests in new UCL digital research facility

The Government has committed to investing £4 million in a new facility at UCL aimed at helping policy makers develop strategies to balance regional economic divides within the UK. An additional £5.6 million of institutional funding accompanies the Government's investment.

The UK Regions Digital Research Facility will bring together independently-developed expertise from across UCL, including next-generation data analytics and novel forms of crowd-sourced 'big data' to create an open source technology platform. The platform will support regional modelling and analysis to help answer socio-economic questions.

The facility is due to be launched later in 2015 and aims to help cities across the UK make better infrastructure investments and strategic decisions. It will allow public sector policy makers, private firms and inward investors to analyse potential options based on a background of evidence.

Professor Alan Penn, Dean of The Bartlett, is leading the project, which will bring together the latest information and analytical methods from academics in the Built Environment, Engineering, and Social & Historical Sciences. The facility was announced as part of the Government's Summer Budget, which confirmed £23 million in funding through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (ESPRC) for six new multidisciplinary research facilities to help drive the UK's Digital Economy research, knowledge and skills.

The Bartlett hosts Ethics in Built Environment Research conference

The Bartlett and the UCL Grand Challenge of Human Wellbeing hosted a transdisciplinary symposium as part of the project 'Ethics in Built Environment Research' to explore the role of ethics in built environment research and consider ways of working between principle and procedure, intersecting with issues of justice, politics and morality.

Talks and roundtables were held over two days, allowing speakers, discussants and chairs to discuss topics ranging from big data and fossil fuels to housing and regeneration. They addressed issues of professional responsibility, confidentiality, consent, risk and vulnerability.

Speakers came from a variety of areas and included academics, anthropologists, architects, artists, community activists, designers, engineers, planners, philosophers, public intellectuals, scientists, urbanists and writers. Sessions included 'Why Ethics Now?', 'What is the Architect's Ethical Role Today?', 'Ethics and Freedom of Information' and 'Data, Privacy and Politics.'

The UCL Grand Challenge of Human Wellbeing is one of four of UCL's Grand Challenges. It considers both the nature of being human and the nature of wellbeing, and aims to harness UCL's research expertise to address issues of wellbeing. The symposium was hosted by Professor Jane Rendell from The Bartlett School of Architecture.

Find out more about Ethics in Built Environment Research at The Bartlett

DPU joins Urban Africa Risk Knowledge research consortium

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit has been successful as a key part of a research consortium that was awarded £3.3 million from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) Poverty Alleviation programme.

Urban African Risk Knowledge (Urban ARK) is a three-year programme that seeks to better understand the nature and scale of disaster risks in African urban centres. Researchers aim to study the interaction of environmental hazards in areas with poor housing and marginalised communities to break the cycles by which vulnerability and the incapacity to cope with hazards accrue in society. Urban ARK is working in Senegal, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya and Niger.

The DPU research is led by Dr Cassidy Johnson and includes contributions from Adriana Allen, Caren Levy, Barbara Lipietz, Rita Lambert and Donald Brown.

Urban ARK is led by King's College London, and is a highly collaborative project that will bring together researchers from Africa with practitioners and international research partners.

Read more

UCL-Energy awarded grant for airport capacity research

The UCL Energy Institute, in collaboration with Imperial College London and the University of Southampton, was awarded £1.5 million EPSRC research grant to model various implications of airport capacity expansions. The project will be titled 'Airport Capacity Consequences Leveraging Aviation Integrated Modelling (ACCLAIM)'.

ACCLAIM means to develop rigorous scientific models that simulate passenger and industry behaviour in an integrated way, and to quantify the economic and environmental implications of various options. The development of these models is a challenge because, while global air travel is expected to grow steadily in the upcoming decades, significant changes are expected in the global distribution and structure of traffic with the expansion of emerging market economies and the development of new business models, marketing strategies and technologies.

ACCLAIM aims to build on the existing AIM framework and add significantly to its capabilities by providing support to the multi-billion pound investment decisions at stake.

BSA part of pioneering new research network: InnoChain

The Bartlett School of Architecture joins six European research institutions and 14 leading practices from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK to form a pioneering new research network 'Building Innovation in the Extended Digital Chain' (InnoChain).

InnoChain will examine how advanced digital design tools can positively challenge future building culture, enabling more sustainable and materially smarter design solutions. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Programme awarded the network a €4 million grant.

The network includes 15 new doctoral projects within the fields of architecture and engineering. The researchers will be enrolled at the partner research institutions, benefitting from hands-on experience and exposure to the applied reality of situated research and development across the digital chain.

The network intends to employ a practice-based, industry-focused method to ask how new bespoke design tools can be created to enable advanced simulation of structure, material and process, in order to lead to smarter material and design solutions.

Visit the InnoChain website

DPU publishes research on climate resilient planning in Lima

New research from the The Bartlett Development Planning Unit explores the conditions that produce and reproduce urban 'risk traps,' questioning how and where they materialise, and with what consequences for women and men living in informal and marginalised settlements.

The study, titled *cLIMA sin Riesgo*, was based in Lima, Peru, where bio-physical and socio-economic risk drivers are deeply entangled. This results in cycles of unequal risk exposure and displacement, which impacts the lives, livelihoods and assets of the urban poor and the city's ecological and socio-economic future.

Such 'risk traps' undermine efforts and investments made by the urban poor and state agencies to mitigate risk. DPU's project aims to enhance spatial knowledge, asses on-going investments and create evidence-based tools to inform climate resilient funding mechanisms that attempt to disrupt cycles of risk. The project is led by Professor Adriana Allen and is funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

Read more

UCL IEDE launches IEDELearn Lecture series

The UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering hosted a series of monthly lectures throughout the year as part of the celebration of 50 years of Environmental Design and Engineering (EDE) at The Bartlett. The lecture series is titled IEDELearn, which stands for IEDE Lectures, Events and Research Networks.

The monthly lectures were dedicated to inspiring the debate, discussion and advancement of current EDE professional practice, as part of IEDE's pursuit of a deeper understanding of the part played by the urban environment in tackling some of the greatest challenges facing mankind. The lectures were hosted by an IEDE academic staff member and featured talks from external experts.

Lecture topics included 'Healthy Buildings, Healthy People', 'Getting Real about Building Performance', and 'Wellness and the Workplace' and featured experts from City University, CIBSE, AHR and more. More information about the events and their topics is available on the IEDELearn website.

Read more

C&PM publishes study on capital investment in education

Academics at The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management published a study in the 'Building Research and Information Journal' that provides valuations of the benefits of education attainment resulting from capital investment. The analysis combines data from a range of sources and assesses the returns from investment on facility cost and the potential future tax revenues.

The study suggests that capital investment does provide a positive return to treasury in the schools analysed. The data sets generated will be useful for informing policy effectiveness when considering which schools present the highest propensity to improve outcomes from rebuilding works, which is a key goal of the former Building Schools for the Future programme.

The method, developed along with the research will become more powerful as the years pass and as time series data amasses, which will allow the team to trace the longer-term dynamics of educational attainment associated with rebuilding works.

Read more

IEDE doctorate student wins SimAUD Outstanding Paper Award

UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering EngD student Yair Schwartz won the Outstanding Paper Award at the 2015 Symposium on Simulation for Architecture and Urban Design (SimAUD).

The paper, titled 'Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithms (MOGA) for the Minimisation of the Life Cycle Carbon Footprint (LCCF) and Life Cycle Cost (LCC) of the Refurbishment of a Residential Complex's Envelope: A Case Study' was written with Schwartz's EngD supervisors Dejan Mumovic and Rokia Raslan and was sponsored by the architecture firm Hawkins\Brown.

The paper examined life cycle aspects of the refurbishment of a case study, and explored the potential of using MOGA and a Dynamic Thermal Simulation Tool to find optimal refurbishment measures in terms of LCCF and LCC over a 60-year lifespan.

SimAUD is a venue for architecture and simulation researchers to come together and focus on understanding and optimising building performance. It was held as part of the Spring Simulation Multi-Conference 2015.

BSP holds seminar series on planning in China

The Bartlett School of Planning's China Planning Research Group (CPRG) held a series of seminars throughout the 2014-2015 year.

The seminar series was coordinated by Dr Fangzhu Zhang, a BSP lecturer on Planning in China.

Seminar series topics included 'Is China gentrifying?', 'Place effects on migrants' settlement intention in urban China' and 'Urbanity as a resource'. Speakers came from universities such as the National Technical University of Athens, the University of Westminster, Tongji University.

The CPRG is an inter-departmental initiative that aims to promote a collaborative research space within UCL and other London universities to provide a multi-disciplinary perspective on China's recent development. It does so by providing a platform for comparative studies through seminars, workshops, exchanges and conferences. The CPRG aims to foster knowledge on China's rural and urban developments, raise the profile of UK academics and practitioners on China's planning, and promote research activities on the subject area in London.

Read more about the CPRG

Teaching

Encouraging creativity, ambition and new ideas

Space to grow: Blogging and the future of successful pedagogy

By Gabrielle Pantalena

Space Syntax
Read more on Kerstin's blog

Dr Kerstin Sailer is an expert in space. She studies and lectures on how the space in buildings shape human interaction and experience. This year, she was recognised for her utilisation of an entirely different kind of space: the Internet.

Kerstin, a lecturer in complex buildings with the Space Syntax Laboratory, teaches on the MSc/MRes Spatial Design programme's module 'Building, Organisations and Networks.' You never know where you'll find her and her students; some days they are in the classroom and others they are out on the streets of London, exploring the British Library, the Royal Courts of Justice, the office of Foster and Partners or even the Westfield Mall.

"I try to always choose buildings that are open to the public or where there's lots of things going on, so that we can always go into the buildings and I can ask the students, 'Ok, now, what do you see?'"

The question seems simple, but it is the foundation of space syntax. Students are given a minute to observe the space they are occupying, and then report back. Kerstin names an example of a class in the Westfield Mall, where her students have to count how many of the people passing by carry bags. Inevitably, the people with bags are in the minority. So what does that say about how people use the mall?

"It teaches them skills on all sorts of levels,' Kerstin says. 'On research methods, on theories, on concepts."

Kerstin uses these excursions to, as she says: "Bring the theories to life and to not only teach them research results, but to get them to feel like they're on their own research journey."

After the research journey is finished, the students then set to an even more daunting task: writing a public blog. The blogs are a weekly exercise, in which students have to write 500 words on an aspect of that week's building and link their observations back to theory discussed during lectures.

"Students take part in this ten-week programme of writing every week, to get past the barrier – the horror – of the empty page," Kerstin says.

Kerstin reads all the blogs and has her students vote on which three are most effective. In class they then discuss what made them successful. They also discuss what these blogs could have done better, an addition to the assignment that students requested themselves. Ultimately, they turn in a 2000-word assignment made up of their three best blogs and a report.

"It is a lot of work," Kerstin admits. "But it really pays off. It allows them to gradually learn things like critical thinking or reflection, which otherwise would be really difficult to teach."

Kerstin isn't alone in thinking that this type of assignment pays off. She was awarded the UCL Provost's Teaching Award in 2015, in recognition of her innovation in pedagogy through the use of new media to deliver her students a research-led education.

"I think it's good to keep up-to-date with the world out there," Kerstin says. "If you actually know how to use these tools, if you come out of your degree and show you are digitally literate, that you know how to blog and you know how to do that in an interesting, engaging and professional way, then that will be a bonus on your CV in years to come. People are going to seek out people who can communicate and use these tools confidently."

It is this attitude that makes Kerstin such an engaging and talented lecturer. She encourages her students to push their boundaries and to keep looking forward.

Kerstin says: "Many of our students in architecture degrees come from a practical studio training, and a lot of them have not been trained in writing." But that doesn't stop them. "There's a bit of a barrier in the beginning, and some of them are quite scared," she goes on. "But they get into the rhythm, and once they come out of it at the end they're full of praise."

Some of her students even continue to use their blogs after the course is done, which, to Kerstin, is a testament to the innovative assignment's success.

"It does work, and it gives students something outside of the assignment on top of just ticking the box. They learn something for the world out there that they can continue to use."

Kerstin encourages other lecturers to push their boundaries, too: "I think sometimes as lecturers we're a bit too scared of trying something new, and maybe not getting it right in the first instance. But I don't think that matters, because you then build on it." She laughs. "The way I've set up my teaching now, it didn't come out of nowhere. I've built it up."

This process of building her experience has come from advice from students and trial and error. Which, ultimately, Kerstin says is the key to success.

"Just do it," she encourages. "Don't be scared to fail. It sounds so common place, but the idea is that practice makes perfect, and you don't have to produce something brilliant on your first go."

BSA hosts open crits

Professors Frédéric Migayrou, Sir Peter Cook and Bob Sheil curated a selection of works from BSc Architecture Year 3 and MArch Architecture Year 5 design projects, to be reviewed by a group of distinguished external critics.

Thirteen year three students and ten year five students were selected to have their design projects reviewed over two days in March 2015. The event was a celebration of the extraordinary quality and diversity of work being produced by students in the School of Architecture. Critics reviewed projects that were still a work in progress, giving both the students who were presenting and those who attended the opportunity to take part in exploratory discussions and the project development process.

External critics included Paul Finch (World Architecture Festival/EMAP), Helen Castle (AD), Kate Davies (The AA/Liquid Factory), Sean Griffiths (FAT/University of Westminster), Zoe Laughlin (The Institute of Making), Kendra Byrne (Bot & Dolly) and many more. They were joined by distinguished academics from The Bartlett, including Sir Peter Cook, Frédéric Migayrou, Christine Hawley, Nat Chard and Bob Sheil.

The open crits were very well attended, offering students the opportunity to present their designs to large audiences. The event fostered meaningful collaboration and critique between the students and the esteemed critics in the audience.

View photos of the event

Caren Levy receives student choice award for outstanding teaching

Caren Levy from the The Bartlett Development Planning Unit was presented with the award for Outstanding Teaching in UCL at the UCL Union's Student Choice Teaching Awards.

The award is given on the basis of nominations from students. It recognises teachers who have an inspiring enthusiasm, an innovative and engaging approach to teaching and are understanding and respectful to students.

Caren's student nomination reviews were glowing, with one student saying 'Every single time Caren gives a lecture, students leave class feeling refreshed, inspired, and intellectually stimulated,' and another commenting that 'Caren demonstrates to us every week that there is room to be an optimist even when dealing with very difficult and fragile situations.'

Caren is a senior lecturer at The Bartlett, with over 30 years of experience teaching, researching, training and consultancy. She focuses on planning, community-led development and governance, and especially transport, housing and land management in urban areas of the Global South. Levy has a special interest in the institutionalisation of social justice in policy and planning, especially when it comes to issues of gender, diversity and the environment. She is also the co-director of the MSc Urban Development Planning and Vice Dean (International) for The Bartlett.

The Bartlett achieves top rankings in built environment and architecture

The Bartlett has taken second place to MIT in the latest league table for architecture and the built environment in the QS World Rankings 2015, and topped the list of European universities in this subject area. In addition, The Bartlett School of Architecture was featured in Domus Magazine's 'Top 100 European Schools of Architecture and Design 2015.'

These ratings place The Bartlett at the top of European and UK universities for architecture and the built environment, cementing its position as the most comprehensive faculty of the built environment in the world. The Bartlett and MIT were joined by Delft University of Technology, UC Berkeley and Harvard University as the top five built environment schools in the world.

In addition to the faculty's top QS world ranking result, UCL and The Bartlett ranked number one in the LinkedIn University ranking, which illustrates the successful career trajectories for graduates globally.

LinkedIn University ranking
Visit the QS website

ISH launches new mobile heritage lab

The UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage was awarded EPSRC funding for a Mobile Heritage Laboratory (MHL) in addition to funding for a Centre for Doctoral Training in Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology (SEAHA) last year. The MHL represents a unique research infrastructure that enables scientific research as well as engagement with the public and professionals in museums, heritage and archaeological sites across the UK.

It gives ISH the unique opportunity to travel to the heritage collections, buildings and sites making both the researchers and laboratory infrastructure mobile, enabling access to state-of-the-art methods and technologies.

The MHL consists of a vehicle adapted for use as a laboratory, mobile research and big data computer equipment. Researchers traveling with the lab will carry out environmental, material and structural characterisation, diagnostics, documentation, attribution, authentication and data analysis in situ. This provides opportunities to educate visitors about discoveries and innovations in heritage science.

In May 2015, the MHL took part in its first public engagement activity during the 'On Light Festival' organised by UCL and the Wellcome Trust. SEAHA MRes students performed live experiments inside the MHL for over 1,000 visitors.

Alumni internship programme gets underway in the Philippines

Three alumni from The Bartlett Development Planning Unit participated in a six-month internship to support and learn from community-driven processes in three different locations across the Philippines. Laura Hirst, Jessica Mamo and Mariangela Veronesi were involved in developing methodologies and tools to support local planning, while living within the communities they worked in. They were based in Metro Manila, Davao and Mandaue.

They experimented with different community planning techniques such as mapping, developing plans and sustainability strategies and developing design options. By working with local partner groups and the interns, it is hoped that the communities will use these findings to enhance their collective know-how to find sustainable and practical solutions to local issues.

This internship programme formed Phase II of the Junior Professional Internship Programme that the DPU runs in association with the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and the Community Architects Network (CAN). The long-standing partnership between DPU, ACHR and CAN has fostered successful collaboration and research, including this programme.

The programme drew on the interns' previous learning and experiences from the first phase of the programme, which they participated in during 2013.

Visit the ACHR website
Visit the Community Architects Network website

Space Syntax PhD student in MoMA exhibition

The Bartlett Space Syntax Laboratory PhD candidate and teaching assistant Fani Kostourou's project 'Varanda Products' was exhibited as part of Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The exhibition addressed the increasingly inequitable urban development in Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lagos, Mumbai, New York and Rio de Janeiro.

Kostourou was part of the interdisciplinary team studying Rio de Janeiro. Alongside students and researchers from ETH Zurich's Master of Advanced Study in Urban Design and RUA Arquitetos from Rio de Janeiro, Kostourou developed and implemented a 14-month initiative of tactical urbanism intending to foster urban improvements through consumer products.

'Varanda Products' is a catalogue of everyday consumer products that promotes city-making as a collective endeavour, bringing together diverse social milieus. It encourages small-scale urban entrepreneurship fostered by varandas, which serve as a middle ground for negotiation, gathering and play.

Kostourou was involved in the preparation of the design proposal as a student of the ETH Zurich MAS Urban Design programme and as a participant in the workshop and conference organised by MoMA, in collaboration with the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna. While at ETH, she developed expertise in envisioning and designing future urban scenarios for developing territories.

Exhibition info on the MoMA website

DPU holds summerLab workshop series for fifth year

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit is now in the fifth year of it's summerLab workshop series, collaborating with local partners in five cities to leverage the reality of the city as a laboratory for developing socially responsive design measures.

This year, summerLab took place in London, Mostar, Chicago, Beirut and Santiago. Each city had its own theme, encouraging students to provoke, stimulate and reconsider the role of designers in promoting spatial justice. The workshops are geared towards students and emerging professionals who have a background in the urban environment.

In Santiago, participants studied heritage, conflict and urban change, while in Beirut students worked with the theme of 'Imagining Bliss'. 'The Puerto Rican Diaspora' was the subject of study in Chicago, and the workshops in Mostar studied 'Common Grounds'. The summerLab in London held its third installment of the series on 'Localising Legacies'.

These workshops offer a vital testing ground for the proposing of contextual, hybridised spatial interventions deeply embedded into socio-political agendas.

Find out more about summerLab

STEaPP is The Bartlett's new partner in policy education

The Bartlett assisted the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy (STEaPP) in the creation of a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) and Doctor of Public Administration (DPA).

STEaPP's mission to educate the world's next generation of science and technology professionals is supported by The Bartlett's values of radical and interdisciplinary thinking. STEaPP aims to educate students to meet the increasingly technically complex issues of public policy head-on.

The rigorous MPA and DPA programmes at STEaPP equip students to work at local, national and international levels, and to work within many contexts, including the built environment. STEaPP's research profile brings interdisciplinary expertise on a variety of themes, including science advice and diplomacy, risk and regulation, knowledge systems and innovation policy. Core to STEaPP's approach are action research and the principle of co-production in the design and execution of its research initiatives.

Find out more about STEaPP

Ecclesiastical fund student scholarships at the UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage

The UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage (ISH) received a donation of £60,000 from Ecclesiastical Insurance for student scholarships for the Master of Science programme in Sustainable Heritage. The scholarship will benefit one student per year over the next three years.

The Sustainable Heritage programme focuses on management and sustainability of cultural heritage worldwide. It includes the cross-disciplinary study of current conservation policies, projects, methodologies and practice in the context of historic buildings, collections, site and landscapes.

Ecclesiastical Insurance have had a relationship with UCL since 2004, and their bursary was donated in support of ISH's efforts to preserve and protect heritage for future generations, an effort that is also one of Ecclesiastical Insurance's core purposes.

The bursary will cover course fees and subsistence depending on the status of the applicant. The MSc in Sustainable Heritage offered by ISH uses an MBA-style block teaching model, which allows time and space for reflection and study. Teaching takes place in business-like small groups and students are encouraged to show initiative in their studies.

Read more

BSA student wins 2014 RIBA Silver Medal

The Bartlett School of Architecture MArch Architecture student Nick Elias was awarded the RIBA Silver Medal for best design project at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The prestigious awards, which have been held since 1836, reward talent and excellence in the study of architecture.

Elias' project 'PoohTown' was honoured as the best design project at Part 2 level. 'PoohTown' revisits 1920's Slough and the social inequality the town experienced during its industrial expansion. 'PoohTown' proposes happy architectures where residents can live, work and play together in a sustainable economic network. It establishes grounds for a subtle critique of today's cities' potential to prescribe policies of happiness alongside familiar amenities, and alerts for the need to design for emotions.

Three other students from The Bartlett School of Architecture were honoured at the RIBA Awards: Louis Sullivan, Leon Fenster and Emily Priest were awarded commendations in the Silver Medal, Dissertation Medal and Bronze Medal categories, respectively.

See Poohtown on the President's Medals website
Read more

BSP student a finalist in Mayor of London's Low Carbon Entrepreneur competition

MSc Urban Regeneration student Louis Rutherford from The Bartlett School of Planning was one of ten finalists in the Mayor's Low Carbon Entrepreneur competition. His project, 'Gaia Gallery,' is based on a heritage canal boat and aims to create the UK's first entirely off-grid touring event space.

The project is volunteer-led and has been shaped by a carbon neutral design that incorporates alternative technologies, reclaimed materials and natural building methods. It has been shaped through collaboration with Siemens, TEDx and the 'Biomodd' art project.

The Gaia Gallery functions as as a skill-sharing platform that has enabled a series of expert-led public courses and helped to forge strong community links in diverse neighbourhoods across London.

The Mayor of London's Low Carbon Entrepreneur Prize challenges London's students and recent graduates to come up with an idea to reduce London's energy use and carbon emissions. Winners receive £20,000 to get their idea started, along with assistance from City Hall.

Read more

The Bartlett Doctoral Networks foster cross-faculty collaboration

Twelve Bartlett Doctoral Networks were established with the help of faculty funding in 2014, aiming to foster interdisciplinary contact and collaboration between doctoral students and staff on cross-disciplinary themes relating to the built environment. These include The Bartlett Arts Club, Doctoral Informality Network, Film+Place+Architecture, Energy and Social Sciences, Future Cities, Morphology Group, QUANTUM network, Photography Network, Sensing Environments and Transport.

Members of the networks work to encourage information exchange, social support and research collaboration. Ultimately, they hope to establish synergies between doctoral students and staff in The Bartlett, UCL and beyond.

The Networks are led by doctoral researchers but welcome active participation by both doctoral researchers and staff. The networks aim to act as a bridge between discrete academic fields, since built environment research often overlaps with arts and humanities, social sciences, physical sciences and engineering. All academics benefit from intellectual exchange and support from contacts and colleagues in related research areas, and The Bartlett Doctoral Networks aim to support this endeavour.

Read more

BSA students win 2015 Arup prize

The Bartlett School of Architecture PhD candidate Moritz Behrens and MSc Adaptive Architecture and Communication student Konstantinos Mavromichalis won the annual No.8@Arup competition with their installation 'The Sentiment Cocoon.' The installation was one of five entries shortlisted for the Arup prize, which aims to shine a light on emerging architectural practices.

The Cocoon is an interactive installation open to the public and designed to capture peoples' sentiments and then depict them through light. The Cocoon was then installed on site at Arup's offices at No. 8 Fitzroy Street by project manager Greg Chandler of the Buildings London group.

Behrens is an architect and alumnus of The Bartlett's MSc AAC who is currently a PhD Architectural and Space Computation candidate studying Media Architectural Interfaces. Mavromichalis is a lighting designer, whose work explores communication, architecture and human interaction with a focus on responsive environments.

Read about Sentiment Cocoon on the Arup website

BSA graduate wins UCL Turner Prize for best dissertation

Marcela Aragüez, a graduate from The Bartlett School of Architecture MSc Spatial Design: Architecture and Cities programme, was awarded the UCL Turner Prize for best dissertation. Her research, 'An Enclosed Landscape Spatiality: The Rolex Learning Centre by SANAA in Lausanne' was supervised by Dr Sophia Psarra.

Aragüez's dissertation analyses the spatial system and social patterns observed at the Rolex Learning Centre, whose geometry is characterised by its undulated floor and ceiling. Her research demonstrates that by substituting walls and partitions, undefined space is the organiser and distributor of programmes in the buildings. One of her most remarkable finds is that certain areas present a disjunction between levels of permeability and visibility, which generates a series of informal practices rarely found in public in an academic environment.

The Turner Prize was founded in 2011 in memory of Alastair Turner, whose work made a profound impact in the field of space syntax.

Enterprise

Putting knowledge to work

Crowdsourcing Monet: everyone's a curator with the new Instagram of art

By Emma Todd

Visit the USEUM website
Visit the UCL Advances website

"I want to put the user at the centre of USEUM," explains Foteini Valeonti earnestly. She's the founder of an interactive online platform for art and a doctoral researcher at The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis (CASA). "With content creators now outnumbering content consumers, expectation of what user-centric digital platforms should offer is higher than ever," she adds. USEUM, she is determined, will meet this demand.

USEUM is an online gallery and museum of illustrations, drawings and paintings that aims to make art more accessible to the masses. As Foteini explains: "People often feel awkward when talking about art. They're worried they'll sound stupid. An online platform like USEUM can help bring down some of those barriers."

With four million online search queries in July for Monet alone, there's no doubt there's an appetite for consuming art digitally. However, as Foteini explains, there are no platforms that enable users to engage with art in a meaningful way. She elaborates: "Prominent 'go-to' platforms exist for video (YouTube), for photos (Instagram) and for information (Wikipedia), but not for art." According to Foteini, engagement on existing art platforms is very limited for the end-user.

What makes USEUM different is that it allows users not just to comment but to rate, tag, upload and share. All of these elements determine the curation of the collection, essentially making it a crowd-curated platform. Art lovers are rewarded for their engagement; the more they do, the more privileges they get. Additionally, they can send any artwork as a free e-card and purchase merchandising displaying the artwork of their choice.

From the artist's perspective USEUM is a great showcase: "It's the ideal portfolio platform for them. They can show and sell their work and merchandising to a global marketplace. If someone likes their work, they can order a mug with it on and get it delivered within days, no matter where they are in the world," Foteini explains.

USEUM is also breaking new ground by allowing contemporary artists, in many cases unknown, to exhibit alongside old masters. Foteini adds: "All artists are treated equally. This doesn't happen on any other art portfolio platform online. It's a great opportunity for lesser known artists in particular."

From the seed of an idea, Foteini and her business partners have grown USEUM to 4,000 monthly active users, including 2,000 artists from over 100 countries. They've signed up the Paul Getty Library and National Gallery of Art in Washington as content contributors, and whilst still in its infancy, the start-up is already valued at an impressive £1m.

Foteini has the ideal combination of skills to bring the artistic and digital worlds together, the result of an undergraduate degree in computer science, a master of fine arts and a life-long love of art born in the museums of her homeland of Greece.

But, as she explains, it takes a lot more to start up a business than technical know-how and passion: "I didn't know anything about accounting, intellectual property rights or team management, it was very challenging and required a lot of self-discipline. I had to mature fast!"

She gratefully acknowledges the support she has received from UCL: "I'm so lucky to be part of an amazing lab at CASA. The resources available and the support my supervisor has given me have been fundamental in the development of USEUM." The adviser she mentions is Dr Andy Hudson-Smith, who in 2014 was recognised for his entrepreneurship through the UCL Provost's Spirit of Enterprise Award. She adds, "He's an academic but he's also very entrepreneurial."

UCL Advances, a department dedicated to supporting student entrepreneurs, also provided much-needed advice and support: "They were great, especially with legal stuff like copyright and intellectual property. They gave me a free 30-minute session with an IP lawyer which would normally have cost the earth."

So, what advice would Foteini give other budding entrepreneurs? "Firstly, I'd say you must validate your idea. Check there is a need for it. Once that's clear make sure you exploit all of the resources you have at your disposal. There is so much out there, like accelerators and competitions – the UK is extremely entrepreneur friendly."

She'd also like to pass on a key piece of advice, given to her by her supervisor: "He told me, 'do something you're passionate about. In the hard times, which will inevitably come, this passion will see you through.' And he was right. There have been moments of frustration and I've had to be resilient, but the positives have far outweighed any negatives."

Finally, she says to anyone thinking of setting up their own business: "Just do it! If it works, you'll be the first to benefit. If it doesn't, it will still be extremely valuable for your CV. So what have you got to lose?"

So, what's next for USEUM? "We're focussing on fully launching our website and putting more resources towards our iPhone application which is currently in alpha version" explains Foteini. "Every day we're a step closer to our vision of making USEUM the Instagram of art."

USEUM will hold its first ever gallery event at 6:30pm on 6 October at Le Dame Art Gallery in London. Anyone is welcome to attend and should register via Eventbrite on the USEUM website. The exhibition will be on show throughout the month.

The Bartlett and UCL Engineering announce expansion to Here East

The Bartlett and UCL Engineering announced their expansion into premises at Here East on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to take place in early 2016.

UCL has taken possession of 3,000 square metres of ten-metre high studio space at Here East, which will be used to undertake ground-breaking research in areas such as architecture, infrastructure, transport, robotics, healthcare, manufacturing and environmental design. UCL will also develop new education programmes in creative design, using film and performance as well as robotic and networked screen technologies.

UCL's space will be designed by architects Hawkins\Brown, who are also responsible for the design of Here East site. The move signals UCL's commitment to engaging with the local community and the London Legacy Development Corporation in advance of the opening of the new UCL East campus at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in 2019.

Three departments from The Bartlett will have a presence at Here East: The Bartlett School of Architecture, The UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage and The UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering. The scale and novelty of the scheme will enable both The Bartlett and UCL Engineering to pursue new, exciting projects and to strengthen interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Read more

Prize success for bio-bean

Alumnus Arthur Kay, from The Bartlett School of Architecture, became the youngest ever Guardian Sustainable Business Leader of the Year with his company bio-bean. bio-bean patented a technique to process the waste coffee grounds discarded by coffee shops, roasters and instant coffee producers into biodiesel and biomass pellets. The fuel can then be sold and used for heating and transport.

Kay's inspiration for bio-bean came while designing a closed loop waste-to-energy system for a coffee plant during his time at The Bartlett. He went on to win a Mayor's Low Carbon Prize for his project in 2012, before completing his BSc Architecture degree with The Bartlett in 2013. He won the €500,000 Postcode Lottery Green Challenge in 2014 and was also awarded a £40,000 Shell Springboard award in 2015.

Kay now employs 20 bio-bean workers at a 20,000 square foot production plant in Cambridgeshire, where they transform waste coffee into bio-diesel and bio-mass pellets. Kay hopes to expand his business by building a new plant in the near future and to eventually expand internationally.

Visit the bio-bean website

Tristan Smith wins UCL Consultant of the Year Award

Dr Tristan Smith of the UCL Energy Institute was honoured with the Enterprise Award for Consultancy by UCL Consultants, which recognises UCL researchers who have collaborated with industry at a consultative level. Dr Smith and his colleagues have undertaken a variety of applied research and consultancy contracts from stakeholders across the maritime industry over the last five years.

Dr Smith's projects range from policy analysis to scenario modelling and technical support, but all are associated with energy efficiency and emissions from international shipping. One of the largest contracts came from the International Maritime Organisation, the UN-designated agency for regulating international shipping. This involved leading a consortium of ten organisations to produce the major publication 'Third IMO Greenhouse Gas Study 2014.' This study will be used as a reference for CO_2 emission regulatory discussions for the next five years.

The award followed the recent launch of University Maritime Advisory Services (UMAS). UMAS, Dr Smith's most recent project, is a sector-focused commercial advisory service that draws upon the UCL shipping group's world-leading research and the advisory and management system expertise of MATRANS Ltd. UMAS brings unparalleled sector knowledge to energy and shipping, and is the largest university-based consultancy on Greenhouse Gasses and energy matters related to shipping.

Visit the UCL Consultants website

BSA students construct movable urban garden

Students from The Bartlett School of Architecture have constructed The Skip Garden, an urban garden and community space, in the heart of the King's Cross redevelopment in London. The Skip Garden consists of seven new structures that embrace sustainable construction techniques throughout their design.

Julia King and Jan Kattein, who run The Bartlett's BSc Architecture Design Unit, UG3, came up with the idea for collaboration between the School of Architecture and Global Generation, a UK-based charity that supports the building of communities that connect people and the natural world.

Undergraduate students created bespoke structures for learning and events with Global Generation's goals in mind. The collaboration added to an existing garden and gave the students experience in project management and design through exposure to a real client and brief.

The students used reclaimed materials to build The Skip Garden, including sash windows, railway sleepers to make toilet cubicles and coffee sacks filled with earth for energy-efficient walls. The public can use various facilities within the development, including the Skip Garden Kitchen, a dining area and multiple growing spaces that are incorporated into London's first large-scale reed bed water filtration scape. The Skip Garden Kitchen serves seasonal food using produce from the garden itself.

Read about the Skip Garden on the Kings Cross website

Global expansion for Built Environment Clubs

The last academic year saw a consolidation of the six UCL Built Environment Clubs in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Chongqing, Seoul and Singapore. Future BEnv Clubs expect to harness the value of other global alumni hotspots and The Bartlett looks forward to launching in Tokyo in 2016.

The Clubs aim to bring together an expert network of alumni from The Bartlett and the UCL Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering to be a world-class resource of expertise and leadership.

The year has also seen numerous professors from The Bartlett join in Built Environment Club social gatherings to share the latest news from London and to give public lectures. Singapore in particular has welcomed several professors over the last year, including The Bartlett Dean, Professor Alan Penn.

Whilst Asia has been in the vanguard for establishing new clubs, The Bartlett has been seeking to facilitate the balance of global geographic distribution by looking westwards with a view to launching clubs in the Americas. This process is well underway with upcoming visits to New York, Mexico City and Sao Paolo and through increased visibility on social media sites, including foreign language websites.

Read more

KTP funding success: C&PM collaborates with AECOM on market forecasting

The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management secured a three-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership with AECOM Professional Services LLP to develop a suite of innovative market forecasting tools.

The project, led by Professor Michelle Baddeley, intends to harness academic capabilities in economic analysis and econometrics to develop more innovative and accurate construction forecasts. The partnership has been awarded over £250,000 in funding and is sponsored by AECOM and Innovate-UK and supported by UCL Advances.

AECOM, a global infrastructure and engineering support services firm, has identified significant gaps in the commercial market for construction industry forecasting tools. Existing products suffer from a range of limitations and inaccuracies because they do not fully embrace the microeconomic, sectoral and macroeconomic influences on business performance.

This project aims to address these issues by using insights from behavioural economics, as well as micro-, macro- and industry economics, as the foundation for the forecasting methodology. These forecasts will be developed initially for the UK construction industry, but with the aim of extending the capability to other industries and global regions, including emerging markets. This advanced forecasting capability will create an opportunity to report at a greater level of detail, tailored to the way that real global businesses respond to markets and clients.

SmallWorld Urbanism thrives under impetus of BSP students

SmallWorld Urbanism, a company created by former and current students at The Bartlett School of Planning, has become a community-focused planning, design and engagement organisation with a range of projects across London.

This includes the new Granville Market Space in Brixton where SmallWorld Urbanism worked with Brixton Night Market to transform a council-owned car park into a weekend hot food and arts and crafts market with live music and workshops. Urban Design Group-affiliated STREET Network – a collective of early career planners and designers – helped to create a flexible, affordable and deliverable design for the market space.

The company also worked on a commission for a garden installation at the Mosaic Rooms gallery in Kensington to accompany the exhibition 'The Garden State.' The exhibition and installation were a part of the London Festival of Architecture, the Chelsea Fringe and Open Garden Squares Weekend.

Other successful projects include gardening and sustainability workshops and a community centre in Brixton.

Visit the SmallWorld Urbanism website

C&PM academics win RICS funding for research on BIM and collaborative working

Professor Michelle Baddeley and Dr Chen-Yu Chang from The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management won funding from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Research Trust. The grant funds research on Building Information Modelling (BIM) and collaborative working, where insights from behavioural economics and incentive theory will be used to explore the motivation to participate.

The research focuses on lower tiers of supply chains where small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are strongly represented. It will build on research already underway in collaboration with the Infrastructure Client Group, which explores information problems and behavioural bias in infrastructure supply chains.

The RICS funding is enabling Prof. Baddeley and Dr Chang to conduct a more comprehensive study, covering a larger and more representative sample of SMEs and other firms. It brings together Dr Chang's expertise in construction economics and BIM with Prof. Baddeley's expertise in behavioural economics, information economics and game theory.

Real Funds selected as one of the top 10 semi-finalists in Richard Branson Pitch to Rich competition

Arya Taware's real-estate crowd-funding start-up Real Funds was selected as at top ten semi-finalist in Richard Branson's Virgin Media Business Pitch to Rich competition. Taware is a student on The Bartlett School of Planning's BSc Urban Planning, Design and Management programme.

Real Funds was chosen from among thousands of entries to the competition. Its vision is to solve the housing crisis by making alternative finance available to small and medium sized house builders through crowd-funding. This will allow communities to fund their own local property development projects, whether residential, commercial and retail. Real Funds aims to break the oligopolistic position of a few major house builders. Their platform will allow SME house builders access to alternative capital to build housing projects of small and medium scale. Real Funds has received pre-seed funding from UCL to develop the crowd-funding platform, and has assembled a team of industry experts in support.

Visit the Real Funds website

Budding entrepreneur gets a slice of the action with Pizza Rossa

Neil Chacham, student with The Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management's BSc Project Management for Construction programme, was awarded funding from UCL Advances and Santander to spend 12 weeks with Pizza Rossa, an award-winning artisan pizza company.

During his time with London-based Pizza Rossa, Chacham supervised the construction process of several new outlets and contributed to the business operations, including marketing, business development, sales and administration. Chacham plans to pursue an MA in Management with a focus in food and beverage.

The funding scheme from UCL Advances gives students and graduates work experience with small-to-medium enterprises. Pizza Rossa, the brainchild of Corrado Accardi, offers pizza by the square-slice as well as Italian coffee and desserts. Corrado won Best Start-Up of the Year at the Crowdcube Awards and the Deloitte Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Founders' Award.He broke the European record for equity-based crowd-funding by a start-up by raising £440,000 in 17 days.

Visit the UCL Advances website

Prof. Tim Broyd appointed Vice Chairman of CIC

Professor Tim Broyd, Chair in Built Environment Foresight at The Bartlett, has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) for a four-year term.

The CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist business associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment, upholding its mission to serve society by promoting quality and sustainability in the built environment.

On top of this position, Prof. Broyd is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Civil Engineers, and the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce. He is also Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. As Vice-Chair of the CIC, he will help to develop the organisation's main policies and strategies.

As Chair in Built Environment Foresight, Prof. Broyd works with leading individuals in industry and government to prepare for future challenges and opportunities in the built environment field.

BSA graduates win 'Parks on Wheels' contest

Alumni Georgina Halabi and Alex Anderson from The Bartlett School of Architecture were one of six winning teams elected to design a series of moveable parks in east London as part of the Ash Sakula Architects' 'Parks on Wheels' competition.

The competition sought 'attractive, playful and engaging' community gardens which can be moved by no more than five people to a new site. Their winning design, called 'POPlar Park' proposed a playful elevated park that could travel around schools and parks, creating stages and places to play.

The winning teams then collaborated to produce three moveable gardens based on their competition-winning designs. The finished gardens were unveiled at Canning Town Caravanserai in East London in April 2015. Halabi and Anderson collaborated with other winners on 'Plant, Grow & Drink and POPlar Park.'

They both studied BSc Architecture at BSA, and are currently on their RIBA Part 1 year out placement at Peter Barber Architects.

Visit the Parks on Wheels website

Anna Mavrogianni presents at RE.WORK Cities Summit

Anna Mavrogianni, lecturer at the UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering (IEDE), presented at the London RE.WORK Future Cities summit in December 2014. Her talk showcased a series of tools and methodological frameworks developed at IEDE that are aimed at facilitating the adaptation of our urban housing to warmer weather.

As climate change continues to pose unprecedented challenges to cities and as the frequency of heat waves increases, overheating risk will be amplified in cities. This is a result of the urban heat island phenomenon and the energy retrofit targets that will make buildings increasingly airtight and insulated. Mavrogianni presented solutions ranging from a suite of sophisticated local urban climate models to a simplified indoor heat vulnerability index for UK cities.

RE.WORK combines entrepreneurship, technology and science to re-work the future through events that showcase opportunities for new technologies and strategies for shaping the future of business and society.

BSA students publish LOBBY magazine

LOBBY, The Bartlett School of Architecture's first student-led magazine for two decades, was launched in September 2014. The biannual magazine is produced by students and alumni from the BSA, and intends to open a space to create dialogues within the architectural community.

LOBBY takes the BSA's physical building and dematerialises it through print; the publication is divided into sections named after rooms and spaces of the BSA, including the Exhibition Space (which showcases design work and critical essays), the Crit Room (gives feedback on submitted design projects) and the Seminar Room (where audiences study texts and engage with contributors).

LOBBY is sponsored by The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, Space Syntax Limited, and Le Royal Hotels and Resorts–Beirut and Mestizo. It is available at select distributors in the UK, Asia, North America and Europe.

Visit the LOBBY website

Global

Making an impact
on the world stage

Towards a right to the city for civil society

By Carina Schneider

Visit the DPU's Habitat III web pages

In large parts of the world, both in the urban Global South and the Global North, the built environment and its wider context is often a site of a struggle between unequal powers, with civil society groups trying to assert their right to influence the development of their environments and livelihoods.

Is there a space for universities in this process, and how can they facilitate dialogues in an ethical fashion to ultimately support positive change on the ground?

For Alexandre Apsan Frediani, co-director of the MSc Social Development Practice at The Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), the process begins with opening up avenues for dialogue for the parties that have first-hand knowledge of their environments and its challenges, but who are rarely invited to the discuss decisions concerning their future.

One such high-level opportunity for dialogue presents itself through engagement with Habitat III, a United Nations agenda-setting exercise on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development that will take place in Quito in October 2016. According to the promoting agency UN-Habitat, the objective is to adopt a 'New Urban Agenda', following on from those established at Habitat I in 1976 and Habitat II in 1996.

However, as Alex explains, "One major issue with Habitat III is that UN-Habitat has no clear guidelines for civil society engagement in the process leading towards the new agenda. The agency merely recommends governments to develop preparatory national reports through a participatory approach, but this is not required. This creates a patchwork approach that varies greatly across different countries, and also results in a missed opportunity to involve civil society groups, and include those affected by issues around sustainable development."

The academic community at the DPU is developing their response to Habitat III in collaboration with members of the worldwide civil society alliance, Habitat International Coalition (HIC). Following debates at the World Urban Forum in Medellin in April 2014, the DPU endorsed HIC's vision that collective action was needed to involve civil society in the Habitat III process.

As a consequence DPU joined HIC's working group on Habitat III. The group decided that in order to feed into the upcoming UN-Habitat Preparatory Committee meeting in Nairobi, they would produce a report examining different national reporting processes. In search for a common narrative between the partners and viable entry points for engagement, the Right to the City agenda emerged as a suitable tool to frame issues of inequality surrounding the built environment today.

The Right to the City concept has been adopted by civil society groups as a mechanism for synthesising human-rights and legal issues with critical urbanism debates, addressing questions around the political economy of urban development. By bringing together these two currents to form a set of principles surrounding sustainability, equality and social justice, a productive clash occurs that allows civil society to leverage its strength as an international agenda that works across boundaries, shared across all these different national groups.

Alex puts this into context with regards to Habitat III: "We examined a selection of national reports against the broad Right to the City principles, and other UN agencies' frameworks for civil society engagement, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Environment Programme. We found that, while some countries, such as Brazil, do a great job in engaging civil society, most national reports don't show that, which points again towards the need for guidelines."

He continues, "Secondly, the processes leading to these reports lacked transparency and clear mechanisms to evaluate the success of the Habitat II agenda. We need a system in place if we are to see progress. Otherwise there is a risk that the new agenda will fail to challenge the conditions that reproduce urban inequalities."

Alex explains how this looks in real terms, reporting from DPU's experience on the MSc in Social Development Practice field trips. DPU have been working with communities living in informal settlements in Kisumu, Kenya whose local area was subjected to a government-led upgrading process without the meaningful participation of residents. In this case, a failure to engage on the question of tenure security ultimately led to the gentrification of the area – when elsewhere in Kenya more innovative housing and infrastructure solutions, such as cooperative housing are addressing the risk of displacement.

"The solutions are there, already embedded within the communities, and they are working well in some localities. For this reason it is crucial that UN-Habitat finds mechanisms to listen and use this great source of knowledge and experience towards a more sustainable and just agenda on urban development", Alex adds.

Summing up the role of universities in this process, he concludes: "We as universities can play a part in this, by bringing together teaching, research and advocacy, and working in two simultaneous camps. The first involves working with civil society groups to draw lessons from existing innovations, and facilitating learning among them. The second focuses on the relationship between civil society and governing institutions – to ensure that this learning influences national and international agendas, and that it generates practical changes that address social justice."

Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change launches landmark report

Academics from the UCL Energy Institute, the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources and other departments across UCL joined experts from around the world to produce The Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change report.

UCL-Energy Director Bob Lowe, Professor Tadj Orezsczyn, Ian Hamilton and Steve Pye, along with of Lu Liang and Jun Yang of Tsinghua University, focused on the transition to a low-carbon economy. The contributions of academics at UCL ISR, Professor Paul Ekins, Dr Paolo Agnolucci, Paul Drummond and Melissa Lott, along with Wenjia Cai of Tsinghua University, were centered around financial and economic action.

The commission found that the effects of climate change are already being felt today, pose a potentially catastrophic risk to human health and have been underestimated. The research also showed that while the technologies and finance required to address the problems of climate change can be made available, the political will is lacking. It concluded that action on climate change is the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.

The report furthermore highlighted connections between climate change and health, which range from long term and global to short term and local; as such, it warned that climate change has the potential to undermine the last 50 years of development in global health.

Read more

Vanesa Castán Broto publishes 'An Urban Politics of Climate Change'

Vanesa Castán Broto of The Bartlett Developmental Planning Unit co-authored the book 'An Urban Politics of Climate Change' with Harriet Bulkeley (University of Durham) and Gareth Edwards (University of East Anglia). The book is a detailed study of how experimentation is a vital part of the governance of climate change by centring on the question of where change comes from.

It challenges the idea that climate change must be solved at a global level, instead presenting evidence that the innovation taking place in individual cities has provided important leadership in mitigating and adapting to the threats posed by climate change.

The book pushes for a greater understanding of how cities are significant sites for innovation, mapping out some of the specific acts of experimentation and questioning who brings about change and how. It looks at case studies from across the globe, including many circumstances where climate is governed beyond just public authorities and instead through individual and collective innovation.

'An Urban Politics of Climate Change' states that climate governance and urban governance can no longer be independent of each other, because solutions to climate change challenges are likely to be found as a result of experimentation within cities.

Read more

Singapore MSc FEM celebrates graduation ceremony

Thirty-seven students on the Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering's singapore-based MSc in Facility and Environment Management graduated in January 2015. Dean of The Bartlett, Alan Penn, presided over the graduation ceremony, and was joined by Professor of Facility and Environment Management Alexi Marmot and course director Dr Ljiljana Marjanovic Halburd.

The MSc FEM in Singapore has had 89 students in total since its inception in 2010, in addition to the several hundred students who have taken part in the London-based version of the course since 1992. The MSc FEM is Europe's longest-established programme for facility managers, and the curriculum is continuously evolving to reflect the latest developments in FM theory and practice. The majority of its graduates are engaged at senior-level FM operations, consultancy or design.

Students address concerns about the use and performance of buildings and support services over time, learning effective planning, design, management, maintenance and adaptation of building stock. The primary aim of the programme is for students to achieve an integrated understanding of the basic knowledge and operational skills required for the good management of buildings, their environments, facilities and support services.

ESRC funds international collaboration project with China on the Green Economy

The UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources won funding to lead an international collaborative project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project, called SINCERE (SINo-european Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency) will develop new economic modelling tools addressing indicators, institutions and policies; and examine historical patterns between CE/RE and macro-economic performance.

The SINCERE project brings together researchers from China, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK, and is being funded through research councils from each country. The project addresses themes under the Green Economy, including the greenness and dynamics of economies, metrics and indicators for a green economy, policy planning for a green economy and green economies in cities and metropolitan areas. Particular focus will be put on the circular economy and resource efficiency and how this relates to the green economy.

ISR is joined by the Institute for Applied Ecology in China, Wuppertal University and Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research in Germany, MINES ParisTech in France and the United Nations University – Maastricht Economic and Social Research institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) in the Netherlands. The project also aims to strengthen collaboration between European and Chinese researchers.

DPU hosts 7th International i-Rec conference

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit hosted the 7th International i-Rec Conference and Student Competition in July 2015. The conference brought together academics and practitioners interested in the study of reconstruction after disasters from across the globe. The conference convenor was Dr Cassidy Johnson of the DPU.

The conference sought to push boundaries of knowledge on reconstruction and to develop new areas of inquiry to help solve the complex problems faced in urban areas dealing with disaster recovery. The two days were filled by roundtables, keynote speakers and a book launch, along with a student competition of architectural and urban solutions for post-disaster reconstruction and disaster prevention. Summaries of the activities of each day and recordings of some of the events can be found on the DPU website and blog.

i-Rec is a web-based international network focused on the study of vulnerability, resilience and reconstruction after disasters. It creates links between more than 200 specialists in the field of post-disaster reconstruction, especially in the areas of architecture, engineering and reconstruction, humanitarian aid, international development and social sciences. An international conference is held every two years to foster a suitable environment for knowledge transfer and training based on experience and research.

Listen to the recordings of the plenary sessions

Prof. Frédéric Migayrou curates two major European shows on Frank Gehry

Frédéric Migayrou, Professor and Chair of The Bartlett School of Architecture, curated two major shows on architect Frank Gehry that opened in October 2014. The shows marked the opening of Gehry's most recent building, the museum Foundation Louis Vuitton, in Paris.

The first show, at the Pompidou Centre, described the development of Gehry's formal and architectural language through the different periods into which his career may be divided from the 1960s to the present. Sixty major projects were featured, including the Vitra Design Museum in Germany (1989), the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao (1997), the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles (2003) and the Beekman Tower in New York.

The Pompidou Centre show was accompanied by a 260-page catalogue, edited by Prof. Migayrou and co-curator Aurélien Lemonier. The book features an exclusive interview with Gehry and essays by art historians and architectural critics.

The Foundation Louis Vuitton exhibition gave the public the opportunity to immerse themselves in the creation of Gehry's building. The show presented the design work in its entirety, from first sketches through to the completion of building work and brought all the models produced over the projects together for the first time.

UCL-Energy attends Mexico round tables

This year, the UCL Energy Institute participated in two round table discussions on climate change and sustainable energy in the UK and Mexico.

The first, in December 2014, was held as part of Prince Charles' visit to Mexico in anticipation of 2015, which was celebrated as the year of Mexico in the UK and the year of the UK in Mexico. It aimed to foster a dialogue with senior representatives from business, government and academic institutions about Mexico's recent energy reforms.

The following round table, held in April 2015, built upon the December meeting to focus on building sustainable energy economies in the UK and Mexico. The meeting was held on the occasion of the President of Mexico's state visit to the UK.

As a result, UCL-Energy is in negotiations with Mexico's Secretariat of Energy to develop a multi-regional energy systems model for Mexico. UCL-Energy is also offering post-doctoral fellowships in partnership with the Mexican Ministry of Energy.

Read more on the UCL-Energy blog

DPU hosts UCL colloquium on Indefensible Space

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit and the UCL Institute for Global Health (IGH) hosted a colloquium on 'Indefensible Space: Sanitation and Gender-Based Violence in Dharavi, Mumbai'. The event presented research that explored the problems and strategies related to gender-based violence faced by women in slums resulting from a lack of secure and dignified access to toilets.

The project, which was funded by the UCL Grand Challenges, aimed to raise awareness of the experience of women without access to toilets in slums. It also aimed to explore community-led strategies in place to address these difficulties.

Caren Levy of DPU and David Osrin of IGH led the project in partnership with the Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action in Mumbai. One of the key outputs of the project is a film made with communities in Dharavi.
The colloquium hosted the first London screening of the film, 'Indefensible Space.'

Claire McAndrew works on informal urban settlements installation at Southbank Centre

Dr Claire McAndrew, research associate with the UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, took part in an interdisciplinary team working on '3x4 exploring metaspace platforms for inclusive future cities.' The interactive, telepresent installation was designed for public audiences in Delhi and London, and was exhibited at London's Southbank Centre.

The installation demonstrated the 3x4 metre plot size provided in government resettlement initiatives that relocate people within informal inner-city settlements to vacant land on the periphery in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. '3x4' looked at informal settlements differently, where informality is not viewed as a problem but as a promising new model of urbanism for the Global South. The project used an immersive telematics networked environment to merge two 3x4 metre rooms – one in London and one in New Delhi – to bring UK and Indian audiences together.

Alumna project tackling urban recycling featured at MoMA

Marisol Garcia, alumna of The Bartlett Development Planning Unit's MSc Building and Urban Design in Development programme, was featured at the New York Museum of Modern Art. Her project, 'Recycling Plaza,' was featured as an example of tactical urbanisms for Latin America in the exhibition 'Uneven Growth, Tactical Urbanism for Expanding Megacities.'

Recycling Plaza was commissioned by the National Council of Culture and Arts and was originally built in Valparaíso, Chile in 2012. The project is built of more than 12,000 recycled bottles to bring greater awareness and practice of recycling to Valparaíso. The installation encouraged the community to gather and share ideas about the improvement of their environmental impact.

Garcia created Recycling Plaza with Ciudad Emergente, the tactical practice that Marisol co-founded a few months after her completion of the MSc BUDD. Ciudad Emergente aims to create projects that enable citizens to take charge and become co-responsible for their neighbourhoods and cities.

Visit the Ciudad Emergente website

UCL IEDE leads research on climate change vulnerability of ageing populations

The UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering is a leading academic partner in a new NERC-funded research project investigating the seasonal health and climate change resilience of ageing urban populations.

Dr Anna Mavrogianni and Professor Mike Davies of UCL IEDE are contributing to the SHARPER project (Seasonal Health, Ageing and Resilience in urban Populations and EnviRonments). The project is led by Arup and brings together academic and industry partners from UCL, King's College London, HelpAge International and the Satellite Catapult.

The project aims to establish a network of collaborators and to collate relevant datasets relating to elderly populations in London, New York and Shanghai. The collected data will be used to build up a picture of the relevant social, environmental and economic factors that contribute to vulnerability, health and resilience of ageing. As a result the project ultimately means to develop vulnerability indices and establish thresholds using the collated data in order to aid design measures.

Prof. May Cassar speaks at UNESCO international scientific conference in Paris

Professor May Cassar, director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Heritage, spoke on 'Socio-cultural implications of Climate Change for Cultural Heritage' at an international scientific conference at UNESCO, Paris. The four-day conference, 'Our Common Future under Climate Change', in July 2015 was the largest forum for the scientific community to come together in anticipation of the 21st UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP21), to be hosted in France in December 2015.

The Conference built on the results of IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5) to address key issues concerning climate change in the broader context of global change.It was organised by ICSU, Future Earth, UNESCO and major French research institutions, with the support of the French government.

Prof. Cassar presented during the session 'Cultural Heritage facing up to Climate Change, Sea Level Rise and Pollution.' She discussed the interaction between cultural heritage and climate change, and the socio-cultural impacts that climate change will have on cultural heritage.

Read more

Izaskun Chinchilla creates 2015 City of Dreams pavilion in New York

The practice of Izaskun Chinchilla, tutor for The Bartlett School of Architecture's MArch Architecture Unit 22, won the 2015 City of Dreams International Competition run by the New York City government, FIGMENT, the AIANY-ENYA and SEAoNY. The pavilion design, called 'Organic Growth,' was installed on New York's Governors Island.

'Organic Growth' was built out of waste materials in June 2015 and has a canopy that measures 95m^2, to give an estimated 500,000 visitors the space to relax.
Built from broken umbrellas, bicycle wheels and old stools, 'Organic Growth' promotes biking and addresses the environmental challenges facing New York and beyond. After the summer the canopy will be broken up and distributed to places across the city for use as smaller shade structures or as decorative chandeliers.

The installation was funded through a Kickstarter campaign that raised $20,613, and was featured in Dezeen, Curbed, Architectural Digest, Archdaily and AJ.

Read more on the FIGMENT website

UCL ISH holds first international SEAHA conference

The first annual Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology Conference took place in July 2015 at UCL. It focused on heritage science research, innovation and best practice in the interpretation, conservation and management of cultural heritage.

The conference aimed to highlight the cross-disciplinary field of heritage science by providing a platform for scientists, engineers, professionals, entrepreneurs and policy makers to engage and discuss emerging trends in the field. The successful event added an active voice to the on-going discourse over global heritage issues, which define the research and technological applications of the field of heritage science.

The two-day conference featured keynote speakers Dr Steve Trow, Director of Heritage Protection, Historic England; Dr Seán O'Reilly, Director of The Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Nancy Bell, Head of Collective Care, The National Archives and Co-Chair of The National Heritage Science Forum. They were joined by dozens of presenters, poster sessions and round-tables over the two-day conference.

Visit the SEAHA website

Engagement

Informing debate in public and policy domains

Magic in the media: A CASA lecturer's mission to bring maths to the world

Visit Hannah Fry's website

By Gabrielle Pantalena

Hannah Fry is becoming a familiar face on screens across the globe. From her tremendously popular Ted Talks to her frequent appearances on the BBC to her contributions to various YouTube pages–among them Brit Labs and Numberphile–it is clear that Hannah's presence and expertise is keenly sought after across all types of media.

Hannah, a lecturer in the mathematics of cities with The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, dedicates her time to studying complex social systems, which involves, as she puts it: "Picking out big human questions that have patterns that change in space and time, and using this information in the data to better understand the real-world system."

It isn't hard to see why Hannah is in such high demand. She is eloquent, animated and succinct, and her enthusiasm for maths is infectious: "We're at this perfect point where good data is available, we've got excellent processing power, but we're just at the beginning of this subject area. There's still lots of room to be creative and there are still lots of interesting questions that haven't been answered."

Maths certainly isn't the easiest subject to sell, but Hannah has been enthusiastically tackling this problem head-on: "The stuff that everyone across The Bartlett is doing, people really love it a lot. It's just about framing it correctly. But there's a massive appetite for it all."

As to how to go about framing, Hannah admits: "Sometimes you have to play the long game. What people rarely want when they're clicking around on the Internet, or watching TV, listening to radio, or going to a live event, is a lecture. People don't want a lecture. They want to be surprised and astounded." And this is where Hannah excels. Her successful Ted Talk, 'The Mathematics of Love,' has been viewed almost three million times and was published as a book earlier this year.

"I'm doing it slightly by stealth, because you can't just go and tell people, 'Hey guys, let me just tell you that maths is really important.' No one cares!" Instead, Hannah says, it's about showing people why maths matters to their lives: "It's important because it's everywhere, it's ubiquitous. That's something I try very hard to do, to show people examples of things that relate to them. That's why the love example worked, because it's something that everybody has an investment in understanding."

That isn't to say that Hannah's popularity in the media has been without its challenges; as she says: "If three million people see something, you're going to get some people who take it the wrong way." And, unfortunately, being a woman in the public eye still brings its own kind of backlash. But, Hannah says, women shouldn't let a vocal minority stop them from being public figures. Coming to terms with this dynamic is essential, especially now.

"If you are a female academic now, who has a chance to stand up and voice an opinion or put your head above the parapet, you have to realise that what these people say is just not a part of reality. I think it's really important, more so now than ever, that we have intelligent, impressive, educated, successful women who are visible. All of this backlash stuff–this is a war we've got to win. We will win."

Luckily, Hannah says, there have never been more opportunities. Media outlets are on the hunt for qualified women to contribute to their programmes, but have discovered that they are somewhat hard to find. The BBC, Hannah relates, is often turned away by female academics who aren't willing to 'wing it' in situations where their male colleagues are.

She laughs, saying: "I have to force myself to wing it. I wing it all the time." The advantage, she stresses, is that: "If you're an academic, you're quite comfortable with not knowing absolutely everything, but your experience of learning is such that you can pick up stuff very quickly. Being a bit more comfortable and confident in your own abilities is a positive thing!"

Above all, it is Hannah's shrewd insight into her audience that make her so easy to connect with. Her strategy is to always keep in mind that in order to make a subject come alive, you have to earn the right to keep the audience's attention by explaining a topic in a way that makes people care. In other words, it's about showing people the magic.

"The thing about magic is that the trick is usually quite simple or boring, and if you just show people that on its own nobody's interested. But if you do the magic first, you've created a motivation for the person to find out how you've done it. You've created a complete investment in finding out the answer. The same applies to really good communication."

What advice does Hannah have for academics keen to engage and communicate their field of research? She concludes: "The message you want to get across has to sit behind the message that people are interested in hearing. That's the number one thing of effective communication: it's not about you."

UCL Public Event of the Year Award for team CASA

The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis received the award for Public Event of the Year at the UCL Communication and Culture Awards. The Awards recognise the hard work that staff and research students at UCL devote to sharing their research, teaching and learning through media and cultural partnerships.

CASA won the award for the May 2014 event 'Walking on Water', which took place at Grand Designs Live at the ExCel centre in London. The exhibition showcased the currant vibrancy of the Lower Lea Valley, focusing on the future of the Lower Lea Valley as a technology hub, as envisaged by Lord Mawson.

CASA collaborated with different departments at UCL, curator Richard Mallett and artist Frank Kreber. Kim Townsend from UCL Public Engagement facilitated the event with the support of Adam Harman in UCL Estates and Stephen Caddick in UCL Enterprise.

CASA showcased interactive technologies and visualisations exploring the future of cities and the impact of technologies on urban life. The exhibition was manned consistently throughout the eleven-day event, prompting the involvement of almost every master's student, PhD student and CASA staff member. They spoke to members of the public about the work of CASA and UCL and led attendees through the exhibition.

Prof. Henrietta Moore debates the relevance of 'development' in the 21st century

A lecture by Professor Henrietta Moore, director of the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity, was broadcast on the BBC World Service and on Radio 4's Analysis. The lecture, titled 'The End of Development,' was aired as part of the BBC World Service's 'A Richer World' season. The lecture took place at Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government, and was chaired by the school's dean, Professor Ngaire Woods.

The lecture explored how the richer world has poured money toward foreign countries in the form of aid and loans for development. She argued that this top-down model of development is outdated, that the age of development is over and that we need to move to new ideas about how to improve human lives. She outlined the fatal flaw of 'development': that it is a concept invented by the Global North and imposed on the Global South, and is therefore not a sustainable, enabling system. The 21st century, with its particularities and peculiarities, requires new ideas.

The BBC's 'A Richer World' series studied equality in global prosperity and wealth. Content across TV, radio and the internet examined whether increased wealth and prosperity has led to more equality world-wide, or if the divide between rich and poor has grown.

Parliament launch for UCL-Energy time of use tariff report

A UCL Energy Institute report on consumer demand for time of use electricity tariffs was launched in Parliament in March 2015. Dan Byles, MP and member of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee, chaired the event. He was joined by Sacha Deshmukh, CEO of Smart Energy GB. The launch was followed by a wide-ranging discussion with key representatives from the energy industry, including Ofgem and the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

UCL-Energy researchers published the report 'Is it time? Consumer attitudes to time of use tariffs', which reveals that almost a third of people in Great Britain feel favourably towards switching to a time of use tariff which charges more for electricity during weekday evenings but less overnight and at weekends. The tariffs could help reduce peaks in electricity demands, which pose problems for electricity network costs and security.

The research gathered surveys from over 4,000 people across Britain and found no strong evidence for demographic differences in willingness to switch to time of use tariffs.

The report is one of the first outputs of UCL-Energy's new People, Energy and Buildings Group, and was authored by Michael Fell, Moira Nicoloson, Gesche Huebner and David Shipworth.

Prof. Matthew Carmona appointed Specialist Advisor to House of Lords Select Committee

Professor Matthew Carmona from The Bartlett School of Planning was appointed a Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment. The committee is chaired by Baroness O'Cathain and was established in June 2015 to consider the development and implementation of national policy for the built environment.

The committee's wide remit encompasses key areas such as urban design, planning and housing provision, among many others. It is due to report by 23 March 2016, following oral evidence and written submissions. Expert witnesses have included Professor Pete Bishop from The Bartlett School of Architecture, Max Farrell from Farrells, Dr. Richard Simmons, the former Chief Executive of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and visiting lecturer at the BSP.

The sessions have explored the main challenges of the built environment, and the efficiency of current built environment projects. Government officials also presented evidence about the government's responses to recommendations made by built environment experts and plans for the future.

Prof. Carmona is Professor of Planning and Urban Design. He is a regular advisor to the government, and is a Design Council CABE Built Environment Expert.

cLIMA sin Riesgo project launches digital platform

The Bartlett Development Planning Unit's project, cLIMA sin Riesgo, launched a digital platform as a digital space for dialogue throughout the project and beyond, as cLIMA sin Riesgo works to gain a deeper understanding of risk traps in urban Peru. cLIMA sin Riesgo aims to produce evidence to inform the design of effective and equitable strategies for the reduction and prevention of urban risk traps in Lima, Peru. The cLIMA sin Riesgo website will be a platform to share the project's findings and to encourage the adaptation of these ideas in other cities. The site also features a blog to encourage collaboration and discussion in the digital space.

The cLIMA sin Riesgo project's four themes are: reframing urban risk, mapping everyday and episodic risk, assessing risk mitigation investment flows and disrupting risk traps: strategic action and scenario planning. Each theme can be explored on a corresponding section of the website www.climasinriesgo.net.

UK Government Office for Science publishes Michael Edwards' report on the future of cities

The UK Government Office for Science published a report by Michael Edwards of The Bartlett School of Planning studying the prospects of housing in UK cities over the next 45 years. The report was commissioned as part of the Foresight Future of Cities project.

Edward's report reviews the history of housing from the past decades and provides an account of the current situation in a range of cities. It then presents possible future scenarios to see how cities might change by 2060.

The paper argues that the UK housing crisis cannot be adequately understood or solved within the confines of housing debates. It contends that housing debates are a patchwork of partial analyses, fragmented among professions and focused on short-term reforms, and are therefore insufficient. As a result it encourages a wider debate to properly address the challenges that the UK will face in the upcoming years.

Within this broad framing, the paper discusses the distinct forms which the crisis takes in various UK cities and their associated countrysides. It outlines the wide range of changes to market and non-market housing supply, tax regimes, income and wealth distribution, spatial policies and land policies which might be sought in the coming four decades.

Read more about the awards

Listen to the lecture

Read more about the National Policy for the Built Environment Committee

Visit the cLIMA sin Riesgo website

Read the report

UCL-Energy advocates stronger action to transform UK's energy system

The UCL Energy Institute published a study as part of the Deep Decarbonisation Pathway Project (DDPP) that urged for an ambitious policy package in order for the UK to transform its energy systems to achieve the deep reductions in carbon emissions required to avoid dangerous climate change. The findings from UCL-Energy formed part of the final DDPP report published in September 2015.

The DDPP is coordinated by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) set by the United Nations Secretary General. The study analysed possible pathways that the UK could take in order to decarbonise its energy system in order to meet the international goal of limiting global warming by 2050.

Lead report author Steve Pye and co-author Professor Neil Strachan from UCL-Energy demonstrated that the direct use of fossil fuels in end use sectors must decrease by more than 70% by 2050 for the UK to reach its goals.

Read more

Explore the performance of GB cities with a new interactive CASA map

Researcher Duncan Smith from the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis launched a new interactive website visualising the social, economic and environmental performance of cities in Great Britain. The website, called LuminoCity3D, brings together a range of open data indicators that are consistently and accessibly mapped.

LuminoCity3D is linked to CASA's MECHANICITY grant, which stands for Morphology, Energy & Climate Change in the City. MECHANICITY researches relationships between urban morphology and socioeconomic interactions.

The open data indicators that LuminoCity3D utilises include population, growth, housing, travel behaviour, employment, business location and energy use in order to explore current patterns and trends to identify successful cities.The 3D grid-based approach allows consistent comparisons between urban areas to be made, and relationships between urban form and city performance to be identified.

LuminoCity3D has received press coverage from Londonist, Wired.co.uk, Independent Online and Guardian Cities and can be explored at LumnioCity3D.org.

Visit the LuminoCity3D website

EnergyWise launches project to assess the impact of smart meters on fuel-poor and vulnerable customers

The UCL Energy Institute's People, Energy and Building Research Group is an academic partner to the EnergyWise LCNF project that was launched to assess the impact of smart meters on fuel-poor and vulnerable customers. The study will test participant recruitment rates in a randomised controlled trial.
This trial will test the energy savings and shifting response of fuel-poor and vulnerable customers to smart meters and time of use tariffs over two year-long trials in the Tower Hamlets area.

By using local intermediaries and social capital approaches to maximise participation and engagement with smart metering, the project aims to answer government and industry questions that the community might have.

The role of the UCL-Energy research group is to lead on the research design and analysis of the social, smart meter and distribution network sub-station data to assess the social and energy impacts and benefits of the project.

Dr Hannah Fry featured in BBC special Climate Change by Numbers

Dr Hannah Fry from The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis joined Professor Normon Fenton, Queen Mary University and Professor David Spiegelhalter, Cambridge University on the BBC4 programme 'Climate Change by Numbers.' The mathematicians explored three key numbers to clarify the important questions around climate change.

The numbers are: 0.85 degrees, or the amount of warming the planet has undergone since 1880; 95 per cent, or the degree of certainty climate scientists have that at least half of the recent warming is man-made; and 1 trillion tonnes, which is the total carbon we can afford to burn in order to stay below 'dangerous levels' of climate change.

The programme attempts to address the paradox at the heart of the climate change debate: that scientists have never had more information about climate change but that surveys show that the public are getting less sure about what's really happening.

Watch the trailer

Five radical ideas for a better planning system

Academics from The Bartlett School of Planning published 'Five Radical Ideas for a Better Planning System' to address an urgent need for changes to the UK planning system. It was written to foster debate and discussion within and between political parties and across society in order to address important issues of planning.

Utilising academic inputs of evidence, knowledge of international practices, evaluation of past policies and their impacts, and alternative framings and explanations, the 15 academics outlined the report's five key principles:

First, the planning system needs to value wellbeing above economic growth. Second, genuine decentralisation is essential. Third, it must be recognised that regulation is an important and valuable part of planning, and is not a barrier to growth but essential to providing environmental protection and affordable housing. Fourth, land reform is needed in order for the planning system to deliver in the public interest.
Finally, planning debates should be more relevant and involve more people, fostering creative and well-resourced public participation.

These measures, if adopted, aim to ensure that the planning system provides for a higher-quality environment, a fairer society and strong city and regional economies.

Visit the Five Radical Ideas website and read the proposals in full

DPU students work with residents on Euston area citizens charter

MSc Social Development Practice (SDP) students from The Bartlett Development Planning Unit presented interim fieldwork results that explored the mechanisms for civil society groups to influence the practice of urban regeneration. Students mapped experiences, visions and alternatives in conjunction with a citizen's charter led by London citizens in the Euston area.

The objective of the work was to influence the developments in the Euston area, including the proposed High Speed Two Rail link. Students explored the regeneration goals of local residents, workers and business owners in the Somers Town and Regents Park wards of Camden. The research contributes to the on-going debates in relation to the HS2 proposal.

The fieldwork forms part of the SDP programme's action learning initiatives, which encourage students to engage with real challenges in London-based communities. The engagement projects are structured to recognise diversity and individual rights and freedoms. The fieldwork aims to engage people in a process of meaningful change in local community policy and planning to ensure more equitable and transformative outcomes.

The work sought a more nuanced understanding of the process of urban regeneration as experienced by those living, working and studying in the Euston area, focusing on the importance of communication and a sense of improvement resulting from the works.

Read more and watch a summary video

ScanLAB documents Bartlett Summer Show with 3D technology

ScanLAB Projects, run by The Bartlett School of Architecture graduates Matthew Shaw and William Torssell, documented The Bartlett Summer Show for the fifth year running.

ScanLAB's state-of-the-art 3D scanning technology digitises space by capturing a cloud of over a billion precisely measured points, and assembling them into a virtual model. The exhibition spaces were scanned in full colour and with millimetre-level accuracy, and ScanLAB created an interactive app for users to navigate the students' work.

The Bartlett Summer Show's space at Hampstead Road was scanned two years ago when it was empty, and ScanLAB documented its transformation in a dramatic three-minute film.

The ScanLAB team teaches and researches at UCL, exploring the potential of large-scale terrestrial laser scanning as a tool for design, visualisation and fabrication. A recent project by ScanLAB was featured on the BBC1 programme 'Rome's Invisible City', where ScanLAB created 3D scans of the underground world of Ancient Rome.

Watch the video created by ScanLAB

If women built cities, what would our urban landscape look like?

Academics Dr. Yasminah Beebeejaun, Kate Henderson and Caren Levy from The Bartlett, were featured in The Guardian as part of an article on gender and planning. It questioned how the male-dominated worlds of planning and construction would change if women were in charge.

The article addresses issues and challenges that accompany being a female planner or architect, since men make the biggest decisions about urban development worldwide. It includes interviews from prominent female architects and planners across the UK, including Bartlett academics and alumni.

Susanna Rustin, who wrote the article, addresses not only the way that females in this industry are impacted by predominantly male firms, classrooms and policy makers, but how women at large are impacted by decisions that do not take the female perspective into account. The article explores the gender politics of planning, from physical differences between men and women to practical gender needs.

Read The Guardian article

People

Leading built environment research, teaching and practice

Green in every sense of the word

By Emma Todd

In 1979 Paul Ekins was bitten by the environment and sustainability bug. Since then he's dedicated an outstanding academic career to identifying the conditions and policies for an environmentally sustainable economy. His contributions were recognised this year by an OBE in the New Year Honours List and an honorary degree from Keele University.

But surprisingly, Paul didn't come to academia until his 40s, making his status as one of the world's most renowned and influential scholars in his field all the more commendable. Characterised by his passion, dedication and humility, Paul not only works 60 to 70 hour weeks, he also demonstrates an unwavering personal commitment to the green agenda. He hasn't owned a car since 1980, opting to cycle pretty much everywhere. What's more, he's lived in the same house, with no central heating, since 1968, making his personal energy use a mere third of the national average.

This commitment alone is not what has made Paul so successful: "I care a lot, but I also care about telling it like it is. Academics have an enormous privilege, as well as a responsibility, to be scientifically robust. I hope I've managed to tread that rather difficult line of giving messages that people find interesting, important and comprehensible while ensuring they're grounded in the evidence," Paul explains.

He also attributes his accomplishments to his interdisciplinary background: "Perhaps … [it's because] I'm so interdisciplinary, and this is an area that demands interdisciplinarity. I have a pretty good technical understanding from my engineering degree; I've done the economics and I've tried to understand the environmental science part."

The word interdisciplinary falls short of describing the variety of experiences and knowledge that Paul brings to his field of study. He was an RAF trainee-pilot, an apprentice in a Shropshire factory, pursued a ten-year singing career and gained a degree in electrical engineering before finding his true vocation: getting involved in green politics and economics.

So what was it that drew Paul's attention to environmental policy? The pivotal moment, he explains, came when he read about E.F. Schumacher's 'Small is Beautiful', and then the book itself. Everything fell into place for him: "I'd been a bit of a student radical during my time at Imperial College [studying engineering] and was conscious that things were not as I thought they ought to be".

He became involved in the Ecology Party (now the Green Party) and in 1979 was appointed as General Secretary. It was then that he struck up what would turn into a life-long friendship with Jonathon Porritt. Alongside Jonathon and Sara Parkin he would shortly go on to co-found the sustainable development charity Forum for the Future. It was a time of big change for Paul, who threw himself into environmental affairs despite his lack of experience: "I really knew nothing about it, so I was green in every sense of the word," he admits.

During this time he learnt a great deal about green politics and other aspects of the environment movement: "I learnt enough to come to the conclusion that I was a rotten politician, and that one of the major sources of the environmental problems was the way the economy was run," he explains. His desire to delve deeper and find solutions to these problems inspired his return to university to study environmental economics.

Paul took up his first faculty academic post at Keele University in 1996, and twenty years later is Professor of Resources and Environmental Policy at UCL and director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources. Reflecting on his academic career, Paul notes that the last six months in particular have been somewhat of a whirlwind for him; he was involved in the production of what is already Nature's fifth most cited article and made an important contribution to the influential Lancet Commission Report on Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change.

More than the high-profile awards and decorations, it is these achievements that Paul is most pleased with. The Nature article explains that a large percentage of fossil fuel reserves globally must remain unused and in the ground before 2050 if global warming is to stay below the 2°C target agreed by policymakers. It was mainly the work of one of Paul's PhD students, Christophe McGlade, but Paul is delighted to have been able to contribute to such an influential paper.

He is also pleased with his involvement in the Lancet Commission Report: "If the Nature article was the contribution of one genius with a little help from his friend, the Lancet Report was a truly collaborative effort, with something like 50 academics involved," he explains. The report highlighted for health professionals the health impacts of climate change, and Paul led the work stream on economics and finance.

Paul sums up: "As academics we need to think outside the box, and say things that cause people to revise some of their preconceptions, but always based on the evidence". Whether he's advising the EU Commission, producing a report on resource efficiency for the upcoming G7 Summit, supervising PhDs or teaching his masters students, Paul's aim is to do just this. And he will continue to do so, with no plans to slow down.

Special open access Peter Hall issue of Built Environment published

Thirteen of Professor Sir Peter Hall's former PhD students from across the span of half a century authored a collection of articles honouring his life and work in a special issue of Built Environment. Alexandrine Press released the issue with full open access online.

From Sir Peter's first supervision at the London School of Economics in 1965 to his most recent with UCL, the former students reveal his extraordinarily wide-ranging research legacy alongside affectionate insights into his personality and mode of learning. Some stories include how he provided an insider track for John Goddard's analysis of the London office market of the 1960s; his early leadership in the computer revolution in geography; and his involvement in the activist and experimental work of the Western Urban and Regional Collective at UC Berkeley in the 1980s.

Contributors include Yuko Aoyama (Clark University, MA), Scott Campbell (University of Michigan), Chia-Lin Chen (UCL), Amy Glasmeier (MIT), John Goddard (Newcastle University), Peter Williams (Cambridge) and more. The collection was edited by Michael Hebbert (UCL) and includes an epilogue by Ann Rudkin (Alexandrine Press), with whom Professor Hall worked as an editor for almost 40 years.

Access the issue online

Sofie Pelsmakers named RIBA Role Model for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Architecture

Doctoral researcher Sofie Pelsmakers from the UCL Energy Institute was named one of the Royal Institute of British Architects' Role Models in their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campaign. The campaign highlights the need for architecture to be an inclusive profession and features Pelsmakers' personal story about how she forged her career in architecture and the barriers she encountered.

Pelsmakers is the co-founder of Architecture for Change, a not-for-profit environmental building organisation. She is currently conducting doctoral research in building energy demand reduction, and is investigating how best to reduce the heat-loss of pre-1919 un-insulated suspended timber ground floors. She is also the author of 'The Environmental Design Pocketbook.'

Pelsmakers will be taking up a lectureship at Sheffield University from October 2015, and will be leading the MSc in Sustainable Architecture Studies. Pelsmakers is one of 12 architects chosen as role models by RIBA, who are honoured for sending a message to others who may share some aspect of their identity (such as gender, background, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or education) that architecture can be a profession in which they can thrive. In her essay for RIBA, Pelsmakers notes that architecture needs to keep evolving and remain relevant to society, and that diversity is one way of achieving that.

Read Sofie Pelsmakers' personal story

Read Sofie Pelsmakers' blog: The case for diversity in architecture

Peter Rees awarded CBE

Peter Rees, Professor of Places and City Planning at The Bartlett School of Planning, was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 2015 New Year's Honours list for services to Architecture and Town Planning.

As City Planning Officer for the City of London, Prof. Rees led the planning and regeneration of the world business and financial centre from 1985 to 2014. He took up a professorship at BSP in April 2014, and currently lectures on the MSc Urban Design & City Planning module 'Design and Real Estate.'

Prof. Rees lectures throughout the world and makes frequent media appearances on urban planning and design topics. He is a founding member and director of the British Council for Offices, and was honoured with their President's Award in 2003 for 'presiding over one of the most extensive periods of redevelopment in the City's long history.' In 2002 he received an honorary Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects for his service to architecture, and he holds honorary membership with the Architectural Association. Prof. Rees received the 2013 Estates Gazette Award for the Outstanding Contribution to Property. He is also on the Debrett's 500 list of the most inspiring and influential people in Britain today.

Susan Ware receives UCL Life Learning Award

Susan Ware, Faculty Tutor for The Bartlett School of Architecture, was recognised alongside her team with a UCL Life Learning Award, presented for the outstanding quality of the course, Professional Practice & Management in Architecture ARB/RIBA Part 3.

The Life Learning Award was presented at UCL's 8th annual Awards for Enterprise, which recognise the innovations and entrepreneurship of UCL academics and students. The Life Award is given to those academics and teams who have created and implemented short courses of exceptional quality and innovation.

The Bartlett School of Architecture has offered the RIBA Part 3 since 1934, and is the most intensive programme in the UK. The programme's prestigious reputation for rigour and excellence is balanced by its sustained dedication to innovation. The RIBA Part 3 offers academic study and hands-on experience in a flexible, part-time format, making it an ideal course for working professionals.

The programme supplements its excellent tuition with The Bartlett's extensive network to provide students with long-term professional connections. The programme appeals to international students as well, as it incorporates their unique needs while they become accredited in the UK.

Throughout her 25-year career, Ware has personally taught about ten percent of the 33,000 registered architects in the UK.

Read more about Part III education at The Bartlett

Professor Paul Ekins awarded OBE

Professor Paul Ekins, director of the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources and Professor of Energy and Environment Policy at the UCL Energy Institute, was awarded an OBE in the 2015 New Year's Honours list for services to environmental policy.

Prof. Ekins joined UCL in 2009, first with UCL-Energy and then as director of ISR in 2012. He is the Deputy Director of the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) and the Co-Director responsible for its Energy resources theme. He is also a member of UNEP's International Resource Panel, of the Global Green Growth Knowledge Platform and of Ofgem's high level Sustainable Development Advisory Group.

His academic work focuses on the conditions and policies for achieving an environmentally sustainable economy. He is an authority on a number of areas of energy-environment-economy (E3) interaction and environmental policy, including: sustainable development assessment methodologies; resource productivity; sustainable energy use; E3 modelling and scenarios; environment and trade, and more.

Prof. Ekins has authored papers, book chapters and articles in a variety of journals. He has also written and edited 12 books, including 'Understanding the Costs of Environmental Regulation in Europe' and 'Trade, Globalization and Sustainability Impact Assessment: A Critical Look at Methods and Outcomes.'

Dean of The Bartlett, Alan Penn chairs parliamentary inquiry with Design Commission

Professor Alan Penn, dean of The Bartlett, is heading up a parliamentary inquiry into the benefits of well-designed environments. He is joined by Baroness Janet Whitaker, vice-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Design and Innovation Group (APDIG).

The inquiry explores the relationship between design and behaviour in the built environment while seeking to reinvigorate the role planning policy can play in driving positive social outcomes across the UK's local communities. The group is working with the Design Commission's research wing, which consists of a cross-party group of parliamentarians and figures from architecture, industry and the public sector, including Sarah Wigglesworth, Robin Nicholson, Alice Black and Richard Simmons.

The first stage of the inquiry issued a call for evidence, asking for case study and insight submissions focused on the influence that the design and construction of environments has on human behaviour.

Dean Alan Penn called the inquiry very timely and necessary with regards to the increasing pace of development, the relaxation of planning legislation and decentralisation. The inquiry aims to make a series of key recommendations designed to stimulate new thinking in planning policy across central and local government.

Find out more about the inquiry

BSA alumna named Woman Architect of the Year

Teresa Borsuk, alumna of The Bartlett School of Architecture and partner at Pollard Thomas Edward, won the AJ Woman Architect of the Year Award.

Borsuk was recognised for her remarkable contribution to improving equality within her practice. As a result of her leadership, the number of women at Pollard Thomas Edward staff has grown to more than 50 per cent. Judges felt that her support of women in her firm made her a role model for future generations.

She graduated from BSA with a Graduate Diploma of Architecture in 1981, joined Pollard Thomas Edwards in 1984, and was made a partner in 2014. She has over 30 years of experience in the housing, mixed-use and regeneration sectors, and has designed and delivered projects ranging from major developments to infill sites and refurbishments.

Borsuk was presented with the prestigious award at a ceremony to celebrate the ROCA-sponsored AJ Women in Architecture campaign in February 2015.

Read more about Pollard Thomas Edward

TfL names London Overground train in honour of Sir Peter Hall

Transport for London dedicated a London Overground train to Sir Peter in a naming ceremony at Richmond Station, recognising his contribution to London's transport infrastructure.

The train was inaugurated with a plaque bearing Prof. Hall's name, and a matching plaque was presented to his wife, Lady Magda Hall. The train was entered into service following the ceremony, and those present embarked on its first public ride across London. The new five-carriage train can now be spotted in service across the entire London Overground network.

Sir Peter Hall, formerly a professor at The Bartlett School of Planning and celebrated planning expert was a valued colleague for TfL. His ideas helped shape and progress London Overground, Crossrail 1 & 2, and many other infrastructure developments across London. It was his conceptualisation of an orbital railway that would be realised as London Overground.

View the pictures from the dedication ceremony

Dr Frosso Pimenides honoured by RIBA

Dr Frosso Pimenides was one of 13 people selected by The Royal Institute of British Architects to receive a 2015 Honorary Fellowship. Pimenides is The Bartlett School of Architecture's Sir Bannister Fletcher Lecturer in Architecture and BSc Year 1 Director.

RIBA Honorary Fellowships are awarded annually to people who have made a particular contribution to architecture in its broadest sense. This includes promotion, administration and outreach; playing a role in building more sustainable communities; and in the education of future generations. RIBA described Pimenides as 'a natural-born academic who, through all her efforts in opening the minds of so many young students, and above all making them hungry to immerse themselves in the subject of architecture, has enriched the profession immeasurably.'

Pimenides has previously been honoured for her outstanding contribution to teaching during the 2012 UCL Provost's Teaching Awards. She has run the Year 1 course for the past 20 years.

BSP alumna awarded prestigious RTPI commendation

The Bartlett School of Planning alumna Ginny Duffell was recognised by the Royal Town Planning Institute for the exceptional quality of her submission for Chartered Membership through the Assessment of Professional Competence in 2014.

Duffell was one of only three candidates selected for commendation out of over 400 who submitted. The accolade not only recognises Duffell's achievement, but also gives her the chance to provide advice and inspiration to other candidates going through the APC. Graduate planners must complete the RTPI's Assessment of Professional Competence in order to achieve the designation of Chartered Town Planner. Candidates produce a written submission demonstrating their experience and their development of competence as a professional planner. The RTPI recognises APC candidates whose excellent submissions are nominated for commendation by their assessors.

Duffell graduated from UCL in 1997 with a diploma in Town and Country Planning, and now works as a Development Control Officer for the States of Jersey.

Read more about Ginny Duffell's achievement and her advice for future APC candidates

Prof. Michelle Baddeley on the GO-Science Expert Panel for the Blackett Review of Financial Technology Futures

Professor Michelle Baddeley of The Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management was part of the Government Office for Science (GO-Science) expert panel. The panel was led by the Government Chief Scientific Advisor, Mark Walport, and contributed to a 'Blackett Review' for Financial Technology (FinTech) Futures.

The FinTech sector is the part of the economic industry that engages with new technology, innovation and business models to make finance systems more efficient. It is a young and developing sector and the UK is working to cement its world-leading position in the field.

The GO-Science report intends to provide the foundation to support the growth towards 2025, building on the current work of the Chancellor and HM Treasury to provide a long-term vision for the UK in the FinTech sector. The report looks at how government can achieve FinTech's economic potential, and at how companies can work with academia to ensure the UK's continued success in FinTech.

Download the report

BSA alumnus scoops 2014 Stephen Lawrence Prize

Architectural practice Denizen Works, founded by The Bartlett School of Architecture alumnus Murray Kerr, won the 2014 Stephen Lawrence Prize for House no.7,a cottage on the Hebridean Isle of Tiree.

The original property was bought by Kerr's parents, and it was to them that he pitched his proposal to rebuild it. Murray founded his practice in 2011 on the basis of this commission. The project was also nominated for the Manser Medal, won the Grand Designs 'Home of the Year' award, and was shortlisted for both the Scottish Design Awards and a RIAS Award.

The design includes a living house for use throughout the year, a guest house with three bedrooms and associated accommodation and a utility room with welly storage and space for the necessities of island life.

Kerr studied at The Bartlett in Unit 22 and 23 under Odile Decq and Liudmila and Vladislav Kirpichev. He graduated in 2002.

Read more on the Denizen Works website

Bartlett researchers awarded prestigious Marie Curie Fellowships

Post-doctoral fellows Dr Jonathan Rokem and Dr Evangelia Chrysikou were awarded Marie Curie Fellowships from the European Commission Horizon 2020 programme to spend two years conducting interdisciplinary research within the The Bartlett Space Syntax Laboratory at The Bartlett School of Architecture.

Dr Rokem's project, 'Contested Cities Revisited: a Multidisciplinary Multi-Scale Analysis of Urban Space' investigates the role of political, spatial and social factors in shaping urban segregation in Sweden and Israel. His research will be supervised by Professor Laura Vaughan, Director of the SSL.

Dr Chrysikou's project 'Planning and Evaluation Methodologies for Mental Healthcare Buildings' examines the environmental mechanisms that influence the social and personal milieu of psychiatric space, considering how healthcare facilities meet the environmental needs of the mentally ill. Her project will be supervised by Professor Alan Penn.

The Marie Curie Fellowship scheme is funded by the European Union to support international research partnerships and attract researchers to the EU.

BSA student on 2015 Designs of the Year shortlist

Matthew Rosier, student on the MArch Unit 11 programme at The Bartlett School of Architecture, was shortlisted for the Design Museum's Designs of the Year awards 2015 for his project 'Shadowing', created in collaboration with US-based interaction designer Jonathan Chomko.

Seventy-six nominations were selected by the museum from submissions by design experts, practitioners and academics. 'Shadowing' was among the digital nominations alongside 'Megafaces,' a project by The Bartlett School of Architecture alum Asif Khan.

'Shadowing' is an interactive installation embedded within streetlights, creating pockets of memory in the street by capturing the shadow of a pedestrian as they pass underneath the light and then projecting it back to accompany the next passer-by. 'Shadowing' was the winner of the 2014 Playable City Award and was installed in eight locations in Bristol in autumn 2014.

Shortlisted projects went on show in a dedicated exhibition at the Design Museum.

Visit the Shadowing website

In The Media

BBC

Robotic playground looks for fun

BBC News 31 July 2015
William Bondin from The Bartlett School of Architecture has developed an interactive climbing frame that can roam designated play areas searching for children to play with it.

> Watch: BBC News

theguardian

Bone idol: museum's quagga skeleton restored with 3D-printed leg

The Guardian 27 July 2015
UCL Grant Museum of Zoology has completed work on its rare but neglected quagga skeleton with help from The Bartlett and the Royal Veterinary College.

> Read: The Guardian

theguardian

The Mediterranean migrant crisis has big business and climate change at its roots

The Guardian 13 July 2015
Professor Henrietta Moore from the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity argues that while forced migration is framed as a political issue, climate change and inequality are fuelling the catastrophe and business has a role to play in solving it.

> Read: Guardian

theguardian

Student architects' annual shows: the shape of things to come?

The Guardian 6 July 2015
The Bartlett School of Architecture's yearly exhibition offers flights of fancy, sci-fi visions and things of beauty from those destined to shape our built environment.

> Read: Guardian

More action needed to meet climate targets

The Engineer 6 July 2015
A report by researchers from UCL, including Mr Steve Pye and Professor Neil Strachan from the UCL Energy Institute, finds that stronger action is required to transform the UK's energy system and reduce carbon emissions in line with 2050 targets.

> Read: The Engineer

Slowly and steadily, Somaliland builds its health system

The Lancet 1 June 2015
Dr Michael Walls from
The Bartlett Development Planning Unit says: "Somaliland's lack of recognition as an independent country means donors give to civil society although there is now a quasi-budget support system".

> Read: Lancet

AJ

Bartlett retakes title of best university to study architecture

Architect's Journal 28 May 2015
The Bartlett School of Architecture has returned to the top of The Guardian's annual league of UK architecture schools.

> Read: Architects' Journal

FT

To demolish or to refurbish, that is the urban question

Financial Times 27 May 2015
Professor Peter Rees from
The Bartlett School of Planning says "demolition is a natural part of the life cycle of cities and is necessary for urban areas to change and evolve".

> Read: Financial Times

The New York Times

Shell's record adds to the anger of those opposing Arctic drilling

New York Times 13 May 2015
Commenting on Shell receiving US Arctic drilling approval, Dr Christophe McGlade from the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources says that the costs and risks of Arctic reserves were too high, especially if climate regulations reduced the demand for fossil fuels in general.

> Read: The New York Times

BBC

STEM education

BBC Radio London 9 April 2015
Dr Hannah Fry from The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis takes part in a panel discussion on how arts and culture can interplay with STEM education.

> Listen: The BBC

BBC

The end of poverty?

BBC World Service
'Business Daily' 31 March 2015
Professor Henrietta Moore
from the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity discusses which policies could help reduce poverty and potentially end it within a generation.

> Listen: BBC World Service 'Business Daily'

FT

Forest of luxury flats rises on London's skyline

Financial Times 17 March 2015
Commenting on the increasing number of towers being built in London, Professor Peter Rees from The Bartlett School of Planning says such developments are "an over-commoditisation of housing and result in the creation of ghost communities".

> Read: Financial Times

BBC

Global CO2 emissions

BBC World Service 'Newshour' 13 March 2015
Professor Paul Ekins from the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources discusses the latest data on global carbon emissions from the International Energy Agency.

> Listen: BBC World Service *'Newshour'* (from 27 mins)

BBC

Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe

BBC Two 'Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe' 7 March 2015

Professor Iain Borden from The Bartlett School of Architecture takes a satirical look at what is meant by architecture.

> Watch: BBC Two 'Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe' (from 26 mins) > View article

The Economist

Building on the boundaries

The Economist 20 February 2015
Professor Michael Hebbert from The Bartlett School of Planning says that when constructing buildings, London boroughs frequently neglect their edges in favour of the middles.

> Read: The Economist

BBC

London's population hits 8.6m record high

BBC News 2 February 2015
Professor Michael Batty from The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis explains how London's population has changed since 1939.

> Read: BBC News

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Looking for love in all the wrong equations

Sunday Times 2 February 2015
Dr Hannah Fry from The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis explains how mathematical modelling underpins everything - from the possibility of finding a partner to the number of sexual partners we have in a lifetime.

> Read: The Sunday Times

theguardian

London needs homes, not towers of 'safe-deposit boxes'

The Guardian 26 January 2015
Professor Peter Rees from
The Bartlett School of Planning questions whether too many new properties in London are simply designed as places for the super-rich to park their cash.

> Read: The Guardian

BBC

David Baddiel Tries to Understand: Derivatives

BBC Radio 4 'David Baddiel Tries to Understand' 22 January 2015

Dr D'Maris Coffman from The Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management discusses the history of derivatives with David Baddiel.

> Listen: BBC Radio 4 'David Baddiel Tries to Understand'

BBC

Much of world's fossil fuel reserve must stay buried to prevent climate change

BBC News 8 January 2015
A study by Dr Christophe McGlade and Professor Paul Ekins from the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources has found that large amounts of fossil fuel reserves should remain in the ground if global warming is to stay below the 2°C target.

> Read: BBC News

BBC

Can maths combat terrorism?

BBC World Service 'Discovery
23 December 2014

Dr Hannah Fry from The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis investigates the hidden patterns behind terrorism and asks whether mathematics could be used to predict the next 9/11.

> Listen: BBC World Service 'Discovery

FT

City's former planning chief on why London is 'unplannable'

Financial Times 20 November 2014
Professor Peter Rees from The Bartlett School of Planning takes a boat trip on the Thames to point out the highs and lows of the capital's changing skyline.

> Watch: Financial Times

The Telegraph

Fracking won't cut bills and ministers 'oversold' shale gas benefits

The Telegraph 12 November 2014
A report co-authored by Dr Christophe McGlade from the UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources warns that fracking won't cut energy bills and ministers have "oversold" the benefits of UK shale gas exploration.

> Read: The Telegraph

FT

London ranks poorly for small businesses to make a living

Financial Times 16 October 2014
Dr Jessica Ferm from The Bartlett School of Planning says that if conversions from office space into housing continue at their current rate, businesses moving away from the centre of London due to price increases will have fewer relocation options.

> Read: Financial Times

BBC RADIO 4

How the world of work runs on networks and networking

BBC Radio 4 16 October 2014
Professor Michelle Baddeley from The Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management discusses how traditional network structures are beneficial in leveraging the weak ties between people but an ideal network wouldn't be discriminatory or exclusive.

> Listen: BBC Radio 4 'Networking Nation'

BBC

Maps, apps and technology to make city life more fun

BBC News 9 October 2014
Technology is being used to make city navigation more fun, including a helmet designed by Panos Mavros at The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, which helps establish which routes in London are the least stressful for those whose vision is impaired and humanising technology by Dr Andrew Hudson-Smith (UCL CASA).

> Read: BBC News

THE TIMES

Megaprojects revolution

The Times 11 September 2014
Professor Andrew Davies from The Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management explains how Heathrow T5 and Crossrail have helped transform the way we design and deliver infrastructure megaprojects in the UK.

> Read: The Times

BBC

Where in the UK do people swear most on Twitter?

10 September 2014

A study by Dr Hannah Fry and Dr Ed Manley at The Bartlett Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis has revealed which areas of the UK Twitter users are most likely to swear in their posts.

Read: BBC News, More: Independent, Guardian, Metro, Belfast Telegraph, The Hindu, Listen: BBC Radio 4 'Future Proof' (from 30 mins 35 secs)

> Read: BBC News

Daily Mail

Meeting emissions target will create jobs

Daily Mail 10 September 2014
Research conducted by Professor Paul Ekins from the UCL Energy Institute, and Cambridge Econometrics has found that meeting targets to cut carbon from the power sector, transport, homes and businesses could reduce imports of oil and gas by £8.5bn a year by 2030.

> Read: Daily Mail