



BEATRICE DE CARLI

Change by Design Imagining Equitable Cities

LONDON METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

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Series Editors: Matthew Barac and Jane Clossick
Editorial Coordination: Beatrice De Carli
Academic Advisors: Wessie Ling and Nicholas Temple
Administration: Hannah Parr
Concept Design: Lisa Wallius

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Project details

Output author	Beatrice De Carli
Practice	Architecture Sans Frontières–UK (ASF–UK)
Collaborators	Quito: A. Frediani, I. Nunez Ferrera, N. Shinkins / Cape Town: A. Frediani, M. French, C. Macedo (co-lead) with E. Bainbridge, J. Bennett, B. Campkin, J. Walker (2015); J. Bennett, C. duTrevou, A. Frediani, K. Wong (2018) / Freetown: A. Frediani, S. Morley, C. Wright (2018); A. Frediani, T. Kahn, S. Morley, L. Orchard, F. Pasta, N. Sole, C. Wright (2019–present).
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Output type	T – Other (Design Processes)
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Budget	Given the importance of volunteer work to support ASF–UK’s activities, this is not possible to state accurately.
Partners	Quito: National Confederation of Barrios of Ecuador (CONBADE), National Institute of Higher Studies (IAEN), Polytechnic Salesian University (UPS), Community Development Committee of Los Pinos (CDCLP) / Cape Town: Development Action Group, 1to1 Agency of Engagement / Freetown: Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre and University College London.
Funders	ASF–UK’s activities rely upon the volunteer work of the organisation’s Associates. Other funding sources have included, Quito: University College London and University of Westminster / Cape Town: Development Action Group, University College London and University of Sheffield / Freetown: Comic Relief and DFID (2018); UKRI GCRF and University of Sheffield (2019-2020).

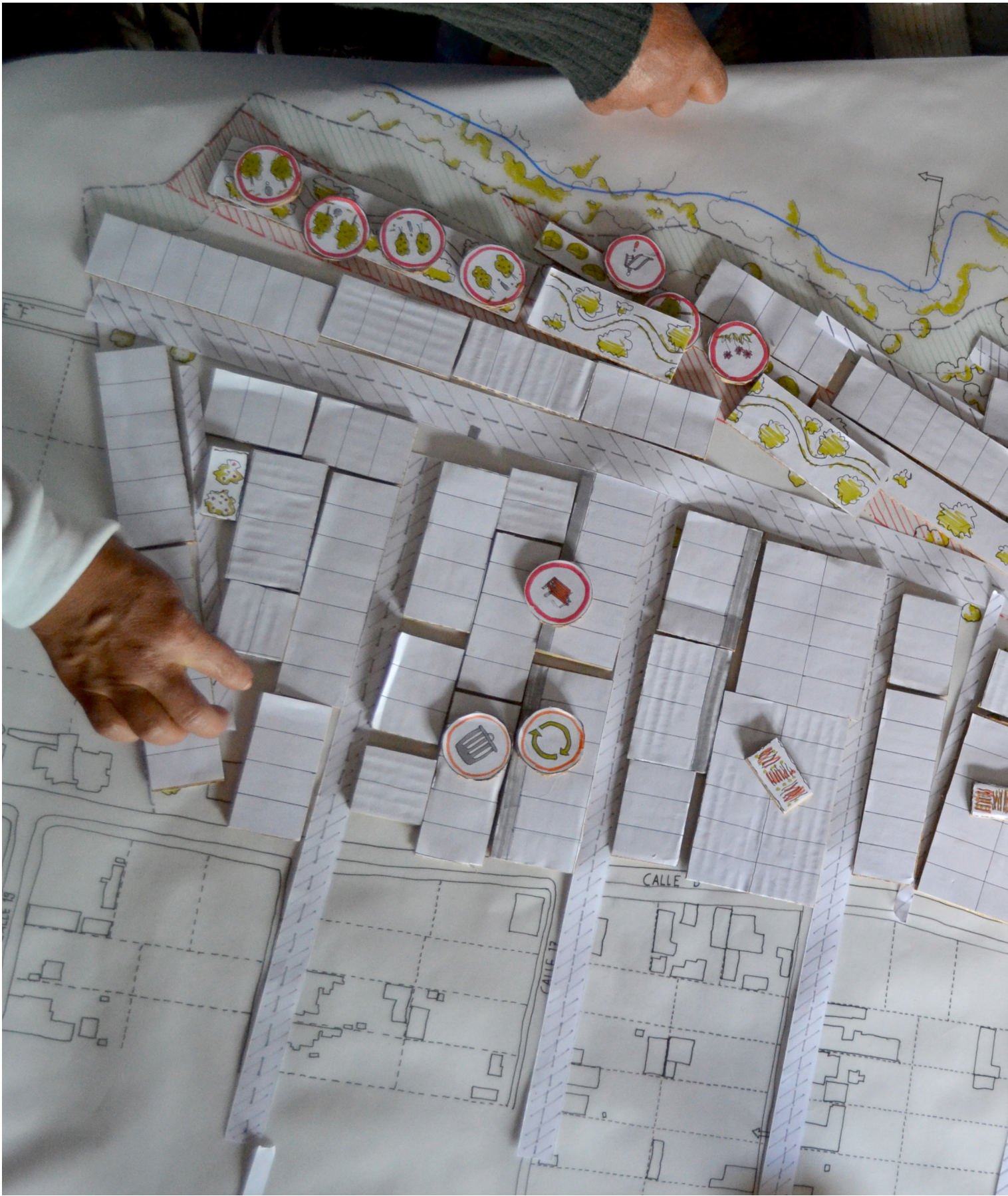




Figure 2. 'Creating your community':
Design charrette at Change by Design Quito
(2013). Image: ASF-UK.

Research content and significance

DESCRIPTION

This portfolio illustrates key research insights from the creative work undertaken by ASF–UK as part of the programme: Change by Design. The programme explores participatory design and planning as tools for advancing social justice and deepening democracy in urban decision-making. Through knowledge co-production and capacity development, Change by Design supports marginalised groups, so that they can affect change in the cities they live in.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This portfolio asks how participatory design processes contribute to inclusive urban governance in contexts of intense inequality:

- How does participatory design contribute to critical urban learning and expanding the capacity of urban dwellers to take part in urban governance?
- How does participatory design contribute to the emergence of new, community-based networks and institutions that represent marginalised groups?
- How does participatory design contribute to decision-making that responds to the diverse needs and desires of marginalised groups?

METHODS

Change by Design initiatives develop in collaboration with local stakeholders and employ an original methodology for participatory design and planning. The methodology is structured into four stages and three scales of design, and utilises a wide range of participatory visual and spatial tools, from drawing-elicited interviews to mapping workshops and participatory modelling.

DISSEMINATION

This body of work has been published in journal articles, project reports, and planning documents, and has been disseminated through talks and symposia in academic and professional environments. Training material derived from Change by Design informs the course: Challenging Practice, run by ASF-International. The methodology was presented at United Nations events in 2012, 2014 and 2016.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Change by Design methodology has influenced community-led design and planning processes and policy in Quito, Cape Town, Freetown, and globally. Change by Design has influenced future practice by informing teaching and research in prestigious UK universities (e.g. University College London, University of Oxford, University of Sheffield) and through the delivery of specialist training at ASF-International and the United Nations.

Introduction

ASF–UK is a non-profit design organisation that builds the capacity of urban professionals and communities to participate in the co-production of more equitable cities. The organisation focuses on three main areas of activity: advocacy, capacity building, and socio-technical support. The work develops in partnership with grassroots organisations, NGOs, local governments and academic institutions, and it is structured into four programmes: Change by Design, Resilience by Design, Inclusion by Design and Challenging Practice.

I started working with ASF–UK in 2011, and since 2013 I have been a volunteer Associate and part of the organisation's Management Team. In this capacity I have been responsible for activities across all ASF–UK's programmes – leading context-specific participatory design and planning initiatives (Change by Design); and transferring knowledge to others through training courses and publications (Challenging Practice).

Over the past eight years, I have led or co-led a team of nearly twenty ASF–UK Associates in five international Change by Design workshops attended by over 130 urban practitioners and city dwellers, and I have coordinated socio-technical support to partner organisations in four cities. Through Challenging Practice, I

have played a key role in disseminating the learning from this experience to over 500 built environment professionals globally. Drawing on this unique body of work, this portfolio highlights key research insights from my engagement with ASF–UK's Change by Design programme, focusing on three instances: Quito (Ecuador), Cape Town (South Africa) and Freetown (Sierra Leone).

The discussion revolves around one primary research question: how can participatory design processes contribute to inclusive urban governance in cities marked by intense inequality? This question can contribute to the practice of ASF–UK in three ways. First, by highlighting how participatory design can contribute to critical urban learning, and to expanding the competence and capacity of urban dwellers to take part in urban governance processes. Second, by illustrating how participatory design can contribute to the emergence of community-based networks and institutions that represent the interests of marginalised groups. Third, by tracing how participatory design can contribute to decision-making that responds to the diverse needs and desires of marginalised subjects. Each of these lines of investigation addresses one dimension of the relation between participatory design and inclusive urban governance.

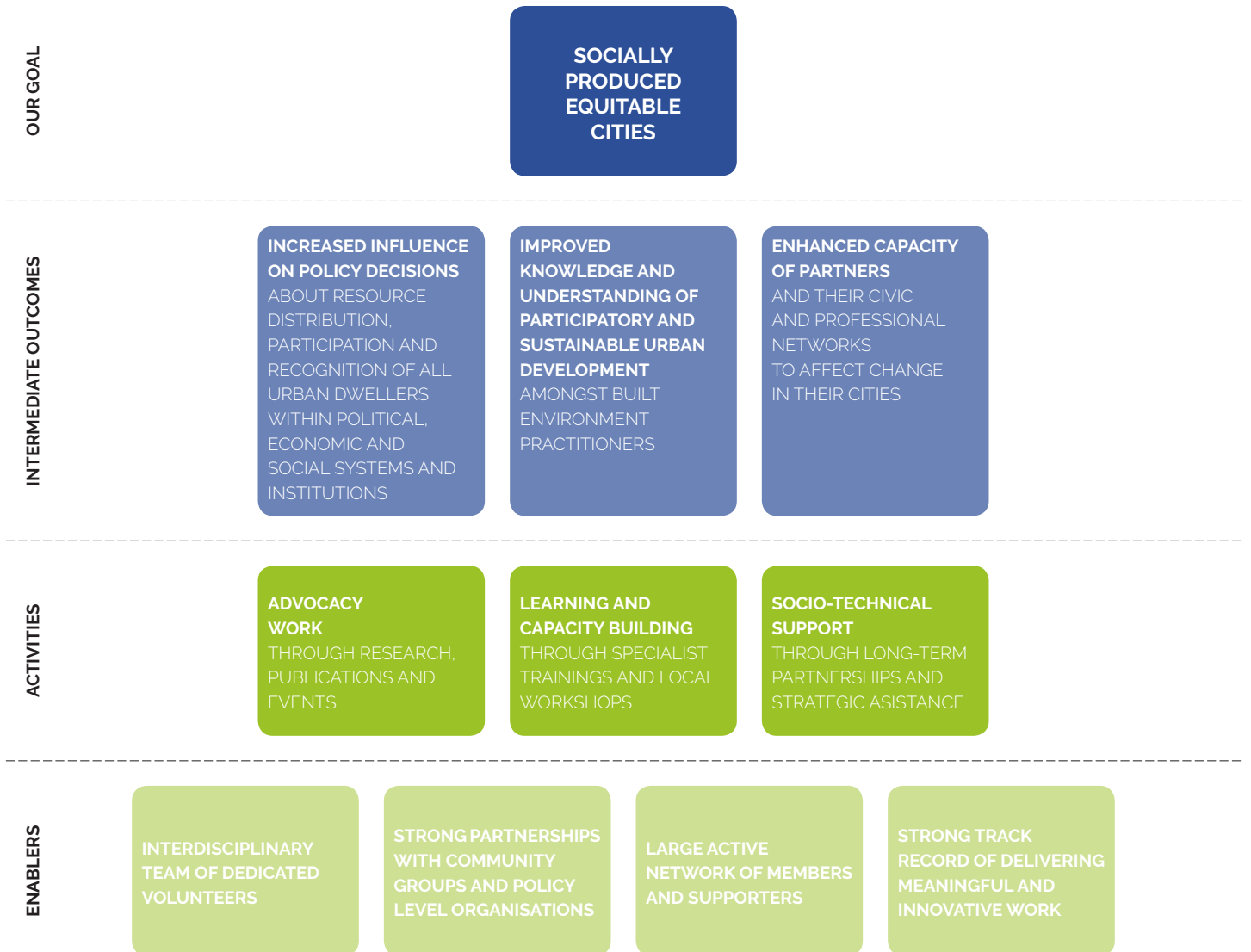


Figure 3. ASF-UK’s Theory of Change defines the organisation’s goals and the conditions for meeting them. Image: ASF-UK.





Figure 4. 'Creating your community':
Design charette at Change by Design
Freetown (2018). Image: ASF-UK.

Research context

I seek to theoretically situate Change by Design within the discourse of participation in architecture and urban design (Blundell-Jones et al., 2005; Jenkins and Forsyth, 2009; Miessen, 2010), particularly as interpreted by contemporary feminist scholars and practitioners (Rendell, 2006; Petrescu, 2007; Schalk et al., 2017). The move to position this work in conversation with critical voices linking architectural and urban design with participation has a few interrelated aims: (a) to align my work with critical approaches to architecture, which stress the consequences of design processes beyond the production of built objects (Till, 2009; Awan et al., 2013; Petrescu and Trogal, 2017); (b) to emphasize the role of design within the discourse of critical urban theory, which highlights the design of space as an entry point to engage with processes of urban production (Dovey, 2009; Tonkiss, 2013; Boano, 2017); (c) to specify the role of participatory design, as a subfield which is grounded in critical architecture and urban design, as well as in the practices of participatory development (Sanoff, 2000; Hamdi, 2010; Frediani, 2016).

The contribution of this work consists in positioning these debates within urban contexts that are marked by historically rooted and multi-scalar inequalities; and in connecting participatory design to

questions of inclusive urban governance. My hypothesis is that there are at least three ways in which participatory design practices, processes and outcomes can contribute to inclusive urban governance. First, by informing place-specific processes of critical urban learning, which can in turn become a tool for self-determination and civic engagement with the urban context. Second, by supporting the emergence of links and relations within and beyond marginalised urban places, so that learning can be institutionalised through community-based urban networks and institutions. Finally, participatory design can support inclusive-decision making so that the resulting plans and policies concerning the built environment adequately reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of those who will be affected by them.

Whilst framed within the discourse of architecture and urban design, this work is intrinsically interdisciplinary, in that it mobilises design methods to interrogate the broader field of urban development and the processes that shape urban governance across time and scale. As such, the Change by Design programme makes a contribution to critical urban theory and practice, positioning design as an entry point and a method to recognise social diversity and advance social and environmental justice in the city.



Figure 5. Community meeting at Change by Design Quito (2013). Image: ASF-UK.





Figure 6. Drawing-elicited interview at Change by Design Cape Town (2015). Image: P. Grendon for DAG.

Research process

Change by Design initiatives utilise a participatory design and planning methodology that aims to enable collective learning about city-making, and produce principles, guidelines and options to improve the wellbeing of residents in a local area. The methodology has evolved over ten years through collaborative initiatives in Salvador (Brazil), Quito (Ecuador), Nairobi (Kenya), Cape Town (South Africa), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and London.

The methodology critically interrogates how participation is applied in the design and planning of local areas. At the core of Change by Design is the recognition that social diversity and power relations play a key role in the production, use and management of urban space. The methodology bridges social processes with spatial form, mapping the physical conditions of an area while unpacking the values that residents attach to it.

The methodology is structured into four stages: diagnosis, dreaming, developing and defining. The *diagnosis* stage analyses local realities and urban trends. The *dreaming* stage uncovers the needs, aspirations and imaginaries of residents. The *developing* stage outlines possible pathways to change. The *defining* stage focuses on concrete plans for action. These stages are used to facilitate co-

design activities at three scales (*dwelling, community and city*), and to conduct participatory research around *urban policy and planning*. A key feature of all Change by Design processes is the use of participatory visual and spatial tools such as photo-diaries, drawing-elicited interviews and mapping workshops.

In the Change by Design approach, the objective of participatory design and planning is not to develop one view on the future of places, but rather to reveal principles, guidelines and options for achieving positive change. As part of the methodology, the findings of scale-based activities are brought together as a set of principles for the future of the area, and a range of options for each theme of development (i.e. housing, infrastructure...). Principles and options are used in a visioning exercise, the *portfolio of options*, which produces guidelines for the future of the area.

Outputs from the Change by Design process address the needs of local partners advocating for more equitable forms of city-making. Be they research reports or community action plans, these outputs aim to inform on-going processes of collective action aimed at bringing material and social benefits to marginalised urban dwellers, and influencing urban policy and planning.

CHANGE BY DESIGN IN ACTION
IMAGINING EQUITABLE CITIES

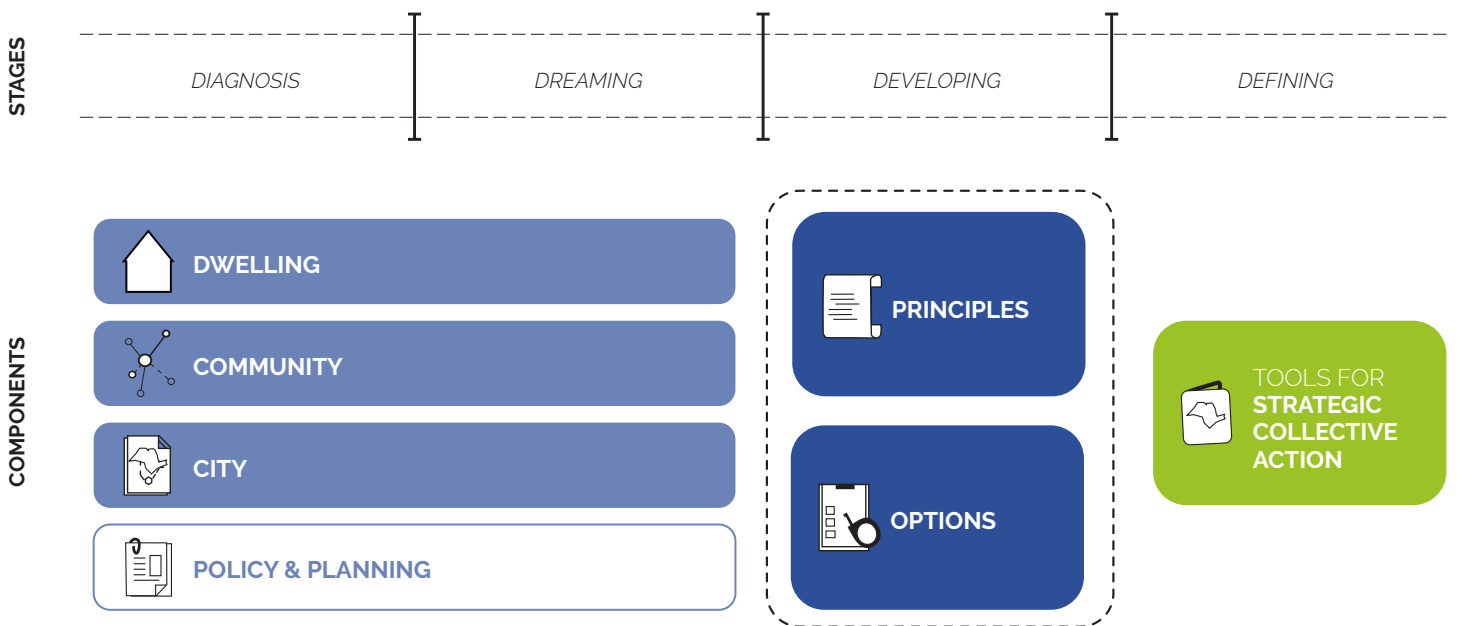
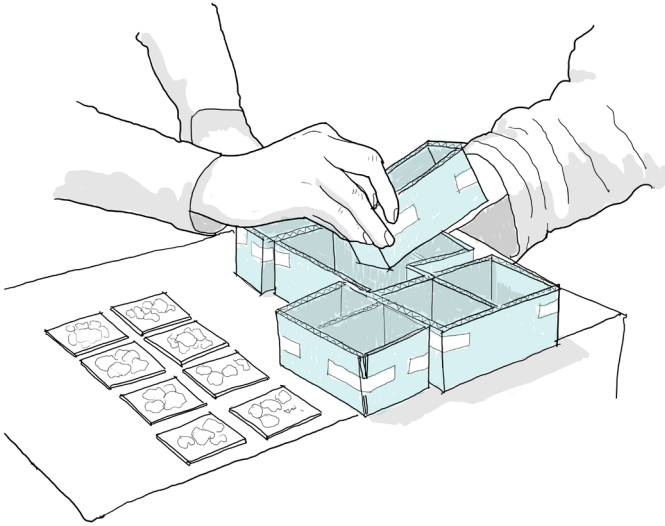


Figure 7. Stages and components of the Change by Design methodology. Image: B. De Carli for ASF-UK.

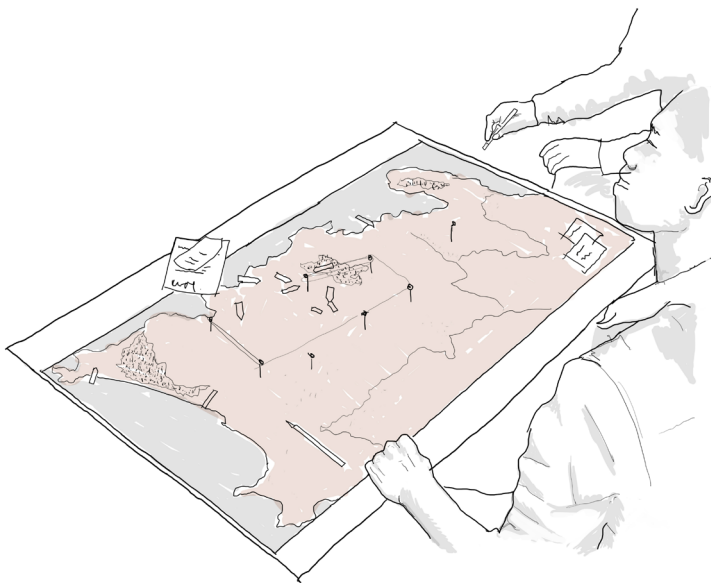


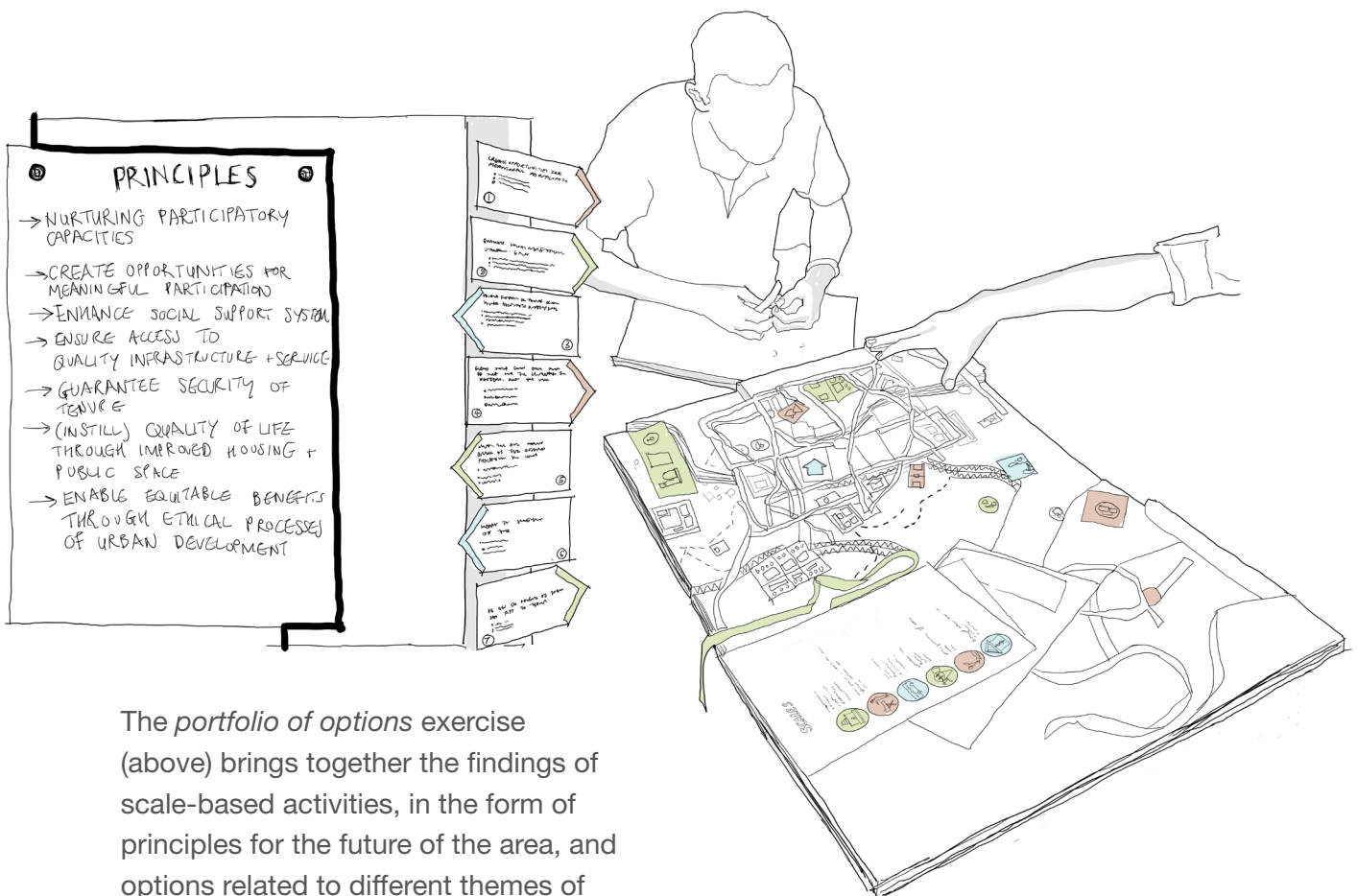
The *dwelling scale* (left) approaches housing not merely as a physical structure confined within the boundaries of houses, but rather as a system of settings, based on relationships and activities that altogether shape residents' experience of 'home'.

The *community scale* (right) engages with the neighbourhood, focusing on social dynamics as they relate to neighbourhood spaces (such as streets, community halls...) and infrastructure (water, sanitation, waste...). It also interrogates the meaning of 'community', revealing inequalities amongst local residents and recognising the experiences of those who are most vulnerable.



The *city scale* (left) is concerned with the urban and regional dimension of participatory design and planning, with a focus on existing and potential connections between the needs and aspirations of local residents, and the wider urban dynamics that provide context to the development of neighbourhoods.





The *portfolio of options* exercise (above) brings together the findings of scale-based activities, in the form of principles for the future of the area, and options related to different themes of development (i.e. housing, basic services, infrastructure...).

Figures 8-11. Design tools employed in the Change by Design methodology. Images: K. Wong and B. De Carli for ASF-UK.





Figure 12. One-to-one design exercise at Change by Design Freetown (2018). Image: ASF-UK.

Instances



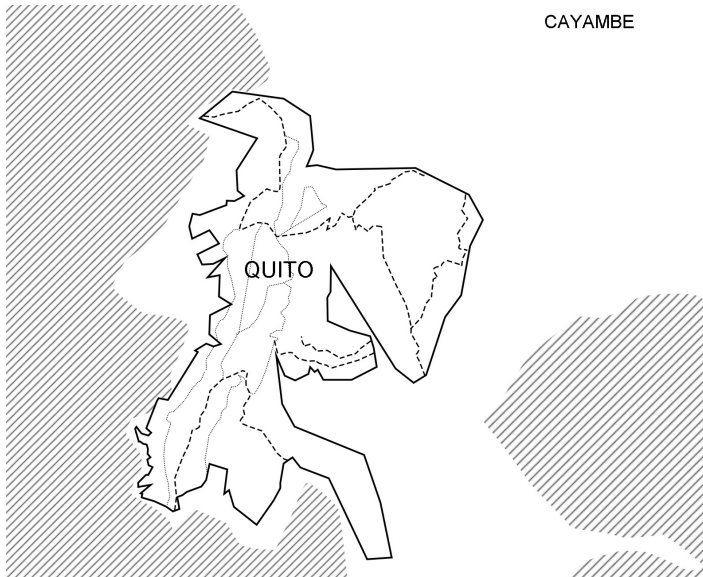
This portfolio illustrates three Change by Design initiatives in the informal settlements of Quito (Ecuador), Cape Town (South Africa) and Freetown (Sierra Leone). In line with the wider aims of the programme, these initiatives have explored participatory design and planning as tools for advancing social justice and deepening democracy in urban decision-making processes. Each initiative has developed through the establishment of strategic partnerships with local stakeholders, and has utilised

the Change by Design methodology described above to support vulnerable and marginalised urban groups.

The three initiatives each encompass two types of activity, as described in ASF-UK's theory of change (fig. 3): *learning and capacity building*, delivered through a series of intensive two-week workshops; and *socio-technical support*, delivered through ASF-led volunteer placements within the partner institutions.

Figure 13. Mapping your neighbourhood: Training on participatory mapping at Change by Design Freetown (2019). Image: ASF-UK.

Quito, Ecuador



Location: Los Pinos

Duration: 2013-2014 (2-week workshop followed by 6 months socio-technical support)

Partners: National Confederation of Barrios of Ecuador (CONBADE), National Institute of Higher Studies (IAEN), Polytechnic Salesian University of Quito (UPS) and Community Development Committee of Los Pinos (CDCLP).

Aims: to test how the Change by Design methodology could support the application of the national development agenda of Buen Vivir at the local scale, through the creation of a neighbourhood plan for the informal settlement of Los Pinos.

Outputs: project report and outline neighbourhood development plan for Los Pinos.

Figures 14-15. Map of Quito, and view of the informal settlement of Los Pinos. Images: B. De Carli (left) and ASF-UK (right).

Cape Town, South Africa



Location: Woodstock and Khayelitsha

Duration: 2015-2018 (three 2-week workshops in 2015, 2017 and 2018, each followed by 2 months socio-technical support).

Partners: Development Action Group (DAG), with 1to1 Agency of Engagement.

Aims: to test how the Change by Design methodology could assist DAG's citywide mobilisation and advocacy work, by delivering specialist design and planning support to their existing capacity building programmes: Active Citizenship Training and Contractor and Developer Academy.

Outputs: project reports; design tool for planning small-scale affordable housing interventions.

Figures 16-17. Map of Cape Town, and view of the informal settlement of Pine Road in Woodstock. Images: B. De Carli (left) and ASF-UK (right).

Freetown, Sierra Leone



Location: Cockle Bay and Dworzark

Duration: 2017-present (1-year socio-technical support in 2018; two 2-week workshops in 2019; two further 2-week workshops forthcoming in 2020).

Partners: Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) with Njala University and University College London.

Aims: to assist SLURC in developing knowledge and capacity for participatory design and planning in Freetown, by co-producing a novel planning instrument now known as: Community Action Area Plan (CAAP).

Outputs: community action area plans for Dworzark and Cockle Bay; toolkit for profiling informal settlements (2020); toolkit for community action planning (forthcoming in 2021).

Figures 18-19. Map of Freetown, and view of the informal settlement of Dworzark. Images: B. De Carli (left) and ASF-UK (right).





Figure 20. Context: Informal housing in Bromwell Street, Woodstock, Cape Town (2015) Image: P. Grendon for DAG.

Research insights

The Change by Design initiatives outlined here suggest that participatory design can play a key role in supporting the development of more inclusive forms of urban governance. This section highlights three main research insights that emerged in this regard from the ASF-UK Change by Design activities in Quito, Cape Town, and Freetown.

The first insight concerns the relation between participatory design and urban learning, and the ways in which knowledge about the city can be developed and shared—both within and across marginalised urban places. The discussion draws on theories of empowerment, to review how design processes can contribute to developing the ability of local residents to make choices regarding the development of the areas where they live.

The second insight revolves around the role that participatory design and planning processes can play in fostering the emergence of new, community-based networks and institutions that represent the interests of vulnerable and marginalised groups. The discussion mobilises the notion of social innovation to highlight the role of design in facilitating collaborative encounters amongst diverse interests, thus fostering the formation of collaborative

organisations that can support innovation from the grassroots level.

The third insight addresses how participatory design can contribute to decision-making that responds to the diverse needs and desires of marginalised individuals and groups. The reflection is based on the notion of intersectionality (as explored on p.42) and questions how intersectionality can work not only as theory but also as praxis, to allow for the development of urban plans and policies that recognise diversity while also uniting agendas. These issues are not mutually exclusive, but for the sake of clarity they will be discussed one at a time.



Figure 21. One-to-one design exercise at Change by Design Quito (2013). Image: ASF-UK.

CRITICAL URBAN LEARNING

The first insight from the Change by Design initiatives concerns the relation between participatory design and urban learning, and the ways in which knowledge about the city can be developed and shared—both within and across marginalised urban places. In Freetown, Change by Design activities have supported knowledge exchanges within communities—encouraging residents to learn from each other about the physical and social composition of their neighbourhood, and to discuss ways of introducing change. A study led by SLURC, examining the impact of the planning process on residents' capabilities (Macarthy et al., 2019), concluded that these activities have allowed participants to see themselves as experts in their own right, and to reclaim a space of knowledge that is normally ascribed to professionals.

In her seminal work exploring the notion of empowerment, Naila Kabeer highlights that one way of thinking about power is in terms of “the ability to make choices” (Kabear, 2005). However, for there to be a real choice, certain conditions must be fulfilled. First, there must be alternatives, so there needs to be a possibility to choose differently. Second, “alternatives must not only exist, they must also be seen to exist” (ibid. p.14). This second

point is particularly helpful here, as it highlights that power asymmetries operate most effectively when they are unseen, and it is in the process of visibilising existing power dynamics and their alternatives, that the ability to make choices is expanded.

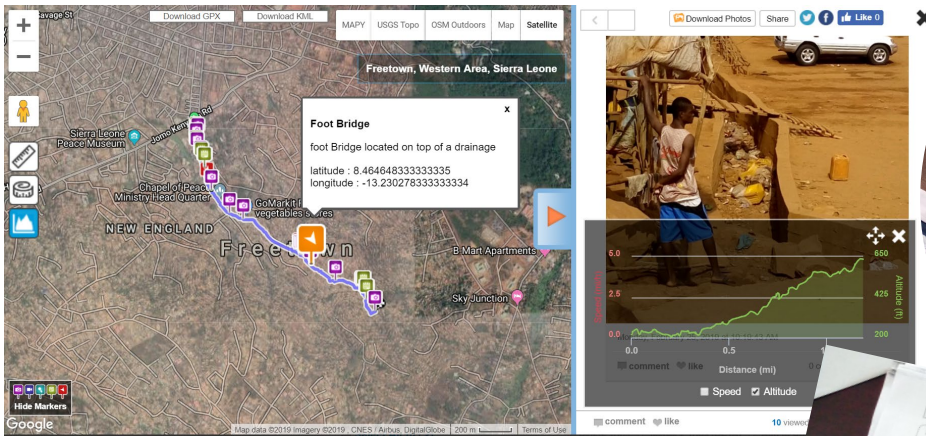
On this basis, it is my contention that learning about the social and spatial production of the city can increase the capacity of marginalised urban dwellers to see their own context of living, and the governance structures that create exclusion and marginalisation in the first place. At the same time, articulating alternative pathways to urban development that challenge spatial exclusion can also translate into the capacity to challenge dominant urban governance regimes. In Freetown, the mapping and design processes that form part of Change by Design played a key role in this regard. Firstly, they focused on generating a set of design processes and tools (for instance, participatory mapping) that the residents of informal settlements could use independently, to critically examine their own living environments (fig.23-24). Secondly, they focused on collaboratively exposing the range of alternatives that might be available to them, in order to transform exclusionary urban governance (fig.25-31).

“THE PROCESS HAS HELPED US TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE DISASTER RISKS FACED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND HOW PLANNING CAN HELP US DEAL WITH IT. IT ALSO HELPED US TO IDENTIFY THE SHARED SPACES IN OUR COMMUNITY, DEFINE THEIR CURRENT USES, AND AGREE ON WAYS TO PRESERVE THEM”

COMMUNITY MEMBER, DWORZARK (SEPTEMBER 2018)



Figure 22. Mapping as a learning strategy.
Image: B. De Carli and K. Wong.



Community-Led Data Collection for Informal Settlement Profiling

February - April 2019

Data Collector's Information Pack



Figures 23-24. Training on participatory mapping at Change by Design Freetown (2019). Image: ASF-UK.



Figures 25-30. Dwelling-, community- and city-scale design in Dworzark at Change by Design Freetown (2018). Images: ASF-UK.





Figures 31. Portfolio of Options: Design charrette in Cockle Bay at Change by Design Freetown (2018). Image: ASF-UK.

NEW NETWORKS AND INSTITUTIONS

The next insight emerging from the work revolves around the role that participatory design processes can play in fostering the emergence of new, community-based networks and institutions that represent the interests of vulnerable and marginalised groups. In Cape Town, ASF–UK worked closely with DAG to run a series of three workshops, each framed within one of DAG’s core programmes aimed at “enabling citizens coalitions to create change” (DAG, 2019). Each of the workshops supported the forming of grassroots networks around specific urban development objectives. In 2018, the focus was set on the nascent Contractor and Developer Academy, an initiative bringing together the city’s largely informal private rental industry as a key strategy for delivering well managed affordable housing.

Ezio Manzini highlights the importance of collaborative networks as a means to achieve grassroots innovation (Manzini, 2015, pp.77-92). The term grassroots innovation describes “networks of activists and organisations generating novel bottom–up solutions for sustainable development” (Gill & Smith 2007). The underlying idea is that “the creativity and knowledge needed to solve grassroots problems ... can also

be found at the grassroots level” (Manzini 2015, p.78). For grassroots innovation to occur, “people, expertise and material assets” need to “come together in a new way that is able to create new meaning” (ibid., p.77). The act of coming together is made possible through collaborative encounters, “in which two or more people meet and exchange something (time, care, expertise...) in order to ... create a shared value” (ibid., p. 93).

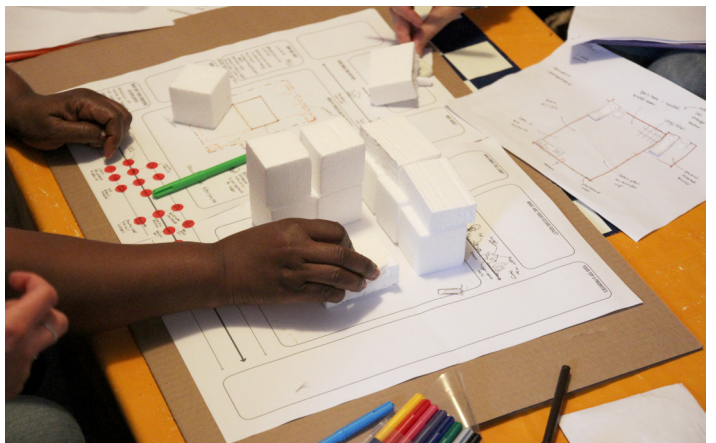
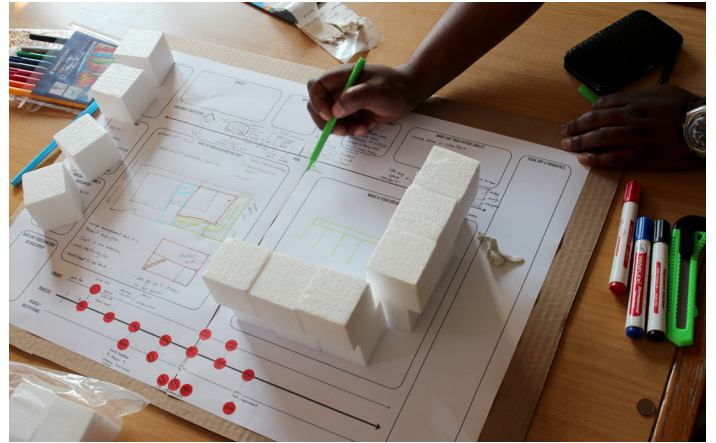
With Manzini, I contend that participatory design can play an important role in staging and supporting these encounters, particularly in contexts where those coming together have limited access to resources. By engaging with the material and spatial basis of urban development, design can help to visibilise shared values, and to elicit conversations about the mutual benefits of collaborating. In *Change by Design Cape Town*, both aspects featured prominently. Firstly, design allowed to map out the personal needs and aspirations of individual developers (fig.33-38), to then bring those vis-à-vis each other as part of a collective visioning exercise (fig.39-40). Secondly, the workshop focused on the design of an interaction device, aimed at supporting DAG’s further engagement with private developers by raising questions about the shared value that their actions can generate (fig.41-42).

“AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS MUCH MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR. IT’S A MEANS TOWARDS SECURE TENURE, BETTER HOUSING STOCK AND ULTIMATELY IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE. FOR PRECISELY THIS PURPOSE, THE AIM OF THE CONTRACTOR AND DEVELOPER ACADEMY (CDA) IS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE FORMS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING”

DEVELOPMENT ACTION GROUP, CONTRACTOR AND DEVELOPER ACADEMY BOOKLET (2018)



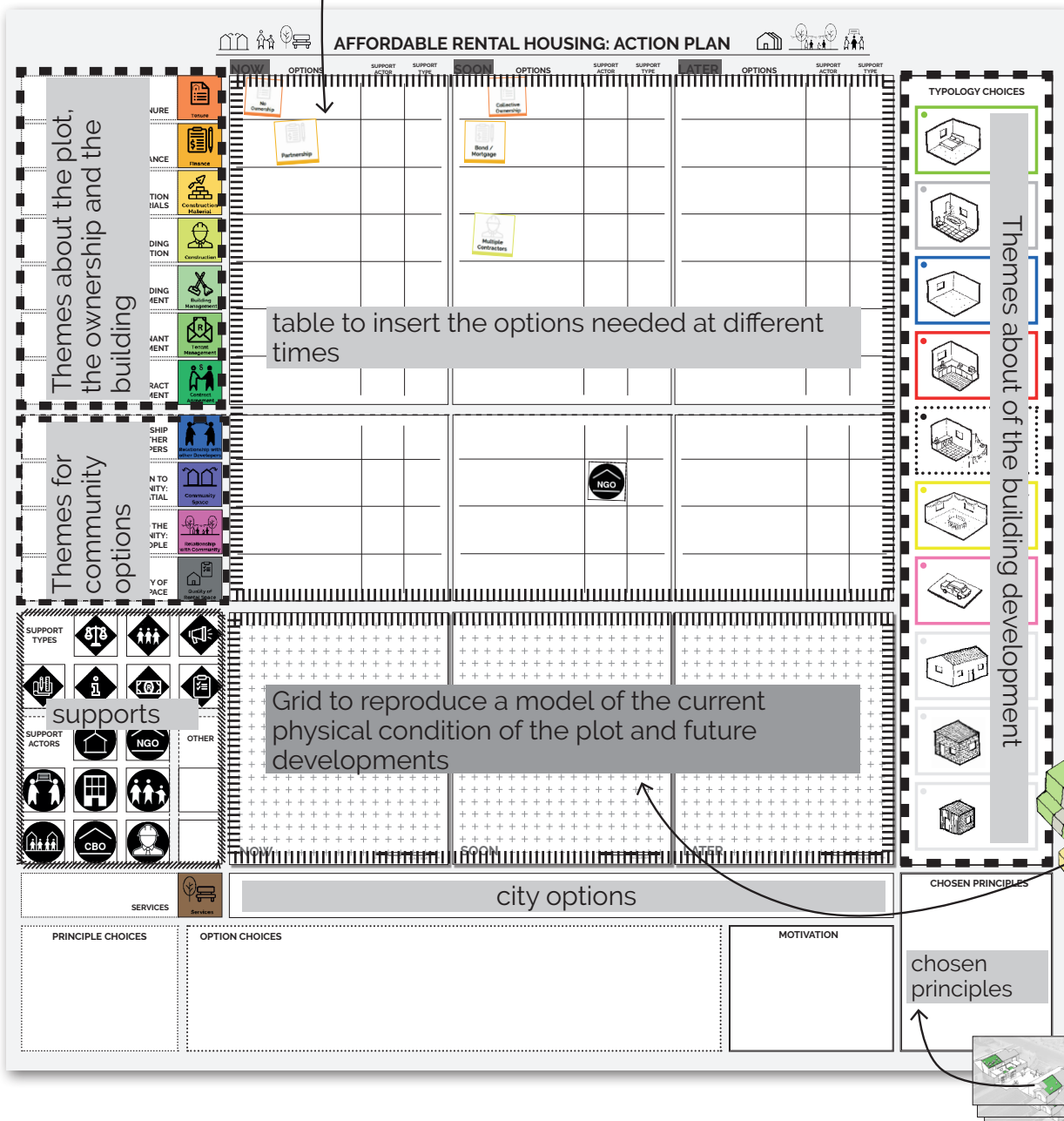
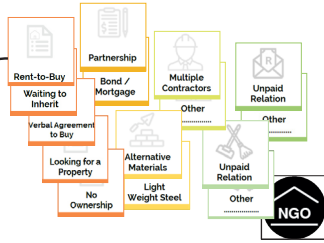
Figure 32. Participatory design as a networking strategy. Image: B. De Carli and K. Wong.



Figures 33-38. 1-1 interviews and design exercises with developers at Change by Design Cape Town (2018). Images: ASF-UK



Figures 33-38. Focus group with developers and citywide actors at the workshop's final event. Images: ASF-UK. Images: ASF-UK





Figures 41-42. Tools for collective action:
Affordable housing action plan at Change
by Design Cape Town (2018). Images:
ASF-UK

INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

The third insight emerging from Change by Design addresses how participatory design can contribute to decision-making that responds to the diverse needs and desires of marginalised subjects. In Quito, ASF–UK partnered with a multi-stakeholder network including national and local neighbourhood planning organisations. The initiative aimed to develop a neighbourhood plan for the settlement of Los Pinos, while testing how the national Buen Vivir agenda could be implemented at the local level. The emphasis was on developing a plan that would “transform the neighborhood into an original, innovative, and realisable space” (CoHabitat 2017), where a highly diverse group of residents could pursue their personal life projects in an active and collaborative way.

In 1989, Kimberle Crenshaw coined the term intersectionality to address how different structures of oppression co-construct each other (typically, racism and sexism). Intersectionality attends to a problem of recognition: it is about making marginalised subjects visible, by exposing the interactions between the distinct yet mutually reinforcing structures that render them invisible. The term has had a wide circulation in feminist scholarship, but there is a lack of empirical work looking at intersectionality

in practice (McCall 2005; Carbado 2013), particularly so in spatial disciplines (Valentine 2007). The emergent ‘diversity planning’ approach to neighbourhood planning aims to address this omission (Walker & Butcher 2016).

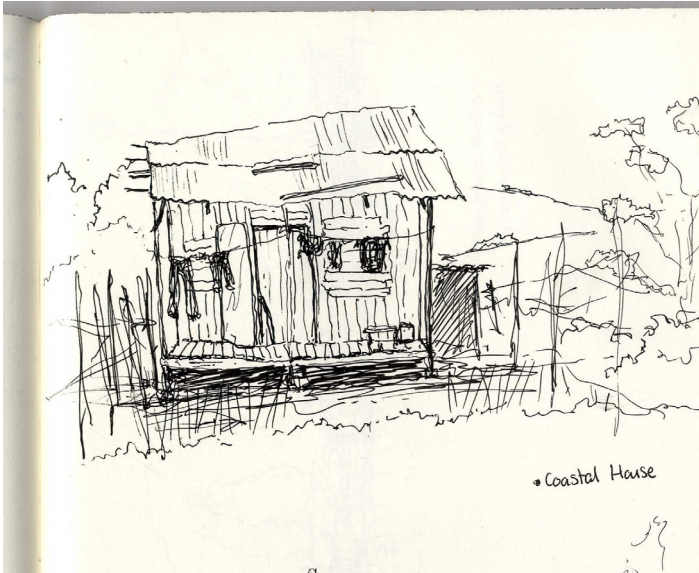
With others, I suggest that a focus on lived experiences represents a powerful way of researching how the intersection of different systems of oppression operates in local urban areas. Seen through the lens of everyday practices, intersectionality can be adopted as a reading strategy (Smith 1998) to map out, and challenge, the spatial dimension of complex exclusionary and discriminatory systems of power—in a way that would not be possible through wider analyses of social groups or places. In Quito, design activities were grounded in one-to-one conversations that allowed to unpack the complexity of personal experiences, needs and aspirations in relation to both domestic and shared spaces (fig.44-46). The scalar approach that is intrinsic to the Change by Design methodology then allowed to gradually find points of convergence and alliance between such personal experiences, developing neighbourhood-wide design principles, guidelines and finally planning instruments that both recognised, and united, the specific identity based claims made by different subjects (fig. 47-51).

“THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MOMENT ... WE BECAME AWARE THAT THERE WAS AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PROFESSIONALS THAT COULD SUPPORT US ... WE MET WITH THIS GROUP OF ARCHITECTS WITHOUT BORDERS, AND ORGANISED A PARTICIPATORY DESIGN WORKSHOP IN LOS PINOS. A FIRST PUBLICATION RESULTED FROM THE WORKSHOP ... BEYOND ITS TECHNICAL CONTENT, THIS BOOK HELPED US VERY MUCH IN THE NEGOTIATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT”

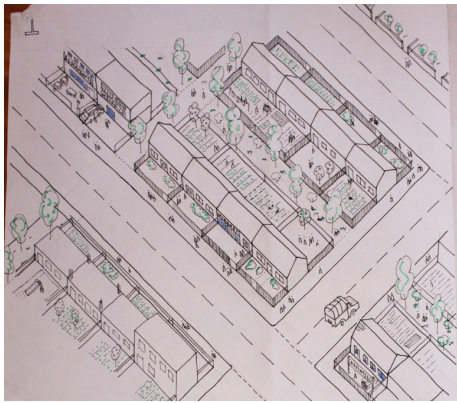
JAI ME ERAZO ESPINOSA, FLACSO AND JENNY DIAZ, CDCLP



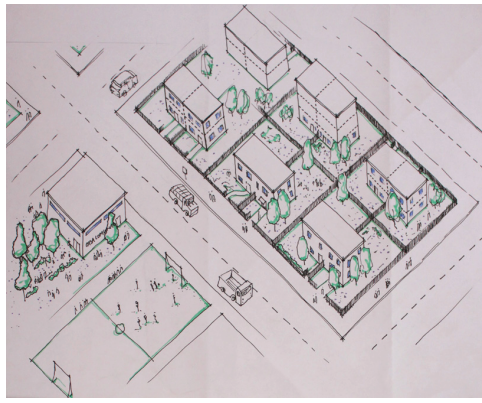
Figure 43. Participatory design and planning as means to influence policy-making.
Image: B. De Carli and K. Wong.



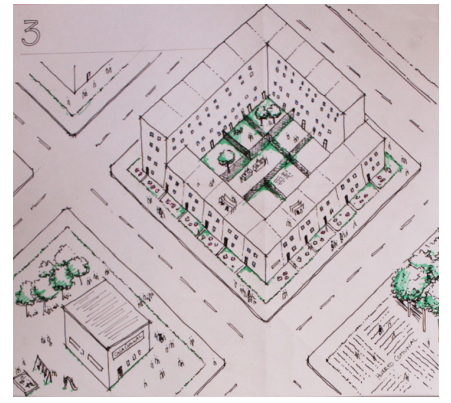
Figures 44-46. Survey of housing typologies and one-to-one design exercise at Change by Design Quito (2013). Images: ASF-UK



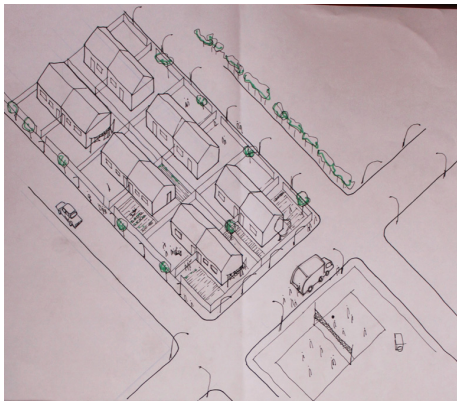
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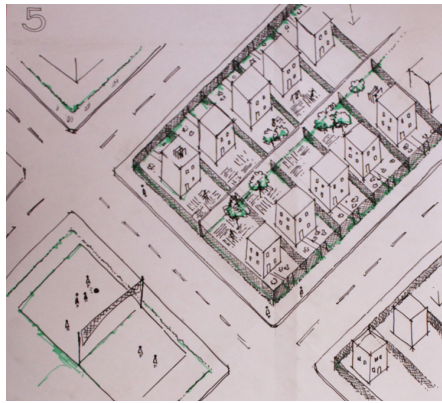
44 3 8 4 4



52 4 0 4 3

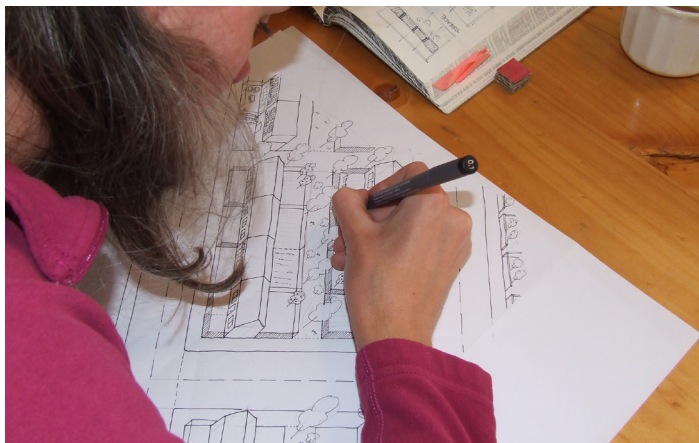
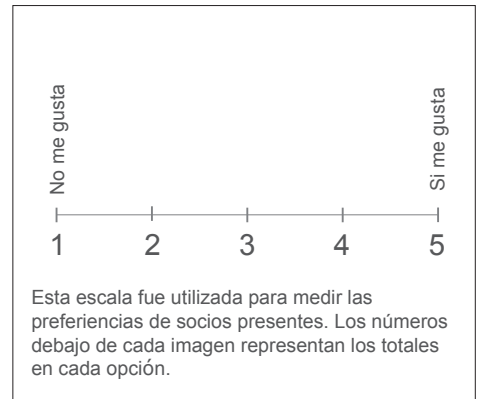


2 5 3 17 36



0 4 11 7 42

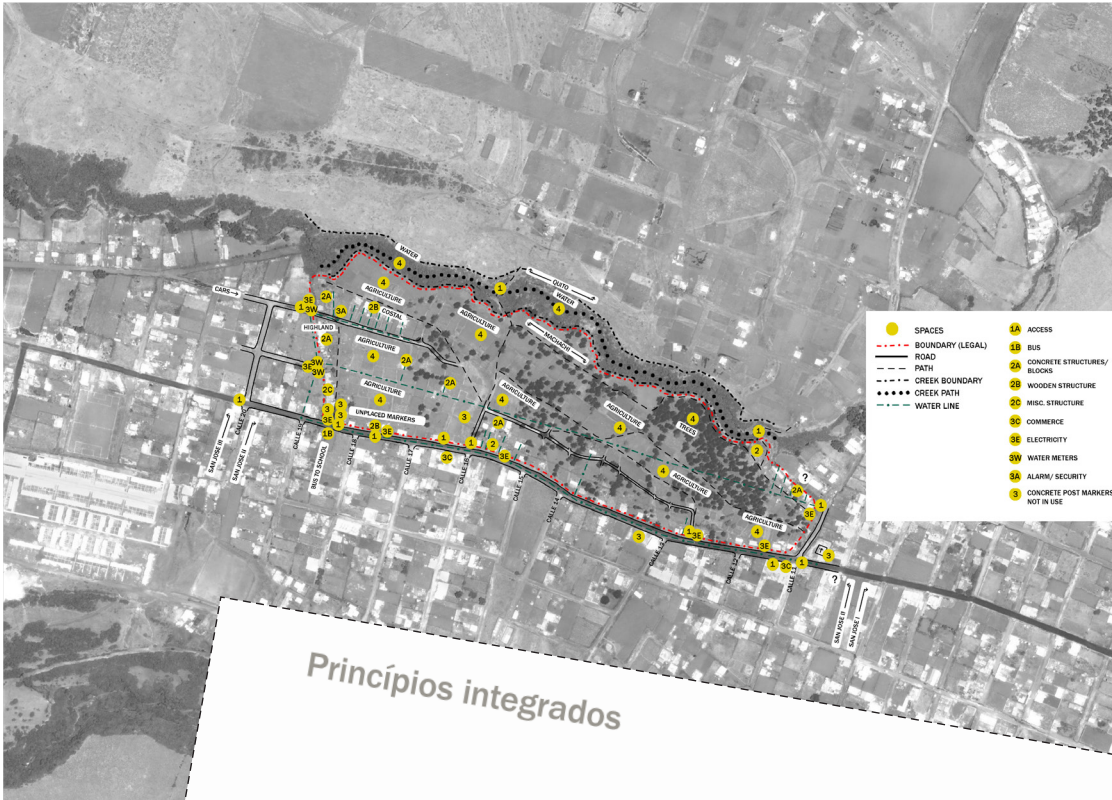
ESCALA



Figures 47-49. Neighbourhood scenarios; ASF preparing; and residents performing the exercise. Images: ASF-UK.



Figure 50. Creating your community:
Design charrette at Change by Design Quito
(2013). Image: ASF-UK.



Principios integrados

Promover procesos sociales inclusivos

Adaptabilidad de proceso y producto
Participación en la mejora del medio ambiente

Articular relaciones con actores externos

Reforzar las redes existentes
Refuerzo de las redes de conocimiento existentes
Aumento de relaciones inter-vecinarias

Fortalecer la organización comunitaria

Fortalecer la estructura de la comunidad

Diseño inclusivo del espacio construido

Igualdad de oportunidades espaciales
Responder a la diversidad cultural a través de múltiples tipologías de vivienda
El diseño accesible del vecindario
Integración de una pluralidad de agendas urbano-rurales

Derecho a la permanencia

Seguridad de la tenencia
Estabilidad sobre el tiempo y el espacio

Responder a cambios generacionales

Equidad inter-generacional
Proveer la habilidad de expandirse y adaptarse a las necesidades cambiantes
Habilidad para mantener la proximidad deseada a redes familiares y sociales
Solidaridad intra-generacional

Seguridad económica

Desarrollo integrado
Seguridad de la prestación de servicios
Costeable a corto y largo plazo
Creación de oportunidades económicas en los espacios comunes
Aumento de oportunidades de ingreso local

Vivir acorde a nuestras posibilidades

Fortalecer la capacidad de resistencia comunitaria
Utilizar los recursos existentes a su máximo potencial

Cualidades básicas para la vivienda digna

Permitir la oportunidad de ser un hogar independiente
Proveer calidad y confort para una vida digna
Respuesta adecuada a las condiciones del sitio
Habilidad para mantener la proximidad deseada a redes familiares y sociales

Acceso a servicios públicos dignos

Calidad de los espacios y servicios
Igualdad de acceso a la ciudad

Balance adecuado entre lo rural y lo urbano

Proveer un balance apropiado entre urbano-rural
Equilibrio urbano-rural apropiado
Vivir en un área urbana-rural

Manejo responsable de los recursos naturales

El diseño sustentable de infraestructura y el vecindario de la comunidad
Igualdad de acceso a los recursos de la comunidad
Habitat un entorno de vida saludable

Figures 51. Excerpts from the final workshop report: map of the neighbourhood; and planning principles. Images: ASF-UK.

Dissemination

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Figure 52. Community Action Area Plan for the informal settlement of Dworzark in Freetown (2019). Image: ASF-UK.

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LEARNING RESOURCES

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Challenging Practice [Online]. <https://challengingpractice.wordpress.com/> (Accessed 16 Dec. 2020).

The screenshot shows the website 'ASF Participate' with a navigation menu on the left and a grid of 20 participatory tools. Each tool card includes a title, a brief description, a goal, and a 'read more' link. The tools are: Semi-Structured Interviews, Walking & Talking, Exploring Your Neighbourhood, Mapping the Surroundings, Mapping Community Structures, Images From My Neighbourhood, Mapping Urban Flows and Relations, Drawing Workshop, Exploring Through 3D Models, Harvest Mapping, Web of Actors and Resources, Surveying Housing Trajectories, Urban Pressures Analysis, Community Strengths and Weaknesses, My Community Survey, Priority Toolkit, Dreaming Through Modelling, Dream Wall, Dreaming Through Drawing, and Imagining the Rural-Urban Balance.

architecture sans frontières UNITED KINGDOM
participate

Home
ASF - UK homepage
How ASF Participate works
Methodology
Past Workshop Structures
- Los Pinos, Ecuador 2013
Bibliography & Links
Downloads
Feedback

Workshop Stages:
Defining Routes
Developing Options
Dreaming
Getting to Know the Context
Identifying Risks & Agency
Mapping the Context

Tags:
city community dwelling policy

Search ..

Twitter Facebook LinkedIn

Semi-Structured Interviews
Informal discussions with topical questions used to guide conversation. pdf download Goal: To obtain in-depth, ...read more→

Walking & Talking
Engaging with a neighbourhood's residents, recording conversations, sketching, mapping and photographing areas of interest. pdf...read more→

Exploring Your Neighbourhood
An interactive game of exploration where children mark relevant spaces in their neighbourhood and discuss...read more→

Mapping the Surroundings
Discussion of issues concerning existing physical infrastructure. pdf download Goal: To understand the issues residents...read more→

Mapping Community Structures
Understanding the community structure of a particular system through visualising relationships. pdf download Goal: To...read more→

Images From My Neighbourhood
Mapping residents favourite/least favourite areas and why (with photographs and labels). pdf download Goal: To...read more→

Mapping Urban Flows and Relations
Defining neighbourhood boundaries, social networks and connections to the wider region. pdf download Goal: To...read more→

Drawing Workshop
An activity where children make drawings to answer specific questions related to their neighbourhood. pdf...read more→

Exploring Through 3D Models
A public event held around a model of the neighbourhood. pdf download Goal: To encourage...read more→

Harvest Mapping
Mapping tool to capture available local resources. pdf download Goal: To identify the location of...read more→

Web of Actors and Resources
Establish actors, resources and perceptions of association. pdf download Goal: Understand the network in which...read more→

Surveying Housing Trajectories
Survey with basic questions concerning dwelling and demographics. pdf download Goal: To test initial hypotheses...read more→

Urban Pressures Analysis
Analysis of planning documents and environmental policies identifying issues that could affect the community. pdf...read more→

Community Strengths and Weaknesses
Simple visual aid to differentiate between strengths and weaknesses of a community. pdf download Goal:...read more→

My Community Survey
A survey to gain deeper understanding of the weak and strong points of community life...read more→

Priority Toolkit
A visual activity for prioritization. pdf download Goal: To explore the aspirations of the residents...read more→

Dreaming Through Modelling
A modelling exercise to understand the composition of an idyllic home in 3D, whilst developing...read more→

Dream Wall
A public event is held at a visible spot in the neighbourhood. The format is...read more→

Dreaming Through Drawing
A drawing exercise to understand what residents consider their 'dream house' to be. pdf download...read more→

Imagining the Rural-Urban Balance
Understanding a community's aspirations for urban identity. pdf download Goal: To understand residents' aspirations regarding...read more→

Figure 53. Home page of the website ASF Participate, collating ASF-UK's participatory tools and methods. Images: ASF-UK.





Figure 54. Dissemination activities in Dworzark at Change by Design Freetown (2019). Image: L. Almeida.

Impact

The Change by Design activities described in this portfolio have had impacts both at the local and international scale.

In Quito, the work conducted by ASF-UK led to the completion of a community-led neighbourhood plan for the settlement of Los Pinos, which was later approved by the municipality of Mejia and contributed to granting residents the formal right to occupy the land where they lived. In 2017, the community was presented the Award for the Social Production of Habitat Latin America, in recognition of their sustained efforts to promote novel forms of community-based development.

In Cape Town, each of the ASF-UK workshops initiated a set of activities run by the local partners DAG. In 2015, a workshop focusing on inner-city Cape Town encouraged DAG to initiate a neighbourhood planning programme in the areas of Woodstock and Salt River. Following ASF-UK's engagement, DAG played a critical role both with the City of Cape Town and local civil society organisations "to co-design this new processes of civic engagement through facilitating a number of workshops and dialogues" (DAG, 2019). In 2018, the workshop contributed to kicking off the activities of then nascent Contractor and Developer Academy, which is now

operative and supports low income property owners and small-scale developers in the delivery of affordable housing.

In Freetown, ASF-UK and SLURC piloted a new bottom-up planning tool named: Community Action Area Plan, which is about to be adopted as a formal policy instrument by the Mayor of Freetown, to plan the development of informal settlements across the city. Dr. Alphajoh Cham, from the Ministry of Land, Housing and the Environment of Sierra Leone stated that "the CAAP framework will be really useful in the development of the National Urban Policy in Sierra Leone" (Macarthy et al. 2019).

Training and education material derived from Change by Design form a core element of the RIBA accredited CPD course: Challenging Practice, undertaken to date by over 500 built environment professionals. The Change by Design methodology has also influenced future practice, by informing postgraduate teaching across a range of prestigious UK universities, and through the delivery of specialist training sessions at the United Nations World Urban Forums in 2012 and 2014; and at the United Nations Habitat III conference in 2016. These sessions were each attended by approximately 100 urban practitioners.



Figure 55. Tools for collective action: Communication action plan at Change by Design Freetown (2019). Image: L. Almeida.





Figure 56. Tools for collective action: Regeneration action plan at Change by Design Cape Town (2015). Image: ASF-UK.

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