

HUB IS THE WORD



Image by Digital Crayon

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL HAVE TASKED XSITE WITH LEADING THE DESIGN ON THE REDCAR CREATIVE HUB. Located directly opposite the beach in the heart of Redcar, this mixed use development will help revitalise the down at heel seafront as well as providing much needed workspace for businesses in the region. The project is part of a strategic masterplan to revitalise the seaside town and exploit the economic potential of the borough's creative industries sector.

The Hub's design will encourage networking between the various occupants of the building through incidental meeting spaces located at various points around an internal courtyard. The Redcar Creative Industries Hub has been submitted for planning and due to start on site towards the end of 2010.

NEWS

TYNE SALMON TRAIL CUBES RE-SITED AS PART OF THE ART & ARCHITECTURE SCHEME IN KIELDER.

XSITE WIN BEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT THE RICS NORTH EAST AWARDS 2010 FOR THEIR BOHO ONE DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLESBROUGH.

NEST, A SHARED WORKSPACE FOR DIGITAL AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES IN BARNARD CASTLE IS NOW COMPLETE. COMMISSIONED BY BARNARD CASTLE VISION AND DESIGNED BY XSITE. THE SCHEME PROVIDES A CAFÉ AREA, GALLERY AND HOT DESK WORKSPACES.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY XSITE! PREPARATIONS START TO CELEBRATE OUR 10TH BIRTHDAY IN NOVEMBER.

XSITE FEATURED IN FX MAGAZINE DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE ONGOING WORLDWIDE ISSUE OF FOOD WASTE.

BoHouse

20 LIVELWORK UNITS DESIGNED BY XSITE FOR ERIMUS HOUSING IN MIDDLESBROUGH ARE DUE FOR COMPLETION IN JULY 2010. xsite have long been interested by the way contemporary demands for lifestyle flexibility, pressures on time and developments in technology have led to a re-evaluation of the traditional social and spatial boundaries between life and work. Erimus Housing saw the potential of this to deliver a none traditional housing development aimed specifically at Creatives in the Digital Sector as part of Middlesbrough's Bohozone.

BoHouse provides 1 and 2 bed apartments where dedicated work space is co-located with living accommodation. The development aims to take a contemporary approach towards building form, massing and materials, setting it apart from most volume house developments. The use of sharply detailed blue brick and splashes of strong colour complement xsite's adjacent Boho 1 building. The block provides a defining edge to the new urban square on Bridge Street West completing another part of the masterplan for the regeneration of this part of Middlesbrough.



ART AT XSITE Last year saw the beginning of a creative residency scheme at xsite. Our first residency ended with the launch of two exhibitions by Nick Kennedy.

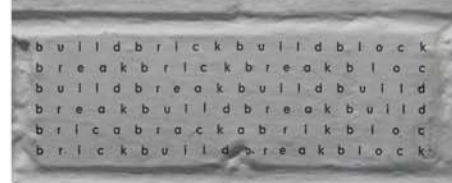
'An accident waiting to happen' was a collection of work based on chance, order and play.

'Brick by Brick' brought together 24 artists in a show curated by Kennedy. The piece allocated each artist a single brick from an existing wall at Foundry Lane Studios and a set of instructions. Artists included Taryn Edmonds (bottom right) James Hugonin, Cath Campbell and Alan Smith. Although cheeky, we quite liked the piece by Ant Macari (top right), surely physically removing the brick broke the rules? But hey, who are we to judge art?!

xsite's next creative is already in residence. Jo Ray is a lecturer at Hull University and an artist. Her practice is concerned with a curiosity about how we value, occupy and dream about space, both physical and imaginary (image left).



'Brick by Brick', Ant Macari



'Brick by Brick', Taryn Edmonds





TOFFEE UNWRAPPED

NewcastleGateshead Development Company 1NG's redevelopment of the Ouseburn's Toffee Factory site is due to commence this Autumn. When complete the refurbished former sweet factory will provide around 2,600sqm of 'move on' space for creative companies. xsite secured a planning approval for the scheme in May this year and were then approved by 1NG to take the project through to completion.

The design retains and reuses the existing structure, including the iconic brick chimney, while adding a new floor fronting Glasshouse Bridge. The scheme aims to achieve a BREBAM Very Good rating through the inclusion of a Biomass heating system and the maximization of natural ventilation and day-lighting.

Image by Cyprien

RAINTON CAMPUS



xsite architecture have been commissioned to undertake a feasibility study for a Wildlife and Horticultural Campus at Rainton Meadows near Fencehouses, Sunderland. The project is a collaboration between Sunderland YMCA and Durham Wildlife Trust and aims to collocate a new visitor centre facility for the DWT alongside a residential training facility for the YMCA based on the 'Care Farm' model where young people engage in horticulture as a therapeutic activity. It is hoped that the feasibility study will lead to a planning application later this year.

NEW APPOINTMENTS & A FEW FAREWELLS

Part One students Jamie Doak and Esther Worthington will be leaving xsite in August 2010. Esther will be completing her part two studies at London Metropolitan University starting this September. Jamie will spend a month travelling around Europe before returning to Queen's University Belfast to start his part two studies. We also would like to welcome a new face to the team, Rowena Rowell an architectural technician joined xsite last month. She has previously worked at Browne Smith Baker and FaulknerBrowns.

CHOCOLATE BUTTON ROOF TOPS & LOLLYPOP STREET LAMPS.

This year's EAT! Festival saw an array of amazing events across Newcastle & Gateshead over a 2 week period. xsite worked with the EAT! team to design and make a 10mx10m edible map showcasing 100 iconic buildings from across the 2 cities. The social networking event finally came together at a flash-mob picnic on Sunday 20th June. To the crowds delight the cities were then carved up and eaten following the announcement of the winners...xsite's Get Carter rice crispy & bourbon car park was joint winner along with The Emmerson Building!



Review

SERPENTINE GALLERY PAVILLION 2010
KENSINGTON GARDENS | LONDON | W2 3XA
OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM FREE

It's a well worn cliché that the black polo-neck clad architect fears colour, equipped as he is with a palette of only white, black and RAL7016. Jean Nouvel in his 2010 Serpentine Gallery Pavilion (Hyde Park London) confronts this cliché and gives it a good hard slap with what might well be the reddest building ever erected.

Previous commissions in the annual series of temporary structures have used form (Gehry, Hadid) or structural and material ingenuity (Siza, Ito) as their design headline, Nouvel uses colour. Of course there's more to this year's pavilion than just colour, a towering polycarbonate fin announces its presence and tiers of fabric awnings enclose a series of internal and semi external spaces packed with lounging, chatting and coffee drinking visitors, but it is hard to get away from the redness of it all. Inside the central space your view of the world is totally changed, the greens of the surrounding trees are exaggerated, you feel part of a strange cinematic effect and you can't tell exactly what's in the cup you're drinking from. Sometimes architecture should assault your senses and this is an occasion when it does just that, does it show architects are comfortable with colour? Not sure.

Serpentine Gallery Pavillion 2010 _ open now until 17th October 2010.

