

Reflection essay on the Eco Bricks Project

Word Count: 1033

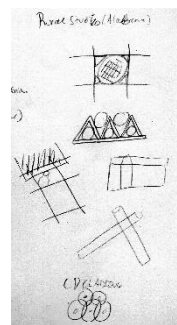
Week 1

What did we do?

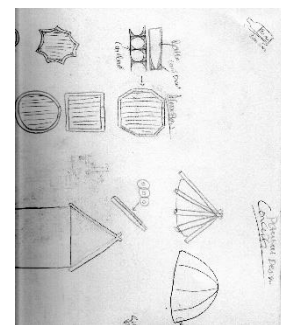
In our first week, the design brief was released to the class that introduced us to the Eco Bricks project and our involvement in the process. I then started the project by creating a team of four by pairing with a range of abilities and experiences within the class in order to maximize our efficiency and creativity.

After some group conversations about potential solutions we switched focus to some inspiration to help use develop our ideas and discover the ways other people have tackled similar projects and the sort of construction they employ.

We began discussing initial design ideas that we could consider for the construction of the shelter/sculpture as the Eco Bricks posed structural challenges such as the curvature of the bottles made it difficult to stack. To do this, we created some mind maps and mood-boards in which helped us initialize our group work.



(Author, 2019)



(Author, 2019)

What was good?

The start of the project went very well due to the variety of people that we had in our group, of which aided our pool of knowledge and skill in order to build up our group project over the next couple of weeks.

In addition, we kickstarted our project immediately and swiftly that caused us to progress very quickly during the first week, enabling us to build up a foundation for the rest of the project.

What could improve?

Since we had never worked on this type of project before, the start of the project could have gone badly. Even though we started very well, one point that we could consider for next time is setting up a suitable timescale so that we can organise our time to the maximum extent.

Week 2

What did we do?

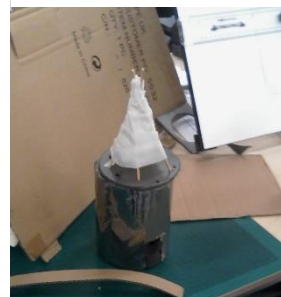
The second week was when we started to move onto quick developmental models to test out some of our best initial ideas from last week. We trialled our wall section designs, internal structures and especially the roof space and form.

From this, it aided us to make informed decisions on what our concept design would entail and allowed us to learn the importance of stability and the space we could create from these ideas.

Toward the end of the week, we had started to consider the overall concept design and some other potential concepts that have come out of the modelling and initial designs earlier on.



(Author, 2019)



(Author, 2019)

What was good?

In this week, I feel that we strived forward through the design process during our timetabled lessons; evolving and developing ideas at a comfortable pace, coming to a small range of good concepts at the end of the week to work on in the next week.

What could improve?

Even though we had a good set of skills, knowledge and background it did make it difficult to come together out of lesson time in order to progress our work further. Next time, it would be great if I could setup an effective form of communication outside of class.

Week 3

What did we do?

In this week, we spent the majority of the time working on materiality and structure, considering how the material composition of the walls and floor would affect the comfort and thermal retention of the shelter.

We also discussed the way light could enter the space through the roof. How the door system works to access the shelter and the way people enter/leave the space.

At the end of the week, we were satisfied with where our concept was heading and had started to solidify our group concept by bringing our designs together to form the shelter and see the overall shelter in one.

What was good?

We were able to build-up a good profile of what our Eco Bricks project entails, which includes the materials used, wall sections and structure. This aided our finalization of the project and started to wrap up the group work ready for the last week.



(Author, 2019)

What could improve?

We struggled when considering the structure of the roof and had difficulties building a model of it to analyse our ideas for it. For next time, I should consider how my ideas could work in 3D form before choosing them to develop further or develop skill to be able to tackle problems with building designs through modelling.

Week 4

What did we do?

The last week of the group work was when we started finalizing the project. We worked on making 1:50 models that showcases our concept along with a presentation board that explains our thinking and design process throughout.

We built an overall shelter model along with a wall section that aided the conveying of our design, when we came to presenting our concept later on.

In addition to these, we also focused on creating some A2 posters to professionally display our group work to our lecturers at a later date. At the same time, we also worked on creating a simple Logo to accompany our concept as shown below:

What was good?

We easily managed to complete all aspects of the work that was required on time during the course of the group task. We also created a unique presentation board along with a Logo, in which no other group had created.

We were also able to create good details for our concept so that we were specific about our designs and what was required.

What could improve?

We did struggle to produce a good overall model due to the lack of knowledge about how to approach the construction of it. So, next time, we would consider, in more detail, how we are going to build our designs in model form to ensure that the model works as intended.



(Author, 2019)



(Author, 2019)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the overall project I thought was a huge success as we had all come together to create and build our final sculpture as a class, which meant that there were elements of our groups work within the design of the sculpture. My group worked very well in completing and tackling the structural challenges of the project and had worked efficiently throughout the process. However, there were naturally some hurdles to overcome during the Eco Bricks Project such as inexperience that held us back in certain aspects of the project.

Our final sculpture to come from the project is now being held in the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea for the general public to see. Below is an image of this:



(Standen, 2019)



(Author, 2019)



(Author, 2019)