

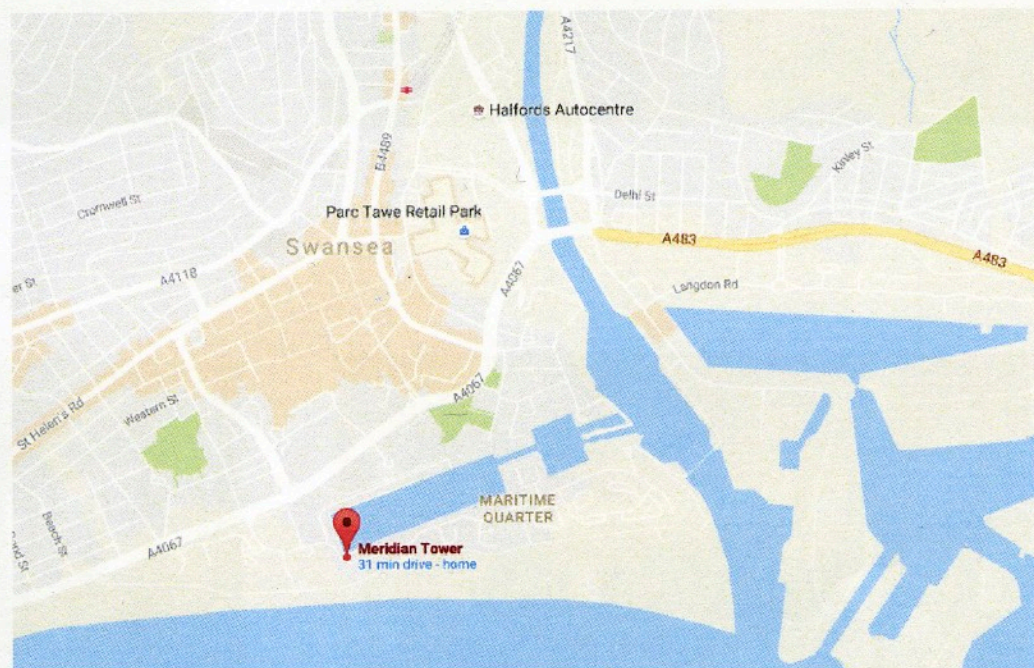
Collaborative Practice Proposal Samples

Collaborative Research Project 2016

Photography in the Arts second year students at the University of Wales Trinity St. David must research a suitable site for a collaborative exhibition within the central Swansea area in November 2016. Firstly, they must find a suitable site and submit a research proposal for it. Secondly, form a group of four or five students and select one of their site proposals for the exhibition. Thirdly, to respond to the site through further research and make work from their inspirations.

Swansea, a city without a cathedral and Wales' second city, is a fascinating and diverse place situated on the coast of South-West Wales. In its industrial heyday it was the world's leading producer of copper and was known as Copperopolis. Swansea boasts a great football team, Swansea City AFC and the Ospreys rugby team both situated in the new Liberty Stadium. The City abounds with potential sites for an exhibition boasting universities and a vibrant art scene with the newly opened Glynn Vivian Gallery, the Mission gallery, Elysium Gallery and the Attic Gallery and of course Swansea Art College.

The rationale for my proposal is that an exhibition should be seen, accessible and in a space that has a high foot-fall, it should offer a unique perspective with exciting potential for a creative response. Some of the sites I considered were Swansea Market, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Singleton Hospital, 360 Beach & Water Sports Centre and the Grape and Olive restaurant.

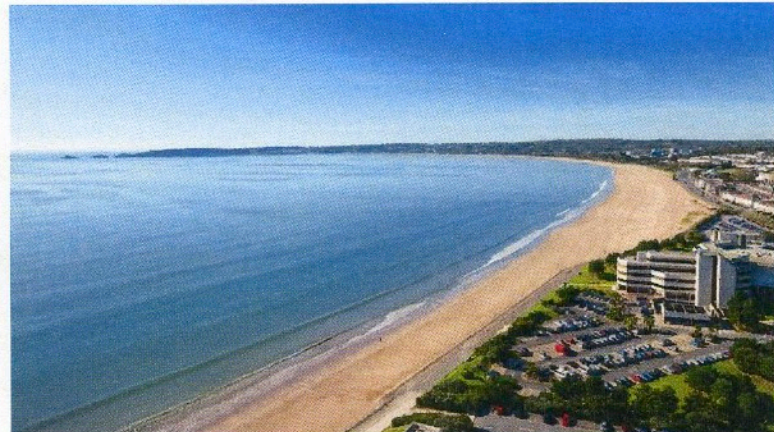


I propose that the Grape & Olive restaurant as a suitable site for this exhibition due to its unique location at the top of The Tower in the Meridian Quay in the Maritime Quarter. The building was completed in 2009 at a cost of £40,000,000; designed by Latitude Architects and built by Carillion plc it is the tallest building in Wales at 107 metres high. It also provides a stylish and modern interior complemented by contemporary food and drinks menu as well as panoramic views of Swansea.

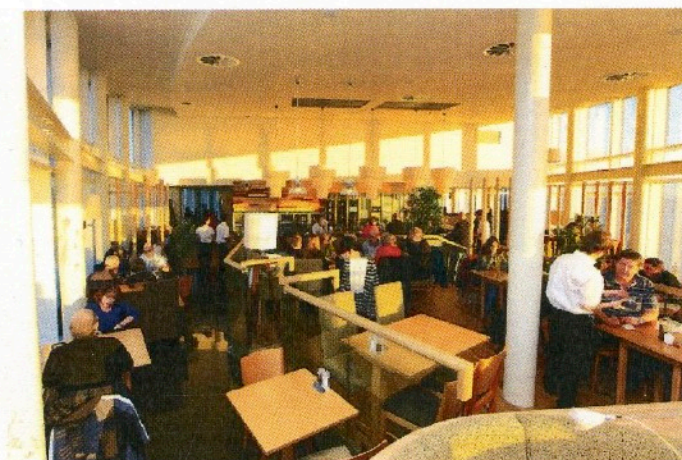
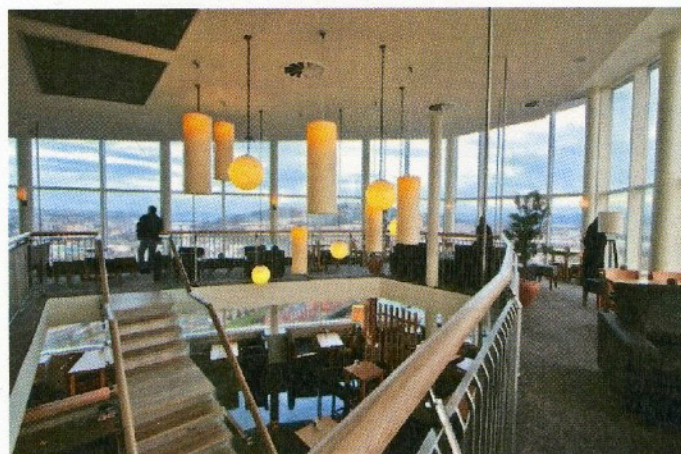
The Tower was built at the end of the old South Dock as part of the redevelopment of the disused commercial docks area which closed in 1969, leaving an industrial waste land. The South Dock was redeveloped as a marina for yachts and small boats. The quay side has shops, restaurants, a residential area and the Waterfront Museum. The Tower can be seen as setting the trend for the new wave of bars and restaurants across the SA1 development scheme and is easily accessible to all potential visitors.

The view over Swansea is unsurpassed and the site offers potential for inspiration from both a historical and contemporary context. The area on which it was built was once a thriving industrial dockland which declined following the demise of the copper industry so themes of its former use could be researched further through the consideration of the theme of decline and abandonment. Alternatively, themes pertaining to: regeneration; change; rebirth; reuse of land to improve the environment; and the provision of social housing could provide catalysts to creating work.

Views from Grapes & Olive:



Grapes & Olive interior:



The Grapes & Olive is managed by S A Brains & Company Ltd. a Welsh brewery founded in 1882 in Cardiff. It brews beers and owns and operates an

estate of public houses, restaurants and hotels. Its head office is:- The Cardiff Brewery, Crawshay St., Cardiff, CF10. Telephone: 029 2040 2060.

For enquiries regarding permission to site an exhibition at this venue first contact the Manager, Grapes & Olives, Meridian Quay, Maritime Quarter, Swansea, SA1 1JW. Telephone : 01792 462617 or email: grape&olivesw1@sabrain.com

Links for further research

<https://www.sabrain.com/pubs-and-hotels/south-wales/swansea/grape-olive-swansea/>

<http://www.swanseamarina.org.uk/>

Swansea- West Glamorgan Achieve, Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road Swansea SA1 3SN.

Swansea Museum Achieve, The Maritime Quarter, Victoria Road, Swansea. SA1 1SN.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carillion>

<https://whatbethiebaked.wordpress.com/2012/04/23/review-grape-and-olive-swansea-sa1/>

The Mond building

Non-Fiction

On the corner of Union Street and Park Street stands a large building of Portland stone, built in Edwardian baroque style. The Mond Building was built in 1911 by Sir Alfred Mond, as the local headquarters of the National League of Young Liberals.

Sir Alfred Mond was a Liberal MP for Swansea from 1910 to 1918, and for Swansea West from 1918 to 1923, as well as having a seat in the cabinet as Minister of Health for two of those years. He then changed from Liberal to Conservative after falling out with Lloyd George's plans to nationalize agricultural land. Chairman of the largest Nickel factory in the world of that time he was one of the biggest employers of the county, although in his early life he had dreams of a career in natural sciences.

Alfred Mond became President of the British Zionist Foundation and made financial contributions to Zionist causes, founding the town of Tel Mond in Israel in 1929. He may also have inspired Aldous Huxley to create the character Mustapha Mond, one of the ten 'world controllers' in the novel *Brave New World*. The Mond building in its later life was used for commercial means but now stands deserted.

Fiction

Mustapha Mond - The Resident World Controller of Western Europe, one of only ten World Controllers. He was once an ambitious, young scientist performing illicit research. When his work was discovered, he was given the choice of going into exile or training to become a World Controller.

Extract from the Novel:

Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering, brainwashing and recreational sex and drugs, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harboring an ill-defined longing to break free. A visit to one of the few remaining Savage Reservations, where the old, imperfect life still continues, may be the cure for his distress...

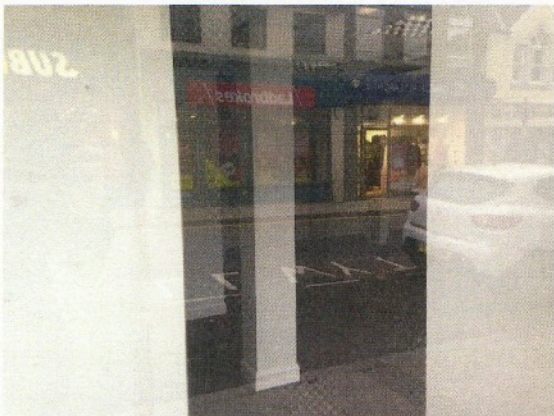
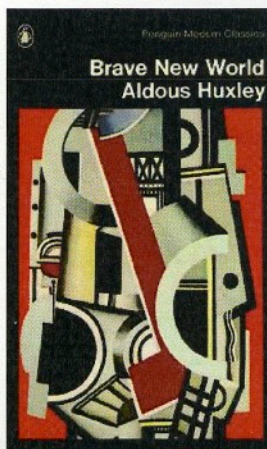
Summary

The Mond building offers a rich history of an enigmatic character that left a large mark on Swansea. A contemporary angle of creating work could be looking at the liberal and conservative collation how broken promises affected the lives of students. The long running dispute of land between Israel and Palestine as well as the idea of western intervention within the middle east, perhaps another angle. The novel and later a film, *a Brave New World* a dystopian look into the future, at the time the book was quite ground breaking in showing a hellish controlled society, one that scarily has become a kind of reality. Being a site once used for political means, the idea of fiction meeting non-fiction within politics and contemporary life for mass control of population, could be a rich source of material for work.

Contact details

Nick Gulliford, 02071822806

Mond Building, 24 - 27 Union Street, Swansea, SA1 3DN



Collaborative research project proposal

For the collaborative research project I have chosen Exist Skatepark as a location for the exhibition. I have chosen this site because it's a great location and have a lot of space. Exist skatepark is an indoor skatepark which has been constructed of bespoke wooden ramps and features a street section, mini ramp and a foam pit. It's close to the city centre and our university campus. They also apply funding for events and outreach projects so they would most likely be willing to hold an exhibition, they've also had exhibitions there in the past.

The park opened in 2011 and is open everyday except Tuesday. Due to a lack of serious facilities Exist has been almost solely responsible for sustaining the skate scene in Swansea over the last 10 years. It has built a skate team, with professional and non professional skaters, is recognized nationally and regularly supports new talent and involves existing supporters dedicated to the scene in Swansea.

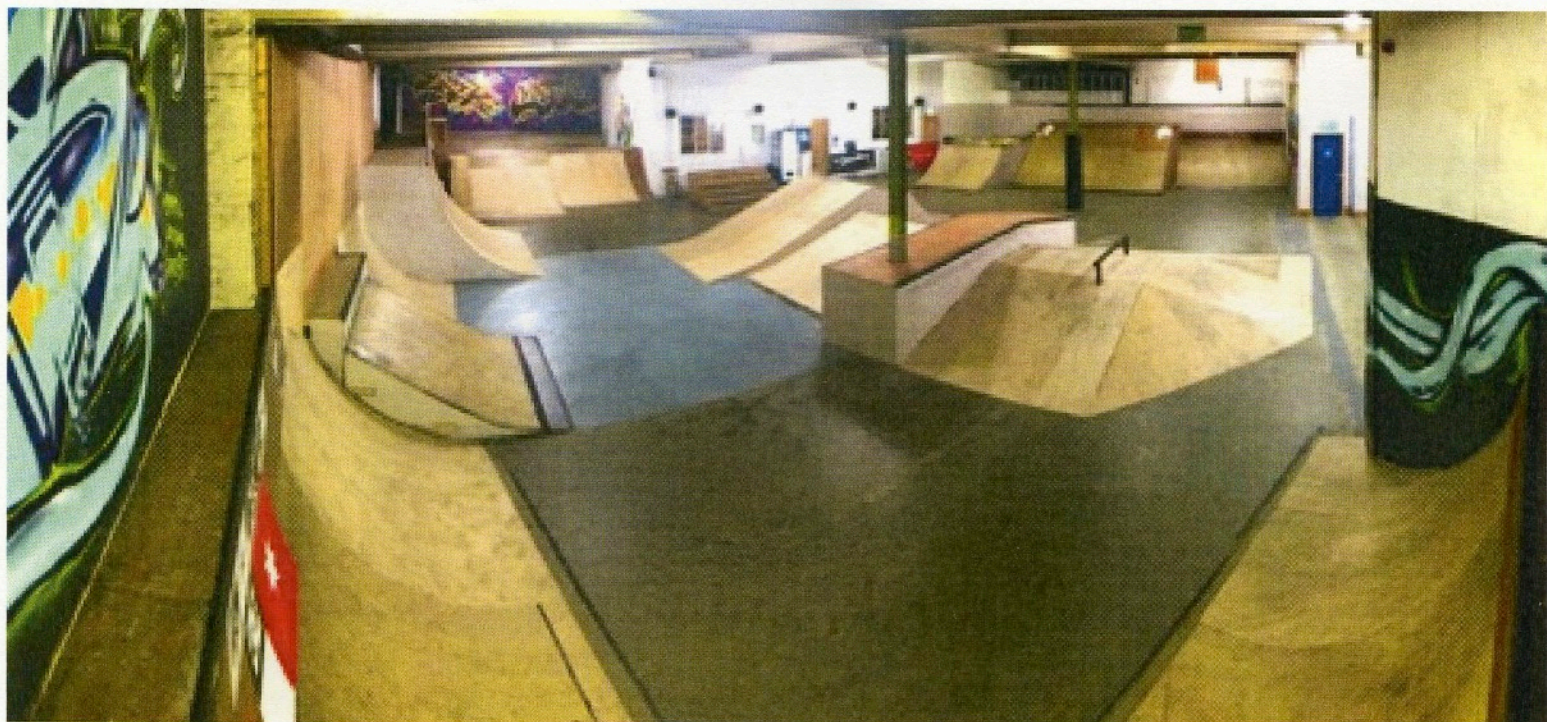
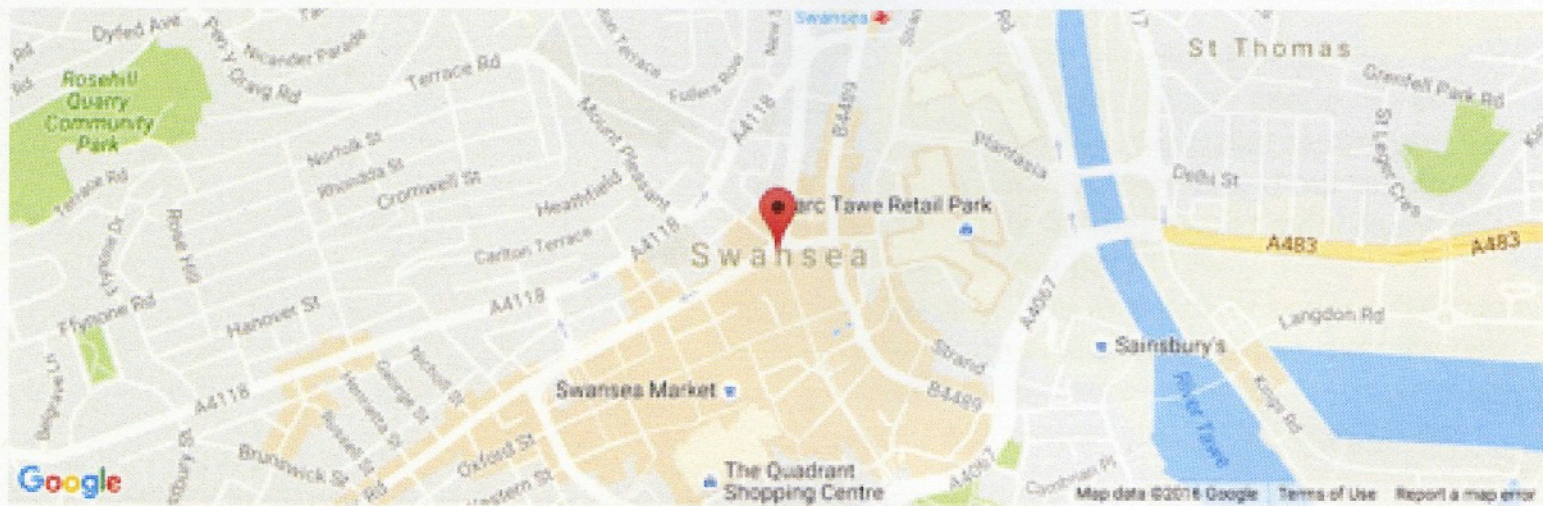
The park has a small cafe and a small shop which holds stock of essential parts and accessories for skateboards, scooters and BMX. Exist holds many varying events from skating competitions, music shows, film showings and will help you throw a Birthday Party.

The skatepark has become a great benefit to local young people and the community in Swansea, and they want to become a flagship facility for Wales and the UK so the site could attract a lot of people. It would be possible to exhibit a lot of different things in the park because of the large space and the work could be quite interesting.

The park is owned privately and is run by a man called Ric. Ric started skateboarding in 1994 and has been a big part in the Swansea skate scene since 2001 when he launched a small clothing brand called Exist. Since then he has opened Swansea's only skater owned shop and in 2011 opened Exist Skatepark. They also have a park Co-ordinator, park Assistant, treasurer and a webmaster.

The story of Swansea skating has its roots in the early days of surfing in the 60s. Surfing brought skateboarding to Swansea early so the 70s was full of ramp building and Llangland had a homegrown professional skateboarder. Swansea was part of the global birth of a surf scene and skateboards were always a part of that culture. Skaters in Swansea always had a strong local identity but also made great efforts to be part of the wider world scene.

Address: 1 MOUNT PLEASANT, SWANSEA, SA1 6EE
Phone: 01792 474095
Web page: <http://existsskatepark.com/>
Facebook: <https://nb-no.facebook.com/existsskatepark/>



Collaborative Practice:

The location I am proposing for my collaborative practice is The Old Mount Pleasant Hospital.

It is situated on Mount Pleasant Hill in Swansea.

You can see the building from the main road, however the main access to the grounds is around what would appear to be the back of the building, just off Brynsifi Terrace.



(photographs reference: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/more.php?id=4002646>)

Currently the site is being used as small single residential units, within the one grounds, primarily for the elderly population.

Brynsifi terrace, which is 'behind' the building, was bombed heavily in the War, and there were families that were killed in their own homes during the Swansea Blitz in 1941. However, the building remained, and was used for many years afterwards.

I discovered that previously the building was used as a workhouse. After that, it became a maternity hospital for the Swansea area, until its closure in 1995. Since the hospitals closure it was used as student accommodation until 2000, when it was then redeveloped again to the current residential site it is today.

I was really fascinated that the building was previously used for various things over the years.

The building was purpose build to be a workhouse in 1861-1862 at a cost of £15,780.

At the time of the 1881 census, there were 344 listed as resident in the workhouse. These people varied greatly in age, from babies of a few months old, to elderly residents in their 80's.

You can view the census information here:

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Swansea/Swansea1881.shtml#Inmates>

I love the variety of the people that lived there. Although when looking up what people were limited to doing whilst in the workhouse I was quite saddened. Young children were often separated from their mothers once they turned 7 years old. I found this really disturbing, and although they were able to 'have access' to their children, it is not the same as living in the same quarters and continually caring for their children.

In stark contrast, when the building was turned into a maternity hospital, it was being used for that very nature, for mothers to give birth to their babies safely and securely, and help the new mothers care and nurture their babies.

According to the national archives, the workhouse became a hospital after 1929, then a maternity hospital post 1948.

(reference -

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/details.asp?id=2457&page=18>)

Again in contrast to its's previous use, the site is now currently being used to house elderly people within the community. These people are going to be nearing the end of their lives, in massive contrast to those starting their new lives when it served its function as a maternity hospital.

I found the site really interesting for these reasons. Although it was the same building, in the same location, still standing after all these years, the context and the feeling of the building would have harboured many different emotions over the years.

The problems I foresee with this potential site is that I am unsure whether we would be able to find a relevant location within the grounds.

If we were to exhibit say in the parking area, we would be at the will of the elements, which with the weather being so unpredictable, could spoil our exhibition.

I am unsure at this stage whether there is a communal hall/space inside the main building that we could use as a base for our work.

We would most definitely not be able to enter the homes of the residents who live there, and I also wonder whether they would welcome the distraction of having potentially unwanted visitors to their site, or whether they wouldn't mind the interruption and be glad that they had artwork/sculptures to hopefully admire.

I believe that if we were to exhibit there, that some of the residents, particularly if they are local, may be able to add some depth and knowledge to our exhibition, if they have information about the site in its previous uses.

Up to this point I have been unable to find out whether there is an organisation that oversees the grounds, or whether the flats/apartments within the complex are entirely owned individually, so if my site is then picked, then of course I would need to explore this further in order to obtain contact details.

A few subjects that could potentially be covered at the site in terms of our work could be;

- work ethic
- how lives have changed from past to present
- ideologies about the workhouse
- maternity care
- birth
- life/death
- the war/the effect the war had to the surrounding community
- community life

Collaborative Research Project 2016

For this project I was required to find a potential site for a group exhibition and to carry out some research into the chosen location.

The proposed site that I've chosen is The Castle, situated overlooking Castle Square.

The reasons behind me choosing this location are as follows:

- It's one of three buildings that with stood the three day blitz back in 1941 along with The Glyn Vivien Gallery and Swansea Museum, it's a true survivor at the heart of the city.
- It has a lot of hidden stories to discover, including murder, marriages of convenience, double crossing and devious alliances.
- It's linked with the most powerful and ambitious men and women of the medieval period.
- A timber castle was first built around the 1106 by Henry de Beaumont, the first Norman Lord of Gower. This then became the start of a 200 year battle for control of Swansea and Gower between the Marcher Lords and the Welsh princes.

Because the Castle has such rich history behind it I thought it would be an ideal place to research further and to find a story within to create work on.

Looking at this site I would like to think that the area within and surrounding the castle would probably suit a group of about three or four people to exhibit work.

Unfortunately whilst looking into accessing the site I found out that there is no access to the buildings interior but only to its exterior. This could possibly cause a problem for exhibitors as it would mean that they would only have the use of the castle as a backdrop to their work.

With choosing an out door location and site to exhibit in means that we'd have to consider the weather conditions for example, the rain, wind, time of year (clocks going forwards) making it darker earlier. The daylight aspect could be an issue when it comes to exhibiting because depending on what your work is may depend on whether you would need lighting which would then lead you to having to gain access to electricity from somewhere also.

The weather would probably be the main impact with regards to our exhibition as it would determine what materials would be appropriate to use under wet weather circumstances.

The weather could also have an impact on how many people from the public come to view your exhibition as they wont want to get wet.

This site doesn't limit anyone accessing it which is a bonus as we want as many people to attend our exhibition as possible.

The following contact details are a starting point of how to contact someone with regards to gaining permission to use the space.

Email: contact@swansea.gov.uk

Website: www.swansea.gov.uk

Telephone: 01792636000

Here are some images that I've sourced from the internet of my chosen site.





Here are the names of a couple of books that might help potential exhibitors with researching the castle.

Books:

Copperopolis: Landscapes of the Early Industrial Period in Swansea by Stephen Hughes

Bloody Welsh History Swansea by Geoff Brookes

Here are some websites that I've gained information and images from for this research. These websites would also be a good starting point for potential exhibitors to look at when researching this site.

Websites:

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/phoneandemailcontacts>

http://orapweb.rcahms.gov.uk/coflein/A/AP_2007_0457.jpg

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/swanseacastle/?lang=en>

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/swanseacastle>

<http://www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk/video-history-swansea-castle-told-walls/story-24678152-detail/story.html#1>

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/16-haunting-pictures-devastating-destruction-6731764>

<http://www.castlewales.com/swansea.html>

<http://oxkeys.com/virtual-tour/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-27927320>

<http://www.medievalswansea.ac.uk/en/the-story/the-twice-hanged-william-cragh/>

<https://jaimeevans.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/swansea-castle-inlovewiththeworld-com1.jpg?w=1200>

<http://www.abayoflife.com/wp-content/uploads/imported/JyWfimAV.jpg>

Site Exhibition Brief

Location

Bus shelters in Swansea

Address: Across the city

Phone: Swansea county council (have details)

Access

Very Good access with pavements and (wheel chair friendly)

History

The area by St Mary's Church as a number of bus stops next to it, this area was badly bombed during world war two.

Its uses

It is use for people to meet friends, young and old, and go places on buses or a get taxis to the places they need to go.

Social context

The bus stop is important to the community as a bus shelters and can give people the opportunities to see some of the history of what happen in the town and it provides cover in all types of weather. This area is the centre of town and has lots of people in this area. It is important for the project as more people can see the work, including those who would not normally see art unless they went to an art gallery or a museum.

Geography

They're everywhere across the city. Lots of people can see them. (Bus Shelters).

What is really interesting about the site?

People of all ages from young too old go to catch a bus or taxis in this area.

Themes for potential exhibitors to develop

History of Swansea over the centuries and new development in for Swansea future generation.

Problems with location

Further Research

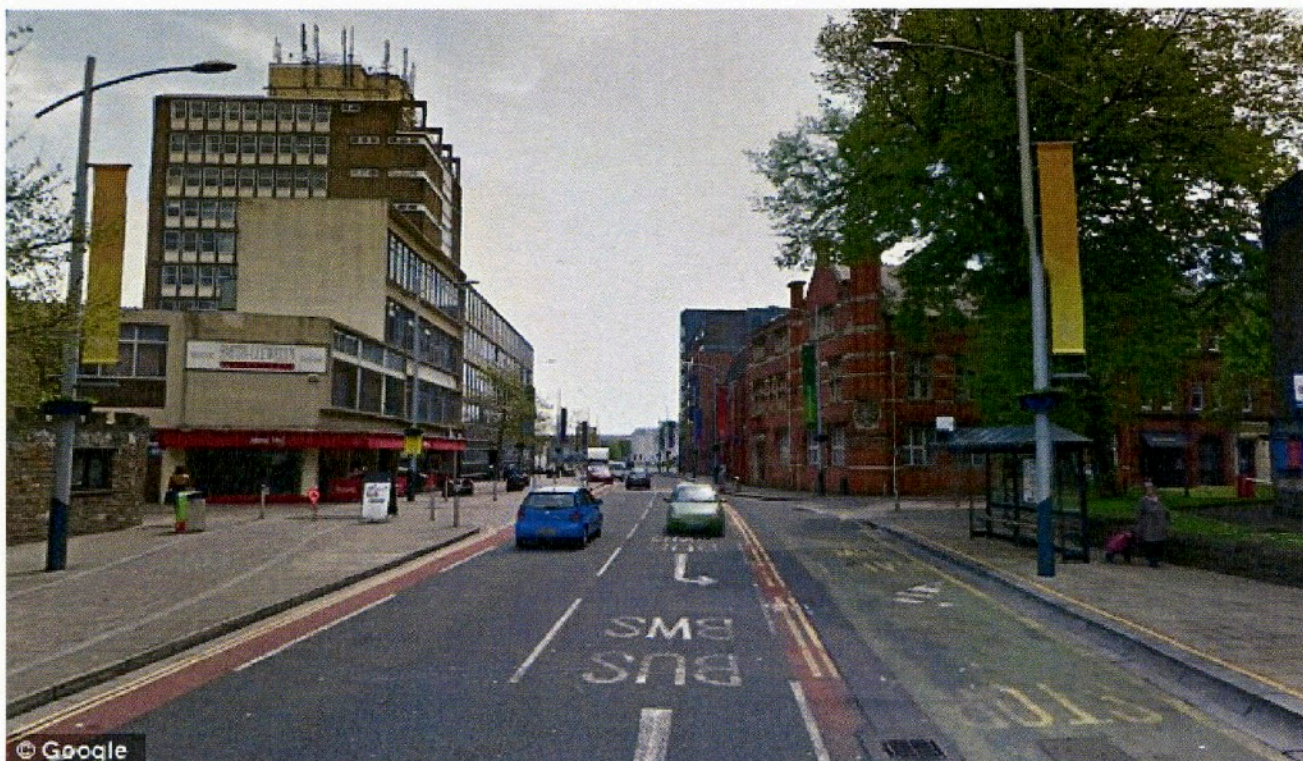
Swansea is rich in history from the 9th century up to today's date. The city as gone through a lot of changes in its time and is still changing as each day goes by. Swansea is a living breathing city. You cannot go anywhere and not see the past, present and future everywhere you look.

The history from the 9th century to the 21st century is very interesting as it covers Bronze Age, Iron Age, The Vikings and Two world wars and many more over the century. Swansea is also a City of learning with University which has lots of different types of study programmes. It is well known for its Art Gallery all over Swansea and Museum that cover things from times gone by. Swansea can offer a range of sites to learn about the way Swansea has grown from the 9th century to the present day as old and new buildings stand side by side. Swansea has a Marina and a beach which is in walking distance of the town and also has an indoor swimming pool and a large shopping centre called the Quadrant as well with access to buses and taxis and a train station close to St Mary Church in Princess Way.

The oldest building in Swansea that still exists is on Princess Way Swansea



Bus shelters outside St Mary Church near Princess Way.



St Mary Church when it was bombed in world war two and how it looks now.

St Mary's Church

St Mary's church was founded in the twelfth century and currently stands as a completely different build to how it originally looked when it was first built. While doing some research on the church I found out that on the morning of Sunday 27th May 1739 the congregation was about to enter the church when the roof of the middle isle fell in, luckily no serious damage was caused to anyone but it did leave one man with minor injuries. Thankfully the minister, Charles Davies, was running late that day because he was waiting for his wet shave by his barber, the parishioners were waiting outside the church ready for his arrival when the roof fell in.

The church was turned into a cheaply made structure that resembled a barn like building just for the parishioners but people were appalled by how ugly and cheap it looked. Sir Stephen Glynne who was a noted describer of churches, had also told others of how it was "ugly - pseudo-Italian" and how the "interior with its pews [sic], galleries and cumbrous pulpit has more the appearance of a conventicle than a church".

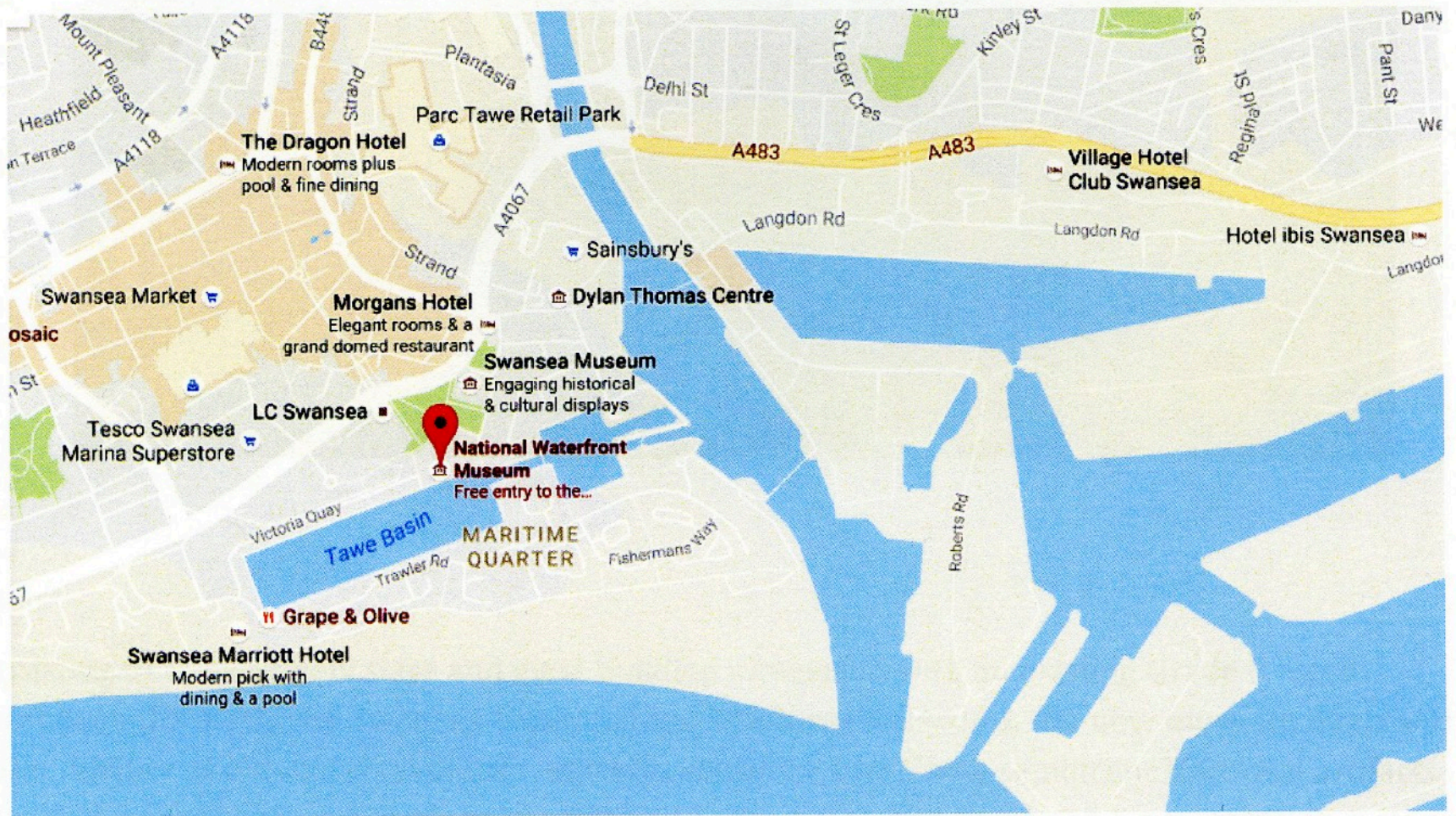
Just a few short years later between the time of 1895- 1899 the structure was rebuilt again, so instead of having the eye-sore that stood there before, it was now a large gothic styled build that people could be proud of. I found out that it was built by a well known architect called Sir Arthur Blomfield, however a bitter local man had been turned down for his designs for the church and when there were newly built cottages surrounding the church, he bought them all and tore them down in spite just so he could build his own red brick building to house the brewery offices. He had then carved a wooden devil and placed it in his building facing the church so it would always keep watch over it, which would of been insulting to the church goers.

During the three nights blitz in February 1941, St Mary's church had been heavily bombed and everything around it destroyed. The only thing that remained was the wooden carving of St Nick who was completely untouched and looked as if he was standing over the remains of the church laughing. Some people believed that the statue of St Nick had cast a devil curse on the church and so that is why the church got destroyed by the bombs and how the statue remained standing. Because of this, the statue was sent to rot in a garage in Gloucester but then later returned to Swansea by a local historian in the 1980's. The statue was kept in the storage part of the quadrant where the offices for the brewery were originally built but then by heavy demand from the public they decided to place it in the upstairs window of the quadrant shopping centre just next to new look.

I have decided that the history behind the St Nick statue is something I could possibly use for my sight specific as I feel its a very unusual and has a great story behind it. I



My place of choice for the Site Specific Exhibition Project is The National Waterfront Museum. It is a museum in Swansea, Wales, forming part of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. It is an Anchor Point of ERIH, The European Route of Industrial Heritage. It is located near the City Centre, on Oystermouth Road (Swansea SA1 3RD).



The National Waterfront Museum is housed in spectacular fashion, in an original and listed waterfront warehouse linked to a new, ultra-modern slate and glass building. Building and exhibition design was carried out by Wilkinson Eyre and Land Design Studio respectively, and Davis Langdon was project manager for the construction National following an Architectural Design Competition managed by RIBA Competitions. The £33.5 million museum, which secured funding from the Welsh Development Agency and £11 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund was opened in October 2005.

There is a powerful narrative to the design, which is inspired by the unique history and context of the site. The curves of old railway tracks running across the site offered a strong sense of movement, and their lines have been reinstated into the new buildings and landscape in abstract form. The new gallery spaces have clear connections to the refurbished museum space, enabling the scheme to be viewed as a single entity. However, they have a strong identity of their own, with the striking use of Welsh slate in a series of overlapping wall planes.



The Head of the National Waterfront Museum is Stephanos Mastoris.

Contact details:

Tel: (029)2057 3610 – 07967 1883541

e-mail: steph.mastoris@museumwales.ac.uk

museum website: <https://museum.wales/swansea/>

Collaborative Practise Proposal

The National Waterfront museum is an architecturally modern premises that characterises the heritage of Swansea's history in a freshly artistic design, with its immaculate appearance and sharp geometrical structures, both interior and exterior.

It struck me that this location was symbolic of the modernisation of design, along with Swansea's cultural progression that we have seen being developed by the council over the recent years.

I couldn't help but notice how its array of displays were presented with such minimalism. The interior structures caught my eye, with the implementation of a somewhat cubist outlay. The exterior design is primarily made from slate and glass, continuing its architectural style throughout the construction. Something that makes the museum so unique is its combination of history and design, innovating the use of technology and transforming what we know to be 'traditional' museums into a new age, interactive museum, and states the hallmark of the development that the City is undergoing.

My intention for this project was to employ a display that matches this modern design of the building and bring Swansea's historical environment into speculation through an equally modern presentation of imagery, combined into an installation. While the building is seemingly a shrine to historical installations, I was keen to do something similar in such a way that highlights the city's history into a structural embodiment.



The Museum offers interactive educational installations, detailing the Industrial heritage of Swansea, complete with electronic devices, audio documentation and a research library available to the curious consumer. Some 300 years of Welsh services, businesses and a significant individuals are all researched and displayed in the building, with numerous sections dedicated to specific time periods and milestones of accomplishments made in the city. There is a feeling of family orientation, bringing the available information and making it accessible, eye-catching and highly palatable for people of all ages.

There is a rich archive of historical references, comprising of more than 25,000 volumes of photographic documents. Specialist Curators have also been employed for further information on the industrial progression of specific local areas surrounding the Museum, such as the Maritime Quarter, being where it is primarily based.

The foundational origins of the building was first funded by the Welsh Development Agency for some 33 million pounds and first became open to the public in October of 2005. The company Wilkinson Eyre and Land Design Studio and taken on board in its promotion by Davis Langdon. The design itself was initially selected through the use of a competition held by RIBA, and the winning design led to the distinct construction we see today, completing the birth of The National Waterfront Museum.

With regards to the project, I will further inspect the area and appropriately select a precise location for my work to be situated in, taking into consideration the area's accessibility, design, historical subject and layout. To become a part of the museum's identity, this will involve a search into the artistic history and the current design of the area, and possibly bringing forward an equally futurist and modern presentation, where the observer may interact with the installation as though it were a part of the museum's interactive displays.

I recently photographed the interior of the museum, and took note of its structural and geometric design, and from here, skewed the images into a warped representation of the area that highlighted the artistic nature of the building itself.

If I were to take this further, I may even research more specifically of the history of Swansea and add it to the imagery in a representative way. I am interested in turning this installation into an audio piece, combining both imagery and sounds or music that are related events that have taken place here over time.

