

Site Specific Proposal – Suzanna Borowiec

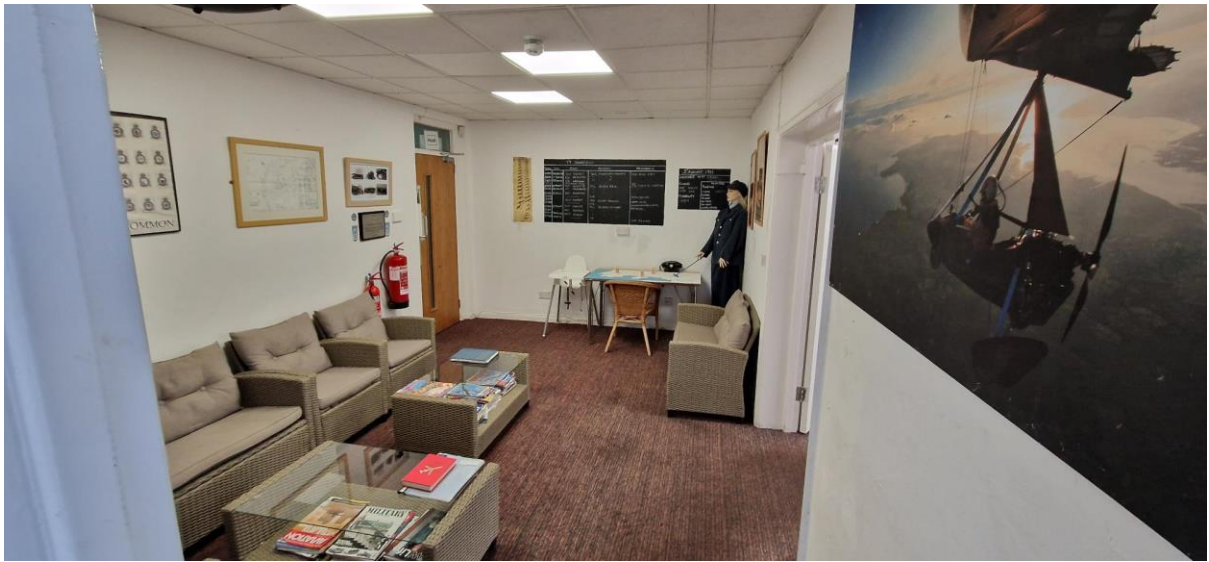
The site I am proposing for the *Experimental Strategies* module is the Swansea Airport (SA2 7JU). The interest in the site sparked during my shifts at the airport cafe, having worked there for nearly 2 years I have had the privilege to meet a variety of people with different stories and backgrounds. The wide range of personal and site-specific history the regular visitors would share with me made me think about all the untold stories hidden between the everlasting decaying walls. Once serving as a fighter station during WWII, now carries an atmosphere of desperation to bring back what once was.

Although the site is located in the middle of the Fairwood Common on the Gower, is it more accessible than one would expect. Bus routes run from the Swansea bus station daily (118 number bus takes you straight to the outside of the Airport gate). The car route from Swansea Centre is roughly around 18 minutes. The site is wheelchair friendly, with accessibility to food, drinks and restrooms. In addition to this, I have also spoken to one of the directors of the airport about the possibility of using the facility as an exhibition space, to which I have received positive and supportive feedback.

From the numerous conversations I have had with the workers, volunteers and regulars of the airport, I have found out things I would have not stumbled upon on the internet. These talks would range from ghost stories of Polish pilots haunting the site, the elderly reminiscing about the ‘good old times’ of the airport, to War stories and plane crashes, and many more. From connecting with the community through chats over a fresh brewing coffee and table wiping, it is evident that the people who occupy the space frequently, feel very strongly about the site. Each person rich with personal history connected to the airport and full of hope for the future of the site.

The site offers a range of possible themes/ideas the group could explore. Currently, I am interested in exploring the social aspect of the site, focusing on those who share the stories of the airport, yet their own story goes untold. The airport is surrounded by a variety of different people that could be documented/explored such as the unpaid yet hard working volunteers, pilots with years of experience and elderly who grew up with the airport. The site itself could also be highlighted, as not all rooms and buildings are occupied, the space carries a strange combination of things that have been untouched for years, if not decades with a strive for modernity in order to bring in a new crowd. Furthermore, a potential catalyst for the project could be the history itself, as the airport has a rich history from the WWII era, as well as having multiple aircrafts that could be an inspiration to the group.

Images of the site:





Historically related images:

