

Group J – Useless 2 Pitch

Title: Banqueting in Useless Buildings, an experiment in reuse and exchange.

Here is the scenario,

- the demand for office buildings is declining due to the attractiveness of home working
- the wellbeing benefits of access to nature, unprocessed food and physical meeting are being recognised as a by-product of the “lock down” experience

The aim is to explore the design practices related to reuse and reconstruction in repurposing buildings, identifying some of the opportunities and challenges in this evolving practice.

This is the proposal:

Each participant identifies an office building in their location to which they can gain access. In small interdisciplinary teams of two or three people, proposals are made for inserting an urban farm and banqueting space into selected office buildings.

At the end of each week participants will prepare and post an entry on the University of Brighton’s Productive Urban Landscape research blog.

Timeline:

WEEK ONE:

- Participants identify an office building in their location that they can gain access to.
- Working groups of 2 or 3 participants are established, preferably from different disciplines.
- Each office building is inventoried with respect to materials, components and spatial opportunities for farming, food processing, cooking and banqueting.
- Inventories of materials and components provide a virtual library of resources which can theoretically be shared and used in the reconfiguration of the chosen office buildings. We will imagine that the different office buildings are in the same location and that components and materials can be exchanged between them.

WEEK TWO:

- Each working group selects one office building to reconfigure, and design their interventions.

References:

Urban agriculture, food systems and circular cities, entry point via the Productive Urban Landscape Blog, <https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/pulr/>

