



STUDIO 3 ARTS Case Study

ARCHITECT/ EA
Citizens Design Bureau

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
Bristow Consulting

STRUTURAL
Momentum

SERVICES
CC|BE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Located on the Gascoigne Estate in the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, Studio 3 Arts is a charity that brings artists and communities together through a participatory programme that creates real change in art and society.

The £1.8m project to transform Studio 3 Arts' home into a world-class arts centre extends the existing venue and enhances the current space, consisting of various office areas, a lounge and café/bar, recording studio, communal facilities, accessible changing spaces and main theatre.

The local hub received funding from Arts Council England, Greater London Authority Good Growth Fund and Veolia Trust. Funding has also come from Clothworkers Foundation, Foyle Foundation, Theatres Trust, Youth Investment Fund and a Capital Kickstart award from Arts Council England and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to expand the existing building and make enhancements to the current space.

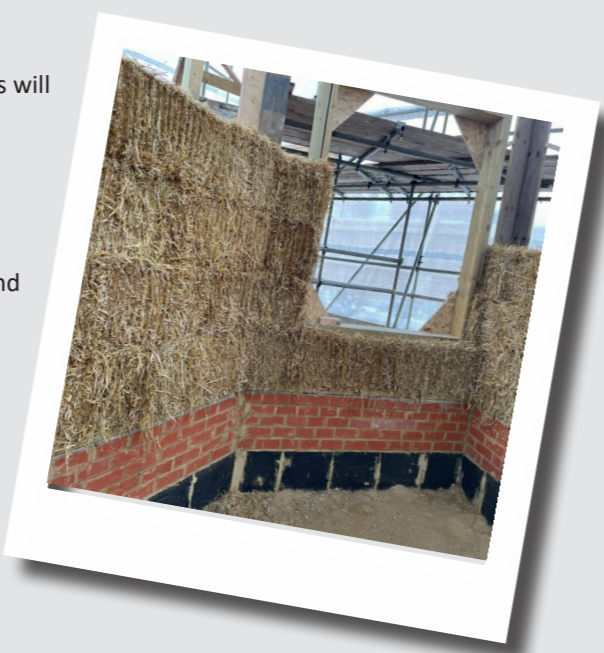
Designed with and for the local community, the entire scheme comprises of internal demolition allowing the building to be reconfigured. A new external canopy is to be installed alongside a new build extension which will become the new studio space, designed with sustainable construction methods in mind. Local volunteers and artists will also contribute to the project from design through to delivery.

WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL BUILDING (SNaB)



Founded in 2014 SNaB specialise in straw bale construction and the use of other sustainable materials, making it the first school of its kind in the UK.

They worked with Studio 3 Arts Team and GPF Lewis in sourcing and securing the Straw Bale package and providing the appropriate level of training required to carry out the works, with GPF Lewis supporting from a structural build and Health & Safety management perspective.



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Wanting to engage the local community the Studio 3 Arts team saw an opportunity to employ local young people aged 18+ as part of the national Kickstart employment programme.

Through a careful vetting process and training to achieve the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) the individuals chosen underwent courses to learn strawbale building, lime rendering and clay plastering to assist in the project and the construction of the straw bale structure which was overseen by SNaB.

Having worked with the individuals GPF Lewis have kept the team on for the remainder of the build to continue on site working, supporting the rest of the trades and showcasing an understanding of what's involved in the build process.

STRAW BALE, SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

The structure for The Studio is being built using load bearing straw bale construction, with each bale put in place to form a stretcher bond.

To avoid contact with moisture the bales are placed on a raised plinth of brick and hydraulic lime, with a limecrete sub-base to complete the cement-free foundations. The security of the structure is maintained with a full lidded scaffold surround to protect the assembly as it's constructed.

Once created supplementary strength is given through lime and clay render to the internal and external walls, this is a weatherproof and aesthetic layer that is also a very effective fire barrier

The use of this renewable and recyclable material helps reduce the environmental impact of the building throughout its lifetime. Strawbale buildings have a lifespan of upwards of 100 years, during which time they sequester (store) carbon dioxide within their fabric.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING

The key to the success of this project is the coordinated efforts of the team as a whole, as sequential working is critical to allow each element and differing materials to be installed maintaining a flow of works throughout the scheme.

We will utilise Kickstarters where possible within various packages to allow a full collaborative approach to community support which in turn we hope will encourage young Adults to engage in the workplace and the benefits it can bring which is centred around the ethos of the project.

