

R I B A c h a r r e t t e 2 0 1 3

A NORTHERN SOUL

< Information Pack >

"Thought to originate from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in the 19th century, the word charrette is from the French for "cart" or "chariot." It was not unknown for student architects to continue working furiously, at the last minute, on the illustrations for their design presentations, even while riding in the school cart "en charrette" through the streets of Paris enroute to submit the projects to their professors."

Émile Zola depicted such a scene of feverish activity in L'Œuvre (1886).

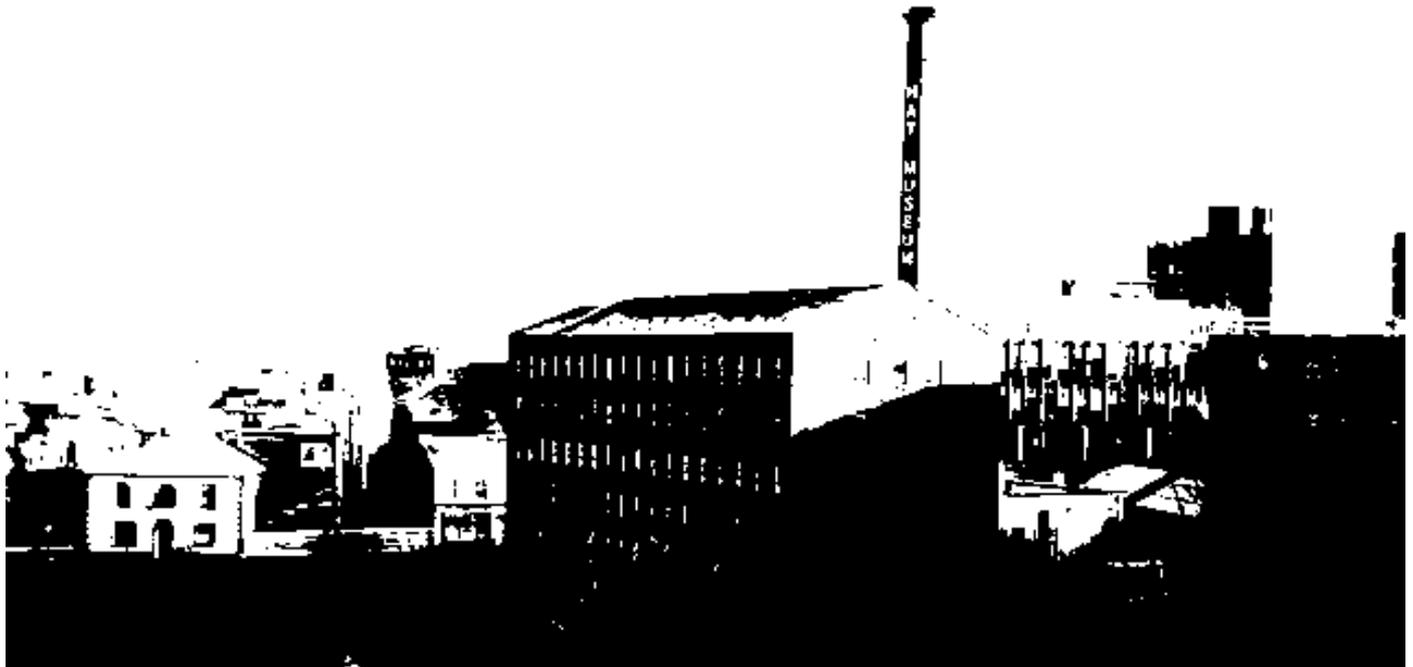
Through the common exploration of a key question and site, the charrette is a method of producing a large amount of creative design thinking in a short space of time. Students from Schools of Architecture in the North are invited to work collectively in an intensive design workshop to be completed in small groups over the course of a single day.

Date.

Friday 3rd May 2013. 0900 - 1900 hrs.

Venue.

The Hat Works Museum. Wellington Road South. Stockport. SK3 0EU.



Exit Stockport Train Station and look out for the Hat Museum Chimney.

Schools of Architecture.

Manchester School of Architecture, Liverpool University, Liverpool John Moores University, UCLAN, Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Newcastle University, Northumbria University, Hull College, The University of Huddersfield.

Teams will be composed of a mixture of students from each university working alongside each other.

Timetable.

2nd May 2013 - Optional.

1400 Tour of Stockport starting at the Hat Works Museum. Stockport.

1800 Manchester Society of Architects Design Award Launch at Castlefield Gallery. Manchester.

3rd May 2013 - The Charrette.

0900 Brief delivered to students with key talks from collaborators and partners.

0930 Morning session begins.

1300 Lunch and mingling.

1400 Afternoon session begins.

1600 Final schemes presented to the panel of collaborators and partners.

1800 Closing talk and drinks.

1900 Evening event.

Brief.

In the true nature of a Charrette, the project brief will be delivered on the day of the Charrette and will be focussed on central Stockport near the A6.

Context.

"Upon one round hill hath this town of Stockport been built, the summit, or top whereof, affords the market-place, and convenient room for the church and parsonage – the skirt of the hill is beautiful with many fair buildings."

Webb, W.,(1620).

"There is Stockport, too, which lies on the Cheshire side of the Mersey, but belongs nevertheless to the manufacturing district of Manchester. It lies in a narrow valley along the Mersey, so that the streets slope down a steep hill on one side and up an equally steep one on the other, while the railway from Manchester to Birmingham passes over a high viaduct above the city and the whole valley."

Engels, F., (1845).

Stockport developed at a strategically important position on a steep sided triangular promontory overlooking the Mersey Valley at the confluence of the Tame and Goyt rivers. The town developed as a prosperous market town, served by a network of roads and connected to a nearby bridging point over the river Mersey (Lancashire Bridge), one of only 3 along the entire length of the Mersey in the medieval period, contributing to the commercial success of the town.

The Industrial revolution brought rapid development in the form of silk and cotton mills and hat manufacture. As the town expanded, the pre-eminence of the historic core was partially eclipsed by the construction of Wellington Road (A6) in 1825 and then by the railway in 1842, both aligned to the west of the town centre, this area became the focus of civic, commercial and industrial development, hence the survival of the existing street pattern and large number of historic buildings in the core.

In 1936 work began to cover over the river Mersey from Lancashire Bridge to Wellington Road, approximately 480m long, to create a new road, this was done to relieve traffic congestion on east/west routes through the town centre. This route has since become a pedestrianized shopping centre.

Town centre development has been defined in part by the rivers and the Mersey valley, this has been further compounded by the construction of the M60 motorway running east / west along the Mersey valley to the north of the town cutting a swathe through Stockport.

Essential Resources.

Constructing the Image of the City.

Each student is required to bring a printed copy of a famous urban painting which captures an image of a city. This can be printed at any size and could be representative of any city or urban vernacular.



Centre: *A Street in Stockport – Crowther Street painting by L.S.Lowry (1930).*

Left: *Crowther Street (1931).* Right: *Crowther Street (2010).*

In addition to the above each student is asked to bring a variety of studio resources for the days event which could include large format cartridge paper, tracing paper, modelling grey board, pens, cutting mats, model making equipment, rough paper, news paper and any other specialist materials required for creative outputs. Laptops are optional.

Large format printed maps and a projector will be provided.

Optional Reading List.

Ed. Waterhouse, Robert,. (1974) **Conservation and Change in Stockport: A Study of Stockport's Past, Present and Possible Future.**

Stockport Education Division (1977) **Stockport: A Town on the Mersey.**

Galvin, F., (1982) **From the Ground Upwards: Stockport Through its Buildings.**

Sharp, Thomas,. (1950), **Stockport Town Centre Replanned.**

Blog post: **Lowry in Stockport** : <http://gerryco23.wordpress.com/2012/07/28/lowry-in-stockport/>