

Authors: Jane Anderson, Oxford Brookes University
and Colin Priest, Chelsea College of Art and Design
Title: Live Projects Network: an online resource



Please go to link: <http://www.liveprojectsnetwork.org>

This research project explores the following questions:

- 1 What is the definition of a live project?
- 2 Can case studies of past live projects be analysed to formulate a methodology of practice within the definition above?
- 3 Can this methodology be used by live project practitioners to promote analysis, scholarship and research into live project practice?
- 4 Can an online network hosting these resources (definition, methodology, case studies) be used to connect students, academics and clients to promote live project practice?

The Live Projects Network (www.liveprojectsnetwork.org), currently in its beta version, is an online resource to connect students, clients and academics who are involved, or wish to become involved in live projects. The purpose of the network is to promote and extend live project practice. The authors have analysed case studies and proposed a definition of a live project plus a flexible methodology to broaden understanding of current live project practice and as a tool for practitioners to analyse and plan their own projects. At the moment the network is focused on architectural live projects but there is scope for it to serve an interdisciplinary purpose in the future.

The project to establish an online Live Projects Network stemmed from an observation that many architecture schools in the UK and across the world were tentatively engaging with live projects. By our definition, a live project comprises the negotiation of a brief, timescale, budget and product between a client and the students and staff of an educational institution. Although architectural live projects became well known through the activities of Rural Studio in the USA nearly twenty years ago, live project practice tends to occur in relative isolation. Case studies, when reported are rarely analysed and there is little research into, or theoretical basis established for, the pedagogy and practice of live projects. The Live Projects Network seeks to connect existing and new practitioners and to deepen understanding of the potential of educational live projects.

This project was begun as part of a two year Brookes Teaching Fellowship awarded to Jane Anderson and Colin Priest in September 2011.