

Research update

Highlights from the **VivaCity booklet** are included below.

Work Package 1: Process Mapping.

“To date the model of such a process has been linear and mainly a descriptive list of tasks. Furthermore, case study analyses suggest that defined decision-making processes are not always adhered to. Rather, *ad hoc* decision-making processes are more often employed, based on the qualities of the team leader, the interrelationships between team members, the requirements of the brief and previous experiences with regeneration projects.”



Work Package 2: The Evolution of Land Use Diversity.

“Early case study analysis in Clerkenwell shows that its residents generally tolerate the mixed-use environment that the area has become. However, mixed use is also reducing the sustainability of the area through anti-social behaviour, crime and the lack of amenities such as green spaces, litter management and youth facilities.”



Work Package 3: Secure Urban Environments by Design.

“There are instances where crime prevention measures potentially conflict with other sustainability issues. Of particular concern is the need to cater for groups such as the homeless and young people, without increasing fear and insecurity amongst other users, especially older people and those with young families.”



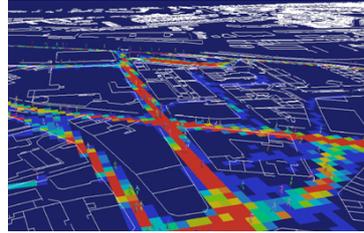
Work Package 4: Designing Environmental Quality into City Centre Living.

“Participants involved in the project have been asked to take photographs of their local area and take part in a soundwalk of their neighbourhood alongside being interviewed. This innovative process has revealed interesting results, where some images that are traditionally perceived as 'bad', such as graffiti, can actually be seen as good by the interviewee.”



Work Package 5: The Generation of Diversity.

“We are using computer simulation experiments to investigate the dynamics underlying urban land use diversity. Until now a number of factors have hampered research into the processes by which urban mixed use development can be achieved and sustained. The result is that experiments are carried out on real design projects, and when they go wrong people suffer.”



Work Package 6: Community Pattern Book for Housing.

“So far as the design of housing is concerned, one might be forgiven for assuming that the underpinning principles for sustainability are already well known, but there is compelling evidence that points to a need to incorporate culturally sensitive design principles into current housing stereotypes, in order to ensure that inner city housing is socially inclusive.”



Work Package 7: Inclusive Design of Public Toilets in City Centres.

“The implementation of Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act may be exacerbating public toilet closures. Many older facilities were originally located below or above ground level and some premises at ground level will be costly to convert to include an accessible toilet. Faced with this dilemma, some public sector providers have already opted to close all their facilities, thereby not discriminating against anyone but disadvantaging everyone.”



Work Package 8: ICT Support Solutions.

“ICT support tools do not intend to replace the decision-makers, but rather give assistance identifying the problems and uncertainties in the decision-making processes; reducing these uncertainties; predicting consequences; prioritizing options; and finding optimal solutions to identified problems.”

