

public works

DIY  
Regeneration

---

Camden Arts Centre / June — September 2009

File Note #45 **public works** *DIY Regeneration*

Andreas Lang

# DIY Regeneration



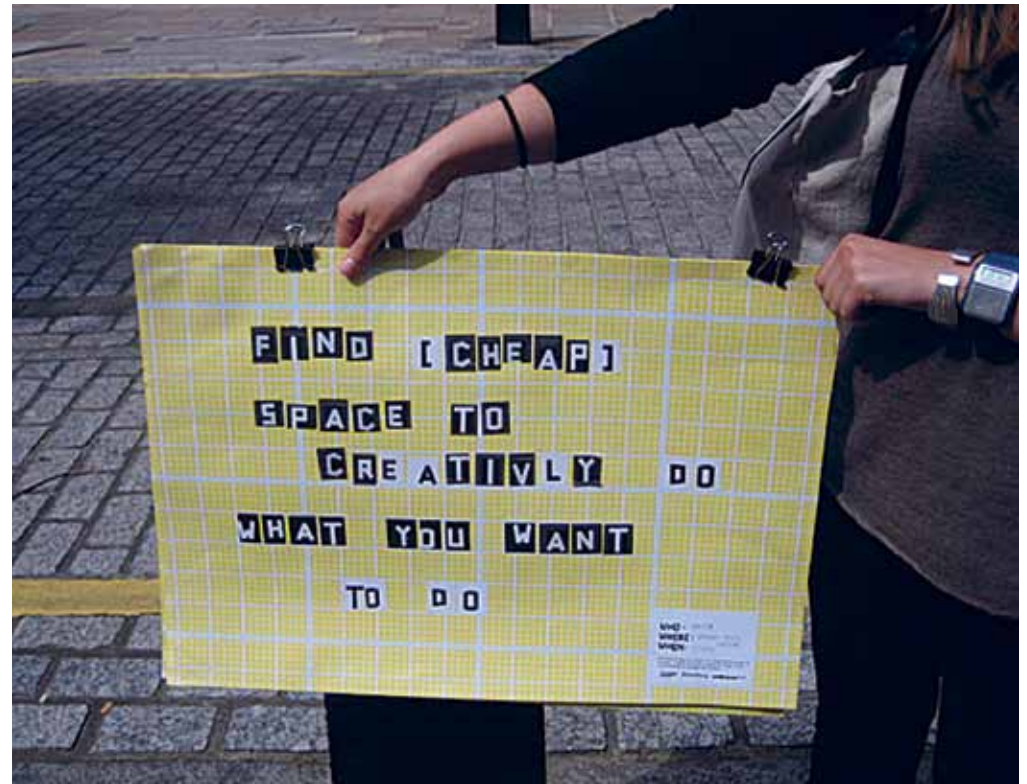
All images: public works *DIY Regeneration* 2009

The King's Cross redevelopment area is one of the largest inner city regeneration schemes in Europe and in common with many such projects confronts residents and visitors with significant changes which are often the result of top-down politics. During June, July and August 2009 art and architecture collective, public works roamed King's Cross on the look out for activist residents, workers and commuters engaged in making a difference to the area themselves.

The DIY Regeneration project was interested in these small scale, self driven initiatives, motivated by a local need or desire. Over the three months, public works talked to individuals who have a direct, active involvement with their community and on a daily basis contribute to and change the area in which they live. Each of these encounters resulted in a hand made poster which captured the tips and advice offered on the best ways to get involved and start taking ownership of your neighbourhood.

DIY Regeneration used the Folk Float, a customised milk float, as a mobile workshop space, billboard, archive and on-site office. The posters which document the tips, advice and slogans collected on site, were also displayed on the roaming float and online at [www.diyregeneration.net](http://www.diyregeneration.net). A final selection of posters has been printed and fly-posted across the King's Cross area, spreading the advice back into the community which produced it.

Andreas Lang is an architect and member of public works.





Design: James Goggin (Practise) & Sara De Bondt studio  
Print: Xtraprint

**public works** is a London based artists' and architects' collective. Current members are Kathrin Böhm, Polly Brannan, Torange Khonsari and Andreas Lang, who have been collaborating in different constellations since 1999. public works' projects include participatory public realm design schemes, interdisciplinary debate and publications. Ad hoc design plays a central role in producing immediate change on a small scale, and presenting and testing 1:1 proposals for the longer term and larger scale.

---

### Reading/Viewing List

- Peter Blundell-Jones, Doina Petrescu, Jeremy Till (Eds.) *Architecture & Participation*, Spoon Press (2005)
- Nicolas Bourriaud *Relational Aesthetics*, Les Presses du Réel (2002)
- Michel de Certeau *The Practice of Everyday Life*, University of California Press (1984)
- Suzanne Lacy (Ed.) *Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art*, Bay Press (1995)
- Henri Lefebvre *The Production of Space*, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith, Oxford, Wiley Blackwell (1991)
- Doreen Massey *For Space*, SAGE Publications (2005)
- Jane Rendell *Art and Architecture*, I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd. (2006)
- Katherine Shonfield 'The Lived and the Built', in Rosa Ainley (Ed.) *This Is What We Do: A Muf Manual*, Ellipsis (2001)
- Pages 173–178, chapter 'Social Sculpture' in Jane Rendell *Art and Architecture*, I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd. (2006)
- Clare Cumberland & Lucy Musgrave *Design and Landscape for People*, Thames and Hudson (2007)

---

[www.publicworksgroup.net](http://www.publicworksgroup.net)  
[www.diyregeneration.net](http://www.diyregeneration.net)  
[www.folkfloat.org](http://www.folkfloat.org)

---

### Junction May 2009 – March 2010

*Junction* is a year long series of artists' projects for King's Cross organised by Camden Arts Centre and supported by Bloomberg. Once a notorious part of London, it is now the largest single area of regeneration in Europe. Three artists, William Hunt, public works and Ria Pacquée have been commissioned to make new works sited in, and responding to, this unique place. *Junction* offers a layered response drawing on the architecture, history and community activity of King's Cross in a spirit of engagement with the diverse nature of the area. An exhibition of all the works produced will be held at Camden Arts Centre from 12 – 14 March 2010.

Involve people in  
an idea. Community  
is the theme.

— Alan, Charlton  
Street, 18.08.2009

---

Published to accompany the residency *DIY Regeneration* at  
Camden Arts Centre June to September 2009

Bloomberg **wellcome** trust



**Camden**  
arts centre

[www.camdenartscentre.org](http://www.camdenartscentre.org)

Registered charity 1065829  
Registered company 2947191  
VAT reg. no. 586 9041 03



Camden

Funded by Camden Council



clare duffield foundation

Arkwright Road  
London  
NW3 6DG

T+44 (0)20 7472 5500  
F+44 (0)20 7472 5501

Open: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday, Sunday 10am-6pm  
Wednesday 10am-9pm  
Closed: Mondays and Bank Holidays