

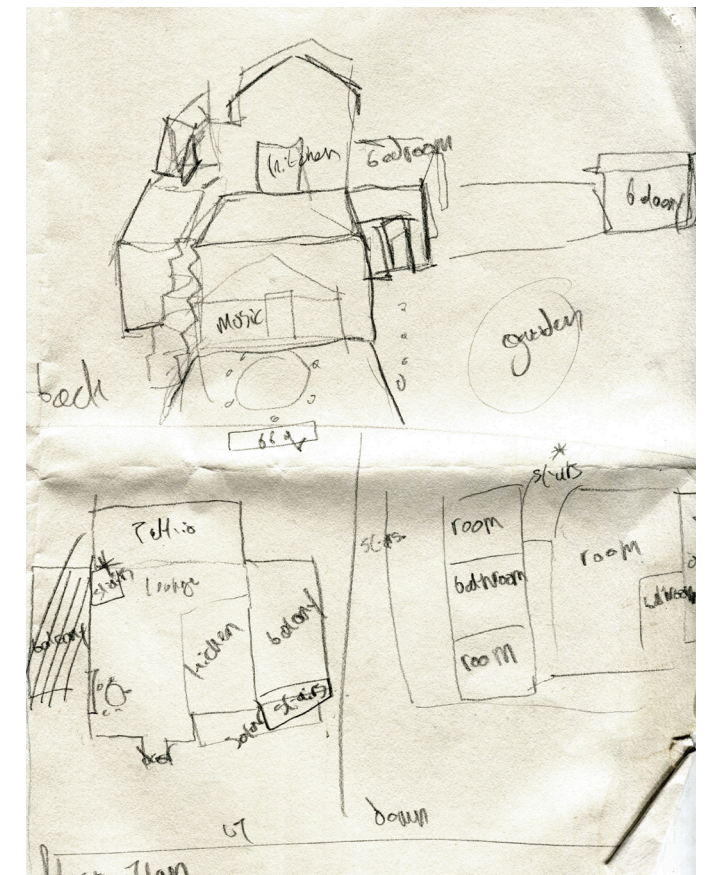
A scenic view of a lake with mountains in the background and a sandy beach in the foreground. The water is shimmering with sunlight. A vertical strip of a black and white polka-dot pattern is visible on the right side of the image.

The paid element to his work comes from larger builds, mostly for people emigrating or taking early retirement from the UK or Australia; finding a holiday home or new way of life in Iznajar. The cost of work varies from client to client, ensuring that it covers all cost of materials. Then negotiating payment on top of that for his employment as well as for a few contract workers he'll pull in to help.

During my stay I learnt a lot about the construction and inner workings of his home. Built on the foundations of traditional stone ruins in an extremely remote location, once he brought the land and planning permission he mostly used naturally sourced and recycled materials donated to him through the working favours system. The houses electricity is supplied entirely from a large solar panel which is rotated throughout the day for optimal sun light, the solar panel is hooked up to a large battery and diffuser, which floods out power to: plug sockets, light switches, an oven and a fridge. Because the climate is so hot they don't use heating, in the cooler moments blankets are jumpers are enough to keep warm.

on this). Though the water works perfectly through the house, there is an understanding to be considerate of water usage when using the facilities. Drinking water is collected from one single tap, each area has a drinking tap that supply's the entire village and surrounding housing.

From the house their garden branches out past a patio and into a small controlled farm which supply's a large fraction of their food source. The garden is mapped out by multiple seating areas so there is always somewhere shaded to sit at every point of the day. Amongst these tailored spots there is an office/guest housing referred to as 'the caravan' a small wooden shack built up on a platform to avoid unwanted guests in the night. Though the main source of security from wild animals or potential threat from other humans is hoping wild dogs become attached to you and thus guard the house; Bumble and his wife Samantha have two wild dogs Dan and Luper, Luper decided to guard the main house whilst Dan circled 'the caravan' where I was sleeping.



NEW WAY

OF

LIFE

IN IZNAJAR

The experience of not just visiting or working on but actually staying in this kind of environment taught me a lot about the importance of landscape and local culture to the consideration of the architectural design. The small details I've mentioned are all crucial to living in this rural and climate location.

There isn't a competitive element to Bumbles work, he works alongside other locally known contractor and 'handy men' harmoniously - all keeping each other in work, though because it's so cheap to live their money isn't a factor of heavy concern. During the three weeks in Iznajar I spend around £10 on multiple trips to restaurants, pubs, shops; on three plates of tapas and a drink for 50p and living relatively off the grid with no major housing bills money isn't a subject or something people seem to worry about - I believe this is a really interesting and very prominent reason for the lack of competitive work.





There are three main ways of living in Iznajar. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience them all; momentarily living in the remote but humble and completely self-sustainable housing in the mountains and then working on both a very common, traditional and typical housing in the local village as well as assisting with the finishing touches to a high standard luxury housing on lower ground outskirts of town. I understand the way housing is navigated in Iznajar, seeing the comparison of values between all locations made me consider the kind of alternative living I'm interested in as well as the level of product I would consider going into design.

Though the luxury standard of housing was enjoyable to work on, I felt it had the most disconnect to the humble and community atmosphere of its surrounding areas by not really engaging with the traditional methods of building - the client behind the build had very particular demands and conceptual boundaries for their new home. Materials largely had to be brought brand new and a lot of the design was modern, relatively typical to housing in Britain with clean white surfaces and magnolia or white walls. Bumble managed to arrange a compromise on the exterior of the house to be more empathetic to the landscape than original plans. During this build I was in charge of painting the edges of walls, polishing surfaces ready for the home owner's arrival and unpacking, assembling and arranging furniture as it arrived.

In contrast to this, whilst working on a more typical level of housing in Iznajar's central village I was sanding down, varnishing and placing doors all assembled from locally source wood brought from a local carpenter. I was also challenged to come up with designs to soften the interior and incorporate the landscape more into the house. Deciding to take a walk for inspiration I came across a lot of fallen/discarded olive wood (Olive trees grow almost weed like throughout all of Iznajar) I used the olive wood too add finishing touches to the banisters, door frames, door handles and carved multiple decorative bowls.



SUSTAINABILITY

This style of bowl was something I was very interested in, Bumble receives a lot of business from clients after they've visited the Sollo Restaurante and dined in the company of his carpentry. So I was interested to find out the process of producing the wood work. Using a rather simple method once he's found and selected wood, he cuts it down to size in a way that is considerate to the natural formation of the material. Then working out where the carving will be, the wood is secured to his working bench, by drilling a nail through the bottom of the bench and bottom of the wood making sure it's placed in a way which won't interfere with the carving. A tool he referred to has a mini chainsaw is then used to carve the interior of the bowl before sanding and varnishing/hydrating with olive oil. The most valuable attributes I learnt revolve around sustainability, traditional practised but also understanding how to utilize the traditional methods for modern purpose, functionality and aesthetic consideration. The only frustration I felt through the experience was my lack of involvement in the heavier duty jobs, though I believe that this aspect wasn't just down to the heavy gender imbalance of me being the only female on sight but that my portfolio of work isn't pushed towards larger builds or technical understanding in a more detailed way. Bumble understood my skill set and also that a lot of the local builders don't speak English so there would have been a communication issue if I was working in more of a group setting. I feel this has impacted my desire to seek more knowledge in larger or functional builds, whether that's throughout or after university I believe I will find opportunity to enhance my knowledge of carpentry and techniques that will add a more professional and skilled attribute to my portfolio.

Iznajar (iz-nah-ah)
Week 1

Sunday 2nd

We've worked on the fancy house, you've painted the walls and polished surfaces down as well as assembling and arranging furniture when it arrived, we've also visited the site for the small house in the middle of Iznajar town - both these houses have legitimate addresses unlike bombs, the fancy house isn't as interesting, basic plumbing and electricity set up like British homes - though the toilet has an automatic flush because the owner is only using it as a holiday home, apparently the water will dry up and make the fancy house smell like sewerage otherwise.

There's also a pig farm along the flat horizon, because of how remote it is on the outskirts of town's and now the fancy house is on low/flat ground the wind carries the pig ~~smell~~ farm, pig farm smell to the house.

= Better to live higher land if not in town.

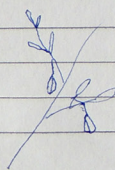


Iznajar week 2

Sunday 3rd

We've finished the fancy house details off, apparently there's cleaners there this week, now we're done. We've started focusing on the small house in town, you've painted the walls, sanded, varnished and placed 6 large doors, you've made bowls ~~from~~ for the houses and Sollo restaurant, which was for, olive wood is great.

As you can smell from around the little house is a combination of fig tree and olive bush fruits, really amazing combination of smells mixed with the dryness of the land. Only thing in line with you on the horizon is plants and a few more abandoned houses waiting to be built or, apparently there's a lot of these half built houses because people run out of money half way through, move on to other jobs and leave them or they don't have/didn't beg planning permission before starting to build and got into trouble.



Sunday 7th - 3 weeks of Iznajar

I AM GREATFUL FOR

Knowing how to set up a solar panel

Knowing how to set up a water system using filtered rain water for a sustainably built home

Learning how to craft traditional Spanish bowls

Double + Same kindness

San the dog for guarding my accommodation every night

being disturbed by only dog barks instead of wild bees, foxes, lizards or other wild animals when sleeping

Sam's cooking especially that thing with - aubergine

Don cream and ice lollies

Heavy dresses, sandals, new freckles

being able to take a few bowls back

Learning how to surf.





HOUSEHOLD

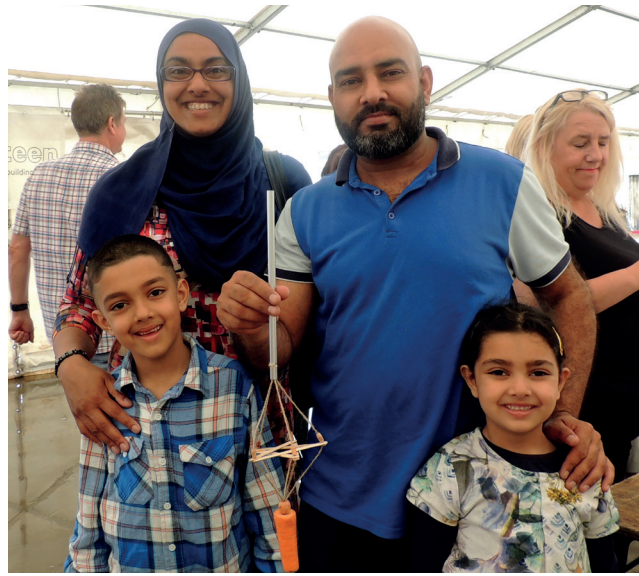
MAY 28TH - JULY 22ND
HARTLEPOOL
WATER FRONT FESTIVAL

Prior to me leaving for Spain I was in the process of developing a workshop concept for Hartlepool Waterfront Festival*2 with local musician Grace Stubbings. Hartlepool Waterfront Festival runs yearly, showcasing local musicians, business and encouraging people to learn about the history behind Hartlepool's culture; this year's theme was inspired by the town's founder Ralph Ward Jackson's dream of building a Harbour of refuge, a common Victorian shelter for boats seeking safety. His goal was never achieved, the festival aimed to "complete what he started"*2.

When in contact with the event organizer Aaron Bowman, we received estimations of the audience's age and expected number; understanding our audience was mainly going to be young kids we developed the concept of 'Household Instruments' – inspired by the notion of harbour of refuge, a sense of safety and a place to call home we combined the musical rhythm of a party and the resources of a home/home town to build a workshops around the concept of using household items to produce musical instruments and sound producing ornaments. Wind chimes made from: keys, shells, sticks, baubles, paper clips, bells, pebbles, beads, spoons, maritime themed charms and buttons. The large option of objects allowed participants to aesthetically arrange the objects how they please, producing a tailor fit sound to the individual. Participants had the option to arrange popsicle sticks in a star formation or use a cut piece of drift wood as the top base of their wind chimes. Holes were be pre-cut into the materials ready for use, I cut groves into the carrot leaving the sections that needed to be removed easy to pop out so that participants could finished off the main design and finger holes for the carrot flute to their suiting.



INSTRUMENTS



We had a budget of £500 to get enough materials for 300 participants across a number of days. To keep on top of numbers we divided materials between small paper bags; creating individual kits which differed, this allowed the participants to have the option of what style of wind chime they wanted to produce based upon three demonstration options I designed and displayed. We spent a lot of time collecting drift wood and searching for pebbles or small stones with holes in, allowing the natural material to hang as a centre piece from the frame – as Hartlepool is a sea side town the use of materials collected from our beaches felt appropriate for the activity; it was well received and saved us a lot of money, meaning we could invest in supplying our participants with high quality charms to continue the decoration.

From the initial concept development through the end of May, to organisation and delivering the workshop's from July 20th I spent just over a month (discounting my time in Spain) in contact with Grace and the event organisers producing graphic design work in line with the brief set by Aaron to advertise our workshop, as well as working alongside Grace to gather the materials and preparing them for a minimal complexity and maximum reward workshop. The process of arranging the workshops made me think a lot about the environmental and economic impact the choices we made would have, we worked hard to buy from local and independent shops as well as ensuring all our materials were biodegradable and safe for our audience to use.



Working with Hartlepool Water Front Festival was an eye opening to the level of consideration, preparation and planning that went into designing workshops and tailored activities. Throughout the series of workshops I learnt how to navigate keeping a large crowd engaged and supported through the activity and days. As I was in Spain for three weeks before the festival and between organisations Grace was mainly in Liaison with the organisers supplying information for admin. The vast majority of the work took place co-dependently. The festival was a huge success in popularity and very inclusive with the activities and facility on offer.



PLASTIC FREE HARTLEPOOL



Working in an environment surrounded by creative workshops unfolding, I had the opportunity to network with companies and corporations such as Plastic Free Hartlepool*3 and Bloomin' Arts*4; Plastic free Hartlepool enlightened me to some of their work with schools and companies across Hartlepool in which they've promoted plastic free period alternative's, donate reusable water bottles and run workshops helping to introduce people to business which offer refill stations and products to help live a more sustainable life as well as saving money. Bloomin' Arts specialises in workshops offering art classes and creative outlets to people with learning difficulties. After the festivities I arranged meeting with both companies to learn more about developing a business. Through these meetings I learnt a lot about and understanding their specific concepts, realising the importance of targeting your company's view point, aim and audience. To find more information out on what steps to take in the direction of this option, I arranged a meeting with Hartlepool council late July, Hartlepool council fund a lot of these small organisations. The council agreed that narrowing a concept aim down was vital for a successful business, they also suggested that if I have interests in other sectors then working on building partnerships with varying companies can help relate my hypothetical business to other concepts I feel important. All this information has made me consider the potential impact my third year project could have, knowing that I have the support of my local council the option of running educational events through a company is something I can confidently consider; potentially continuing it further after university.

June 10th - have been collecting inspo for 1 1/2 weeks

Junkshop ideas

Sustainability themes → recycled → hats
frames → plant pots
ornaments
Natural materials → beach sourced

Something (that involves) — animation
Music and art — drawing / sound machine
interpretive
relevant to festival music?

Sound machine — sound not music?
↓
home — refuge
sound of home

- Sound machine - beach material - Sound of home -

Sound of home? Hunkle tool or house? = house

Can we use commonly found household objects to make a sound?

June 11th → Yes, veg for Pan Pipes / flutes!

Rather than a complex sound machine
a wind chime is more appropriate

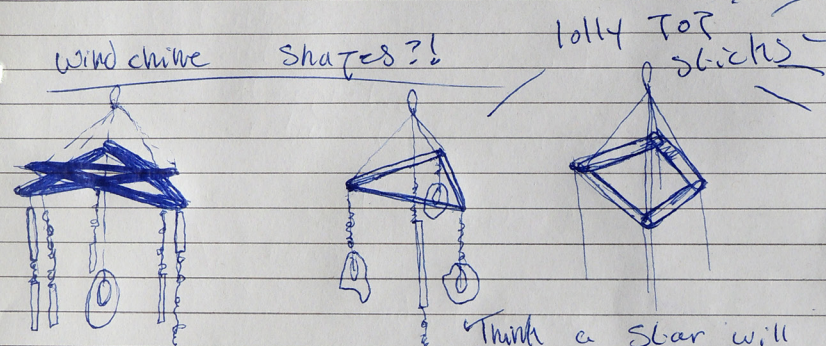
— Household instruments —

July 14th - back from Spain few days

Jobs over Spain was to keep
updating windchime inspo board for ☒
aesthetic consideration

• Practise carnat flute ☒

• Try and keep up to date with emails, ☒

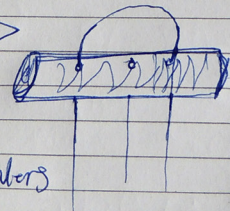


Think a star will
be the strongest
form.

if I glue them together,
drill a hole and get
participants to loop a
knot either side, should stay
together well

Drift wood,
keep it simple

Drill 3 holes.
Hot to hang from
sand it down - no splinters



July 24th - After the workshops

People preferred drift wood frame
to lolly stick frame options

Everyone wanted more anchor charms
and was taking them from other Teozles
bags, kept bags more hidden
- not only the kids will take charms
from other kids bags, so will dads.

Some people had trouble working
out how to thread the string
and keep it all together, make sure
to design and print some simple
but detailed step by step instructions
- Though some of the unexpected
and experimental outcomes were
interesting.

Pre-cut - the string !!!

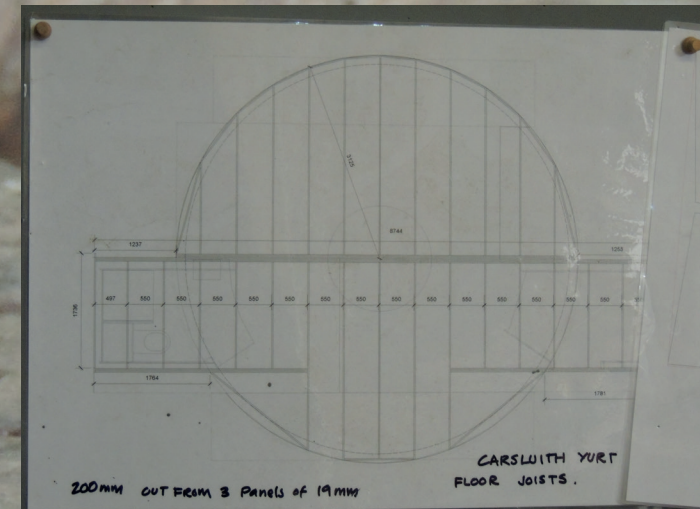
was a very good idea that
involved paint

extra table

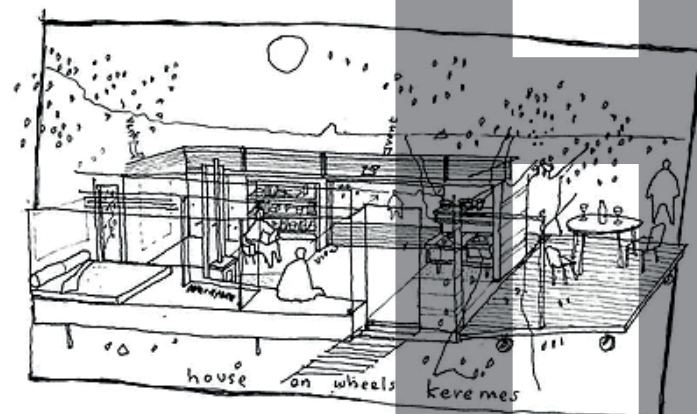
Carnat flutes would work for a
workshop with more time and a
more relaxed atmosphere



AUGUST 7TH – AUGUST 9TH ECHO LIVING



After learning a lot about how companies navigate finding success and develop in the UK as well as experiencing completely sustainable living in Spain I was extremely keen to see how those two factors collide in my final adventure of summer. August 7th I made my way to Scotland. “Echo Living is the venture of multidisciplinary designer Sam Booth, and aims to promote elegance and efficiency in sustainable, small scale living.” During my first conversation with Sam he mentioned his problems with the term ‘tiny home’ feeling that the phrase devalued the quality of living in small scale home’s, the word tiny feeling slightly mocking and as though you are limited by the ‘lack of space’ in comparison with typical living. The company name Echo Living*5 is partly driven from this thought, it refers more to his design work as an echoing and alternative route to finding home.





My venture to Echo Living is more fittingly described as a visitation rather than placement as I didn't create anything physical. Though my experience there has been the most inspiring and arguably the most impactful to my future. After my initial tour of the site and introduction to some of the facilities as well as in depth showcase of the current build (which is now complete and referred to as Lakeside Roundhouse) Sam introduced me to their new workshop, yet to be opened, worked in or complete they are developing a space for furniture production. The furniture will echo the concept of multipurpose and sustainability that runs through all their previous designs and company ethos. The area will be complete and open for applicants by 2021. This knowledge gives me time to develop skill through future experience, tailor my portfolio more professionally and finish university; hopefully gaining the chance to work with Echo Living in the future.

The company is based in Castle Douglas, a rural market town in southwest Scotland; the region is well known for its creativity and resident artists/crafts people. They design and develop their work at the workshop situated in the middle of the town. The creative team is built up from around 10 people with experience in building design, timber construction, cabinetmaking, metal fabrication, product and interior design.

The workshop was neatly organized with sawdust scattering from the machinery, off cuts of wood leaning against a wall and blues music playing loudly. There was a very obvious energy about the room that showed everyone was enthusiastic about the part they played in constructing client's new transportable homes. Sam was slightly embarrassed to admit that most of their constructions sell for £80,000 – mainly for people looking for alternative holiday homes in beautiful but remote locations. However, he's hoping to achieve being able to construct and sell housing for £10,000.

Alternative living is becoming a popular conversation topic, with frequent television shows about Van life, Glamping and the possibilities of what can be converted into a liveable environment. The industry is definitely growing and environmental concerns seem to be at the forefront of what is driving people to seek out these alternative options. I believe that Echo Livings place in this industry adds a very interesting narrative to the story. Initially grabbing my attention for the outstanding quality of production achieved in their builds, I am very thankful for the generosity of Sam and his team to allow me to explore their workshop and learn about their aspirations and journey. Hopefully being a part of it myself one day.

August loan - back from echo living

Can you imagine yourself working in this industry? Yes

Is this the kind of area of the industry you want to work in?
I definitely want to work/be involved in the world of alternative living in some way, though I feel more drawn towards the design, details and interior design of it rather than the logistics of the build in terms of setting up wiring plumbing electricity. The set up is something I'd like to learn more about but I'm not passionate about it, more about giving those things a space to be realised and practical.

What about the furniture aspect Sam mentioned? I enjoyed making boats in Spain and adding the finishing touches/arranging furniture in the houses. Though I feel like there's more possibilities to sustainability than making static furniture, I'd like to be involved in designing and creating something to help continue the drive of the conversation of sustainable living.

Lower alternatives
wants to lower tower usage
blankets
candles
not only using recyclable material but also biodegradable
local materials
Sustainable attributes to building mentioned at Echo living - using all off cuts
contributing to forest rebuild after/when using wood as a material
solar energy
rain water collection system for bathroom/bat - rain water needs to be filtered
being conscious and aware of your impact
considering log burner stoves

UNIT
2/3

echo

IMPORTANT NOTE

PLEASE FIND A SUPPORTING VIDEO AT:

Megan Watson - observation

<https://youtu.be/sRHyHDaQxGE>

1* WWW.SOLLO.ES

**2* HTTP://WWW.HARTLEPOOL-
WATERFRONTFESTIVAL.COM/**

**3* WWW.PLASTICFREEHARTLE-
POOL.ORG**

**4* HTTP://BLOOMINARTS.ORG.
UK/**

5* HTTPS://WWW.ECHOLIVING.

MEGAN WATSON