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Introduction

This studio will be a place of experimentation, where conventions and preconceived methodologies will always be questioned.

We will be investigating realistic proposals for sites situated in London. Projects will attend to 'normative' building programmes but we will be striving to generate a new urbanism. This should be informed by an understanding of existing conditions and a sense of realism.

Questions surrounding the nature of domesticity will provide a focus to the studio's work. How people live and work is one of the most pressing issues in the redevelopment and growth of London. The normative (of which housing, as a type, forms the largest component) occupies most of the land surface of any city. Being ubiquitous, it is prone to failure or abuse.

Projects will be situated in an area of the city that is identified as about to undergo imminent transformation. It should be noted that London is the largest and fastest growing city in Europe.

The studio will work in partnership with Design for London, the architecture and urbanism unit of the Mayor for London and the organisation that is directly responsible for the development and reorganisation of the physical environments of the city. This means that projects should be understood as purposeful pieces of research and investigation. They should be realistic and ambitious.



Aerial view of London

Theme

In the course of the semester the studio will be investigating the relationship between space and human experience. We are interested in questioning the relevance of 'the picturesque' as an urban concept. The places we encounter in the contemporary city are reminders of the ever more complex matrix of social forces that affect our behaviour and create an emotional response. A city such as London has historically been resistant to clearly conceived large-scale urban strategies, having been formed through economic opportunity and private initiative and it is now an economically dynamic global trading centre with an increasingly multicultural population. This results in an environment that functions through a myriad of forms of negotiation and ultimately expresses an attitude of tolerance.

It is our contention that there appears to be a relation between 'the picturesque' (a concept normally associated with an English landscaping tradition) and the manner in which the urbanism of London has emerged. The picturesque proposes a sense of naturalness, but is in fact highly controlled and man-made. The manner in which London was developed reflects a sense of 'careful carelessness'. The picturesque as an approach could inform a tolerant urbanism that suits the loose-fit character of London.

As architects and urban strategists we have a duty to bring clarity to the complex urban situations that exist in a city like London. Great effort should be made to bring a sense of order and carefully measured interventions which will be adding to the complex fabric of the existing city.

The studio will explore the notion of the 'emotional city' and will question issues such as the role of decorum in contemporary architecture and the meaning of 'presence' in building. We will try and anticipate the consequences of design decisions in terms of the feeling a building might evoke and project.

Our work will allow for a thorough examination of the way behaviour is affected by place and acknowledge that certain building types provoke a very specific emotional response. Why do we speak softly in a library or church and feel free to behave more extravagantly on the concourse of a railway terminus or in the street? In other words, these situations affect behaviour and we are interested in this question of expectation being present in any proposal. This provokes the question, what should a house and home look like and feel like?



1



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1 View of Deptford Creek
2 View of Greenwich Park

Great encouragement will be given to resist the tendency in contemporary architecture (and particularly in London) to propose spectacular solutions. This is not to say that projects that are inventive and experimental will not have validity but the question of a project's appropriateness will be a constant component of all projects assessment.



Typical suburban street

Context: Why Housing?

The current government in the United Kingdom has announced an ambitious (and necessary) housing programme to build 3million new dwellings by 2020. To achieve this it will be necessary to build approximately 200,000 new homes a year. The majority of these will need to be built in London and the south east of England where demand is greatest. Overall the population of the country is not growing at the same rate as in the 1950s, although, as a result of immigration, population is increasing by several hundreds of thousands a year. The real demand for housing comes from more complex demographic needs, changes in family structures and the economic opportunities that exist in the dominant city in the country. It should also be noted that currently supply does not match demand and this helps explain why housing costs in London are higher than in any other significant city in Europe. Not only is too little being built, but the private housing market has been hit by economic factors that could be understood to be the result of the UK's close alignment with the US economic model and fiscal system. This makes it more difficult for developers to borrow funds to enable them to develop and for individuals to borrow money to be able to buy property.

It should also be noted that new housing in London is the most deficient in Europe in terms of space standards, which are not regulated in the private sector.



Example on 1960's social housing in brick

Precedent Study

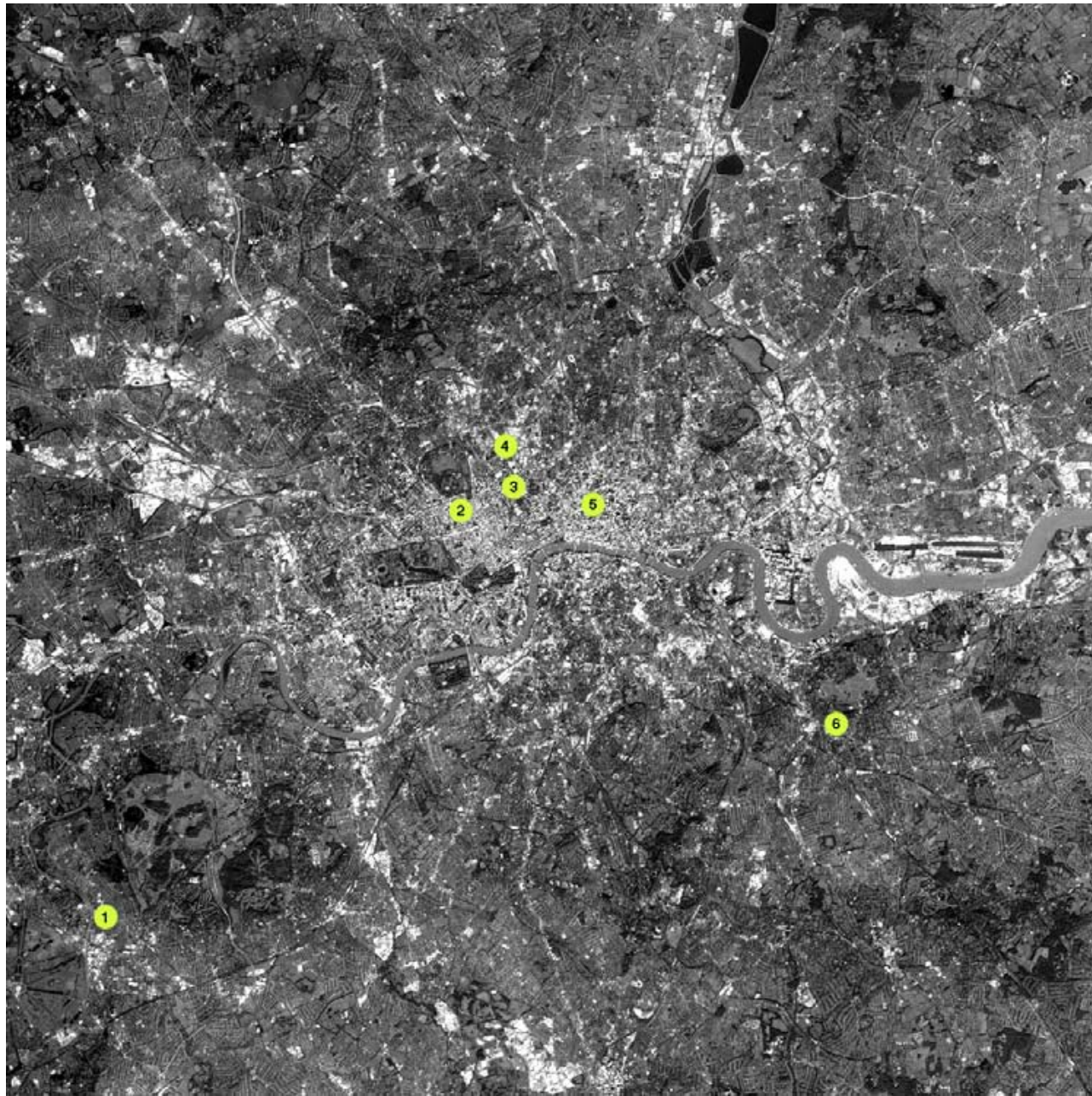
It is quite clear that there is a pressing need to radically question the manner in which London's housing requirements are being met.

In the first instance we will look at existing models that might inform new proposals. It should be noted that there are many wonderful housing examples that are all too often overlooked or treated with a degree of ambivalence. Six examples have been chosen to be surveyed by students working in groups so that the lessons they hold might be translated, albeit in a revised or modified form, to a contemporary situation. These housing projects have been selected not only on the basis of architectural quality but also of their appropriateness to the scale and density requirements of the sites identified for development. A clear methodology will be adopted to ensure that information recorded is not only useful for the authors of the study and findings can be more widely disseminated.

A study trip to London is proposed in the third week of the semester.



Examples of social housing north of the Old Kent Road



Survey sites

- 1. Ham Common
- 2. Clipstone Street
- 3. Judd Street
- 4. Penryn Street
- 5. Golden Lane
- 6. Blackheath Span housing

1. Ham Common

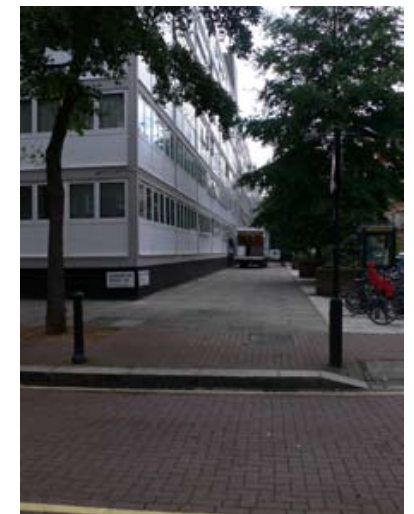


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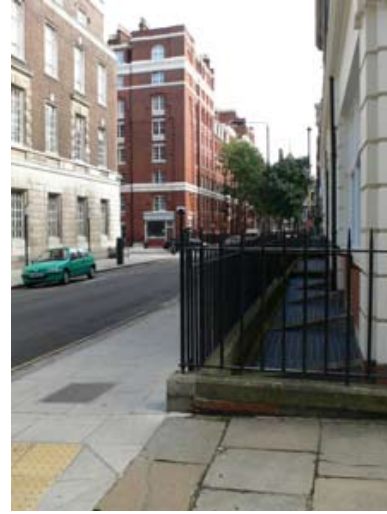
2. Clipstone Street



3

1,2 Ham Common
3 Clipstone

3. Judd Street



1

5. Golden Lane



1

4. Penryn Street



2

6. Blackheath Span Housing



2



3



3



4

1, 2 Judd Street
3 Penryn Street

1, 2 Golden Lane
3 Blackheath Span Housing

Project

The location of projects for this semester is within one of a number of corridors that offer a clear opportunity for growth, change and development. It runs from the Elephant and Castle in a south-easterly direction towards Lewisham. Within this area a number of sites have been identified for projects. It should be stressed again that these have been chosen by Design for London as places where development is expected imminently. Your work will test and propose a scenario for the future development of a substantial part of the city.

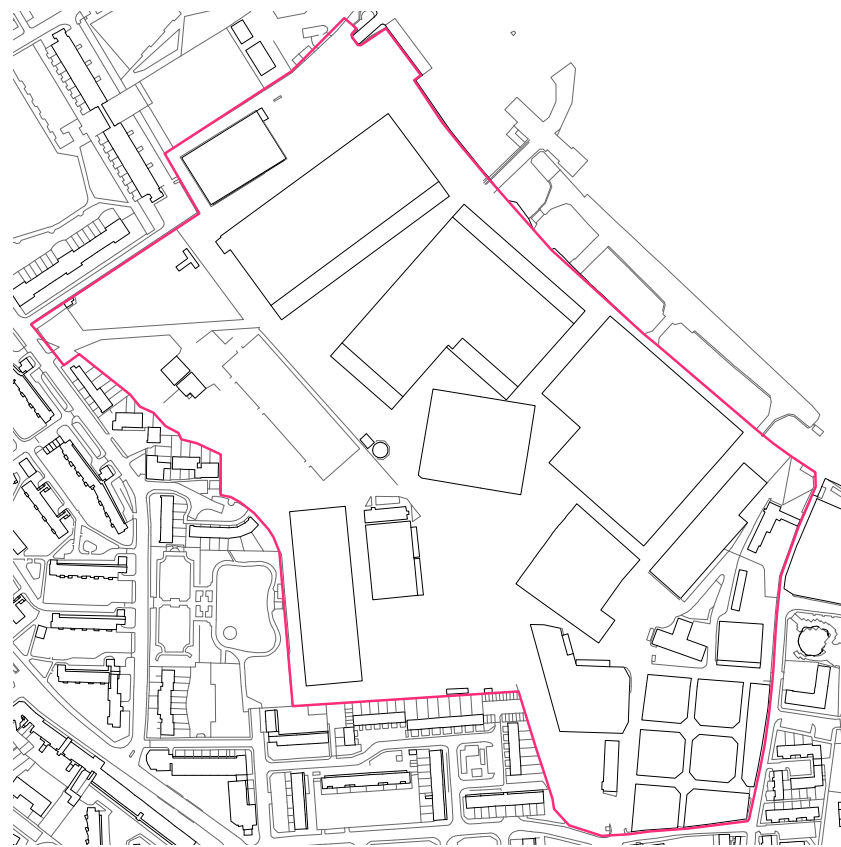
Due to the scale of the sites and the complexity of the demands that surrounds this work we are proposing that projects are undertaken in small groups, depending on the precise circumstances of each site.

In the exploration of individual projects great emphasis will be placed on model investigations that have a clearly conceived material character (as an approximation of the real material character of a buildings), as well as drawings that aid in understanding the relationship between strategy and detail. The accompanying programme lists the production outputs throughout the course of the semester.

Specialists will be invited to assist in the accumulation of expertise on the subject of investigation.



1. Convoys Wharf

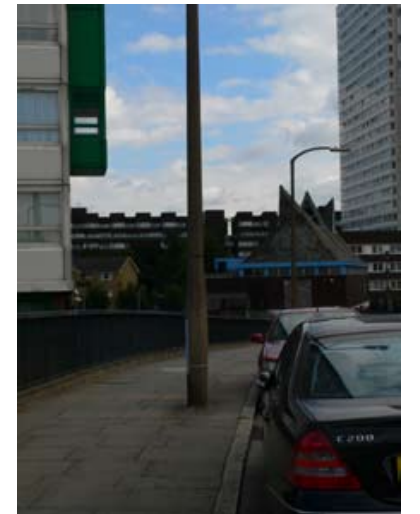
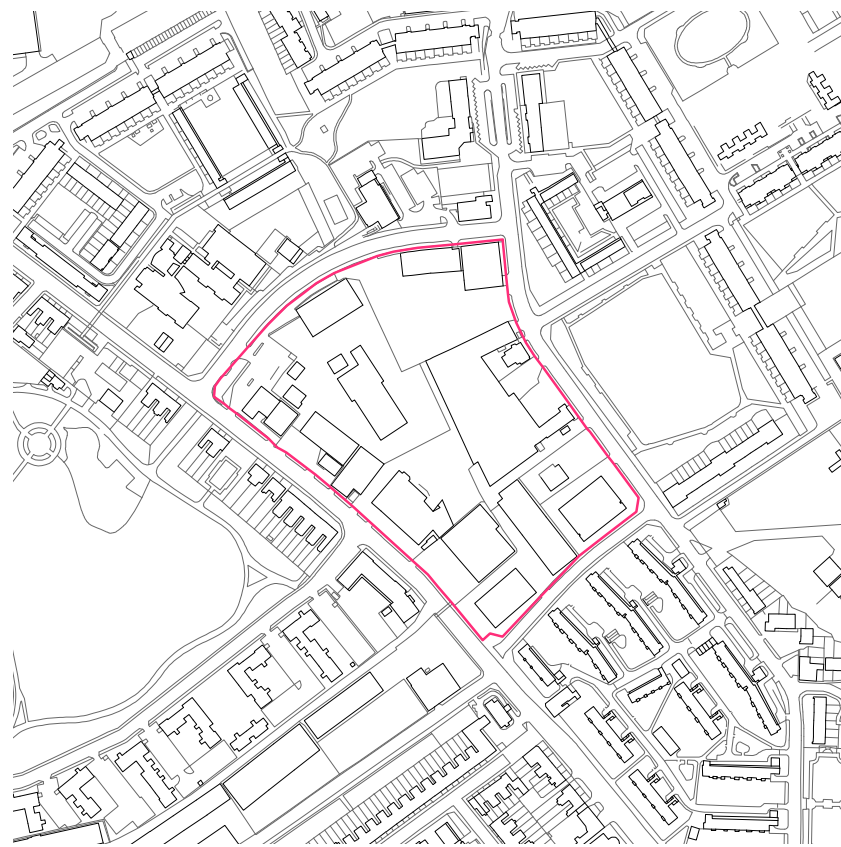


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2. Park Wharf



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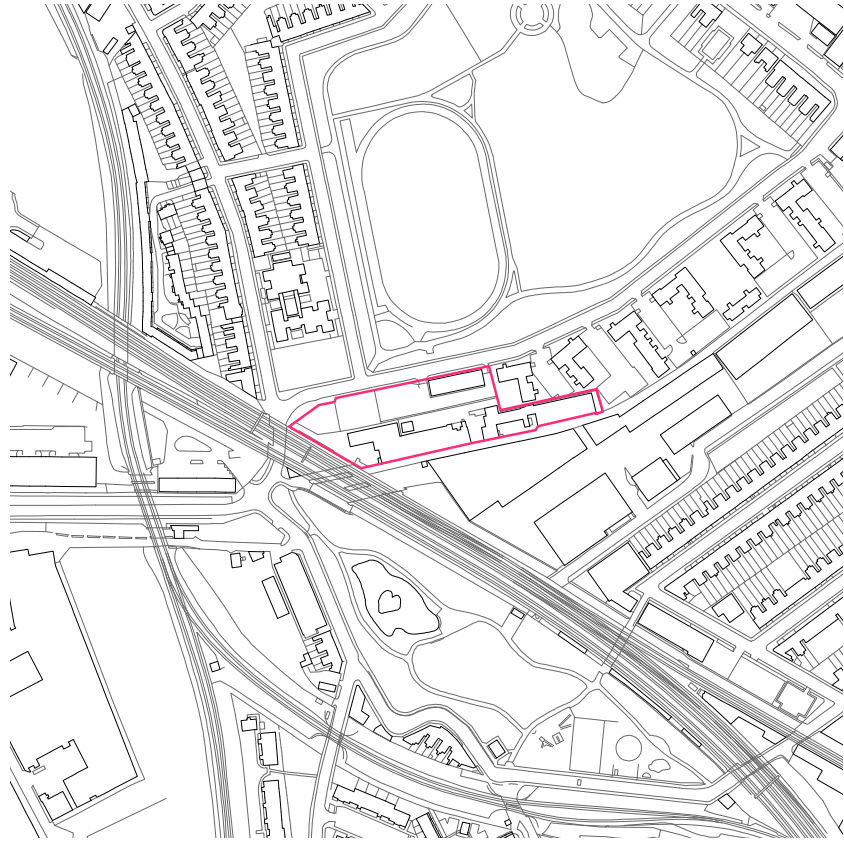
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Sites

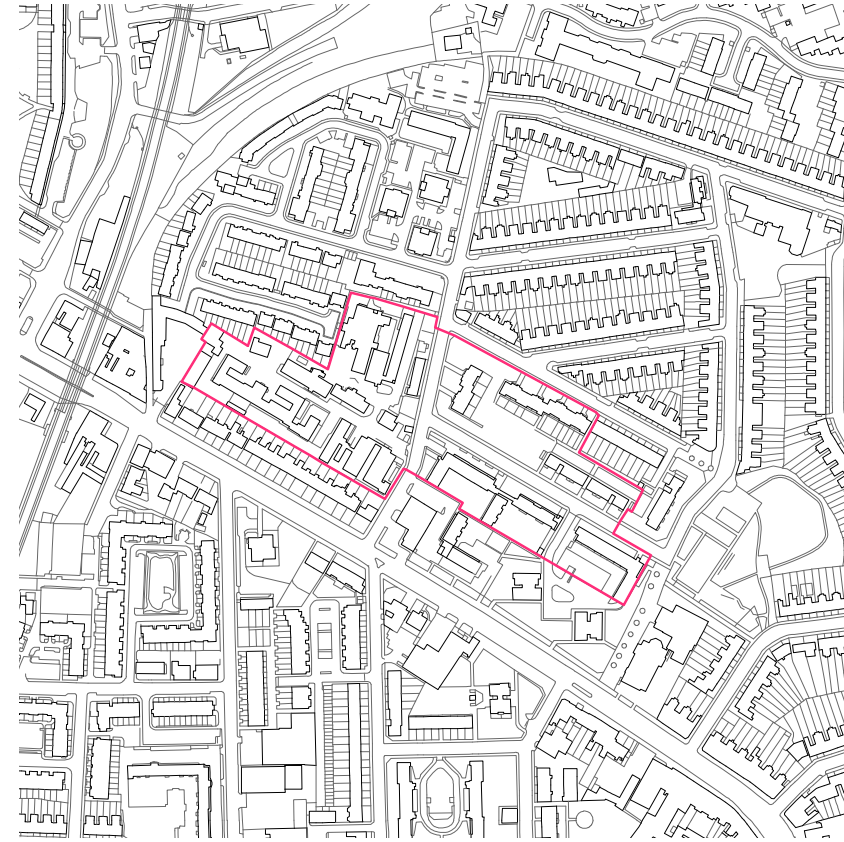
- 1. Convoys Wharf
- 2. Park Wharf
- 3. Neptune Works
- 4. Trundleys Road
- 5. Reaston Street
- 6. Batavia Road
- 7. Fordham Park
- 8. Deptford Green School
- 9. Childers Street
- 10. Deptford Station
- 11. Tidemill Primary School
- 12. Bronze Street
- 13. Sun Wharf
- 14. Thanet Wharf
- 15. Ravensbourne River Weir
- 16. The Old Seager Distillerie
- 17. Deptford Bridge Station
- 18. Connington Road

1, 2 Convoys Wharf
3, 4 Park Wharf

3. Neptune Works



5. Reaston Street

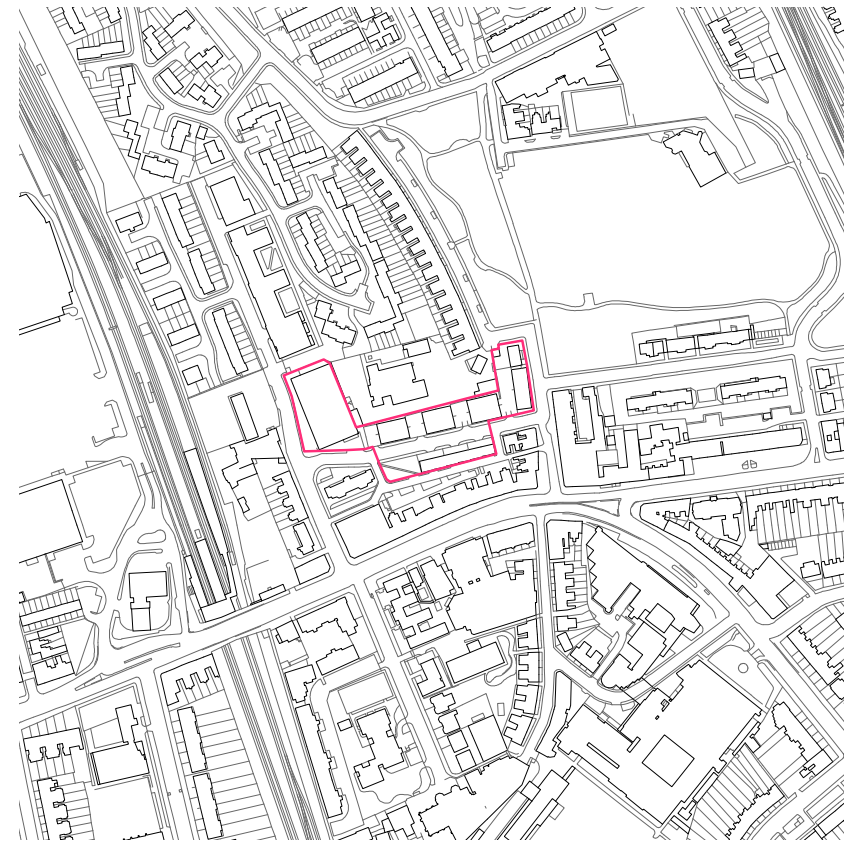


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4. Trundleys Road



6. Batavia Road



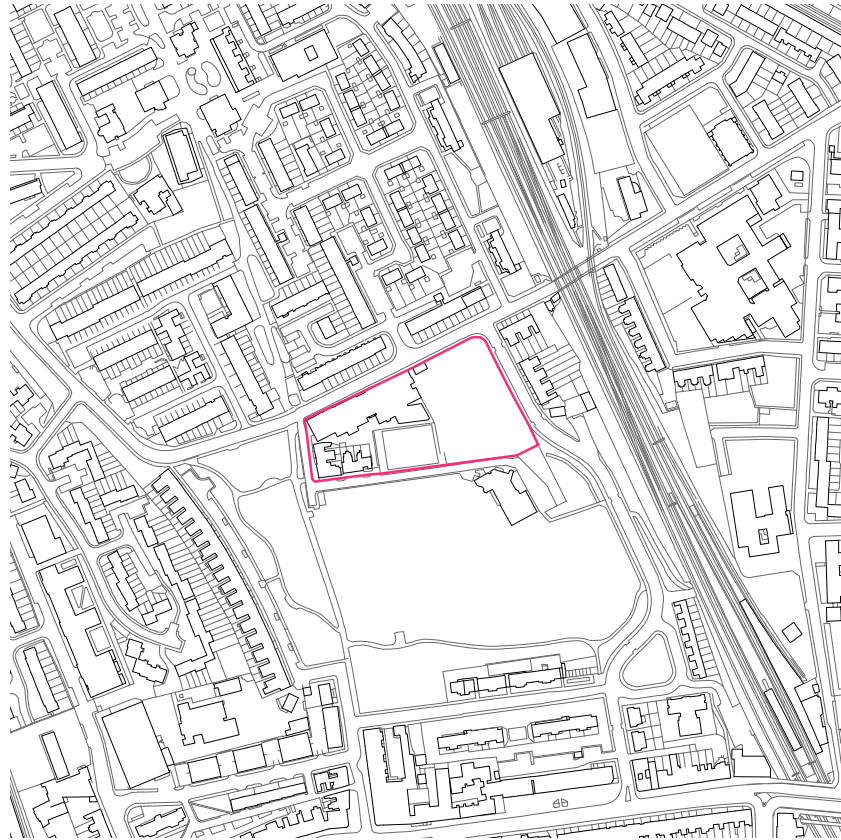
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1 Reaston Street
3, 4 Batavia Road

7. Fordham Park

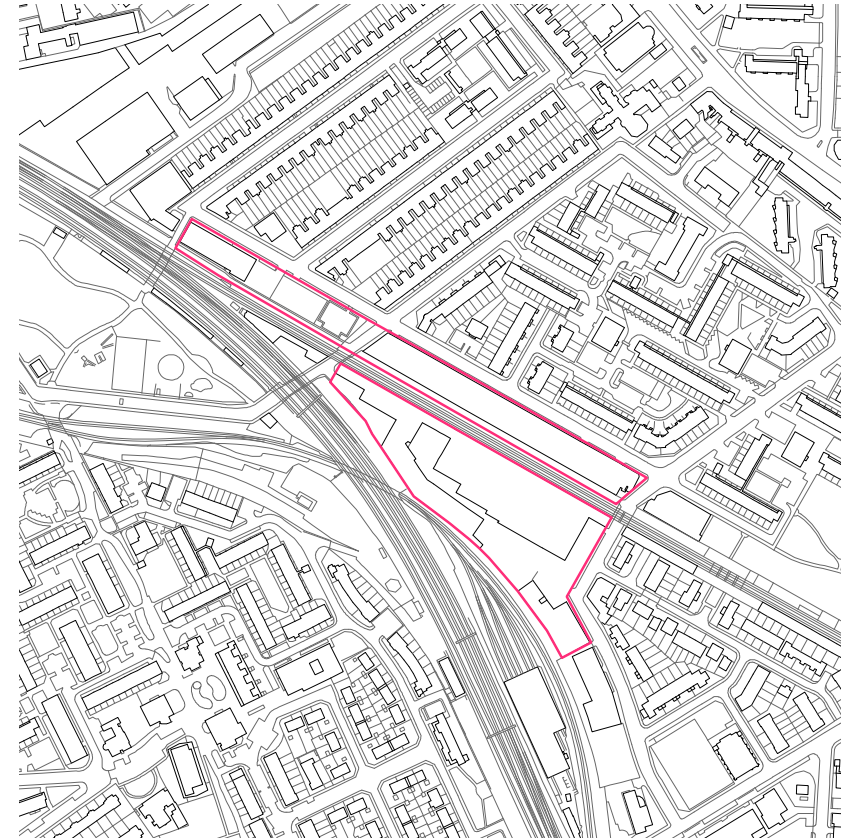


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9. Childers Street



1



2

8. Deptford Green School

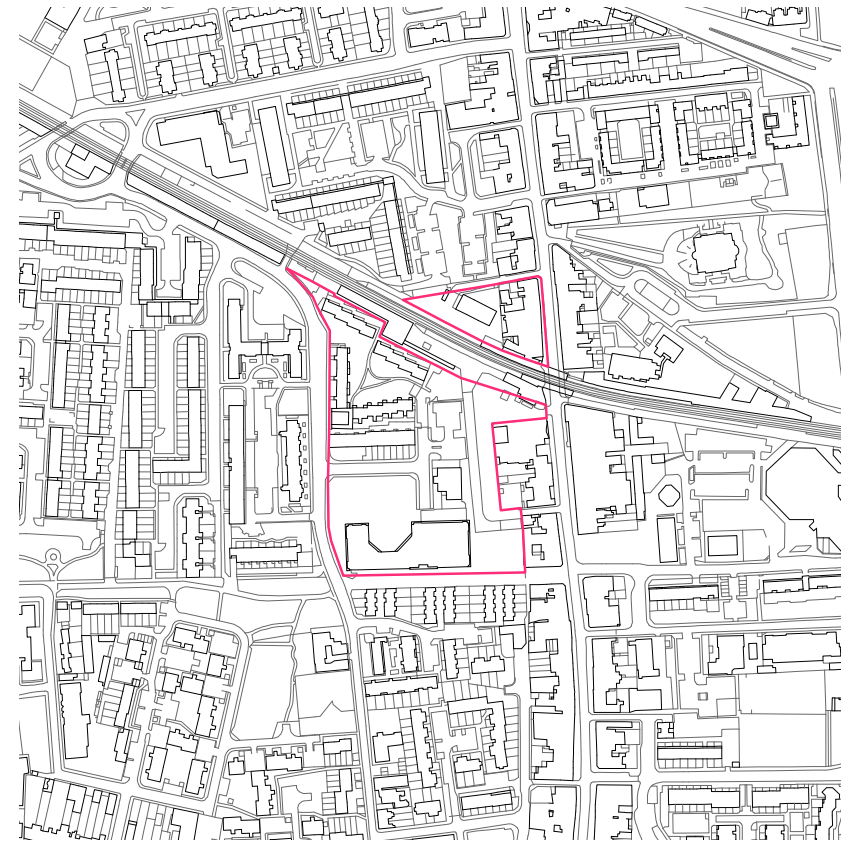


3



4

10. Deptfort Station



3

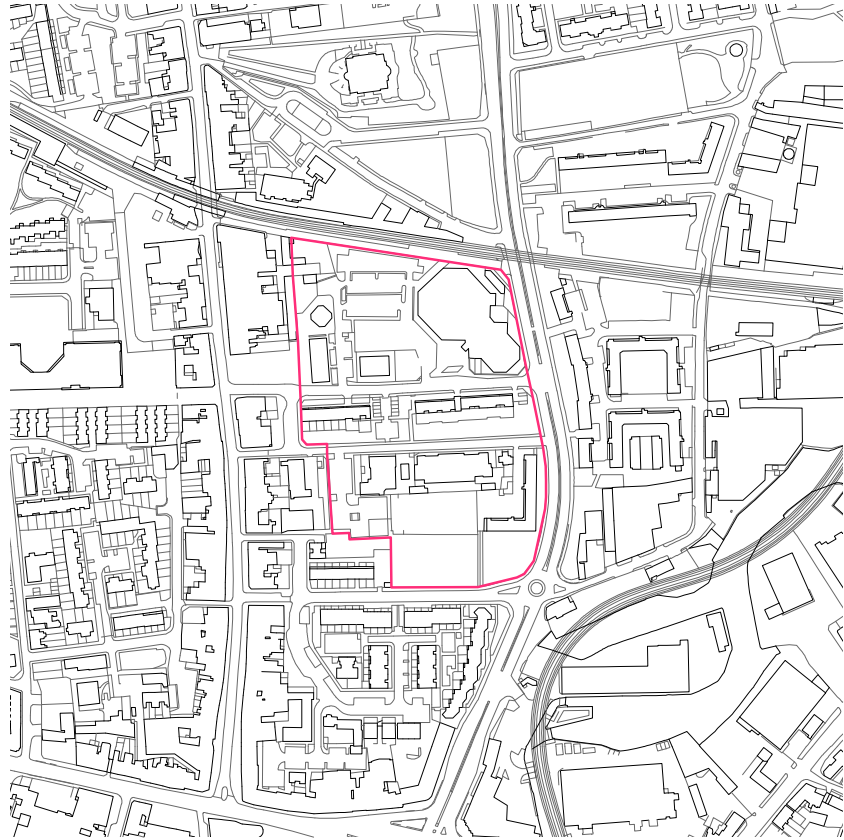


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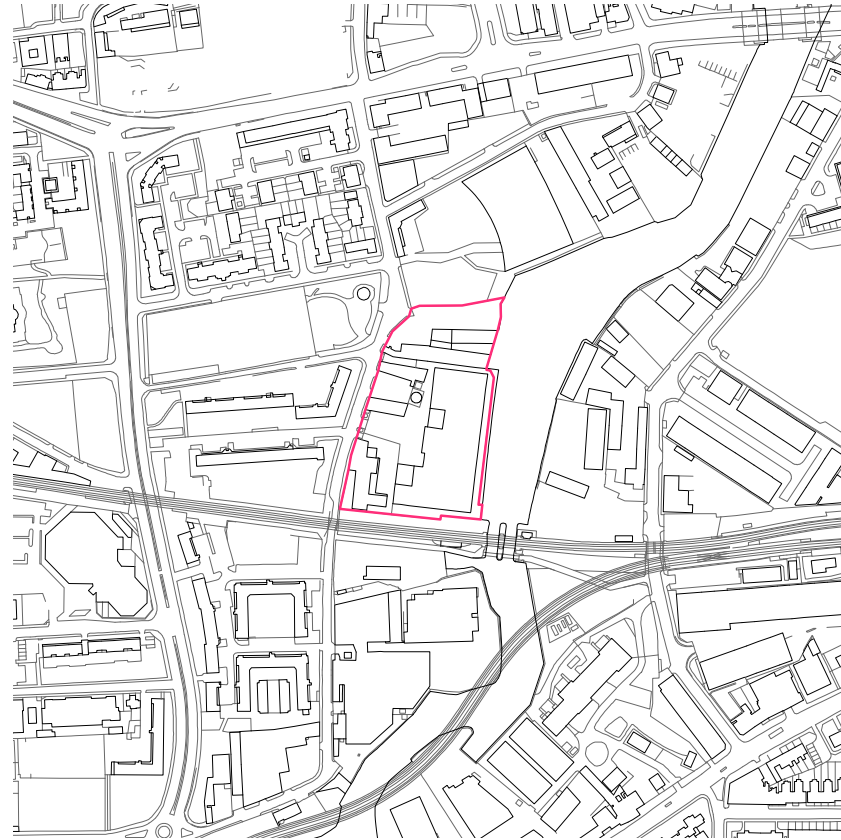
1, 2 Fordham Park
3, 4 Deptford Green School

1, 2 Childers Street
3, 4 Deptfort Station

11. Tidemill Primary School



13. Sun Wharf



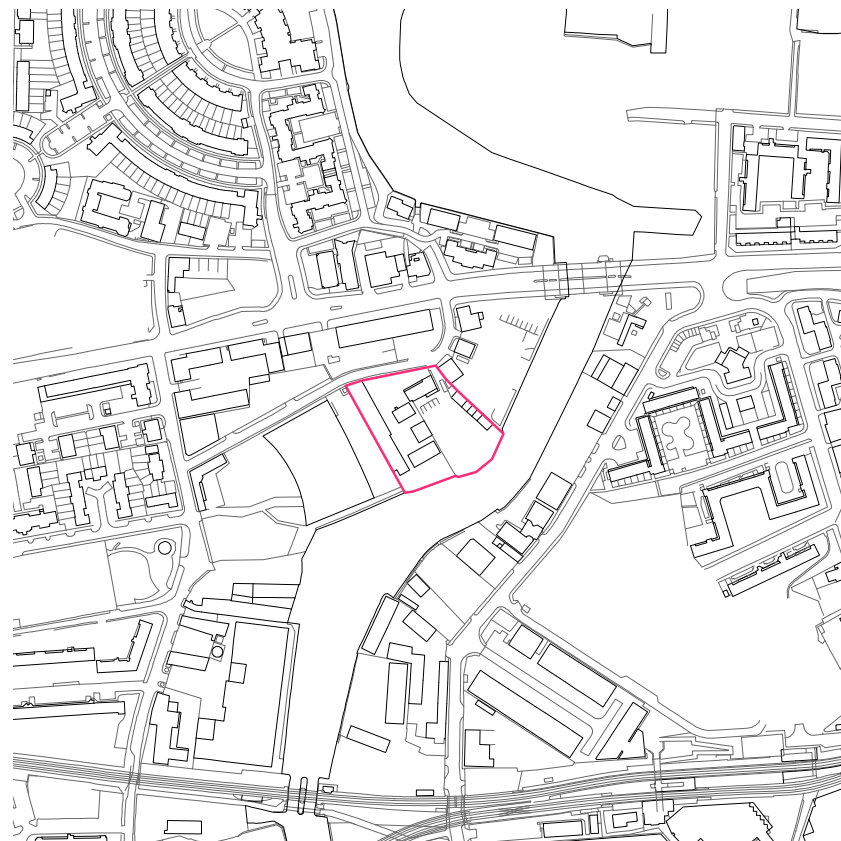
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12. Bronze Street



Bronze Street

14. Thanet Wharf



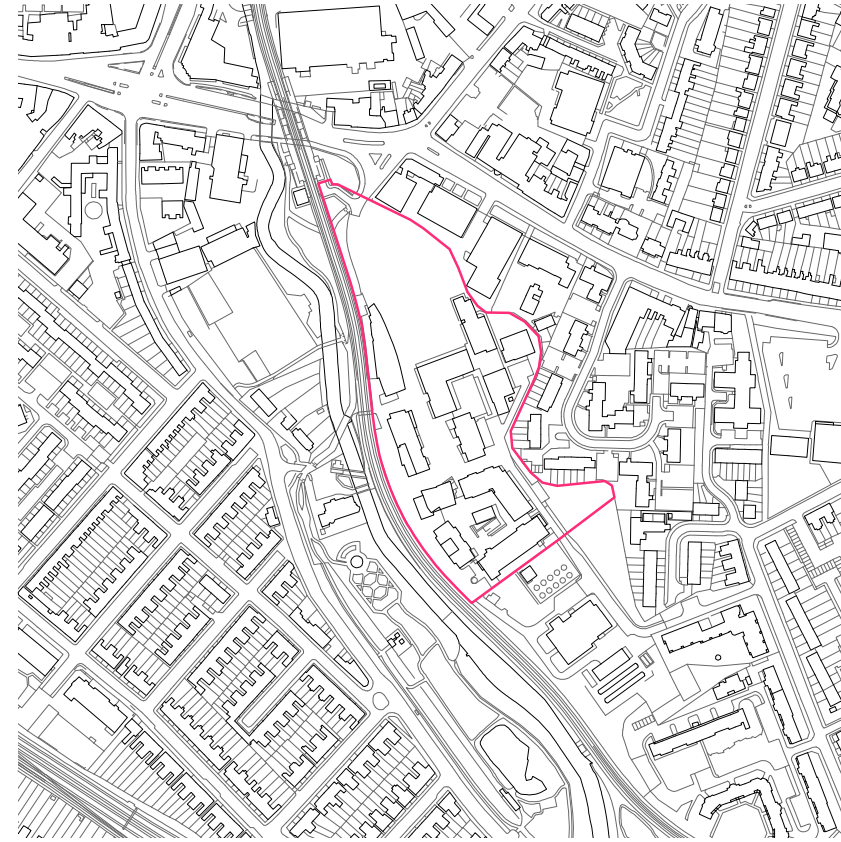
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1 Sun Wharf
2 Thanet Wharf

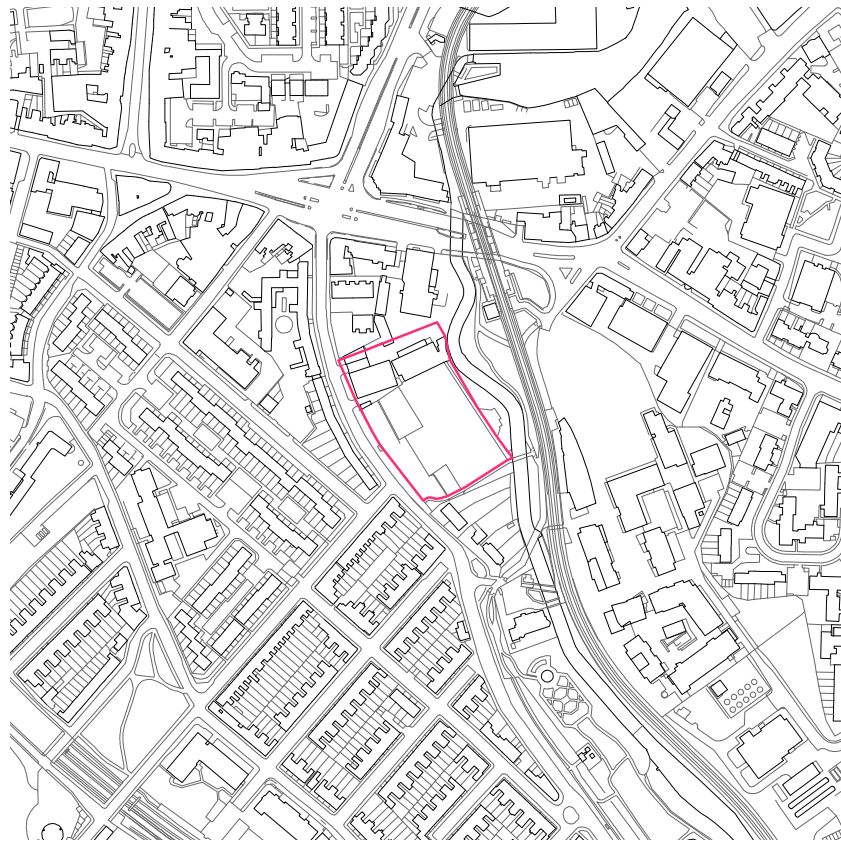
15. Ravensbourne River Weir



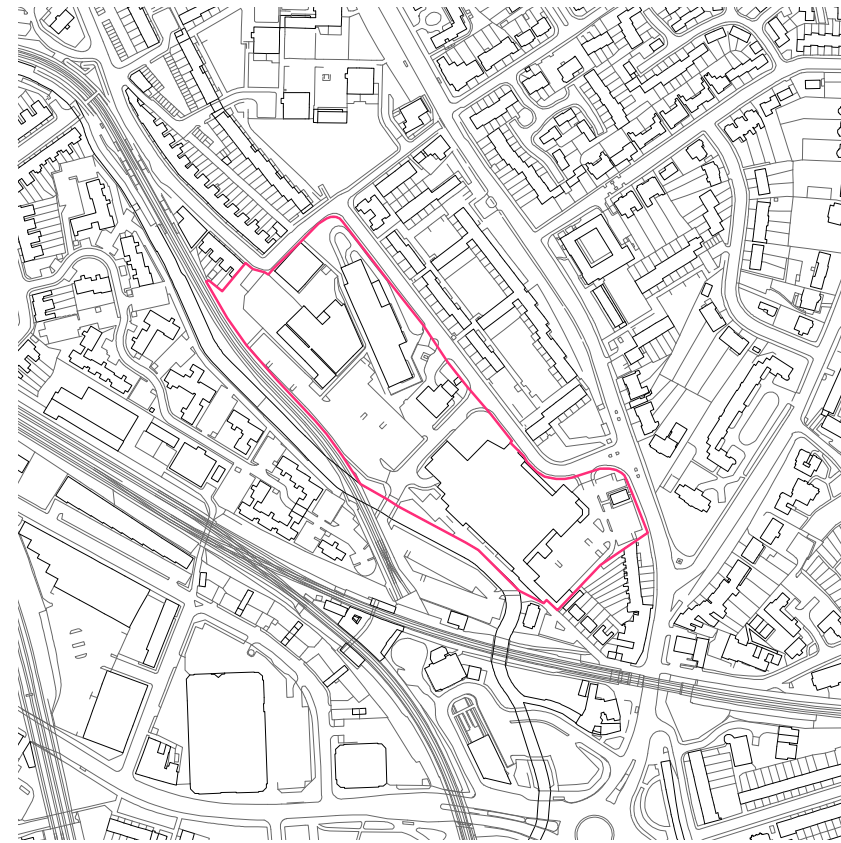
17. Deptford Bridge Station



16. The Old Seager Distillery



18. Connington Road



Programme Project work

18 September		Assignments
Introduction to semester	Jonathan Sergison (JS) presents studio and autumn semester. Introduction to studio assistants Joao Machado (JM) and Georg Nickisch (GN)	
19 September		
Start of studio project	Project briefing	Book tickets and accommodation for London field trip Sites allocation
25-26 September		
	Introductory paper on housing (JS)	Large scale model 1:500 Background research on housing precedents and London
2-5 October		
Field visit to London	Please see separate programme for detailed information	Survey of housing projects and site visits
9-10 October		
	Review of survey work	Presentation of material listed in brief
16-17 October		
Tutorials	Paper on housing (JS)	Urban study work Massing models 1:500
23-24 October		
Pin-up	Stephen Bates will attend pin-up Lecture: 'Rooms inside / outside' Briefing on next stage work	Presentation of 1:500 massing models
30-31 October		
Tutorials		Draft 1:100 models

6-7 November		Assignments
Pin-up	Paper (JM) Review of 1:100 models Briefing on next stage work	1:100 models photographed
13-14 November		
Tutorials		Draft perspectives
20-21 November		
Pin-up	Paper (GN)	2 no. perspectives
27-28 November		
Tutorials		
4-5 December		
Pin-up		Draft of projects information: 1:500 massing model (groups) 1:100 models (per student) 2no. perspectives (per student)
11-12 December		
Tutorials	Completed project work:	1:500 massing model (groups) 1:100 models (per student) 2no. perspectives (per student) Precedent study Site photograph
18-19 December		
Review	Invited critics: Bruno Krucker, Mark Pimlott, Mark Brearley, Stephen Bates (tbc)	
		Please note: Reference will play a role at each stage of the project and it will be expected that where relevant visual or written reference material will support the presentation of work

Literature and Film

Complexity and Contradiction
Venturi, MOMA 1966/1977

The Architecture of the City
Aldo Rossi, MIT Press 1982

The Eyes of the Skin – architecture and Senses
Juhani Pallasmaa, Academy Editions 1996

Changing the Art of Inhabitation
Alison and Peter Smithson, Artemis, London 1994

Climate Register
Peter Salter, Architectural Association, London 1994

As Found – The discovery of the ordinary.
Claude Lichtenstein and Thomas Schregener (eds), Lars Müller, 2001

Species of Spaces and other pieces
Georges Perec, Penguin 1974

Basic Writings
Martin Heidegger, Routledge

A Guide to the Architecture of London
Edward Jones & Christopher Woodward, Weidenfeld & Nicholson 1983

Papers
Jonathan Sergison and Stephen Bates, 2000

Papers 2
Jonathan Sergison and Stephen Bates, 2007

Words and Buildings
Adrian Forty, Thames and Hudson, London, 2000

Things worth seeing – a guide to the city of w
William Firebrace, Black Dog publishing Ltd 1999

Ornament and Crime
Adolf Loos, Ariadne

Some Cities
Victor Burgin, Reaktion Press Ltd

Liquid Cities
Mark Atkins and Ian Sinclair, Reaktion Press Ltd

London: the biography
Peter Ackroyd, Chatto and Windus 2000

Robinson in Space
Patrick Keiller, Reaktion Press Ltd 1999

Richard Wentworth / Eugene Atget
The Photographer's Gallery 2001

Georgian London
John Summerson, Yale University Press 2003

Gardens and the Picturesque
John Dixon Hunt 1992

Without and within
Mark Pimlott, episode publishers 2008

Register, commentaries
Von Ballmoos Krucker architekten, gta Verlag 2007

The other tradition of modern architecture: The uncompleted project
Colin St John Wilson, Black Dog Publishing 2007

London, the unique city
Sten Eiler Rasmussen, 1982

Sweet Disorder and the carefully careless
Robert Maxwell, Princeton Architectural Press 1997

The charged void
Alison and Peter Smithson, Monacelli Press, 2005

Housing and the City
LSE City Programme Studio 2007

Lights out for the territory
Iain Sinclair, Penguin 2003

The spirit of Span housing
James Strick, 2005

Eric Lyon and Span
Barbara Simms, RIBA Publishing 2006

Modernity and reinvention, the architecture of James Gowan
Ellis Woodman, Black Dog Publishing 2008

A guide to the architecture of London
Edward Jones and Christopher Woodward, Seven Dials, Cassel and Co, 2000

Esempi di pianificazione edilizia in Inghilterra
David L. Lewis and Hansmartin Bruckmann, Edizioni di comunita' Milano, 1962

The english terraced house
Stefan Muthesius, Yale University Press 1982

Small Georgian houses and their details 1750 / 1820
Stanley Ramsey and J. D. M. Harvey, The architectural press London, 1972

The small house in eighteenth – century London
Peter Guillery, English heritage, 2004

FILM

London
Patrick Keiller, 1994

Somers Town
Shane Meadows, 2008

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