



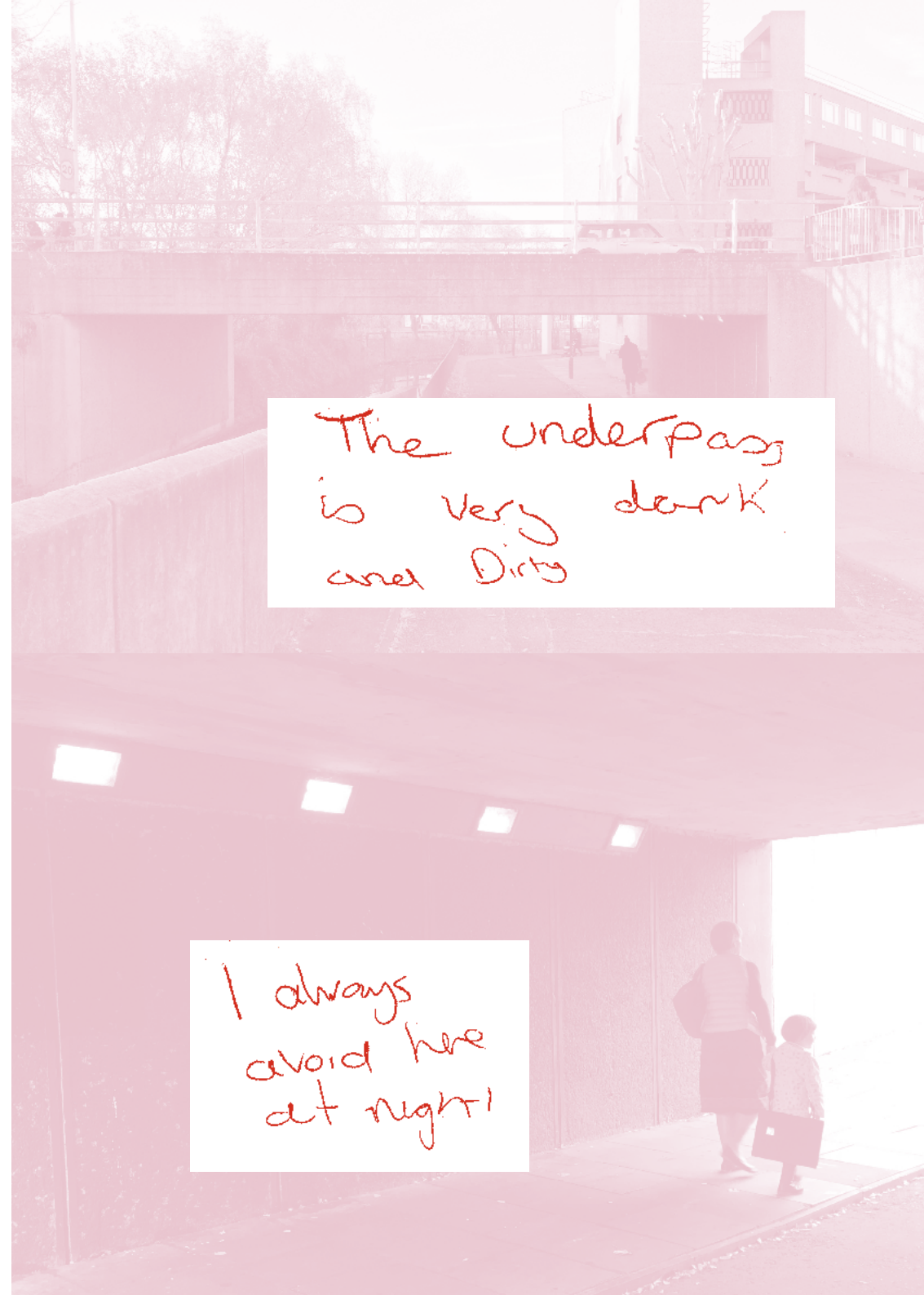
The Moorings Underpass, Thamesmead

The Grantchester Pottery
& Light Follows Behaviour

Mural designed in collaboration with young people
at Woolwich Polytechnic & Hawksmoor Youth Club

Commissioned and funded by Peabody

Curated by Sam Skinner



The underpass
is very dark
and Dirty

I always
avoid here
at night!

Introduction

This publication is intended to tell the story of a new tile and lighting installation in Thamesmead, designed by *The Grantchester Pottery* and *Light Follows Behaviour*, and commissioned and funded by Peabody.

Underpasses are peculiar places – sometimes scrawled with graffiti, the rumbling road above and the sky obscured overhead. They are the product of a world increasingly crisscrossed by roads, squeezing out space for pedestrians.

The underpass in the Moorings is special. Beneath the road a canal passes alongside the walkway. Swans, moorhens and mallards paddle up and down, side-by-side with people, prams and bikes. Light reflects off the water onto the concrete canopy above to produce a liquid light show and at dusk or dawn you may even hear the nightingale that nests nearby.

The artists all spent time in and around the underpass, talking to residents and investigating the site's unique character.

I don't
like coming
along here
+ go round
man board

a new Design
and lighting would
be great.

The Grantchester Pottery ran a series of workshops with students at Woolwich Polytechnic, developing ideas for the mural and sharing their experiences of the area. They made drawings of the reed beds at Tump 53 nature reserve and produced studies of Thamesmead's architecture and infrastructure – from its communal stairwells to the circular settling tanks at nearby Crossness sewage treatment works.

Light Follows Behaviour worked with young people at Hawksmoor Youth Club, conducting a night walk around Kings Cross to explore different approaches to public space lighting, and led a workshop to develop ideas. A lighting design was developed to replace the old lighting with a central fixture to project light onto the tile mural and architectural facades, creating a more welcoming and open space. The design also included coloured spotlights and firefly lights in the trees, connecting the underpass with the wider area and creating reflections in the water.

Concept designs were presented to residents at a consultation event in the underpass and at the Jubilee Centre. Following a positive response,

designs were finalised, tiles were printed and fired, lighting fixtures were made, and everything installed in spring 2020.

Collectively, we hope that the project has delivered a collaborative project between professional artists, designers, the local community, and Peabody, who have all worked together to share skills and experiences to produce a space that is a positive addition to the neighborhood. And we hope the ducks like it too!

Sam Skinner



DIRTY, SMELLY, RUBBISH
 TOO MANY TREES. + BATS, SNAKES.

WE NEED CLEANING, CUTTING TREES
 LAKE NEED CLEANING.

(CHECK FACTS)

NOT GLARY.

REFLECTIVE MATERIAL (London reflectors Grayson Spence)

PASSING SPACE

No drunk people to stay - other people can stay.
 No Di Seo effect.

UNDERPASS with DOTS - live in odours.

FIREFLIES ON TREES.

BLUE LIGHTS.





Lighting Installation

Light Follows Behaviour

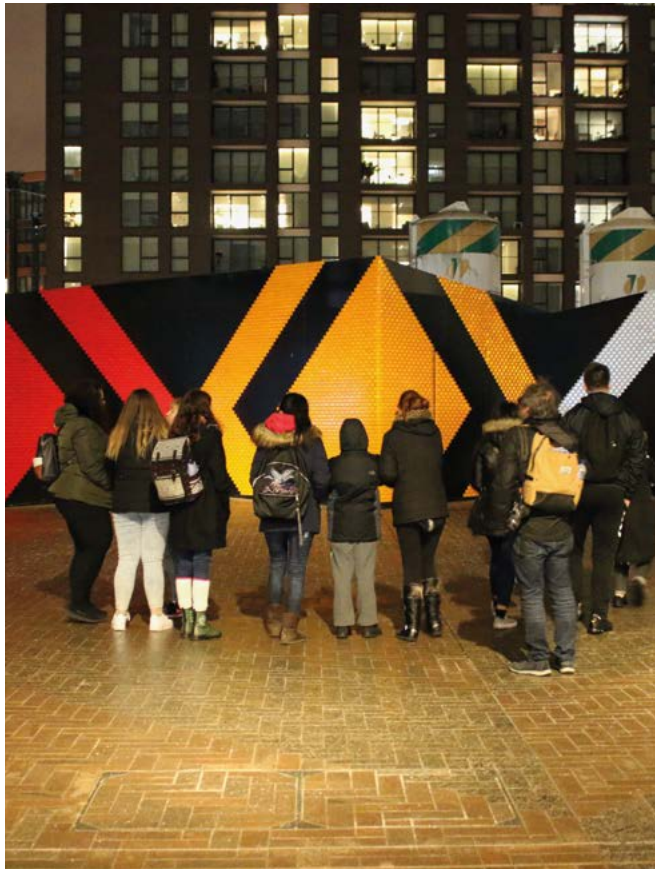
King's Cross night walk with Hawksmoor Youth Club



Elettra Bordonaro and her team, from **Light Follows Behaviour**, a lighting design practice specialising in co-designed projects produced in collaboration with local communities, began their research by conducting face-to-face interviews with residents and underpass users to understand their views on, and experience of, the site and surrounding area.

They studied the underpass during the day and night time, observing how the environment and people's use of it changed.

Following this first phase Elettra undertook a programme of co-design with young people from Hawksmoor Youth Club, which began with a night walk around King's Cross to explore how lighting could be used in creative and imaginative ways.



They looked at how different types of lights interacted with diverse surfaces and spaces.

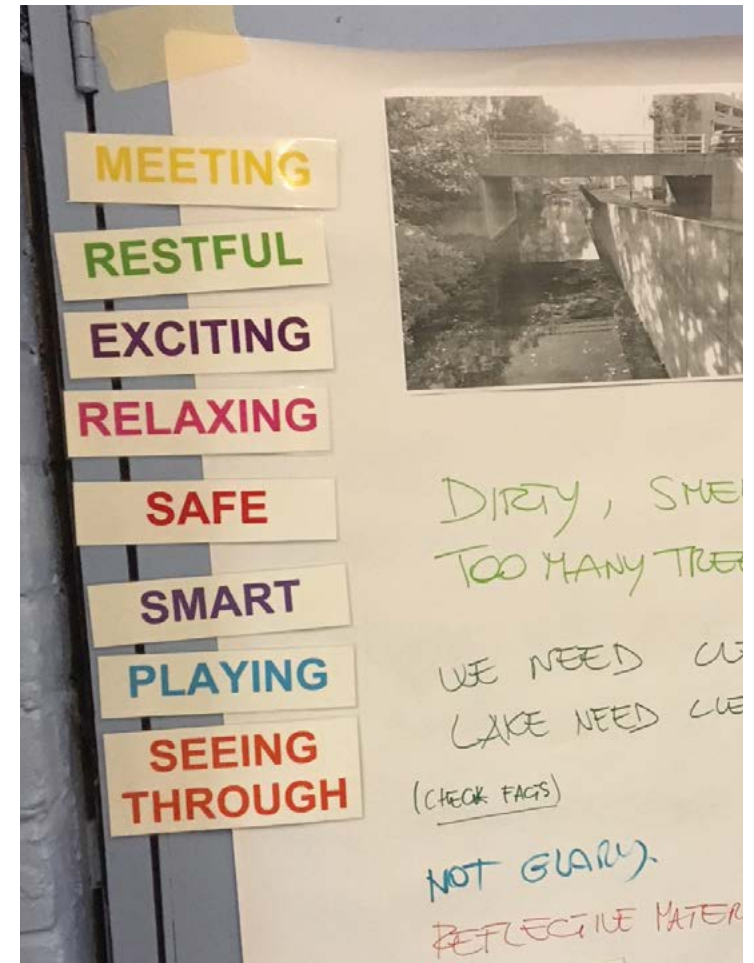


Following this site visit Elettra led a one-day workshop at Hawksmoor where participants were introduced to her initial social research findings and asked to describe the area using their knowledge of it and everyday use of the space.

The workshop then focused on exploring different atmospheres of light through a series of activities introducing contrasting lighting effects.

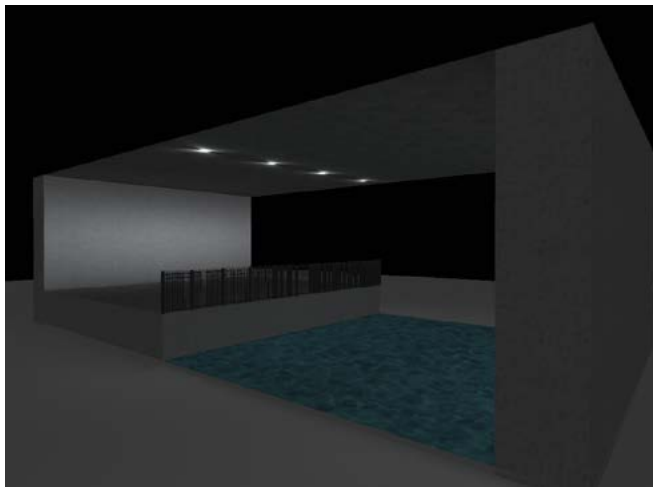


Using printed cards describing diverse lighting atmospheres (playful, romantic, elegant...) and activities (walk, play, eat...), mixed with their own ideas, young people at Hawksmoor produced an array of posters that reimagined the underpass.



One key idea developed during the workshops was to light the trees and water with colour to add a sense of wonder and connect the underpass to surrounding nature.

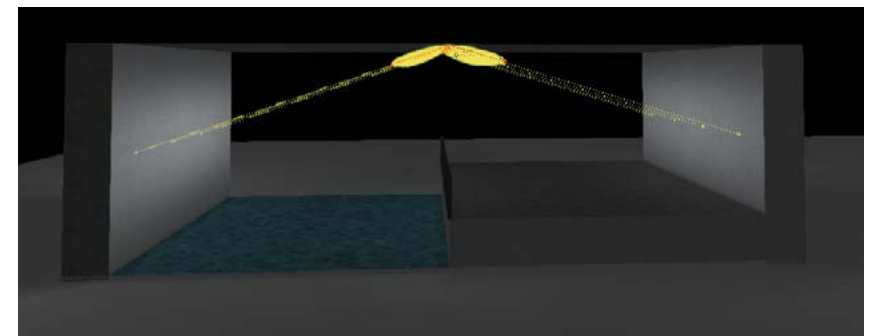
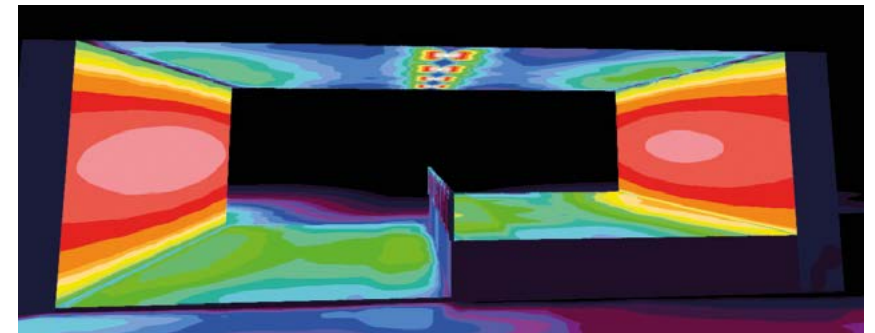
Elettra described the workshop as being “fascinating, very creative and way beyond our expectations!”. Following the workshop, developed designs integrating ideas from young people at Hawksmoor were produced, and these were displayed in the underpass during a community consultation event.



Underpass lighting calculations

The final installation removes the old lighting and comprises a central light fixture that works with the underpass architecture and lights the tile murals.

Spotlights light the trees and their blue light is reflected in the water to add to the atmosphere of the space.





Lighting installation visualisation



The Grantchester Pottery and Woolwich Polytechnic workshop



Tile Mural

The Grantchester Pottery

The Grantchester Pottery (TGP) conducted workshops with year 7 and 8 students at Woolwich Polytechnic, enabling TGP to enter into conversation with local young people about their respective experiences of the area and share their skills. Students undertook photographic research and produced collages using a technique inspired by the work of the artist Duncan Grant. Student ideas included:

Something that is vibrant and stands out

The river could continue into the mural

Something that defines Thamesmead like the Hollywood sign

River as a pattern

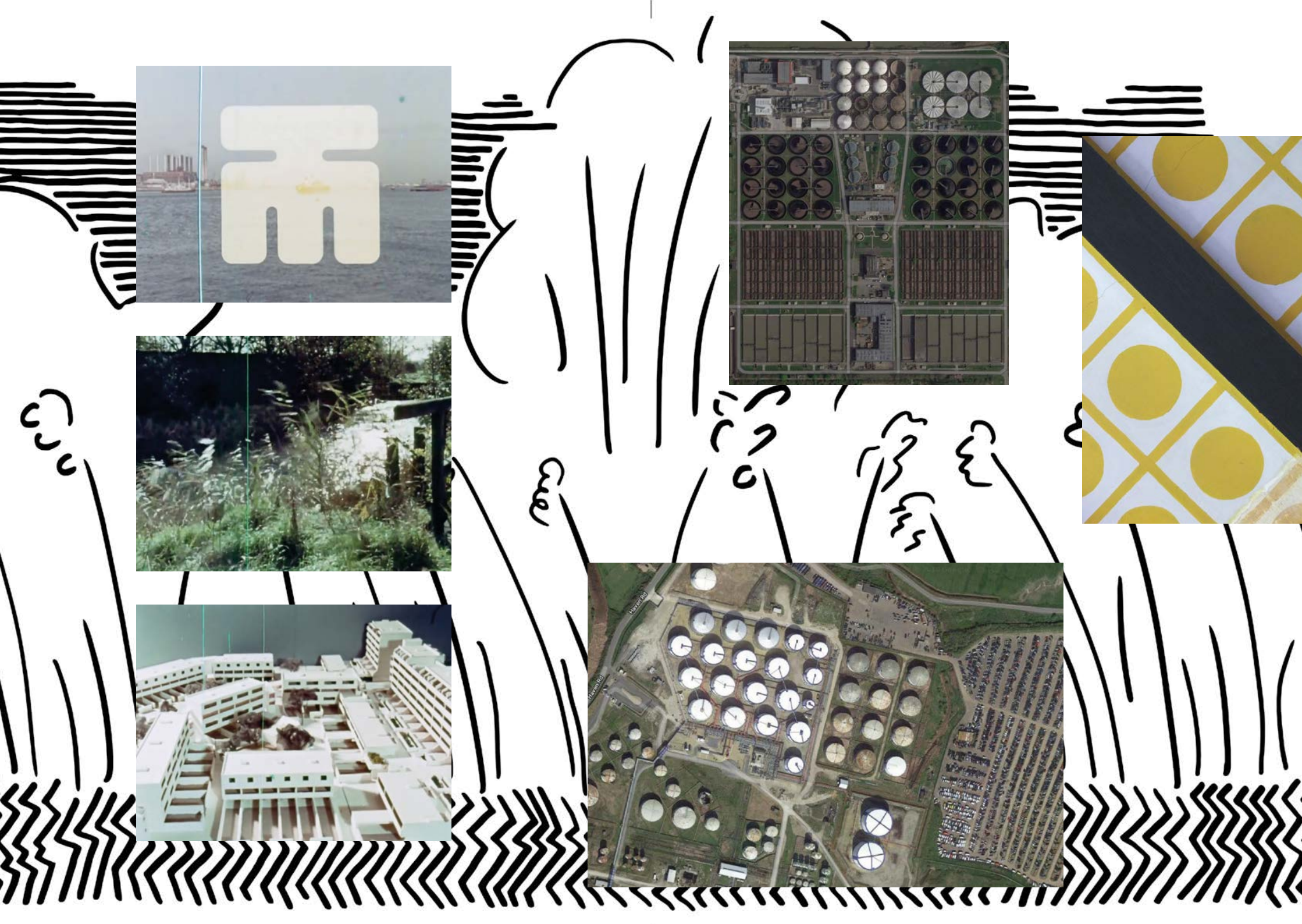
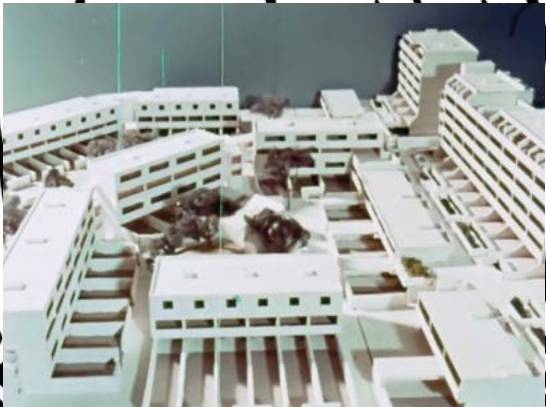
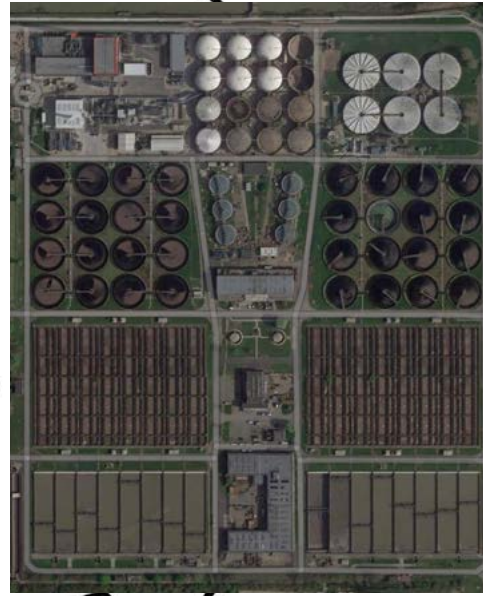
It could include nature, like wild birds found in the area

Possibly an image of the city in the distance

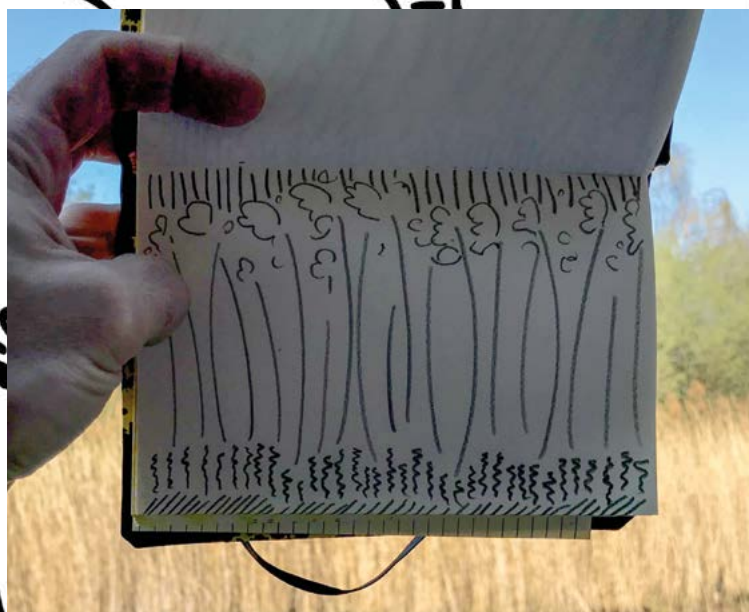
It could be an optical illusion

There should be a snow machine











Installation Documentation

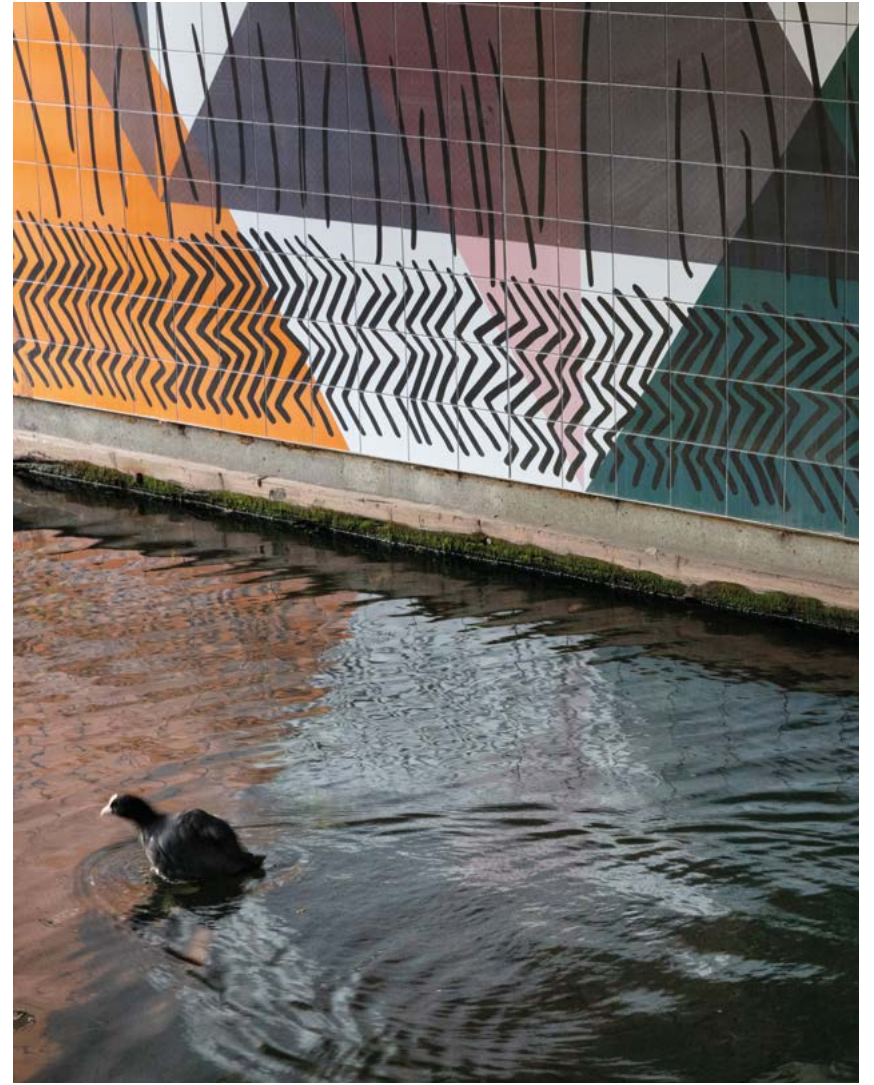
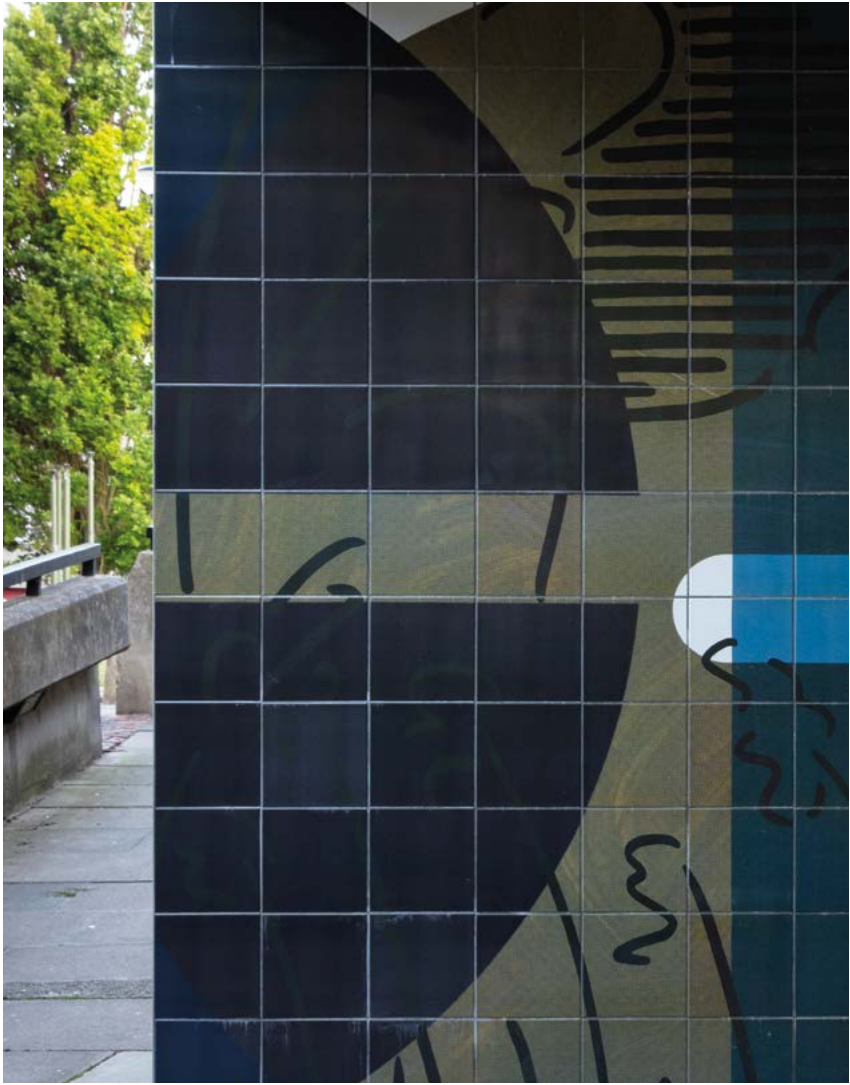
Angus Mill



Tile mural by
The Grantchester Pottery
and lighting installation by
Light Follows Behaviour,
designed in collaboration
with young people at
Woolwich Polytechnic
and Hawksmoor
Youth Club
2018-19.

Commissioned by Peabody

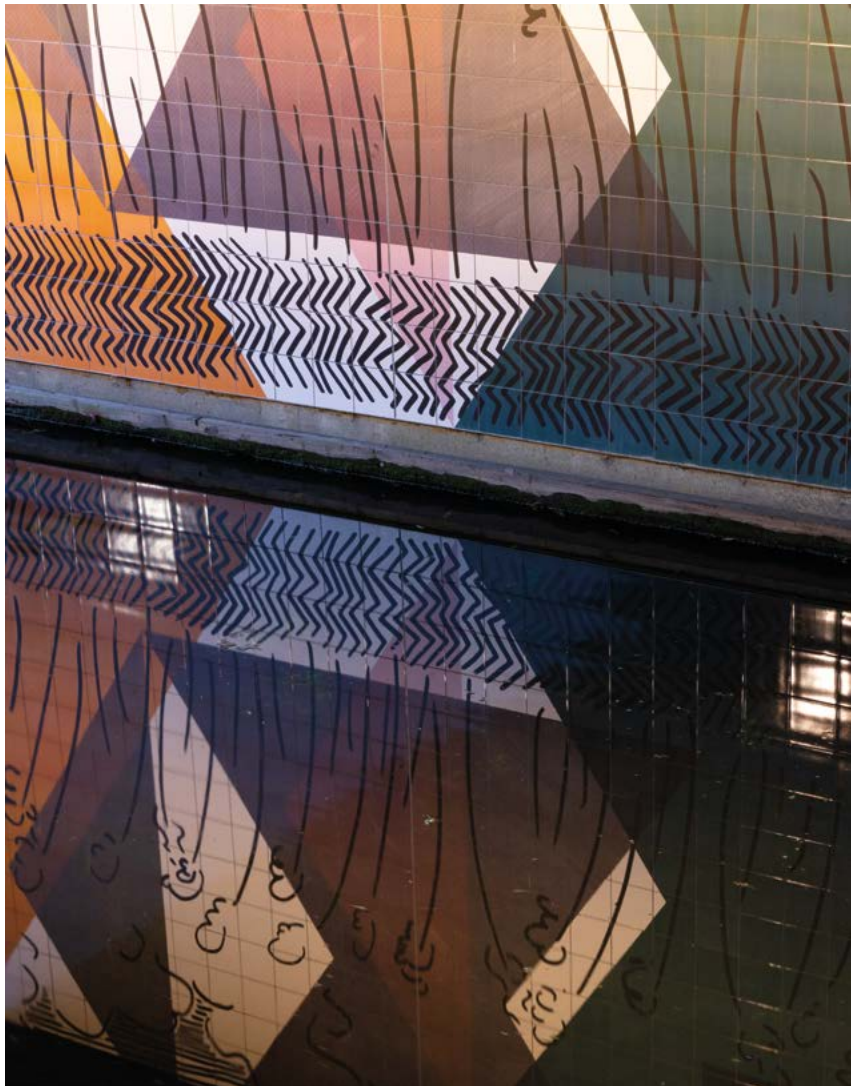
















The Moorings Underpass, Thamesmead

Tile mural

The Grantchester Pottery
www.thegrantchesterpottery.com

Lighting

Light Follows Behaviour
www.lightfollowsbehaviour.com

Installation photography

Angus Mill

Tile printing and glazing

Surface Design Studio, Stoke-on-Trent

Lighting fixtures

LEC, Lyon

Installation contractor

Baylis Landscapes

Peabody project lead

Kate Batchelor

Project curation

Sam Skinner
www.samskinner.net

Thanks to Lisa Coombs-Roberts and students at Woolwich Polytechnic, Claire Hallinan and young people at Hawksmoor Youth Club, Mark Wood at Surface Design Studio, Tump 53, and Gogi's Supermarket.

Book design

Mark Simmonds, Lincoln

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Project funded and commissioned by Peabody

THAMESMEAD 

 Peabody

