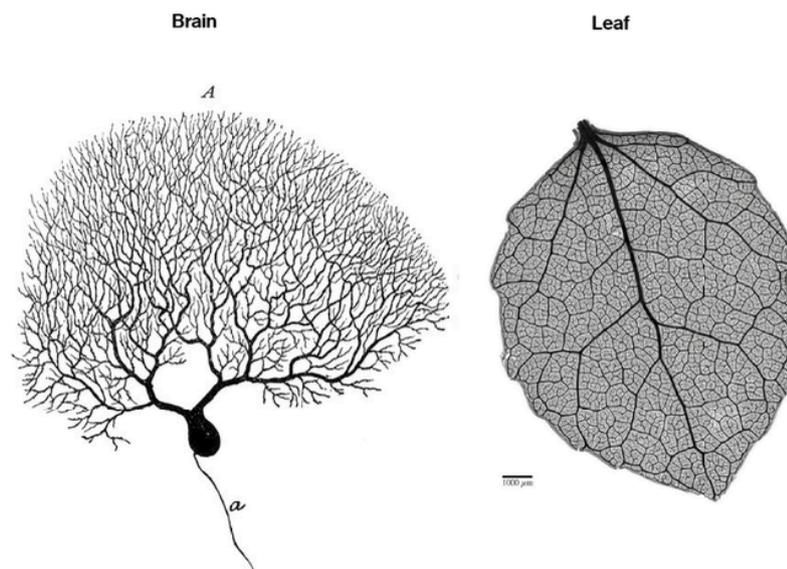


Royal College of Art  
School of Architecture

MA INTERIOR DESIGN

# Platform Four - Interior Futures

Tutor: Jenny Jones



## MINIFESTO

This platform is concerned with how the design of our environments can create the conditions for wellbeing.

Looking ahead to a time when wellbeing (as a directive for human centered thinking) is policy – how different would our design choices be? Would the choice of materials, the spaces between, and the programming within, be considered consciously with the intention to encourage us to flourish? Could interiors passively heal us?

Looking ahead to a time, when re-purposing, intervention with existing and circular economic strategy is usual practice and *tabula rasa* is a historic reference to times of waste and ego.

Looking ahead to a time when the flow between the visceral and the virtual has found its calibration and offers a workflow pallet to allow choices “on purpose” and not for processor’s gratification.

Looking ahead to a time when Cognitive Consultants will be part of the design team and pre-evidence is open source allowing human centered design to be informed by both intuition and knowledge.

No.4 Platformers are curious about intersections and how by expanding their knowledge into unfamiliar subjects they can inform and inspire their skills as designers to manifest purpose-performing interiors and to stimulate a discussion about what the future of the design of the interior could be.

## TITLE: PERMA SPACE

PERMA is an acronym that stands for the five elements that can encourage us to flourish:

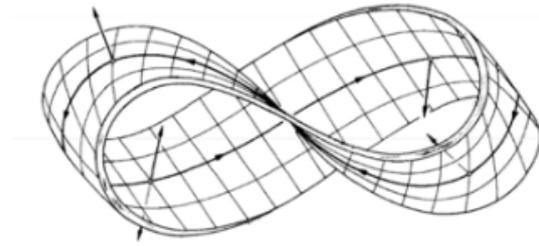
**Positive Emotion, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Achievement**

Developed by Martin Seligman, who founded the School of Positive Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and practiced as a therapy, this platform will interpret the principals as a spatial practice. The PERMA Space is an interior environment tuned to offer the conditions for wellbeing.

## CONTEXT: CLERKENWELL



Historical Map of Clerkenwell



Möbius Strip



Maquette, Studio Jenny Jones

## PROJECT

The location is Clerkenwell.

Your site lies within.

The dual discovery phase will reveal your found space and your proposed programme.

This project is purpose driven and curiosity inspired and as you research the history of Clerkenwell, walk its alleyways, and as you discover which senses and aspects of PERMA you want to activate and how – your thesis project will emerge at the resonant intersection.

Context: Clerkenwell. The feedback loop between what is there now and what was there before and why and how it evolved will become inspirational to your proposition and choice of space. For example, an example of 12<sup>th</sup> Century wellbeing: the present day St John's Ambulance was created in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by the Knight's Templar, Order of St John from the Temple of St John in Clerkenwell. The current headquarters of St John's Ambulance is based on the South side of St John' Square and they have re-created the medicinal memorial garden on the North Side of the Square where you can find the original 13 herbs taken to Jerusalem during the Crusades.

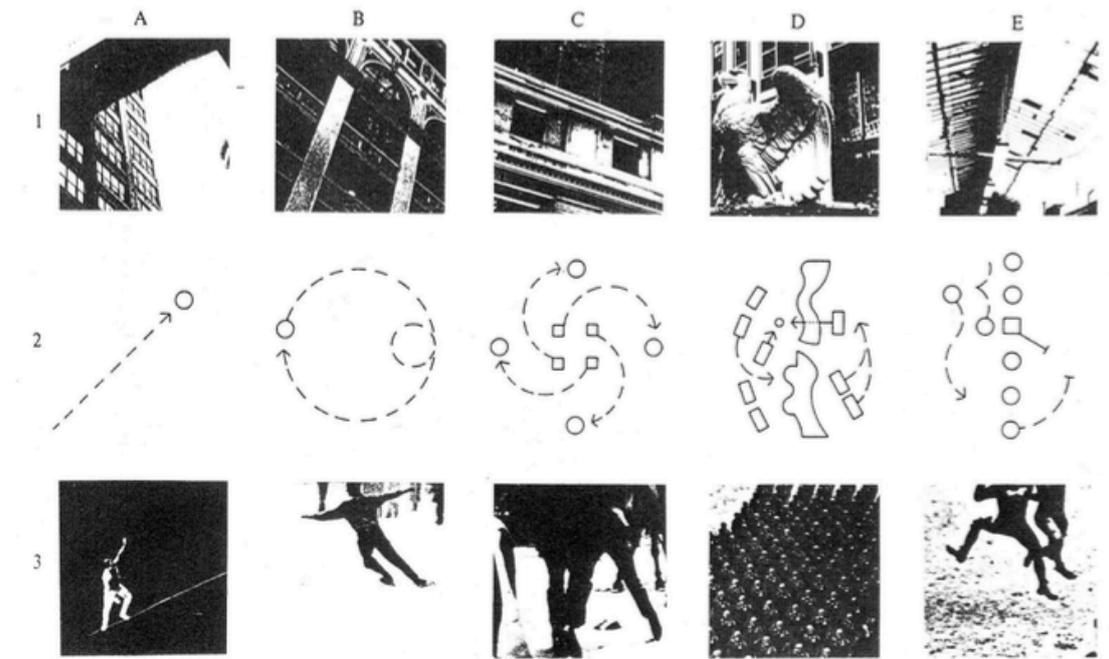
Programme: What programming would create a PERMA space? You choose. Your work is to design PERMA space or spaces in Clerkenwell.

The platform is asking you to be equally radical, sensitive and rigorous – asking you to challenge the scale, materiality, dimension, performance and sensory

algorithm of your intervention. Show exquisite sensitivity and skill in creating a purpose-tuned environment.

Robert Irwin said “Less is more only when less is the sum total of more”.

Through testing, and discarding and failing and winning, we find a response and a path that resonates with the purpose.



Manfredo Tafuri: The Manhattan Transcripts

The project aims and objectives are to:

- 1) Develop how to design through the human centered design optic.
- 2) Develop critical thinking and critical making skills.
- 3) Develop independent and group working.
- 4) Develop research and recording skills.
- 5) Develop understanding of the relationship between space and matter and how they affect how we may feel and behave within and without.
- 6) Develop methodologies to communicate your ideas at different stages in the thesis.

## ACTIVITIES

**Autumn** term work will explore the following three areas:

**Site** – you will analyse the area, through walking and detailed research, choose your space(s) and interrogate the site through the optic chosen through your research. You will know the dimension of this space and it's context in your mind's eye and through rigorous detailed analysis.

**Research** - Through development of your own curiosities stemming from the reading lists and watch lists – create a strategy document that sets out your concept and ambition.

**Artefact** - Through the process of critical making, communicate your concept, context and content in a “piece”.

**Spring** and **Summer** term work will be concerned with **project development, realisation** and **communication**.

## WATCH & READING LISTS

Books

**The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses.** Juhani Pallasmaa 2012

**Healing Spaces** Esther M. Sternberg

**Your Brain on Nature** Eva M Selhub

**Mind in Architecture: Neuroscience, Embodiment, and the Future of Design.**

Sarah Robinson MIT Press

**The Last London: True Fictions from an Unreal City** Iain Sinclair

**Small Is Beautiful, A Study of Economics as if People Mattered** E.F.

Schumacher

**Atmospheres: Architectural Environments - Surrounding Objects** Peter

Zumthor

**The Manhattan Transcripts Hardcover** Bernard Tschumi 1994

Web

**Netflix: Abstract: The Art of Design:** Neri Oxted, Olafur Eliasson

**Robert Irwin at AFTERTASTE 2011: Immaterial Environments | Parsons The New School for Design**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L8m1vbtG5M>

**The Centre for Conscious Design:**

<https://www.theccd.org/videos>

**Clerkenwell History Introduction**

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/old-new-london/vol2/pp309-328>

**Order of St John**

<http://museumstjohn.org.uk/our-story/history-of-the-order/>

**What will be the artefacts of the future?**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=wIQ8FURfdGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=wIQ8FURfdGU)

**PLATFORM PAIRING**

This Platform is paired with Nonterior.