



Photograph by Fergus Purdie of a bas-relief study of Geddes valley section at the Scots College Montpellier, France

Perth City Study

Fergus Purdie Architect, RSA

‘Town-planning is not mere place-planning, nor even work-planning. If it is to be successful it must be folk-planning.’

Patrick Geddes

In 2008 the practice was commissioned by Perth and Kinross Council to participate in a cultural planning study of Perth city centre. Fundamental to our thinking were the ideas and values of Patrick Geddes within the context of current urban design practice. Our chosen methodology required a more generalist approach through observing, recording and reflective practice. To support this line of enquiry we situated a temporary studio space in a local land mark building - the Fair Maid’s House and operated an open door policy allowing public interest and curiosity to prevail. Thereby an open dialogue with our practice and city study was established. This spirit of co-operation culminated in the decision to present our findings in an exhibition at the Fair Maid’s House using screen prints supported by models and slide show. The outcome, a more engaging, informative and educational approach that would have no doubt received Geddes’s approval.

The Perth City Study panels exhibited here are facsimiles of original AO screen prints, held in the Royal Scottish Academy of Art & Architecture (Diploma Collection) © Royal Scottish Academy of Art & Architecture.

Before establishing an independent practice Fergus Purdie completed a broad range of educational and professional experiences that has informed his practice and teaching including graduate studies at the University of Dundee, postgraduate research and internship at the architecture studio of Herman Hertzberger, Amsterdam. Practice work focuses on houses, arts projects, housing and community focused initiatives to urban studies. It has been acknowledged in publications, exhibitions and awards. Teaching interests include studio tutor and invited lecturer. www.fwp-architect.com