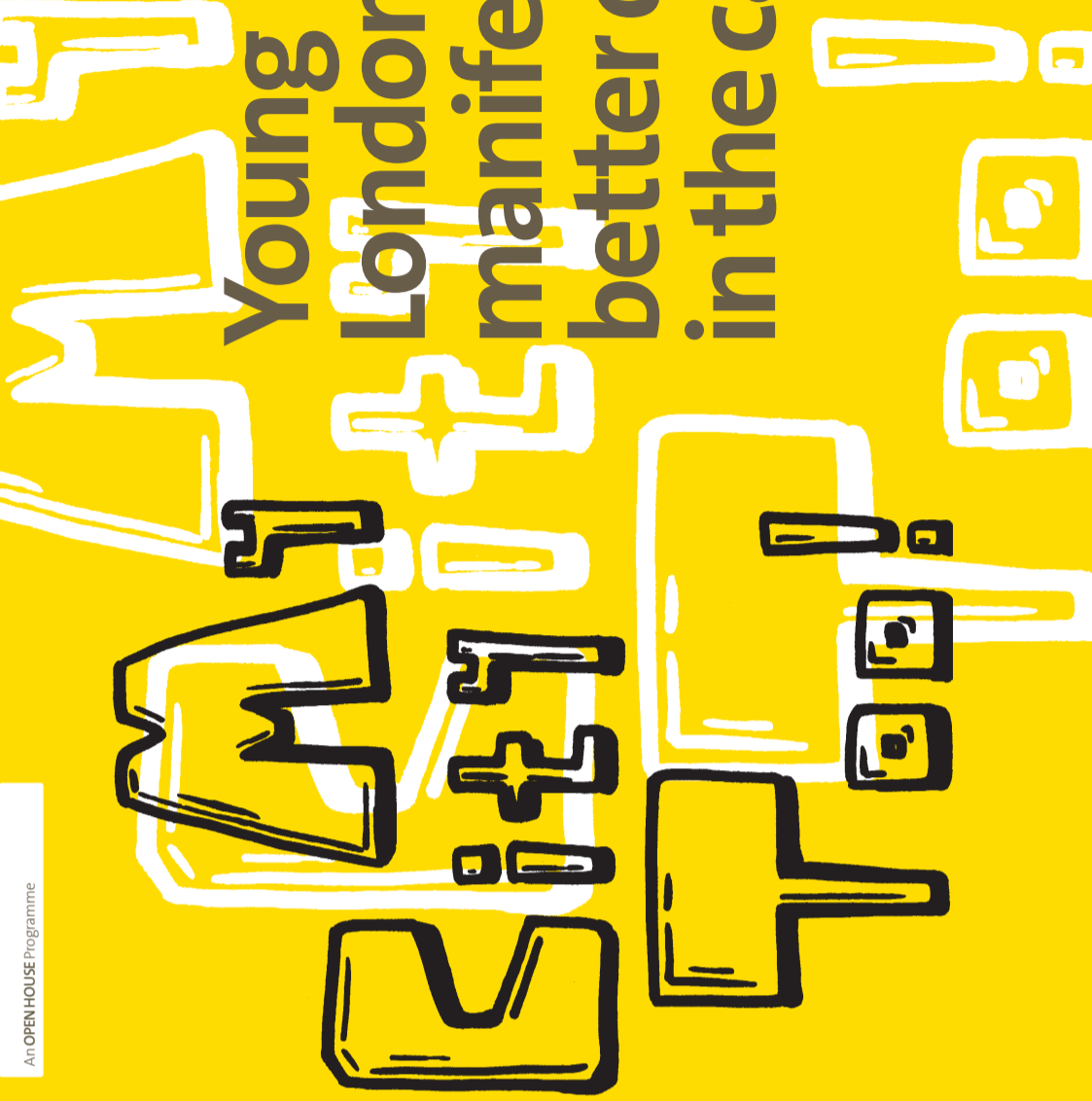


Young Londoners' manifesto for better design in the capital



What is My City Too?

“A lot of adults don't trust young people. They are suspicious of us and they feel threatened by groups of us hanging out together. I want to be free of those prejudices, and this project is one way to start changing people's opinion.”
Glen (15yrs)

Young people are our future. Yet research shows that many young people feel that they have little or no influence in decisions about their city. Young people must be fully involved in place- and policy-making if they are going to value, respect and take ownership of the spaces and places around them.

My City Too is a groundbreaking campaign for London that responds to this challenge. Led by the architecture education organisation Open House, it provides a high-profile platform for young people aged 12-19 to express their aspirations for the future of London's built environment. This is the first campaign of its kind.

With London set to change shape radically as a mass of regeneration projects unfolds, My City Too has engaged thousands of young people from London boroughs.

The two-year programme has culminated in a **manifesto** developed by the young people themselves, presented to and debated with London's mayoral candidates and key decision-makers in the public and private sectors. It will enable young people to directly influence those who are currently shaping the capital.

The next stage of the campaign will move forward through young people developing local action research projects and activities in the run up to local elections.

My City Too is an opportunity to build a real and in-depth dialogue between young people, designers, developers, councils and other decision-makers, as well as with other potential role models. The strength of the campaign lies in partnerships and collaboration with a diverse range of organisations, groups and companies.

How was the manifesto created?

Ask young people what they think about television or how they would change how their school works, and they will come up with lots of ideas. Yet while we are surrounded by the built environment, we spend little time developing a common language to articulate our views about it.

My City Too provides this vital opportunity for young people to develop the tools and language to express their ideas and channel their aspirations for the design of their future city.

Over the past two years young people across the city have been exploring places and spaces in London in depth through an integrated programme of action research, workshops, surveys, polls and forums. A team of professionals and experts has supported and facilitated the campaign. Key initiatives include:

- Pan-London monthly forums gathering 35 Ambassadors from 17 boroughs
- Extensive series of local action research projects in Southwark, Newham, Greenwich, Camden and Islington exploring young people's ideas for retail spaces, public realm and other relevant issues such as anti-social behaviour
- Surveys across 1000 young people from 25 London boroughs, examining young people's views about places and spaces in London
- 'Intergeneration' workshops bringing together young people with planning councillors from across London to explore placemaking solutions and ideas that can be applied to local and regional policy
- Support from expert boards with membership drawn from such organisations as Tesco, First Base, Arup and Make Architects

“London matters and young people should have a say in it. We are the future of London. But without the chance to influence opinion, we are excluded from debates and decisions about the future of our city. We are My City Too Ambassadors, aged 12-19, who have been working on ideas to make the whole of London better for everyone. This is our Manifesto:

Young Londoners give their design ideas for a better city

We are the future of London. But without the chance to influence opinion, we are excluded from debates and decisions about the future of our city. We are My City Too Ambassadors, aged 12-19, who have been working on ideas to make the whole of London better for everyone. This is our Manifesto:

- 1 Let us have our say and young people will be fully involved in planning, designing and decision-making in their city**
Our solution: We can't vote – yet – but it is our city, too! We can help improve places and spaces and we'll use and respect them more if we've been asked
- 2 We want every inch of the capital to be used and not left derelict**
Our solution: Even if unused spaces can't be redeveloped immediately, we'll help you find new uses for them; when left derelict they are dangerous and make our area look and feel abandoned
- 3 We need sheltered places to sit and to meet people that are better designed and well looked after**
Our solution: Quality design and materials that are well looked after tell our communities that we are worth investing in
- 4 We need broader pavements and car-free streets**
Our solution: Pedestrian areas need to be planned and designed to be safer for everyone
- 5 We want lively streets with better and more creative lighting**
Our solution: Busy, well-lit areas will help us and everyone else feel safe on our streets
- 6 We want every generation to have their own corner in public spaces; acknowledging their needs and making them feel welcome**
Our solution: Separating activity zones for small children, teenagers, adults and senior citizens through soft zoning (floor markings, tree fences, etc) will ensure everyone feels happy about sharing the same public space
- 7 We want play and performance areas for young people that are at the heart of shopping centres, main streets and parks**
Our solution: Design places where we can meet each other and be seen doing something worthwhile while feeling safe
- 8 We want playful signs, bright colour schemes and changing public art**
Our solution: Give our local areas a stronger identity and make them places that we are proud of
- 9 We want trees, pools and fountains everywhere**
Our solution: Greenery and water features have a calming effect and make places feel more welcoming
- 10 We want everyone to be able to move around London**
Our solution: Provide ramps and lifts in all public spaces so everyone can be part of the capital

+ Young Design Champions

= Right Decisions

= Better London Spaces

+ **We're worth investing in. How are you going to make it happen?**



My City Too Ambassadors at City Hall, London

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openhouse.org.uk

My City Too is an initiative by Open House, the architecture education organisation.

The My City Too title graphic was created by Corina, 14. Photo copyright Open House.

If you are interested in supporting or participating in My City Too please contact Elise Leclerc, My City Too Coordinator:
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openhouse.org.uk

Open House is an architect and education organisation whose aim is to open eyes, minds and doors to design excellence in London.

London is



Teenagers' manifesto for mayoral candidates

A campaign for better design in London

01

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02

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03

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04

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09

We want trees, pools and fountains everywhere

10

We want everyone to be able to move around London

“Only 7 per cent of young people surveyed thought they could have any influence in their local neighbourhoods and 61 per cent said they had no influence at all.”

The State of London Children's Report, Dec. 2004

We're worth investing in.
How are you going to make it happen?

If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at mycitytoo@openhouse.org.uk or telephone 0207383 5722

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