

ENGAGED

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A TOILET ON EVERY HIGH STREET

ABSTRACT

Why toilets bring sustainability to high streets?

People are the heart of the high street, but they need public toilets to spend more time participating in their community and the local economy. For older people, disabled people and those with young families, toilet access can help decide which high street to visit, or whether to visit at all.

The Engaged concept aims to give councils a sustainable way of providing an inclusive, accessible public toilets that can support local demand, without the pitfalls of the traditional toilet block.



Engaged Toilet + Community co-working space

CONCEPT DESIGN

The proposed designs consider either transforming shipping containers into the new “engaged” public toilets or as new purpose-built architectures. In both cases we propose the inclusion of green roofs, bugs hotel on the façade, benches with integrated planters and other options to ensure that the proposed projects not only bring benefits to the local communities but also can help creating a richer and more biodiverse environment that can bring wider benefits to all living beings.

The three elements of community, inclusive design and public health make up the sustainable foundation of the Engaged concept.



Engaged Toilet + Toys Library

THE ENGAGED APPROACH

“Engaged” explores the creation of new public toilets in the high street, parks and public spaces as part public toilet, part local business/community use (the “engaged” function).

The “engaged” space could be used by a start-up, as a pop-up shop or by a community group, providing guardianship and natural surveillance of the premises.

The public toilet is designed to be as inclusive of as many people as possible, in particular the Londoners local to it, and for whom any existing toilet provision was not adequate.

In concept design scenarios, we have considered uses such as a toy library, community café or library, delivery riders hub and other outlets, with the idea that uses should be site specific and decided in discussion with local communities.



Engaged Toilet + Delivery Riders Hub



Engaged Toilet + Community co-working space

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Engaged project is run by the Public Toilets Research Unit (PTRU) based at The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design (HHCD) at the Royal College of Art (RCA), in partnership with PiM studio Architects.

With expertise in inclusive design, urban design and architecture, PTRU and PiM.studio Architects will develop toilet facilities that meet the needs of those who are often excluded, for and with the local community, through co-design methods.

Engaged is one of 20 innovation projects in the Mayor of London’s Designing London’s Recovery programme, in response to the ‘High Streets of All’ Mission

Supported by:

