

Ben Spencer

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Curriculum Vitae

EMPLOYMENT

June'98 - present:

arts + buildings + projects

freelance consultant advising a wide range of organisations from the public and voluntary sectors on the development of art and architecture initiatives, including: research, strategic policy advice, feasibility studies, project development, management, assessment and monitoring and critical writing. Contracts completed include:

Greater Govan Social Inclusion Partnership: research and development of a public art framework, in conjunction with Roots in the Community.

Fablevision: detailed evaluation of the first year of the Creative Communities project which supports the early set up and development of arts organisations.

Glasgow School of Art: co-ordinating and writing application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Mackintosh Conservation and Access Project.

New Opportunities Fund: assessor of applications to the PE & Sports facilities programme.

Glasgow School of Art: manager for the development, design and build of the School's web site.

New Opportunities Fund: assessor of applications to the Palliative Care programme.

rmjm art commissioning: assisting with the completion of an arts strategy as part of Glasgow City Council's Lighting Strategy and appointment of an artist for an early action project, initial research for 'art in public places' Lottery application.

Fyne Homes: study into the feasibility of refurbishing Dunoon Burgh Hall as an arts centre.

Glasgow School of Art: web site development manager overseeing the development, design and build of the school's site.

Ginkgo: managing research of a practice-led public/visual arts development strategy to link the Scottish Plant Collectors Garden, Festival Theatre and local community in Pitlochry, including the commissioning of three artists to undertake development, temporary and permanent work.

nva organisation: organisational development work in order to prepare an application to the Scottish Arts Council's advancement programme.

Independent Public Arts: project manager for the involvement of two artists in the development of the Water of Leith walkway.

Glasgow School of Art: acting Business Development Manager, responsible for management of existing projects and to assist staff in negotiating new business contracts.

Bulkhead: acting creative director of this Glasgow based public art organisation.

Scottish Arts Council: review of public art development, in consultation with a number of agencies in the UK, to inform policy and funding priorities.

Fife Council: research and writing strategic Public Art Policy document.

New Opportunities Fund: assessor of applications to the Out of School Hours Learning programme.

Pearl Union: a collaboration with artist Rose Thomas to further the development and realisation of this Glasgow-based international project: a curated temporary library, associated lecture/workshop programme and artist research facility.

Homo Oeconomicus (HOEC), University of Hamburg – “Where is the vision to link city structures with social concern?”: essay looking at the changing nature of Glasgow and its regeneration; the need for a vision to underpin the city and the role of the artist in addressing these issues.

collaborate consulting: lead consultant on application to the Scottish Arts Council’s National Lottery Contemporary Architecture scheme to promote a community based design education programme.

Bulkhead: catalogue essay on the issues involved in the Bulkhead Prize 2000, Glasgow.

Glasgow School of Art - Acting Head of Development: responsible for the School’s external relations: seeking funds to support the school’s community activities, supporting exhibitions office and the Friends and Alumni co-ordinator, initiating press relations and producing the Degree Show 2000.

Scottish Arts Council: advisor to the Lottery Capital Unit, developing the strategy for the disbursement of Lottery funding and advising on policy. External assessor of funding applications and independent project monitor for a wide range of capital projects.

Scottish Natural Heritage: research into producing an arts framework for Scotland’s environmental agency, consulting with arts agencies and environmental organisations to draw up a policy to meet Scottish Natural Heritage’s aim to stimulate more arts activity.

Visual Art Projects: assisting the management of six artists commissioned as part of the Glasgow 1999 Five Spaces project (a collection of new public spaces on the edge of the city).

On the Line Millennium Awards: advising on assessment criteria for this scheme run by Oxfam and Channel 4 to individuals leading projects linked to west Africa. Independent project assessor.

Without Day: member of the selection panel for this open competition inviting written proposals from artists for a new Scottish Parliament. ‘Without Day’ will be published as part of the pocket-books series, co-published by Morning Star Publications and Polygon.

envision consulting: building study for The Jeely Piece Club to convert Castlemilk Community Centre; consulting on accommodation needs and proposing an initial design scheme, researching running costs and preparing a cost report on capital expenditure.

Glasgow 1999 Festival Company Ltd: investigating the long-term future of the Cranhill Water Tower Lighting Co., proposing an arts programme, researching additional sources of funding and preparing a funding application.

Scottish Cultural Enterprise: architectural aspects of a feasibility study for a major new cultural facility in Edinburgh (project cost £12-15m); advising on the shape of the study, preparing a project brief and timetable, carrying out site appraisals, planning an architectural competition and advising on statutory requirements (planning and building regulations).

Northern Rock Festival Group: advising a community arts organisation on how an existing building may accommodate their activities, following an unsuccessful National Lottery application, to reflect the nature and ambition of the project. A more appropriate design scheme has now been proposed through limited architectural competition.

Scottish Natural Heritage: contributor to a seminar on arts and the natural heritage and workshop leader on funding sources and opportunities.

Cube Housing Association: advising on funding applications for a public artwork commission, integrated into a new housing development.

- Jan.'95 - June'98: **Project Officer, National Lottery, Scottish Arts Council, Edinburgh**
responsible for: developing National Lottery application, assessment and monitoring procedures; including strategy, policy and guidance. Key roles included: advising applicants; consulting colleagues and public agencies in the assessment of projects to prepare reports for Committee; and monitoring completed projects. Advised a broad range of organisations, of all sizes and from all artforms and liaised with architects to ensure high quality projects. Involved in cross-Council projects, including Art in Public Places policy, assessors database and new technology initiatives.
- Nov.'96 - Aug.'97
(sick leave cover) **Acting Senior Project Officer**
responsible for: managing a team of 4 Project Officers, advising senior colleagues on policy, liaising with the administrative team to ensure smooth day to day running of the department.
- Aug.'90 - Dec.'94: **Development Officer, Sense Scotland, Glasgow**
responsible for: developing new residential accommodation for deafblind young adults; fostering a regional network across Scotland and the UK, through links with statutory and voluntary agencies; promoting equality of opportunity in service provision and recruitment; ensuring the positive representation of deafblind people in promoting Sense Scotland.
- Aug.'87 - July'90: **Development Worker, Sense Scotland, Glasgow**
responsible for: general day-to-day details of summer holiday programme; production of parents' newsletter; writing copy for national newsletter and preparing copy for advertisements; assisting with volunteer recruitment; answering general enquiries; ensuring smooth running of charity shop.
- Aug.'86 - June'87: **Voluntary Worker, Outreach Community Arts, Hull**
responsible for: Design & Build of gazebo for Fountain Road Community Garden; design/construction of set and stage management for 'Other Worlds', performed at Spring Street theatre; design/construction of set for 'James and the Giant Peach' performed at the Hull Festival. Involved in painting a mural at Hull Royal Infirmary. Freelance architectural model maker and illustrator.
- Oct.'85 - July'86: **Chairman, Hull School of Architecture Association, Hull**
responsible for: co-ordinating student activities - visiting lecturers, exhibitions and entertainments, school representative on the Executive of the National Architectural Students' Association and student representative on RIBA Yorkshire Region Education Committee.
- Jan.'85 - Sept.'85: **Project Co-ordinator, Circus of Ideas, Glasgow**
responsible for final design and production of play structure for Glasgow Playgroups Association. Freelance architectural model maker, Glasgow
- Sept.'83 - Nov.84: **English Teacher, English House, Utsunomiya, Japan**
English teacher of all ages, in both structured and free conversation classes.
- Aug.'82 - Aug.'83: **Architectural Assistant, Baillie Robb & Sagasti, Glasgow**
involved in carrying out dilapidation/building surveys and site inspections for building repair schemes; detail design and snagging of environmental improvement schemes; preliminary research for Retreat House Chapel.
- July'81 - Sept.'81: **Project Co-ordinator, Elderslie Hospital, Johnstone**
involved from design to completion of playroom for children with learning difficulties and additional impairments; responsible for co-ordinating the completion of this design & build project.
- Feb.'79 - Sept.'79: **Assistant Warden, Windsor Youth Hostel, Berkshire**
involved in day-to-day running of the hostel; booking in and aiding hostellers, running the shop, preparing meals and general household/garden duties.

EDUCATION

Oct.' 85 - July'86: **Hull School of Architecture**, Humberside College of Higher Education.

Sept.'79 - June.'82: **Mackintosh School of Architecture**, University of Glasgow

position held: events week organiser, Glasgow School of Art

qualification: B.Arch

Sept.'72 - Dec.'78: **Sir Anthony Browne's School**, Brentwood, Essex

position held: keeper of the school cups

qualification: 1 S-level, 4 A-levels, 11 O-levels.

POSITIONS HELD Board member of Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Friend of Manifesto.
Former Chairman of Gilded Balloon Ltd, member STV Action 2000 Committee and elected member of Pollokshields Community Council.

INTERESTS I enjoy a wide range of arts: architecture, visual art, design and all forms of theatre. I am a practical photographer and collect contemporary prints.