

BRITISH DISCOVERY EXPERIENCES

◀ THE UK AS STUDIO AND RESEARCH LABORATORY ▶

This assignment is inspired by our textbooks and preparation seminar. Your curiosity, interest, and enthusiasm will make your British Discovery Experiences a profound and lasting exploration.

Explore distinct aspects of the UK that contribute to its cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. Each experience is keyed to one of the pages of the *Green Cities Scorecard (GCS)* on the course Google Drive. Your assignment is to use pertinent GCS pages—the one noted, plus at least one other of your choice—to help analyze each “discovery” area while you visit, record, analyze, and critique it through dialogue, sketches, still photography, words, and diagrams. These experiences are defined in an open-ended manner that afford you the opportunity to ask pertinent research questions, pose hypotheses, and customize the study to your interests.

Blocks of time for “discovery” are scheduled during weekdays and weekends. There is no sequential order to this assignment. You choose your “discovery sites” and their visiting order. Attempt only one “discovery” for each scheduled session. Allow at least three hours to visit each “discovery” site(s) as well as additional time off-site for reflection, analysis, and recording. You may work individually, in pairs, or in groups. While you are required to document only four of your “discovery experiences,” more than four time slots have been scheduled to provide ample opportunity to revisit sites as needed to complete your work.

Each week you’ll have a chance to share your discoveries and gain feedback from your peers during the tutorial sessions. Your discoveries will be reported in your course journal.



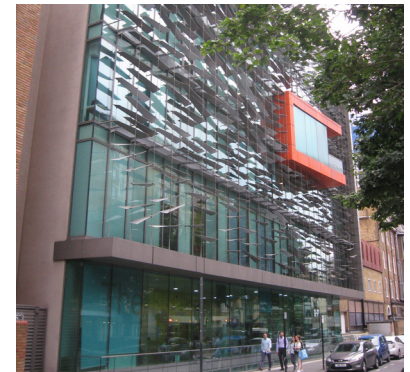
DISCOVERY 1: CLTs IN THE UK—ENERGY/CARBON

The sites for this experience are found in the *100 Projects UK CLT* text and have been presented in the seminar. Choose at least three of these projects to visit and explore their use of CLTs. Sketch what you see!



DISCOVERY 2: SHADING TALL BUILDINGS—ENERGY/CARBON

The site for this experience is primarily the City of London (see map on page 26 of *London's Contemporary Architecture*). Look up, find external shading devices in high places. Find at least three examples of external shading, compare and analyze them. Sketch what you see!



DISCOVERY 3: PUBLIC SQUARES—BIOPHILIA

The sites for this experience are the public squares scattered throughout London, such as Berkeley Square, Brunswick Square, Grosvenor Square, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Russell Square, and Tavistock Square. Pick and compare at least three contrasting public squares of your choice anywhere in the city or elsewhere in the UK. Sketch what you see!



DISCOVERY 4: SOUTH BANK OF THE THAMES—WALKABILITY



The site for this experience is the south bank of the River Thames from Westminster Bridge to Tower Bridge and the cultural venues along the way including, but not limited to Royal Festival Hall, the National Theatre, the Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and the former London City Hall as well as the pedestrian bridges that connect to the north bank—Hungerford and Millennium Bridges. Sketch what you see!

DISCOVERY 5: DAYLIGHTED MUSEUMS—CULTURE



Museums are noted for their toplighting strategies and control of sunlight penetration to protect art and relics from direct sun. Visit at least three of London's major museums (British Museum, Design Museum, National Gallery, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Tate London, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum) to experience their toplighting strategies. Sketch what you see!

DISCOVERY 6: CITY MARKETS—METABOLISM



The sites for this experience include Borough Market, Camden Market, Covent Garden, Leadenhall Market, Saturday Market at the Brunswick, and Smithfield Market. You may also include far-flung markets such as those at Greenwich, Notting Hill, and Oxford. Visit and compare at least three markets. Sketch what you see, smell, and taste!

DISCOVERY 7: PEDESTRIAN ZONES—WALKABILITY

The sites for this experience are the pedestrian zones/streets—e.g., Carnaby Street, Shepherd's Market, South Moulton Street, and St. Christopher's Place. Visit at least three of these areas to experience their walkability. Sketch your experience!



DISCOVERY 8: RAIL CONNECTIVITY—MOBILITY

The sites for this experience include Charing Cross, Euston, King's Cross, Liverpool Street, Marylebone, Paddington, St. Pancras, Victoria, and Waterloo train stations and their connections to other public transit—Santander cycles, bus, tube, and overground. Visit and analyze three stations. You may augment your work with comparison to other railway stations throughout the UK. Sketch what you see!



DISCOVERY 9: SELF-DEFINED—YOUR CHOICE

You choose a topic, pertinent site(s), and at least two pages from the GCS for the experience that will give you insight into Britain's cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. Also explain why your choice of topic and site(s) are of particular importance. Sketch what you see!

