

LONDON DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

◀ LONDON AS STUDIO AND RESEARCH LABORATORY ▶

This assignment is inspired by our textbooks and preparation seminar as well as my familiarity with London and the United Kingdom. Your interest and enthusiasm will make your London Discovery Experiences a profound and lasting endeavor.



Explore distinct aspects of London that contribute to its cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. Your assignment is to visit, record, analyse, and critique through sketches, still photography, words, and diagrams each “discovery” area. These experiences are defined in an open-ended manner that affords 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 in London. There is no sequential order to this assignment. You determine 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 and recording. You may work individually, in pairs, or in groups of three or four. While you are required to document only five of your “discovery experiences,” seven time slots have been scheduled to provide 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 with your TAs. Your discoveries will be reported in your course journal.

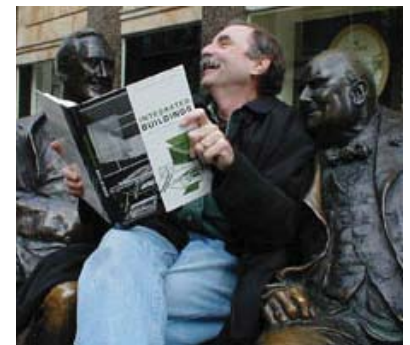
DISCOVERY 1: CULTURAL TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The site for this experience is Trafalgar Square and its surrounding cultural sites, including, but not limited to, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church and Gallery.



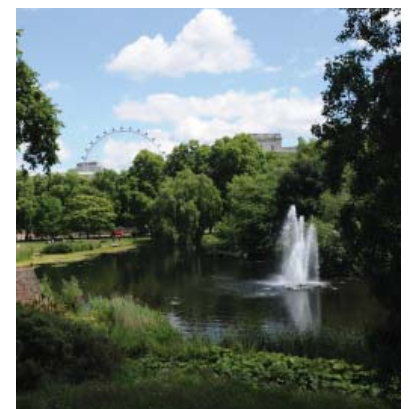
DISCOVERY 2: LONDON MERCANTILE

The site for this experience is Oxford Street from Selfridges to John Lewis, the pedestrian zones of St. Christopher's Square and South Molton Street, New Bond and Bond Streets, and the Burlington Arcade. You may also include some of London's High Streets such as in Marylebone and in Camden.



DISCOVERY 3: THE ROYAL PARKS

The sites for this experience are Green Park, Hyde Park, Regent's Park, and St. James Park including their pavilions and monuments. You may also contrast these parks with the public squares throughout the city.



DISCOVERY 4: THE SOUTH BANK OF THE THAMES



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 London City Hall as well as the pedestrian bridges that connect to the north bank—Hungerford and Millenium Bridges.

DISCOVERY 5: VICTORIAN EXHIBITION ROAD



The site for this experience is Exhibition Road and the museums and cultural venues that border it—Victoria and Albert Museum, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Imperial College, Royal Albert Hall, and the Albert Memorial (in Kensington Gardens).

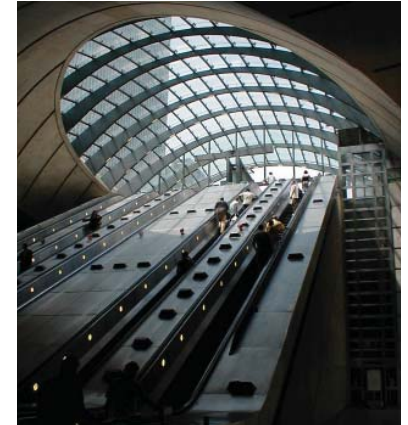
DISCOVERY 6: LEARNING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE



The site for this experience is Bloomsbury and its two architecture schools—the Architecture Association and UCL's Bartlett School. Check out the student work. Also included are the Building Centre on Store Street and the RIBA Gallery on Portland Place. Optionally, include CAT, Glasgow School of Art, and University of Nottingham as well as the architecture exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

DISCOVERY 7: THE DOCKLANDS REVIVAL

The site for this experience is Canary Wharf and its Museum of London Docklands.



DISCOVERY 8: RAILWAY STATION EVOLUTION

The sites for this experience are Euston, King's Cross, Paddington, and St. Pancras train stations. You may augment the work with study of other railway stations throughout the UK.



DISCOVERY 9: CITY MARKETS

The sites for this experience include Borough Market, Covent Gardens, Leadenhall Market, Shepherd's Market, and Smithfield Market. You may also include borough markets such as those at Camden, Greenwich, Nottinghill, and Oxford.



DISCOVERY 10: A LONDON ARCHITECT



Choose a prominent London architecture firm and visit at least 3 of its buildings. If possible, also visit the firm. Explain why your choice of architect and buildings are of particular importance.

DISCOVERY 11: SELF-DEFINED



You choose a topic and pertinent site(s) for the experience that will give you insight into London's cultural, economic, and environmental sustainability. Explain why your choice of topic and site(s) are of particular importance.

