

LONDON DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

◀ LONDON AS STUDIO AND RESEARCH LABORATORY ▶

This assignment is inspired by our textbooks and preparation seminar. 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 sustain-

ability. Each experience is keyed to one of the pages of the *Green Cities Guidebook (GCG)*. Your assignment is to use pertinent *GCG* pages—the one noted, plus at least one of your choice—to help analyze each “discovery” area while you visit, record, analyze, and critique it through dialog, sketches, still photography, words, and diagrams. 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 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,” six or 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 TA. Your discoveries will be reported in your course journal.

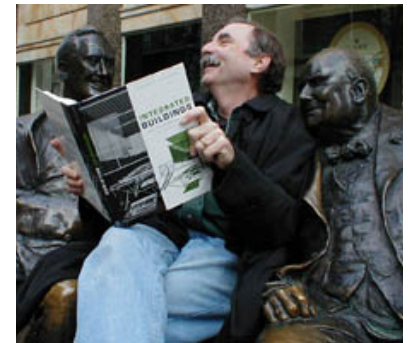
DISCOVERY 1: HISTORIC TRAFALGAR SQUARE—CULTURE

The site for this experience is Trafalgar Square, its events, and 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—METABOLISM

The site for this experience is Oxford Street from Selfridges to John Lewis, 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: PUBLIC SQUARES/ROYAL PARKS—BIOPHILIA

The site for this experience is one of the Royal Parks (Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent’s Park, or St. James Park), including its pavilions and monuments, as well as two contrasting public squares of your choice anywhere in the city.



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

DISCOVERY 5: VICTORIAN EXHIBITION ROAD—CULTURE



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).

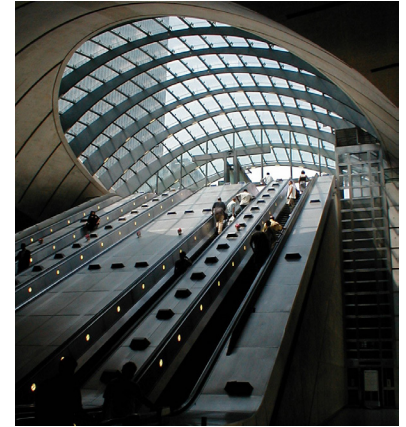
DISCOVERY 6: NEW LONDON ARCHITECTURE—PLANNING



The site for this experience is Bloomsbury and its two architecture schools (the Architecture Association and UCL's Bartlett School), the Building Centre on Store Street, and the RIBA Gallery on Portland Place. Optionally, compare to CAT, Glasgow School of Art, Oxford Brookes University, or the architecture exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

DISCOVERY 7: THE DOCKLANDS REVIVAL—PLANNING

The site for this experience is Canary Wharf and its Museum of London Docklands, Victoria Docks and its Crystal Exhibition and Emirates Air Line, and/or the North Greenwich Peninsula with its O₂ Centre.



DISCOVERY 8: RAIL CONNECTIVITY—MOBILITY

The sites for this experience are Euston, King's Cross, Paddington, and St. Pancras train stations and their connections to public transit—Boris bikes, bus, tube, and overground. You may augment the work with comparison to other railway stations throughout the UK.



DISCOVERY 9: CITY MARKETS—METABOLISM

The sites for this experience include Borough Market, Covent Gardens, Leadenhall Market, Smithfield Market, and Saturday Market at the Brunswick. You may also include far-flung markets such as those at Camden, Greenwich, Notting Hill, and Oxford.



DISCOVERY 10: PEDESTRIAN ZONES—WALKABILITY



The sites for this experience are the pedestrian zones/streets—St. Christopher's Place, South Moulton Street, Shepherd's Market, and Carnaby Street—and the auto-restricted congestion zone of Central London.

DISCOVERY 11: SELF-DEFINED—YOUR CHOICE



You choose a topic, pertinent site(s), and at least two pages from the GCG 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.

