

London Metropolitan University
BA Furniture and Product
3D Design 1 Module: PM1030C
Semester 1: 2008/9

HOMELESS

This project addresses the problems that homeless people have when living on the streets.

The aim is to design an object (s) or develop a system that improves an aspect of their lives. There are over 11,000 people sleeping rough in England alone and of the 100,000 young people who run away from home each year, 25% end up sleeping rough. The problems experienced are numerous and include the marginalisation by society with reduced access to healthcare and education. As homeless people have no place to store possessions they often lose them and risk of violence includes muggings and beatings. Exposure to the weather, exhaustion and lack of bathing facilities and difficulty with reaching help from homeless organisations or charities.

Sometimes homelessness is a temporary situation, other times a person can spend many years living in this state.

How can design help within this context? Consider ways of combining existing structures such as bus shelters, street signs, railings with new features, creating secondary functions specifically for homeless people such as a bench that can store possessions. How can homeless people be contacted or given access to information and advice when they have no address? How can they keep warm or relatively safe if staying in a hostel is not an option? Alternatively consider the use of technology or portable structures or

You will need to research the lives of homeless people and then come up with concepts that are developed in sketch form and present all your work on an A2 sheet of card. Please think about materials, structures and use.

Your ideas will be described in the presentation by another student so your work will need to be visually very communicative and self-explanatory.

The presentation will be on Thursday afternoon 3-4pm, 8th Jan, 2009 and this project represents 20% of Semester 1s marks.

Useful websites:

www.shelter.org.uk www.crisis.org.uk

www.mungoes.org/homelessness www.homeless.org.au/people/rebecca

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/homelessness