

# Pop-up structures: expert advice

From East London's Boxpark to The Artworks in Elephant & Castle, and Brixton's Pop, mixed use pop-up structures are redefining urban spaces. So are they the dynamic future of development, or a commercial cop-out?

We asked Dan Hill, Associate Director at Arup, for his take.



Dan Hill, Associate Director at Arup

“For a trade once predicated on mighty civic investment, to see architecture scrabbling around with leftover materials in the gaps between leftover buildings is a little disappointing. Many pop-ups resist the idea of architecture altogether. Simply taking place in whatever spaces are available; those that engage in new building are generally small parasitical

entities, clinging on to the hulk of the existing city, or left alone to grow in the cracks between buildings, like weeds.” he explained.

“Yet just as a weed can be thought of a perfectly reasonable plant caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. Perhaps these interventions could be useful elsewhere, at another point, when re-framed in an entirely different way? Judged as architecture, through the traditional lens architecture is judged by, there is no there, there. With a different conception of architecture in mind, though, as medium for the production of social effects, these pop-ups and pavilions could be a kind of sketchbook for the city, a form of R&D for civic space, and for architecture itself.” He continued.

Dan Hill runs Arup’s Digital Studio, leading a team that designs, builds and deploys trans-formative digital technology across cities, buildings and organisations.

Read more on the subject at Dan’s blog.

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