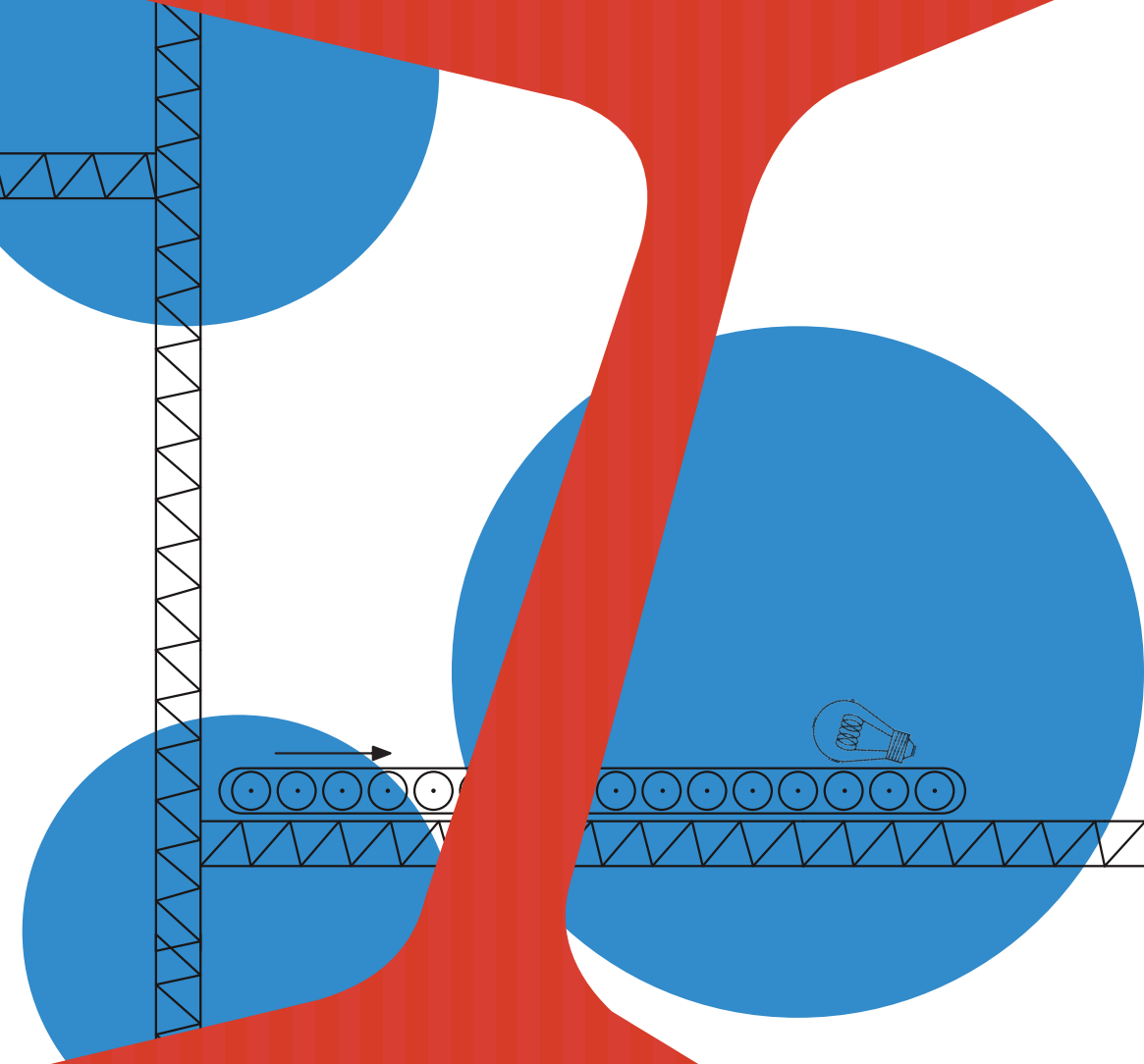


THE
DELIGHTFUL FUN!
EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



a Cedric Price Thinkbelt for our Times.

**Scott Sutherland School of
Architecture and
Built Environment**

**Edinburgh
School of Architecture and
Landscape Architecture**

**Mackintosh School
of Architecture**

University of Staffordshire

**Birmingham
School of Architecture
and Design**

**London
Metropolitan
University +**

**University of
Westminster**





Activating the Thinkbelt: Circulating Cedric Price for the 21st Century

The project puts into circulation the relevance of Cedric Price's visionary projects from the 1960s for current environmental concerns, by means of a travelling exhibition of Price designs utilising two original market stalls for display designed by Price. The exhibition has toured in 7 UK Schools of Architecture, stimulating staff, students, local communities and architects' responses that will be included in an exhibition at the Architecture Fringe Festival in Glasgow (June 2025).

The Thinkbelt aims to review Cedric Price's (1934 - 2003) work and pedagogies from a contemporary perspective. His work now deserves even greater consideration as it speaks to current environmental concerns about the environment and sustainability. Price championed flexible and re-usable structures and adaptations and, with Littlewood, a 'university of the streets' to encourage civic engagement in community renewal. Born out of the Cedric Price Day in Staffordshire University in 2021 and now in its third iteration, the Thinkbelt is devising a series of events during 2024/25 hosted by schools of Architecture in the UK, and among these, a touring exhibition with two original prototypes of Price's market stalls that are part of the Drawing Matter Collection, alongside reproductions of archival materials from the Cedric Price Archive at the Canadian Centre for Architecture and other collections in UK.

As early as the 1960s, Cedric Price proposed a model for circular economy in his Potteries Thinkbelt project by re-programming the vast territory of the decommissioned potteries industry in Staffordshire into an educational infrastructure, with mobile



structures designed for disassembly and reuse, as a way to reconnect existing communities. In the context of the current climate emergency, Price anticipates a model for sustainable architectural practice that challenges waste production and activates local communities via urban regeneration. After its launch at the Robert Gordon University (October 2024), the exhibition has been hosted by the schools of architecture at University of Edinburgh (November 2024), Staffordshire University (January 2025), Birmingham City University (February 2025), London Metropolitan University and Westminster University (April 2025). Closing the tour, the project will participate in the Architecture Fringe festival in Glasgow (June 2025), showcasing a selection of the pedagogies inspired by Price's radical practice and collected from the schools visited.



“The iterative nature of the travelling exhibition has the opportunity to disseminate the work in different schools, the passing through creates a shared experience, even if it is not in the same room. They belong to the same project.”

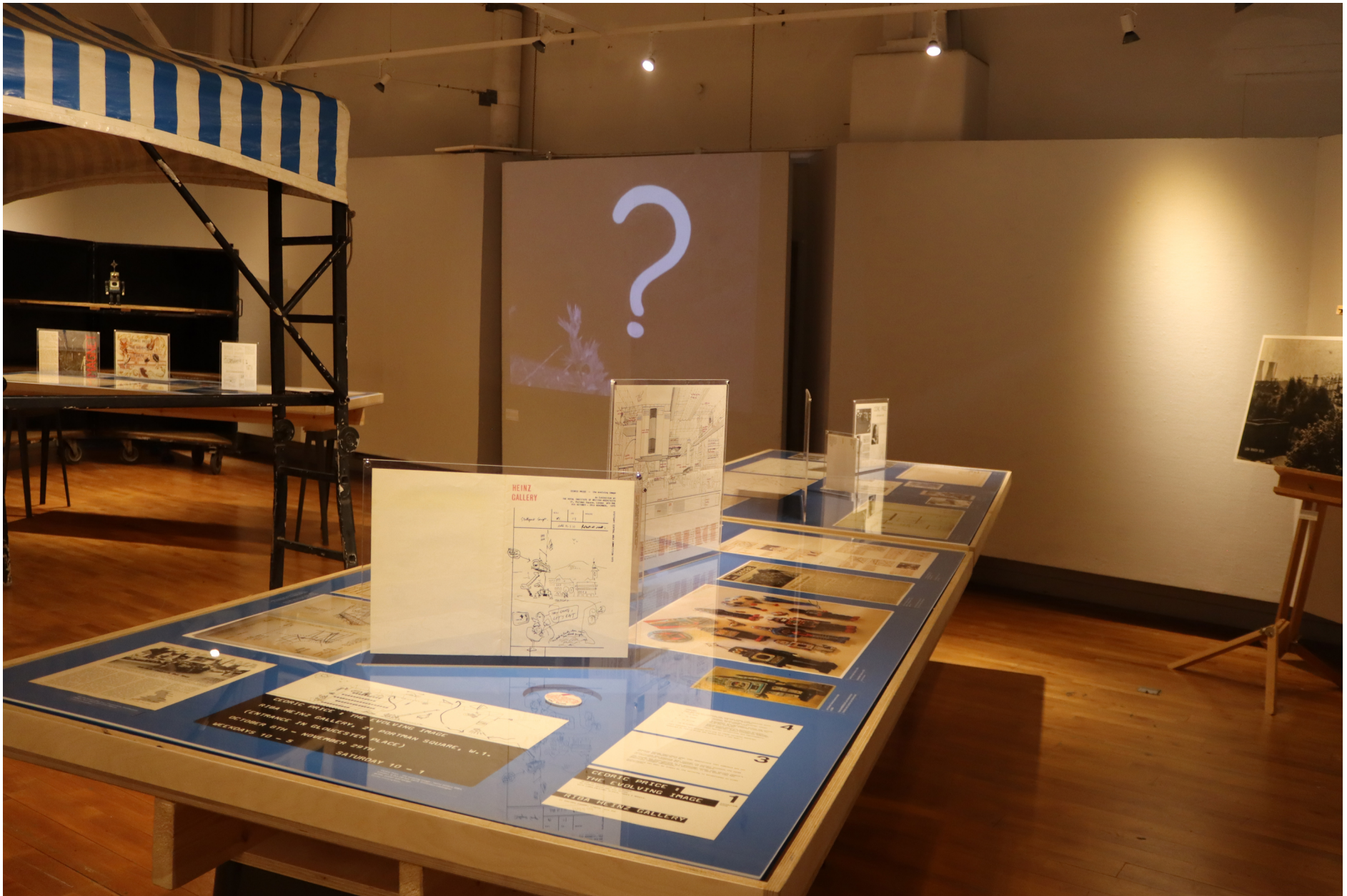


The Thinkbelt aims to enhance the dissemination of Price's work and actualise its interpretation by expanding the number of schools taking part in the network, by incorporating new materials from Price's archives in each iteration, and by thinking with Price about situated pedagogical practices within each institution. The project also showcases the engagement of the schools with local and regional councils, community organisations, local architecture practices, and professional bodies establishing dialogues that support participation, sustainability and urban regeneration. This project facilitates conversations towards the actualisation of the work of Price in forms of pedagogical practices that are innovative, inclusive and sustainable and that aim for global impact. Ultimately, the project aims to create a growing Thinkbelt in the UK and beyond that celebrate Price's anticipatory architecture.



“The exhibition was a great opportunity to really unpack and open the work of Cedric Price.”





A Travelling Architecture Exhibition: Connecting Schools, Cities and Pedagogies

The Thinkbelt exhibition began as an idea to share the work of Cedric Price. But as it travelled from Aberdeen through the country to London, it became something more: an unfolding experiment of shared education, curation, and Cedric Price's enduring legacy in design pedagogy. The mobile exhibition project reanimated the Potteries Thinkbelt, the 1960s proposal for a distributed university network in England's post-industrial North. Like the original idea, the exhibition offered no fixed campus, and instead, it unfolded across seven architecture schools, each interpreting Price's ideas through local context, student engagement, and archival materials. Together, they created a layered portrait of Price not only as a provocateur of flexible structures but as an architect of alternative future education.

At the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, the exhibition became a pedagogical gateway. Students contributed existing studio projects which could be reinterpreted through Price's radical frameworks. The installation at the entrance to the school invited both formal analysis and informal student conversations, also inviting practices and City Council representatives, allowing the exhibition to be central for local debates about mobility and civic spaces.





At the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the exhibition included archival materials from Market Stalls to Fun Palace designs. It also adopted an international approach, incorporating contributions from students not just in Edinburgh but also in Palestine, Tangier, and the Netherlands. Mapping Price's influence beyond the UK.

For the Mackintosh School of Architecture in Glasgow, the exhibition prompted an unexpected act of institutional memory, unearthing forgotten connections between Cedric Price and the school, including a 1971 campus lecture and an early 2000s student visit to Price's London office. The exhibition housed within the school became a living bridge between generations of architecture inquiry, sparking renewed interest across departments, including the Fine Arts.

The University of Staffordshire based in Stoke-on-Trent offered historical resonance as the geographical location for Cedric Price's Potteries Thinkbelt proposal in the 1960s. Current students explored urban proximity through a 15-minute city project and discussions about broader community initiatives, reflecting Price's ambition to democratise learning.

Birmingham's Thinkbelt intersected with visual arts through an artist-in-residence programme; the exhibition served as a spatial anchor for Political installations and student discussions on ethics.

“They could see the exhibition, then they could hear the discussion and they then could go back to the works.”



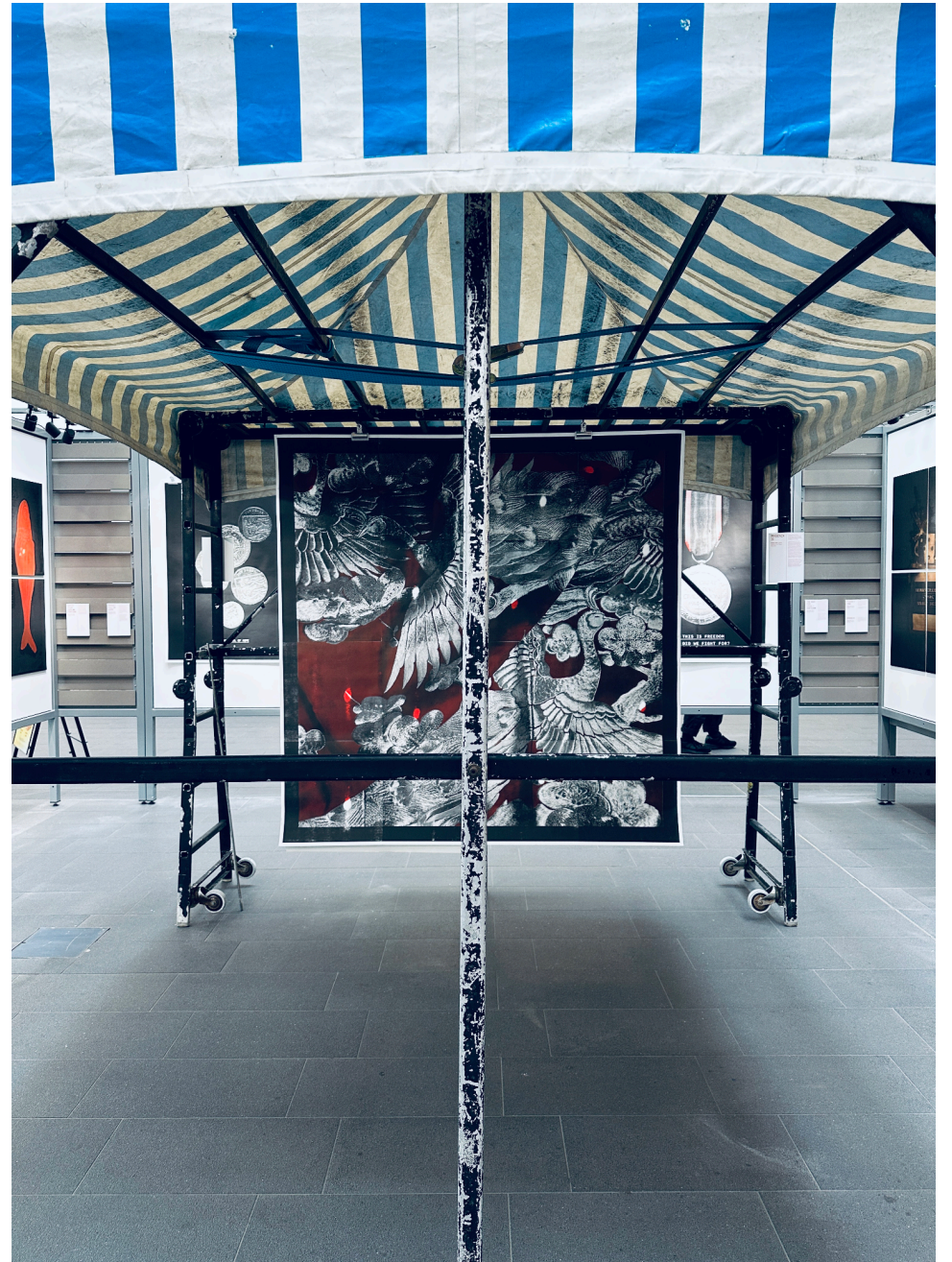


“The work of Cedric Price includes themes of thinking about time and architecture, how architecture evolves and adapts. Both with users and participants. And all of the other environmental aspects.”



At the London Metropolitan University, together with the University of Westminster, the project became grounds for cross-institutional collaboration. The London iteration brought together undergraduate studios, master's students, tutors, and practitioners. Themes of regeneration, reuse, and ephemeral architecture unfolded through student work and public discussions. The success could be found in the collaboration: London's architecture schools coming together under one actual canopy.

Ultimately, the exhibition gained momentum due to its sheer variety, from mobile market stalls to inflatables, but mostly through conversation. Each venue left a spatial and educational imprint. Visitors engaged with Price's work not only through drawings but also through experimentation and public critique: it became more than just a travelling archive: the Thinkbelt exhibition became a temporary place for learning and collaboration.

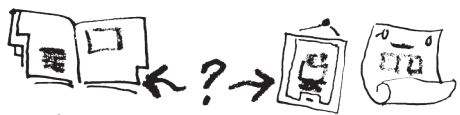
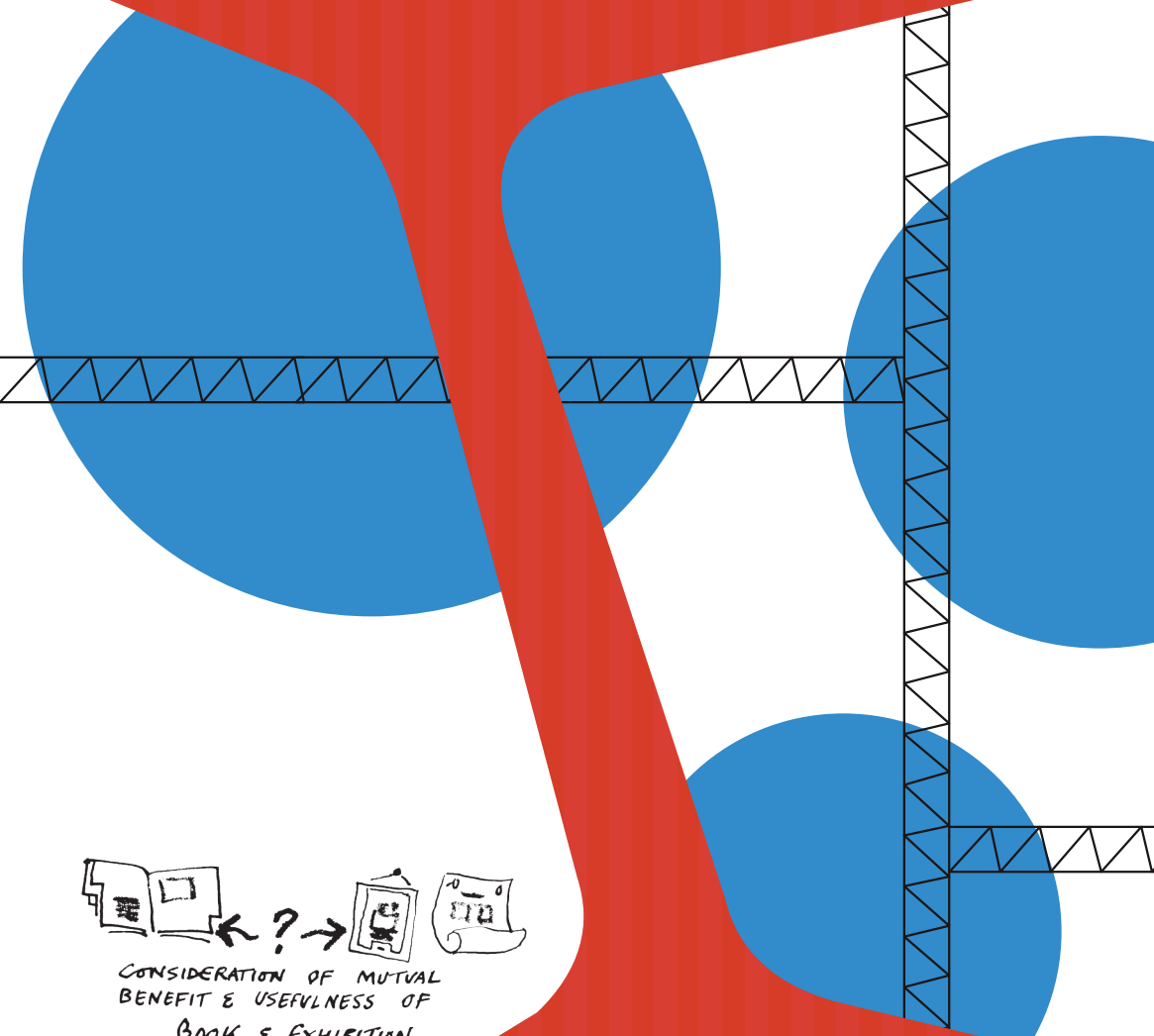




“The exhibition grows and morphs into something new, a next host of the exhibition has to respond to different physical artefacts. So the new work is in direct physical response to those remnants.”

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CONSIDERATION OF MUTUAL
BENEFIT & USEFULNESS OF
BOOK & EXHIBITION

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