architecture sans frontières UNITED KINGDOM

participate

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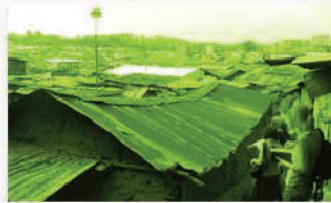
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Semi-Structured Interviews
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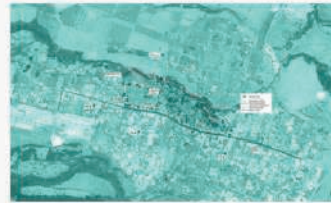
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Priority Toolkit
A visual activity for prioritization. pdf download Goal: To explore the aspirations of the residents...read more→

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Urban Pressures Analysis
Analysis of planning documents and environmental policies identifying issues that could affect the community. pdf...read more→

Harvest Mapping
Mapping tool to capture available local resources. pdf download Goal: To identify the location of...read more→

1. ASF Participate Homepage
2. Example Case Study Webpage
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participate

Project Name: ASF Participate
ASF International Member Organisation: ASF-UK
**Total Costs:** £18 to date
Project Start Date: August 2014

www.asfparticipate.org

ASF Participate is an online database of the participatory tools that ASF-UK has used to date with the core objective to facilitate the engagement of communities and citizens in a process of deepening democracy. This online toolkit provides the necessary information for communities, participants and built environment professionals to become better equipped to participate more effectively in the decision making processes that are required for the social production of habitat. The tools can be downloaded from the website onto any digital device for use in areas where there is no internet access and are available to be printed individually and as a complete set for free.

The website is only partially complete and currently only has the tools and one case study available. As the tools are only useful if adapted to particular contexts with a specific aim we are working towards investing more time into developing the resource further. We feel that it has the potential to become a key knowledge sharing platform for the wider ASF-Int network in addition to ASF-UK and its collaborating partners, participants and communities.

We are aiming for the website to have:

- A series of case studies demonstrating how the tools can be used in context specific scenarios and provide conclusions to show what the tools provide.
- Powerpoint presentations on each of the tools including audio for easy listening.
- Up to date research on ongoing participatory design initiatives and methodologies to expand the current library and relevant links.
- Workshop films demonstrating how the tools are used appropriate to different contexts and scales (from dwelling, through community and city to policy).
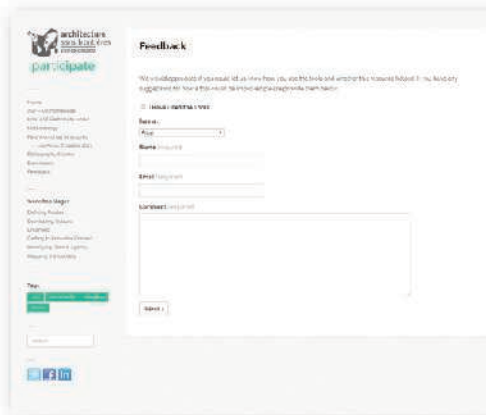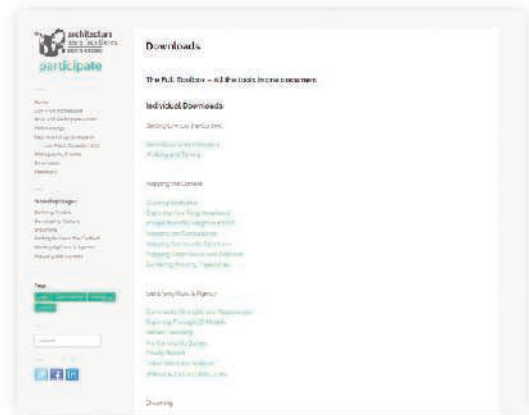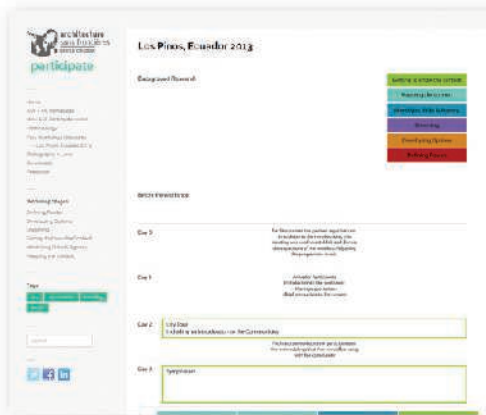
Meeting the Hasselt Charter

Hasselt Charter point 5:
Facilitate the use of appropriate technologies, materials and labour adequate to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment
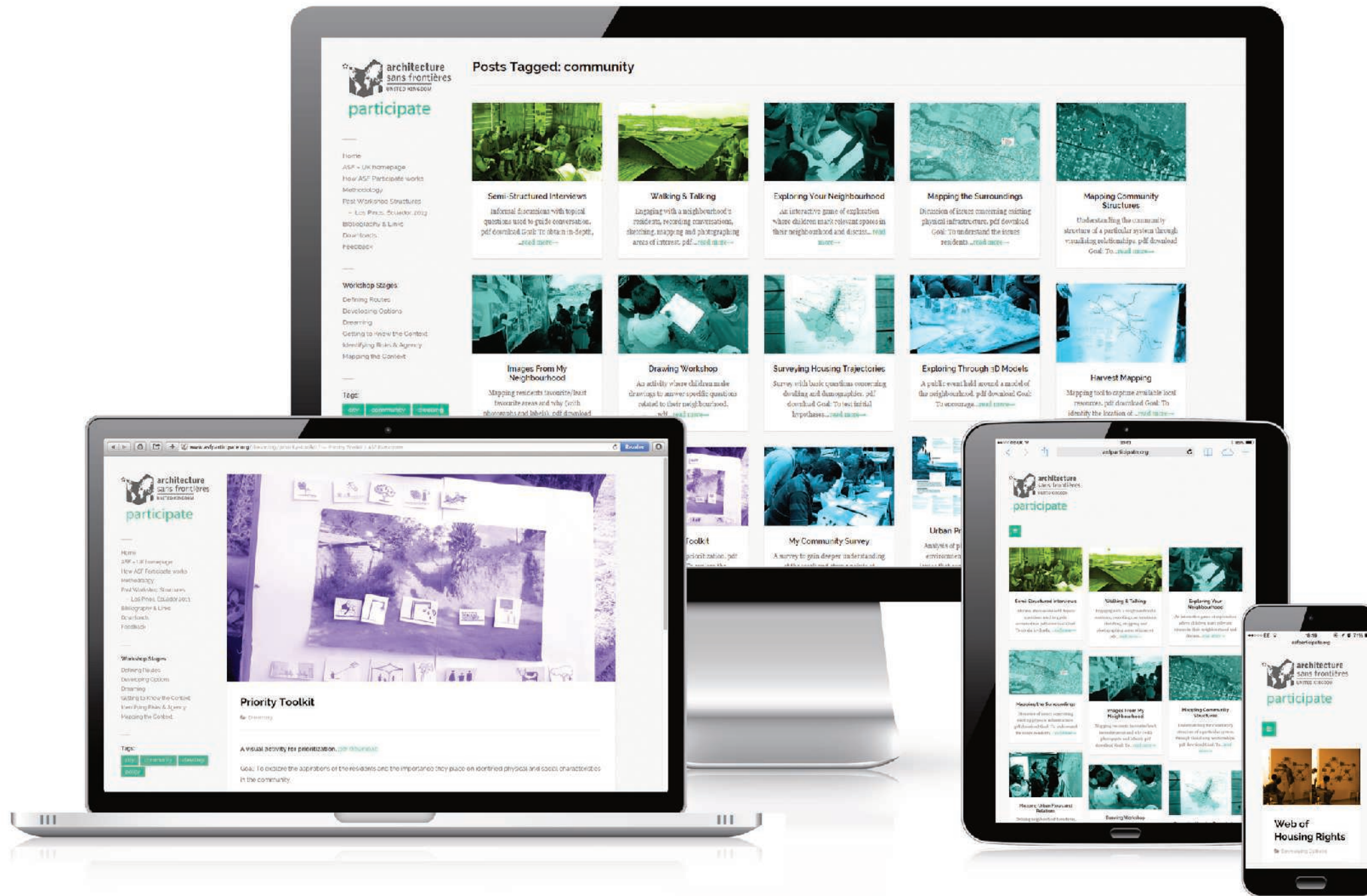
The ASF Participate database meets this principle for three reasons. Firstly the tools that we have put onto the website facilitate cultural, locational and community specific decision making. Secondly the increasing access to internet globally, especially in developing countries, makes the website itself an appropriate technology, the tools on it appropriate material and the work put into it reach many more people. The final reason is that when the website is fully up and running ASF-UK workshop participants, prior to departure, will be able to see what tools are going to be used and learn how and why those tools were used before. This will therefore facilitate a smoother process of action learning during the workshop for both participants and community members. This should enable participants in the engagement process to increase the impact of interaction at the local level and ensure more opportunities to reflect and critically inform the ongoing evolution of democratic practice.

Hasselt Charter point 6:
Share knowledge, promote discussion, reflection and awareness, and collaborate in the advancement of the 'social production of habitat'

The primary objective of the website is to distribute the tools we use in order to share our knowledge of, and promote, active participation in the production of habitat. We are also aiming to spark discussion about socially inclusive design processes and therefore one section of the website is dedicated to receiving feedback on the tools. The aim of this section is to collaboratively develop our working methods and to advance current methods of participatory design.

Distribution of the website will promote and create an awareness of socially inclusive design processes.

Meeting the Hasselt Charter

Hasselt Charter point 8:
Support participatory, democratic, multicultural and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity as a factor of rural and urban social development

ASF Participate.org has the potential to become one of the key resources within the field of participatory and democratic development. This toolkit aims to bridge the gap between professionals, academics and communities by simplifying the processes of strengthening community during periods of change and development, and by distributing this information to everyone evenly.

In any context it is critical to understand the various levels of influence when analysing and proposing possible entry points for change. This toolkit provides an open framework for this process in a participatory and democratic way. In order to demonstrate how combination of different tools are appropriate for a given context or state of change, the toolkit has been categorised in two ways: various scales specifically to do with habitat which expose opportunities and constraints for each (Dwelling, Community, City and Policy); and into stages of engagement (Getting to Know the Context, Mapping the Context, Identifying Risks & Agency, Dreaming, Defining Routes, Developing Options).

As the website develops, these categories will be tested and, with the right input, become an established framework for supporting inclusive processes at a range of scales and relevant for rural and urban development.

1. ASF Participate on a Mobile Device
2. The Current Collection of Printable Tools
3. Example Tool: Images From My Neighbourhood
4. Example Tool: Priority Toolkit