

ON LOCATION

Green Places' guide to current public space schemes and projects

Room with a view: Arts and



In Drewsteignton, as part of the Dartmoor Arts Summer School 2009 Spatial Structures Course, architects Piers Taylor and Charley Brentnall led a group of students to design and construct an innovative wooden structure over five days in July.

Piers Taylor is an architect, part of the Mitchell Taylor Workshop in Bath, was made Isaac Newton Design Fellow at University of Cambridge in 2008 and is well known for his work on projects

such as 'Moonshine' featured in the Guardian, Grand Designs and The Sunday Times. Charley Brentnall founded the Carpenter Oaks and Woodland Company and has been responsible for many timber framed buildings and has also been featured widely in the media including the BBC and three times on Grand Designs.

The 'Room with a view' shelter was designed and constructed from a limited kit of parts comprising

were milled on site into required sections. The team say the project was intended to be a device through which to interpret the wider landscape, and make sense of the scale of the flat bottomed valley in which it sits. Comments Taylor: "This structure, more than anything is designed specifically to allow people to experience the landscape by revealing aspects of it to them, in a sense a kind of landscape interpretation device.

felled trees that are milled on site into required sections. Its an amazing experience, working a tree into construction materials, and lets you discover all sorts of things about economy, resourcefulness, inventiveness, as well of course as being able to be worked on site. Not to mention its beauty and fundamental sustainability."

By getting ordinary people involved in the construction of


andeco combine



hope to create a sense of a shared endeavour. Explains Brentnall: "Some very unexpected and original ideas can be generated by a group of people who have different boundaries: they'll often have naïve expectations of structures for instance and design the impossible, uncovering possibilities that a professional wouldn't encounter. We see this particularly when working with young children."

• Dartmoor Arts is a non-profit

artist led organisation which is funded by the Arts Council and Devon County Council. The Room with a View project can be viewed by the public via the footpath which goes along the South side of the River Teign between Single Bridge and Clifford Bridge, Drewsteignton. If people want to actually walk out on to the structure from the other side of the river (North side) this can be arranged very easily by appointment.

 www.dartmoorarts.com

Castle gardens get multi-million revamp

The grounds were once opened to visitors in 1938 but after being used to test a secret tank weapon during the Second World War, the place was deliberately dismantled and abandoned. The Castle and its Gardens have been closed for 70 years and currently stand inaccessible and buried in vegetation. The project aims to open to the public for the first time in 70 years the abandoned gardens and ruined castle at Lowther, near Penrith in the Lake District National Park. LUC will be working with architects Fielden Clegg Bradley, garden designer Dan Pearson and The Landscape Agency. It will focus on understanding and presenting the unique surviving 17th century gardens.

The restoration will remove Lowther Castle from English Heritage's 'Buildings at Risk' Register, transforming it into a safe but enchanting ruin. An almanac of 500 years of garden history will be revealed in the vast hidden gardens. The project is a strategic priority for the North West Region.

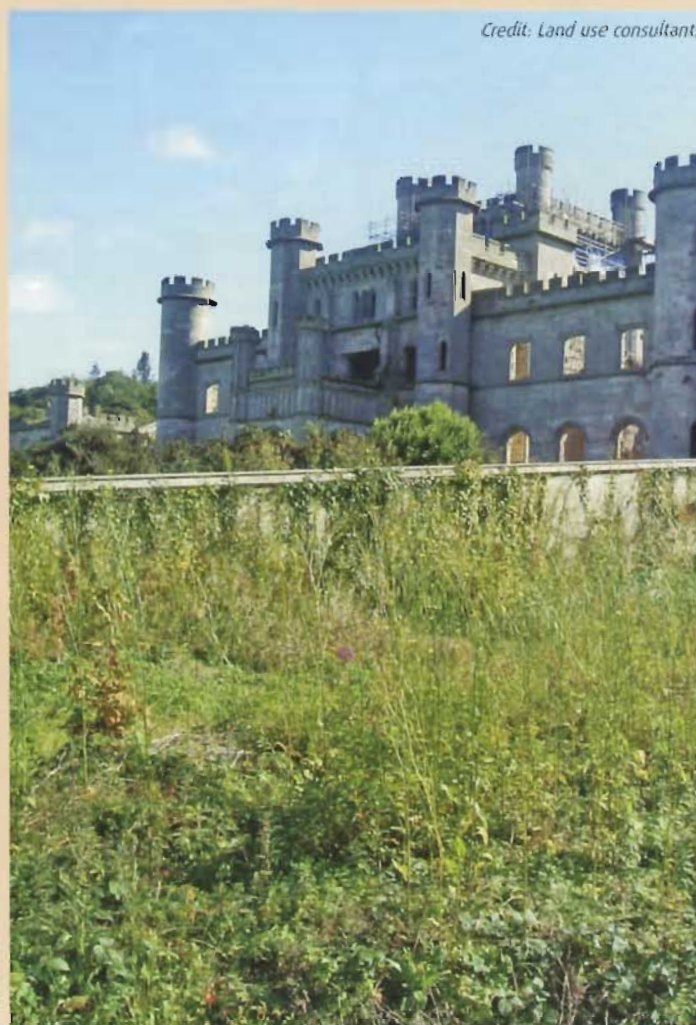
The ruined Castle and Gardens

at Lowther stand on a limestone escarpment at the Northern edge of the Lake District National Park, 3 miles from junction 40 of the M6. The 130 acre, Grade II* listed site contains the remnants of at least three significant buildings and much of its 17th century gardens remains intact.

The Trustees of the Lowther Castle and Gardens Trust (Registered Charity No.1125075) plan to transform the imposing remains of the Gothic Castle, its massive stables and over 20 hidden gardens into a destination that will change perceptions of Cumbria's visitor offering.

The Project will be distinguished by the scale and natural magnificence of the setting and by the quality and originality of the concept. The Trustees objectives are to attract new visitors to Cumbria, to encourage existing visitors to stay longer, to promote participation and learning and to feed smaller attractions across the region.

A number of studies and the project planning have already been completed, including Conservation Management plans.



Credit: Land use consultants