

# Fingerprints, scents and windows: Mapping Our Area

Shibboleth Shechter and Laura Wilson

A WALK TO REMEMBER



GEORGINA LOMBARDEO A WALK TO REMEMBER MAP FOR THE MAPPING OUR AREA PROJECT, 2020

Mapping Our Area is a publication and ongoing research project co-delivered by Course Leader Shibboleth Shechter and local artist Laura Wilson with First Year BA (Hons) Interior and Spatial Design students at Camberwell College of Arts.

The project was set up in response to the course relocating from Chelsea College of Arts in 2019, as a way to embed the course into its new neighbourhood.

Students were encouraged to explore and respond to their local area through drawing their own maps in order to 'draw out' facts and figures alongside hidden stories and histories of the neighbourhood.



STUDENTS ON A WALK AS PART OF THE PROJECT. PHOTO: LAURA WILSON

The students were introduced to the area through a walk led by Laura, who has lived and worked in Southwark since 2004. Meeting at the college the group were taken on a tour exploring the streets just off Peckham Road, taking in sites and places which had either personal or historic interest to the artist: to Old Southwark Town Hall, where her studio is located past the stretcher fences constructed after the Second World War, to Brunswick Park and The Bower, through Sceaux Gardens and Art Block to Mark Titchner's mural and towards the South London Gallery, across Peckham Road to the Fire Station and the artwork made by Federico Herrero for the children's playground on Pelican Estate, up Talford Road to the triangular-shaped Warwick Gardens with its wide variety of fruit trees, to the Aylesham Centre on Rye Lane where Gillian Wearing's *Dancing in Peckham* was filmed, finishing at Peckham Library designed by Will Alsop where once Laura gave free popcorn to members of the public.

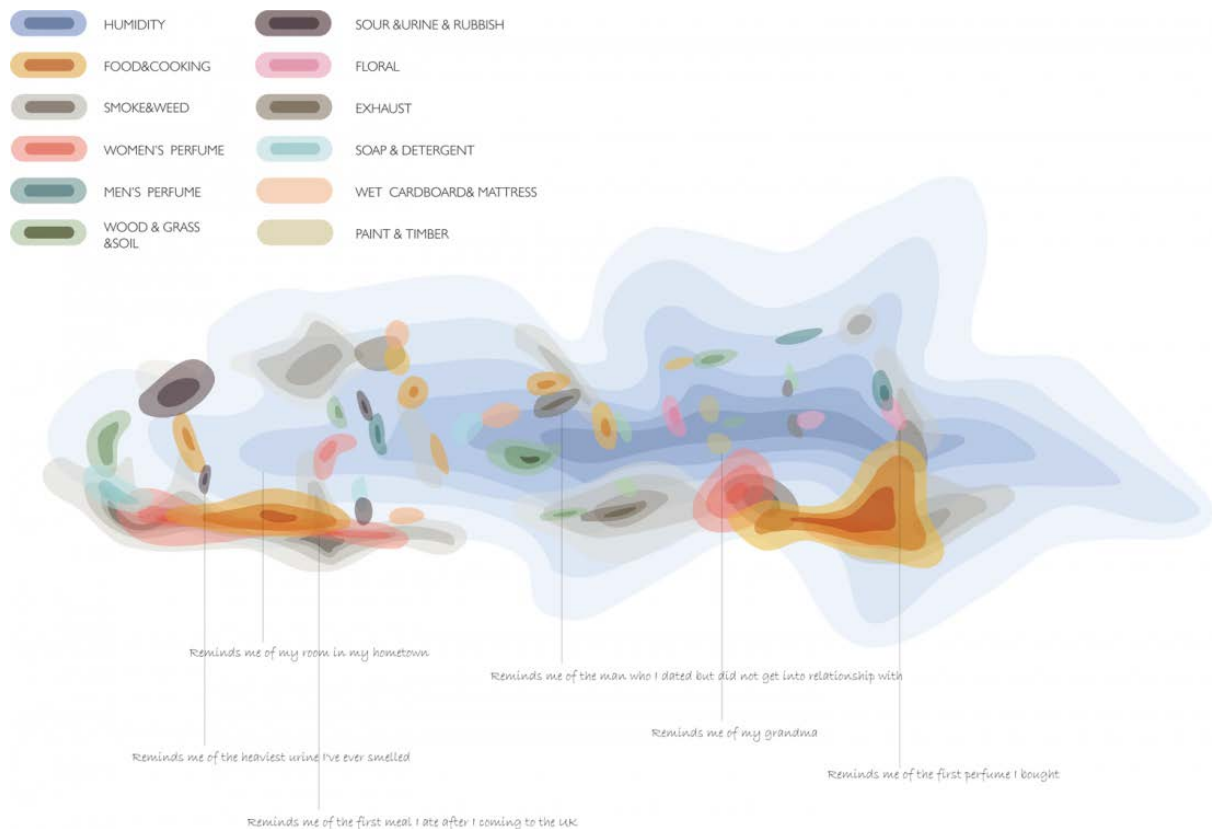
The students were then invited to explore the area through their own eyes, to undertake self-directed research and produce their own personal maps. The maps produced are wide ranging and provide a real insight into this area of south London and the diverse cultural backgrounds of the students studying at the college. They invite you to consider the different forms a map can take – such as a week in the life of a local tree, the anatomy of Peckham, the smells of Camberwell, an architectural map of the different windows along Peckham Road, and a short animation mapping a bus journey. Some themes explored by the students were familiar and expected: food culture, civic buildings, personal spaces, green

spaces or graffiti. Others focused on more abstract approaches, even sensuous in their orientation: smell, touch, sound, texture and oral histories.

[Click here](#) to discover the resulting 36 maps, which have been collated into a digital publication. Three of the students' maps are featured below in a bit more detail:

## XIQUAN LIU: SMELLS OF CAMBERWELL

People often relate smells to a particular time, place or experience. Xiquan Liu's map captures the smells of Camberwell alongside significant personal memories relating to the area. The smell of smoke and weed, mixed with food and cooking smells, reminds her of her first meal when she came to the UK, whereas the smell of humidity evokes memories of her room in her hometown.



XIQUAN LIU, LOCAL SMELLS AND MEMORIES MAP FOR THE MAPPING OUR AREA PROJECT, 2020

## GEORGINA LOMBARDEO: A WALK TO REMEMBER

Georgina Lombardero grew up in Camberwell and her family still live there; her map is comprised of fingerprints of people who live and work in the local area. She says "... it is the people who work at these places which make them so special, so for that reason, I wanted to celebrate them."

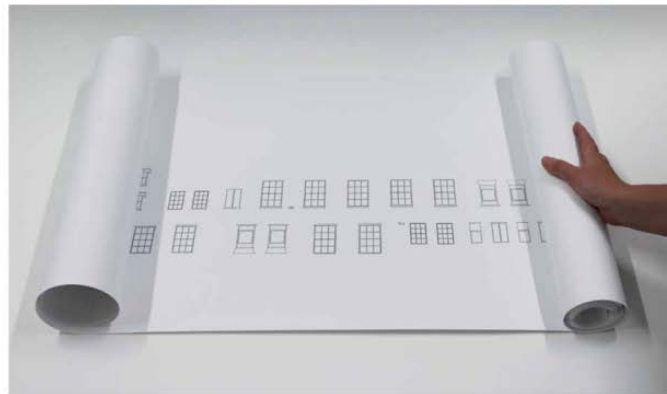
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## CHULING ZHONG: WINDOWS

Chuling Zhong has mapped all the windows along Peckham Road. Presented within the format of a scroll, the windows are drawn with architectural detail. Windows act as a barrier to the world outside, but also bring the outside in – providing light, air and atmosphere to a room.



CHULING ZONG'S WINDOWS SCROLL FOR THE MAPPING OUR AREA PROJECT, 2020