

## iBUILD project summary

**iBUILD** is a project that gave a group of **children and young people a say** about how the **built environment** in their communities can be improved for children and young people.

The project started with a **workshop** where the children and young people, with the help of fourth year Curtin University architecture students, expressed their ideas through fun, creative activities. The architecture students then took these ideas away to further **develop concepts** and create the **iBUILD display**.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People WA Michelle Scott, State Government Architect Steve Woodland and the head of Curtin University School of Architecture Sarah McGann **launched the display** during **Architecture Week** on 19 October 2010.

### About the iBUILD workshop

Twenty-five Curtin University students facilitated a day-long workshop with 17 participants aged between six and 17 years. Participants took part in a visioning exercise, where they developed this statement about the characteristics that a perfect built environment would have:

"The **best place** in the world is somewhere **bright, colourful** and has **textures** that are awesome to touch. It is **easy to get to, safe and open to anyone**. You can see how **technology** works and use it to **talk to anyone**. You can **watch movies**, listen to **music** and **hang out** inside and outdoors. You can **run around, get hurt, chill out** and **eat yummy stuff**."

The participants then used a range of creative activities, such as drawing and modelling with building blocks, to express how these ideas could be brought to life.

The students used this information to develop concepts to develop 3D and electronic models for the iBUILD display.



Above: iBUILD workshop participants share their views and ideas with the architecture students

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## About the iBUILD display

After working up the ideas for several weeks and with the models, animations and interactive projects installed, the architecture students showed participants and their families around the iBUILD display.

The participants took great delight in seeing their ideas transformed into architectural models. Their families and special guests commented that the display showed how children and young people's ideas have the potential to inform improvements to the spaces where they live, work and play.



*"My little boy was proud as punch of his involvement, telling his grandparents 'I'm the youngest person in our family to go to university!'. He thoroughly enjoyed working with the Curtin students during the workshop, and was clearly delighted at the presentation of his group's ideas on the exhibition night."*

Parent of 6 yr old iBUILD participant.

Above: Isaac (10) was pleased to have his ideas presented and April (16) shows her parents around the display.

## Feedback from the participants

The participants had the opportunity to give written and verbal feedback at the end of the project. All participants agreed that they had enjoyed the workshop and 94 percent agreed that their ideas had represented well by the students.

The participants expressed that they felt proud to see their ideas exhibited in the display and enjoyed working with new creative materials.

*"I really enjoyed doing Google Sketchup with Mel and learnt some new skills."* Acacia (16)

## Feedback from architecture students

The student evaluations clearly communicated that the iBUILD experience had given them a much greater understanding of the benefits of consulting with children and young people. They also said that they were much more aware of the capacity that children have to contribute to both creative and practical aspects.

*"Through iBUILD, I discovered children have an entirely different way of thinking and through them we have the ability to redefine our methods of design, opening new doors."* Melanie.

*"Hopefully the iBUILD workshop and exhibition initiative opens the doors for other similar events and encourages the involvement of our youth within the design decisions being made regarding our built environment."* Brett.

*"This is an amazing learning experience for me...never expected that I can learn so much from kids – seven year-old kids!"* Jee.

The Commissioner will be using the ideas and views expressed through iBUILD to help guide her work on the built environment.

Contact the [Commissioner's office](#) on (08) 6213 2297 for further information.