



The **Engaged** project is run by the **Public Toilets Research Unit (PTRU)** based at **The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design (HHCD)** at the **Royal College of Art (RCA)**, in partnership with **PiM studio Architects**.

Engaged is one of 20 innovation projects in the **Mayor of London's Designing London's Recovery** programme, in response to the 'High Streets of All' Mission.

Engaged investigates how to reuse empty premises as public toilets, sharing space with start-ups, small businesses, incubator space or community initiatives, to provide this overlooked element of public health infrastructure that supports high street regeneration.

With expertise in inclusive design, urban design and architecture, **PTRU** and **PiM.studio Architects** will develop toilet facilities that meet the needs of those who are often excluded, for and with the local community, through co-design methods.

Supported by:



MAYOR OF LONDON



Project partners:



PiM.studio
Architects



Typologies

The research within this project has highlighted a range of potential opportunities for the Engaged model within high streets. The sizes of these vary. Based on this, we have developed schemes for three different sized units based on the design principles raised by Engaged.

The intention of these is to create replicable designs and guidance for as wide a range of sites as possible. The core principles remain the same, however the features and scope can be adjusted based on the size of the unit.

Challenges around ownership and maintenance are site-specific, requiring adjustments in the business models.



Small Unit

E.g. High street independent shop
(small space available)



Medium Unit

E.g. Larger retail or council property
with higher footfall



Add-On

To add a structure to an existing toilet block
based on the **Engaged** Model



A **workshop** was held on the **17th May 2022** via Zoom for **London regeneration officers** who were engaged in active projects with their local communities, and borough policy-making.

13 officers from seven London councils participated in the session.

Over three hours, the workshop hosted two surveys and six individual and small-group activities involving discussion, mapping and ideation.

The activities aimed to:

- Gather **place-based public toilet needs**.
- Introduce the **Engaged model**, and explore how Engaged could be part of their vision for high street regeneration.
- **Identify barriers** to implementation of Engaged and public toilet provision.
- Explore **potential versions of Engaged** in different boroughs, addressing unique local barriers.
- Enable **peer support** and shared learning between officers in relation to toilet provision (barriers, challenges, successes).



Participant representation

The attendees for this workshop were all Hackney-based.

They represented different community groups to ensure a wide perspective on the local needs.

Groups represented (selected by participants):

1. LGBTQ+ & Ability/Disability -
2. Families & Ability/Disability -
3. General Public & Ability/Disability -
4. Homeless/Vulnerable & Street drinkers/people who spend all day outside -
5. General Public & Other, medical condition

Workshop activities

1. We asked the participants to share their most recent **experience of public toilets**,

Negative experiences or features were more memorable.

2. This activity aimed to capturing **preferences of existing types of public toilet**, by each participant rating them 1st, second and 3rd, and any they would actively avoid. Accessible toilets and Gender-neutral enclosed facilities gained the most votes.

3. Attendees were asked to each finish sentences relating to their **sensory experiences within public toilets**

When entering a toilet, I would like...

The public toilet would smell like..

I would like to hear sounds of...

I would like to feel...

4. **Design your ideal toilet**

Activity four asked participants to design to layout for a cubicle in their ideal public toilet using icons created by the team.