



## The Causey - Transforming a space

For Six Cities Design Festival

The Causey was conceived by ARCADE Architects as a project for the SIX CITIES Design Festival 2007. The Causey is a historic space on the Southside of Edinburgh dating from at least 1599 when it appeared on maps and was first recorded as being 'causeyed' (paved). The distinctive triangular shape of the space has persisted but, in recent times, its fate has been to become a desolate traffic island. Cars have taken over. ARCADE posed the question - could design transform it into a place full of life and people?

The design for the transformation of the space was initiated through a Community Ideas Workshop led by ARCADE where participants explored the past, present and future of the West Crosscauseway space through themes, ideas and aspirations. The idea of transforming the traffic island into a tropical island emerged from the workshop and was then developed by ARCADE, working in collaboration with artists Shaeron Averbuch of Art in Architecture, and Carnival Chaos.

The Causey was enjoyed by over 1500 people, who were invited to write their wishes for the future of the place on labels attached to the "Ideas Tree". Feedback was almost 100% positive about the transformation and about a future permanent "people" space on this site. The project was filmed and time-lapse photographs were made into a short movie. [Both now showing on youtube.]

The Causey worked successfully on lots of levels: it looked beautiful; it encouraged visitors to look at and listen to the history of West Crosscauseway and its surrounding; it acknowledged the spirit of the Southside of Edinburgh; it became a social space for residents to meet; children played safely; it inspired all to consider how they could transform the space permanently.

One of the most positive aspects of The Causey was the strong sense of 'community' that developed simply out of local people working together on a common project. Causey2 - a permanent transformation - is now being developed by the West Crosscauseway Association.

