Gravity

Challenge Design Brief

For Primary Schools

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Gravity Design Competition

This paper provides the key information about the Gravity Design Competition. There will also be a support webinar where you can find out more and ask any questions.
Please see '**Note for Schools**' below.

Introduction

'Home is the most important piece of architecture in our lives' says George Clarke, MOBIE founder, architect and TV presenter.

Through the Covid-19 lockdown all of us, with our families, however large or small, whatever ages, genders and generations, were living much more of our lives at home than usual. We shared spaces of different sizes, layouts and styles and using different facilities.

A lot of us have been thinking about our homes much more, what we love about them, what makes them work for us and what we might change to make them even better. Through lockdown our home became much more than a home – for many it was also a place of work, for schooling, for exercise and rest – literally a place for work, rest and play!

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As we come out of lockdown we can reflect on our experiences about our new uses of home. How did this work for you and your family? Is working from home more, or working close to where you live, now more important? Does it give you family a better work-life balance?

So what better time for you to think about the home of the future and what you would want from a new style of place and an integrated community?

Introduction to Gravity

The Gravity project is located near to Bridgwater, south of Bristol. It will establish a smart campus – a place to live, work and play. Gravity is an amazing development that will create a new location for clean, large-scale advanced manufacturing industries and it will enable people who work on the site to also live there – it is 'a blueprint for a smarter, greener future'. It will be one of the most sustainable and smart campuses in Europe.

Gravity wants to design the area in a way that benefits humanity, reduces our environmental impact and responds to future demands of people by creating a brilliant new place and space.

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The Design Challenge

This design challenge is asking you to play a part in the development of Gravity by designing the houses that you would like to see in this exciting new place. What home do you want to see on the site – what does a house of the future look like? Is it designed to allow you to study or work from home more? Is it environmentally friendly and digitally controlled? Does it have space for electric cars and bikes and room for an allotment? What do you want to see in this new community and what do you want the future workers' homes that are built there to look like?

Future Homes - The way we live in our homes and the technology we enjoy is changing rapidly and it will continue to change and improve into the future.

Now is the perfect time to think about what your future home would look like.

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The Design Challenge

We want you to look ahead and design a home for this site that:

- has space to study/ work
- is environmentally 'super-green' in its design
- uses new and sustainable building materials and methods in its construction
- helps reduce our energy needs in its use
- uses smart technologies
- is adaptable to our changing needs
- is connected to other homes and work places by walking routes and open green spaces
- is good for the health and well-being of people, the Gravity community, and our planet

We want you to design a home of the future where you and your family will be happy, healthy and safe.

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The Design Challenge

You can create your design in any way you like using whatever materials you can lay your hands on. You could draw your house by hand, use computer software, use games such as Minecraft or Sims, make a model out of cardboard boxes, use Lego, make a collage using magazine pictures or photographs, even produce a short video using Tik Tok or another social media platform. If you don't like any of these options, then maybe you could write an article, story or a poem about your future house in this amazing place.

What sort of home do you want at Gravity for you to live, work and play in in the future?

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How might the way we live in our homes be different in the future?

The items listed below may all change the way we design and build homes in the future:

- New ways of working flexibly, from home, or from the Gravity campus as a work hub
- New gadgets, equipment and technologies
- New and different building materials
- Changes to our natural environment and climate
- Access to green space and cleaner air
- Living longer – we'll be living in our homes longer - and getting older. How can we design homes to help us as our needs change and we get older?
- Transport – how will we get around at Gravity?

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How would some of these changes affect your home design? How will people live there – what gadgets, equipment and technologies might they be using? What will your future house or flat/apartment look like? How might the size, shape, space and appearance of this home of the future change? What will the home be made of?

Use your imagination to answer these questions and any others that you can think of.

Our future homes must not just be well-built, environmentally friendly buildings. Most of all they are about the people who will live in them and call them home - so think about creating a home with series of spaces that you will need, use and love. We must design and build homes that everyone will want to live in - comfortably, happily, healthily and safely.

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Home isn't just *where* you live, it is *how* you live.

Our design challenge wants you to have lots of fun and to use your imagination, knowledge and creativity to create your home for Gravity. In developing your design ideas, you should:

- Remember your classroom learning activities including history, geography, science and sustainability and ecology.
- Think about how you use your own home – how do you use it and what do you like, what don't you like, what would you want to change?
- Think about green living – energy, water, wildlife and waste and growing food. For example, will you collect and re-use rain water from roofs (e.g: to flush toilets, water your plants), or use sustainable electricity and generate you own energy/ heat, or recycle and re-purpose everyday materials (eg: turning old clothes into cushion covers, or using old wood to make things for the house).
- Where will you work? – in your home, a work hub or on the Gravity site?

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The Design Challenge

- Consider the technologies and equipment you think we will have in the future to make your home more user friendly, comfortable, easier to use, flexible and adaptable to your changing needs.
- How would you travel? Would you need to buy a car? Can you share one? Would you use public transport or a new rail service from the site, an e-bike or scooter?
- Think about and research the issues that we will face and deal with when living in our homes in the future.

Question to answer to help you design you home for Gravity:

- Where is it on the site?
- What rooms do you need?
- Will you study/work from home?
- How big is it?
- How many floors will it have?
- What shape is it?
- What is it made of?
- What technology will you use in the house?
- How will you get around?

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Submission Details

This competition is open to primary students aged between 7 – 11

There are two entry categories: Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4) and Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6)

Students can work individually or in groups.

Entry details: To enter you need to submit your design plus some words about what you have thought about and proposed in your project. You can also include a name and logo for your home design.

We will judge the winners and runners up for your school through a judging panel. At a future date, when we are all safe to gather together, we will hold an exhibition and presentation ceremony for all the schools' winners and runners up.

Please send your submissions to **home@mobie.org.uk**
By **Friday, 11th June 2021**

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Note for schools

We hosted a support webinar to on the 1st April to share more details about the competition. You can listen to a recording **here**.

If your school or college would like to arrange an online meeting or chat to discuss any details of the challenge or answer questions about the competition, please contact MOBIE via **home@mobie.org.uk**

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Personal Development Opportunity for Staff

One of Gravity's main aims is to create as much social value as possible so that children, young people and adults feel connected and able to contribute to the development. Gravity is working with Bounce Forward, a national charity that specialises in practical resilience for schools. As part of this design competition Bounce Forward are providing an introduction to how to build resilience. Covid-19 has propelled the need to build skills in a way that enables individuals to not only overcome setbacks but also thrive and bounce through them.

This free CPD session will provide essential knowledge and information that will be useful for this project and beyond.

The FREE virtual training event will be held on the **5th May from 3pm – 4.30pm**. Register your free place **here.**

Please contact Bounce Forward at **info@bounceforward.com** or call 0330 133 0776 with any questions.

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home@mobie.org.uk

www.mobie.org.uk

@mobiehome

Gravity

info@thisisgravity.co.uk

thisisgravity.co.uk

@_thisisgravity

bounce
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info@bounceforward.com

bounceforward.com

@bounceforward