EDP Design Training
20-21 June 2017, Manchester

The Empowering Design Practices research project invites groups looking after historic places of worship to attend a free design training course, on 20 & 21 June in Manchester, to help you explore the potential of your building.

This two-day hands-on course aims to enable community groups who are at the early stages of re-thinking the use and physical elements of their building to develop their design skills, knowledge and confidence. You will explore the challenges and opportunities of your building, and what design can do to help you unlock its potential, be it through small or complex changes.

The course is based on the Buildings by Design programme, delivered by The Glass-House Community Led Design for over a decade. We are grateful to Dr Angela Connelly for hosting us at the University of Manchester this summer.

Up to 20 people (representing up to 4 different groups) may attend each course, providing a unique opportunity for groups to explore and share design ideas with others in an informal and neutral space.

During the training you will have the opportunity to:

- Work actively and creatively on your project
- Visit inspiring projects and meet the people who developed and use them
- Explore design options supported by independent design professionals
- Create a physical model of your project
- Create an action plan to take your project forward

We expect at least 3 people from each group to take part in the course. Those attending will be expected to take part in the full two-day programme. Travel expenses will be covered by EDP and overnight accommodation and subsistence will be provided. Those travelling to Manchester are encouraged to arrive the evening of 19th June if possible.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Sophia de Sousa at sophia@theglasshouse.org.uk with your expression of interest by 15 May.

Please include the following in your email:
- Name and contact details for a lead contact for your group
- The name of your place of worship, and its location
- A brief description of your place of worship, what changes to the building you are exploring and why
- How many members of your group would like to attend (minimum 3, maximum 5)

Empowering Design Practices is five-year collaborative research project that explores how community-led design can help empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable places that respect and enhance their heritage. Working within this context, the project aims to develop tools, resources and training to support community-led design practice and research to support any community-led design process for the built environment.

Empowering Design Practices is led by the Open University in partnership with The Glass-House Community Led Design, Historic England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Religious Buildings Alliance and consultants Becky Payne, Stephen Smith and Leo Care/Live Works. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.