

# STORE STORE

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## **Camden school students design and build new public bench from local waste materials.**

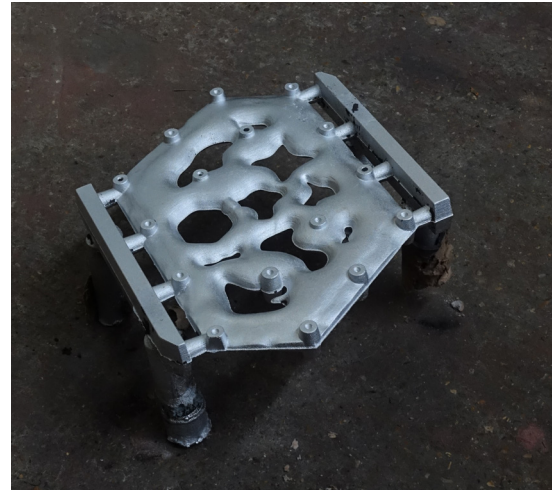
For this year's London Design Festival, STORE has been working with artist and designer, Attua Aparicio and a group of invited designers to create an educational programme for local state school students aged 14–18. Together, they have designed and prototyped a new public bench for Camden, using waste materials sourced from King's Cross: an exciting model for commissioning street furniture that combines bold form with both environmental and social purpose.

Across four After School Clubs, under the guidance of designer Attua Aparicio, students explored modularity with Livia Lauber, glass with Dawn Bendick, plastics with James Shaw and aluminium with Marina Dragomirova. This culminated in a summer school run by Attua and Oscar Lessing where students worked alongside local industries transforming their ideas into a modular piece of public furniture. The project raises awareness of green design technologies and the circular economy, while also exploring local production and innovative solutions for public infrastructure.

Unveiled during London Design Festival 2025, the bench and accompanying exhibition invites the public to gather, sit, and celebrate the creativity and civic contribution of Camden's young designers.

### **Co-designing the city with young people**

This project is part of a wider commitment to involve young people in shaping the future of their neighbourhoods. The initiative provides a platform for students to learn by doing, while developing confidence, collaboration skills and portfolios that support future university and job applications in architecture, engineering, and design.



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This approach also presents an efficient, innovative model for public commissioning that offers councils greater social value for their spend. By integrating education and co-design into procurement, STORE demonstrates how investment in young people and infrastructure can go hand-in-hand.

“Working alongside fellow practitioners and students has been an inspiring experience, reaffirming my belief in the power of collaboration and showing how involving young people in real projects can generate meaningful outcomes for both the community and the students themselves.”

Attua Apparicio, lead designer

“Before this project I didn’t know how to use a drill, it was always a bit intimidating for me. After this wonderful experience I know how to use different machines that will benefit me in the future and also my career goal of being an architect.”

Yaprak, Summer School student

## Notes to Editors:

### About STORE

STORE is an association of designers, artists and architects based in London and Rotterdam. Through its After School Clubs and Summer Schools, STORE supports state school students aged 14–18 from underrepresented backgrounds to access careers in the creative industries. Its programmes combine education, hands-on making and public design commissions with past workshops including glassblowing, bioplastics, ceramics, pattern cutting and more.

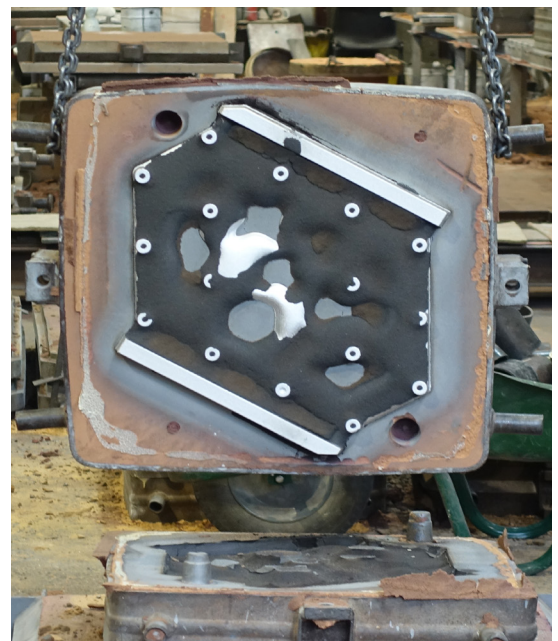
These programs help to supplement students’ portfolios for university applications, supporting STORE’s mission to widen access to the creative industries. In the last two years alone, more than 500 secondary state school students have joined STORE’s London workshop programmes – over 50 of these have been offered university places, including admissions to study architecture at UCL and Cambridge University.

### [Media Kit](#)

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