



## **Unseen At Night at Archifringe**

### **BRIEF**

**Archifringe** is a festival running in Scotland that invites designers and researchers to participate in its Open Programme, to encourage discussion around the socio-political impact of architecture and design.

**HerCollective** is the umbrella term for an ongoing collaboration between Kirsty Watt and Amelia Powell on architecture and urban planning projects that centre on gender equity.

**Femmergy** is a queer club night and DJ collective in Edinburgh, raising money for charity and spotlighting queer creatives.

When utilising the terms **queer** and **femme**, we hope to engage with anyone that; identifies with queerness, is part of the LGBTQIA+ community, is queer femme or faces marginalisation based on their femininity or lack of in any way. Queer extends to any person that feels in tension with the cisgendered heterosexual “norm,” and is a defiance of the superimposed standards of capitalism. Any person that identifies with any of the above, or feels that they have something to contribute to this dialogue is welcome.

The project aims to demonstrate the opportunities of queer night spaces that encompass the principles upon which queer communities are centred, facilitating a collaboration of queer and femme designers within Scotland to do so. The project initiates dialogue across architecture and design industries of what queerness and femme spaces can be through a collaboration between HerCollective and Femmergy to provide a provocation. The brief is based on the experience of Femmergy as well as feedback from their attendees through social media, and aims to encourage individual and collective representations of queer joy. Areas for improved safety, inclusivity and accessibility within queer spaces should be spotlighted.

# What should a queer / femme night be? What should it have?

## The brief is centred on three primary areas;

**Safety** - providing safeguarding measures for people to look after each other, feel safe and able to ask for help if needed.

- Ask for Angela scheme at the bar.
- Good external lighting.
- Safe area for drinks to be put down / safe cups.
- Well trained staff & bouncers with an understanding of the requirements and zero-tolerance for marginalisation or harassment.
- Welfare officers.

**Inclusivity** - an understanding that queer night spaces must extend past the queer masc experience and be fully inclusive in order to achieve what queerness is grounded in.

- Gender neutral toilets with signs showing facilities included.
- Diverse users.
- A mix of femme & queer acts / DJs / staff from different backgrounds.
- Sober spaces.
- Sensory spaces.
- Representation of femme art / the femme experience.

**Accessibility** - utilising the opportunity of the space to ensure accessibility to people with alternative requirements in a world that does not often offer it.

- Barrier free / wheelchair accessible entry and use of all spaces.
- Wheelchair accessible bathroom / Changing Places.
- Quieter & lighter spaces for talking.
- Local transport links.
- Cloakroom.

Not all aspects necessarily need to be incorporated or explicitly shown but an understanding that these spaces should be inclusive and accessible to all people is imperative.

We do not expect that this project will necessarily provide any answers to issues queer communities face, but we hope that the project will offer inspiration to the architecture and design community for their future work through raising the voices of the queer and femme community.

## **There are additional questions you may consider;**

- How big is the space? Is it a megastructure or a small intimate space?
- How could the space be marketed and/or shown to the wider community?
- How will different people use the space differently? Will they all use it at the same time?
- What sort of music or performances can be facilitated within the space?
- Is the ideal space full of colour and chaos or a more minimalist approach?
- Where do you personally fit in to your proposal?

## **Proposal Requirements**

We would suggest that the output is culminated into a single image that fit the requirement to be printed at **A2 at 300dpi, preferably portrait**. However, alternative mediums will be considered, as well as the possibility of having a magnitude of images where appropriate.

Individual contributors should be comfortable with their output being catalogued in an **accompanying zine** that will be available for a period after the exhibition.

## **Timeline**

**3rd April 2023** - Launch of Open Call.

**24th April 2023** - Expression of interest deadline.

Please send a short proposal (approx 250 words), as well as any existing experience or previous works, and relevant website links or social media handles.

**w/c 01 May 2023** - HerCollective and Architecture LGBT+ Mentors will meet with individual contributors to review proposals and discuss next steps.

**01 June 2023** - final versions of each successful contribution to be submitted to HerCollective.

**16th-18th June 2023** - exhibition at Custom Lane as part of Archfringe Open Programme.

## **Contact details**

All Expressions of Interest should go to:

**Kirsty Watt / Amelia Powell**  
hercollectiveuk@gmail.com

Please let us know if you need an alternative format of this document via email.