

Straitéis Spásanna Poiblí na Gaillimhe

galway public realm strategy

dermot foley landscape architects Allies and Morrison



Galway is a lively medieval city on the west coast of Ireland, with an abundance of culture, tourism and history. The raw landscape character of Galway city along with its rich heritage provides an immensely strong basis for the Public Realm Strategy. The Strategy is inspired by, and celebrates, the unique qualities of the city. A first of its kind for Galway city, the Public Realm Strategy sets out a bold vision which has already been recognised by the Irish Planning Institute with an award for 'Best Design'. The strategy proposes a step-change in quality and a restructuring of public spaces to put people first. Design is kept simple, functional and of-place, allowing the public realm to be a complementary and resilient backdrop to everything the city has to offer. The Strategy is accompanied by a set of manuals (Activity, Design and Delivery) which provide a practical tool that can be used by everyone who has a role in delivery, from the Council, in making strategic decisions, to those involved in the everyday upkeep of the city.

A commitment to consultation from the outset and a belief that people can positively shape the strategy underpins the Public Realm Strategy. A series of public consultations such as a two-day pop up event and 'walking audit' took place which sought to engage with the local community who know their city and possess immense local knowledge of the way Galway is, both in terms of what really makes the city special, and

understanding the key priorities for change. The consultations were held with the option of engaging in either Irish or English. The result has been a public realm strategy for Galway which is rooted in local knowledge, and much stronger for it.

As a result of the analysis of Galway City and the engaging public consultation process the design team worked collaboratively to design, facilitate and deliver a programme which was ambitious and rooted in best practice. One of the key outcomes from this process was the important role small and incidental spaces could provide in a compact city like Galway. Identifying these spaces has the potential to provide much needed new public realm and respite in the city. The strategy identifies a series of 'microspaces' where relatively low-cost interventions could help deliver on multiple objectives. 'Microspaces' are small spaces throughout the city, which currently are 'leftover' and can be reclaimed to better serve the city. These small areas will serve two key functions: both amplifying place-making and supporting ecological objectives and wildlife corridors.

The Galway Public Realm Strategy explores the current condition of central Galway's townscape and network of public and green spaces, and sets out a vision and strategy for improvements to guide investment and development in the future.



Celebrating Galway's Uniqueness



Making Galway inclusive and accessible



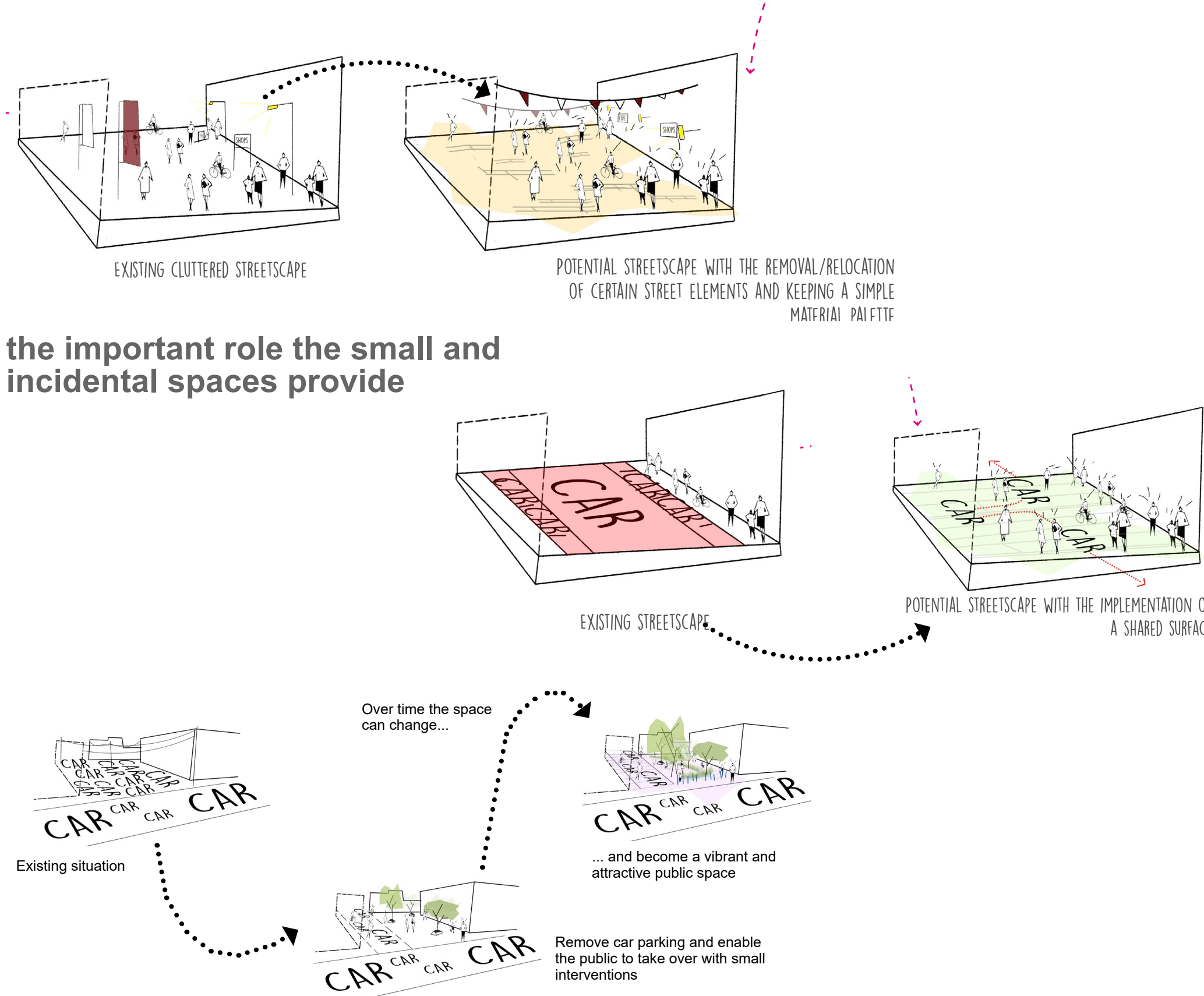
Public Consultation



Making more space for people

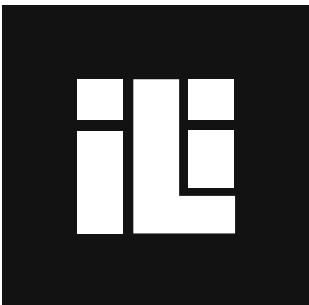


Making it easier to get around



the important role the small and incidental spaces provide

"The Galway Public Realm Strategy will make the city centre as welcoming and accessible to everyone as possible. It promotes universal design and helps open up the city to all. It will make getting into and moving around Galway much easier"
Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Mike Cubbard



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