Workshop Proposal

Proposers' Name	Sam McElhinney
Proposers' Institution (if any)	University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury School of Architecture
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Proposers' Short Bio (text up to 200 words)	Sam is an Associate Professor and Programme Director for Architecture at the University for the Creative Arts' Canterbury School of Architecture; overseeing the BA (Hons) Architecture, BSc Architectural Technology, BA Landscape Architecture & Design, BSc Urban Design & Planning, MA, MArch and PGCert (RIBA Part Three) courses. He is an Architect, and the founder-developer of isovists.org, a software platform for advanced spatial analysis. As a partner of MUD Architecture, he also has ongoing private projects including a community centre in South East Kent.
Workshop Title	
Aim and Objectives (describe the aims and objectives of the Workshop, indicating the scope of the workshop as well as why you think that this is a good topic for the 14th SSS)	Our workshop will introduce the 'Isovist_App'; a free multi-platform software tool, designed to help architects, designers and researchers to better understand spatial structures and how people might respond to them. The Isovist_App uses the geometric spatial unit called the 'isovist', defined as the finite volume of space that is visible at any given point at which a perceiver might exist. It provides an alternative stochastic basis for the study of locally experiential and globally syntactic spatial configurations. It does not require the
	production and computationally expensive analysis of an overall 'spatial graph'. As a result, the Isovist_App can match the standard space syntax metrics as produced by DepthMap X, including integration; but can do so at very high resolutions in a fraction of the time normally required to produce traditional visibility graph analysis (VGA).

Structure (describe the format of the workshop, identifying any keynote speakers, technical information, and so on)	**introductory knowledge (am session)** We will begin with a general introduction to the Isovist software. The underpinning stochastic isovist principles that negate the requirement for a spatial graph will be reviewed and explained. Attendees will then be shown how to install and operate the software to a overall competent level. The session will include discussion and demonstration of: - the basic principles and metrics associated with the unit of the isovist; including different spatial types, isovist parameters and limits; - how to import and edit properly scaled plans for analysis; including different material classifications; - how to derive metric values from isovist point and path analysis; and how to produce minkoswki models; - how to conduct isovist field 'scan' analysis, including high speed, high definition integration analysis; - how to set spatial links between regions or floors in a plan for global analysis in complex buildings; - how to export results in image and data file form (for GIS and statistical analysis). **advanced discussion (pm session)** In the afternoon session, we will move on to more involved and sophisticated discussion of the isovist software. The latter can be partly led by attendee interest and need, but it is likely that the following issues will be covered: - discussion of the relevance of isovist scan metrics and their relationships to established syntactic measures; - agent based analysis and its use in plan forms; - methods for comparative exploration of multiple measures relative to one another within the software; - 1:1 plan advice and consultation (where appropriate) .
Duration (specify the duration of the workshop-whether it is half or full day)	One full day
Specific Requirements (provide any specific requirements you may request from the organising	**in advance of the workshop:** We recommend all users register on isovists.org to download and test the latest release of the isovist

committee for the implementation of the workshop)	software in advance of the workshop. We are happy to troubleshoot as necessary in advance to aid this. Demonstration plan types will be provided for attendee import and analysis during the workshop, ranging in scale from a small interior space to an urban fragment. Individuals are also encouraged to bring their own subject plans. For plan preparation we recommend use of illustrator (svg format) or autocad (dwg/dxf format). A basic user guide for the isovist_App is provided on isovists.org. **workshop requirements** In order to operate the software, attendees will require access to a PC or Mac laptop with a modern GPU, such as an Apple MacBook pro retina from 2018 onwards, or a recent Dell Inspiron machine. PC users may need to update their graphics card drivers in advance; a basic guide is provided on isovists.org.