

Brief

FactoryHome is a multigenerational live/work environment which addresses the following issues:

1. The increasing number of older people within the UK is placing enormous strain on state services meaning older adults will continue to work further into old age to fund their cost of living¹.
2. We are undergoing a third industrial revolution². Rapid Prototyping and Fabrication (RPF) technologies are for the first time enabling high-tech, high-precision manufacturing to take place on a domestic scale.
3. Home-based working is a rapidly growing trend and is often a means to save money and maintain a career in tandem with child care or elder care responsibilities but in many cases lacks suitable spatial functionality and can be socially isolating³.
4. High tuition fees are increasing the demand for skilled work-based apprenticeships⁴. This is particularly relevant to the site location - Bermondsey in central London - which is home to some of the most deprived families in the UK, who live alongside some of the wealthiest⁵.
5. Many past perceptions of elderly living are becoming outdated. The next generation of older people want to retain independence, retain control of their environment and remain an active, productive part of society. Increasing demand for access to entertainment, social and cultural activities is increasing the desirability of central urban locations⁶.
6. A multigenerational community allows the older and younger adults to benefit from one another, reducing the generation divide which is recognised as a problem in UK society. Similarly, older and younger adults in many cases have complimentary needs⁷.

FactoryHome takes account of changing workplace trends by returning to the notion of the cottage industry but in a modern context, enabling home working in a social, multi-generational supportive environment and provides accommodation for artisans and apprentices, young and old. This live/work environment enables older adults to remain part of a work community at different levels of engagement in a central location with access to numerous facilities.

¹ *Elderly told: go back to work and downsize* The Telegraph 09 Jan 2013

² *The third industrial revolution* The Economist 21 04 2012

³ *The workhome... a new building type?* Holliss, Frances, London Metropolitan University 2007

⁴ *Apprenticeships: why we would do well to value them more highly.* The Guardian 27 04 2012

⁵ *The Inhabitant* Keddie, J et al 2010

⁶ *What's better for old people: city or suburb?* MinnPost 06 11 12

⁷ *Creating Cohousing.* Durrett, C and McCamant K 2011