

INDUSTRY MENTORSHIP: MENTOR LIVE PROJECT WALKTHROUGH

Instead of reviewing the mentee's work, this activity flips the perspective: the mentor presents one of their own active or recently completed live projects. Using a structured template, the mentor walks through the site context, core design vision, and a real-world constraint they faced. The mentee then takes on the role of an active reviewer, practising how to critique a scheme, ask constructive questions, and record professional feedback.

Mentor Instructions & Session Guide

Step 1: Session Setup & Preparation

- **Select the Right Scheme:** Choose a live or recently completed project that has a clear concept and a tangible challenge (e.g., a tricky planning condition, strict budget constraint, complex site boundary, or competing user needs).
- **Keep Visuals Accessible:** Bring 3–5 simple visual assets. High-level site plans, hand sketches, mood boards, or simple massing models work much better for early-stage learning than dense technical construction details.

Step 2: Delivering the Walkthrough

- Talk through the site location, the client's brief, and your core concept.
- **Be Candid About Challenges:** Clearly outline 1–2 specific technical, spatial, or planning hurdles you encountered during the project and how you addressed them (or are currently addressing them).

Step 3: Facilitating the Review & Q&A

- Invite your mentee to ask questions about your choices.
- Encourage them to evaluate what works well and suggest alternative ideas or perspectives.

Mentors' Tips for Success

- **Focus on the "Why", Not Just the "What":** Mentees learn most from design logic. Explain the reasons behind key decisions (e.g., *"We placed the entrance on the south corner because..."*) rather than just showing the final result.
- **Demystify Mistakes and Iterations:** Don't just show polished, final images. Show an early sketch or option that didn't work and explain why it was discarded. This helps normalise design iteration and problem-solving.
- **Encourage Active Critiquing:** Young people can sometimes feel intimidated critiquing an industry professional's work. Put them at ease by explicitly asking: *"If you were using this space every day, what is one thing you would change?"*

- **Highlight Interdisciplinary Connections:** Point out where other specialists (e.g., structural engineers, planning officers, landscape architects, cost consultants) influenced the project's design direction.