

Design Research DJ51001 18.9.13

Hazel White

Homelessness Thumbnail Sketches

Carly is 17. She dreams of going to college to study beauty therapy. She is from a small town, thirty miles from the city. Her parents separated when she was ten. Her mother's new boyfriend moved in eighteen months ago. Carly never got on with her mum's new boyfriend – in fact she never felt very safe around him. Her mum had a new baby four months ago, and her mum's boyfriend became increasingly aggressive towards Carly as tensions in the house grew. She left home three months ago. She was 'sofa-surfing' at friends' houses until recently, but she has run out of friends to stay with. She moved to the city to try and find work four weeks ago. But it turned out it was difficult to get work, especially with no permanent address, and with no work, it was impossible to get somewhere to rent. She has been sleeping rough, trying to keep out of sight at night. She met up with some girls just a bit older than her in her first week who were welcoming and friendly and she was able to stay with them for a few nights,

Paul is 29. He was in the Scottish Regiment from the age of 17 until last year. He did two tours of Iraq and one of Afghanistan. He is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after his experiences in Iraq. He tried to find work in his home city of Glasgow, but had no luck. He found it very difficult to reconnect with friends and family and so has moved to a new city to start afresh. However with no work he has found it difficult to get permanent accommodation and is currently staying in a hostel. Although he is used to sleeping in shared accommodation he finds the chaos and the noise of the other residents lives very unsettling. He tries to keep the clothes he has clean and smart for the long hoped for job interview.

Neil is 49. He is from the city. He married very young and had two children, the marriage didn't work out. His wife remarried and he doesn't see his now grown up children. After the breakup of his marriage Neil struggled with alcohol issues – which he got help with and he then worked for an electronics firm for twenty five years until they went into administration and he was made redundant three years ago. He used his redundancy payout to set up his own business as a painter and decorator. However, with the recession, his business failed and he lost his home just before Christmas. He was able to move in with his elderly mother, but when she died in February he became homeless. Alcohol has become his way of self-medicating and he spends his days