Night Watch

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The Story of Soho's Night time Workers.

110000



Does soho ever stop?



It doesn't. The streets are never empty.



During a 24hr observation approximately more than 50% of people are night workers.

Employee jobs in night time industries in London, 2017.

London's Culture and leisure activities workplaces, by MSOA, 2017.



Night time cultural and leisure activities:

Industries Include:

- hotels / similar accommodation
- restaurant / mobile food service
- event catering / other food service
- beverage serving activities
- private security activities
- creative, arts entertainment activities
- libraries, archives, museums and culture
- gambling and betting activities
- sports activities
- asusemment and recreation activities

Occupations Include:

- managers, proprietors in leisure services
- artistic, literary and media occupations
- sports and fitness occupations
- food preparation and hospitality trades
- elementary security occcupation
- other elementary services occupations (eg. catering assistants, waiters, bar staff)

The statistics also show Soho has the highest number of night-time industries in London.



The number of people who work night times has increased by 151,000 (5%).

Britain's night workers account for one in nine (11.5%) employees in 2018.

And the increasing number of night workers in the UK also demonstrates the phenomenon of 24hrs non-stop culture under the background hyper commercialization.





The night-time economy is continually growing to the UK's fifth-biggest industry, it contributes up to 40 per cent, around £66bn.



Although 3.5 million workers in night-time industries are experiencing increased health problems.

The real issues of night-time workers are more practical and specific than health problems.





Robert can hardly get ro sleep in the morning and dreams of having dinner with friends.





Elle can't have a proper evening date, because she is only free at a weird time when most are not.





Elena doesn't have time for herself, after work she also needs to take care of her kids.

A day in the life of Mateo a security guard in Soho.



Mateo

Mateo works constantly for 12 hrs a day, from 7 pm to 7 am.



But he doesn't have an appropriate resting place during his break. And the company doesn't provide quality food for the staff.



And after work, he can't help to fall asleep on the train during his long-time commuting.



Mateo commutes from zone 7 to Soho.



Sistus commutes even farer, from Watford to Soho 3 days a week. He is exhausted when he gets back home.







2 hrs and £8 a day



30 min walk and $\pounds 0$ a day

They spend more money, time and energy on commuting in an already exhausting situation.



48% of night-time workers need to travel from outer London to inner London



More night-time workers who working on low wages

Because of lower wages and different night transportation services, Night-time workers tend to spend a larger share of their income and more time on transport.



They cannot live near there workplace because of high rental costs in Soho. Renting a 9 sqm bedroom in Zone 7 can only afford Mateo a 3.3 sqm place in the Soho.



The only alternative strategy of living in Soho with the same price is kitting out the back of van and joining a gym.

TUC

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. Go back to the beginning

Night-time jobs have many effects on different aspects, but there are no specific unions to represent their rights.



By interviewing night-time workers in Soho, the research of the project mainly focuses on 4 main aspects: commuting, diet, social life and mental health



The potential locations are in the southern part of Soho, where it is mostly occupied by night industries.

4. Mental stress: One of the busiest streets at night. 2 Surrounded by many clubs and theatres 3. Social life: Where is around by many places of amusement. 2. Diet: Where is near to the food union and many restaurants in Soho. I. Commuting: This area has the highest average rent in Soho, near to the tube station.

Related to the 4 main aspects, the potential sites are narrowed to 4 street corners in the southern part of Soho.



Corner A explores "commuting"



The model of this corner has been cast using elements of tobacco, ground coffee and other materials, that represent night-time workers' typical diet during their working time, to epitomise their identity.

01. Final drawing of the Artifact



02. First layer of the female mold





04. Finish the mold, cut it open







The booklet compares living arrangements in Soho vs Zone 7







A series of real flat plans found on Zoopla decorating the base of the artifact is showing the remarkable contrast of living conditions between Zone 7 and Soho.

As Soho venue owners capitalise on a growing night time economy and as more money is directed to them by local authority schemes, how much of this is going back to support the challenging lifestyles of night-time workers, who play a huge role in generating this value?

night-time workers' real stories























