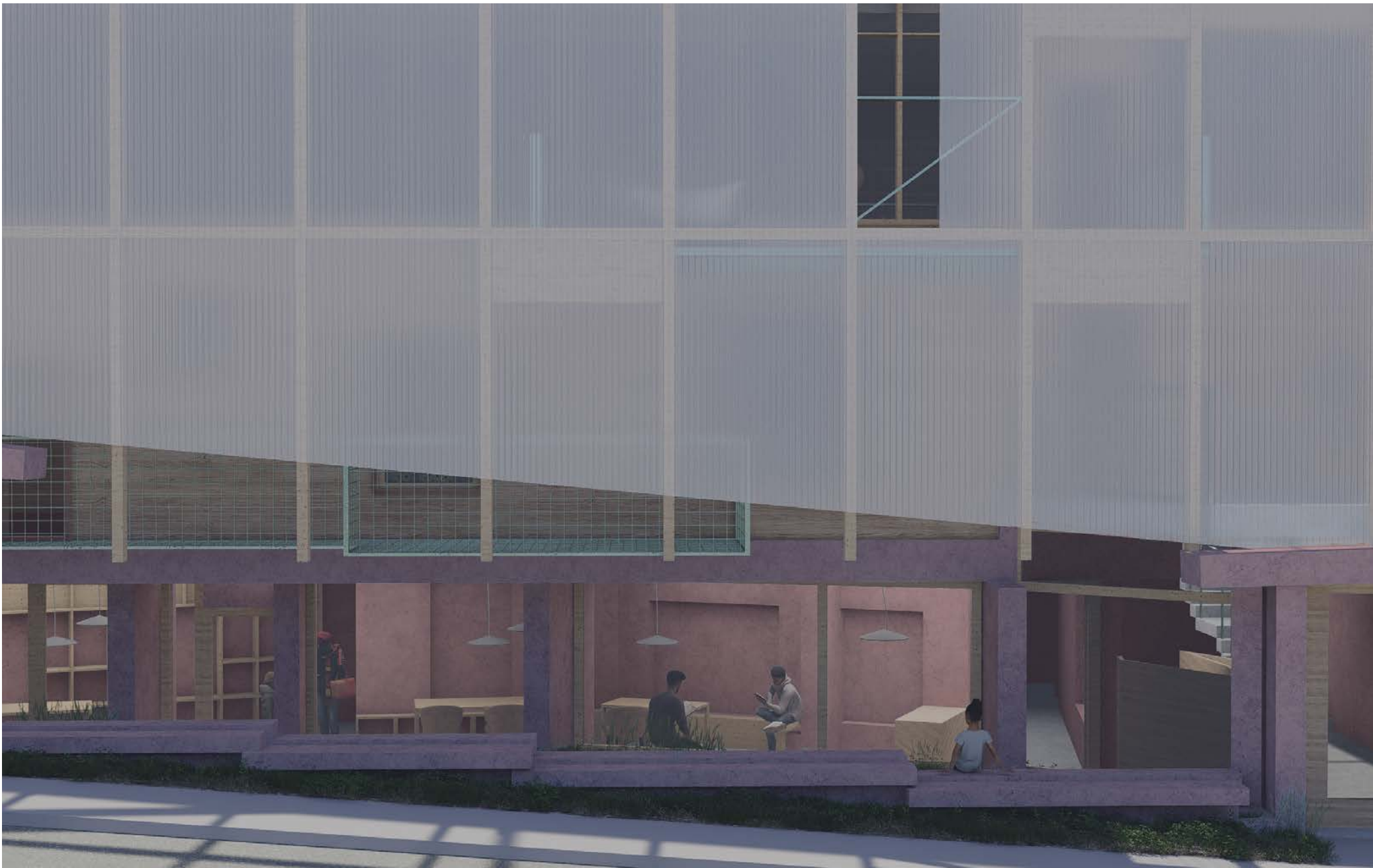


# Library in Lower Hillgate

A Bookbinding workshop and library in Lower Hillgate



My design process is rooted in narrative, material exploration, and social context. I see architecture as an active agent in repairing, revealing, and re-imagining the relationship between people and place. Each project begins with careful observation—of site, atmosphere, and everyday rhythms—and unfolds through iterative making, whether that's sketching, casting, or building models.

I'm particularly drawn to the idea of thresholds—both physical and conceptual—as moments of transition, encounter, and invitation. In my Bookbinding Workshop & Library project, I explored how layered architectural elements can echo the craft of bookbinding itself, using structure and sequence to choreograph movement and experience. I'm interested in how architecture can slow people down, create space for reflection, and quietly support collective life.



Bookbinding workshop spaces



Ground floor public space



Ryan Lai

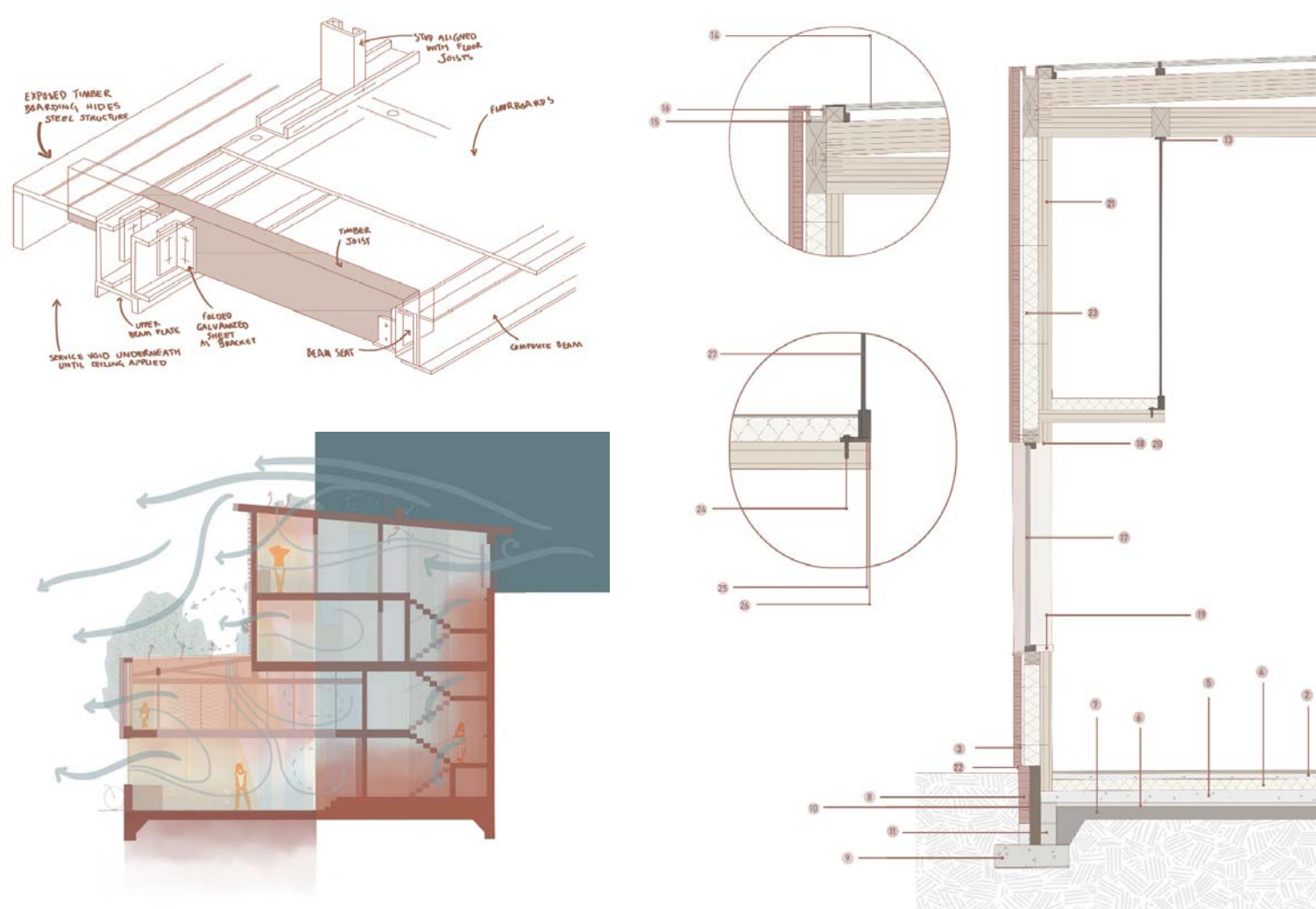
This project uses architecture to open up new possibilities in a place marked by fragmentation and neglect. By creating spaces that invite gathering, making, and reflection, it aims to stitch together social and spatial gaps. Drawing on local narratives and craft, the design becomes a platform for community memory and future potential—where people can reconnect with their environment and see their own stories valued and sustained.

# Glass Half Full

How architecture can heal urban scars



Nestled in a protected conservation zone, the proposal rejuvenates what was once a wasted brownfield site.



Juliette Ruelland-Kennedy

In the heart of Stockport's rejuvenated Lower Hillgate, this proposal transforms the town's industrial legacy into a vibrant space for creativity and connection. This stained - glass workshop, café, and exhibition space draws from Stockport's craftsmanship roots, reimagining them through light-filled artistry. Just as stained glass pieces come together to create something new, Glass Half Full celebrates transformation, offering both a gathering space for the community and a beacon of optimism for the town's creative resurgence.



A combination of sections, renders, structural details and passive comfort resolutions.



# Moulding Stockport

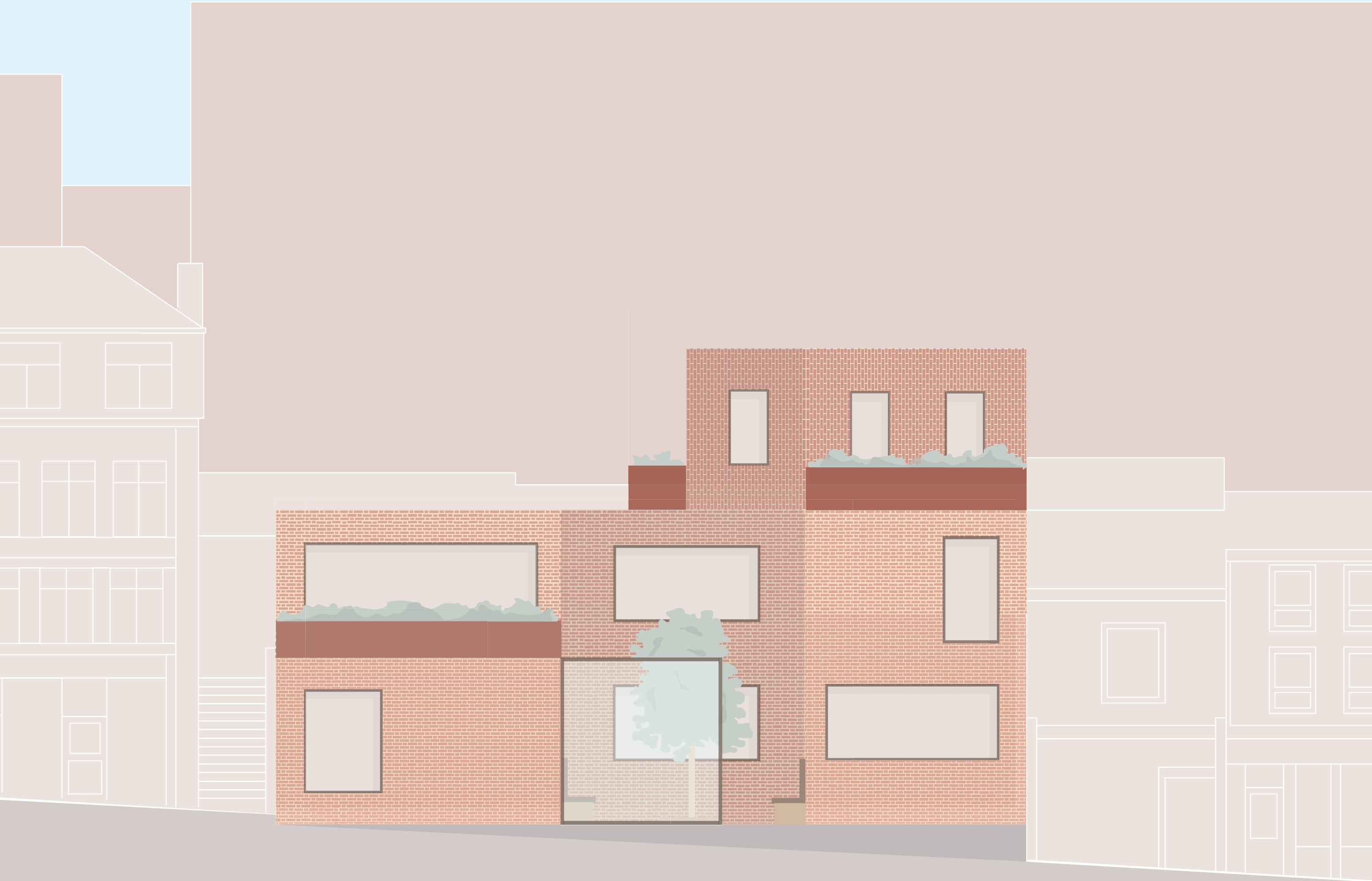
Slicing and Stitching Stockport: Pottery Studio



Stella Moore

This proposal is centred around rebuilding the vibrant community of Stockport. The design - a pottery studio located in Lower Hillgate - was inspired by Stockport's creative and industrial past. It aims to reshape the urban fabric of Stockport and connect local residents through pottery. Responding to its surroundings, the building facade is reclaimed brick, with perforated patterns. As an architecture student, I strive to create spaces that foster community, inspire connection and function sustainably. Through the material choice, construction and environmental strategies, this pottery studio uses circular systems to create a sustainable environment.

3



# Reverie Cabinet

A Cabinet Of Stockport



Reverie Cabinet has an ever changing façade, every year more work is put on, some is taken off and sold. Users control the façade design with their creations to create a building that is never stagnant and adopts a piece of every person in Stockport.



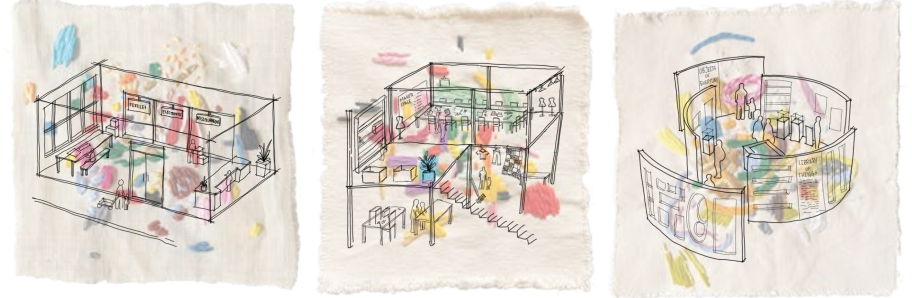
Reverie Cabinet is an archive of Stockport's everyday life. What do people have, what do they collect? When items from Stockport's residents are to be thrown away, or broken, this is a site for its refuge. Here they are revived into pieces of art, or mended and given back to the community. Art works are displayed across the block facade and can be taken by any visitors as a 'piece' of Stockport.



Reverie Cabinet also serves as a hub of socialisation. It offers countless resting spaces, such as the café and galleries for users to come, explore art, history and culture. Take a seat, grab a piece of fabric. What will you make? Cut a square, cut a triangle, stick some bottle caps and make a heart! Anything can be turned into art with an archive of everything at your disposal.

Maisha Shaiek

Hello! I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at the MSA and this is my studio 2.1 project! The core concept of this Reverie Cabinet revolves around repurpose and refurbishment. The central vision of the facility revolves around a multi-stage process of rehabilitation. It begins with a person and their 'unused things'. Items such as textiles, utensils, furniture are donated by users to the facility, where they are deconstructed and repurposed into artwork or restored for use again. The remade pieces are showcased in a 'Library Of Things', which functions as the facilities exhibition and marketplace. Visitors are welcome to explore the libraries and are welcome to take, borrow or exchange any item of their choosing from the libraries. This fosters a continuous cycle of renewal for discarded everyday items.



Gallery Spaces

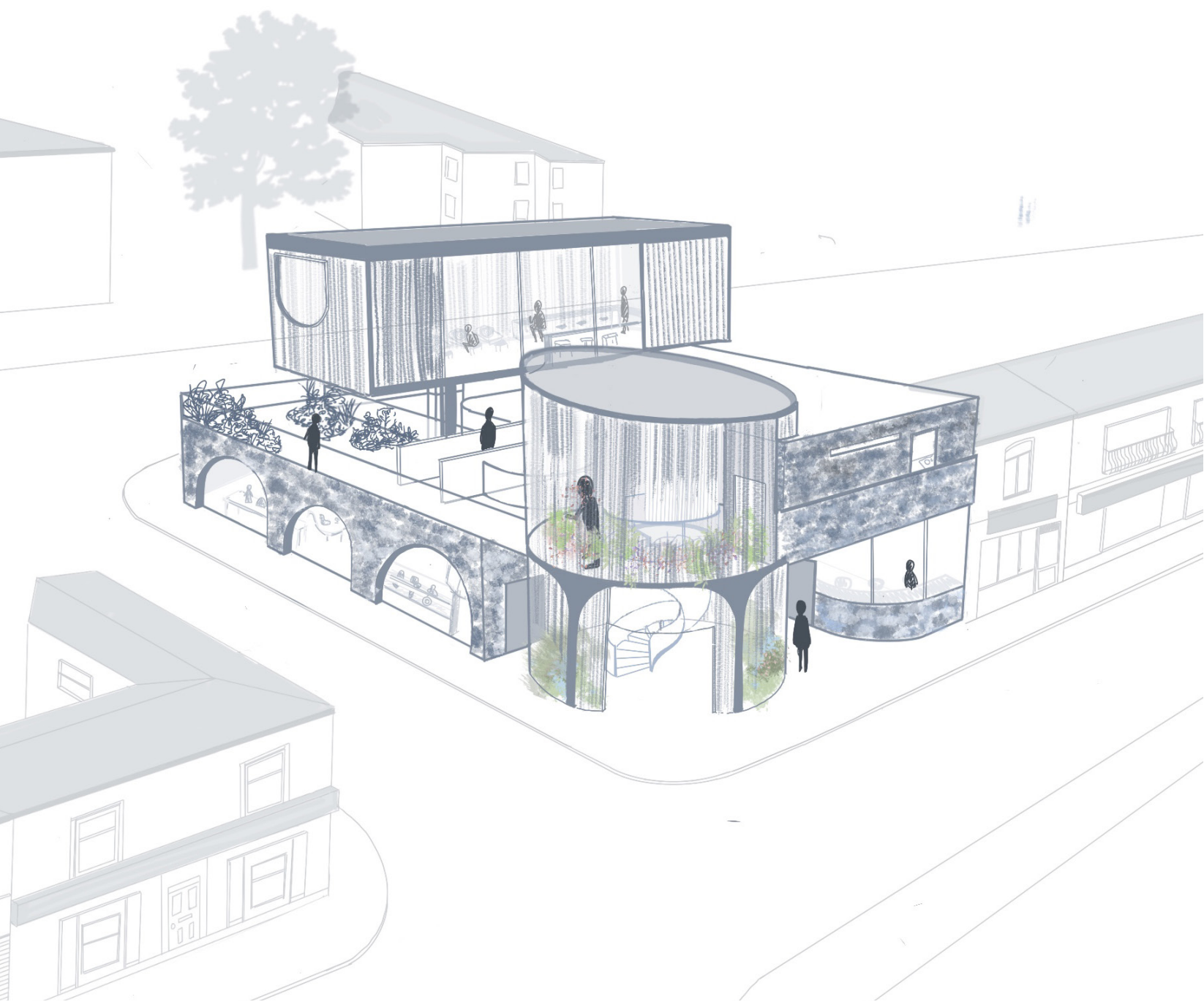


# Pottery in the Greens

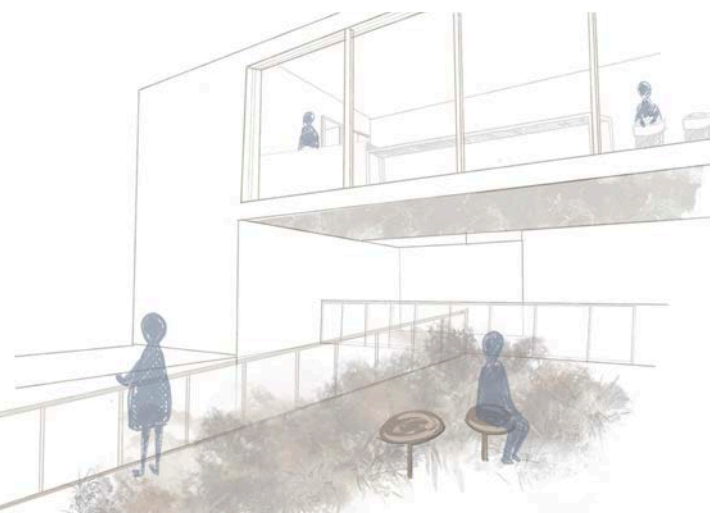
fostering a sense of community with arts and nature



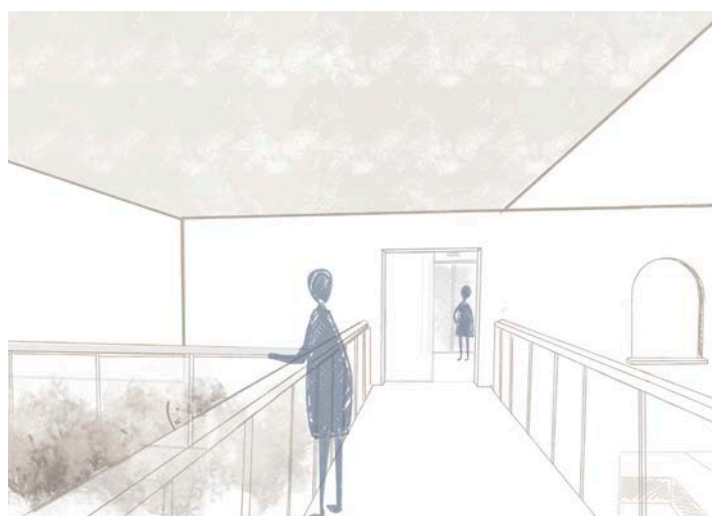
Featuring a vertical community garden and "floating" pottery studio. There are various green spaces on different levels that allows people in the community to gather and enjoy the nature.



View from Main Entrance



View from Terrace looking up to workshop space



View on connecting bridge facing Shop and Cafe



Kristen Leung  
@\_kkris10\_

Integrating my interests in nature and the arts, I wanted to bring different generations together by introducing life and restoring the sense of belonging in the community they are proud of.

This project acts as a bridge between the vibrant city life in Manchester and peaceful characteristic of modern day Edgeley. This hopes to attract young people to stay in the area, offering an alternative place other than Manchester and keeping middle aged and young residents excited about the community.

# The Healing Hops

A micro-brewery for health

Catalina Cheptene

Passionate about architectural heritage and conservation work. I believe in the power of hedonistic architecture that centres both humans and nature at its core.



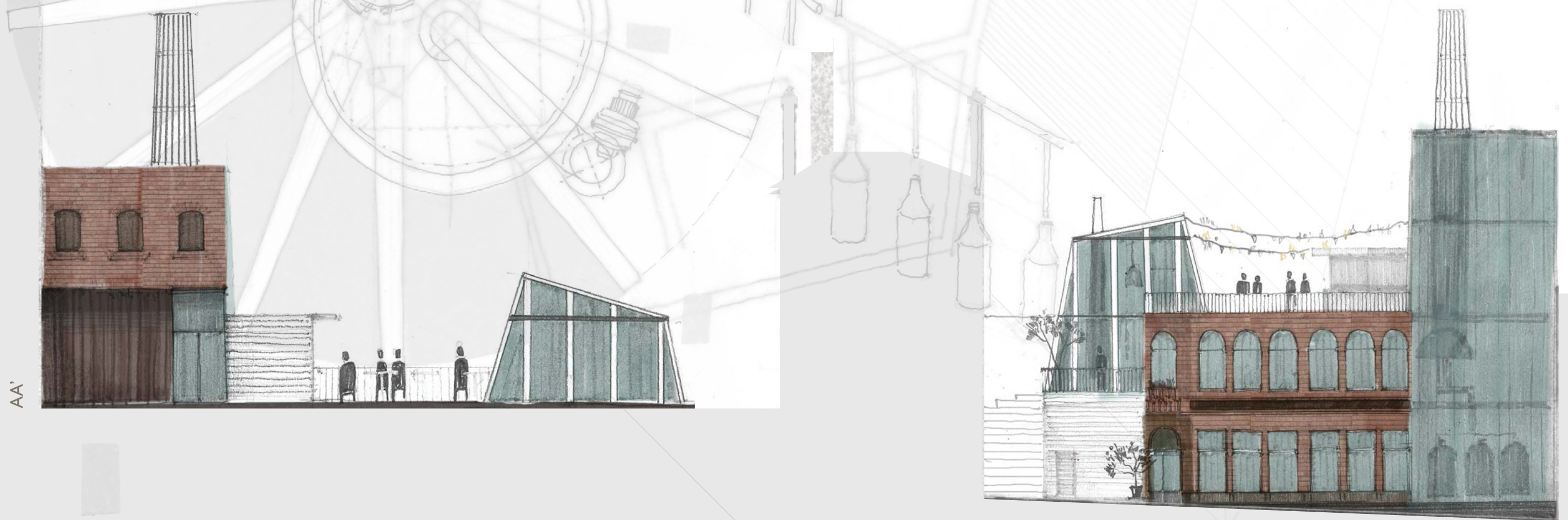
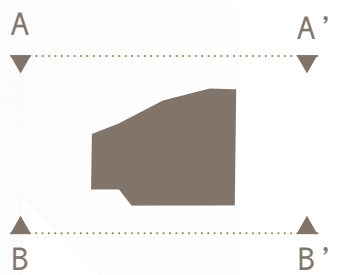
The Healing Hops' design drive is tied to Stockport's artisanal industries, marking the legacy of its neighbouring site: The Robinsons Brewery.

The site sits in the conservation area of Hillgate, where the market acts as the heart of a small-businesses community. Being mindful to its surroundings, the Healing Hops preserves the culture of Stockport, as well as protecting Robinsons Brewery memory as an unlisted building.

It is a micro brewery that specialises in non-alcoholic beverages, promoting a healthier trend among younger (and older) generations. It also addresses prevailing social issues - such as mental health - which are substantially more apparent in a post-pandemic world.

The Healing Hops is essentially a place of community, a hub of learning and acceptance, where everyone is invited to engage in a conversation with a fellow human being, over a pint of freshly made beer.

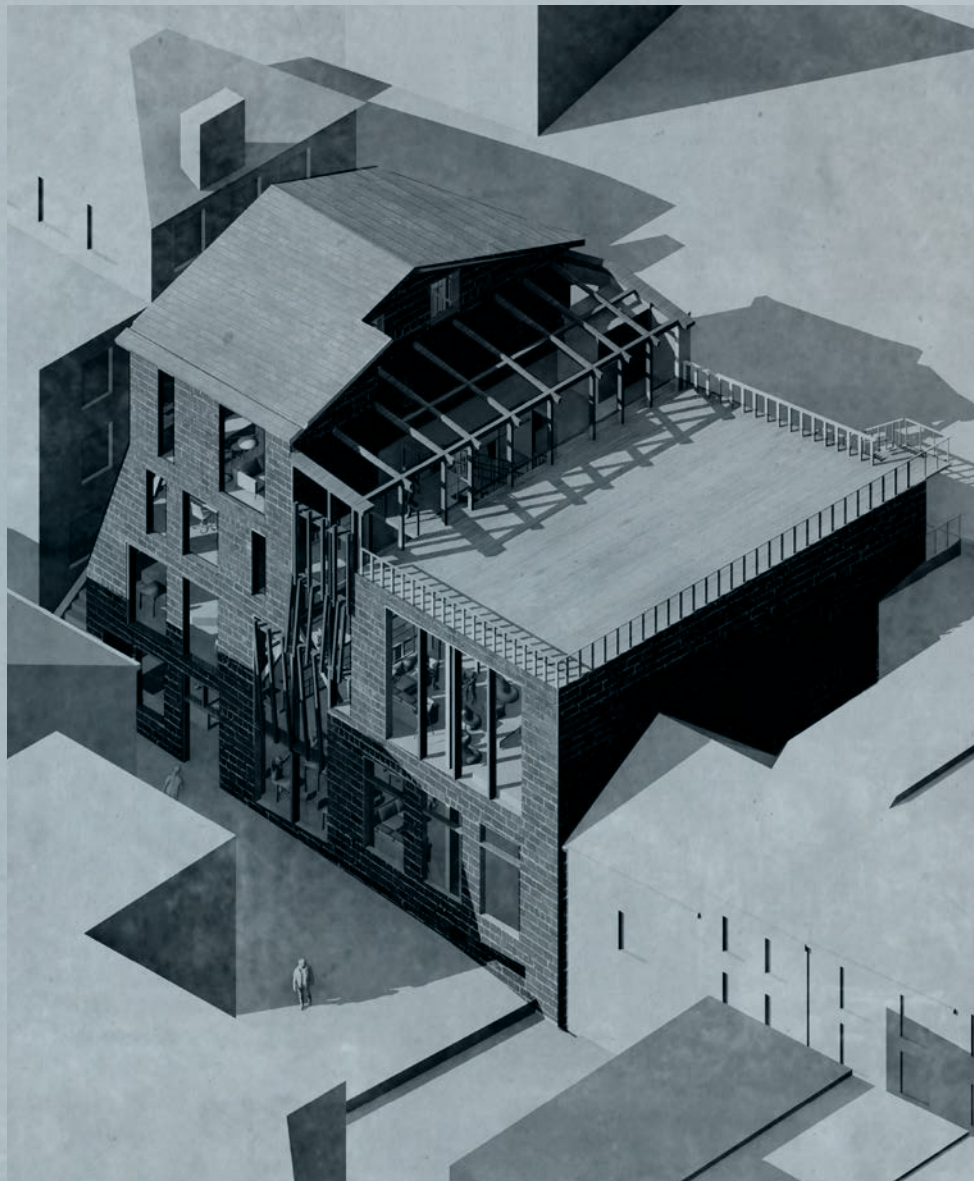
Cheers!





# The AntHill

climbing back to lower hillgate



Lower Hillgate is an enticing site as it provides a unique context. Although it is at the supposed "centre" of the town, it has a scarce amount of foot traffic and activity.



#### 1. Respecting the Context

The design respects the site's heritage by incorporating traditional materials whilst respecting the direct surroundings and key conservation points.



#### 2. Revitalizing A Sense of Community

By encouraging people to linger, participate, and 'hang out' the project should develop a community core.



#### 3. Reinventing Space through Purposeful Modernization

Program needs to foster a loyal community that invites gathering, interaction, and leisure for people across economic backgrounds.



#### 4. The Goal for Sustainable Development

A lively area encourages sustainable development through active and thriving long-term loyalty. Focus onto aims of Net Zero construction.



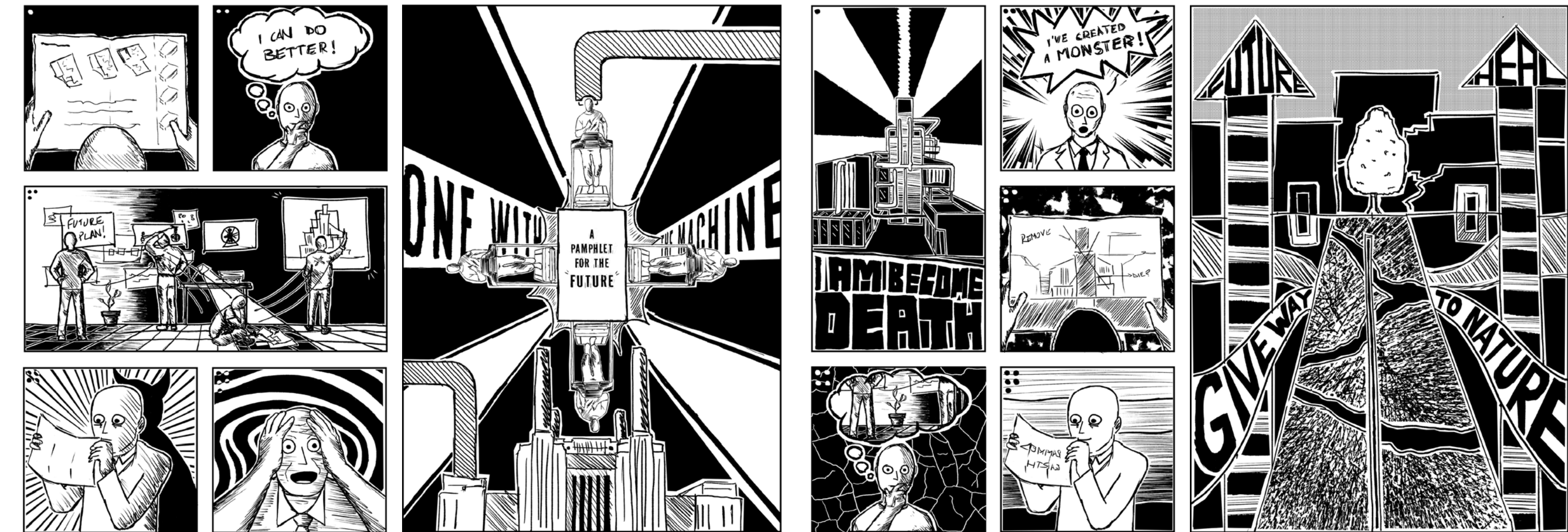
Prajesa Urip

creative archive instagram: @asejmisc  
email: jesaurip@gmail.com



## The Legend of the Watchtower Institute

THE RISE AND FALL OF STOCKPORT'S HUMAN POWERED UTOPIA

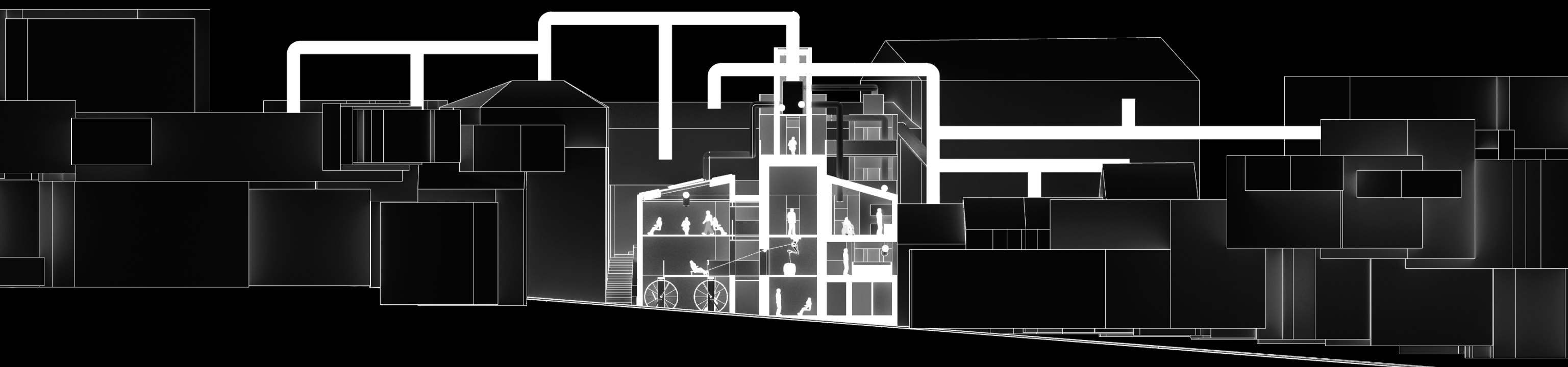
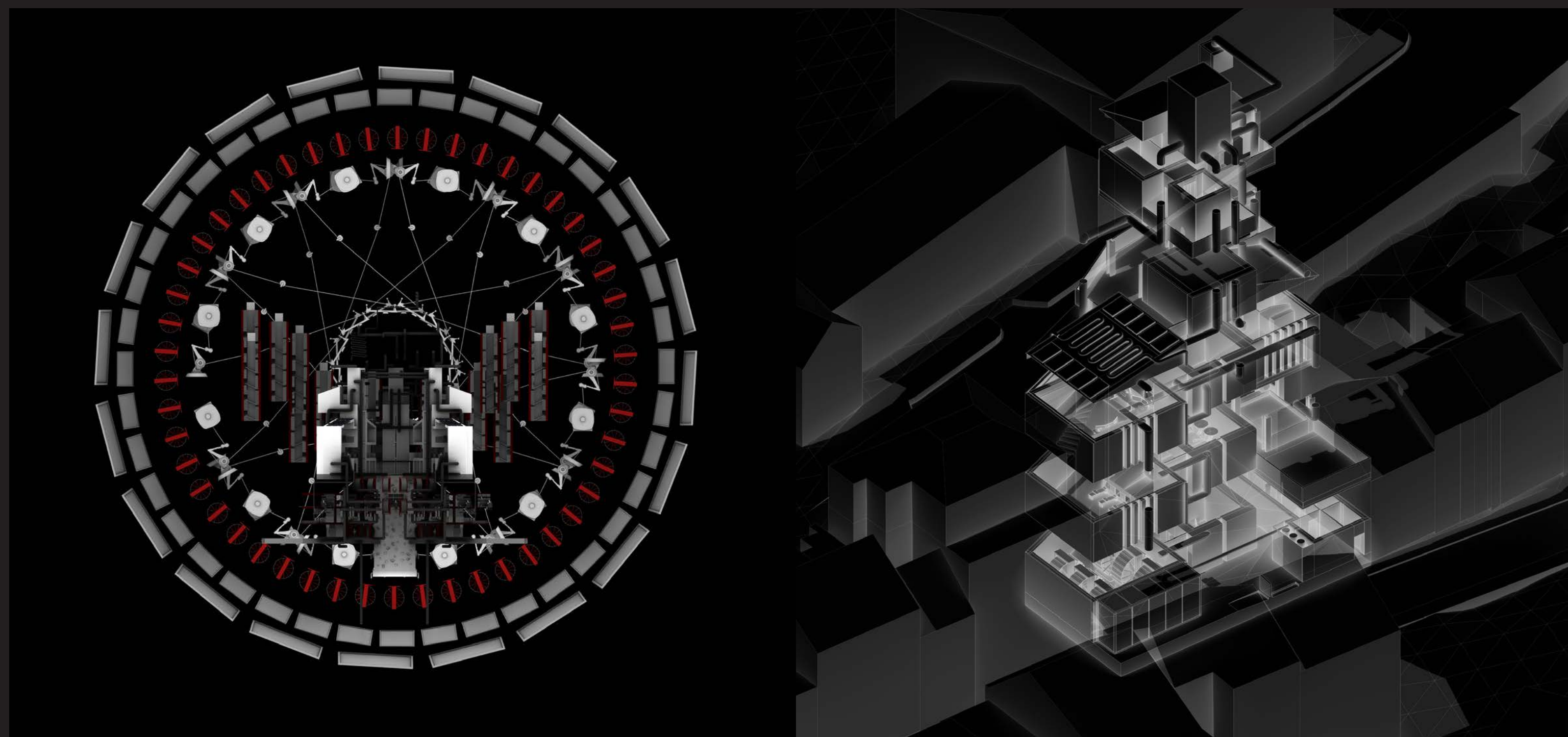


"This story revolves around Ward, a man who stumbled upon a dusty old pamphlet about a "model for the future". He reads its inspiring vision but is left disappointed with the proposed facility for it. So he decides to take matters into his own hands to do justice to a revolutionary idea. He gets lost in the design and comes out with the horror and guilt of designing a dystopia, losing himself entirely in the process!"



jainparth014@gmail.com

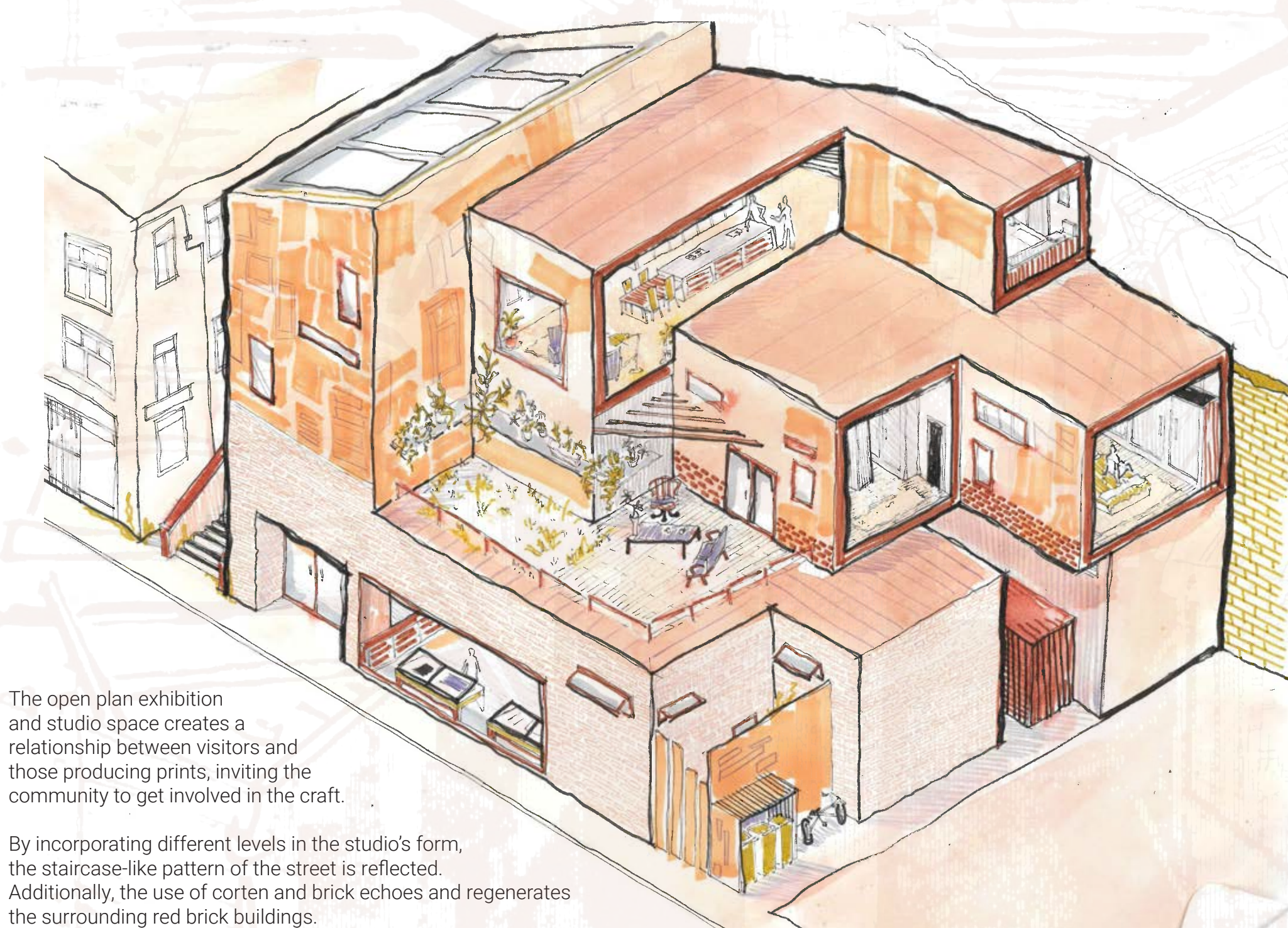
INTERCONNECTIVITY | CREATION OF A LANDMARK | CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE





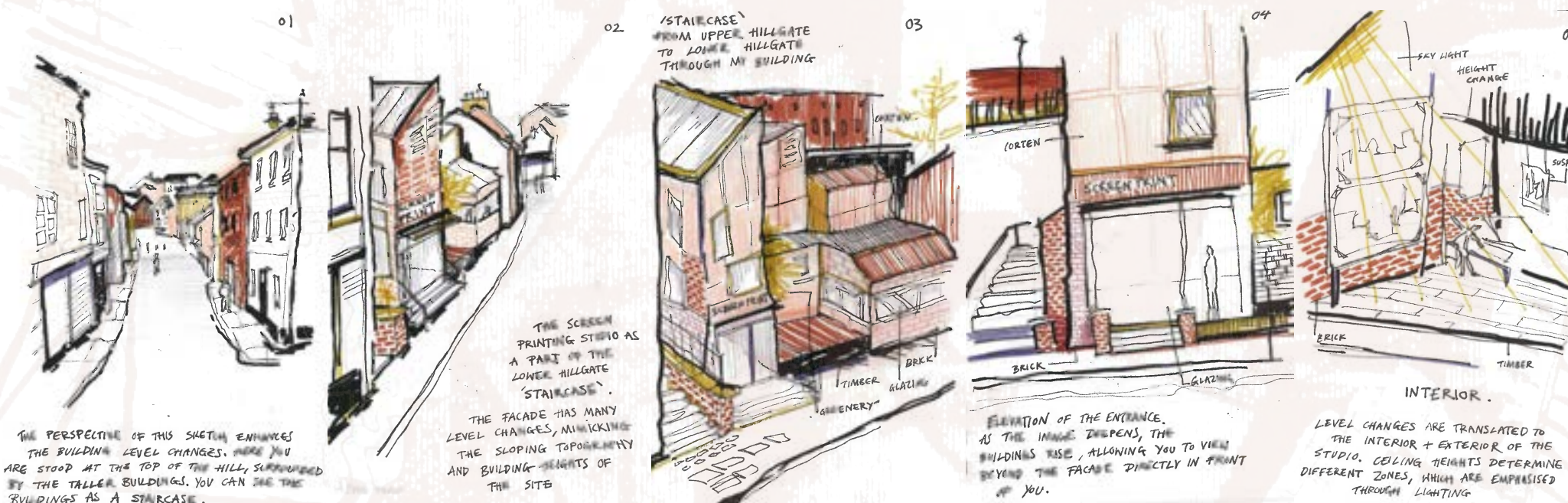
# Overprinting Stockport

Strengthening and expanding the creative community in Stockport through screen printing

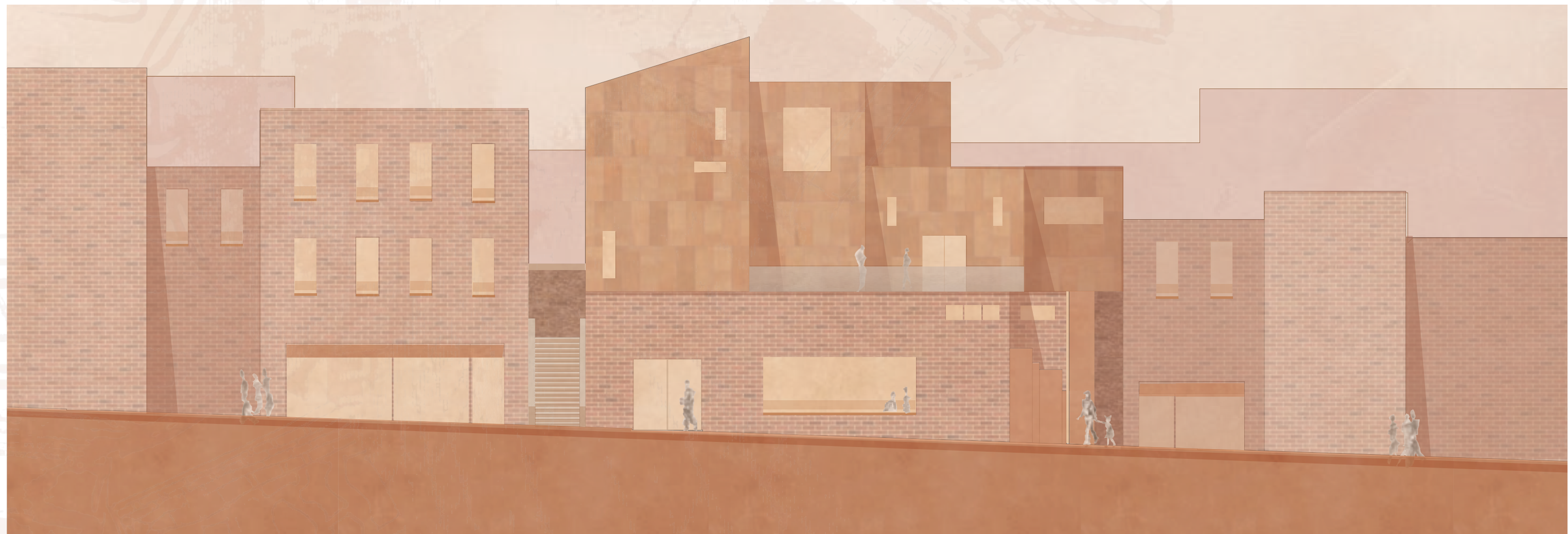


The open plan exhibition and studio space creates a relationship between visitors and those producing prints, inviting the community to get involved in the craft.

By incorporating different levels in the studio's form, the staircase-like pattern of the street is reflected. Additionally, the use of corten and brick echoes and regenerates the surrounding red brick buildings.



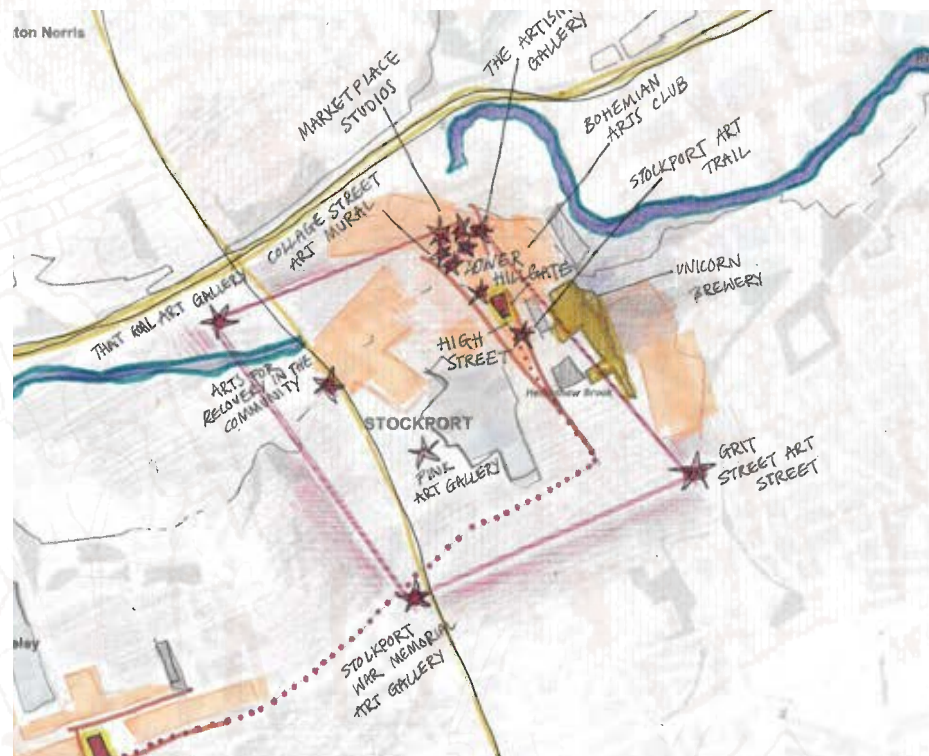
The Building Approach



East Elevation

Katerina Adkins

This project integrates my interest in screen printing with a community-based intervention to respark Stockport's art scene.



Ground and First Floor Plans

# Rehabilitation through creative means

cabinet making

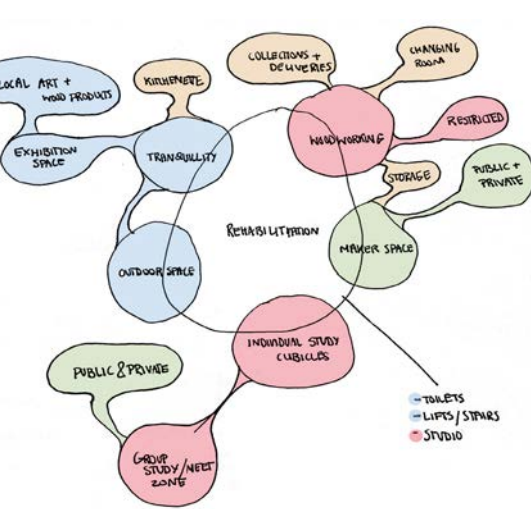
Location: Stockport, Manchester

Concept - from abstract ideas to design development

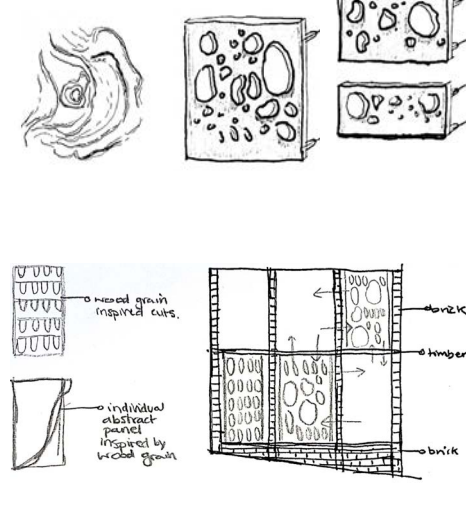
Abstract demonstration of proposal:



Spatial requirements:

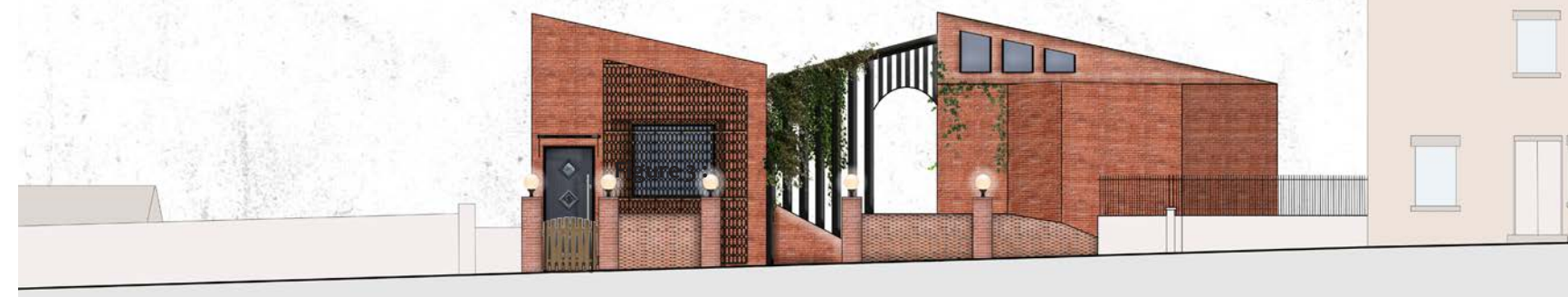


Facade design details:



Elevation renders

South facing:



North facing:



2D Sectional cut - north facing



Floorplans

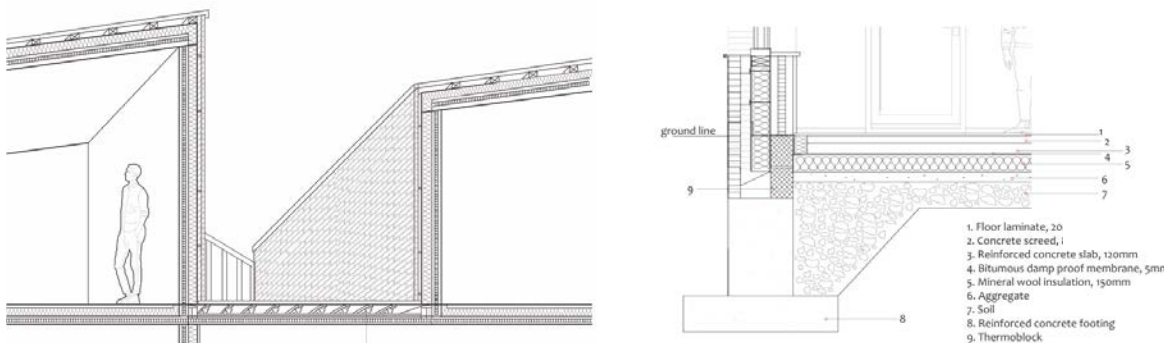


Roxolana Gudzman, BA2 student

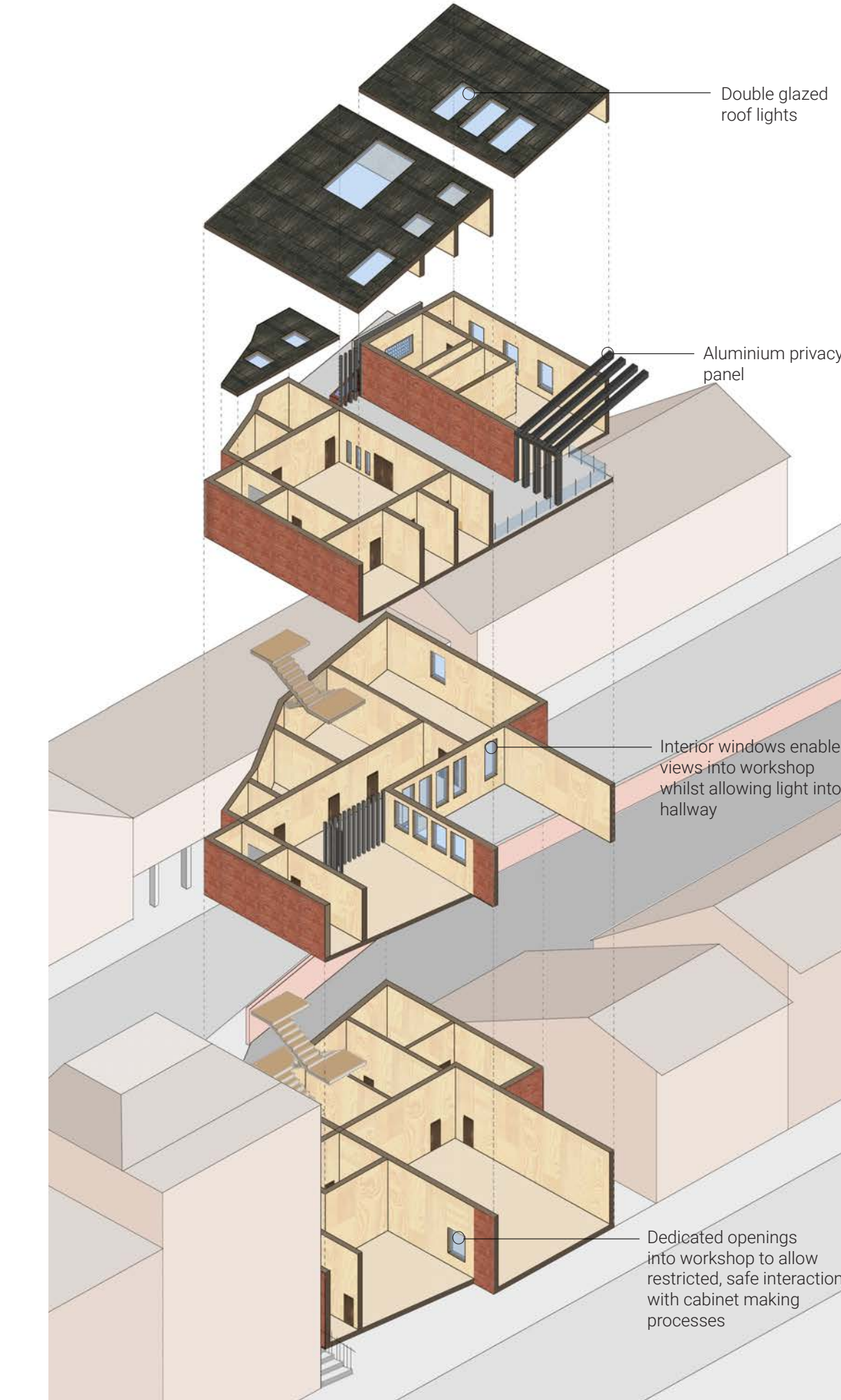
The proposal for a Rehabilitation Centre has been influenced by the surrounding context of Lower Hillgate St. in Stockport. In particular the local National Probation Centre, the NHS Mental Health facility on High Street and the lack of high end Cabinet Makers in Greater Manchester.

The project revolves around ex-offenders and aims to provide them with a smooth reintegration back into the society whilst providing a stable income, and a place of security and advice they can rely on.

Structural details - brick veneer + CLT panels



Exploded view - building layout in context



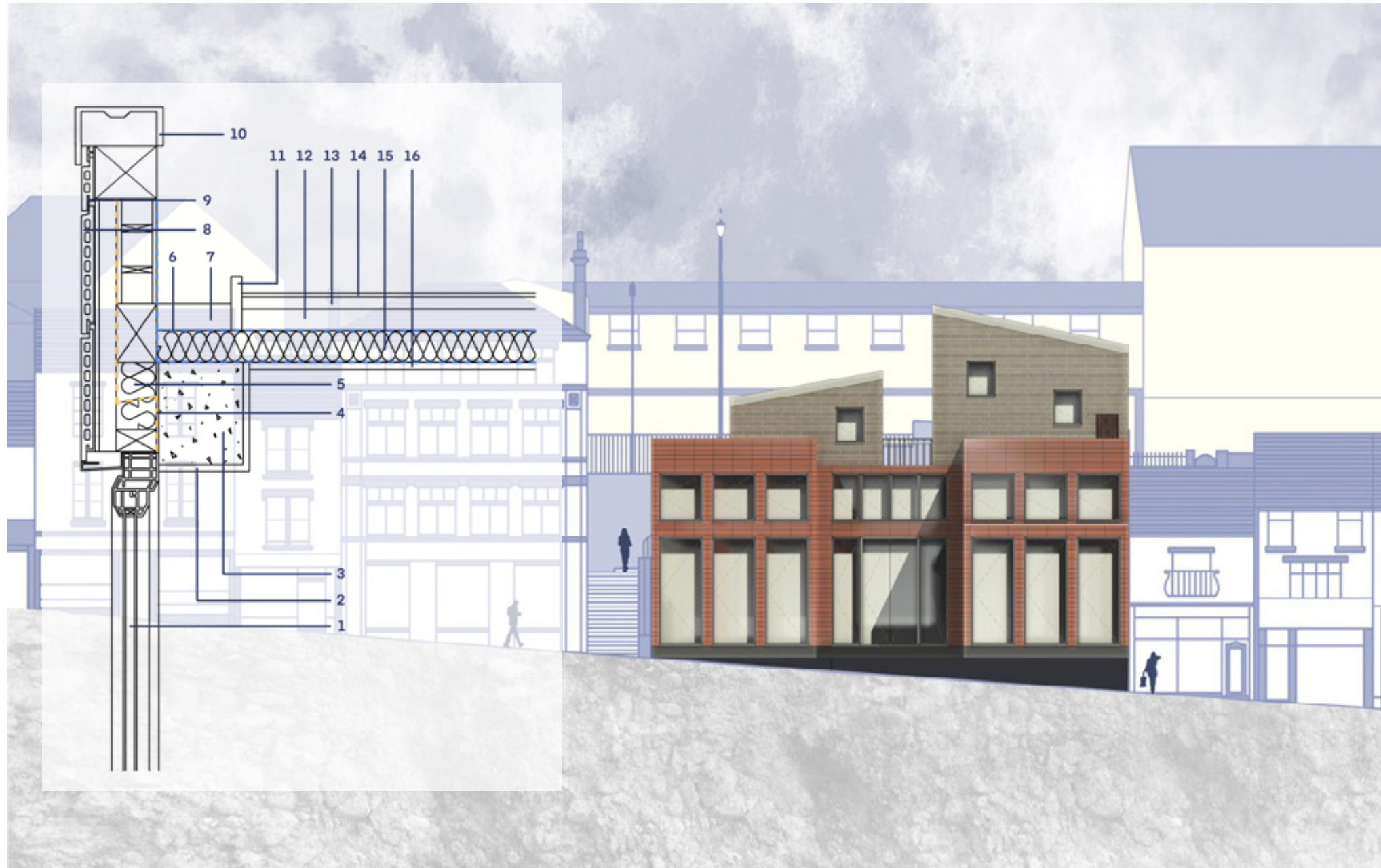
3D Sectional cut - west facing





# Stitched

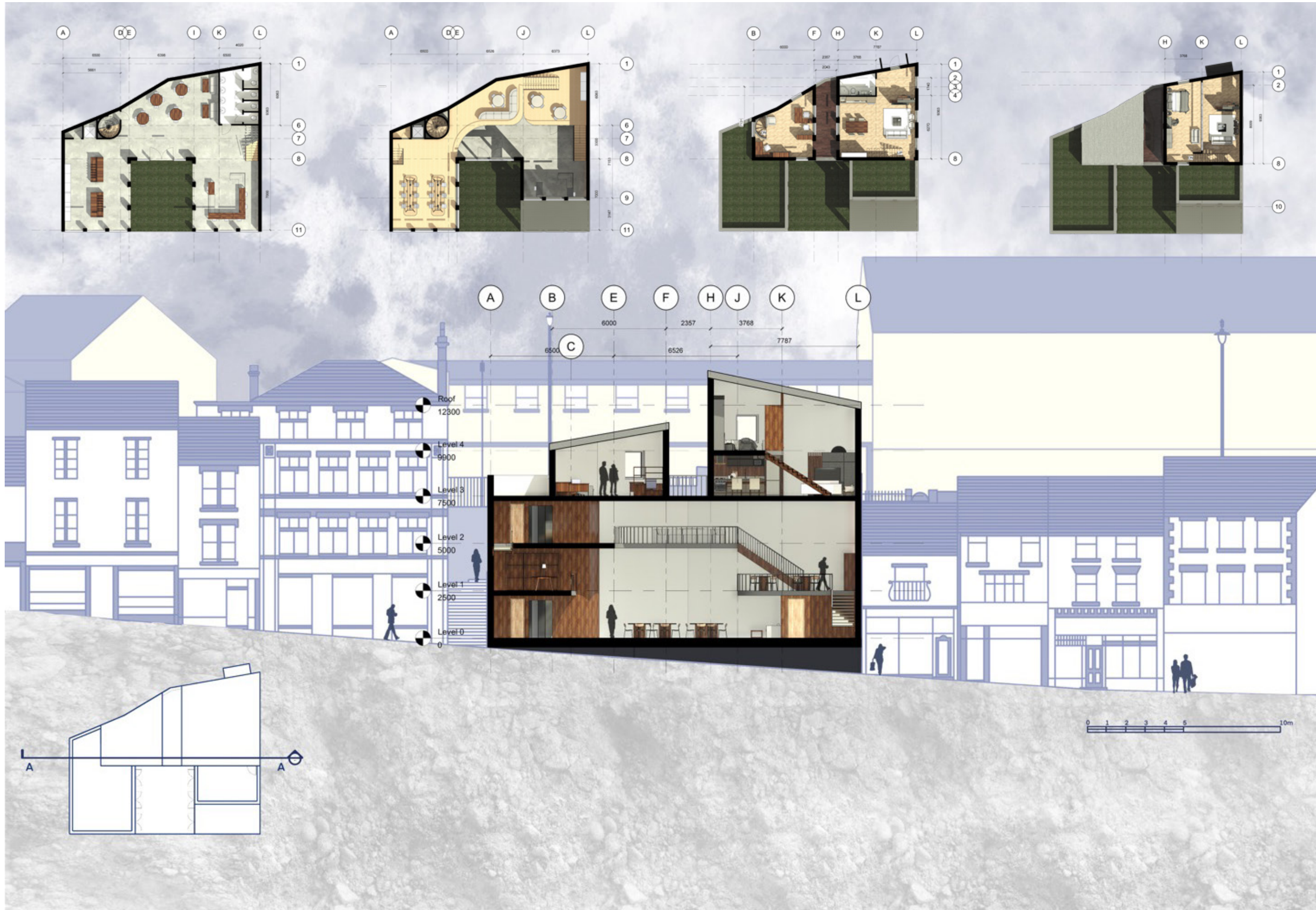
Exploring Intergenerational Bonds Through Spacial Design



SEOYUN  
CHON

Second year  
BA student  
at MSA with  
particular interest  
in sustainable  
architecture and  
sensory design  
shaped by its  
surroundings.

The project marked a turning point in my growth as a designer. With more time and experience compared to last year, I was able to dive deeper into technical detailing, building regulations and the relationship between spatial layout and user experience. Through *Stitched*, I explored how architecture can foster connection and care, using design to bring people together across generations. Teaching myself Revit to produce plans, sections and elevations also gave me greater control over how I communicate ideas. This project taught me not just how to design spaces, but how to design with purpose.



The natural level change between High Street and Lower Hillgate was used to create a clear spatial hierarchy, with public functions located at the lower level and private spaces elevated above. This separation enhanced privacy for the residential areas while keeping the café and workshop spaces accessible and visible from the street. By working with the topography rather than flattening it, the design allowed for layered circulation, better light access, and moments of visual connection between levels—turning a challenging site into a dynamic and responsive architectural solution.

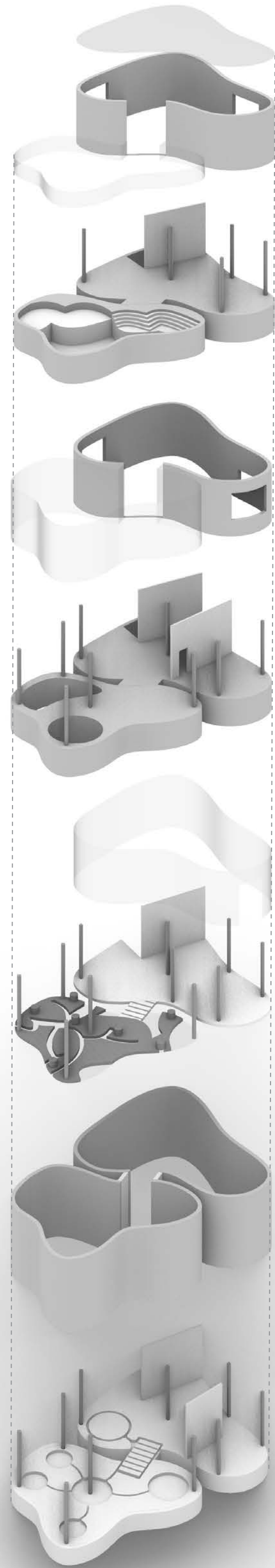
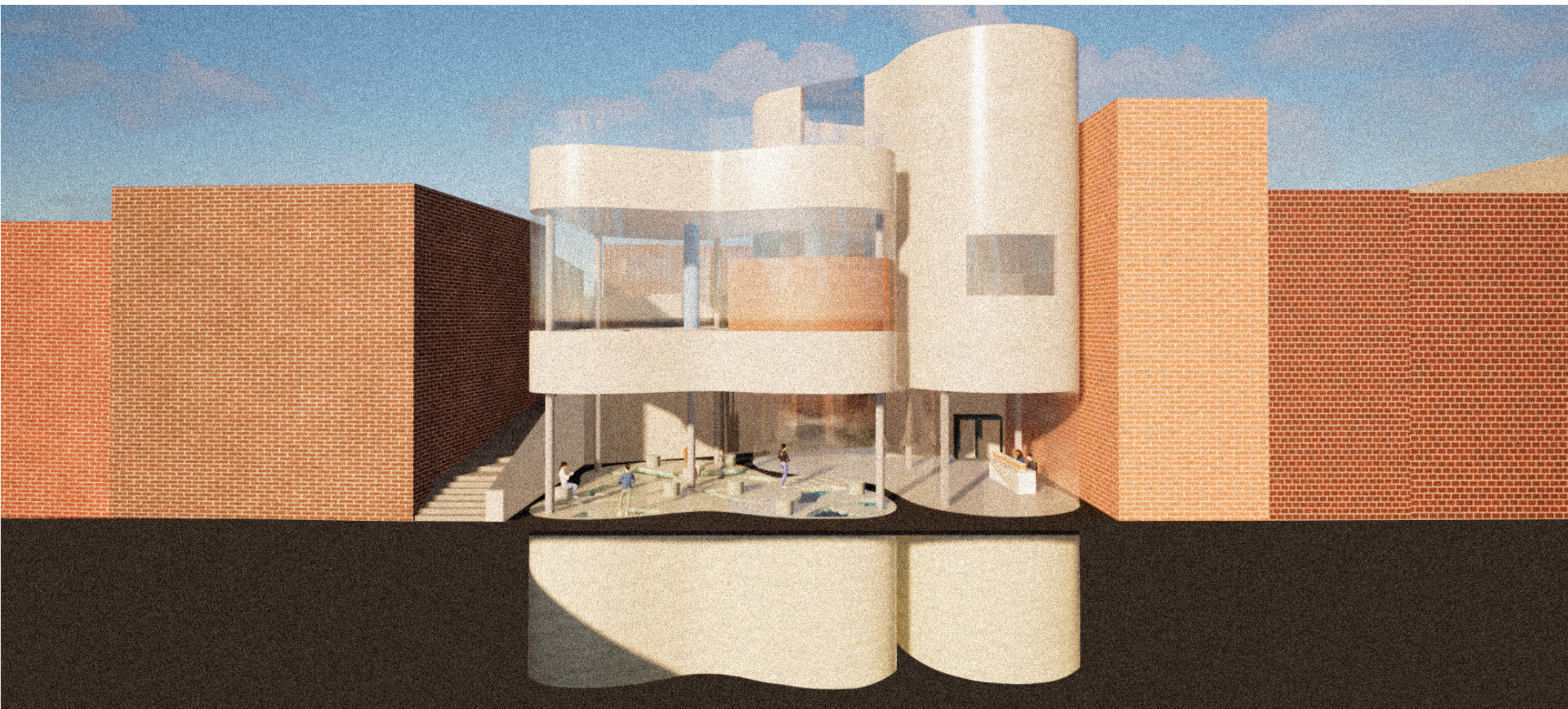
# Hydrotherapy Retreat

Healing Through Water, Light and Space

This project proposes a hydrotherapy and wellness centre in Lower Hillgate, Stockport, designed to support physical and mental well-being while fostering community engagement. Inspired by precedents such as Therme Vals, Scarpa's Fondazione Querini Stampalia, and the Serpentine Pavilion, the design integrates natural light, water movement, and organic forms to create immersive, calming environments. The building includes thermal baths, saunas, steam rooms, and rooftop pools arranged over multiple levels to reflect water's flow and the site's elevation changes. Public features like a pond-side lounge and transparent façades invite interaction, while thoughtful spatial planning ensures accessibility and privacy. Using sustainable materials like sandstone, cork, and concrete, the project aims to reconnect residents with both wellness and the historic urban fabric of Stockport.



Thanrada McGregor





# Red Brick Studios

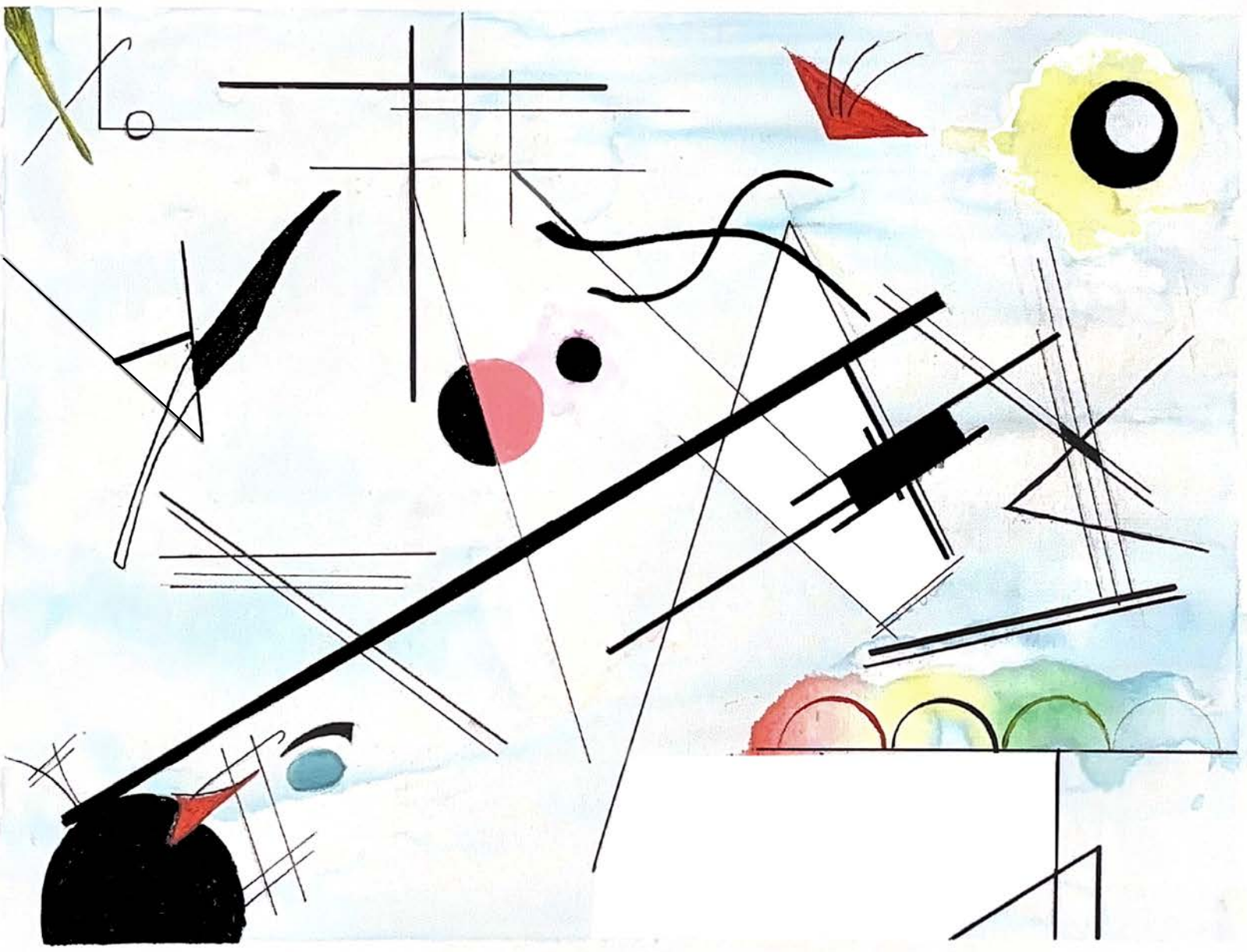
## Riccardo Monti

As the area surrounding the site is well known all over the world for it's unprecedented concentration of musical heritage, I decided to delve into the area's rich heritage and utilize it to create a new, innovative community concentrated around music.

The new "Red Brick Studios" are designed to be a social and cultural hub with musical expression as its core value, both ideologically and design wise. The aim for this building is to create a new, inspiring community to promote and aid local artists in their mission. The studios will also become a teaching hub for music productio and creative expression to furtherly promote local talents



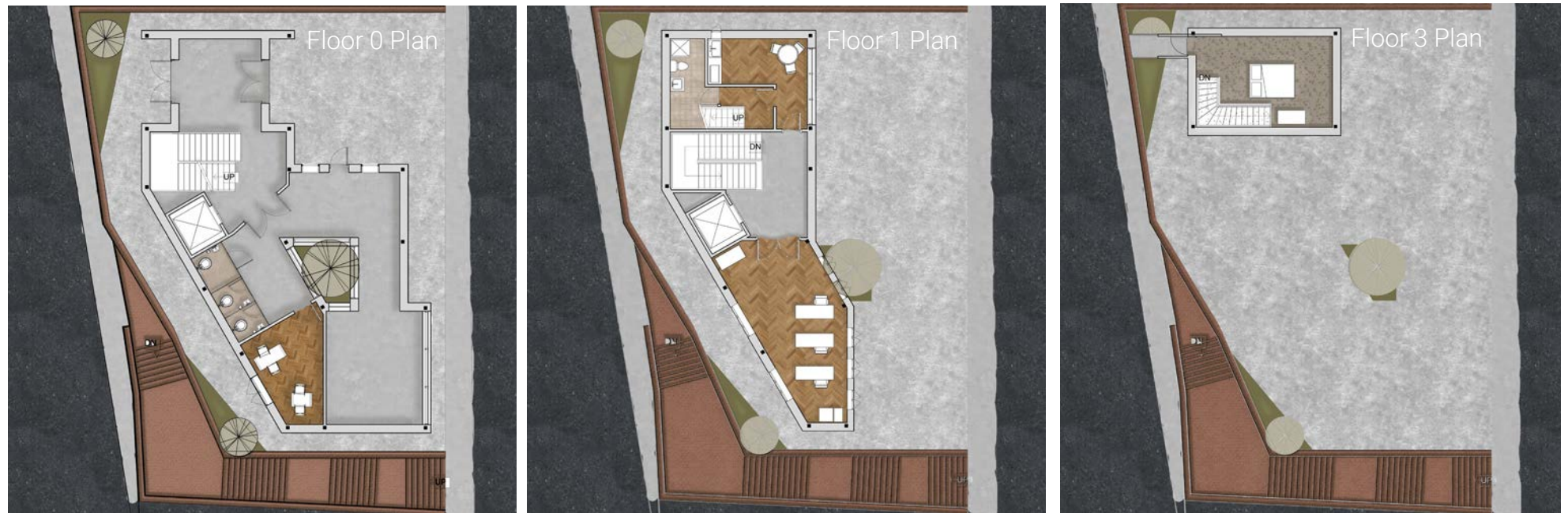
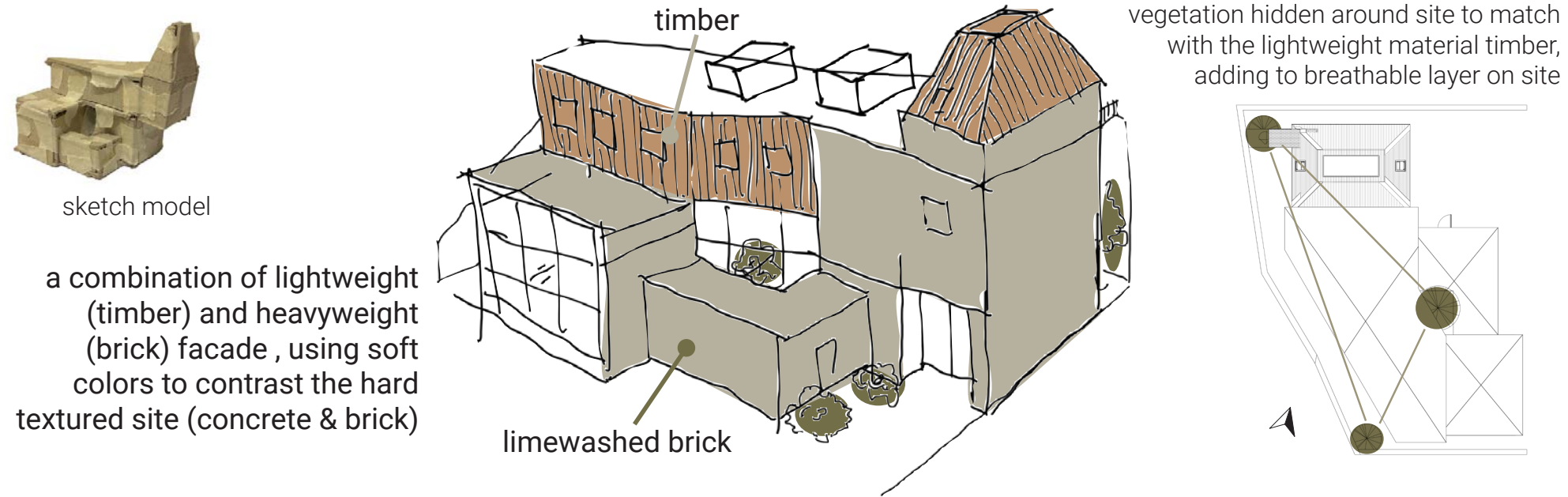
Elevation Drawing, Viewed from Lower Hillgate.



This abstract painting offers a multisensory interpretation of Stockport, seen through the lens of synesthesia.

# Saw You Sew!

stitching the forgotten art of sewing into the present



Nur Rafiqah  
Najwa Binti  
Mhd Nazli

Sustainability is a core value in my design process. The urgency of the climate crissi has made me feel responsible for the environmental footprints of my work. Materiality has been my interest, hence, caring about its source, availability, and how it could still impact the nature positively despite being consumed by humans. Thus, I am particularly drawn to design an environment that incorporate nature element, celebrate quirks and remain functional while being environmentally conscious.

Sewing is popular among matured and elders. Somehow it is not considered as a hobby among the youngsters. Being a skill that is passed down by generations, and the lack of enthusiasm leads sewing to fade away. 'Saw You Sew!' is a phrase where sewing is to be seen popular back then. Ultimately, a 3-storeys structure bridging Lower Hillgate and High Street, 'Saw You Sew!' is a project to bring back the forgotten life of sewing to Stockport community, embraced by the modern world.





# stockport fabrics

slicing and re-stitching stockport's nature through clothing.



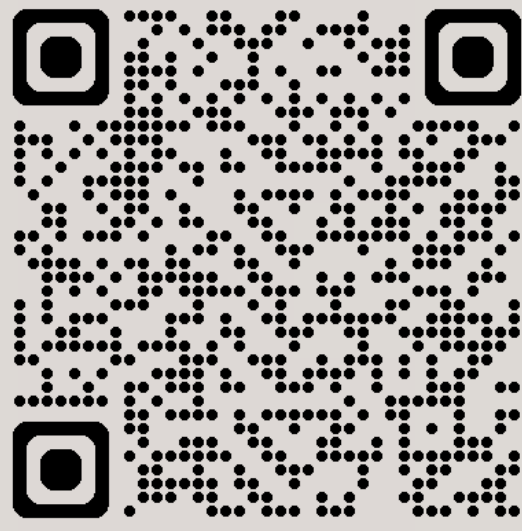
the workspace: where secondhand clothes bought from stopfordians are sliced and restitched into new pieces of clothing.



a maker's market visits the back of the building once a month. fairs for local businesses are usually held here too.

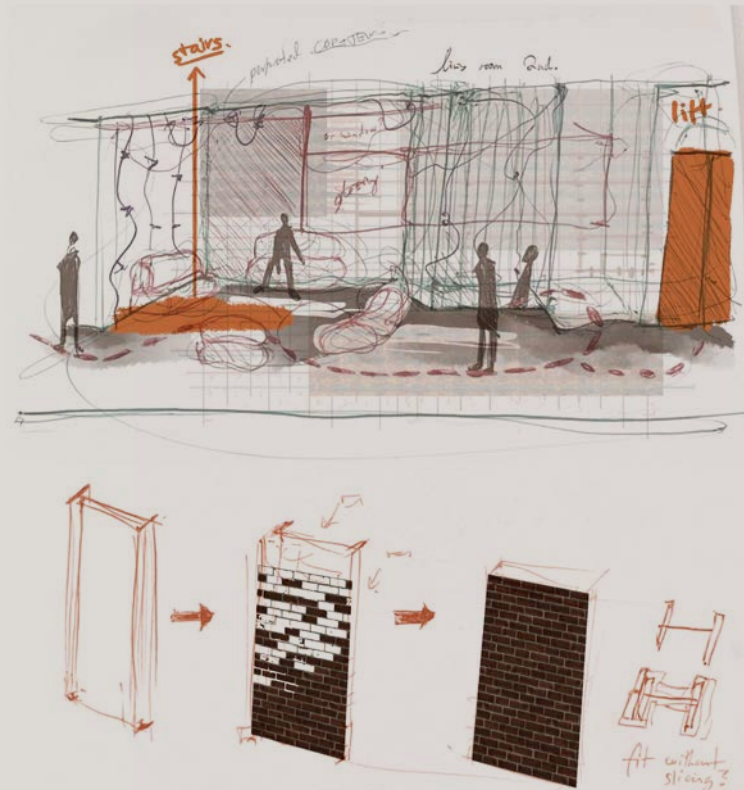


see full project:



Auri Gómez

- resilient design
- visual communication
- retrofit



east to west  
west to east  
south to north (section)  
north to south (section)

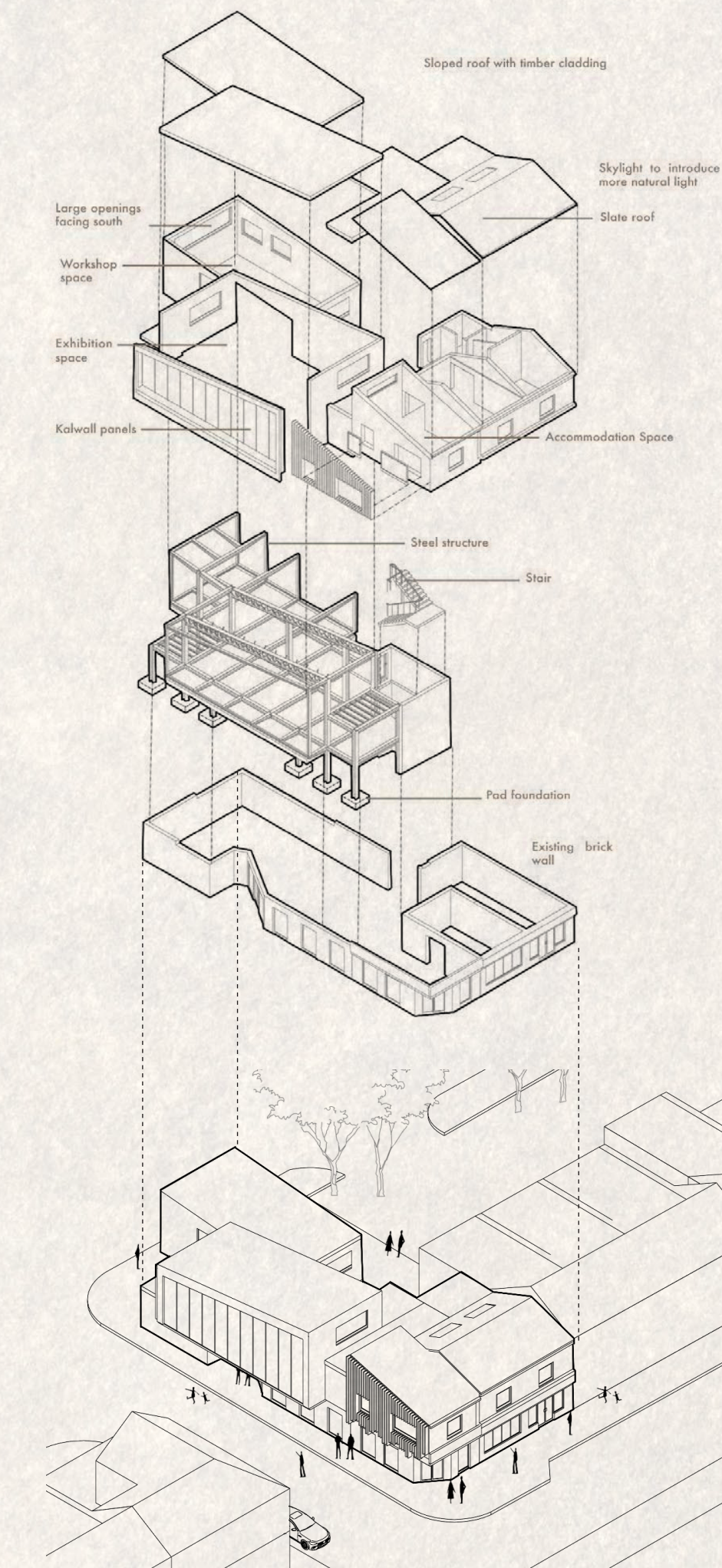


# STITCHING STOCKPORT

A Stitching Workshop Designed to Foster a Sense of Community



Exploded Axonometric Drawing



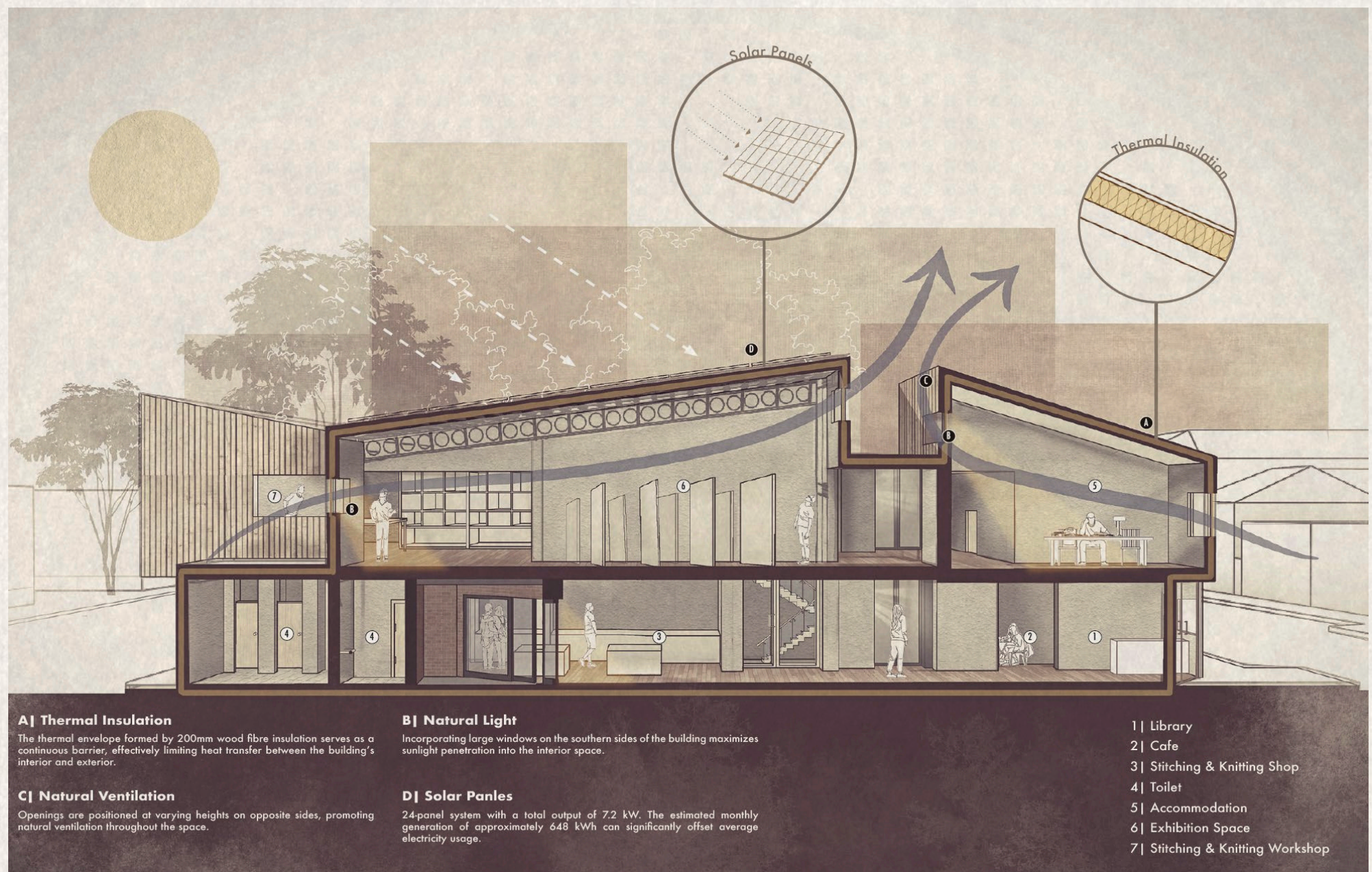
The Castle Street community space offers more than just a place to rest; it provides a warm, inviting atmosphere where people can gather, relax, and connect with one another. The aroma of freshly brewed coffee complements the easy flow of conversation, transforming each encounter into an opportunity to forge new friendships and strengthen existing bonds. Whether it's a quiet moment spent flipping through a book, creating amazing art pieces in the workshop, or the lively exchange of ideas over pastries, creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie that draws people together.



Zixuan Zhang

Second Year BA Student at Manchester  
School of Architecture

In recent years, the Stockport town centre has undergone a significant transformation, marked by the establishment of independent businesses and the promotion of diverse gastronomic, artistic, and creative ventures. However, the Edgeley area, located on the outskirts of the town, has been neglected for an extended period, highlighting the need for revitalization. This project seeks to address the challenges present in the Castle Street area by implementing architectural interventions aimed at enhancing the area's identity and fostering a stronger sense of community. The initiative includes the repurposing of three buildings from the 19th century, with the goal of rejuvenating Stockport and bridging the gaps within the community. Proposed uses include a Stitching and sewing workshop, a public library, and an exhibition space.



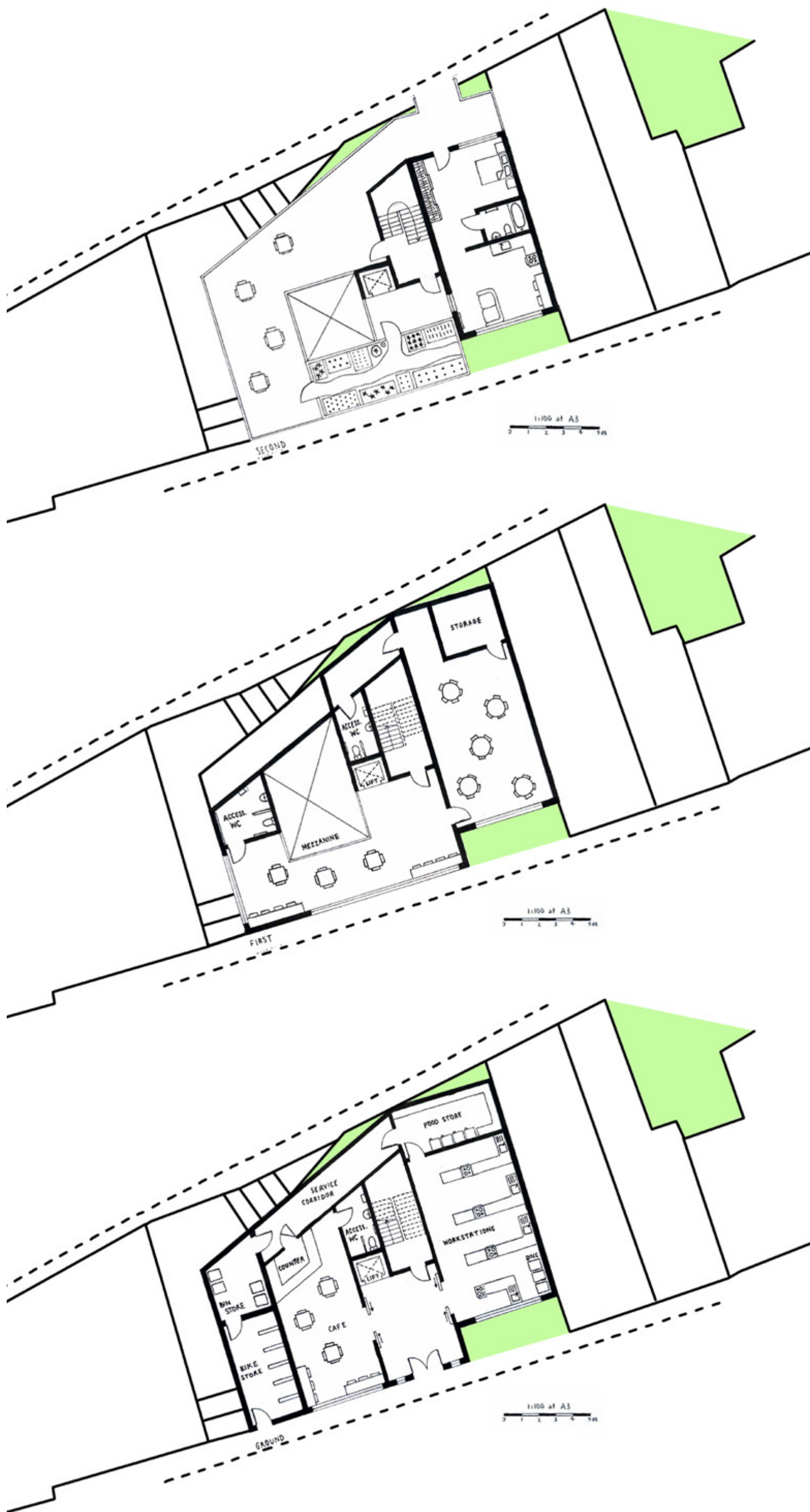


# The Stock-Pot

Creating Connections Through Food



The route to the site



Final 1:100 Floor Plans

The Stock-Pot is a community hub bringing together the residents of Stockport through food - offering a variety of workshops and classes, as well as the opportunity to volunteer in the rooftop vegetable garden. The space is an open kitchen whenever not in use, with interior and exterior seating available.

The centre's owners, Maria and Steven, have a studio apartment on the second floor with access from the High Street. They love helping out with the cooking classes, and even learning something new every now and then from guest chefs.



Emilie Baudot



Final 1:100 Sections and Elevations

# Stockport Stitched

Threading the community together



Main activity space – Rug tufting



Noemi Wong

In my designs I aim to create spaces that prioritize social sensitivity and ecological responsibility, allowing architecture to foster connections and restore environments.

For this project I drew on the idea of community as something woven together, and explored rug tufting – a contemporary, immersive craft – as both concept and function. My project celebrates Stockport's entrepreneurial spirit while encouraging modern, inclusive forms of making and connection.





The University of Manchester



# Castle Street Dye House

Studio 2.1: Slicing & Stitching Stockport

Existing building in context

Creative piece in response to site

Elevational relief model

Technical detail

Max Feng

This project is based on an integrated, symbiotic relationship between a dye house and café, as a contemporary re-writing of Edgeley's historically polluting textile bleaching industry. Organic food waste from the café is used to create biodegradable botanical dyes that are used in the dye house. A key component of my proposal is the 'journey through colour', an experiential and interactive experience that encourages visitors to get involved with dye sacks, powder, and celebrate colour along their path through the scheme.

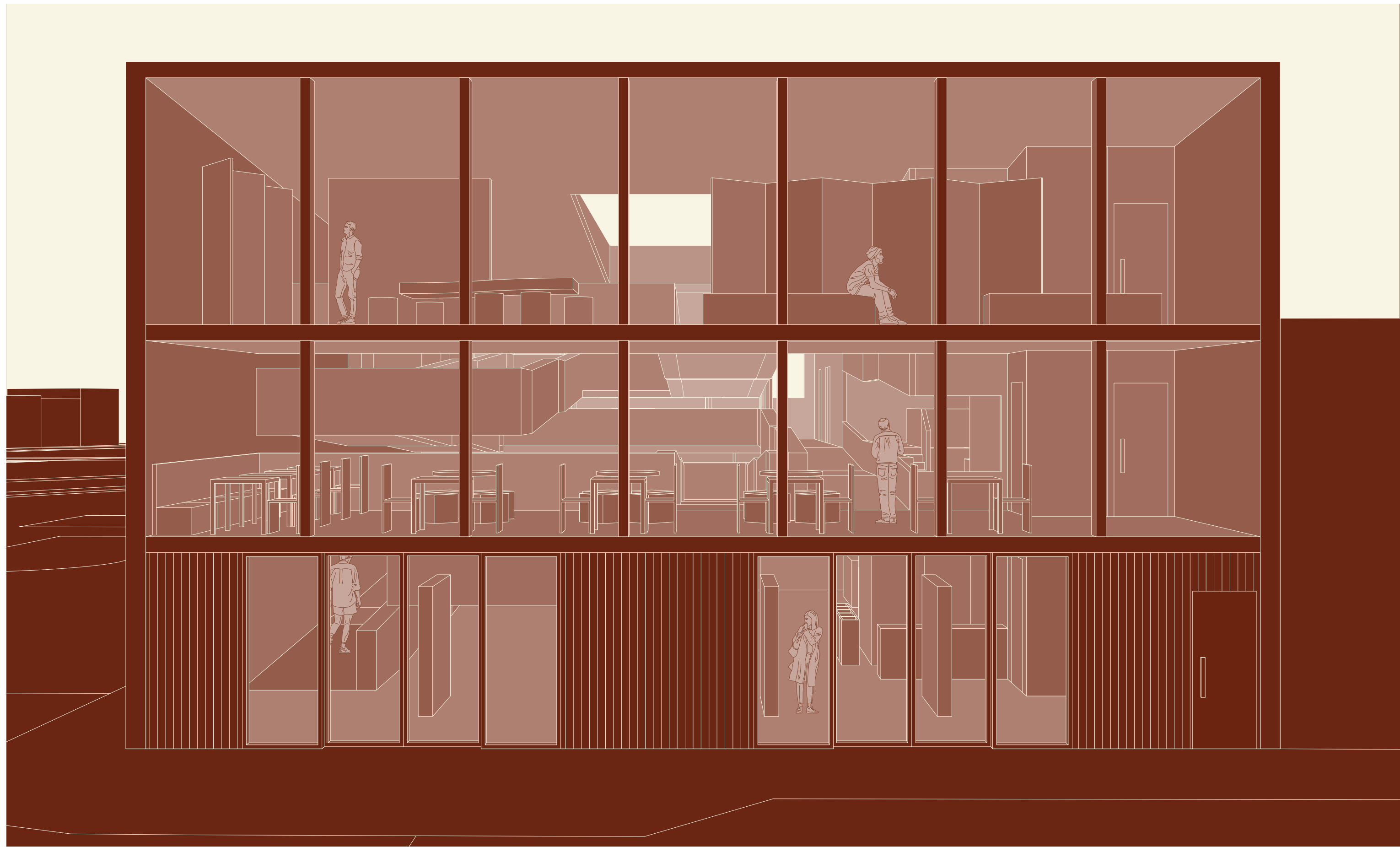
Ground floor plan

First floor plan

Second floor plan

East elevation

North elevation



North elevational perspective

# communi(tea)

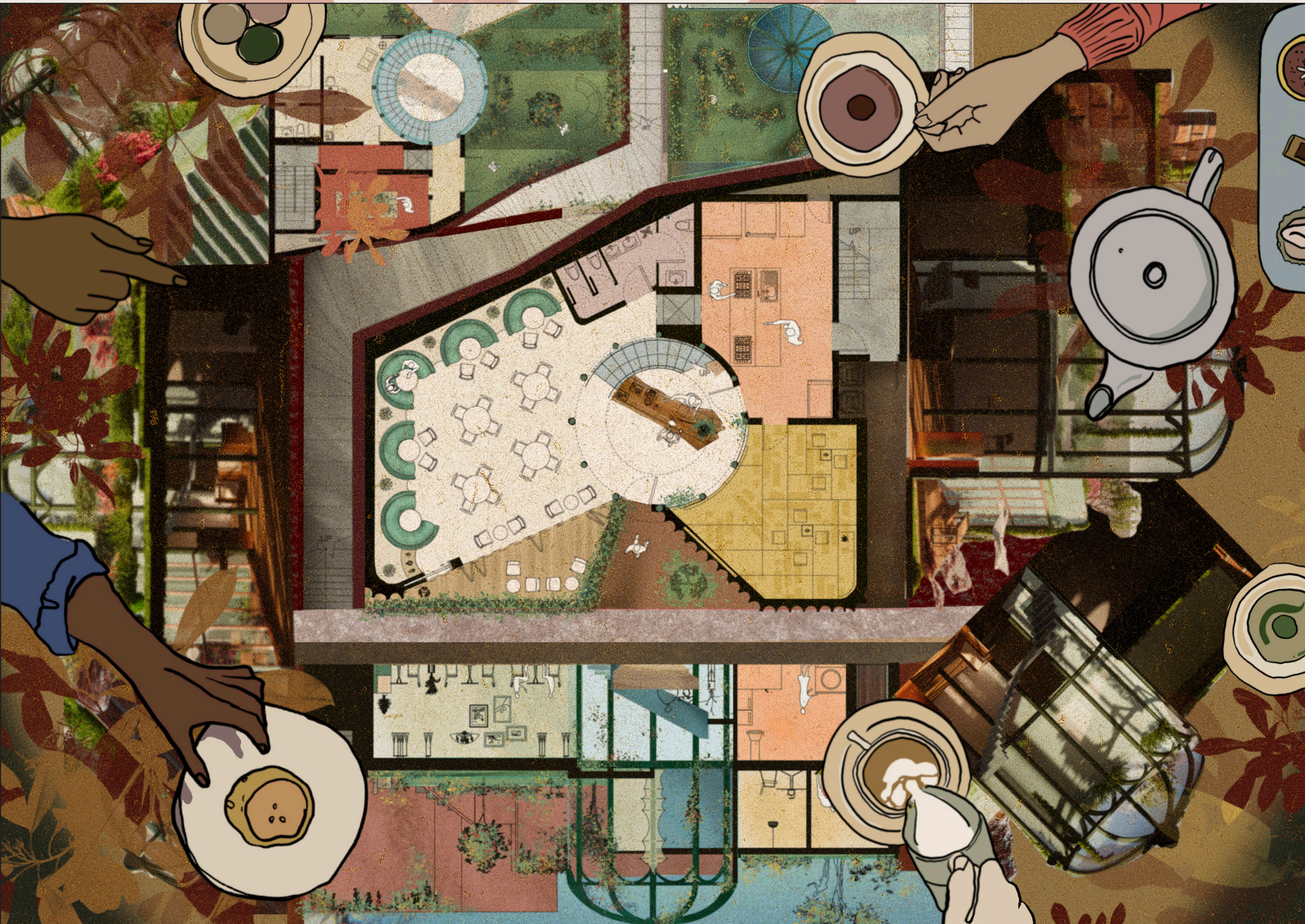
cultivating community through a shared love of tea

A low impact building designed to reconnect Stockport's disparate communities through a shared celebration of tea, the Teahouse draws on the town's rich historical flavour while infusing an appreciation for tea growing, processing, and serving. The external spaces provide an urban oases of greenery while the internal serving rooms (including a cafe and a Japanese chashitsu) allow people from various walks of life to enjoy anything from a cup of tea to an immersive tea ceremony experience.



**Erin Lau**

@erinsartive  
erlautc@gmail.com





# textile studios

stitching together the community through the tradition of textile making

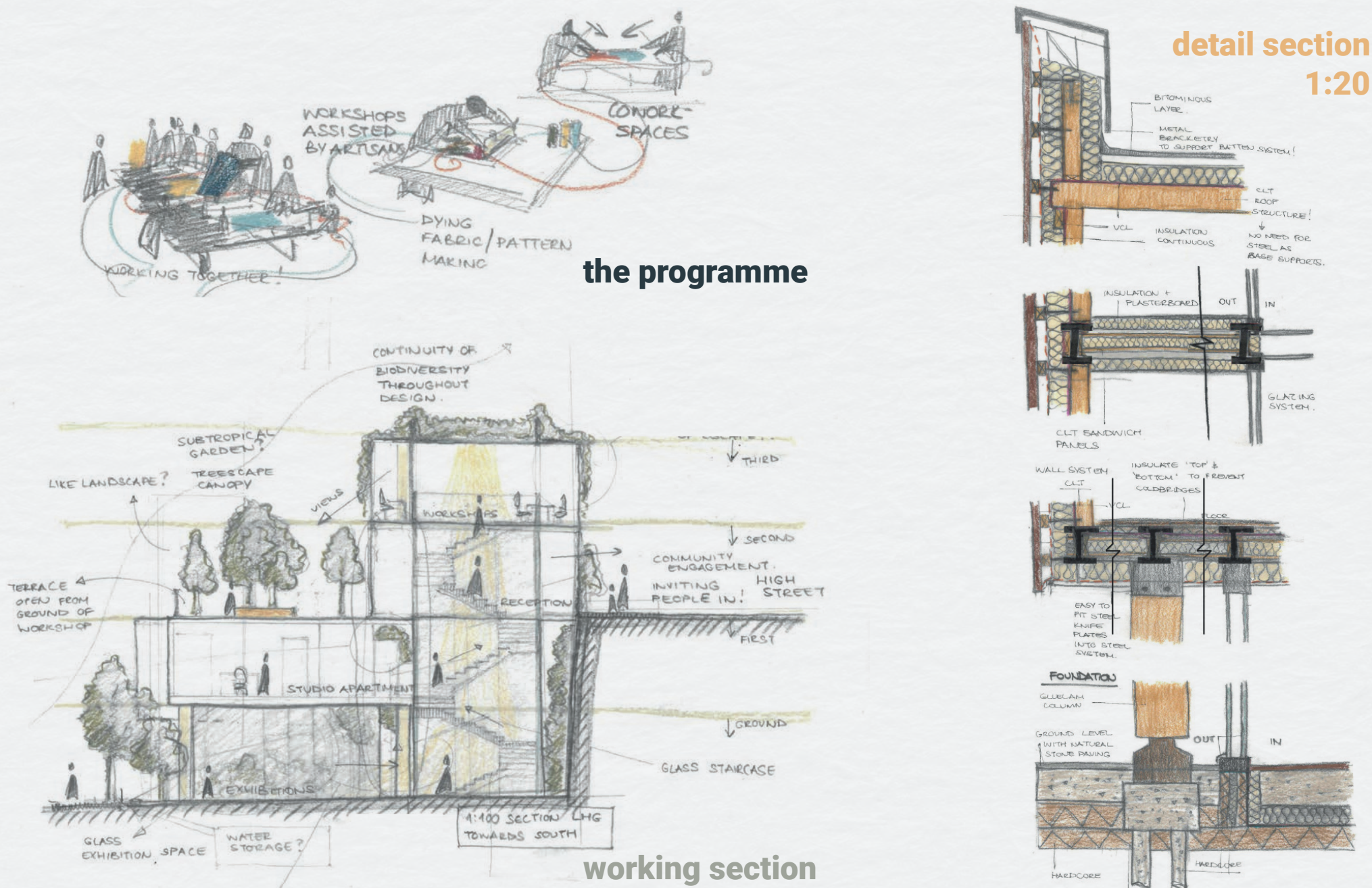
- Lili Pataki
- connections to nature and culture
  - renewable materials
  - community driven design



My project aims to connect the community taking inspiration from the Stockport traditional textile factories. Fostering connections through bespoke handmade textile workshops. I made sure that the space was a vibrant welcoming home for the artisan living on site.

Ensuring a building that connected well with both sides of the site added character to my concept. From the ground floor there is an exhibition open to the public, the living space is positioned between the exhibit and the public workshops at the top of the building.

Throughout the developing process the use of renewable materials were at the core of my design. The final elevation shows that the building is clad in an overlapping timber envelope, appearing as if the building was wrapped in textile.



# Weaver's Threads

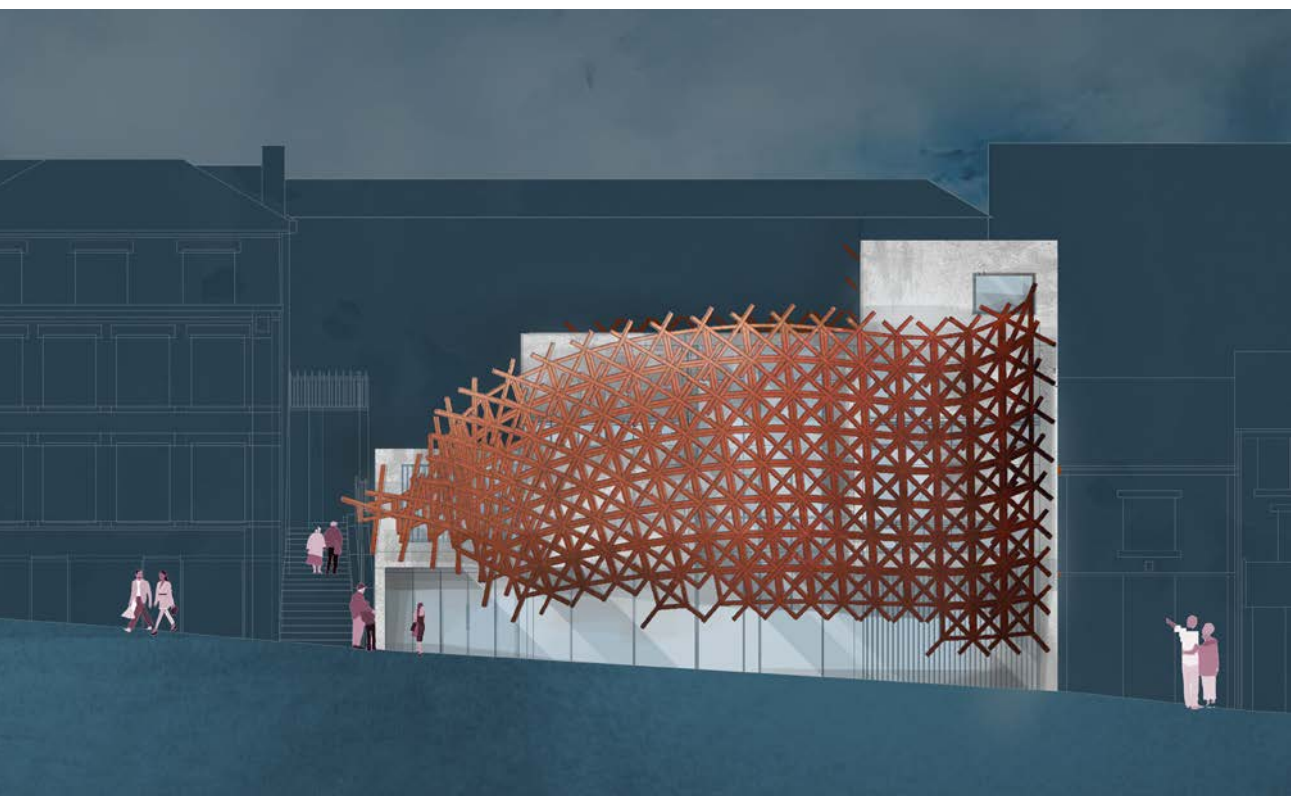
Stockport's Textile Heritage Reimagined



Cross Section



south-facing elevation



Elevation



Entrance View



Atrium View



Short Section



Balcony View

The main aim of the project is to unite the diverse communities of Stockport by celebrating and embracing the textile heritage of the town and introducing modern practices of upcycling and 3d fabric printing to balance the traditional artistry with the new technological innovation. The project encourages adaptable spaces for educational workshops alongside more communal areas for selling and exhibition to promote connection and learning. Accessible to everyone, it helps enrich the engagement and evolve with new technologies to create a vibrant hub to bridge the tradition and innovation.



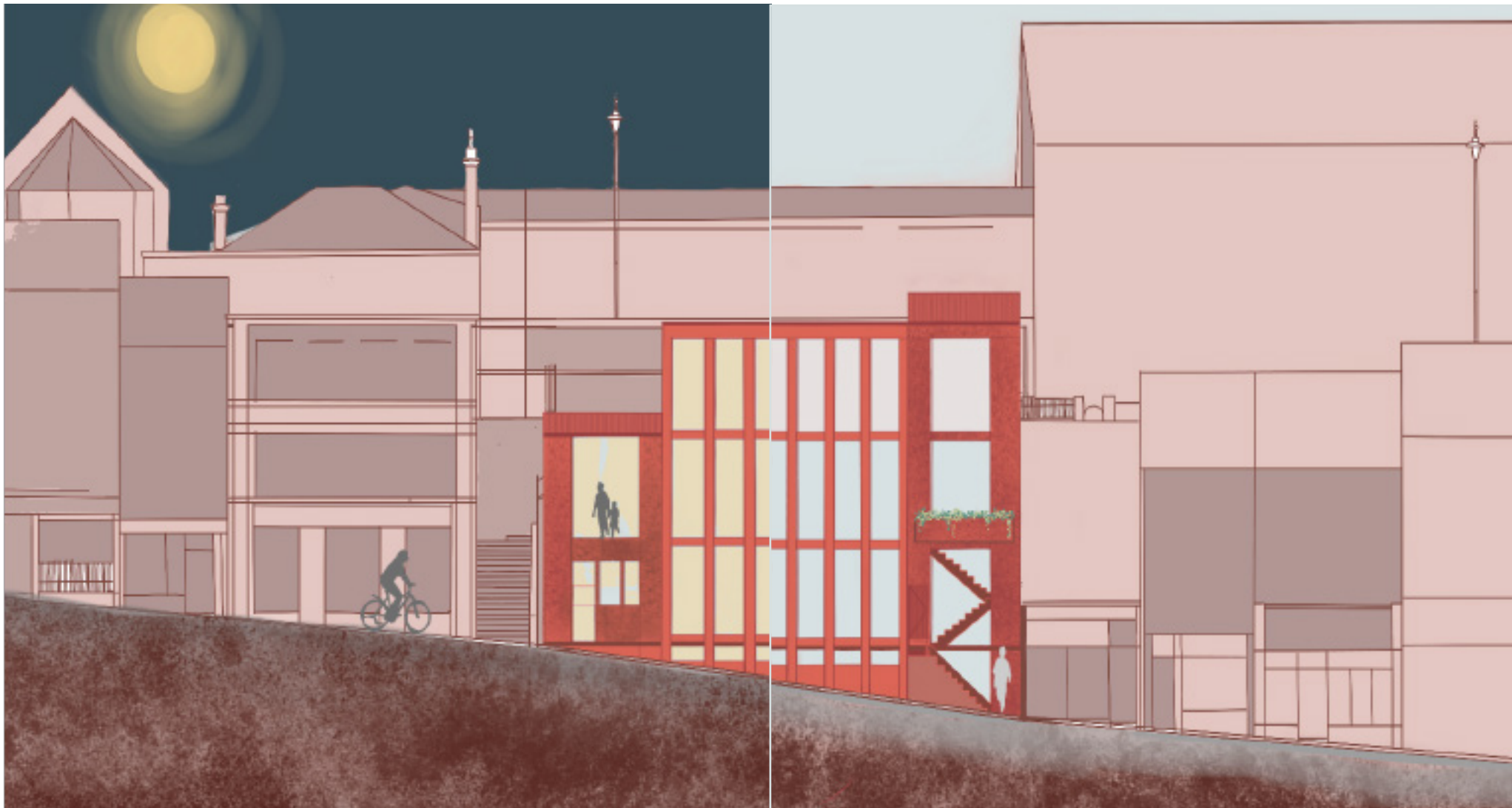
**ISHMEEN KAUR**  
Instagram: @ik\_archiatelier  
Linkedin: linkedin.com/in/ishmeenkaur23  
Email: ishmeenkaur2310@gmail.com



# VERA

## CULTIVATING WELLNESS THROUGH DESIGN

LOWER HILLGATE ELEVATION ( DAY/NT)



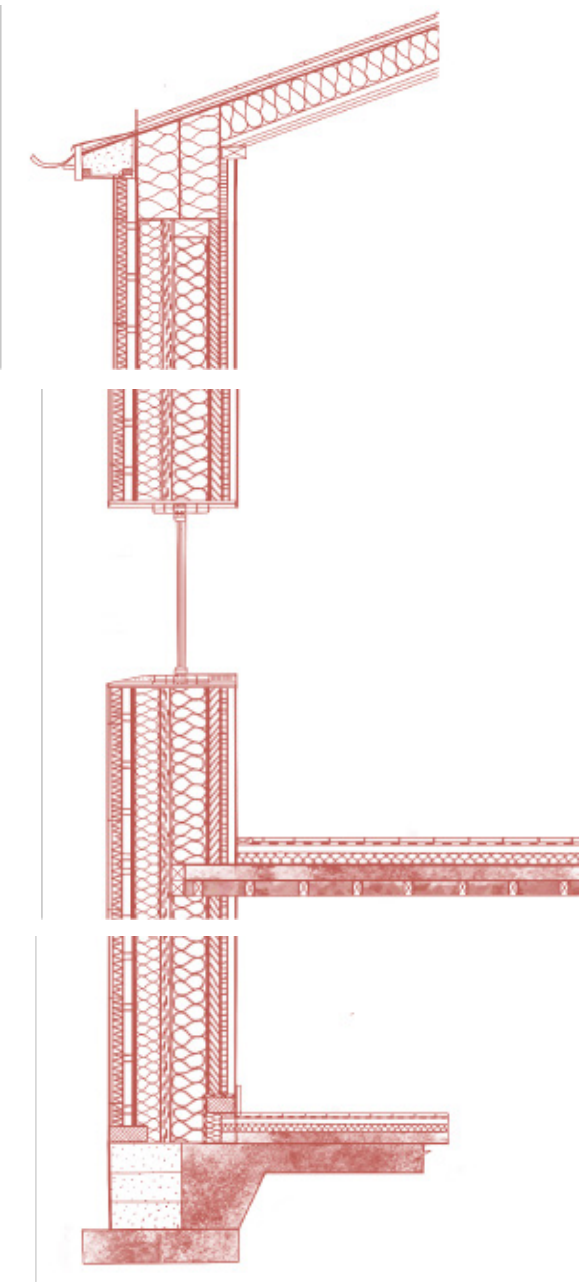
SECTION



HIGH STREET ELEVATION



DETAIL SECTION

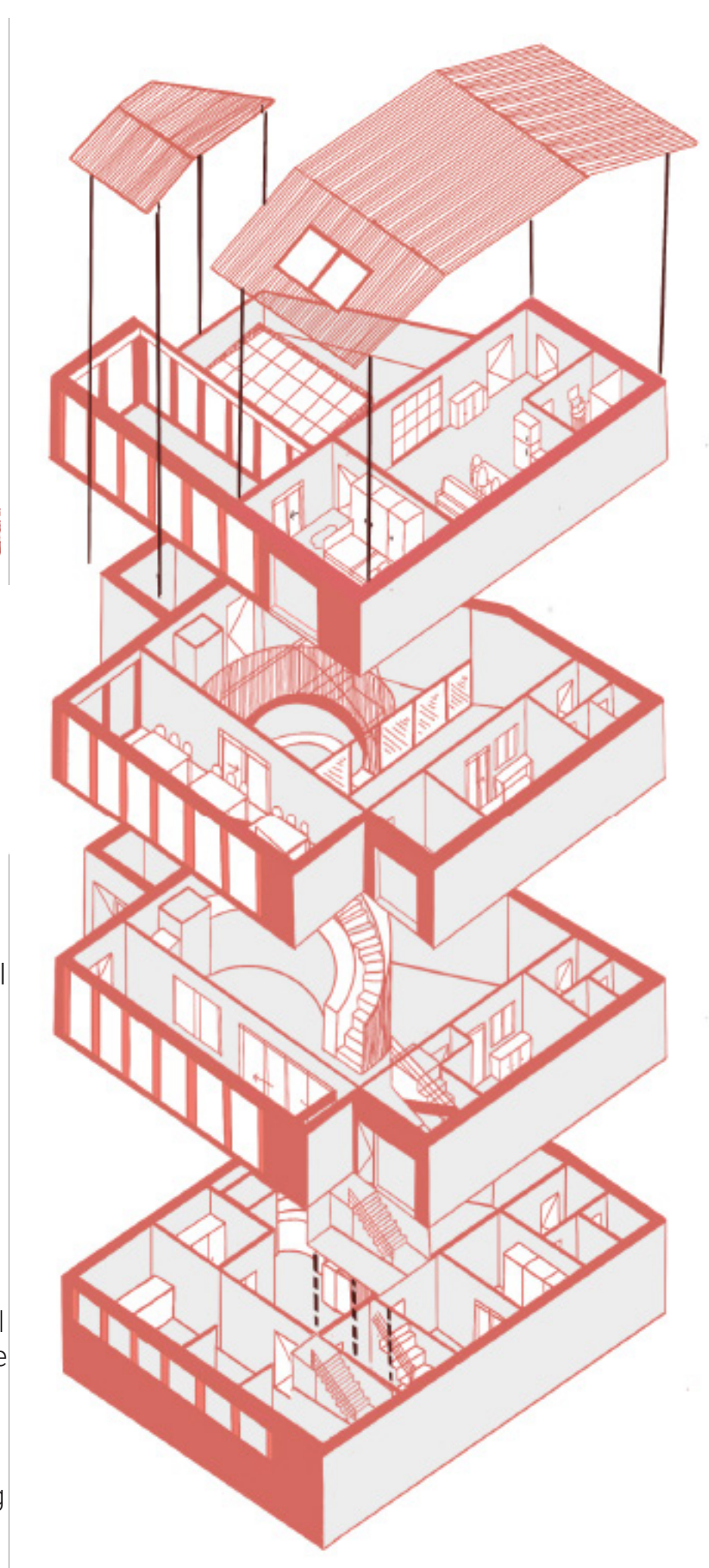


Swathi Sreejith  
Second Year BA  
Architecture  
Student at Manchester  
School of Architrcture

This project reflects my passion for sustainability and integrating nature into architecture. The decision to construct a double-height space for a vertical aloe vera garden aligns with my belief that architecture should actively regenerate the environment, not just reduce harm. From the choice of materials to the use of drip irrigation and operable windows, every element supports a vision of sustainability that goes beyond minimising damage—it contributes to restoring natural systems. I also incorporated Japanese design principles into the private studio apartments to create calm, efficient, and environmentally sensitive living spaces.

This project broadened my understanding of architecture. Designing is not just about building forms; it's about creating a living system—one that grows, shares, and develops in harmony with its community.

AXONOMETRIC DIAGRAM



These drawings illustrate the spatial, environmental, and material qualities of the project. The front and back elevations, shown in both day and night conditions, highlight the building's openness, timber structure, and vertical aloe vera system. Sectional views and a detailed cut-through reveal the interior relationships—from the basement factory to the double-height vertical garden and upper-level studios. The ax-onometric diagram provides a clear breakdown of the project's organi-sation across floors, emphasizing the flow from growing to making to inhabiting.

# Betty's - a Furniture Workshop

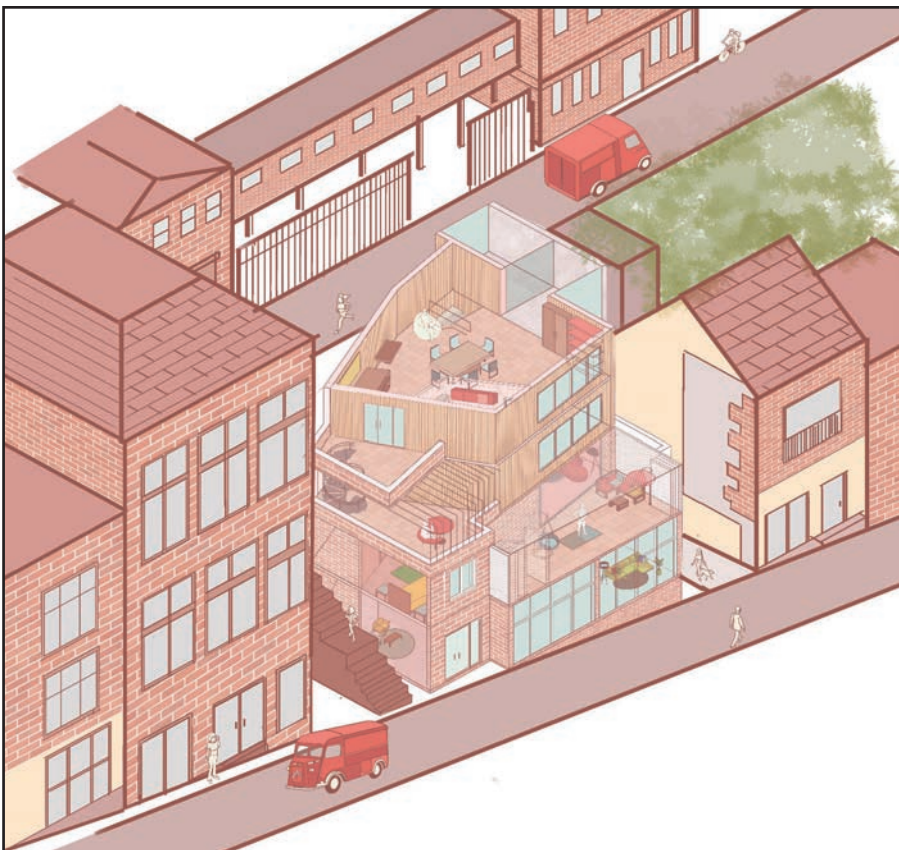
## Promoting Re-use Through Upcycling Furniture:



Section: Illustrating the Furniture Exhibition Area, The Workshop and the Residential Area



Elevation: Material Use with Site Context



The Living Axonometric: The Building Represented in Context

The ground floor is used as a furniture exhibition centre and store with direct access from Lower Hillgate. The first floor is designed to be a one bedroom residential area with a private entrance from the stairs on the site. The second and third floors are the furniture upcycling workshop stations, containing woodworking equipment and a private balcony. The workshop space has direct access from High Street without the need to move between floors of the building.

The building envelope makes use of re-used red brick and timber cladding, and is built using a steel frame structure. Re-using bricks ensures sustainability both financially and environmentally. It reduces production costs and waste, and it carries traces of the history of the site. Considering the function of the building as a furniture upcycling store and exhibition, one can conclude that the clients would be interested in the technique of reuse in the construction of their building as well.

The store is named after Betty, the name of the red van used to transport the furniture between places with a garage entrance from Lower Hillgate.



Zehra Göksu Güneş  
BA2  
Manchester School of Architecture

Betty's, a furniture upcycling store and exhibition is designed for the creative reutilisation of an empty plot on Lower Hillgate.

The aim of this project was to create both a private and a community space within Stockport for a specific activity. I chose furniture upcycling as an artistic as well as a functional activity with an emphasis on sustainability.



Ground Floor



Residential Floor (First Floor)



Furniture Upcycling Workshop (Second and Third Floor)  
Interior Views

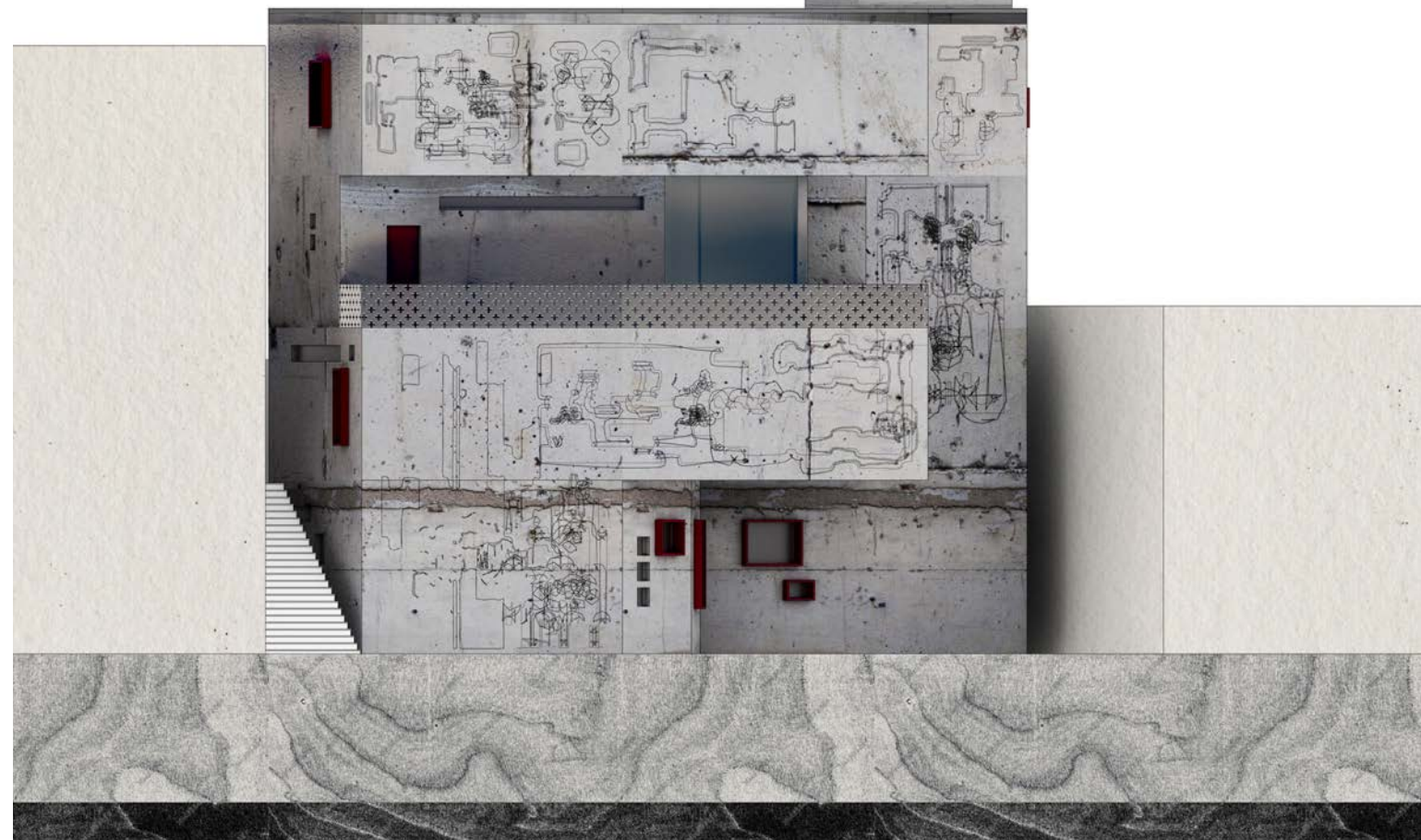
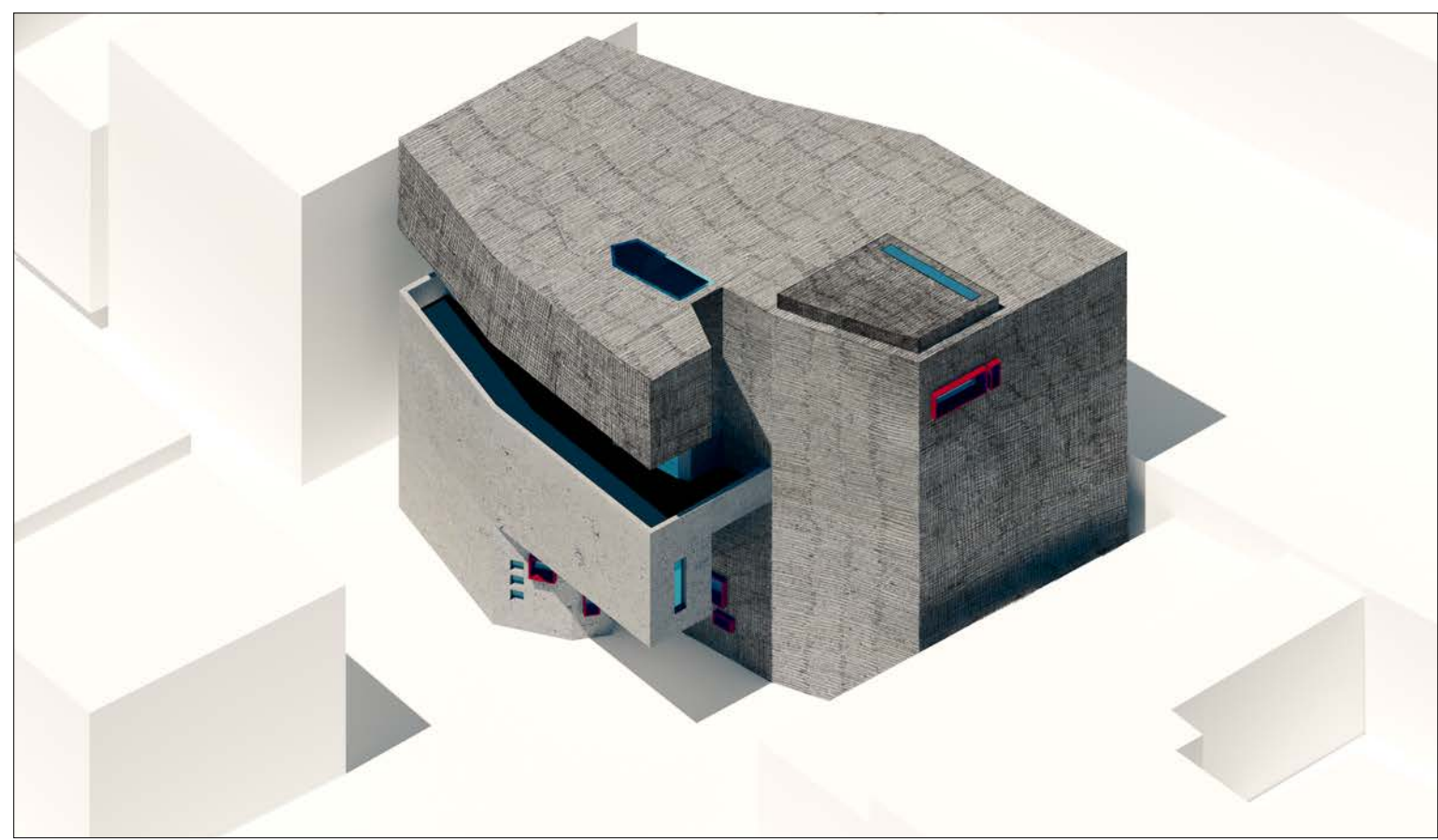
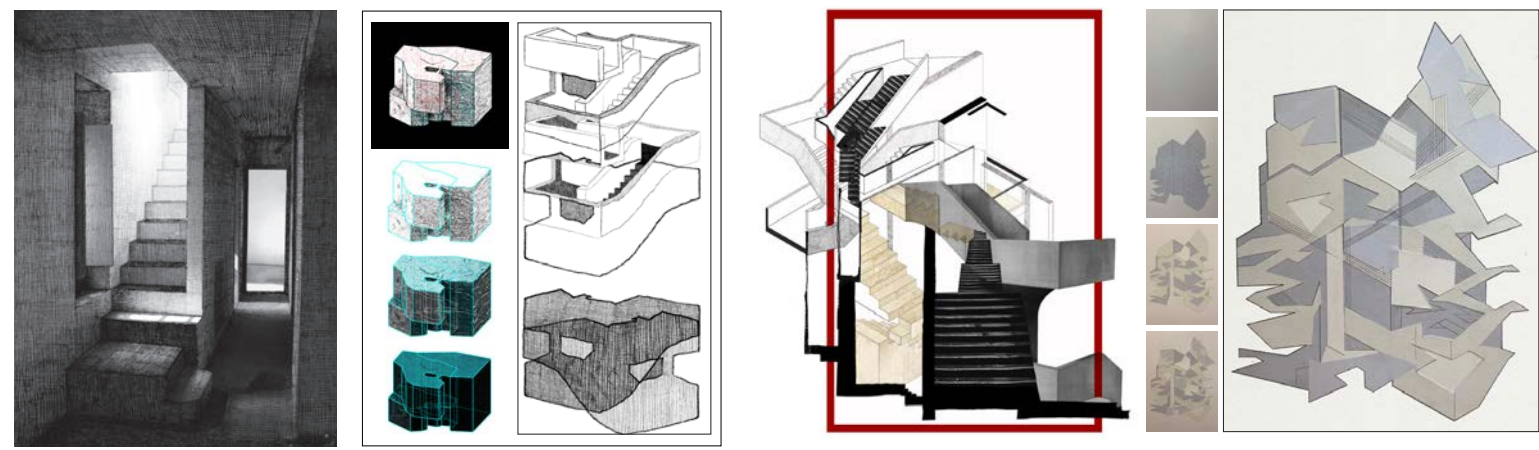
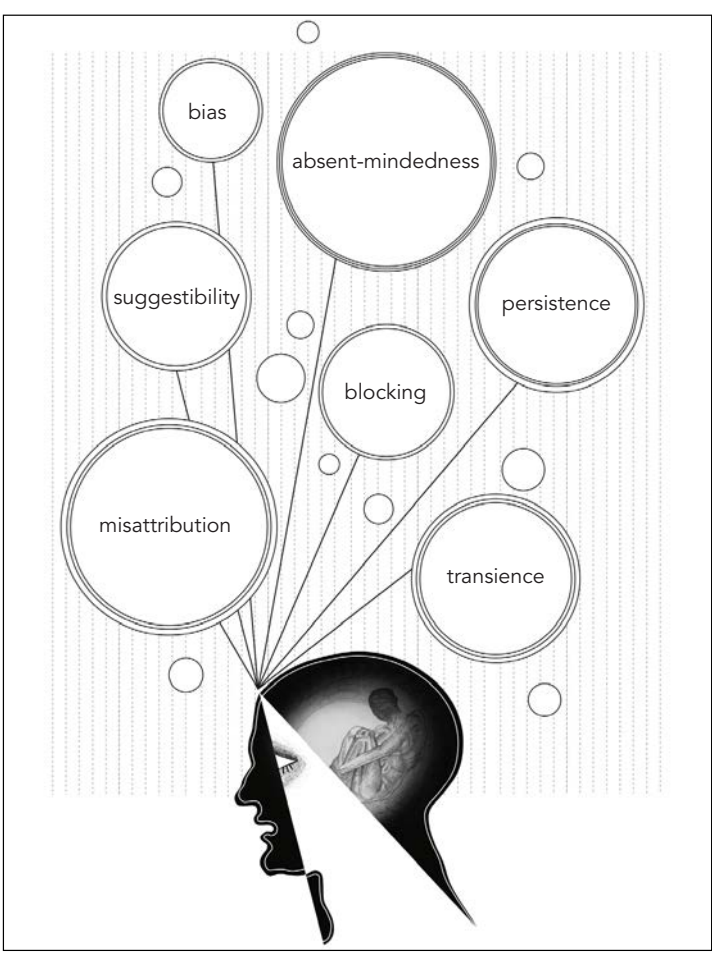



# Artist - Run Film Lab

## “Seven sins of memory”

- the filmmaking apparatus as a method of revealing the processes of remembering and forgetting.
- past events and personal experience are reinvented in films, embracing both reality and fiction, producing a memory bank of images.

The work is based on a book “Seven Sins of Memory” written by American psychologist Daniel Schacter. It explores seven different types of how human mind remembers and forgets. The method was later used as a guidance for the creation of film lab, where a subjective approach to filmmaking, informed by personal memory, can serve as a foundational method for analogue film production. This approach promotes the development of distinct cinematic languages rooted in personal memory and demonstrates analogue film's promise to tame and restore memory. To find ways one could try to avoid committing these sins.

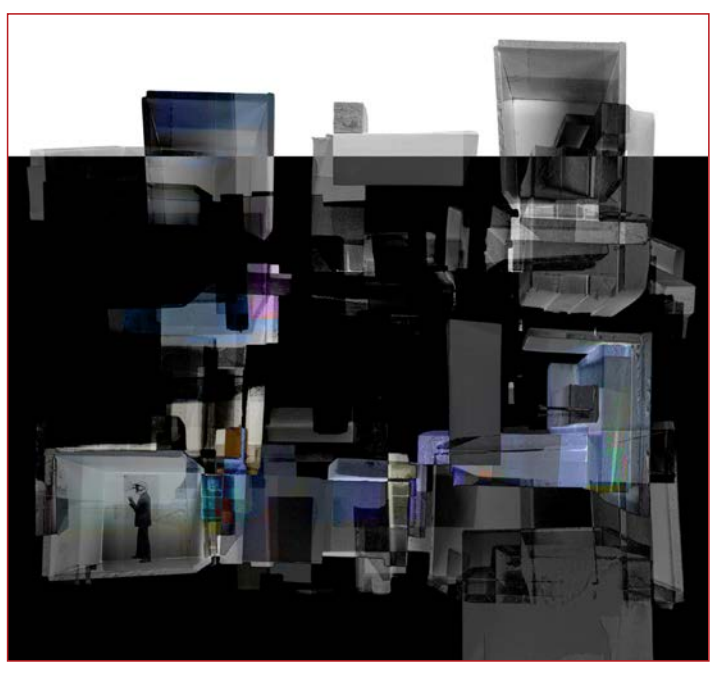




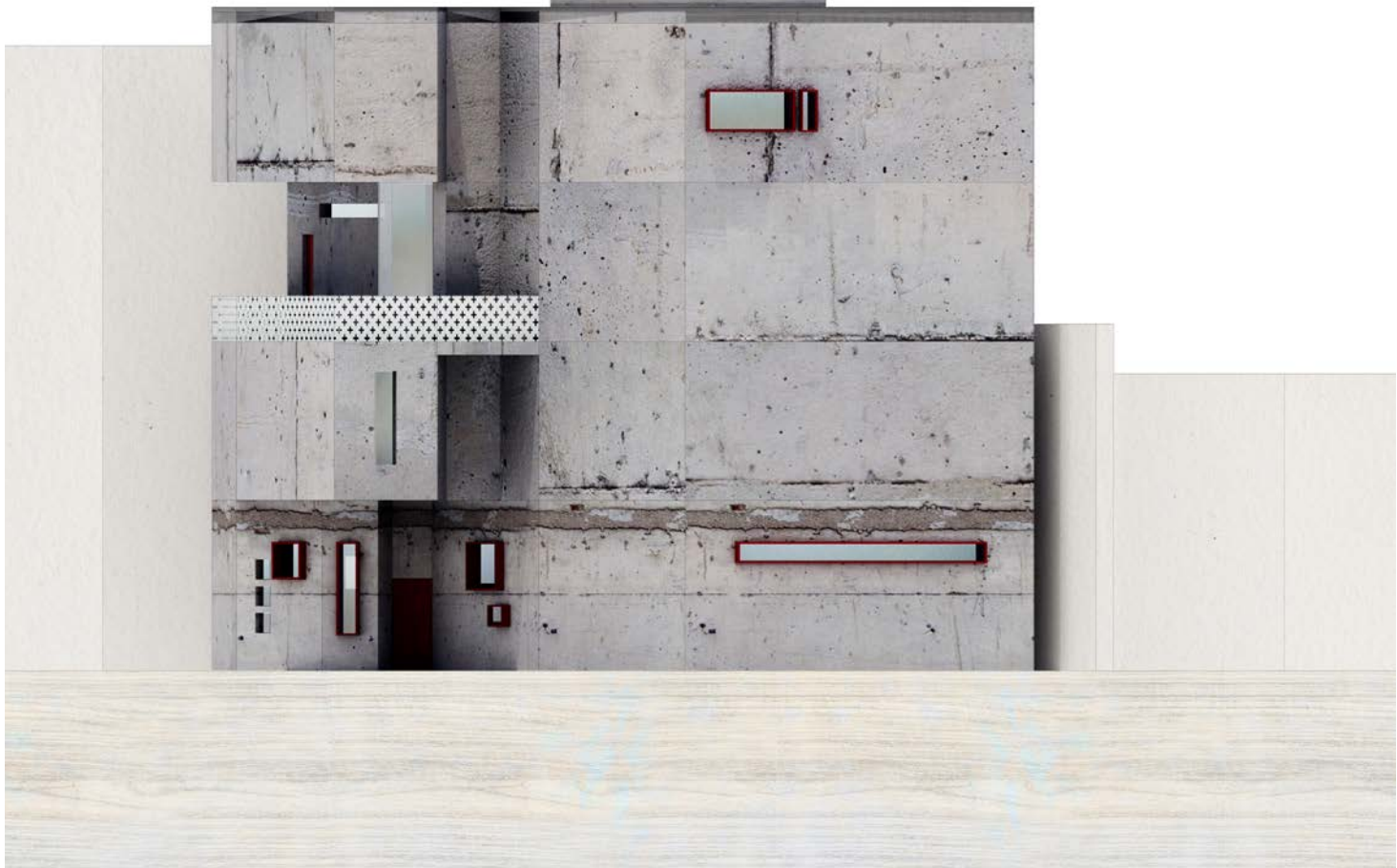
**AYLIN RZAYEVA**

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An undergraduate architecture student with a profound interest in dystopian narratives in spatial design, the spiritual essence of space, and the potential of architecture beyond standard habitats. Alongside architectural studies, an experienced writer with published work, passionate about exploring the humanities aspect of architecture through research and storytelling.



Interior feel of the space  
Cycle of remembering and forgetting



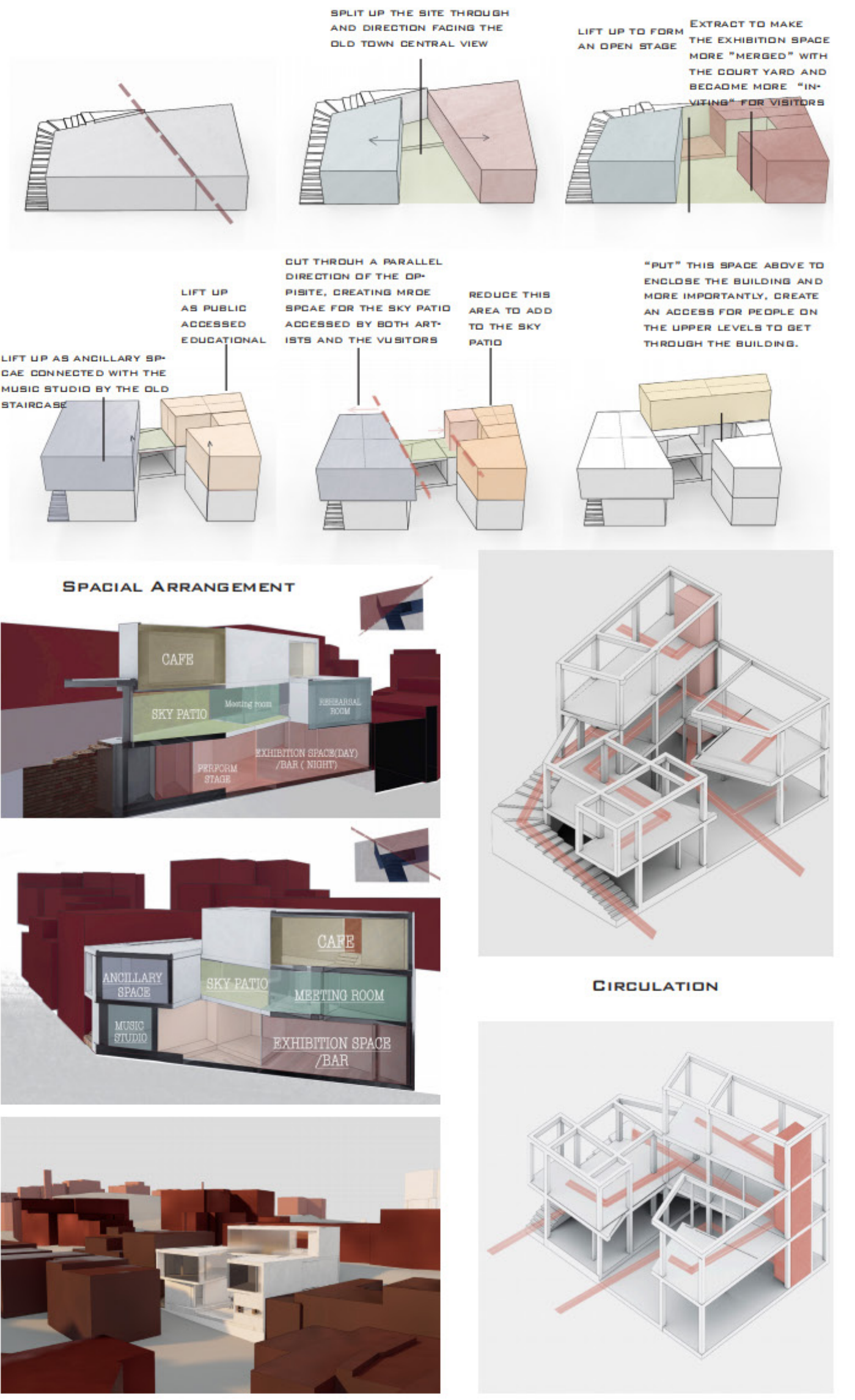
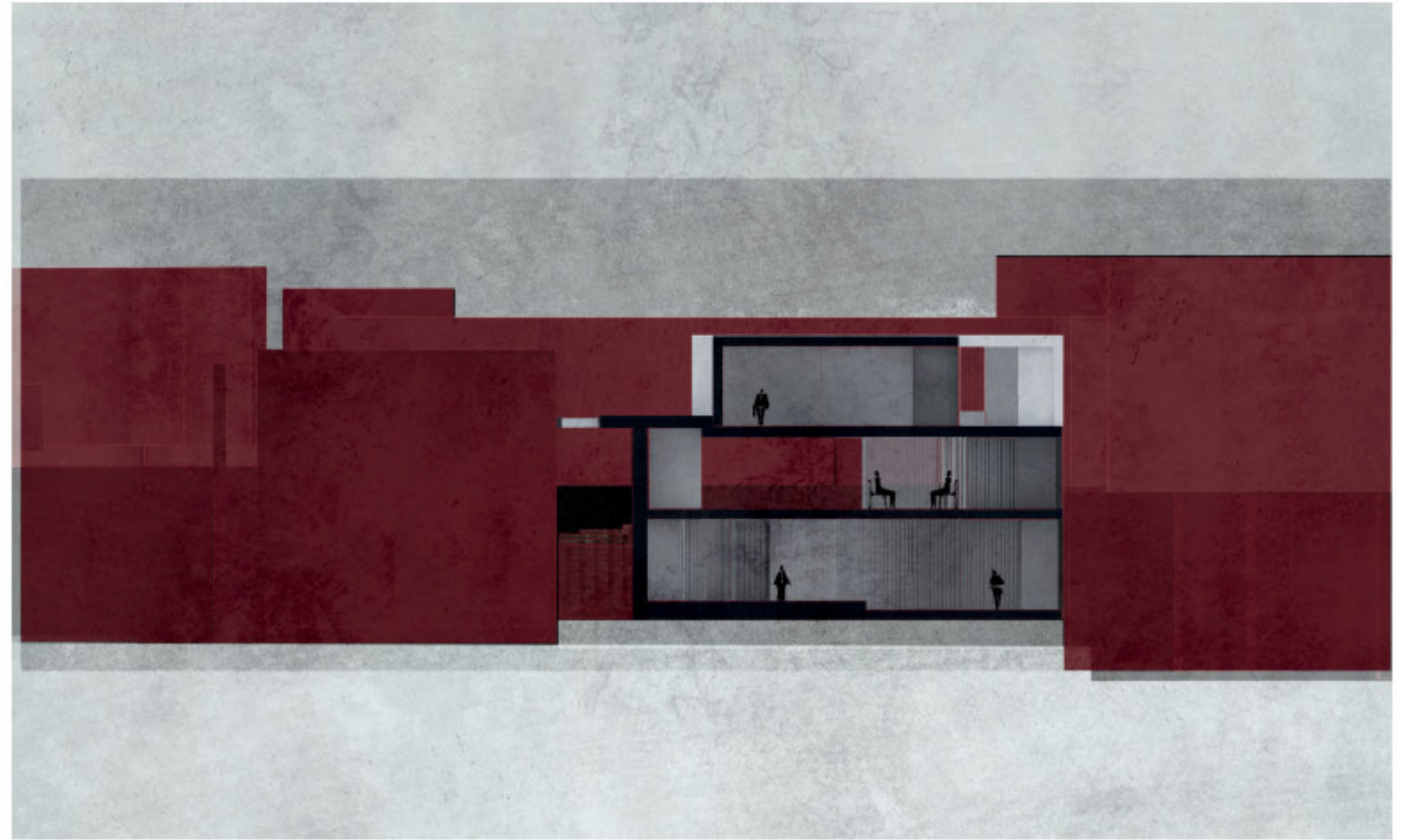
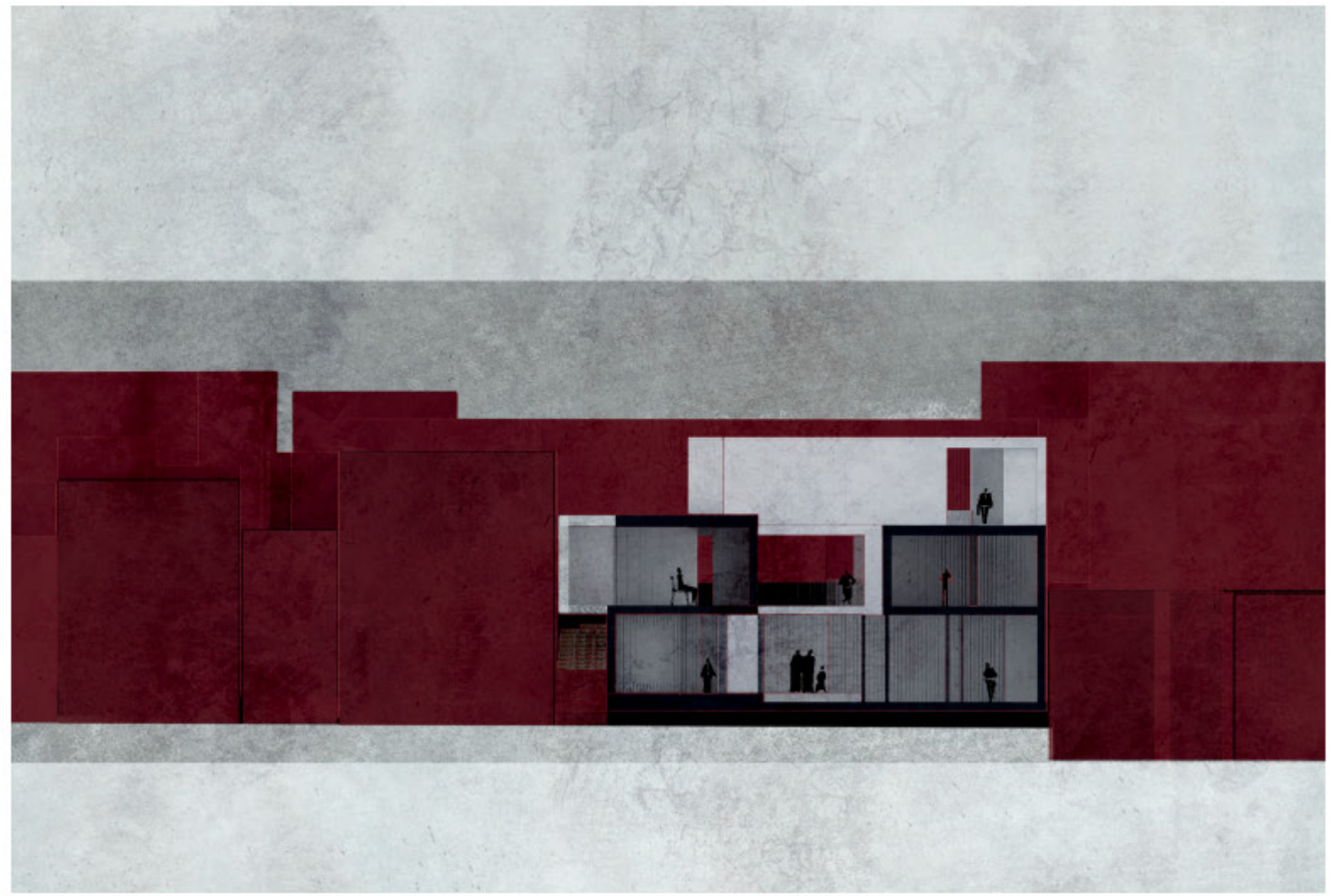
# “WHITE IN THE SHADES OF RED: Reweaving Stockport’s Urban Fabric”



Junyi Lai  
BA2 Manchester School of Architecture

**CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL MUSIC CENTRE, STOCKPORT**

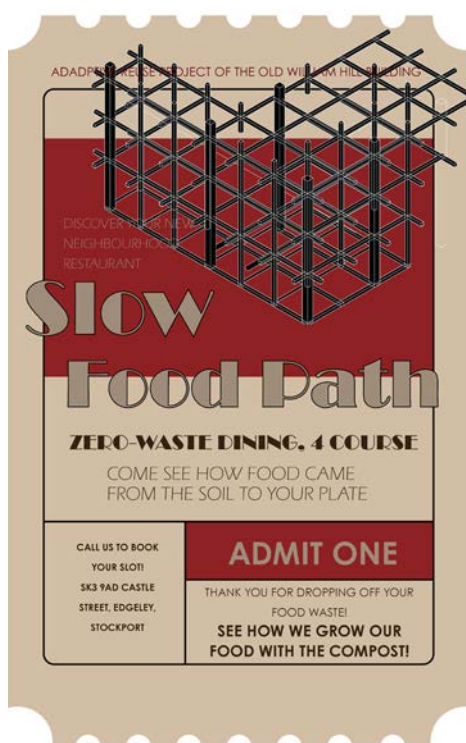
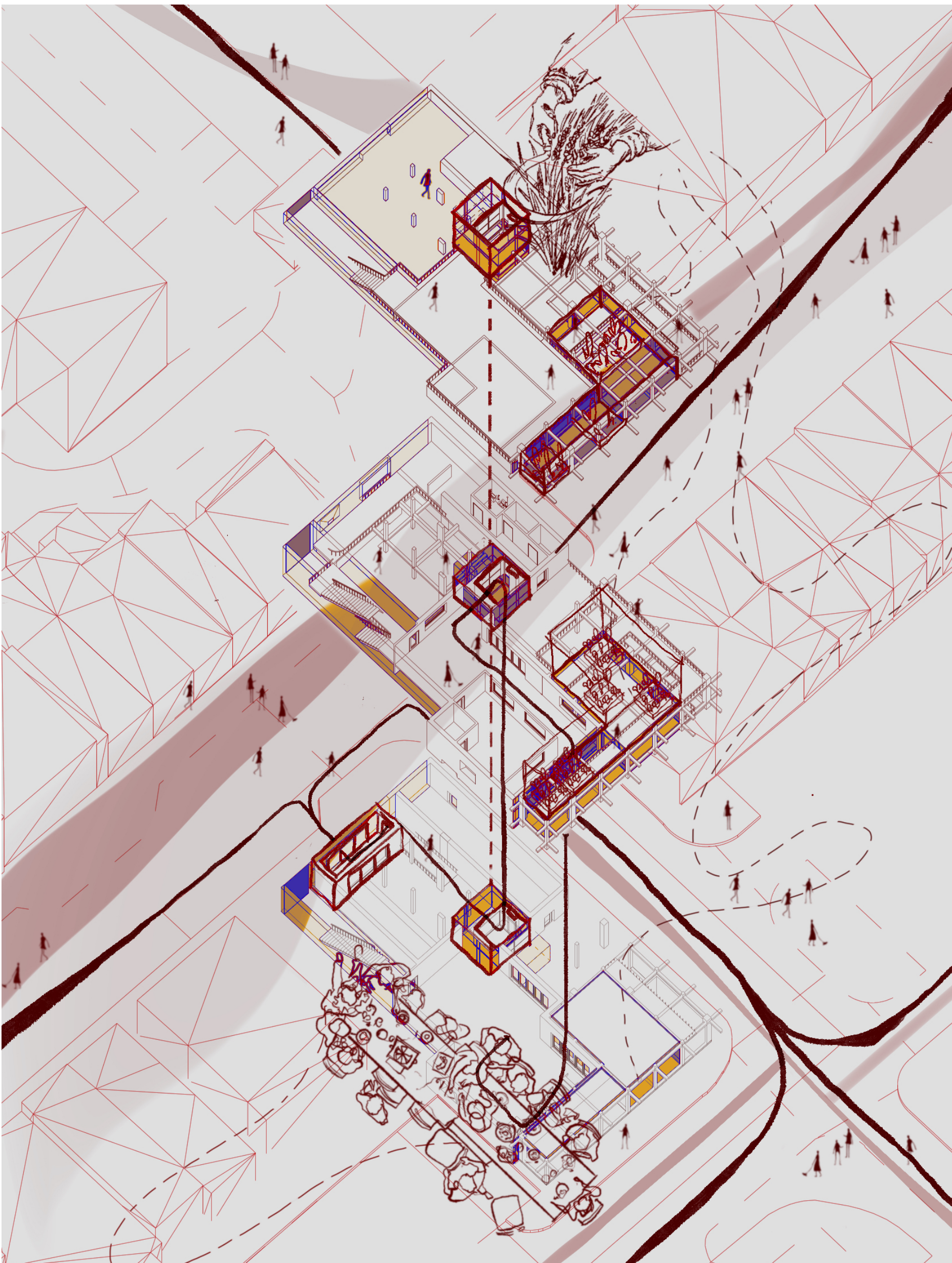
A MULTIFUNCTIONAL HUB FOR MUSIC AND COMMUNITY, THIS CENTRE HOSTS PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS, EXHIBITIONS, AND SOCIAL SPACES THAT NURTURE CREATIVE EXCHANGE. POSITIONED IN LOWER HILLGATE, IT BOLDLY CONTRASTS ITS HISTORIC RED-BRICK CONTEXT — A LUMINOUS WHITE FORM EMERGING IN THE SHADES OF ANCIENT RED. THE ARCHITECTURE ACTS AS BOTH INVITATION AND INTERVENTION: A CONTEMPORARY LANDMARK DRAWING CITIZENS IN. BY EMBEDDING ITSELF WITHIN STOCKPORT’S CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL LAYERS, THE CENTRE STITCHES TOGETHER OLD AND NEW, BECOMING A BEACON FOR MUSIC, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC LIFE — A LIGHT-FILLED STRUCTURE THAT REDEFINES THE URBAN NARRATIVE OF STOCKPORT THROUGH RHYTHM, CONTRAST, AND CONNECTION.





# Slow Food Path

A JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD, WASTE, AND ARCHITECTURE



This project proposes the adaptive reuse of a disused betting shop in Edgeley, Stockport, into a zero-waste restaurant with educational and communal functions. It addresses local fragmentation through a spatial sequence that mirrors the food cycle—waste collection, composting, growing, preparation, and dining.

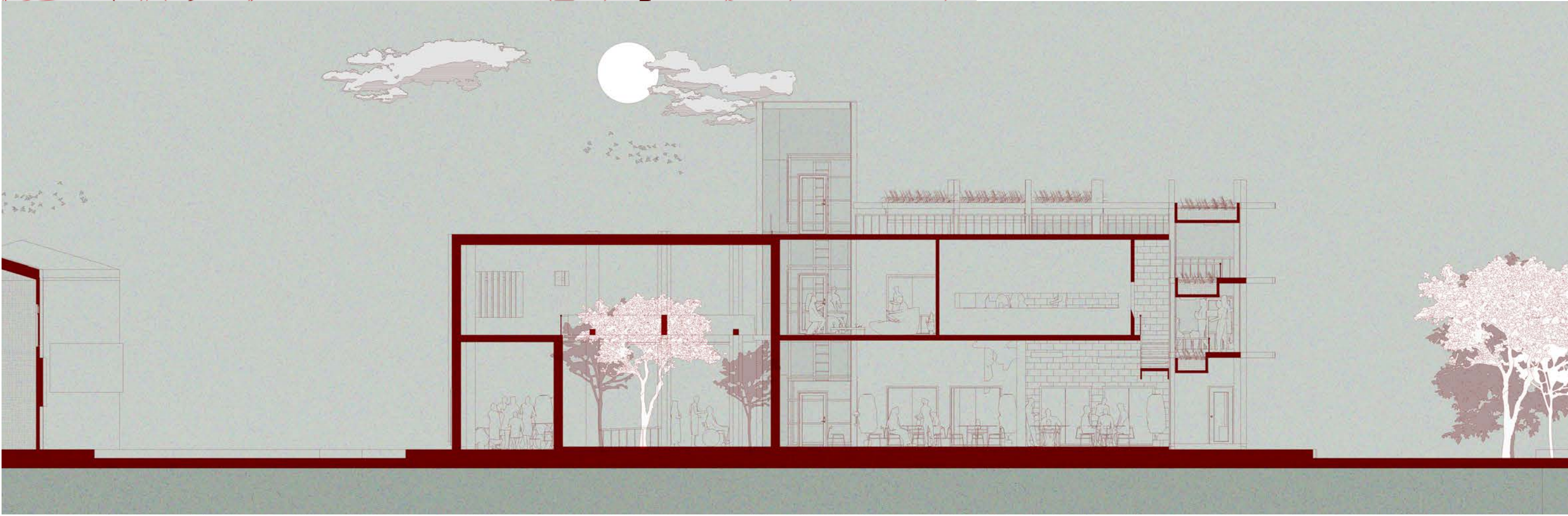
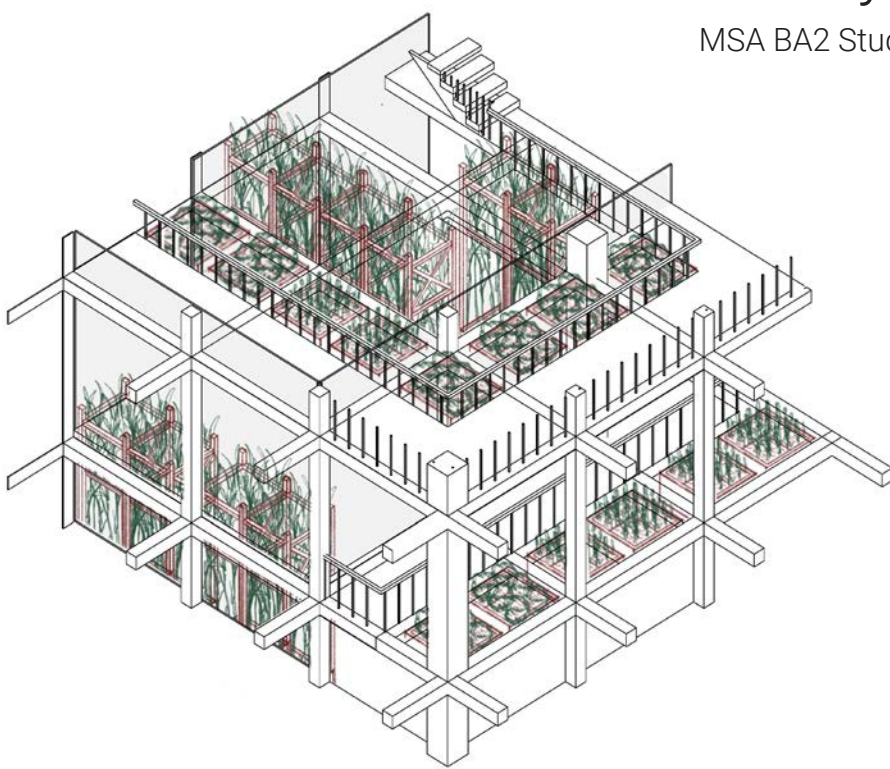
The design unfolds as a slow, linear path, using changes in material, light, and level to encourage pause and reflection. Salvaged brick from the existing structure supports the project's sustainable and contextual approach.

At the centre is a modular planting grid, both productive and symbolic, visible throughout the building. Passive environmental strategies—natural ventilation, rainwater collection—are integrated simply and effectively.

The architecture avoids spectacle, focusing instead on everyday use. Clear thresholds, intuitive circulation, and restrained detailing aim to support community connection and low-impact living through modest, purposeful design.



Audrey Ko  
MSA BA2 Studio 2.1



# SLICING & STITCHING STOCKPORT

FRAMING DRAMA

This project explores the impact of Stockport's ongoing regeneration, with a particular focus on addressing urban disconnect and reconnecting fragmented spaces. I chose to design a small theatre school rooted in the context of Lower Hillgate, an area defined by its rich material palette, historic character, and layered urban fabric. Inspired by the drama embedded in both the arts and the site itself, the design draws from Stockport's distinct topography, weaving the site's varied levels, textures, and transitions into a cohesive architectural response. The aim of my design is to reflect a deepening understanding of the site's complexities, creating a space that not only nurtures creative expression but also responds sensitively to its surroundings. My intention was for my design to stand out by embracing its drama. The design imposes a theatrical presence that both contrasts with and complements the fragmented urban fabric of Stockport's Lower Hillgate.

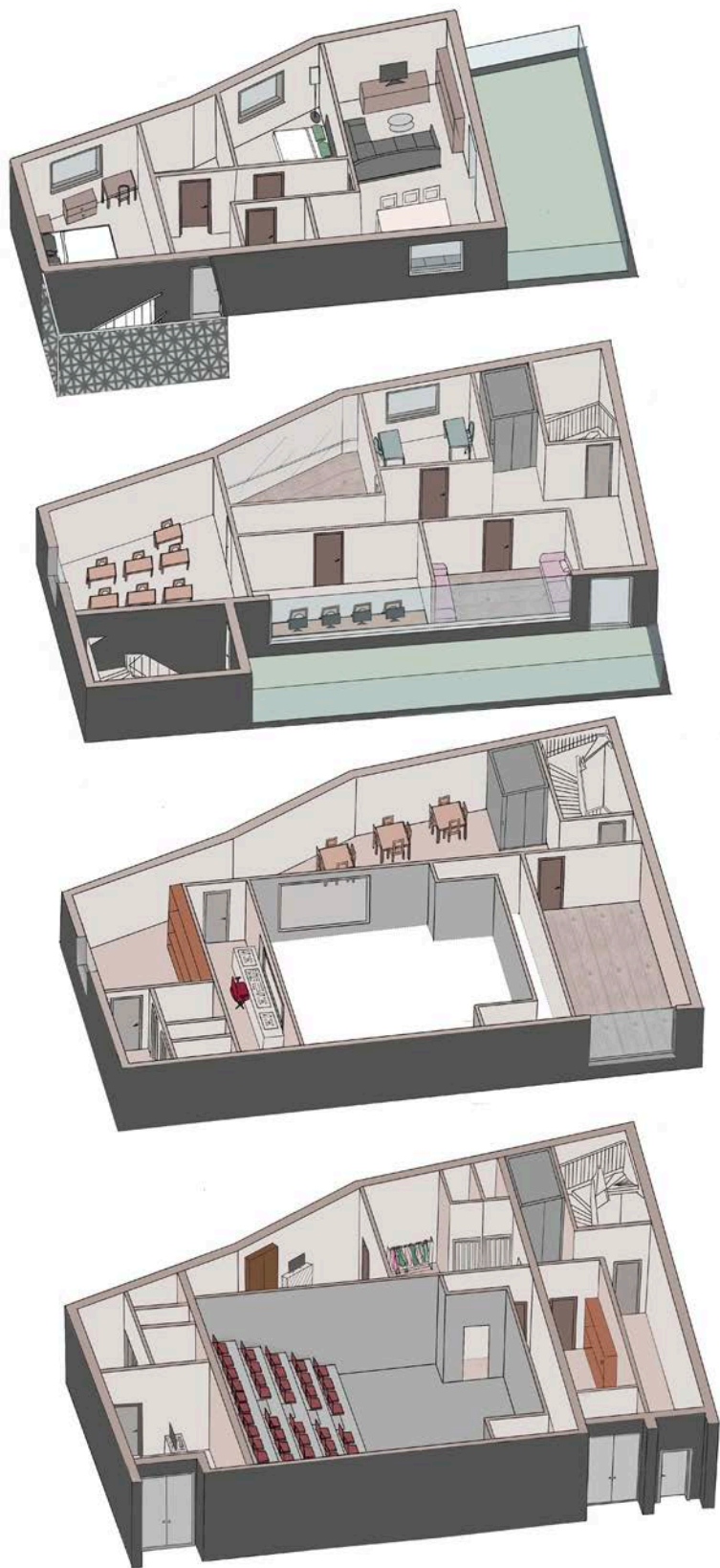


Reem Afandi

As a student of architecture, I believe spaces should be contextually responsive, socially engaging, and emotionally resonant. My design approaches values spatial clarity and narrative depth with a particular interest in how architecture can mediate between public and private life. I am especially drawn to projects that explore cultural expression and adaptive reuse, and the integration of landscape into architectural form. Through every design, I aim to craft experiences that are both meaningful and memorable.



The elevations, sections, and perspective view illustrate how the theatre school's design responds to the site's topography



This exploded axonometric illustrates the interior spatial arrangement of the small theatre school. The ground floor is anchored by a central double-height theatre space, with a first-floor mezzanine that wraps around it, offering views into the performance area while accommodating classrooms and rehearsal studios. The design prioritizes openness and interaction within the public realm of the school. Above, the third floor houses a private living space reserved for the school's owners, distinctly separated from the public functions below.