MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

SAVING ST. SAVIOURS

Preserving History Through Hospitality

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MANCHESTER
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VALLEY
HERITAGE

Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

MSA
LIVE 23

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Partners

Valley Heritage is a non-profit organisation that was created in 2015 to keep Rossendale's history alive and rejuvenate the area. They are a community of volunteers from different professions, dedicated to revitalising their town through the creative reuse of its old structures.

As the cost of restoration is expected to exceed its ultimate worth, they are counting on public funding to make the re-use and regeneration of historic sites in the valley possible. The goal is to devise a strategy for reclaiming and reusing these potentially hazardous structures and areas.

The objective of the organisation is to have a lasting and positive impact on the community through the protection and improvement of local historical treasures, the provision of employment and educational opportunities, as well as the encouragement of civic engagement and area growth. There is also an effort to include locals at every step of the process because Valley Heritage recognises the importance of having their input in historical preservation efforts.

See more at www.valleyheritage.org.uk.

Agenda

Saving St. Saviours

Preserving History Through Hospitality

Valley Heritage is looking into the possibility of transforming St. Saviours Church into a hotel as part of an exciting new project. The church is a Grade II-listed building and is located near Bacup's town centre. The goal is to increase the number of available accommodations by incorporating the surrounding landscape through the installation of permanent and custom-designed pods. This will deliver an appealing and high-quality design that would enhance and promote this environmentally sensitive area.

The concept utilised for the design proposal is modern insertion, meaning that the accommodation pods will be integrated into the surrounding landscape in order to match the historical relevance of the church. The project is anticipated to have a minimal carbon footprint, aiming for net-zero emissions in the transformation of St. Saviours Church.

The first team discussion with the collaborator, after having visited the site, was held in a collaborative space for local independent entrepreneurs in Bacup's town centre. The building, known as the former Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, reflects the main goal of Valley Heritage regarding the involvement of the community in the making process. This matter is expressed through paintings, furniture, and art pieces made by local artists, which decorate the interior of the collaborative space.

Accordingly, the St. Saviour's Church project seeks to accomplish three main social goals, including the adaptive reuse of a significant historic building to serve a new role while maintaining its historical value, providing opportunities for community participation in order to enhance people's well-being and economic potential, and prioritising jobless and young people's skills in the hospitality sector.

Throughout the action weeks, the undergrads had the opportunity to gain valuable skills such as teamwork and communication, design concept development, design software programmes, and rendering skills. All these skills were acquired through a series of workshops.

Designing

The Beginning

Our design workshop was a great success, as we split the students into groups and conducted an interactive brainstorming session to generate ideas that met our client's requirements. On day one, we encouraged the students to consider various factors, including themes, materiality, orientation, form, and layout, in the master plan scale. After this phase, we have provided feedback in order to guide them in the right direction.

The next part of the workshop, on day two, involved breaking the team into four groups to develop unique pod designs. Each group was tasked with producing a comprehensive set of outputs for their pod design. All of the outputs were hand-drawn and ready to be built up in AutoCAD and SketchUp. Throughout the workshop, the BA students presented their ideas to one another, which was a great opportunity for everyone to share their unique perspective and contribute to the project. The open discussion sessions were insightful and productive, leading to the development of more refined ideas.

We ended the workshop with a productive meeting with our collaborators on day three, where we reviewed the concepts and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each idea that the undergrads had cooked up in the first two days. It was encouraging to see the undergrads take ownership of their ideas and engage in thoughtful discussions about the concepts. This was a confidence boost for the emerging designers. We finalised the concepts based on what has been discussed in the meeting.
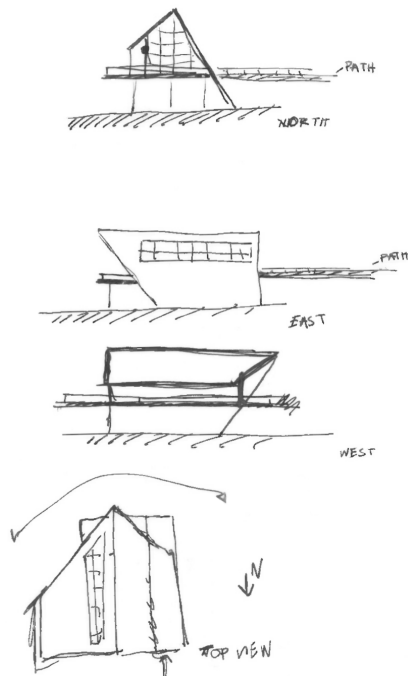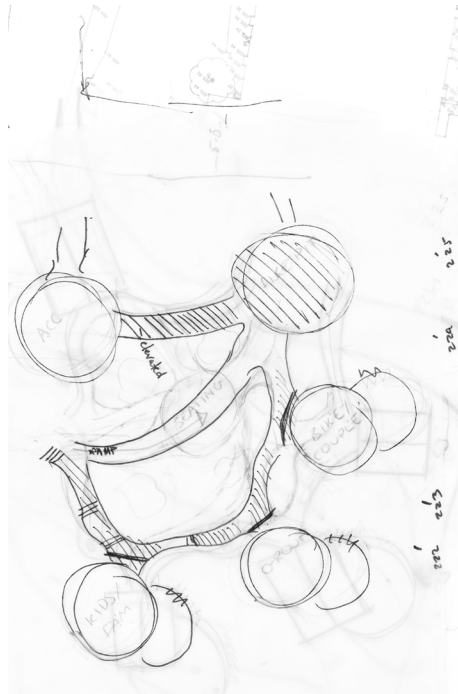
Modelling

The Process

The modelling workshop was a great opportunity for the BA students to learn new skills and gain experience using software programmes such as Revit, AutoCAD, and SketchUp. Over the course of the workshop, the participants received a crash course on each programme, learning the basics and exploring the capabilities of each.

On day one of the workshop, we focused on Revit, covering the basics of the software and its capabilities for using inputs from Digimap. We then moved to some hands-on tasks related to the existing site model, including importing topography and modelling the surroundings along with the existing constraints. As some of the undergrads faced difficulties dealing with Revit, we provided a crash course introduction to AutoCAD, which was easier and more efficient for meeting the final project outcome. With the help of postgrads, everyone was able to understand the software and start drawing up pod proposals in AutoCAD.

The second day of the workshop was dedicated to SketchUp, where we got to build some of the pods and play with their forms. This was a great opportunity for the undergrads to learn new software skills and expand their creativity. After that, we imported the SketchUp pod models into the modelled topography for final touches before rendering. It was amazing to see all the different ideas and designs coming together seamlessly. By the end of the workshop, we had good planning drawings for each pod, which were ready to be rendered.

Rendering

The Touch-ups

In this three-day workshop, the undergrads learned how to create renderings of their designs using Photoshop and Enscape. They were taught the basics of Photoshop and how to use the software effectively for rendering and editing 2D drawings. Under the supervision of the MArch, the BA students put their newfound knowledge into practice by rendering the pods drawings. Worksheets were provided to guide the students, which they could keep after the MSA Live project for their future work.

On the second day, the undergrads were introduced to Enscape and shown how to import 3D models into the software. They learned how to use the different tools available to navigate and manipulate the models. Once everyone was ready to go, we started the 3D rendering of the whole project. A copy of the file was given to the undergrads to render views of their pods. They then used their newly acquired skills to improve the rendered images in Photoshop.

On the third day of the workshop, we concluded with a presentation on designing portfolios. They had the opportunity to use InDesign in order to develop a template for the portfolio, which contained their drawings and images. Overall, this workshop provided valuable skills for the BA students and helped them to effectively communicate their design concepts through a method that would be understood by stakeholders and clients.

Site Location

Site Axonometric
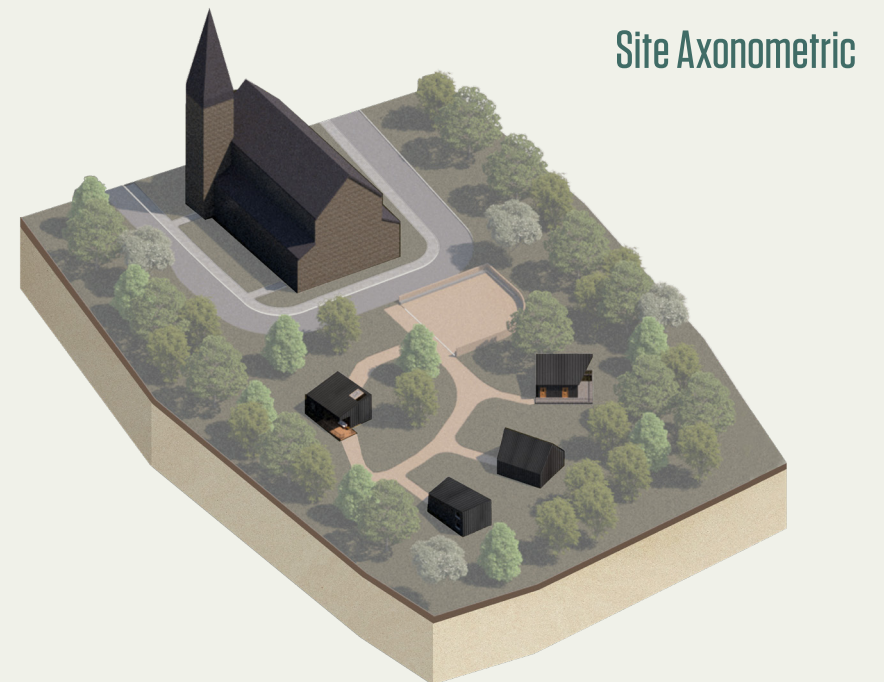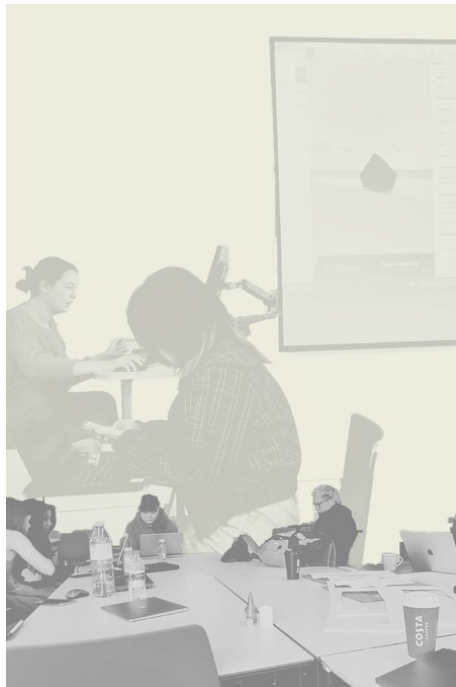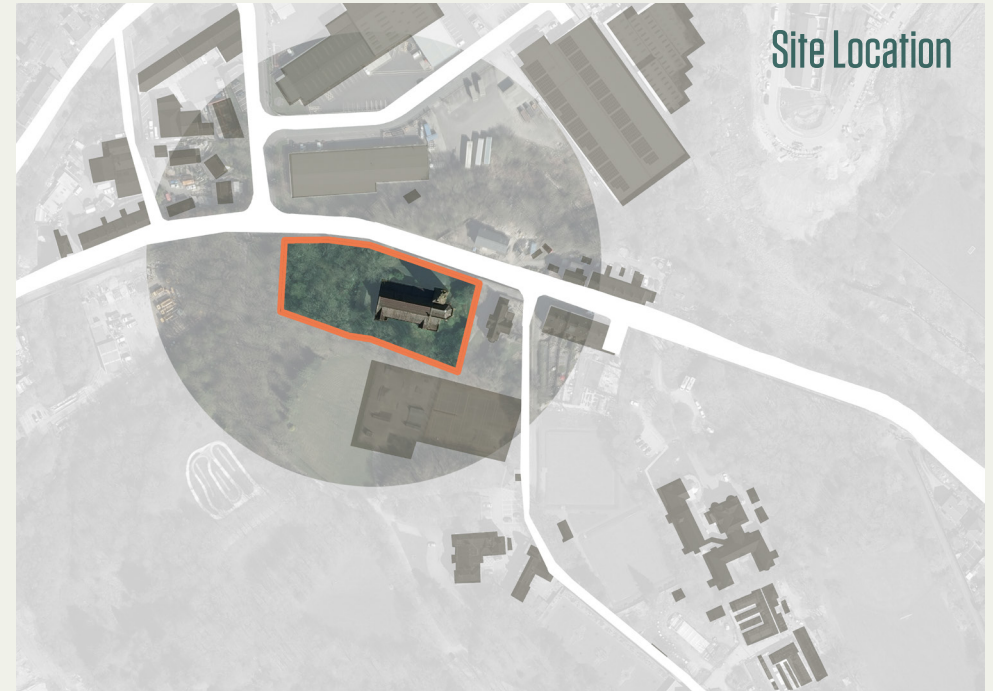
Pod 1

## Accessible Pod

Lok Him Jasper Lam and Anasya Amanda Putri

Adjacent to the Grade II-listed church, this cabin is the perfect choice for anyone seeking an escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Despite its close proximity to the church, the cabin still manages to offer a sense of seclusion and privacy, allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the serene natural surroundings. With a double-height ceiling, the cabin offers a sense of spaciousness. While the windows and skylights allow for plenty of natural light to flood in, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The interior of the cabin is carefully considered, with a cosy queen-size bed, a convenient kitchenette, and a porch area that provides the perfect vantage point to take in the stunning views of the surrounding nature. The cabin is also fully accessible, making it an ideal choice for anyone with mobility needs, especially elderlies.
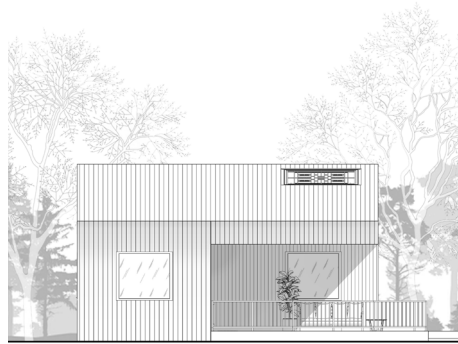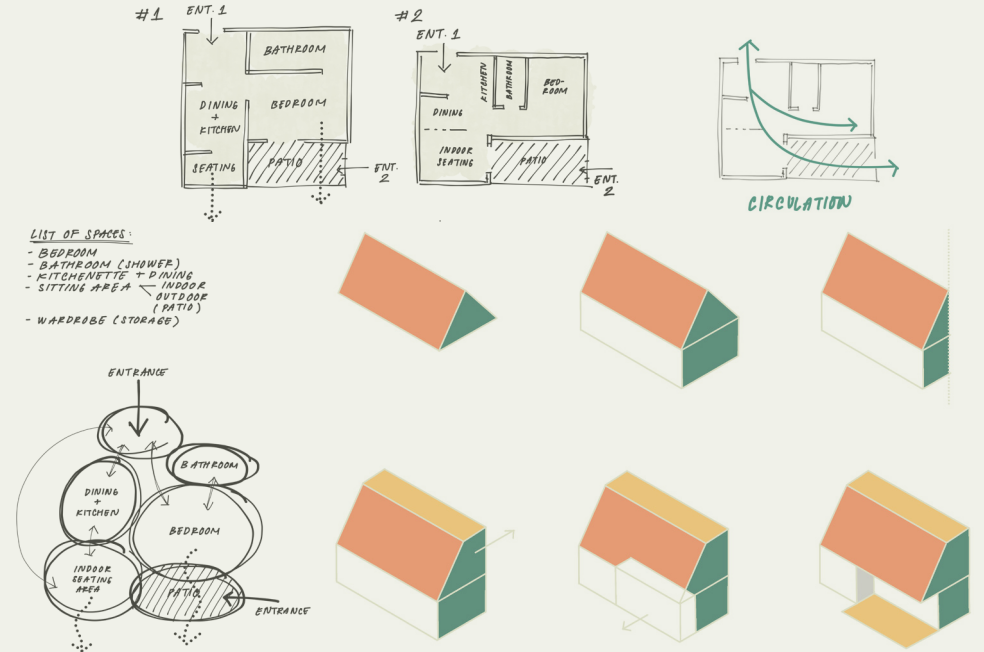

Front Elevation
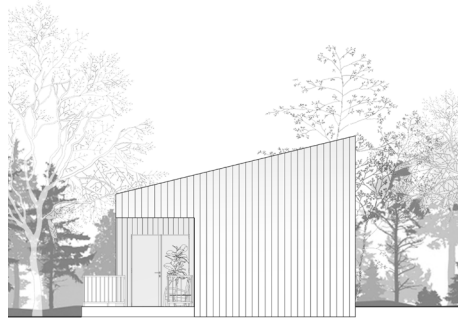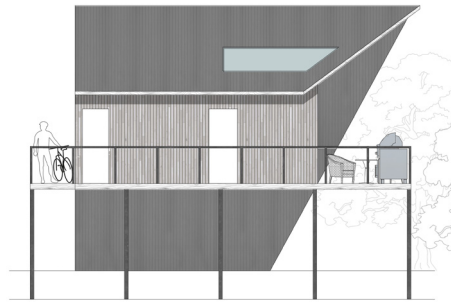

Side Elevation
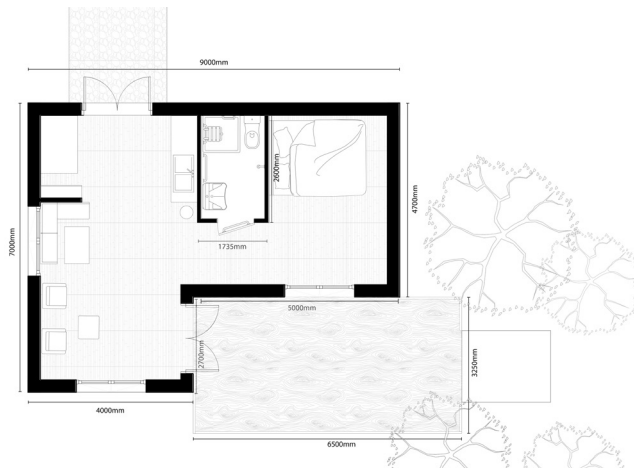
Ground Floor Plan

Pod 2

Couples Pod

James Edward Knowles, Ralia Ben Abbes Taarji and Livi Mullen

Targeted to accommodate a typical pair of outdoor enthusiasts, this pod looks to facilitate the basic needs of the user within a comfortable yet ultimately affordable environment. Responding to the uneven topography, the pod is raised above the ground, providing accessibility for biking activities. Utilising triangular geometry, two planes intersect to form a pitched envelope where reflective glass is placed on the facade so as not to disrupt the surroundings. The aim is to use the surrounding trees to provide privacy and shelter. Although in nature, the space offers enough privacy for outdoor activities, such as the net included in the design. Entering the living area via the outdoor terrace, which wraps around the pod, the interior is characterised by windows that maximise sun exposure and the sense of space.
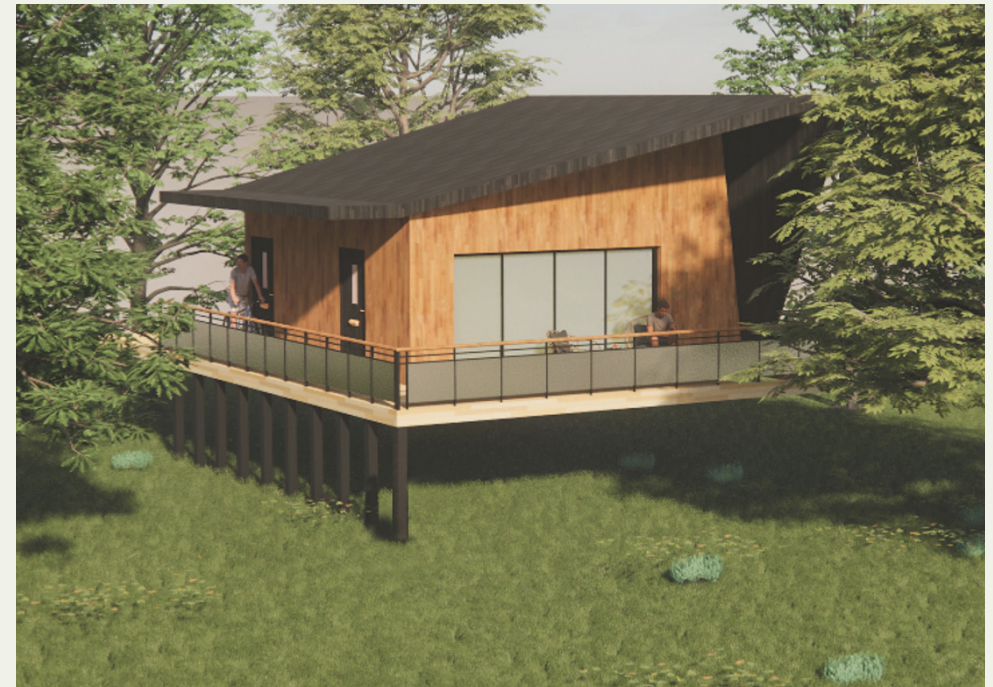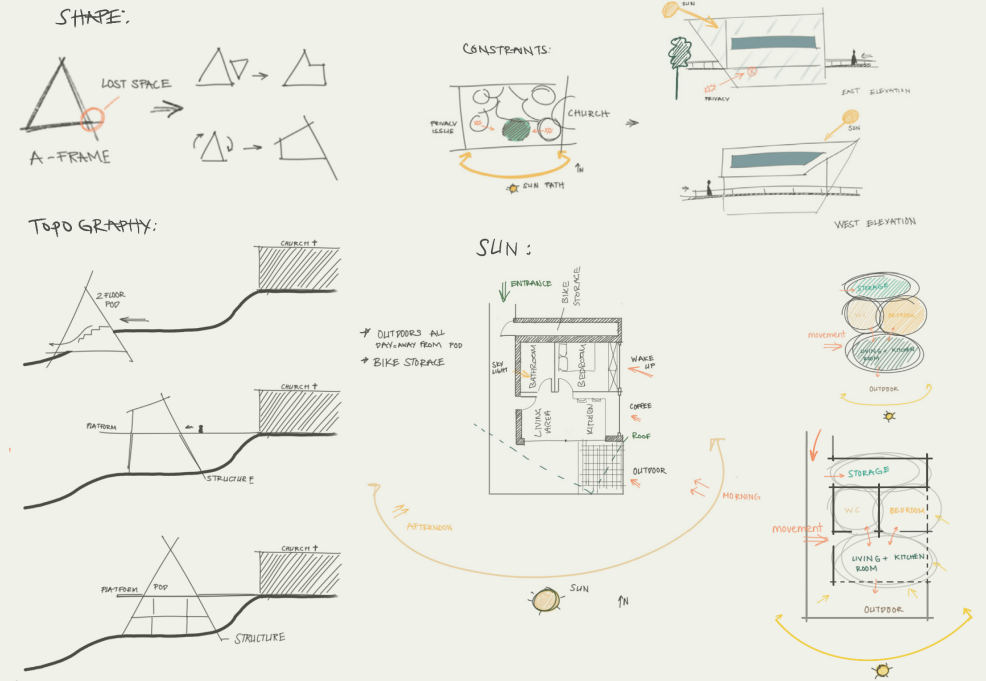

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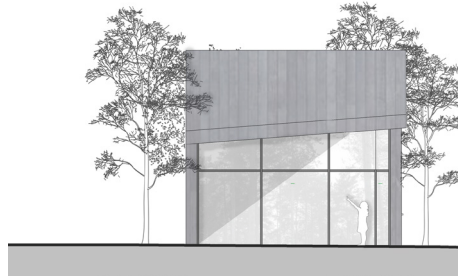

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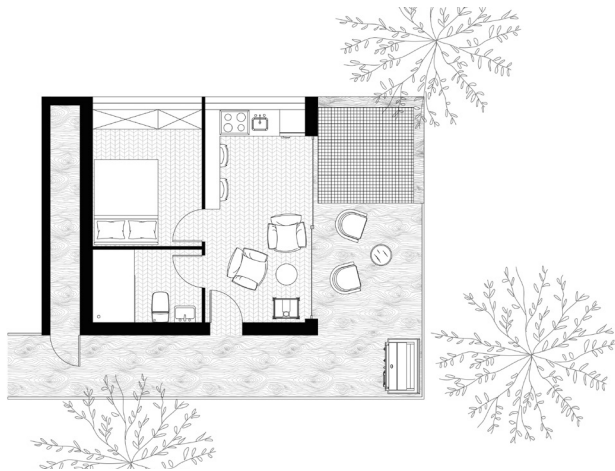
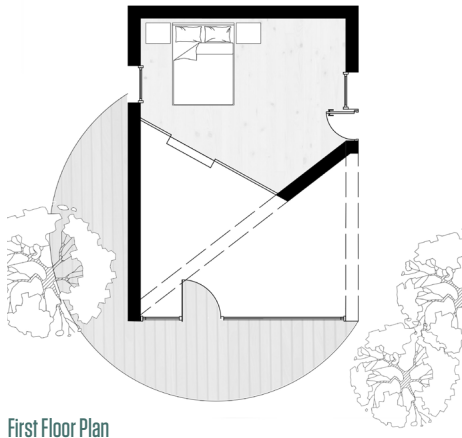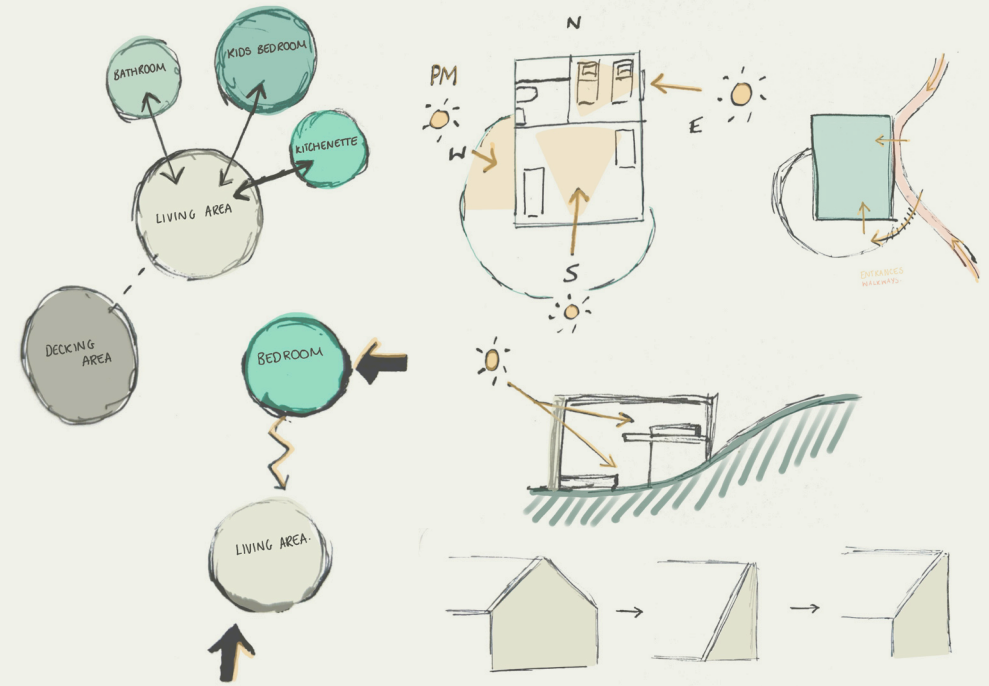Ground Floor Plan

Pod 3

Family Pod

Amy Wilson and Shahd Salama

In this pod design it was important to include functionality aspects along with elements of play and togetherness. The pod features a double-height ground floor, accommodating the open-plan living area and kitchenette, kids' bedroom, as well as a bathroom, which can be accessed through a series of stairs that lead from the walkway above. A ladder leads to a mezzanine floor, which houses the master bedroom, designed as a relaxing hideaway. Access is also done via a corridor that joins the walkway. The decking is wrapped around the building's south and west sides, allowing the family to enjoy both daytime and sunset. The western facade, accessible via the decking, acts as a climbing wall, providing children with an interactive experience. The angular design is a subtle nod to the church spire and the timber cladding integrates the pod in the landscape.
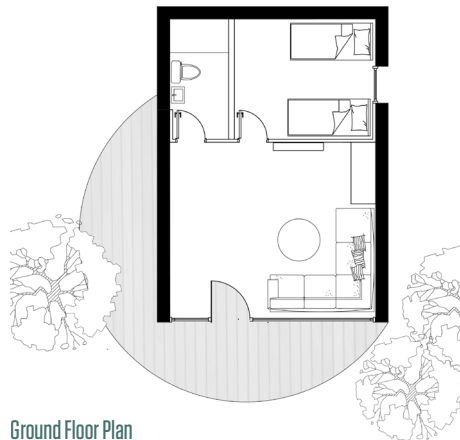
Front Elevation

Side Elevation
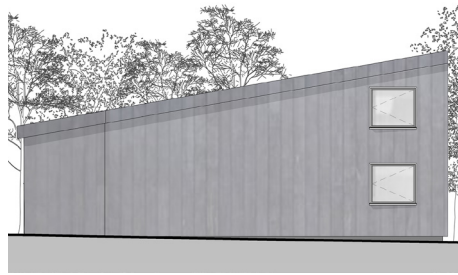
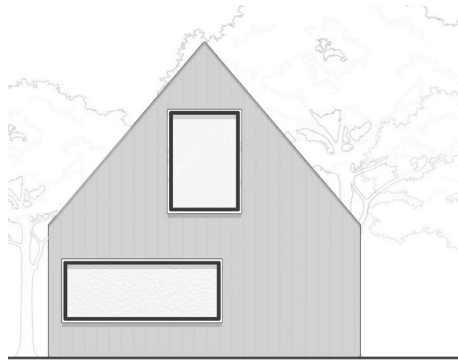First Floor Plan

Ground Floor Plan

Pod 4

Small Group of Adults Pod

A'lla Ibrahim Yaqoob Al Busaidi, Dila Kara and Tobias Coulson

A two storey A-frame pod, designed for a small group of adults, with a maximum capacity of 4 guests, accommodated in 2 ensuite bedrooms, each furnished with a double bed. The exterior is covered in charred timber cladding to blend in with the natural surroundings. In its interior space, the pod is designed with an open-plan layout and a double-height ceiling in the foyer. The south-facing facade features glazing and two floor-to-ceiling windows on the east and west sides, while a stained glass window at the top, inspired by the area's history, is positioned to maximise the sunlight levels and enhance the outdoor experience. On the second floor, guests can enjoy a balcony area, while the ground floor includes a kitchenette with a microwave, hob, and sink for guest use, as well as a seating and storage area.
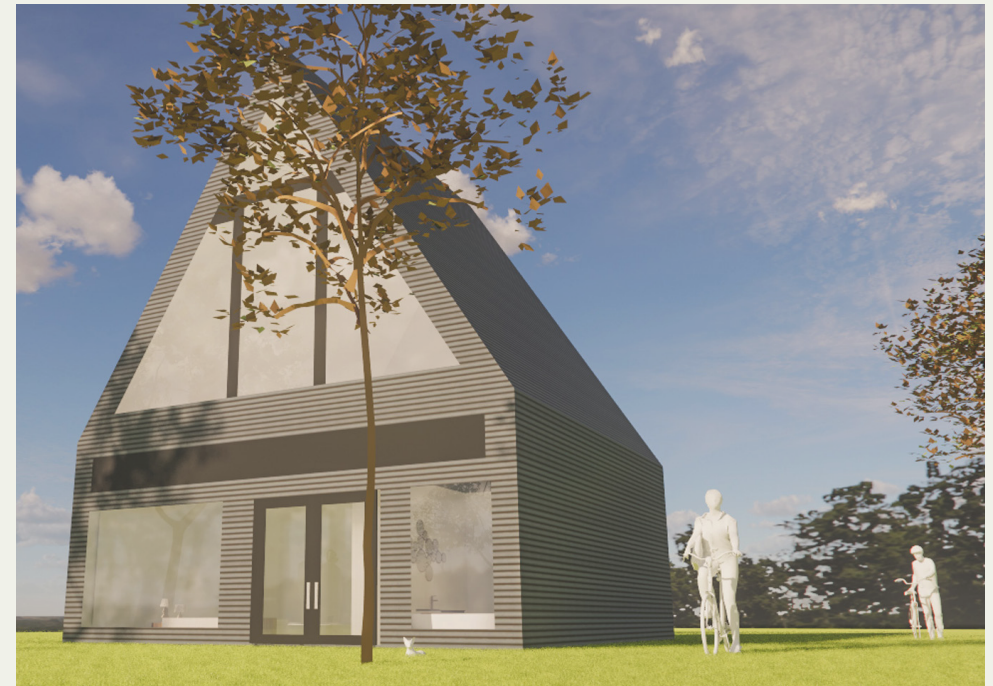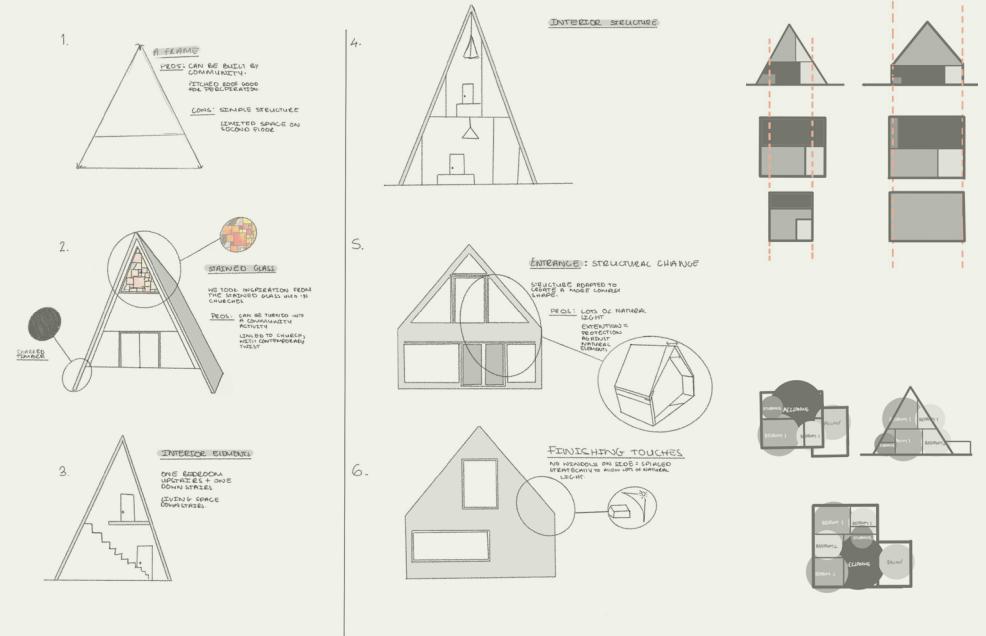

Front Elevation

Side Elevation

First Floor Plan

Ground Floor Plan

ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 students with those in BA year 1 and year 2 and Masters Landscape Architecture 1 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA LIVE projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA LIVE projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts joined for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 650 students from 4 cohorts in MSA have worked on 42 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA LIVE please contact the MSA LIVE team:
msalive@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2023

SOCIAL

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