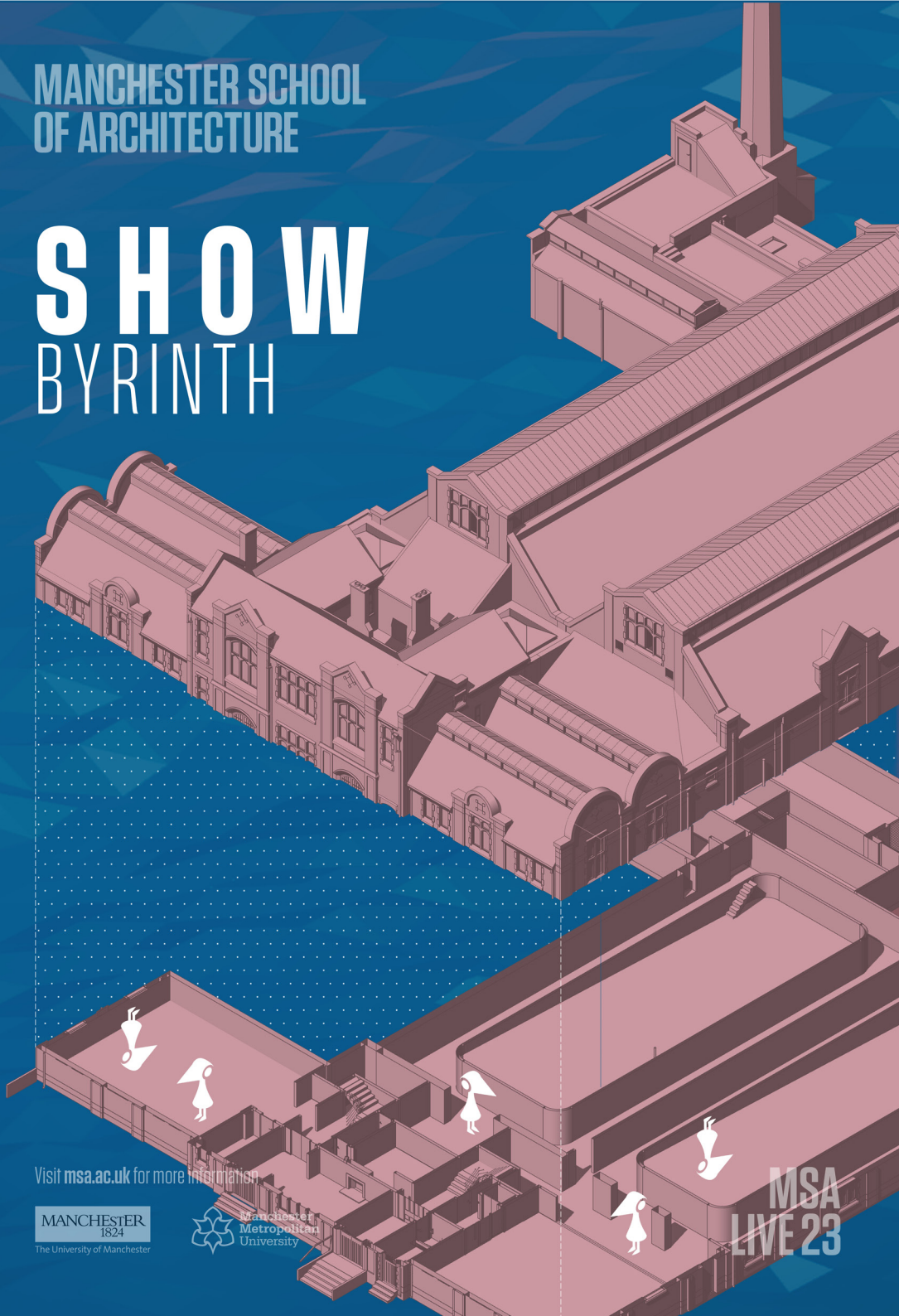


MANCHESTER SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE

SHOW BYRINTH



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MSA
LIVE 23

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Partners

Our client/collaborator is "Withington Baths & Leisure Centre". Withington Baths, located in the south of Manchester an architectural masterpiece designed by John Henry Price, showcasing classic red brick construction with Art Nouveau elements. Its foundation stone, laid in 1911, bears witness to its impressive history and remains the only fully operational Edwardian pool in Manchester. For over a century, Withington Baths have persevered through various challenges, providing a sanctuary and fostering connections within the community.

In the early 2010s, the community rallied to save the Baths from closure and today, visitors can not only swim but also access a range of gym and leisure facilities.

These Baths stand as a symbol of resilience and community spirit. Despite facing compromise and closure threats, the local community fought back. And since 2015, the community has been responsible for its day-to-day operations, with all profits reinvested into maintaining the building.

Through careful planning and community support, the Baths have undergone several restorations. However, many areas still need careful replanning.

Agenda

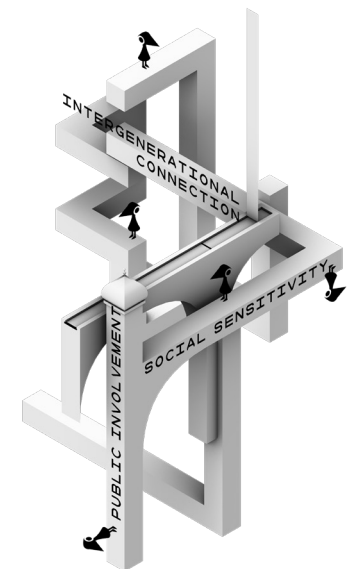
SHOWbyrinth

Our project aims to transform Withington Baths into a more comprehensive community facility that caters to the diverse needs of our community by repurposing the basement and a chunk of landscape into a cafe and meeting room to be used as flexible spaces. We believe that this would provide a common gathering space for community members, promoting social interaction and communication for the local estate, students, children, the elderly, and every age group.

Our goal is to create an inclusive, friendly, and vibrant community facility that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

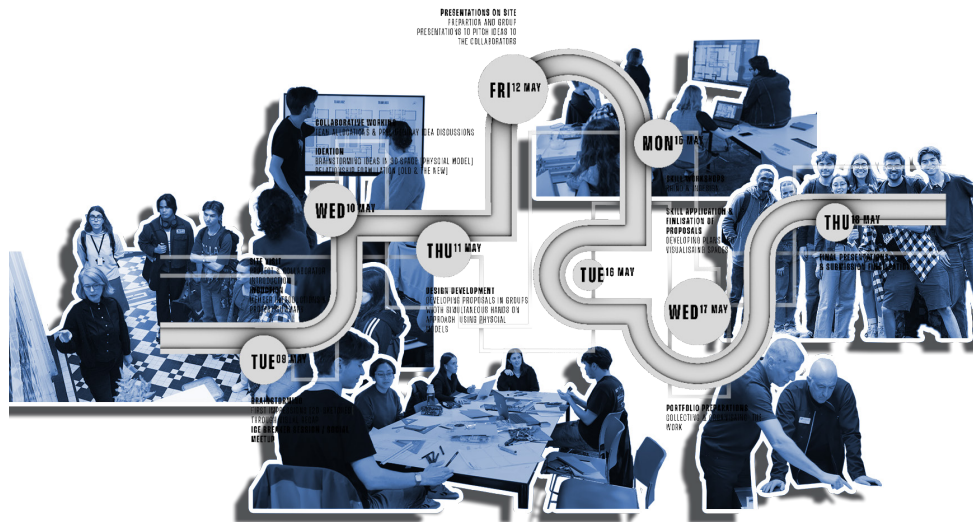
By promoting social interaction, communication, and a sense of belonging, our design enhances community cohesion, fosters personal growth and development of community members, and ultimately creates a better future for community members.

The basement of the Baths is filled with a complex network of irregular passages or pathways, where it is difficult to find paths to existing walls and partitions, having qualities similar to a labyrinth. We plan to convert this assumed negative trait into a positive one to enable the dead zones by providing unique spatial connection experience for the users.



TIMELINE

According to the clients brief, the basement would need to be enabled by adding and relocating functions and spatial requirements and therefore repurposing it to include an improved cafe space, meeting areas and other facilities with public attraction areas as well. We aim to involve undergraduate students from BA1 and BA2 and teach in the process, various representation and experimentation techniques ranging from sketching, physical & digital model making as well as post-production and representation.



The action plan outlines brief objectives for the next two weeks which provide an all-round design development experience to the participants of being part of a collaborative environment while working on a live project.

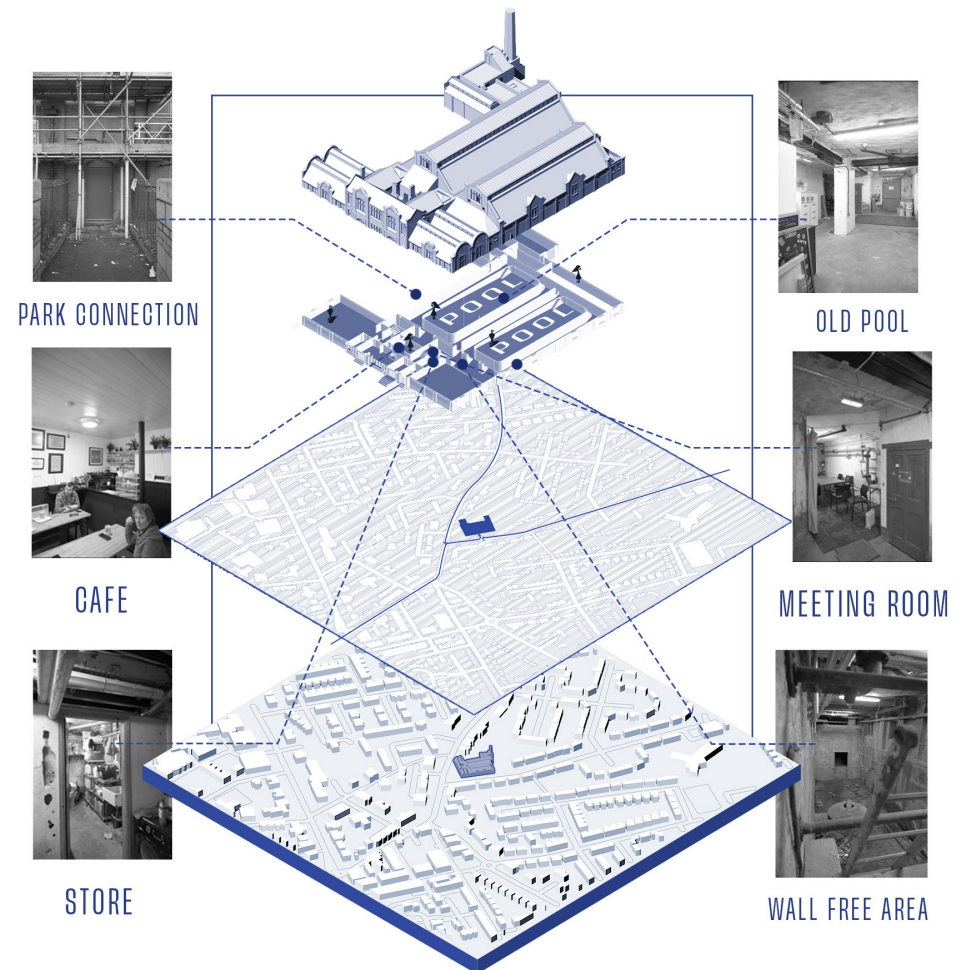
Week 1 is packed with site visit and discussions to collective brainstorming sessions in 2D and 3D (physical and digital) spaces.

Week 2 is packed with healthy competitive project pitches in groups to skill development and application workshops.

SITE & FUNCTION ANALYSIS

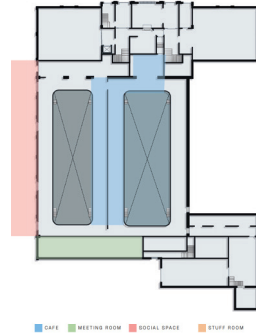
The Withington Bath is situated within the residential area of Greater Manchester. Its influence on the demographic composition of the surrounding environment persists to this day. The bath has found wide acceptance within the community, particularly among families with children who consider the pool as a favoured gathering spot. Furthermore, it has played

a significant role in shaping the reimagined functions of the basement, as determined by the collaborators. The functions assigned to our group by the collaborators primarily revolve around creating a comfortable space for the pool's active users. These functions include a café, a versatile meeting area, and a multi-purpose exhibition space.

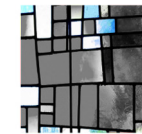
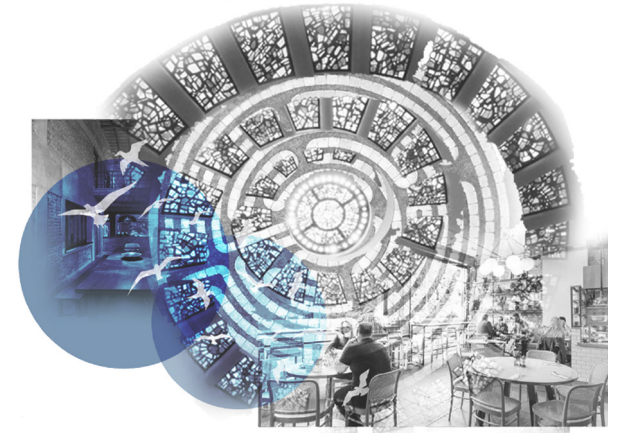


TEAM 01 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

First Group focus on the developed extended cafe space and multi-functional exhibition hall to improve the existing building. Despite its potential, the narrow corridor between the two pools creates long and unbeneficial space. Therefore this area has become the focal point for Group I. The wall dividing the hall into two parts was restructured to be a more open structure, and the two spaces became one. The new space re functioning as an extension of the existing cafe place, so it strongly interacts with the current usage scheme of the bath that formed over time. In the middle of this zone, a bar counter will continue the serving zone of the café, which is closer to the entrance. The stand is made of frosted acrylic with internal lighting, making the room not so dark, giving indirect diffused lighting. TMoreover, the multifunctional exhibition hall clings to the old façade of the building like a parasite and follows the traditional rhythm of the existing façade. The original bricked windows were returned in their first proposal and



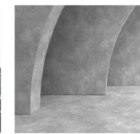
used the same pattern in the new stained glass wall. The extension is made of a steel frame filled with glass to create the lightest space and the most excellent natural light transmission into the baths. The team defines this space as a multifunctional space that different age groups and local artists can use. The tank supposed to store clean water will be used by us as an office space with a meeting room. The location of these spaces at the back of the baths will also encourage people to pass through the space next to the café or exhibition.



STAIN GLASS GLAZING FACADE



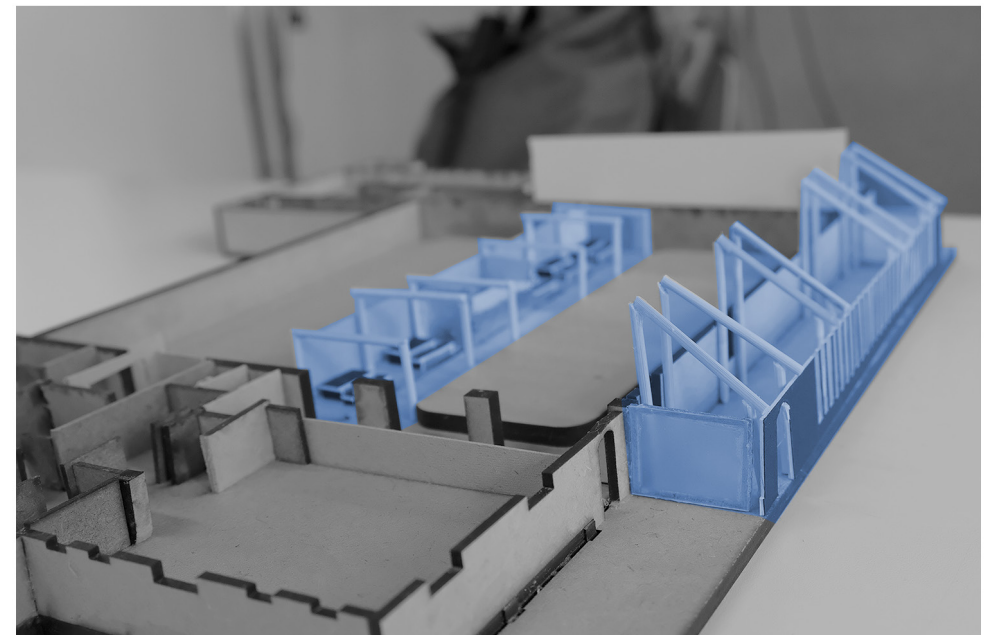
STEEL STRUCTURE



REINFORCED CONCRETE COLUMNS AND ARCHES

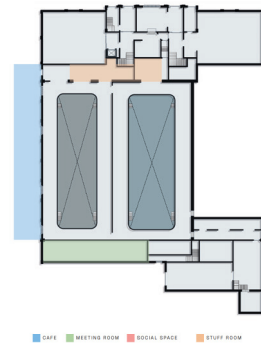


TIMBER CONSTRUCTION FOR PARTITION WALLS FOR STORAGE

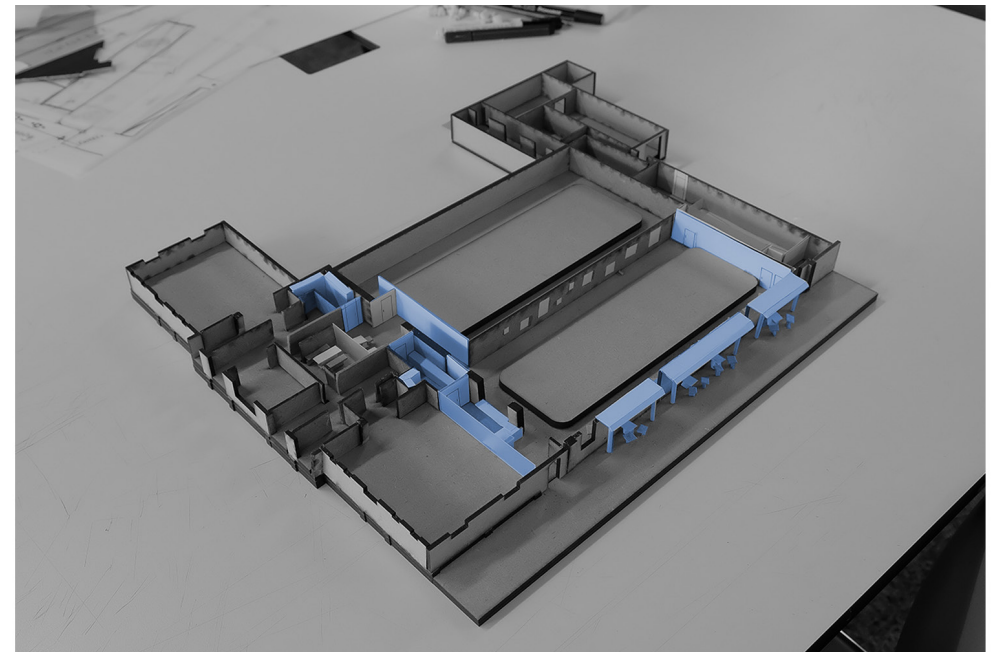
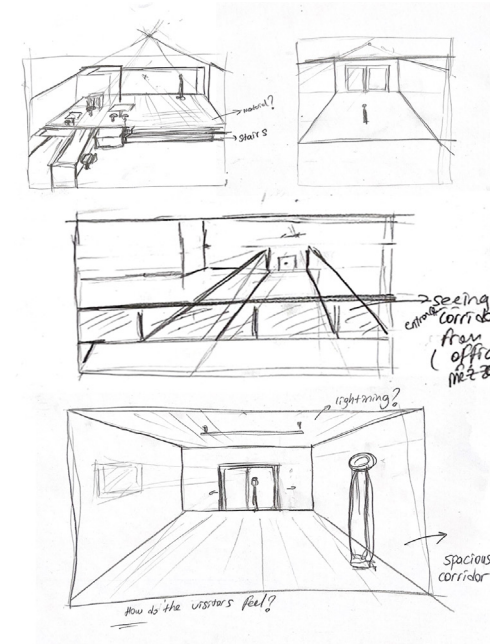


TEAM 02 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

The second team focused on connecting the ground floor level and the foundation. To achieve this goal, they chose to expand the existing café area towards the exit on the northern façade. Filling the space between the towers made dividing the café into cooking and serving areas possible. Freeing up the original bricked windows allowed us to create a seating area along the north wall, possibly expanding the outdoor café when climatic conditions permit. Another essential element of their design is the replacement of the wall of the fitness room bordering the area of the proposed café with a transparent partition, which will not only let in natural light from the fitness room but also involve the visitors of the gym and the café in the visual interaction. Thus, visitors to the fitness room will be aware of the opportunity to visit the café before or after classes, and café visitors will not be isolated from other sauna spaces. The team will use

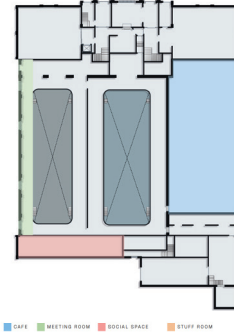


the clean water tank area as an office space with a flexible filling. The passage will also be carried out through the café area, increasing its permeability. At the same time, an isolated path to the office space is possible in case of conferences or unwillingness to interact with other functions of the baths. Group II assumes the possibility of access to this space from the street for faster access of employees and the independent functioning of this space.

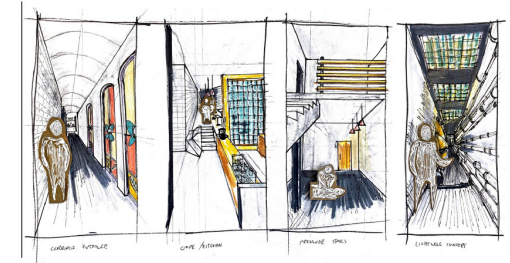


TEAM 03 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

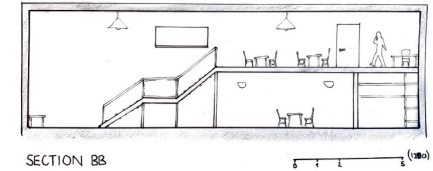
The third Group focused on the solve the difficulties of the narrow labyrinth that form the basement of the Withington Bath. Adding a new public entrance point on the North side allowed teams' to create a clear route to the café and the rest of the new facilities. The café extends outdoors into the courtyard on the South of the building, allowing for a sheltered yet sunny (hopefully) coffee break. The office/meeting space runs along the North facing exterior wall of the building. Unbricking the original windows will allow a gentle, indirect source of natural light into the workspace. This space will also be privately accessible from the street. The old clean water tank has been redesigned to form a double-height space with a mezzanine level. This will be an open and naturally lit space used for a range of community activities, such as lifeguard training; artistic activities like painting sessions; public discussion space and possibly an



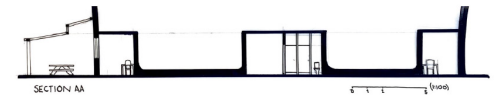
extra room for exercise such as yoga. In terms of practical facilities, the toilets run down the middle corridor between the two baths, leaving an open corridor for circulation as well as being easily accessible – being equally close to the café, office, and community space. Storage has been positioned in the Southern corridor, and a smaller storage room is adjacent to the toilets. Lastly, a staff room has been added at the end of the central corridor – allowing staff to wind down for a break.



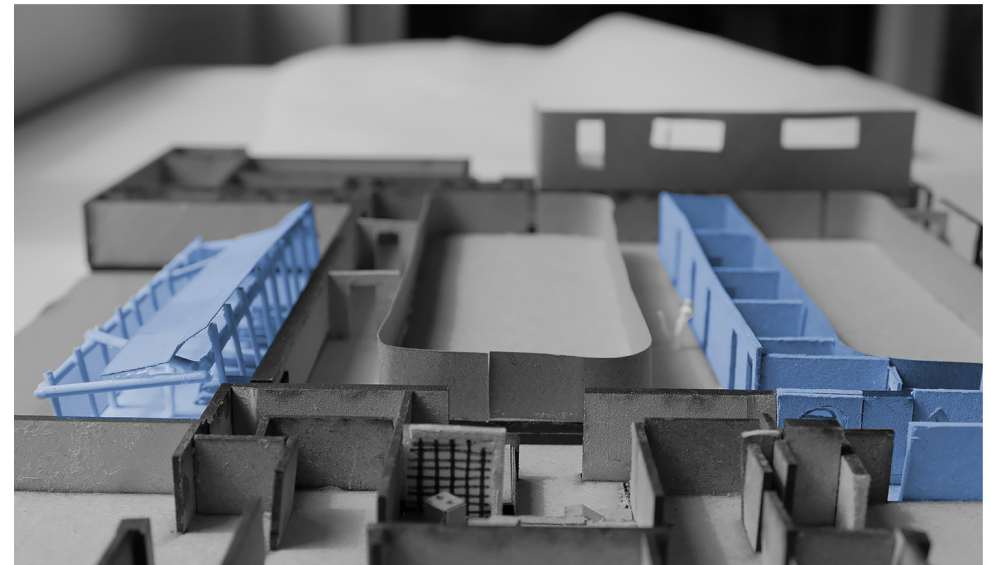
Sections 1:100



SECTION BB



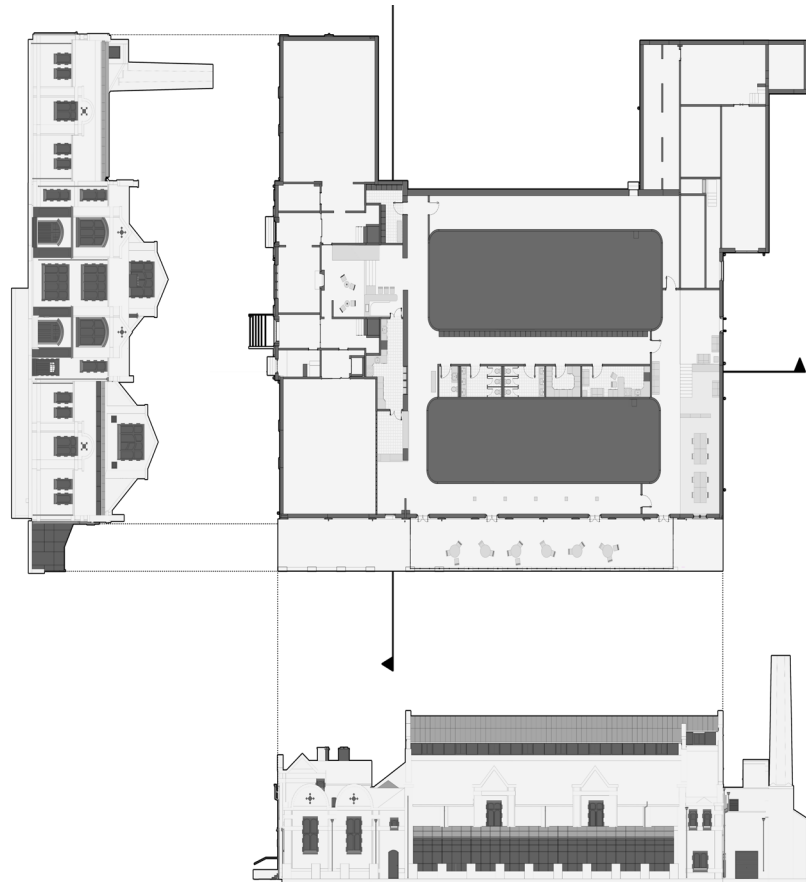
SECTION AA



PROCESS SUMMARY

In the first days of the workshop, we focused on the alternative ideas from undergrad students. We always supported them in discussing the drawbacks and advantages of their ideas to create the best design proposal. We divided undergraduate students into three groups in terms of the similarities of their ideas. End of the first week, the teams presented their ideas to collaborators. After a productive first week with bachelor's, in the final stage, we were coming

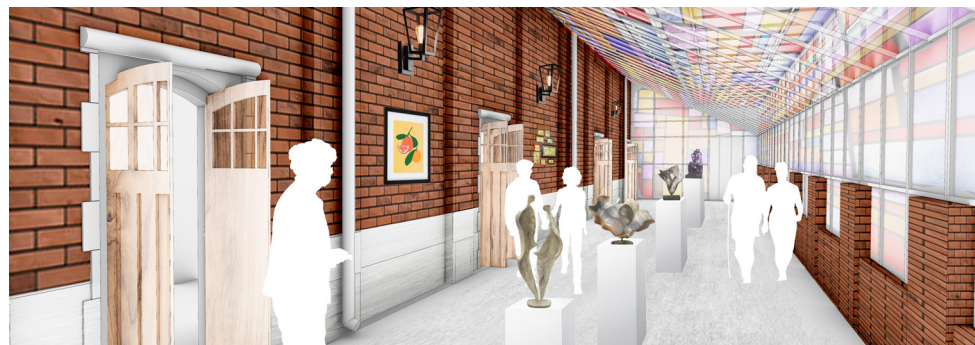
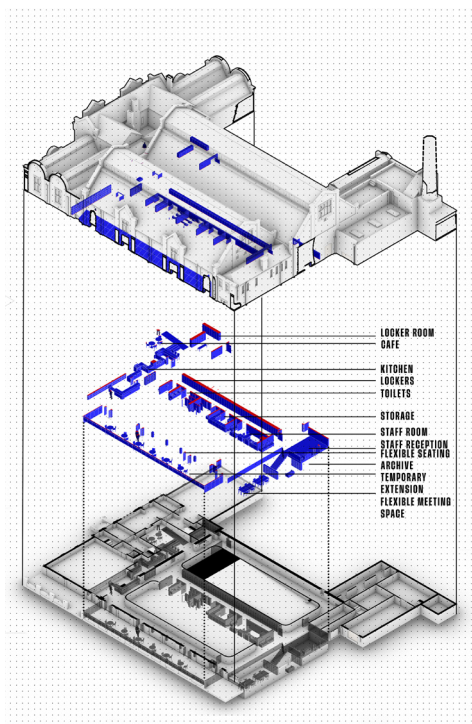
together with teams to open discussion about three different design proposals and critics from collaborators. The teams gathered three design opinions to create one functional and beneficial proposal. A task distribution was conducted to allocate specific responsibilities to team members. With the assignments in place, we commenced an in-depth project study. This enabled us to scrutinize technical aspects and explore potential solutions and alternatives.



FINAL OUTPUT

At the end of the first week, we met with collaborators and after that we started the new week with a discussion to create the final design. The teams came together to finalize the project. Each of them used their strong abilities to

contribute more to the Bath. As the final output, we prepared the model, 3d model, drawings and visualizations from critical points. We collected all of the drawings in the presentation that were prepared for collaborators.



CONCLUSION

As a team, we have always kept the discussion open to maximize undergraduate students' participation in the design process. We helped them improve by asking open-ended questions. At the same time, we made them familiarize themselves with the methods of taking notes architecturally to assist them in organizing their thoughts. Some methods are site visits, working on models, sketching, brainstorming, and mapping. We focused on the physical model to explain how vital model-making is for communicating with people outside the architecture discipline. This helped us show our undergraduates how different architectural

note-taking techniques have evolved. In practice, we have observed that different ideas can complement each other rather than weaken each other. By adopting a collaborative approach, we realized that the shortcomings of individual ideas could be addressed and improved by integrating different perspectives. This synergetic convergence has resulted in a more comprehensive and robust solution, fostering a dynamic environment where the power of each idea is enhanced. Ultimately, this collaborative synthesis led to a refined and holistic result that transcended the boundaries of any individual idea.



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

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