



If you go down to the woods today...

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MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

Manchester
Metropolitan
University

in—
situ



Harwes Farm CIC

MSA
LIVE 23

Team

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Nor Lyana Binti Norhan (BA2)

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Het Rajeshbhai Shah (MLA1)

Partners

For the Harwes Farm Woodland Theatre Project we are working with two organisations in order to deliver the design proposal in just two weeks.

CIC (Community Interest Company 2014) - Works and acts like a company but is a charity. Gill Taylor is a Farmer and Youth Worker using her farm for activities such as night-walks through the woodland, camping, pop up cinema, allotment space and a Forest School. With a concept built around everyone's well-being and confidence, Gill aims to connect people back to nature across her 57 acres, 36 of which are woodland. She is missing an outdoor theatre space for performances overlooking the scenery.

We will also be working with In-Situ who is a non-profit charitable organisation which began in 2012. It focuses on making a difference to the local community by creating a relevance to those living there by finding a common ground. The Arts Council England NPO funding allowed 'The Garage' to be built in 2018, which acts as a base for the team. Having worked with the farm before, team member, Sophie, helped us with this project and greeted us on our site visit.

We will present our project back to Farmer Gill and Sophie from In-Situ by the end of the second week with a final design proposal of a outdoor stage with canopy and sustainable audience seating to match their ethos.

Agenda

Woodland Theatre Presents...

The aim of this project is to create a multi-functional outdoor space that can accommodate a wide array of activities, including dance, theatre, and other artistic practices. The structure has to be semi-open, allowing for uninterrupted views of the surrounding natural landscape while simultaneously offering shelter to the stage.

The proposed space, situated within a tranquil woodland environment, will cater to individuals of all ages and abilities, ensuring universal accessibility. Central to the design will be a canopy and alternative natural seating that offer unobstructed views of the breathtaking scenery at Harwes Farm. The use of natural materials, particularly timber, is essential to ensure that the project remains true to its ethos of keeping nature at the forefront of the design.

We also will be receiving help from In-Situ another organisation that works for non-profit small scale projects across a wide range of different agendas to help give us ideas of what is possible.

Brief: A wooden stage with a canopy for performance, students' classes and seasonal festival etc. Should be safe, accessible and open for every group of people (the elderly, the disabled). When the audience is watching the performance they should still be able to enjoy the beautiful scenery from the east of the site.

The Site: Trees around the site block the wind in certain areas and provide the shelter on the site. The 'Box Office Tree' is located nearest to the site.

Difficulties: The wind/weather, Steep slope area and the fields topography result in bad conditions to build the foundation of the stage.

Action week: In the first week we will have the site visit to the farm and have a brainstorm of the concept and visit similar outdoor theatre spaces. On the second week we will have material and structure study. A digital model will be made and architectural drawings for the final output presented back to the clients on the last day.

Meet The Team

OUT AND ABOUT IN MANCHESTER AND ON THE FARM



Woodland School Tipi Talk



Castlefield Viaduct Gardens



Lunch at Harwes Farm



Coach to the Site Visit



Arriving at the Site Location



Walk through the Woodland

Brief

INTRODUCTION + SITE VISIT

The aim of this project is to create a multi-functional outdoor space that can accommodate a wide array of activities, including dance, theatre, and other artistic practices.



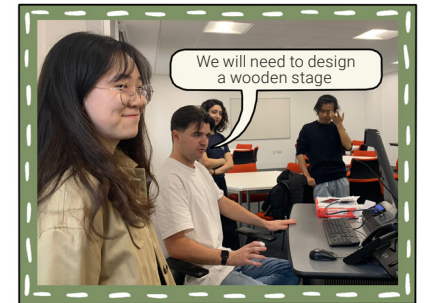
Welcome everyone to the Woodland Theatre Presents Project

This is our Action Plan

Introduction to the Project



The structure has to be semi-open, allowing for uninterrupted views of the surrounding natural landscape while simultaneously offering shelter to the audience.



We will need to design a wooden stage

The first day of the project was all about introducing ourselves as individuals and getting to know each other in order to form a strong group of different talents and skill sets to deliver the farm project for Gill and Harwes Farm. After spending the morning going through the brief and action plan of what was to come in the following 2 weeks, we played a few icebreaker games to learn a bit more about each other. We then got ready to go to Castlefield in Manchester where we went to visit Castlefield Bowl (A large outdoor theatre/performance space) as well as national trust Castlefield Viaduct for ideas and inspiration.



We are BA1 Architecture

We are masters landscape architects students in our first year

We are BA1 Architecture

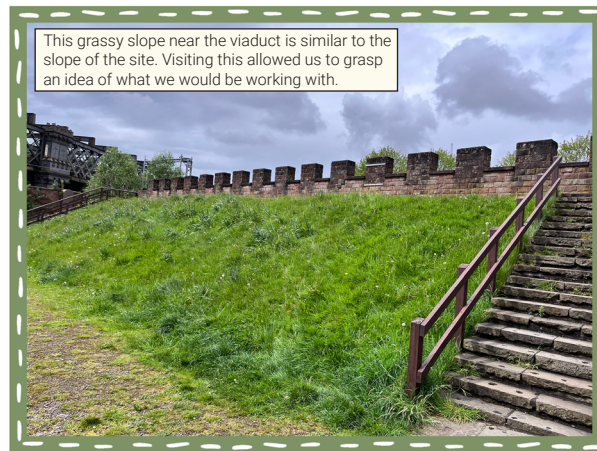
We are MARCH Architecture

We have the combination of skills and knowledge to deliver this project







Icebreaker Challenge and Talk

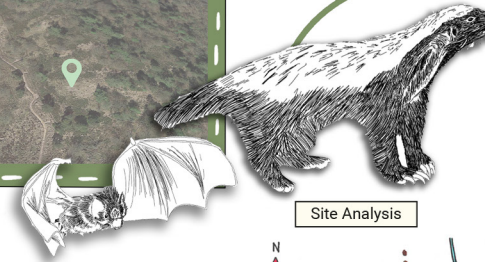
CASTLEFIELD BOWL AND VIADUCT...

The first day consisted of a visit to Castlefield, Manchester. The team was able to visit both the Castlefield Bowl and the Castlefield Viaduct. These locations were chosen as points of inspiration due to their similarities in both function and appearance to the site we will be working with. The Castlefield Bowl is often used for performances which is the intended purpose of the stage, and the viaduct incorporates vast amounts of nature which is preferable when building on the farm.



HARWES FARM SITE FOR THEATRE STAGE...

	Slope		Access
	Gutted areas		Continuity
	Two-way road		View



Site Analysis



Height (m)

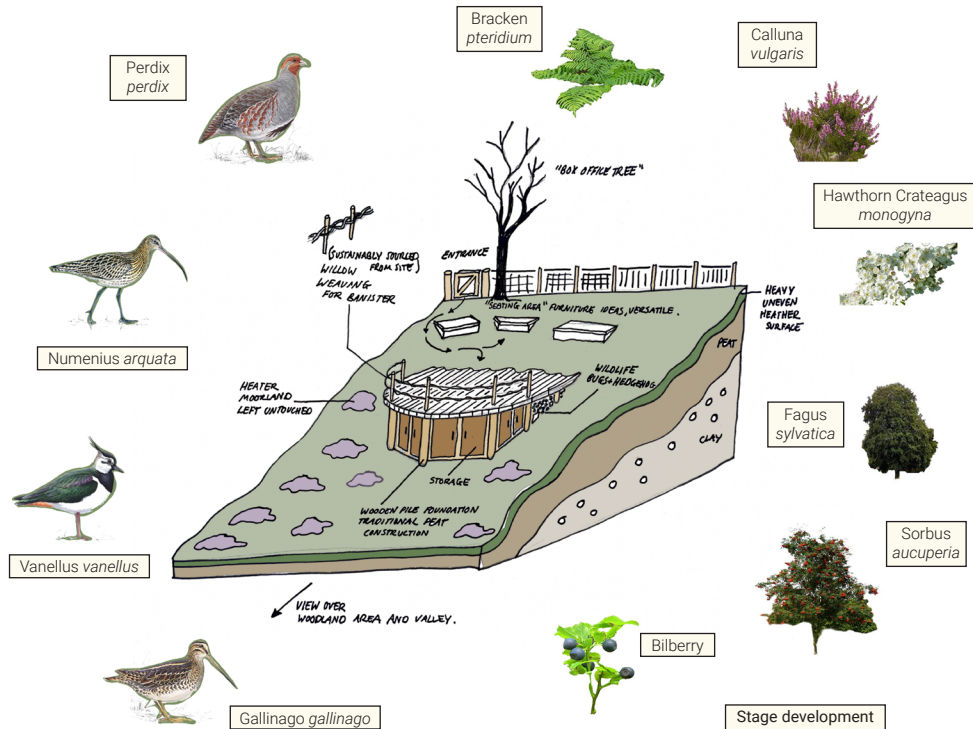
1	Larch	45	} North and west
2	Pine	35	
3	Scotts pine	60	
4	Sessile oak	40	
5	Common beech	25	
6	Sweet chestnut	35	} South
7	Black alder	28	
8	Willow	25	
9	Birch	25	
10	Rowan	15	



Nature Analysis

WILDLIFE + PLANTS + LANDSCAPING OF THE SITE

In association with Bombus Ecology, the survey conducted concluded that the overall site has moderate potential for biodiversity and this should be retained and enhanced where possible. The site incorporates priority woodland species as part of its fauna along with various protected animals.



In order to maintain the site and its species in the most organic and natural habitats, the construction will be kept to a minimum. Natural, reusable and sustainable materials like timber will be used. To ensure that the existing ecosystem remains undisturbed, replanting felling and introducing of new species will be avoided.



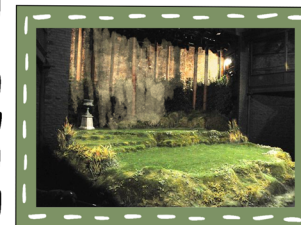
Design Process

SHAPE & SCALE + NATURE + SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Castlefield Bowl



Castlefield Bowl is used as a precedent study as it is a venue that is often used for performances. This can act as a source of inspiration for space use in our design.



The use of existing plants to decorate the area is a favourable idea as the design should be as natural as possible.



Timber blocks can also be used for more flexible seating design.

Bat box



Bird box



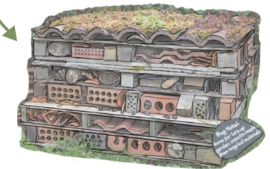
Castlefield Viaduct

Displays made of recycled materials at the Castlefield viaduct can also be implemented on the farm.



Features that accommodate the local wildlife can also be incorporated.

Bug hotel



Precedents



Numerous precedents were also explored to develop the design. The use of steps is well-suited to the sloped site and also preserves the existing terrain.

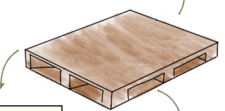


These designs incorporate trees within the seating which is inclusive of surroundings. This is a good way to preserve the trees that are already on site.

Seating



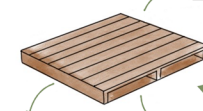
Four-way entry



Flat, more comfortable

Holes prevent moisture build-up

Two-way entry

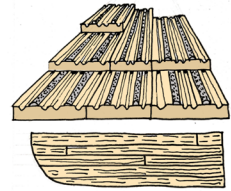


Easy to construct

Well ventilated

Materiality

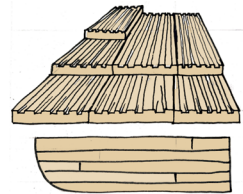
DECKING OPTIONS + FOUNDATION DETAIL



NON SLIP TREATED DECKING
WITH STRIPS OF GRIP TAPE

- Strengths:**
- high quality
 - used in wet conditions
- Weaknesses:**
- not as in keeping with site surround
 - most expensive

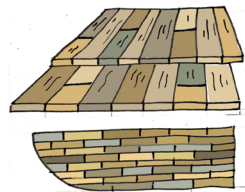
Price range ≈ £3000



NON SLIP TREATED DECKING

- Strengths:**
- long lasting
 - slip resistant
- Weaknesses:**
- risk of becoming slippery due to algae build up if not maintained

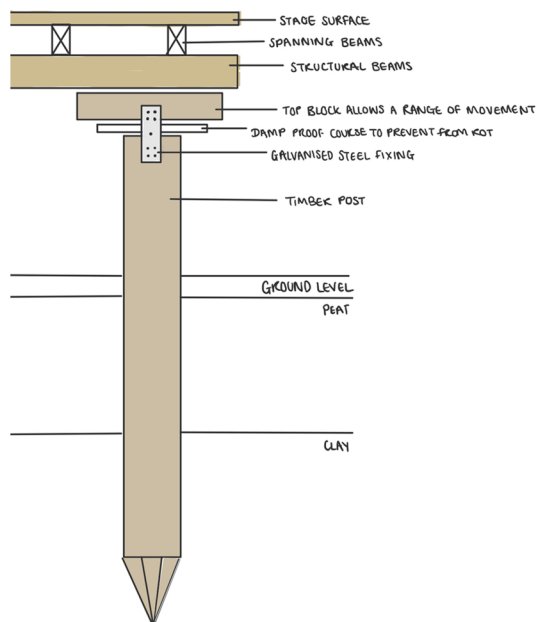
Price range ≈ £2500



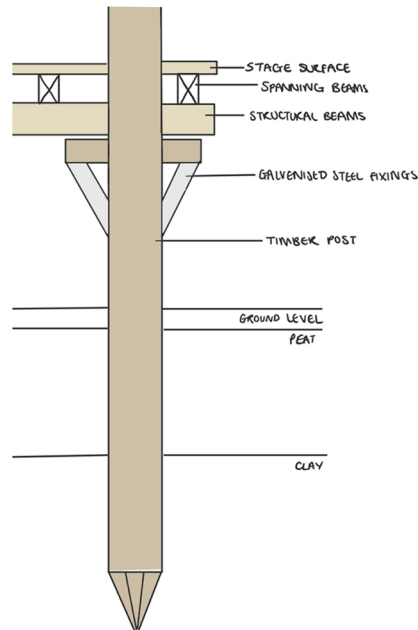
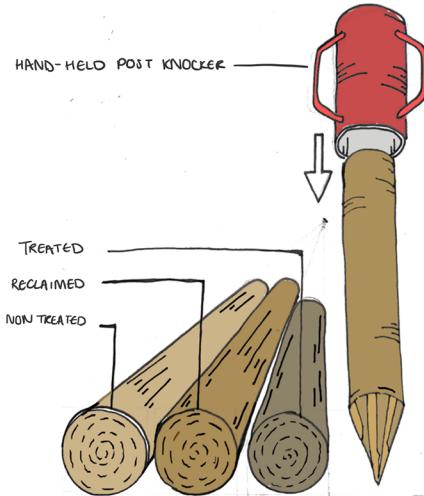
RECLAIMED PALLET DECKING

- Strengths:**
- matches project vision
 - just a mobile option
- Weaknesses:**
- requires maintenance to avoid slip risk
 - not as long lasting

Price range ≈ £0 - £500



LOAD CALCULATION: 50.220N DEAD LOAD: 25.014N
 LIVE LOAD: 25.206N
 STAGE AREA: 12m x 9 = 108m²
 DECKING: 28.61kg/m²
 STAGE WEIGHT: 108 x 28.61 = 3089.88kg
 STAGE LOAD: 3089.88 x 9.81 = 30304.323 N
 LIVE LOAD: 25.206N
 WIND LOAD: can be seen as negligible (rough calculation = 2118.3 N)
 PERFORMERS: 30
 UK WEIGHT BY 2011 NHS
 male = 85.1
 female = 71.8
 30 x 85.1 = 2553
 30 x 71.8 = 2154
 2553 + 2154 = 4707
 4707 x 9.81 = 46175.67 N

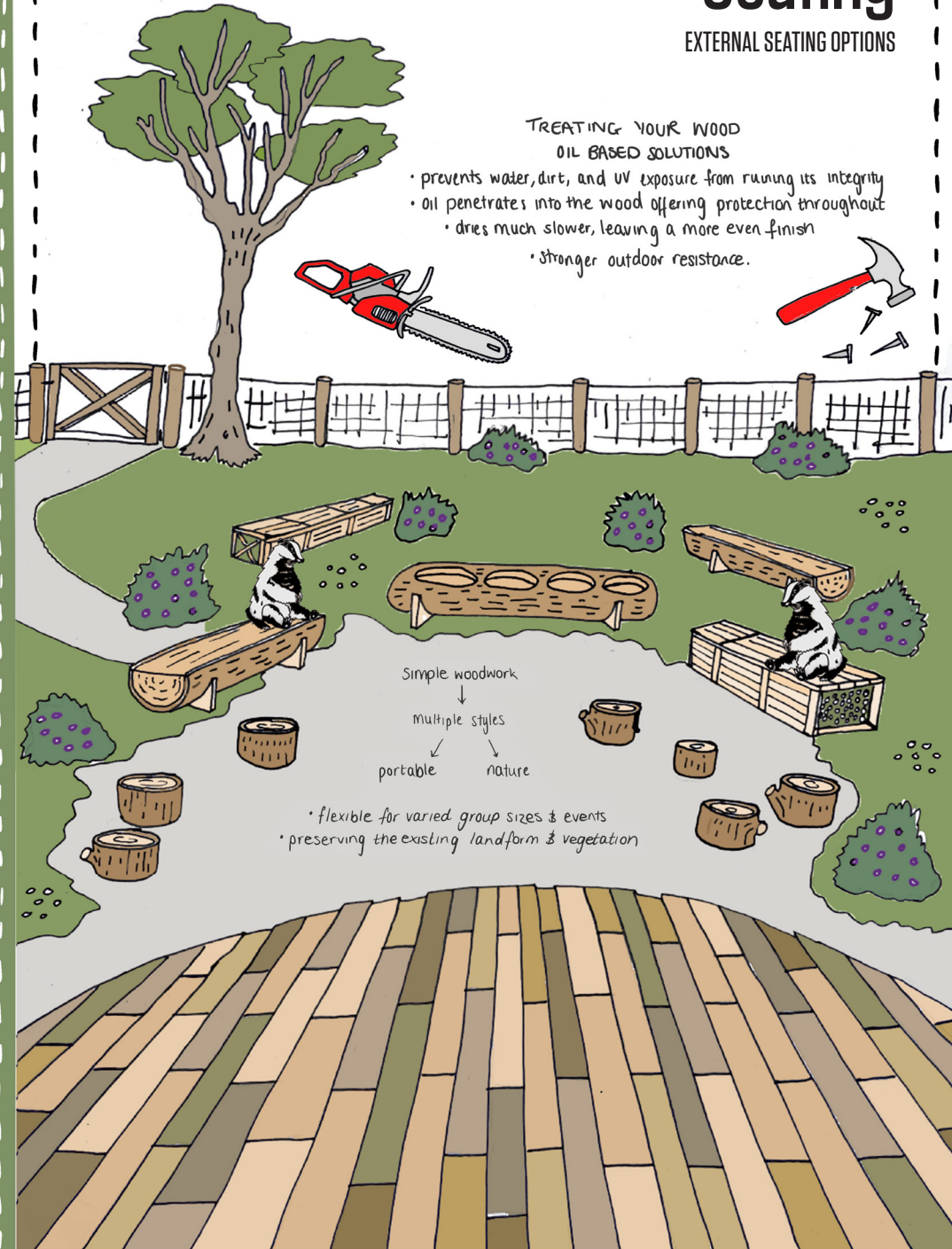


Seating

EXTERNAL SEATING OPTIONS

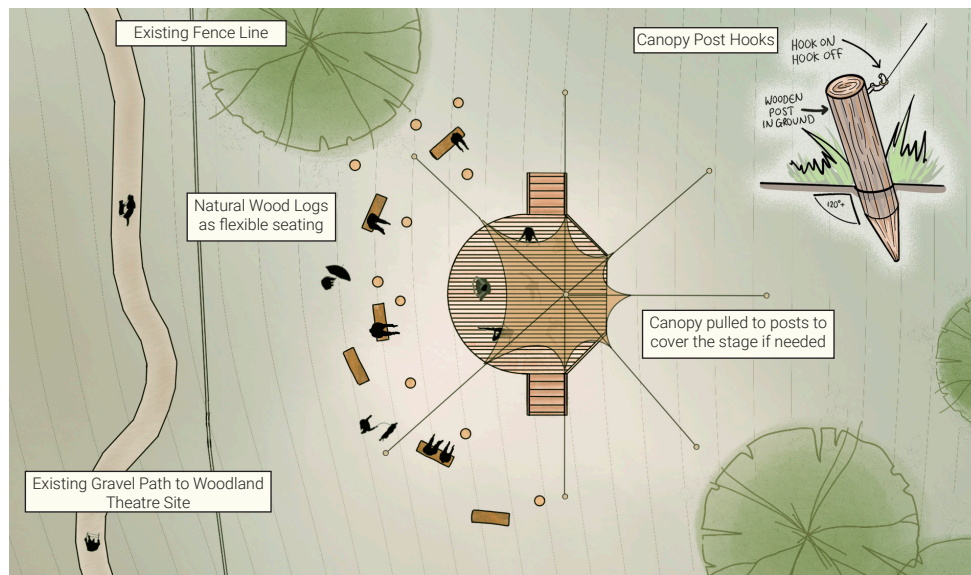
TREATING YOUR WOOD OIL BASED SOLUTIONS

- prevents water, dirt, and UV exposure from ruining its integrity
- oil penetrates into the wood offering protection throughout
- dries much slower, leaving a more even finish
- stronger outdoor resistance.

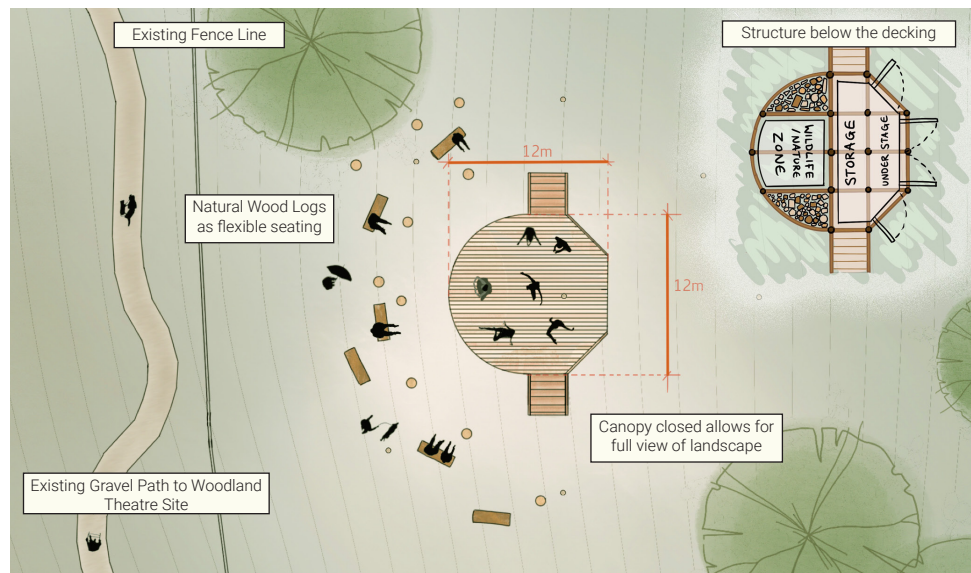


Plan

Rendered Scale 1:200



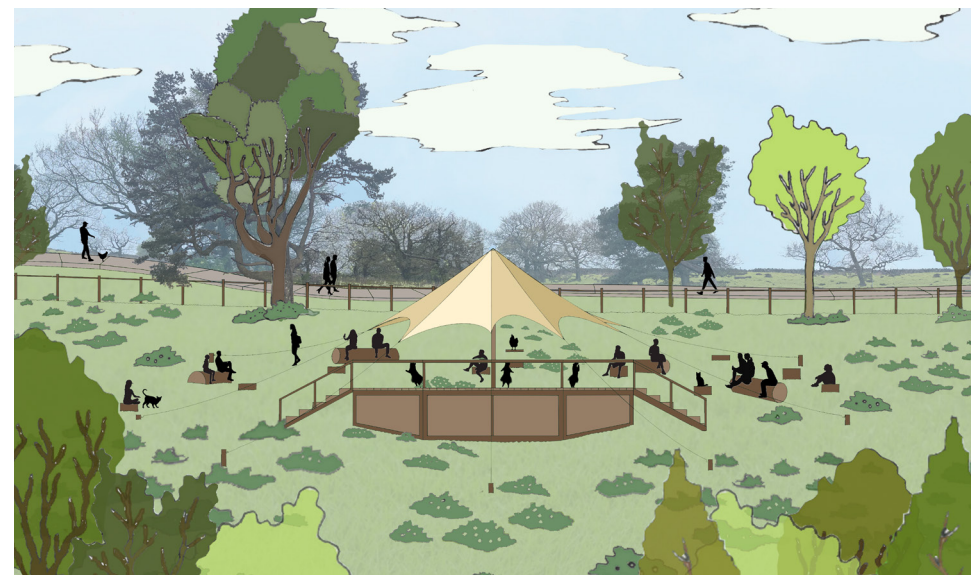
Canopy Open 1:200 @ A3



Canopy Closed 1:200 @ A3

Elevations

Rendered Elevation Scale 1:100



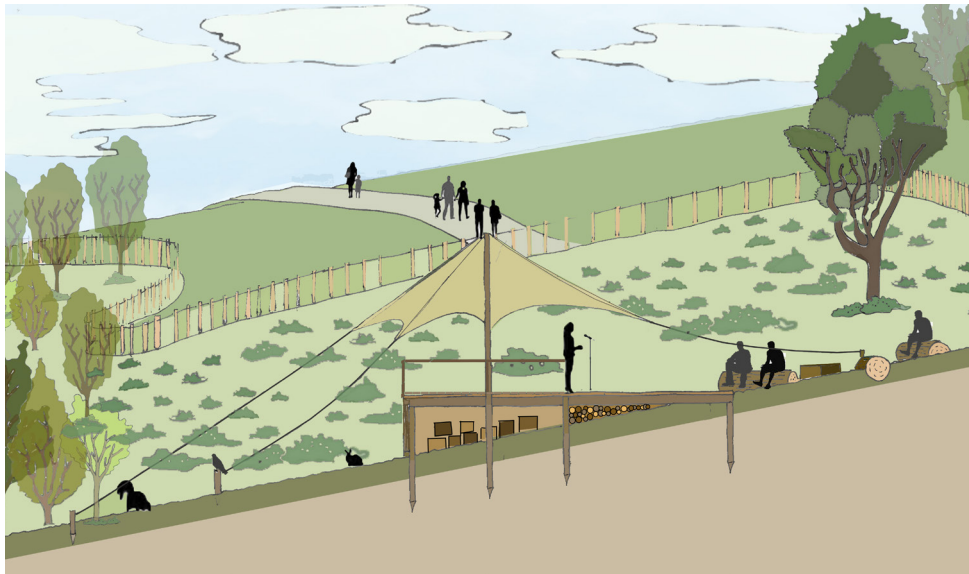
Back Elevation 1:100 @ A3



Side Elevation 1:100 @ A3

Sections

Rendered Section Scale 1:100



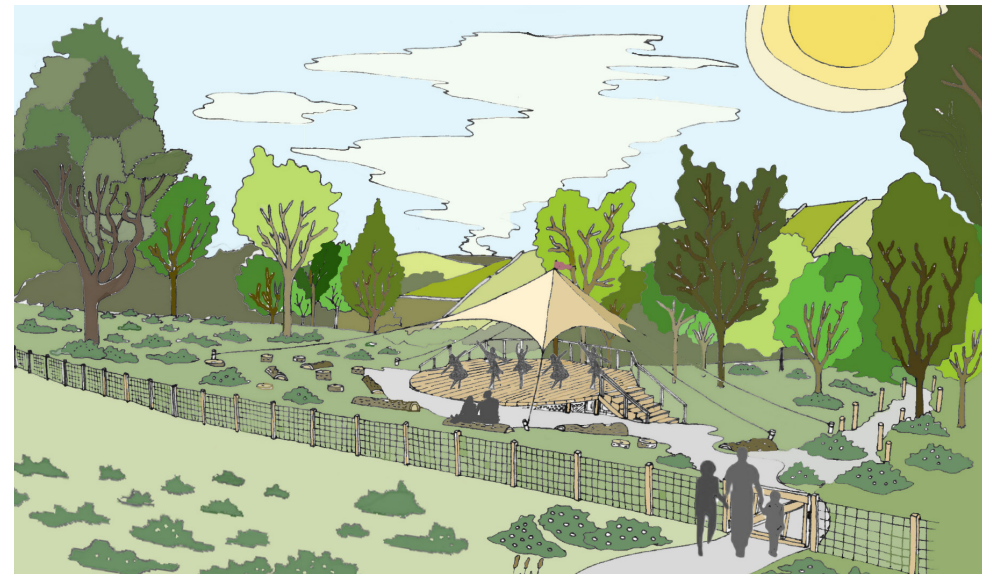
Side View Section 1:100 @ A3



Front View Section 1:100 @ A3

Visuals

Renders or Collage



Across from the Track 1:200 @ A3



Looking Towards The Stage 1:200 @ A3

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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