

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TEAM

MARIA FIGUEIREDO

SAMUEL LEE

WENJINGYU ZHANG

YI FU

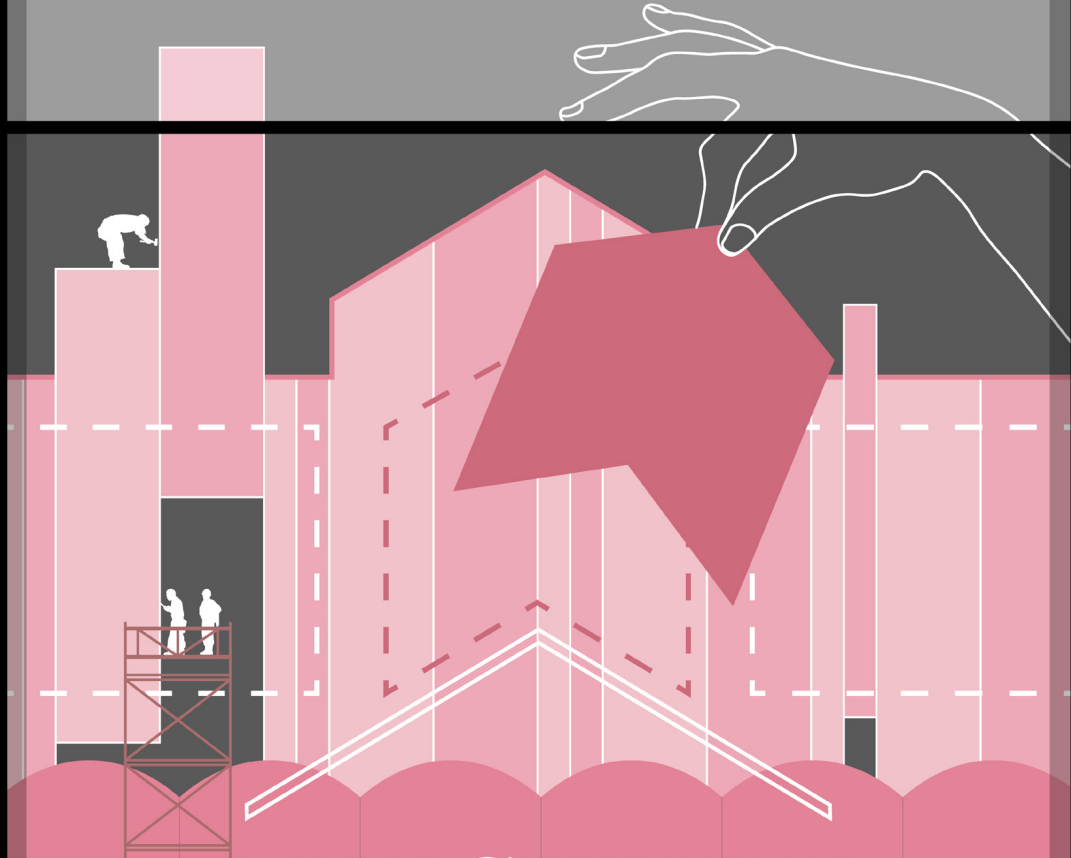
SKILLS

Communication & Collaboration

Critical Analysis & Design

Architectural Drawings & Sketch

Digital Software (Adobe, Rhino, Sketchup, CAD...)



MERSEYWAY FACELIFT

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**MSA
LIVE 24**

Team

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Siyi Zhu (BA2)

Yan Hei Lim (BA2)

Xiang Li (MLA1)

Ziyi Pan (MLA1)

Partners

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council -
Merseyway Shopping Centre

As a part of a larger regeneration strategy which is ongoing in the town centre, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council have asked us to collaborate with them and come up with imaginative ideas for the Merseyway Shopping Centre's façade and walkway- also part of the centre- which overlooks a circulation zone that has recently been renovated.

The main goal is to attract a new higher-end demographic into Stockport and increase footfall. In order to achieve this outcome, we believe the strategy of the centre must be re-thought, as well as a change in aesthetic. This includes the programme of the store units in the façade, as well as the walkway.

As a group have come up with ideas and suggestions of use for these underused spaces that meets the desired outcome set by the council, considering the overarching regeneration of the area, beyond the perimeter of the mall.

The partners have been open and flexible with the brief with little restrictions on the outputs. For this reason, we have developed our own agenda which consists of cost, technical feasibility, relationship with existing heritage,

Introduction

Merseyway Facelift: Project description

The goal of the Merseyway Shopping Centre project is to design creative, low-budget interventions for the main entrance façade and imagine a new use for an underused external walkway: to increase footfall and attract a higher-class demographic.

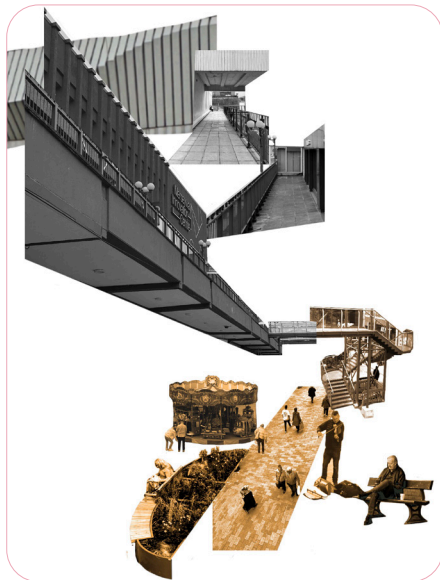
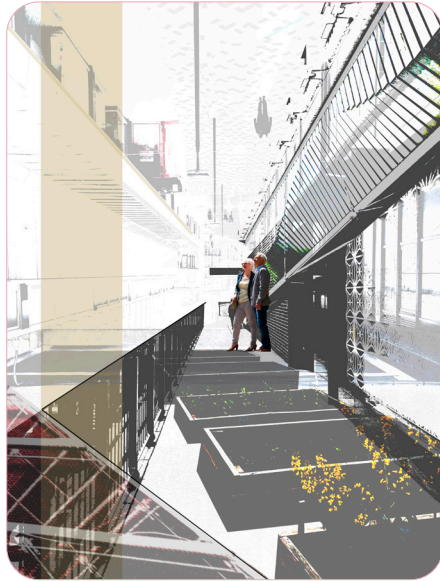
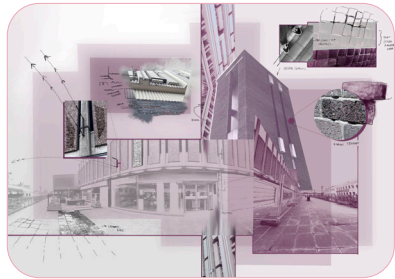
We worked collaboratively as two large groups, merging all skill levels and ages, working together towards one collective output. Each group was subdivided into specific elements like landscaping strategy, circulation strategy, programme, and façade detail.

As final outputs we aimed for plans, sections and elevations at 1:200, perspective drawings showing materiality, stakeholders and use of space , façade detail drawings and circulation intervention at 1:50.

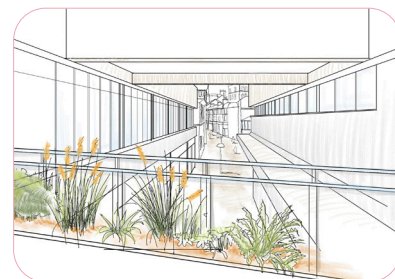
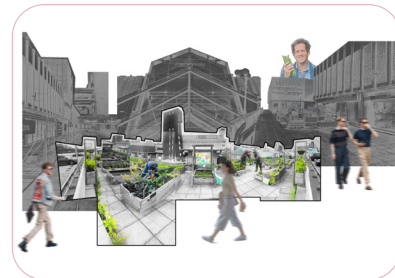
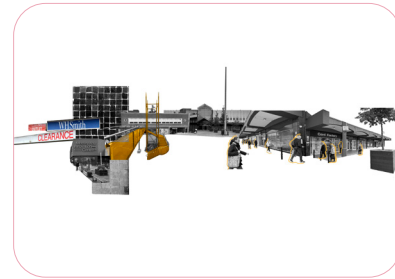


Day 1: Site visit + initial site response

The initial responses to the site can be summarised by three repeated themes identified by the students: lack of colour or monochromatic colour scheme; lack of greenery; and ageing demographic.



This task has identified key aspects of the site which can be improved, leading the students to start thinking of what potential solutions could be such as adding vegetation and greenery or improving circulation through interactive interventions along the existing path.



Site visit photography



Shopping Centre Entrance



Inside The Mall



Walkway



Day 2: Initial concept study (Facade)

Initial Attempts

Option 1: Simple monochrome colour intervention on concrete



Advantages: low-cost and non-invasive to existing aesthetic.

Disadvantages: not enough impact.

Option 2: Introduce greenery

Advantages: improves mental wellbeing and higher chance of being accepted by local community.

Disadvantages: high maintenance like installation and irrigation cost.



Option 3: Supergraphics | Graffiti



Advantages: boosts liveliness in area; draws people's attention and can colour can influence mood of users.

Disadvantages: controversial, may be misunderstood by local demographic, in particular the elderly community.

Evaluation: Artwork Facade

Maintenance: Low-maintenance

Cost: Low-cost solution

Heritage: Permanently alters the existing material, but can be painted over. Could be rejected or disliked by the ageing demographic.

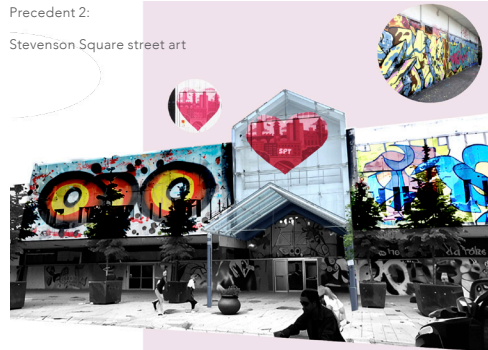
Precedent 1:

Ni Ban-Kahn (Building Number Two) 1970



Precedent 2:

Stevenson Square street art



① MAP DEPICTING KEY 'FACELIFT' AREAS. (VIEW FROM ABOVE)

Evaluation: Green Facade (Final Choice)

Maintenance: Higher maintenance compared with artwork intervention solution

Cost: High-cost solution

Heritage: Respects the verticality of the existing building design while being a low impact intervention that can be disassembled and removed leaving the fabric intact.

Environment: Increases biodiversity and is coherent with urban farming concept for the scheme, circulation and food hall walkway programme proposal.

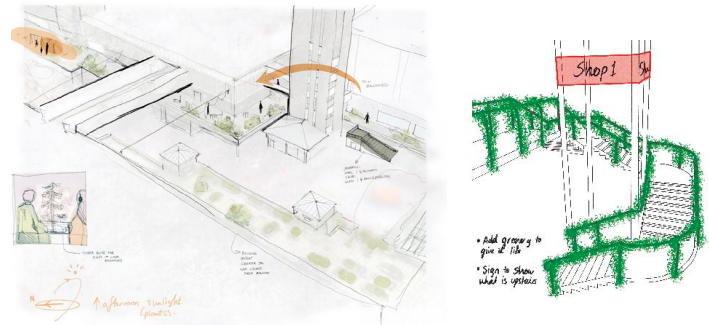
Initial concept sketch of vertical greenery intervention



Day 3-5: Initial concept study (Walkway) + Development

Overarching Concept

The overarching narrative involves growing ingredients on-site, i.e. urban farming, and utilising these ingredients in the restaurants present in the food hall within the walkway's current underused store units.

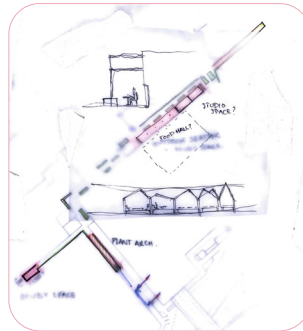
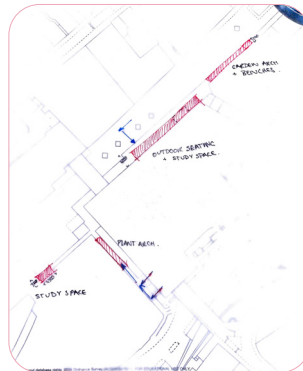
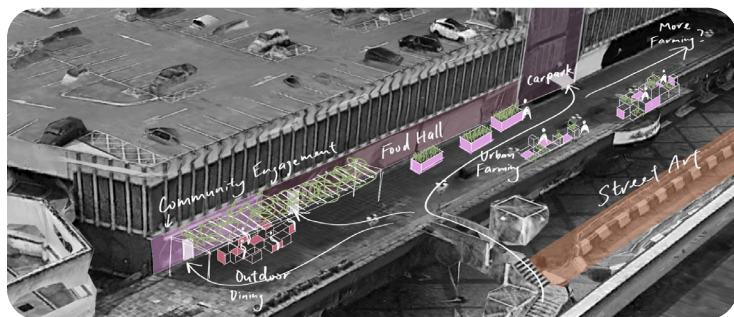


Circulation Interventions



The greenery strategy flows through from the vertical vegetation intervention in the main shopping facade to the plants re-directing the current circulation through the street level, up the existing staircase and onto the walkway platform.

Walkway programme scheme axonometric diagram



Programme Strategy

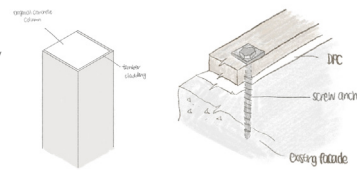
For the walkway, we are proposing a new function for the empty shop units and dead ends in the walkway. This is part of the strategy of increasing footfall in this area of the site. We are suggesting a food hall or market as well as communal spaces like study rooms and seating areas. This could attract different users to the space.

We are utilising nature and a surrounding urban farm to tie the overall design together and engage the users with the food which is grown onsite.

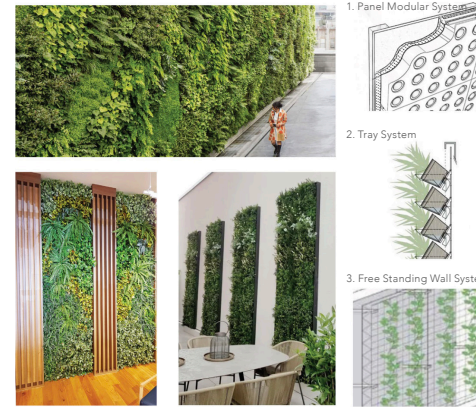


Locally Sourced Timber

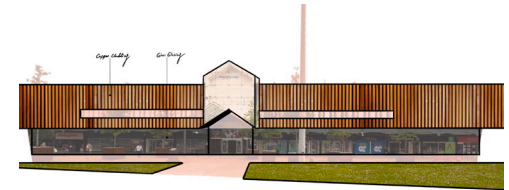
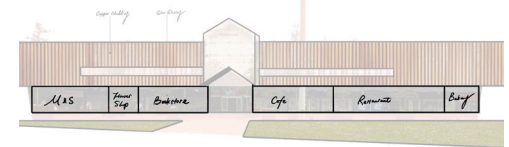
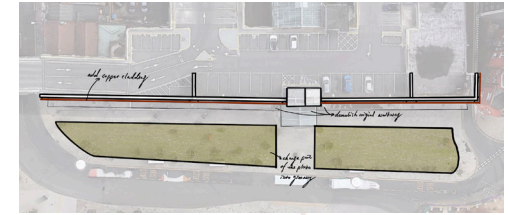
Pre-fab timber panels can be attached directly to the current facade to save cost and time.



Green Facade Details



Materiality & Construction



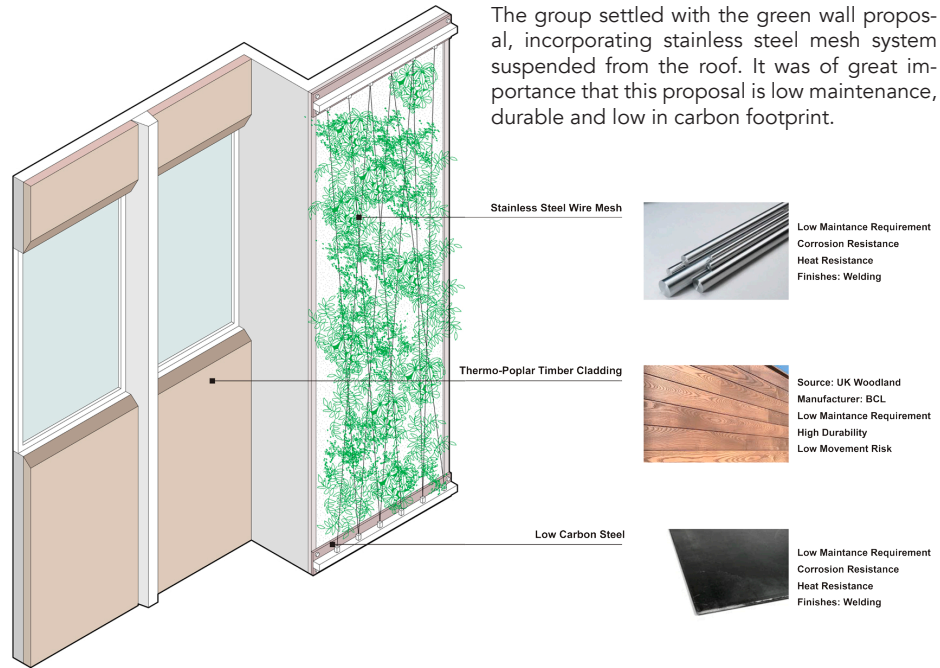
Materiality

We began looking at ways to increase the aesthetic appeal of the facade and corten as a material was proposed. It has a unique, rustic appearance that becomes more visually appealing over time. Its weathered look can give a building a modern, industrial feel and can help it blend with natural surroundings. Once the patina has developed, Corten steel requires very little maintenance, as it doesn't need painting or finishing. However, Corten steel may be more expensive and harder to find than more common materials like traditional steel or aluminium. Its specialised nature means it often needs to be ordered from specific suppliers.

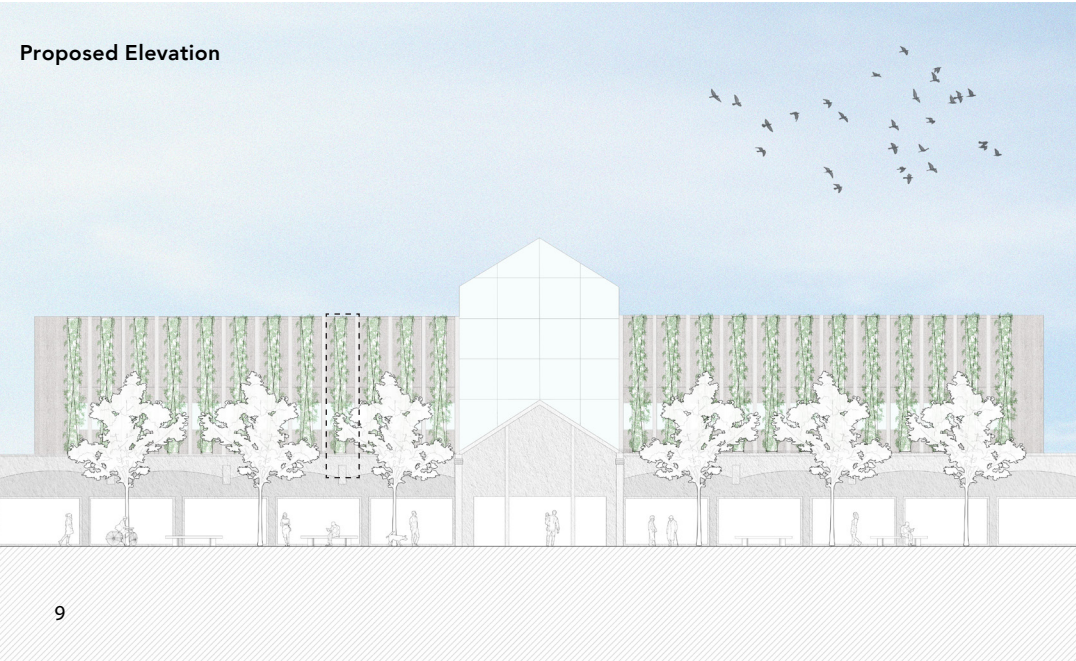
A cheaper and more effective solution was proposing a green wall, using stainless steel mesh system suspended from the roof. This ensures no damage is done to the existing facade and it can be dismantled easily. Aesthetically this brings much needed greenery to the existing main entrance, enhancing its appeal.

Final Outcomes: Facade

Detailed Diagram of Facade & Material Palette



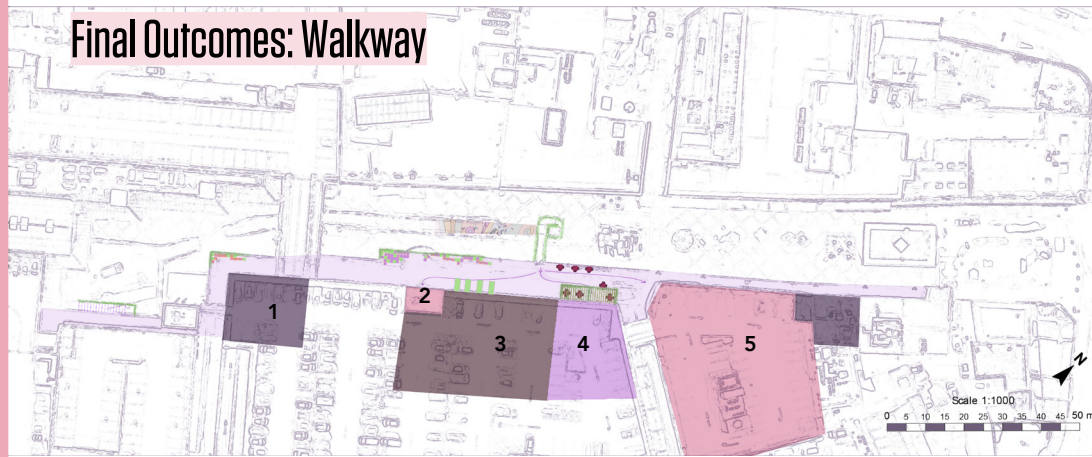
Proposed Elevation



These images provide a overview of the overall aesthetic of the re-imagined facade. Facing North East, this facade is the main entrance to the shopping centre and it can be seen from the M60 motorway and on the train. The new shopping centre welcomes everyone, both old and young, to enjoy their moments. By introduce attractive and bright greens to the facade, we hope this change can bring the vitality and the vigor to Stockport again.

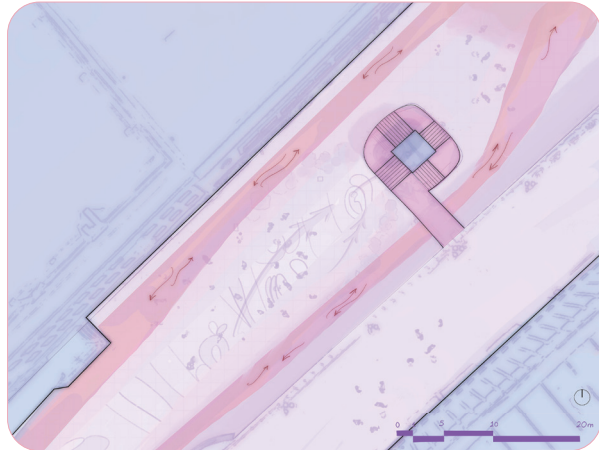


Final Outcomes: Walkway



Schematic floor plan

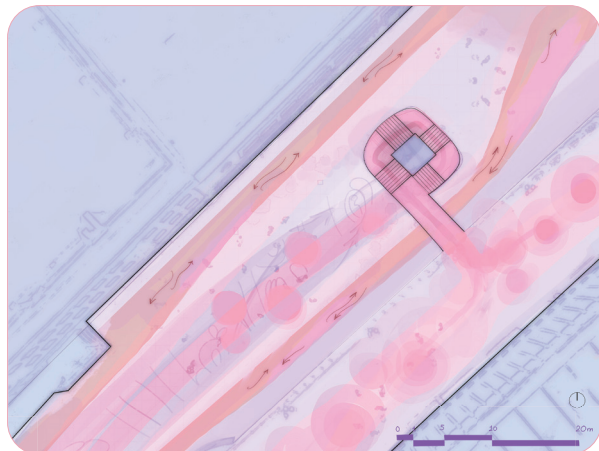
1 HMV 2 Car park 3 Food hall 4 Community engagement 5 Innovation centre



Circulation **before** intervention

Before intervention

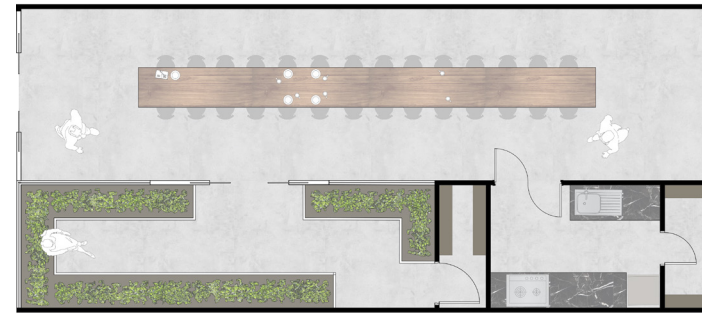
- Existing staircase is underused, as there is an- other staircase which leads to the car park: the main point of interest in the first floor level
- Solution: make it an experiential route, so people are attracted towards it and improve the current trajectory



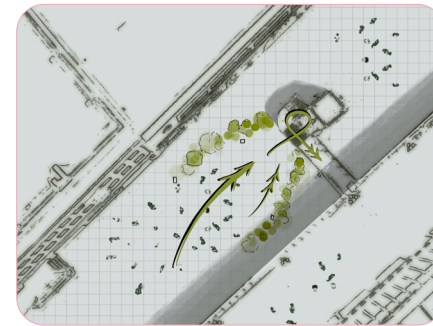
Circulation **after** intervention

After intervention

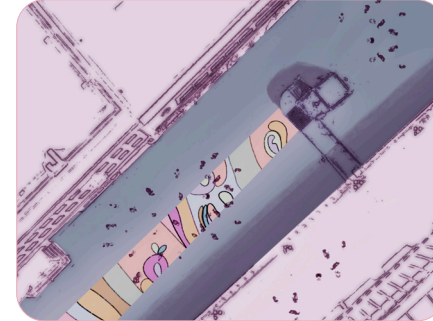
- Street art and vegetation guide people to take the stairs into the walkway, increasing the footfall and flow of movement in this street



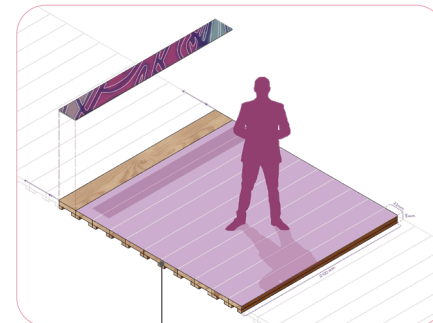
Example floor plan of one shop unit in the walkway



Intervention 1: Vegetation



Intervention 2: Street art



Timber deck flooring



Final Outcomes: Walkway

The group proposed interventions to revitalise the walkway. These included dynamic seating which included planters, adding greenery to the area. To further enhance the aesthetic appeal and to bring more footfall, we've decided to proposed painted timber board flooring which would be installed above the existing walkway concrete tiles to prevent damage.

Perspective view of walkway urban farming and seating proposal



Night Views of Walkway



Birds eye view of interactive seating and planters intervention



Concept Sketch of Walkway Design



Reflections

The past week and a half have been very successful. It was extremely refreshing to meet people across different years and see the natural progression of work executed. Overall, engagement was excellent, and the skill level of students was impressive, which allowed us to change our initial expected outputs -of concept and idea iteration- to a fully developed project proposal considering cost, materiality, and technical detailing. Additionally, not having a collaborator involved gave us margin to make alterations to the brief and allowed us the freedom to define the output list: we received positive feedback on the brief we developed.

Maria Figueiredo

Past two weeks have been really productive and organized. Although at first our direction was not so clear because we wanted students to explore without boundaries, we improved and clarified immediately after we received feedback from them. The most impressive aspect for me is how collaborative the walkway group was. They met and discussed every morning and then worked hard separately. Even though the collaborator hadn't shown up, we knew clearly what we should do and produce, which was based on the smooth workflow we planned. Overall, the outcomes are really satisfying, while the most important thing is the process of group work.

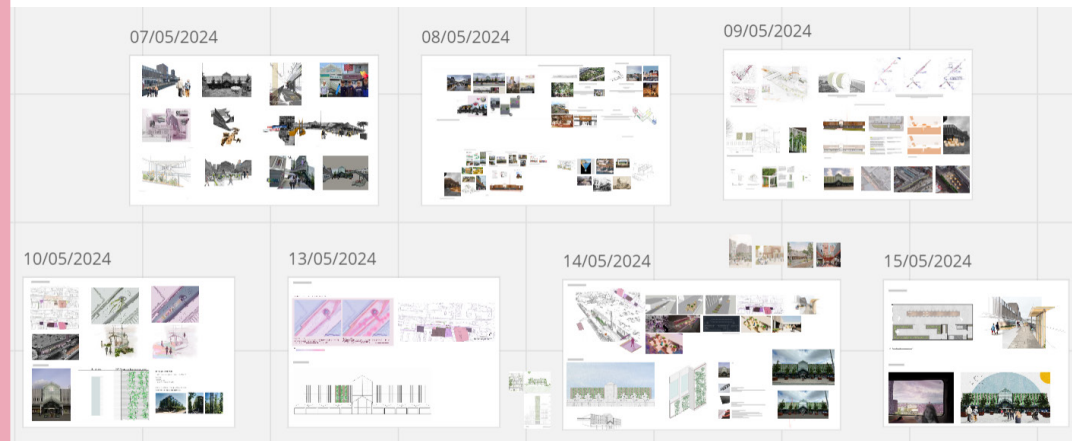
Yi Fu

The action weeks have been very fruitful and productive. I am particularly impressed with the attendance and engagement with the BA1 and BA2 students. It was a good experience to deal with unforeseen challenges such as our inability to establish communication with our collaborator. In situations like this, we, as project leaders, were able to adapt to the situation and act accordingly by creating and communicating with the wider group, a set of feasible outputs to work towards. As a group, we took this experience as a learning opportunity. Overall, it was an enjoyable two weeks of collaborating with the BA students.

Samuel Lee

Over the past few months, we have done many works. For me, it was more like an opportunity to simulate an architectural firm taking on a project. Throughout the process, we encountered quite a few challenges. Firstly, our collaborator did not reply to us in time, so we were missing very important data to present the project through accurate architectural drawings. However, after the team's consultation, it was finally decided to use the collage and painting presentation. In addition, due to the diversity of ideas in the team, the action plan we made was not well implemented at the beginning. However, with constant adjustments, the whole process of the campaign has been steadily progressing according to plan.

Wenjingyu Zhang



ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 and Masters of Architecture & Adaptive Resuse students with those in BA foundation, 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 are for community benefit or 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 600 students from 6 cohorts in MSA have worked on 40 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

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

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2024

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