

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

IN THE

Our project vision is to create a unique space for the wellbeing of both Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) staff and patients.

The aim is to renovate the courtyard which acts as the main approach and entrance to MFT's Lime Arts + Wellbeing Centre. Lime will collaborate with local gardening groups and commission artists to animate the space, including a mini sculpture park, and an annual gardening and growing programme. We will develop ideas for the revamp of the courtyard in consultation with MFT staff, patients and artists.

This live project provides opportunities for MSA students to develop critical design, communication, and project management skills, seamlessly combining art and architecture to deliver ideas and visuals.



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Visit msa.ac.uk for more information

LIGHT

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Lime is MFT's multi-award-winning Arts and Health organisation, globally recognised for its excellence in delivering art and well-being projects in hospital and community healthcare settings. Each year, Lime provides over 20,000 staff, patients, and visitors with direct access to the arts in all their vibrancy

Founded in 1973, Lime boasts a portfolio that spans 50 years and has gained international recognition for its commitment to diverse artistic commissioning and inclusive, process-driven modes of engagement. In the same year that the NHS celebrates its 75th birthday, Lime will mark its 50th anniversary—making it the oldest, continually producing hospital-based Arts and Health team in the UK. Throughout 2023, Lime will host a series of events across MFT to celebrate 50 years of visionary arts programming that continues to innovate and embed the arts into healthcare across Manchester.

The Lime Arts + Wellbeing Centre stands as a global landmark for culture and wellbeing in healthcare at MFT, providing innovative and pioneering approaches to care while improving NHS employee health and wellbeing. This level of innovation, housed in a custom-built creative space, has positioned MFT at the forefront of supporting NHS staff well-being, responding directly to Covid-19 and presenting a groundbreaking global first.

The Manchester Foundation Trust Charity (MFT Charity) exists to improve the health of our diverse population across the North West and beyond. We fundraise for 10 NHS hospitals and community services, focusing on three key areas: Treatment, Research, and Care.

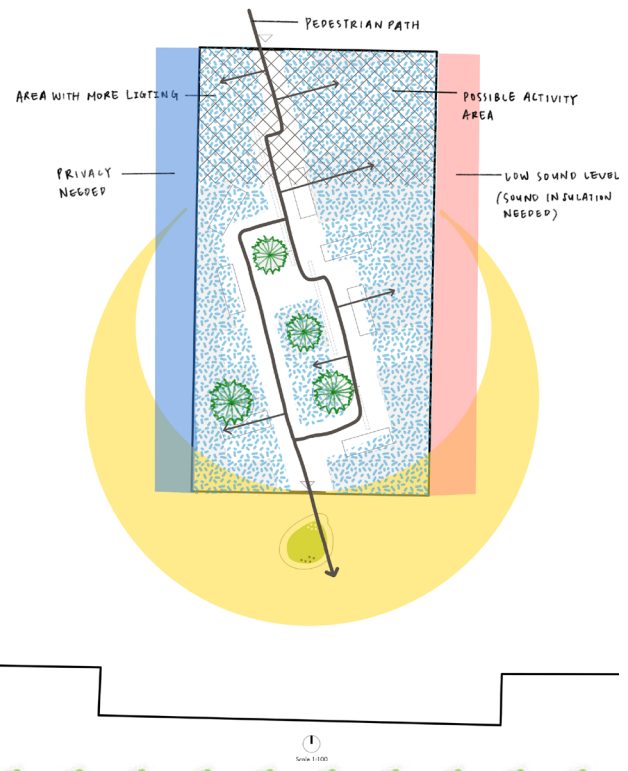
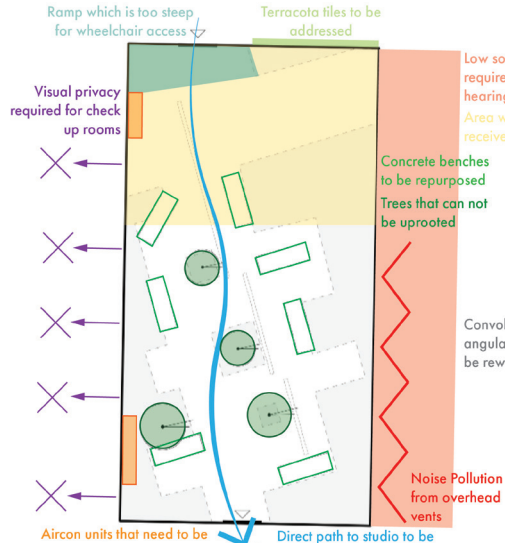
Introduction

IN THE LIME LIGHT

Our vision is to create a unique space that supports the well-being of both Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) colleagues and patients. We plan to collaborate with local community groups to deliver programmes of activity focused on meeting user needs. Lime Arts will partner with local gardening groups and commission artists to curate a programme of bespoke artwork to enliven the space. This will include sculptures and an annual programme of growing and gardening workshops as part of their successful arts and well-being programme for MFT staff, delivered from the Lime Art Studio. Students will develop ideas for the courtyard design in consultation with MFT colleagues, patients, and artists to understand the needs of staff and patient stakeholders and to determine the most appropriate use of the space.



THE SITE

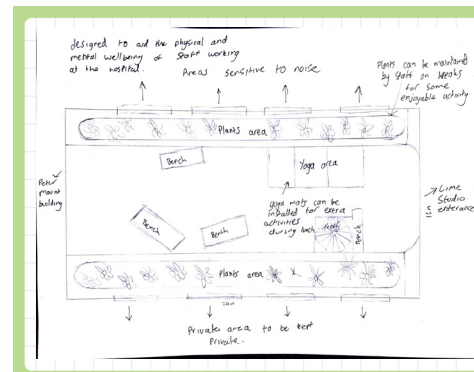
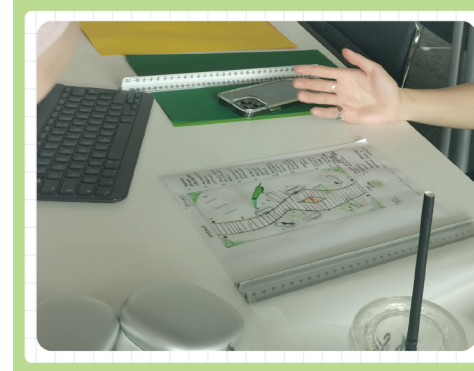


FIELD TRIP



For landscape design, acquiring basic knowledge about plants is crucial. Understanding the characteristics of different plants and their suitability for various settings is essential for designing a courtyard effectively. Our project primarily aims to provide a space for relaxation, and based on survey responses, there is significant anticipation for the inclusion of plants. With the assistance of our collaborators, we visited Platt Fields Market Garden to learn about plants. During this learning experience, we gained insights into the creation of restful spaces and identified plants that best suit our courtyard design requirements. Additionally, we learned about the story behind this community garden. Not only did we find mental relaxation through our interaction with plants, but we also acquired fundamental botanical knowledge. We believe that the experiences, insights, and knowledge gained here will inform our project design moving forward.

BIG DRAW



Our workshop employed a co-design method, enabling the rapid development of visionary proposals for the courtyard within the Peter Mount Building. Using a 1:100 scale map, participants assembled collages from 1:200 scale drawings of public spaces, integrating these with coloured cards to explore massing concepts. This creative process was supported by extensive preparatory work, including the collection of floor plans and survey data, which informed our understanding of the site's dynamics. The session, equipped with diverse materials like tracing paper and coloured pens, facilitated a rich array of conceptual designs, setting a solid foundation for more detailed future explorations.



PROPOSAL 1

CONCEPT

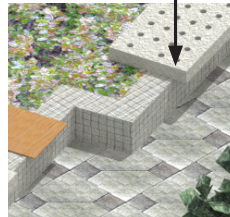
The plants separates people from going near the windows



The lounge chair separates the existing bench from each other, which is meant to reduce the possible interaction between people, hence offering a silent space



Existing masonry bench



Tiles embedded into the concrete fence
Preserves existing artworks/ decorations

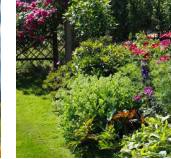
PERSPECTIVE SKETCHED



MATERIAL & LANDSCAPE STRATEGY



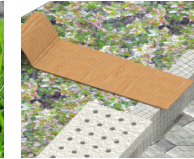
Wildflower Meadow
Add color to the garden.



Shrubs
Planted on the sides to provide visual privacy to the surrounding



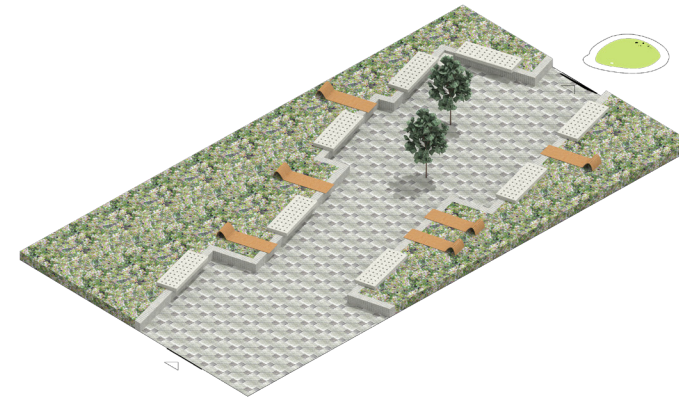
Grass
Spread across the garden
Provides a soft base for picnic, yoga etc.



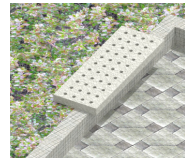
Timber lounge chair
Yoga Platforms
Promotes silent activities



Planting area enclosed by concrete fence
Provides privacy to adjacent facilities

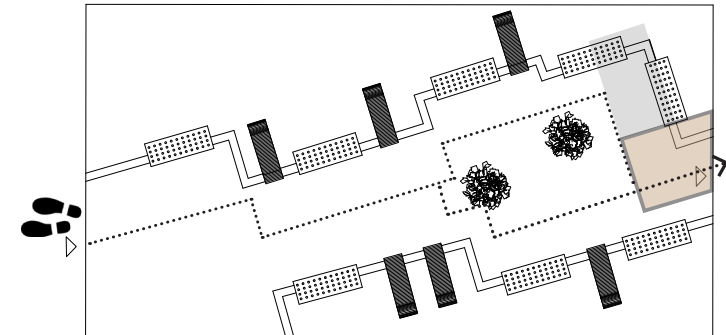
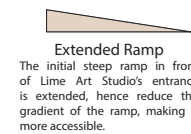
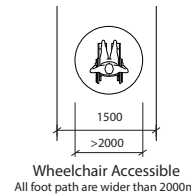


Existing masonry bench
Promotes interactive activities



Existing tile floor preserved
Reduce Construction Cost

ACCESSIBILITY



PROPOSAL 2

CONCEPT



Zen Garden

Meadow Garden

I explore two concepts a Japanese inspired Zen garden and a meadow garden after our visit to MUD.

Inspired by MUD I lifted elements of MUD and adapted them to make a meadow garden that could handle the shade of the garden.



Raised Planters



Organic Fences

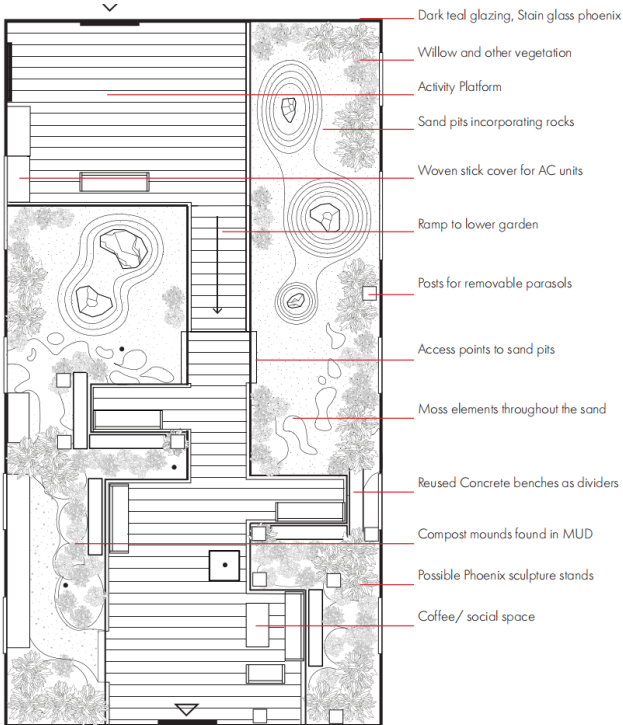


An important element of this design is the sand pit which could be used for a craft activity by raking patterns into the sand.



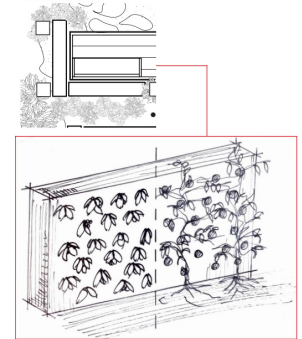
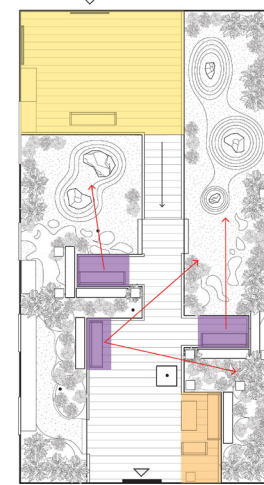
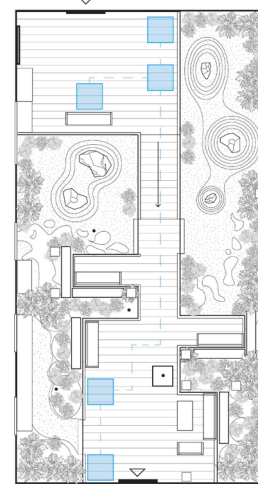
To tackle the issues of accessibility a board walk could be used through the courtyard to mitigate the effects of the uneven floor.

Plan



- Dark teal glazing, Stain glass phoenix
- Willow and other vegetation
- Activity Platform
- Sand pits incorporating rocks
- Woven stick cover for AC units
- Ramp to lower garden
- Posts for removable parasols
- Access points to sand pits
- Moss elements throughout the sand
- Reused Concrete benches as dividers
- Compost mounds found in MUD
- Possible Phoenix sculpture stands
- Coffee/ social space

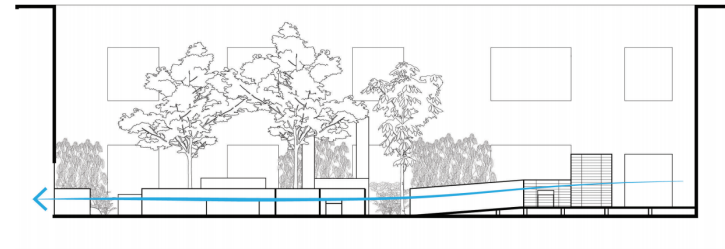
LANDSCAPE STRATEGY



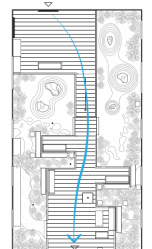
The concrete benches will be reused as portions either with climbers growing up them or small plants growing from the holes in the bench.

ACCESSIBILITY

1:100 section



The board walk allows a ramp that meets wheelchair access requirements to be fitted.



A straight clear path for those with visual impairments.

PROPOSAL 3

CONCEPT

Design a quiet, reflective area for NHS staff. A place that users can experience before entering the Lime Arts studio.



LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

PLANT BEDS

In the case where paving cannot be removed, recycled wood can be made into plant beds to produce fruit and veg like beetroot or cabbage.

These could be then used in the arts studio to be made into dyes or for printing. After use the waste could be turned into compost for example like the process at MUD.

WILLOW ARCH

Willow trees are common to Lancashire, therefore will grow organically in the courtyard. The arch will provide a natural guidance and gateway to Lime Arts.

Using the current concrete benches as bases for the plant beds.

ART DISPLAY BOARDS

Using waste material perhaps or even glass to display artwork created in the studio. This gives the area some partition for zoning that would be good for directing flow of people.

PLANT DIARY

Using plants that are native to Manchester guarantees their flourishing on the site, which is also greener in terms of transportation.



BAY LAUREL- Do best in full sun to partial shade. Avg height 2m.



CUCKOO FLOWER- Moist soil in partial shade to full sun. Avg height 20-30cm.



WILLOW TREE- require small amounts of sunlight.

FOXGLOVE- thrive in sun or shade, grow at an avg of 90-150cm



DELPHINIUM- needs sunlight. Grows up to 2m

DEVELOPED PLAN

Remove flagstones and paving in order for easy access to features of the courtyard like the benches. Where this is removed, replace it with a mix of grass and shrubs.

The shape of the pathway has been altered to allow for correct dimensions and smoothness across the site. It also creates enough space for a more organised area.

Placing benches within nature, isolating seating in order to encourage quiet. Being immersed in nature is also key to promoting good mental health and wellbeing.

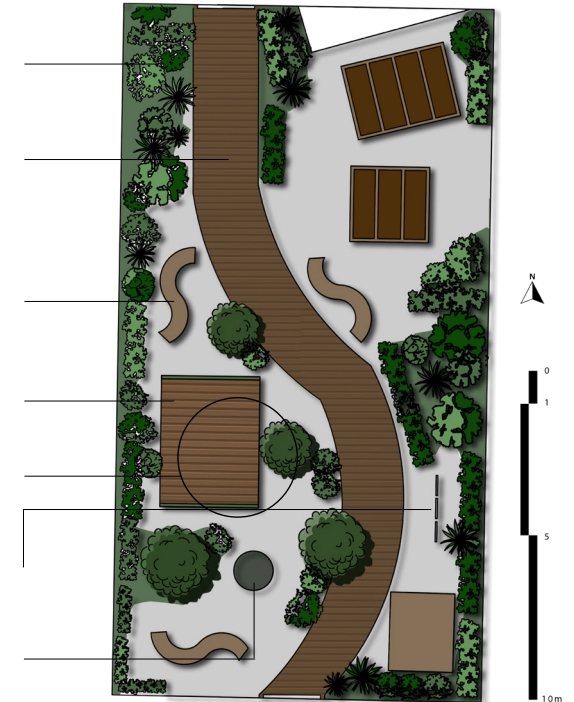
I imagine for shelter over paths or seating, Lime Arts members could print designs on waste tarp which can then be strung from wood columns. This is just one way for artists to display their work.

Dedicating a clear outdoor space to activities like yoga or to assist with practices in the studio.

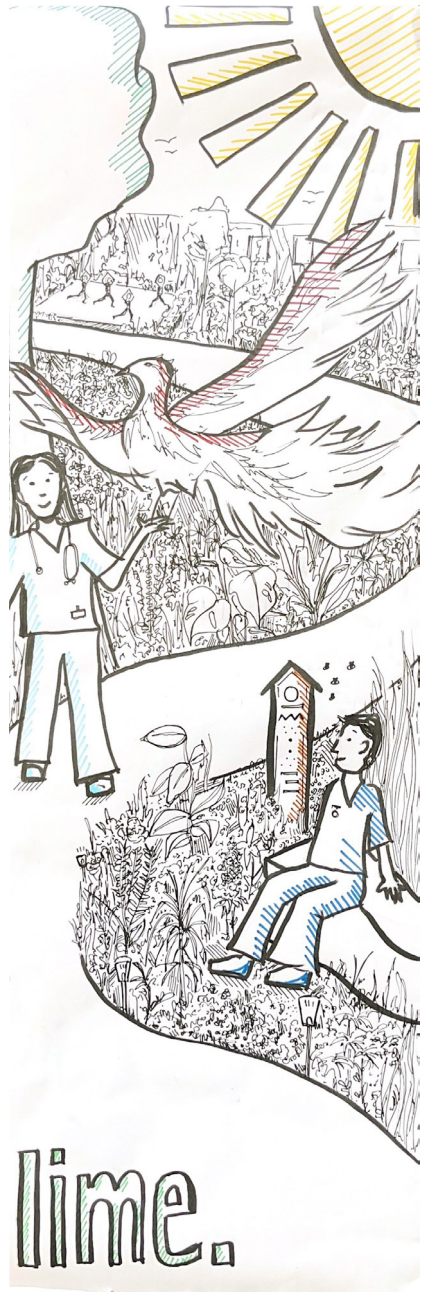
These can be bordered with tree fences or willow arches (seen at MUD), in order to create a soft parameter giving some structure.

Freestanding metal gridwalls can be placed on the site as a space for art produced at Lime Arts to be exhibited to users.

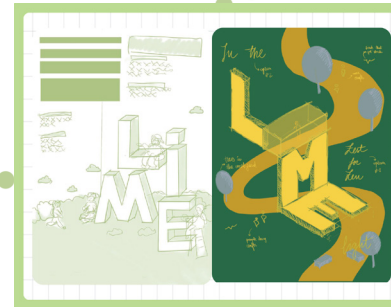
In the case where stained glass mosaic cannot be created and attached to the terracotta wall, there is an area for a phoenix sculpture of some sort or perhaps to showcase other artworks.



TIMESCAPES



ROAD MAP



Poster



Tutorial



Site Visit



Concept Design



Draft Presentation



Final Presentation

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:

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BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2024

SOCIAL

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