

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

WHERE STILLNESS LIVES

A SPATIAL REFUGE DESIGNED FOR WOMEN SEEKING PROTECTED QUIET

AYSE NAZ K
BINHUI X
HALIMA S
HIN L
HONGKAI R
KAIXUAN S
KYLIAN P
MOHAMMED M
RUIQI Z
SHERRY I
YUEWEN L

GROUP 5 MSAlive 2026

We aim to create protected quiet spaces for women, mothers, careworkers and daughters who rarely experience silence at home. The former bowling green site at Monton Unitarian Church will become a layered landscape that balances active community life with moments of personal stillness. Respecting the church and graveyard's existing atmosphere of calm, the proposal will introduce a clear spatial journey, moving from open public activity at the front of the site, to enclosed inward-facing pavilions deeper within.

A linear timber spine connects these spaces, gently slowing movement and preparing visitors for quiet. Three small, human-scaled rooms provide places for reflection, autonomy and mental rest - offering women the simple but powerful right to close a door. Alongside these quieter spaces, the site will also host flexible areas for community events, local markets, workshops and children's activities, ensuring to support both gathering and retreat.

Visit msa.ac.uk for more information

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