

# GARDEN OF THE PEOPLE: COMMUNITY GARDEN & REGENERATIVE LIVING EDUCATION CENTER

"First it is necessary to create awareness of the part we play in the natural world. Exploring the problems and potential solutions comes next. Engaging peoples' interest in pushing for change is a function of the first two stages combined with convincing them that their efforts can make a difference either individually or collectively. Apathy is often simply a by-product of powerlessness. Empowerment can create a tiger."  
- Tim Smit, Co-founder of the Eden Project

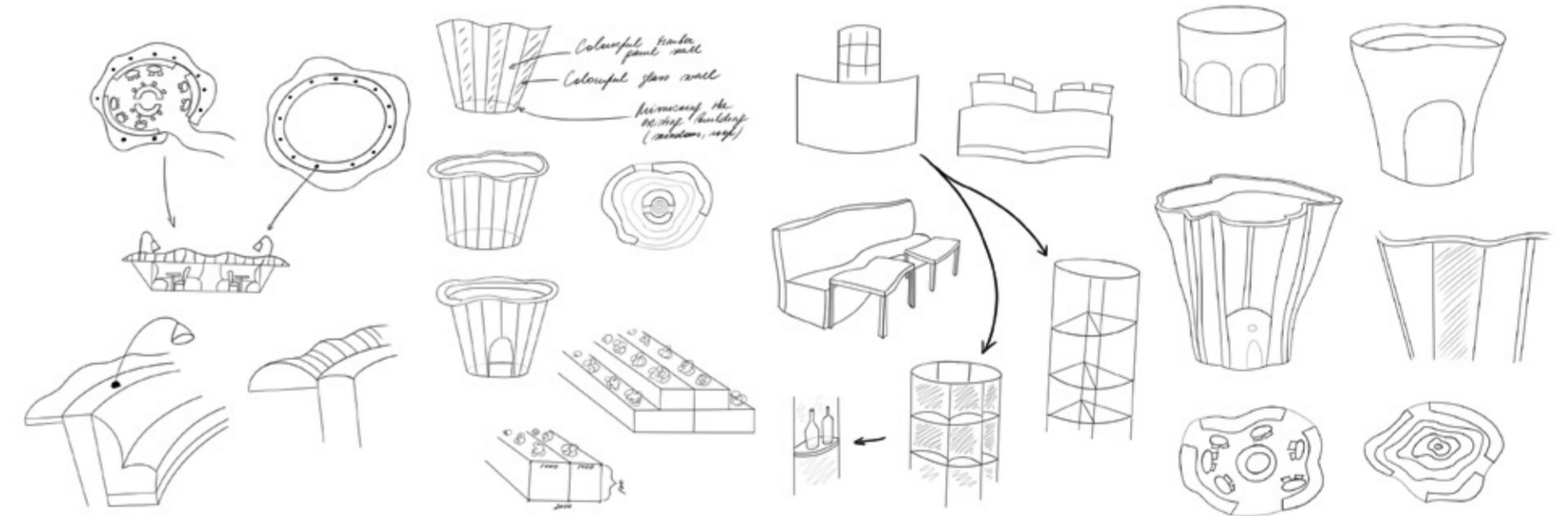
**THE PROBLEM.** No corner of the globe is immune from the devastating consequences of climate change. Rising temperatures are fueling environmental degradation, natural disasters, weather extremes, food and water insecurity, economic disruption, conflict, and terrorism. Sea levels are rising, the Arctic is melting, coral reefs are dying, oceans are acidifying, and forests are burning. It is clear that business as usual is not good enough. As the infinite cost of climate change reaches irreversible highs, now is the time for bold collective action (un.org, n.d.).



## SECTION AA

**THE PROPOSAL.** One way to directly involve people in the process of tackling climate change and bring nature connectedness to the forefront is by inviting them to take small practical steps that can be carried out every day. From there the idea of designing an urban community garden was born. Garden of the People is the name of the new design proposal. It is a community garden offering a great leisure time and a chance to educate oneself in the field of regenerative horticulture and a plant-based lifestyle. It is meant to be an easy-access garden space open to all walks of people to provide community integration, a cross-cultural dialogue and nature connectedness through horticulture, biophilia, creativity and cooperation. There are no well-developed, accessible community gardens with multiple functions in the nearby Derby area. The biggest community garden competitors in Derby seem to be of a small scale, lacking well-developed facilities and indoor garden space for all-year-round gardening. Large-scale, well-developed community gardens are outside the Derby area; therefore it is clear that a new community garden for the city of Derby is necessary.

**CONCEPT STATEMENT OF THE GARDEN DESIGN.** It is about living in harmony with nature and being a part of it. To translate this concept into a spatial experience, I have leaned towards biophilic design by not only introducing gardens into the space but also by taking inspiration from the organic shape and pattern of mushrooms. The main structures for the restaurant, dining area, wine bar, education pavilion, herb drying hall and harvest beds are made to replicate mushrooms.



## CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT SKETCHES

**IDEA BEHIND THE MUSHROOMS.** A symbol of rebirth, longevity, transformation and a force of nature, mushrooms are a powerful symbol that represents the concept and purpose of the community garden. In some cultures mushrooms are a symbol of immortality, which reflects the nature of my vision to create a space where people learn about finding safety and resolution in regenerative and conscious living, a deep bond between nature and human, which leads to nature, the Earth having and giving a long-lasting life.



## SITE ANALYSIS. SUNPATH AND PREVAILING WINDS

**THE SITE.** For the intervention Aida Bliss warehouse has been selected. It is located in Derby and built in 1822. The East side and part of the North side of the building has been utilised for the proposal.



INTERIOR OF AIDA BLISS (EAST SIDE)



EXTERIOR OF AIDA BLISS (NORTH EAST SIDE)



INTERIOR OF AIDA BLISS (EAST SIDE)



## MOOD BOARD

Gardening. Sense of community. Enjoying fresh produce. Mushrooms. Nature connectedness.



## CONCEPT BOARD

Biophilic design. Environmentally friendly materials. Organic shapes. Colourful. Indoor garden space.

## THE BIGGEST COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPETITORS IN DERBY



## LARGE-SCALE COMMUNITY GARDEN COMPETITORS IN THE UK

"Urban gardens can help build social capacity to implement change by providing environmental education, intergenerational learning, and understanding of natural processes, cycles, and processes of climate change itself". They can also "promote habitats for diverse plant species, both ornamental species and cultivated species, while these can sometimes include nonnative and invasive species, which may spread with a changing climate", leading urban gardens to serve as a bank for genetic diversity, making a significant contribution to "climate change adaptation" (Kabisch et.al., 2017).

6.6%

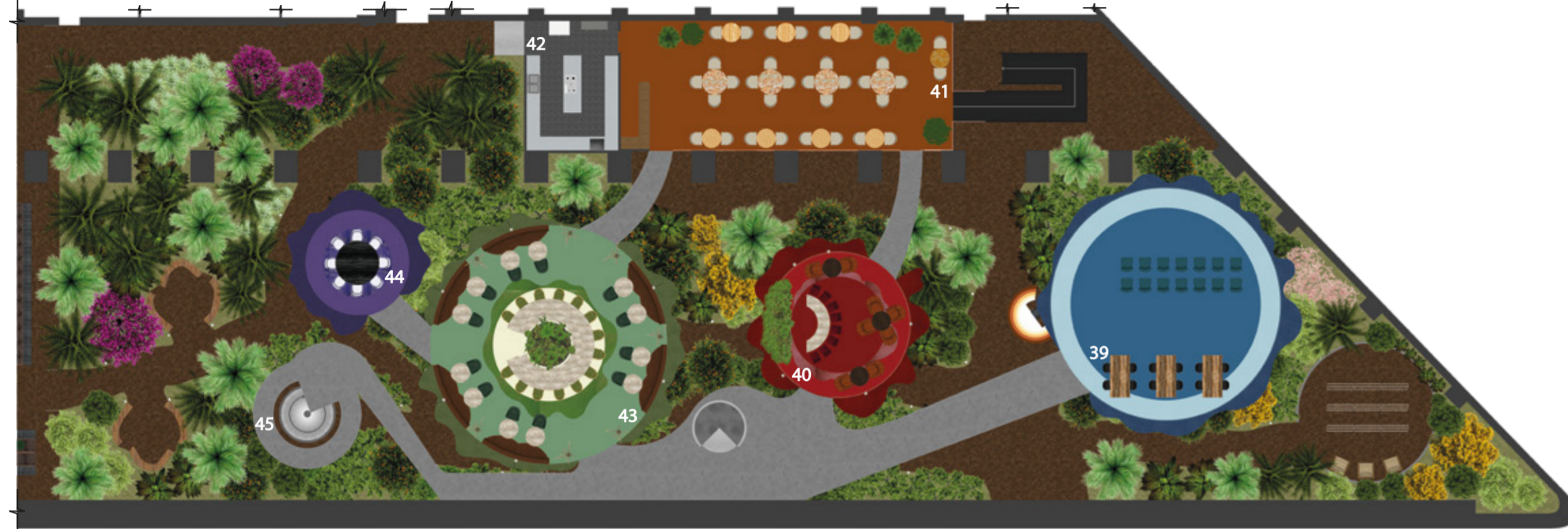
4.2%

30

Higher wellbeing score if you garden every day\*

Lower stress levels if you garden every day\*

Minutes of gardening burns just as much calories as playing badminton, volleyball or practising yoga\*



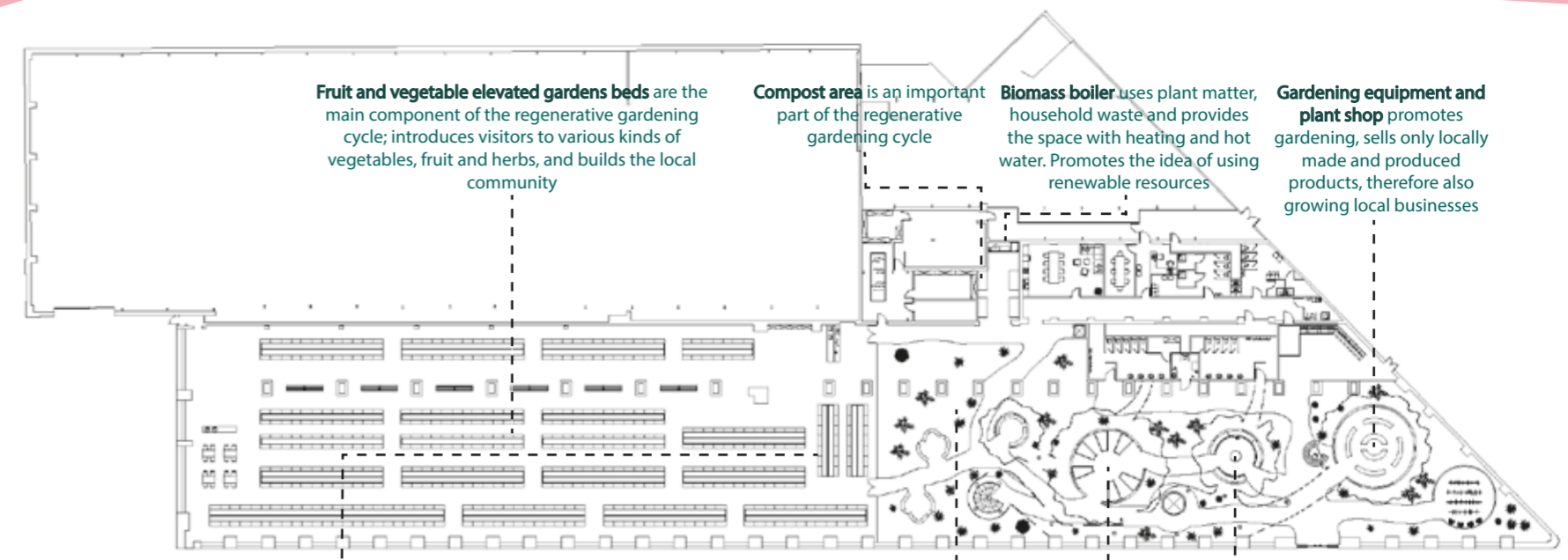
MEZZANINE LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 - Coat room   | 17 - Janitors closet                               | 33 - Garden storage   |
| 2 - Gardening equipment and plant shop                | 18 - Staff female changing rooms                   | 34 - Bins   |
| 3 - Reception area                                    | 19 - Staff male changing rooms                     | 35 - Garden elevated beds for the practical classes         |
| 4 - Herb drying hall                                  | 20 - Office  | 36 - Seating area   |
| 5 - Female public WC                                  | 21 - Meeting room                                  | 37 - Staff picnic area                                      |
| 6 - Disabled public WC                                | 22 - Delivery area                                 | 38 - Bins and sinks   |
| 7 - Male public WC                                    | 23 - Staff kitchen and break room                  | 39 - Education pavilion                                     |
| 8 - Boiler room                                       | 24 - Biomass boiler                                | 40 - Wine bar   |
| 9 - Janitors closet                                   | 25 - Composting area                               | 41 - Restaurant dining area                                 |
| 10 - Elevator for visitors                            | 26 - Water tank                                    | 42 - Restaurant kitchen                                     |
| 11 - Harvest storage beds                             | 27 - Staff garden uniform changing room            | 43 - Vegan restaurant                                       |
| 12 - Stairs   | 28 - Garden equipment storage                      | 44 - Restaurant dining area for groups of friends or family |
| 13 - Open indoor relaxing zone                        | 29 - Garden products in-bulk pick-up area          | 45 - Garden viewing platform                                |
| 14 - Relaxing zone                                    | 30 - Shop storage                                  |   |
| 15 - Vegetable and fruit garden entrance for visitors | 31 - Vegetable and fruit garden entrance for staff |   |
| 16 - Staff elevator to the kitchen                    | 32 - Sinks   |   |

LIST OF ACCOMMODATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



Fruit and vegetable elevated gardens beds are the main component of the regenerative gardening cycle; introduces visitors to various kinds of vegetables, fruit and herbs, and builds the local community

Compost area is an important part of the regenerative gardening cycle

Biomass boiler uses plant matter, household waste and provides the space with heating and hot water. Promotes the idea of using renewable resources

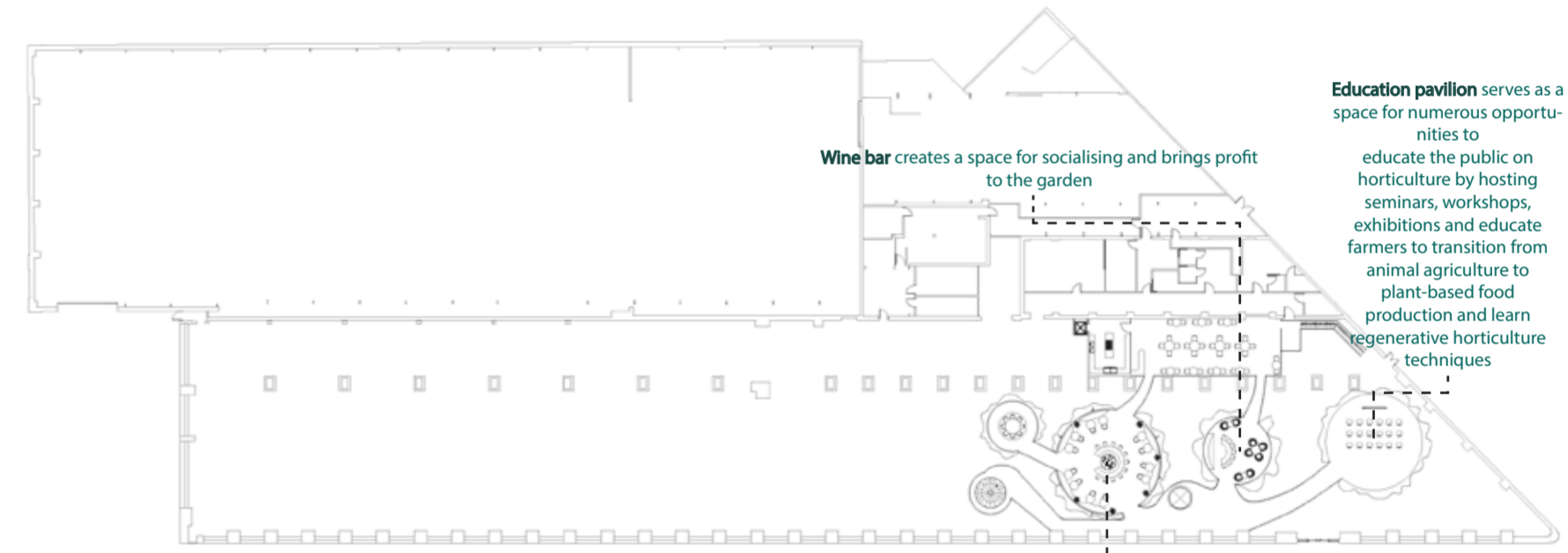
Gardening equipment and plant shop promotes gardening, sells only locally made and produced products, therefore also growing local businesses

Garden elevated beds for practical classes serve as a space where to apply the new regenerative gardening knowledge in practice

Exotic Mediterranean leisure garden creates a space for relaxation, nature connectedness, gaining knowledge on the Mediterranean vegetation and provides a space for running apprenticeship programmes for Horticulture and Biology

Harvest storage bed space educates the visitors on different kinds of vegetables and fruit, seeks to find interest from them in gardening by displaying the harvest on site

Herb drying hall promotes herbology and the notion that herbs can help regulate an unbalanced human body and keep it healthy



Wine bar creates a space for socialising and brings profit to the garden

Education pavilion serves as a space for numerous opportunities to educate the public on horticulture by hosting seminars, workshops, exhibitions and educate farmers to transition from animal agriculture to plant-based food production and learn regenerative horticulture techniques

Vegan restaurant promotes a plant-based and cruelty-free lifestyle, creates a space for socialising

References:  
 The Climate Crisis - A Race We Can Win (n.d.). Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/un75/climate-crisis-race-we-can-win#:~:text=No%20corner%20of%20the%20globe,disruption%2C%20conflict%2C%20and%20terrorism>. [Accessed 20.April 2022]  
 Kabisch, N., Korn, H., Stadler, J., Bonn, A. (2017). Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas. Linkages between Science, Policy and Practice. [E-book] Pp.237 - 253. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-56091-5> [Accessed 12.Feb 2022]  
 Scruby, L., Chalmin-Pui, L. S. (2019). Why gardening makes us feel better - and how to make the most of it. [online] Available at: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/health-and-wellbeing/articles/why-gardening-makes-us-feel-better> [Accessed 13.Feb 2022]





VEGAN RESTAURANT PERSPECTIVE (43 in the list of accommodation)



WINE BAR PERSPECTIVE (40 in the list of accommodation)

- PRIMARY MATERIALS**
- Mycelium
  - Stained glass
  - Gyproc plasterboard
  - Earthen floor
- SECONDARY MATERIALS**
- Mycelium leather
  - Peat cladding
  - Cross-laminated timber
  - Timbercrete
  - Reclaimed steel
  - Epoxy resin
  - Mahogany timber
  - All tiles
- TERTIARY MATERIALS**
- Recycled rubber
  - Alpine-hay, marguerites surface
  - Reclaimed cedarwood
  - Black cherry

**MATERIALS.** They have been selected to do the **least damage to the environment.** These materials can be **recycled or repurposed**, some of them are **made of recycled materials themselves.** Through materials this space is made to talk for itself about living in a deep connection with nature; about making **conscious choices** when it comes to **how we relate to our surroundings** and build them.



**MYCELIUM LEATHER**  
Use: restaurant and bar seating, pavilion chairs



**MYCELIUM**  
Use: restaurant countertop and tables, bar countertop, over the table luminaires



**STAINED GLASS**  
Use: Backbar, "mushroom" walls



**PEAT "MARBLE" CLADDING**  
Use: restaurant counter, herb drying hall and harvest storage organic ceiling luminaire



**TIMBERCRETE**  
Use: walls in staff rooms, compost, water tank, delivery area



**GYPCWALL CURVE PLASTERBOARD**  
Use: curved "mushroom" structure walls



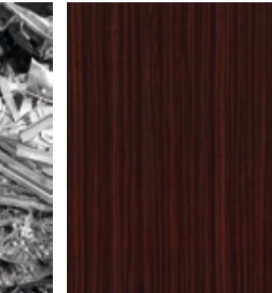
**ALPINE-HAY AND MARGUERITES SURFACE**  
Use: harvest storage, shop, herb drying hall ceiling surface



**EARTHEN/ADOBE FLOOR**  
Use: floors of delivery, storage, staff room area, visitor pathways



**RECLAIMED STEEL**  
Use: stairs, elevator



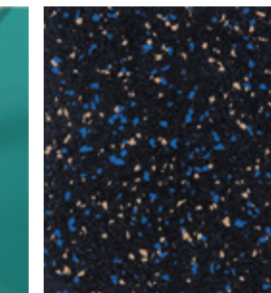
**MAHOGANY TIMBER**  
Use: wine bar rack, tables



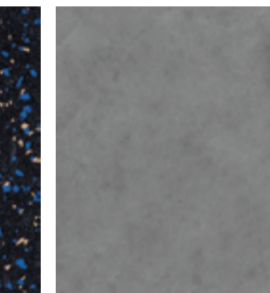
**CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER**  
Use: reception desk, coatroom, bathroom doors



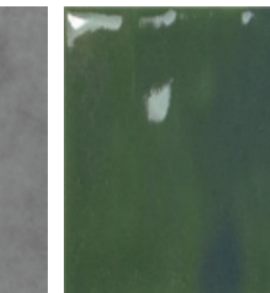
**EPOXY RESIN**  
Use: restaurant, wine bar, dine area, pavilion floor



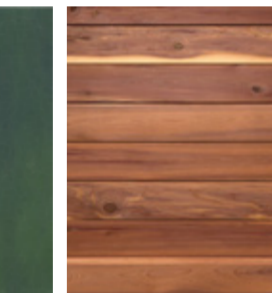
**RECYCLED RUBBER**  
Use: restaurant and bar kitchen floor



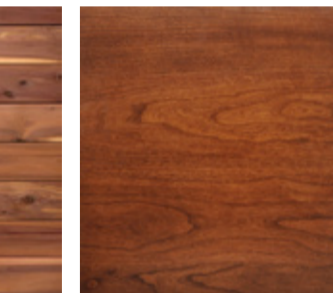
**TILES**  
Use: public bathroom floor



**TILES**  
Use: public bathroom walls

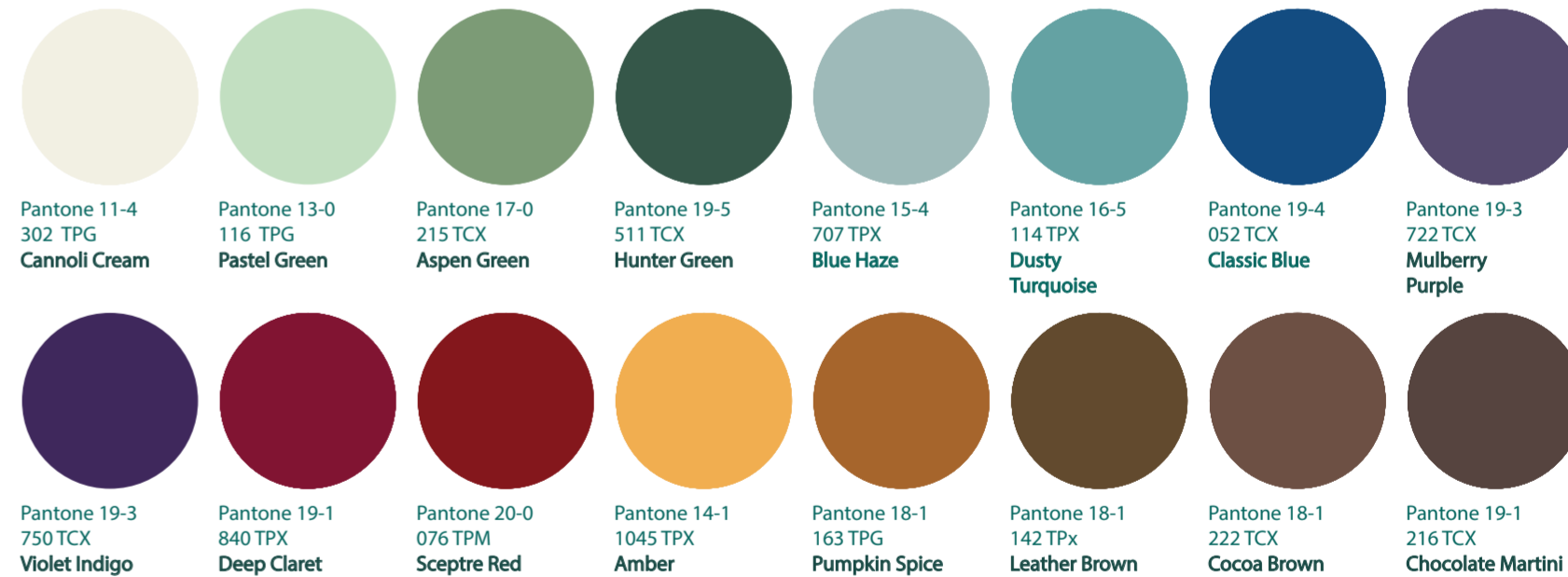


**RECLAIMED CEDARWOOD**  
Use: seating for zones of relaxing in the park area, garden elevated beds, shop



**BLACK CHERRY**  
Use: organic luminaire over the restaurant counter and circle luminaire over the purple dining area

**COLOUR PALETTE.** For the interior the colours are colourful to **mimic the visuals of different mushrooms.** More muted, subtle shades are used for to keep it closer to looking organic.



**BRANDING.** The name Garden of the People identifies that this place is a garden where everyone is welcome. It puts emphasis on being a place for **building a community through the means of gardening.**

**THE LOGO.** The logo is made to resemble the **gills of a mushroom**, which is the main inspiration source behind the organic design. **Colour green** symbolises the garden, and the shape of the **circle** symbolises oneness, which is one of the purposes of this garden - to unify and bring people together.



HERB DRYING HALL PERSPECTIVE (4 in the list of accommodation)



HARVEST STORAGE BEDS PERSPECTIVE (11 in the list of accommodation)

**LUMINAIRES.** One of the most important light sources on the Ground Floor for the garden "mushroom" structures is made to speak the same organic design language that the new built structures possess. They are shaped to mimic the Turkey Tail mushroom pattern and shape.

They are made from **peat**. Peat is a type of soil made from decomposed organic materials that form over thousands of years. The use of the material was inspired by Latvia's exposition at Dubai Expo 2020, which included displaying sculptural objects made from peat that was sourced in the swamps of Latvia.

The bottom part of the lights has **LED light strips** attached to it.



TURKEY TAIL FUNGI



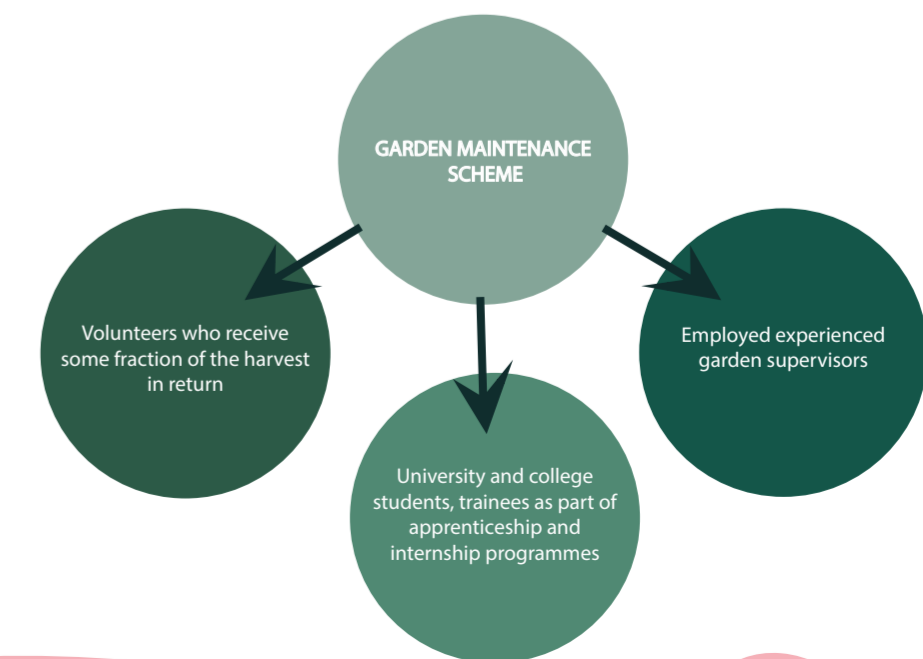
PEAT SOIL



HERB DRYING HALL DURING NIGHT TIME PERSPECTIVE



ELEVATED GARDEN BEDS PERSPECTIVE



GARDEN MAINTENANCE SCHEME EXPLAINING HOW THE GARDENS WILL BE MANAGED



BRIDGE TO THE VIEWING PLATFORM PERSPECTIVE



VIEW OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDENS FROM THE VIEWING PLATFORM (45 in the list of accommodation)



JACARDA TREE



MEDITERRANEAN PALM



MIMOSA



DAPHNE



ORANGE TREE



ALMOND TREE



LILY OF THE NILE



CENTURY PLANT



CALIFORNIA POPPY



OLIVE TREE

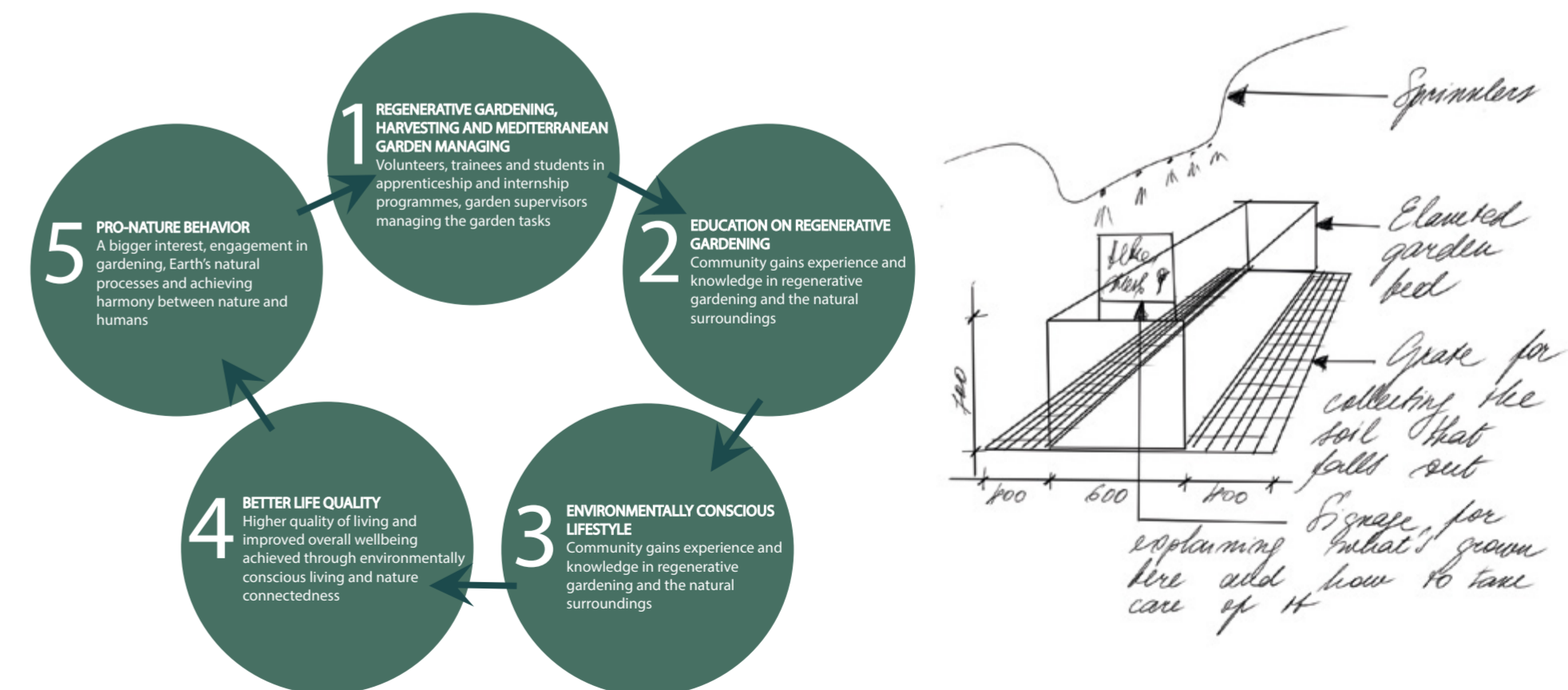
SOME EXAMPLES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN VEGETATION FOR THE EXOTIC LEISURE PARK

**THE EXOTIC LEISURE PARK.** Garden of the people is divided in two zones: fruit and vegetable garden beds, and an exotic leisure park. The leisure park, meant to be a zone for walks and relaxing, is created using **Mediterranean-type vegetation**. It is known that Mediterranean-type areas are the **richest in flora**, but ironically the plants thrive on stress; too much nutrient or water can kill them off; therefore using this type of vegetation equals **less maintenance** and **financial strains**.

**CLIMATE CONTROL.** Specific climate control is necessary, therefore it is proposed to have a climate control system, which mainly consists of **passive temperature control** (using double glazed windows, shading curtains, motorised side windows with temperature sensors that allow cross-ventilation), a **fogging installation** (for humidifying), **assimilation lighting** (supplements natural sunlight with artificial light to stimulate plant growth), **plant irrigation** (agricultural process of applying controlled amounts of water to assist in the production of crops).

**REGENERATIVE PRACTICES.** Regenerative gardening is a style of garden management that is **conscious of emissions and waste**. It **nourishes the soil naturally** rather than depleting it and refilling the ground with fertilizers, many of which can damage plants and soils microscopic life. Regenerative gardening practices include:

- 1) Composting
- 2) Piling organic matter like compost or manure instead of digging the soil for planting, therefore preserving the soils healthy structure
- 3) Seed saving
- 4) Using plants like marigolds and lavender to repel insects
- 5) Controlling weeds, by which eliminates the need for chemicals, which can disrupt the soils ecosystem
- 6) Crop rotation, which prevents stripping the nutrients of the soil needed by plants
- 7) Growing cover crops to replenish and protect the soil



GARDENING CYCLE SCHEME