

**How can Latin American House make the Kilburn community aware of the services they provide?**

**Latin American House's name currently creates confusion, how can they let visitors know that their space is for everyone?**

Latin American House (LAH) was born in 1983 and has ever since provided services to the community of Kilburn, such as:

- English lessons
- Quechua lessons
- Qualified translators for legal documents
- Education - nursery level and primary level till 11 years old
- Computing lessons - adapted to the pandemic and saw the necessity of staying in contact with family members abroad
- Revision lessons for tests such as 'Life in the UK'
- Legal advice
- Community space for events and community meetings
- Kaipiras Brazilian Restaurant - currently sharing the ground floor with LAH

All these services are spread across all four floors from its existing building, and are all actively being used by regulars. However, LAH struggles with notifying its local Kilburn community of its services, especially those not of Latin American descent.

The aim of the proposal is to transform LAH into an even more inclusive space for the community of Kilburn and new visitors, whilst maintaining true to its origin- Latin American culture. Latin American culture will be implemented into the building's structure but will not be overbearing.

To help LAH with bringing in more people, the building will expand into Kilburn High Road through 164 Kilburn High Road. The charity will expand into the busy high street and provide an exposed courtyard for the locals to come in, socialise, and discover what LAH has to offer.

The current services provided will be kept in the proposal, along with additional ones, such as:

- Gardening
- Public toilets
- Brick workshop
- Ramps and lifts



Ensuring LAH is a charity for everyone in Kilburn is vital, however staying true to its roots and origins is equally as important.

LAH was originally a charity to translate English documents to Spanish in order for Latin American to know what they were signing. Eventually, translating documents from English to Portuguese was introduced and from then more services were introduced for people of all backgrounds.

Majority of LAH's users still happen to be Latin Americans, and the charity's name emphasises this fact. Therefore Latin American culture will be introduced into the building through design and structure.

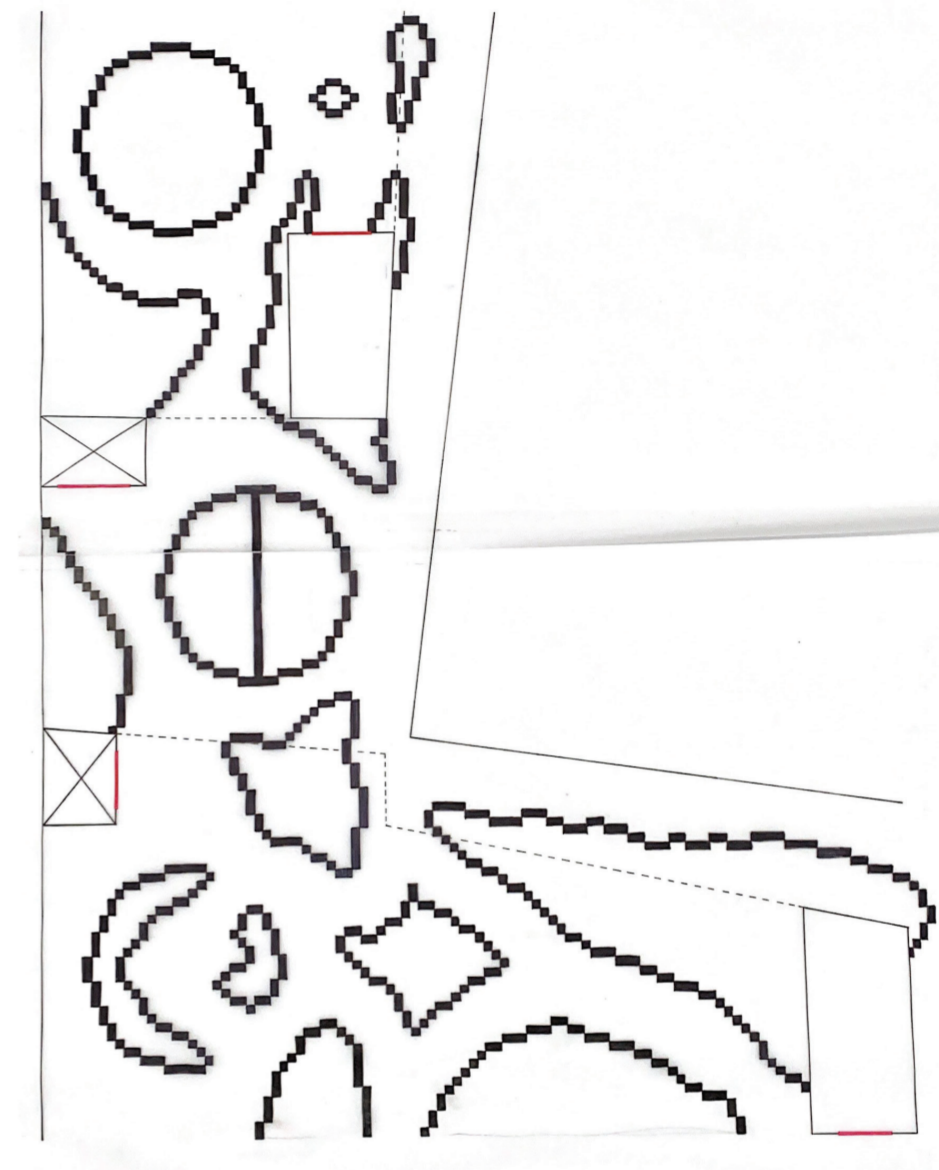
Latin American colloquial patterns will be embedded into the courtyard but will not be overwhelming to the extent that non-Latin Americans will feel left out.



A Latin American textile pattern is chosen to design the courtyard in order to see possible limitations faced.

Limitations faced:

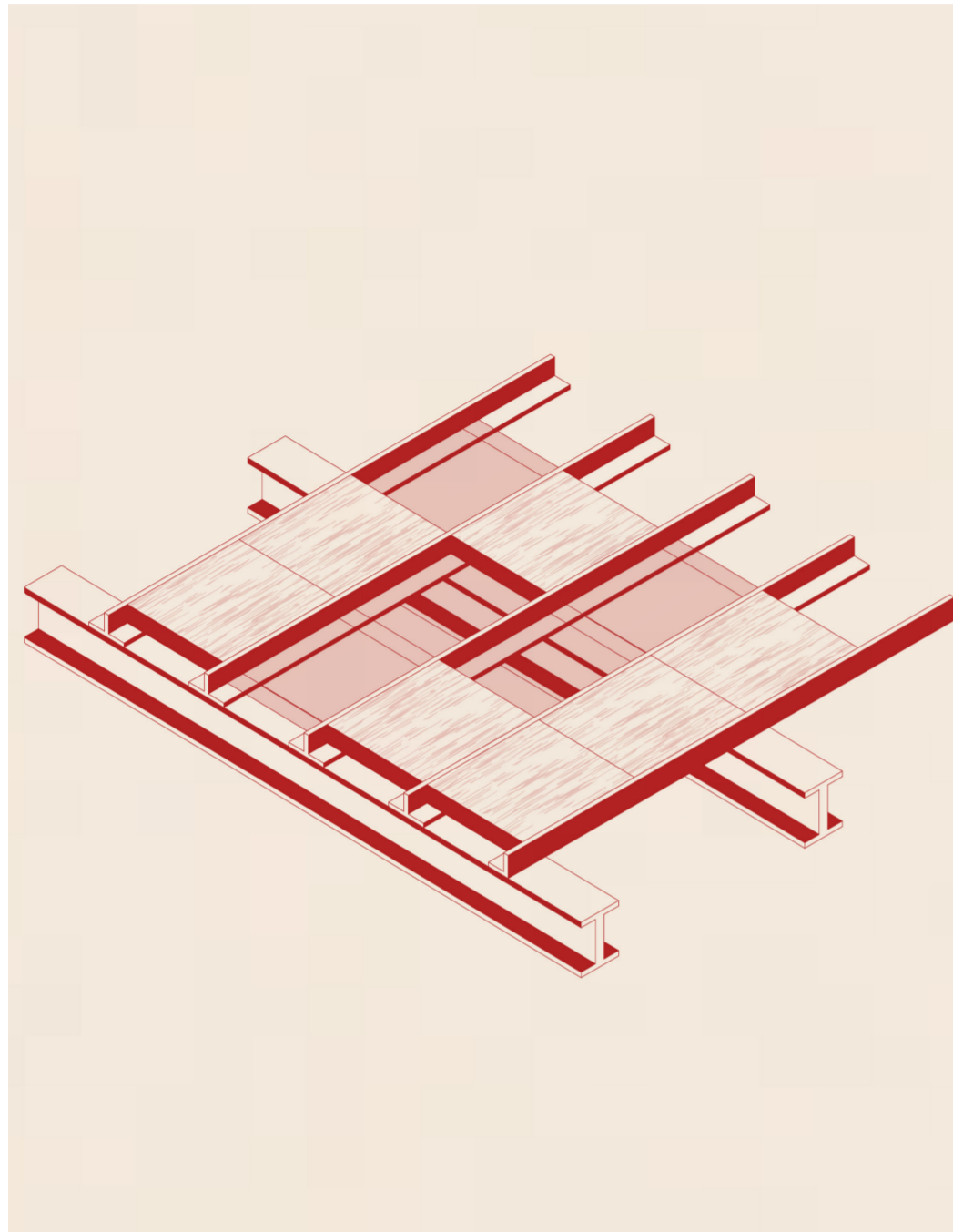
- Design is beautiful on plan view but the floating buildings above will block the entirety of the design.
- Due to buildings above, design is not clearly seen and Latin American textile patterns is not obvious.
- A visitor walking into the courtyard will not see the design nor understand it.
- Side view is limited, just layering can be seen.
- Design is too complex.



Design is simplified into geometric shapes that similarly follow the form and flow of Latin American textiles. Additionally reusing bricks from the existing buildings is considered.

Limitations faced:

- Shapes will have to be wide and broad for bricks to align beautifully.
- Colours can be overwhelming. Red doors are already present.
- Buildings will still be above, blocking plan view of pattern.
- Existing ground floor is not completely levelled. Design needs to adapt to this.
- Latin American culture is not obvious from eye level, and not other view level is offered.

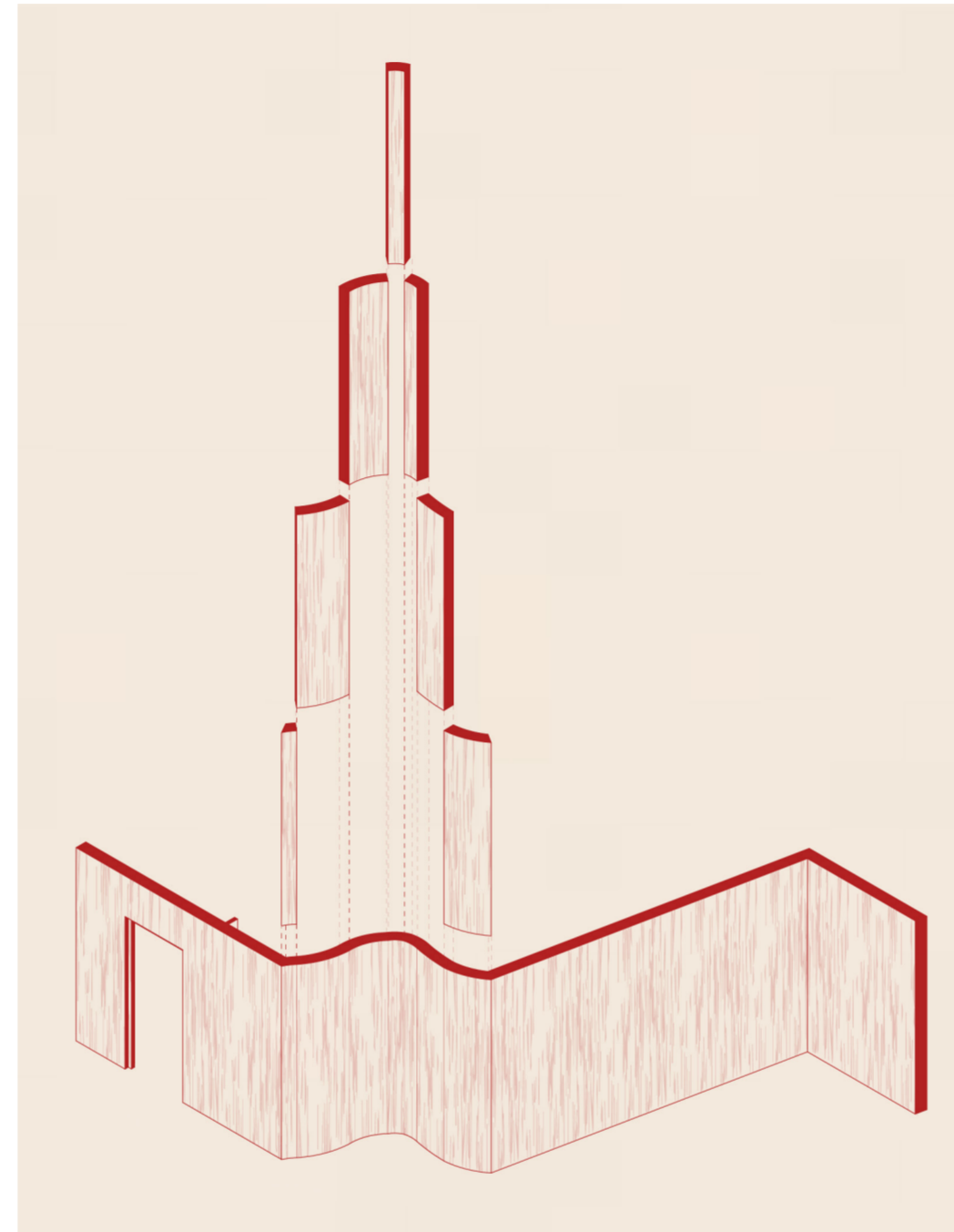


#### Skylights

Skylights will be present on the first floor of the new extension and on the roof of both buildings.

The flooring containing the skylights will be composed of two materials: Cross laminated timber (CLT) and toughened glass. The existing building is constructed using 'I' beams and this process will be continue to be used to construct the skylights. Strength to weight ratio is vital as the glass flooring on the first floor is the entrance to the offices, therefore people will be walking on it.

The design will outline the brickwork found across the courtyard. Additionally, it will allow the brickwork design to be seen at different perspectives, ensuring a trait of Latin American culture can be seen.



#### Walls

CLT will be used to construct the curved walls. The walls will be curved to follow the design found on the ground floor.

Processes such as left cutting, steam beanding and individual CLT staves can be used to produce the walls. However due to thickness, size and tight curves, CLT staves will be used to construct the curved walls.

Rooms that will contain the CLT walls:

- Offices on first floor
- Nursery on first floor
- Community space on second floor



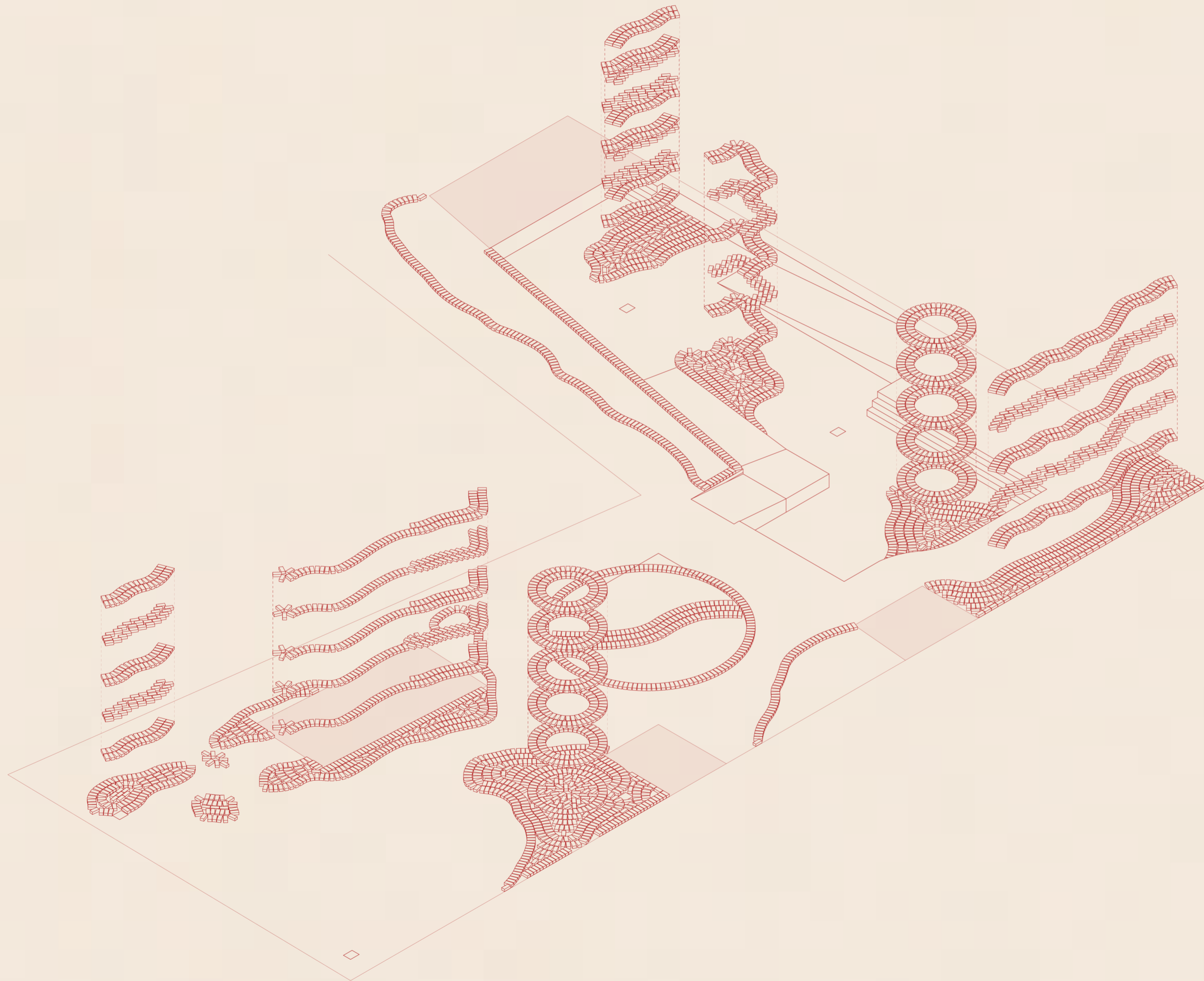
#### Furniture

Some floors will emphasise community activity, such as the brick workshop on the third floor. Therefore an open plan is most desired.

The workshop tables located in the brick workshop will be designed to outline the design on the ground floor, and will follow the curved shapes.

Due to the workshop environment, the workshop tables will be made out of hardwood, such as CLS timber.

The workshop tables are designed to hold all materials being used in the workshop, both above and underneath the tabletop.



The ground floor will become an open courtyard for the Kilburn community and new visitors. This will require the ground floor facades from both buildings to be knocked down.

The bricks that formed the ground floor facades will be reused to create the Latin American textile pattern. The brickwork will allow the pattern to be simple but yet complex. Additionally, mortar will be used to join all bricks together and stack each one on top when creating seating.

Some bricks will be made by the community themselves in the brick workshop on the third floor. This will allow the public to become one with the charity and be more involved in design process. It will also encourage community engagement.

## Para la comunidad

### Tercer piso

The third floor contains:

- Brick workshop for visitors

### Segundo piso

The second floor contains:

- Community space for hosted events (existing)
- Public toilets for visitors

### Primer piso

The first floor contains:

- LAH offices (existing)
- Translating documents (existing)
- Private toilets for employees
- Menchu Nursery (existing)
- Saturday Spanish school (existing)
- Toilets for students (existing)

### Planta baja

The ground floor contains:

- Kaipiras Brazilian Restaurant (existing)
- Small community garden for visitors
- Social/seating areas

New LAH building

Existing LAH building

