STOTT PARK BOBBIN MILL

Location: Lake Windermere, Cumbria, LA12 8AX
Built: 1835, Georgian-era
Heritage Category: Scheduled Monument
Period: Georgian (1714 - 1836)
Accessibility: Open for public

This mill was built to produce the wooden bobbins and reels vital to the Lancashire spinning and weaving industries. Bobbins were used to hold wool or cotton thread after it has been spun. They would produce a quarter of a million bobbins a week. The mill closed in 1971. In 1983 it reopened as an industrial monument. It is a complex of mainly stone buildings grouped around a courtyard, including lathe shops, an engine house, a boiler house and chimney, a blacksmith's shop, a circular saw shed, two coppice sheds and a wheel pit. The mill was mainly powered by a waterwheel. It is now in the care of English Heritage since 2011 and it's potentially the only working bobbin mill **left** in the world.

The Timber Atelier reimagines the historic Stott Park Bobbin Mill as a vibrant hub of creativity, inclusion, and regeneration. This adaptive reuse project honours the site's industrial past while embracing sustainable, low-carbon materials to foster environmental awareness and human well-being.
With a mission to empower NEET individuals through hands-on learning in traditional crafts and sustainable practices, the design transforms the mill into an inclusive space where skills, confidence, and community can grow.
Featuring tactile exhibitions, communal dining, creative workspaces, and immersive storytelling, the project creates a rich dialogue between heritage and innovation. The Timber Atelier exemplifies creative reuse by placing people, sustainability, and legacy at the heart of design, offering not just a space, but a future

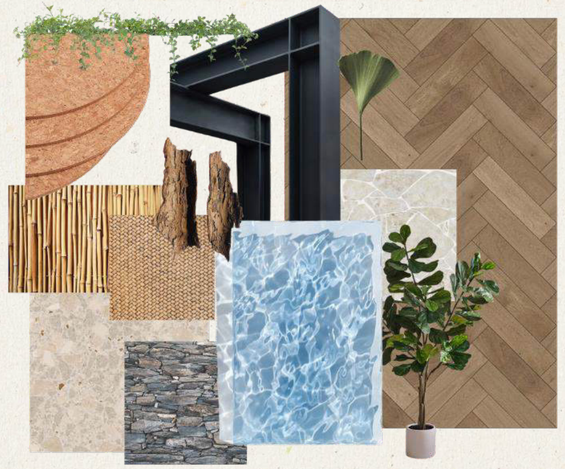
Target Audience

Who are Neet?

People who are not working or studying, often referred to as **"NEET"** (Not in Employment, Education, or Training), have a significantly higher risk of experiencing mental health problems, particularly depression and anxiety, compared to those who are employed or actively pursuing education; this is due to factors like feelings of isolation, low self-esteem, lack of purpose, and financial stress associated with being out of the workforce and without a clear path forward. Key points about the mental health risks of NEET individuals:
Increased prevalence of mental health issues
Social isolation and lack of structure
Financial stress
Low self-esteem
Learned helplessness
Factors that can mitigate the risks:
Access to mental health support:
Providing readily available mental health services to NEET individuals can help address their mental health concerns and provide coping mechanisms.
Skills development programs:
Training programs that equip NEET individuals with new skills can enhance their employability and boost self-esteem, improving mental health outcomes.
Social support networks:
Building strong social connections and support systems can help individuals cope with the challenges of being NEET.

Material Research

The materials used in this project reflect a commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. Reclaimed wood and biodegradable textiles are selected to reduce environmental impact and support circular design principles. By incorporating traditional craftsmanship, the project helps preserve heritage skills and strengthens local economies. Handcrafted and upcycled components also contribute to a low carbon footprint by requiring less energy than industrial production. Beyond environmental benefits, the use of ethically sourced, repairable materials encourages fair labour practices and promotes long-term, conscious consumption.



Project Name: Stott Park Bobbin Mill- The Timber Atelier

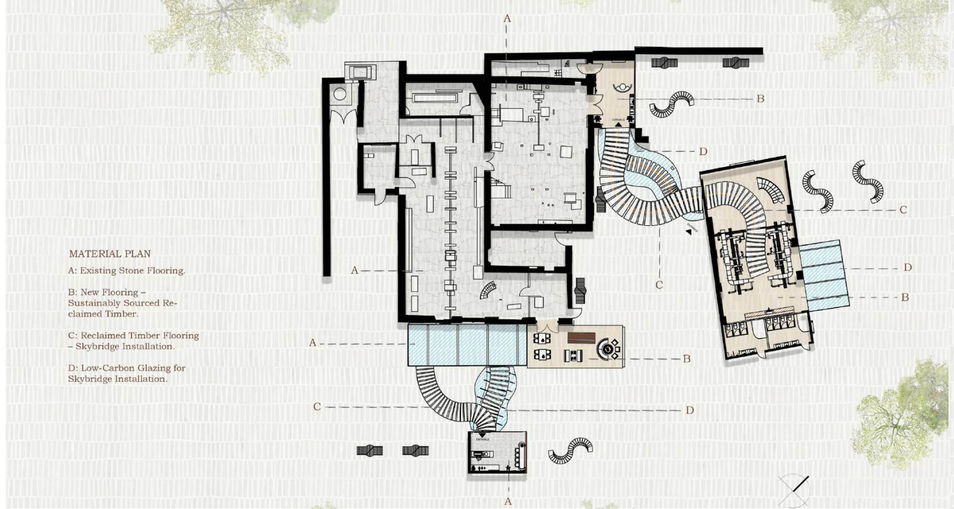
Location: Colton Hill, Lakeside, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8AX

Brief Context: The project focuses on the adaptive reuse of the Bobbin Mill, reviving the historic building through sensitive renovation to improve public accessibility. While the mill holds significant historical value, it has been largely overlooked in terms of architectural engagement. The proposal aims to introduce new facilities that attract the public and encourage creative use of the spaces, ensuring the site becomes an active and vibrant destination.

Project Goals: The goal of the project is to revive the historic Bobbin Mill through adaptive reuse, creating an accessible, sustainable, and inclusive space that fosters public engagement, creativity, and skills development

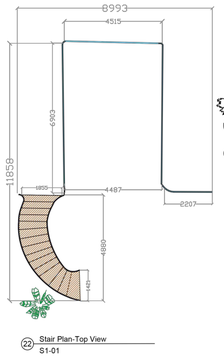
Design Approach: The design approach focuses on using low-carbon materials that enhance both environmental performance and occupant well-being, while introducing new elements that blend seamlessly with the existing historic structures. The project creates dynamic social, educational, and cultural spaces to support community engagement.

Functional Requirements: The project will include an exhibition space, library, restaurant, office areas, toilets, workshop, and an immersive hologram experience within the mill.

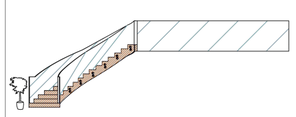


Proposed Floor Plan

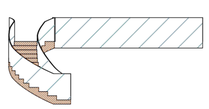
Lighting Plan



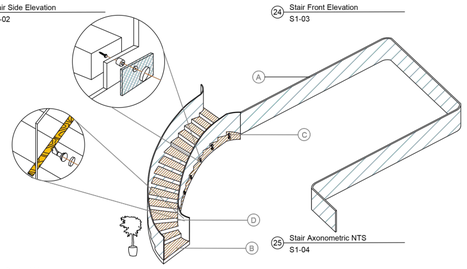
22 Stair Plan-Top View
S1-01



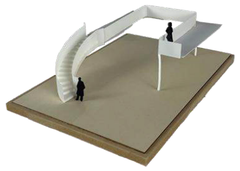
23 Stair Side Elevation
S1-02

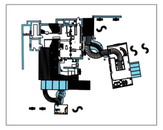


24 Stair Front Elevation
S1-03



25 Stair Axonometric NTS
S1-04

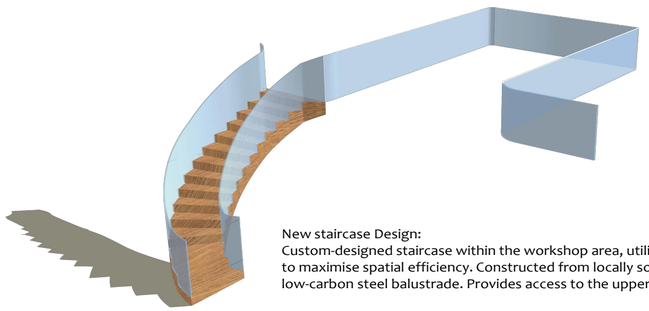




Dashed Lines
Dimension Lines
Existing Walls Lines
Glass Hatch
Wood Hatch

Key Plan:
A: Install low-carbon glass balustrades.
B: FSC-certified reclaimed timber panels for stair treads.
C: Screws fix the glass balustrades between the stair treads, providing clamped structural support.
D: Stair handrail fabricated from steel, designed for durability, structural integrity, and continuous support along the stair flight.

The former storage room will be transformed into a dedicated workshop space for craftspeople. New stairs will be installed to provide access to the first floor, constructed from FSC-certified reclaimed timber with a low-carbon glass balustrade. A timber and glass skybridge will extend from the main entrance outside into the workshop, reinforcing the creative, hands-on atmosphere. To ensure a healthy environment for occupants, the space will be enclosed with low-carbon glass walls and equipped with a ventilation and extraction system suitable for woodworking and other craft activities.

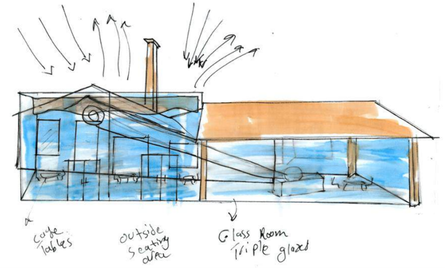


New staircase Design:
Custom-designed staircase within the workshop area, utilising the double-height ceiling to maximise spatial efficiency. Constructed from locally sourced reclaimed timber with a low-carbon steel balustrade. Provides access to the upper-level library and office spaces.

Community Empowerment Through Design

The project supports the local community by placing traditional craftsmanship at its core, offering inclusive, hands-on opportunities for people—particularly those not in education or employment—to learn practical, transferable skills. By introducing workshops, collaborative spaces, and mentorship opportunities, the design encourages social interaction, personal growth, and mutual support. It strengthens community bonds by creating an environment where individuals can connect through making, share knowledge, and build confidence through creative engagement.

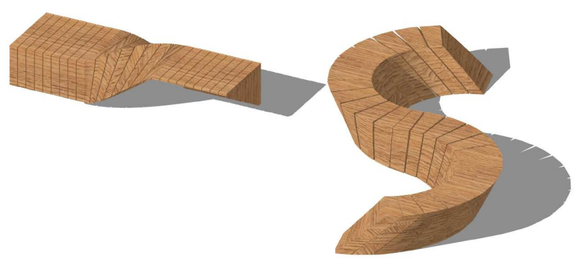
A second glass room will be attached to the former workshop, exhibition, and storage area. This new structure will span two floors: the ground floor will serve as an exhibition space for local artists and craftspeople to showcase their installations, while the first floor will function as a library and archive room—offering a quiet space for research, reading, or relaxation. The design includes reclaimed wood flooring, low-carbon glass walls with roll-down blinds, and jalousie windows to allow natural ventilation, promoting a healthy indoor environment. A sculptural wooden ceiling installation will add warmth and character to the library space. Track lighting will be integrated throughout to provide a dynamic and flexible atmosphere.



New seating benches will be distributed around the site, featuring two distinct designs. The first is a curved form inspired by the organic shapes of wood and bobbins, designed to encourage interaction among users. The second is a modern, twisted interpretation of the bobbin, offering a more sculptural and contemporary aesthetic. Both seating types will be constructed from sustainably sourced local timber, reinforced with internal steel frames to hold the separate panels together, and securely fixed to the ground. These sitting areas are thoughtfully integrated with the timber skybridge, enhancing flow and connectivity throughout the site.

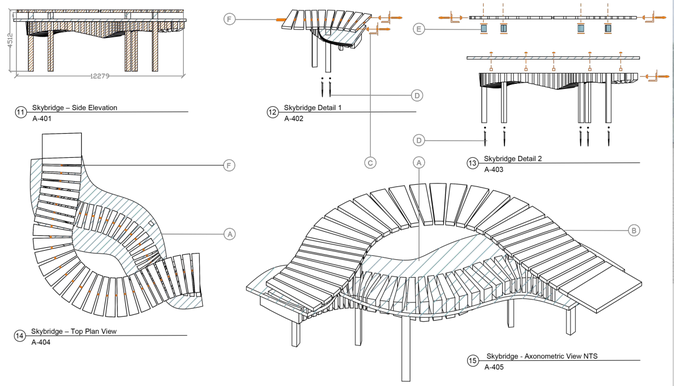
The restaurant space will feature a large, original mill wheel on the wall, preserved and showcased as a central design element. The interior concept follows an industrial-modern aesthetic, integrating sustainable furniture such as reclaimed wood tables and eco-friendly chairs. The restaurant will be housed in a newly constructed glass room attached to the mill as a form of parasitic architecture, inviting visitors to enjoy the calming views of Windermere. The glass walls will be made from low-carbon materials and include roll-down blinds to offer shade when needed. The original slate brick walls will be retained to honour the building's heritage, while the flooring will consist of reclaimed timber. Solar-powered modern lighting will enhance the atmosphere, and a sculptural wooden ceiling installation inspired by wood shavings will add warmth and character to the space.

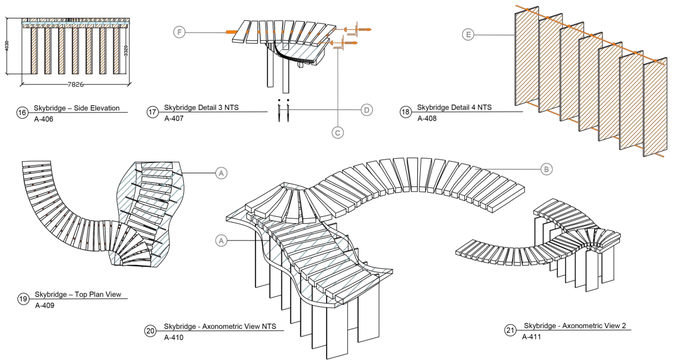
Model-Making Approach:
The seating area model was 3D printed, as the intricate, separate timber panels proved challenging to achieve through laser cutting. The 3D print successfully captures the sculptural quality of the design, highlighting its unique form and offering an excellent opportunity to experiment with complex geometries in a physical model.



Seating Area Design:
The seating areas were designed in SketchUp, drawing inspiration from the organic forms of wood shavings. One seating arrangement encourages communication by allowing people to sit facing each other, while the second design features a twisted form, also inspired by the natural movement of wood shavings, offering a more dynamic and sculptural experience.

This visual shows the front elevation of the building, highlighting the entrance and the newly added skybridge. The skybridge connects the existing historic structure with the new, modern workshop area, facilitating circulation while providing shelter in various weather conditions. Constructed using reclaimed FSC-certified timber, low-carbon glass, and a supporting steel frame, the bridge balances sustainability with structural integrity. It is secured with ground-anchored steel screws. A digital welcome screen featuring the mill's logo is positioned at the entrance to greet visitors and reinforce the site's identity.

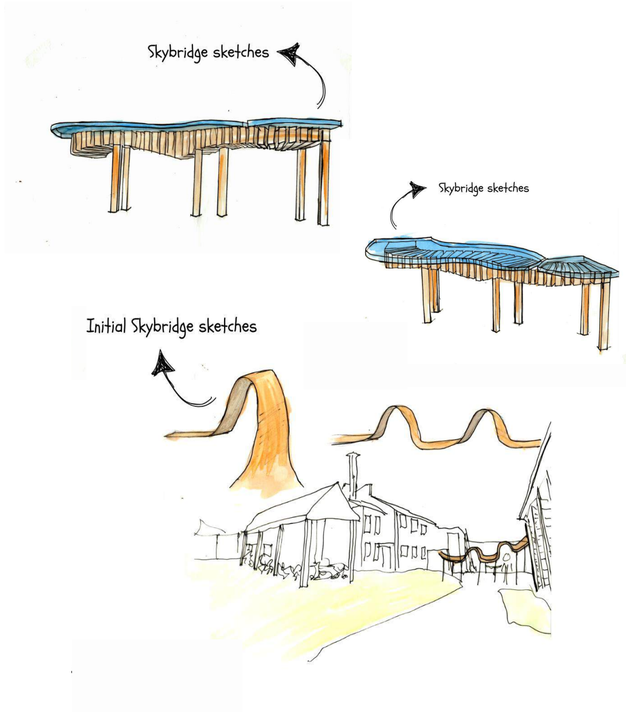


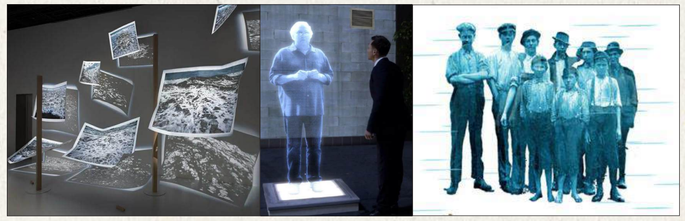


These visuals depict the front of the café and restaurant area. A second skybridge is introduced to provide shelter for visitors purchasing coffee and cakes from the café before moving across to the restaurant. Formerly a blacksmith's workshop, the space is being repurposed into a café to address the local shortage of such amenities. Behind the newly installed glass walls of the restaurant, guests will enjoy stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The café interior will feature natural stone flooring paired with sustainable tiles, along with an eco-conscious bar and seating made from reclaimed materials. A thoughtfully designed ventilation system will be integrated, complemented by a colour palette inspired by choreography to enhance the sensory atmosphere.

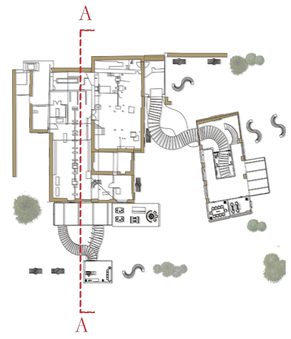
Design Development / Skybridge 3D Card Model

Model-Making Approach:
The physical model is constructed using laser-cut cardboard to represent the timber elements, combined with acrylic sheets to simulate the glass components. This method accurately demonstrates the materiality and structure of the final design, highlighting the integration of reclaimed timber and low-carbon glass.





These sectional visuals illustrate the immersive hologram experience proposed for both the ground and first floors of the mill. Holographic projections will be installed using ceiling-mounted projectors and wall-mounted screens, recreating scenes of mill children during their working hours. This sensory installation offers visitors a powerful visual narrative that brings the mill's history to life, bridging the gap between past and present. By experiencing the stories of child labourers in the 19th century, younger generations will embark on a reflective journey into industrial heritage—deepening their understanding of historical working conditions and the evolution of labour rights.



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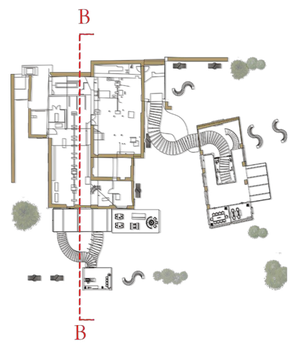

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