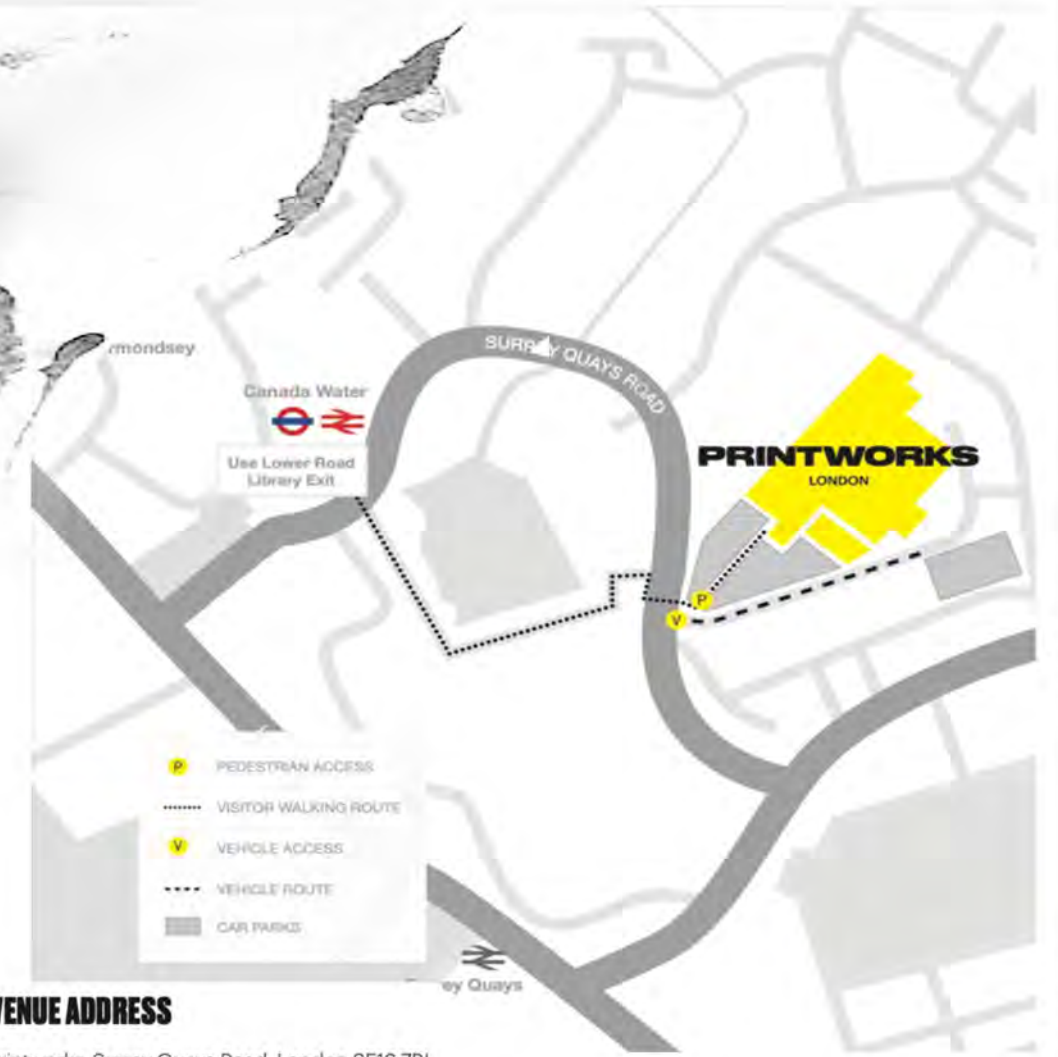


Printworks Members Club

The Ink Club

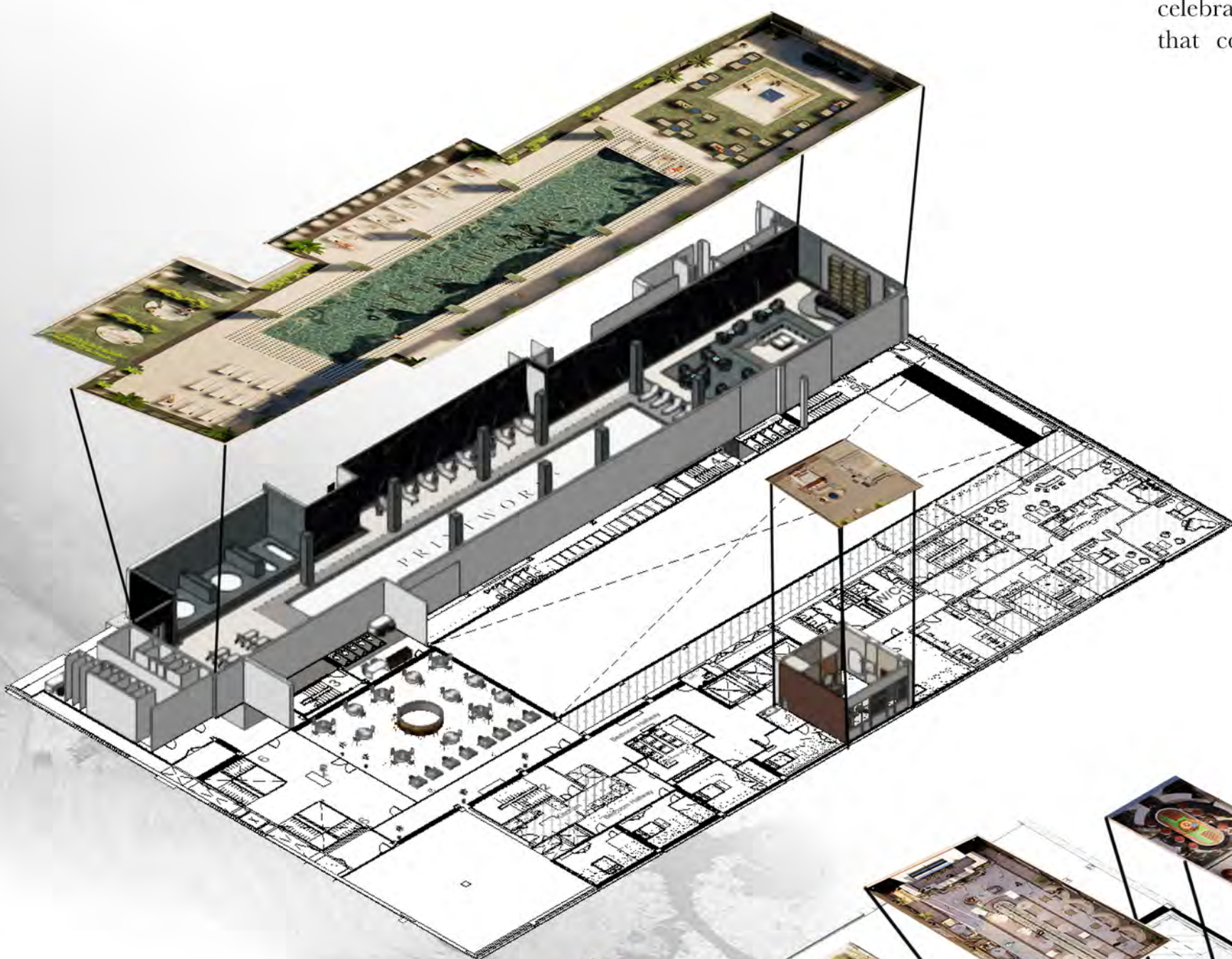
The project centers on the transformation of the iconic Printworks building in London into an exclusive private members club named The INK Club. Once the largest printing facility in Western Europe and home to major newspapers such as The Evening Standard, the Daily Mail, and Metro, Printworks has since evolved into a world-renowned venue for culture, nightlife, and hybrid events. Although currently closed and awaiting redevelopment, I have chosen to reimagine the space with a focus on preserving its industrial heritage. The proposed concept repurposes two floors of the building to create a luxurious and intimate club environment, incorporating a reception area, pool and bar, lounge and bar, bedroom suite, and a hidden speakeasy bar to provide a unique and memorable experience. By blending the site's rich historical identity with contemporary design, The INK Club offers a new lease of life to the Printworks legacy, establishing it as a distinctive cultural and social destination in London.



VENUE ADDRESS

Printworks, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 7PJ

The design concepts for The INK Club were deeply inspired by the historic function of Printworks as a major newspaper printing facility. Through extensive research into the site's past, I explored the intricate mechanics and aesthetics of the printing press, translating these into spatial and material ideas throughout the club. Five core concepts were then developed, each rooted in the qualities of the traditional press: the movement of paper through the machinery, the embossing effect of the press, upper and lower case lettering inspired varying spatial scales, the fluid motion of ink; and finally, the physicality of letterpress blocks. These references not only celebrate the building's legacy but also create a narrative-rich environment that connects past and present through thoughtful, immersive design.



Concept 1 - Bar/ Lounge: The movement of paper through a printing press



Concept 2 - Bedroom: Embossing



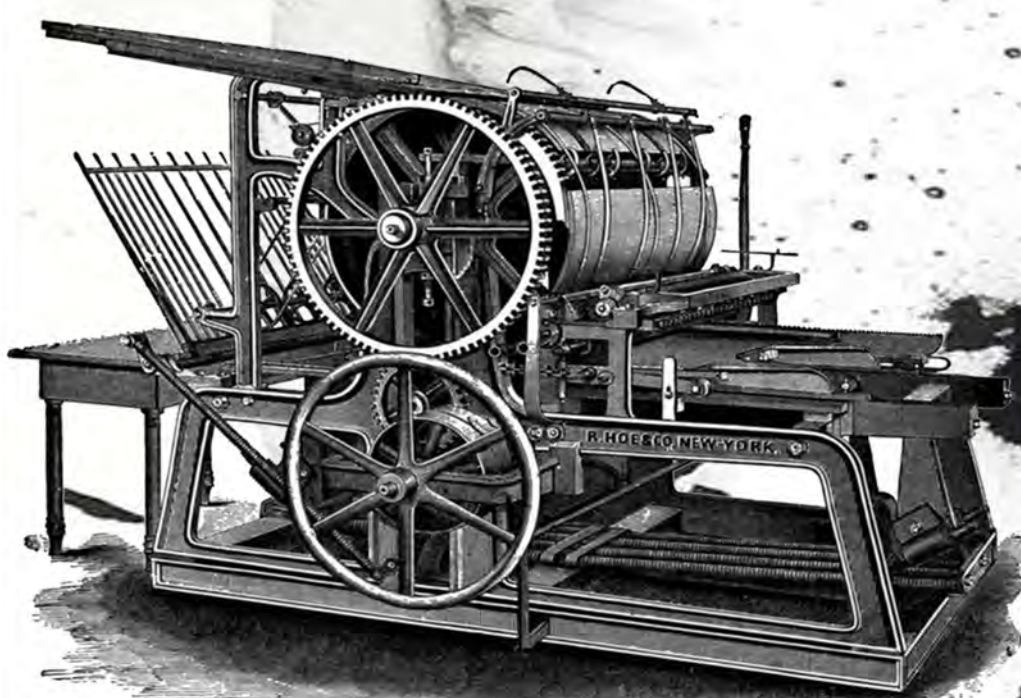
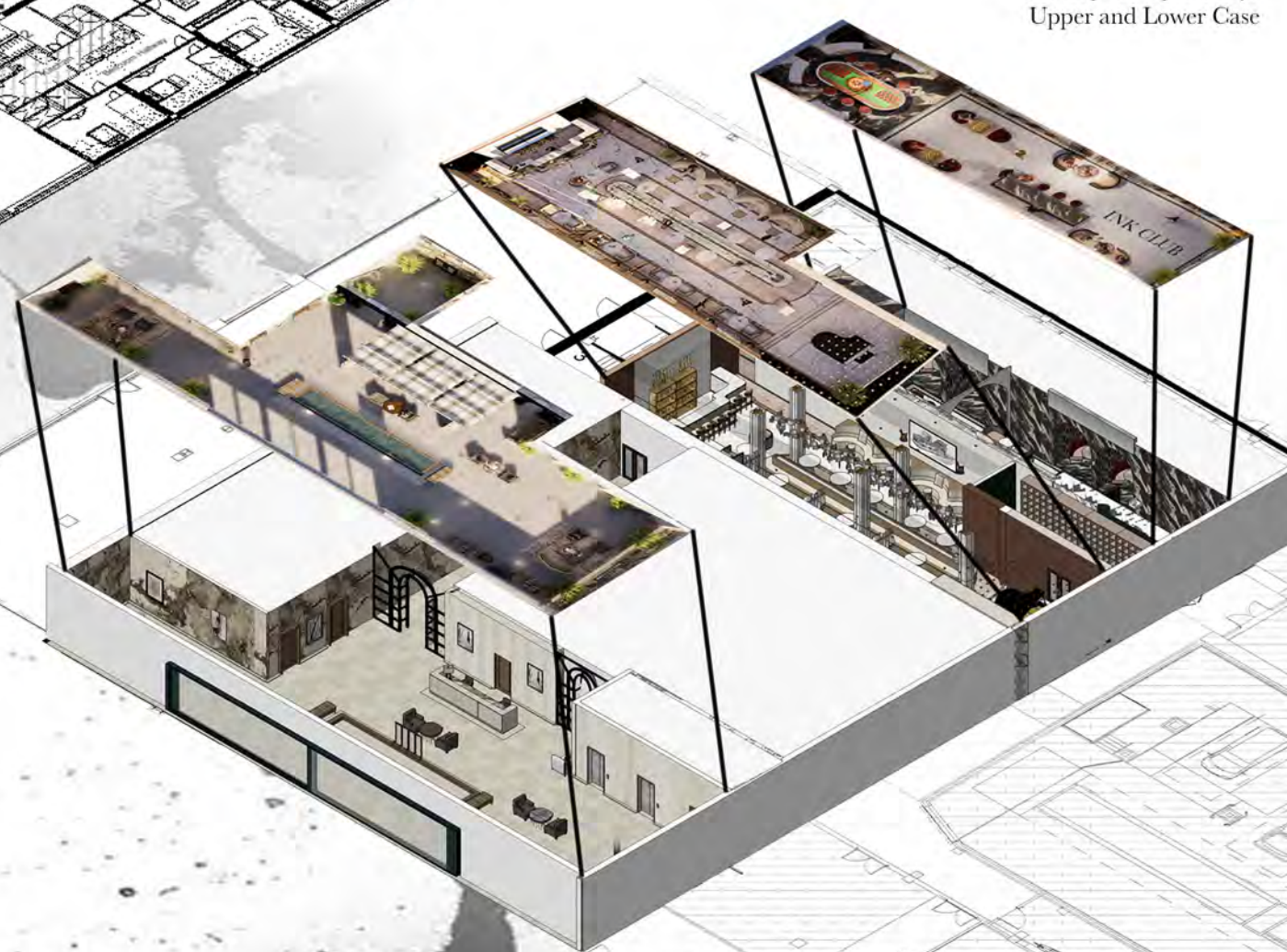
Concept 3 - Speakeasy: Upper and Lower Case



Concept 4 - Reception: Movement of ink



Concept 5 - Pool: Letter press letters



The Ink Club

Emily Gentle



Reception desk view

The dripping table, designed by John Brevard which can be viewed in the back view of reception render, captures the natural flow of ink, embodying its fluidity and unpredictability. The Austrian vintage sculptural Murano glass wall light echoes the translucency and movement of ink, with its organic curves reflecting the dynamic nature of ink suspended in air or water. At the heart of the space, a pond with koi fish and a waterfall feature serves as a focal point, adding motion and sound, while aligning with the ink concept, as water shares similar fluid qualities. Bold patterns are incorporated throughout to create an impactful experience, providing energy and depth while balancing softer elements. To ensure a welcoming entry, a suspended ceiling was placed at the entrance, reducing the height and making the space feel more intimate. Once inside, the space opens up dramatically, revealing a mirrored ceiling above the reception, enhancing flow and reflection, and emphasising the theme of ink's movement. Lounging areas are placed throughout the reception, providing spaces to relax, wait, or unwind. Within these areas, the Charcoal Rosette Chandelier adds meaning, referencing the history of ink making when charcoal was used in production. The cascading effect mirrors the movement of ink droplets, further reinforcing the concept. This cohesive design creates an immersive, atmospheric experience, blending historical references with modern elegance.

Reception

The reception draws inspiration from the fluid movement and translucency of ink, translating these qualities into a light, reflective environment. By incorporating mirrored surfaces, the design captures the shifting, ephemeral nature of ink as it disperses creating a sense of depth. The colour palette was kept soft and airy to maintain a welcoming atmosphere, while subtle references to the rich tones of ink are woven in through refined materials and accents. This balance allows the space to feel contemporary and elegant, while still honoring the expressive qualities of ink that inspired the design.



Waiting area view by lifts



Waiting area view by entrance



Rendered Floor Plan: Not to scale



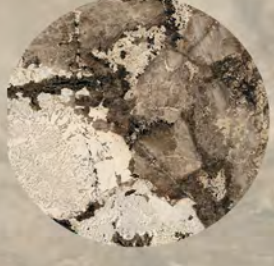
Orbella in Blythe Fabric by Liberty



Plumage Fabric by Lizzo



Biscaya Fabric by Camengo



Mokka Flame Natural R10 Finish



Effecto Wallpaper by Clarke & Clarke



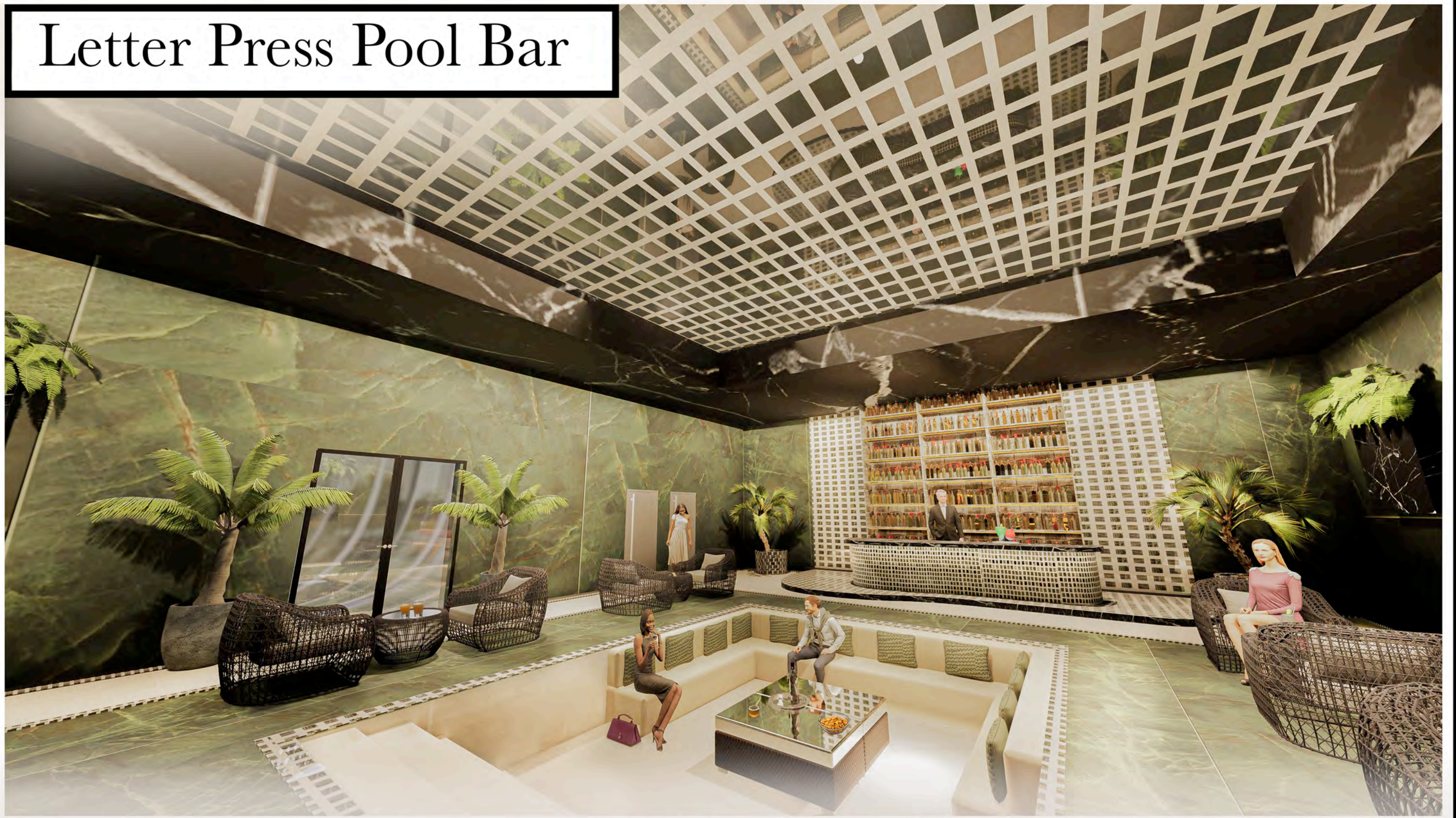
Back view of reception



The Ink Club

Emily Gentle

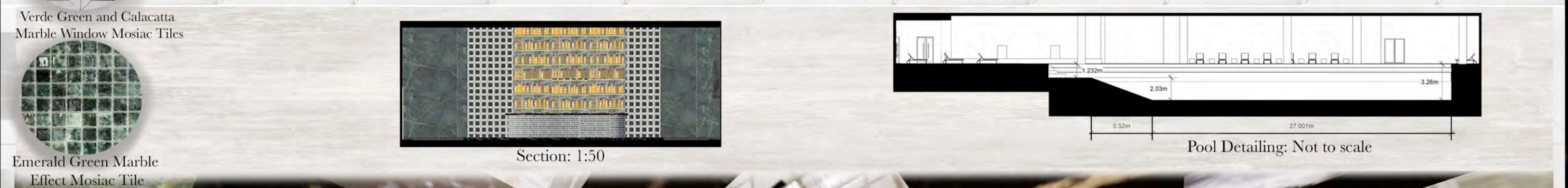
Letter Press Pool Bar



Exclusively reserved for members, the pool area offers a private retreat nestled within the architectural void. At its far end, a bar and lounging area completes the experience, allowing guests to relax, enjoy a drink, or share a meal in a setting that channels the leisurely, transportive feeling of being abroad. Within this space, sunken seating has been thoughtfully incorporated to enhance the sense of modern relaxation. This design not only invites guests to unwind in a more intimate, grounded setting but also expands seating capacity for those who may be visiting to network or socialise, fostering a casual yet refined atmosphere. The concept of the letterpress is further echoed through the material selection, particularly in the use of the verde green marble window mosaic tiles. These tiles mirror the squared, modular structure of traditional letterpress blocks, reinforcing the grid-like precision and tactile quality of the printing process. The rich green tone adds warmth and depth to the space, softening its industrial undertones while evoking a luxurious, inviting atmosphere.



Rendered Floor Plan: Not to scale



Section: 1:50

Pool Detailing: Not to scale



PRINTWORKS POOL



Pool entrance view

The concept of letterpress printing is embedded not only in the form and texture of the space, but also in the placement and mirroring of text itself. The word Printworks appears both on the ceiling and on the floor of the pool, directly referencing how letterpress type is set in reverse to create a correct impression when printed. On the ceiling, the reversed text represents the raised type block, while the pool floor displays the legible word, echoing the final print. This deliberate mirroring reinforces the relationship between type and impression, original and outcome. The use of frosted glass above the pool enhances this concept allowing guests to look up through the void toward the source of the “print,” while remaining unseen from above evoking the dual qualities of visibility and privacy found in the printing process, and creating an immersive architectural homage to the mechanics of the press.

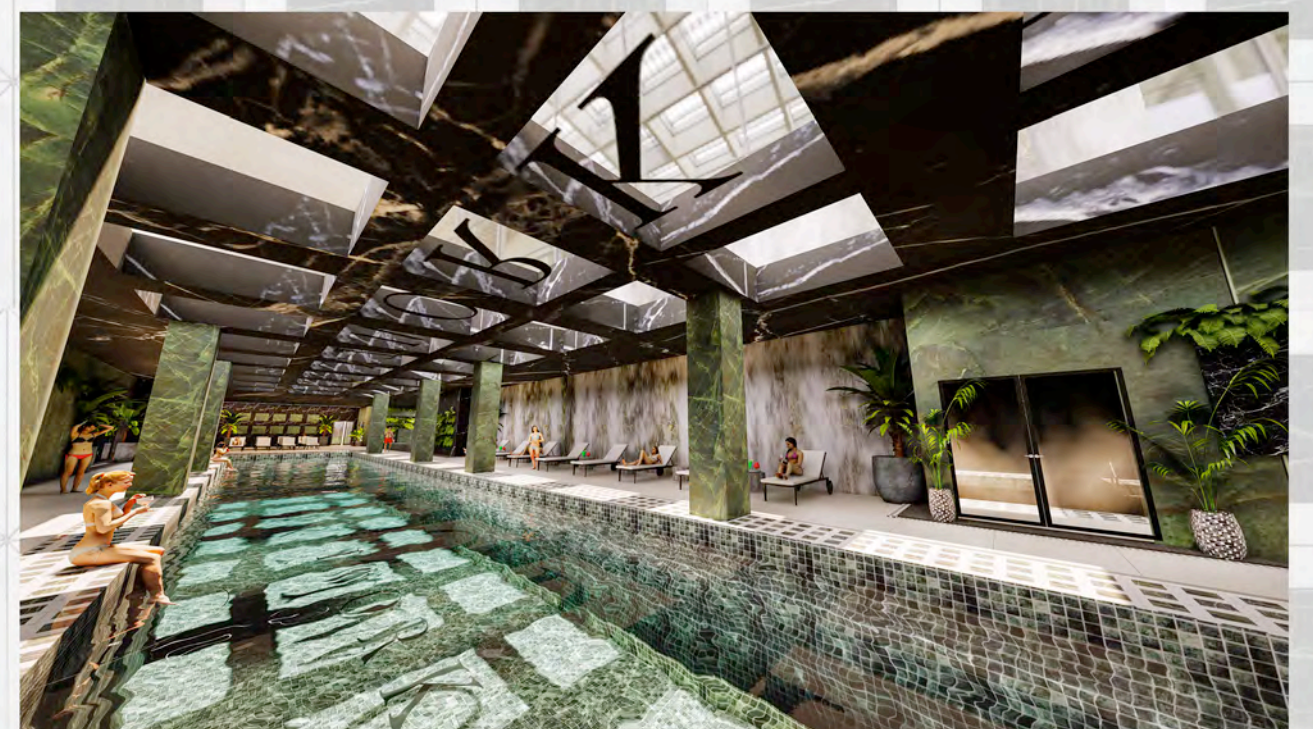
The concept for this space draws inspiration from the mechanics and aesthetics of letterpress printing, particularly the square form of individual press letters and the tactile quality of ink embossed onto paper. This geometric and textural language is echoed in the architectural details most notably in the ceiling, where structured patterns reference the grid of type blocks. The pool itself is situated within a central void, reminiscent of the industrial cavities found in historic printworks. Above, a ceiling of frosted glass provides both illumination and privacy allowing guests in the pool to gaze upward through the void without being visible from above, maintaining an intimate and secluded atmosphere within the open structure.



Back view of pool



Back view of pool



Middle view of pool



INK CLUB

Speakeasy Bar

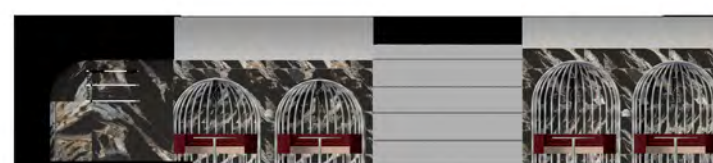
The concept for the speakeasy bar is inspired by upper and lower case letters, a reference rooted in the history of the printing press, where movable type was stored in two separate drawers: capital letters in the upper case and more frequently used small letters in the lower case. This typographic concept is explored both literally and spatially throughout the bar's design. Bespoke porcelain letter tiles in upper and lower case are used for the flooring of the space. To bring the concept into the physical experience of the space, varying levels and subtle steps allow guests to move between "upper" and "lower" zones, playfully mirroring the historical typesetting process.



Entrance



Rendered Floor Plan: Not to scale



1:100



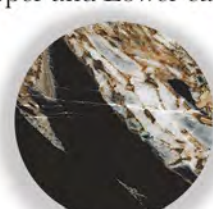
1:100



Kelly Hoppen signature
Black and White tiles



Upper and Lower case tiles



Phoenix Nero Polished Porcelain



Stainless Steel

In keeping with the secretive nature of a speakeasy, the entrance is hidden behind a library wall, which connects to the lounge and bar, adding a sense of mystery and discovery that enhances the intimate, layered atmosphere of the space. The speakeasy has been designed as both a games room and bar for members, creating a multifunctional and intimate space. Chess tables double as drink tables, blending leisure and social interaction. At the back, a casino table adds a playful element, accompanied by shelving for wine storage, allowing members to keep bottles for personal use. To enhance the exclusive feel, private booth seating is integrated throughout the bar, reinforcing the sense of privacy and retreat within the club.



Casino and chess tables



Booth Seating



Back of bar



Press And Pour Bar Bar and Lounge



Bar view

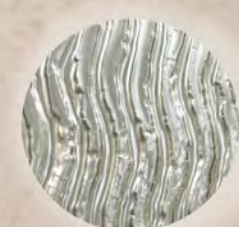
Inspired by the movement of paper through a printing press, the bar and lounge reflect both the fluid motion and translucent qualities of paper. Bespoke glass dividers bend like sheets in motion, while a curved bar becomes a central focal point, continuing onto the ceiling and mirrored surfaces to emphasise flow. Organic curves define the rhythm of the space, echoing the continuous path of printed paper. Furniture like the Nahema Chair, with sculpted hands, subtly references the printmasters who guide sheets through the press. A bespoke lighting feature, inspired by the Aurora installation by Dassault and Mamou-Mani, hangs above central booth seating, where a water feature reflects movement and light. At the back, a piano surrounded by mirrors enhances both the atmosphere and the immersive, reflective character of the design.



Left side of bar



Rendered Floor Plan: Not to scale



Minster - Pilkington Glass



Calacatta Dorato Natural Finish



Prestigious Textiles Canova Ecrú Fabric



Moodesty Shell Mosaic



1:50



1:50



Back of bar



The Gilded Press Bedroom



The bedroom and bathroom were inspired by the process of embossing drawing directly from the delicate impression left by letterpress printing, where each letter subtly imprints into the paper. It was this tactile, refined quality that informed the overall atmosphere of the space. I focused on creating a sensory experience centered around touch, selecting materials and finishes that evoke a sense of texture and depth. Embossed elements such as hammered brass and wallpapers like Antigua 33056, which has a raised, tactile surface, help reinforce this theme. A pop of burnt orange was introduced to bring warmth and contrast into the space, softening the industrial character of the building and preventing it from feeling too cold or stark. Every detail, from the texture of the walls to the finish of the fittings, was carefully curated to create a bedroom and bathroom that are not only visually refined but also inviting through touch, offering a quiet, intimate counterpoint to the building's robust architectural shell.



Agean Rose Polished Marble Tile



Antigua Ritorto 33056



Inca Spice 813R



Abstract Leaves Wallpaper by Eijffinger 340120



Rendered Floor Plan: Not to scale



Scale 1:100



Scale 1:100

The material selection for the bathroom was driven by a strong focus on texture, drawing inspiration from the embossed qualities of the traditional printing press. Cobblestone was chosen as a key material to evoke this tactile, raised effect, adding depth and visual interest to the space. To balance and refine the rugged texture, smooth marble was incorporated, creating a seamless and elegant contrast. Built-in shelving was carefully integrated within the shower and above the toilet, designed to appear as though it has been pressed or embossed directly into the walls further reinforcing the concept and creating a cohesive, sculptural feel throughout the bathroom.

Bathroom

