

The Police Section House, Chatham Historic Dockyard

The Studio Hotel

Sofia Clement

The Site

Located within Chatham Historic Dockyard, the Police Section House is a Grade II listed building originally constructed to accommodate unmarried and visiting police officers, fire watchers and guards during the 19th and 20th centuries. The building's last known occupancy was in 1984, when the dockyard closed, leaving the building to slowly deteriorate.

Project Concept

The Studio Hotel offers a unique retreat for painters who seek out creativity even while travelling and a exciting new space for local creatives. Inspired by the building's original role as housing for police officers and designed to support both independent practice and artistic exchange, the hotel offers eight guest rooms, each with a personal painting studio. Guests can choose to collaborate with neighbouring artists or work independently on personal projects both in their own studio and the main shared painting studio. Drawing inspiration from the Italian Riviera and the romantic works of Jean-Honoré Fragonard, the interior combines coastal elegance with playful Rococo influences. Soft pastels and layered textures create a warm reimagining of the dockyard setting.

At the heart of the hotel is a large, bespoke-designed painting studio that offers visitors the opportunity to work alongside local artists and students from the dockyard community. Painting, one of the oldest forms of communication, predating spoken language, serves here as a bridge between the dockyard's diverse creative communities and its visitors. This connection is fostered through the studio, adjoining creative facilities and gallery spaces, creating a sequence of interconnected environments that celebrate both the artistic process and the sharing of ideas.



Paint

Stay

Connect



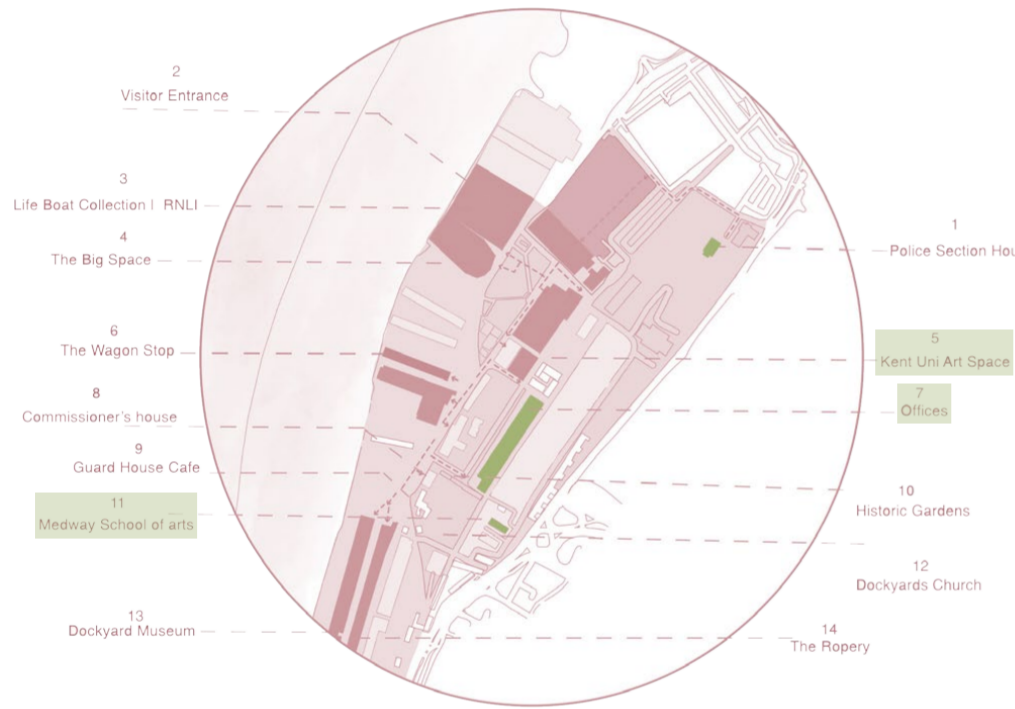
Concept Development

Site Photographs



Creative Points On The Dockyard

The dockyard hosts two main types of creatives those studying and working however there is no common place for them to connect



Site Users



Who?	16y- 21y Student at Medway School of Art or The University of Kent	18y+ Resident artist or creative employee working within the dockyard	16y+ Short-term stay creative individuals residing as a guest at the hotel
Why?	Access to professional facilities, networking opportunities for future roles, collaboration opportunities.	Flexible/ alternate workspaces, Exhibition opportunities, Networking opportunities	Unique immersive creative experience, new connections with like-minded people
User Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spaces to display work - Unique painting amenities - Easily accessible studios - Areas for crits and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spaces for meetings - Unique painting amenities - Easily accessible studios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A comfortable, luxurious hotel room and bathroom - A place to eat during their stay - Unique painting amenities

The History Of Painting- A Time Line Of Painting and Art Within The West

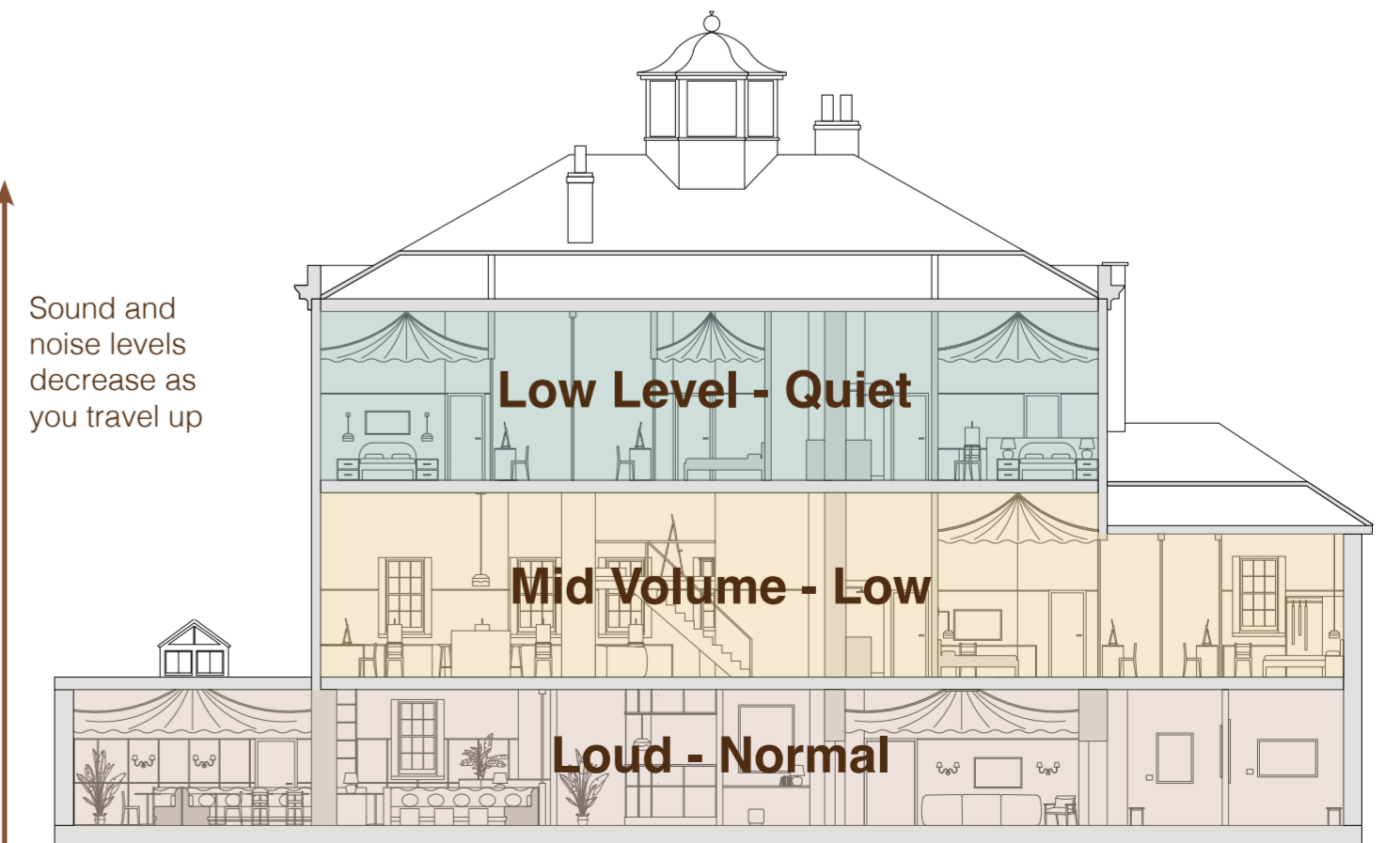
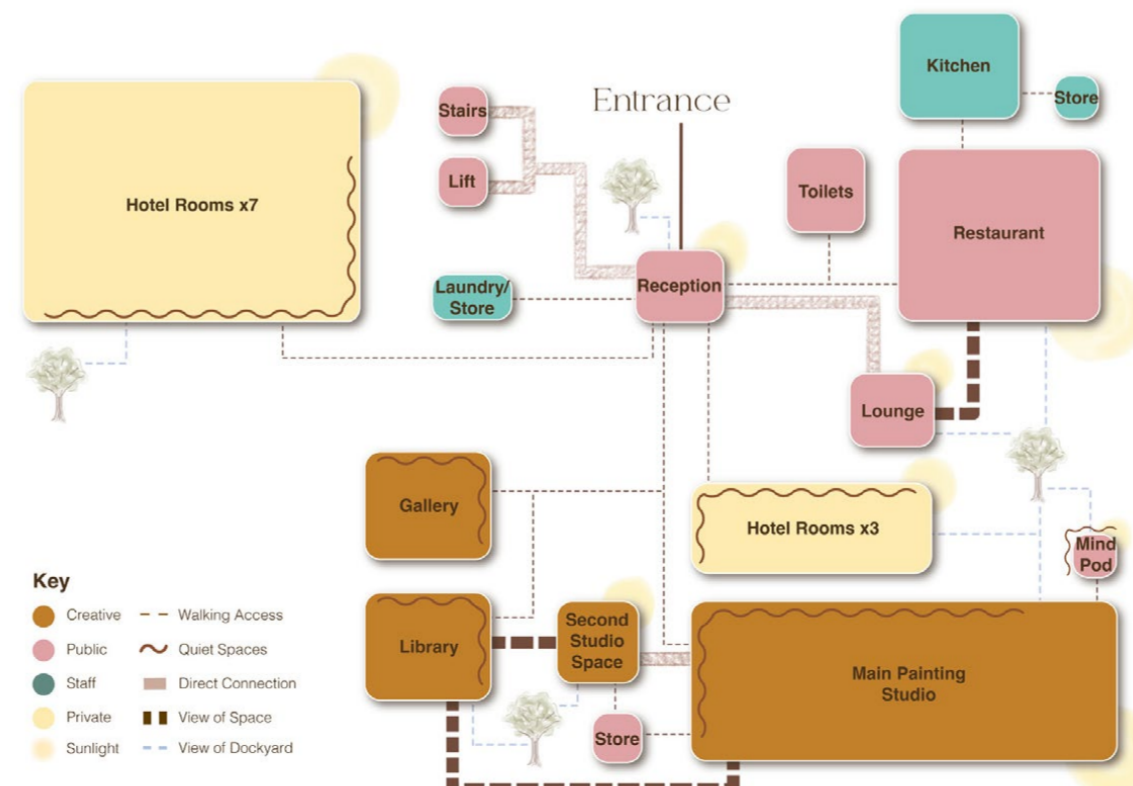


Painting Style Analysis

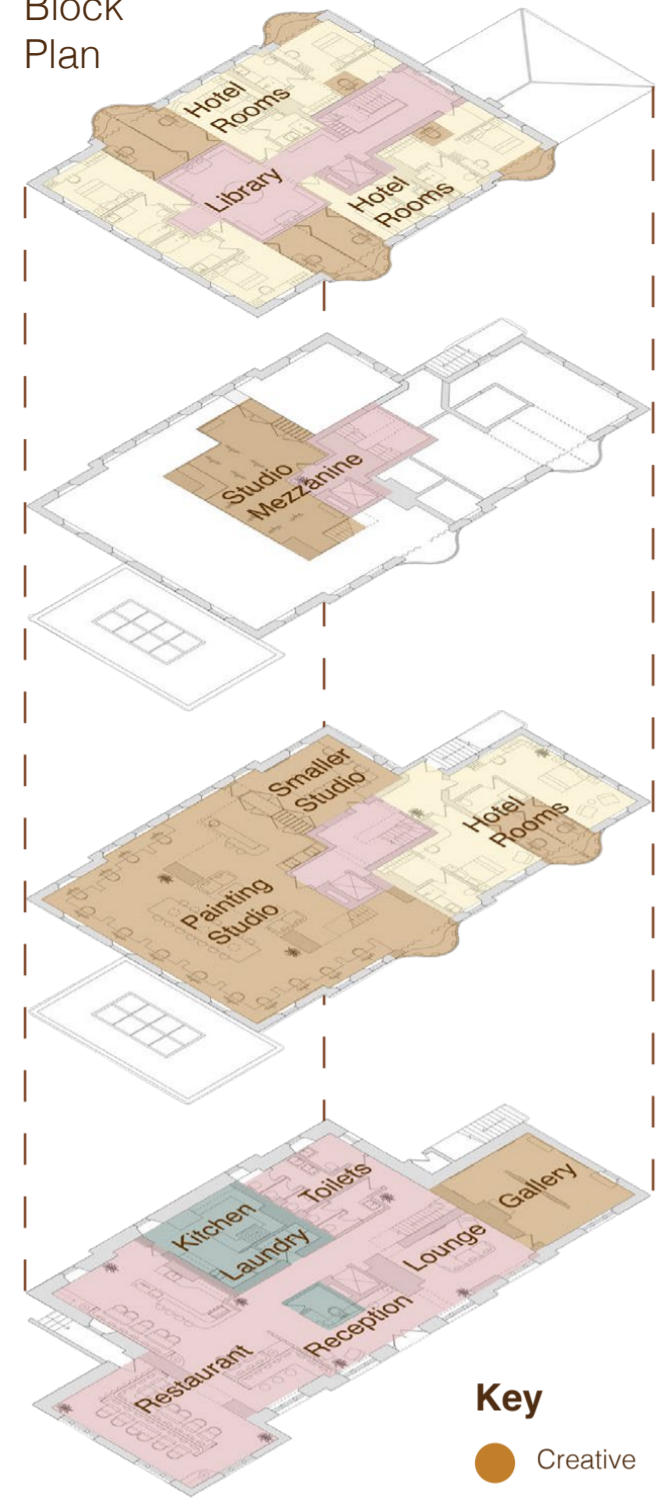
Characteristics of Jean-Honoré Fragonard's paintings that influenced my design narrative

Final Bubble Map

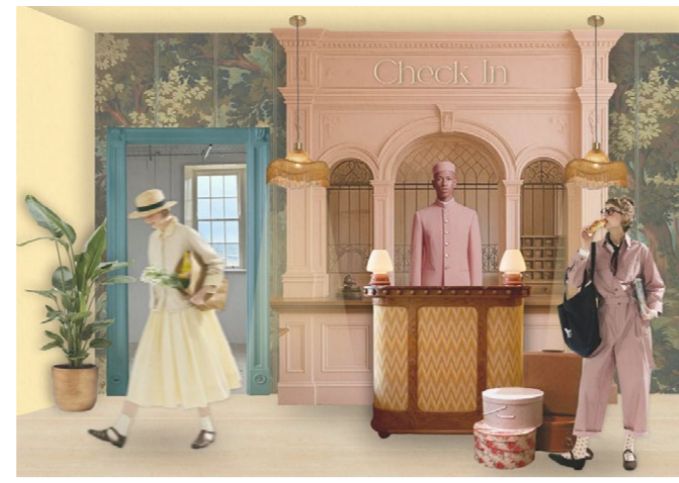
Starting Point For Plans "Ideal Layout"



Block Plan



Painting Studio Concept Collage



Reception Area Concept Collage

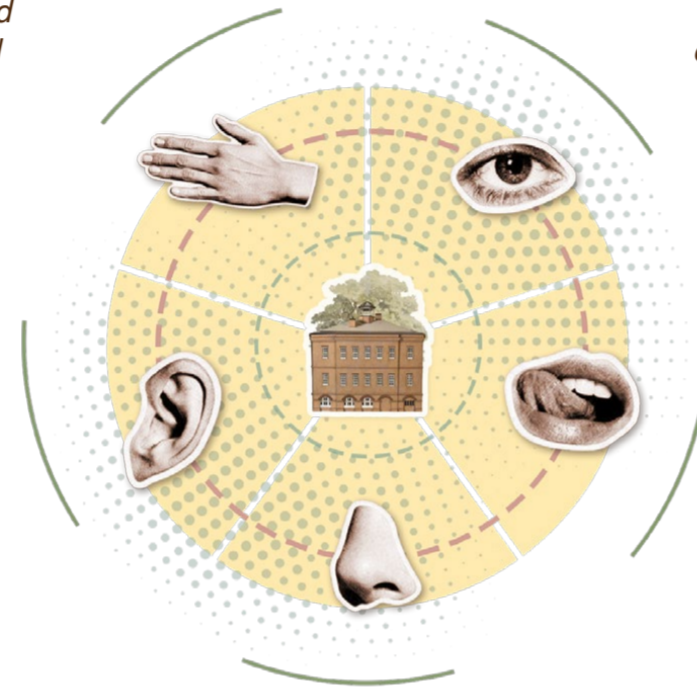


Hotel Room Concept Collage

Warmth of the sun on your skin, a warm breeze drifting through open studio doors, Soft upholstery and bed linens, Wooden easels and textured canvas.

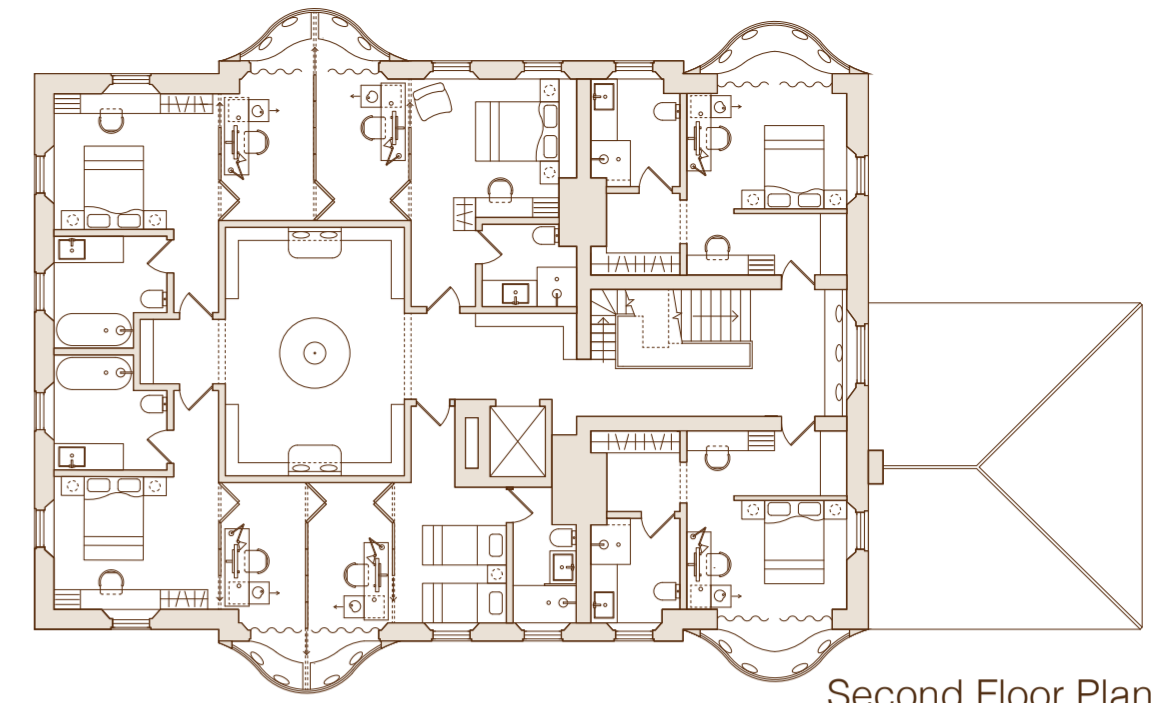
Warm Sunlight and ambient lighting, soft pastels, sheer curtains, easels and paintings on display, greenery, views across the dockyard

Paintbrushes on canvases, birdsong, gentle conversation between artists exchanging ideas, paper rustling, clink of paint jars, glasses and cutlery.

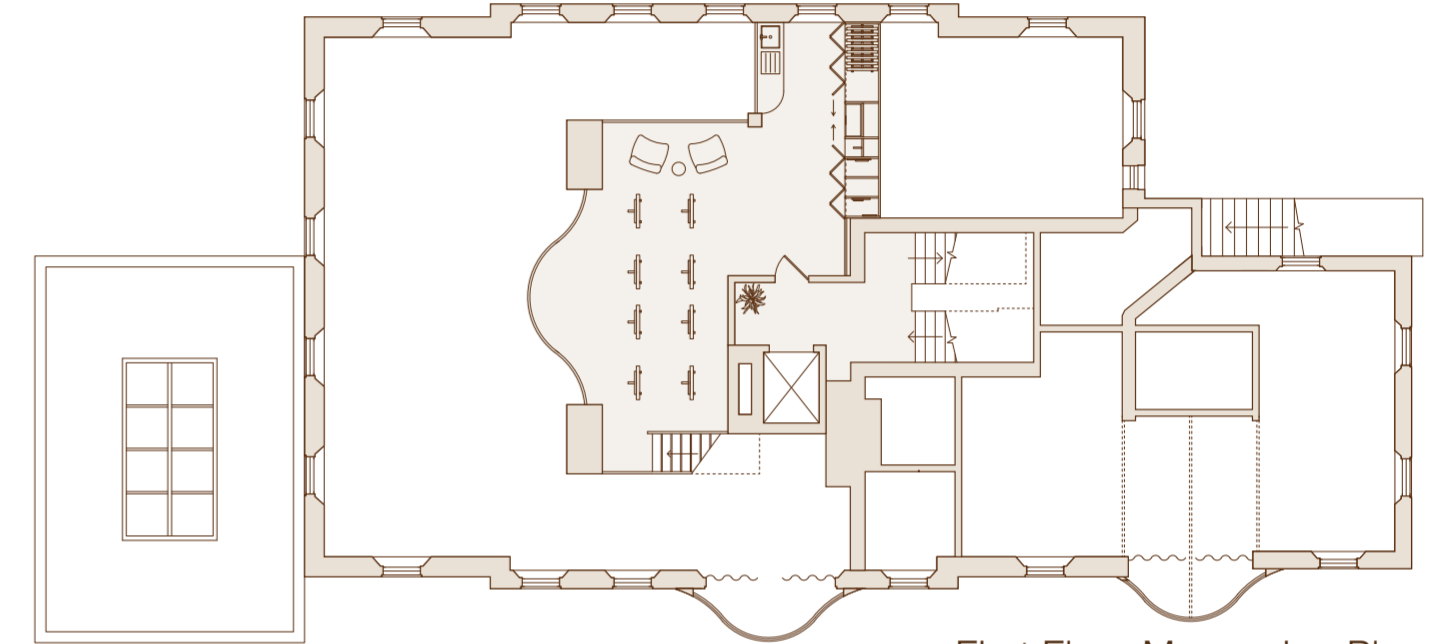


Linseed oil and paint, freshly washed linens, espresso and pastries, old books, citrus and floral

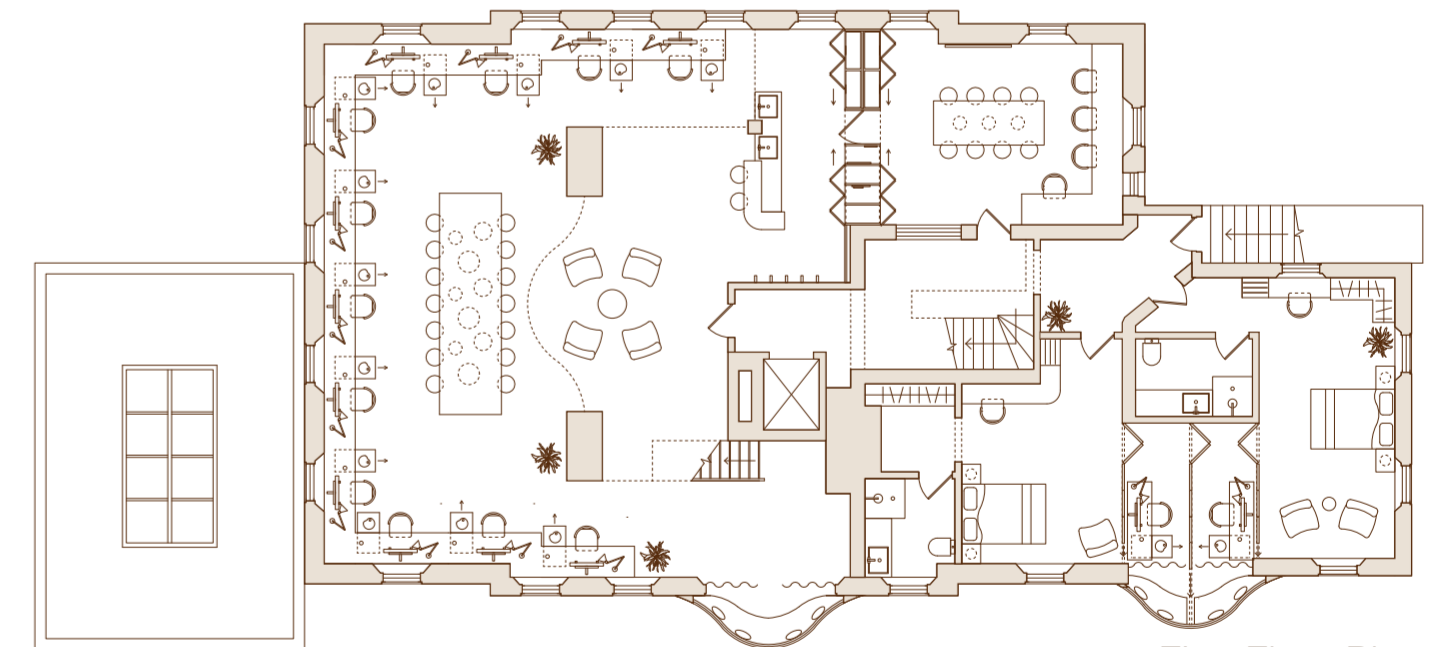
Italian coffee and pastries, sophisticated meals inspired by the sea and surrounding area, lemonchello cocktails and crisp wine to wind down.



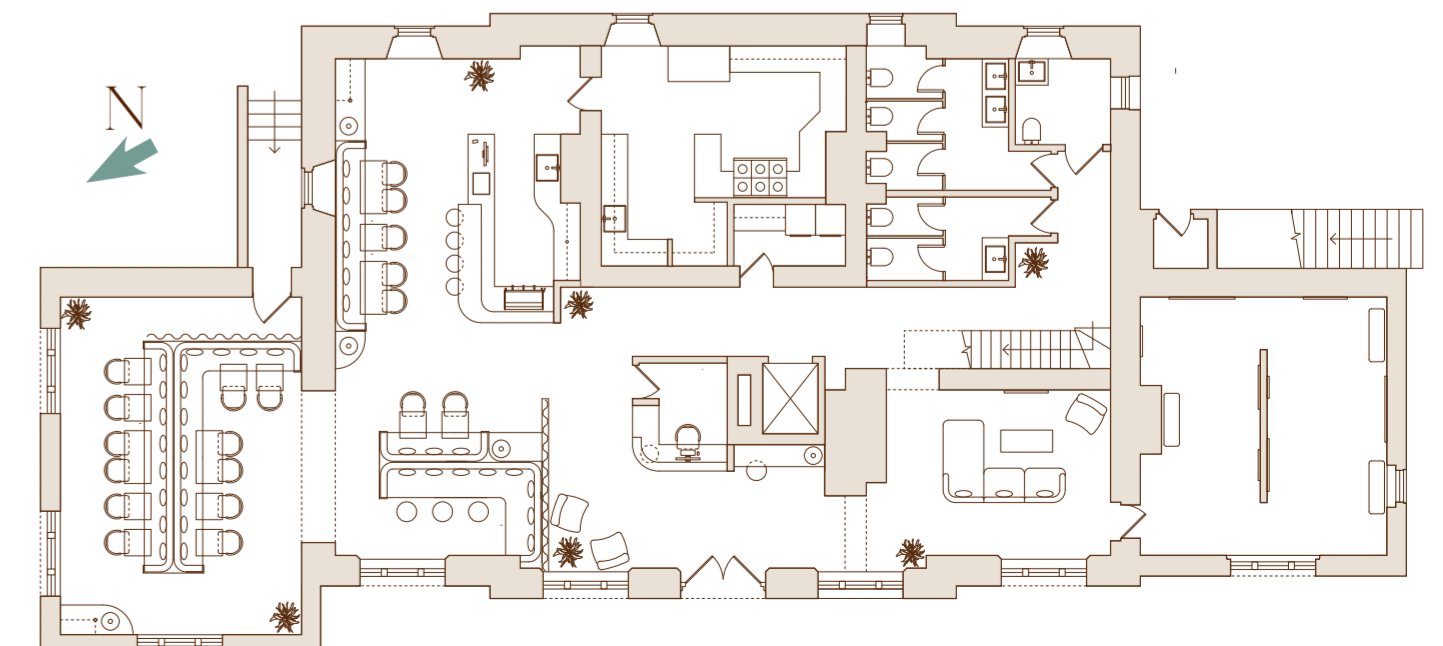
Second Floor Plan



First Floor Mezzanine Plan



First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan



Section AA

Storyboard- How Would Friends Audrey And Polly Use The Space On A Day Of Their Stay At The Studio Hotel?



Polly and Audrey arrive at The Studio Hotel



They check in at reception



Once finding their rooms they each unpack



Polly decided to look for inspiration in the library



While Audrey takes a life painting class in the studio



After they both meet up to look at the current exhibition



They relax in the lounge before dinner



They enjoy dinner and drinks in the hotel restaurant



To unwind before bed they paint in their solo studios



Off to bed for the next day of their stay

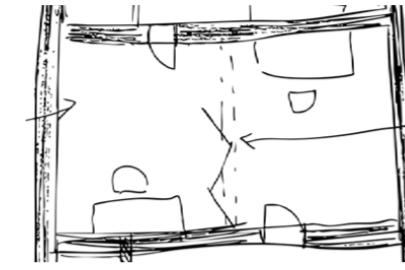
Section View Through Mindfulness Pod and Solo Studio



Hotel Room & Solo Studio Design

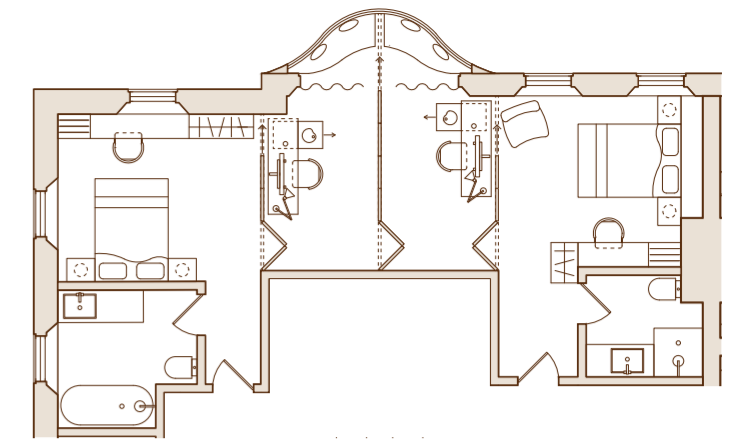
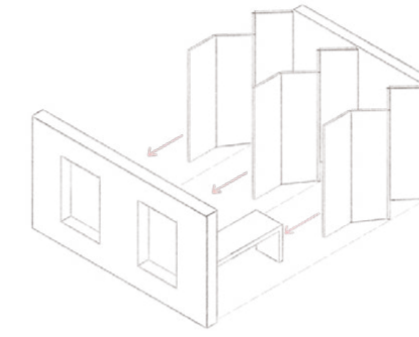
Initial Sketch:

Singular bi-folding door in the centre of the solo studios, wall separating from bedroom



Final Design:

Three bi-folding doors to fully customise room layout and collaboration levels



Plan View

Bedroom and Studio View



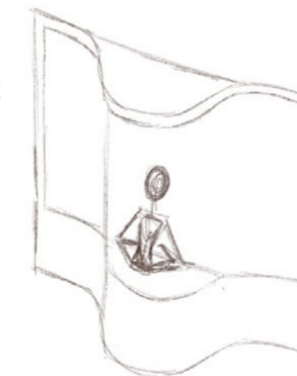
Mindfulness Pod

Exterior intervention within the main and personal studios,

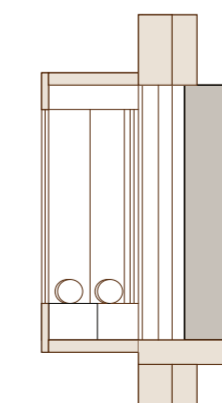
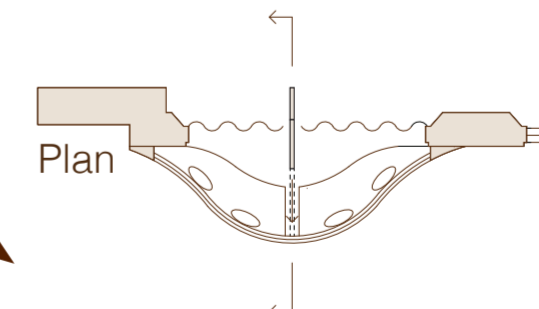


Form Inspired by fabric

Users can relax, meditate, reflect on work and take in surrounding views within the quiet pods helping connect mind and practice



Plan



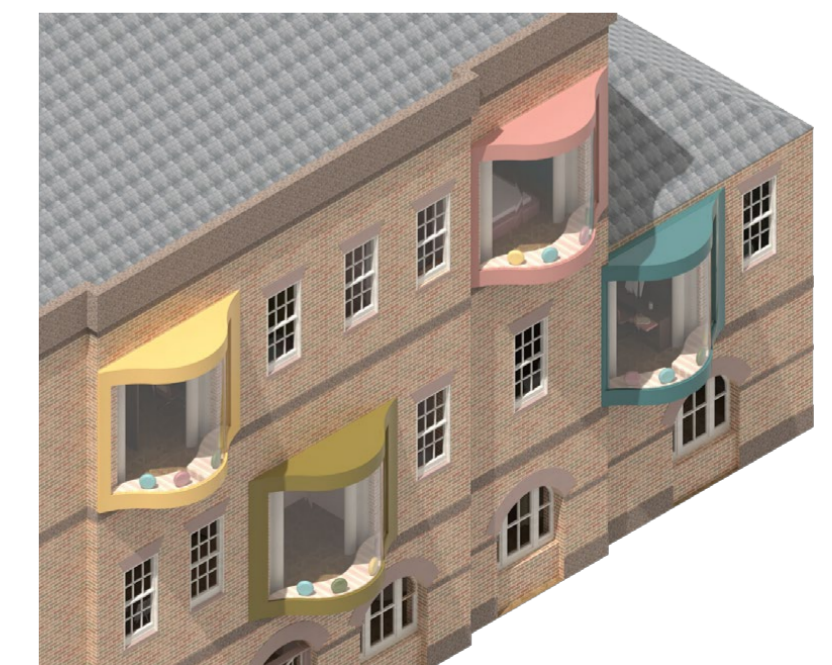
Section



Front Elevation



Pod Within Hotel Room



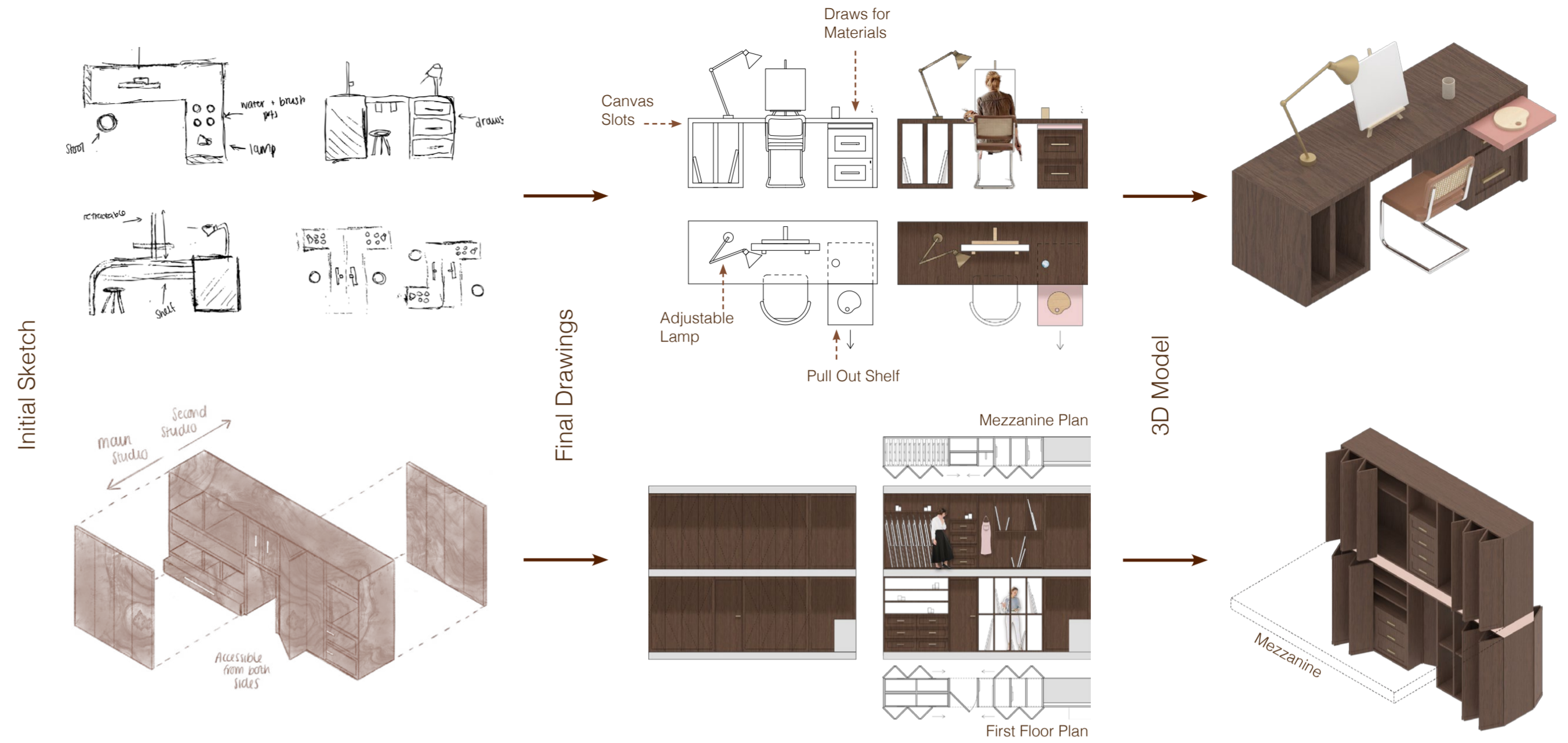
Pods On The Front Facade

Painting Studio

Materials Pallet



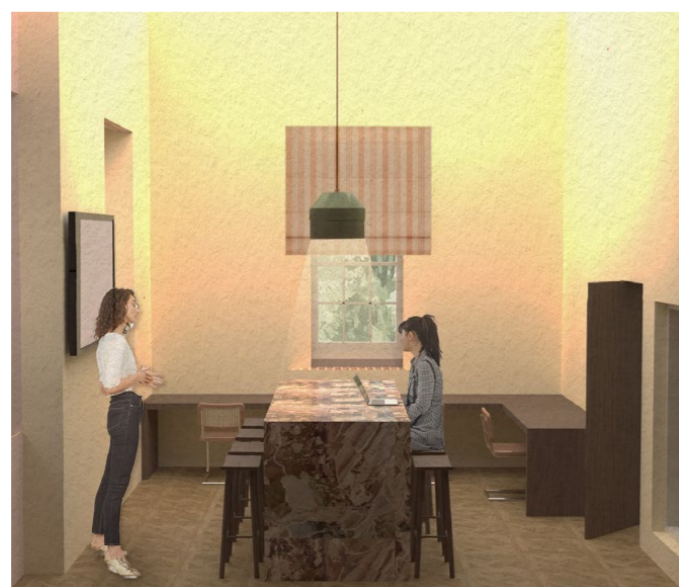
Painting Studio Custom Desk and Storage Design



Painting Studio Concept Collage



Storage Room Divider



Second Mini Studio



Main Painting Studio