

The Oxford City Bathhouse

A space for revitalisation and social levelling

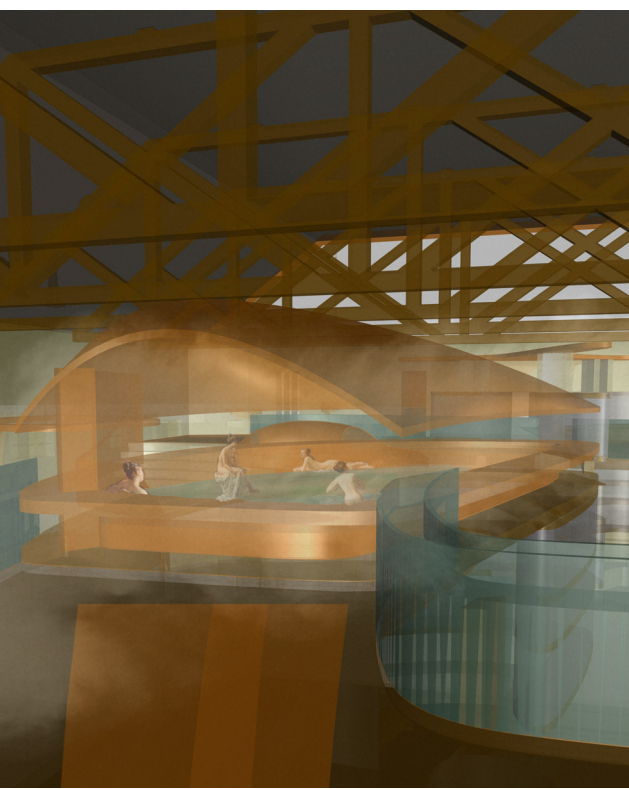
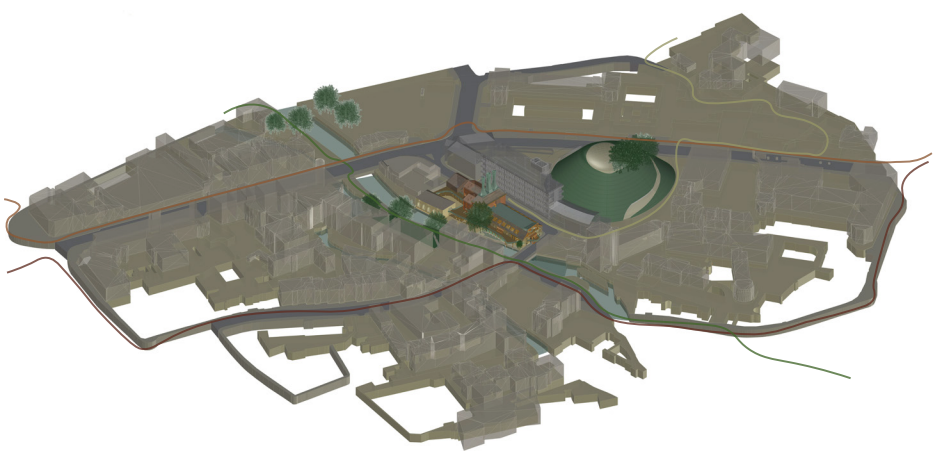
Project Aims

The Oxford City Bathhouse is a community-led project aiming to bridge social divides between the different younger groups of Oxford through a shared experience of health, relaxation and well-being.

Located in central Oxford, the initiative will transform the historic Malthouse into a modern bathhouse and wellness center, celebrating the sensory and therapeutic qualities of water. The project will offer a communal space for reflection, healing, and connection.

The design strategy honors the site's history and architecture, preserving key features while evolving the space into a dynamic environment that complements its surroundings.

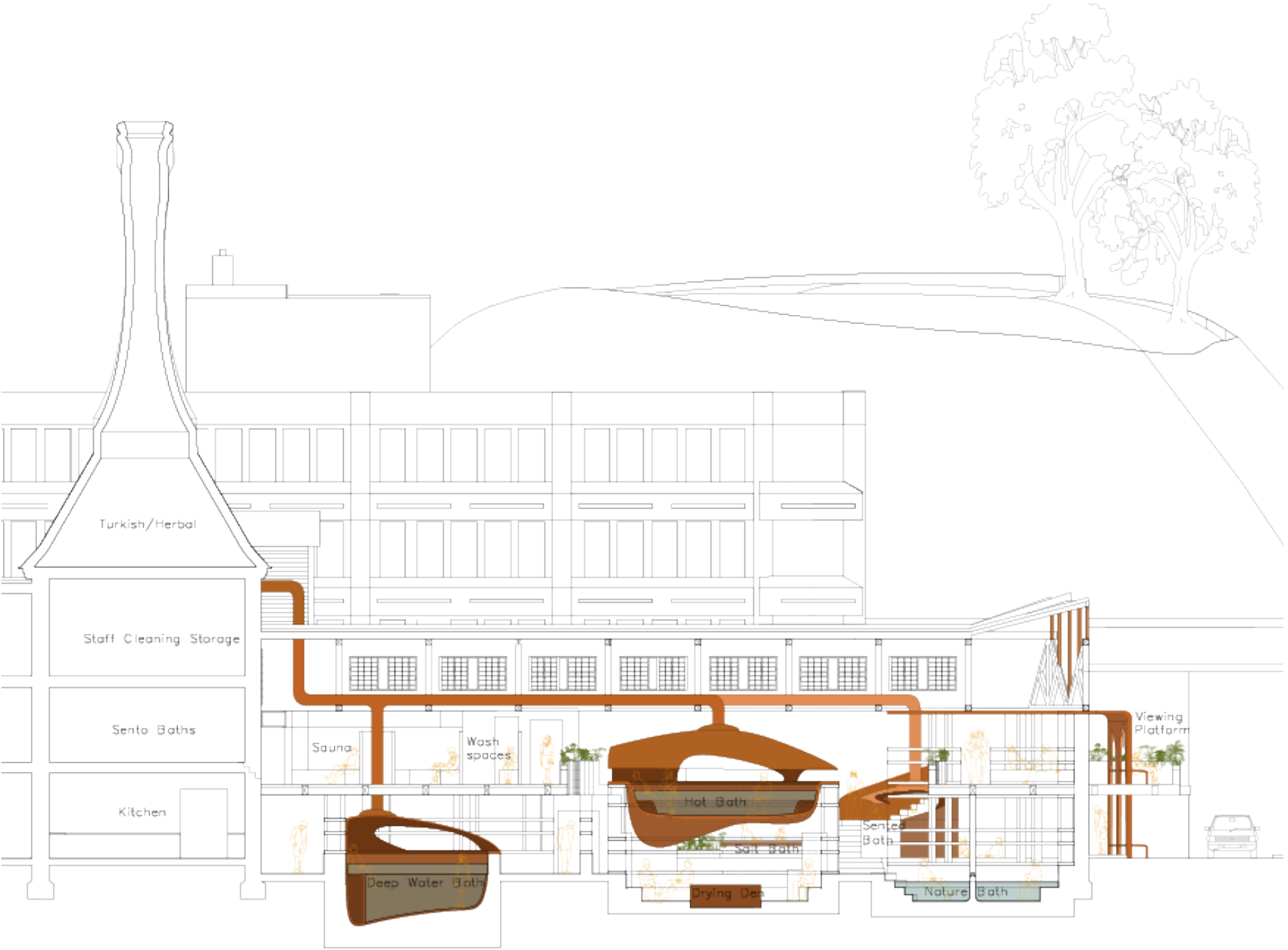
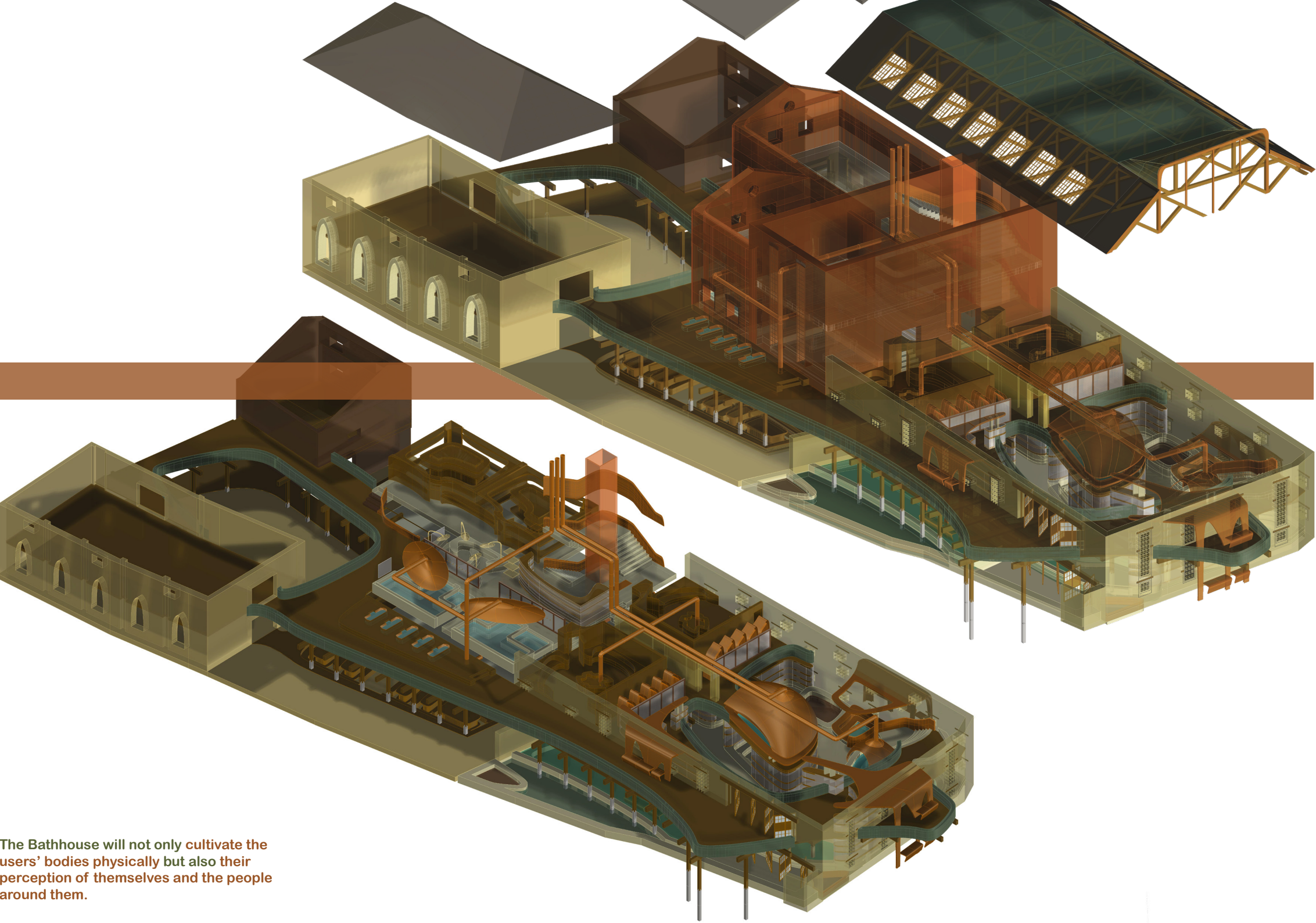
The project aspires to reshape weekly routines, cultivating a health-conscious community and inspiring greater appreciation for Oxford's waterways and wild swimming culture.



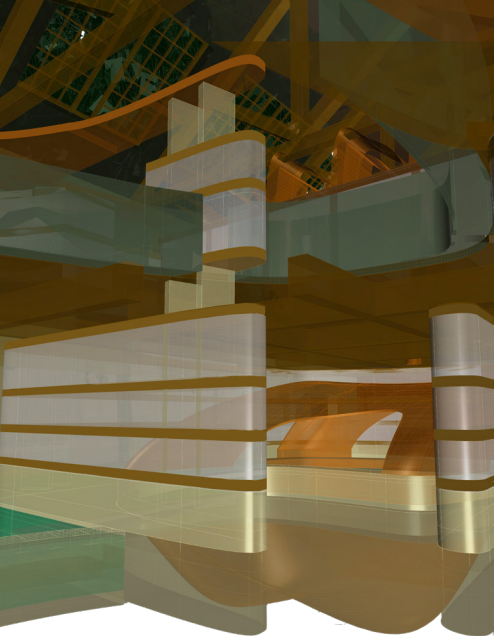
Societal effects of Sento Bathhouses

Sento Baths are not simply a place to wash your body. They are a place to shed your clothes and everything that defines your status in the world and ties you down to 'your place' in society.

The Oxford City Bathhouse is inspired by the concept of Sento baths and aims to be a place to truly communicate without worrying about the day to day hierarchy.

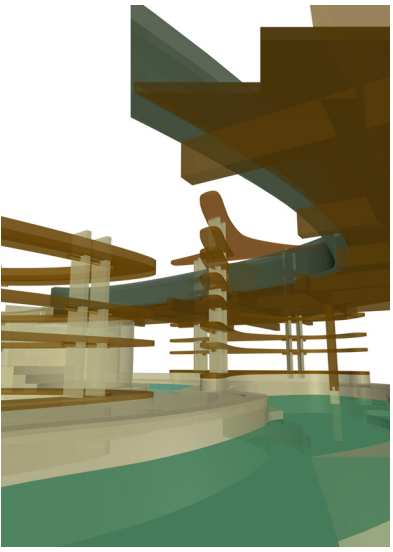
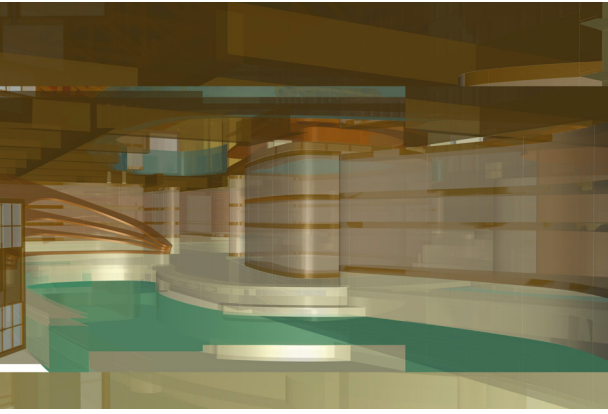


The Bathhouse will not only cultivate the users' bodies physically but also their perception of themselves and the people around them.

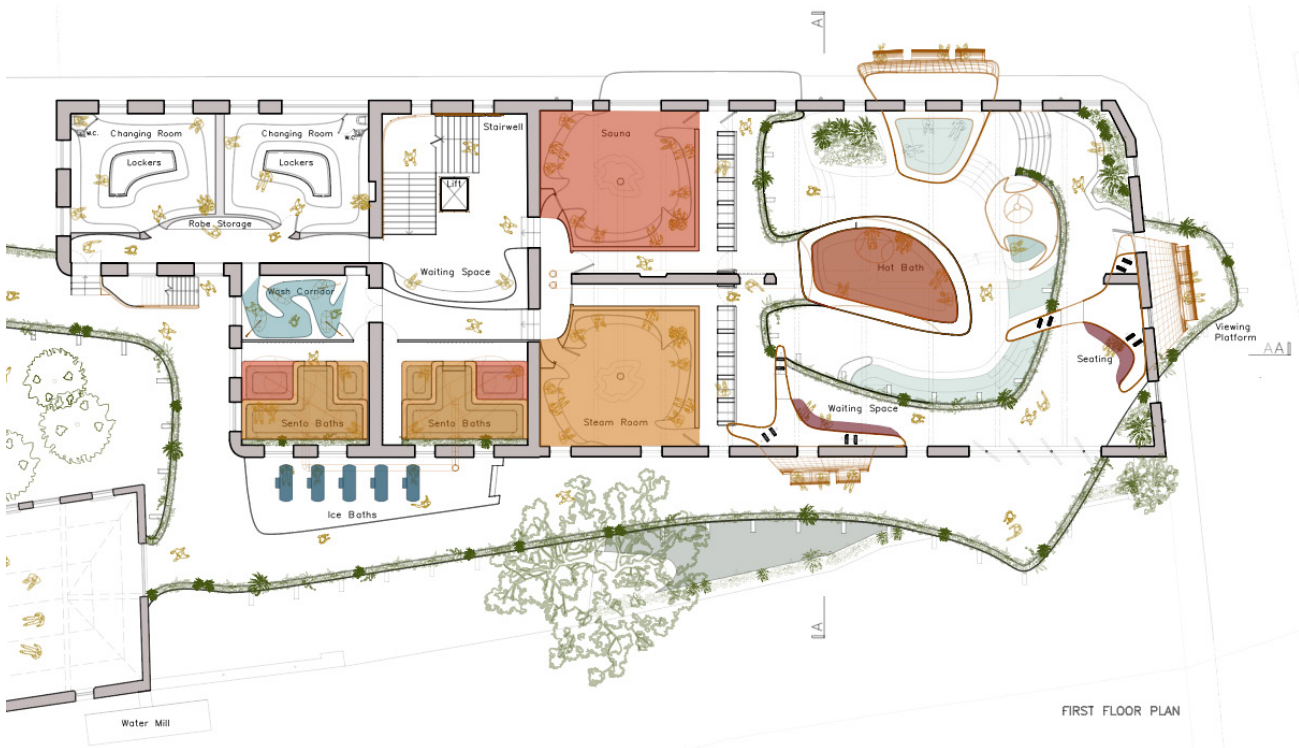


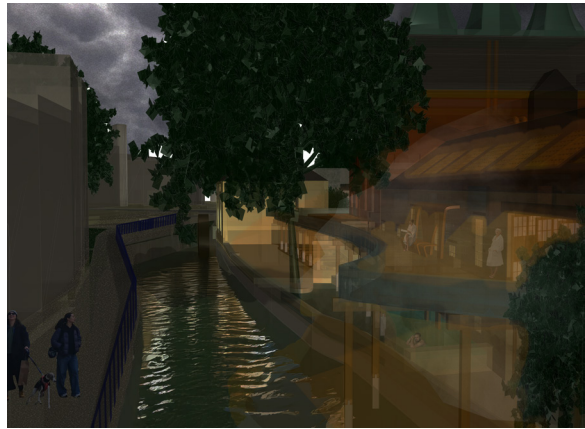
The project aims to impact Oxford on many levels from:

- Providing hygiene affordance to disadvantaged Oxford residents.
- Improving sustainability of the city by reducing water and energy usage from private bathing.
- Creating a central hub for multiple local healthy communities.

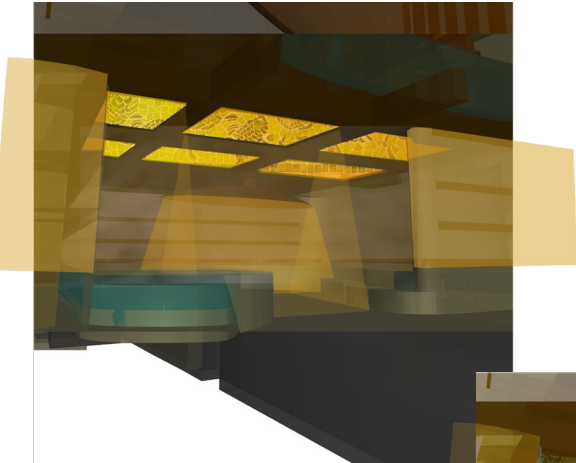


- Temperatures**
- Drying space
 - Boiling Water
 - Relaxing Hot Water
 - Refreshing Water
 - Cold Water





Night Time

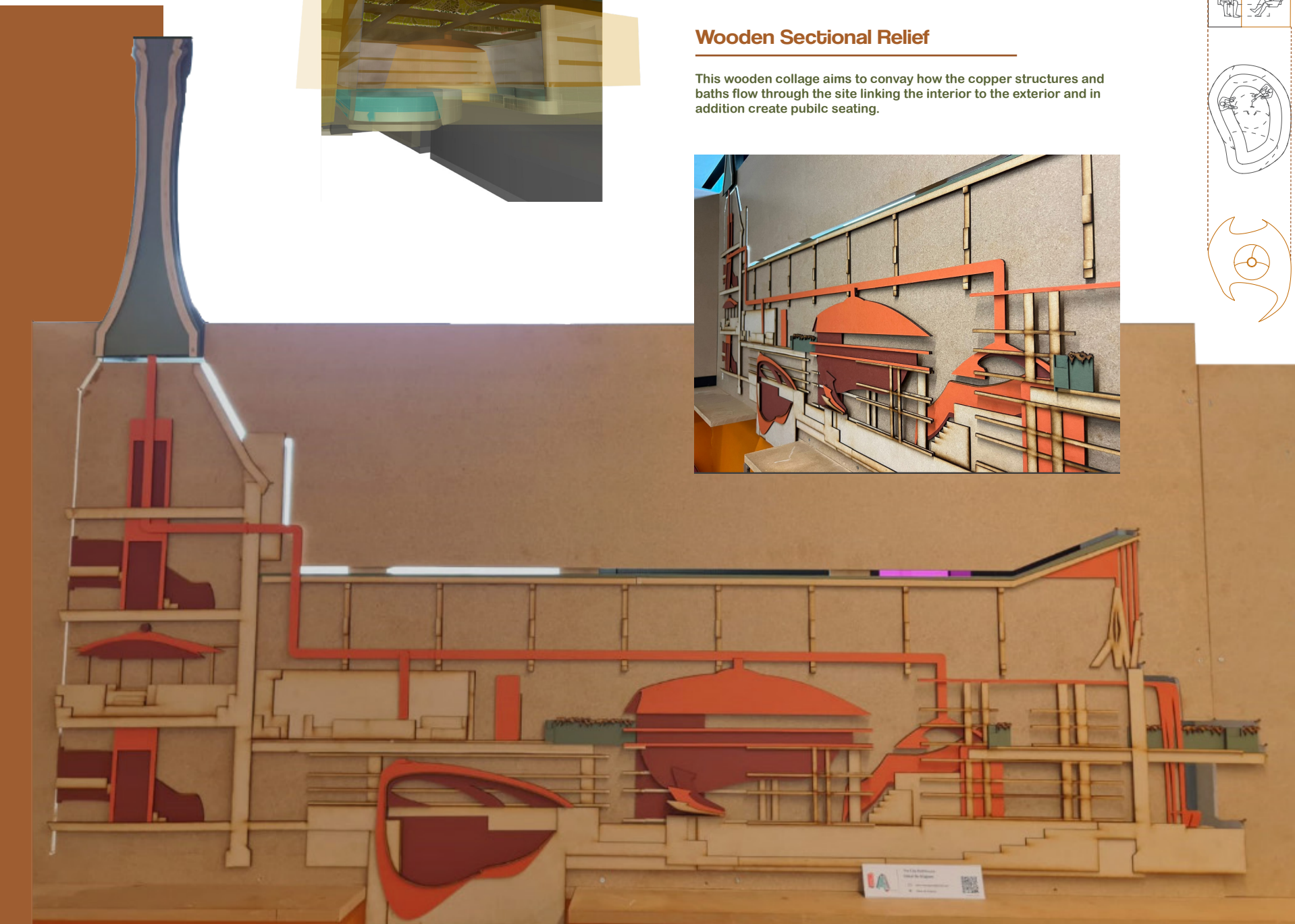


Day Time



Wooden Sectional Relief

This wooden collage aims to convey how the copper structures and baths flow through the site linking the interior to the exterior and in addition create public seating.



How the interior layout aids the user into a Health Process

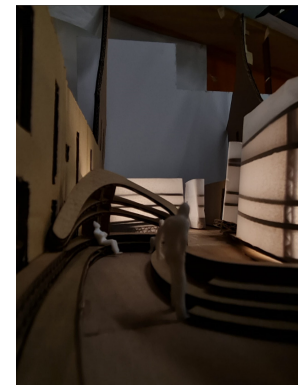
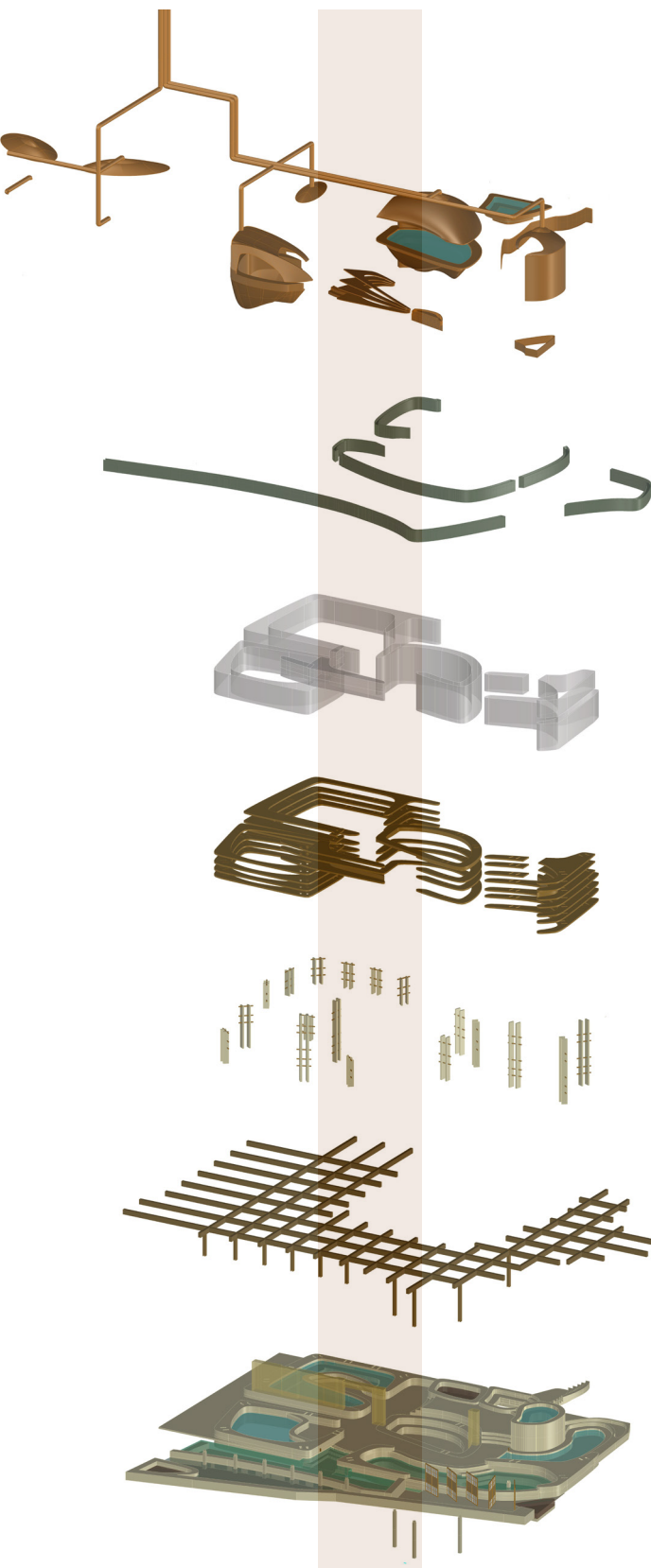
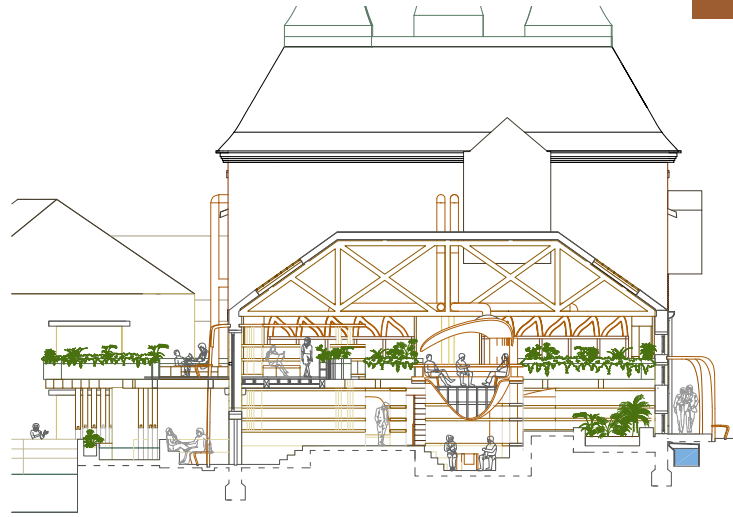
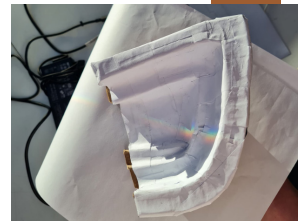
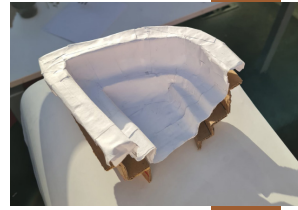
The interior aims to guide the users through different hot and cold therapies.

1. Changing rooms
2. Shower walkway
3. Sento Baths
4. Sauna
5. Cold shower
6. Hot bath
7. Drying spaces
8. Salt Bath
9. Cool Bath

Modeling with paper and card

The use of paper models gave me the flexibility when creating the different bath forms.

Through the geometry of the seating and the atmospheric qualities during the health experiences, the space aims to connect people and spark conversation.



Tackling the Discomfort of Nudity in Modern Society

Young adults are uncomfortable with showing their natural bodies due to unrealistic beauty standards, social media pressures, and a culture that often associates nudity with shame or vulnerability.

The visual design of the furniture aims to break down social barriers through the gentle levels of intimacy.

To create a sense of privacy in the bathhouse, extruded linen structures obscure body details while revealing human presence through shadows.

By physically modeling with LED lighting, I could experiment with the different hues and transparencies of materials, giving me a real life idea of the experiential qualities of the spaces.



Preserving the site's history

Originally an old Malthouse, the design of the bathhouse aims to pay homage to the buildings history as well as restoring its old features.

The ventilation system for the hot baths are inspired by copper malthouse incubators which will stretch through the building and recycle the steam in the chimneys.

