

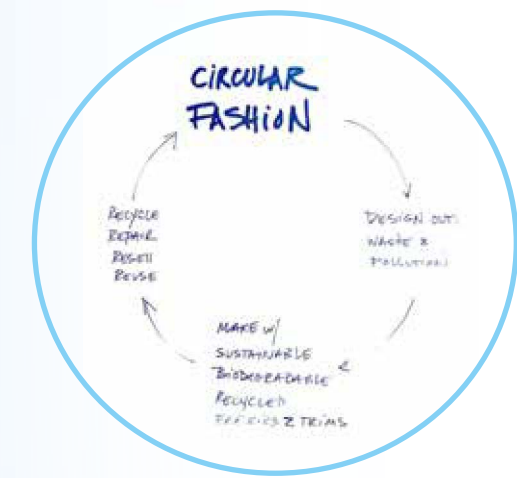
RETHREADING THE FUTURE_ REJECTING FAST FASHION IN A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

SUSTAINABILITY_ THE FUTURE OF FASHION

Nigel Xavier's brand is rooted in sustainability, **championing the use of upcycled and responsibly sourced materials** to reduce environmental impact. This ethos reflects a necessary shift within the fashion industry, where **responding to climate change, resource depletion, and overproduction** is no longer a choice but a responsibility. Fast fashion has contributed significantly to **environmental degradation, fuelling waste, energy overuse, and biodiversity loss**.

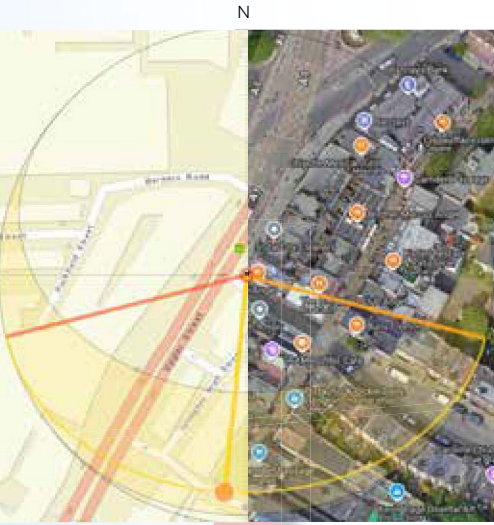
Today's younger consumers are increasingly aware of these challenges and seek brands that reflect their values. For the graduates, **upcycling and ethical production are central**, not just to design, but to driving a **culture of conscious consumption**. Their focus lies in crafting sustainable, long-lasting pieces that prioritise **quality over quantity**.

The studio and retail space embodies this ethos, functioning as both a working environment and a **platform for change**. It demonstrates how fashion can operate **within the Earth's natural limits, minimising energy use, waste, and environmental harm**, whilst engaging a community eager to make **meaningful, planet-conscious choices**.

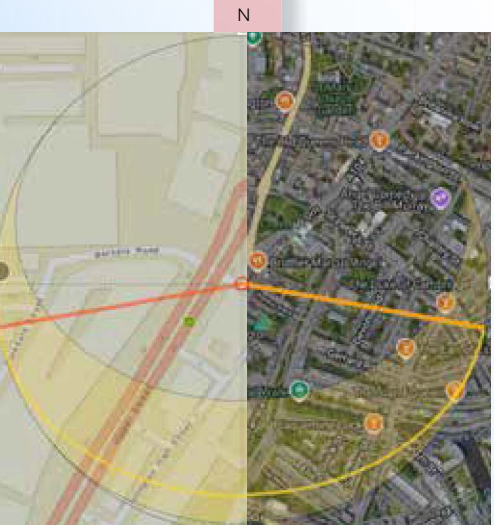


SUN PATH ANALYSIS_ UTILISING NATURAL LIGHT

MORNING LIGHT 11:30AM



EVENING LIGHT 21:00PM



The design addresses climate change and energy use by **harnessing the site's sun path to maximise natural light and reduce reliance on artificial lighting**. Existing windows on the sunlit facade are retained to **conserve energy and resources**. Passive shading solutions such as shutters or tinted glazing help **minimise overheating**. Areas with limited daylight, like the rear and sides, are zoned for low-light functions, **supporting energy efficiency**. In the basement, which lacks natural light, energy-efficient LED lighting and reflective finishes **reduce environmental impact**. Sleeping areas are placed at the rear to avoid early sun, **promoting comfort without excessive energy use**. This approach supports sustainable living within the Earth's natural limits and **encourages biodiversity-sensitive design**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project reimagines a three-storey corner building on Charlton Place, Upper Street, London, as a **sustainable live/work space** for two emerging fashion graduates. Sponsored by streetwear designer Nigel Xavier, it offers a **platform for circular fashion grounded in climate-conscious design**. The scheme addresses climate change by **retaining the existing structure, avoiding demolition, and reducing embodied carbon**. Materials are **reused, repurposed, or responsibly sourced** to limit resource depletion and environmental impact.

Passive ventilation, natural lighting, and adaptable layouts **reduce energy use and extend the life of the space**. Each graduate has a private living area and access to a shared production studio. A ground-floor retail space invites public interaction, while a **community fabric donation drop-off promotes upcycling and waste reduction**.

A creative response to the climate emergency, showcasing how **fashion can support reuse, biodiversity, and sustainable living within the Earth's natural limits**.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

VISITORS AND USERS

LOCALS

Located in a vibrant, creative neighbourhood, the project attracts ethically minded shoppers and design-aware locals. Upcycling, donation points, and live workshops engage a community increasingly interested in responsible fashion. Its proximity to Camden Passage enhances visibility, encouraging participation in a more conscious, resource-aware fashion culture.

ONE-OFF CLIENTS

Clients seeking tailoring or consultations are likely to value the graduates' thoughtful, sustainability-driven approach. Attracting eco-conscious professionals and vintage enthusiasts, the space offers ethical craftsmanship, upcycling, and quality repairs. A welcoming, efficient environment reinforces the brand's ethos, distinguishing it from conventional alteration shops through its mindful, purpose-led design.

RETAIL STAFF

Retail staff to run the store whilst designers are at work, need a practical checkout area and clear circulation for smooth operations. Access to toilets and balanced lighting enhance their working conditions. Safety measures, including emergency exits and fire equipment, ensure a secure environment.

RETAIL CUSTOMERS

Close to galleries and fashion hubs, the space attracts creatives interested in upcycling and innovative design with sustainable appeal.

OCCUPANTS' FAMILY/ FRIENDS

Family and friends need a comfortable, well-lit space for dining and socialising. Flexible seating and clear zoning ensure privacy and ease of access without disrupting work or living areas.

Nearby universities attract trend-focused students seeking unique, affordable fashion and engaging experiences, including fabric donation and circular design participation.

ANNUAL OCCUPANTS

Two fashion graduates will live and work in the space, building their brands through ethical craftsmanship, waste reduction, and creative reuse, aligning with Xavier's values and positioning themselves as future leaders in sustainable fashion.

SITE CONSTRUCTION ANALYSIS

A **spacious interior with irregular angles**, enhances individuality by introducing unique forms and structures that align with Xavier's vision and the creative mindset of young, innovative designers. Structural beams **typically define the zonal layout** of a space, but by **challenging this convention**, they can be used to **create an innovative and dynamic design**. Currently, there are **three distinct floors** that define the space. By introducing **fluid connections between levels**, the design creates a more dynamic, striking, and **memorable spatial experience**. The windows are **irregularly placed at varying heights** on each side of the building, with one **distinctive arched window**. This arch could serve as an **exciting and intriguing feature** or risk appearing out of place within the space.

THE FUTURE OF CIRCULAR FASHION

RETHREADING THE FUTURE_ DESIGN PLANS AND STORYBOARD

STORY BOARD_ TERRACE AND GROUND FLOOR

DONATION DROP-OFF



Visitors are welcomed to donate discarded fabrics at the terrace's conveyor drop-off point, initiating the transformation process.

CURATED CONVEYOR GLIMSES



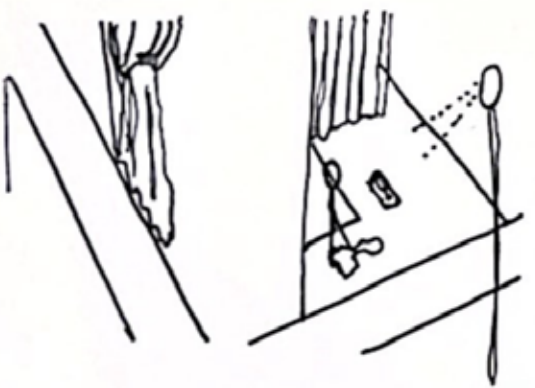
Fabrics travel visibly along the conveyor, weaving from terrace to interior. Glimpses through the window invite curiosity, drawing customers inside.

FABRIC IN TRANSIT



Entering the store, customers watch fabrics flow through a central conveyor, disappearing through a floor opening into the workspace below.

CUSTOMER-DESIGNER INTERACTION



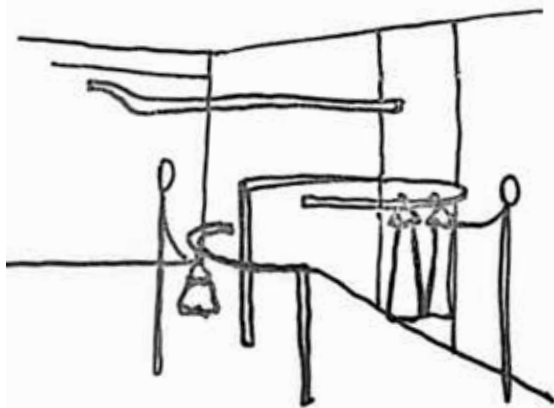
Guided by soft, layered curtains, customers are encouraged to peel back partitions, revealing a view into the busy basement studio.

MANNEQUIN CIRCULATION



Finished garments rotate on mannequins, elevated on the conveyor belt, highlighting designers' creations in constant, visible motion.

CUSTOMER-DESIGNER INTERACTION

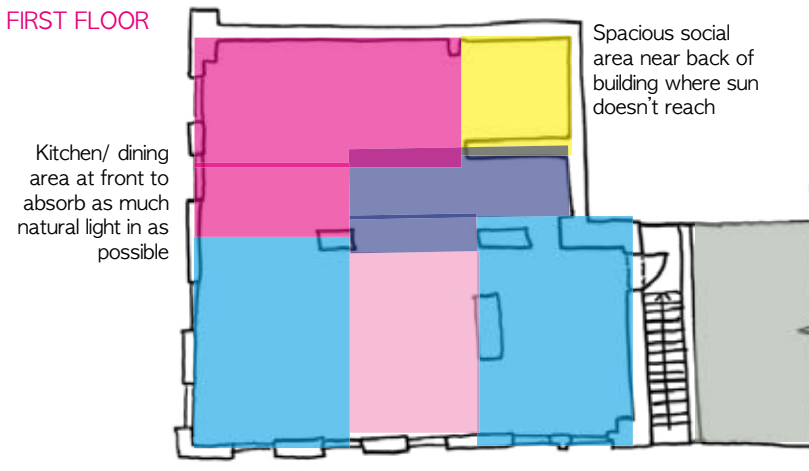


Customers browse garments displayed on sleek, seemingly floating rails, offering an immersive and curated retail experience.



DESIGN ZONES AND RENDERED PLANS

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

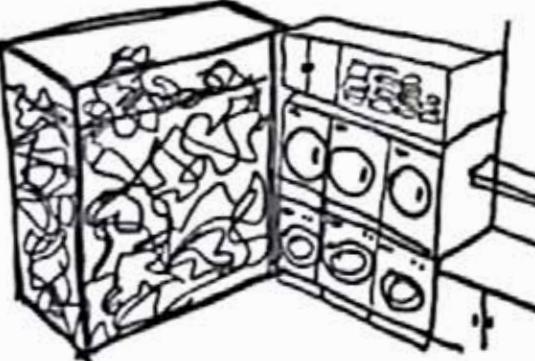


BASEMENT PLAN



STORY BOARD_ BASEMENT FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR

FABRIC SORTING ZONE



Designers retrieve fabric deliveries from the chute, efficiently sorting, washing, and storing materials within organised storage areas.

CREATIVE INSPIRATION CORNER

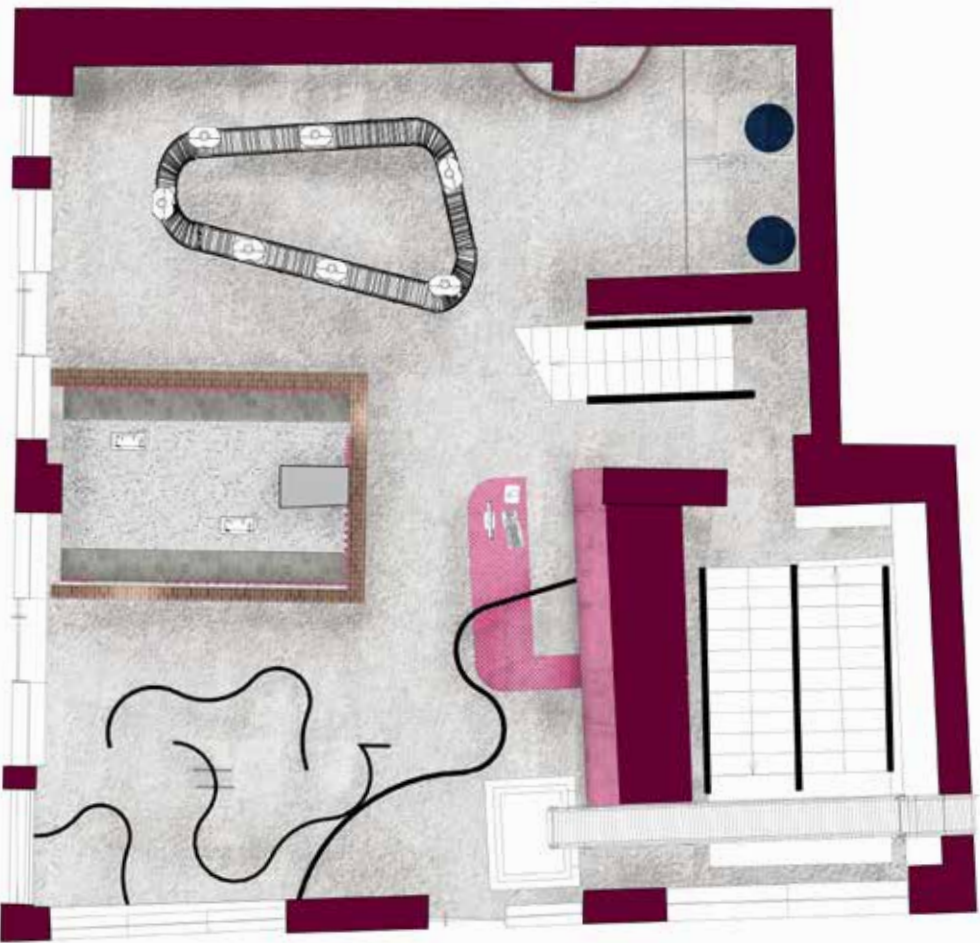


A quiet, tucked-away corner provides designers space for reflection, sketching, and gathering inspiration away from the studio bustle.

EFFICIENT WORKSPACE



Work areas feature ample storage and spacious tables, promoting smooth workflow and ease of movement around the studio.

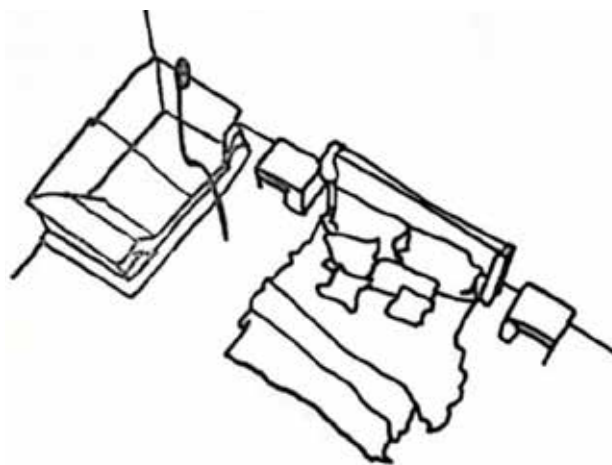


DESIGNER DINING AREA



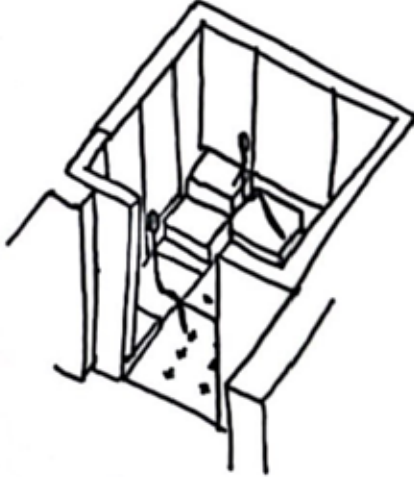
The first floor houses a private, light-filled kitchen and dining area, offering designers a comfortable, communal space for relaxation.

SPACIOUS BEDROOM



Designers enjoy spacious bedrooms with private lounge areas, generous closets, and large surrounding windows for light and views.

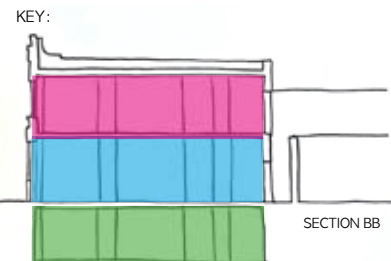
MODULAR SOCIAL LOUNGE



A secluded social zone features modular sofas, stackable and reconfigurable, complemented by acoustic insulation for a calm, dynamic environment.

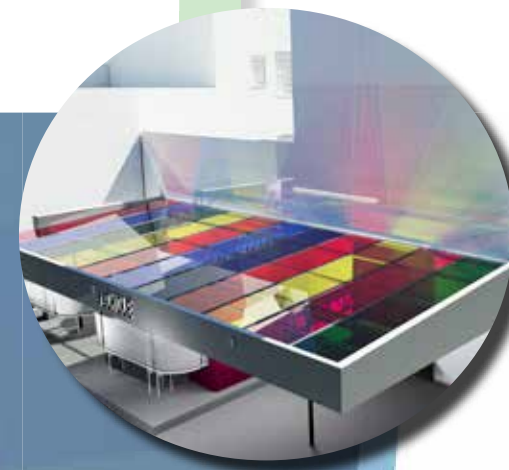
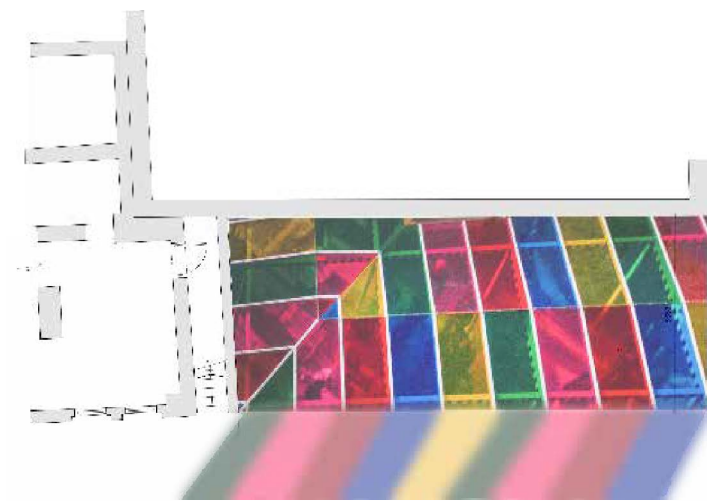
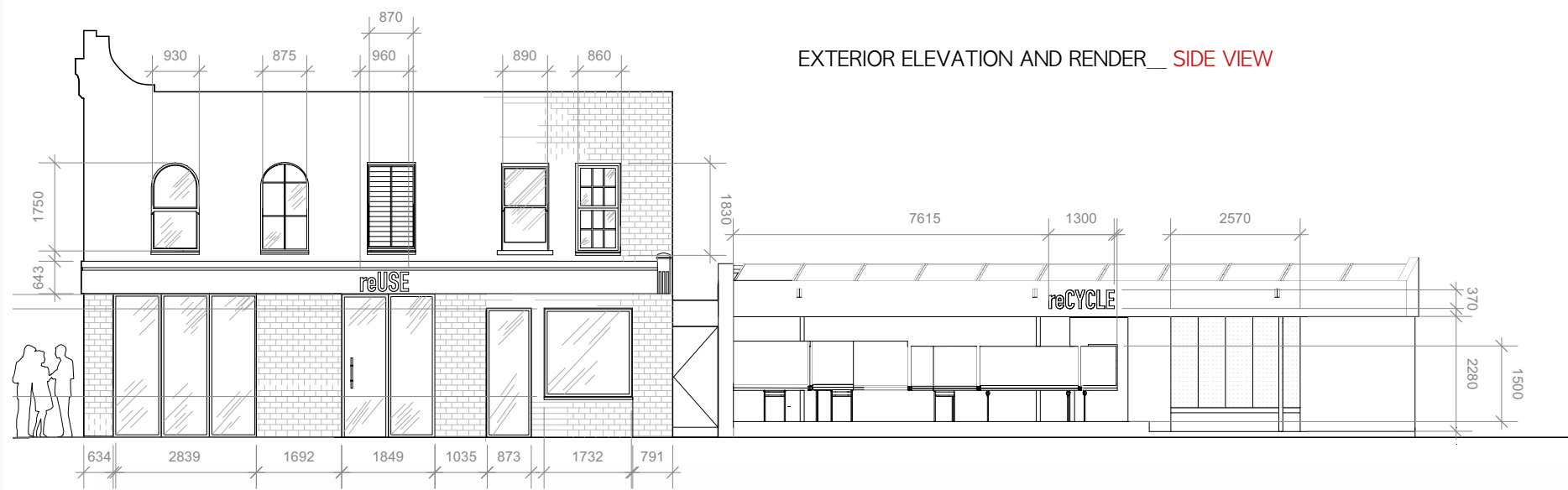


- The basement and ground floor are effectively dedicated to work and retail, keeping the first floor solely for living and socialising. This maintains **clear separation between work and personal life**.
- The structured hole in the ground floor allows customers to see the basement-level retail space, **enhancing engagement** and drawing attention to both levels of the store.
- Instead of avoiding or boxing in the universal beams, incorporating them into the design **adds an industrial and characterful aesthetic**, embracing the building's existing structure.
- Toilets on both retail/work floors **improve accessibility** for customers and staff.
- Placing sleeping areas at the back ensures they **remain cooler and less exposed** to direct sunlight during the day, which can be beneficial for rest.
- Placing the social, kitchen, and dining spaces near the windows on the first floor ensures a **well-lit, inviting communal area**, enhancing **comfort and well-being**.
- The spacious ground-floor retail area **increases visibility and accessibility**, making it more attractive to passing customers and creating a **strong street-level brand presence**.
- A spacious basement workspace provides **plenty of room for both designers to work** without interfering with retail operations, keeping the **focus on production**.
- The central positioning of the staircase creates a **logical and efficient flow** between all floors, ensuring **accessibility without disrupting key functional areas**.
- A centrally located, easily accessible W/C benefits both designers and retail staff **without interrupting customer flow**.
- Both retail spaces benefit from **high visibility from the street**, improving brand presence and potential sales.

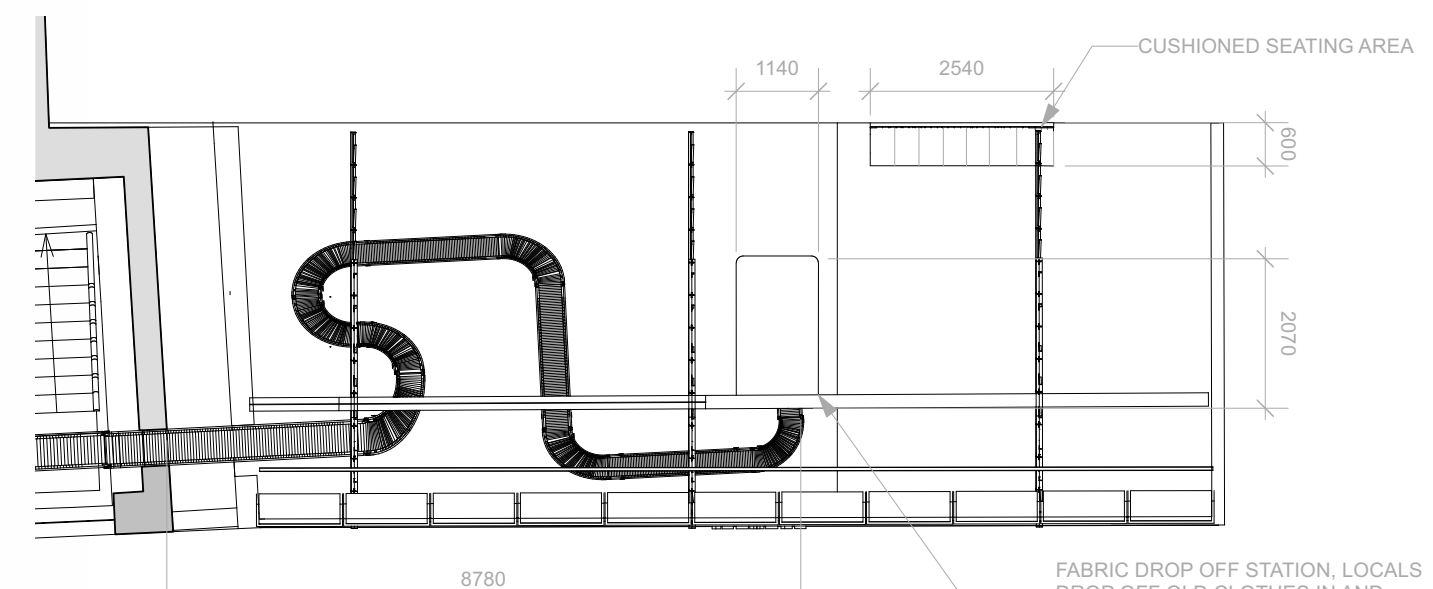
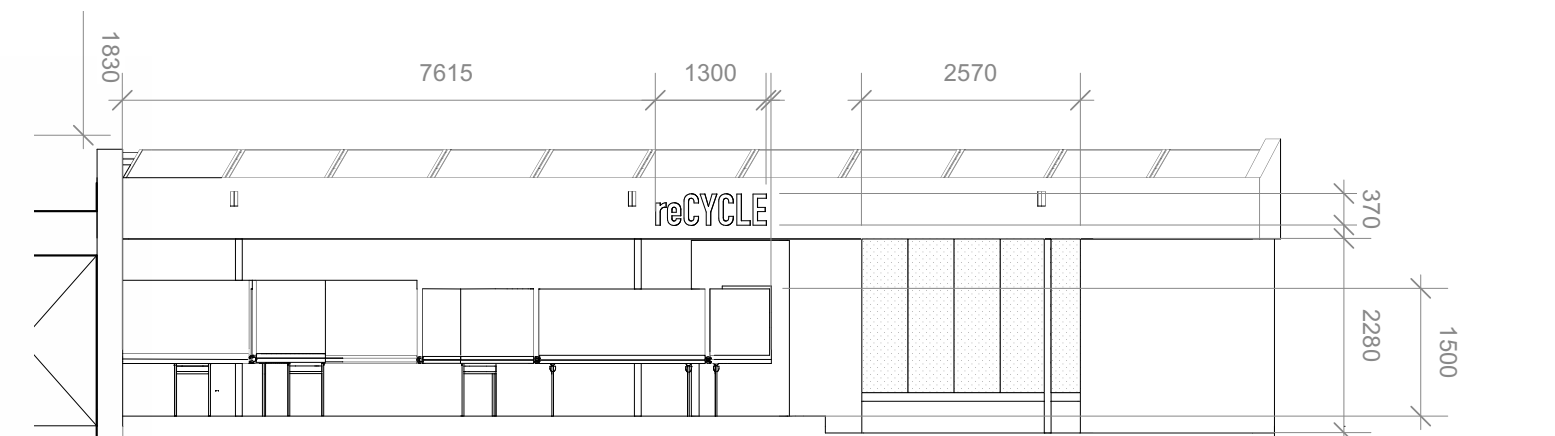


RETHREADING THE FUTURE_ CIRCULAR FASHION THROUGH CIRCULAR DESIGNS

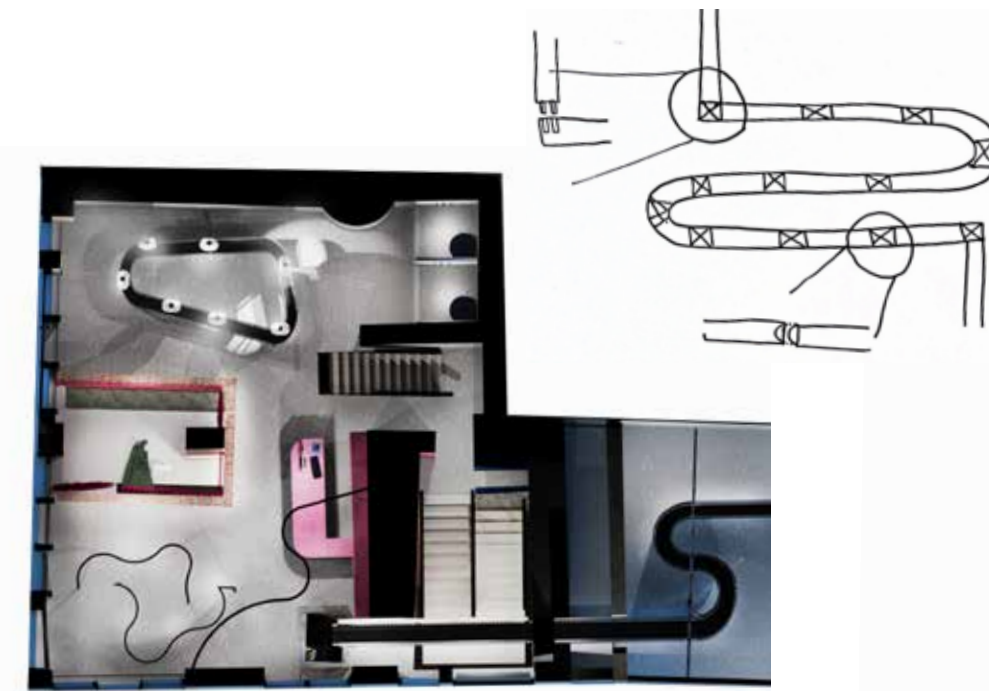
EXTERIOR ELEVATION AND RENDER_ SIDE VIEW



PLAN, SECTION AND RENDER_ TERRACE

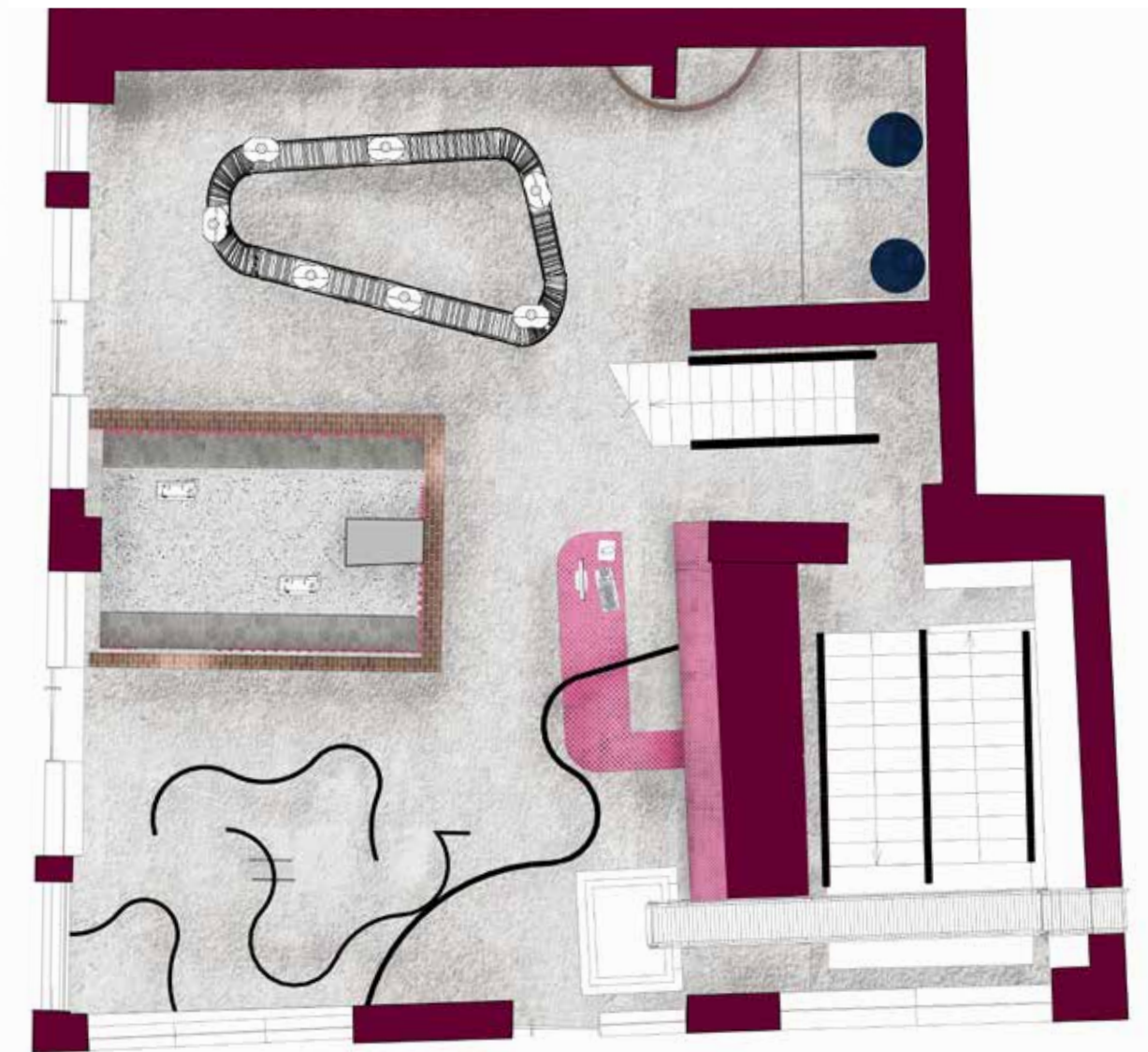


FABRIC DROP OFF STATION, LOCALS DROP OFF OLD CLOTHES IN AND WATCH AS THE CONVEYOR TRANSPORTS THE FABRICS INTO THE RETAIL SPACE



The ground floor plan presents a purposeful disharmony of striking, dynamic elements layered beside one another. A key feature is the large curtain cut-out, which allows customers to glimpse the designers at work below, encouraging interaction as visitors draw back the curtains to reveal the creative process. Spacious, entangled floating display rails introduce bold textures and contrasting forms, infusing energy into the space while maintaining a minimalist backdrop that allows the garments to take centre stage. Conveyor belts add movement and intrigue, one circulates mannequins displaying designs, guiding customers through the store, while another descends from the terrace, allowing visitors to watch donated fabrics fall into the basement where the designers can retrieve and upcycle them.

RENDER_ GROUND FLOOR PLAN



The terrace space captures the inspiring light work of Daniel Buren, featuring colourful reflections created through sustainable materials. These vibrant elements catch the attention of passersby, inviting them to engage with the space and donate fabrics for upcycling. A striking, serpentine conveyor belt guides visitors as they follow the journey of donated textiles entering the retail space, drawing further attention to the designers' work and enhancing the potential for increased sales.

MATERIALITY_ GROUND FLOOR

1_ Reclaimed Corrugated Pink Metal Laminate

Bold and industrial, made from salvaged metal, reducing raw material extraction while adding a textured, dynamic surface.

2_ Brown Brick Structural Columns

Industrial and robust, sourced from existing structures, minimising carbon footprint and supporting adaptive reuse.

3_ Reclaimed Corrugated Black Metal

Durable and weathered, salvaged from decommissioned buildings, reducing waste and adding a raw, industrial aesthetic.

4_ Repurposed Mirror

Light-enhancing and space-expanding, made from reused glass, eliminating the need for new resource extraction and reducing landfill waste.

5_ Repurposed Concrete Flooring

Heavy-duty and long-lasting, sourced from demolished structures, reducing embodied carbon and supporting material reuse.

6_ Repurposed Conveyor Belt Rollers

Industrial and functional, creatively reused to minimise waste while adding a mechanical, process-driven aesthetic.

7_ Recycled Glass Balustrade

Sleek, impact-resistant, post-industrial glass, fully recyclable, reduces virgin production.

8_ White Painted Brick Wall

Neutral, durable, retains structure, low-VOC paint, reducing embodied carbon.



MATERIALITY_ BASEMENT FLOOR

1_ Recyclable Green Zebra Print Wallpaper

Bold, recyclable, FSC-certified, low-VOC, reducing landfill waste.

2_ Brown Brick Structural Columns

Industrial, durable, locally sourced, high thermal mass, no new extraction.

3_ Recycled Multicoloured Missoni Upholstered Fabric Seating

Playful, post-consumer textiles, Cradle to Cradle certified, waste-reducing.

4_ Reclaimed Walnut Timber Tabletops

Warm, durable, FSC-certified reclaimed wood, reducing deforestation.

5_ Reclaimed Concrete Hexagonal Flooring

Industrial, highly durable, low maintenance, diverts demolition waste.

6_ Repurposed Mirror

Expands space, durable, no new material use, reducing glass waste.

7_ Upcycled Navy Fabric Seating

Sophisticated, waste-reducing, low environmental impact, supports circular economy.

8_ Recycled Terrazzo Work Surfaces

Textural, durable, contains recycled materials, reduces raw material demand.

9_ Reclaimed Timber Planked Wall

Rustic, FSC-certified, sustainable, reduces deforestation, extends material life.

10_ Upcycled Burgundy Fabric Seating

Rich, waste-reducing, reinforced for longevity, circular economy-driven.

11_ Recycled Glass Balustrade

Sleek, impact-resistant, post-industrial glass, fully recyclable, reduces virgin production.

12_ Renewable Cork Pinboard Wall

Warm, self-healing, rapidly renewable, FSC-certified, excellent acoustics.

13_ White Painted Brick Wall

Neutral, durable, retains structure, low-VOC paint, reducing embodied carbon.



MATERIALITY_ FIRST FLOOR

1_ Recycled Tiled Terrazzo

Durable and low-maintenance, made from recycled stone and glass, reducing raw material use and promoting a circular economy.

2_ Brown Brick Structural Columns

Industrial and robust, sourced from existing structures, minimizing carbon footprint and supporting adaptive reuse.

3_ Recycled Denim Patchwork Fabric Seating

Unique and durable, crafted from post-consumer denim, reducing textile waste and embracing circular design.

4_ Recycled Missoni Multicoloured Striped Upholstered Fabric Seating

Playful and sustainable, made from post-consumer textiles with Cradle to Cradle certification, diverting fabric waste from landfills.

5_ Recycled Navy Textured Wallpaper

Rich in depth and eco-friendly, composed of recycled fibres with low-VOC finishes, enhancing indoor air quality.

6_ Recycled Velvet Rose Upholstered Fabric Seating

Luxurious and sustainable, using repurposed velvet to reduce textile waste while maintaining a soft, tactile feel.

7_ Reclaimed Walnut Timber Tabletops

Warm and long-lasting, FSC-certified reclaimed wood with a low-carbon footprint, reducing deforestation and supporting reuse.

8_ Recycled Navy Upholstered Fabric Seating

Sophisticated and environmentally friendly, made from repurposed textiles to reduce waste and extend fabric life.

9_ Reclaimed Herringbone Timber Flooring

Elegant and durable, sourced from salvaged wood..

10_ Upcycled Chevron Red Upholstered Fabric Seating

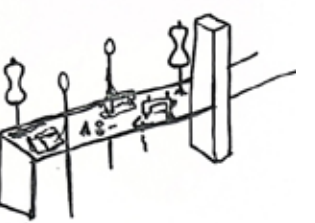
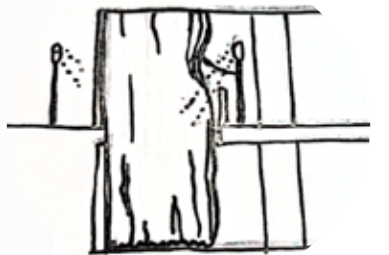
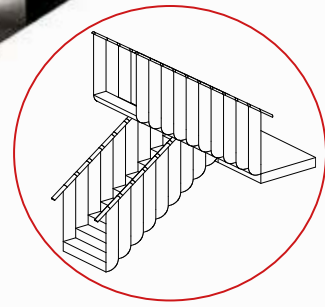
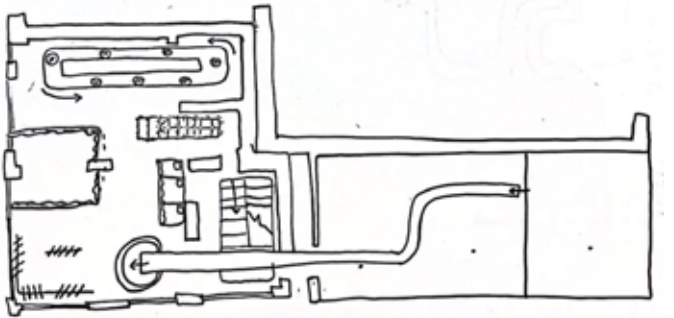
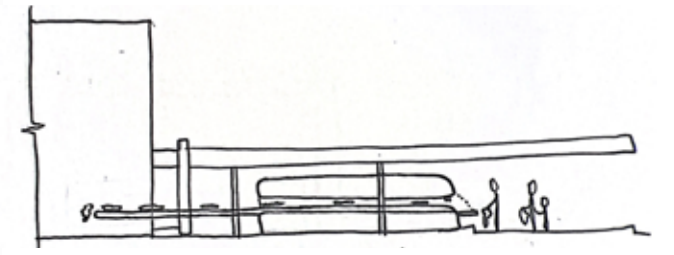
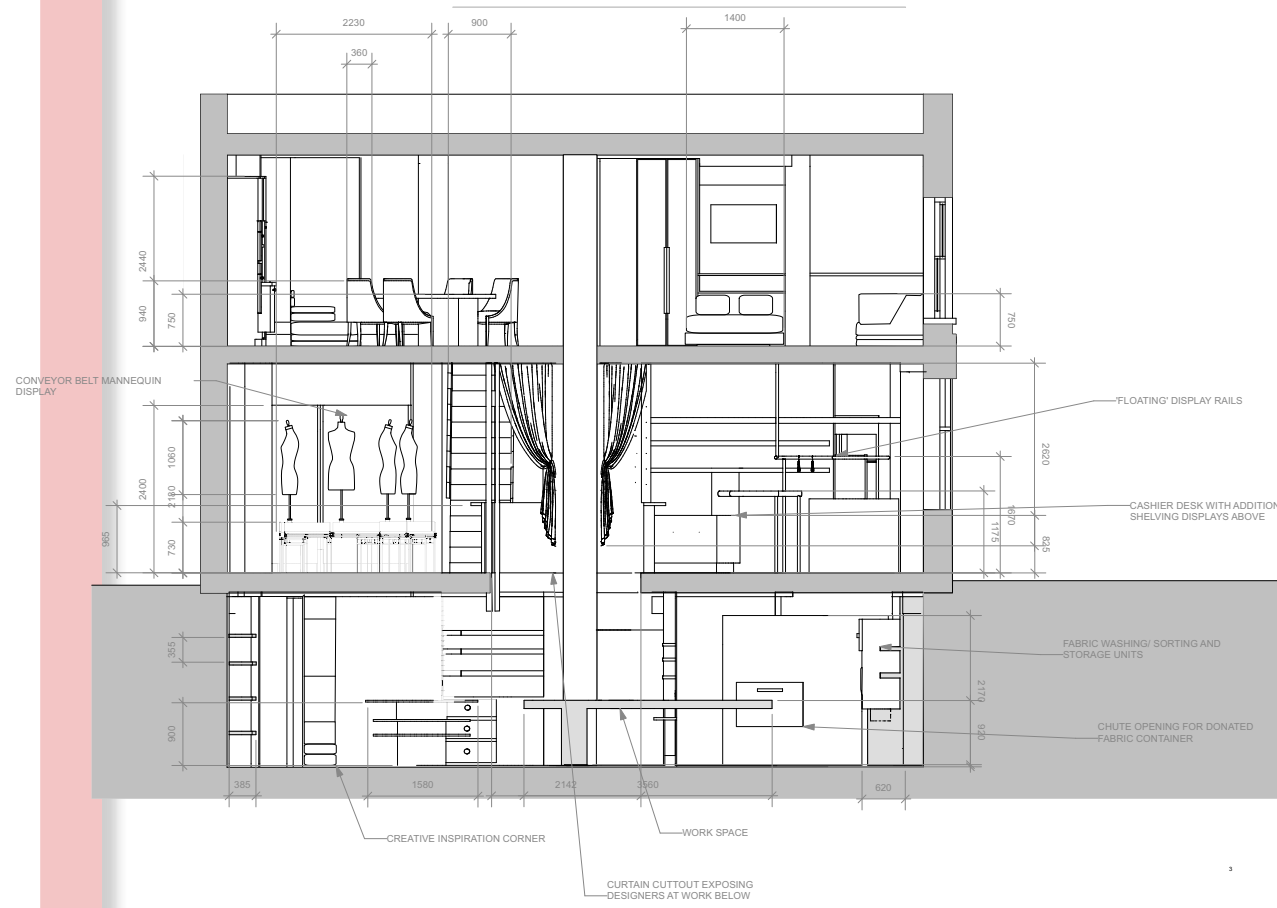
Bold and sustainable, repurposing existing fabric to minimise textile waste and contribute to circular design.

11_ Recyclable Green Textured Wallpaper

Vibrant and eco-conscious, FSC-certified with low-VOC ink, fully recyclable to support a closed-loop system.



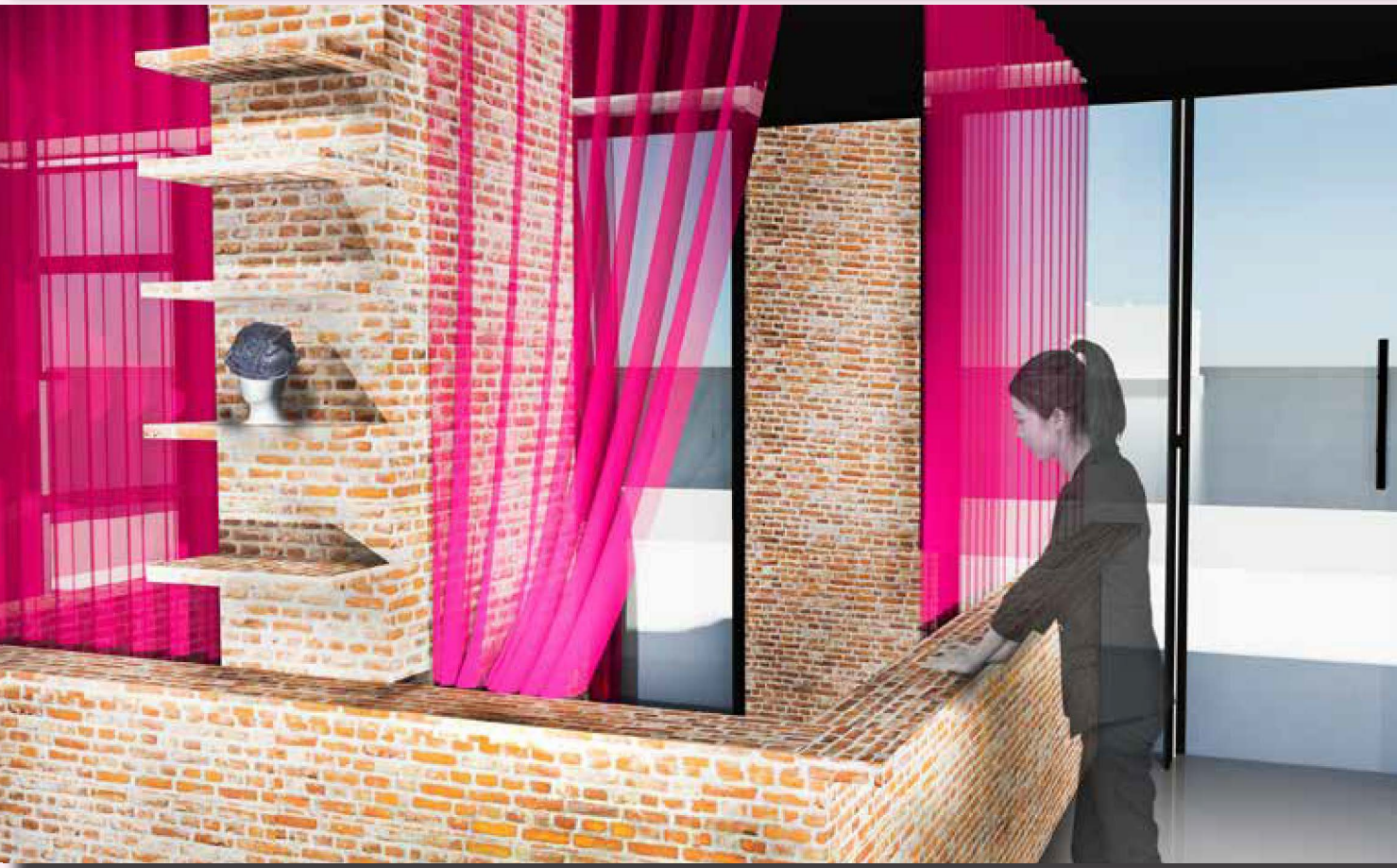
RETHREADING THE FUTURE_ SUSTAINABLE MATERIALITY AND DESIGN



CUSTOMERS ENTER A BOLD CLASH OF STRIKING ELEMENTS, INVITED TO NAVIGATE THE SPACE THROUGH FLOATING DISPLAY RAILS, CURTAIN CUTOUT, AND A MOVING FABRIC CONVEYOR BELT THAT ENCOURAGES EXPLORATION AND INTERACTION.



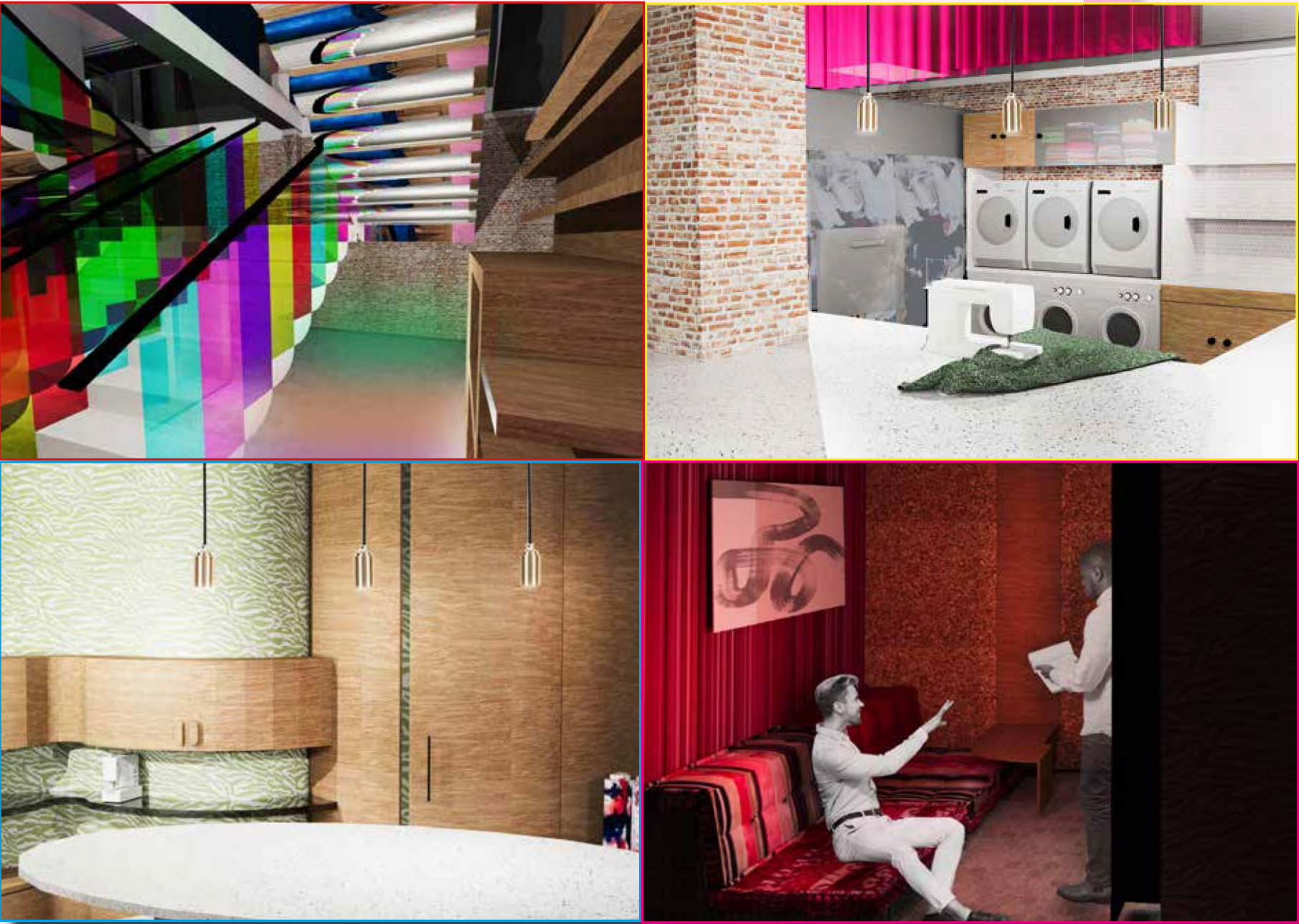
THE DESIGNER'S CURRENT PRODUCTS ARE SHOWCASED ON MANNEQUINS POSITIONED ON A CONVEYOR BELT, ALLOWING CUSTOMERS TO MOVE AROUND THE PIECES AS THEY ROTATE. THIS SETUP PROVIDES A DYNAMIC, 360-DEGREE VIEW OF THE CLOTHING, CREATING AN EXCITING AND INTERACTIVE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE.



A BOLD, DYNAMIC CUTOUT FROM GROUND TO BASEMENT LEVEL, FRAMED BY REVEALABLE CURTAINS, INVITES CUSTOMERS TO GLIMPSE THE DESIGNERS AT WORK BELOW, BLURRING THE LINE BETWEEN CREATION AND EXPERIENCE.



RETHREADING THE FUTURE_ VISUALISATIONS



THE BASEMENT FLOOR FEATURES A DYNAMIC, PURPOSEFUL CONTRAST OF SPACES, MATERIALS, AND TEXTURES, RESULTING IN A VIBRANT AND INSPIRING STUDIO ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DESIGNERS TO CREATE AND EXPERIMENT.



THE FIRST FLOOR OFFERS A VIBRANT, MULTI-TEXTURED ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE DESIGNERS ENJOY THEIR PRIVATE LIVING SPACE, COMPLETE WITH A FEATURE MODULAR SEATING AREA DESIGNED FOR SOCIALISING AND RELAXATION.