BRIDGE OF BELONGING:

Reclaimed Spaces for Living

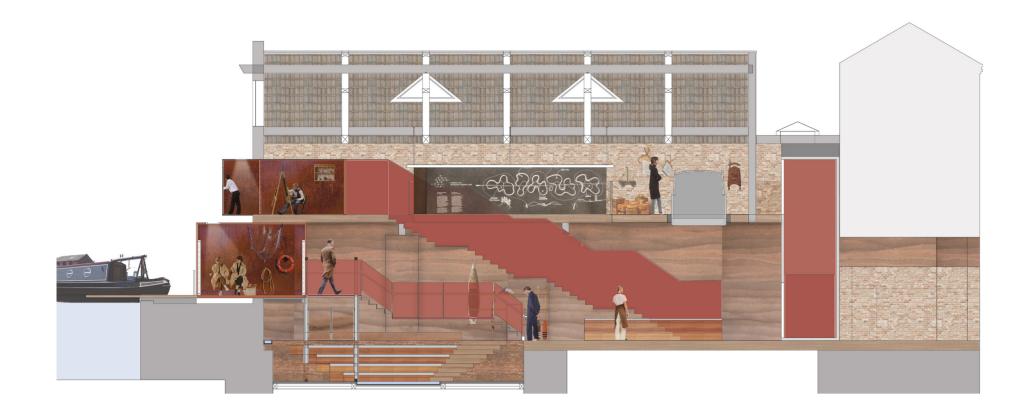


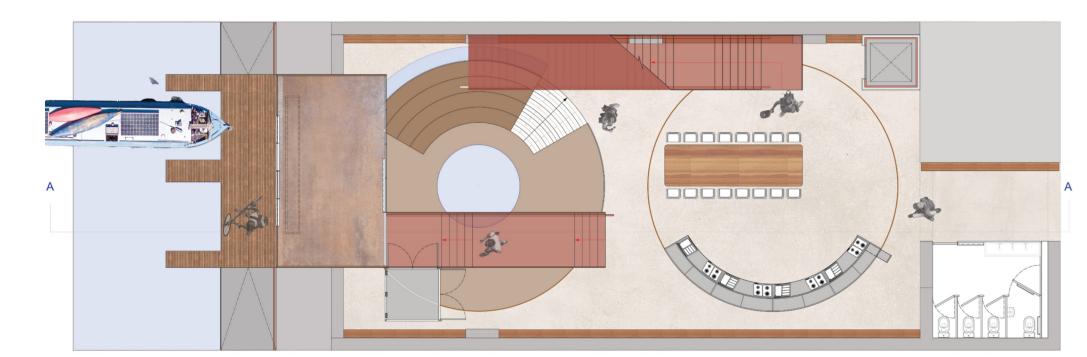


This project explores the quiet yet resilient community of canal boat dwellers, known as bargees; individuals who have chosen an alternative lifestyle defined by freedom, mobility, and self-sufficiency. Drawn to their diversity and independence, I was inspired to design a space that reflects and supports their way of life. My intention is to create an architectural bridge, both literal and symbolic, between water and land, boat and shore, isolation and connection. The design begins with a wooden pier that provides essential services such as water, electricity, and mooring, addressing practical needs that are often difficult to meet on the move. Beyond this functional threshold, the architecture shifts to focus on people, offering shared spaces where residents can cook, gather, work, and rest. These communal areas allow for moments of comfort and interaction that boats alone may not accommodate. By creating a space that blends utility with warmth, my design offers a gentle support system for a unique and evolving lifestyle.





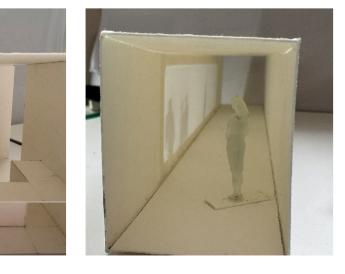




Playing with proportion: resizing compartments to examine spatial scale and balance









Rammed Earth and Reused Materials

Rammed earth is a sustainable construction method that involves compacting layers of damp earth, often mixed with natural stabilizers, into a formwork to create dense, load-bearing walls. In this project, I apply rammed earth to the interior, layering it over the existing groundfloor walls to express a sense of geological and architectural time. Bricks salvaged from demolished structural elements, such as the threshold wall and extended balcony, will be crushed and repurposed. These reclaimed materials will be integrated into stair treads and built-in seating within the leisure lounge, located inside the historic ice wells. This creates a circular material narrative that honors the memory of the original structure while reinforcing sustainable, site-specific design principles.





In the workshop, we engaged in a hands-on exercise that mirrored the principles of rammed earth construction. It was a process of discovery, where each decision left an imprint on the result, reinforcing the idea that working with natural materials requires intuition, adaptation, and respect for the unpredictable beauty of the earth.

Building with Earth: A Hands-On Exploration_



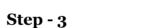
Step - 1



Step - 2















LAYERED HISTORIES

This is a contextual model that reflects the original site conditions of the London Canal Museum and its historical context. I drew inspiration from the ice wells at the site; voids within the building's structure that once stored massive blocks of ice. These wells act as negative spaces in the architectural narrative, revealing the site's hidden past. To reflect these ideas, I created this plaster model in the clay workshop, drawing influence from Rachel Whiteread's approach, which explores negative space by casting the voids left behind by objects, interiors, and architectural structures. She highlights forgotten or overlooked spaces, making the intangible history of places and objects tangible. The process of making this model mirrors the historical layering of the site, where past and present coexist, and negative space holds as much significance as the built form. The layering reflects the museum's history, where materials and structures have been built, rebuilt, and repurposed over time. The result is a tactile representation of how absence, reconstruction, and memory shape a space.







