



THE WOMEN’S ABODE

The Women’s Abode is situated in Long Lane, Smithfield. It’s a space where women can live communally with other women who have gone through trauma or difficult life experiences. This space provides them with support to allow them to rejoin the public sphere, without fear. Long Lane is the last step for the women to heal before they get back to “normal life”.

The Long Lane was chosen to house the women as it was a place to promote comfort and safety. The size of the space allows the inhabitants to not feel lost and lonely in their domestic space. The main driving force for situating The Women’s Abode at the Long Lane site was due to it’s smallness. The aim wasn’t to create a space that resembled a huge echoing asylum but instead create a practical and inviting domestic space to give women the confidence that they once had.

The space provides them with therapy and other activities to help them through their journey to heal. To correlate with distributed home brief I would like to create a space In the West Smithfield site, where the women can carry out daily exercises, meditation and group activities which can help them de-stress and improve their mental health.

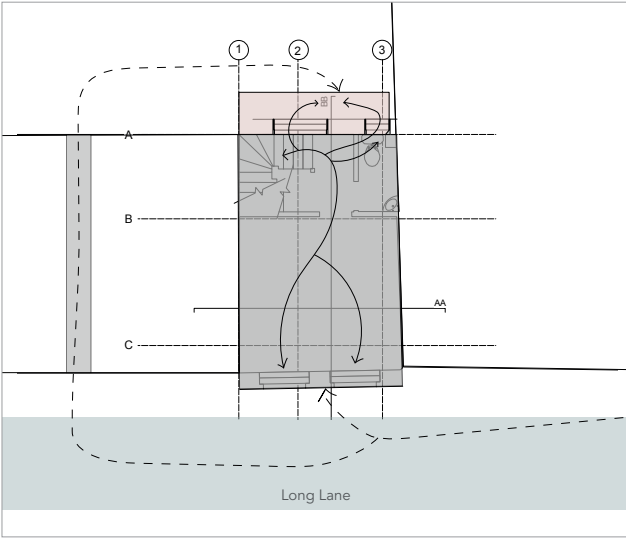
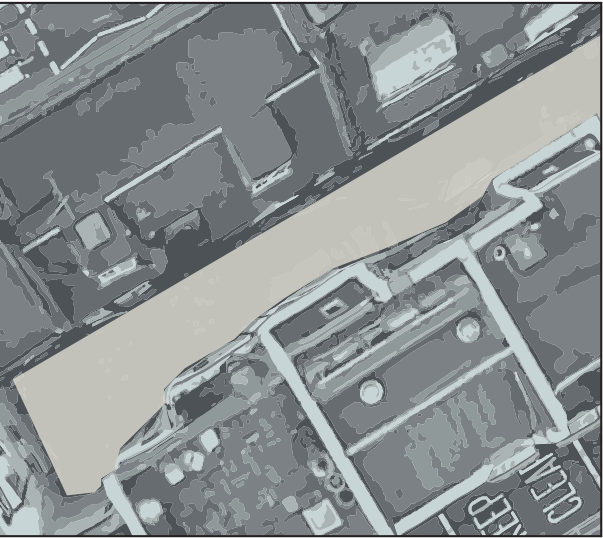
When researching the site and the typology of inhabitants, I have gathered a few design strategies to aide with the design development process. Adaptive re-used strategies will be essential to my site as it is a very small space. Additionally, the concept of controlling gaze is very important in my project as this relates directly to the inhabitants of the space. As a result of the trauma the women have gone through, the women don’t necessarily want to be seen by the public. Therefore, creating a private space is essential, hence the concept of controlling gaze inside and into the space is important.

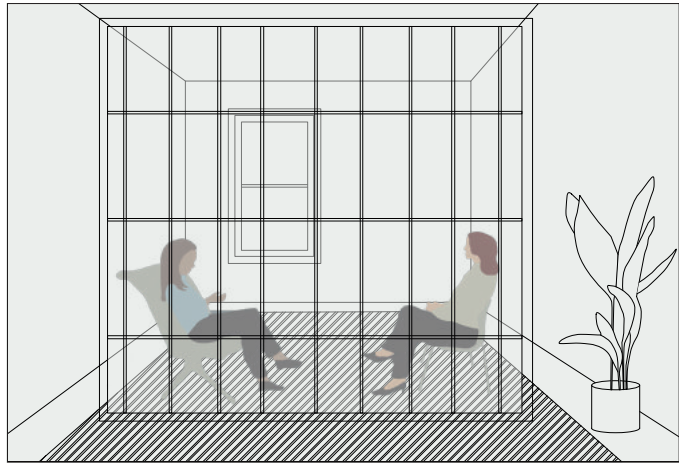
My chosen site situated on Long Lane holds a lot of history. The street dates back to medieval times and there are still buildings of that time present dotted around the Smithfield area. The majority of the medieval architecture was destroyed due to the Great Fire of London. 68 Long Lane is a sixteenth century town house, built in 1598. They are only a few such town houses like 68 Long Lane to have survived the Great Fire of London and the World Wars. Throughout the years, parts of site like the facade have been remodelled, therefore there are a combination of styles within one site. The size of Long Lane is an ideal domestic space, which enhances the idea of safety and comfort. These two ideas are essential to my narrative and concept of my project.

Behind the Long Lane site there’s a passage the grants access to the rear of Long Lane this can give the inhabitants options on where they can enter or exit the space. This also gives the opportunity to extend the site out and potentially externalising the circulation of the space. This will allow the inhabitants an extra space to explore at the back of the site. Opening the space out to become an open space at the back of the site is ideal as the front of the building looks onto the busy main road, whereas in the back of the building looks out onto a quiet passage. This will make the inhabitants more comfortable as they can freely move in and out of the site without being seen by many people.



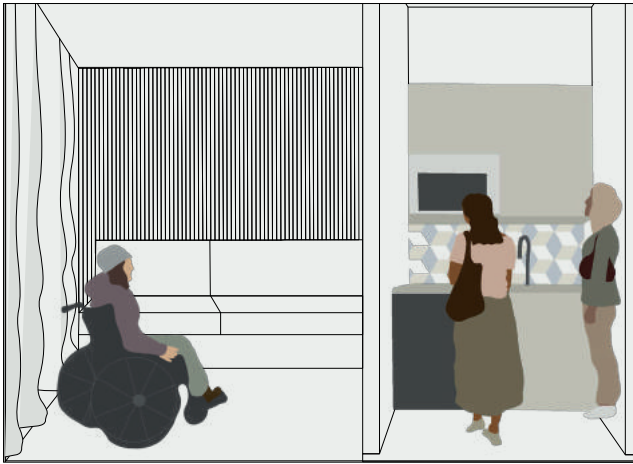
AXONOMETRIC VISUAL OF THE WHOLE SITE





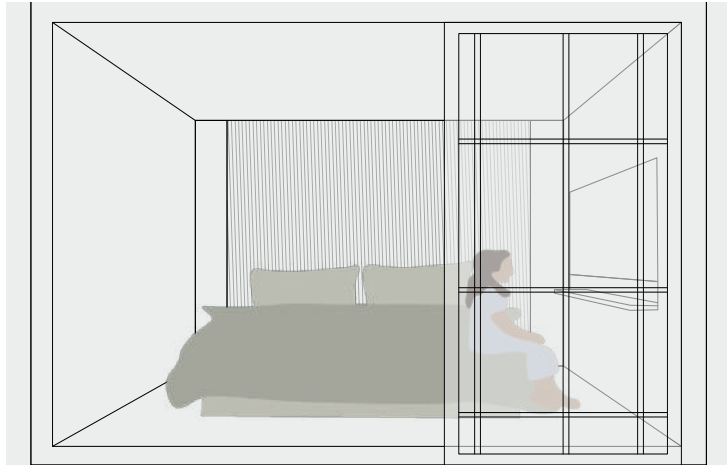
PERSONAL THERAPY SPACE

This space allows the inhabitants to have private sessions with a therapist to help them through their trauma and to allow them to build their confidence.



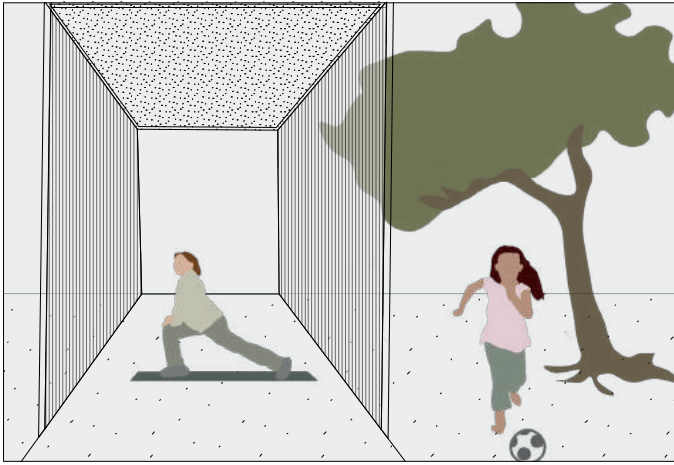
SPACE FOR NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

What is put in the body is very important for ones well-being, so within the site it is essential to have an area dedicated to food preparation, whilst also bringing the women together and increasing their well-being.



PRIVATE SLEEPING AREA

Space for the women to rest in and de- stress. It's Also an essential space in a domestic environment.



PUBLIC SPACE FOR EXERCISE, THERAPY AND WELLNESS (WEST SMITHFIELD)

This West Smithfield area can be developed as a space for the inhabitants to promote wellness and exercise. These activities are essential to provide care for mental help of the inhabitants.



SEMI PRIVATE COMMUNAL CONNECTION SPACE

This area is for all the women to gather, communicate and be part of their own community of women. This space allows them to spend time with each other.



CHILDREN PLAY AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

This space is to accommodate the children of the women who live in the site. It also acts as a place of therapy to the women as they get to spend time with their children.

/STRATEGY

//DEFENSIBLE SPACE

/TACTICS

// CONTROLLING GAZE

Controlling gaze to gain privacy into the space and also control how the inhabitants look out of the space without being seen. Therefore, concealing to maintain privacy

// GAINING AGENCY

Gaining agency is the idea of allowing the inhabitants to gain independence by still being open to interaction with other inhabitants therefore exposing their confidence

// SAFETY

The overall aim of the space to give the inhabitants the sense of safety within this abode. By feeling safe they can feel comfortable in their space.

/DEVICES

// EXTRUDED OPENINGS

// BACK ENTRANCES

// SCREENS & VEILS

// RAISED AND LOWERED LEVELS

// PLATFORMS

/KEY IDEA

// The idea of a defensible space for Long Lane, will allow the women to control their environment and therefore feel comfortable and safe in their space. This includes the idea of controlling gaze from the public sphere and/or the male gaze.

// To explore my key idea of controlling gaze in and out of the site. I have created a video exploring the key themes and possible devices I aim to explore in my project.

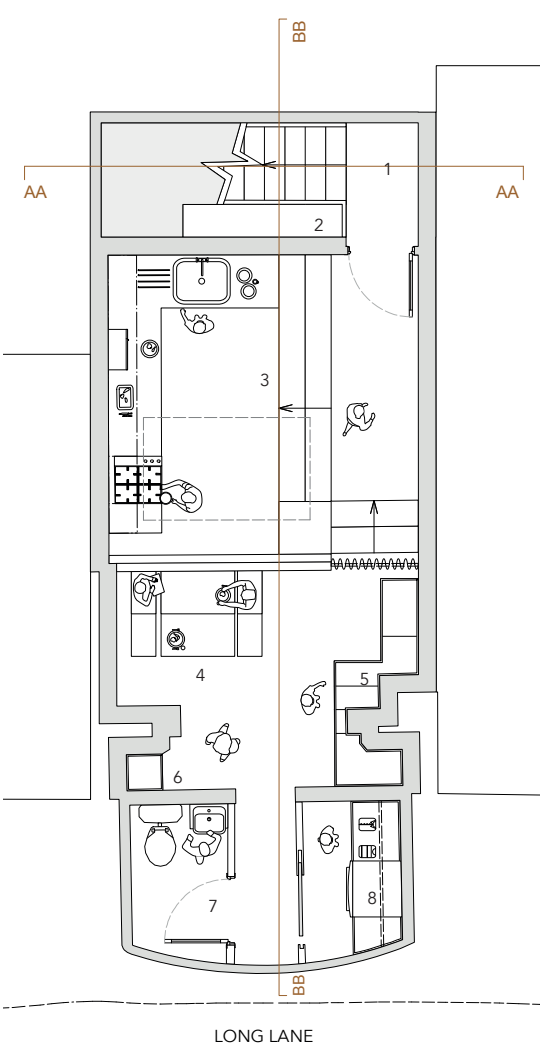
Please scan the QR code to watch the video.



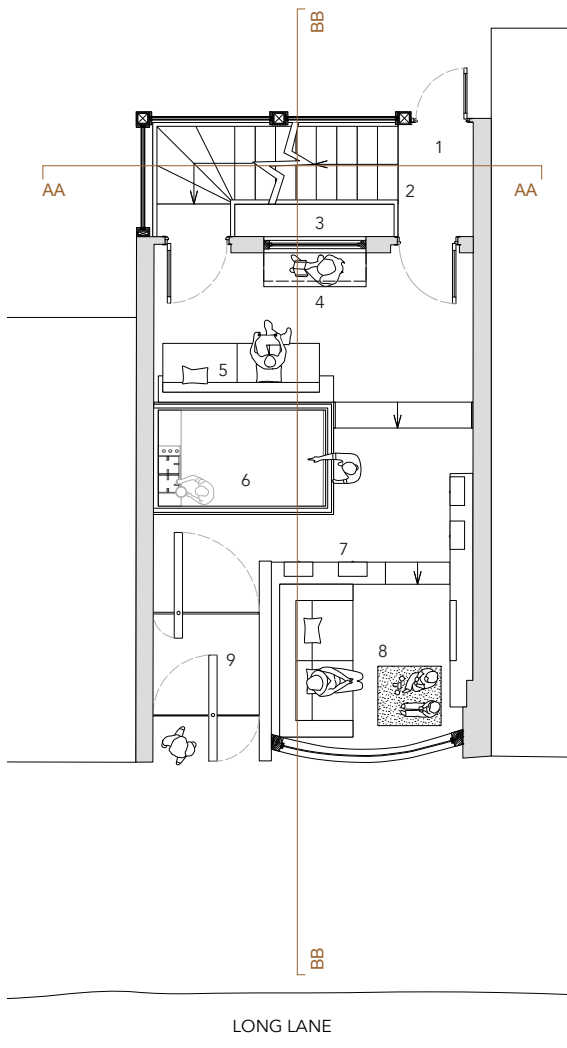
The overall atmosphere of The Women's Abode aims to be a welcoming space for Women where they can feel safe and heal from past traumas. In order to maintain this atmosphere the idea of veiling with the use of curtains and textured screens are important. The warm materiality of the use of woods are also a way of creating an inviting space. Additionally, windows are an important feature in the space as it's an opening between the private site and the public sphere.

THE WOMEN'S ABODE

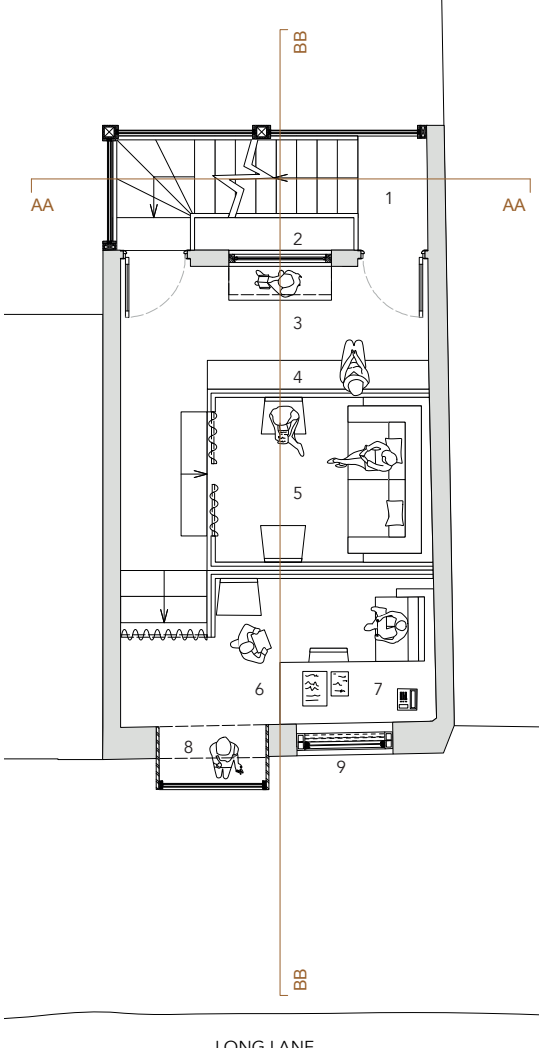
PLANS & SECTION



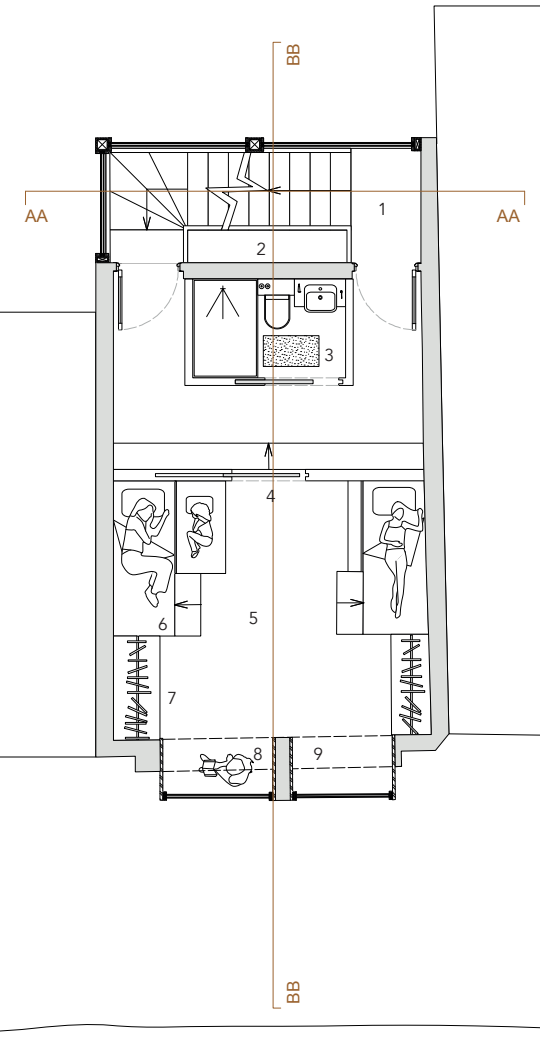
- BASEMENT FLOOR**
- 1 - Extension staircase
 - 2 - Void between new and old structure
 - 3 - Kitchen
 - 4 - Communal dining space
 - 5 - Storage
 - 6 - Storage
 - 7 - Cloakroom (WC)
 - 8 - Utility



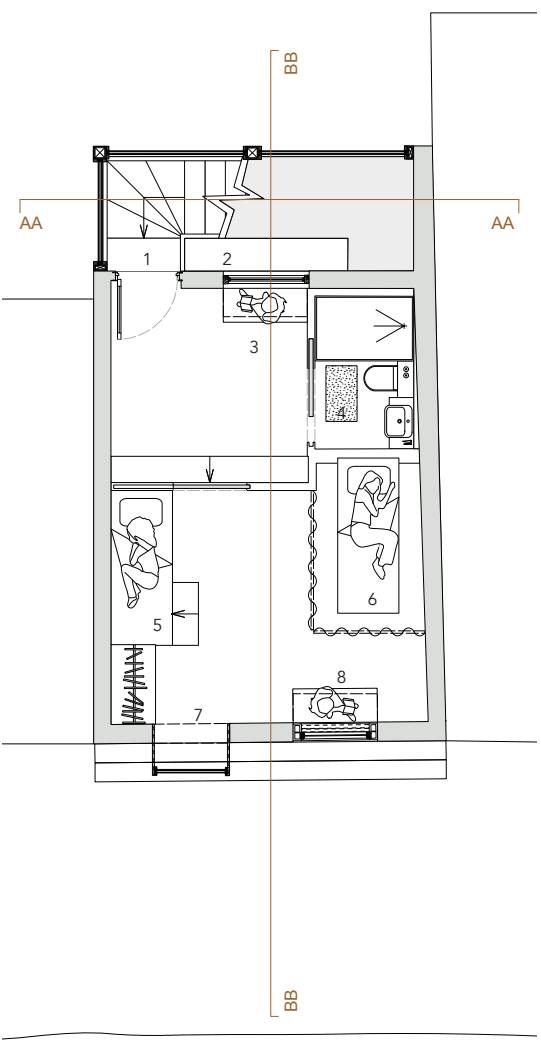
- GROUND FLOOR**
- 1 - Ground floor back entrance
 - 2 - Extension staircase
 - 3 - Void between new and old structure
 - 4 - Window seating with storage on top
 - 5 - Seating area
 - 6 - Floor cut out into ground floor
 - 7 - Storage shelves
 - 8 - Front family lounge
 - 9 - Set of double pivoting entrance doors



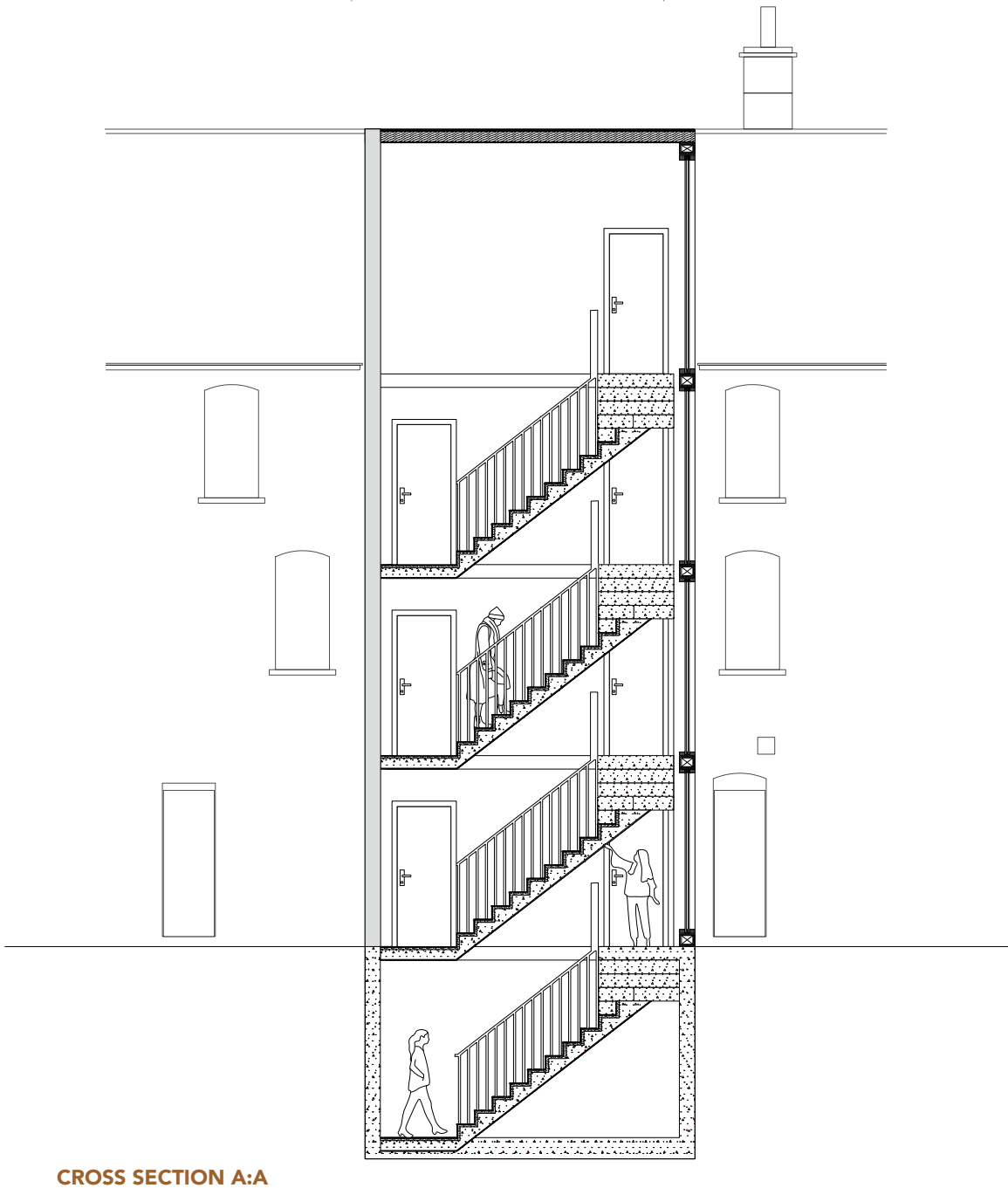
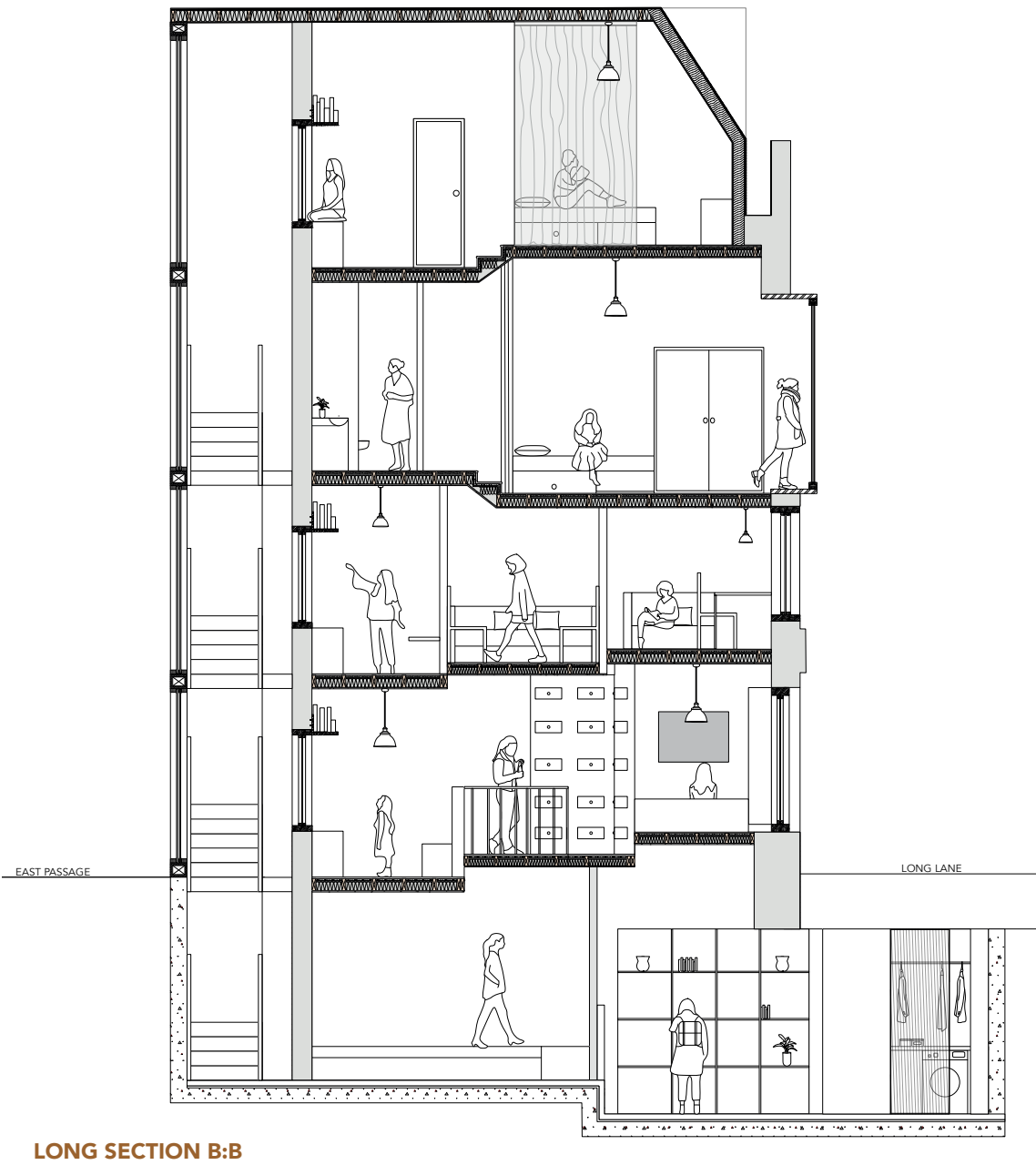
- LEVEL 01**
- 1 - Extension staircase
 - 2 - Void between old and new structure
 - 3 - Window seating with storage on top
 - 4 - Extruded seating from therapy booth
 - 5 - 1st therapy booth
 - 6 - 2nd therapy booth
 - 7 - Desk space
 - 8 - Extruded window
 - 9 - Sash window



- LEVEL 02**
- 1 - Extension staircase
 - 2 - Void between old and new structure
 - 3 - Bathroom
 - 4 - Partition and screen door
 - 5 - Sleeping area
 - 6 - Bed with storage or extra bed underneath
 - 7 - Wardrobe
 - 8 - Extruded window
 - 9 - Extruded window



- LEVEL 03**
- 1 - Extension staircase
 - 2 - Void between new and old structure
 - 3 - Window seating area with storage on top
 - 4 - Bathroom
 - 5 - Raised bed with storage underneath
 - 6 - Bed
 - 7 - Extruded window
 - 8 - Window seating storage on top



Extruded window



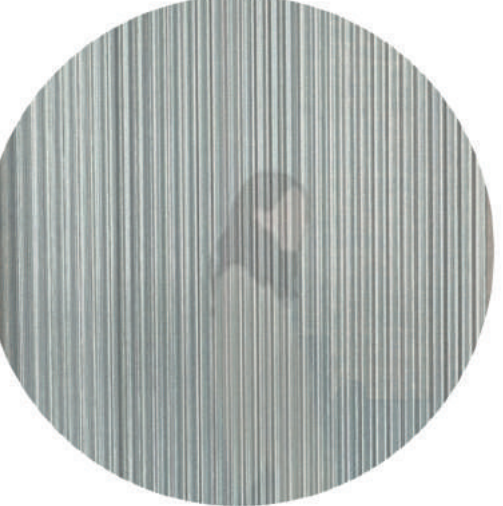
Window seating



Cabinetry & partitions



Change of levels



Textured screens & curtains



Communal dining & kitchen space



Private therapy booth and waiting area



Communal ground floor space



Private therapy space

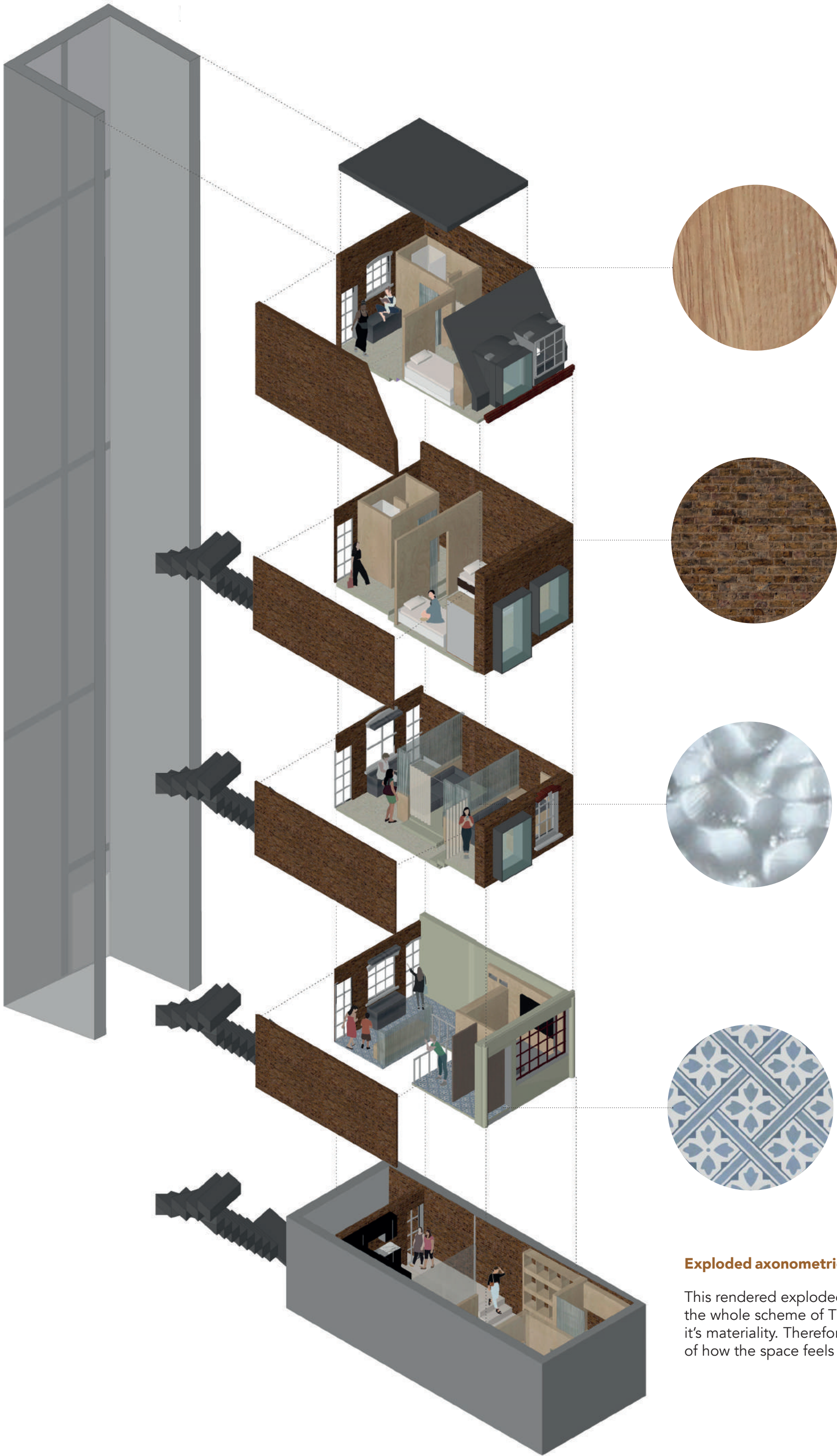


MATERIALITY

The choice of materials used in the space aim to promote safety and comfort, whilst also relating back to the existing historical fabric of the building. For example the Victorian inspired tiles and the stripped brick walls of the site to fully reveal the original materiality.

To promote comfort the use of linen for the curtains, velvet for the upholstery and soft carpet for the floors in the private spaces come together to create a comforting domestic environment for the women who need a space to heal and get back on their feet.

- 1 - Cream floor tiles
- 2 - Linen curtains
- 3 - Translucent laminated glass
- 4 - Birch plywood
- 5 - Carpet
- 6 - Textured cast glass
- 7 - Original victorian brick
- 8 - Velvet fabric
- 9 - Terrazzo kitchen worktop
- 10 - Victorian inspired floor tiles



THE WOMEN'S ABODE

Within the women's abode the aim was to create a space that would increasingly get private as you go up the space. The basement and ground floor areas were the communal spaces for the women to interact and create conversations. As you move up the space are where the private sleeping areas are situated for the women. This is their own personal space where they sleep and privately reflect on their thoughts. Within each space there are windows that extrude out or have a seating area by the window. This was to explore the strategy of controlling gaze therefore allowing the inhabitants to have a greater connection to the public sphere.

A bold strategy used in The Women's Abode was to externalise the circulation at the back of the site situated in the East passage. This strategy not only changed the circulation of the site but reconfigured the interior space to ensure maximum usage of the interior space. This was done by moving the existing staircase outside into an extension.

By having two entrances one at the front and one at the back this enables the inhabitants to have control of being seen or unseen. The rear entrance is only accessible to those who live at The Women's Abode, therefore providing extra safety to the site.

This space and it's small scale provides an extra element of comfort for the women, giving them a sense of home, closeness and support with one another in a new domestic space.

Exploded axonometric exploring materiality

This rendered exploded axonometric explores the whole scheme of The women's abode and it's materiality. Therefore giving an overall feel of how the space feels .