SQUATTERS HQ

Our plan is to turn 79 Charter houses into a Squatters Headquarters. Having a Squatters headquarters will be a vital part of the infrastructure of radical social movement.
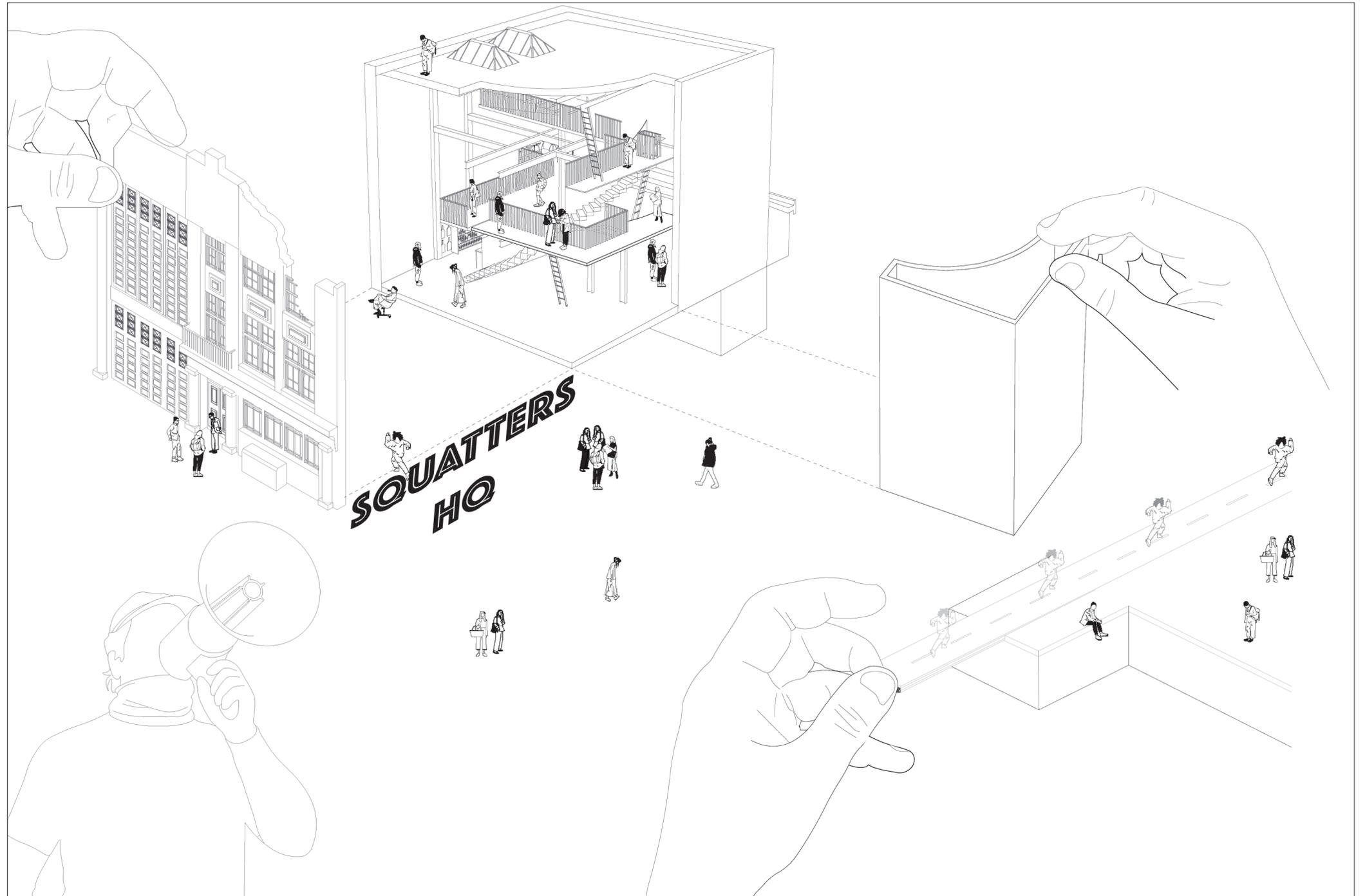
For thousands of years Smithfield market has been used to butcher animals and sell them on. After countless times of peacefully protesting and marching to ban the abusive to these innocent animals, we have decided to take matters into our own hands as they refuse to listen to us when we are peaceful, we will make them listen, now. We are forcefully taking back the control and taking the whole street. Yes, I said it 'the whole street'. Let's see if they will listen now.

COVID-19 couldn't have happened at the right time, due to it we notice a huge number of buildings were left vacant. One of those buildings being 79-83 Charterhouse street as this site is right opposite Smithfield market we thought it was the best site for us.

As Smithfield is a historical landmark of Smithfield Market and 79 Charterhouse, it would be a statement to convert Charterhouse into a rotational squatter headquarters accommodating a loose network of squatters, squat-supporters and squat groups. The purpose of this space would be for meetings and events to take place. It is time for us to be heard!! Squatters HQ is open to its surrounding community. We put together a team of ex-professional squatters and some members of the surrounding community to squat 79 Charter House for a couple of months.
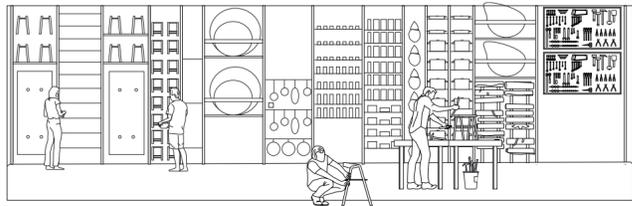
The plans are to take over the east side of the market with an alternative food market operated by those squatters whom would like to be involved from 79 Charterhouse as well as others currently squatting in Denmark House.

79-83 Charterhouse is to be considered a rotational squatters Headquarters. On a six-month rotation the squatter groups change, giving opportunity for another squatters' group to re-imagine and re-use the space. The aim is to achieve by using materials that are re-usable.
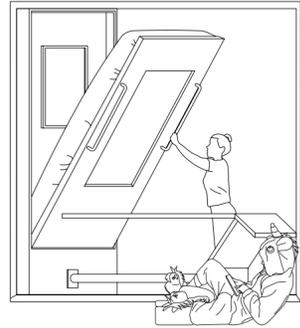

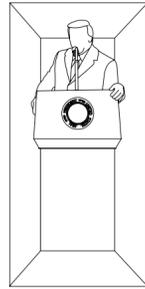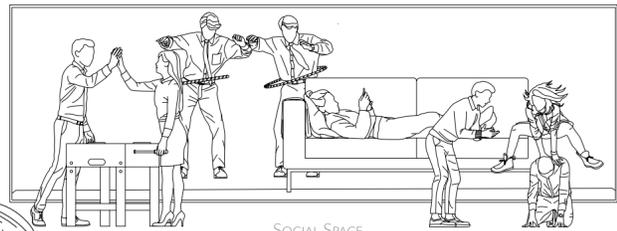AXOMETRIC VIEW INTO THE SITE

2

Cookery and workshop

Garnett Chart and storage

CONGRESS

Sleeping area

Press Conference

Social Space

SQUATTERS HEADQUARTERS WILL BE A VITAL PART OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF RADICAL SOCIAL MOVEMENT.

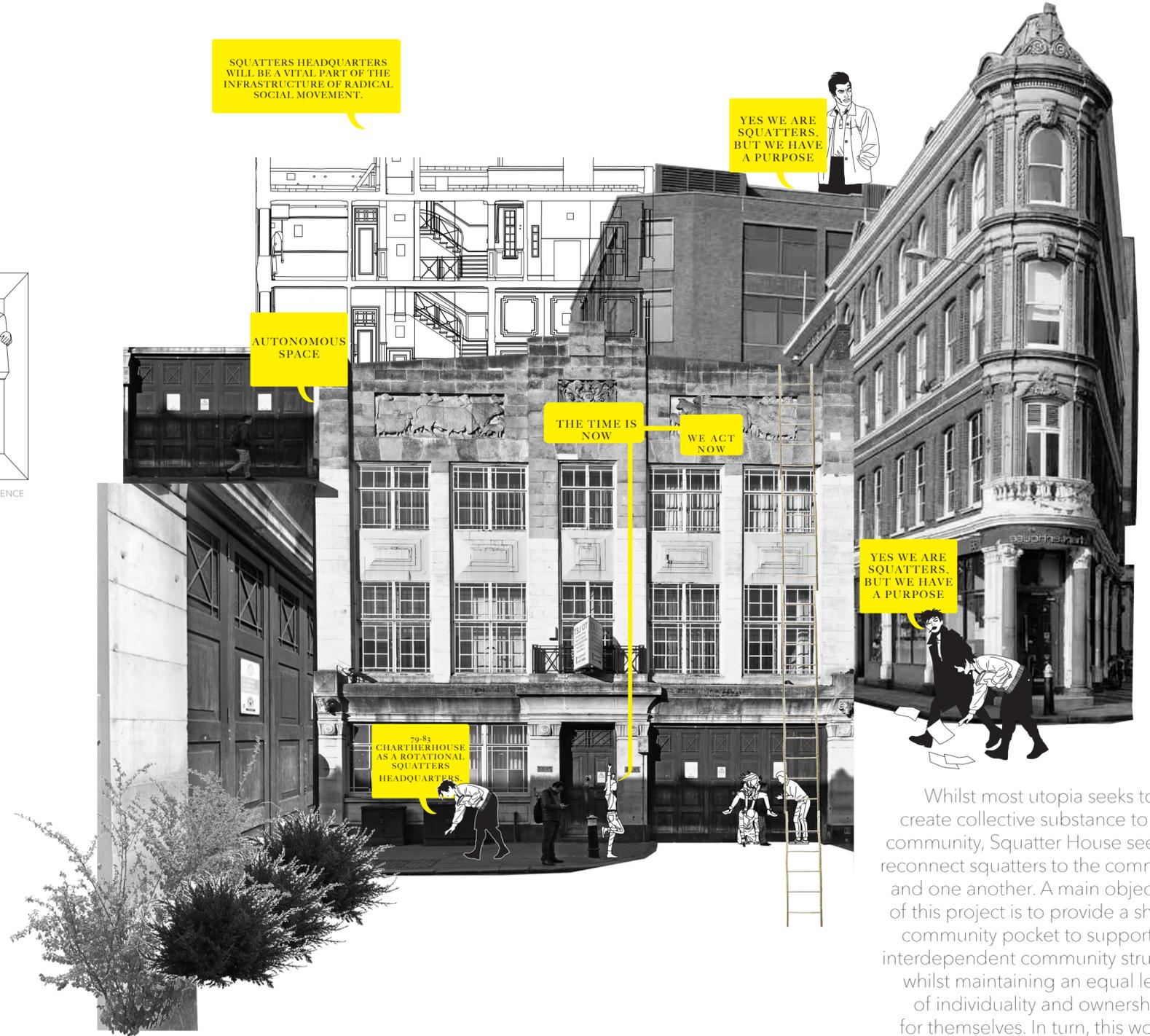YES WE ARE SQUATTERS, BUT WE HAVE A PURPOSE

AUTONOMOUS SPACE

THE TIME IS NOW

WE ACT NOW

YES WE ARE SQUATTERS, BUT WE HAVE A PURPOSE

79-81 CHARTERHOUSE AS A ROTATIONAL SQUATTERS HEADQUARTERS

Whilst most utopia seeks to create collective substance to the community, Squatter House seeks to reconnect squatters to the community and one another. A main objectives of this project is to provide a shared community pocket to support an interdependent community structure, whilst maintaining an equal level of individuality and ownership for themselves. In turn, this would give those who are homeless an opportunity to reconnect to oneself and the community at large
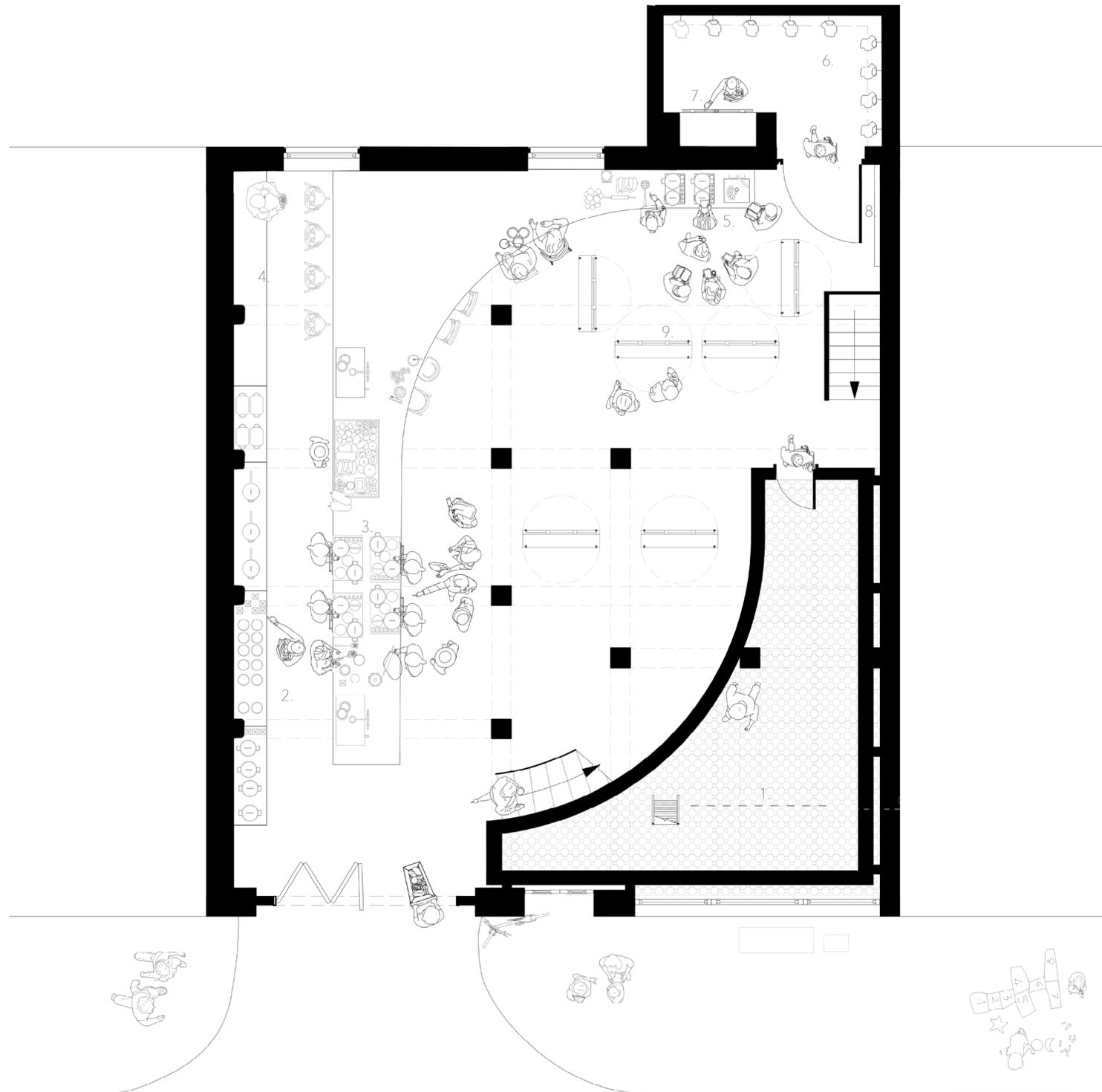
SCAN ME

79-83 CHARTERHOUSE

Upon arrival, we noticed the building has been demolished by the owners of the building, this was purposeful in order to prevent squatting from taking place. When entering the building, remnants of a previous fire is evident throughout the first, second and floors on the right-hand side. Due to these floors being affected the fire seems to have taken place organically rather than a set of planned controlled fires. Before this historic site was demolished by its owner, 79-83 Chartherhouse meat office that dates back to 1800's. It played an important role for Smithfield Meat Market. Our approach was to re-store and re-create a connection with the ruins and the new infrastructure that will be intervened whilst preserving the building.

This was achieved by inserting a 4 storey observation tower that will squat within the ruins of the site. A system of mesh floors and ladders creates a beauitful intervention. With pivortable window so that you can stay connected to the rest of the site.
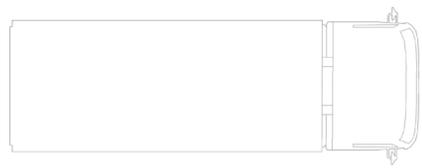
VACANT

1:100

1. Wardrobe
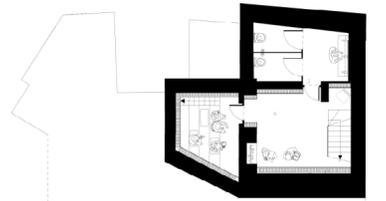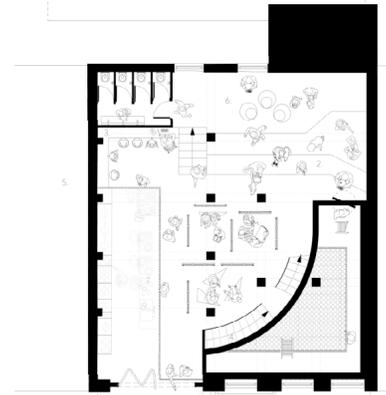2. Toilets
3. Garnets station
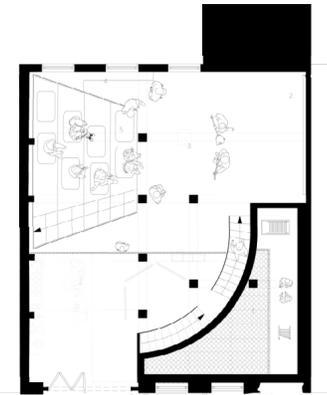4. Working space
5. Sleeping area

Garnets and Archive Basement

1:100

1. Observation Tower
2. Wide seating area
3. Toilets
4. Space dividers
5. Working Bar
6. Seating
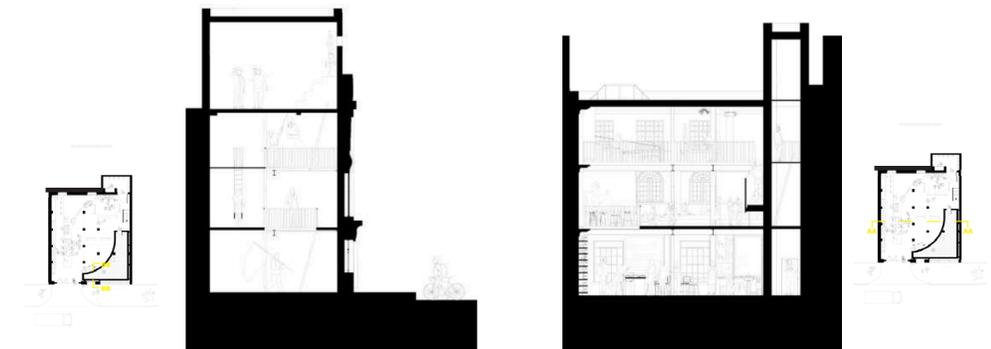
Squatters HQ Second Floor

1:100

1. Observation tower
2. Fold away table
3. Projector
4. Seating
5. Theatre

Congress Squatters HQ Second Floor

Workshop and Cookery Class

1:100

1. Observation tower
2. Storage
3. Cookery Class
4. Seating
5. Food waste workshop
6. Food compost waste
7. Fridge\Freezer
8. Fold away table
9. Space dividers

Whilst most utopia seeks to create collective substance to the community, Squatter House seeks to reconnect squatters to the community and one another. A main objectives of this project is to provide a shared community pocket to support an interdependent community structure, whilst maintaining an equal level of individuality and ownership for themselves. In turn, this would give those who are homeless an opportunity to reconnect to oneself and the community at large.

A huge amount of effort goes into buildings and maintaining autonomous spaces. Dealing with issues such as openness and through groups could ease financial pressures, repression as well as day to day oversight of a building on a voluntary basis- the involvement with social centres can be a lengthy process to ensure all involved are in agreement to the terms and conditions agreed.

On arrival to the site, we noted the right side of the building had recently been demolished. This mid-process construction can be found throughout the city. Homeowners will demolish their own property to prevent squatters invading their property. How do we tackle this?

The use of privacy embodies the purpose of design, light and shadow complimentary to the purpose; clearly indicating private and defining the public sphere. Local materials are an essential aspect of the redesign when possible, as a means to mirror the surrounding environment.