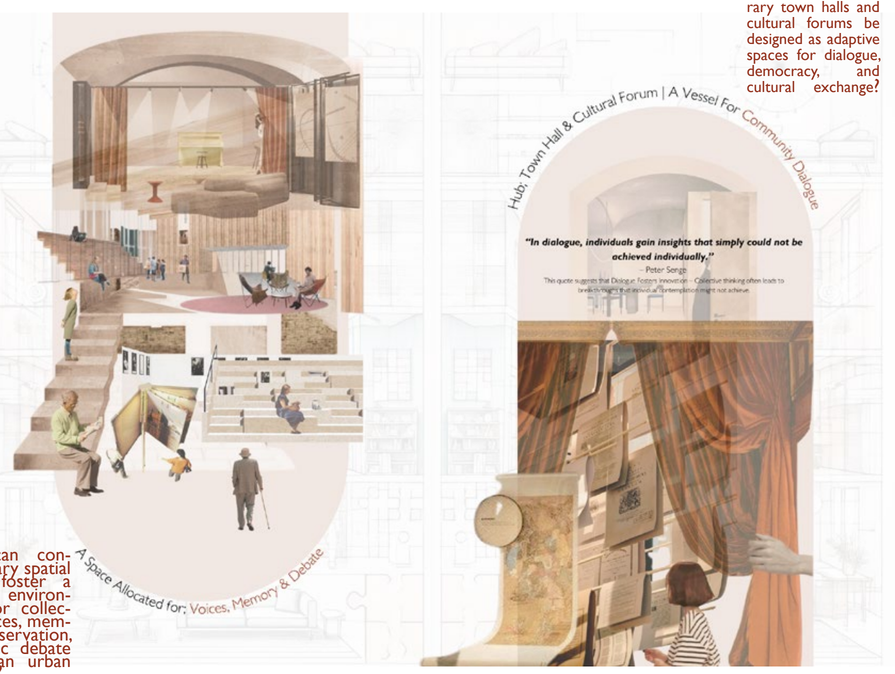
THE CIVIC CHAMBER

This project explores how civic spaces can become platforms for social justice by fostering open dialogue, collective storytelling, and equitable public participation. Rooted in the layered social and architectural histories of Coal Drops Yard and Somers Town, the design actively challenges the exclusionary tendencies of commercialised urban regeneration.

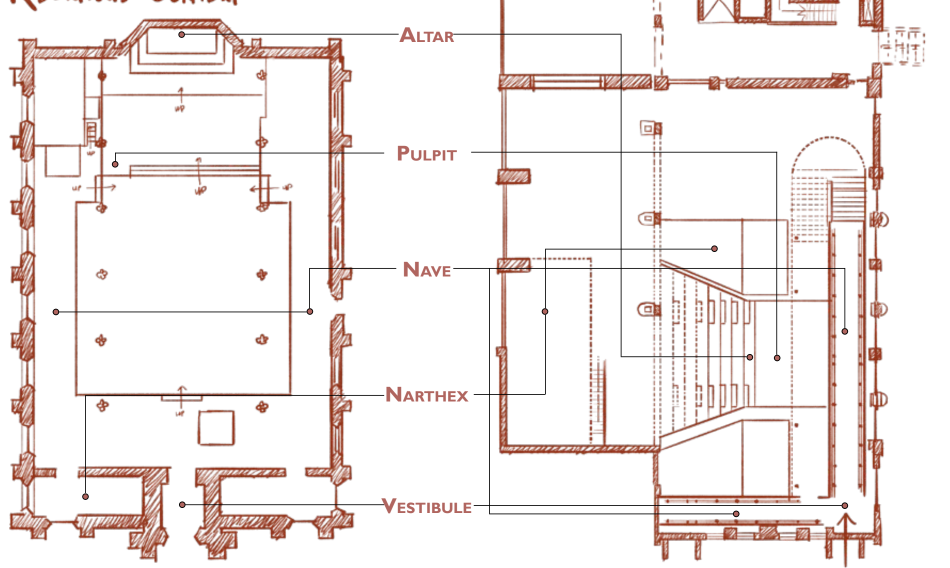
Through a constellation of spatial interventions—from debate chambers to interpretation zones—the proposal amplifies marginalised, archived, and contemporary voices alike. By reimagining civic infrastructure as a space of inclusion, transparency, and co-authorship, the project advocates for a more dignified and democratic urban experience that honours the diverse realities of all communities.

How can contemporary town halls and cultural forums be designed as adaptive spaces for dialogue, democracy, and cultural exchange?


Hub: Town Hall & Cultural Forum | A Vessel For Community Dialogue
"In dialogue, individuals gain insights that simply could not be achieved individually."
– Peter Senge
This quote suggests that Dialogue Fosters innovation – Collective thinking often leads to breakthroughs that individual contemplation might not achieve.
A Space Allocated for: Voices, Memory & Debate

How can contemporary spatial design foster a dynamic environment for collective voices, memory preservation, and civic debate within an urban context?

COAL DROPS YARD. IN RELIGIOUS CONTEXT

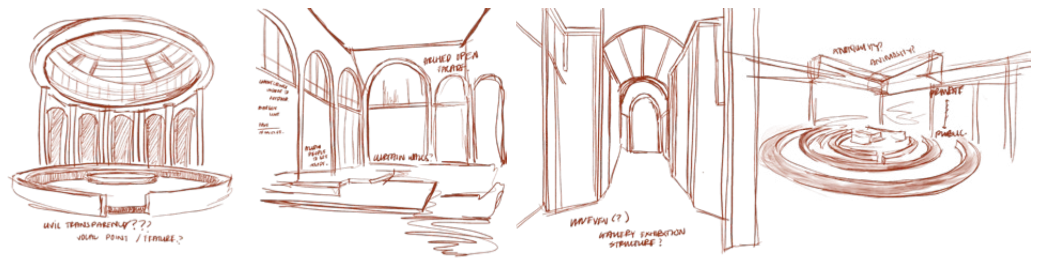

ALTAR
PULPIT
NAVE
NARTHEX
VESTIBULE
ENTRANCE

Reference;
St. Mary's Church Plan Layout

Main Site Building;
Coal Drops Yard Plan Layout

I have align areas with a church's structure to explore its role in civic engagement, activism, and transformation, examining public voice and participation at Coal Drops Yard.

SKETCH[ES] :


VISUAL TRANSPARENCY???
VOCAL POINT / FEATURE?
ARCHED OPEN FACADE
CURTAIN WALLS?
HAVEN (?)
GALLERY EXHIBITION STRUCTURE?
ANONYMITY?
ANIMOSITY?
PRIVATE
PUBLIC

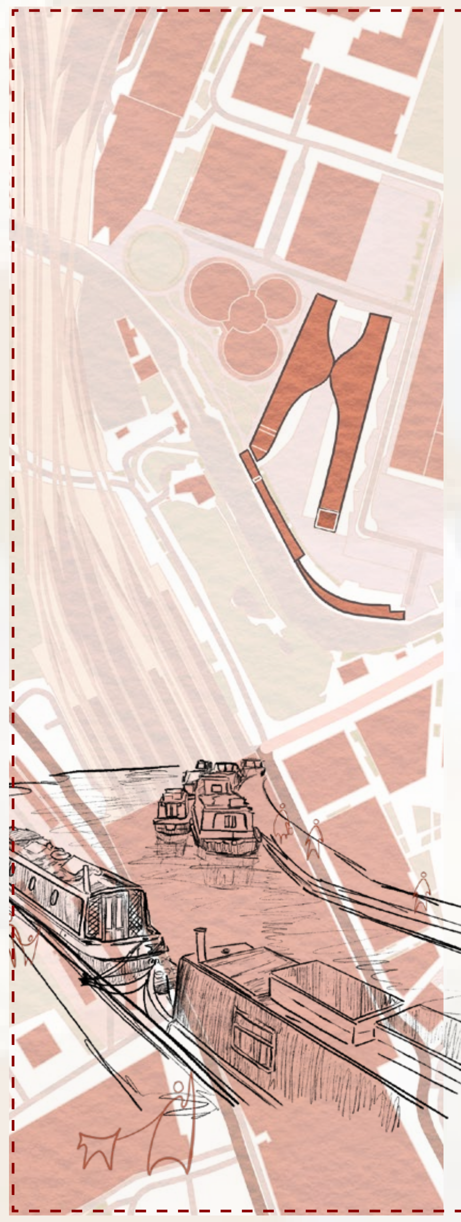
TARGET USER[S]

Employees / Office Workers

Students

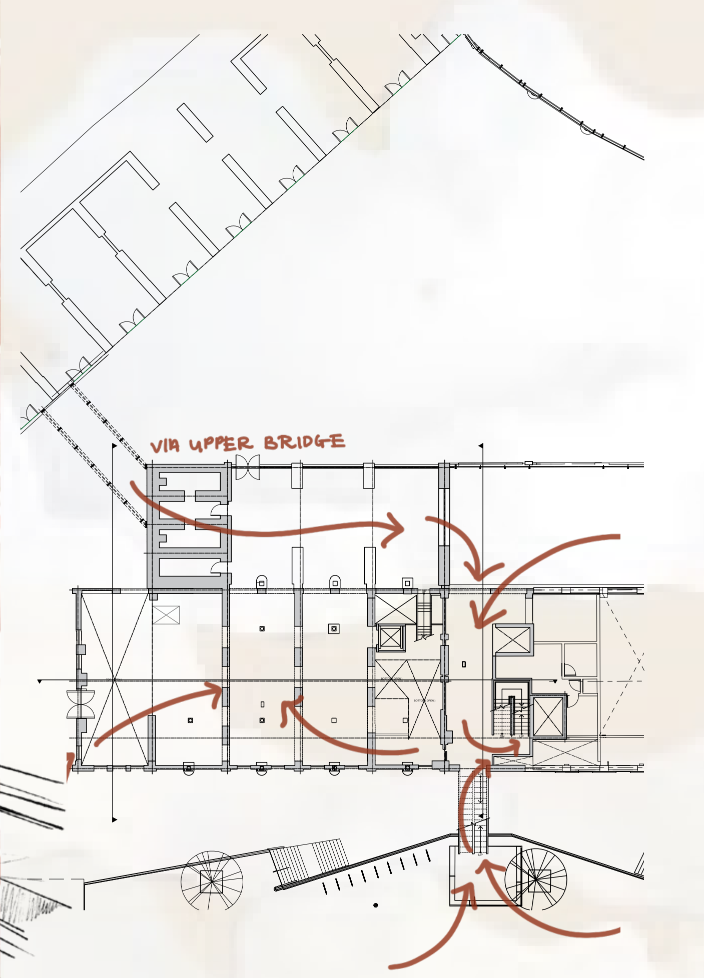
Local Community around King's Cross & Somers Town

Politicians and Councilors

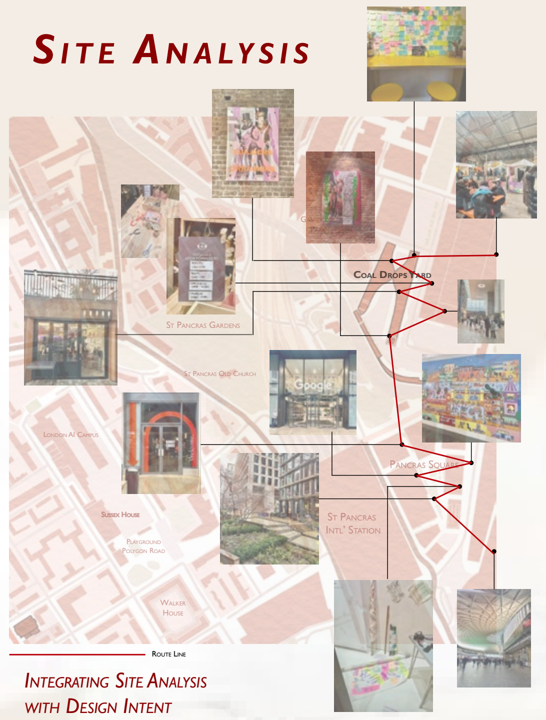


MAIN BUILDING APPROACH

MASTERPLAN ; SITE CONTEXT


VIA UPPER BRIDGE

SITE ANALYSIS


Coal Drops Yard
St Pancras Gardens
St Pancras Old Church
London AI Campus
Pancras Square
Sussex House
Playground Polygon Road
St Pancras Intl' Station
Walker House
Route Line

INTEGRATING SITE ANALYSIS WITH DESIGN INTENT

LOUD
UBRANISATION
RETAIL EXPANSION
VISUAL PRESENTATION OF THE
NEW
OLD

Fig.xx. Personal Collage - Site Investigation on Public Expression

My site analysis highlights the contrast between Coal Drops Yard's commercialized environment and Somers Town's community-driven spaces.
This tension shapes my project's goal: to create a civic space that invites open dialogue within an exclusive setting.

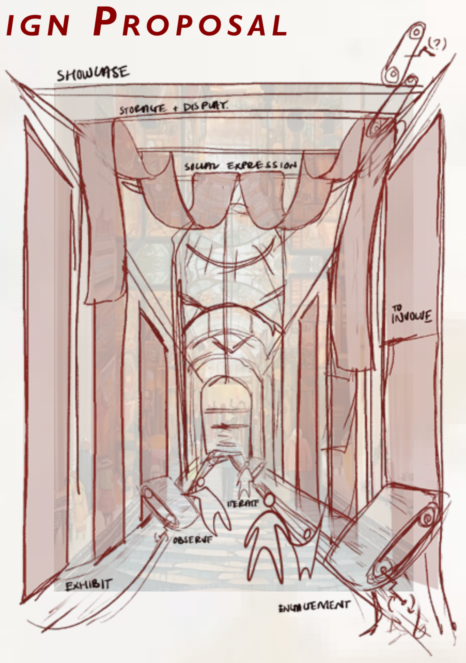
Through user flows, thresholds, and spatial hierarchies, I've positioned interventions like VoicePrint Lane and the Debate Chamber to foster participation.

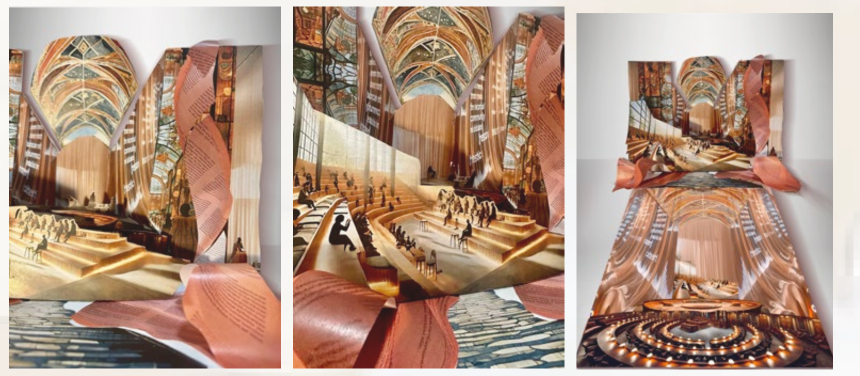
Archival imprints, interactive zones, and transitional spaces reactivate overlooked areas, ensuring the design not only fits the site but reshapes how it's experienced.

MANIFESTO | DESIGN PROPOSAL

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
SOCIAL EXPRESSION
PUBLIC DISCOURSE
COLLECTIVE MEMORY
CULTURAL IDENTITY
URBAN TAPESTRY

TO INTRODUCE CULTURE AS A FORM OF PUBLIC DIALOGUE


SHOWCASE
STORAGE + DISPLAY
SOCIAL EXPRESSION
TO INVOLVE
ITERATE
OBSERVE
EXHIBIT
ENGAGEMENT



Creating these AI-generated images and transforming them into collages allowed me to explore the vast range of spaces and experiences the environment could foster, helping me refine my strategic approach.

SDG 9.
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Merging traditional craft with digital technology to create an interactive civic space.

SDG 10.
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

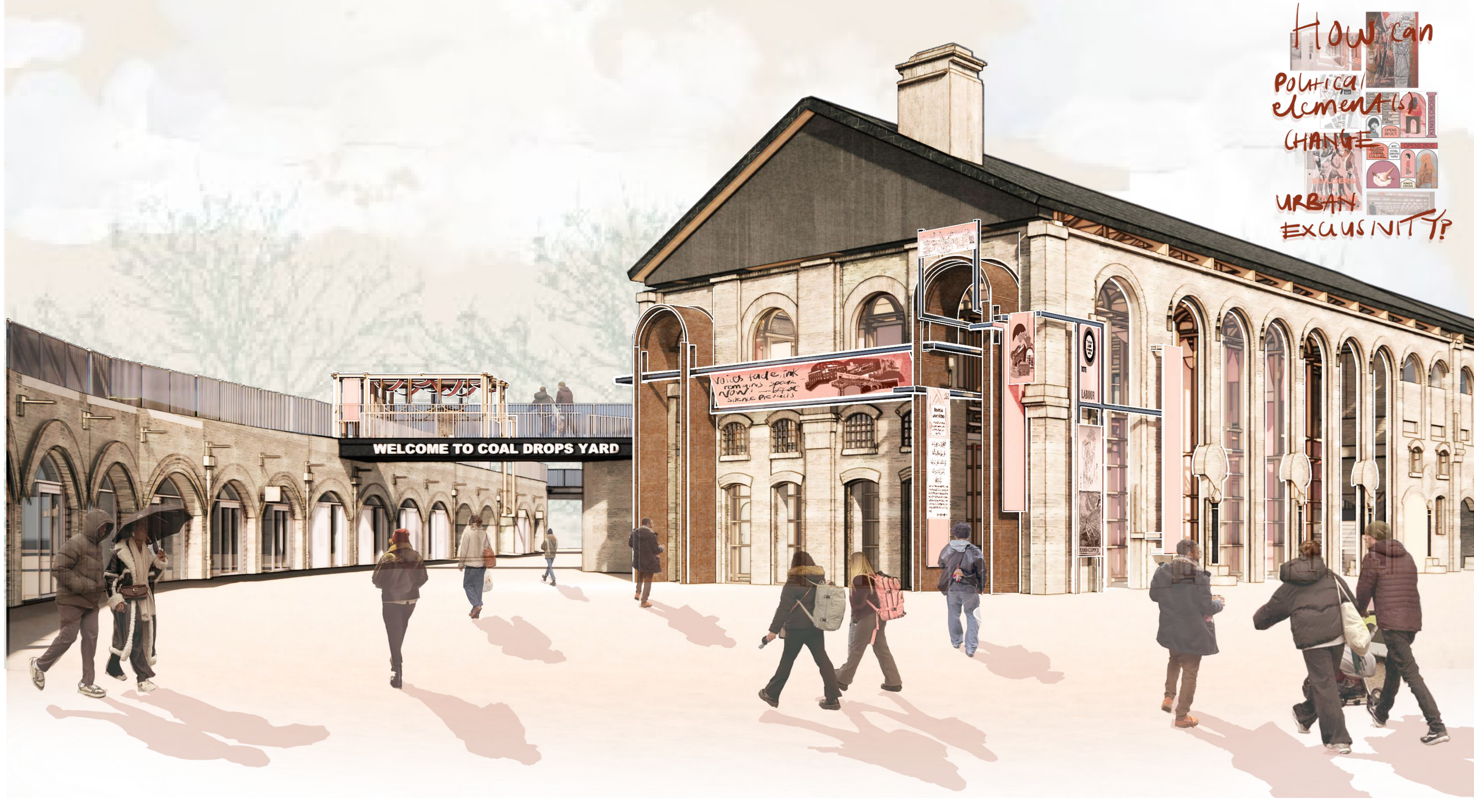
By prioritizing equal access to dialogue and representation, the project aligns with SDG 10.

SDG 11.
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Reflecting SDG 11, the project transforms underutilized space into a dynamic civic hub, strengthening urban social cohesion.

SDG 16.
PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTION

Aligned with SDG 16, the space fosters open dialogue and democratic engagement. Through transparent design and interactive forums, it becomes a neutral ground where governance, debate, and storytelling remain accessible to all.

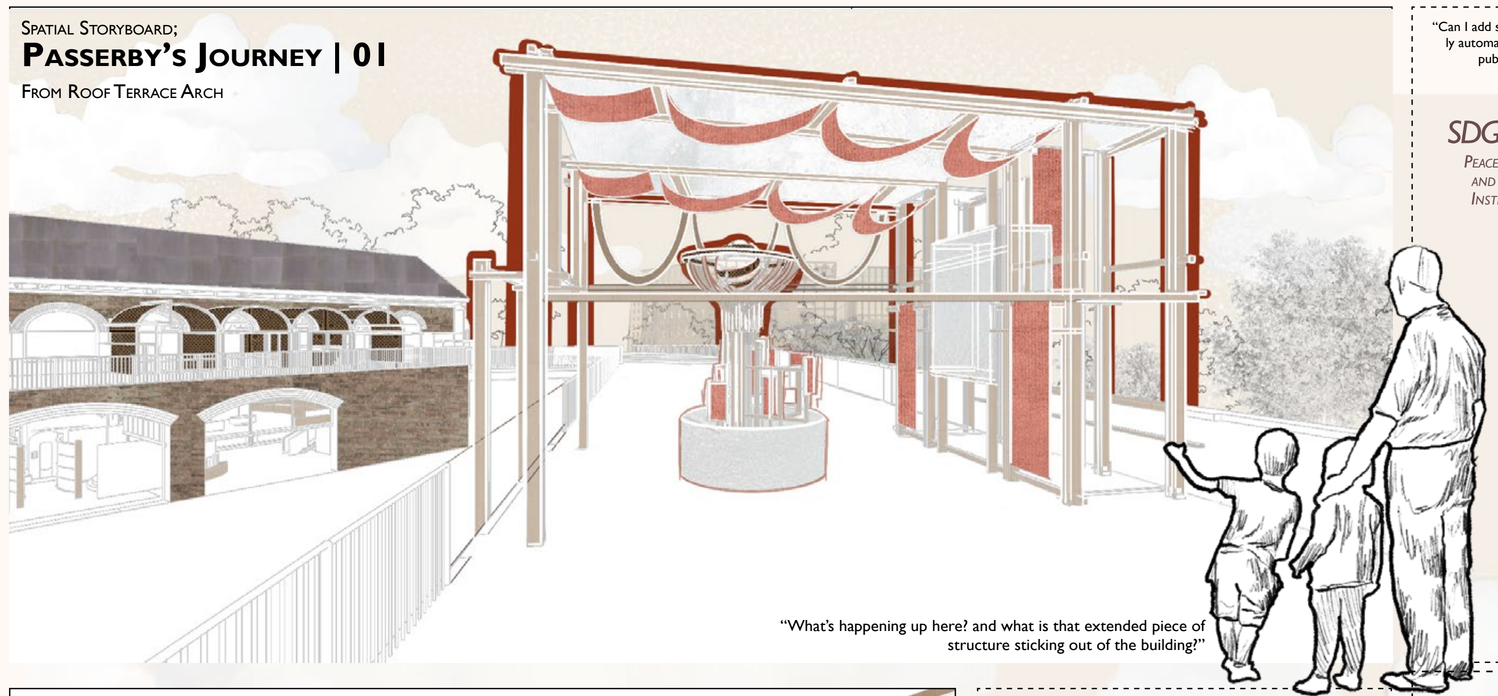

KING'S CROSS
OPENS 26 OCT.
STORES DINING CULTURE
N1C COAL DROPS YARD
OPENS 26.10
BUILDERS + DREAMERS
WELCOME TO COAL DROPS YARD
Voices fade, ink remains. speak NOW! — before silence prevails
VOTE
LABOUR
HANDICAPPED

How can political element(s) CHANGE URBAN EXCLUSIVITY?

Spatial Storyboard;

Passerby's Journey | 01

From Roof Terrace Arch



"What's happening up here? and what is that extended piece of structure sticking out of the building?"

"Can I add something? Or is this purely automated? Either way, this makes public speech feel so tangible."

SDG 16.

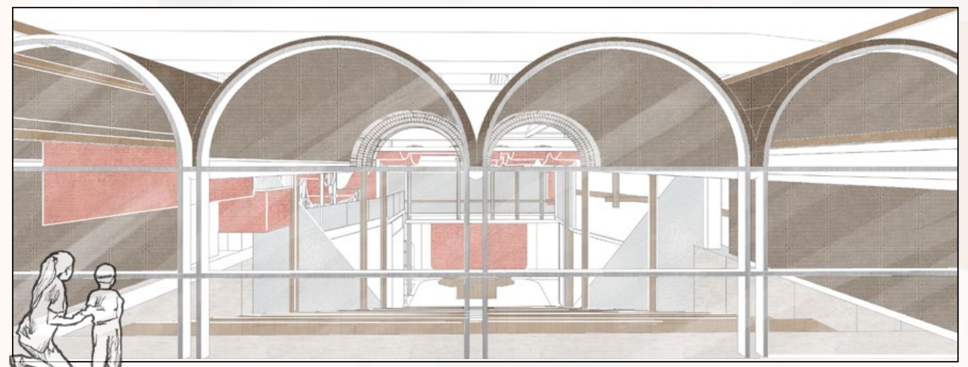
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

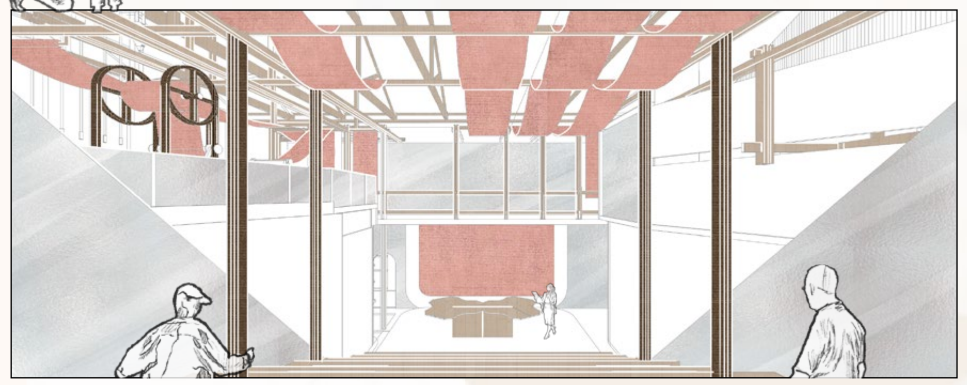
This aligns with SDG 16: focusing on public participation and access to information.

Imprint Studio supports Target 16.10, making speech tangible through printed records.

The Narrative Vault aligns with Target 16.7, encouraging inclusive, participatory dialogue. It also links to SDG 4: Quality Education (Target 4.7) by fostering civic awareness.

A visitor casually walking through the city stumbles upon the site, drawn in by curiosity. Their journey is spontaneous, interactive, and layered with civic engagement.





"What's happening down there? It looks like something's constantly being printed..."

"Interesting point. But what's the counterargument?"

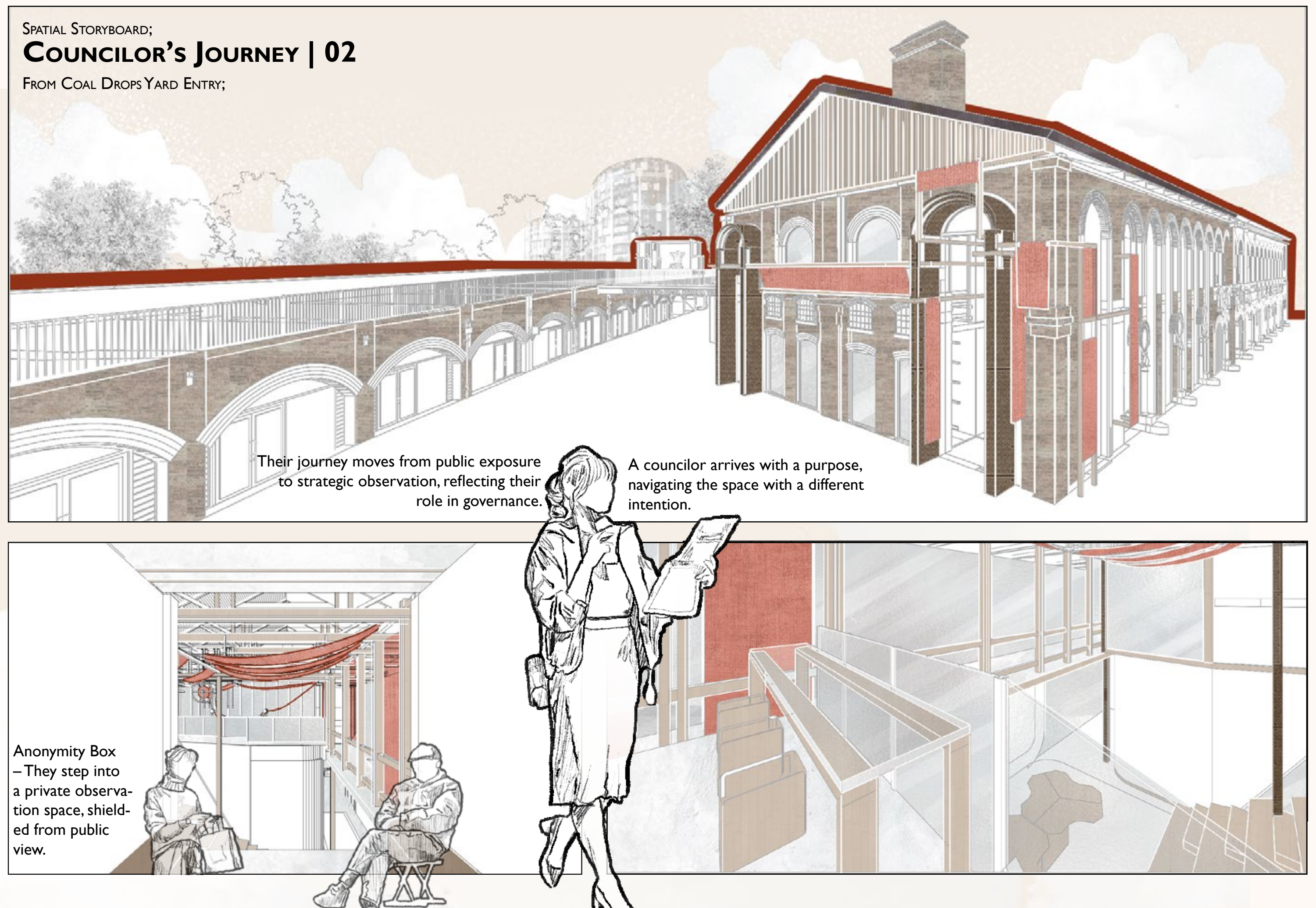
"From here, I can see the debate, the audience, and even the reactions. A broader view always helps."

"I can hear the discussion, but I can also see it in print—it's like history being recorded in real-time."

Spatial Storyboard;

Councilor's Journey | 02

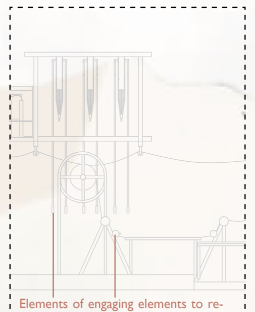
From Coal Drops Yard Entry;



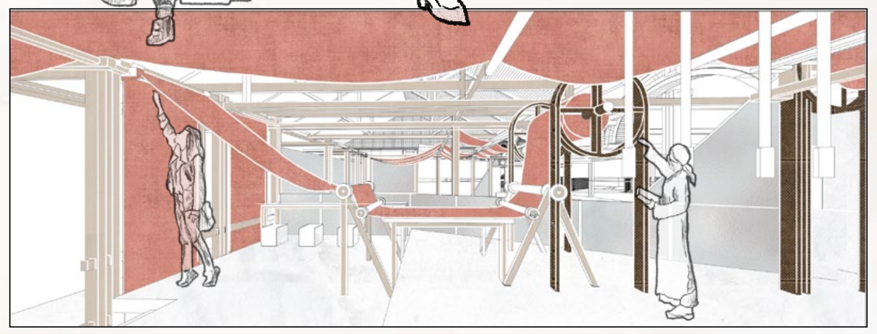
Their journey moves from public exposure to strategic observation, reflecting their role in governance.

A councilor arrives with a purpose, navigating the space with a different intention.

Anonymity Box – They step into a private observation space, shielded from public view.



Elements of engaging elements to reinforce user pasrticipation [with both visitors and operation members].



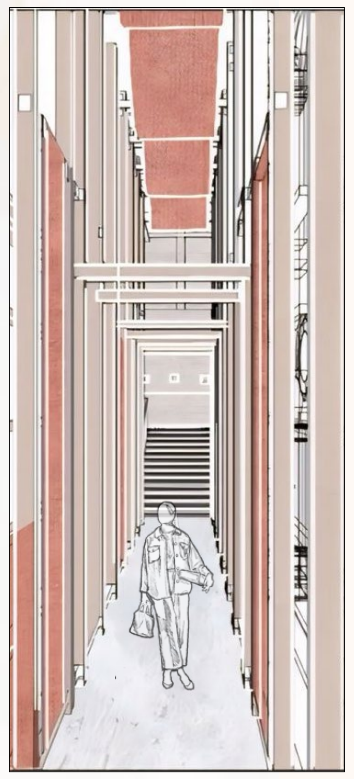
"From here, I can see the debate, the audience, and even the reactions. A broader view always helps."

Frame 5: Anonymity Box

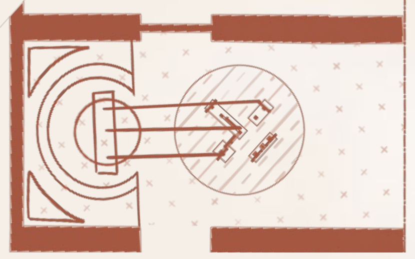
SDG 11.

Sustainable Cities and Communities

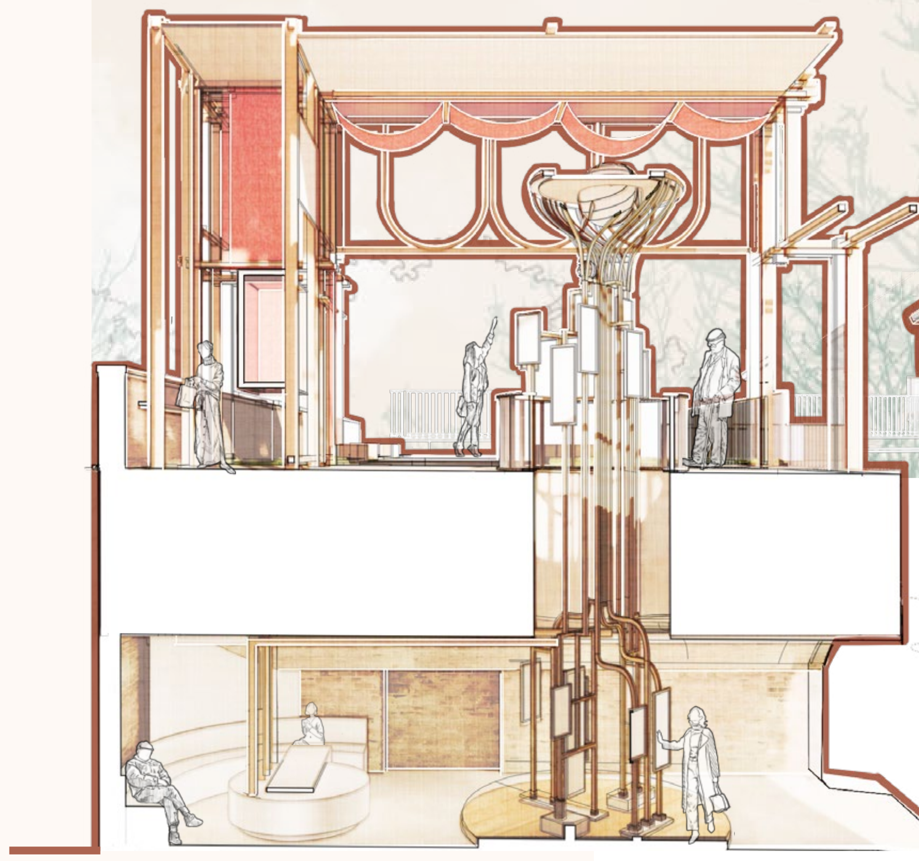
the councilor retreats to reflect and strategize. Their shift from public debate to private contemplation mirrors policy-making, ensuring decisions are shaped by civic engagement rather than made in isolation.



"These debates are being printed live faster than usual That's incredible—you can literally see the conversation unfold in real-time."

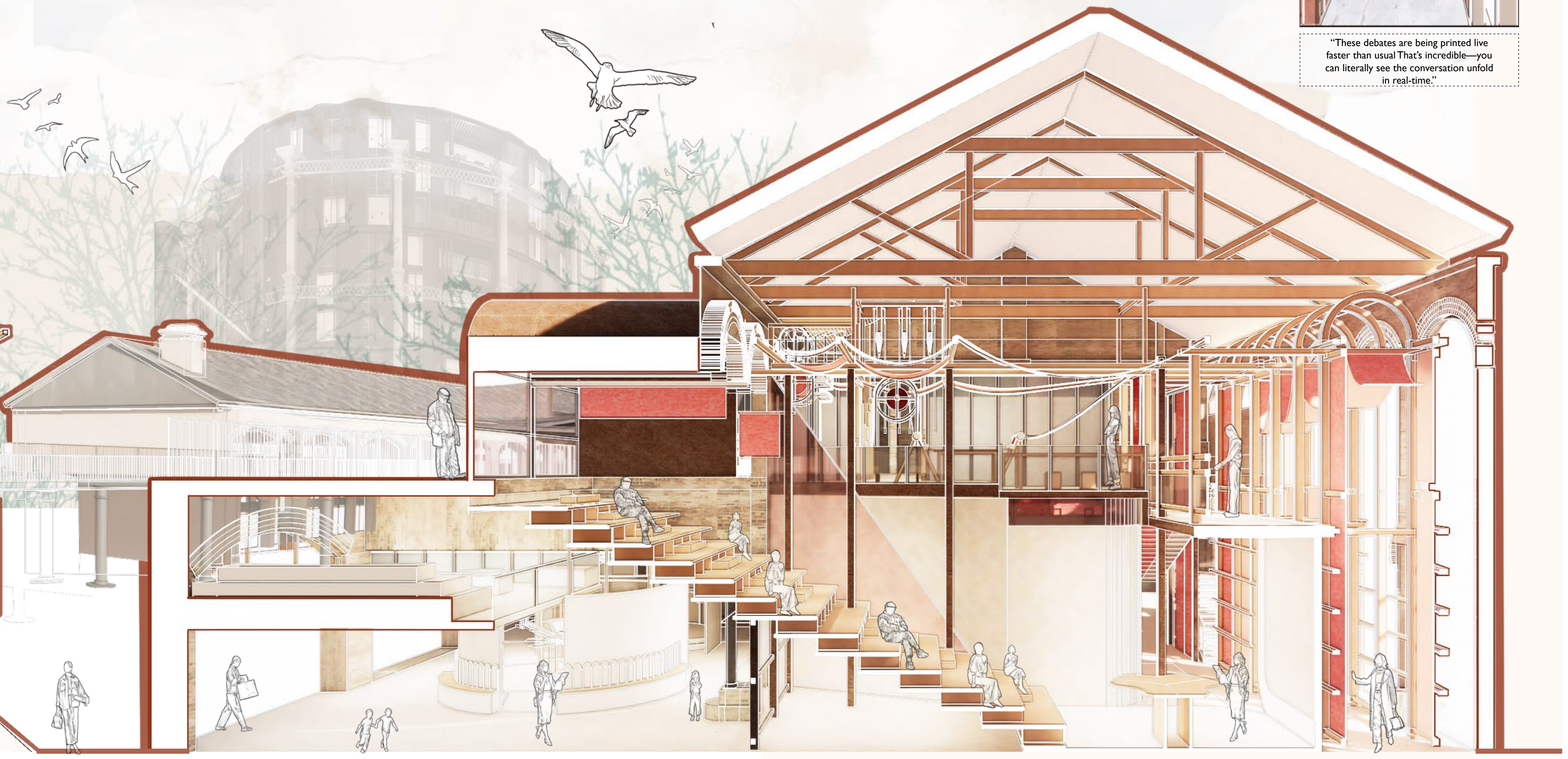


Arch Ground Floor Plan



Arch Building -
Long Hero Section

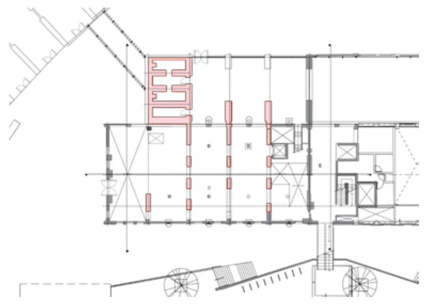
- Vinyl Screen
- Recyled Birch Planks
- Recyled Scrap Bronze Plate



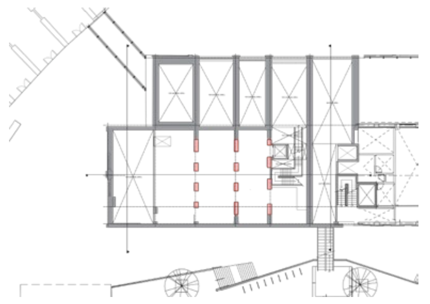
Main Building -
Short Hero Section

- 350 GSM Glossy Paper
- Recyled Birch Planks
- Clay London Stock Bricks
- Exposed Concrete
- 200 GSM White Paper
- Glass

Final Demolition Plan

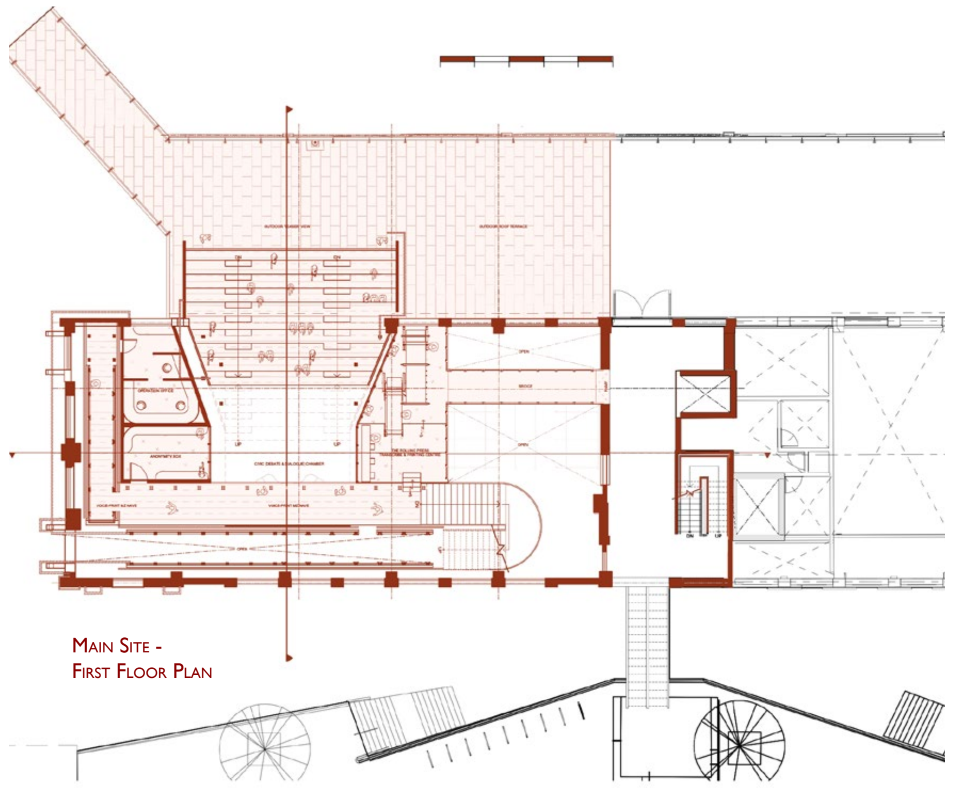


Ground Floor Plan

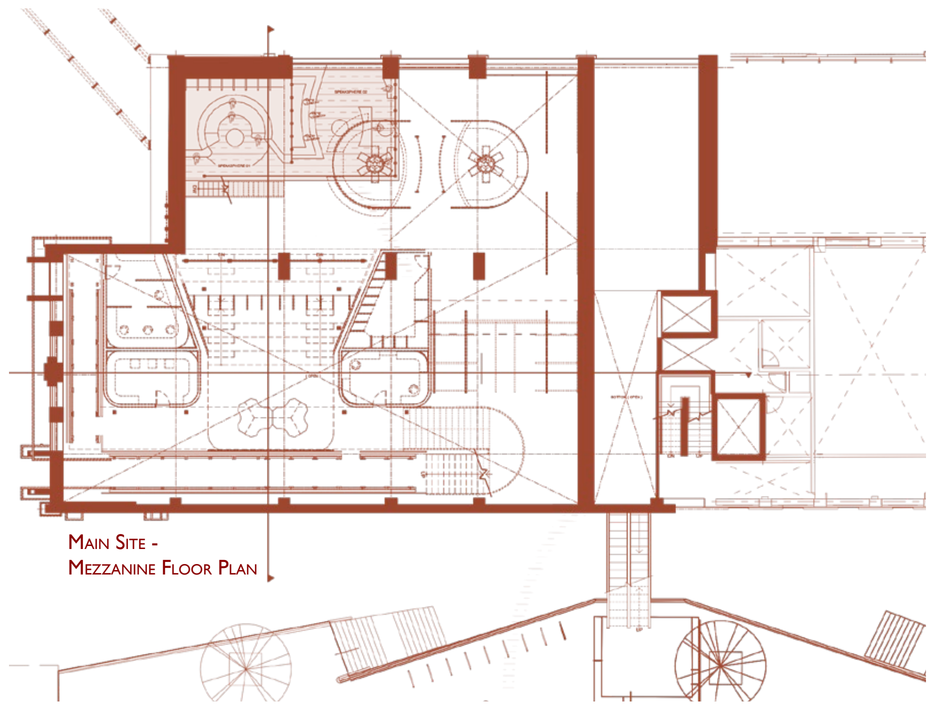


M1 Mezzanine Floor Plan

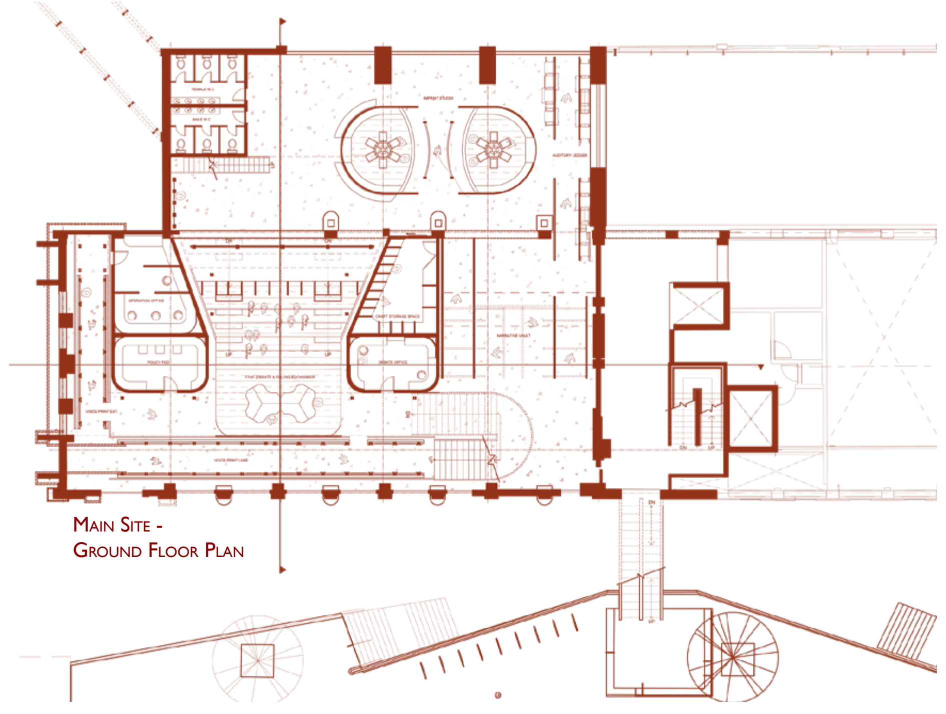
Final Floor Plans



Main Site -
First Floor Plan

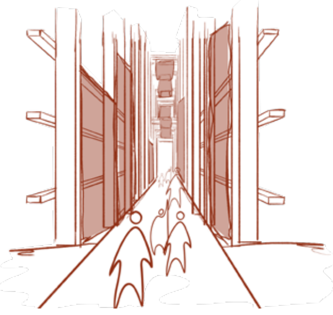


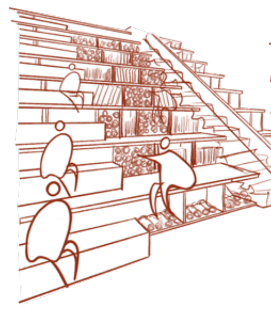
Main Site -
Mezzanine Floor Plan

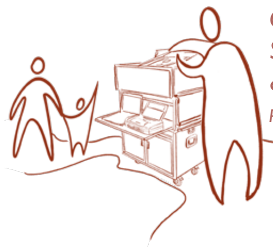


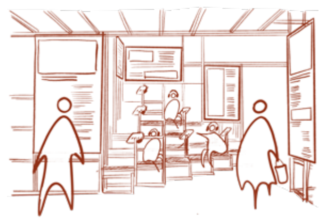
Main Site -
Ground Floor Plan

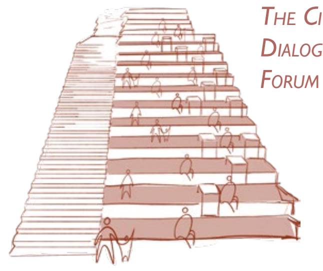
ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMING

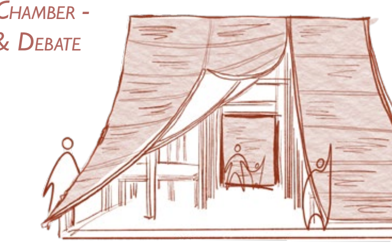

VOICE-PRINT LANE – A LIVING ARCHIVE OF PRINTED DEBATE

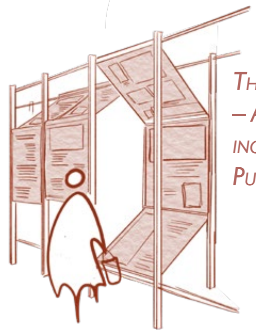

THE SCROLL LIBRARY – A GROWING COLLECTION OF PRINTED DEBATES

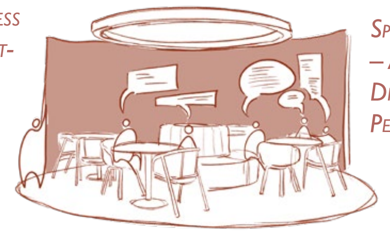

IMPRINT STUDIO – COMMUNITY-LED SCREEN PRINTING & CREATIVE EXPRESSION


AUDITORY LEDGER – PRESERVING SPOKEN DEBATES AS RECORDED HISTORY

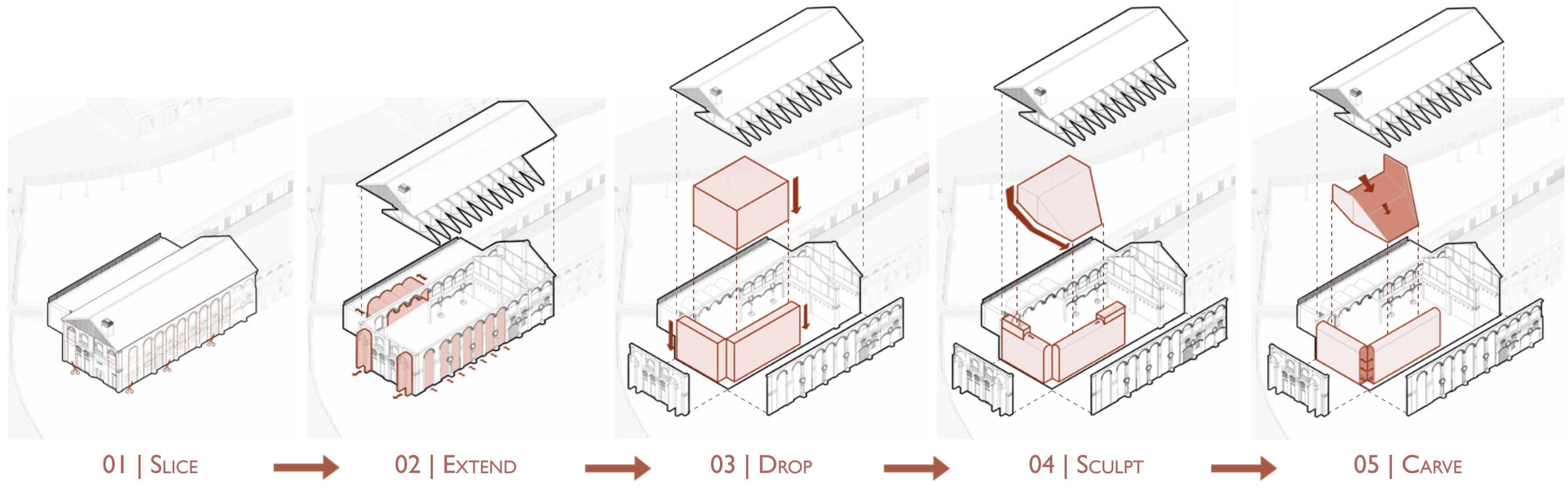

THE CIVIC CHAMBER - DIALOGUE & DEBATE FORUM


THE NARRATIVE VAULT – A GROWING ARCHIVE OF TESTIMONIES


THE ROLLING PRESS – A ROTARY PRINTING STATION FOR PUBLIC DIALOGUE


SPEAKSPHERE – AMPLIFYING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

SEQUENTIAL DIAGRAM



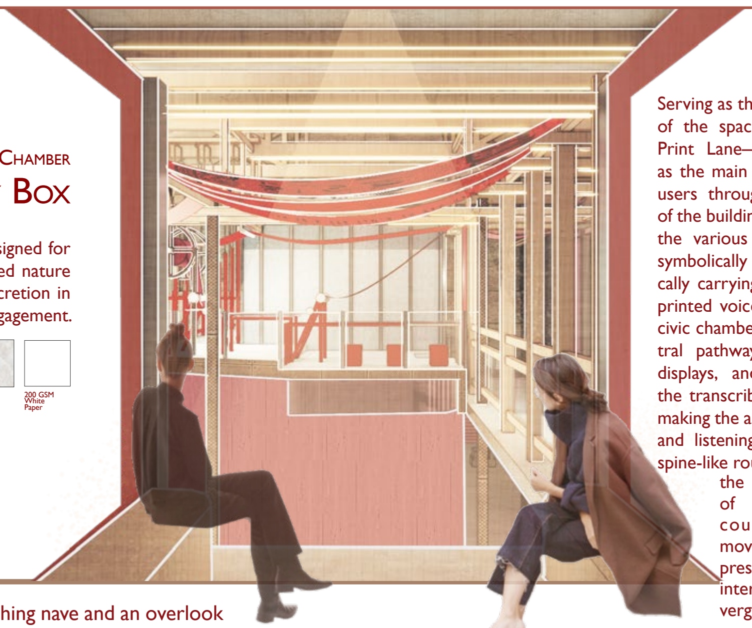
VISUALS | 2-POINT-PERSPECTIVES

SECLUDED CHAMBER

ANONYMITY BOX

Set apart from the public-facing areas, the Anonymity Box offers a moment of quiet retreat within the civic space. Designed for private listening and reflection, it allows councilors to observe live dialogues without immediate exposure. Its enclosed nature contrasts with the openness of the surrounding environment, emphasizing the tension between transparency and discretion in civic engagement.

🟥	▨	▨	▨	☐
350 GSM Glossy Paper	Recyled Birch Planks	Clay London Stock Bricks	Exposed Concrete	200 GSM White Paper

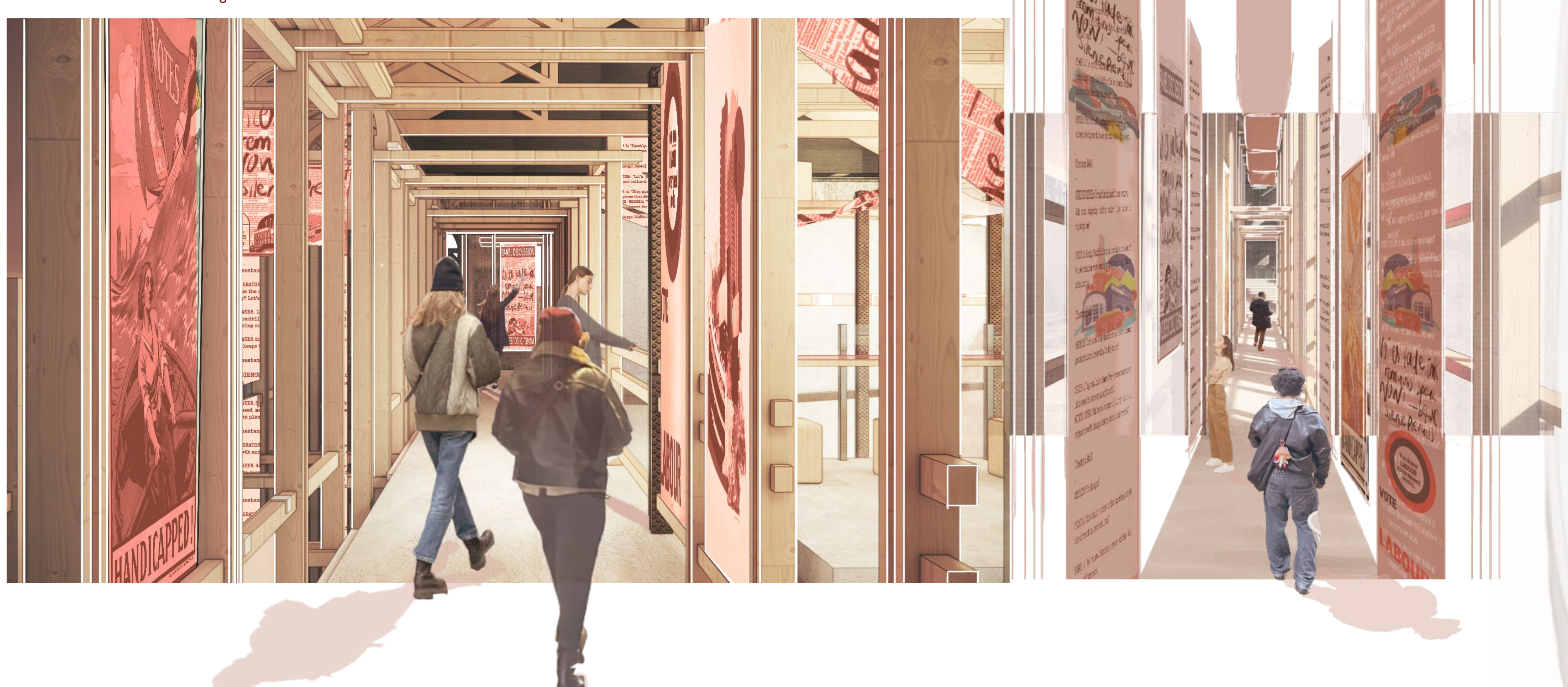


Serving as the core artery of the space, the Voice-Print Lane—also known as the main nave—guides users through the heart of the building. It connects the various zones while symbolically and physically carrying the flow of printed voices across the civic chamber. As the central pathway, it collects, displays, and distributes the transcribed dialogues, making the act of speaking and listening visible. This spine-like route becomes the living archive of public discourse—where movement, expression, and interaction converge.

FIRST FLOOR

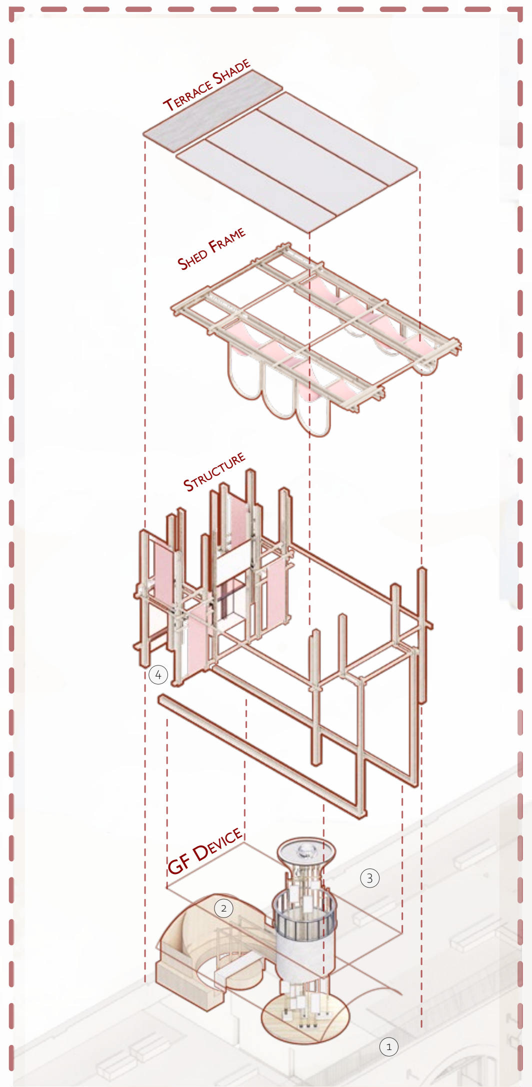
VOICE-PRINT AISLE | NAVE

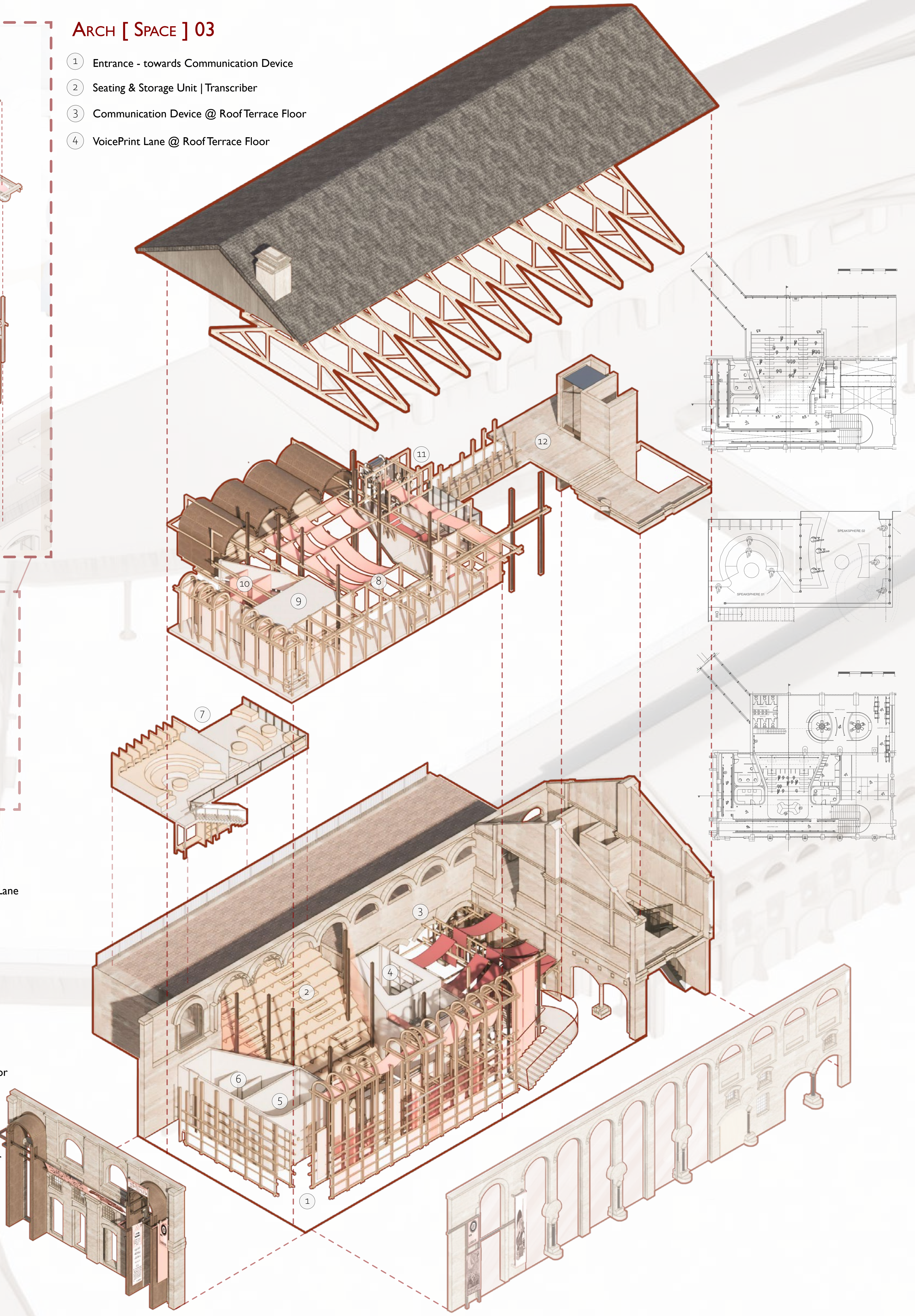
The visual render of the Voice-Print from the First Floor Nave captures the moment after ascending the stairs, revealing a branching nave and an overlook that opens onto the Debate & Dialogue Chamber below. This elevated viewpoint embodies the idea of civic transparency, allowing users to witness the ongoing discussions from above. It emphasizes the openness of the space, where observation and participation are visually and spatially linked, reinforcing the democratic nature of the design.



THE CIVIC CHAMBER

DETAILED AXONOMETRIC





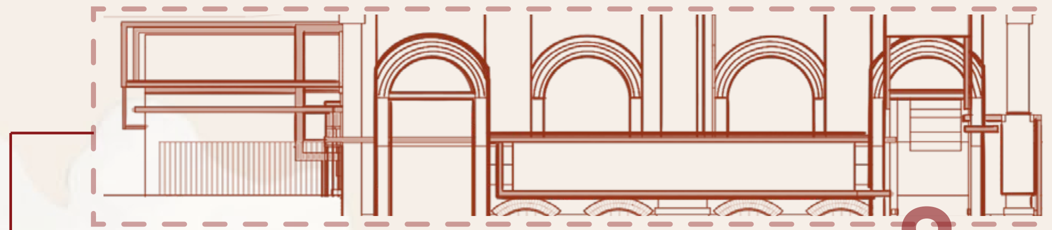
ARCH [SPACE] 03

1. Entrance - towards Communication Device
2. Seating & Storage Unit | Transcriber
3. Communication Device @ Roof Terrace Floor
4. VoicePrint Lane @ Roof Terrace Floor

THE CIVIC CHAMBER

1. Entrance - towards VoicePrint Lane
2. Debate & Dialogue Chamber
3. Narrative Vault
4. Craft Storage Space
5. Policy Pod
6. Operation Office
7. SpeakSphere @ Mezzanine Floor
8. Voice-Print Nave
9. Anonymity Box
10. Operation Office @ First Floor
11. The Rolling Press
12. Circulation Space

FACADE CHANGES -
BRINGING THE STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS FROM THE INSIDE TO THE OUTSIDE

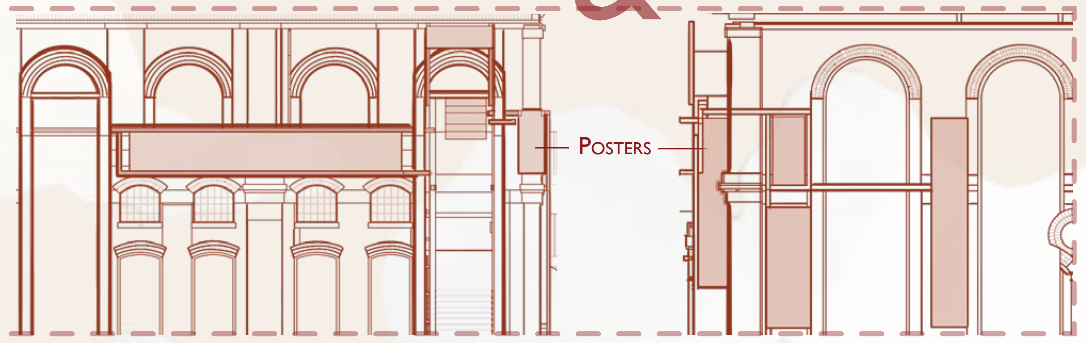


Bringing interior elements to the exterior aligns with my design typology, blurring the boundaries between inside and outside. This creates a seamless flow and fosters a deeper connection between the building and its environment, enhancing the user experience.

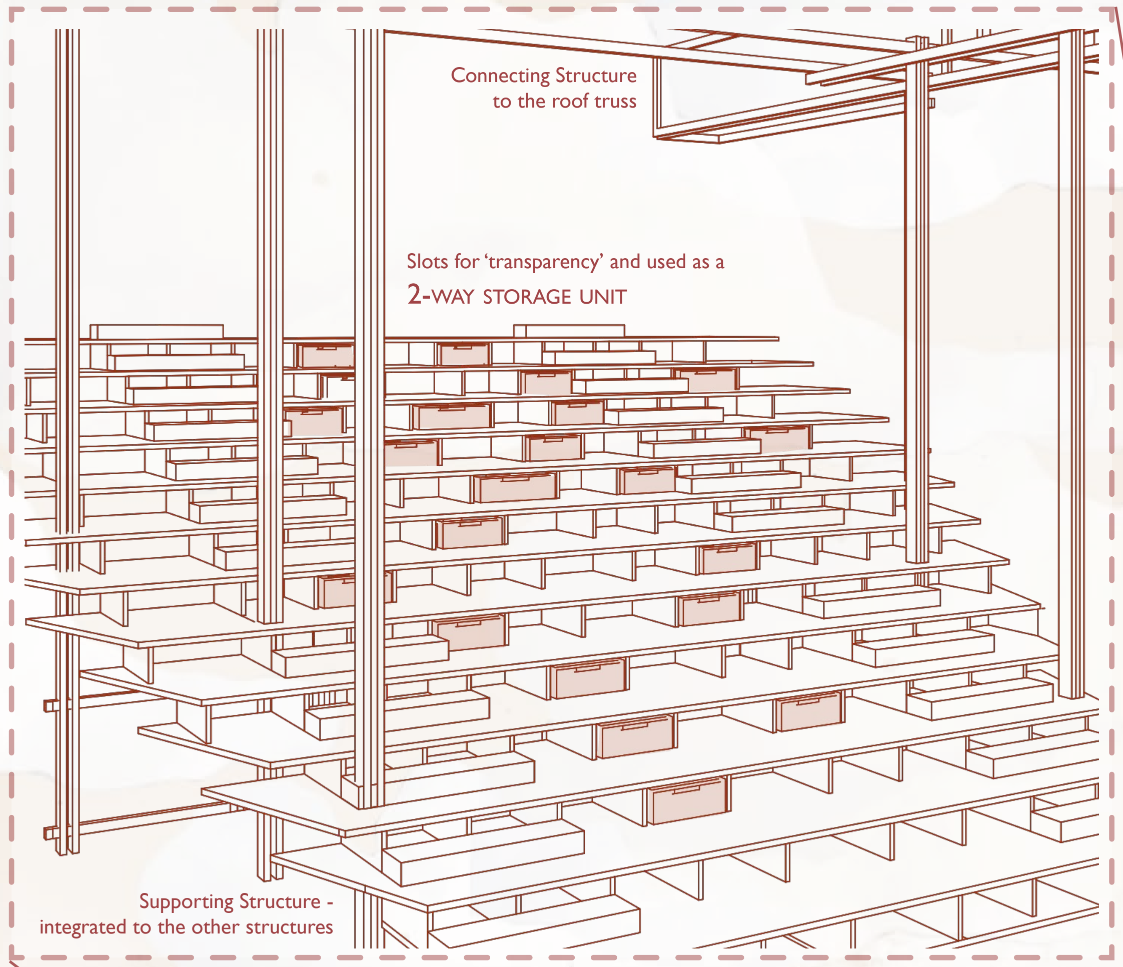
&

EPHEMERAL ELEMENTS - POSTERS OUTSIDE

Revealing temporary and debated elements disrupts the curated space, encouraging open discussion and new perspectives. This challenges the controlled narrative, making room for diverse voices to be heard.



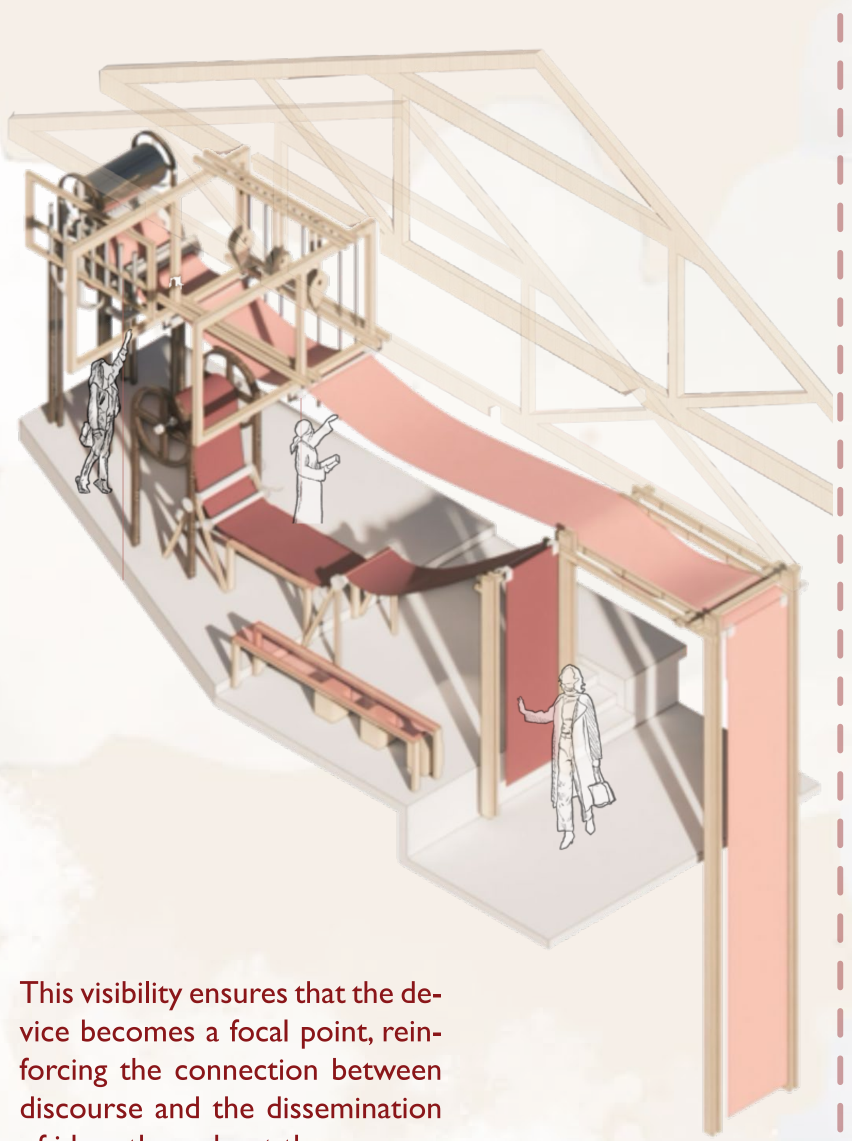
STRUCTURE DETAIL -
SEATING & STORAGE UNIT - DEBATE AND DIALOGUE CHAMBER


Connecting Structure
to the roof truss
Slots for 'transparency' and used as a
2-WAY STORAGE UNIT
Supporting Structure -
integrated to the other structures

KEY STRUCTURE

MAIN DEVICE -
THE PRESS PRINT [LOCATION: FIRST FLOOR]

Key [visual] elements of the main printing device should be visible from the lift enry points, particularly near the debate and dialogue chamber.



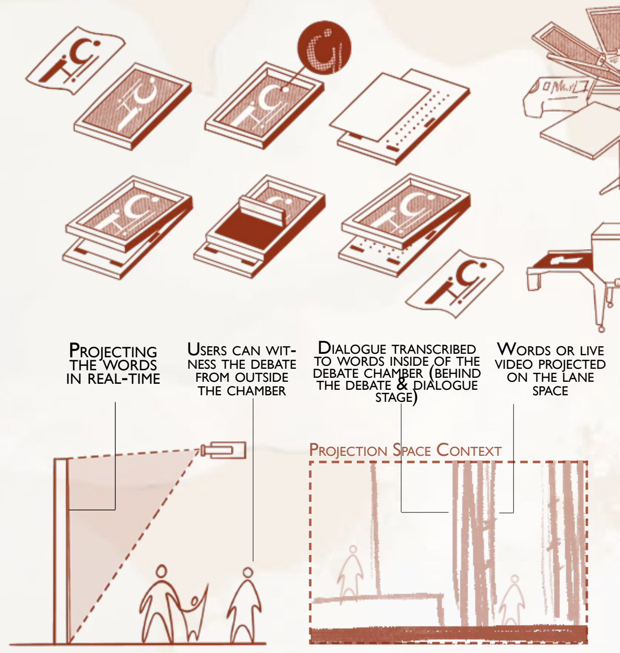
This visibility ensures that the device becomes a focal point, reinforcing the connection between discourse and the dissemination of ideas throughout the space.

DEVICE 01

PROGRAMMATIC DESIGN APPROACH -
METHOD[S] OF INTERPRETATION

01 | SCREEN PRINTING

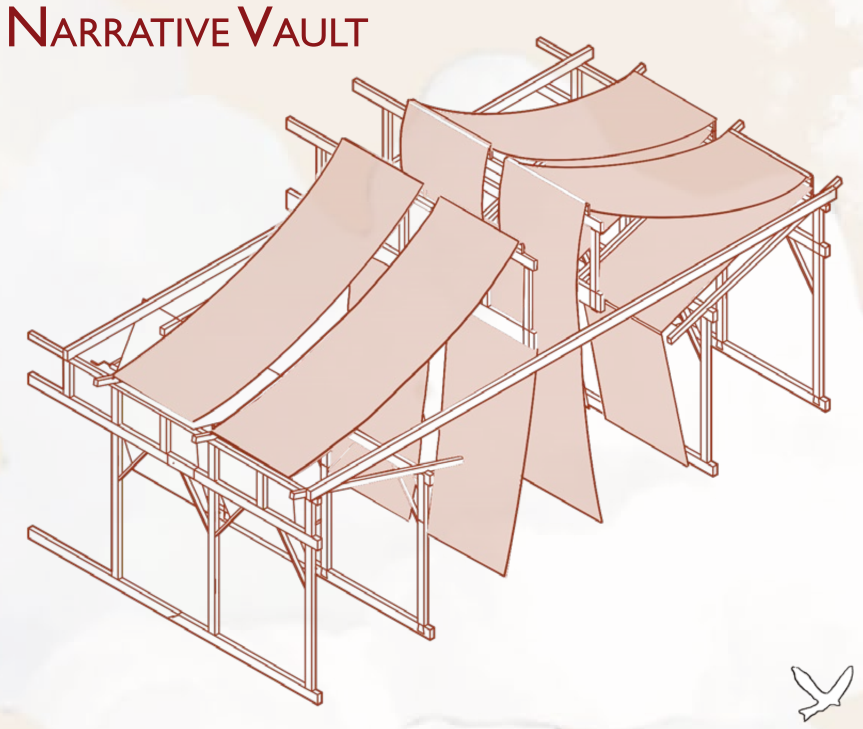
Integrated as an interactive activity, allowing users to engage in a hands-on form of social expression by printing key phrases or visual responses from the discussions onto fabric or paper.


DRYER
PROJECTING THE WORDS IN REAL-TIME
USERS CAN WITNESS THE DEBATE FROM OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER
DIALOGUE TRANSCRIBED TO WORDS INSIDE OF THE DEBATE CHAMBER (BEHIND THE DEBATE & DIALOGUE STAGE)
WORDS OR LIVE VIDEO PROJECTED ON THE LANE SPACE
PROJECTION SPACE CONTEXT

02 | SCREEN PROJECTOR

Certain sections of the tapestry within the lane or within the arch space[s] are left blank for real-time projections of dialogue and debate. This ensures that the conversation remains visible and accessible, even to those outside the main discussion space.

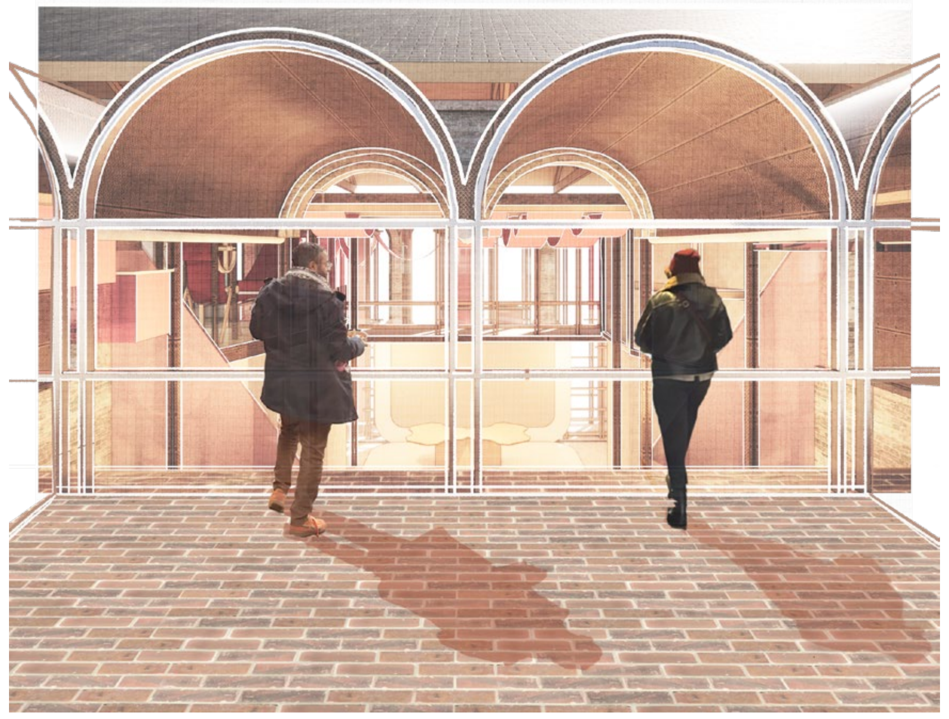
GROUND FLOOR FEATURE -
NARRATIVE VAULT



DEVICE 02

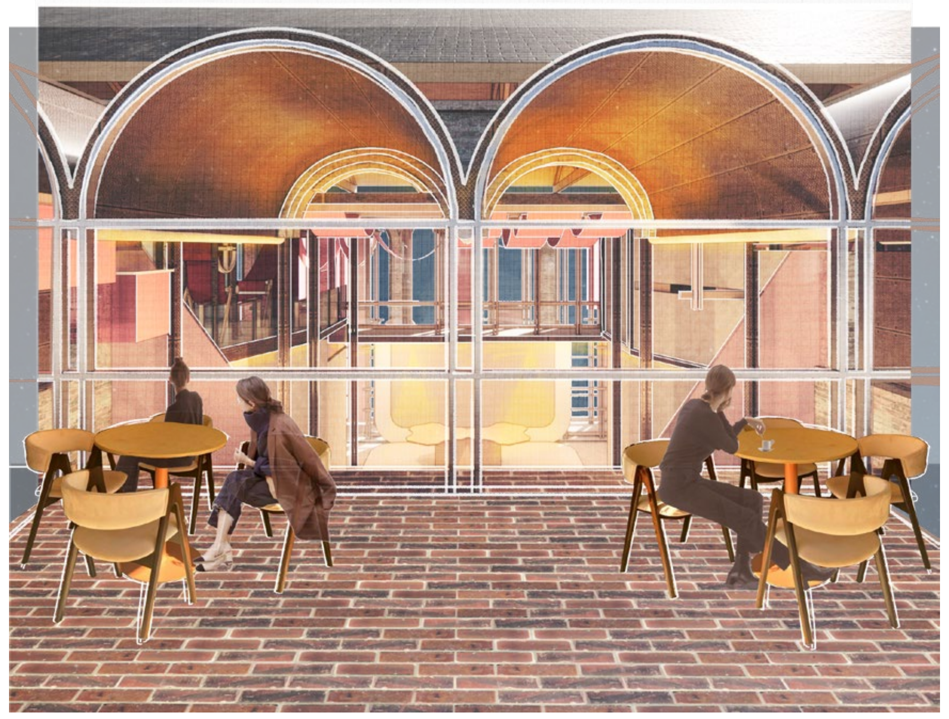
2-POINT PERSPECTIVE | VISUALS

ROOF TERRACE | FIRST FLOOR
OUTDOOR 'TEASER' VIEW



DAY TIME VIEW

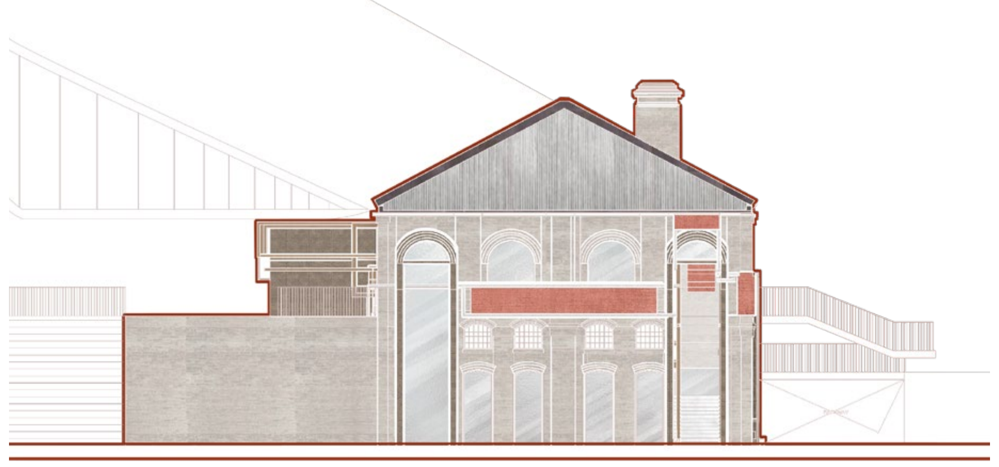
During the day, the debate chamber buzzes with active, ephemeral, and political activities, as voices fill the space with energy and civic engagement.



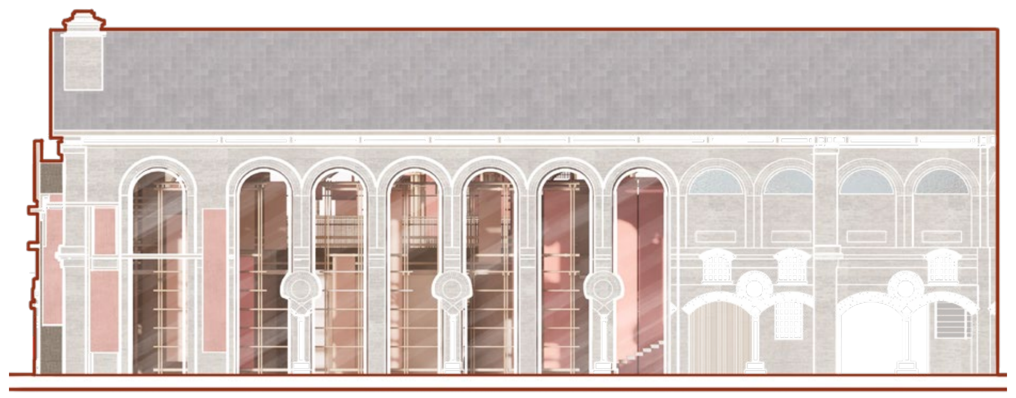
NIGHT TIME VIEW

At night, the space transforms, with tables and chairs set for dining, offering a more relaxed environment for users to gather and unwind.

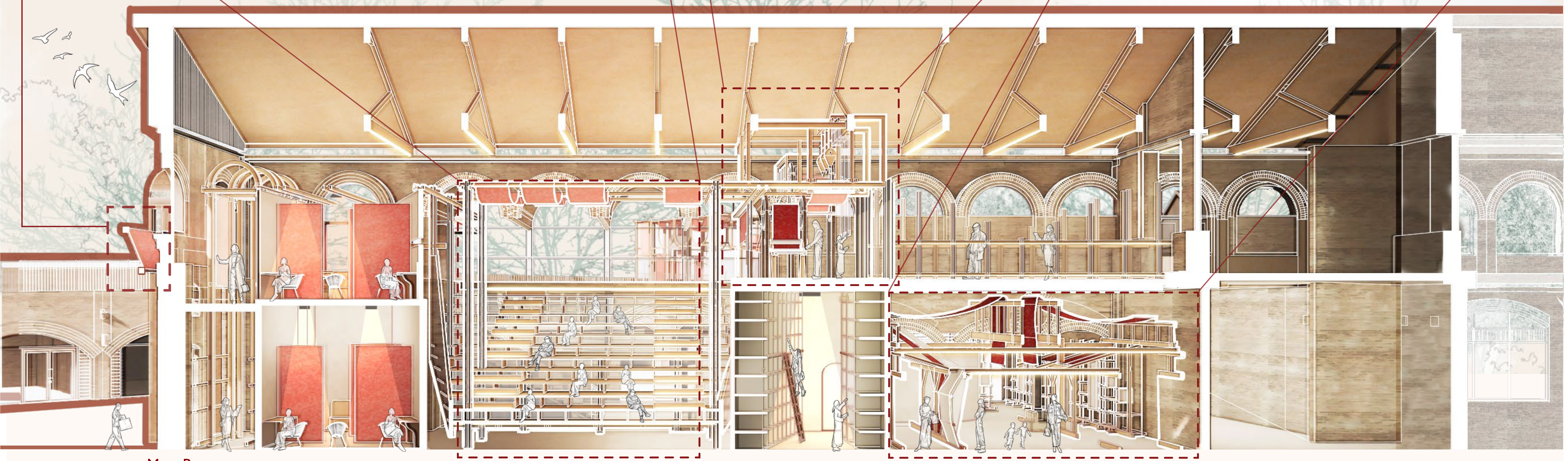
[ORTHOGRAPHIC] ELEVATIONS



FRONT ELEVATION

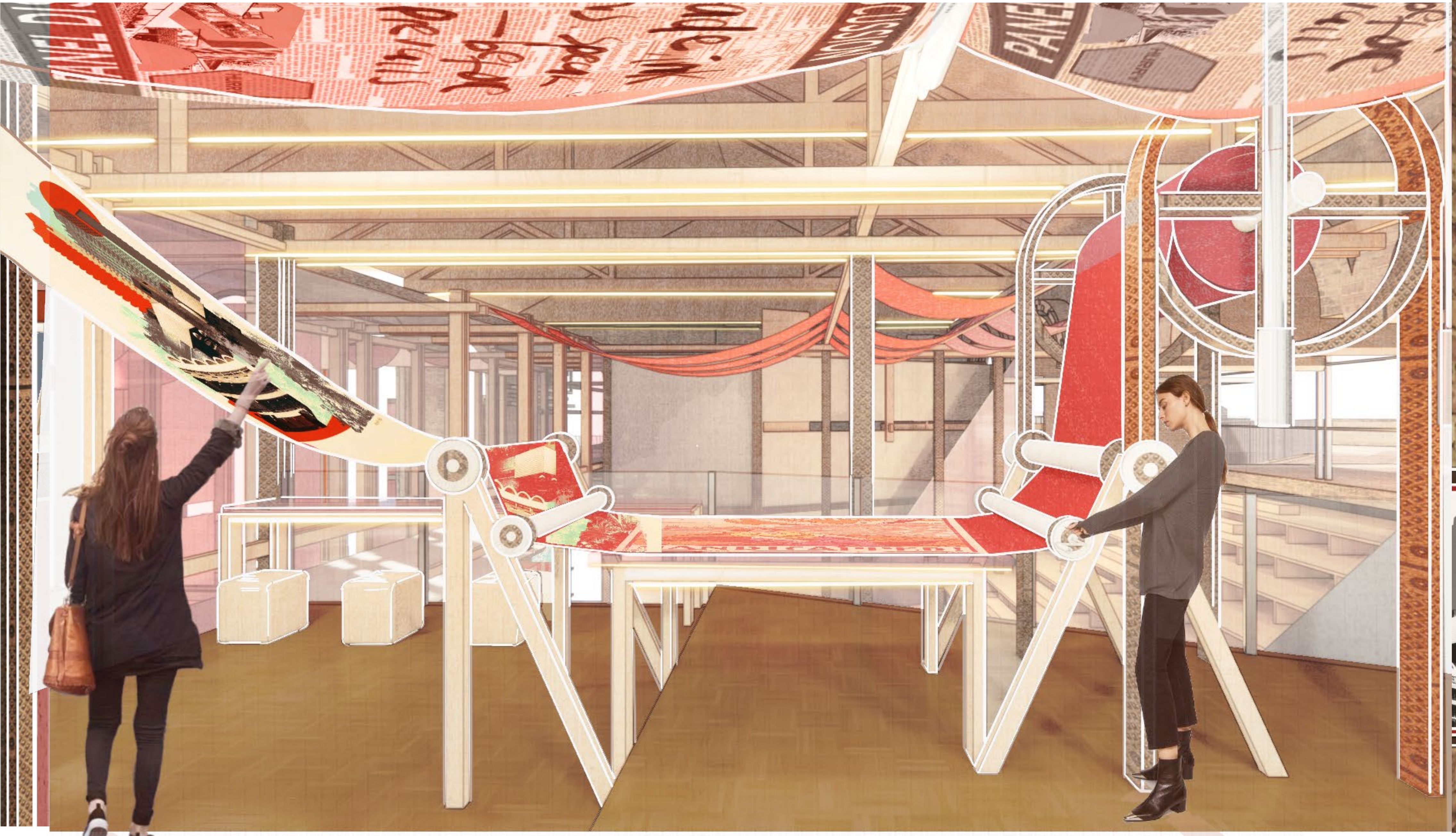


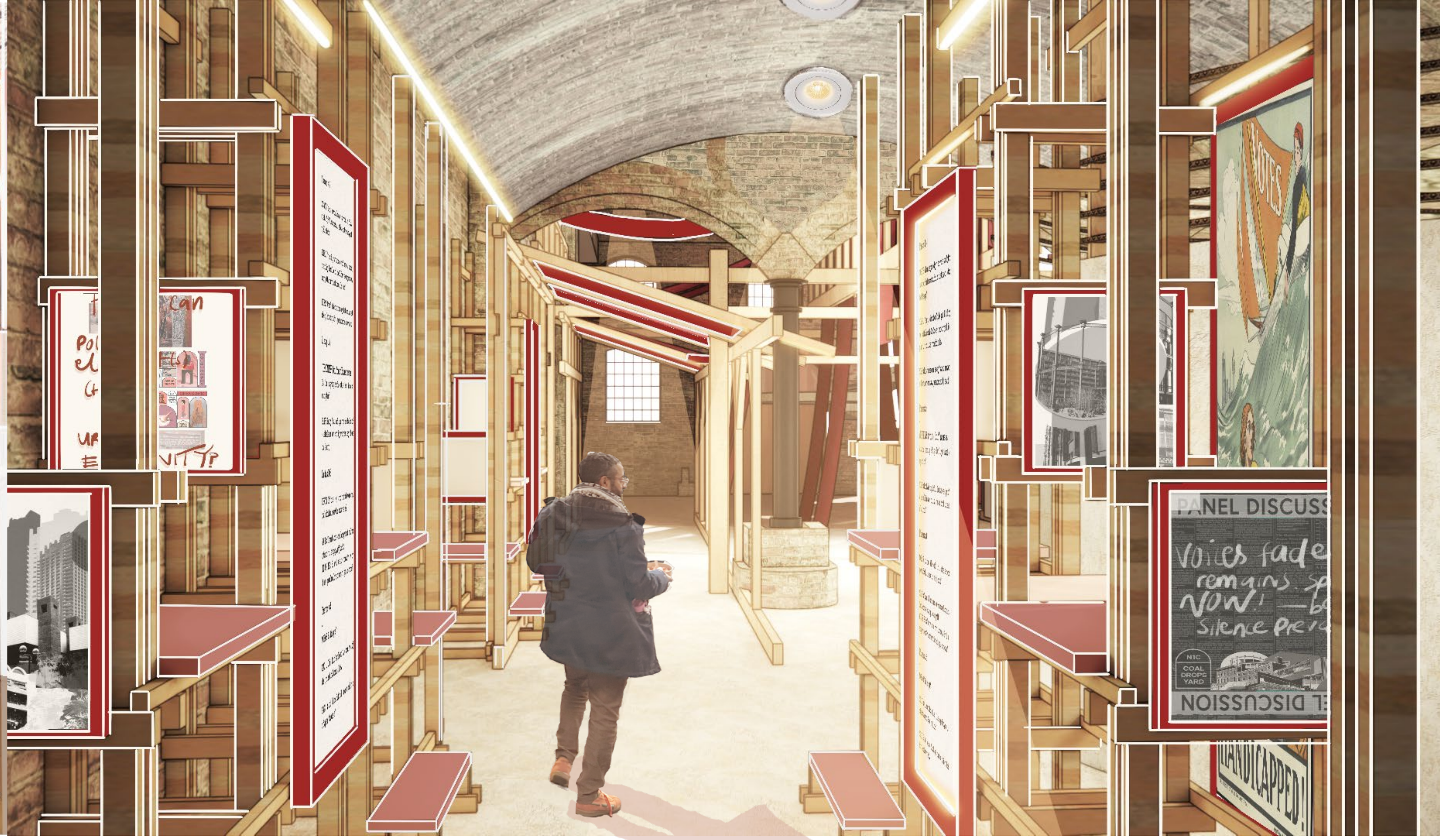
EAST ELEVATION



MAIN BUILDING -
LONG HERO SECTION

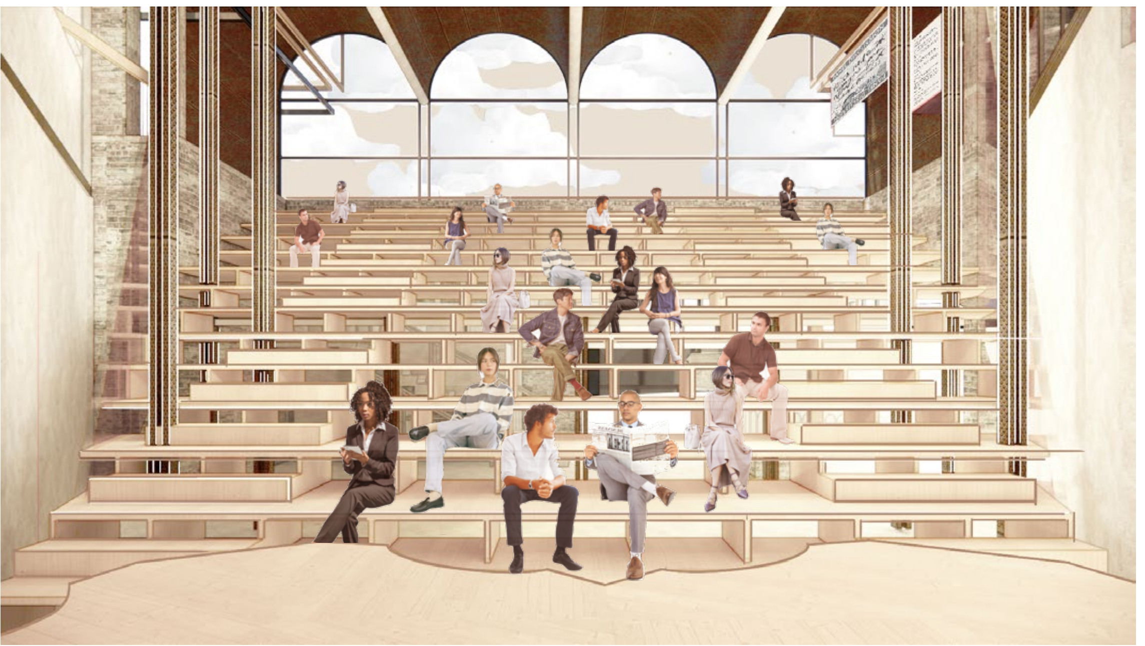
🟥 350 GSM Glossy Paper
▨ Recyled Birch Planks
▨ Clay London Stock Bricks
▨ Exposed Concrete
☐ 200 GSM White Paper
▨ Glass

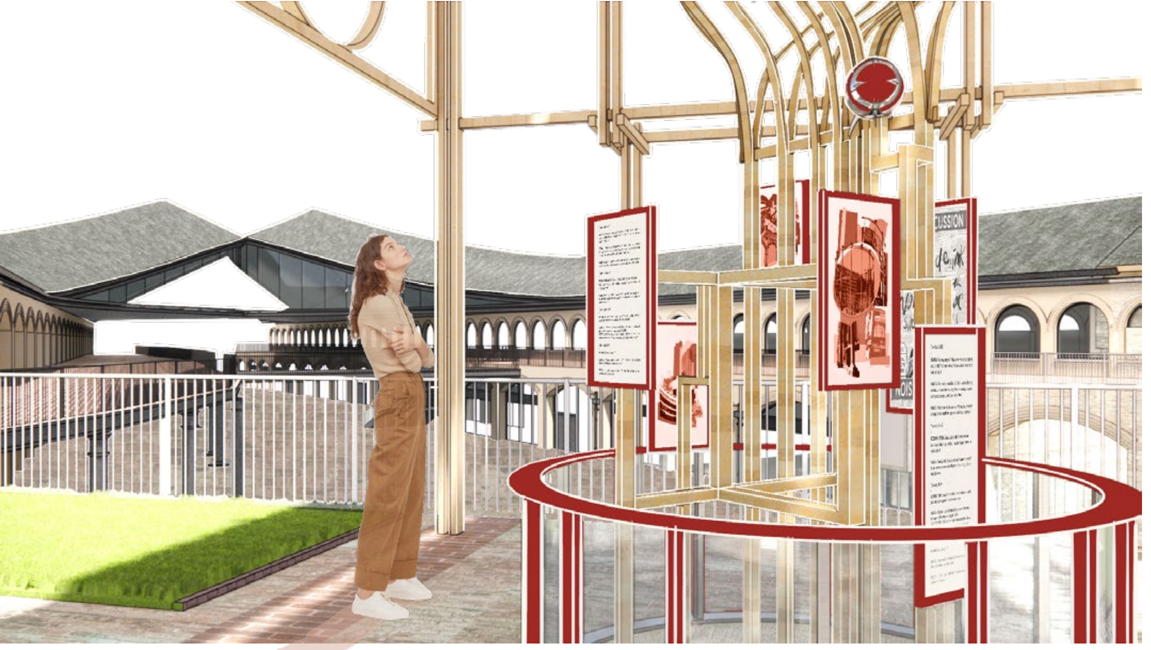



PANEL DISCUSS
Voices fade
remains
Now!
Silence
PANEL DISCUSSION

Final Design Visual -
The Rolling Press

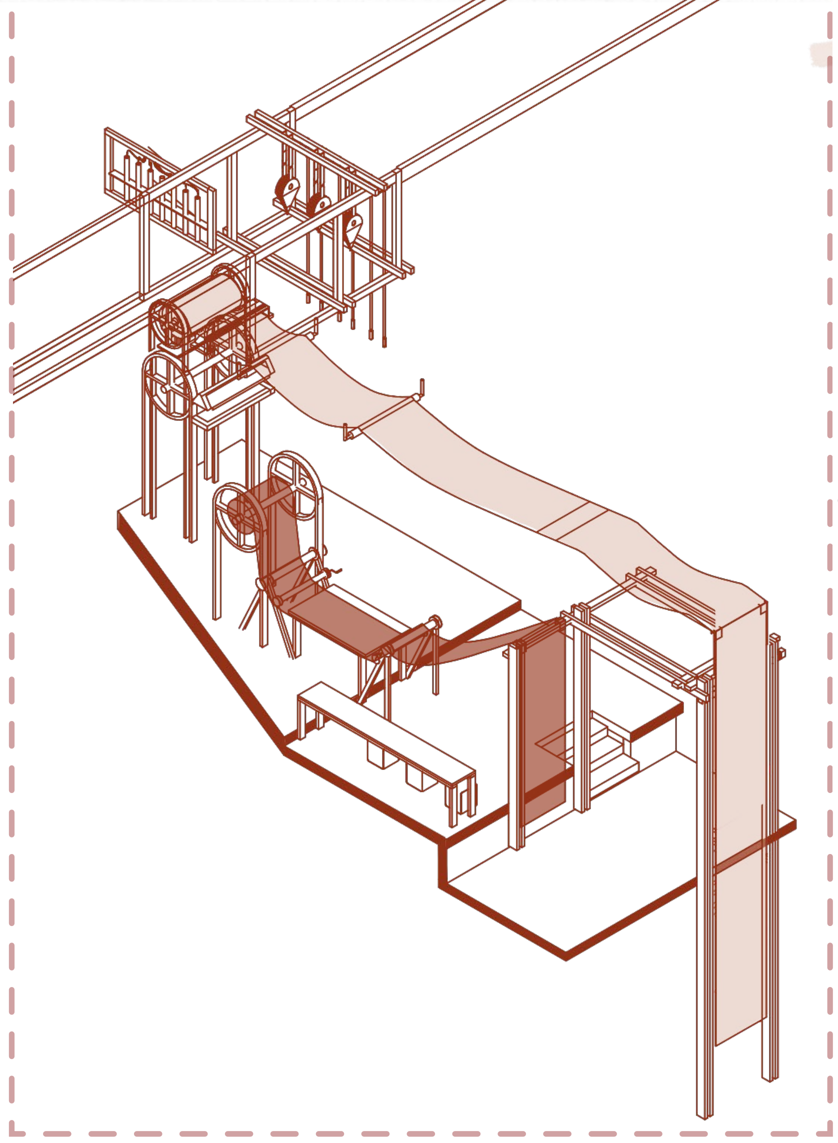
Debate & Dialogue Chamber -
Debater /Councilor's Point of View

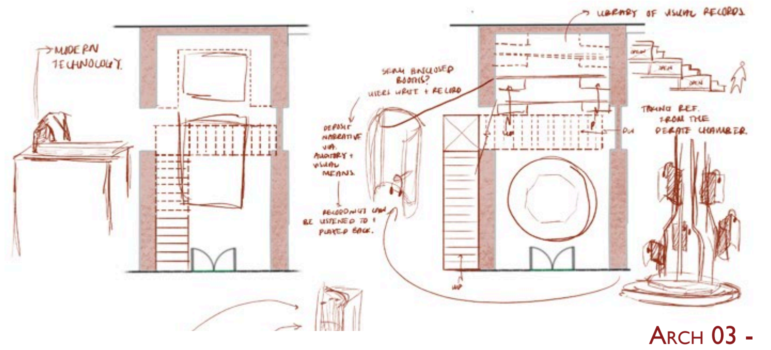




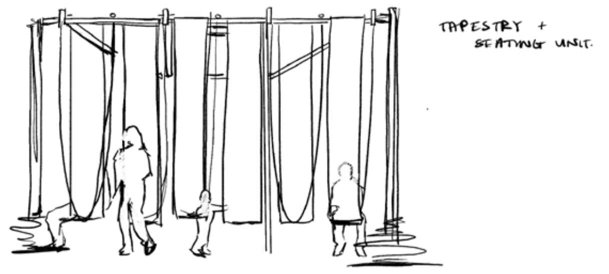
Roof Terrace -
Arch Transcribing Device

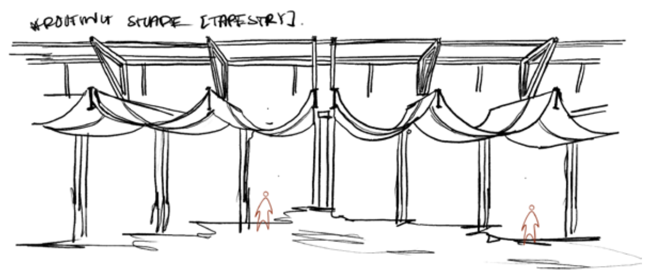
The Rolling Press - Sketch Diagram

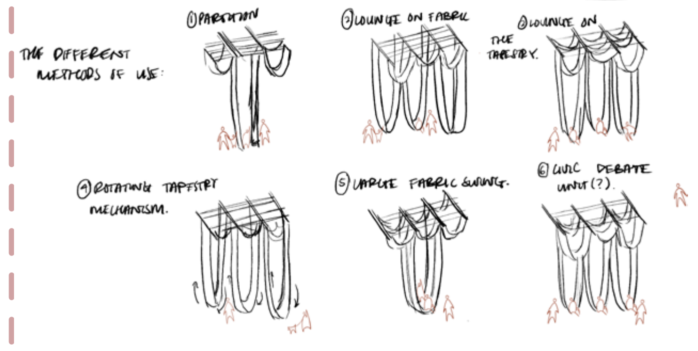


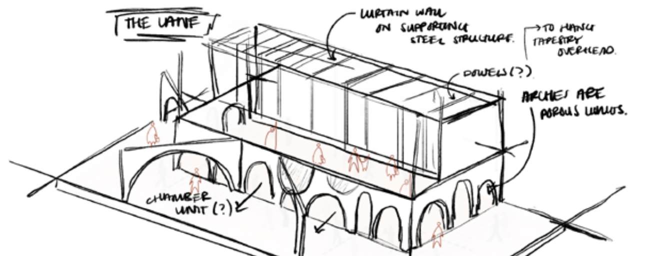

MODERN TECHNOLOGY.
SEMI ENCLOSED BOOTHS?
USERS WRITE + RECORD
DEPOSIT NARRATIVE VIA AUDITORY + VISUAL MEANS.
RECORDINGS CAN BE LISTENED TO + PLAYED BACK.
LIBRARY OF VISUAL RECORDS
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
TAKING REF. FROM THE DEBATE CHAMBER.
UP
UP

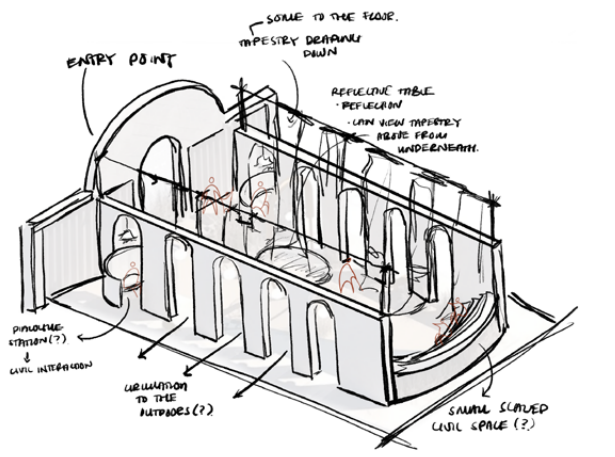
Arch 03 -
Device Plan Draft Sketch[es]


TAPESTRY + SEATING UNIT.

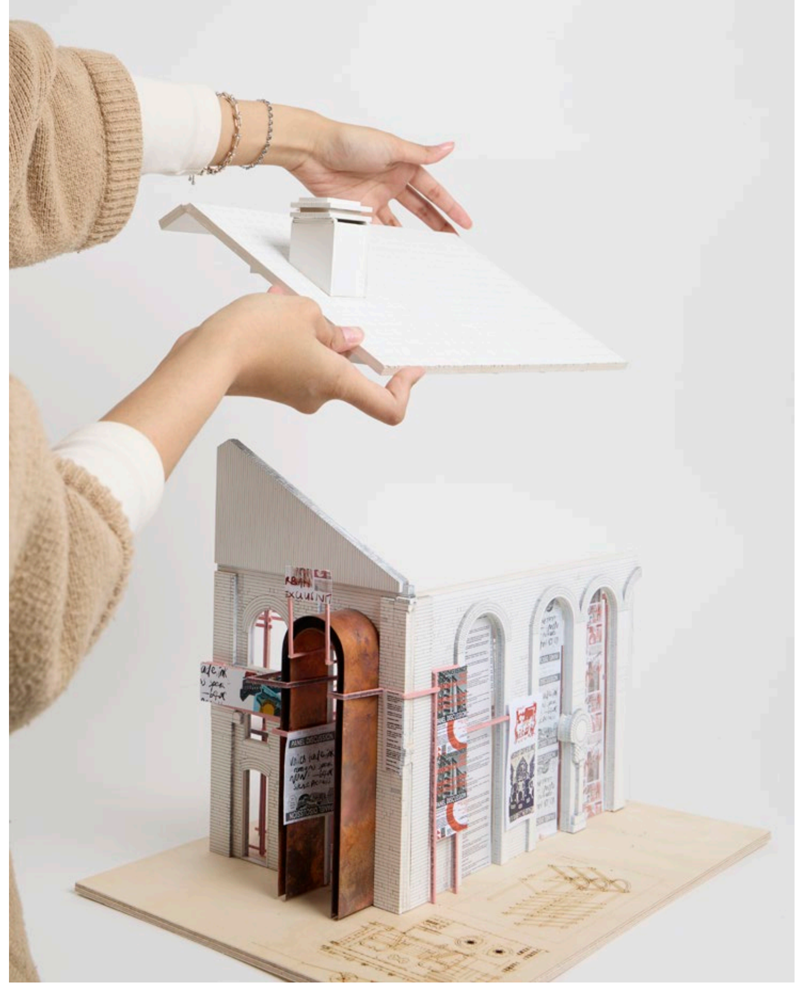

ROTATING SHAPE [TAPESTRY].

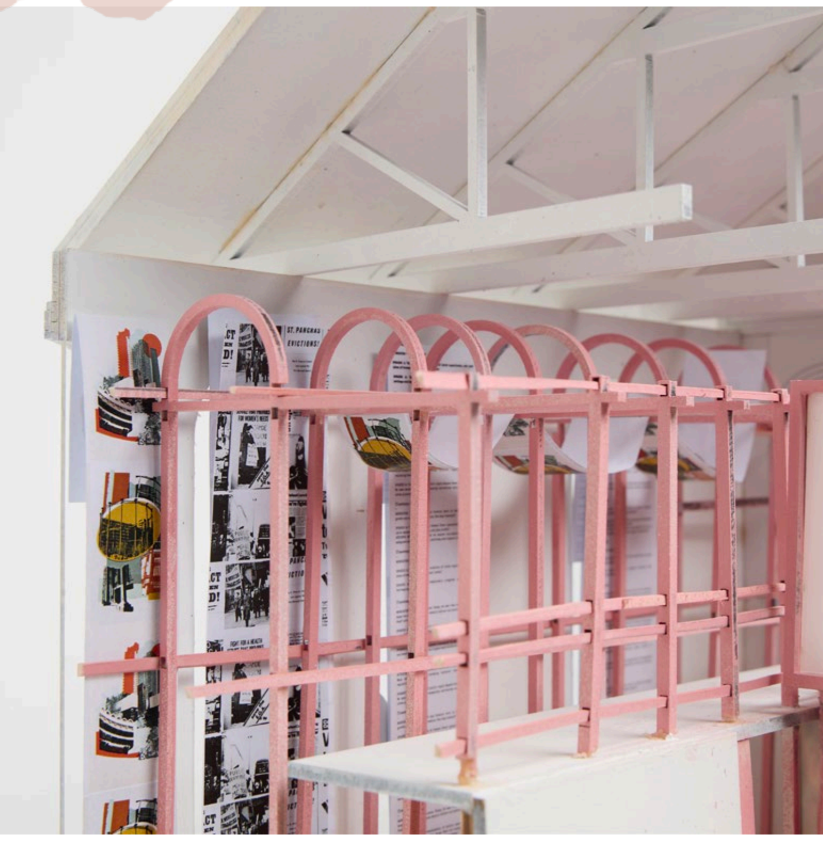

THE DIFFERENT METHODS OF USE:
① PARTITION
② LOUNGE ON FABRIC
③ LOUNGE ON THE TAPESTRY.
④ ROTATING TAPESTRY MECHANISM.
⑤ LARGE FABRIC SWING.
⑥ CIVIC DEBATE UNIT (?).

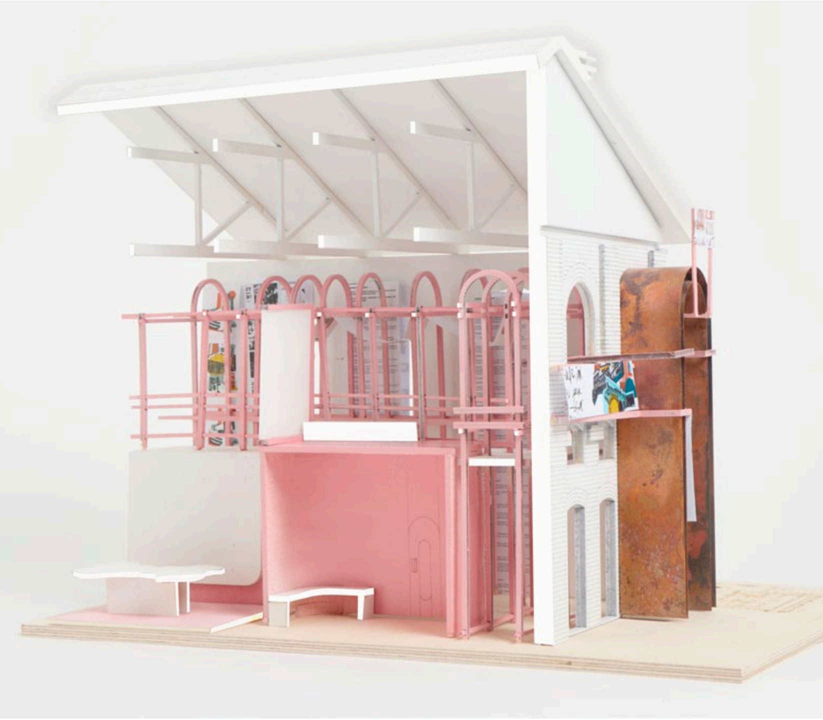

THE LATTICE
CURTAIN WALL ON SUPPORTING STEEL STRUCTURE.
→ TO HANG TAPESTRY OVERHEAD.
DOWELS (?)
ARCHES ARE POROUS WALLS.
CHAMBER UNIT (?)


SOME TO THE FLOOR.
TAPESTRY DRAPING DOWN
ENTRY POINT
REFLECTIVE TABLE · REFLECTION
· CAN VIEW TAPESTRY ABOVE FROM UNDERNEATH.
DIALOGUE STATION (?) ↓ CIVIL INTERACTION
CIRCULATION TO THE OUTDOORS (?)
SMALL SCALED CIVIC SPACE (?)

Final Design Component -
Sectional Model | 1:50 Scale







The sectional model explores the spatial relationships and vertical dynamics within the design, revealing how different levels interact.

It highlights transitions, thresholds, and the integration of private and public areas, offering a deeper understanding of the architectural experience and ensuring coherence in functionality and form.

This model also emphasizes the flow of movement and light throughout the space.

Final Design Visual -
Auditory Ledger