

The Living Organism

Brief: To reimagine the function of libraries in 2034, incorporating a new component. The facility must accommodate two clients: a librarian and a biotechnologist. The library connects both clientele, giving the public a sense of inclusion rather than exclusion.

Kisharon, a Jewish organisation, provides funding for Child's Hill Library, situated on Cricklewood Lane in London. The library is a resource for people with learning difficulties, and provides services like heated hubs, workshops, and kid-friendly activities which is what I will be preserving.

The intention is to build an open, accessible library that appeals to and welcomes a diverse range of people, giving them a sense of belonging. People should be informed about biotechnology, including the work of biotechnologists and their importance and significance to society.

This library will provide a space for learning, exploration, and the opportunity to become a biotechnologist for a day. In addition to being a place for studying, book borrowing, and knowledge preservation.

Childs Hill library

Community, inclusivity, diversity, accessibility.



Mock Tudor facade, reuse of bricks preserving the history of Childs Hill.



Reception. Welcoming.



Ground floor and main space.



Garden space for the community.

The reception features a section for adults with learning disabilities and offers workshops and lessons to help them improve their speech and English. The reuse of carpets and wooden furnishings throughout the area produces a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The building's symmetry and high ceiling allow natural light and ventilation to flow through, making the area **breathe**.

The library's mission is to advance the abilities of individuals and provide opportunities, which resonated with me. This made me question how I can welcome a varied group of individuals into this area and make them feel a sense of belonging.



Local residents opposite the library.

Becoming a biotechnologist for a day

I attempted to extract DNA from a banana in an experiment which I really enjoyed completing. From this, I gained a true understanding of what a biotechnologist may accomplish in a day. I wanted to create the same feeling and get the public get to become biotechnologists for a day no matter their age or learning/physical capabilities.



Initial ideas

My concept is to **make the library become a living organism** as my client, the biotechnologist, makes solutions, medicine and technology from living organisms. Living organisms respire, move, respond to stimuli, reproduce and grow, and are dependent on their environment. The most important organs we have is the **brain, spine and lungs**.



Brain. Biotechnologist lab. Biotechnologist holds the knowledge. Accessible to the public.



Spine will be the books and the columns as they are what holds and supports a library and it's structure together.



Lungs. Walls opening up to be used as work surfaces, allowing fresh air and natural light in. Breathing.

Atmospheric model



External view of the lungs and the brain.



Close up view of the lungs. Allowing the outside in.

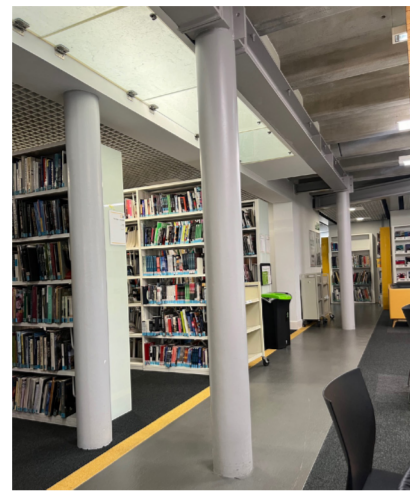


This model represents the atmosphere of the Library and the design intent. The model shows the brain, spine and lungs and how the public will interact with them and move through the space. The brain will glow, attracting attention to and illuminating the library.

Libraries help individuals grow and develop



Translucent glass combined with wood. Privacy.



Columns. Dominant, powerful. Making a statement.

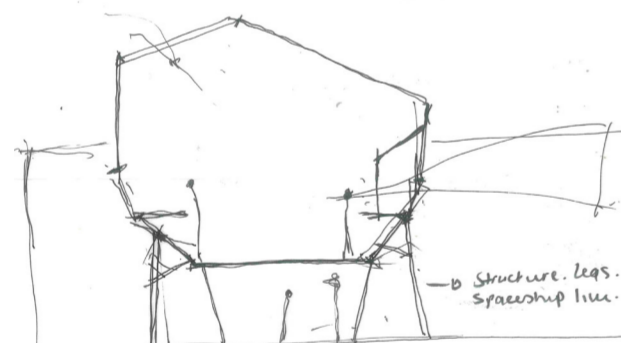
Libraries are essential for learning. They help individuals grow & develop, not only intellectually, but more confidently. Libraries shouldn't be just for storing books. A library should be the heart of a community. It should connect people & bring them together. Evolving, alive, diverse, inclusive. All of these key words are what shape a beautiful library. Growing up, my mother would take me to the library & allow me to explore & roam around in the library. I would immediately run to the books as I was a book worm. I would enter competitions & see how many books I could read within a month. I would win prizes & this made me feel proud. I achieved something. That is what a library should do. Let people have the opportunity to achieve something.

Personal feel about libraries.

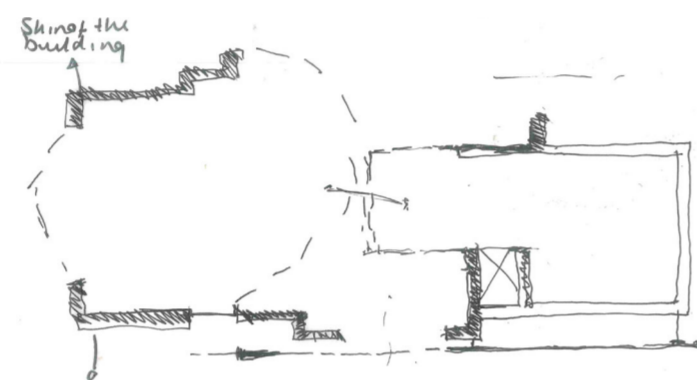
Brain development

I then began to focus on the relationship with the biotechnologist and librarian and how the brain's form could have a relationship with the buildings structure. I wanted to combine the two clients rather than separating them.

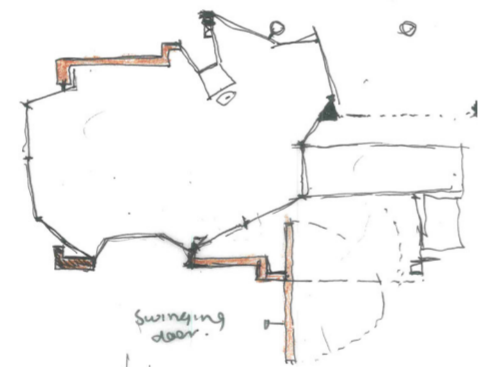
This is to make a statement that everyone is different, however we can still come together to grow, develop and learn as a community.



Form and construction.



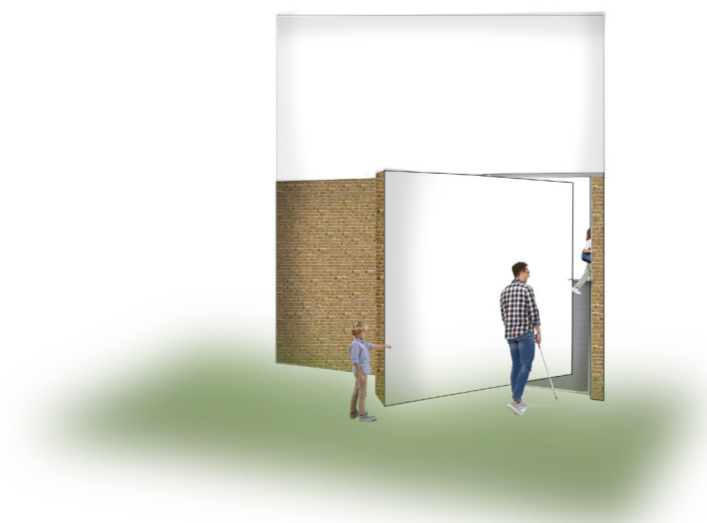
Dialogue between biotechnologist vs librarian.



Breathing, diffusing, moving



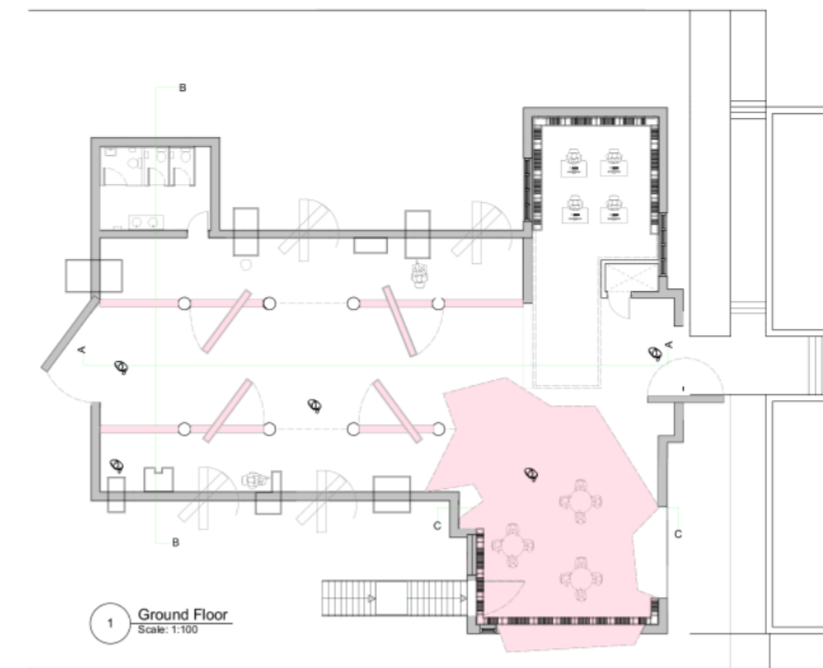
Pivoting bookshelves between the columns which can also close to allow for flexibility and privacy. Interactive.



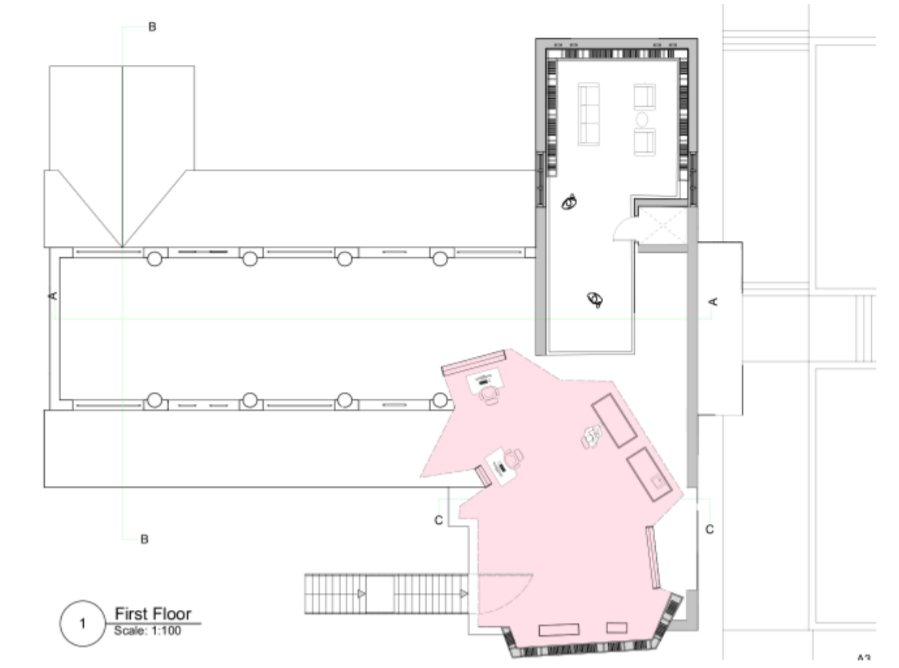
Pivoting door opening up into the garden. Accessible to all.

Othographic drawing development

Ground floor plan



First floor plan



Observing the conversation between the biotechnologist and the librarian, as well as the operation of the pivoting bookcases and how the lungs will breathe.

Testing where the quiet zone will be and how the public will interact with the biotechnologist lab.

Long section



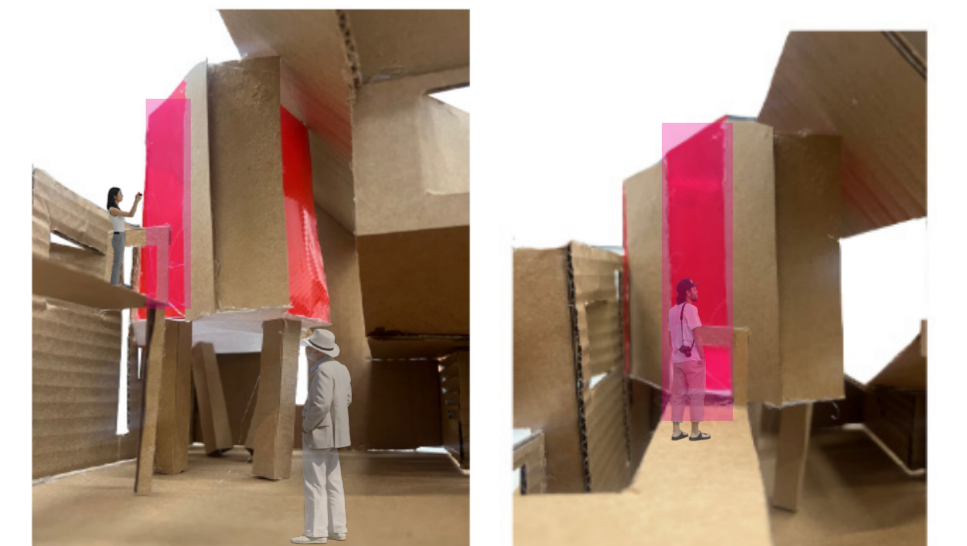
Working out the purpose of the pivoting bookshelves, as well as the puncturing walls and how they would be used as furniture.

Model making of the brain

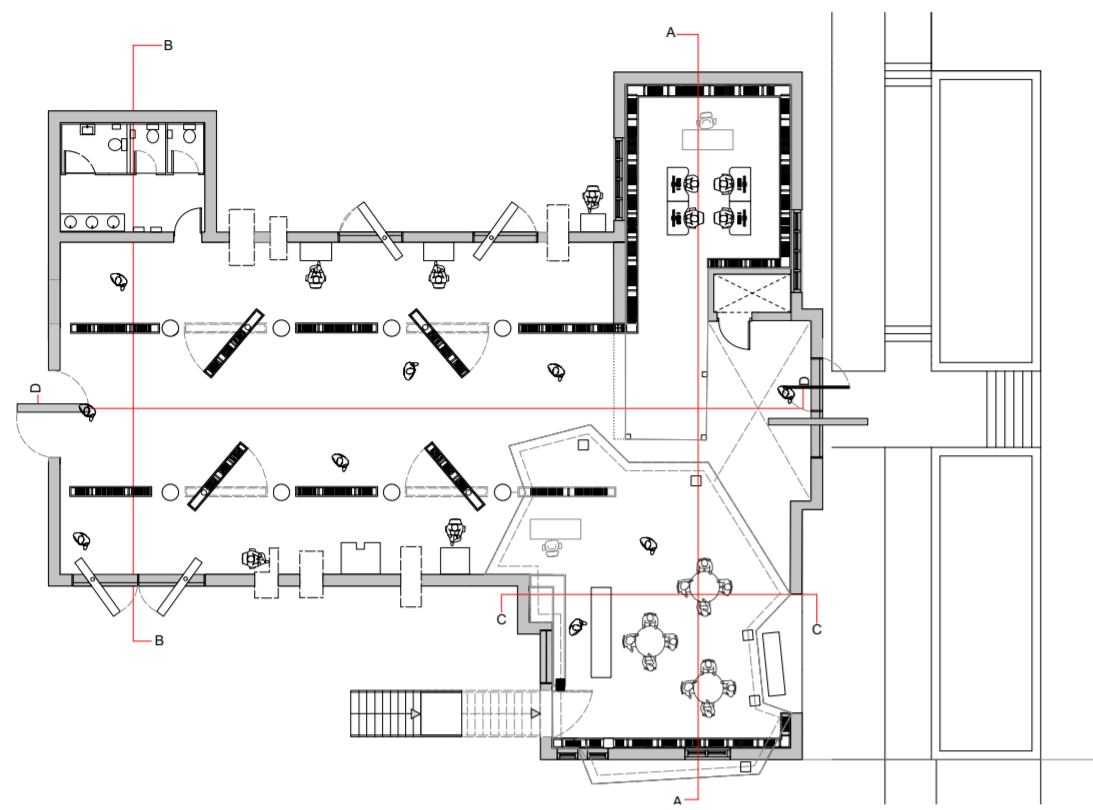
To better understand how the brain would be seen and fit into the library, I experimented with its form, height, and volume.

I made the decision that I wanted the brain to be both opaque and translucent in order to provide biotechnologists some privacy as they work on important projects and to give the general public an idea of what they're working on.

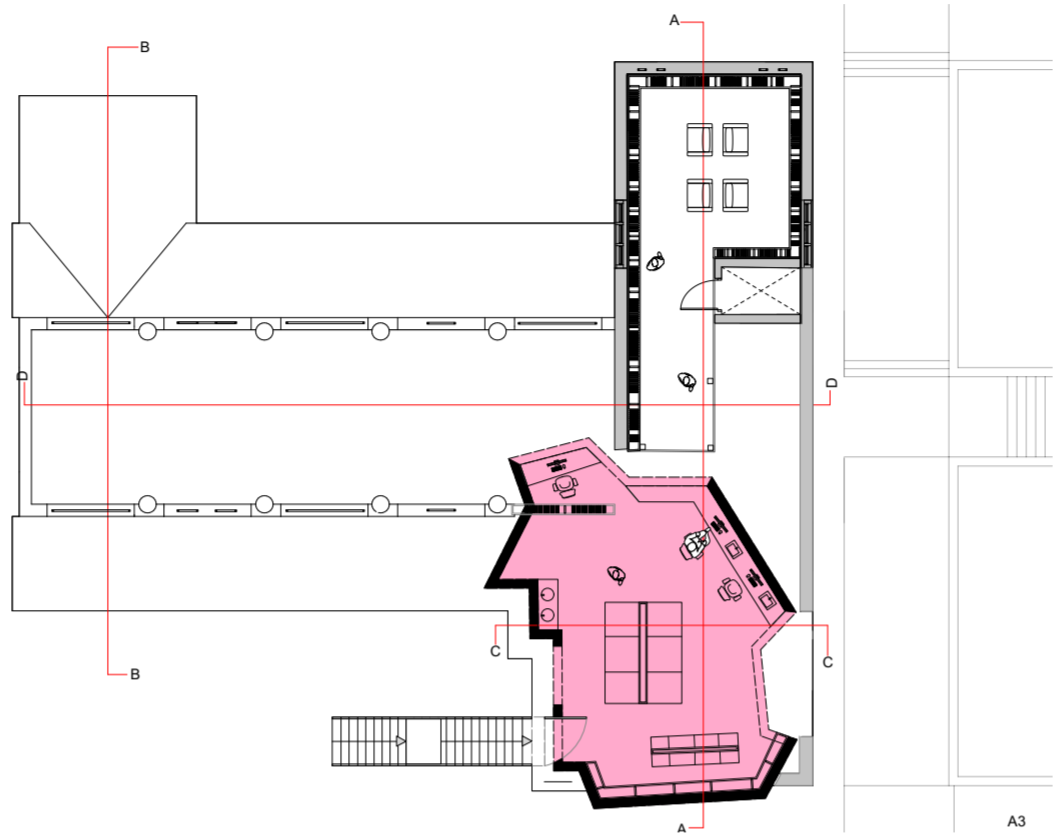
I wanted the transparent material to have a pinkish tint to resemble the colour of our brains. In order to support its structure, allow for double height, and make use of the space beneath, the brain will be supported on still legs.



Orthographic drawings of the living organism functioning



Ground floor plan. This consists of the three main organs: the brain, spine and lungs.



First floor plan. This includes the biotechnologist lab and the quiet zone area.



Section aa. Examining the relationship between the brain and the library, as well as the study region underneath the brain and the café area.



Section dd.

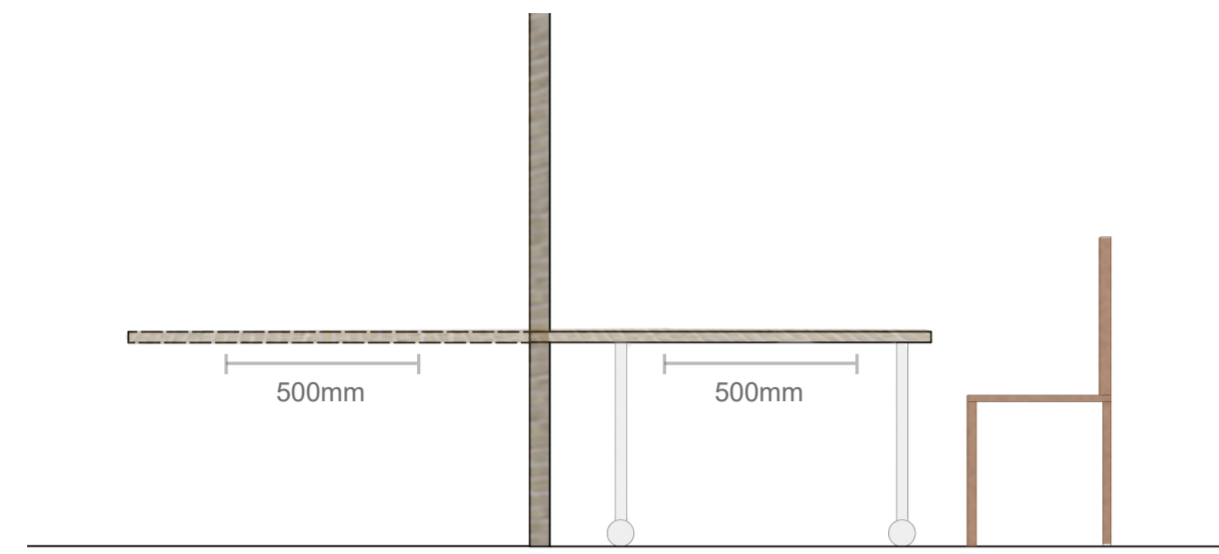
Pivoting bookshelves.

Lungs opening up.

IT and quiet zone area.

Lift for accessibility.

Detailed drawings of the brain and lungs



How the table will move in and out of the wall structure.

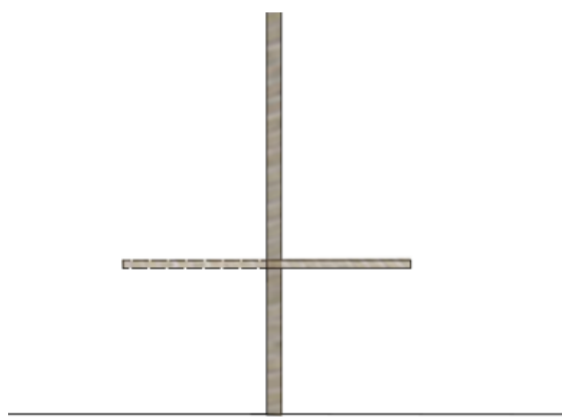


Table punctured and constructed from the wall being used inside and outside of the library.

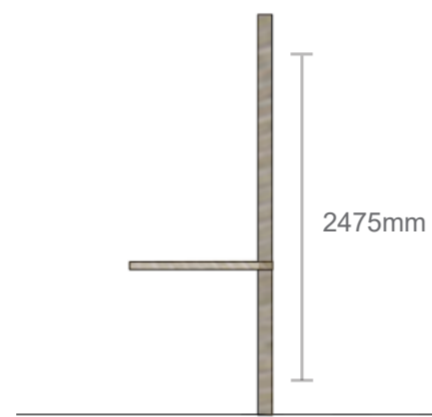
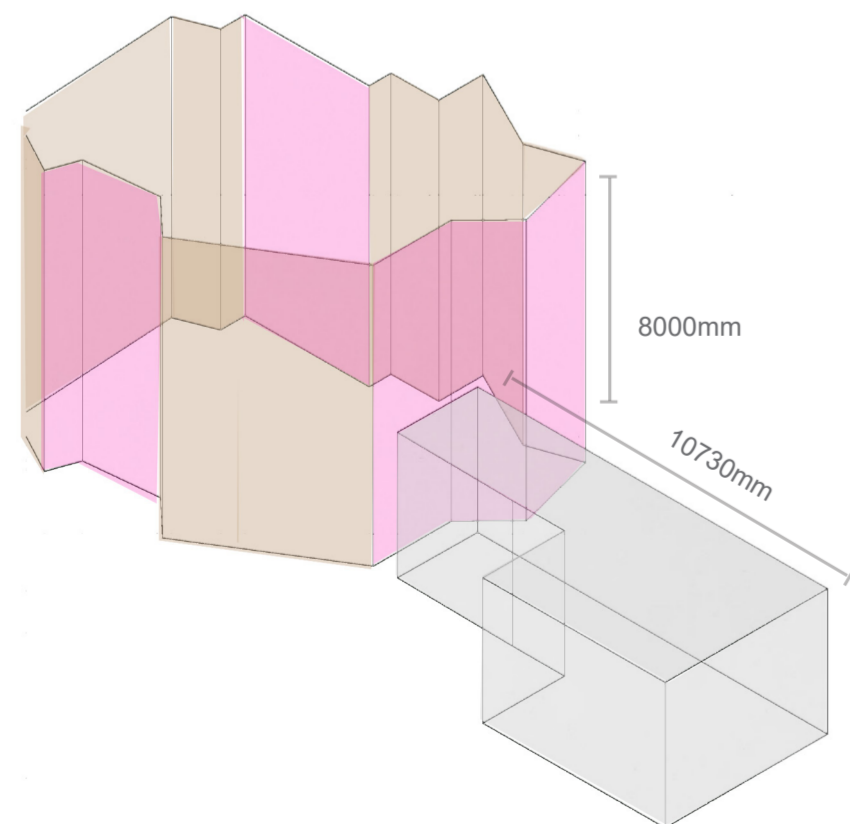
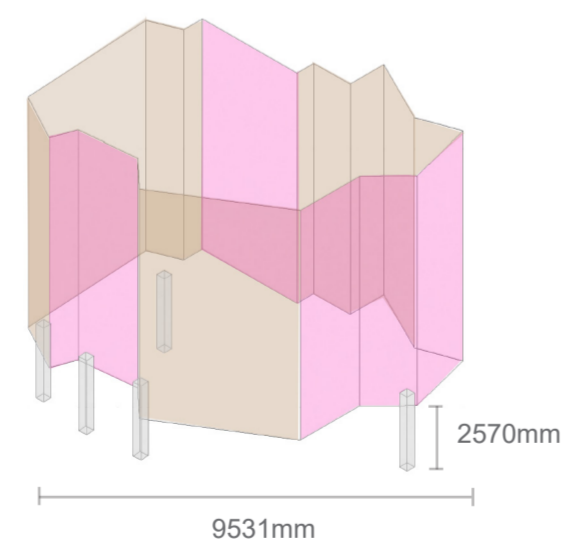


Table punctured and constructed from the wall being used inside of the library.



Relationship between the brain and the balcony.



Structure of brain on stilt legs.

Becoming a biotechnologist for a day



During the day, there will be workshops led by the biotechnologists where the public will be able to carry out experiments. The 'lungs' will be used as work surfaces.



The public will spend time in the 'lab/brain of the biotechnologist as a way of being educational to all. I made this open access and provision for all to demystify professions that might seem exclusive.

The living organism coming to life

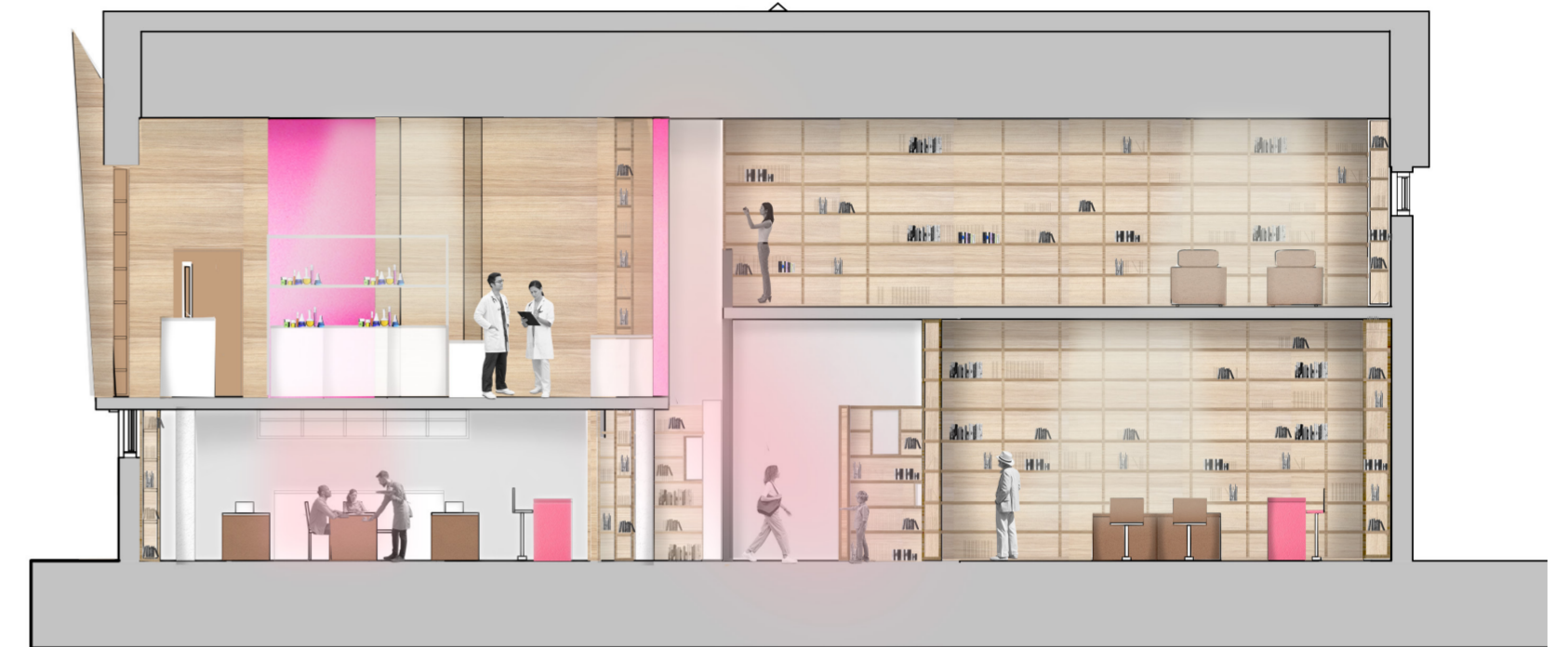
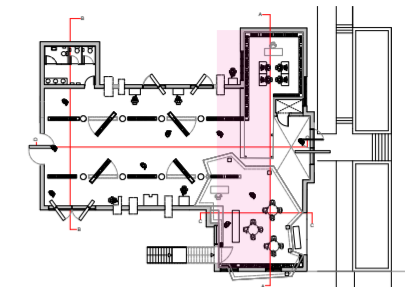
Growing



Preserving Childs Hill brick making history.

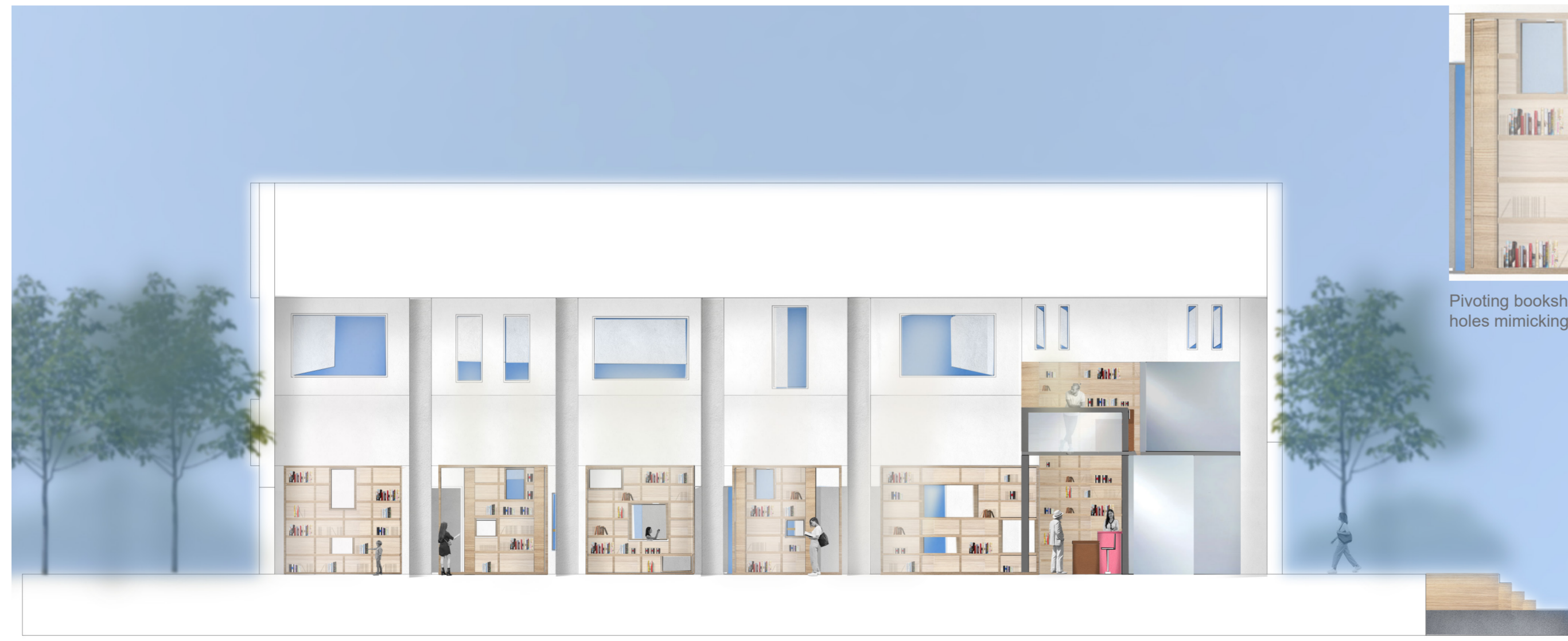
The library lurs and draws the public due to the brain protruding from the building, causing it to 'grow' and become 'alive'. The brain radiates to make a statement about the library and pique people's interest in its structure.

The organs functioning



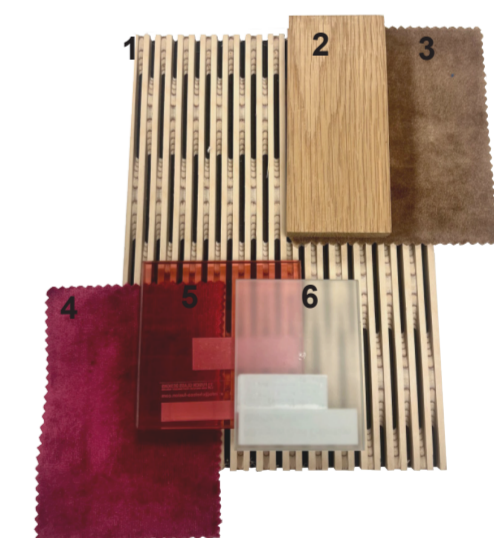
The public is welcomed by the brain as soon as they cross the threshold, which is the biotechnologist's workspace. There is a café underneath where people may dine and study. They are also drawn in by the balcony that encircles the spine, piquing curiosity and wanting to learn more.

Pivoting bookshelves



Pivoting bookshelve. Puncturing holes mimicking cells.

Material palette



1. Wood panel
2. Oak wood for bookshelves.
3. Brown felt fabric for seating
4. Pink felt fabric for Irene's desk
5. Pink glass for the brain
6. Translucent glass for flooring

The use of wood is crucial since it is sustainable, allowing the outside in. Books are the backbone of a library, which allows the bookshelves to make a statement. They have puncturing holes that imitate the breathing walls (lungs), allowing the room to expand. They turn to breathe and get new air. The lungs of the library enable natural light to stream through.