

# Stockwell Bus Garage ( Nest Therapeutic Centre)

Jean Machado

The Nest project breathes new life into the historic Stockwell Bus Garage by transforming it into a Therapeutic Sensory Garden, a sanctuary for families seeking autism treatments. This innovative initiative aligns with Dr. Annie McCall's mission of care and John Tradescant's passion for beauty, addressing the rising autism diagnoses in Lambeth, Lewisham, and Southwark. Central to its design are six Bird's Sensory Nests, inspired by the Rufus Hornero bird, providing immersive, multi-sensory experiences with organic textures, interactive elements, and durable materials. The garden also features an Atta ant-inspired Light Device, fostering curiosity and engagement with its dynamic, changing colours.

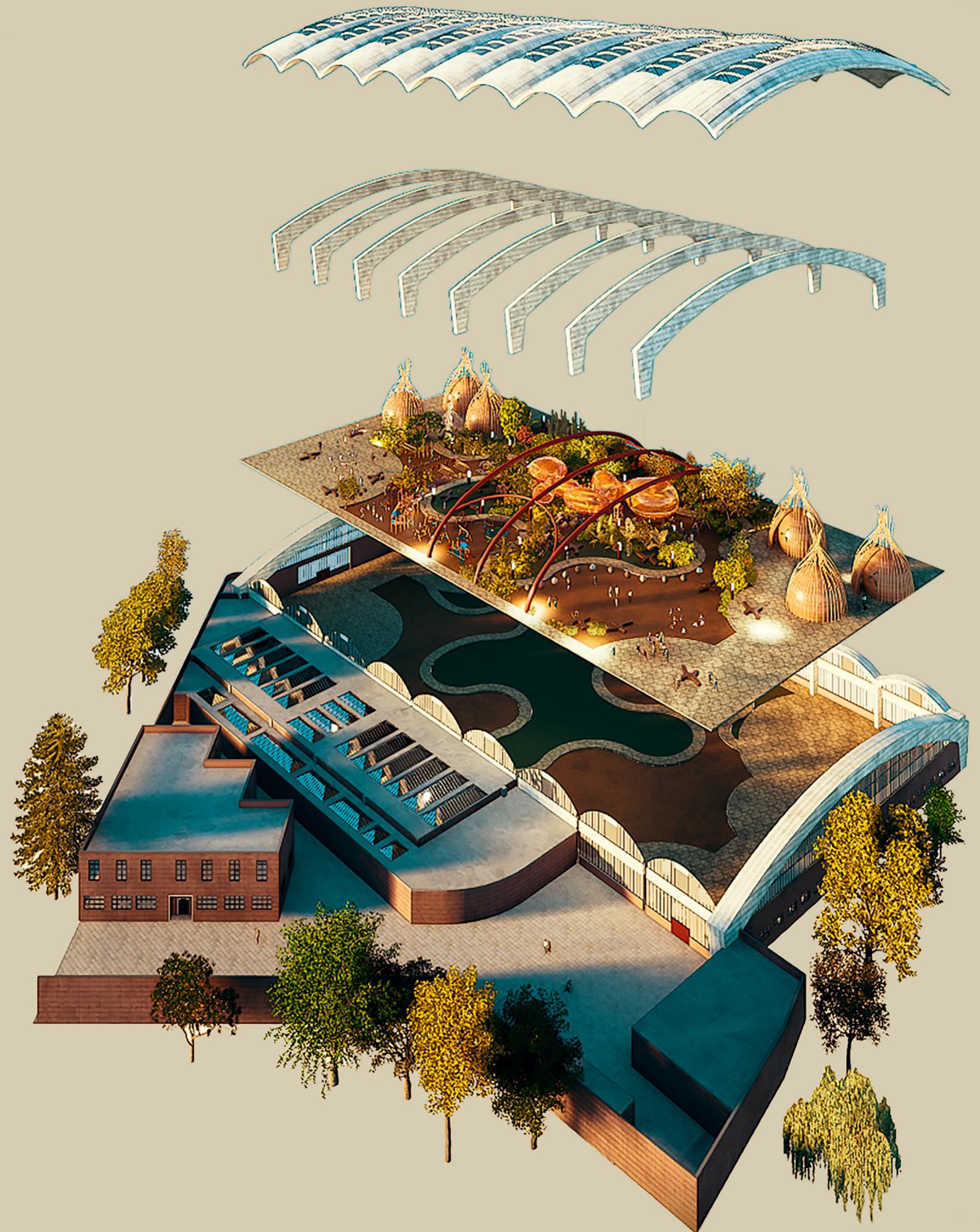
Beyond the sensory nests, the garden includes a hotel with specialized kitchens and offices for medical consultations, creating a comprehensive therapeutic environment. By integrating nature, art, and technology, this project preserves a significant architectural heritage while fostering community cohesion and empowerment. It stands as a beacon of hope and inclusivity, enriching the lives of individuals with autism and their families. This visionary approach to repurposing a historic space makes it a standout contender for the Interior Futures Award.



Ant's Nest Light Installation

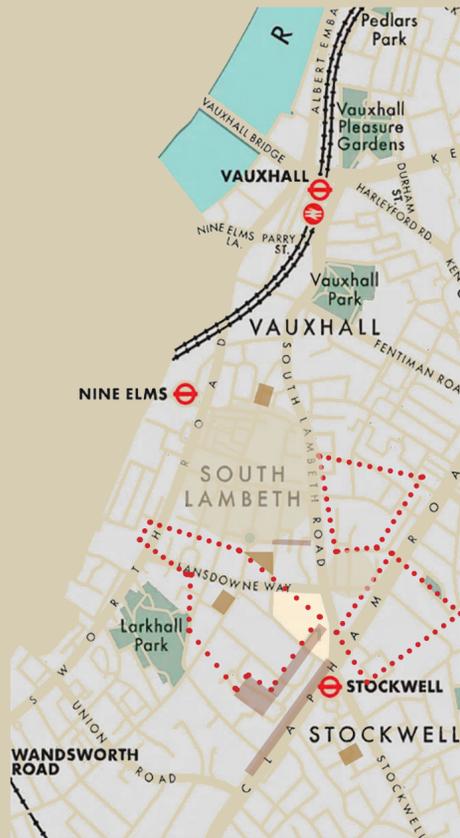


Bird's Sensory Nest

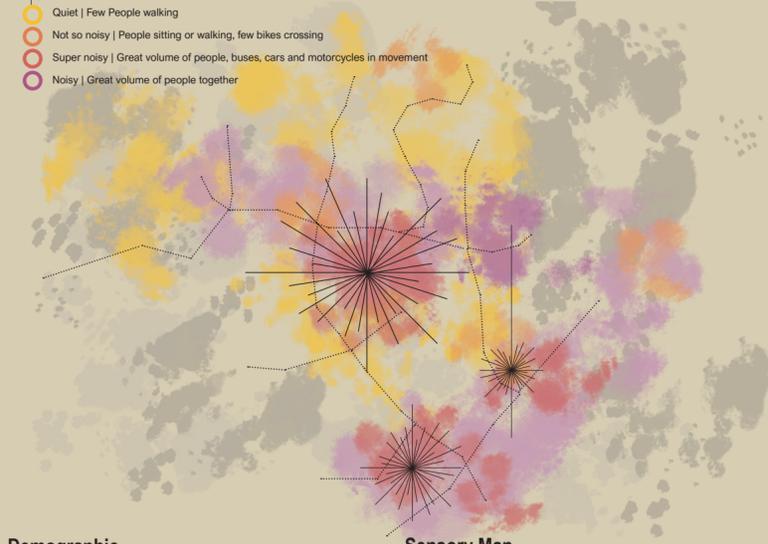


NEST Therapeutic Centre | Axonometric

# Neighbourhood Map



- Stockwell Roads Map
- Points of interest | Stockwell Bus Garage, Stockwell Tube Station, Stockwell War Memorial
  - Quiet | Few People walking
  - Not so noisy | People sitting or walking, few bikes crossing
  - Super noisy | Great volume of people, buses, cars and motorcycles in movement
  - Noisy | Great volume of people together



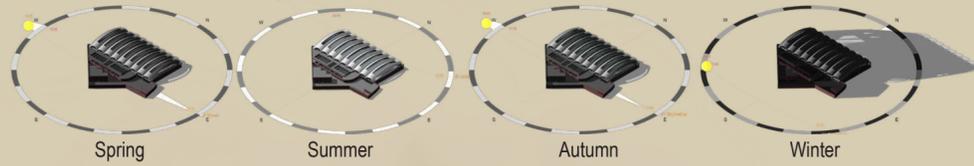
## Demographic

In addition to having the largest Portuguese community in London, Stockwell is home to a vibrant Caribbean community due to its diverse demographic. Despite the fact that the communities are integrated commercially, there are more residential residents than business ones.

## Sensory Map

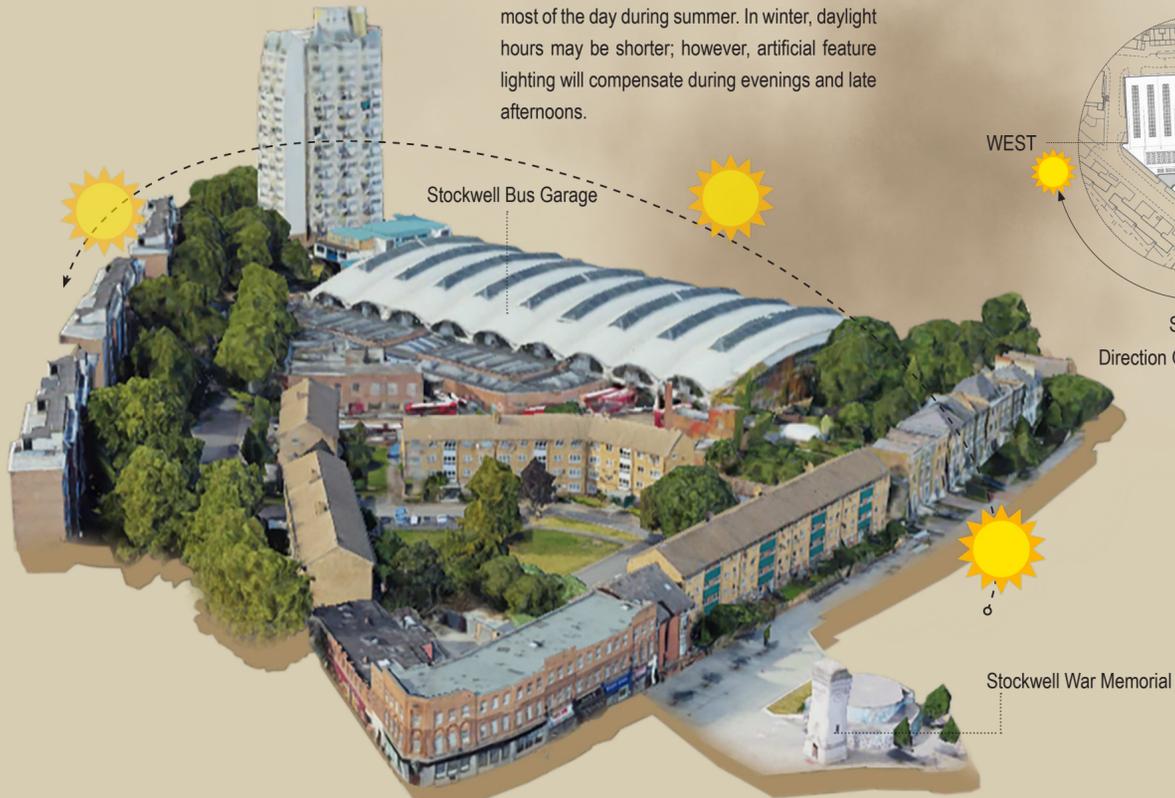
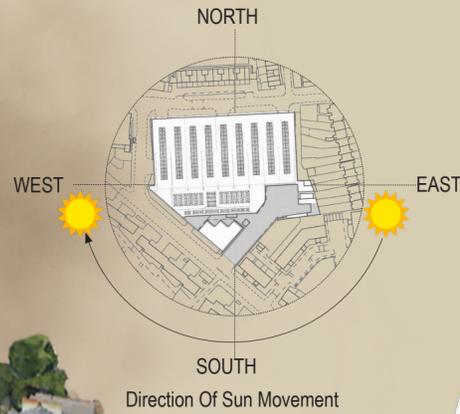
To understand the site's vernacular areas, a sensory map tracked surrounding sounds. This helped the designer choose materials for the project, addressing essential acoustics. The map was based on studies near Stockwell Tube Station, War Memorial, and bus Garage on September 27, 2023, at 16:20, and October 3, 2023, at 11:45.

- Residential Area
- Green Area
- Commercial Area
- School
- Stockwell Bus Garage (Site)
- Heritage Area



## Sun path

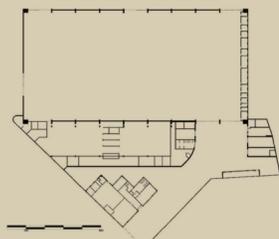
The new entrance facade is oriented towards the west, ensuring ample natural light throughout most of the day during summer. In winter, daylight hours may be shorter; however, artificial feature lighting will compensate during evenings and late afternoons.



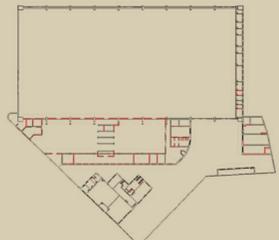
NEST Therapeutic Centre Main Entrance



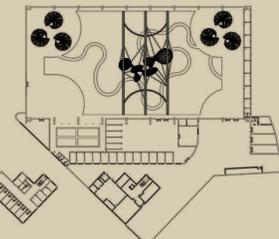
NEST Therapeutic Centre Aerial View



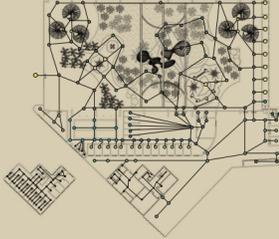
Bus Terminal Ground Floor  
Scale 1:500



Demolition Plan



New Approach Plan



Desirable Movement Plan



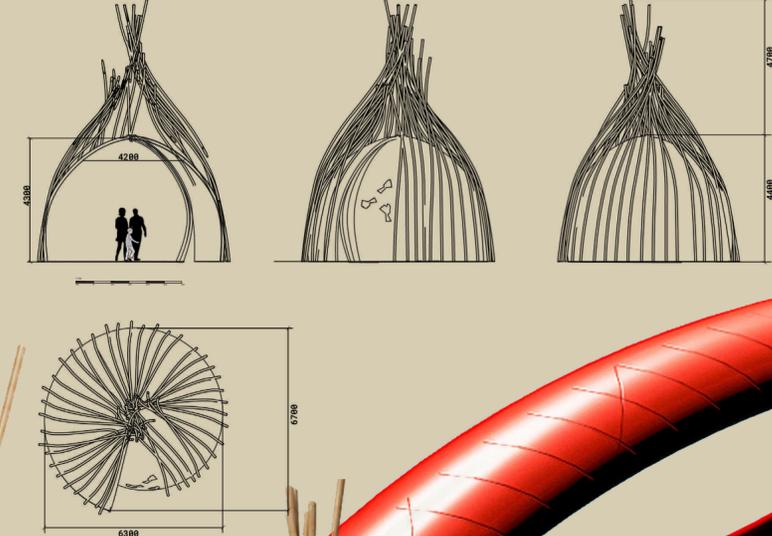
Repurpose Project Approach Diagram

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rooms                        | Staff Changing Room    |
| Housekeeping                 | Gardening Storage Room |
| Playground                   | Machinery Storage Room |
| Therapeutical Cabinets       | Offices                |
| Sensory Nests                | Non-Slip Flooring      |
| Medical Cabinets             | Offices Corridor       |
| Rubbish Dedicated Area       | Lift                   |
| Natural Lower Grass          | Toilets/ Showers       |
| Gluten/ Lactose Free Kitchen | Pantry                 |
| Garden                       | Canteen                |
| Locker Room                  | Kitchen Porter         |
| External Area                | Staff Resting Area     |
| Hotel Corridor               | Staff TV Room          |
| Artificial Shallow Pond      | Staircase              |



NEST Therapeutic Centre Section/Elevation

Bird's Nest Technical Elevation Drawing

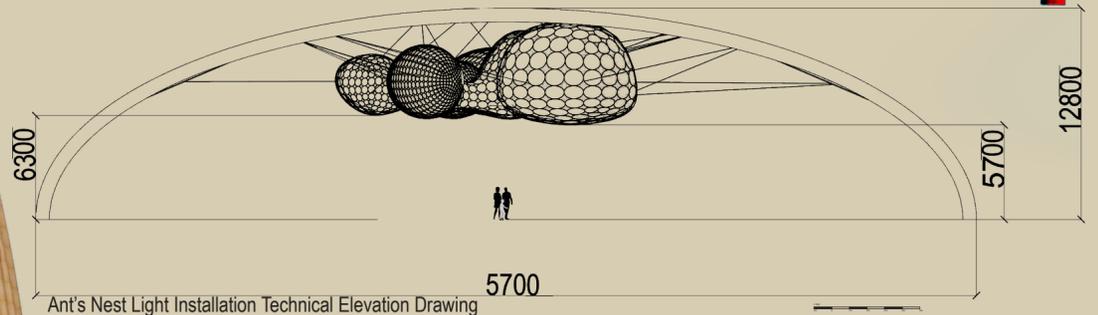
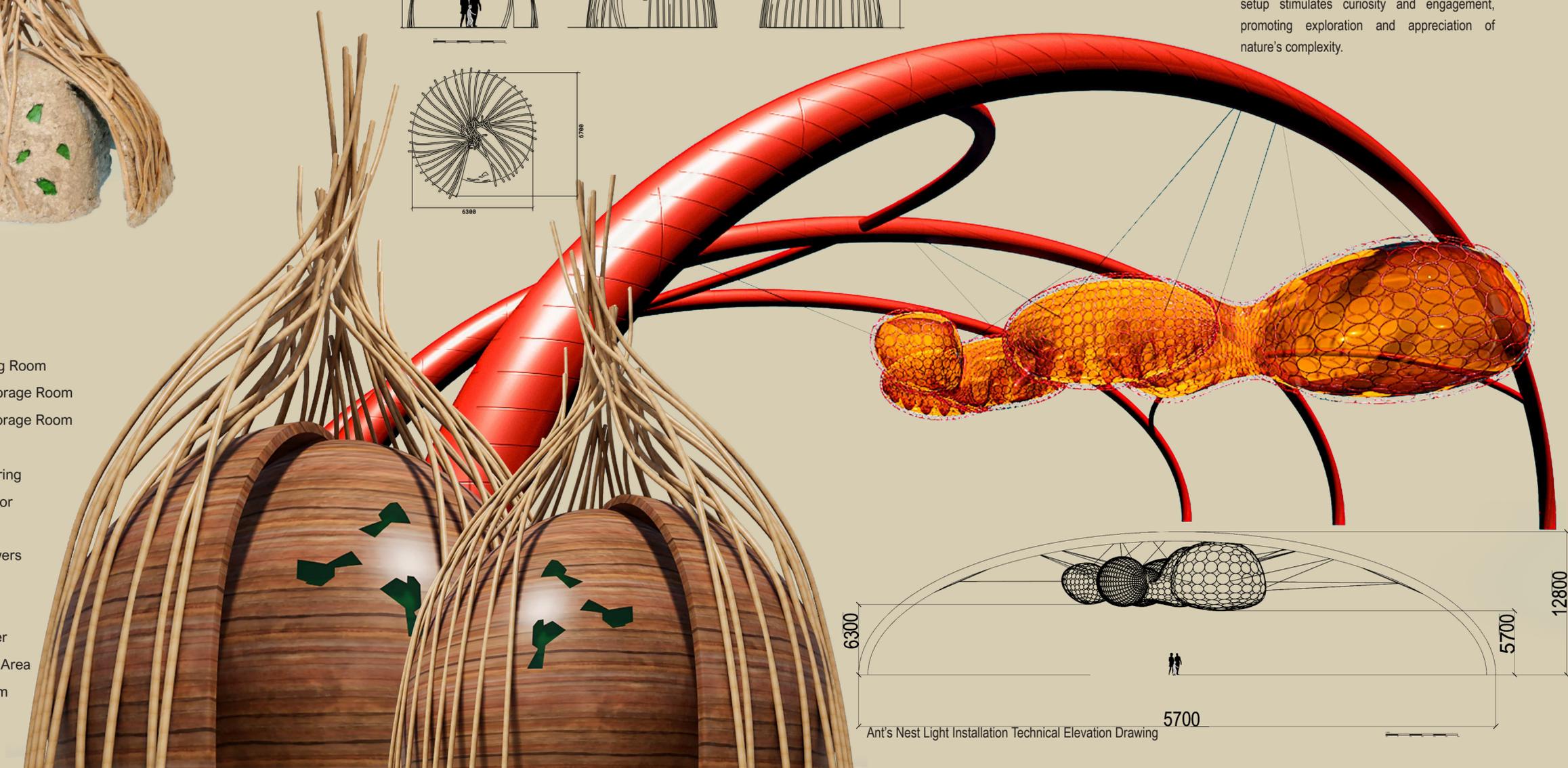


**Model Making:**  
Creating the sensory nest model is crucial for translating design concepts, refining details, evaluating spatial dynamics, and visualizing elements.



**Bird's Nest:**  
The Bird's Sensory Nest was designed to meet the needs of autistic individuals experiencing hypersensitivity or hyposensitivity. Six carefully crafted nests are placed in the garage, three on each side, providing a comforting sensory retreat.

**Atta Ant's Light Device Proposal:**  
Inspired by Atta ant colonies, this installation merges seamlessly with the sensory garden. Metallic structures resembling garage arches support translucent acrylic forms, enhanced by LED lights for dynamic colour changes. This setup stimulates curiosity and engagement, promoting exploration and appreciation of nature's complexity.



Ant's Nest Light Installation Technical Elevation Drawing



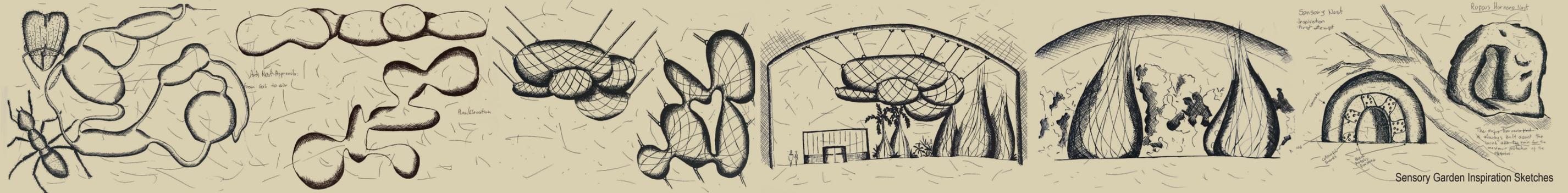
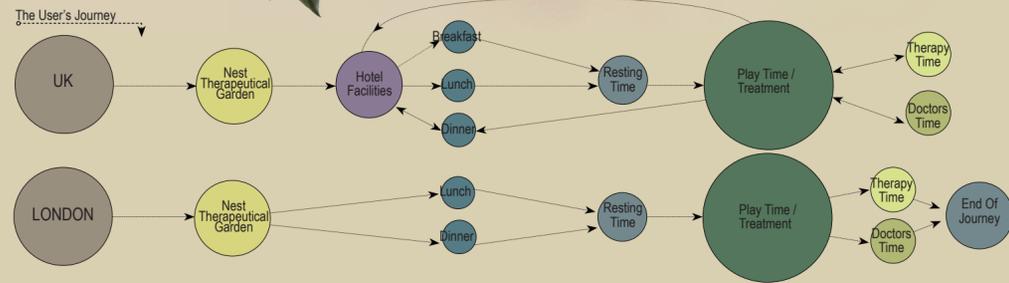
Sensory Garden Approach



Main Entrance



Sensory Bird's Nest



Sensory Garden Inspiration Sketches



Arriving at the Sensory Garden



Medical Evaluation While Playing



NEST Offices and Hotel Admission Entrance



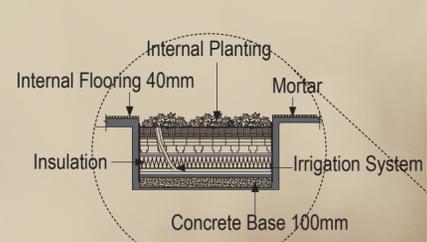
Therapeutical Evaluation While Playing



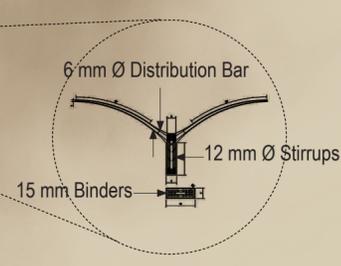
Relaxing at the Sensory Garden



Open For Community Interaction



Structural Definition Of The Seagull Wings



Sensory Garden Materiality Collage



The design prioritizes materials to stimulate autistic users, emphasizing natural textures like wood, earth, and stone. Additionally, all single-glazed windows will be replaced with triple-glazed ones to effectively muffle external noise, enhancing tranquility.



The Sensory Garden