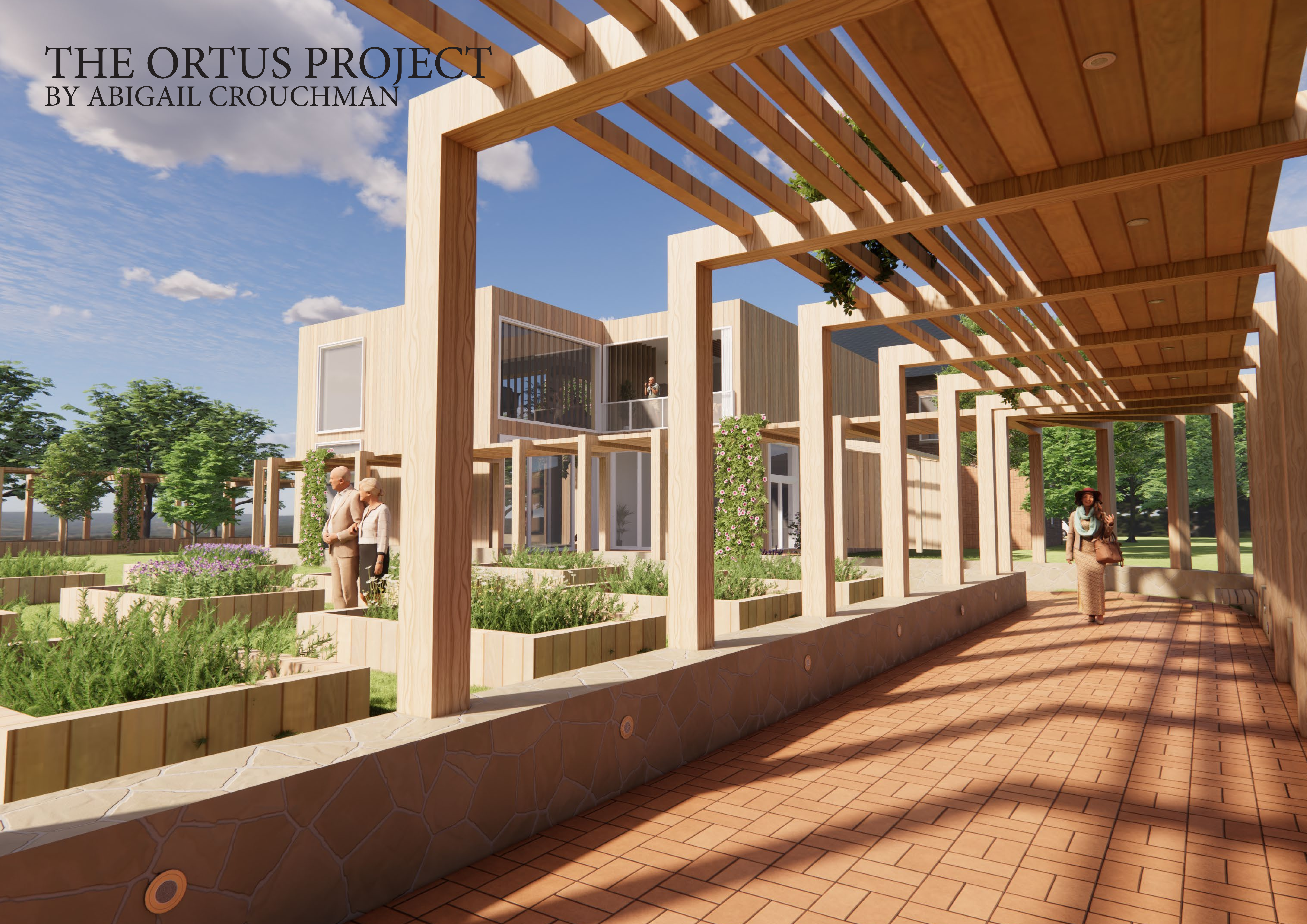
THE ORTUS PROJECT

BY ABIGAIL CROUCHMAN



THE ORTUS PROJECT

The Ortus project is a preventative strategy to tackle the lack of ageing in place design, to accommodate for elderly independence and encourage interaction to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. The social issues faced within the county's growing elderly population, highlights the demand for an innovative retirement hub intervention.

The User

The Ortus Project is a residential setting that provides 65 year olds plus with a community of like-minded people who are vulnerable to feelings of loneliness and want to embrace life.

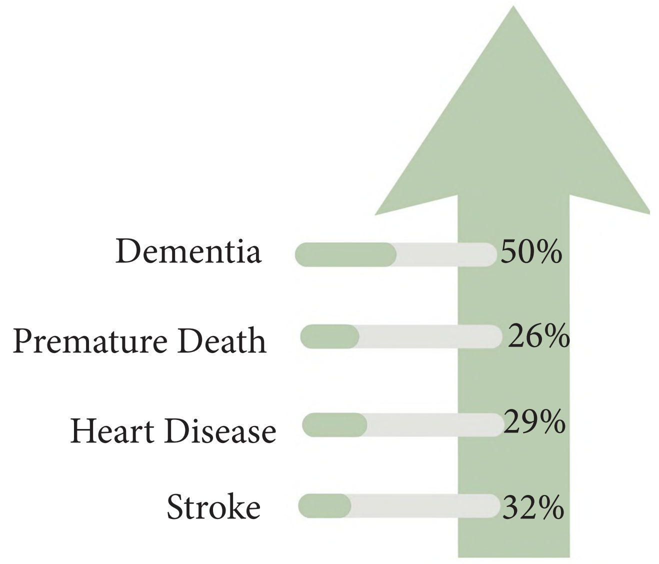
Needs/Challenges:
- Seeks a place that **allows independance** but also offers a safe place to reside in.
- Needs a good network of like-minded people
- Needs accessible facilities

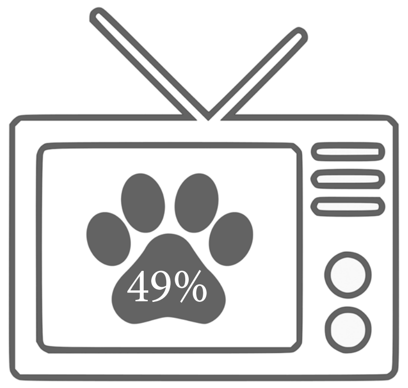
Behaviour:
- Spends large amounts of time **indoors**
- **Vulnerable** to feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- **Set routines**, normally orientated around medication.

Goals:
- Remain **active** to prevent ill health.
- **Improved** and **prolonged** independance.
- **Reduced** feelings of **loneliness** and **isolation.**
- Age gracefully without **reduced movement** around the home.

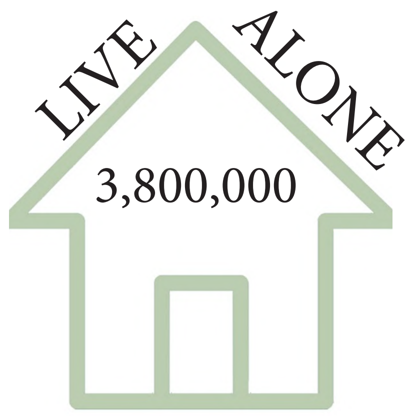
The Statistics

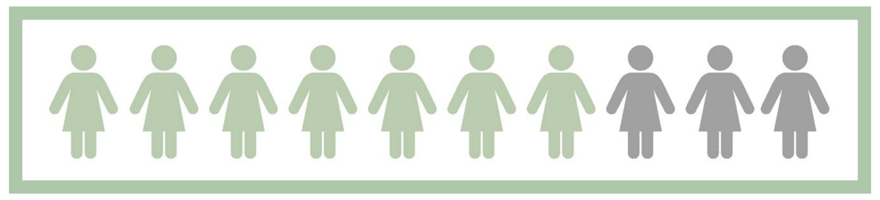
The 'Ortus Project' aims to reduce and prevent loneliness in the elderly through the use of 'ageing in place' principles that encourage interaction. Loneliness in the elderly has become a very apparent issue in our society. The pandemic highlighted this problem. The life expectancy of those living in the UK is increasing. By 2050, it's predicted that there will be 2 billion elderly people globally. As the elderly population grows, countries need to adapt to ways of caring for them.



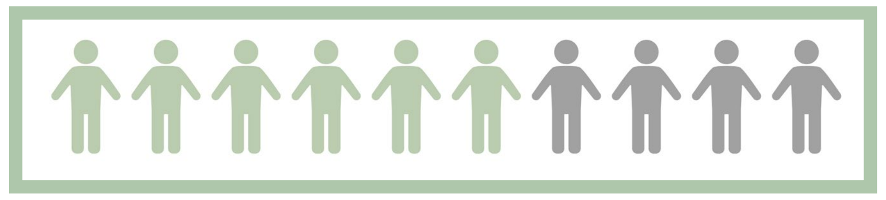


Say their television or pets are their main form of company (Age UK, 2015)





71% of women over 65 years old say they are now lonelier than before the pandemic



60% of men over 65 years old say they are now lonelier than before the pandemic

Factors causing loneliness

- Loss of loved ones, whether that's through death, divorce, or family issues.
- It can be difficult adjusting to retirement.
- Poor health can lead to limitations in everyday life.
- Lack or transport or losing the ability to drive reduces social contact.
- In old age, income usually decreases.

The Site's History

1897 | Located in the middle of Greylees, lies the site of a former mental hospital. Originally known as Kesteven County Asylum, Rauceby Hospital was founded in 1897 and construction finished in 1902.

1902 | Kesteven County Asylum opened on 20th June 1902. Sixty males and seventy female patients were the first to be admitted, they arrived by train and wagonettes from Grantham. The hospital had the capacity for 490 patients when it opened.

1940 | In 1940, the RAF took over the building and renamed the hospital as No, 4 RAF Hospital Rauceby. It became a crash and burns unit under the control of RAF Cranwell.

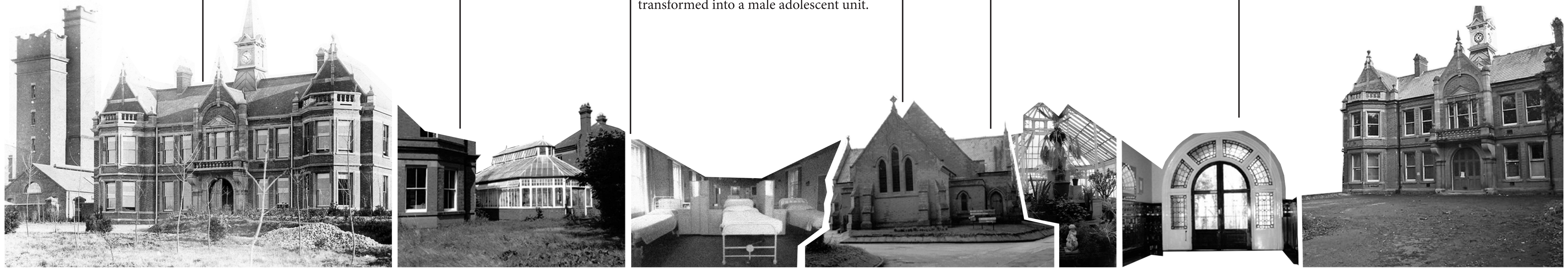
1949 | Once the war was over, the NHS took over the site and renamed it 'Rauceby Hospital'. An occupational therapy unit was added in the 50's and the isolated hospital was transformed into a male adolescent unit.

1958 | In 1958 there were around 590 patients by 1986, numbers hads dropped to 350.

1997 | Five years after plans were put in place, the hospital closed in 1997.

2001 | Five years after plans were put in place, the hospital closed in 1997.

On September 11th 2002, David Wilson Homes bought the site surrounding the former hospital. Their aim was to redevelop the derelict site to bring it back to life. | 2002



Universal Design Principles

The Universal Design Principles are made up of seven guidelines to encourage and aid inclusive design

Equitable Use

Flexibility in Use

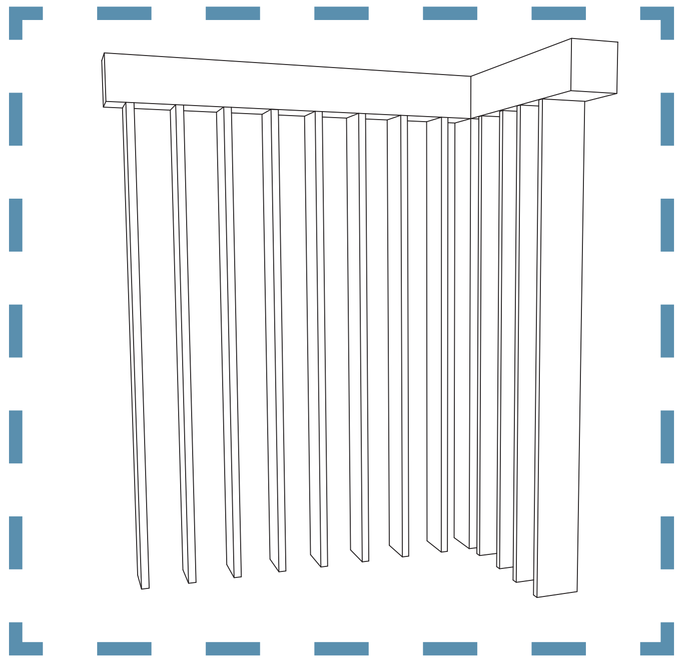
Simple and Intuitive Use

Low Physical Effort

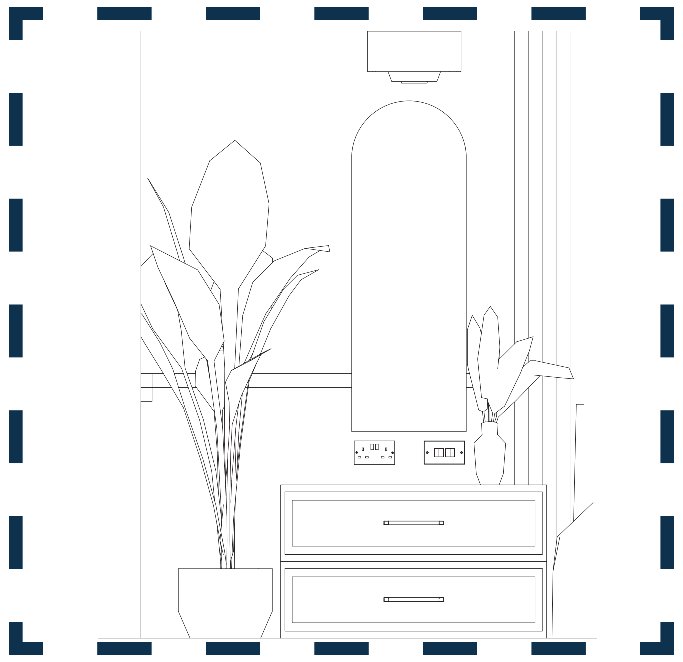
Tolerence for Error

Perceptible Information

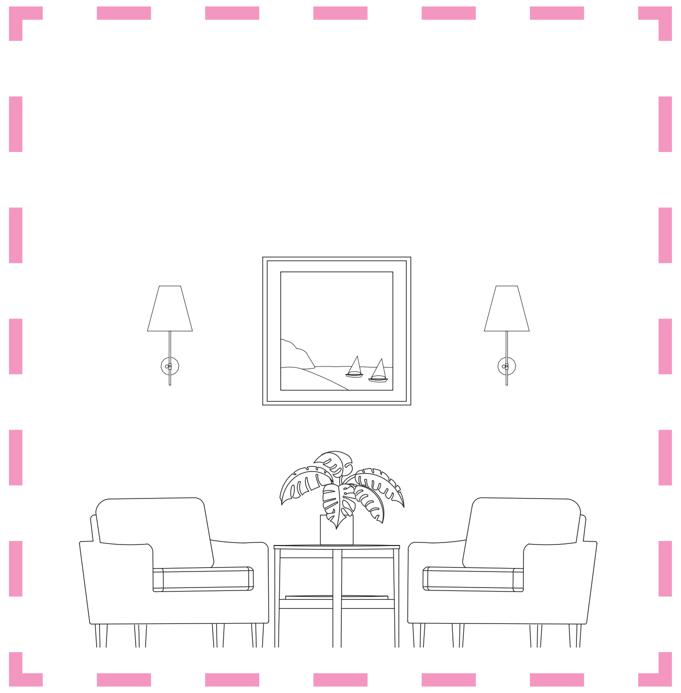
Size and Space for Approach and Use



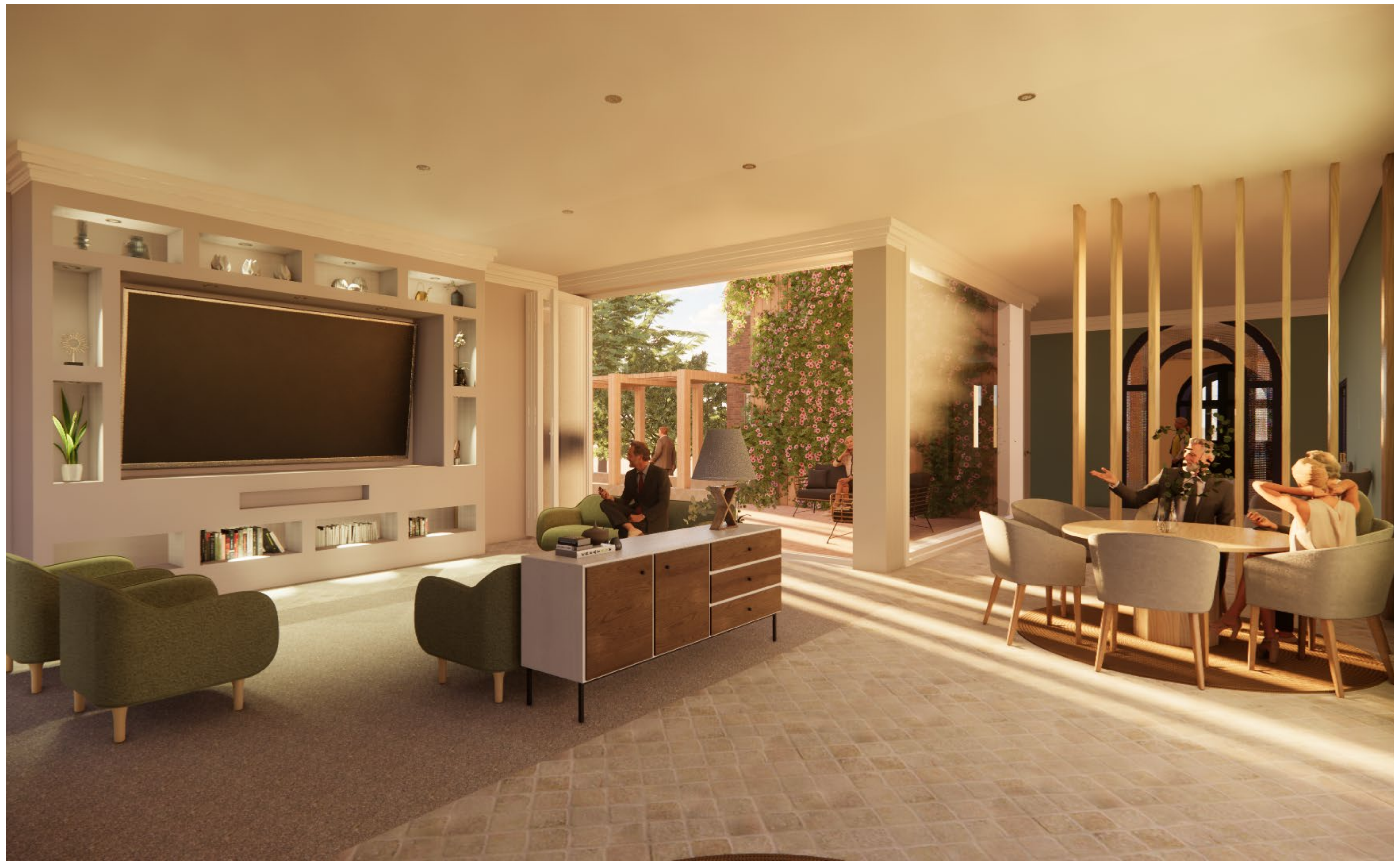
Vertical timber fins allow flexibility in creating public and private spaces



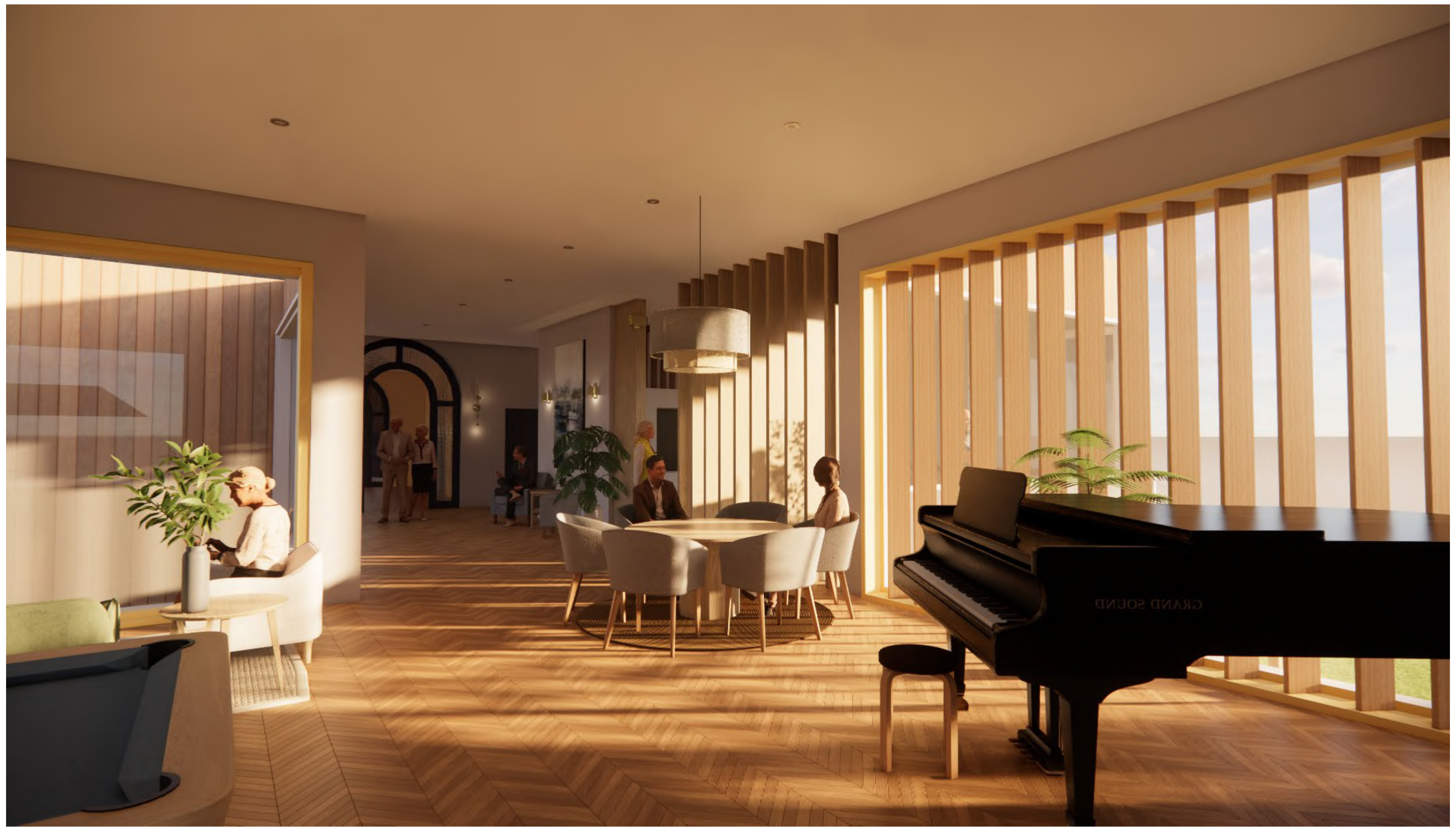
Bedside light switches and plugs for ease and accessibility



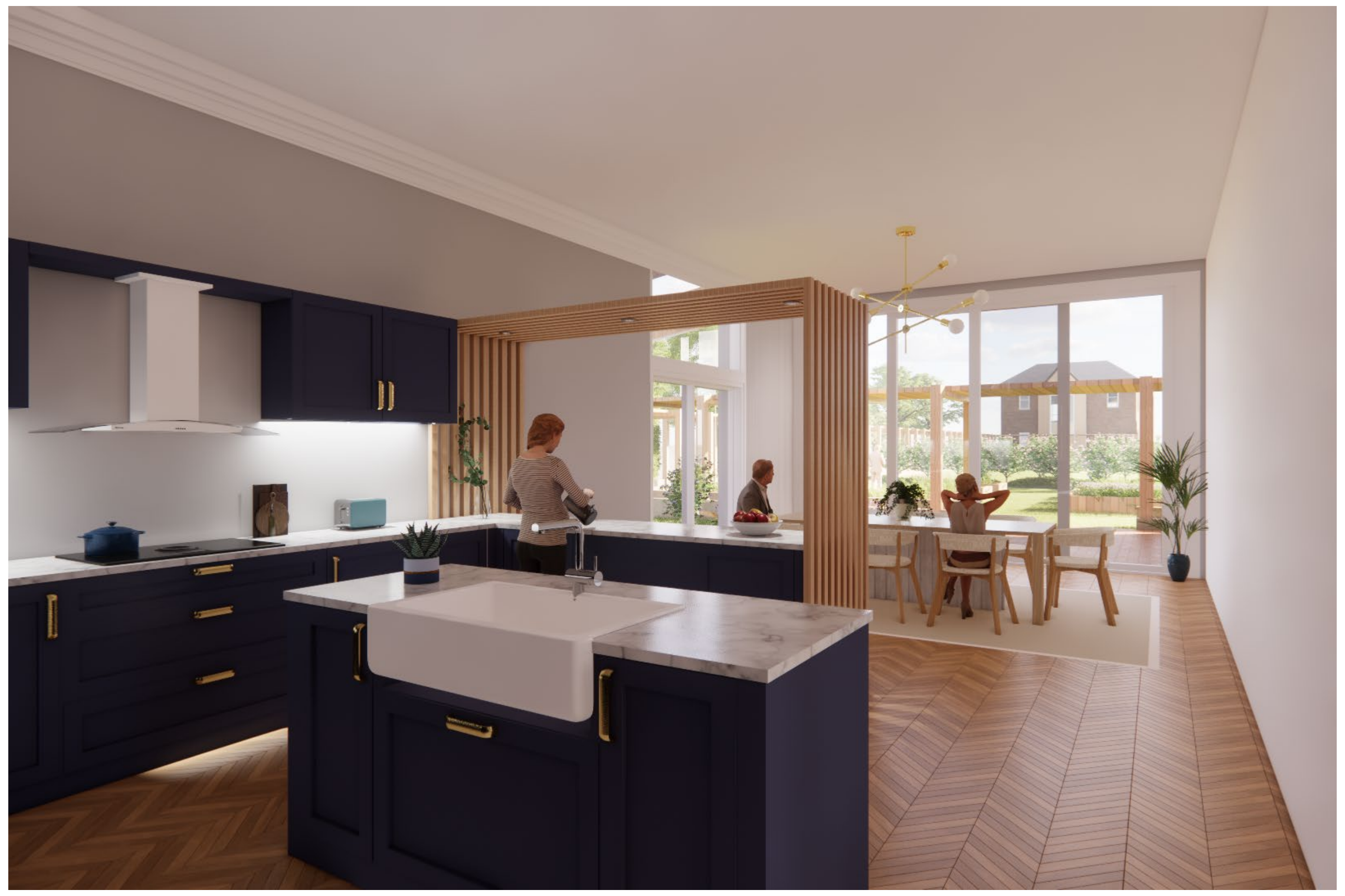
Seating is placed at regular intervals throughout the site to offer a place of rest and is always in a direct line of sight



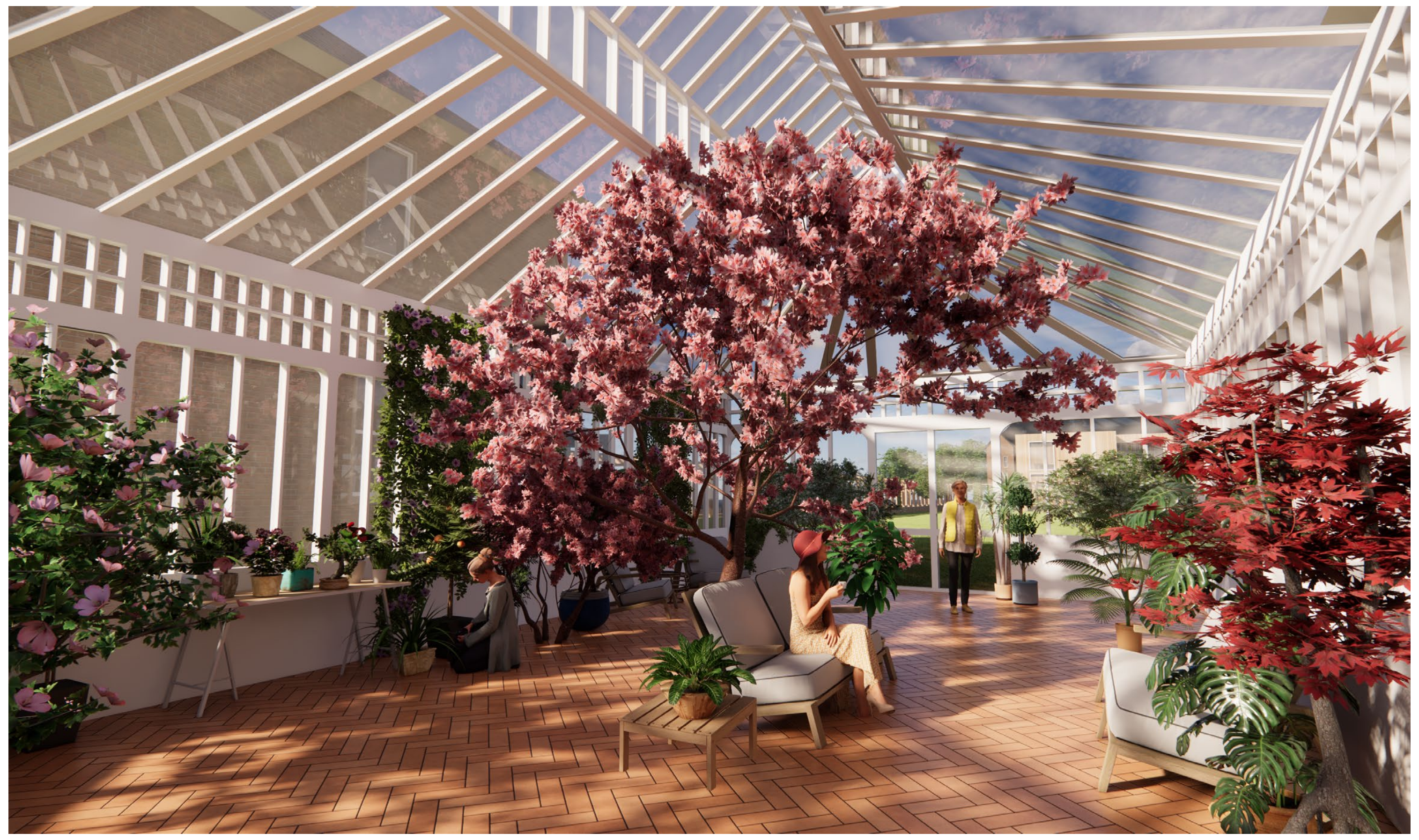
A place for recreation and socialising to help reduce feelings of loneliness and improve energy



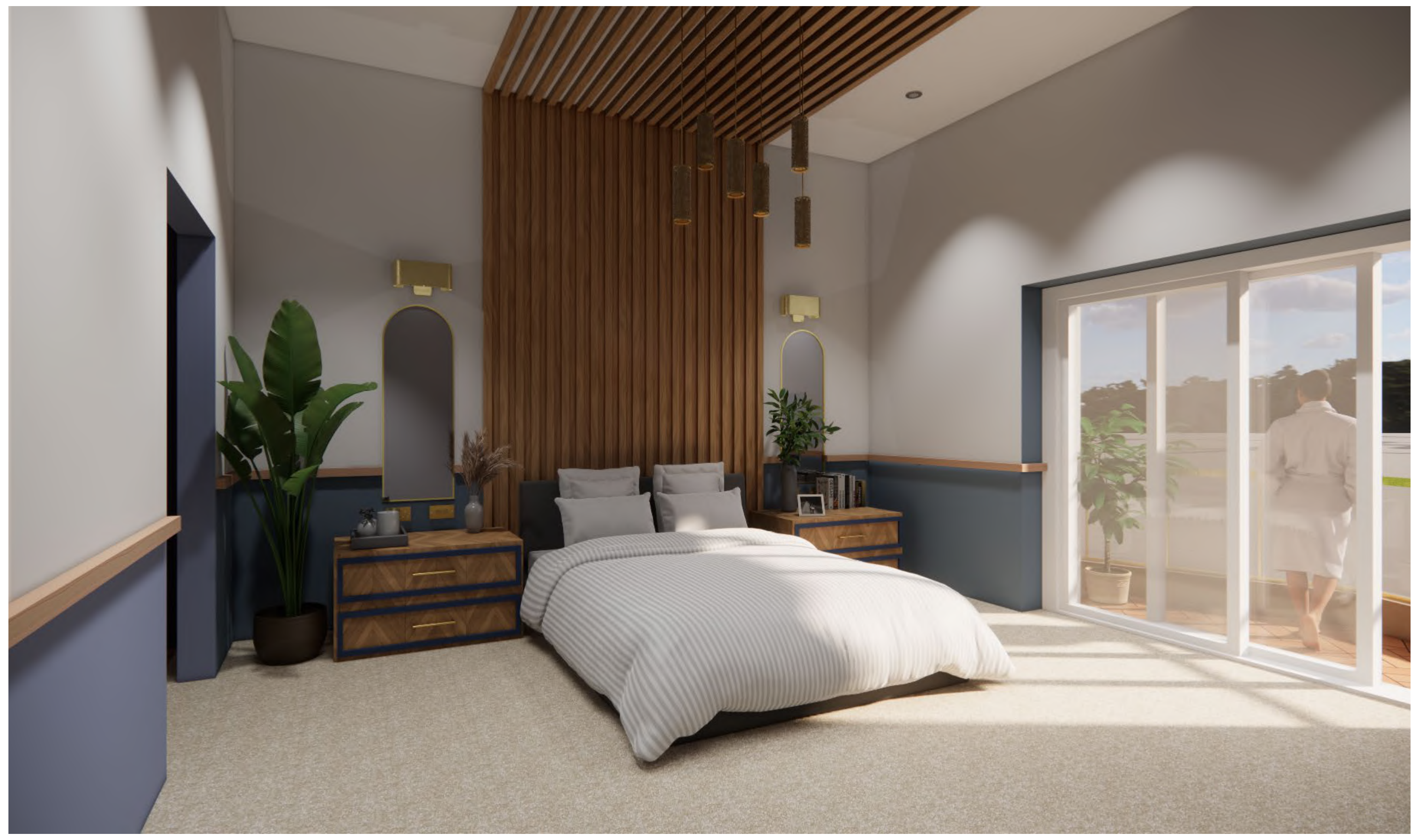
A space for social engagement and reflection



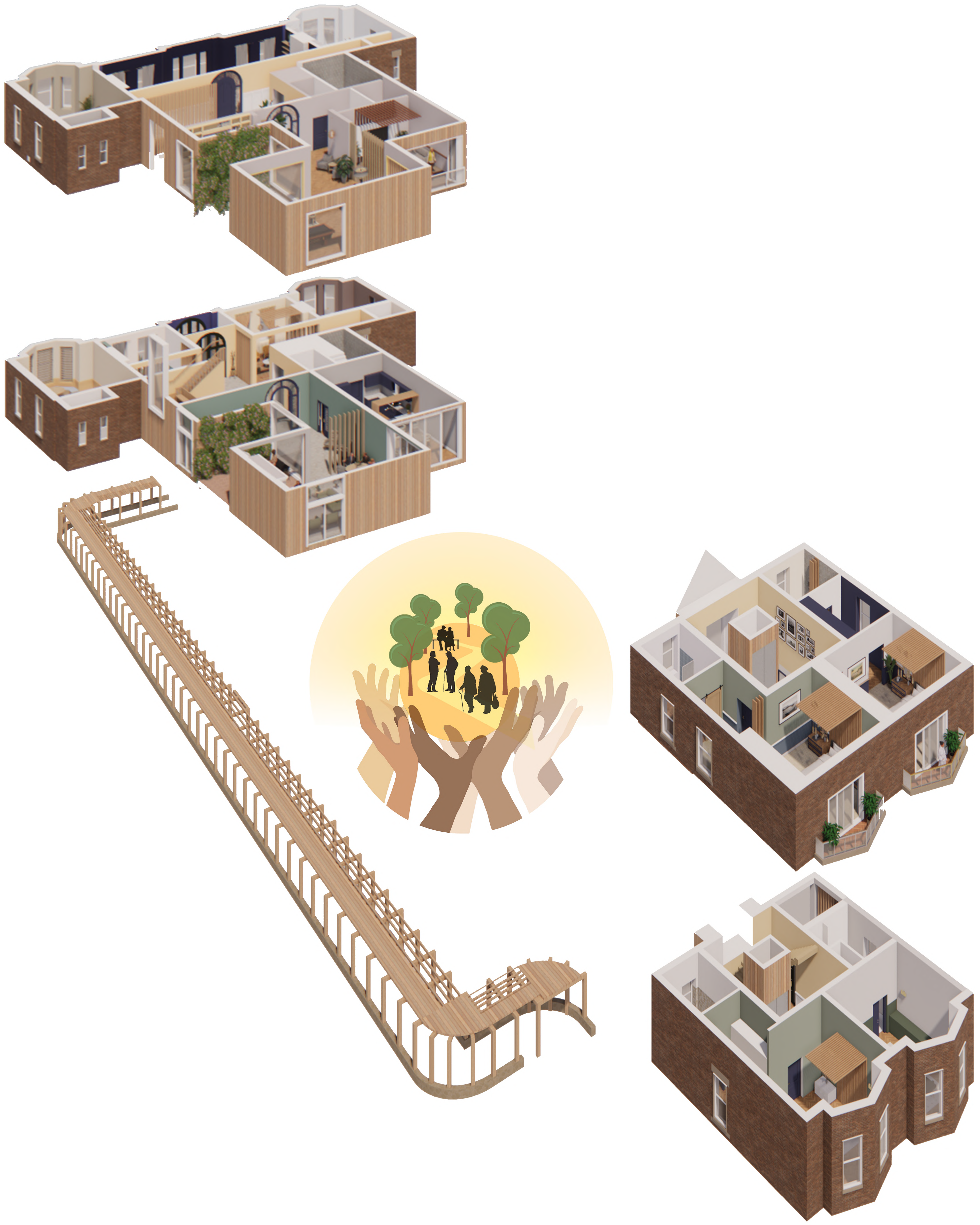
Kitchen and Dining Space: promotes healthy eating habits and social interaction during meal times



Retained Victorian Conservatory: shared green space to enhance general wellbeing all year round

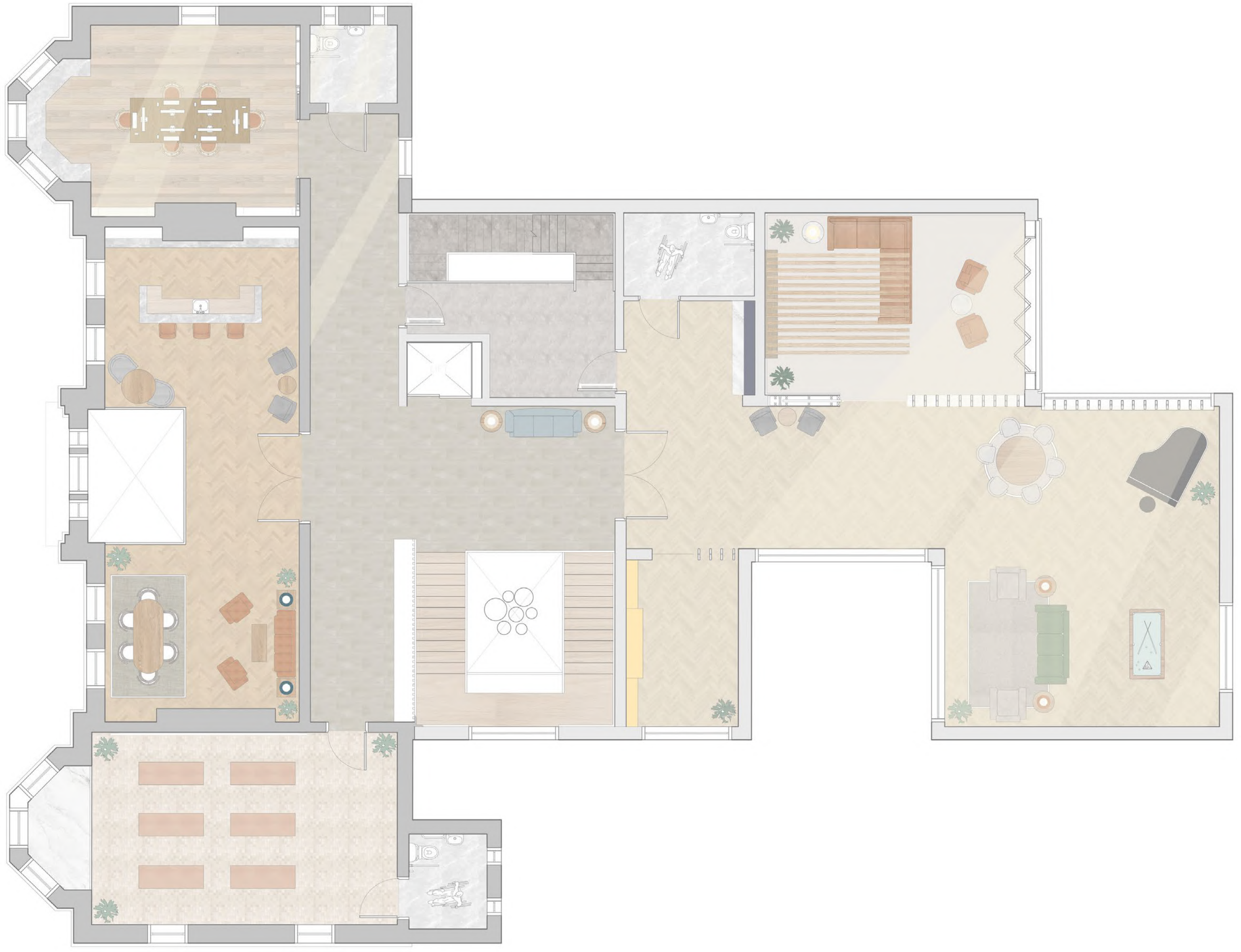


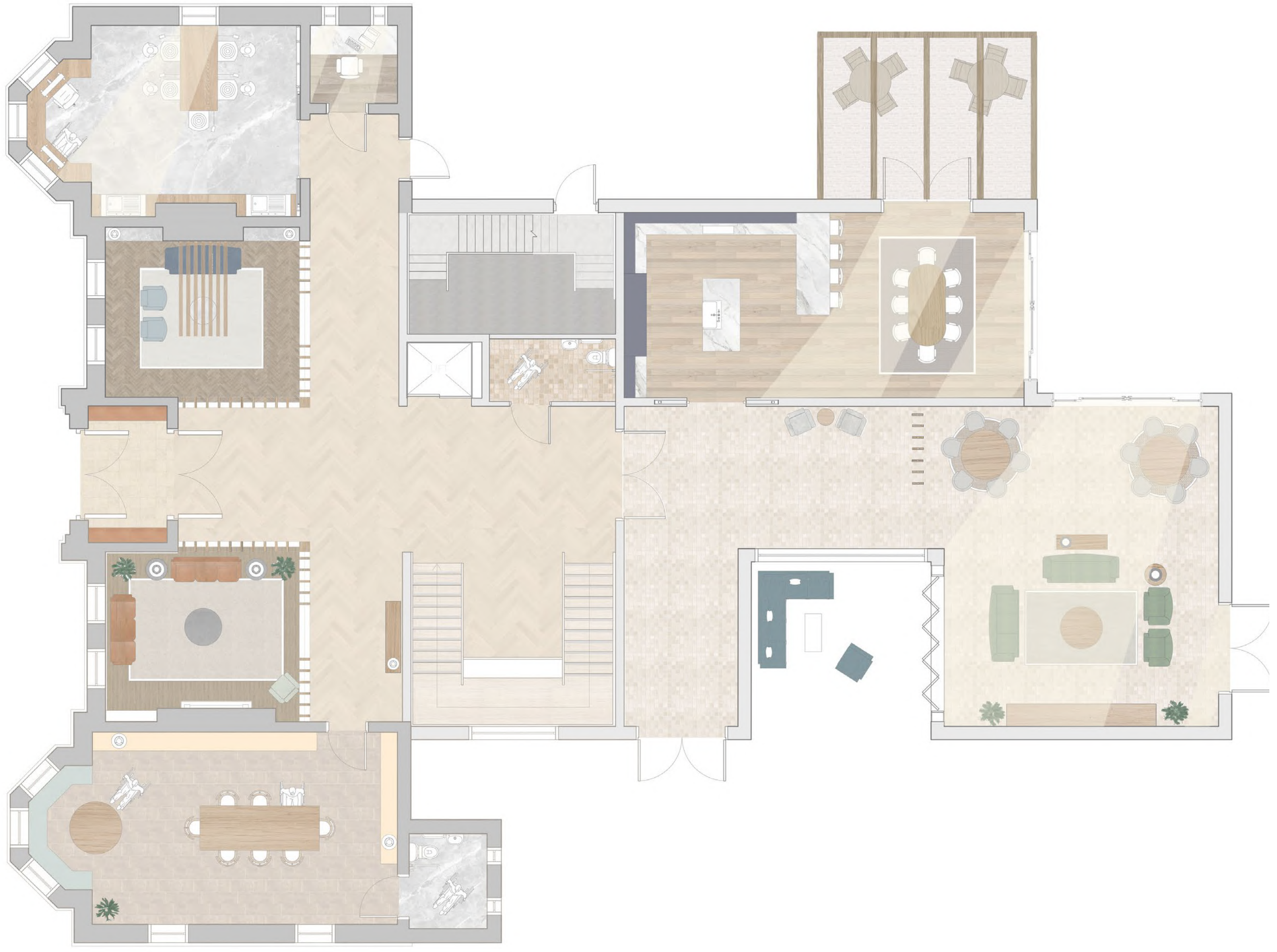
A private, safe space for rest and recuperation

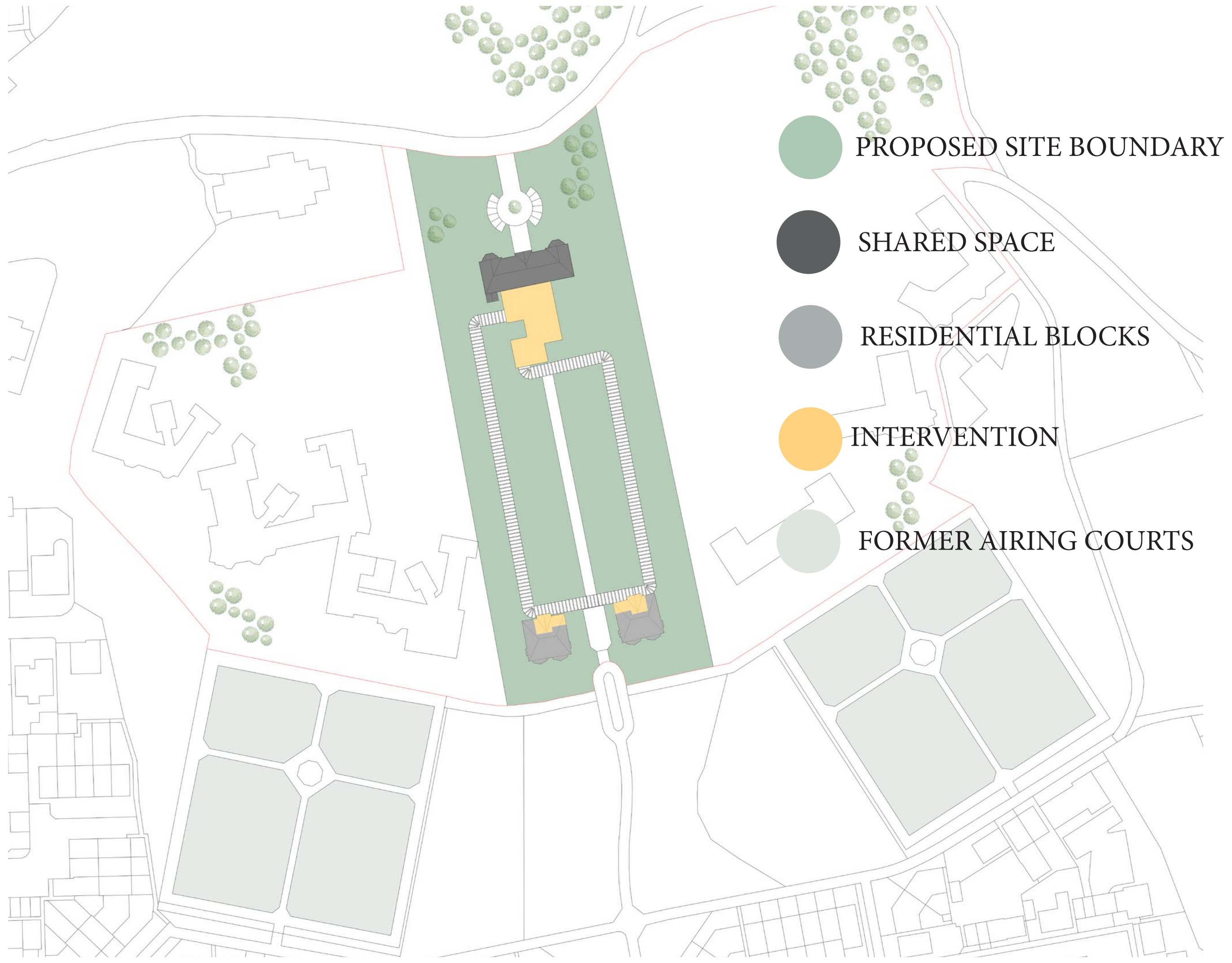


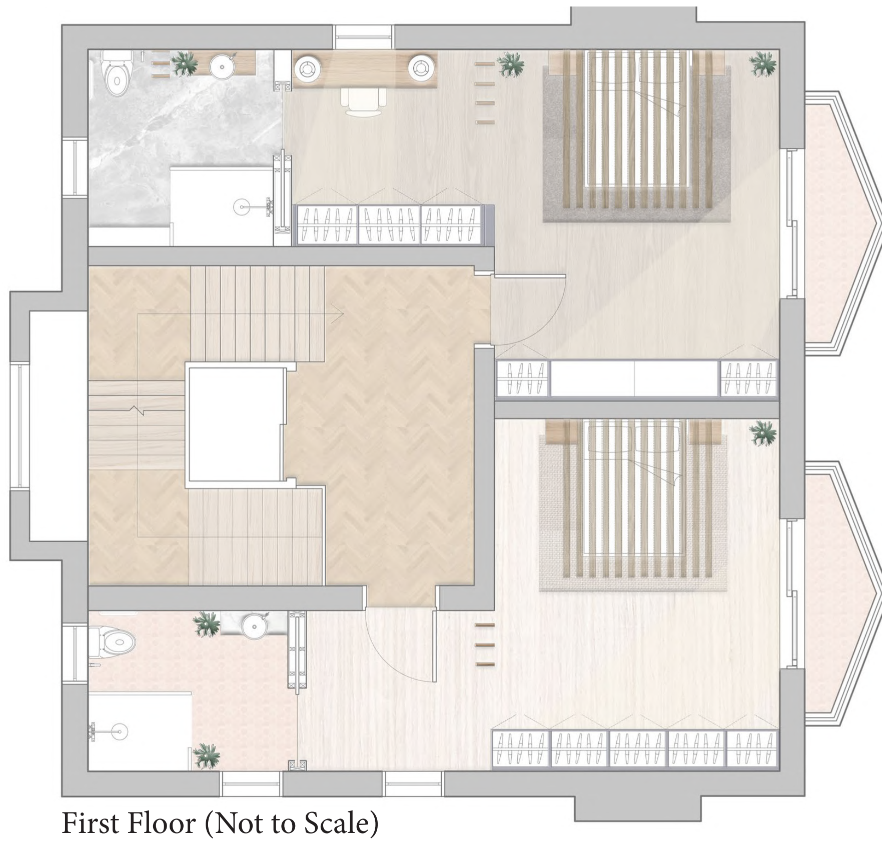
The Design Proposal

The ultimate aim is to create a holistic space that not only accommodates for the needs of ageing people, but also creates spaces that encourages users to interaction with one another. The proposal will take a focus on applying the universal design principles to create user friendly spaces, utilizing circulation spaces, accessibility as well as other residential and public spatial design strategies. It will provide a variety of communal hub spaces as well as private, personal living spaces for residents.


First Floor (Not to Scale)


Ground Floor (Not to Scale)


PROPOSED SITE BOUNDARY
SHARED SPACE
RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS
INTERVENTION
FORMER AIRING COURTS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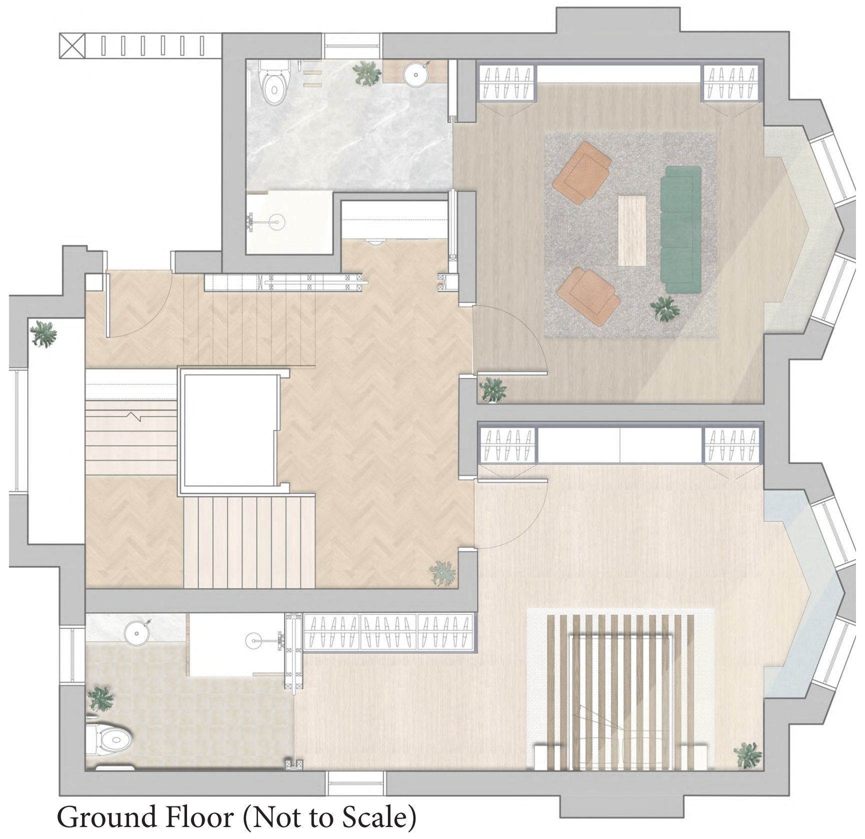
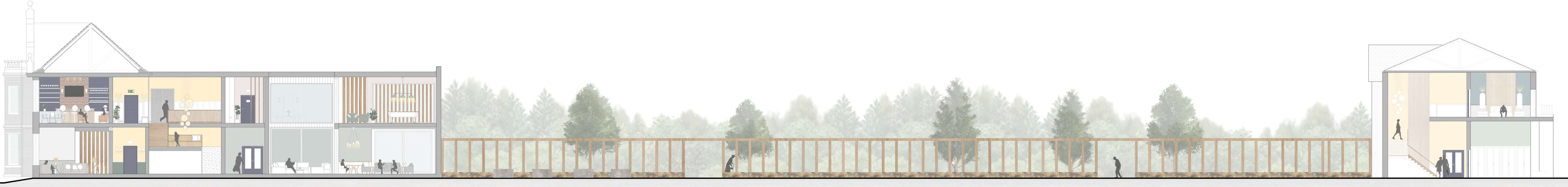

Ground Floor (Not to Scale)


Shared Space

Residential