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CIRCULAR WARDROBE; COMMUNITY WARDROBE

ACTIVITES AND FUNCTIONS : Free school uniforms

Interview clothes on loan Learning sustainable practises: How to dye, embroider, sew, repair, reinterpret, upcycle clothes Access to washing machines and ironing facilites to help reduce people's home fuel costs A design studio to encourage individual expression



THE BRIEF: The cost-of-living crisis is biting hard. Purchasing new clothing has become prohibitive for many low- income families. This project challenges the fashion industry and offers an alternative, helping to normalise reuse and adaption whilst extending the life of garments. The design provides a safe, accessible and supportive space for local people to gather and learn, share and swap skills. Not only will money be saved but employment opportunities will also be enabled, promoting the formation of a resilient, inclusive and diverse community.

THE SITE : The project building is located in one of the msot deprived areas of Leeds. The building once served the community as a library and bath house. After a period of decline, this proposal places the community back at its heart.



Map of UK and Leeds (Not to Scale)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Opened in October 1903: York Road Baths and Public Library.

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The Baths closed in the late 1969, with the Russian Baths being closed since 1964.

The Library was closed as a result of Margaret Thatchers removal of libraries. Shortly after, the Baths were knocked down. It was listed in 1987.

The upstairs became offices used by the Leeds City Council but the remainder of the building sat vacant, deteriorating with time.

The property was listed for auction in 2008. Rushbond brought the property for 300,000 in 2012 in aims to transform the building into a gym and fitness centre. The buildings restoration began in the late 2010s, finishing in August of 2018. The building is now occupied by The Gym Group.



Twenty years after the building was established in 1903, the economic depression triggered national poverty. with "70% of people in Leeds living in back-to-back houses". In 1974, Leeds became a metropolitan district with a population of 730,000. Although the poverty from the early 1900s improved, there was a recession in 1980s resulting in high levels of unemployment in Leeds.



The post-industrial area has been adapted into a residential area including a significant amount of housing as well as schools, churches and shops. Burmatofts, opposite the site, has many housing estates.

These buildings provide a clear display of what the area is like: a working class residential area for families with young children.

The surrounding areas have been hit by deprivation with many young children around the ages of 12-16 years of age turning to crime and hostile behaviour. This is reflected in to the environment with significant amounts of grafitti, litter and vandilism.



Headpiece and Concept model served as inspiration for the overall layout and aesthetics of my design.

Features such as the floorplan, balcony, extension were influenced by the triangular and geometric shapes of these models.

The headpiece is a visual metaphor for the social injustice in the community. There is a lack of safety, many locals are fearful with the cost-of-living crisis, leading to people hiding away and a sense of desperation.





CONCEPT WORK

Concept model that inspired the installation of tensile structure into my design.

Highlights the interconnectivity of people and community. Working together, helping each other creates a strong bond in the community which ultimately fights against the social problems the locals are facing.















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FIRST FLOOR PLAN (Not to scale)









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MATERIALITY :

1. Ash Timber Extension and interior display shelf.

2. Concrete Extension walls

3. White-painted Brick Interior of building

4. White cloth Tensile structure

