



Collage can be seen not just as a 2D medium but used as a design approach, when considering the very real fragments and differences we face in everyday life. How can we as humans be brought together, whilst maintaining freedom to be individual and celebrate our diversity? Collage in a 3D built environment allows for disparate parts of our society to join together under one roof yet protects a loose and ambiguous atmosphere which is healthy for **autonomous** beings like us.

What might a collaged environment such as this look like? **Vibrant, makeshift, inviting, visually stimulating, adaptable...** to name a few ideas. The world we live in today is waking up to realities of greater need for sustainability, accessibility and acceptance and so our inhabited spaces should reflect this. If our ideas weren't so fixed, how much more open might we be to spaces that can change as we need them to? No fixed labels for 'this' is 'this', and 'that' is 'that', our society can be **manoeuvrable** and would accommodate an array of activities, public or private, and people, of all abilities, backgrounds and identities. Our environments must reflect the **humanity** we possess.

Theatre as an art form lends itself greatly to a public display of our range of human emotions, movement, colour and shared experience. The Collage Theatre celebrates **spontaneity** and reflects the constant change we see throughout life, especially through its spatial arrangement that can quite literally be moved and 'collaged' together for desired effect. Perhaps everyone can be a performer? What does it mean to perform?

This idea that almost anything can be a performance is an exciting one and in fact everyday activities themselves carried out in a public space can become a spectacle. **Small moments** like these are evidence of our humanity and therefore must be celebrated at much greater value in society today. If our current climate teaches us anything, it is that the world might seem a better place if it could feel a bit more... real!

The Collage Theatre has its roots in spaces and performances such as took place in 'Dada', an art movement which rebelled in reaction to World War I. These **rebellious** and witty performances allowed for a sense of escapism and of coming together during difficult times by celebrating this love for spontaneity. People were allowed to connect deeply with this art form for how **human** and vivid it felt, as after all art and design has always been perhaps our greatest tool in fighting oppression and fighting for change in the face of **injustice** or hardship. The eyes present throughout this project were a common motif of the movement and have been adopted here to represent the **visibility** of all people we need to see moving forward.

Our world is constantly changing and so our thinking must change with it. Art and design itself must have a considerable role in bringing about new approaches and promoting more humane, tangible spaces in which we can exist or coexist. The Collage Theatre can be seen as a prototype for the type of adaptability our climate and society needs in order to flourish. Our future here on earth calls across to **all corners of society to be seen and to be heard** and to perform what they choose, wherever they choose and how they choose to perform it.

1



the

COLLAGE

theatre!



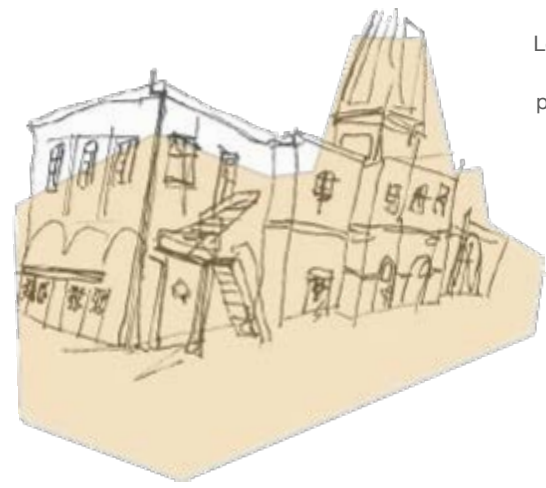


When visiting the town of Chatham, Kent, the array of different people and creative outlets present was evident. Facing a current identity crisis after its highs of production and success in Britain's naval history, the town is seeking to redevelop itself and forefront the creativity of a number of groups and people. The town has been described as **'creatively diverse'** by locals and is home to a range of theatre and dance groups, arts clubs, music venues, in-residence artist studios and arts university courses. What was clear was that despite this collective artistry, there was no meeting place for these people to come together and share their passions, talents, hopes to learn and difficulties. The Collage Theatre serves to physically **collage** these fragments of the community together under one roof and create a community within a community. The Historic Dockyard in Chatham already hosted a few of these individual groups and so was a fitting location to re-inject life and comradeship in the form of a creative centre for the area.

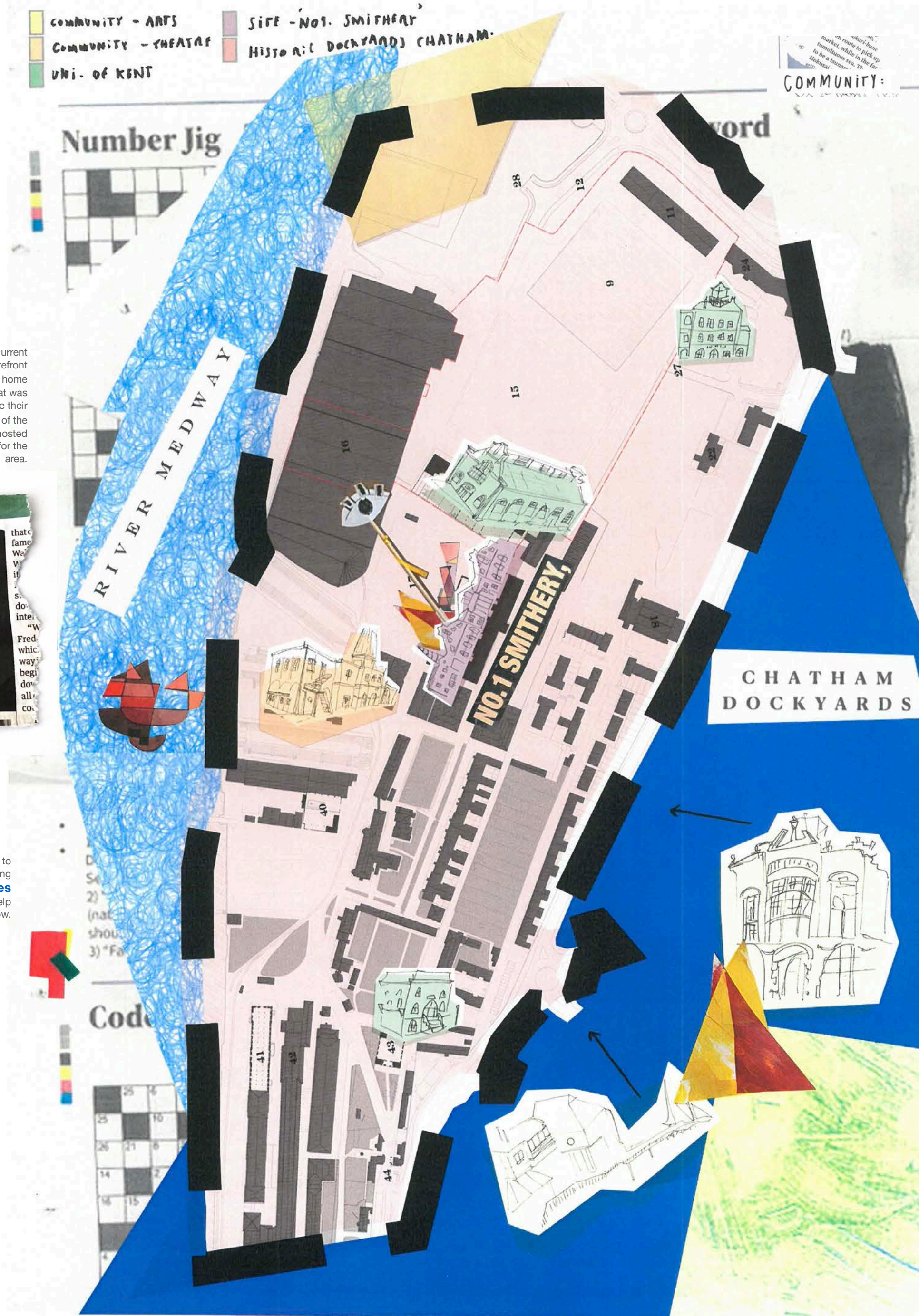


ICON theatre :

Located in the Admiral's offices within the Dockyard, just next to the museum square, the group are an award-winning participatory arts charity who aim to **push the boundaries** of where theatre happens, who it is for and how it can help places to grow.

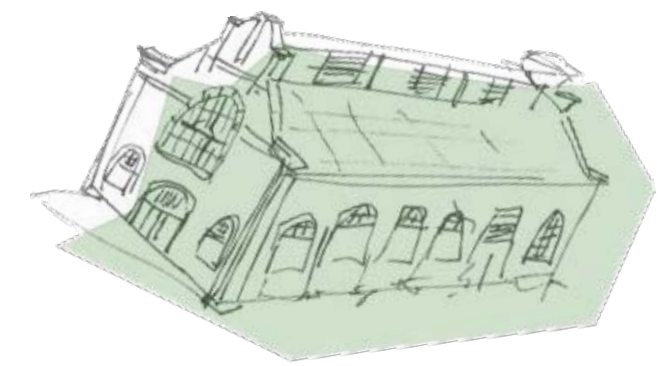


2 ■ **fragmented communities**



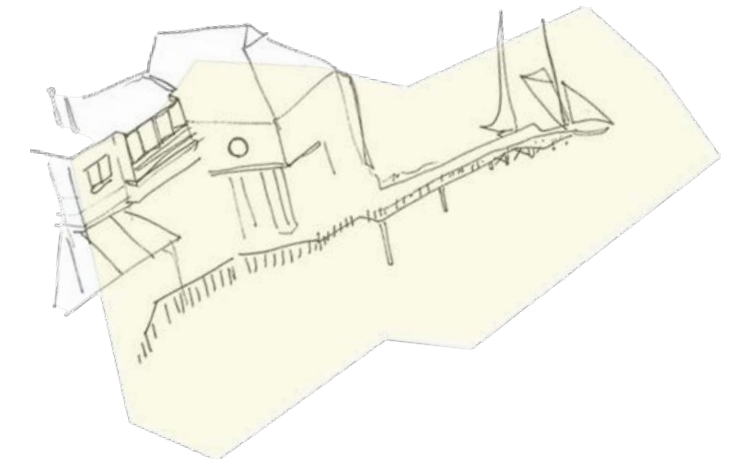
University of Kent/Medway School of Arts :

The largest current tenant of the Dockyards, they are housed in the Sail and Colour Loft, the Galvanising Shop and will open in the Docking Station during an upcoming phase. Courses such as theatre and set design can be studied here and it is said that the Dockyards themselves provide a wonderful place to work from and an even greater backdrop for end of year graduate exhibitions and performances.

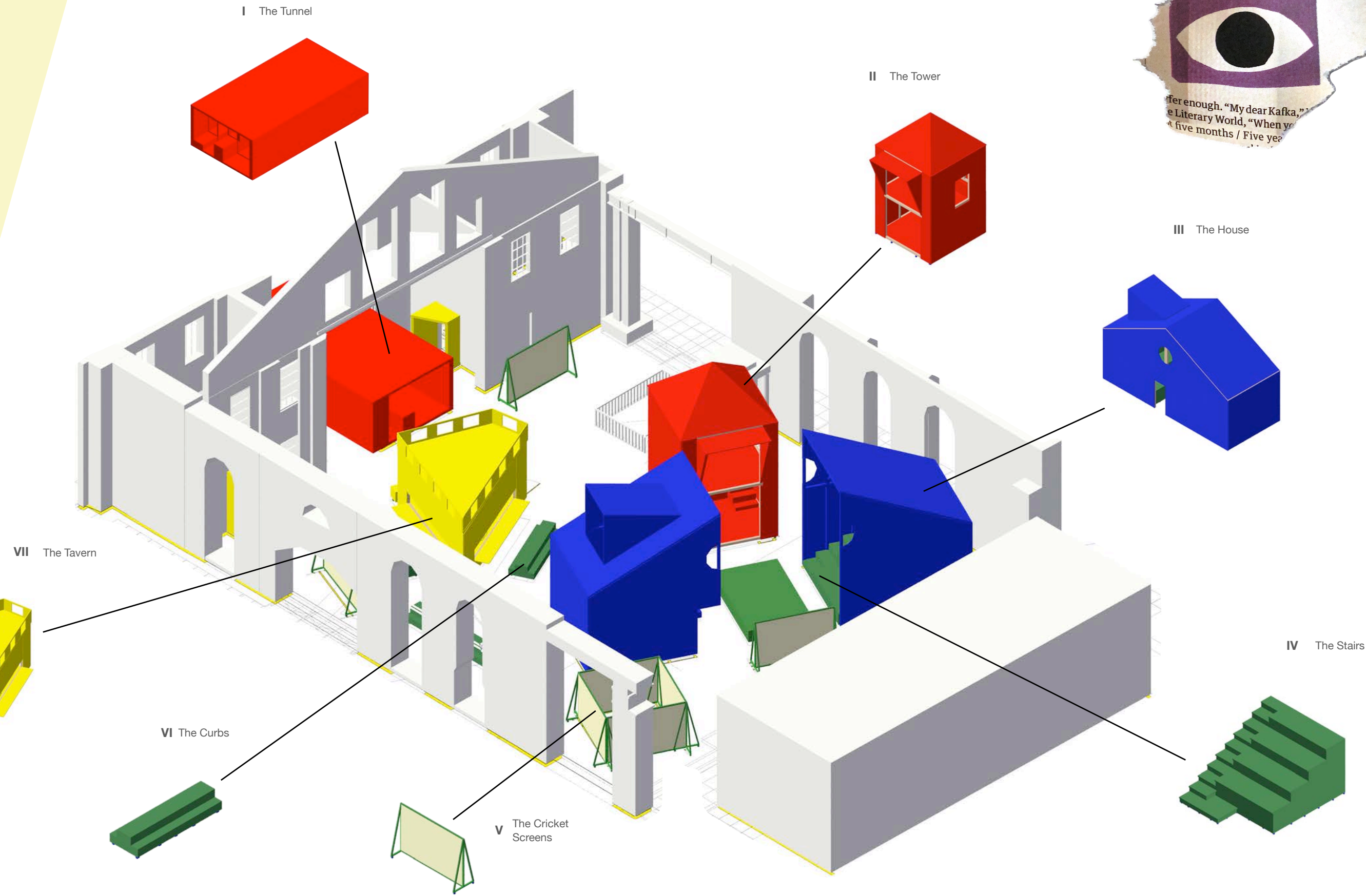


Arts community groups :

Groups such as the Sun Pier House and Nucleus Arts, are home to both established and start-up artists with a combined 69 studios of resident artists. They are amongst the forerunners of **cultural regeneration** of the Medway towns and award-winning in their approaches to community facilities and opportunities

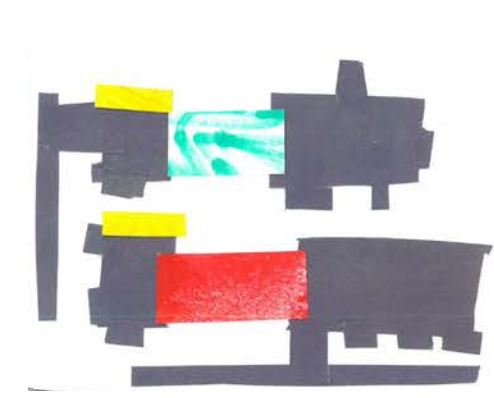


Materials + structure : Reusable, easily transportable, adaptable and cost effective -
MDF, timbers, castors, paint, steel

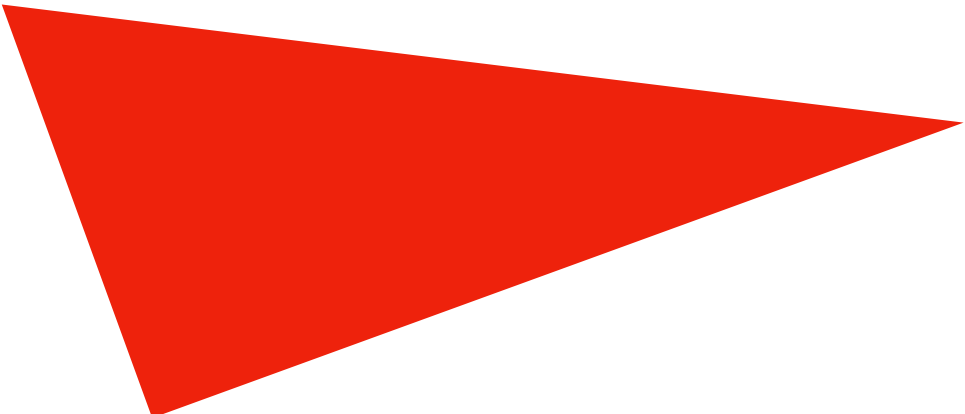
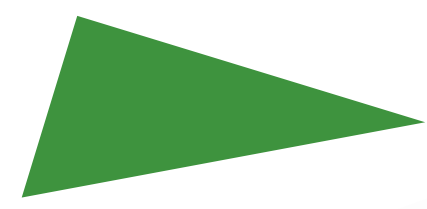
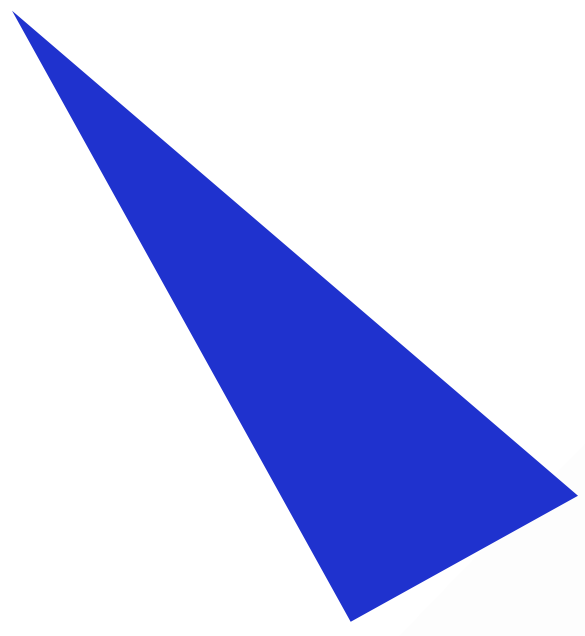


Forms nestled neatly in the existing 'house', they become almost like little houses themselves. **A building inside a building, a home from home.** There is an unexpected potential spectrum of use and this **ambiguity** allows for **imagination** and **personalisation**. The spaces feel cosy and allow you to huddle inside. Each structure within the created village has its intended uses but these can be mixed, changed and combined accordingly.

3 a village inside a building



Demonstrating the collection/movement/combining of structures or shapes together through 2D and 3D collage

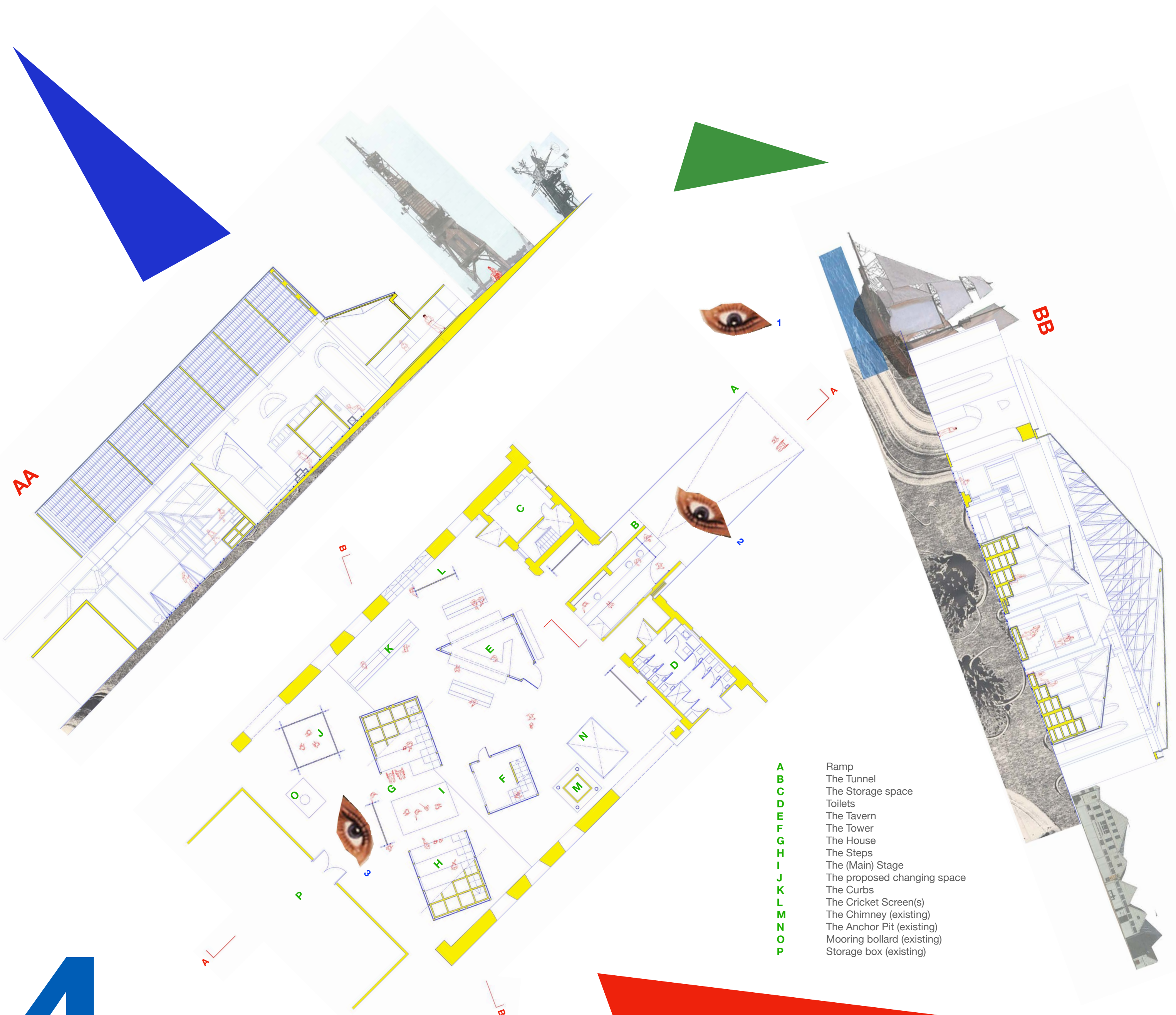


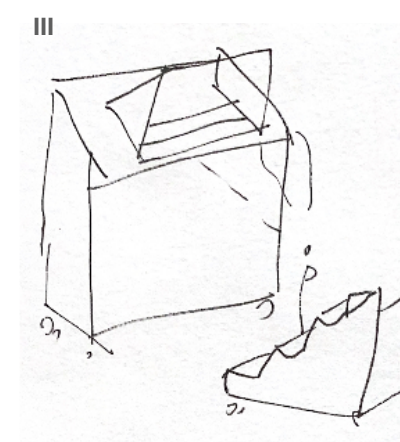
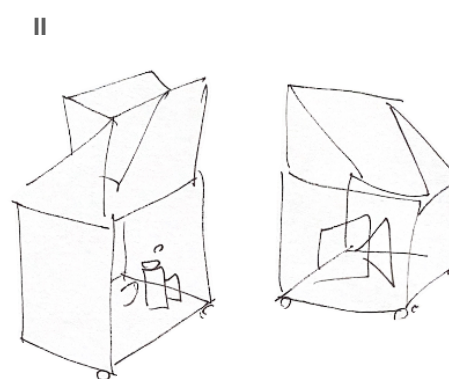
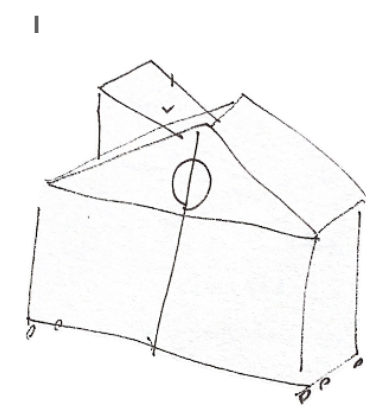
AA

BB

- A Ramp
- B The Tunnel
- C The Storage space
- D Toilets
- E The Tavern
- F The Tower
- G The House
- H The Steps
- I The (Main) Stage
- J The proposed changing space
- K The Curbs
- L The Cricket Screen(s)
- M The Chimney (existing)
- N The Anchor Pit (existing)
- O Mooring bollard (existing)
- P Storage box (existing)

4 ■ assembling the pieces





A multitude of plans represent the **transient**, moveable quality of the theatre structures. Collage throughout was used as a tool for generating ideas on to problem solving and also to demonstrate the visual language and uses of the spaces created in the end. This allows the clients to quite literally build their own theatre, at any time and for any use.

5 ■ build your own !

This approach to design means the space can become anything it needs to be! Take 'the house' for example, which demonstrates the **future of design** in terms of accommodating a multitude of uses and peoples. Moveable structures allow for greater accessibility and for individuals to feel they have both the **visibility** and **power** within the space to change it accordingly. I, II and III are example arrangements. Shared and mixed use spaces speak to a more **sustainable** future also as we no longer need to be building new buildings but adapting what we already have.

