

Glasgow City Workshop

description

To ensure that Earth's capacity can continue to sustain us in the future, we need to change our consumption habits and the narrative around it. The Glasgow City Workshop project proposes an accessible and inclusive space that strives to prolong the lifecycle of household objects by repairing and upcycling them in one convenient spot.

The aim is to challenge the ownership-based economy and promote a sharing-based economy by providing tools, space, and skills so that we can transition to a circular economy. The project reimagines department stores by replacing purchases with repair and remake in an empty commercial unit in the city centre. Instead of getting stimulation from buying ready-made products, the proposed space provides stimulation in the process of embedding value on retaining objects. The proposal introduces a space where people can come together in a non-consuming and creative way. Glasgow City Workshop makes a sustainable life easy, affordable, and aspiring.

concept

The biggest sustainable impact on a consumer scale is to use what you own right now and use it until it reaches the end of its life cycle. The average consumer can't unfortunately do much unless society supports sustainable actions. We should change disposable goods to items that can be maintained and last a long time, so repair and remake should become affordable and accessible. This would benefit creating green jobs as well.

The main purpose of this proposal is to provide a space, where citizens can get their beloved objects fixed by skilled professionals, do the fixing by themselves, or realize their own projects. And when the work needs to be done elsewhere, the space has a resource library, where tools can be borrowed. The space also has a second-hand market for selling unused household objects and clothing, so they can go into circulation. While the objects are being fixed, the space has a rooftop garden cafe, or one can wander around in the exhibition space.

Professional people providing repair services would do repair work in the workshops, but these spaces would also be open to the members to work on their own projects and learn handicrafts. This means that the two concepts – repair and making – are combined in the same space. This way the hierarchy between the professionals and "hobbyists" could be dissolved and allow repair and maker culture to develop by sharing knowledge and skills.

Combining these spaces under one convenient spot in the city centre is following the concept of department stores, but replaces purchase to remake and repair.

The aim of this project is to provide the citizens:

+ tools

The space provides specialized tools to work on different materials so that we can move from an ownership-based economy to a sharing one.

+ space

Since most people live in cities without access to a personal workspace, Glasgow City Workshop provides a space to work on projects that need room and can be messy.

+ skills

The working professionals can hold workshops and advise members working on their projects.



location & site

The site is located at the heart of Glasgow city centre retail grid on Sauchiehall street. This street has served as one of the city's principal retail and entertainment streets. At the western end of the city centre section of the street, there is an abundance of restaurants, bars, and student-oriented clubs.

The site (67 Sauchiehall street) is the former British Home Store building that was built in 1965 as a department store. BHS closed in 2016 and has been empty since then.

Sauchiehall Street along with Buchanan Street and Argyll Street forms the so-called "Golden Z", running roughly in the form of the letter Z, offering retail and entertainment facilities. Sauchiehall street has been a retail success for Glasgow, but since the retail trends have shifted, the ends of the Z have started to unravel.

In the face of retail trends and the climate crisis, the Golden Z needs to move to a mixed-use model in city centres to thrive in the future. It could become a place for people to enjoy, with a more attractive and inclusive streetscape.

Glasgow's City Centre Task Force has announced plans for the city centre's recovery, which creates an opportunity

for new visions of consumption, and the central location in an empty commercial unit in the retail area makes a statement for this new way of consuming.

Introducing a new concept to the citizens should be as convenient and visible as possible, so customers can familiarise themselves with it and make visits as part of their daily lives. High footfall on Sauchiehall Street can be extremely beneficial, especially for something that deviates from the usual retail business.

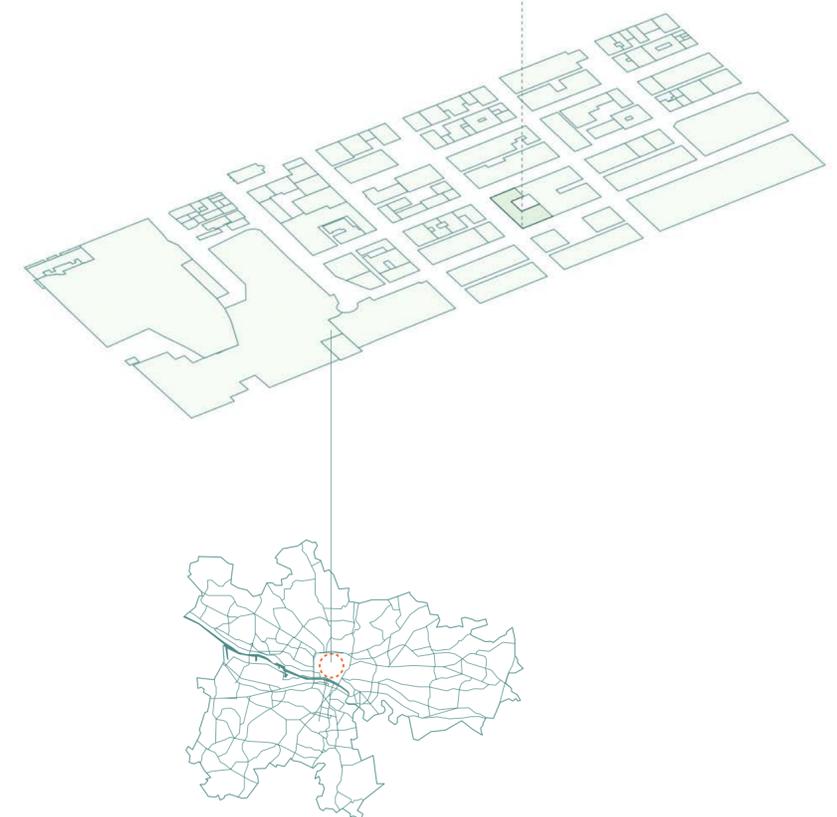
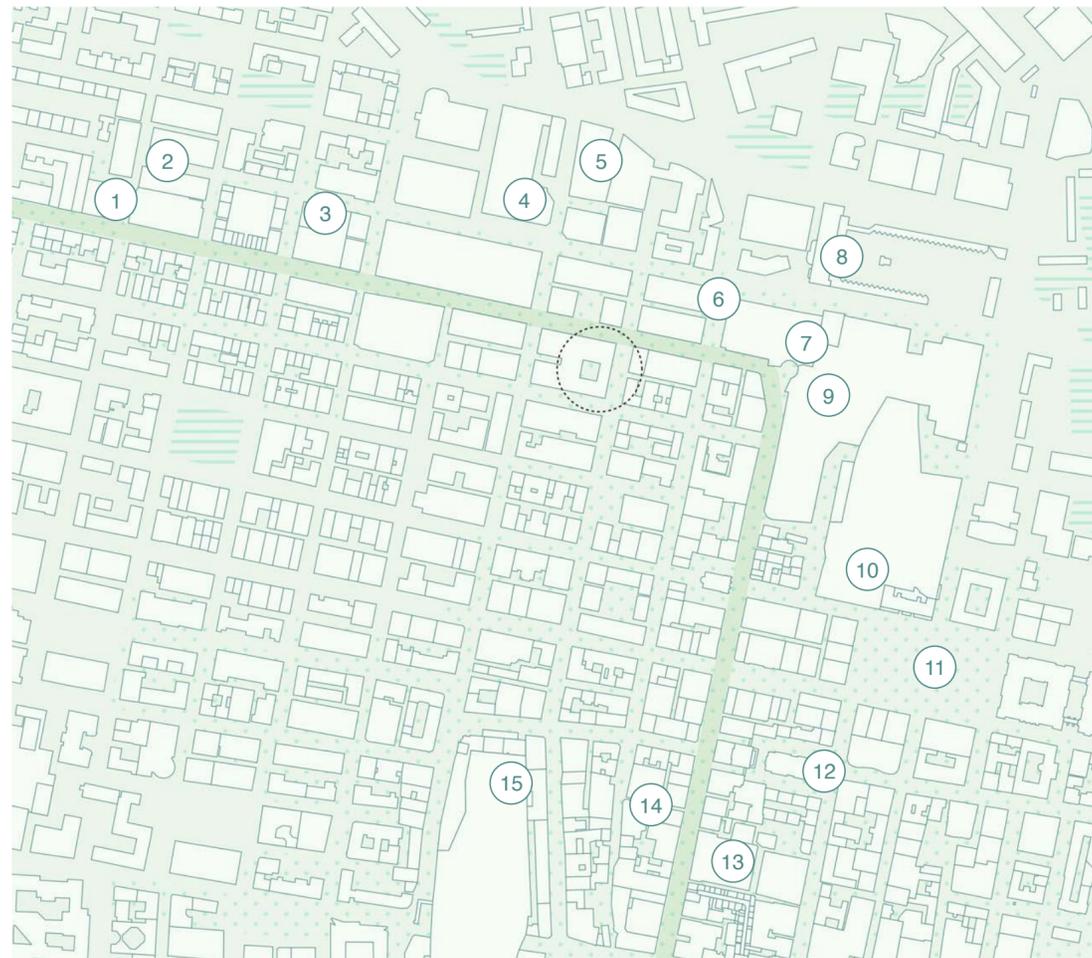
The site is accessible by car and there is a narrow lane going to the courtyard. Sauchiehall Street, the north side of the site, is a pedestrian boulevard accessible by foot and cycling. There are plenty of options in the vicinity to arrive with public transportation, such as the main train stations and two subway stations. Sustainable urban planning should support access by public transport and therefore sustainable services should be in areas available to all.

Despite the current state of Sauchiehall street, it still is a busy passing place and has the potential to be reimagined for a new beginning. The demise of retail might open a door for other activities that could awaken the street. Sauchiehall street still has some mentionable destinations and activities, that bring people to the street.

- 1 Centre for Contemporary Arts
- 2 Glasgow School of Art
- 3 Glasgow Film Theatre
- 4 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- 5 Theatre Royal Glasgow
- 6 Cineworld Cinema
- 7 The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall
- 8 Buchanan Bus Station
- 9 Buchanan Galleries shopping centre
- 10 Queen Street Train Station
- 11 George Square
- 12 Glasgow Modern Art Museum
- 13 Princess Square shopping centre
- 14 The Lighthouse museum
- 15 Glasgow Central Station

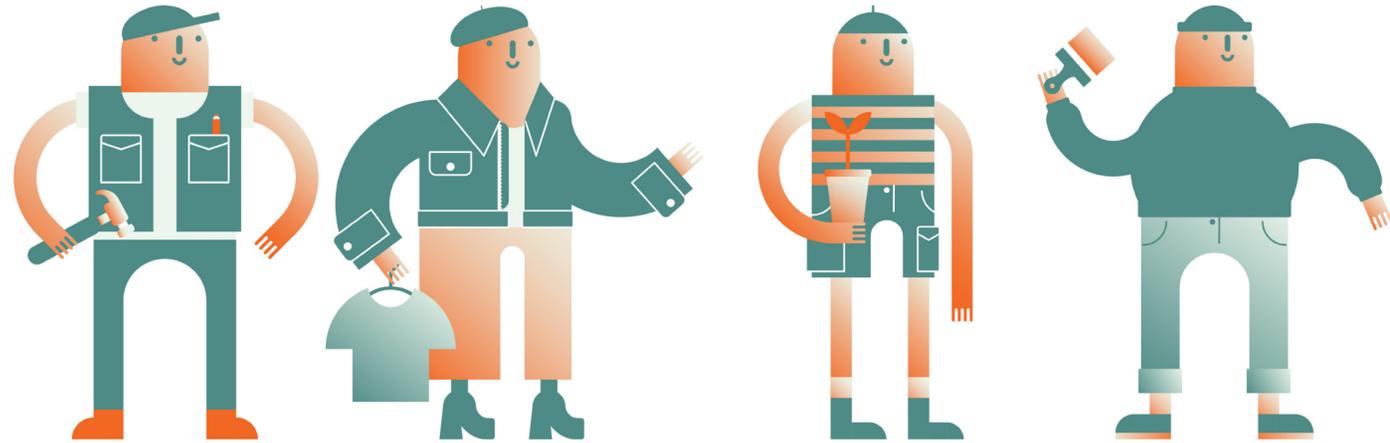


67 Sauchiehall street



project proposal

user profiles



Carpenter works in the Glasgow City Workshop and enjoys working with hands. Carpenter appreciates well-made wooden furniture and is worried about the craft and skills dying when people prefer to buy cheap, mass-manufactured products.

Fashion Lover enjoys fashion and clothing, but is aware of the environmental effect that fast fashion is causing to the environment. Fashion Lover buys second-hand clothing and enjoys upcycling clothes that need a bit of dazzle.

Environmentalist is a defender of the Earth and the environment. To live sustainably, Environmentalist tries to live zero waste lifestyle, eats vegan food, buys things second-hand, and cycles on a daily basis, to ensure that the planet will sustain people in the future.

Renovator is enthusiastic about making things and has multiple ongoing projects at the same time. There's always something in Renovator's home that needs fixing or upcycling, and there's always a new project in mind.

building structure



- 1 vegetation on the facade
- 2 secondary entrance
- 3 lift
- 4 delivery access to the courtyard
- 5 staircase
- 6 entrance to the roof top
- 7 main entrance

This prominent building on Sauchiehall Street represents the decline of the street and the demise of retail. Because the building is not listed and has started the process of decaying, this proposal is increasing the attractiveness of this '60s brutalist building.

The existing building is gray, so to liven up the exterior, the walls would be painted with a lighter colour that matches with the surrounding limestone buildings.

Sustainability has been taken into account in the renovation pro-

cess. Unnecessary demolition of buildings is harmful to the environment, so only the parts of the building that are necessary to remove are demolished.

Energy use will be improved by enlarging the windows to replace artificial light with natural light. The grid windows represent the industrial aesthetics of the design.

Adding vegetation in city spaces increases citizens' well-being. Vegetation added to the facade is visible on the street and on the first floor.

zoning

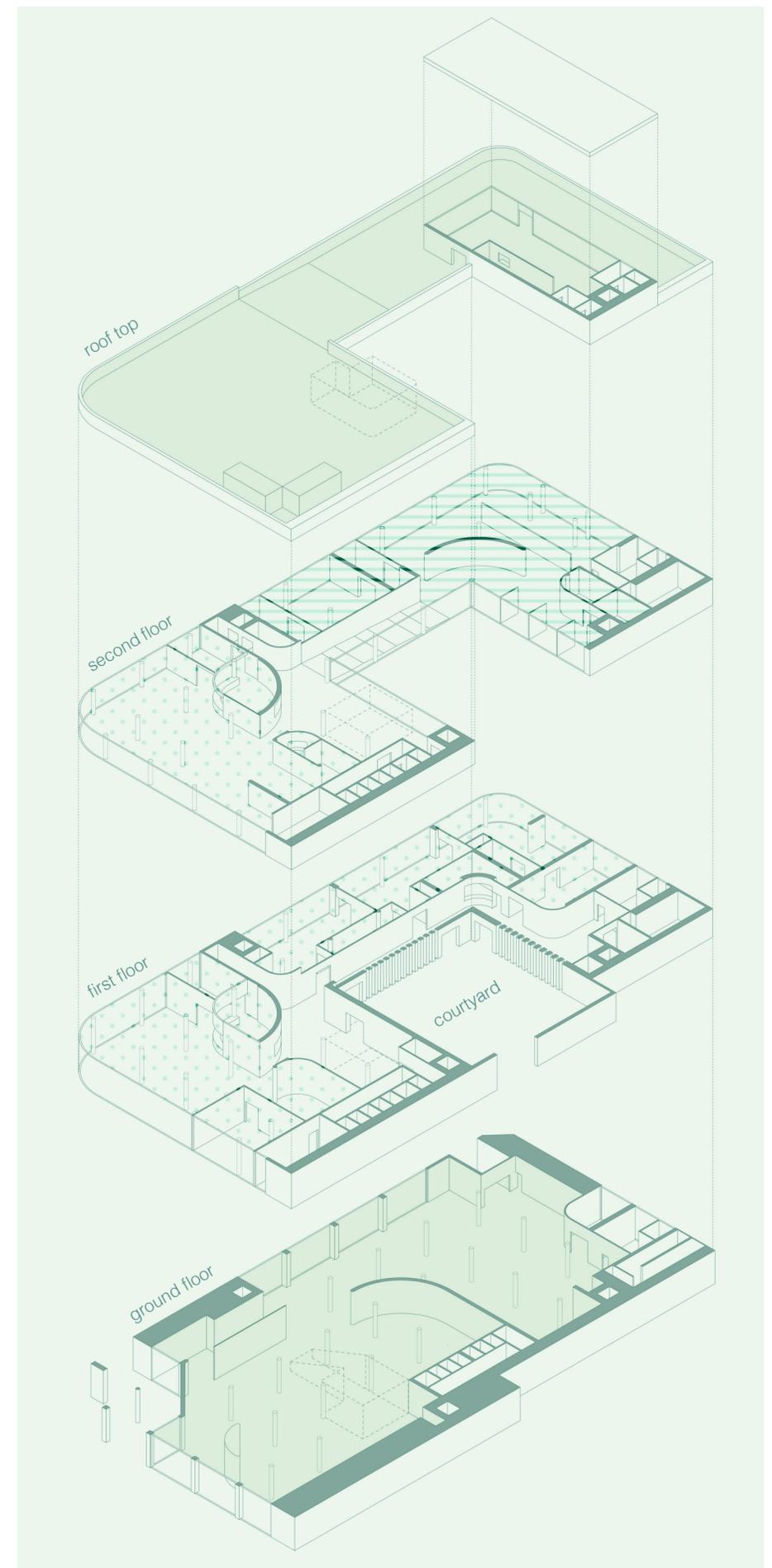
The proposal will introduce the space divided into three categories: the public spaces open to irregular visitors, the workshop spaces open to the members, and the resource library.

The public spaces are located on the ground floor and on the roof top. The ground floor has a lobby, exhibition space, and a fleamarket, that are designed to attract visitors to explore the possibilities of the Glasgow City Workshop. The rooftop has a cafe in the city garden, where visitors can enjoy the atmosphere, food, and refreshments.

The workshops are located on the first floor, which has access to the courtyard where deliveries can be received, especially if bigger items need to be delivered with a vehicle. The textile workshop is located on the second floor because the materials are less heavy to be carried around.

The resource library is located on the second floor as well, offering a tool library for borrowing tools, a book library for inspiration and information, a media studio for computer use, and meeting rooms for collaboration.

- public spaces**
 - + lobby
 - + exhibition space
 - + fleamarket
 - + city garden
 - + cafe
- workshops**
 - + craft space
 - + painting studio
 - + wood workshop
 - + metal workshop
 - + electronics workshop
 - + jeweller & clocksmith
 - + textile workshop
 - + cobbler
- resource library**
 - + tool library
 - + book library
 - + media studio



sustainable materiality, furniture, fixtures & equipment

The project proposal is focused on using sustainable materials, mostly from renewable sources or materials that can be repurposed in the future. Instead of using recycled materials, the material palette is looking into the future, where construction materials are from renewable sources, because even though recycling and collecting trash are important now, recycling is not the final solution, because it increases the justification of disposability. Materials of the future should be regenerative and restoring. The construction and the possible dismantling in the future have been considered, so that either the material can be repurposed or it is biodegradable.

The material palette has durability but is also flexible for changes, and it's easy to clean since the space has a lot of messy activities happening in the workshops.

The neutral, minimal, and simple material pal-

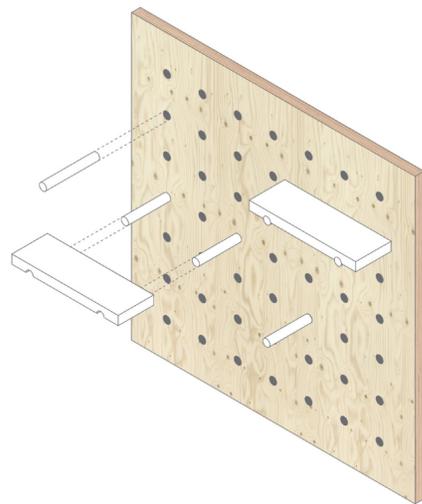
ette works as a blank canvas, not to disturb the creativity of the makers. The theme colour turquoise - in light and dark shades - is a subtle nod to sustainability and the orange accent in textiles is a counterbalance to the muted green.

The most sustainable option for furniture, fixtures, and equipment is to use objects that already exist. This is why this proposal sources all FF&E second-hand.

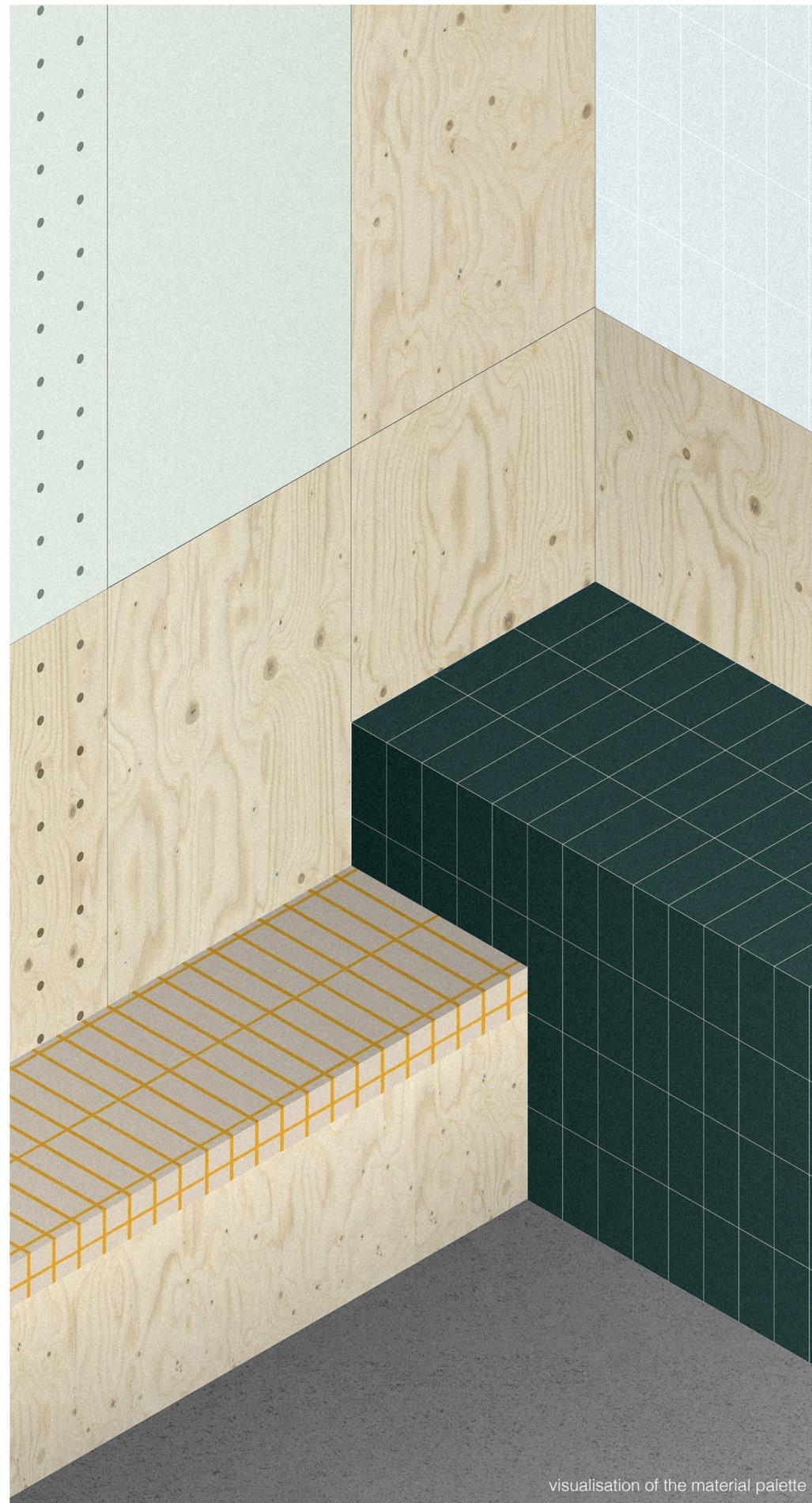
The interior itself is neutral in a way that it works like a blank canvas, so mixing and matching second-hand furniture can add a little personality to the space. This way the users can also find the right chair that works for their proportions.

To keep the interior branded to the Glasgow City Workshop, all the chairs would be painted with the same colour, and all the furniture textiles upholstered with the same fabric.

Peg board walls: The space needs a lot of storage and display options, so the peg board walls provide flexibility for the changing needs of the users. The walls can be used for hanging signs, objects and attaching shelves.



visualisation showing the use of materials



visualisation of the material palette



Cross-laminated timber (CLT) is the main material for its sustainable qualities, but for its aesthetic as well. CLT is a wood panel product, made from gluing together layers of solid-sawn lumber. CLT is easy to mold in shape and it is possible to recycle as well.

Cross-laminated timber is a renewable, green, and sustainable material. Being made out of multiple layers of wood, the thermal insulation of CLT can be high depending on the thickness of the panel. Foundations don't need to be as large and the machinery required on-site is smaller than those needed to lift heavier materials and the cost of materials and labour may be lower than the traditional steel or concrete. Cross-laminated timber also reduces the carbon footprint of buildings.



Green 11 Matt

Lick's water-based paint uses water as its primary solvent and is the more eco-friendly choice, as it produces fewer fumes and potentially harmful chemicals, making decorating less harmful to people and the environment. By producing small, made-to-order batches, Lick avoids wastage as much as possible.



Concrete is an unsustainable material, but when it already exists, it's durable and should not be demolished because concrete can't be properly recycled, and the demolishing process demands a lot of energy. The building has existing concrete floors, that the design will expose.



Recycled glass is a more sustainable alternative to regular glass. Glass can theoretically be recycled indefinitely, but in the production of glass, each ton of recycled glass reduces the consumption of natural raw materials. Recycled glass also does not contain carbonates, which when broken down cause carbon dioxide emissions in the glass manufacturing process.



Tiles from Mogu are a sustainable alternative to traditional ceramic tiles. The company produces sustainable and green products, such as tiles, linoleum type or flooring, and acoustic panels.



F022 Larch

Mogu's technology is based on mycelium, the vegetative stage of mushrooms. Their materials are produced by growing selected strains of mycelium on pre-engineered substrates made of agro-industrial residues. Fungal mycelium acts as a reinforcement to the matrix structure, creating a 100% plastic-free and coherent material composite. The resulting products are completely stable, safe, durable, and biodegradable.



Tiiliskivi yellow

Textiles for upholstery need to be durable and easily cleaned. The textiles used in the proposal is Marimekko's classic pattern called Tiiliskivi, a heavy-weight cotton fabric in the colour yellow. The pattern has lived through the decades and represents the proposal's inspiration of the Scandinavian mid-century modern design.

Cotton as a material is not the most environmentally friendly option, but supporting companies that are taking steps towards environmentally friendly production should be supported. For example, Marimekko intends to increase the use of organic and recycled cotton and develop new material solutions, such as with Spinnova, a company that is developing fabric from wood fiber.

project typologies supporting sustainability

fleamarket

This project is introducing a type of a fleamarket that is typical in Finland: The seller reserves a stall for a few weeks and brings second-hand clothes and other items to the stall for sale. The fleamarket staff is in charge of selling them, so the seller doesn't need to be in the location. At the end of the selling period, the seller will get the money accumulated in their account.



section of the fleamarket: 1 fitting rooms 2 display furniture 3 cashier 4 sales booths for makers



The stall can be modified for the seller and have a variety of options on how to hang and place shelves.

resource library

Tool libraries are collections of objects that can be borrowed by their members, usually tools. These libraries usually lend objects that are used occasionally, such as home renovation tools, but are difficult to store or expensive to buy. Tool libraries support sharing economy by lending and maintaining tools to expand their lifespan.

We should move away from 'product-based' well-being and focus on the activity that the product has been created for, and so lengthen our relationships with our products. Collective consumption has already started to show popularity in changing the ownership-based economy. For the consumer, instead of getting the immediate reward from the purchase, the stimulation shifts to process and planning, and instead of maintenance, we develop a relationship with the system.

workshops

Purchasing and owning finished products has somewhat reduced our skills and the enjoyment of making, and the prevailing individualistic consumption challenge our willingness to share and retrain ourselves in skills that have been lost. Instead of getting the immediate reward from the purchase, the stimulation could shift to planning and making. Evidence has shown that **the physical act of making things by hand can be pleasurable and empower people, so making, sharing, and repairing might benefit people psychologically and socially.**

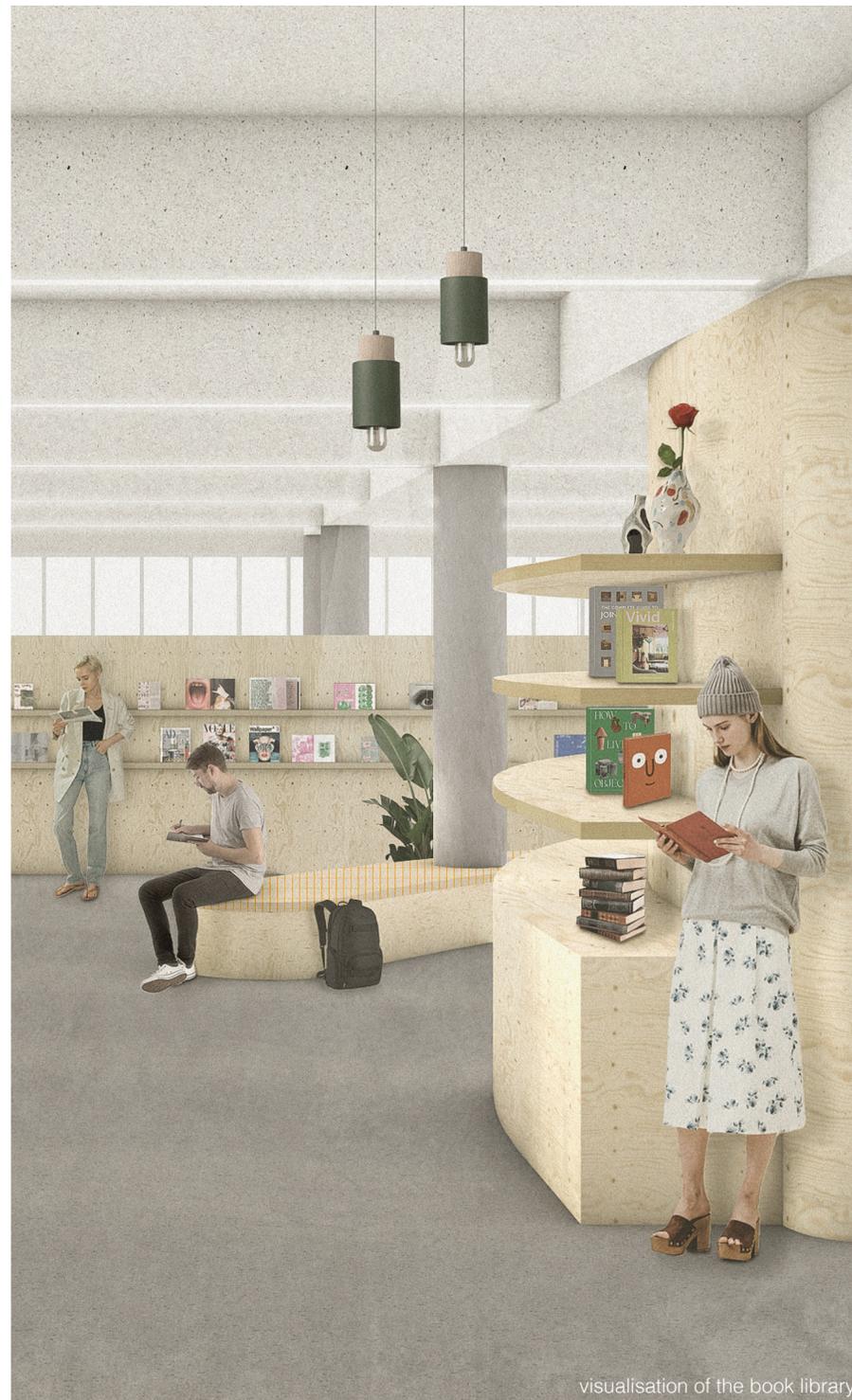
The rise of repair cafes as a grassroots movement shows how people are battling overconsumption, waste, and planned obsolescence by providing events where people can come together and repair their broken items communally. In addition, makerspaces are encouraging collaboration by sharing resources to make, explore, and learn. Not only hobbyist can enjoy the process of making but starting entrepreneurs and innovators can benefit from these facilities as well. The exchange of ideas, skills, and knowledge is encouraged for peer learning.

Combining these two typologies and drawing from their ideologies is the heart of this project proposal. Especially, when combined with services that department stores offer such as food and beverages, events, and so on, people could change their habits of replacing broken items to fixing them, or come up with new innovations. But to achieve that, we need tools, space and skills available to us.

roof top garden

Urban gardens and various nature-based solutions offer innovative approaches to increase the value of the urban environment, improve local resilience to change, and promote a sustainable lifestyle. At the same time, they improve both the residents' health and well-being. Diverse vegetation binds atmospheric carbon dioxide and air pollutants, binding them to plant and soil matter.

Some of the garden produce can be used to prepare the food in the roof top cafe and the garden can be used to teach how to grow plants at home.



visualisation of the book library



visualisation of the textile workshop



visualisation of the craft space



visualisation of the roof top garden