

ABSTRACT COLLAGE OF THE TAIGH LUS GARDENS









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TAIGHLUS

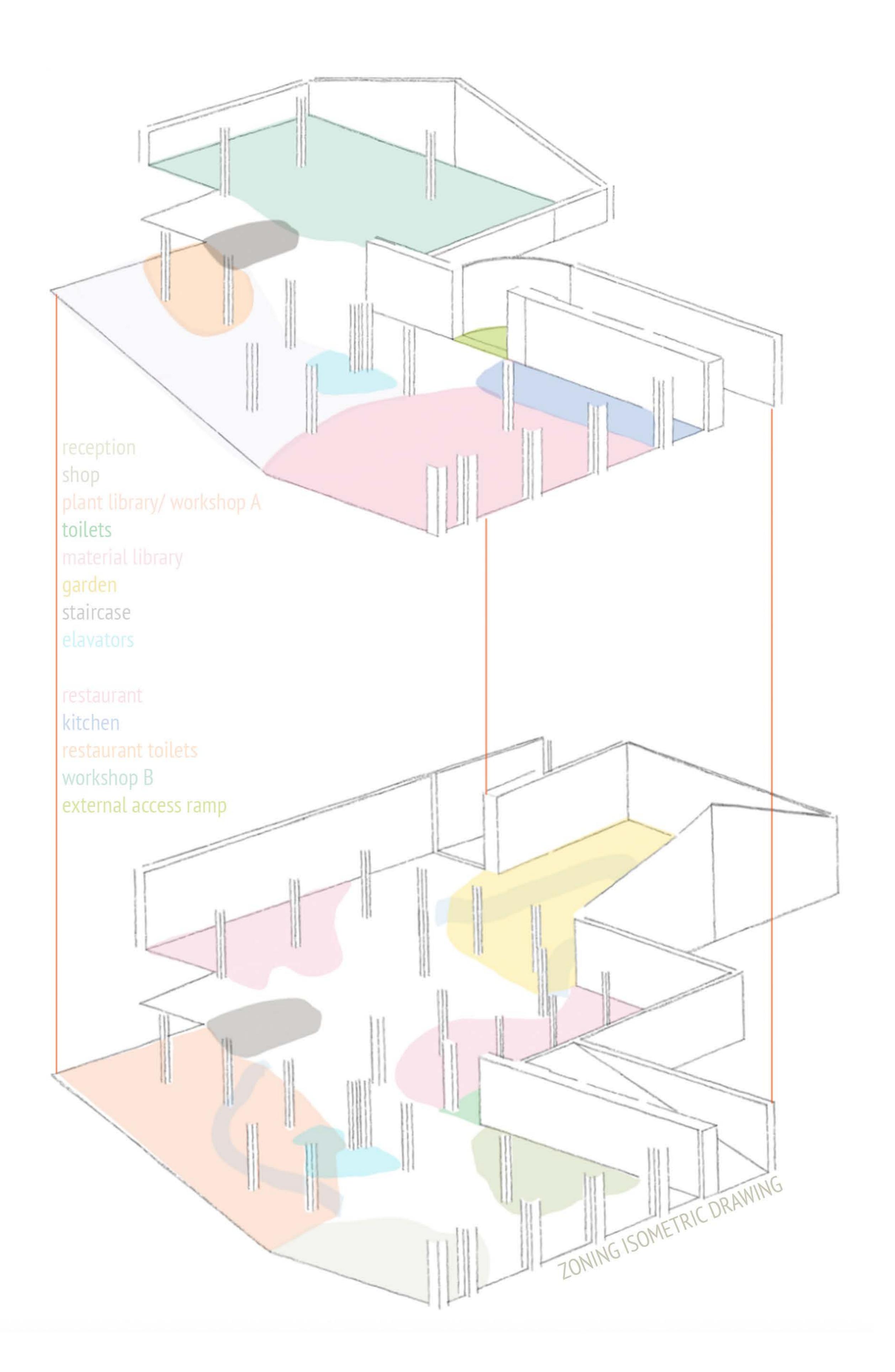
Taigh Lus, Gaelic for Botanic House, is a learning hub created to enable the discovery of the alternative uses of plants. The concept focuses on practical workshops within a space which incorporates the botanical theme alongside the commercial enterprises of a retail outlet and restaurant. The space, originally a garage warehouse/workshop, would serve in conjunction with the Botanic Gardens highlighting education and hospitality in collaboration with the gardens and especially for when they are not accessible due to bad weather. As the gardens are also referred to in the current name of the building, Botanic Gardens Garage, I felt the shared interest was relevant.

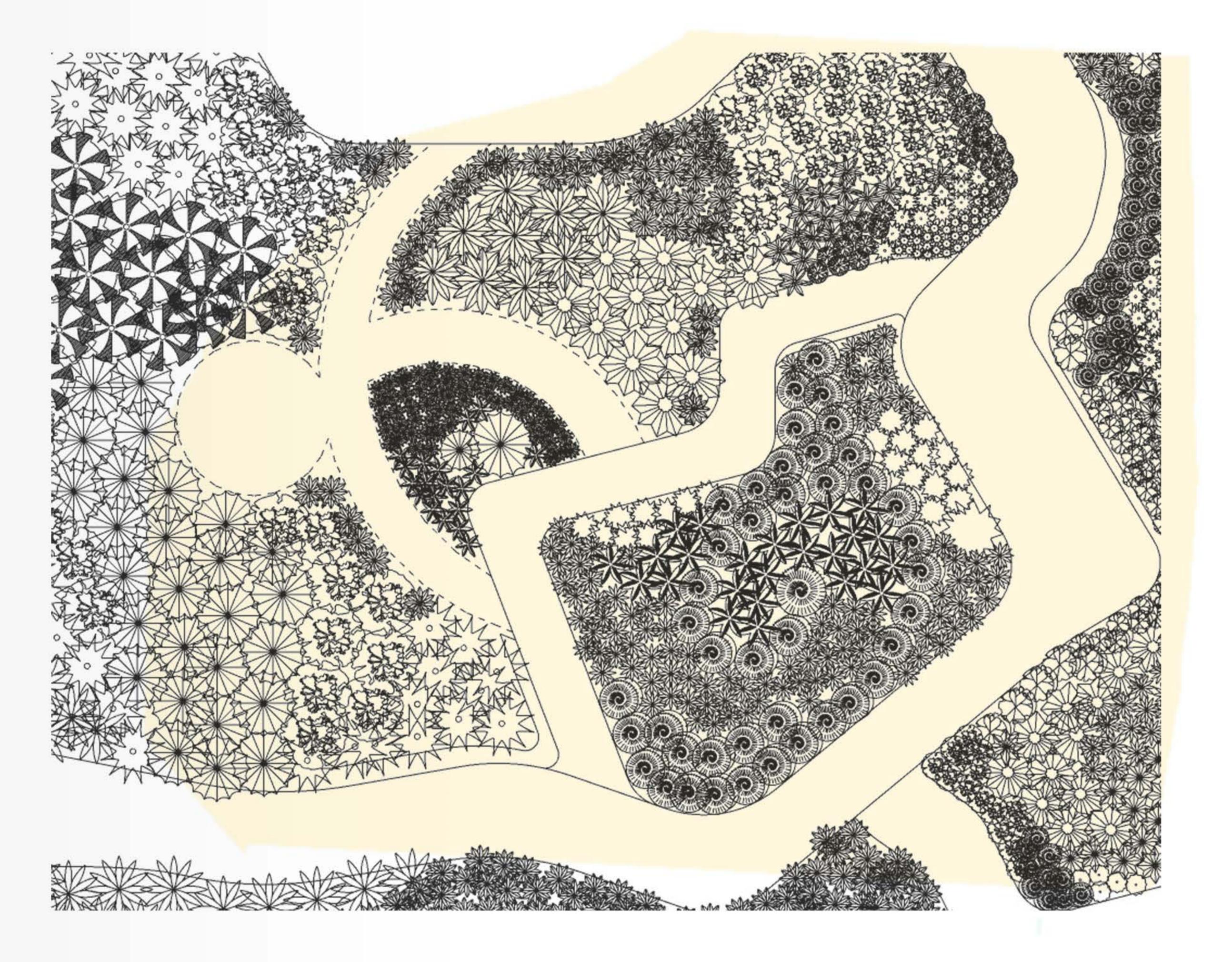
The ground floor comprises of a several zones; a plant library (1) with an abundance of shrubs and an area to sit whilst learning about the contents of the space, a material library (2), a maze with hanging sheets made from the plants found in the Taigh Lus gardens, a shop, where you can acquire various items and an adventure garden (3) focused on native Scottish plants. Designed to highlight Scottish horticulture and heritage this playground for young and old would aim to link the generations offering a place of discovery in a 3-dimensional landscape, with evocative sounds and light.

On the second floor you will find the restaurant (4) where you can taste all the plants which you have just learned about, with a focus on native Scottish plants. A second workshop (5) is also found on this floor, equipped for more practical activities, such as a waste workshop, natural dye workshop and a plant to plate workshop, containing a kitchen and wet stations. A lot of the second floor wilalso be given over to voids to highlight the plants hanging from the original steel beams above offering a sense of tranquiity and a chance for contemplation.

Re-purposing the building in a relevant manner was important to me as I believe the message will be better absorbed in an environment which is sympathetic to the issue. The shop would stock innovative items as seeds, books and other branded souvenirs aiming to educate about relevant subjects such as botanics, biodiversity, sustainable practices, resource depletion, climate issues and alternative energy sources. There could be seasonal 'pop ups' creating variety and keeping the information flow constantly stimulating.

Taigh Lus would be a multi-generational platform from which to stimulate the mind about our place within the natural world. Decorated to ignite intrigue, in the form of art, plants, sounds and smells, I hope this re-purposing of the Botanics Garden Garage would link past to present in a truly circular manner.







The images above illustrate the tunnels and paths of the adventure gardens. Inspired by the drawings of Burle Marx I wanted to create a playful yet educational garden that combines the rough terrain of the Highlands with the rolling hills of golf courses found within a few hours of Glasgow. In the middle of the space there are three child size tunnels leading to a glass dome, this detail was conceived so there could be an exclusive space just for children, to encourage a solo discovery independently from their parents. Designed to stimulate the senses, encourage learning through play and to give opportunity to those who do not have the means to go outside the city, I hope that the entire experience will spark an on-going interest in the natural world for the younger generation.

