

The Concept

Project Proposal

Space 300 is an exciting precedent for a dedicated ‘Third Place’ for the students of Glasgow located in the former O2 ABC music venue on Sauchiehall Street. The building is due to be demolished, but I see an opportunity to re-imagine an abandoned building.

I have chosen to complete this project on Sauchiehall Street, as the iconic street’s foot traffic has declined in recent decades. By repurposing a currently vacant unit, this project aims to revitalise the street while offering students an environment to study, socialise, and relax.

Unlike existing student unions in Glasgow, each of which is exclusive to its own university, this space will be open to all students of Glasgow. This will foster cross-campus connections and broader social opportunities.

The building will include;

- A café,
- Study areas
- A bar and,
- Outdoor areas,

The space will be designed for students to spend an entire day there without needing to leave. Entry will be free, with no obligation to purchase anything. Optional costs may include items such as food, drinks, or ticketed events held on site.

Project Aims

Tailored to Students

The space should accommodate a student’s full day, giving them a place they can use from morning until night time. The motions of the day should be carefully thought through, so that the space is designed around human interaction with the world as well as human interaction in a social context.

Renovating and Restoring the O2 ABC

This project will give the former O2 ABC a new lease of life. Suffering fire damage in the Glasgow School of Art fire, the buildings fate is demolition. I will restore building’s façade, but the interior and roof of the building will be designed during this project. The site’s footprint should remain the same as it exists currently. There will be a materials investigation for the re-build, with a focus on sustainability.

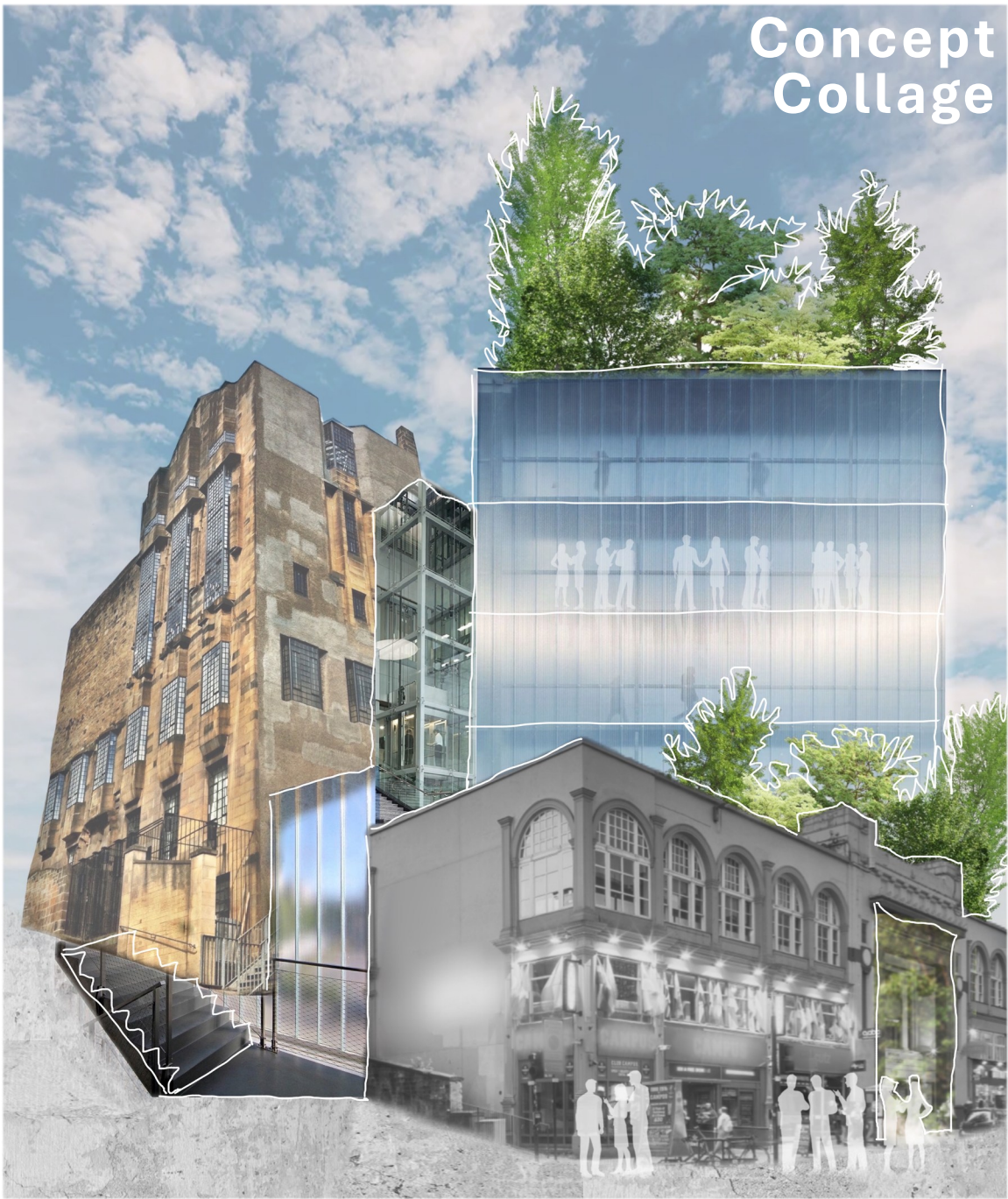
New Outdoor Space

The design will integrate new outdoor spaces onto Sauchiehall Street following the city councils plans to recover Glasgow city centre.

Target Users

I have narrowed the target user audience to university and college students based in Glasgow. Glasgow is the UK’s third-largest student city for full-time enrolment in the UK, following London and Birmingham. It had 77,645 full-time students in the 2021/22 academic year. The city saw a huge 29.5% increase in full-time students from 2016/17 to 2021/22, highlighting Glasgow’s strong appeal as a major educational hub in the UK. Glasgow is the prime example of a city that would benefit from a place like *Space300*.

Space300
Find your space.



The Site

300 Sauchiehall Street G2 3JA

The building I am using for this project is located at 300 Sauchiehall Street, formerly known as the O2 ABC.

The site is on the western end of Sauchiehall Street about 2/3 along. This location makes the site highly accessible from all universities. The unit is close enough to nightlife that a bar isn't out of place, and in amongst university students everyday who can utilise the other facilities.

Many units on Sauchiehall Street can are closed off during the day, as most of the pubs and bars do not open until the evening. My unit is an opportunity to bring some life to the street during the day.

The old O2 ABC site has a lot of potential and the building's façade could be renovated to its former glory.

The site is currently un-used due a forced closure in 2018 after the Glasgow School of Art fire. It has a significant amount of damage from that night as the roof collapsed in on itself. Overall, the building is currently a mess, with the four exterior walls barely standing, and weeds and shrubbery fighting through the rubble, growing on the inside.

Exterior from Sauchiehall Street



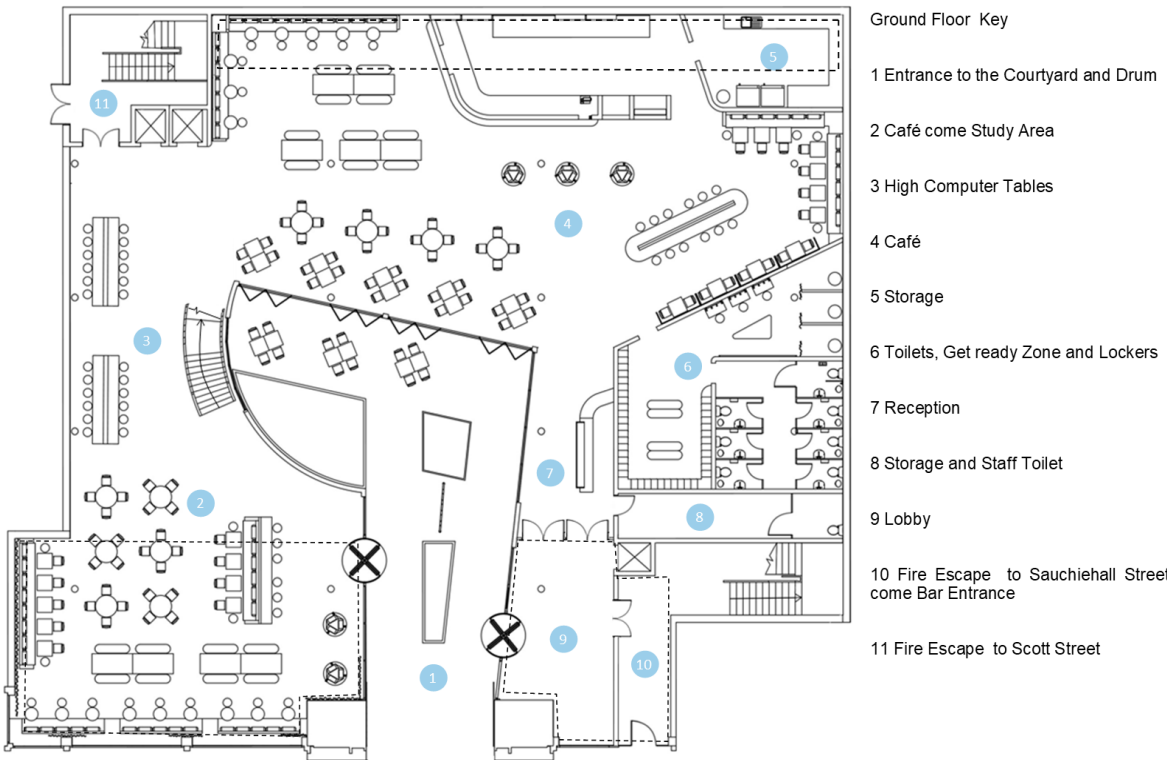
Views showing the collapsed interior and fire damage.



Restoring & Re-building

For this project, I have used the footprint of the O2 ABC, rebuilding the exterior walls in the same place. The Art deco façade which sits on Sauchiehall Street should be restored to its former glory and brought back to life. The eastern façade is the only other wall that isn't up against another building. I propose a new frosted glass section that lets natural light into the spaces behind. I have included sustainable materials in order to re-build this site reducing the carbon footprint that could come with constructing a completely new building.

New Ground Floor



The Demolition

The demolition of the O2 is a controversial topic among the people of Glasgow. The building has a rich history and an Art Deco facade. The exterior of the building is a grade C listed, meaning technically the exterior should be preserved. Concerns around the safety of the structure however, have been enough to sway the fate of the building's future.

Sadly, the façade I hope to rebuild is the first phase of the demolition. Demolition started on the 6th of September 2024, and finished December 2024.

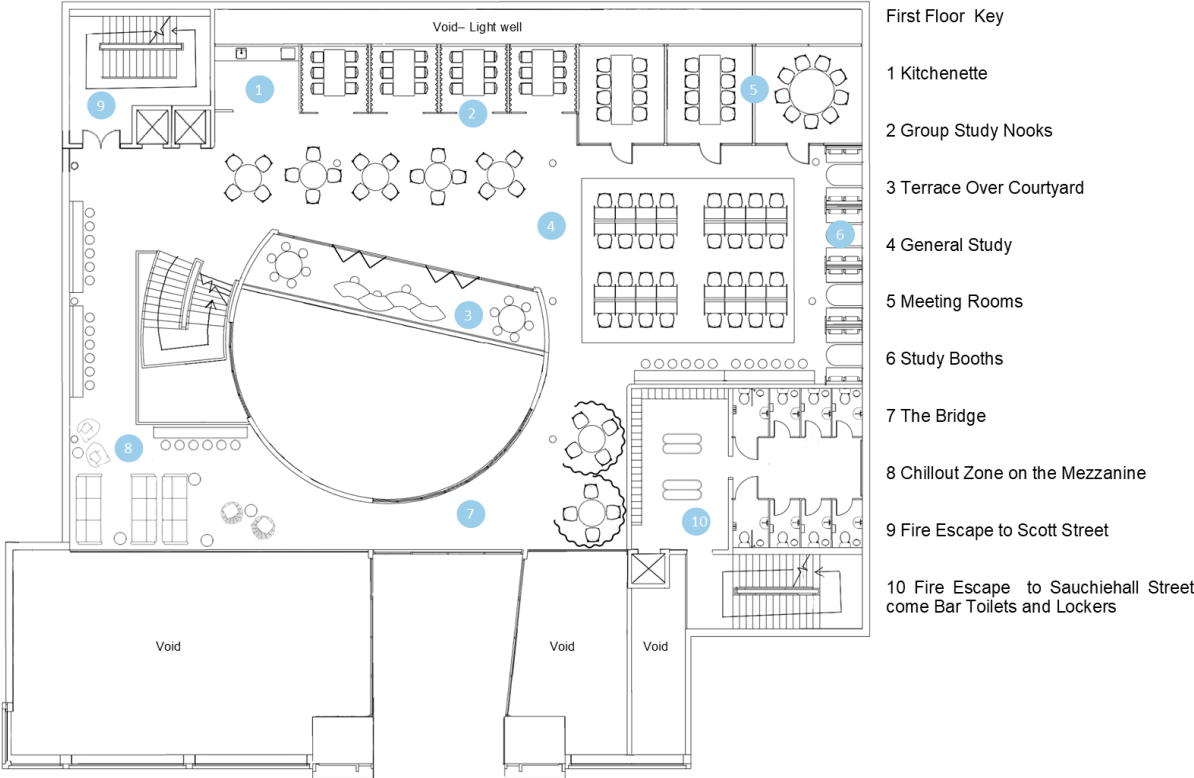
I have documented the demolition through photos, taken periodically throughout the process. The 30/01/2025 is the last documented photo, as it marks the end of the first phase of demolition. I will not see the rest of the building's demolition while completing this project.

I propose to retain the Art Deco façade of the building, and rebuild the remaining exterior walls and interior to give the building a new lease of life. I will keep the footprint of the building the same, and reimagine the way in which the 3 floors of the building, interact with one another.

I will be sympathetic to the building's history and include elements that reference it.



New First Floor



I propose to re- build the derelict O2 ABC.

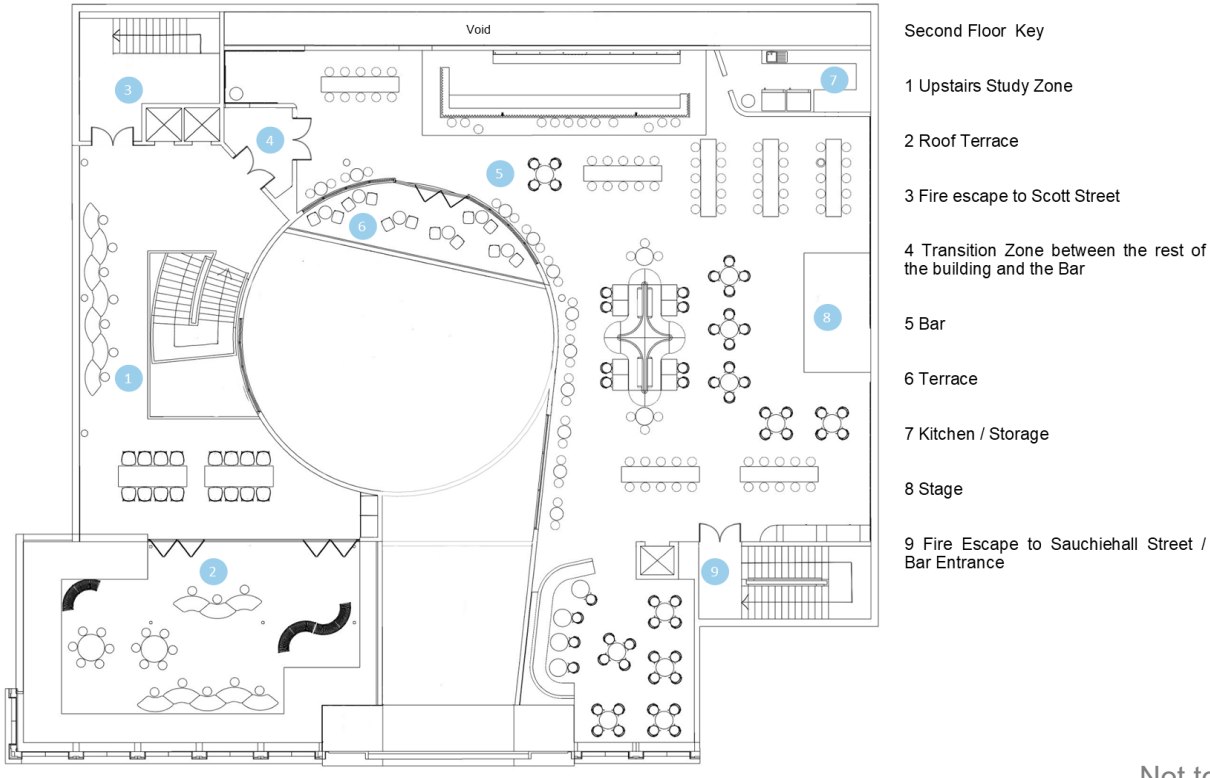
University Locations

Universities by Foot:

University of Glasgow.....	25 min
Strathclyde University.....	19 min
City of Glasgow College.....	18 min
Glasgow Caledonian University...	14 min
Royal Conservatoire.....	9 min
Glasgow School of Art	1 min



New Second Floor



Not to Scale.

New Outdoor Space

The Avenues Project

Sauchiehall Street is undergoing significant redevelopment as part of a larger initiative called the Avenues Programme, aimed at transforming key areas of the city centre into more pedestrian-friendly and environmentally sustainable spaces. This £5.7 million project focuses on enhancements such as rain gardens, 40 new street trees, widened pavements, upgraded lighting, and safer pedestrian crossings, making the area more accessible for walking and cycling.

The project is intended to boost local businesses by increasing footfall while also improving urban aesthetics and connectivity and reflect Glasgow's commitment to sustainable urban development and active travel. I have introduced some outdoor space into my site to tie in with the surrounding areas. The council have spent a lot of money to encourage green space on the street, and I should do the same for my site.

The Dear Green Place

One of Glasgow's nicknames is the 'Dear Green Place.' This nickname reflects Glasgow's history and its green spaces.

Glasgow is has numerous parks and green spaces. The city is home to over 90 parks, including famous ones like Kelvingrove Park, Pollok Country Park, and Glasgow Green.

Glasgow City Council has implemented policies to enhance urban greenery, protect natural areas, and improve the ecological health of the city. These efforts were notably visible during the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), where Glasgow hosted global leaders to discuss climate actions. Glasgow city centre is now also a Low Emission Zone (LEZ). It aims to improve the city's air quality by restricting the most polluting vehicles from entering its centre.

I want my project to integrate well into the surrounding area and promote a feeling of community. This will be achieved through regular visitors, who then interact through the events and activities going on inside.

Integrating these into Space 300

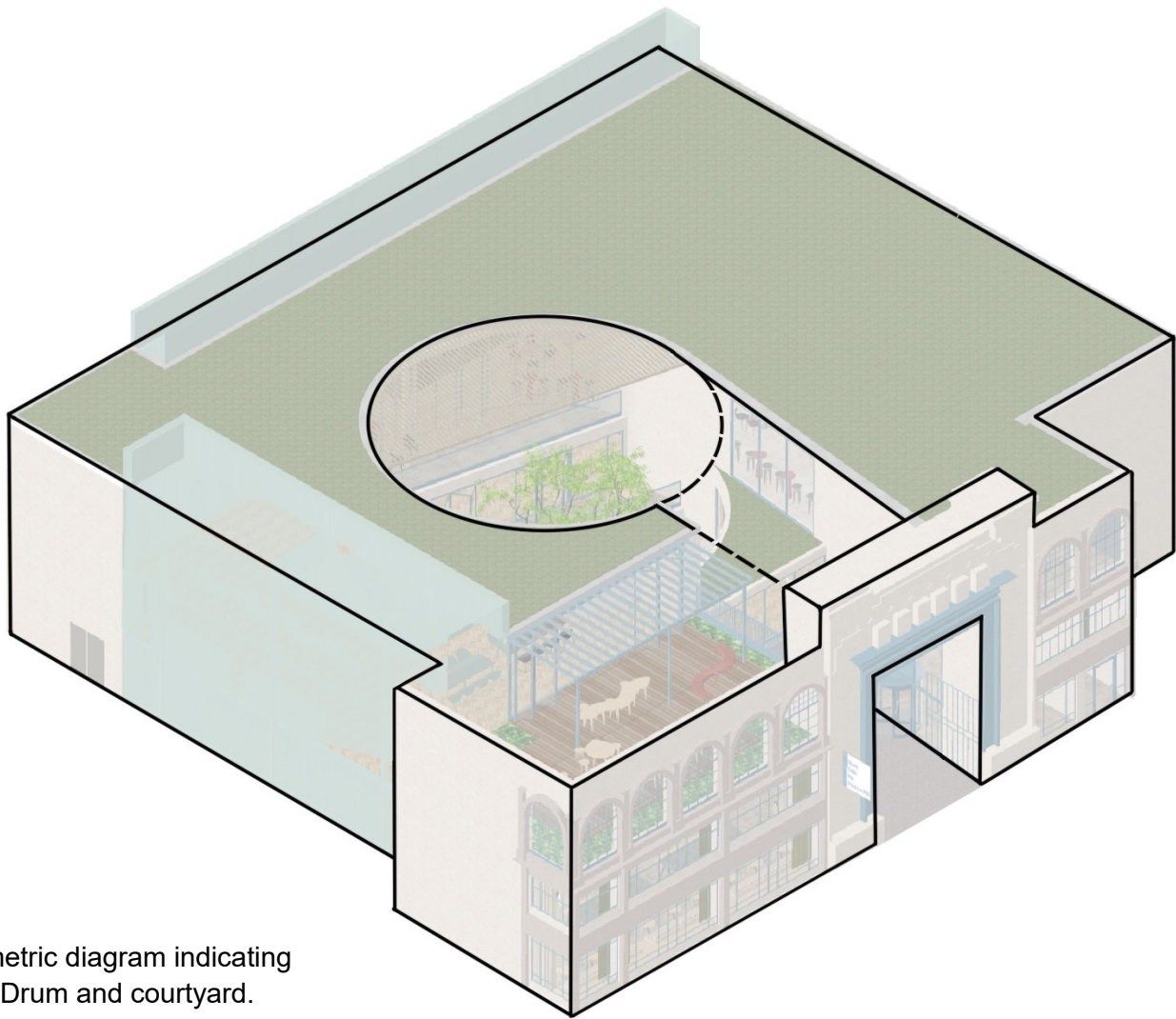
Glasgow City Council has made an effort to make Glasgow a more 'green' city, through the LEZ, and the Avenues project. I will honour this by creating a third place which lives up to environmental standards. I will include a outdoor terrace, as well as using sustainable materials to minimise the carbon footprint of the buildings restoration. I will also reference the historical uses of the building through my design, as much like Glasgow, the building has a rich history.

The Drum

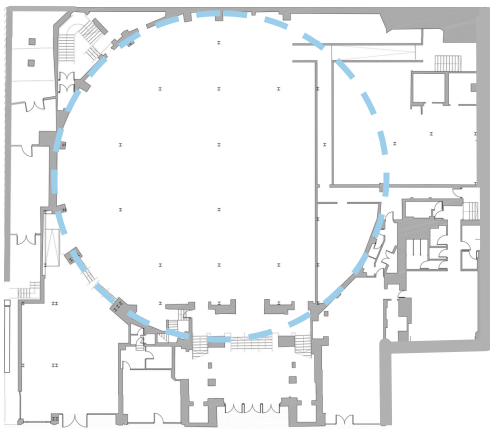
Historically the O2 music venue included a circular arena—a dark space for shared experience at the centre of the site .

The proposal inverts the arena to create a light filled drum. The drum becomes an open air, shared space that provides points of entry; wayfinding orientation and; light deep into the heart of the site. It also creates a new, inviting entrance from Sauchiehall Street and into the sites core.

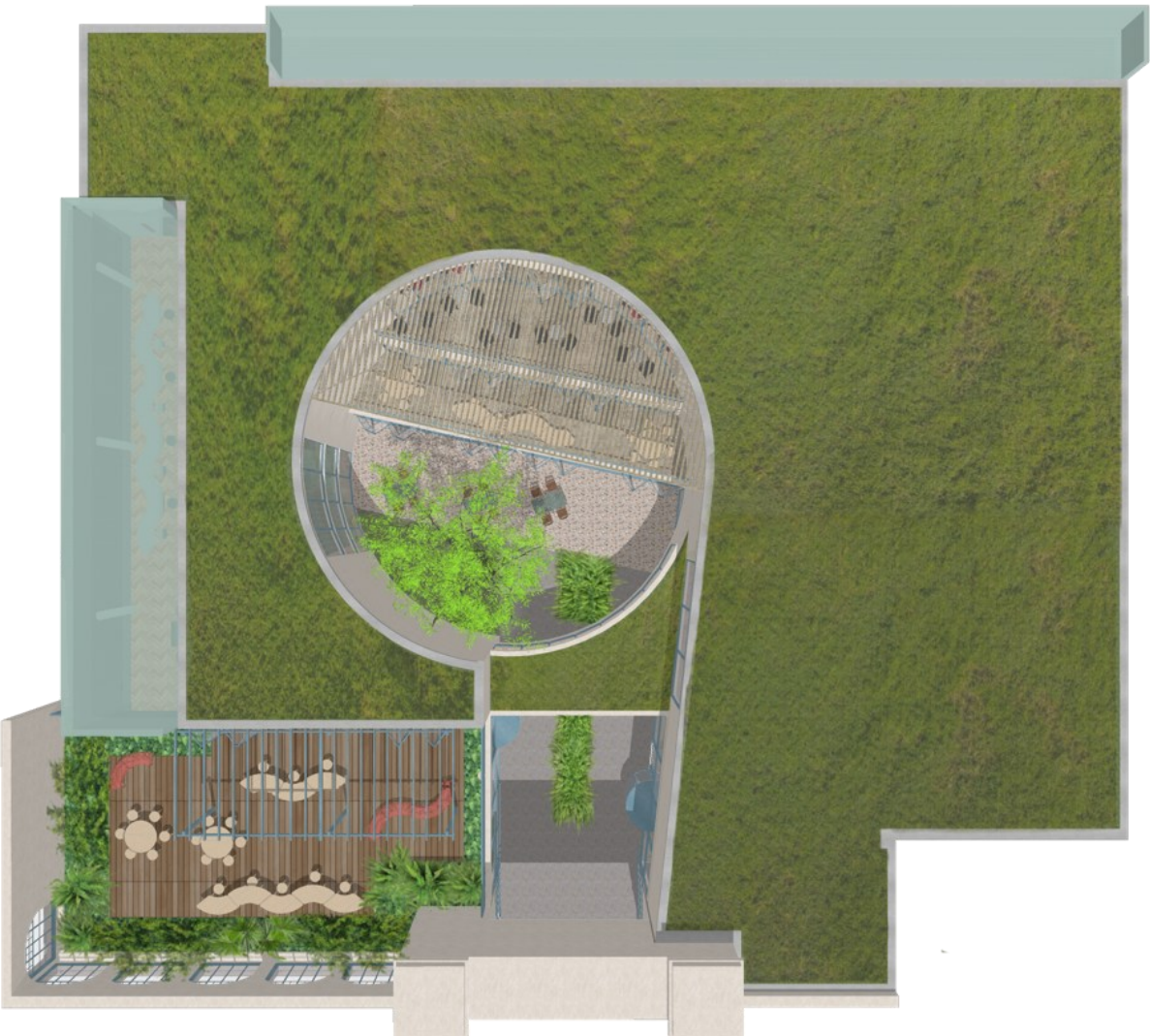
It includes a new courtyard and a floor that cascades : referencing the cinemas that once occupied the site's, seating.



Isometric diagram indicating The Drum and courtyard.

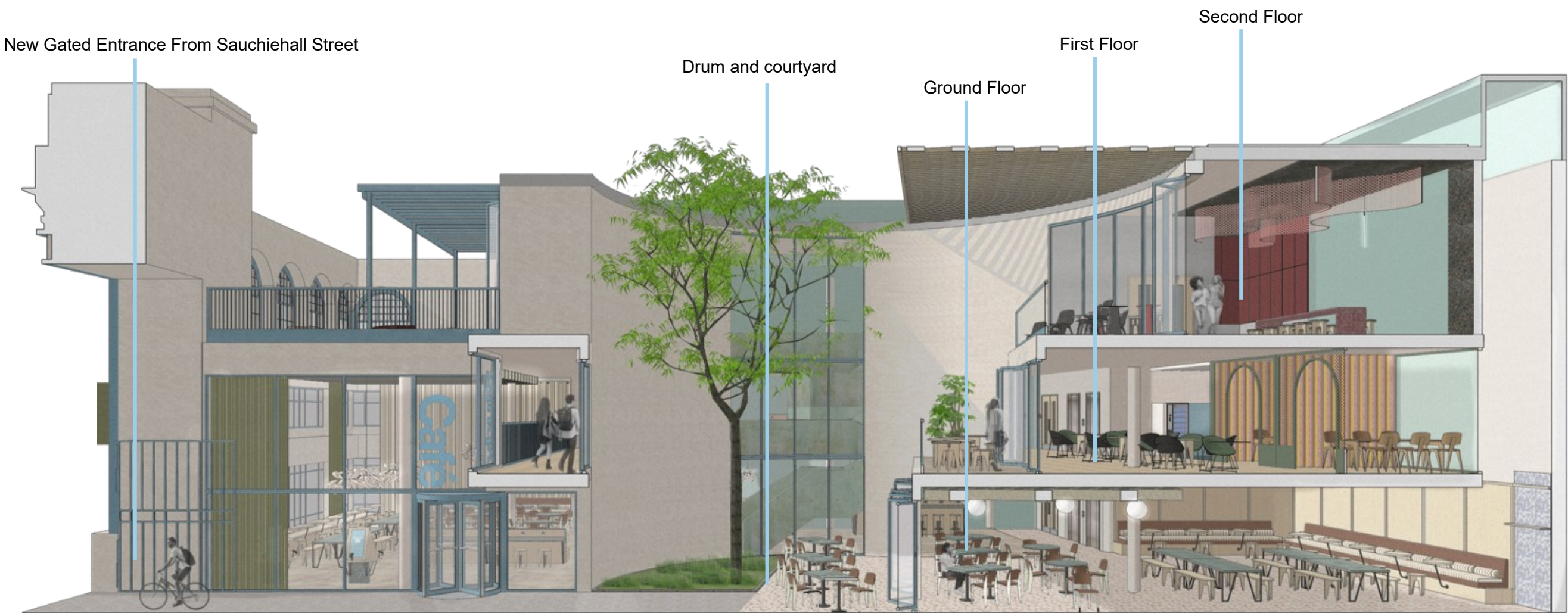


Original ground floor plan of the O2 ABC, with the arena highlighted in blue.



This is a bird's eye view of the new central drum and courtyard.

New Building Section



1:100 Model

I created a scale model to portray how the façade cascades in the courtyard space.

Materials used to create this model include : Cardboard (boxes), Newspaper (collaged) and Wire.



Materiality

Rebuilding the O2



K– Briq

K– Briq is a unique unfired alternative to a standard fired brick. The bricks are composed of nearly 100% recycled material formed of demolition and building waste. K– Briq allows me to re-use the waste material from the demolition of the O2. I propose that the bricks I use will be formed of the demolition material and the restoration of the building.

O2 ABC
Demolition → K– Briq → Space300
Material



Lime Render

Lime render is a more sustainable way to render the facade than standard concrete render. It is created at much lower temperatures lowering the carbon footprint, and is free from any synthetic materials making it better for the environment. It can partially offset itself as it absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it sets.



Recycled Glass

The extension to the original façade of the O2 will be a large frosted glass box which is build on the original footprint of the building. Frosted glass allows for privacy as well as lots of natural light. After dark the walls will glow with the light from within.

I would source the glass from a company like Saint - Gobain Glass, which is a company that uses recycled glass to created new panes for windows.



O2 ABC Terrazzo

Terrazzo is already an effective way of re-using stone. Old stone can be added into the binder which create the new tiles from old material.

For this project I would like to create a terrazzo where the terrazzo includes waste material from the building. This would create a partially recycled floor finish which gives a second life to the building before. It is subtle way to reference the previous structures life. It can be used inside or outside.

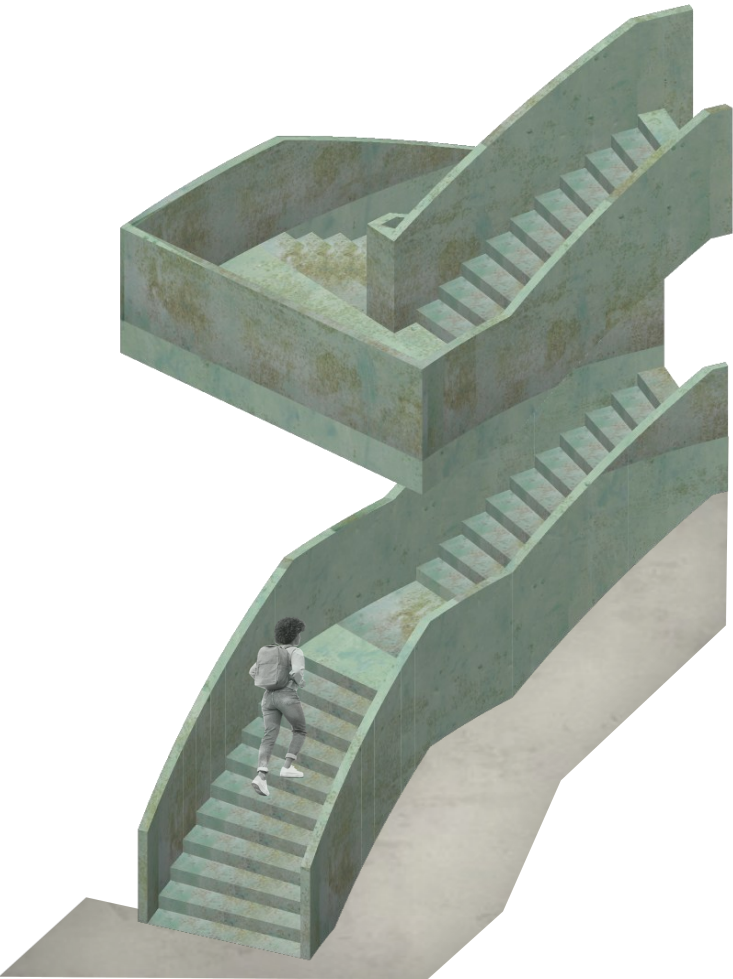
To the left is image I edited of terrazzo using colours from the demolition site.

Interior Inspiration – Rural Scotland

In May 2024 I took a trip around the north of Scotland and the beautiful scenery has inspired a natural, Scottish colour palette for my design picking out the pale tones of the Silver sands Morar and the deep colour of a waterfall rolling through Scottish mountains.

My project is about combining outdoor spaces into the urban environment and I think that picking out some of my colours from that pallet is very fitting. The pallet can be used throughout the space, whilst introducing some stronger reds and darker earthy tones into the bar space to create an atmosphere more suitable to the evening.

To the right is a mood board using photographs taken by me during the last 2 weeks of May 2024.



The Staircase

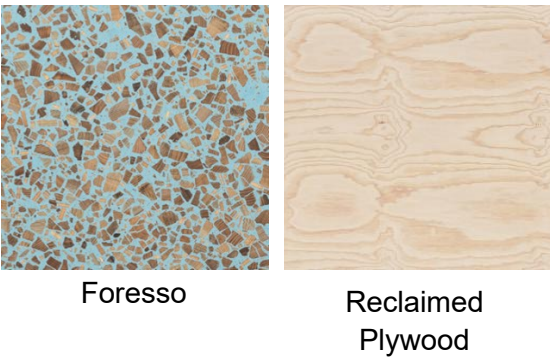
The inspiration for the staircase was a waterfall, with the idea that it flows between level changes as a waterfall would down the face of a hill.

I have used patinated copper to clad the stair which gives it earth tones portraying those of a waterfall and its environment. The stair is located beside a tall window, enabling views out into the courtyard at all levels.

Kiosk Screen

The purpose of the Kiosk is to allow multiple customers at a time to order remotely to the counter at the café. It should speed up waiting times as each screen allows 3 people to order at any one time from a touchscreen and card machine. The screens are tilted at an angle for ease of use

Rather than standard plastic or metal screen, I have design screens that use more eco-friendly materials.



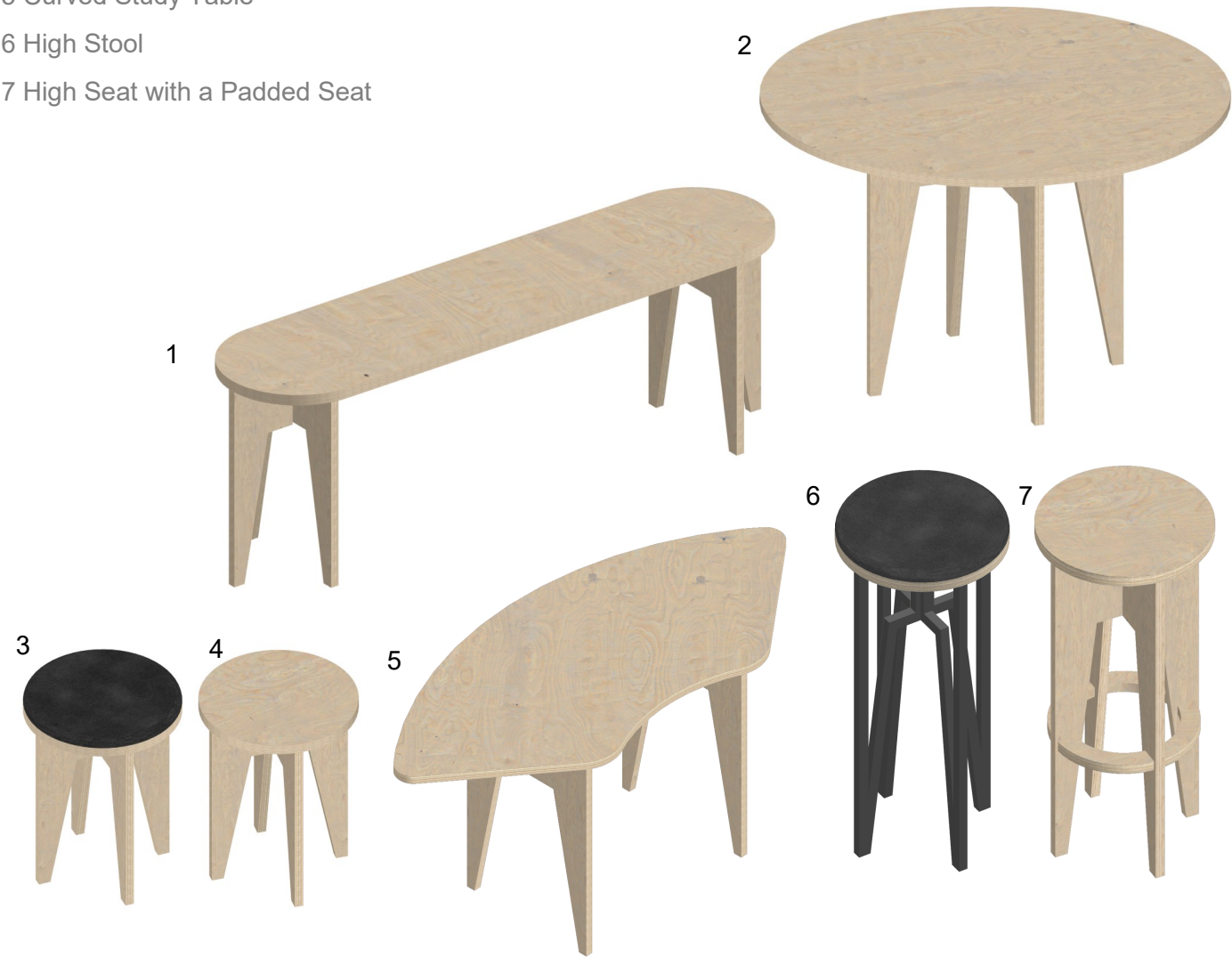
I have considered how I will make the renovation sustainable in terms of materiality.



Bespoke Furniture

I have design bespoke pieces to use throughout this project which will add continuity to the designed spaces. They are made using reclaimed plywood to give old ply a new lease of life.

- 1 Bench Seat
- 2 Round Table
- 3 Low Stool
- 4 Low Stool with a Padded Seat
- 5 Curved Study Table
- 6 High Stool
- 7 High Seat with a Padded Seat



The Final Design

Eco-conscious Design

Using sustainable materials to create Space 300 will minimise the carbon footprint the renovation of the O2 ABC has, as well as promoting responsible and sustainable design in Glasgow's city centre. By recycling old materials from the previous site, introducing new eco friendly materials into spaces inside and creating new outdoor spaces in urban environments, this project sets a new precedent for a modern student hub.



Dedar Fabric
Belamondo 007



Cork



Tadalek Wall Finish
Perfectly Pink



Recycled Glass



FSC Certified Oak
Herringbone



Foresso
No Chip Azure Oak



Kitchenette



Navigation Board



Café



Study



Café



Kiosks



Foresso
Azure Oak



Reclaimed
Plywood



Geopolymer
Concrete




Recycled O2
Terrazzo



Foresso
Slate Walnut



Lime Render



Bar



Bar



Bar



Terrace