

ADDICTION IS A HEALTH AND
SOCIAL ISSUE, NOT A CRIME, OR
A MORAL FAILING

"the opposite of
addiction is
connection"

— Johann Hari

67 SAUCHIEHALL STREET ADDICTION SUPPORT FACILITY

In 2018, 1187 people died from drug related causes in Scotland. That is higher than any other European country. The UK's current approach to drug policy clearly isn't working. My personal project aims to take a more **proactive and holistic approach to substance addiction** to change the way we deal with this issue and help prevent further unnecessary deaths from drugs.

All the **evidence points towards compassionate care** instead of criminalising people who suffer with addiction. Demonising these people just places blame on the individual rather than the circumstances that led to the reliance on substances.

Addiction is a multifaceted subject, however, research has shown it is extremely **closely linked to mental health** and is often triggered by **trauma and vulnerability**. Therefore, we should be doing more to help these people instead of criminalising them.

Drug consumption rooms (DCR) are not a new idea. In fact, the first DCR opened in Berne, Switzerland in 1986. Their successful results has meant this model is being **adopted throughout the world**. By providing supervision and clean equipment a

DCR is able to **significantly reduce overdose deaths** and blood borne virus transmissions. In some cases it is even 30% more likely to refer visitors to start recovery programmes. This not only benefits people suffering with addiction but also the wider community. If there is a DCR it means less street use, less drug litter, fewer drug related deaths and fewer ambulance calls.

It's about time we changed how people who suffer with addiction are treated.

My concept is to create a space which can **provide non-judgemental care** in a safe environment. I want people to **feel secure and valued** when they enter this facility. Hence, the idea is to create an integrated DCR which not only helps people who are currently using but also **supports people** who are in recovery. I will provide space for individuals to gain advice and guidance on a range of issues including employment, housing and childcare. Furthermore, I want to incorporate **spaces to learn, relax and reflect to promote wellbeing** and a positive relationship with mental health. My concept encourages people to **build a community** and support one another.

The design of the space is extremely important, as a well designed building shows that people do care and want to help. **Contact with nature** has proven to be a significant factor in improving wellbeing and thorough research on this, informed my decision to use **biophilia** as the main focus of my design. The building will become the physical manifestation of the welcoming approach I am taking. By creating a caring atmosphere it reinforces **meaningful connections** within the building, therefore, helping to reduce the likelihood of relapse.

Everything in my design is centred around providing compassionate care to this specific group of vulnerable people.



Scan the
QR Code
to view
my
concept
animation.



Axonometric Section View



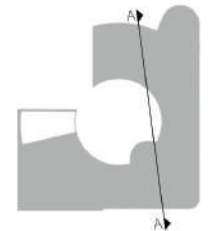
Location Context

Sauchiehall Street is one of the busiest and most well known places in Glasgow therefore, the site was an important and significant choice in relation to my concept. I want people to re-evaluate how they understand and perceive addiction. The stigma attached to it often creates added difficulty for people who are suffering to move in a more positive direction with their life. Moreover, existing addiction facilities are always hidden away producing an 'out of sight, out of mind' attitude, which only compounds the problem. Therefore, the site was **chosen specifically** because it was a **central and visible location**. This means it is more likely to **initiate discussions and raise awareness**, as well as, establishing an easily accessible facility which can reach an increased number of people.



Scan the QR Code to view an orbital view of my design.

- Public Welcome Atrium .1
- Communal Garden .2
- DCR .3
- Consumption Booth .4
- First Floor Suspended Walkway .5
- Corridor to Consultation Rooms .6
- Contemplation Space .7
- Cooking Workshop .8
- Multi Functional Workshop .9
- Activity/Events Spaces.10
- Storage.11



A View of Sauchiehall Street



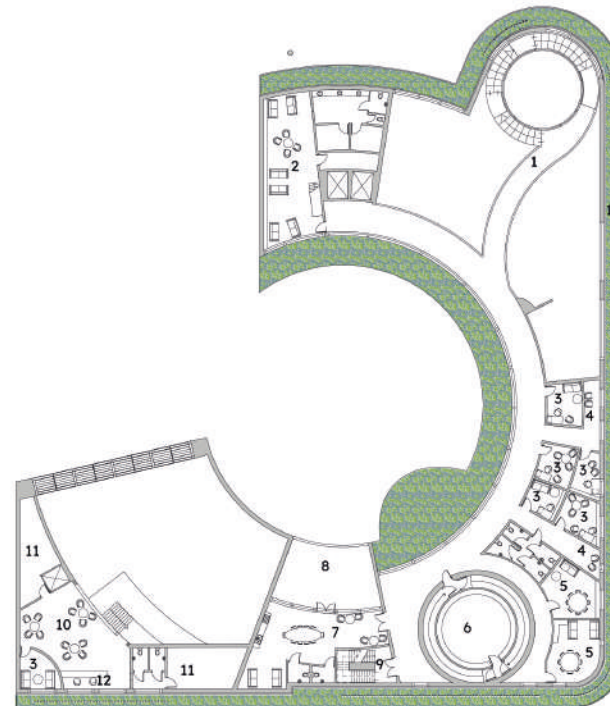
Ceangal - Kirsty Gaunt

The ground floor is almost like planting a seed. It is the first step in helping people who suffer with addiction. The first floor mirrors the watering and nurturing of a seedling. This is where individuals are offered help to create a sustainable foundation for growth. The second floor acts the blossoming stage of a plant life cycle. People who suffer with addiction are becoming more confident and with the help of the community at Ceangal are rejoining mainstream society.



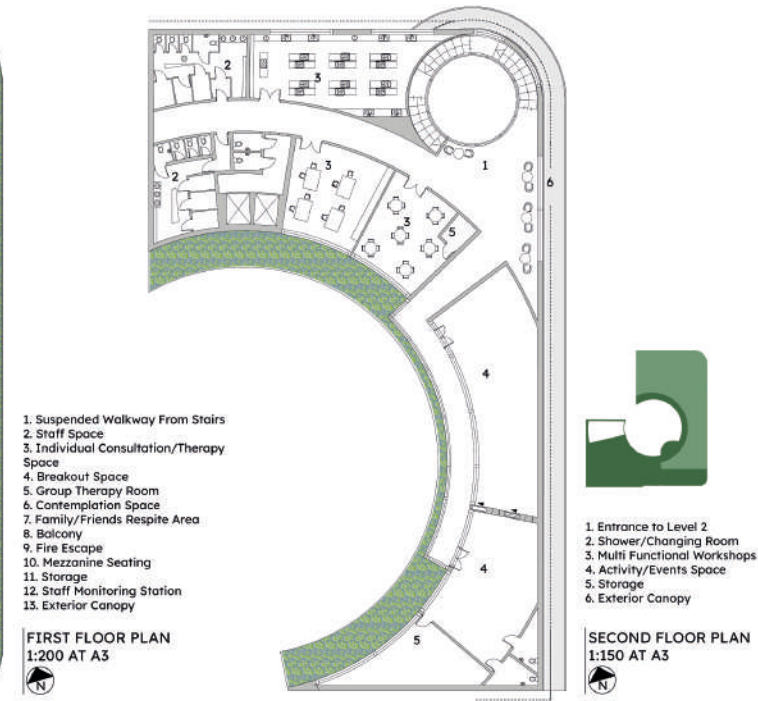
The ground floor of the Ceangal facility is where the focus of the concept is expressed most explicitly. This is where individuals who tend to have the most severe addictions are welcome.

The primary function of this level is to provide for visitors who require the use of a safe consumption room. These individuals are prioritised and the one way system throughout most of the ground floor enables easy and safe movement through the building.



The first floor provides services for individuals who are the next step on from continuous drug use. These people are at different stages in their own recovery journey and therefore, have different needs.

The main function of this level is to provide support on a variety of issues. Shared consultation spaces work on a booking system and can be inhabited by staff giving advice and support on housing, employment, finances, mental health and childcare, to name a few.



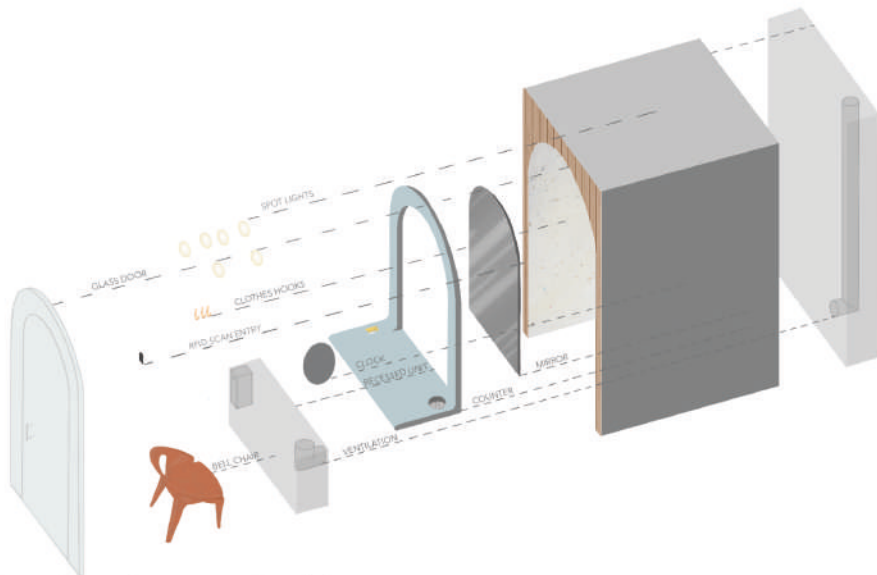
The second and final floor is aimed towards educating and developing individuals attributes to help them reintegrate into society. By providing workshop spaces, visitors are able to learn skills to make them more employable or even techniques to help them maintain a healthier lifestyle. Dynamic workshop spaces mean a variety of activities can be provided. These multi-use rooms can be used to build community and raise awareness.

The 'DCR' or drug consumption room is where visitors administer their own substances whilst being monitored by nurses. Individuals are guided to a specially designed booth where discrete CCTV enables staff to track their progress.

The individual booths are designed to create an intimate and discrete location for drug use. Curved worktops, recessed sharps bin and hidden ventilation provide the highest levels of safety, sanitation and comfort. I want to try and get as far away from the current standard of drug use sites as possible. Here visitors can feel calm and dignified when they use instead of anxious and ashamed.



Ground Floor: Individual Consumption Booth



Ground Floor: Consumption Booth Components

The aftercare section takes up most of the ground floor, incorporating medical facilities, counselling, relaxing and refreshment spaces. Many individuals who attend Ceangal will have abscesses or wounds which need to be addressed by a medical professional. The two minor injury spaces allow for these types of symptoms to be treated on site.

To help visitors and staff feel positive within the building my proposal includes private and communal garden areas. These spaces provides a sense of escapism and tranquillity where people can find a quiet space to reflect. This close proximity to nature directly connects with the material choices blurring the threshold between inside and outside. The winding paths encourages visitors to explore and create a more playful atmosphere.

The communal garden also plays an important role in the running of the whole facility. A mini orchard and raised beds create space for growing and harvesting produce. This not only provides food which can be cooked by the cafe within the aftercare space, it also establishes a base for education. People in recovery can learn how to grow their own food, therefore, reinforcing a connection with nature. Ultimately, this promotes a more positive and healthy lifestyle.

Scan the QR Code to explore the private consumption room garden.



Scan the QR Code to explore the communal garden.



Ground Floor: Aftercare Space

The contemplation room gives individuals the space they need to be alone with their thoughts. It provides important reflective opportunities which encourage people to grow and improve their relationship with themselves. Addiction is extremely closely linked to mental health so providing tranquil spaces to contemplate is vital to the success of the facilities aims.



First Floor. Contemplation Space

Meet the Designer:



Scan this QR Code to see the full Ceangal portfolio.



Scan this QR Code to visit my website.



Instagram:
@gaunt_design

Email:
kirstygauntdesign@gmail.com

On the second floor my design focuses on developing skills and hobbies for visitors. Although my concept creates a range of multi-functional workshop spaces the only workshop which isn't multi-use is the cooking workshop space. Here, visitors can use the produce grown in the communal garden to learn how to prepare and cook food. These skills mean individuals have more control over what they consume and how they live their life, as well as providing opportunities for employment.



Second Floor. Cooking Workshop Space