

.serendipity | project description

The heart of this project was looking at the well-being – **both physical and mental** – of students in response to the impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis. These events have made social lives outside of the ‘classroom’ unaffordable to a large group of students, in turn increasing loneliness amongst this demographic.

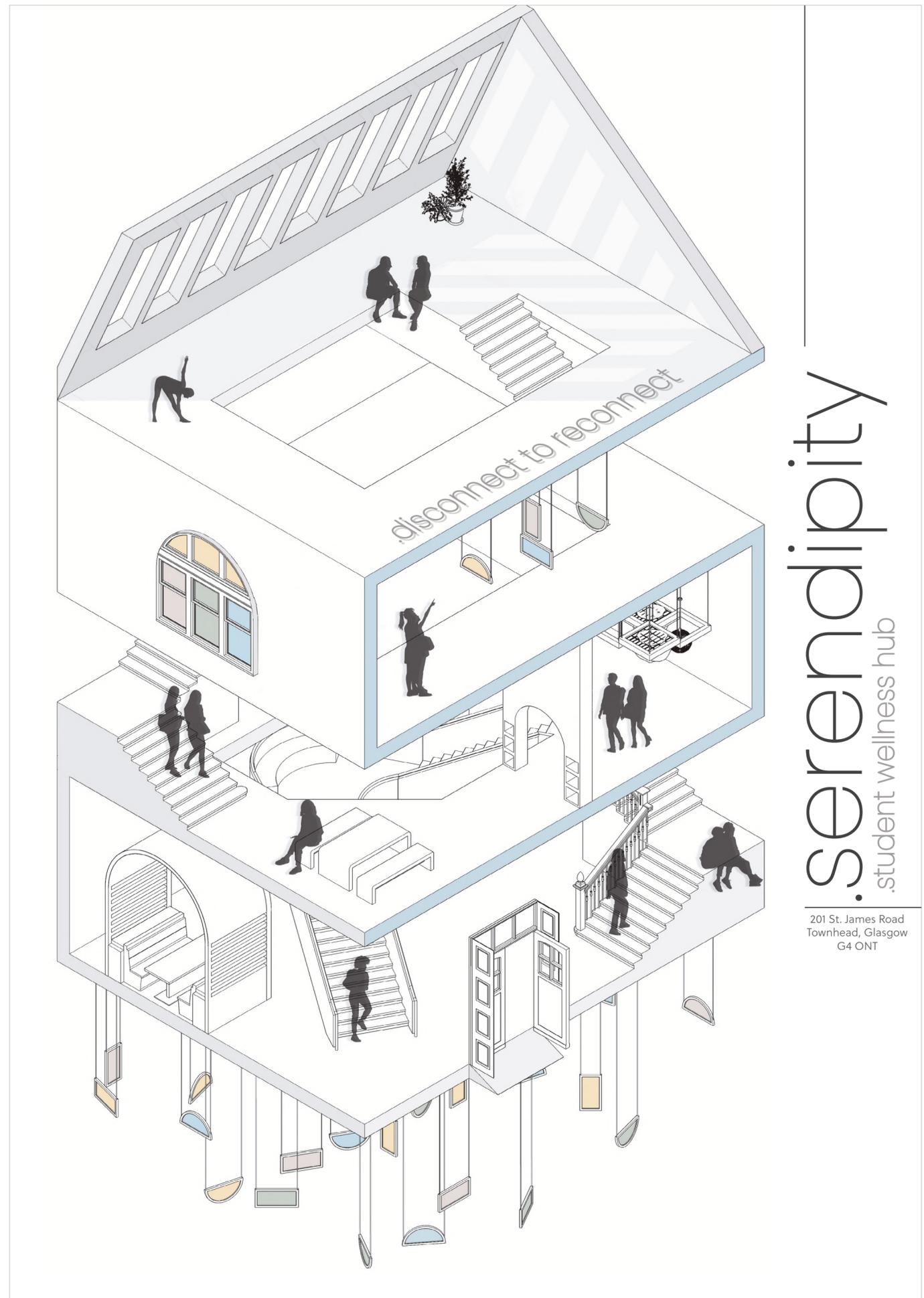
Through this proposal I hope to create a concept of a ‘third space’ that is accessible for all – **both physically and financially** – the proposal aims to create an affordable ‘third space’ for students – a space between home and education that welcomes them to disconnect from the chaos of the urban, studying life and just enjoy a moment of stillness and engage in a variety of spaces and activities:

Disconnect to Reconnect.

A space that brings Glasgow’s students together, allowing students to mix socially outside of their institution – ensuring no one is left behind.



.201 St.James Road, Townhead, Glasgow | initial existing building illustration



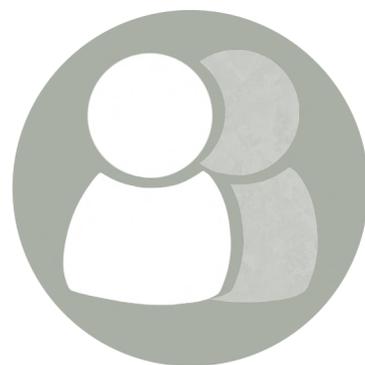
.serendipity
student wellness hub

201 St. James Road
Townhead, Glasgow
G4 0NT



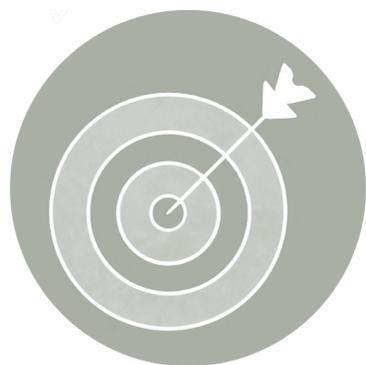
.WHAT?

Student Wellness Hub
Offers a variety of activities and spaces to look after mental and physical well-being.



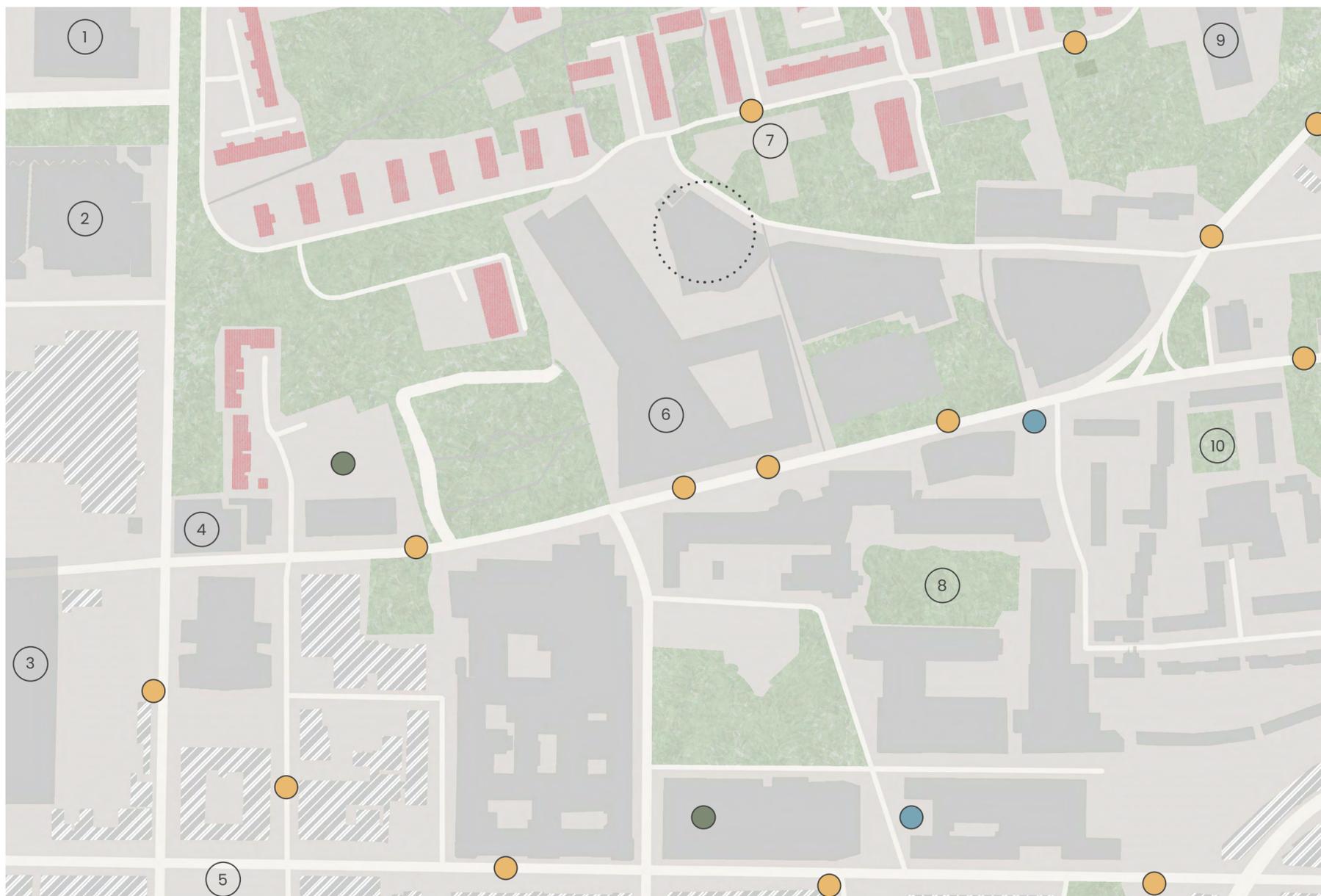
.WHO?

Students
Students from the Glasgow area from both colleges and universities.



.WHY?

Well-Being
Lack of affordable activities and spaces currently available for students to access, and an opportunity to encourage face to face connection amongst students.



.surrounding site analysis map

- .project site | 201 St.James Road
- .bus stops
- .next bike stations
- .parking
- 1 .glasgow caledonian university
- 2 .buchanan bus station
- 3 .queen street station
- 4 .novel student accommodation
- 5 .george square
- 6 .city of glasgow college
- 7 .student roost st.mungos
- 8 .strathclyde university
- 9 .st.mungos primary school
- 10 .strathclyde university accomodation

- .residential
- .commercial
- .green spaces

.adaptive reuse | project site

Being conscious of adaptive reuse I decided to use an old Glasgow Board School, originally Canning Place Public School. This building has been lying derelict and I wanted to give it a new lease of life whilst paying homage to its educational typology.

This site is a five-storey classic Glasgow Board School, with a generous outdoor space. It was originally built in 1906 as Canning Place Public School and then Allen Glen Secondary. It has been out of use since 2016 and has been left derelict since and has suffered severe weather damage both on the exterior and interior.

I have chosen this site based on the history and the surroundings of the site. The educational history lends itself well to its new modern surroundings of colleges, student accommodations and university campuses. I was also intrigued by the way nature is reclaiming its' place around and through the building - inspiring a biophilic design approach.

My aim was to renovate and adapt this site to reinvigorate its spirit as a student hub - welcoming back students after decades.



.international & exchange students

Students who have come to Glasgow to study from outside of Scotland. Moving away from family and friends is a stressful experience on top of the normal stress of a student. This hub allows them to meet up with like-minded people and build new relationships and build a foundation of support in the new period of their life. Making the city feel more safe and secure.



.home students

Students from Scotland who have potentially just left school or returned to higher education after a break away. Whether living at home or in accommodation the student city experience will be new to them. This hub allows them to take a break away from deadline stress and information overload - and build relationships with like-minded people in the process of looking after their well-being.



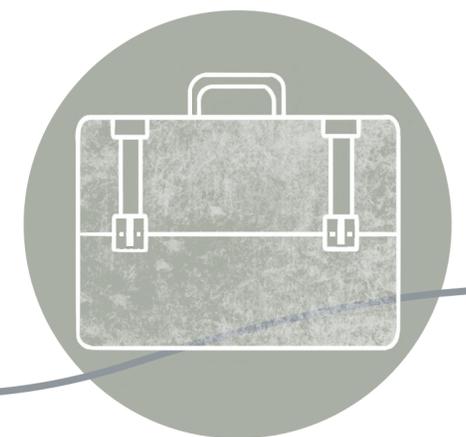
.mature students

Higher education can be hard to adjust to for mature students returning to education, this hub offers the opportunity for mature students to have a safe place to release stress and doubts and also meet people in a similar situation - also a potentially a more welcoming and relatable environment compared to normal student activities.



.new graduates

The transition from being a student to the working environment is a huge change in lifestyle and can often be hard to navigate as you experience job-searching and a general change of pace in life. Offering the hub to recent graduates gives them a space to adjust to this change and keeping connections open with people who can support them during the transition process.



.employees

It is also important to consider the needs of the people working in the space, they also potentially need a space removed from the 'commercial' side to relax and recuperate before, after and during a shift

.target users

.the concept | disconnect to reconnect

The proposal outlines the brands identity in four pillars of wellness; **mind, social, spirit and movement**. With the aim of reconnecting students in one space and encouraging face to face interaction. The spatial planning of the space takes great consideration of 'mixing' these elements to increase the chance of random meetings and serendipitous connections.

Movement: Serendipity offers activities that encourage movement such as yoga, rock climbing and a park area in the hopes of benefiting students physical well-being.

Social: Serendipity offers space that encourage face to face interaction such as a social cafe, group study and a therapy space.

Spirit: Serendipity offers activities and spaces that encourages the building of a community spirit such as shared allotments and a community shop.

Mind: Serendipity offers spaces that gives students the ability to focus and work on their mental well-being such as the library or sensory space.



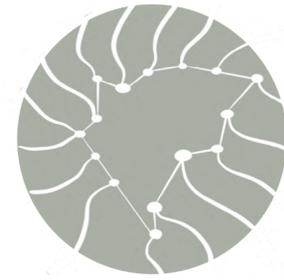
.MOVEMENT



.SOCIAL



.SPIRIT



.MIND



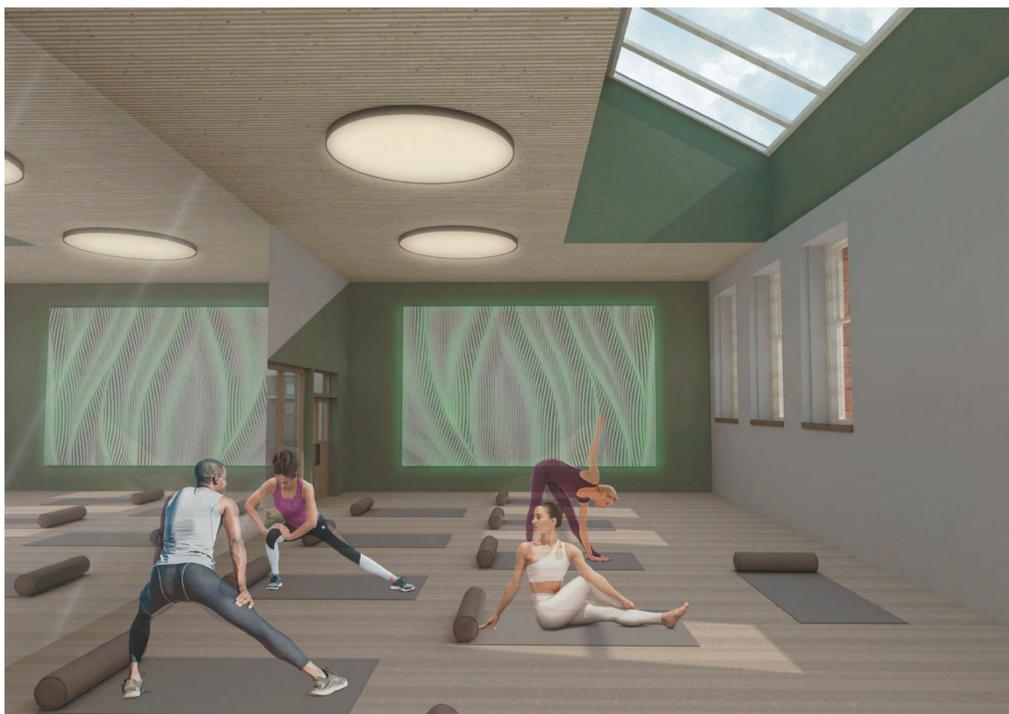
.visual of library space



.visual of proposed redesign of existing atrium



.visual of social cafe seating space



.visual of studio space



.visual of sensory space



.visual of raised allotments

serendipity : student wellness hub

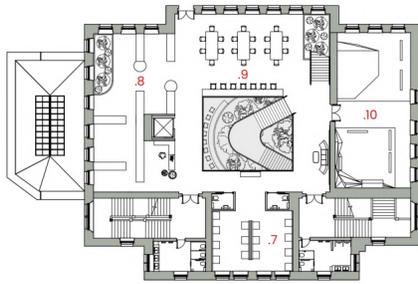
.the adaptation of the space | the plans

The four elements at the core of the concept - movement, social, mind and spirit - are purposefully not constrained to a floor each but mixed throughout to create a high energy atmosphere.

The mixed use of all the levels encourages the users to interact with other activities in a visual manner as well as increasing the opportunity of random meetings as the users travel between spaces.

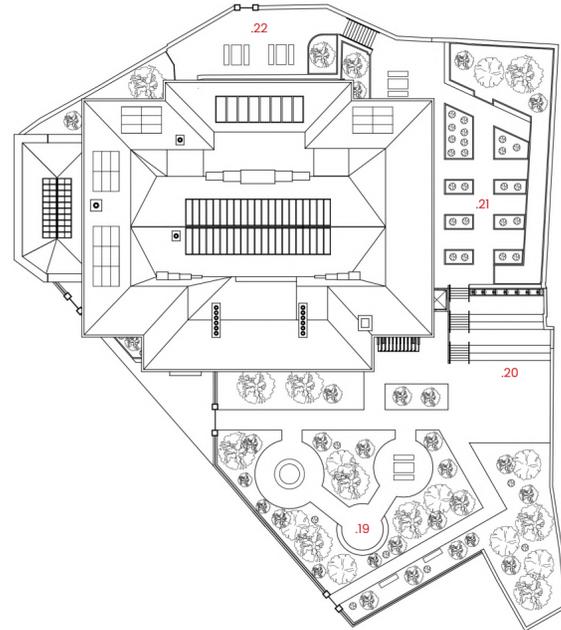
Accessibility was also a major part of the design process to ensure that all users had access to every space and have equal opportunity to engage. The lift that has been proposed will ensure connection through all levels as well as ramps that have been added to the existing entrances to ensure ease of access.

Extending the void through the first level as well as introducing a double height space creates the feeling of openness and promotes connectivity.



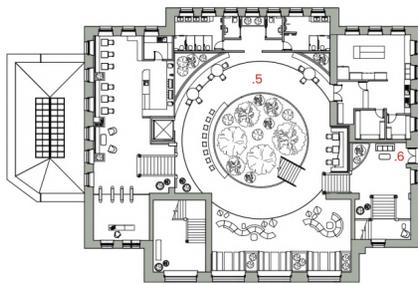
first level plan

- 7 | .gallery space
- 8 | .library space
- 9 | .group study space
- 10 | .rock climbing studio



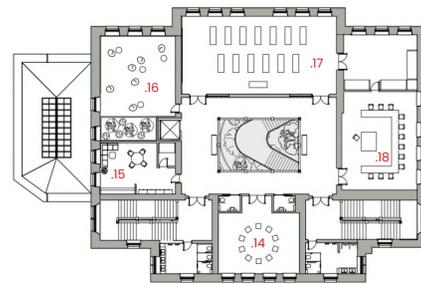
.outdoor space plan

- 19 | .city park
- 20 | .amphitheatre
- 21 | .allotments
- 22 | .seating area



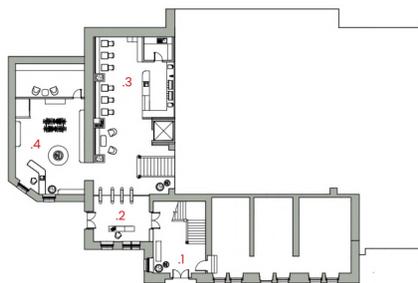
.upper ground plan

- 5 | .social seating
- 6 | .access to allotments



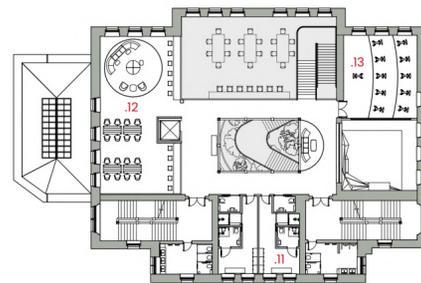
.third level plan

- 14 | .therapy space
- 15 | .staff room
- 16 | .sensory space
- 17 | .fitness studio
- 18 | .workshop



.lower ground plan

- 1 | .main entrance
- 2 | .reception
- 3 | .glen cafe
- 4 | .community shop



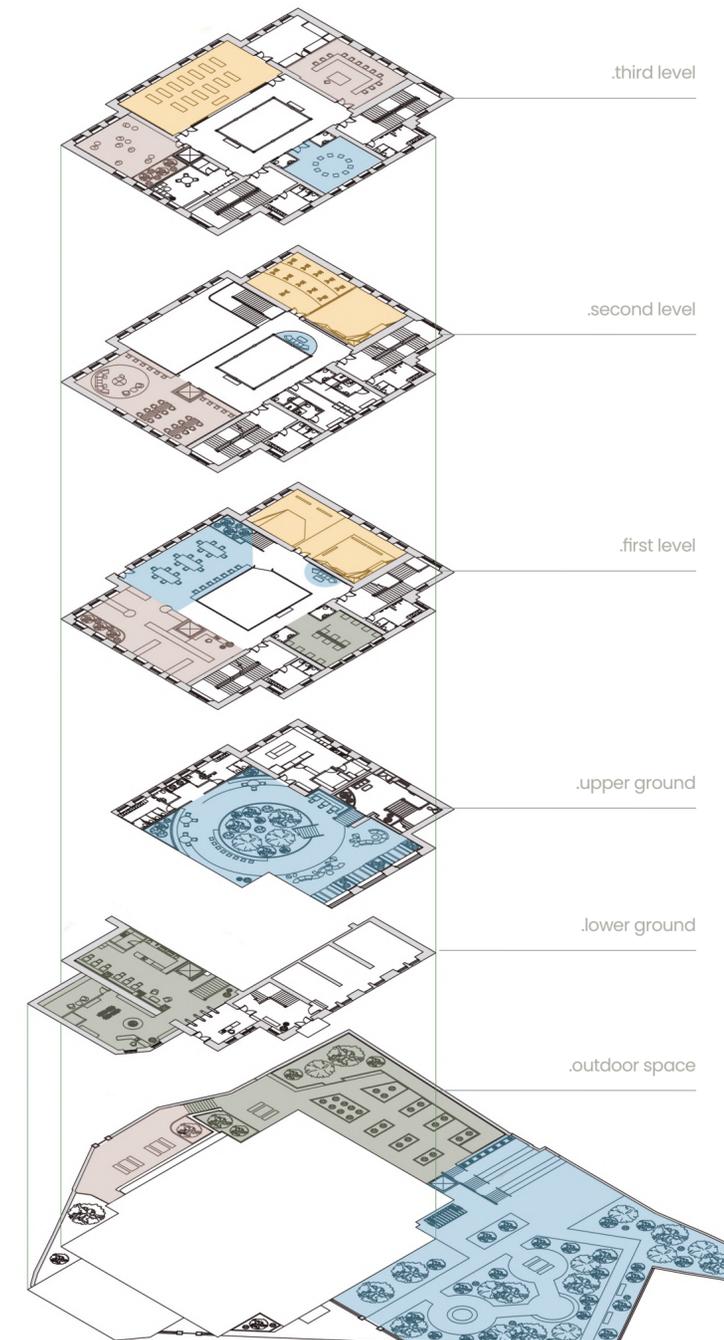
.second level plan

- 11 | .changing rooms
- 12 | .quiet study space
- 13 | .spin class studio

.final proposed plans | 1:500



.isometric of proposed building



.exploded isometric of proposed plan zoning | 1:500

- .movement
- .social
- .spirit
- .mind

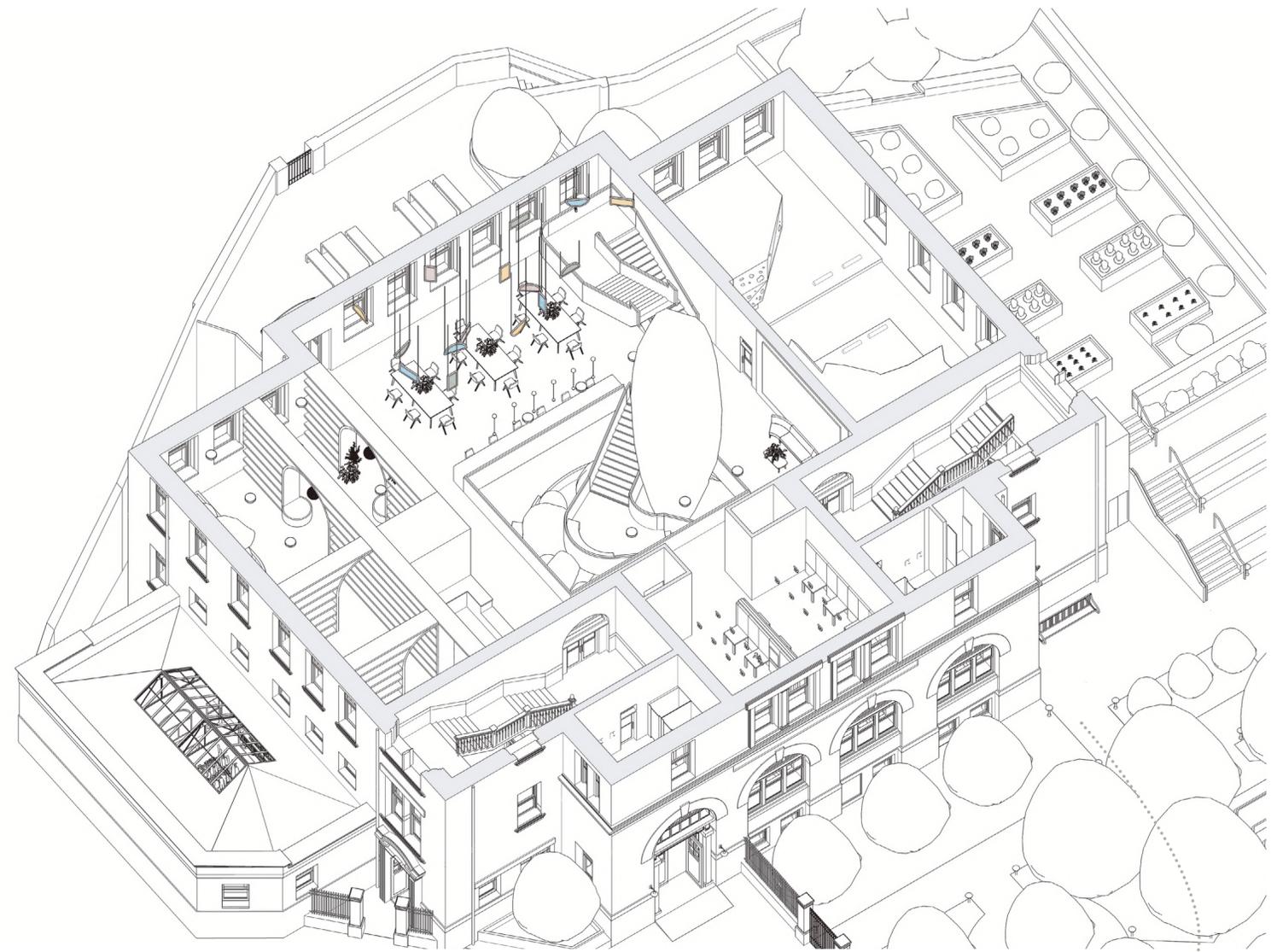
.the heart of the space | reconnection

Human connection is the soul of this project.

With keen interest I decided to focus on the heart of this project – the reconnection and socialisation of students experienced through the physical centre of this project: the oasis and atrium that acts as the connection point through all the levels of the building.



.collage section



.first level isometric

As a final output for this proposal I have produced a physical scale model that conceptually conveys the introduction of natural elements to my proposal. Using clear acrylic enabled me to show the layout of the interior space as well as showing the old structure of the exterior architecture - the contrast between the old and new, maintaining the history of the building. The acrylic allows you to see the central tree growing through the building - connecting all the spaces together. This model plays a key part in conveying the concept proposal as a whole as it shows the changes that have been made and also shows how the space is interacted with.

I also created a short GIF of three isometrics of my space that provides a visual aid of how this void space introduces a experientiality and connection for the user.



Please scan this QR code or follow link to access video of the short isometric GIF:

Youtube Link:
[Serendipitous Connection GIF](#)



.images of final scale model | scale 1:200