

HIGHLIFE

A Spatial Knot Tying the Community to the Coastline

Highlife is a rejuvenation project of North Berwick Harbour aiming to revitalize the historic site, bringing new life to the area, and creating a more accessible, vibrant and collaborative waterfront destination.

At the heart of the project is the new walkway, which has been inspired by the captivating forms of sailing knots and sails. The design houses a communal hub which redefines the coastal landscape, offering a range of amenities and attractions for visitors and local residents alike. Inside the hub there is a local restaurant and art gallery in an open space with panoramic views of the old harbour and North Berwick's coastline. In addition to the community hub the walkway design also incorporates a tidal saltwater lido, thoughtfully designed to blend in with the surrounding landscape.

The rejuvenation project also includes improvements to the harbour infrastructure, making the sea more accessible to boats, to benefit local clubs and harbour users. Improved boat storage frees space for the community and clubs to collaborate in a market area, pavilion and changing and meeting rooms for clubs and charities. The walkway also showcases innovative design through its implementation of wind powered seating pods which shelters moves according to the wind direction, making the space more accessible in all weathers.

KNOT-ICAL FEATURES OF WALKWAY



COMMUNAL HUB
LOBSTER SHACK RESTAURANT
AND ART EXHIBITION SPACE



DINGHY PARK
MARKET AREA, PAVILION,
CHANGING ROOMS, LOBSTER
HATCHERY.



BOATING FACILITIES
BOAT MOORING POINT AND
LAUNCH PAD



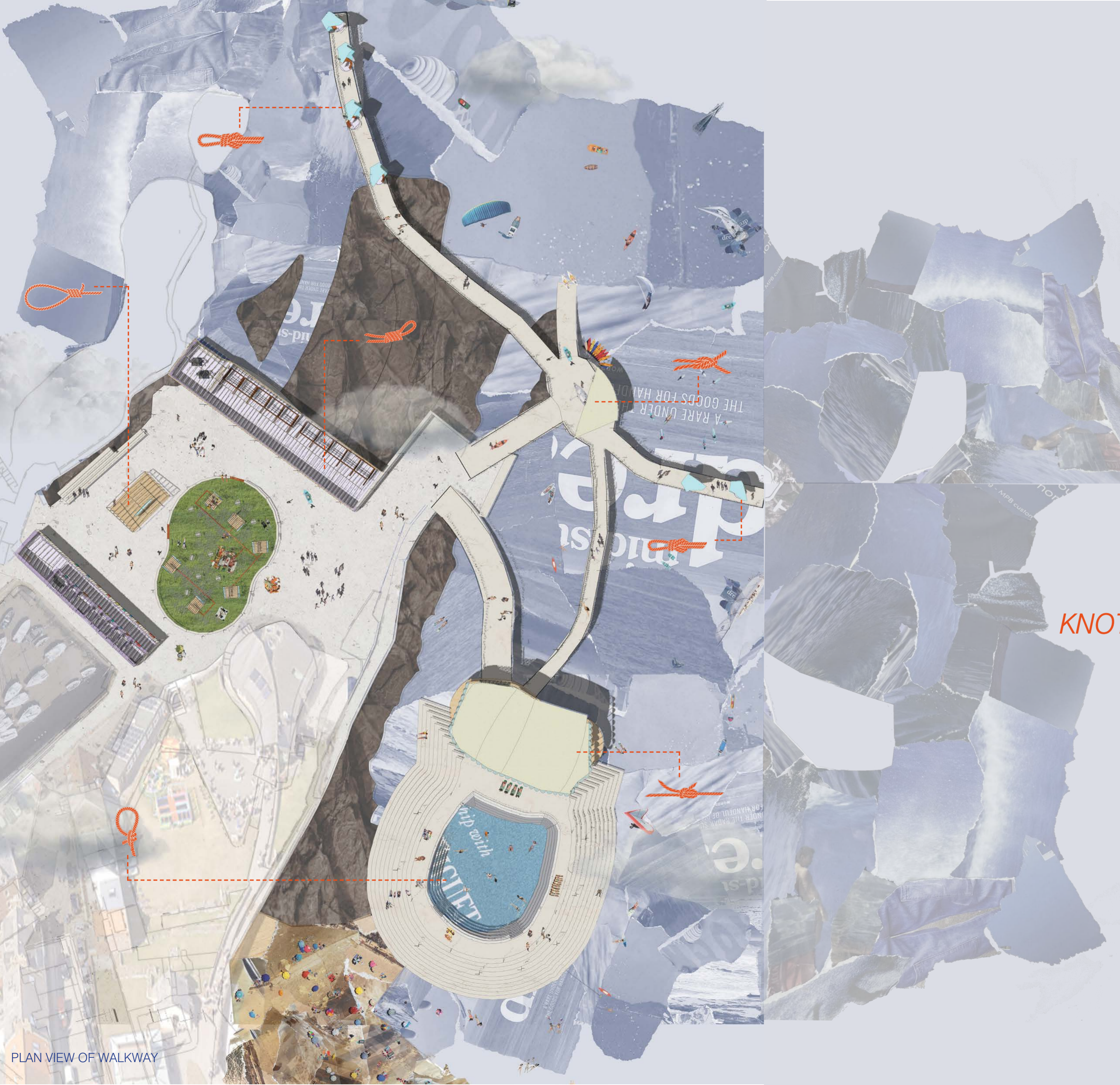
**WIND ALTERED
SEATING PODS**



CLUB HOUSE
CLUB AND CHARITY MEETING
ROOMS, DINGHY STORAGE



TIDAL LIDO



PLAN VIEW OF WALKWAY

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION THROUGHOUT DESIGN PROCESS

Throughout the design process I interviewed different harbour users such as local business owners, club members and charity volunteers to gain information on what they thought was needed in the new harbour design. This gave me direction regarding improvements that could be made to create a space that catered for all harbour users.



STIRLING STEWART
OWNER AND SQUADRE OF
SCOTTIE'S RESTAURANT
AND LOBBY SNACK
BARBON TRIST BENSEK.

"It is a community asset and people should have the opportunity to use it more. In the long term I don't think that parts of the harbour as it stands has a future. I think there's a tremendous scope to redevelop parts of the Harbour to make it more community based and make it more accessible for people."



Ross Hetherington
Harbour Master
North Berwick Harbour

The harbour has changed so much since I started here. It went from a harbour to an attraction.



Art Hut Ladies

"For smooth running of our huts we require electricity which we do not currently have access to."



Bryony Birch
Beach Wheelchair Volunteer

There are lots of things for port users that would be beneficial, we have the basics but as you can see wheelchair users can see the boats in the harbour but can't see the sea.



John Irvine
Member of North Berwick Rowing Club



Alison
Member of North Berwick Rowing Club

"As a club we lack facilities that would benefit the running of our club such as a boat house and equipment storage."

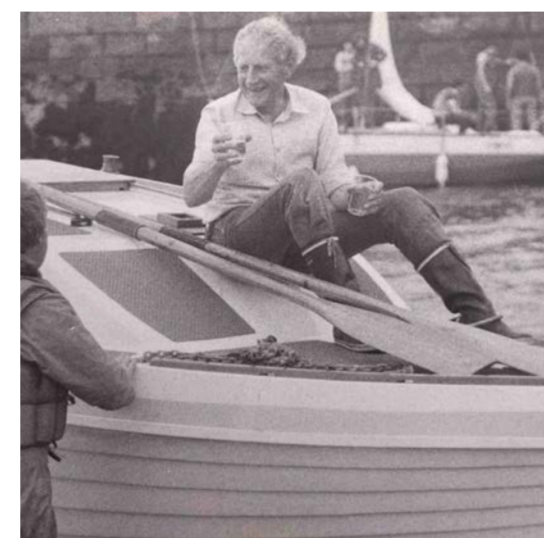


Len Hetherington
Director
North Berwick Harbour Trust
Association

I believe the harbour + its surrounds are the heart of the community.... It's North Berwick's Focal Point... People naturally migrate towards it from the town.... It's more than a place for boats to be safe from the Stormy Sea... in fact It's the place for ~~boats~~ everyone to Just Be!

PERSONAL CONNECTION TO PROJECT

CHILDHOOD PICTURES AND MEMORIES



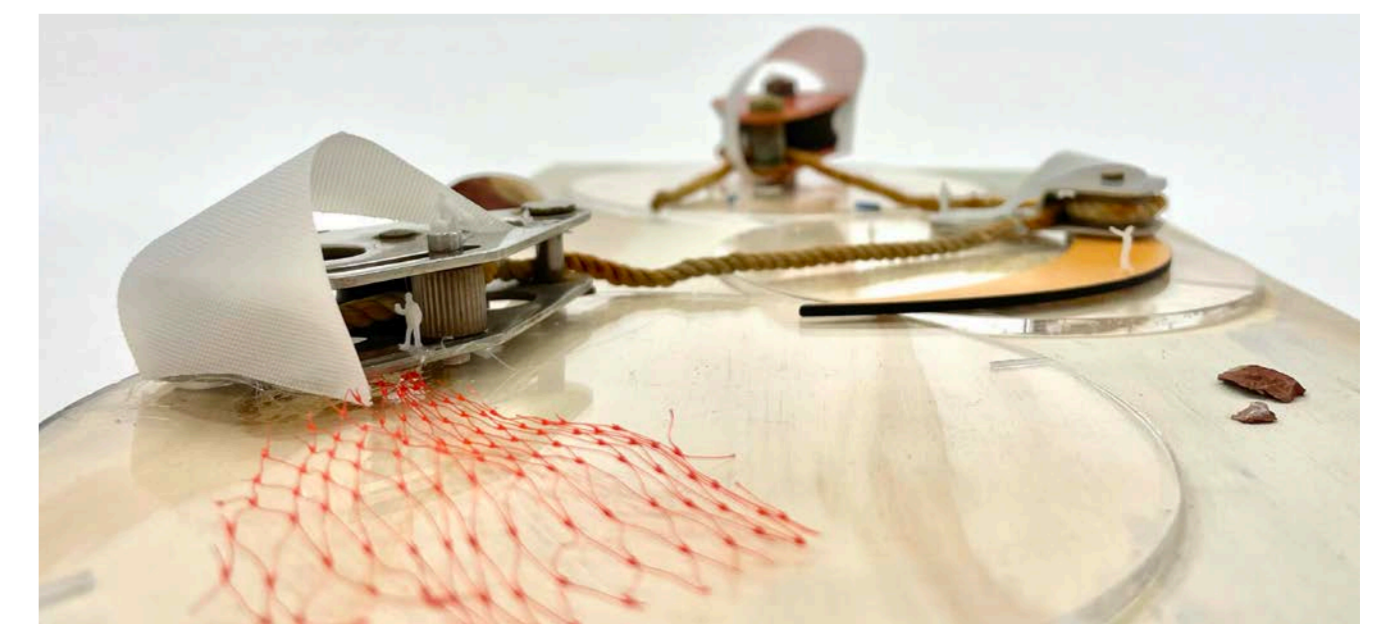
MY HOBBIES... are to swim in warm water, sail, art and build with my dad.

Throughout my childhood North Berwick was a second home. My dad grew up in its waters sailing every opportunity he had. This led to me gaining sea legs from the age of 5, going down to visit my grandparents every weekend. The highlight of my week was a sail, taken out on the water by my Papa on his beloved boat Highlife. This allowed me to have my own primary research on the site as I have experienced issues first hand as a harbour user.



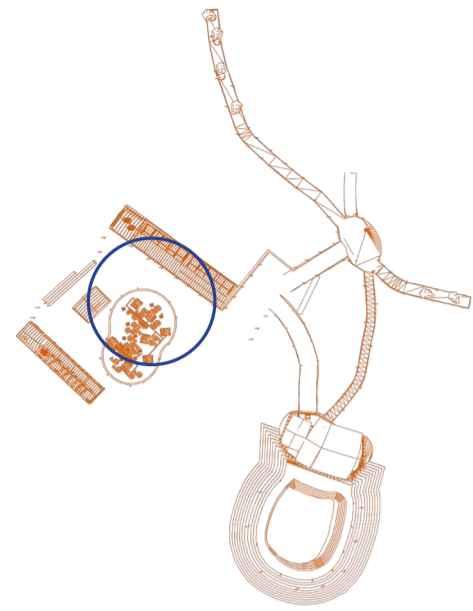
PAPA'S TOOL BOX

I used my papas tool box as one of the main inspirations for the design process, exploring his own hand made pullies as spaces through sketches and models.



SKETCH MODEL AND COLLAGES EXPLORING PULLIES

1. DINGHY PARK



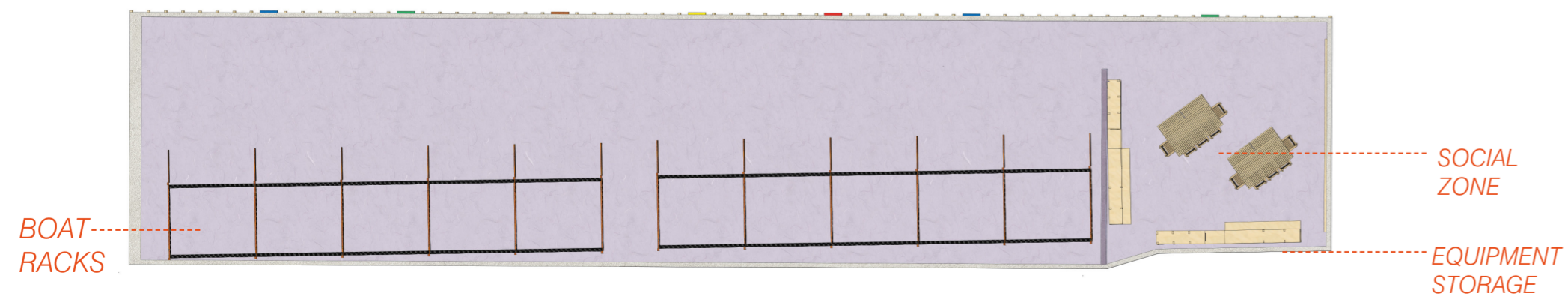
Improved boat storage frees space in the dinghy park for a local market area, pavilion and changing and meeting rooms for clubs and charity's. This provides a new vibrant destination for more community based collaboration to happen.

The collaboration of facilities in the redesign of the existing structures caters to the needs of different club members, providing both functional and social spaces that encourages members of different clubs to bond.



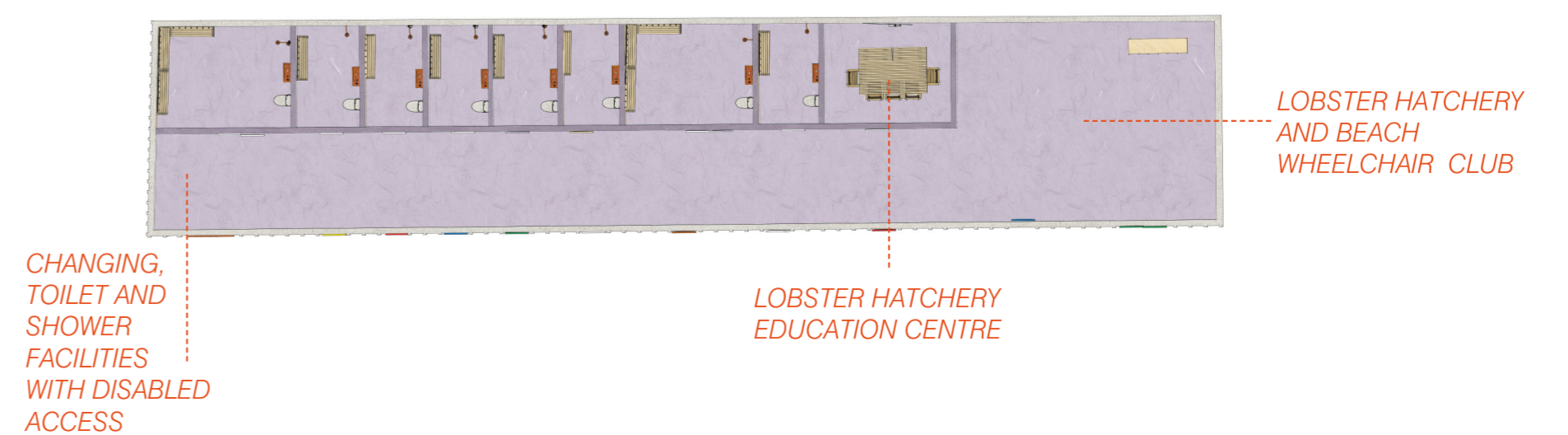
CLUB HOUSE

The club house offers dedicated racks to accommodate boats, paddle boards, rowing boats and kayaks to ensure equipment remains organised and protected. There are communal social spaces for all club members to socialise along with shared equipment storage.



HARBOUR HOUSE

The harbour house offers public changing room facilities along with toilets and showers which have disabled access. This space is where the harbours resident charities are housed: the lobster hatchery and beach wheelchair club.



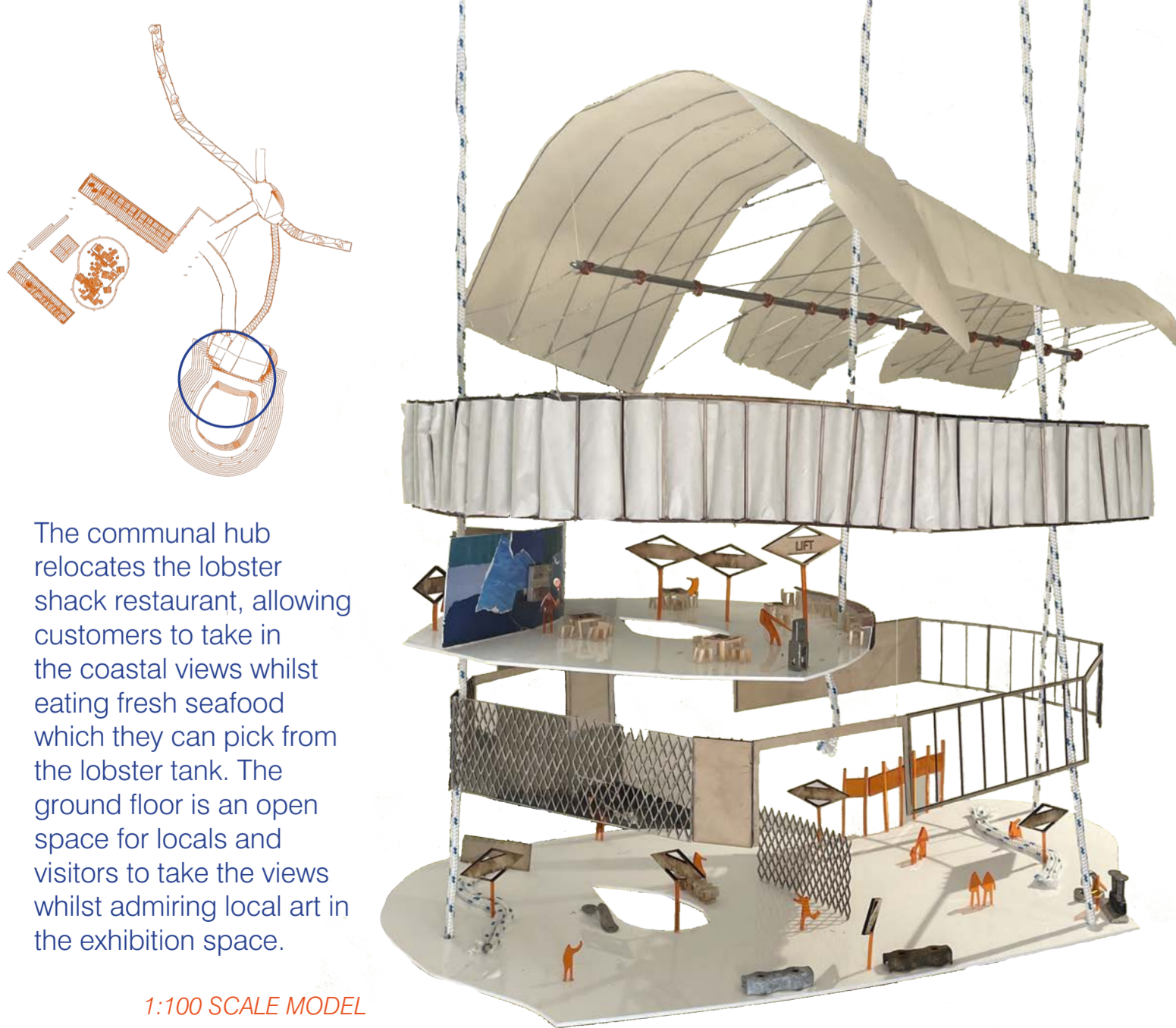
2. COMMUNAL HUB



LOBSTER SHACK RESTAURANT



INTERIOR GROUND FLOOR AND ART EXHIBITION SPACE



The communal hub relocates the lobster shack restaurant, allowing customers to take in the coastal views whilst eating fresh seafood which they can pick from the lobster tank. The ground floor is an open space for locals and visitors to take the views whilst admiring local art in the exhibition space.

1:100 SCALE MODEL



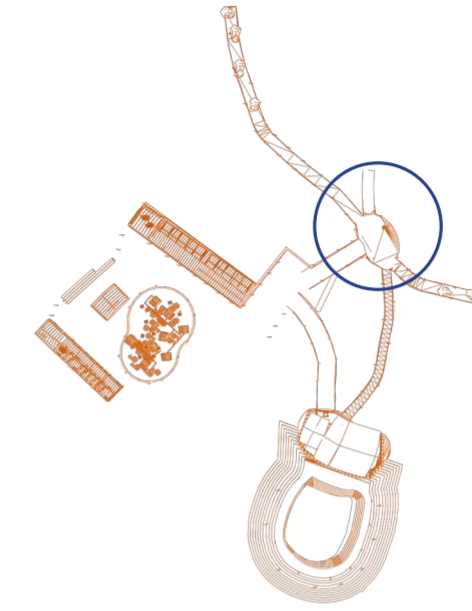
SALTWATER TIDAL LIDO

COMMUNAL HUB

STEPS ENABLING PEOPLE TO ACCESS POOL WHEN SWIMMING IN THE SEA

STRUCTURAL CONCRETE SUPPORT PILLARS

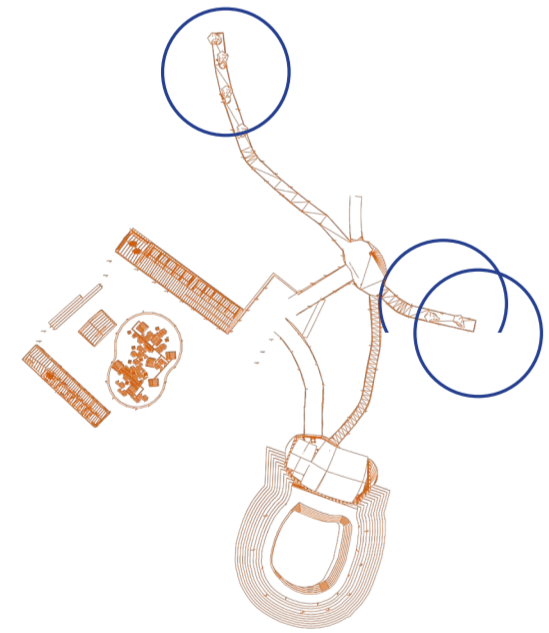
3. BOAT MOORING POINT



COLLAGE EXPLORING SAIL BOAT WIRES AND SAILS

A new boat mooring point on the walkway allows members from different clubs to rig up their boats and access the water easier by the integrated launch pad.

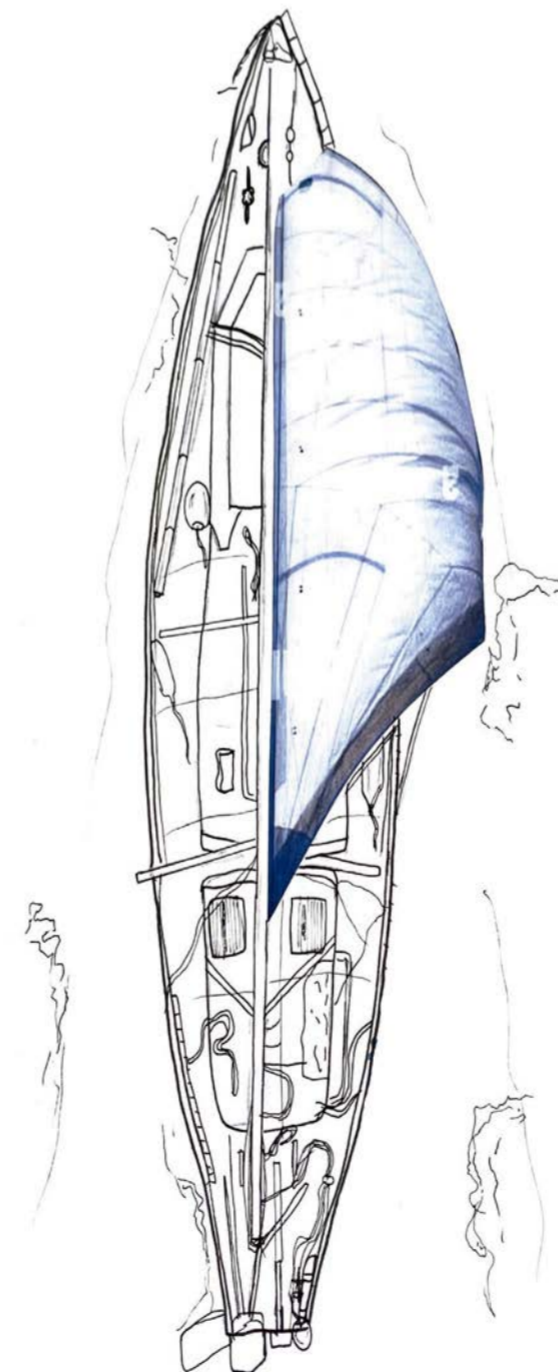
4. WIND ALTERING PODS



The seating pods bases are supported by a series of wheels and bearings that allow it to rotate 360 degrees. The wind vane attached to the back uses the wind to power the movement to provide the correct shelter protection to suit the weather, making the seats functional in all weathers.



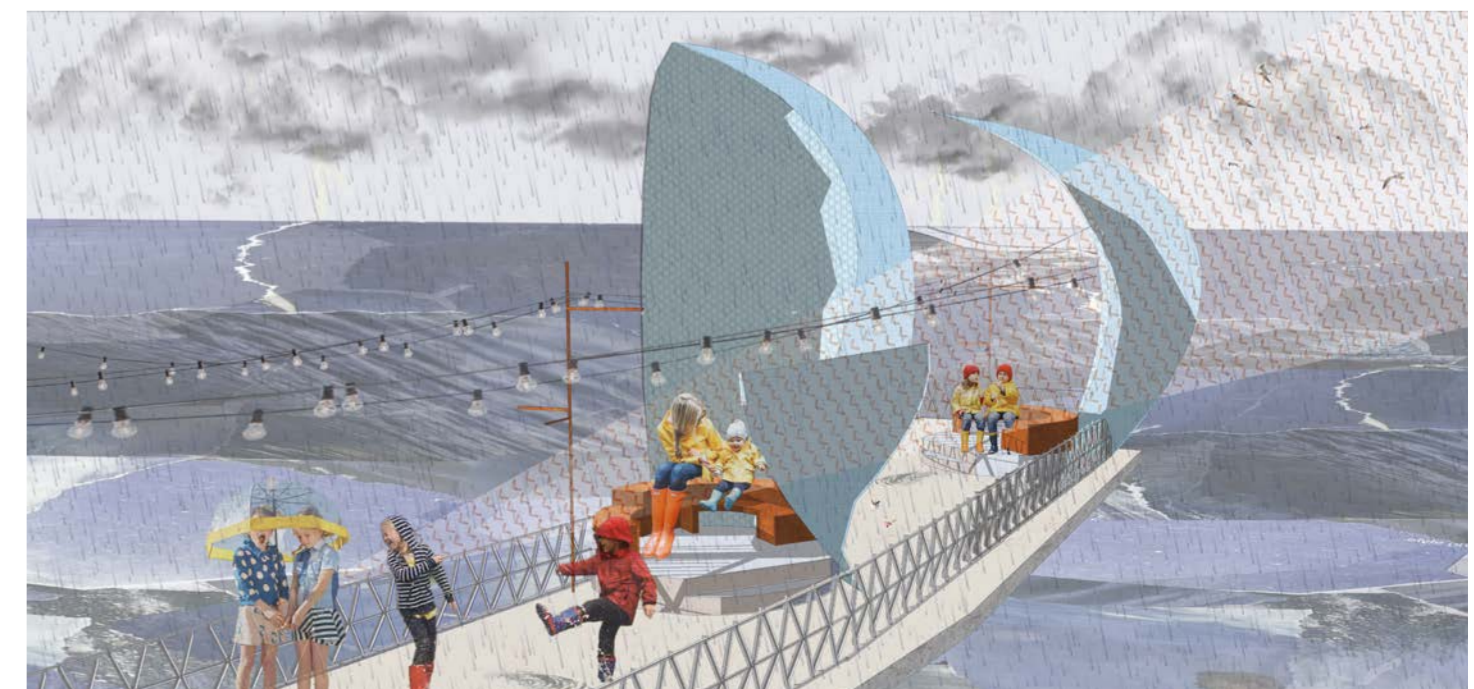
SKETCH MODEL



COLLAGE EXPLORING THE SHAPES SAILS MAKE IN THE WATER



POD IN GOOD WEATHER



POD IN BAD WEATHER