



# nine works.

Inspired by Dundee's nine trades – a space that connects industry and arts.



nine works concept video: [view here](#)

project magazine publication: [view here](#)

Nine Works is a multi-disciplinary workspace for communities to connect, create and collaborate. After research and engagement with the historical Nine Trades of Dundee (the nine key trades established in the sixteenth century to supply the city and its wider community), nine new trades were identified that uphold traditional values of expertise and craftsmanship and represent Dundee today. Re-imagined and reinvigorated, these new nine trades are committed to sharing knowledge and ideas between disciplines and the wider community in a creative and collaborative way.

Occupying the derelict Queen Victoria Works – a former flax mill constructed in the early 1800s, and once the world's oldest operating jute mill – Nine Works inhabits a cluster of buildings, spread across a 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> site. Each trade has its own specific space, while the overall design aims to foster cross-pollination of ideas and methods of working.

This proposal embraces the existing industrial materiality of the site, creating a strong link to its origins through the physicality of making, and a celebration of the diverse range of skills and crafts Dundee has been built on.

In today's 'throw away' society, excessive consumption puts a huge strain on materials and production. Nine Works aims to encourage people to consider the importance of making and mending, whilst highlighting a more sustainable approach to the way we treat the materials in the world around us.

# primary research.

## the original nine trades of dundee.

The Nine Trades of Dundee date back to the 16th century, although records of separate corporate trade bodies stem from the early 1300's. The nine trades were made up of the main trading bodies that supplied goods to the city and employed a large proportion of the population. They also looked out for the interests of the ordinary citizen during a time of self-perpetuating councils. Because of this, they were regularly at odds with the council who didn't agree with the force of the strong bargaining group.



- 01  
bakers
- 02  
cordiners
- 03  
glovers
- 04  
tailors
- 05  
bonnetmakers
- 06  
fleshers
- 07  
hammermen
- 08  
weavers
- 09  
dyers

The Baker, or Baxter, Trade as it was originally known, has always been first in the order of precedence of the Crafts.

Membership in the past was mainly restricted to people having some connection with the Trade, either directly or through marriage or ancestors, although exceptions were made from time to time. However, this is no longer the case and new members from all backgrounds and interests are made very welcome.

Many famous people were Masters of the Baker Trade over the years. Perhaps the most famous of the Honorary Masters was Winston Churchill when he was MP for Dundee in 1909.

Cordiners, derived from Cordwainers, are the present day Shoemakers or Cobblers. The Cordiner Trade was quite large, with some 35 Masters in 1634. However, with a population of between 4,000 and 6,000 souls, this would imply that each Cordiner would be supplying footwear for about 115 to 170 people.

Today there are no members of the craft making shoes and all their efforts are devoted to carrying out charity work.

The earliest reference to Skinners comes from Edinburgh where there was an obligation to support their altar there. This was in 1450 and although records of the Dundee skinners are not available until their seal of Cause in January 1516, there is every reason to believe that they were organised even before that date.

In the early 1500s there was constant trouble with local people, because some skinners, in making their tan pits, had spoiled and diverted the water from their neighbours' well and there were many actions because of this. In 1661 the name of the craft was changed from Skinner to Glover Craft.

In the 1500s there were no erratic changes in the fashion of garments, yet, as their business was to make the clothes of women as well as men, the Tailors formed a large craft and normally followed their calling in the houses of their customers, but were also found in their own workshops.

Around 1946 Reform Street was then the 'Saville Row of Dundee', there being well over a dozen tailors working there. Tailors at that time would be seen going to work wearing morning tails and silk hats.

The Tailor Trade is still carrying on the charitable work which was one of the main purposes of its formation.

Dundee was the first Scottish Burgh to have a Bonnetmaker Craft. No Dundee bonnet exists today and there are no accurate descriptions. However we do know Dundee bonnets were black, usually worn by the middle classes, or blue, for the working classes.

A likely reason why there are no Dundee bonnets left is because they were not worn by the Nobles, only by the working classes. They were handed down from father to son until they literally fell to pieces.

The Bonnetmakers Craft had proved to be the natural home for Dundee citizens working in the fields of Medicine, Law and Accountancy among many others in the business community.

The Flesher Trade rarely had more than between ten and twenty Masters. It may well be that because of their small numbers, or perhaps because they were always struggling to keep themselves solvent. As with the other Trades the Flesher Craft tended to be dominated by the same families.

Indeed even today, despite the advent of Superstores, there are a number of thriving family businesses with connections to the Flesher Trade going back several generations.

In a town as important as Dundee where gold and silver ornaments were worn on belts and used for buckles, there were a good many Goldsmiths and Silversmiths in the Craft. More than thirty crafts figure in the Hammerman records.

In the 16th and 17th Century Dundee guns were famous all over Europe and were much sought after. A high proportion of the Trade between 1587 and 1620 were Gunmakers with the Ramsay and Alison families featuring prominently.

One of the famous Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, The Weavers is a community organisation which can trace its origins back to 1512.

Originally, the Weavers regulated the textile trade in Dundee, firstly woollen and later flax (linen) cloth, the forerunner of the famous jute industry in the City. By coming together Master Weavers could control who had right to weave and sell cloth within the burgh and ensure that cloth was of a proper standard. Equally, they provided apprenticeships to ensure their skills and knowledge were passed on to the next generation.

The Dyer Incorporation into the Nine Trades was in 1693, now the Craft continues to increase its membership whilst maintaining the integrity of its original aims and objectives.

Towards the end of the 17th Century, the Dyers formed links with the Waulker Craft, who were Fullers or Finishers of the cloth which was made in Dundee. At the time, the Waulkers were the ninth of the nine trades.

As the textile industry receded in Dundee, so did the working members of the craft until in 1996, only a few remained.

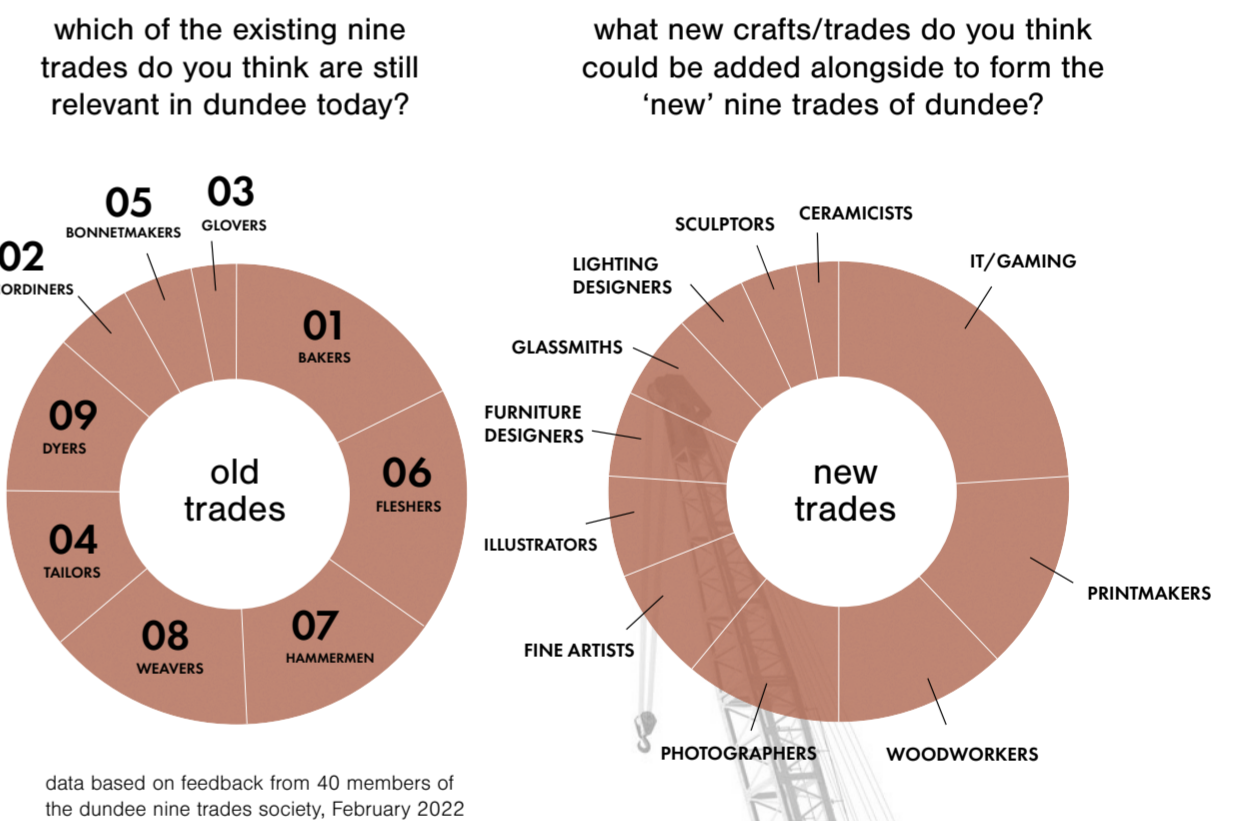
## design engagement.

In order to gain invaluable primary research into the nine trades, I met with John Fyffe, a member of the weavers trade and a trustee of the nine trades. I was keen to find out about the role of the nine trades in Dundee today; how do you become a member, how often do they meet and what their duties involved historically as well as in the present day. I also pitched my concept and got helpful feedback about other schemes and deals that I could use to help bolster my proposal, some of these are outlined on this spread.



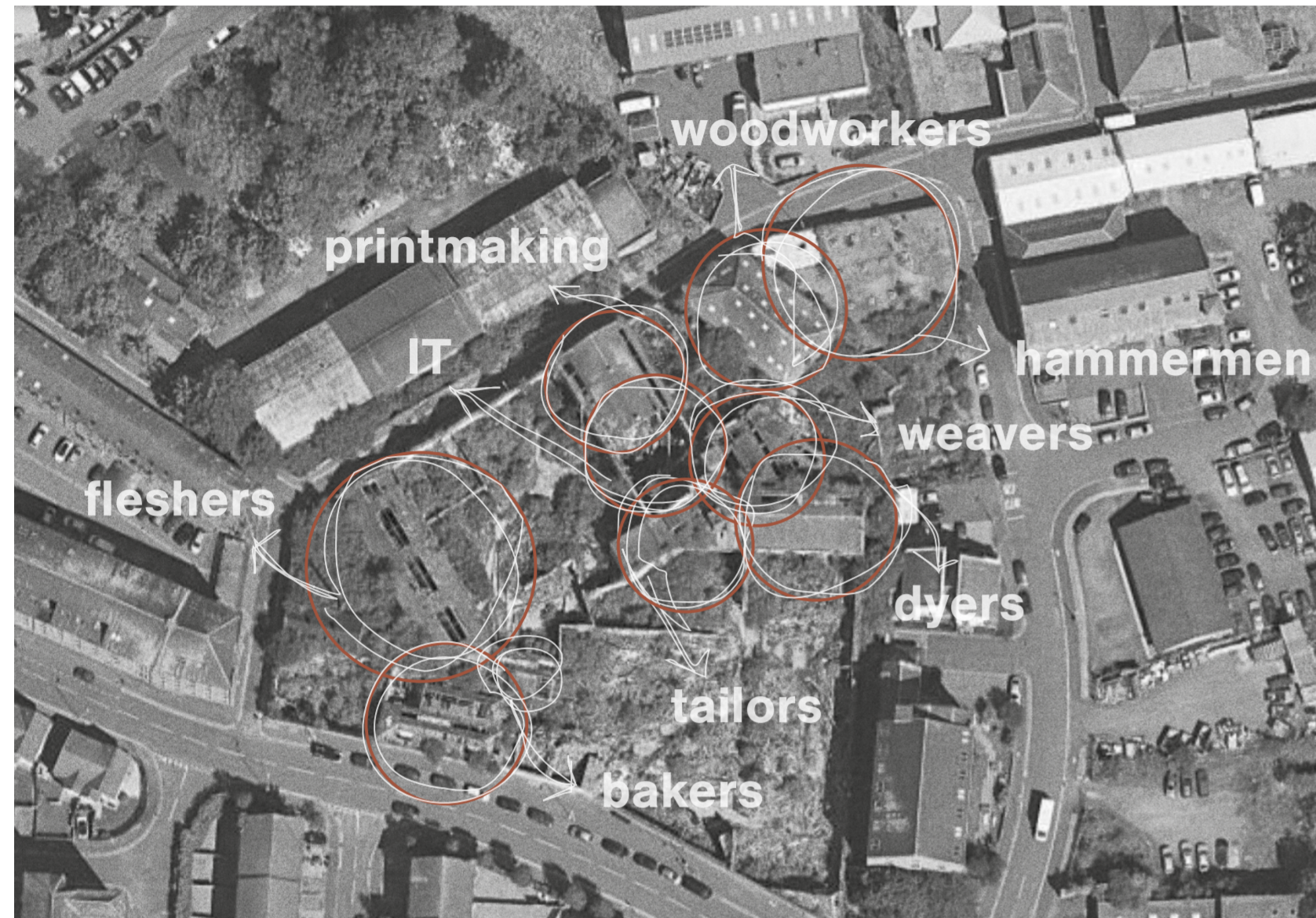
**JOHN FYFFE**  
Trustee, Dundee bairns and nine trades  
Deacon weaver incorporation Dundee

“ I think there would be lots of people in Dundee with these skills. Dundee used to be a pretty big industrial city when I was growing up so the skill set, the folk at my age and a bit younger, have still got these skills. Nowadays there's nobody manufacturing in Dundee, its disappeared. ”



“ People who are artisans and have got something to give back would be keen and there would be lots of people in Dundee with these skills. ”

# concept development.



zoning diagram

## 01 bakers

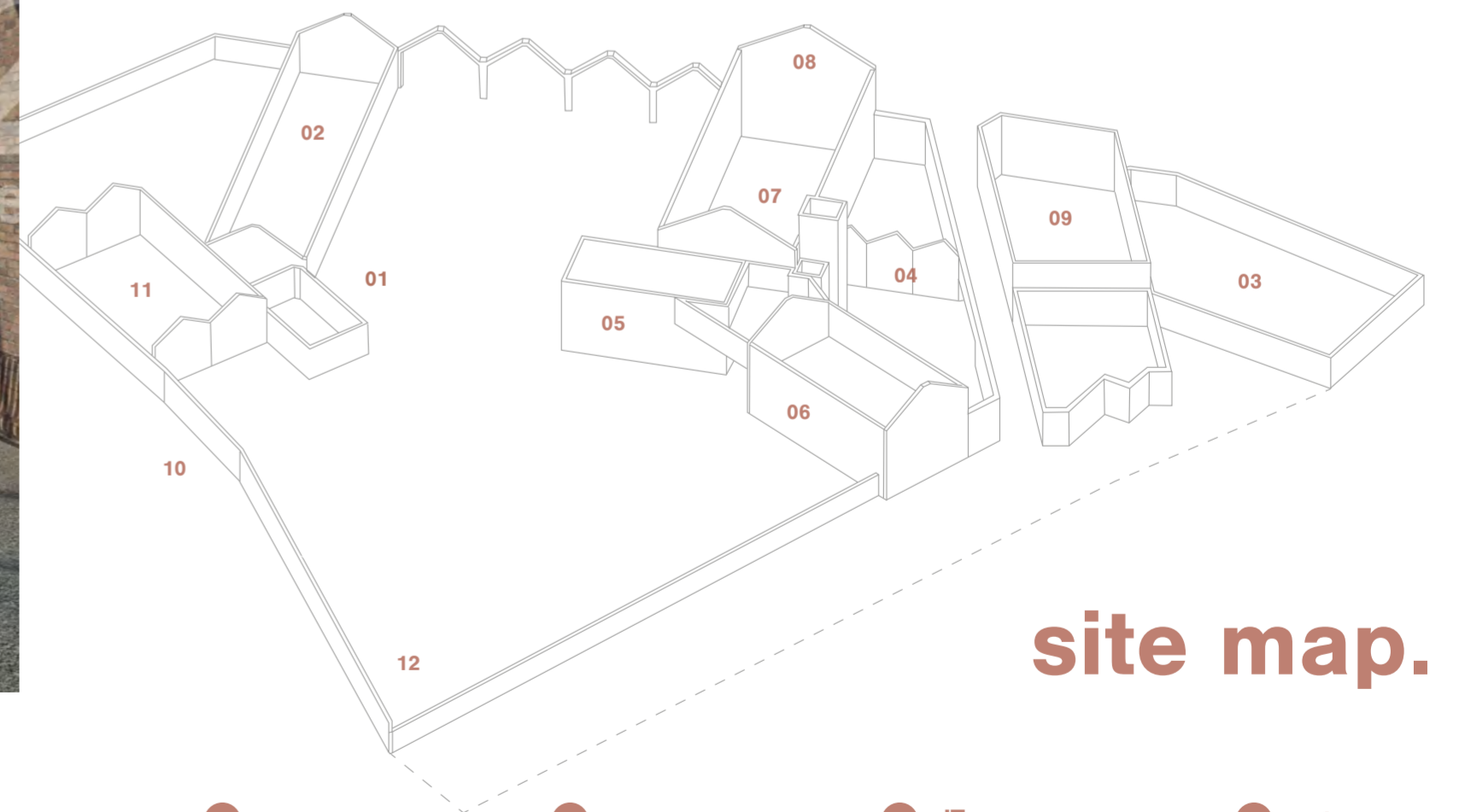


The bakers trade occupies the smaller building, sandwiched between the cafe and fashers trade. These three buildings are closest to the main entrance from Brook Street and make up the 'food quarter' of the site. They are positioned in a way that allows easy transportation of goods between each of the buildings and act as a first point of contact for visitors to the site. The bakers building will act as a bakery school, teaching traditional skills with the goods being sold in the cafe and market. The glass fronted space allows visitors to see what's going on whilst the hatch breaks the barrier between the inside and outside.

## 02 fashers



Filling the long factory building, that connects the north and south entrances is the fashers market. Its proximity to the open courtyard space allows for expansion of the market stalls and the glass roof and side wall allow light to flood into the space. The fashers building also features an exoskeleton like structure that spans the width of the courtyard, connecting to the roof of the printmakers. The inspiration for this framework was taken from a sketch model and is repeated in other areas of the site.

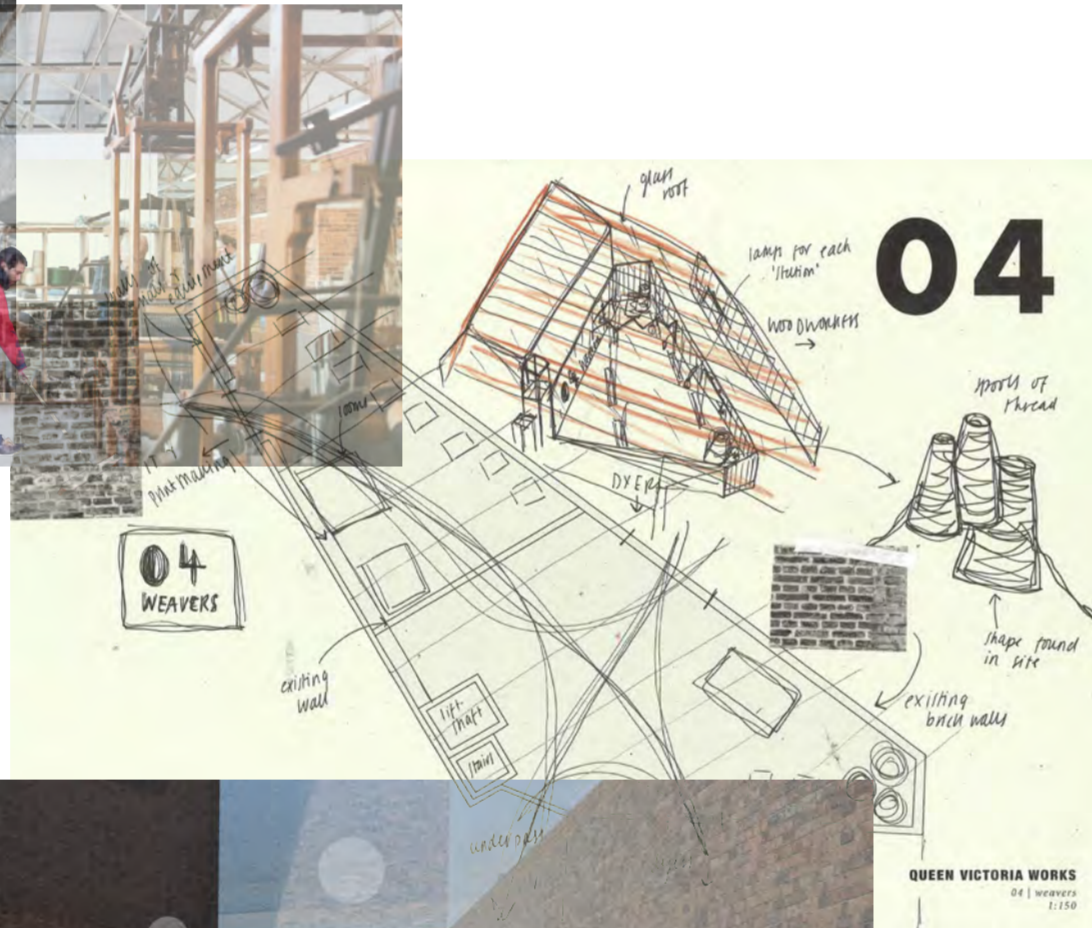
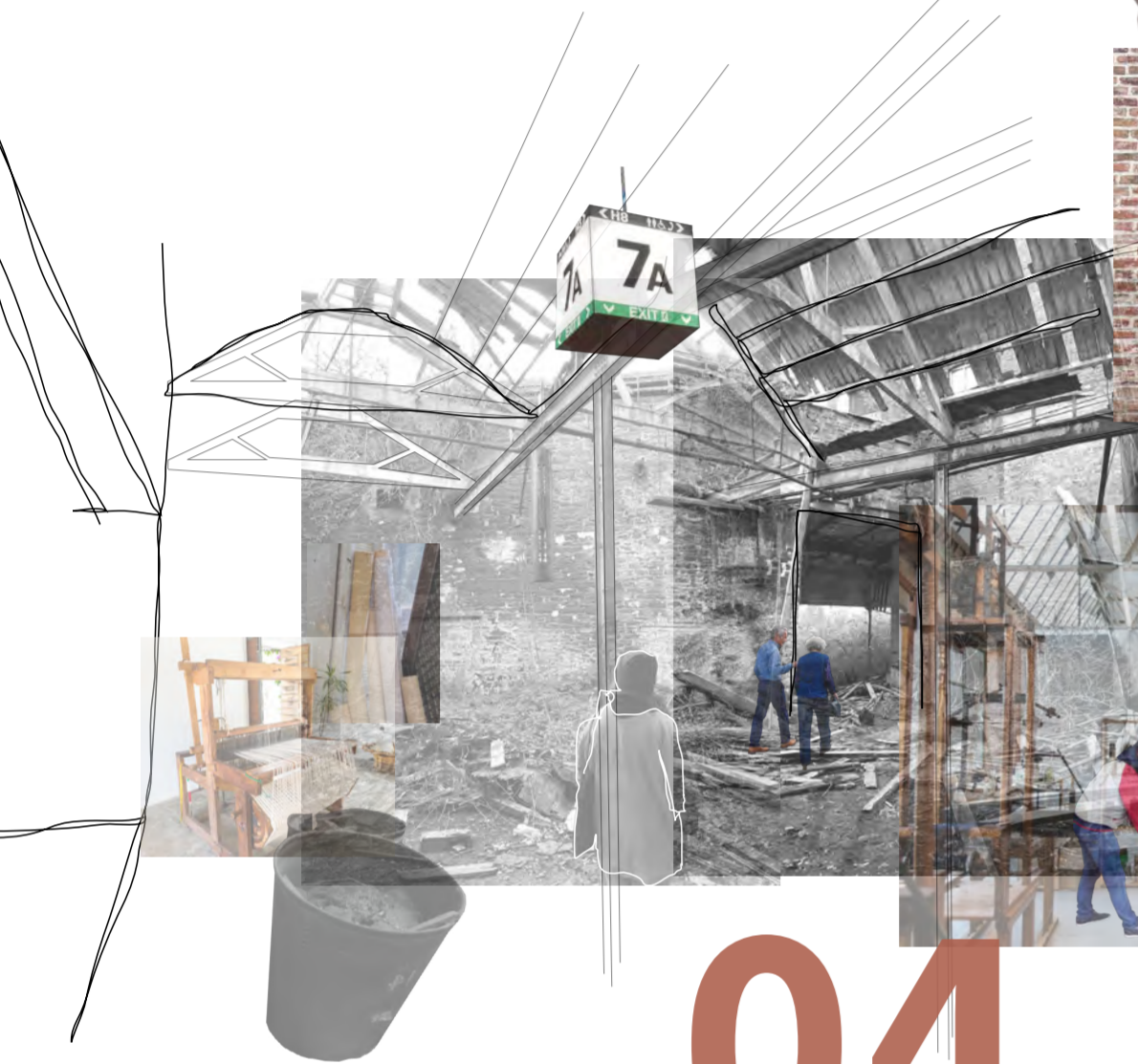


## site map.

- 01 bakers
- 02 fashers
- 03 hammermen
- 04 weavers
- 05 tailors
- 06 dyers
- 07 IT
- 08 printmakers
- 09 woodworkers
- 10 entrance
- 11 café FLAX
- 12 auditorium

# concept development.

Potentially the most well-known and historically significant trade, the weavers is located in the central overlap of the other trades, towards the east of the site. The weavers combines a celebration of the heritage and social impact of this trade whilst creating a vibrant and dynamic space to look to the future of this craft. The weavers are well connected to the other trades and due to the glass roof, are visible from other buildings too. The space will include looms that visitors, unlike most museums and galleries, are encouraged to interact with.



**04**  
weavers

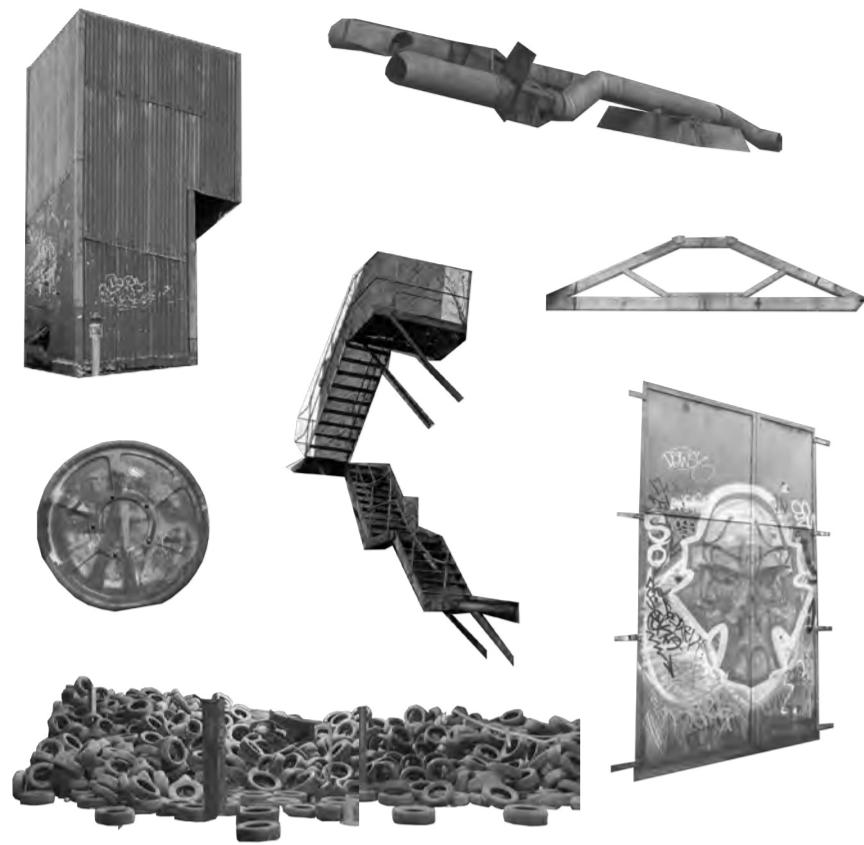


Inhabiting the lower floor of the spinning hall, a grand three storey building which dominates the site, IT is one of the new trades that has been supplemented alongside the existing nine trades. This space will encompass software design, graphics, technology and gaming. Although this trade represents an industry that historically has no real significance to Dundee, it portrays an emerging trade for the City. Dundee is known as the birthplace of the Scottish games industry and some of the world's biggest titles started here such as Grand Theft Auto. This space marks an important shift in the way we view the 'new' nine trades that represent Dundee, not just for their historical significance, but instead a way of looking to the future.



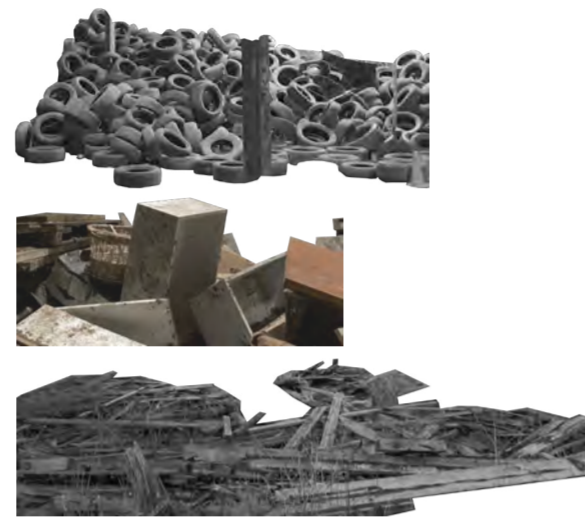
# materiality and model making.

existing visual language of the space



## reclaimed materials.

Making use of the piles and piles of architectural waste and abandoned materials on site was a notion that I was keen to incorporate into my designs. This was especially important as one of my main driving forces was a move towards a more circular economy in the built environment. To combat the excessive waste of these materials, I incorporated a stacked seating system made from gabions into my design, which would be filled with the scrap from the site, like bricks and rubble.



1:200 scale model.



## sketch modelling.



After finalising the nine existing and new trades to carry forward, and assigning a specific location on site to accommodate each of them, I began experimenting with forms. Using found materials from the site, I produced nine quick sketch models, each representing one of the new nine trades.



## concrete brick experiments.

