



A household is considered to be under the poverty line in the UK if their income is 60% below the median household income, and homelessness is an increasing problem due to the countries battle with poverty. The poverty cycle is the most vicious as once you're in it its incredibly hard to get out of; a child that grows up in poverty has less opportunities due to lack of education resulting in less opportunities for jobs. The lack of job in this worlds economy essentially means there's no chance, and people living under the poverty line struggle to find employment as they're situation doesn't always align with what or who a company wants to employ.

The Purpose centre is a place for these people to come and train/learn new skills that gives them the opportunity of employment. There will be workshops in repurposing furniture, clothes, and technology - all things that can be used for personal use or given to other homeless/poverty stricken people. There will also be onsite accommodation, laundry, shower/toilet facilities and a restaurant for the target audience to use at their will regardless of their situation or if they're training in the workshops. The purpose centre will work with charities and companies that are willing to help fund and give jobs and opportunities to the users of the centre.



'OVERCOMING POVERTY ISN'T A GESTURE OF CHARITY. IT IS THE PROTECTION OF A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT, THE RIGHT TO DIGNITY AND A DECENT LIFE.'

- NELSON MANDELA

Leicester is one of the oldest cities in the UK, dating back 2000 years and is rich in history. Also being the 10th biggest city in the UK, it is home to many from different backgrounds and cultures. The Purpose Centre is nestled in the heart of the city and can be found at 31 Granby Street, a building rich with its own history. Built in 1872 by famous Leicester Architect Joseph Goddard to be the midland bank and a bank it remained until 2011 when the building was converted into a hindu temple.

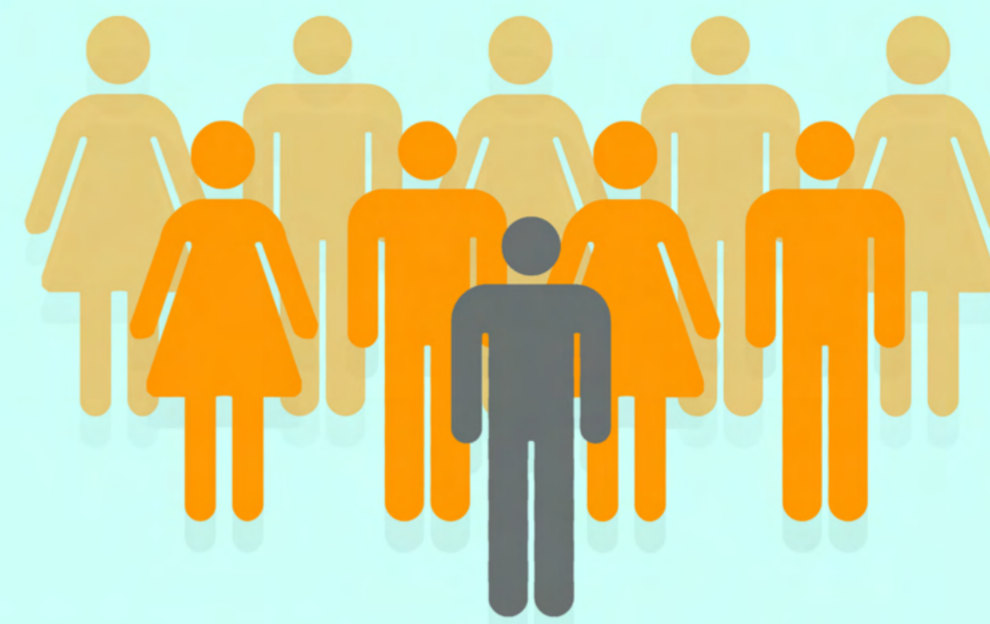
31 Granby Street is a short 8 minute walk to both the bus station and the train station, and a 6 minute walk to the highcross and haymarket shopping centres, proving to be a place with a high footfall and easy to gain the attention of those who need it most.

THE ISSUE



Just like much of the world, Leicester is home to the stereotypes and stigma towards those whose may find themselves in a position of being without a home. That being that the homelessness cycle is easy to escape.

To name a few of the more prevalent reasons as to why its a hard cycle to escape - the modern world that we live in is vastly ran by technology and without acces to that, it can be hard to find employment and/or housing. A lack of a home address is also a blockage to those trying to escape the cycle. Many employers require a home address so that they can employ you, but as someone without a home, where do you get that?



1/10

9.3% of Leicesters population is suffering with living deprivation, which is classed as someone who lacks the financial resources to meet their living needs.

This equates to **1 in 10** of Leicesters population, 1 in 10 people are living in poverty, regardless of the fact that the city centre is one of the least deprived areas of leicester for employment.

165%

Homelessness legally defined in the UK 'is that a household has no home in the UK or anywhere else in the world available and reasonable to occupy'. The number of rough sleepers have increased by **165%** since 2010 to 4,677. The official statistic states that around every 1 in 200 people will find themselves without a home.

Homelessness can actually become a comfort for some people who have been in the cycle for some time, they see life differently and sometimes don't believe that you need all the expenses that owning a home can bring. It's often the case that people get 'good at being homeless' and the way of life it can bring, and the thought of leaving the cycle and way of life can seem extremely daunting and scary, especially if you're by yourself.

This begs the question that if appliable work training and skills are provided and taught, can the cycle be escaped? It's clear that if work and skills training was more accessible for homeless people then they may be more able to get a job that provides a higher income to support the inflation of housing and rent prices that we're currently facing. However, these work and skills training need to be paired with an address so that they can even be considered by an employer, and therefore given the opportunity to escape the homelessness cycle.

16%

Leicester city centre is one of the least deprived areas of the city in regards to employment, but is however, seriously lacking education, skills and training.

16% of the population are deprived of education, skills and training.

This highlights that although the city has plenty of opportunites in relation to employment, the population lacks the skills to sieze these opportunites. This shows why the PURPOSE centre is needed so desperately, there needs to be somewhere to teach these skills and training to those considered to be a part of the homeless bracket.



RENDERED FLOORPLANS AND SECTIONS (NTS)



RECEPTION



TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP



THE WORKSHOPS



THE FACILITIES:

The main hall is home to three high tech workshops and a advice centre. When coming into PURPOSE for the first time , your needs will be assessed by fully trained professionals and henceforth will be taken to the advice centre or a private advice room if that's what needs allow. Within the advice centre any user can simply receive guidance, become enrolled into a training scheme, or just have a shower and clean clothes on their backs through the use of the laundry room and gender neutral bathrooms.

The charity shop/ donation centre is a space where members of the public can donate old clothes, technology and furniture to then be taken to the workshops for users of the space to repurpose. Henceforth PURPOSE provides a furniture workshop where users will be taught how to repurpose and re-invent old furniture which they can then keep in storage provided by the centre until they are ready to move on and take it to their new home. The clothing workshop follows the same principles, users are taught using specialist equipment how to repurpose old clothes which they then get to keep. The technology workshop is found up on the Mezzanine and teaches users how to fix old phones, laptops , ipads etc as these are vital tools to getting back into the world . All skills learnt in the workshops not only give the users possessions they need, but teach vital skills that can be applicable to the outside world.

On site is a cafe, one of the two areas of the space open to the public (the charity shop) as a major way of breaking the stereotypes and barriers between those housed and those who are not. The cafe is reasonably priced for those who just need the space for a hot meal and warm drink , and the public who want to see the life changing work happening at the centre. The cafe also provided culinary and cooking training for anyone who wants a future in the food industry.

All accommodation is found on the first and second floor of the building and ranges from studios, to en-suites to singular rooms with shared communal areas. PURPOSE is a temporary place of accommodation as once the training scheme is finished the user will have employment , a place to stay and a new start in life, a new purpose.



ADVICE CENTRE



PRIVATE ADVICE ROOM



THE CORRIDOR



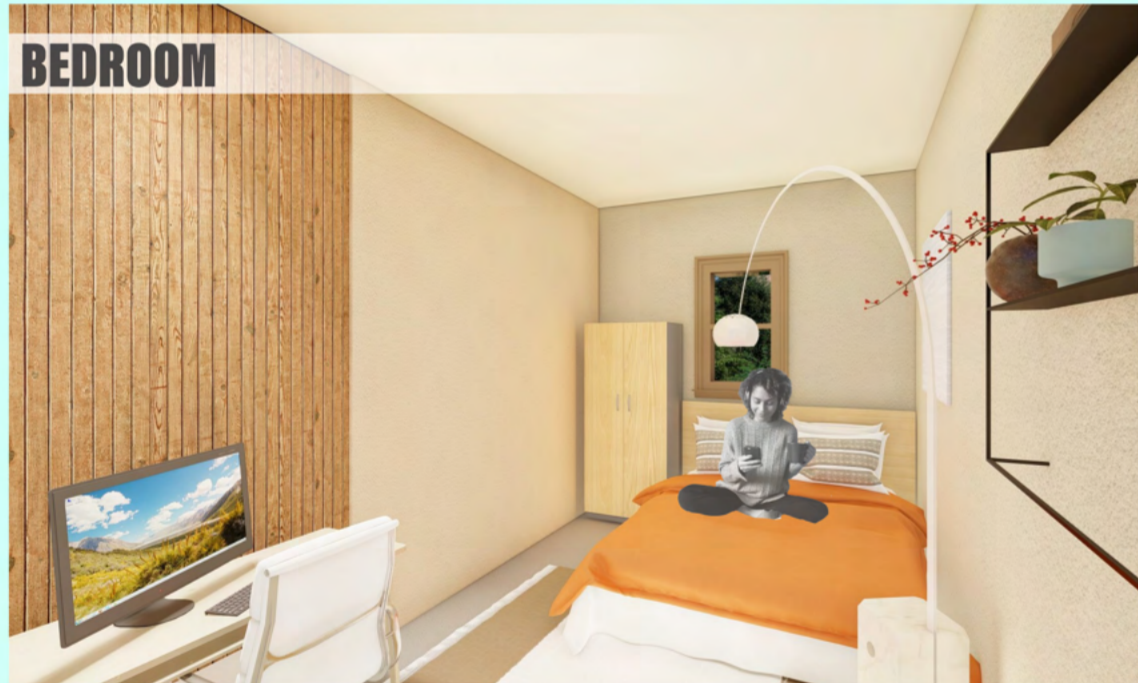
CAFE



CHARITY SHOP



BEDROOM



THE COURTYARD



LAUNDRY



SCAN ME FOR WALKTHROUGH



SCAN ME

https://www.dropbox.com/s/2t021l-w8r1o703m/My%20Movie%201_1.mp4?dl=0

THE DESIGN:

To break the rigidity of the heavy architecture of the building, fluid curved walls and floor to ceiling windows can be seen through the whole space to add a softness to the space and make it feel less intimidating. This paired with the soft colours in the main hall creates a warm feel, a space that feels like home. The glass seen in between the arches in the main hall, and in the corridor, is half frosted and half a normal glaze, this is to add privacy to the spaces within; the colour panels seen on the laundry room and kitchen manifests the direction of travel for the user and follows the colour palette of the space. Orange, turquoise and yellow are heavily used through the space as they invoke happiness and positivity, feelings I want the users of the space to experience when in the space.

The space gets brighter as the users journey through the space does, to represent the narrative of PURPOSE, light at the end of the tunnel.

