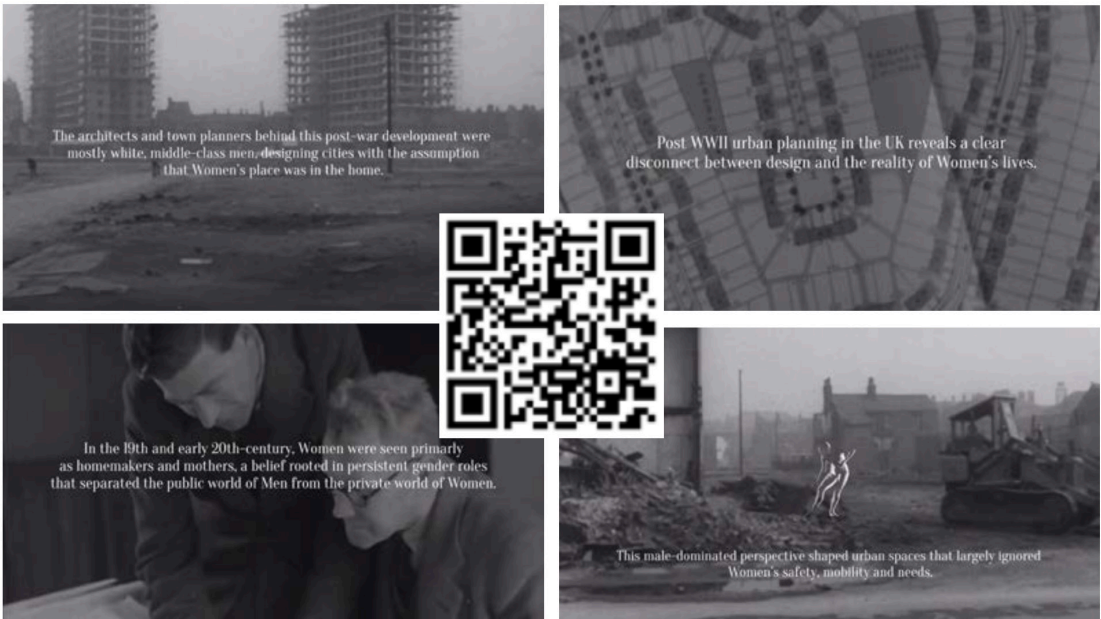


# The Women's Safehouse

Repurposing an old house into a Women only safe space using fabric.

This project is the result of a thesis exploring women's unsafety in a male-dominated world. I have designed a women-only safehouse by repurposing an existing house located in Peckham, a neighborhood with high rates of crimes of violence and sexual harassment.

I chose to use fabric as an architectural material for its soft, comforting qualities. I was drawn to the way it can define and separate spaces while still allowing visual connection, creating a sense of safety without complete isolation.



Scan QR code to watch my thesis film



Another key experiment was laser-cutting female bodies into a mirror, then gluing images of women protesting on the reverse side.

These mirrored women were arranged in a circle to symbolize the shared experiences of harassment that women face in public spaces. The mirror reflected the images of the protesting women, emphasizing how we all see ourselves in these stories.



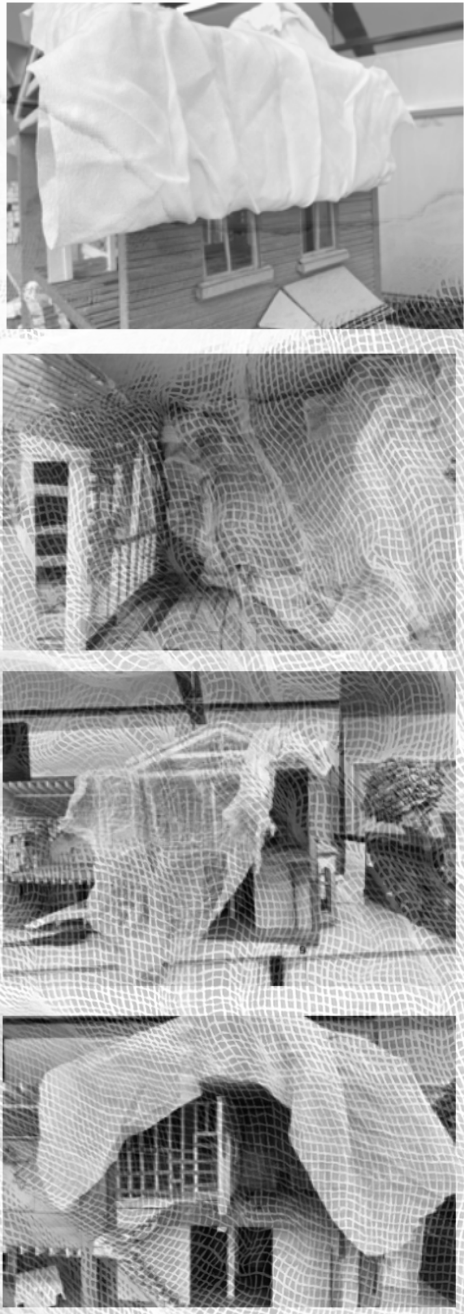
Collages of fabric on the model

I experimented a lot with fabric and how it reacted with the site. I placed transparent fabric onto a physical model of the house, wrapping it around and playing with how it moved and settled. I liked the contrast between the soft, delicate material and the rough, worn surface of the existing building. It reflected the idea of creating a gentle, protective space within a harsh environment.

I also used fabric as furniture by creating swing seats that hang from the ceiling, adding a playful yet gentle element to the space.



Testing how fabric reacts to light, shadows and movement of the body





The house is open 24/7 to provide a constant sense of safety for women. It offers self-defense and yoga classes, as well as an immersive meditative room designed for reflection and healing. The fabric surrounding the extension where the classes are held can be raised or lowered depending on the desired level of privacy. At night, the fabric is softly illuminated, helping to brighten the area, create a safer environment for women in the neighborhood, and reducing crimes of sexual harassment.



Exterior view of the Safehouse at Night, with fabric light up



Interior and exterior view of the extension.  
Yoga classes are happening, the curtains are lowered for more privacy, there is still a gap at the bottom to show that there is activity inside.

Scan QR code to experience the meditation room

The meditation room is formed by a large circular curtain, with calming images projected onto its surface, creating an immersive and peaceful atmosphere.



Section showing outdoor and indoor swings and meditation room

I wanted to experiment with fabric by printing my collages and renders onto it. I started by printing the images and gluing them onto the fabric. I used images from each step of the process of this project. With my women sculptures, a collage from my design development phase to the final renders of my project. The prints on the fabric appear worn, torn, and imperfect, this wasn't planned but it ended up adding a powerful layer of meaning.

The damage in the prints echoes the current state of the safehouse, with its aged textures, rough surfaces, and layered history. These imperfections give the fabric a raw character, reflecting the safehouse's story.

The process of transferring the images, scrubbing, peeling, and revealing evokes the passage of time and the marks it leaves behind, making each piece feel like a fragment of memory woven into the material.