

FANTASTIC MR. [URBAN] FOX



a temporary interactive installation where people experience Peckham from the perspective of a red fox

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RESEARCH

CLIENT:
RED FOX (VULPES VULPES)



USER:
HUMAN (HOMO SAPIEN)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOX & MAN

3-4 MILLION YEARS AGO
Early hominins likely encountered and observed foxes in their shared environments in Africa and Eurasia and **avoided** them as **potential threats or competitors** for resources.

40,000-20,000 YEARS AGO
Modern humans (Homo sapiens) spread across the globe, encountering red foxes in various habitats. They hunted foxes for fur, meat, and **utilized their bones in tools and artifacts**.

MIDDLE AGES
Foxes were still **hunted for their fur**, which was highly valued for clothing and accessories. **Fox hunting** became a popular sport among the nobility in Europe, particularly in England.

19th CENTURY
Fox fur became a significant **trade** item, particularly in colder regions like North America, Europe, and Russia.

21ST CENTURY
As awareness for wildlife conservation grew, red foxes began to be **protected** in many areas, due to their important ecological roles as predators. They are now considered a **valued part of ecosystems**, helping to control populations of small mammals.

500,000-300,000 YEARS AGO
Early humans, might have **hunted** foxes for their **meat and fur** in areas where their territories overlapped.

10,000 YEARS AGO
With the advent of agriculture, human societies began to settle. Red foxes could have been both a **nuisance**, due to their predation of small livestock, and **beneficial**, due to their control of rodents and other pests.

COLONIAL ERA
Red foxes were **introduced to** parts of **North America** during the colonial period. European settlers brought them for hunting purposes, and fox hunting continued as a popular sport in some regions.

20TH CENTURY
Foxes come to live in urban areas in the 1930s. Fox hunting evolved into a more organized activity, with the establishment of fox hunting clubs and formalized rules. In the early 20th century, **fox hunting** **gained criticism** from animal welfare advocates, leading to **bans or restrictions** on the practice in various countries.

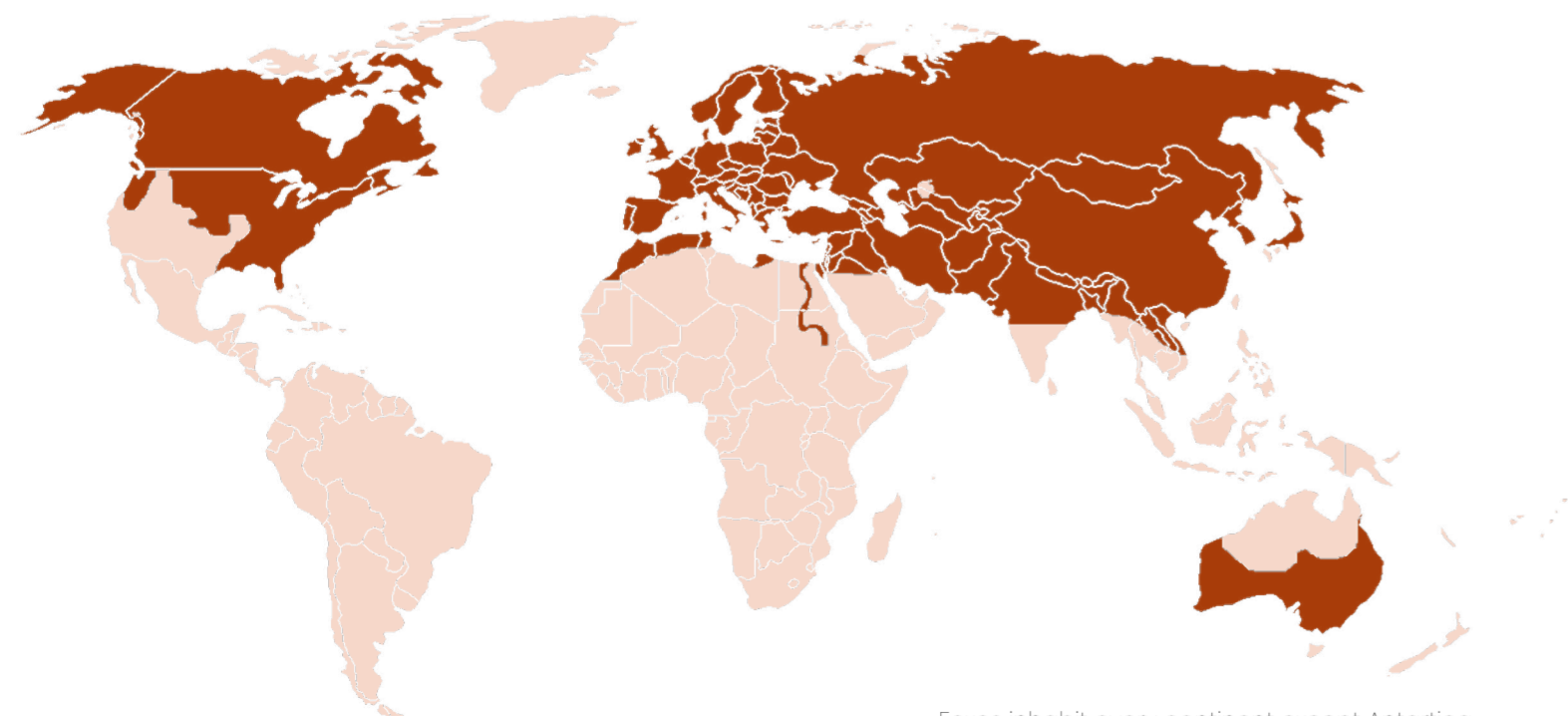
TODAY
Foxes have shown remarkable adaptability and have successfully **colonized urban areas** in many parts of the world. They often **live near human settlements**. Some people **appreciate** their presence, while others may view them as **pests** due to occasional conflicts with domestic animals or disturbances to urban environments. Efforts to **coexist peacefully** with these animals have increased.

HOW WILL WE IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NATURAL WORLD?

EMPATHY

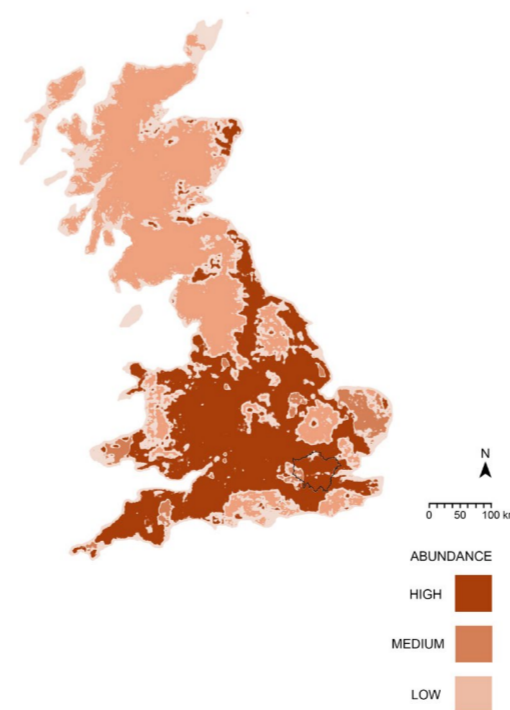
FOX DISTRIBUTION

WORLDWIDE



Foxes inhabit every continent except Antarctica
Red foxes specifically, inhabit 5 of 7

ENGLAND



LONDON



There are over 10,000 Foxes in London

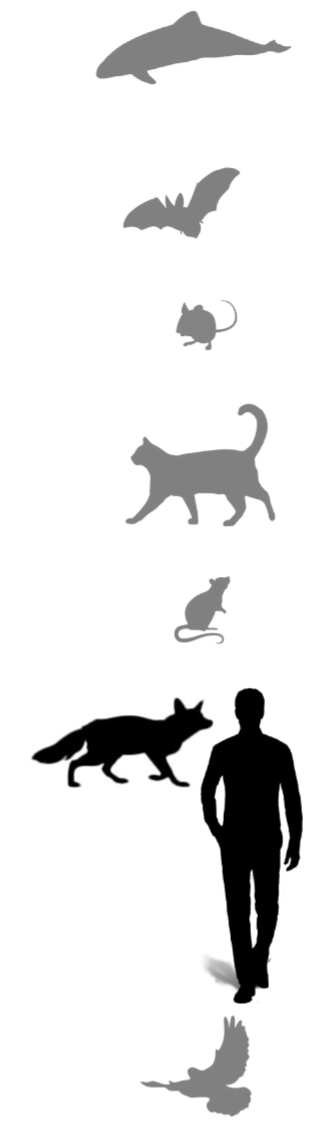
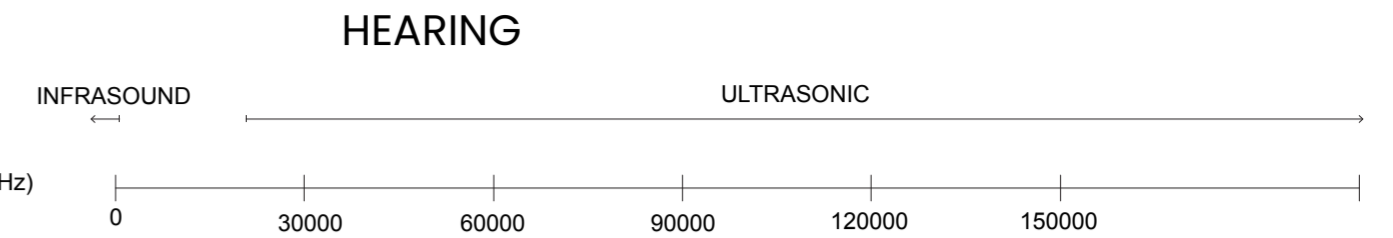
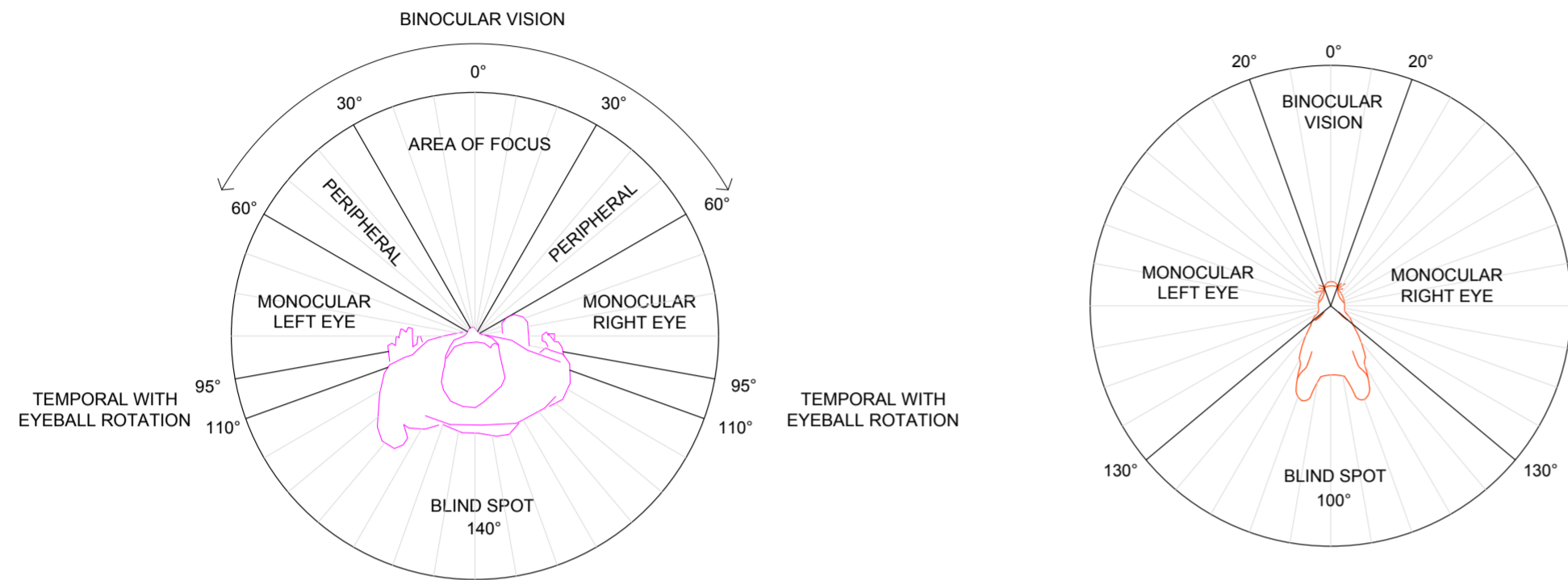
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY FOXES IN LONDON?

1. Urban Adaptability
2. Habitat Availability
3. Lack of Predators
4. Limited Hunting

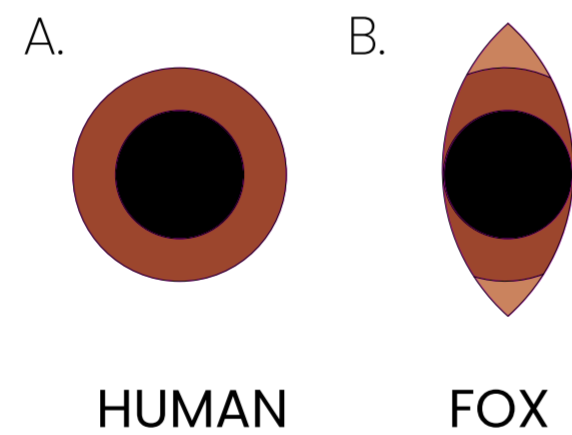
SENSORY PERCEPTION

I believed that the best way to create empathy for another being was to have individuals experience the life of that being. How could this be achieved? By recreating their senses!

FIELD OF VISION



COLOUR SPECTRUM



- A. CIRCULAR PUPILS**
- Typically **predators** active during the **daytime**
 - Actively hunt** down prey or **forage**
 - Aren't exposed to much darkness
 - ex. lions, jaguars, dogs, wolves, humans, etc.
- B. VERTICAL PUPILS**
- Typically **nocturnal predators**
 - Ambush** to hunt
 - Predominantly in low light conditions
 - Pupils have a greater range of dilation and contraction
 - = allows better sight in the dark
 - reduce blurring and increase the ability to judge distances to prey = better hunting
 - ex. geckos, cats, crocodiles, some birds, etc.

RETINAL PHOTORECEPTOR CELL TYPES

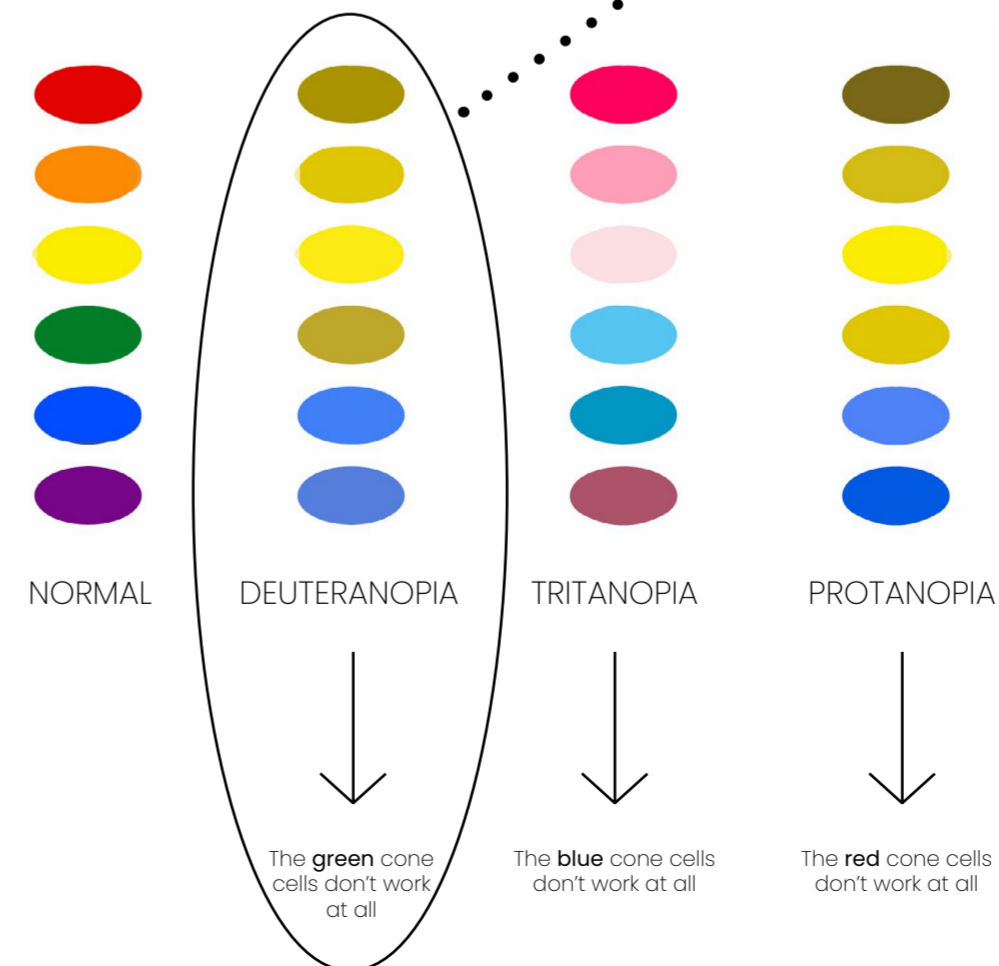
CONE CELLS

- detect a wide spectrum of **light**
- are responsible for **colour vision**

RODS CELLS

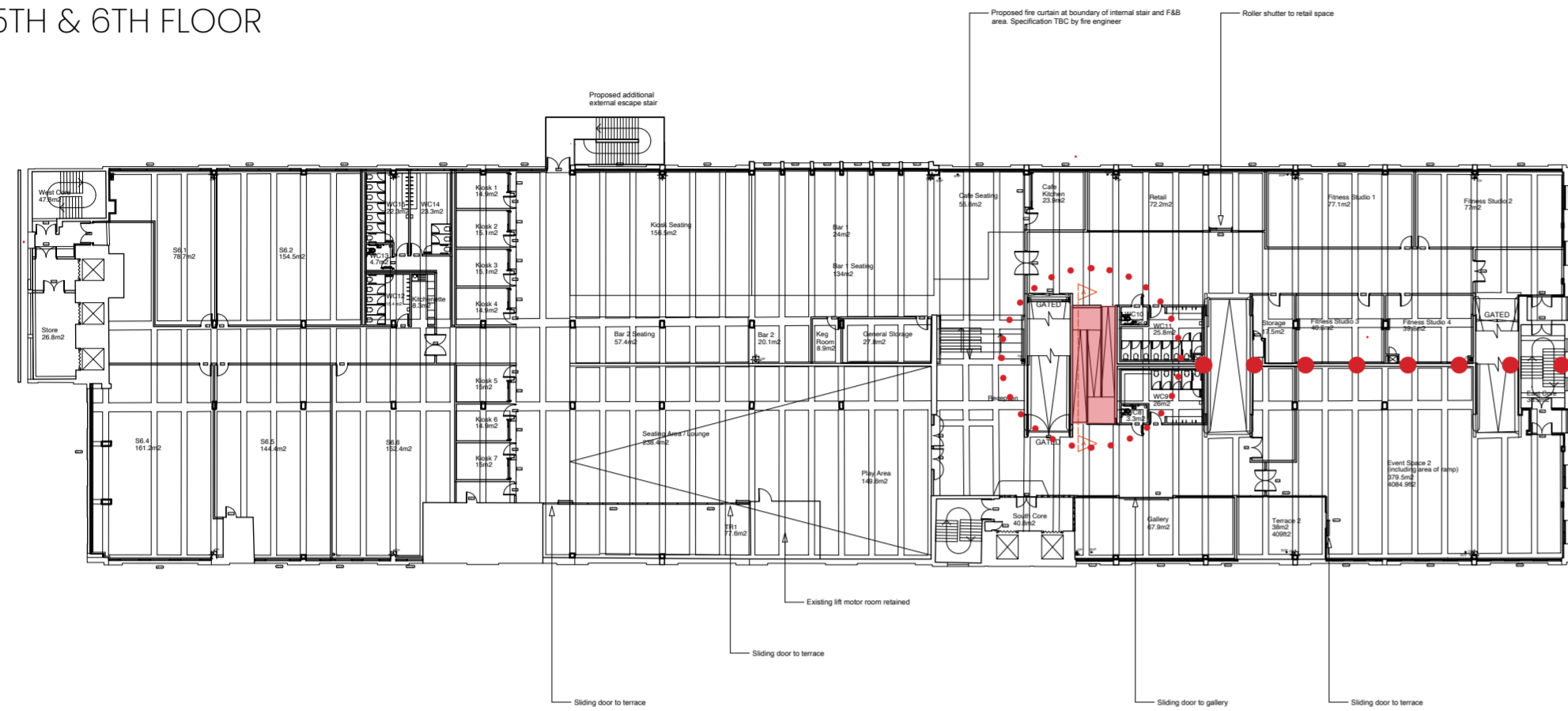
- highly sensitive to light and function in **nightvision** but only see in **grey scale**

DUE TO FOXES' NEED TO SEE AND HUNT AT NIGHT, THEY HAVE A HIGHER DENSITY OF ROD CELLS, WHICH CAUSES RED-GREEN COLOURBLINDESS

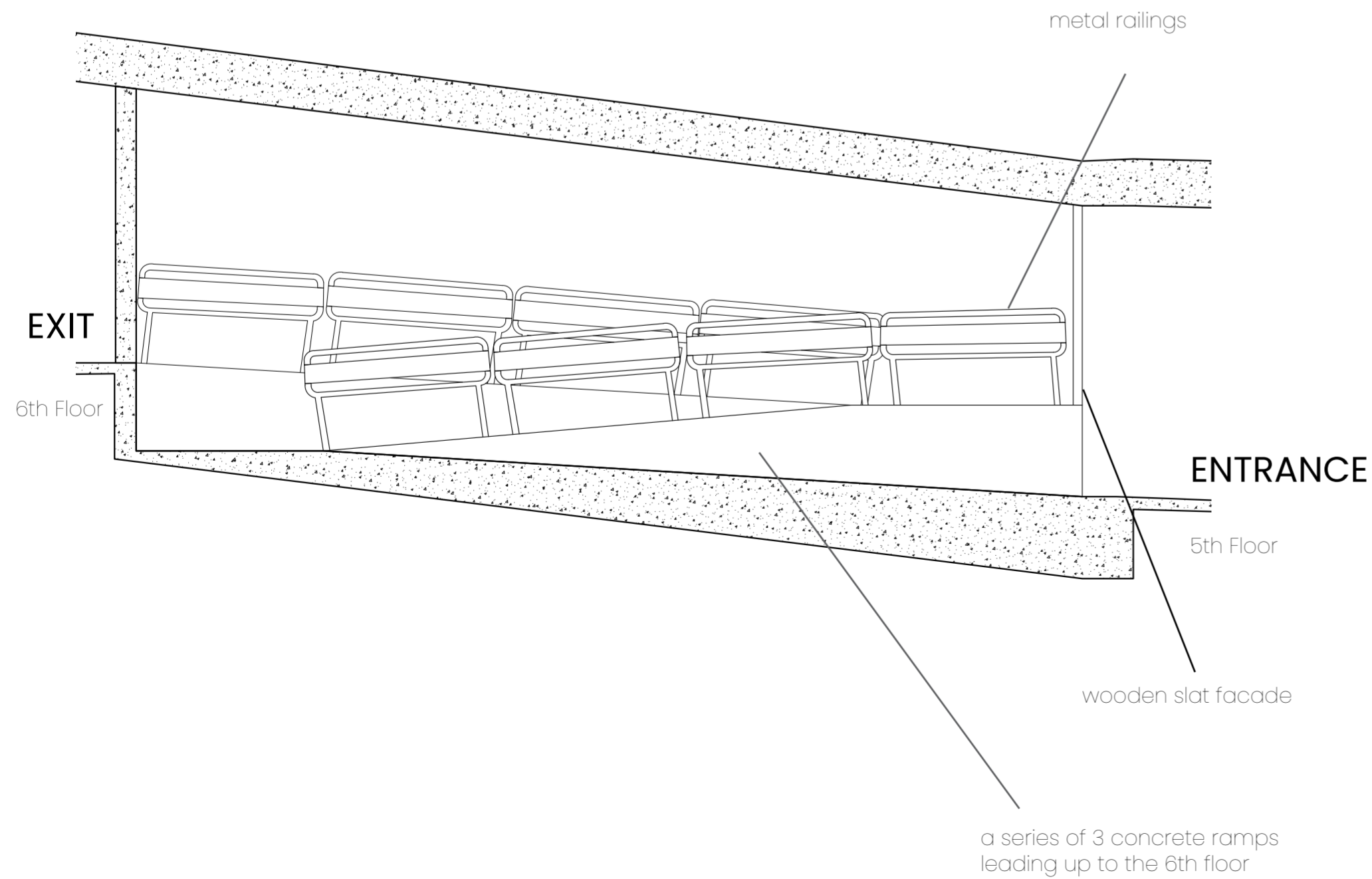


SITE: PECKHAM LEVELS

PRE-EXISTING
5TH & 6TH FLOOR

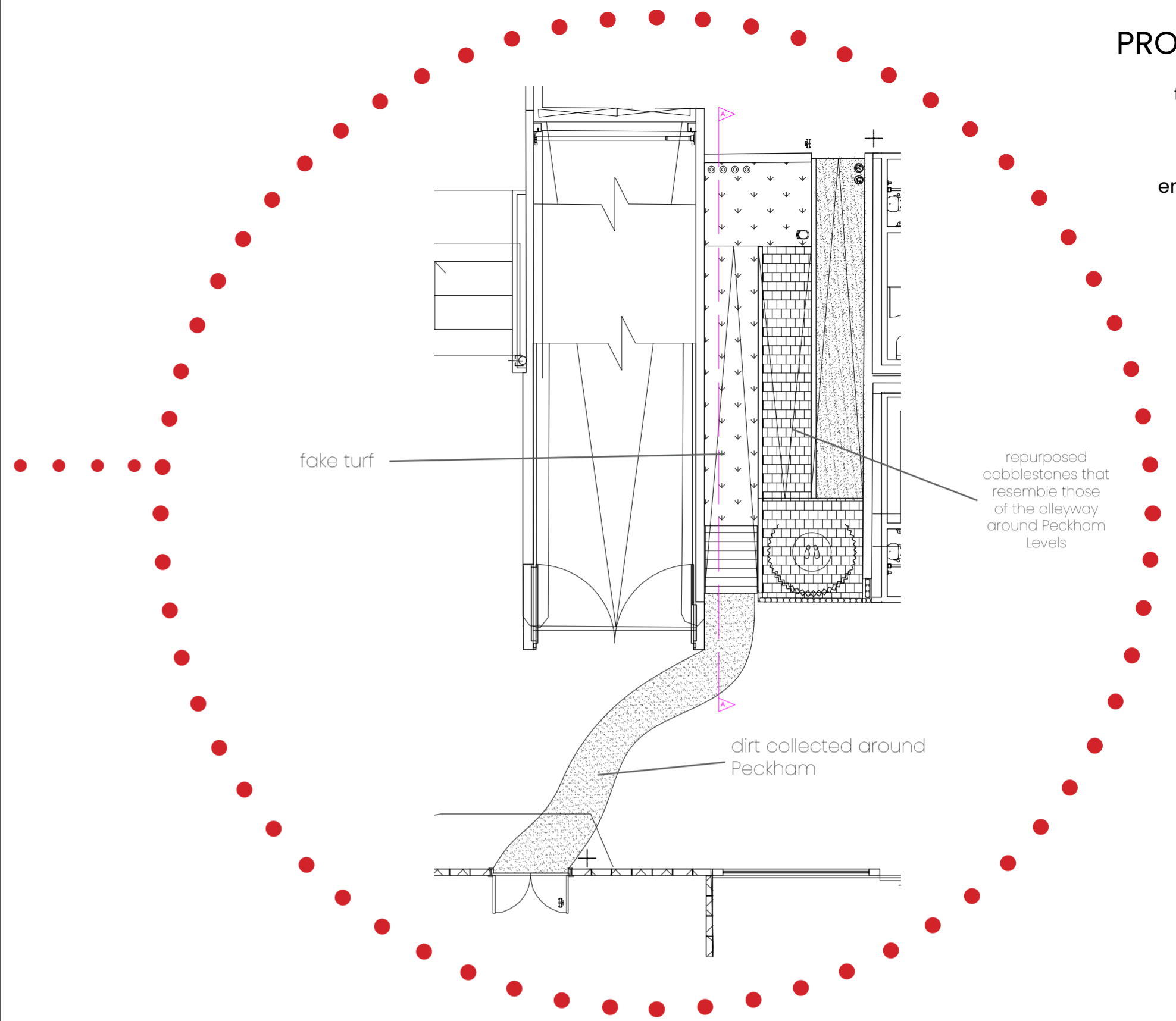


BLACK RAMP GALLERY: SECTION A

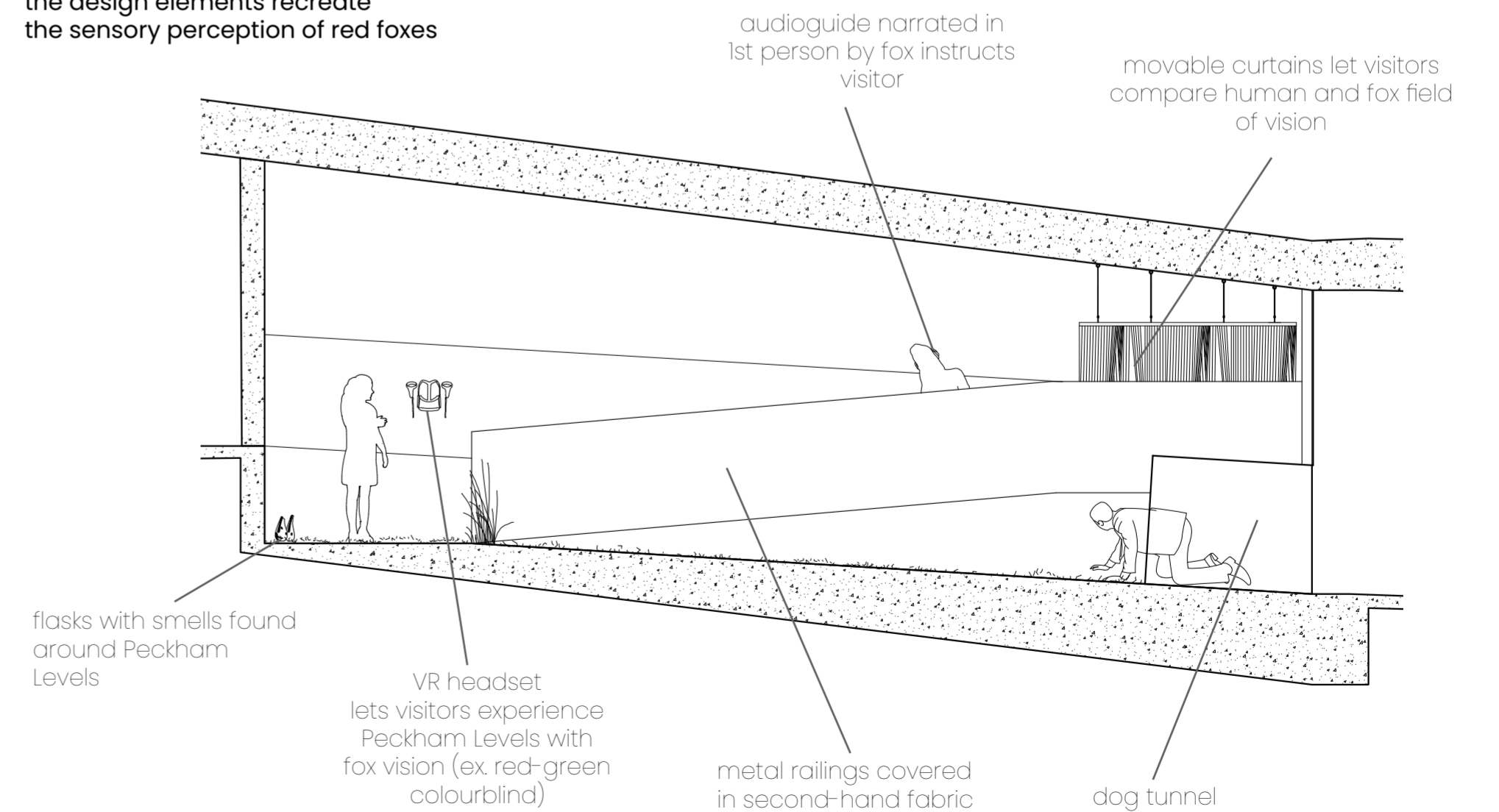


PROPOSED

the ground materials emulate the urban environment around Peckham Levels



the design elements recreate the sensory perception of red foxes



FINAL PROPOSAL

I believe it's time for our anthropocentric society to reevaluate the ways in which we define social justice. If social justice is about equality, then why should other beings with whom we share our planet not be considered? Our disregard for other life forms destroys ecosystems, causes extinctions and is triggering the planet's collapse. Mankind's speciesist outlook also condones the maltreatment of humans who are in a supposedly animal condition, and thereby maintains the oppression of individuals based on race, class, disability and gender. I therefore aim to reverse the human-animal hierarchy with my temporary interactive installation where people experience Peckham from the perspective of a red fox. Here visitors engage in a series of tasks which recreate the sensory experience of foxes to establish empathy and consider other beings' perspectives unavoidably- through physical experience. While visitors are engaging their 5 senses (sight, sound, smell, taste and touch), they are also listening to an audio guide narrated in the 1st person by a fox. This audio guide humorously reflects on and criticizes the human-fox dynamic, while guiding the visitor through the space. This unconventional approach strives to advocate for respect and equality for other living beings.

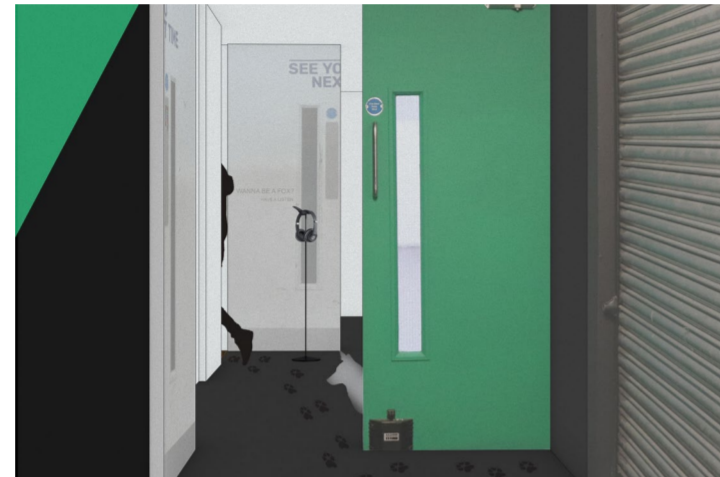
CLICK OR SCAN



TO WATCH FILM



1. ASCEND PECKHAM LEVELS STAIRCASE



2. ENTER 5TH FLOOR



3. PUT ON WIRELESS HEADPHONES



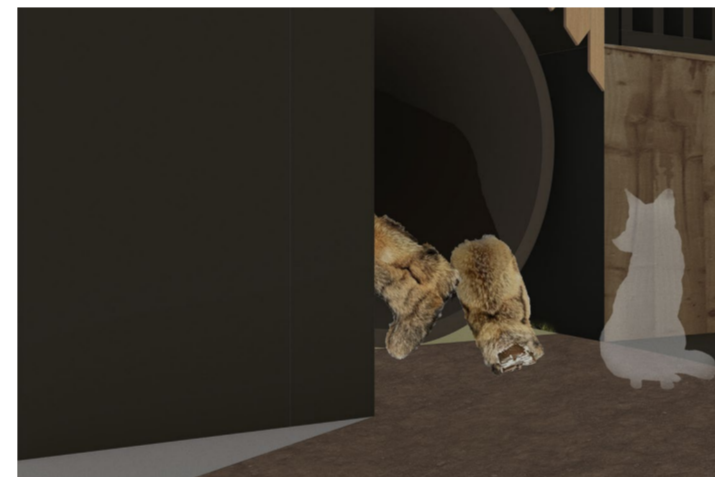
4. FOLLOW AUDIOGUIDE



5. PUT ON FOX FUR SUIT



6. CRAWL TO BLACK RAMP GALLERY



7. CRAWL THROUGH TUNNEL



8. ENTER BLACK RAMP GALLERY



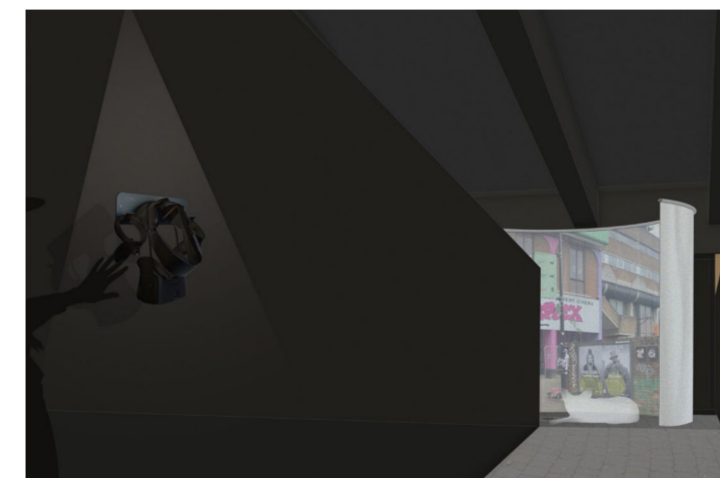
9. CRAWL ALONG FAKE TURF



10. LIFT LIDS OF FLASKS AND SMELL



11. STAND UP



12. PUT ON VR HEADSET WITH ASSISTANCE



13. EXPERIENCE COLOURBLINDNESS IN VR



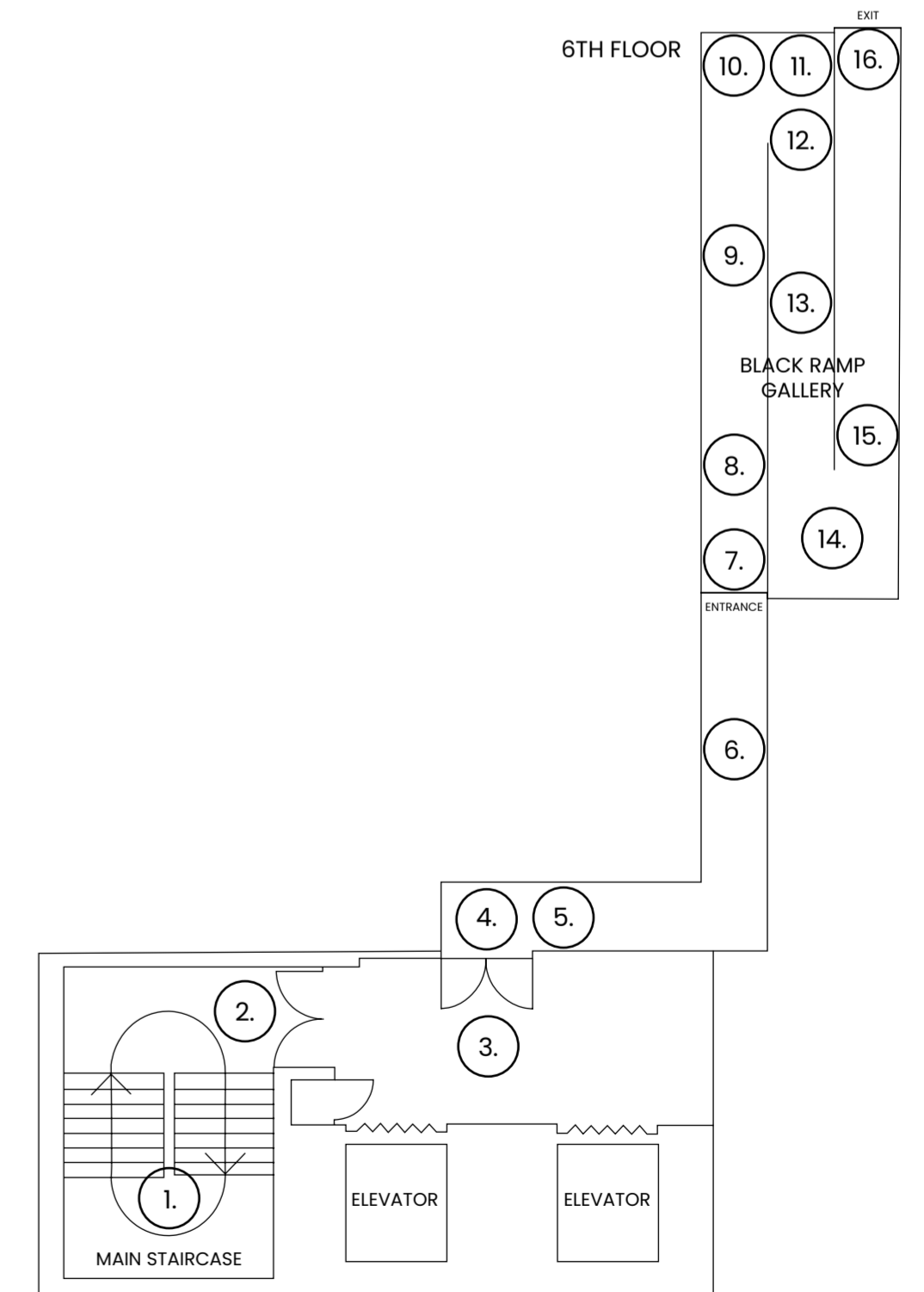
14. TAKE OFF VR HEADSET, COMPARE FOX AND HUMAN FIELD OF VISIONS VIA CURTAINS



15. GET BACK ON GROUND AND CRAWL TOWARDS EXIT



16. EAT SOME CHICKEN OR BERRIES



PECKHAM LEVELS