

Chop N' Chat

Cook Grow Eat Together

This project focuses on rectifying the effects of social isolation through inclusive design. Loneliness is increasingly recognised as a public health crisis, with effects comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day (Murthy 2020). A common result of isolation is eating alone, something which has tried to be rectified through social media by influencers making, 'Come and eat with me' or 'Mukbang' videos. But neither of these solutions will have a direct effect like social interaction will. In response, I propose upcycling Peckham's Safehouses 1 and 2, into a communal cooking area for high-rise dwellers, including dining areas and herb gardens to foster connection, support mental health and build a stronger sense of community. While Peckham is a vibrant, diverse area, it faces challenges from a surge of high-rise dwellings and increased isolation levels. The relationship between these, I have explored further in my dissertation and my film 'Towers of Solitude'. Throughout my design, I have carried through textures from the safehouse to limit feelings of industrialisation and improve the homely feel. This is seen through the wallpapers and tiling which echo the building's past. Every shape and installation within the building is made of one continuous line, which explains the building's ethos (fostering connections and interconnectedness). I have created an on-site recipe exchange within the shop; this has been introduced to create opportunities for relationships to build through a common middle ground, from the chef to the person recreating the meal.

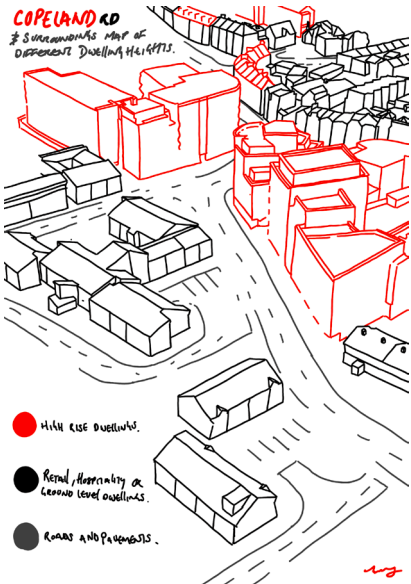
Key themes which I have taken into account during my design process are:
Homeliness, Nature, and Continuous flow.

Watch my film 'Towers Of Solitude' below, to further explore the relationship between high-rise dwellings and the loneliness epidemic, and why this programme is important for improving social solidarity.

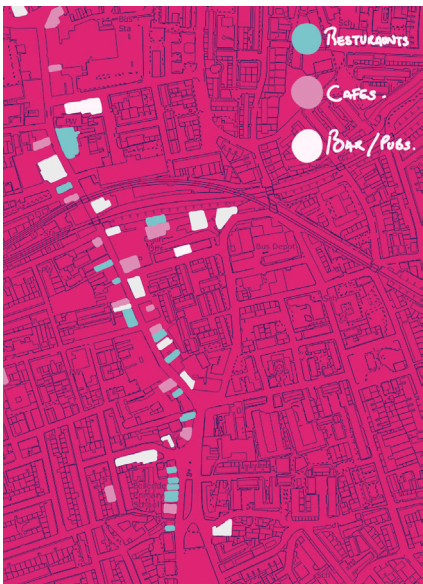


Towers Of Solitude

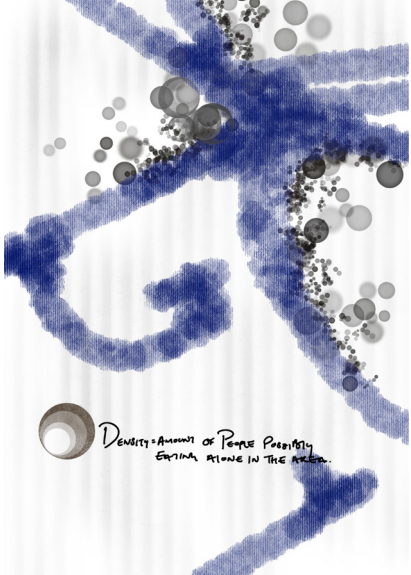
Map of building heights.



Map of places for socialisation.



Probability of those eating alone.



Residence density.



Billboard 1.



Billboard 2.

Solitude



Cook together.



Eat together.



Larger group of friends.



Site exploration images.



Front facade.

Exposed beam, 1st floor.

Stairwell.

Exposed joists.

Conservatory roof.

Bathroom tiles.

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Homeliness

A key aim of the programme is to create a sense of home, purpose, and belonging for members through the upkeep of the Safehouse buildings—supporting mental wellbeing in the community. To preserve the original character and avoid an overly industrial feel, I've reused materials from the existing structure and sourced sustainable, carbon-negative materials. Cork, recycled rubber, and local timber form the bulk of the build, chosen for their flexibility and alignment with the building's original colour palette.

The flooring will include hand-cut bathroom tile iterations, scattered among plain white tiles to echo the previous pattern. Patterned tiles will be sourced from nearby company London Mosaic, which also offers a low-carbon tile restoration service. Walls and kitchen cabinets will be covered with custom wallpaper from Everwallpaper.co.uk, mimicking the original peeling wallpaper design.

Cork plays a central role due to its carbon absorption and natural properties. It will be supplied by The Cork Floor Co. and used in flexible, rubber-infused rolls. Studio Bark will fabricate cork furniture, focusing on zero-carbon design. These cork-rubber composites will be used especially for kitchen worktops, offering fire and slip resistance—ideal for daily use.

Exposed joists and beams.

Holes in the walls from hanging artworks.

Bathroom tiles.



Patches of peeling wallpaper.

Pattern of the white and blue bathroom tiles.

MATERIALITY BOARD.



Iteration 1 of tiles for the flooring.



Iteration 2 of tiles for the flooring.



Cork in situ, a series.



Experimenting with the wallpaper in situ.



3D Visualisation depicting the use of the linocut tiles, the wallpaper roll (replicating the previous wallpaper), the exposed beams and joists and the cork structures. The chimney breasts which as scattered with holes have not been plastered and will remain the same to leave a sense of the spaces history.

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Introudcing Nature

A key structural element I explored is the roof. While researching high-rise buildings and their link to loneliness, I focused on verticality and how dense urban areas often build upwards due to space limitations. In response, I transformed the Safehouse into a three-story structure that leads to a rooftop lounge.

High-rises often lack gardens or access to nature, so the rooftop space provides a peaceful retreat above street level as somewhere to relax, breathe fresh air, and connect with nature. The three floors follow a continuous upward path, symbolising connection and togetherness, which are core values of the project. I opened up the attic to reveal original joists and beams and added a flat roof to the rear of Safehouse 2, where the seating area is now located.

There are also herb gardens placed throughout the building to focus on the introduction of nature in the space. Members can watch their gardens flourish in parallel to their relationships, as many high-rise dwellings do not offer garden or green spaces.

Herb Cocoon.



Construction of the herb cocoon.



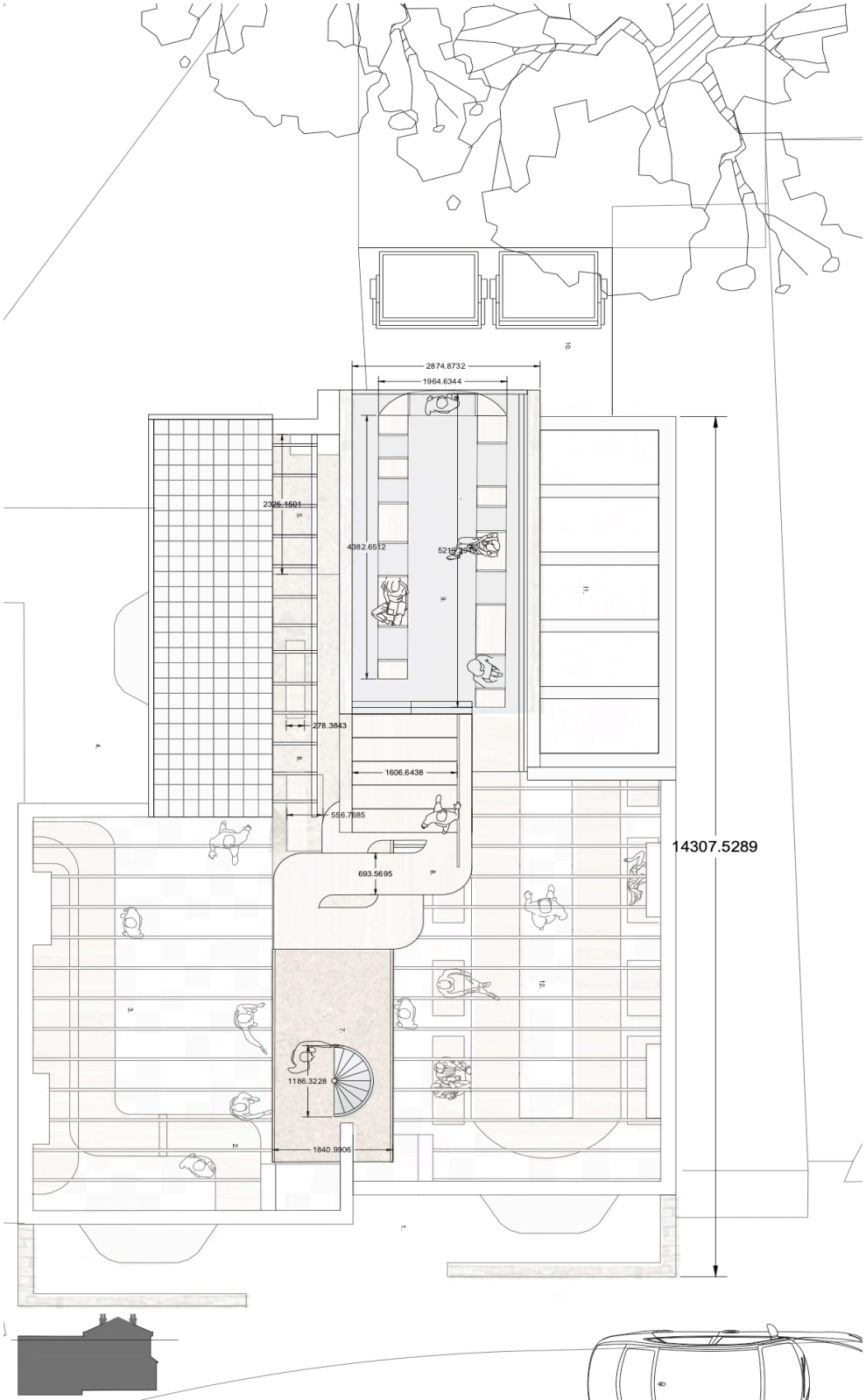
The 2nd floor view from the pantry.



3D Visual of the rooftop.

- Key
1. Entrance and exit.
 2. Shop counter.
 3. On-site shop and recipie exchange.
 4. Side entrance.
 5. 1st floor Pantry.
 6. Seating area, and herb cocoons, 2nd floor.
 7. Stairs to 3rd floor.
 8. Path to rooftop.
 9. Rooftop seating area.
 10. Waste unit.
 11. Conservatory roof.
 12. Dining ribbon.

Plan cutting through the rooftop lounge.



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To reflect the project's core value of connection, I've introduced a recipe exchange system. This allows members to share food and ideas through a hand-cranked conveyor belt, where recipes can be attached and circulated. While shopping, members can revisit their own recipes or discover new ones—encouraging conversations between those who cook and those trying the dishes.

The entire building has been thoughtfully designed to foster connection and community. Every line and shape within the space reflects this ethos, symbolising the opportunity for connection and the coming together of individuals within a shared environment.

Conveyorbelt hand made model.



Scan to see conveyor belt in action.



3D Image of the on site-shop, where the conveyorbelt system is located.



3D Visual, example of continuous lines.

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Continuity

- Key
- 1. Entrance and exist.
 - 2. Cooking counter.
 - 3. WC.
 - 4. Food lockers and stiars to 1st floor.
 - 5. Dining ribbon.
 - 6. Herb garden.
 - 7. Seating for coffee and work.
 - 8. Pantry.
 - 9. Herb and lounging cocoons.
 - 10. Stairs to third floor.
 - 11. 3rd floor.
 - 12. Lounging ribbon on rooftop.
 - 13. Waste unit.

Elevation showing the continuous flow, facing the dining room.



- Key
- 1. Entrance and exit.
 - 2. On-site shop and recipe exchange.
 - 3. Side entrance.
 - 4. Hygienece and washing up station/fridges.
 - 5. Food lockers and stairs to floor 1.
 - 6. WC.
 - 7. Cooking counter.
 - 8. Dining ribbon.
 - 9. Waste unit.

Plan of the ground floor.

