



And they all lived happily ever after.

This project provided the opportunity to define a new use for an empty site in Chester. The site sits within the city walls on Lower Bridge Street and is the site of the former Quicks garage. The proposal responds to issues such as the closure of the old market, preventing creative brain drain and the adaptive reuse of an empty building. The ground floor consists of a brewery that makes use of hops grown hydroponically, a flexible, cross programme space brought to life by moveable units that facilitate activities and events. Individual makerspaces and spaces for collaboration on the first floor aim to encourage creativity and learning. The former car ramp that runs through the building from ground floor to the roof has been reimagined as a planted pathway that connects the community garden on the roof to the winter garden and café on the ground floor.

The shepherd takes care of Chester's first rooftop flock.

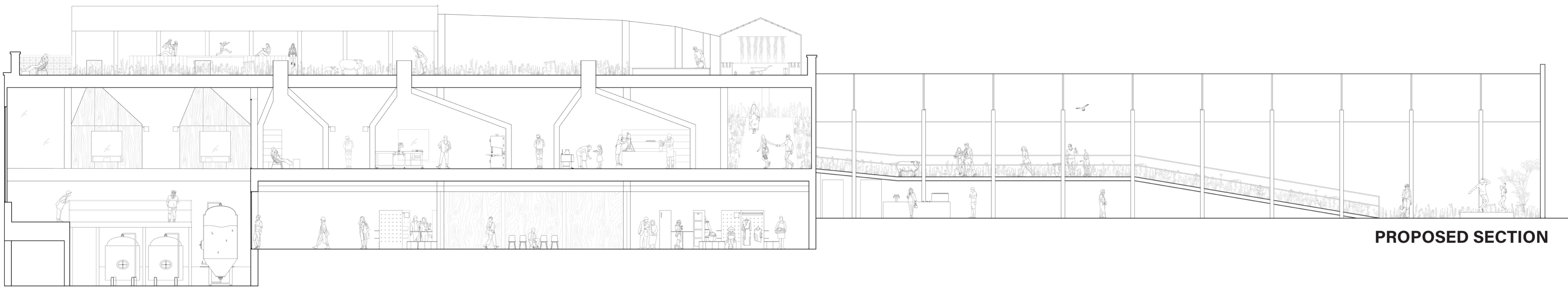
Bees are key to pollination and also produce honey to be piped on site.

Did you know they grow the hops on site?

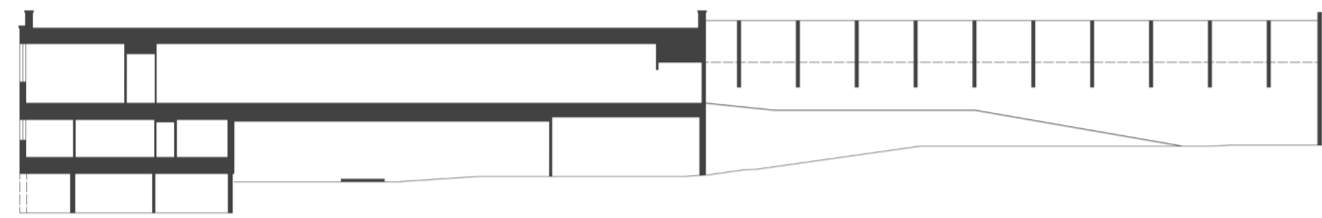
The parsnips are ready!

The ramp that runs through the building makes the roof accessible for everyone.

COMMON GROUND



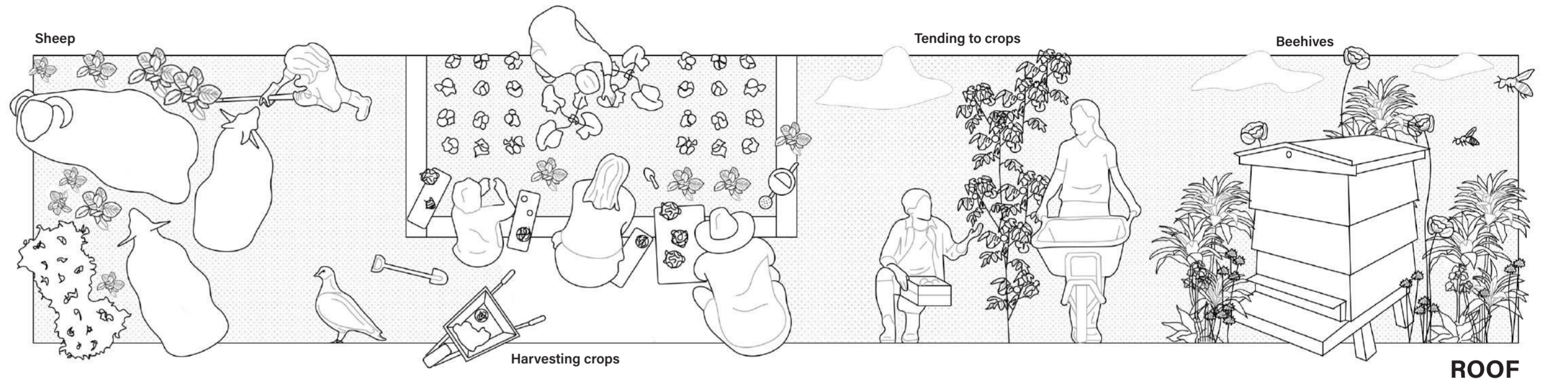
PROPOSED SECTION



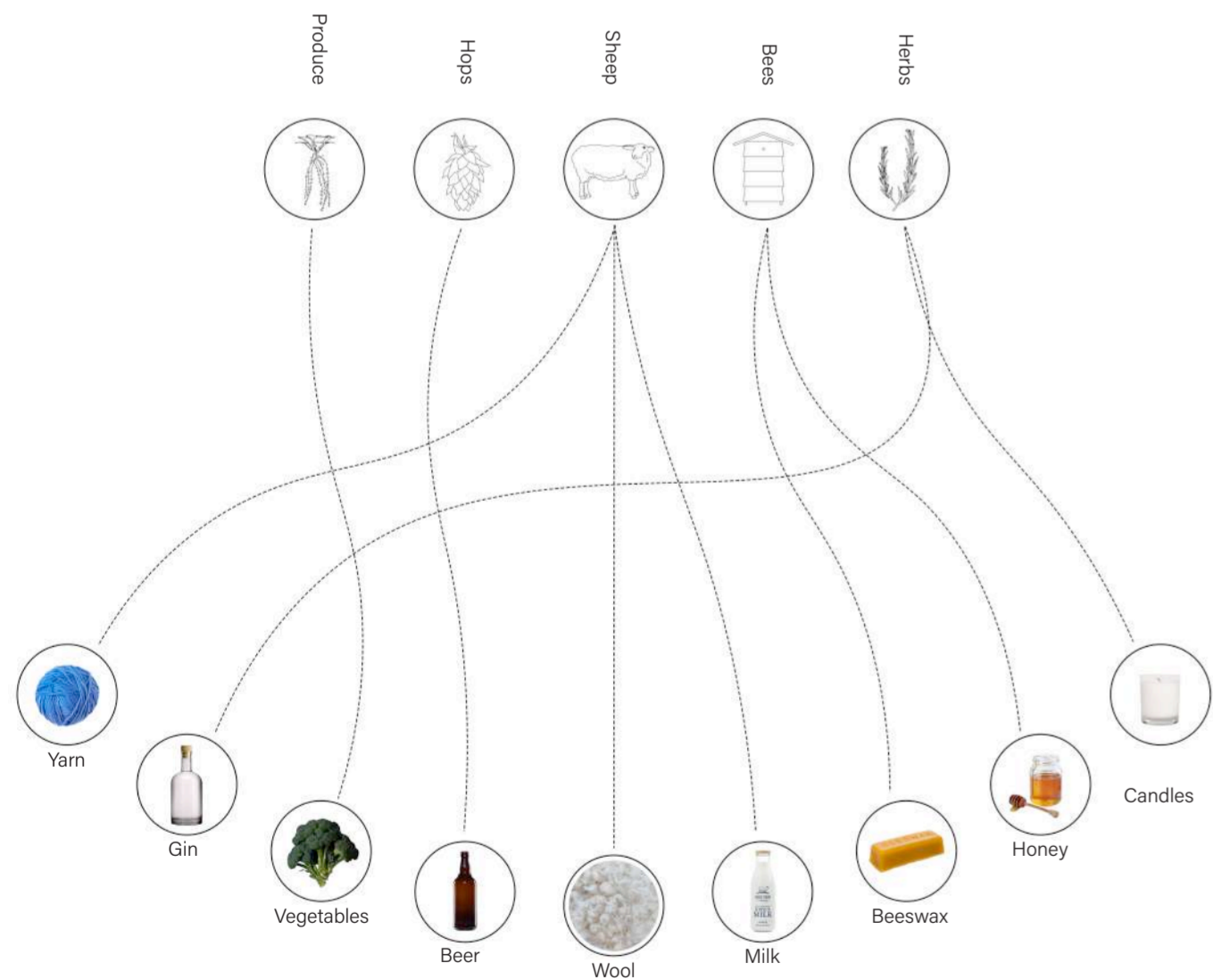
EXISTING BUILDING



SPATIAL PROGRAMME



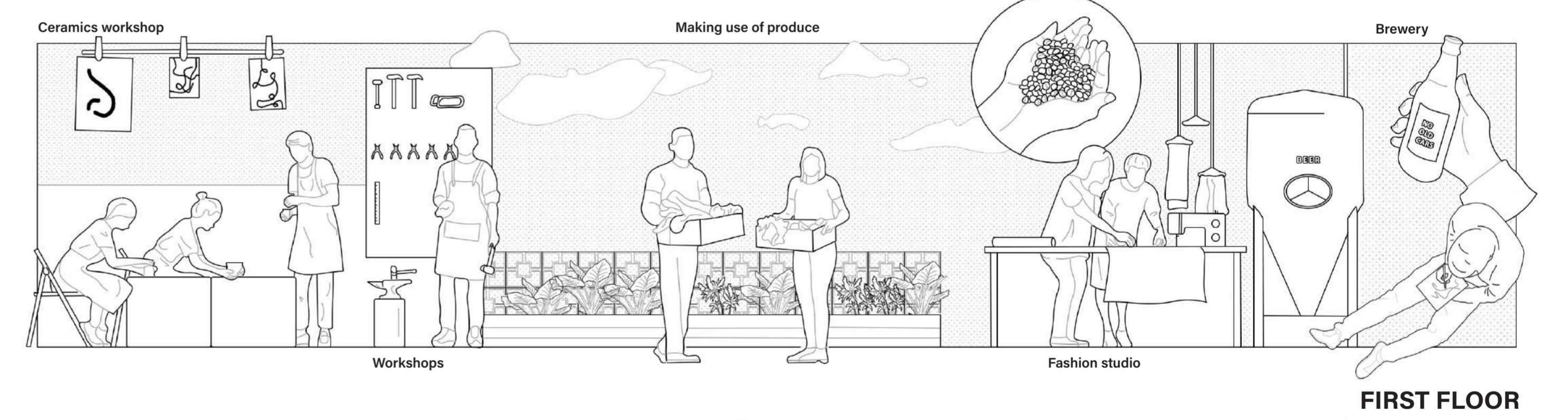
ROOF



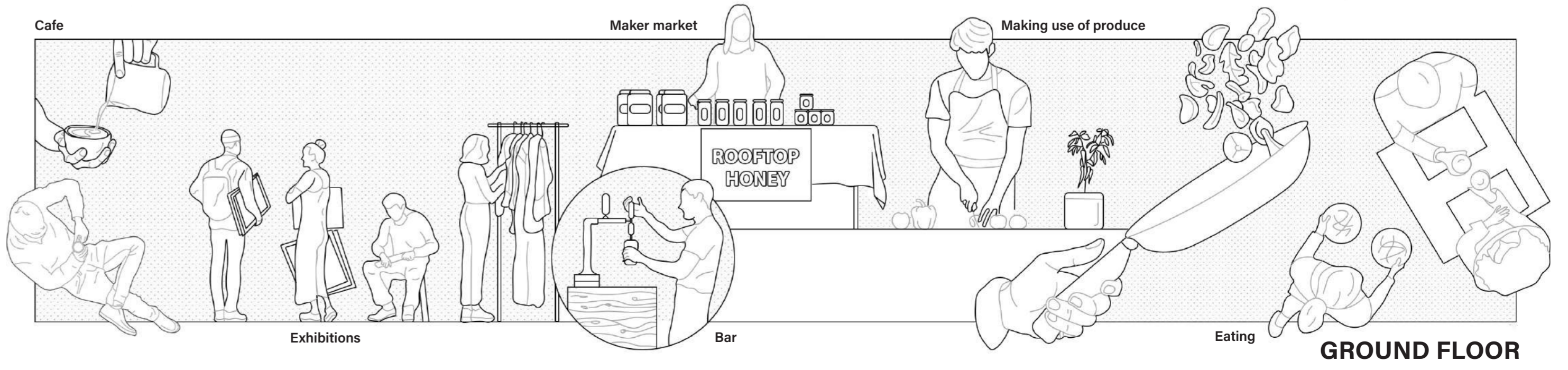
CYCLIC SYSTEMS

A key element of this proposal are the cyclic systems which cultivate producers, harvest the products of these, take the raw product and either sell this or turn it in to something else. Each floor has distinct characteristics whilst being linked by the landscaped ramp.

PROPOSED LAYOUT



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



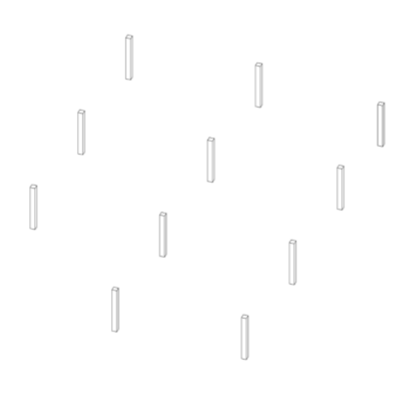
GROUND FLOOR

The large ground floor space can be brought to life by moveable units that facilitate activities and events such as markets and performances. Hops grown hydroponically are used in the brewery and the winter garden cafe makes use of produce grown on the roof.

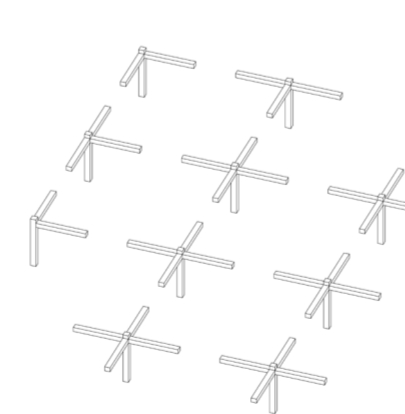


1. Entrance
2. Stairs
3. Toilets
4. Activator storage
5. Main flexible space
6. Lifts
7. Brewery
8. Brewery walkway
9. Stairs
10. Toilets
11. Winter garden cafe
12. Ramp

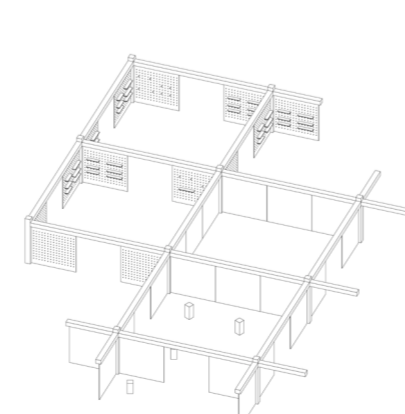
THE GRID



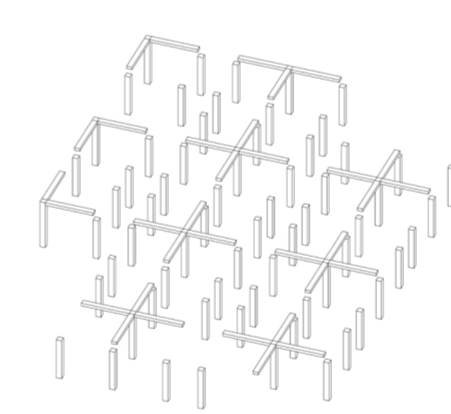
01
The grid of columns were identified as useful starting points for the design.



03
This version with the original columns and overhead system allows for larger activities to take place, without being interrupted by additional columns.



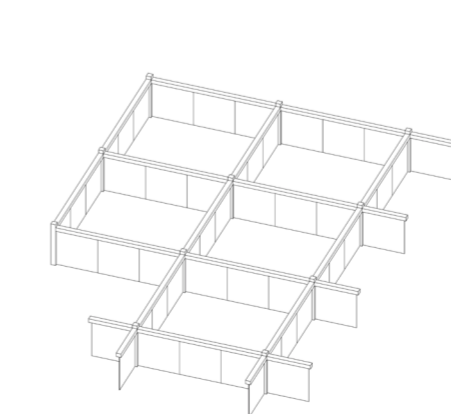
05
This exploration shows the grid in use, facilitating a market, performance area and an exhibition.



02
The large 9550mm area between the columns prompted the addition of columns but these crowded the space and reduced its potential for flexibility.



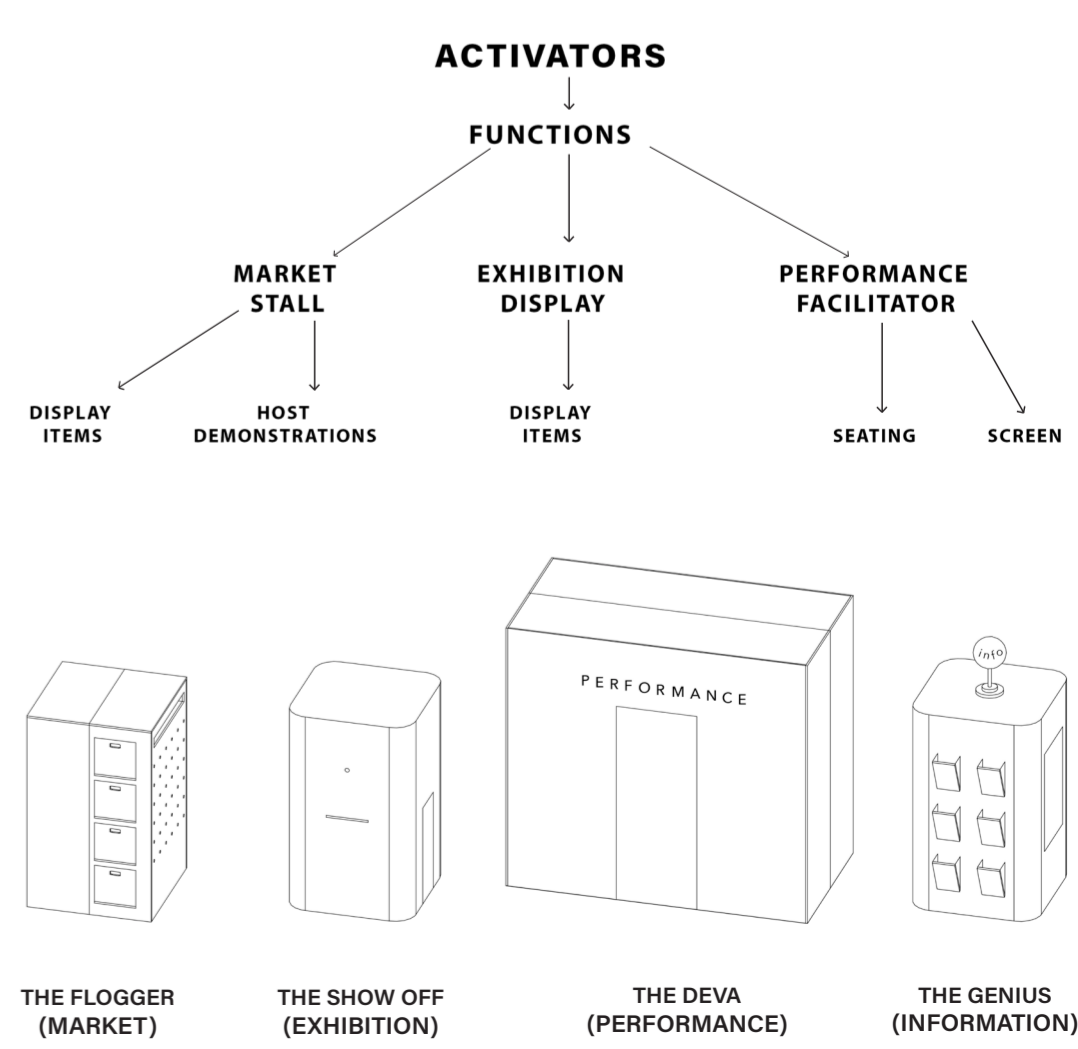
04
This solution provides an overhead system that allows partition 'walls' to be attached and moved along to divide the space depending on the functions required.



06
The preferred solution of basic partitions allowed the next stage of development to explore functional modules that can enter the space and change its use.

ACTIVATORS OF THE GRID

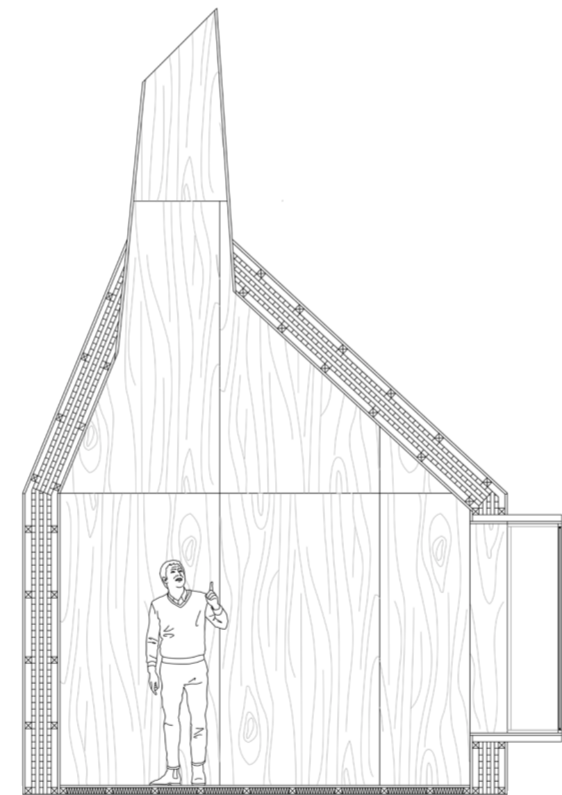
The design of the grid allows the large ground floor space to be made into multiple smaller spaces. This potential to zone the space is effective but not enough to bring it to life. The four activators respond to the required uses of the space; market, performance space, exhibition and information point and are designed to be moved in and out to activate the space for the required use.



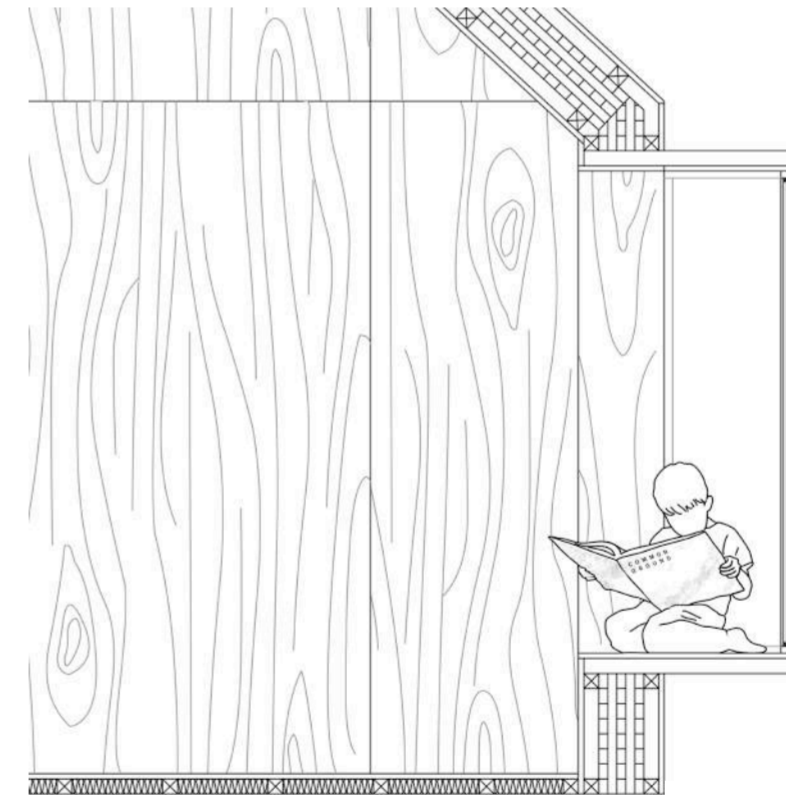


FIRST FLOOR

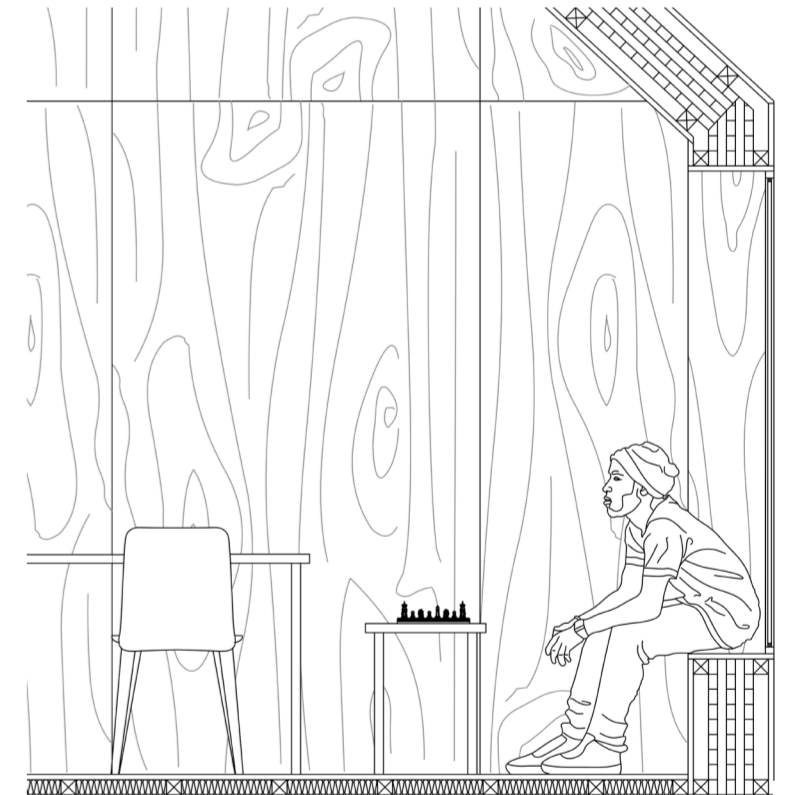
Individual makerspaces provide a workplace for emerging creatives with the goal of helping to negate the growing London centric shift in the creative industries. Kevin Lynch's 'Image of the city' was influential in the spatial planning of the first floor. Applying the key elements of Lynch's research helped to make the space more accessible, navigable and created a sense of interior urbanism.



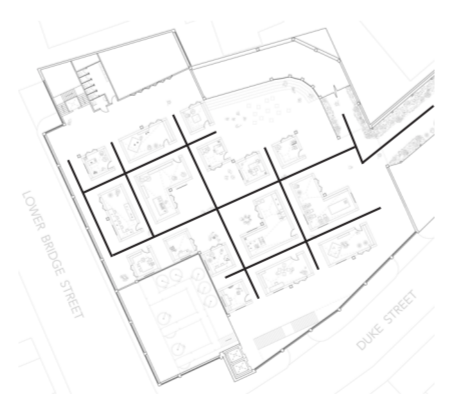
DETAIL HUT SECTION



WINDOW BOX DETAIL



WINDOW SEAT DETAIL



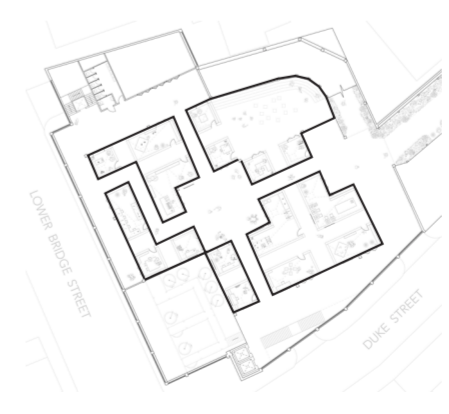
PATHS

Using the grid structure and paths which appeared as a result of this as well as the ramp, help to make the space easy to navigate.



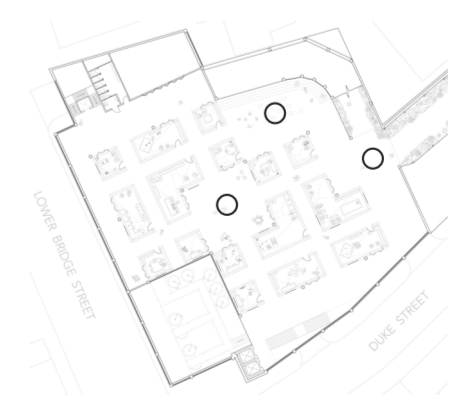
EDGES

The large space and nature of its use makes edges harder to define. The walls that restrict access therefore, act as the edges.



DISTRICTS

The grouping of similar uses of the huts into four districts help users to navigate and creates more distinct areas.



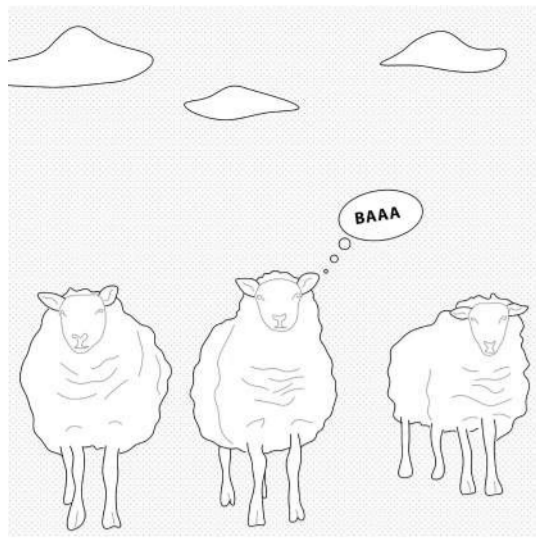
NODES

These focal points act as main gathering spaces. They do not move or change so that they would be unrecognisable.

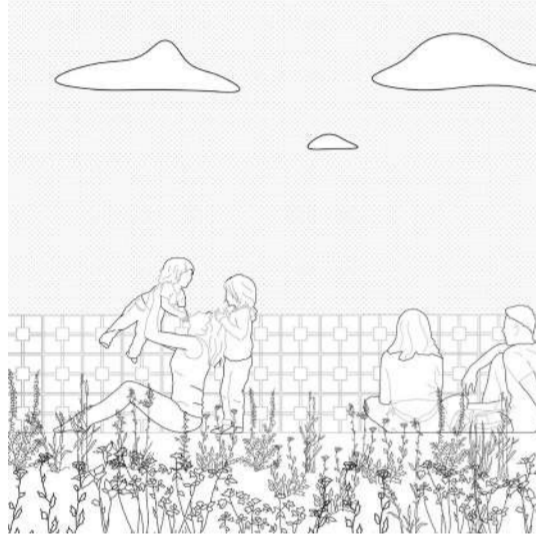


LANDMARKS

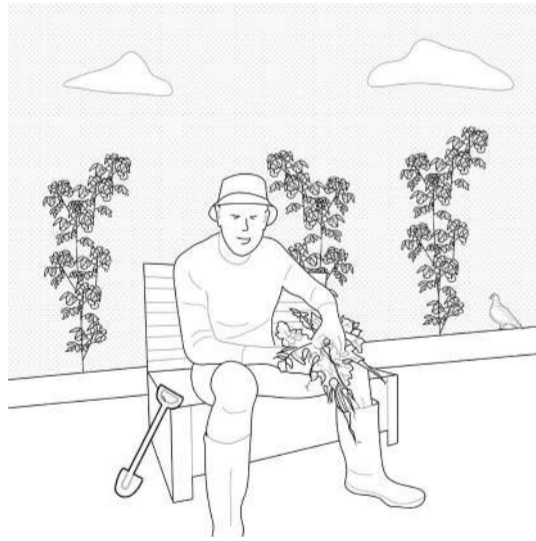
Landmarks like the ramp which runs through all levels of the building help give users a sense of where they are in relation to their surroundings.



SHEEP THAT COUNT
 Chester's first rooftop flock of sheep. Producing wool for small businesses, milk to be used in the cafe and more opportunities for the community to get involved.



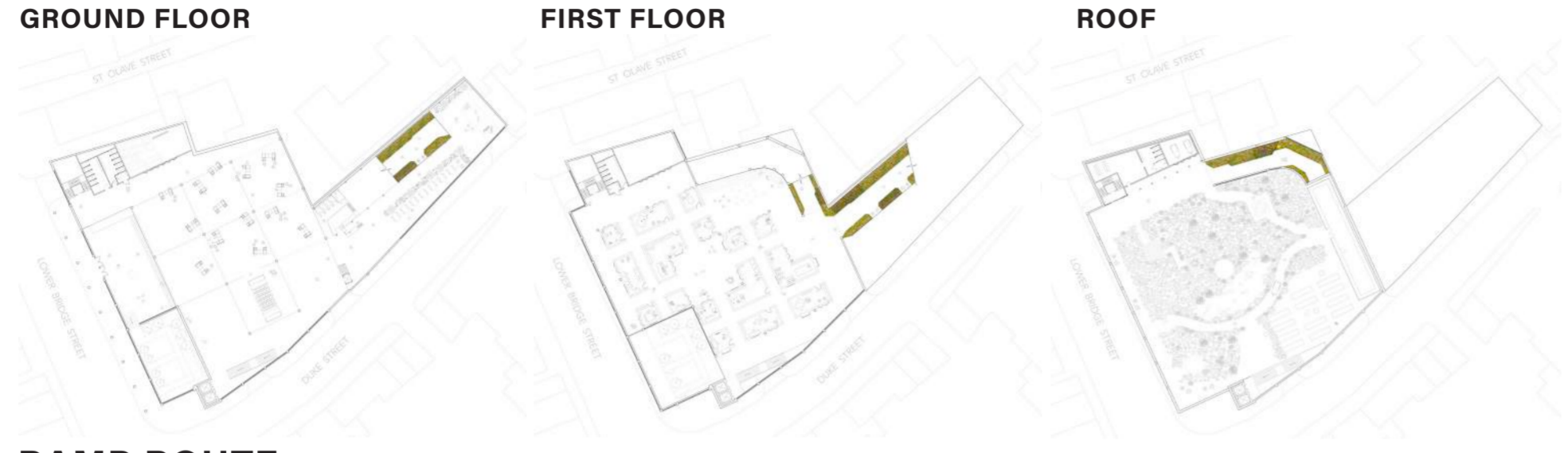
GROW YOUR OWN WAY
 The proposed rooftop garden and meadow will provide an expanse of carefully selected and spaced perennials, shrubs, grasses and bulbs.



FIRST HARVEST
 Garden workshops allow for social interaction and skill exchange. Rob has caught the gardening bug and has just harvested his first crop of parsnips.

ROOF & LANDSCAPED RAMP

The former car ramp winds from the ground floor to the roof and provides an interesting opportunity to create a 'main road' through the building. The proposal of a planted walkway creates a thread of green through the building and creates a sense of cohesion between the rooftop garden and the rest of the planted areas. The roof hosts a large perennial meadow, flock of sheep, beehives, vegetable garden and greenhouse but amongst the activities there are moments of tranquility to be found.

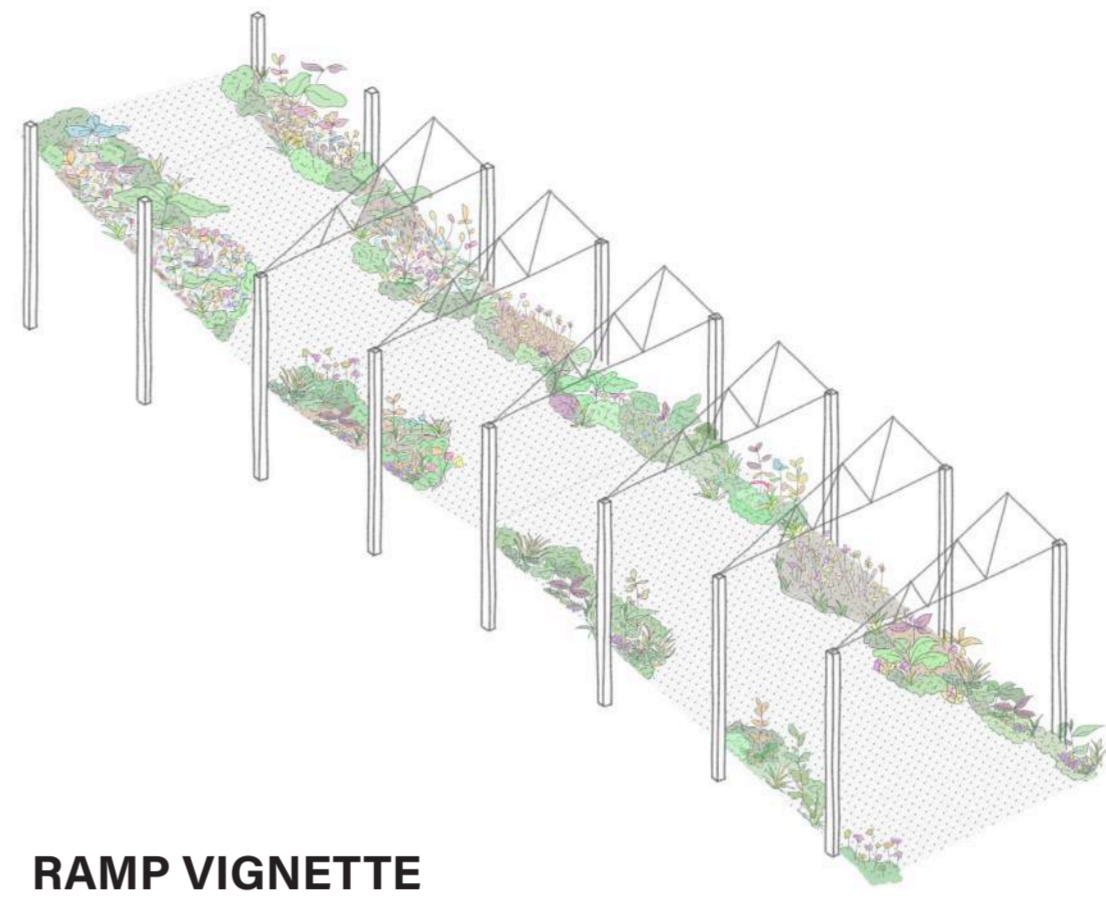


RAMP ROUTE

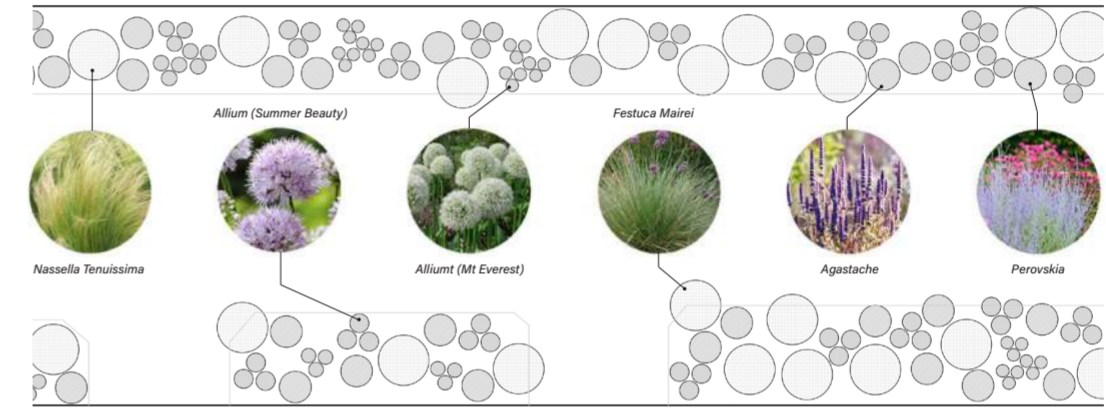


1. Stairs
2. Toilets and changing
3. Storage
4. Ramp
5. Raised platforms
6. Pond
7. Skylight 1
8. Sheep enclosure
9. Greenhouse
10. Skylight 2
11. Vegetable garden
12. Lifts and stairs

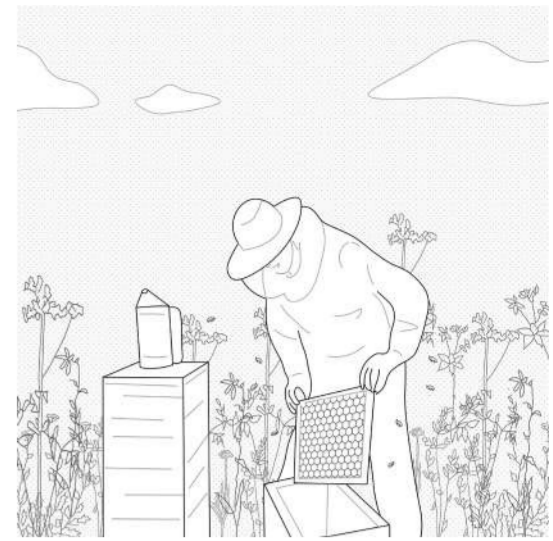
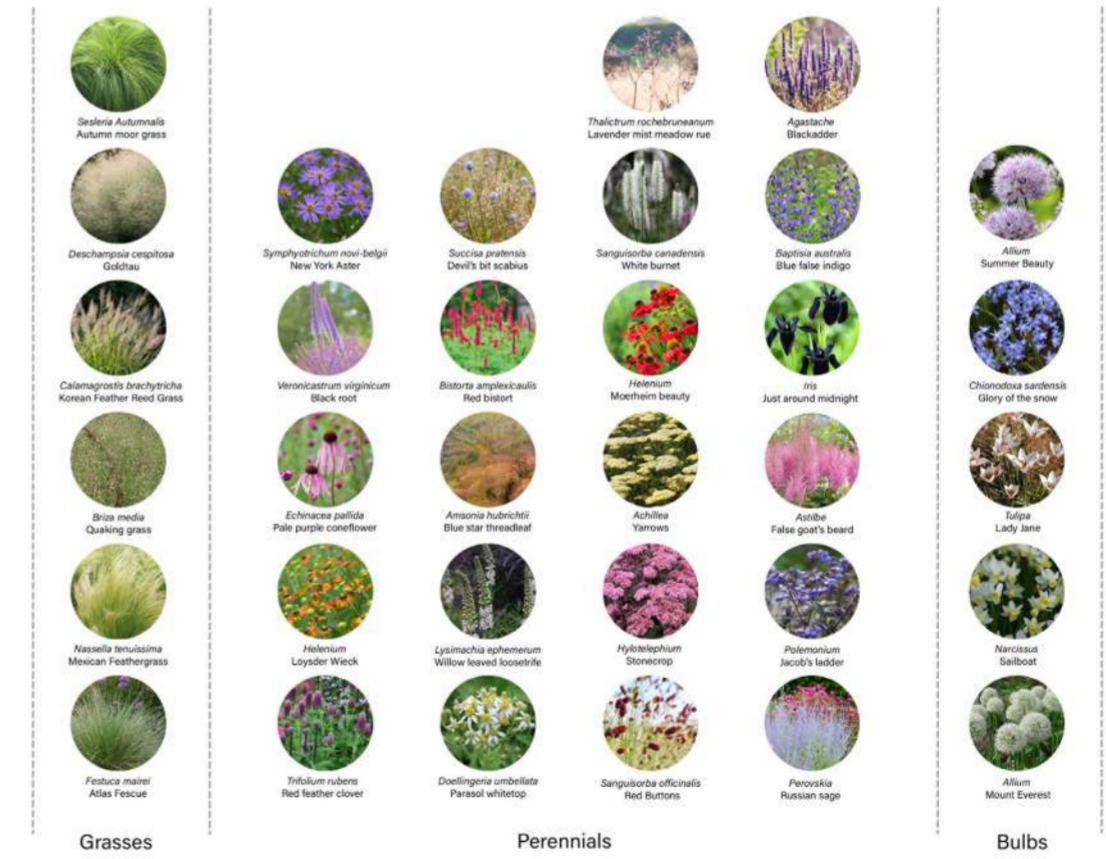
PROPOSED ROOF PLAN



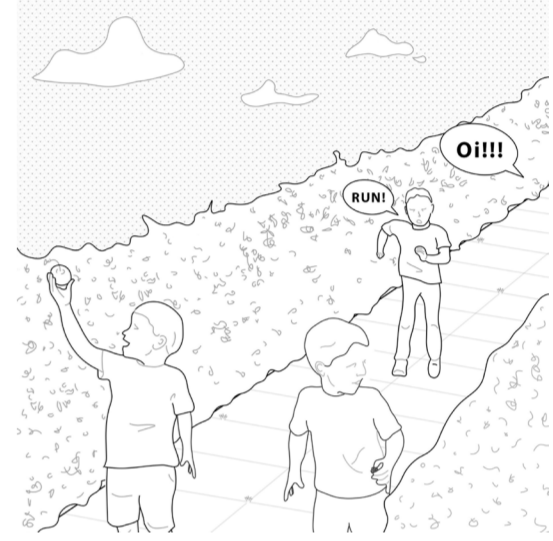
RAMP VIGNETTE



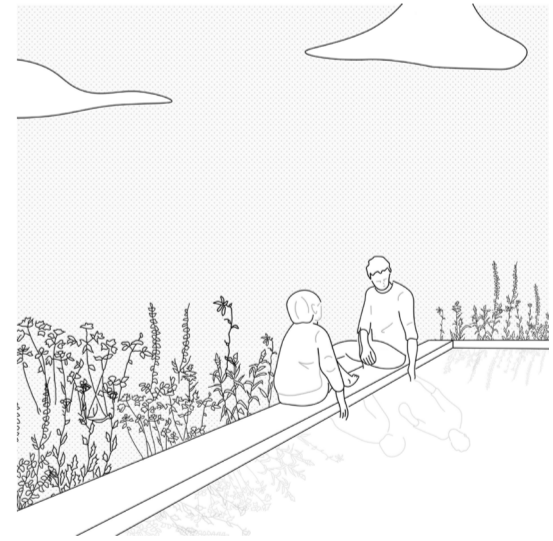
RAMP PLANTING PLAN



CREATING A BUZZ
 When they aren't busy producing honey or beeswax, the colony of bees are key to the pollination of the large meadow of plants.



FRUIT THIEVES
 The proposed rooftop community garden, an abundance of space to grow fruit and vegetables and plenty of opportunities for little hands to get involved.



REFLECTION
 The rooftop pond provides an area of tranquility for a break from the bustle of activities in the building.

