

## THE CONTROVERSY OF COLOURISM

The Controversy of Colourism will be a one month long programme taking place in Gloucester Mews car park and residency. This programme will be headed by the famous Niall Ferguson and Lupita Nyong'o. These bedfellows were chosen due to their contrasting opinions towards Colourism, the British Empire and civilisation. Throughout their time in Brighton , two key outcomes will be taking place, the first being a collaborative in-depth book. This book will be focused of the topic of Colourism(including relevant social issues) and will provide an insight into the history of Colourism and its present impact on society. A series of public workshops will be held with the community of Brighton in order to gather statistics, listen to their opinions and provide the local aspiring authors with a chance to write parts of the book.Both characters have previously written contrasting books ; Lupita's childrens book 'Sulwe' is about Colourism and aims to help those at a less impressionable age be confident in their own skin, whilst Niall Ferguson's writing career includes books such as 'Civilisation, The West and the Rest' focusing on the positive impact of the British Empire.

The second outcome will be two debates open to the public and media that will discuss the 'Controversy of Colourism' . These debates will catalyse conversation throughout society and explore how both characters have developed over their time at Gloucester Mews. The host will encourage this debate to be an incredibly knowledgeable conversation intended to avoid any long term disagreements between the characters and the wider community , creating a positive change rather than a negative change . We aim for the audience and those watching across media platforms to have learnt a large sum about Colourism and reflect on how their own actions/ words can effect others unintentionally.

Whilst Nyong'o and Ferguson will live in the Gloucester Mews residency, they will only be equipped with the essentials of a bedroom, bathroom and a tea station (similar to a hotel room). The main kitchen , roof terrace and other social settings will be designed into the car park itself in order to promote a comfortable interaction with one another. The main space will also includes four nests (office spaces) which will cater to individual and group work. The ground floor will be an open plan space used for the debate sand workshops as this is the only space available for the public. The first and second floors on the building will host the four nests , a kitchen and a roof terrace. The forms and layout within the design were heavily inspired by the queen truss posts of Gloucester mews and the idea of creating a strong vertical language throughout the space.



DAILY SCHEDULE OF THE BEDFELLOWS

LUPITA NYONG'O

Wake up and begin the day by reading Bryan Stevenson 'Just Mercy'

Meditation followed by a nutritious breakfast in the Gloucester Mews Kitchen

Begin the day with PA to discuss her daily schedule and travel plans

Zoom meetings to discuss upcoming trips and movie roles on the ground floor.

Rehearse lines and prepare for auditions using the workshop stages and seating

Lunch in the Lanes

Continuation of the debate in Lupita's office while she begins hair and makeup for the event

Stage and Mic setup alongside Niall on the ground floor to discuss the schedule of the debate

Personal time - talking to her family/ friends and catching up with social media

Dinner at the Gloucester Mews kitchen

Drinks and mingling on Gloucester rooftop

Wind down - Reading , relaxing, social media check-ins and meditating

Wind down - Reading , relaxing and watching TV

NIALL FERGUSON

Wake up and get ready in Gloucester Mews residency

Walk to Brighton Lanes to get a morning coffee and newspaper

Filling breakfast in Gloucester Mews residence kitchen

Zoom meetings to discuss upcoming trips in the kitchen area

Begin the day with zoom meetings in his office with publishers

Working on his book draft following publishers feedback in his personal office

Traditional fish and chips lunch on Brighton seafront

Meetings with members of the Oxford Union to discuss and upcoming speech

Briefing to discuss the upcoming debate in the larger conference room alongside her team. This included practicing questions the media may ask and key point to make during the debate

Stage and Mic setup alongside Lupita on the ground floor to discuss the schedule of the debate

Personal time - talking to his family/friends and relaxing

Dinner at the Gloucester Mews kitchen

Drinks and mingling on Gloucester rooftop

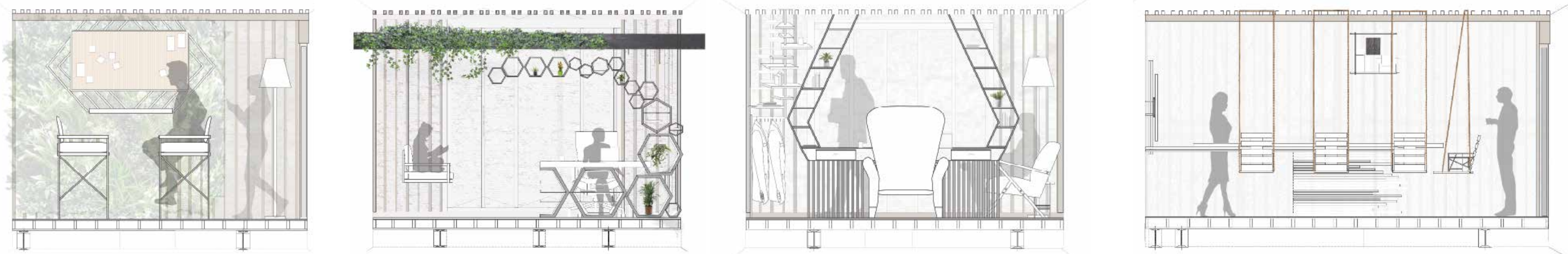
The Debate-

The Host will introduce both Lupita Nyongo and Niall Ferguson which will be followed by their individual opening statements. The discussion will continue with a consistent mediation from the host and when both sides have concluded, the floor will be open to the public and media to ask questions. Following an informative question session, the host will bring the event to an end.



INHABITED SIDE SECTION AND NEST SECTIONS

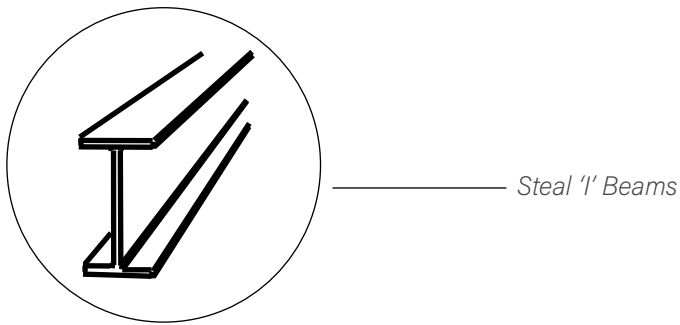
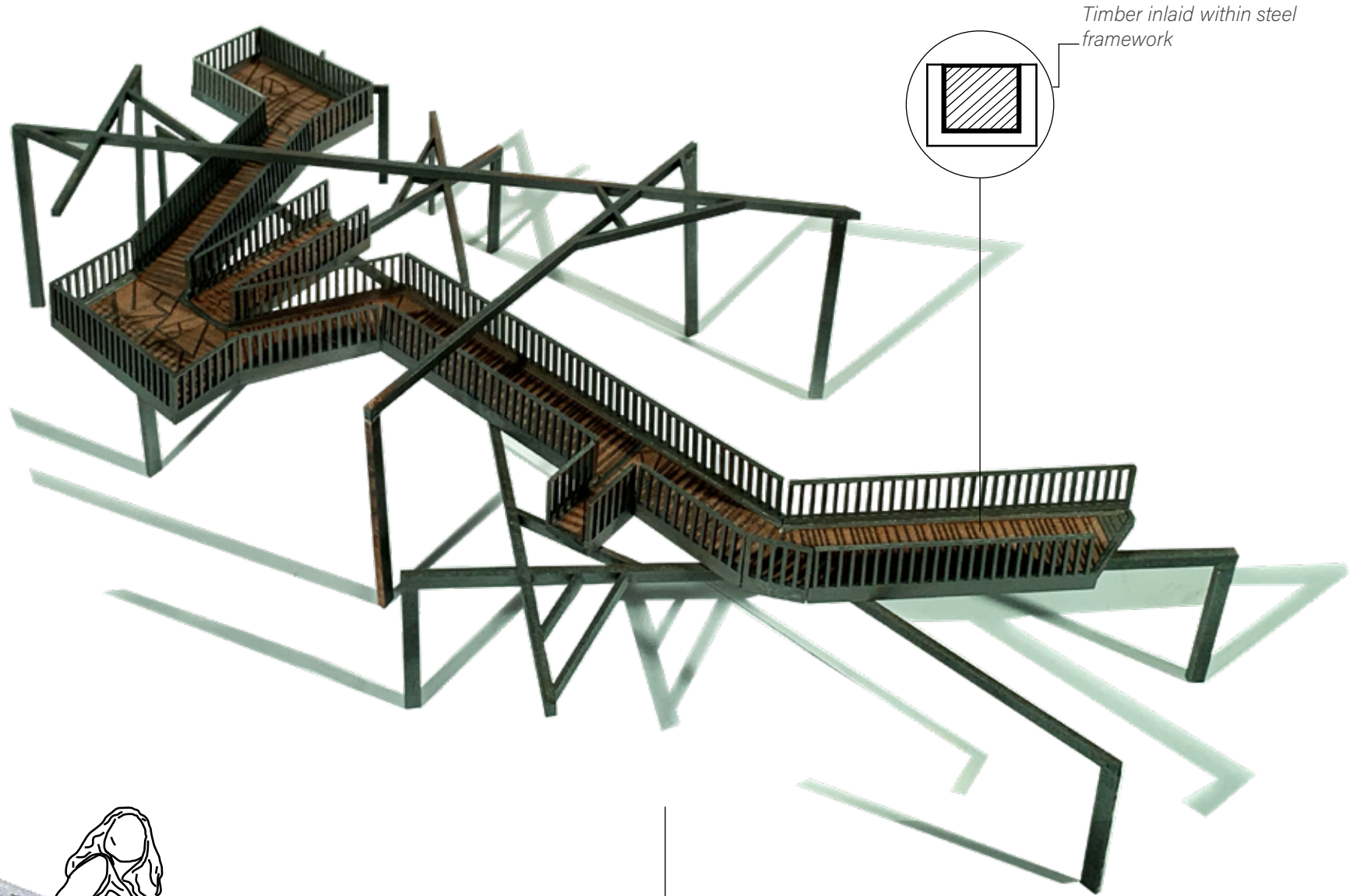
- 1. Small Conference nest
- 2. Lupita Nyong'o private nest
- 3. Niall Ferguson private nest
- 4. Large Conference nest
- 5. Side Section





ELEVATED WALKWAY

The elevated walkway stretches across the length of Gloucester Mews and is the only way to access each nest. This walkway is accessed through a private staircase at the front of the building for members only to ensure maximum safety and privacy of the bedfellows. It also contains two expanded areas where benches are provided for activities such as quick conversations, phone calls and waiting for meetings. The aesthetic aims to represent an exterior industrial walkway and Gloucester Mew's grand queen post truss. Both these elements are reflective of the history of Gloucester Mews from when it was first identified as an artillery depot to the materials that exist today. The timber floor planks are inlaid within the steel frame creating a smooth surface, this also allows the design details to be viewed from users below. The walkway and nests are bolted to and supported by the steel branch structure that also holds the nests.



Elevated walkway from a ground floor perspective

SEATING SECTORS AND STAGING SYSTEM

Following extensive research into the history of debating and seating configuration, it was vital to design an arrangement that eliminated any division and biasness within the crowd, more so as this is a debate that will not result in one side winning. This is often done by implementing a curvature formation to reduce the notion of 'sides' and also allows the debators to have the same sight lines. In order to continue the vertical linear language throughout the space, I designed the seating sectors to come together in order to create segments of a circle. During the debates, the blank spaces will be occupied by the media which together will create a circular audience.

ANIMATED GIF SHOWING STAGE AND SEATING RE-CONFIGURATION



The seating has been designed rather playfully in terms of how it is used. I created a mixture of stairs and large block seats that collectively created the overall seating arrangement. The concept of this seating is to avoid the limitations you would get if you were to sit in a normal chair and reduce the influence of standard shapes and formations eg. stools, benches and lecture theatres etc. Users have the ability to climb up and across using either the stairs or blocks and sit in any formation. Disabled users are able to sit of the bottom row of each sector where there is also spaces for wheelchairs.

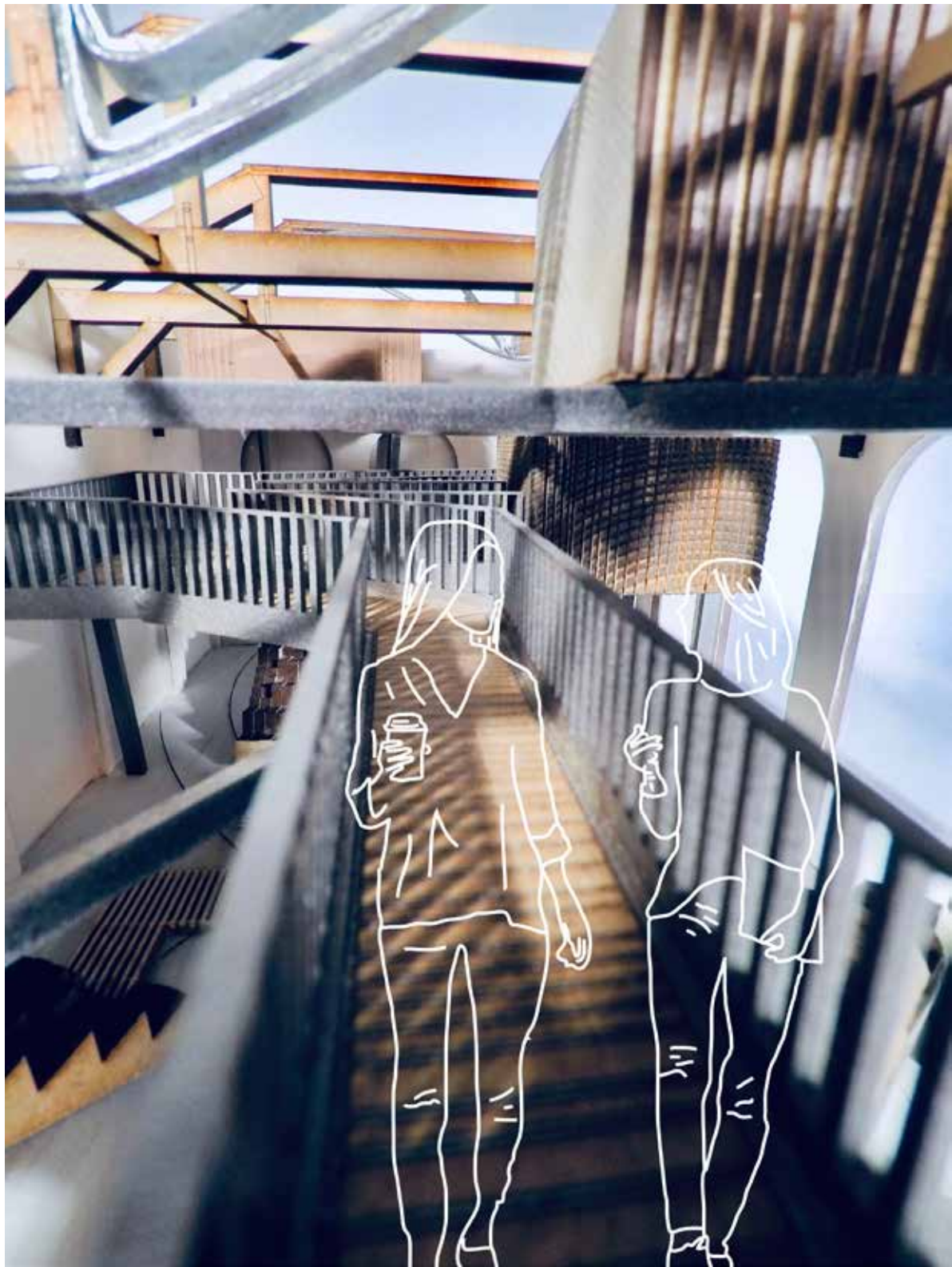
Inhabited use of seating shown on 2 out of the 4 seating sectors





INHABITED MODEL IMAGES

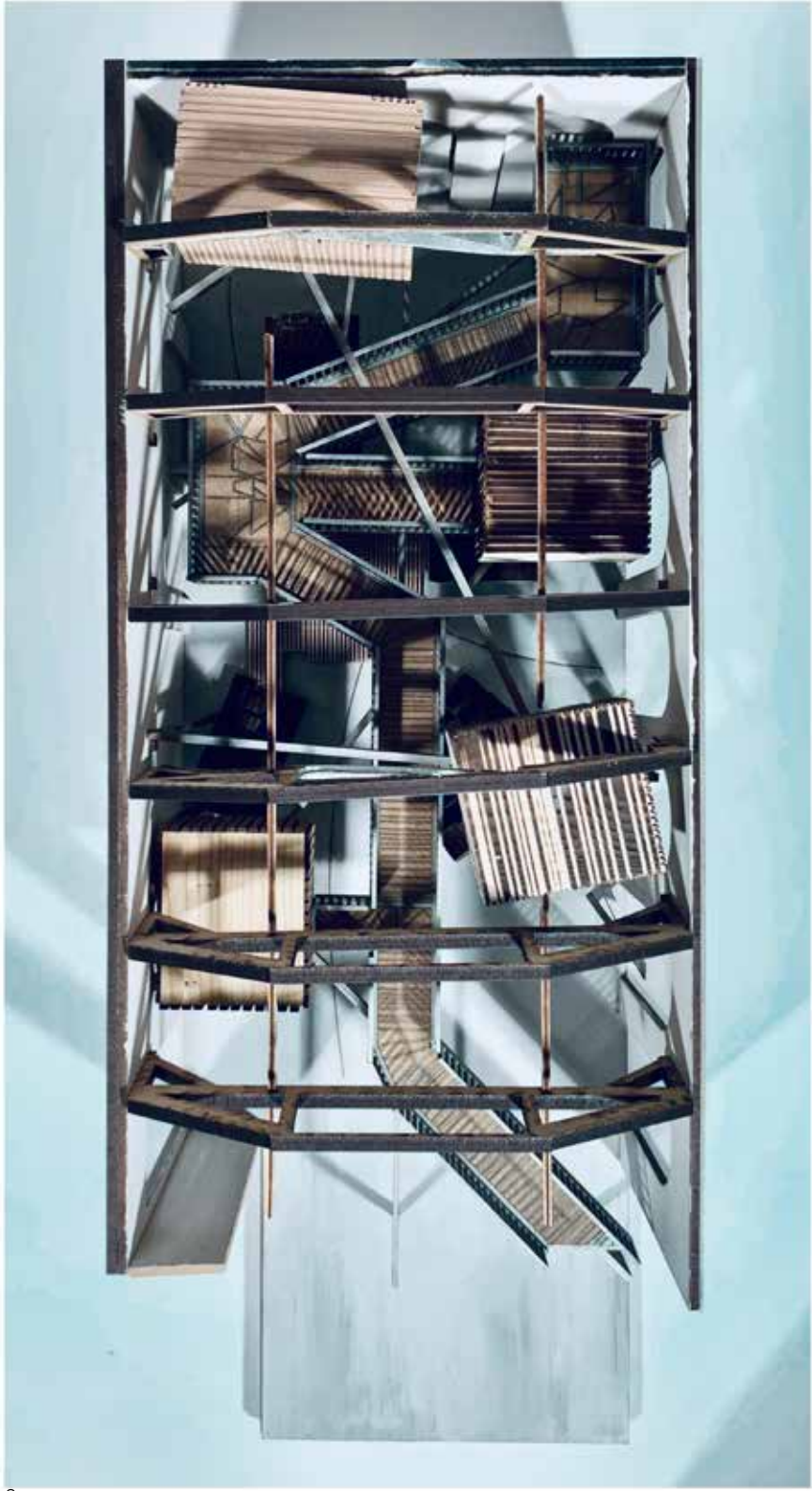
- 1. Elevated walkway (North facing)
- 2. Inhabited Ground floor view of staging and seating (North facing)
- 3. Plan View of design
- 4. Inhabited staging area moments before the debate
- 5. Front view of Gloucester Mews not including entrance
- 6. View from Lupita's nest on the second floor



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