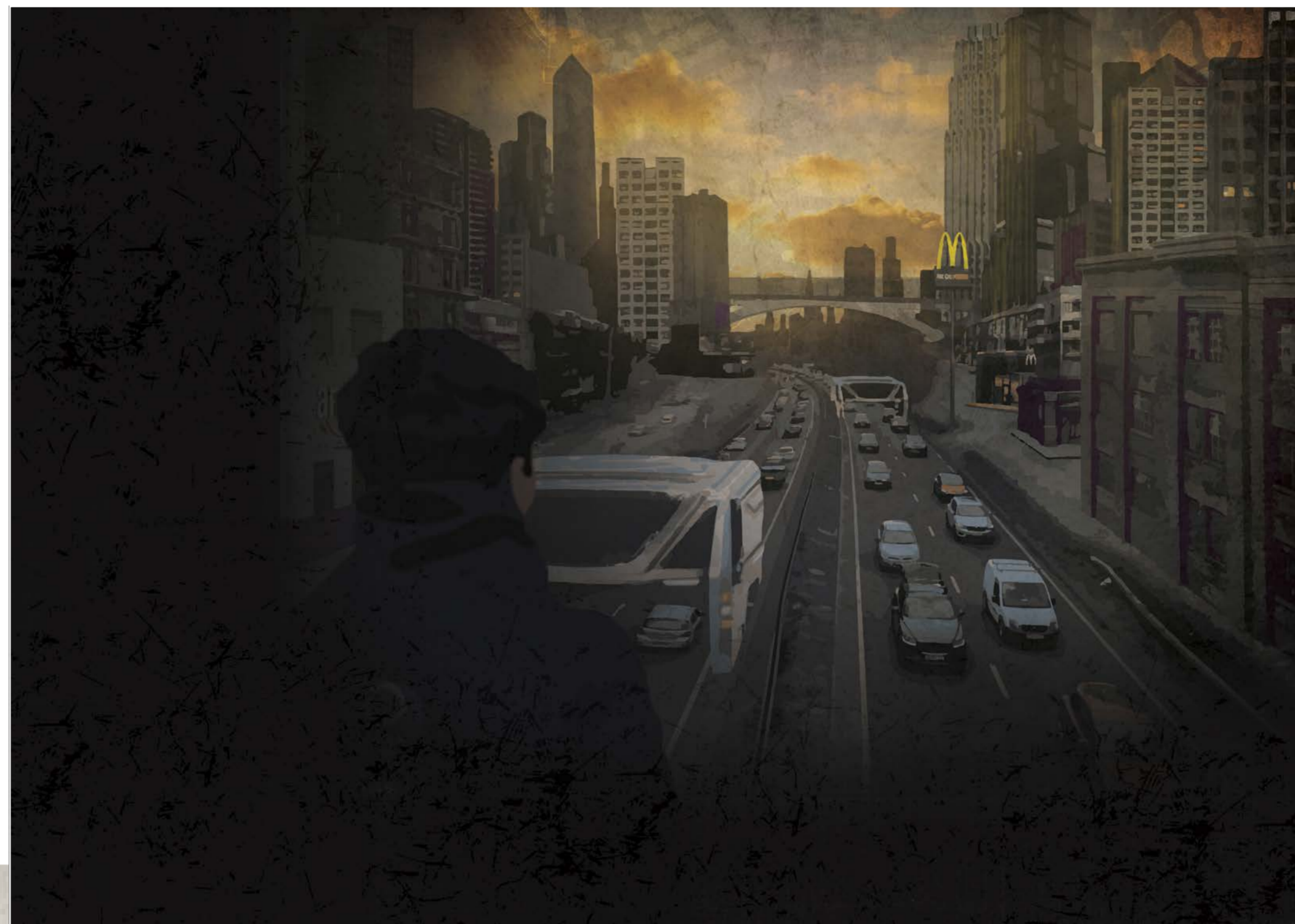


[https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtX-KZMGihje?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtX-KZMGihje?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)



# 2054

2054 is a narrative based design project in the style of a graphic novel, where an inhospitable future responds to the current state of condition and the crises within, and informs the design of an exploitative hub in the heart of a city.

The centre entices users in under the premise of earning energy tokens with their heartbeats, yet programmed distractions make for a futile fight and players are pulled back in at any attempt to leave.

The project playfully uses comic style drawings to highlight some of the issues we face as a society; such as the current energy crisis, while being reflective of the insidious lure of social media platforms' and their ceaseless capitalisation of our neurochemicals, which, by design drive surges of dopamine to the brain to keep us coming back again and again; a state of being which research shows to be similar to that of gambling or using drugs.

The intention of the project was to paint a vivid picture of what life in a future city may be like, considering surveillance, consumerism, overpopulation, pollution, and lack of connection - both interpersonally and spatially; purposefully projecting an extreme, yet not unimaginable futurity, in hope of cultivating deeper self-awareness in the now.

IT WAS SPRING, AND THE RETURN OF THE SUN BROUGHT A PHOTOCHEMICAL SMOG WHICH SMOTHERED THE CITY IN A DALEFUL OCHRE HUE, WHICH WAS MADE MORE PROTUBERANT BY THE DESCENDING DARKNESS OF THE EVENING SKY. THE SCENT OF MOLTEN PLASTIC STEAMED FROM THE EXTRACTION OF THE RECYCLING PLANT, AND LINGERED IN THE AIR, HELD THERE BY THE DENSITY OF THE DAY-LONG DUSK.

THE STREETS, ONCE LIT WITH FESTIVALS OF FIRE AND EBULLIENT CELEBRATIONS OF FREEDOM, HAD BECOME NARROWED BY THE PROLIFERATING MASS OF MOVING PARTS. CONCRETE BARRICADES FORGED A CONFLUENCE UPON THE STREAMS OF EXPRESSIONLESS PEOPLE, WHO CASCADED THEIR WAY THROUGH REMNANTS OF MILITARY CHECKPOINTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CENTRAL STREETS, AS THEY HURRIED TO GET HOME BEFORE NIGHTFALL. SOME POSTULATED THAT THE BLOCKS HAD BEEN LEFT THERE AS A REMINDER; MONOLITHIC MASSES SYMBOLIC OF THE UNSHAKEABLE STRENGTH OF THE GOVERNING FORCE, AND THE LENGTHS THEY WERE WILLING TO GO TO TO MAINTAIN CONTROL.

THE OUTSIDE WORLD, OR 'THE GREY' AS IT HAD COME TO BE CALLED, WAS A CHAOTIC MISCELLANY OF MASTERY AND NECESSITY; AN AMALGAM OF EPOCHS, EACH TELLING TALE OF THEIR PART IN THE PRODUCTION OF TIME, LIKE PLAYERS ON A STAGE, EAGER TO OUTPERFORM THEIR PREDECESSOR, CLAMBERING TO UNRAVEL THE PERPETUAL PLOT.

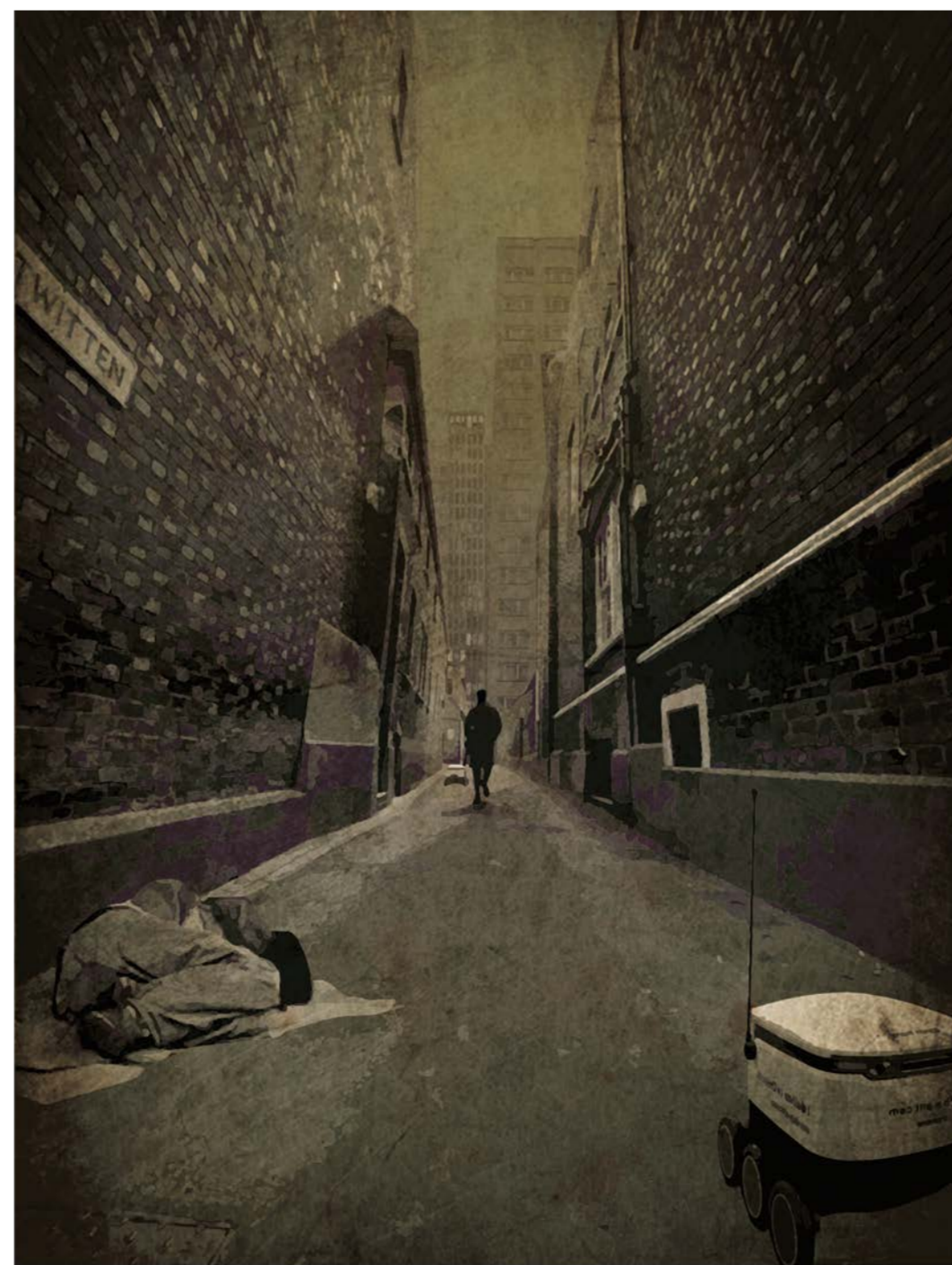
ANCIENT ARCHITECTURAL DISPLAYS OF STATURE MELDED WITH ILLUMINATED IMAGERY, AND BUNGLED INTERVENTIONS WHICH RESPONDED TO EXIGENCY ECHOED THE DWINDLING RESOLUTION OF THEIR CREATORS. RESIDENTIAL TOWER BLOCKS CONSTRUCTED IN THE FORTIES LOOMED OVER VICTORIAN TERRACES DROPPED UP BY A TRELLEWORK OF STEEL SUPPORT BEAMS AND CLADED PANELS, ABSORBING THE IMMEMORIAL LANDSCAPE, AND ADDING A DARKNESS TO THE DUSTING OF DECAY WHICH SHROUDED THE METROPOLIS.

THINGS DIDN'T HAPPEN OUT IN THE GREY ANYMORE. THE DIVIDE BETWEEN SYSTEM AND SOUL WAS IMMEASURABLE, AND HOSTILITY WAS RIFE. FRAGILITY WHISPERED BENEATH THE SILENT SURFACE OF DISCONNECTION, AND IT ANCHORED THE PEOPLE TO THE SHORES OF RESPONDENCY THAT THEY HAD COME TO CALL HOME.

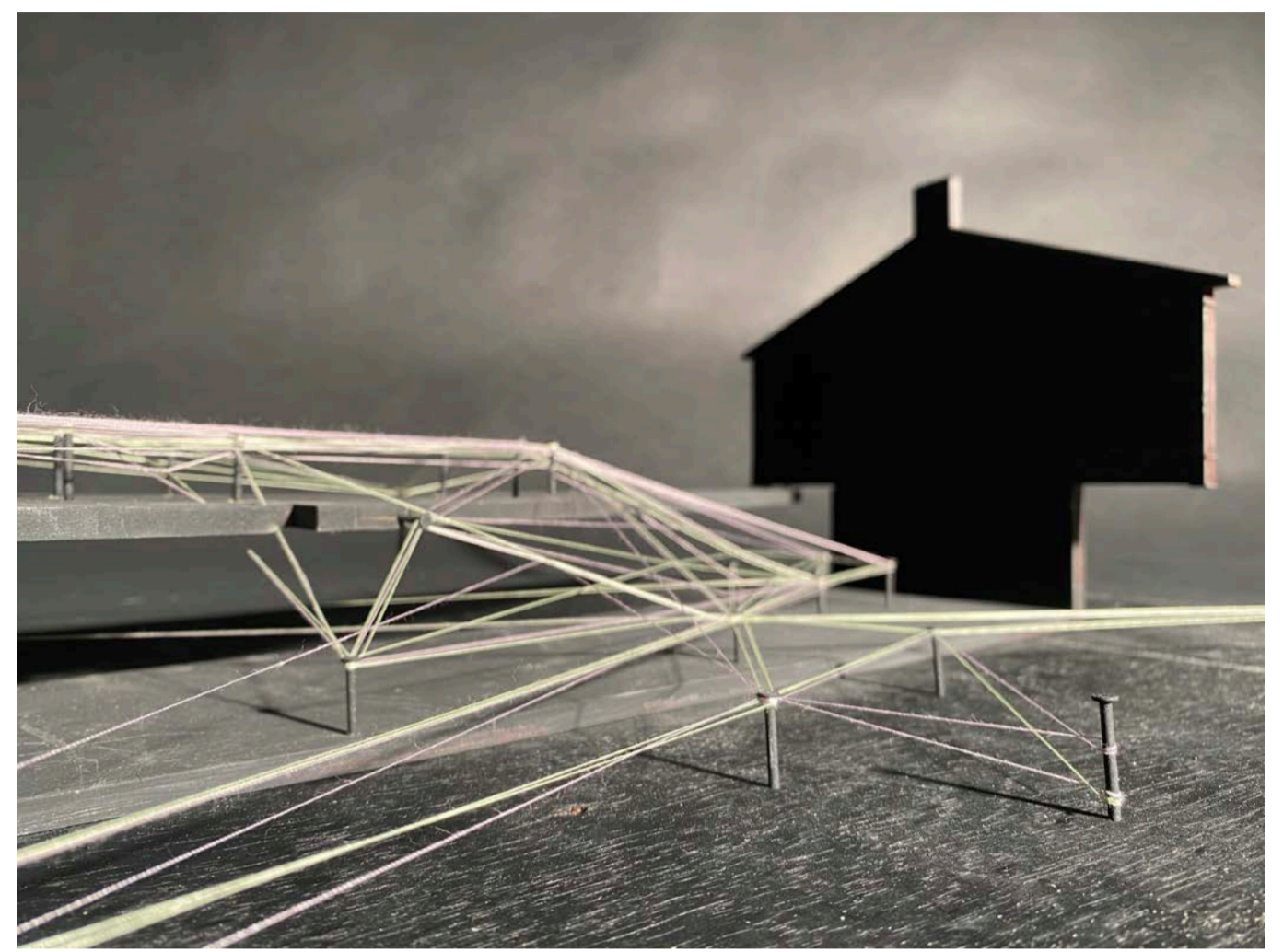
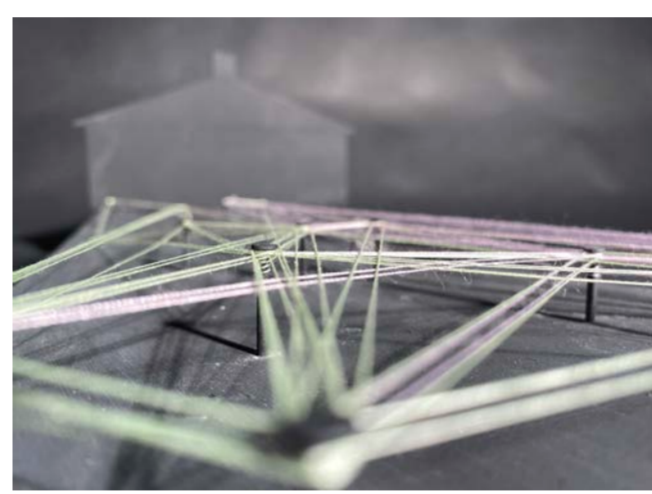
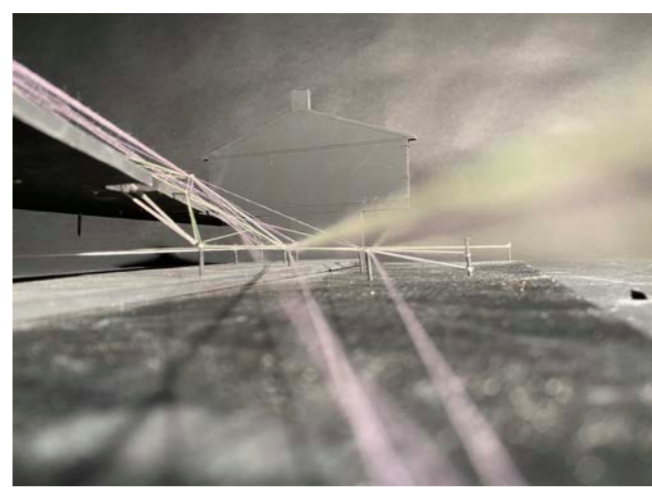
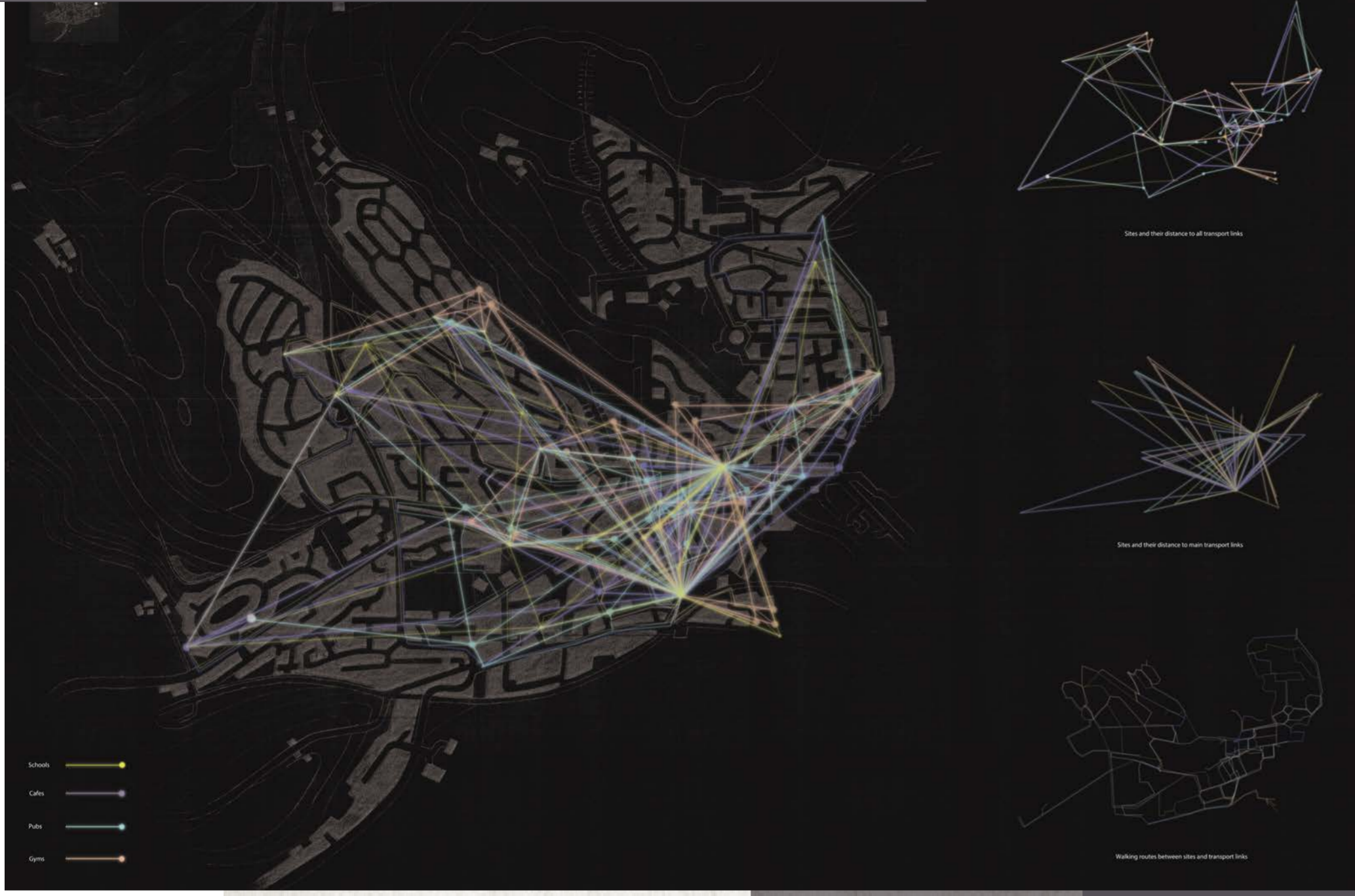
A GROUP OF MORE THAN TWO COULD BE CONSIDERED AN ORGANISED GATHERING, ARRESTED UNDER A LEGION OF LAWS AND ACTS AND DETAINED FOR A TIME WHICH COULD ONLY BE MEASURED BY ONE RECURRING RULE: THE MORE OFTEN YOU WERE TAKEN IN, THE LONGER THEY KEPT YOU. THE PRIVATISATION OF PRISONS WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN UPSWING OF CORRUPTION; IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT POLICE WERE PAID A COMMISSION FOR ANY INMATE IMPRISONED FOR MORE THAN A MONTH.

DAILY COMMERCE WAS CONTINUOUS; THE CEASELESS ACHE TO FILL THE EVER-GROWING VOID OF CONSUMPTION WAS FACILITATED AT EVERY TURN. SWARMS OF DELIVERY DOTS LOCOMOTED LASER-LIT LANES, AND PACKING FACTORIES OCCUPIED ANY SIZABLE SPACE THEY COULD.

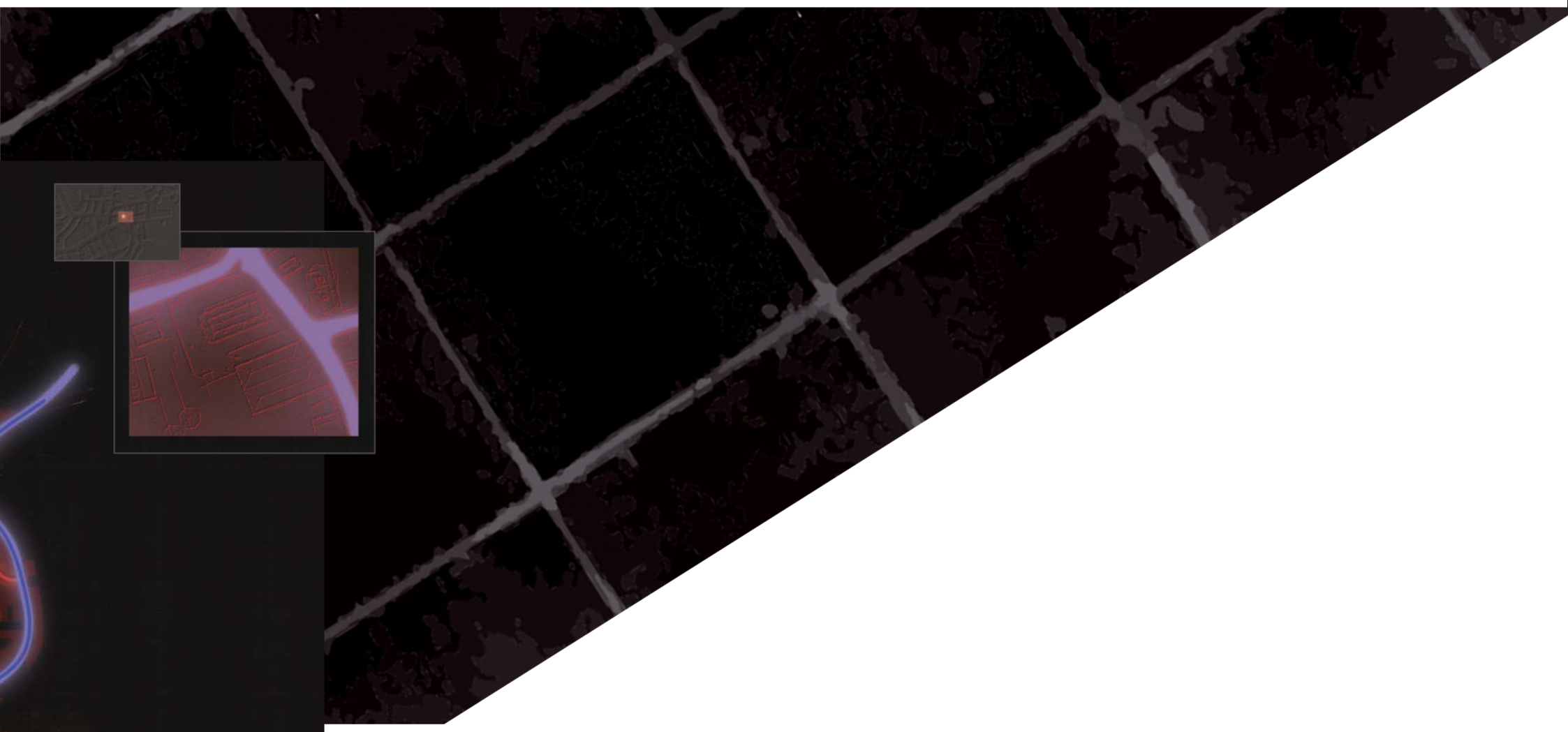
STRADDLING SHUTTLES THAT CONNECTED THE CONURBATIONS TO THE NUCLEUS SNAKED ABOVE THE MAIN STRIP, AND THE MAGLEV MADE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH DRIGHTHELM IN LITTLE OVER A MINUTE.



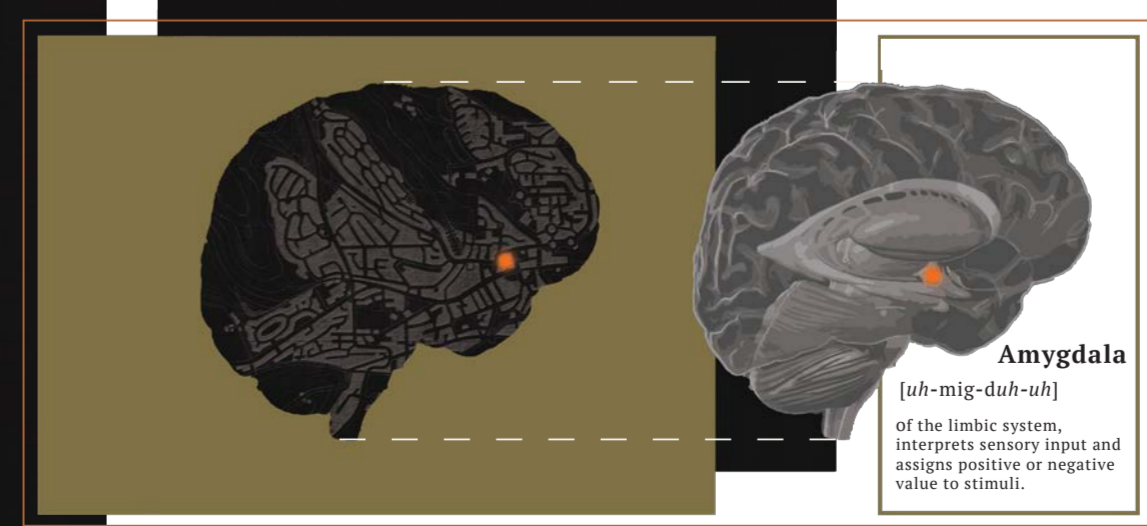
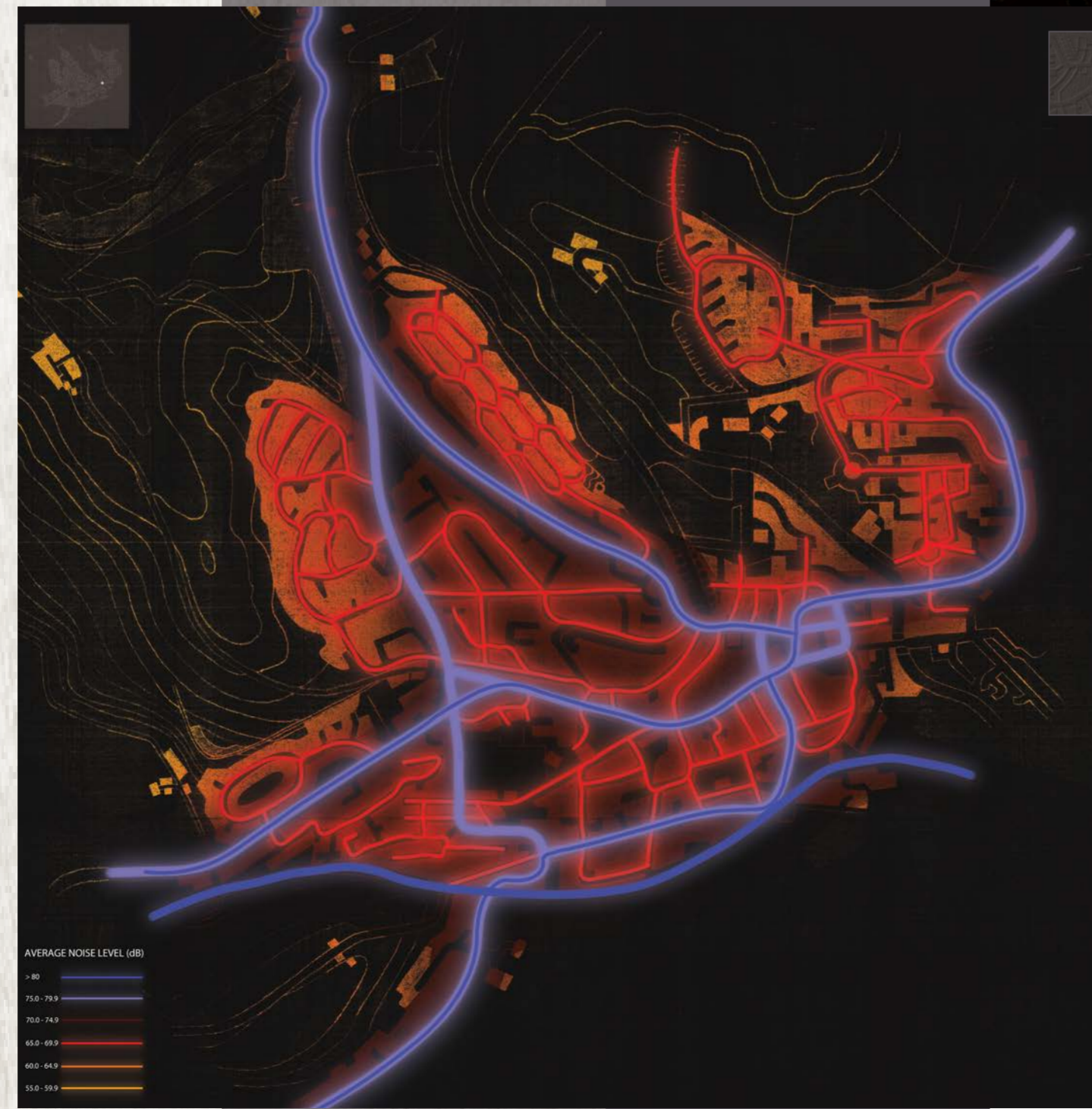
THE MOTION OF THE POPULACE AMID THE MONOTONY OF CONSTRAINT, MOVING BETWEEN TRANSPORT DOCKS AND WHAT REMAINED OF THE THIRD PLACES, WOVE INTRICATE WEBS OF INTERRELATION; THE LAST SURVIVING STRANDS OF CONNECTION THAT TIED ONE HUMAN TO ANOTHER SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE CITYSCAPE LIKE A NEXUS OF NEUROPATHWAYS, ALL LINKED AND ALIVE. AND HERE, AT THE CORE OF THE CEREBRUM AMID THE BUSTLE OF ITS BUSIEST INTERSECTION, STOOD PULSE HOUSE.



Delving deeper into the 'strands of connection' by through a physical exploration with form



THE SINGULAR STRUCTURE, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A TRANSPORTATION TERMINUS, HAD BEEN RECAST AS A DIFFERENT ENTITY ENTIRELY A HUNDRED YEARS AFTER ITS CONSTRUCTION. YET STILL, IT FULFILLED ITS ROLE AS A NODE IN A NETWORK OF CONNECTION; A CLEAR INTERCHANGE AMONGST A CONVOLUTION OF CIRCUITRY, PROCESSING USER INPUT AND SIGNALLING THE DESIRED DESTINATION LIKE A SWITCHBOARD. IF THE CITY WERE AN ENCEPHALON, THIS WOULD BE ITS AMYGDALA.



The map highlights noise pollution surrounding site, expanding upon information taken from 'extrium.co.uk - England noise and air quality viewer'

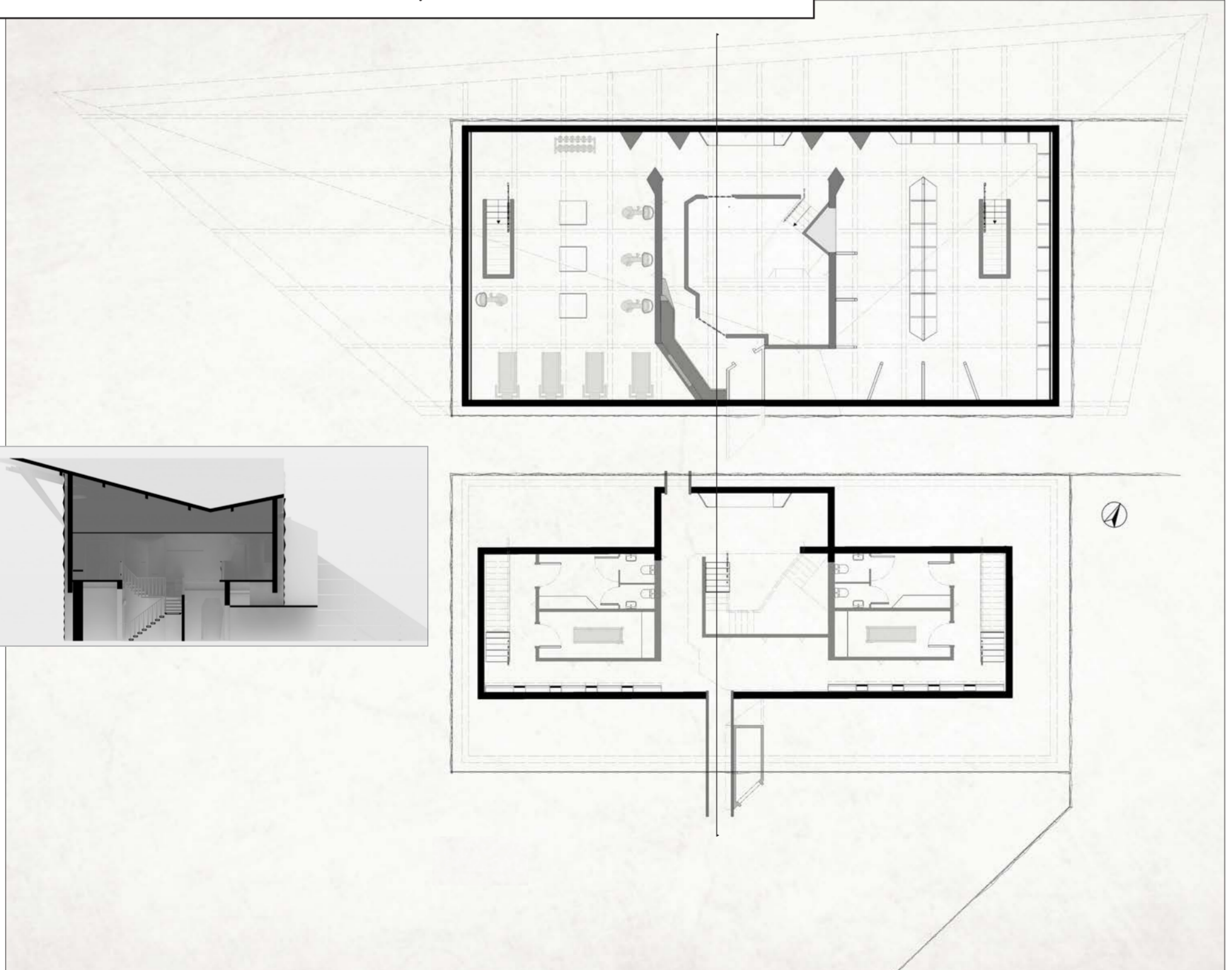


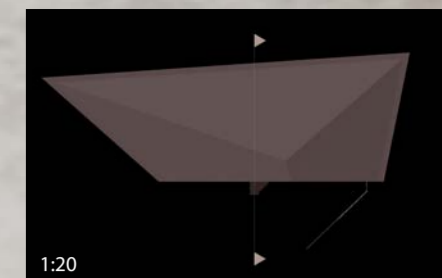
FINELY PERFORATED ALUMINIUM RHOMBUSES WHICH SEALED A SECONDARY FRAMEWORK LIKE A SHELL ENCASING THE DELICATE FLESH OF ITS CARRIER, TESSELLATED ACROSS ITS SURFACES AND ENVELOPED IT COMPLETELY AS THEY SWEEP AROUND ITS SIDES, BAFFLING THE BLARING WALL OF NOISE, ENTICING USERS IN BY OFFERING RESPITE FROM THE DEVITALISING CACOPHONY OF THE SURROUNDING CITY, REPLACING MALAISE AND DISQUIETUDE WITH COMFORT AND EASE.



THE BUILDING WAS ALLURING YET UNFEELING, INTRIGUING YET DESOLATE; UNEMBELLISHED AND EMPTY WITH LITTLE BEYOND NECESSITY YET AROUND WITH UNREST. LATTICED LUMINAIRES IMPERSONATED DAYLIGHT INCESSANTLY, BAFFLING THE BIORHYTHMS OF ITS CALLERS. IT WAS A BILATERIAN BEAST BY DESIGN, BUT PARASITIC IN ITS NATURE, DEPENDING WHOLLY ON ITS HOSTS TO EXIST.

AS THE DUST OF THE OF THE DEAD WINTER BEGAN TO DISPERSE, SOCIETY STARTED TO SEE THE EMERGENCE OF HEART HARVESTING. SOLD AS MEANS TO GENERATE ONE'S OWN ENERGY, UNLIMITED USE OF THE FACILITIES FOLLOWED AN IN-HOUSE SURGICAL PROCEDURE WHERE A BEAT COUNTER WAS IMPLANTED ON THE HEART; MORE BEATS - MORE HEAT. THE INSIDIOUS CENTRES SOON BECAME HUDS THAT HELD THE RESIDUUM OF A PEOPLE; PRISONS DRESSED AS FREEDOM, WHICH DISTRACTED THEM FROM THE REALITIES THEY LIVED, AND KEPT THEM FROM RATTLING THE CAGES THAT THEY WERE CONFINED TO.





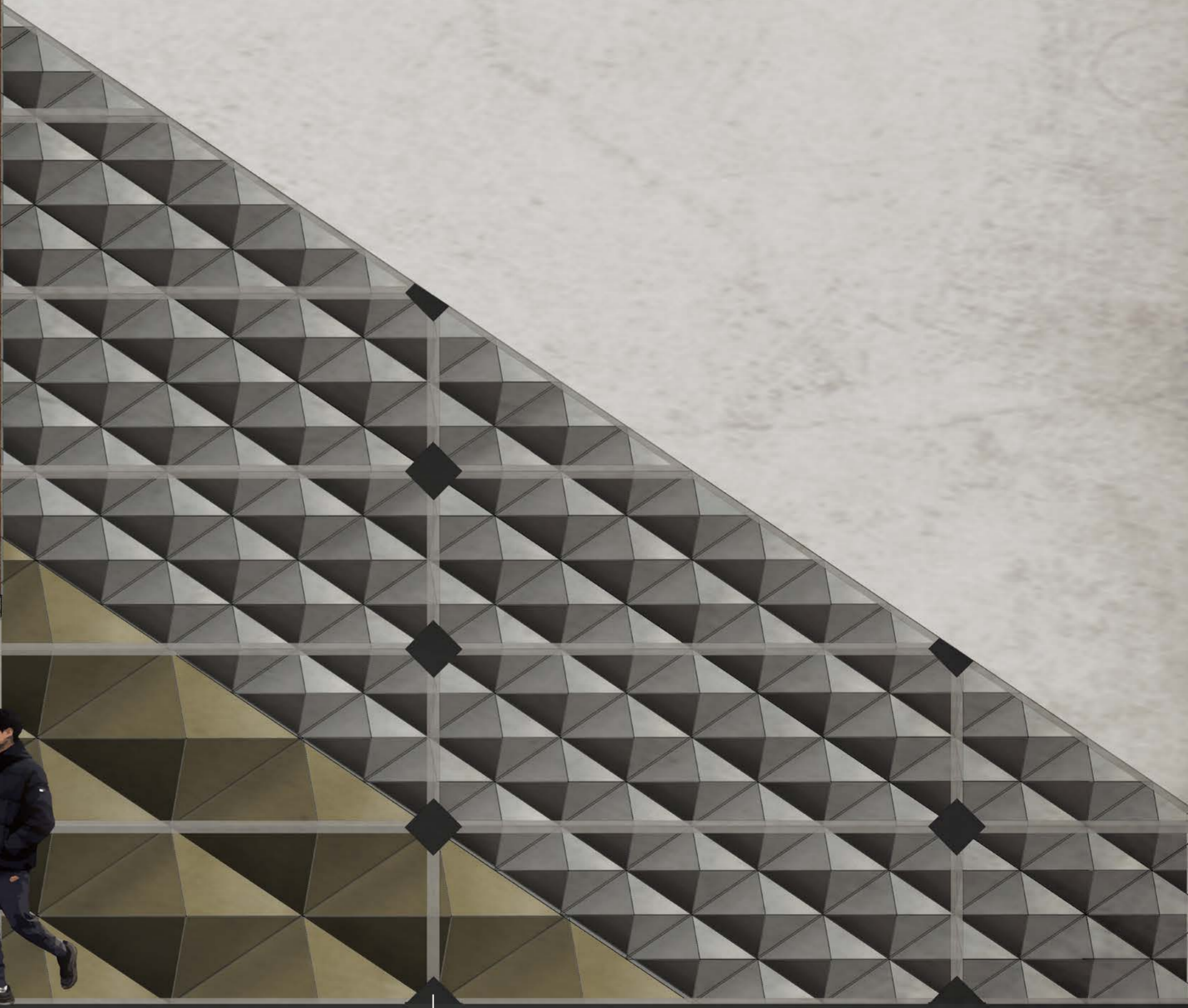
1:20



Wall fixed uplighters:  
precast GFRC, dyed  
with black pigment

Steel railings made from 60 x 30mm box section,  
and spindels made using 50 x 20mm H section,  
finished in matt black powder coat

38mm LED strips  
inserted into box  
section



Flooring: 114mm precast GFRC, dyed with black pigment

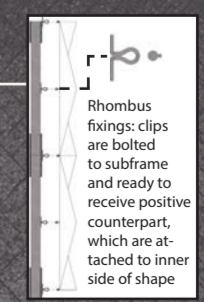
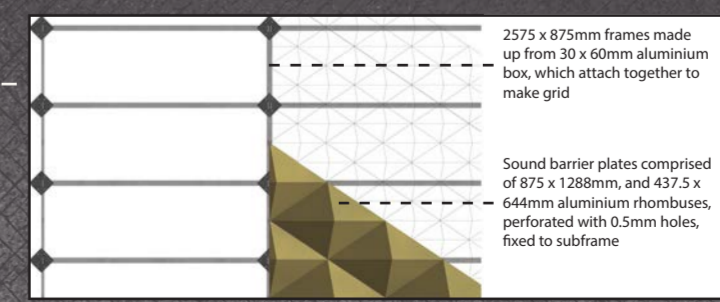
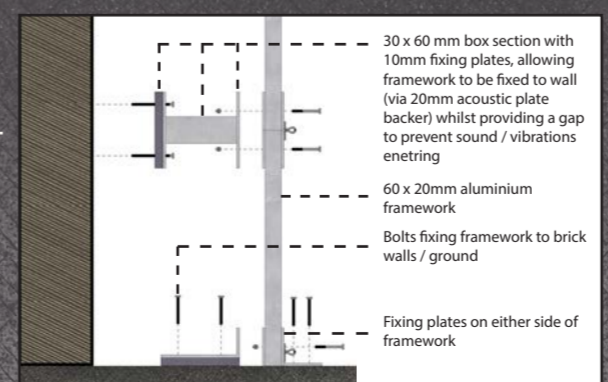
Covered walkway: 100mm precast GFRC

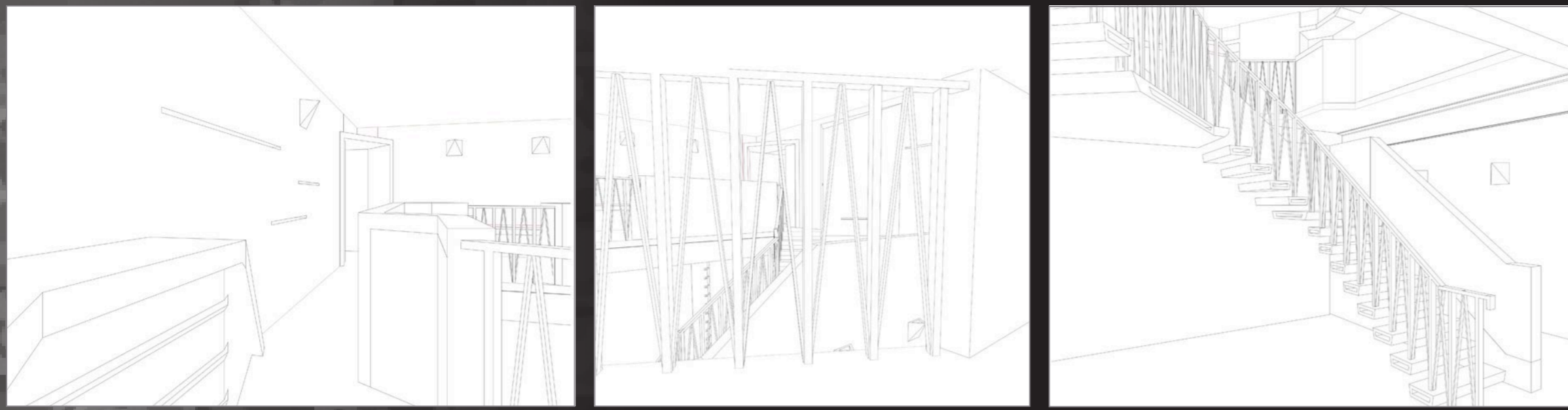
Inner wall panels: 30mm precast glass fibre reinforced concrete.

Glass fibre reinforced concrete, or GFRC chosen for durability and soundproofing qualities, with a 10mm sheet reducing sound by upto 30dB

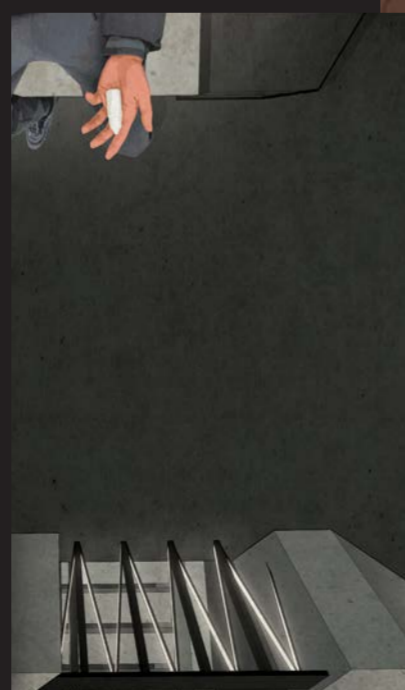
Original brick wall - 280mm

Additional insulation: 50mm acoustic slab





NEUROCHEMICALS HAD BEEN WEAPONISED AND USED TO MOULD THE MINDSETS OF THE MASSES, SENDING SURGES OF SYNTHETIC CATECHOLAMINES TO THE SYSTEM THROUGH THE CONJUNCTIVA, KEEPING BODY AND BRAIN ALERT AND IN A STATE OF ENHANCED ANTICIPATION. EVEN WHEN THEY MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE CHASE OF THE PROGRAMME, THEY WERE PULLED BACK IN BY THE LURE OF THE VENDING STATIONS THAT LINED THE LANDINGS. IT WAS A DANCE THAT NEVER ENDED; AND SO THEY STAYED, AND THEY PLAYED, LOCKED IN UNDER THE PREMISE OF PROGRESSION, PARALYSED BY THEIR OWN DIODOCS.



AND THE LOSS OF TACTILITY TO CYBER-SPATIALITY GAVE WAY TO A NUMBNESS OF THEIR NEUROLOGICAL SYSTEMS, WHILST THE GAPS THEY YEARNED TO FILL METASTASISED WITHIN THEM..

