

BOX FOR LIFE

A Future Living Project

*Pushing Boundaries;
collaboration and inter-disciplinary practice*

BOX FOR LIFE:

The "Box For Life" project is a **national tiny home intentional community network** designed to bring the tiny home movement to urban cities.

This project will develop both the **ultimate tiny home**, that can be purchased at an affordable price **and an exemplar community site** on George Street in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. It will combat the growing economical issue that sees **struggling young people attempt to juggle work and social lives whilst reaching for the property ladder**.

The project aims to increase **"Urban Opportunity" for people in tiny home and sustainable living communities and attract a new generation of tiny dwellers**.

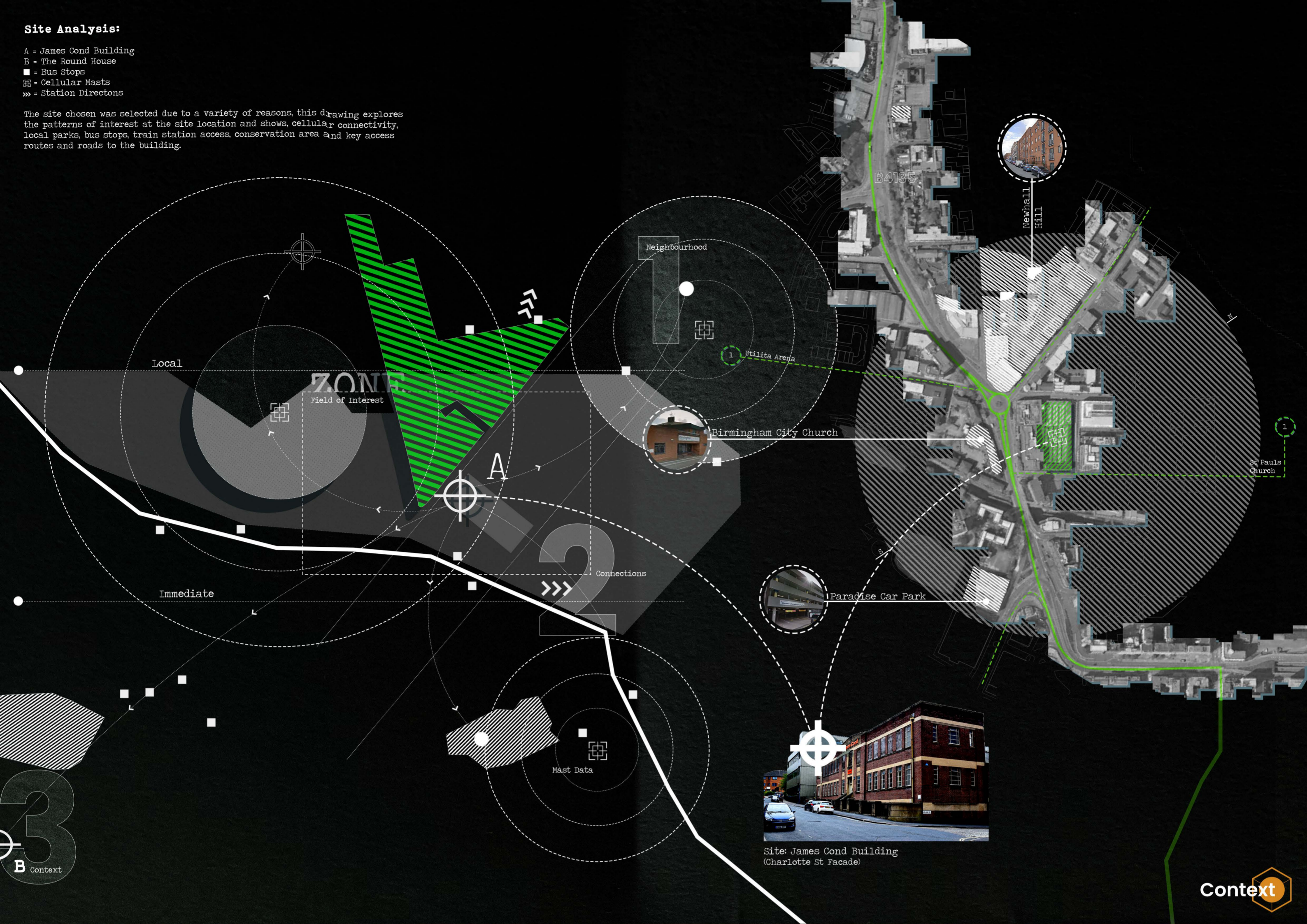
- Luke Reynolds



Site Analysis:

- A = James Cond Building
- B = The Round House
- = Bus Stops
- ⊞ = Cellular Masts
- » = Station Directons

The site chosen was selected due to a variety of reasons, this drawing explores the patterns of interest at the site location and shows, cellular connectivity, local parks, bus stops, train station access, conservation area and key access routes and roads to the building.

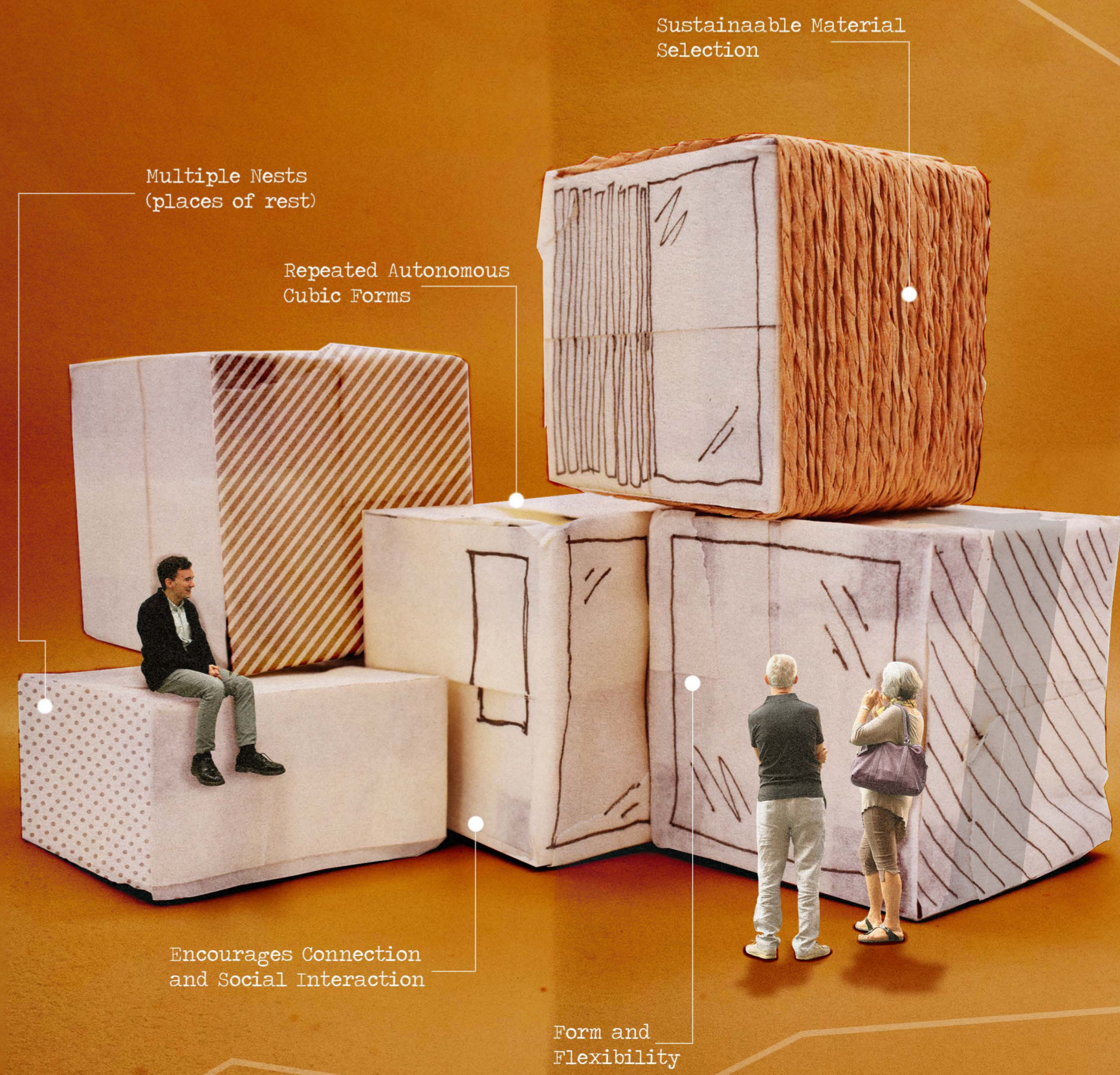
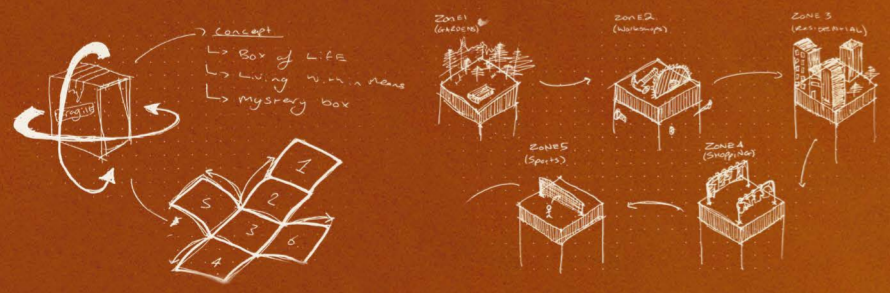


ISSUE IN QUESTION:

How can spatially sustainable design benefit the collective mental health of generation Z in cities?

The project began after the exploration of spatial sustainability which concluded that **we as a new generation are in a position to make radical change to our spatical habits** and What emerged from the review is that "Doers and Dreamers" of Gen Z are concerned with environmental change and finance and **are more likely to transition into smaller spaces to preserve resources on both a macro and micro scale**. However this may only build momentum if given **the right environment that supports mental and physical growth** as well as supports a financially stable narrative.

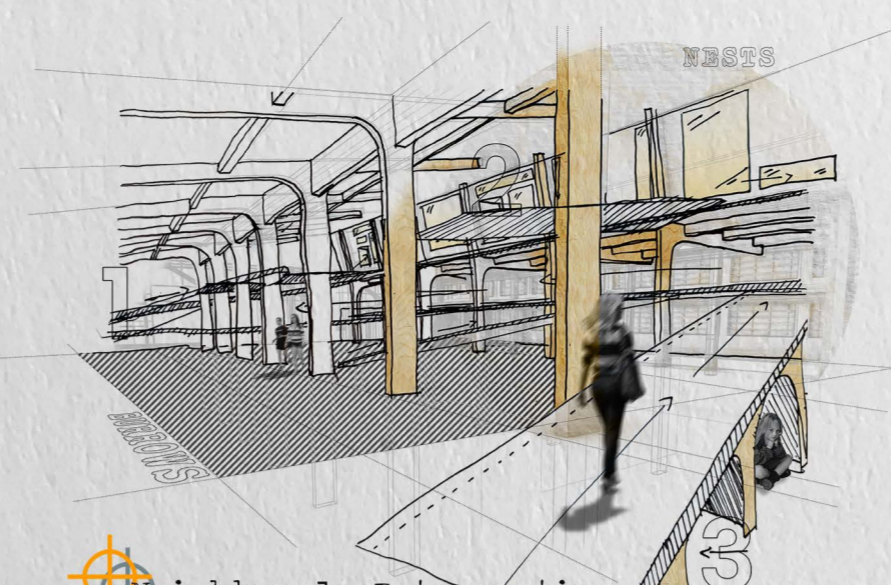
This was the base for the Box For Life project and was then developed using the physical form of **the cardboard box, a symbol of creativity, sentimentality and flexibility**.





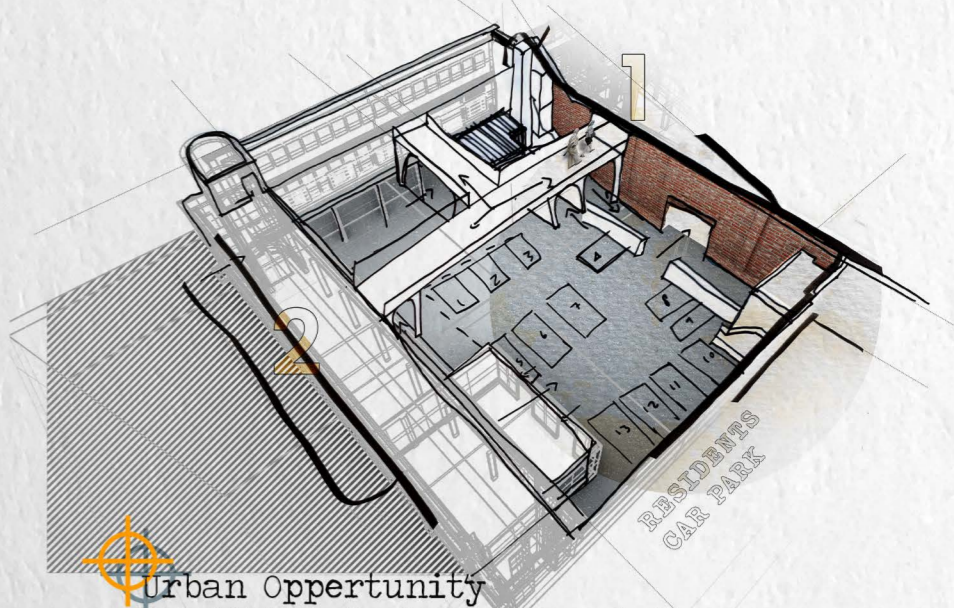
Dens of "Fertile Laziness"

It's said that without the dens, nooks and hidden spaces in a space we lack the ability to think creatively, to conjure the imagination and even think at all! These places provide opportunity to feel safe inside your own mind as well as in your physical surroundings, there are places of creative expression and allow us to be lazy yet fertile in our thinking ability. We are often restricted to the physical plane and rush to finalise our own ideas therefore restricting our own ability.



Neighbourly Intervention

Studies found that high-rise buildings that encourage co-habitation often instead created mental health issues due to the formal spacial planning often only allowing intentional spaces for interaction such as the stairs and common rooms both incredibly inconvenient spaces. Being a 3 story building the sites form offers a chance to restructure the cohabitational residential spaces we are used to seeing in cities. Using Richard Rogers urban net system he suggested for the restructuring of entire urban environments the site will use a net system of bridges that create flexible collision zones and direct connections to "Thy Neighbour" that offer choice to residents for interaction.



Urban Opportunity

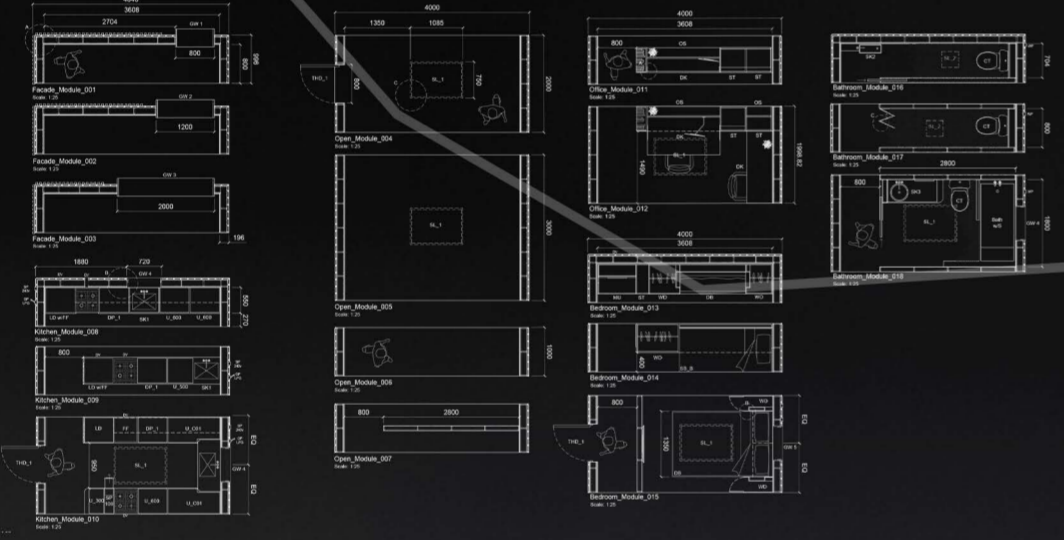
Part of living in the city means being part of a much wider community, both socially and politically. It provides city dwellers with the chance to build their own individual skills, and this is one of generation Z's priorities - Growth - therefore we need to provide spaces that are flexible and adapt to the user in a profession practice and not just a creative one. Zone 1 hosts a car part, multiuse events space and an upper bridge provides private access to residents for flexible office spaces for personal meetings for those self-employed in the building.



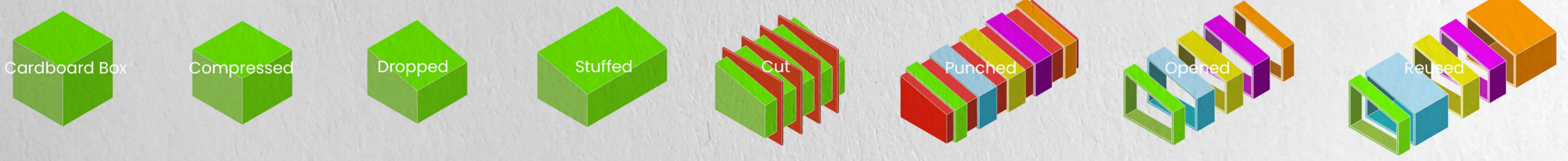
MODULAR DESIGN:

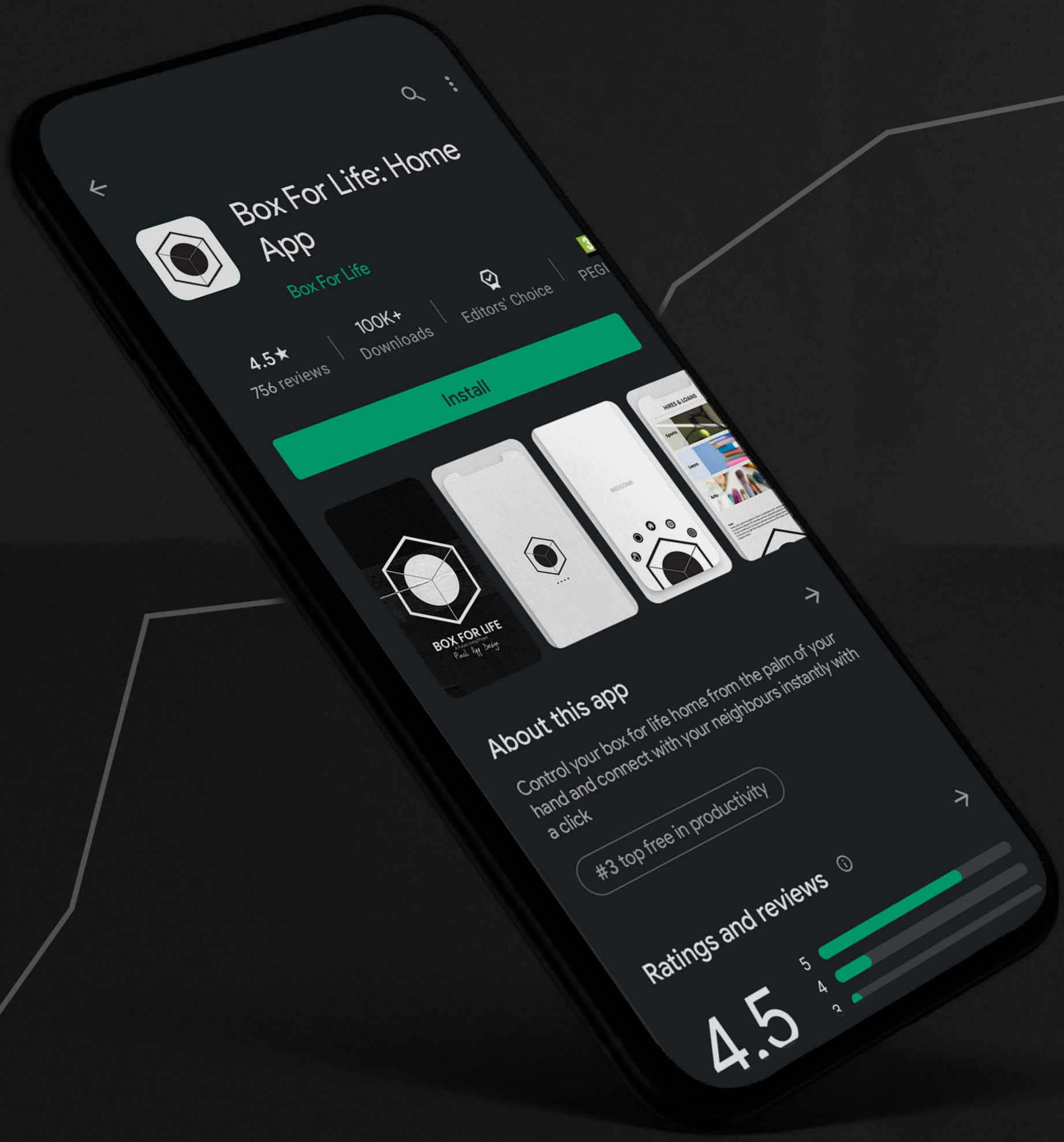
A main objective for the project was to design a tiny home that allowed a higher level of customisation than what the current market offers and to allow the user the opportunity to grow their home with their lifestyle needs. Not only can this tiny home be assembled on the spot but it can be taken 100% off grid or be onsite at a network location.

In total 18 varieties of modules were designed to give the user a wide range of flexibility based on their idea of tiny living.



To experience the modules in full visit: www.boxforlifenet.co.uk or scan the QR code for the mobile lite version.





A VIRTUAL REALM:

"Control your box for life home from the palm of your hand and connect with your neighbours instantly with a click!"

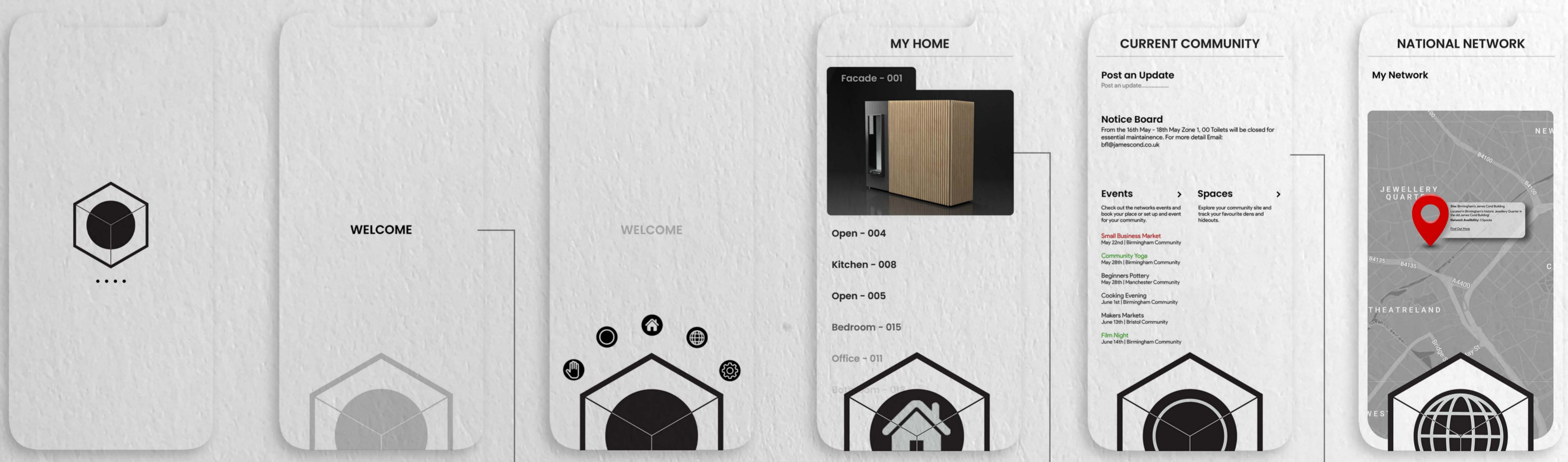
The Box For Life: Home App is an essential component to the success of the project, it is the hub that communities crave in the virtual world that allows connection in the physical. From the app you have the ability to control your modular home (Light, Sound and Appliances) through its built in bluetooth system and you can connect directly to your current community if your living within the box for life network or connect with your nearest community if you have chosen to take your home off-grid!

A CRITICAL STUDY?

Whilst the exploration into spatial sustainability explored the idea of disconnections through virtual platforms it's important to recognise the importance of social media and its power to connect over long distance.

The "Box For Life: Home" app limits functionality via the mobile device to physical event planning and notifications and the booking of physical space and equipment. Therefore the app in fact encourages physical social engagement with its community.

Read my critical study here:
<https://www.behance.net/gallery/113790457/Critical-Study-Ar-c6001>



1 The overall design of the Box For Life Network App is high contrast and minimal allowing the easiest user experience as a possible regardless of ability of sight. It is intended to be a virtual plugin for both your tiny home and nextwork site and act as a versatile accessory to the minimalist toolkit.

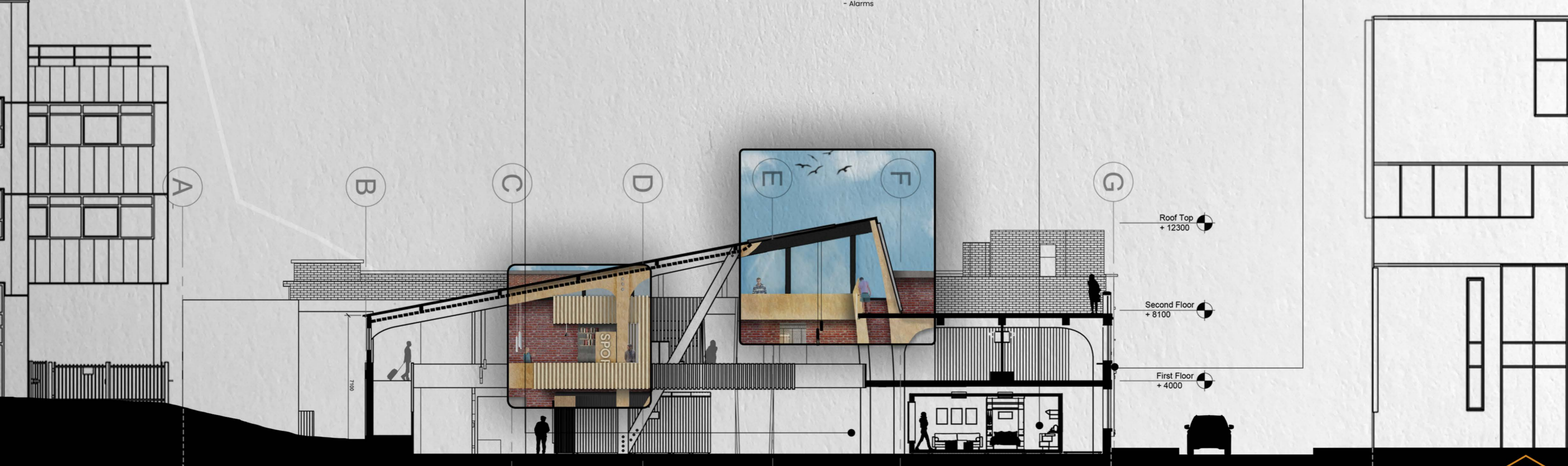
2 Upon the first interaction of the app you are greeted with a simple welcome message that then encourages you to interact with the lower contrast logo situated at the bottom of the screen, with is the hub for all resources located in the app.

3 In total there are 5 categories that the app is split into: Home - Current Community - Network - Hires and Loans - Settings. Each icon is represented by a universal icon to help with navigation and ease of access.

4 Home Controls: From here you can control your entire home including:
 - Sound
 - Light
 - Temperature
 - Appliances
 - Alarms

5 The current community page gives you direct access to the virtual community hub for your location, here you can post updates, create community events, share photos, check the notice board and "see your sites den and hideout status so you can plan your day."

6 On the Network Panel you can check to see if there is availability at other network locations across the UK, here you can also send your transfer application and track its progress. You can also check out other sites external community events and open days so you are connected with a wider neighbourhood!



JAMES COND BUILDING

HOLLAND STREET





THE BURROWS:

The ground floor is your dedicated residential area! The burrows are host to all residential homes as well as indoor gardens, a gym, residents car park and semi private events spaces for community events through the year.

Throughout the space there are a series of dens that allow for the concept of fertile laziness and engourage personal growth.

Each tiny home plot has a maximum capacity of 9.5m in length and 4m in width and has access to its own decked garden space that can be private or shared.



Tiny Home Example Configuration



Tiny Home Example Interior



Residential Reception



Tiny Home Access View



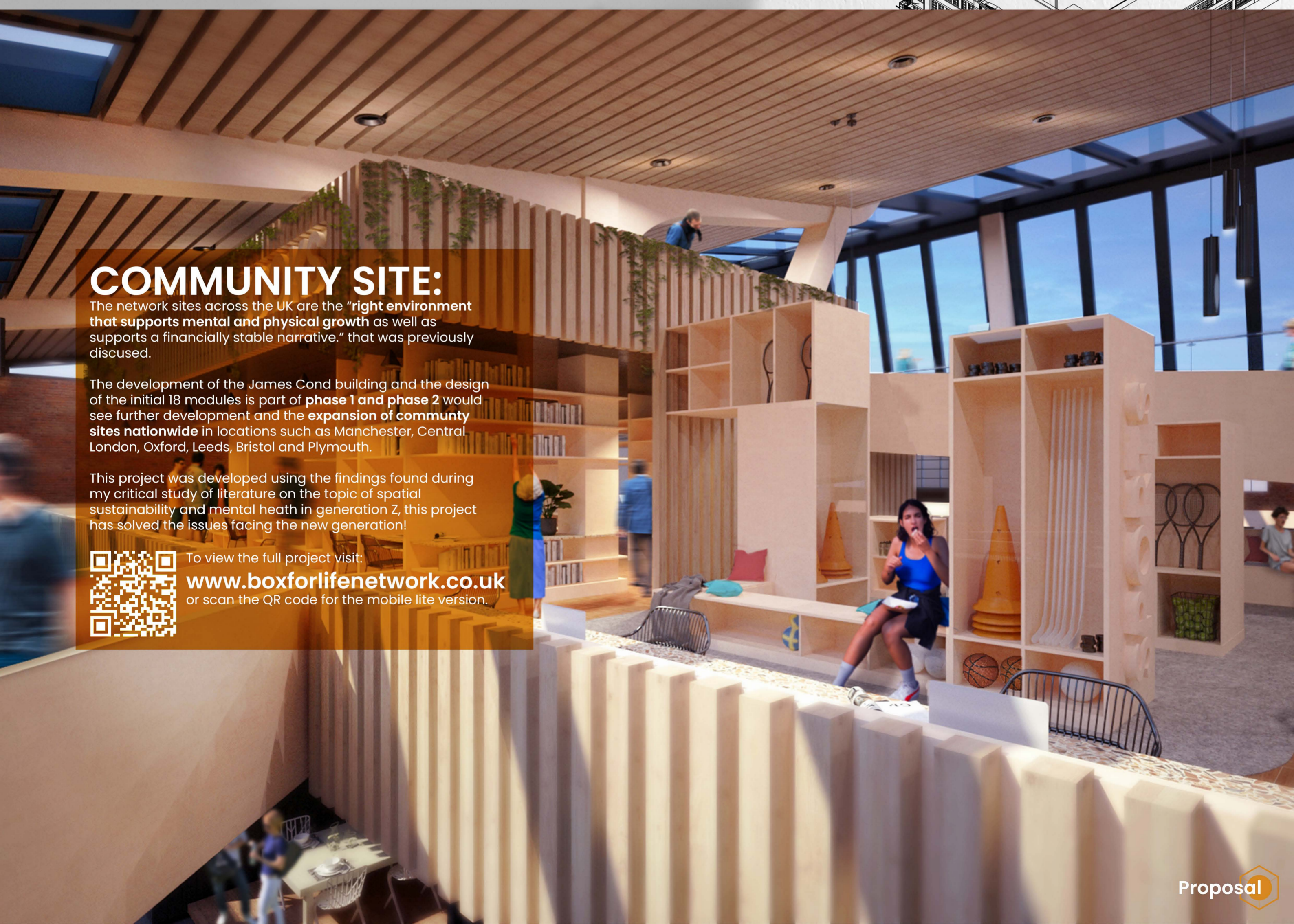
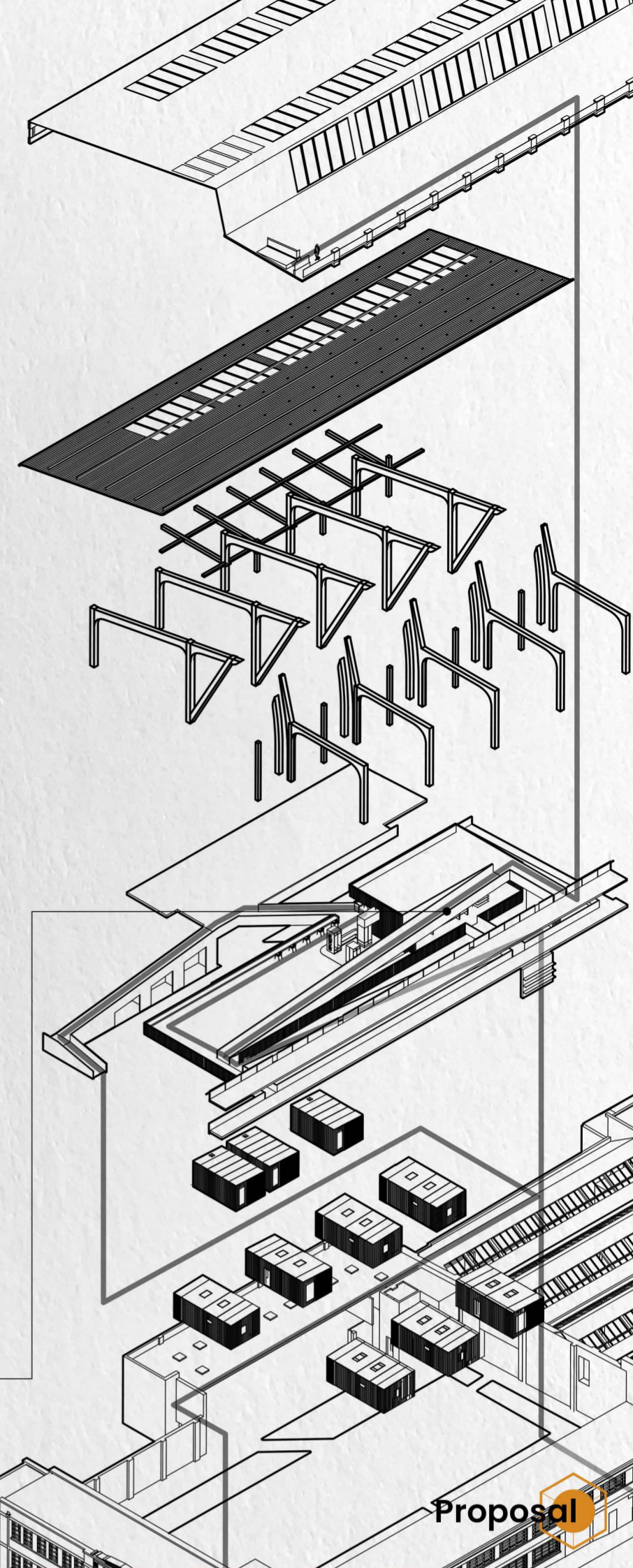
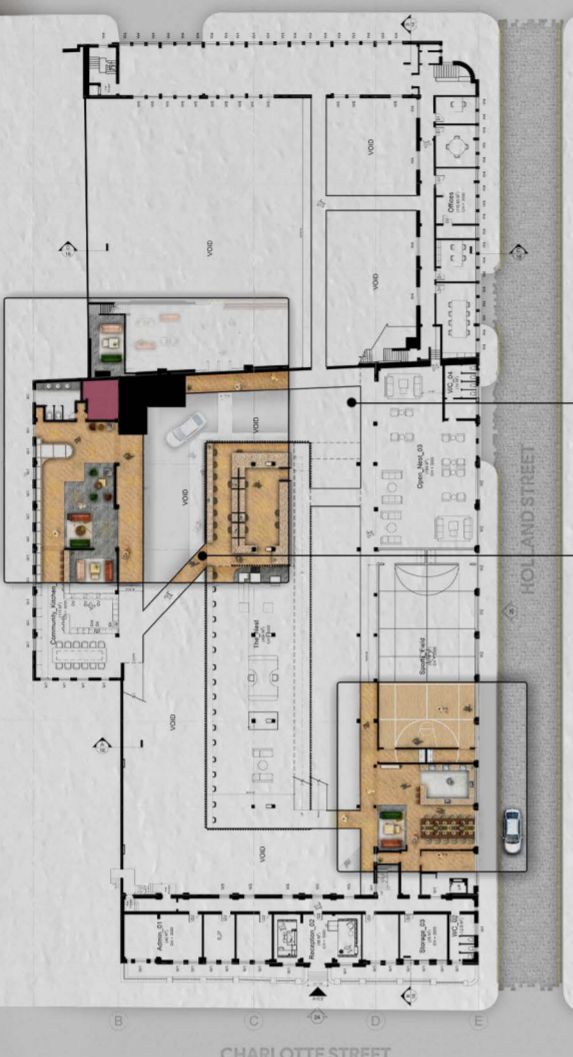
Central Nest

THE NESTS:

The first floor and upwards are known as the nests, these floors host a variety of community spaces such as kitchens, open nests (seating areas), a sports field, a rooftop garden, hires and loans, even more dens and semi private offices to create urban opperunity for self employed residents.

The nests have been designed to create a safe space for all during social interaction, a series of bridges connect different zones allowing full access via mobility aids.

The series of ramps and bridges also creates a continuous loop of uninterrupted circulation allowing bike rides and running to become part of the everyday routine in a safe environment, especially for children! It's a utopian community.



COMMUNITY SITE:

The network sites across the UK are the "right environment that supports mental and physical growth as well as supports a financially stable narrative." that was previously discussed.

The development of the James Cond building and the design of the initial 18 modules is part of phase 1 and phase 2 would see further development and the expansion of community sites nationwide in locations such as Manchester, Central London, Oxford, Leeds, Bristol and Plymouth.

This project was developed using the findings found during my critical study of literature on the topic of spatial sustainability and mental health in generation Z, this project has solved the issues facing the new generation!



To view the full project visit: www.boxforlifefnetwork.co.uk or scan the QR code for the mobile lite version.