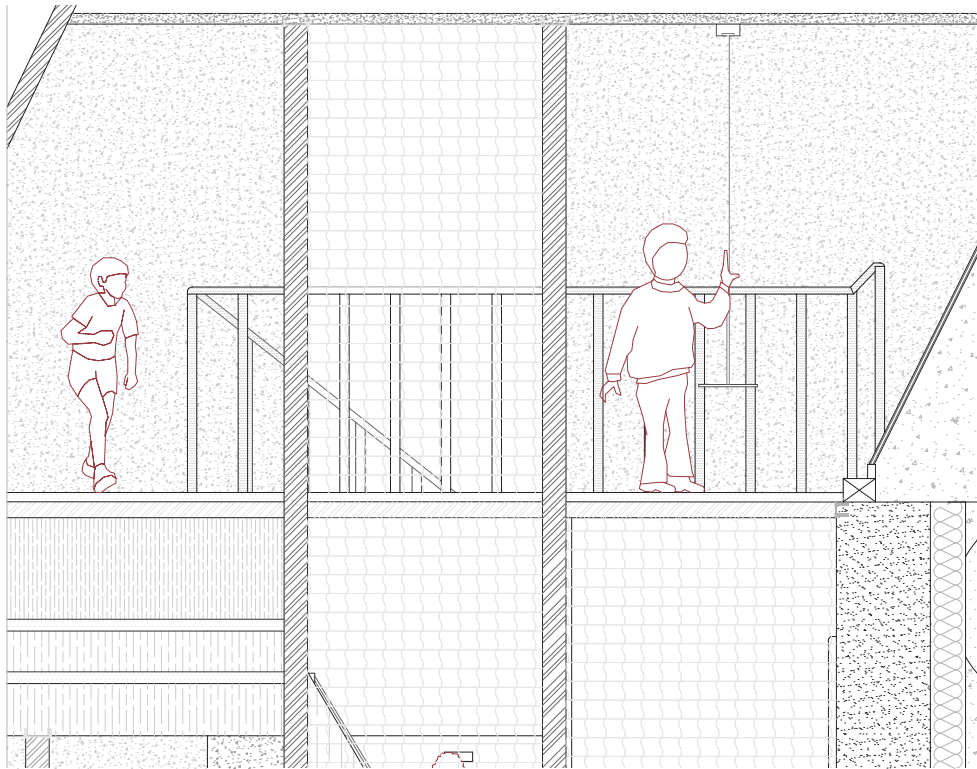
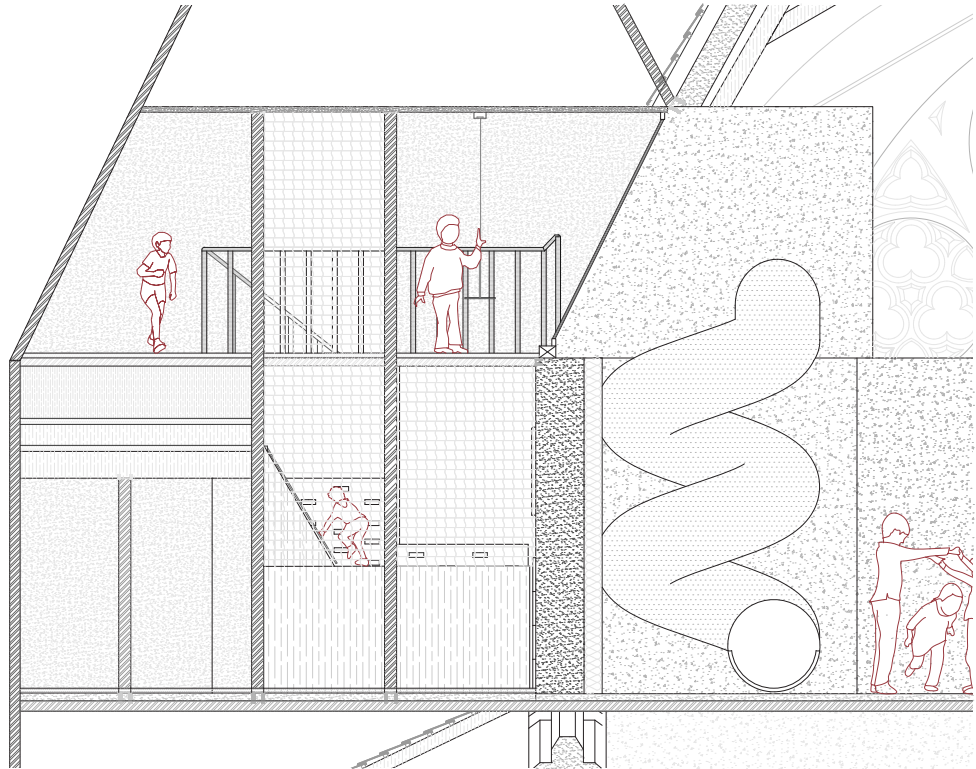
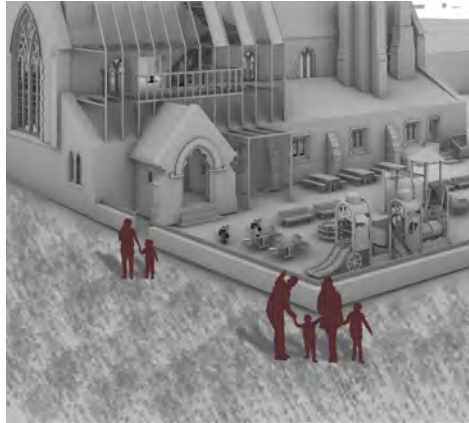


# The House of Play



The House of Play addresses the urgent need for affordable childcare and parental support in Leeds' Harehills community. Based in St. Agnes Church, this project aims to reverse years of neglect from Leeds City Council, which has left the area with high unemployment and many single-parent families. The aim is to create a nurturing space where children can thrive creatively, while offering crucial aid to parents facing financial difficulties. By providing a safe, supervised environment for children all day, building a foundation for community recovery. The renovated church will include modern play areas, quiet activity zones, an outdoor playground, and a communal computer room. These facilities, along with a distinctive rooftop swing attraction. The structural statement piece will bring attention to the church as well as the will vital social issues that The House of Play is tackles.

## Day In The Life



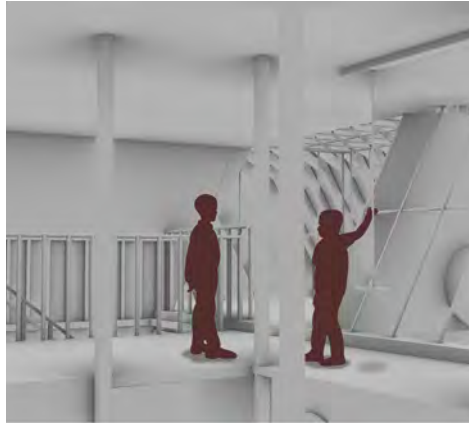
8:00 AM - Drop Off



9:00 AM - Breakfast



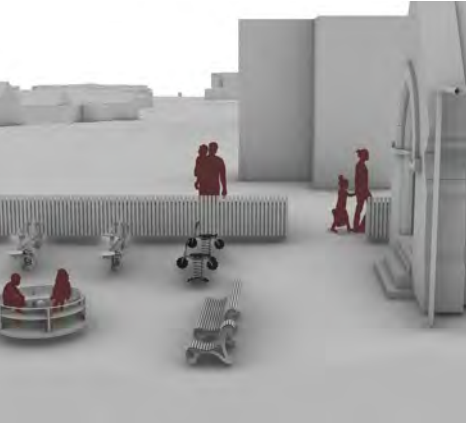
11:00 AM - Play Time



13:00 PM - Soft Play



14:00 PM - Nap Time



16:00- 17:00 PM - Pick Up

To optimize the design and utility of the children's spaces, a day-in-the-life visualization was developed. This simulation specifically illustrates how the provided play areas might be utilized by children throughout their time at the facility, offering insights into potential user engagement and spatial flow.

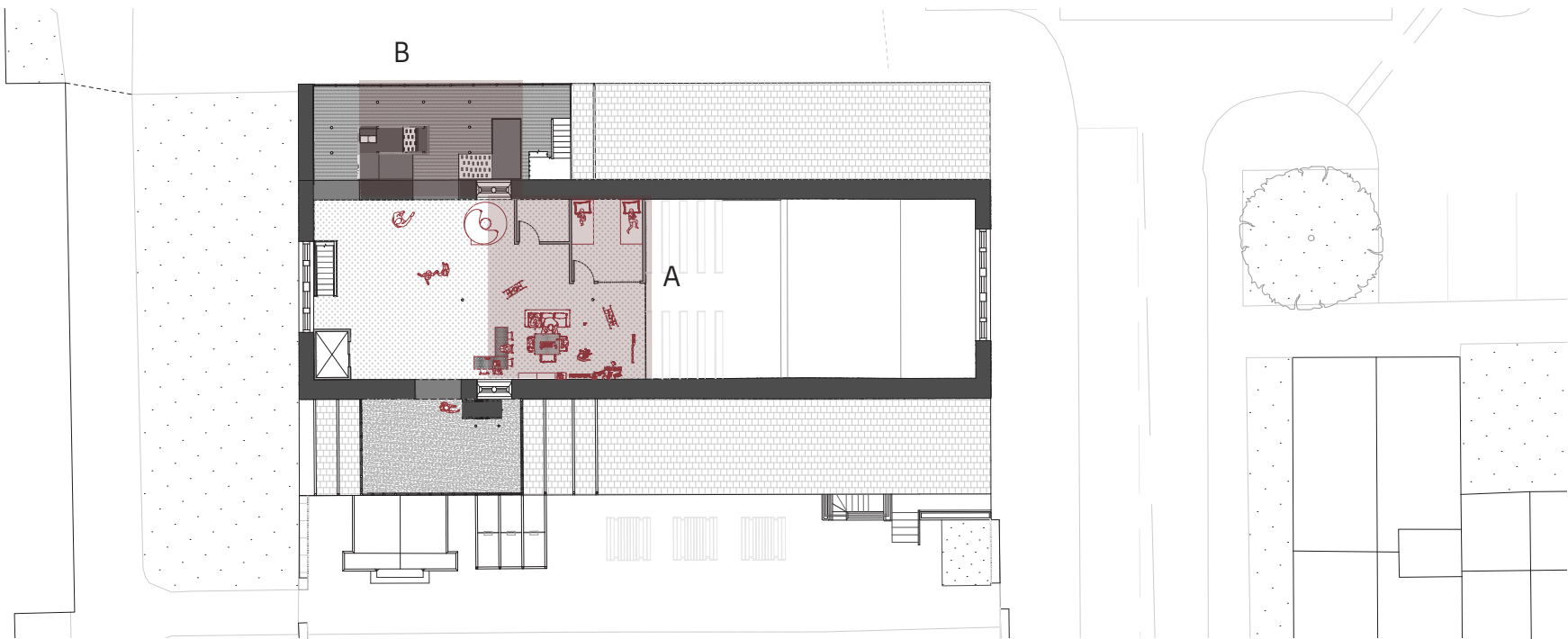
The accompanying images further detail two key spaces, showcasing their materiality and the activities they facilitate. These visuals vividly bring the project to life, underscoring the vital role of play in child development as children explore and interact with their environment.



A

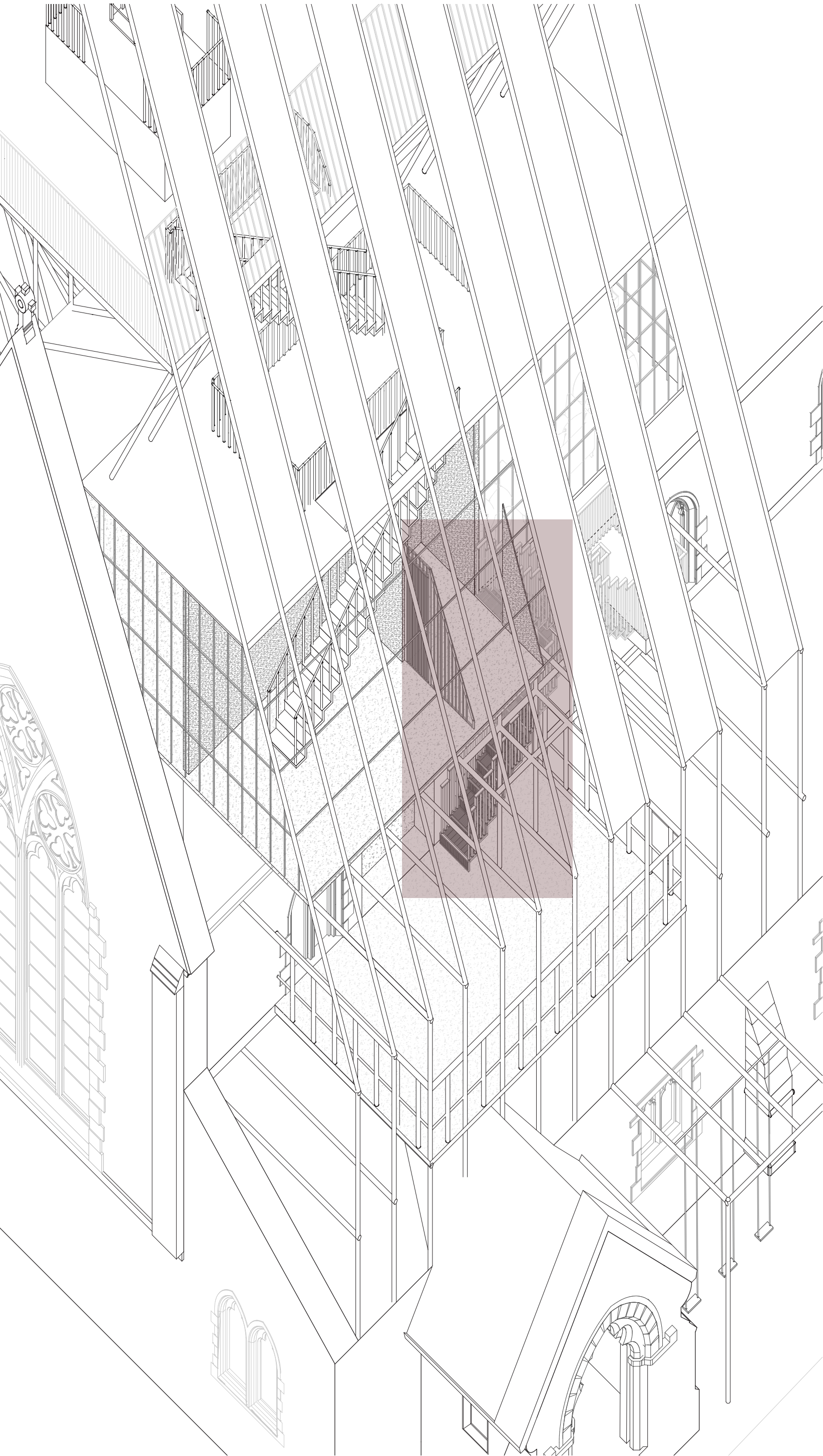


B

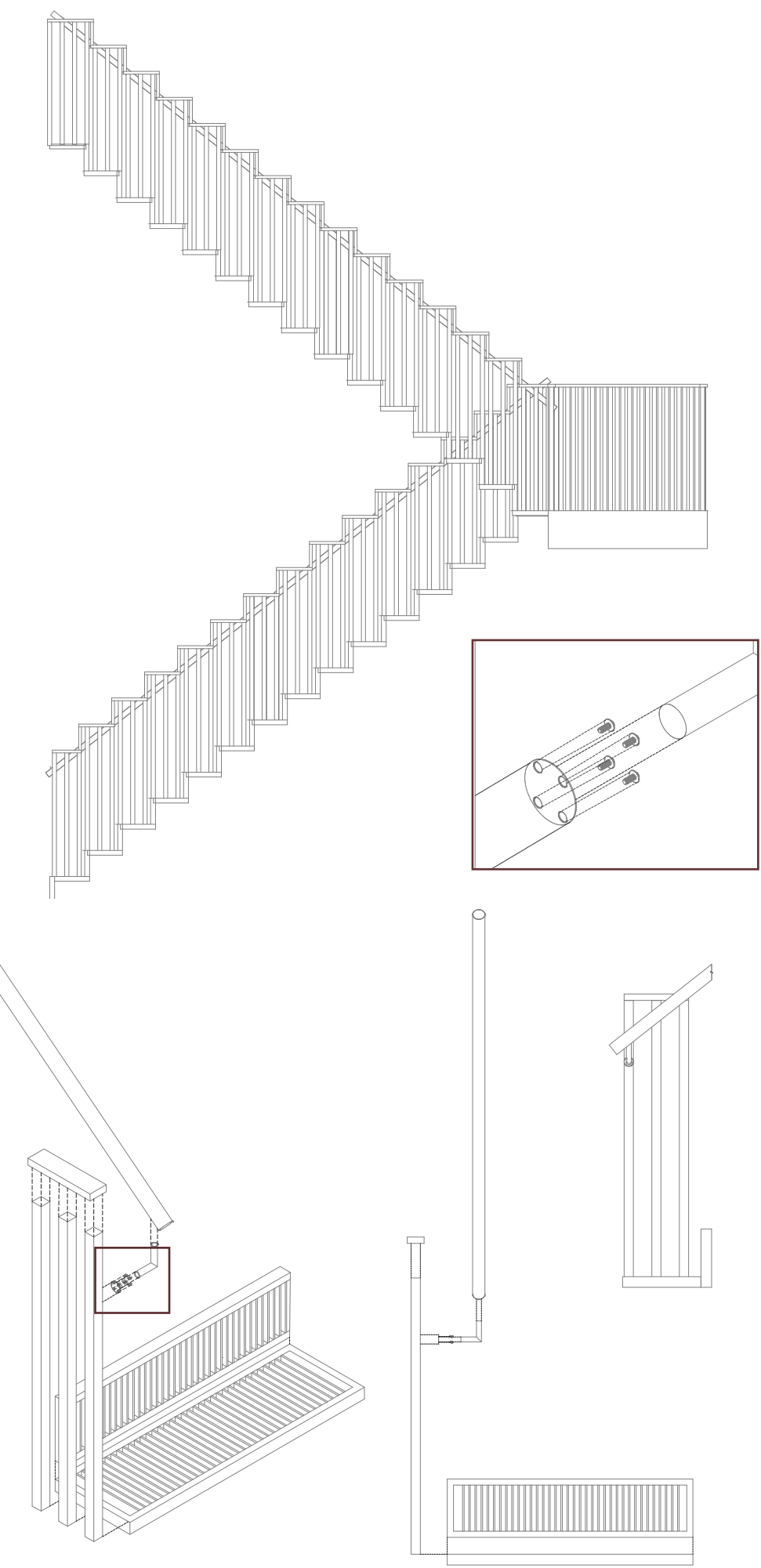




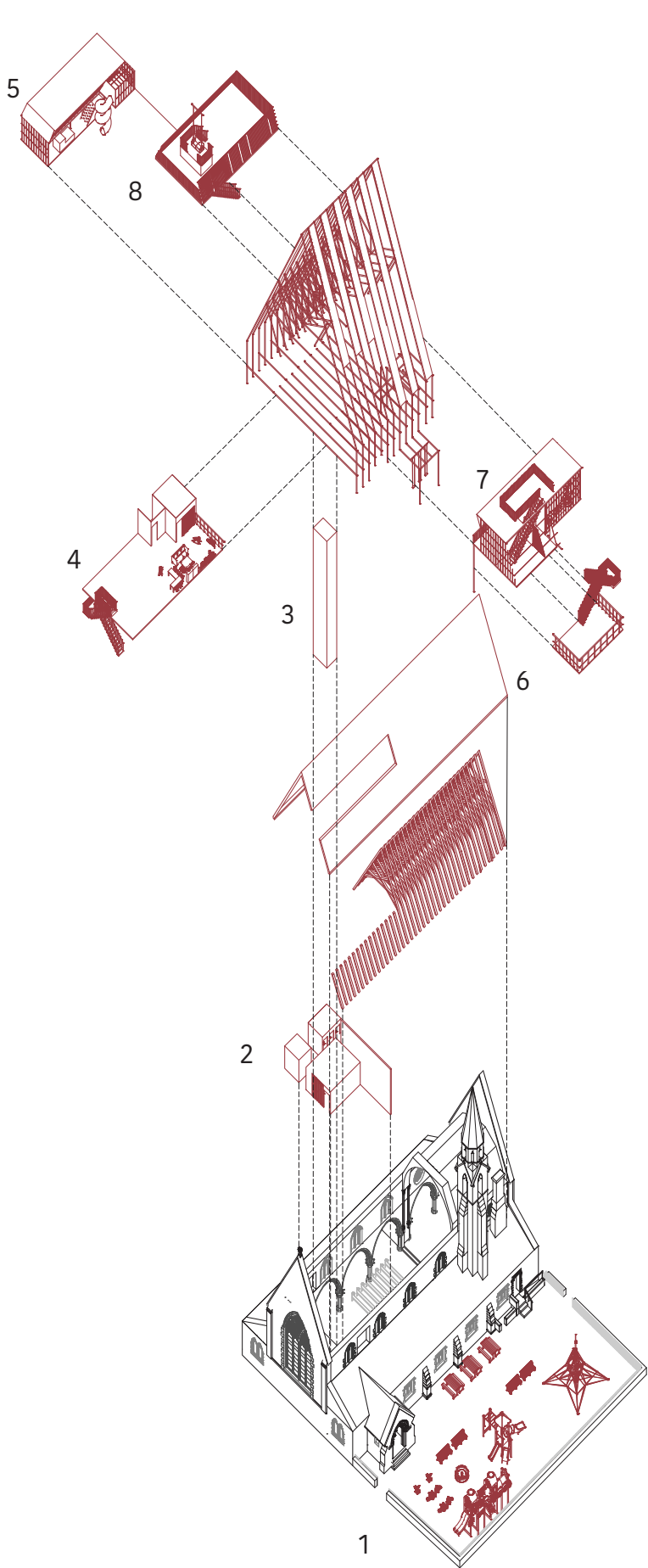
# Construction Process



## Construction Detail



## Exploded Axonometric



This exploded axonometric highlights the new components which will be implemented into the existing St Agnes Church.

- 1) Provides a space children of the local area with a playground which prevents children from playing on the streets.
- 2) Accessible and regular toilets are provided allowing any child that may have any medical problems to use the bathroom comfortably. A computer room would be implemented for people of the community that may not have internet.
- 3) A lift allows for accessible access to the 1st and 2nd floor from the ground floor connecting the main spaces allowing everyone to experience the spaces.
- 4) The main play area will be equipped with engaging toys and games that allow children to play and explore, as well as providing the younger children with a nap room which will allow children to recharge.
- 5) Soft play area allows children to go off and play with each other in a space that lets them climb, run and jump. The levels within the soft play lead to a zip line and slide at the top which can also be accessed by stairs in the soft play.
- 6) A area that allows anyone to step out and get a breath of fresh air while also connecting the 1st floor to the 2nd floor.
- 7) This space has books, couches and bean bags which will allow anyone to go take a moment in this space while not feeling completely isolated with the use of a overlooking railing allowing anyone to look into the soft play and play area below.
- 8) A swing has been provided for the thrill seeking individuals. If someone isn't interested in the swing but wants to see the views the barricaded surrounding allows for that.

Stage 1



Stage 4



Stage 2



Stage 5



Stage 3



Stage 6



The House Of Play Project is constructed in a complicated way. Stage 1 looks at what is going to be removed from the existing building. This decides when the removal of the trusses and portions of the wall will be removed. Due to the trusses holding up the roof they will be removed when the frame is assembled.

Stage 2 - Materials being transported to the site for construction.

Stage 3 - Large temporary scaffolding structure will be constructed around the church. This framework will provide access to the construction team and the welding team. Once the materials have arrived and the scaffolding has been assembled the next stage can begin.

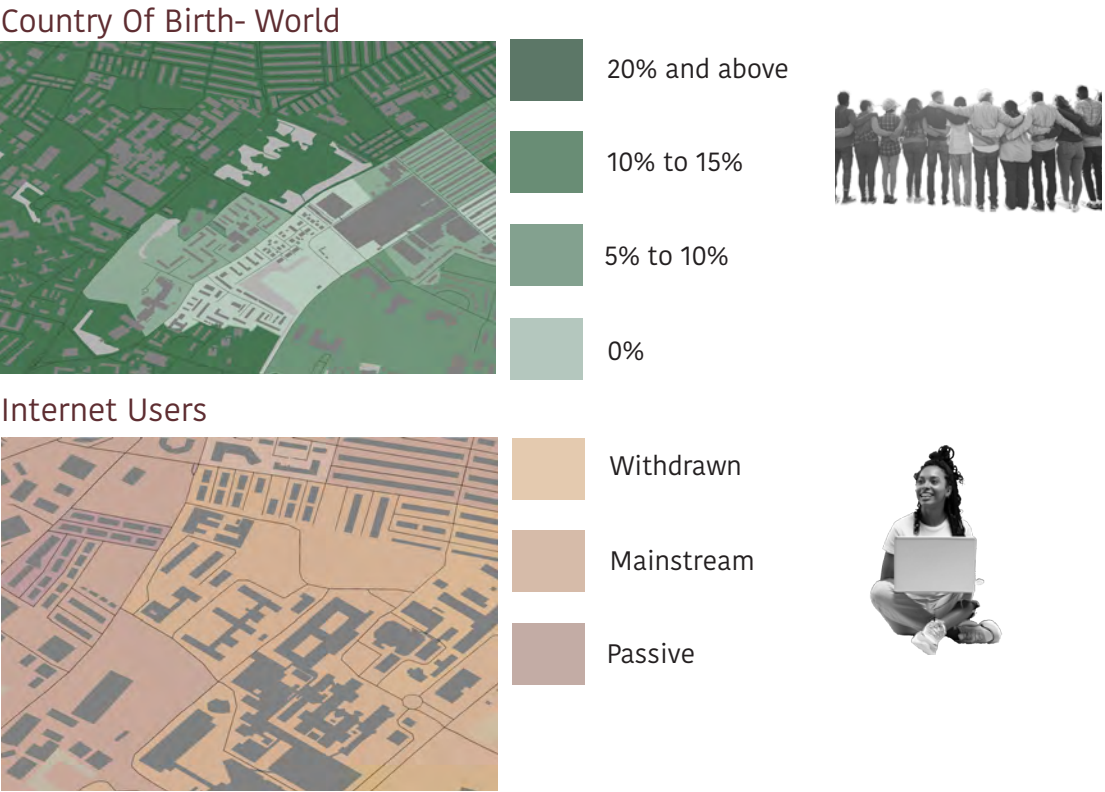
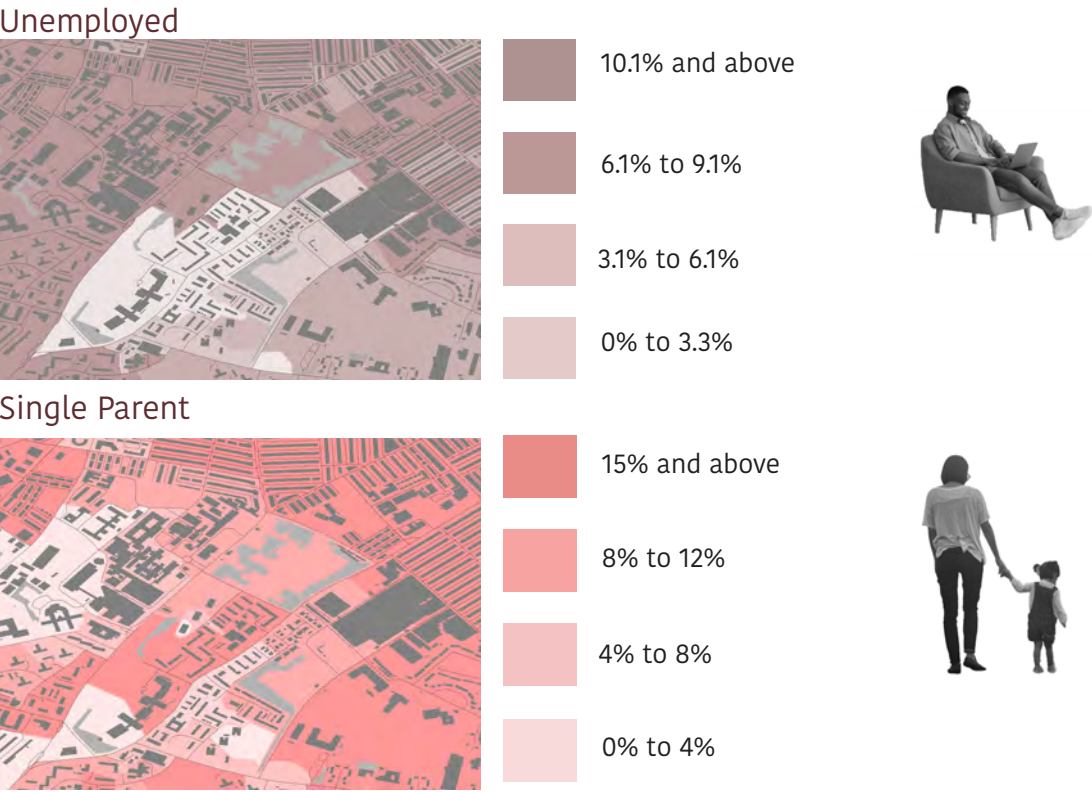
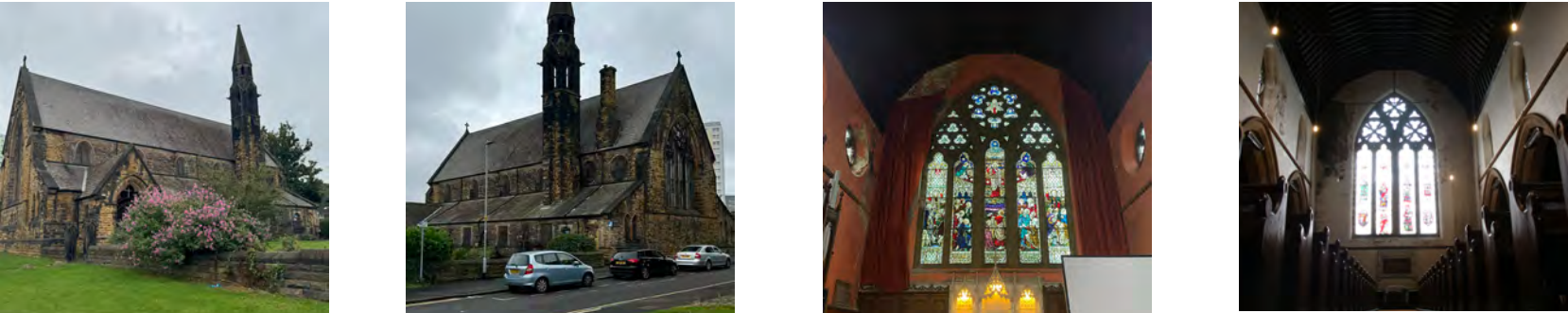
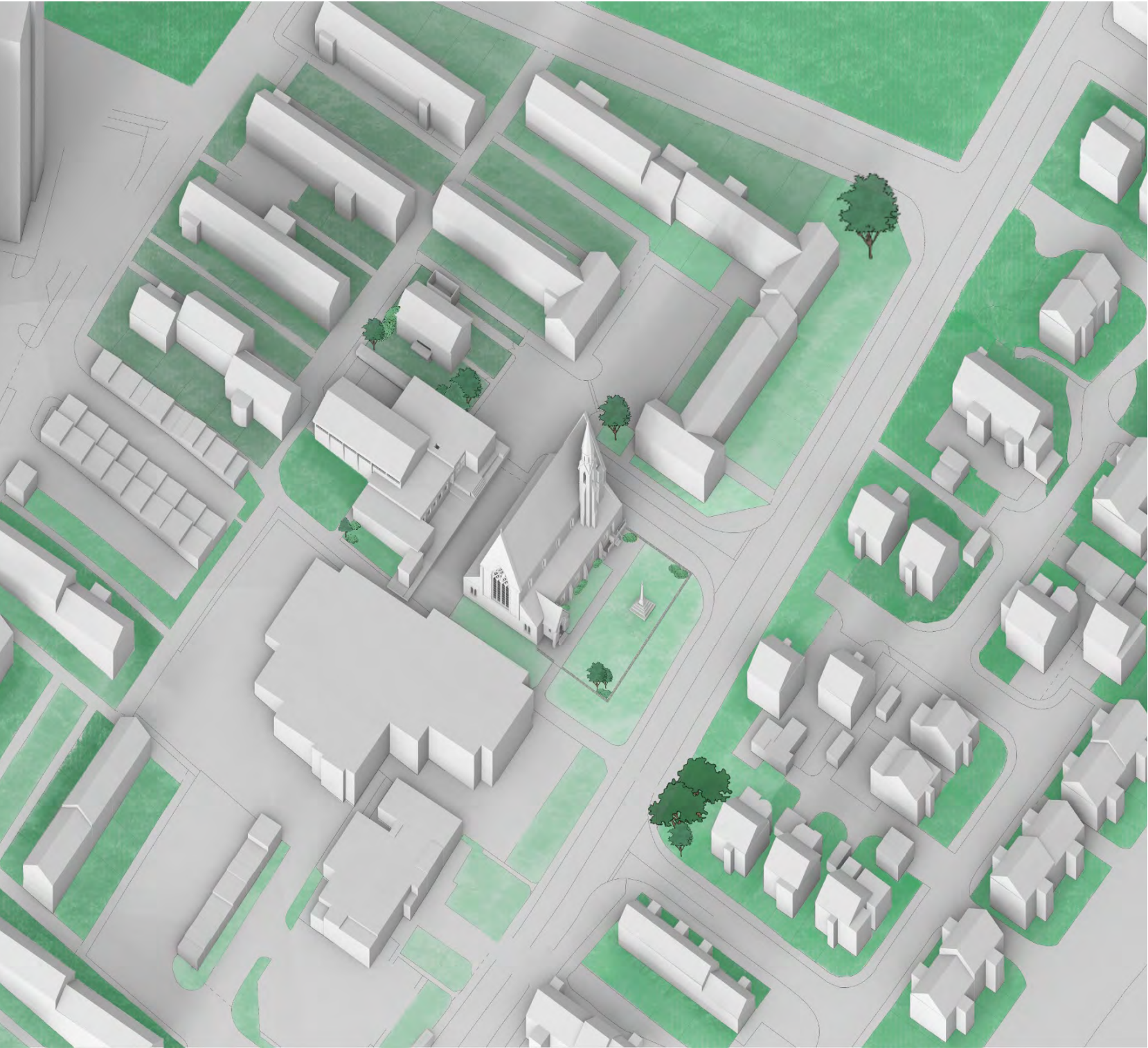
Stage 4 - Steel pipes will be lifted by a crane into position and the construction team will begin connecting the frame to the building. Once the main pipe is mounted to a load bearing wall, other pipes can be attached to the structure.

Stage 5 - Attaching the frame to the roof. This allows for the safe removal of trusses as the frame is now the primary support. During this stage metal beams will be passed through the openings.

Stage 6 - A concrete mould will be constructed by using scaffolding. Once the concrete sets, the mould can be removed creating the first floor. This process will be repeated for each level.

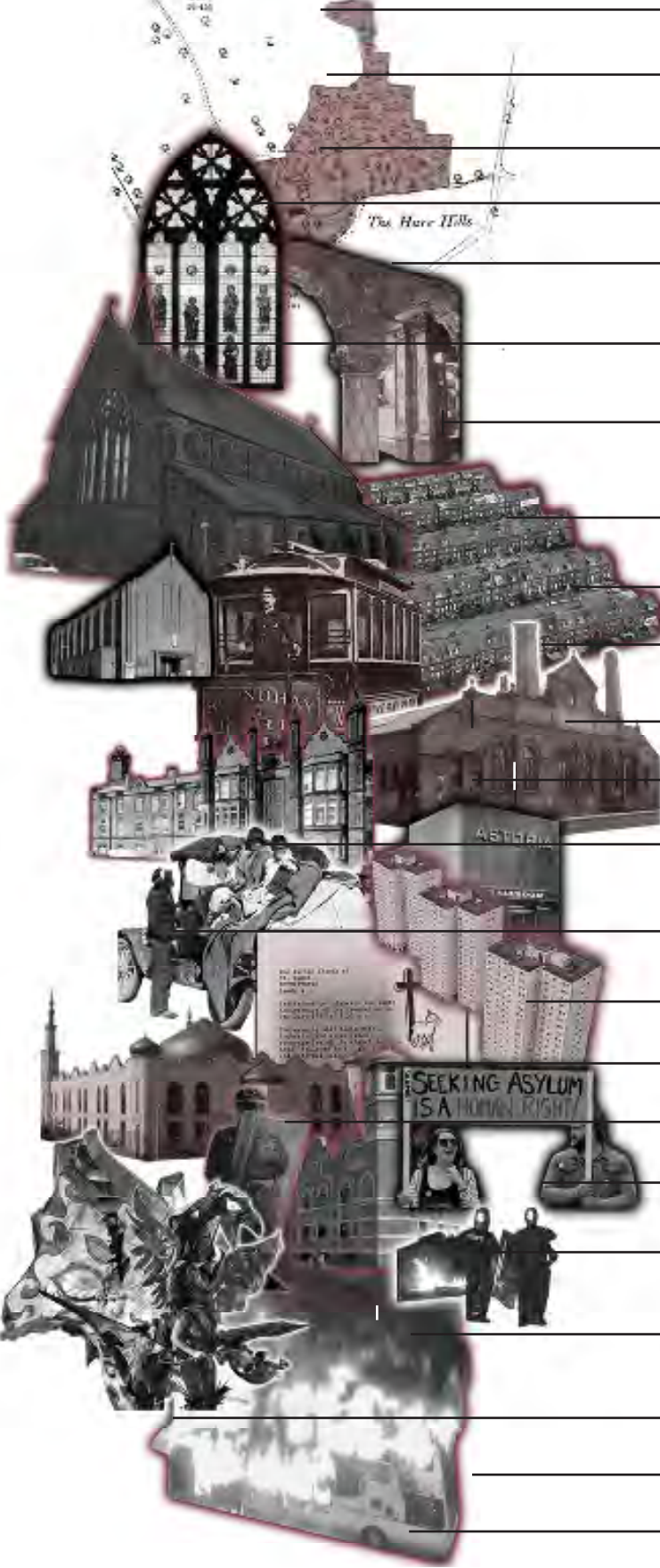


# Existing Site Study



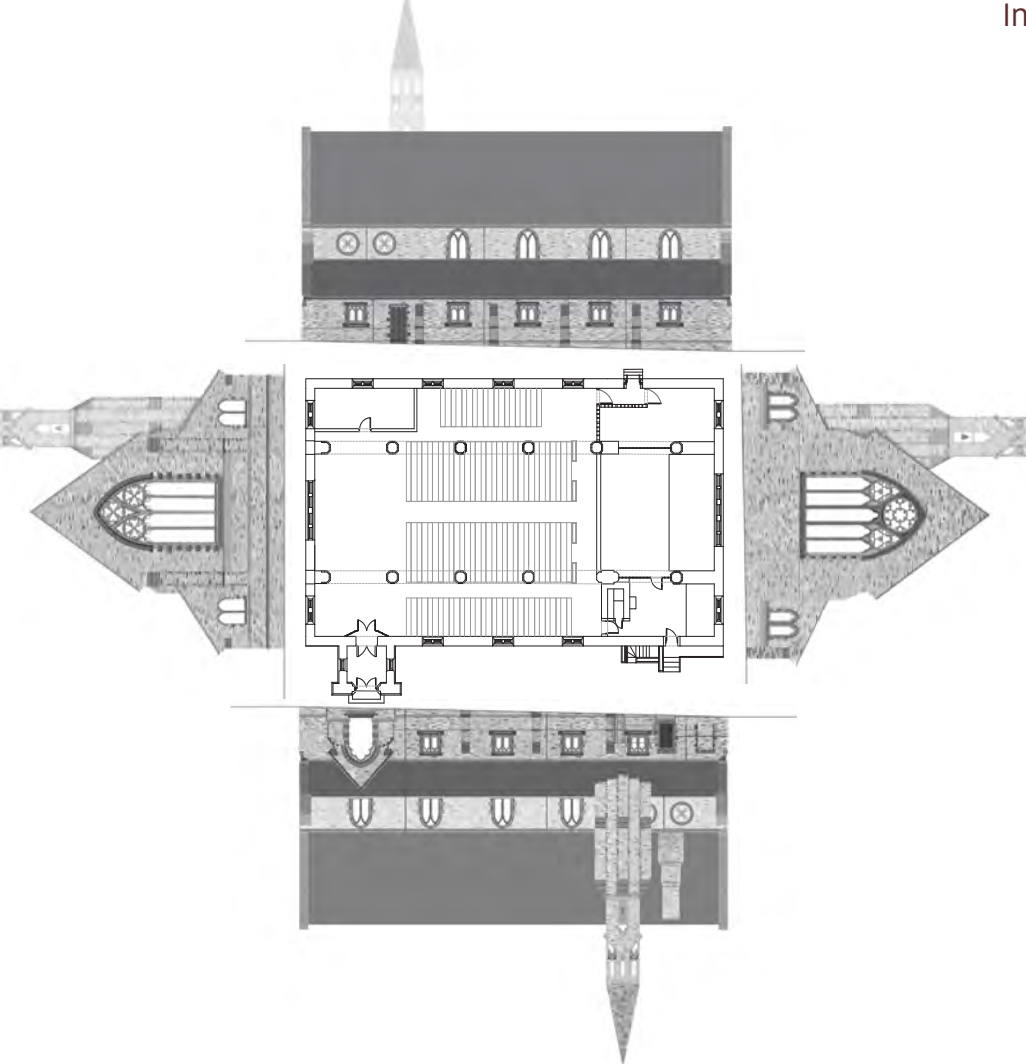
A people analysis was conducted to gain deeper insights into the community’s demographics and inform the development of targeted interventions aimed at enhancing their overall quality of life. The data collected consistently indicated a pressing need for childcare provisions. This determination was primarily driven by the prevalence of high unemployment rates and a notable proportion of single-parent families. These factors collectively suggest that a lack of accessible and affordable childcare solutions may be a significant barrier to securing full-time employment, an issue potentially exacerbated by insufficient support mechanisms from Leeds City Council for single parents.

## Historical Timeline

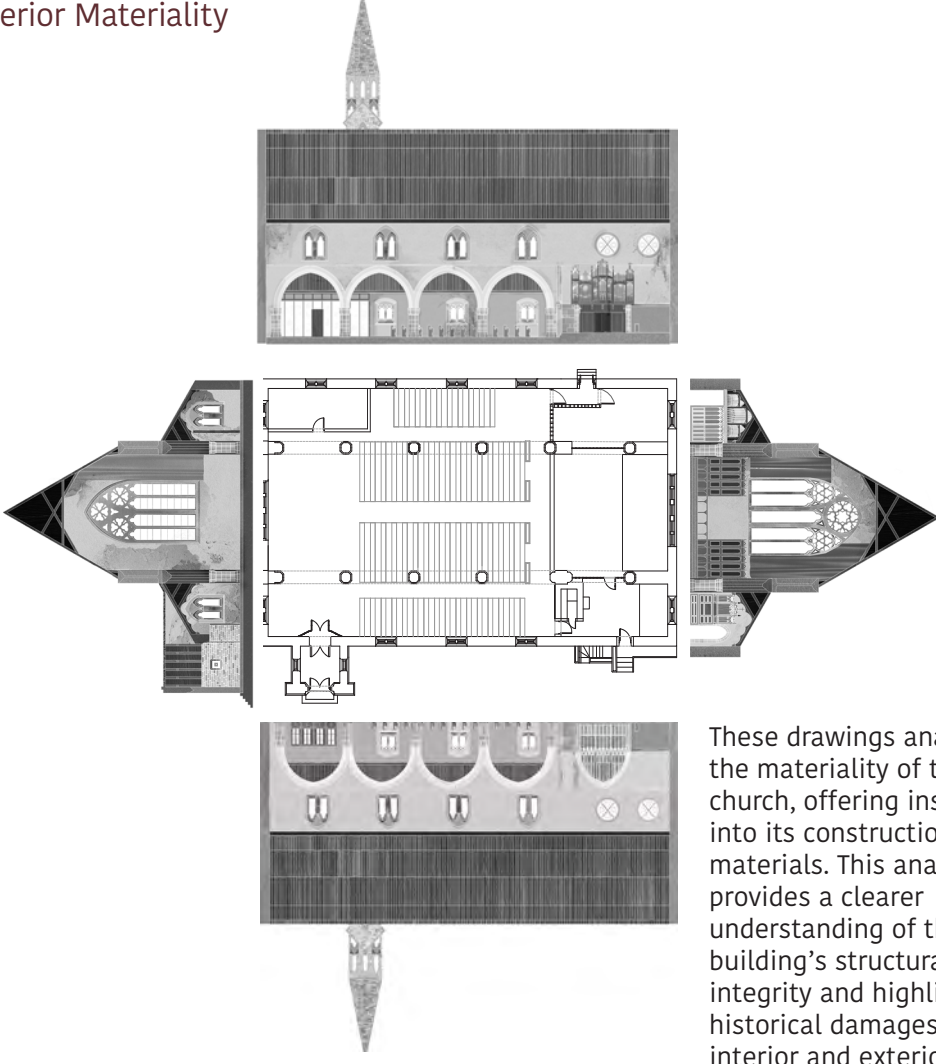


- 1576 The name ‘Harehills’ was first developed. It was Old English at the time so spelt ‘Hayr Hylls’.
- 1800’s Harehills first existed as woods that separated Chapel Allerton and Leeds City Centre.
- 1820 Harehills began to develop as people wanted an area to get away from the busyness of the city centre.
- 1851 St Stevens Church was built which was located where you can now find St Agnes. St Steven was demolished in the 1880’s.
- 1859 Burmantofts Pottery opened in the area. They manufactured construction materials, decorated art pottery and decorated architectural ceramics (tiles and glazed bricks).
- 1886 St Agnes Church was built and opened a year later. The west window was reused from St Stevens Church.
- 1890 The plan for Harehills to be the ‘New Leeds’ failed after back-to-back houses were built for workers in the area. These were made to be extremely affordable.
- 1891 A tramway was built that ran through Harehills from Leeds to Roundhay and Chapel-town. This contributed to the growth of Harehills.
- 1908 St Augustine was opened to accommodate the rapid growth of Harehills. This was a temporary Catholic Church.
- 1921 Burtons textile factory opened and became the largest clothing factory in the world after just four years. It employed over 10,000 people.
- 1925 St James University and Hospital was built replacing the Poor Law Infirmary.
- 1940’s Harehills had a dance hall, roller rink and three cinemas. This is what people did on their weekends. These are now all closed.
- 1946 After WWII, Greek Cypriots and people from Eastern European made Harehills their home.
- 1950 Workers from the West Indies, predominantly from Saint Kitts, moved to Harehills. A few years later, immigrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh also moved over.
- 1960 The high rise flats were built to make room for the rising population of harehills.
- 1987 St Agnes Church celebrated its 100th Year anniversary. This included all members of the church as well as anyone from the community.
- 1999 A Congregationalist Church’s Sunday school was converted into a Bilal Mosque.
- 2000’s Refugees from Zimbabwe, Somalia and Iraq arrived in Harehills. Asylum Seekers also found asylum in Harehills.
- 2001 A riot broke out in harehills involving 200 people. It triggered due to the allegedly wrongful, heavy handed arrest of a young Asian man. There was a 7 hour long clash with police officers.
- 2003 Shah Jalal Mosque was opened, replacing a mosque that was converted from two houses in the 1970’s.
- 2018 People from the community came together to set up Harehills Festival. People from other towns got involved too.
- 2019 Police and Fire-fighters were attacked with bricks and missiles on Bonfire night.
- 2024 Riot broke out due to four children of a Romanian family getting taken into care by social workers and police officers. A police car was over turned and a bus was set fire to.

## Exterior Materiality

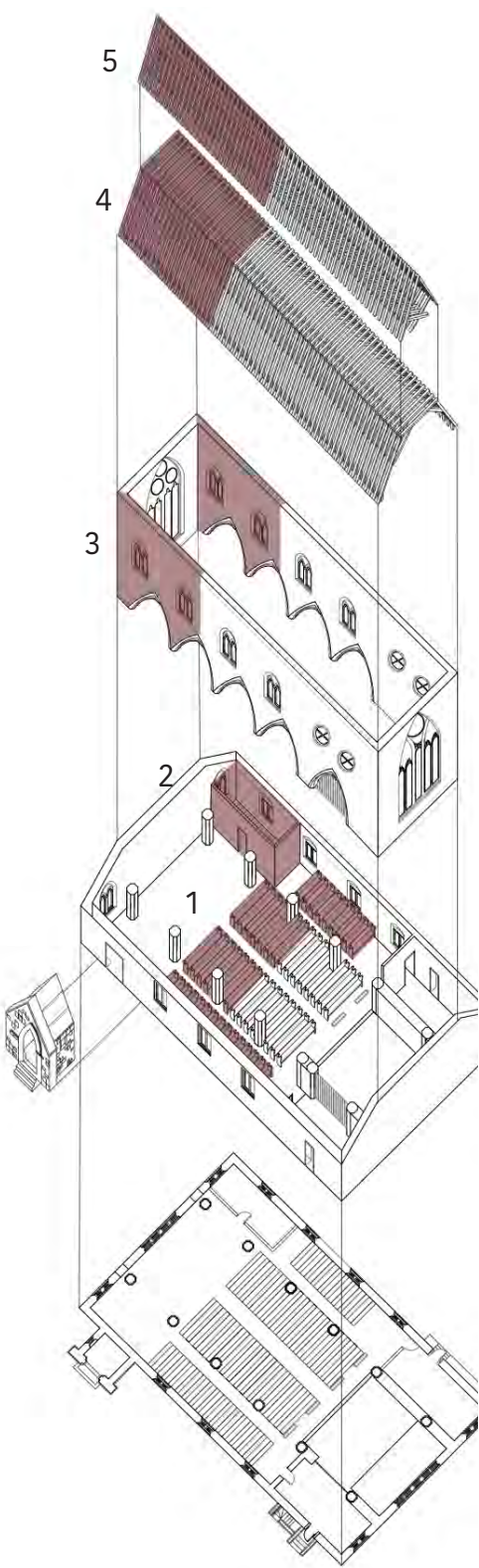


## Interior Materiality



These drawings analyze the materiality of the church, offering insight into its construction materials. This analysis provides a clearer understanding of the building’s structural integrity and highlights historical damages to its interior and exterior.

## Existing Exploded Axonometric



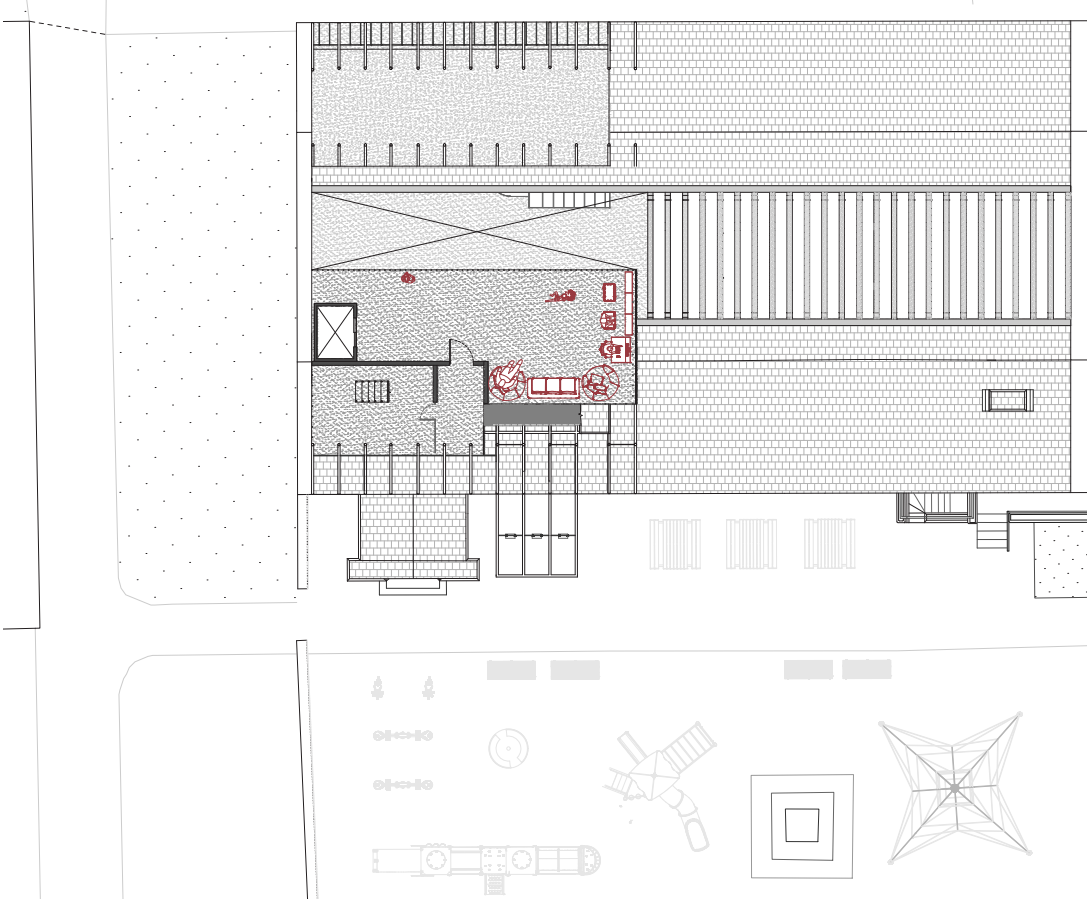
- 1) Pew removal
- 2) Office space removal
- 3) Cutting into upper walls
- 4) Trimming of South facing Trusses
- 5) Removal of trusses



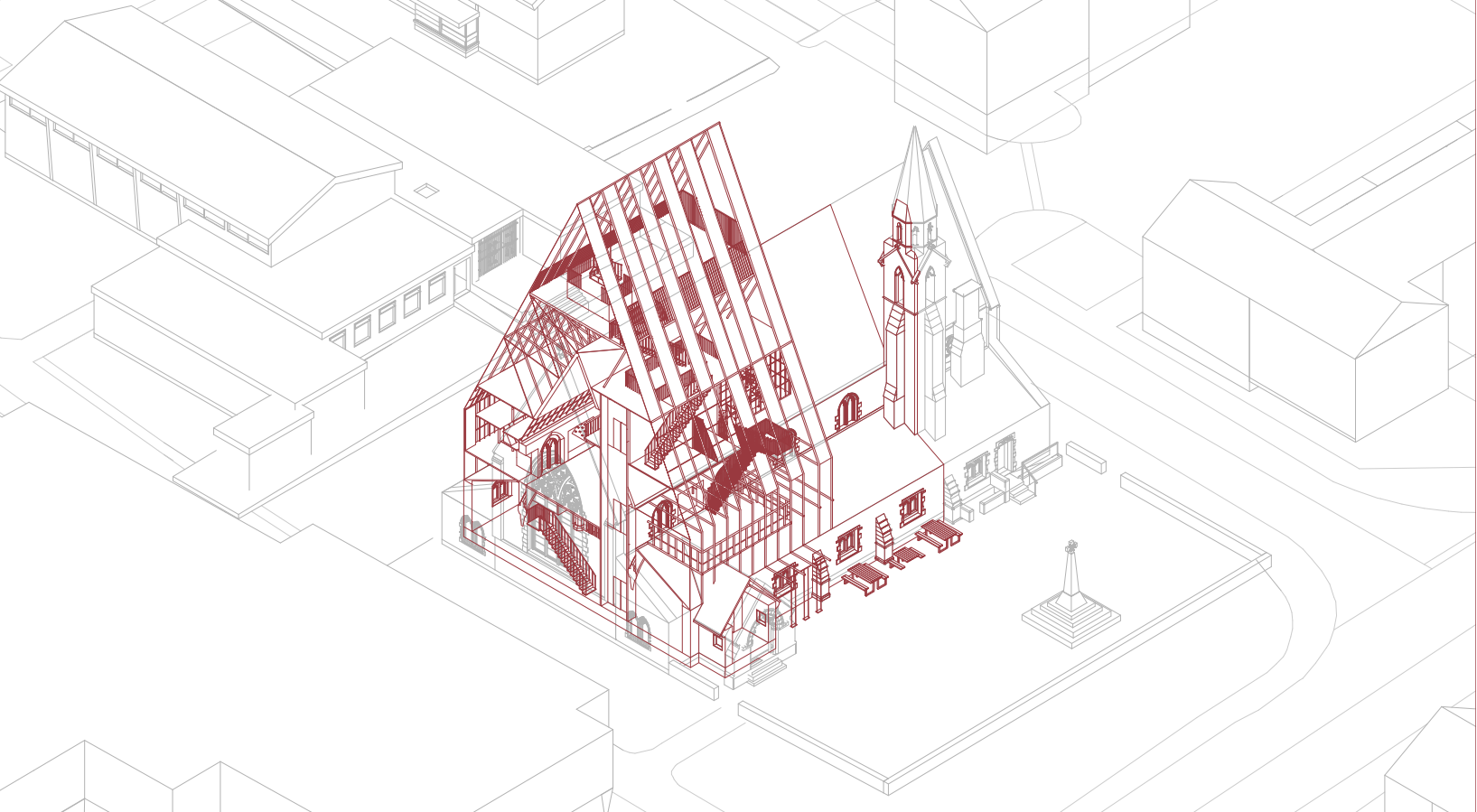
Ground Floor



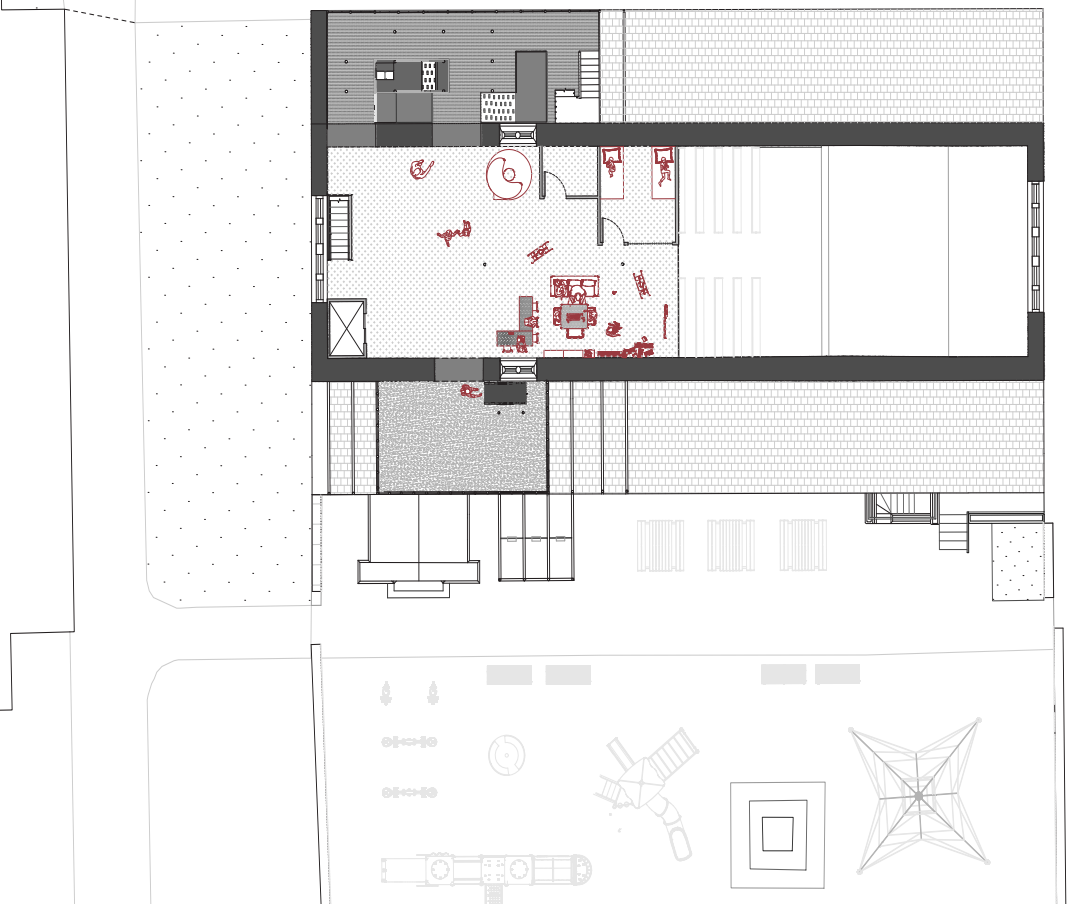
Second Floor



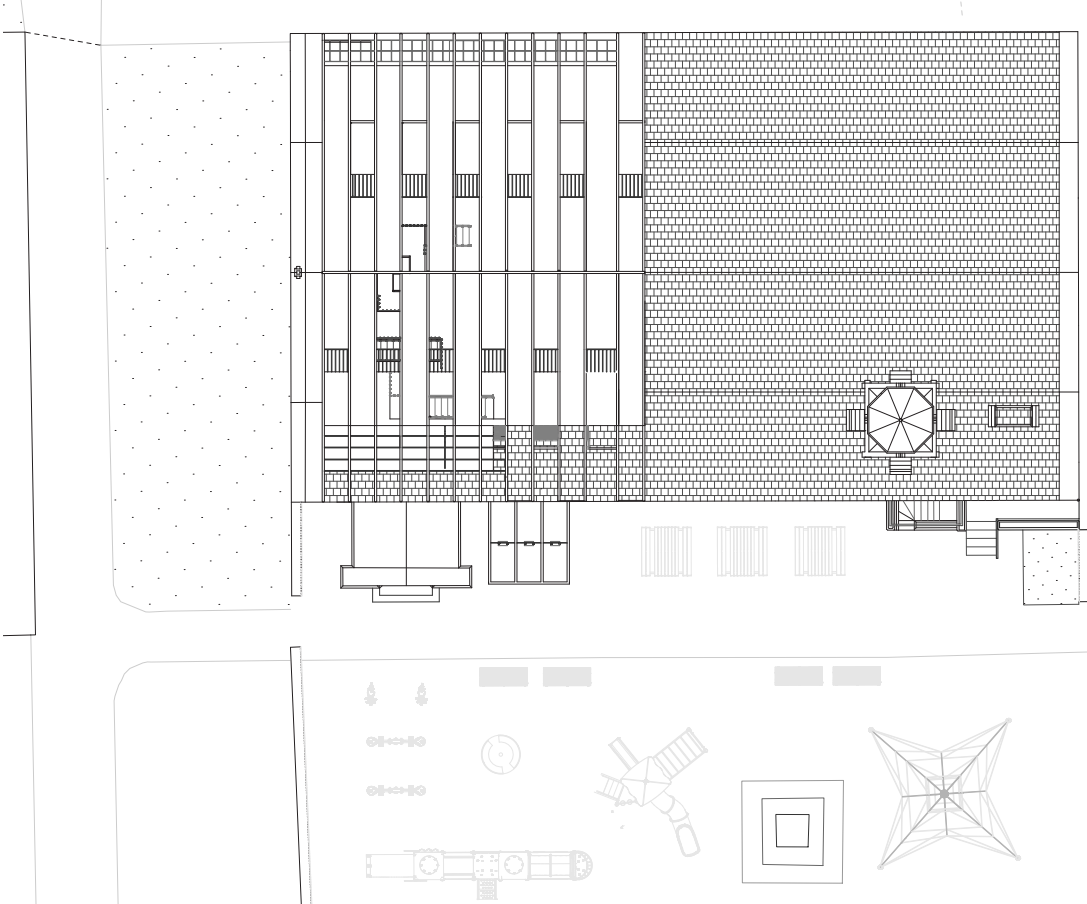
Fragment Of A Fragment In Existing Axonometric



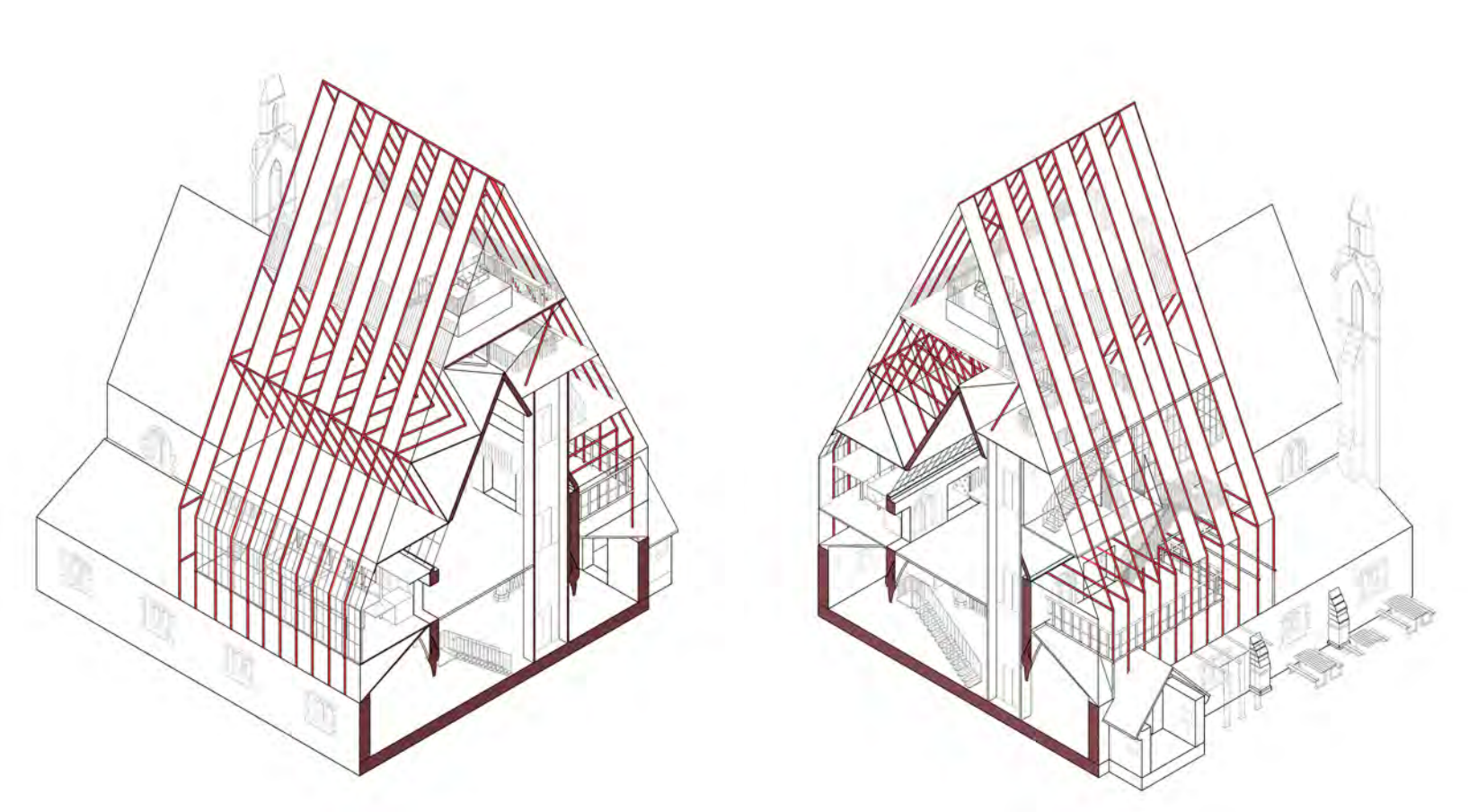
First Floor



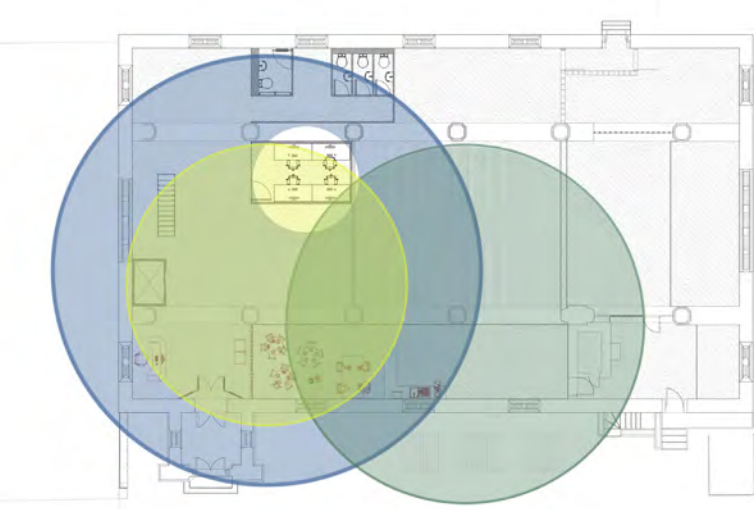
Roof Top



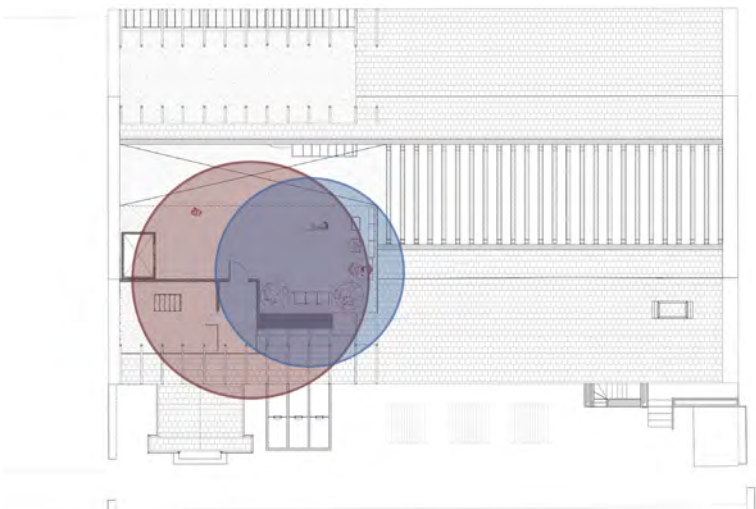
Fragment Of A Fragment Isonometric



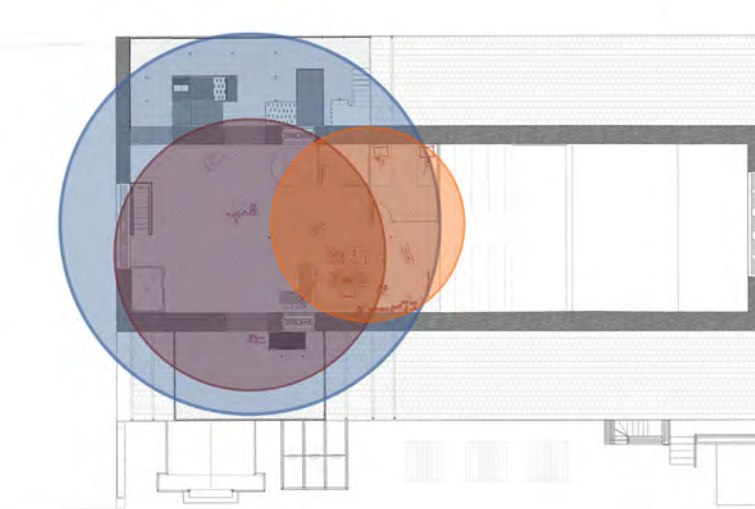
Facility Users



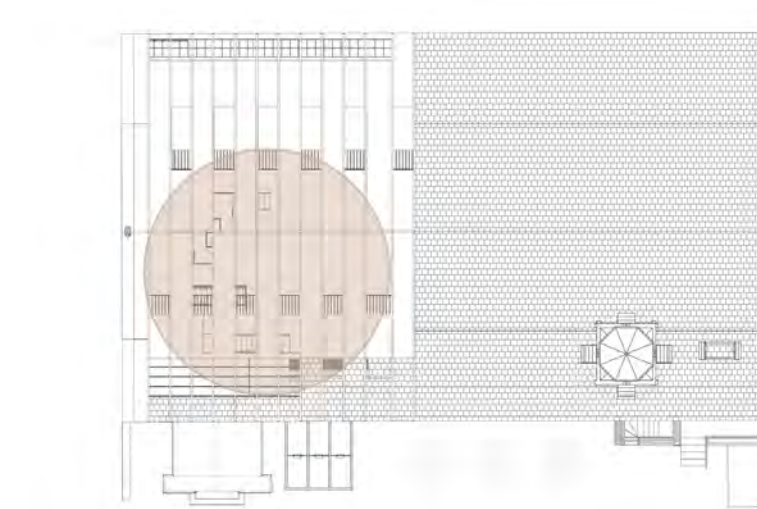
- Children Aged 3+
- Parents
- Parish



- Children Aged 3+
- Ages 11+



- Children Aged 3+
- Ages 11+
- Children Aged 6 months - 2 Years old



- Children Aged 11+, Parish, Parents and Public

The accompanying images illustrate a key architectural fragment, embodying the central design concept of this project. This particular section is pivotal to the project's goals, catalysing positive community change and raising awareness for the difficulty of parents struggling to access adequate support. The fragment integrates essential facilities, including a kitchen, computer room, primary play area, nap room, soft play area, balcony, a designated quiet space, and a unique rooftop swing attraction. This affordable facility significantly contrasts with many existing childcare facilities in Leeds, which are frequently constrained by limited space. This often leads to reduced enrolment capacity, consequently driving up costs and leaving a substantial portion of local parents without viable childcare options. The current dispersed nature of childcare services within the region also necessitates additional travel and expenditure for parents, resources that could otherwise be allocated to other aspects of raising children. A physical model of this fragment has been created to deepen comprehension of its spatial and functional attributes.



Physical Representation

