

THE QUEEN'S COMPANION

The Queen's Companion – A holistically designed free veterinary clinic aimed at improving animal welfare in the local community.

Located centrally in Derby, the regenerative re-design of the architecturally merited building, the King's Chambers. The design intervention, named The Queen's Companion, will focus on expanding the relationship between pet and owner, by offering support to encouraging better well-being for animals. My proposal will target and support those who cannot afford to pay the otherwise expensive veterinary. The site will also include a Dog Shelter and Café that will explore a Holistic Design Approach to interior design that "supports the wellness of the mind, body and soul".

Three main key topics have influenced my design throughout this process:

- Regenerative Design
- Holistic Design Approach
- Animal Welfare



RESEARCH

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the issue surrounding the well-being of animals has become more prominent than ever before.

Hardships following the pandemic experienced by families has caused a sharp rise in animal abandonment. Since 2020, it is anticipated that up to 40,000 more stray or abandoned dogs will need help as a result. (Dogstrust.org.uk, 2021) Little aid is currently available to prevent this. Limited space in dog shelters could lead to a "25% increase of euthanasia rates in the next year" meaning that "over 1,800 dogs in local authority shelters could unnecessarily be put to sleep". (Dogstrust.org.uk, 2021)

To add to this, it is predicted that the Covid-19 Pandemic will leave thousands of more dogs needing help and owners needing support, as a result. A report completed by the Dogs Trust UK has identified "various ways in which dog's lives were impacted", highlighting the strong bond between dog and owner and the role this has played during the pandemic. (Dogstrust.org.uk, 2020)

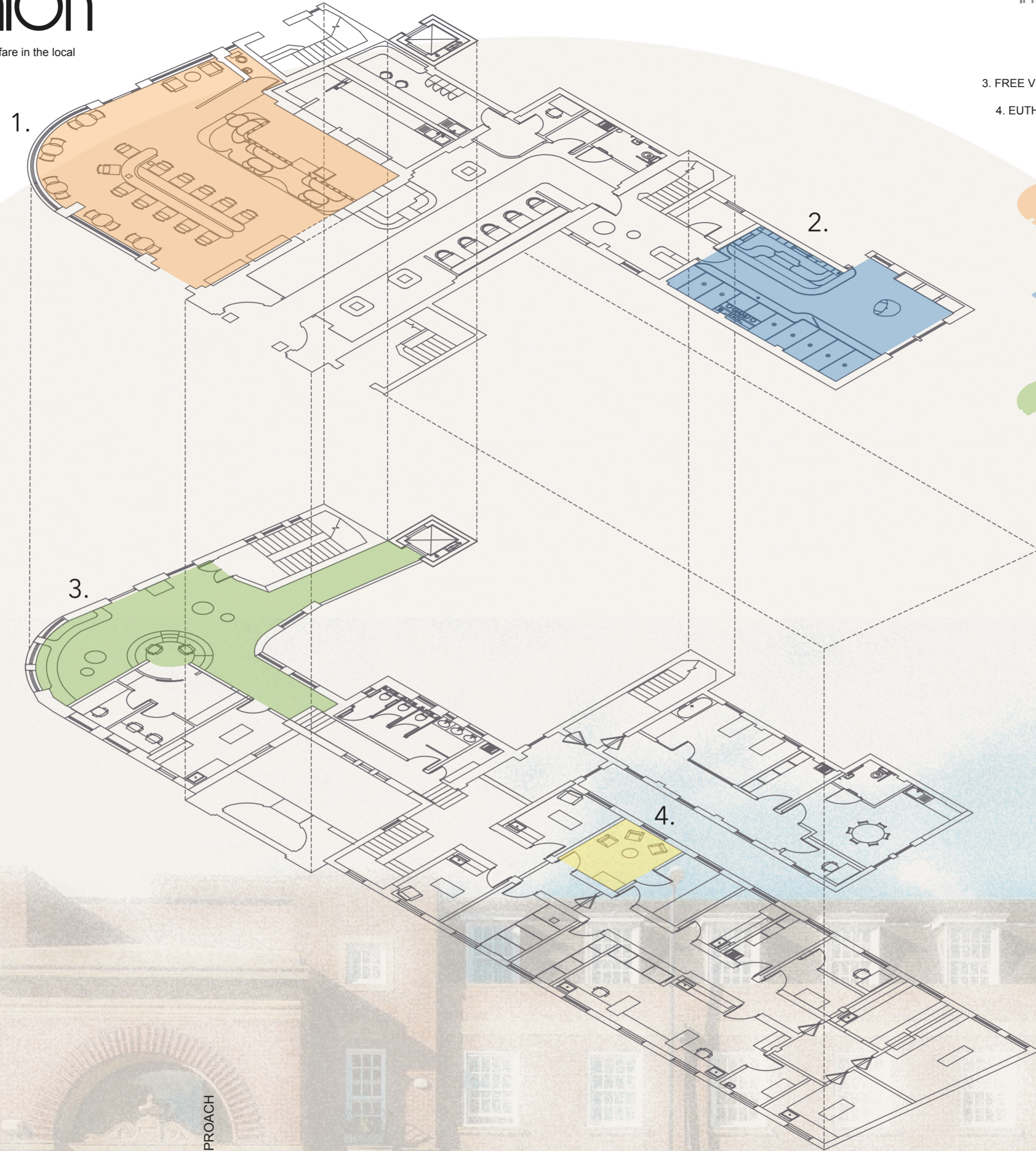
Some of the issues raised in this report highlight the following concerns:

- The increased rise in redundancy rates.
- Vet practices not permitting owners into consulting rooms.
- Separation-related behavioural issues.
- Delays in dog owners seeking hospital treatment.

HISTORY

The King's Chambers was opened in conjunction with the King's Hall Public Bath in 1932. Located on Queen Street, Derby, the building is located within a conservation area and although the building itself is not listed. Originally opened as the retail part to the King's Hall Public Baths, the building was intended to financially support the Baths. The public baths have a significant presence in the Derby community.

The 20th Century building maintains its Neo-Georgian and Art Deco features on its exterior. Stone dressings and string courses are very relevant of the two design movements of its time, giving the appearance of a sleek, linear appearance with stylised, geometric ornamentation, such as on the shop facades.



INTERVENTION

1. CAFE AND SHOP
2. DOG SHELTER
3. FREE VETERINARY CLINIC
4. EUTHANISATION SPACE



SITE ANALYSIS

Centrally located in Derby, a negative to consider is the argument of a poor location for the intervention due to a lack of closer green spaces and busy roads, which could pose a threat to animals around the site. Despite this, more positives can be drawn, such as, the proposal will have more exposure in a busy area, as well as being easily accessible to more people due to good transportation links to the city. RSPCA is located nearby, meaning collaborative work between the organisations for campaigns and fundraising events for animal welfare. Currently there is a lack of centrally located Veterinary Clinics, meaning there is an opportunity for animal care to be provided in this location.



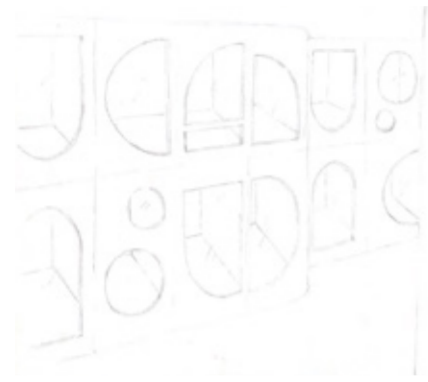
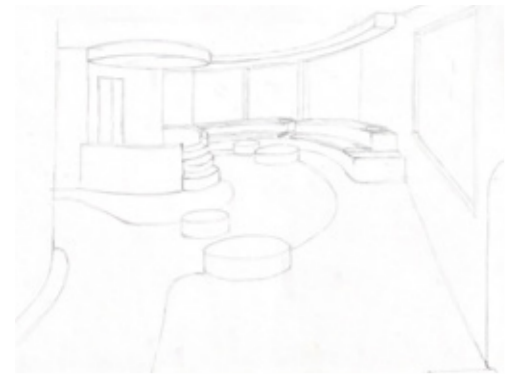
CONCEPT

The holistic and forward-thinking design, with the patients being central to the design process, has a knock-on effect into the overall happiness and **wellness of dog and owner**. If pets are healthier and happier, there will be less stress, worry and financial commitment for the owners – in turn, pets are less likely to be abandoned because of a happier, stress-free home environment.

The Queen's Companion hopes to provide a consciously designed space that leads to the better management of health when considering pets and their owner, with direct positive impacts to the **animals' welfare** and well-being.



PLANS AND ELEVATIONS



SKETCHES



PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

Holistic design has a people-first approach, and in this case 'animal-first' approach. It includes understanding and problem solving to produce a conscious design. Materiality and colour such as wooden textures have been used to create a link with the nature outside. Subtle biophilic features help to reduce stress and improve mental clarity and creativity. The incorporation of organic materials creates a peaceful atmosphere in the design, helping to generate a stress-free environment for the animals and their owners.

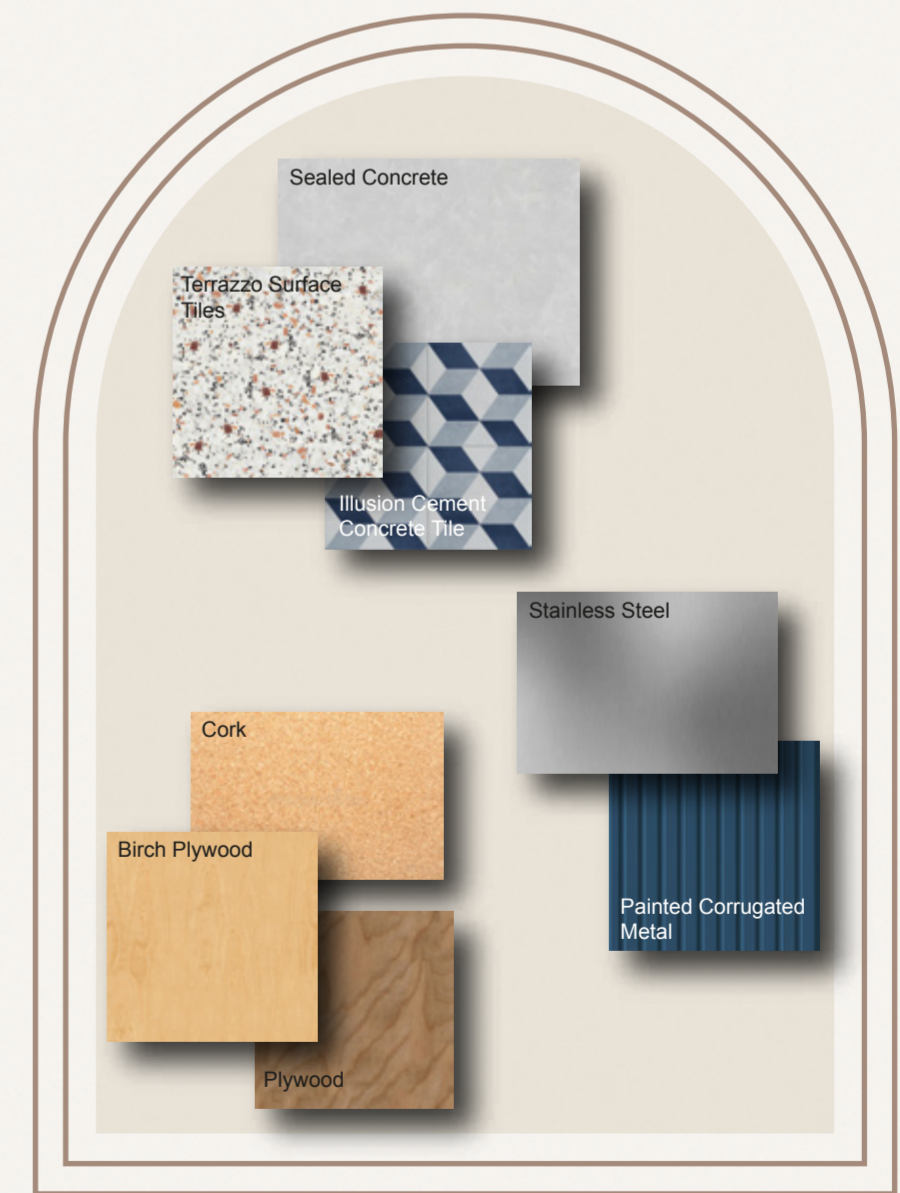


- 10. Lift
- 11. Vet Clinic Reception
- 12. Office
- 13. Easy-Access Consultation Room
- 14. Unisex Toilets
- 15. Consultation Room
- 16. Euthanasia Room
- 17. Dog Kennels
- 18. Freezer
- 19. Cat Kennel
- 20. Utility Room
- 21. Lab and Treatment Room
- 22. X-Ray Room
- 23. Isolation Room
- 24. Prep Room
- 25. Dentistry
- 26. Surgery
- 27. Dog Groomers
- 28. Cleaners Closet
- 29. Disabled Staff Toilet
- 30. Staff Room
- 31. Office

RENDERED FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:150

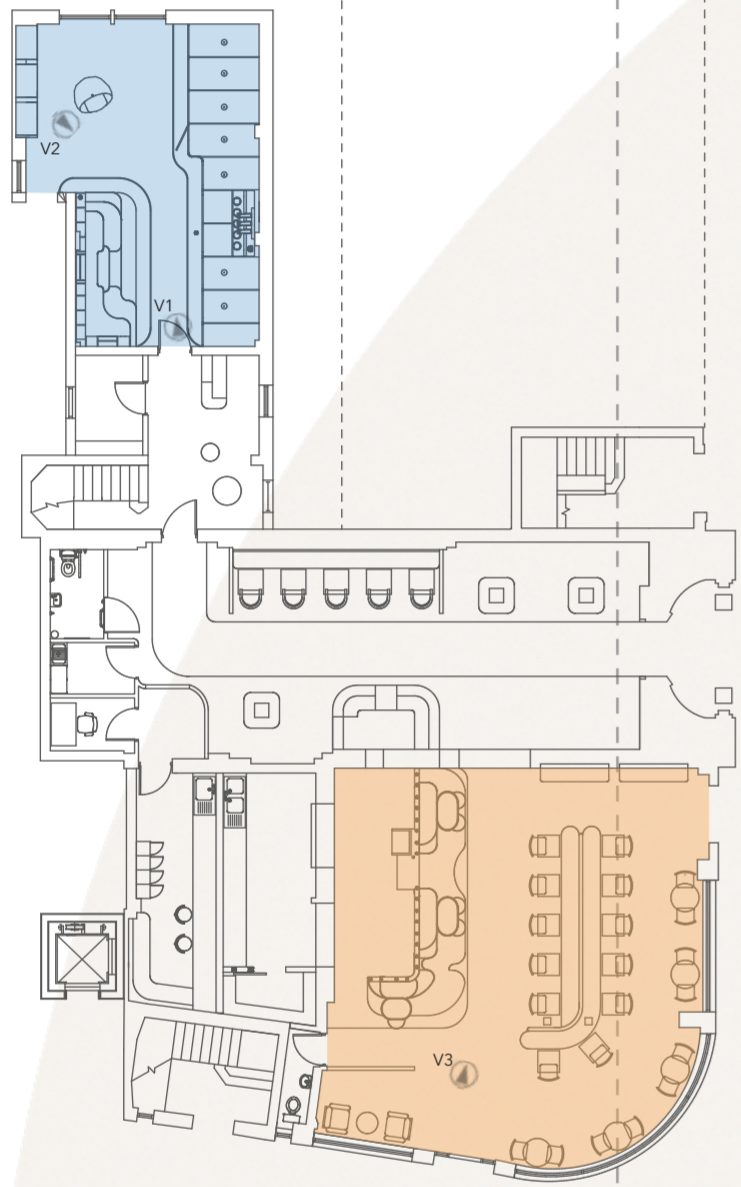


RENDERED TRANSVERSAL SECTION SCALE 1:100



MATERIALS

PERSPECTIVES



VISUAL ONE: DOG SHELTER



VISUAL TWO: DOG SHELTER



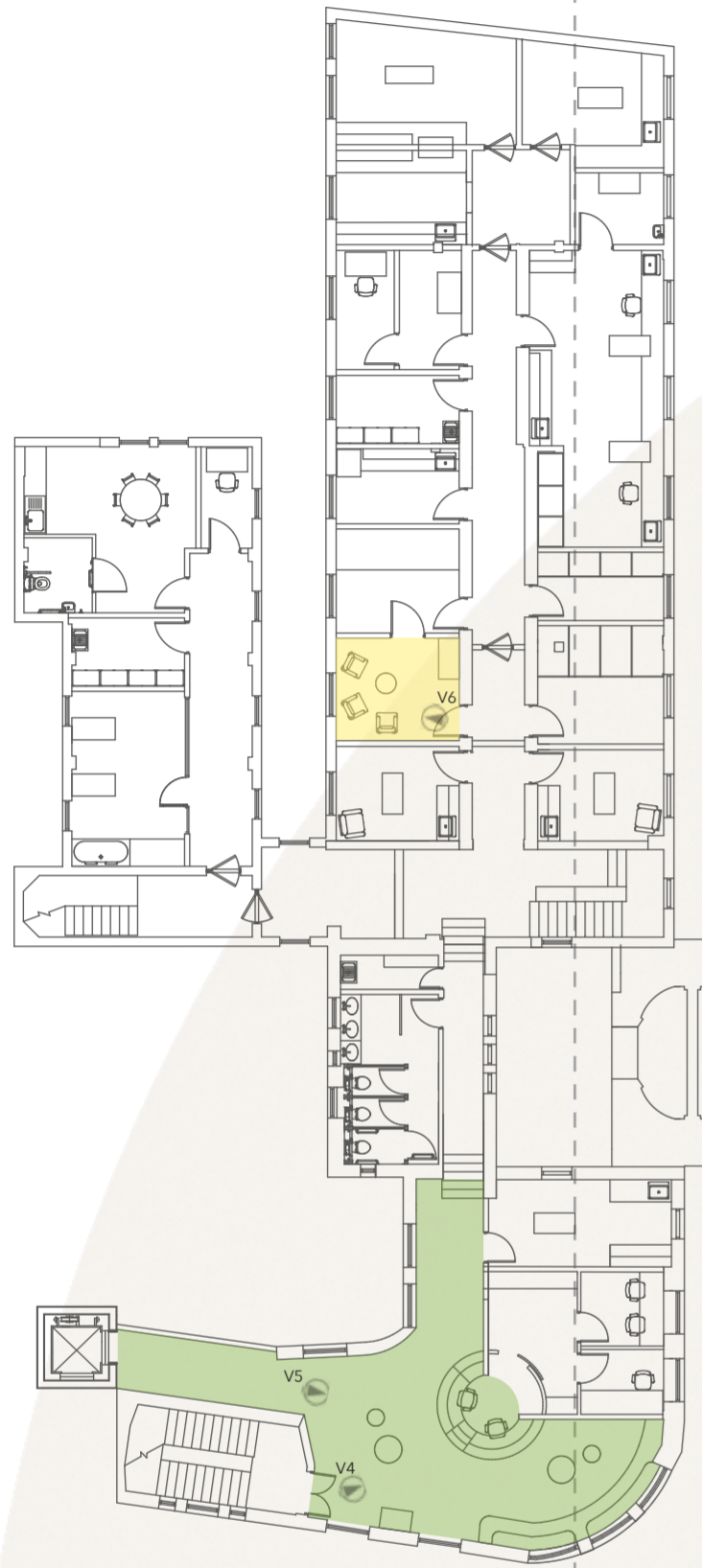
VISUAL THREE: CAFE AND SHOP AREA

Carefully considering the design of bespoke furniture including the bar, the idea of **animals and humans being equal** was implemented. It was essential to the concept of encouraging the relationship between pet and owner that areas were created with both types of users to enjoy and feel comfortable.

Bespoke joinery incorporating **arched shapes** as well as simpler methods such as, an arched colour block on the walls using paint. These are some ways this element was encompassed and embraced into the design style. Arches in **holistic design** are also considered a soothing and calming shape. Bright colours were also used in each space in line with the art deco characteristic, resulting in a playful atmosphere throughout all the rooms.

PERSPECTIVES

String detailing featured on the exterior of the building is continued into the interior. Taking influence from the original signage, these elements are drawn into the space, created using piping. This will also be included in new signage for the building interior and exterior.



VISUAL FOUR: VETERINARY CLINIC RECEPTION



VISUAL FIVE: VETERINARY CLINIC RECEPTION



VISUAL SIX: EUTHANISATION ROOM

A firm focus on the animals has influenced my design. An example of this would be my choice of colours based on [colour theory](#). Outlined in research from one of my key literature sources by Janice K. F. Lloyd, I learnt that canines have a dichromatic vision, meaning the only colours they see is blue and yellow, as well as tones and shades. With this on board, I centred my colour scheme around this, sticking to [orange](#), [yellow](#), [blue](#), and [green](#).

Colours and [textured materials](#) together create an immersive space for the animals to be able to enjoy stress free. The spaces together help towards the idea of improving [animal welfare](#), through developing a design that will encourage owners take on the responsibilities of caring for their pet by providing them with the opportunity to do so. A well-designed space will [encourage better management of health](#) when considering pets and their owners.