



Tŷ WATTS

Tŷ Watts is a community centre and co-working space that caters to the post-pandemic wave of urban-to-rural migration. It offers facilities for small businesses and self-employed individuals, including social spaces, a collaborative office space, private phone booths, and bookable meeting rooms. The project aims to provide the local population with resources for entrepreneurship and encourage city-dwelling young people to relocate to the Welsh Valleys. By enticing small businesses to the area, the goal is to grow affluence, attract investment, and reconnect a strong sense of community and industry with the Welsh Valleys. The space will function as a central pillar for the development of small businesses in the Rhondda community by offering GoWales entrepreneurship workshops alongside the workplace, social, and fitness facilities.



“COVID-19 changed the way we live, work, travel and socialise. We now want to work with organisations to support a long-term shift to more people working remotely.” - Gov.Wales

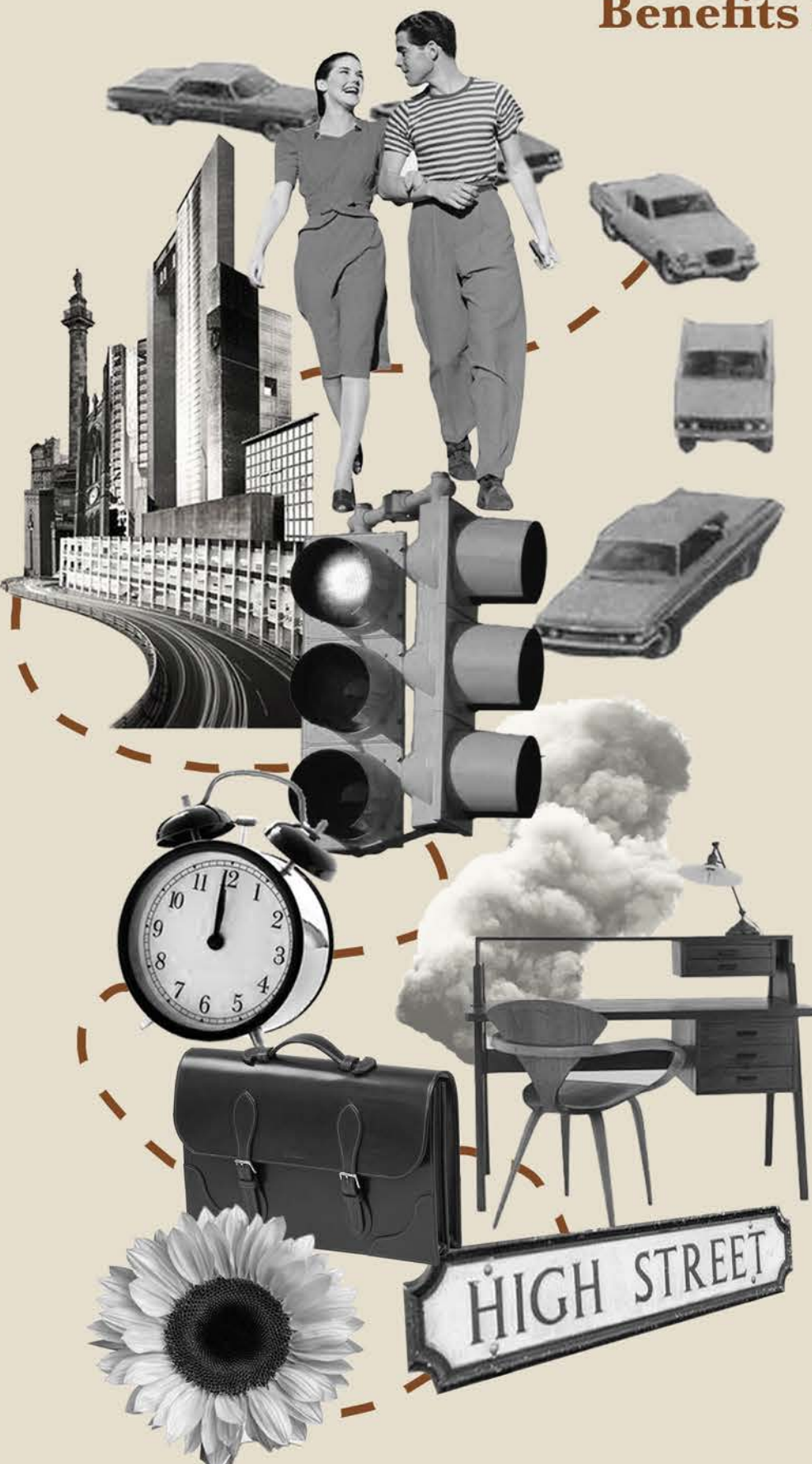
Benefits for local economies, businesses, individuals and the environment:

- A reduction in travel time and expense
- More flexibility and better work-life balance
- Increased productivity
- Less traffic, especially at peak times
- Less air and noise pollution
- The opportunity to redesign our towns and city centres
- Workers able to choose their place of work including the central workplace, their home, or a workspace close to their home
- More job opportunities in out-of-town communities and access to an increased workforce for employers
- Economic and social benefits for the local high streets
- Allowing disabled people to work in a place that supports their individual needs



Industry in the Welsh Valleys historically prospered from the rich coalfields stretching from Pontypool to Swansea and Llanelli, however, following the 1910 Tonypandy riots, where miners marched for better wages and working conditions, 20 coal mines in the area were forced to close, rendering around 20,000 workers unemployed. Over the ensuing decades, the towns and Villages impacted by the closures fell in to a state of deprivation and disrepair.

Tonypandy is located just 2km from the site of this project, a prior public house in Wattstown. Due to the financial state of the area, the pub was forced to close, and the heart of the community was left abandoned. This project will restore the community hub and capitalise on the post-pandemic shift in working life.



Wattstown Public House

Micro-climate: Set in the low elevation of the valley, the site may be prone to southwesterly channelled winds and sits very close to the Rhondda Cynon Taff, exposing it to a high groundwater level.

Accessibility: Located in the Welsh Valleys, approximately an hour from Cardiff city centre, it is accessible via the A233 and can be reached by public buses or trains from nearby towns.

Locality: Wattstown has few community-based establishments, with one social club, one takeaway shop, and a few businesses. However, the surrounding area of Rhondda is a developing part of the Welsh Valleys, striving to regain its historical success. There are more small businesses in surrounding towns, but the biggest draw for commercial businesses is Cardiff. Local business owners may not wish to travel to the nearest big city for work.

The aim of this project is to serve the community by offering a space to develop small businesses and grow industry in the Rhondda area. Therefore, the space will include non-work areas alongside solo and collaborative work facilities to attract a wider audience. To achieve this, the building will be divided into cellular spaces, each with specific purposes, to provide the most suitable facilities for a multifaceted local industry and community scene.



Wattstown



Micro-Climate



Train Access



Catchment Area



2

Learn

The second floor will accommodate for community enrichment with mixed function and learning spaces.

1

Focus

The first floor will suit individual working with smaller compartmentalised spaces.

GF

Socialise

The ground floor is the heart of the space so will offer the most social working and community areas.

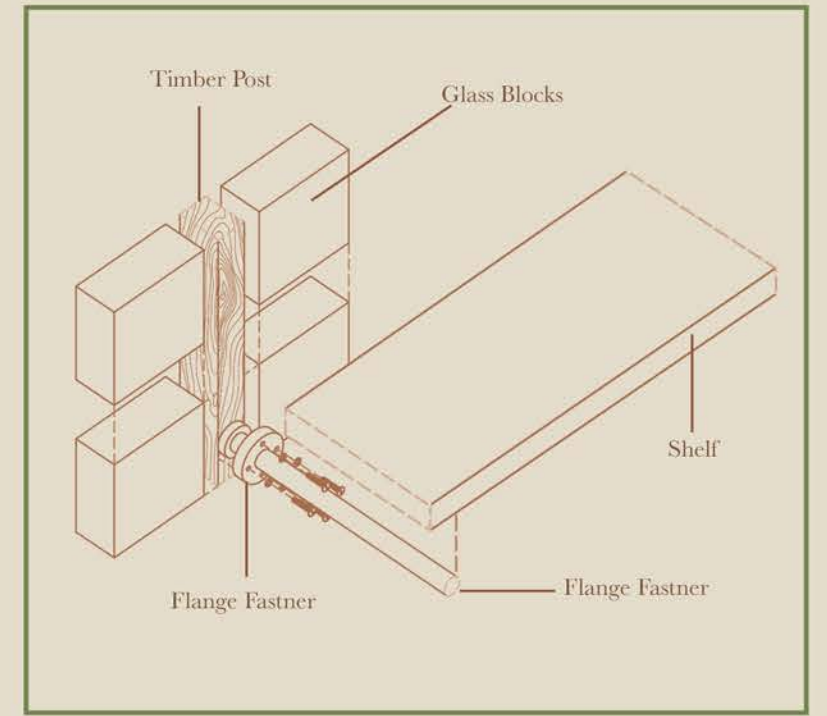
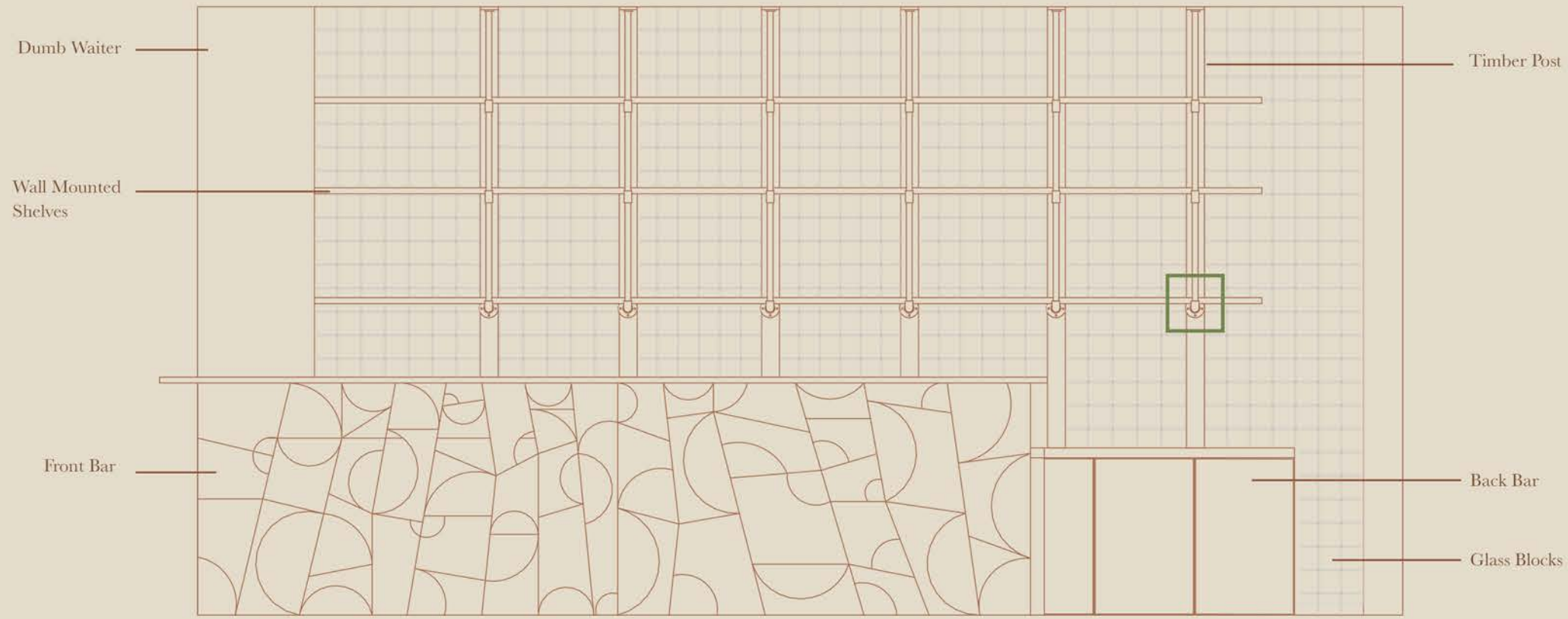
B1

Function

The basement will utilise the lack of light by hosting the building's essential operational facilities as well as any community space accessible through the rear entrance.



Bar Detail



Sections





FF&E Guide & Ethos

The ethos behind the interior furnishings of this project is founded on the belief that the people of Wattstown deserve luxury and indulgent community facilities despite Rhondda being a deprived area. Therefore, furniture selection for this project is strongly informed by economic and sustainable sensitivity. The appearance of a sumptuous club furnished with valuable antiques will be achieved through meticulously sourcing second-hand and restored pieces based on the 'Buyer's Style Guide'. This document outlines the preliminary guidelines for the sourcing of second-hand furniture outlining the physical aspects that are integral to each sourced item. Restoration of hard materials and upholstery are to be completed according to the sustainability and economic materiality guidelines outlined, for example substituting walnut with dark stained oak, which is more readily available in large quantities. Furthermore, this complements the dark academia aesthetic, creating a sense of eclecticism with its masculine and lived-in feel.

