

THE VENNEL

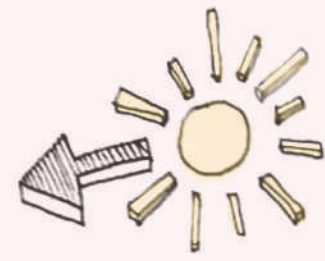
A COMMON GROUND FOR INTERGENERATION

Kara Robertson
IED at Duncan of Jordanstone// University of Dundee

In a bid to re-invent small-town social culture, The Vennel, designed as a common ground for intergeneration, creates an optimistic vision for the future of Forfar. The introduction of a new public realm and co-living housing complex creates a diverse approach to small town development. Encouraging intergenerational activity promotes a greater community while reducing isolation, optimising inclusive connection & bridging generational differences. The site reimagines a formally renowned public building through an

adaptive re-use design alongside the development of a new build extension. Leading 2 co-design workshops at Rossie residential school alongside connecting with Angus Council, Forfar Community Council and Pidgin Perfect- who initiated Future Forfar community engagement scheme- led me to fundamentally determine what is required to restore & enrich an almost forgotten community. Focusing on bridging generations, the reformed site accommodates a transformable & inclusive community hub adjacent a cooperative housing

complex. Its unpretentious design poses as a flexible environment, adaptable to change. Utilising Hermann Hertzberger's spatial theories, the community hub minimises boundaries creating an undefined internal landscape, encouraging its audience to appropriate the space in creative & innovative ways. Meanwhile, the introduction of town centre cooperative housing creates an alternative, affordable & sustainable method of small town residency while ultimately devising as a simple solution to the current economic housing crisis.



ROOF SCAPE.

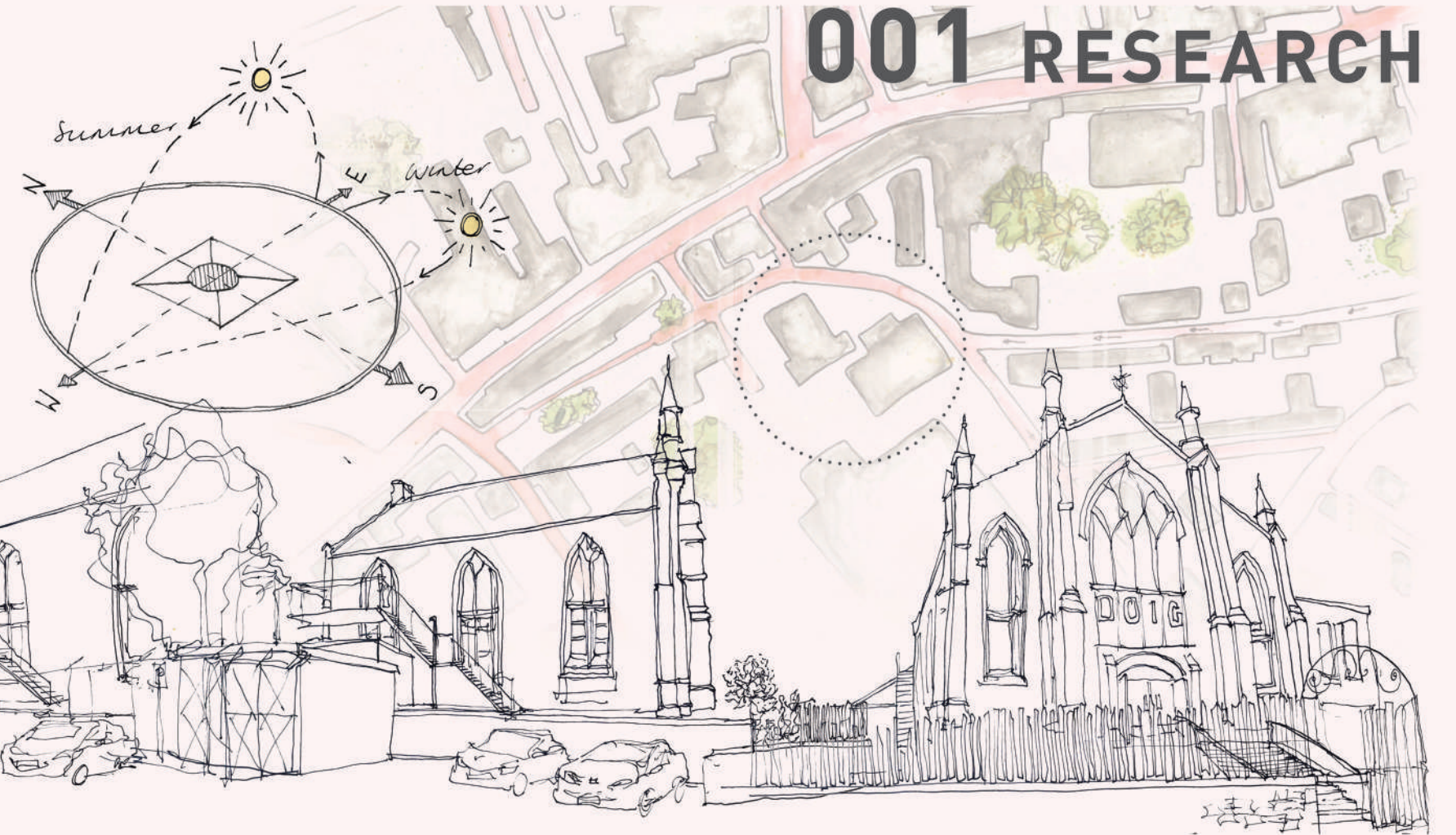


SITE ANALYSIS//

Located central to the town's busiest streets, The Vennel's site offers an immediate connection to the centre of Forfar's public realm. While in the town's current state, little resides in respect to community engagement in the town centre, primary findings have reflected that there evidently is a need and want for this type of space, to encourage a re-connected society.

"A fresh look at how the community can put the heart back into the town centre is long overdue."

Local Resident
(Anonymous)



001 RESEARCH

CO: DESIGN APPROACH//



"People really stressed that they wanted to see a central hub that brings everyone together...that would bring the heart back to town."

Dele Adeyamo
Future Forfar Director
Pidgin Perfect

Initiating two co:design small town communities. These successful workshops with young people at Rossie residential school meant I could prototype and apply the gathered insights within the development of The Vennels proposal, many of which have supported the final outcome to see emerge within their

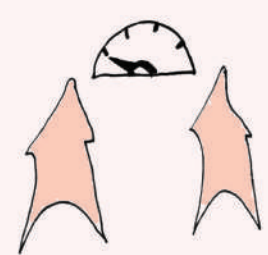
BACKING STATISTICS//

Bridging the Generation Gap

Encouraging Intergenerational Activity



Just 5% of people living in the same neighbourhood as someone under 18 are over 65, compared with 15% in 1991.



Almost eight in 10 of those aged 18-24 and the over-65s want life to slow down.



In 2017, the number of older people in need of care outstripped the number of family members able to provide it

Why intergenerational co-housing?

Could this be the future to small town residency?



+50%
of Brits don't know their neighbours



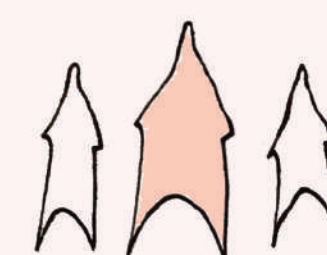
76%
of over 65's worry about being a burden on their children



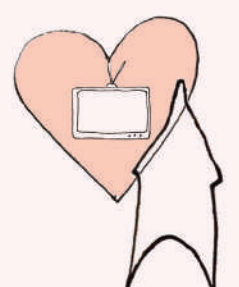
20%
of elderly people are only in contact with family or neighbours once a week



33%
of adults worry about their parents being lonely



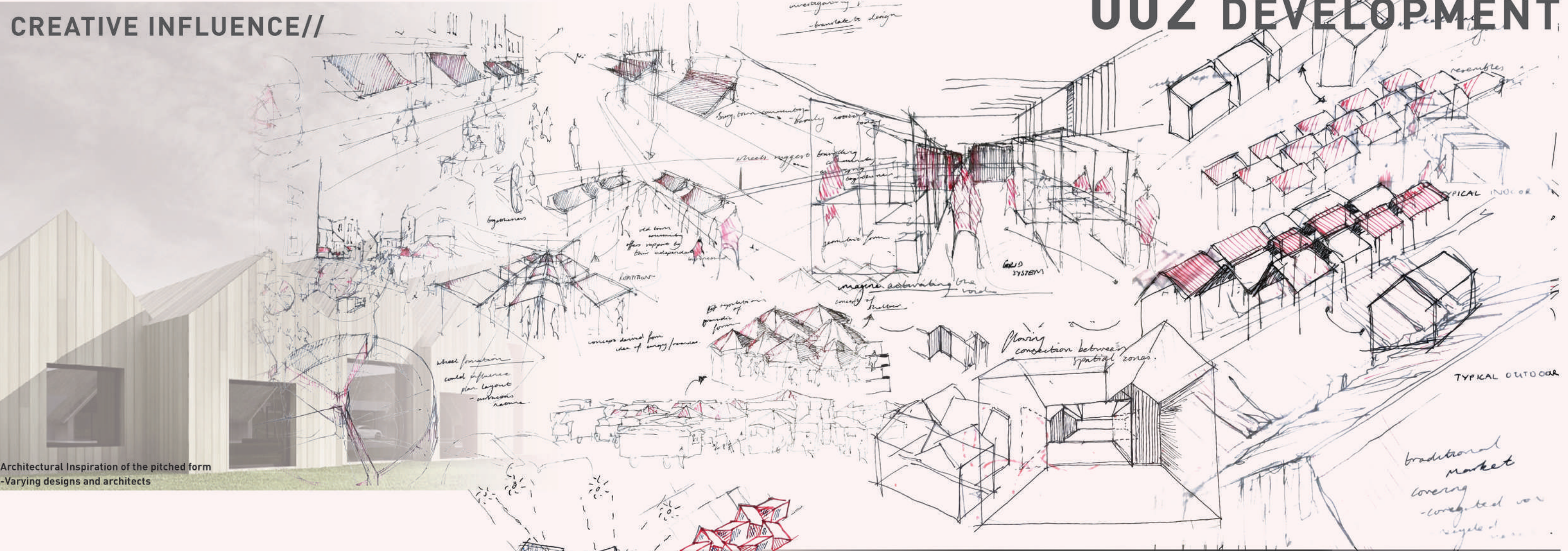
1 in 3
live alone



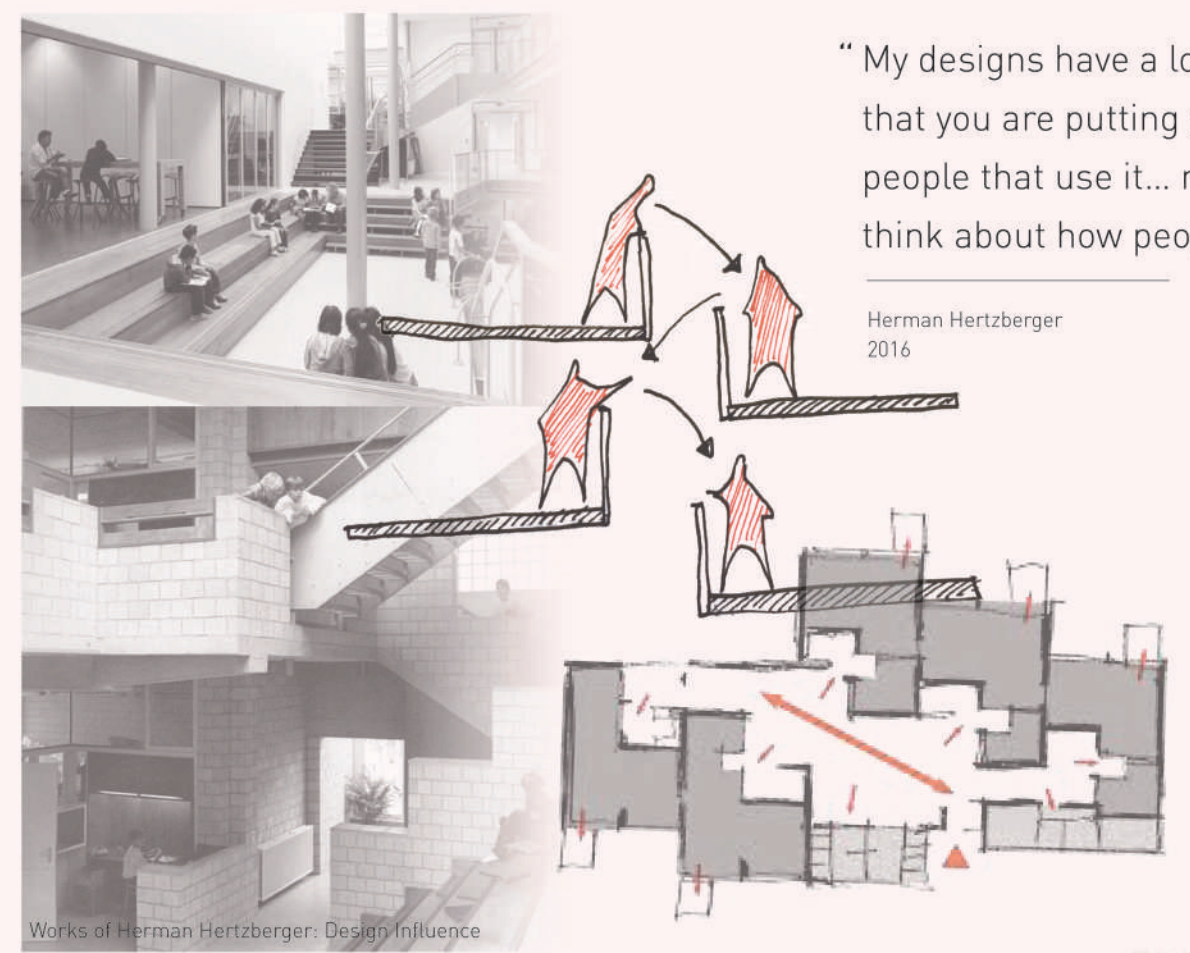
5 million
elderly people say television is their main companion



CREATIVE INFLUENCE//



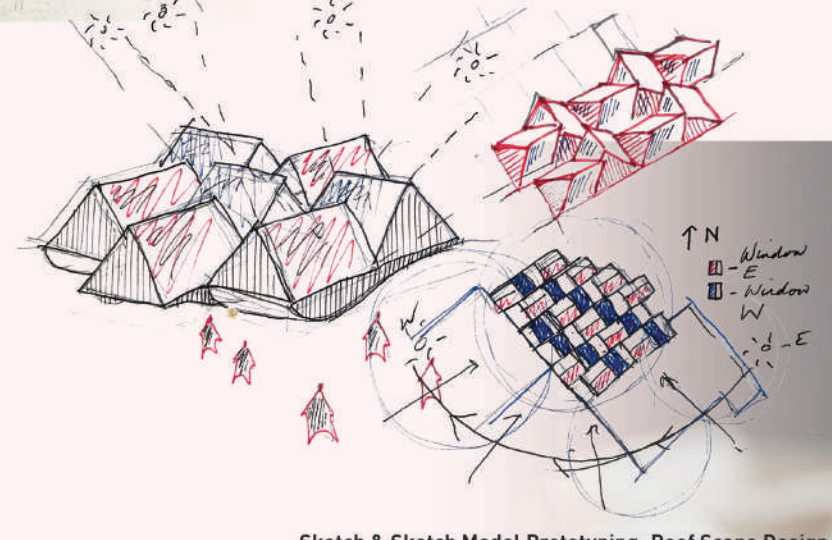
SPATIAL PLANNING//



"My designs have a lot to do with empathy, the fact that you are putting yourself in the place of the people that use it... most of the time architects don't think about how people feel in their buildings."

Herman Hertzberger
2016

Dutch architect Herman Hertzberger created a mere revolution in architecture and spatial planning in the 60's and 70's. He believed that the architect's role was to, as opposed to providing the complete solution, to create a spatial framework for inhabitants to express their individuality. Emphasising connection between people and place, Hertzberger's greatest principle is to allow inhabitants and users to manipulate the space they live, play or work. Applying Hertzberger's spatial theory approach to The Vennels final proposal will not only result in a much greater user experience, but create a well-considered, inspired outcome, putting intergenerational activity at the heart of its design.



VISUAL TRANSLATION//

