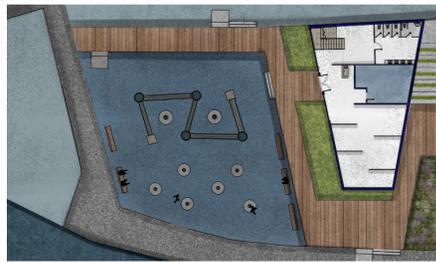


LIVING HYDROLOGY

GUARDIANS OF THE CANALS

Building on the historical and ecological significance of the Castlefield canals, this project reimagines the site as an interactive and educational public space. The design challenges traditional notions of water ownership by making hydrological systems visible, accessible, and engaging. The space supports the work of three hydrologists, with dedicated laboratory and research areas, while also opening up to the public through integrated cafes, water sampling stations, and interactive features such as a water playground. Seated steps along the canal and buildings encourage social interaction and reflection, creating a place where science, leisure, and urban life converge to foster greater awareness and appreciation of our water systems.



Reem Afandi

As a student of architecture, I believe spaces should be contextually responsive, socially engaging, and emotionally resonant. My design approaches values spatial clarity and narrative depth with a particular interest in how architecture can mediate between public and private life. I am especially drawn to projects that explore cultural expression and adaptive reuse, and the integration of landscape into architectural form. Through every design, I aim to craft experiences that are both meaningful and memorable.

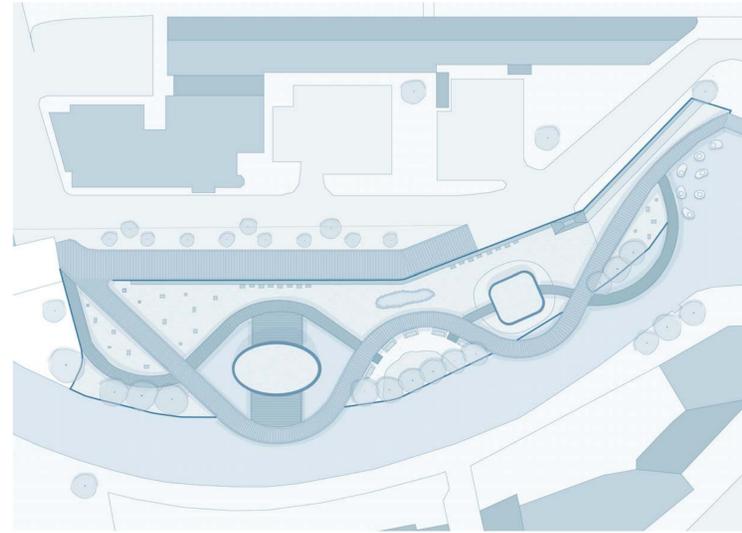
Reeds and Roots

Guardians of the Canal: Ecology lab

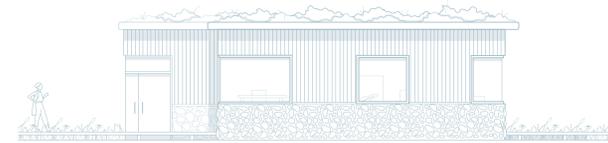


Stella Moore

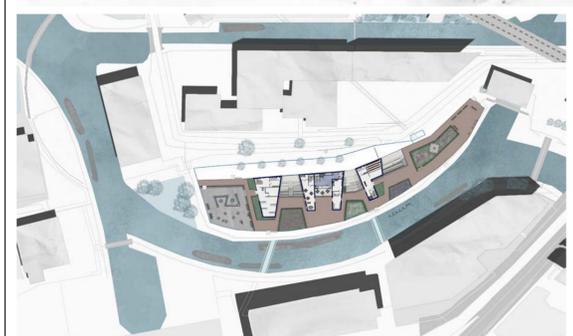
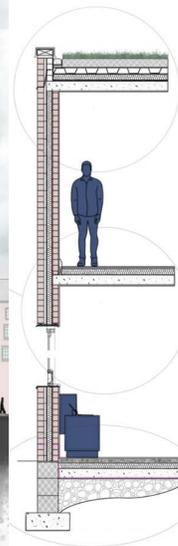
The two main aims of this proposal were to rewild and reconnect the site. Focusing on sustainability and biodiversity, my design tackled strategies for creating an environmentally-friendly building alongside improving the site's biodiversity. This was done through my ecology lab and exhibition centre, which monitor and promote the rewilding scheme. This will work alongside animal habitats that are both separate from and integrated with the buildings, and supported by a planting plan of native, year-round flora.



Site plan at a 1:500 scale at A3

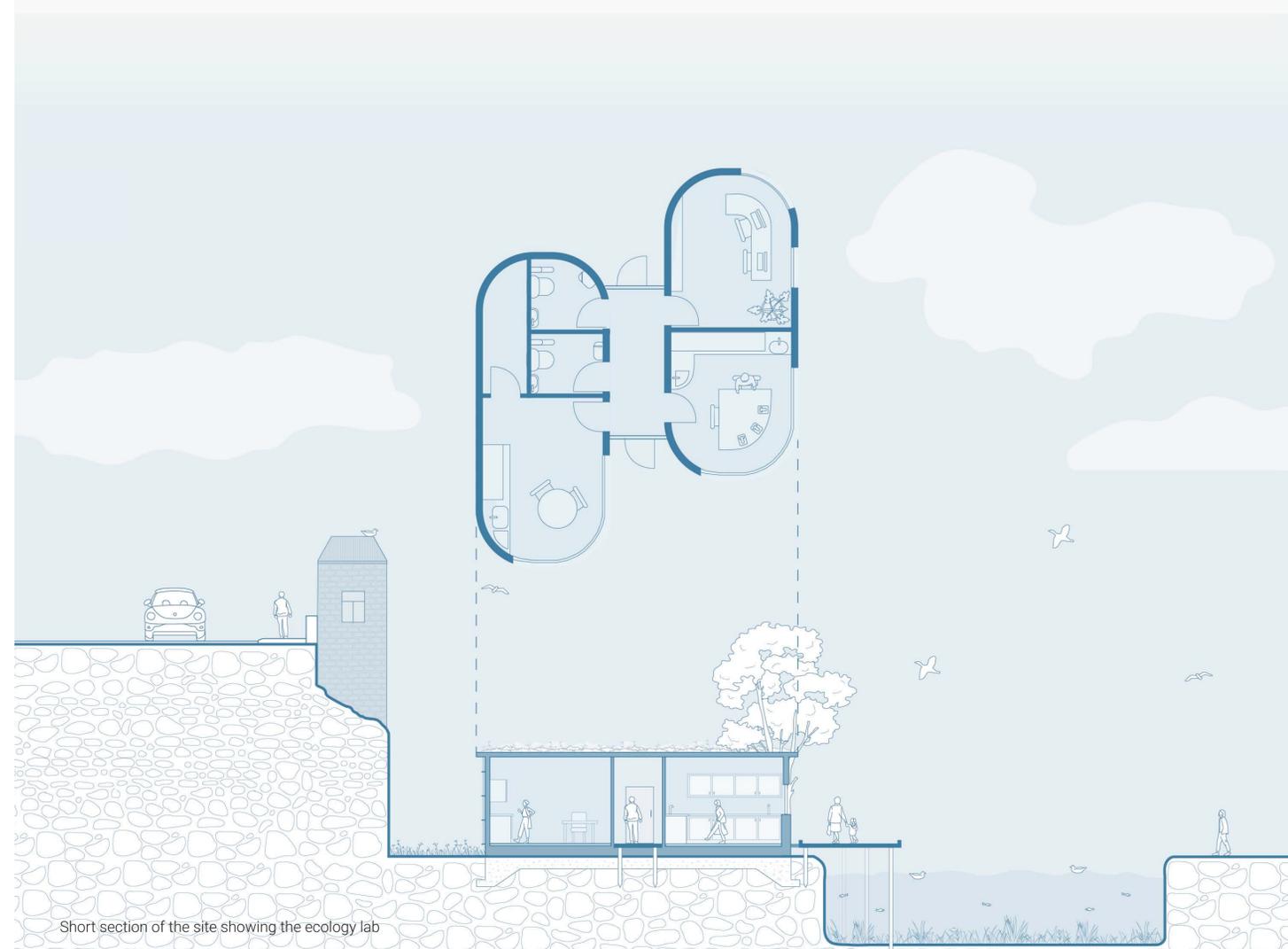


North section of the ecology lab



The main aim of the project was to enhance access to the site. I introduced new bridges that connect key points around the canal and designed a clear, grid-based pathway system to guide movement across the space. This structured layout improves circulation, making it easier for visitors to explore the site and engage with its public and educational features.

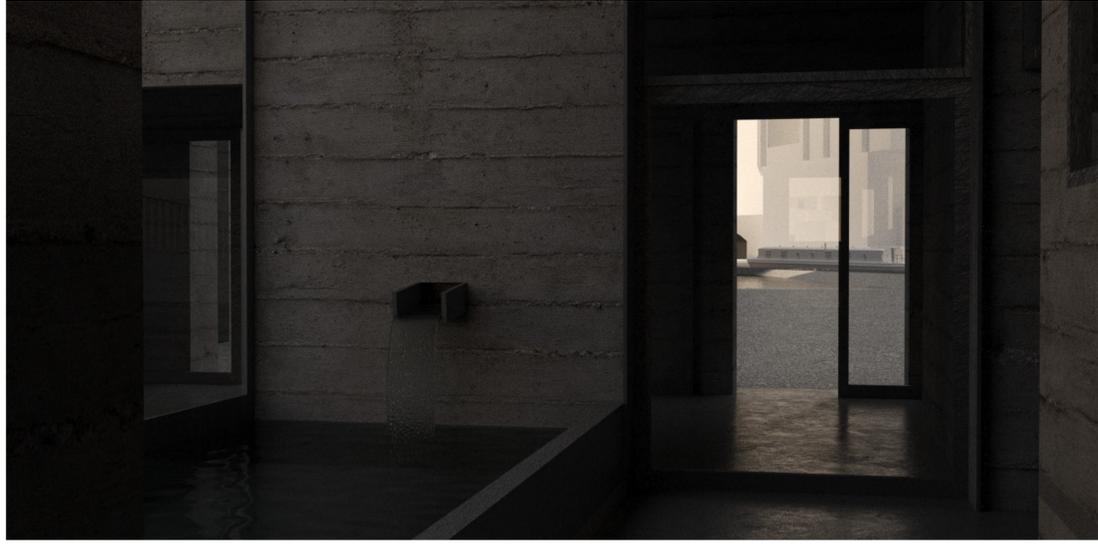
Mood boards and drawing illustrate the design atmosphere, material choices and spacial qualities helping communicate the project's overall vision and character



Short section of the site showing the ecology lab

People, Canal, Castlefield

The making of a friendship between people and canal

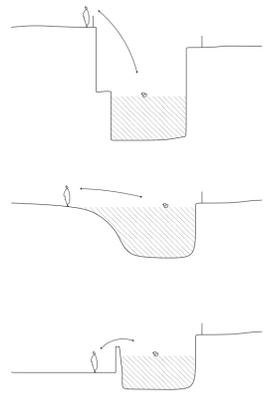


top: purified water outlet middle: main entrance garden (left), central purification pond (right) bottom: circulation hallway

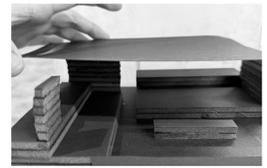


Ryan Lai

This is a regeneration project that plays with the human - waterway relationship, which is a historically rich and poetically complex matter. The final design is functionally created with the process of friendship making and spatially inspired by the representation of friendship in physical reality. The output is a materplan spanning across the whole site that seek to work as a bridge for connection between human and canal.



Top: Canal as Servant
Middle: Canal as Friend
Bottom: Canal as Threat



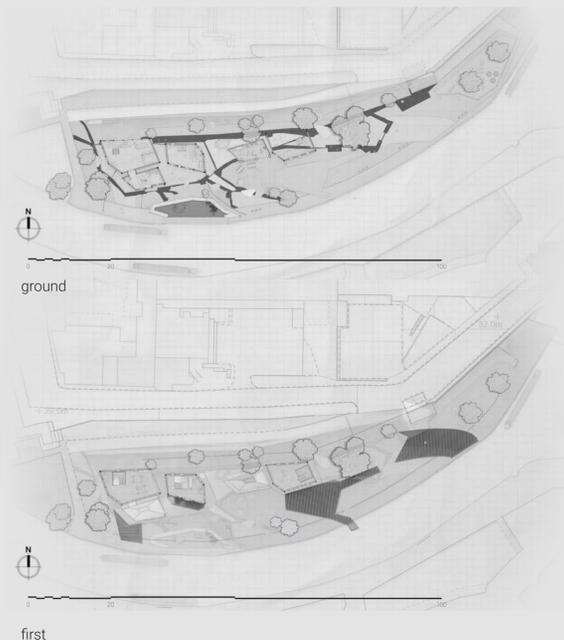
modelling process

the stepping stones

transferring water ownership from microplastics to the people.



the scheme is divided into three stages: present, where water levels are at +0; 2075, where water rises by a meter and 20XX, a catastrophic scenario where the site is used as flood relief, reaching 3 metres above the original level. the water and the people live in harmony as flood-friendly behaviours have been adopted and the microplastic content has been reduced by Castlefield's inhabitants.



see full project:

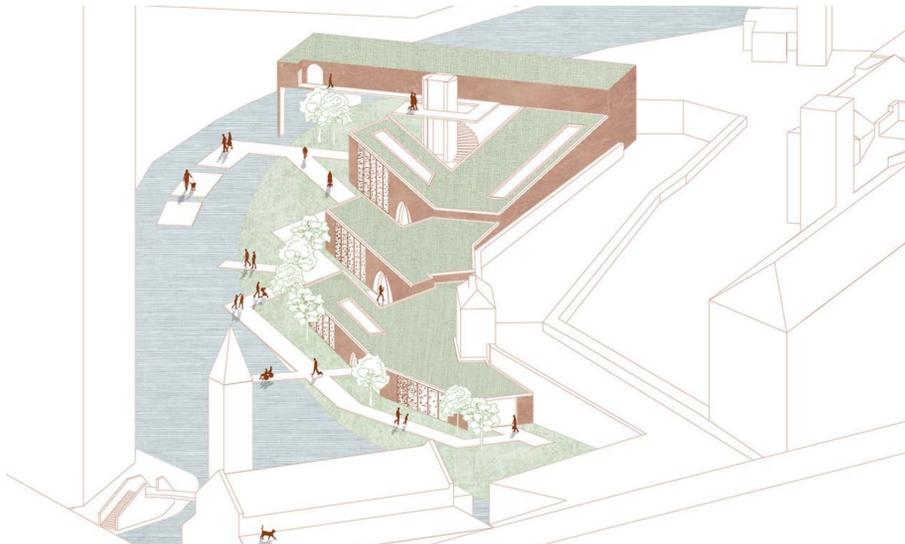


Auri Gómez

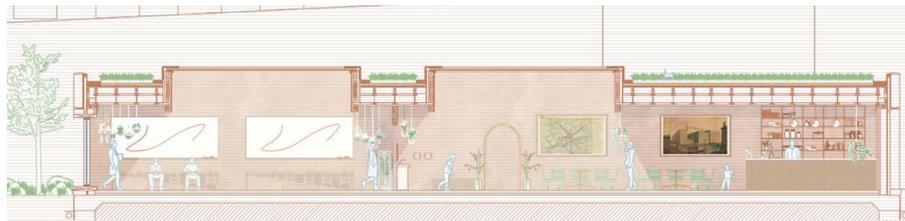
- resilient design
- visual communication
- retrofit

Strata

Layers Of Castlefield



Strata's objective is to capture and inherit the industrial history of Castlefield. Layers of history are imbedded into the layers of soil, with each area showcasing an innovative buildup in technology through water purification systems.



The main community gathering area, built to host bio sand filter workshops and educate visitors on the history of the canal and its uses throughout industry.



Maisha Shaiek

Hello! I am a 2nd year student at the MSA and this is my studio 2.2 project! Strata aims to capture the industrial history of Castlefield and create a structure and place that blends itself into the surrounding structures. The canal plays a large role in the programme, each rectangle area hosts different labs, all of different water purification



systems and goes in an order from easy hands on making, to mechanised filtering systems. This represents a progress in technology over time. Water from the canal is taken and put into these purification systems which is then used for newer vegetation points throughout the site, such as the green roof and gardens around the promenade.

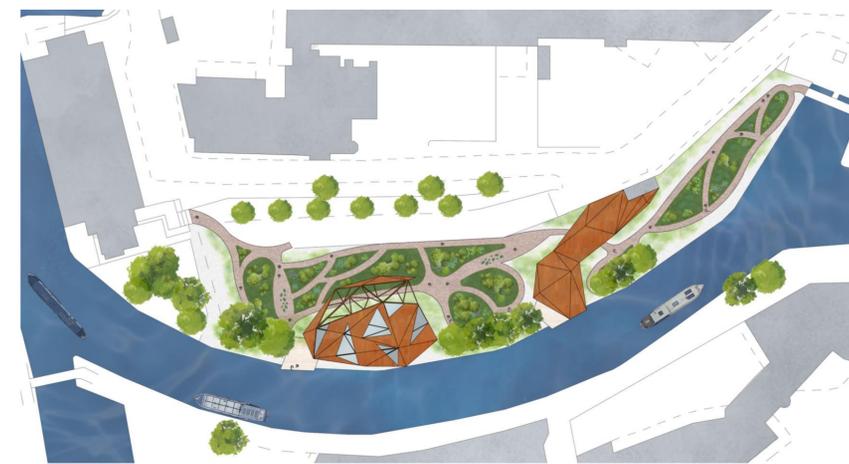


Grey to Green

Offering an ecological refuge within the urban



Technical Section through Community Centre



Masterplan



North Elevation



ARENA ANTONENKO

As an architecture student, my passion lies within creating spaces that draw on sustainable approaches and respond to the site context. This project unites ecological science with public engagement, for scientists and locals to explore, featuring a community center and ecological laboratory. The project responds to the grey site, implementing a green space for refuge and reflection within Manchester, offering intertwining pathways that take locals on a journey around this tranquil space.

Renders



Community Centre - Communal/Exhibition Space



Community Centre - Workshop Space



Laboratory



Communal Space for Ecologists

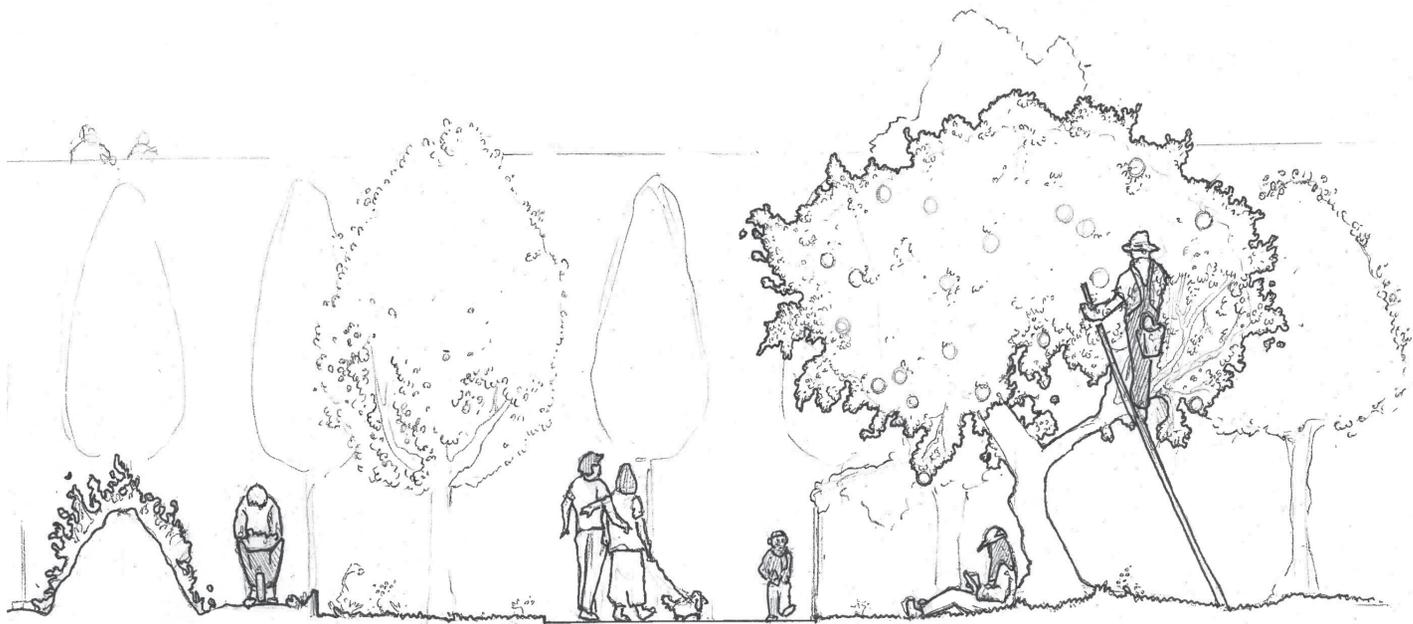
The Wharf Potager

Rooted in Soil, Grown in Community, Guided by Nature



Juliette Ruelland-Kennedy

The project responds to the pressures of Mancunian life - rising costs, shrinking green space, and growing disconnection from land and community. At the heart of my work is the belief that people should have access not only to grow their own food, but to cook with it, share it, and learn from the land beneath them. By bringing together communal gardens, teaching kitchens, and ecological labs, the Wharf Potager becomes a place where knowledge, nourishment, and nature are woven into daily life.



The proposal offers a garden shop, cafe, community kitchen and garden, an orchard and a lab to residents in the heart of Castlefield.



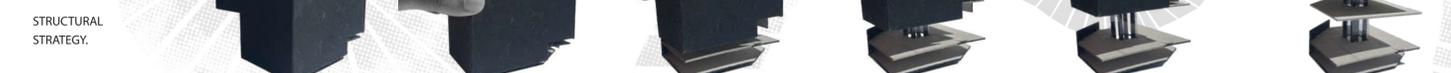
A BAT AND A BOX

STUDIO 2.2 TRANSECTS: GUARDIANS OF THE CANALS

ANISH SHAH
BA2 Student
anish24shah@gmail.com
@anish_shah_24



'A Bat and a Box' is inspired and shaped by the Jain philosophy 'Parasparopagraho Jivanam', a grounding ideal. The law translates to 'souls render service to one another'; the aphorism emphasises the interconnectedness of all life, bound together by a mutual support and interdependence. My ecological research, alongside this journey towards environmental symbiosis sparked an interest in the importance of bats. My intervention focuses on re-wilding the site, providing habitats for bats, and enhancing public education of their importance to our global biodiversity network. Their guano (faeces) is then collected and used as a super natural fertiliser to help green growth around Manchester! In an increasingly anthropocentric world, my scheme strives for balance and appreciation.

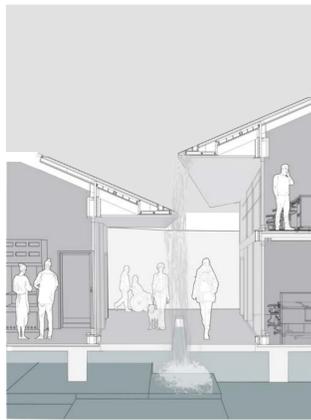


WHO OWNS THE CANAL?

HOW CAN FLOODING BE UTILISED TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

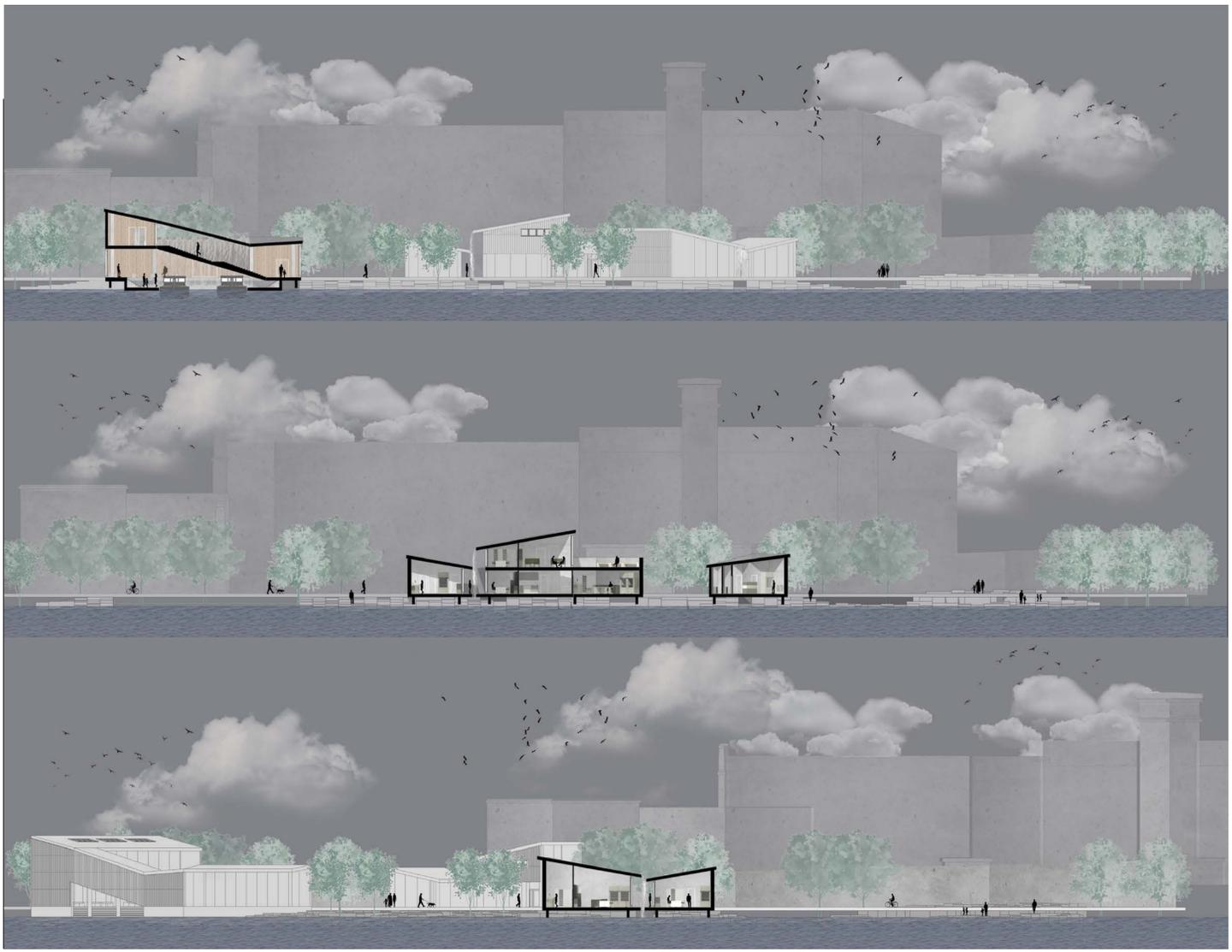


WIKTORIA WIKTOR



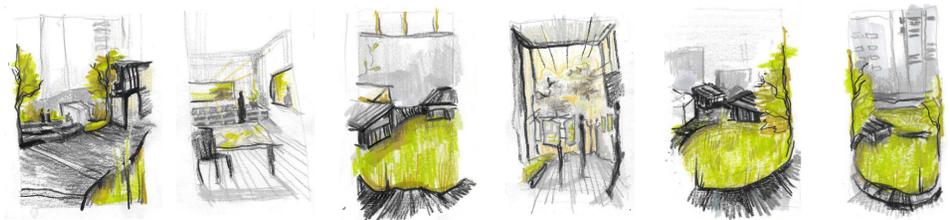
The scheme addresses the shortage of parks and green spaces in Manchester, reimagining the urban landscape by integrating water as a central, generative element. With the increasing likelihood of flooding due to climate change, water is not treated as a threat but embraced as a core design component—shaping both form and function.

The project raises awareness of the environmental impacts of flooding and water pollution, transforming the space from a passive backdrop into an active, immersive experience. It invites users to engage directly with an evolving landscape where built structures and natural forces co-exist.



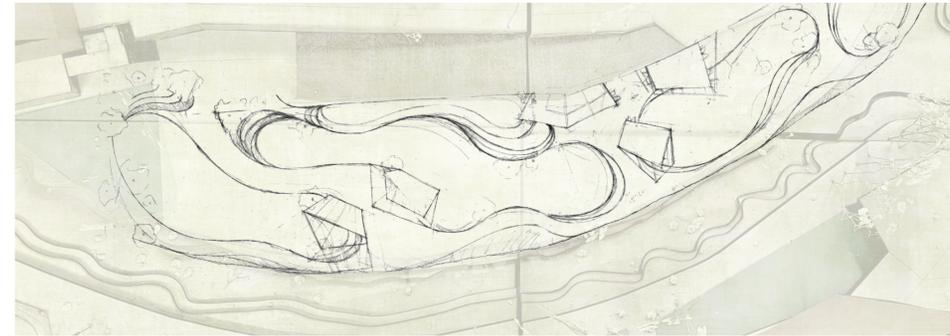
Pollinating Castlefield

Rewilding the canal through site specific pollination research



Katerina Adkins

This project aims to uplift the canal in Castlefield, Manchester. By rewilding the site, this intervention stimulates nature to thrive in an urban area, creating more opportunities for wildlife, tackling the pollution in the canal.



The project features five small scale structures. This is to maintain a connection between the canal and the visitors from all points across the site, where the canal is never obscured.



As the ecologists, located towards the back of the site, test different flowers and how beneficial these are to the local pollinators, the public flower pressing workshop immortalises the flowers when the seasons end. These pressed flowers are arranged into different compositions and displayed to the public in the exhibition pavilion. These seasonal exhibitions present and educate the public on the importance of flowers as a part of a thriving ecosystem.

The use of charred timber as the main material featured across the project separates the natural from the man-made. Additionally, the physical separation created by raising the promenade and buildings enables the site to be untouched by humans, consequently designing a space for both human and non-human use. Something that is essential in the pursuit of ecologically inclusive design.



Bioremediation: the breakdown

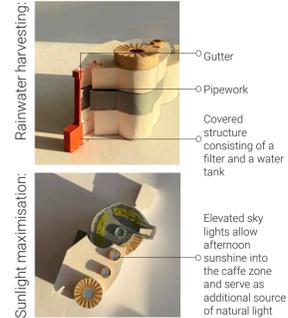
microorganisms, pollutants & vegetation preservation

Location: Castliefield, Manchester

Landscape strategy



Building details



Roxolana Gudzman, BA2 student



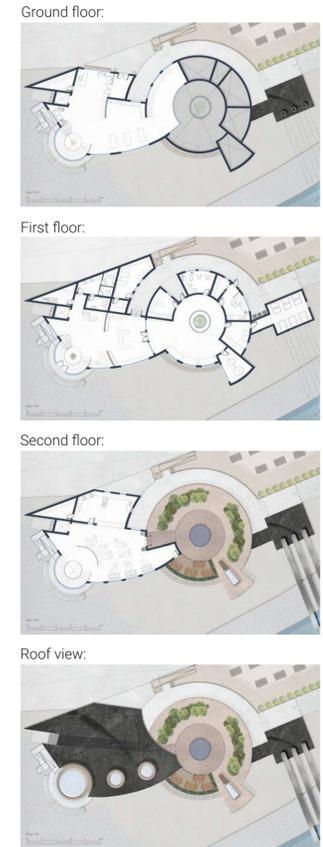
- Abstraction
- Nature driven designs
- Environmental consideration

Researching Bridgewater Canal conditions (and reflecting on site analysis research), I discovered the presence of specific microorganisms responsible for natural purification processes revolving around pollutants. This finding has created a sincere desire to use the canal available near the site to aid pollutant degradation. The facility focuses on utilizing the existing pollutant degrading microorganisms in the canal, and through scientific experiments aims to produce new variants which will tackle the high levels of pollution, including microplastics, organic compounds, and chemicals. The processes are observed by general public throughout the facility and there are opportunities for interactive engagement with the experimental elements of the scientific side and workshop options for vegetation preservation.

2D Sectional cut - north facing



Floorplans



Landscape section - night time



Landscape section - day time



BuzzStop

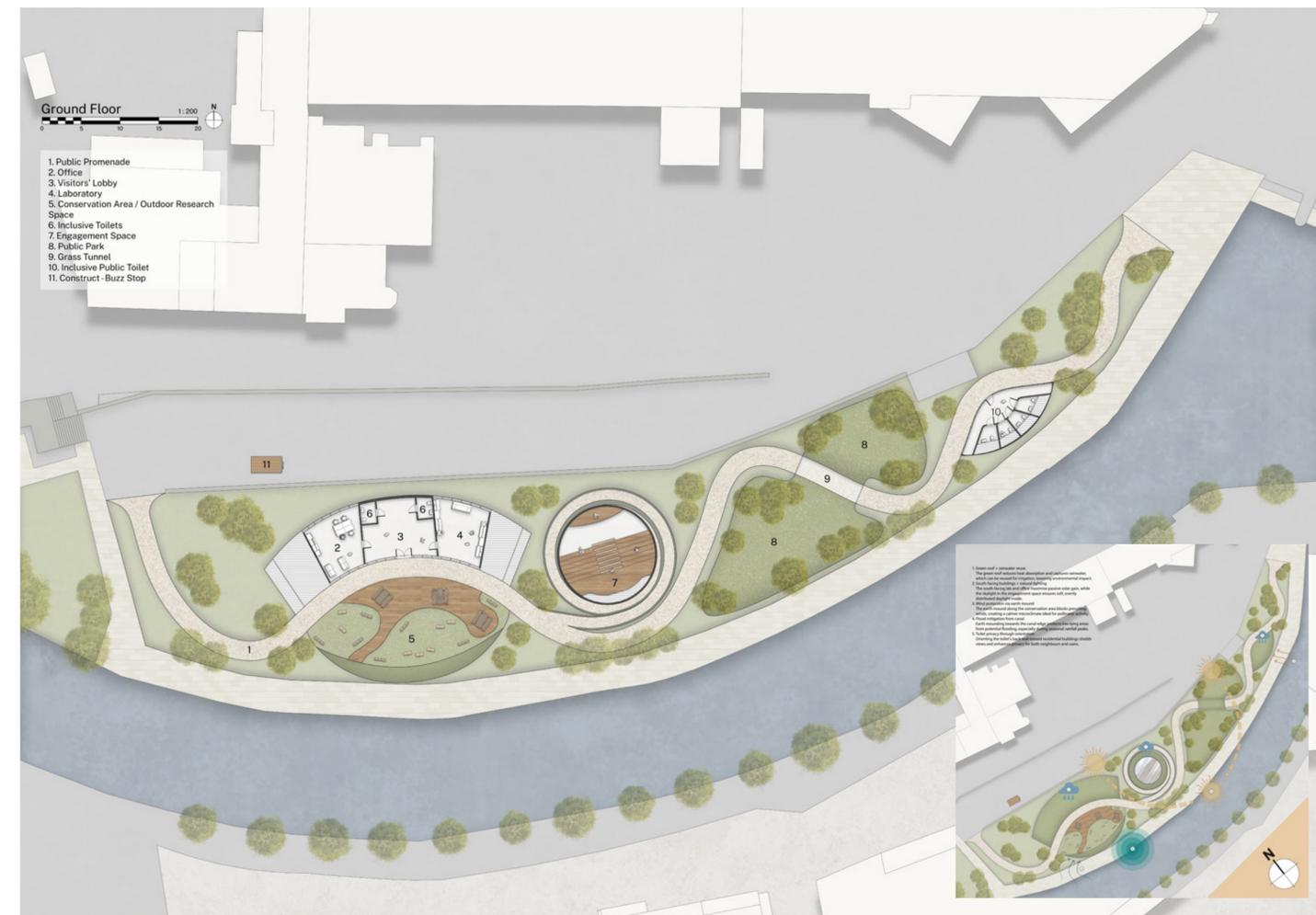
A Hive of Conservation and Community



SEOYUN CHON

Second year BA student at MSA with particular interest in sustainable architecture and sensory design shaped by its surroundings.

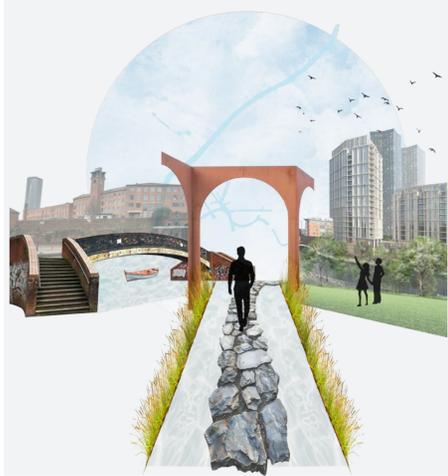
This project challenged me to think beyond human needs and consider how architecture can support other species too. Designing a bee conservation and research facility pushed me to explore new spatial strategies-circular forms, layered landscapes, and interconnected "hive" structures that reflect natural systems. I learned to balance public engagement with ecological sensitivity, creating spaces that are not only functional but also educational and restorative. As the project evolved, I became more confident in responding to complex site conditions, integrating structural logic, environmental performance, and user experience. This project deepened my understanding of architecture as a tool for coexistence, care, and change.



The design uses earth-covered roofs and berms to soften the architecture and integrate it with the landscape, enhancing both thermal performance and biodiversity. These elements guide movement across the site, creating natural thresholds between public, research, and observation spaces. At the centre, a circular engagement structure anchors the scheme-visually prominent and spatially connected to the surrounding hives. Inspired by the logic of a beehive, the layout promotes clarity, connectivity, and coexistence between people and nature.

Framing the Flow

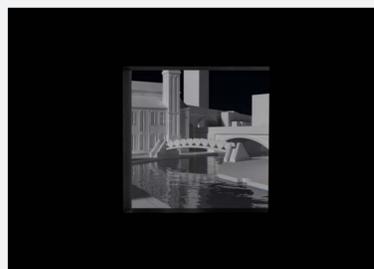
Reconnecting Castlefield Through Views and Flow



This project, located in Manchester's historic Castlefield Basin, addresses the divide between the area's industrial heritage and modern development. Through framed views and careful circulation, the design reconnects old and new while supporting pedestrian movement. It houses hydrology research facilities tailored to the needs of three scientists, balancing private workspaces with social and public areas like a café, exhibition space, and sunken pavilion. The proposal integrates environmental education with community engagement, offering a sensitive and cohesive response to the site's heritage, context, and urban fabric.



Thanrada McGregor



All flesh rots,

- is an architectural proposal located in Castlefield, where a hydrology lab merges with public spaces designated for meditation. Situated along the canal, the building engages directly with the waterway, treating it not just as a geographic feature but as a symbolic threshold between the material and spiritual worlds. Here, water is not merely studied but revered, a silent witness to decay and renewal. The canal becomes a passage: a liminal space where physical decay and spiritual transcendence converge. Along its edges, where trees fall and rot into earth, the architecture rises - not to defy impermanence, but to dwell within it. Through its spatial sequence, the building invites visitors to move from empirical inquiry to quiet contemplation, offering a layered experience that explores the mystery of what it means to return to the Earth.



Intervention/1
The structure could be designed to blend with the canal landscape while serving as a sculptural feature that highlights tree conservation



AYLIN RZAYEVA



A.RZAYEVA20086@GMAIL.COM
+ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aylin-rzayeva>

An undergraduate architecture student with a profound interest in dystopian narratives in spatial design, the spiritual essence of space, and the potential of architecture beyond standard habitats. Alongside architectural studies, an experienced writer with published work, passionate about exploring the humanities aspect of architecture through research and storytelling.



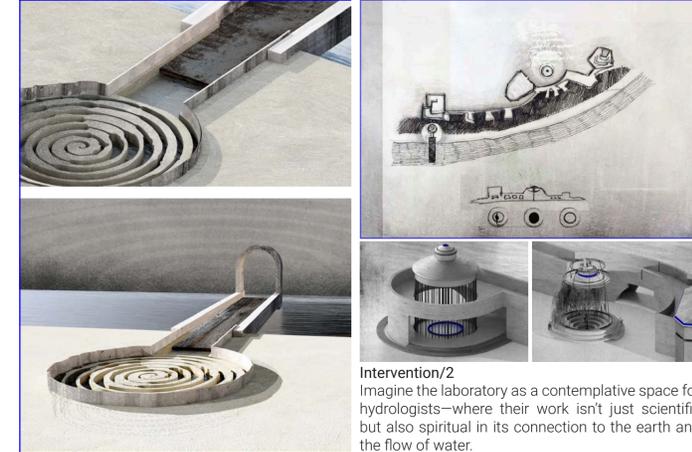
Isometric Drawing



Front



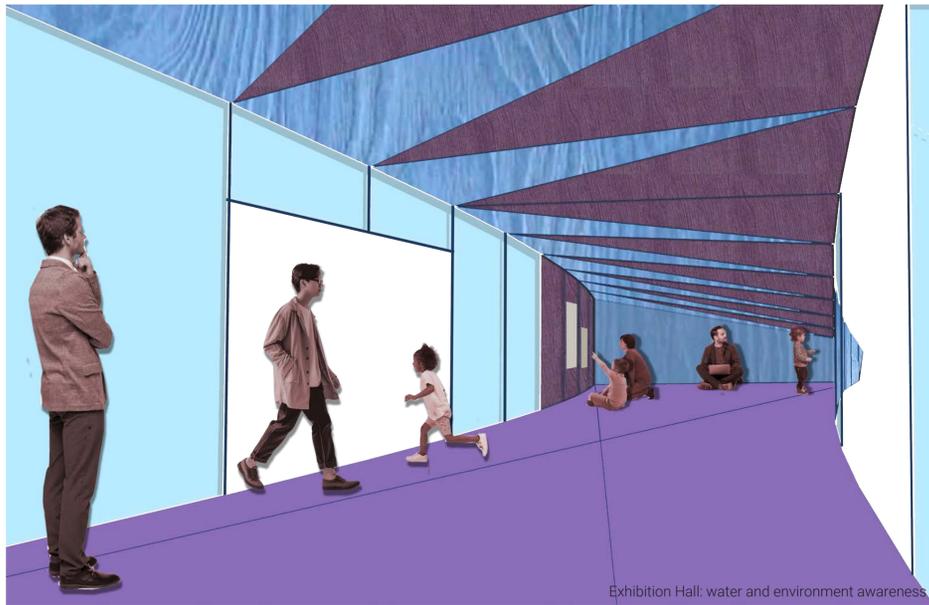
Back



Intervention/2
Imagine the laboratory as a contemplative space for hydrologists—where their work isn't just scientific but also spiritual in its connection to the earth and the flow of water.

Rippling

a single touch stirs wide-spreading water awareness



Exhibition Hall: water and environment awareness

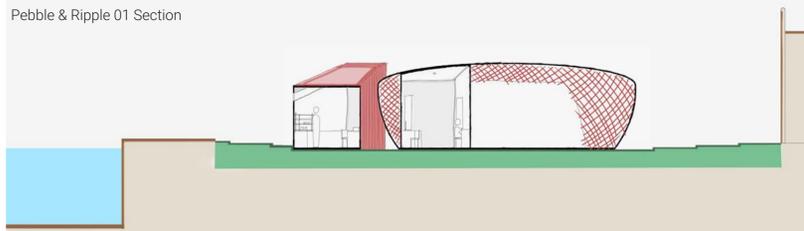


Nur Rafiqah
Najwa Binti
Mhd Nazli

Contrasting lightweight and breathable materials in a heavyweight, hard textured environment is my way of softening the harshness and creating balance between resilience and comfort. Aside from the materials of structures, I believe that bringing in greenery into a built environment could restore the environmental health, even boosting the mood of users- human and animal.

Rippling stretches over the Castlefield site, consisting of structures dispersing across the green undulating landscape. It works as a public centre to raise awareness on Castlefield canals water quality, appreciating it and promoting flood resilience design. The concept of this project derives from the cause-and-effect relationship in the occurrence of water ripples. On site context, this public centre will be the cause of people learning on water quality and how to appreciate it.

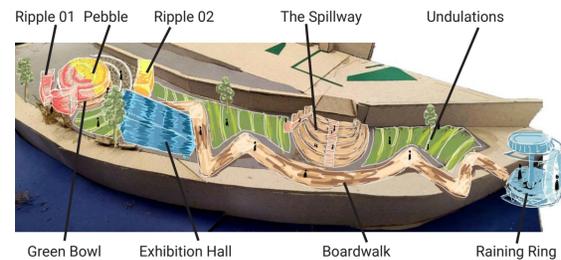
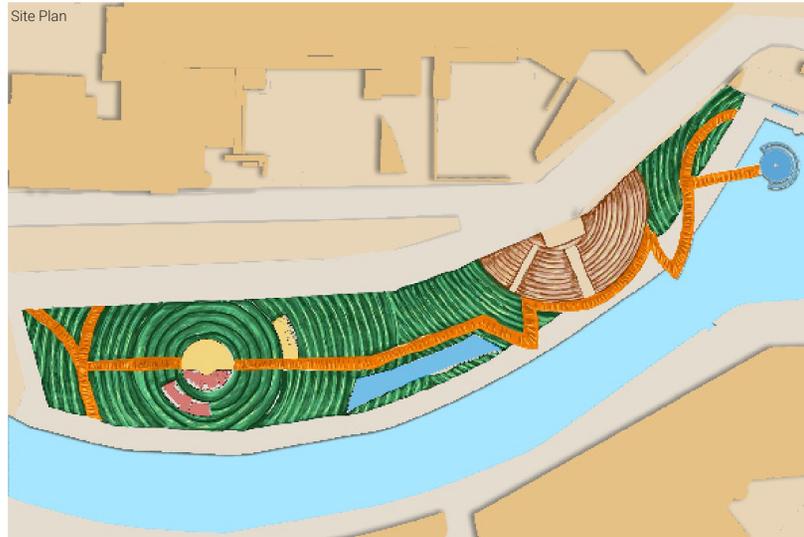
Pebble & Ripple 01 Section



Site South (Front) Elevation



Site Plan



ECOWEAVE

TEXTILES FROM ALGAE: A space for innovative research and public interaction.



Duru Doruk

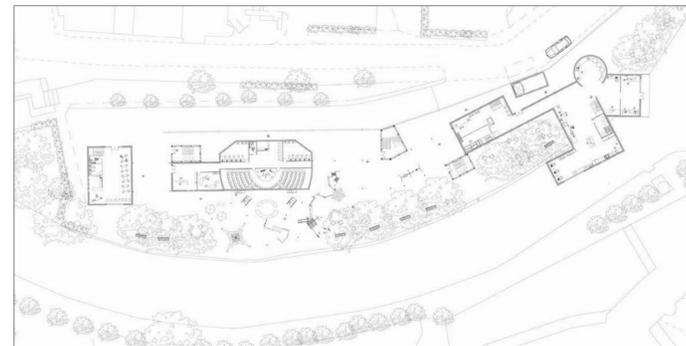
Second Year
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Student at Manchester
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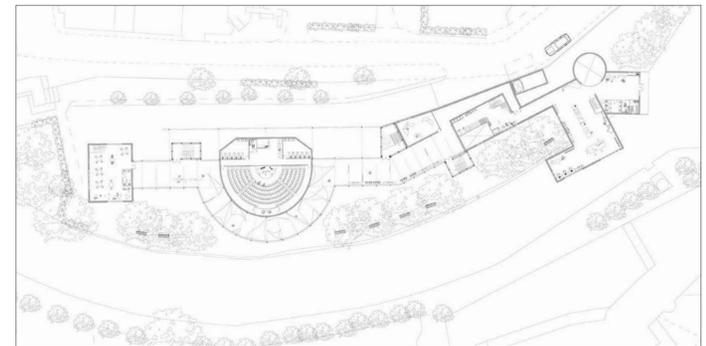


This projects represents my aspirations to design community-driven creative and cultural spaces that bring people together through the arts. Having also integrated my interest in sustainable design, reuse and unconventional building elements in this scheme, I based the programme around biomaterials, to be more specific algae, as an alternative to fast fashion and incorporated algae bioreactors in the facade.

The labs conduct research on the potential of algae in textile production as well as the contamination in the immediate surrounding water systems. The connected public spaces aim to educate the community on sustainable material alternatives, create engagement with the research and celebrate the rich textile history of Castlefield. The volumes are arranged around an elevated corridor-like fabric exhibition, that dictates overall scheme. The ground floor promenade takes the visitors through a route of open and semi closed spaces varying in size, as well as a playground. The volumes are built on a structural grid and the cladding is reused metal.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



building in site context, southwest isometric view



digital collage representing programme



algae fabric prototype made using alginite

MycoLab

Mycelium-driven Bioremediation for Post-Industrial Canal regeneration

Ellie-Mai Gee

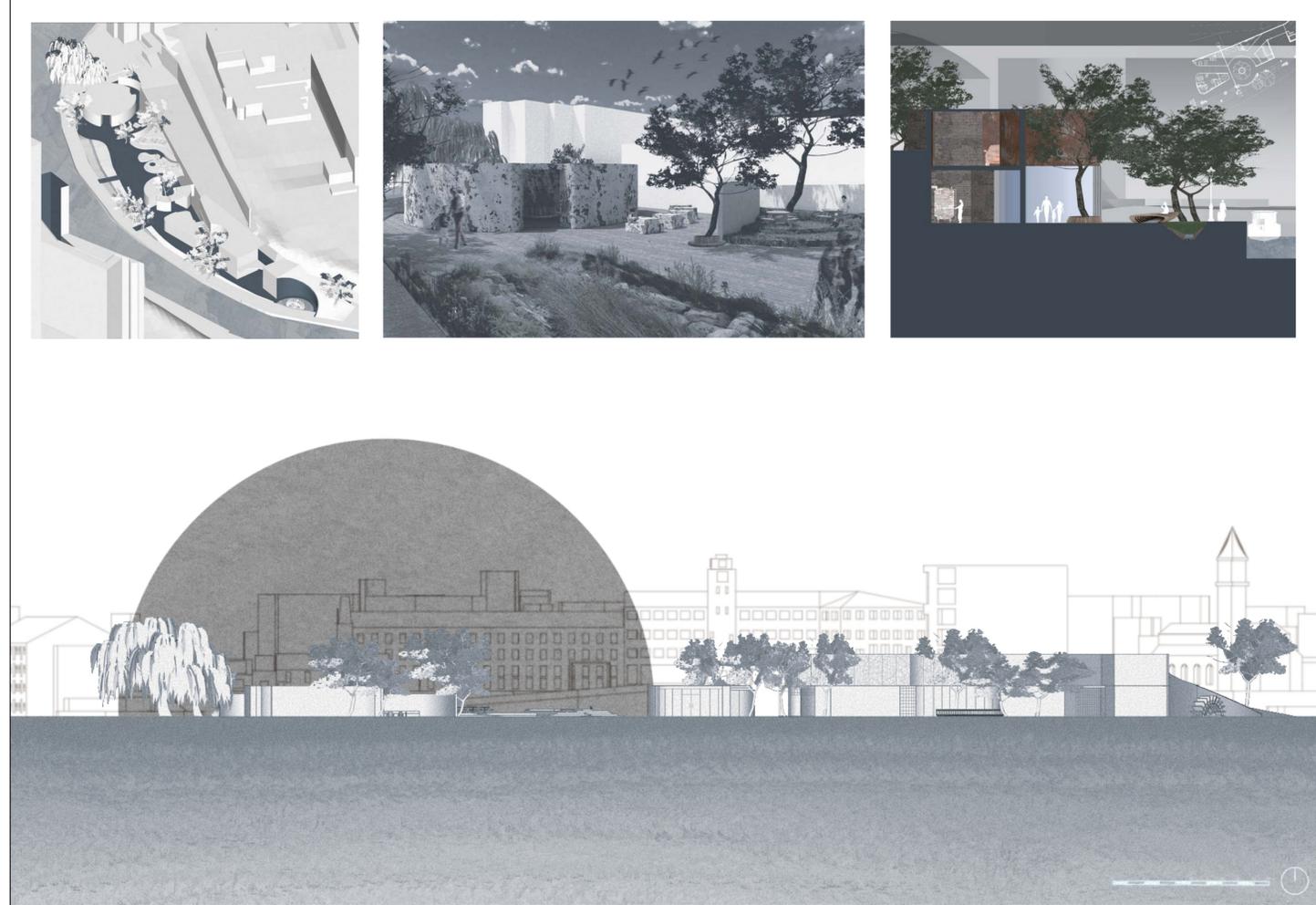


This project reimagines Castlefield as a place where nature, learning, and Architecture come together to heal the canal and engage the community. Using Mycelium—the root-like structure of fungi, as a natural form of bioremediation, the project focuses on treating unfiltered canal water. A pavilion learning centre invites primary school children to grow Mycelium bricks and

build their own eco-classroom, with an interactive water play area to explore how bioswales and Mycelium can filter unclean water. A waterwheel, inspired by the Grocers' Warehouse, channels canal water into the bioswales on site, where it begins the filtering process. Blending Ecology, Heritage, and education, this project inspires the community to begin restoration.



MOULDING MYCELIUM - CONSTRUCT PROPOSAL



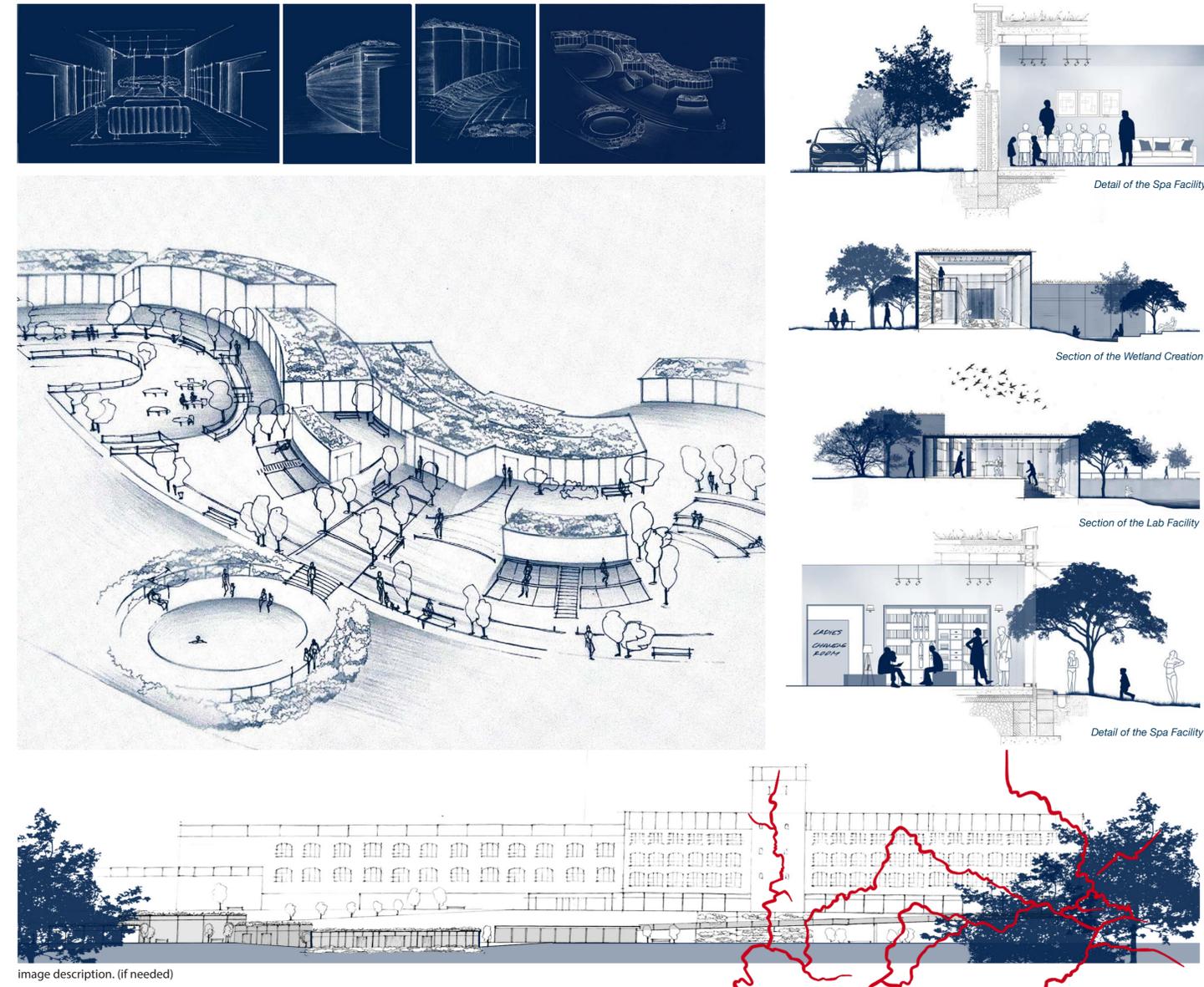
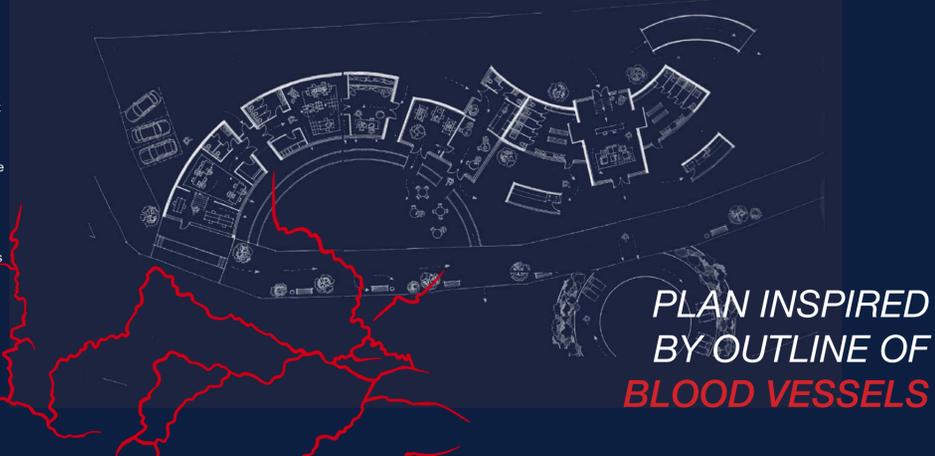
RECLAIMING THE WATER

WATER AS A PULSE OF MANCHESTER

TAISIYA GURINA

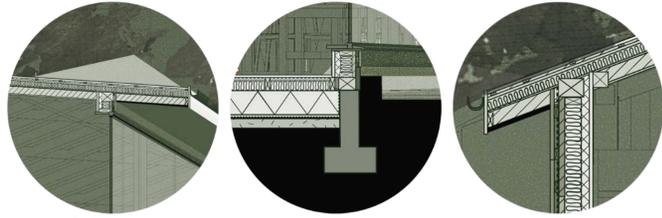


Water is the lifeblood of cities, but in Manchester, it has been buried, hidden and forgotten. This project aims to redefine that relationship, transforming water from a forgotten resource into a living, interactive force that shapes urban life. We will remove barriers, making water playable, visible, and accessible through ecological innovations. The architecture will adapt to water, blend with it, and not resist it. Instead of being hidden in canals and culverts, water will become a space for learning, play, and regeneration. By reshaping this relationship, we create a model that can be expanded further. Cities where rivers are no longer forgotten infrastructure but are dynamic and celebrated part of urban life



GUARDIANS OF THE CANAL

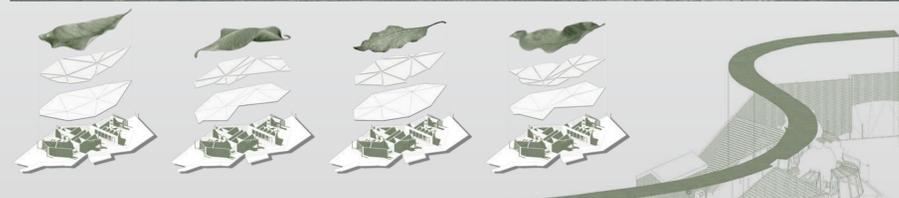
Plant Ecology Laboratory



Envelope details - florist design



North elevation of ecology lab - showing materiality



Design iteration testing - nature inspired design



Exploded view of main promenade through site



Entire site north elevation

Eva Lippett

BA2 student at the Manchester School of Architecture

- Sustainable thinking
- Responsive design
- Biomimicry

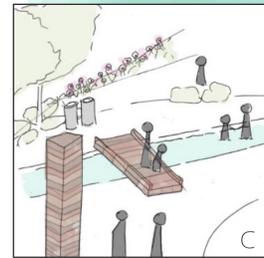
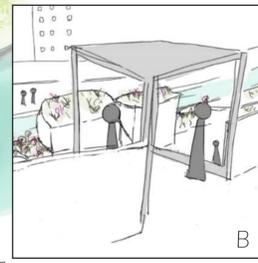
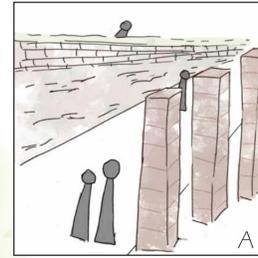
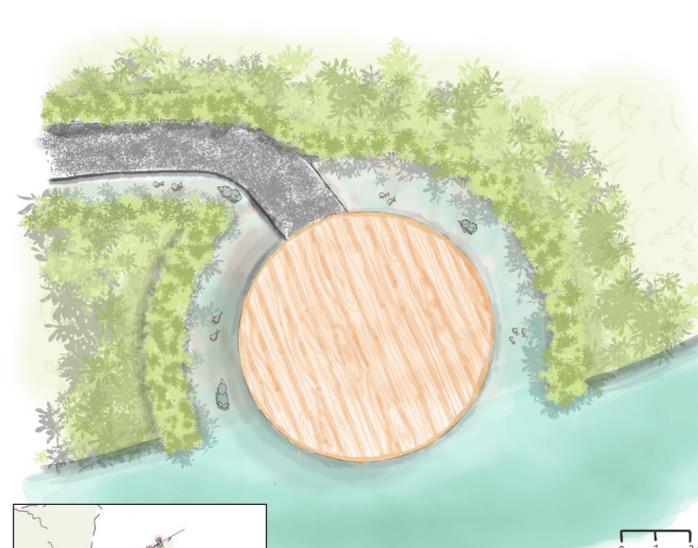


Within Manchester's grey industrial landscape, my personal brief stemmed from wanting to inform and educate the city's residents and visitors on the importance, more than ever, of embracing greenery and natural life into the urban profile.

My ambition of the space consists of plant study, with the ecologists looking at rewilding and reintroducing plant life that have since been built over in Manchester. The five main aspects of the site including: the plant ecology lab, the workshop for hands-on lessons, the construct design, the florist and the exhibition space all work in tandem to bring awareness to the vitality of natural forms in the urban landscape and introducing varying concepts on how the public can bring that natural life into theirs too.

Studio 2.2: Guardians of the Canals

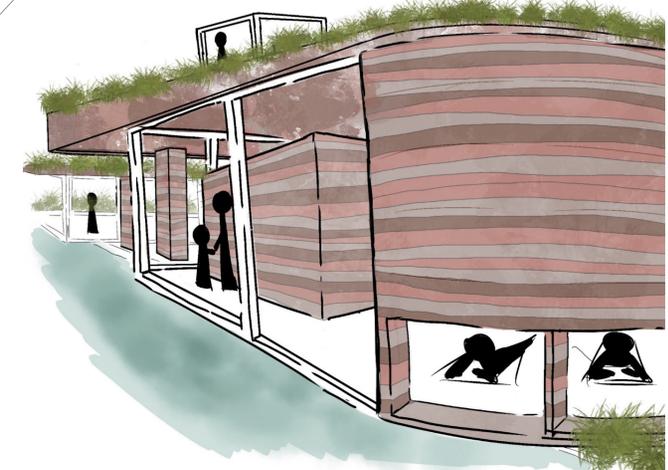
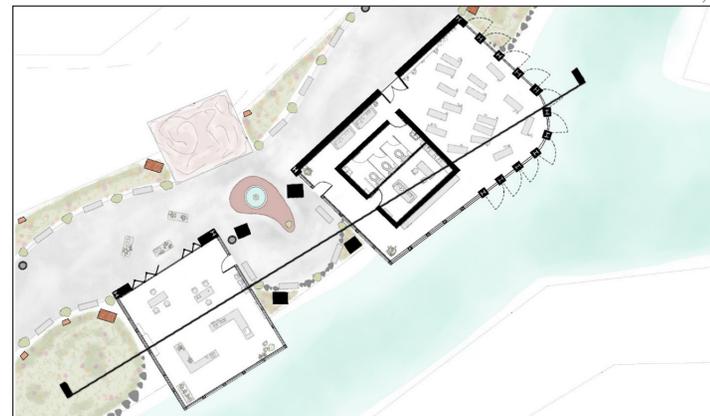
Respecting the Health of Nature and Ourselves Together



This project explores how we can respect the environment and its biodiversity as well as ourselves and our human wellbeing through a yoga-focused retreat. The site is designed to support native ecosystems with gardens, bug hotels, birdhouses, and a stream linking to the adjacent canal, encouraging aquatic life to flow through the site.



Yoga is woven throughout—from public platforms nestled in tall grass along the stream, to a canal-side studio offering immersive views of water and greenery. Every element is designed to ground users in the landscape, enhancing sensory experience and mindfulness.



NIKITA HARIA

nikita.haria@student.manchester.ac.uk

- My Interests**
- Masterplanning
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Commercial Architecture
 - Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency



My Design Philosophy

My design philosophy centers on creating spaces that connect deeply with both the natural environment and human experience. Architecture, in my view, should be contextually sensitive—buildings should feel like natural extensions of the landscape.

A research lab on-site investigates the connection between nature and mental health, reinforcing the project's holistic intent. Rammed earth construction, echoing the site's sandstone geology, anchors the retreat in its natural context—ensuring every structure feels like it belongs to the land.

Rewilding Castlefield

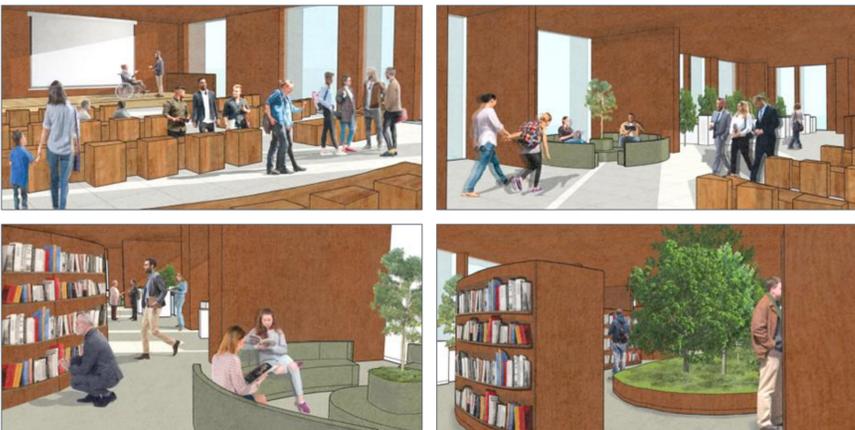
Connecting people and place through ecological renewal



Section through exhibition greenhouse pond



Exhibition greenhouse model collage



Interior of reading & education space



Site Section – through education & reading building, private block (ecologists' space), and construct walkway



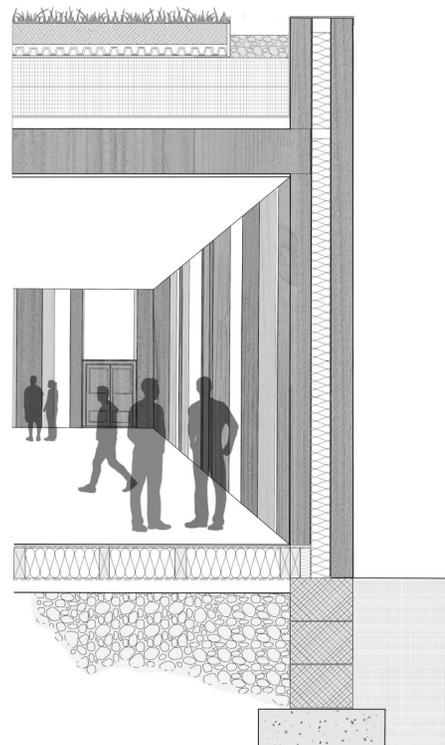
Site Elevation



Noemi Wong

In my designs I aim to create spaces that prioritize social sensitivity and ecological responsibility, allowing architecture to foster connections and restore environments.

With this project I explored ecological regeneration as a catalyst for community engagement. I aimed to reestablish human-nature connections within the urban context of Castlefield, advancing environmental sustainability and social inclusion.



Feather And Fold

Studio 2.2



Show Piece



Holly Froggatt

My masterplan focuses on restoring hydrology and ecology in Castlefield basin. The programme is a lab testing for microplastics in water and birds. My overall design aims to reintroduce bird life into the areas through a bird centered design. This project improves the access around the site while providing gathering spaces and community involvement. Another important aspect of this project is how it respects the heritage of the area, the structure and materiality captures Castlefield past while promoting a newer, more sustainable approach-improving upon what castlefield viaduct has begun.



Amphitheater



Exhibition Space



Community Space



Cafe Balcony



Community Space 1:1



Gathering Space 1:1



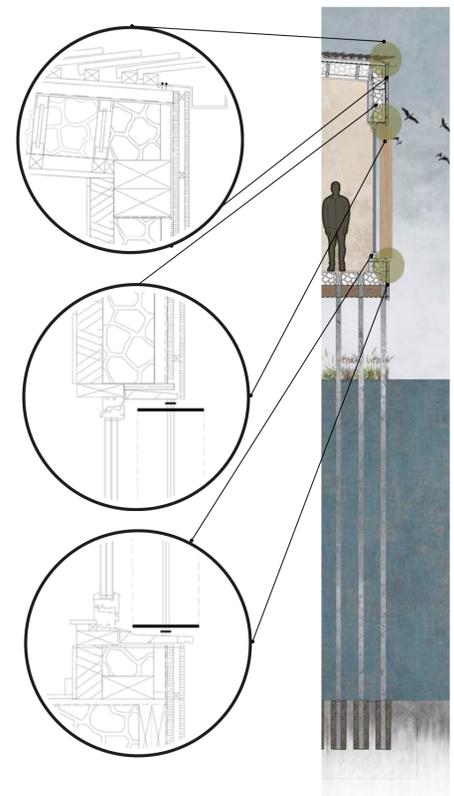
Ground Floor Plan 1:1



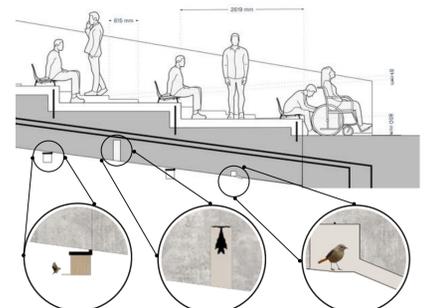
Data Collection Area 1:1



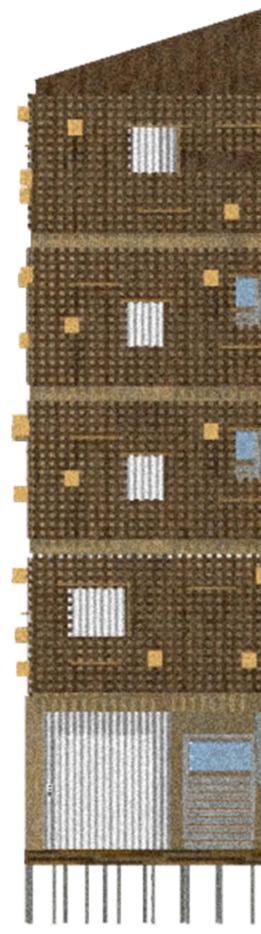
Amphitheater Section 1:1



Detail Of Window With Louvre 1:1



Amphitheatre details 1:1



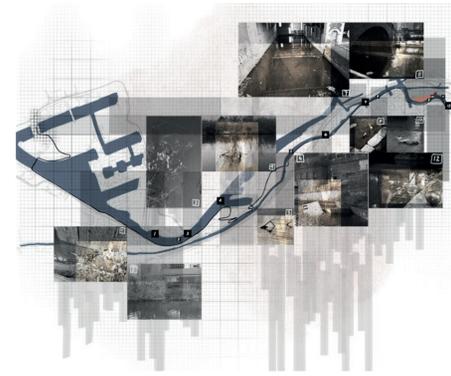
Bird Tower Front Elevation 1:1

Drifted to Castlefield

Where Fragments Settle

Context + Issue

Castlefield's canal edges hold forgotten waste, driftwood, and debris—echoes of post-industrial erosion. These remnants became the driver of a design that rebuilds from what's been discarded.



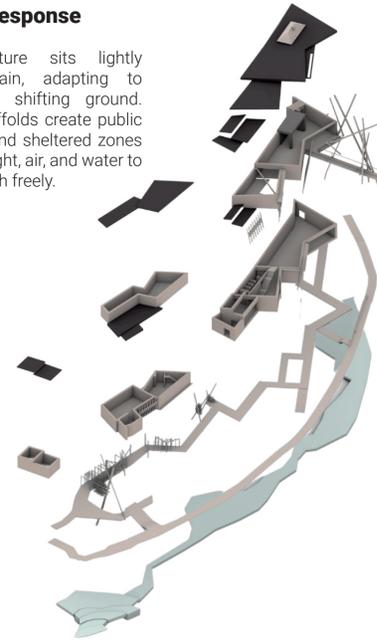
Conceptual Interpretation



Inspired by the harmonious chaos of canal fragments, this structure mimics drift patterns—layered, skeletal, and adaptive.

Design Response

The structure sits lightly above terrain, adapting to floods and shifting ground. Timber scaffolds create public walkways and sheltered zones that allow light, air, and water to pass through freely.



Jessica Angeline

I'm interested in architecture that tells stories through material, memory, and light. My work explores layered spaces, environmental change, and how buildings can quietly respond to place.

Amidst the Birdsong's Waves

where city pauses, and nature speaks.

Laura Antonia Calin



want to see more?



"A range of birds died in Bridgewater Canal"

So who owns our water?

This project reclaims the water as shared territory, not just for human use but for the species that depend on it. By using hydrologists, ecologists and microbiologists to research the science behind floating ecosystems capable of cleaning the canal, it asks:

Who really owns our water, if not all of us?

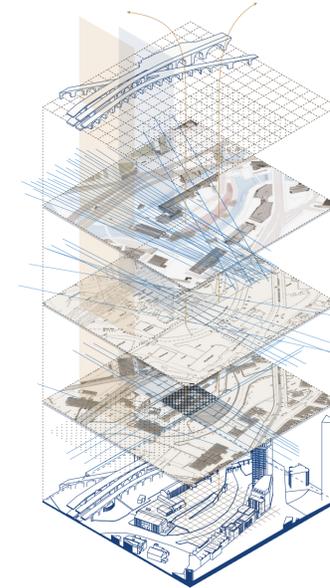


Conceptual Elevation — Fragments suspended in terrain and time

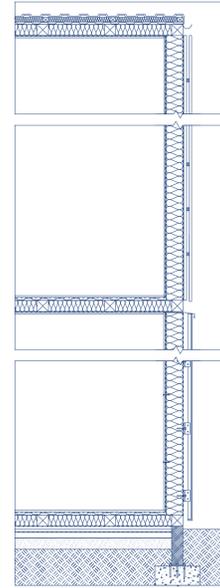
Eelways Promenade

Studio 2.2: Guardians of the Canals

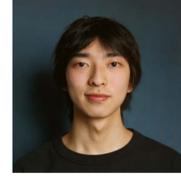
Layered mapping to inform Cartesian grid framework



Roof-to-foundation technical detail



Site in context



Max Feng

This project looks to address the tension that exists between the industrial and maritime legacy of Castlefield, and its fragile ecological status within Manchester's cityscape, through reconceptualisation of industrial elements as productive infrastructure for the study and conservation of the critically endangered European eel.

West-facing view on first floor



Ground floor view from west entrance



East-facing section illustrating use of research laboratory, education space, workspace, and water testing facility



Roof plan of full proposal

rewilding auditory experience

to rewild the area & foster connections while enhancing the auditory experience

Lili Pataki
-connections to nature and culture
-renewable materials
-community driven design

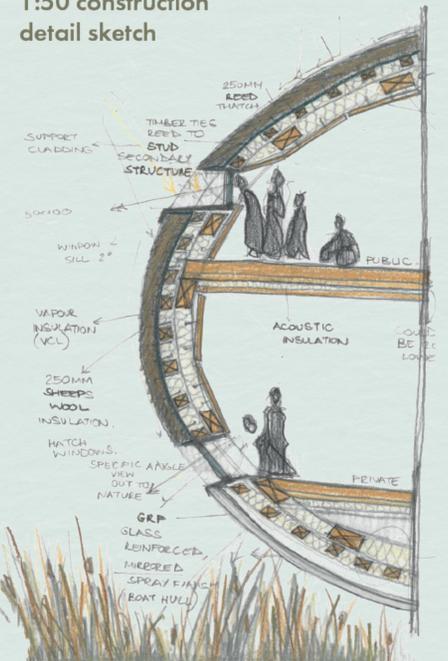


storyboard of unique perspectives

The core narrative of my design faced many challenges, always ensuring a design that is truly inclusive to ALL, while focusing on the sound aspect of rewilding. The storyboards helped me understand unique perspectives and users.



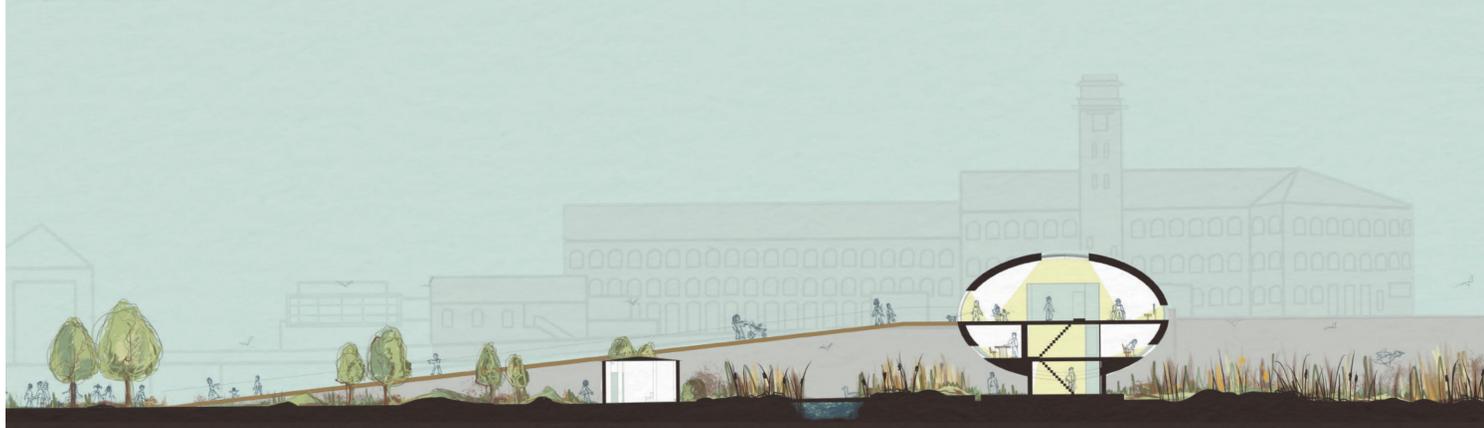
1:50 construction detail sketch



Exploring the activities within detail section drawings aided the progression of a more focused design.

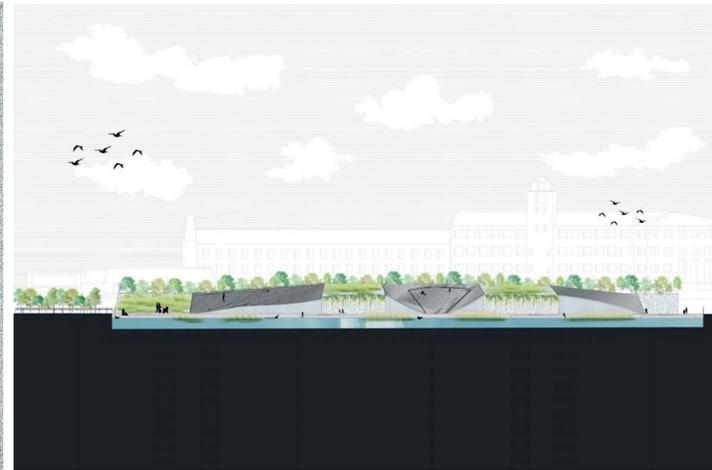
My perspective shows a fully integrated landscape, creating a rich, vibrant and mindful community space. The building I designed accommodates an ecologist laboratory as well as public observatory. I made sure to keep a grounded concept, that would feel natural in a rewilded site.

NW SECTION



Ebb and Flow

Blurring the lines between land and nature



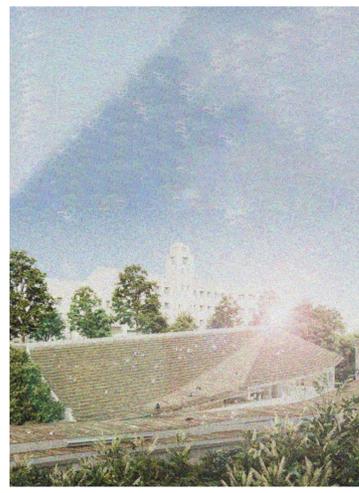
Elevation



Technical Cross Section



Roof Plan



The project embodies a vision where architecture and nature coexist in harmony. Rooted in ecological principles, the design fosters biodiversity and enhances wetland ecosystem. Through adaptable and sustainable design, the building evolves with its landscape, offering a space that supports both environmental restoration and human interaction. It is a forward-thinking proposal that exemplifies how architecture can nurture, protect and thrive alongside the natural world, and remain in a constant dialogue, growing together.



ISHMEEN KAUR

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Email: ishmeenkaur2310@gmail.com

Bastion Botanica

Resilient plants, inspired by ornamental pasts.



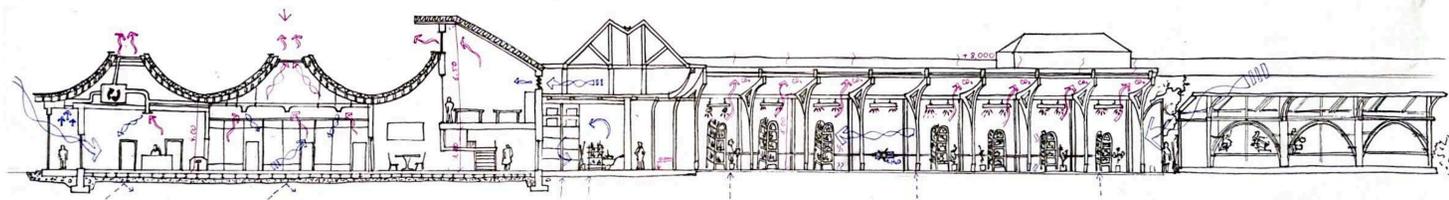
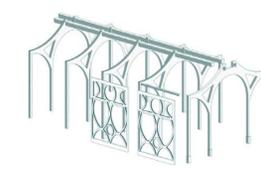
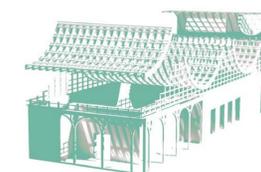
I designed a complex made of two connected buildings, with the aim of breeding a new sustainable species of reed grass. The goal is to improve flood resistance in canal areas by increasing soil resilience and density. The project includes a greenhouse built with wooden frames, inspired by the historical Crystal Palace. Instead of using steel, the structure adopts an alternative wooden frame with ornamental windows, reflecting Manchester's architectural heritage and industrial past.

vika.manko14@gmail.com

linkedin.com/victoria-manko



This space combines innovation and science, while reconnecting with the site's revolutionary history. A water bridge guides visitors through the planting areas, allowing them to observe the growth of experimental species. The complex also includes shops and essential visitor facilities, creating an engaging public space within the greenhouse environment.

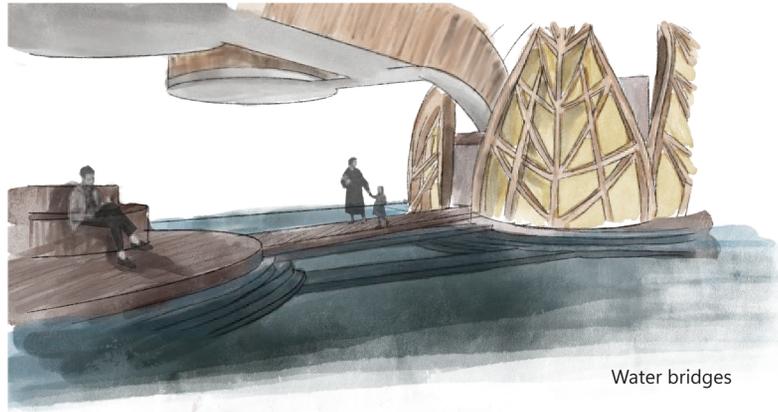


CASTLEFIELD'S LEAVES

By Elena Grechi - BA2



For this project, I opted towards a design inspired by the skeleton of leaves, in an attempt to connect people with nature. The design operates through elevated bridges and bridges on water leading to various viewpoints and activities. All buildings are wrapped around bamboo and agar leaf-like structures, aimed to biodegradable over the years and allow nature to take over. The agar will act as a water treating agent improving its quality.



Water bridges



Elevated views



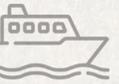
Agar biodegrading process



Laboratory prospective section

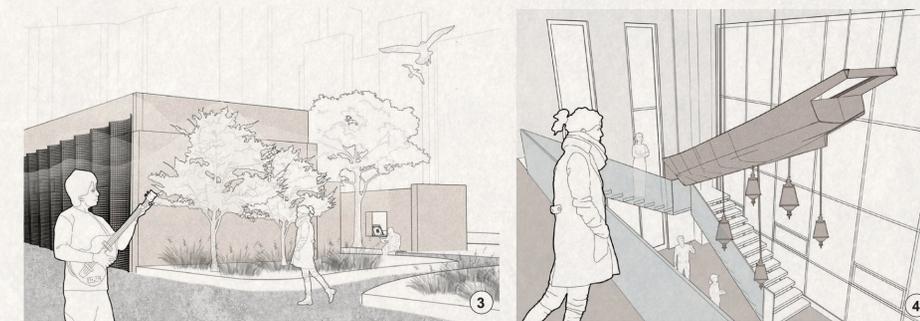
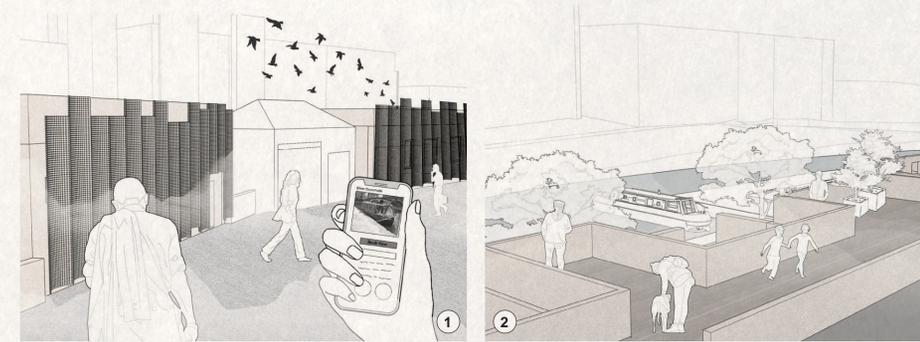
SLOW COMMUTE

A Boat Trip Centre for a Slow Lifestyle



- 1. Arriving
- 2. Terrace
- 3. Pockets
- 4. Exhibition

Book the train tickets online. Watch the arrivals and departures of canal boats. Slow down and take a moment to relax. Take a look at the exhibitions on Bridgewater Canal history and water protection.

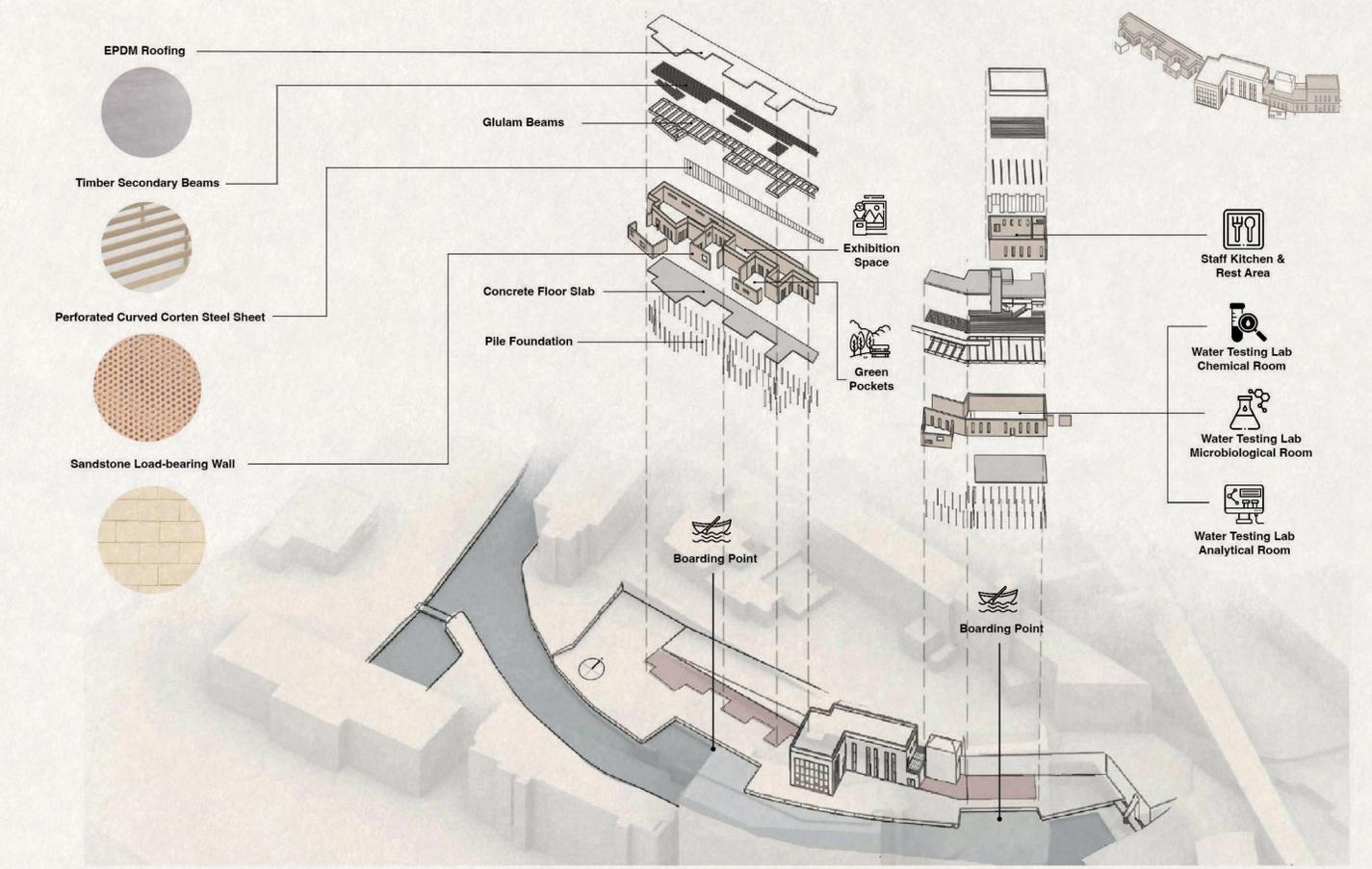
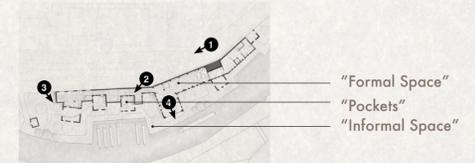


Zixuan Zhang

Second Year BA Student at Manchester School of Architecture

Hidden within the historic heart of Castlefield Basin, the Slow Commute Centre provides a peaceful alternative to Manchester's fast-paced urban lifestyle. Designed to encourage a slower, more mindful way of living, the terminal invites commuters and visitors to pause, reconnect, and explore the city at a leisurely pace on the water.

As visitors follow the path, they will encounter a series of "pockets" near the canal that invite passersby to slow down and take a moment to relax. In these areas, the distinction between formal and informal spaces becomes less clear—benches are nestled among wild plants, stone edges serve as seating, and open views provide a calming backdrop for the gentle rhythm of boat life. These small spaces offer opportunities for stillness and reflection, fostering a connection with the water, the city, and oneself.

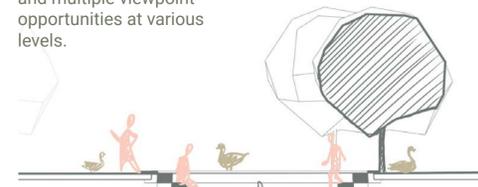


A Healing Dialogue with Nature

A shared sanctuary where humans, animals, and the environment coexist, restore, and belong.



The spaces include: a vet clinic, ecology lab, exhibition space, cafe, outdoor seating and multiple viewpoint opportunities at various levels.



The proposed design acts as a medium for connection, restoration, and cohabitation. It will be a haven for all living beings, fostering peace, empathy, and ecological harmony.



Kristen Leung

@_kkris10_

After the site visit, I was particularly interested in the Canada Geese that were spotted around the area. Integrating with the site research findings on demographics and existing green spaces, I wanted to create a space that reflects the rhythms of nature and presence of animals. Here, geese find sustenance, company, rest, and treatment, pets find healing, and people find calm and community—a place where the boundaries between species blur, sharing a sense of belonging.

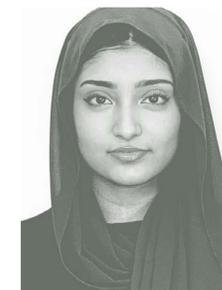
second nature

an ecological sanctuary led by nature in an urban centre

long elevation



short section



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tehreem javaid

I consider architecture as part of a broader network of living systems, one that responds to and learns from its environment. I aim to create frameworks that support cohabitation, where the built and natural world evolve together through time, change, and interaction.



concept

Set within a dense urban landscape, this project proposes a sensory retreat and ecology lab designed not as a sealed research facility, but as an open system: a living field station where scientists, plants, weather, and soil co-produce knowledge. Instead of imposing control, the design follows a posthumanist approach, allowing natural processes, seasonal change, and multispecies interactions to shape the spatial and sensory qualities of the site.

programme

Elevated for minimised earthwork and flooding management, a promenade through the site acts as the first medium of experience, while sensory pods amplifying one sense each acts as the other medium of experience.

materiality

The materiality consists of reused cobbles as gabions, and reused soil as vertical gardens, both excavated from the site during construction.



SENSE OF WATER

HYDROLOGY RESEARCH CENTER



The lobby adjacent to the sloped auditorium features double-height wall panels with integrated seating elements, enhancing the dramatic essence of the wall design. A large window, shaped to follow the contours of the wall panels, emphasizes the negative space created by their unique geometry.



EYLUL YUZBASIOGLU

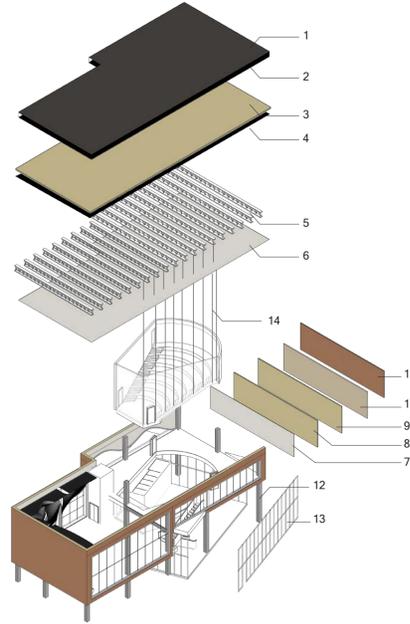
BA ARCHITECTURE
SECOND YEAR STUDENT AT
MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE

email : eyuzbasioglu4@gmail.com



As a part of my second year studio project I designed a hydrology research center on the edge of the Castlefield canal. Spaces included were: hydrology labs researching the water pollution, offices for data analysis, a meeting room, a water treatment plant providing clean water for the research center, an auditorium for conferences, a reception, and a public multifunctional lobby space for workshops, exhibitions, or simply socialising.

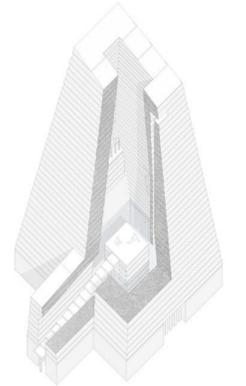
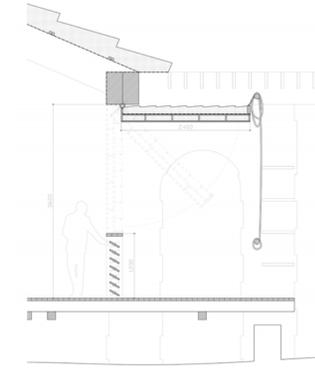
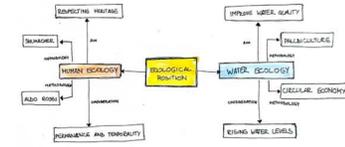
- 1 Slate roof tiles
- 2 Breather membrane
- 3 200 mm mineral wool insulation
- 4 Vapour Control Layer
- 5 Steel lattice beams
- 6 12.5 mm plasterboard
- 7 12.5 mm plasterboard wall finish
- 8 100 mm mineral wool insulation with wall frame
- 9 100 mm wood fibre board
- 10 12.5 mm OSB board
- 11 75 mm reused brick wall
- 12 400 x 400 mm concrete column
- 13 Glass curtain wall system
- 14 Steel wire ropes



The Castlefield Archi(ve)pelago

PARTH JAIN

This project re-imagines a surface car park in Castlefield as a wetland community centre that purifies the Bridgewater Canal using reed and typha, with its harvest used in temporary structures. The scheme is designed to decay as the canal's water level rises due to climate change, leaving behind ruins from the past and a physical archive of the site's past lives among an archipelago of memories and historical artefacts that surround it.

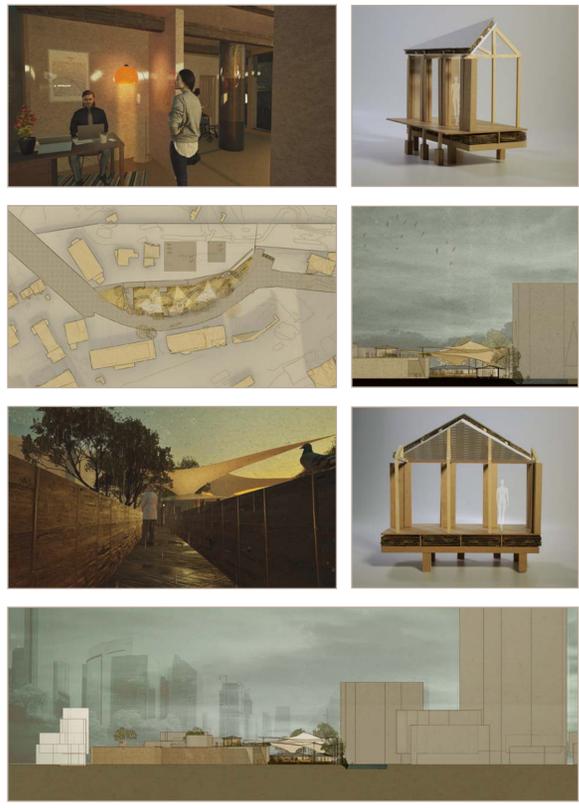


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A 2ND RAIN

Why does the architecture in an area as rain-heavy as Manchester reject rain rather than embrace it? My design aims to appreciate rain as a design element, creating an introspective zone in a busy urban landscape. It dually functions as a demo to increase lag time between rainfall and its entry to the canal, spreading awareness on flooding. The site as a whole filters pollutants before water enters the canals.



Naia Louisa Hendrawan
23761091
2025 BA2

As a designer, I'm interested in architecture that responds to its environmental context rather than resisting it. Rooted in sustainability and public engagement, my work explores how buildings can mediate between nature and the city, using everyday phenomena like rain as both functional and experiential tools. In a city like Manchester, where water is abundant yet often dismissed, I see potential for architecture to embrace rainfall, not just manage it. My design philosophy prioritises ecological systems, environmental education, and material empathy, creating spaces that perform, inform, and invite introspection—turning climate



Blurred Boundaries

The Hide

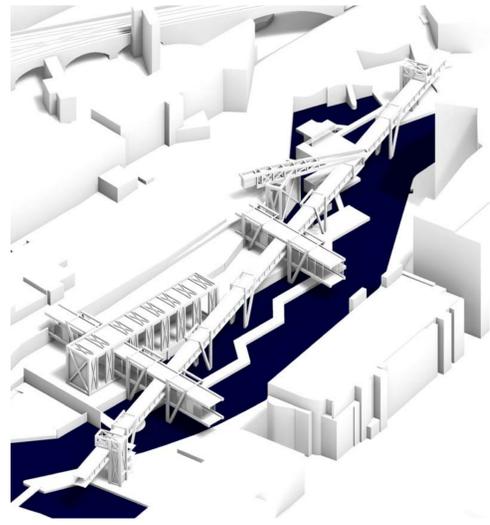
Joshua Parsons

As a designer I have found my passion in exploring abstract representations of sustainability breaking from the traditional passive approach. My work aims to reject the rigidity of contemporary architecture as I attempt to redefine space in relation to the experience of the human and non-human inhabitants our architecture frames.

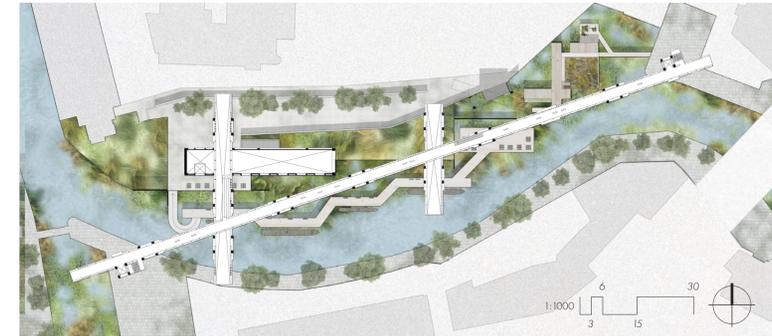
The Hide

The hide is a scheme that stitches the fractured urban fabric. It stands to both symbolically, in its lateral axis, and ecology focused function, to contrast the modernist development of the city which has forgotten its people. It calls people to question their relationship to the non-human through architecture that blurs boundaries, space is not clearly defined often leaving humans and non-humans inhabiting similar spaces.

At its completion the industrial timber structures span the canal bringing the city together, but as time wears the building down it will be left to natural processes leaving an oasis for the city's wildlife. By this time The Hide will be a distant memory as the work of the laboratory has set up new ecosystems throughout the city's canal system.



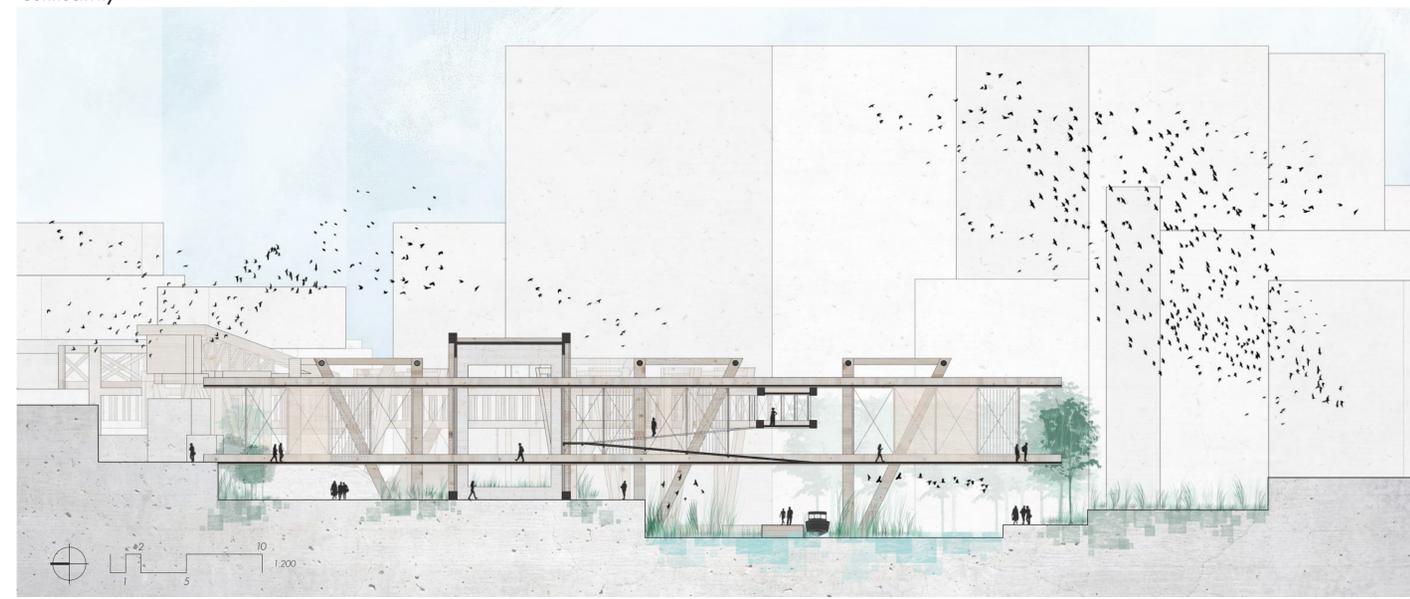
Intersection



Decay



Connectivity



The Sanctuary



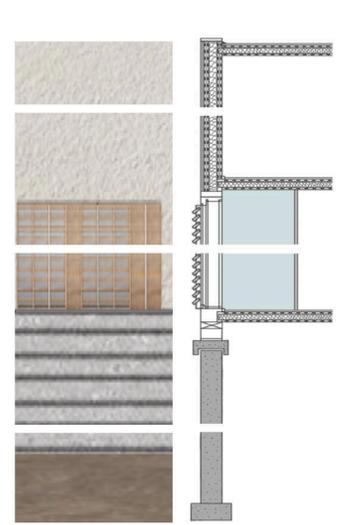
The Laboratory



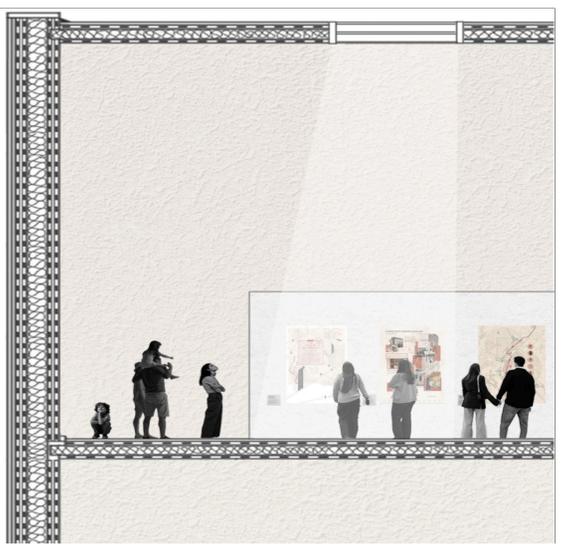
Unguard Our Canal

Hydrology laboratory that serves as a central hub to provide education on water cleanliness to local schools.

Envelope Section



Exhibition Space Detail Section



Jessica Marfleet

When choosing to base my project around hydrology, I wanted to create a central hub that serves the wider canal community. My project involves bringing the canal back to fruition by using its transportation system to connect local schools by teaching them the importance of cleaning our water at a local scale.

Viewing the Nature of Castlefield

From Reedbed to Research: overlooking ecology from a sloping promenade



Axonometric of design through the lense of a modelled timber look-out point.



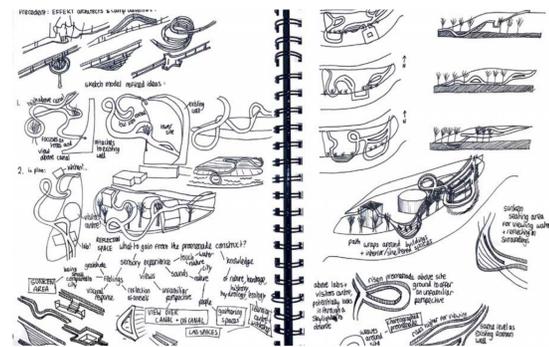
Millie Turner

My proposal is centred around a sloping timber promenade over a manmade reedbed. The structures are made from larch, CLT and glulam, with the design integrating ecological research with the relaxation of users. My design provides a break from the busy city to view nature, with a laboratory space and office space for staff to conduct aquatic ecology studies. The design features a sunken seating area for reflection and socialising, with an exhibition space indoors and a workshop space underneath an outdoor pergola.

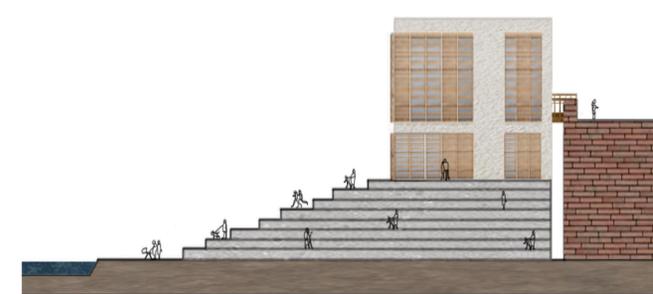
Front Elevation



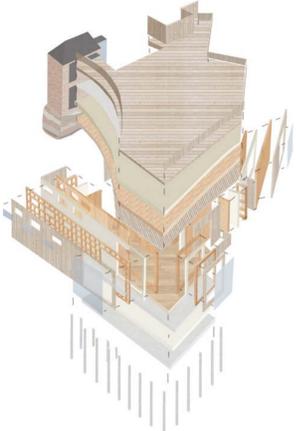
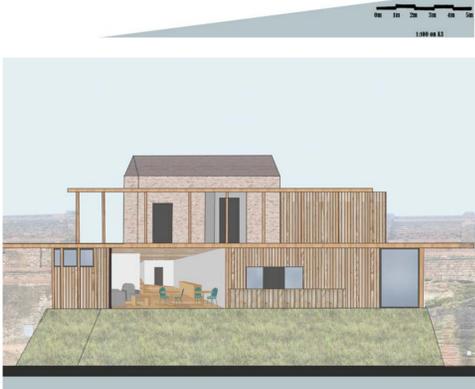
The design process began with a construct proposal, focusing on the deliberate promenade through site. I ensured that the larch and glulam promenade was wheelchair accessible, connecting the low basin to the upper Roman wall level. In the negative space is a wetland: specifically a reedbed. These reeds will embrace future flooding of the site, with the CLT laboratory building and office building risen above ground on turfed mounds made from existing site rubble. Office staff from on and around the site are able to socialise and rest in the seating areas, with visitors able to absorb the thriving biodiversity of this rewilded city centre area.



East Elevation



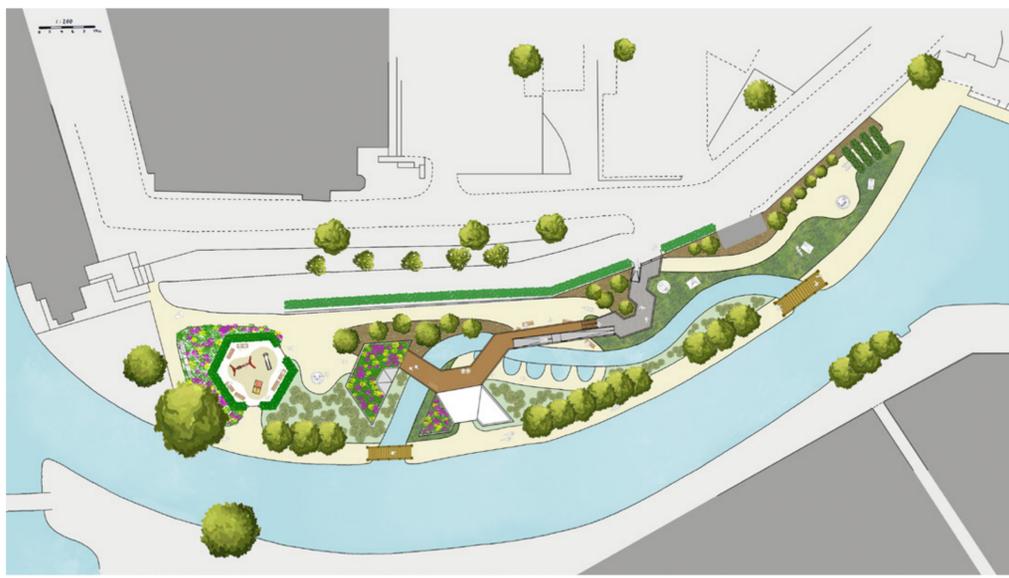
Site Plan



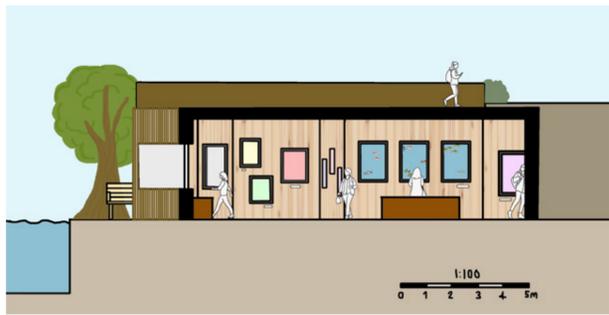
Elevations & Site Plan | Hand drawn with textures added on Photoshop

The School of Fish

A water research centre helping the aquatic residents of Bridgewater Canal to thrive



1:200 Proposed Site Plan: showing the buildings, park, raised promenade, and landscaping



Final 1:100 Sections: the visitor centre, the work space, and the exhibition space

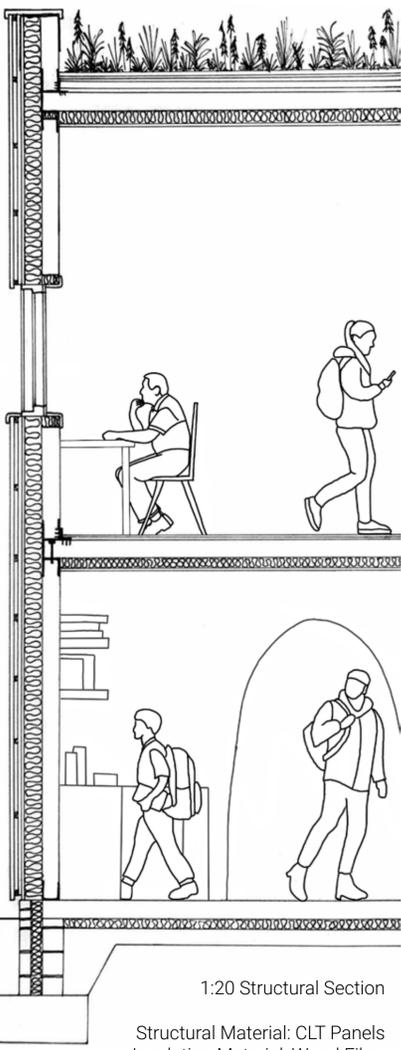
The School of Fish investigates optimal water conditions for the existing aquatic life in the canal to flourish and multiply. Outdoor testing spaces allow these controlled experiments to occur, with an internal laboratory with all of the necessary equipment to test and analyse.

To encourage the community to get involved, the visitor centre provides a communal study space with books and desks, as well as a gift shop on the ground floor. The third building on the site acts as an exhibition 'corridor' immersing passers-by as they travel across the site. The exhibition includes live camera feeds of the fish, posters about the research being completed, and various models and activities for the public to interact with.

A kids park provides a much needed recreational space for Deansgate, while a raised promenade ensures access for all while providing a new viewpoint of the area. Landscaping considers flood risk and ease of maintenance, while adding colour and excitement to the space.



Emilie Baudot



1:20 Structural Section

Structural Material: CLT Panels
Insulation Material: Wood Fibre
External Cladding: Western Red Cedar Timber

MUSHROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Interactive Mycelium Laboratory

Learning of the brief for this project was to design a hydrology or ecology lab I knew I wanted to choose hydrology. Growing up in the countryside I was constantly cycling round and jumping into rivers. More often than not people would get ill but as kids that never stopped us. As I grew older I learnt why this happened with my river the River Avon being the river with the second most sewage spills in the UK. When researching possible ways to counter this I discovered Mycoremediation. Mycoremediation is the use of fungi to remove contaminants from the environment. Mycelium (the root network of fungus) can break down plant cell walls and more importantly for our rivers process and neutralise E.coli, a harmful bacteria commonly found in sewage. To utilise this, mycofilters can be made that are recycled coffee bags filled with agricultural residue and inoculated with fungi spores. This holds the roots together.

My design is of a mycoremediation lab which specialises in growing and producing mycofilters. These filters are grown in designated grow pods across the site designed to be the perfect environment for fungi growth. Inspired by mycelium the pathway mimic its root system stemming from these pods. As well as a lab the building is a place to educate with a showroom offering information about our rivers and how we can protect them. A river around site will enforce the positive effects of mycofilters with multiple being set throughout to allow people to observe the water becoming cleaner as they travers the site.



Charlie Berryman-Jenkins
Second Year BA Architecture
Student at Manchester School of
Architecture



Site plan showing the main laboratory and external grow pods



View over the site from the public viewing platform inspired by nature shelters



Whole site elevation showing the laboratory and educational space opened up to bring the site into the building

the blue loop

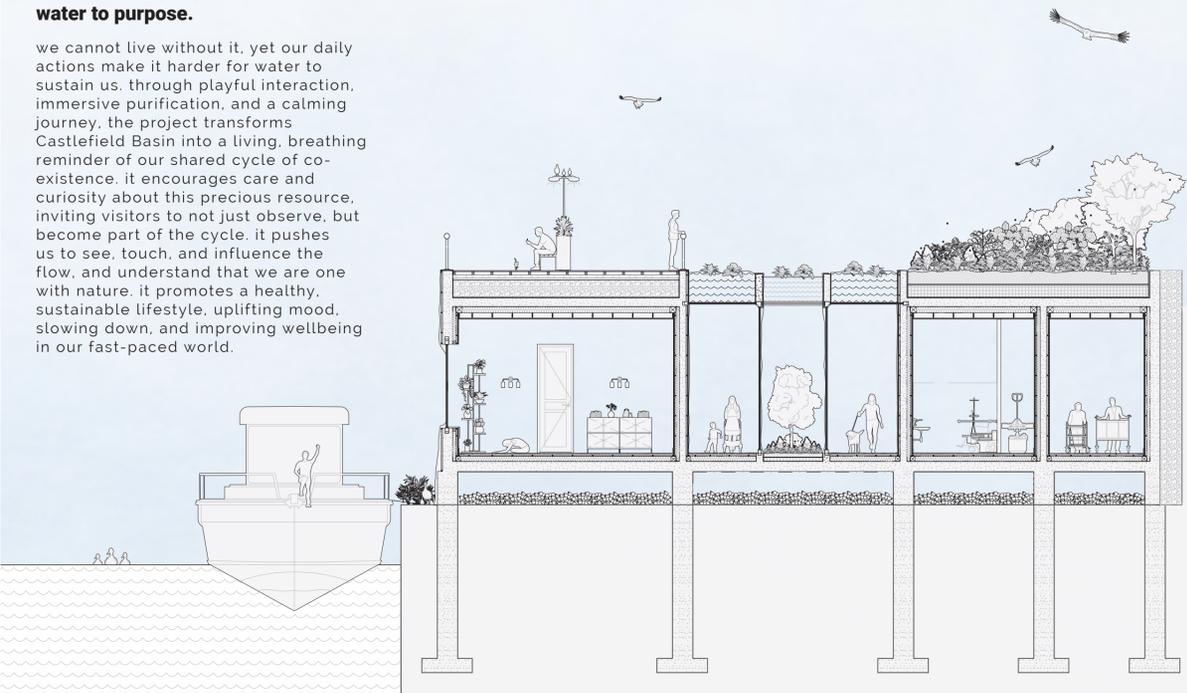
where water and people move together



water and people site plan

reconnecting people to water and water to purpose.

we cannot live without it, yet our daily actions make it harder for water to sustain us. through playful interaction, immersive purification, and a calming journey, the project transforms Castlefield Basin into a living, breathing reminder of our shared cycle of co-existence. it encourages care and curiosity about this precious resource, inviting visitors to not just observe, but become part of the cycle. it pushes us to see, touch, and influence the flow, and understand that we are one with nature. it promotes a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, uplifting mood, slowing down, and improving wellbeing in our fast-paced world.



cross-section detail

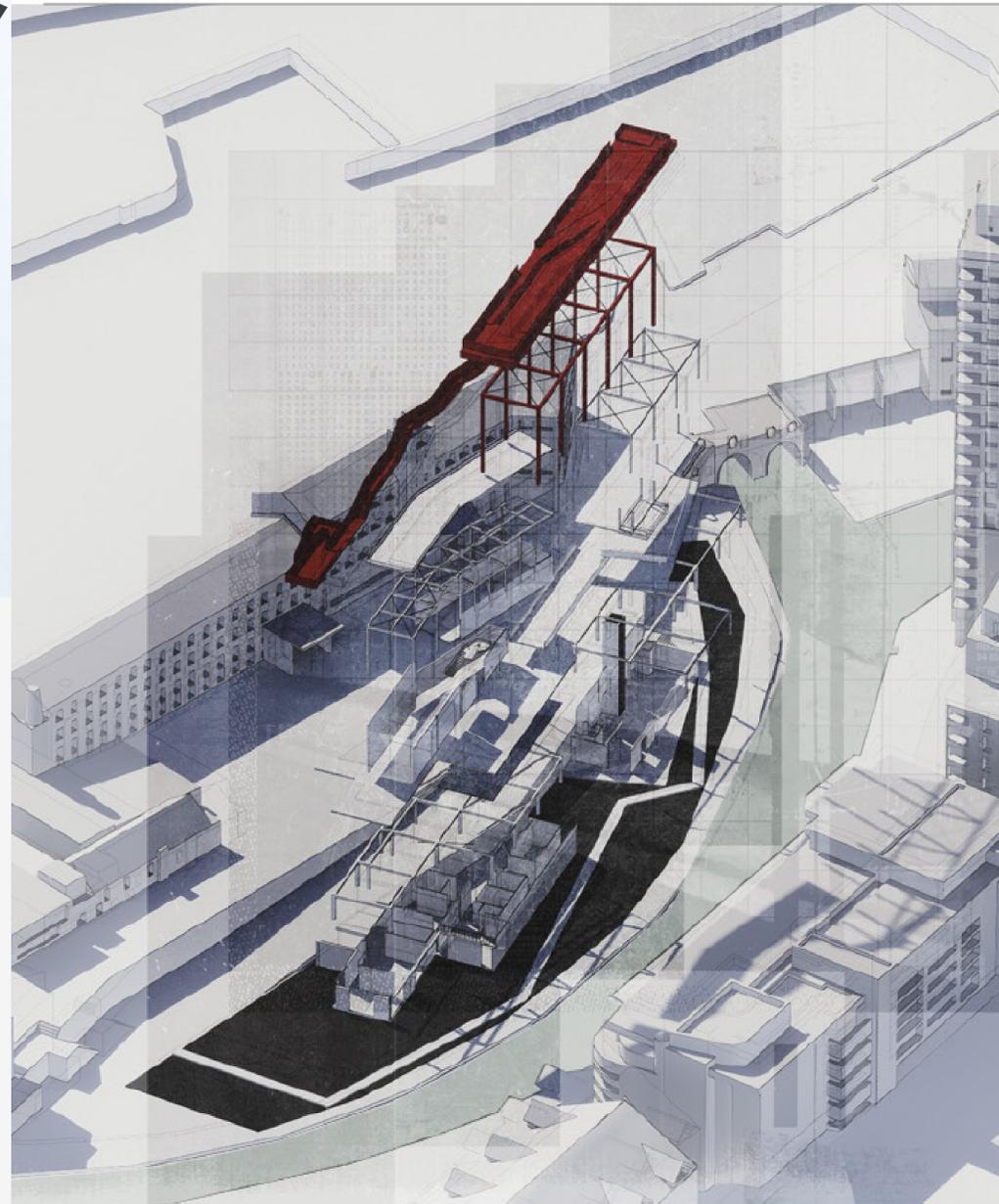


hibah muzammil

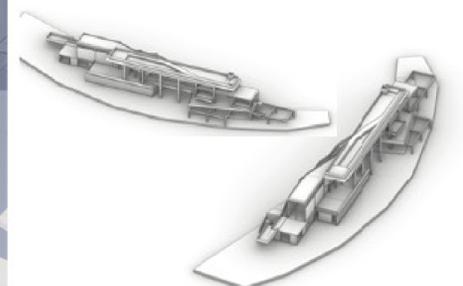
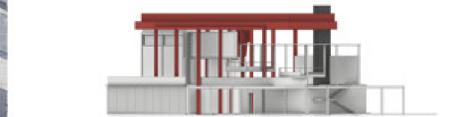
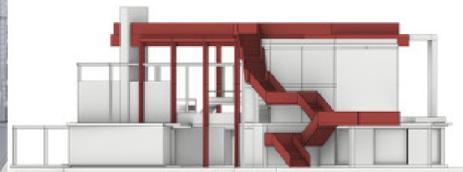
equity driven design.
interdisciplinary approach.
people-first thinking.
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OASIS IN SUSPENSION

"From Sky to Soil: An Architectural Cycle"



Junyi Lai
BA2 Manchester School of Architecture



ground floor recreational space

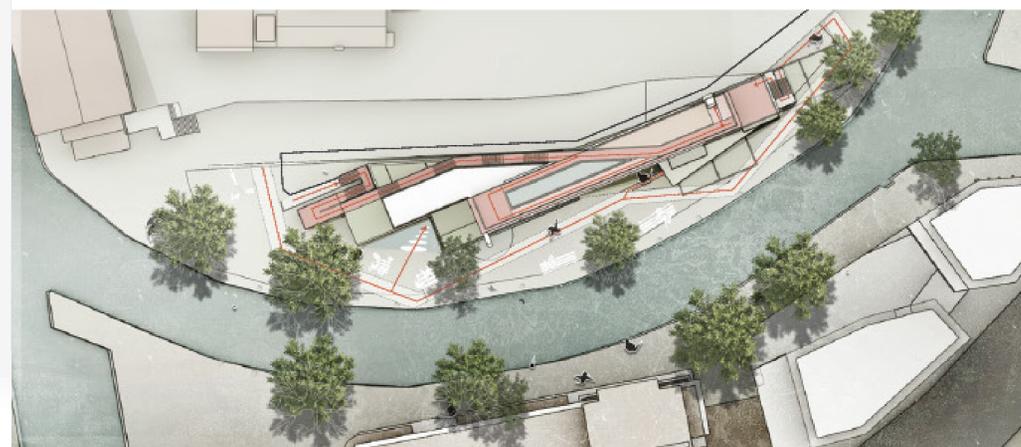


rooftop oasis concept model

water slows and heals in an urban playground.

visitors follow the journey of water from the polluted canal through a series of playful, visible purification stages, including coagulation, natural plant filtration, gravel beds, chlorine tanks, and carbon filters, until it becomes clean, drinkable and reusable. along the way, you are invited to walk beneath a rooftop river, rest beside a quiet waterfall, and interact with playful fountains powered by pedals, pumps, and stepping stones.

the oasis in the midst of the city provides a peaceful place to sit, reflect, and reconnect with nature. the building is constructed from glass, limestone, and timber, chosen for their natural behaviour with light, air, and water. they express how water flows, filters, and reflects. inside, spaces are carved, open labs for water monitoring and testing development, accessible public amenities, and a waterfall surrounding an open-air hall for engagement.



the bird haven

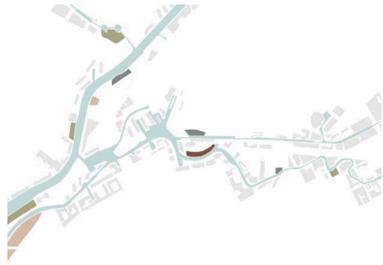
the resilient habitat

Malak Mustafa

- re-use
- sustainability
- engaging designs



concept



one pocket of biodiversity is not sufficient for the environment, that is why by creating a masterplan, i am more able to make an impact by creating multiple mini habitats. after visiting and analyzing the sites on the map, i was able to choose who i want my site to cater for, birds. they have adapted to the noisy urban life, which surrounds the site, and are also already found in castlefield. using strategic methods and providing for them attracts more birds and allows them to stay.

materiality and structure

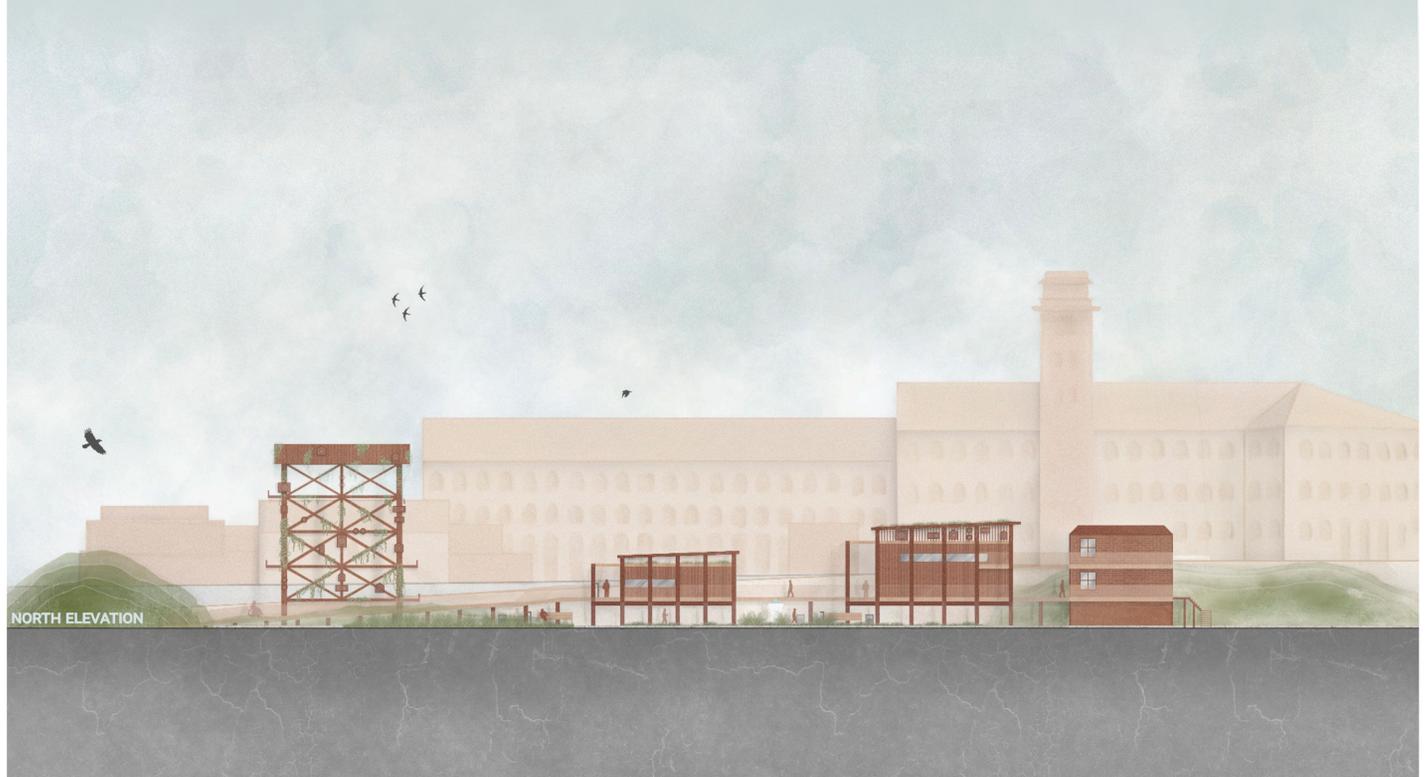


wanting the buildings to be minimalistic, to not disrupt the nature around the site, and also cater to birds, i ended up with this exterior. the sheltered green roof attracts birds and provides a safe space for them to nest without human disturbance. the walkway around the building allows for people to access the buildings as well as look over the site and enjoy the journey, passing through moments of enclosure and exposure.

"connecting"

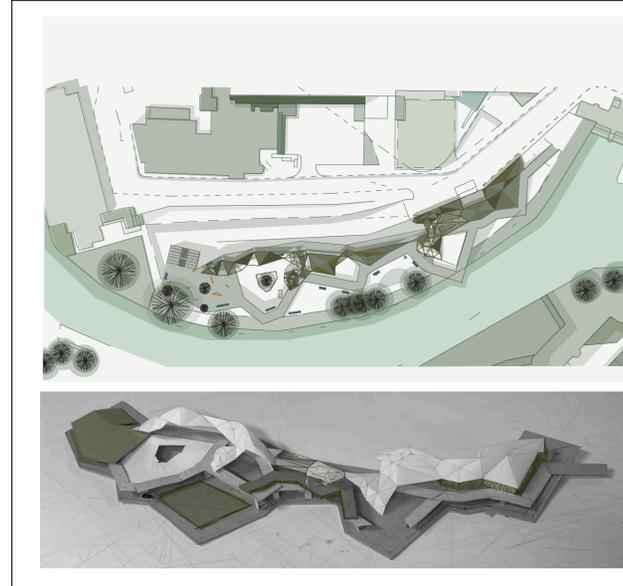


allowing this site to connect humans with nature, specifically birds, i opted to making it more secluded. the retaining wall to the north and the high buildings the site is surrounded by already make it feel isolated but by adding meadows on the south it amplifies that. in addition to that, i added wires connecting the buildings to the trees, since birds like to sit on power cables, which also make it feel more enclosed. finally, by adding binocular stations, it allows people to bird watch and appreciate natures' significance and beauty.



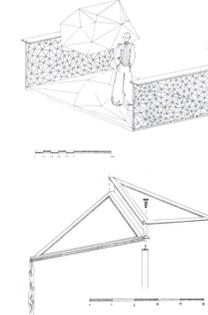
NORTH ELEVATION

Guardians of the canals



Dragonfly gardens

This project focused on bringing dragonflies back to the site, as they are an important species in this area. Through the promenade, I reiterated the life cycle of a dragonfly, allowing people to develop awareness of the biodiversity surrounding them. The last steps of the promenade are made to perpetuate the first role of the project, helping dragonflies thrive again in Castlefield.



Lucie Stella Dona Behanzin



Hi, my name is Lucie, I am in my second year of architecture. I am interested in adaptive reuse. I think of it as a second life opportunity for buildings.

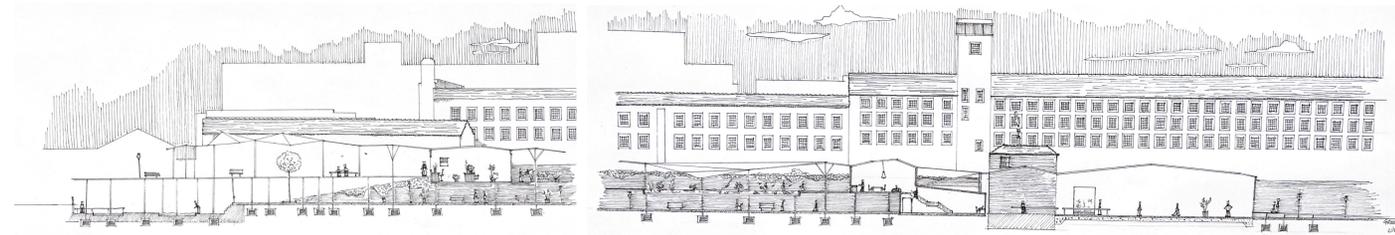
I like to use my love for architecture in drawing, photography and videography.

This year opened my eyes to new design approaches. Through my research and in the final portfolio, I focused on expressing my ideas with different mediums to use what passionates me the most in the process of communicating a design development.

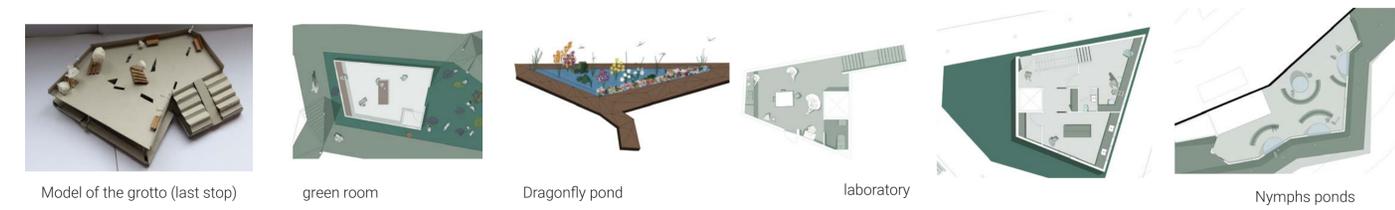
I think showing what your art is through your portfolio helps people understand you more.



Elevation



Final sections



Model of the grotto (last stop)

green room

Dragonfly pond

laboratory

Nymphs ponds

The Stitched Micrarium

This project reimagines Castlefield as a living laboratory for microbial research, integrating biofilm tanks, hydrology labs, and educational spaces within a series of glass domes. Elevated walkways intersect these domes, fostering public interaction while microbial systems purify canal water, demonstrating the potential of microbes in urban ecological restoration.



EMIN HUSEYNBAYOV



//INTERACTIONS BETWEEN
MACRO AND
MICRO WORLDS

//SPACIAL EXPERIENCE

//STRUCTURAL FORM

//LONG ELEVATION