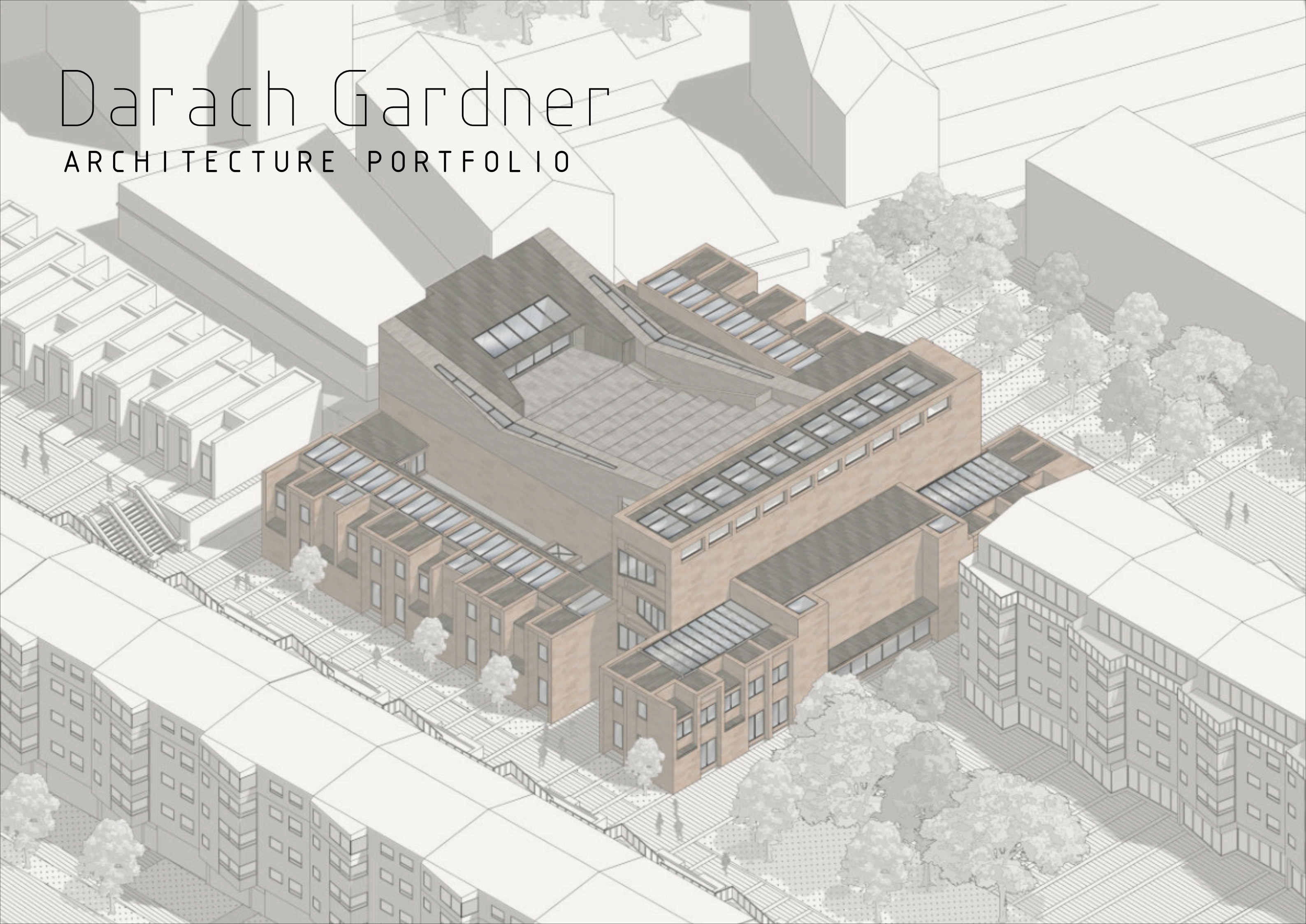


Darach Gardner

ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO



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Contact Details

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Skills

Sketchup Pro	Autocad
Affinity suite	Microsoft suite

Education

University of Strathclyde

First Class BSc Hons Architectural Studies

The Gordon Schools Huntly, 2015 – 2021

Advanced Higher		Highers	
Chemistry A	Art B	Chemistry A	Maths A
Physics A	Maths B	Physics A	English A
Mathematics of Mechanics C		German A	Graphic Communication A

Past employment

- Care assistant- Deveron way care home (2024 May – September)
- Care assistant- The Meadows care home (2022 – 2023 between studies)

Volunteering

- University of Strathclyde Mountain Bike club
- Social media manager 2023–2024
- Treasurer 2024–2025

Other interests

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mountain Biking | Surfing |
| Model Making | Photography |
| Swimming | Inclusive and accessible design |
| Sustainable design | Mass timber |
| Print making | Woodworking |

The Gaiety - Community Arts Centre

The primary aim of this project was to create a facility tailored to the needs of Leith Theatre Trust, while also creating a beneficial asset to the local and wider community of Leith. The site was chosen through extensive urban and community analysis which highlighted this area as one of the final remaining pockets of deprivation within Leith. The social and economic deprivation surrounding the site is overshadowed by Leith's new trendy and thriving reputation leaving the site and its community forgotten and crying out for change.

The Gaiety aims to revive the urban and social activity historically seen on this street through a multi-space community arts hub serving as an extension of Leith theatre. It aims to accommodate production, performance and many diverse creative practices while also functioning as a standalone venue for smaller productions. The design balances public, community and private reflective spaces to reactivate the area while ensuring the design places current residents central to the overarching design.



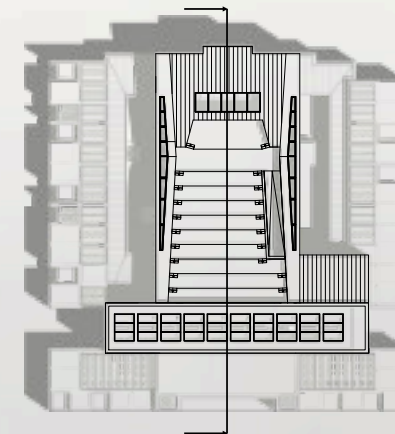
The Gaiety - Community Arts Centre

-
1. Art Gallery
 2. Staff Room
 3. Cafe
 4. Theatre
 5. Community health hub
 6. Community kitchen
 7. Community Hub
 8. Community shop
 9. Library
 10. Lobby

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The Gaiety - Community Arts Centre



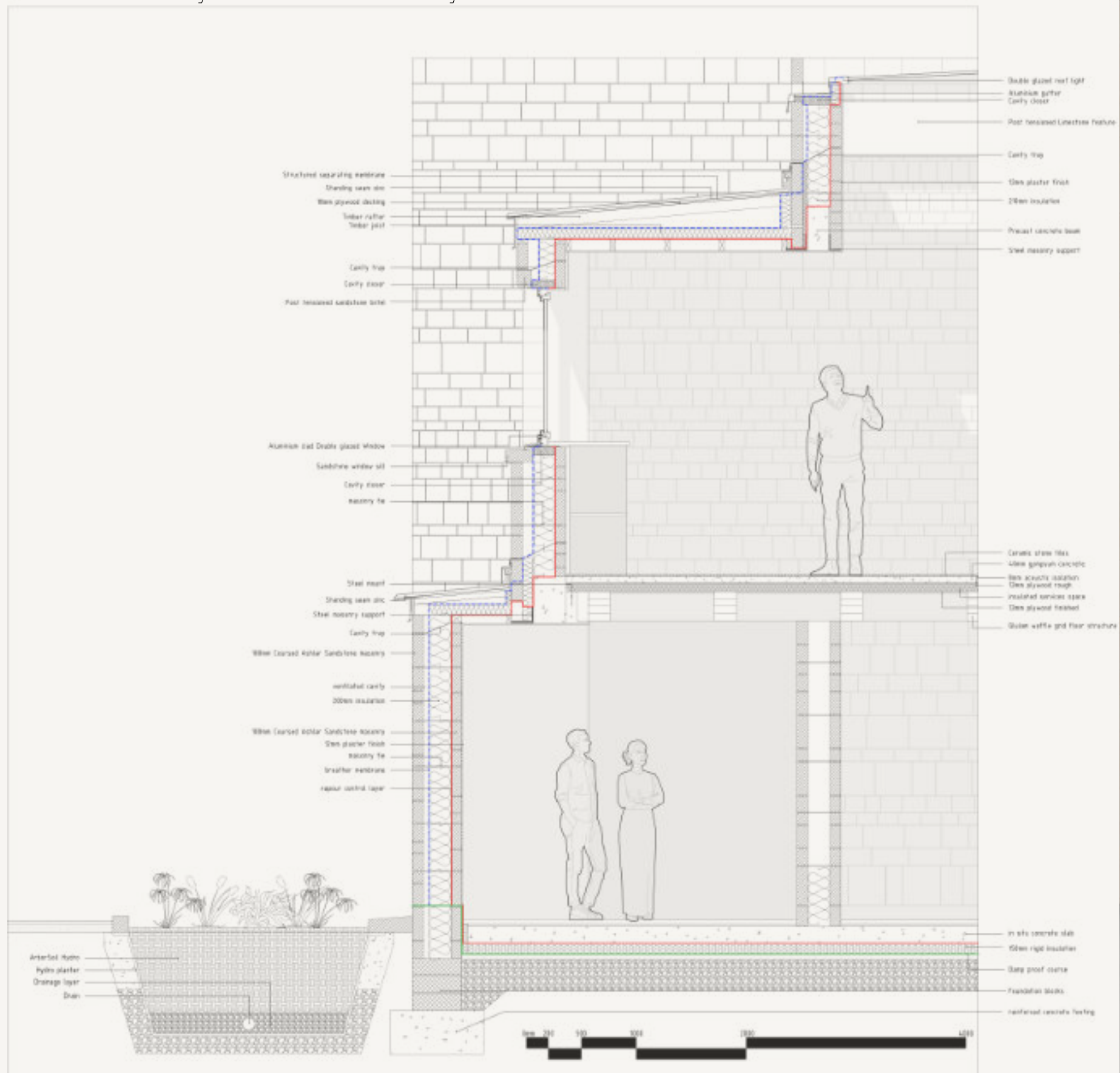
In section this proposal demonstrates a number of both formal and informal performance spaces including a main theatre space, a rooftop open air theatre and number of other impromptu performance spaces. Influence from the theatre space is reflected in the lobby through gallery like circulation overlooking a central space. These spaces aim to provide platforms for the community and public to express themselves in a way true to each individual person's needs. An understanding of the relationship between physical human scale, self-efficacy and spatial dimension influenced the proposals mix of vast public spaces balanced with intimate private spaces, encouraging both outward expression as well as inward personal reflection.

The proposal draws inspiration from the iconic brutalist Linksview House while adopting the traditional load bearing stone construction seen around Leith. The proposal aims to investigate a new sustainable approach towards brutalist architecture while creating a lasting cultural and social asset to the community both now and for future generations.



01

The Gaiety - Community Arts Centre



A Disconnected City - Glasgow

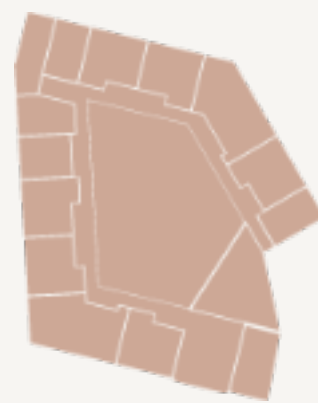
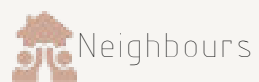
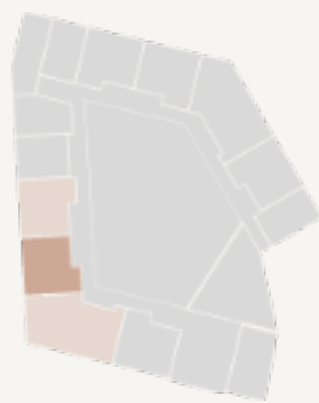
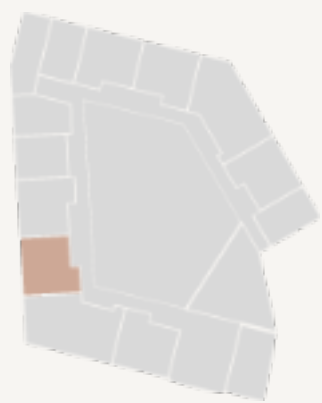
This project looked at repairing the divide caused to the city of Glasgow during the construction of the M8 corridor. This was achieved through a multi-space underground music venue located in the existing motorway tunnels under Charring Cross. The project combines 3 venue spaces, a series of cafes and restaurants as well as a space dedicated to the "Turn the Tables" social enterprise. Turn the Tables work with people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness, offering workshops to learn music production and performance helping build skills and confidence inspiring positive social change. This proposal aims to improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness in Glasgow through music and performance while simultaneously generating employment opportunities, creating a new creative Hub and ultimately reconnecting a disconnected city.



Urban Housing - Glasgow

This urban housing project looked at tackling the growing issue of loneliness within Scotland, looking particularly at some of the most affected demographics. Having spent time working with the elderly in a care home, I found that relationships between young people and the elderly can be greatly beneficial for both. Coincidentally young people and the elderly are two of the most affected demographics when looking at loneliness statistics in Scotland, bringing these two groups together formed the basis for this project.

The proposal consists of 24 versatile flats for the elderly and 7 3 bed flats for mature post graduate students. The proposal has a large focus on physical and mental health of residents and offers large amounts of outdoor space as well as a number of social spaces such as a cinema, library and cafe.





The proposal is fully deck access which hopes to provide another platform for social interactions between residents, additionally each flat owns a small personal space recessed off this deck where they can sit and overlook the central garden. These recessed spaces allow for residents to personalise their entryways ensuring they always feel at home as well as helping any residents with memory issues or dementia to easily identify their own homes.

Deck access maximises the interactions between students and elderly, as each student flat is located in such a way that students must pass at least two elderly flats to reach their front door.

Each kitchen has a large "shopfront" window that can open onto the deck access which provides opportunity for the elderly to open up their lives and interests to their neighbours. Windows looking into flats also ensures residents look out for one another.



04

Community Library- St Andrews

This community library proposal sits just off the St Andrews high street on a brownfield site. The project aimed at revitalising the town centre with a community focused building that could not only be used by university students, but also the wider public. The form takes inspiration from the local economy and fishing culture with its stepping sections creating a lobster like shell. Internally exposed mass timber contrasts a dark zinc exterior, carefully positioned windows create the illusion of a solid shell while ensuring good day lighting within key spaces.



Ground floor Plan



Structural model

Retrofit Restaurant- St Andrews

This project focuses on the retrofit of an existing historical building located on the beachfront of St Andrews. The brief titled "To Dine" focused on creating a communal dining experience. My proposal retains important architectural features and character of the existing building while adding a series of timber extensions to create an engaging Italian dining experience. The proposal creates an open plan kitchen facing onto the dining hall with a large wood-burning pizza oven as a focal point. This focal point extends to the outside of the building as the pizza oven creates a distinct feature set half into the external wall.

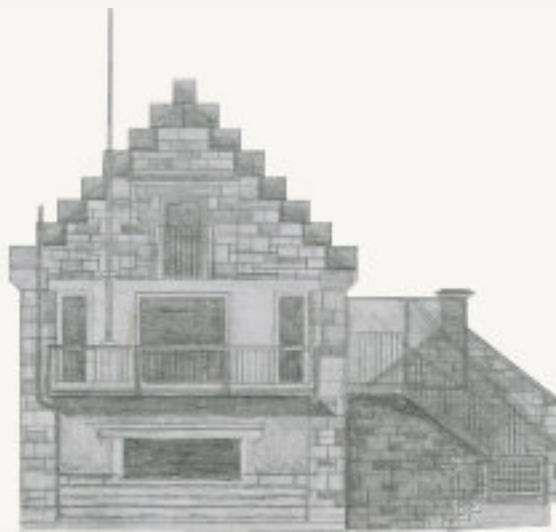
In addition to the retrofit, an additional outdoor temporary seating area was also created. The design of this again looks at the pizza oven as a focal point which led to a circular design that surrounded a space for an additional pizza oven. The structure consists of a prefabricated timber structure which was carefully designed to allow for easy assembly, disassembly and relocation.



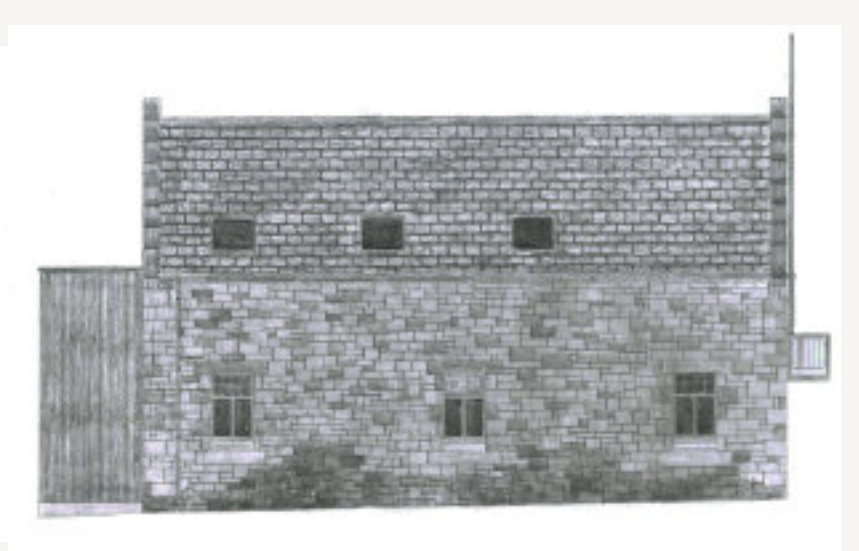
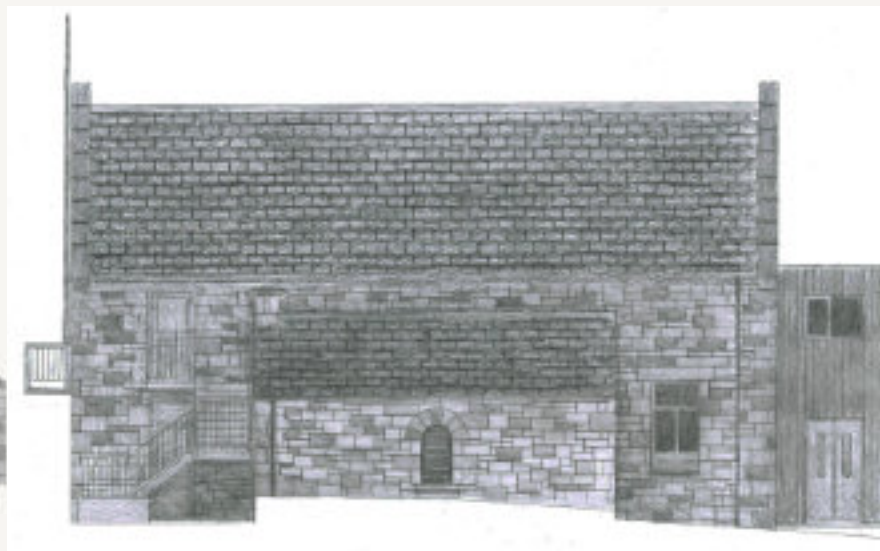
Restaurant Proposal model



Timber structure model



Existing Building Pencil study



Art Gallery- Glasgow

Located within a once private park within Park Circus Glasgow this proposal aimed to work alongside the artist Jacqueline Donachie to re-open the space to the public through the addition of a multi space art gallery. The gallery sits on a boundary of the park with its facade maintaining the park perimeter but allowing access to the park through the gallery.

A series of stepping gables rising from the street into the park allows for the gallery to have an appropriate scale and height to the street to not overpower the natural elements of the park.

The proposal houses two gallery spaces, one located in the topmost gable and one in the bottom. These spaces are connected with a stair that encloses the central sculpture courtyard and helps create a circular journey from one gallery to the next finally concluding at a cafe space in the central gable that allows for access to the courtyard and the wider park.



Sectional model

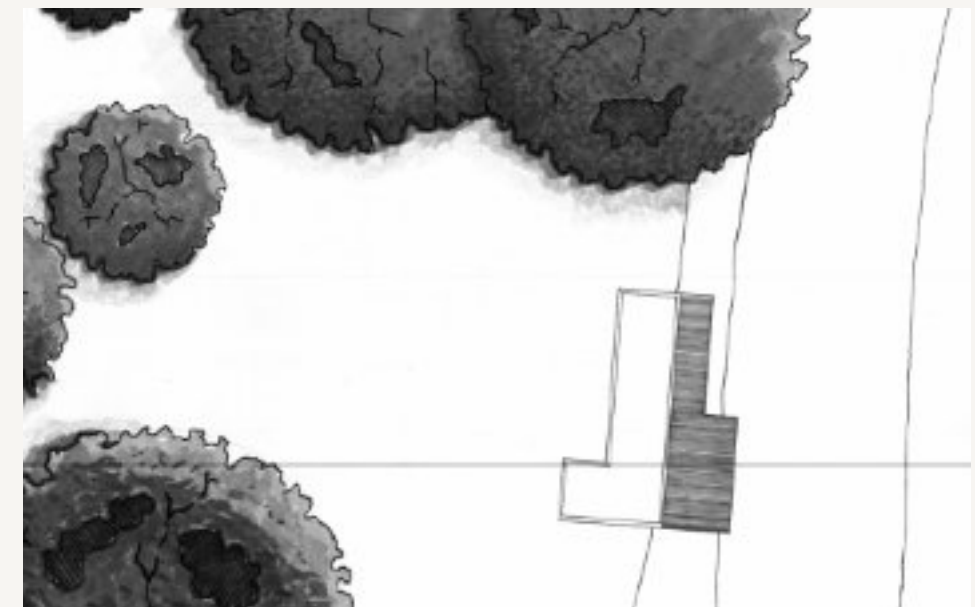


Lookout Pavilion – Glasgow

This project, located in Kelvingrove Park Glasgow looked at creating a pavilion to provide a visual connection to the park outside. Our site was chosen individually based on a view within the park that captivated us personally. The project aims to create a space that focuses on the beauty of nature within the park and provides an escape from the overstimulating nature of city life. The proposal creates a delicate balance between public and private space. The entry sequence to the pavilion creates an intimate journey along a long slatted corridor allowing light and air into the space. The pavilion itself contrasts this creating a darker more intimate space aimed at allowing users to focus purely on the view provided through a number of small view ports positioned at different heights to allow accessibility for all.



Pavilion entry



Proposed site plan