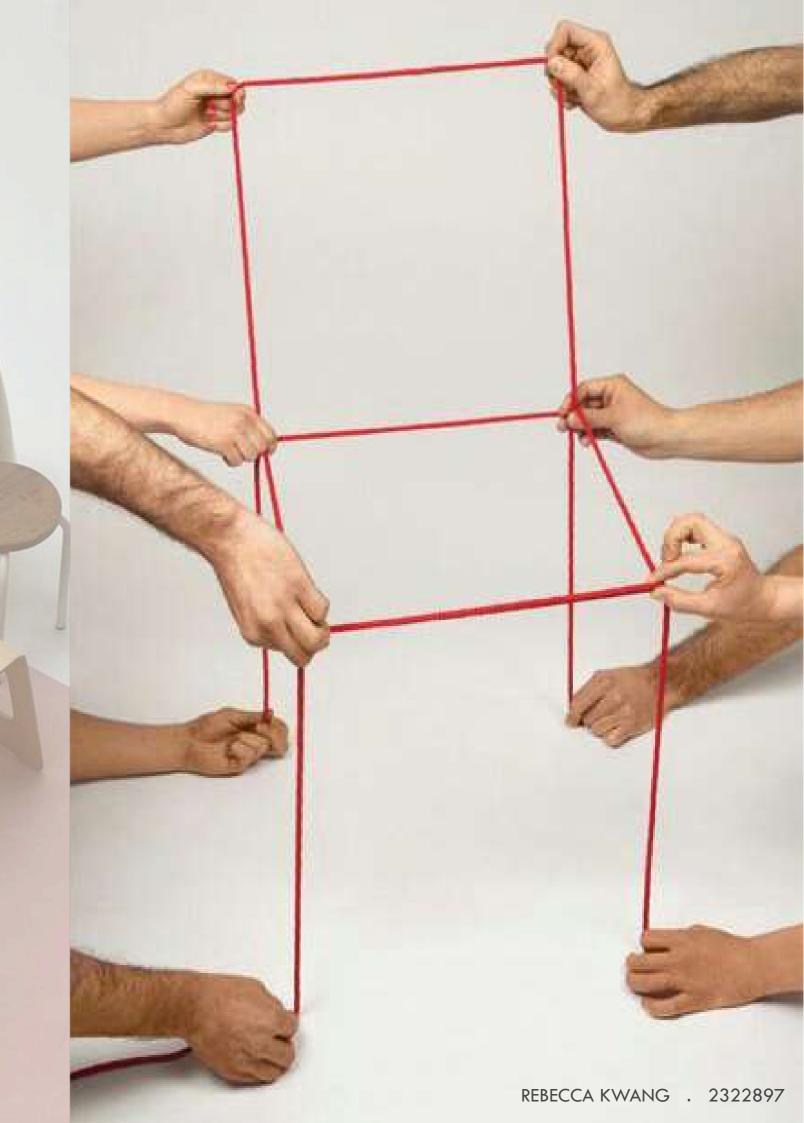
# a sent atthe table

community-based social retreat



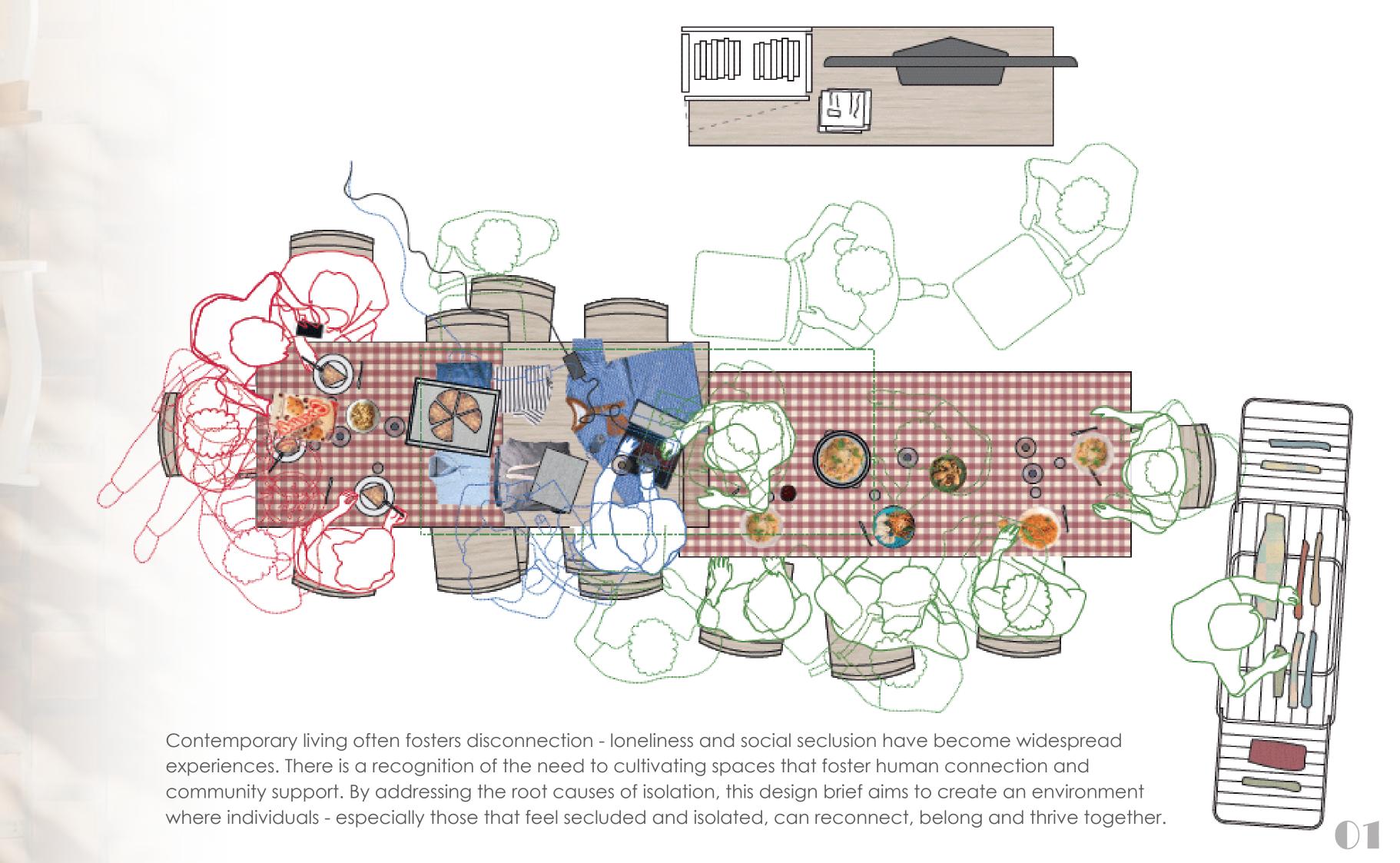
# contents

01	USER DEMOGRAPHIC For the burn-outs, a day of reprieve and restoration
02	PROJECT BRIEF
03	PROPOSED SITE LOCATION  Mapping cultural and preservation identities
04	PROJECT AIM  Preserving an identity, creating a new culture
05	PROGRAM ANALYSIS  Are you Hungry, Lonely, Tired, Bored?
08	FURNITURE ANALYSIS Exploring table formations
10	SPATIAL ANALYSIS  Mapping spatial and itinerary functions

11	<b>DESIGN BRIEF</b> Shaping spatial configurations, interior architectural compositions
12	CONCEPTUAL LAYOUT Linking spatial, emotional and neural pathways
13	SCHEMATIC LAYOUT Exploded axonometric floor plans
14	ARCHITECTURAL STRATEGY Reframing architectural emotions and compositions
16	SUN PATH ANALYSIS  Mapping sun path and shadow movement
17	INTERIOR FLOOR PLANS What's on the table?
20	MOODBOARDS AND REFERENCES  Mapping an exploration of materiality, surfaces and senses

MATERIAL BOARD 26 ZOOM-IN LAYOUT PLANS 27 3D RENDERING 29 Depicting... a day in the social retreat SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE VIEWS 30 Reframing... architectural emotions and compositions

Forthe burn-outs, actions of reprieve and restoration.



# DIAY NATUIC art SOCIAI 6X61Ciso rest



## site



## CIC (community-interest companies)





CHARITY SHOPS
(Direct & indirect donations)

## wellness









Canterbury's social enterprises and support groups can expand their reach and collaborate by uniting in a shared space. The retreat fosters community-driven well-being, where individuals connect, contribute, and grow together.

Have a Seat at the Table embodies this ethos, providing an inclusive space where everyone belongs and has a voice.



# mapping...

cultural and preservation identities

The proposed site, Westgate Hall, was intentionally chosen for the social retreat due to several carefully considered factors.

With its long-standing history and reputation as a venue for community-driven and philanthropic events, Westgate Hall has played a vital role in shaping local identity and celebrating collective milestones. Its established presence as a civic landmark makes it a meaningful and symbolic setting for a community-focused initiative.

Additionally, its prime location - within close proximity to Canterbury's main train station and high street - offers strong accessibility and visibility, making it an ideal hub to attract both locals and visitors.



## historical



The present site had an exotic garden named 'Master's Exotic Nursery'. It was eventually sold in 1896.



In 2009, Westgate Hall was saved from closure after community protests led the Council to vote in its favor.



Since the 1970s, Westgate Hall has been a vital community hub, continuing its legacy as a cornerstone for social events and celebrations.

## community



Organised once a week

**Dance classes** 



Blood donation drive
Organised once a month



Food & wine festivals

Organised once a year







PROPOSED LOCATION



--- BUILDING VICINITY PATH



MAIN FOOT TRAFFIC - HIGH STREET



CANTERBURY WEST TRAIN STATION



Fostering community...

Everyone deserves a chance to be seen, heard and valued. This is especially so for the less fortunate and those struggling with difficulties, whereby having a voice and sense of belonging are crucial.

Through affordable programs that nurture mental, emotional, and social health, "Have a seat at the Table" fosters a sense of belonging and collective resilience.

Rooted in the longstanding legacy of Westgate Hall as a landmark for community spirit, the project offers a vital platform for social enterprises to connect, collaborate, and grow. This, in turn, strengthens the establishment's core purpose as a meaningful and inclusive communal hub.



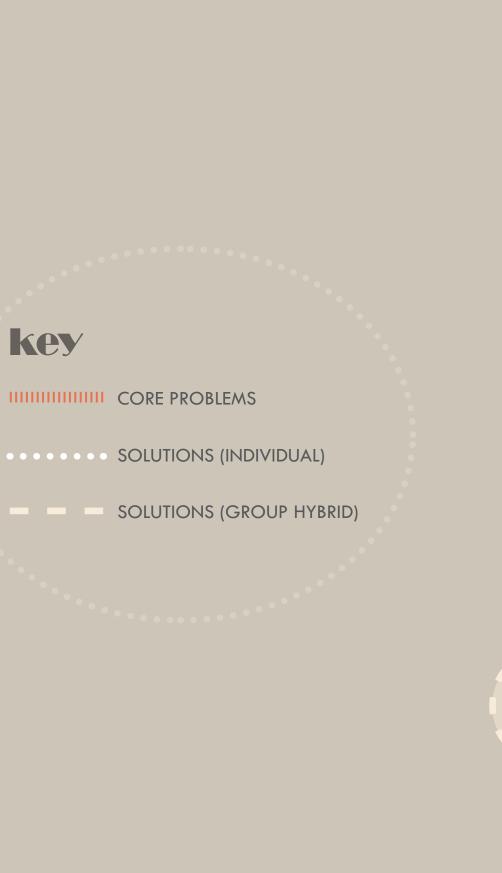


# mapping...

core problems, solutions and programs

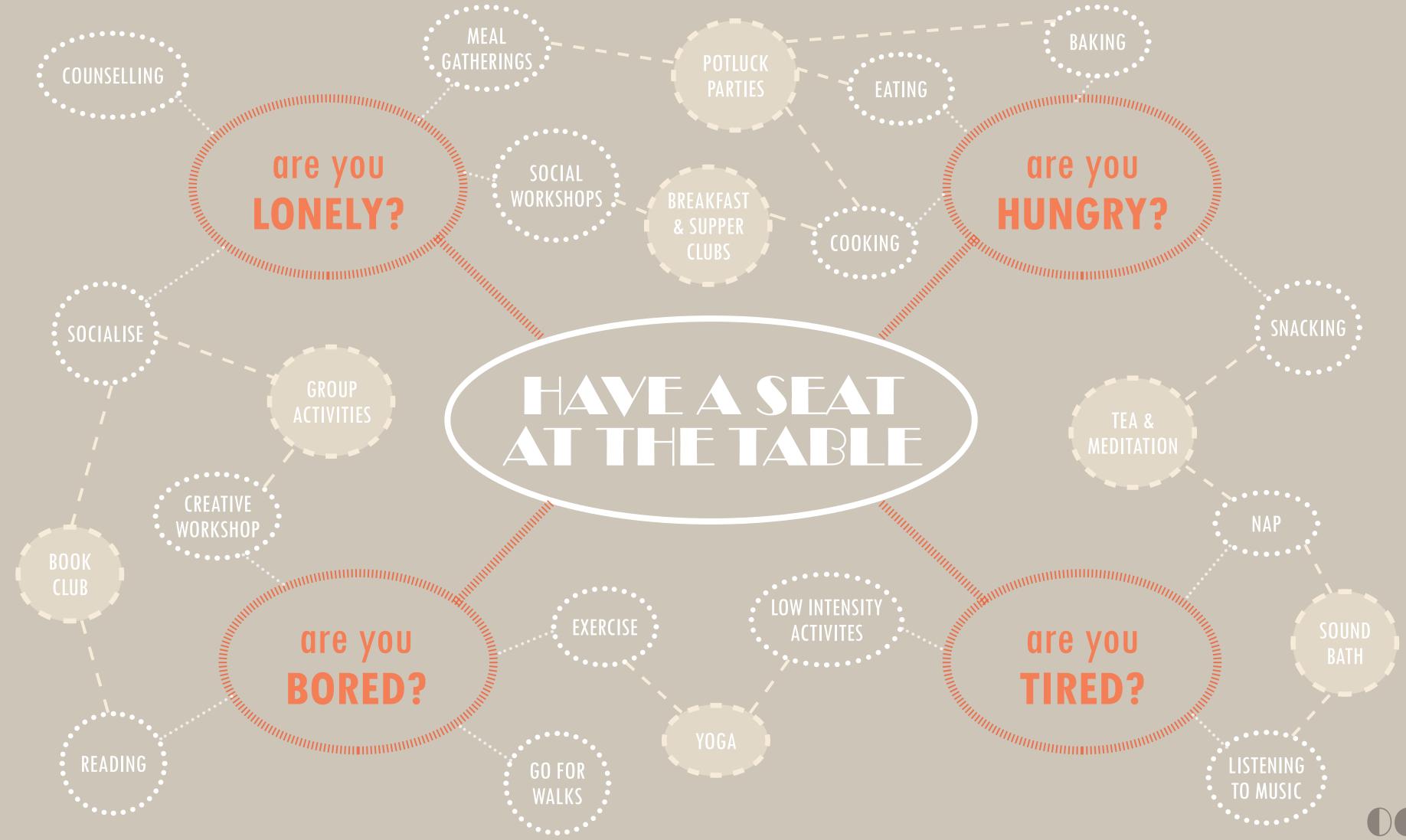
By first identifying the root causes that often disrupt our sense of wellbeing, we are better positioned to develop meaningful solutions that can directly inform the design and programming of the social retreat. These underlying issues - such as loneliness, fatigue, hunger, and lack of purpose - may appear simple or commonplace, yet they are deeply impactful and often go unnoticed in the rush of daily life.

Many individuals face these challenges silently, and some may struggle to meet even their most basic needs without external support. In acknowledging this, the retreat aims to offer accessible and inclusive programs that respond to these everyday realities with empathy and intention. By addressing these core imbalances holistically, we can foster a space that not only nurtures individual wellbeing but also strengthens the collective resilience of the community.



key

CORE PROBLEMS



# exploring...

rituals, regularity and routine

Establishing a collaborative platform with local social organisations creates valuable opportunities for shared events and community-driven activities, fostering greater participation and engagement. It also enables partner organisations to broaden their outreach and deepen their impact within the community.

A potential collaboration with Canterbury Umbrella, for example, could involve integrating their existing programs into the retreat space. This would not only amplify the support they already offer but also allow for the curation of a full-week schedule of inclusive, wellness-oriented activities.

The curated series of programs will be designed to promote positive habits and daily routines that support mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. By maintaining a consistent and engaging schedule, the retreat can encourage regular participation, cultivate a sense of community, and address the current issue of underutilisation at Westgate Hall.

## Pool & table Art group **Board games** tennis Wed 1-2.30pm Tues 1-2.30pm Fri 1-2.30pm **Philosophy** Reflexology Music group chat Thurs 1-2.30pm Tues 10.30 - 12pm Wed 11am - 12pm Refugee Yoga support Mon 10.30 -12pm School term 1-3pm Gardening Mon 10am -1pm

CURRENT PROGRAMS ORGANISED BY THE CANTERBURY UMBRELLA

## monday

**CLOSED** 

coordination

## tuesday

## NOURISH AND CONNECT

9.00am - 10.30am Morning cafe & meet-up

11.00am - 12.30pm Community cooking workshop

> 1.00pm - 2.30pm Reflexology & relaxation

3.00pm - 4.30pm Art therapy

5.00pm - 6.30pm Shared dinner & socials

wednesday

### ENGAGE AND REFLECT

9.00am - 10.30am Cafe & journalling

11.00am - 12.30pm Philosophy chats

1.00pm - 2.30pm Group reading & discussion

3.00pm - 4.30pm Board games & charades

5.00pm - 6.30pm Community soup night

#### **EXPRESS AND PLAY**

9.00am - 10.30am Breakfast & storytelling

thursday

11.00am - 12.30pm Music & freeflow dance

1.00pm - 2.30pm Poetry slam & open mic

3.00pm - 4.30pm Theatre & improv workshop

> 5.00pm - 6.30pm Potluck party

#### **MOVE AND CREATE**

9.00am - 10.30am Coffee & bakina

11.00am - 12.30pm Pool & table tennis

1.00pm - 2.30pm Pottery & craft workshop

3.00pm - 4.30pm Volunteer & meal pre

5.00pm - 6.30pm Community film nigh

7.00pm onwards
Shelter for homeless

friday

#### **GROW AND LEARN**

9.00am - 10.30am Gardenina & farmina

11.00am - 12.30pm Cooking skills masterclass

1.00pm - 2.30pm Team games & play

3.00pm - 4.30pm Refugee support program

5.00pm - 6.00pm Themed dinner & drinks par

7.00pm onwards
Shelter for homeles

## saturday

## REST AND REJUVENATE

9.00am - 10.30am Yoga & stretching

11.00am - 12.30pm Outdoor meditation

1.00pm - 2.30pm Slow brunch & social cafe

3.00pm - 4.30pm

5.00pm - 6.00pm Sound bath healir

7.00pm onwards
Shelter for homeless

sunday ()7

# exploring...

## table formations

A deeper analysis of various table configurations offers valuable insights into how geometric forms influence interpersonal dynamics and the overall style of interaction among those seated. This understanding helps to determine table layouts that best support specific event settings and user experiences.

By examining the functional, social, and emotional dimensions of table arrangements, one can determine the optimal formation for a given activity. The functional aspect considers which geometric shapes best facilitate particular tasks - such as dining, discussion, or collaborative work. The social aspect explores how people engage with one another across different layouts, including the ease of eye contact, group cohesion, and inclusion. Lastly, the emotional aspect addresses how spatial arrangements impact the user's comfort, sense of belonging, and overall atmosphere of the setting.

Together, these perspectives guide a more intentional and responsive approach to spatial and furniture design.

## functional

Linear forms are optimal for cooking and food prep activities especially for live demonstrations.

Elliptical forms are preferred for dining events and great for buildin relationships in both social and professional settings.

Organic forms work well for craft activities that encourages creative collaboration and flow.

Angular forms can create an unconventional and dynam environment to suit learning workshop activities.

## social

Linear arrangements can create close proximity with the person adjacent to on both sides and opposite of the table, but limits communication with other further away from the table.

Elliptical arrangements allow peripheral views of everyone around the table for better eye contact and inclusive communication.

The fluid movement and adaptibility of organic arrangements allow for both group and individual interactions.

Angular arrangements allow a good variation of being further spaced away or coming closer with the group.

## emotional

Linear forms provide a sense of organisation and professionalism, but may feel rigid or hierarchical.

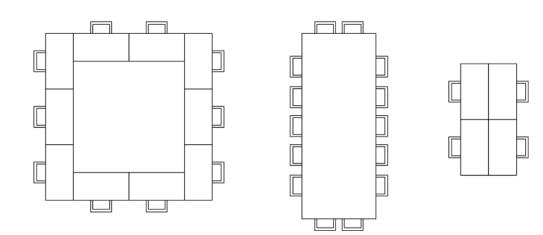
Elliptical forms feel welcoming, engaging and inclusive

Organic forms encourages playful and engaging interactions, as we as supports active participation while maintaining order.

Angular forms creates a more elevated way of creating arrangement which encourages 'thinking outside of the box' mindset.

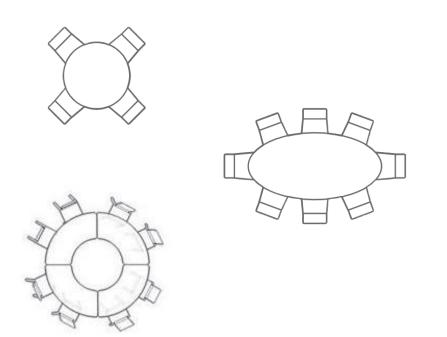
## linear

rectangle, square elements



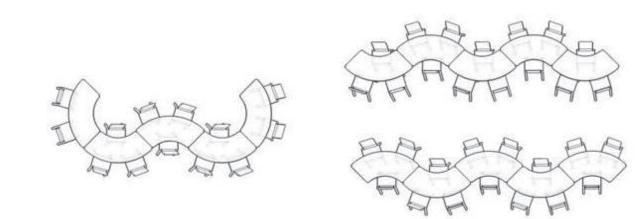
## elliptical

round, oval elements



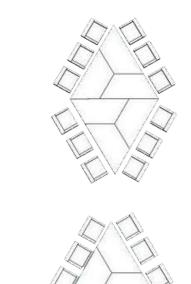
## organic

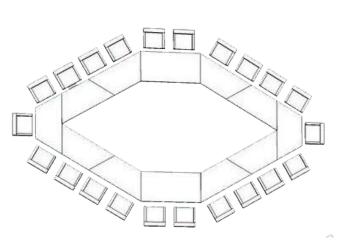
u-shaped, curve elements



## angular

polygonal, diagonal elements



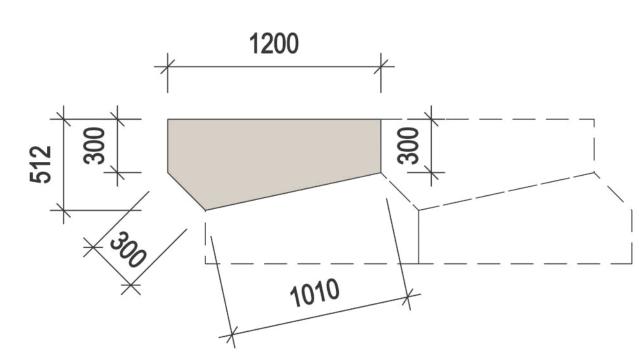


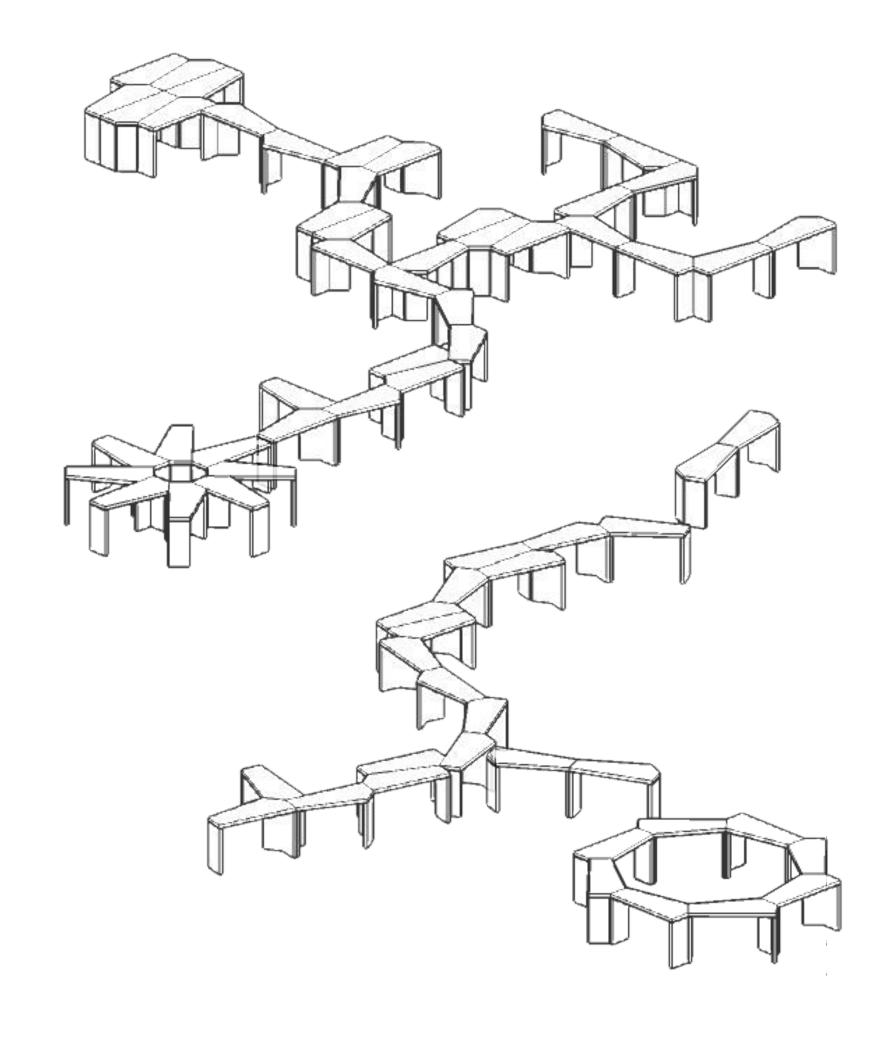
# merging...

converging and diverging interactions

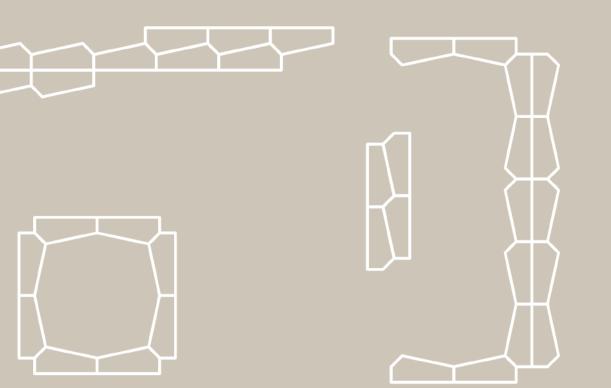
A modular form is developed to allow flexibility across multiple table configurations, adapting to different spatial and social needs.

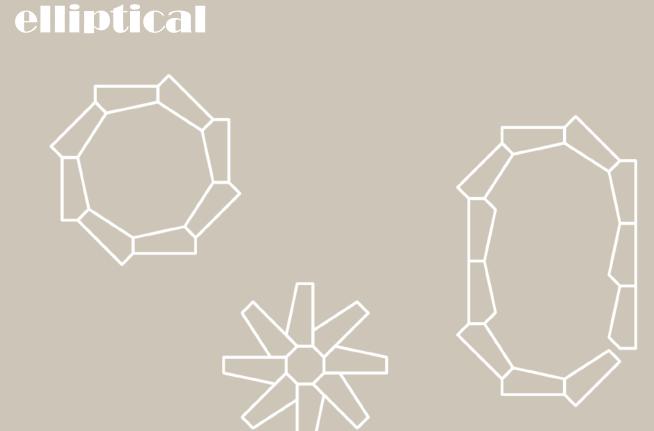
The accompanying diagrams reveal intriguing patterns of human interaction in relation to various seating layouts—ranging from moments of convergence for social engagement to arrangements that support individual solitude. This dynamic interplay between gathering and separation offers an opportunity to explore how furniture can mediate both collective and personal experiences.



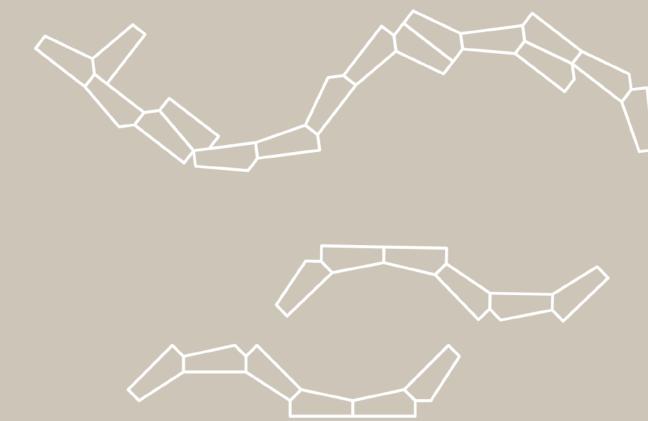


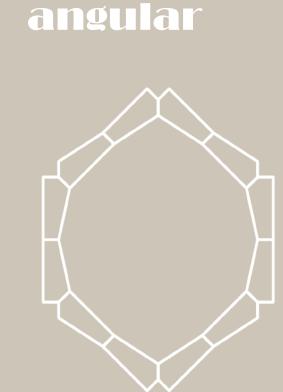
# linear organic

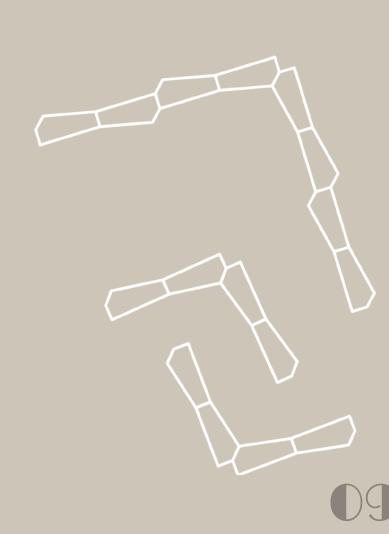












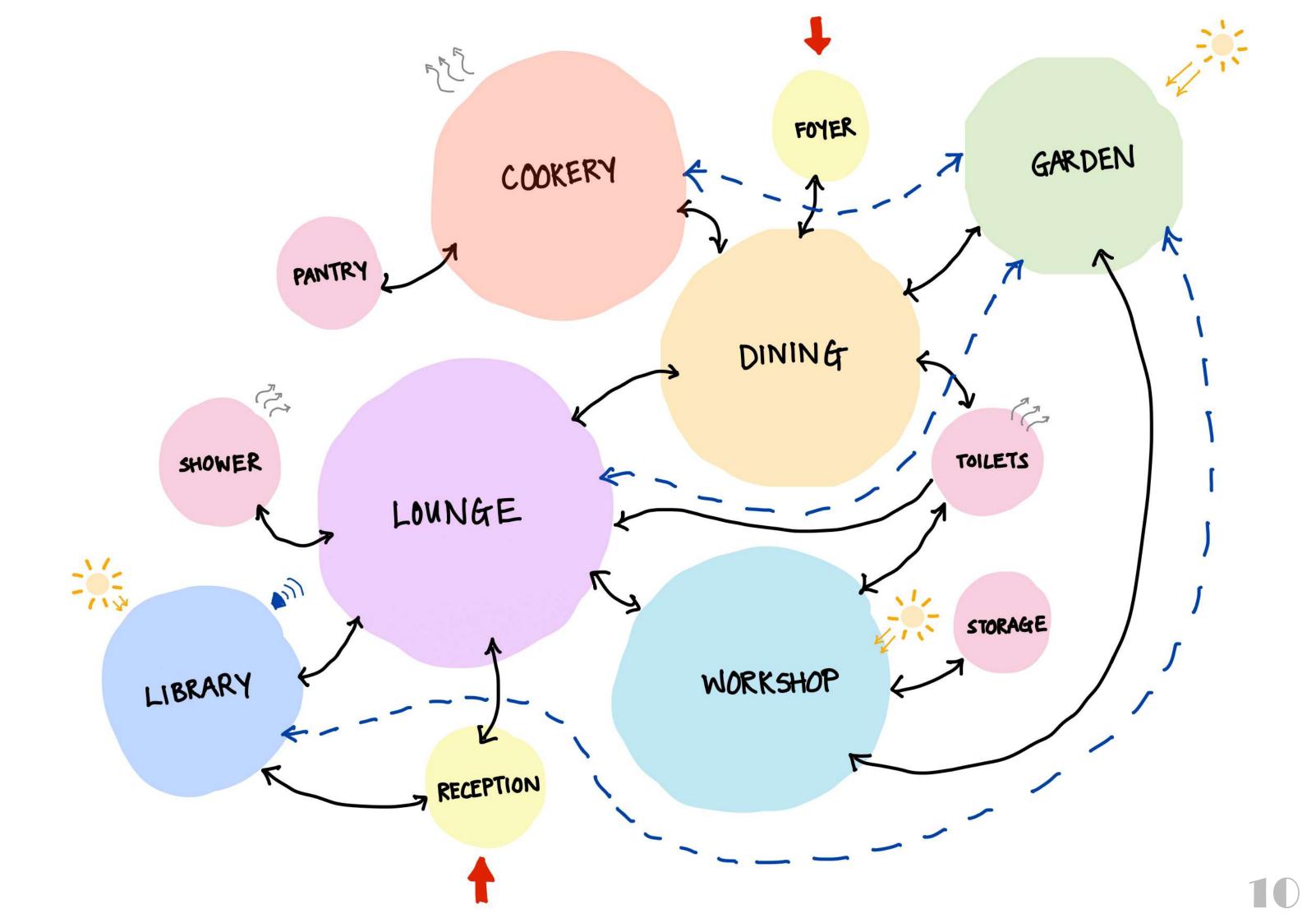
## mapping...

spatial and itinerary functions

The spatial analysis derived from the prior exploration of core problems and their corresponding solutions, as well as the development of a curated weekly program schedule.

From this foundation, a set of functional requirements, referred to as itinerary functions, is established. These include the identification of primary and secondary spaces, necessary amenities, and environmental considerations such as lighting, acoustics, and spatial atmosphere. Together, these elements form the groundwork for the first phase of spatial planning, allowing the design to be thoughtfully aligned with the retreat's intended activities and user needs. This approach ensures that each space supports both practical use and emotional resonance, reinforcing the overall wellbeing goals of the retreat.





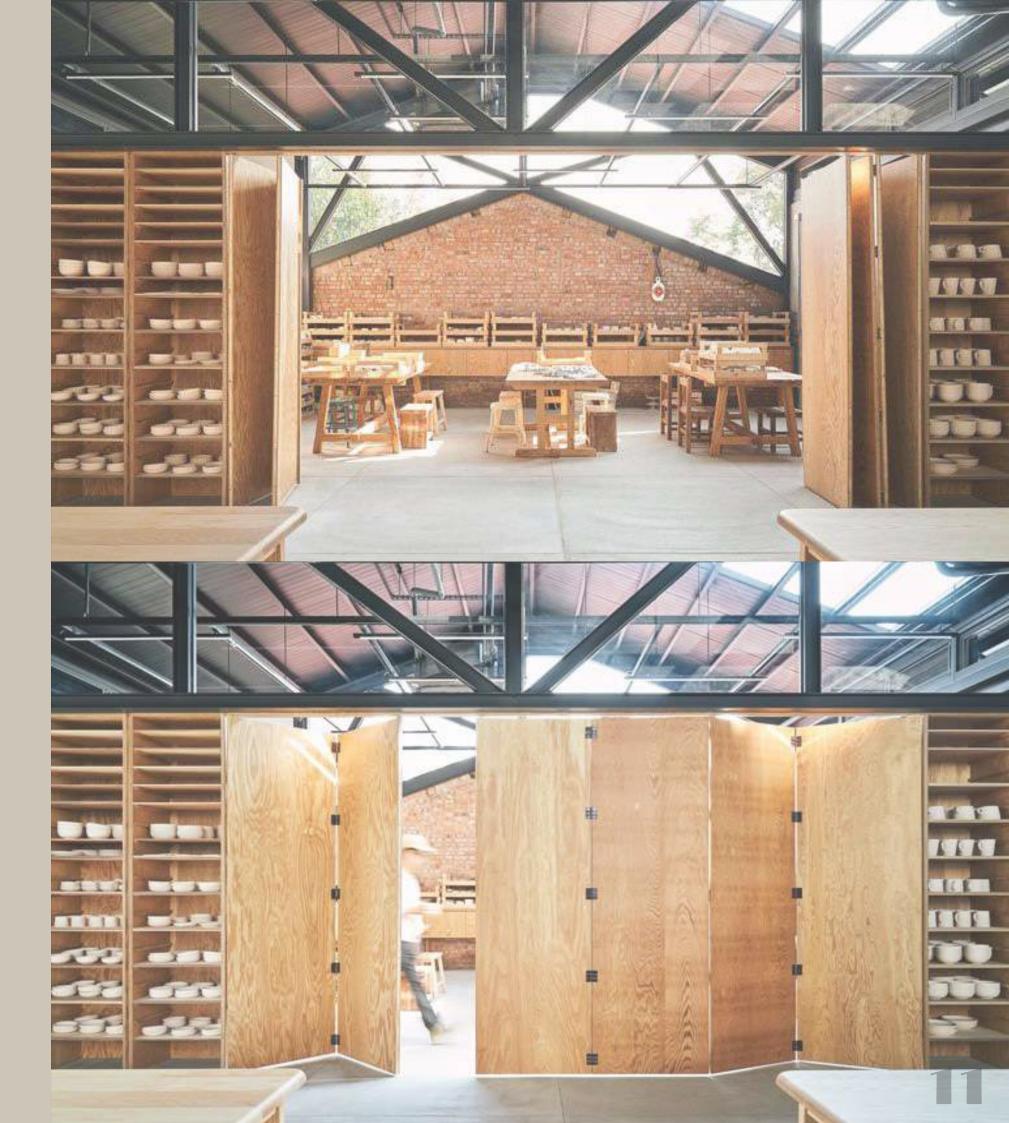


## design brief

Re-integration of the existing Westgate Hall and Curzon theatre buildings to expand interior spaces in order to create versatile environments for various events and activities at the social retreat.



0102



# linking...

spatial, emotional and neural pathways

The concept diagrams illustrate the strategic zoning of spaces, each thoughtfully positioned around a corridor that weaves organically through the building.

At the main entrance, the surrounding amenities are designed to offer refreshments and introduce the day's activities - inviting users in with a sense of curiosity and anticipation. In contrast, the secondary entrance is flanked by quieter, more contemplative zones, offering a slower and more relaxed atmosphere.

The sketches map user pathways, capturing both spatial flow and emotional engagement as individuals interact with the environment and its activities.

## allowing fluid movement and spontaneous interaction. EXH entrance for Lookery Sanctuary Amenities Path 2 . Rest rooms Branching circulation - Storage that connects to surrounding zones Bath facilities and individual program Refreshment areas. stop - located at entrance > Workshop Main entrance Marce-like corridor that leads people through a certes

## key

MAIN ACTIVITY SPACE : COOKERY

MAIN ACTIVITY SPACE : DINING

MAIN ACTIVITY SPACE : LOUNGE

MAIN ACTIVITY SPACE : WORKSHOP

SECONDARY SPACE : LIBRARY

SECONDARY SPACE : GARDEN

AMENITY SPACES

→ PRIMARY CIRCULATION FLOW

→ SECONDARY CIRCULATION FLOW

## Path

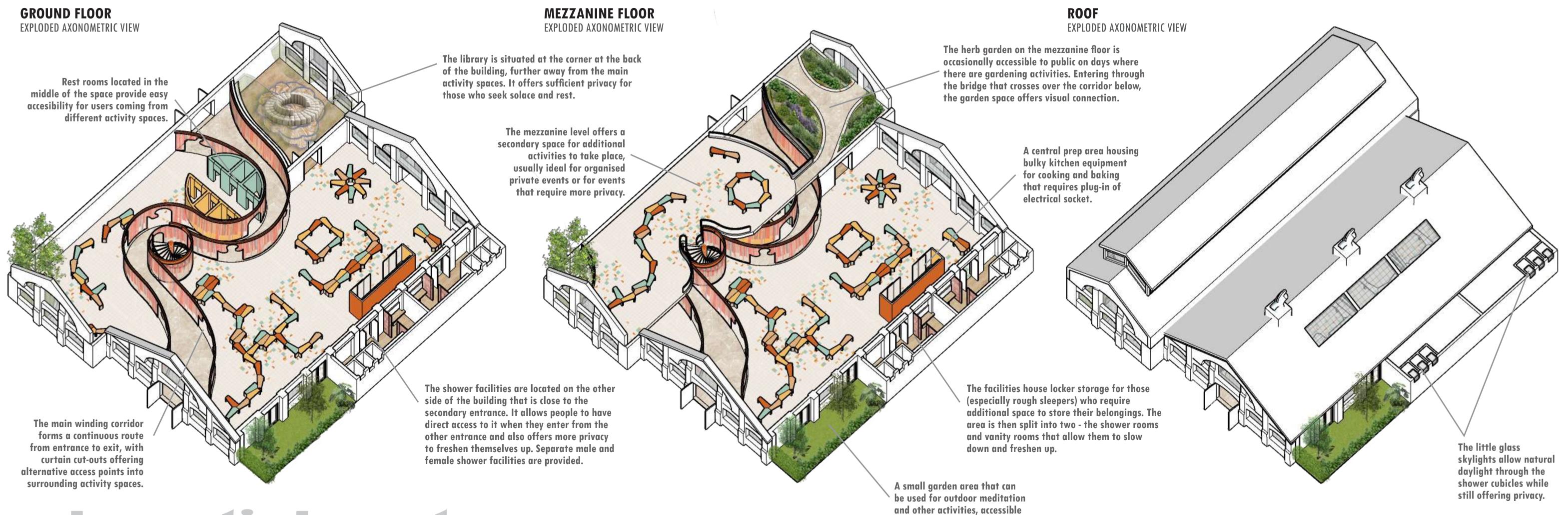
Interaction zones shaped by intentional table arrangements, encouraging different modes of gathering.

Emergent micro-pathways formed

between furniture groupings,

# conceptual layout The primary circulation route, guiding

overall flow through the space.



through two glass doorways.

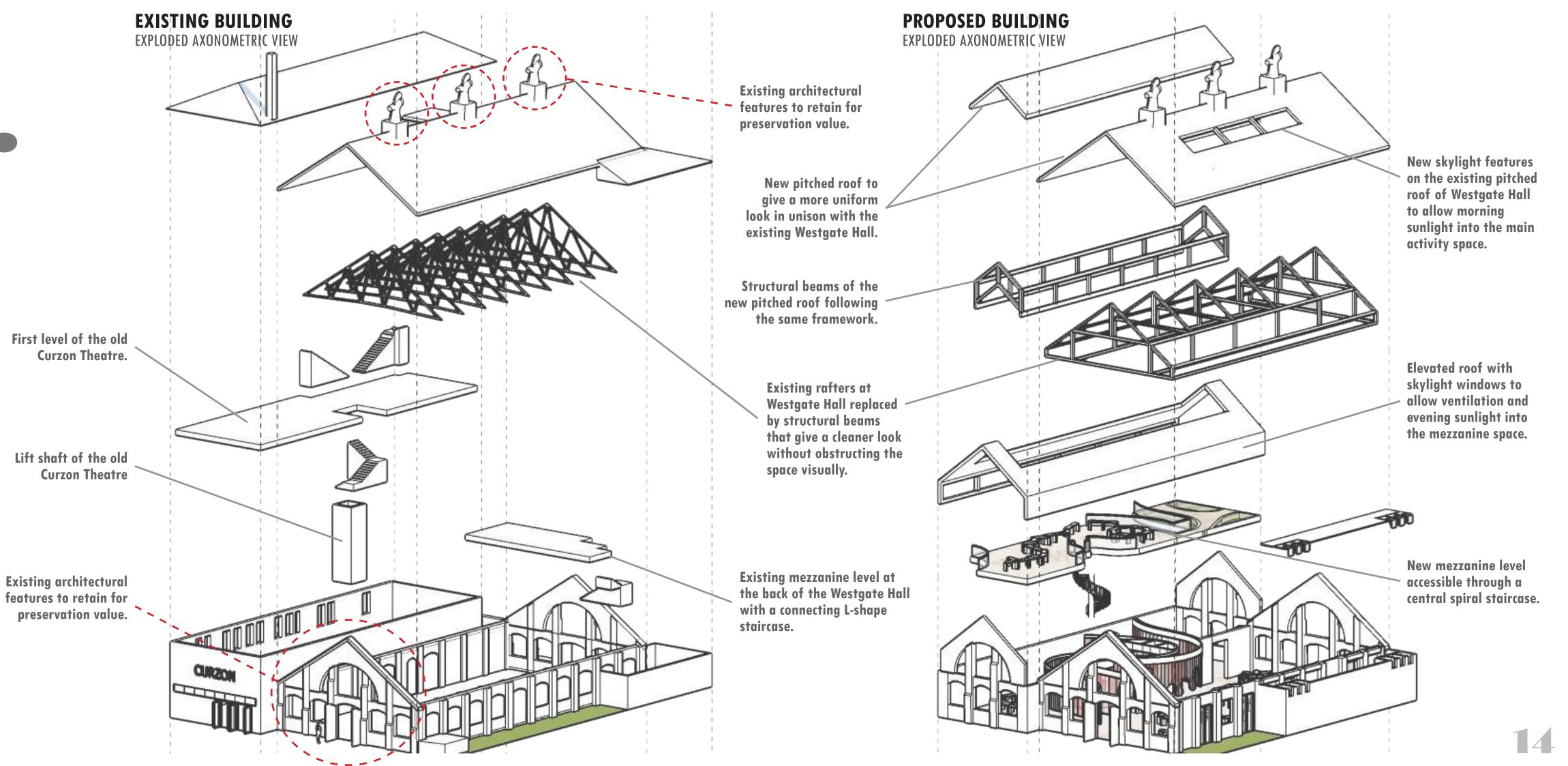
# reframing...

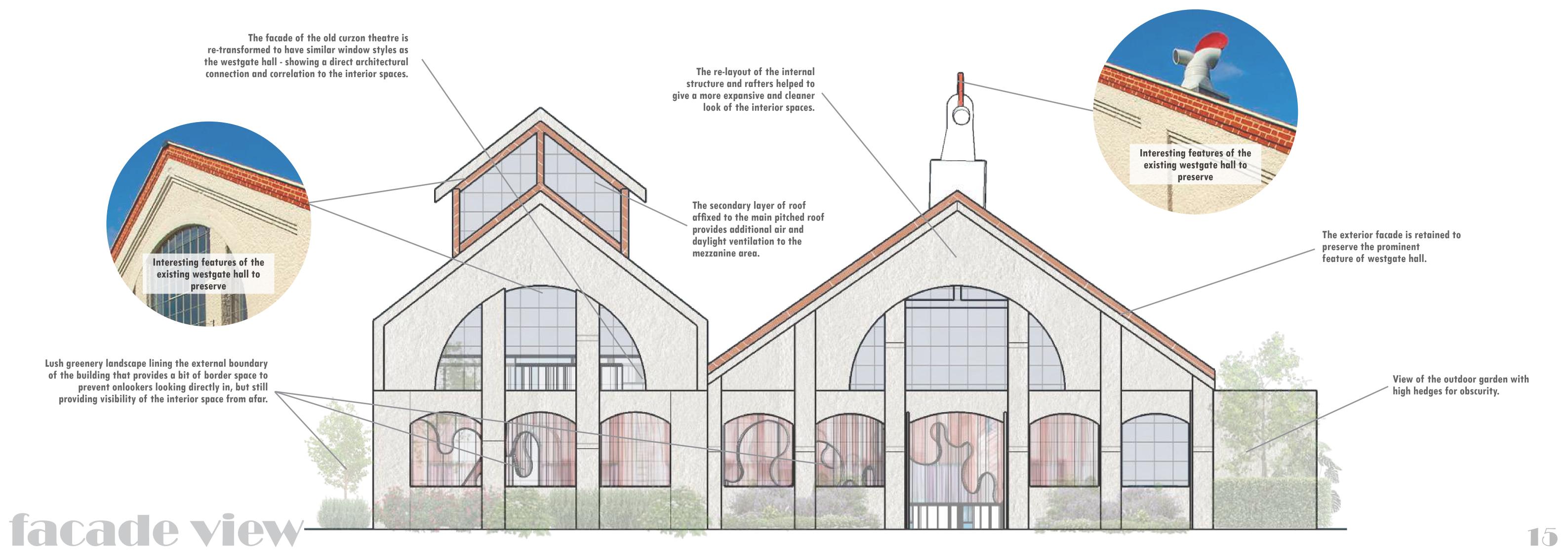
architectural emotions and compositions

The primary design challenge lies in unifying the two buildings - The Curzon Theatre and Westgate Hall, into a cohesive spatial experience through intervention of the existing structures.

This integration involves reworking both the architectural framework and the internal circulation between the two sites. The initial step is the removal of the boundary walls that currently separate them, allowing for the creation of a more open and connected interior. A gently winding, organic-shaped corridor is then inserted to weave through the merged spaces, guiding movement and creating a fluid spatial narrative.

To create visual cohesion, the Curzon Theatre's facade is redesigned to reflect the same architectural language as Westgate Hall - preserving its form while aligning with the overall aesthetic. The existing roof structure of Westgate Hall is also reconsidered; the densely packed rafters are replaced with a cleaner, more open framework to enhance verticality and reduce spatial heaviness.





## At dusk, the sun sets at the north-western side of the building. The interior spaces on the left side would receive a lot of evening sunlight. At dawn, the sun rises at the south-eastern **MORNING SUN** During winter, the sun sets at the southside of the building. New skylight windows mapping... western side facing the front facade of the are added to the roof structures to maximise building. The fenestrations on the front facade morning sunlight into the interior spaces. would allow evening sunlight to stream into In the summer, the morning sun rises from the spaces of the buildings near the front. the north-eastern side of the building, facing the back facade. sun path and shadow movement SUMMER SUN PATH WINTER SUN PATH SITE LOCATION

16

**EVENING SUN** 

# table of the day

## weekdays

## Morning coffee and reading

passive and restful activities

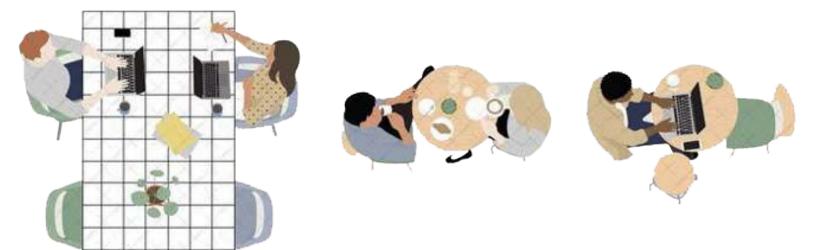
## Afternoon games and club events

mentally and socially engaging activities

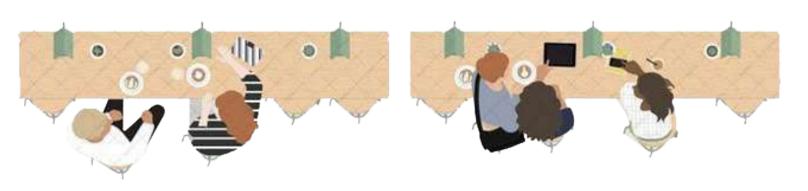
## Evening cookout and craft

socially engaging activities

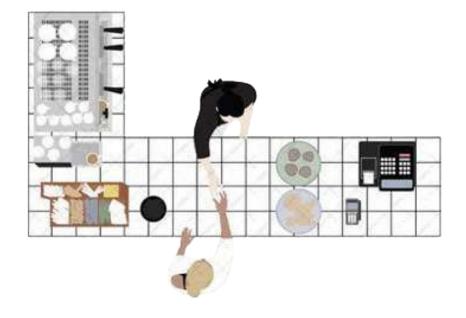




a day of exploration







## weekends

## Morning yoga and gardening

nature based activities

## Afternoon creative workshops

emotionally & socially engaging activities

## Evening dine and meditate

passive and restful activities

# exploring...

what's on the table?

The furniture plan simulates a table layout based on a typical weekday schedule that entails the following programs:

## - Morning coffee and reading

This consists of passive and restful activities, possibly taking place at The Nook or at the Loft Deck

## - Afternoon games and club events

This consists of physically and socially engaging activities. The dynamic variety and nature of these events can curate a very organic and free-form way of table arrangement in the open space of The Heart.

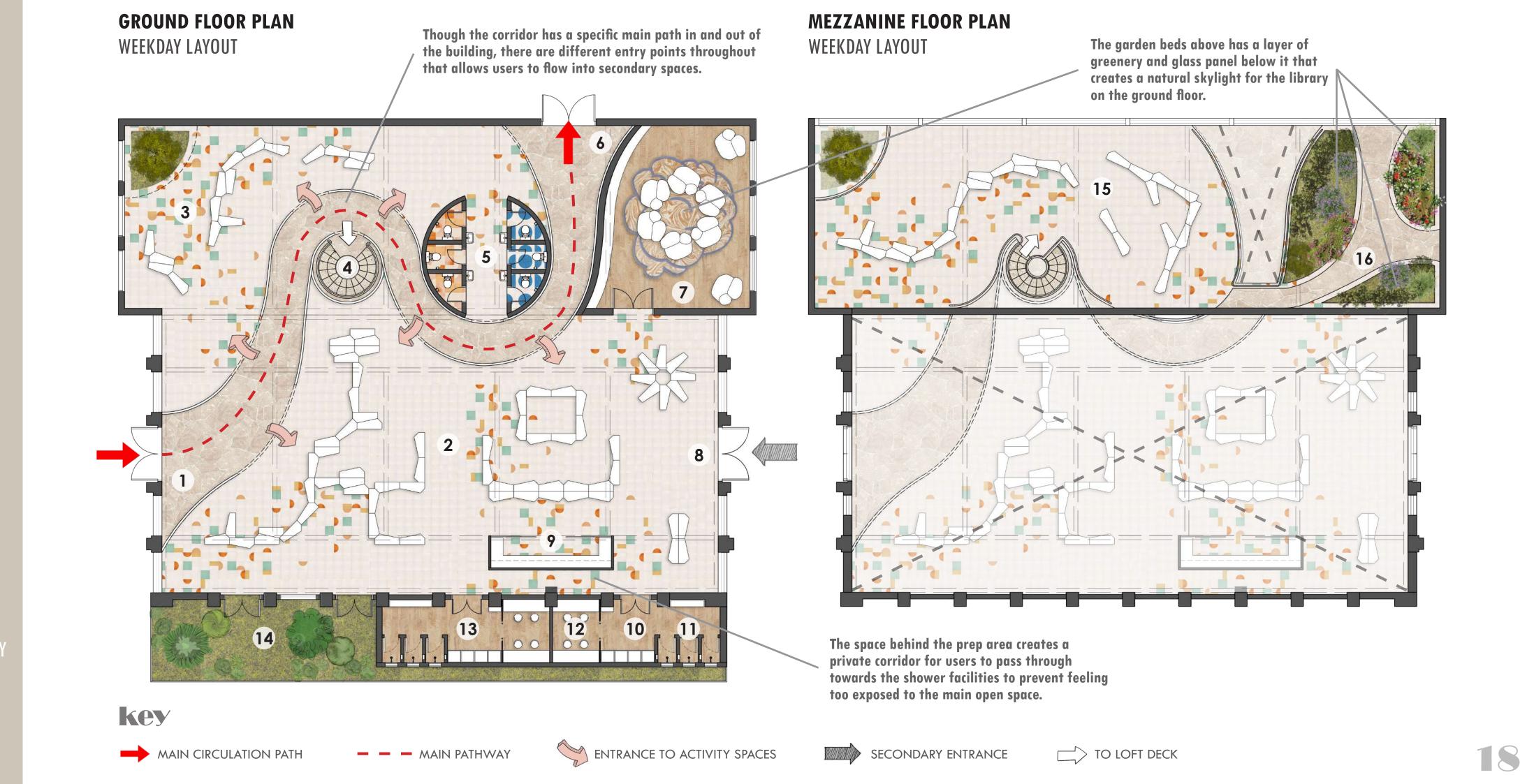
### - Evening dinner and movie parties

This consists of socially engaging activities. Ideally situated near the Prep area and taking in the sunlight coming in at dusk.

- MAIN ENTRANCE
- 2 THE HEART
- 3 THE NOOK
- 4 SPIRAL STAIRCASE TO LOFT DECK 10 FEMALE SHOWER FACILITY
- **5** PUBLIC RESTROOMS

- 7 LIBRARY
- 8 SECONDARY ENTRANCE
- S KITCHEN PREP AREA
- 11 SHOWER AREA

- 12 VANITY ROOM
- **13** MALE SHOWER FACILITY
- 14 OUTDOOR GARDEN
- 15 LOFT DECK
- 16 HERB HAVEN





## exploring...

what's on the table?

The furniture plan simulates a table layout based on a typical weekday schedule that entails the following programs:

### - Morning yoga and gardening

This consists of nature based activities, specifically taking place at the Loft Deck and Herb Haven.

## - Afternoon creative workshops

This consists of mentally stimulating and socially engaging activities. This collaborative engagement can easily shift around between The Nook and The Heart spaces.

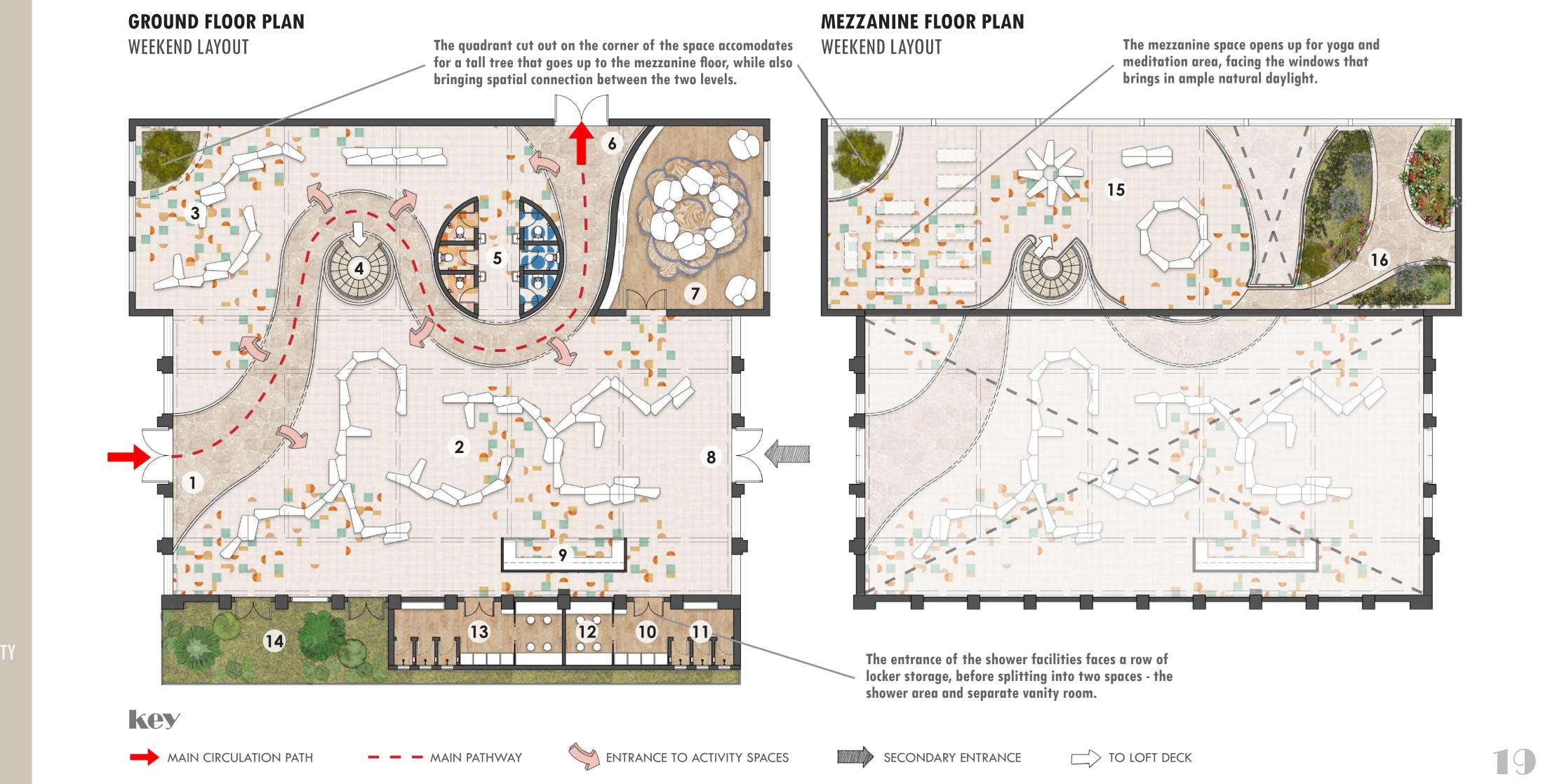
#### - Evening cookout and meditation

This consists of low intensity activities. Possibly after taking part in the afternoon activities, the same arrangements on both levels can be transformed into the next series of programs.

- MAIN ENTRANCE
- 2 THE HEART
- 3 THE NOOK
- 4 SPIRAL STAIRCASE TO LOFT DECK 10 FEMALE SHOWER FACILITY
- **5** PUBLIC RESTROOMS

- 7 LIBRARY
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- 12 VANITY ROOM
- **13** MALE SHOWER FACILITY
- 14 OUTDOOR GARDEN
- 15 LOFT DECK
- 16 HERB HAVEN



# mapping...

exploration of materiality, surfaces and senses

To create a space that functions as a true 'safe haven' with a calming atmosphere, it is essential to identify elements that help ease both sensory overload and deprivation. By thoughtfully exploring sensory experiences, interiors can be designed to gently stimulate the senses while softening overwhelming emotions.

One approach is to engage the senses through colour theory - curating palettes that evoke sensory 'flavours', such as hues that feel spicy, sweet, fresh, or earthy. These associations can subtly influence mood and emotional perception.

Additionally, drawing from the immediate environment to activate sensory pathways - through texture, sound, scent, or lighting - can foster a sense of physical and mental calm, guiding occupants into a more tranquil state of being.





natural textures and materials providing subtle translucency for subdued lighting and obscurity



dreamy backdrops soften rigid architectural structures 'cloudy scapes' allowing light to permeate through



soft glowing lighting creating a soothing ambience in the environment best suited for lounge and rest areas



'light and inviting passageways'
flowing fabric, soft textures, serene atmosphere
calming space, airy drapery, gentle sunlight



natural textures and tones soothing and healing



accents and geometrical forms following similar design language as furniture arrangements



fresh, natural colours that entices the senses



mural wall as accent feature comprising of handmade artworks created from workshop activities



fun and playful forms accompanying bold colours adding elements of surprise and whimsical wonder in functional spaces - amenities





an outdoor installation consisting of wind chimes that make up the structure - responding to the immediate environment with natural (wind) and man-made (touch) movements and interactions to create music



wind chime installation suspended on the ceiling that directly responds to the natural factor instead - wind movement

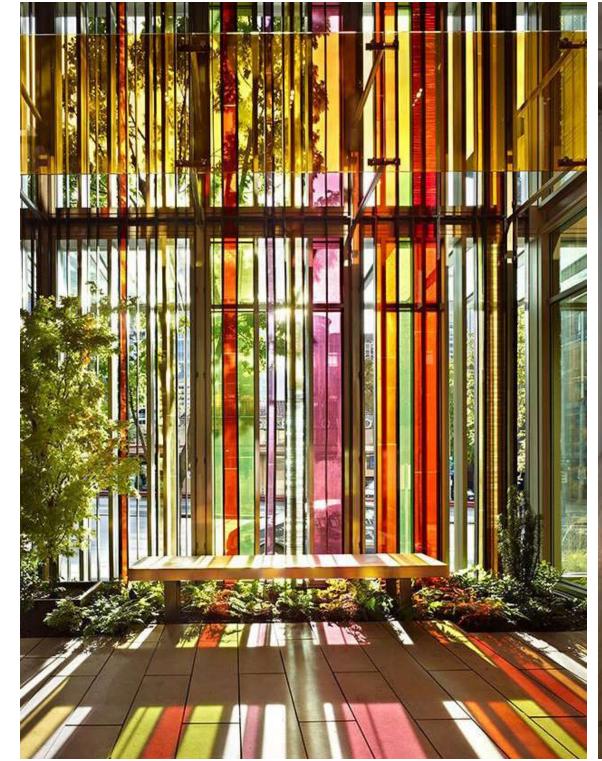


sculptured pieces of ceramic bells



a series of wind chimes instrument made out of beautifully vertical strips of loose ceramic/porcelain tile pieces, from leftover construction projects, lined together to form a curtain of wind chimes





colour stained glass allowing light that passes through to create a mirage of colourful reflections



a curtain made of organza-like fabric allows light to be spilled over - mimicking a waterfall flow effect



a suncatcher made up of multi-faceted glass pieces that allows sunlight to refract and create a kaleidoscopic effect



light shining onto sculptural art pieces made out of coloured papers suspended in the air to create an iridescent whirlpool light effect on the floor



manipulation of light reflection and refraction to create a surreal landscape











Recycled material, for indoor & outdoor use features 2 positions - straight & ergonomic tilted ideal for working - straightens the pelvis & spine, improves blood circulation & stimulates brain concentration



Distinctive design with rounded edges which helps to prevent safety concerns,

comes in bright vivid colours that add on to a playful element

A simple and classic design style that creates a clean and For indoor & outdoor use sleek look. It can be stored under tables and stacked up

Stacking stools - FOTER

together, taking up minimal space

lightweight and easy to lift up and carry around

Mila Stacking chair - MAGIS



a playful feature and versatile element for stacking, shifting, sitting

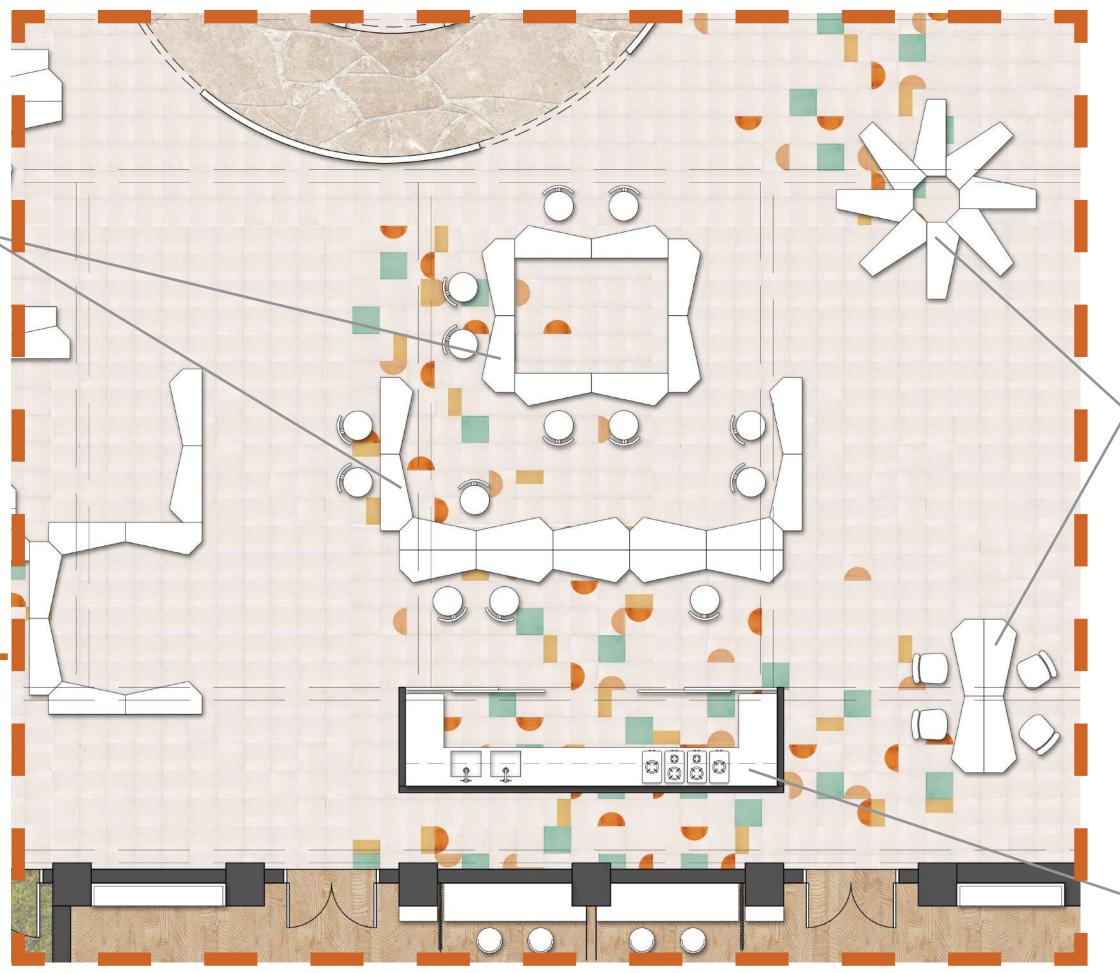
## **FABRIC CURTAIN** what's on the table? play on textures, colours, and senses PORCELAIN 'WOOD' FLOOR TILES PORCELAIN FLOOR TILES **EARTHY & GROUNDING** STONE FLOORING COOLING SPICY, STRONG **CERAMIC FLOOR TILES** 1000 CERAMIC FLOOR TILES **SMOOTH & SWEET** REFRESHING

# shaping...

the heart - main activity space



A linear table arrangement creates a cohesive and clean layout to facilitate large group activities and events such as dinner and creative workshops.



**GROUND FLOOR ZOOM IN PLAN** 

Some of the small table arrangements near the secondary entrance can serve as reception and admin.

The kitchen prep area consists of basic kitchen amenities and appliances required for cooking and baking.

## weekday layout

## Morning coffee and reading

passive and restful activities

## Afternoon games and club events

physically and socially engaging activiti

## Evening dinner and movie parties

socially engaging activitie

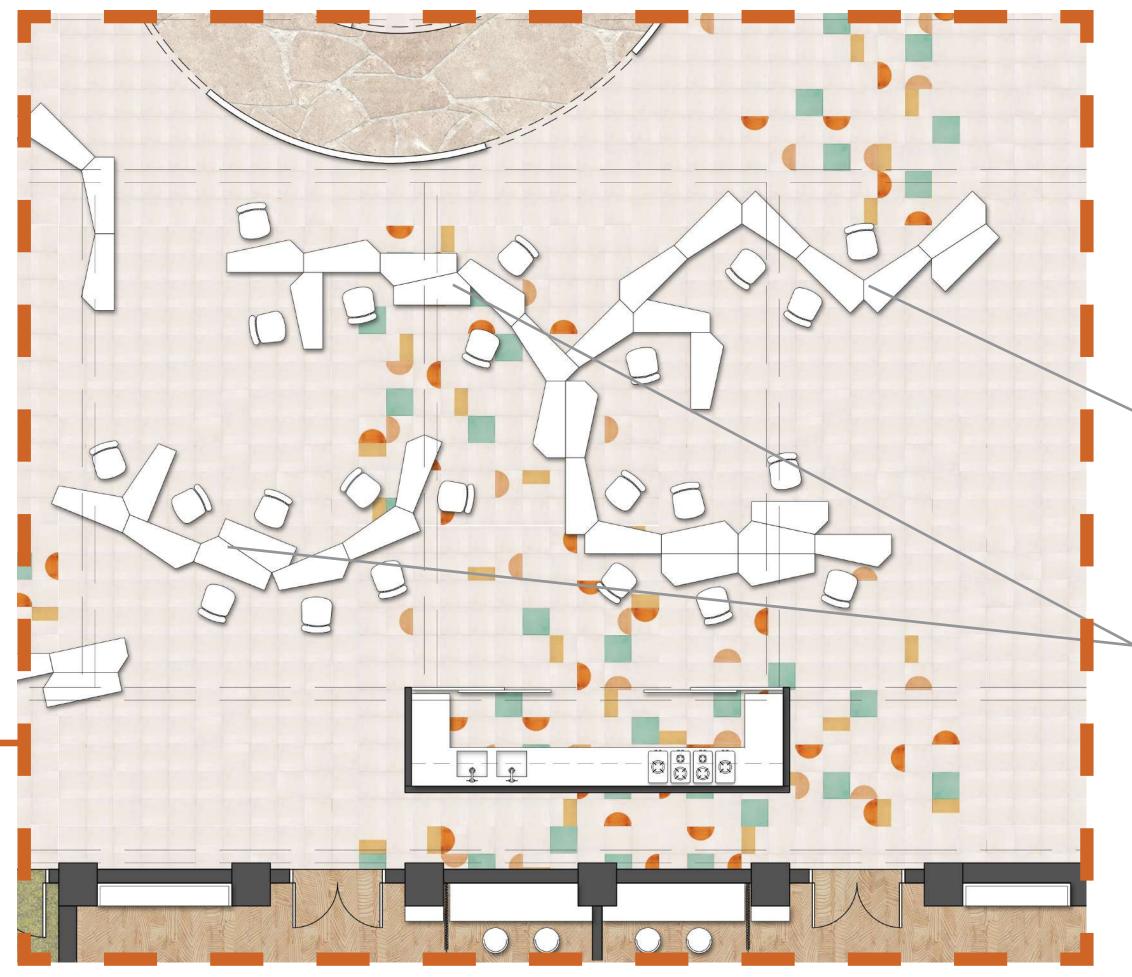
**GROUND FLOOR KEY PLAN** 

# shaping...

the heart - main activity space



**GROUND FLOOR KEY PLAN** 



Specific angles in a polygonal table layout can create more secluded, private corners.

Hybrid arrangements allow a free-flow way to branch out into varied formations as well as an organic way to enhance social engagements.

## weekend layout

## Morning yoga and gardening

nature based activities

## Afternoon creative workshops

mentally stimulating and socially engaging activitie

## Evening cookout and meditation

w intensity activities

# depicting...

a day in the social retreat

#### 1 CORRIDOR

Users move fluidly between the corridor and activity spaces through organically shaped cut-out openings.

#### 2 THE HEART

One of the main activity spaces adapting throughout the day, with layouts reconfigured based on the nature of each event.

#### **3 SECONDARY ENTRANCE**

Tables near the entrances serve as registration points, welcoming newcomers and providing an overview of the day's programs.

#### **4** KITCHEN PREP AREA

Partition screens allow ventilation for the kitchen prep area when in use and neatly enclose the space when inactive.

#### **5 CEILING TREATMENT**

Rice paper lanterns above emit a soft, ambient glow, evoking the gentle presence of floating, ethereal clouds.

#### **6 TAPESTRY ART WALL**

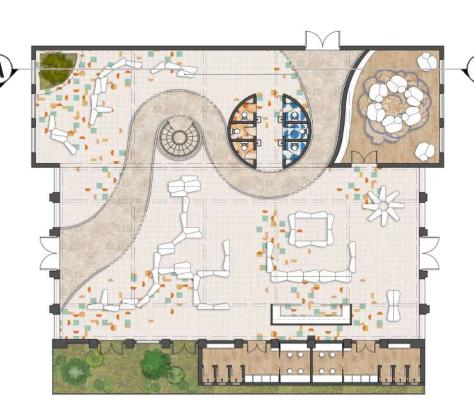
Some of the artworks done from community creative workshops are decorated on the walls as feature pieces.

#### **7 SHOWER FACILITIES**

Shower facilities are located along the side of the building, partially screened by the kitchen prep area to ensure privacy and maintain separation from the main activity zones.



#### **GROUND FLOOR KEY PLAN**



The garden beds above has a layer of greenery and glass panel below it that creates a natural skylight for the library on the ground floor.

#### The new roof structure gives a high ceiling volume at the Loft Deck and Herb Haven. The new row of windows provides ample natural sunlight into the spaces.

The boundaries of the corridor consists of a 'dream-like' curtain that is curated out of soft fabric strips and wind chime tubes - intended to create a soft rustling and serene soundscape as users walk through the space. Cut-outs of the curtains indicate entry points that allow people to flow in and out of the activity spaces.

#### **MEZZANINE FLOOR KEY PLAN**





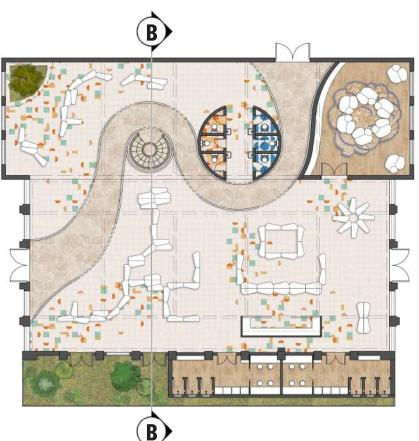


section A - perspective view

The public restrooms are separated into two sides - 3 cubicles on each side. The use of colours intentionally creates two separate 'warm and cool' settings.

The quadrant cut out on the corner of the space accomodates for a tall tree that goes up to the mezzanine floor, while also bringing spatial connection between the two levels.

#### **GROUND FLOOR KEY PLAN**

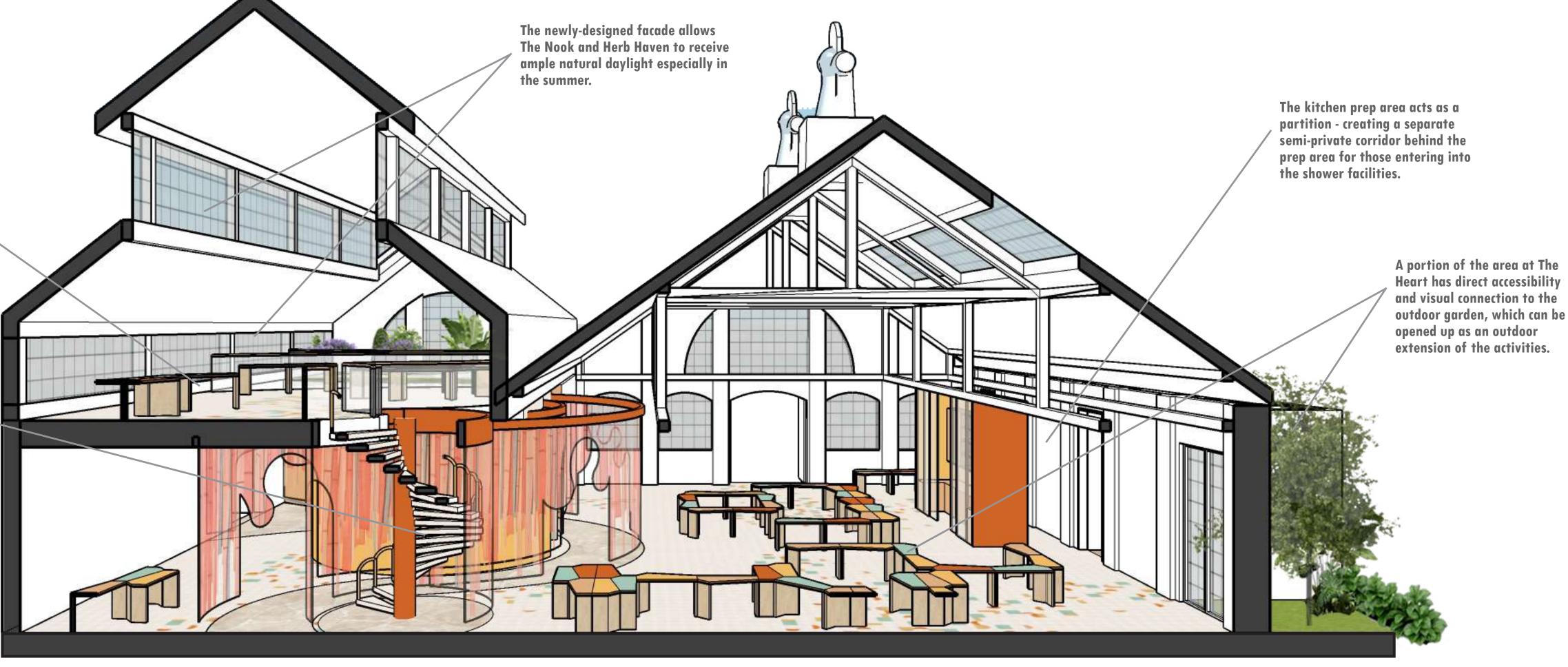


The mezzanine level above
The Nook is separated from
the main space at The Heart,
allowing a semi-private area
for more restful activities.
It can potentially be used as
refuge space for the
homeless shelter program
that runs on Friday to
Sunday evenings.

## **MEZZANINE FLOOR KEY PLAN**



The spiral staircase is also covered around by the curtain, creating a more seamless spatial connection and design language with the corridor.



## section B - perspective view



What's YOUIT table the day