By Bristy Pathan

Syn City Cultural Landscape Thesis Project

A home, a collective, a cultural sanctuary, where Joseph Conrad is the main protagonist of the literature museum. The museum begins with being a storytelling museum, of the journey of Joseph Conrad through his experiences and his novels, the word within his books form the architecture. The museum is dedicated to his journey and allows writers from the local community to come together and create a sanctuary for writers to live and practice their craft. Publishing their book within the scheme itself, where there is printing studio and book making workshops. The work is created within the museum and exhibited in the museum and distributed within the Kent Downs.

Retaining the cultural heritage of the Kent Downs and enhancement of the literature within its context is our projects main aim, as Joseph Conrad resided in Bishopsbourne, in Oswalds House during the later years of his life, we bring authors, writers within his home as writers in residence to spread their knowledge. The Literature Museum becomes, a archive for Joseph Conrad and has a library of books from many different authors, while encouraging a community of authors and professors to come together and pass the knowledge on to the younger generation, we work with the local school and community and provide workshops. The storytelling museum becomes a journey, through experiences and words.

The programme revolves around three different building the main building being the Joseph Conrad museum, where we are taken through a journey of Joseph Conrads life, lived experiences, stories and novels he wrote exhibited within the architecture. The screen-printed façade becomes a monument within the landscape, imitating the curves of the landscape through the curved façade, the architecture fundamentally stands out in the landscape being the element that draws people in. The second building is the library which stores and archives book, novels, poems within the building, follows the blueprint of the museum, the library allows resident writers to write and publish their own books, as there are book-making, printing workshops. The arrangement of these two building through plan allow a flow of people coming into the museum to experience a journey, then it lead out through a spiral staircase toward the library, as we exit the library we are confronted by the Oswalds House, a home for resident writers and archive which has many Joseph Conrads belongings, artifacts, these are often displayed within the museum.

The structure of the Joseph Conrad Storytelling museum revolved around aluminium curtain wall system, a mainly glulam, a timber framed structure at a increment 6m x 6m grid, supported by traditional carpentry joints like mortise and tenon or half laps. The building will have a central concrete core which will enhance the structural integrity of the building, with cross laminated timber floors and roof. The facade will seamlessly wrap around the building, supported by steel floor plates that wraps around. The facade will be screen-printed upon making the façade becomes a canvas of Joseph Conrads words, quotes and artworks from his novel, this will create the exhibition within the building, as the whole floor plan encourages and direct people to walk around the façade, creating experiential spaces throughout.

This project seeks not only to preserve and honour Conrad's legacy, but to foster a living literary culture. By combining exhibition, production of books, education, and the writers retreat, the museum becomes an evolving narrative, one authored by the community it serves. It is a place where stories are not only told, but created, and where literature continues to shape and be shaped by the landscape of the Kent Downs.



he museum begins with being a storytelling museum, of the journey of Joseph Conrad through his experiences and his novels, the word within the books form the architecture. There is a headquarters created for Joseph Conrad, his connection to Kent Downs, dedicated to his journey and allows writers from the local community to come together and create a sanctuary for writers to live and practice their craft. Publishing their book within the scheme itself, where there is printing studio and book making workshops. The work is created within the museum and distributed within the Kent Downs.

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A collage looking into Joseph Conrad's novels, through the book covers.

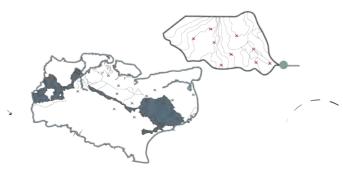


Mr. Joseph W.

THE STORYTELLING MUSEUM WILL BE EXPLORING THE LIVE, AND WORK OF JOSEPH CONRAD.



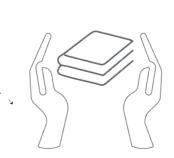
THE STORYTELLING MUSEUM & HEADQUATER BRINGING THE AUTHOR COMMUNITY TOGETHER, AS A WRITERS RETREAT FOR JOSEPH CONRAD.



SPREADING KNOWLEDGE AND BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER FROM KENTDOWN, LOCATED IN BISHOPSBOURNE NEXT TO THE HOUSE OF THE WRITER JOSEPH CONRAD. WE CREATE A HEADQUATER TO HONOUR HIS JOURNEY.



A EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION SPREADING KNOWLEDGE, WORKING WITH THE LOCAL SCHOOLS, CREATING YOUNG WRITERS AND AUTHORS, A COMMUNITY.



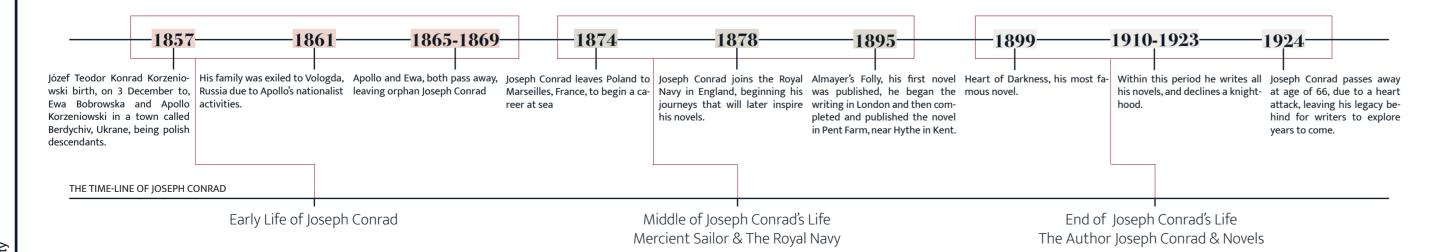
THE INSTITUTION PRESERVES THE ARCHIVE, BOOKS & HISTORY OR HERITAGE OF KENT DOWNS.



THERE WILL BE AN ARCHIVE OF HISTORIC BOOK AND MANUSCRIPS INCLUDING JOSEPH CONRAD AND THE LIBRARY OTHER WILL HOLD OTHER AUTHORS INVOLVED IN LITERATURE IN THE KENT DOWNS.



The Timeline in which the exhibition spaces would be exhibited.



Joseph Conrad, born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski in 1857 in Berdychiv, then part of the Russian Empire, was a writer of remarkable depth whose life journey epitomized resilience and creative genius. Orphaned as a child after enduring the political exile and tragic deaths of his parents, Conrad's formative years were marked by hardship and displacement. Yet, these early struggles imbued him with a profound understanding of the human condition, a theme that would later define his literary endeavours.

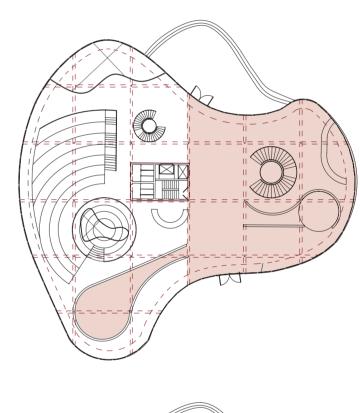
In his youth, Conrad sought adventure at sea, leaving behind his homeland to navigate uncharted waters—both literal and metaphorical. Embracing the vast expanse of the world's oceans, he not only mastered the art of seafaring but also the English language, transforming it into the expressive vehicle for his powerful narratives. His maritime experiences became the foundation of works such as \*Heart of Darkness\* (1899), a haunting critique of imperialism, and \*Lord Jim\* (1900), an introspective exploration of honour and redemption.

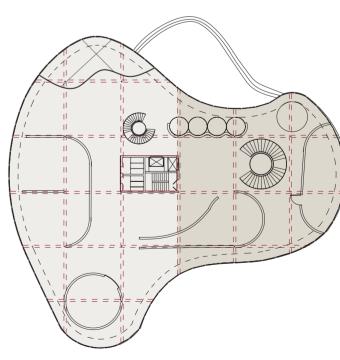
Conrad's life was a testament to the complexities of identity and the triumph of creativity over adversity. Though he gained recognition as one of the greatest novelists of his time, he remained deeply humble, exemplified by his refusal of a knighthood in 1921. He passed away in 1924 in the quiet English village of Bishopsbourne, leaving behind a literary legacy that continues to inspire reflection on the human spirit's strength and frailty.

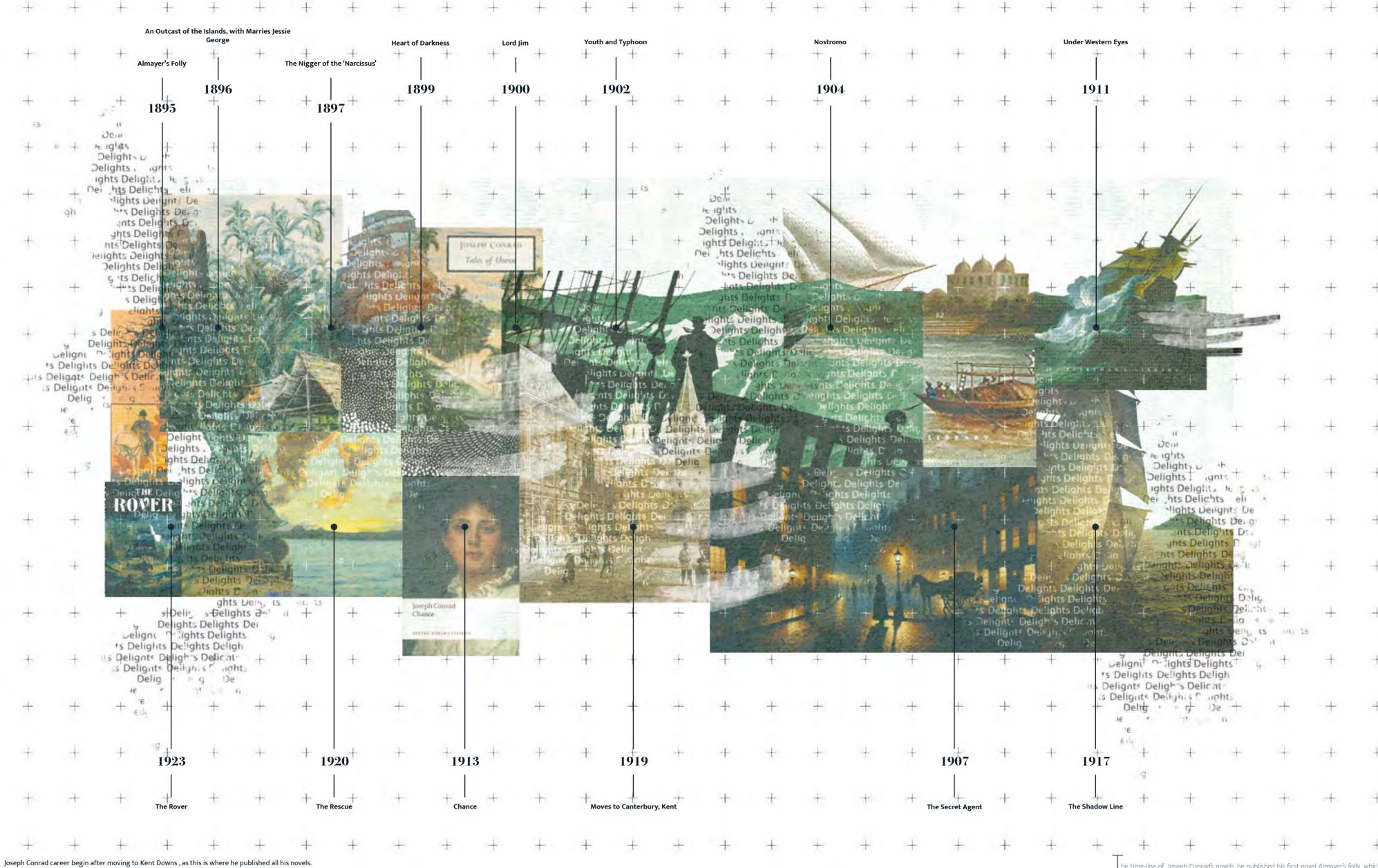
Through this collage I am trying to explore multiple aspect of Conrad's journey through his life, his career and livelihood.

## THE ARRANGEMENT OF PLAN & FUNCTION

The scheme is curated through Joseph Conrad time-line of events that occurred throughout his life, in chronological order, we begin with his early life, in Ukraine, being displaced because of his father exile. Then we explore his life as a sailor, where he travelled the world and was inspired in a lot of his novels. Finally his later life, where most of his novels were written.



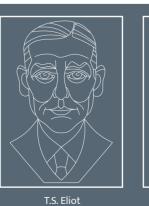


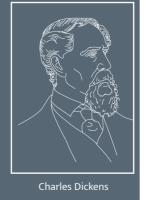




















tion to these areas.







Shakespeare.

A series of writers that worked or seek inspiration in the Kent Down.

Understanding the historical heritage of Kent Downs. There is a headquarters created for Joseph Conrad and other others such as: Charles Dickens; Chaucer; TS Eliot; and William Shakespeare, all authors connected to Kent or inspired by Kent Downs and the White Cliffs. These writers work will be present within the library and the archive will be dedicated to Joseph Conrad. A storytelling museum inspiring the future generation.

Kent, a county steeped in literary splendour, has long been a muse for some of the world's most celebrated authors. Charles Dickens held an enduring affection for the region, weaving its landscapes and characters into the fabric of David Copperfield and The Pickwick Papers. Today, his legacy is elegantly preserved at the Dickens House Museum in Thanet, the Guildhall Museum in Rochester, and the enchanting Dickensian Festival.

The Isle of Thanet has cast its spell on literary greats, inspiring Wilkie Collins' The Woman in White, John Buchan's thrilling The 39 Steps, and T.S. Eliot's masterful The Waste Land. In Canterbury, Geoffrey Chaucer immortalized the city in The Canterbury Tales, while Christopher Marlowe's bold dramatic genius is forever tied to his birthplace.

Port Lympne Mansion stands as a testament to artistic gatherings, hosting luminaries such as George Bernard Shaw and Vita Sackville-West, while the verdant beauty of Tunbridge Wells provided inspiration for the works of Edward Morgan Forster and the inimitable Jane Austen. Not far away, Charles Darwin's transformation On the Origin of Species was crafted at Down House, and Shakespeare's poetic lens captured the majesty of the White Cliffs of Dover in King Lear.

Kent's timeless charm, rich cultural heritage, and breathtaking landscapes continue to captivate, nurturing creativity and leaving an indelible mark on the literary world.

loads and Connection Areas of Interest for Literature, Authors & Writers

## Areas of Archaeological Interest

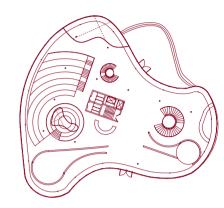
Ditches, pits and negative crop-marks
Earthworks; defensive or field banks

tanks
Surfaces: area built or excavated

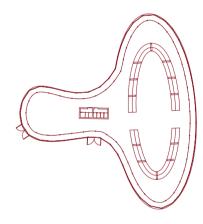


Museum // Archive // Home // Library

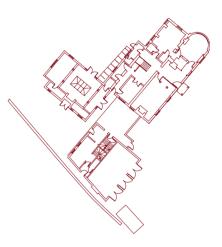
- Joseph Conrad Storytelling Museum, the building of interest through this report.
- Library with similar structure and
- system to the museum.
  The Oswalds House, Joseph Conrads home of resident, retaining the existing building, eventually becoming the writers retreat.



1. The Museum for Joseph Conrad

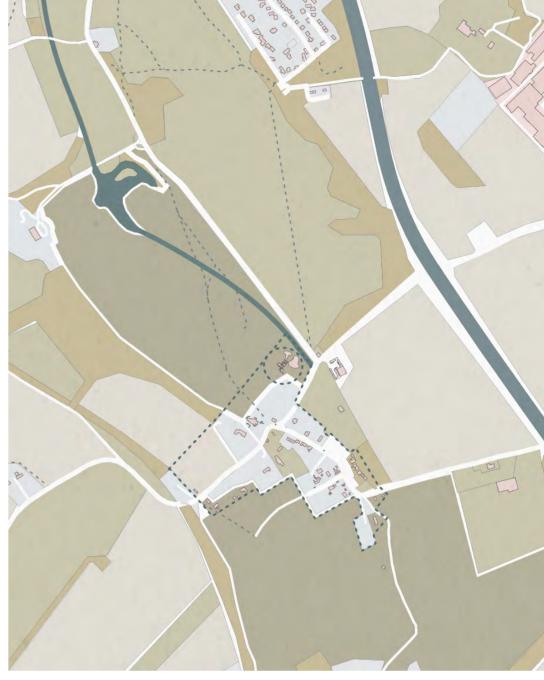


The Library / Workshop / a place for writers to write



3. The Onswall House / Retreat for writers / Archive











The aerial view of the literature museum, positioned next to the Oswalds House, and St Mary's Church.



he Oswalds House and site plan, understanding the location, the site is right next to St Mary's Church, Bishopsbourne.

The areal shows the site in context, the scheme being split into three components:

- 1. The Joseph Conrad Museum
- 2. The Library
- 3. The Archive, Joseph Conrads house, a home, a retreat for contemporary writers

The arrangement of the building stems from the museum being the very first building that we enter, then there is a courtyard that leads to the library, the library exit is directed toward the Oswald House, the home for resident writers, this building is in the middle, giving access to both the Joseph Conrad Storytelling Museum and the library.

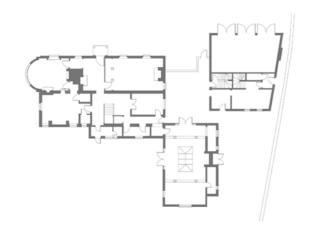


Typography, Geology, Soil Build up

Solids and Voids

Head-Silt and Gravel

Seaform Chalk Formation
Clay with Filt Formation - Clay, salt, sand and gravel
Alluvium - Clay, Salt, Sand and Gravel
Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation





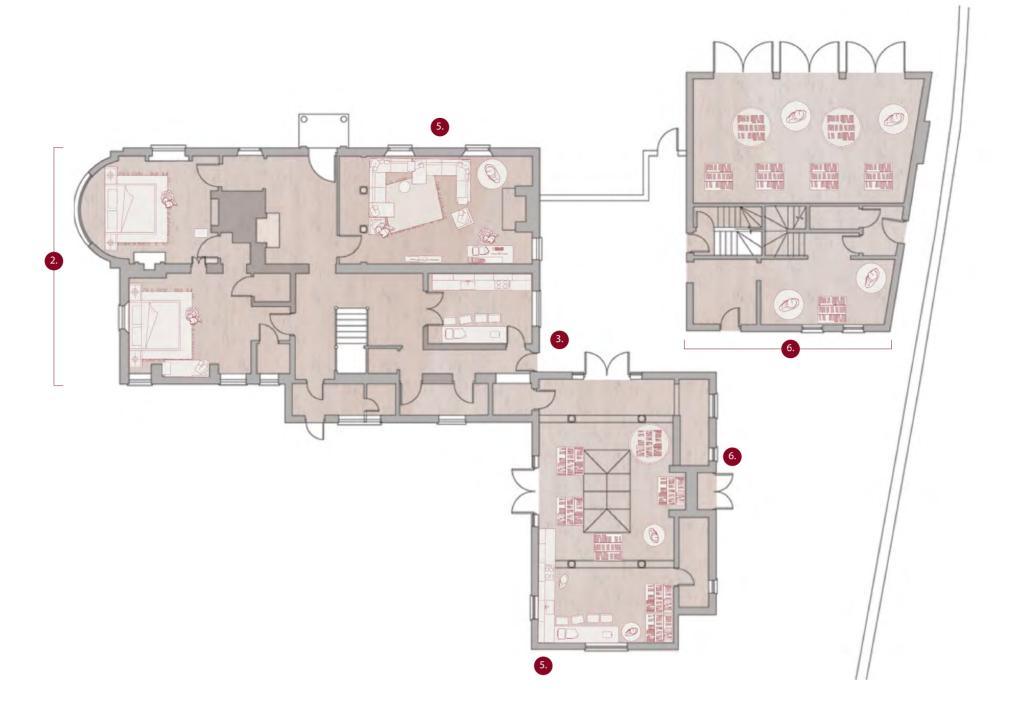


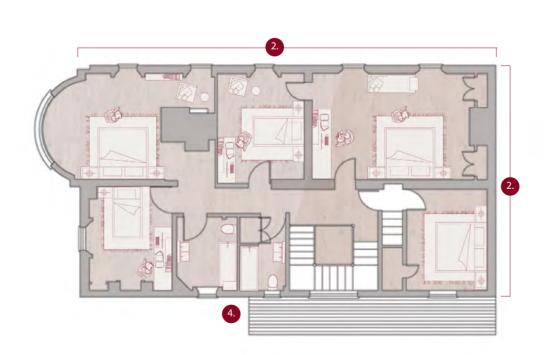


Understanding the typography in more depth, looking into the solids and voids; the contour present within the site; topography; and the build up of the site.

The elevation of Joseph Conrads last place of residence before he passed away. The building contains original furniture pieces that Joseph Conrad used, like his original writing desk and other artifacts. The existing building will be retained my new built will be separate

The Oswalds House plan, understanding the spaces, a grade II listed building which is protected. The plan will retain as it is, a museum a archaeological site that is retained.



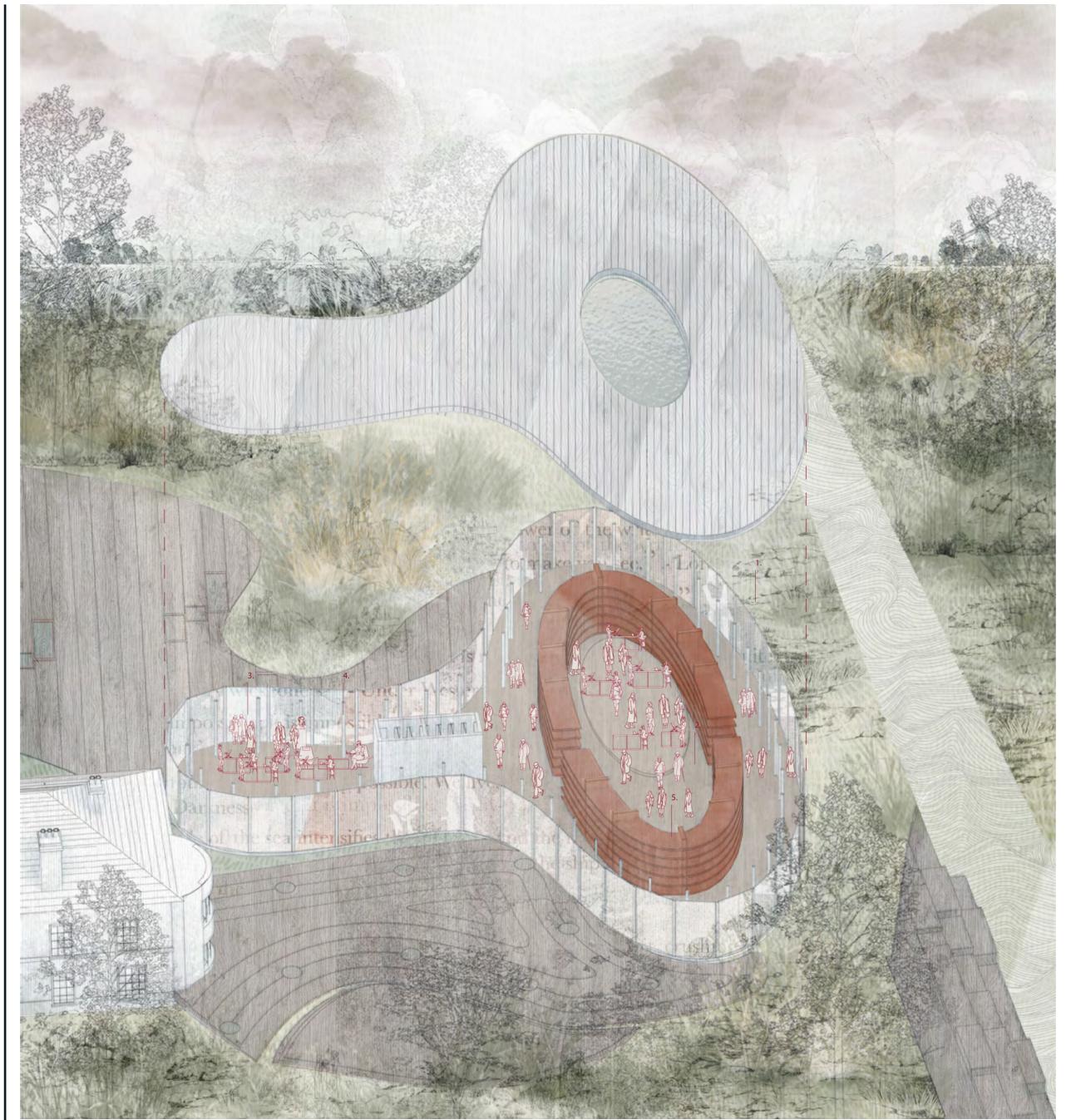


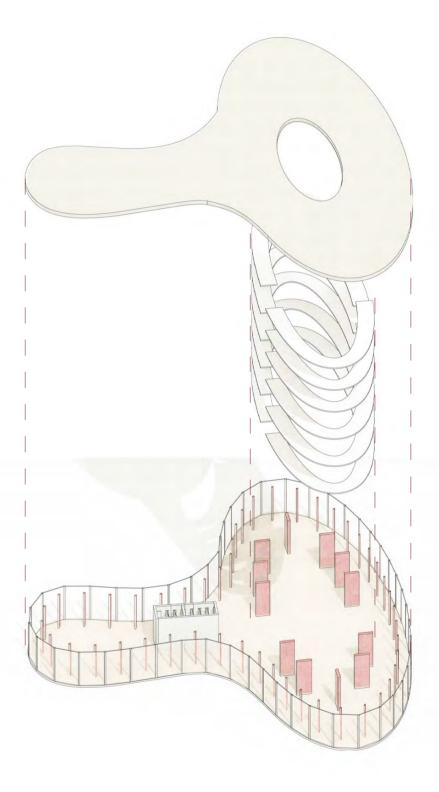


- En-suite
   Bedroom
   Communal Kitchen
   Bathroom
- 5. Living Room6. Archive for Joseph Conrad

A brief understanding of how the how the possible floor plan of the Oswalds House will look like, through plan.

The Oswalds House will remain as it is, without the change of floor plan, retaining its heritage, however, the upper portion of the house will be converted into a retreat and accommodation where resident writers can work and live within the place of residence of Joseph Conrad during the later part of his life. The ground floor becomes a archive of artifact used by Joseph Conrad, like his typewriter or desk where he made his novels, this is often displayed within the museum in rotation. Through this project we become part of Joseph Conrad's life and lived experience.

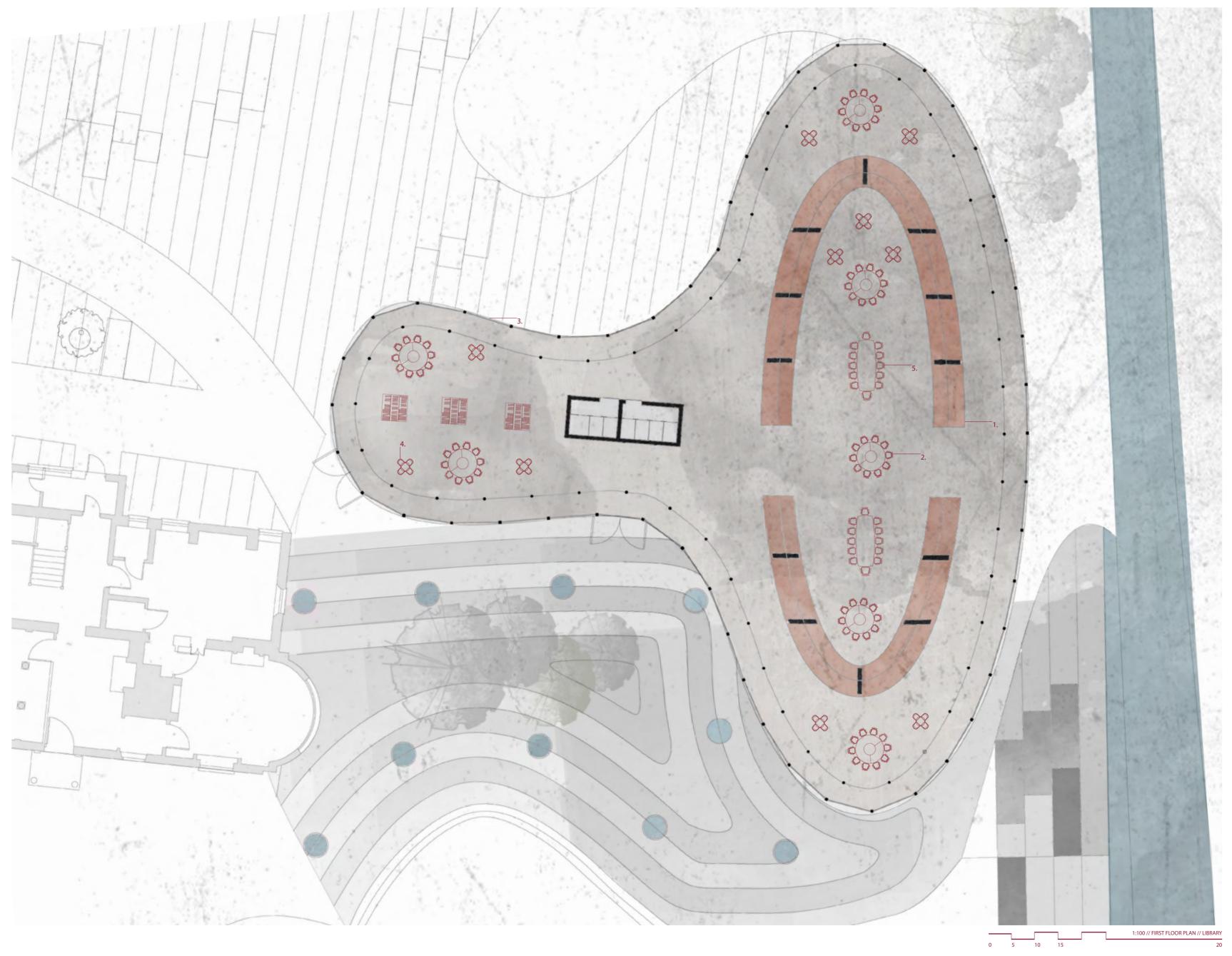




The timber core structure of the library where the shelfs and column support the whole struture with post next to the curtain wall facade system supporting the roof.

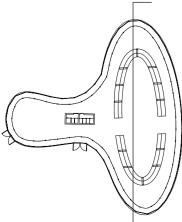
Conrad

The plan of the library, having a central structural element, which also is the central library used to archive and store books from the scheme and Joseph Conrad's books. The library is positioned in a way that it has views within the Kent Downs landscape allowing writer's to be inspired by the landscape while taking part in landscape writing, poems. Within this building there is book-making workshop, printing workshop, where resident writers are able to write books and publish their books, distributing them throughout the Kent Downs and publishing and storing within the library. The whole scheme becomes a place of exhibiting work, bringing together the local community.

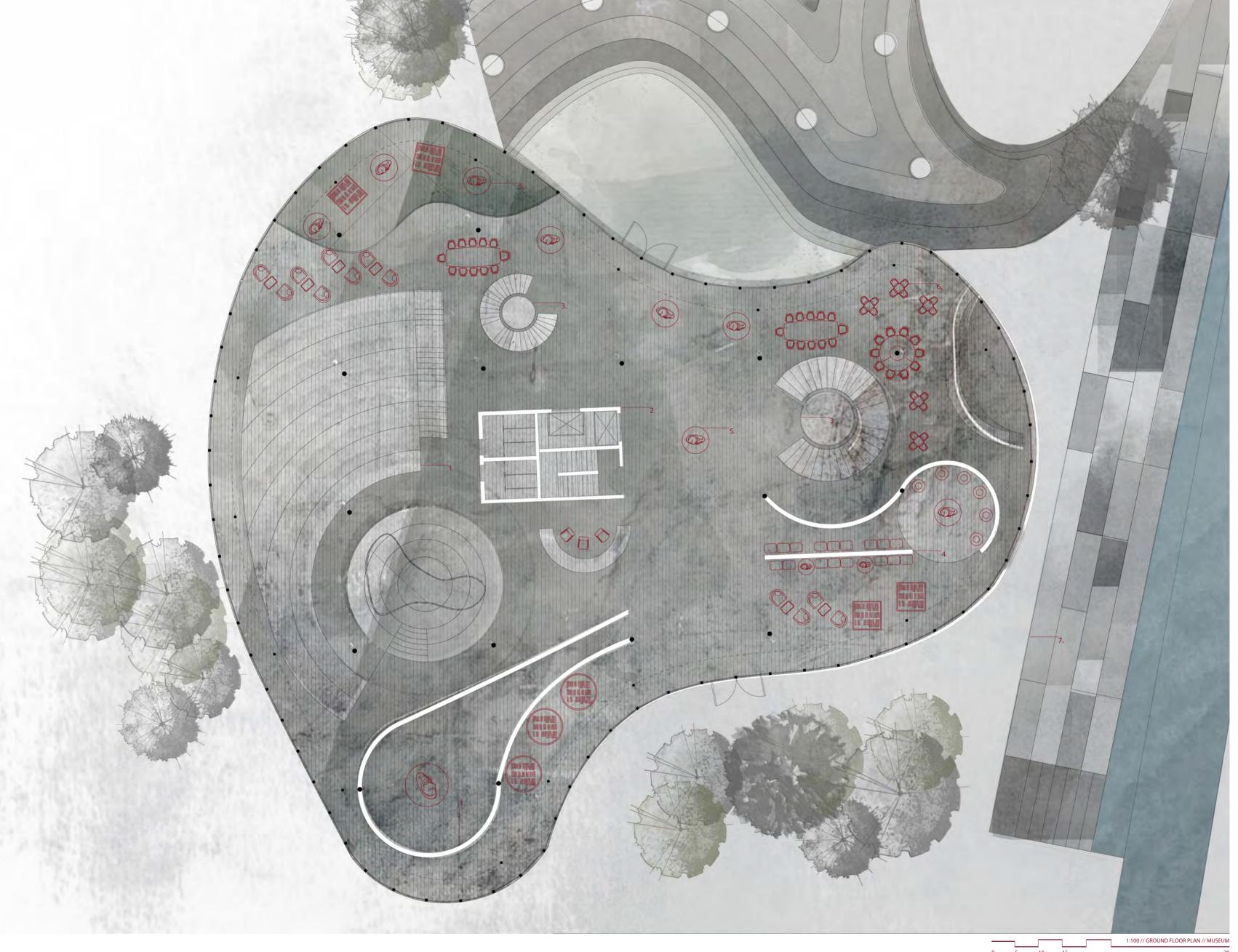


- Library of Joseph Conrad Workspaces Book-making workshop Printing workshop Spaces for writer to write, more private part of the scheme





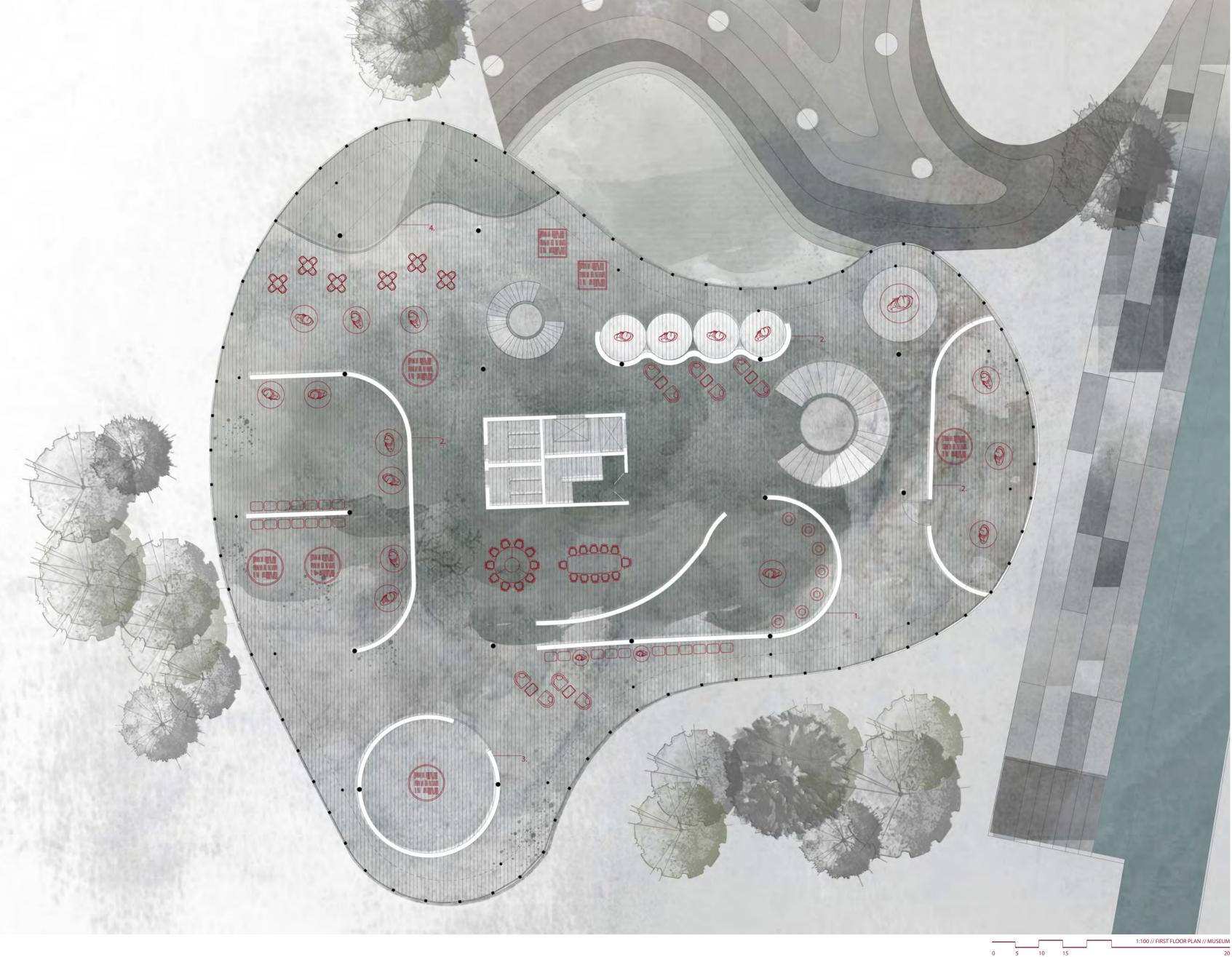
The transverse section through the buildings showing the main library area, primary for displaying books within the scheme, of Joseph Conrad and other contemporary writers within the Kent Down, Within the library there will be writing workshop, printing and bookmaking workshop, these book will be written, published within the scheme and distributed within the Kent Downs.



- Ampetheatre
   Central Utilities/ Lifts/

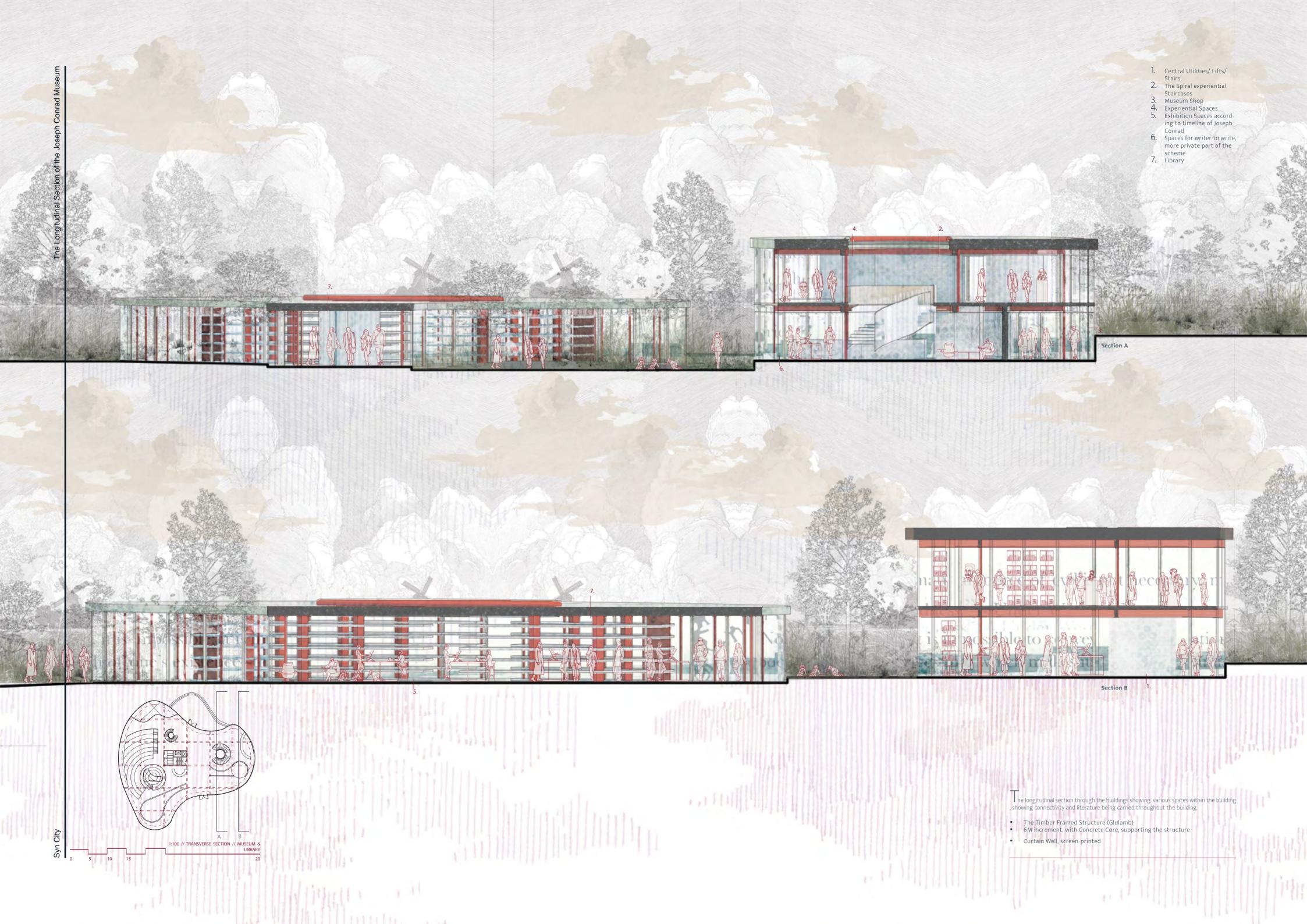
- Central Utilities/ Lifts/ Stairs
   The Spiral experiential Staircases
   Museum Shop
   Exhibition Space, present throughout the building
   Museum Cafe/ Bar
   Landscape Writing space / seating facing the river and Kent Down's Landscape

The floor plan encourages the audience to walk around the facade, all the walls being round within the building imitating the facade.



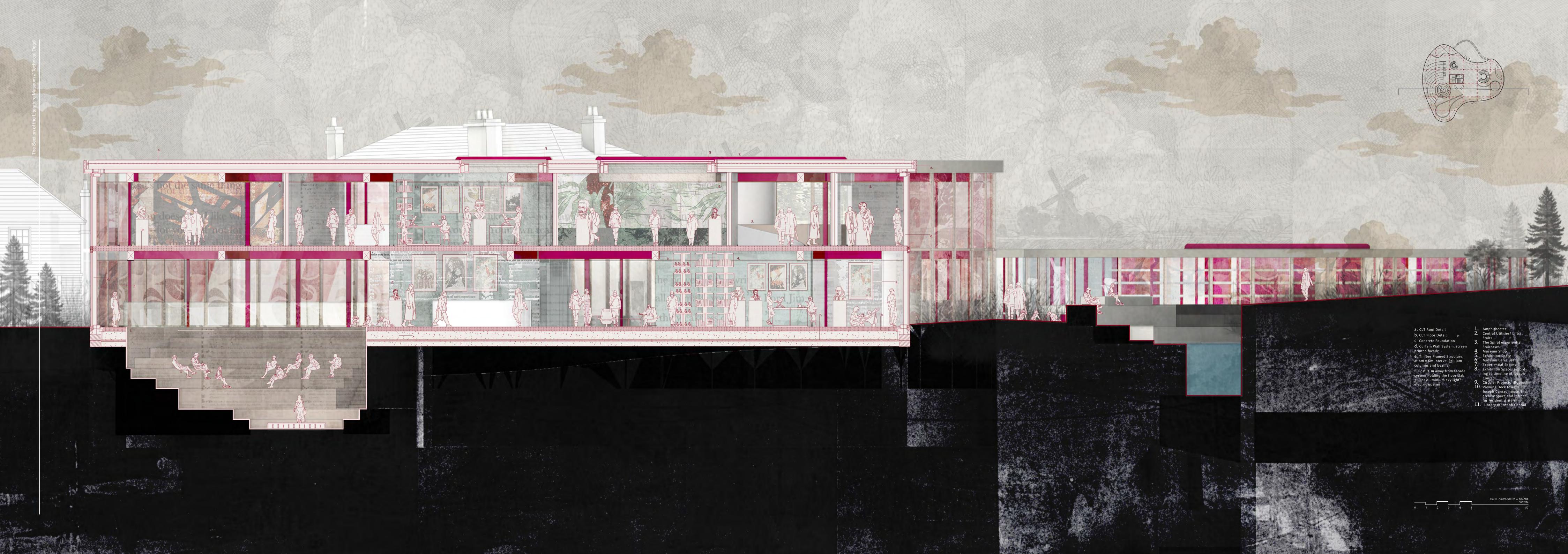
- Experiential Spaces, throughout the building
   Exhibition Spaces according to timeline of Joseph Conrad
   Circular Projector Room
   Viewing Deck toward Joseph Conrad house, the archive space and retreat for resident writers

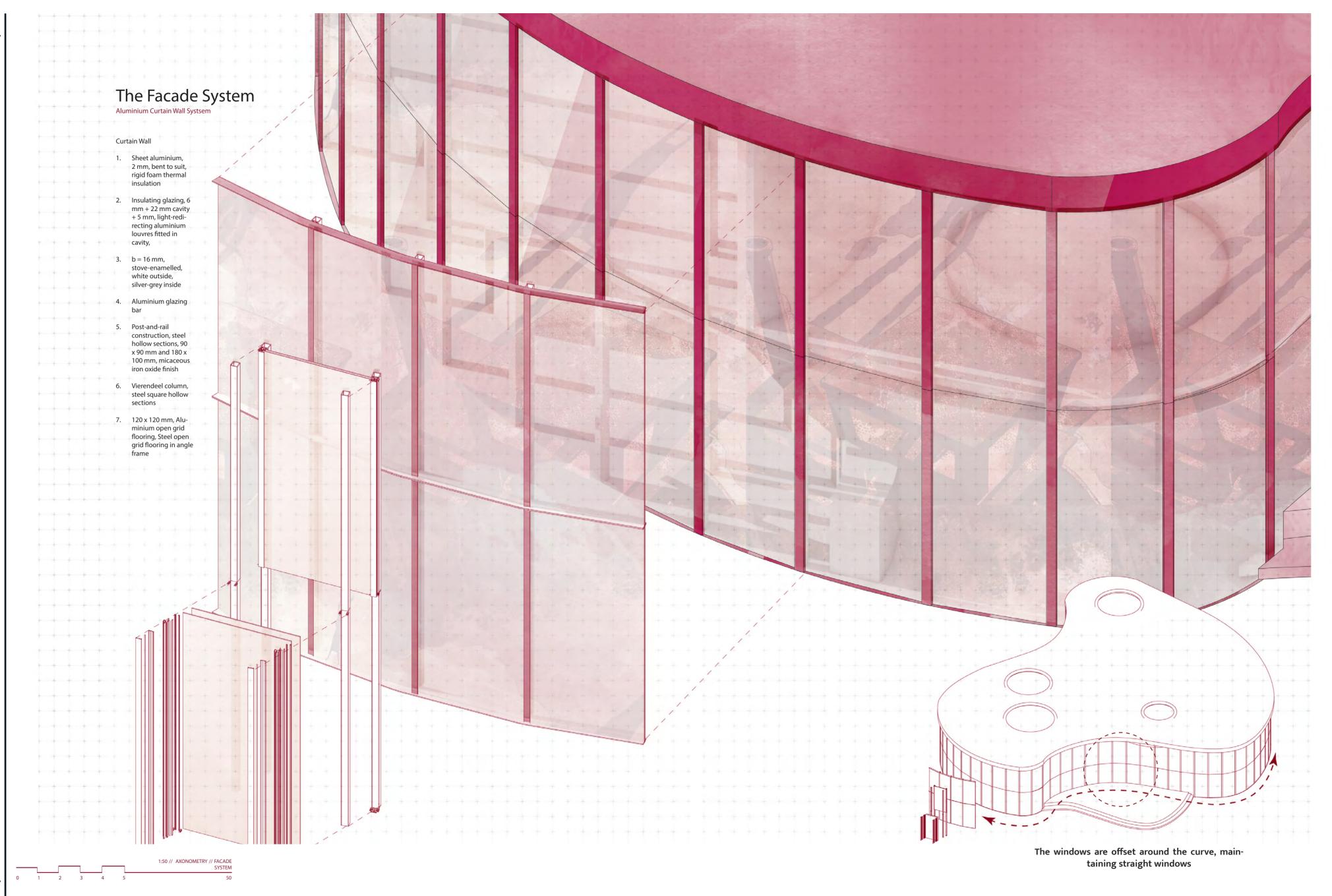
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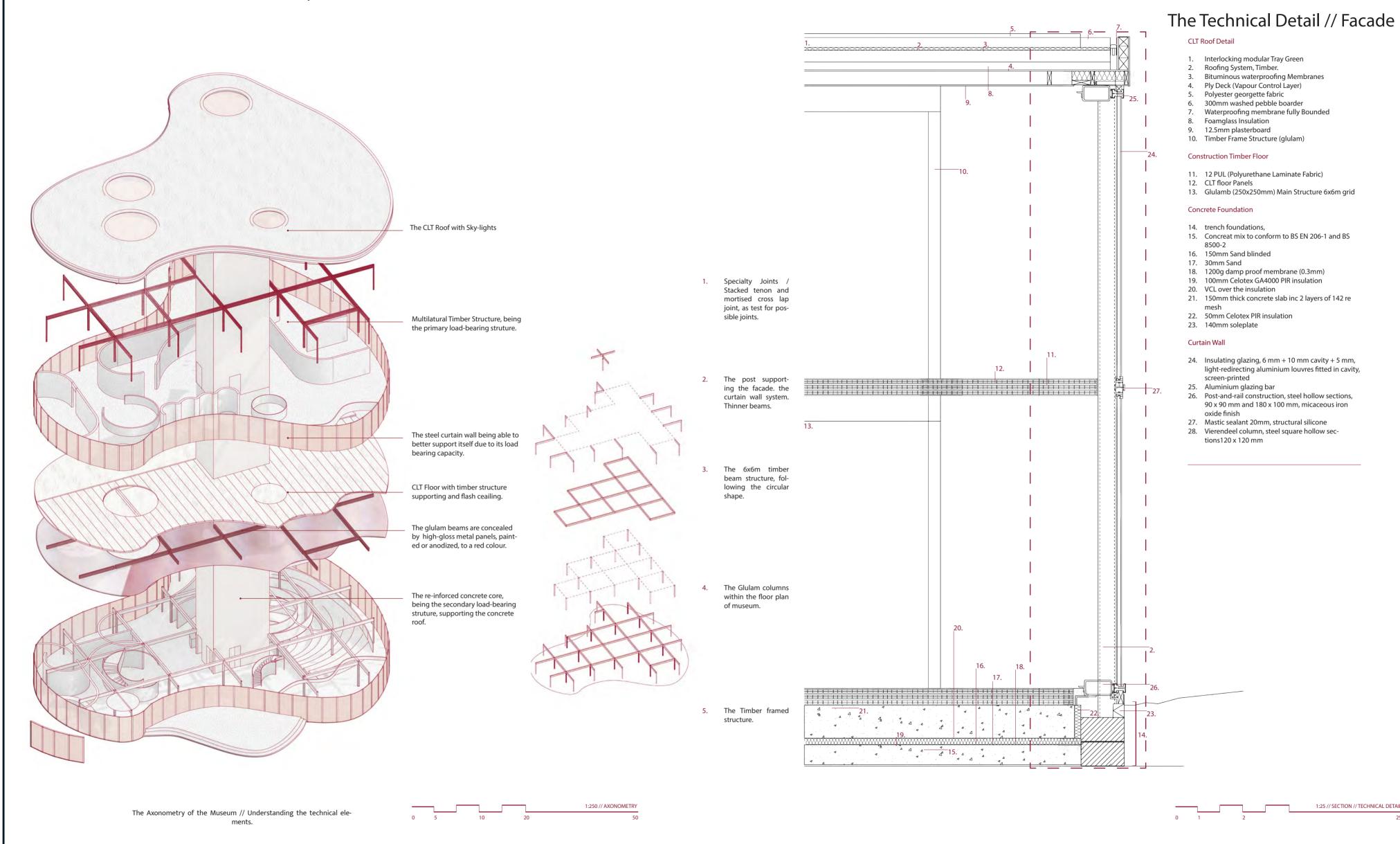
The screen-printed facade system, with curtain wall, exploring Joseph Conrad's novels, through words, quotes and artworks that explores Joseph Conrad's novels, the facade becomes a monument within the landscape bringing people together, a place for the community to gather.

The Exploded Axonometry, showing the various elements of the building with the movement throughout the building.





## The Structure of The Museum for Joseph Conrad





The main courtyard of the building looking into the river and landscape beyond, the screen printed facade frames the view through both the library building and the Joseph Conrad Storytelling Museum, within the scheme there are panoramic views of the landscape being framed by the screen printed facade.



This view focusses on the courtyard of the scheme, the central gathering space looking into the Kent Downs, the water from the river coming into the courtyard bringing a continuity within the space. The facade curves following the contour of the landscape, with the screen printed facade becoming the forefront of the scheme, becoming the main exhibition, with words slowly taking over the canvas of the building.



The Joseph Conrad museum, a curved curtain wall facade system, the main entrance of the building as the stairs leads the public into the museum. A monument within the land-scape bringing the community together within the ampetheatre of the sceme being the central gathering space.



The nature slowly takes over the screen printed facade system, becomes a monuments within the landscape. The curved facade is created through imitating the landscapes and it's contour, setting out views towards the landscape of Kent Down.



The library, where books are written, published, read and distributed within the Kent Downs. Within the library there are print-making and book making workshops, allowing authors and writer to write. This mainly is orientated toward the scenic landscape of the Kent Downs so writers can seek inspiration for their own writing and poem. The environment encourages creativity.

not necessary; men

evil is not necessary; men evil is not necessary; men stern Eyes

v the life-sensation cuth, its meaning

Chance

he central gathering space within the museum, the stairs which has sky-light straight above, creating an experiential space with the words creating shadows form the screen-printed facade. The sky-light is an element that guides the audience through the building through a curated exhibition following the lived events of Joseph Conrads life in chronological order.

The belief in a supernatur

and the of every wickedness. - Under Wo

No, it is impossible; it is impossible to convey the life-sensation of a

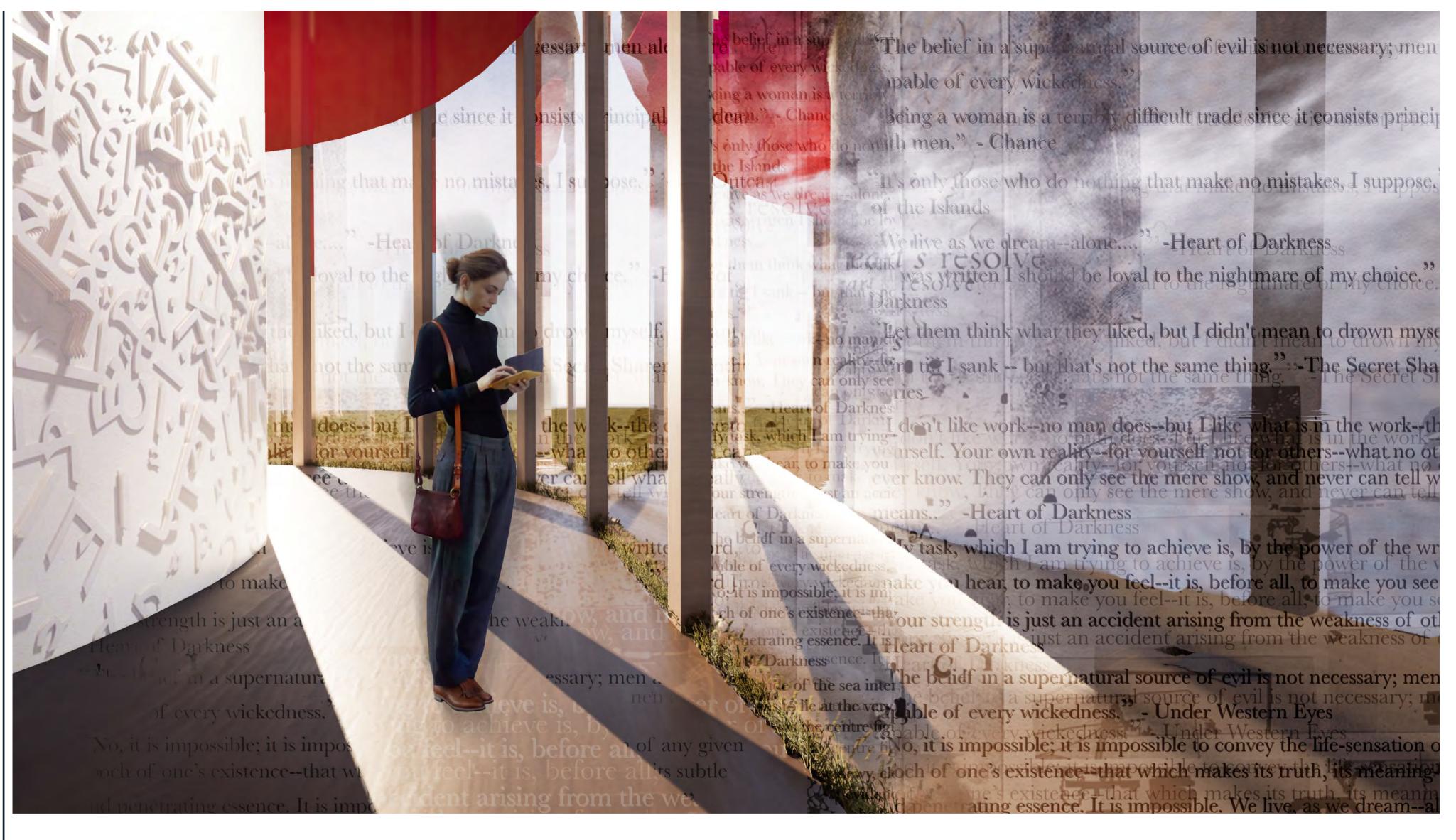
epoch of one's existence that which makes its truth, its meaning its



The sky-light becomes a key experiential space within the building, as it lead people towards the light, creating a moment of serenity, guiding the audience through the museum and many exhibition places, every element is curated with Joseph Conrads life in mind. Creating the journey through the museum, the light guides us through the expirience from the beginning to the end, the sky-light is present in all the key areas.



Looking into the landscape of the Kent Downs, as the screen-printed facade becomes the forefront, being a canvas for the author.



Throughout the walls of the building there will be words etched onto, every part of this scheme focussing on different novels written by Joseph Corad, exploring his life experiences, his word echoing throughout the building. There will also be shaddows of his writing from the screen-printed facade echoing through the architecture.

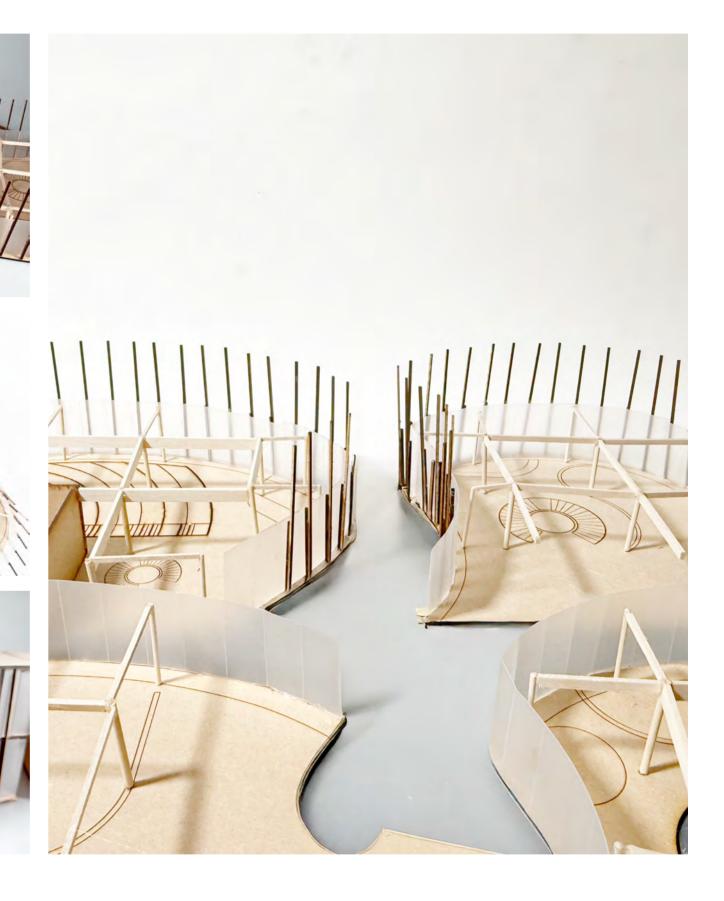


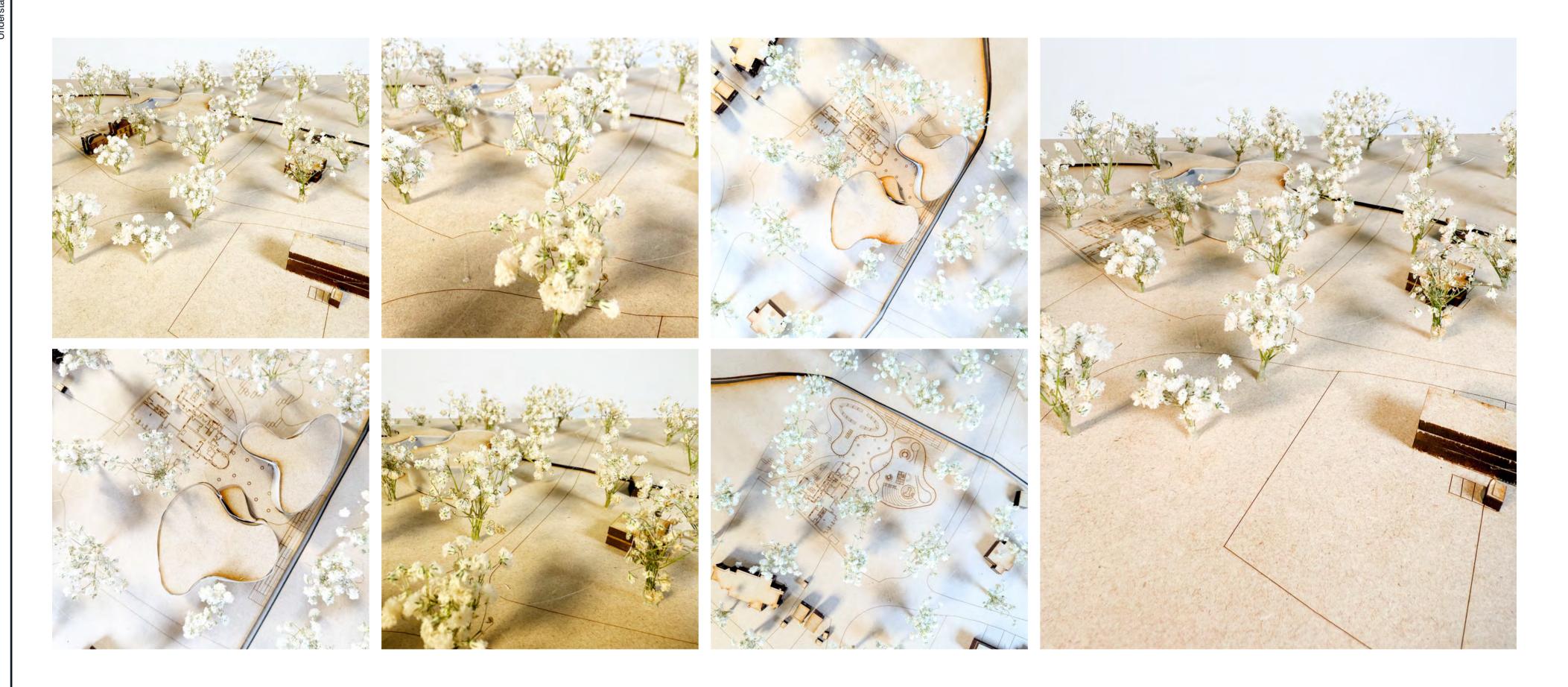
The viewing deck looking into the main amphitheatre becoming a place of gathering, also becoming and experiential space, a space to gain knowledge from, bringing together the community of Bishopsbourne.



The experiential spaces within the building, a hall-way with Joseph Conrad's artefact, or statues displayed within. These spaces throughout the scheme becomes exhibition spaces, as the audience gets inspired by Joseph Conrads life, and lived experiences, through his novels. The knowledge of literature and writing is spread within the Kent Downs.







 $\bigcup$  nderstanding the massing within the site, while understanding the site context. reflecting nature throughout the Kent Downs.