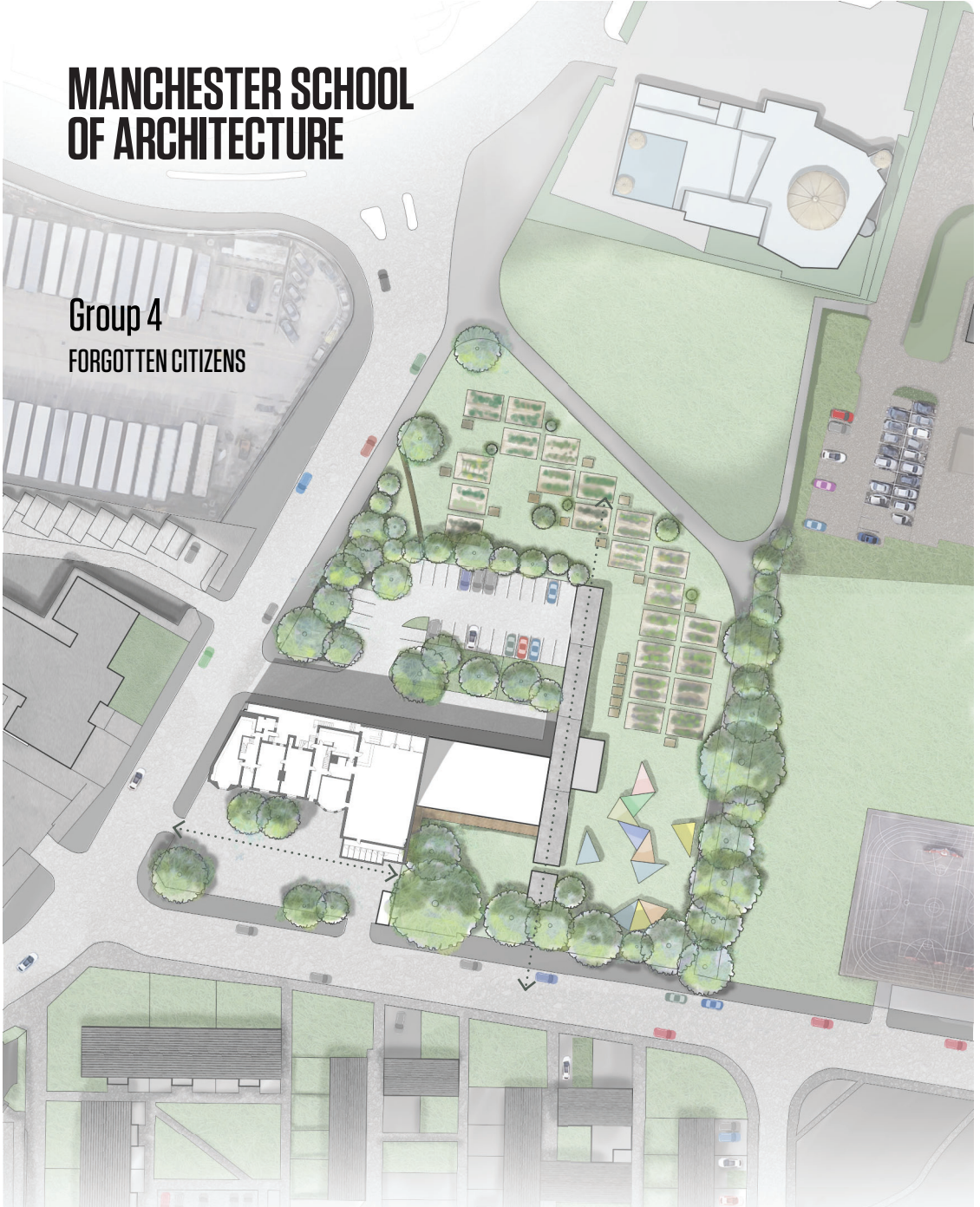


# MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Group 4  
FORGOTTEN CITIZENS



Visit [msa.ac.uk](http://msa.ac.uk) for more information



**MSA  
LIVE 21**

## Team

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## Partners

### WOAH & Cornerstone

This project consist of 2 different

WOAH (Without a Home) is a non-profit student design collective, predominantly focused on the issue of homelessness and all associated issues surrounding it, such as community, housing and poverty. It mainly consist of architecture students and have worked on both research and design projects alongside charities, ex-homeless artists and architectural firms. It came into existence in 2015 in reaction to the removal of the homeless encampment underneath the Manchester way, opposite the hatch development.

Cornerstone is a day centre in Manchester that provides services and accommodation to vulnerable adults. They welcome people from all backgrounds in the hope of increasing the quality of life of their clients. Bringing together vulnerable people helps to form a support system giving many adults a route back into society. Cornerstone is part of the Caritas Diocese of Salford charity that aims to free people from poverty and disadvantaged circumstances in Greater Manchester.

**WOAH**  
without a home

**Cornerstone**  
Caritas Diocese of Salford

# Agenda

## FORGOTTEN CITIZENS

Homelessness is real. Raising awareness in society is vital. Working in conjunction with WOAHA and Cornerstone, a day centre supporting vulnerable adults, this project will look into the causes and implications of urban homelessness and, over a two week workshop in May, develop creative proposals for the redevelopment of the Cornerstone centre whilst exploring and discussing new ways to tackle homelessness through systemic change and direct action.

It is estimated that over a quarter of a million people are homeless right now in the UK. Over the last 10 years this figure has been consistently rising, aggravated by austerity driven cuts to local services and now further by the Covid-19 pandemic. Individuals in such situations are often left behind by society and struggle to reintegrate; they become *forgotten citizens*. It is a significant and continuing problem and Manchester is considerably affected by the issue; rough sleepers can be seen throughout the city, though these people are the tip of the iceberg- approximately 1 in every 102 people in the city are classed as homeless, spanning a wide range of circumstances, often categorised into 'chronic', 'episodic' and 'transitional' in addition to 'hidden', which Crisis has estimated makes up to 62% of the figures. Despite this, local and national authority continues to fail to address the problem in an effective and enduring manner, with most policies acting simply as stop-gaps and charities increasingly relied upon to combat poverty.

# Background research

## Homelessness issue in Manchester

To gain a deeper understanding and more insight to the issue of homelessness in Manchester, the project was kick-started with investigating into 2 topics of homelessness in Manchester. The topics are **1) Reasons of homelessness**, **2) Types of homelessness**, **3) Homelessness demographics & policies** and **4) Support networks for homeless people**. These topics were specifically chosen to construct a better image and clearer understanding towards the existing situation of Manchester and they each provided a special angle that allow students to look differently at the situation, enabling them construct their personal views and thus ideas on how to improve the situation through architecture.

## Site analysis

To understand the site more, an indepth site analysis was conducted in aspects of the surrounding environment, its forces and points of interest as well as the history of the site, looking at opportunities and constraints that affect the design.

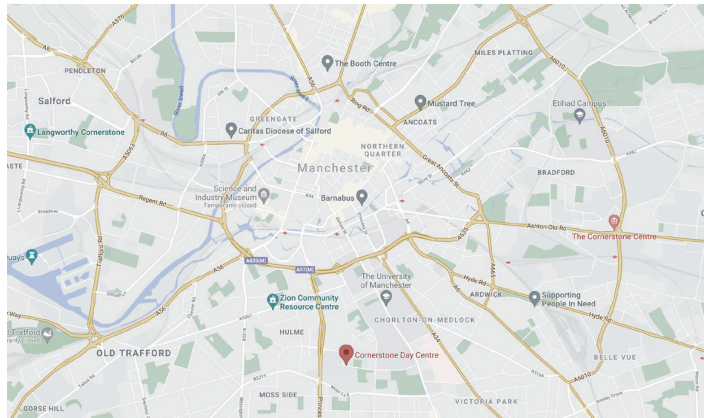
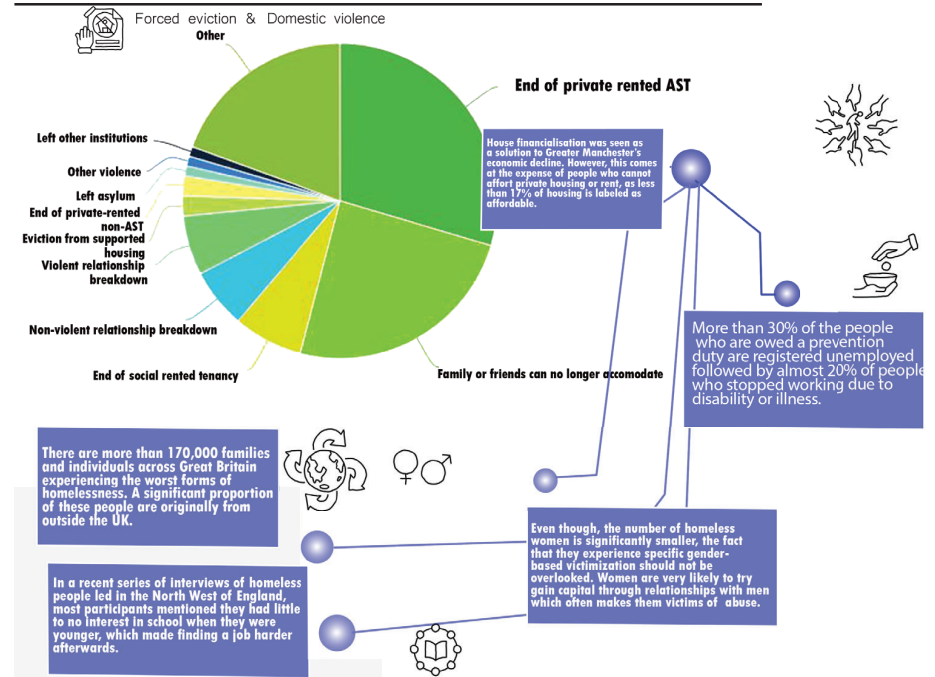


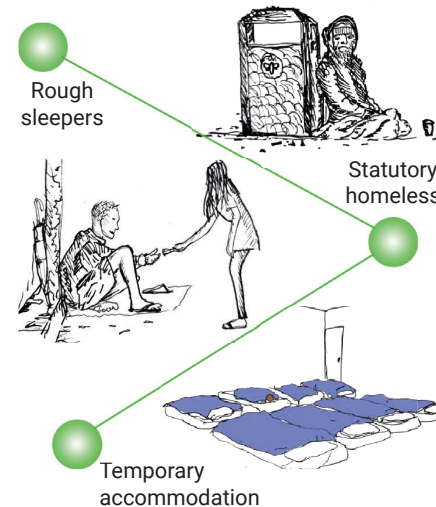
Image:  
The site of Cornerstone  
in relation with the  
Manchester city center  
[Source: Google Images]

## Reasons of homelessness

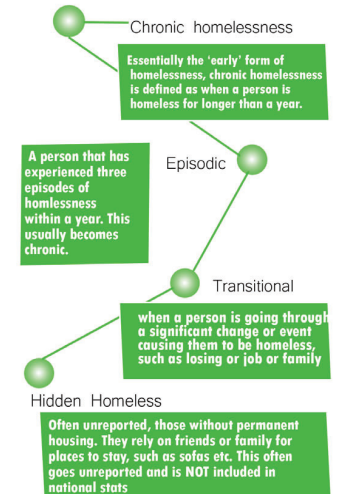


## Types of homelessness depending on...

Where:



When:



Hidden Homeless

Often unreported, those without permanent housing. They rely on friends or family for places to stay, such as sofas etc. This often goes unreported and is NOT included in national stats

# Homeless demographics & policies

## Policies

### Homelessness reduction Act (2017)

Duty of public sector bodies to refer those at risk or currently homeless



Tailored advice to meet the needs of different demographics



Temporary accommodation provided to priority groups



Definition of 'threatened with homelessness' changed from 28 days to 56 - changes those entitled to preventative duty



As a preventative and relief measure, assistance to help the homeless secure accommodation



## Support Networks

Improve my accommodation  
Make a house a home  
Make some friends  
Manage my money  
Improve my health  
Learn new skills  
Feel useful  
Find work

Poor physical / mental health  
Lack of skills and education  
Inadequate accommodation  
Unconfirmed legal status  
Lack of work experience  
Lack of confidence  
Unaware of rights  
Substance abuse  
Nowhere to live  
Social Isolation



Sustainable  
Better health  
Accommodation  
Improved resilience  
Economic Wellbeing  
Improved self-efficacy

Counselling  
121 Coaching  
Work placements  
Budgeting support  
Advocacy with GPs/Health  
Affordable and free Furniture  
Housing Advocacy and support  
Structure and Routine  
Practical work experience  
Free Breakfast/Lunches  
Arts and Activities

## Hierarchy of needs

1 Food



2 Shelter



3 Health



4 Education



5 Job



6 Leisure



## Demographics

### Age

<25



25-44



45<



### Ethnicity

White



Black



Asian



Mixed race



### Employment

Registered unemployment



Full time work



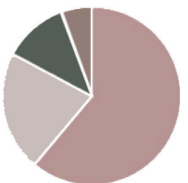
Not working due to long term illness/disability



Part time



Student training



## SITE ANALYSIS - ENVIRONMENT

There are different factors surrounding the site which affect the flow of people around it. For instance the presence of coffee shops, shops and fast food joints create points of attraction where the most people are likely to be found (these services are also readily used throughout the day). Hospitals, police stations and places of worship are less busy, and their close proximity to the site is both good and bad in the sense it allows for a more peaceful but less engaging environment. Beside Whitworth park, there is a severe lack of public green spaces important for physical and mental wellbeing, but they are a vital public place where people (homeless or not) can more easily connect together.

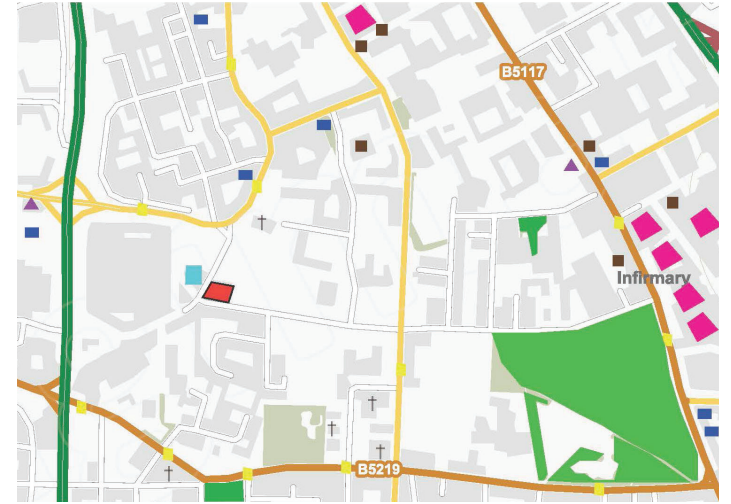


Image Top:  
Map with features listed out near the site

- KEY
- Bus Stops
  - Green spaces
  - Shops
  - Places of worship
  - Hospitals
  - Police stations
  - Coffee shops
  - Fast foods

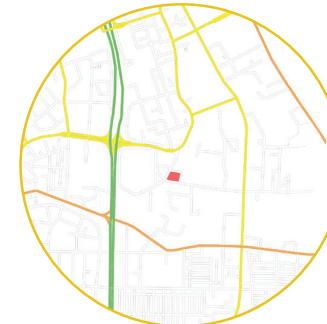


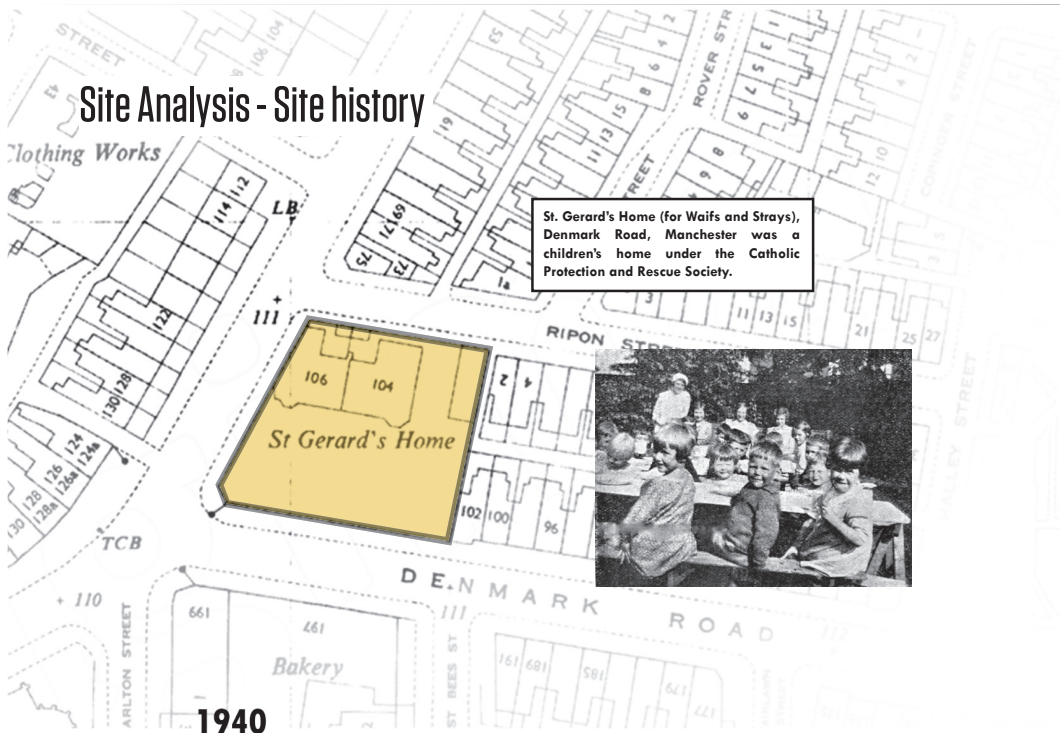
Image Bottom:  
(Top-Left): Figure ground map

(Top-Right): Green area around the site

(Bottom-Left): Road network map

(Bottom-Right): Solar and wind analysis

# Site Analysis - Site history



St. Gerard's Home (for Waifs and Strays), Denmark Road, Manchester was a children's home under the Catholic Protection and Rescue Society.



1940

# MANCHESTER



Cn. Charlie Hollywood, Terri O'Mara and Peter McDonough Sister Maria McCready and Sister Pauline Nolan created the pastoral and social service at Hensley House, which cared for deaf people in the Diocese of Salford.



1980



The Centre helped any black people living in the area regardless of religion or political beliefs, proving useful for many.

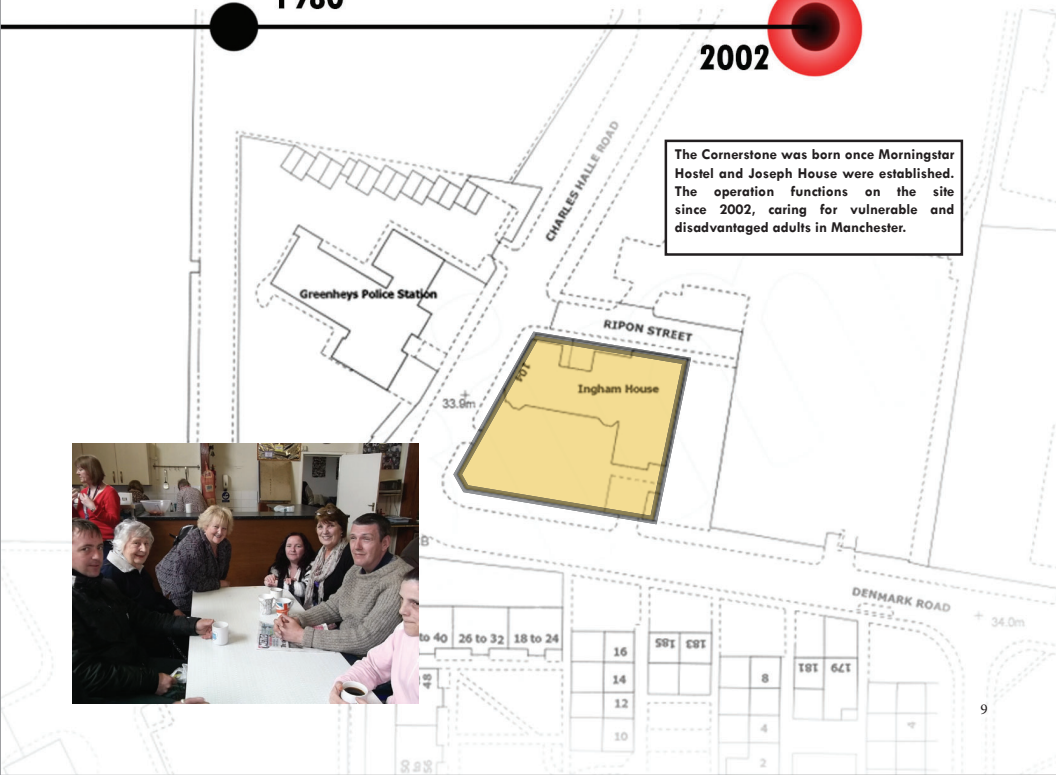
(c) Manchester Libraries



St. Gerard's Overseas Centre was a 30 roomed house at 104 Denmark Road, Moss Side, Manchester. It functioned as a Hall of Residence for overseas Catholic students at Manchester University. The students were mostly from the West Indies or Africa.

1960

2002



The Cornerstone was born once Morningstar Hostel and Joseph House were established. The operation functions on the site since 2002, caring for vulnerable and disadvantaged adults in Manchester.



# Masterplan

## Cornerstone day center

The masterplan for the site is divided into 3 stages; the first stage involves amending of the existing building to improve the current use of the Cornerstone day center. A new entrance is added, which can be used to access both the day center and the hostel. An open floor layout has been introduced in the day center which makes an open and a flexible space that can be used for various activities.

In the second stage, allotment gardens and cooking pavilions are introduced on to the carpark adjacent to Cornerstone day center that is currently vacant allowing people to interact with nature. This is connected to the Cornerstone site using an external covered walkway. A cycle track is also added connecting the Workhouse project to the scheme, which revitalise the unused highway, turning it into a community cycle track. The chapel previously in the basement is reintroduced to a more prominent location of the site, sitting at the end of the external walkway allowing people to journey their way through the walkway before arriving at God's side.

In phase 3, an extension of the Cornerstone Day center is proposed, which would allow for additional workshop and studio's to be introduced with a communal lounge space as well as accommodation units on the first floor.

- - - Cornerstone 2022 - Phase 1      → Cycle Track
- - - Cornerstone 2025 - Phase 2      → Expansion of Allotments
- - - Cornerstone 2028 - Phase 2

- 1. Refurb of Existing Building
- 2. Extension with external walkway
- 3. Landscaped Garden
- 4. Chapel
- 5. Bike Park
- 6. Cooking Pavilions
- 7. Workshop Pavilion
- 8. Allotments
- 9. Sheds/Greenhouses
- 10. Extension of road
- 11. Cloitser
- 12. Car park works
- 13. Allotment Growth
- 14. Cycle Track



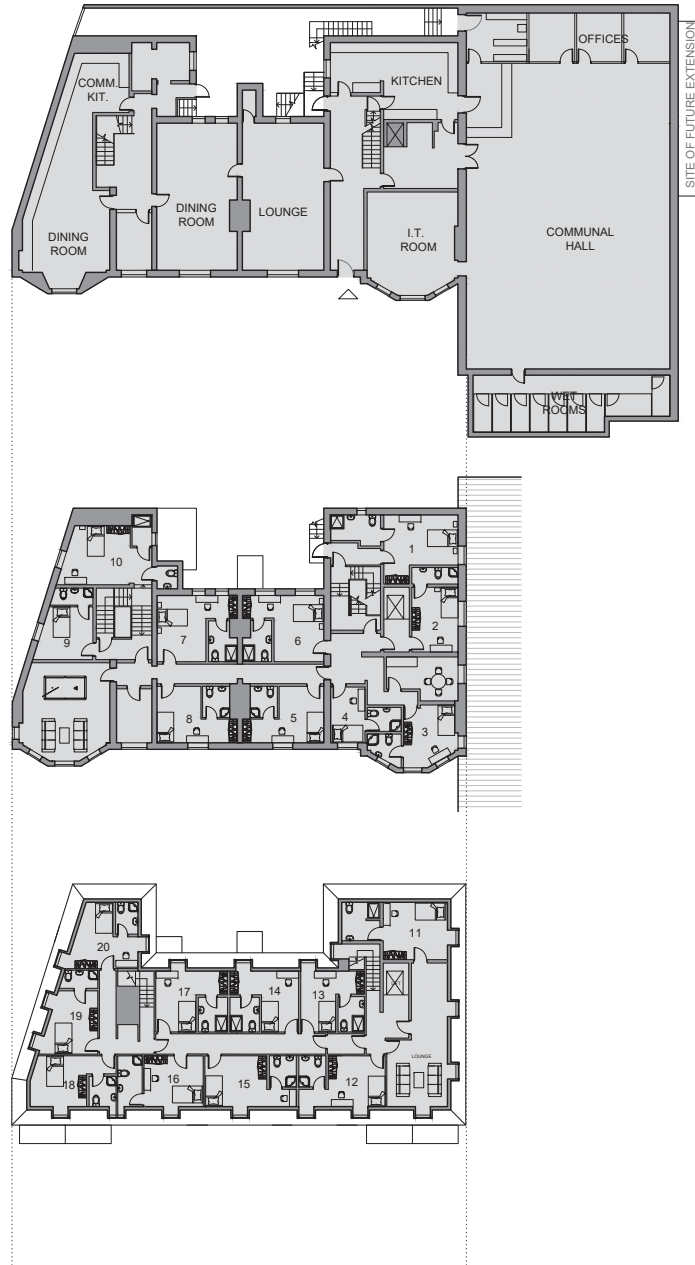
## Proposed plans

Part of the client's brief specifically relating to the material improvement of the existing building was laid out during our site visit and meeting with Cornerstone representative Patrick O'Dowd.

These included:

- Opening up of closed/dark spaces
- Emphasis of psychological impact of spaces
- Omission of window bars
- Clearing of Cornerstone hall to create more space
- Rearrangement of principle function spaces
- Consolidate two entrances into one central entrance
- Rearrangement of accommodation with ensuite included
- Potential of shared spaces

In response to these stipulations the team drew up a rearranged set of floor plans as a suggestion of changes that could be implemented as part of near-future improvements that would form the beginning of the long term regeneration of the Cornerstone-Morning Star site and the surrounding area. The suggestions were well received by the client and represent the basis of realistic alterations to the building that could be undertaken.

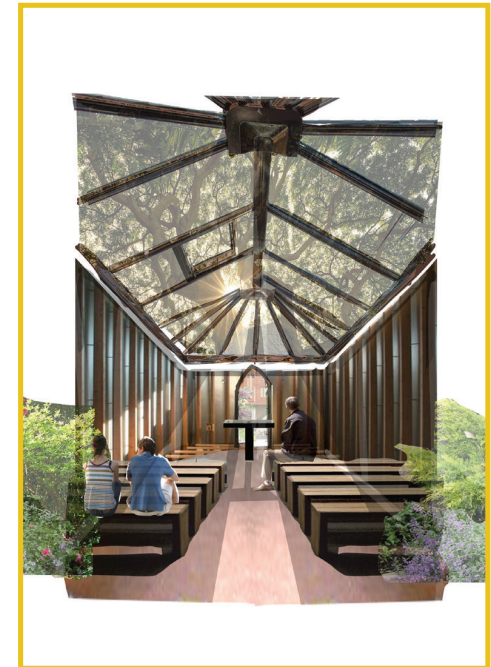


## Chapel Intervention

The chapel is a sacred space which allows residents to worship and engage together. It is the destination throughout a journey. The south facing oculus bring lights in and enable them to interact with materiality to create the sense of peace and tranquility.

A chapel room was included in the basement of the existing Cornerstone day centre. Therefore we proposed the idea of a separate small chapel positioned near to the existing building. The structure would be small and let large amounts of natural light in for residents to go and have some quiet time or pray in an environment that is better suited. The chapel will also be a nice monumental addition to the site.

We thought it was an opportunity to bring an important space to a more prominent position on the site as it embodies some of the principles that are fundamental to the Cornerstone organisation.



## Building Extension

A form of Co-living has been suggested in the revitalization of Cornerstone Day Centre and Morning Star Hostel. The extension incorporates an enormous open communal space for social activities and events whereas individual living units are designated above to secure residents' privacy. The shared facilities unfold social infrastructure within the building and empowers the residents by enhancing accessibility of well-beings. Brick masonry arches have also been proposed on the ground floor to bring back the traditional architectural language on the site.



## Cooking pavilions

Next to the covered walkway, semi-permanent cooking pavilions are installed with covered tents, which can be self built, allowing people to use produce from the allotment gardens and interact outdoor.



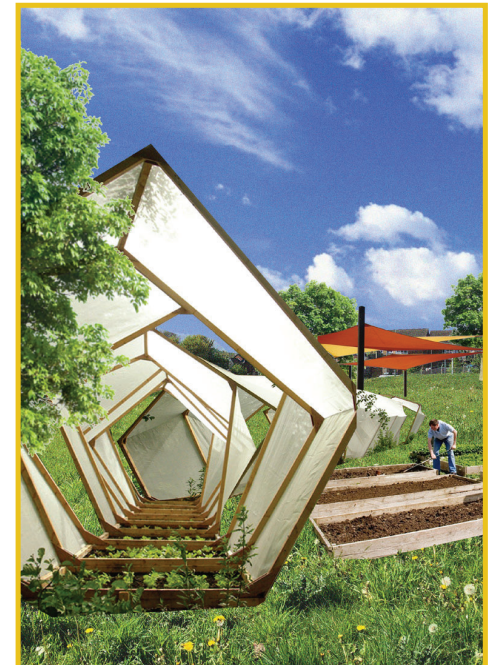
## External covered walkway

The external walkway is located at the heart of masterplan. It is drawn as a central axis connecting different programmes and spaces together. The corridor is covered by timber elements and provides a sheltered space to create a more pleasant experience for both visitors and residents.



## Allotment Pavilions

The idea of allotments has been proposed to reactivate the underutilized green spaces in the north of masterplan. Through the promotion of urban farming, localised food production creates more trust among the residents and allows them to buy fresh and affordable food in the community. The fostered neighbourhood then develops residents' stronger sense of belonging.





## ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

## LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

## SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

## EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

## STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

## LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

## QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:  
[b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk)

## BLOG

[live.msa.ac.uk/2021](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2021)

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