

**MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE**

# **ARTISAN STUDIO**



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**MSA  
LIVE 21**

## Team



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(M Arch 01)



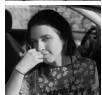
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(BA 01)



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**Nasra Aden**

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**Thomas Massey**

(BA 02)

## Partners

Artisan Studio will be working in collaboration with Lendlease, a global construction, property, and infrastructure company. They manage building projects in over 40 countries across the world helping to shape cities and create strong and connected communities.

Since January 2020, Lendlease have been managing the repair, refurbishment, and partial restoration of Manchester Town Hall. Neil Martin, managing director, construction at Lendlease, Europe, said: "Manchester Town Hall is one of the city's most recognisable and well-loved landmarks. Lendlease has a long track record of working with heritage buildings and enhancing them for contemporary use and we will bring all of this experience to bear at Manchester Town Hall."

We will also be working alongside the Our Town Hall Project which was set up by Manchester City Council in January 2018. This project consists of the restoration and refurbishment of Manchester Town Hall to preserve its architectural character for generations whilst also upgrading its facilities to meet modern safety and accessibility requirements. In addition to this, there are plans to renovate, resurface, and improve Albert Square as a public space and popular meeting place.

The scheme aims to boost public access and ensure that the building and square continues to play a role at the heart of city life. During the course of the planned work, The Our Town Hall Project hopes to create many exciting opportunities, including apprenticeships and a range of jobs and training schemes.



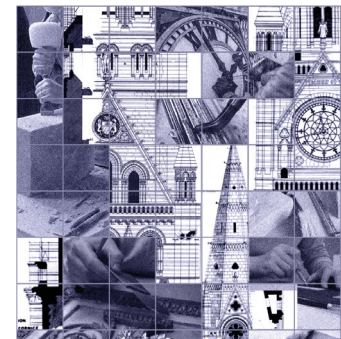
# Agenda

## Artisan Studio

This project aims to assist Lendlease with the design of an "Artisan Studio" which is located at Albert Square as part of the ongoing Manchester Town Hall reservations. The studio will be used to upskill, collaborate, and educate locals/employees in the kind of trades employed during the renovation of the town hall such as gilding, mosaics, heritage metalwork as well as providing opportunities for locals to work on the town hall project, and engaging with local schools and colleges to provide students with experience of the construction trades.

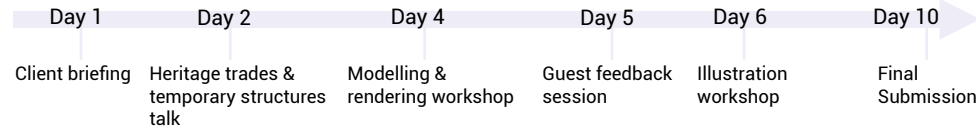
"Artisans Studio" project will provide an opportunity for collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders within the community and will be designed to minimise its impact on the environment using locally sourced materials, adaptive reuse of existing materials available on site and employing environmentally friendly energy solutions. This project will be a key part of the Manchester town hall project and there will be opportunities to engage with the project team members and the client (Manchester City Council) which will help in building connections for future career advancements, as well as gaining knowledge of heritage buildings. If the design proves successful, the studio will be built to stand at the heart of the City of Manchester for 4 years.

Participants will explore various aspects of the design through discussions, model making, software workshops and guest lectures from people of the industry about the construction trades involved such as gilding, mosaics, heritage metalworks of the Town Hall. The process will benefit the group in expanding knowledge and networking in the restoration field.



# Proposed Activities and Community Engagement

This project involves the collaboration and networking between different parties in the construction industry. In the course of two weeks, talks have been arranged based on the design stages in providing information and constructive feedback from guests, as well as catering for students' interest in improving personal skills and knowledge.



## Tamara Karim

Lendlease - Social Value Assistant



Client's perspective on design development as a real life practice experience to convey architectural ideas and approaches for non-professionals.

## James Altham

SketchUp Workshop



Top tips for building SketchUp models and rendering techniques to convey spatial qualities successfully for final presentation purposes.

## Stone Edge

Stone Mason Q & A Session



Further understanding of restoration trades and requirements of spaces for specialist works in the Artisan Studio.

## Joe Dempsey

Guest Critic



Guest's input on the delivery of design and further suggestions for improvements to strengthen proposed design ideas.

## Tomaso Boano

Boano Prišmontas - Specialist Architects



Professional input on design strategies for modular and temporary structures which are movable, easy to build and sustainable.

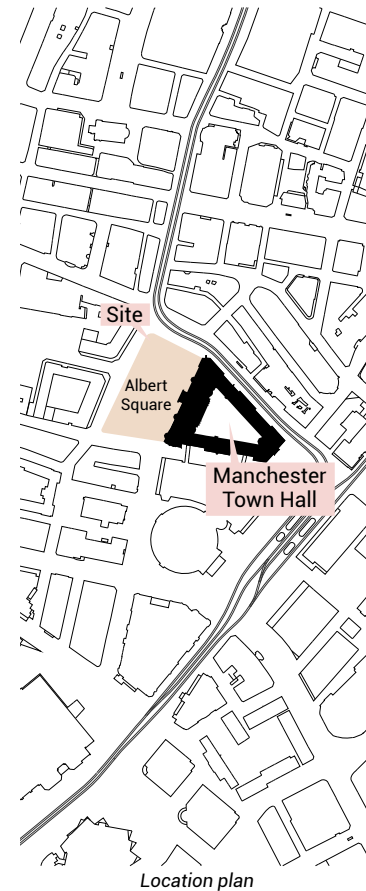
## Cova Maldonado Suarez

Creative Illustration Workshop



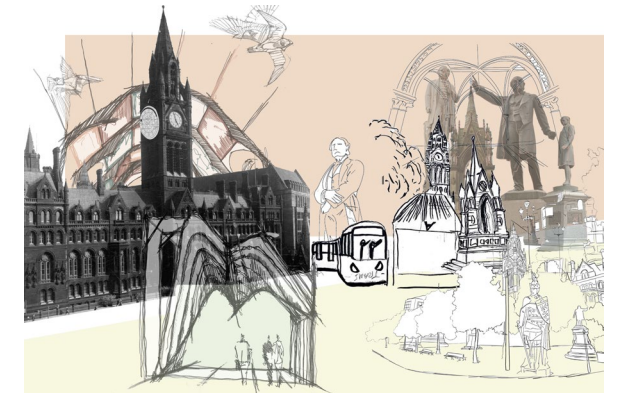
Concepts of using illustration softwares for presentation use, including rendering and collating visual ideas to achieve various aesthetics.

# Site Impression and Analysis

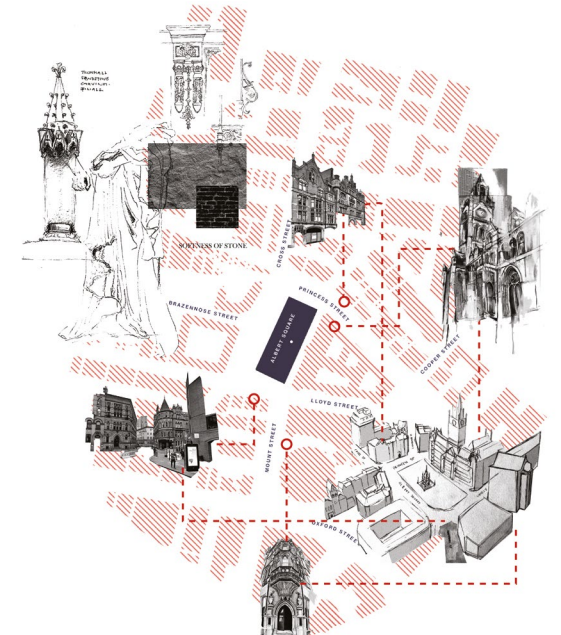


The Artisan Studio is located at the heart of Manchester city center, within Albert Square. Within close proximity of the site, it is surrounded with Neo-Gothic architecture and modernist buildings, posing a challenge in designing the structure to suit its context. The Metroline that sits next to the site offers wider connection to the community yet challenging the consideration of safety issues and prevent visual hazards to the tram.

Even though the project aims to create a temporary structure, the outcome is strongly grounded to the cityscape. A thorough research has been conducted by the team in order to understand the surrounding types of spaces. Materiality of the structure was chosen based on the ease of construction and handling to reduce impact on the site.



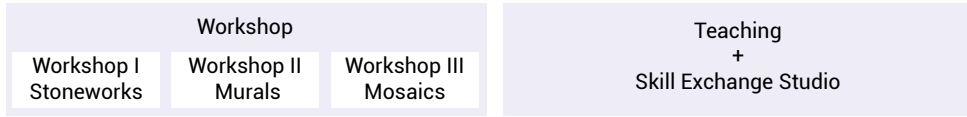
Key elements of Manchester Town Hall and Albert Square.



Key features and architectural language of the surrounding buildings within the site.

# Programme Scheme

The team targeted on three professions from the various skilled professionals who took part in the Town Hall's restoration. Specific spatial and programmatic requirements were identified to create a well-rounded design for the target trades, while educating the community and young professionals about the trades through skill exchange programmes. The two distinct programmes proposed are:



## Workshop Usages

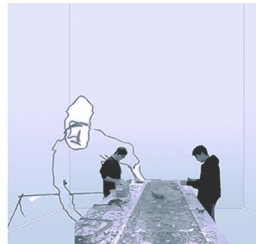
Stonemasonry Repairs



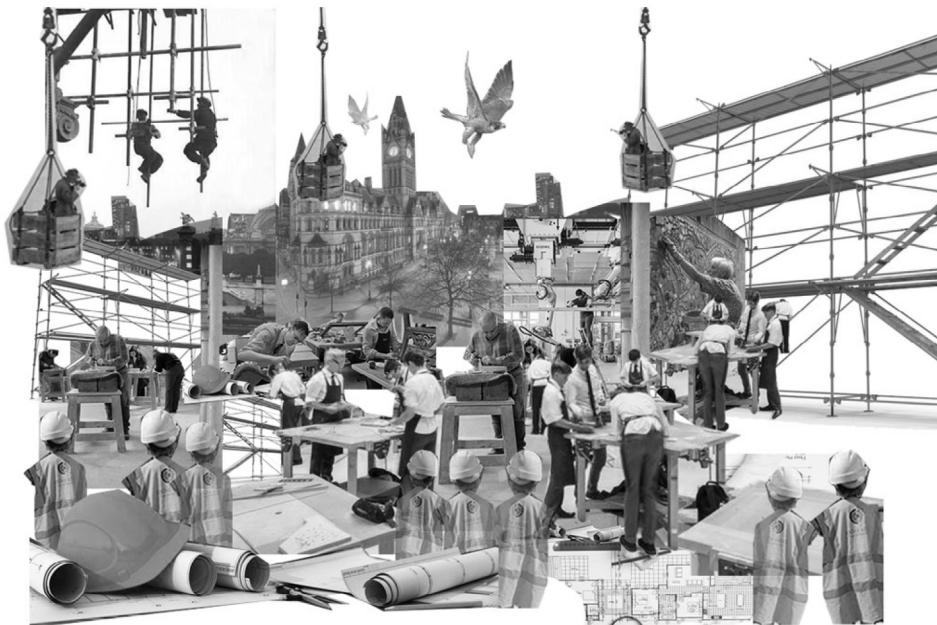
Mural Restoration



Mosaics Restoration



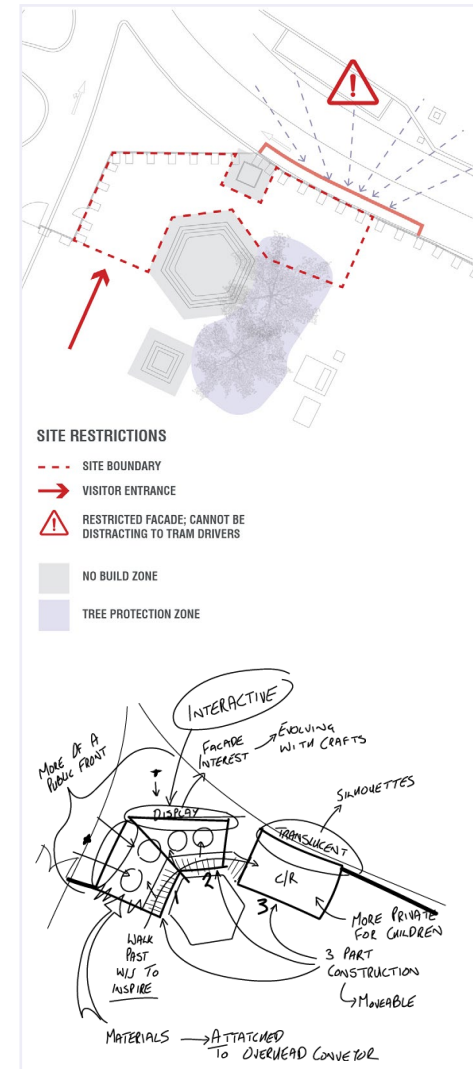
Key activities within the designated workshop spaces to understand the spatial requirements, forming appropriate spaces for each activity in the host workshops.



Idea of engagement between restoration trades and younger community in the skill exchange process.

# Design Development

The site presented many restrictions due to its close proximity to the tram line, listed statues and the site hording boundary. Through the development of spatial zoning diagrams it was established that the workshop should sit within the Western corner and the classroom/skills exchange on the Eastern side, primarily due to footfall and public interaction, from which decisions on materiality and form followed

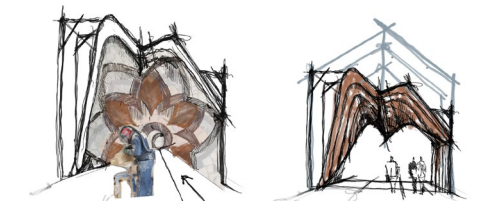
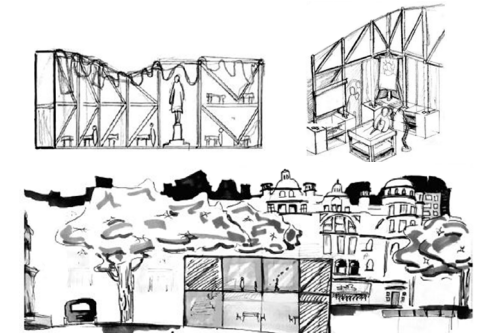


PRECEDENTS:  
**Prototipo  
Autosuficiente  
en Torre Baró /  
ETSALS**

Josep Ferrando  
+ P. García +  
Estudiantes



Main materials that are considered for the design



Concept design derived from falcon wing

# Conceptual Exploration



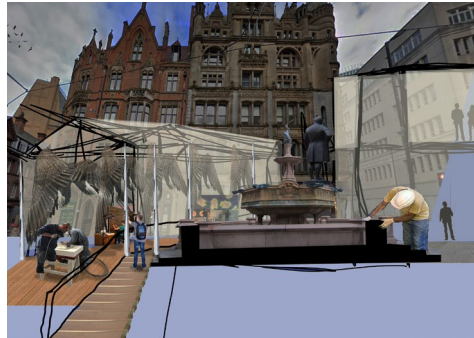
Concept visual of mezzanine floor



Initial concept of workshop space



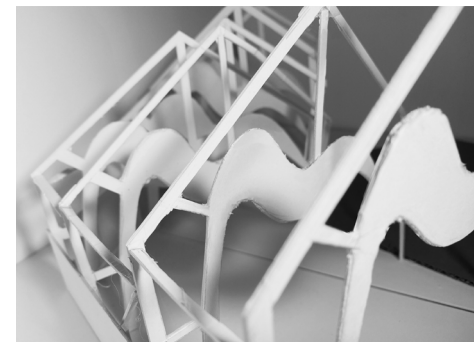
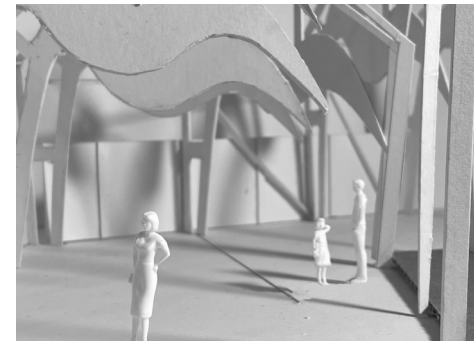
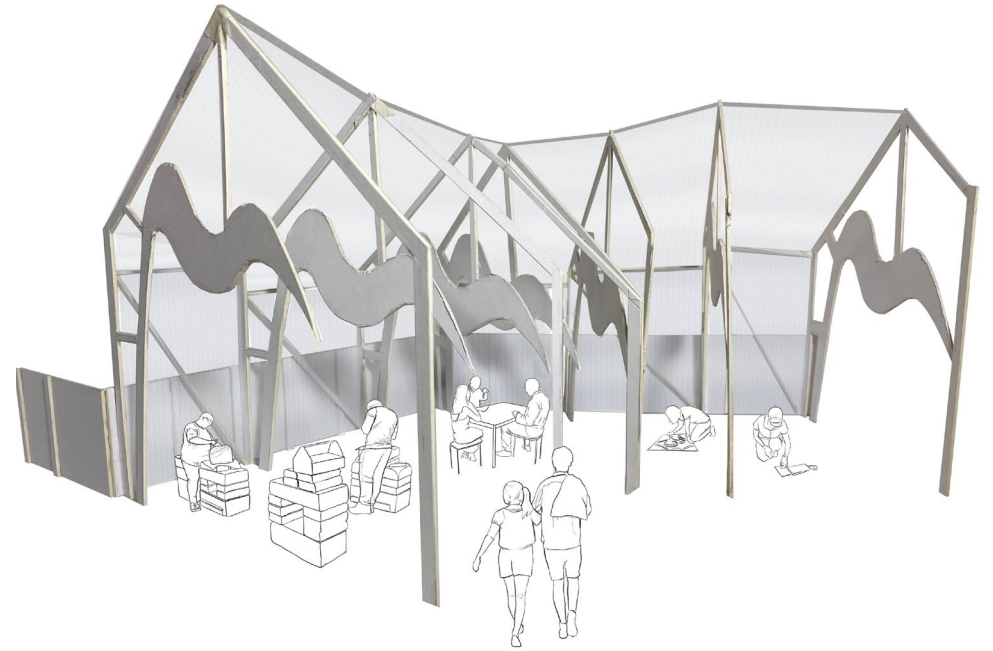
Conceptual section of classroom space



Perspective montage of Artisan Studio

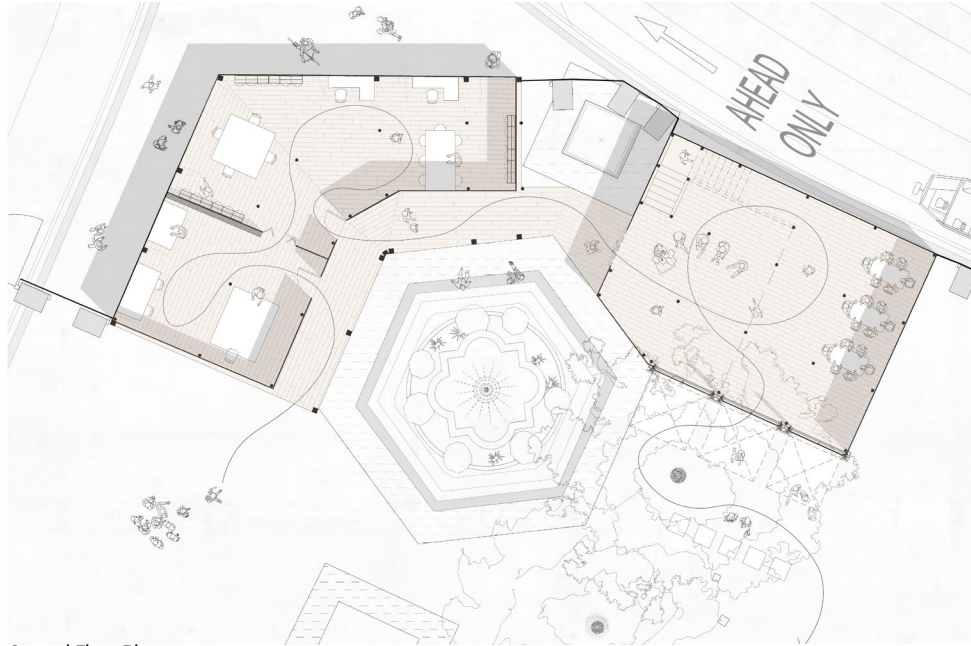


Conceptual montage of the workshop space on site

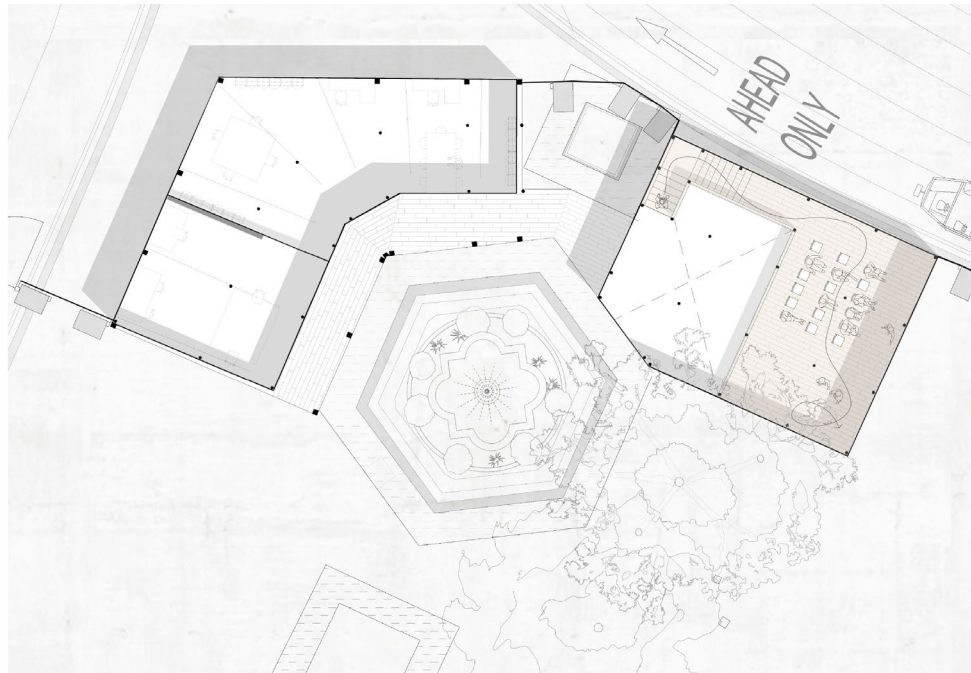


Physical model showing the structures of the workshop space

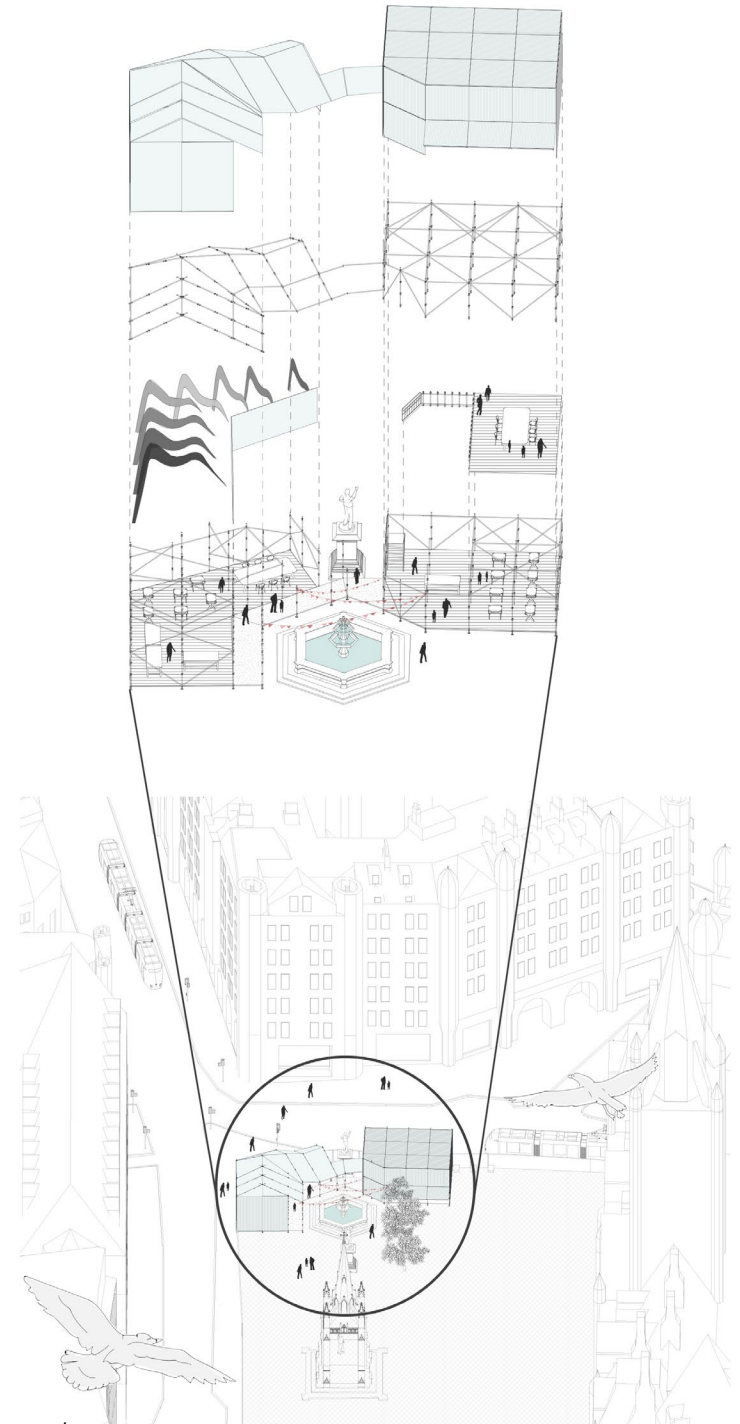
# Final Design



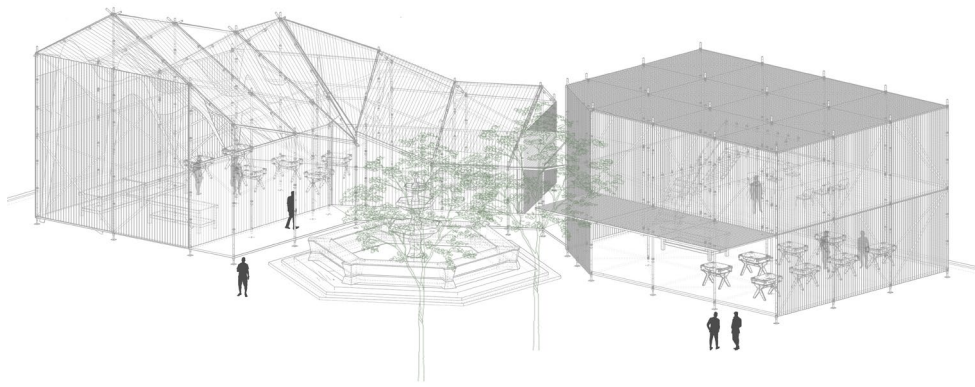
Ground Floor Plan



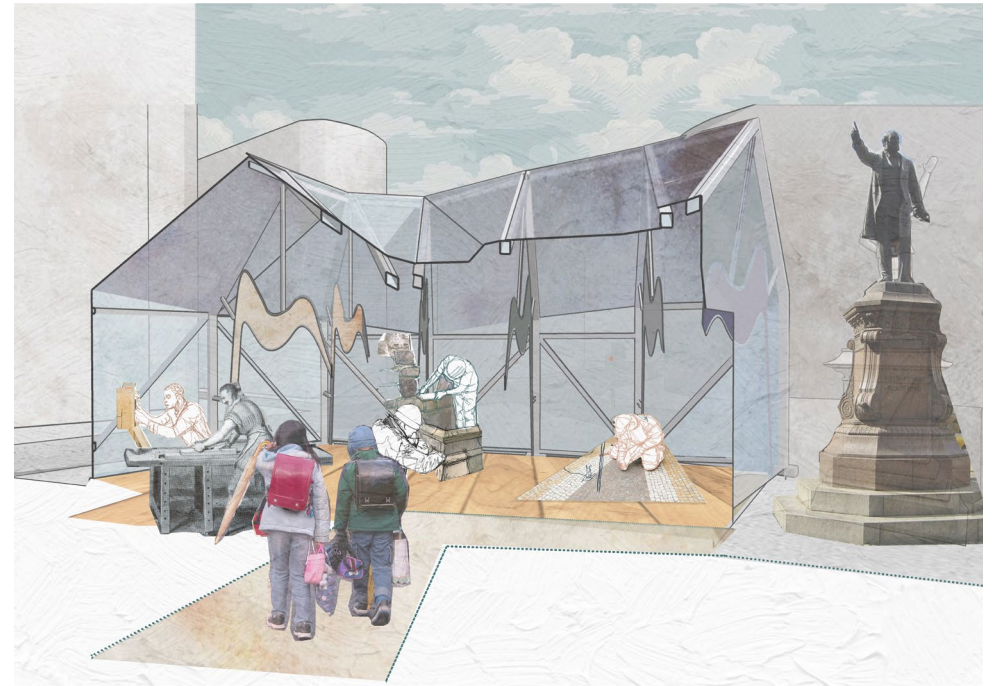
Mezzanine Floor Plan



Exploded Axonometric



Isometric view of the overall Artisan Studio scheme



Sectional perspective of the workshop space



Section through the Artisan Studio



Conceptual night street view towards the workshop space



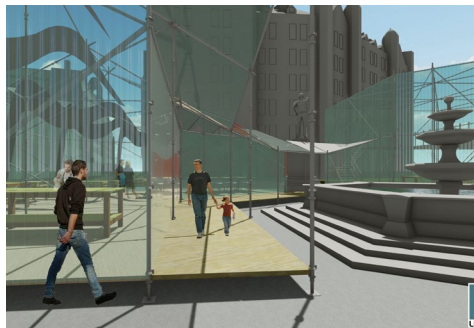
Entrance in Artisan Studio classroom space



Exploring public engagement around the classroom



Artisan Studio within Albert Square



Entrance in Artisan Studio scheme



Render of the workshop space



External view from the Princess Street



External view from Manchester Town Hall



## 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)

## SOCIAL

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## WEBSITE

[www.msa.ac.uk](http://www.msa.ac.uk)