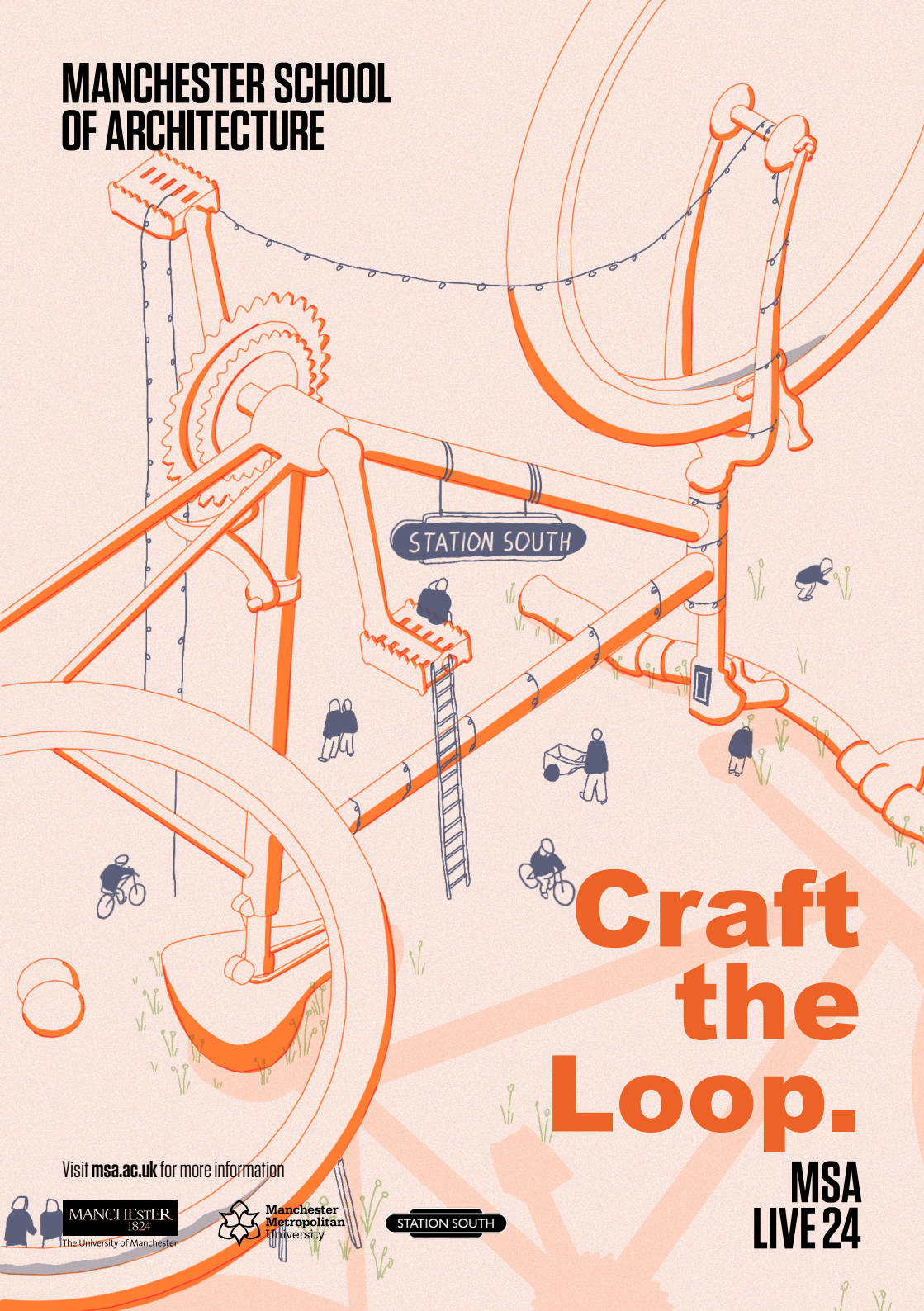


**MANCHESTER SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE**



STATION SOUTH

Craft the Loop.

Visit msa.ac.uk for more information



STATION SOUTH

**MSA
LIVE 24**

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Partners

Station south is a community interest organisation formed in 2017 by local residents in Levenshulme who wanted to save the derelict railway building from falling into disrepair. Over the past 7 years they have transformed the structure into a cycle cafe, bar, workshop, urban garden and community hangout, whilst maintaining and repairing its original character and charm.

Our Partners for MSA Live, Abigail Pound, Mark Jermyn and Pauline Johnston are the founding members of Station South. We have worked closely with Abigail throughout the project, taking on board her feedback and listening to her expert knowledge of the site and its users.

Another special mention is Kell Degnen, a volunteer who takes an active role in improving the allotment area through community workshops and her expertise. She has been a vital contributor to our understanding of the site, it's activities and their vision for the future, that have all helped to improve our proposal.

Introduction

Craft the Loop

Station South in the heart of Levenshulme is located directly above the fallowfield cycle loop. Whilst offering cycle classes, a repair station in addition to planting beds for the community, there is not enough signage in place to inform passerby's of these wonderful opportunities. Craft the Loop proposes a cohesive landscaping design, along with some innovative storage solutions, showcased with the creation of a physical model.

The proposal is designed to be low cost, easy to construct, and carbon negative. To achieve this, our design takes many of its materials from waste in the local context such as bike tires and timber pallets and repurposes them into playful and engaging installations that mimic the ethos of the organisation.

In collaboration with our partners, we have produced a physical model that waypoints a series of proposals on the site. The model is designed to be interactive and engaging, informing users of the multitude of activities that happen at station south, whilst also being open to feedback.

Site Analysis

History

Station South, a former railway station in Levenshulme, served the 'Fallowfield Loop' Line from 1892. After the lines closure in 1969, the fallowfield loop was abandoned, and was slowly lost to the wilderness. During the early 2000's, the 'Friends of the Fallowfield Loop' managed to repurpose the large stretch of land into a traffic-free greenway.

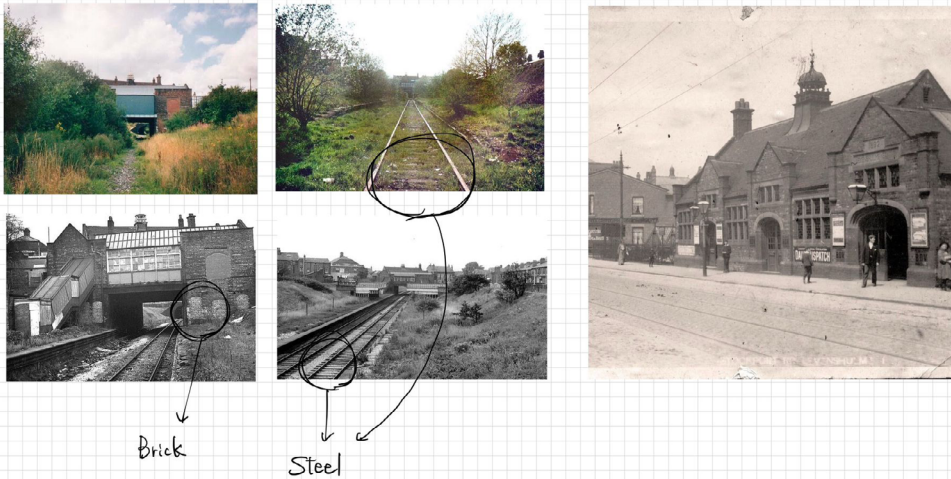
The railway building in Levenshulme remained in use as a retail unit after the closure of the line. However, many years of botched alterations and neglect had taken its toll on the original features of the tudor mock structure.

In 2017, a group of local people living in Levenshulme rallied around to try and brin the dilapidated and now vacant building back into use.

Station South is now a destination cycle cafe, bar, workshop, urban garden and community hangout hub. The multifaceted approach welcomes locals to get involved in the multitude of events across the site.



Site History



Live Sketching

During our initial site visit, students sketched whatever intrigued them on the site. This freedom led to an interesting discussion about what engaged them on site, and what needed more attention.



Proposal

Re-Use 1,2,3.

From our analysis of the site, we identified 3 areas in need of improvement to make them more engaging.

Bike storage

The container that held the community bikes was overcrowded and its exterior was plain. Adding some storage solutions and seating will help soften the exterior and situate it within the landscape.

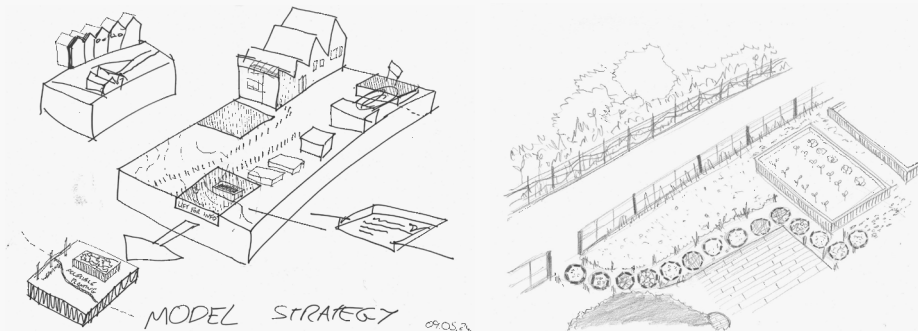
Allotment

The allotments has a lot happening there but is not engaging for passerby's so many delights go unnoticed. Landscaping of the site will help to improve the interaction between the site and public.

Signage

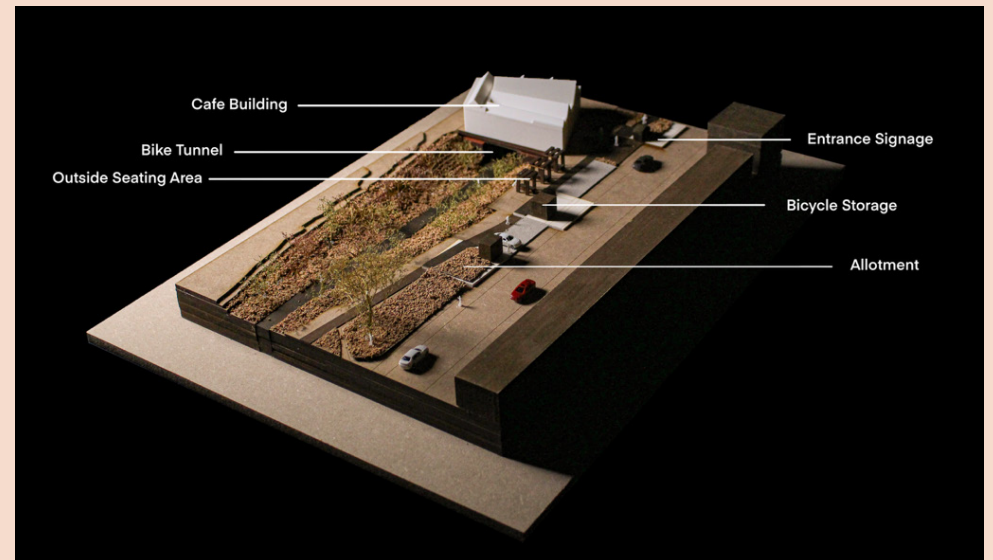
To help bring the different elements of station south together, signage at the entrance to the site will help waypoint the different areas more concisely.

Key point: ① practical
② cheap
③ with characteristics



The Model

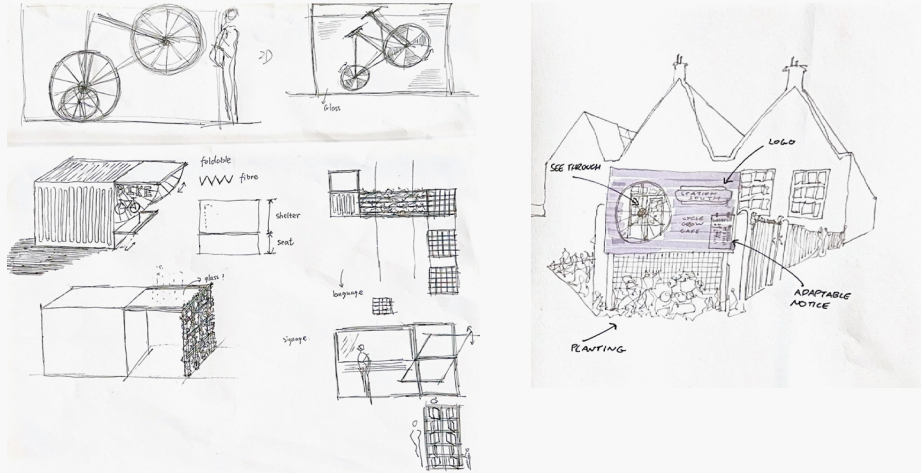
In order to make visitors to station south more aware of the site, we have made existing site models and used different materials to distinguish different areas, such as adding wood chips to the model to express the natural landscape, and using light colours to emphasise the three main functions. These three blocks can be taken out and viewed. In addition, they all attached with QR codes of proposed design for interaction. The cafe is not completely connect with the rest of the model, so visitors can see the bridges and bicycle lanes below. The whole model is interactive.



Concept Development

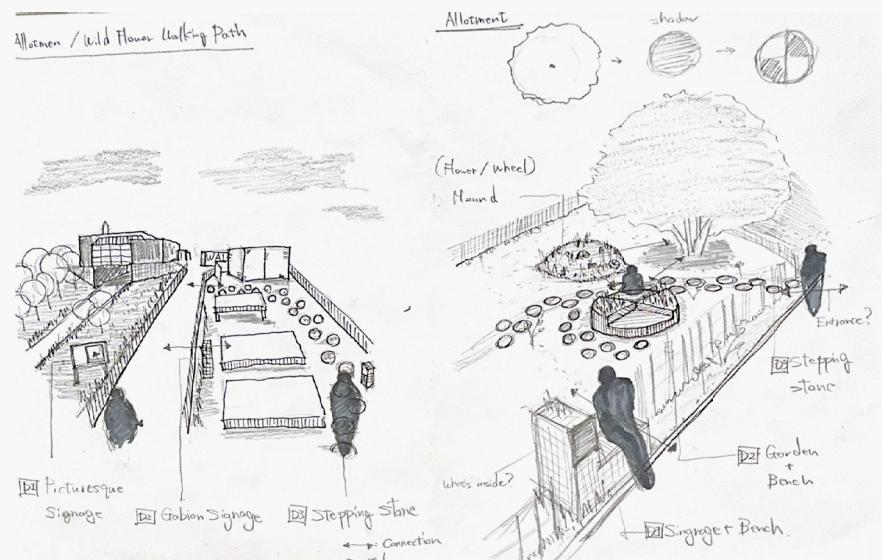
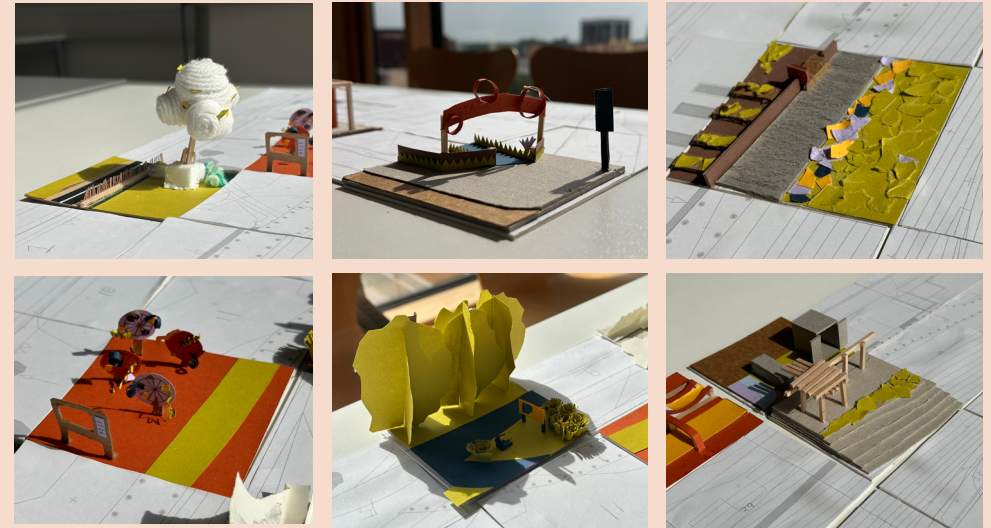
Sketches

After the site visit, we found some case studies that were similar to the brief. From these, we were able to develop concepts from our analysis of the site.



1:100 Model

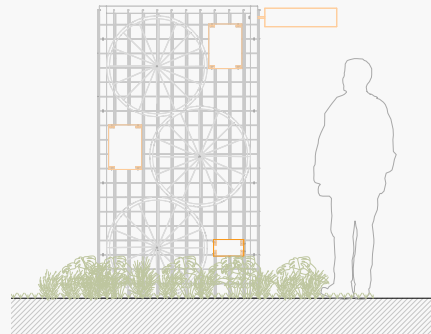
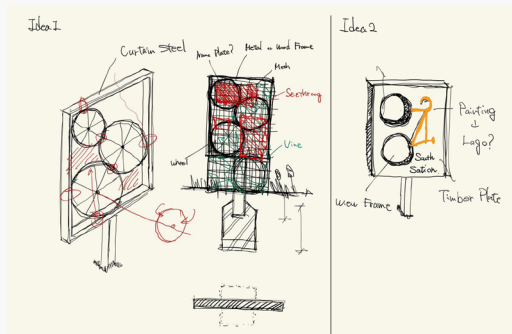
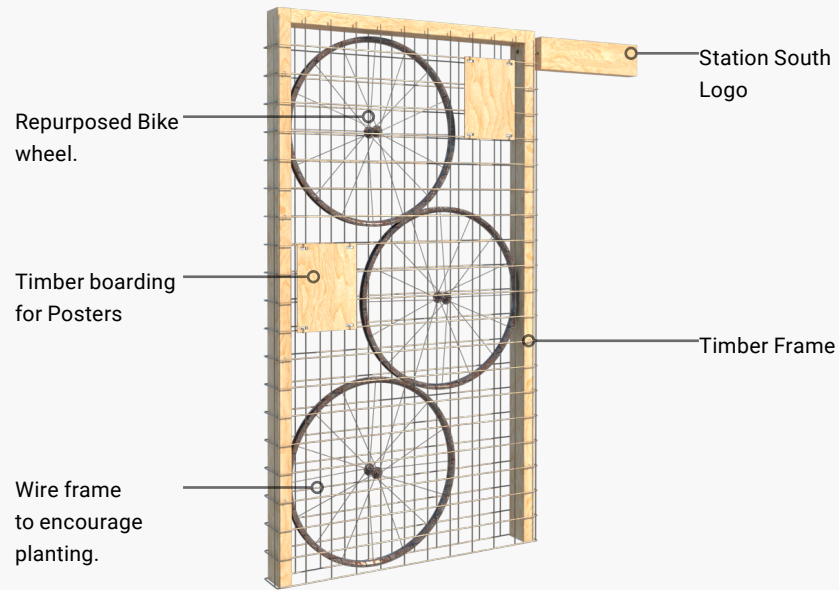
Students furthered their designs by modelmaking their ideas onto the site. The site was set up as a grid, to focus on areas that needed intervention.



Final Design

Signage

Signage is designed at the entrance of the site. In order to highlight the characteristics of Station South, three abandoned bicycle wheels are reused to frame the landscape, allowing pedestrians or passing drivers to see and understand the function of Station South. Next to the three interlocking bicycle wheels are several wooden information boards, where site information can be posted for passing pedestrians to view. These are adaptable, and made to be interchangeable according to current activities.



Render



Final Design

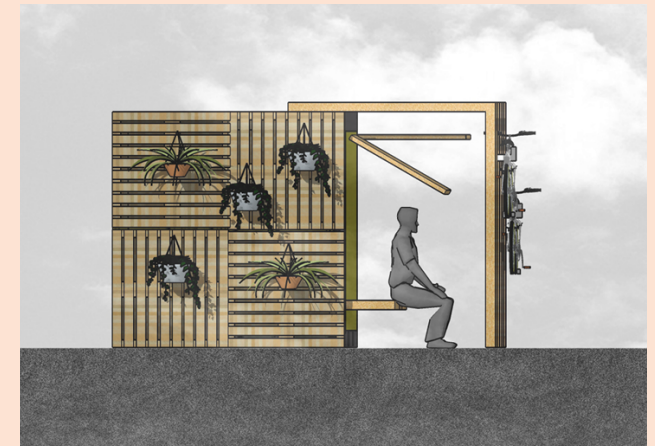
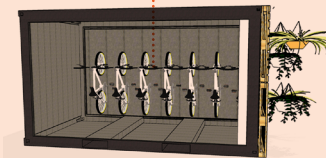
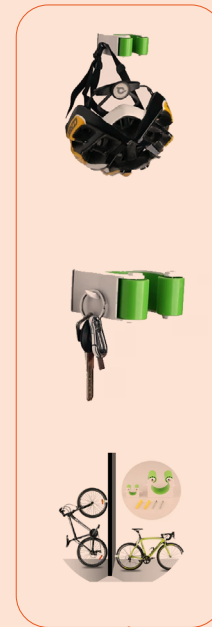
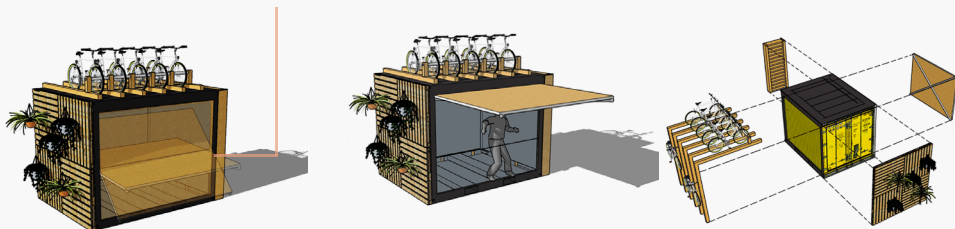
Bike Storage

The original site has a bicycle parking garage converted from a shipping container. In order to facilitate the handling of the bikes, we design some fixtures inside the container so that the bicycle can be vertically fixed to the wall. In addition, foldable seats and shelters are installed on the surface of the container so that people can rest there during bad weather. In order to make this parking space more beautiful, we also installed walls on the side that can be hung with potted plants. Bikes can also be attached to the external wooden railings when needed.



Development - Iteration 1

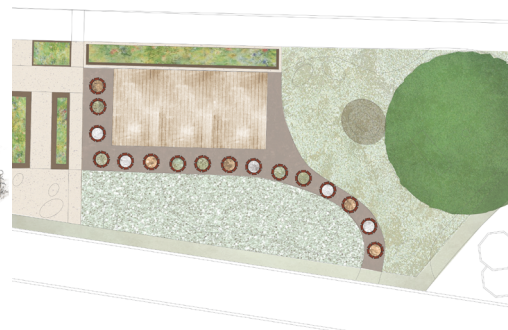
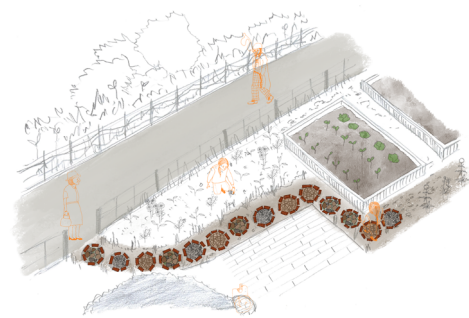
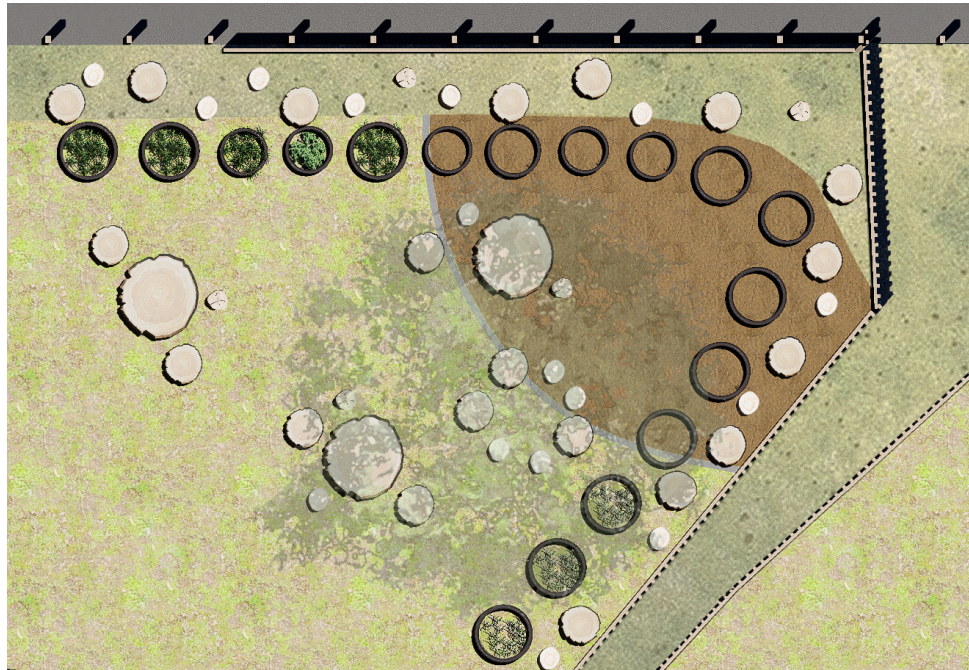
Repurposed Garage door



Final Design

Allotments

The allotment area is designed into two zones. The first area is a sitting area. The wooden table and chairs under the timber frame can provide a resting area for visitors, and sometimes some planting workshops can be held here. For easy access, a landscaped walkway is added. The second area is the kid zone near the tree. Here, waste bike wheel are reused, some as containers for kids allotment, and others are placed in the newly added children's sand pit. This has the advantage of attracting the child's attention and thus keeping them from destroying the allotment next to them.



Reflection

Over the duration of the project, our team has aimed to collaborate with the partners as closely as possible to achieve constant feedback on our constantly evolving designs. Going to station south on the first day proved useful. We were able to gain a good knowledge of the site, all identifying different aspects of the brief that needed attention. Despite this, developing these ideas seemed challenging at times. On reflection, it would have been beneficial to organise more specific activities to get everyone engaged and creating outputs. This would have given us more time to communicate with the partners. We have felt this was a main lacking factor towards the end of the two weeks that could have been improved with more organisation.

ABOUT

Each year the MSA LIVE programme unites Masters Architecture year 1 and Masters of Architecture & Adaptive Resuse students with those in BA foundation, year 1 and year 2 and Masters Landscape Architecture 1 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 are for community benefit or 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 joined 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 6 cohorts in MSA have worked on 40 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA LIVE please contact the MSA LIVE team:

msalive@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

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