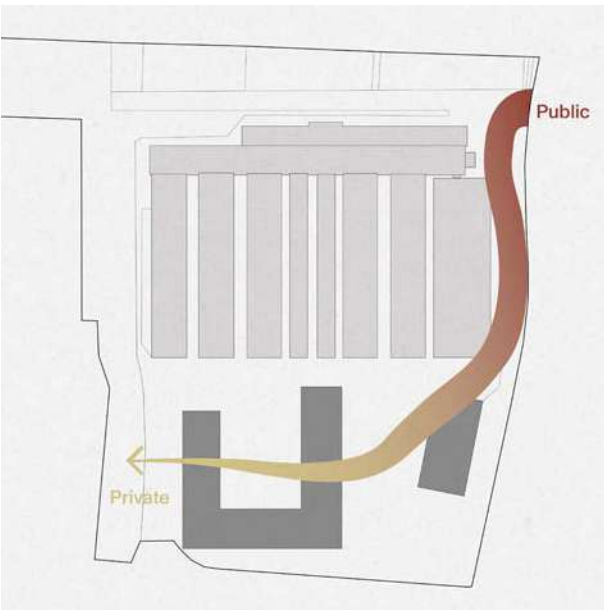


CHAPTER 6
LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL

6.1 KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The project takes a holistic approach to landscape design, taking into consideration the whole site of Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre and placing high emphasis on maximising the open space due to site's location within the Metropolitan Open Land designation area.

Hierarchy of Public & Private Spaces



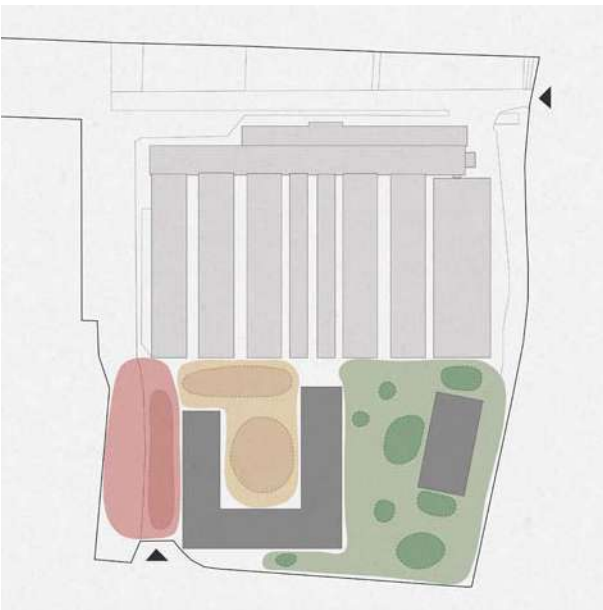
A clear hierarchy of public and private spaces is achieved through the position of the new buildings and the arrangement of activities. The further one goes into the site, the more private the spaces become. Planting, paving, low walls and gates help to further reinstate this hierarchy but in a subtle way without sacrificing the sense of discovery.

Maximise Growing



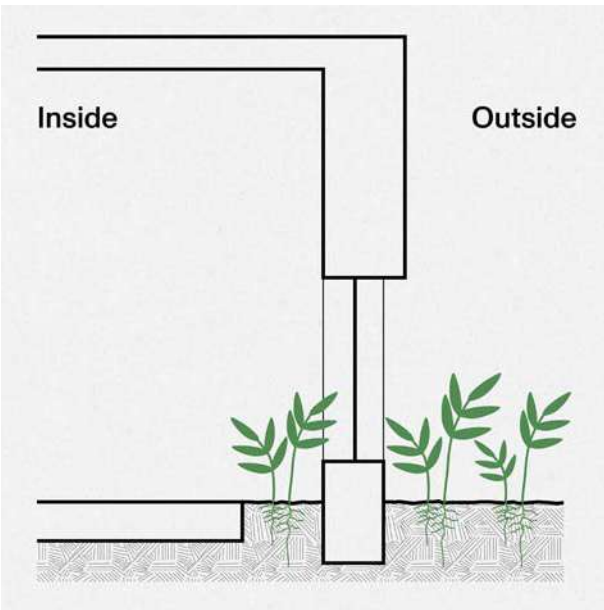
The proposal opens up and re-greens the site by removing areas of hard-standing and poly-tunnels where they are not necessary and creating growing yards and gardens in their place. The routes through the site and spaces for rest have been carefully planned, allowing for the rest of the landscape to be turned into decorative and edible gardens.

Variety of Spaces



While the buildings have been used to form three distinct open spaces, the features of the landscape such as plants, topography and low level walls are used to create smaller more intimate spaces within these three yards. They retain the overall character of the yard they belong to but provide spaces for very distinct activities such as eating, cooking, learning, to name a few.

Inside & Outside Relationship



Great emphasis is placed on blurring the boundary between inside and outside, allowing the users of the site to be in close contact with the nature at all times. Growing areas are introduced inside of buildings, creating both physical and visual links to the gardens outside.

6.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The new landscape to the south of the horticultural centre is envisioned to be informal in character. The arrangement of paths and gardens as well as plants will create a natural and spontaneous appearance. The meandering paths will create a journey through the site while the plants of different heights will close and open up views to create a sense of discovery.

The variety of ornamental and edible plants, native trees and shrubs as well as other natural landscape features will help to safeguard the biodiversity, provide a safe environment for the foraging animals and create a sense of contemplation for the visitors and volunteers alike.



Natural and spontaneous garden character

6.2 VARIETY OF SPACES

Landscape design and types of spaces required have been informed by the activities already taking place on site, user recommendations, discussions from consultations as well as the issues brought up by Covid-19 restrictions.

The project consists of three distinct yard spaces each of which accommodates different activities - community and events, work and education and last but not least - services. Each yard provides smaller and more intimate spaces within. They vary in size, enclosure and character and provide users with space for both formal and informal activities.

Activities that were previously taking place in the Main Greenhouse, are now located in the new buildings, allowing the Main Greenhouse to be mainly used for agricultural uses.

The following page describes some of the key proposed garden spaces in further detail.

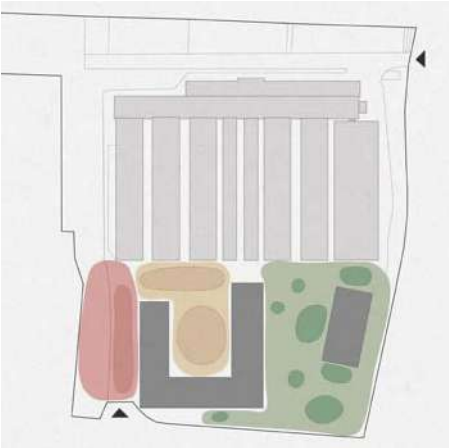


Diagram describing the principle of variety of spaces

- KEY
- Ownership boundary

Project site boundary
1. Public site entrance

2. Growing terraces

3. Main greenhouse

4. Public path

5. Palm House

6. Greenhouses

7. Entrance terrace

8. Events yard

9. Fire pit

10. Enclosed seating

11. The bench

12. Kitchen terrace

13. Sensory garden

14. Outdoor staff kitchen

15. Market

16. Work yard

17. Outdoor classroom

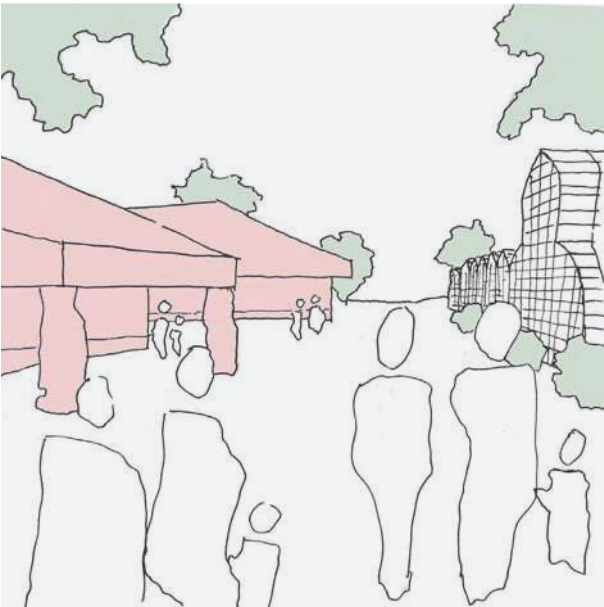
18. Staff hideaway

19. Service yard

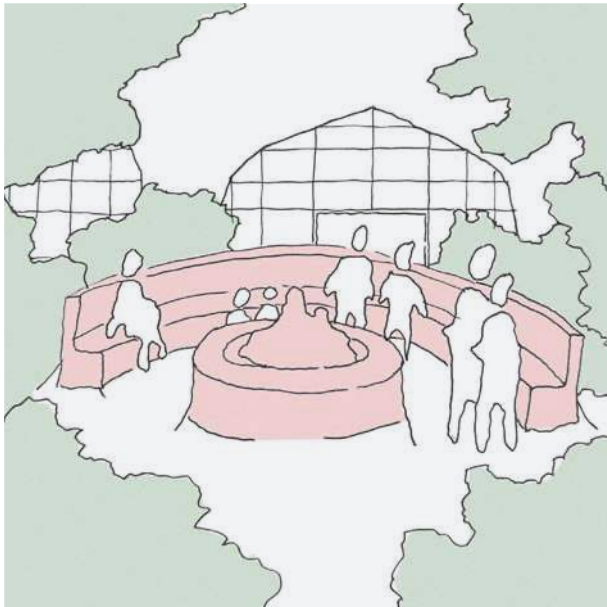
20. Wildlife garden



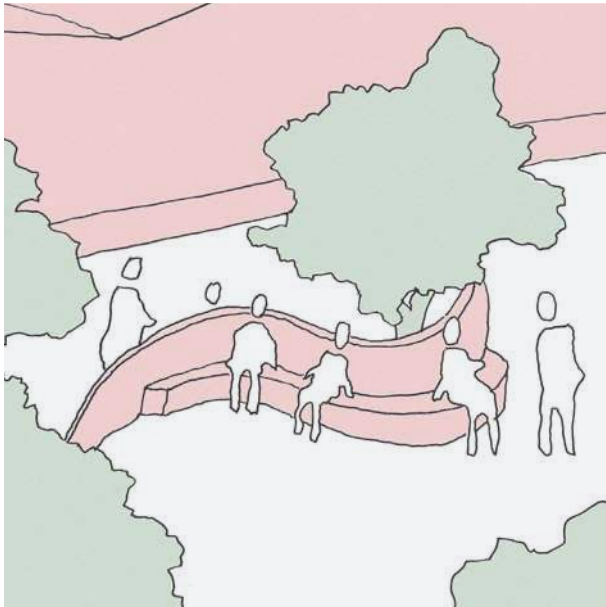
Proposed site plan



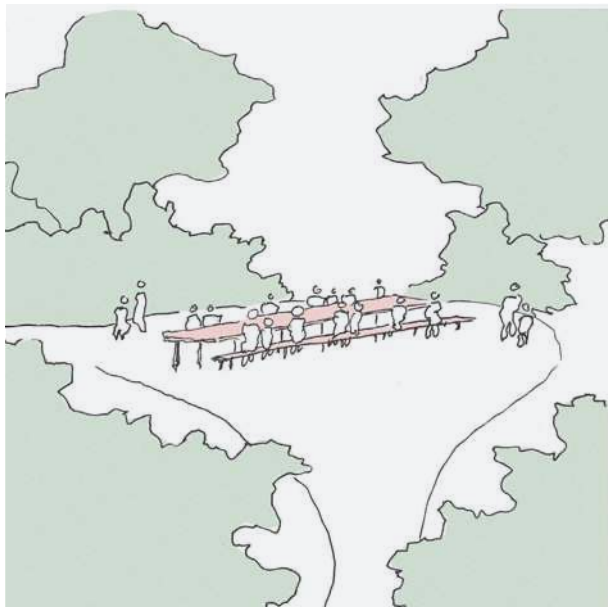
Entrance Terrace
The entrance terrace sits between the new Community Hub and the Palm House which create a gateway to the rest of the site. The role of the space is to link the two buildings and create a sense of arrival.



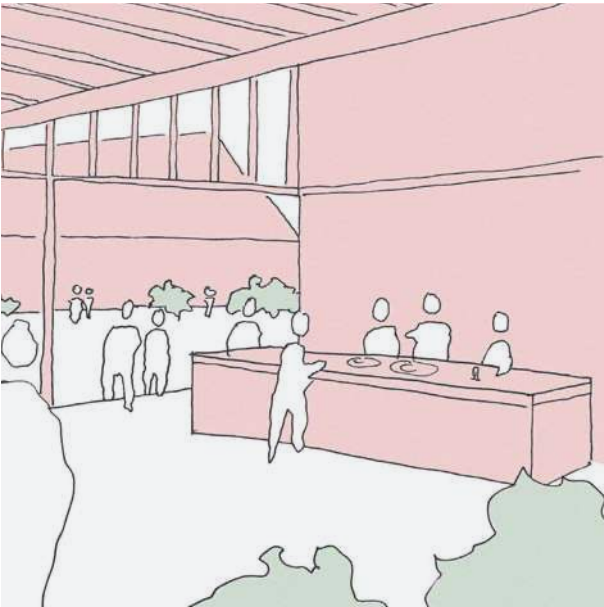
The Fire Pit
Creates an intimate and sensual space that can be used in the day and night time. The fire enhances the sense of nature connection and creates opportunities for learning and food cooking.



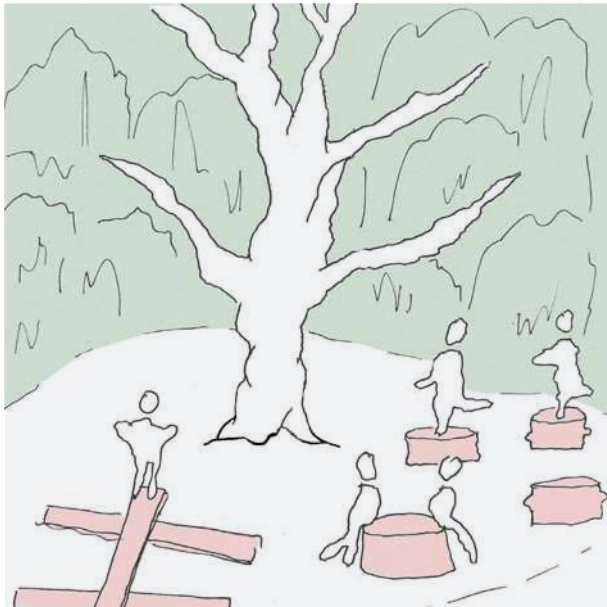
Informal seating zones
Provides an informal enclosed space for young people to hang-out (enclosure can buffer noise if they are loud or play music). A space where people can play chess or cards, sit down for a coffee and private conversation.



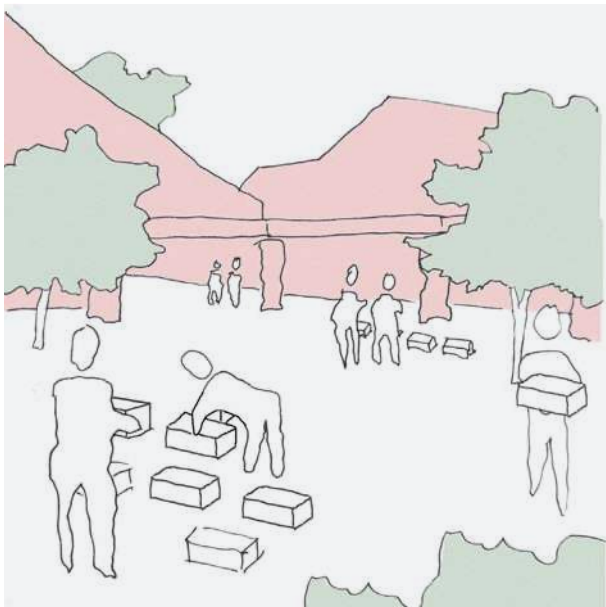
Bench and Table
A large table with bench seating creates a flexible space that can be used for seated group activities such as learning, eating and the playing of board or card based games.



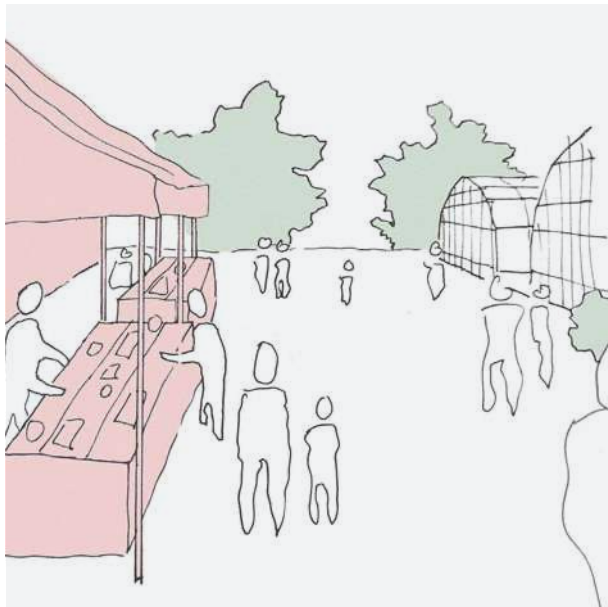
Kitchen Terrace
This terrace contains an outdoor kitchen which can better enable distanced or catered events. It creates an outdoor setting for education around food and cooking and a large sheltered space for a variety of different events.



Sensory Well-being Garden
Research has shown that there are many benefits of spending time outside. Sensory stimulation is particularly beneficial to children and people living with dementia. Located near the willow tree, the sensory garden provides space for exploration and informal play.



Work Yard
Situating within a courtyard of buildings the yard provides space for activities to spill out from inside to outside and acts as a productive hub for the activities on site.



Market
The existing concrete hard-standing creates a natural boulevard appropriate for hosting market stalls which brings new faces to the site and helps to support connections with the borough.



Market Area

Entrance
Terrace

Fire Pit

Informal
Seating

Big Table

Working
Yard

Events
Yard

Table and
Benches

Kitchen Canopy

Sun
Terrace

Sensory Garden

0 5 10 15m

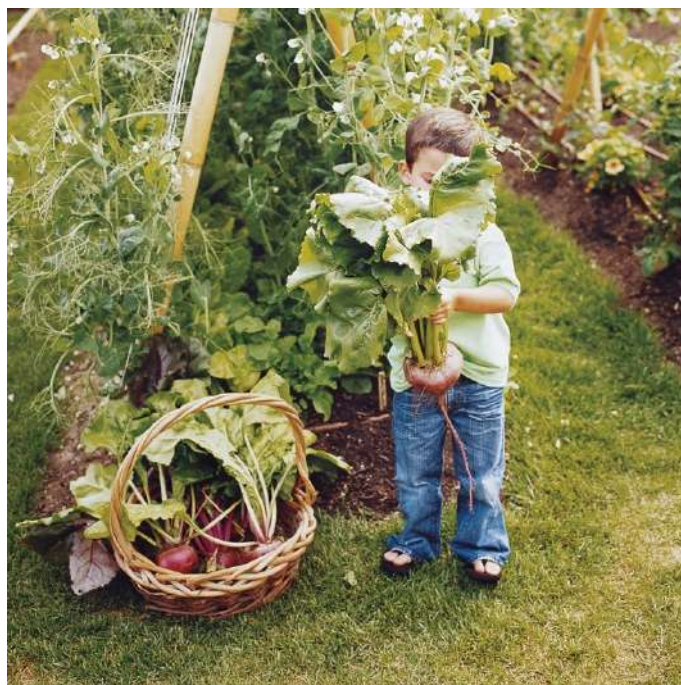
Proposed landscape plan

6.3 EMPHASIS ON GROWING

The new gardens will provide high quality visual amenity as well as contribute to the wider biodiversity of the area and production of food. The new condensed arrangement of buildings creates more open space for growing beds and green space.

The proposed landscape design places a high emphasis on maximising the amount of growing beds for both edible and non-edible plants. A small garden area will be dedicated to culturally specific plants which represent drawing from the cultural heritage of the site users.

The activities of planting, watering, caring for plants and harvesting will form the background of everyday life at Wolves Line Horticultural Centre, engaging people of all ages with the act of growing. Most importantly, the garden will have an educational role, which, combined with the structured courses and workshops, will help people of all abilities to develop their skills - learning horticultural and other land-based skills, gaining work experience and progression into work.



Garden as a place of learning and education



6.4 ENCOURAGED WILDLIFE

It is intended that the gardens will be mainly planted with both edible and non-edible native and non-native plants, shrubs and trees. Landscape design and the selection of plants places high emphasis on encouraging and accommodating wildlife at Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre.

Encourage Foraging

A selection of new fruit trees will be planted in both Work and Events Yards to provide food to both the community and small animals such as badgers and birds who choose to forage at Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre. Red currants, white currants, gooseberries and blackcurrants will be planted along eastern and western boundaries, providing more fruit and safe space for the animals.

Attract Pollinators and Insects

The site encourages a wide range of insects to make Wolves Lane their home. The proposal looks for opportunities to increase the capacity for insects visiting the site. Wild flowers, herbs and other plants will be planted around the new buildings to create every opportunity to support the pollinators.

Create Homes and Shelter

Gardens along the eastern and western boundary will be allowed to grow wild and, together with currant bushes, will provide home and shelter to animals visiting or passing through the site. Log piles and other wooden structures will be created within these Wildlife Gardens to create homes for hedgehogs and birds and appropriate basking sites for reptiles. Gaps in the fences will be retained to provide commuting routes through the developed site for hedgehogs.



Wild flowers for attracting pollinators and insects



Red currants to provide berries to community and animals



Herbs for scent, food and attracting insects



Badgers foraging for Rowan berries



Robin feeding on berries



Common lizards resting



Provide bat boxes and bird nesting boxes on mature trees



Gaps in fences to be retained to provide commuting routes



Create homes and shelters for animals visiting the site

6.5 RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater harvesting is being installed across the site with the aim of all irrigation on site coming from this source. Water from roofs will be fed into a number of tanks from where it is distributed to the greenhouses and to outdoor taps for external watering. The rainwater harvesting has a number of benefits. It reduces the demand on precious mains water by harvesting at source, it allows for the controlled irrigation of the areas under glass and reduces the financial burden of water bills for the site.

Furthermore harvesting rain water greatly reduces the impact of rain water run off into the mains system by retaining it and storing it above ground and releasing it slowly into the soil.

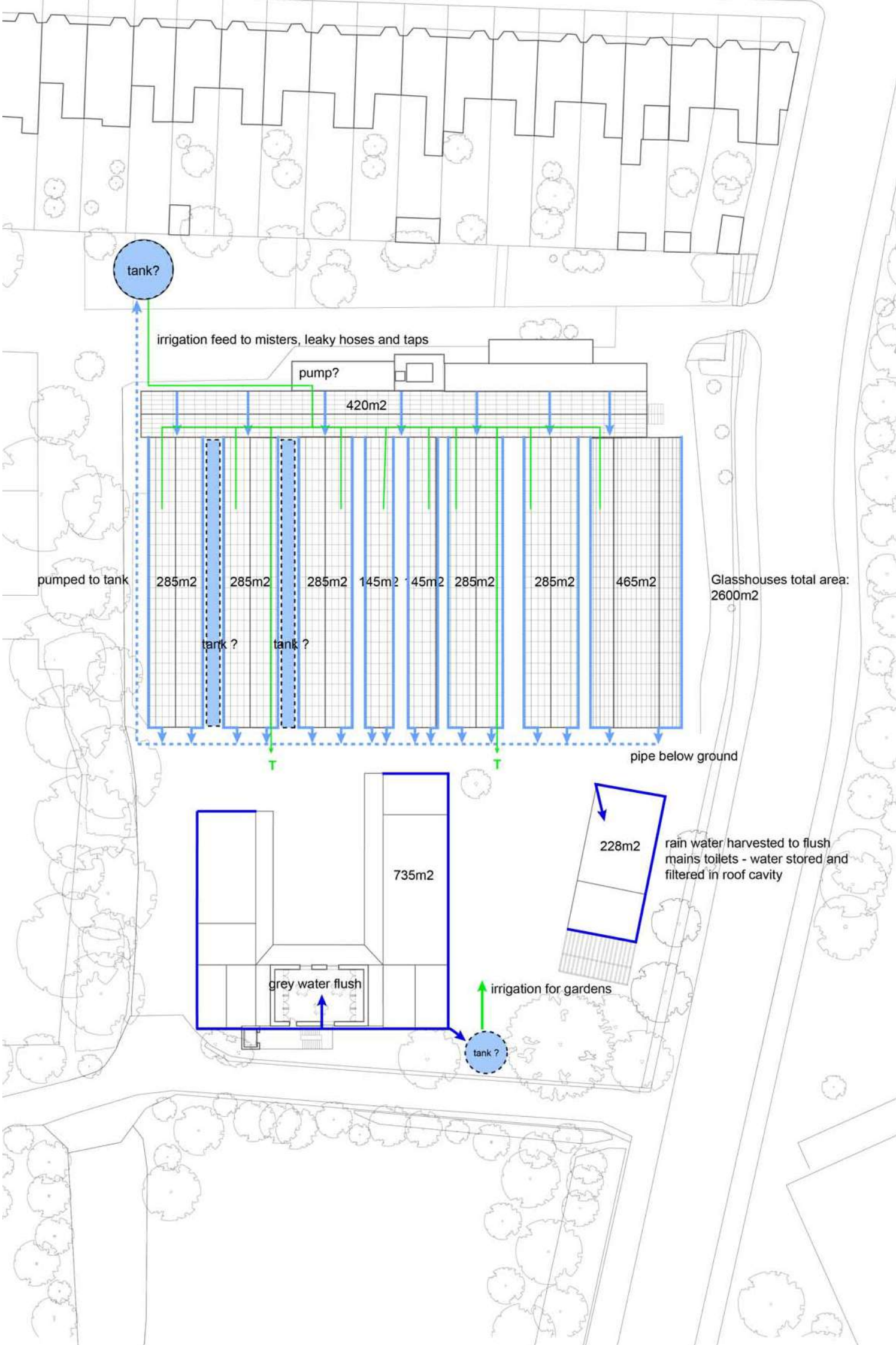
The project aims to make a nod to the history of The New River as well as celebrate the rainwater as an essential resource. Water chains and channel drainage will bring the movement of water around the site to life, making the harvesting of water a visually accessible and engaging concept.



Stepped landscape with rainwater



Rainwater running down a chain drain



6.6 SURFACES AND ACCESSIBILITY

The majority of the new hard landscaping will be treated with a Sustainable Drainage System that not only allows for drainage but also supports the growth of ground-cover plants in-between pavers. The planting will give soft edges to the hard landscaping and help to blend the buildings into its context.

The existing concrete and tarmac areas to the west of the site and to the south of greenhouses will be retained to provide appropriate hard standing for vehicle and pedestrian access. Across the rest of the site a combination of brick paver and wood chippings will be utilised to allow the paved ground to be permeable, porous and promote growth. The manageable size and weight of brick and wood chippings make them suitable for public participation, integrating training and education within the construction process.

The proposed site will have level access throughout with careful adaptation to gradients and integrated landscaping. The site will allow access to all in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and Building Regulations in relation to ramped access, induction, loops, accessible toilets and signage. Contasting colour will be used to support navigation for the visually impaired. Wheelchair access us provided throughout with appropriate passing distances, turning circles, gradients and toilets.



Collage describing the relationship between existing and new ground surfaces



Gravel



Brick pavers



Wood chippings

6.7 DISCOVERY & PLAY

The new landscape design will create playful spaces where children can interact with the natural world. In response to the youth workshops it will also provide informal infrastructure for play and more intimate spaces for specific activities.

Low level walls and natural feature such as tree trunks will provide features for play while enclosures formed by tall plants will create more intimate spaces for informal and spontaneous activities. Secondly, water features and trees with low branches will bring children directly into contact with nature and will be used for educational purposes. And finally, the gardens will provide spaces for displaying art created by both established artists and local residents.



Low walls as seating but also for play



Playful and educational water features



Garden areas for displaying art both by local residents and established artists



Trees with low branches to encourage climbing



Tall planting to reduce views across sites and create a sense of discovery



Garden features created from tree trunks and brunches to encourage play



6.8 INSIDE/ OUTSIDE RELATIONSHIP

In addition to the playful nature of the gardens, the design also aims to further enhance the relationship between the architecture and landscape and blur the boundary between inside and outside. This is achieved through indoor growing beds where indoor plants would grow in the ground rather than in raised pots and planters.

These beds are located in the most public spaces such as the Community Hub and classrooms and are positioned next to large windows with low sills which get a good amount of sunlight. It is at these windows, that indoor and outdoor growing beds come together and form what appears to be a continuous garden.



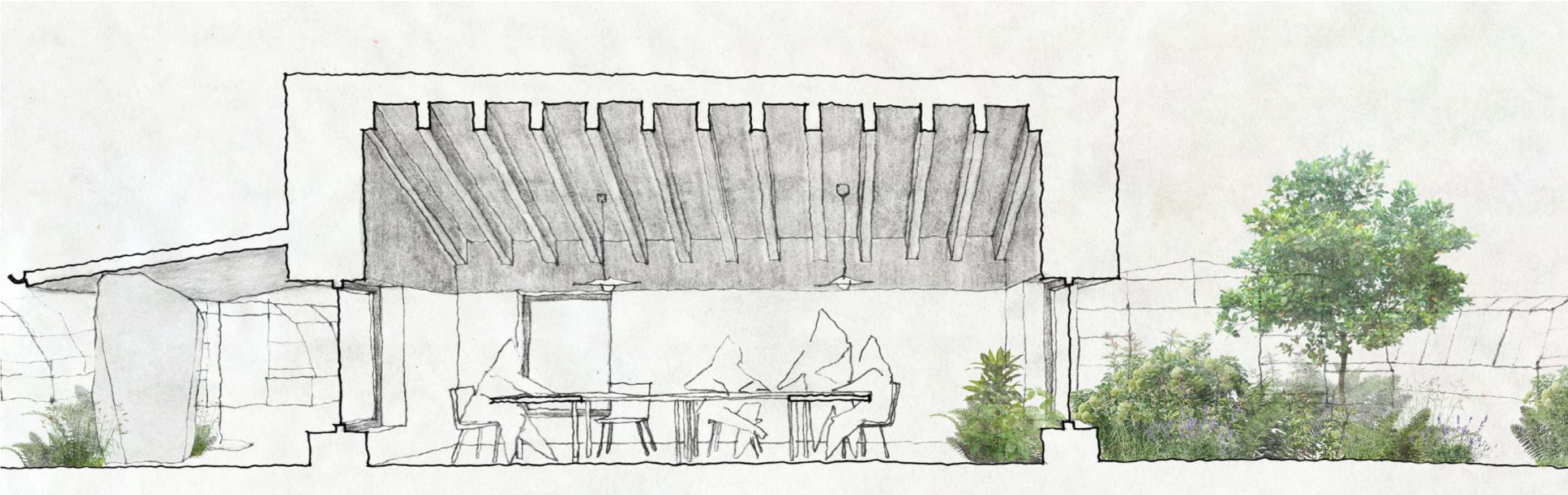
Tropical plants growing indoors at Teatro Oficina



Deep windows with plants at sill level at Villa Necchi



Tropical plants growing inside at Atocha Railway Station



Sectional perspective describing the blurred relationship between classroom and garden

6.9 WOODLAND LEARNING

The woodland area at the north end of the site is not overlooked and is relatively disconnected from the rest of the site. It is proposed that this woodland would become a supervised play area for children and hosts a forest school. As a relatively wild space the area requires a small amount of clearing and maintenance but no major architectural interventions.

Research shows that children generally learn more effectively in the outdoors, gain in confidence and self esteem, are more balanced, show greater consideration to others and greater social capability. A forest school will allows children space and time to play, reconnect with nature and their environment, learning to take risks and having their own adventures. It is envisaged that the space could be utilised by a range of age groups from pre-school to sixth form students learning outdoor skills.



Woodland to the north at Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre



Children creating timber structures at a forest school



Aerial view of the proposed Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre