

SONIA KAMEL



Watercolour Visual

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PORTFOLIO

About Me

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Sonia Kamel

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Employment Goals

I have a strong set of creative skills to add to a collaborative team, I have spent over 20 years in the interiors industry , studied photography and floristry and founded a theatre company that performed in Edinburgh and Sadlers wells .

I believe in the restorative power of gardens. My love of gardening and being in my garden led me to retrain and study a Garden Design Diploma at KLC.

Employment

For the last 17 years I have been the director of a London based interiors business, delivering FFE design projects and providing turn key furnishings for luxury developments and residential interiors to HNW clients in Knightsbridge and Mayfair. www.soniakamelinteriors.com. I have designed , styled and project managed many large projects for companies such as Greystar, Carnavon Hotels and Tide Properties.

I have a balanced and cultivated creative perspective, good horticultural knowledge and practical based skills, with hands on experience in designing and planting. I excel in design narrative and can apply my interiors experience to interpreting client briefs well . Utilising design software and staying up to date with the latest developments in design help me translate concepts and multi task effectively

Along lifes pathway ...

I am keen to translate the philosophies of direction , movement , dynamics and journeys within my work. Biophilic design and connecting indoor and outdoor space is important as is the use of scale , balance and rhythm. I like to design with materials and practises that are sustainable, and innovative .

Business skills

Project management, Customer liason , Presentations , Finance , Team player , Marketing , Sales , Procurement, supplier/ contractor liaison, sourcing , FFE , Styling and creative .

Interpersonal Skills

Emotionally Intelligent , Receptive , Self motivated , Solution driven, Intuitive, Adaptable and Collaborative.

Favourite books

Shuggie Bain, The Road Less Travelled and Beth Chattos Green Tapestry

Interests

Modernist Architecture , Crafting , Art , Theatre , Garden History

Skills

Vectorworks 2D and 3D

Photoshop

Sketchup

Adobe Indesign

Powerpoint, pages and
microsoft suite

Interior decorating and styling

Flower arranging

Photography

Full driving license

Relevant Qualifications

KLC Diploma
Garden design 2023
Distinction

BTEC
Visual communication 2011
Distinction

BTEC Interior design 2008
Merit

Relevant experience

Competition Winner
Hampton Court Garden Festival 2023
**The Natural King / to design, supply
and plant 30 planters for the show .**

Hampton Court 2023
Grounds Volunteer

Chelsea flower show 2023
Volunteer . RHS Royal contemplation and
celebration garden. Dave green

Designer of window boxes to London
hotels

SONIA KAMEL PORTFOLIO

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1. Historic
The Isokon Building, London.
2. Residential . Twickenham Family Garden
3. Public Realm
The Priory school, Lewes.
- 4 Show gardens . Hampton Court
5. GA , Construction Drawings
Planting Plans and Sketches.





Visuals created in Vectorworks 3D and photoshop

The influence of modernist principles such as form, scale, simplicity and the use of colour to evoke emotion have been used whilst allowing the wildness and rhythm of naturalistic and seasonal planting to soften and bring biodiversity.

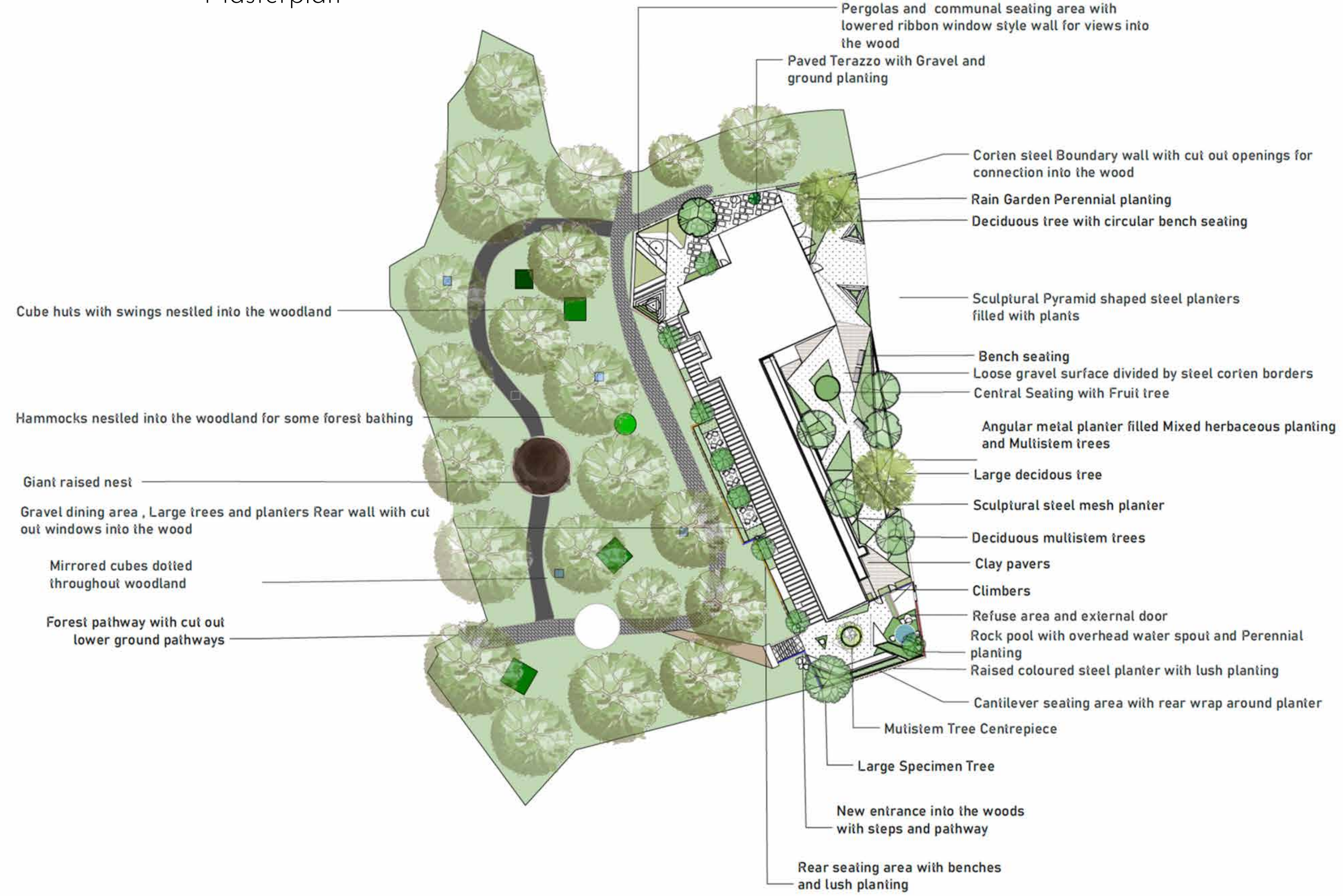
Mood and concept



rm, sculpture , texture and rhythm

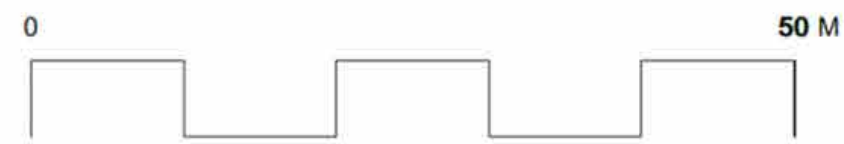


Masterplan



The brief asked us to create multiple garden spaces within a complicated layout around the Isokon building. They are separate gardens in a way and have been designed singularly yet are part of the wider scheme.

The communal areas will be used for residents to enjoy private gardens to the rear and to south of the building, yet the Isokon building attracts visitors to the museum and hosts community events at the front .



Crunchy pink gravel works against the smooth render of the Isokon building and is softened by swaying grasses, flowering perennials and a canopy of multistem trees. Colour evokes emotion and texture adds dynamics .

The Cercis Siliquastrum Tree, the Cornus Mas and the Liriodendron Tulipifera tree give seasonal interest and vibrant colour.



A view from above looking down to the courtyard

Initial concept layout plans for the courtyard The geometric and directional layout is influenced by the modernist landscaper Garrett Eckbo



Visuals created in Vectorworks 3D photoshop and water colour





This is the design in development .

The concept is a modern textural and sculptural interplay.

Exciting materials contrast against the Isokon .

Reference is made to the artists that lived in the building after the 2nd world war through sculptural hardscape and plants

It is like a living art gallery .

Colour form and Juxtapose



Visuals created in Vectorworks 3D and photoshop



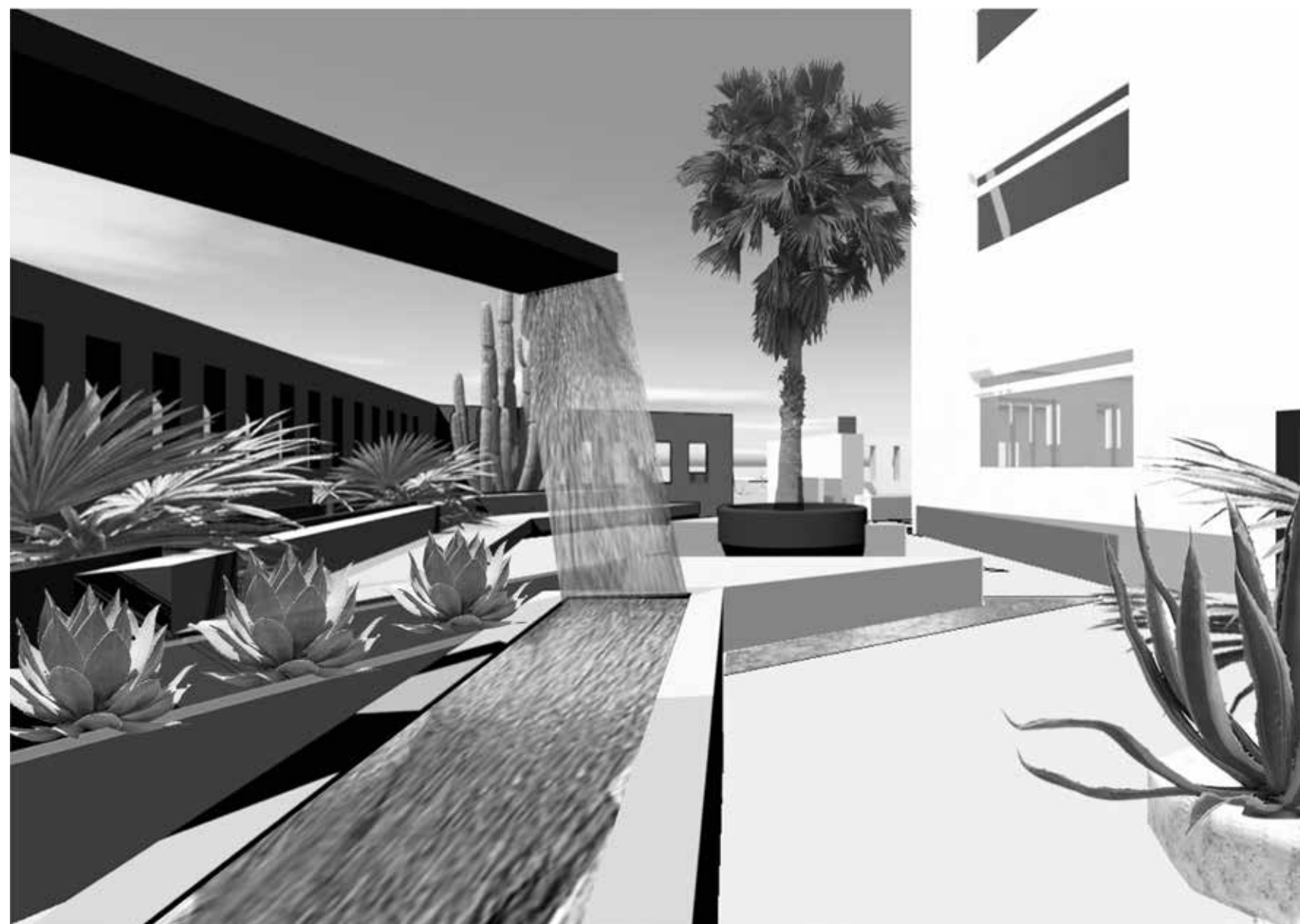
Rear of the Isokon leading to the Gravel Garden The use of sculptural elements bring this rear corridor to life . Large boulders and apertures in the wall connect the space to the woodland behind . Angular shapes are softened by grasses , climbers and seasonal plants .



This is the design in development .

Influenced by Architect Luis Barragan , I felt the building suited large architectural and sculptural plants.
 I enjoy the scale of his work, the use of colour and the interplay between hard and soft surfaces.

This idea later translated into softer planting and softer colour palatte .



Communal Gravel Garden



The Isokon oasis is a private space full of lush planting and swaying grasses .

It is a modernist Gravel garden

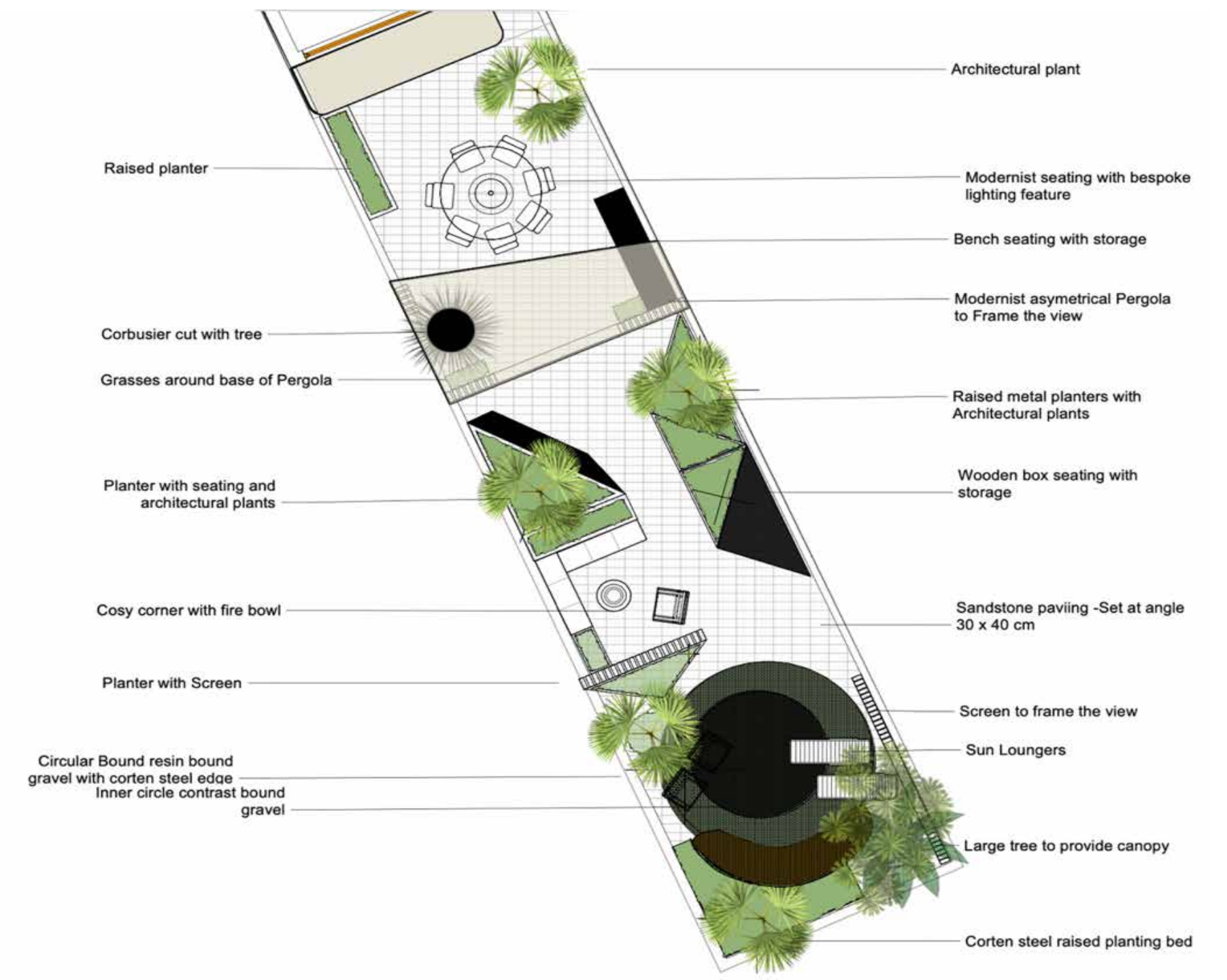
Its a place to sit , enjoy the sounds of the Barragan style water feature and immerse in nature . The naturalistic planting is designed as a haven for wildlife

An Acer Palmatum Orange dream Tree anchors the courtyard and gives the space a colourful focus whilst the hanging branches of the Salix x sepulcralis var. chrysocoma soften the space

PENTHOUSE DREAMS CONCEPT . DESIGN IDEAS. OUTSIDE LIVING



The penthouse is divided into outdoor living spaces for relaxing , entertaining and joyful outdoor experiences. Influenced by the modernist designers of the La Case study houses , the penthouse design offers privacy , light and shade , and a frame for life . Modernism can be playful , fun and exciting , intelligent and curious . Tall and exciting plants proved canopy and shade. Colour is used as a link to the modernist artwork displayed in the penthouse and created by former residents



The Isokon Penthouse is set against the backdrop of the Belsize woods. It a modernist dream high above with entertaining areas at the core of the design. Inspired by the american modernist architect Garett Eckbo and French swiss Architect designer Corbusier .

Lush and architectural planting is set amongst an outdoor dining area , fire pit and sun lounging deck . The plants will attract birds and insects , the grasses will sway and withstand exposure.

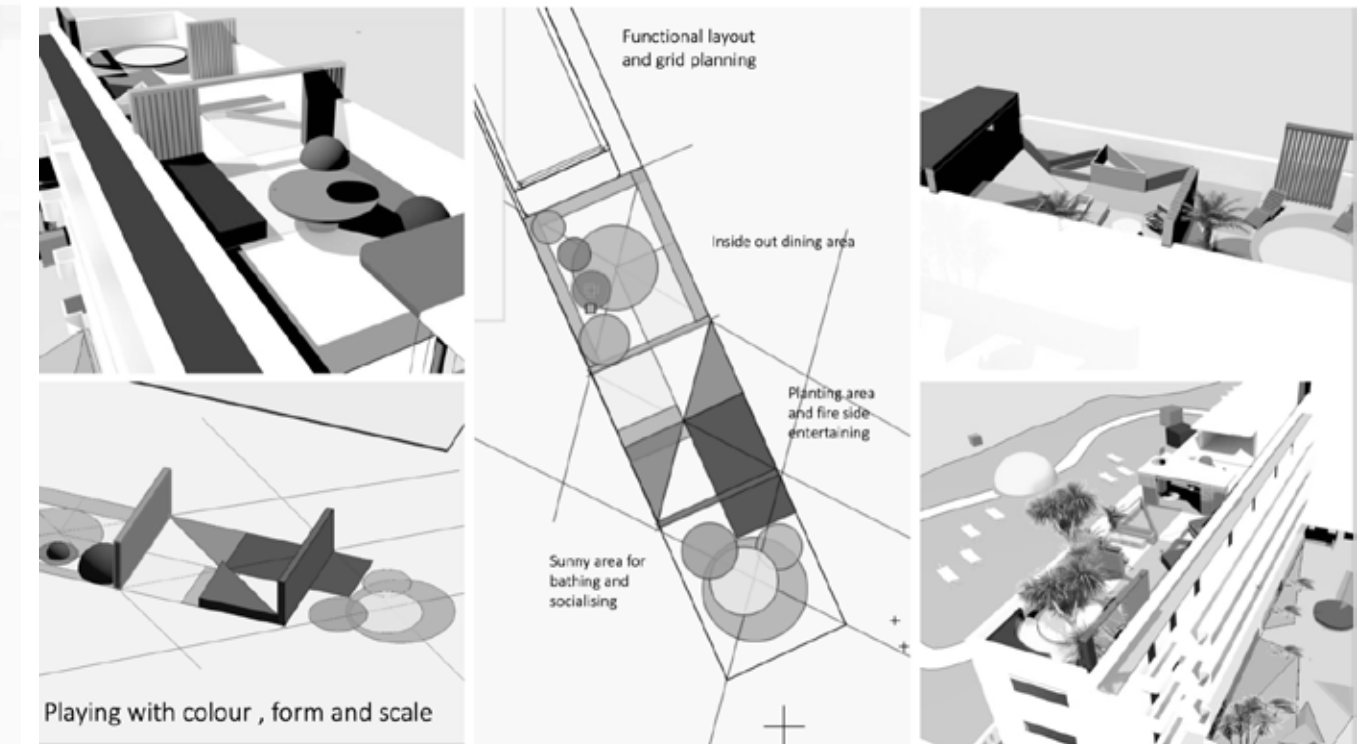


Visuals created in Vectorworks 3D and photoshop

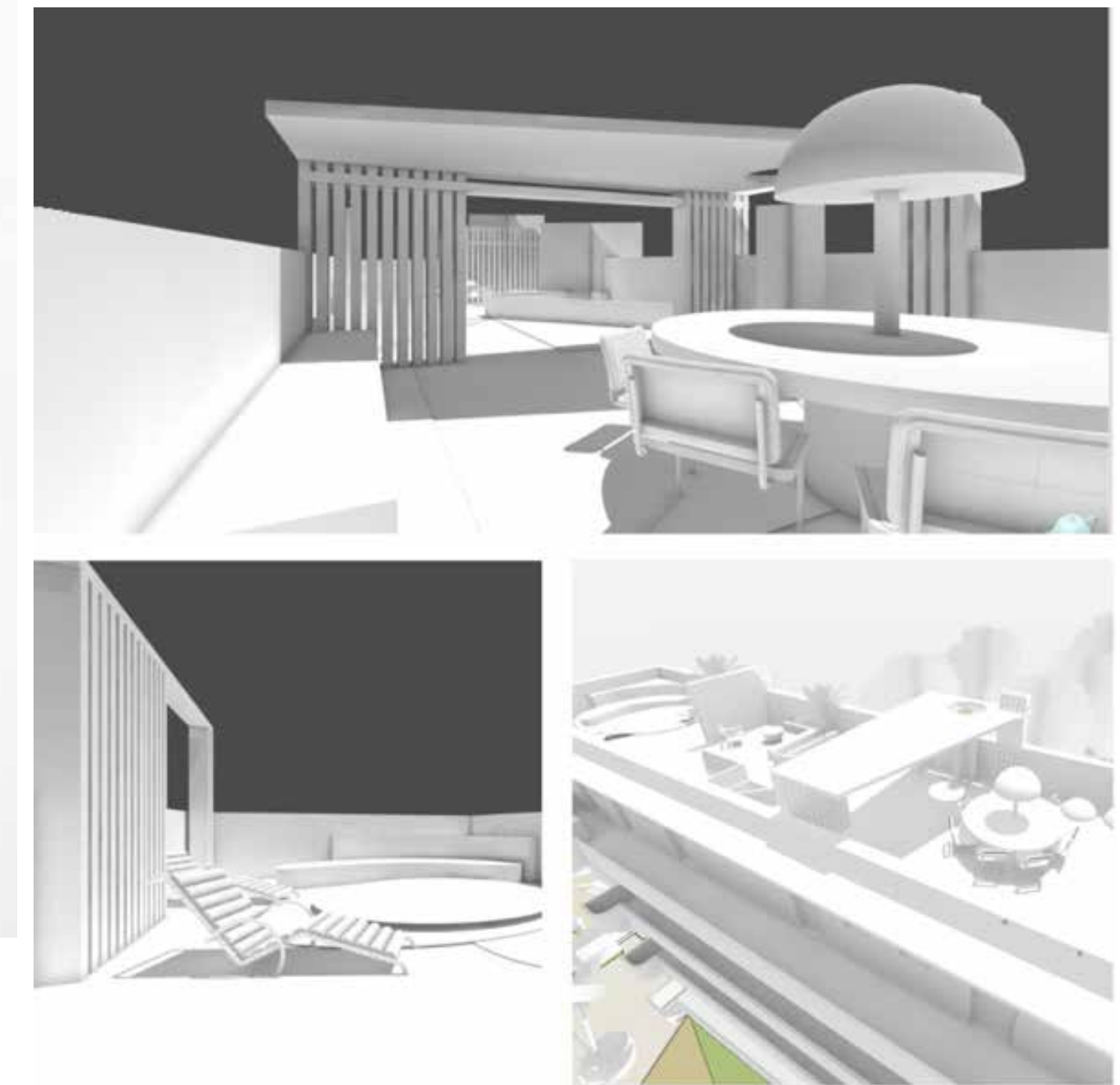
Design development using the grid method to divide the space and align with architecture



Design in Vectorworks 3D and Photoshop



Design development in 3D



I designed an architectural pergola with a Corbusier cut out and several vertical screens that are modernist in principle. The Penthouse garden design was led by the connection of the interior to the exterior.

The palette is colourful yet restrained and translates from the interior which is panelled in cherry wood .

MASTERPLAN AND PROPOSED KEY HARDSCAPE STYLING

This is a garden for a young professional couple and their family of Iranian and English Heritage that enjoy cooking and socialising.



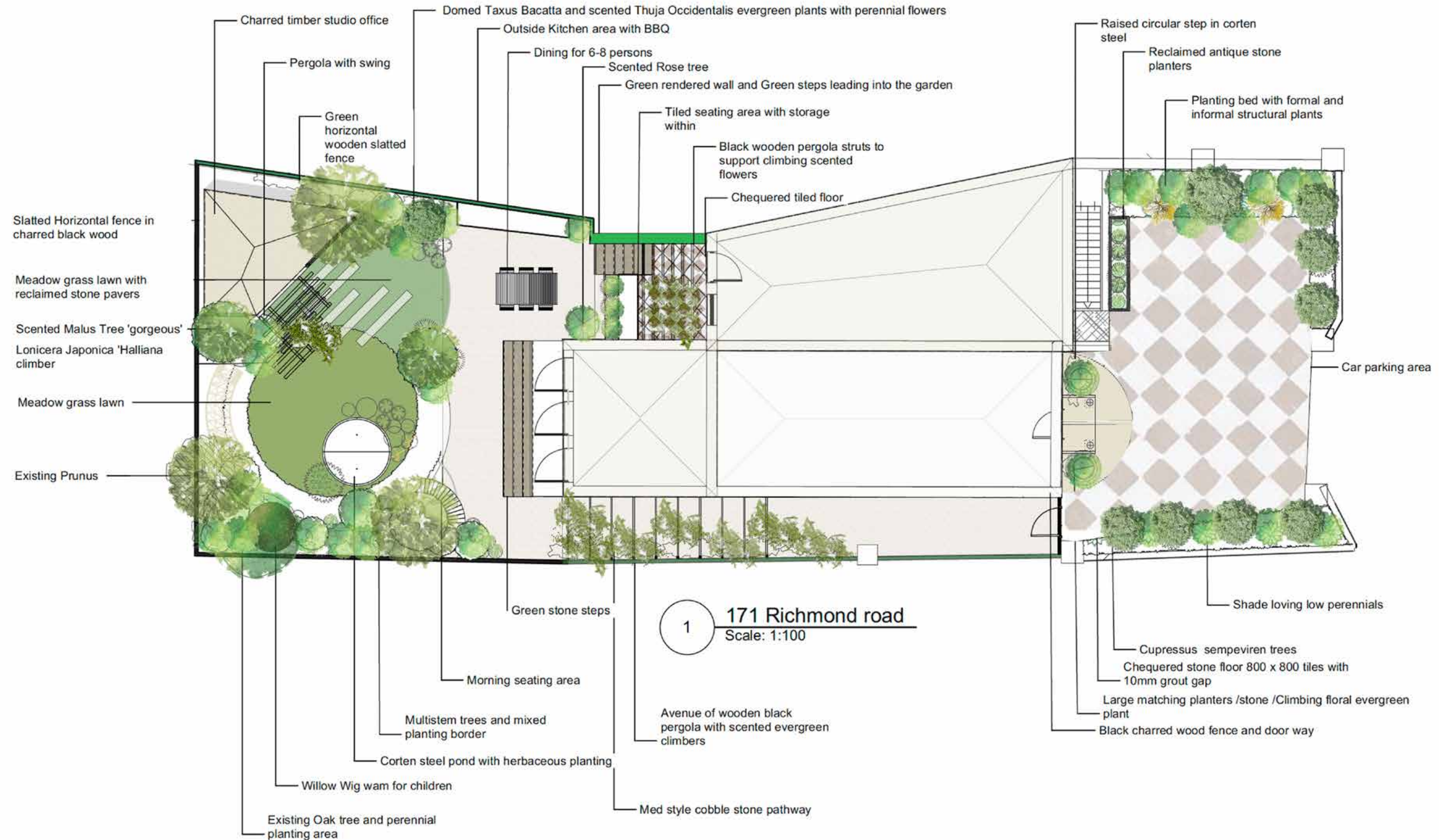
Black Pergola and morning sun spot



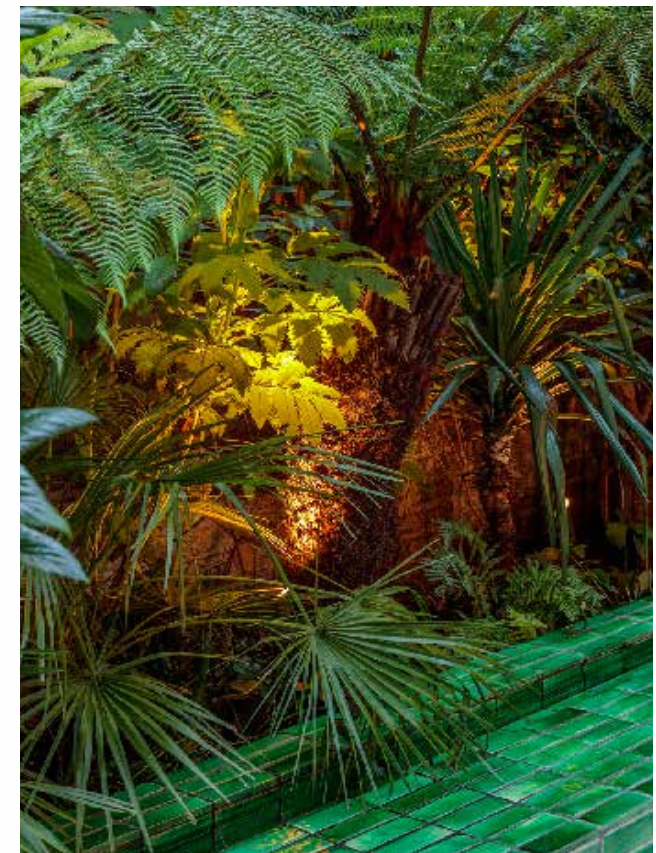
Black studio and panel fencing



Rustic style dining



Lower courtyard chequered floor



Lower courtyard green glazed tiles and ferns



Front entrance paving and styling

Visuals created in Vectorworks and Photoshop



The brief asked that we fill the garden with scented plants with a restrained palette with plants that will also attract insects and pollinators

Fragrant plants include

Philadelphus-schneesturm , Daphne x transatlantica Eternal Fragrance ('Blafra'), Sarcococca confusa, the vanilla scented Akebia Quinata Climber , Loniceria japonica, Lavandula angustifolia and Malus sylvestris Evereste fruit trees to name a few .

The planting is relaxed but has structural evergreen Ilex crenata domes throughout .

RESIDENTIAL GARDEN - TWICKENHAM



Visuals created in Vectorworks 2D, 3D and Photoshop

The house is Georgian and the materiality must be sympathetic and tasteful yet modern , relaxed and bohemian.

Proportion and scale have been considered .

The couple have good taste and style but need to consider the needs of their young family .

To be enjoyed throughtout the day, a place for coffee in the morning sun , dining with friends in the evening , chilling in the lower courtyard and work or yoga in the studio .

The scheme includes only British native plants and trees .



Hand drawn visual watercolour and photoshop

The brief asked that we create mindful and restful areas for the students to engage with and have sustainability at the core of the design.

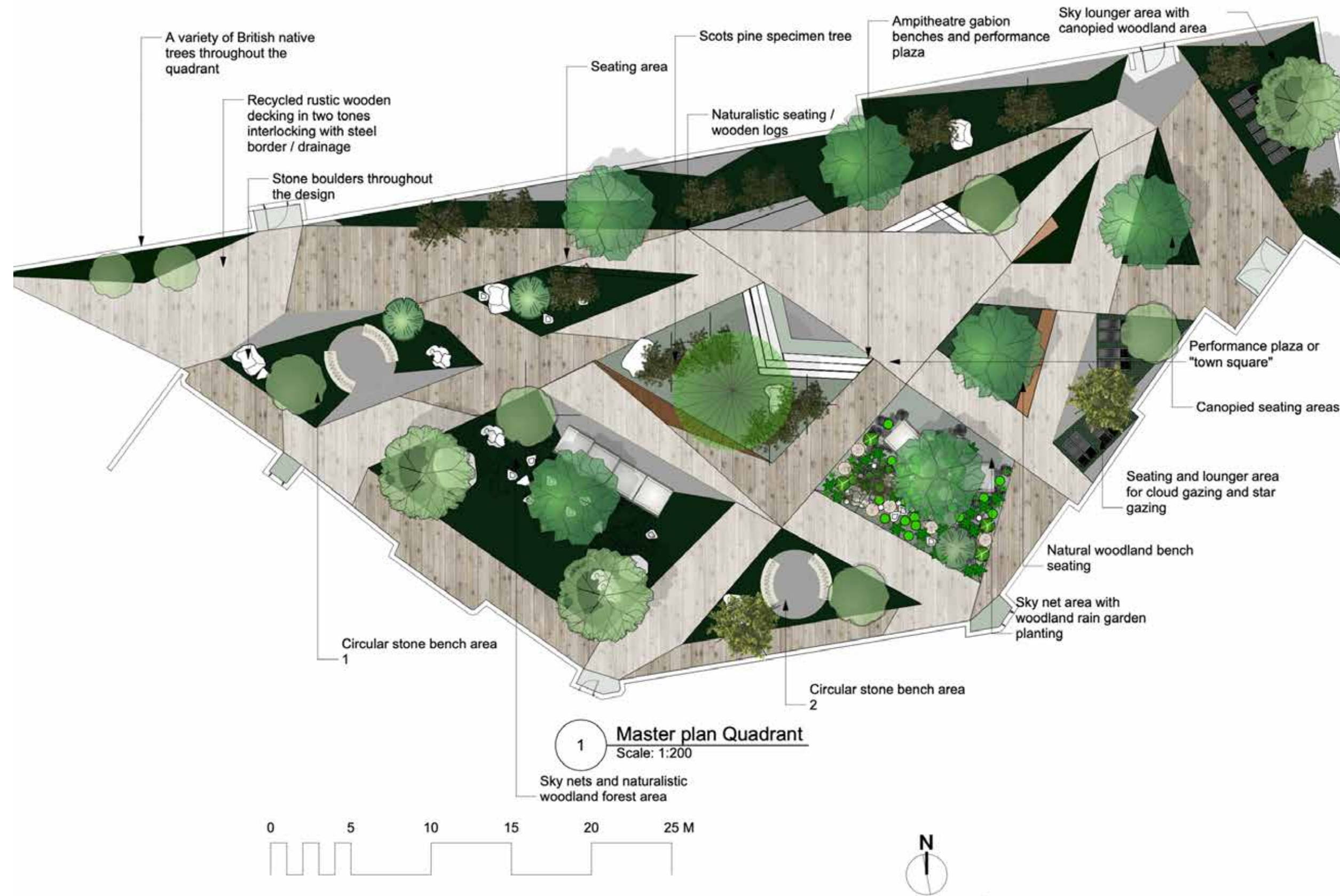
So visible are the South Downs from the site , and after analysis it was evident that the new landscape at Priory should offer an immersive experience with connection to the earth and the sky.

Children sit under the canopy of trees and amongst the dense foliage and watch the birds , bees and insects and enjoy the feeling of being connected to the earth .

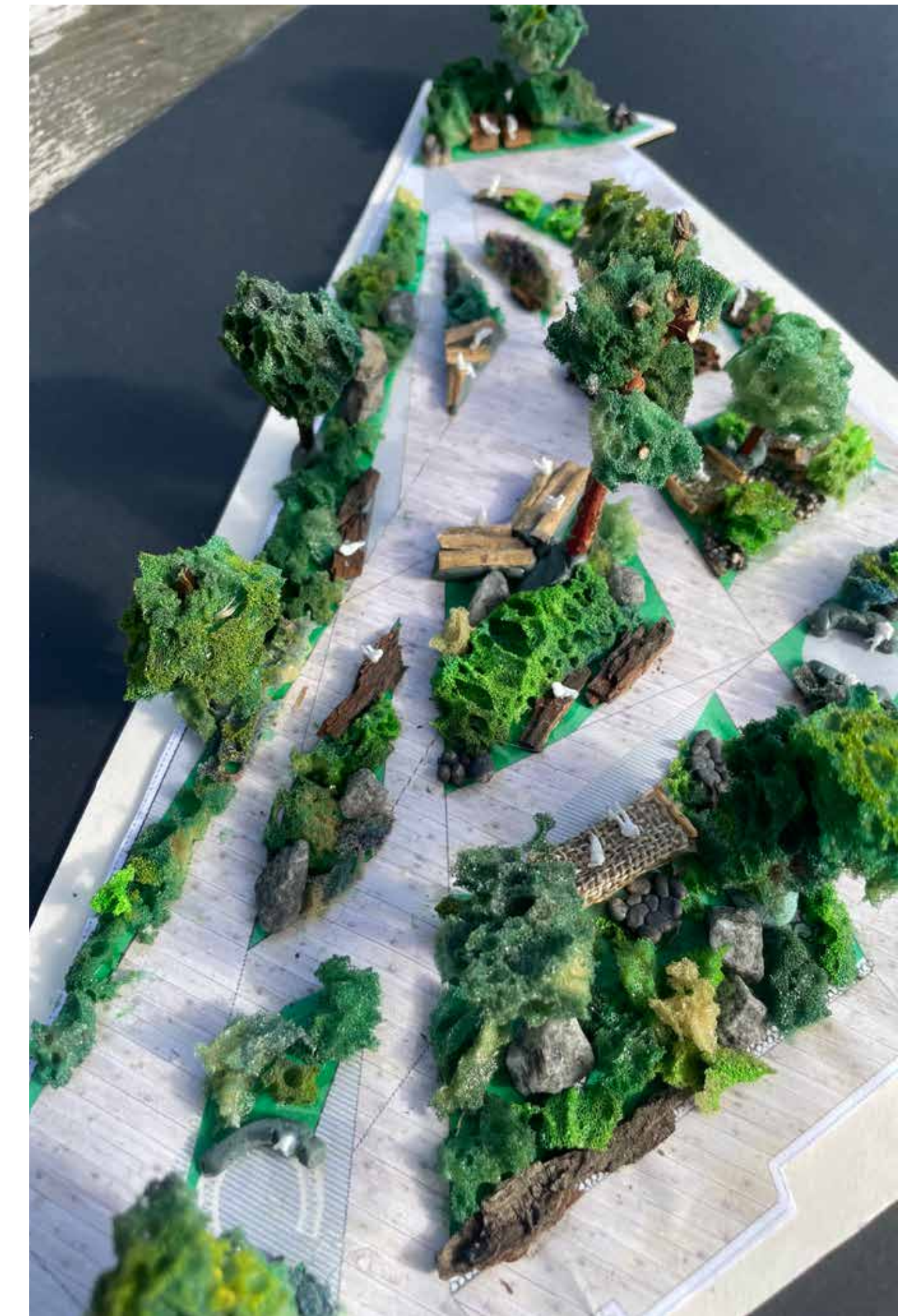
Loungers provide moments of rest as time is spent looking up at the skies , cloud gazing or star gazing.

We are immersed in nature and we are made of stars .

Masterplan



Scale model 1:200.



This Garden is about connecting to the woodland.

At its centre is a masterful scots pine , gently growing upwards . With sky nets for restful gazing , stone circles for conversation , gabion seats for insects and rain gardens for biodiversity .

At its core is a performance area lead to by dynamic pathways.

Material palette



The scheme includes only British native plants and trees .

A Native Woodland with naturalistic planting . An ancient woodland with Pollinating plants. We are custodians



The brief asked us to focus on connection to the landscape and heritage of the local area.

I researched plants found locally and discovered many plants found in ancient woodlands.

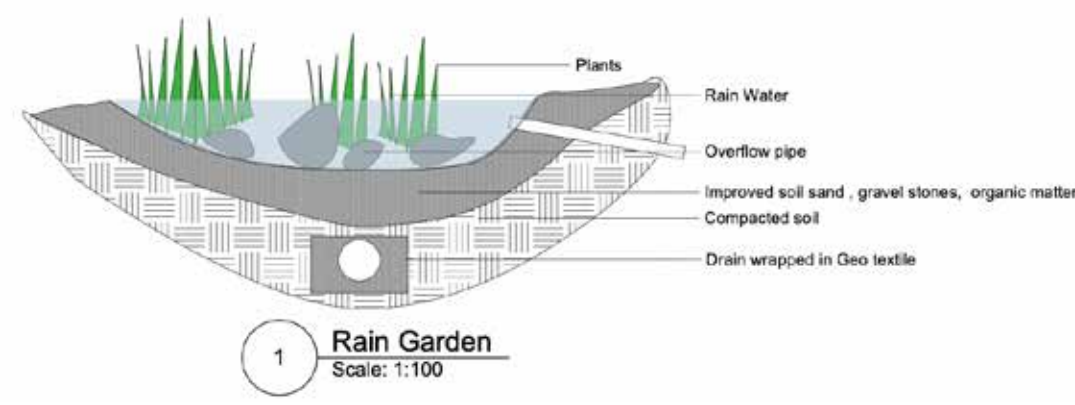
The woodland planting will attract year round interest with homes for pollinators and rain gardens for biodiversity.

The idea is to replace the tarmac and create a forest with a canopy of trees that bring a host of insects and wildlife .

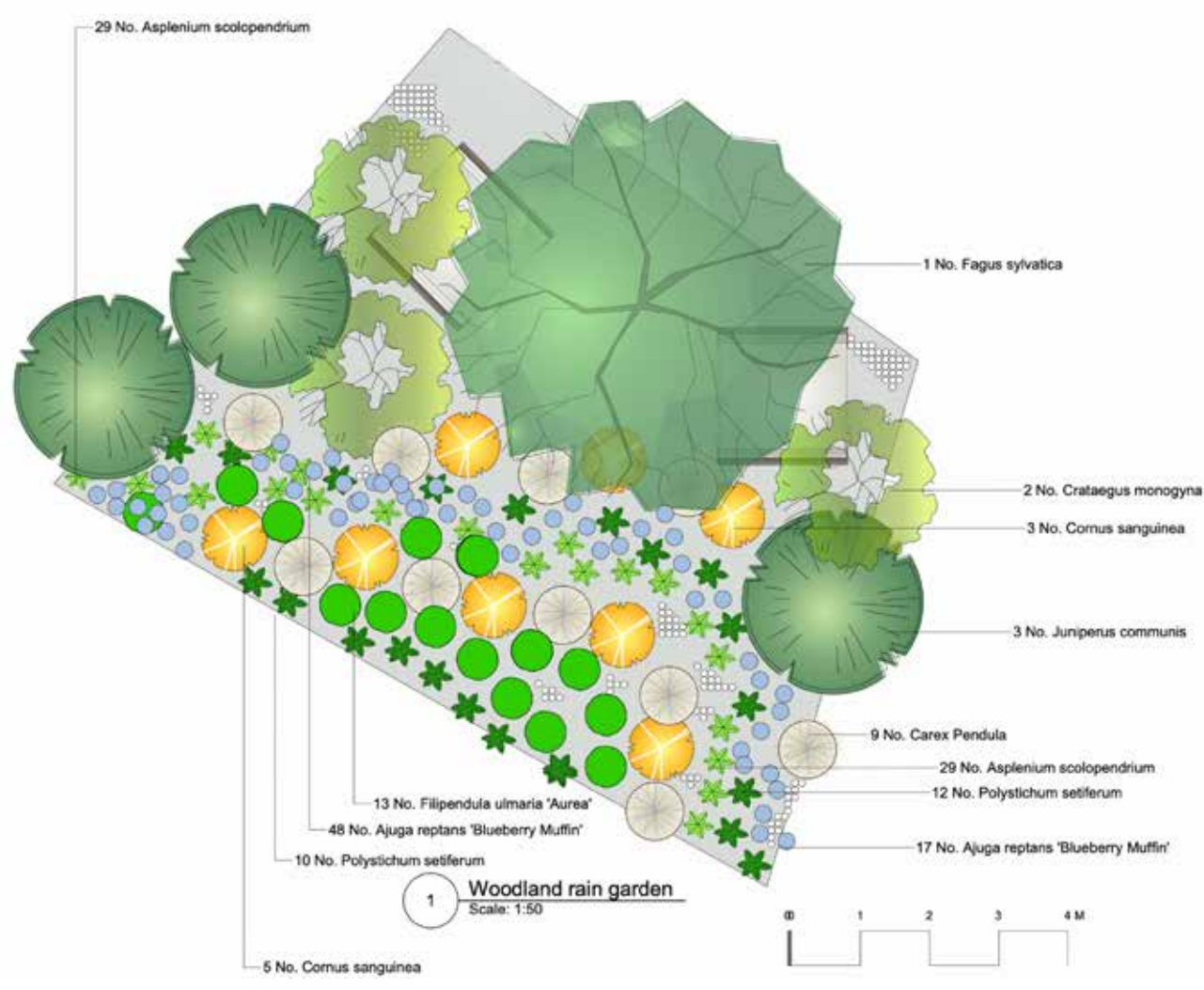
This is to be enjoyed by the pupils immersed within and to be seen from their classrooms. Greenscape has an restorative influence on the body and mind . Birdsong is calming.

The goal is to immerse Children in the wonder and restorative nature of wildlife and plants. We want to bring wildlife to the site in Lewes with the use of rain gardens that will attract native birds, bees , butterflies and dragonflies .

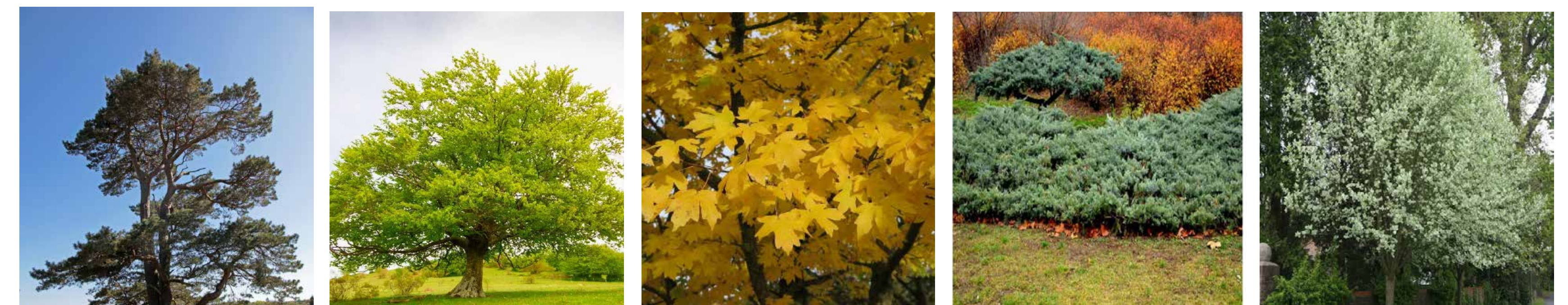
Rain gardens act as temporary bathtubs, holding water as plant roots and soil filter out pollutants. Water percolates out of the rain garden into the surrounding soil, recharging the groundwater .



Rain garden Planting area



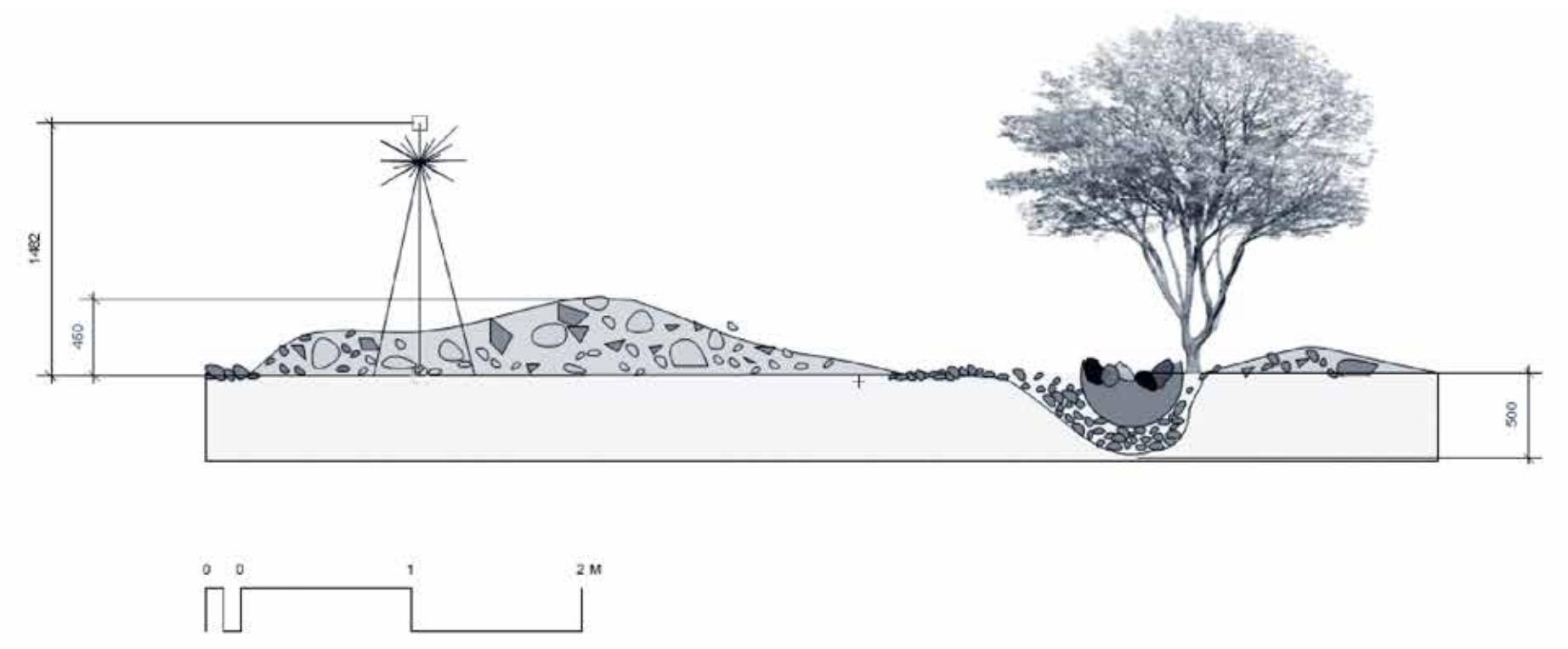
Visuals created in Vectorworks 3D, water colour and photoshop



These are British native plants with flowering shrubs and trees: Scots pine , Fagus sylvatica , Acer Campestre , Juniperus communis and Sorbus Aria .

Resilient Pocket Garden . Hampton Court Garden festival

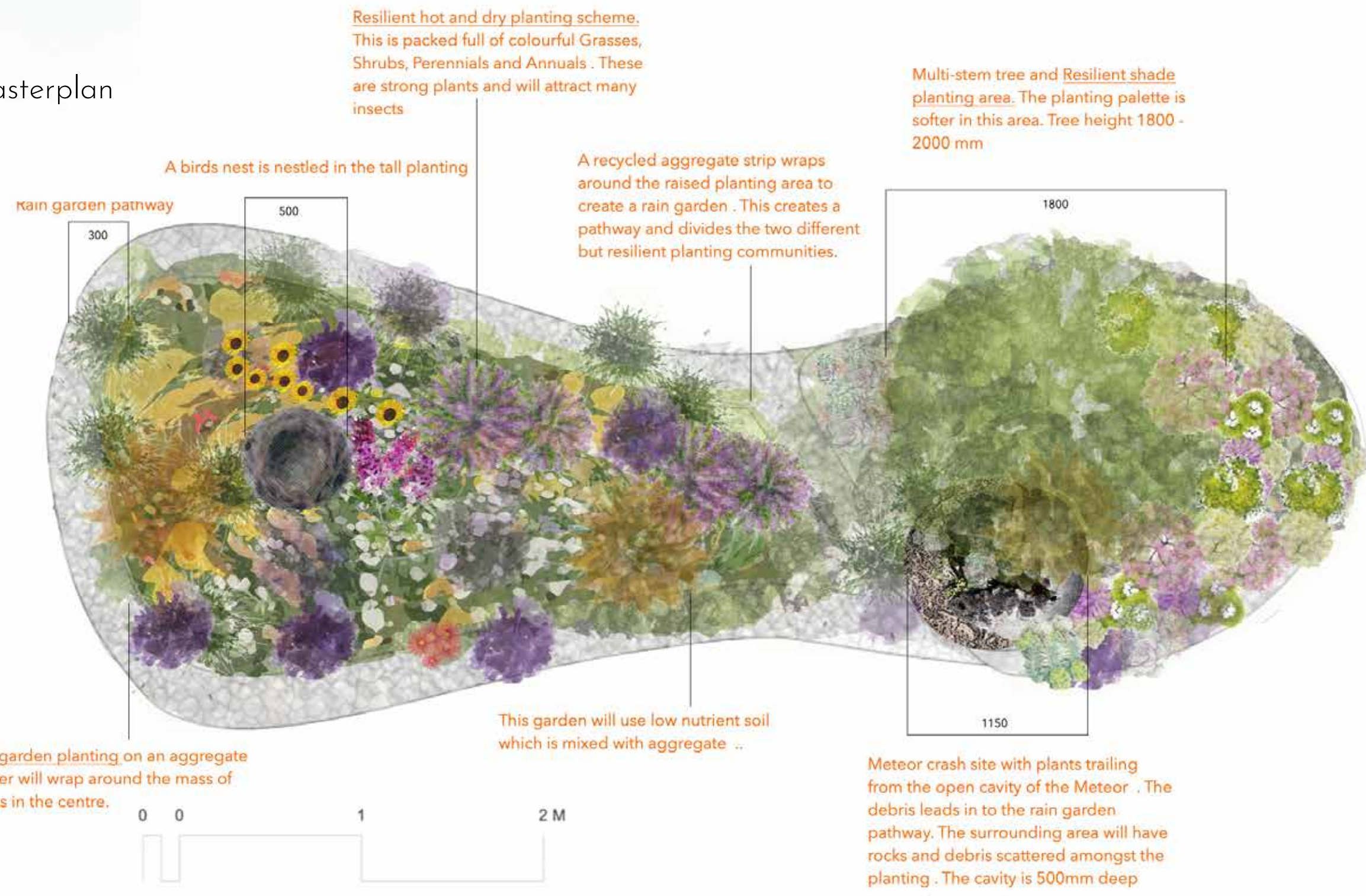
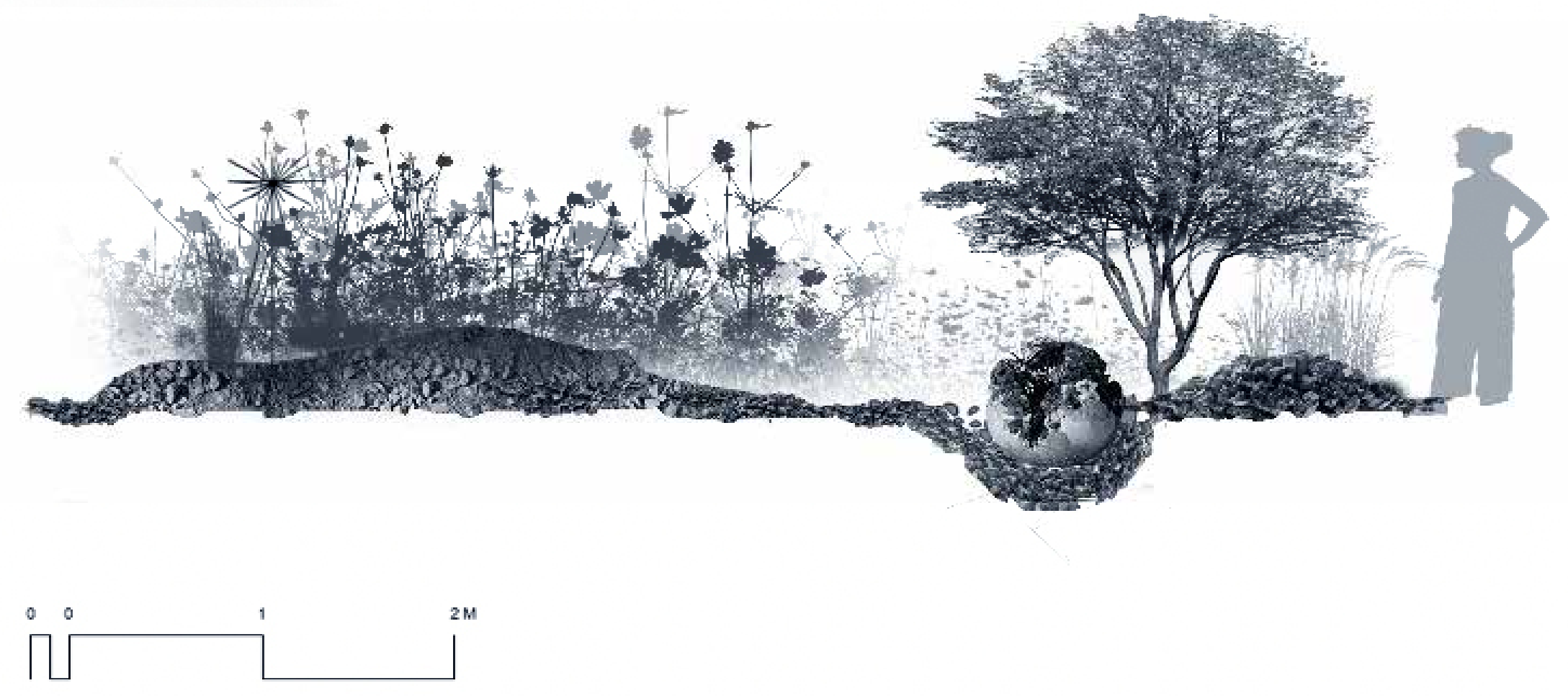
Visual



Masterplan

This is a pocket garden designed for the Hampton Court Garden Festival. The plants thrive in poor soil and can deal with drought and exposure yet attract plenty of pollinators. A meteorite has hit and life has exploded forth despite the devastation .

Sections



GLOBAL IMPACT GARDEN HARVEST 43

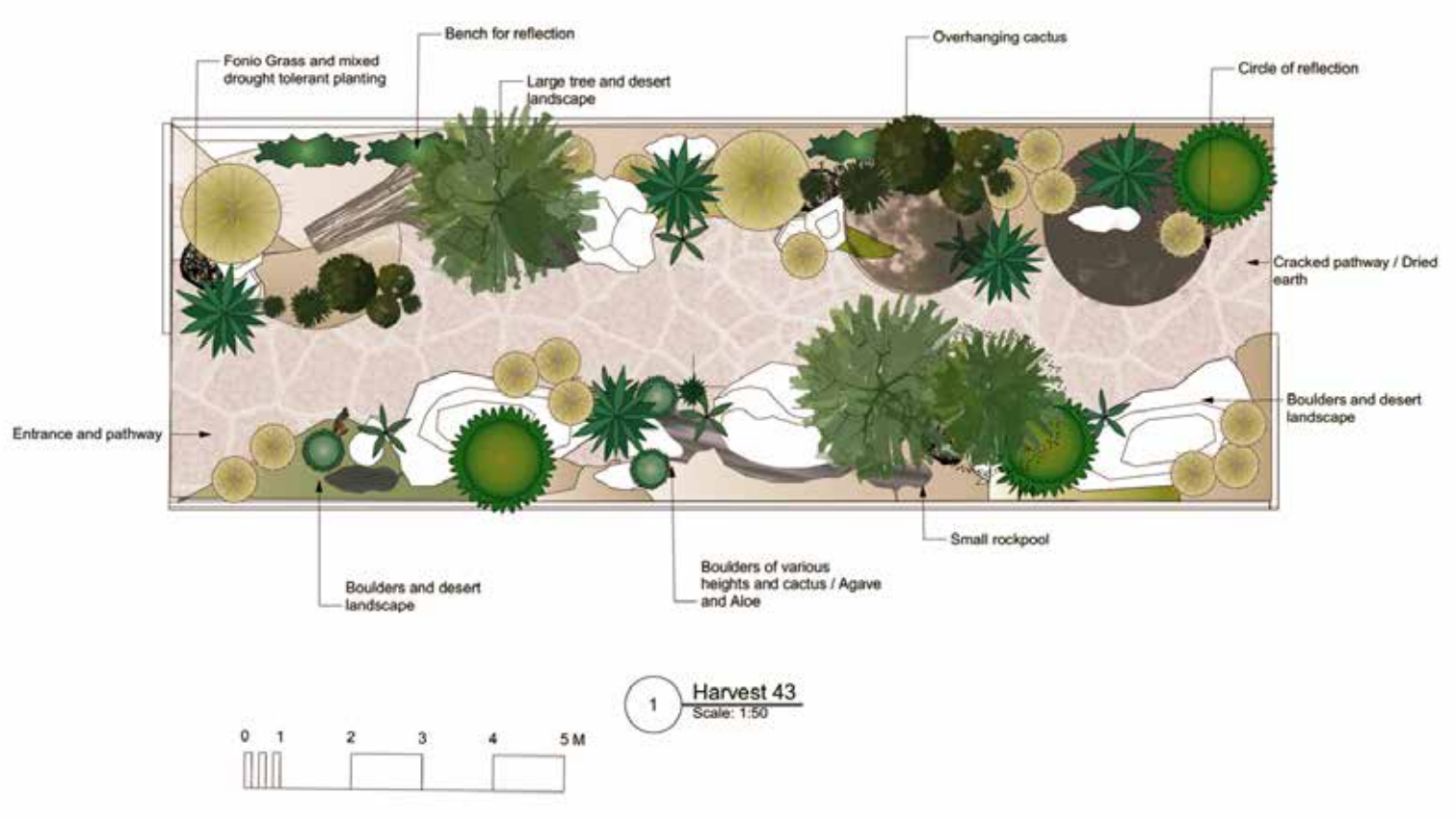
Harvest 43 is a conceptual allotment designed for The Hampton Court Garden festival
It explores the theme of Global impact and explores the new possibilities facing us as the climate changes.

Could this be an English allotment in 2043? How would our landscape change ? This is a sculptural and textural garden full of colour and large scale plants . How could these new plants sustain us ?

Can we be optimistic about the future?



Masterplan



3D view of Harvest 43



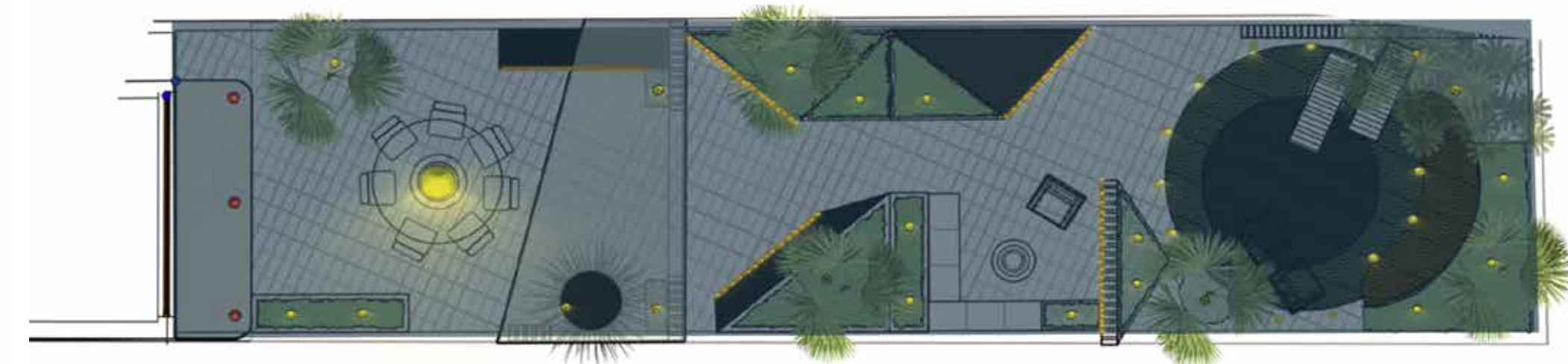
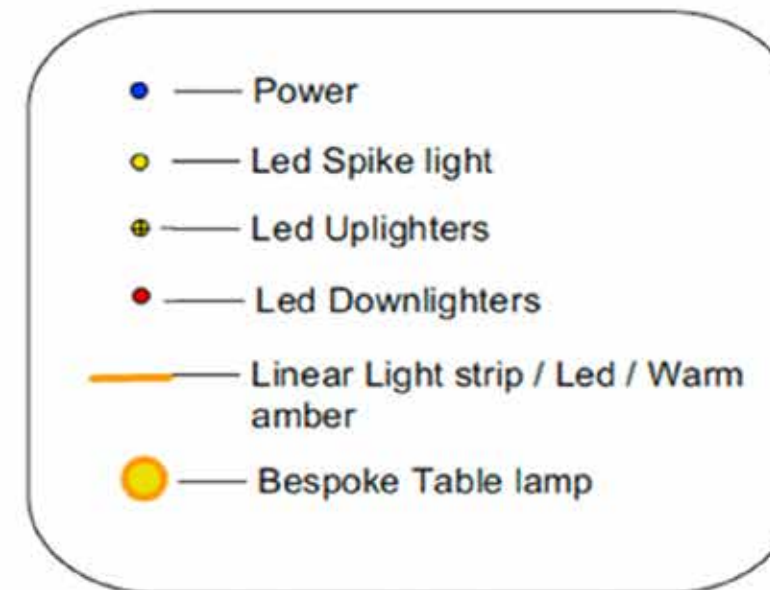
GA and lighting - The Isokon Building plan



Project The Frame	
Sheet Title A3 Master Sheet	
Sheet Number General arrangement	Date 08/12/2023
Drawn By Drawn By Sonia Kamel	Scale - if not shown on individual drawings 1:200

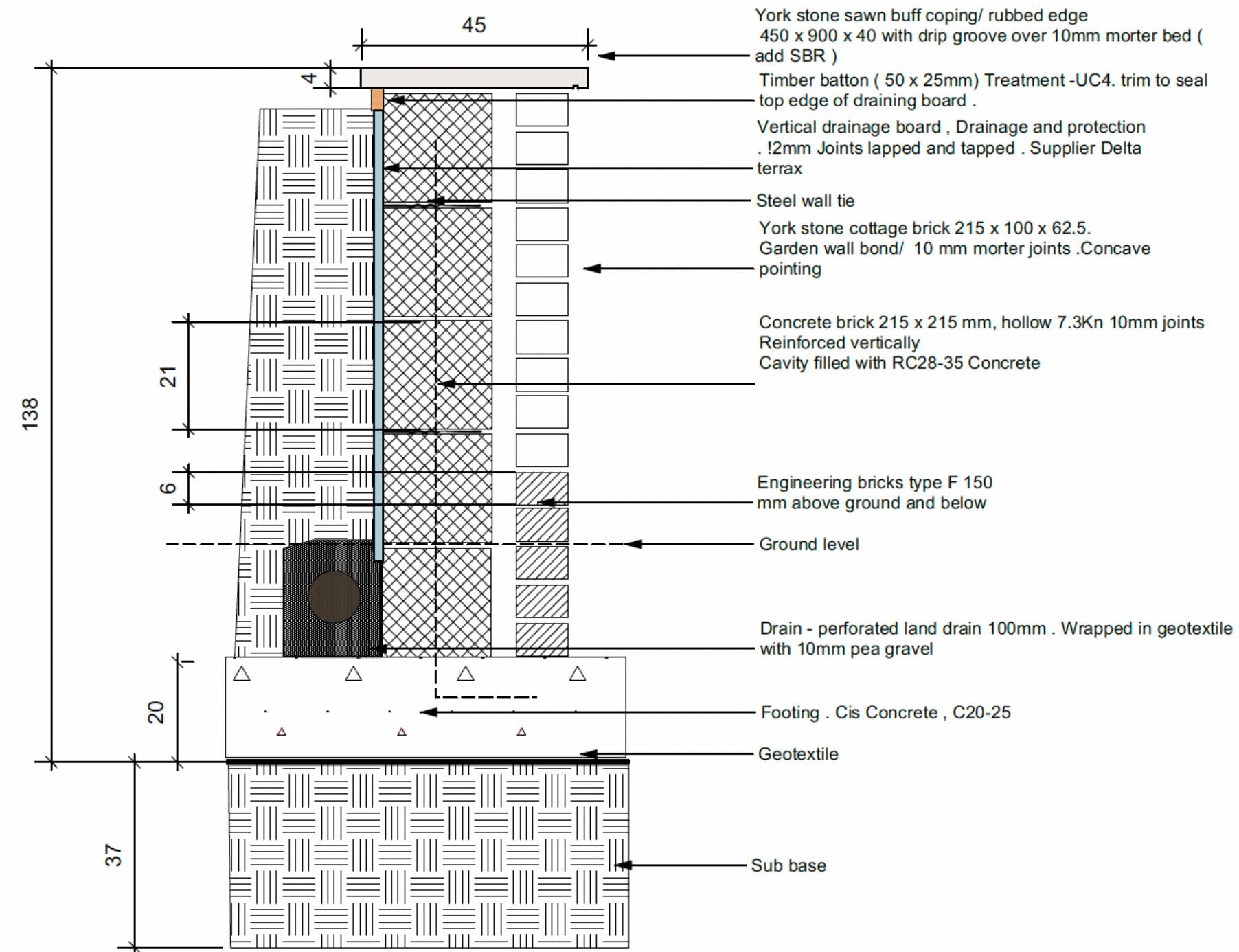
Lighting plan

-  Bespoke table lamp
-  Lumos 8x16mm warm white flex IP65 waterproof dimmable LED
-  Led Hudson spike spot light Micro
Black powder coat 3000K warm white
-  Recessed downlighters Black powder coat 3000K warm white
Led Hudson
-  Led Hudson uplighter Black powder coat 3000K warm white



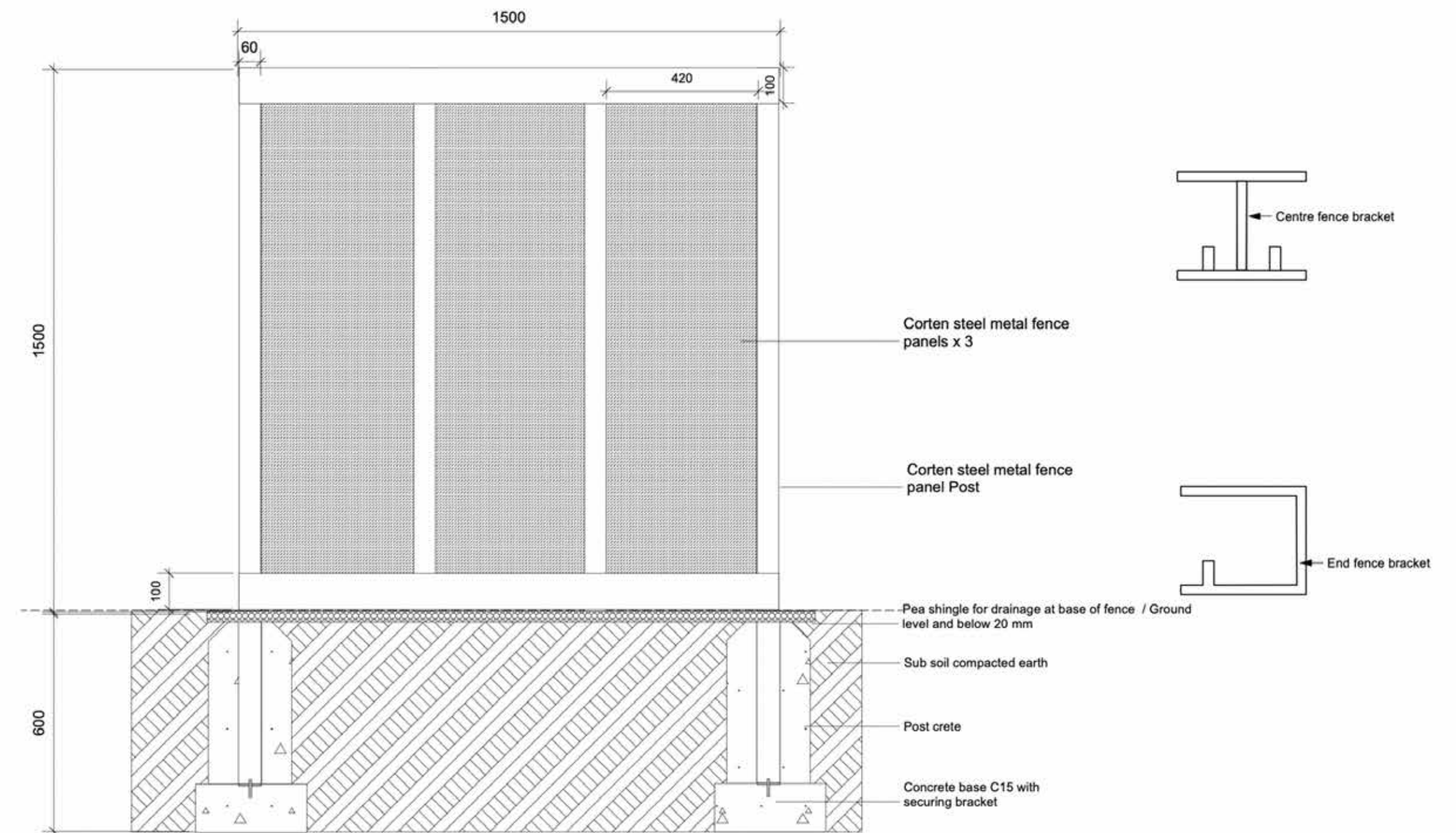
Construction Drawings

Retaining wall



1 Retaining wall
Scale: 1:10

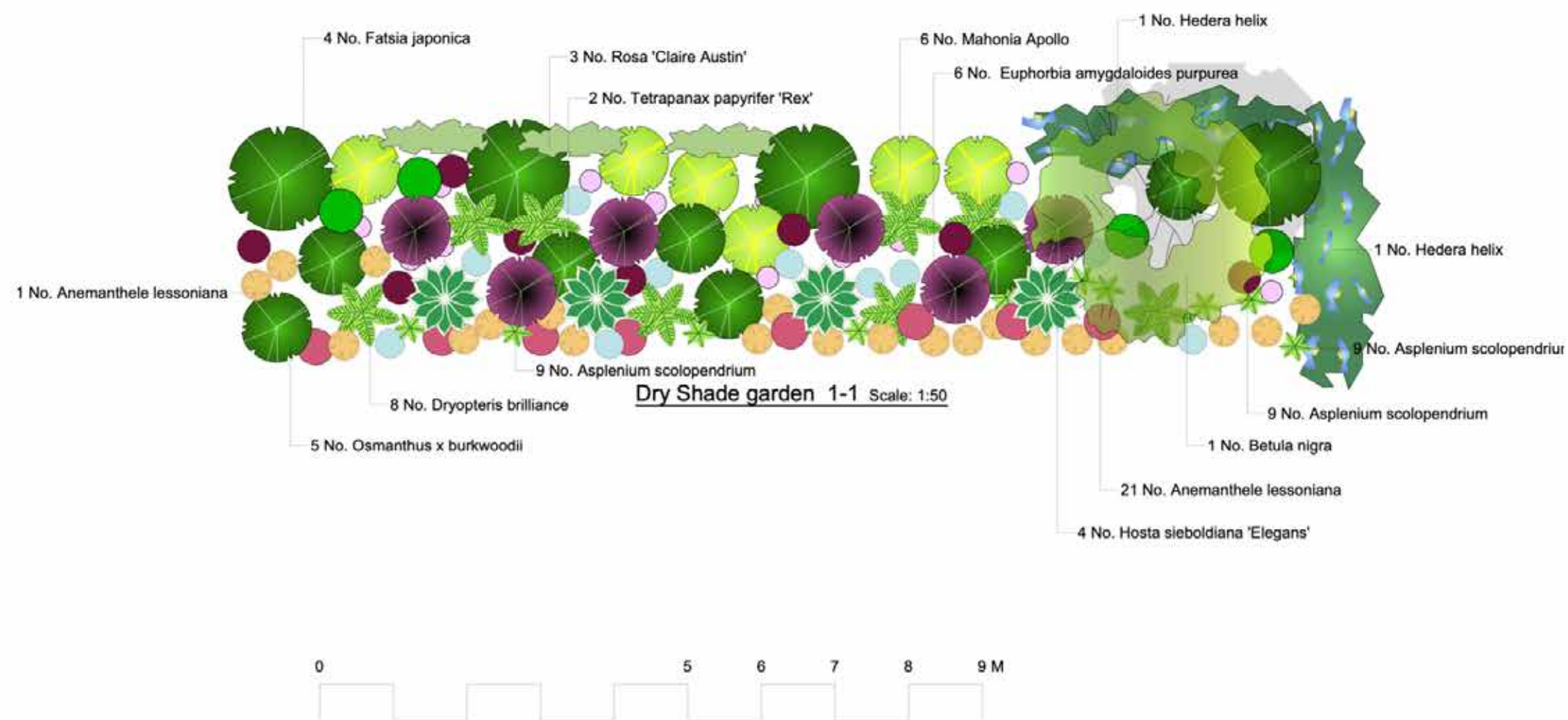
Corten Fence



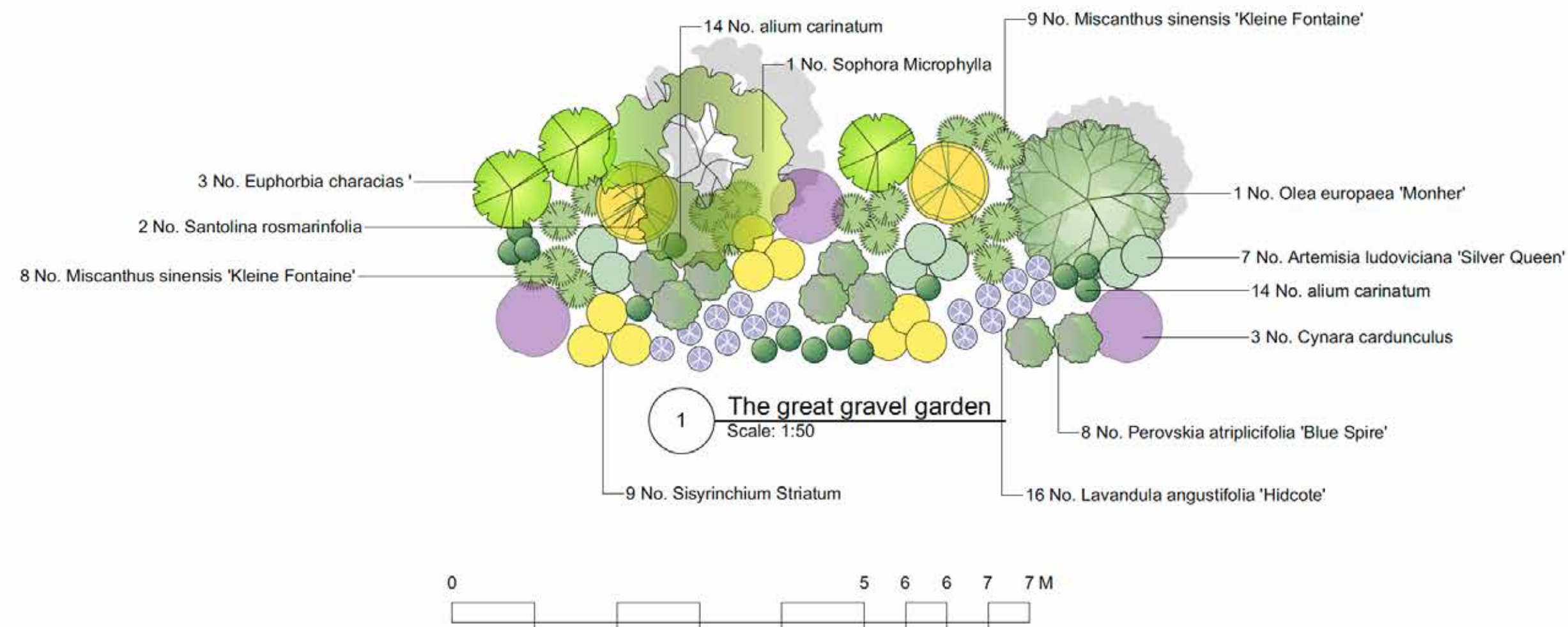
1 Corten metal fence
Scale: 1:10

Planting Plans

PLANTING PLAN DRY SHADE GARDEN. Loam soil, Acid PH.



PLANTING PLAN GRAVEL GARDEN. Hot and Dry, Alkaline PH



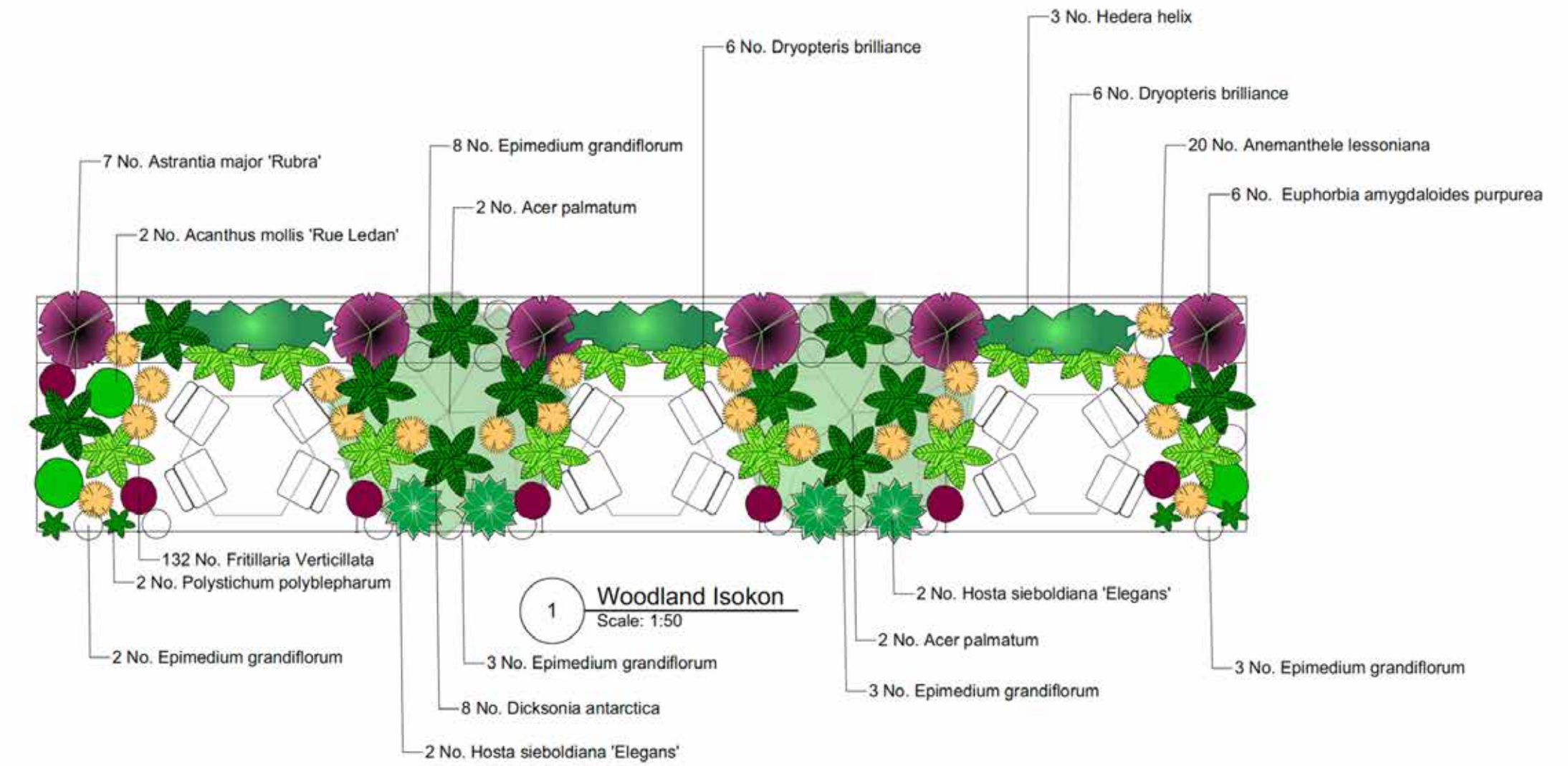
Elevation in watercolour and fineliner



Elevation in watercolour and fineliner

The Isokon bar once frequented by modernist artists and writers of the time is revisited here .

I hope to inspire new residents to come together and have created a new outdoor dining room immersed in woodland planting .The rear avenue offers lush woodland planting with informal ground cover gently meeting the ornamental Terazzo paving. Modernist seating is immersed within Grand Dicksonia Antartcia ferns and Tetrapanax Papyrifer that are architectural and beautiful .



Plant Schedule Individual Plants				
Category	Quantity	Botanical Name	Scheduled Size	Nursery
Trees	13	186	13	8
Shrubs	2	Acer palmatum	H5.06.0m Multi stem	Architectural plants
Perennials	2	Tetrapanax papyrifer 'Rex'	60-80cm 20 L	Architectural plants
Perennials	4	Euphorbia amygdaloides purpurea	2L	Hardys cottage plants
Perennials	4	Acanthus mollis 'Rue Ledan'	2L	Hardys cottage plants
Perennials	15	Astrantia major 'Rubra'	2L	Hardys cottage plants
Perennials	34	Epimedium grandiflorum	2L	Hardys cottage plants
Perennials	4	Hosta sieboldiana 'Elegans'	5L	Architectural plants
Ferns	6	Asplenium scolopendrium	2L	Architectural plants
Ferns	8	Dicksonia antarctica	100cm 20 L	Architectural plants
Ferns	4	Dryopteris brilliance	5L	Architectural plants
Ferns	28	Polystichum polyblepharum	2L	Architectural plants
Climbers	2	Hedera helix	p9	Hardys cottage plants
Bulbs	73	Fritillaria Verticillata	Bulb	Hardys cottage plants



Sketching



St Mellitus Church garden . Hanwell , London .

This is a watercolour sketch of a communal garden for children and adults using the foodbank at the local church . I was asked to create a wrap around deck area with fencing and woodland planting .

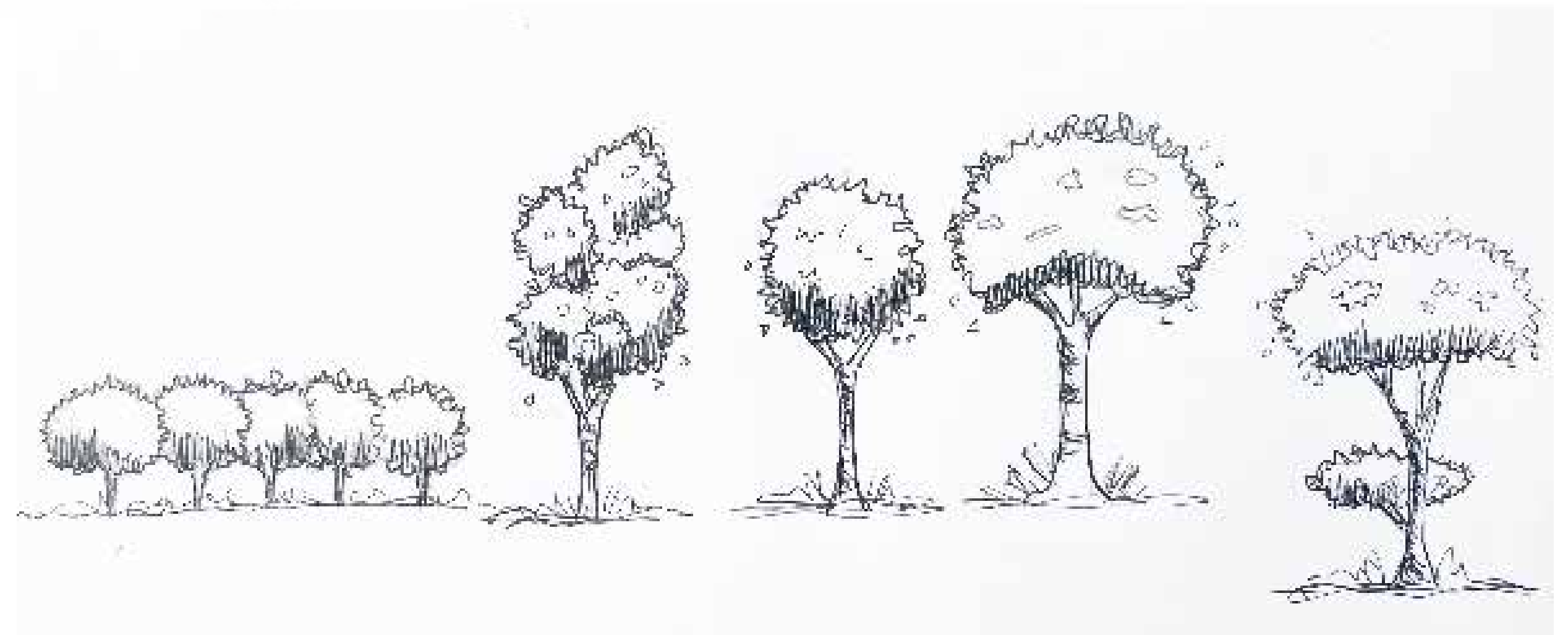
I am proposing a collection of fruit trees against an old brick wall with evergreen scented shrubs and flowering shade loving perennials .

The client wanted to keep the shed and the large lime tree . Under the lime tree we are creating a woodland stepping stone walk. Within the swirling evergreen hedge we are proposing a seated log area and have a natural wig wam for play .

Hand drawn in pencil and fineliner and finished in watercolour



Watercolour landscape



Hand drawn in Fineliner