

Ben Clifford



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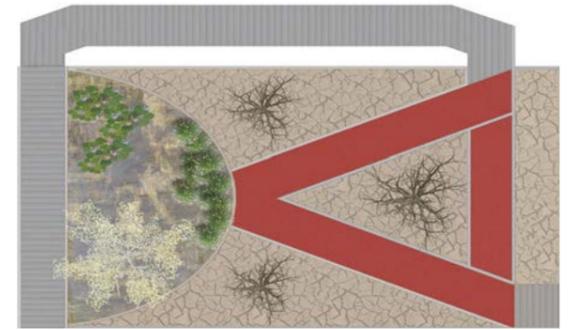


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ISOKON

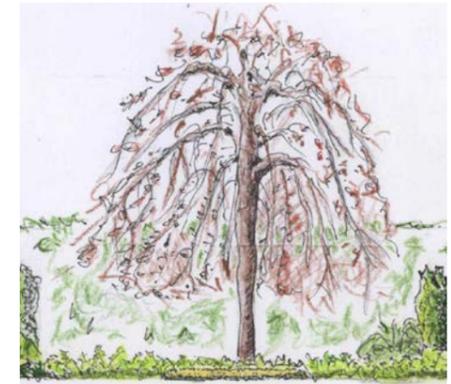
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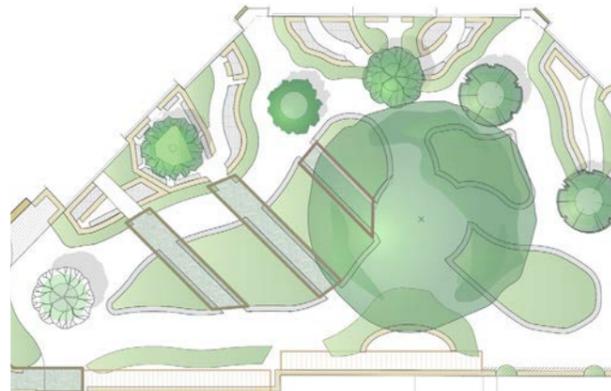


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about me



I grew up in Edinburgh a stone's throw from the botanic gardens, and have lived in London since 2016. For the last ten years I have worked as an actor and been lucky enough to work abroad - in the USA, Russia and Germany among other places. When not acting I have taken on all sorts of work, most enjoyably as a gardener and as a cheesemonger at Borough Market.



Through gardening I discovered my interest in design and came to realise that it was time for a change - of industry and also work culture. I would love to work in a studio where over time I have the opportunity to be involved in varied projects and grow as a designer as part of a team. I have been enjoying hugely my focus on landscapes in the last few years.



I like to walk around looking at things.



education

- Diploma Garden Design - Distinction** KLC School of Design 2023
London Stone Award for Construction
- MA Acting - Distinction** Royal Conservatoire of Scotland 2013
Mather 'Rising Star' Award
- MA (Hons) History and Philosophy - First Class Hons** University of Glasgow 2010
Caird and Buchanan Prizes for Moral Philosophy
- Erasmus Year** Universität Augsburg 2008/9

languages

German - studied History and Philosophy in German language for one year in Augsburg, Bavaria. Work experience for 3 months at Schloss Hartheim, near Linz, Austria which is now a museum and memorial to the victims of National Socialism who were murdered there.

experience

- Garden Maintenance 2020-23** Self-employed gardener South East London. Also worked for Beyond Bloom, maintenance company run by garden designer Andrea Vytlačil.
- RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023** Volunteer - Dave Green Landscapes: installation and breakdown of Saatchi Gallery's Garden and the Garden of Royal Reflection and Celebration.
- Volunteer - James Smith Landscape and Garden Design: installation of London Square Community Garden (Sanctuary Garden and Gold Medal Winner).
- Hampton Court Palace 2023** Volunteer gardener working across the whole site including kitchen garden, walled garden and nursery.
- Capel Manor College 2020 & 2022** Horticulture course 'The Seasonal Gardener' (Level 1) in 2020 and 'Introduction To Garden Design' (Level 1) in 2022.

the brief

An iconic building and unique composite site: Britain's first modernist block of flats, now also a gallery, and bordering a nature reserve. The design respects the separate functions of these spaces and unifies them.

concept | revealing journeys

Inspired by the work and journeys of Bauhaus designers in exile. Train lines traverse either end of the building deep below ground, which I felt was an eloquent metaphor for arrivals and departures in the first years of The Isokon, as well as for visitors today, as more people than ever are drawn to this historic site.



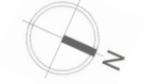
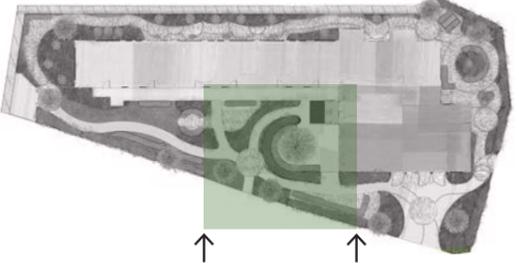
masterplan | ground level

Drawn in Vectorworks. Rendered in Photoshop



view from Lawn Road
of an outdoor event
at the ISOKON Gallery

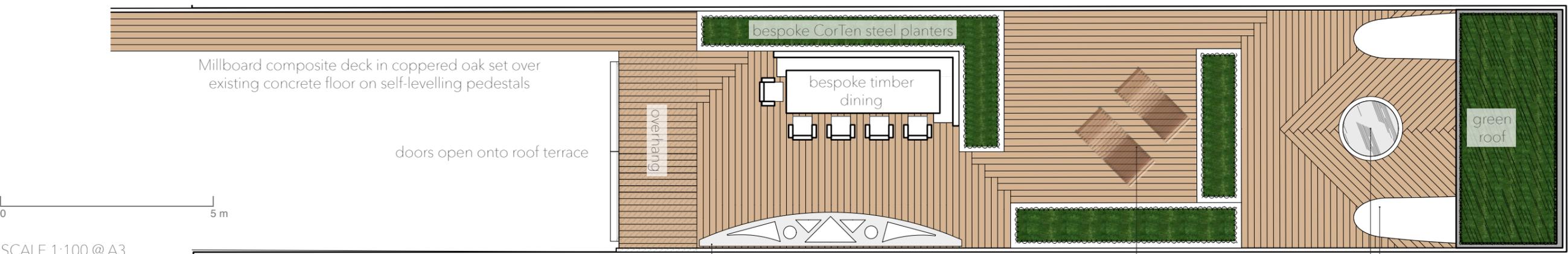
Perspective taken from masterplan
drawn to scale in Vectorworks.
Rendered in Photoshop



NOT TO SCALE

masterplan | penthouse apartment

Drawn and rendered in Vectorworks.



bespoke timber bird table with CorTen steel face, cut outs in the surface for birdfeed and water, timber infill blocks fit each recess so it becomes a console table

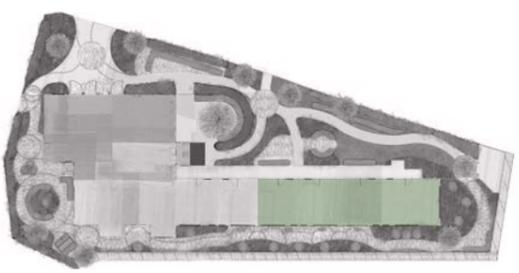
bespoke timber deckchairs bespoke water bowl with fountain bespoke timber bench seating



Bauspiel: Ein Schiff [und vieles sonst noch sein kann] Building Play: A Ship [and many things besides] inspiration for bird table: Bauspiel: Vogelbad and water bowl with fountain



Visual to illustrate how the floor design directs views towards the city and the woods, and movement through the space, while working against overlooking from houses to the south. Vectorworks plan with context added in Photoshop.



view looking east over the city from the south end of the penthouse deck Perspective taken from masterplan drawn to scale in Vectorworks. Rendered in Photoshop.

the brief

Create a student-centred practical space with plenty of seating for break times. Reflect Priory school's ambition to be sustainable and to cater for all additional needs and abilities.

concept

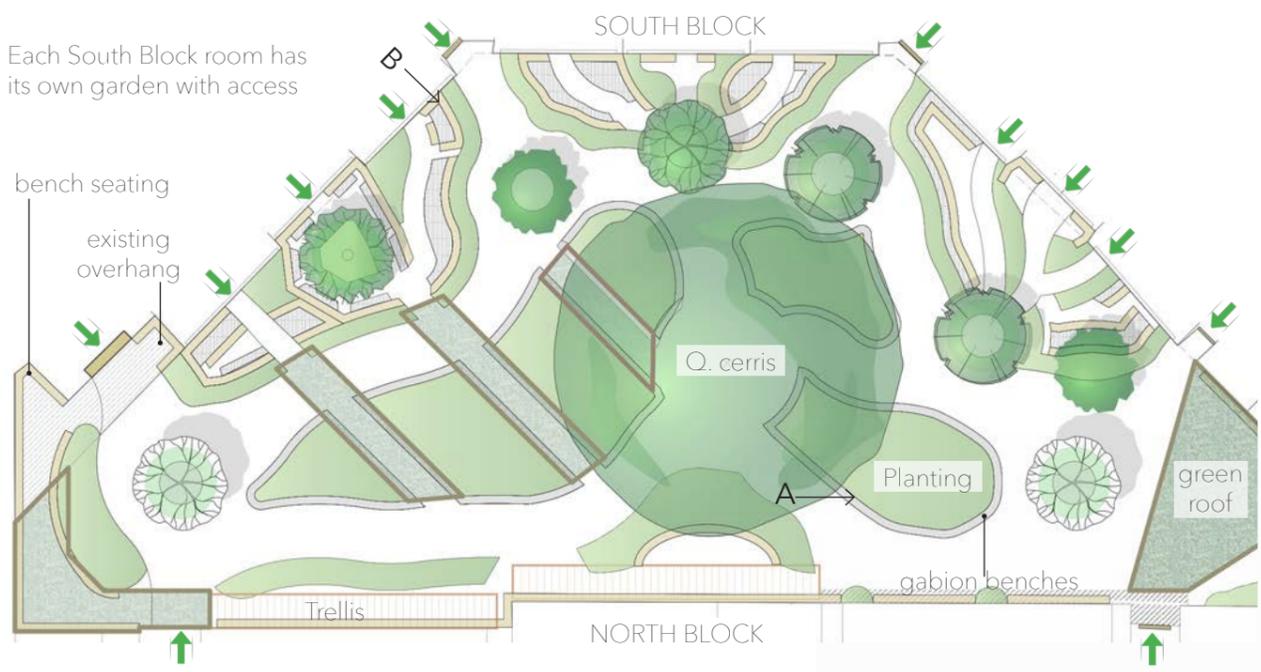


Janus, Roman god of transitions, oversees students on the brink of adulthood. The Quad is designed for resilience and longevity. The planting reflects this ethos and embodies it symbolically.

masterplan

Drawn and rendered in Vectorworks

Each South Block room has its own garden with access



Existing hard surfaces used where possible. New landscaped areas carved from asphalt. Path edge repaired with porous self-binding gravel and recyclable steel edge. Gabions hold all waste material on site. See colour visual opposite

SCALE: 1:400 @ A3



Quercus cerris, chosen for its greater climate resilience than our traditional symbol of longevity Q. robur, emerges over time as the Quad's main focal point, reaching 18-30m in 20 years.

view from the quad east to west A

Perspective taken from masterplan drawn to scale in Vectorworks. Rendered in Photoshop.



NOT TO SCALE

view over the quad south to north B

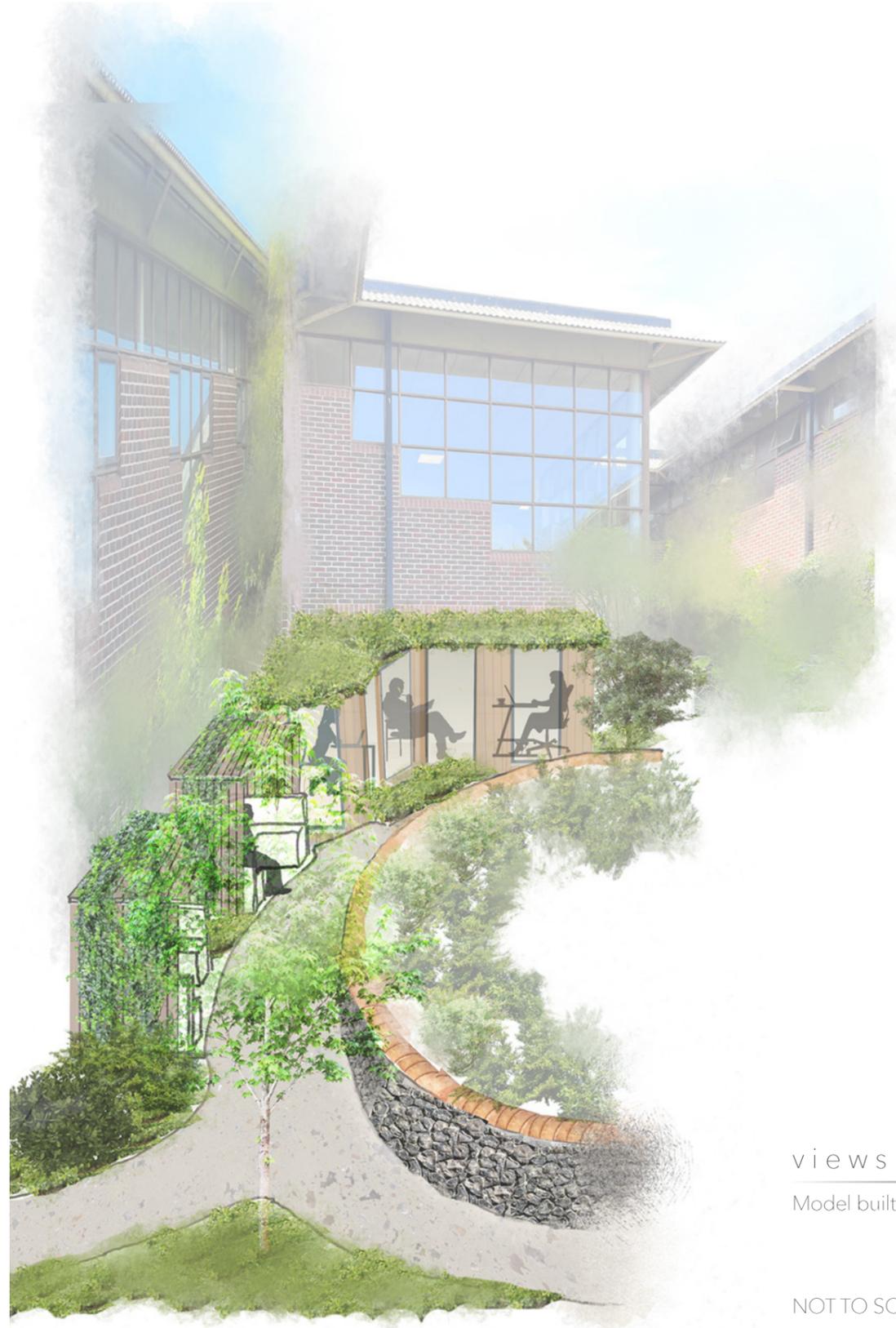
Hand-drawn in pencil over orthogonal perspective taken from scale Vectorworks masterplan. School building added in Photoshop



NOT TO SCALE

the brief

Internal courtyard garden accessed from the staff room to include social and private areas, including space to work outdoors. Disrupt views into courtyard from classrooms above.



A

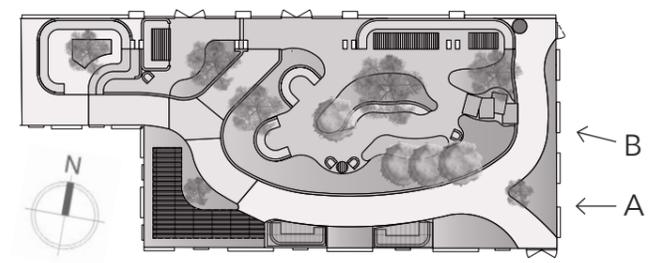


B

views of the courtyard east to west

Model built in Sketchup. Rendered in Photoshop.

NOT TO SCALE



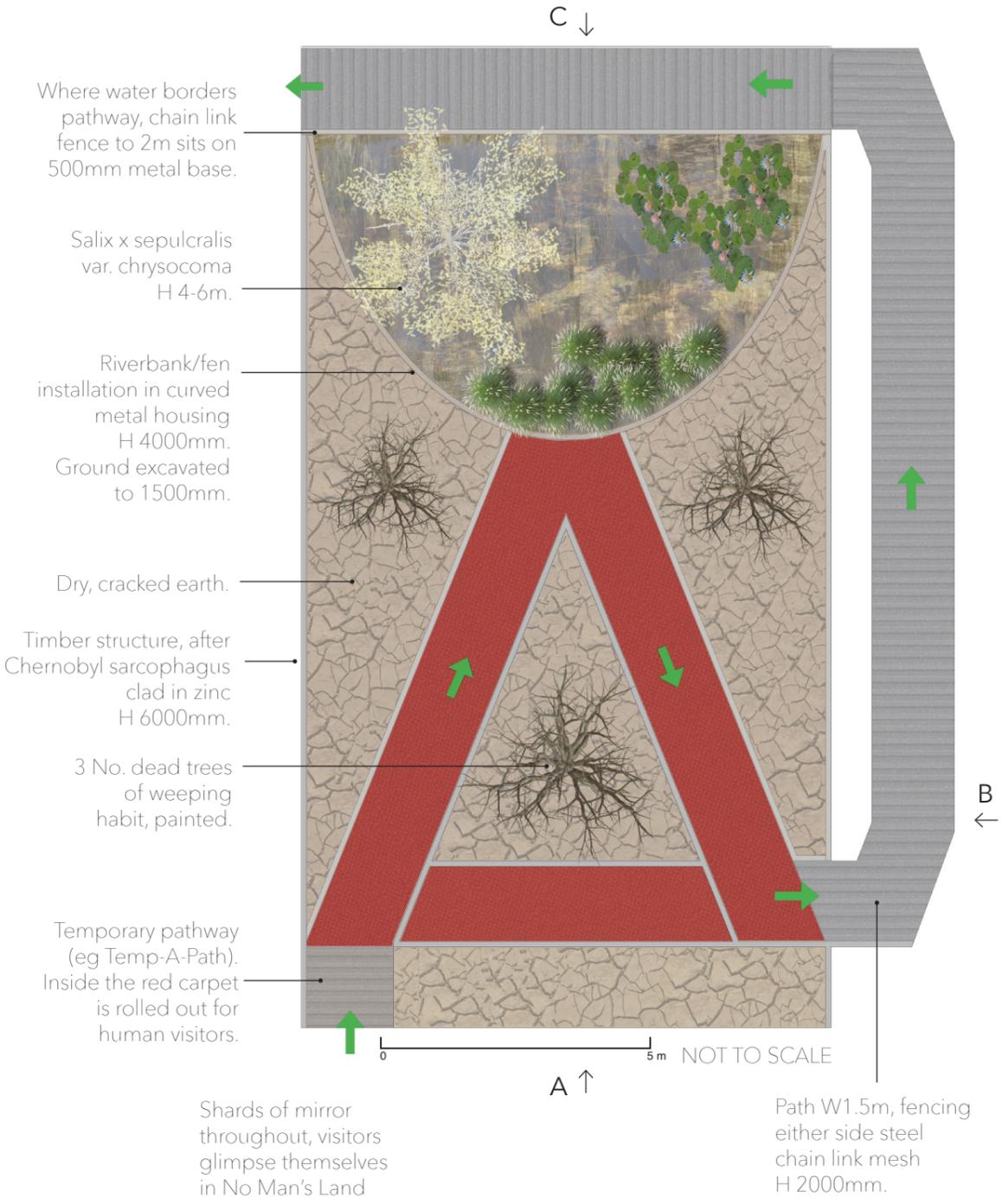
No Man's Land

"If rainforests are the lungs of the planet, then wetlands are the lifeblood"
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

concept

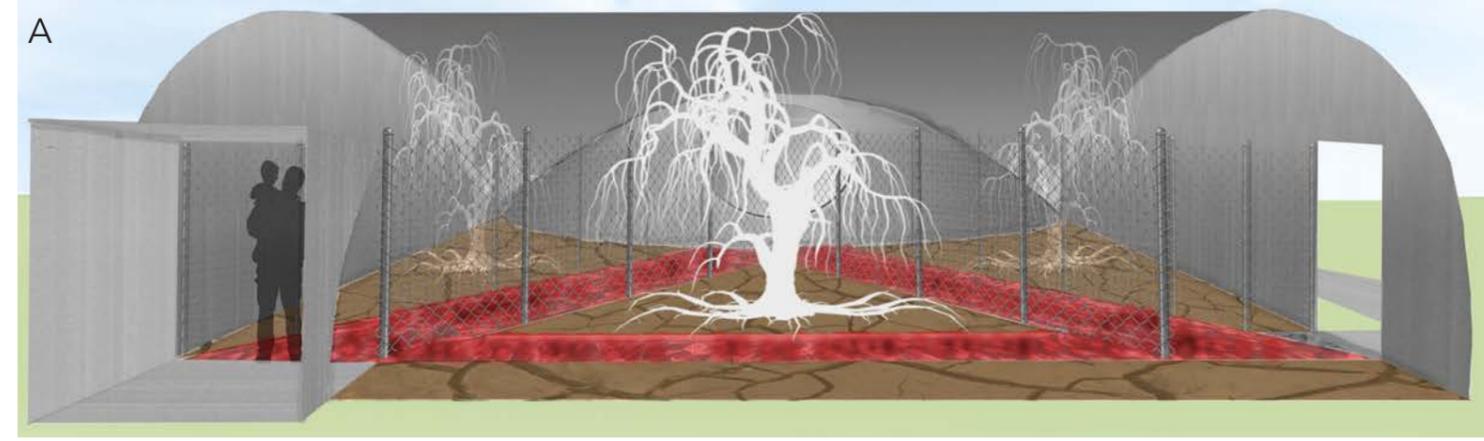
No Man's Land is a conceptual garden about wetlands - the critical role they play in the functioning of our planet and the abuse to which they have been subjected.

masterplan



visitor journey in 3 visuals

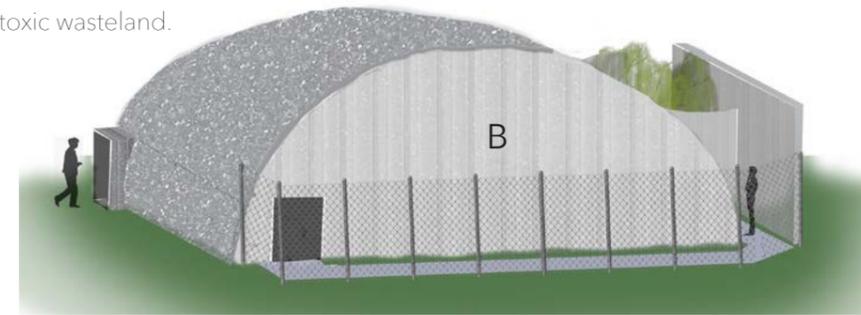
All created using perspectives from masterplan drawn to scale in Vectorworks. Rendered in Photoshop.



A Visitors enter and journey through No Man's Land 1 - a toxic wasteland.

B They emerge onto an outdoor path

C and finish at No Man's Land 2 - a thriving wetland habitat.





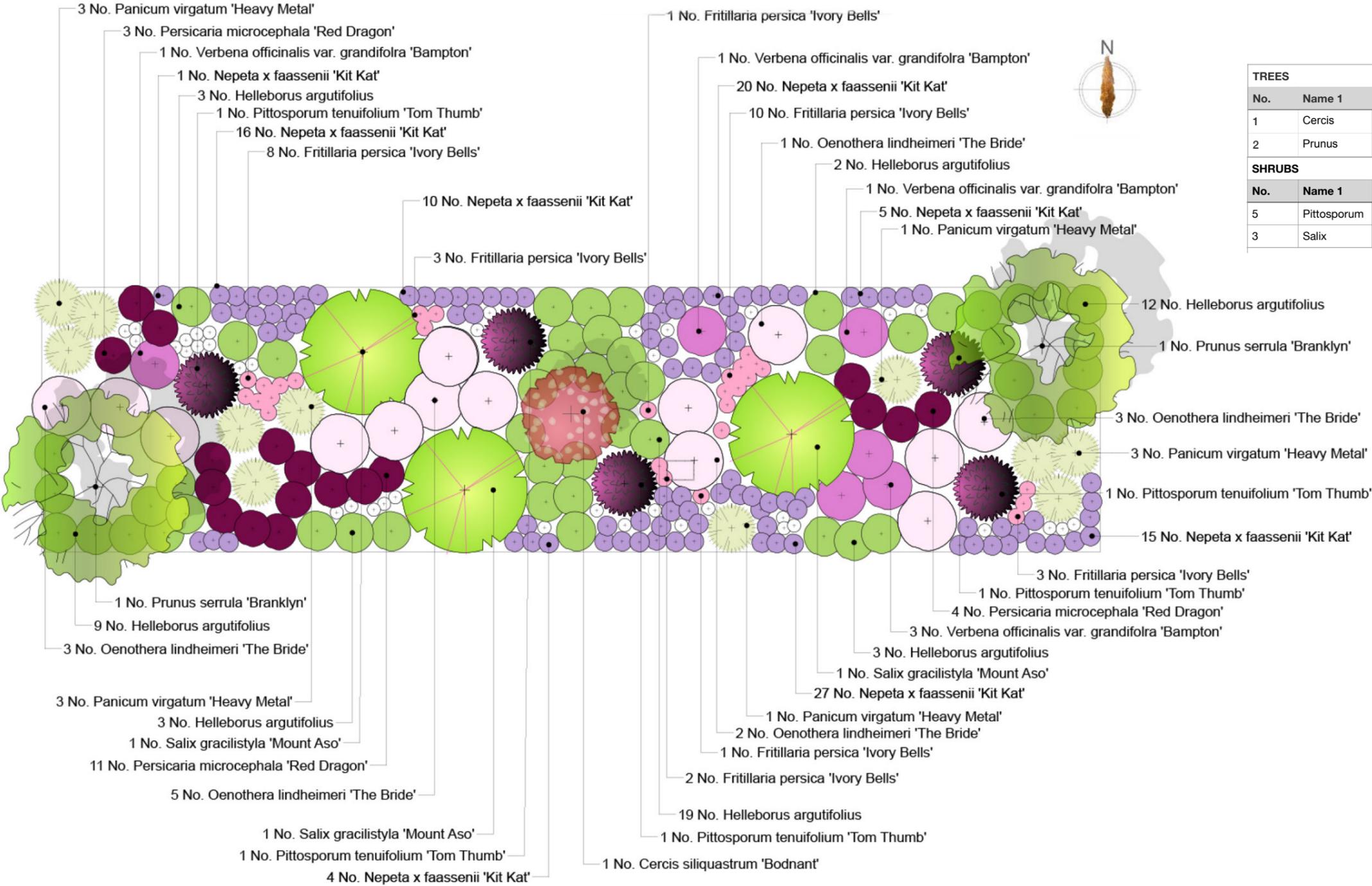
0 1 2 3 4 5 m

NOT TO SCALE

Full sun on silty soil with a neutral pH. Open bed on all sides.

Hand drawn elevation of the winter garden in fine liner, pencil and felt pen.

Planting plan drawn and rendered in Vectorworks.



TREES							
No.	Name 1	Name 2	Cultivar	Form	Size	Root Type	Nursery
1	Cercis	siliquastrum	'Bodnant'	multi-stem	12L Pot	CG	Coolings
2	Prunus	serrula	'Branklyn'	multi-stem	2.5-3m	Rootball	Paramount

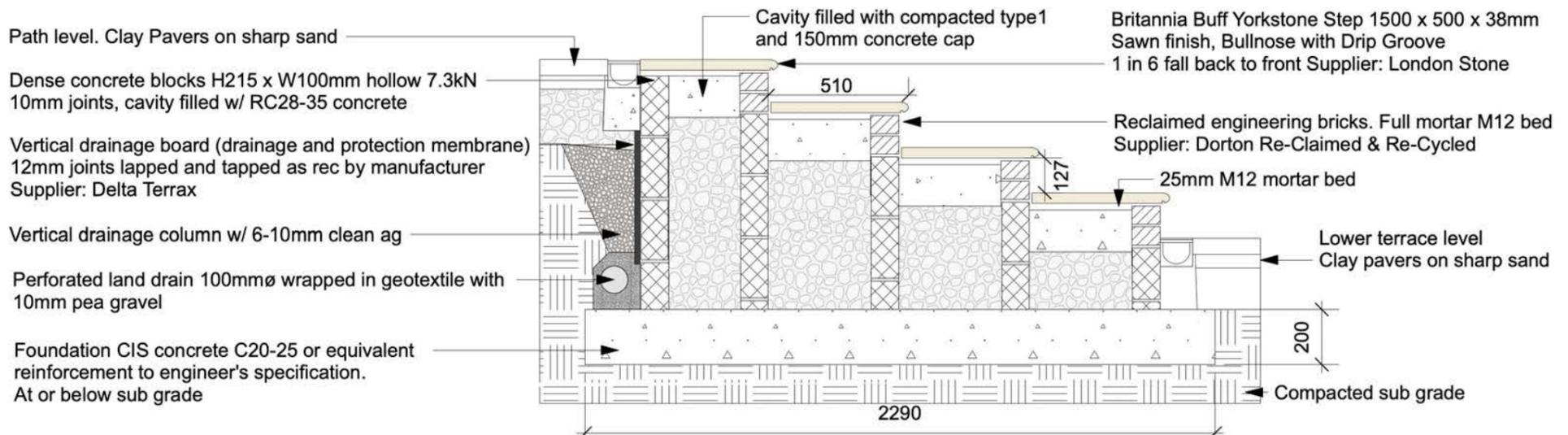
SHRUBS				
No.	Name 1	Name 2	Cultivar	Pot Size
5	Pittosporum	tenuifolium	'Tom Thumb'	5L
3	Salix	gracilistyla	'Mount Aso'	2L

PERRENIALS				
No.	Name 1	Name 2	Cultivar	Pot Size
11	Panicum	virgatum	'Heavy Metal'	1L
18	Persicaria	microcephala	'Red Dragon'	1L
15	Oenothera	lindheimi	'The Bride'	1L
6	Verbena	officinalis var. grandifolra	Bampton	1L
51	Helleborus	argutifolius		1L
101	Nepeta	x faassenii	Kit Kat	9cm

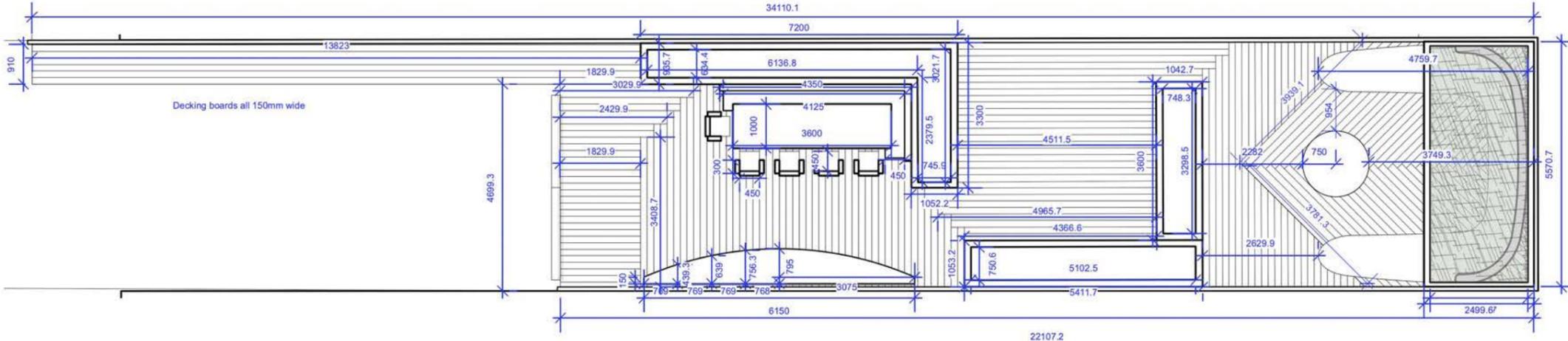
BULBS			
No.	Name 1	Name 2	Cultivar
28	Fritillaria	persica	Ivory Bells
38	Allium	stipitatum	Mount Everest

technical drawing

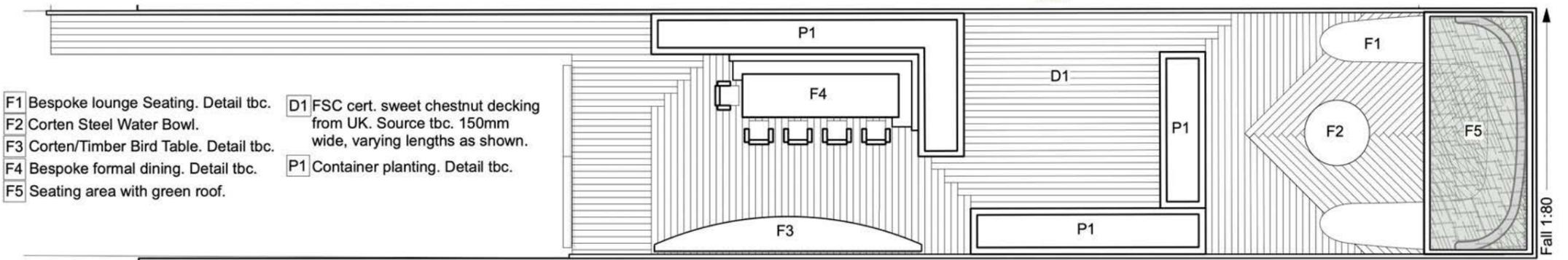
construction yorkstone steps



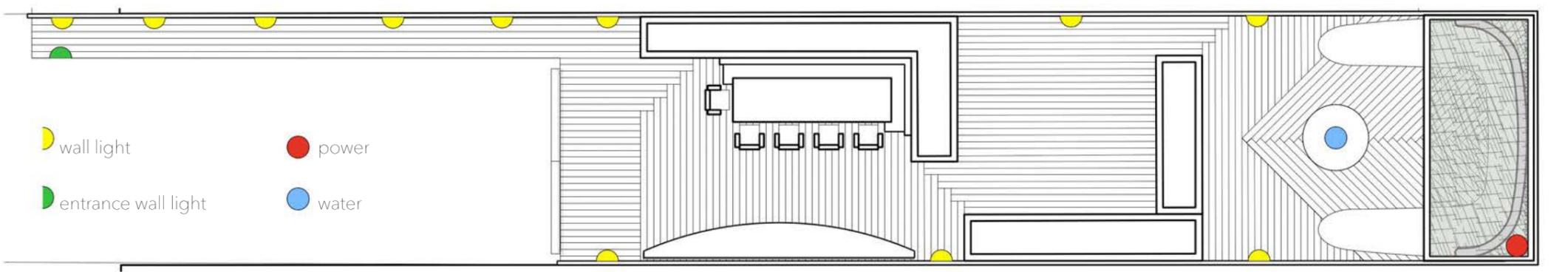
setting out



general arrangement



lighting plan





Thank you for taking the time to look through my portfolio. Should you wish to see further examples of my work or discuss how I might assist you, please do get in touch.

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