



Portfolio
James Kemp
KLC graduate, 2024

About me

Before becoming a garden designer, I spent much of my professional career working in the not-for-profit sector. My professional experience includes policy research, project management, business process improvements, fundraising, and communications.

I love the design process:

- working with a client to discover the brief is a deeply rewarding;
- it's exciting to find where ideas can be pushed in unexpected ways; and
- collaborating creatively in a team containing diverse experience and skills is wonderful.

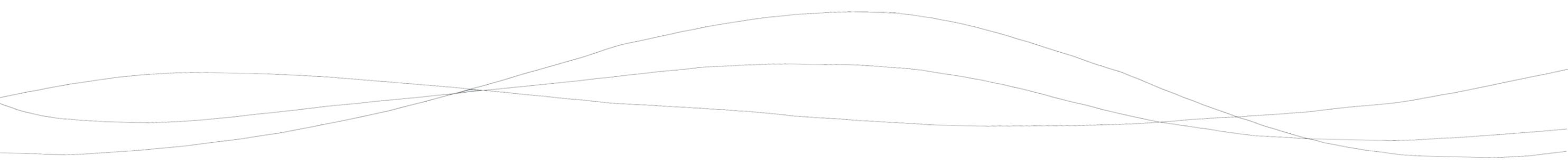
Skills

- Vectorworks
- SketchUp
- Visualisation
- Adobe Photoshop and InDesign

Professional experience

- Garden designer, **Kemp Garden Design**
- Gardener, **Nicholsons Nursery**
- Gardener (volunteer), **Bridewell Gardens**, Mental Health Recovery Garden
- Head of Fundraising and Comms, **International Tree Foundation**
- Head of Strategic Communications Planning, **Oxfam**
- Trustee, **Nominet Charitable Trust**
- Project Manager, **Nominet**
- Policy Researcher and Fundraising Manager, **Oxford Research Group**

Other

- PGDip. Garden Design. KLC School of Design
 - PGCert. Psychodynamic Counselling, University of Oxford
 - Project management: Scrum Master (Radtac), Prince2 Practitioner (APM)
 - MA - Human Rights, University of Sussex
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Project 1: Residential - Isokon Flats, London

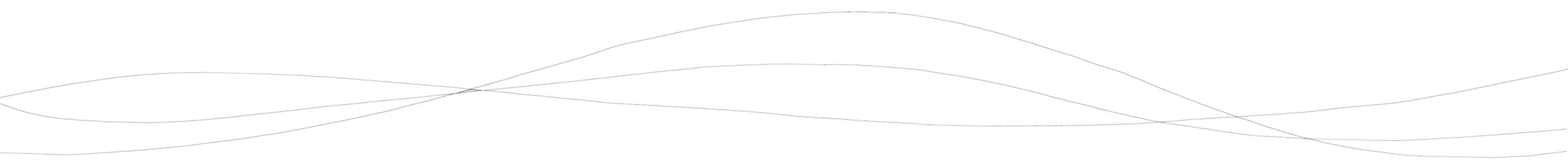
Project 2: The Priory Secondary School - Lewes

Project 3: Residential - Oxfordshire

Concept gardens

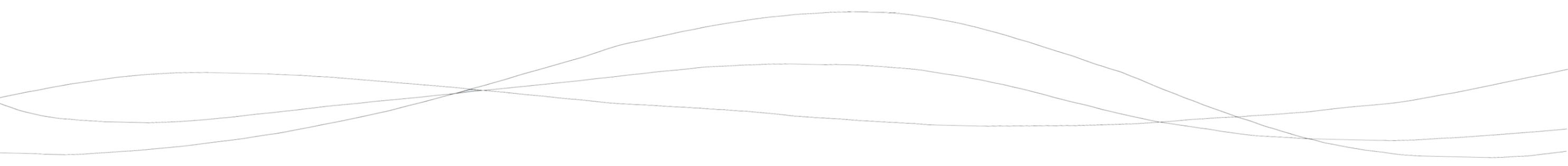
Technical detailing

Contact details



Project 1

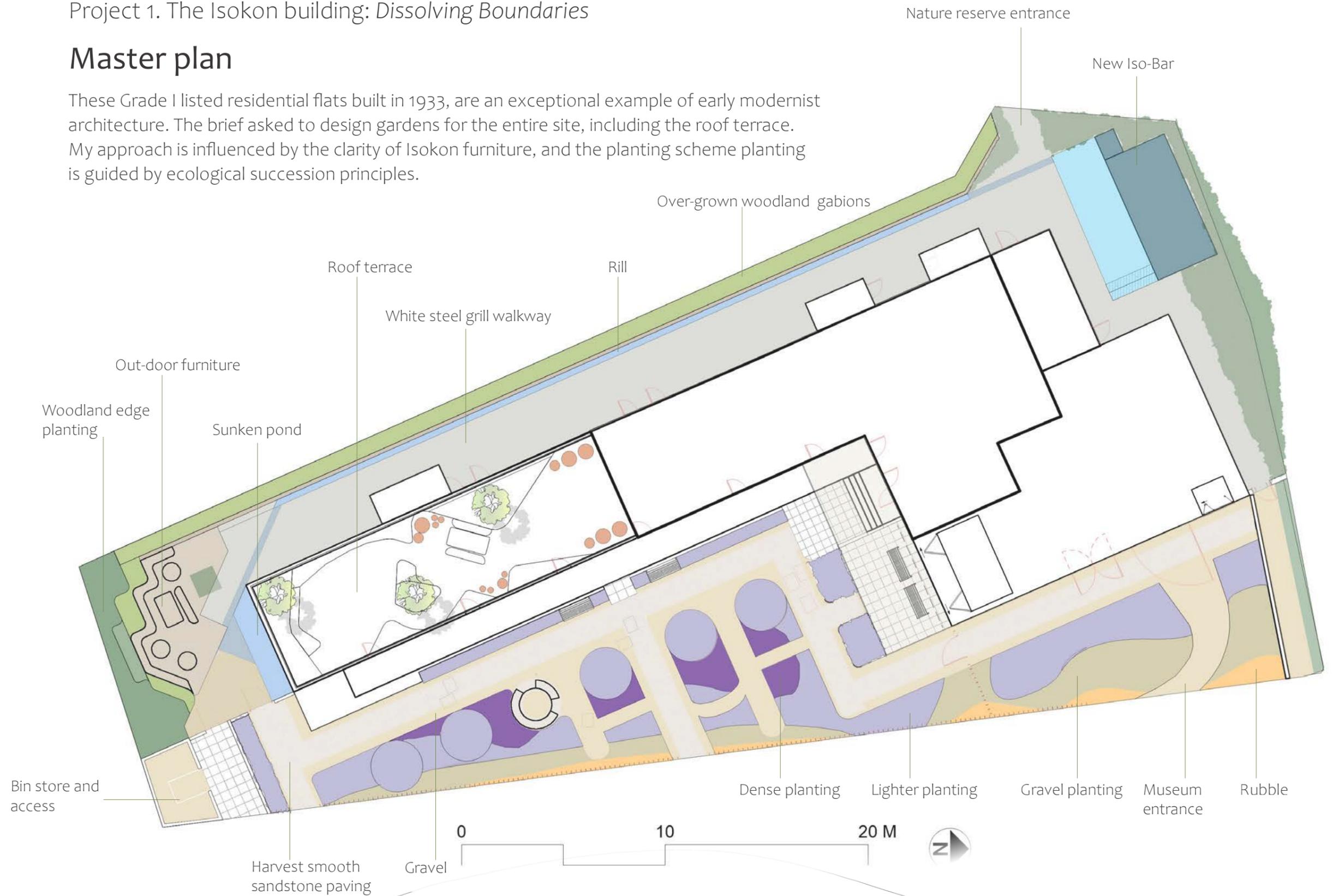
Isokon Building



Project 1. The Isokon building: *Dissolving Boundaries*

Master plan

These Grade I listed residential flats built in 1933, are an exceptional example of early modernist architecture. The brief asked to design gardens for the entire site, including the roof terrace. My approach is influenced by the clarity of Isokon furniture, and the planting scheme planting is guided by ecological succession principles.



Project 1. The Isokon building: *Dissolving Boundaries*
View into the new grassland garden

This garden rises from the street boundary. Beginning with gravel garden, progressing into denser meadow planting, reaching up to *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'. The idea is to celebrate the Isokon building within its landscape. Grasses dominate the planting scheme year round, while spot plants shine from May to October.



Translucent, immersive planting, and direct paths (Photoshop and Vectorworks)

Project 1. The Isokon building: *Dissolving Boundaries*

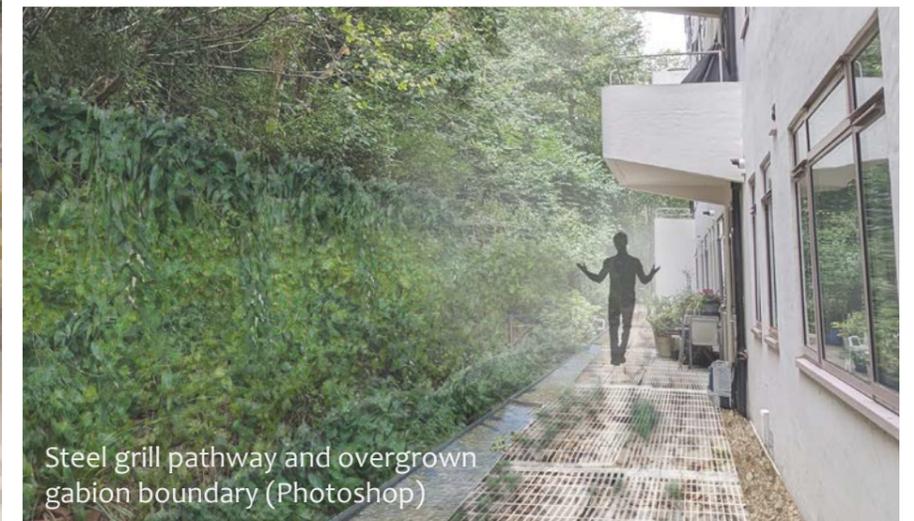
The woodland edge garden



Boundary path

Sustainability is essential to this design. To this end, I:

- reduced the use of new materials, e.g. reuse gabions, minimised new hard landscaping and level changes;
- used long lasting materials which can be re-purposed, e.g. steel, stone, and gabions;
- increased the availability of growing spaces; and
- increase biodiversity.



Planting and material sample

Planted curved, terraced gabions help to create a space residents can relax into. Wooden cantilever benches and Isokon inspired furniture provide spaces for working, relaxing, and socialising all year round.

Viburnum opulus
'Roseum'



Anemanthele lessoniana



Harvest smooth sandstone



Silene dioica



Athyrium filix-femina



Betonica officinalis



Helleborus x hybridus



Project 1. The Isokon building: *Dissolving Boundaries*

The roof garden

The intention is to create flowing space and joyful atmosphere.



Final roof garden visual (Vectorworks and Photoshop)

Pittosporum tenuifolium
'Tom Thumb'



Anemanthele lessoniana



Salvia nemorosa
'Caradonna'



Pittosporum tenuifolium
'Wrinkled blue'



Pennisetum advena
'Rubrum'



Stschys byzantina
'Silver carpet'



Lavandula angustifolia
'Hidcote'



Project 1. The Isokon building: *Dissolving Boundaries*

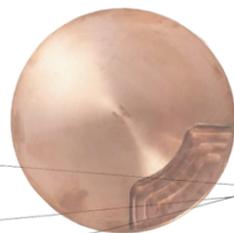
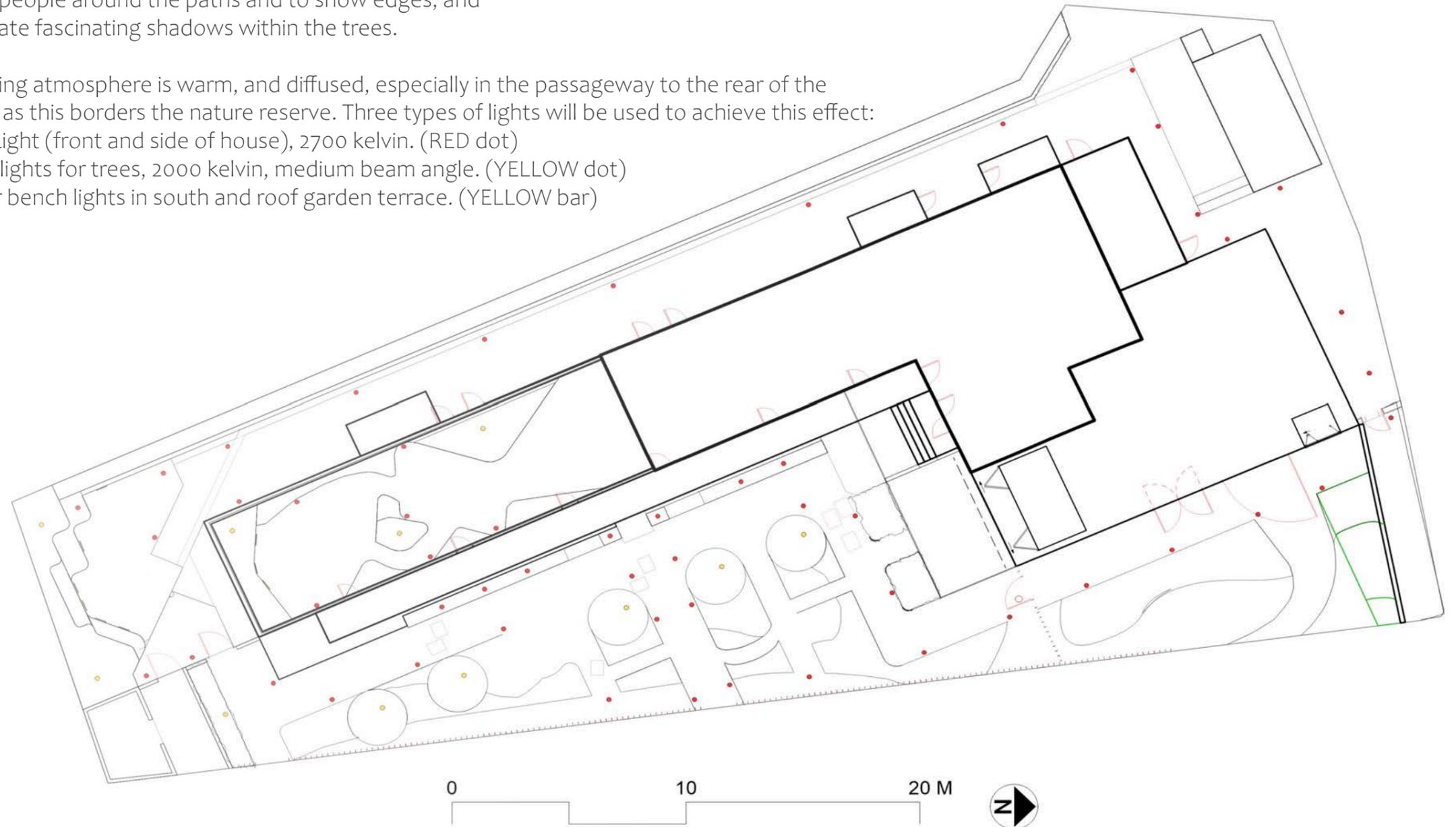
Lighting intention plan

Three types of lights are used in this design, to:

1. guide people around the paths and to show edges; and
2. to create fascinating shadows within the trees.

The lighting atmosphere is warm, and diffused, especially in the passageway to the rear of the building, as this borders the nature reserve. Three types of lights will be used to achieve this effect:

- Path Light (front and side of house), 2700 kelvin. (RED dot)
- Stake lights for trees, 2000 kelvin, medium beam angle. (YELLOW dot)
- Under bench lights in south and roof garden terrace. (YELLOW bar)



Path Light



Stake Light

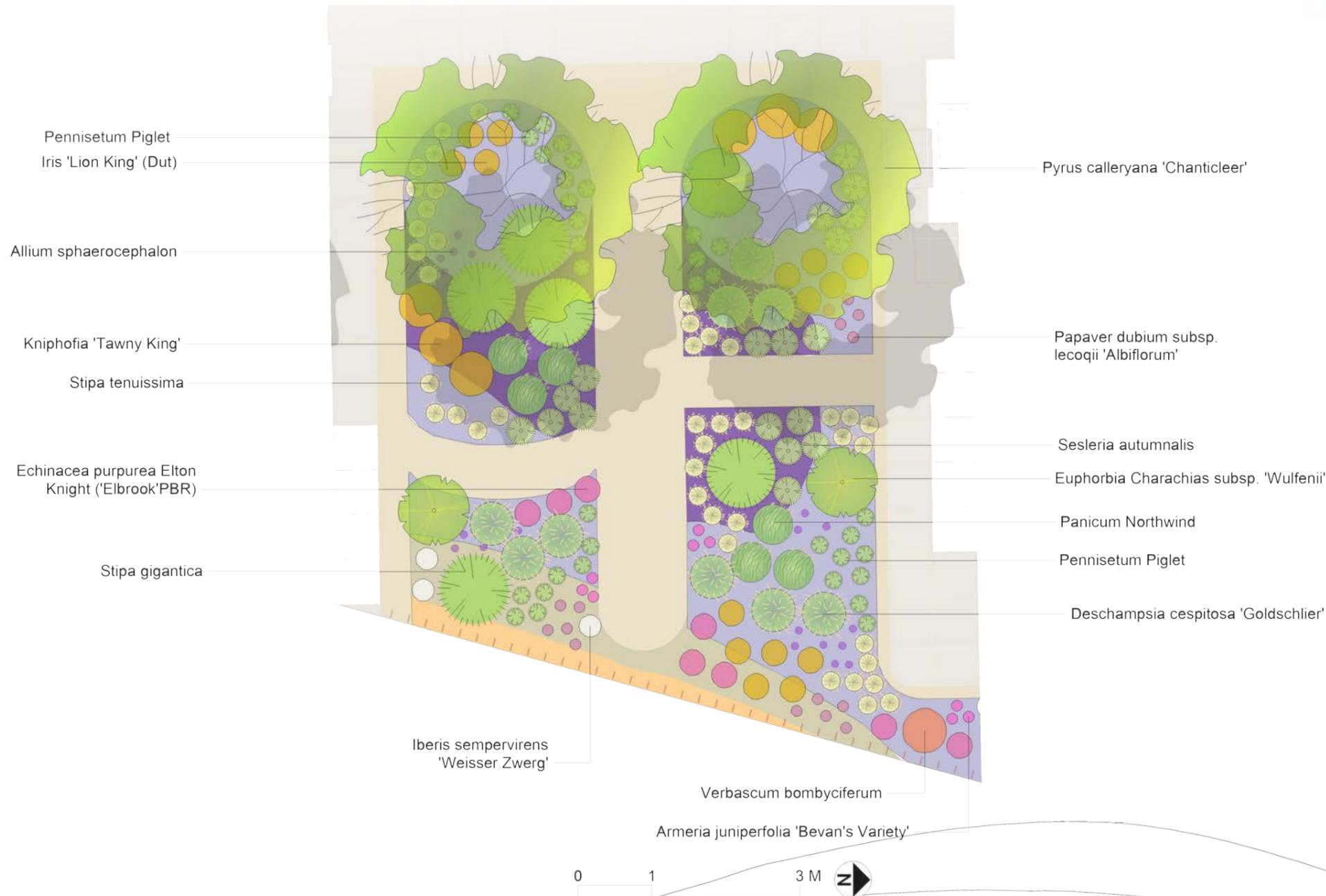


Under bench light

Project 1. Isokon building: *Dissolving boundaries*

Planting plan

This is a sample from the eastern garden. Planting progresses from gravel to denser grassland planting, and rises to *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' trees closest to the Isokon Building. The idea, is for the building to rise out of the landscape, while creating an immersive garden for residents.



Plant list

Plant list	Qty
<i>Allium sphaerocephalon</i>	64
<i>Armeria juniperfolia</i> 'Bevan's Variety'	37
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	5
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Goldschlier'	31
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Rubinstern'	24
<i>Euphorbia characias</i> 'Wulfenii'	16
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Dawyck'	1
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i> 'Weisser Zwerg'	35
<i>Iris</i> 'Lion King'	46
<i>Kniphofia</i> 'Tawny King'	13
<i>Panicum Northwind</i>	27
<i>Papaver dubium</i> subsp. <i>lecoqii</i> 'Albiflorum'	29
<i>Pennisetum piglet</i>	106
<i>Prunus cerasus</i> 'Morello'	1
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	11
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Chanticleer'	5
<i>Sesleria autumnalis</i>	46
<i>Silene dioica</i>	28
<i>Stipa gigantea</i>	24
<i>Stipa tenuissima</i>	136
<i>Verbascum bombyciferum</i>	4

Project 2

The Priory School,
Lewes



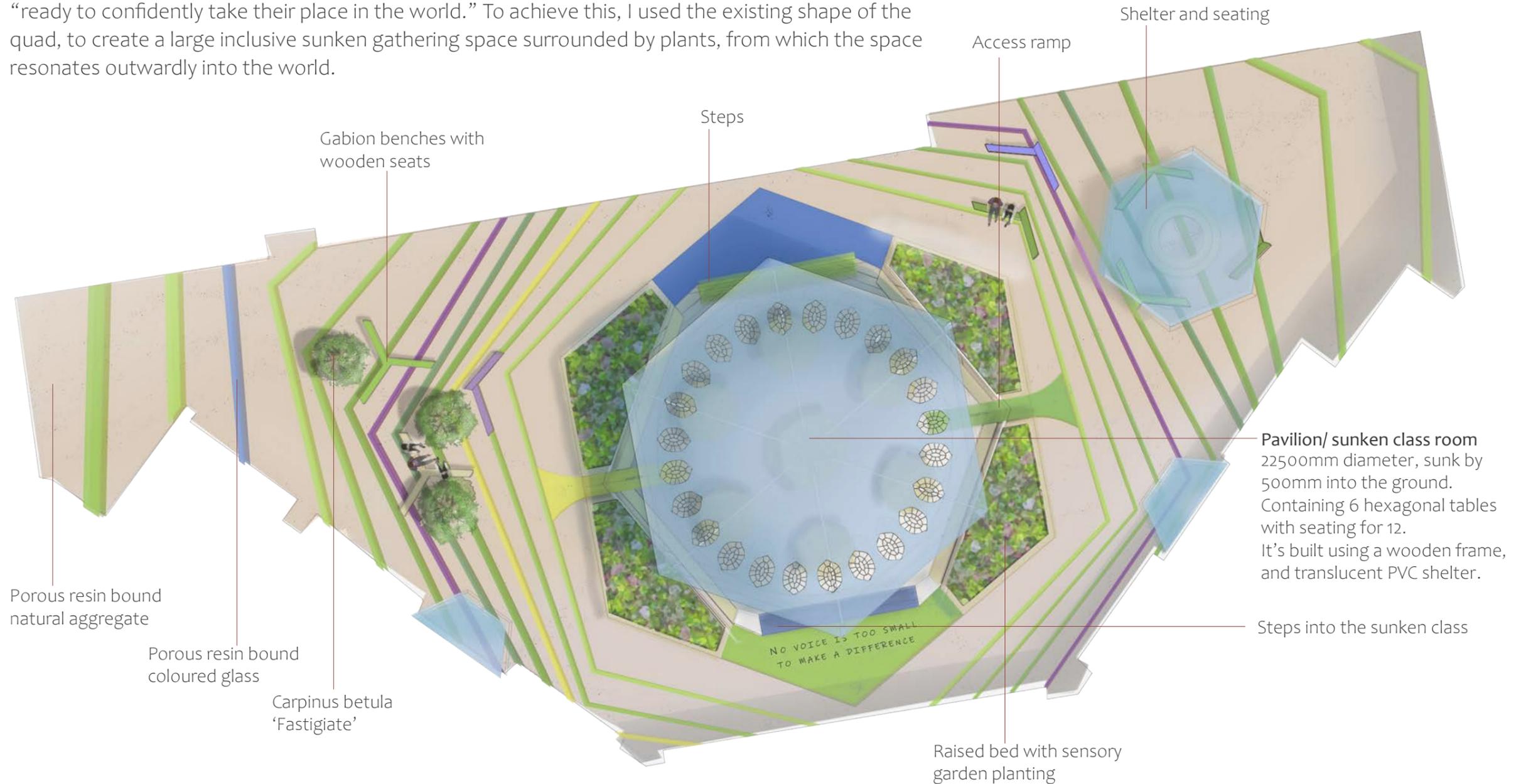
View into the quad (Vectorworks)

Project 2. The Priory School, Lewes: *No voice is too small to make a difference.*

School quad master plan

Priory High School serves the community around Lewes. The brief was to revitalise the central quad for the entire school, and the internal courtyard used primarily by teachers (see next slide).

My aim with this design was to reinforce the school's mission, which is to help all students to become "ready to confidently take their place in the world." To achieve this, I used the existing shape of the quad, to create a large inclusive sunken gathering space surrounded by plants, from which the space resonates outwardly into the world.



Project 2: The Priory School, Lewes: No voice is too small to make a difference.

Courtyard master plan

Courtyard top view (Vectorworks and Photoshop)



SEND courtyard

With this space I wanted to create a cafe-like space for staff to get away from the stresses and strains of school. Mass planting of *Hakonechloa macra* to make the area feel lush, and a retractable awning ensures year round usability.



Planting sample

Fatsia japonica



Hakonechloa macra



Magnolia 'Fairy Blush'



Hosta (Tardiana Group) 'Halycon'



Polypodium vulgare



KEMP 
GARDEN
DESIGN

Project 3

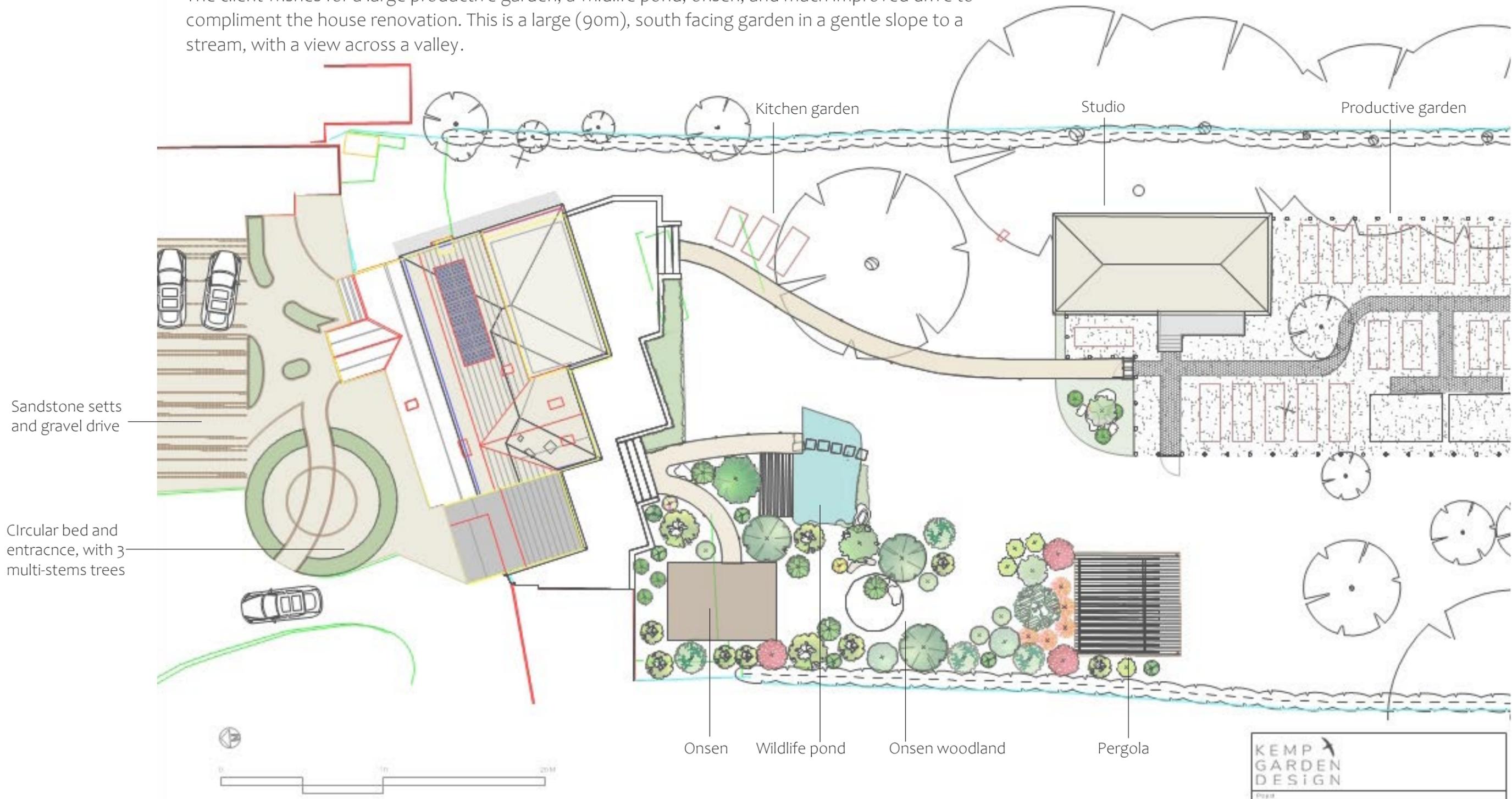
Residential garden, Oxfordshire



Project 3. Residential garden, Oxfordshire

Master plan (main garden)

The client wishes for a large productive garden, a wildlife pond, onsen, and much improved drive to compliment the house renovation. This is a large (90m), south facing garden in a gentle slope to a stream, with a view across a valley.



KEMP GARDEN DESIGN	
Project: KGD_001 Holly House	
Sheet Title: Master plan - main garden	
Sheet No: MP1	Date: 23/02/2024
Designer: James Kemp	Scale: 1:100 @ A1

Private client, Oxfordshire (work in progress)

Onsen garden planting plan: trees and shrubs only



ONSEN GARDEN TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING PLAN

This is the tree and shrub planting plan for the onsen and wildlife pond garden. Plants in blue text would be planted before work on the onsen, pond, and pergola begin. The other plants would be planted once work is complete.

The idea is to create an intimate and calm woodland space, and view from the onsen, with subtle references to Japanese gardens. This is created using:

- the circular focal point in the centre of the garden;
- boulders;
- a preponderance of plants native to east Asia; and
- Japanese garden ornaments.

Trees are small to medium, so that the views across the valley are not obscured. Flowering will spread across the year, and winter interest will be ensured by stem colour and scented evergreens.

There are four *Acer palmatum*, the varieties of which will need selecting.

DETAILS

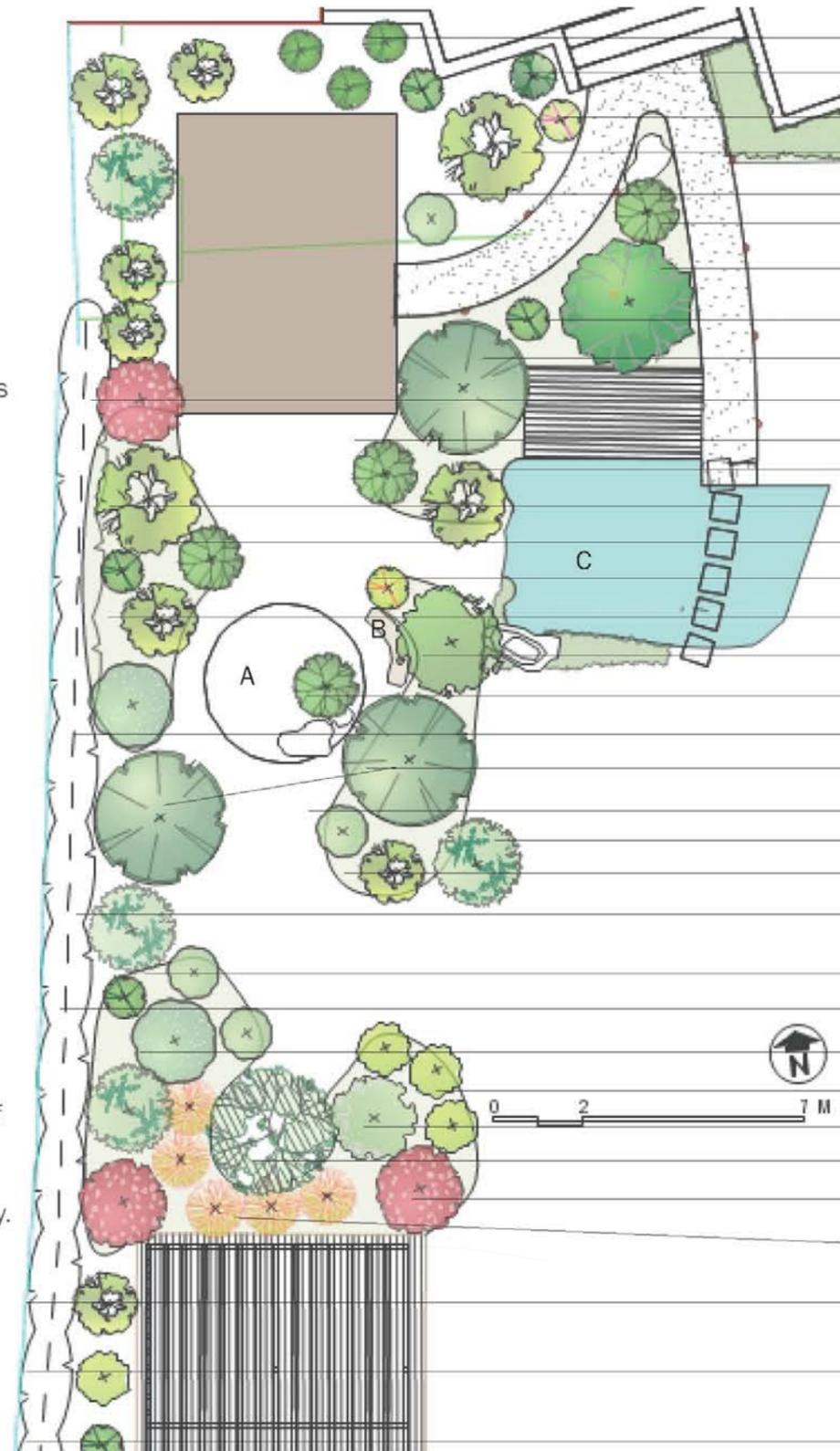
A. The surface of this round is made up of gravel, boulders and cobbles, while its edge is corten steel. Three boulders will be placed on it, and a single *Acer palmatum* variety will grow in it.

B. A curved stone bench for two, in the shade of one of the multistemmed *Prunus serrula*.

C. Wildlife pond planting plan to be provided separately.

ROSE AND HERBACEOUS PLANTING PLAN

This part of the planting scheme will lead with grass, rose, *Verbena*, *Sanguisorba*, and *Astrantia* cultivars. Climbers will be selected for the pergola.

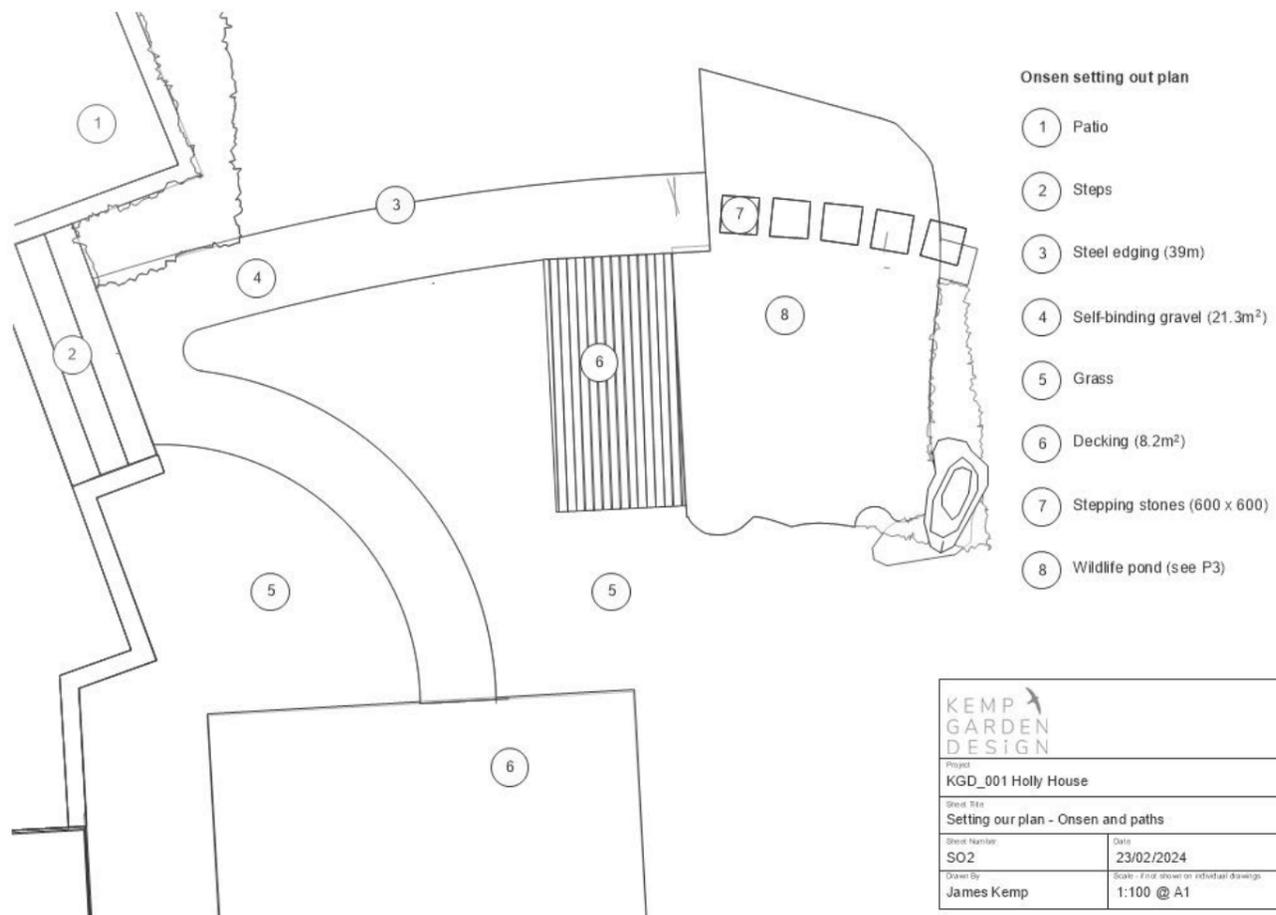


- Sarcococca confusa*
- Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata'
- Salix gracilistyla* 'Mount Aso' (m)
- Betula utilis* var. *Jacquemontii*
- Philadelphus* 'Belle Étoile'
- Acer palmatum* var.
- Magnolia* × *loebneri* 'Leonard Messel'
- Acer palmatum* var.
- Prunus serrula*
- Cotinus coggygria*
- Acer palmatum* var.
- Prunus domestica* 'Victoria'
- Betula utilis* var. *Jacquemontii*
- Acer palmatum* var.
- Hamamelis* × *intermedia* 'Diane'
- Prunus mume* 'Omoi-no-mama'
- Cornus Kousa*
- Acer palmatum* var.
- Viburnum opulus*
- Prunus serrula*
- Philadelphus* 'Belle Étoile'
- Crataegus monogyna* 'Compacta'
- Prunus domestica* 'Opal'
- Crataegus monogyna*
- Philadelphus* 'Belle Étoile'
- Lonicera* × *purpusii* 'Winter Beauty'
- Viburnum opulus*
- Spiraea cantoniensis*
- Cercis canadensis*
- Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis' (MS)
- Cotinus coggygria*
- Cornus sanguinea* 'Anny's Winter Orange'
- Prunus spinosa*
- Spiraea cantoniensis*
- Lonicera* × *purpusii* 'Winter Beauty'

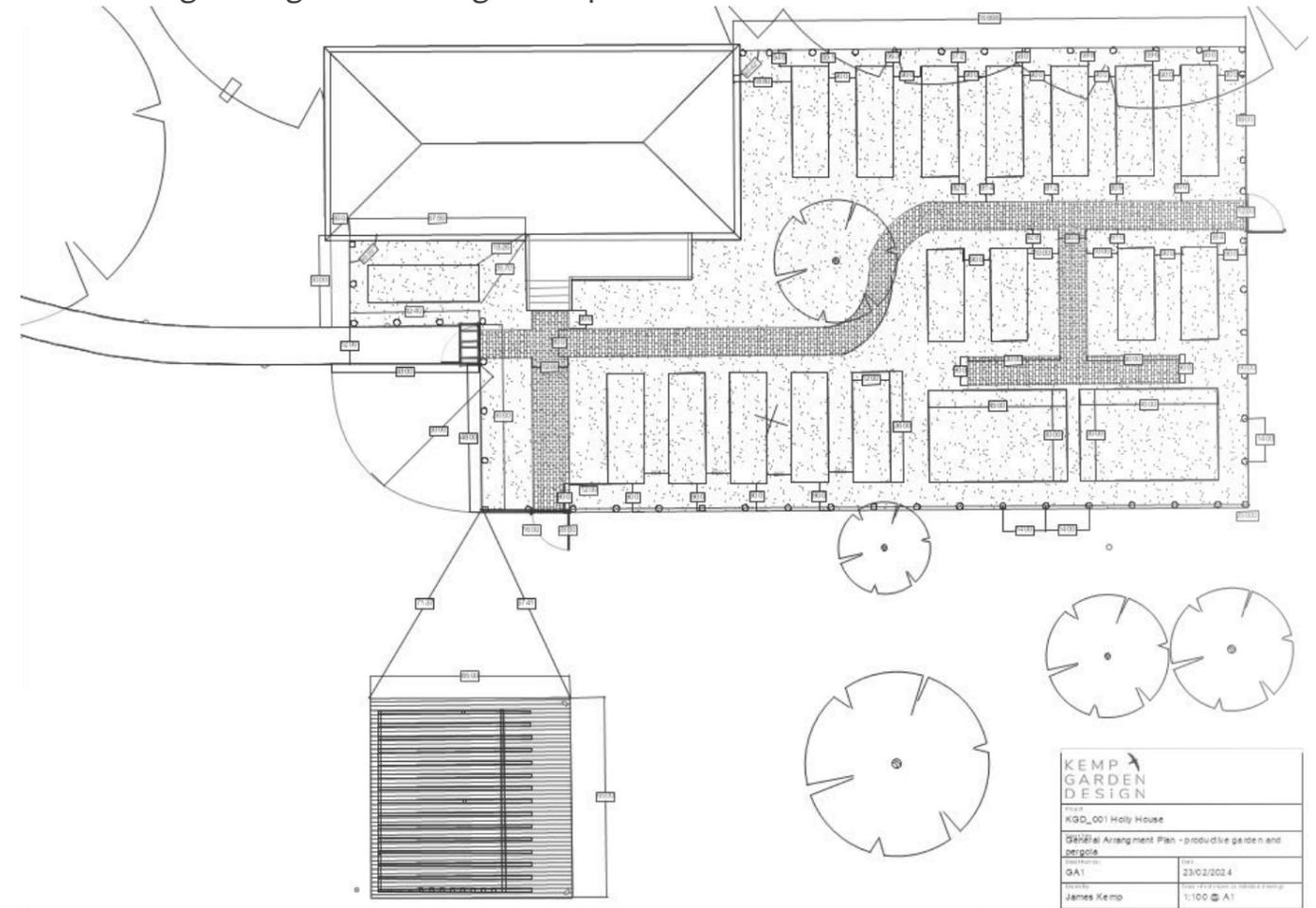
Private client, Oxfordshire (work in progress)

Construction details

Onsen and wildlife pond path setting out plan

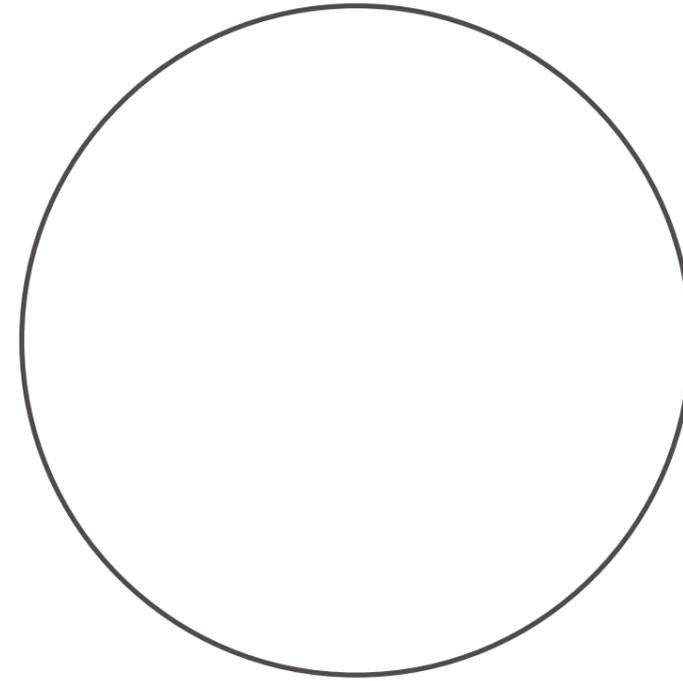


Productive garden general arrangement plan



Concept garden

The re-connecting garden



'The re-connecting garden'

Concept garden: RHS Global Impact

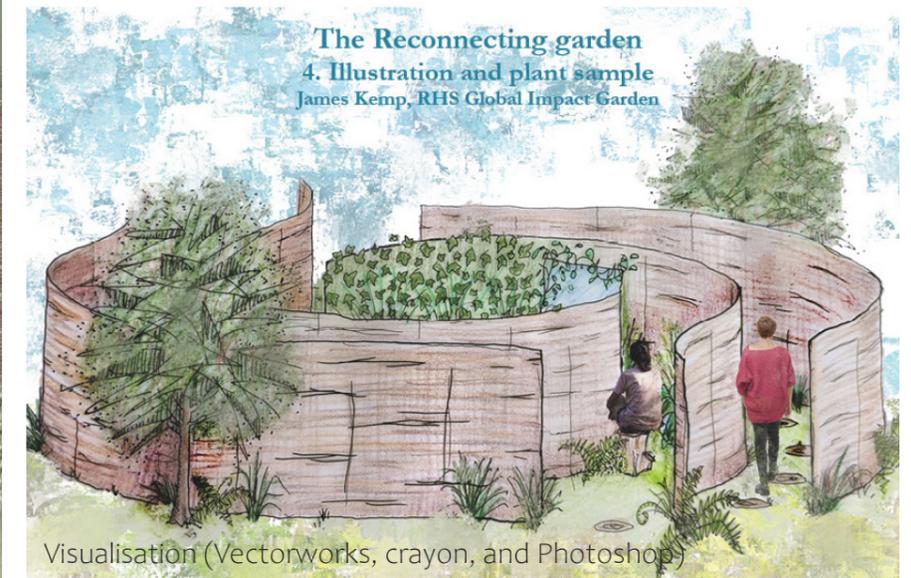
The brief was to devise a concept garden for the RHS Global Impact challenge. My submission concerned **loneliness**. In the garden's heart are two facing mirrors at either end of a small pond containing beautiful lillies. Two people enter the garden from opposite sides, and walk through high hazel fences to a wooden stool. Seated on the stool, however, the viewer can see the another person, but only in the mirror, framed with beautiful plants.

The aim is to create a sense of **longing to connect with the person in the mirror - to re-connect**.

Success, would be measured in hugs.



Visualisation (Photoshop)



Visualisation (Vectorworks, crayon, and Photoshop)



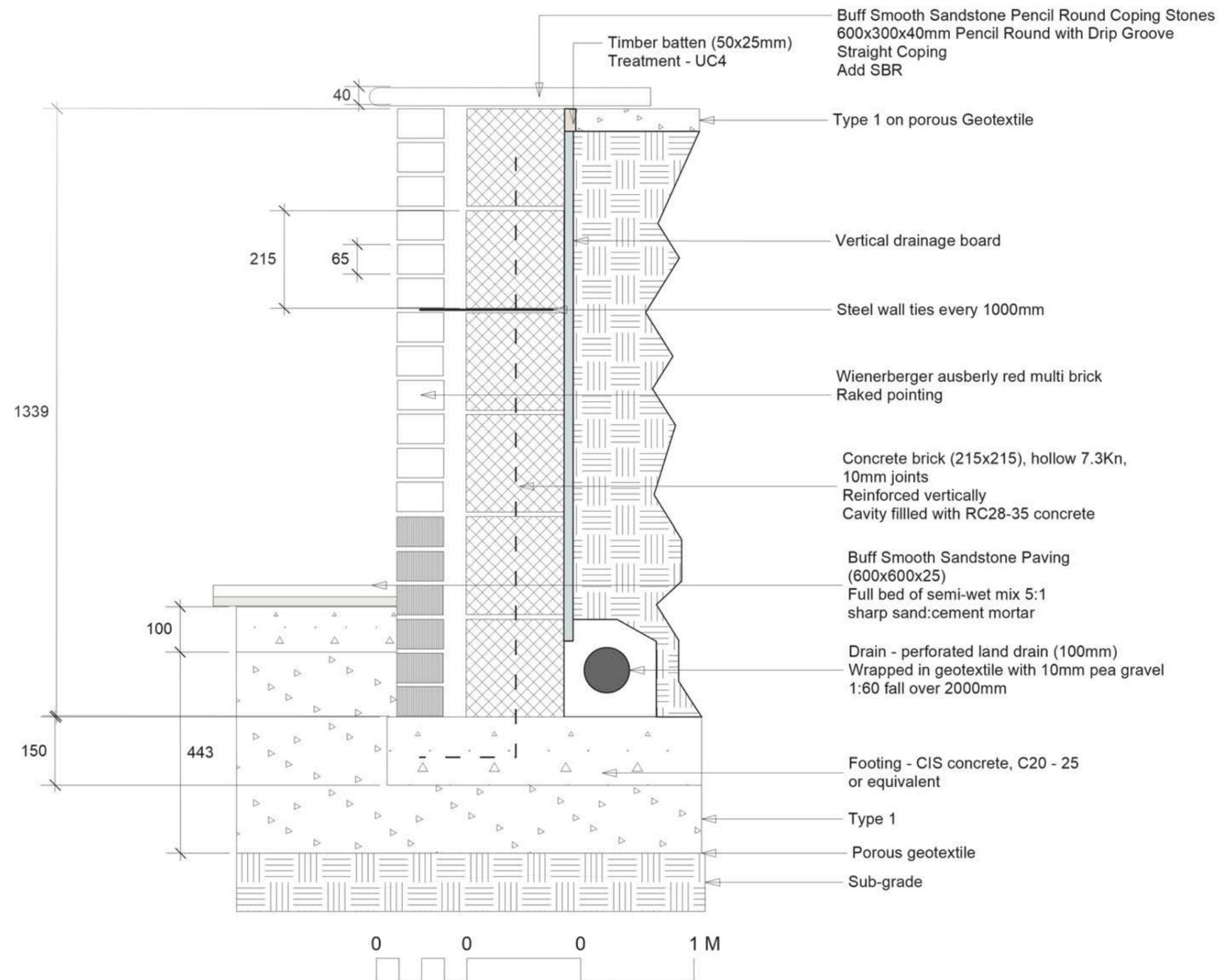
Alternative concept

Construction drawings

Wall section

Construction drawing

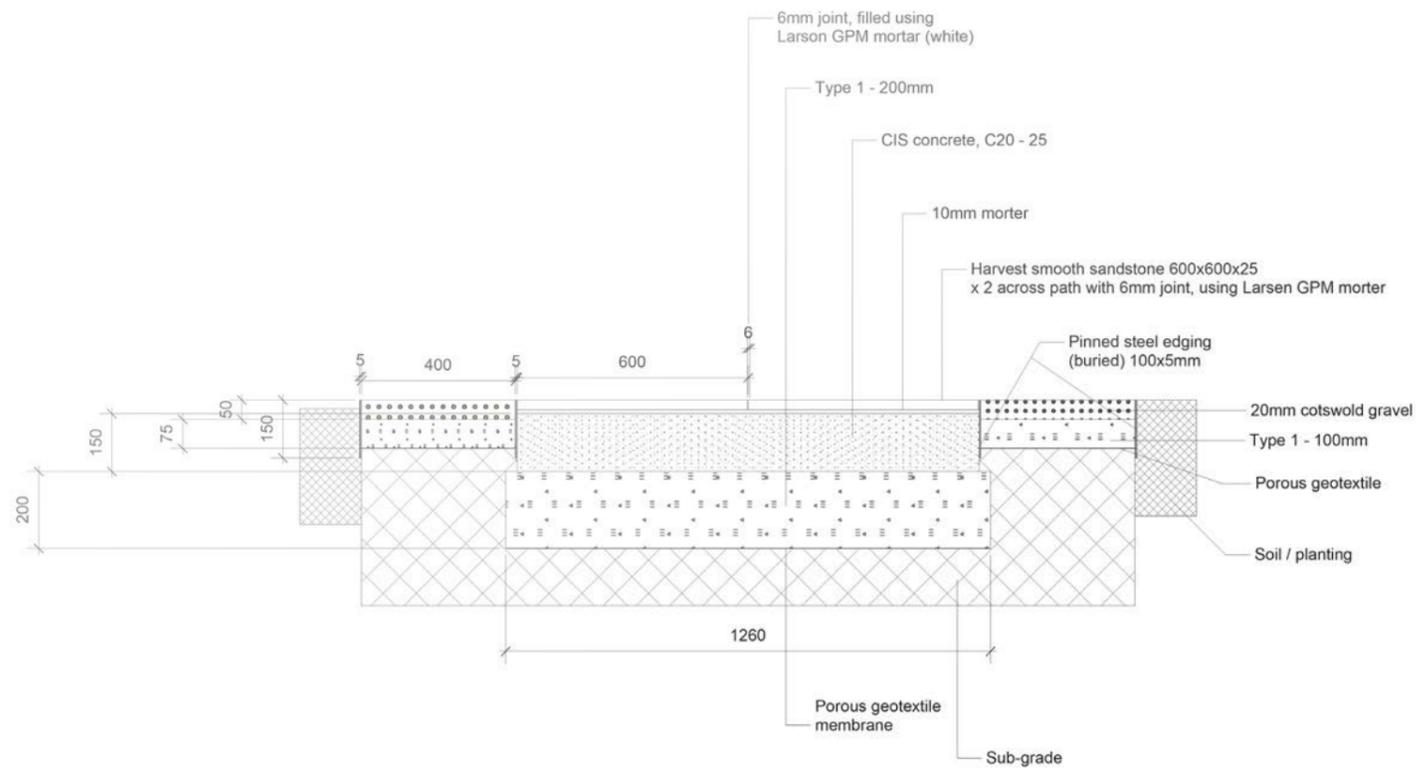
Low retaining wall, with drainage behind and paving in front.



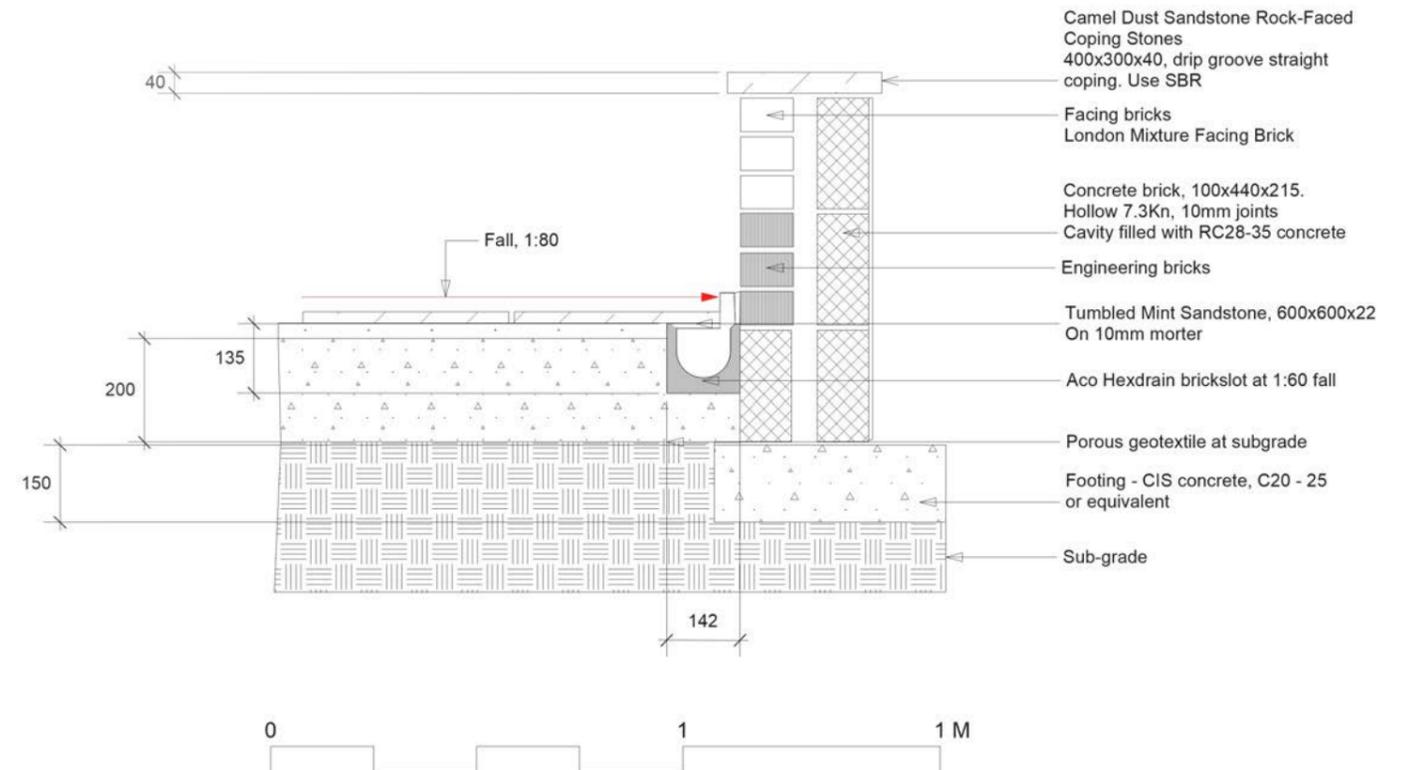
Drainage and paving

Construction drawing

Paving section



Drainage section



Contact

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