

REPORT - FOLIO

OLIVIA SOMMER

2025

SELECTED UNIVERSITY WORKS

Interior Design

Olivia Sommer

CONTACT

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SKILLS

Languages

Danish: Native

English: Fluent

Italian: Intermediate

Technical & Software

- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe InDesign
- AutoCAD
- Enscape
- EstiMac
- Microsoft Excel & Powerpoint
- Revit

Design & Professional

- Concept development
- High attention to detail
- Joinery detailing
- Lighting design
- Storytelling & communication
- Spatial planning

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Interior Design graduate with a background in hospitality and events, bringing a user-focused approach to spatial design. Skilled in concept development, technical documentation and visual storytelling, with a particular interest in adaptive reuse and community-led interiors. Passionate about functional and inclusive spaces that respond thoughtfully to the people who use them.

EDUCATION

2020 - 2025

BA (Hons) Interior Design

KLC School of Design, West Dean College
London, United Kingdom

AWARDS

2025

RIBA Award for Design Drawing

KLC School of Design, West Dean College

2025

SBID Award for Commercial Interiors

KLC School of Design, West Dean College

EXPERIENCE

2024 - 2025

BLAK Interiors, Dubai, UAE

Freelance Interior Design Assistant

- Supported the design team across RIBA Stages 1 and 2, with feasibility studies, site research and concept development
- Produced mood boards, spatial ideas and concept proposals for high-end residential and hospitality projects.
- Assisted with client presentations & participated in design meetings and site visits.

2018 - 2024

Shoreditch Treehouse, London, UK

Venue Coordinator

- Managed and delivered bespoke events and corporate meetings in a high end, creative venue.
- Curated interior layouts, furniture arrangements and spatial plans for different event formats.
- Designed the venue's logo and branding; creating a visual identity and helping website development.
- Acted as the key point of contact between clients, suppliers and teams.

PROJECT 1

Adaptive Reuse

Hospitality
Workspace

PROJECT 2

Staircase Design

Retail
Detailed Technical Drawings

PROJECT 3

Architectural Extension

Hospitality
Community
Retail

The Truman Boiler House

CO-WORKING

HOSPITALITY

The Boiler House project re-imagines Truman Brewery's Grade II listed site as the second home for Kindred; a vibrant co-working space rooted in hospitality, community and cultural events.

At the heart of the design is a respect for the building's industrial heritage. Original tiled floors, the iconic Truman chimney, red and yellow brickwork and expansive skylights are preserved and celebrated, allowing history to remain a visible backdrop to its new vibrant purpose.

The natural grid of the existing and Grade II listed features informs the spatial layout, guiding the multiple zones for work, dining and social gatherings, whilst maintaining a sense of flow and openness, to facilitate a dynamic workplace and a blend of private and public spaces.

Type:

Adaptive Reuse of a Grade II Listed Building

Location:

Truman Brewery, East London

Building Area:

2 Floors; 900 m²

Client:

Kindred

Software:

Revit
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe InDesign



The Orangery: A member's area.



The importance of Telling a Story

KEY WORDS

COMMUNITY

↓
Collaboration

↓
Togetherness

↓
Sharing Ideas

↓
SALON

FF&E SCHEME

“A salon is a **gathering space** for artists, writers & thinkers to **come together** to socialise and engage in conversation. Originating in the 17th- and 18th-century France, salons were hosted in **private homes** by women, who **curated discussions** on literature, philosophy, politics and art”



THE
TRUMAN
BREWERY

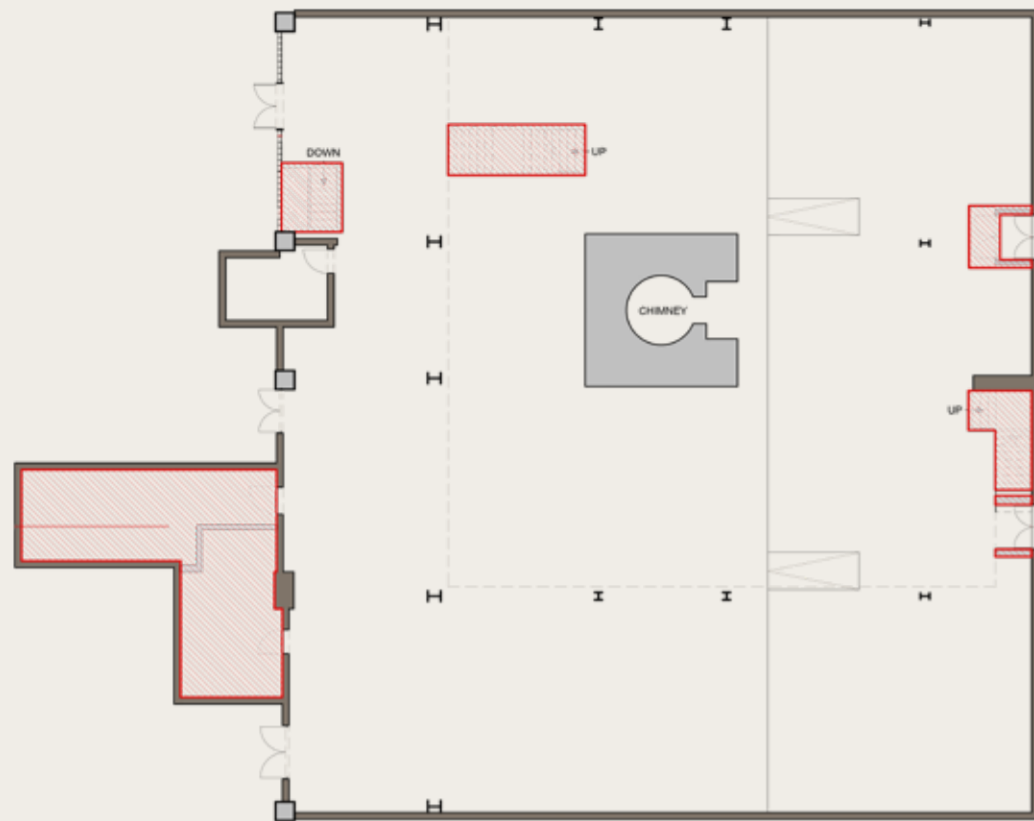
Inspiration

- A concept that aligns with Kindred as a brand. Salons were the **social clubs** of today
- Huguenot silk weavers of Spitalfields brought **French traditions** and culture to the area.
- A space for ideas. Facilitating panel discussions, poetry nights & musical performances, reinforces Kindred’s role as a space for both **cultural & intellectual exchange**.
- Honouring Kindred’s current visual direction of elegance, a homely interior, attention to detail, an **abundance of greenery** and the use of rich materials such as dark wood, brass and velvet.

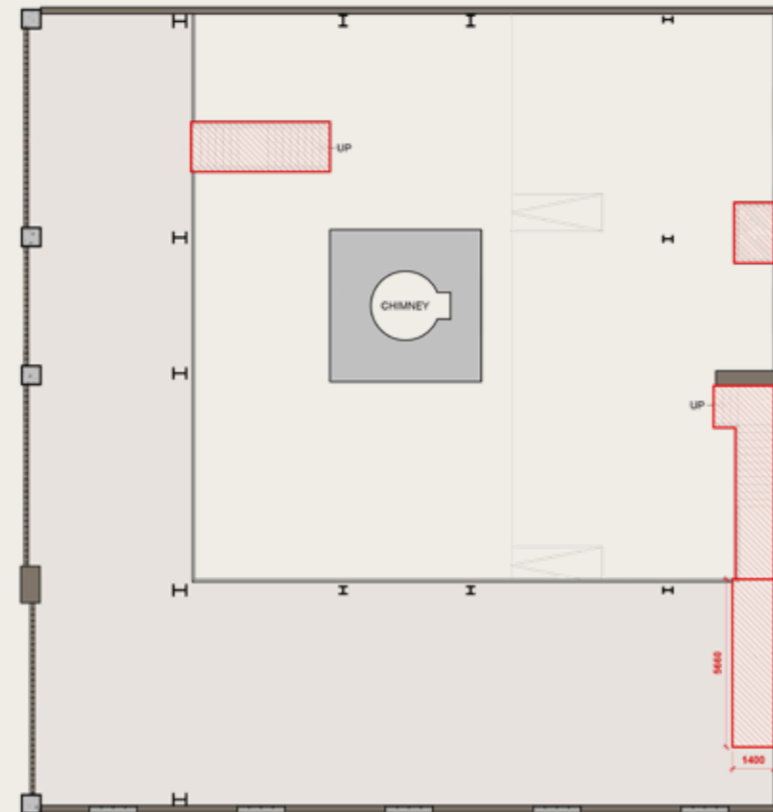
Intention

- **Atmosphere:** French Villa meets Parisian bistrot. Clusters of soft furnishings, sheltered banquette seating and pathways to explore, connect and meet.
- **Colours:** Respecting & complimenting original red and yellow brickwork and floor tiles. Limestone details, greenery and warm brass. Pops of cherry, burnt oranges, dusty greens and rich browns all join in a warm, luxurious and homely scheme.
- **Materials:** Dark stained wood, brass hardware, green velvet, sage chequer tiles, brown and green marbles, cognac leather.

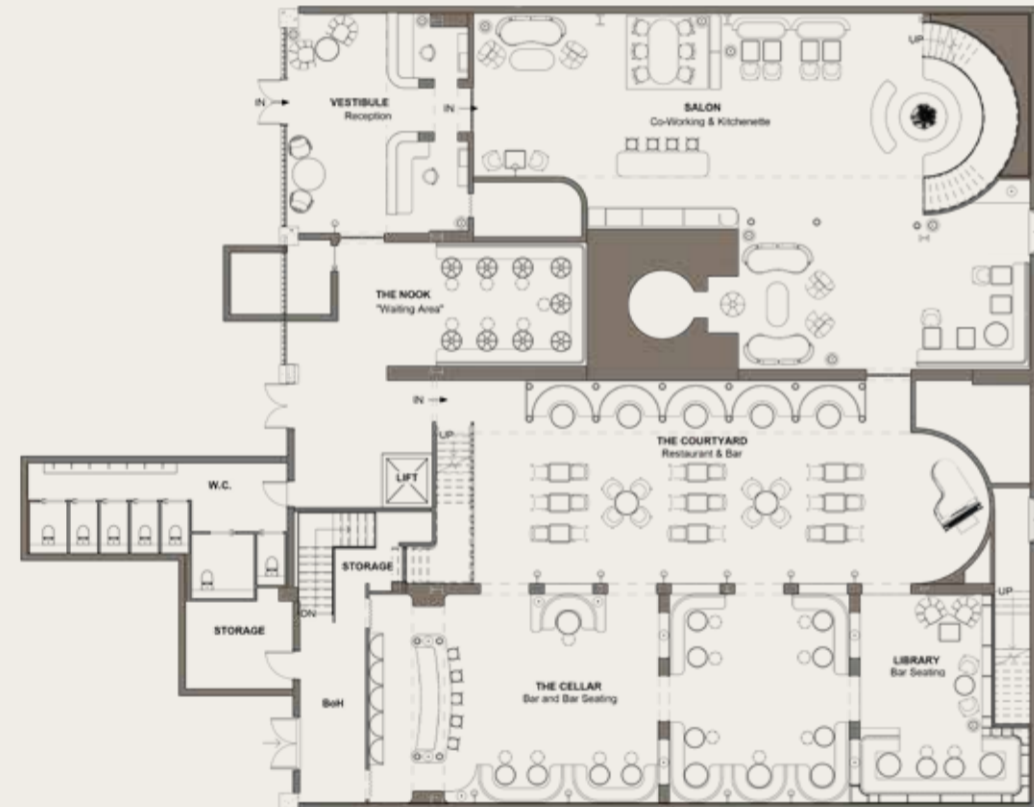




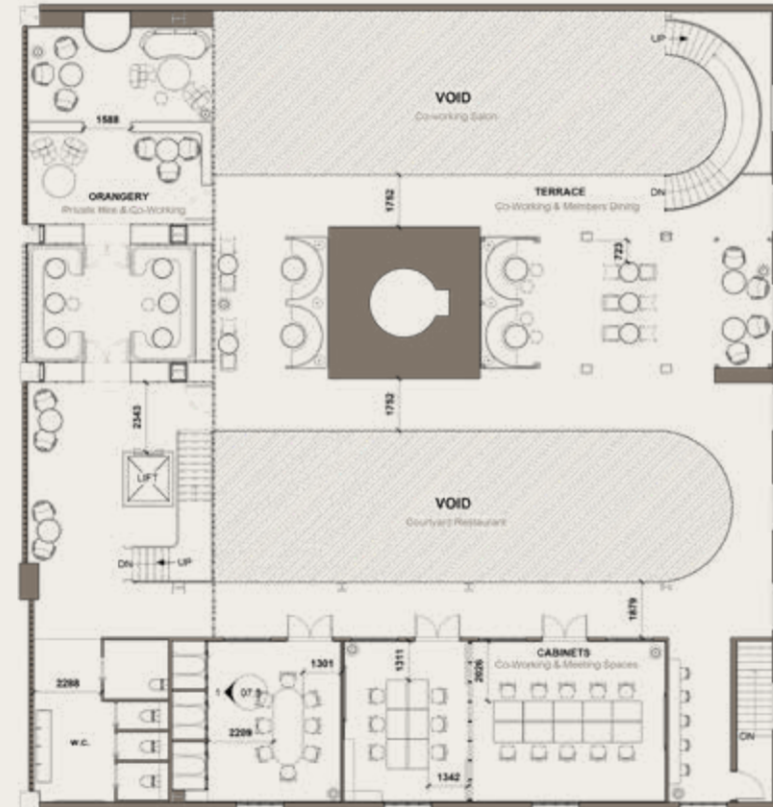
Original Ground Floor
Demolition Plan



Original Mezzanine
Demolition Plan



Proposed Ground Floor
General Arrangement



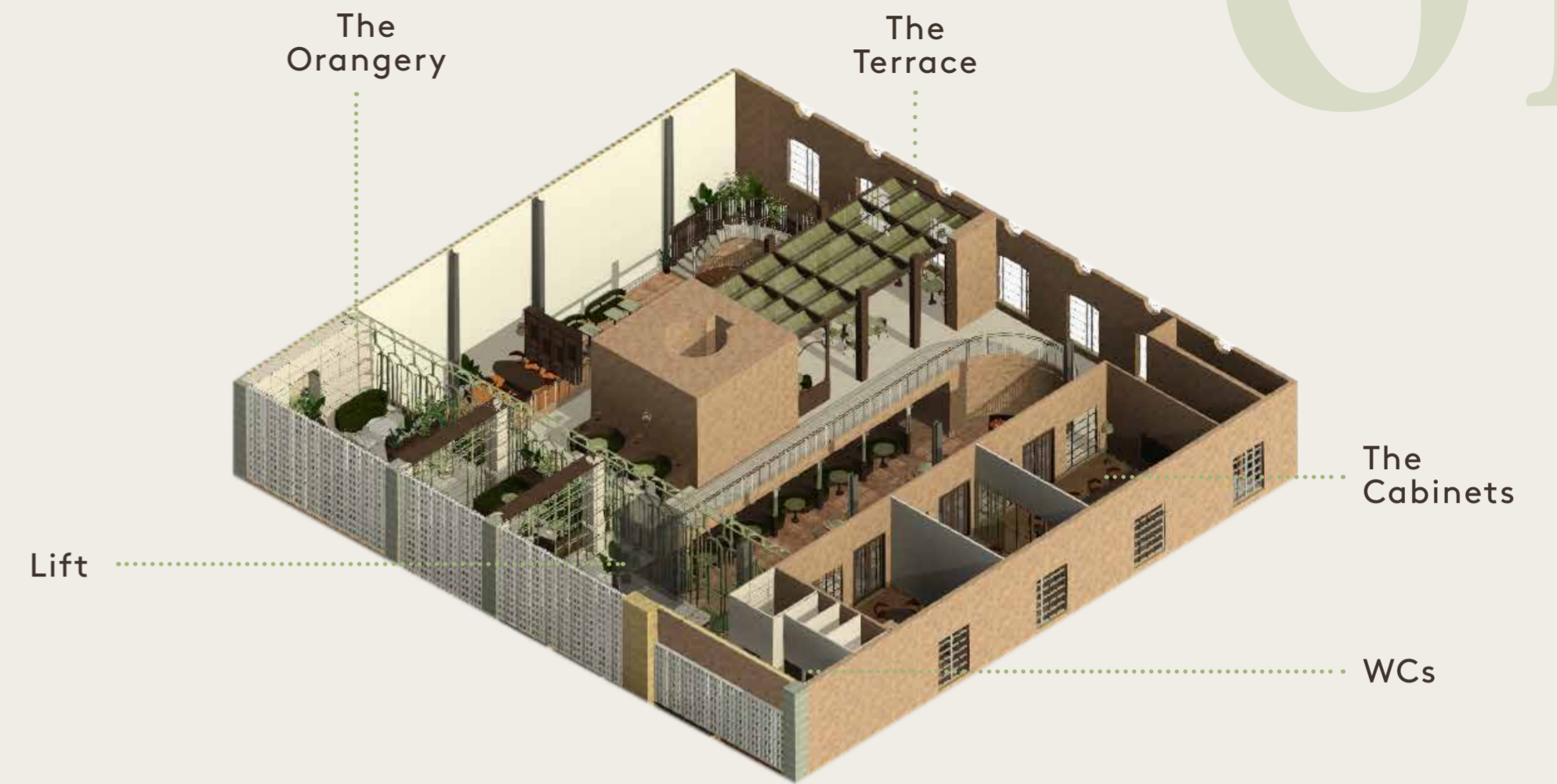
Proposed Mezzanine Extension
General Arrangement



Rendered Ground Floor



Rendered Mezzanine Floor



Rendered Revit cross section



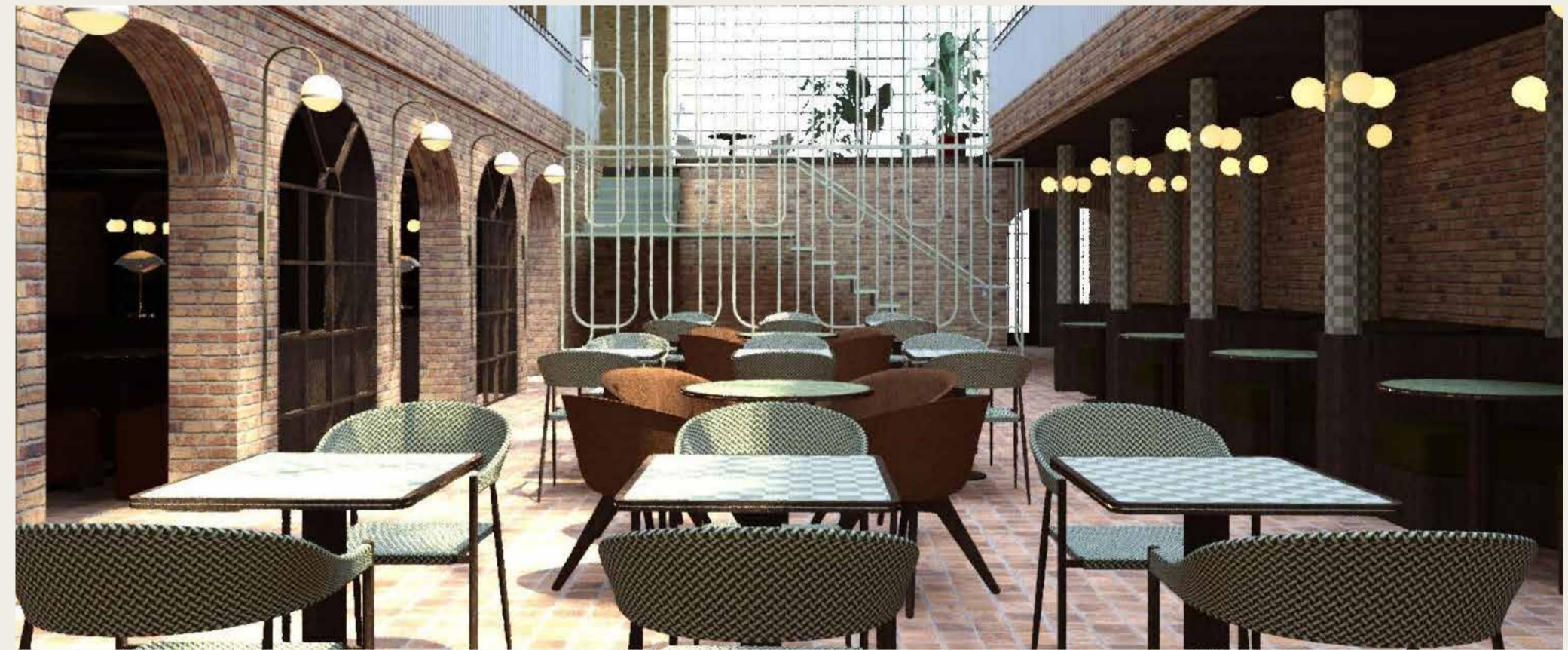
The Vestibule: The reception; controlling the traffic flow.



Cabinet 2+3: Quiet co-working, members-only rooms with bespoke desks.



The Salon: The main members area with kitchenette and seating hubs.



The Courtyard: The restaurant, open to the public.



The Terrace: A members only area; for working, socialising or dining.



The Library: A public bar-area

RETAIL

TECHNICAL

This project explores redesign of a vacant retail unit in Shoreditch into a new flagship hair salon for Buller & Rice. Set against the decline of the high street and shifting post-Covid consumer habits, the proposal reimagines the salon as a place of socialising, craftsmanship & sustainable values rather than pure transaction.

A key focus of the brief was the design of an existing non-compliant staircase, with a strong technical response to the conceptual design. This staircase became a central architectural feature within the salon, both spatially and symbolically, guiding zoning, circulation and privacy whilst meeting current building regulations. A helical staircase was selected for its compact footprint, elegance & ability to reflect the project's core design language.

Type:

Detailed, Technical Staircase Design

Location:

Curtain Road, Shoreditch, East London

Building Area:

3 Floors; 900 m²

Client:

Buller & Rice

Software:

Revit
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe InDesign
AutoCAD



RESEARCH

CONCEPT

A salon where luxury meets Sustainability



Retail area of the front part of the salon



Styling stations behind the staircase



THE STAIRCASE

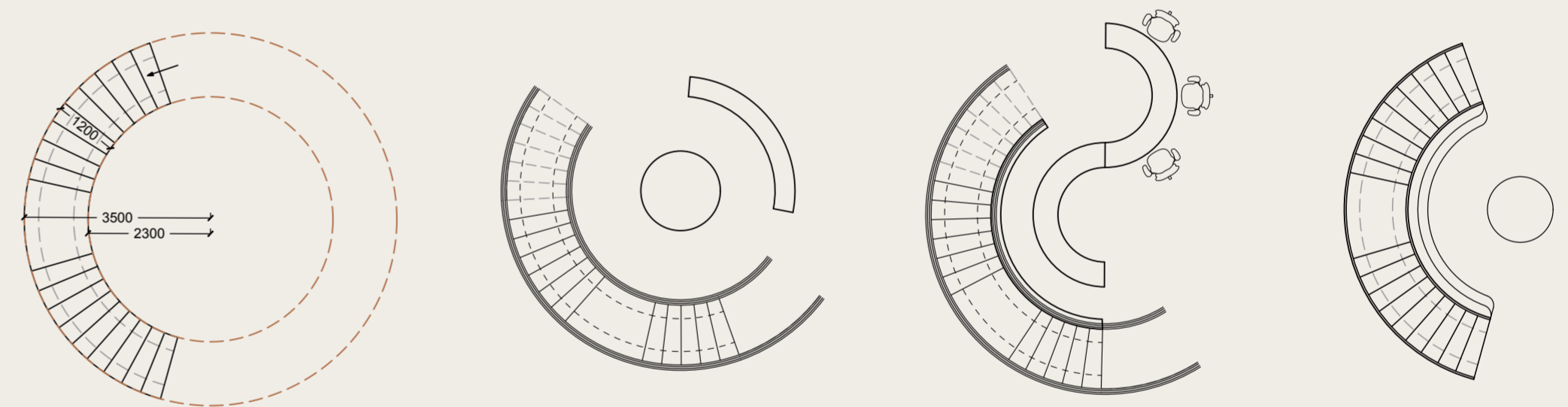
"A statement staircase, that could help break up the zones and provide privacy to the back-area. The concept **Grow | Flow** was very easily translated into a **softer** shape, and with the restrictions of structural beams, crossing through the majority of the salon, the **helical staircase** perfectly slotted into the space."

Inspiration

- The client's previous salons all take clear inspiration from the **original site**, using **recycled and re-used** items from existing materials.
- **"Grow | Flow"**: A concept that nods to the history of Shoreditch; an area that has grown and transformed through many eras and stories and has survived because of its **ability to adapt**.

Intention:

- Develop a design that remains **functional and aesthetically relevant** for years to come whilst being **environmentally responsible**.
- To use **innovative and sustainable** materials in a luxurious and stylish way and collaborating with local craftsmen.
- Incorporating a **bar/hospitality aspect** to the salon-experience.



More than just a **Staircase**

MOODBOARD



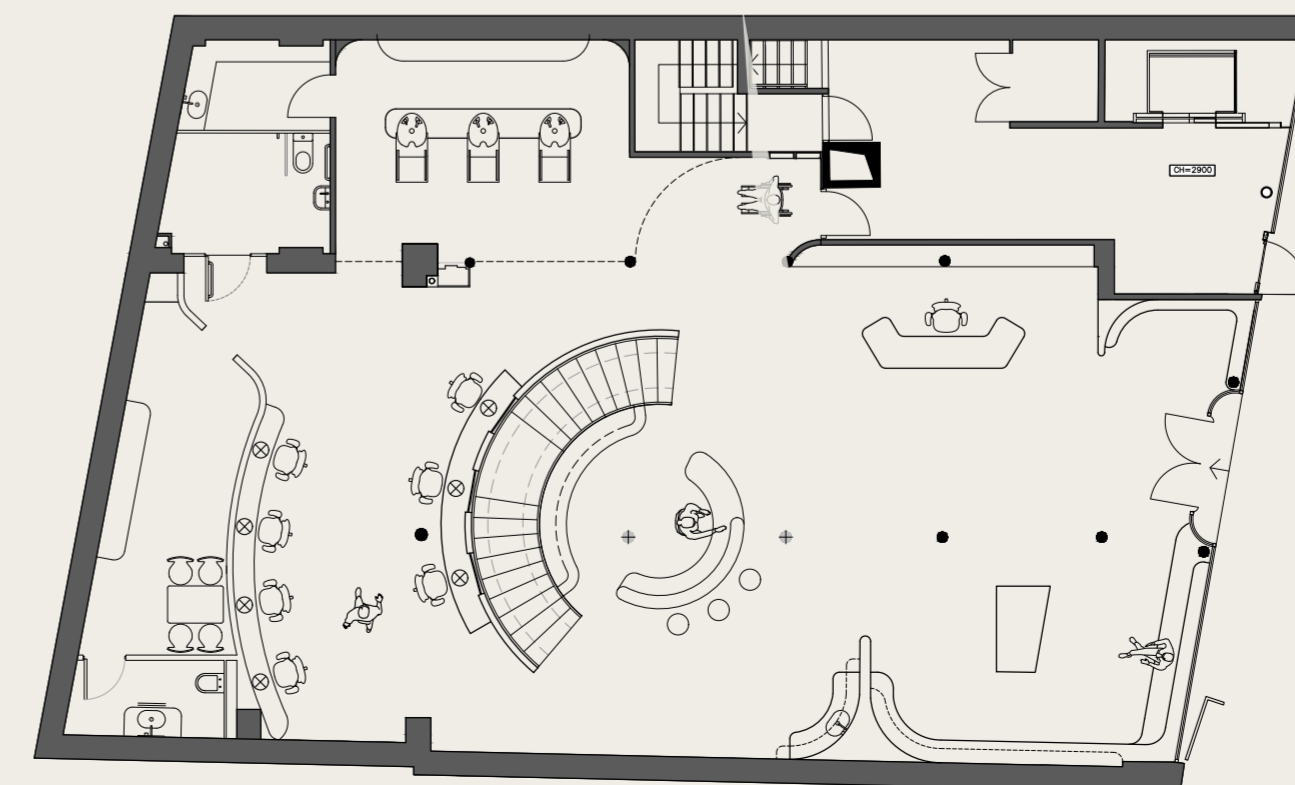
LIGHT /AIRY

ORGANIC

GROWTH

NATURAL

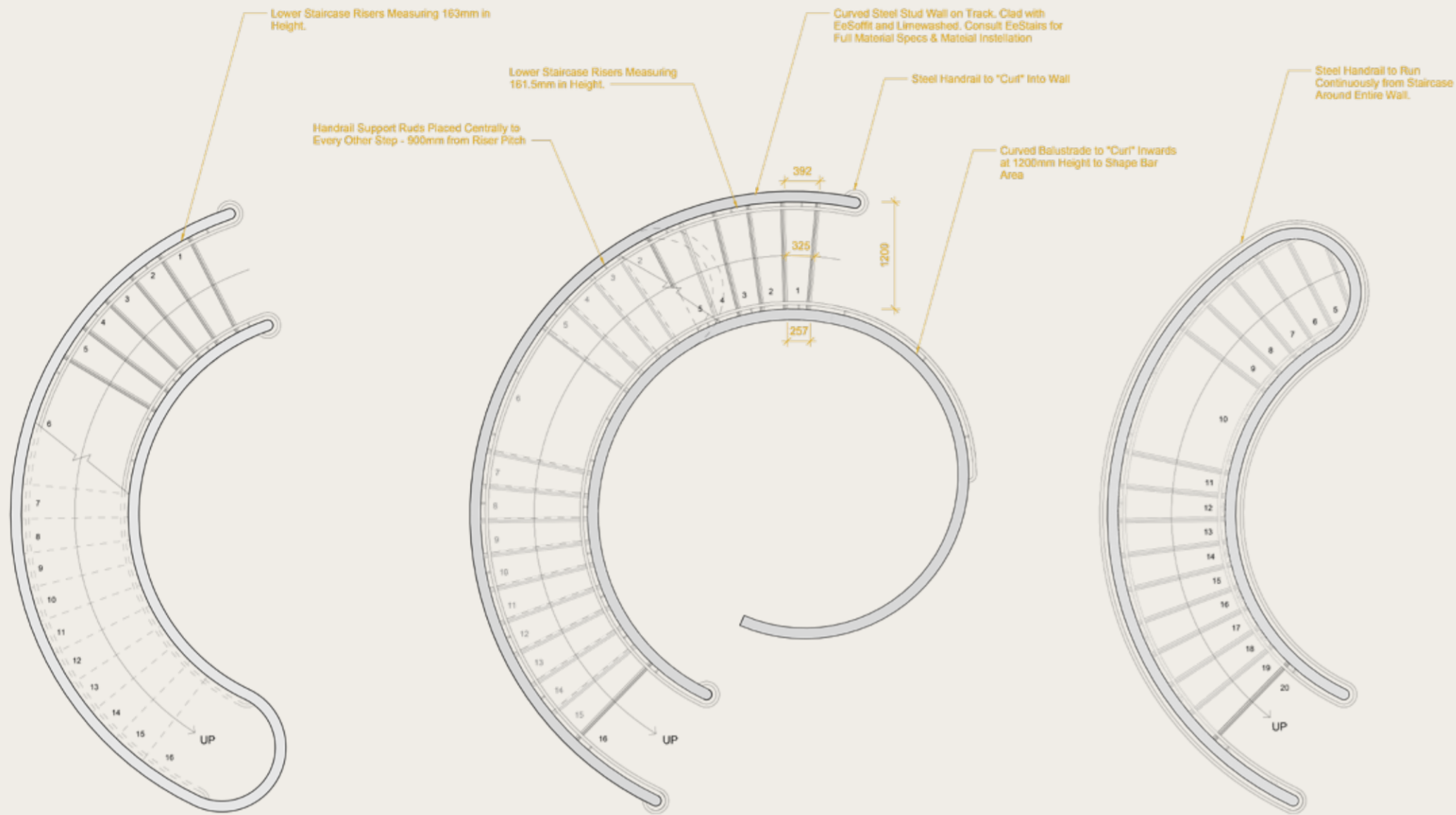
MOVEMENT



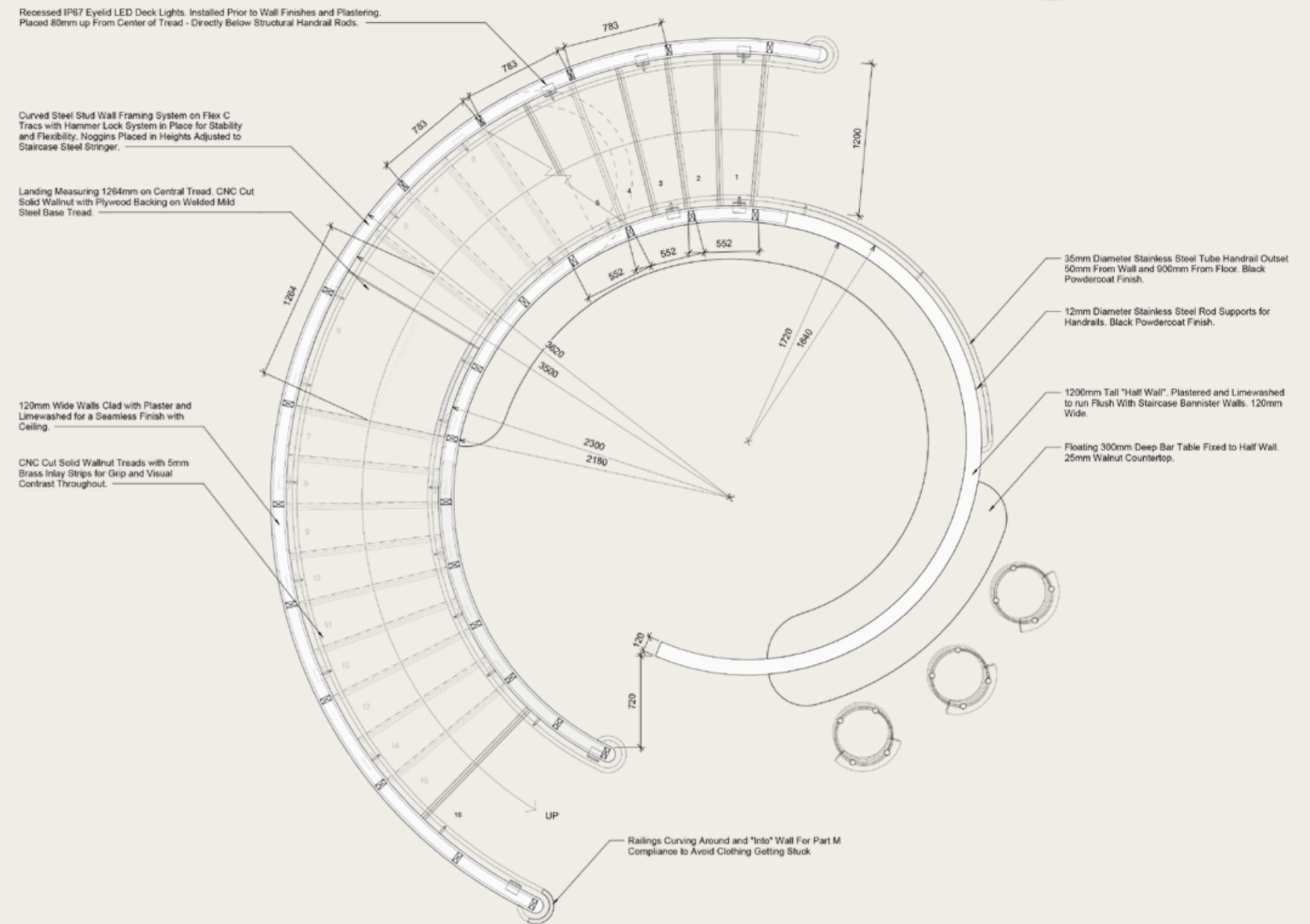
Doing the groundwork and the calculations of the staircase early on, meant a much more accurate zoning exploration, prior to any set construction ideas, which helped keeping the zones **easy and fluid**. Early exploration of shapes also helped spark innovative ideas of how the staircase could be used as **more than just a staircase** - but also as a zone in itself and as a way to break up the space.

DEVELOPMENT

Final technical plan-drawings of all three floors.



Detailed plan drawing and East Elevation.



Basement:

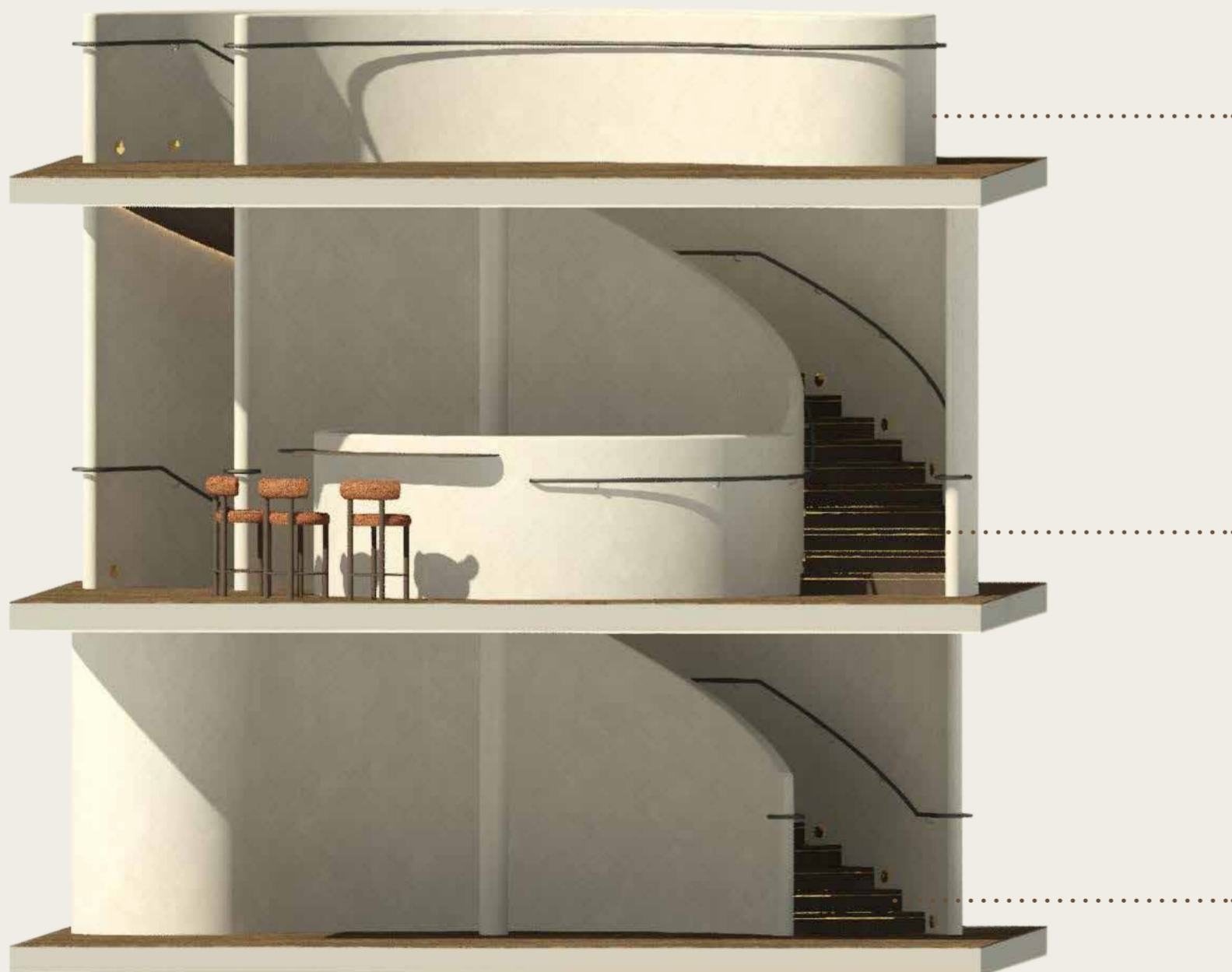
Surrounded by a 200mm wall that curves in a semi-circle and gently leads people up and down to the basement floor.

Ground Floor:

The biggest feature of the ground floor is the continuous wall, that turns into the basis of the bar. With enough space for 3-4 chairs.

First Floor:

The top floor keeps a 1000mm half wall surrounding the staircase gap; with a continuous thin railing following the whole wall.



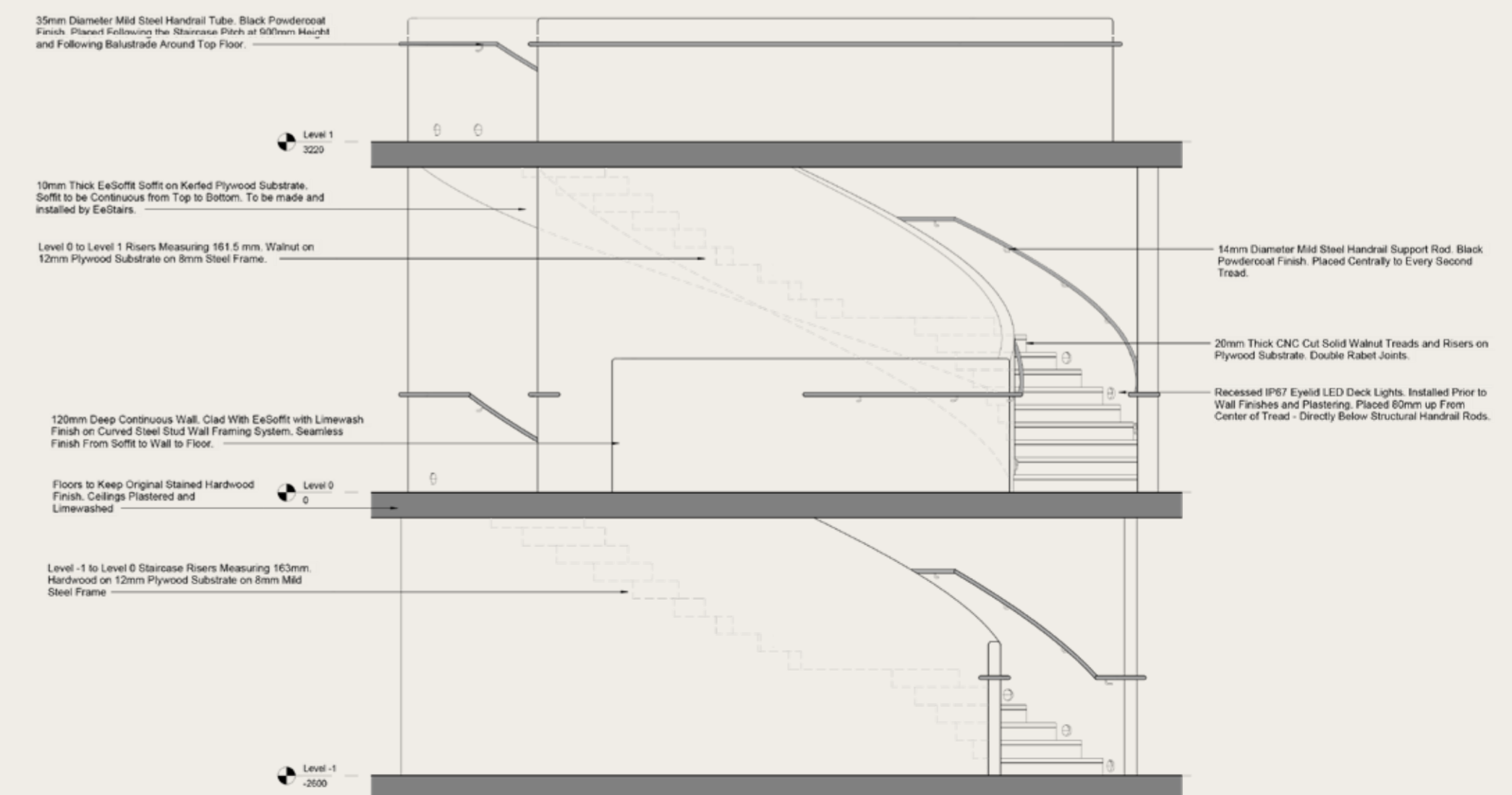
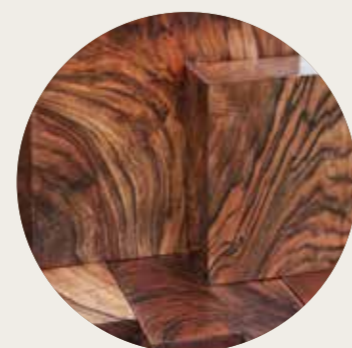
EESOFFIT



BRASS

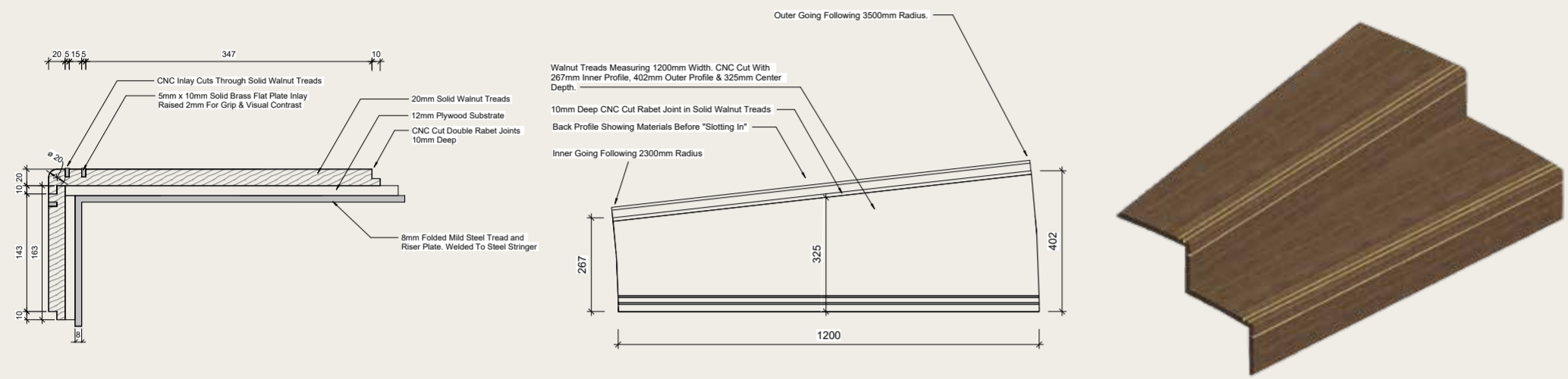


WALNUT

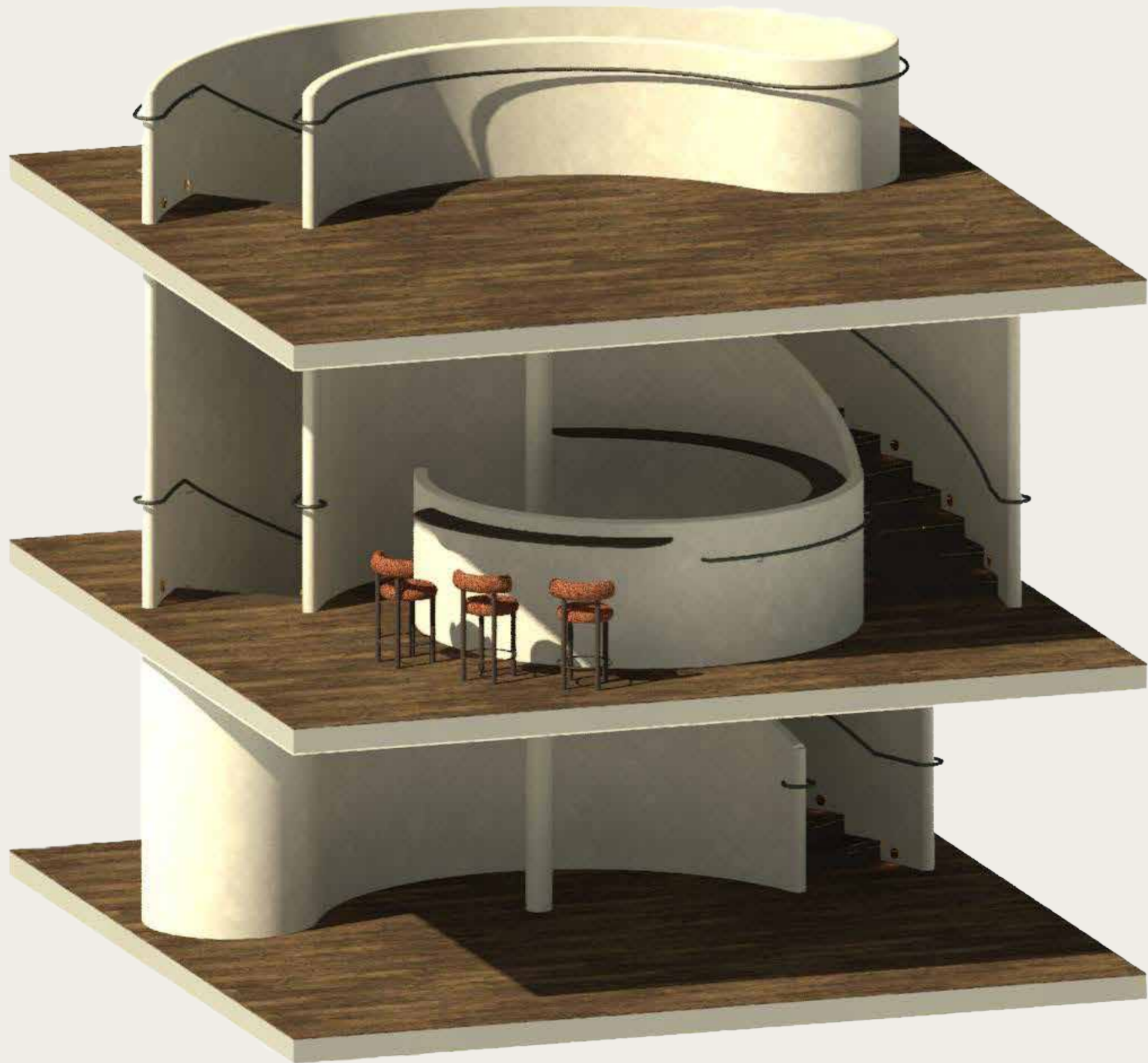


FINAL DESIGN

Detailed drawings and model of the step profile.
Steps in walnut-stained oak. Brass inlays for anti-slip and visual contrast as per regulations.



REVIT MODEL



Renders of the ground floor staircase & bar

REVIT RENDERS

Visitor Centre Extension

RETAIL

HOSPITALITY

Re-designing, re-configuring and adding an extension on an original Christopher Alexander building in the heart of the South Downs National Park. The Visitor Centre at West Dean College needed more space for dining visitors and needed other flexible areas, providing space for meetings and private events such as wedding receptions, but also an area that could be used as a marketplace to sell local produce and promote the Estate's products as well as a space to be used as a gallery for student showcases.

Local materials were to be incorporated in the design and a key focus on sustainability to align with West Dean's ethos.

Type:

Architectural Extension of Visitor Centre

Location:

West Dean College, East Sussex

Building Area:

1200 m²

Client:

West Dean College & Edward James Foundation

Software:

Adobe Photoshop

Adobe InDesign

AutoCAD

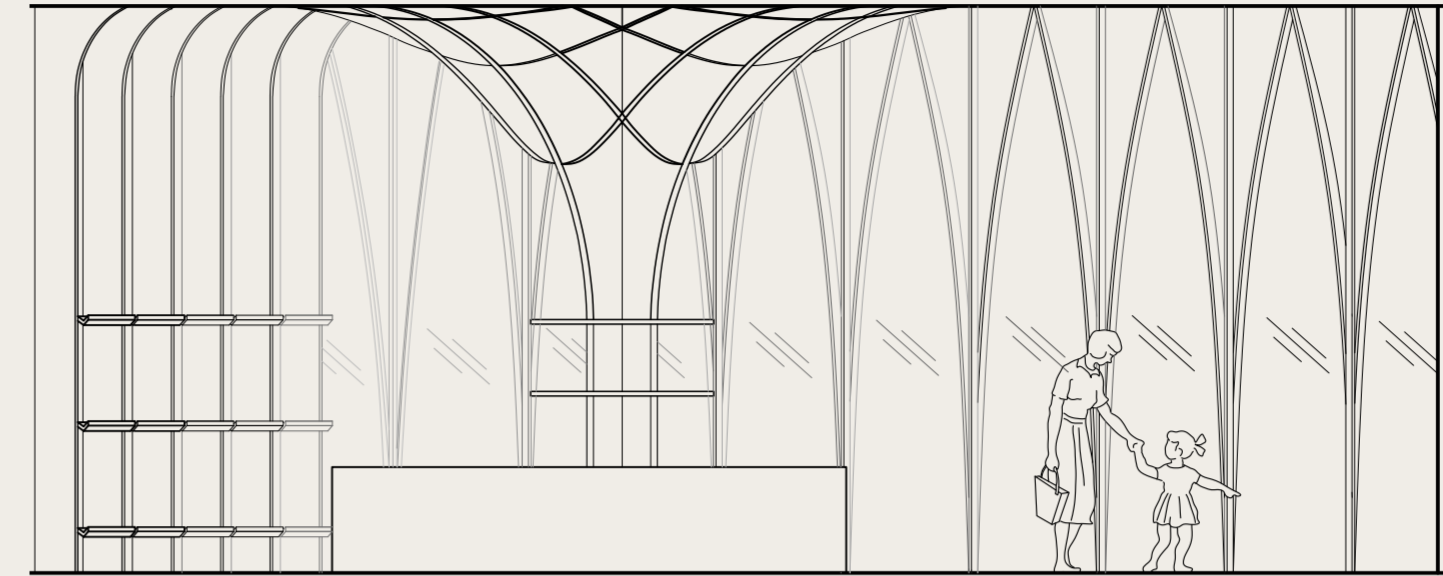
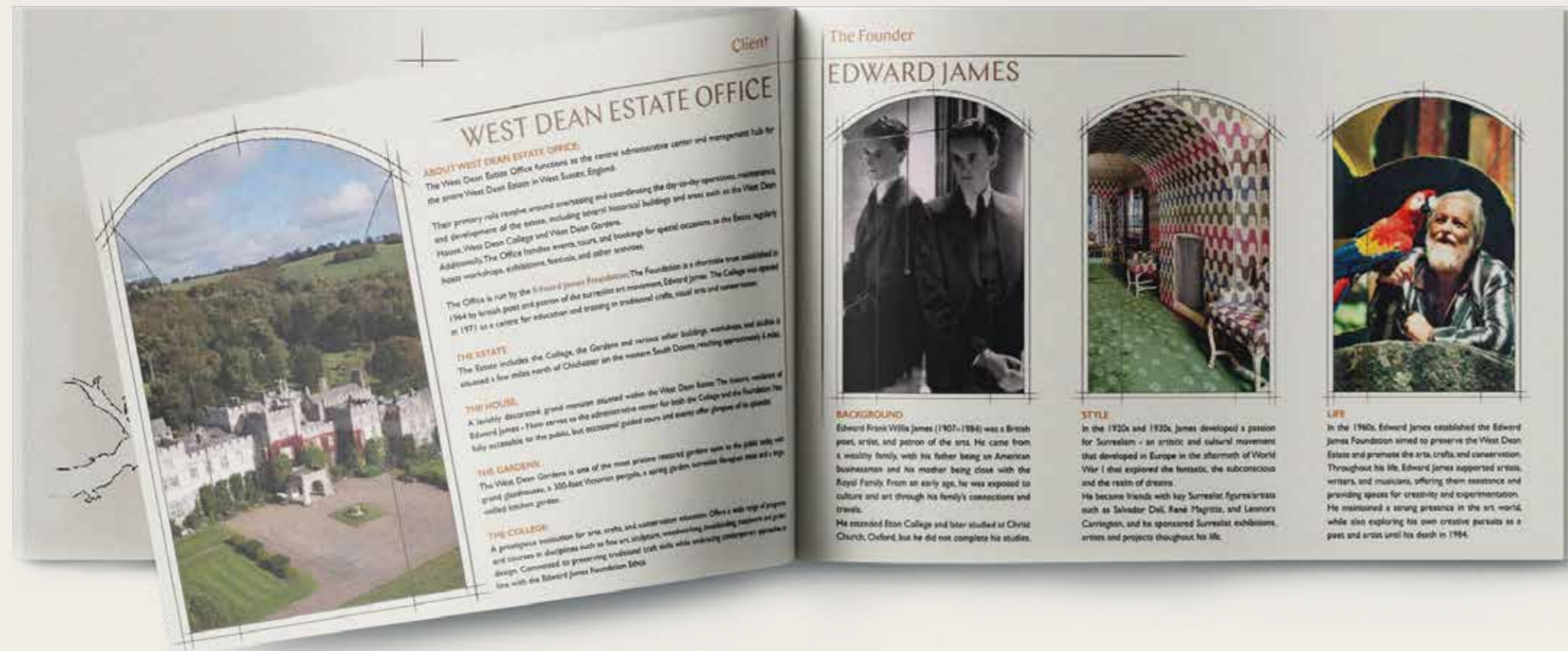
Enscape

SketchUp

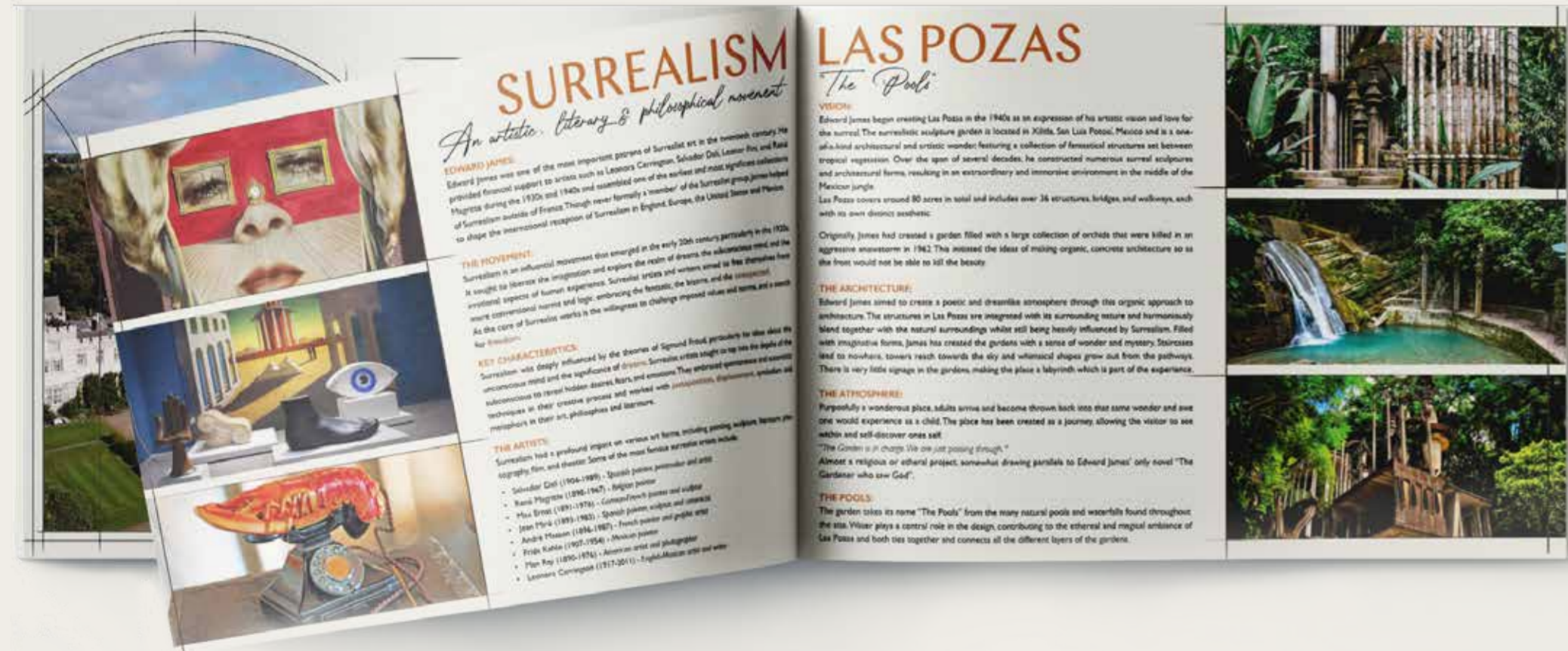
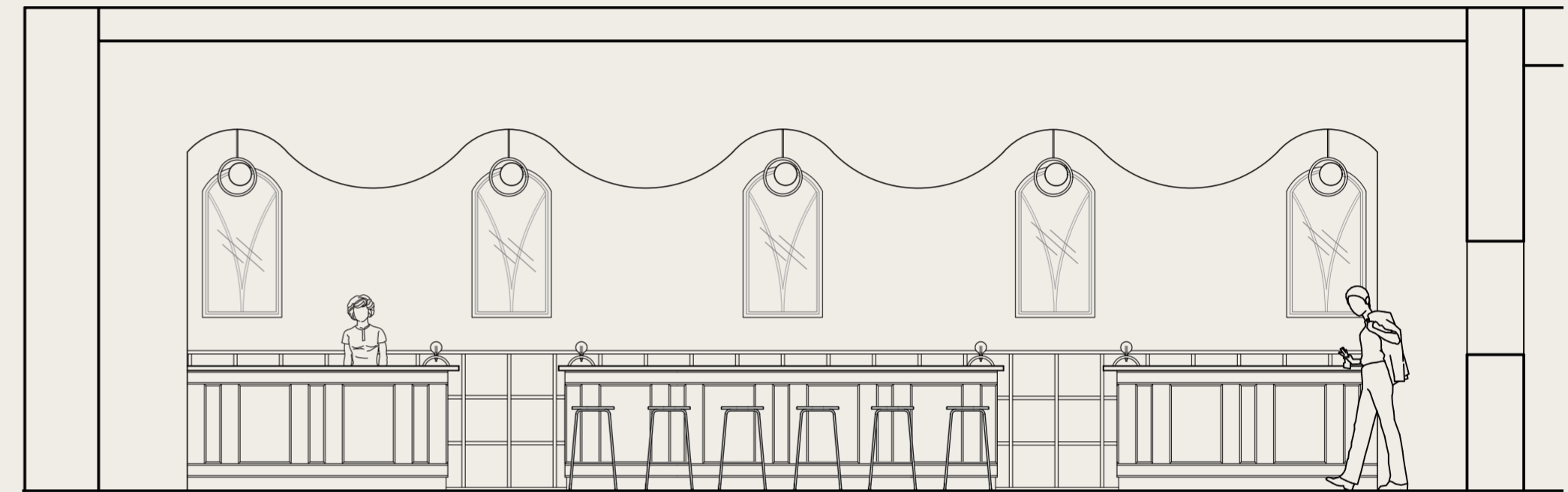


The Restaurant Extension

Architectural Extension



AutoCAD: Bar Elevation



"Growth":

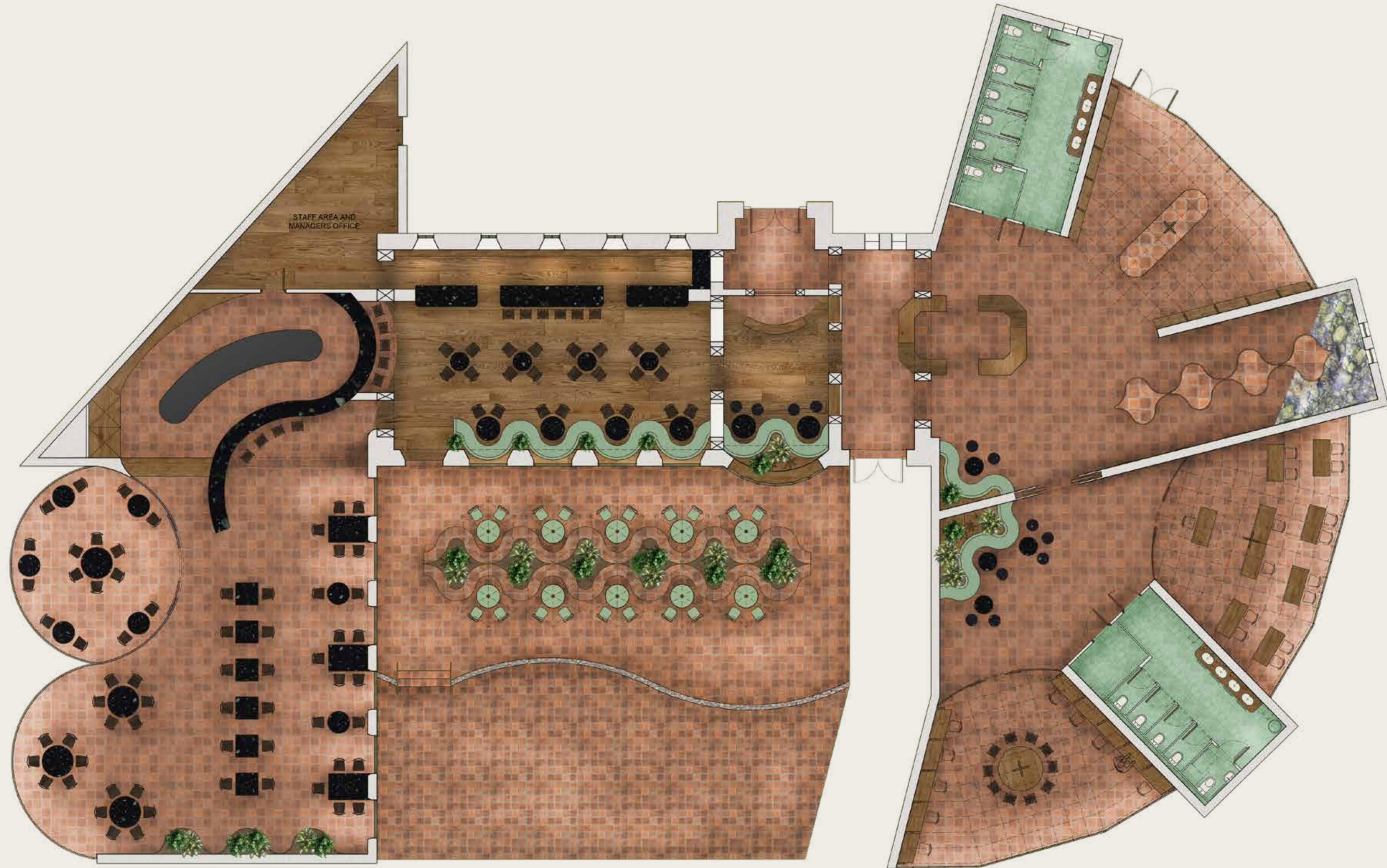
The idea of 'growth' stems from the concept word 'Morphogenesis' which inspired and led the design. Items grow out from the floor and along walls and materials flow into different spaces than where they've originated. The most literal interpretation is the large tree-like structure that grows in the marketplace and shapes the chequered ceiling.

Use of Local Materials:

A large focus on local materials found in and around the South Downs. Clay rich soil has seen an expansion of the use of the pre-existing terracotta floors; the local fir wood is used as building materials for the ceiling and bars, local waste is used in table-top material and a local way of using flint to create walls is seen in the bar and as wall-details.

Existing Shapes:

Nods to original structures and shapes such as the café ceiling and existing door arches have grown into new shapes. The chequered ceiling structure is as Christopher Alexander started in parts of the building and the intricate window shapes have inspired parts of the architectural extensions.





Marketplace: Extension facing the gardens where local produce is on display



Restaurant: Extension with surrounding greenery



Café: Existing café area connected to restaurant extension



Restaurant: Night render

SKETCHUP MODEL

ENSCAPE RENDERS

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