



'Cottage'

HOUJUN JIN - PORTFOLIO

2020 NONTERIOR PLATFORM

CONTEXT

SITE PLAN

Travelling to the site.

BROADWICK ST PUBLIC TOILETS

Site Address: 26 Broadwick St, Soho, London W1F 8HX

The site of the project is the underground public toilet at Broadwick St. It is one of the only two public toilets in Soho. It is located in the centre of this area, so the transportation is very convenient, within eight minutes walking distance from the three main tube stations in the city centre (Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus and Tottenham Court Road stations).



**1:250 SOHO MAP:
TRAVELLING TO THE BROADWICK ST TOILETS**



SITE SURVEY--- AROUND THE SITE

The site is located next to the intersection of three main streets in Soho, so here you will find a lot of interesting things...



[1] Sheppard, O. 2020. Even Police 'Won't Go Into Soho Toilets' Used By Prostitutes And Drug Dealers. [online] getwestlondon. Available at: <<https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/soho-public-toilets-nightclubs-children-16765957>> [Accessed 17 April 2020].

[2] Buildington.co.uk. 2020. 20-24 Broadwick Street - Broadwick Street W1F 8JB | Buildington. [online] Available at: <<https://www.buildington.co.uk/london-w1/20-24-broadwick-street/20-24-broadwick-street/id/5705>> [Accessed 17 April 2020].

PHOTOGRAPHIC SITE SURVEY

What is inside the Broadwick Street toilet? Let us find out...



Existing male toilet entrance

The toilet sign was deliberately obscured by stickers. It seems that some people do not want people to use this toilet.



Inside the toilet

The entire toilet is dark, wet and dirty.



Urinals and partitions

There are traces of semen on the urinal and partition. People usually masturbate in this area.



Inside the toilet

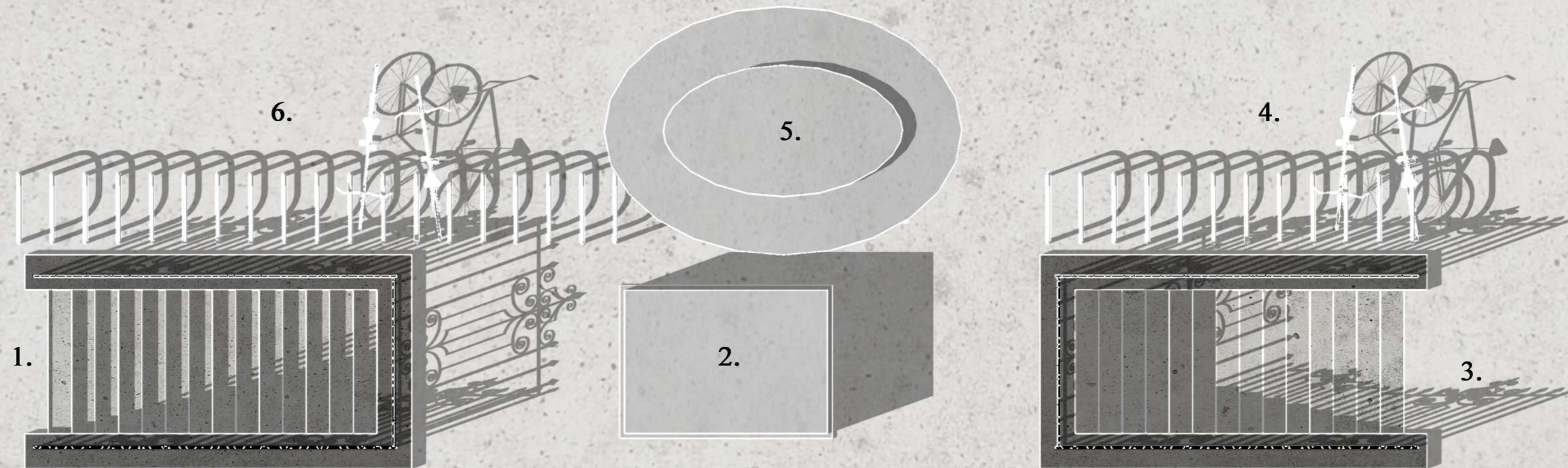
The men's toilet and the women's toilet are two connected spaces separated by a door.



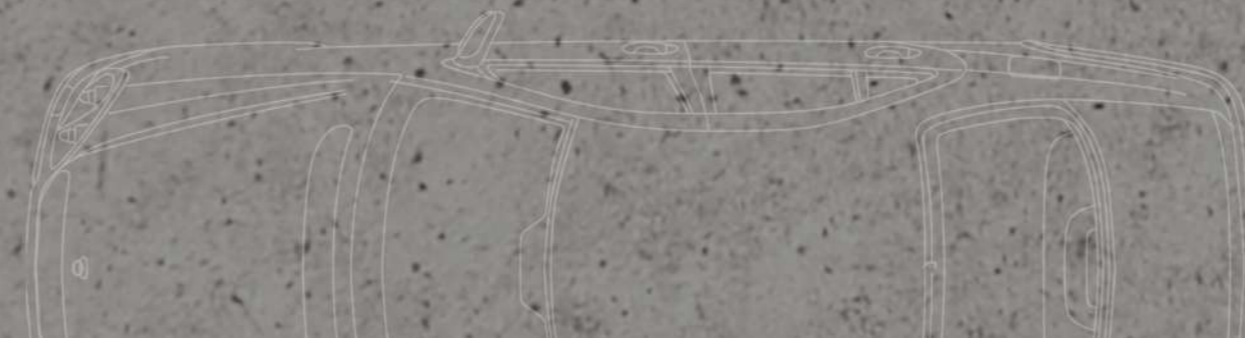
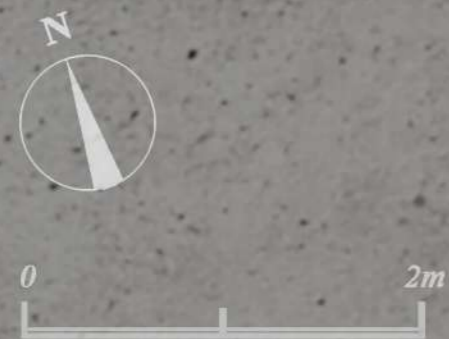
Inside the cubicles

The toilet cubicles are very dirty, so just a few people actually use them, people mainly just use it for sex.

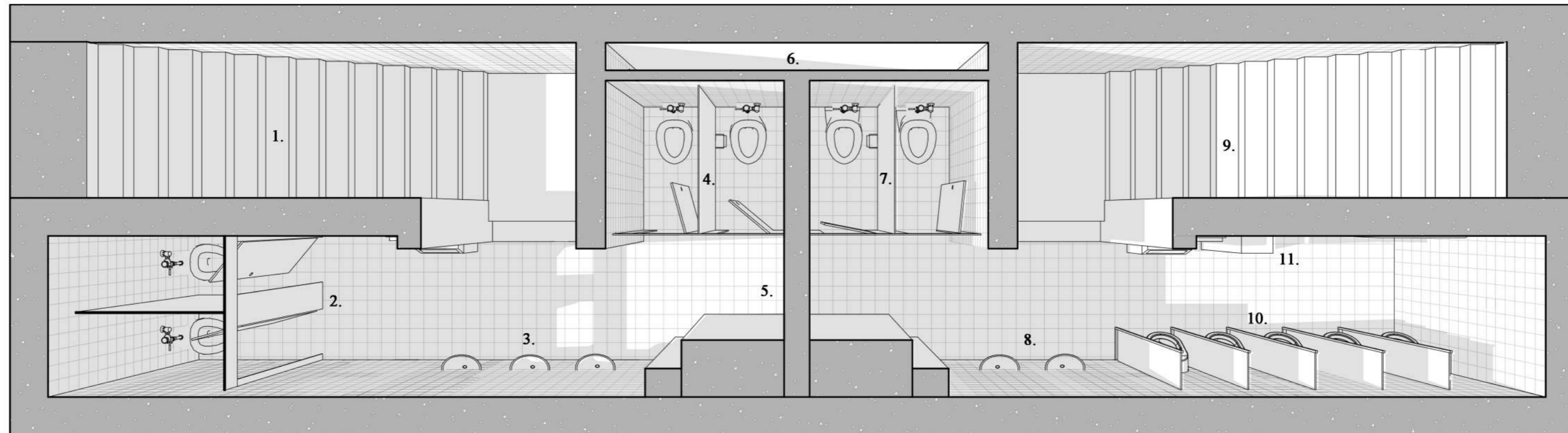
EXISTING SITE GROUND FLOOR PLAN



- 1. Female toilet entrance
- 2. Ventilation equipment
- 3. Male toilet entrance
- 4. Bicycle racks
- 5. Disabled toilet
- 6. Bicycle racks
- 7. Restaurant outdoor dining area



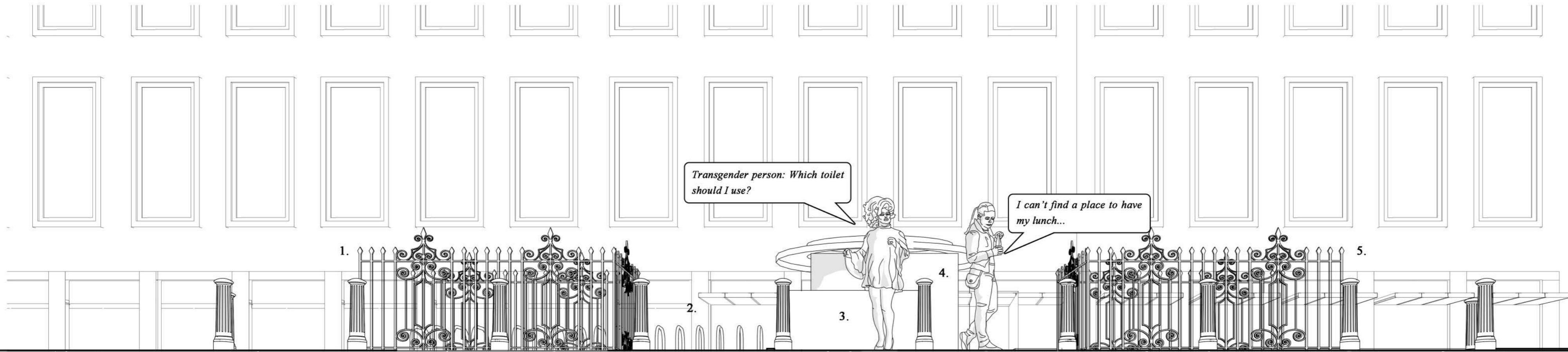
EXISTING SITE BASEMENT PLAN



- 1. Female toilet entrance
- 2. Toilet cubicles- female
- 3. Sinks
- 4. Toilet cubicles- female
- 5. Door connecting to male toilet
- 6. Toilet cisterns
- 7. Toilet cubicles- male
- 8. Sinks
- 9. Male toilet entrance
- 10. Urinals
- 11. Condom machine



EXISTING SITE SECTION AND PROBLEMS



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Transgender person: Which toilet should I use?

I can't find a place to have my lunch...



The toilet is so disgusting!
Can't be used at all!

There is no water in any of the sinks, not even a mirror, how can I put on my makeup!

Cottaging is illegal, I am nervous...

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

- 1. Female toilet entrance
- 2. Bicycle racks
- 3. Ventilation equipment
- 4. Toilet cubicles- female
- 5. Door connecting to male toilet
- 6. Toilet cubicles- female
- 7. Bin
- 8. Sinks
- 9. Toilet cubicles- female
- 10. Toilet cubicles- male
- 11. Sinks
- 12. Urinals



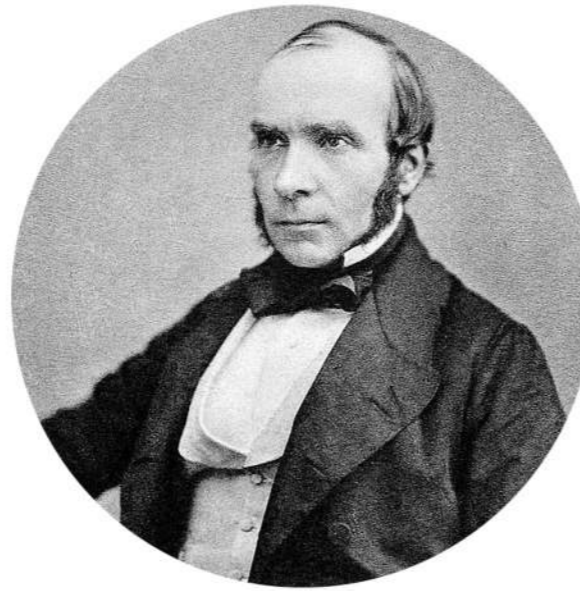
SITE ANALYSIS

The history of the Broadwick Street public toilet.



1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak

In August 1854, Broadwick Street was struck with a severe cholera outbreak. Thousands of residents in the Soho area of London fell ill as a consequence of this outbreak, and at least 600 people died.



John Snow and the end of outbreak

A doctor in Soho called John Snow thought the source of the outbreak was the public water pump on Broadwick Street, and took his findings to local officials and convinced them to take the handle off the pump, making it impossible to draw water from it. Shortly after this action, the outbreak came to an end.



John Lennon and Broadwick Street toilet

The image above was taken on the 27th November 1966 outside a public lavatory on Soho's Broadwick Street, and shows John playing London's swankiest toilet attendant in a sketch for the BBC comedy show, 'Not Only But Also'.



The toilet became a 'cottage'

Before the gay liberation movement, many, if not most, gay and bisexual men at the time were closeted and there were almost no public gay social groups for those under legal drinking age. As such, this cottage is among the few places where men too young to get into gay bars could meet others whom they knew to be gay.



The toilet has been rented out

In 2012, A company called Carlisle Support Services won a 10-year contract to run and maintain Westminster's lavatories in a deal, which involved 20 public conveniences, Broadwick Street public toilet was one of them.



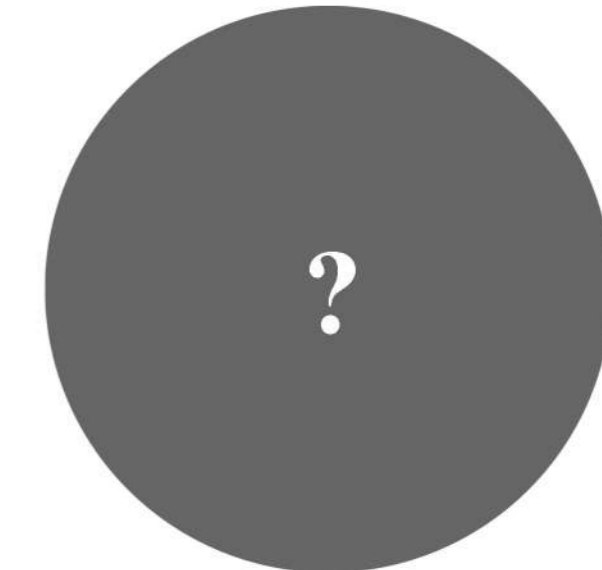
The toilet has been closed

One year after taking over the running of the toilet, the company discovered that people had sex inside this toilet, so the Broadwick Street toilet was closed.



The toilet reopened again

On 20 September 2018, after Soho Society had a long period of negotiation with the company, Broadwick Street toilet was reopened. But the company also claimed that if people continue to have sex in the toilet, the toilet will be closed again.



The future of Broadwick Street toilet

The contract signed by the company will expire soon. Will the Broadwick Street toilet remain open after the contract expires? How can we save it?

CONCEPT

CONCEPT IDEA COLLAGE AND BRIEF

This page is divided into three parts: current situation, how to save the toilet and how to convert the toilet.



Current situation

The gentrification of Soho has begun to change the area. I think from some angles, it is destroying Soho by obliterating the characteristics that make it unique. The Broadwick Street toilet used to provide a unique 'refuge' for gay people who are not accepted by those around them. They need such a place. At the same time, it is also a symbol of the unique LGBT culture in the Soho area. Therefore, I think it deserves to be protected.



Step 1: Save it by listing it

In the first step of the project, I will use the fact that John Lennon shot a TV programme in Broadwick Street toilet as a reason to try to list this toilet as a Historic Building. So we can keep the toilet for the 'cottagers' in the future.



Step 2: Renovate the toilet

In this step, I assume that after the toilet contract expires in the future, as a student studying design, I will apply to Westminster Council to renovate the toilet and transform it into a better unisex public toilet that is more suitable for Soho, but at the same time, I am also a 'double agent': I will design a hidden 'sex club' inside the toilet for people to have sex.

TOILET LISTING APPLICATION

As planned, I used John Lennon's story to submit an application to Historic England to list the Broadwick Street toilet as a historical building.

Historic England

Contact | Terms & Conditions
Visit HistoricEngland.org.uk

Listing and Designation Application Form

Contact Type Identify Location Extent Threat Owners Reasons Photographs Documents Comments Summary

Reasons For Application

Special Interest

The completion of this section is vital to your application: the detail added here will be important in validating your application.

When considering heritage assets for designation, Historic England must assess their historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic interest against a set of criteria. The principles of selection for listed buildings and the criteria for scheduled monuments are published by DCMS and can be downloaded from the [DCMS website](#). Detailed guidance on what Historic England considers when assessing buildings for listing can be found in our [Selection Guides](#), which are published on our website or can be requested from Customer Services. Other links to useful sources can be found at the bottom of this page. The criteria used to assess sites for inclusion in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Battlefields Register, the Schedule of Monuments and the List of Protected Wrecks can also be found on the HE website or can be requested from Customer Services.

Historic Interest
Give the date or period of the heritage asset. Describe any connection to a famous person or event in history. Write a short paragraph about the history of the asset.

The public toilets on Broadwick Street were the film location for John Lennon's appearance on the comedy show 'Not Only... But Also'. John Winston Ono Lennon was an English singer, songwriter and peace activist who gained worldwide fame as the founder, co-lead vocalist, and rhythm guitarist of the Beatles. On 27 November 1966 John appeared outside the entrance of the Gentlemen's public convenience on Broadwick Street, acted as a doorman of a trendy nightclub ("The Ad-Lav") situated in an underground men's lavatory. John was filmed with Peter Cook (cast as an American TV presenter) and after that he had been interviewed by the media about this role. In the interview, he said that was very meaningful for him that he could play a working class role in the TV series. We think that public toilets on Broadwick Street have a strong commemorative significance for this history, so we want to apply to list it.

Soho has a strong historical background and multiple cultures, but now the entire area is threatened by gentrification, and the distinctive characteristics of the area are slowly disappearing. We believe that it is necessary to work hard to protect the buildings that are important to Soho history because they are a testimony to the unique history of the area.

[Spell Check](#)

Architectural Interest
 Archaeological Interest
 Artistic Interest

Useful Links

[Selection Guides](#)
[The National Heritage List for England](#)

Impact of Coronavirus ✕
Historic England services may be affected.
[Latest updates](#)

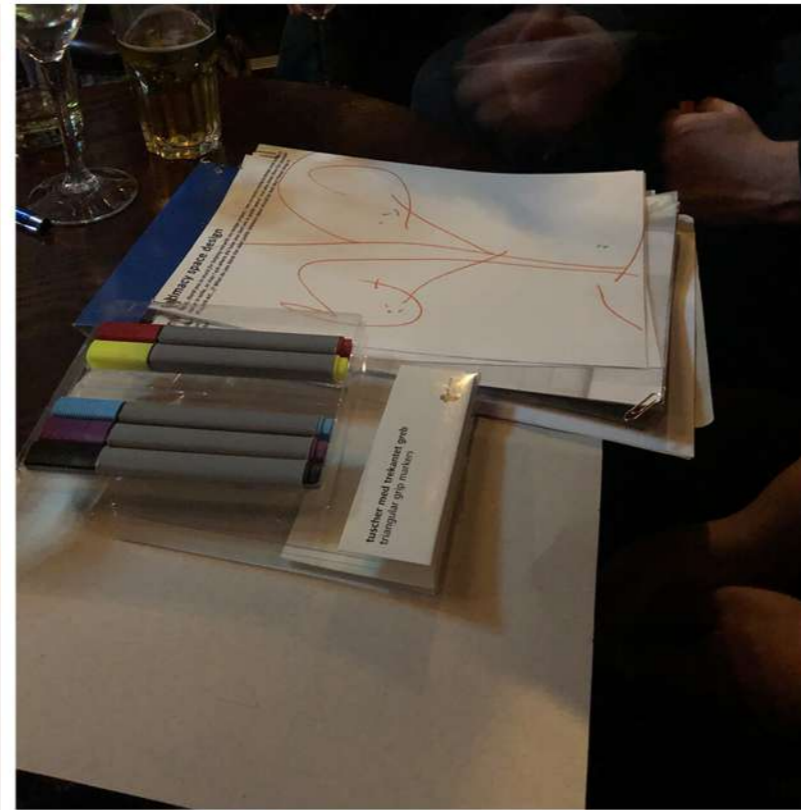
The reasons for application

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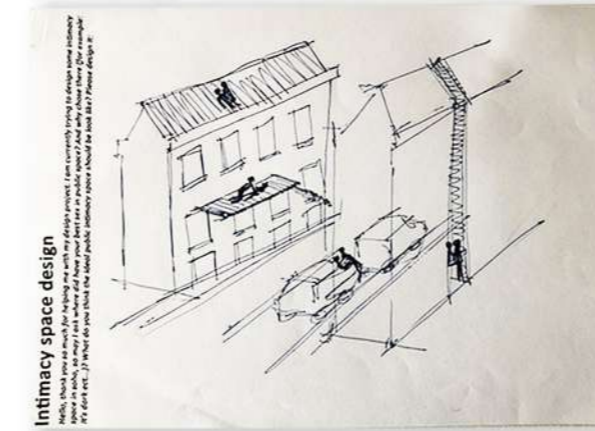
Soho has a strong historical background and multiple cultures, but now the entire area is threatened by gentrification, and the distinctive characteristics of the area are slowly disappearing. We believe that it is necessary to work hard to protect the buildings that are important to Soho history because they are a testimony to the unique history of the area.

PARTICIPATORY EVENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND OUTCOMES

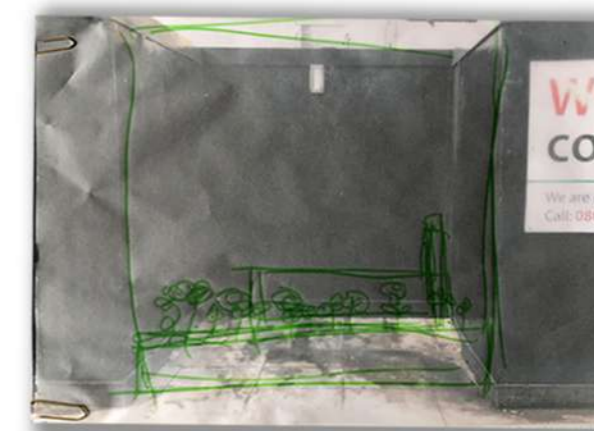
Held a workshop in a Soho gay pub to figure out people's needs about 'cottage'.



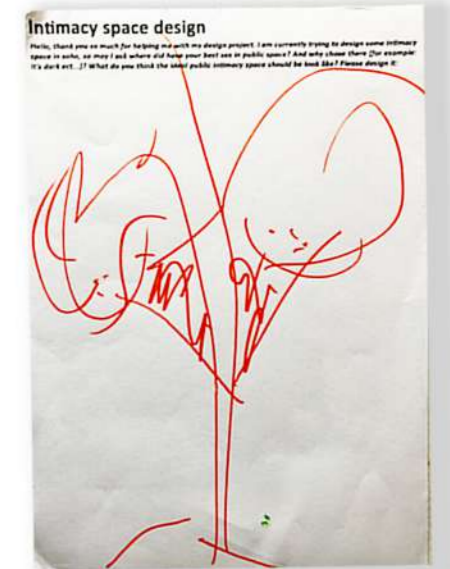
WOKESHOP OUTCOMES AND INFORMATION EXTRACTION



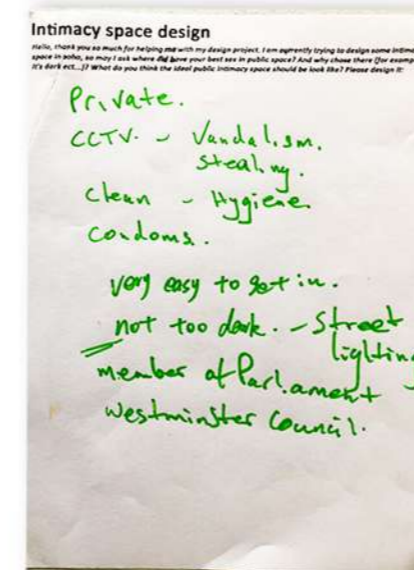
1. Have sex on the roofs:
Hidden by height and blind spot



2. A bed surrounded by flowers and plants
The need for appearance



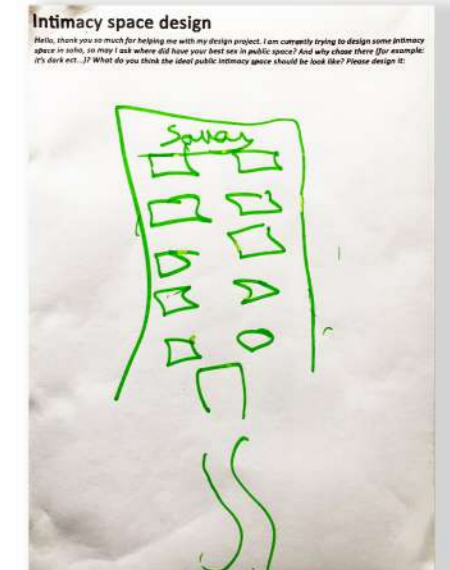
3. Sex in the tree
Hide behind plants



4. Text that describes the ideal 'cottage'
Safe, hygienic, provide condoms and easy to access



5. Where he had sex
Toilets in pubs are one of his favorite places except cottage



6. Comfortable like a hotel bed
People want the cottage to be comfortable enough, like a hotel bed

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

PRECEDENT STUDIES AND GROUND FLOOR DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Rest area design: 'Urban jungle' --- designed for both office workers and 'cottagers'

1. Current situation :



a. The office worker I met earlier: "WE NEED A LUNCH AREA!"

The site is next to the Berwick Street Market, and the office workers who work nearby buy their lunch there almost every day, but there are no benches near the site, so they have to go to Soho Square to have their lunch. There is grass and plants in Soho Square, but there is no toilet, so if they need to use the toilet they need to return to Broadwick Street toilet again...



b. There should be a social place for 'cottagers' outside the toilet

As I mentioned in the pitch, the existing space of the Broadwick toilet is very small, and the 'cottagers' always stand on the stairs to wait, which makes the narrow toilets more crowded and attracts complaints from nearby residents and vendors. So I think that maybe setting a social and rest area at the street level can effectively solve the problem of crowding in the toilet, and also can create a better environment for 'cottagers' (after all, not everyone is willing to stand in the dirty toilet to chat).

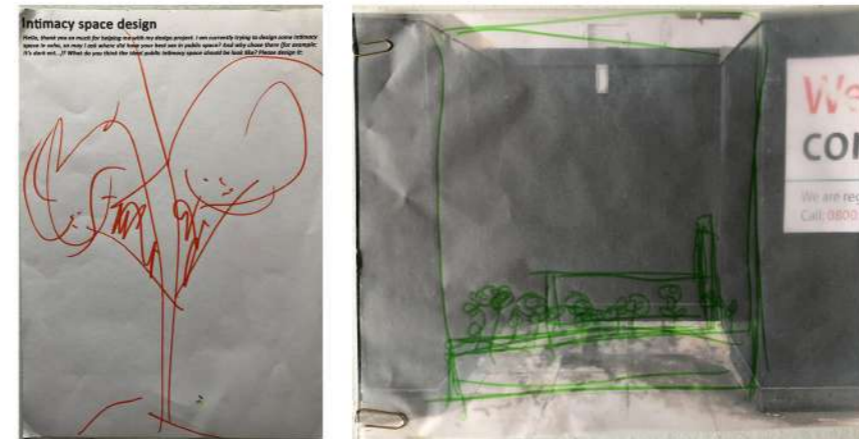
2. What do people want/ need:

a. What do people do at Soho Square at lunchtime:



People always sunbathe, eat, read, chat, enjoy the green plants and good weather in Soho Square.

b. What do 'cottagers' think the 'cottage' should be like (the sketches I got after gay pub workshop):



Picture one: 'Sex in the tree'

Picture two: 'A bed surrounded by flowers and plants'

Conclusion:

Both kinds of people need a green environment to meet their social, and reading and relaxing needs.

3. Precedent studies:

"A public toilet aims to provide a safe socialising space for women"

'These public toilets by architect Rohan Chavan are built around an old tree in the Indian city Thane, and include a hot-pink sitting area where women can socialise.

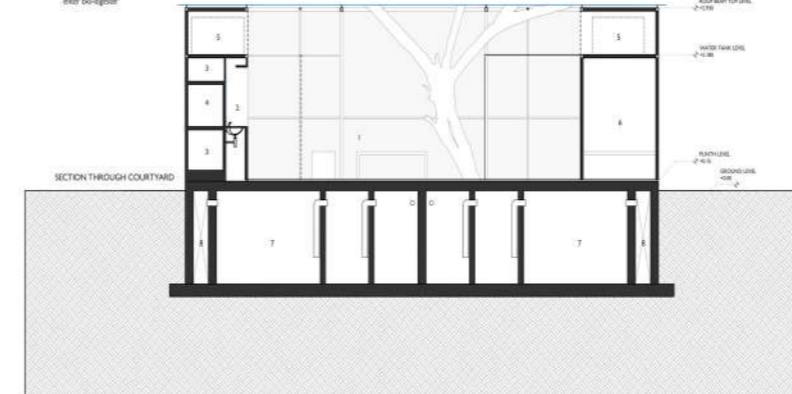
"Public spaces in a city are important [places] where people meet and interact," said Chavan. "It is a place of mental interaction where new ideas are born."

There are several points in this precedent that attracted me:

1. It rethinks what public toilets can be?
2. The entire toilet is built around the existing tree, so that people can rest under the shade of the tree
3. The site of this project is similar to my site, which is also composed of two parts above and below the ground. I can also learn from the function settings.

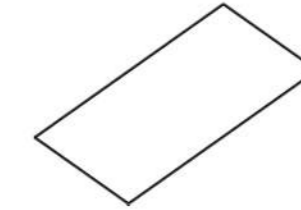


- LEGEND
1. Restroom
 2. Common washbasin
 3. Storage
 4. Storage/tables
 5. Water tank
 6. Moving station
 7. Bed-aligner
 8. Space for storage steps to enter Bed-aligner



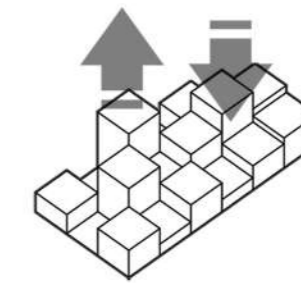
4. Rest area design develop sketches:

Meeting the social needs of 'cottagers', also can bring a better lunch break experience to office workers.



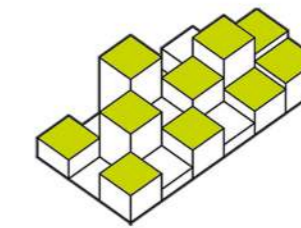
Ordinary Rest Area

The empty area at the street level above the toilets: cannot meet people's needs.



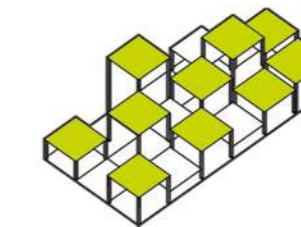
Different Heights

Adjust the height so that it is staggered, making the space more interesting for people at rest.



Planting

Increase the number of plants, so that the rest area can meet people's needs for a natural environment, and at the same time, it can provide privacy for the socialization of 'cottagers.'

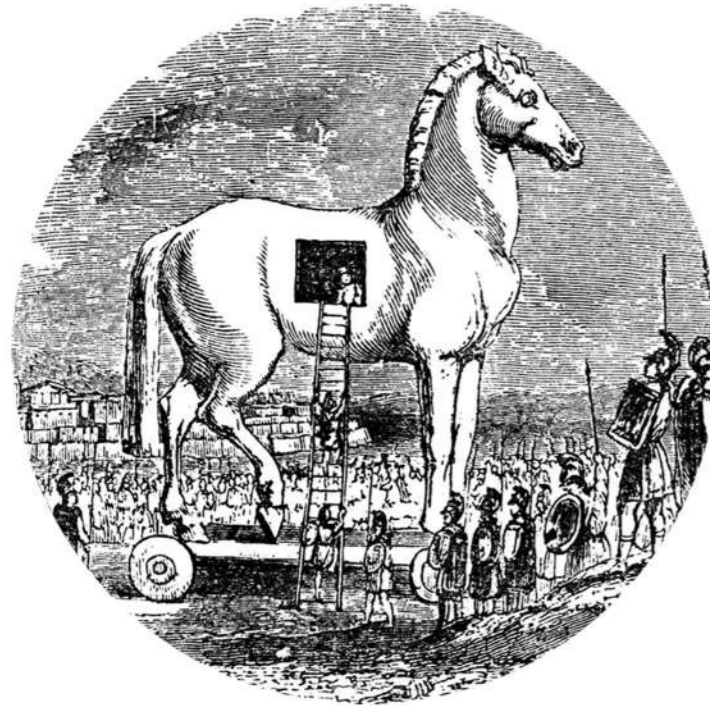


Frame structure:

Increase the fun of the entire space, people can freely move around the entire space. At the same time, the whole space can accommodate more people

PRECESENT STUDIES

How to hide a space in the plan? --- Special space strategy and secret entrances



1. Have a 'front': Trojan Horse

The Trojan Horse is a story from the Trojan War about the subterfuge that the Greeks used to enter the city of Troy and win the war. The Horse in this story is similar to my project, that is, 'the sex club' should have a functional public toilet as a 'front' to help to hide the secret of the toilet.



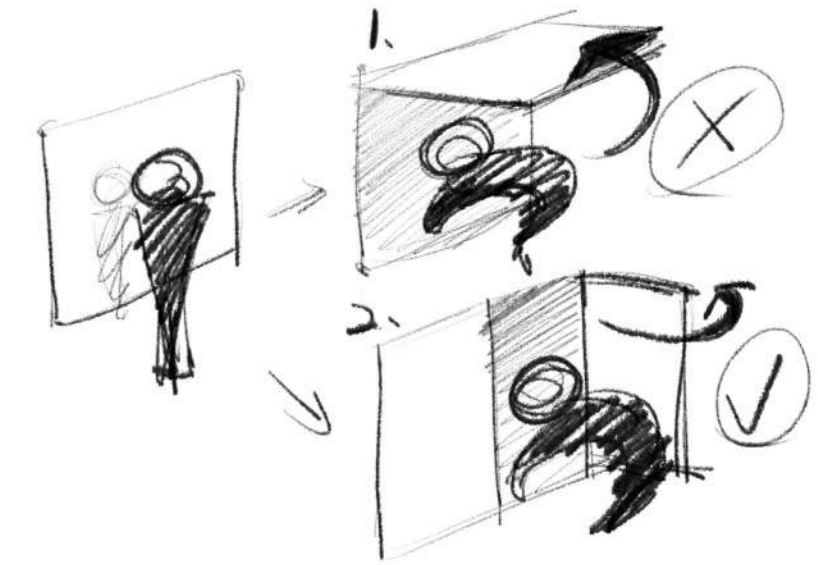
2, Maybe, a secret entrance? The Iconic Laundromat

The bar is hidden behind a seemingly ordinary laundry, and a washing machine in the laundry is actually the secret entrance of the bar. People open the door of the washing machine and climb into it to enter the bar. This project inspired me: maybe I can use the common items in the toilet as a hidden entrance to the 'sex club'. But what item should I choose to avoid raising suspicions by the public?



3. Use the Mirror! Phantom of the Opera

"Look at your face in the mirror. I am there inside."
How to choose the cover of the secret entrance? I suddenly thought of a scene in Phantom of the Opera: Christine heard the Phantom's song, when she turned her head to the mirror where the Phantom was beginning to appear. I speculate that the mirror used for the performance is a double-sided mirror, so that people behind the mirror can see the scene in front of the mirror according to the different light. In order to protect privacy in my project, I should use single-sided mirrors instead. But mirrors are the perfect cover in a toilet, they are a standard feature.

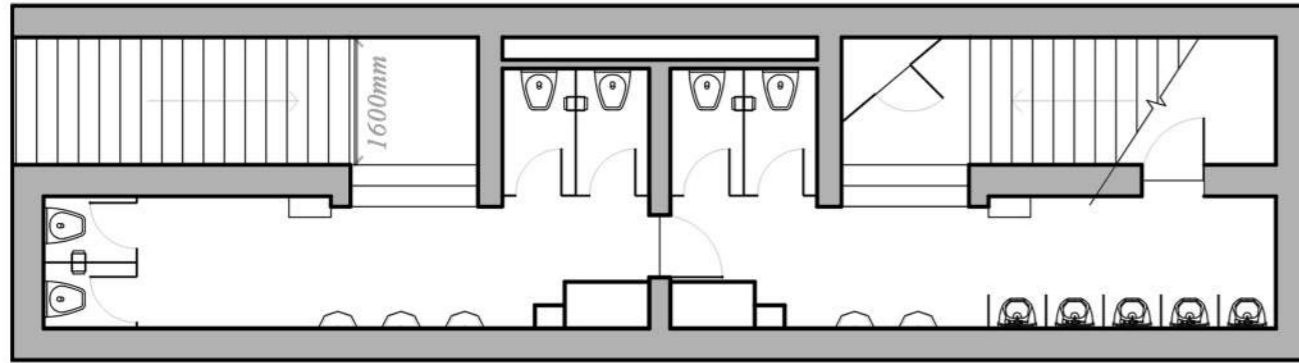


4. Design the entrance: How to use space reasonably

After deciding to use the mirror as a cover for one of the secret entrances, now I needed to consider how to open the mirror. The sketch above shows my two ideas about how to open the mirror: flip up and open to the side, obviously the latter is better: it saves more space so is more suitable for the existing narrow site.

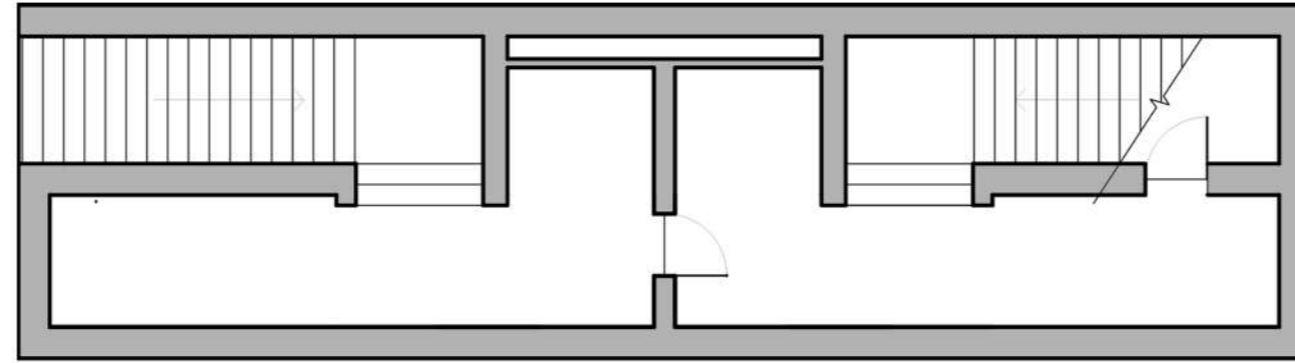
BASEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

From existing single sex toilets to unisex toilet with a hidden club.

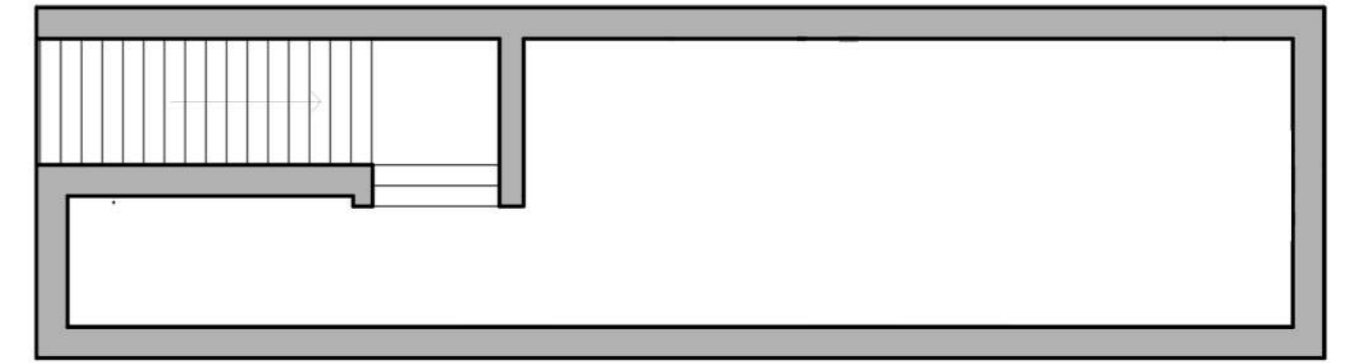


Existing single sex toilets plan

The traditional separation design of men's and women's toilets is not suitable for the needs of Soho's diversified users. And men's toilets are crowded, women's toilets are unused because of hygiene problems.

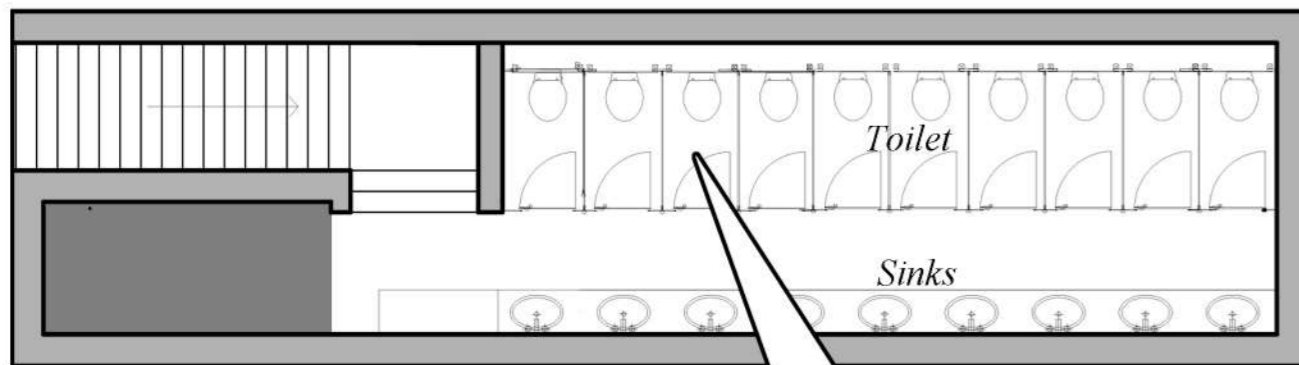


Step 1: Clean up the floor plan



Step 2: Demolish the dividing wall and keep one set of stairs

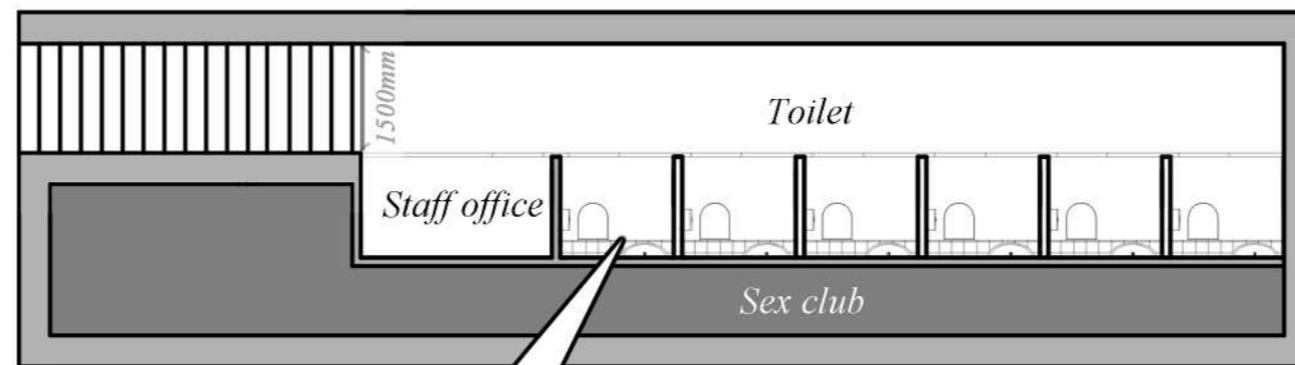
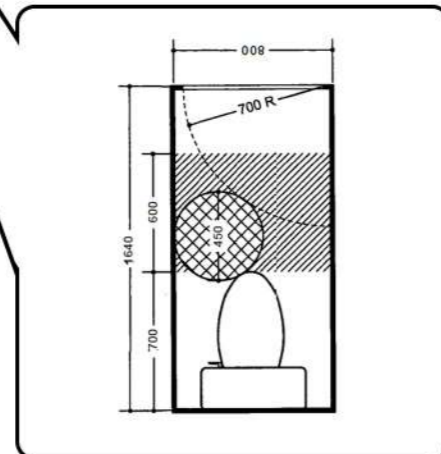
Push down the partition wall between the existing men's and women's toilets, and change the existing single-sex toilets to unisex toilets, which not only meets the needs of the users in the area, but also can make full use of the originally narrow space.



Plan option 1:

Use common toilet cubicles and separate washing station

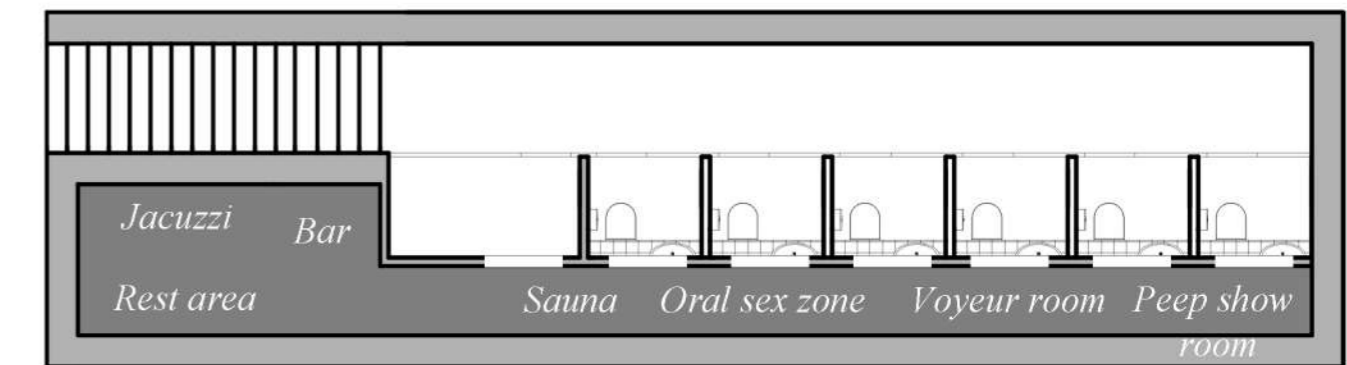
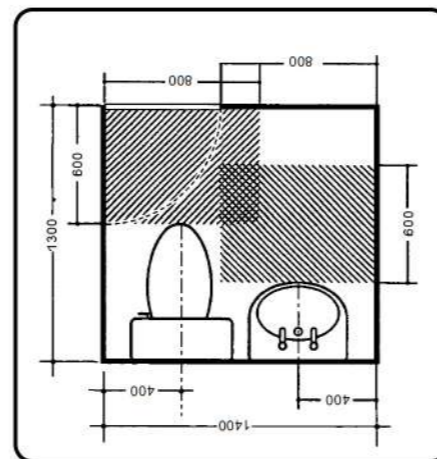
The advantage of this plan is that it can provide more toilet cubicles for people, however, since the existing site is long and narrow, there is no space left for the hidden sex club after this arrangement, and people do not need that many toilet cubicles.



Plan option 2:

Use larger toilet cubicles and put the sinks in the cubicles

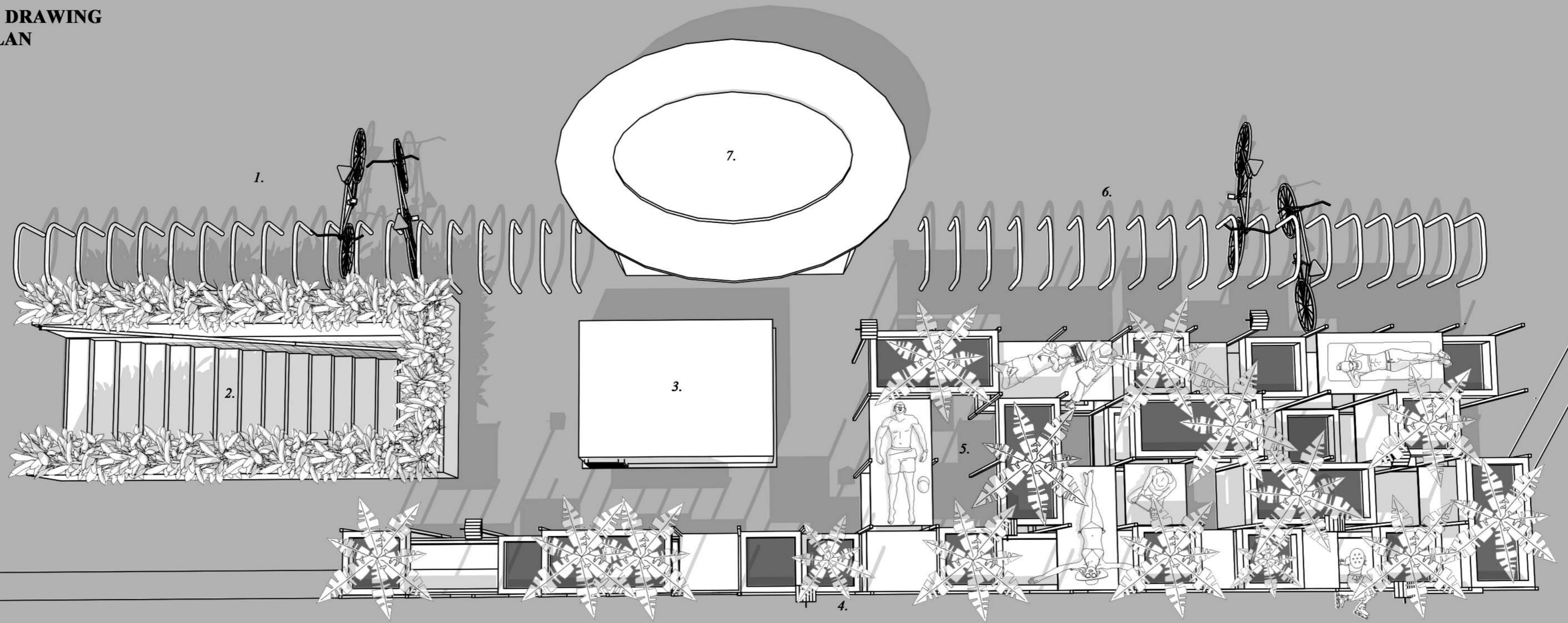
The advantage of this plan is that it saves the space occupied by the independent washing station, saves space for sex club, also can provide more entrances for sex club. At the same time, the sinks can be connected to the toilet cisterns, so the water after washing hands can be used to flush the toilet. So this is the better choice.



Step 3: Add secret entrances and cottage functional areas

DESIGN REALISATION

**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
GROUND FLOOR PLAN**



- 1. Existing bicycle rack
- 2. Toilet entrance
- 3. Ventilation system
- 4. Plants
- 5. Rest area
- 6. Existing bicycle rack
- 7. Disabled toilet

0 2m



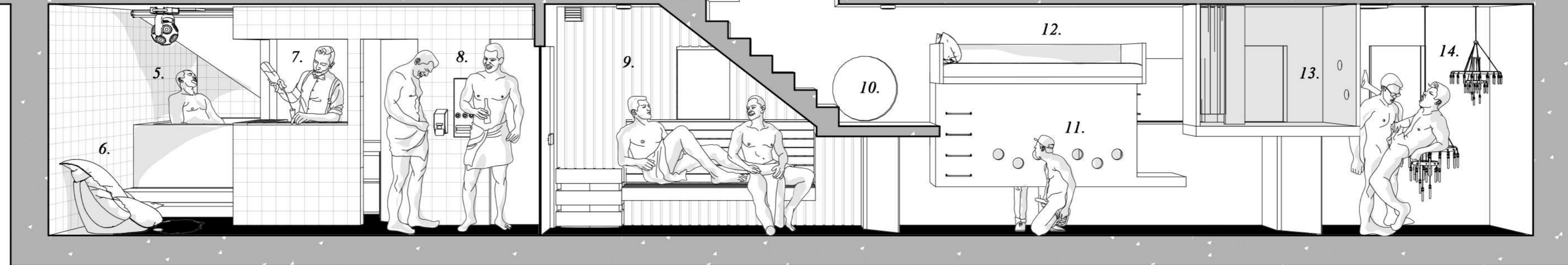
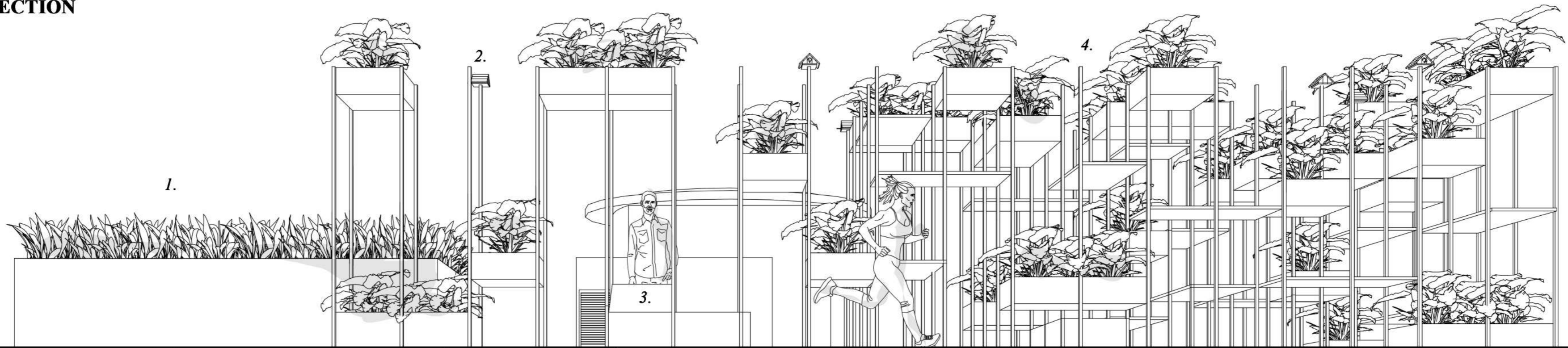
**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
BASEMENT PLAN**



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Toilet Entrance | 10. Toilet Cubicle 3 |
| 2. Staff Office | 11. Toilet Cubicle 4 |
| 3. Bar | 12. Toilet Cubicle 5 |
| 4. Jacuzzi | 13. Toilet Cubicle 6 |
| 5. Equipment Room | 14. 'Peep Show area' |
| 6. Condom Machine and Lubricant | 15. 'Voyeur room' |
| 7. Sauna | 16. 'Oral sex zone' |
| 8. Toilet Cubicle 1 / Shower Room | 17. Secret entrance from ground floor |
| 9. Toilet Cubicle 2 / Shower Room | 18. Toilet history display board |



**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
LONG SECTION**



- 1. Toilet Entrance
- 2. Bird house
- 3. Secret entrance under bench
- 4. Rest area
- 5. Jacuzzi
- 6. Bean bag chair

- 7. Bar
- 8. Condom Machine and Lubricant
- 9. Sauna
- 10. Secret entrance from cubicle
- 11. Toilet Cubicle 2 / Shower Room
- 12. Bed

- 13. Voyeur room
- 14. 'peep show' room

Materials (ground floor):



Antiseptic wood Copper tubes Concrete

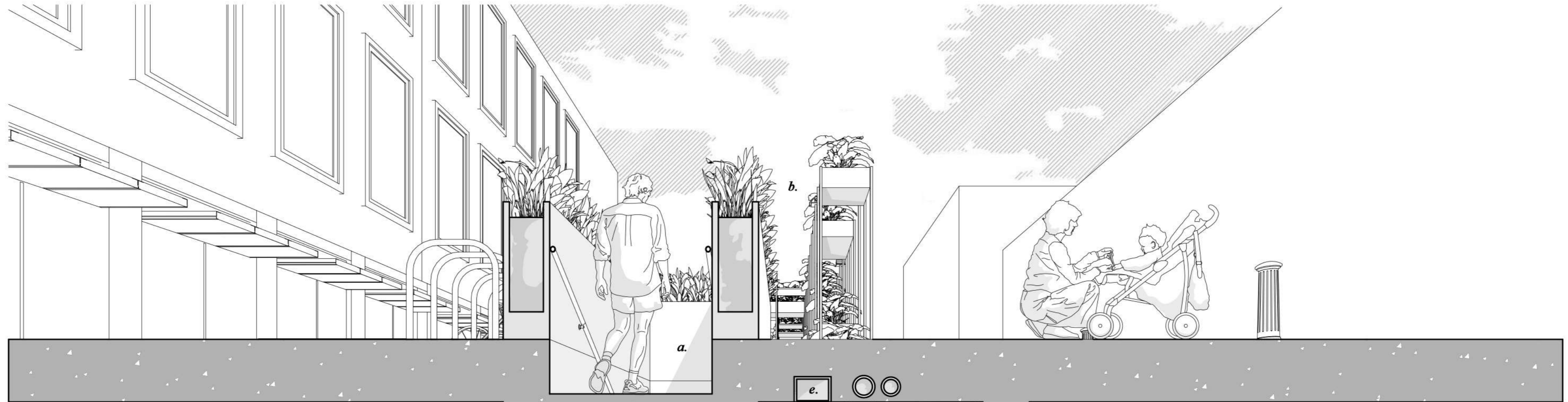
Materials (basement):



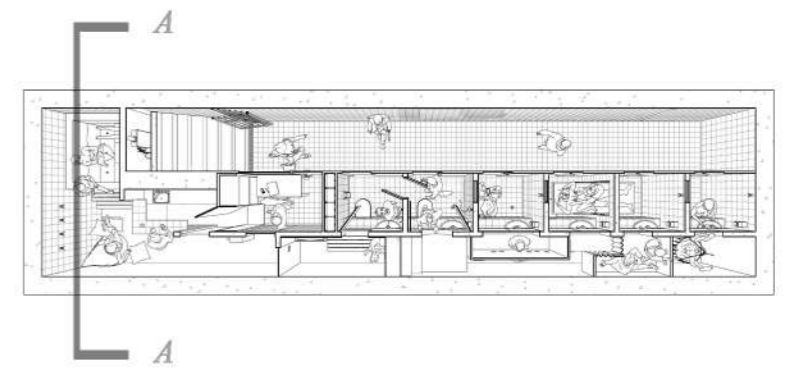
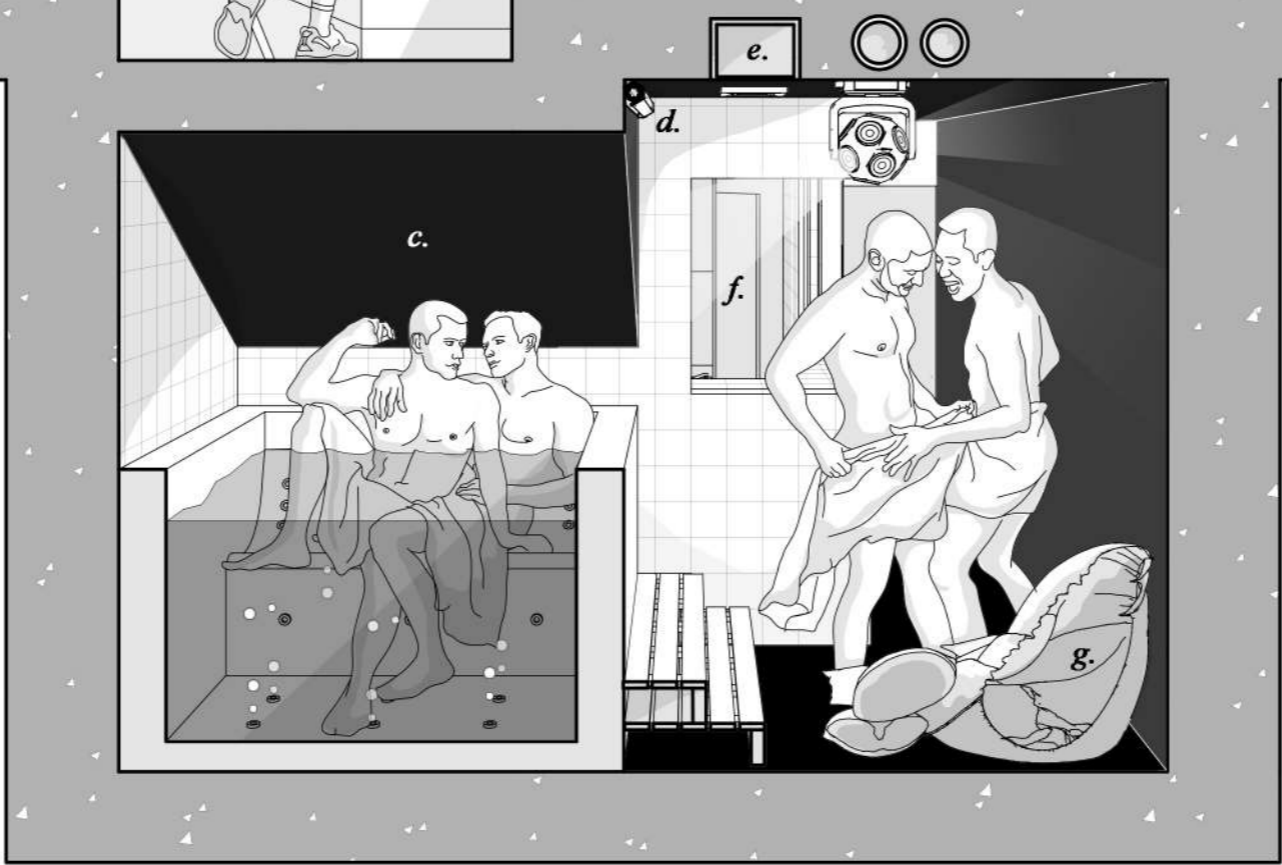
Tiles Vinyl flooring Fireproof plywood



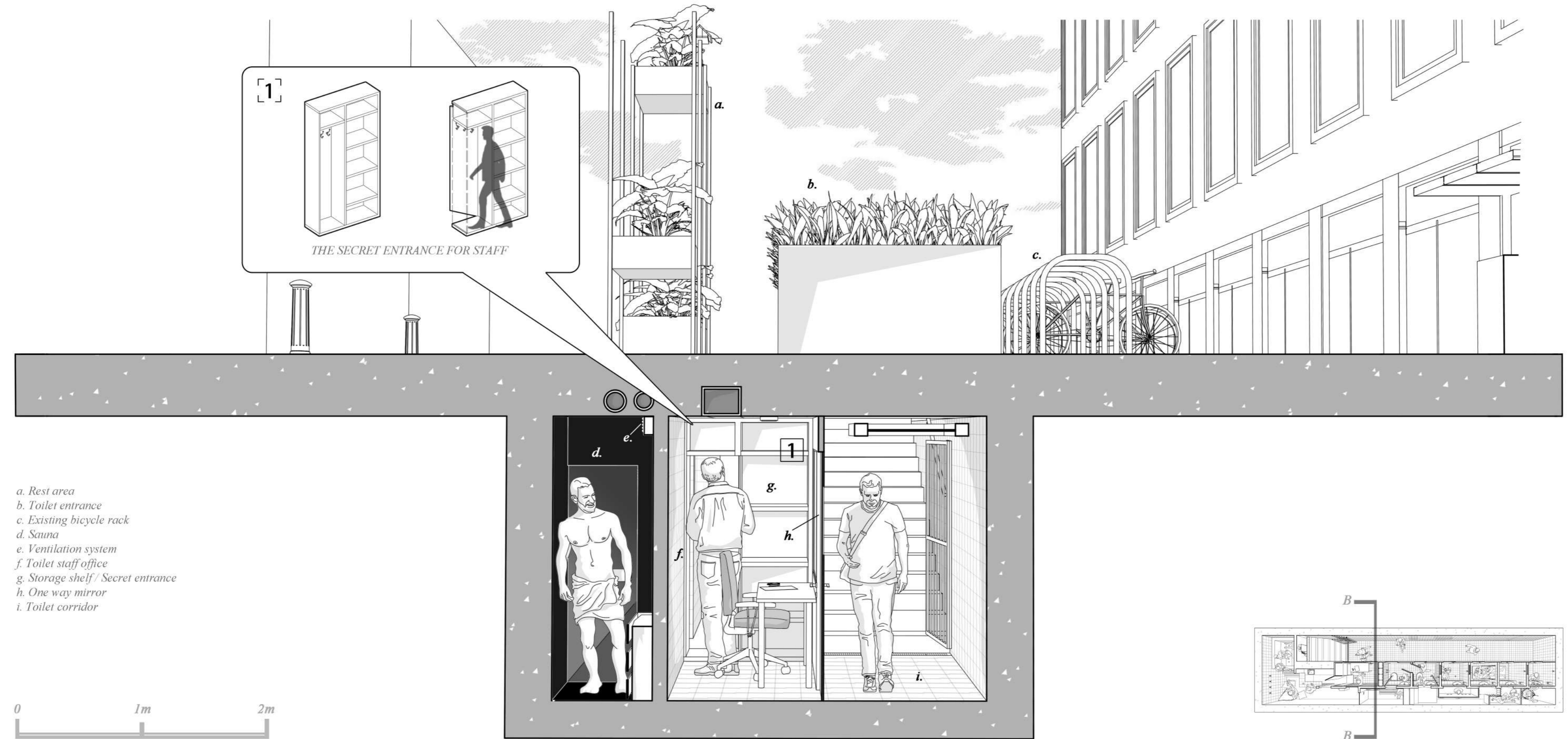
DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION A-A



- a. Toilet entrance*
- b. Rest area*
- c. Jacuzzi*
- d. Projector screen*
- e. Ventilation system*
- f. Bar*
- g. Bean bag chair*

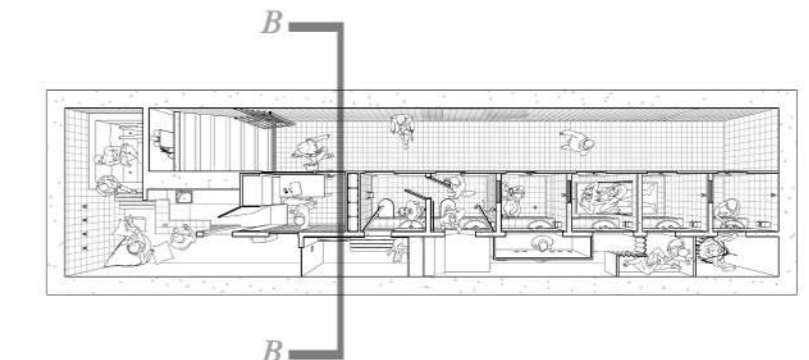


**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION B-B**

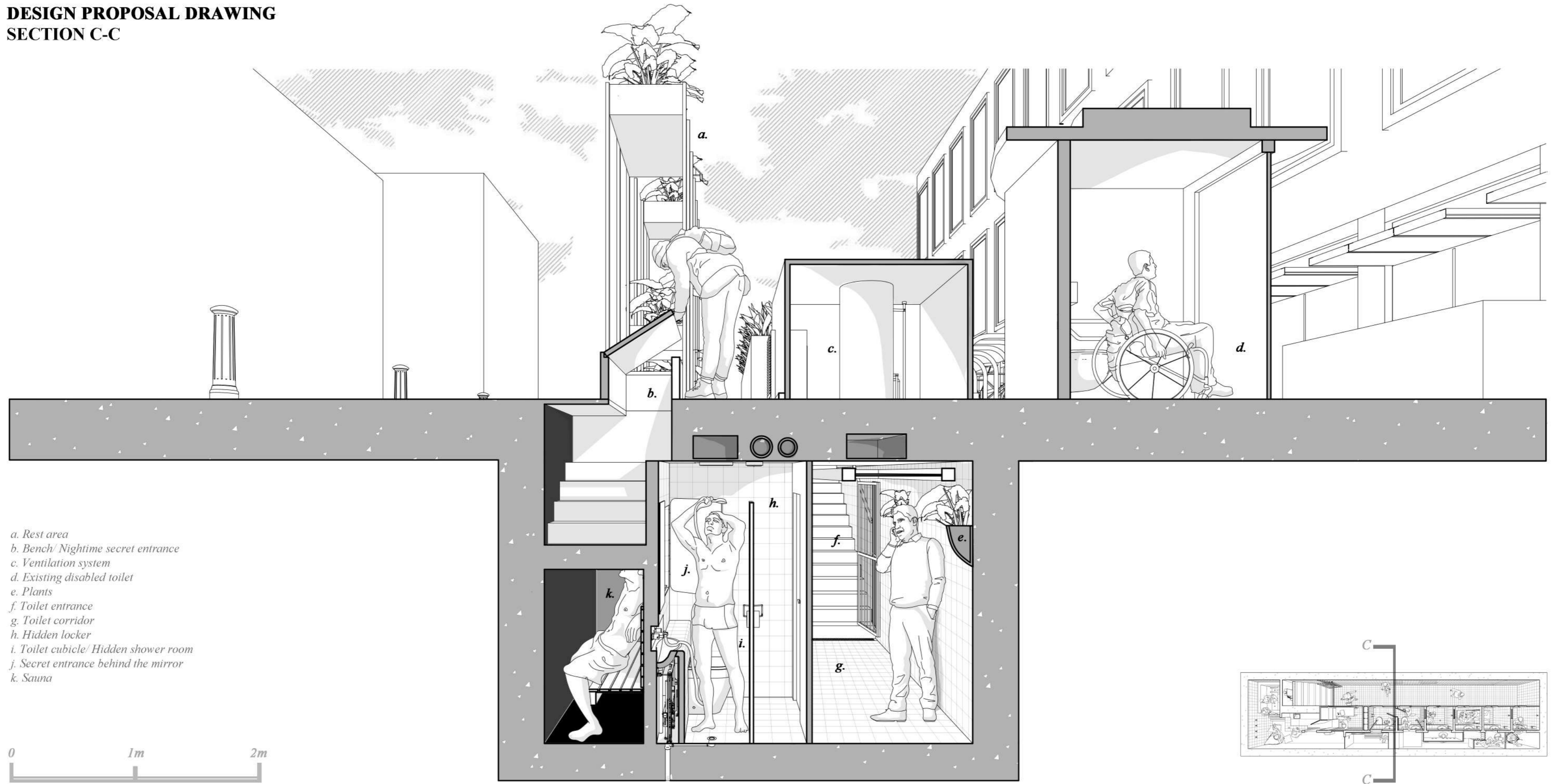


- a. Rest area
- b. Toilet entrance
- c. Existing bicycle rack
- d. Sauna
- e. Ventilation system
- f. Toilet staff office
- g. Storage shelf/ Secret entrance
- h. One way mirror
- i. Toilet corridor

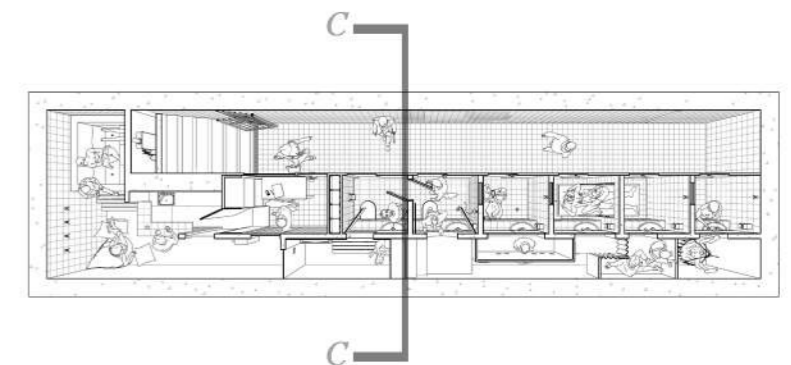
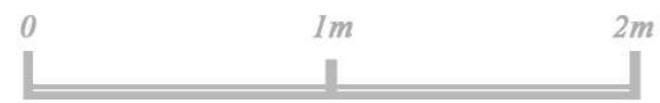
0 1m 2m



DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION C-C



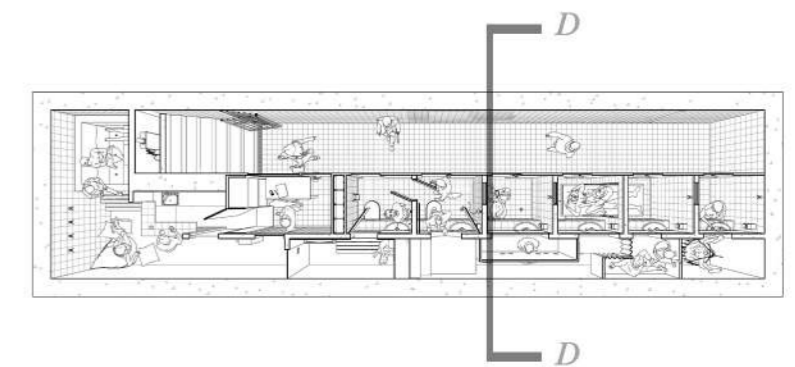
- a. Rest area*
- b. Bench/ Nighttime secret entrance*
- c. Ventilation system*
- d. Existing disabled toilet*
- e. Plants*
- f. Toilet entrance*
- g. Toilet corridor*
- h. Hidden locker*
- i. Toilet cubicle/ Hidden shower room*
- j. Secret entrance behind the mirror*
- k. Sauna*



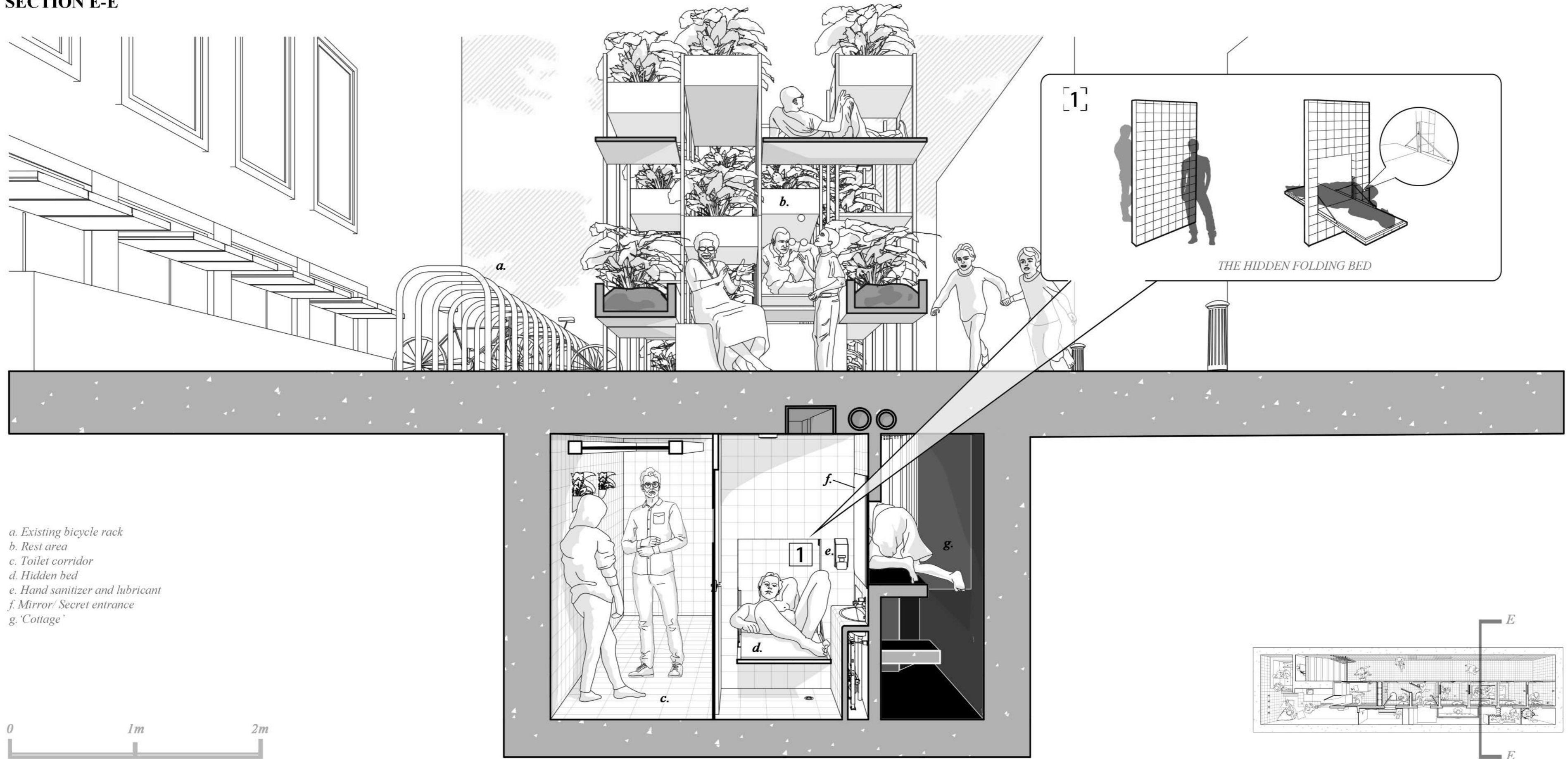
**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION D-D**



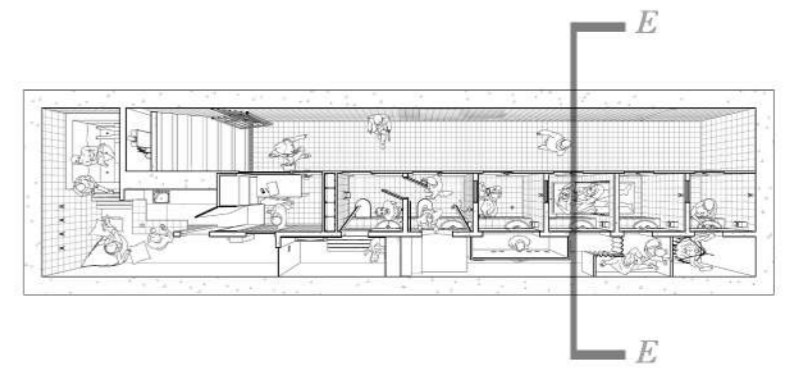
- a. Existing bicycle rack*
- b. Rest area*
- c. Toilet history display wall*
- d. Plants*
- e. Toilet corridor*
- f. Secret entrance behind the mirror*
- g. Bed*
- h. Sex area (glory holes)*



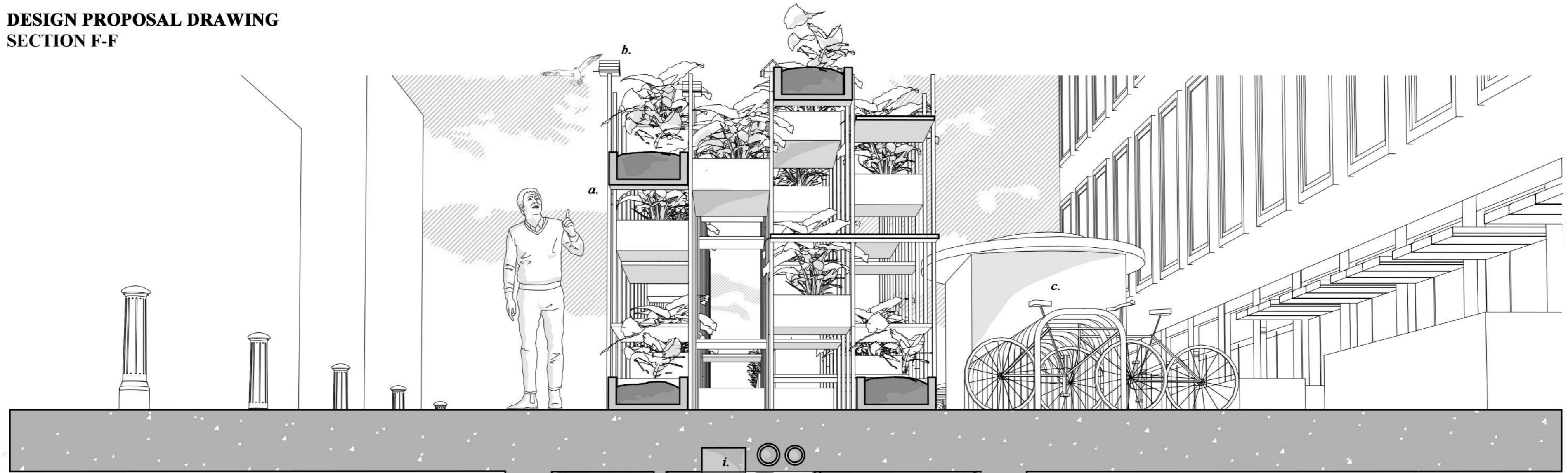
**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION E-E**



- a. Existing bicycle rack*
- b. Rest area*
- c. Toilet corridor*
- d. Hidden bed*
- e. Hand sanitizer and lubricant*
- f. Mirror/ Secret entrance*
- g. 'Cottage'*



**DESIGN PROPOSAL DRAWING
SECTION F-F**



- a. Rest area
- b. Bird house
- c. Existing disabled toilet
- d. Peep hole
- e. Sex room with a large chandelier
- f. Exit of the room
- g. Secret entrance behind the mirror
- h. Hidden bed (for details see the section E-E)
- i. Ventilation system
- j. Toilet corridor
- k. Plants

