

The Living Room

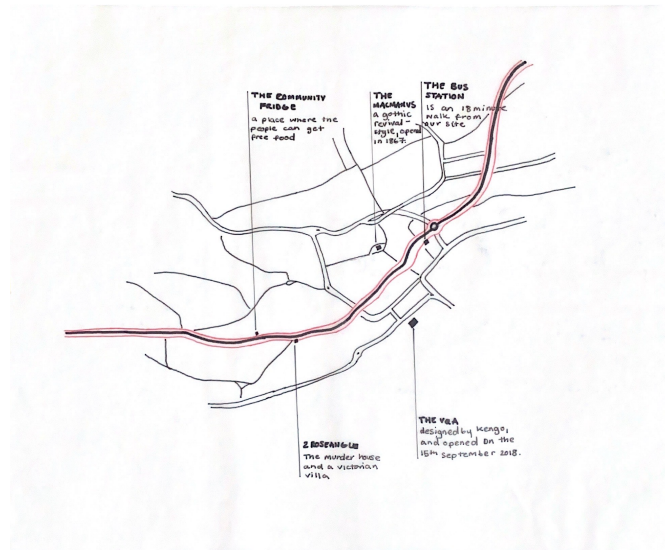
A no agenda space designed for the community, to unite the people of Dundee in a comfortable and warm environment, with an adjoining cafe 'The Kitchen'



Site Analysis

'2 Roseangle' is located in the city of Dundee at the top of Roseangle, where the street meets Perth road. With its views on the reverse side of the building looking out across the River Tay.

This site holds a prime position in the city as it is within walking distance of the city centre, train and bus stations, however, it is far enough that it is not affected by the busy everyday life of the centre.



The building has only been used for residential purposes with a few failed plans to convert it into a restaurant. It is a common theory that renovations for the building haven't gone well because of a double murder that took place there.

There are existing plans for alterations dating back to 1888, evidencing that this Victorian Villa was built sometime before this. The main structure is built from brick, a common material used in the Victorian period. However, years of neglect have resulted in the brickwork beginning to crumble, resulting in the bay windows in the back falling off.

The building consists of three stories. You can access the building either on the ground or lower ground floor. This is a grade B listed building, meaning the exterior of the building has to maintain its original appearance.

Concept

Community is an integral element of any village, town or city, it is a great source of social connection and gives people a sense of belonging. In Dundee, we have the community fridge and the community wardrobe, both excellent community resources once both situated along Perth road.



Despite these resources' incredible success, they do not focus on bringing people together, building social connections or creating a sense of belonging. Designated places in Dundee that intend to do this lack design, resulting in spaces that are fairly dull and unwelcoming; certainly not places that truly engender social connections.

'The Living Room' will fill this gap, a no agenda space where the people of Dundee can come together and just be themselves.

This is a term used by a group of people who believe in being more human and who call themselves 'Camerados' they described this concept as "A no agenda space, where folk can go to just be themselves alongside others, they are warm welcoming places that offer no services just the company of fellow humans."

This space intends to reunite the social groups of Dundee and bring the different communities together, in a mixture of classes, ages and occupations.

Research/ Context

Dundee is a divided city, its south end is predominantly populated with students; one in seven people. Neither of the two groups hardly ever mix, creating a divided atmosphere, something that could change in order to create a more united city.

The reputation of '2 Roseangle' itself, needs to change as its reputation has long been tarnished by the murder that was committed in the basement of the building in 1980. Even today most of the people living in and around the city refer to the site as 'The Murder House'. Awareness of its history is important in helping the renovation go smoothly and respectfully.

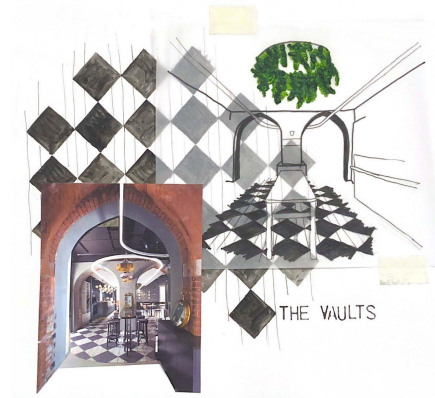
Today we often class the living room as an essential component of the home, particularly in the Western culture, it's not always been this way, it was only when people started to have more free leisure time did the concept of the living room start to catch on. As seen in the documentary 'If Walls Could Talk - The History of the Home' by the BBC.

Grandby Winter Gardens

Located in Liverpool, the Grandby Winter Garden was created from what were once two derelict terraced houses transforming them into a communal garden, meeting and

event spaces and accommodation for artist residents. The project was set up by

Assemble and Grandby Four Streets, who strive to create a community-based living space.



The Vaults Parlour Cafe

This project is located in the heart of Dublin and is inspired by Irish History. The whole building is an experience, with tours around exposing the visitors to the most scandalous and interesting stories. Kld. create a mix of styles by using a combination of the original building and contemporary

design.

A questionnaire was used to gather information on people's views about their living rooms, what activities they do there and how they furnish them. It was successful and used a wide age range of people from different backgrounds.



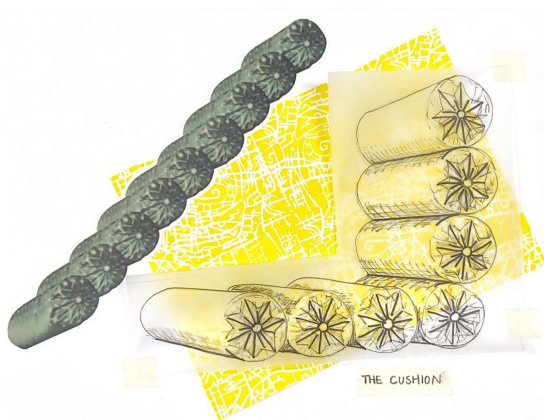
Design Development

The interesting statues, shapes and maps of Dundee were a starting point for the design, the original features and colours of our site too, such as the blue and yellow ceilings located on the ground and first floors, the crown moulding, tiled entrance and even some exterior aspects like the railing stretching the street view of the house inspired the design. Printing with lino, helped create repeat patterns that inspired the wallpaper development.

Part of the pattern of the railing was made from the laser cutters, which lead to the exploration of light through the gaps.



Important Victorian features such as the 'The Empire' sofa began a process of repeating and distorting shapes to create inspiration for the furniture.



Candles or gas lights would have originally lit the rooms in the 1800's and this inspired experimentation; watching a candle burn and the movement of flames and wax, changing shapes and the effect of mixing melted wax with watercolours.

Small library spaces can be common in the living room, the concept of books on a shelf was seen through a cast of books using modroc.

Spatial Design Outcome

Some of the survey questions inspired the dividing up of the space, based on the activities that people participate in the living room.



The first floor is reserved for quieter activities, with large bookshelves lining the walls and inbuilt seating, creating secluded reading spaces. The library will work as a community resource and there will be a small reflection room.

The ground floor is to be a more lively space with a board game room; low seating to be inviting and make the game playing easier. There's a music-inspired space complete with a jukebox and comfortable seating. In the extension, which previously had only been used for storage will be an indoor garden space with a glass roof for maximum light and good for rainy days.

Both the two upper floors will maintain and restore some of the original interior walls, however, overall they will become a more open-plan space to allow better movement and more light.

The lower ground floor will house a cafe, the colours inspired by the first floor. Walls have been removed to create an open-plan layout, allowing more light to fill the space; this floor can have a tendency to be darker due to its smaller windows. This space also has access to the garden where more seating for the cafe would be located.

Bathrooms are wheelchair accessible with two on each floor. An elevator will be incorporated allowing better access for all in the community.

