

Woodberry Down Pavilion
Design Update
28th August 2025

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1. PROJECT BRIEF

The Woodberry Down Pavilion is a youth-led project aimed at strengthening young residents' role in community decision-making. A group of young people aged between 14 to 19 are working together to design a performance stage as part of the Hidden River Festival 2025. The Pavilion will then remain in place for an additional three weeks to host a series of workshops and community-led events.



Photographs of the Hidden River Festival



Woodberry Down Pavilion project flyer

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Between June and August 2025, a series of engagement sessions were carried out to gather feedback from a range of stakeholders based around Woodberry Down. These stakeholders included Manor House Development Trust (MHDT), Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO), Notting Hill Genesis (NHG), Berkeley Homes as well as individual residents. The timeline below provides an overview of the engagement sessions.

Stakeholder Briefing Meeting

Date: 21 May 2025

Attendees: Notting Hill Genesis, MHDT and LB Hackney

The Edge Youth Hub Meeting

Date: 3 June 2025

WDCO Board Meeting

Date: 10 June 2025

Woodberry Down Residents

Date: 18 June 2025

MHDT Meeting

Date: 24 June 2025

Woodberry Down Ward Councillor Meeting

Date: 2 July 2025

Summer Fun Day

Date: 5 July 2025

Berkeley Homes Meeting

Date: 10 July 2025

MHDT Meeting

Date: 29 July 2025

Berkeley Homes Meeting

Date: 5 August 2025

Woodberry Down Residents

Dates: 7 August and 10 August 2025

Additionally, contact has also been made with the following community organisations and local schools:

- London Wildlife Trust at Woodberry Wetlands
- Skinners’ Academy
- All Saints Catholic School
- North London Sailing Association
- Girls Friendly Society
- Fame Star Youth
- Mossbourne Community Academy

For more information on the project and workshops:

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This project is possible thanks to support from:

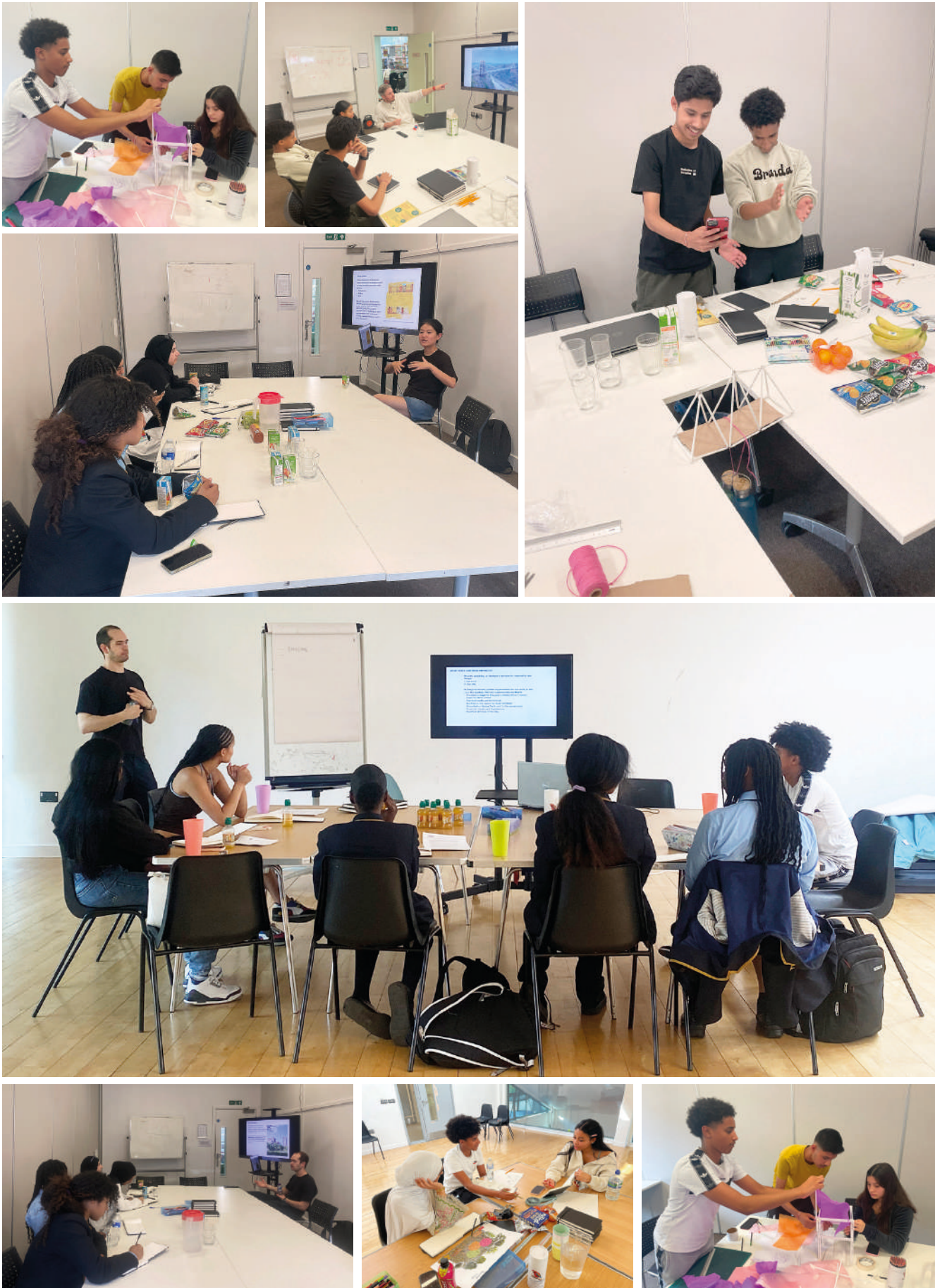
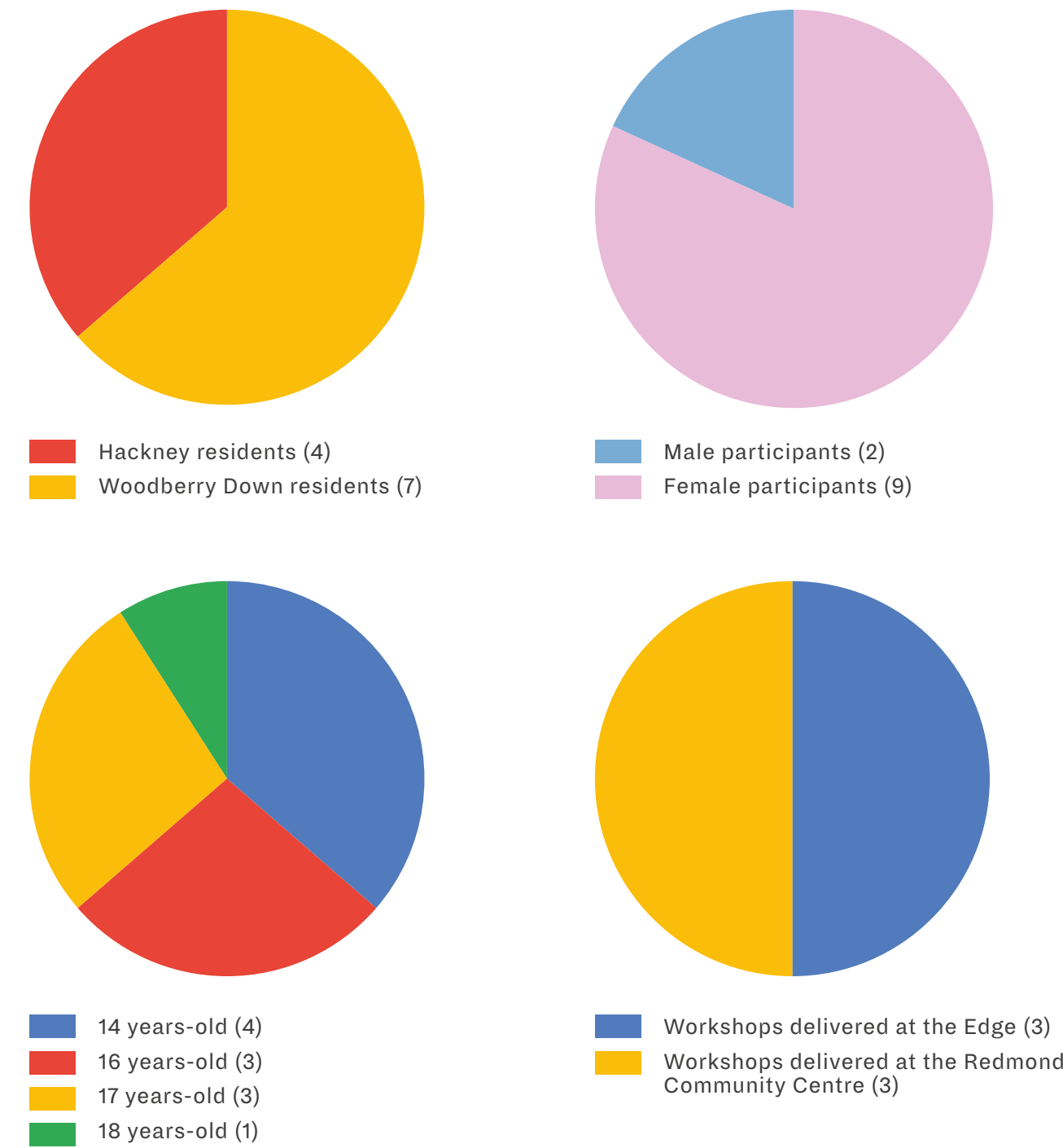
Funded by:



3. WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The project originally included nine creative co-design workshops led by local architects and educators RC/YYC from the London School of Architecture. An additional session was added in July to further develop the design proposals with young participants. To date, six workshops have been completed, with four more scheduled for September and October.

To date, 11 young people have been engaged in the design of the Pavilion.



Photographs of design workshops

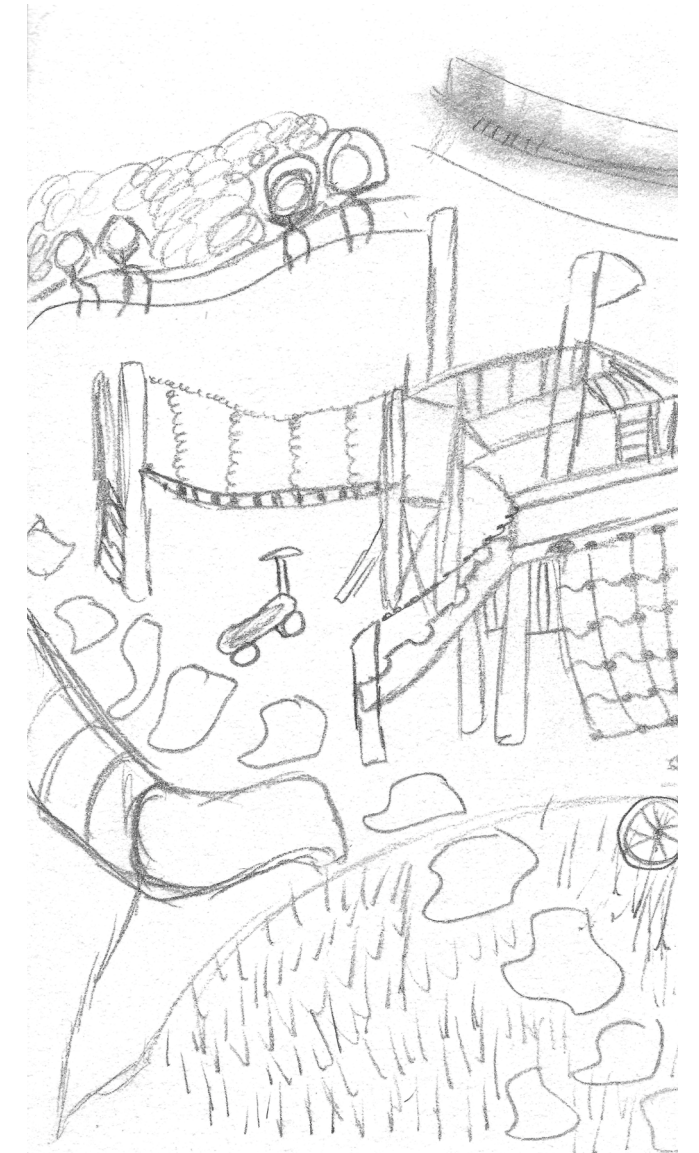
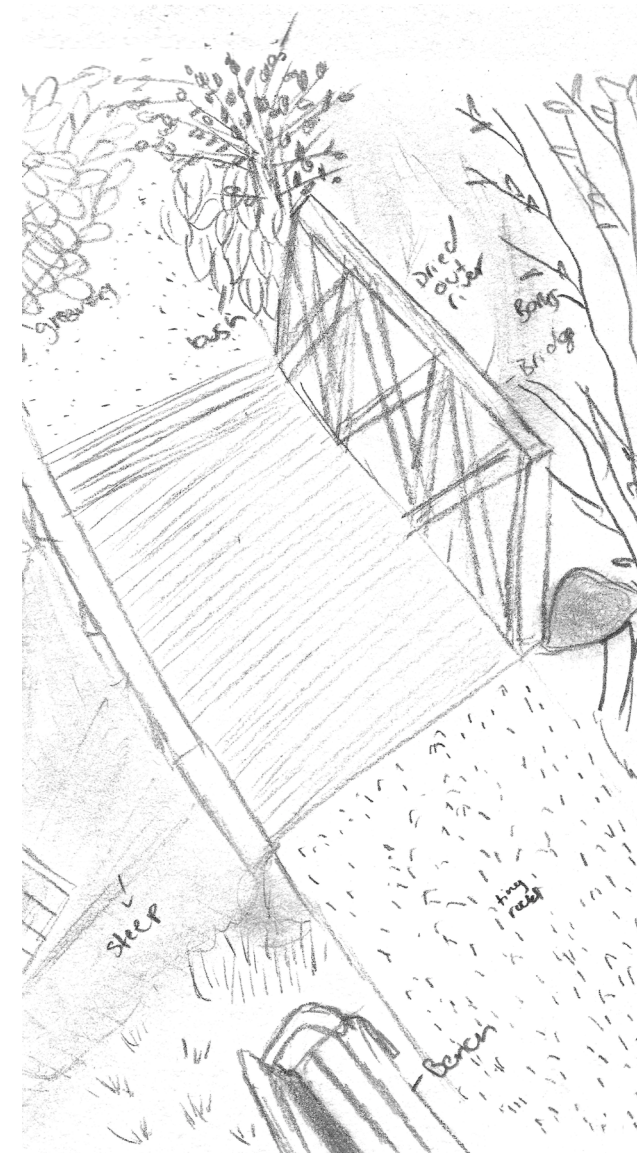
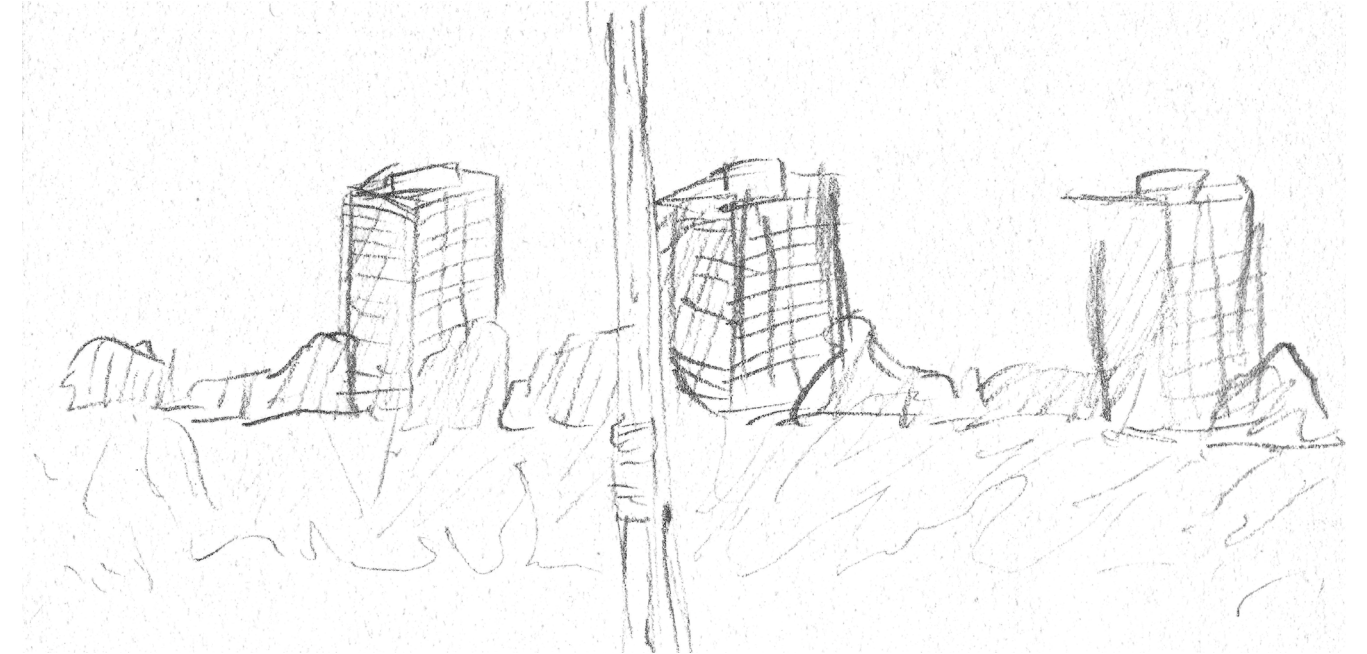
4. PROJECT SITE

Participants have been introduced to the importance of understanding a project's context and site through two site analysis workshops. The first focused on understanding the physical attributes of the site and drawing on lived experience, particularly for the young people who live, or lived previously, in Woodberry Down. This workshop tasked students with recording features of the site through sketching.

The second workshop showcased the value of understanding a site's wider context and history. Young people were taken through a presentation of the brief history of Hackney and Woodberry Down. Discussing the borough's development over time helps better understand and appreciate its rich cultural diversity. Similarly, celebrating the original Woodberry Down estate's ambition of providing world-class homes and social infrastructure is particularly useful in the context of the estate's long-term redevelopment.



Project site, exact location to be coordinated with MHDT and WD Estate Management Team



Students' site analysis sketches

5. BRAINSTORMING

The workshop series has broken down design development into three workshops:

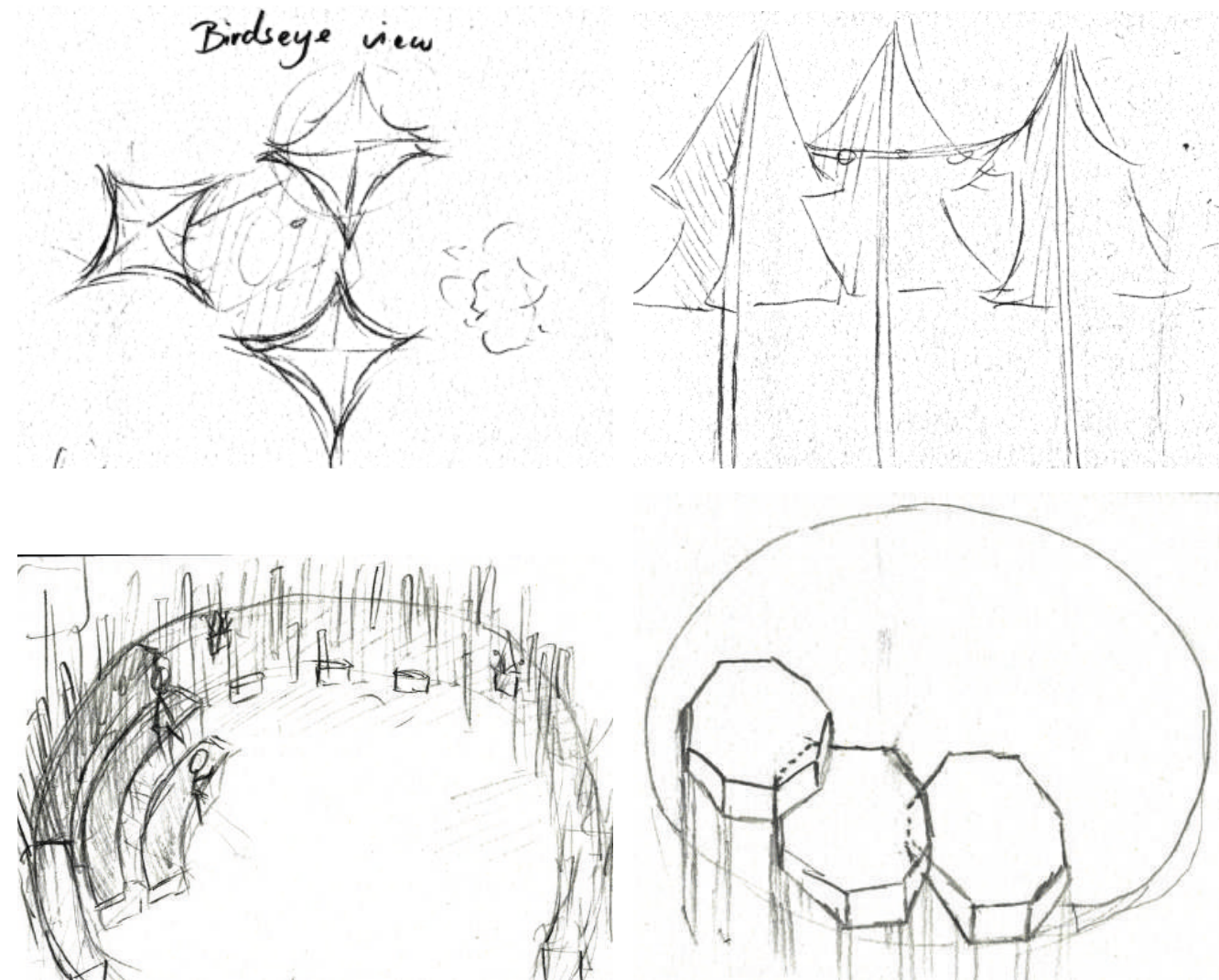
- Concept sketching
- Design development
- Design updates

The first of these workshops encouraged participants to define a project brief.

Participants suggested the pavilion should provide a space, similar to a bandstand, that could host up to seven people performing.

Based on this agreed objective students were shown various example projects and guided to produce a series of concept sketches that would inform subsequent design development. Participants were encouraged to consider sketching as a tool to communicate ideas, rather than to produce a final piece.

Working in groups, the young people produced a series of sketches describing an outdoors space for performance and gathering.



Students' drawings

The second task in the concept sketching workshop was to work in groups to produce collages. This method of design development supports participants to consider colour, materiality and texture adding an additional layer of information to the original sketches.

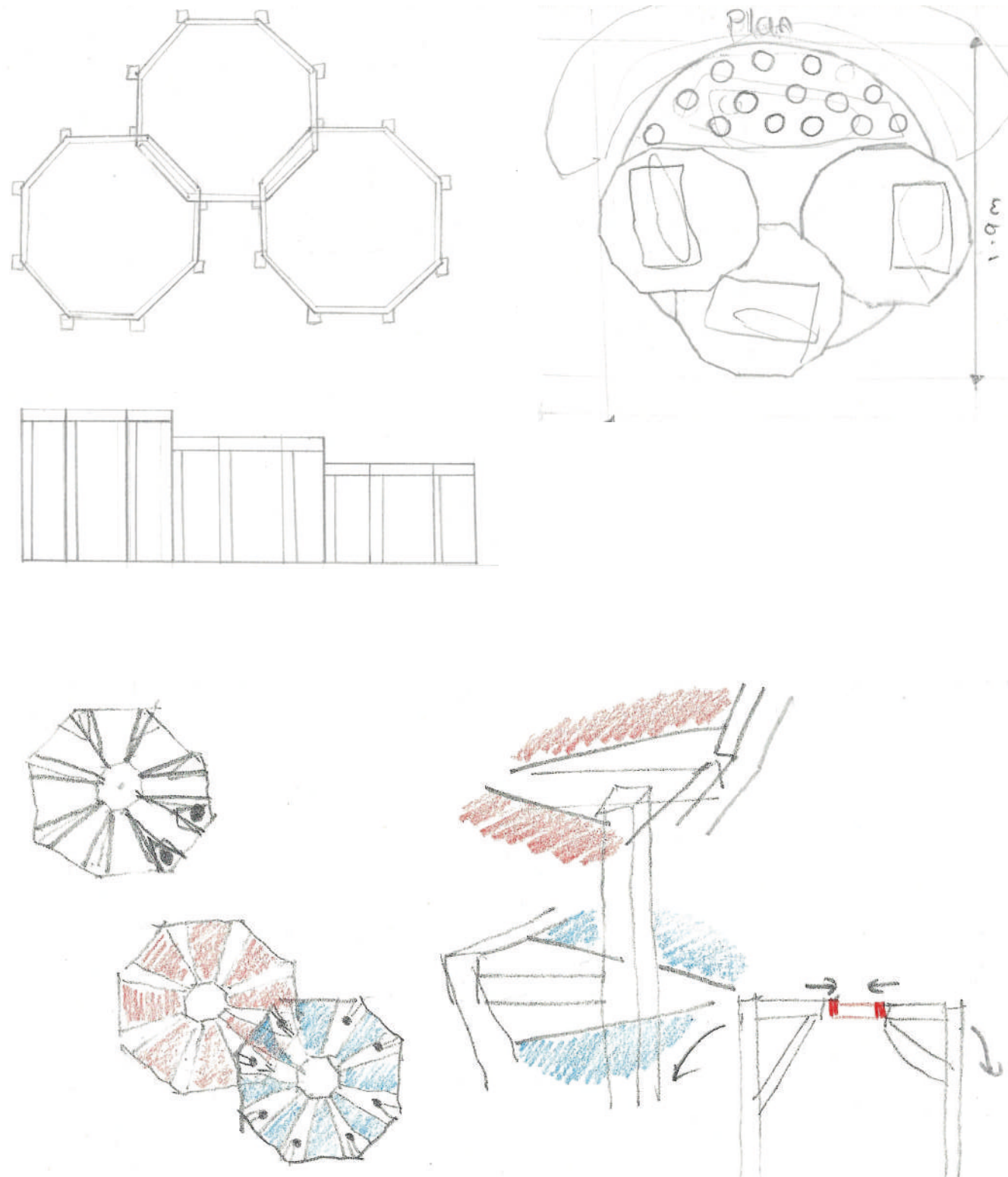
The collages below showcase proposals with similar themes of structures that define a focal point for hosting performances.



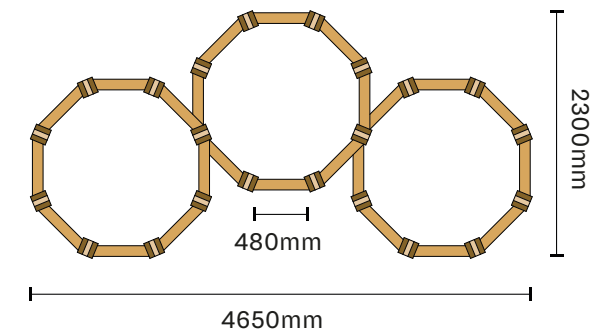
Students' concept collages

6. DESIGN ITERATIONS

During design workshop 4, the young people started translating their concept collages into orthographic drawings. We've worked together to explore different structural options and spatial arrangement, making sure the design fulfills the project brief and young people's ideas are clearly captured.

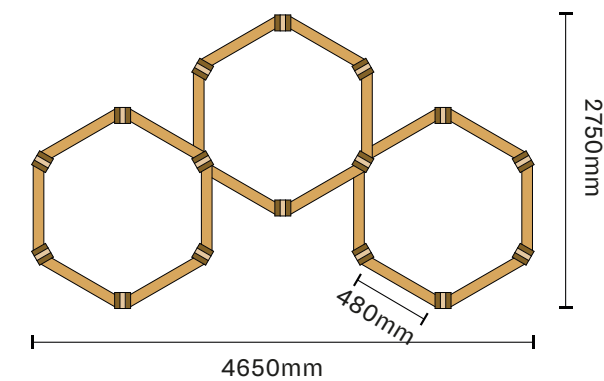


Students' drawings



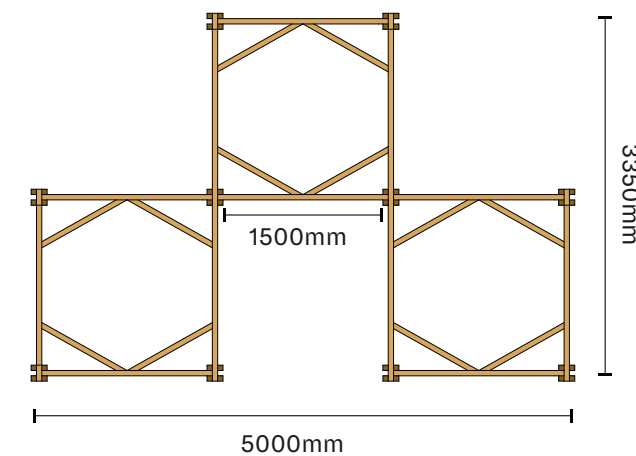
Iteration 1

This iteration explores three octagonal structures connected by shared columns. While the geometry is visually interesting, the number of supporting columns creates a sense of enclosure and limits the clear width between them.



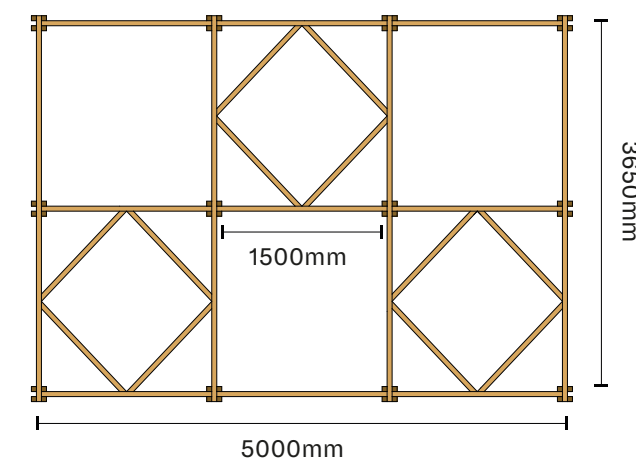
Iteration 2

This iteration reduces the number of supporting columns by using hexagonal instead of octagonal forms. However, the clear span between columns remains too narrow, making the space unsuitable for performances.



Iteration 3

This iteration reconfigures the hexagonal structures within square outlines, allowing for greater clear width between columns. However, the layout feels unresolved and results in a very small stage area.



Iteration 4

This iteration aims to simplify the design by reducing the number of structural elements, creating a cleaner appearance. By using fewer materials, the pavilion becomes lighter, more cost-effective and easier to construct. The Pavilion is designed to be demountable and reusable.

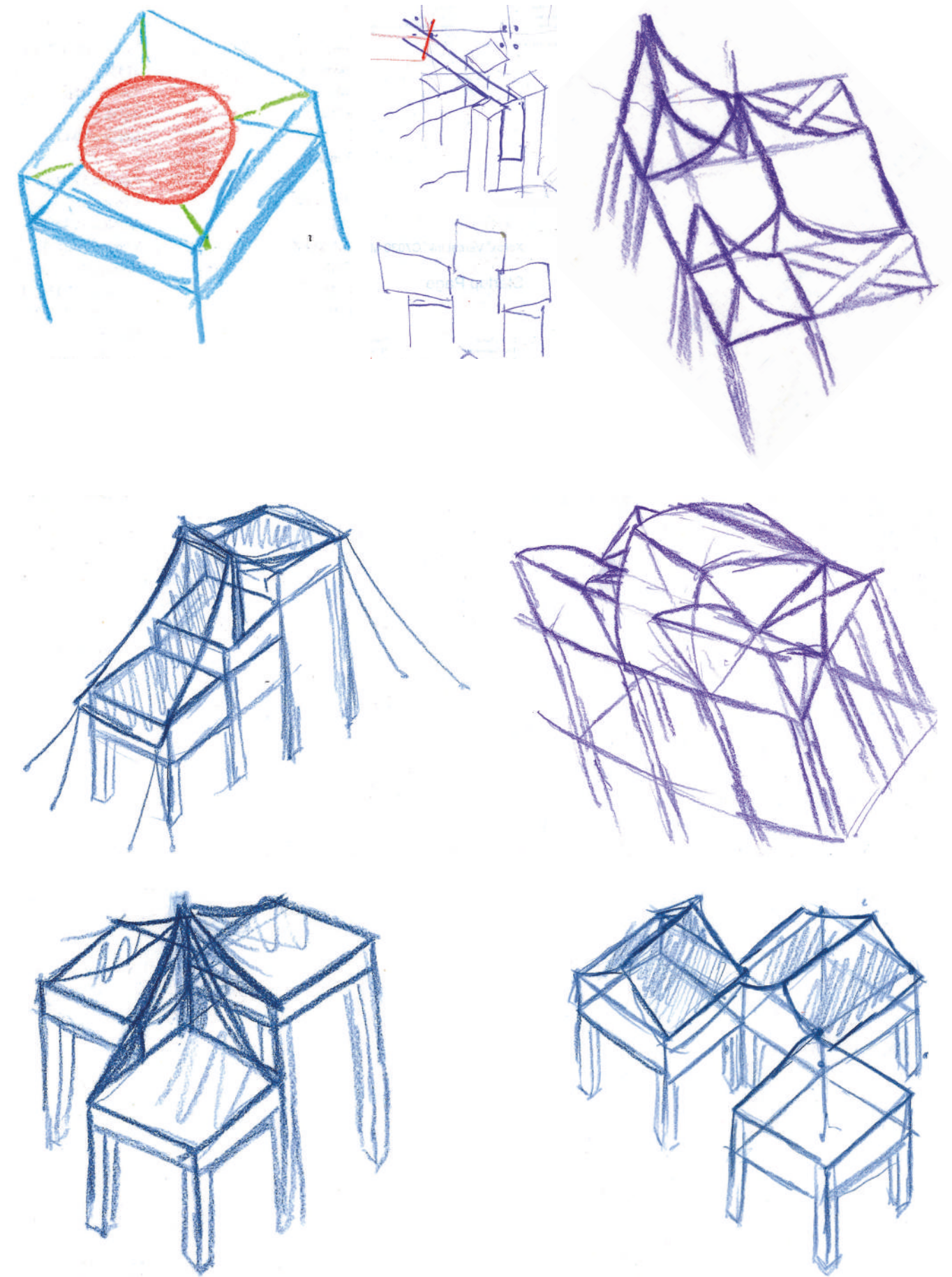
6. DESIGN ITERATIONS

In workshop five participants worked on their updated design and developed the detailing for the canopy structure following feedback from the structural engineer.

Students developed their ideas through sketching and model-making, working in groups to explore different design options.



Photographs of the model-making workshop



Students' drawings

6. DESIGN ITERATIONS

The last iteration features a timber frame and suspended perforated fabric sheets, creating a partially enclosed canopy that offers both shelter and a sense of theatricality. This articulation of the roof brings movement and lightness to the space, perfect for performances and informal gatherings. This latest design option was shared with residents and stakeholders for feedback.

Please find below a selection of design references. Young people expressed a strong interest in the use of colour to bring a sense of drama and playfulness to the structure, making the space more visually engaging and lively.



Axonometrics of the Pavilion

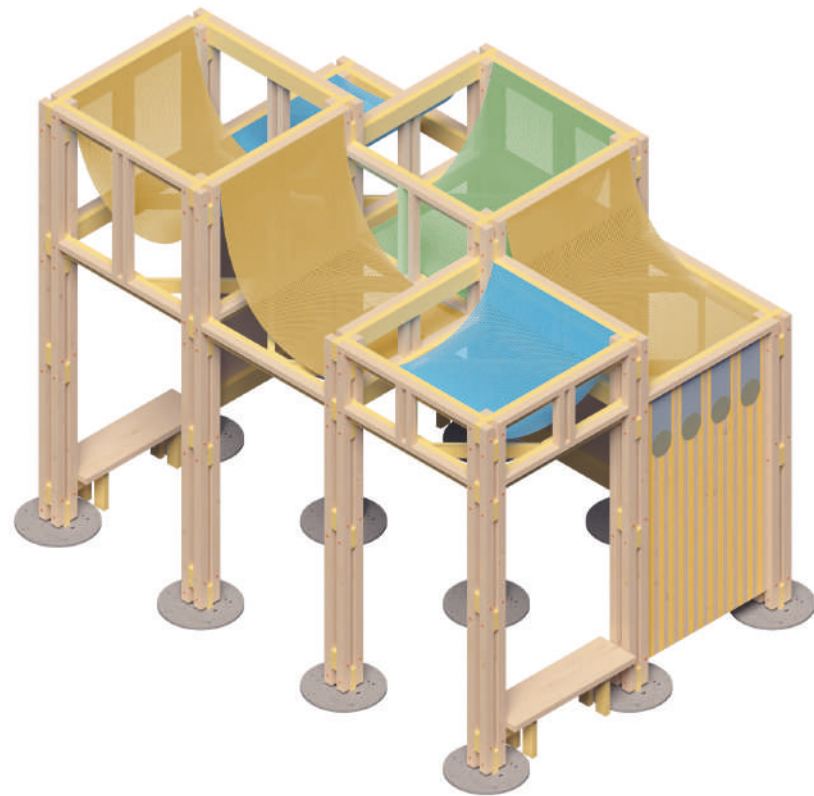


Reference projects

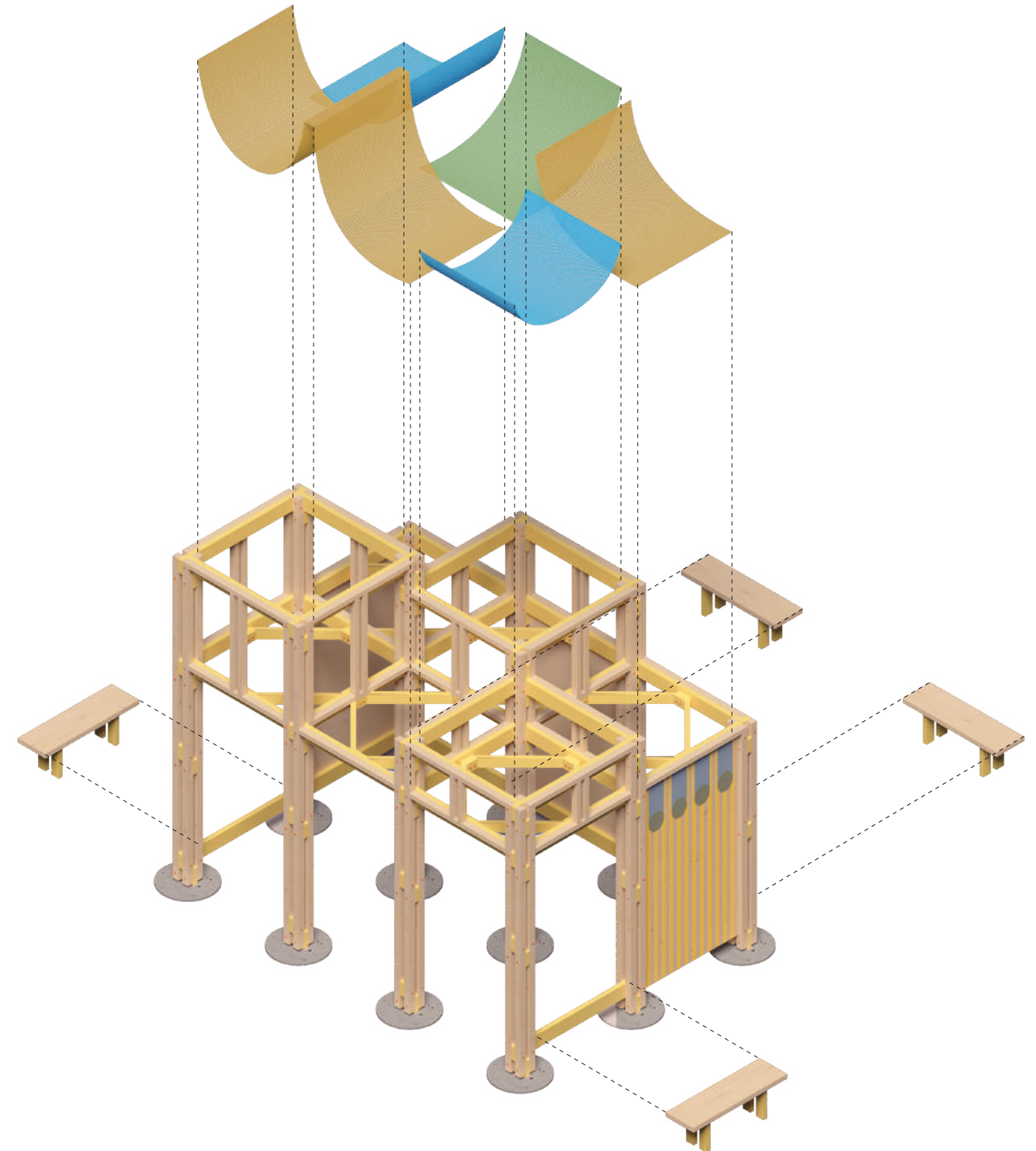
7. FINAL PROPOSAL

The proposal was positively received by residents and stakeholders, with a few comments incorporated into this final design:

- Addition of exhibition boards to tell the story of the project;
- Inclusion of removable seating;
- Ensuring the structure is reusable and easy to assemble and disassemble.



Axonometric showing the final proposal



Exploded Axonometric showing removable elements

7. FINAL PROPOSAL

The pavilion has been designed as a stage to host both formal and informal performances, offering a flexible platform that encourages residents and local young people to showcase their talents.



The Pavilion is designed as a performance stage

7. FINAL PROPOSAL

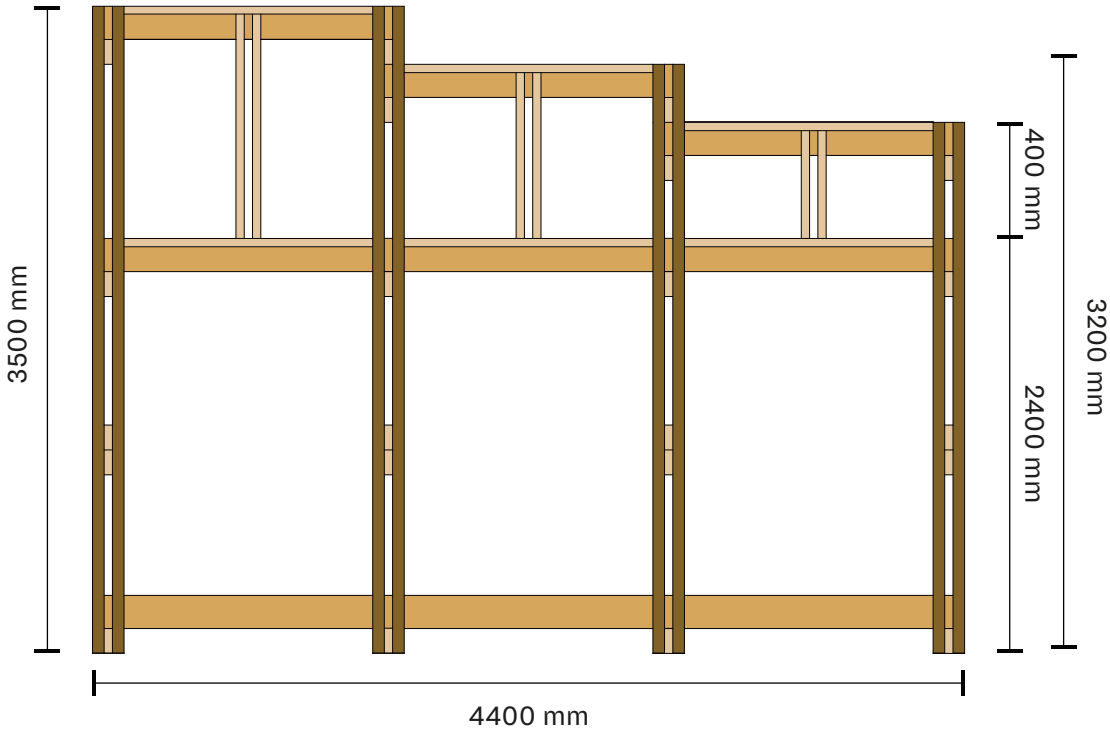
The Pavilion will be located in Springfield Park, adjacent to the Redmond Community Centre. During opening hours, MHDT front desk staff will oversee security by checking the Pavilion every hour and managing event bookings. RC/YYC have also reached out to the estate management team to provide additional security during evenings and weekends.

To discourage anti-social behaviour, it is important for keep the Pavilion busy and well-used. MHDT has set up an online booking system for residents to reserve the Pavilion for community events. Alongside this, RC/YYC are curating a public programme of creative workshops for children, young people and adult residents. Details of the public programme will be confirmed in early September.

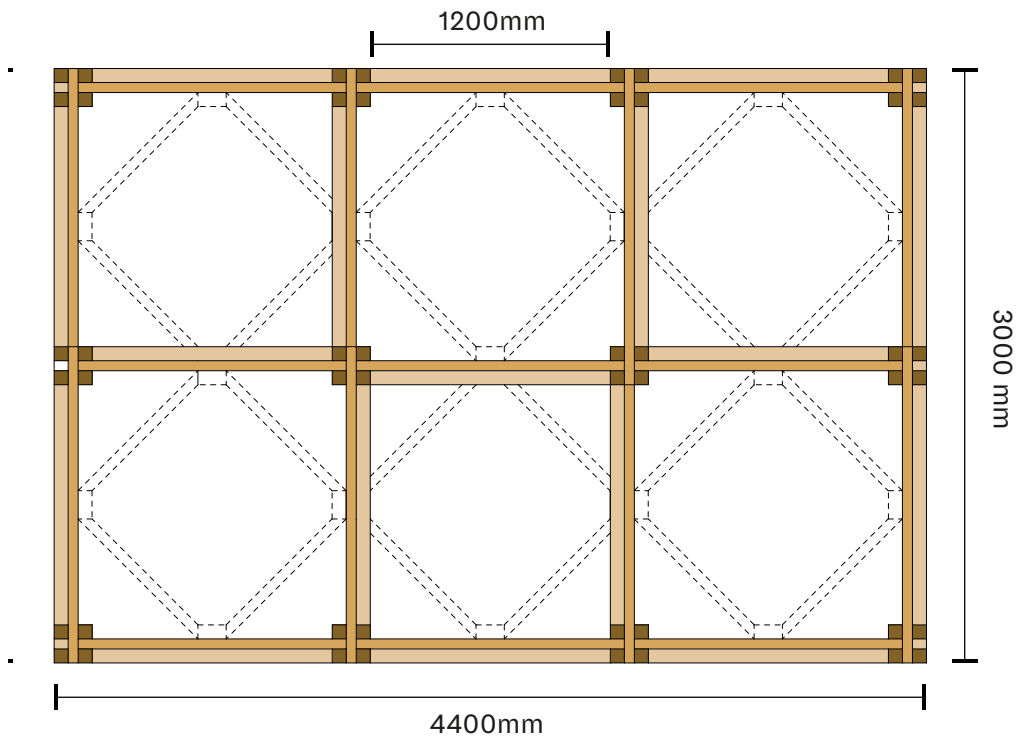


Woodberry Down Pavilion

Site plan



Elevation



Plan

7. FINAL PROPOSAL

The Pavilion includes a temporary exhibition that tells the story of the project and celebrates the achievement of young people. When not in use for events, residents are welcome to explore the exhibition or use the space informally, for example, gathering with friends or sitting under the colourful canopy to read a book. Benches will be managed by MHDT and removed outside the Pavilion and Redmond Community Centre's opening hours.



The Pavilion hosts a temporary exhibition celebrating the work of young residents

7. FINAL PROPOSAL

As part of this year's Hidden River Festival, the Woodberry Down Pavilion will remain in place for three weeks. From the 14th September to 5th October, the Woodberry Down Pavilion is available free of charge for community events. For example, the image below shows a friendly neighbourhood chess tournament taking place at the Pavilion. Please get in touch with MHDT for booking the venue.



The Pavilion is available to host various community-led events and informal gathering

8. PUBLIC PROGRAMME

The Pavilion will also host a series of creative workshops catered for children (C), young people (YP), and the wider public. We aim to include a balanced mix of family-friendly workshops as well as events for adult residents. Please find below some examples. The exact content and timing of workshops will be confirmed with each organisation.



8. PUBLIC PROGRAMME

These creative workshops are designed to be welcoming and accessible, encouraging people of all ages to take part as well as providing opportunities for learning new skills, self-expression and collaboration.



The Pavilion provides space to host creative workshops

9. NEXT STEPS

The Woodberry Down Pavilion will open on the 13th September, as part of the Hidden River Festival. Please find below the project timeline and the next steps.

04/08 - 17/08	Project coordination • Design refinement with young people • Structural engineering input • Stakeholder engagement • Coordination with estate management team • Confirmation of security strategy
18/08 - 12/09	Pavilion construction • Material procurement • Site preparation • Off-site construction • On-site construction (08/09 - 12/09)
13/09 - 5/10	Hidden River Festival & Public programme • Performances, workshops and community-led events
6/10 - 10/10	Pavilion dissassembly

To date, six design workshops have been completed, with four more sessions scheduled for September and October. Young participants will have the opportunity to take part in the pavilion’s construction, shape the project narrative, and explore further opportunities in design and making. RC/YYC will continue to provide in-kind mentoring, supporting participants with work experience, apprenticeship and university applications. For instance, RC/YYC have shared information about Berkeley Homes’ apprenticeship programme and discussed other traineeships in the built environment.

Workshop 7: Visit the Project Site

10th September, 4:00 - 6:00pm
Woodberry Down Community Space, Unit 1, N4 1FS

Visit the project site
Work with skilled crafts people
Learn basic construction skills

Workshop 8: Furniture Making

17th September, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Woodberry Down Pavilion

Learn fundamental construction skills
Work with skilled carpenters
Build furniture for the Pop Up Pavilion

Workshop 9: Reflecting on your Project

24th September, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Woodberry Down Pavilion

Work with qualified architects to write about your Pop Up Pavilion
Gain insight into how to present your work in a portfolio
Find out how to compose a CV and describe your experience

Workshop 10: Discovering Future Opportunities

15th October, 4:30 - 6:30pm
The Edge Youth Hub, 7 Woodberry Grove, N4 1SN

Hear from local organisations
Discover other opportunities to develop key skills
Sign up to future courses!

