

brief

A 'hub' for teen mums and their babies—offering a wide variety of support, socialisation, child care, and even a space to live for those who need it.

What: For this project, I have created a space that offers a suitable environment, support, and home, for new teen mothers and their babies. The site offers residential units and day care facilities. The space will provide suitable facilities and a desirable environment for raising a baby in, which teen mothers may not have access to otherwise (due to lack of money, knowledge or unsupportive families). It will work as a community centre for the young mothers and their babies, with various support services in place, childcare facilities, and short term and medium term accommodation and living facilities.

Why: Teen mothers sometimes lack the appropriate support to help them maintain their own and their babies' well-being. Loneliness, poverty, and a lack of adequate support to ensure that both baby and mother are well cared for, are common. Some people desire education or work, which can be tricky without adequate support or childcare.



can interiors
support teen
mums and their
children?

exploratory question



user

The space is designed for two different primary users:

Teen mothers, mothers to be'
Age: <20

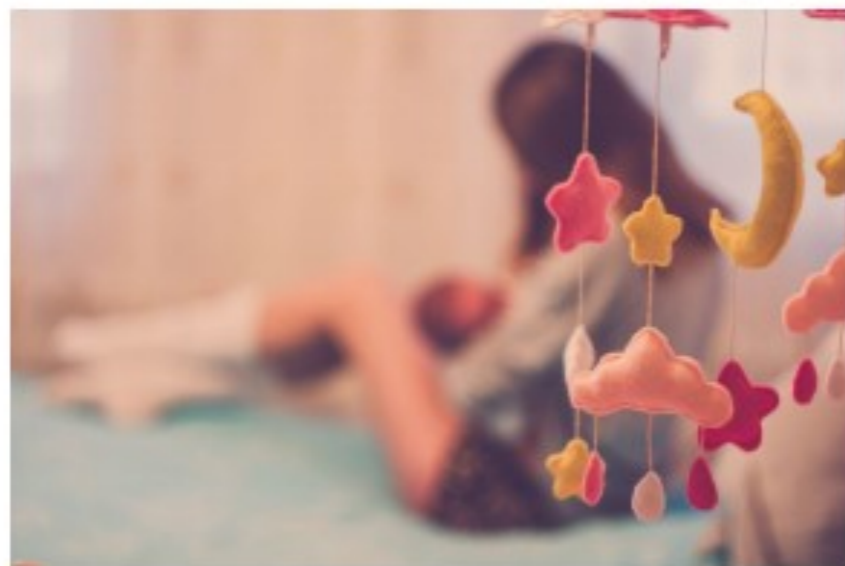
Problem: LONELINESS. They lose all their old friends because they can't relate and don't understand that the mum's life now has to revolve around the baby.

Solution: a supportive COMMUNITY of these mothers - have the same priorities.

Children'
Age: 0 - 4

Problem: children of teen / young mothers are usually developmentally 4—5 months 'BEHIND' by the time they are 4 years old.

Solution: appropriate, or extra, SUPPORT, care / educational care to prevent this from happening.



Grace
16 Years old
8 months pregnant

Grace lives at home with her parents but is quite anxious about raising her child. She avoids antenatal classes as she knows she will be a lot younger than the other people. She wants these same experiences, but with people who are in the same situation. She is keen to continue her education but would prefer not to return to her old school.



Lizzie
18 years old
New born baby

Lizzie is not close to her parents and gets no support from them in regards to the baby. She wishes to live independently with her child but cannot afford to. Lizzie was doing well at school and had hoped to go to university, but the baby prevented her from sitting her A level exams. She wants support and guidance so she can complete her A-levels and get a university degree.



Cara
17 years old
9 month old baby

Cara has been lonely as has felt cut off from all her old friends. She cannot get out much as she has very little help from anyone with looking after the baby. Although she has been living in her mother's flat, her younger siblings make it difficult for her to live there. She wants a place to live and to socialise with people her own age again, who are sympathetic to her situation.



Hannah
19 years old
2 year old child

Hannah works in a city office. While she works, her mother cares for her son, but when Hannah is not working and looking after her son, she feels very isolated and wants a place to interact with other young mothers, and where her child can have a stimulating and sociable experience. Her mother has recently been taken ill and can no longer care for the child, so Hannah desperately needs another childcare option.

key research

To carry out this project I have done extensive research into many areas. Here are the key bits of information that have informed my design and my decisions.



design rules for babies

1. Design centred around children & babies: playful and enchanting
2. Safe - stair gates, rounded corners, carpeted floors / rugs
3. Aid development by being tactile & stimulating
4. Materials - wood & fabrics over plastics - safer & more tactile
5. Hygiene—all surfaces & items must be easy to clean

learning through play and encouraging imagination

All children learn through play. This is such a widely recognised belief that it is enshrined in The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child charter:

“The right to relax and play (Article 31) and the right to freedom of expression (Article 13) have equal importance as the right to be safe from violence (Article 19) and the right to education (Article 28).”

development stages key ones to note for my space

Can play 'by themselves'
AGE 2

Can run about
AGE 2

Can play alongside others
AGE 2

Can play WITH others
AGE 3

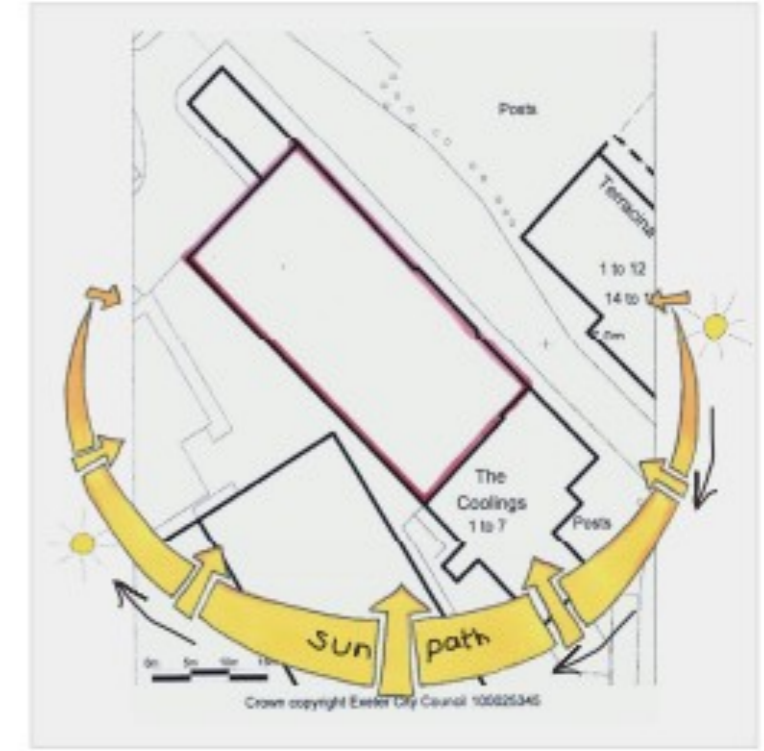
'the issue' summary

According to the Nuffield Trust the number of unplanned teenage pregnancies in the UK has fallen from 47.7 per 1000 in 1990 to 17.9 per thousand in 2017.

However, this is still a significant number, and the teen parents and their babies need help and support so they can have the best chance of living fulfilled and happy lives.

site
old electricity building
exeter

Haven Road,
Exeter, Devon,
EX2 8AX



Size: approx. 1800 sqm (+ accessible roof)
Floors: 3
Listing: no listing
Built: 1905, by W Brearly
Aspect: North-East facing

The building was originally built as an electricity generator building, to replace the existing one which had become too small to meet the increasing demand.

Since then it has had multiple functions including restoring boats and part of the Maritime Museum.

Its current use is as an indoor climbing centre.

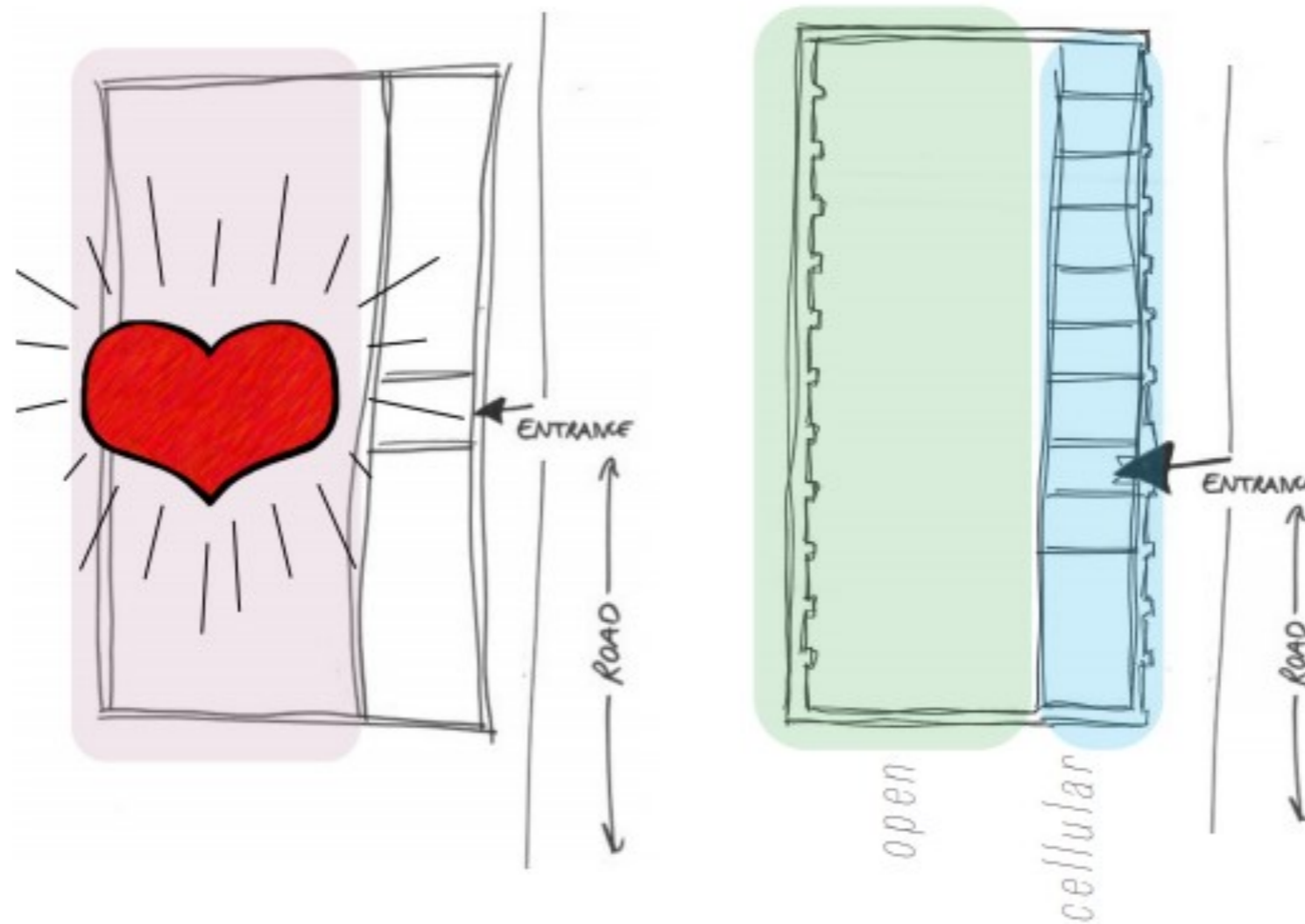


site continued

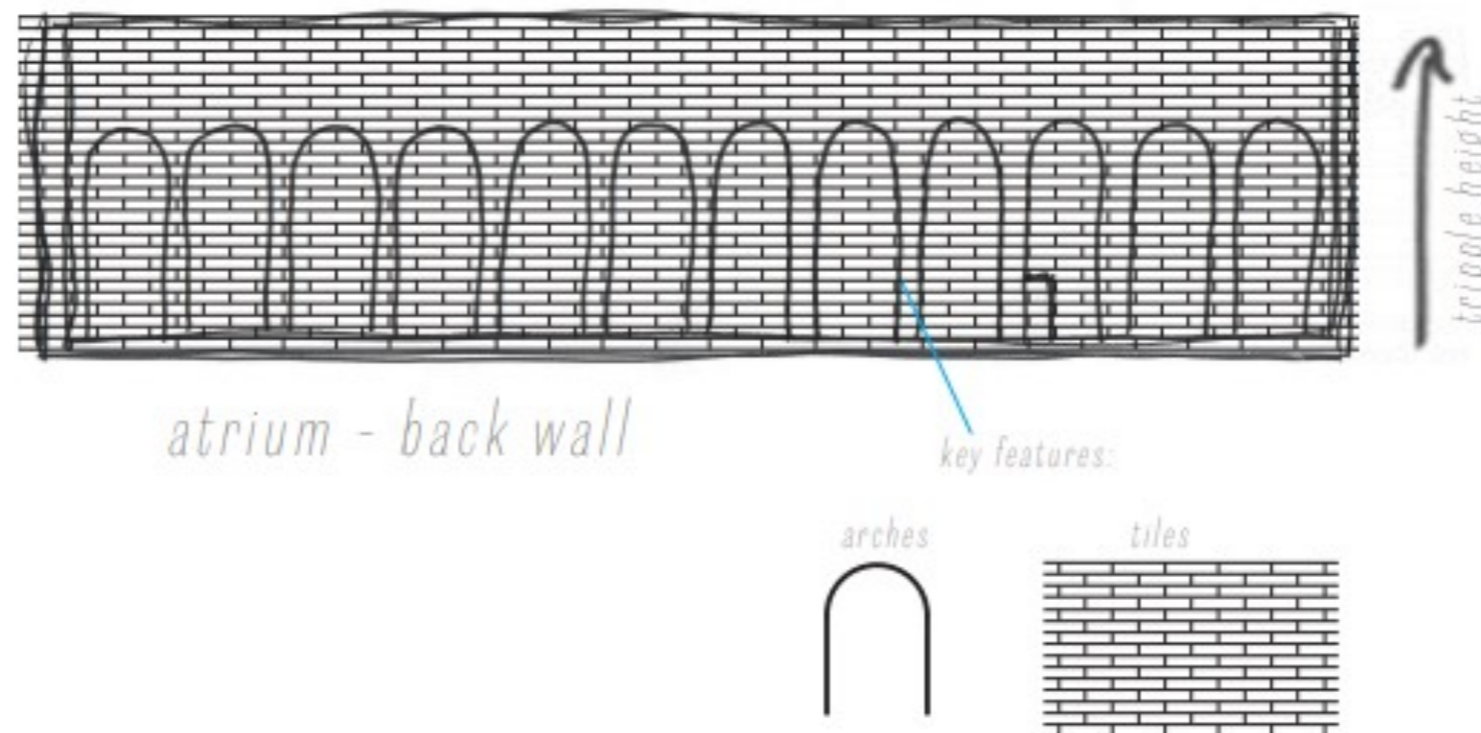
The buildings' layout works really well for what I want to do; part of it is more enclosed/ cellular (perfect for flats etc.). It also has a large atrium space perfect for the central space of the building/concept

- THE HEART

(for my project, this will be the playroom space)



Heritage pictures found online



- +
- Large, triple height atrium space
- Convenient location (easy access)
- Desirable location (Exeter quayside)
- Next to a car park
- Not listed
- Convenient layout of the building

-
- Large atrium space could have proven awkward
- Existing interior is very 'harsh' and industrial
- Arches create potential difficulties and awkwardness to work with
- No garden space
- All windows at front of building

concept

My concept explained through my concept formula, and two key case studies.

Concept summary:

The majority of the space will have a very neutral colour palette created with the use of plywood, complimented by white, grey and greens. This is to acheive a calm atmosphere, and a space that can be appreciated by both the user groups.

This will be punctuated by 'pockets' of magic. The large atrium space has been divided up with the use of large 'box' like insertions. These make up part of the general nursery space. The internal areas of these 'boxes' will be filled with bright colours, and heavily 'fairytale' themed; these are the pockets of magic.



community

+

magic

+

safety



weGrow

by BIG architects . located in NYC . design for wellbeing . kindergarten and junior school .



aranya

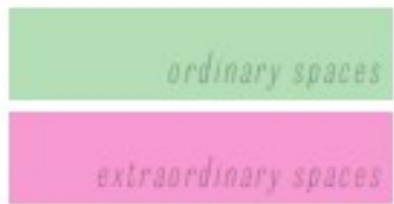
by ODD architects . located in China . design for wellbeing . childrens art and music classroom .

strategy diagram

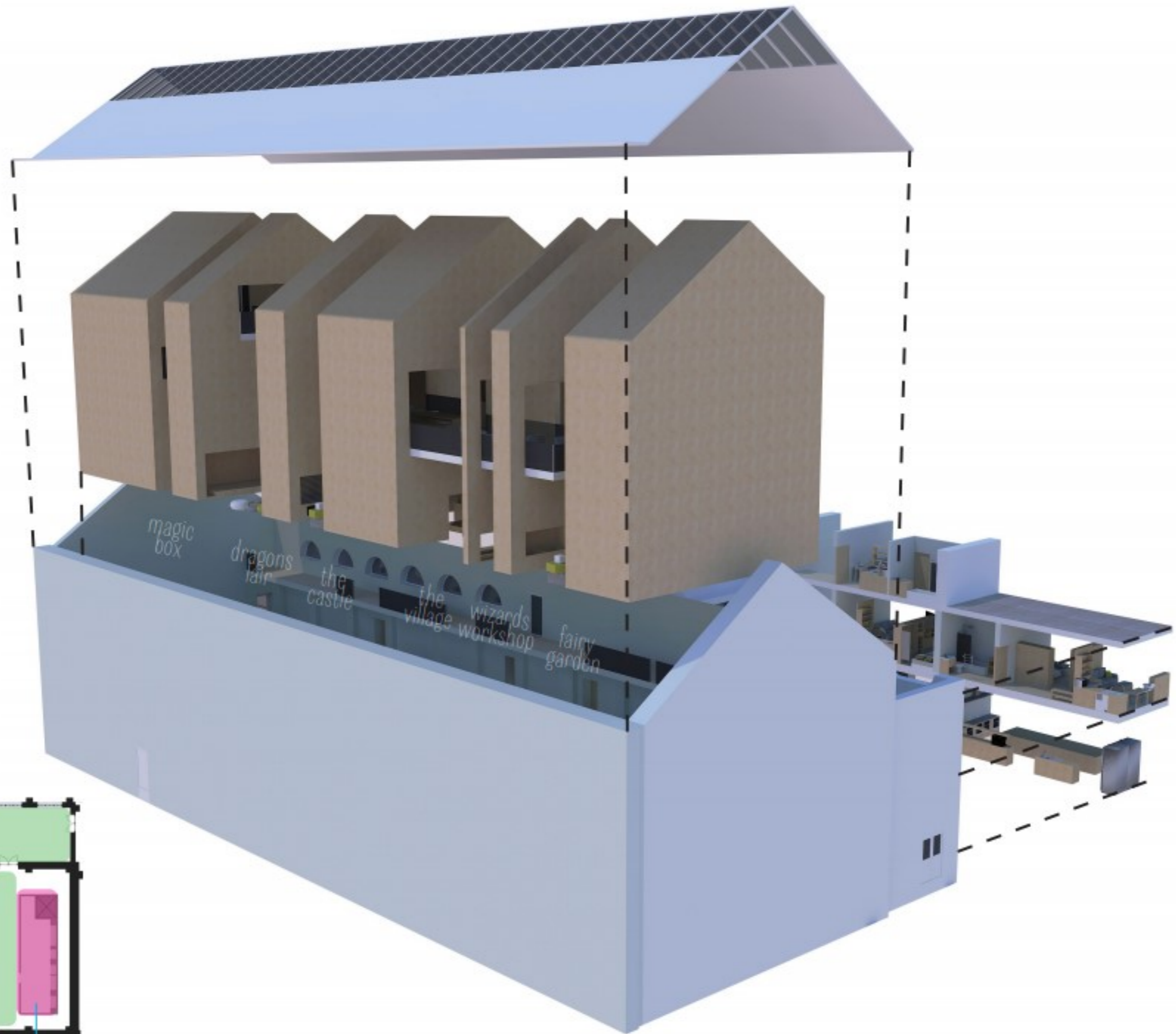
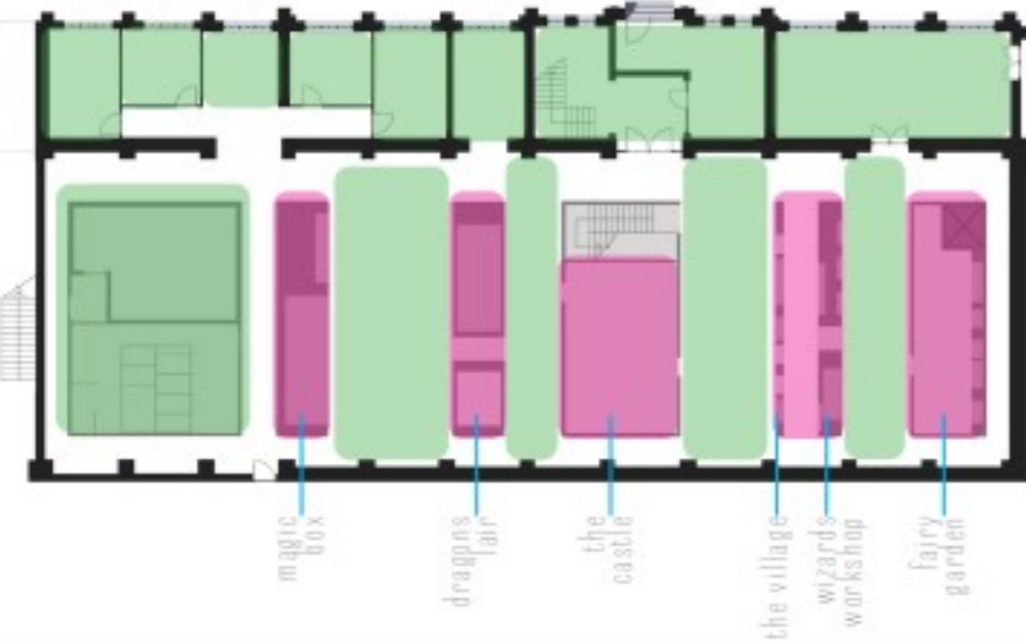
This axonometric diagram shows the main design movements taken within the space.

It is split into two different areas, with different strategies:

- the atrium space has been 'filled' with large insertions which divide and zone the space.
- the front section of the building, which is much more cellular, has used furnishings and fixtures (much of which is bespoke) to 'fill' the space, creating the studio flats and offices.



Ground Floor Plan - Not to scale



zoning

This space is intended for the use of both teen mothers (age up to 20 years old) and their babies and children (from the age of new born, up to age 4, as this is the age that they start primary school).

Although the age range of 4 years may not seem very much, for a baby and toddler this is very different; so there are different areas of the building that are designed for different needs and ages.

These zoning maps show what areas are suitable for different ages. (this refers mainly to the play areas and which areas are most suitable, it does not mean that they are limited to these spaces alone and 'mums' and staff supervise all areas)

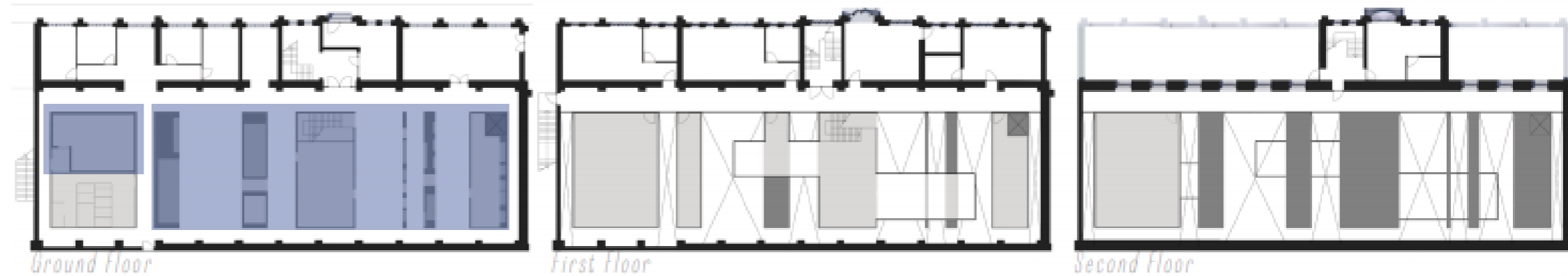
newborn - age 1



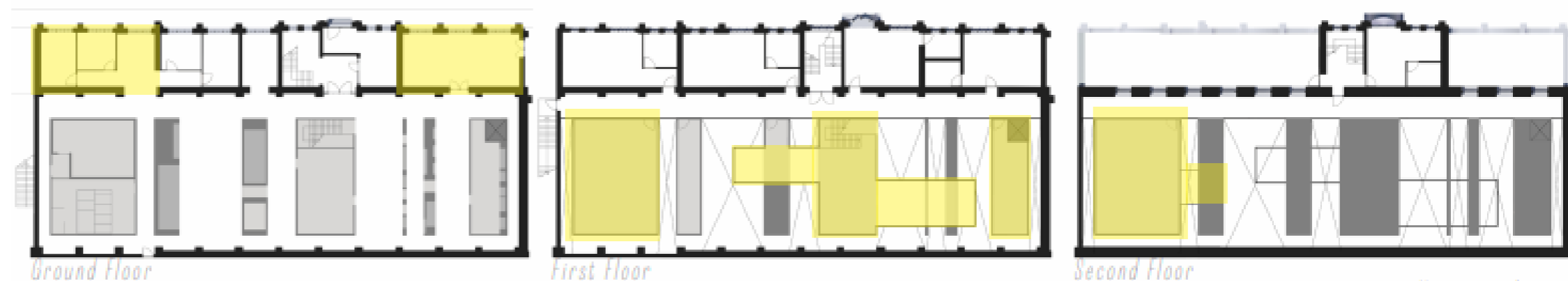
age 2



age 3 - 4



'mums'



Not to scale

magic box

Each insertion is 'decorated' and themed differently, with a 'magical' or 'fairytale' related concept. Also each has a different function and hosts a different activity.

This first one, 'magic box', is simply a low rise stage area. From speaking with people who work in childcare (including teachers and pre-school leaders) this is quite a fun and novel idea that children will find entertaining to use. The walls of the alcove of the stage area are covered in a graphic wallpaper of sequins and sparkles. This is combined with 'sparkly' stars on the floor of the stage.

There is also a recessed bench seat for mothers who are playing with, or supervising their child. The walls of the alcove for this have been wall papered with a similar wall graphic: still an image of sparkles but rainbow glitter, as opposed to silvery star-sequins.



Ground Floor Plan

Not to scale

concept images



other key spaces studio flats

There are five studio flats in the building, varying in size, and very slightly in layout (although all possess the exact same furnishings). All contain an en-suite bathroom, with bath and baby changing area, a living space, a small but complete kitchen space, dining table with chair and high chair, and a bedroom area for both the mother and her child.

The first two are identical, and are also the two largest. These have separate 'bedrooms' for mother and child. The other three are slightly smaller, and also each slightly different in layout. Each of these three have just one 'bedroom' for mum and baby to share.

As different people move into the flats, they will most probably have slightly different aged children (even within the age specification of newborn to 4 years), so will require different types of furniture. There is a storage room on the first floor which can store spare cots, toddler beds, Moses baskets, baby baths etc. so that these can be 'swapped' in as necessary.

This particular visual is of the first studio flat.

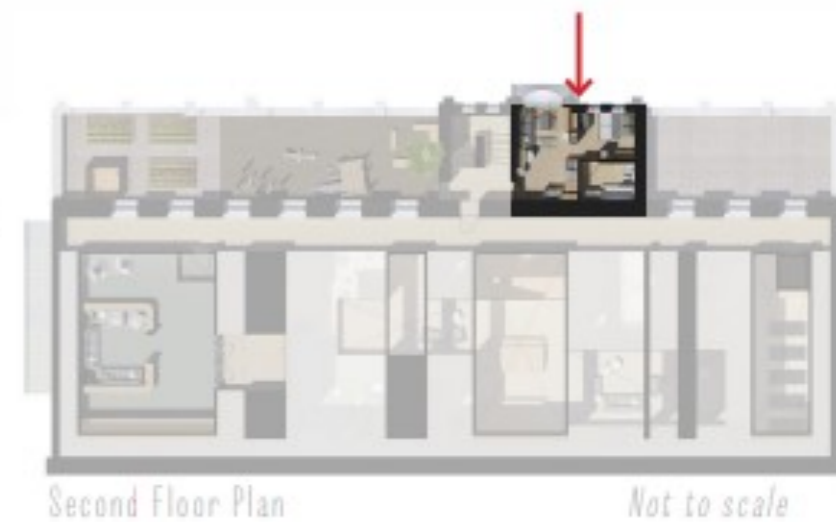
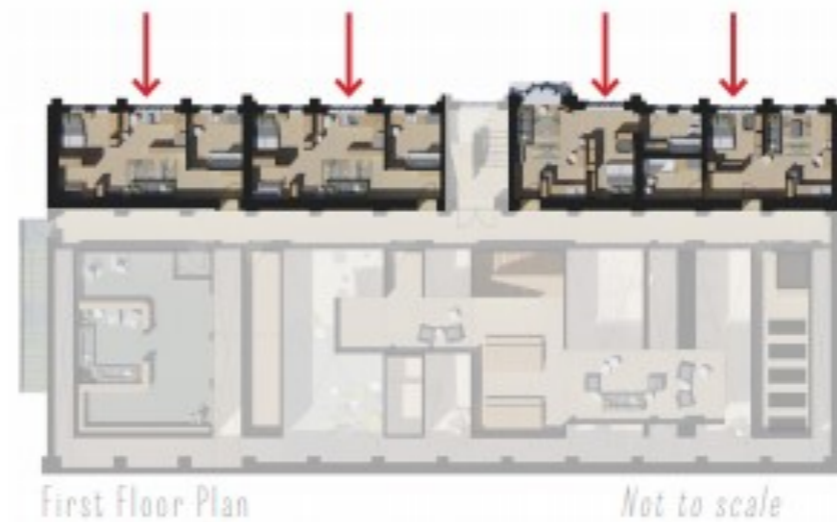


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