

Common Ground

03.04.2023

URBAN RADICALS x Saqqra
LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE

Common Ground

Site History

After its destruction, Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt St Mary-le-Bow in 1680, with a tower that used the Roman gravel roadway as its foundations.

The church ground and structure was rebuilt from rubble found on site after the area was bombed.



Common Ground

Material response - connection to site history

Our proposal starts from a response to this site history of re-use, using recycled materials salvaged from nearby sites of manufacture as our starting point for a proposal that builds on the church's legacy of layered re-construction and re-use.

This also highlights Wren's 100 year anniversary this year, a legacy our installation can draw attention to for its ethos of architecture and re-use.



Recycled aggregates from adjacent sites of building waste, carrying on the church's legacy of reconstruction 100 years later to coincide with the Church's anniversary.

Common Ground

Materiality - The potential of salvaged materials

Using motifs of accessibility as a graphical springboard for a new ground that can be inhabited with seating, each module is made of recycled materials salvaged from nearby sites of manufacture, building on the church's legacy of layered re-construction and re-use. Examples of the potential of recycled aggregates illustrated below:



Recycled aggregates from adjacent sites of building waste can be shaped into a range of textures and surfaces, ranging in scale from very smooth to very rough

Common Ground

Materiality - The potential of salvaged materials

Using motifs of accessibility as a graphical springboard for a new ground, each tableau is made of recycled materials salvaged from nearby sites of manufacture.

The recycled components can be made into surfaces that can be inhabited as seating, varying in a range of roughness to smoothness



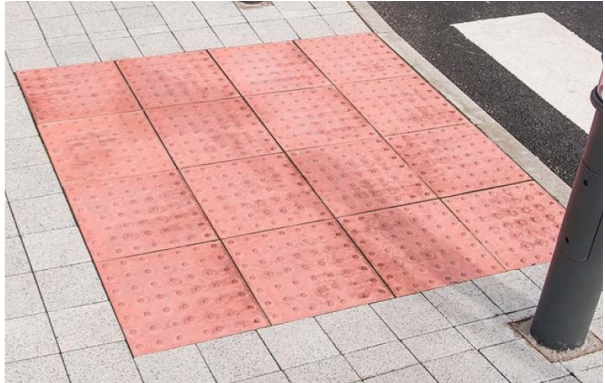
Example of public realm seating made with recycled waste aggregates cast into a bench form.

Common Ground

Responding to the LFA theme of accessibility, our proposal takes the common motifs of accessible design, often latent in our everyday public realm, and raises these to a level that users can see and engage with through physical touch. These motifs are often most apparent on the ground or horizontal plane, a surface shared - in common - by a range of users.

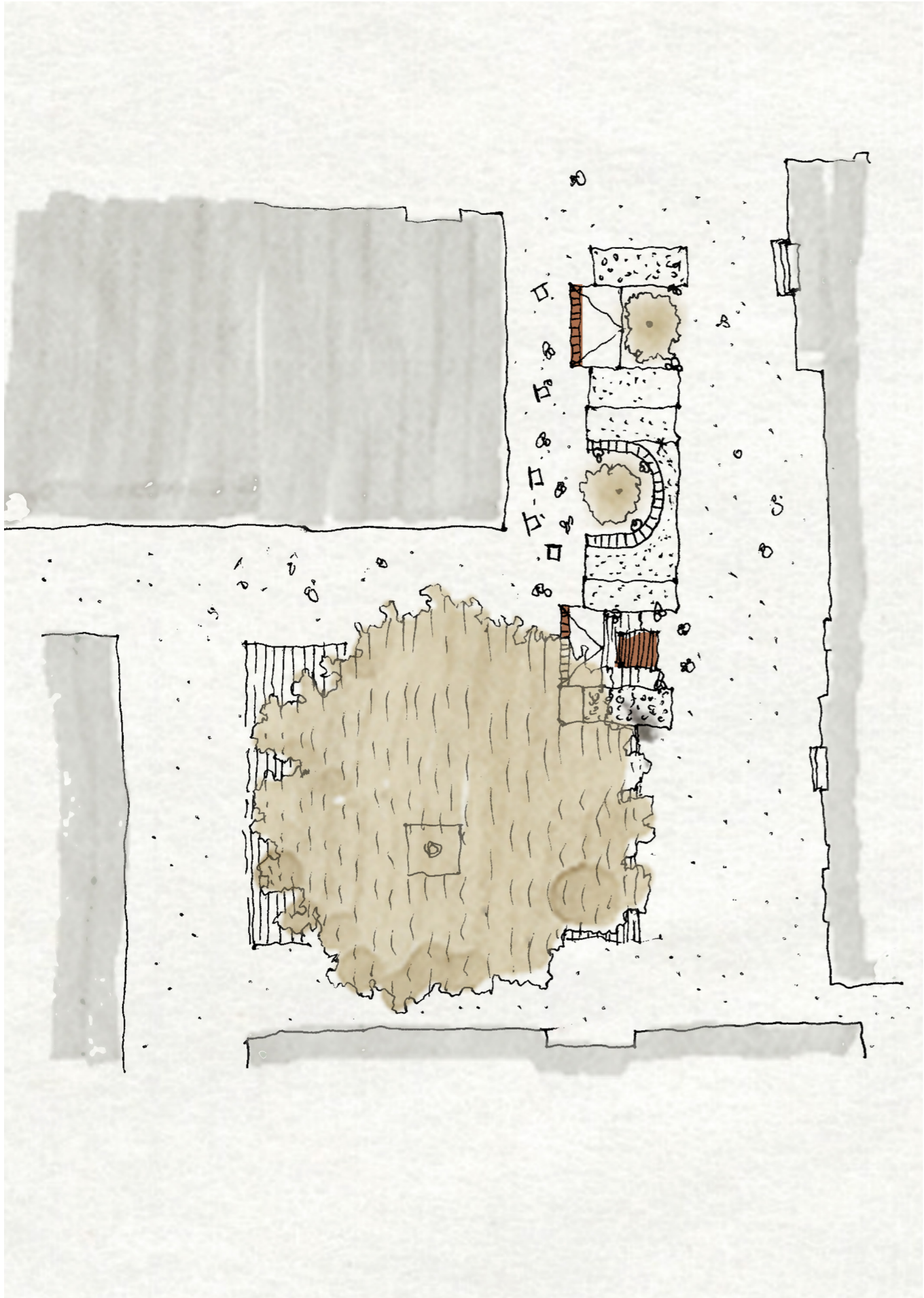


The idea of a common ground therefore begins to emerge as a theme. The ground as a surface we all engage with is heightened and made more explicit in this installation.



Common Ground

Design - cast module sitting & wayfinding totem



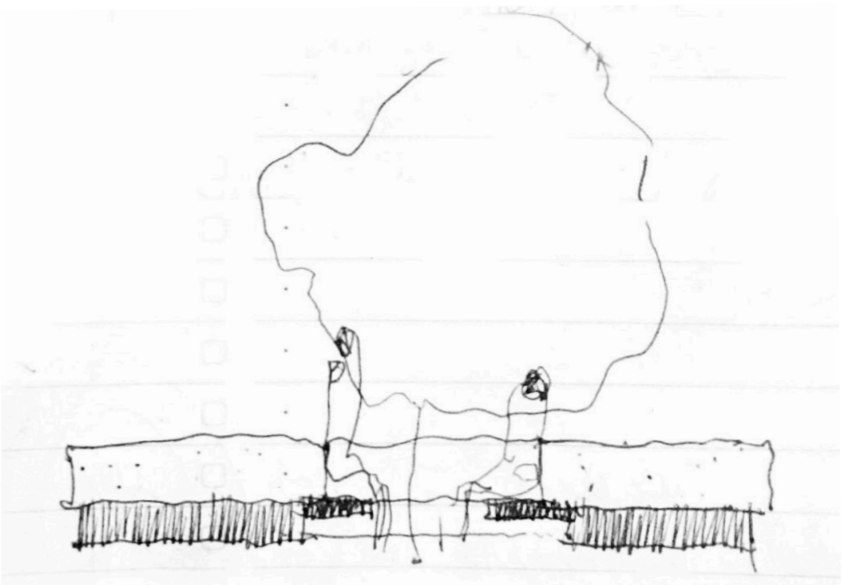
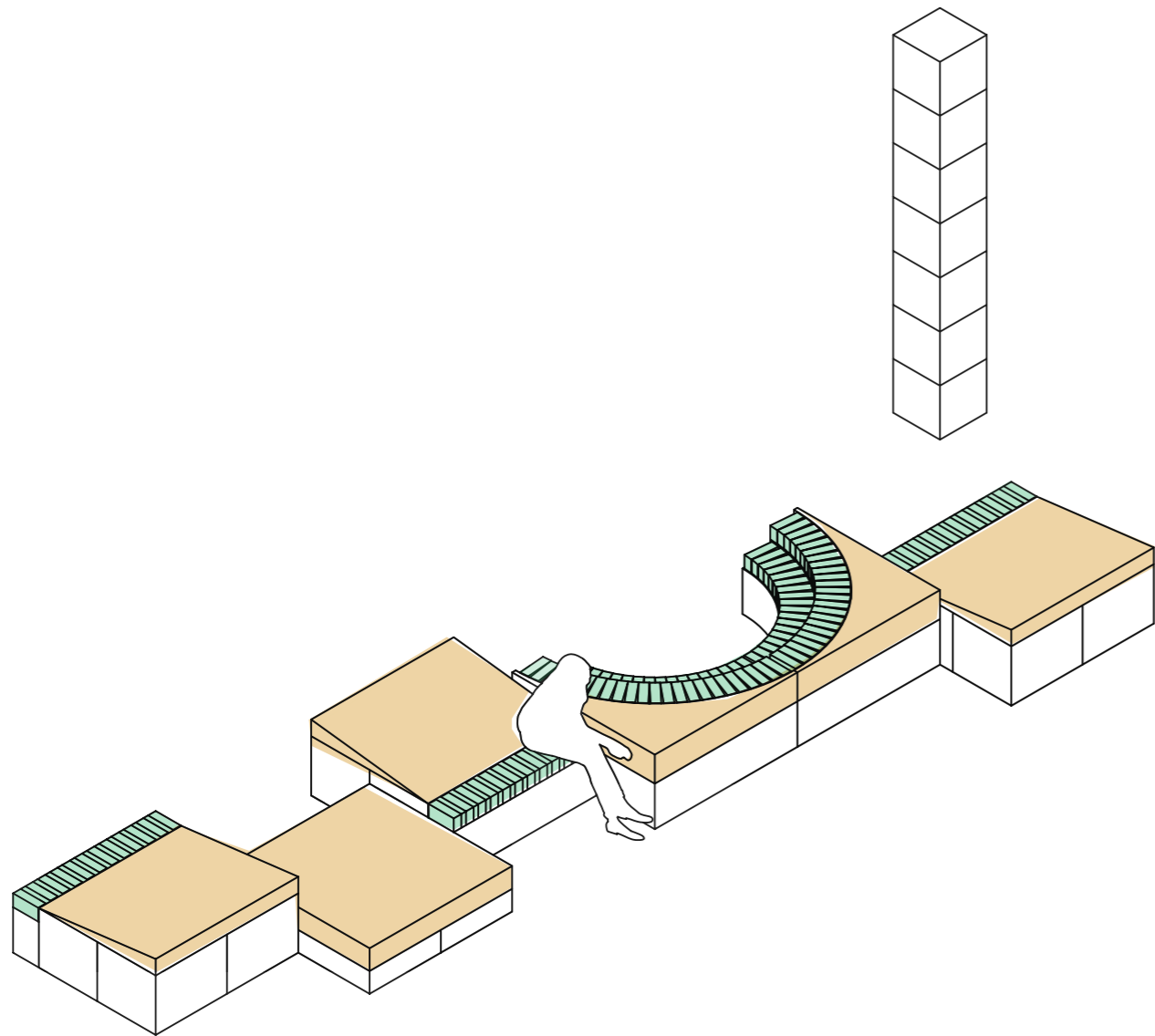
Common Ground

Design - cast module sitting

Each object here is interpreting some aspect of accessibility (either the ramp or the turning circle or something else) and makes a form out of it for people to engage with. Some objects incorporate seating.

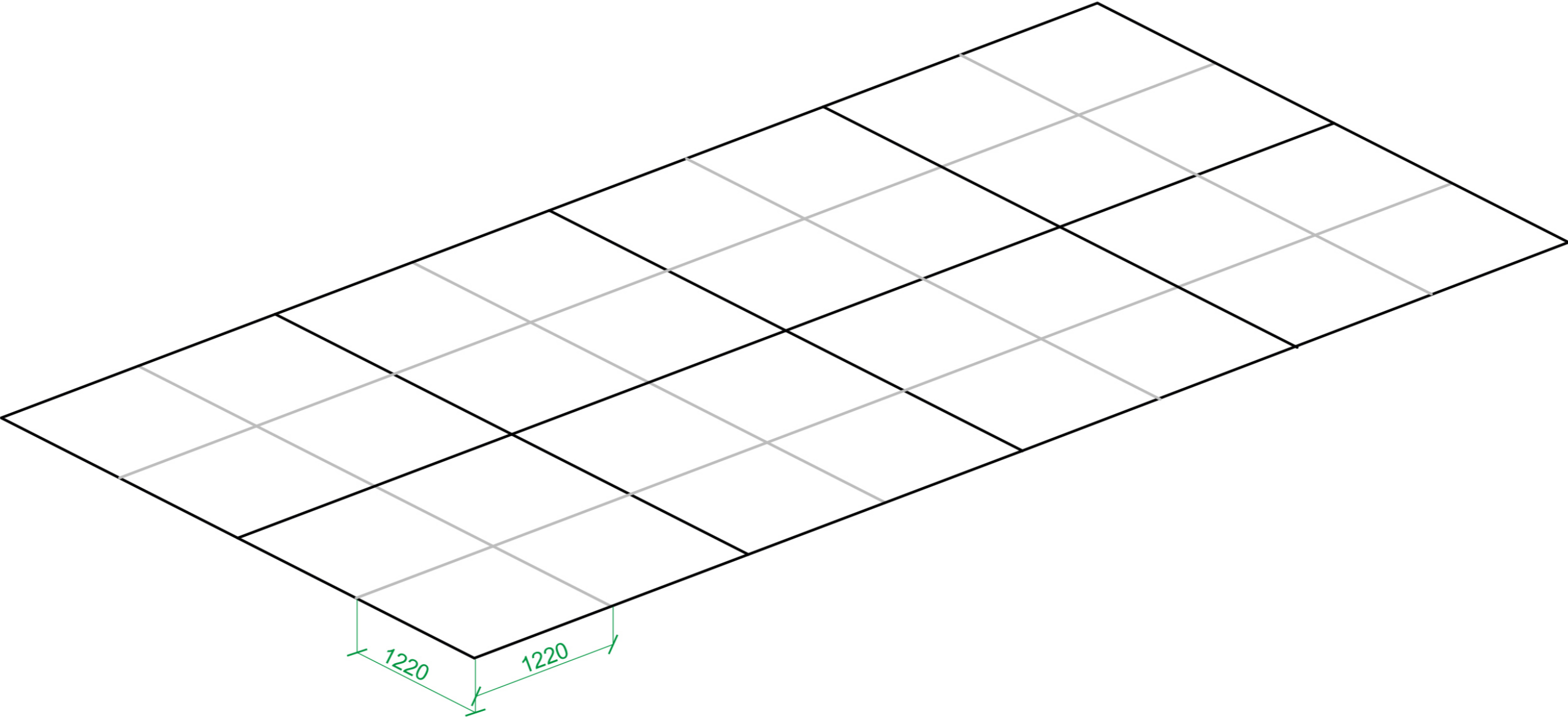
Surfaces below indicated in green will be finished using colourful tiles of glazed ceramic.

Surfaces below indicated in yellow will be cast using recycled aggregates, varying in a range of roughness to smoothness.

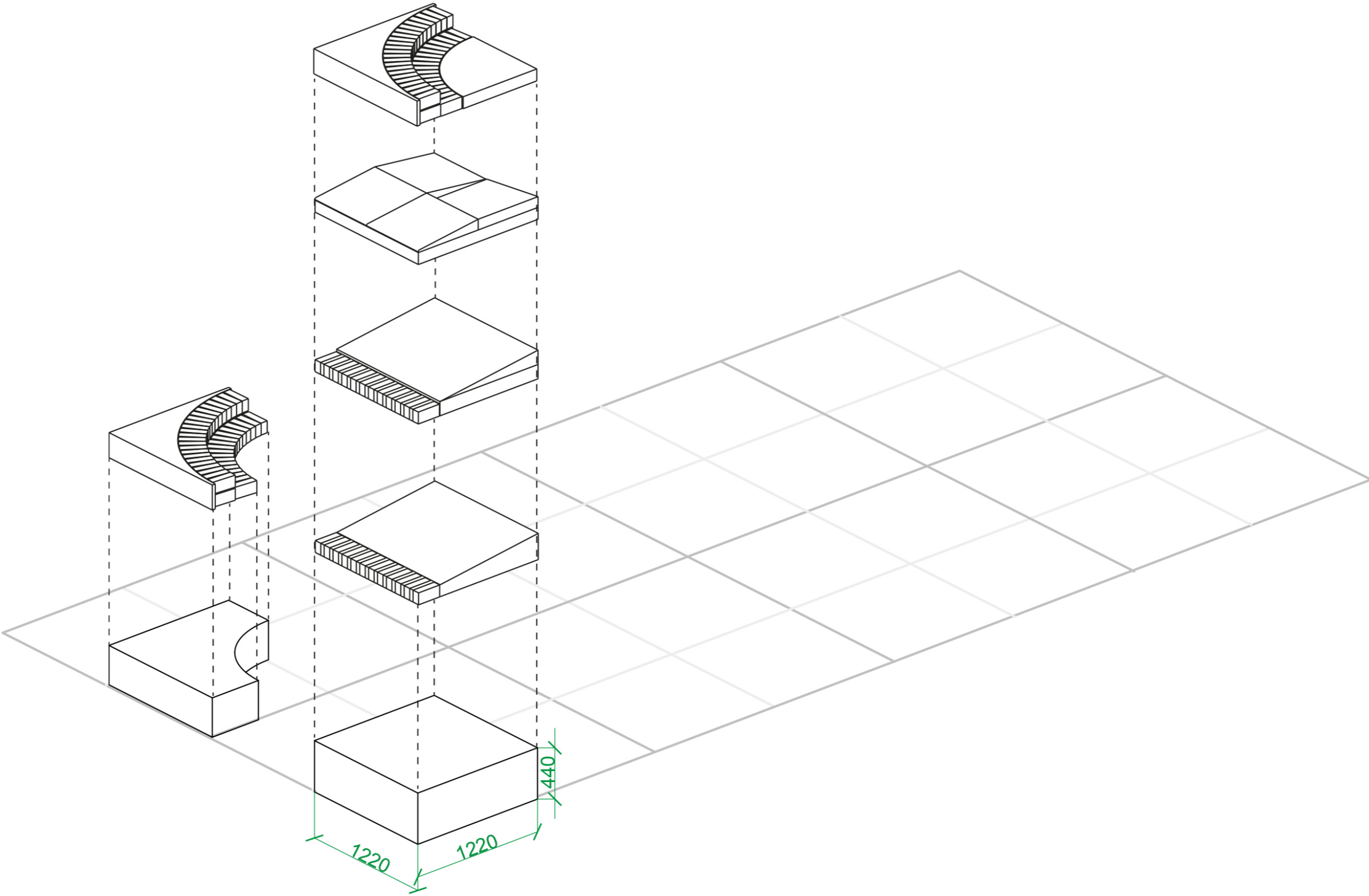


Common Ground

Design - cast module sitting

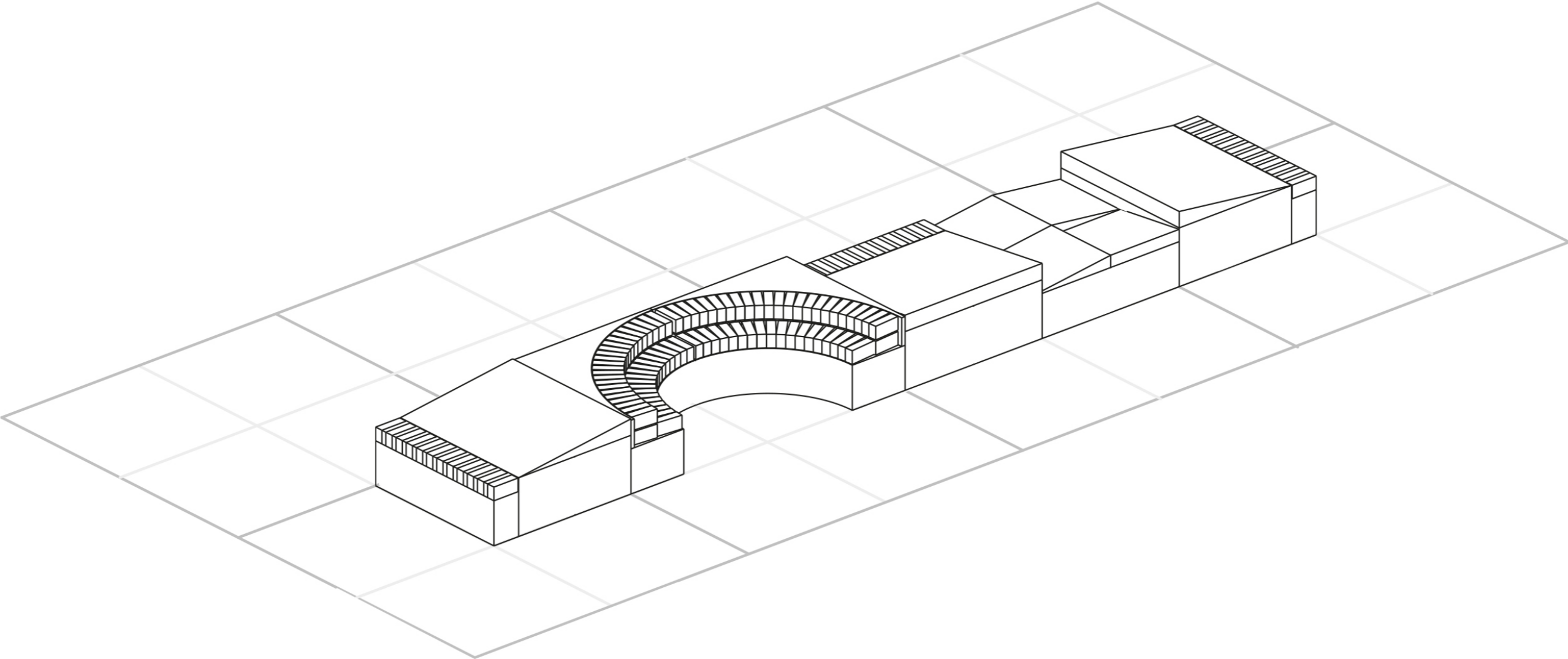


Common Ground - cast module seating



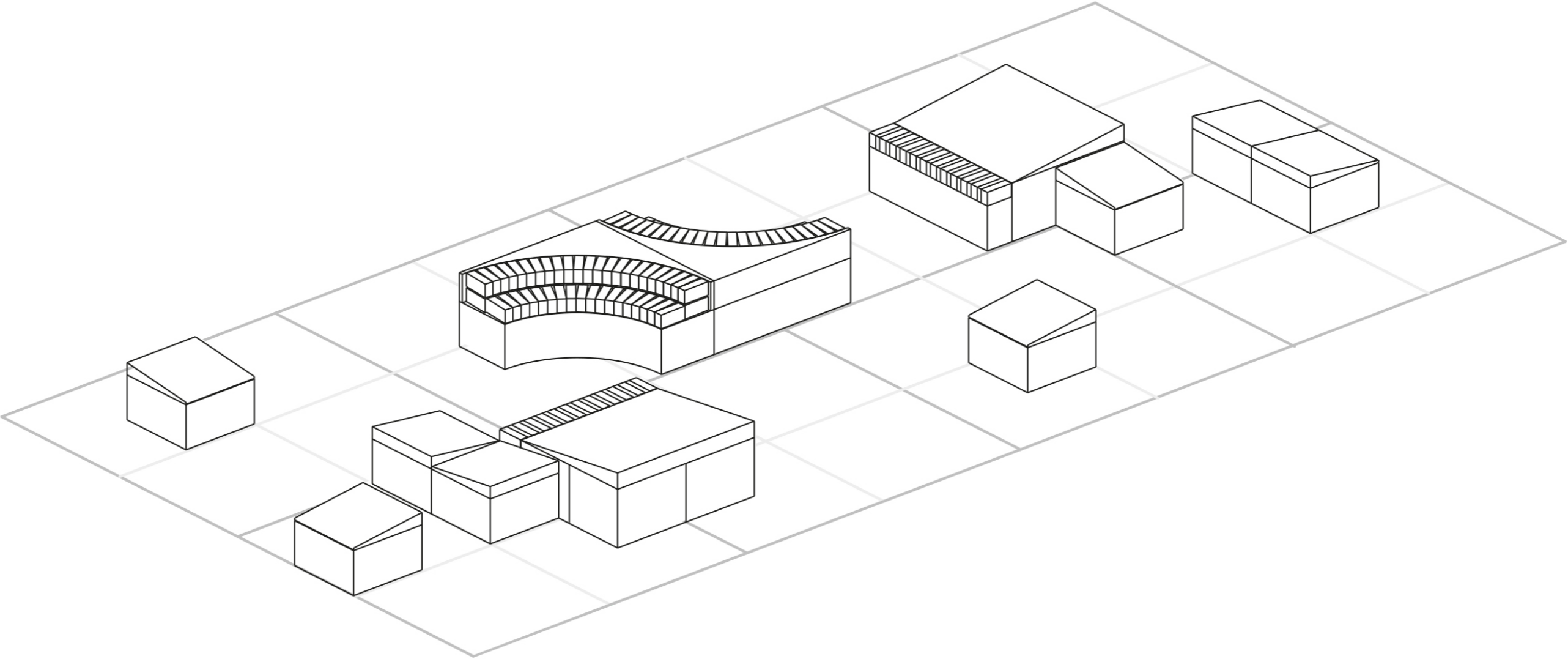
Common Ground

Design - cast module sitting



Common Ground

Design - cast module sitting

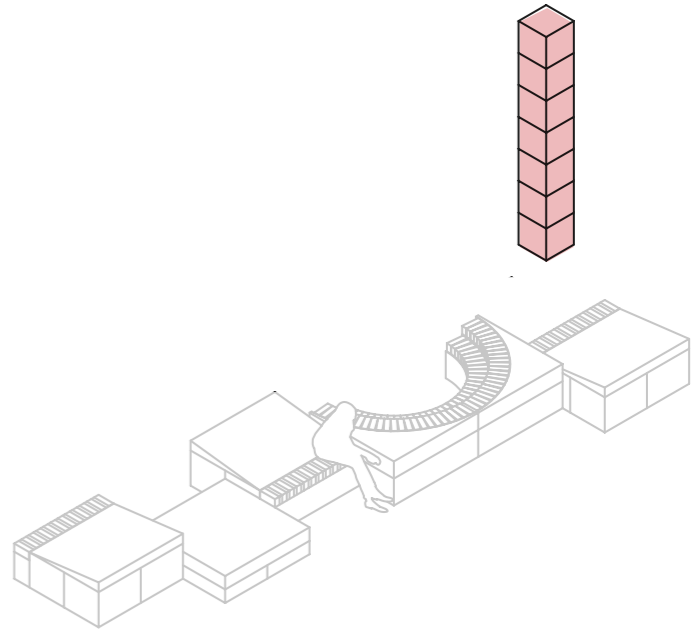


Common Ground

Design - wayfinding totem

A wayfinding totem carrying information about the project will be incorporated into the design. Building on the church's legacy of layered re-construction and re-use, the totem will take the form of vertically stacked, salvaged, ceramic building components, pictured below.

The totem will be constructed of 0.4m x 0.4m x 0.4m fragments and will have a maximum height of 2.4m, unless otherwise advised.

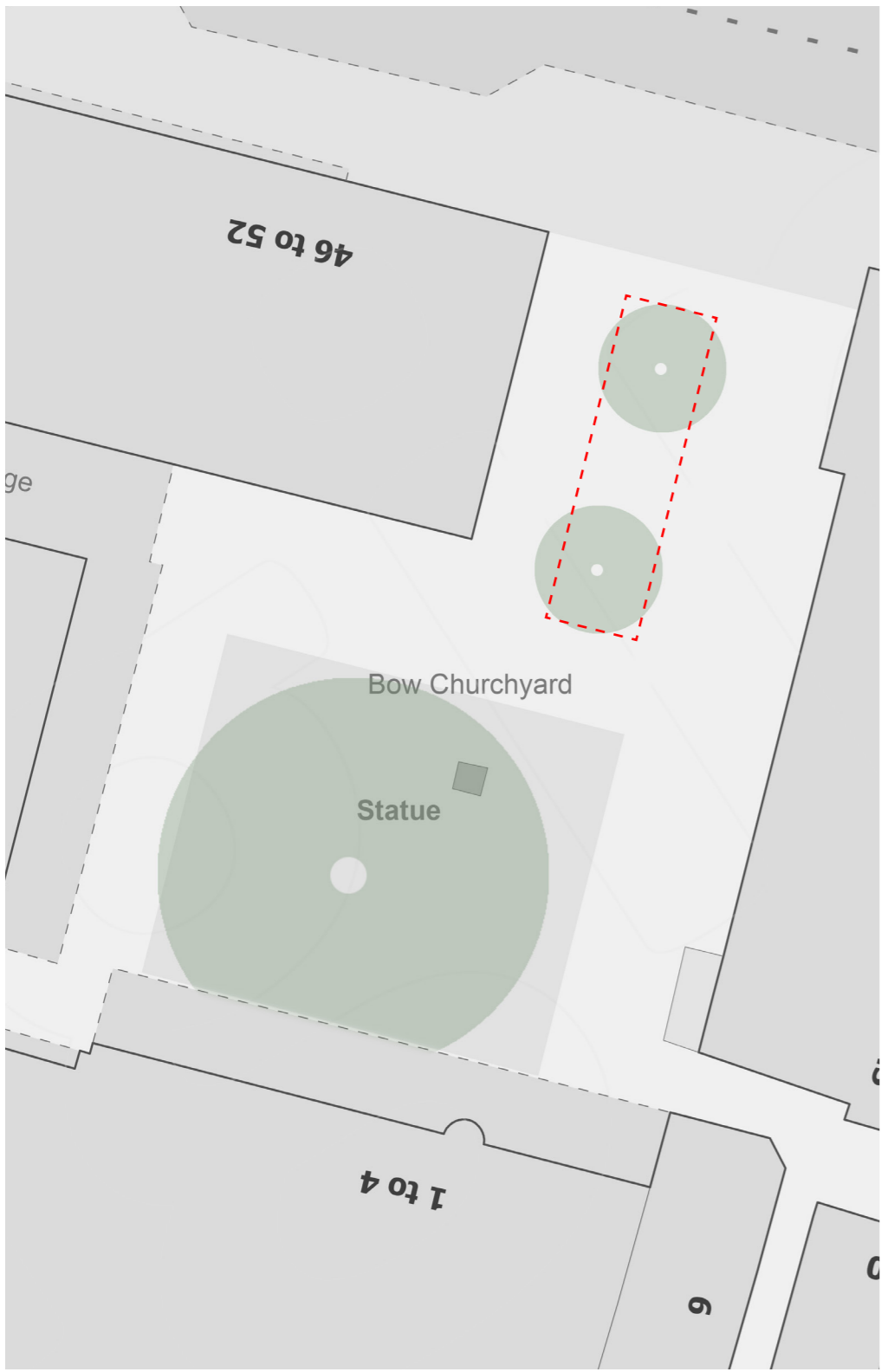


Common Ground

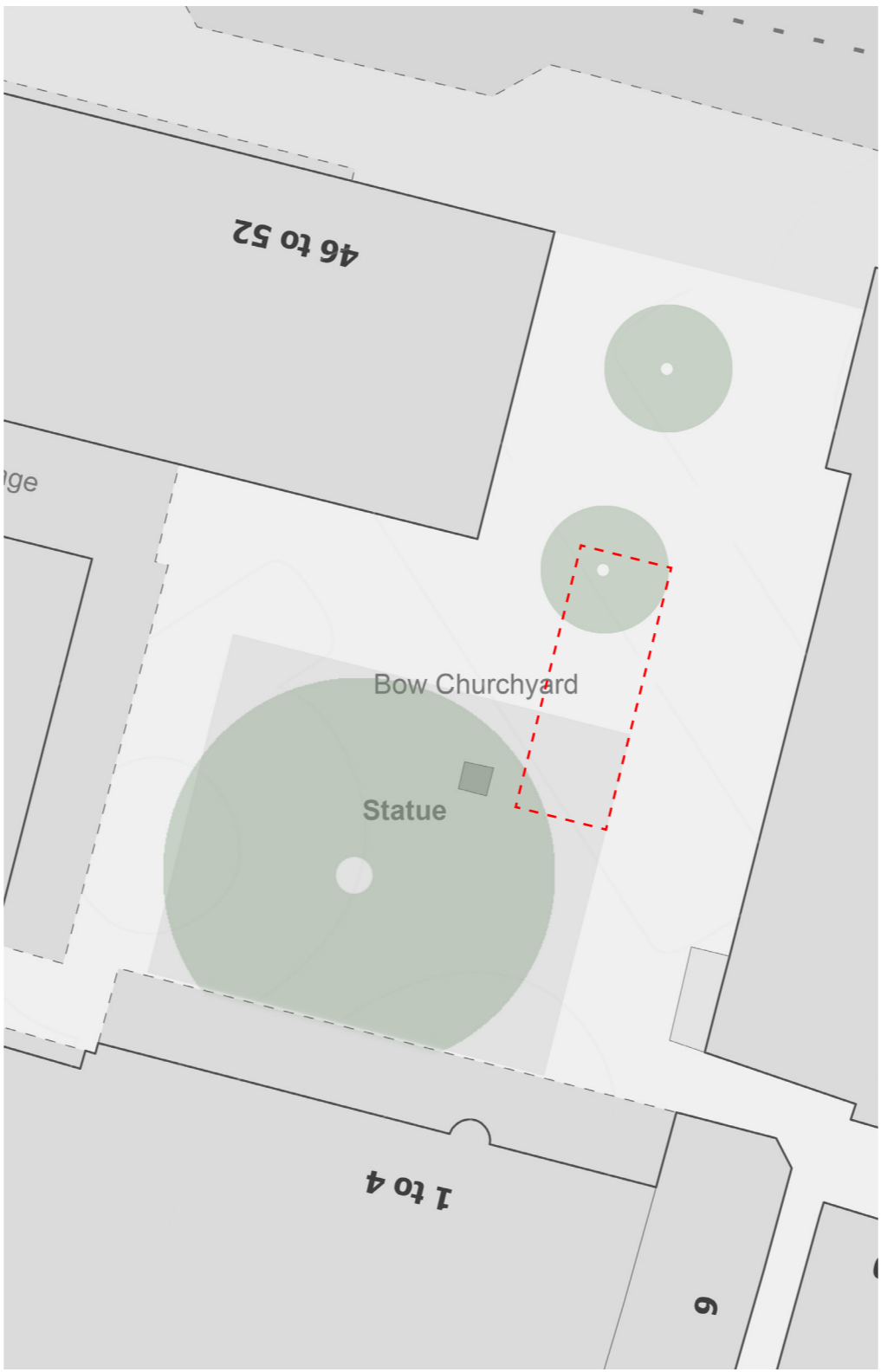
Site placement

For this options A and B, the proposal will be within the tree canopy but will leave enough distance for a wheelchair user to get close to the seat and also enjoy being under the shade.

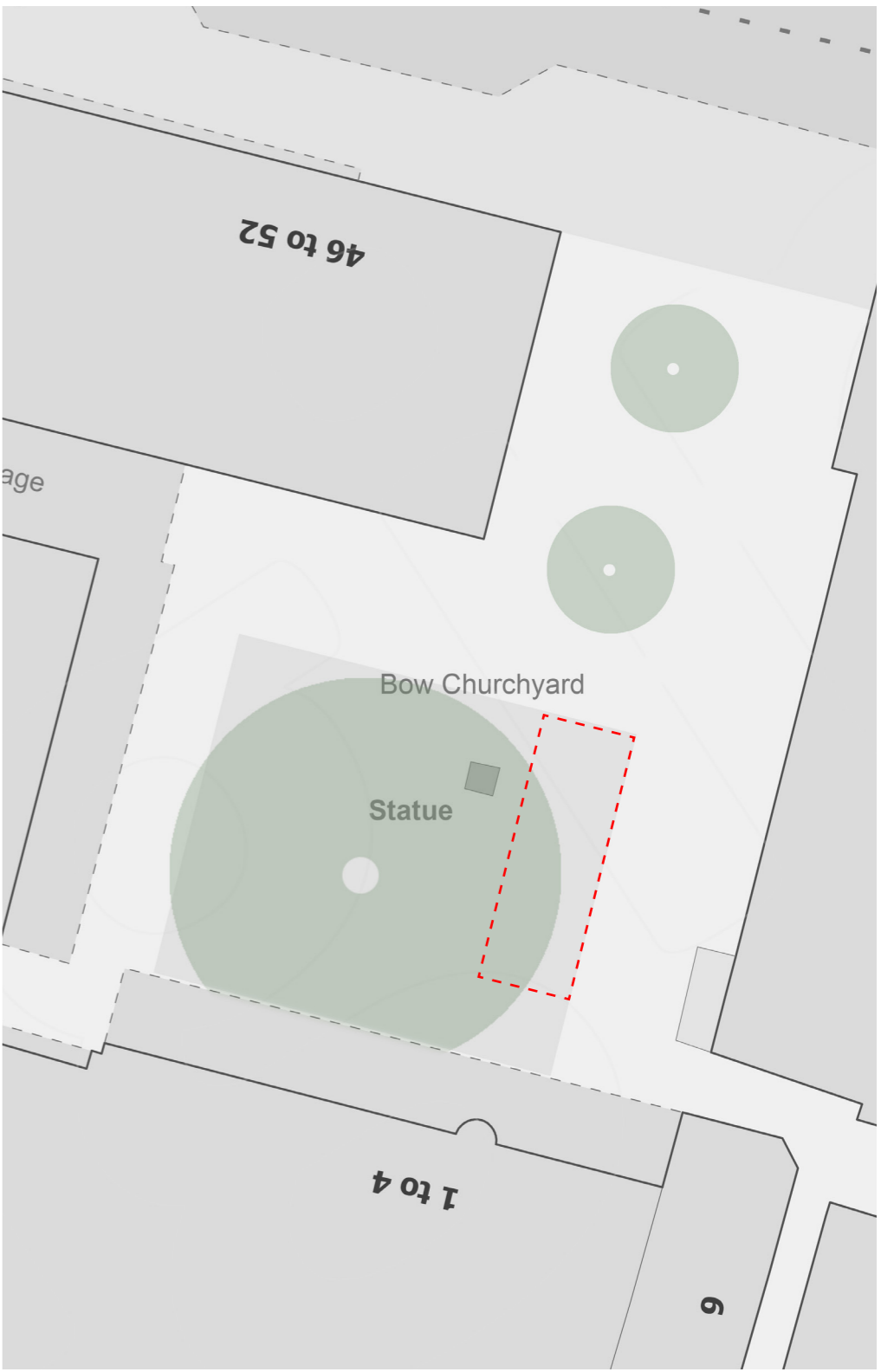
Option A



Option B



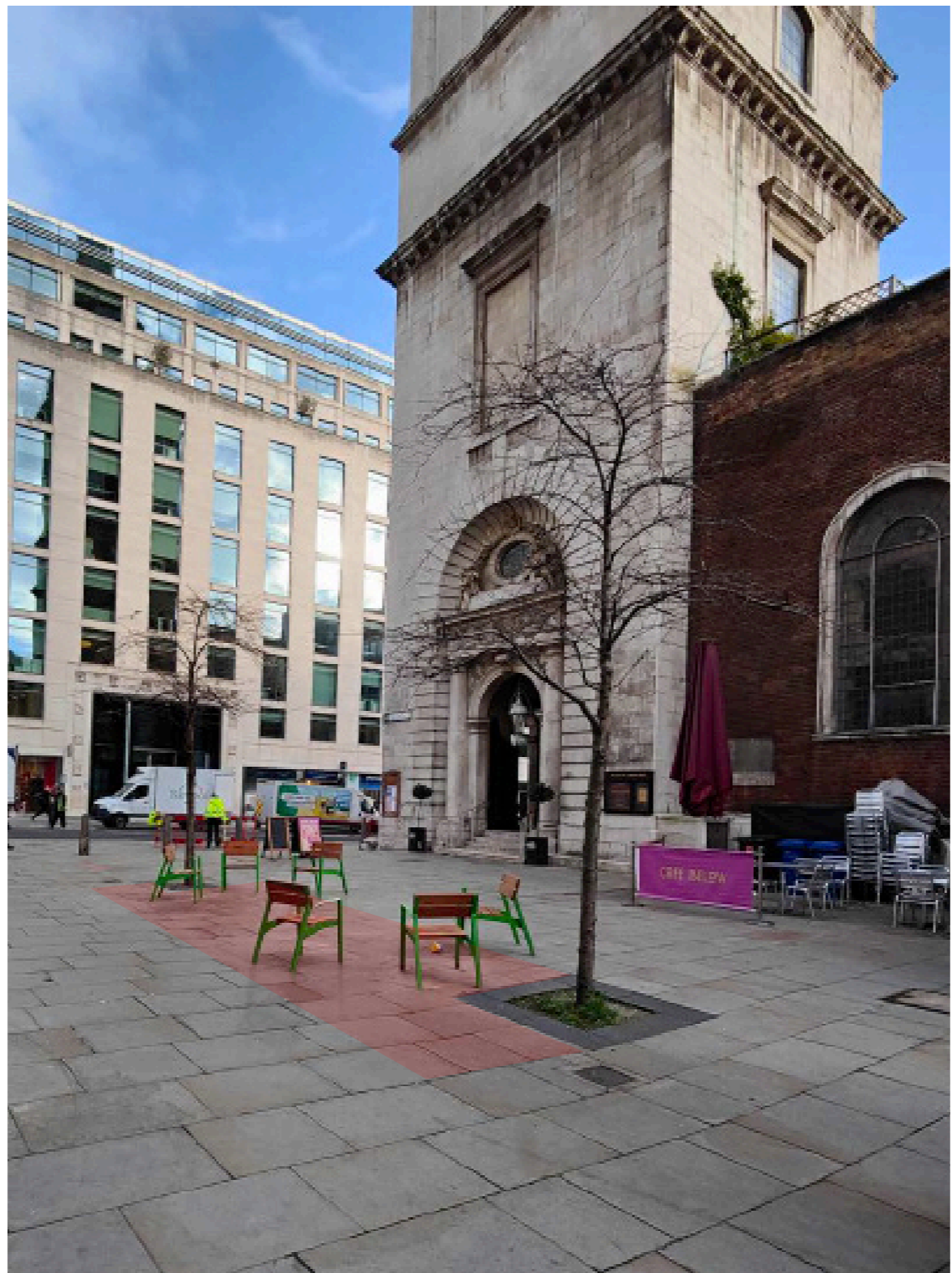
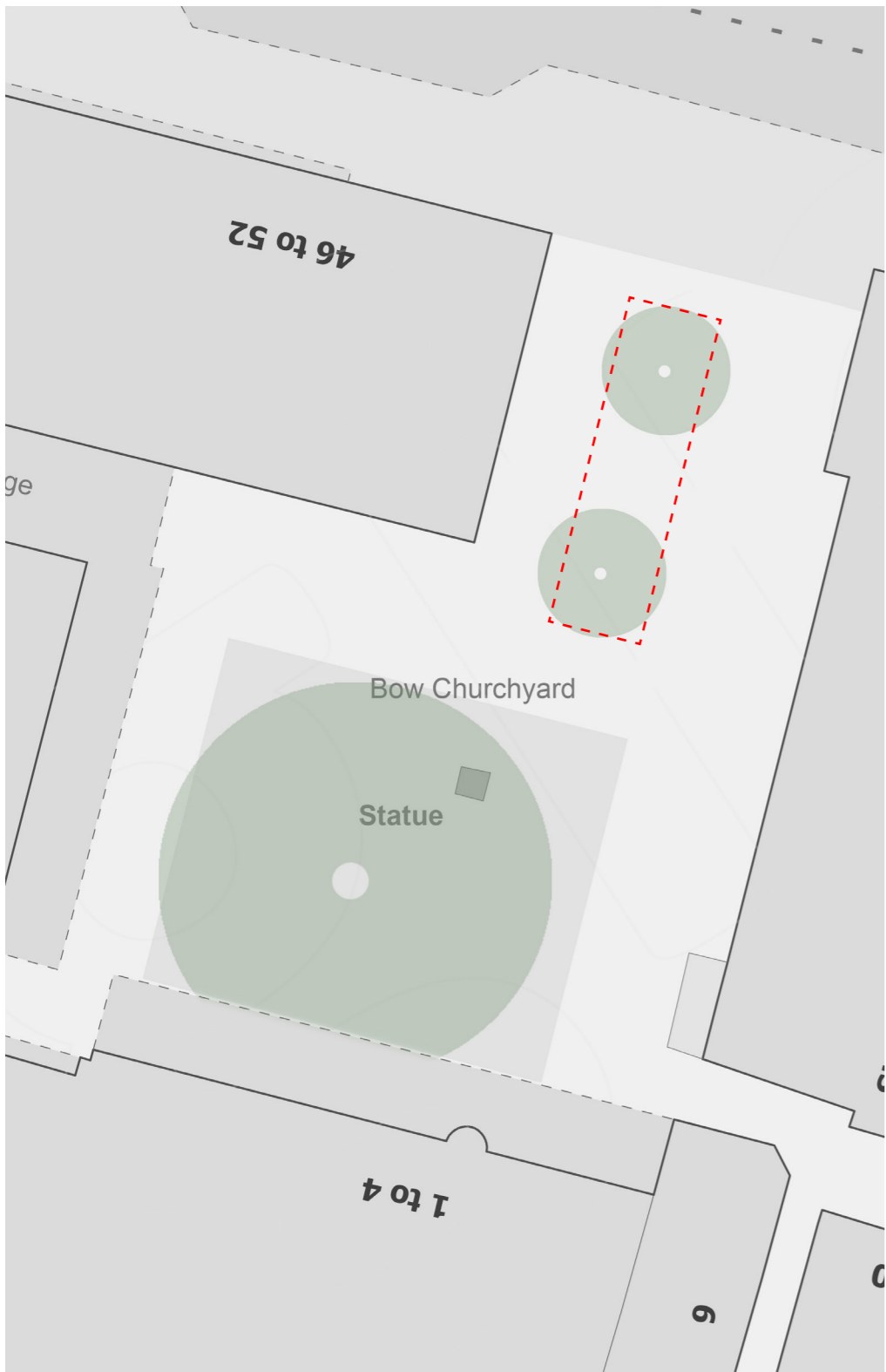
Option C



Common Ground

Site placement

Option A



Option A will require the temporary relocation of 6 chairs existing on the site, to an adjacent location.

thank you