

COLLAGE | traditional circus aesthetics and inspiration

02 | SPECTACLE TOWER / BIG TOP STUDIO

SECOND YEAR ARCHITECTURE PROJECT
A COMMUNITY FOR HOUSING PERFORMERS OF CHOICE

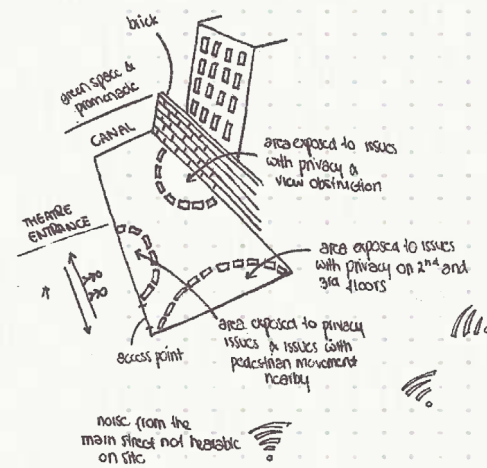
Spectacle Tower is project of a community housing for visiting groups of circus performers. The project is located in An coats, Manchester, right next to an art center and a historic Hope Mill Theatre being strongly influenced by performing arts of different kinds over the years. The accommodation space has been extended by a Big Top Studio - practice and performance spaces on the site where members of the public have opportunity to engage with aspects of the performance.

**MANCHESTER SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE**





SKETCHES | initial concepts and creative drivers



SKETCH | site sensory analysis

SITE ANALYSIS | INSPIRATIONS & CHALLENGES

The site provided with inspiration not only because of its artistic neighbours but also because of its unusual geometry, enclosure by its surrounding buildings and adjacency to the canal providing with many creative drivers as well as design challenges resulting in an original and unusual design.

DESIGN STRATEGY | PRE-FABRICATED & MOBILE HOUSING UNITS

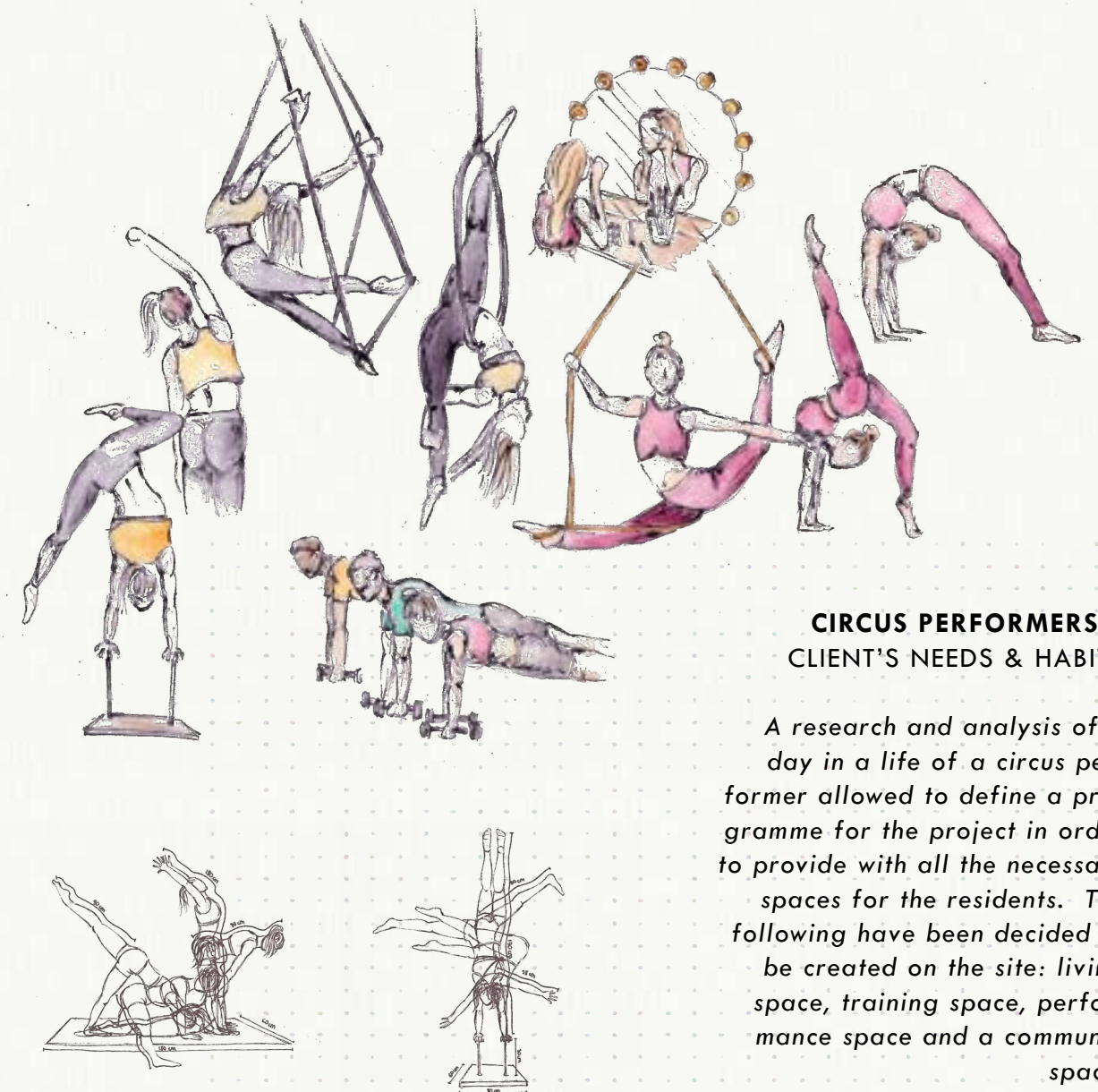
Looking into traditional circus' history provided with many creative drivers and design ideas for the project with a main focus on compact, trailer-like spaces and mobile homes.

Can a concept of living in a trailer, which takes little space, be used in a design of housing for circus performers?



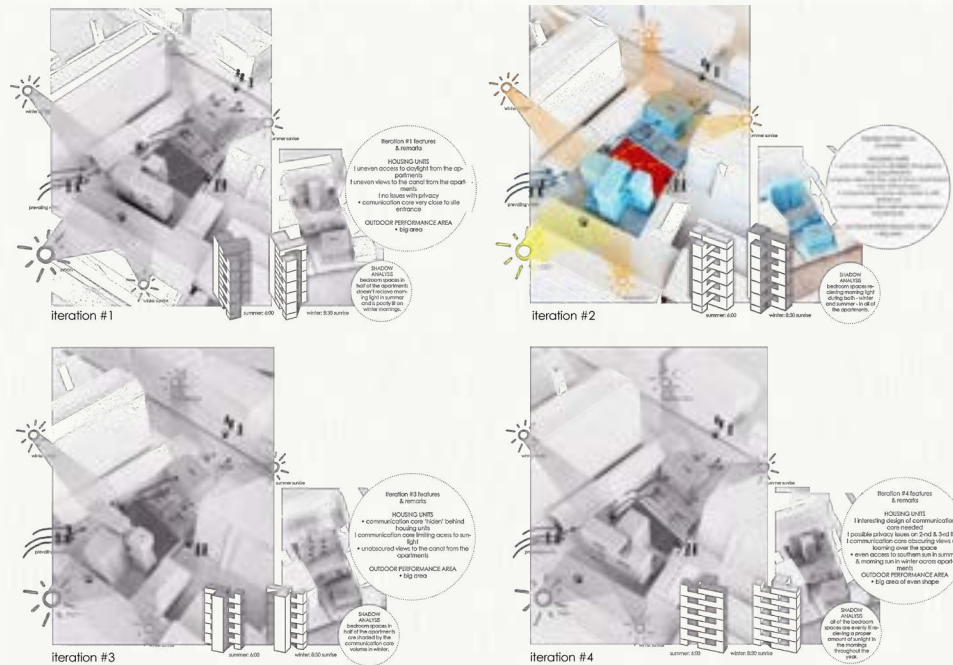
"wherever we can put our trailer is our home. Actually, the whole circus stays in the same spot and the towns go by."

"think the innovative ways to design manufactured homes but in a vertical way"



CIRCUS PERFORMERS | CLIENT'S NEEDS & HABITS

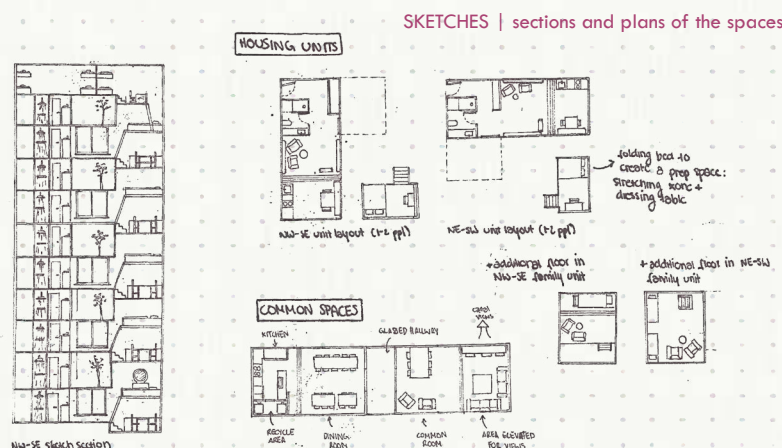
A research and analysis of a day in a life of a circus performer allowed to define a programme for the project in order to provide with all the necessary spaces for the residents. The following have been decided to be created on the site: living space, training space, performance space and a communal space.



SKETCHES | site plan and site section

DESIGN PROCESS | GEOMETRY ON THE SITE

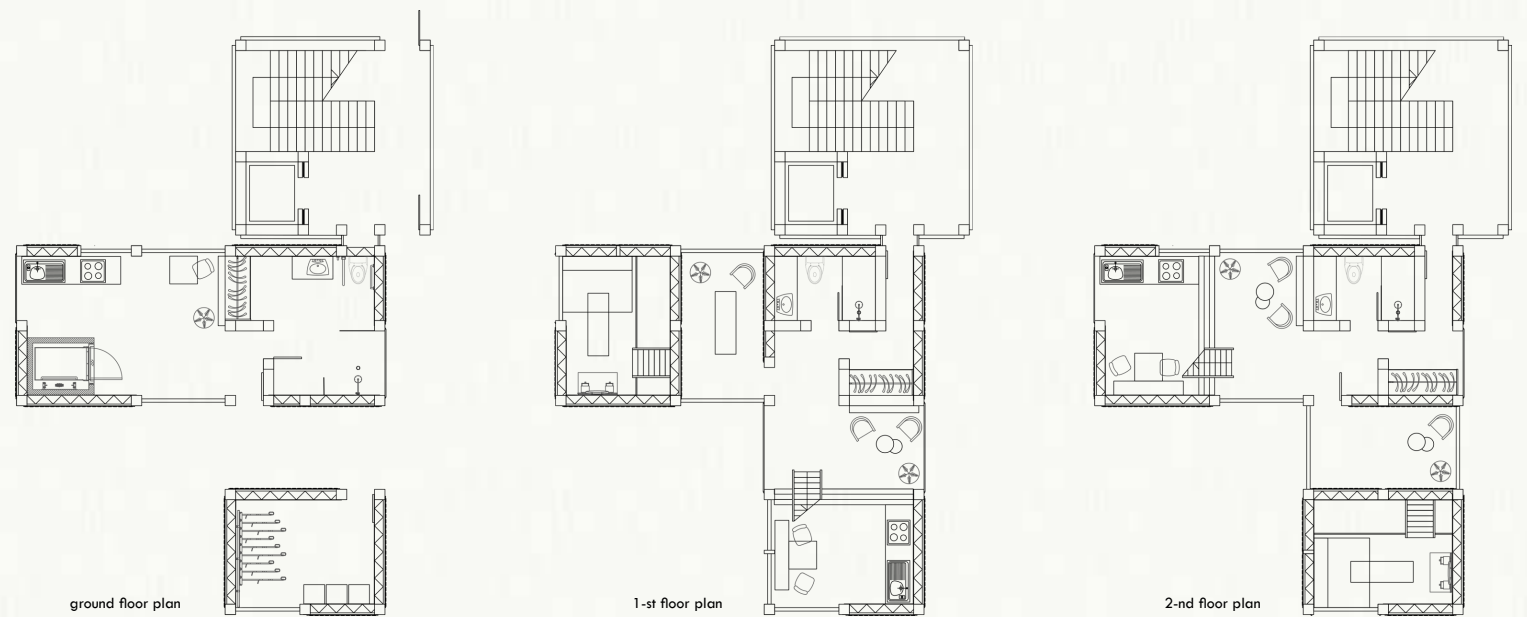
The location of particular buildings on the site has been analyzed through a few iterations with a help of a simple sketch massing model. The main focus was to provide with the most natural light in all the units of a ten-storey Spectacle Tower. The chosen one provides with proper access to daylight whilst offering views to the canal and nearby park.



SKETCHES | sections and plans of the spaces



SKETCHES / RENDERS | site elevations



ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY & STRUCTURAL STRATEGY | MATERIAL SELECTION

The Spectacle Tower building is a modular building allowing for standardized production of units and quick construction on site. All of the other buildings are constructed with CLT and clad in timber as well - highly sustainable material, lowering their carbon footprints. Big Top Studio performance space re-imagines the design of an original circus being constructed with natural materials and encourages a reduction of materials used for construction through an application of a tensile structure as its roofing.



COLLAGE | Big Top Studio - circus with a modern and sustainable design.