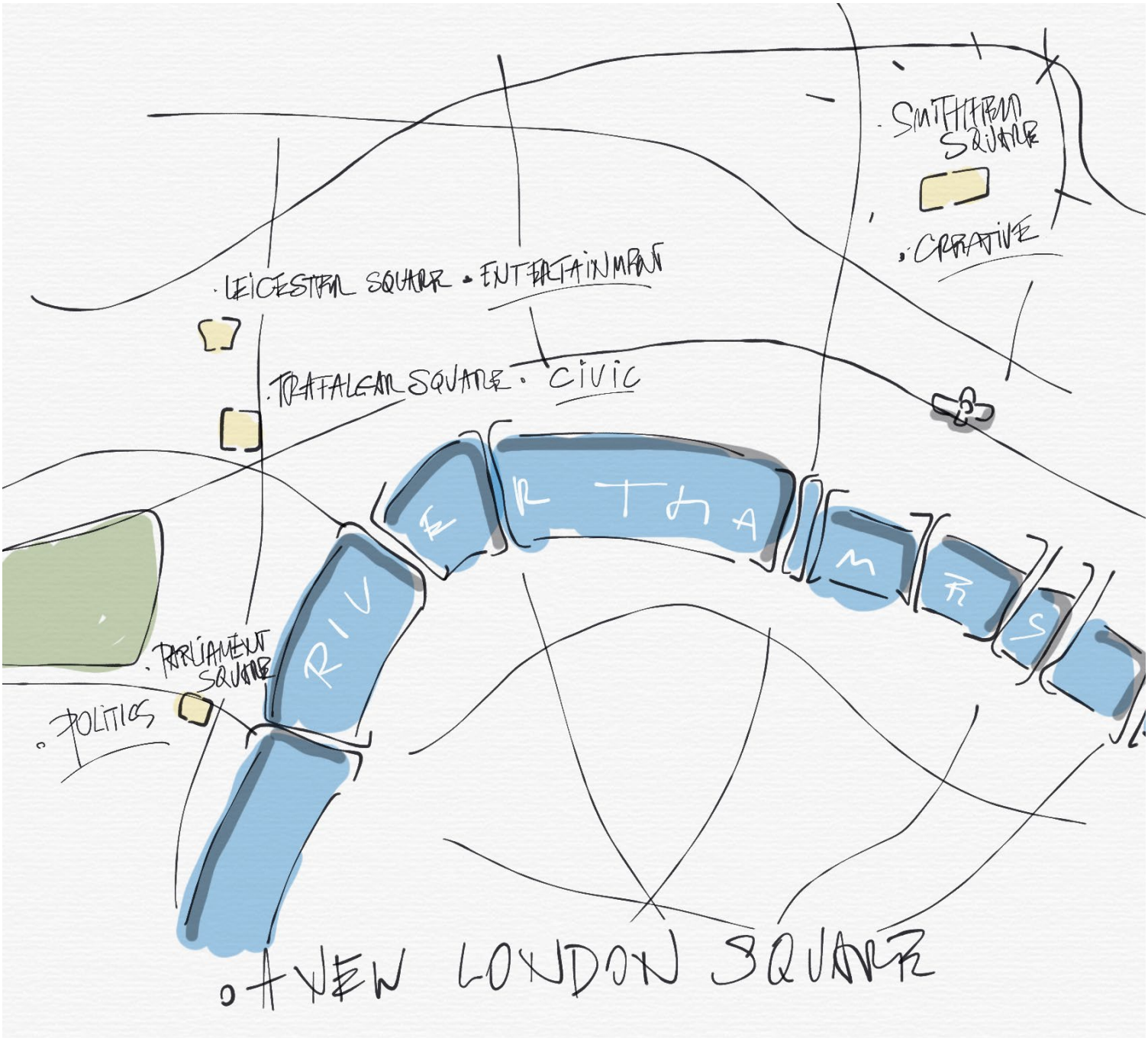
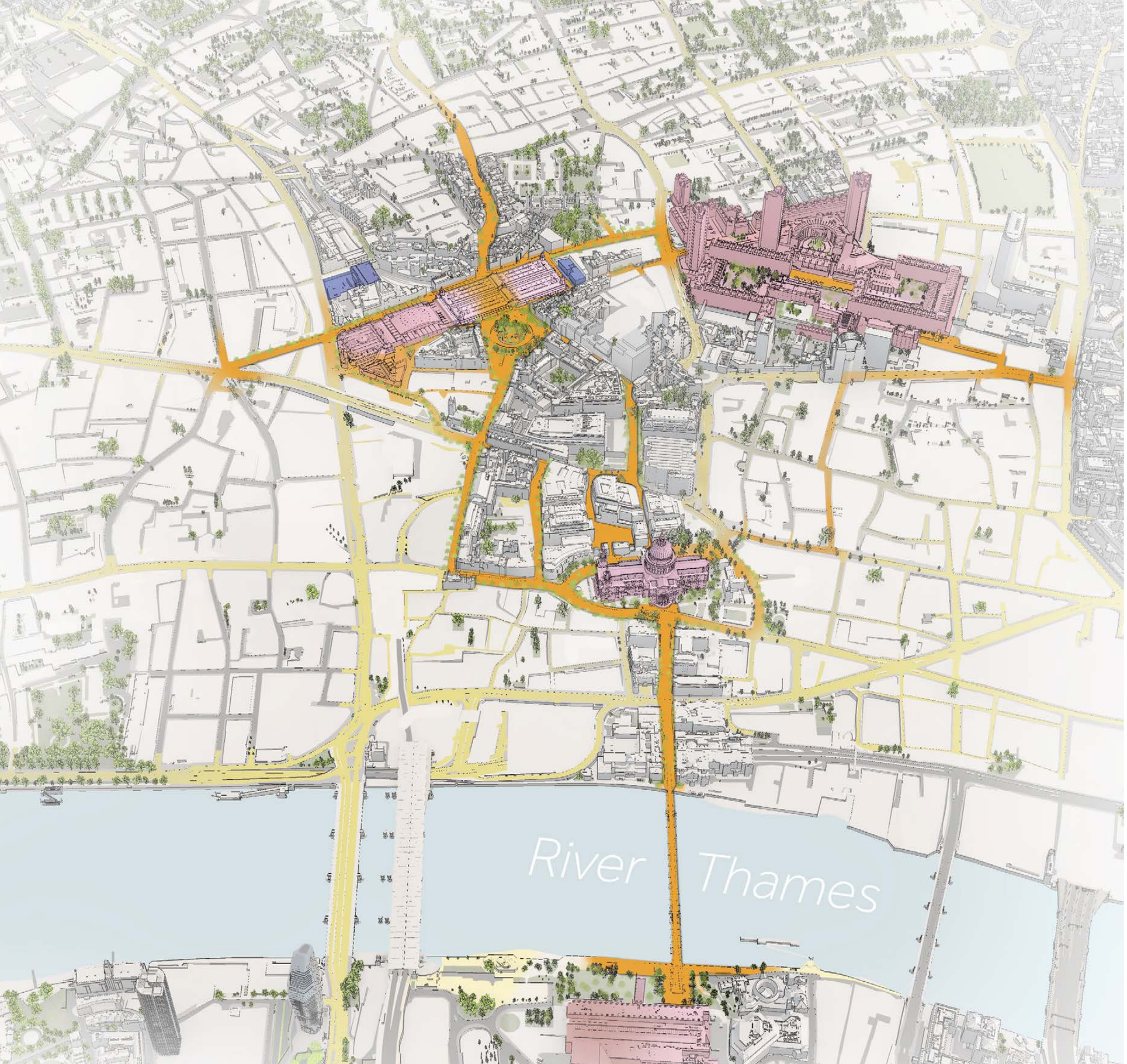


INITIAL IDEAS / APPROACH FOR CONCEPT DESIGN



Our vision is a new public square in the City of London, introducing much needed open and green spaces to the surrounding communities. The proposal celebrates the site location - a place of intersections - between Farringdon and the City, between Thames Link and Crossrail, between the Cultural Spine and a potential N-S link to St. Paul's and the river.

Our goal is to promote a vibrant and healthy public realm to accommodate the multitude of users passing through everyday, The market is to be opened to public - no closing times - catering multiple daily and sporadic uses and encouraging creative occupation of spaces, promoting any kind of civic manifestations. The Rotunda Garden sits at the heart of the scheme, at the junction between the lively Culture Mile and the wandering link between the area and some of the most remarkable places of the city.

Smithfield is to become London's new creative square - a place for people!

10 PRINCIPLES

1 **NORTH/SOUTH CONNECTION**

2 **SPACE TO BREATHE**

3 **REINFORCE THE AREA'S DIVERSITY**

4 **THE PLACE AS THE CLIENT**

5 **A NETWORK OF GREEN SPACES**

6 **PUBLIC REALM AS A DISTINCTIVE ENTITY**

7 **DESIGN A ROBUST BUT FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK**

8 **TAKE THE INSIDE OUT - BRING THE OUTSIDE IN**

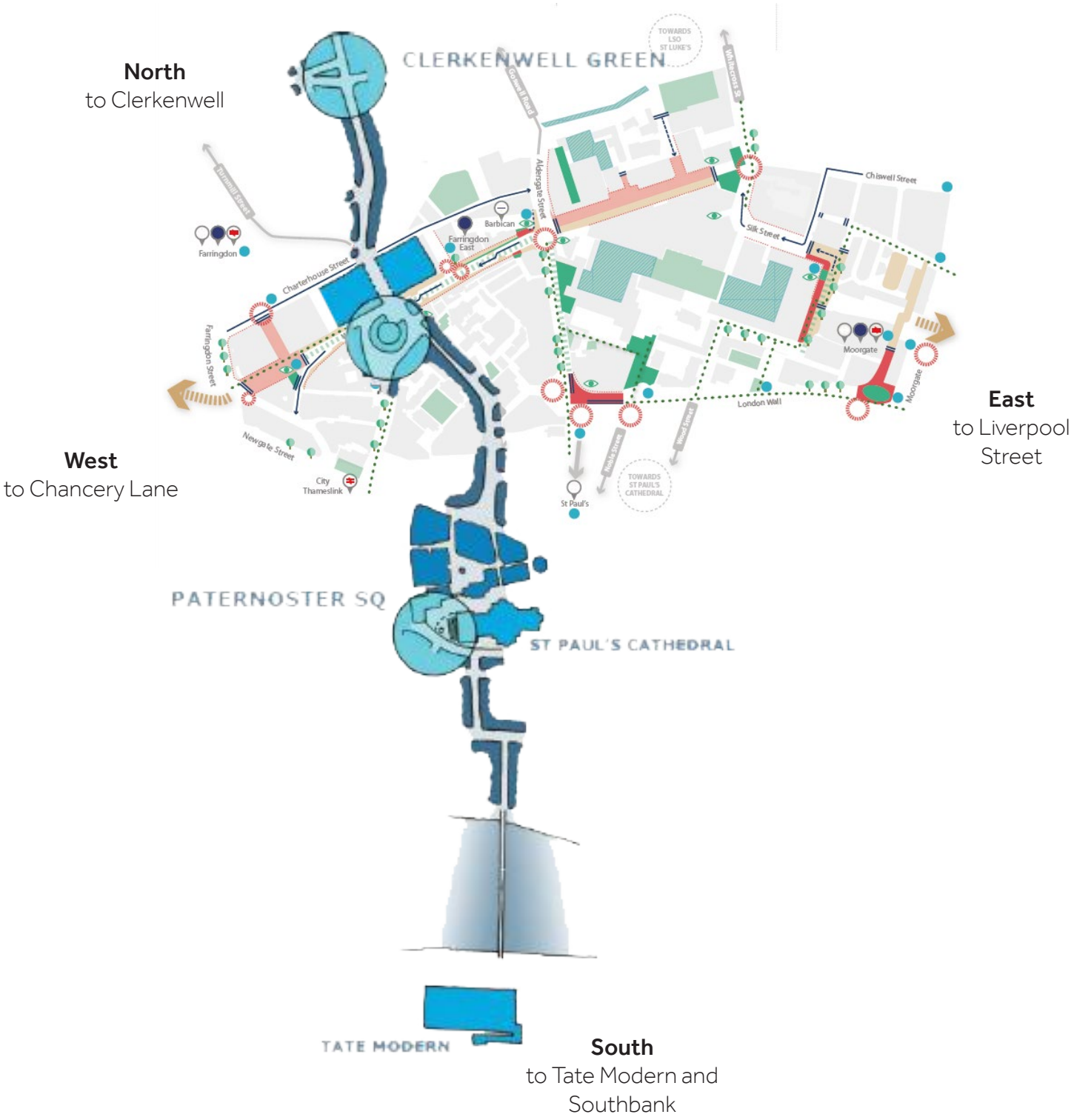
9 **SMITHFIELD FROM ABOVE**

10 **A GREEN EXPERIENCE**

1 REDISCOVERING THE NORTH-SOUTH CONNECTION
LINKING SMITHFIELD TO THE CITY

The adopted Culture Mile Look and Feel Strategy establishes an important connection linking institutions such as the Barbican Centre and it's Resident Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Museum of London, the proposed Centre for Music and now the future revitalised Smithfield Market and public realm. The cultural spine, however, focuses mainly in an East-West linkage of the region. Sitting between the business oriented City of London and the creative industry hub at Clerkenwell, **a North-South connection becomes fundamental for enhancing the permeability within Farringdon and Smithfield and improving connectivity with surrounding places**. The new 'spine' would extend the study area into the Tate - St. Paul's axis.

A SEQUENCE OF CONNECTED PLACES TOWARDS THE THAMES



2 A SPACE TO BREATHE
REDEFINING THE MARKET'S BOUNDARIES

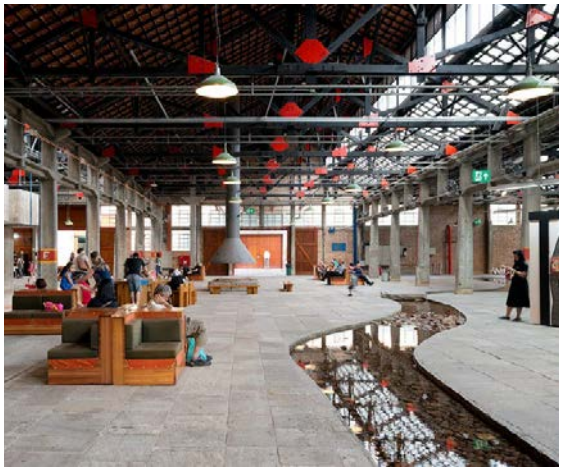
In a densely built cityscape, Smithfield area lacks open spaces for enjoyment and contemplation. The characterful but narrow historic urban fabric of the City is enclosed by tall buildings resulting in connections that are overcrowded by commuters and vehicles. Places such as the Rotunda, Postman's Park and Charterhouse Square are seen as oases in the middle of all the concrete, steel and glass. The design proposes to **connect and expand these open spaces by opening up the Smithfield Market building**. Rather than having it's functioning hours dictated by a clock, the creation of a new public square under the magnificent structure of the building would establish **a new place to breathe, relax, manifest, explore and discover** in the busiest or quietest moments of each day.

A 'PUBLIC SQUARE WITH A LID'





Dialogue with historic context - a public building central to the public realm



Opening of old factory accommodating day-to-day uses to local community in SESC Pompeia, Sao Paulo

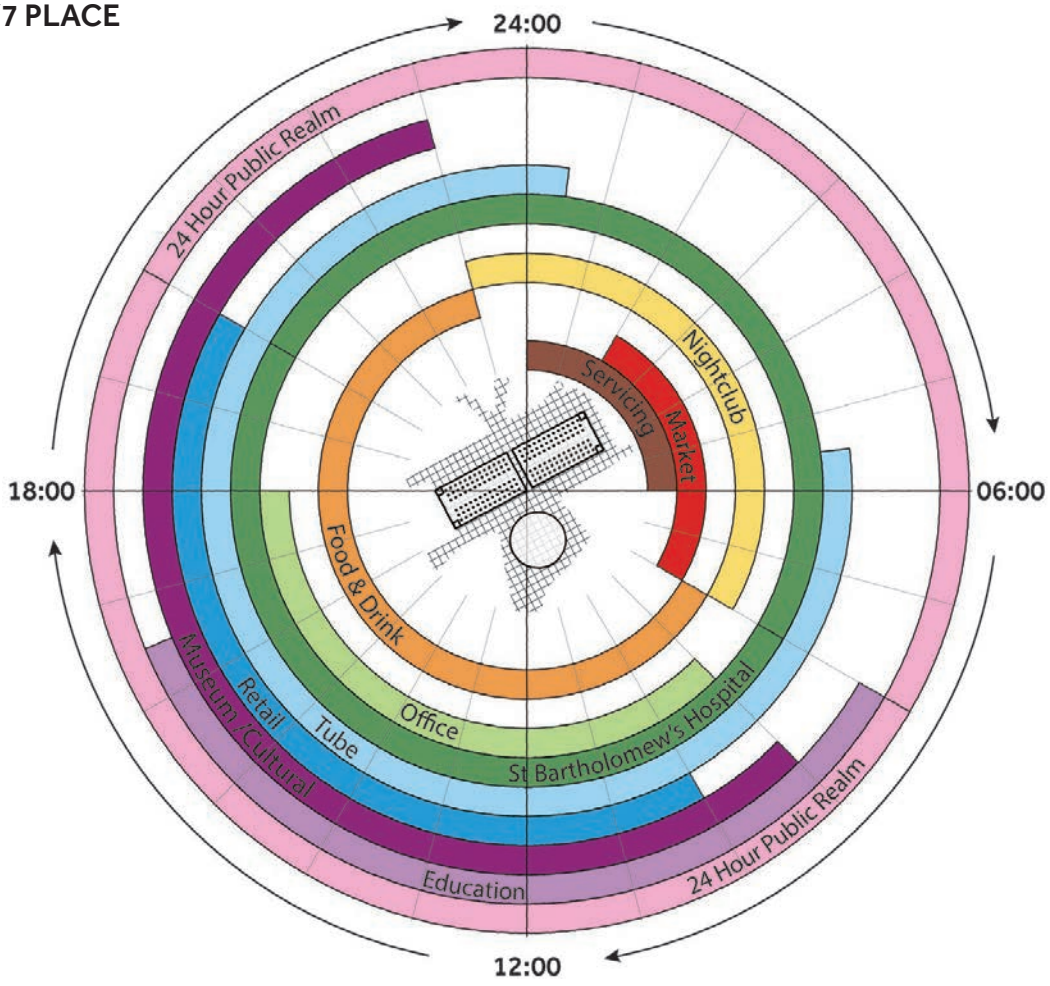


Barbican Conservatory - encouraging greening inside of building structures

3 REINFORCE THE AREA'S DIVERSITY
BUILD ON CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SIGNIFICANCE TO ACTIVATE PLACES

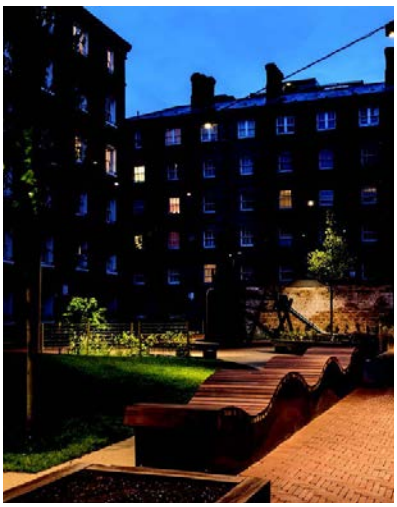
Smithfield - Farringdon is a place of extensive and diverse activity throughout the day and the night. Much of the activity that has been attracted to the area is creative, cultural and recreational in nature. The area has a colourful repertoire of architecture firms, landscape architects, design consultants, publishers, makers and other. Smithfield new public realm will serve as a **platform for supporting the existing 24 hour activity**, accommodating residents, workers, commuters, and visitors throughout their daily journey. The proposal makes the space permeable and creates a safe environment for all to use, appropriate and enjoy at all times of the day.

A TRULY 24/7 PLACE





Regeneration of Southbank Centre - introduction of restaurants, shops and new spaces for markets/pop-ups



Lighting design to emphasize proposed public realm - activating spaces at night

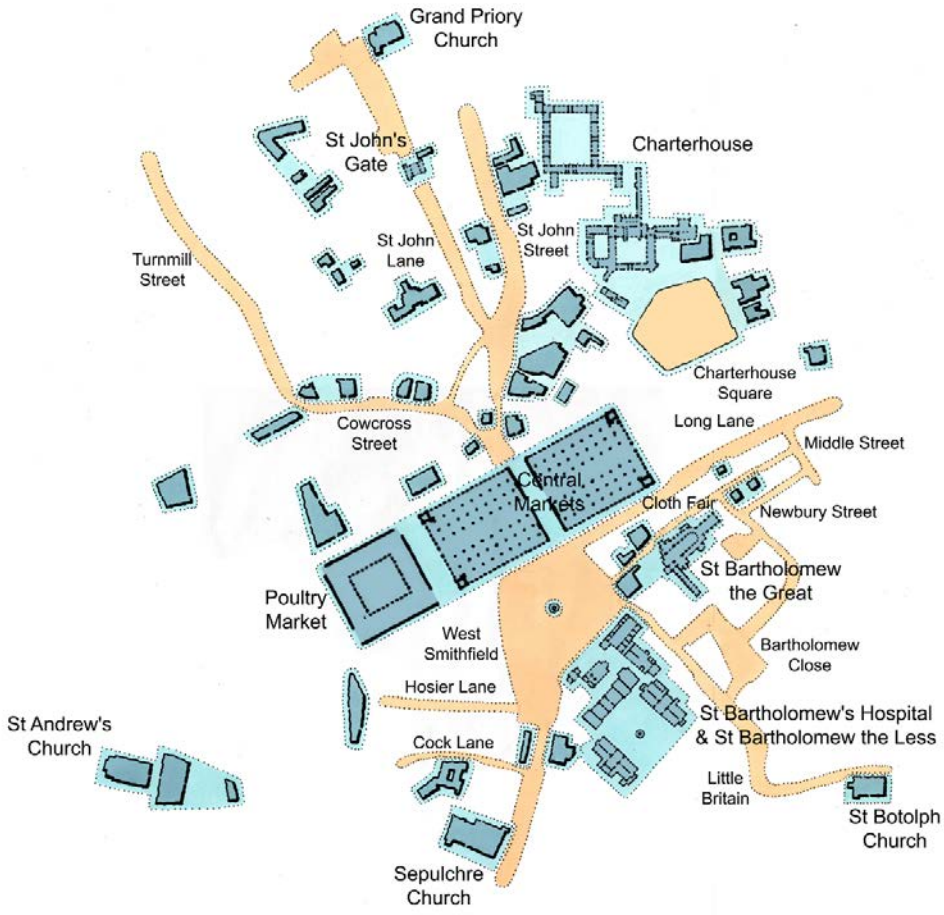


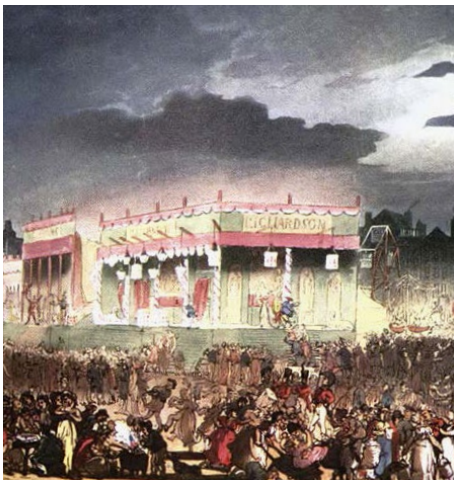
Active spaces with overlooking promotes a safe environment at all times

4 THE PLACE AS THE CLIENT
ENHANCE THE SETTINGS OF HISTORIC COMPLEXES AND BUILDINGS

Smithfield is one of London's most distinctive and valued areas with an architectural and urban history extending over two millennia. Many institutions have maintained a presence in the area for several centuries, including St Bartholomew's Hospital and the market. The proposed regeneration should be heritage led, since its the history of the place what makes it special and unique. The design introduces an **holistic approach towards streetscape design** to come up with a **unified movement, wayfinding, and lighting strategy** highlighting the rich historic complexes and buildings as focal points for all users.

PUBLIC REALM TO REVEAL LAYERS OF HISTORY

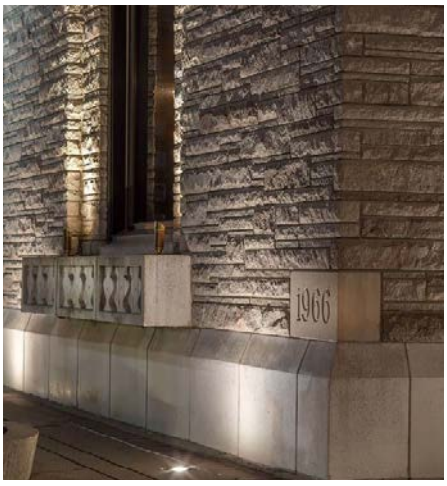




The hidden layers of Smithfield - historically marked by public and cultural manifestations



A holistic approach to wayfinding featuring artworks depicting Smithfield's heritage in streetscape design

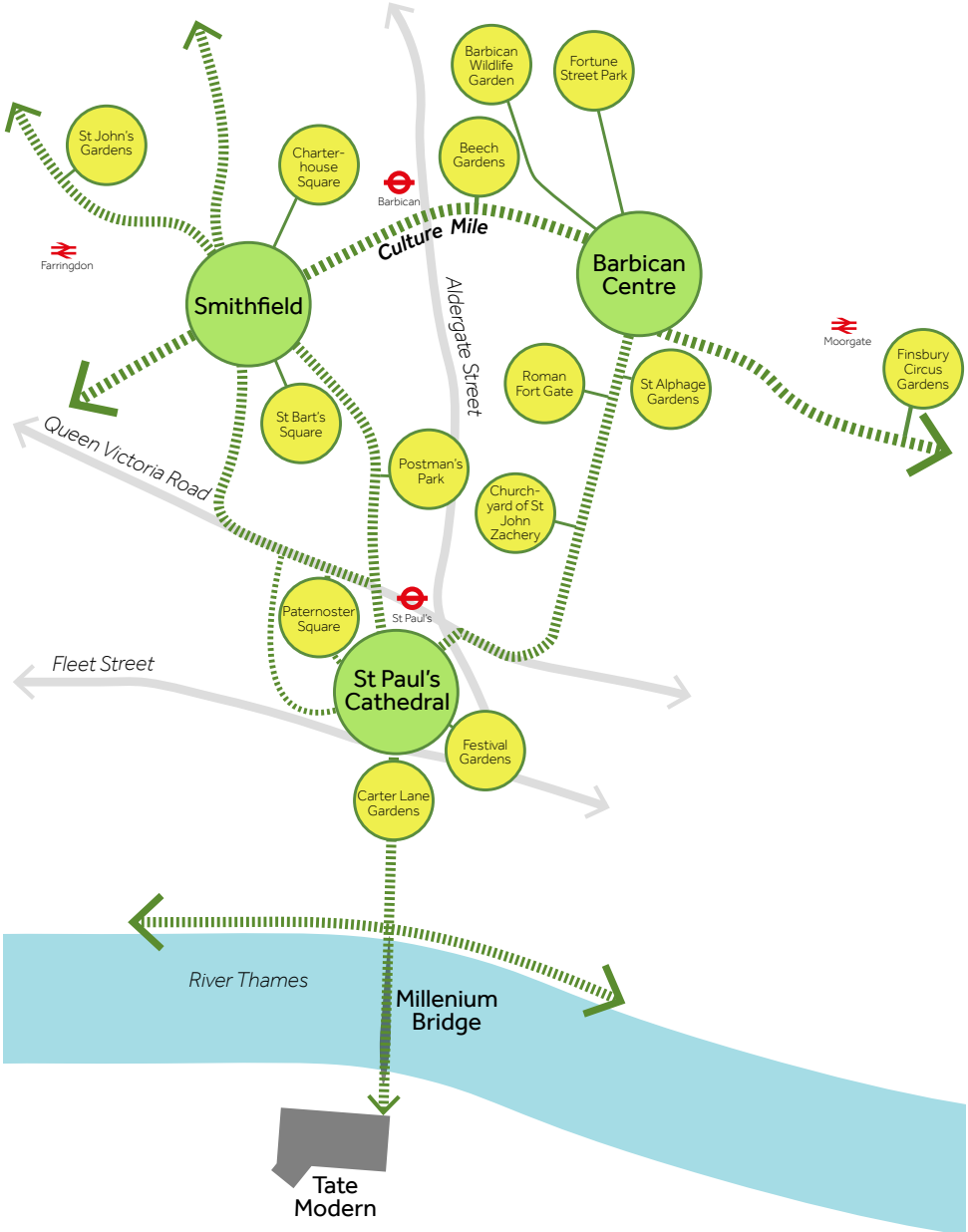


Lighting design used for highlighting historic complexes and buildings at night-time

5 A NETWORK OF GREEN SPACES
GREEN CONNECTIONS STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL ECOSYSTEM

Most roads in Smithfield are still car oriented and heavily polluted with limited public urban greening. There is a general desire of increasing green spaces and for consolidating people-centred streets, able to promote a healthy environment for people walking and cycling. However, planting in the area can be quite challenging, considering the width of the roads, daylight penetration and the complex existing sub-surface infrastructure. Green corridors should be holistically integrated the streetscape design. A movement strategy needs to be taken into account, allowing more space for people. Most importantly, **a maximised performing green infrastructure needs to be part of a wider network - or ecosystem**. Our proposal looks beyond local connections, establishing an integrated system with surrounding communities.

A CONNECTED PLACE - THROUGH HEALTHY ROUTES AND CYCLEWAYS





Shared surfaces and safe cycle routes supporting 'Healthy Streets'



Integrated green-blue infrastructure ensuring a sustainable design responding to local ecosystem



Experimental 'energy floors' implemented in Times Square, NY

6 PUBLIC REALM AS A CONTINUOUS CARPET
A DISTINCTIVE ELEMENT CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

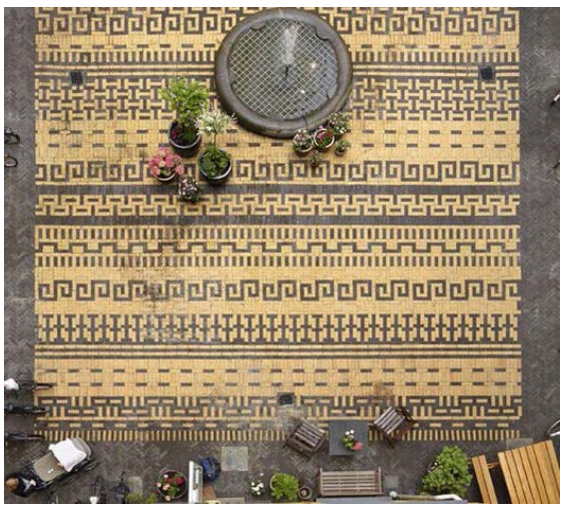
The pattern of activity and use of streets changes across the day and by area. The streets around Smithfield have been designed to serve its market function and accommodate large vehicles, and therefore feel vehicle dominated. There will be a need for flexible designs that are future proofed for changes in time as the market is relocated and numbers of residents, workers and visitors increase. Streets can then be re-prioritised from vehicular use for the large numbers of expected people walking and cycling and to promote active travel. There is potential for timed traffic restrictions when museum and visitor demands are at their greatest – afternoons, evening and weekends.

A PLACE FOR PEOPLE - CIVILISING NEW AND EXISTING ROUTES

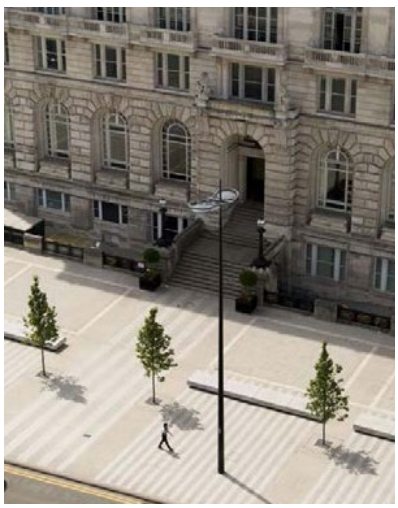




Celebrating the encounter of organic urban fabric with the orthogonal structure of the market building



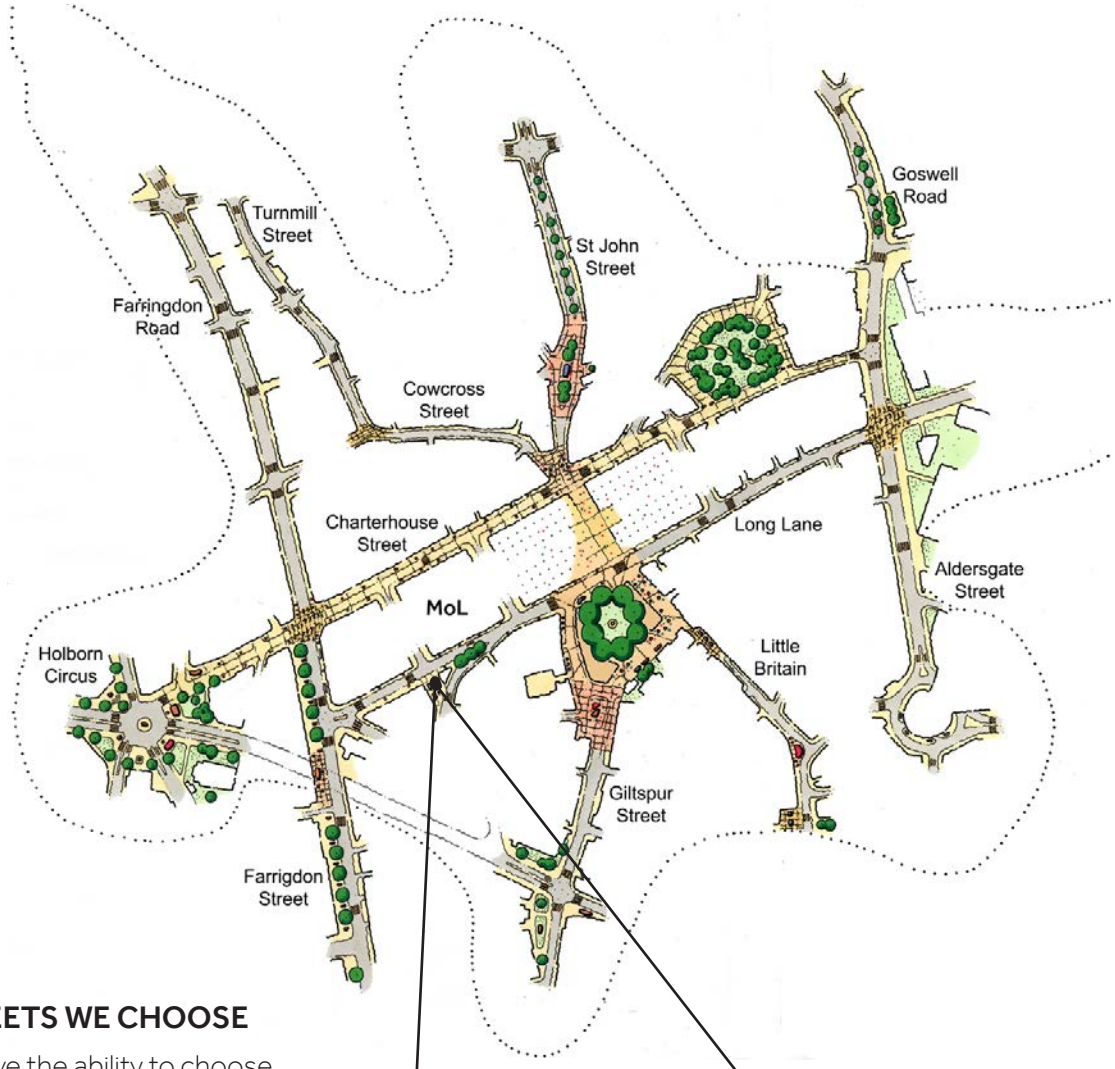
"The site was a palimpsest as was all the city, **written, erased, rewritten**" Teju Cole



Paving as wayfinding strategy, highlighting Conservation Area status of the site

7 DESIGN A ROBUST BUT FLEXIBLE FRAMEWORK
FUTURE-PROOFING AND ALLOWING FOR EXPERIMENTATION

We are continuously challenged in the creation of masterplans and strategies when working with the unknown variables on how future transport will change and how soon that change will happen. Whether we are looking at the transitional period of the introduction of AVs or connected vehicles on our streets, a complete transformation to driverless cars only, or even flying cars and drones, our goal is to use this **opportunity of the future dramatic modal shift to create a better public and street environment**, a harmonious one, putting people first. Our vision is to liberate spaces between buildings for the benefit of all. In a smart city of the future, streets and public spaces will be fluid, transformable and pollution free. Cities could become an ever-changing pop-up theatre. **The space is democratic, it belongs to all and should be flexible to respond to the needs and wishes of those around it**.



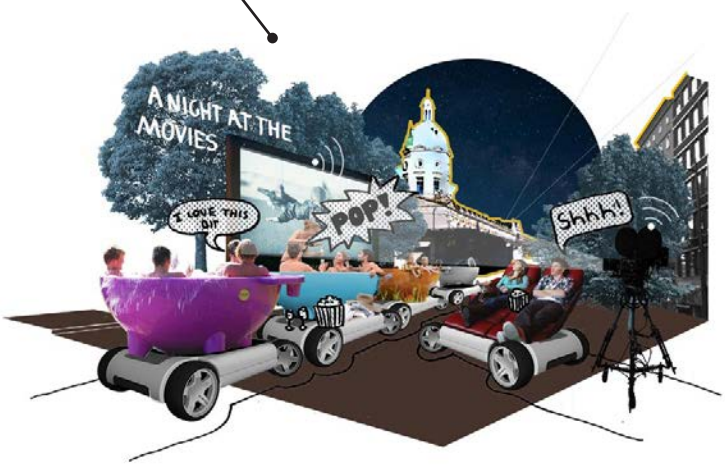
THE STREETS WE CHOOSE

Now we have the ability to choose democratically how we use our streets

@ 7 AM

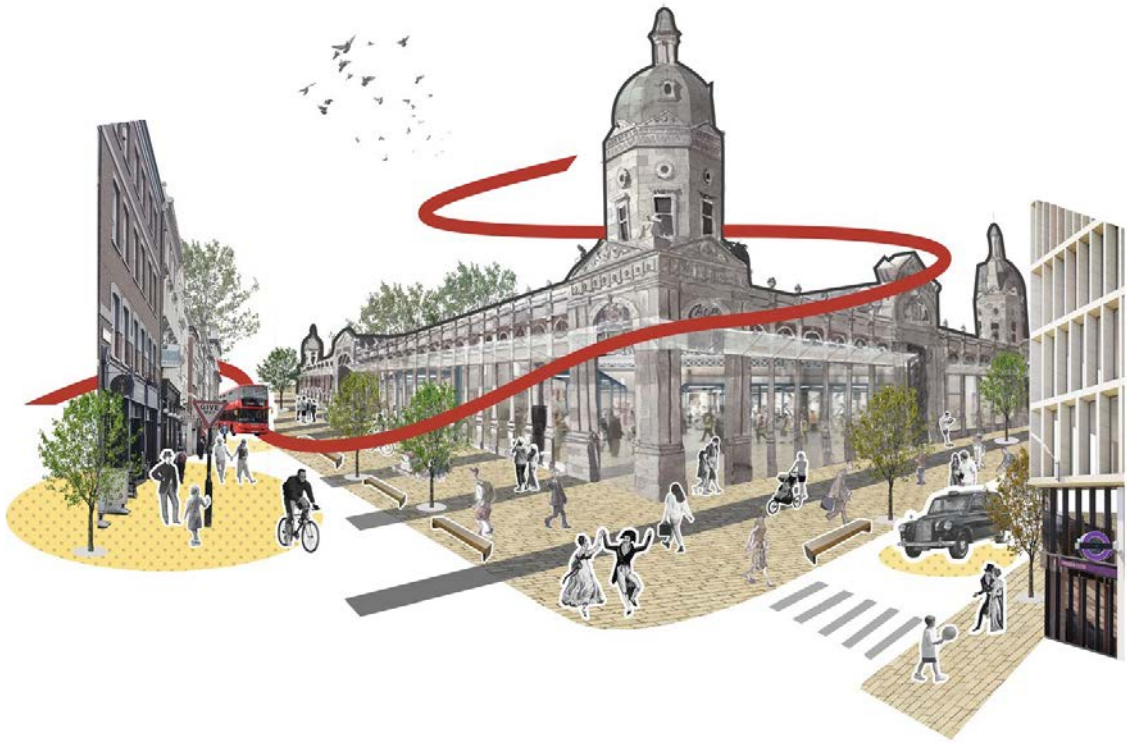


@ 8 PM



8 TAKE THE INSIDE OUT - BRING THE OUTSIDE IN
REDEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE MARKET

The current market space lacks a connection with the public realm, and is also unusable to the public during closed hours. The proposal seeks to transform the building boundary, opening up the market building to the public to be used as an events place, meeting space and social hub. Through retaining the roof, removing vertical barriers into the space and introducing a common language with a material and lighting strategy, the public are guided into the space. Activities such as temporary markets, cinema screenings, light art or installations can take place both under the covered space and spill out into the surrounding public realm.



DAY - BRINGING ACTIVITIES FROM OUTSIDE INTO THE SPACE



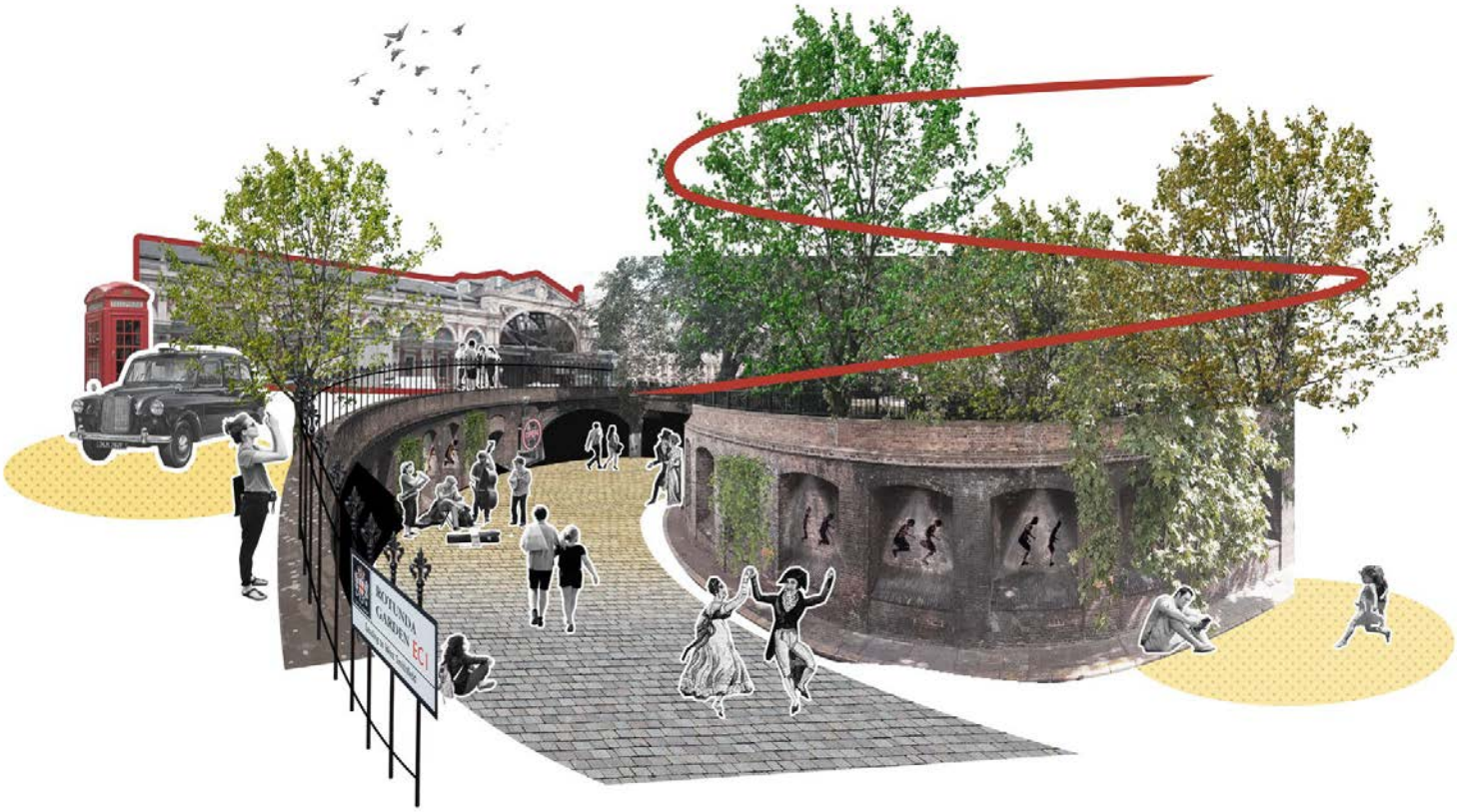
NIGHT - LIGHTING STRATEGY PROMOTING EVENING USE AND EVENTS

9 SMITHFIELD FROM ABOVE
INTRODUCING A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO EXPERIENCE THE SITE

The Rotunda Garden is the jewel in the crown. The existing green space explodes out beyond it's current boundaries creating a new north-south green connection and gateway features to the east and west.

The Grade II listed structure forms a canvas for installations and interaction - a zoetrope of moving images and sounds from the underworld.

The spiralling structure from the basement continues up through the garden into the canopy on the London plane trees, giving a new perspective of the market roofscape and the city beyond.





Smithfield and London from above - a new perspective



A spiralling structure into the canopy of London giving a new perspective of the market roofscape and the city beyond.

10 A GREEN EXPERIENCE
SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY STREETS

The streets of London are car orientated and extremely busy, soon adding to the local congestion is the opening of Farringdon station - bringing many more people to the area. Our proposal transforms the Smithfield vicinity into a people centred place for the human scale, creating a green experience which promotes an environment for good wellbeing for all citizens. The scheme embraces the Healthy Streets Approach to create truly sustainable and healthy place.





Places for people to enjoy, for existing and future communities. Low level and human scale light to provide a pedestrian experience.



Landscape integrated into the public realm. Greening and drainage infrastructure encouraging wellbeing.

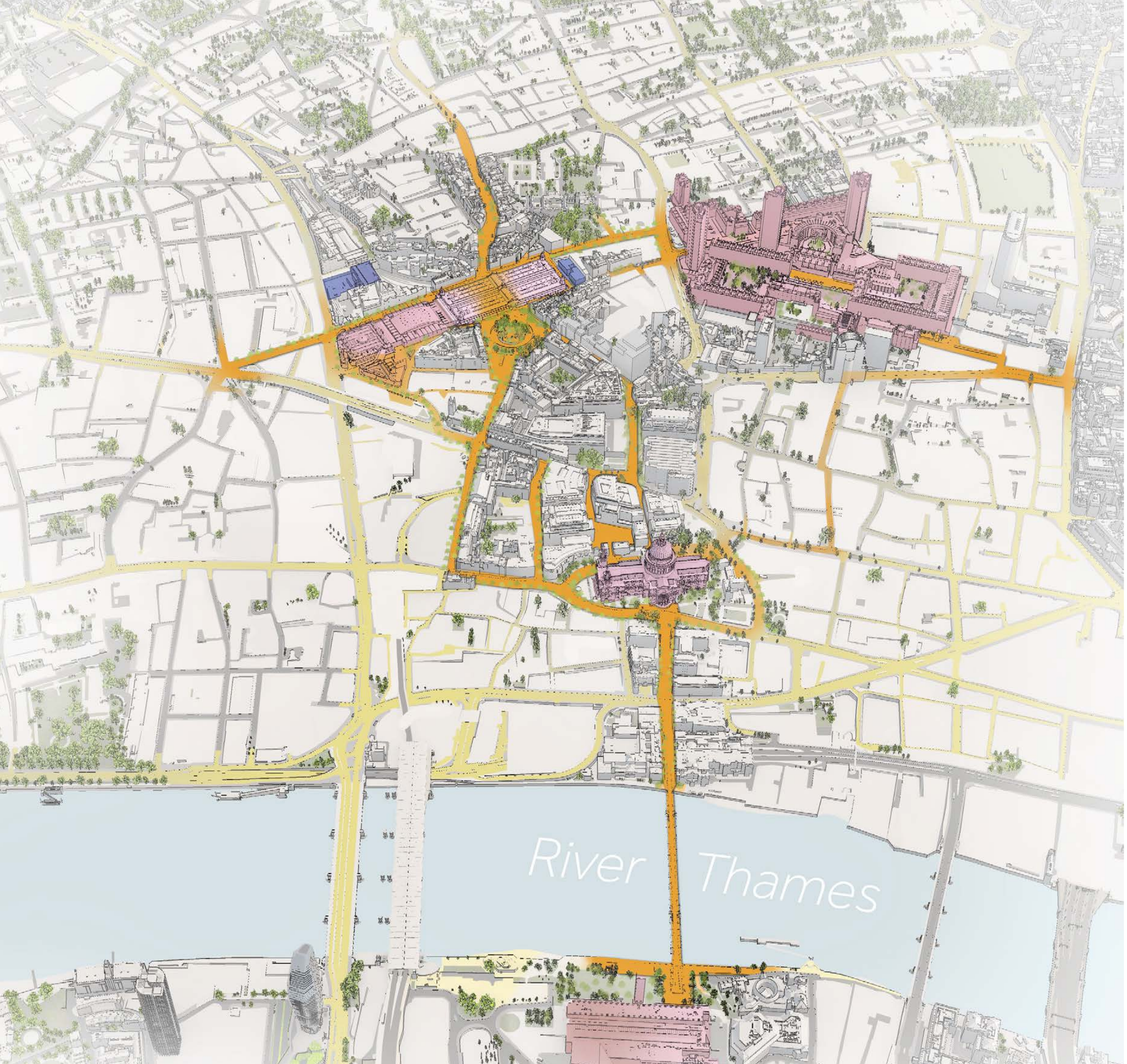


Facilities for public use, encouraging visitors to stay, e.g. drinking fountains for all.

ABOVE ALL -
IT'S A PEOPLE CENTRED, GREAT GREEN PLACE TO WALK, CYCLE AND SPEND TIME



© Lucy Saunders



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