

Interior Design 4A

Pitch Presentation

Katie Allison



Project Topic

Summary: I want to create a sensory safe space for neurodivergent people.

Neurodivergence is a term that encapsulates learning and processing differences, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia etc.

Who? My aim is to create a space that is fully accessible to everyone, in particular neurodiverse people. I would like to create a space that is easily accessible to students, as well as being open to the public. The space will be frequented most often by residents of Edinburgh however it is open for anyone including tourists. It will be tailored towards adults however children are welcome too.

What? I am interested in designing an experience. This will be in the form of a public place to eat.

Project Topic

Why?

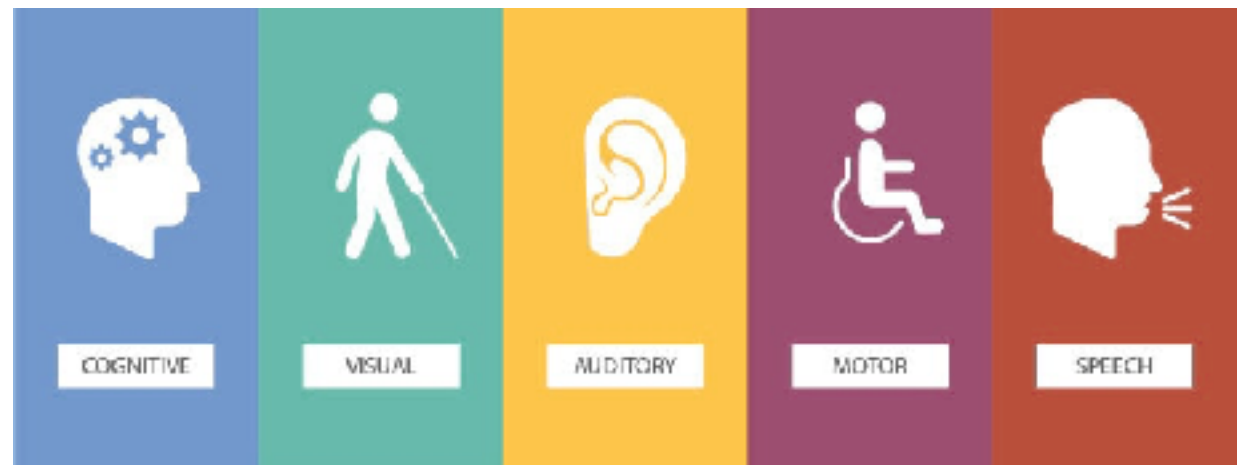
“While the office environment has evolved drastically over the last century, the evolution of inclusive design has lacked in progress.”

Facilities designed to assist physically challenged people are becoming more integral in public spaces. This is not yet the case for neurodivergent people.

The neurodivergent brain functions, learns and processes information differently to neurotypical brains, experiencing overwhelm often caused by; sensory stimulation, noise, light, and overcrowding etc.

We are beginning to understand and accept neurodivergent fully in society and I strongly feel that this should be taken into account when designing spaces.

More than 15% (1 in 7) of the people in the UK are neurodivergent.



Approach and Research

I aim to create a space that is comfortable and enjoyable for everyone to exist in.

I would begin my research by talking to neuroscientists and doing a survey of diagnosed neurodivergent people. In this survey I would discuss what senses are most effected by and how this has an effect on their experiences. Using the data collected I will tailor my design to the wants and needs of neurodiverse people. This cannot be an accurate representation of all peoples needs as every individual has different sensory sensitivities.



The UN Sustainability Goals

- **Zero hunger?**

Could this be a place to provide leftover food from the garden and kitchen to people in need?

My aim for this project is to improve health and well-being of neurodivergent people by reducing stress in a potentially stressful environment (public spaces). The food will be healthy and easy to eat, encouraging those who may struggle with their diet, to access a healthy meal.

- **Reduced inequalities**

Creating a fully accessible environment will reduce inequalities caused by physical and mental disabilities and differences.

- **Responsible consumption and production**

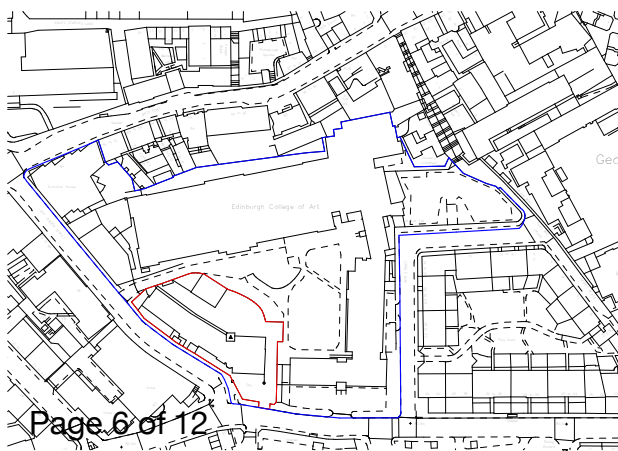
This can be fulfilled by using an in-house kitchen garden to produce food for the restaurant

Site Proposal

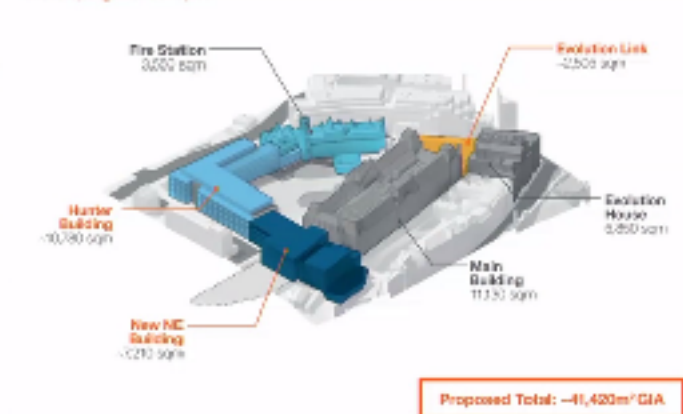
- Less than 1000m²
- Has outdoor space
- Allows for different space types, multiple floors

Option 1:

The eastern section of the Lauriston Fire Station Building at the Edinburgh College of Art, 76-78 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9DE. The Fire Station was built between 1897 and 1901 and was Listed Category A in 1987. It is constructed of red sandstone and granite. The building remained an operational fire station and main control centre until 1988 and then refurbished in 1989 as the Headquarters and Museum for Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade. It was recently purchased by The University of Edinburgh.



Analysis Developing the Campus



Proposed Total: ~41,420m² GIA

Hillcrest Futures

Location - 77 Lauriston Pl, Edinburgh EH3 9HY

We provide services in the areas of physical and learning disabilities, autism, and older people. Further services include supporting positive mental health and wellbeing, homelessness and drug, alcohol and recovery services.



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The Salisbury Centre

Location - 2 Salisbury Rd, Edinburgh EH16 5AB

A beautiful listed community building focused on holistic healing and developing creative, spiritual and psychological lives.



Precedent Studies

Designers - Jolie Studio, Franky Rousell
Clients - Matillion, a UK based tech company
Sector - Workplace
Location - Altrincham
Size - ~2000 sqft



Jolie Studio's Mixology-award-winning work for Matillion's offices are a perfect example of how to design for neurodiversity.

“it was about the emotional output of the human being in that space”
- Franky Rousell, founder of sensory design experts, Jolie Studio.

The studios focus was on creating a space that felt familiar to the employees, allowing them to have a sense of ease in the space.

It was designed specifically with the aim of longevity in employee satisfaction in the space. The space increases productivity of workers as well as making the teams happy.

Parkroyal Collection Marina Bay The Urban Farm

Where - Singapore

Doors opened - December 2020

Cost - S\$45 million

Owner - Pan Pacific Hotels

Designers - FDAT Architects

Farm-to-table, farm-to-bar and farm-to-spa



The biggest deficit in urban living is the amount of open, outdoor spaces.

“Quiet is the new loud” the space was designed to be a retreat in the city centre. The focus on wellbeing can be seen throughout the design with sympathetic lighting and breakout spaces for a personalised experience.

The garden contains a 13m high green wall, 2400 different types of trees and plants, and birds nest like pavilions where guests can recline.

- 20% of the hotels restaurant ‘Peppermint’ food comes from the hotel garden.
- Crops that rents used and recycles and repurposed into compost.
- The garden hosts edible flowers, herbs and spices and fruits and veg

The approach and research methods

- More precedent research into different **existing spaces** aimed at neurodivergent wellbeing, eg. Hospitals, schools and workplaces.
- Social research in the form of a **survey/questionnaire** aimed towards **neurodivergent people** with the aim of finding specific, personalised methods of reducing stress in public spaces.
- **Academic research papers and studies** focusing on **neurodivergence in architecture** and medical information on how people experience sensory stimulation.
- Conversations with **mental health professionals / neuroscientists** to help understand and expand my knowledge from a medical point of view. Visit Hillcrest (Autism support) for personalised experience.

How does this relate to my dissertation topic?

In my dissertation I plan to discuss neurodivergent peoples negative experience caused by sensory stimulation, for example flicker in lighting, noise pollution and overcrowding.

I want to bring awareness to the issues neurodivergent people face in day to day life and encourage neurodivergent friendly design to become common practice.

In this project I will focus on eliminating the negative experiences in public spaces caused by unsympathetic design, by reducing elements of interior design that can be associated with overstimulation of senses.

Sources

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