

ANFIELD URBAN COMMONS
Architectural Thinking and the City

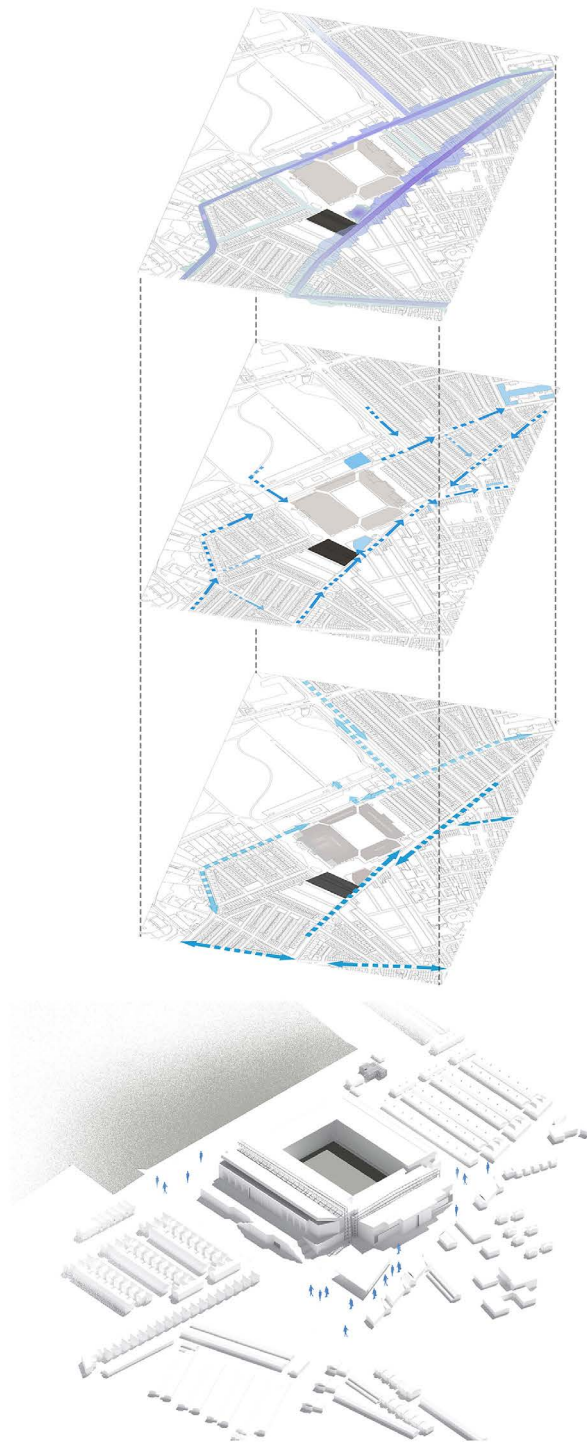
Architecture can transform fundamental societal challenges into ingenious opportunities; and a school of architecture is the place to produce imaginative projects useful for the public realm. Our collaboration with the Regeneration & City Planning Department of Liverpool City Council thus serves as a test-bed for ongoing projects that can either suggest potential alternatives or simply generate constructive debate on current approaches.

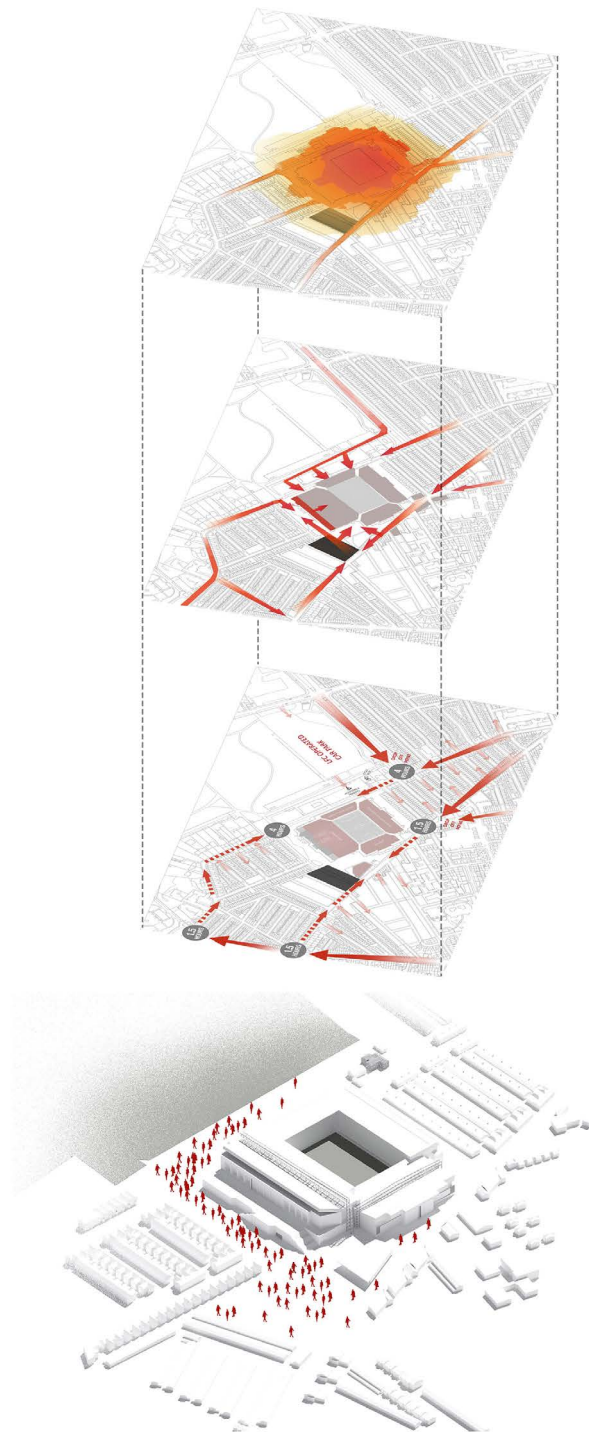
Anfield, an area recovering from many years of decline and instability, possesses complex yet common issues among contemporary communities. Located between the Liverpool Football Club Stadium and a derelict housing district, our research site is exposed to some of the most sensitive conflicts between buildings and their community. Dialogues with the Council have given us an insight into the challenges of working with local residents – sometimes angry and feeling let down by various parties – who live in the shadow of the Football Stadium. Learning about current regeneration plans from the Council’s point of view gave us the opportunity to discuss both their directions of development and challenged us to produce alternative propositions based on the current master plan.

We have established a comprehensive analysis of the site that formed the basis of ambitious but grounded design proposals, taking an active part in shaping the collaborative vision of the regenerated Anfield area. Now, we offer our efforts and research to the Council as pragmatic suggestions and inspirations that can enhance the future of the city and its communities. Our contributions to the debate can be summarized in five areas:

- Understanding Anfield’s context*
- Identifying demand & function*
- Responding to existing built form*
- Exploring connections to the city*
- Envisioning a possible future*

UNDERSTANDING ANFIELD'S CONTEXT





The major challenge of the site lies in its distinct circumstances on match days and non-match days. Comparison of factors such as noise level, traffic and pedestrian flow reveals the chaotic situation on match days contrasting with the area's deserted nature at other times. This indicates that the design must seek to create guidance for people in order to avoid chaos while providing public spaces that can generate activity beyond the match day.

IDENTIFYING DEMAND & FUNCTION

TOWNSEND AERIALS & SATELLITES
ALL AERIALS & SATELLITES SUPPLIED - FITTED - REPAIRED
SAME DAY SERVICE
PLASMA TV INSTALLATION
0181 883 4300
0747 150 8814

THE FESTIVAL OF NYGGE
Sunday 14th October
11.00am - 1pm
100 Clapham Conservation, Stanley Park, L41 7TD
Details & Tickets: www.festivalofnygge.co.uk
Facebook.com/festivalofnygge
Twitter.com/festivalofnygge

URBAN
est. 2014

March for the Women's Hospital!
For all our sisters, mothers, daughters & babies.
22nd September 2018
Assemble at the Women's Hospital, walk to the water front.
No to Privatisation or Cuts.
No to loss of beds.
Save-Liverpool-Womens-Hospital
email: SaveLWH@outlook.com

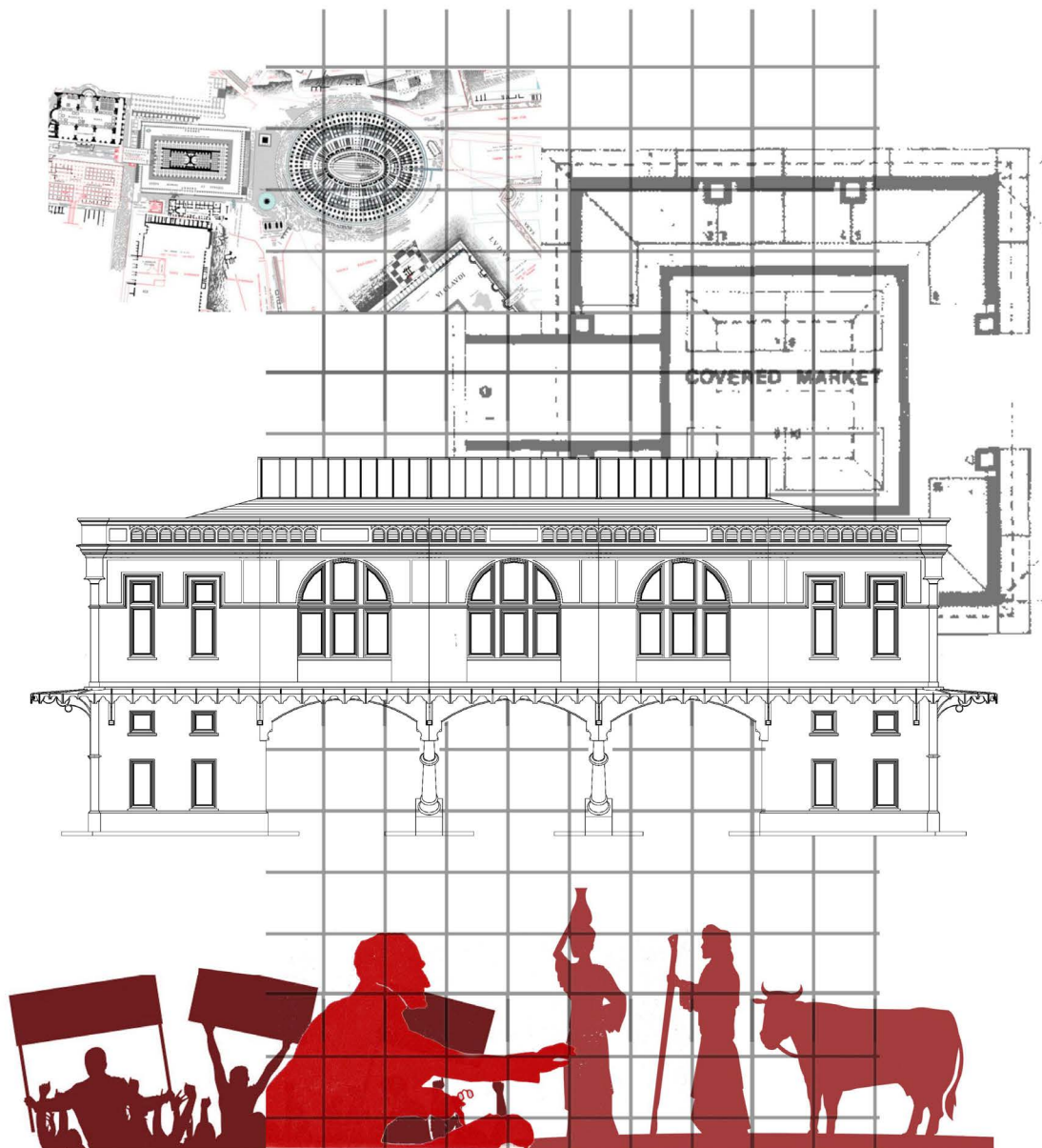
LEAFLETS
Collected in shops and public areas in Anfield

HOMEBAKED
Community-run bakery

THE LIVERPOOL LIGHTHOUSE
Auditorium aiming to tackle the social and cultural gap

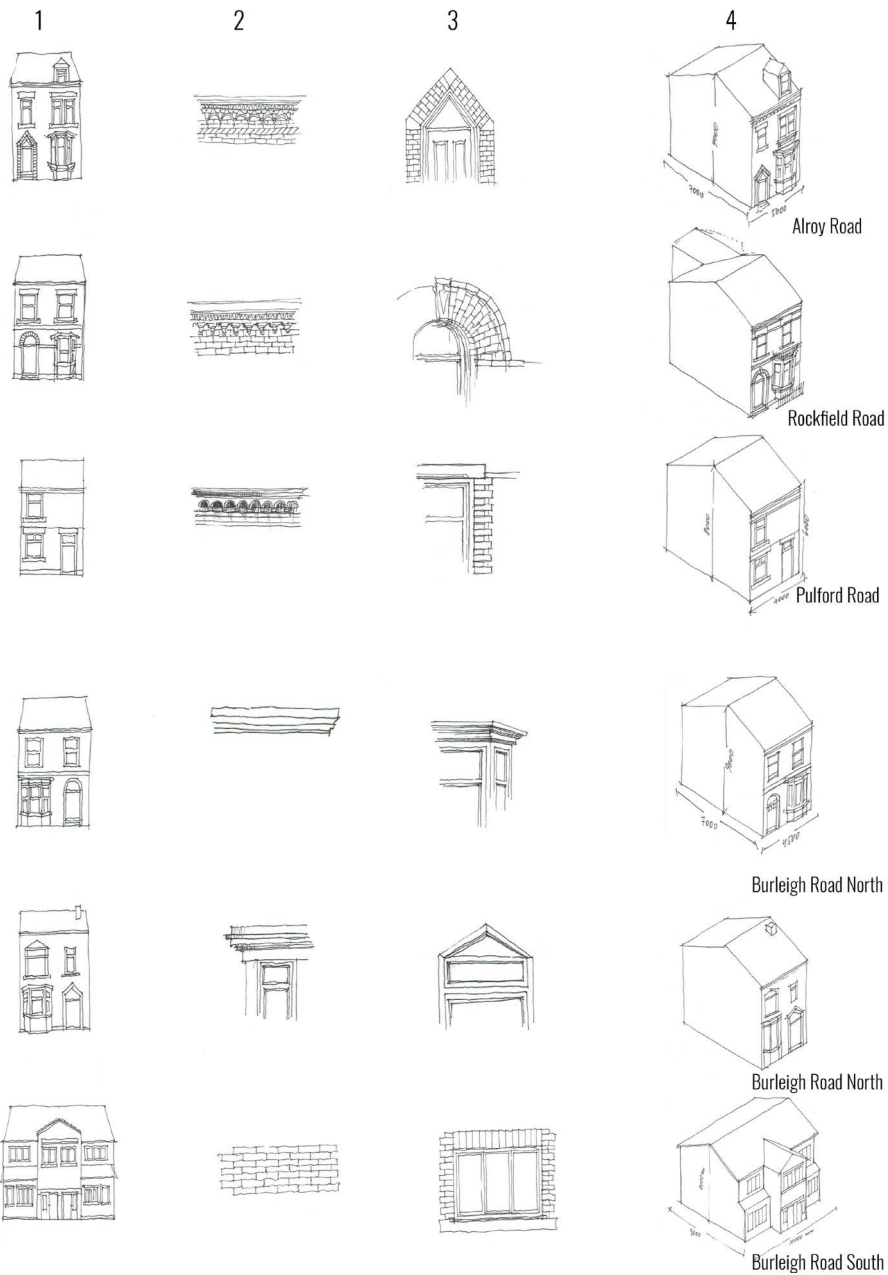
RESIDENTIAL (Green square)
HOTEL / HOSTEL (Light green square)
CULTURAL (Yellow square)
NEWSAGENTS/ SHOP (Red square)
RETAIL (Orange square)
SCHOOL (Blue square)
HEALTH SERVICE (Light blue square)
PLACE OF WORSHIP (Pink square)
CAFE / PUBLIC HOUSE (Light orange square)
DERELICT (Dark grey square)

Research into existing facilities in Anfield reveals that there are a number of small local businesses seeking to benefit the community such as Homebaked, the Liverpool Lighthouse, etc. They should be recognised, encouraged and developed. These activities are usually hosted in scattered places of limited size, underlining the demand for **flexible spaces** that can unite these initiatives.

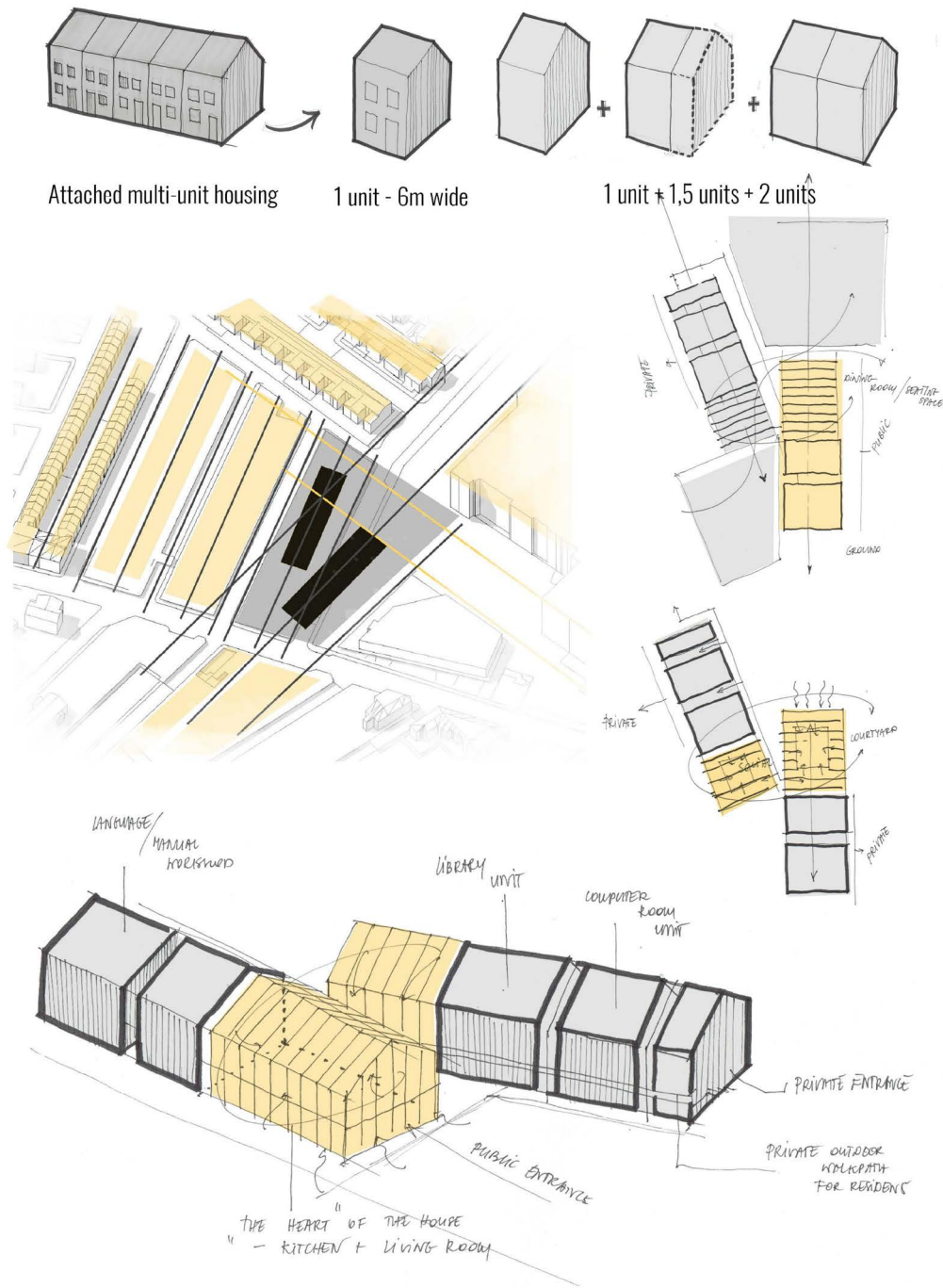


Looking into successful precedents tackling similar conditions, markets are identified as one of the most promising solutions. **Markets** act as a focal point for the locality and as a hub of connection and social interaction. They offer possibilities not only for local economic growth but also for people to mingle with each other and become accustomed to each other's differences in a public space.

RESPONDING TO EXISTING BUILT FORM



Analysis of local residential architecture demonstrates the evolution of terraced houses in the Anfield area with an emphasis on the level of detail in their elevations, doors and windows. By studying the different aspects of the form and rhythm of the local houses, we have also gained extensive knowledge of the architectural history of Liverpool, thus providing inspiration for schemes that **respect existing built form**. We learn from the past to design the future.

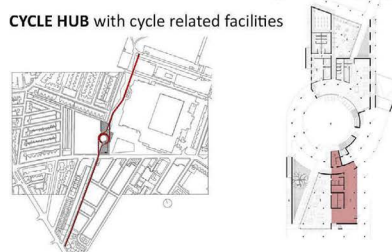


The layout of the surrounding housing grids provides useful information about pedestrian and vehicle circulation around the site. Further, studying the relationship between buildings and streets highlights the distinction between **private and public space** which can inform the positioning of new volumes. Here, two rectangular shapes following two existing grids create a mediation between the public zone of the stadium and a private residential zone.

EXPLORING CONNECTIONS TO THE CITY



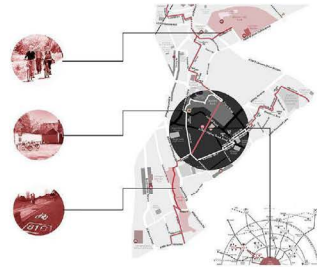
ELEVATED CYCLING TRACK connecting existing cycling route
CYCLE HUB with cycle related facilities



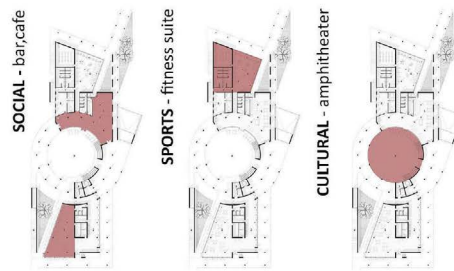
ENCOURAGE CYCLING TO MATCH



Utilize regional ROUTE 81

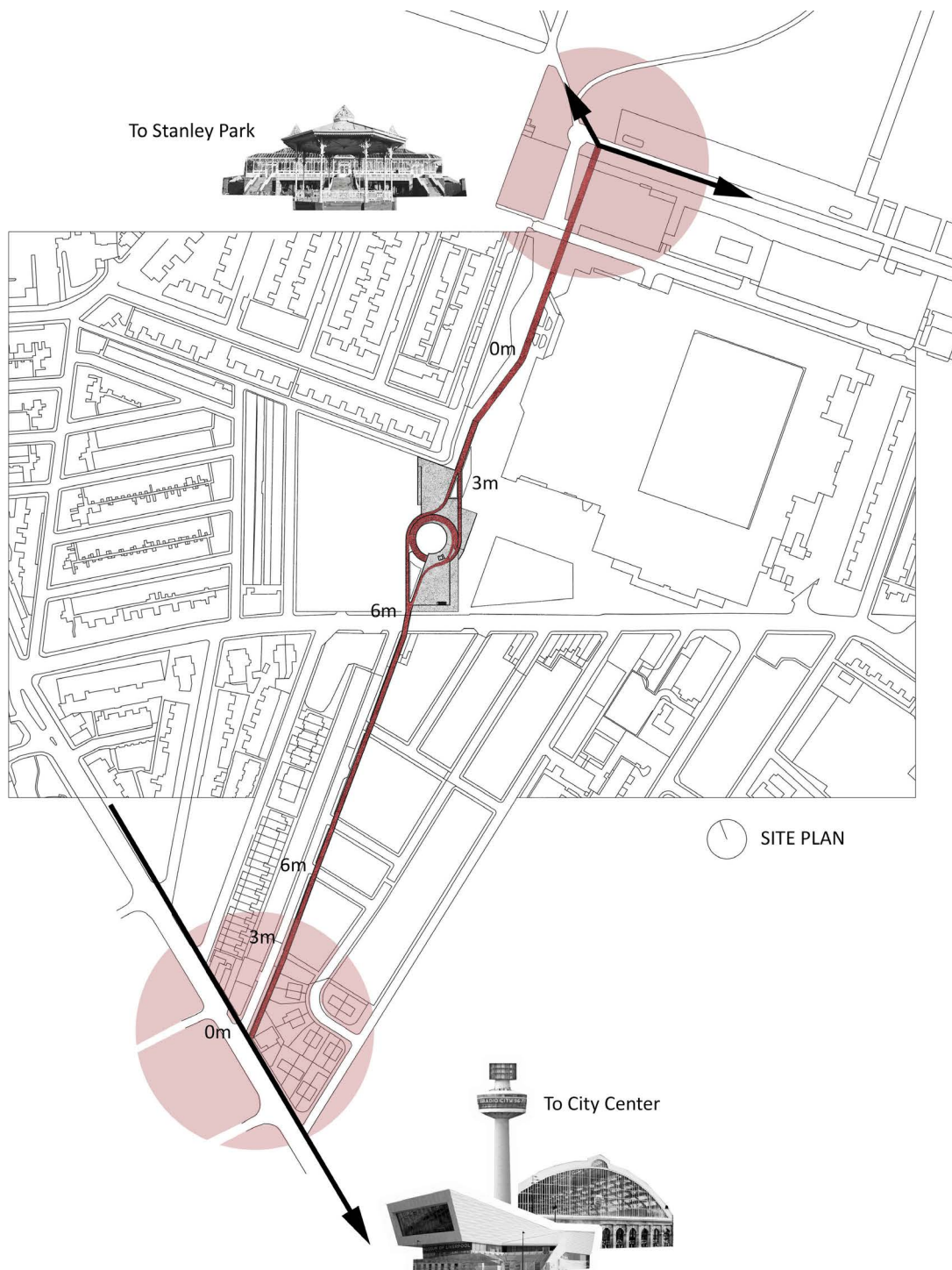


LINK COMMUNITY WITH CITY CENTRE & PUBLIC GREEN SPACE



CREATE ACTIVE PUBLIC SPACE

Emptiness of the area on non-match days highlights a need for the community to better maintain attention from/connection with the city centre. Creating a **new appealing identity** for Anfield to constantly attract visitors, which is more than just football, will help catalyse regeneration. In this case, a cycle hub is proposed. Through elevated cycle tracks and spaces for ancillary functions, the project attempts to ameliorate congestion and chaos on match days while generating social, cultural and sports activities for the community.



Extending beyond the site, the elevated cycle track links with regional route 81 at both ends, thus connecting to the city centre and public green spaces. Exploiting the existing tracks and facilities allows convenient access for both visitors and local residents. And promoting **Liverpool City Region cycling**, encourages a healthier lifestyle for urban dwellers.

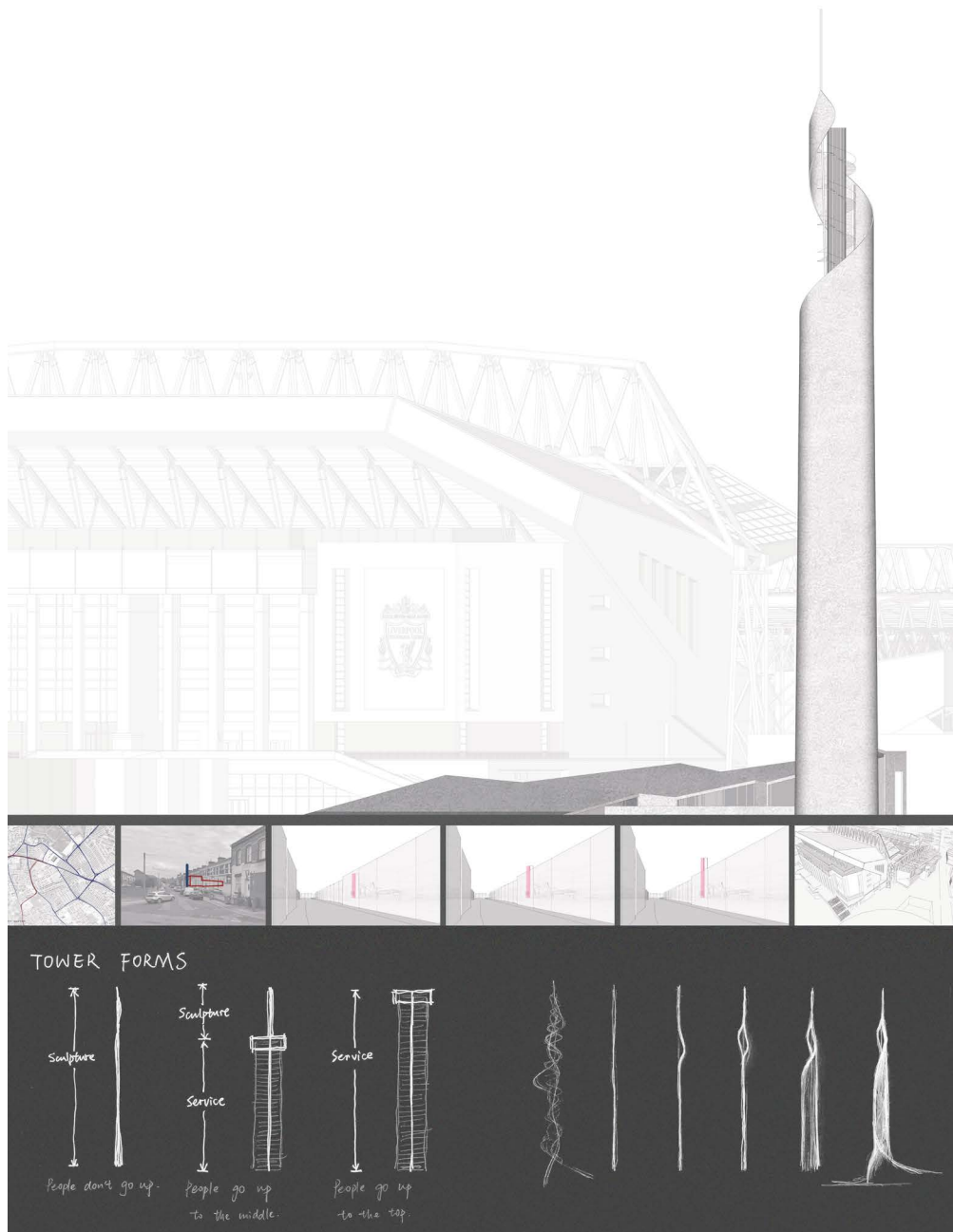
ENVISIONING A POSSIBLE FUTURE

About identity. The tower is not only for the visitors to locate the stadium, but also for the residents to locate themselves. If the tower stands for 200 years, it would become a community legacy.

First, a tower. Then, services under the tower, so people could gather under the tower. At present, there are some basic functions because the locals don't know what they want, what they can do. Meanwhile, we leave maximum flexibility of the 'Roof structure' which could be converted to many more possibilities.

Back to commons. Football culture seemed to be isolated from the local community. The museum in the stadium is for football fans. The playground in Stanley Park has no football features. We could do something to introduce football. Like a science museum, something about football for everyone.

It is also essential to allow the area and community **to grow with time**. In this proposal, new functions attempt to bridge the gap that has grown between residents and the football stadium – something to call their own and something to share. More importantly, instead of specific utilities, it is a place which is mixed and flexible, a shelter of activities that makes people stay and generate possibilities of their own.



The scheme draws a different solution to mitigate the stadium/housing scale problem. Not something in between the height of the stadium and the terrace houses, but a tower that is even higher. Experiencing different heights of the tower, the stadium and the houses will be connected by the views that merge them together in the eyes of both the visitors and the residents. Thus, a sense of belonging can be generated with this **mediating monumentality**.

Authors of the Images:

p. 1-2 Patricia Lung

p. 3-4 Sam Nowell

p. 5-6 Gabriela Grodny

p. 7-8 Anqi Zhao

p. 9-10 Leting Wang

p. 12 Anqi Zhao

