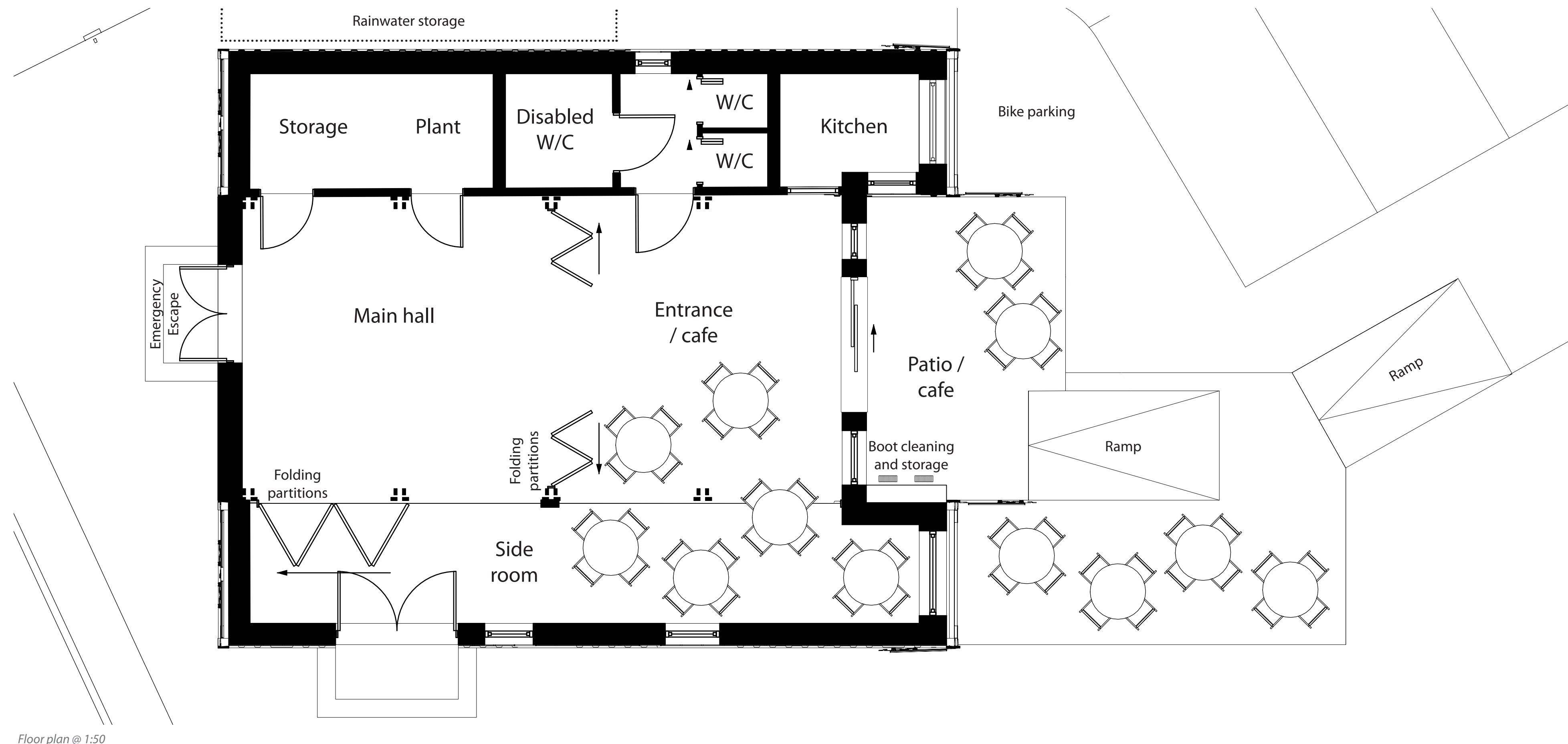


Flexible use

Four plans in one building



The building has been designed to enable multiple use combinations to be accommodated under one roof.

The floor plan is divided into four key areas;

The entrance hall.
This area also acts as a community cafe space.
It has a high ceiling and dramatic timber trusses.

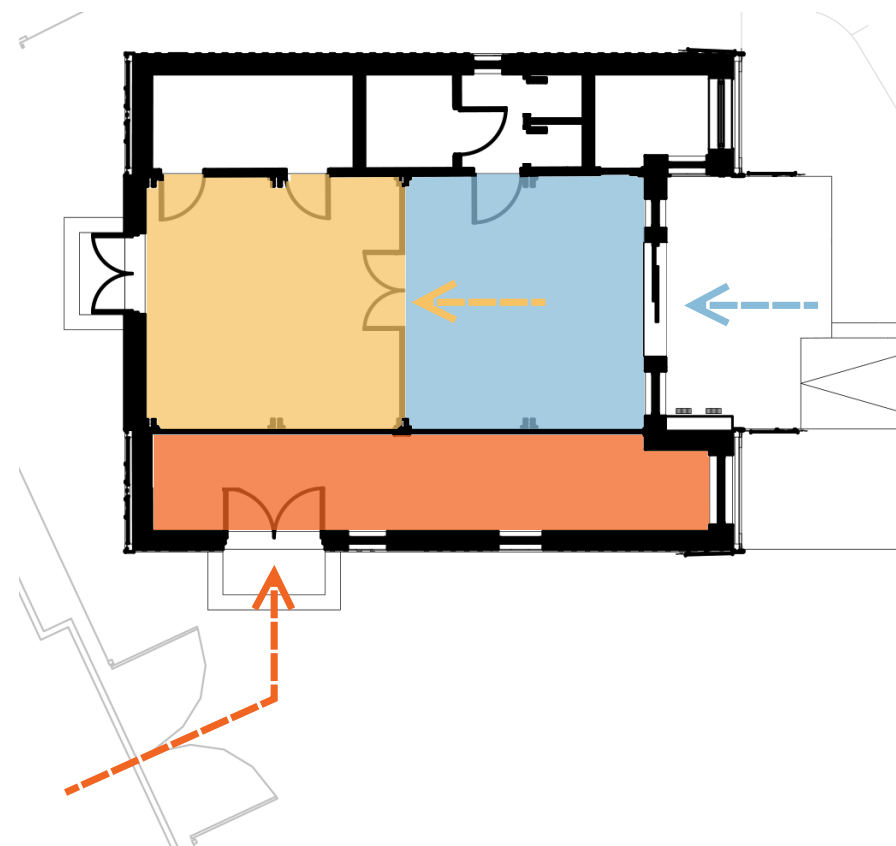
The main hall.
This room benefits from clerestory windows.
It also shares the same high ceiling and timber trusses.

A side room.
This room fits inside the western container.
It is therefore long and thin when used on its own.

These three areas can be linked together in different combinations as the diagrams at the bottom of the page illustrate.

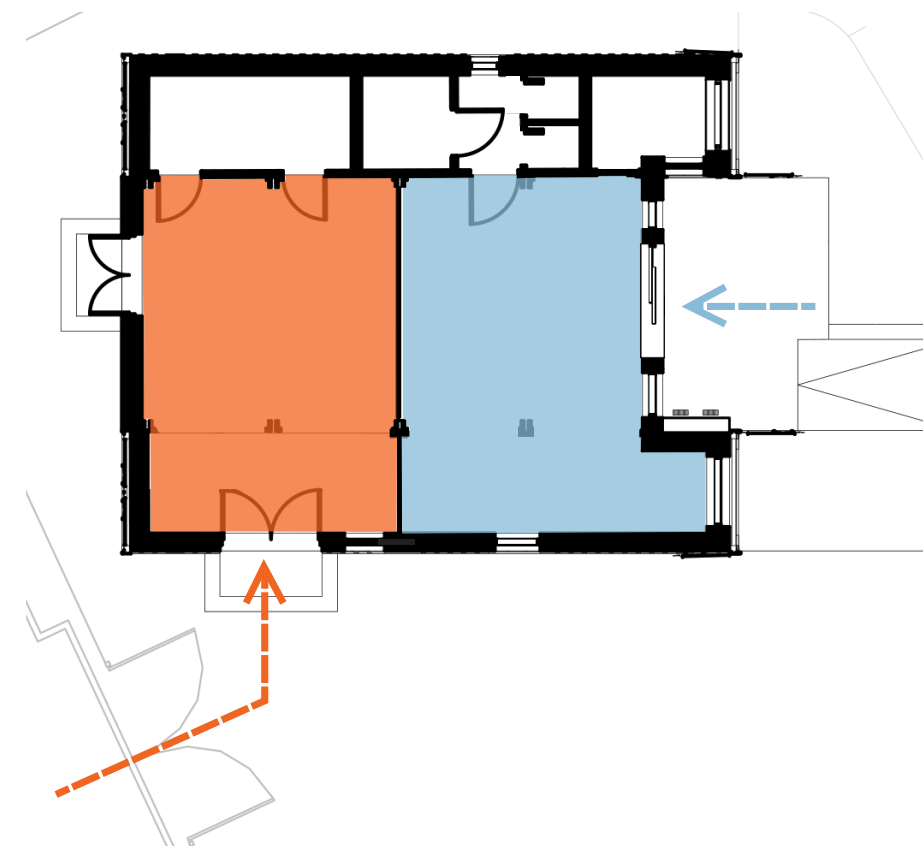
Services.
All utilities and storage are housed in the eastern container.
This reduces pipe runs to minimise energy use.

Two users and cafe



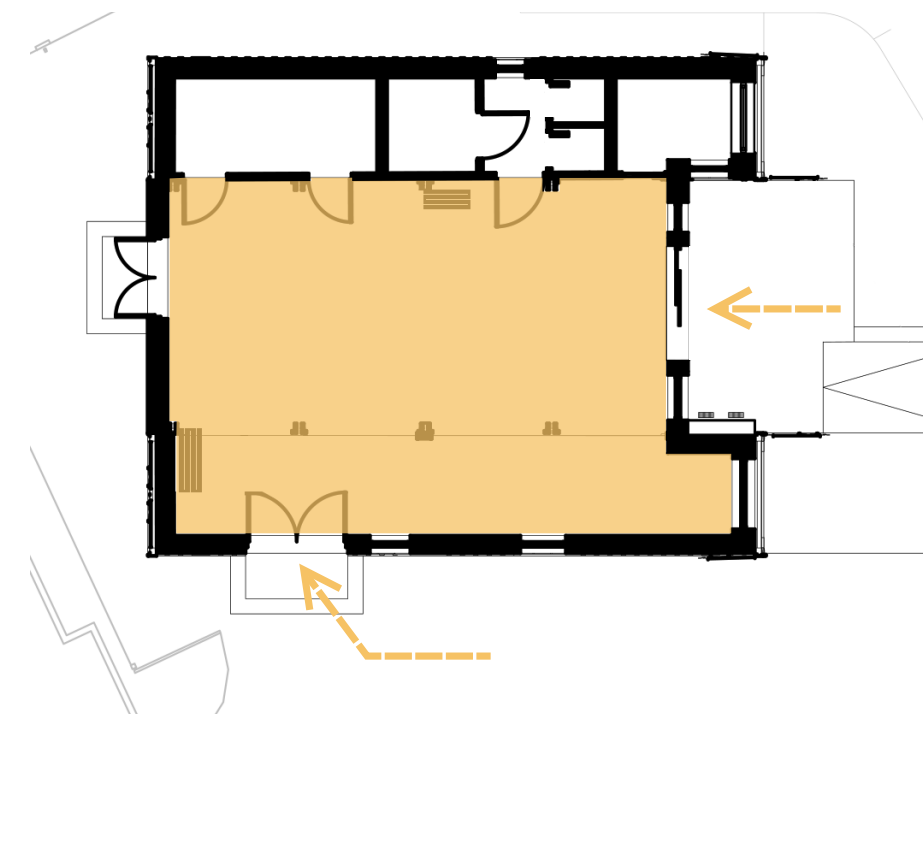
With all the folding partitions closed three separate rooms are created. A community cafe space is maintained in the entrance area, with the main hall available for separate use. The school can also access the side room independently.

School use and cafe



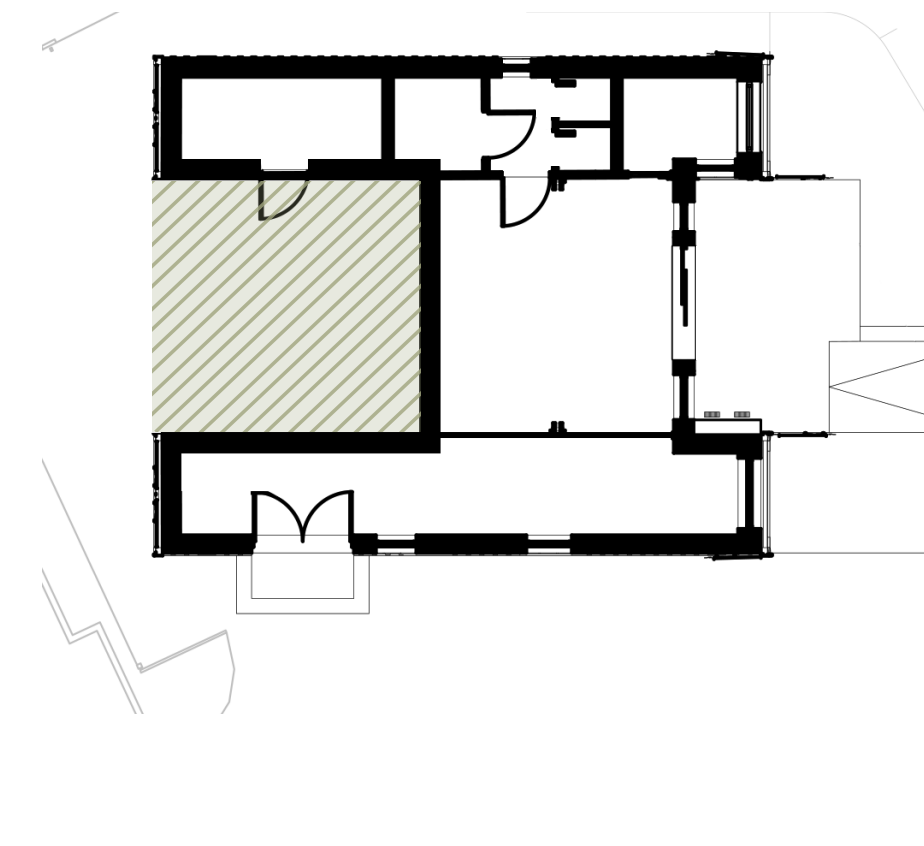
Alternatively the building can be split in two. The front area takes up both the main entrance and part of the western container. The school can then use the side door to access the rear section of the western container and the main hall.

Whole building single use



With all partitions folded away the entire main hall, entrance area and western container can be used as one space. Two separate entrances can then be used to access the same area.

Reduced build



If the budget proves too restrictive to complete the whole build in one go, the main hall can be added as a separate structure at a later date. This would still make the front area and side room available.

Tell us your comments.

?

Just write in the bubbles



Learning from the space

Sustainability and structure

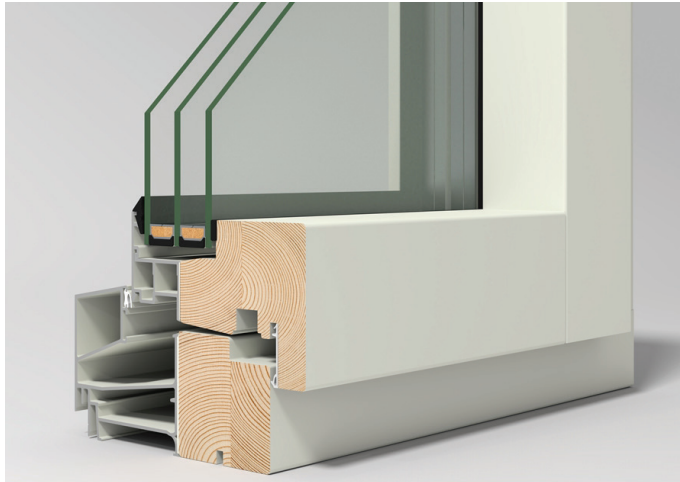
Tell us your comments.
?

Just write in the bubbles



Triple glazed windows

To make the building thermally efficient triple glazed windows will be required throughout. These will be mostly positioned on the south elevation to maximise the benefit of free solar energy. But good quality triple glazed windows will be expensive if sourced to fit specific window openings. So the design allows windows to be sourced either second hand or from unused misorders. The windows can then be used in a free arrangement (as shown on the south elevation) or with surrounds adjusted to work with the the final preferred cladding (as shown on the west elevation).



Efficient structure



Small section timber is readily available as a reclaimed material, with larger developments often discarding significant quantities in pristine un-used condition. The central structure has therefore been designed to be primarily built from this type of timber. The design shown features a truss based on a self-supporting bridge structure developed by Leonardo Da Vinci. This is both elegant and efficient. Another alternative would be to use a parallel chord truss. These can be created quickly, affordably, and to differing levels of refinement.



Renewable energy

Although the building will utilise a fabric first approach to reducing the energy load, it will be useful (and maybe necessary) to generate electricity on the site using either photovoltaic solar panels (PV) or small domestic scale wind turbines. PV will be the cheapest option, as the price of solar panels has dropped dramatically in recent years, but using wind turbines will provide greater annual energy coverage.



Rainwater harvesting



Rainwater is another natural resource that will be useful, and possibly even essential, to collect on site. It will be significantly cheaper to store the rainwater in above ground tanks, though they don't tend to be attractive. However, rainwater features for both the building and garden can be integrated into the fabric to create interest as an integral part of the aesthetic.



Inviting spaces

A welcome and inclusive environment



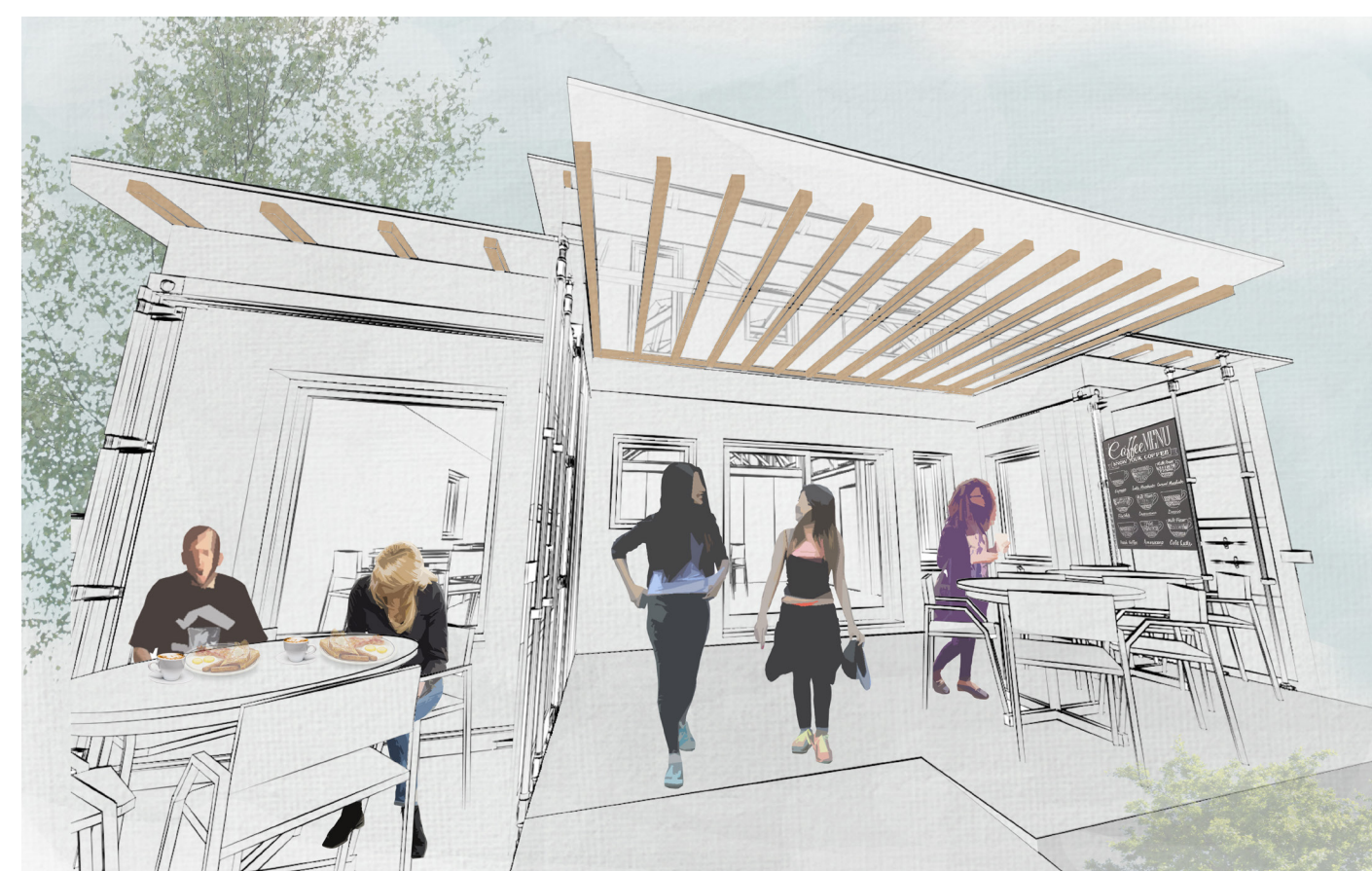
View from car park



View across entrance hall community cafe whilst main hall in separate use



View from rear of main hall in fully open mode



View from entrance terrace

