

Students Reinventing Cities

London 2024
PROPOSAL



Competing Group:
'SPOON OF LONDON'

Submission:

15. February. 2024



View of the 'Pool of London'



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1. INTRODUCTION

In its current state, the 'Pool of London' already takes your breath away. Along the riverfront, there are majestic views of London Bridge and Tower Bridge, as well as the steely blue expanse of sky overhead. The area is electric with the energy of joggers, tourists, office employees, and families, alike, who together create a river of movement from west to east, starting with people pouring off London Bridge to enjoy the promenade.

You could say that this level of vitality and energy has always belonged to the area. The 'Pool of London' has a special place in the history of the city; it's the founding site of Roman Londinium and served as the main commercial center of the Roman Britain settlement for centuries; since then, it has had a long and distinguished career as an active port and economic hub of the city. Its layout and built landscape are uniquely shaped by this legacy, including the current-day presence of the Custom House and Old Billingsgate Market. In spite of this, the Pool faces a number of significant challenges in becoming more accessible, enjoyable, green, and forward-facing, including its lack of public amenities, lack of commercial businesses, and its poor connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods.

As laid out by C40, the goals for the Pool are to 1) Develop Office Space, 2) Improve Public Realm & Public Spaces, 3) Improve Lower Thames Street, 4) Revive the Area's Historical Significance, and 5) Develop Innovative and Creative New Uses for the Site. Additionally, sustainability and climate adaptation are of the utmost importance to



3D Visualization of 'Pool of London' incl. proposed interventions.



OUR GROUP, 'The Spoon of London', after visiting the site, felt impassioned to brainstorm novel solutions that will allow the Pool to reach its full potential. **Using the C40 goals** as well as the **10 Green and Thriving Principles** as a guiding framework, we embarked on **extensive research and review of technological innovations and key policy documents** such as The London Environmental Strategy, the Pool of London Key Areas of Change document, and Historic England's Flooding and Historic Buildings document. We also **wrote and conducted a brief questionnaire of site visitors**, acknowledging the importance of public consultation prior to intervention in a public, urban space.

Ultimately, **we decided on a strategy of retrofitting**: taking into account what structures and legacies currently belong to the site and proposing ways to fully maximize their usage. We have developed the following goals for the 'Pool of London', which serve as pillars for categorizing our proposed interventions.

2. GOALS



Goal nº 01 - Use buildings in the area to their full potential

The 'Pool of London' is blessed with the presence of not one but several large, protected landmarks with both aesthetic and historical value. In line with C40's goal to revive the area's historical significance and boost public access to historic interiors, we have made it a primary goal to find creative ways to reuse the buildings while maintaining their existing forms.



Goal nº 02 - Improve site connectivity

The Pool boasts some of the best views of the Thames, Tower Bridge, and London Bridge in all of London, drawing visitors day and night to its waterfront to enjoy the views. However, the site would greatly benefit from a significant boost in connectivity, both along the East-West axis and the North-South one, connecting Lower Thames Street (and the Monument area) to the river.



Goal nº 03 - Maximize public space's utility and greening

In line with The London Environmental Strategy and the Mayor's 2030 commitment to a net zero city, the Pool must prioritize becoming a green and sustainable area. In tandem with this goal, we also aim for its green spaces and innovations to be public, welcoming and a positive enhancement of the social life of the area.



Goal nº 04 - Attract people to the area and promote 'lingering'

Last but not least, we aim to make the Pool into not just an attraction but a destination, a place where people are happy to stay and spend quality time. Ultimately, we hope to make the Pool into a thriving, vibrant, and energetic neighborhood in London, both role model and valuable partner to other neighborhoods.



CUSTOM HOUSE

3.1.1. CUSTOM HOUSE

A customs house has been in place in or around this location since 1382. All iterations of the building were used, in their lifetimes, for the collection of customs duties on goods that passed through the port. The building was announced as closed and for sale in 2018. As of today the building is still vacant.

PROPOSED REPURPOSEMENT OF CUSTOM HOUSE:

The upper floors (2-5) would be repurposed as a **Green Lab or incubator for green companies, i.e., companies whose business operations and practices have no or minimal negative impact on current and future environmental, economic, and societal conditions at both the local and global scale.** Their ambitions must also align with the London Plan's goals for Sustainable Infrastructure, Good Growth, and Green Infrastructure. The idea is to create a dedicated space for companies working across different sectors to experiment, develop new technologies and ideas, and foster new synergies within a green agglomeration.



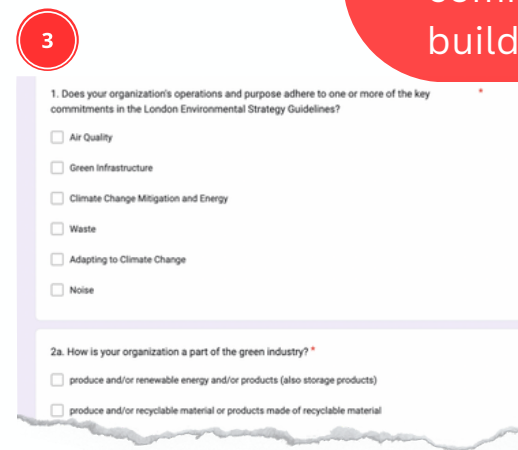
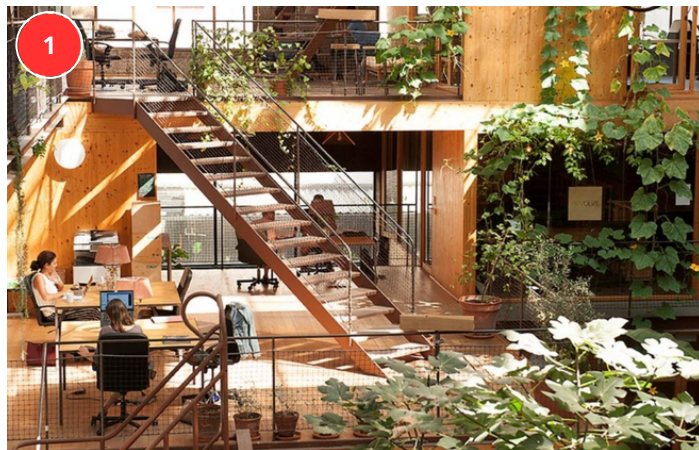
Companies would be awarded **office space based on an application process (scan QR code for sample application)** with leases opening up at regular windows. The application will need to be revised periodically to acknowledge ever-changing sustainability and climate priorities.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Use buildings in the area to their full potential

- We propose that **the ground floor of the Custom House be entirely devoted to public space**, split into four parts:
 - 1) **Cafe & Dining**
 - One of the greatest gaps in the Pool is a lack of public gathering and eating space. Putting a large cafe with extensive food and beverage selections, as well as indoor seating, will handily address this issue. This will also allow public access to the interior of the Custom House, where people (both residents and tourists) can admire the architecture while enjoying their food.
 - 2) **Shopping hall**
 - Assuming that several of the companies occupying our Green Lab will produce consumer products, we would like to provide a vending space so prospective customers can experience the products immediately.
 - 3) **Public events and Education Space**
 - We will set aside a significant portion of space for public use where lectures, workshops, and other educational/professional development opportunities for students and/or the general public can take place. The educational offerings will preferably be in accordance with the sustainability theme of the building; nonetheless, we remain open to other program themes.
 - 4) **Museum and M99emorial**
 - We propose this would be a small but important dedicated space in the Custom House, with a permanent exhibit showcasing the history and legacy of the building. We propose this museum could be free, supported by the funds of the other occupying businesses, and designed to be child friendly.
- Lastly, we propose the **basement to be used as a fitness and recreation center**, a facility that requires a unique space: sufficiently large but in an area of the building that will not cause excess noise to the commercial and office neighbors. By putting a rec center here, we hope to encourage usage of the building as community infrastructure and not only a tourist attraction.



1. 'Nest City Lab', Barcelona, Spain - Inspiration for proposed 'Green Lab' in upper floors of Custom House.
2. Seniors taking a fitness class - one possible community usage of the fitness and recreation centre in the basement.
3. Sample Questions in the Custom House Office Space Application Form

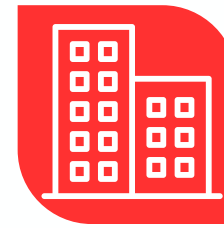


3.1.2 Old Billingsgate Market

This building was erected in 1873 to serve primarily as a fish market, completely with a fully iced basement for fish storage. Today, Old Billingsgate operates as an events space with three distinct areas available for usage: the Grand Hall (ground floor space), the Gallery (upper floor space), and the Vault (the basement).

PROPOSED REPURPOSEMENT OF OLD BILLINGSGATE MARKET:

- We propose a full public utilization of all three designated spaces around the theme of artistry.
 - The Grand Hall (ground floor) will be reserved to host art and event exhibitions. An excellent example is the Balloon Museum (running 27th Dec 2023 through 14th April 2024).
 - The Gallery (upper floor) will be used as an artist's residency.
 - To create flexible spaces for the artists in residence, we propose bespoke wooden infrastructure in the style of Lacol', an architectural group in Barcelona. The infrastructure can be removed after use and the materials reused for other purposes, making it a sustainable and adaptable option, highly compatible with our goal of preserving this historic landmark. The implementation would not require any alterations to the interior of the gallery, thus preserving the original structure as is.
 - The Vault (basement) will be converted into a performance art academy which will offer dance, singing, theater lessons and performances, etc.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Use buildings in the area to their full potential

3.1.3 Adelaide House

Named after Queen Adelaide (1830-1837), the building we see today was constructed in 1920 and maintains status as a Grade II listed office building. It is currently undergoing refurbishments in a £72 million contract with Galliford Try, with emphasis on improvements to the roof and riverside gardens.

PROPOSED REPURPOSEMENT OF ADELAIDE HOUSE:

- The building is already undergoing significant changes, so our only further proposals are to enhance the river-facing façade to create more active social life along the view front.
- We propose adding a heavily greened terrace with food and beverage vendors and ample public seating, creating a space of gathering for passersby as well as office workers in the area. See section 3.3.2 for an overview of suggested plant arrangements.



3.1.4 Enable historic buildings to use renewable energy

We would like to propose one additional intervention that could better integrate all three historic buildings into the larger, sustainable vision for the Pool: incorporating **photovoltaic cells (PV) or solar panels** into their energy systems.

In particular, we propose to place solar panels on the flat spaces of the roofs of each building, rather than the more traditional method of integrating them into the roofing itself. Panels would be fixed to tiltable frames, which would allow operators to change their orientation to maximize energy capture. Energy would then enter a grid system with battery storage capabilities, with site-specific approaches implemented per building to account for the building fabrication, engineering services, and specialty labor required. This method is reversible and customizable to each distinct building, allowing them to maintain their physical and historic characters while still bringing them closer to carbon neutrality.

For the purposes of this proposal, we have focused on the three best known buildings on the site: the Custom House, the Old Billingsgate Market, and Adelaide House. Our aim is that the research presented above will be indicative and/or inspirational for the redevelopment of the remaining site buildings later on.



1: The wooden infrastructure inspired by Lacol's La Borda
2: Current Gallery (upper floor) at Old Billingsgate Market
3: Proposed conversion into an artist's residency (Gallery, upper floor)
4: Exemplary solar panels fitted on tiltable frames, on a historic building in England.



3.2.1 Widen the pedestrian space on Lower Thames Street

Starting at the site's northern border, we realized we needed a strong intervention for Lower Thames Street, which is plagued by inadequate and inconsistent pedestrian space, especially along its southern sidewalk. This has led to underuse and ultimately, a feeling of disconnection in the area.

In one of our more radical solutions, **we would like to propose reclaiming a driving lane from the westbound or southern edge of Lower Thames Street** to reinvigorate the area's pedestrian character. This action will **widen the sidewalk** to allow for comfortable, accessible two-way foot traffic, with additional space provided that can be flexibly purposed for adding greenery (such as CO2 absorbent trees like ginkgos and other beautifying greenery), water vendors, pram parking, etc. According to the Department for Transport's Inclusive Mobility Guidelines, the minimum width of a footpath should be 2 meters, so in reclaiming a driving lane, which is 2 meters wide, we will be able to enhance the inclusivity of this space.

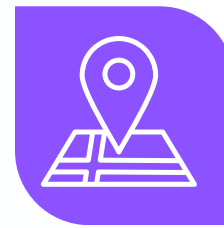
While we recognize that Lower Thames Street is a main TfL transport road, we feel strongly that the lack of pedestrian space along this boundary is one of the greatest challenges facing this site, therefore a serious intervention will bring benefits worthy of its costs.



3.2.2 Set up the novel bike path

To complement the increased connectivity created by this new pedestrian space, we also **propose an alteration of the cycle highway path** along the same stretch.

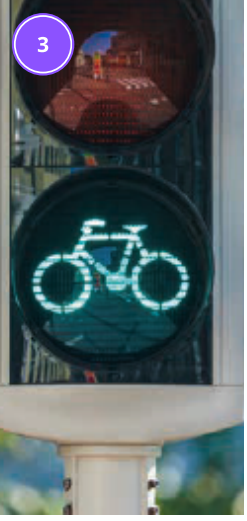
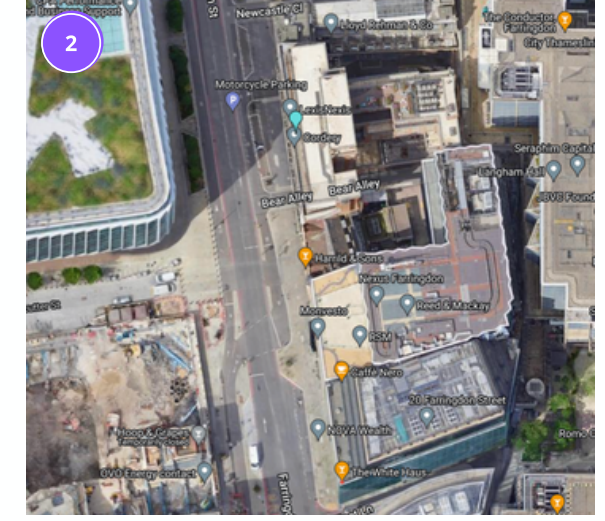
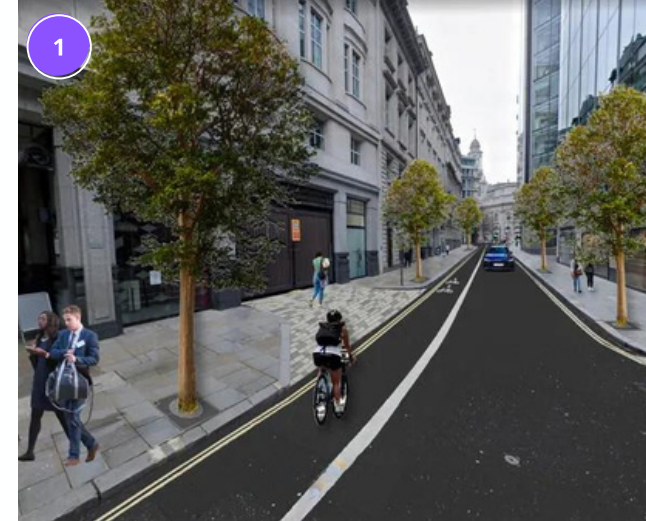
Inspired by an existing path on Farringdon Street in London, we would have cyclists transfer from the northern edge of the street to the southern for the length of the Custom House (please see Figure 2 for a detailed illustration of the proposal). This will bring cyclists more physically proximate to the site and encourage their 'stopping over' and ultimate integration into the site. There should be no inconvenience nor danger to cyclists as this new plan allows them to cycle to the other side of Lower Thames Street in a controlled and informed pattern, **guided by lights and signage**.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Improve site connectivity

- 1: Inspiration from City of London's 'Widened Pedestrian Priority Streets Programme'
- 2: Farringdon Street section cs6 novel priority cycleway
- 3: Appropriate signage for bicycles as proposed in 3.2.2



3.2.3 Add a new crosswalk

Our final intervention for Lower Thames Street is to add a new crosswalk in the middle of Lower Thames Street, which will connect Monument Street with the newly expanded sidewalk on the edge of the Custom House.

The Pool of London is directly adjacent to lively Monument Underground Station, which is surrounded by a number of pubs, restaurants, and commercial establishments. However, there is currently a large, **TFL-regulation metal fence running the length of the Custom House, which prevents easy access for pedestrians on either side and forces them to walk a long distance to cross the street**. Our intervention would not remove the barriers completely but rather **create a gap to improve the pedestrian experience and increase flow of movement** between the attractions and amenities of the Pool and those surrounding Monument Station.

We recognize the concern that the crosswalk, in creating a new stopping point on the road, may increase congestion on this traffic-intensive vehicular passage road. However, the traffic light would serve to stop vehicular traffic along only one axis to allow pedestrians to cross. As there would be no through traffic, only a paired traffic light and pedestrian crossing light, we believe traffic will not be slowed to such an extent that there would be a considerable increase in congestion on Lower Thames Street.



HIGHLIGHTS

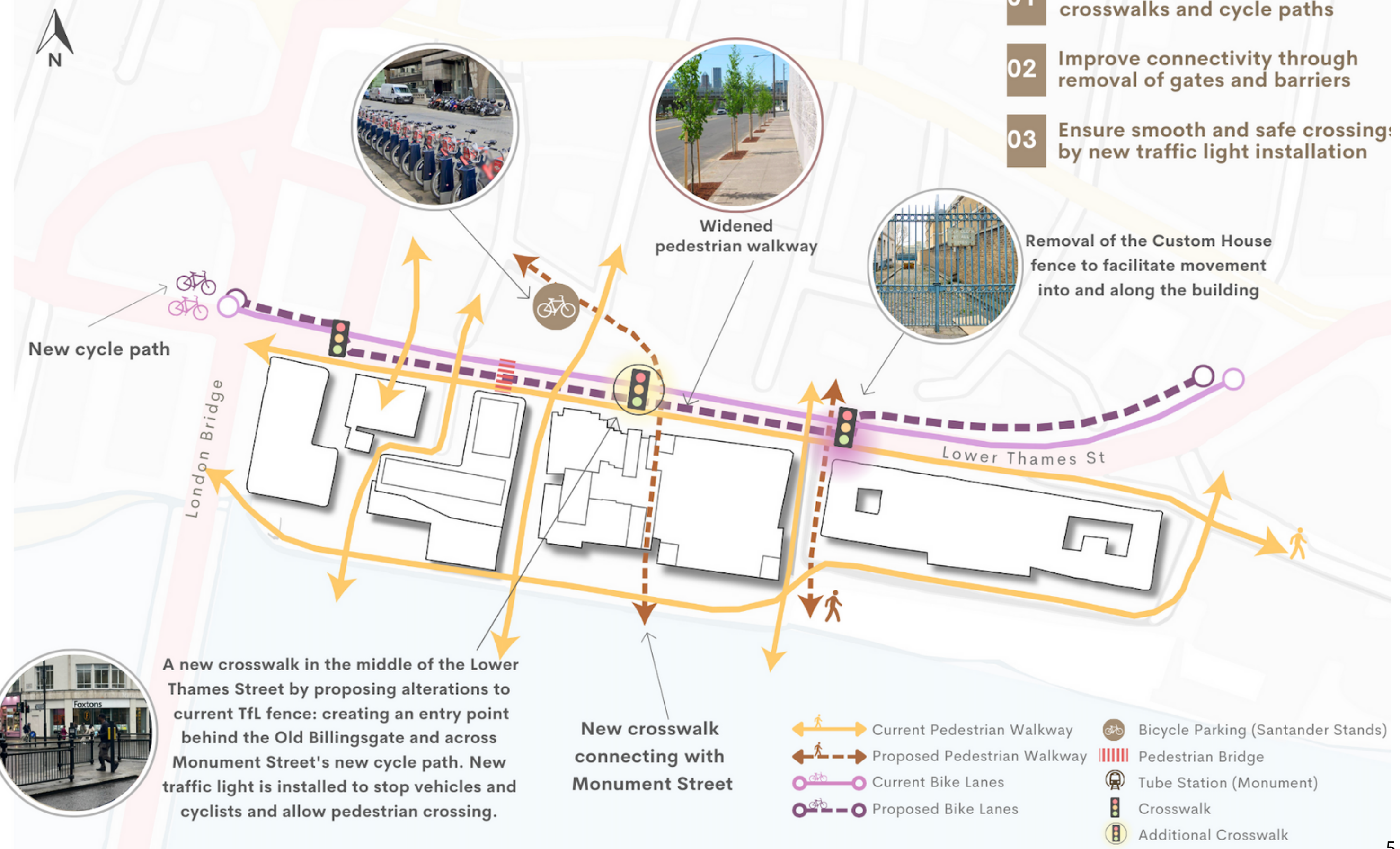
- Solid yellow lines on the map indicate existing paths for pedestrian movement on the site.
- The brown dotted lines indicate improved pedestrian accessibility from the rest of the City of London into the Pool of London Area.
- In adding a crosswalk across Lower Thames Street (3.2.3) and removing fences from around the Custom House, we intend to increase accessibility to the site from the East and from Monument station to the north and catalyze movement overall.
- An additional bicycle stand will contribute to further use of improved cycle lanes in the area (3.2.2), including direct entrance of bikes into the site.

CONNECTIONS TO QUESTIONNAIRE*

- Improved accessibility & connectivity
- Difficulty crossing Lower Thames Street
- Accessibility issues with prams (and wheelchairs)

*see Appendix

ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY



VISIONS

- 01** Increase accessibility by new crosswalks and cycle paths
- 02** Improve connectivity through removal of gates and barriers
- 03** Ensure smooth and safe crossing by new traffic light installation



A new crosswalk in the middle of the Lower Thames Street by proposing alterations to current TfL fence: creating an entry point behind the Old Billingsgate and across Monument Street's new cycle path. New traffic light is installed to stop vehicles and cyclists and allow pedestrian crossing.

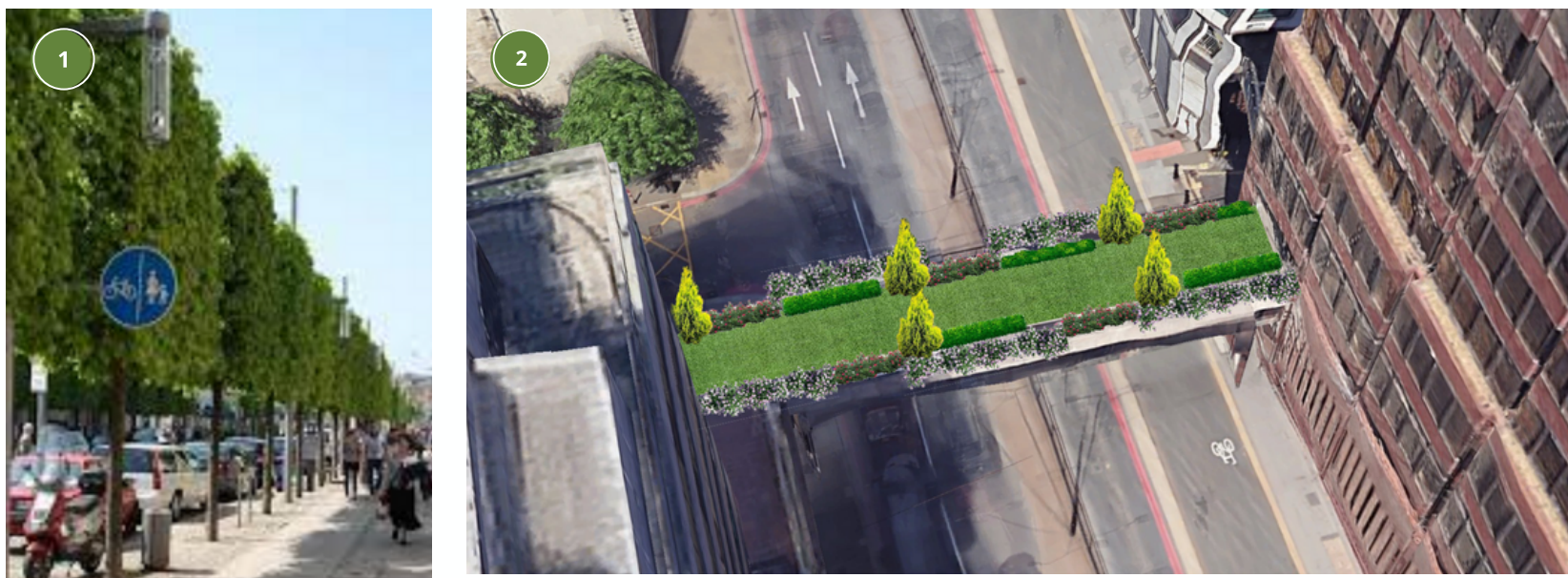
New crosswalk connecting with Monument Street

- ←→ (with pedestrian icon) Current Pedestrian Walkway
- ←→ (with pedestrian icon, dashed) Proposed Pedestrian Walkway
- (with bicycle icon) Current Bike Lanes
- (with bicycle icon, dashed) Proposed Bike Lanes
- ▤ (with vertical lines) Pedestrian Bridge
- 🚇 Tube Station (Monument)
- 🚦 Crosswalk
- 🚦 (with yellow border) Additional Crosswalk
- 🚲 Bicycle Parking (Santander Stands)

3.3.1 Adding greenery

The first step in **maximizing the area's sustainability and enriching the urban biodiversity is to add more greenery**. We propose to start by **introducing espalier trees** (narrowly shaped trees which will not physically "impose" towards onto the pedestrian walkway, bike lane, or street), which will also perform the valuable functions of acting as carbon sinks and habitat space for species, whilst providing shade to the area on sunny days and acting as a green buffer especially between the pedestrian sidewalk and road of Lower Thames Street.

We propose that new trees be planted starting near Monument Station, trickling down into the site along Lower Thames Street and the riverside walk. **Along with tree's ecological functions, they will serve as gentle visual enticements into the site** for visitors. We propose to expand on this effort and create a green bridge, green archways along the alleyways between site buildings and a pedestrian bridge, in which trees or climbing plants are placed so as to touch over the walkways. This will further enhance the visual connection between the alleys and the site as well as its overall aesthetic appeal.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Maximize public space's utility and greening

3.3.2 Strategic plant placement and species selection

We further recommend the **strategic selection and placement of additional plants to add meaningfully to the urban ecosystem of the Pool**. To achieve this, we propose using the following criteria to select plants:

- 1. Indigenous** – Native plants are more likely to thrive in their own climate, and with ongoing climate change it's even more important to ensure their presence so they can have opportunities to adapt and survive. Native plants also provide unique habitats and food to native animals that other plants cannot provide.
- 2. Low maintenance / Resilient** – plants should be relatively resilient in terms of light, water, and temperature requirements and should not become a resource drain on the Pool maintenance team.
- 3. Contribute to the Pool's ecosystem**– As mentioned above, we're interested in fostering a thriving urban ecosystem at the Pool, with plants, insects, birds, small animals, and humans coexisting. Plants selected should contribute to the ecosystem in some way, perhaps by providing food (crabapple trees), pollination (common foxglove), or protection to small creatures (common holly).
- 4. Flower in all four seasons** – this criterion is not for individual plants but for the selected group as a whole. We'd encourage a mixture of plants with varied flowering times to increase the year-round appeal of the site.

These criteria apply both to our proposal in 3.3.1 of tree lines and archways, as well as to further greening efforts for the site, including mixtures of ground plants, flowers, shrubs, etc. For this initiative, **we propose a partnership with a UK botanical expert such as Kew Gardens or the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)**, who can help identify the right combination of plants and their exact placements along the site to facilitate the best outcomes.

- 1: Exemplary placement of espalier trees in an urban context, acting as a natural barrier between pedestrians and vehicular/bicycle traffic.
- 2: Proposition of Green Pedestrian Bridge across Lower Thames Street.
- 3: Recommended plants in accordance with the selection criteria proposed in 3.3.2; reference to High Line New York, Bloom List of July.



3.3.4 Cultivate a pollinator-friendly garden



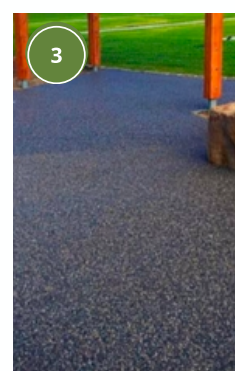
In the **public space surrounding St. Magnus the Martyr Church and leading towards the Thames**, we propose a specific green intervention which expands on the spiritual aura of the church. In this space, we would like to **cultivate a meditative garden inspired by the church gardens of Dunstan in the East**, London. The garden will be a place of relaxation and meditation for visitors, with ample seating areas, a fountain, and a beautiful plantscape promoting enjoyment and relaxation through once again strategic plant selections, such as lavender and eucalyptus.

Additionally, serving as another ecological flagship intervention, the **suggested plant species (such as urban wildflowers) will aim to make this garden into a pollinator-friendly habitat and portion of the B-Line of England**. B-Line pathways are meant to provide vital homes and protection for bees and other pollinators, which are crucial for supporting plant diversity. In this way, a portion of the site will contribute positively to environmental reconstruction in London in the coming years.

3.3.5 Create environmental education programs

The numerous investments into the site's sustainability – from the Green Lab to the Bee Garden – create exciting **opportunities to start a network of environmental education**.

Workshops and lectures in partnership with the Green Lab have previously been mentioned, but in the public and outdoor space of the site, we also propose to create educational spaces to learn about pertinent topics like flood risk, indigenous plants, or the B-Line of England. We **suggest starting with installing key signage to describe several important topics**, but the initiative has the potential to be expanded into in-person lessons which can take place on any number of spaces on the site and can also be customized for inclusivity, whether it be in age, language or mobility.

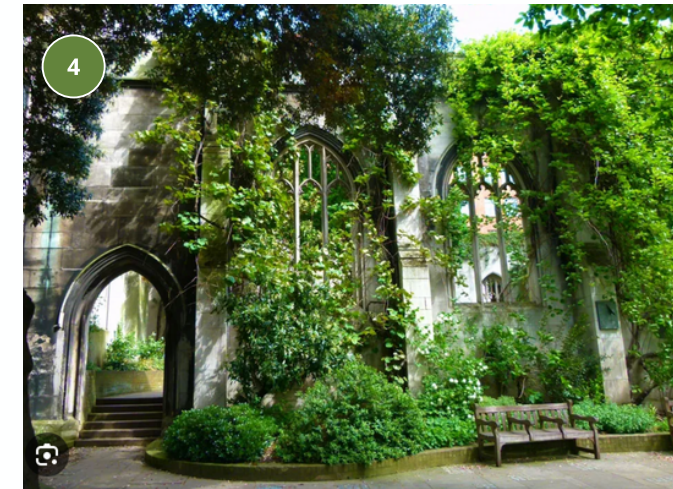
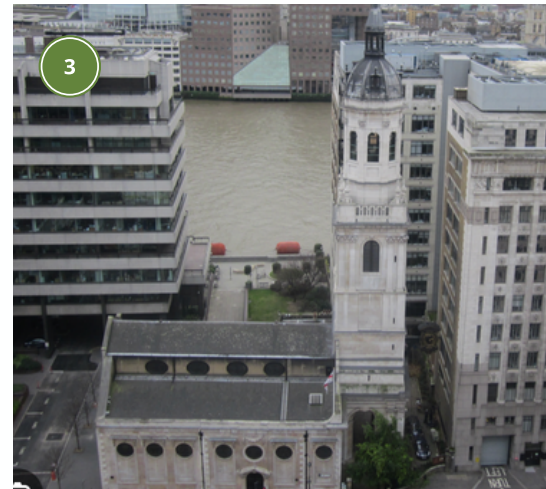
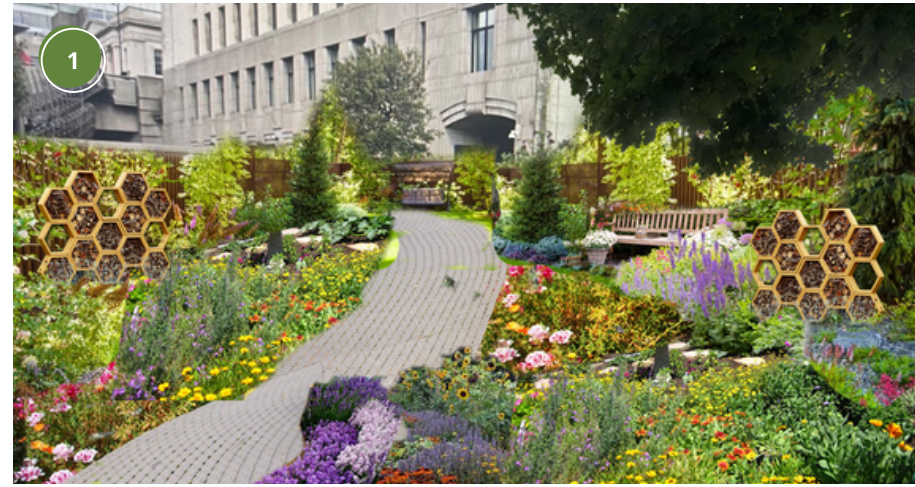


1: Recommended selection of a natural permeable surface: Side Oats Grama
 2: Example of a bioswale
 3: Exemplary permeable paving surface, man-made: type: StoneSet, Australia



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Maximize public space's utility and greening



1: Visual rendering of proposed meditative garden on site, incl. visible bee hives and strategic plant arrangements.
 2: Urban Wildflowers, providing vital habitats for bees and other pollinators.
 3: View of St. Magnus the Martyr Church and area specifications of proposed meditative garden.
 4: Inspiration of church gardens of Dunstan in the East, London.

3.3.6 Installation of permeable surfaces throughout the site

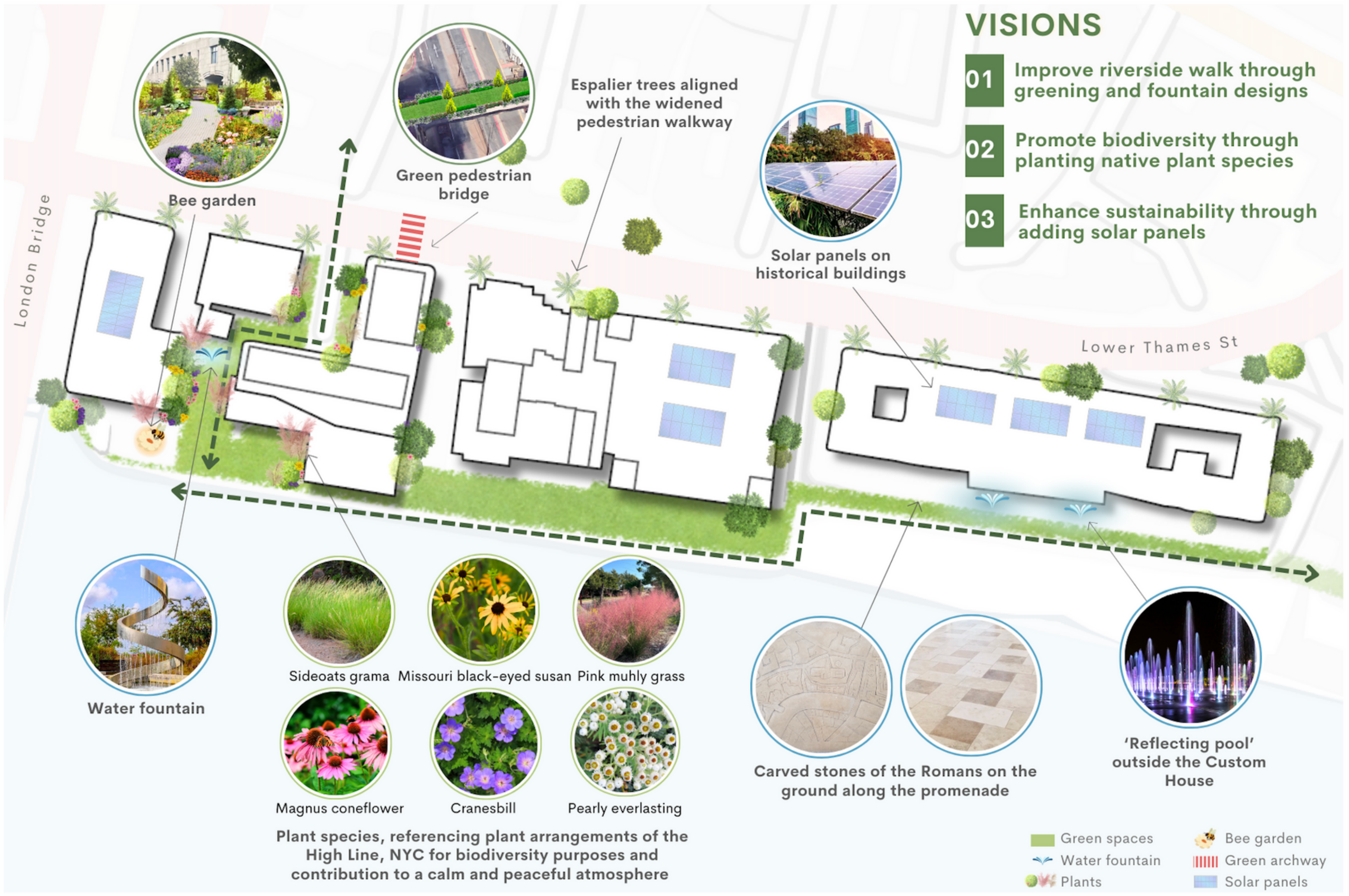
Flood risk is a major concern for the Pool of London, since it borders the Thames and also rests at a relatively low sea level. Furthermore, there are significant building constraints in the area as a result of the numerous protected historical structures. To start, we want to introduce some proposals at the ground level which will improve the site's flood resilience. Our suggestion is to replace hard, paved surfaces like concrete with permeable infrastructures, such as permeable paving and rain gardens, bioswales and natural retention ponds. The former is a broad category of technological advances in materials that capture water, reduce runoff, and prevent flooding while the latter three are planted or mulched depressions that collect, slow, and filter rainwater from roofs and streets, then recycle it to water nearby plants.

At the Pool of London, walking and biking paths could gradually be replaced with permeable paving (ranging from Side Oats Grama to the patented StoneSet from Australia). Coupled with these interventions, we could also install permanent barriers such as bunding, walls, gates and/or drainage ditches to prevent water from reaching designated buildings.

SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT

VISIONS

- 01 Improve riverside walk through greening and fountain designs
- 02 Promote biodiversity through planting native plant species
- 03 Enhance sustainability through adding solar panels



HIGHLIGHTS

- Indigenous plants (3.3.2) will be prioritized in greening the space. The High Line in New York served as an example of successful implementation.
- Along with the reflecting pool, an additional water fountain will be added on the west end to both beautify the site and create another point of interaction.
- An existing pedestrian bridge can also undergo “green” treatments to link with green spaces on the site.
- The Green dotted arrows indicate the flow of greenery in the space.

CONNECTIONS TO QUESTIONNAIRE*

- More green spaces
- Connection to the water

*see Appendix



Water fountain



Sideoats grama



Missouri black-eyed susan



Pink muhly grass



Magnus coneflower



Cranesbill

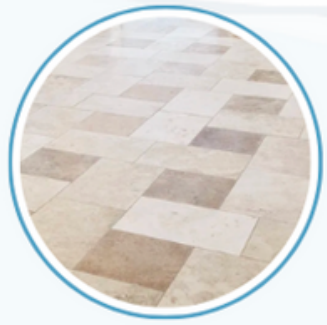


Pearly everlasting

Plant species, referencing plant arrangements of the High Line, NYC for biodiversity purposes and contribution to a calm and peaceful atmosphere



Carved stones of the Romans on the ground along the promenade



'Reflecting pool' outside the Custom House

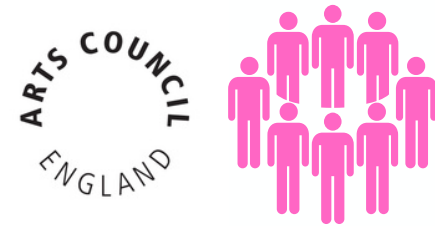
- Green spaces
- Water fountain
- Plants
- Bee garden
- Green archway
- Solar panels

3.4.1 Create a mural pathway

To begin the work of promoting lingering, our first proposal is to draw a large, non-linear pathway through the site in the form of a **ground mural**. It should begin at the top of the stairwell of the London Bridge, as a **mechanism to enhance footfall through visual appeal**, and lead down into the riverside walkway of the Pool. The main portion should span the river walk, with additional segments stretching into the alleyways, the Lower Thames Street sidewalk, and the path between the Northern and Shell Building and Old Billingsgate Market.

We propose that the mural **design will be selected through competition**, potentially hosted through **Arts Council England**. We suggest setting the theme of the competition to include the following broad goals:

- Increase aesthetic appeal of the site
- Improve atmosphere and liveliness
- Incorporate connections to the site's history



The mural will ideally promote lingering in the area by creating an extensive and interesting project for visitors as they seek to find the ends of the path.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Attract people to the area and promote 'lingering'



3.4.3 Add outdoor recreational facilities for all

As visitors explore the exciting art installations, they will organically encounter our newly proposed outdoor recreational facilities. **For children, we would like to design an Inclusive Play Area** (inspired by Bredäng Park in Stockholm, Sweden), a comprehensive play area promoting movement and engagement for children and adolescents. It will prominently feature a group swing, enabling usage by children in groups (without discrimination towards the physical size of users), as well as a play ship for younger children which pays homage to the historical legacy of the Pool.

For adults and older adolescents, we also propose adding a separate open air gym, with equipment such as a leg curl and bench press, which will be available to the public free of charge. We were inspired to create this after observing a high number of joggers make use of the river walk to exercise; we hope this facility can enhance their physical wellbeing as well as encourage new residents to explore the area.

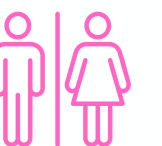
We aspire to create both facilities in a sustainable fashion, using materials such as recycled plastic, recycled rubber, stainless steel, and sustainably sourced timber. In doing so, we reiterate our continuous aim of prioritizing environmental sustainability, starting from minimizing the ecological footprint of the site's redevelopment, to promoting long-term sustainability goals by the green corporations, Green Lab, residing within the site.



- 1: Visual rendering of 'Old Billingsgate Walk' indicating exemplary mural on the walkway and greening of the Custom House's fence
- 2: Visual rendering of the proposed inclusive playground, incl. play equipment, less didactic elements to motivate creative movement, and more (location: Dark House Walk)
- 3: Visual rendering of outdoor gym space in front of Old Billingsgate Market; coloured pavement to mark boundaries of the activity area.
- 4: Inspirational image of proposed floor patterning to visually enhance the site: Superkilen, Copenhagen, Denmark, BIG Architects

3.4.2 Add public restrooms

Additionally we propose adding several **public restrooms** to the site. This will become especially necessary with our proposed addition of beverage and food options to the Pool. At the same time, a current lack of public restroom facilities within the proximate vicinity of and within the site was perceived. Public restroom facilities could likewise act as a further service magnet, attractive for both tourists and locals.



3.4.4 Add food and beverage stalls

The **addition of food and beverage vendors** in the Pool will further entice visitors to linger and bask in the site. As previously mentioned, the Pool in its current state is well-used by joggers, office workers, families, couples, and tourists who come to enjoy the riverfront. However, there are **limited options for food and drink, a reality which unconsciously incentivizes people to leave quickly.**

We propose to allow a **rotation of food stalls on the riverfront along Adelaide House and Old Billingsgate Market to amend this problem.** We have chosen the stall format as the structures are temporary and modular, allowing for easy installation and deconstruction. This will allow great flexibility with vendor options, as well as flexibility in case of inclement weather, special events, and other unforeseen circumstances. We envision that stalls / food businesses selected will be rotated seasonally to provide appealing and weather appropriate options (e.g., hot chocolate and roasted nuts during the Christmas season, ice cream and lemonade in the summer) as well as hearty and healthy foods year round.

We would additionally recommend adding **temporary seating (i.e., folding chairs and tables) and litter bins to the site as part of this initiative.**

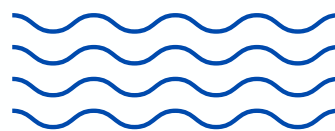


3.4.5 Create a reflecting pool

To honor the Pool of London's special connection with the Thames River, we propose the creation of a **reflecting pool with fountains** (inspired by the Miroir d'eau in Bordeaux, France). This will provide a **fun, water-themed interaction** on the site while also maintaining an appropriate protection of the river's ecosystem, as the fountain will not be connected to the Thames. Furthermore, this feature is a type of "pool", which playfully ties into the site's name.

We propose a **two-part reflecting pool placed in the gardens of the Custom House**, overlooking the river and bookending the pathway to this majestic building's main entrance. The base material of the pool should be a heavy stone such as granite, selected to match other stone works in the area, into which holes will be drilled for the fountain jets.

We envision children running through the water in the summertime to cool down while families, young people, and tourists look on and occasionally join in. In winter, the feature can be turned off to turn the reflecting pool into a regular plaza for strolling and lounging.



3. PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Attract people to the area and promote 'lingering'



1: Visual rendering of proposed seating arrangements and food vendors (in front of Old Billingsgate Market and Adelaide House) - continuous integration of plant arrangements and mural artworks designating "eating area"
2: Inspiration of Miroir d'eau in Bordeaux, France for two-part reflective pool in front of the Custom House.
3/4: Reference images of integrated narrative tiles as seen in Seething Lane Garden, London.

3.4.6 Install narrative tiles bridging past and present

Along the site's promenade (river-side), we suggest the pathways to be **further contextually and spatially enriched through integrating narrative tiles** in the style of nearby Seething Lane Garden, which features carved stone illustrations of anecdotes from an important document on the history of London – the 17th century diaries of Samuel Pepys.

In the same manner, **we propose adopting this initiative to reference the history of Roman Londinium and its impact on the development of the area, especially its past life as a port and commercial center.** With these tiles, we hope to create an experience where visitors can enjoy the site in the present while gaining an appreciation for its past.

The selected artist(s) for the project will have proven experience with historical research and analysis as well as advanced abilities working with stone.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The site will be radically made over with a number of art installations which will also create relationships with local artists (3.4.1, 3.4.6).
- Benches and temporary seating will be installed at various points along the site to continue the work of promoting 'lingering'. We have included a wave design to tie in the connection with the Thames.
- Incorporating lighting throughout the site that contributes to additional safety and improvement of ambiance during night time.

CONNECTIONS TO QUESTIONNAIRE*

- Connection with water
- Space for relaxation during lunch
- Play area for children
- Food and beverages
- More benches
- Public toilets
- Add color

*see Appendix

AMENITIES



VISIONS

- 01** Enliven the space with colorful and historically meaningful artworks
- 02** Enhance physical well-being with free outdoor playground and gym
- 03** Improve public experience by adding food and beverage services, seating, and restrooms

4. APPENDIX

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4. APPENDIX

4.2 Questionnaire

After initially discussing a variety of site interventions for the 'Pool of London' based on conducted group site observations, we sought to engage in further primary (qualitative) research with people who were currently using the space, to gain an improved understanding from a wider population of their perceived site issues and potential preferences for specific site interventions. 30 people were spoken to at the site and through this we gathered some vital insights, inspiring our proposed interventions. Data was collected over two days, 26.01.2024 -27.01.2024. The compiled statements are under no conditions representative for all site users, nonetheless we are conscious of the need for public consultation prior to intervening in urban space. No personally identifying data was recorded.

1. Do you work in or near the Pool of London?/Do you live in London?

Eleven people of the thirty were from London, six worked near the Pool of London and the rest were tourists - some from other parts of England but most were international tourists. The six office workers were spoken to on a work day, Friday, during lunch (11-13H).

2. What has brought you to the area today?

Most questioned people had come to the area to either enjoy the outside space or to visit the balloon museum on the Saturday. Those who were enjoying the space were sitting on benches or on the grassy area. There were also lots of people biking, running, and walking through the area.

3. How often do you use the Pool of London?

The eleven participants who were from London used the space relatively regularly. The people identified as working near the Pool of London responded that they would visit probably once a week during lunch breaks. The others responded that they use it as a through passage to get to Monument Station. The rest of our interviewees were visiting the area as a one-off chance and said that they might come back but it was unlikely.

4. What method of transport did you use to access the site today?

The most common way to access the site for the people we spoke to was by underground (from Tower Hill), walking from Tower Bridge (tourists), or jogging (mainly locals) towards Tower Bridge. However, we did observe a large number of cyclists (who were not questioned) so we can assume that lots of people do access the site/pass-through by bicycle.

5. How did you access the site today?

Most of our respondents had accessed the site by the stairs descending from London Bridge. There was an equal split of people who had come by the bankside from Tower Bridge, and across the pedestrian crossing from Monument Station.

6. Do you find this site to be easily accessible?

There was a general consensus that the site was easily accessible. However, two people disagreed with this. Two families interviewed had a baby in a pram and were struggling to get down into the space because the only option was to take the stairs (as a short-cut). The other noted the difficulty crossing the road coming down from Monument and that there weren't many places allowing pedestrian passage through.

7. What would you add, if anything, to make the Pool of London a more attractive and integrative public space? (graphical representation of responses; (Total: 30 participants))

