A Living Harbour

The Grove, Matthew Cox

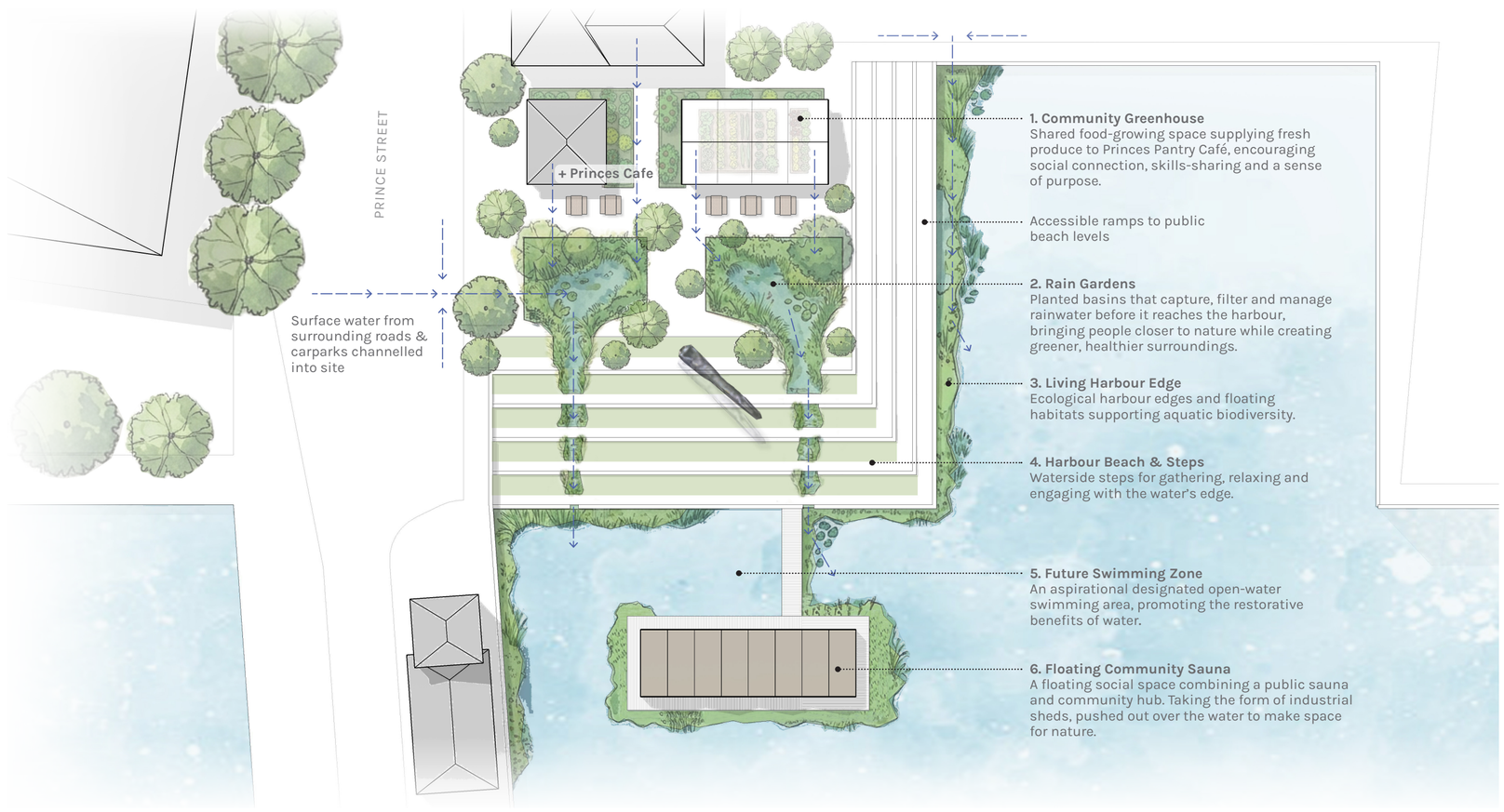


Reconnecting people, nature and Bristol's historic waterfront through a healthier relationship with water.

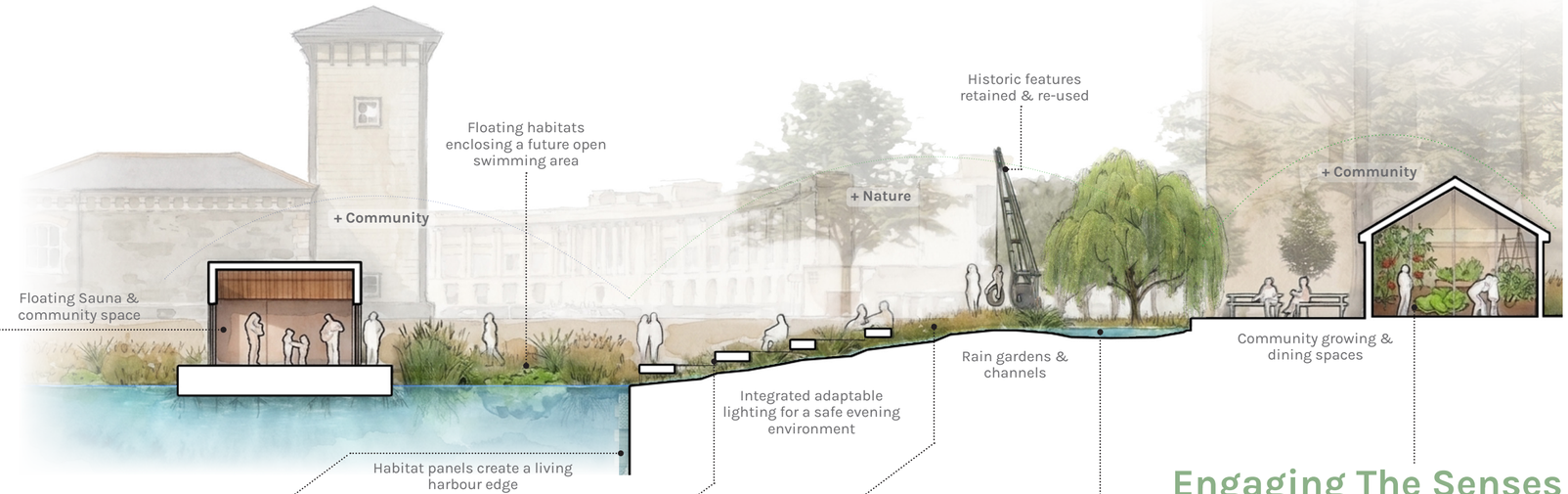
This proposal re-imagines The Grove car park as a vibrant public waterfront, where Bristol's industrial heritage meets a greener, healthier future, bringing together ecology, food, recreation and well-being.

At the centre of the proposal, rain gardens capture, slow and filter surface water runoff before it enters the harbour, while living harbour edges and floating wetland habitats support biodiversity and harness natural processes to help improve local water quality. Together, these interventions form an interconnected green-blue landscape that seeks to address urban runoff, enrich aquatic habitats and support a healthier harbour environment. With the longer-term aspiration of helping improve water quality sufficiently to enable a safe, designated open-water swimming area.

Inspired by Copenhagen's approach to waterfront living, the project brings people closer to the water through generous harbour steps forming a public beach and a floating community space with sauna. Whilst, a rewilded community garden and greenhouse create opportunities for growing food, sharing skills and supplying fresh produce to Princes Pantry Café. The Grove becomes a productive and accessible, as well as ecologically vibrant and resilient waterfront, to gather, grow, unwind and reconnect with the water.



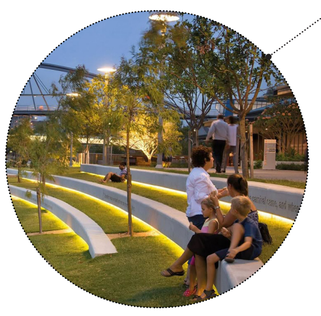




Engaging The Senses



Texture - Glebe Foreshore Walk, Sydney



Sight - Southbank Park, Brisbane



Sound - Rainwater channels, Copenhagen



Sound - Rain garden Wetland, Buscot Park, Oxford



Taste & Smell - Noma Restaurant, Copenhagen