

Queer Music Space

Sackville Gardens Intervention



PHASE/ 01. Research and Design Analysis

Project Brief

Propose an experimental intervention for Sackville Gardens that:

1. Interprets local queer history
2. Responds to the environment
3. Engages the senses
4. Considers what visitors will do, with whom, and how they will feel



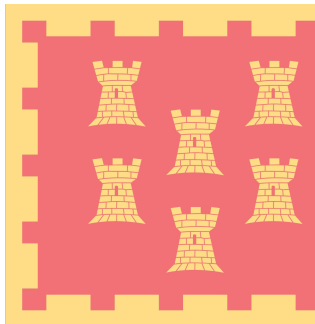
Project Brief

Propose an experimental intervention for Sackville Gardens that:

1. Interprets local queer history
 - a. **Celebrate local queer musical artists and spaces**
2. Responds to the environment
 - a. **Responding to existing features of Sackville Gardens and Gay Village (brick, bee motif, natural elements, weather)**
3. Engages the senses
 - a. **Sound (music), tactile (interactive tiles), participatory (stage)**
4. Considers what visitors will do, with whom, and how they will feel
 - a. **Multi-use space for diverse audience**



The Local



Locals include both queer and non-queer community members who will use the space in different ways. As a central area, the park is a place locals walk through or rewind in. Locals also include homeless people who currently reside in the park.

Goal: create a space that celebrates Manchester culture while introducing queer elements and creating a multi-use space that is welcoming to everyone. Provide shelter from weather.

The Queer Musician



As a very musical city, there are many places for music in Manchester. Queer Musicians have space and history within Canal Street.

Goal: create a community space that celebrates queer musicians and invites them to share their art in a multi-use, open-air, community space that is accessible to everyone.

The Tourist



As a bustling city center with soccer, concerts, attractions, and more, Manchester will invite many tourists from different locations and backgrounds. Tourists seek attractions and will stop for “wow” moments that represent the city and its people.

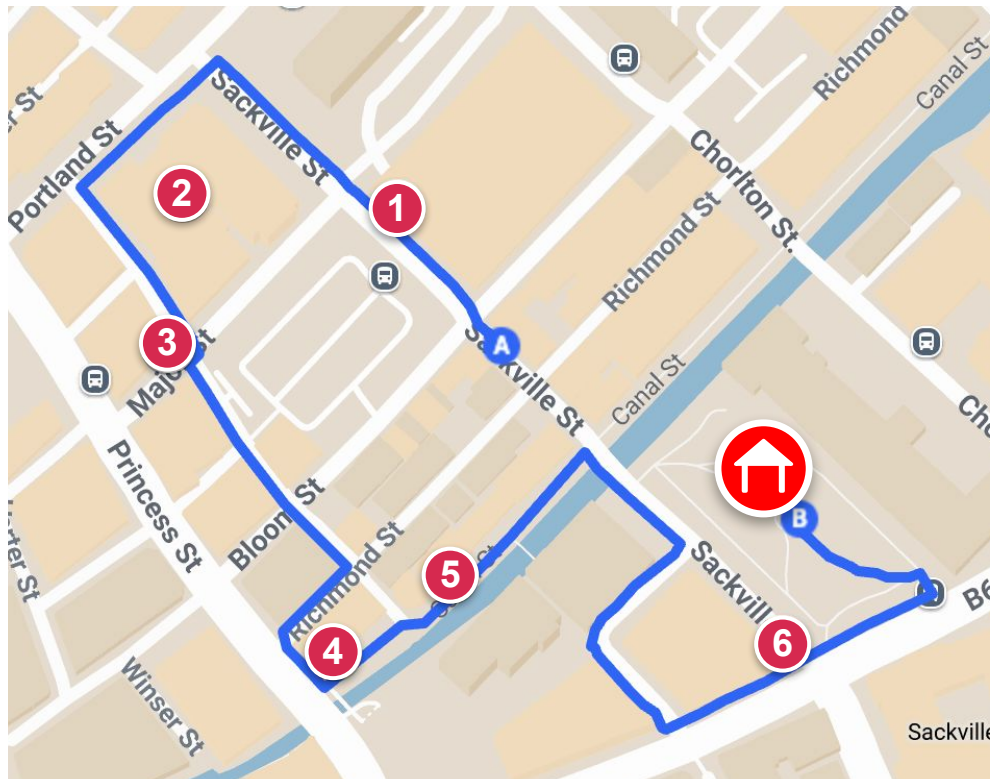
Goal: create a space that serves as an introduction to queer culture in Manchester and highlights underrepresented community members.

The Cis-Het



The space invites people who are cisgender and heterosexual and may not have been exposed to queer people or culture before. They may be cautious, uncomfortable, excited, interested, etc. to learn about queer Manchester.

Goal: create a space that brings queer people to the forefront and educates people on who they are and what they do for the community.



1. Thompson's Arms

Gay-run since the 1950s. A community hub and rehearsal space for the Manchester Gay and Lesbian Chorus (2001–2007).

2. Napoleons

One of Manchester's oldest gay bars opened in 1941. Survived police raids targeting "licentious dancing." Once owned by drag queen Foo Foo Lammar. Symbol of resistance and resilience.

3. Cruz 101

A pillar in Manchester's queer nightlife since 1992. Known for *Queer as Folk* and early gigs by Lady Gaga. A lasting hub of LGBTQ+ community.

4. The New Union

Dating to the 1860s, one of the oldest gay bars in the Gay Village. Provided sanctuary during times when homosexuality was illegal.

5. Manto / On Bar

Opened in 1990, Manto was the first openly visible gay bar with street-facing windows. A bold statement of pride that reshaped Canal Street.

6. Vanilla

A popular lesbian bar with a strong community presence, called the Manchester's "lesbian mecca"

7. Sackville Gardens – Alan Turing Memorial

Site of vigils, Pride events, and queer performances. A place for celebration, protest, and remembrance.



Manchester's Queer Artists

Lovescene

Pale waves

Alice Kanako aka Egg on Toast

Lavendar Rodriquez

Atalaya

Strange women

Rowetta

Cheddar Gorgeous

DJ Paulette

Will Tramp!

Jamie Bull



PHASE/ 02. Concept and Design Proposal

Project Introduction

a showcase and celebration of Manchester's queer music community

In collaboration in the city of Manchester and Sackville Gardens, our design intervention aims to showcase and celebrate Manchester's queer music scene by highlighting local artists and music hubs in Gay Village.

Our centerpiece will be a **multi-use gazebo/bandstand** that will exist in the center of Sackville Gardens. Drawing inspiration from Manchester's history and vibrant queer culture, our design will use a **hexagon motif as homage to the bee**. We will also use **bright colors, interactive elements, and textile-inspired patterns** to further ignite the space. Inspired by features of Manchester such as textile production, local bricks, and the Manchester Bee, our design will build off of what already exists at the site. These elements will start at the gazebo and spread throughout the Gay Village as tiles and plaques showcasing queer artists and locations. Smaller tiles will line the street while larger, informational tiles will be present on the sides of the buildings. The gazebo itself will have a roof made of glass panels, referencing traditional quilts. The glass material will reflect color in the summer and create acoustic sounds in the rain.

Our goal for the space is to create a centerpiece within Sackville Gardens that acts as a community gathering space as well as a place to invite queer artists to perform during festivals or other events.

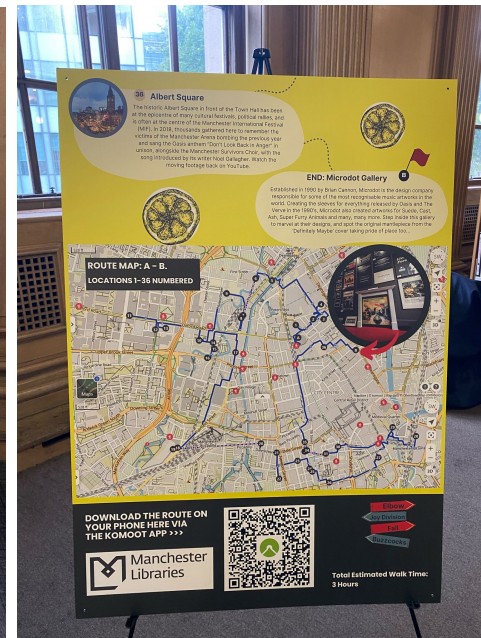


Design Precedents

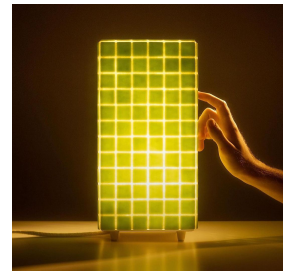
Manchester Music Tour / highlights important musical venues



Manchester's Rainbow Bee /
color palette + bee motif is
a symbol of the city's diversity



Lookbook – Floor & Wall Tiles



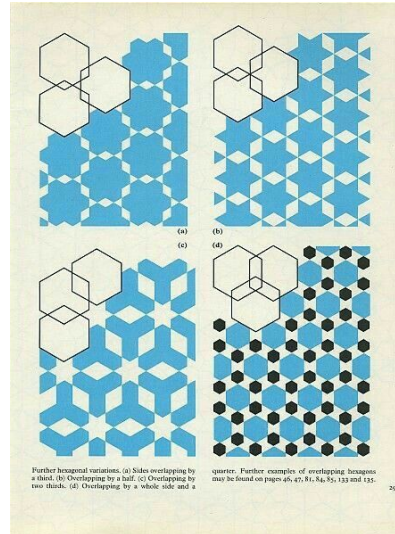
Mosaic Pathways / multi-colored, hexagonal pattern, creates a guiding layout for visitors, glow-in-the-dark

Lookbook – Gazebo/Bandstand Structure



Center Gazebo Stage / hexagon-shaped, space for performance, accessible from all sides

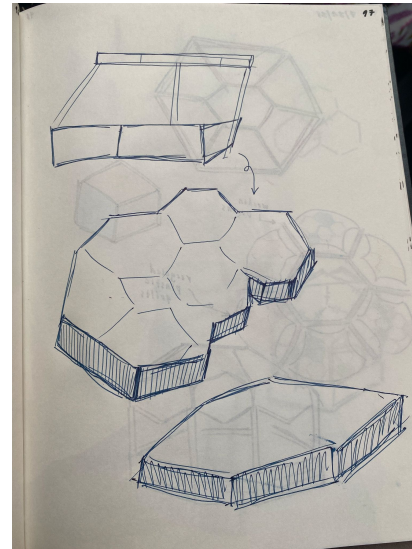
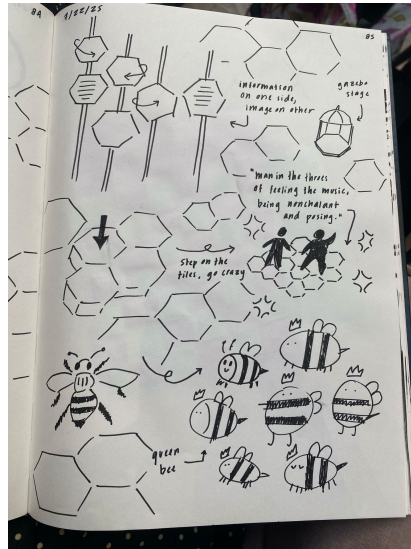
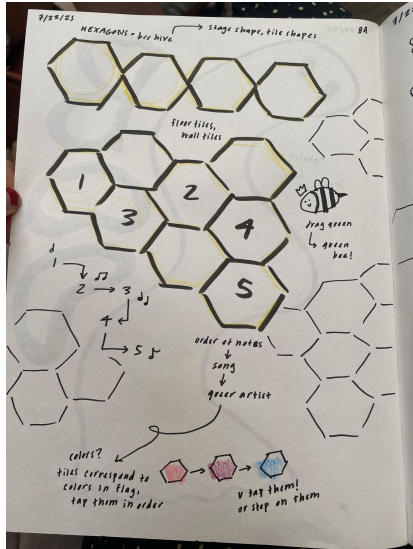
Lookbook – Gazebo/Bandstand Cover



Center Gazebo Stage / colorful + weatherproof roof (textiles/light effect)

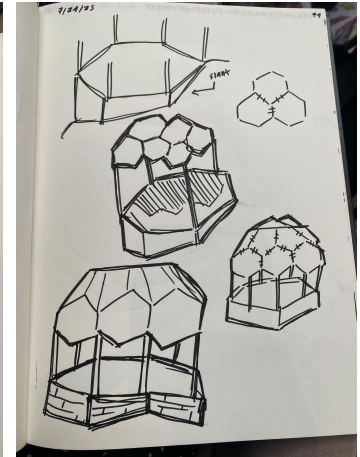
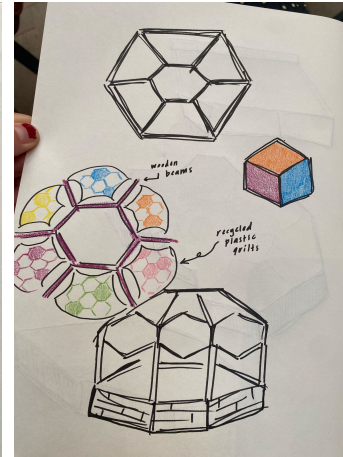
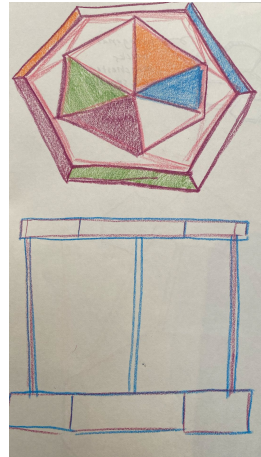
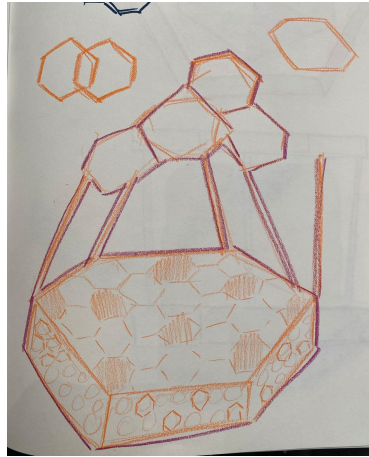
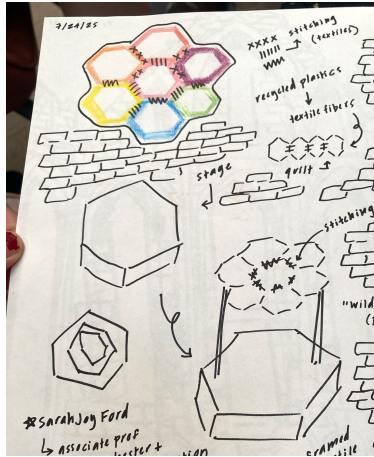
PHASE/ 03. Detailed Design Solutions

Early Sketches – Tiles



Mosaic Tiles / Hexagonal Design

Early Sketches – Gazebo



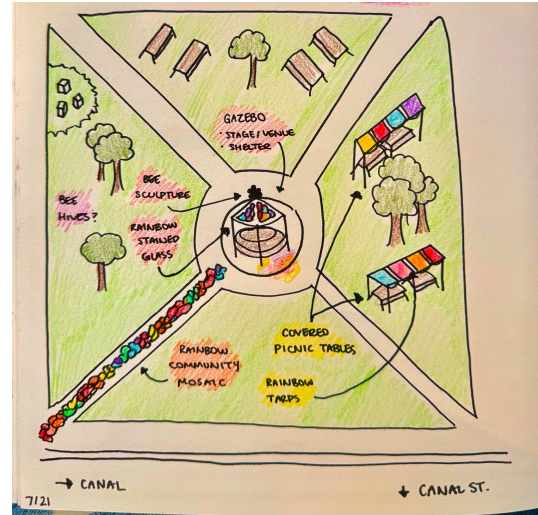
Gazebo Structure + Covering / Hexagonal Design

Early Sketches – Info Tiles



Info Tiles / Interactive Hexagonal Design (Flippable)

Early Sketches – Overview



Park Layout / Hexagonal Mosaic Pathways, Gazebo, Info Cards, Open Space

Design Palette

Typography

Welcoming, fun, legible

Lexend

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890

Crimson Text

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890

Color Palette

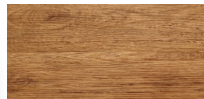


Earthier rainbow colors to not clash with the gardens themselves, but still bringing vibrance and playing into rainbow motifs throughout the streets.

Materials



Custom local brick



Oak wood



Colored ceramic tiles

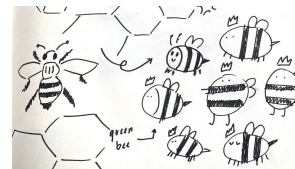


Transparent colored glass panels

Graphics

Manchester/ identifying imagery

Playful pictograms, bee referential



PHASE/ 04. Design Documentation and Intent



Top view & scale

Vibrant hexagonal ceramic tiles will spread throughout the Gay Village from Sackville Gardens, inviting audiences into the pubs and clubs.

Among the colorful decorative tile, there will be a larger informational tile with interactive elements (turning the tile, pressing a button to play music, hitting a drum, etc.). These elements will relate to the information on the tile, which will showcase a queer musician, an artist with a queer audience, a drag queen, or a queer venue.



Central gazebo/stage structure informed by British bandstands in parks.

Built using custom local bricks by Manchester Brick Specialists (in response to surrounding buildings) and colored glass in a quilted pattern, referencing Manchester's textile history.

Stained glass creates vibrant rainbow reflections on the ground on sunny days and acts as a "rain drum" on rainy days.

Structure provides shade, shelter, and acts as a stage to invite local queer musicians (or anyone at all!) to perform.