A Home for Glaswegian Customs

To provide a space for the customs and traditions of Glasgow, creating a place that will in time record the character and identity of the people. The current brand for the city focuses on the importance its inhabitants hold in creating such a distinctive place. It has also been prevalent throughout Glasgow's history that the intangible qualities of its people are what has sustained it. These qualities are most readily seen through our customs. Through performing, interpreting and recording these customs, the centre will attempt to create a better understanding of what makes a Glaswegian.

My aspiration throughout was to incorporate sustainable thinking from the concept through to the realisation of the project, and as such much of the thinking is not immediately obvious.

The arrangement of the building facilitates natural ventilation throughout, eradicating the need for mechanical ventilation. The stairway atrium creates stack ventilation while the spaces off the stair are narrow enough to benefit from cross ventilation. These embedded design choice reduces the buildings energy use

in operation. The building would make use of a wet underfloor heating system, which compliments the buildings thermal mass and would be powered by an inter-seasonal heat store, making use of the solar gains to the roof. The floor slabs are made of precast concrete panels, which though not very sustainable in themselves add the benefit of thermal mass throughout. The undersides of the slabs are left exposed, concealed by timber slatted panelling. The exposed concrete helps to regulate the temperature, while the untreated timber regulates moisture and helps with acoustic properties.

The materials where specifically chosen for their environmental properties as well as their effect on the experience of the building. The intention was to bring both together to create a holistic piece of architecture. The use of concrete has been minimised to a concrete frame, with clay blockwork infills. Clay blockwork is commonly used in European countries such as Switzerland, and is far more sustainable than concrete blockwork. It has lower embodied energy and CO2 in production, as well as being a hygroscopic material, allowing for the movement of moisture through the building and eradicating the need for plastic based breather membranes. The external leaf of the building is a natural limestone, to compliment the rich masonry of the buildings context while internally lime render is used throughout to create a breathable construction. The intention for the building was to create a heavyweight construction to the base of the building, while the top storey is a lightweight CLT box. The heavy base will retain heat due to its high thermal mass, suiting it's more regular occupation. The top floor houses a large event space, which would have sporadic use, and therefore suited to a construction that heats up and cools down quickly.

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