

**For information
on 20 February 2013**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/3/2013-14**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**CONCEPT DESIGN FOR INTERPRETATION OF
THE FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE AND
IMPROVEMENT TO ITS SURROUNDING AREAS**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' advice on the concept design for the interpretation of the Former Mountain Lodge (FML) and improvement to its surrounding areas.

FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE

2. The FML on the Peak was built between 1900 and 1902 as the summer residence of the Governors of Hong Kong. Owing to a long period of vacancy and neglect during the war years, the main buildings and servant quarters of the FML were in a state of disrepair and were eventually pulled down in 1946 leaving only the Gate Lodge. In the 1970s, the site of the FML was redeveloped and opened to the public as part of the Victoria Peak Garden with a pavilion built by the then Urban Council. The Gate Lodge was declared a monument in 1995.

3. In October 2005, the Tourism Commission launched a Peak Tourism District Enhancement Programme to upgrade the facilities on the Peak. Remains of the foundation of the FML were discovered during the ground investigation conducted by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) in December 2006. After studying the findings provided by ArchSD, the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) decided to carry out an archaeological survey in 2007 to assess the heritage value of the site. The findings of this survey were reported to Members vide Board Papers

— AAB/9/2007-08 and AAB/53/2007-08 at **Annexes A and B**. To ascertain the extent of underground features of the FML, a further investigation was arranged by AMO in 2008. The progress of this investigation was reported to Members vide the progress reports for the Board Meetings on 25 February 2009, 21 May 2009 and 9 September 2009. The fieldwork confirmed that the archaeological remains could indicate the building style of typical Victorian country houses in the early 20th century and ascertained the extent of all archaeological features. A report on the fieldwork has been uploaded in AMO's website onto http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/fmlver_2013_en.pdf.

INTERPRETATION STUDY

4. Having considered the heritage value of the site of the FML, AMO commissioned an interpretation study in 2009 to examine possible options for the display of the identified archaeological remains and features, to formulate an interpretation strategy and to propose a site interpretation plan for the FML and its surrounding areas.

5. With inputs from government departments concerned, the interpretation study was completed in December 2011 with the recommendation of three Scheme Options. Scheme Option 1 acts as the base scheme which adopts a minimal intervention approach to the site of the FML and its surrounding areas. Scheme Option 2 represents a midway between the limited intervention of Scheme Option 1 and the more extensive site development of Scheme Option 3. The progress of the interpretation study was reported to Members vide the progress reports for the Board Meetings on 21 May 2009 and 9 September 2009. The report has also been uploaded onto AMO's website at http://www.amo.gov.hk/form/executive_summary.pdf.

6. Given that the recommendations from the interpretation study are only principles and guidelines, it is agreed after deliberation among the Commissioner for Heritage's Office of the Development Bureau, as well as AMO and the Central and Western District Leisure Services Office of LCSD that a concept design should be worked out to illustrate the interpretation of the FML and the improvement to the surrounding areas. Scheme Option 1 has been adopted as the basic reference in the concept design developed by ArchSD due to its minimal intervention to the site.

THE CONCEPT DESIGN

7. A full set of the concept design for interpretation of the FML and improvement to its surrounding areas worked out by ArchSD is at **Annex C** with highlights listed below:

A) Presentation of the unearthed architectural features to enhance visitors' understanding of the history of the FML

(a) Display of the unearthed mosaic floor tiles and old staircase at the main entrance of the FML main building; and

(b) Display of the two portions of the unearthed foundation of the FML main building with three design options. The concept design plans and artist impression images are at **Annex C**. The design options are:

- Design Scheme 1

The two portions of the foundation of the FML in ventilated glass display showcases

- Design Scheme 2

The two portions of the foundation of the FML behind glass balustrade

- Design Scheme 3

The two portions of the foundation of the FML behind metal railing.

B) Improvement works within the site of the FML to facilitate visitors' appreciation of the architectural relics and features of the FML

(a) Reminiscent of the layout of internal rooms and partitioning walls of the FML main building with timber decking and brick paving materials;

- (b) Reminiscent of the layout of verandahs of the FML main building with patterned tiles floor finishes;
 - (c) Modification of the existing stonewall built on top of the exposed stone footing of the FML main building; and
 - (d) Provision of two metal staircases at the main entrance of the FML main building site to facilitate public appreciation of the mosaic floor tiles and old staircase as well as public access to the FML.
- C) Enhancement works at the periphery of the site to harmonise the environment of the FML and its surrounding areas
- (a) Repaving of the immediate surrounding of the FML main building site and the toilet block up to the car park and the front of 40 Mount Austin Road;
 - (b) Upgrading of the public toilet adjacent to the FML main building site with provision of the disabled toilet behind the public toilet block;
 - (c) Upgrading of the kiosk adjacent to the FML main building site;
 - (d) Provision of ramps next to the kiosk for barrier free access to the site;
 - (e) Minor landscaping works in the surrounding areas of the FML;
 - (f) Provision of information panels and directional signages in respect of the FML at both FML main building site and open area surrounding the Gate Lodge; and
 - (g) Replacement of the existing lamp posts at the FML main building site and nearby surrounding area with the Victorian style lamp posts.

8. The concept design will be further refined with reference to Members' comments. The Central and Western District Council will also be consulted. Upon finalisation of the concept design, AMO will follow up with the ArchSD and other offices concerned to implement the proposal. It is anticipated that actual works can commence in 2014.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to offer their comments on the concept design for interpretation of the FML and improvement to its surrounding areas.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
February 2013

Ref: LCSD/CS/AMO 22-3/0

**For Information
on 6 March 2007**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/9/2007-08**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE
AT THE VICTORIA PEAK GARDEN**

PURPOSE

To inform Members of an archaeological survey on the remains of the Former Mountain Lodge at the Victoria Peak Garden.

BACKGROUND

2. The Victoria Peak Garden with a pavilion was built by the then Urban Council in the 1970s. In 1978, a boundary stone with the inscription of “GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE” was discovered on Mount Austin Road. The stone is now on display at the lawn near the pavilion (**Annex A**). In 1979, another boundary stone was discovered above Harlech Road, which was then re-sited outside the former Government House at Upper Albert Road.

3. In October 2005, the Tourism Commission launched the Peak Tourism District Enhancement Programme (the Programme) to upgrade the facilities at the Peak. During the investigation work by the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) in December 2006, some relics which are believed to be the original foundations of the former Mountain Lodge were found in some trial pits excavated by Arch SD’s contractor. The trial pits were backfilled for the sake of public safety and the AMO was informed of the findings. Location plan of the former Mountain Lodge and the Victoria Peak Garden is at **Annex B**.

4. After studying the initial findings reported by Arch SD, the AMO decided to carry out an archaeological survey to assess the heritage value of the site with the following objectives:

- a) To re-open the trial pits excavated by Arch SD’s contractor and study the remains collected from the trial pits;
- b) To conduct field investigation to ascertain the preservation conditions of the foundations of the Lodge and the related building facilities (e.g. water supplies, drainage, gas lamp and electric bell as recorded in the historical archives);
- c) To conduct fieldwork to identify any remains at the site in accordance with the historical photographs and archives.

HISTORY OF FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE

5. There were three buildings purposely built for the former Governors of Hong Kong on the Peak as summer residence. The first and second ones, constructed in 1867 and 1892 respectively, were badly damaged during typhoons. The 12th Governor Sir Henry Blake invited Palmer & Turner to design the new Mountain Lodge, which was completed in 1902. It was equipped with billiard room, schoolroom, bedrooms, dressing rooms, fireplaces, gas lighting, tessellated verandahs, and a lightning conductor on each of its four towers. The building was once described as “the largest and handsome building at the Peak”. The building plan of the lodge of 1903 is at Annex C.

6. However, the house was not frequently used and abandoned in the 1930s. Another Governor’s lodge in Fanling was completed in 1934. It was completely pulled down in 1946 due to the high maintenance costs. In 1970, the site was redeveloped as the Victoria Peak Garden. Only the Gate Lodge of the Mountain Lodge is preserved in-situ and was declared as a monument in 1995.

PRESENT POSITION

7. Upon the completion of hoarding erection by the Arch SD, the survey commenced on 30 January 2007. According to the preliminary fieldwork assessment, the foundation of Mountain Lodge is well preserved, while disturbances resulted from the construction of Pavilion and the associated facilities, e.g. lighting and drainage, were noted. Two pairs of stone lions donated by Mr. Chiu Yau (周有) and the Lions Clubs in 1979 and 1990s respectively were also well kept at the northwest and southeast entrances of the Pavilion.

8. The fieldwork of the survey will last for two months. An archaeological report with findings and recommendations will be available in late April 2007 to Members and the relevant departments for consideration on the way forward.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department
February 2007

Ref: LCS AM 22/3
LCS AM 53/6/7

**For information
on 16 April 2008**

**BOARD PAPER
AAB/53/2007-08**

**MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE
ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT THE SITE OF
THE FORMER MOUNTAIN LODGE**

PURPOSE

To inform Members of the findings of the archaeological survey at the site of the former Mountain Lodge (FML) conducted from January to March 2007 and the plan of conducting a further excavation.

BACKGROUND

2. Members were informed of the preliminary findings of the archaeological survey at the site of the FML on 6 March 2007 vide Board Paper AAB/9/2007-08 (**Annex A**).

3. Prior to commencement of the survey, documentary research had been carried out to gather archival materials such as historical drawings, photographs and records in respect of the FML built in 1902. The survey, conducted between 30 January and 16 March 2007, included a subsurface investigation and a field reconnaissance.

4. The subsurface investigation was carried out at the area where the FML's main building and servant quarters once stood. The total area of excavation was approximately 140m². A field reconnaissance was then conducted to search relics relevant to the FML. Upon completion of the survey, all the features identified were recorded and preserved in-situ in accordance with the standard practice of field archaeology.

FINDINGS

5. A report on the archaeological survey at the FML site is attached at **Annex B**. Major findings are summarized as follows:-

- (a) The exterior stone foundation of the FML basically remains intact. There are 16 vents identified at the northern, eastern and southern sides of the FML site. The southwestern part of the exterior foundation is completely covered with modern cement, forming part of the platform

of the existing pavilion.

- (b) The interior foundation of FML was deciphered through trial pits and additional test trenches. It is found that the interior foundation was partially damaged by the concrete footings and associated utilities of the existing pavilion.
- (c) Apart from the original floor and a pair of “cross” stone pillars, 6 granite steps ascending to the porch, the mosaic of the porch (formed by ceramic floor tiles), rainwater drains and traces of door frame were discovered.
- (d) 6 column bases and 3 groups of two-step stairways were found on the western edge of FML main building.
- (e) Apart from 3 old iron balustrades reported by the Arch SD in mid January 2007, the brick wall foundation of 2 structures at the servant quarters area were recovered.
- (f) The huge retaining wall adjacent to the main building, retaining walls next to the previous tennis court, 8 flights of old stone steps, the stone drainage system and a dumping site for FML building materials were identified.
- (g) 8 boundary stones with the inscription of “GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE”, 2 boundary stones with inscription of “WD No. 4” and “WD No. 6”, a derelict Water Works bungalow and another 3 dumping areas of building debris probably for a private mansion “Eyrie” in close vicinity of the site were identified.

AMO’S ASSESSMENT

6. The FML at the Victoria Peak was a typical Victorian country house with clear segmentation of functional space. Findings of the survey have indicated that the FML’s foundations are basically preserved in good condition. The mosaic laid at the porch was formed by 15 types of floor tiles from the famous Minton Hollins & Co in England.

7. The 8 boundary stones of “GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE”, the foundation of FML main building, the remains of the servant quarters, together with the relics found in the vicinity as well as the declared monument, Gate Lodge form significant features that help trace the building style and the colonial past of Hong Kong during the Victorian era.

WAY FORWARD

8. As there were very few above-ground structures built on the site after demolition of the FML, it is believed that most of the underground features and many other relics could have been preserved. Further investigation will therefore be conducted to ascertain all underground features of the FML in particular the foundation on the western side, the associated facilities of the FML as well as the third structures of the servant quarters. Based on the findings of the investigation, conservation and interpretation strategies would be considered for the whole FML site.

9. The project will comprise two parts: an archaeological excavation to ascertain all underground features of the FML site and an interpretation study to consider options for future display of the features found. It is planned that the excavation would commence in late 2008 and the interpretation study would start in early 2009.

Antiquities and Monuments Office
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

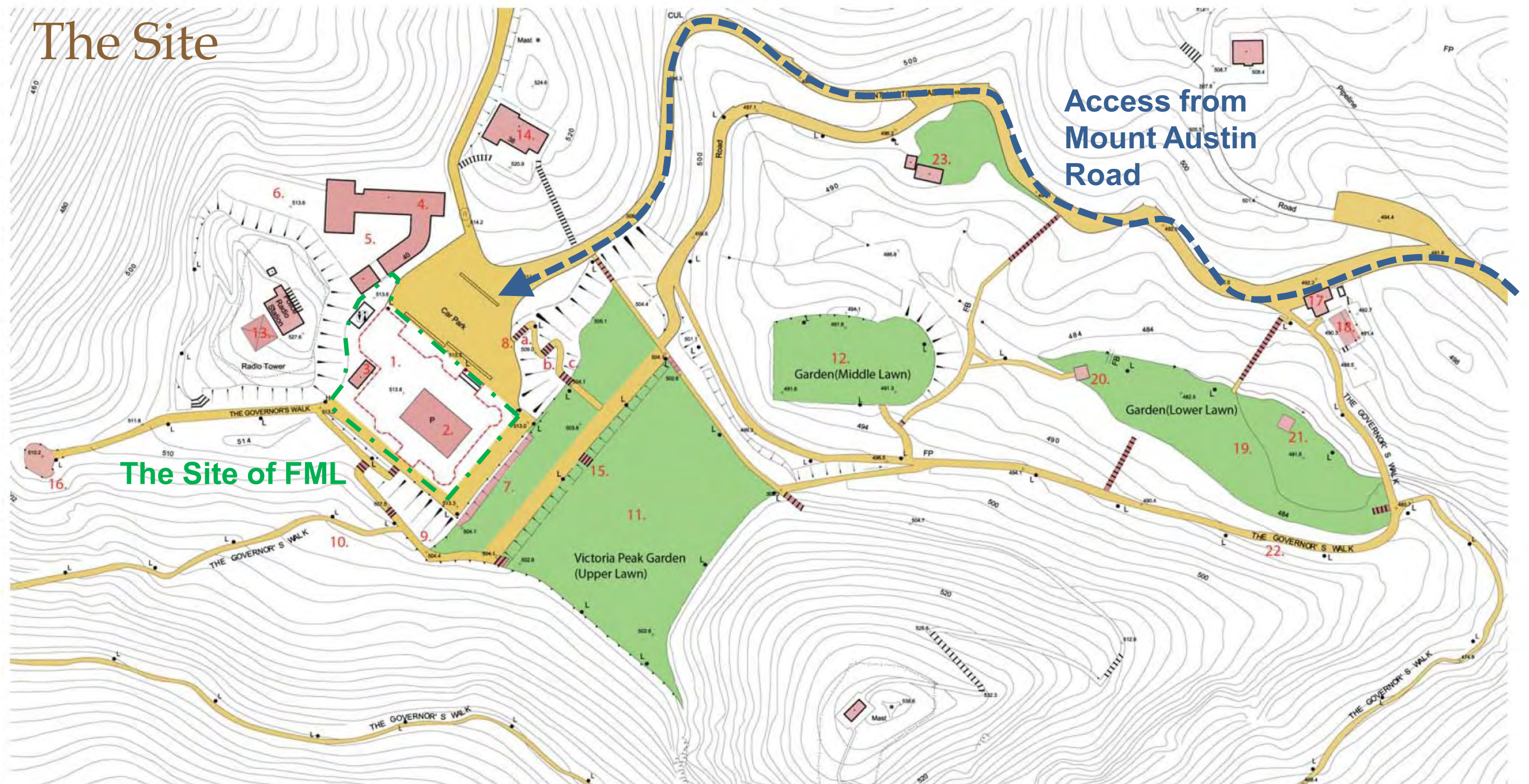
April 2008

Ref: LCS AM 22/3
LCS AM 53/6/7

An architectural rendering of a modern building, identified as Annex C. The building features a long, low profile with a flat roof and a series of white columns supporting the structure. Large glass windows are visible, showing an interior with a staircase. The building is situated on a wooden plank deck. In the background, a low wall and a clear sky are visible.

Annex C The Concept Design

The Site



Legend

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Foundation of Former Mountain Lodge | 7. Retaining wall | 17. Gate Lodge |
| 2. Pavilion by the former Urban Council | 8. Zigzag Footpath Steps | 18. Terrace |
| 3. Kiosk | 9. Circulation (Footpath) | 19. Garden (Lower Lawn) |
| 4. 40 Mount Austin Road | 10. Ruins of Mountain Lodge | 20. Rotunda |
| 5. Foundation of former servant quarter - site A | 11. Victoria Peak Garden (Upper Lawn) | 21. Gazebo |
| 6. Foundation of former servant quarter - site B | 12. Garden (Middle Lawn) | 22. Governor's Walk |
| | 13. Radio tower | 23. Government Store |
| | 14. 36 Mount Austin Road | |
| | 15. Stone Steps | |
| | 16. Circular Viewing Platform | |

10m 20m 50m



The Site



The Site



The Site



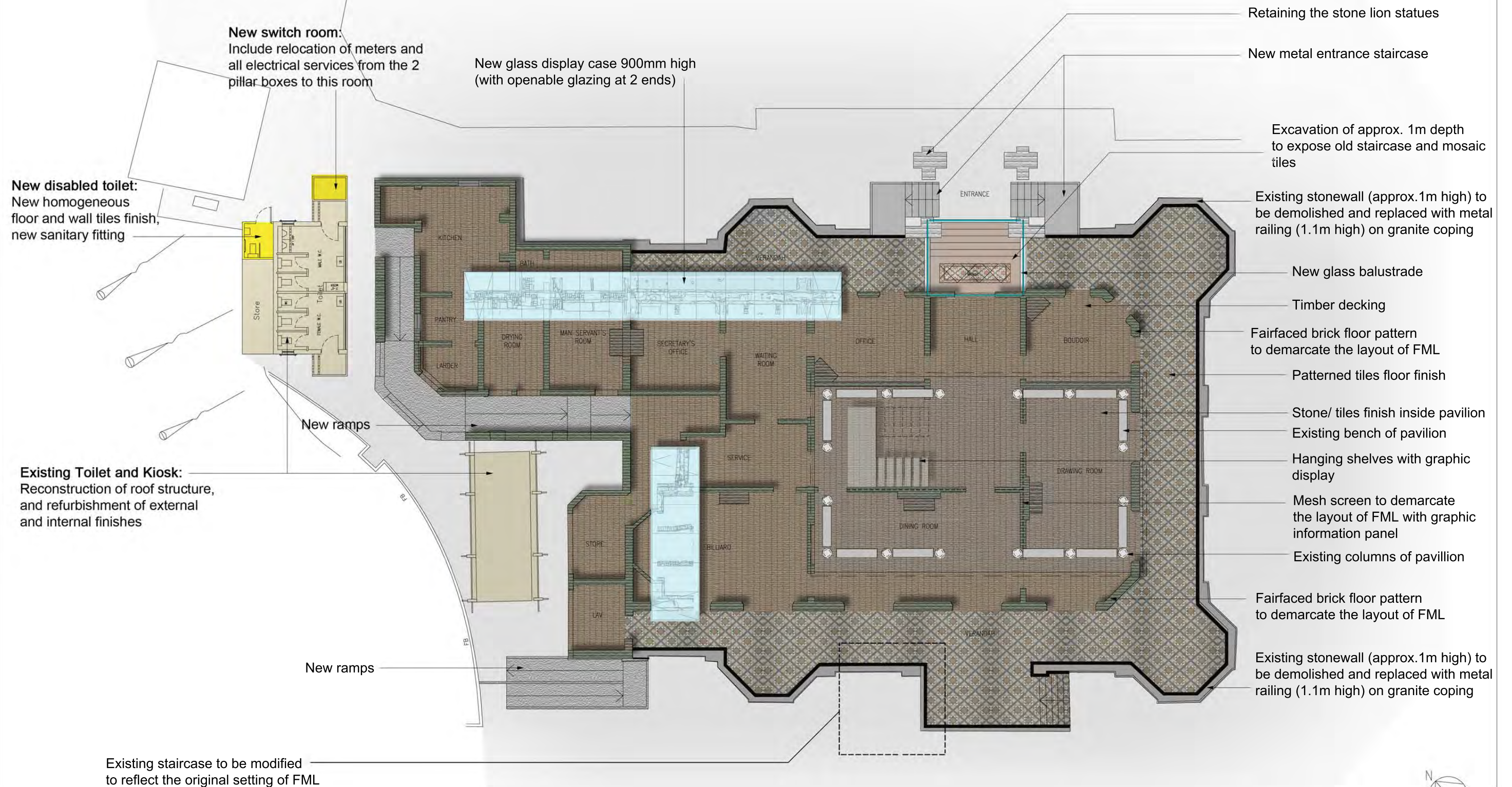
Site Plan

1:500 [A3]



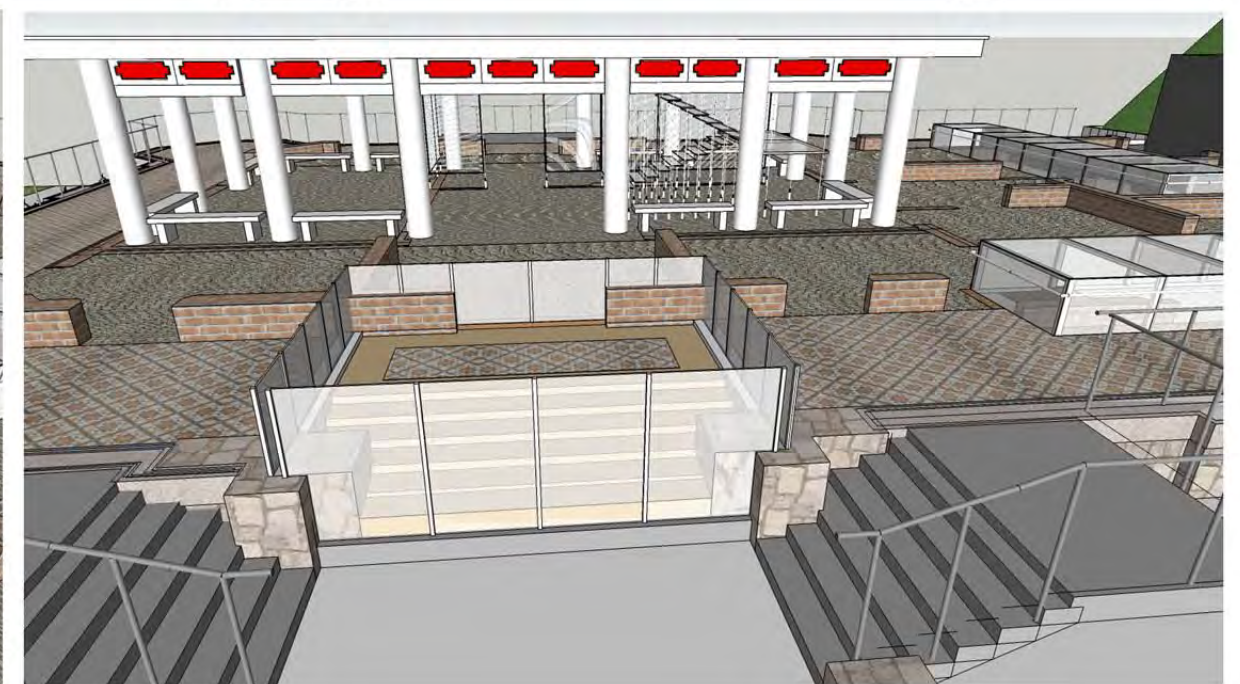
Scheme 1 Ground Floor Plan

1:200 [A3]



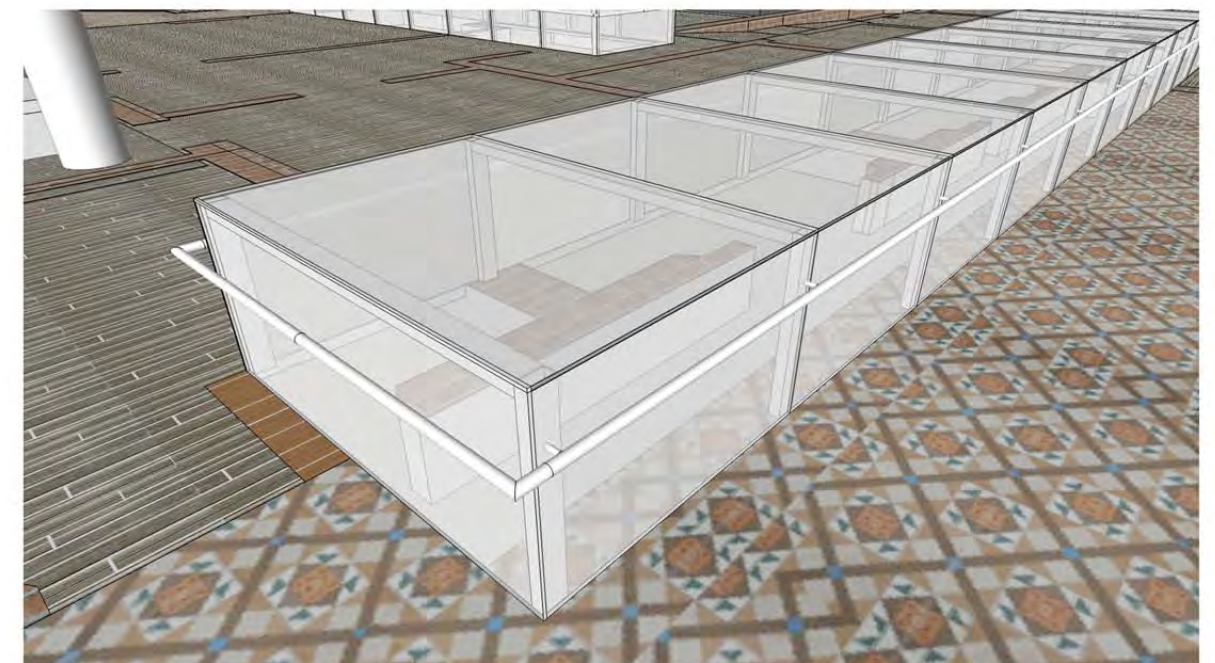
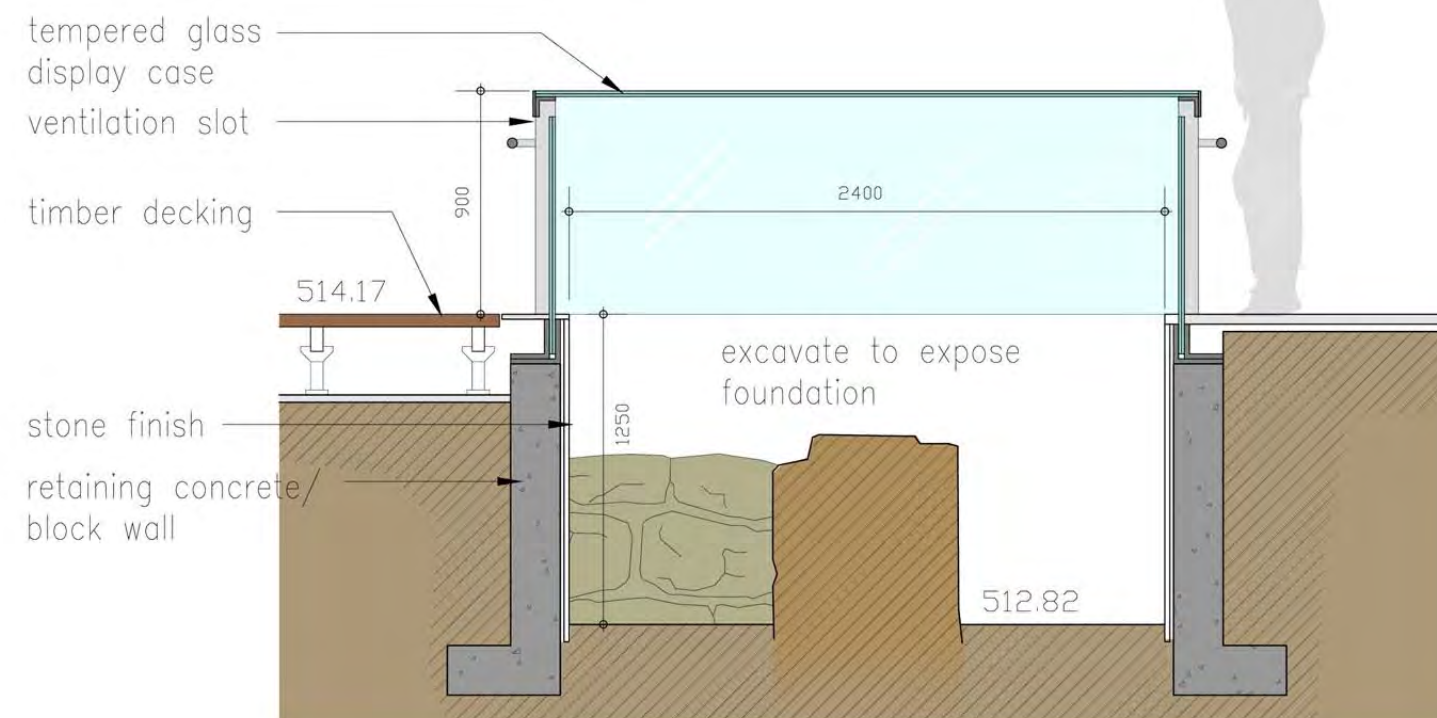
Scheme 1

Perspectives



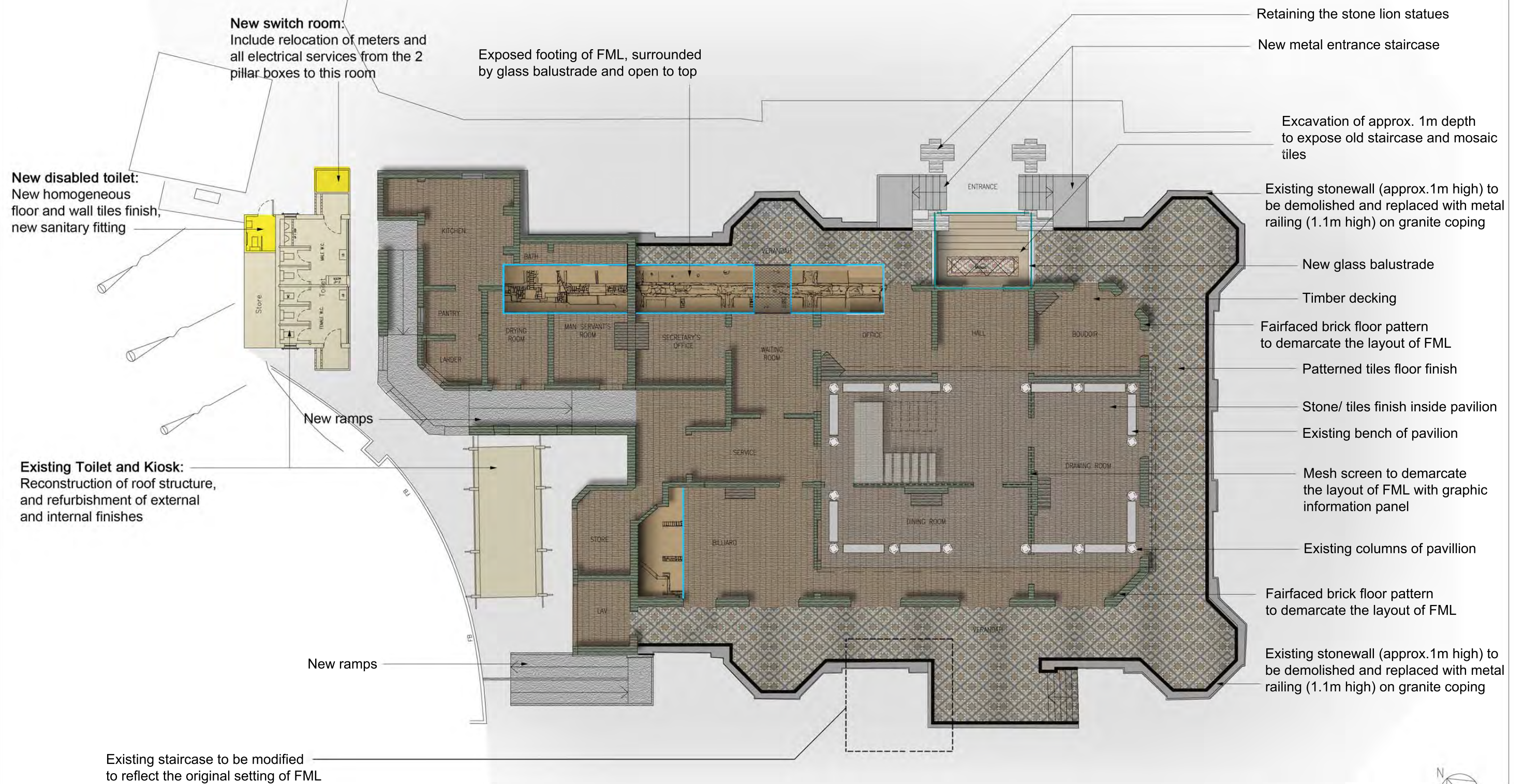
Scheme 1 Details for Display of Footing

1:30 [A3]



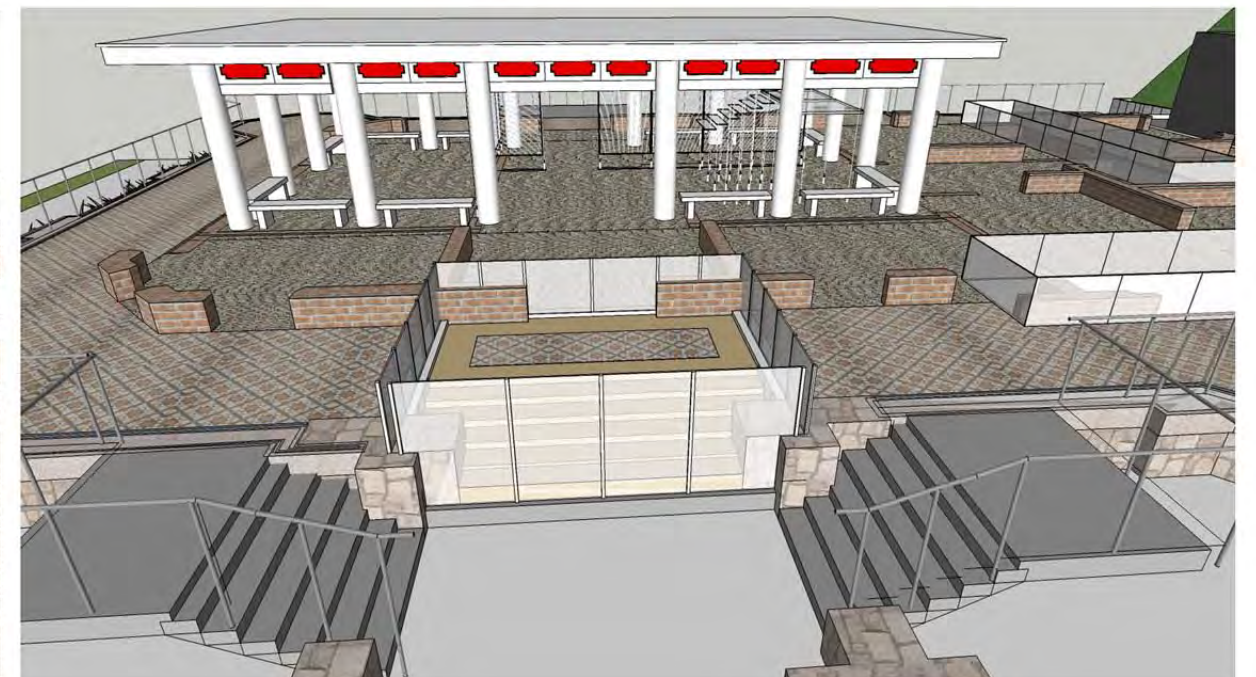
Scheme 2 Ground Floor Plan

1:200 [A3]



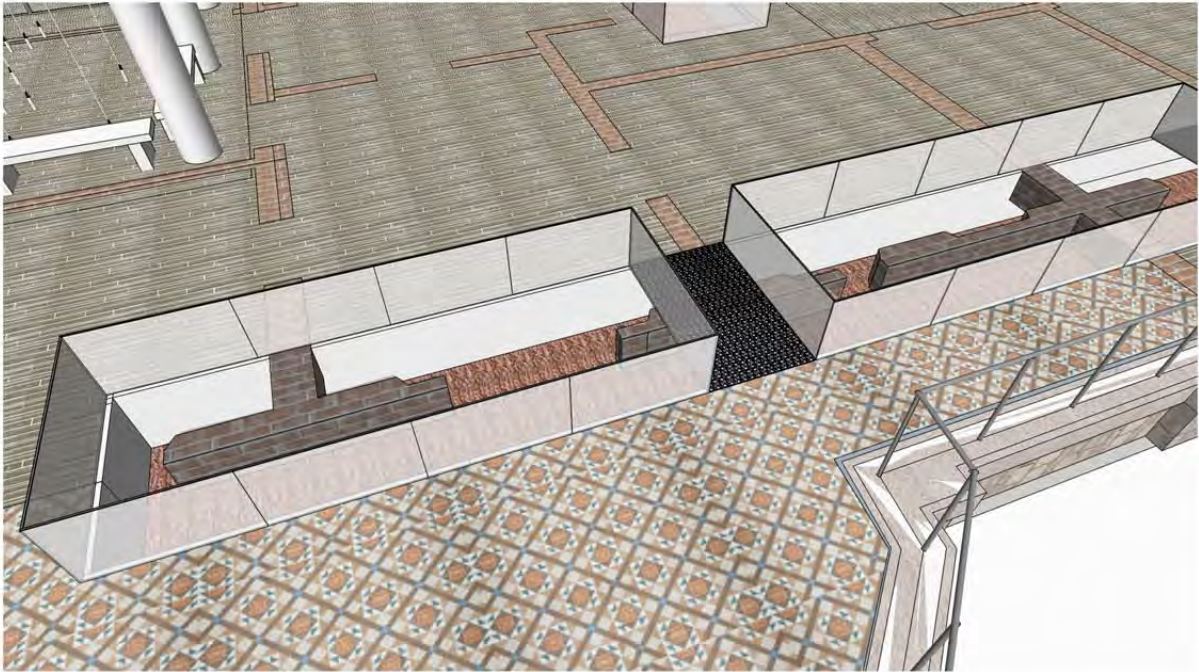
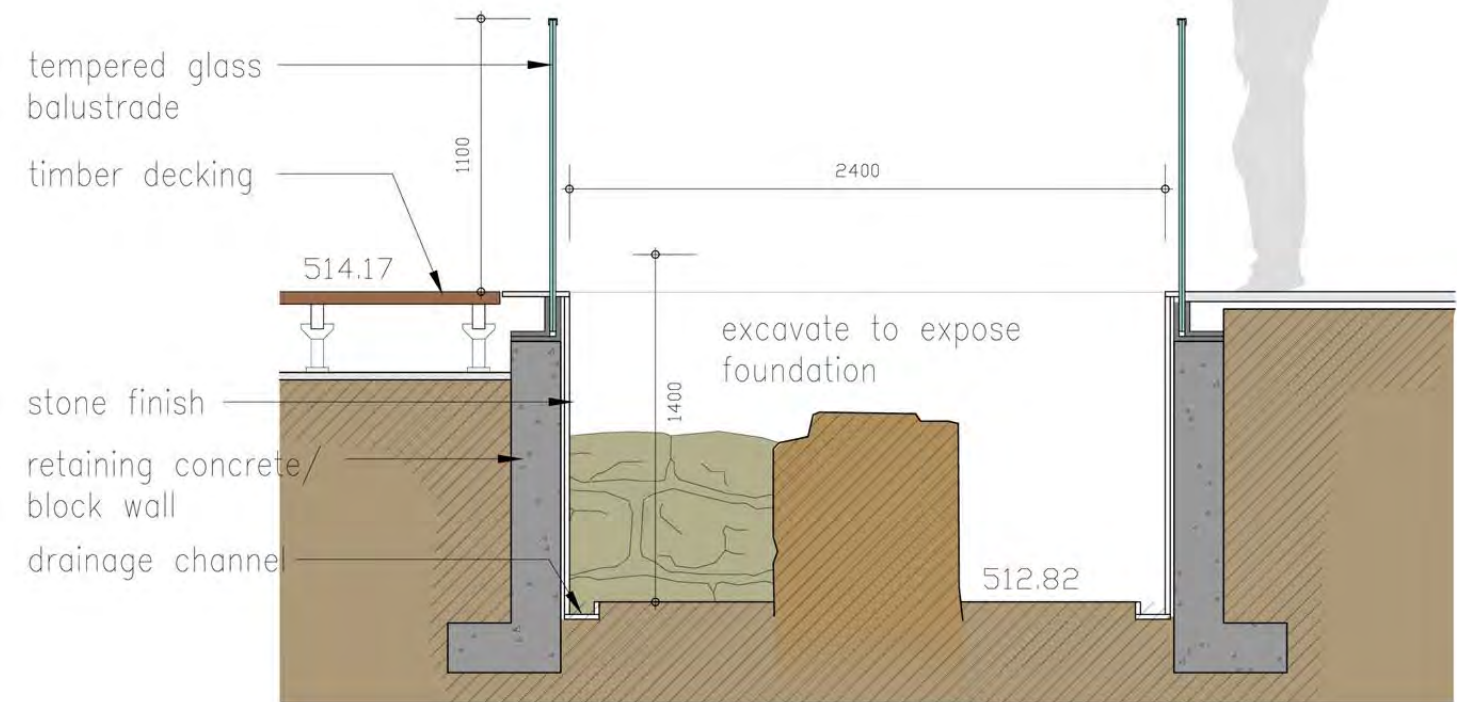
Scheme 2

Perspectives



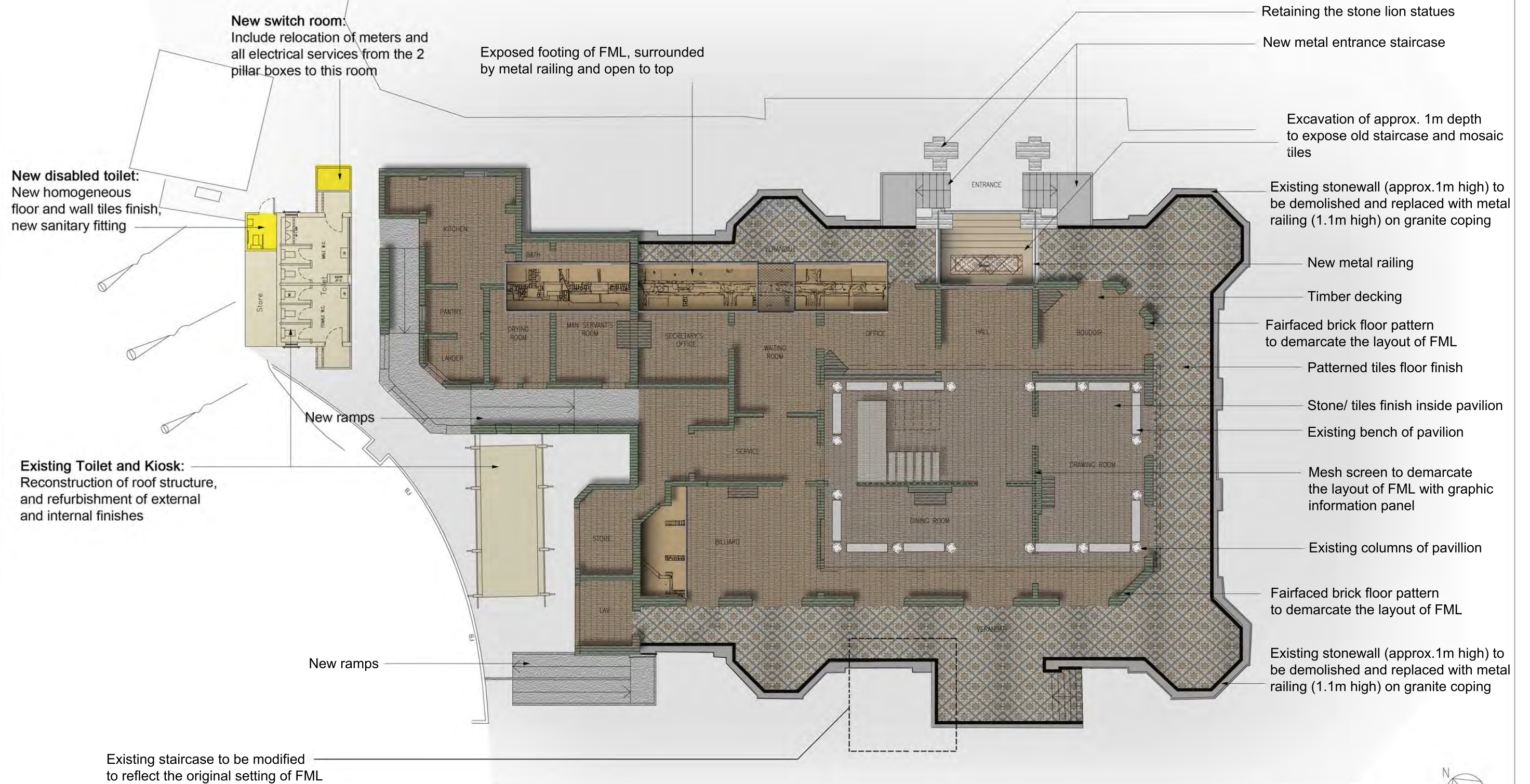
Scheme 2 Details for Display of Footing

1:30 [A3]

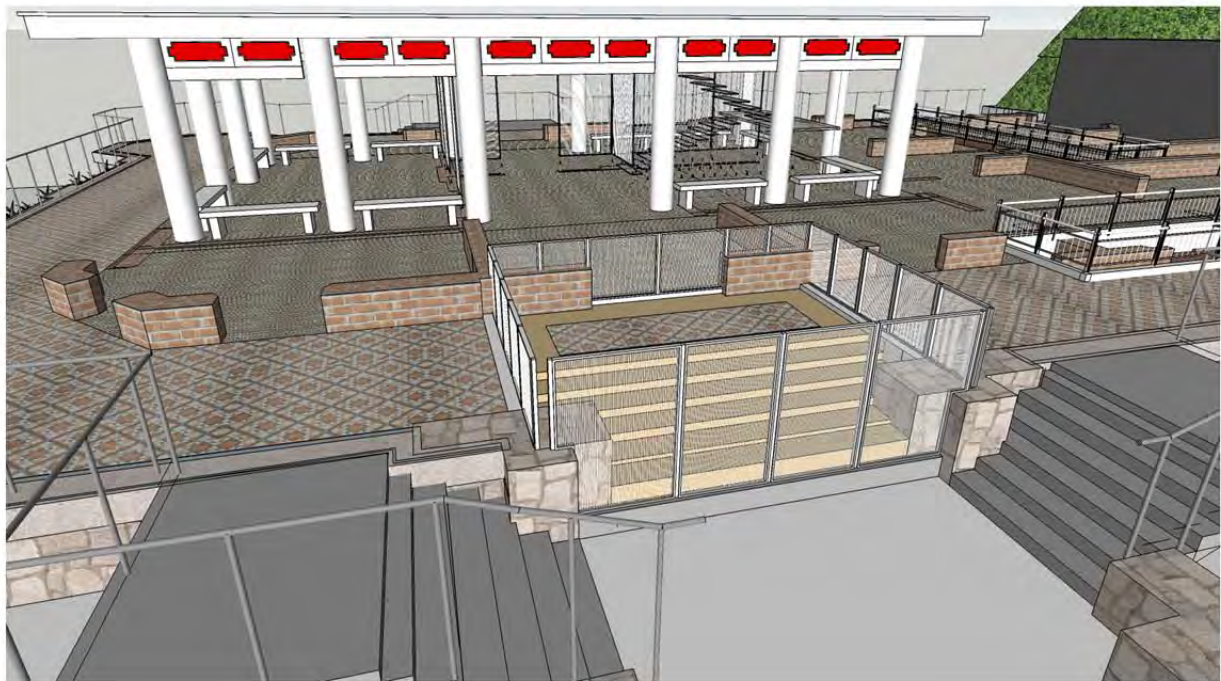


Scheme 3 Ground Floor Plan

1:200 [A3]

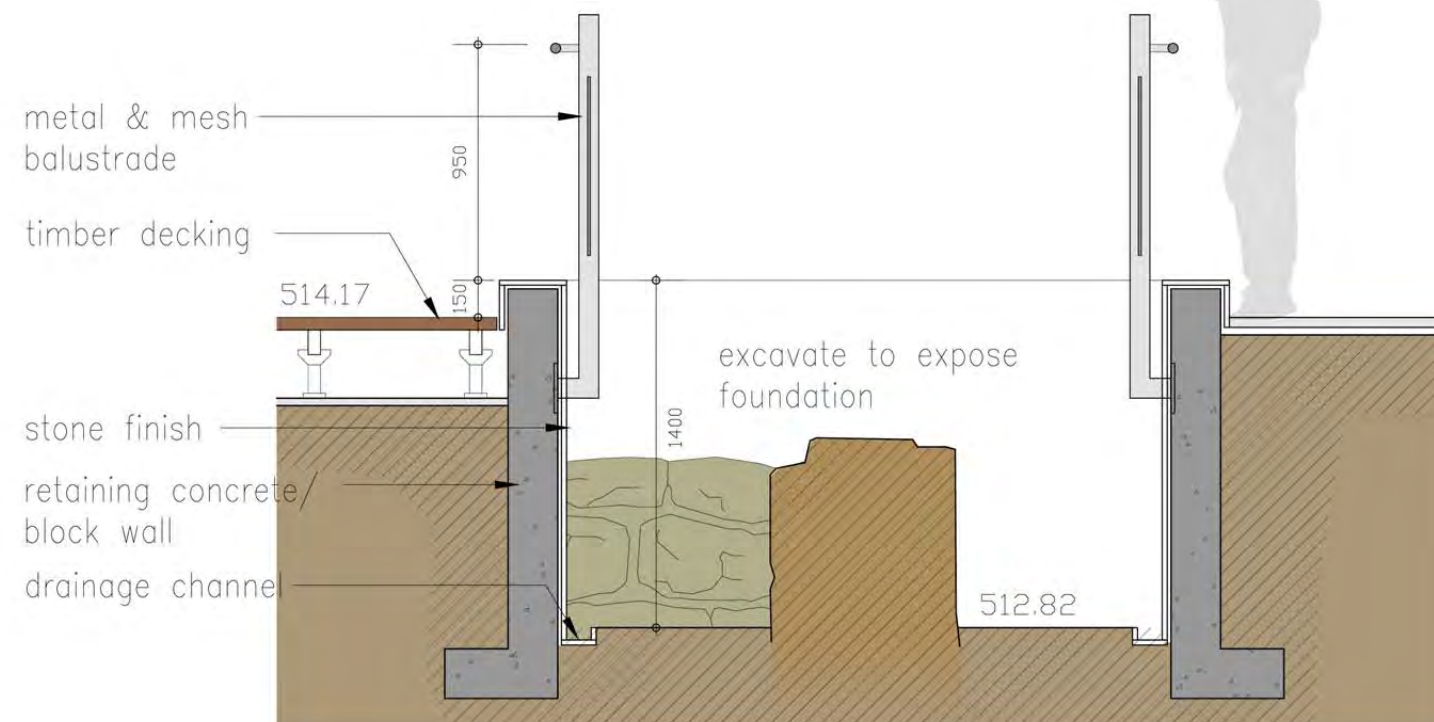
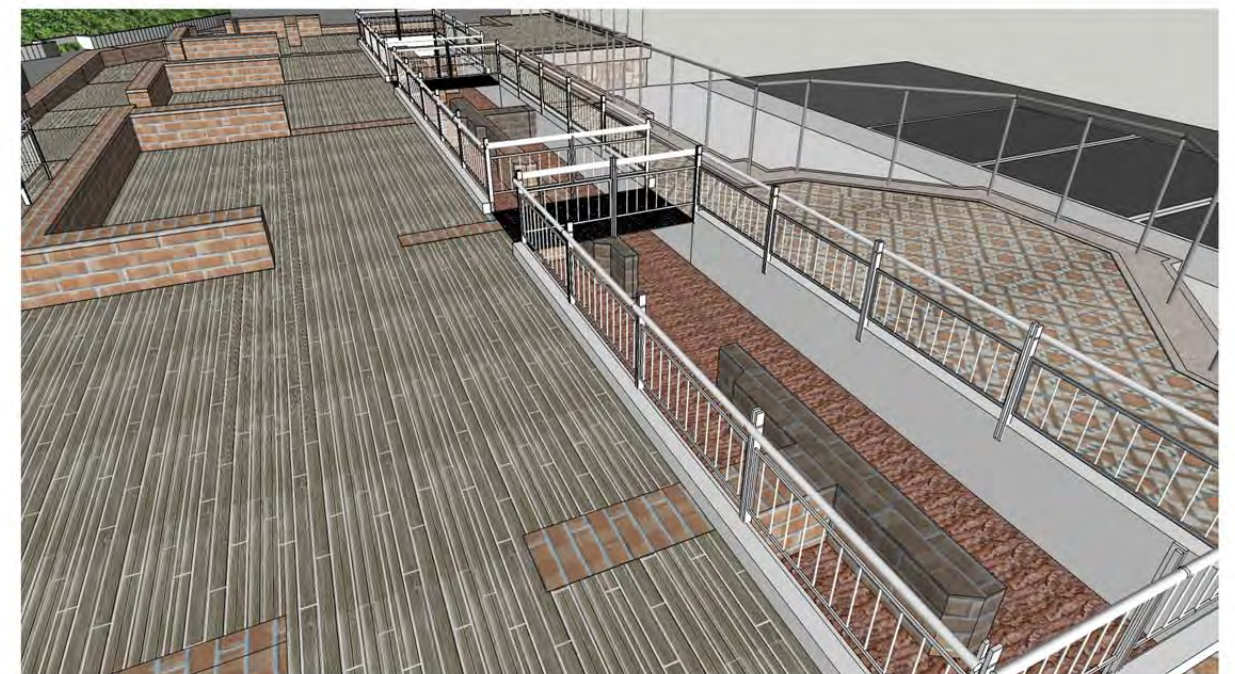
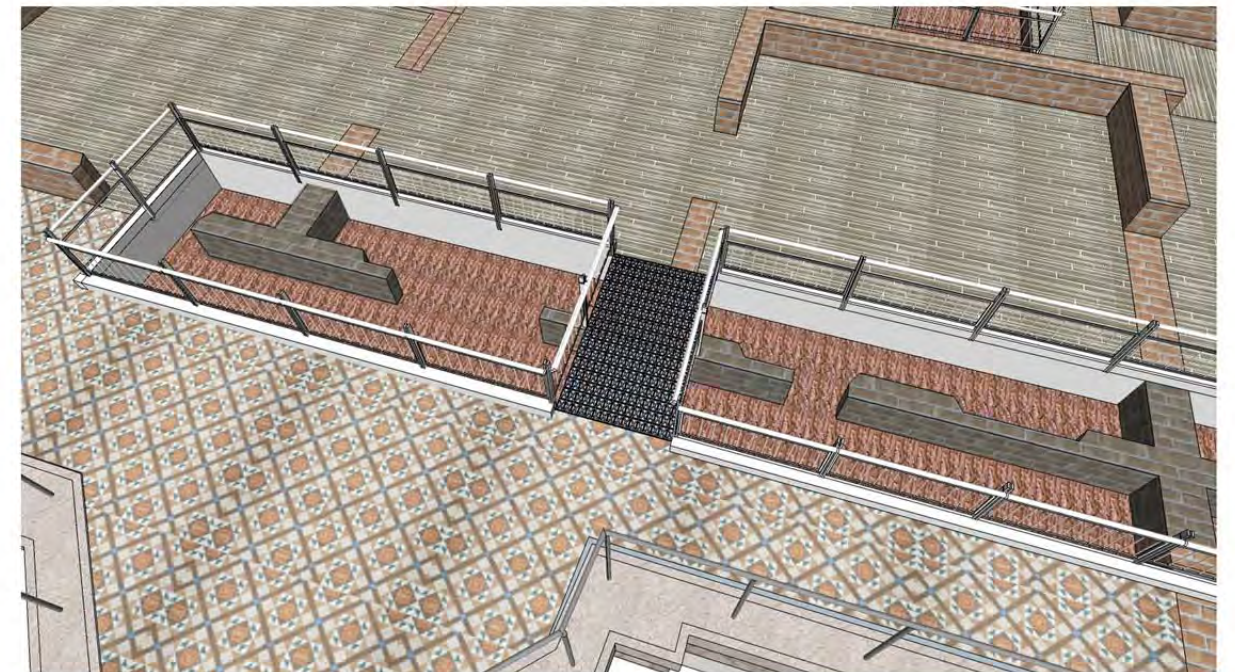


Scheme 3
Perspectives



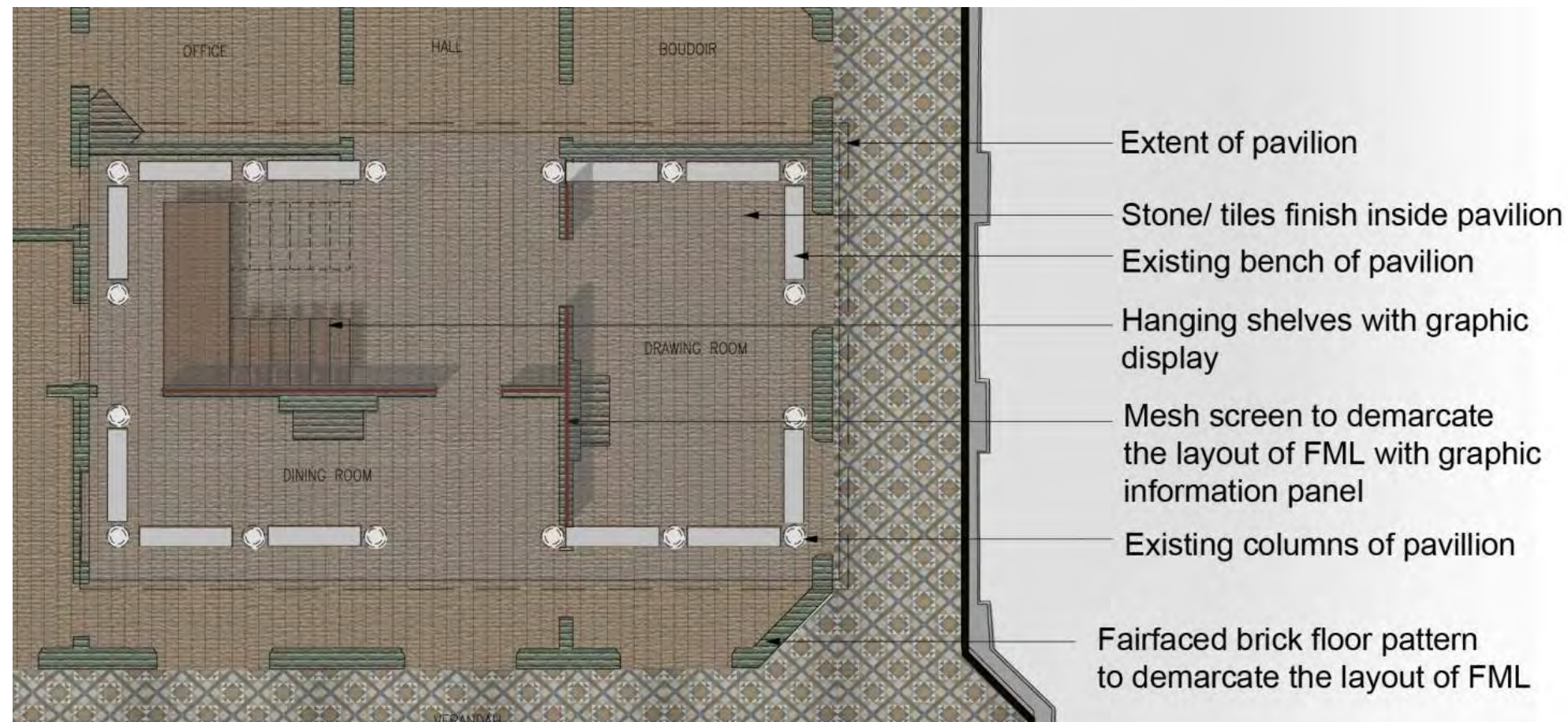
Scheme 3 Details for Display of Footing

1:30 [A3]



Inside the Pavilion

Structure and benches of pavilion are maintained, with addition of information display



Reference images

