

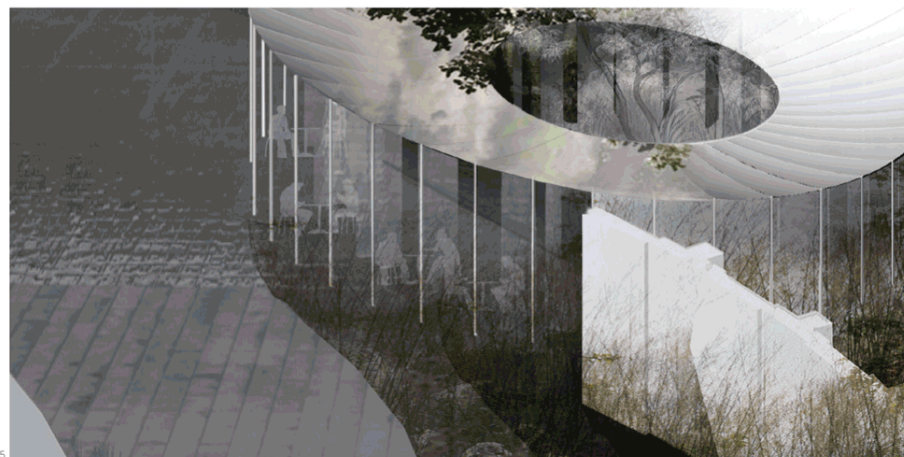
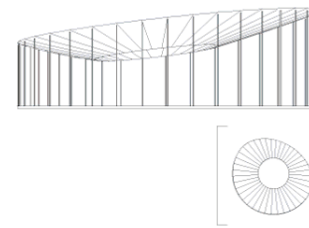
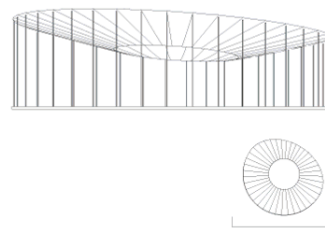
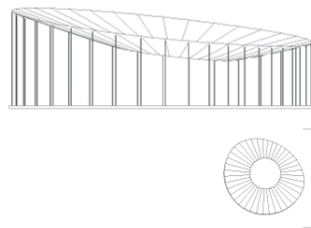
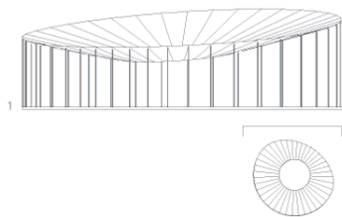
Creating a 'Chelsea Original' – A Landscape Response

Our ambition for this project is to create a striking green landmark for Chelsea - not a garden in a cafe but a cafe that is a garden with a unique innovative fusion of planting and architecture - an all year round symbol for a 'green' Chelsea linking both to its heritage of gardens including the Chelsea Physic Garden, Chelsea Flower Show and the borough's forward thinking approach to sustainability.

Conceived as a simple glass cloche capturing a piece of the Duke of York Square. The Cafe's concave roof appears to rest effortlessly across a landscape of tall grasses intertwined with 40 slender columns.

The vertical accents of ornamental grasses and evergreen rush-like Restios surround the outer perimeter of the Cafe, visually repeating the thin columns. Plants with semi-transparent qualities such as the tall ornamental grass *Molinia Caerulea*, 'transparent' with its spectacular see-through stems, filter views, light and shadow and further emphasize the permeability of the structure and a continuation of the landscape through the Cafe.

The gentle double curved roof surface is orientated to catch the eye of pedestrians on the Kings Road and as they pass it gradually reveals a striking inverted canopy. It's reflective jewel like appearance among the plane trees attract passer's by into the square and gradually disappears again as they move toward the Saatchi Gallery or into the market on the southern side of the square.



The planting of the Cadogan Cafe garden draws inspiration from Chelsea's rich gardening heritage. It aims to celebrate the passion and intellect that Chelsea locals and their world wide collaborators have invested into finding and developing new plants and creating gardens over the past 400 years.

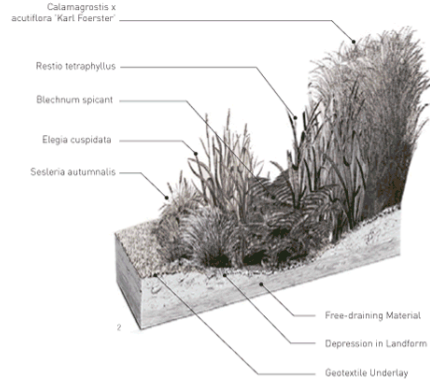
The gardens also take advantage of the warm microclimate of Chelsea which enables many non-native, tender plants to thrive. These benign conditions influenced the location of the Chelsea Physic Garden; the proximity to the river not only created a warmer microclimate but was also important as a transport route facilitating easy movements of both plants and botanists. This tradition of plant exchange, display and collection continues today, with the Chelsea Flower Show, attracting visitors and horticultural specialists from around the globe. The Cafe's garden extends this rich tradition bringing contemporary planting out onto the street for all to experience and enjoy. In this way the Cafe could be seen as a green satellite, continuing the pioneering spirit of gardening unique to Chelsea.



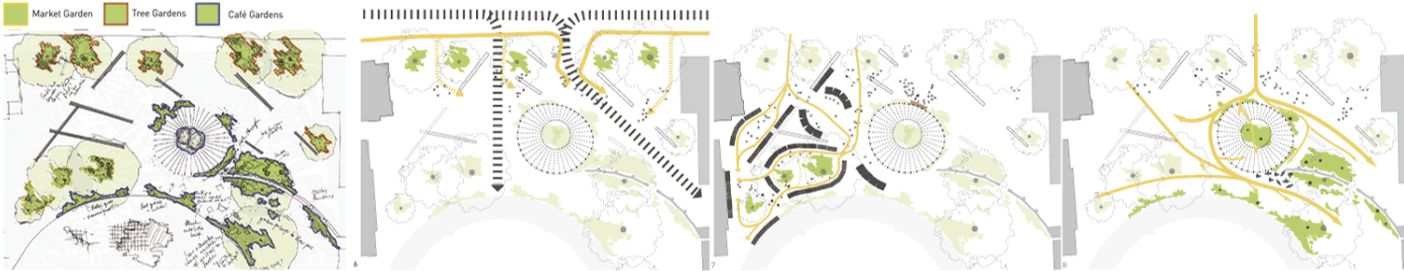
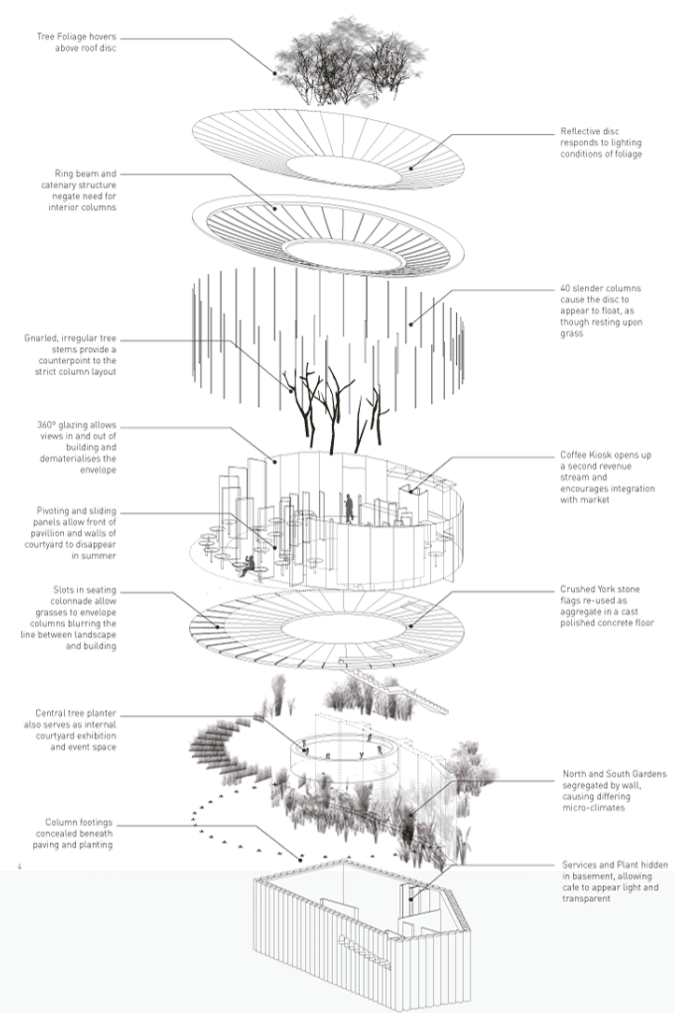
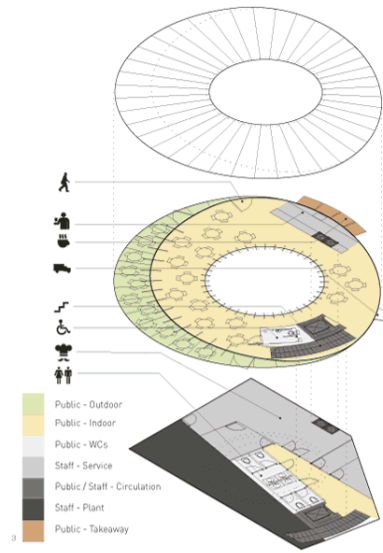
- 1 - Cafe Elevations
- 2 - 2012 Olympic Park, Stratford, Sarah Price Landscapes
- 3 - *Molinia* 'Transparent' Weill
- 4 - Cafe Concept Sketch
- 5 - Cafe Concept Sketch
- 6 - Chelsea Aerial View
- 7 - Sir Hans Sloane, Chelsea Physic Garden
- 8 - Ranelagh Rotunda, as painted by Canaletto



New planting beds perform as swales or rain gardens to aid rain water retention within the landscape in an effort to deal with the problem of excessive surface water on the square.



- 1 - Planting Palette for landscape
- 2 - Axonometric Section through Planted Drainage Swale
- 3 - 1:200 Isometric Plans
- 4 - Exploded Axonometric
- 5 - Garden Plan
- 6 - Tree Gardens acting as buffers, slowing and filtering traffic off the King's Road
- 7 - Rearranged market stalls, integrate a courtyard Market Garden
- 8 - Café and South Sculpture Gardens, leading to the Saatchi Gallery
- 9 - 1:200 Section through Proposal



Landscape
The landscaping elements beyond the perimeter of the project site boundary sets out to enhance the series of extremely successful events that currently take place in the square.

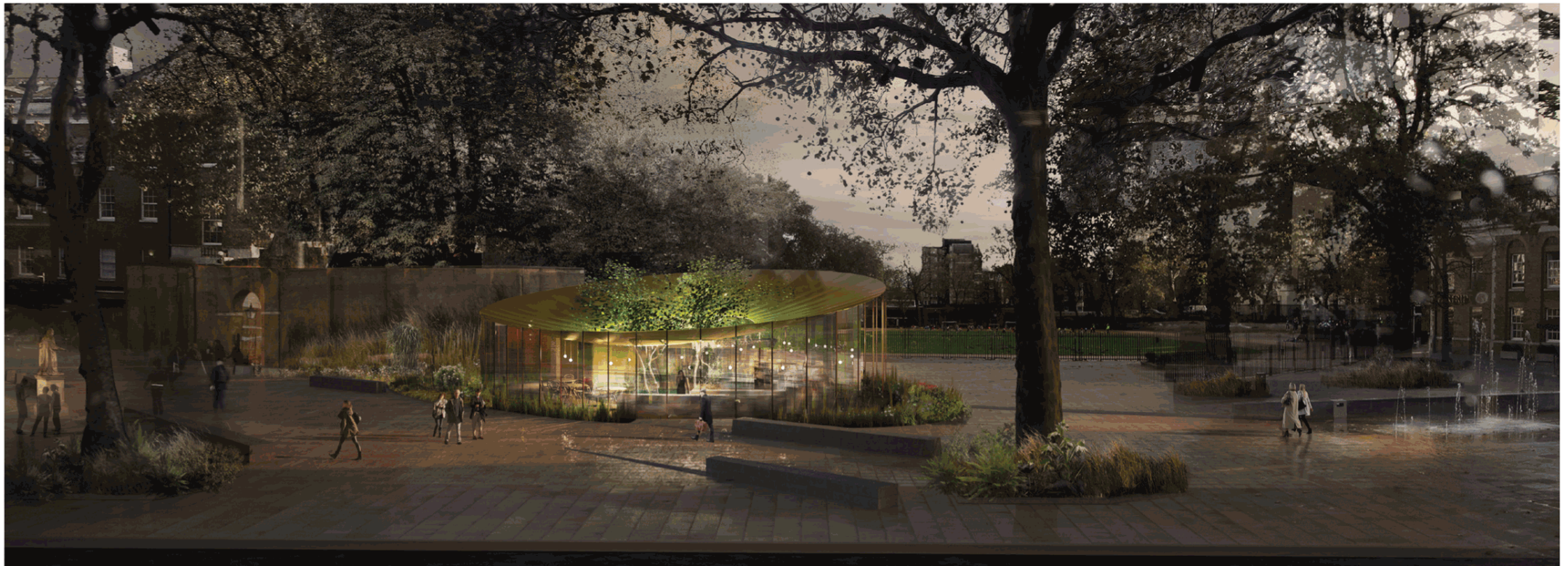
Key 'theme' plants will be repeated across the site to create a distinct atmosphere, identity and sense of unity to the gardens. The regular repetition of key structural, evergreen plantings will generate a sense of formality and order appropriate to the high profile area of the square.

Throughout all of the garden pockets evergreen grasses and Restios will provide year round continuity of form whilst the alternating tones, heights and 'transparency' of deciduous plant forms will celebrate seasonal change; many of the deciduous ornamental grasses are predominantly green in early summer and will develop buff and copper tones as winter approaches. Assuring that the Café and Gardens can act as an attractive new focal point for events all year round from the weekly farmer's market, Wimbledon and Christmas events.

Pavilion
Through innovative use of a catenary cable net structure these sculptural stems are the only columns inside the Café and their circular grouping denote an informal gallery space at the heart of the pavilion.

Key to the design is the ambition of extending seasons similar to traditional greenhouse structures. Dynamic glazing made up of narrow pivoting panels allows the sheltered courtyard to open up completely to the interior, in effect turning the Café inside-out, and thereby allowing a sense of sheltered outdoor seating all year around.

At the height of summer the south facing section of glazing can also open up to the colonnade seating.



Chelsea Bell Jars

The Bell Jar proposal draws upon the heritage of the Index Seminum, the plant and seed exchange founded in 1682 by John Watts, Director of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

Lower swathes of ornamental grasses will extend outwards from the Café's immediate periphery in particular toward the north east in front of the listed feature wall. These bold drifts will be interplanted with perennials, some incredibly statuesque reaching over 2 m in height. All the perennials will be self-supporting and will have an open see-through structure, with a lower flurry of leaves and relatively leafless stems, for example, Valeriana Officinalis. When lit at night the shadows cast on to the listed feature wall will be spectacular.

Situated in amongst this northern garden are a series of Wardian Case-like Bell Jars. Rather like the first treasured imports of plants to the Chelsea Physic Garden, these beautiful glass jars highlight a changing display of 'on loan' specimen plants. Some of the plants exhibited may be rare - our native Lady's slipper Orchid for example. Other may house a series of delicate art pieces.

The 'Bell Jars' and Garden beds intend to act as tiny 'pop up galleries' that encourage the garden spaces to be curated, initiating a dialogue between the discipline of art, architecture and landscape -all key aspects of Chelsea's unique character.

Artists would also be encouraged to exhibit within the central Café courtyards. This original space also lends itself as a unique outdoor venue for performances, events or small scale screenings.



During the day the roof surface frames and reflects the crowns of the courtyard trees giving the unique experience of sitting under a sun lit tree canopy.

At night the trees themselves are lit and their illuminated evergreen foliage is refracted and multiplied across the roof surface, transforming into a striking green landmark for Chelsea.

- 1 - Artist's impression of Café in landscape
- 2 - Bell Jar in Chelsea Physic Garden
- 3 - Artist's Impression of Courtyard interior
- 4 - Interaction between disc and trees - Day
- 5 - Interaction between disc and trees - Night
- 6 - 360° Views out of Café
- 7 - Views through Café
- 8 - Pivoting windows dematerialise walls of the Café
- 9 - Sliding windows completely remove walls of Café

