

# Why We're Here

**Farrer Huxley are pleased to share the proposed concept design for the future Emma Cons Gardens, which has emerged from the consultation process. This is our final consultation and we would love for you to join us once more to let us know if you support the proposals.**

Emma Cons Gardens was opened as a public garden by London County Council in 1958. It is in the heart of Waterloo but does not currently fulfil its potential as a public space. A number of proposals have been developed previously but have not been implemented.

In January 2021, a group of local community organisations formed the Emma Cons Gardens Steering Group (ECGSG) alongside the Council to come up with new designs for the square.

In July 2021, ECGSG held a competition to appoint design specialists, who would create a concept design informed by the consultation process. Farrer Huxley landscape architects were selected as the preferred bidder in September 2021.

During the summer of 2021 a survey was carried out by Carver Haggard and The Means, inviting people to share their ideas for a new Emma Cons Gardens. It was clear that many respondents did not feel that the space currently has a distinctive or memorable character.

In November 2021, to unlock that identity and sense of place, Farrer Huxley invited people to re-imagine Emma Cons Gardens, exploring local history and the future possibilities for the space. The insights gathered have informed the design proposals we're sharing with you today. We would love to talk to you about the design and hear any feedback so that we can finalise it and submit for Planning Approval later in the spring.



[emmacons.com](https://emmacons.com)

*Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.*

## January 2021

Emma Cons Gardens Steering Group (ECGSG) is formed. ECGSG has been established through partnership working between various local and strategic stakeholder groups and is committed to improving Emma Cons Gardens:

*Bankside Open Spaces Trust*

*Bourne Capital*

*Greater London Authority*

*Lambeth Council*

*Lambeth Estate Residents' Association*

*Network Rail*

*New Cut Housing*

*Oasis*

*Octavia Hill Residents Association*

*The Old Vic*

*Safer Neighbourhood Panel*

*South Bank & Waterloo Neighbours*

*Transport for London*

*Union Jack Club*

*Young Vic*

*Waterloo Community Development Group*

*We Are Waterloo*

## July 2021

A public engagement project is undertaken which will inform the design brief

## July 2021

ECGSG holds a competition to appoint design specialists

## September 2021

ECGSG selects Farrer Huxley landscape architects as the preferred bidder

## November 2021

Farrer Huxley, the appointed designers, host an event to re-imagine Emma Cons Gardens

## March 2022

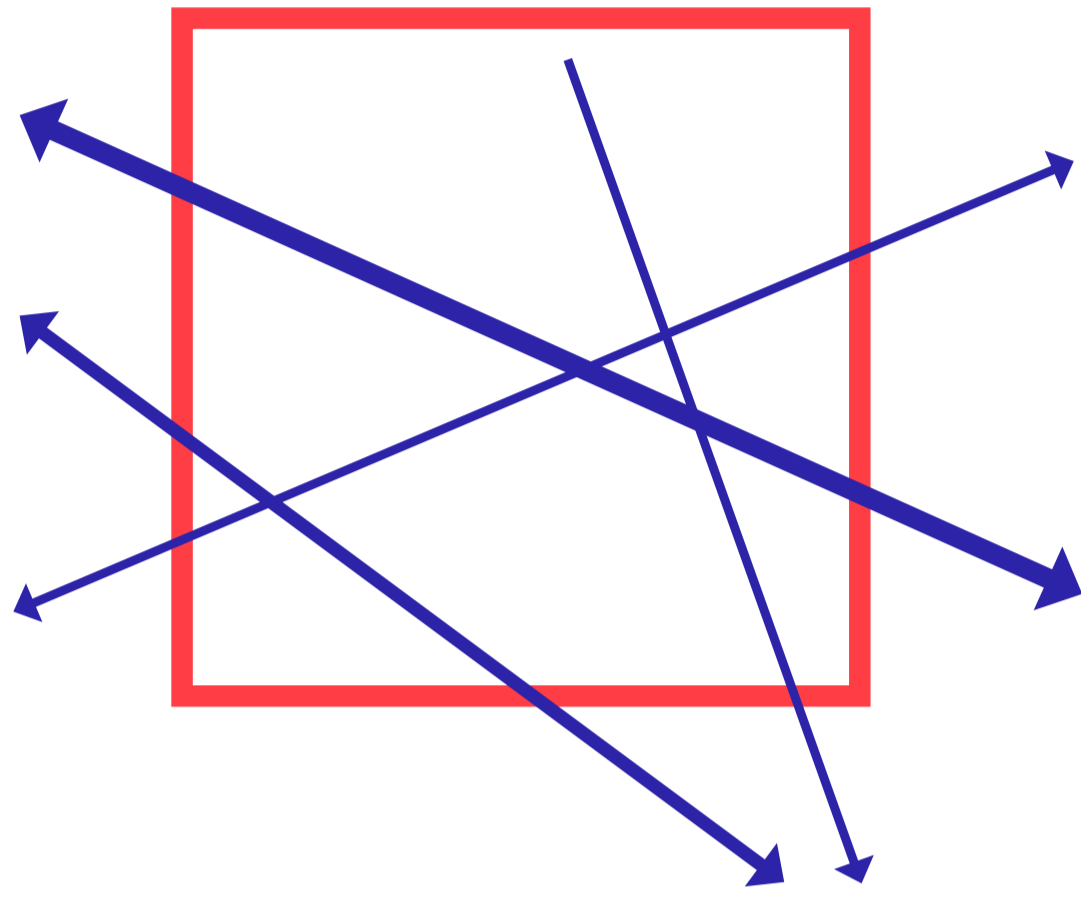
Farrer Huxley are back to share the proposed concept design and get your feedback

## Summer 2022

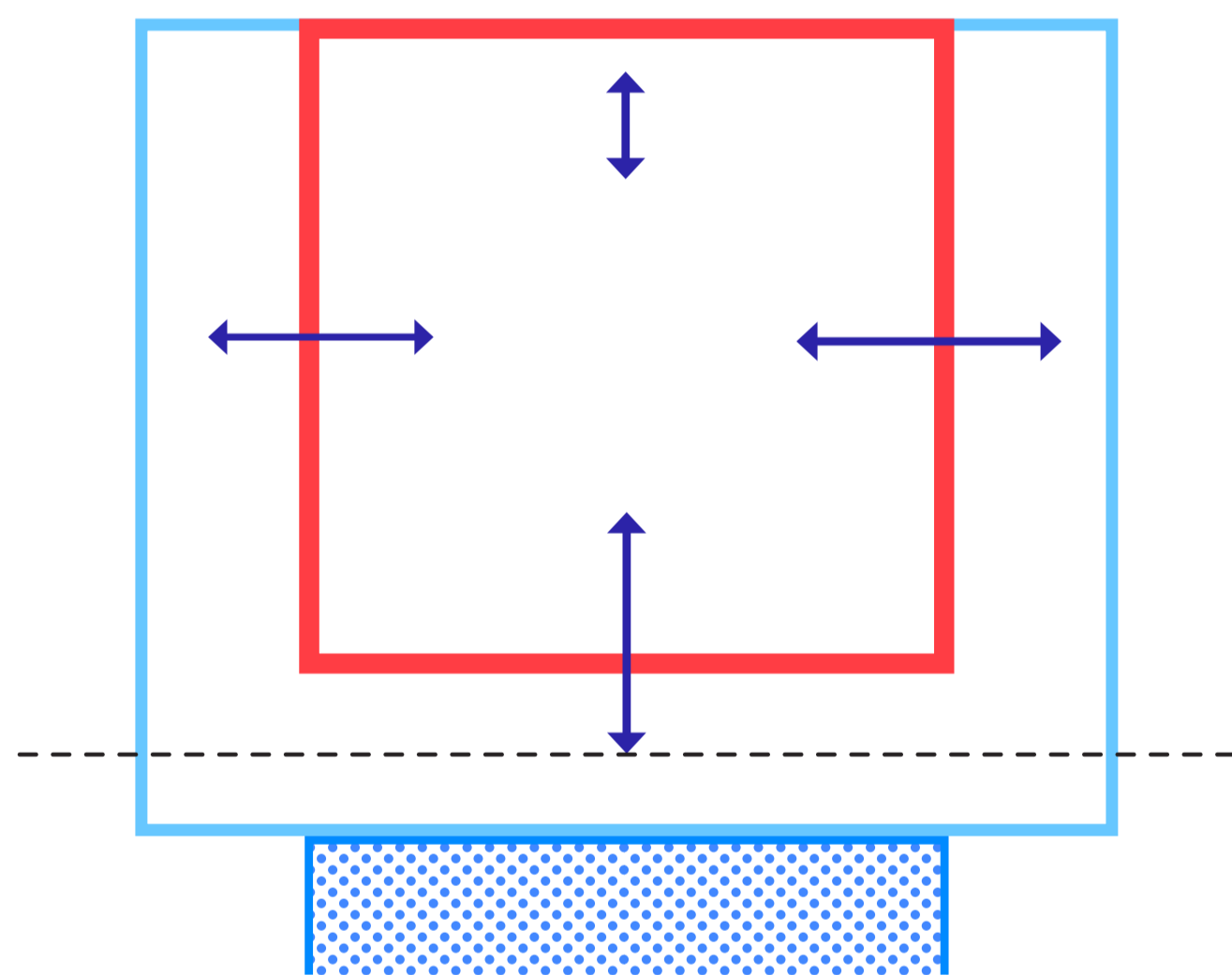
Farrer Huxley will develop the design in line with your feedback prior to submitting it for Planning Permission

## Site Today

Leaky / Undefined

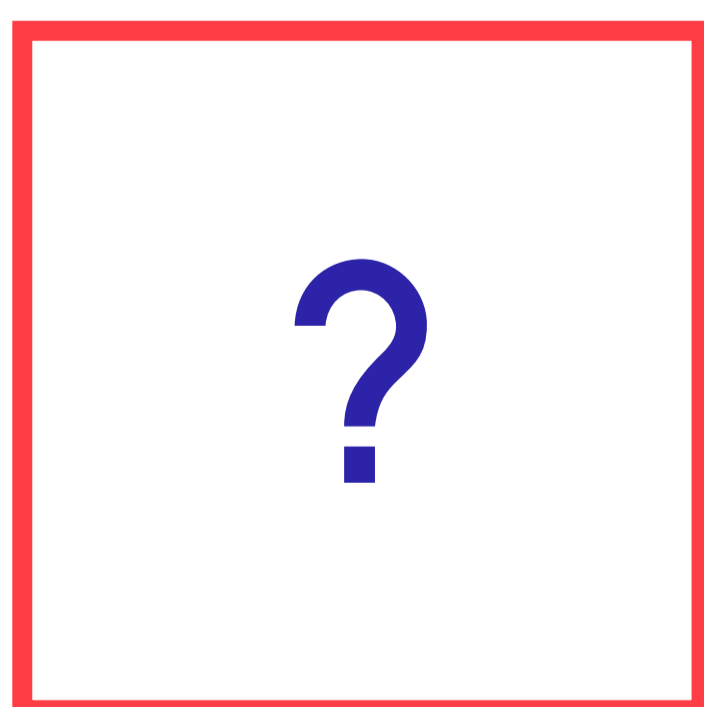


Who / What Does the Space Respond To?



*Emma Cons Gardens? Square? Place?*

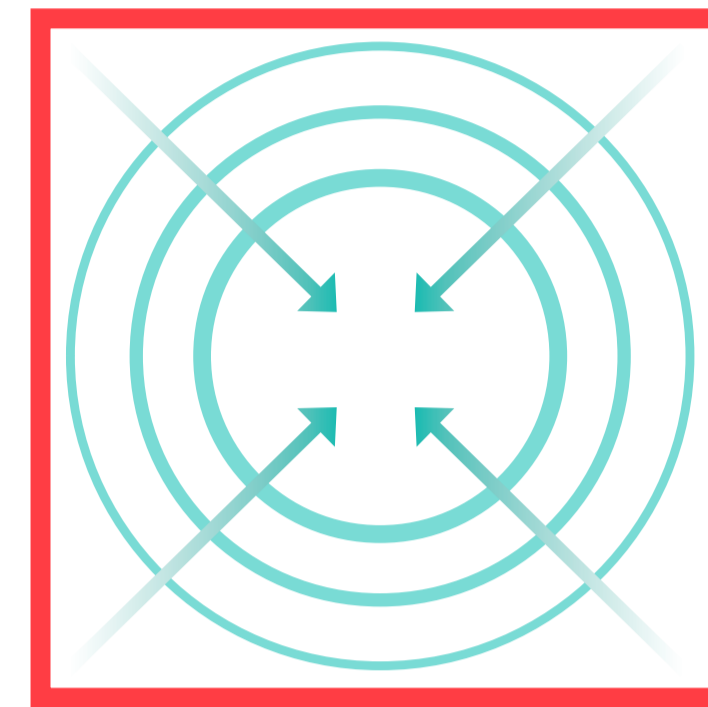
Raison d'Etre?



*(Consultation Feedback)*

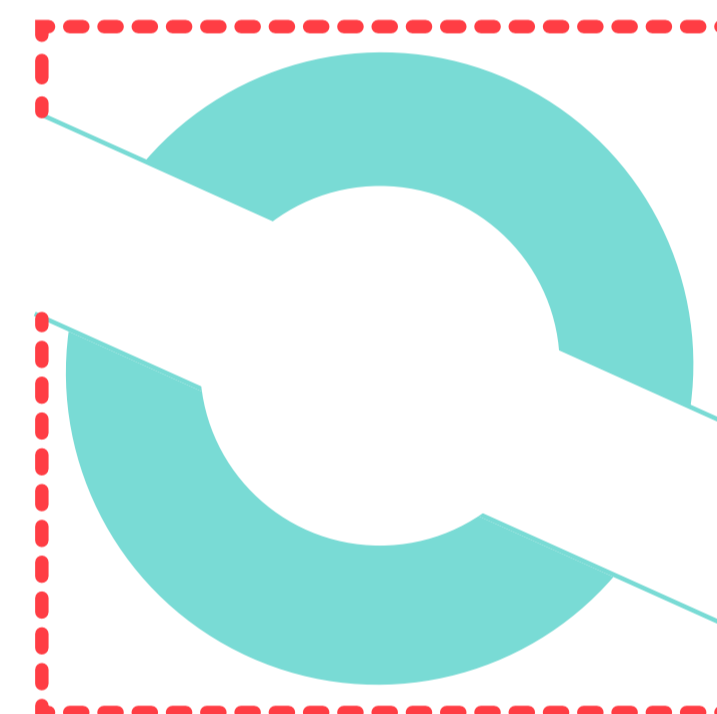
## Opportunities

Inward Focus



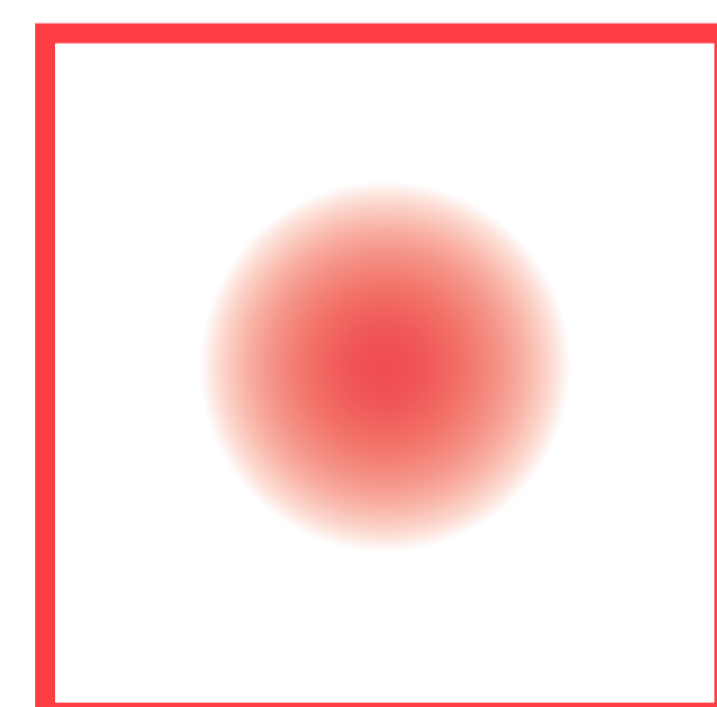
*Cocoon / Sanctuary (Consultation 1)*  
*A Place of its Own*  
*Sweeping Gestures*

Equitable / Democratic / Neutral / Inviting



*(Consultation 1)*

Nucleus / Magnet



*(Consultation 1 & 2)*

*Landmark / Gateway*  
*Celebrating / Embodying the Spirit of the Three Women*  
*(Not a Memorial)*



# Design Journey: *Proposals*

FARRER  
HUXLEY



- ① Textured puddle depression with gully (accessible)
- ② Modular concrete seating with built-in back support and arm rests at regular intervals
- ③ Path through planting connecting with Mercury House x 2
- ④ Ornamental grasses and perennial 'pollinator friendly' planting
- ⑤ Public art – also provides structure for rigging/ lighting for performance
- ⑥ In-situ gradations (100mm)
- ⑦ Space for outdoor, bistro-style seating adjacent to Mercury House
- ⑧ Low concrete wall (500mm)



emmacons.com

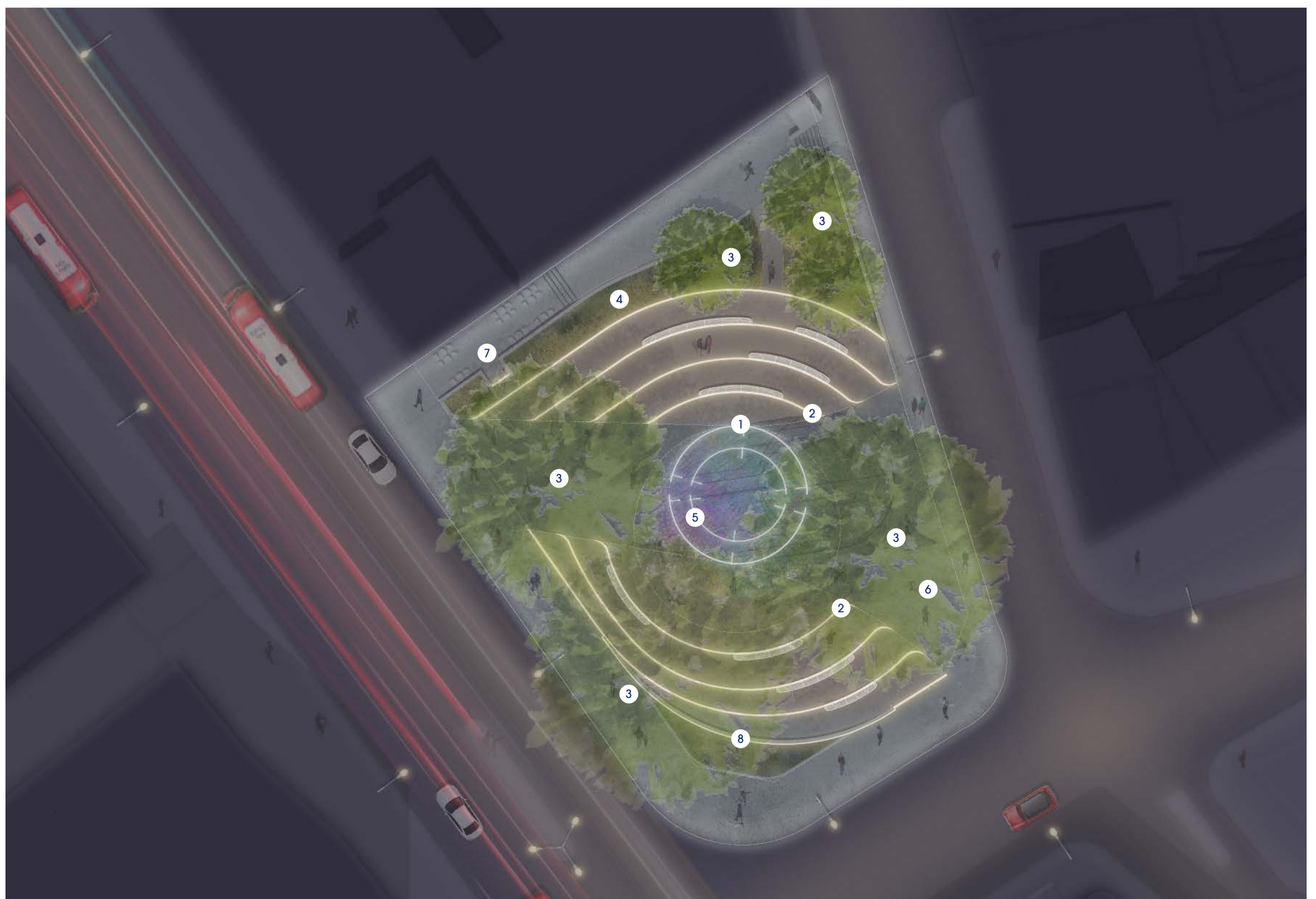
*Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.*

# Design Journey: *Proposals*

FARRER  
HUXLEY



- ① Dynamic lighting within textured puddle depression
- ② Under-step strip lighting within risers
- ③ Feature lighting under trees (uplit)
- ④ Feature lighting on planting beds
- ⑤ Public art – also provides structure for rigging/ lighting for performance
- ⑥ Cooler lighting temperature on diagonal pedestrian link
- ⑦ Under-step strip lighting within risers leading to Mercury House
- ⑧ Uplit low concrete wall (500mm)



[emmacons.com](http://emmacons.com)

*Alternative formats can be provided -  
please ask a member of the team.*

# Design Journey: *Proposals*

FARRER  
HUXLEY

## *Public Art / Focal Point*



**Emma Cons, Lilian Baylis and Octavia Hill's mission to provide everyone with access to the arts is celebrated via sensory public art, which forms the focal point of the space.**

Curtains made up of metal rods can be moved, providing a backdrop for performance or opening up extra space for a wide range of events. Elements gently knock together, their chime interacting with the sound of passing traffic. Sound and movement draw

attention inwards, guiding people to pause. This intervention can also provide rigging for performances. Proposals for public art are indicative at this stage. If supported, they will be taken forward into detailed design.



# Design Journey: *Proposals*

FARRER  
HUXLEY

## *Uses & Activities*

The new Emma Cons Gardens provides an attractive canvas which welcomes a wide range of activities, day and night. The space is held together via its sweeping arrangement and public art, creating a distinct sense of place whether populated or not. An equitable and inviting space welcomes use by all.

Fixed, free seating provides an opportunity to meet a friend or pause for a lunch break. The design is also fully accessible. Additional flexible seating can be accommodated as required for pop-up events or performances. Textured surface treatments, public art and a playable puddle offer fun and interaction for all ages.



Taking a lunch break in the sun



Watching public performances and enjoying pop-up events

*Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.*



[emmacons.com](http://emmacons.com)



Enjoying the playable puddle

# Design Journey: *Palette*

FARRER  
HUXLEY

## Palette

Gently stepped and sweeping curves, smooth surfaces, subtle level changes and soft planting reference the nurturing philosophy of Emma Cons, Octavia Hill and Lilian Baylis. Textured surfaces underfoot appeal to the senses - water pools in its indentations reflecting back city lights by night. A buffer of soft planting acts as a counterpoint to hardscaping, creating both a sense of enclosure and a visual link to Mercury House. Metal elements which make up public art chime in the breeze, adding an aural layer that encourages people to pause.



## Planting

The planting will provide year-round interest with colourful bulbs and seasonal flowerheads. Many of the plants are listed on the RHS Plants for Pollinators, so not only will they look attractive, but they will also offer important biodiversity benefits.

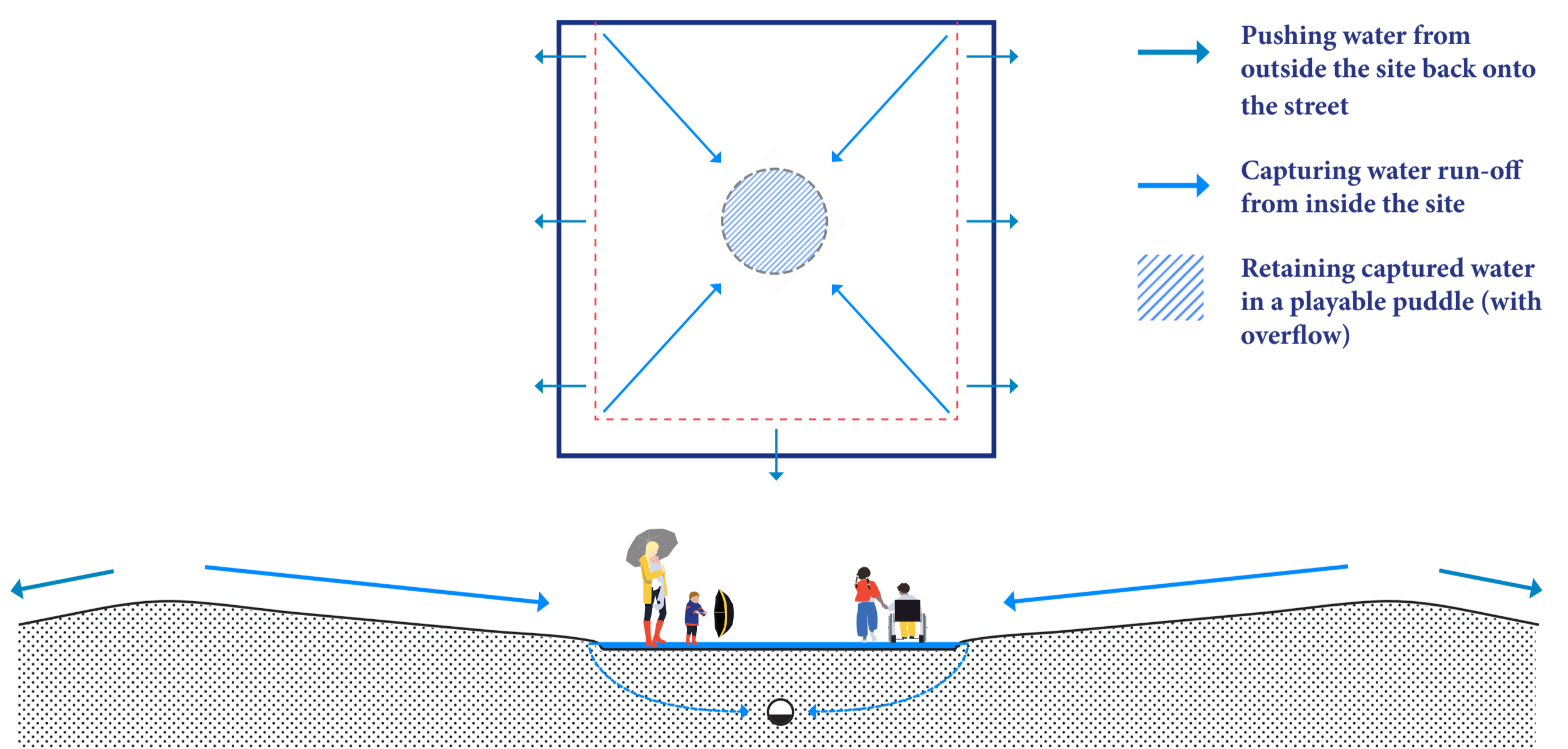
The planting will be maintained to a high quality. The maintenance regime will also include regular cleaning of the space and removal of any litter so that Emma Cons Gardens remains attractive from day one onwards.



## Playable Puddle

We know from your feedback that there is a problem with drainage on the site. We also know from talking to you that children enjoy the puddles which form.

Water within the site is purposefully captured in the centre of the space via a shallow depression and subtle sloping that creates a playable puddle. An overflow system will be put in place to address drainage requirements. Water from outside the site will be pushed back onto the street through gentle sloping in the opposite direction.



1 **Kalvebod Fælled School, Copenhagen, Denmark**  
by Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter  
<http://landezine-award.com/kalvebod-faelled-school/>

2 **Banc Frais, Bench for the public space at the Lyon City Tomorrow Festival** by Jean Couvreur; Photo by Matthieu Gauchet  
<https://divisare.com/projects/347461-jean-couvreur-banc-frais>

3 **'Pocket Ocean' Bowl** by Mathieu Lehanneur and Gérard Pigault  
[https://www.wallpaper.com/gallery/design/handmade-2017-projects#0\\_pic\\_7](https://www.wallpaper.com/gallery/design/handmade-2017-projects#0_pic_7)

4 **Photo by Thomas Charters on Unsplash**  
<https://unsplash.com/photos/qmHMSN7sDeI>

5 **Photo by Aidan Brown**  
<https://www.aidanbrown.co.uk/the-national-theatre>

6 **Photo by Jack Wallington**  
<https://www.jackwallington.com/15-best-free-gardens-to-visit-in-london/>

7 <https://www.photographytalk.com/photography-articles/6548-a-step-by-step-guide-to-mastering-minimalist-photography>

8 **Community (2018)** by Rebecca Louise Law  
**Installation**  
Toledo Museum of Art  
[rebeccalouiselaw.com/artwork/community-2](http://rebeccalouiselaw.com/artwork/community-2)

9 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.ballyrobertgardens.com/products/molinia-caerulea-subsp-caerulea-moorhexe>

10 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/anemathelle-lessoniana/>

11 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.longfield-gardens.com/article/all-about-perovskia/>

12 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://hayloft.co.uk/product/cirsium-rivulare-atropurpureum/pt49cra01-in22>

13 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/astrantia-major-snow-star/>

14 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.ballyrobertgardens.com/products/veronicastrum-virginicum-album>

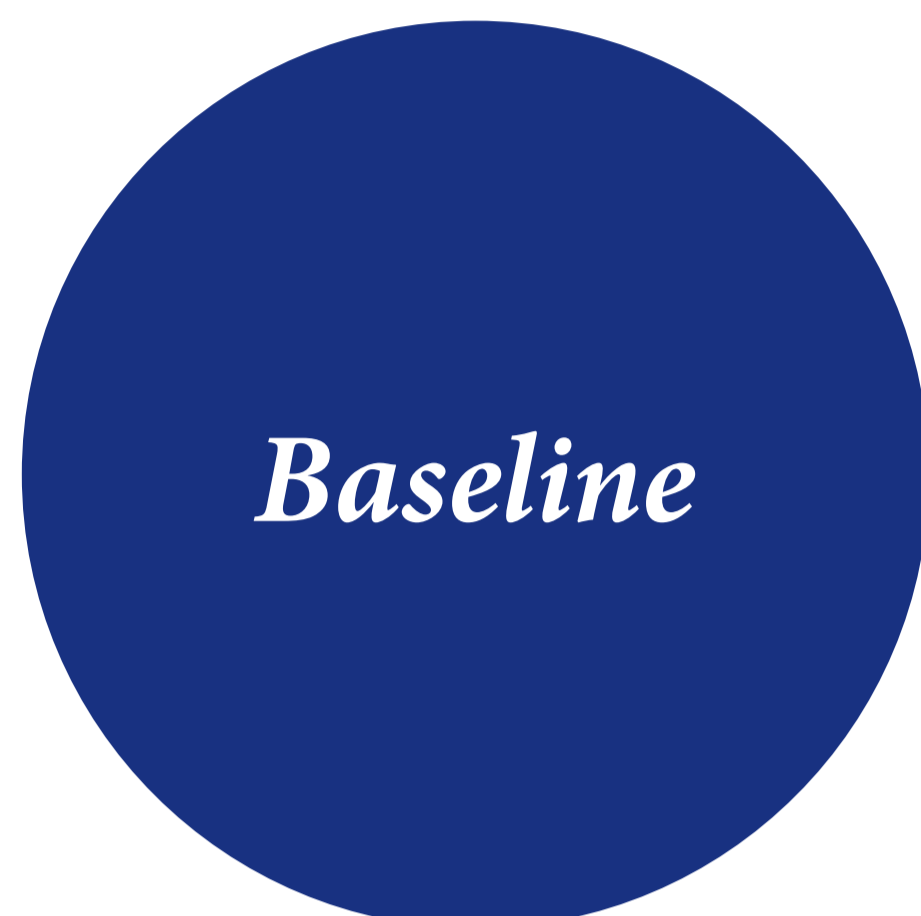
15 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/euphorbia-amygdaloides-var-robbiae/>

16 **Photographer Unknown**  
<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-grow-camassias/>

# Consultation Journey

FARRER  
HUXLEY

## Consultation 1 *Summer 2021*



*Baseline*

*Defining priorities*

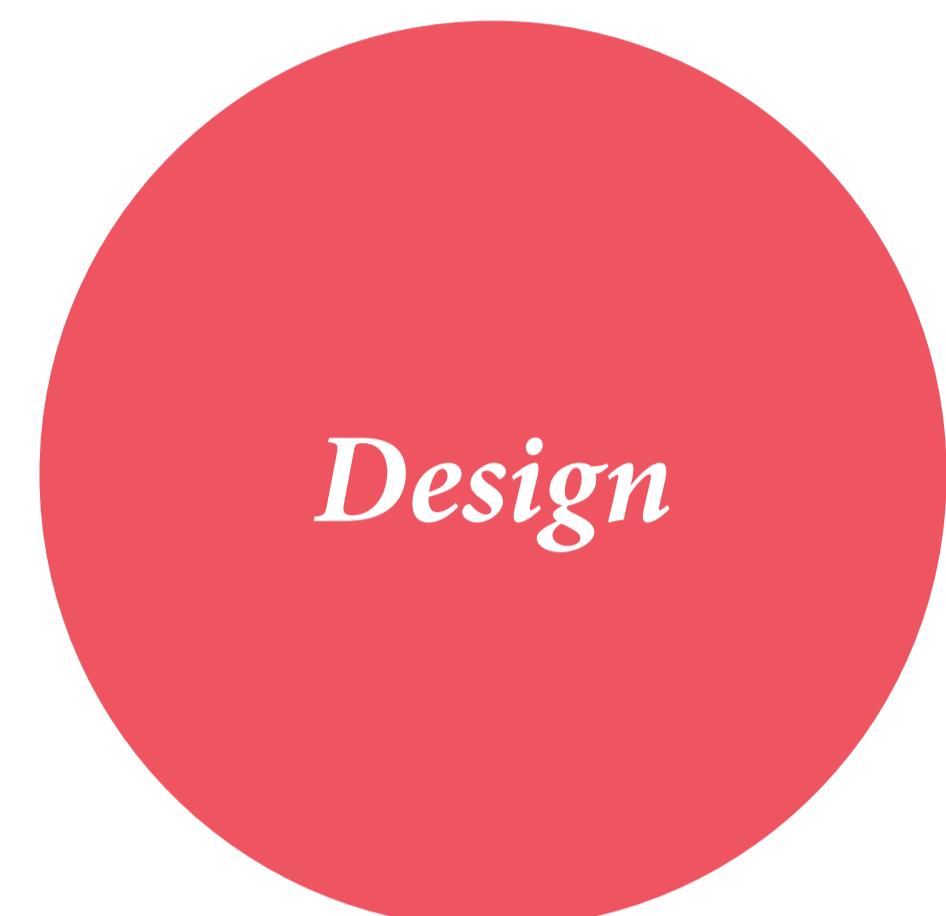
## Consultation 2 *Winter 2021*



*Placemaking*

*Engage people with the place in a way they haven't done before*

## Consultation 3 *Spring 2022*



*Design*

*Gather / understand support for the design proposals and get your feedback*

## Consultation 1: *Baseline (Summer 2021)*

### 5 Shared Priorities



In Summer 2021, a public engagement project was undertaken, inviting residents, businesses, workers and visitors to share their ideas for a new Emma Cons Gardens. Over 400 people participated through in-person conversations, an online survey and targeted workshops. 5 key shared priorities for Emma Cons Gardens were identified and form the 'baseline' for the design brief.

The public engagement project was led by CarverHaggard and The Means. The full consultation report is available to view online at [emmacons.com](http://emmacons.com).

*Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.*



[emmacons.com](http://emmacons.com)



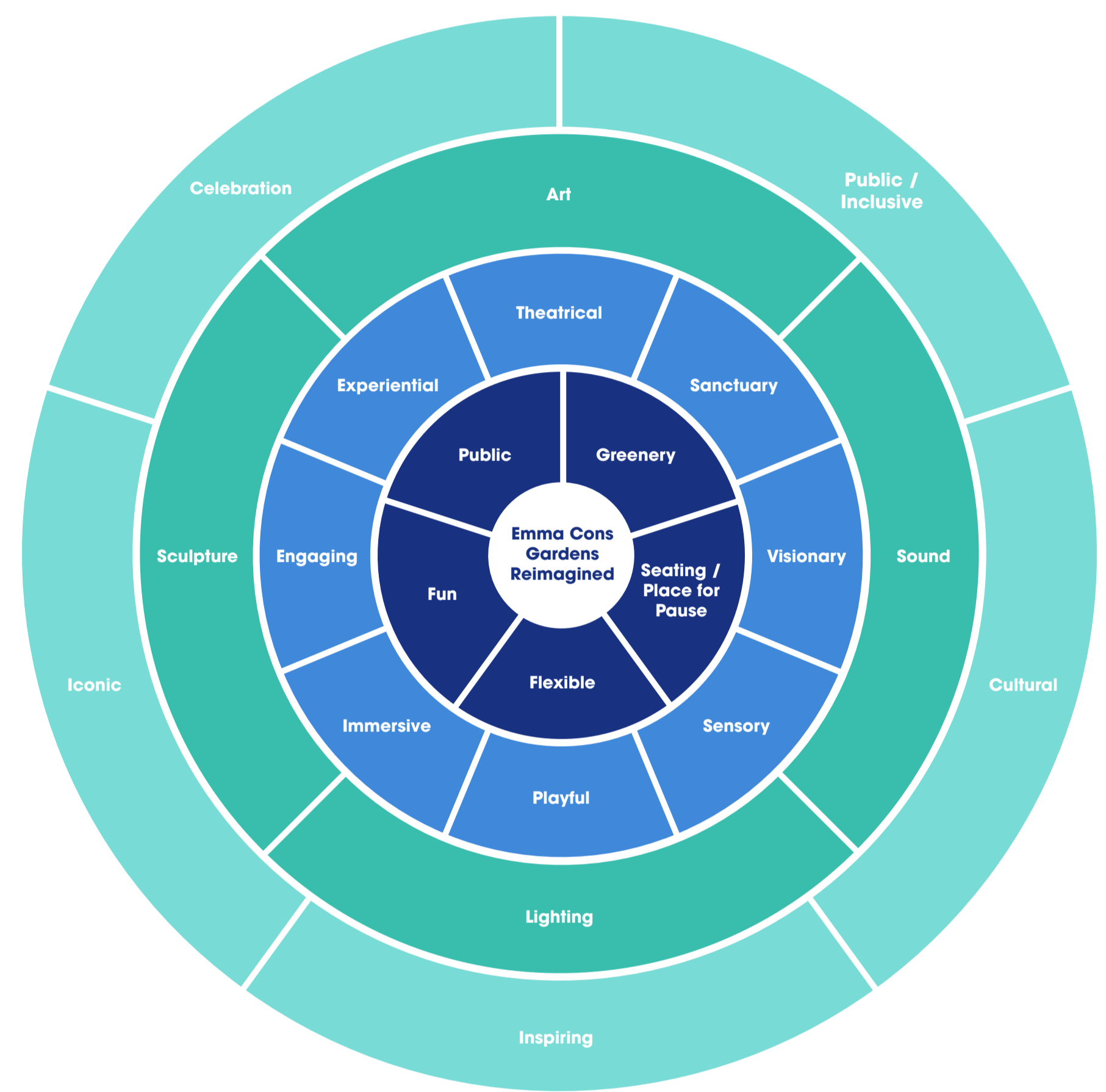
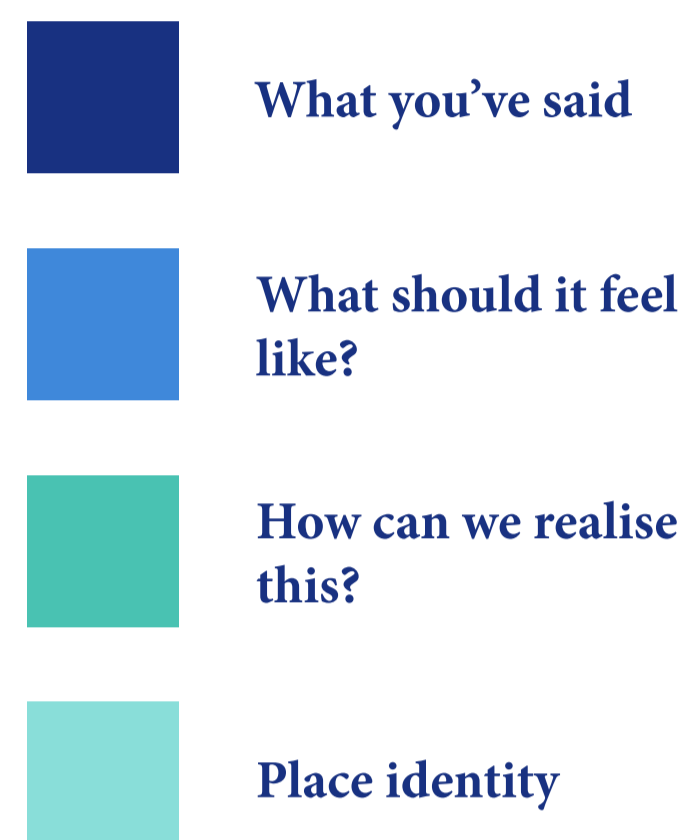
## Consultation 2: Placemaking (Winter 2021)

### A Cultural Toolkit

The survey also acknowledged Emma Cons Gardens' lack of character and identity. How might we bridge the gap between what you said in the summer 2021 consultation, and a re-imagined sense of place?

What should the space feel like? And, how might we achieve this?...

Through a cultural 'toolkit' of sculpture, sound, art and lighting.



### Three women, three icons.

Three pioneering women have been key to the design thinking: Emma Cons, Octavia Hill and Lilian Baylis. Instead of memorialising them in a statue or plaque, there is an opportunity to celebrate their legacy through the character and identity of the space.

It will be a place underpinned by their spirit and representative of their values; a place that is first and foremost a **public and inclusive** one; a place that **enables everyone** to access **culture**; a place that is **inspiring** and **iconic**.

#### Octavia Hill 1838 - 1912

Octavia Hill was a pioneer of social housing and Co-founder of the National Trust.

Establishing many social housing projects in London, including the **Walworth Estate** in nearby Southwark, she was invested in improving the lives of individuals, as well as their living conditions. Having grown up in the countryside, she believed that people need more than a roof over their heads: they need **access to fresh air, nature and beauty**. She **campaigns to preserve green spaces for public use**, including the nearby **St John's Churchyard** and **Vauxhall Park**. She **co-founded The National Trust** with the mission of preserving sites of natural beauty and historic interest for all.

#### Emma Cons 1838 - 1912

Emma Cons was a social reformer in the early part of the 20th Century. She established the **Royal Victoria Coffee and Music Hall**, known today as **The Old Vic**. She laid the foundations on which some of our most renowned cultural institutions have been built.

Emma Cons aimed to improve the quality of people's lives, setting out to provide **access to education and culture for all**. Amongst her many achievements, Emma Cons is also responsible for founding **Morley College**, whose classes, which provided affordable education, were originally held in the backstage area of the theatre.

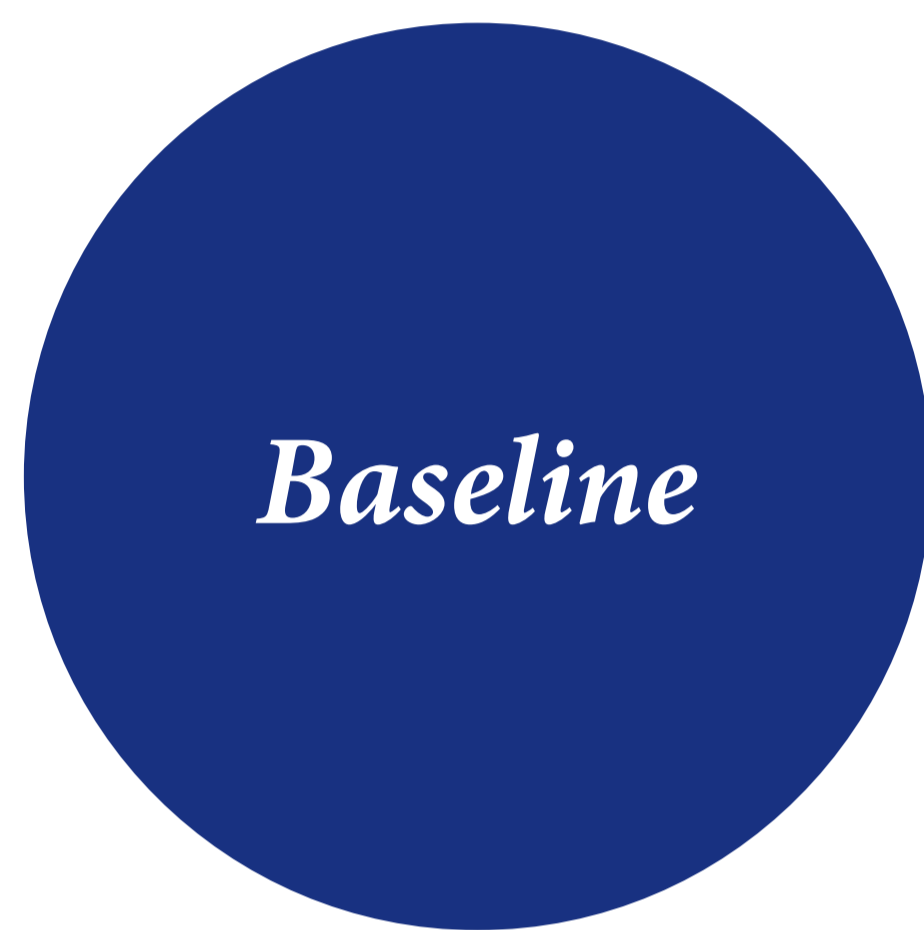
#### Lilian Baylis 1874 - 1937

Lilian Baylis was one of our greatest cultural innovators. She assisted her Aunt, Emma Cons, in managing the **Royal Victoria Coffee and Music Hall**, now **The Old Vic**. Her work paved the way for the establishment of **The Royal Ballet**, the **Birmingham Royal Ballet**, the **English National Opera** and the **National Theatre**.

Lilian Baylis took over the running of the **Royal Victoria Hall** on Emma Cons' death, bringing theatre and opera to her audiences at an affordable price. She is responsible for the establishment of some of the country's greatest cultural and creative institutions.

## What You've Said

### Consultation 1 Summer 2021



**'Many respondents did not feel that Emma Cons Gardens currently has a distinctive or memorable character.'**

*Engagement Report Oct 2021*

### Consultation 2 Winter 2021



**Extracts from our Conversations with Consultees**

- “ Doesn't feel like a 'space' - it's more just an extended bit of pavement. [...] ”
- “ It looks like an undefined space, just happened to be there because we do not know what to do with it. It has no function. I think it could be transformed in[to] an amazing haven, giving a break from the hustle and bustle around (traffic, trains, ....) slowing down the area. ”
- “ The general feeling is one of neglect. Its like nobody seems to know what to do with the space. Yet, it is a great space waiting to be discovered and loved. ”
- “ Lots of potential to make it wow. ”
- “ Something lively and visually interesting would draw people into the space. ”
- “ A statue/sculpture to the 3 women who hugely contributed to Waterloo - Emma Cons, Lilian Baylis and Octavia Hill. At the very least some sort of plaque in the ground explaining who Emma Cons was and what she did. ”
- “ Art installations. Something creative. Me and my house mates would come if there were things to look at like the photographer of the year exhibitions. [...] ”
- “ [...] it would be great to have a fourth plinth style art installation that rotates through designs done by different local artists. [...] ”
- “ [...] Keep the history tableau and do more on this. Waterloo has so much history. ”
- “ Water, Reflection, Mirrors ”
- “ Water - nature, calming ”
- “ Puddle sculpture ”
- “ Arrival landmark ”
- “ Destination point ”
- “ Public art/ street art [...] Colours/ lighting ”
- “ Hold imagination ”
- “ A place of surprise ”
- “ Culture, interaction [...] not just pavement ”
- “ WOW! Definitely love all of it ”
- “ A space for collaboration with art / music ”
- “ Summer performance [...] Bring the arts to the masses - democratise ”
- “ Art workshops for young kids/ outdoor space gallery/ pop up gallery ”
- “ Openness - performance ”
- “ Sculpture ”
- “ Poetry reading ”
- “ It needs to be something that will last. Something durable. ”

Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.



emmacons.com

# Have Your Say

FARRER  
HUXLEY

## You Said, We Did



Farrer Huxley

### Strong Canvas & Elegant Frame

*Whether empty or full, day or night, 24 hours a day - it is an attractive, welcoming space. It retains flexibility but solves 'leakiness'.*

*Alternative formats can be provided - please ask a member of the team.*



emmacons.com

### Responds to Consultation Feedback

#### Consultation 1 (Baseline)

- Truly Public** *It is truly public, has no biased side and is welcoming and accessible*
- A Green Oasis** *It retains trees and provides softer, more biodiverse greening*
- A Place to Eat** *Provides some fixed, free seating with back and arm rests (important for older people, breast feeding etc.) but also provides plenty of space for additional flexible seating*
- Enabling Events** *An attractive canvas which welcomes a range of activities, both day and night*
- Fun but Subtle** *Fun and interactive for all ages with textured surface treatment, playable puddle and central public art*

#### Consultation 2 (Placemaking)

- Sense of Place** *Space in itself - regardless of what happens around it, the space holds its own*
- Honouring 3 Icons** *Design is timeless, elegant and nurturing*
- Magical** *Public art is an aural/ visual magnet*
- Desire for Performance** *Supports performance; public art installation can be adapted to form a 'set'*
- Harness Drainage 'Issue'** *Positively deals with drainage and celebrates water*