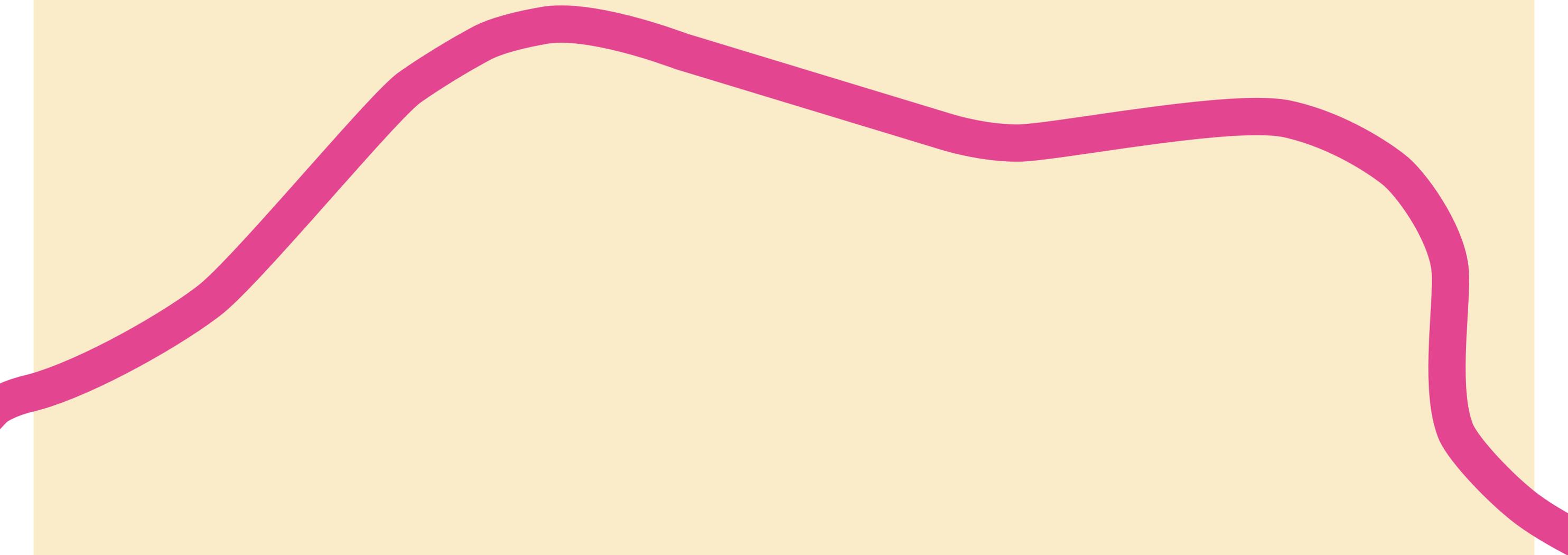
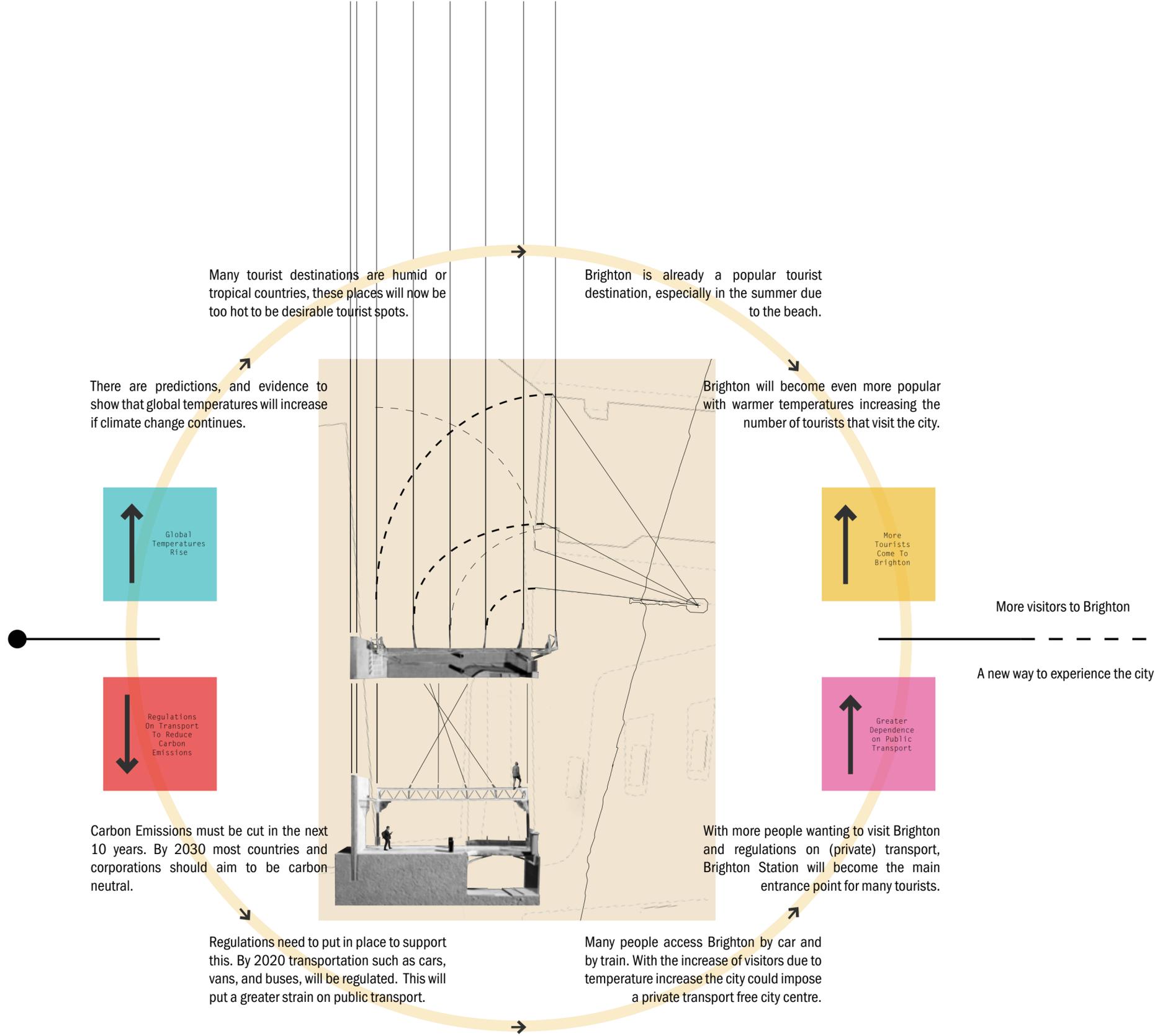


# URBAN HIKER

YASMIN VERGHESE

AD676





Previous Semester's work  
Design for Brighton Station



Tourism and the Climate Crisis - How will Brighton be affected?

Previous Semester's work

DESTINATION HIPPODROME

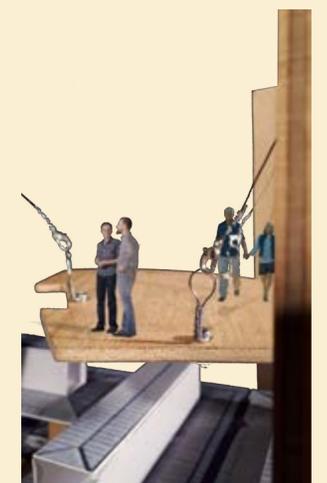
More visitors to Brighton  
A new way to experience the city



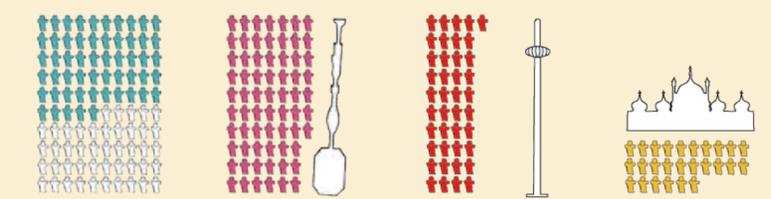
Last Semester I looked at the future of Brighton regarding the Climate Crisis, identifying two crises - Overcrowding, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (leading to regulations on Transportation).

Brighton Station will be most affected by these crises as it is the main entrance point to the city. I designed a suspended viewing platform above the station forecourt; visitors will access this platform via a winding staircase, with varying stair tread depths, giving them the experience of hiking in the South Downs. This installation will bring together the experience of walking on the pier with elevated views out to the sea, as well as hiking and walking for a new kind of tourist - the Urban Hiker.

This project continues these explorations with a new site - The Hippodrome.



Visitors to Brighton's Tourist Attractions 2016

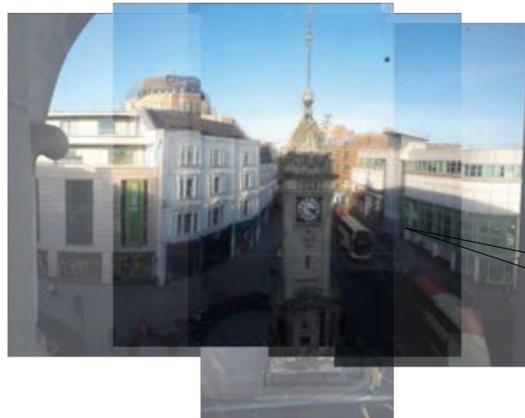


Brighton Landmarks

Brighton Station



The Clock Tower



The Royal Pavilion



Satellite Sites/Landmarks

- Brighton Station
- The Clock Tower
- The Royal Pavilion
- Brighton Palace Pier

HQ Site

- Brighton Hippodrome

Sight-lines

Cone of Vision

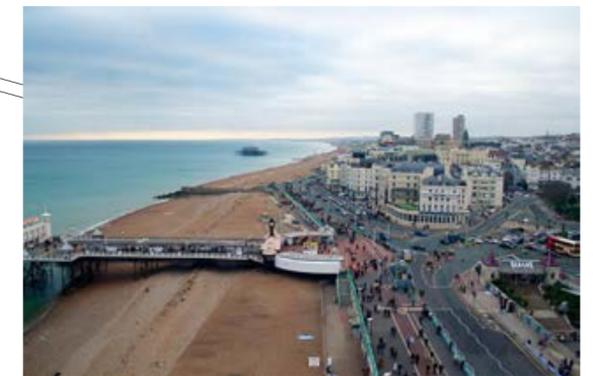
Sky Walkway Trails  
Proposed elevated structure  
leading from the Station to  
Brighton Hippodrome

Sky Walkway Trails

From Brighton Station to the Hippodrome a series of sky walkways will take the adventurous tourist on a new journey through the city. The three trails lead visitors across the city, passing by the Royal Pavilion and other Brighton landmarks. View the city from above, venturing over the rooftops of Brighton until you reach the Hippodrome, and finish your urban hike with a beautiful view of the sea.



Brighton Palace Pier



Brighton's Palace Pier is the UK's most visited tourist attraction outside of London. Brighton Tourists Survey in 2016 discovered that the main attractions visited [in Brighton] were the pier (67%), the British Airways i360 (41%) and the Royal Pavilion (26%).



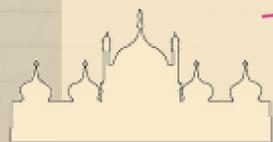
“The UK’s most architecturally significant circus theatre –  
the finest surviving example of its type in the country.”

<http://www.theatretrust.org.uk/>

The Hippodrome has been on The Theatre Trust list of at risk theatres since 2006. It is a Grade II\* listed building and with disputes over its future use, it is in a fragile state.



The Hippodrome is located at no.52 Middle Street, and the surrounding buildings are mostly residential with some more commercial and social venues as you get closer to the Laines or Churchill Square. The beachfront is just a short walk away and from there visitors can continue onto the Palace Pier.



Pavillion Trail

Brighton Station

Clock Tower Trail



DESTINATION

HIPPODROME

### Arriving at the Hippodrome

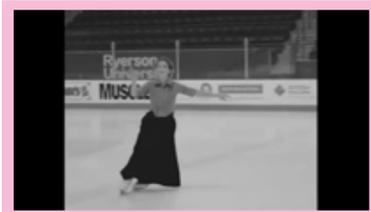
After hiking over the rooftops of Brighton, the Urban Hiker Trails meet at Destination Hippodrome. Located in Brighton's Old Town Conservation Area, the building has a rich history despite its appearance. An interactive journey through the dilapidated building awaits...



On approaching the Hippodrome visitors travel between the roof-scape of the city. The main image (background) show the parallel road to the Sky Walkway and (above) are some of the buildings that can be seen from the roof of the Hippodrome.

## Hippodrome History

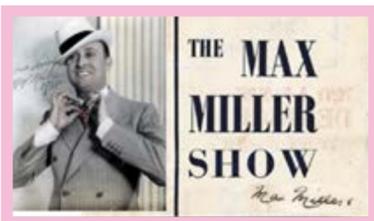
The Hippodrome was initially built in 1897 as an indoor ice-skating rink but its most successful era was in the first half of the 20th century, as a Variety Theatre. Since 2007 it has been left empty and two proposals for development have been dismissed, leaving it with an uncertain future. This film gives a glimpse at its history so far...



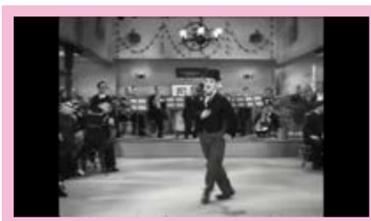
1897 - 'Real Ice Skating Rink'



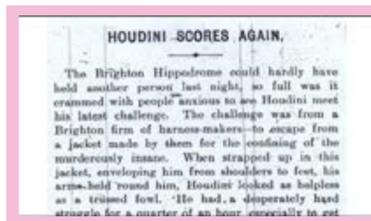
1901 - "The Hippodrome" Circus



1902 - Variety Theatre



1910 - Sold to the Variety Theatres Controlling Company (VTCC)



1928/32 - Became part of Moss Empires



1964 - Theatre closes



1966 - Re-opens as a Film and Television Studio



1967 - Converted to a Mecca Bingo Hall



2006 - Bingo Hall closes



2014/2018 - Community Protests



2015 & 2019 - Proposal Plans



2020 - Disused Awaiting Planning

## History of the Hippodrome



<https://vimeo.com/406298669>



The Hippodrome has had many uses throughout its history but the building itself has not been changed since Frank Matcham designed it in 1900. The only exception was in the 80s where an electronic system was installed as a mezzanine level above the stage, to provide more space for Bingo players.



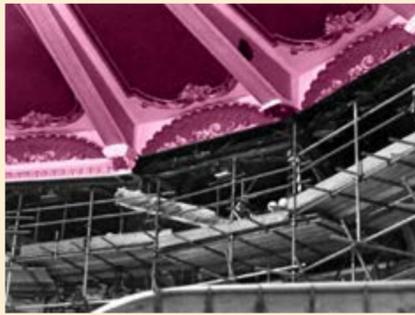
Many famous names performed at the Hippodrome during its time as a Variety Theatre. For example, Laurel and Hardy (pictured left), Max Miller, Harry Houdini, Sarah Bernhardt, Gracie Fields, and later bands such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.



Since 2007 two proposals have been put forward but both fell through due to the cost of structural repairs and restoration. The community have protested commercial redevelopment, calling upon the council to keep the building as a theatre.



1  
Roof Details



2  
Stage + Seating



Theatre Seating  
3



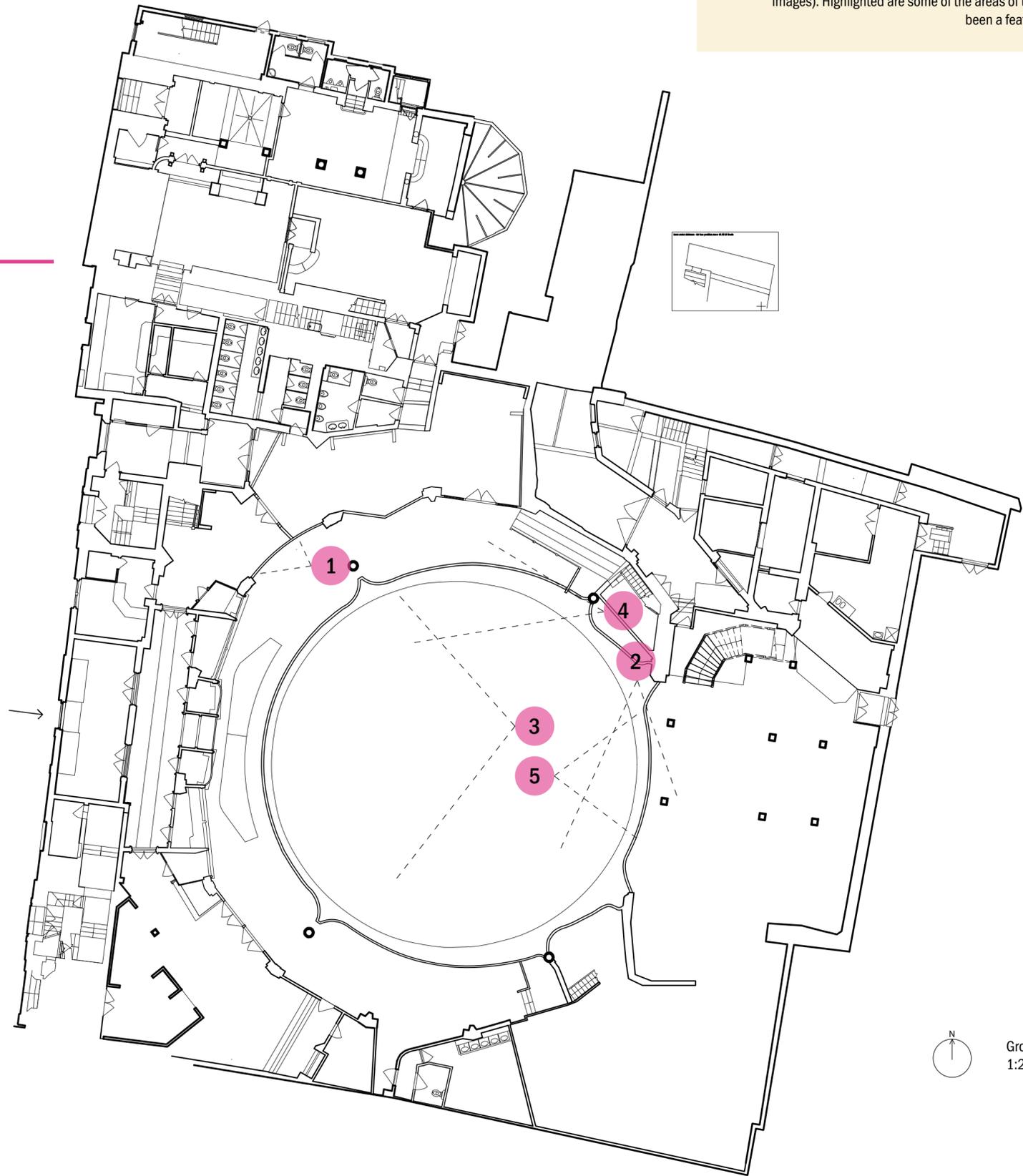
4  
(Box) + Seating



Stage  
5



EXISTING  
SITE



### Enter the Ruin

The Hippodrome has currently been left to ruin; the extended discussions over its restoration have meant it has been abandoned and is not structurally secure (as can be seen from the scaffold in the interior images). Highlighted are some of the areas of the building that would have been a feature back in its golden days.



Ground Floor Plan  
1:200

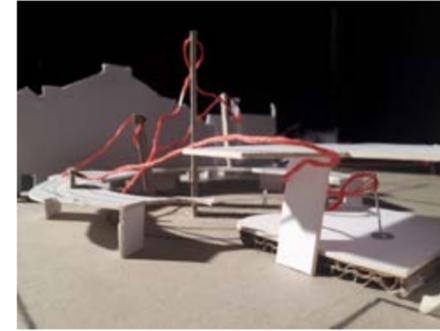
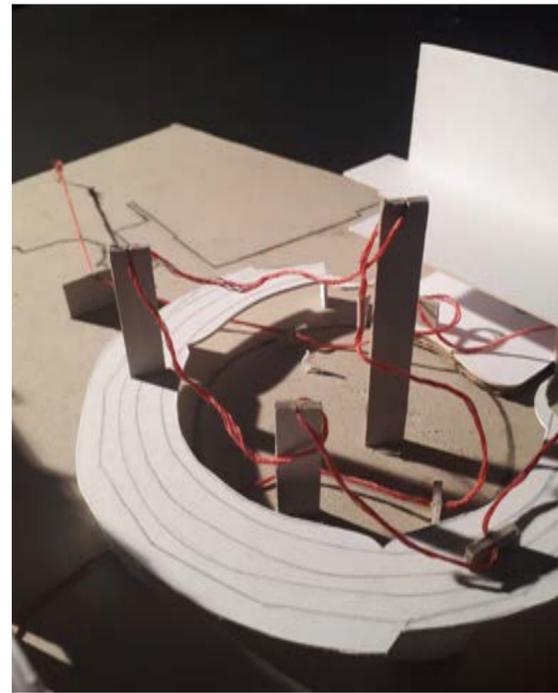


## Hippo-zones

Here the most interesting spaces of the interior have been defined and mapped out. These five 'zones' will become the major focal points for the urban hiker trail inside the building. Using card and string, a possible route is marked out for the walkway, that makes the most of the buildings vast interior space.

### Zones:

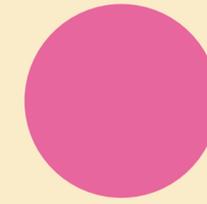
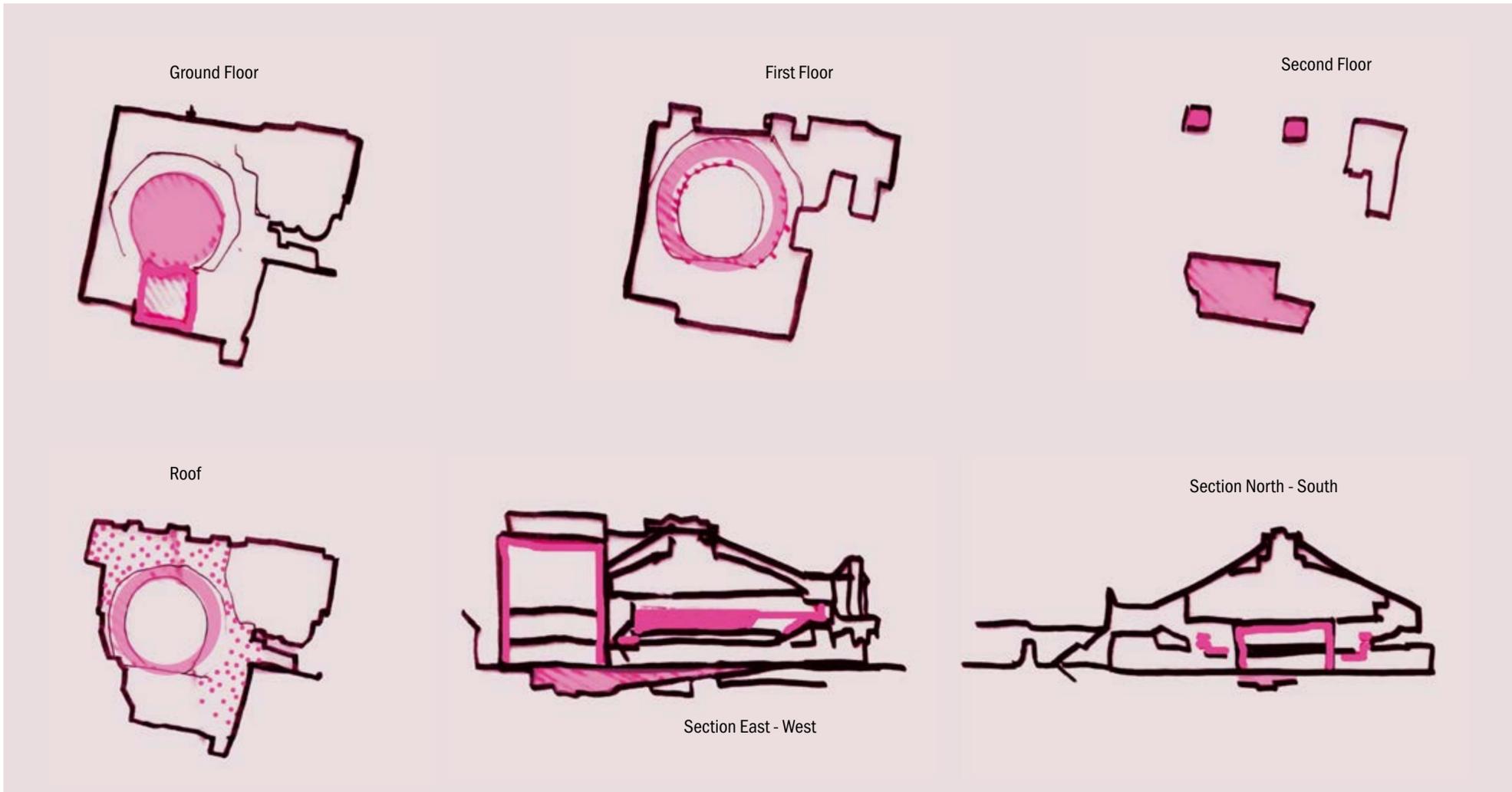
- Centre Circle
- Stage
- Orchestra Pit
- Theatre Seating
- Fly Tower
- Main Staircases
- Roof
- Rooftop



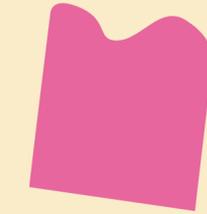
Model made at 1:200

The key zones were made from white card, and pink thread weaves its way through the building, (supported by grey card) as it travels over the different levels of the building. The two independent points of the walkway are the entrance, on the first-floor level, and the exit out onto the roof (central card support).

Plans and Sections marking out zones of the building.



**Centre Circle**  
- Ice-Rink  
- Circus  
- Bingo Hall



**Stage**  
- Variety Theatre  
- Concerts  
- adapted for Bingo



**Theatre Seating**  
- Circus  
- Variety Theatre



**Fly Tower**  
- Variety Theatre  
- Adapted for Bingo

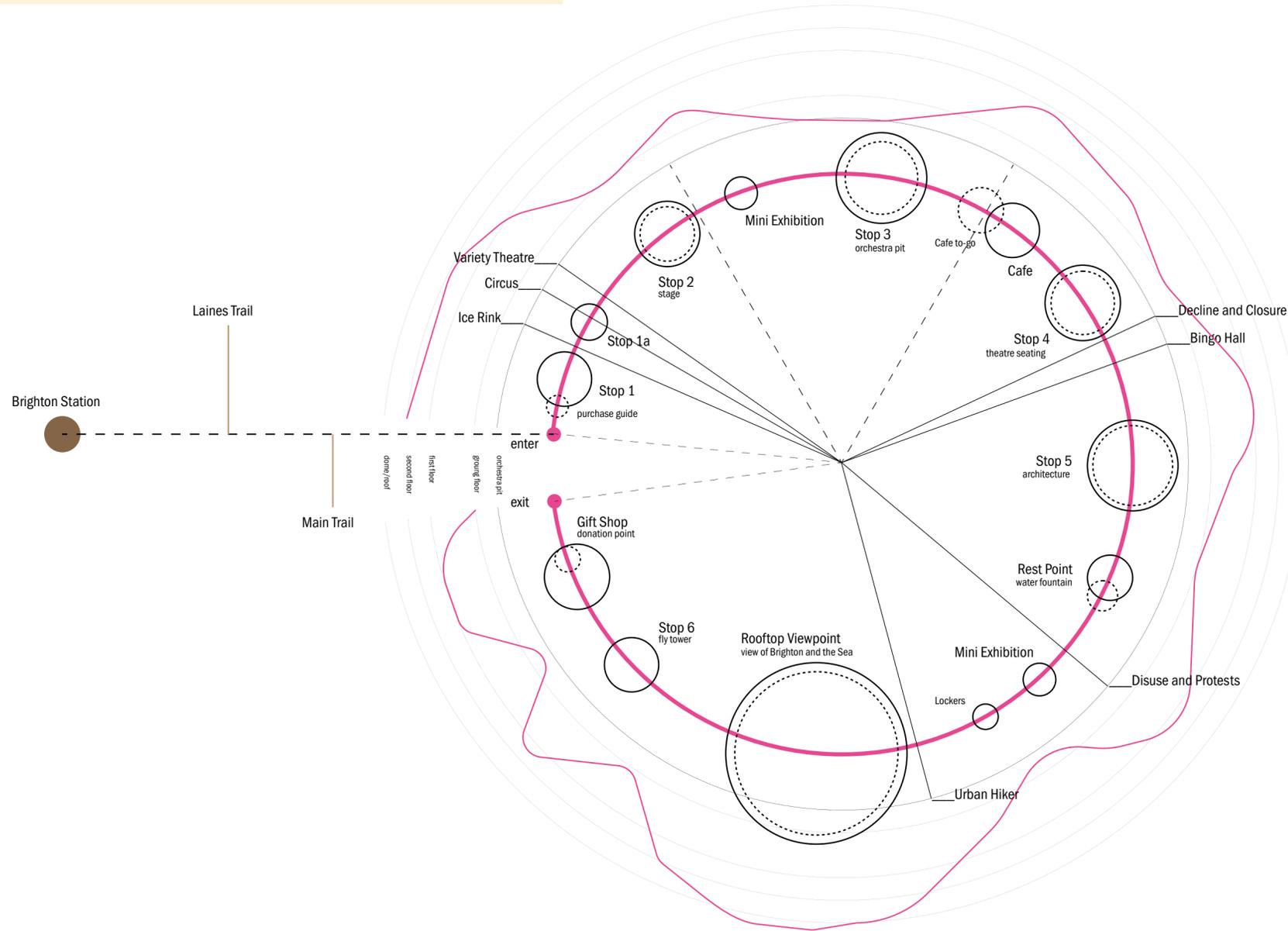


**Rooftop**

The Urban Hiker trails will culminate in a view from the rooftop of the Hippodrome. Looking out to the sea and the Pier, Brighton's most popular tourist attraction.

## Destination Hippodrome

The different elements of Destination Hippodrome - the buildings history, the key zones (or points of interest), the movement between levels, and the entrance from the Urban Hiker Trails, have all been mapped to form a time-line of a walk through the building. The walkway becomes an educational experience, interacting with the building's history.



### Key

Duration  
Short ————— Long Secondary Activity



### Urban Hiker : Destination Hippodrome

In 2023 work started to develop the Urban Hiker trails. The Hippodrome was seen as the ideal final point as it provides views out the the Pier and the sea. Ideally the building will be restored to a Theatre but in the meanwhile Destination Hippodrome sees that its varied history is preserved in an interactive and immersive installation. Now in 2030 funds are being raised to start renovations.



1897 - 1900  
'Real Ice Skating Rink'

- image depicts 1890s skating fashion



1901  
Circus

- renamed 'The Hippodrome'  
- image c. 1901



1902  
Variety Theatre

- image from Sleeping Beauty Panto c.1954



1910  
Variety Theatre

- sold to Variety Theatres Controlling Company (VTCC)  
- image from 1910



1928/32  
Variety Theatre

- became part of Moss Empires  
- image from 1949



1964  
Variety Theatre closes

- image from 1964 concert



1967  
Bingo Hall

- image from 2002



2006  
Bingo Hall closes

- community protests to restore the building to a theatre  
- image from 2019



2023 - ?  
Urban Hiker Trails

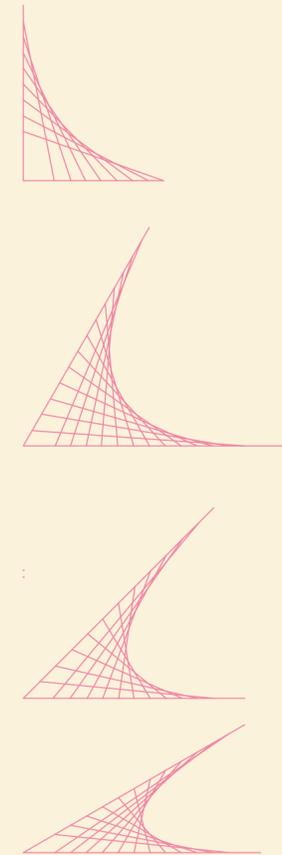


Destination Hippodrome




 Ground Floor Plan  
 - Parabolic Mapping  
 1:200

Using the previous time-line drawing to plot the points of interest inside the building I then used four different angles of parabolic curves (90, 60, 45, 30) to connect the spaces on four different levels - Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor, and the Roof.

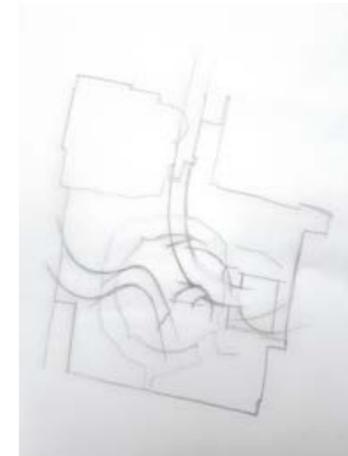


“A parabola is a curve where any point is at an equal distance from a fixed point and a fixed straight line”

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/parabola.html>

## Parabolic Curves

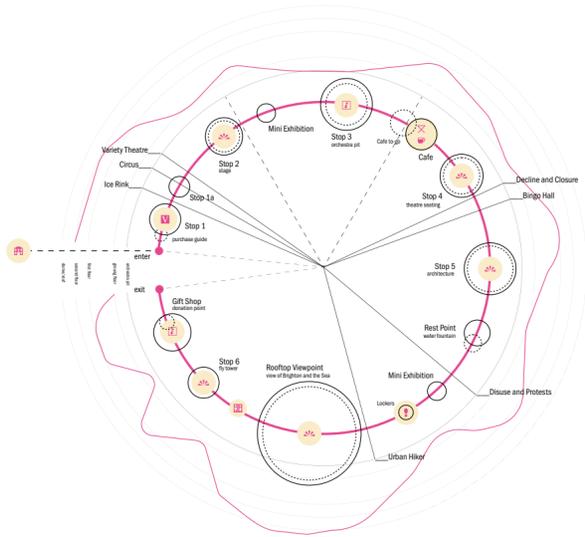
Inspired by the use of the Fibonacci Sequence in the design of Kew Garden's Treetop walkway, I used parabolic curves for the form of the interior walkway. The simplest formula for a parabola is  $y = x^2$ . Graphing parabolic curves can have more complex equations but they can also be sketched out using a ruler to measure equal increments, and then joining the points with straight lines to form a parabolic curve. The shape of the parabola provides a uniform flow to the walkway, and draws the eye to a specific point.



Initial sketches using parabolic curves to connect the key zones inside the Hippodrome.

## Hiking Stops

The urban hiker trail mimics that of a real hike, with a goal to reach the highest peak - or the rooftop- and, just like nature hikes the walkway has natural stopping points and viewpoints for visitors to admire. Using the Ordnance Survey map symbols these amenities have been marked out along the trail.



Full Plan  
1:200

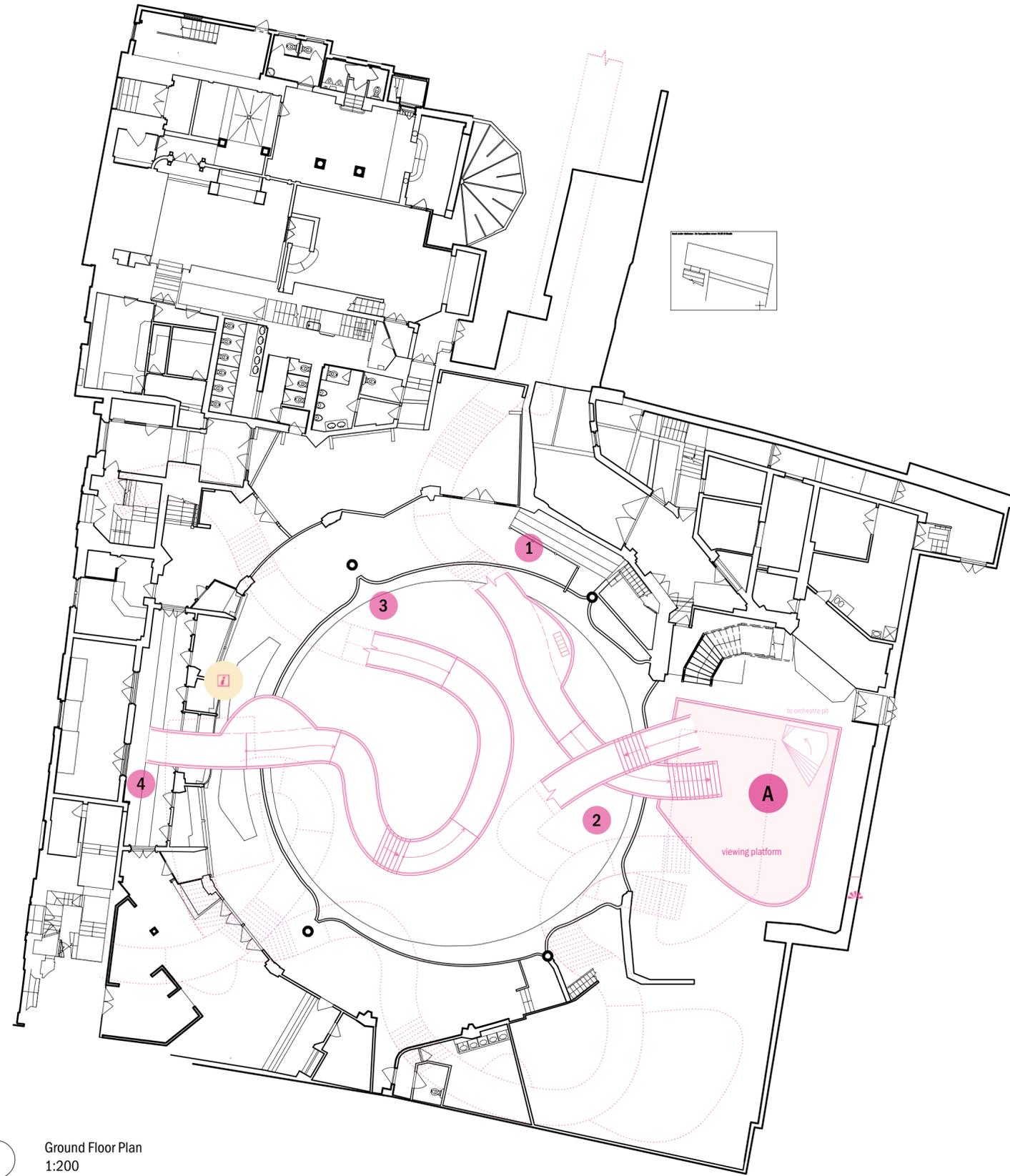
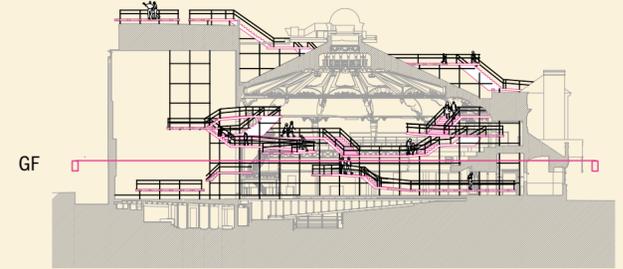


-  Building of Historic Interest
-  Walk or Trails
-  Information Centre, seasonal
-  Information Centre
-  Visitor Centre
-  Public Toilets
-  Viewpoint
-  Picnic Site
-  Public House
-  Museum

Some Symbols are more generalised for example the Seasonal Information Point refers to the Gift Shop and Donation Point. For the specific stop details view the time-line info-graphic (top left).

## Ground Floor Plan

On the Ground Floor there is one main viewing platform located on the existing stage. The walkway also exits the building on the ground floor, through the original entrance back onto Middle Street, where visitors can easily walk down to the beach and visit the famous Brighton Palace Pier, also visible from the viewing platform on the roof.



Key:

1

Entrance into the main space of the Hippodrome

2

Continuation of the walkway up to the first floor

3

Continuation of the walkway from the first floor



Gift Shop and Donation Point

4

Exit onto Middle Street



Ground Floor Plan  
1:200

A

### Stage - Viewing Platform

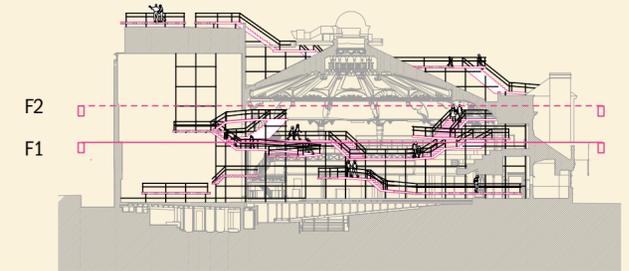
This is the first stop on along the walkway. Here visitors can imagine what it would have been like to stand on a stage alongside famous Hippodrome acts such as Max Miller. The platform sits on top of the existing stage, which will need restoration. Visitors can also go down to the **orchestra pit** from here.



## First and Second Floor Plans

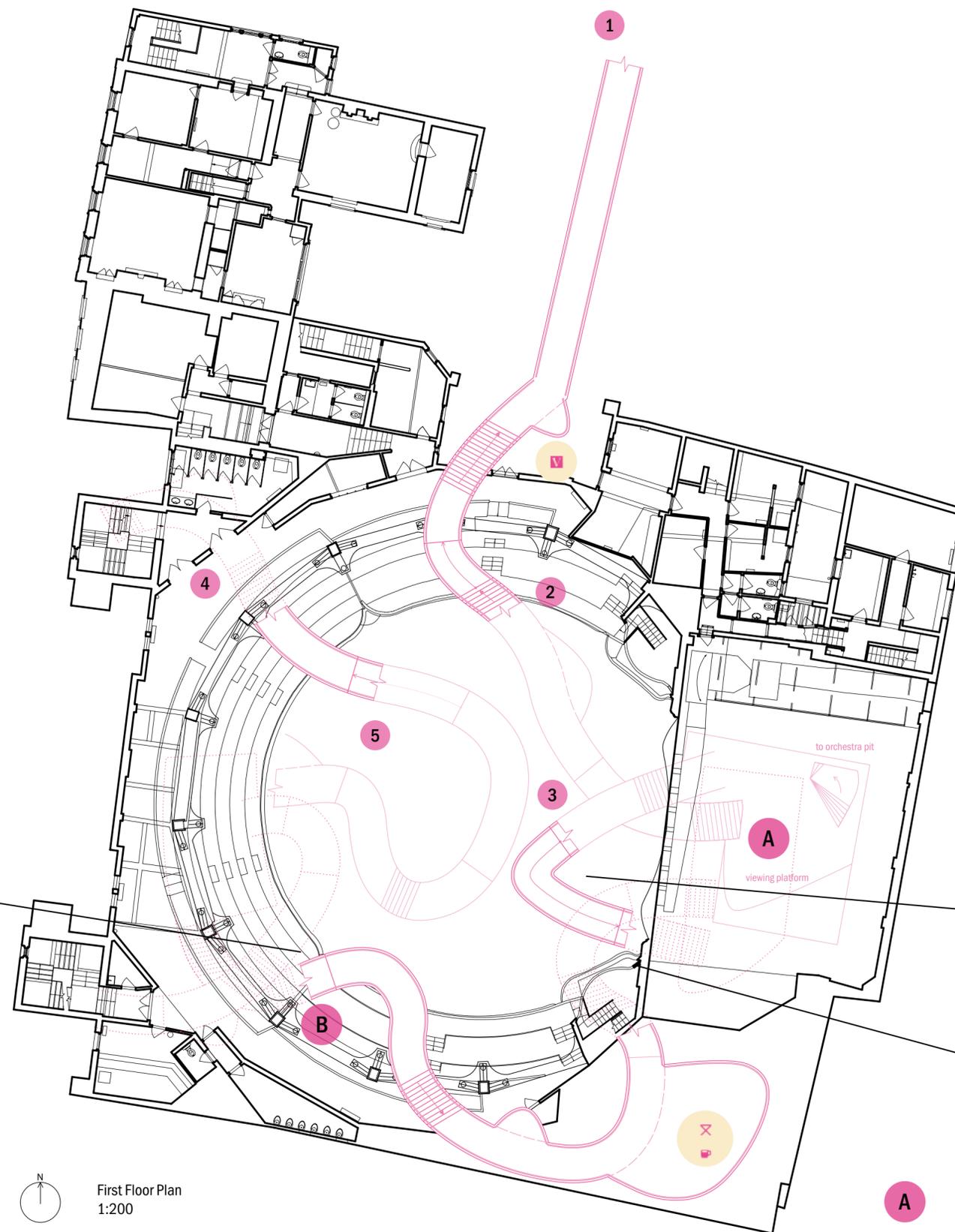
The First floor is where visitors will enter the building from the Urban Hiker trails. The first stop once they are inside Destination Hippodrome will be the Visitor Centre where they can pick up a guide for the walkway (see Almanac for a similar Leaflet).

On the Second Floor there are two platforms, one above the Fly Tower, and another inserted to view the interior roof details. Connecting these two platforms is a walkway which overhangs the theatre seating, where visitors can imagine viewing the Hippodrome Circus.

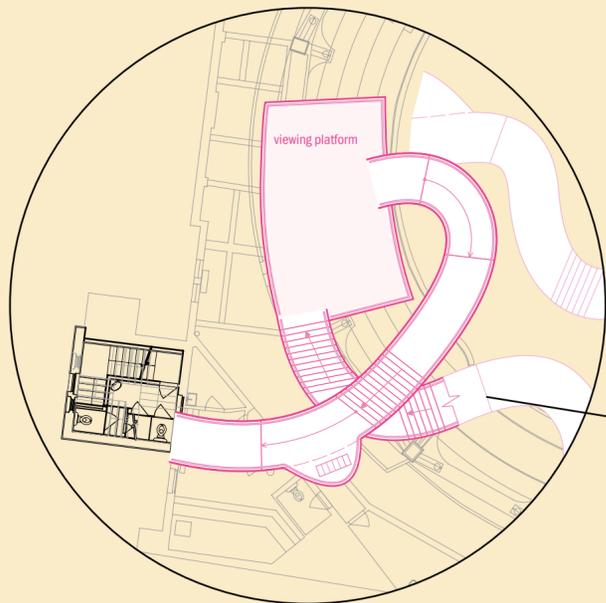


Key:

- 1** Entrance to the Hippodrome via the Urban Hiker Trails
- 2** Continuation of the walkway to ground floor level
- 3** Continuation of the walkway from the ground floor
- 4** Re-entrance from the rooftop
- 5** Continuation of the walkway to the ground floor and Exit



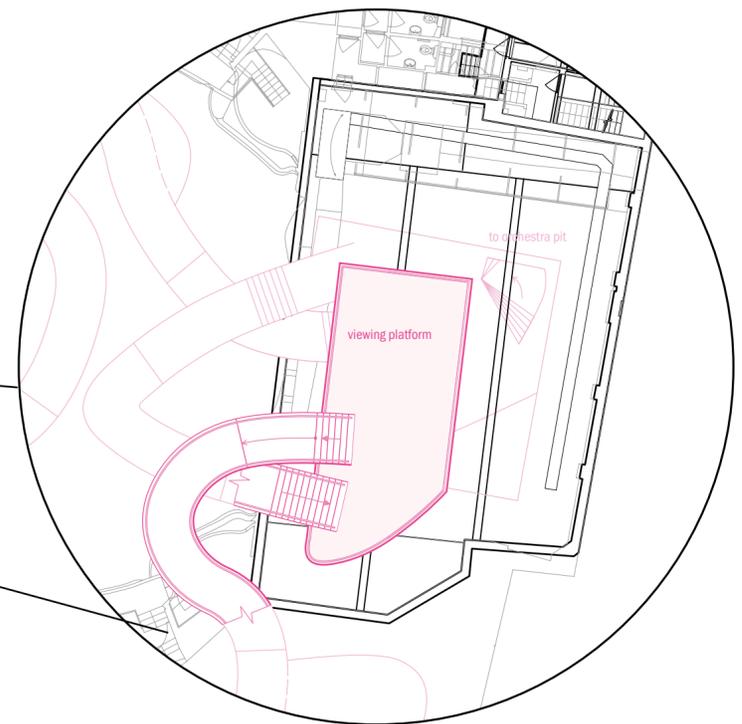
First Floor Plan  
1:200



**B**

### Architecture - Viewing Platform

Here visitors can see the interior detailing of the roof up-close on this elevated platform. The building was constructed in the early 1900s and designed by Frank Matcham.



**A**

### Fly Tower - Viewing Platform

From this platform visitors can see back across the central space of the Hippodrome and see the whole Urban Hiker walkway. This platform is located in what would have been the Fly Tower, where scenery and lighting would have been hung during the building's time as a theatre.

## Roof Plan

The roof is the main attraction to Destination Hippodrome. After travelling through the building visitors will emerge onto the roof with spectacular views out the sea and back across the city, here these is space for tourists to relax and reflect on their visit to Brighton. With street level overcrowded Destination Hippodrome has provided an alternative experience of the city.



Roof Plan  
1:200



Key:

1

Entrance from inside the Hippodrome

2

View out to the sea and the pier

3

Main platform for visitors to relax and take in the roof scape, looking out to the sea and back over the city.

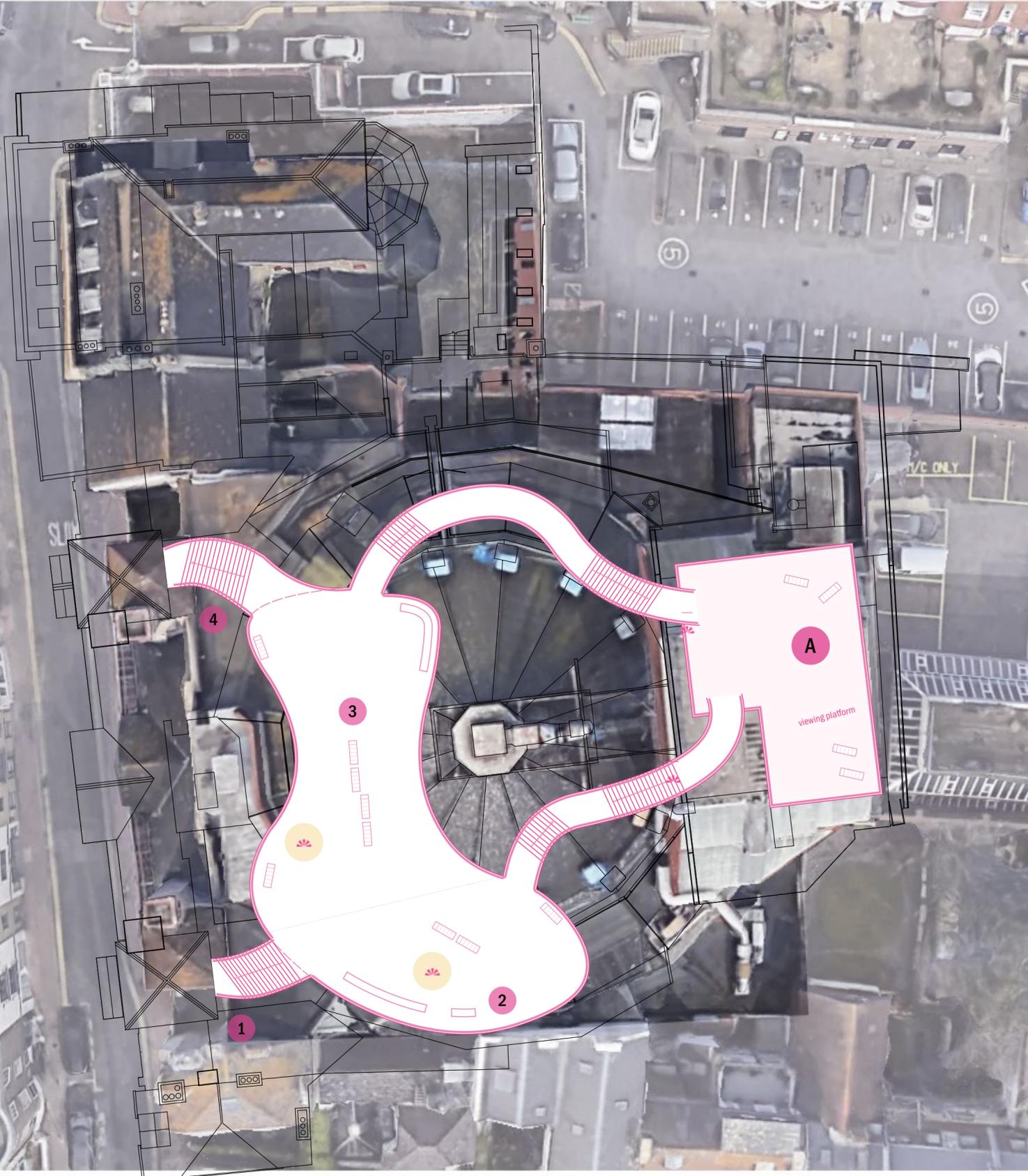
4

Exit back into the Hippodrome

A

### Rooftop - Viewing Platform

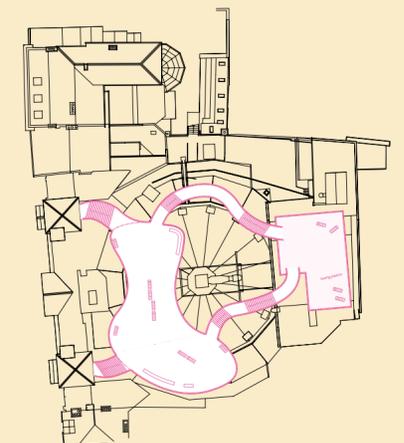
From this higher platform visitors can view over the surrounding rooftops out to Brighton's Palace Pier - the UK's most visited tourist attraction outside of London. This provides an alternative experience of the city and allows visitors to still see the beautiful landmarks of Brighton from a more secluded spot.



Rooftop views from and around the Hippodrome



Transparent Roof Plan Drawing:

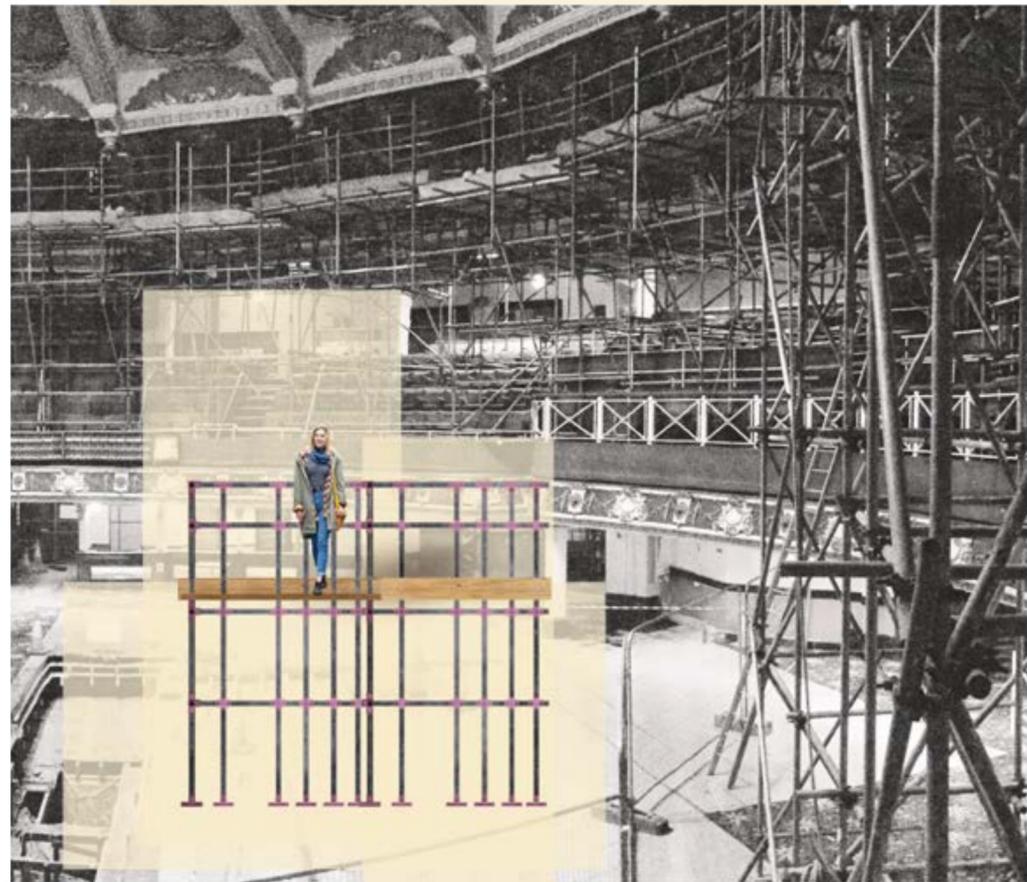


## Scaffolding

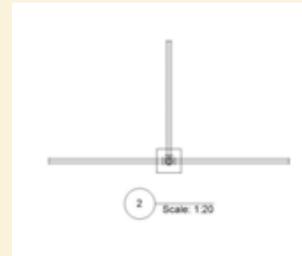
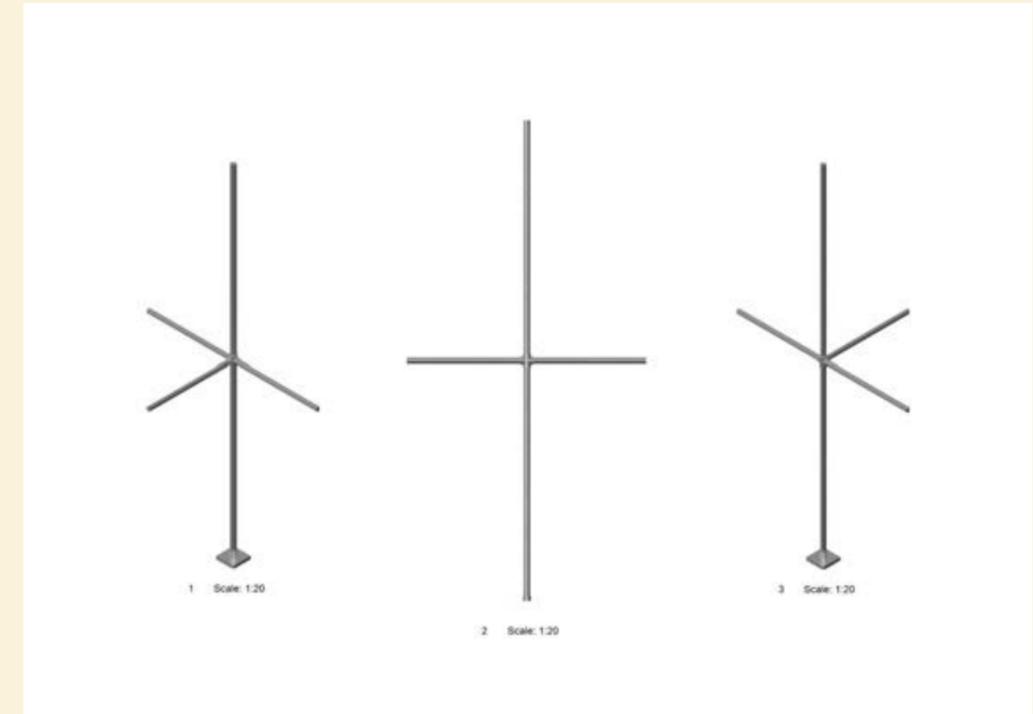
The material and structural choice needed to meet four requirements. It needed to be light-touch; the walkway is a temporary programme to raise money to restore the Grade II\* listed building. It needed to adapt to the level changes throughout the walkway, it needed to fit the interior aesthetic, and it would need to be low cost.

As can be seen from many of the existing interior images the building is already filled with scaffolding to support the structure. Scaffolding is also light-touch and can adapt to level changes. Additionally, it can also be sourced locally and from recyclable sources (scrap wood etc.).

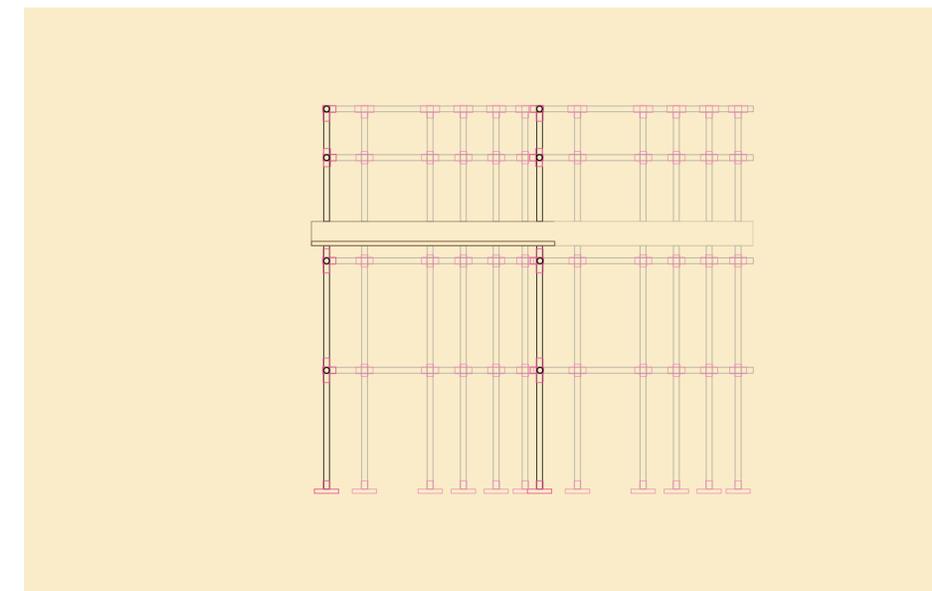
Using Scaffold also allows restoration work to continue when the program is open to the public adding to the schemes immersive and interactive elements. For an added touch the connecting joints could be spray painted to add a touch of colour to the space.



A 1:50 detail of a proposed section of the walkway. The scaffold poles support the structure and also serve as the railings. The wooden boards also line the surface of the walkway. Here it can be seen how the proposal matches with the buildings existing condition. (Far Right: line drawing of 1:50 detail)

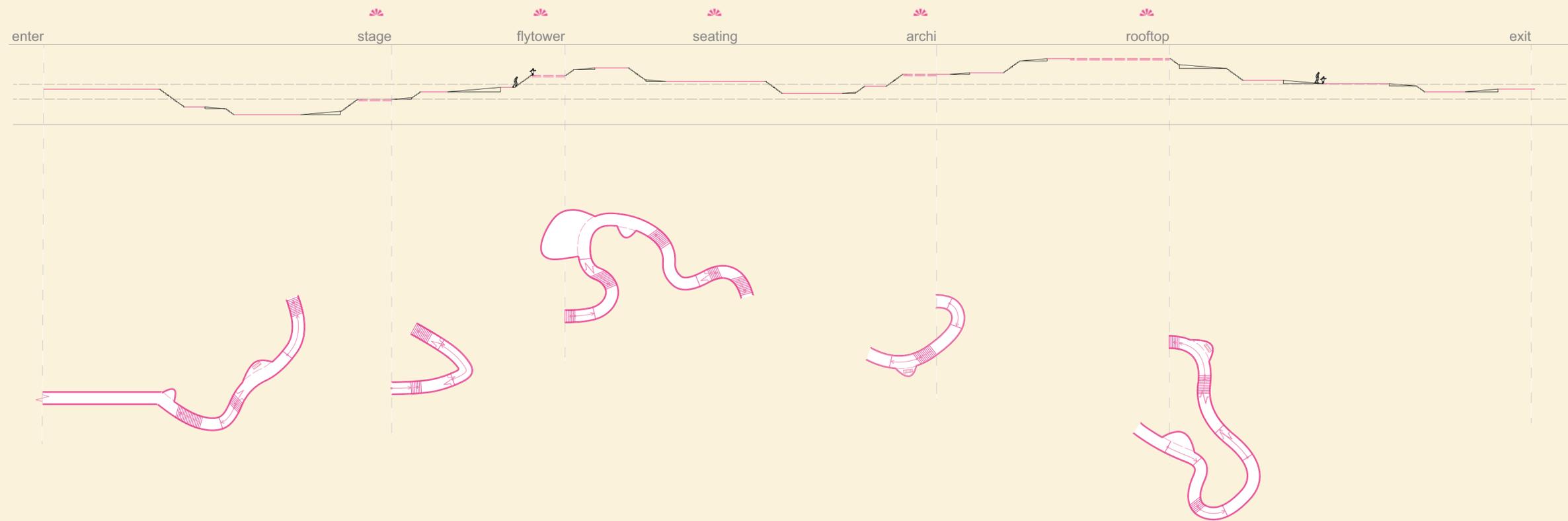


Scaffold is made in standard measurements and can be built and adapted using joints and clamps. Above is a 3D detail of a tubular joint, and a section of a full-length connection.



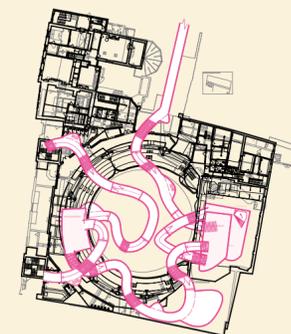
## A walk through the Hippodrome

This series of unfolded sections shows the ups and downs of walking through the building, travelling over the different levels inside the building. Each curved plan of the walkway sections can be located on the plan and are intersected by viewing platforms along the way.



Plan - Circulation  
1:1000

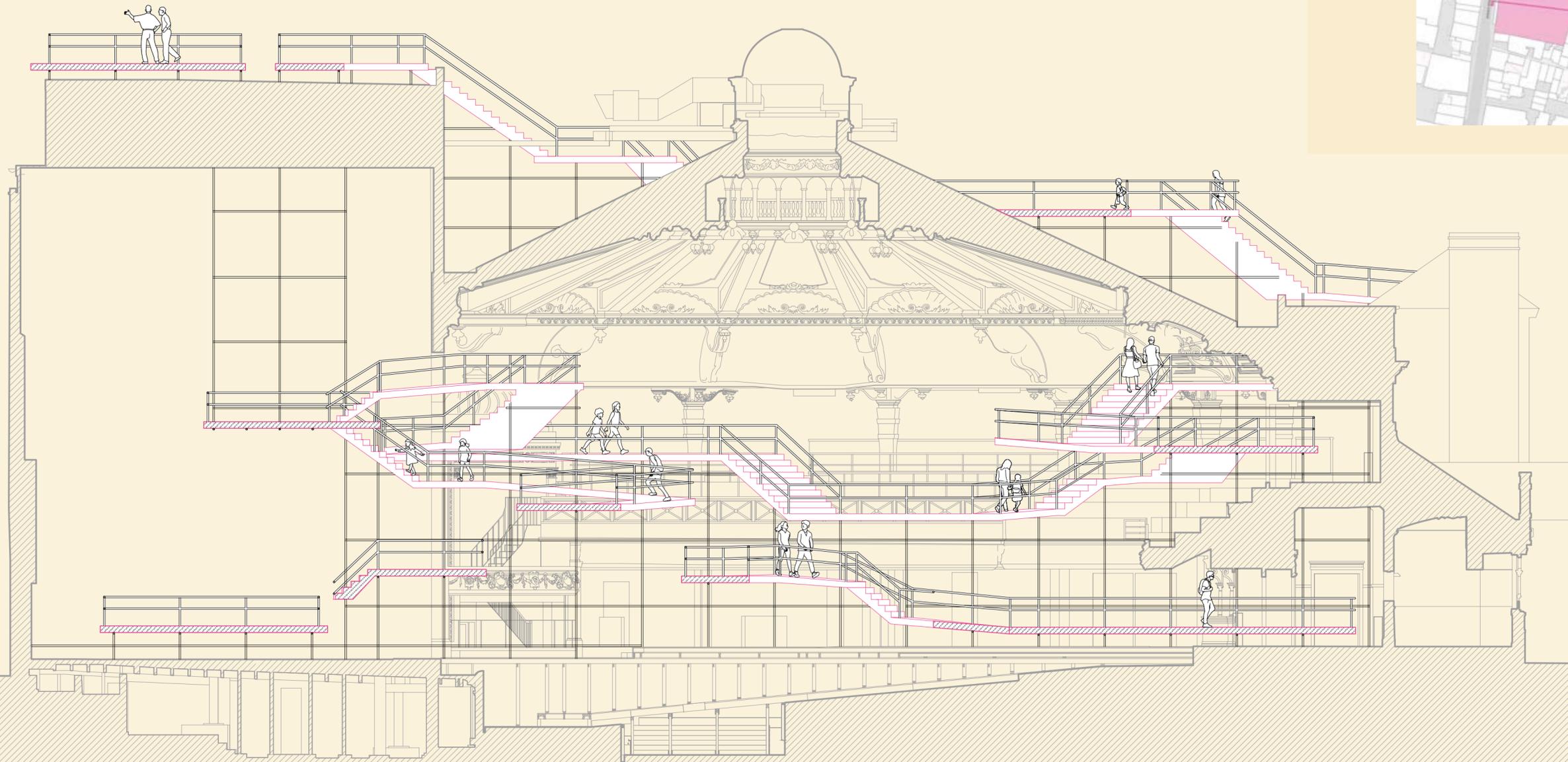
Unfolded Section  
1:500





## Diagrammatic Section

A key element of the proposal is the different levels that the walkway reaches, the three viewing platforms can be seen in the section cut, as well as the roof platforms. Most of the walkway occupies this half of the building. The key plan (below) shows where the building is cut.



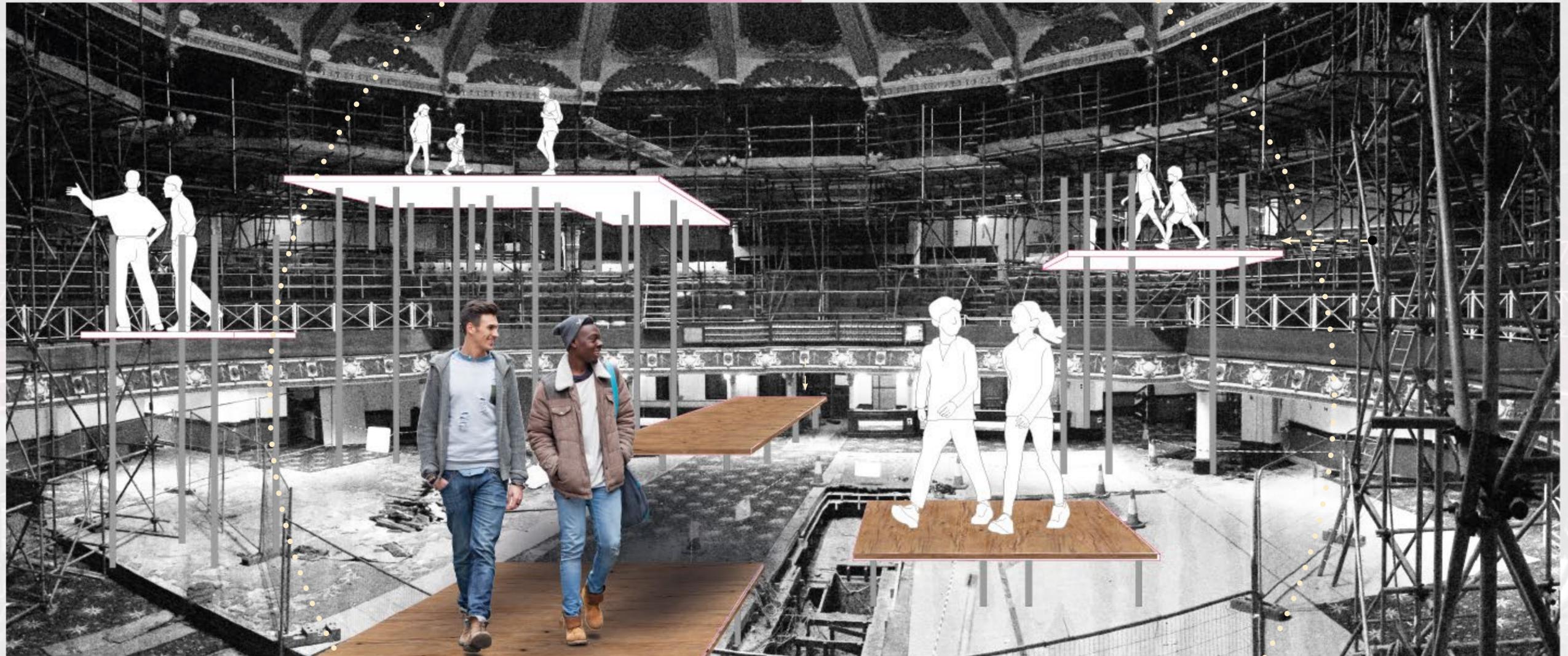
Section  
1:200

## Destination Hippodrome 2023

With regulations put on carbon emissions and the steady rise of global temperatures Brighton is busy and so the Urban Hiker Trails have begun construction and materials for the Hippodrome are being sourced. Will you be one of the first visitors to...

DESTINATION

HIPPODROME



Destination Hippodrome is raising funds to restore Brighton Hippodrome to a theatre/ entertainment venue, please leave a donation if you have enjoyed your experience on the Urban Hiker Trails.



# URBAN HIKER



YASMIN VERGHESE  
AD676