

Social Justice Archive - historic background

***Consultations held between: 25th April - 9th May

BACKGROUND

For more than 150 years, North Kensington has been at the heart of campaigns for social justice. In 2022, a group of local residents proposed the idea of creating a Social Justice Archive – a place where these important stories and community histories could be preserved and shared. This year, that vision is becoming a reality.

Kensington & Chelsea Archives & Local Studies already holds archive collections that link to social justice campaigns throughout North Kensington's history. These stories are told through historic documents, photographs, oral histories, written accounts, artworks, community posters and more.

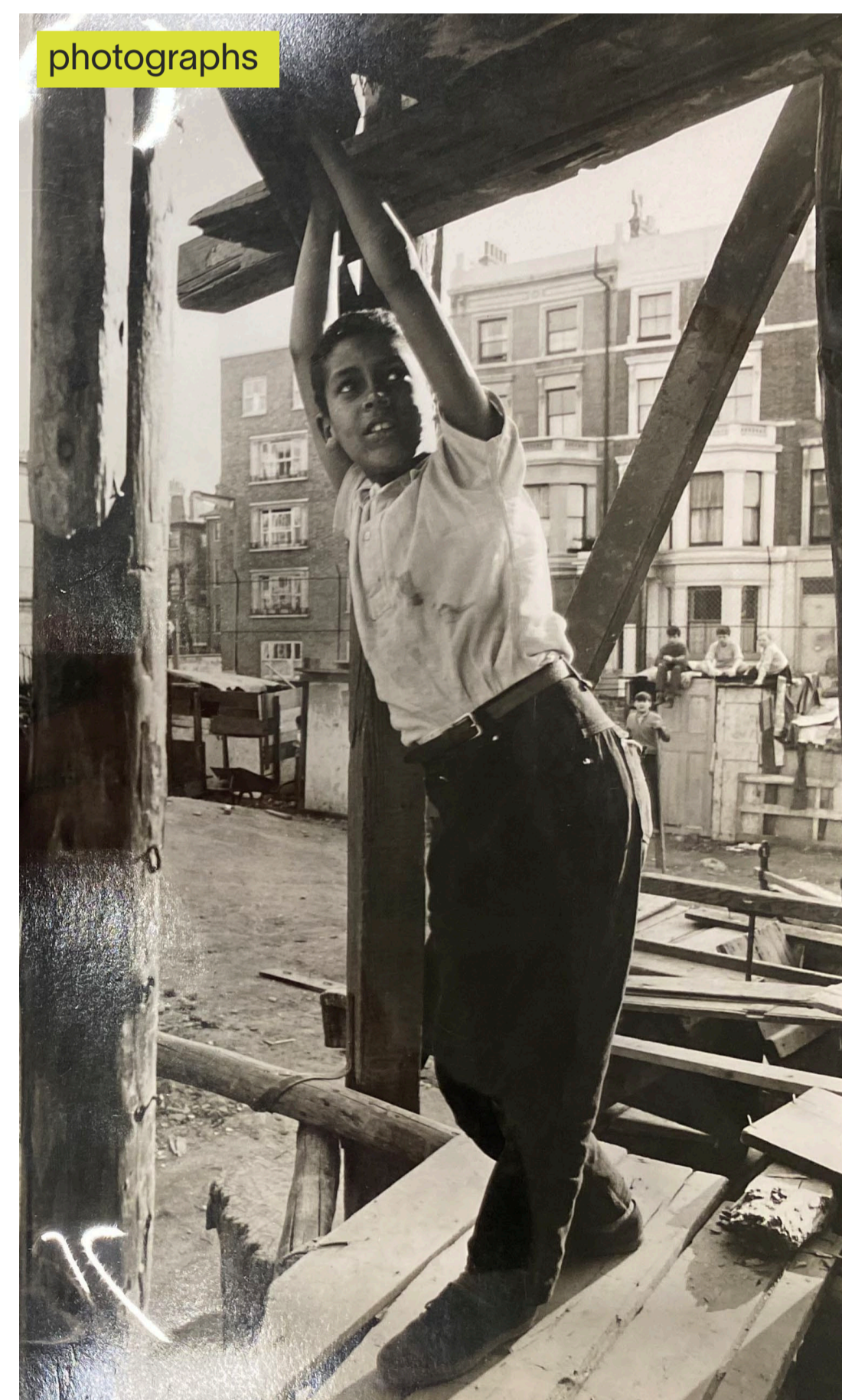
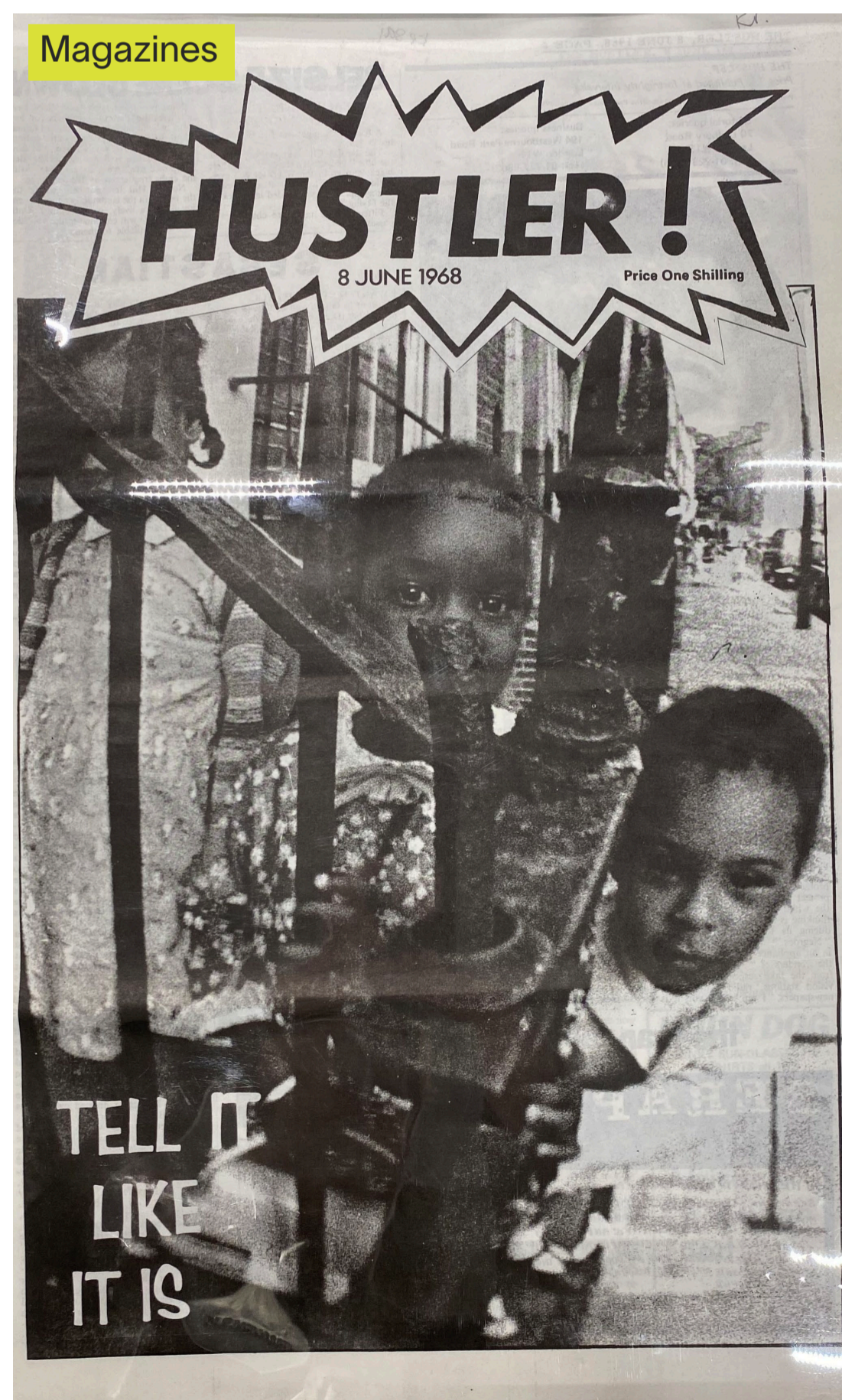
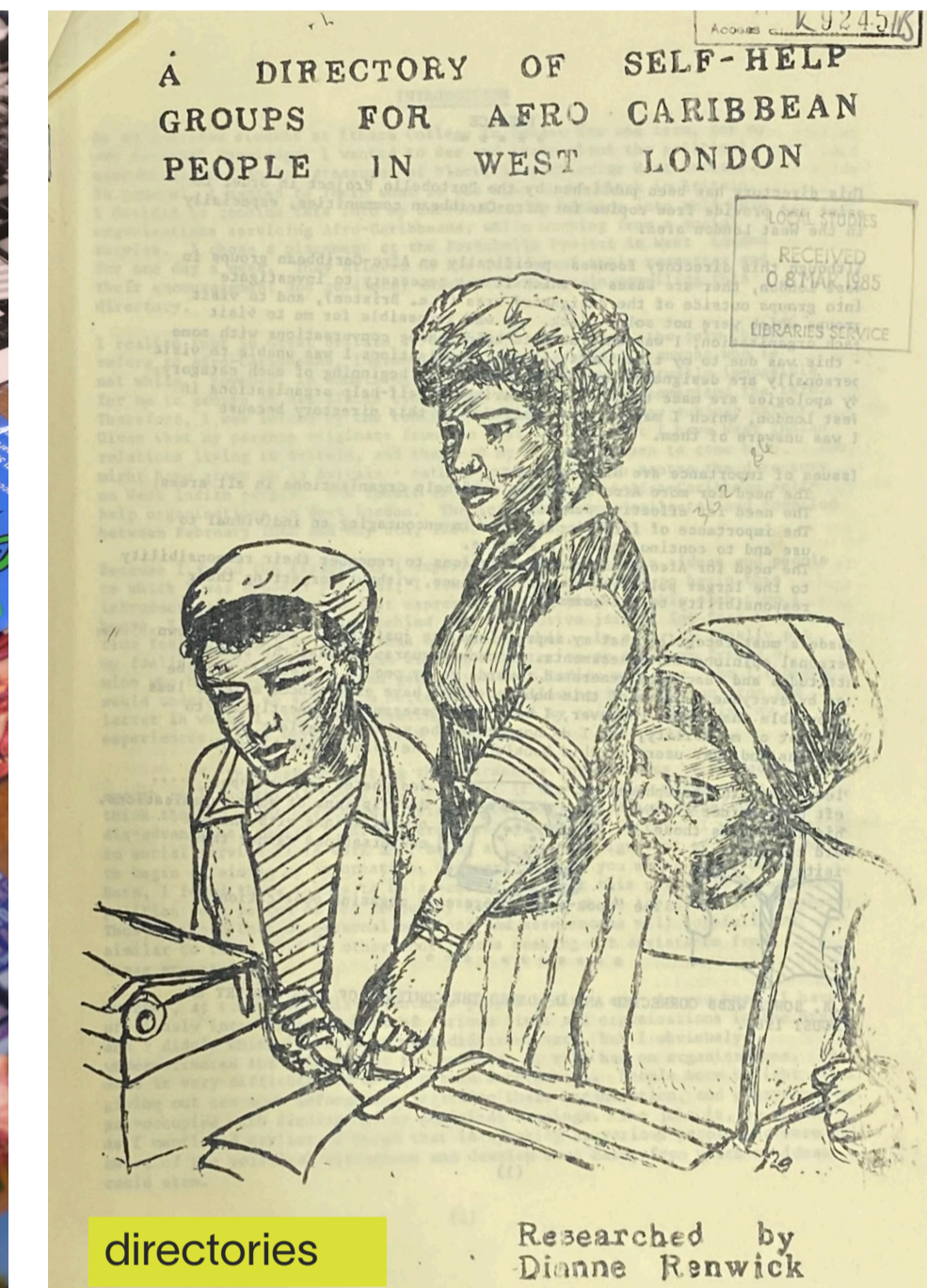
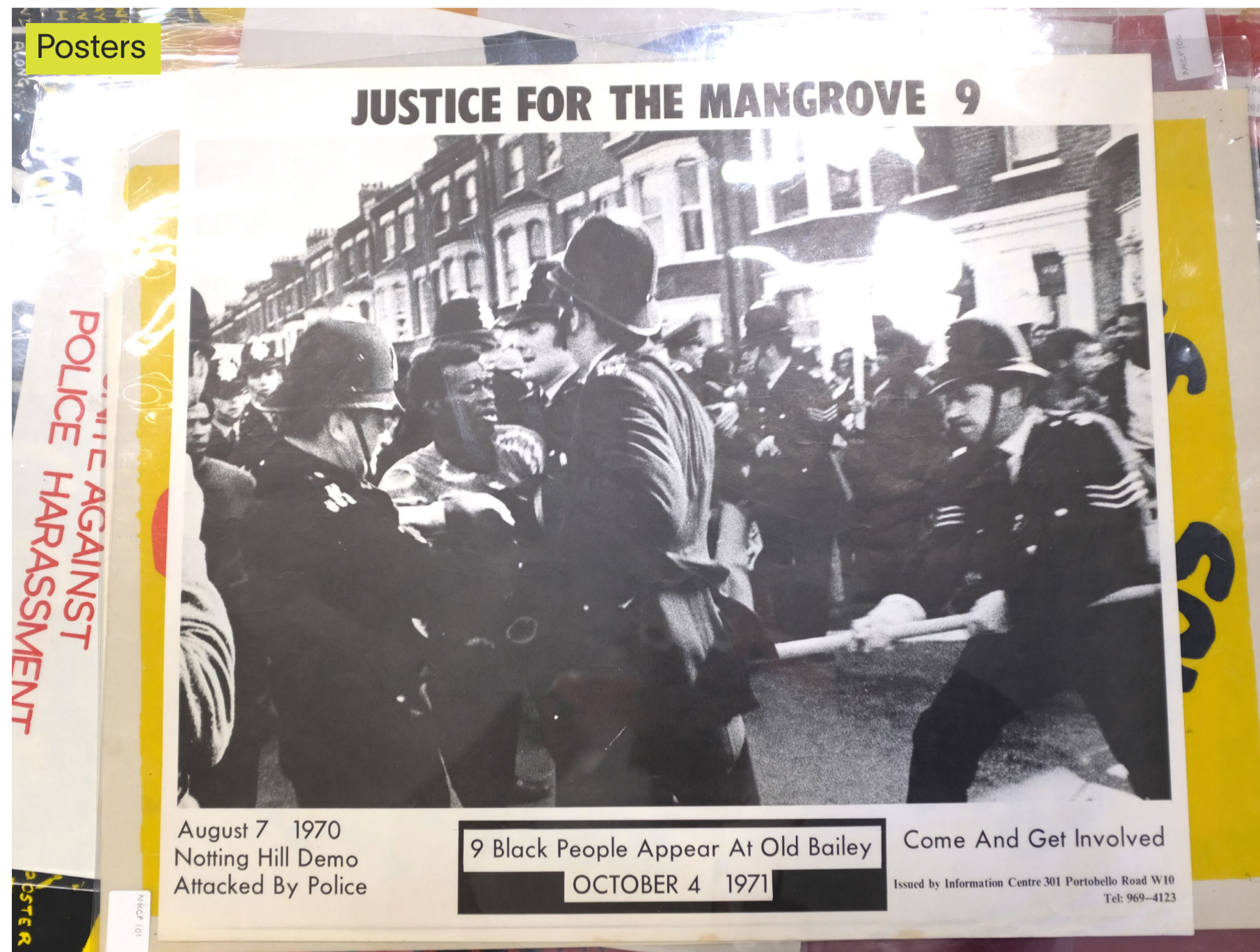
The Social Justice Archive at North Kensington Library aims to make these archive collections, stories and experiences accessible within the heart of North Kensington.

As we begin designing the archive, we would like to hear from you:

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THESE STORIES TO BE SHARED AND DISPLAYED?

WHICH STORIES, MOVEMENTS, OR HISTORICAL EVENTS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE REPRESENTED?

Example Archive Materials



Social Justice Archive - project summary

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PROJECT TIMELINE



DESIGN BRIEF INFORMED BY DROP-IN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS

FURNITURE SHOULD HAVE MULTIPLE MODES (E.G. A TABLE THAT CAN ACT AS DISPLAY, WORKING SURFACE, AND TEACHING STATION)

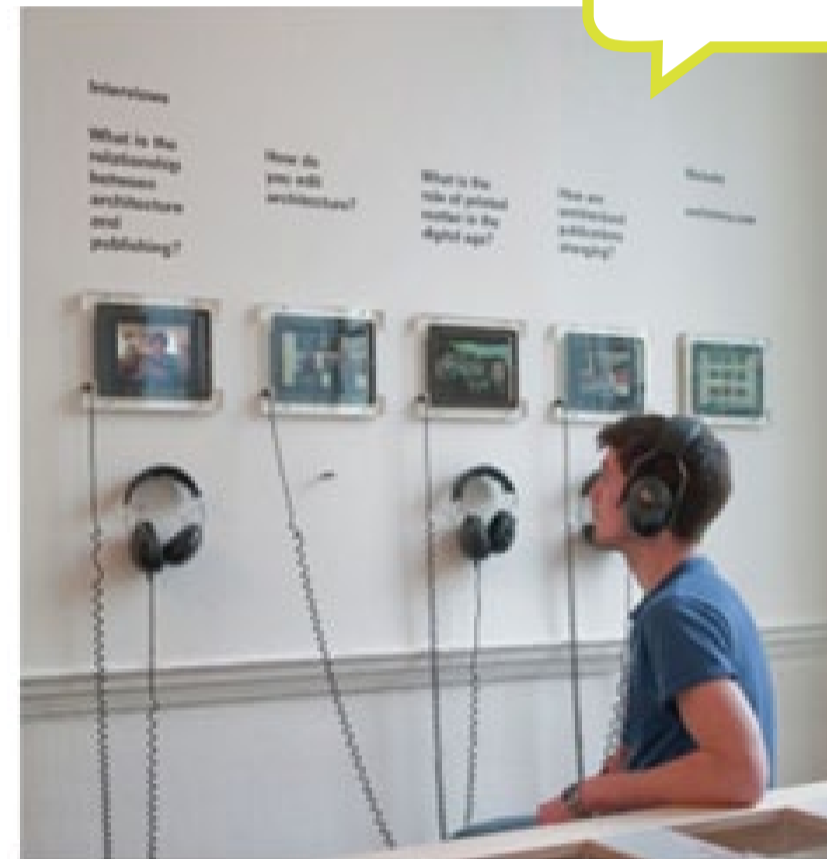
DIGITAL ACCESS SHOULD FEEL APPROACHABLE AND HUMAN-SCALED RATHER THAN VERY DOMINANT IN THE SPACE.

WHAT SHOULD THE CORE PRINCIPLES FOR THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ARCHIVE BE?

- Flexibility
- Visibility of material
- Playful engagement
- Secure storage



Pull out compartments with protected archive inside, or duplicate material



Simple digital interface as opposed to large digital walls



Taller display and storage options to maximise use of space



Table vitrines, small secure cases, maximise display opportunities



Pull out compartments with protected archive inside, or duplicate material



Creative and modular furniture options

PARTICIPANTS ASKED FOR "INVITATION TO EXPLORE" BUILT INTO THE FURNITURE.

THE COMMUNITY STRONGLY FAVOURS FLEXIBLE, MODULAR FURNITURE THAT CAN BE MOVED AND RECONFIGURED EASILY

THE COMMUNITY SUGGESTED THE EXHIBITION SPACES SHOULD USE TABLE VITRINES / BUILT-IN VITRINES WITHIN FURNITURE ELEMENTS

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WOULD YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE USING THE DIGITAL MEDIA ARCHIVE IN THE ARRANGEMENT SHOWN?

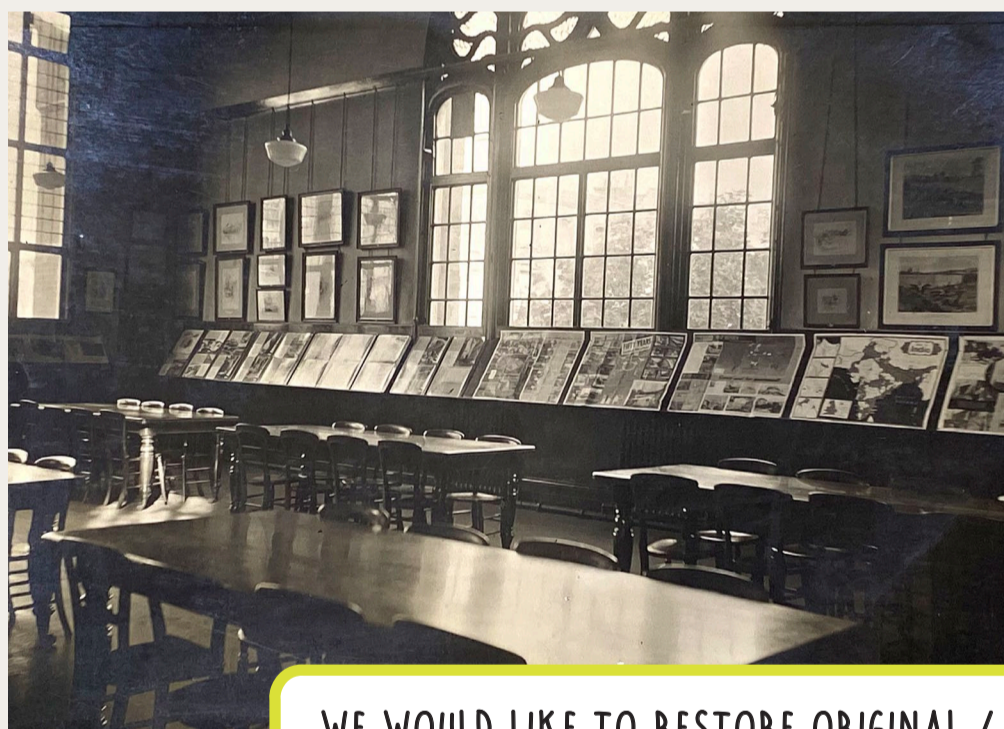
DOES THE EXHIBITION SPACE FEEL ENGAGING AND INTERACTIVE?

DESIGN

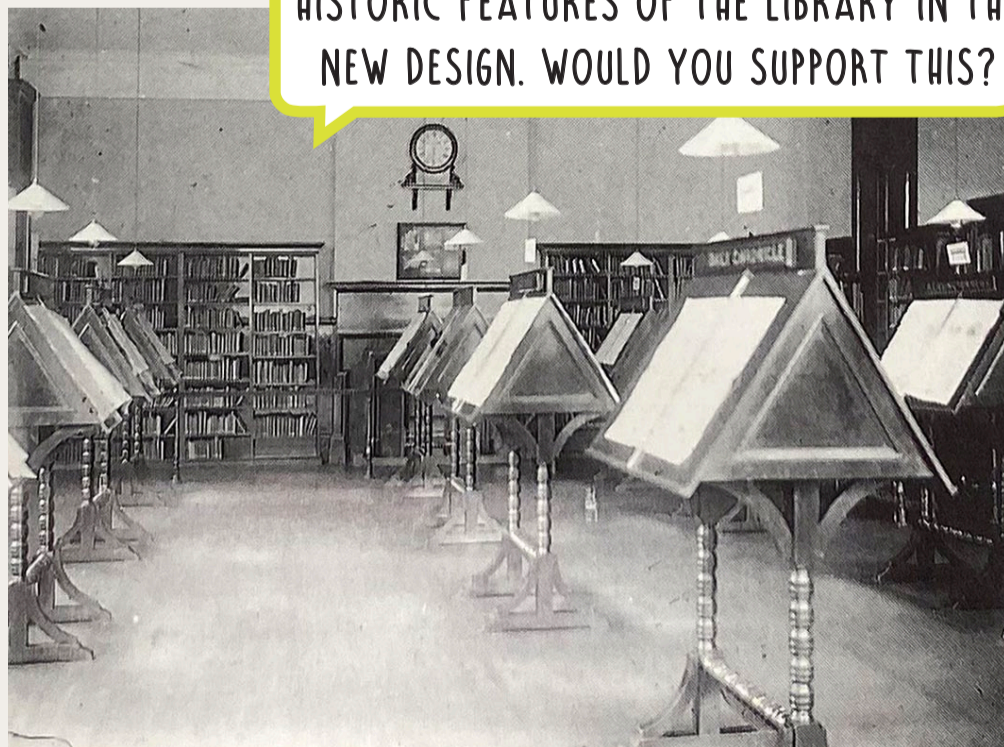
In March 2023, the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) published a Key Decision Report proposing the creation of "an accessible and community-focused archive" to document the history of social justice movements in North Kensington. The archive will explore local activism from the 19th century through to more recent events.

The design presented is an initial response to the spatial and operational brief, which was shaped through earlier consultation events and community surveys. We would really value your thoughts on the emerging proposal. Your feedback will help us refine and improve the design of the archive.

Historic Photos of North Kensington Library



WE WOULD LIKE TO RESTORE ORIGINAL / HISTORIC FEATURES OF THE LIBRARY IN THE NEW DESIGN. WOULD YOU SUPPORT THIS?



Visual



Precedents / References

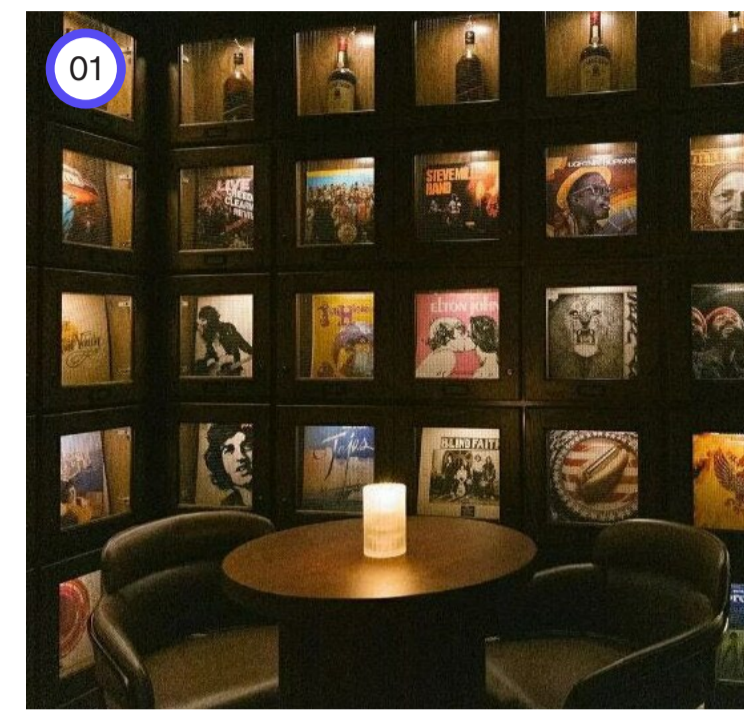


Photo: 71 Studio Bar, Los Angeles

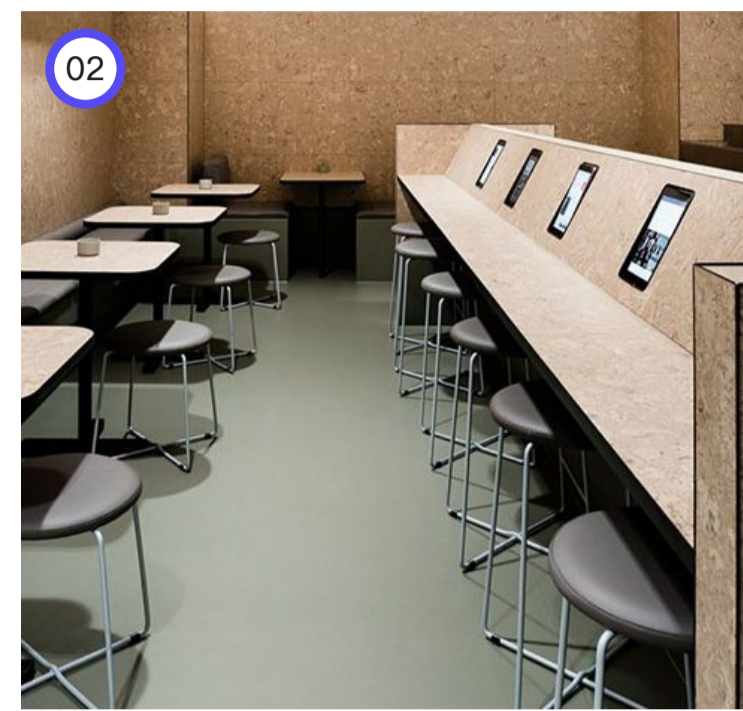


Photo: Sensory Lab cafe, Foolscap Studio



Photo: unknown



Photo: unknown



Photo: unknown

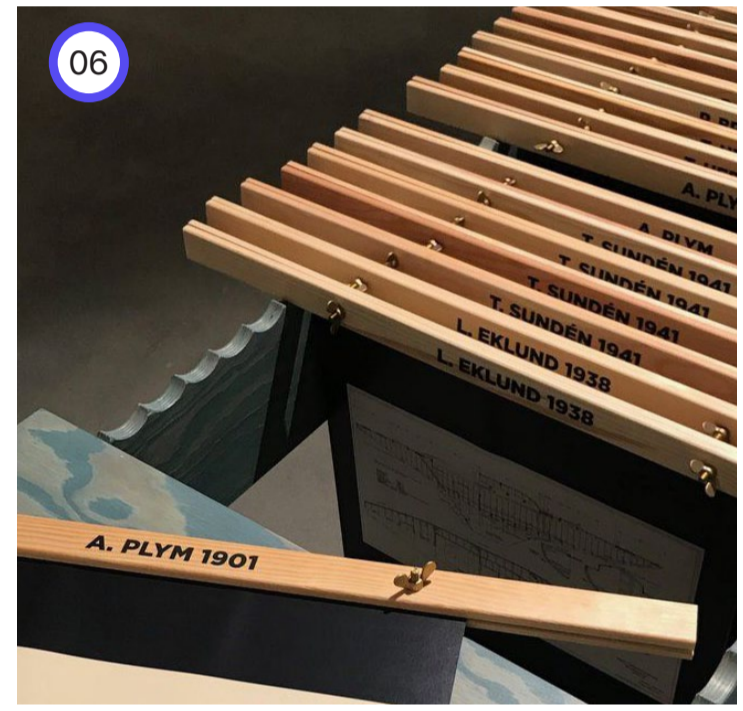


Photo: unknown



Photo: Women in Revolt exhibition



Photo: John Pawson, London Design Museum archive

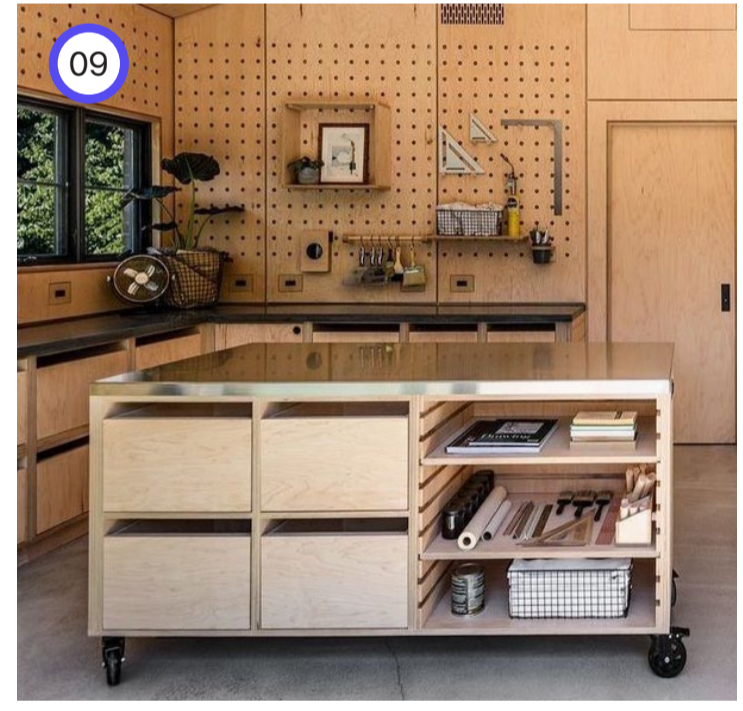


Photo: © Okano Picard Studio

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATERIALS AND COLOUR CHOICES?

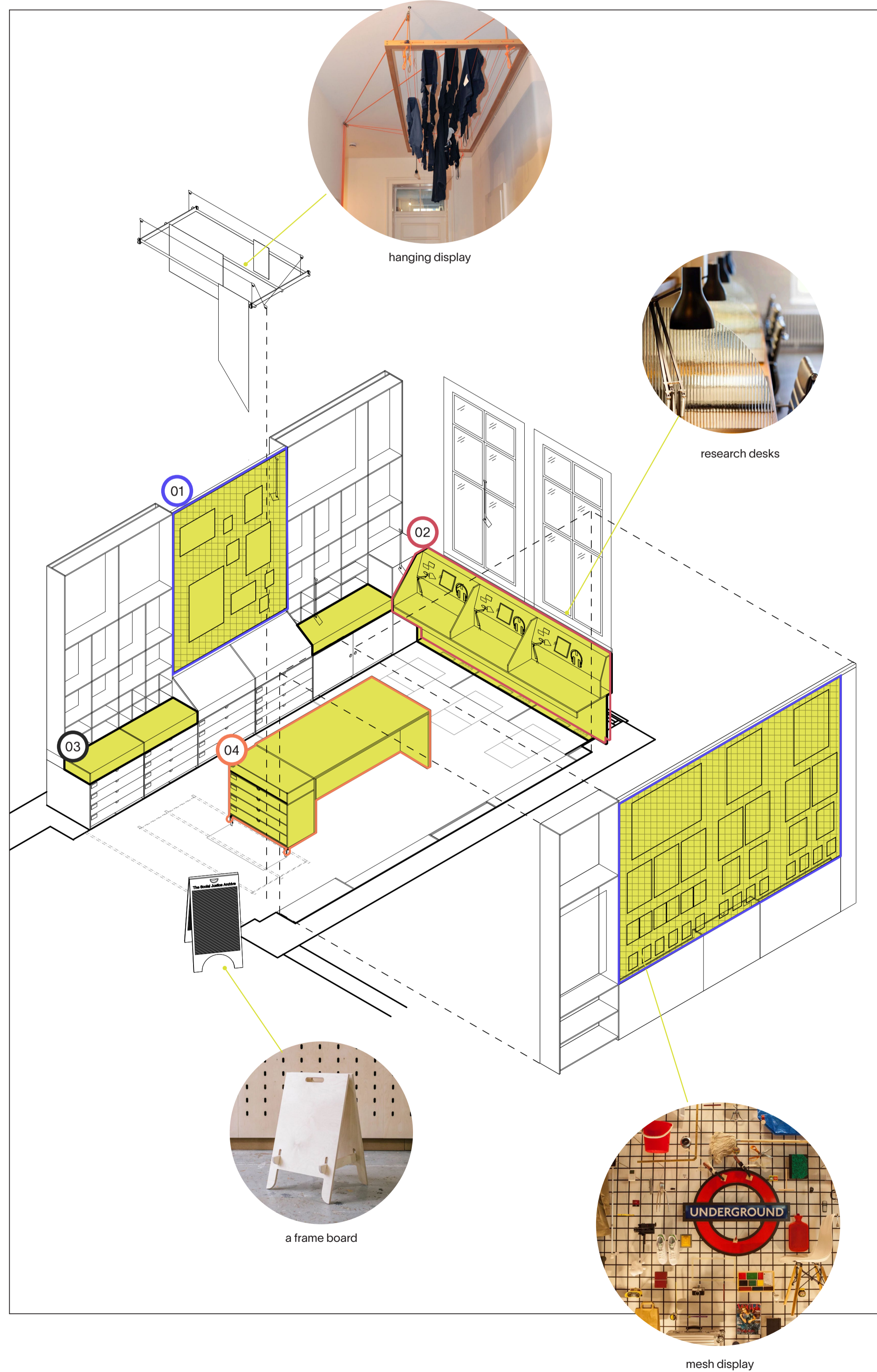
WE'RE KEEN TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LATEST DESIGN / PROPOSAL...

DOES THE LAYOUT OF THE ARCHIVE FEEL EASY TO NAVIGATE & ACCESSIBLE?

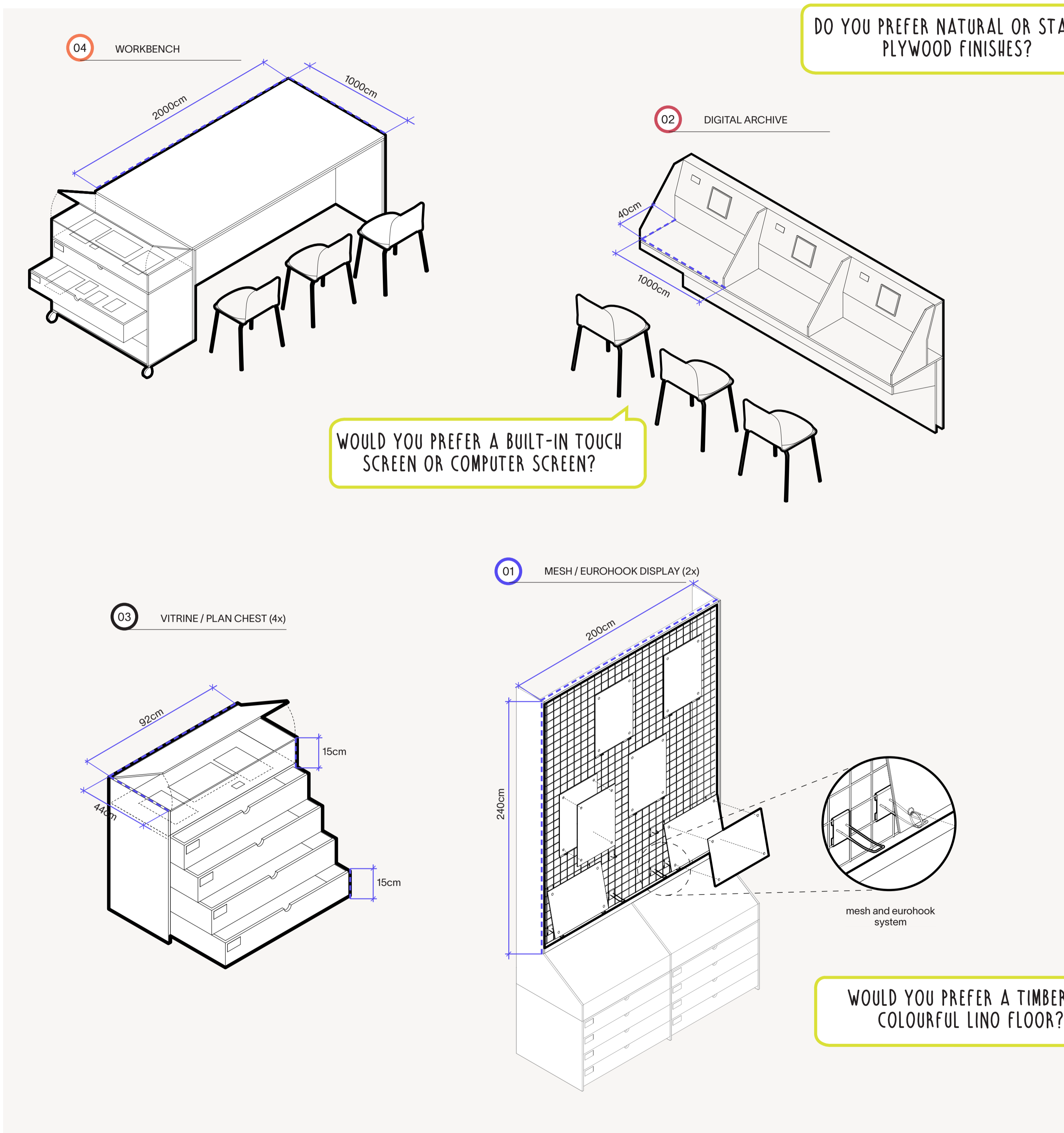
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Isometric View



Furniture Design



Materials



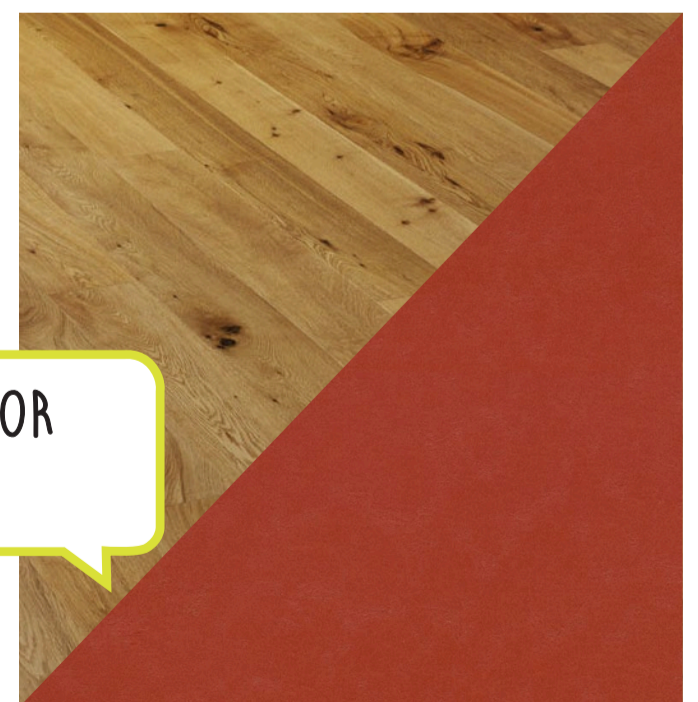
Plywood Furniture



Stained Plywood



Mesh + Eurohook display system



Timber Floor Boards OR Lino flooring

WOULD YOU PREFER A TIMBER OR COLOURFUL LINO FLOOR?