

4.2

Podium Cladding

4.2.1 Podium Cladding
Overview

This chapter explains The Podium façade. Primarily inspired by the local context of Blackfriars and Southwark, it is characterised by a rich urban grain, an earthy colour palette and a sense of crafted materials.

The cladding expression was driven by the aim to create a unified architectural language that could adapt to various internal building functions and that responded to its immediate context. This approach led to the emergence of the primary bay module as an organising component through the entirety of The Podium, complemented by a range of variations when celebrating key moments such as The Rotunda, the main entrances or transitions between buildings.

The repeated use of the primary bay establishes a cohesive overall rhythm, complimenting the scale, proportions and solidity of the existing streetscape, whilst allowing for more permeability and for greenery integration in The Rotunda. This approach creates a unique, dynamic and engaging setting for the public realm

The following pages identify and explain in greater detail the key elements and various conditions of the podium façade design.

Final details of materials/colours/facades/landscaping remain subject to detailed design and are anticipated to be subject to a planning condition.

Right:
Blackfriars Road
North View



4.2.2 Podium Cladding
Concept

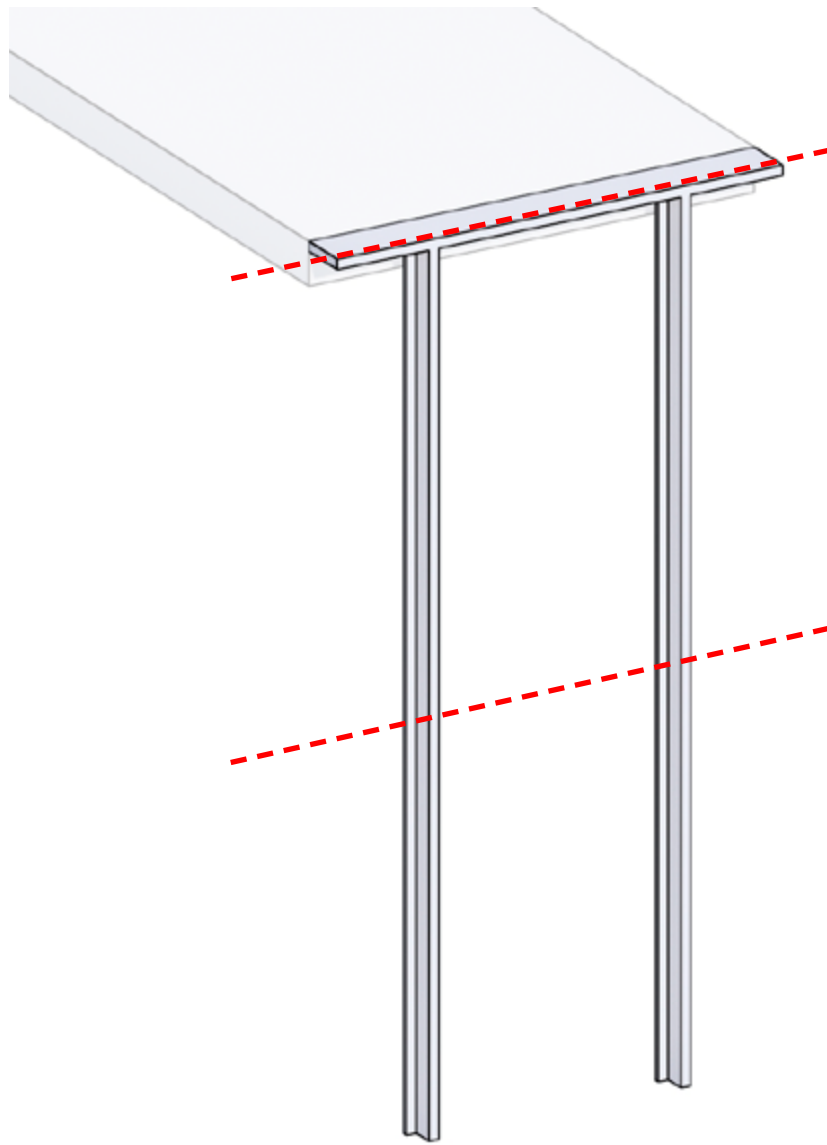
The following diagrams illustrate the key components of The Podium facades.

The first step in defining the cladding expression was to introduce the vertical and horizontal fins as organising elements throughout The Podium. This established the primary grid in response to the proportions and scale of the surroundings.

Secondly, the fins create framed primary modules, bounded by level 2 and 4 datums. Thirdly, the language of the bay window typology emerges, set within each primary module, creating a dynamic façade line at the upper levels.

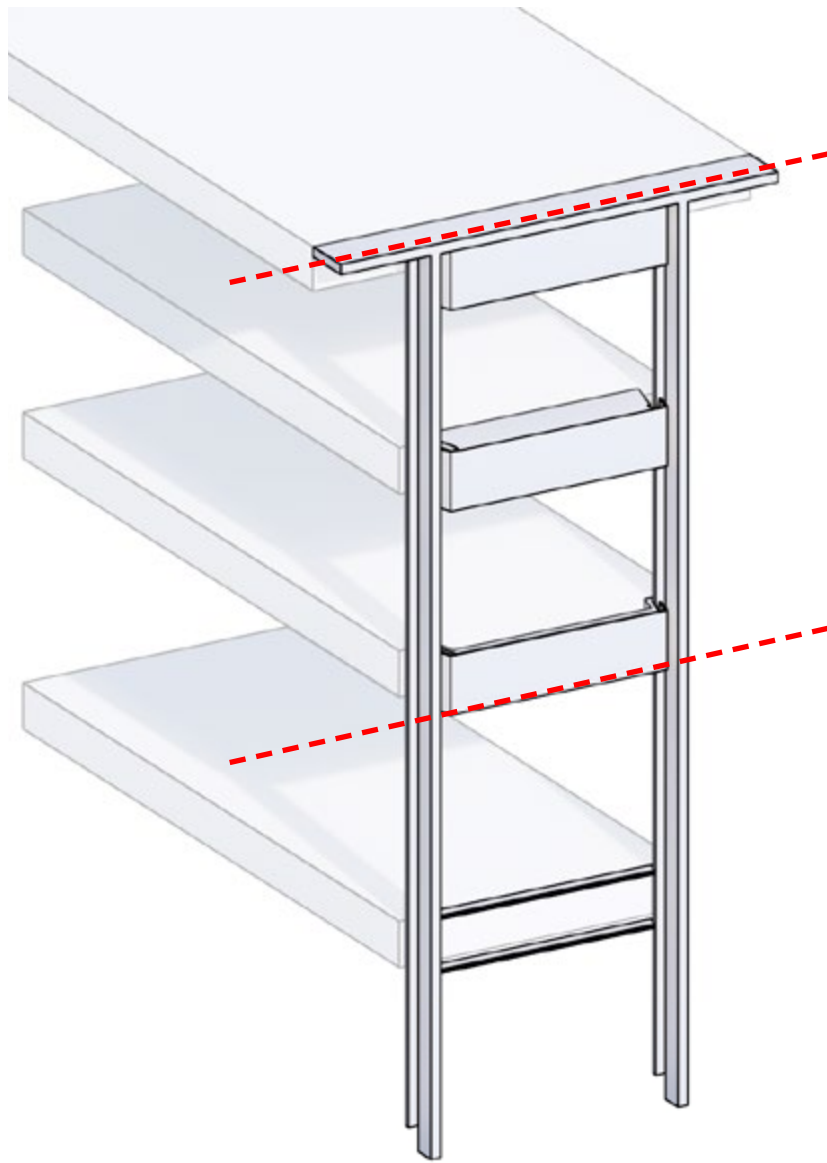
Finally, the subdivision of glass into smaller panels proposes a more intimate, human scale, engaging the surrounding streetscape. The division of the bay module has been informed by the proportions of the adjacent listed building 3-7 Stamford Street.

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Portal Frame Module and L02/ L04 Datum

The portal frame module establishes the primary facade frame using vertical and horizontal fins, responding to internal functions and key datums around the Site.



Horizontal Expression

Introducing secondary horizontal elements responding to the established levels and internal programme.



Bay Window Module at Upper Levels

Introducing the double bay window expression at upper levels maximises the internal areas and generates a more dynamic cladding line; recessing the lower levels provides more generous public realm and creates protected entrances.



Addition of Texture and Further Glass Division

The use of terracotta adds a sense of texture and craftsmanship to The Podium levels creating a more tactile street environment. The profiled terracotta panels also integrate louvers serving the functions within the building. A crittal-style window has been implemented within each bay to give a more pedestrian scale whilst responding to the industrial heritage of the Site.



Addition of Special Elements: Planters, Terraces

Additional planter features are an integral part of the architectural and landscape design strategies, softening the overall facade and creating a tactile, approachable setting.

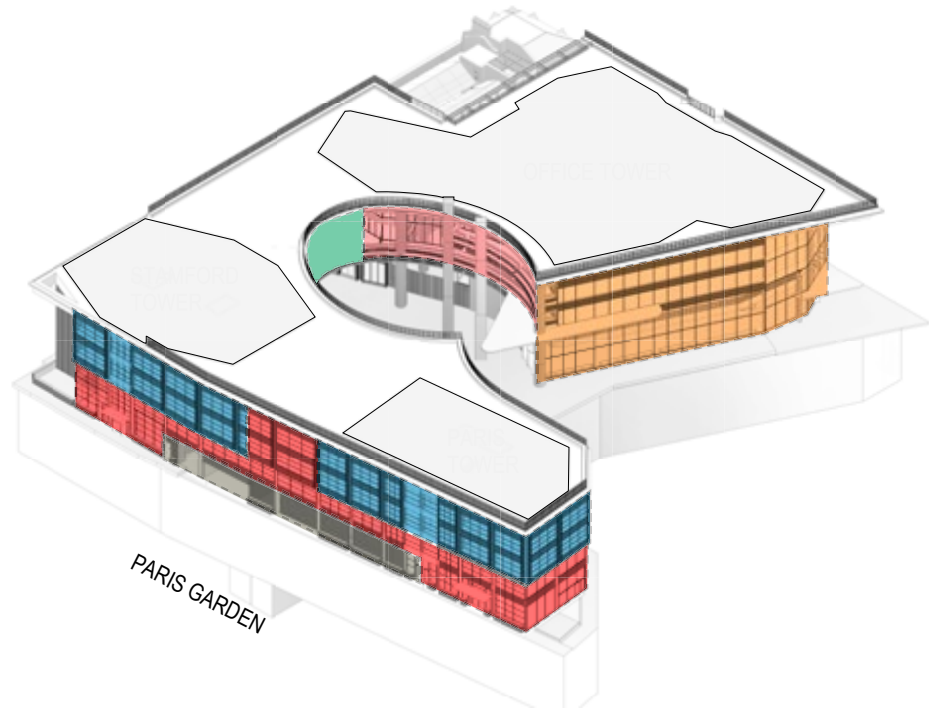
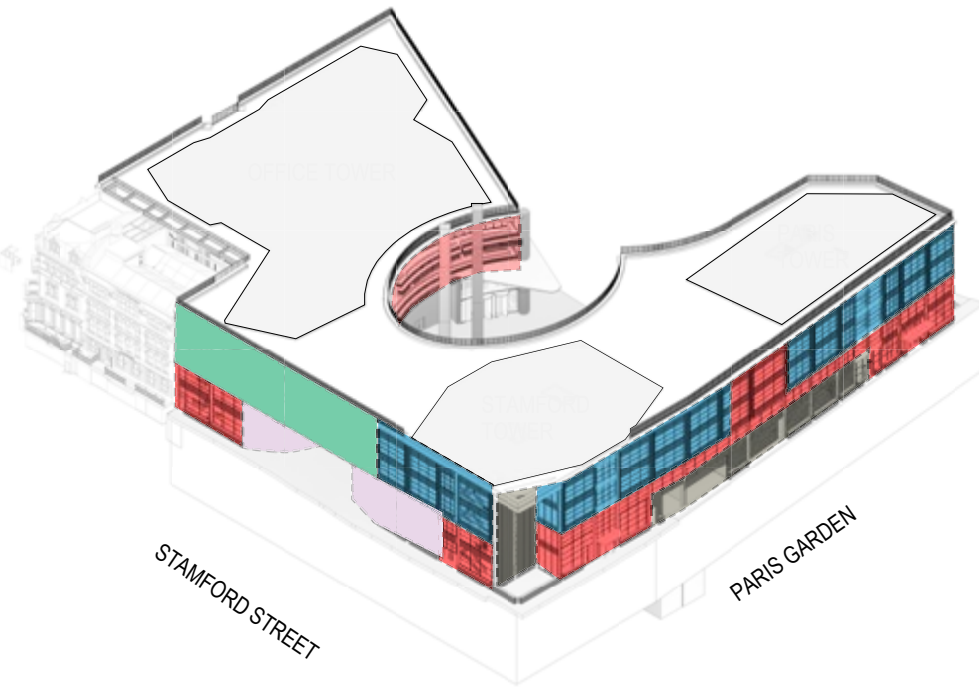
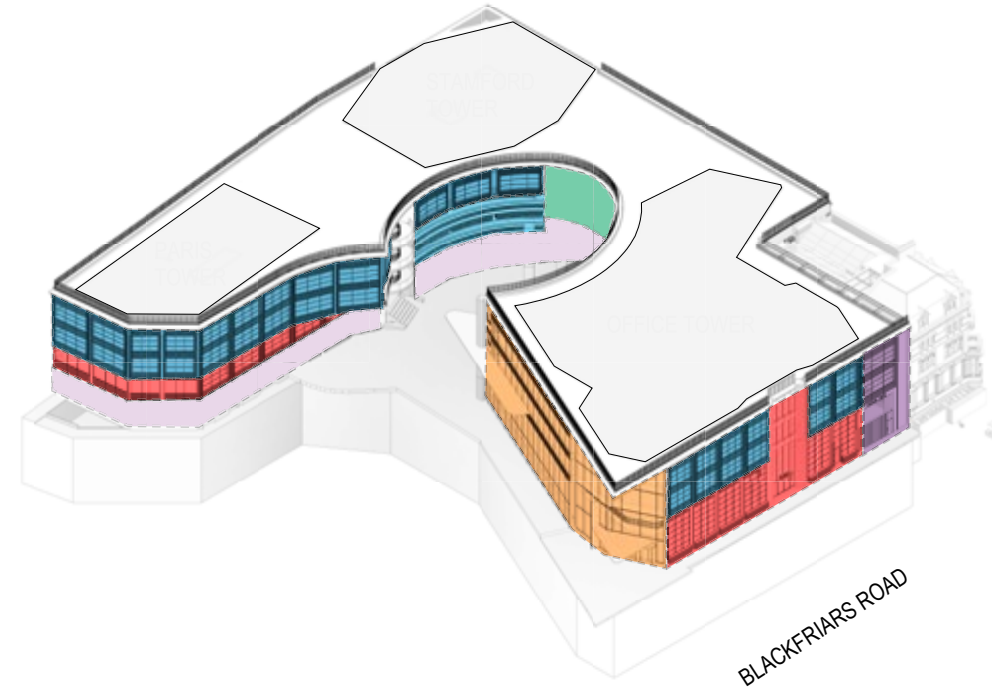
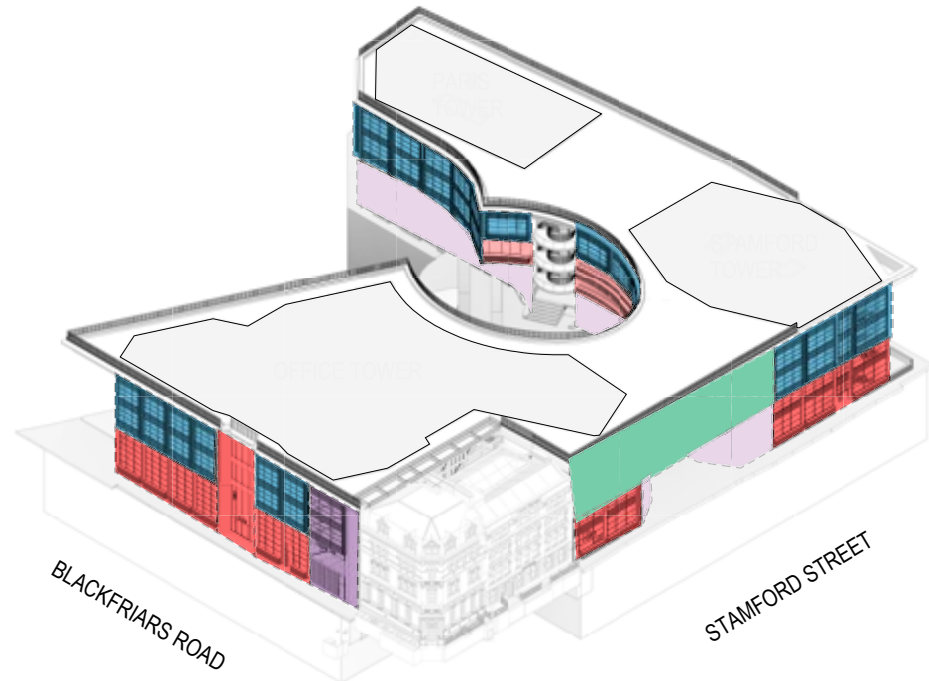
4.2.3 Podium Elevation Typologies

Having established the primary facade module as a unifying component, a range of cladding types emerged in response to the surrounding streetscape and building functions.

Below summarises the main Podium cladding types per elevation, capturing the corresponding key entrances:

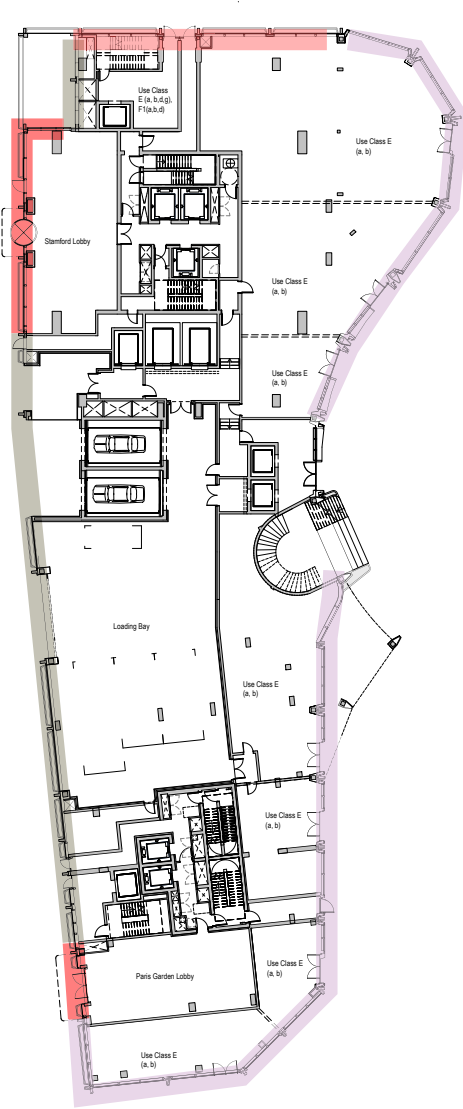
- Blackfriars Road – Office entrance; Hatters Yard; cycle entrance. Large format glass Office entrance responding to the commercial nature of Blackfriars Road.
- Stamford Street – Entrance to The Rotunda. The Assembly Rooms – bridge between listed building and new build; retail. Modules relating to the proportions of the listed building 3-7 Stamford Street.
- Paris Garden – Residential entrances, loading bay and car lifts entrance at ground level, The Incubator and The Exchange above Level 01. Integration of Stamford and Paris Buildings entrances and planting to respond to the quieter residential street.
- South Elevation and Terraces – More permeable, benefitting from views to nature and from integrated greenery.

Final details of materials/colours/facades/landscaping remain subject to detailed design and are anticipated to be subject to a planning condition.

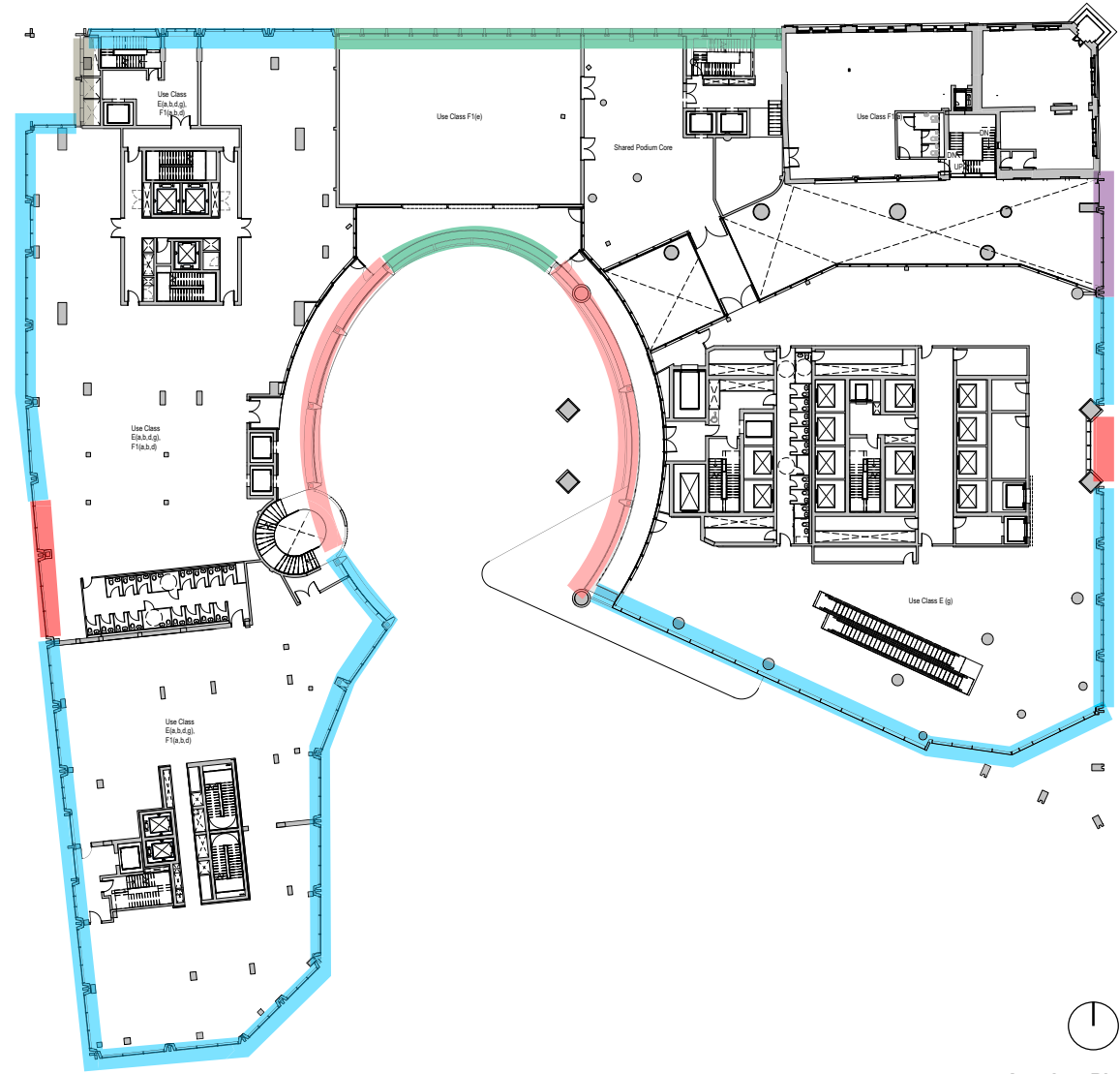


Legend

- Bay Condition
- Glazed Wall Condition
- The Assembly Rooms Condition
- Retail Condition
- Podium Terrace Condition
- Office Lobby Condition
- Hatters Yard Condition
- Loading Bay/Louvre Condition



Ground Floor Plan



Level 02 Plan

Legend

- Bay Condition
- Glazed Wall Condition
- The Assembly Rooms Condition
- Retail Condition
- Podium Terrace Condition
- Office Lobby Condition
- Hatters Yard Condition
- Loading Bay/Louvre Condition

4.2.4 Podium Material Palette

The materials for The Podium were carefully selected to reflect the architectural heritage language of the area, following consultation with LBS and other statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. In selecting the materials the following key design principles were considered:

- High quality materials.
- Reinforce the architectural vision.
- Compliment 18 Blackfriars Road as a family of buildings connected architecturally and visually.
- Emphasise the hierarchy of façade design.
- Transparency of retail frontages to maximise animation of ground floor and permeability of the Site.
- Appropriate scale of elements to reinforce distant views with suitable detailing and surface treatment revealed at close quarters.
- Compliment materiality of surrounding buildings and the local architectural character.
- Ensure positive contribution to skyline and wider cityscape.
- Ensure high levels of internal comfort and overall facade performance.
- Minimise requirement for maintenance and replacement of materials.

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Christ Church



1, 3-7 Stamford Street



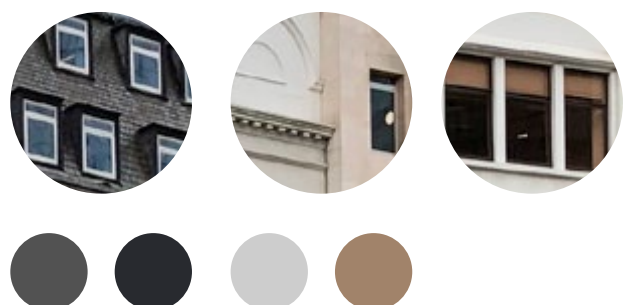
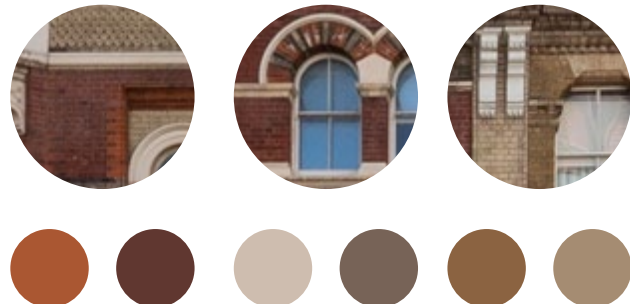
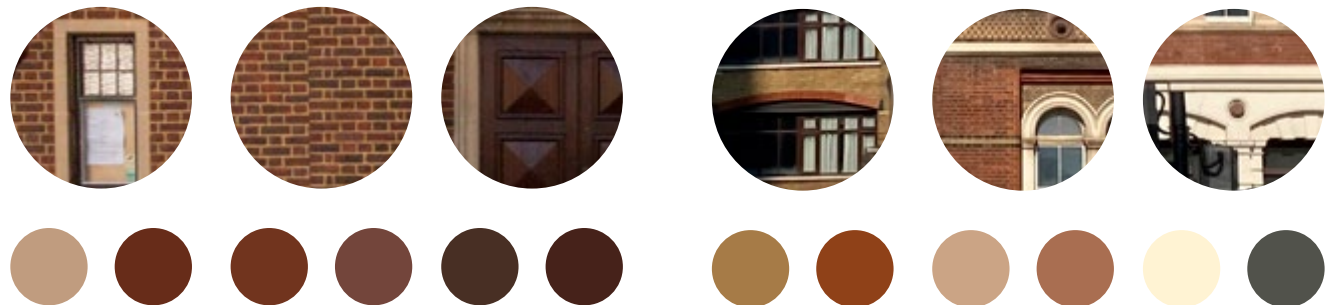
Paris Garden



1 Stamford Street
Blackfriars Road

1 Stamford Street
Stamford Street

3-7 Stamford Street
Stamford Street



Local Context Materiality

Colour Palette

The choice of the overall Podium material palette was informed by the proposed buildings above and by the neighbouring buildings including 1 and 3-7 Stamford Street. The proposed tones and colours match the earthy, masonry nature of the Listed Buildings facades and by extension are consistent with the spirit of the Blackfriars and Southwark. The materials discussed here will be further tested to ensure that high quality finishes are achieved, meeting the proposed visual intent and responding to the appropriate performance requirements.

Terracotta Finishes

The cladding modules demonstrate a variety of high quality crafted materials, along with their associated manufacturing processes: terracotta panels or batons to be cast off site, to achieve the proposed profiling to the solid and framing elements, depending on louvre requirements for the intended functions. The construction, maintenance

and replacement of these, as well as the tones and finishes were carefully considered throughout the design process.

Glazing

The glazing specification has been developed to ensure both high levels of internal comfort and technical performance requirements - acoustic, thermal and light transmission - are met without compromising views for the internal spaces or the overall architectural vision. The size of the proposed glass panels was studied in depth to establish the appropriate proportions that maximise daylighting, whilst the modular nature of these panels allows for ease of construction, maintenance and façade replacement.

Final details of materials/colours/facades/landscaping remain subject to detailed design and are anticipated to be subject to a planning condition.



Material Sample Palette

4.2.5 Podium Cladding Types
Blackfriars Road

The Blackfriars Road elevation is representative of the typical bay condition, which introduces texture, colour and a sense of crafted aesthetics in the form of profiled terracotta panels, referencing the materiality of the local context. Similarly, the division of glass into smaller size panes proposes a finer grain characteristic of Blackfriars and Southwark.

The transition between 1 Stamford Street and The Podium is marked by a slot bay, an art wall celebrating the local context. The adjacent Hatters Yard entrance uses a larger module to enhance the visibility and connectivity between the road and The Rotunda. This opening preserves the views to the rear façade of 1 and 3-7 Stamford Street, celebrating the significance of Blackfriars heritage. Blackfriars elevation consists of:

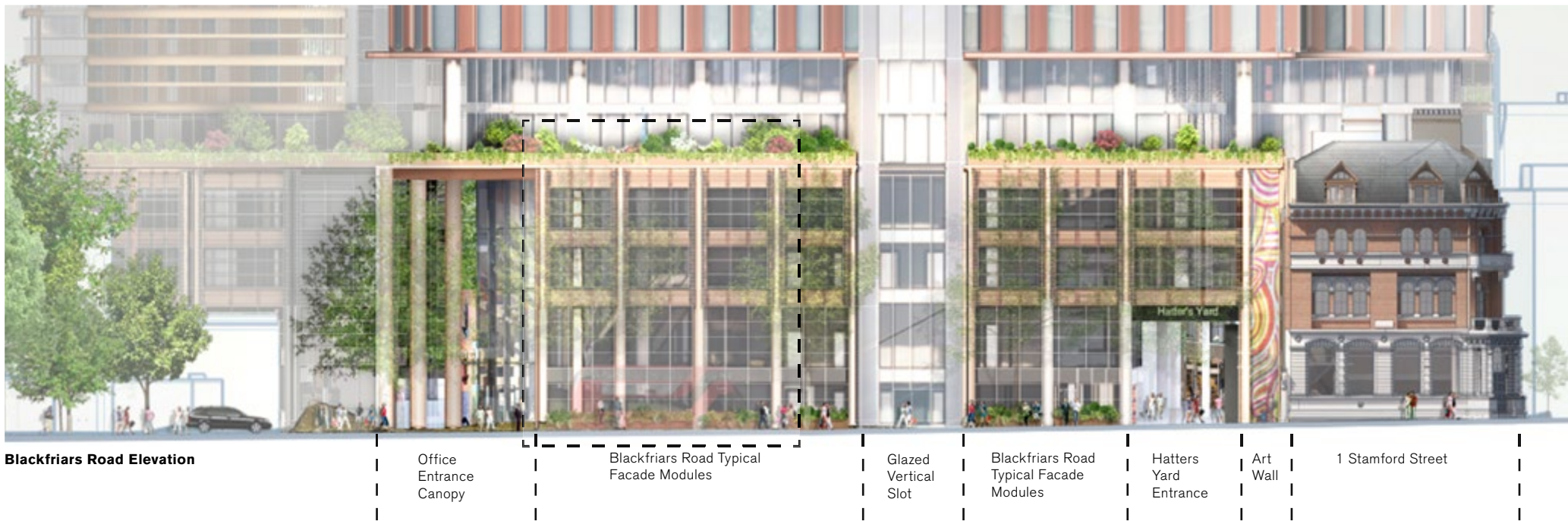
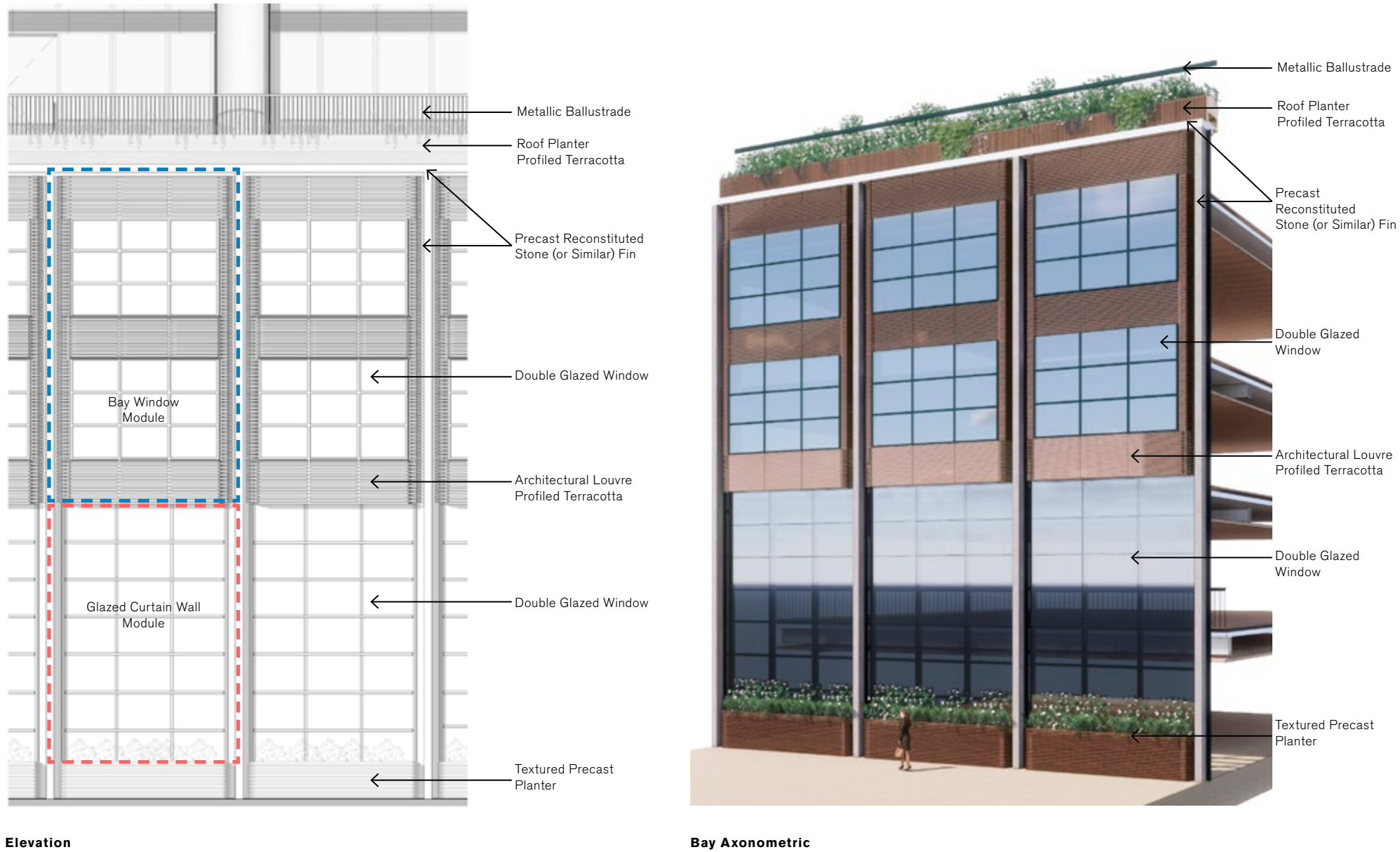
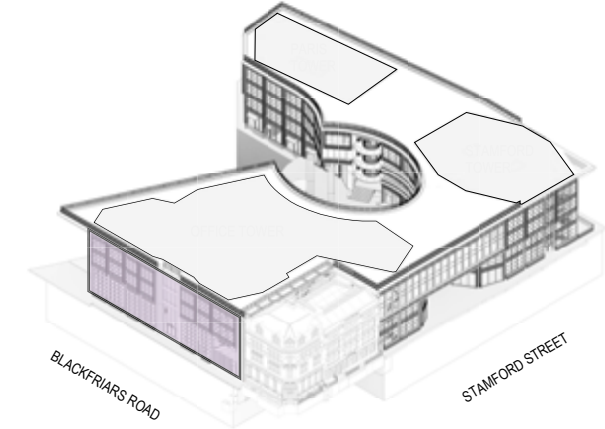
Typical Facade Module
Bay Window Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with profiled terracotta spandrels.
Glazed Curtain Wall Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with integrated structural mullions.

Office Entrance Canopy
Precast reconstituted stone (or similar) columns framing a bespoke canopy celebrating The Office entrance.

Glazed Vertical Slot
Precast reconstituted stone (or similar) clads the two Office recess columns. The slot creates a strong connection between The Office and the public realm.

Hatters Yard Entrance
Bay Window Module above with signage mounted on a dark spandrel below framing the entrance. Integrated security gates.

Art Wall
Prefabricated solid or glass panels.
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4.2.6 Podium Cladding Types
Stamford Street

Stamford Street represents the main 'gateway' into The Rotunda, framed by The Assembly Rooms above, as a cultural focal element. Its vertical fin expression is inspired by the finer grain features of the local historic buildings.

Below, retail bays are arrayed on tangents opening into The Rotunda and continuing towards the south end of the Site. Each elevation is tied together through the continued expression of the top and mid datums, consistent materials and the proposed colour palette. Stamford elevation consists of:

The Assembly Rooms
Double height glazed panels with aluminium framing and terracotta spandrels.

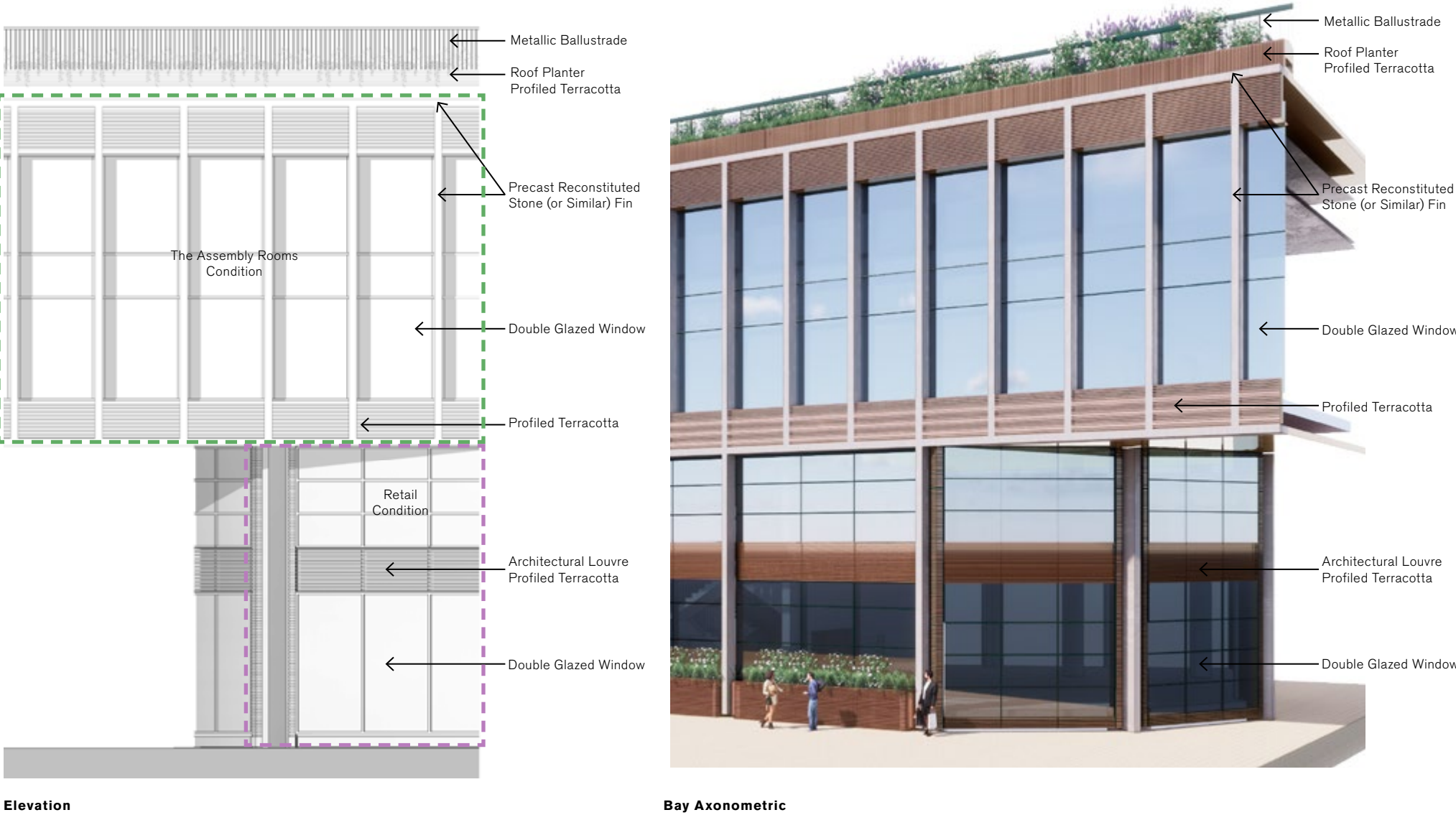
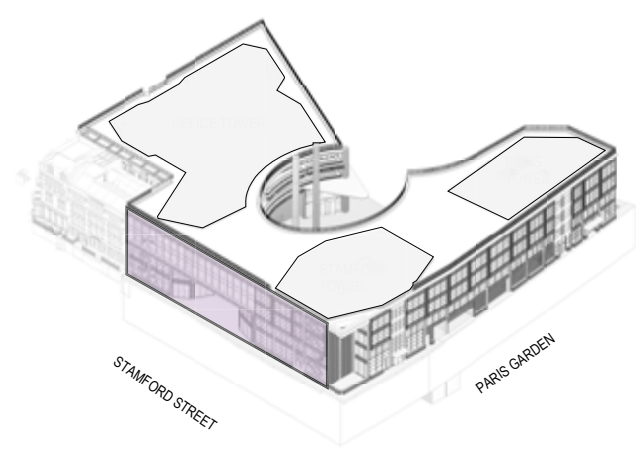
Retail Bay
Glazed bays with dark metal framing to enhance the retail experience.

Rotunda Entrance
Precast planters at the base of the bays provide greenery while also protecting pedestrian areas. Metallic finish to soffit.

Typical Facade Module
Bay Window Module - Crittall-style, dark aluminium framed windows with profiled terracotta spandrels.
Glazed Curtain Wall Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with integrated structural mullions.

Slot Bay
Recessed precast reconstituted stone (or similar) columns framing a facade system of crittall-style windows with terracotta spandrels.

Corner Bay
Precast reconstituted stone (or similar) columns with terracotta tone soffit.
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4.2.7 Podium Cladding Types

Paris Garden

The Paris Garden elevation continues the language of the typical facade module. In addition, this elevation responds positively to the logistics and servicing requirements specific to a London development of this scale.

To retain a unified rhythm along the façade, the integration and treatment of louvres in a high quality finish helps conceal the various servicing requirements for The Podium, whilst creating a harmonious pedestrian streetscape devoid of visible plant and servicing.

Furthermore, given its position to the west of the Site, Paris Garden constitutes a prime location for the residential entrances, away from heavy traffic noise and major pedestrian footfall. The façade gradually becomes more permeable towards the south end, opening up to the proposed playground and existing landscape. Paris Garden elevation consists of:

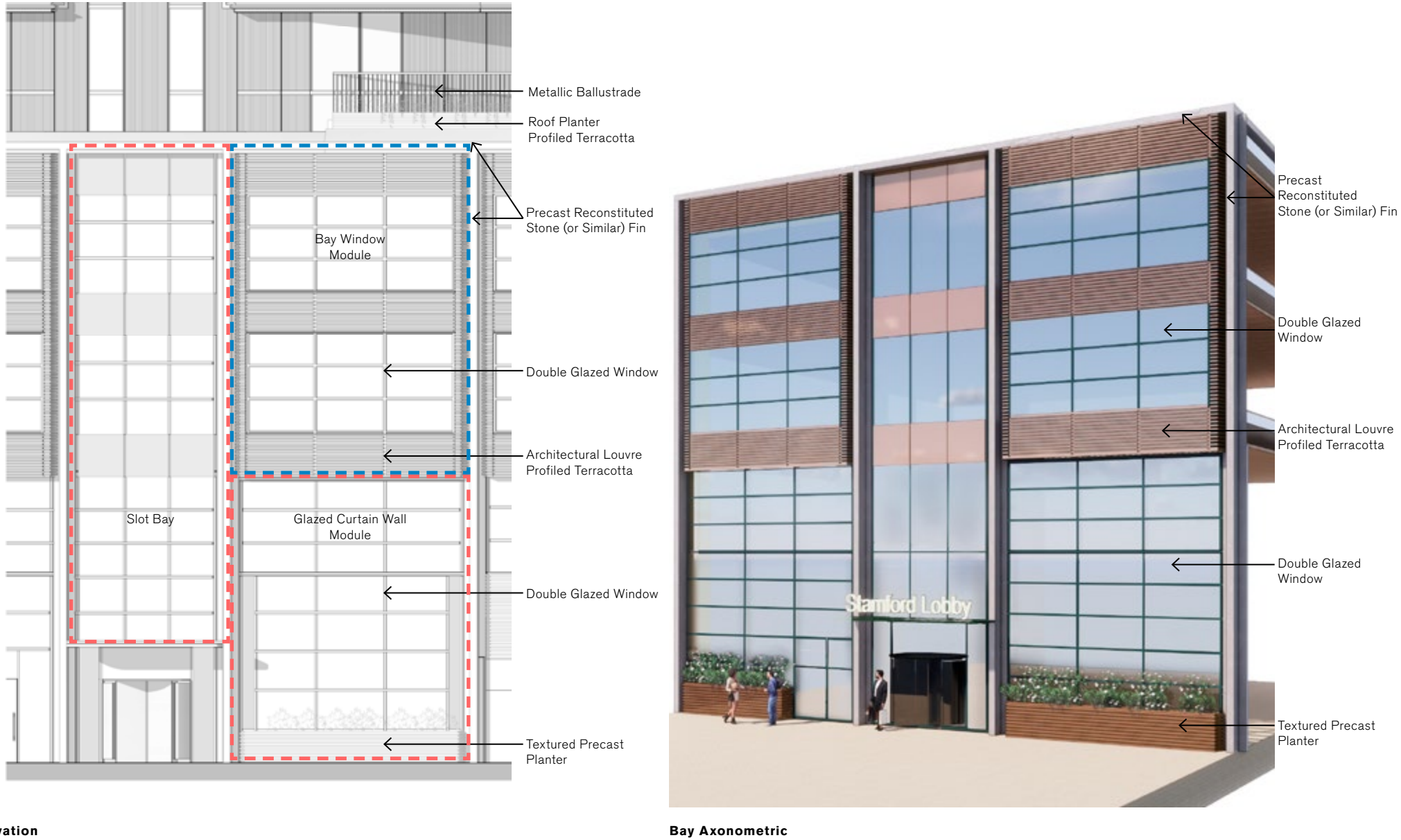
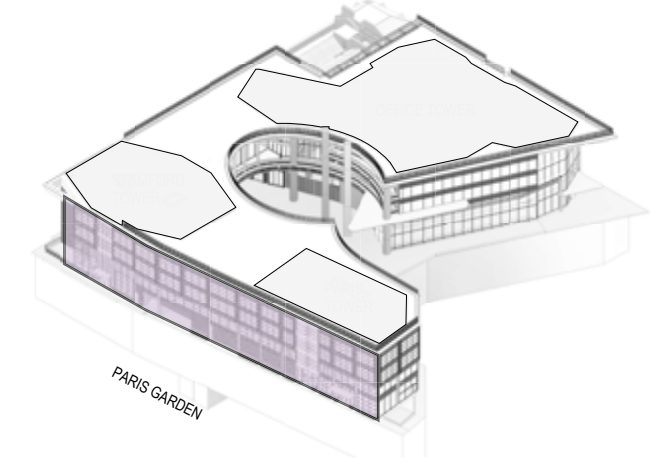
Corner Bay
Precast reconstituted stone (or similar) columns with terracotta tone soffit.

Typical Facade Module
Bay Window Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with profiled terracotta spandrels.
Glazed Curtain Wall Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with integrated structural mullions.

Slot Bay
Recessed precast reconstituted stone (or similar) columns framing a facade system of crittall-style windows with terracotta spandrels.

Loading Bay
Profiled terracotta solid facade with integrated louvres and doors for ventilation and access.

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Elevation

Bay Axonometric



Paris Garden Elevation

4.2.8 Podium Cladding Types

Rotunda Condition

The Rotunda façade maintains the common theme of frame and bay, while proposing a more varied, permeable treatment, featuring terraces and integrated greenery. The bay window typology is still present on the third level (single-bay expression), reinforcing a dynamic transition between indoor and outdoor spaces.

The presence of terraces at levels 1 and 2 reference the historic 'galleries' and courtyard typologies, maximising views into The Rotunda, whilst connecting the residential and commercial sides of the scheme. The introduction of planters within the bays at upper levels creates an interconnected terrace experience and generates interstitial spaces as extensions to the amenities within The Incubator and The Exchange.

The ground level features the same retail bay typology as a continuous chain of active frontages, starting from Stamford Street into The Rotunda and towards the southern end of the Site. The Rotunda elevation consists of:

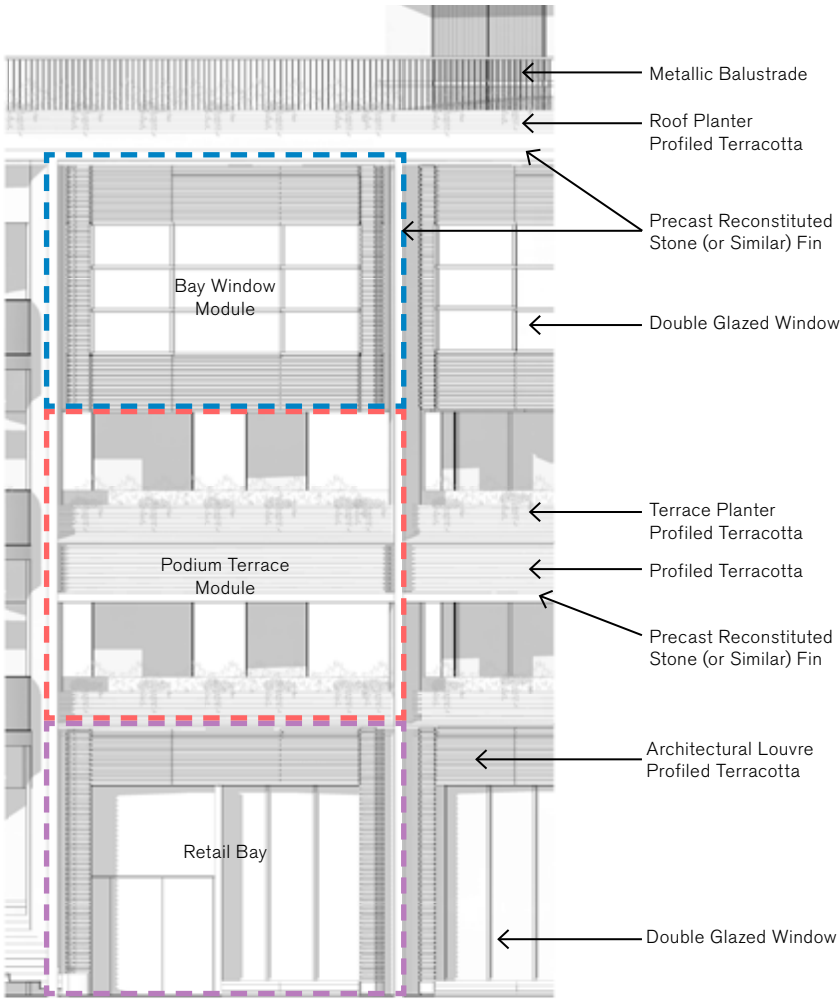
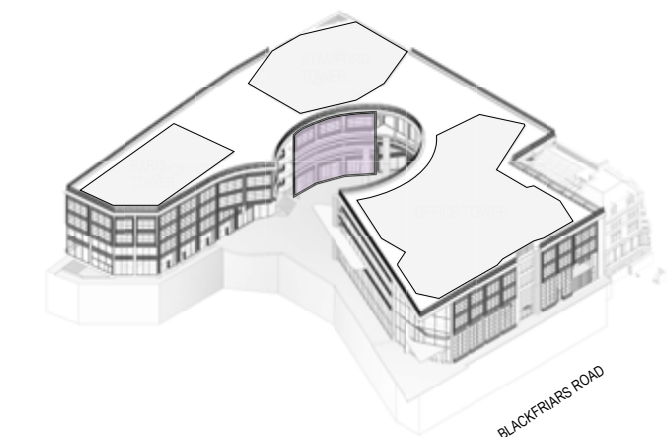
Typical Facade Module
Bay Window Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with profiled terracotta spandrels.
Glazed Curtain Wall Module - Crittall-style dark aluminium framed windows with integrated structural mullions.

Rotunda Stairs
Bespoke stair design with crafted finish.

Rotunda Facade Module
Single floor bay module at the top with profiled terracotta planters and spandrels on each terrace level. Retail bays at ground level.

Retail Bay
Glazed bays with dark metal framing to enhance the retail experience.

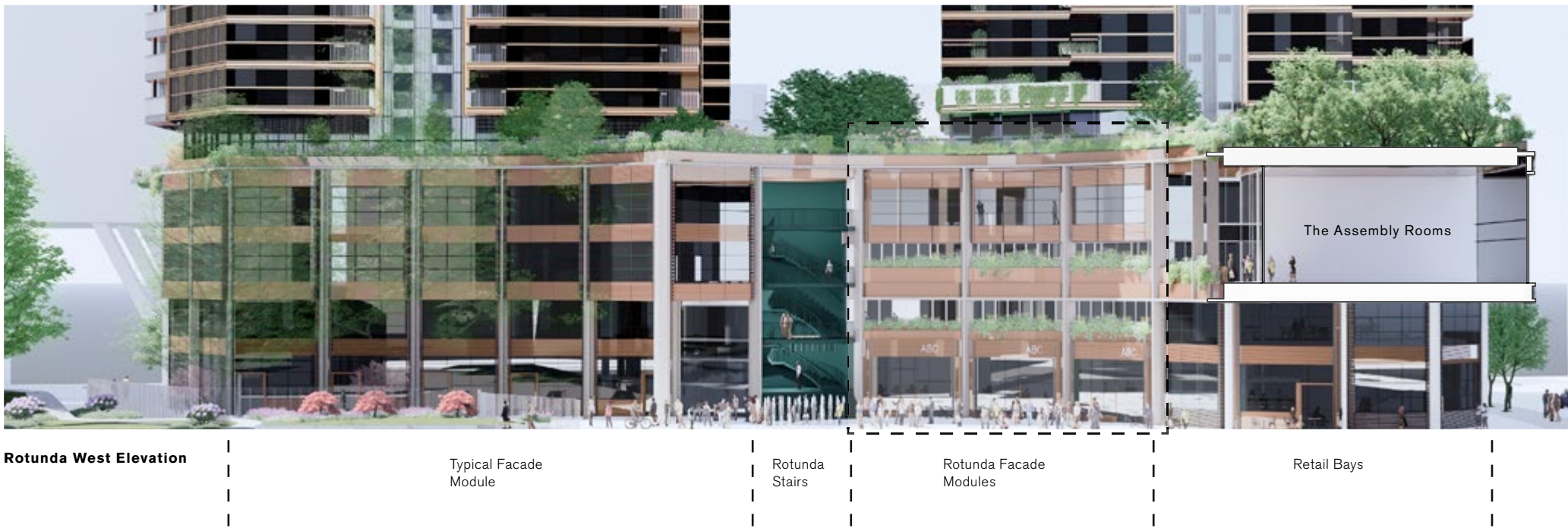
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Elevation



Bay Axonometric



Rotunda West Elevation



Right:
Indicative Stamford
Street View

