

01 The Waterfront Transformation

Liverpool's iconic waterfront is changing.

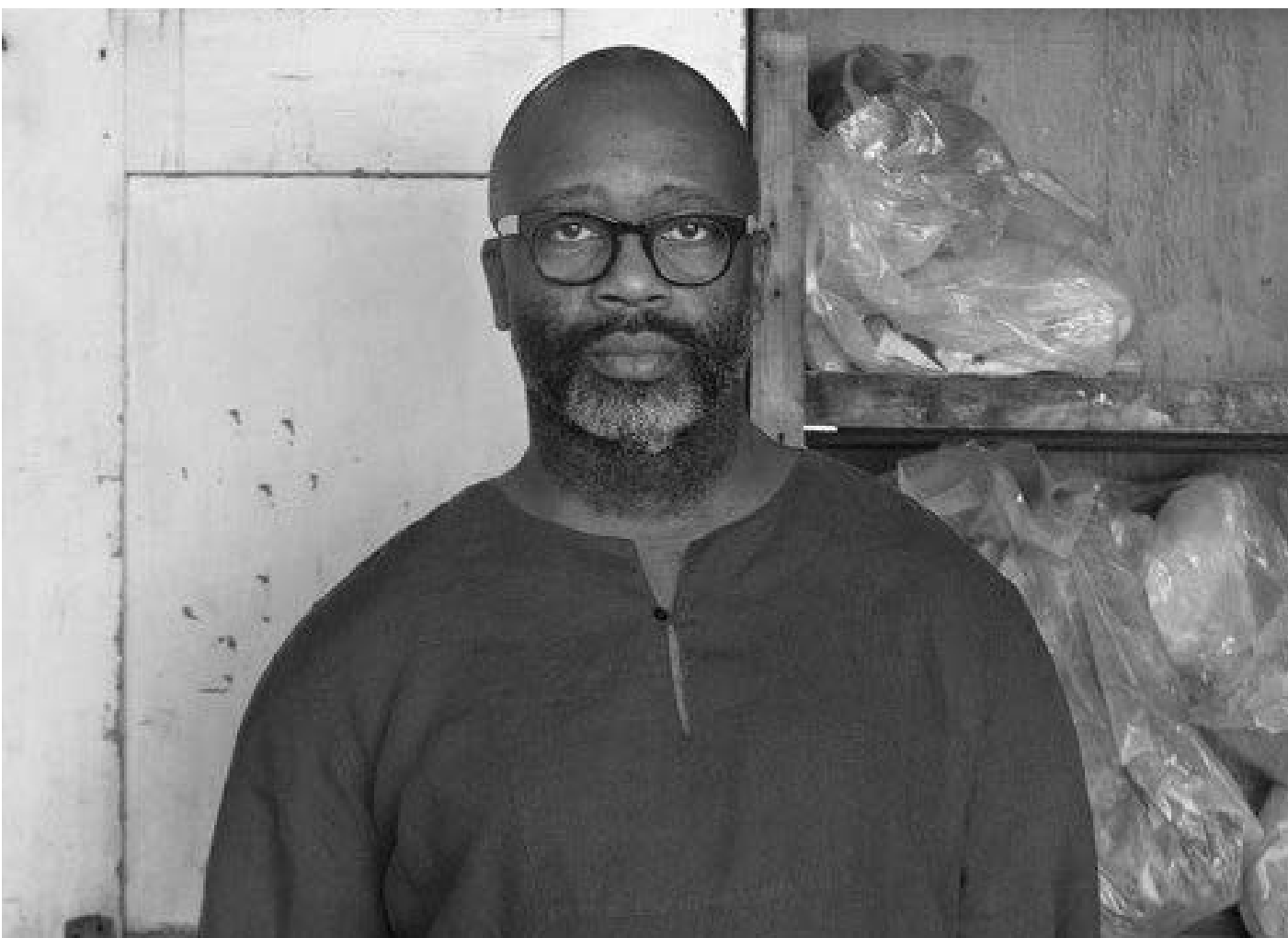
The plan? To create vibrant and welcoming public spaces for everyone to share, enjoy and explore the city's rich heritage. The Waterfront Transformation Project aims to bring social, cultural and environmental improvements to this globally significant place. By combining storytelling and heritage with community and hospitality, we can create new and memorable experiences for visitors. We want to re-engage local communities and empower individuals to bring this significant and incredibly rich part of the waterfront back to life.

The Designers for Canning Quayside and Dry Docks



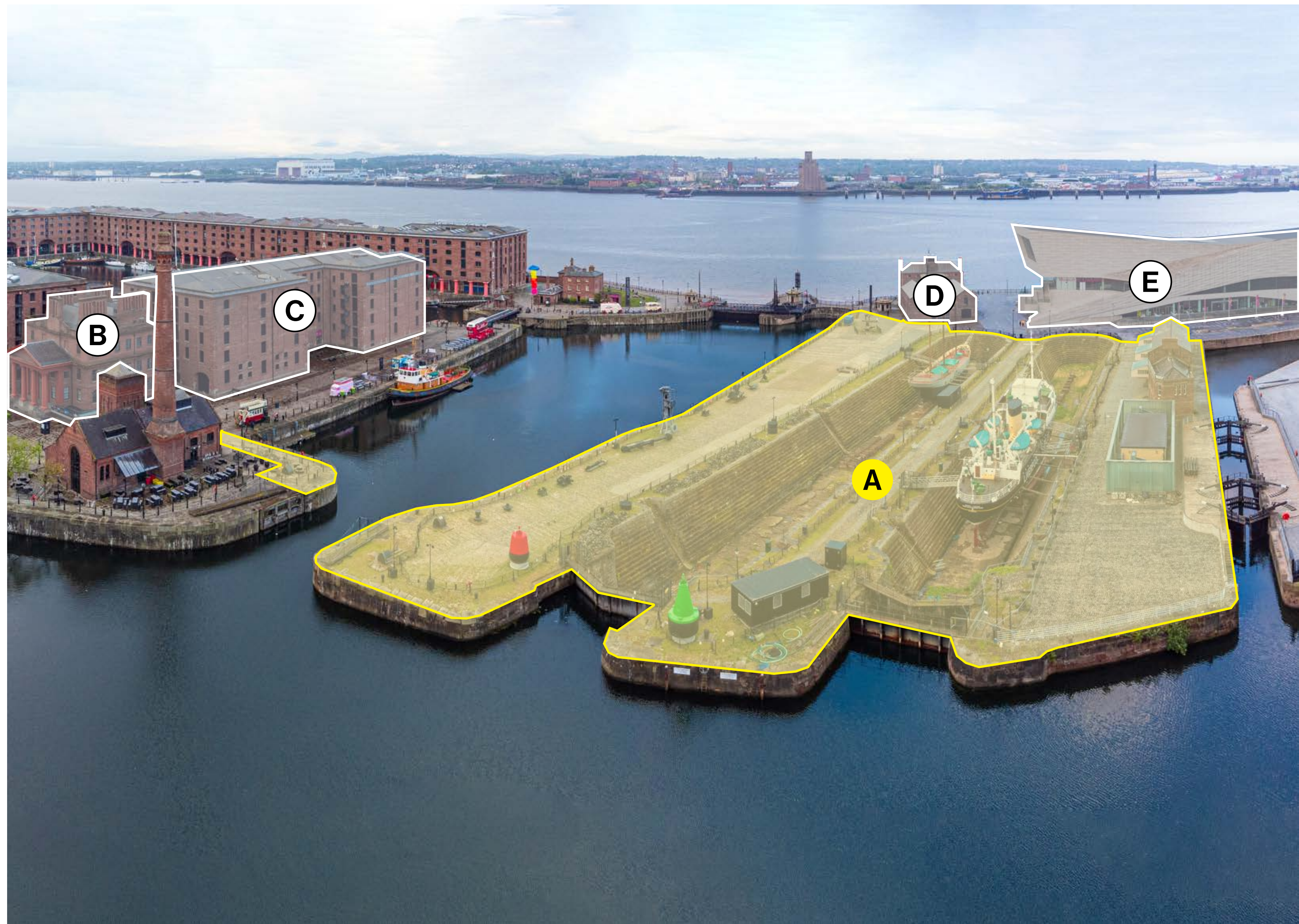
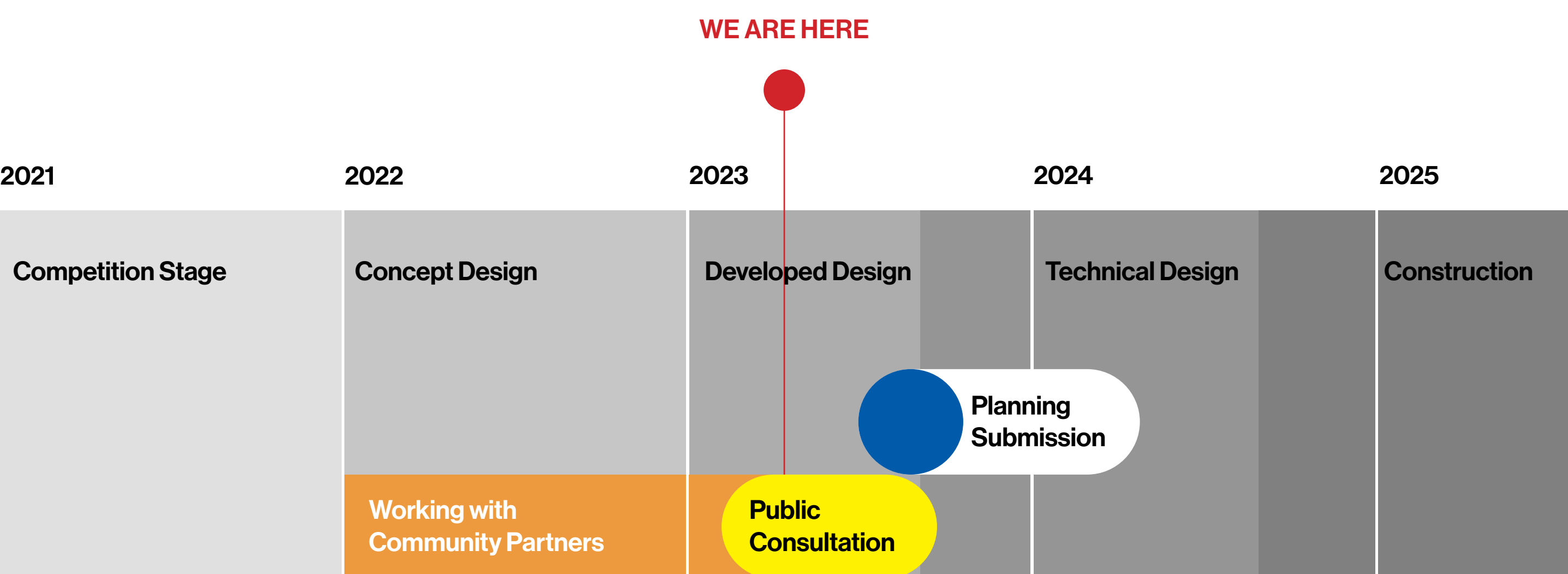
Asif Khan MBE asif-khan.com [@asifkhan.now](https://twitter.com/asifkhan.now)

Asif Khan leads an architecture and design studio, creating experiences to support new ways of thinking about the world and ourselves. Working internationally, projects range from large cultural buildings and landscapes to experimental installations and exhibitions. Alongside leading the design team for the Canning Quayside and Dry Docks, other ongoing projects include the New London Museum and The Barbican Arts Centre. Recently completed works include the landmark Entry Portals for Expo 2020 and the exhibition 'Plastics' for the V&A and Vitra. Asif received an MBE for services to Architecture in 2017 and was awarded Architect of the Year in 2018 by the GDC.



Theaster Gates theastergates.com [@theastergates](https://twitter.com/theastergates)

Theaster Gates is an internationally acclaimed artist and social innovator who lives and works in Chicago. Through the expansiveness of his approach as a thinker, maker, and builder, he extends the role of the artist as an agent of change. In 2010, Gates created the Rebuild Foundation, a non-profit platform for art, cultural development, and neighbourhood transformation that supports artists and strengthens communities through free arts programming and innovative cultural amenities on Chicago's South Side. In 2020, Gates received the Crystal Award for his leadership in creating sustainable communities. He has received the Artes Mundi 6 prize, the Légion d'Honneur in 2017, and was awarded the Nasher Prize for Sculpture 2018. Gates is a professor at the University of Chicago in the Department of Visual Arts and serves as the Special Advisor to the President for Arts Initiatives.



The waterfront project will transform the area between the Royal Albert Dock and Mann Island, including:

- A Canning Quayside and Dry Docks**
Engaging, inclusive and safe public realm upgrades on the quayside, incorporating a new footbridge to improve pedestrian routes between the museums. Public access into the South Dry Dock and an extraordinary new public space where the history of the docks, seafaring and slavery can be sensitively revealed.
- B International Slavery Museum Expansion**
Transformation of the International Slavery Museum to become the world leader in understanding and exploring the impact and legacies of historic and modern slavery, and how it influences the world today.
- C Maritime Museum Redevelopment**
Redisplay of Maritime Museum galleries, better connecting it with the International Slavery Museum.
- D Historic Dockside Buildings**
Refurbishment of several smaller buildings across the waterfront site to open up interesting spaces that can be enjoyed by everyone.
- E Museum of Liverpool**
Upgrades to make exciting new exhibition spaces, improved hospitality areas and a great visitor welcome.

This public consultation is about the Canning Quayside and Dry Docks

02 History & Vision for Canning Dock

Historic sites create opportunities to ask challenging questions of ourselves, seeing with fresh eyes the stories that we have told -or now want to tell- through the collective memory that they embody. This is nowhere truer than here, at Liverpool's historic docks, Europe's foremost transatlantic port of the 18th, 19th and early 20th century.

LIVERPOOL DOCKS

The Liverpool docks are one of the largest and most complete historic dock systems in the world. Through its docks Liverpool grew as a driving force in the Industrial Revolution and the creation of the industrial north. The dock system was developed in response to, and for Liverpool to benefit from, the rise of global trade. Liverpool was at the heart of the expansion of the British Empire, the mass movement and transportation of people and central to wartime provisioning of Britain. Most poignant today is the pivotal role that Liverpool played in the slave trade. The Canning Quayside and dry docks bear witness to represent all these parts of Liverpool's story.

In the 1790s Liverpool controlled 80% of the British slave trade and 40% of the European slave trade

Between 1700 and 1807, ships from Liverpool carried about 1.4 million Africans across the Atlantic

'Liverpool and the Slave Trade', Tony Tibbles

CANNING DOCK

The area name 'Canning Dock' describes the integrated system of wet dock, half-tide dock, two dry docks and quayside that collectively operated as a major commercial and industrial hub for over 200 years. With a long and multi-layered history, Canning Dock has borne witness to some of the most significant technological, economic and social developments of modern society. The dry docks are the oldest above-ground area of the Liverpool Docks, originally constructed in the 1760's on reclaimed land that was once the River Mersey. Designed for the cleaning and repair of ships, their stone coursing, barrel runs, mitre gates and iron fittings provide clear insight into how they functioned. The dry docks are protected by their listed status and have a limited capacity for change, however their value is currently compromised by poor access and condition. There is great potential, through sensitive design and intervention for their significance to be better revealed to the communities which they serve: locally, nationally and internationally.

ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Docks transformed Liverpool from a small port into a prosperous city, greatly contributing to the expansion of the British Empire. For much of the 18th and 19th centuries Liverpool was one of the world's largest and most influential mercantile and maritime centres, feeding the industrialising northwest and standing at the very heart of Britain's emergent trading links with West Africa, the Americas, the Middle and Far East and Australia. Liverpool grew, with a rich mercantile elite feeding banking, shipbuilding and international commerce, and investing in public buildings. Liverpool still dominated Britain's trade with West Africa on the eve of the Second World War.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The economic success of the Docks was often at huge human cost. Much of the mercantile trade involved the trade in enslaved African people, abducted in West African countries and forcibly transported across the Atlantic. Half of the three million enslaved Africans moved on British ships between 1550 and 1807 left from Liverpool, Europe's largest slave-trading port. The Docks were so intricately linked to slavery that in 1806 Liverpool was described as 'The metropolis of slavery'. The Docks have also played a key role in the mass movement of immigrants and emigrants and during wartime. Together, this has had a profound effect on the cultural, social and racial make-up of the world.



A view of Liverpool from above the River Mersey with Canning Dock centered, 1865

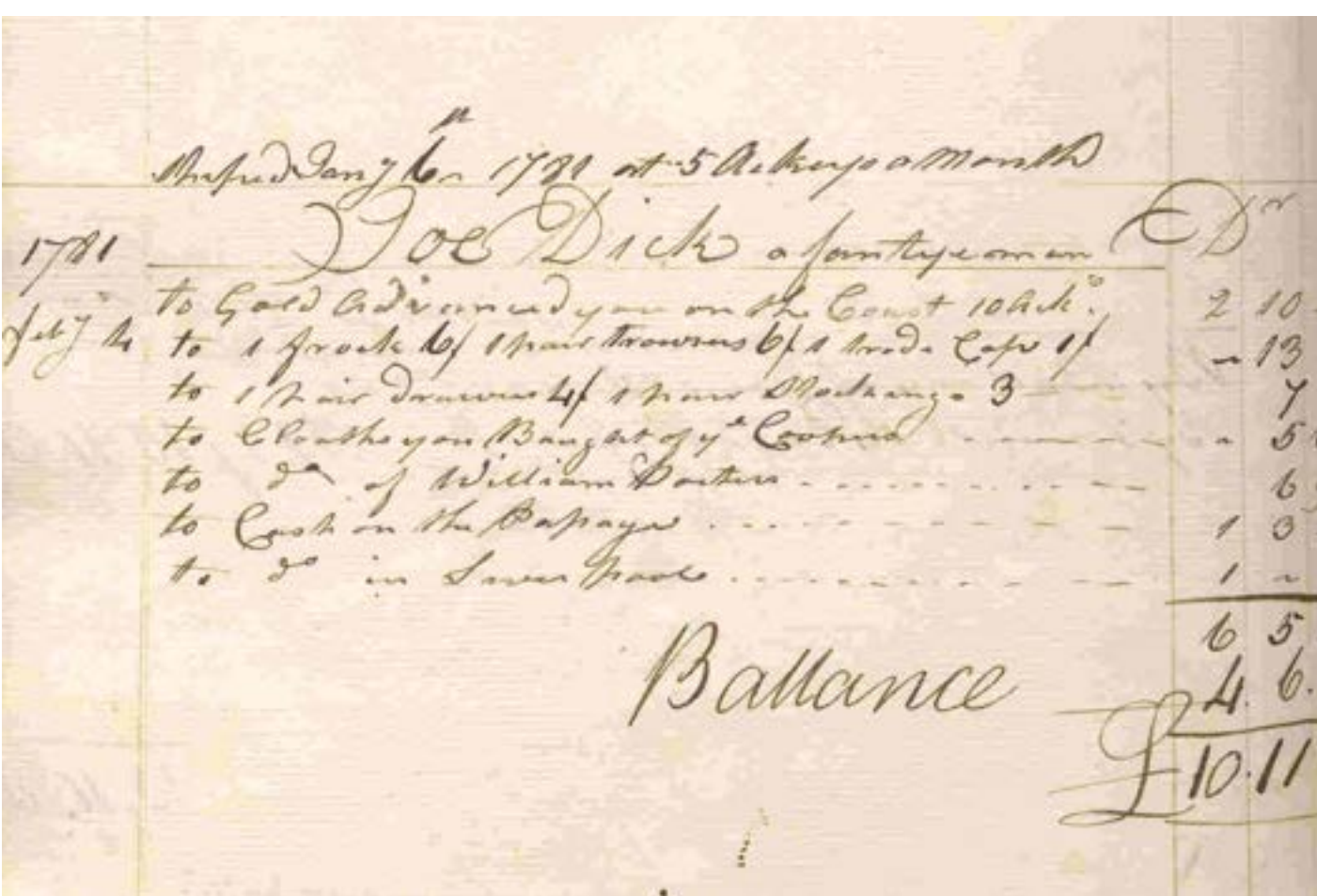
VISION

History is like the ocean, with all its depths and treachery. Looking out from the shore, those endlessly mixing waters feel like they belong to us, and yet the sea looks so different from where you stand in the world. History is like that. It washes things away one day and brings them back like ghost ships the next. The challenge for each generation is to reconcile their view with that of others and find value in truths beyond what they know. That process is how we grow as individuals, as communities, and – we believe – is what makes life and cities beautiful. The moment for such a challenge in Liverpool is today. We unite in a deep belief in the value of history to the present and future public. We understand the importance of connected and empowered communities to enrich cultural spaces, and have the knowhow to rebuild places of complex history into places of strength through care and love, for, by, and with those communities.

Asif Khan and Theaster Gates



The Three Graces viewed from Canning Dock, 1924-26



Letters from Slave Traders; Archives of William Davenport, 1725-1797

03 Our Process So Far

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Through the Canning Dock project and waterfront transformation as a whole, National Museums Liverpool is working with local people and community groups to look at how places tell resonant stories about Liverpool's past. Working together to co-produce the design and experience of the spaces enables deep engagement. As a public space, the Canning Dock is a very special historic place where people can engage with the past. Through this project and other co-produced projects, National Museums Liverpool is developing the way it works with local communities, building long-term relationships which enable people to feel welcome, feel a sense of ownership and feel a sense of pride in the places they've made, for everyone. Canning Dock acts as a prototype for a fresh new mode for co-production between community partners and museums. This strategy provides a framework that will be enriched over time as more information is gathered through the project.

LIVERPOOL BLACK HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP
lbhrg.com



We are a collective of community-led researchers investigating and raising awareness of Liverpool's long black presence. Led by local historian and PhD student, Laurence Westgath, our purpose is to share historical knowledge, offer instruction in research skills, and provide learning, training and employment opportunities for the people of Liverpool. Our investigation of the history of the Canning Dock has revealed many stories of its construction, maritime history, connections around the world, and role in the trade in enslaved African people.

"The important contribution of people of African descent to Liverpool's development has gone largely unacknowledged and we are committed to revealing this forgotten history."

SQUASH LIVERPOOL
squashliverpool.co.uk @squashliverpool



Ours is a 100-year vision, inspired by nature; we are actively transforming our Windsor Street Neighbourhood into a people-powered place that is known throughout the world for being a playful, resilient and loving community where everybody thrives! We embrace art, activism, solidarity, creativity & food as essential tools for health and well-being. Taking a cyclical, seasonal approach, we explore new ways for our neighbourhood to flourish through; participatory arts practices, creating land-based rituals, promoting food growing, cooking, & craft skills, through meaningful training, volunteering & work, and taking collective action on the climate & ecological crises.

"Squash is an award-winning community organisation, rooted and home-grown on Windsor Street, Liverpool 8 since 2010. We value taking time and care, appreciate and cultivate hospitality, and cherish our shared nature & its peoples."

20 STORIES HIGH
20storieshigh.org.uk @20storieshigh



We co-create with culturally diverse, working-class young people, emerging artists, and world-class professionals to tell stories that are challenging, authentic, and uplifting. Experimenting with rap, dance, beatboxing, music, and puppetry, we mash up art forms to make new kinds of theatre that empowers and enables social change. Our shows happen in loads of different spaces from theatres, schools and youth clubs to digital spaces and living rooms. Our hearts are in Liverpool, but our reach is universal.

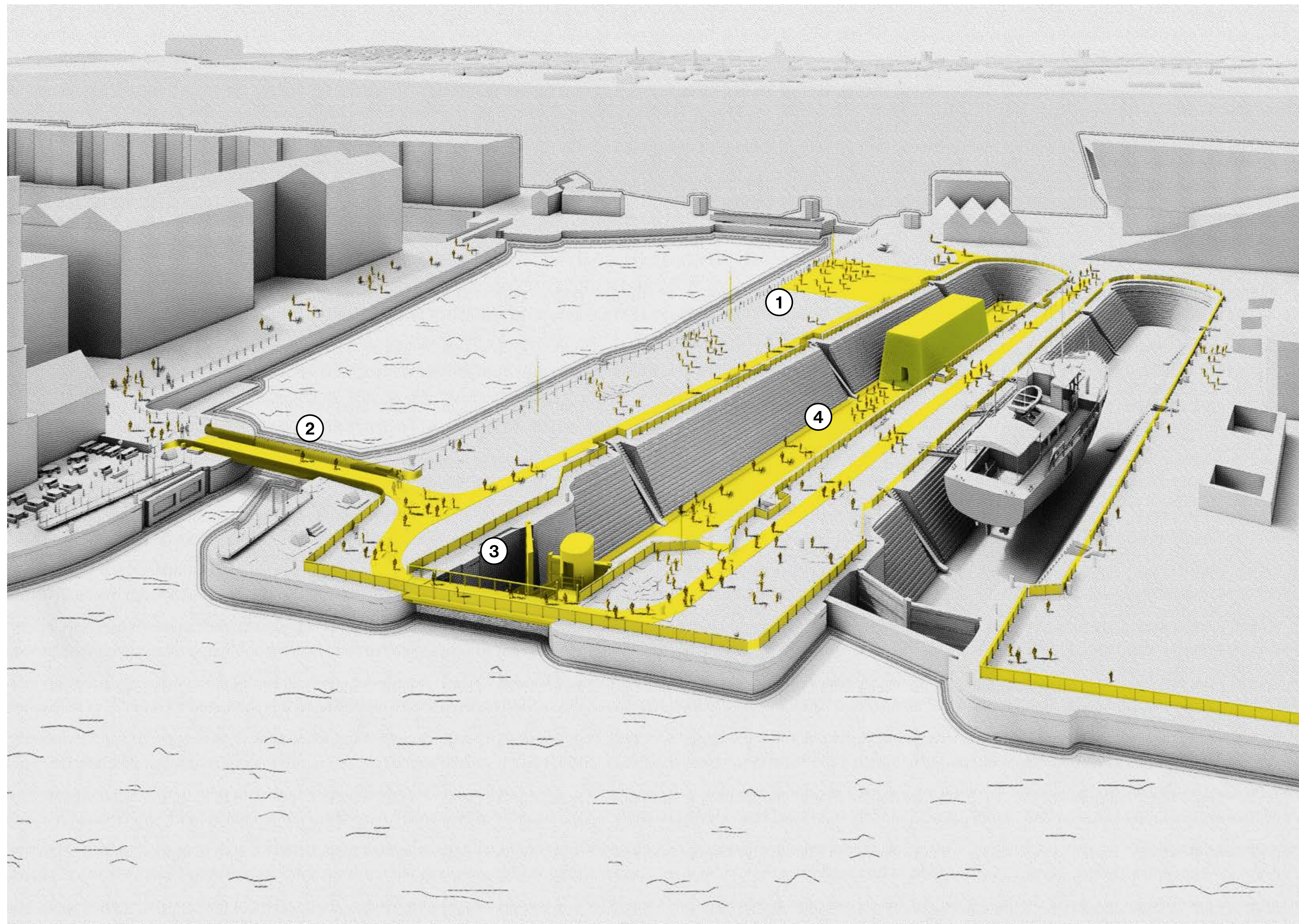
"20 Stories High is an award-winning theatre company that believes everybody's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it."

WRITING ON THE WALL
writingonthewall.org.uk @wowfest



We use creativity and creative writing to promote and support learning, engagement, education, employment, equality, diversity and inclusion. Our exciting writing development projects include Write to Work, Creative Heritage and Superhero's: Words Are Our Power programmes that support adults, children and young people develop new skills to aid them in accessing opportunities in education and employment, giving them new ways to express themselves and engage in their local and wider communities. We also host two annual literature festivals, WoWFEST in May and Black History Month in October, which welcome local, national and international writers, activists and artists to the city.

"WoW are thrilled to collaborate with world-class architects, artists and community partners, to revitalise the neglected and historic Canning Dock, aiming to breathe new life into the area while honouring its significant history."



Aerial diagram showing proposals for Canning Dock

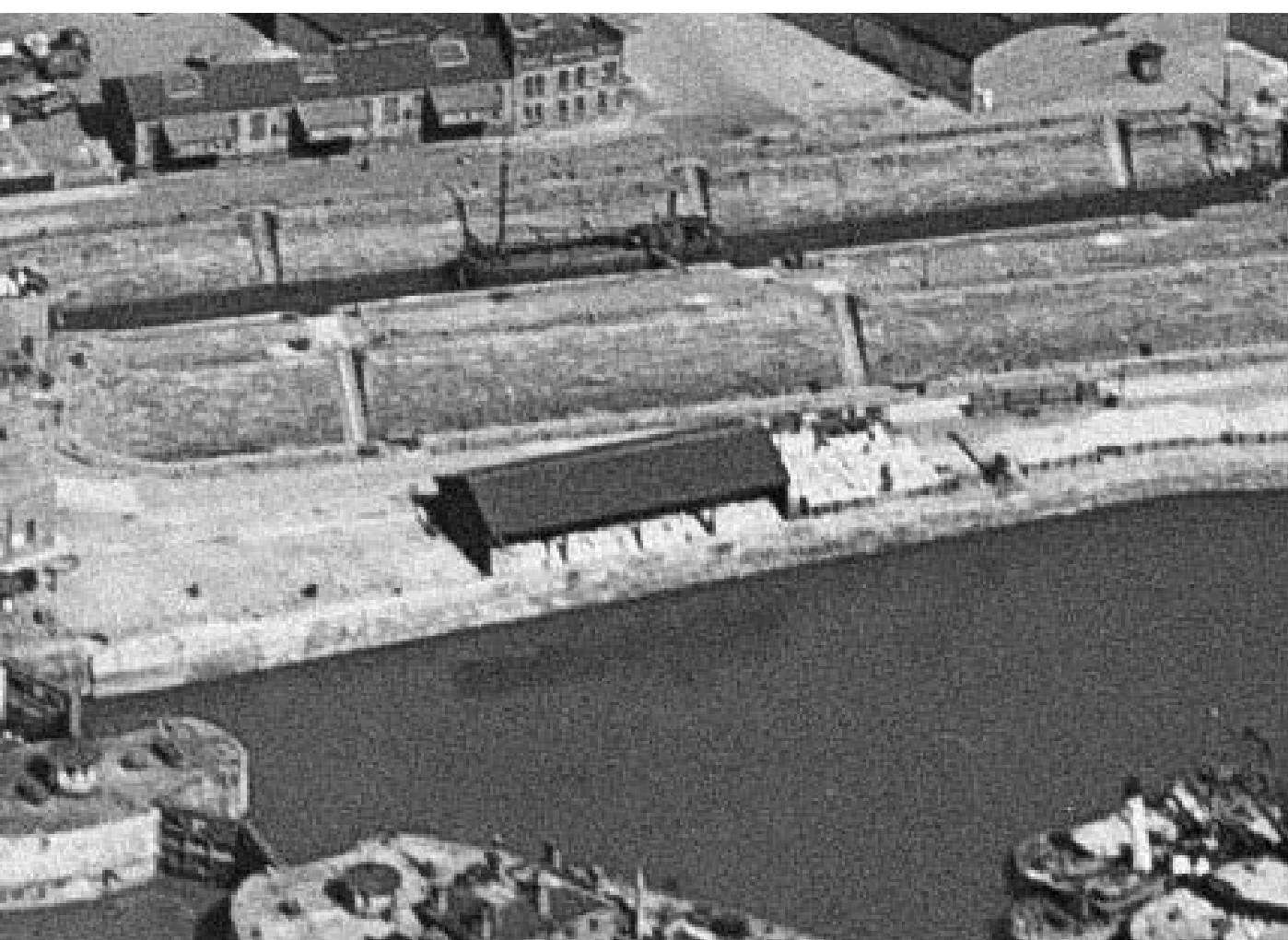
- ① Improved public realm to enable people to explore and enjoy the quayside
- ② A new footbridge to reinstate the historic connection across Canning Dock
- ③ A new stair and lift to enable the public to descend into the South Dry Dock for the first time
- ④ A new South Dry Dock experience with opportunity for contemplation and reflection

NARRATIVE PRINCIPLES AND APPROACH

The Waterfront Transformation is an opportunity for National Museums Liverpool to deliver an inclusive approach to narrative and storytelling across the waterfront. The transformation will centre on visitor experience and consider the ways in which we can experience, and explore storylines from multiple viewpoints across multiple spaces – inside and out. Through interpretation, participation and engagement across the site, the narrative approach will embrace multiple histories. The venues and sites of the waterfront reflect layers of history which are deeply entwined. Storytelling on the site will enable visitors to connect with the place, enabling visitors to create their own experience through navigating stories that cut across different periods of history which are deeply intertwined. The storylines associated with Canning Dock are not linear, and the interpretation will reflect that. Multiple entry points to the site provide opportunities for different welcome and engagement with different themes. The interpretation and spaces are being carefully designed to make visitors feel safe, particularly as they encounter challenging histories which may have an emotional impact.

04 Improved Public Realm and a New Footbridge

IMPROVED QUAYSIDE PUBLIC REALM
 Public realm improvements on the quayside include new accessible pathways across the cobbles, as well as lighting and seating to make it safer and more welcoming. Permanent balustrades to both dry docks will replace the current temporary fencing around the site. New signage will reveal stories about the history of Canning Dock, co-curated by the Museums and their partners. Power, data and water points will also be installed to support temporary events on the quayside and the berthing of vessels during maritime festivals. A rectangular open air public space (approximate 32m x 12m) is proposed on the footprint of the old 'North Shed'; a historic dock warehouse building that no longer exists on the quayside. Demarcating the old footprint offers an opportunity to reveal some of the history of the working life of the docks, at the same time creating an inclusive level-access space that can host different outdoor activities such as markets and temporary artworks.



The Old North Shed at Canning Dock, 1934



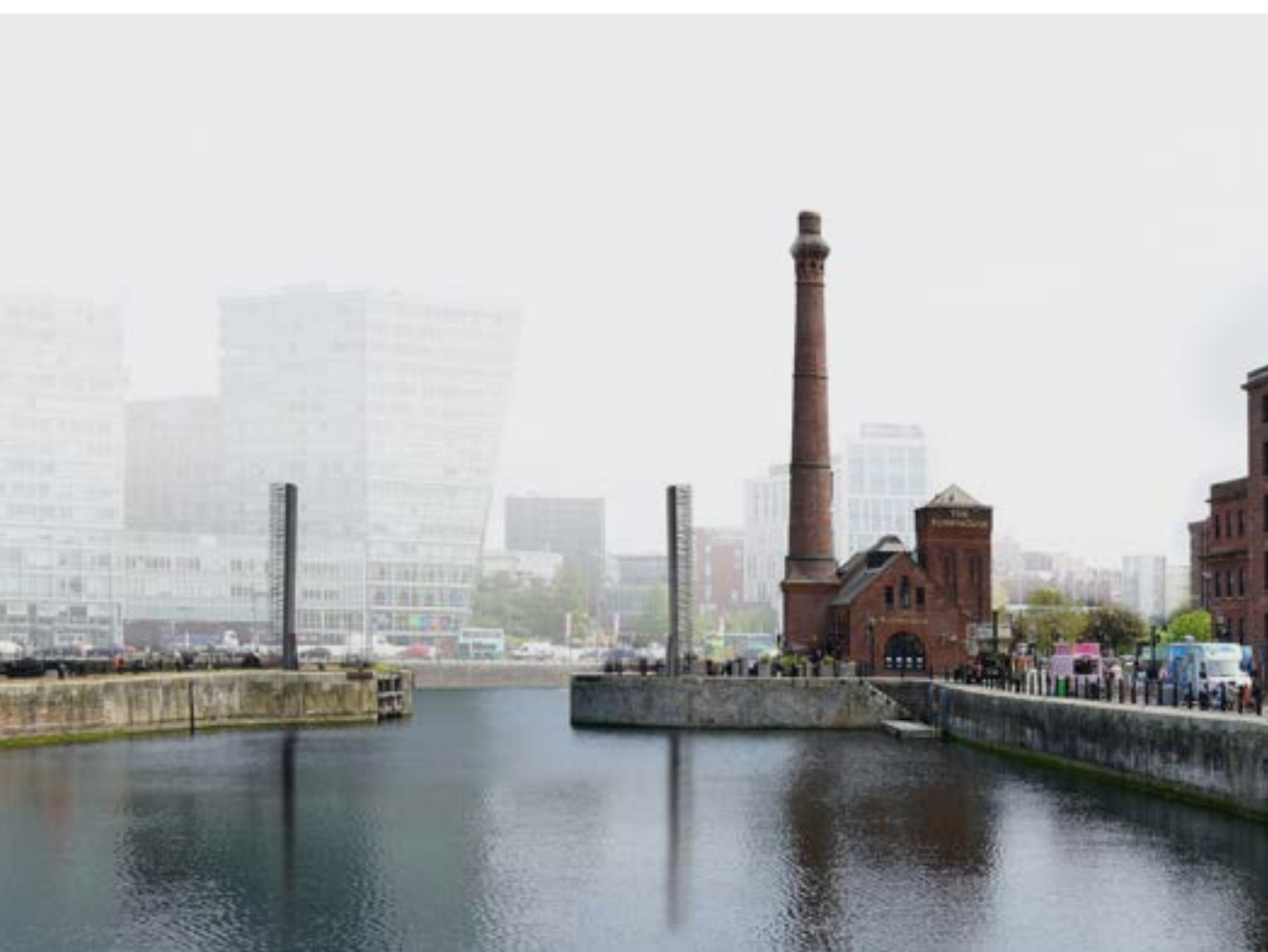
Improved quayside public realm



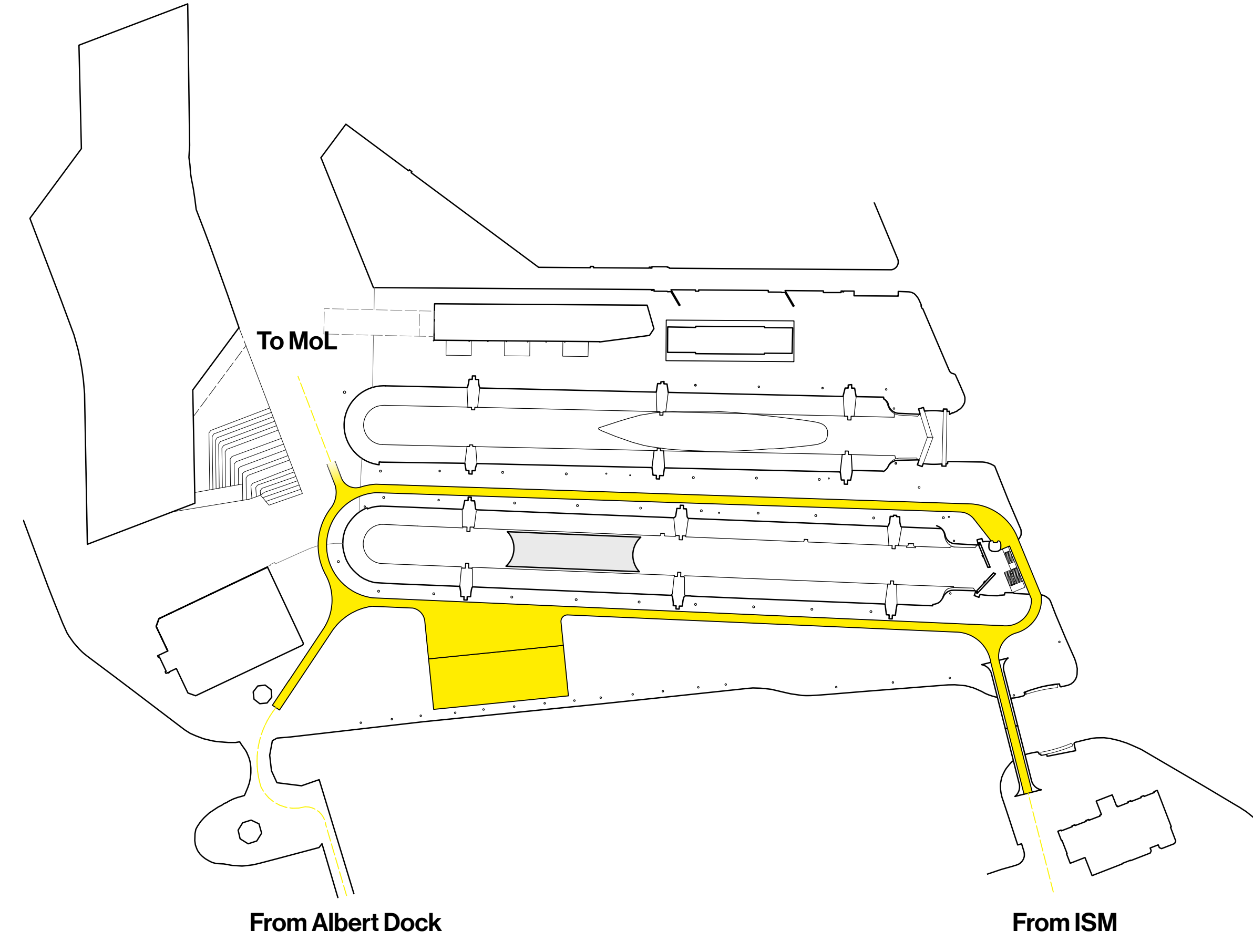
Aerial image showing proposals for Canning Dock

Do you think that the public realm proposals and new footbridge will improve access to this important heritage site?

FOOTBRIDGE
 The quayside is currently a 'dead-end' because there is no access across the wet dock at the eastern end next to the Pump House. A derelict historic swing bridge exists here, but it is not possible to re-use it, so a new footbridge will be built next to it. The old swing bridge will be kept on the quayside and new interpretation provided so the history of this important piece of heritage can be shared with visitors. The new footbridge will allow a direct public route from the Royal Albert Dock to Canning Dock, and it will be openable to allow the passage of tall ships into Canning Dock. The footbridge will allow canal boats to pass beneath it when closed, so will only have to open approximately fifty times a year.



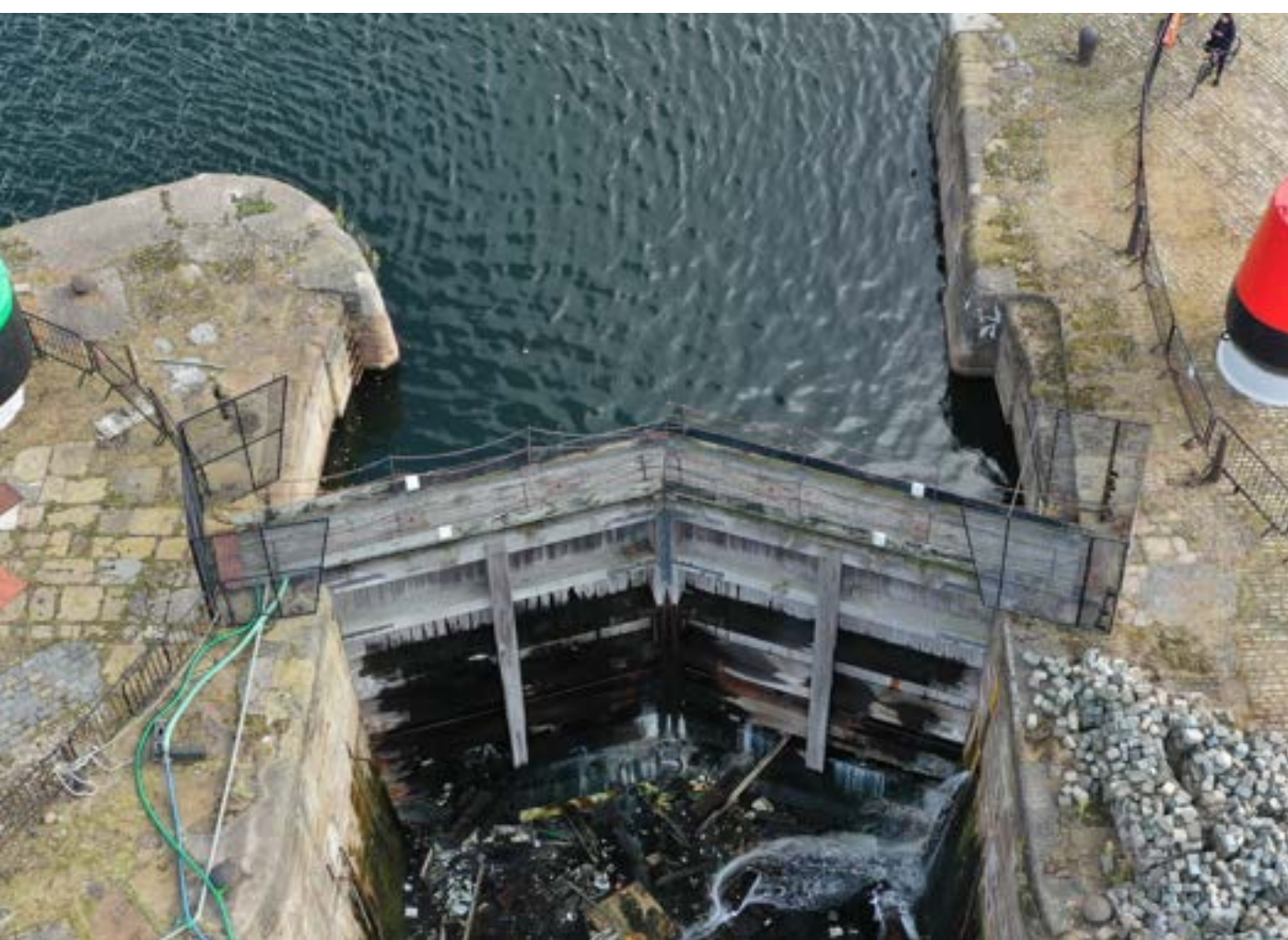
Raised bridge position, to allow tall ships into Canning Dock



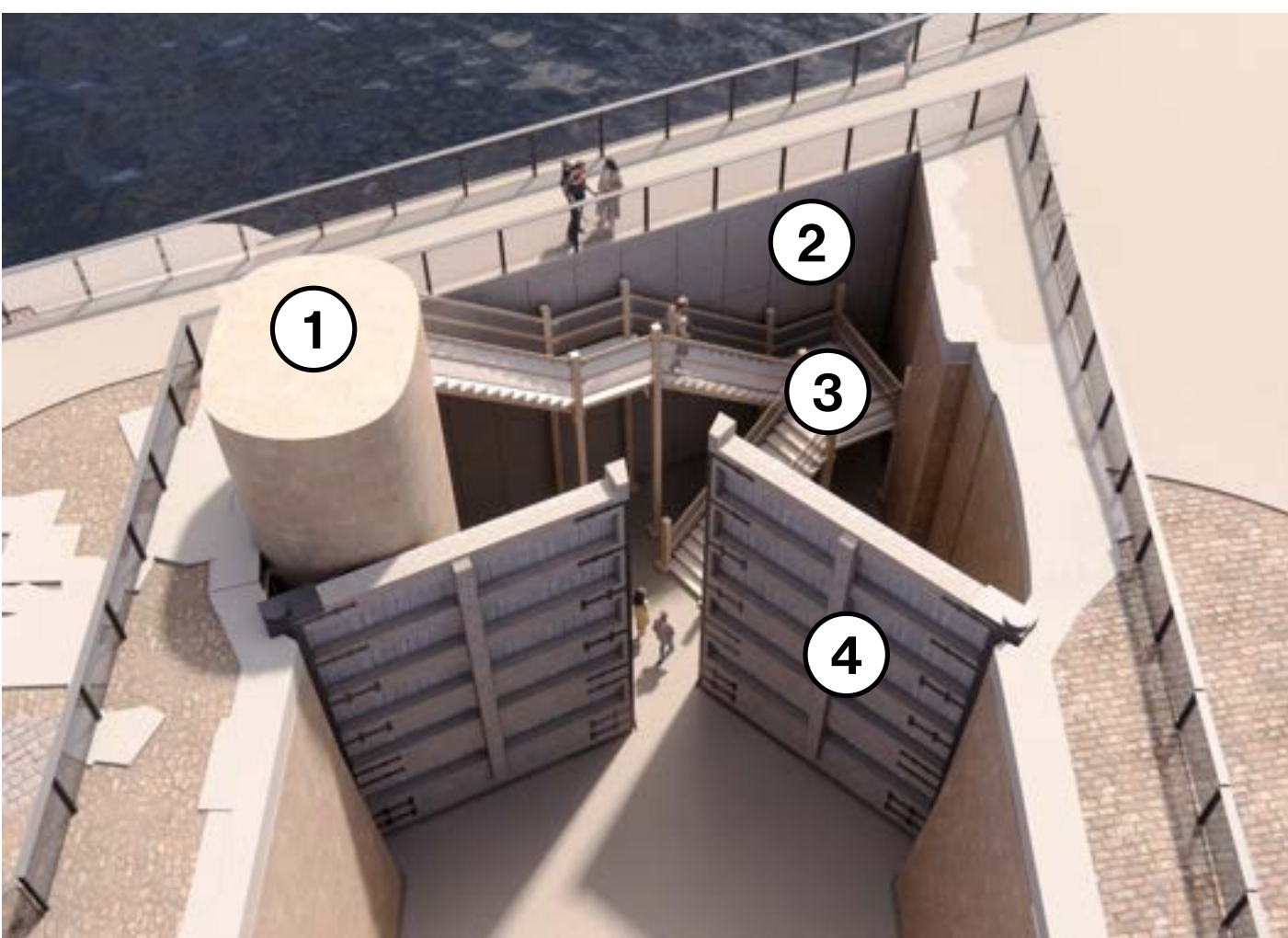
Site Plan showing proposed footbridge and pathways

05 A New Stair & Lift into the South Dry Dock

SOUTH DRY DOCK
 Sunken within the Canning Quayside are two extremely long dry docks, once used to repair ships and now home to two vessels in the Museum's collection. The South Dry Dock currently houses an old vessel in poor condition, the De Wadden, which will be removed. This presents an exciting opportunity to use the dry dock differently. The ambition of the project is to make the South Dry Dock publicly accessible, so visitors can experience this important heritage site up close, and get a feel for what it would have been like to work in this vast sunken space. Steep-sided and stepped in stone, the South Dry Dock has six existing staircases set into its walls. They are called 'barrel runs' because a channel down the middle was used to guide barrels of hot tar down from the boilers on the quayside, which was used in waterproofing ships. These stairs are too steep and narrow for safe public access so a new stair is required, along with a lift to ensure the space can be accessed by all.

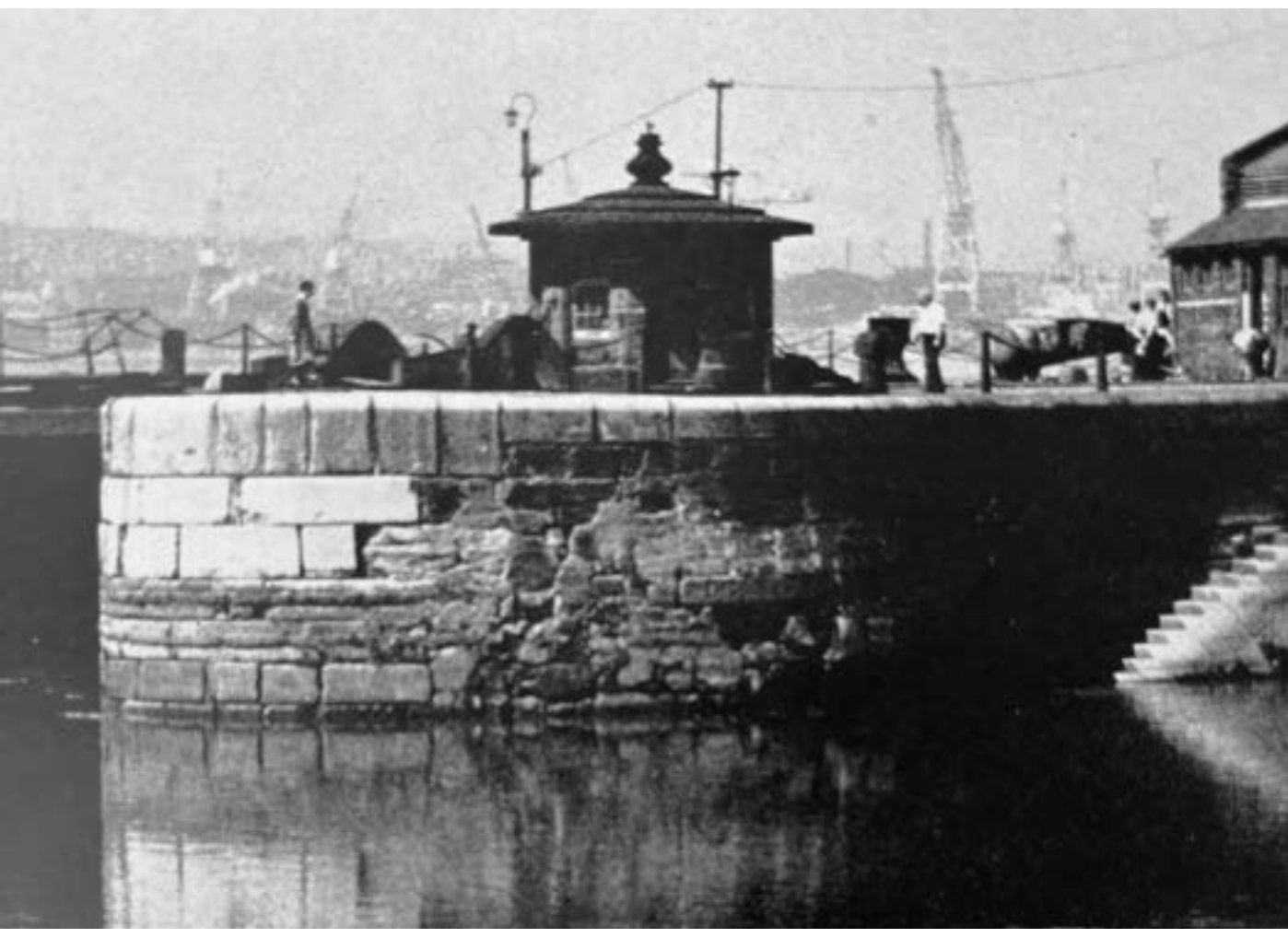


Existing timber lock gates at the mouth of the South Dry Dock

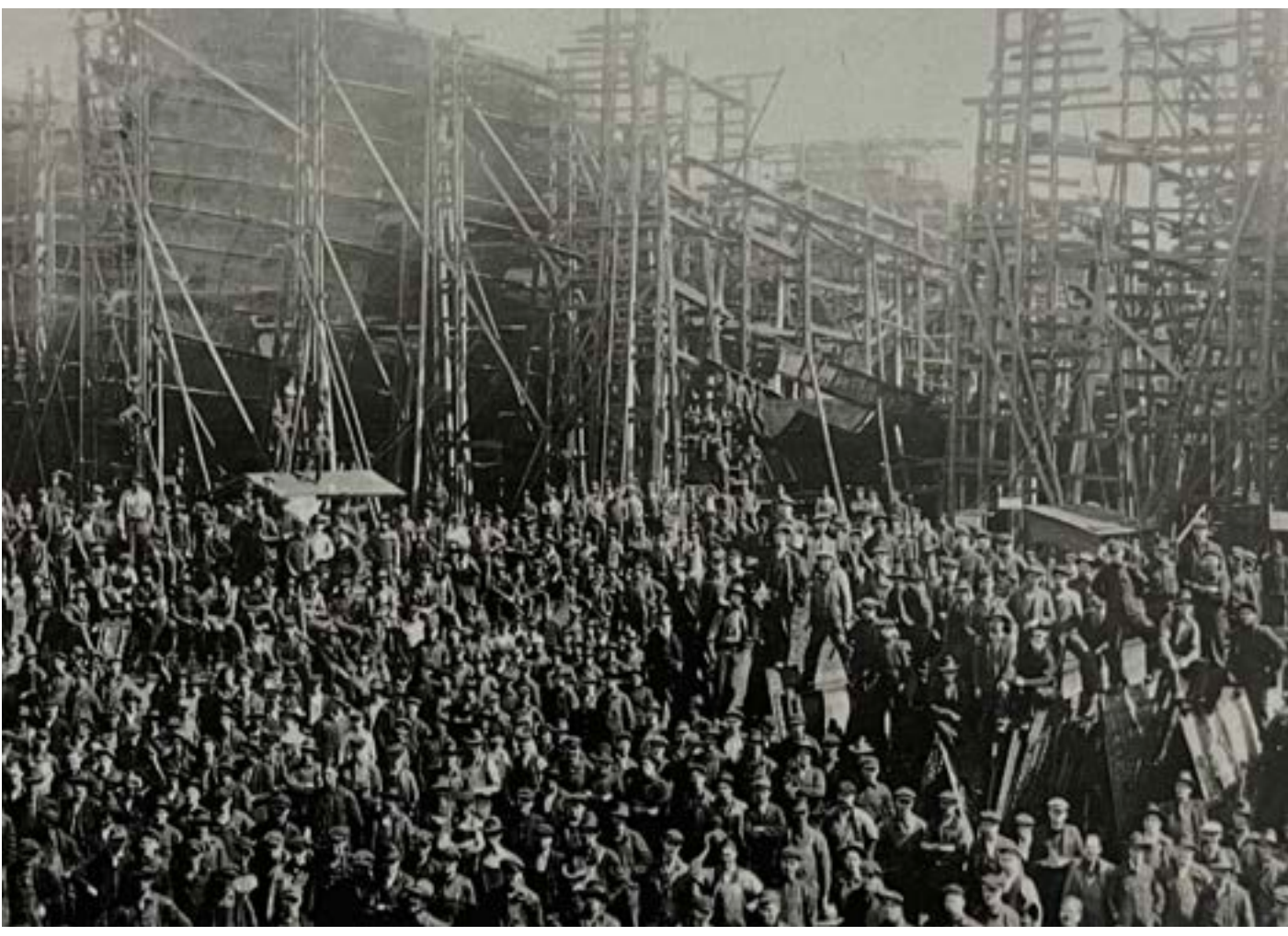


Journey down the new staircase and lift into the South Dry Dock
 1. Lift 2. New stopwall 3. New staircase 4. Dock gates

ACCESS INTO THE SOUTH DRY DOCK
 The new access point into the South Dry Dock will be created at the eastern end, between the dry dock and the water-filled Canning Dock. A new wall will be built behind the existing timber gates to stop water from Canning Dock getting into the South Dry Dock. This creates an exciting potential to build a stair and lift in the space between the gates and this new wall. By then opening one of the timber gates, every visitor will have the opportunity to descend down from the quayside, pass through the dock gates (just as ships would have once done), and enter the long dry dock. It is expected that the dry dock would be publicly accessible during daylight hours, and open also during the evening for dedicated events and programming.



Stone watchman's hut, Canning Dock



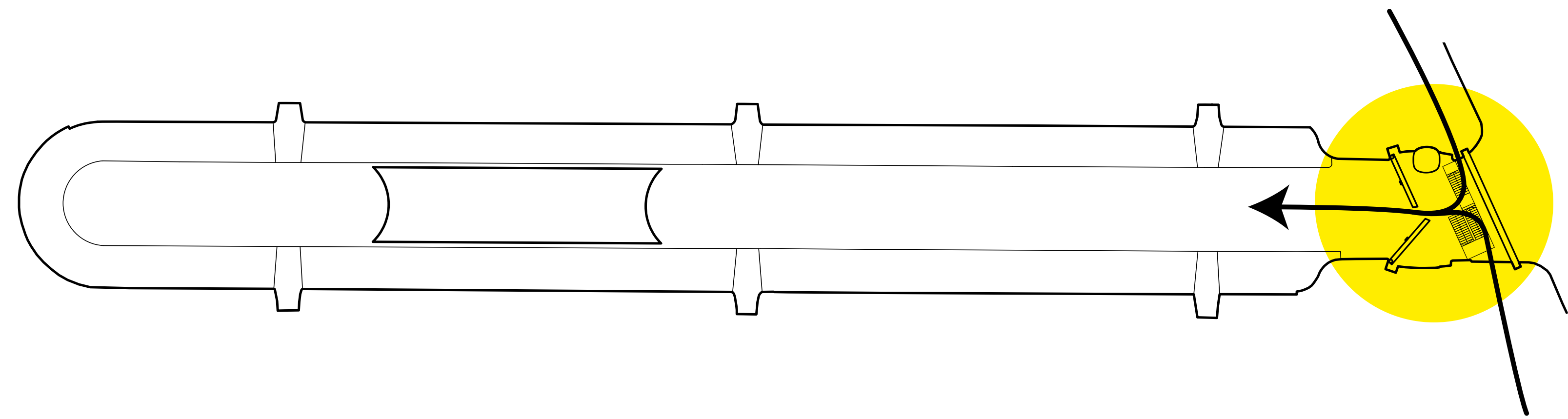
Wooden 'staging' structures commonly used in ship building

LOOK AND FEEL
 The material approach for the stair and lift is inspired by the construction of the dry dock itself and its usage through the years. The stairs are to be made of timber, reflecting the language of timber framed 'staging' used in the ship-building industry of the area, as well as the timber dock gates themselves. The lift shaft will be clad in stone, taking on the appearance of the surrounding dock walls to help it blend in with its context and to reduce the visual 'bulk'. The scale and the mass of the shaft is inspired by the historic small stone huts that can be found up and down the waterfront, which were used to shelter dock workers at the entrances to the docks. This visual language will extend across the new stopwall next to the lift, which will also be clad in stone.



Visitors will for the first time be able to enter the South Dry Dock through the historic timber lock gates

How does the opportunity to descend down into the dry dock make you feel?

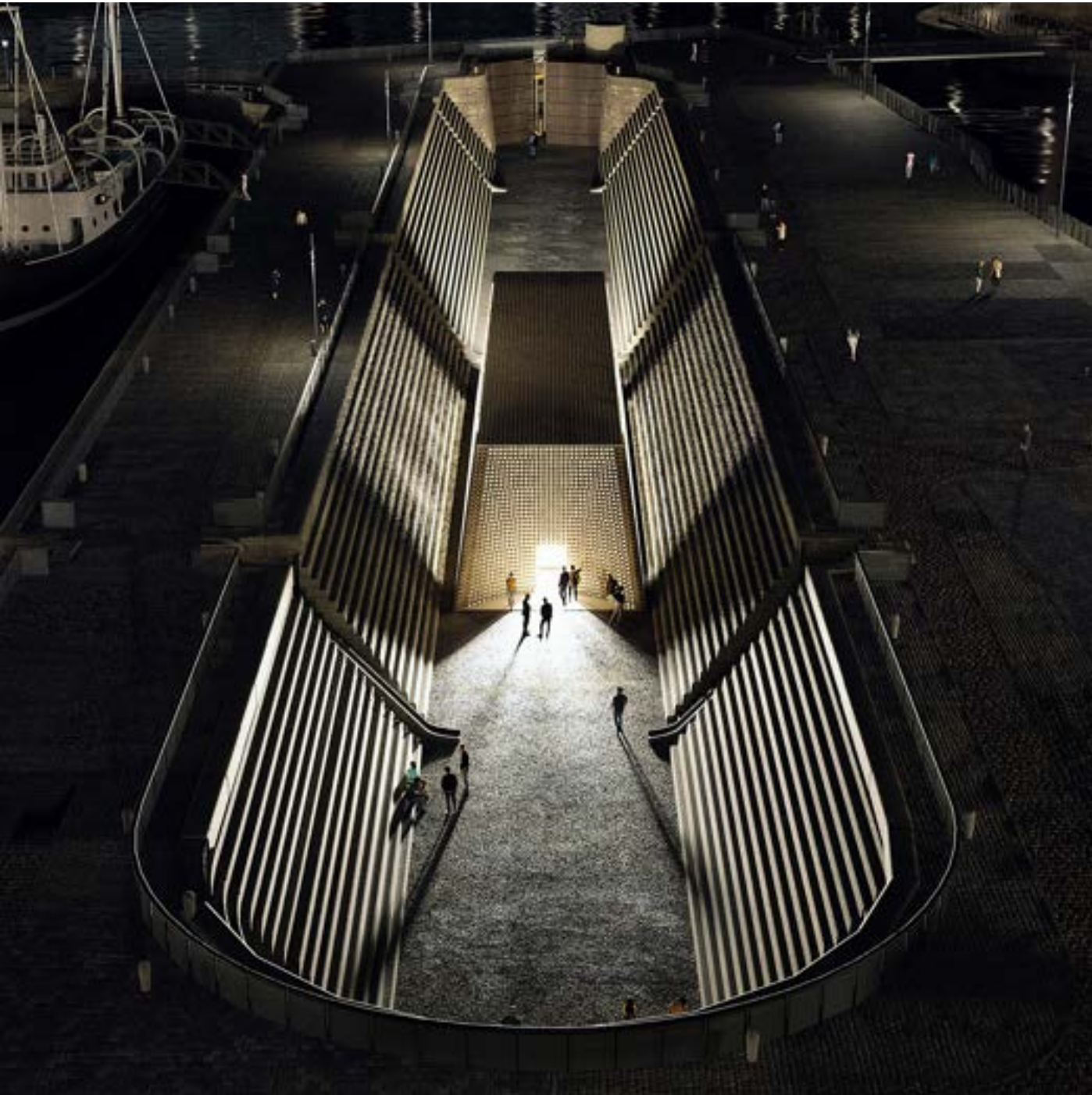


Plan showing the entrance journey into the South Dry Dock

06 A New Contemplation Space in the South Dry Dock

A SPACE TO COME TOGETHER

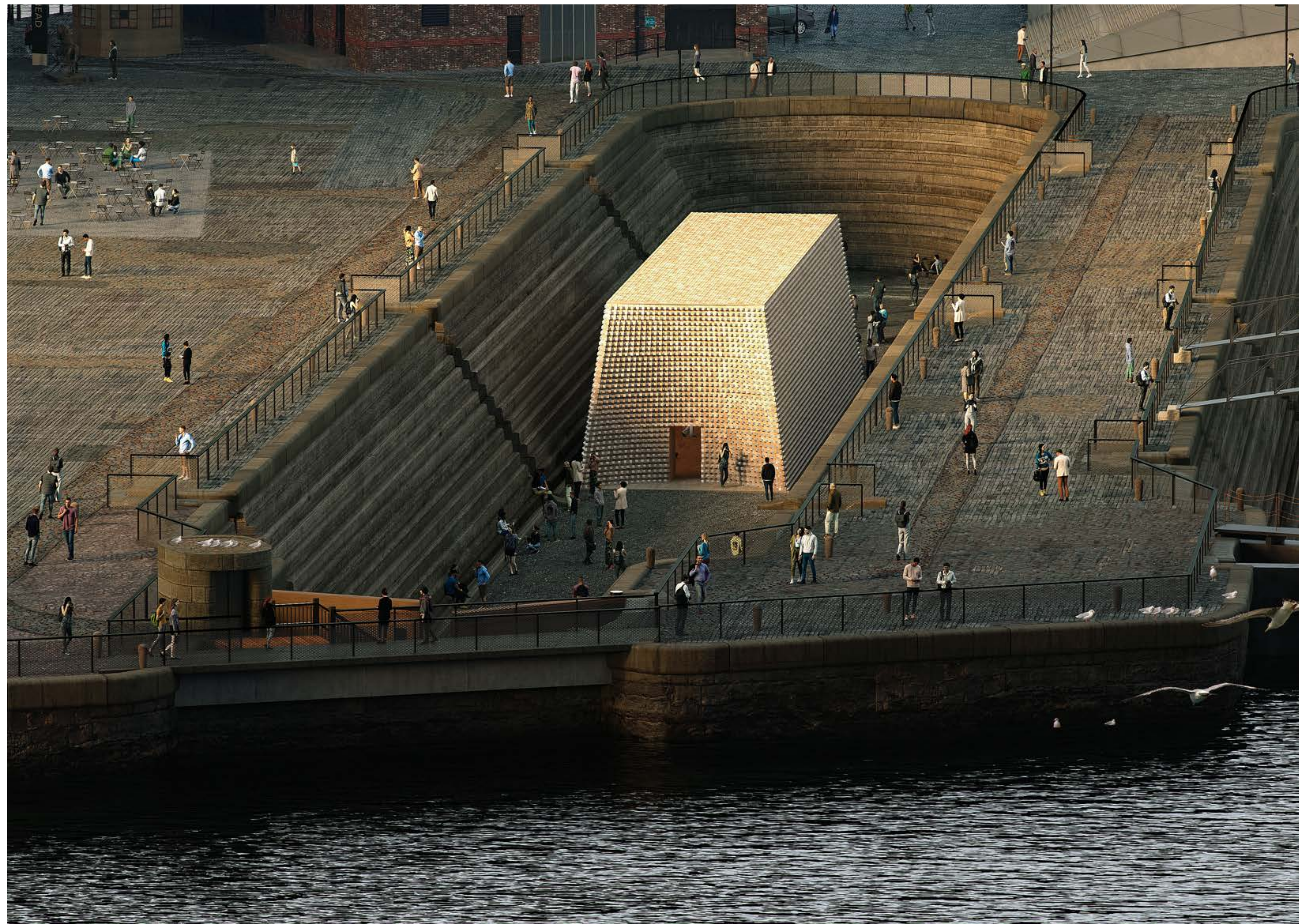
This project recognises both the need and the opportunity for the South Dry Dock to tell the history of slavery and seafaring with great gravity, sensitivity and authenticity, in a manner few other places in the world can do. Together, National Museums Liverpool, the Design Team, and our Community Partners have worked closely together to determine how these stories might best be told on this important heritage site. Through our work together we have come to recognise that the storytelling of such fundamental global significance needs more than good signage and educational interpretation, it needs a space to come together. In this spirit, a new contemplation structure is proposed within the South Dry Dock, which can support each visitor's personal journey to, through and from the site. It will create a strong sense of arrival for each and every visitor and – perhaps most importantly – the feeling of being warmly welcomed to this special place.



Night time view of the contemplation space in the South Dry Dock



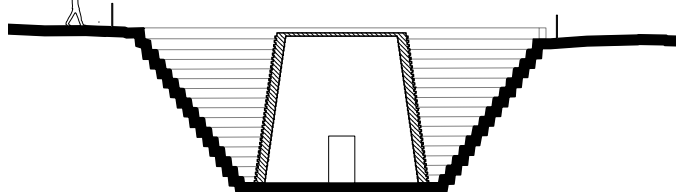
Daytime view of the approach to the contemplation space showing an example of performance.



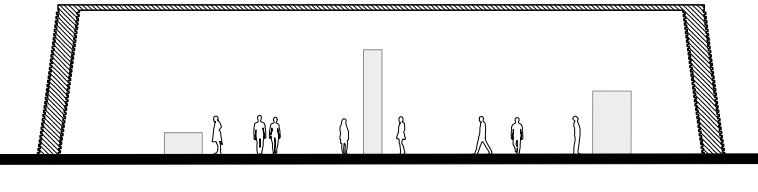
Exterior view of the contemplation space within the South Dry Dock

A SPACE FOR CONTEMPLATION

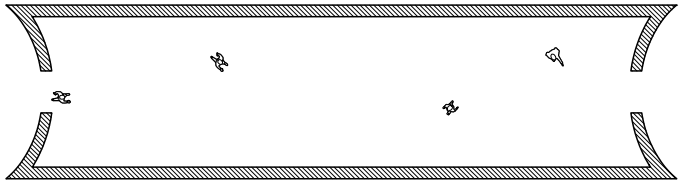
The contemplation space will sit at the base of the sunken dry dock, its roof the same level as the quayside that surrounds it. Thirty meters long, eight meters wide, and eight meters high, the volume of the contemplation space is the same as a typical slave ship, a great many of which were based in the Liverpool Docks 250 years ago. This volume is a memory of the ships that were once repaired right here, in this dry dock, smeared with tar heated in the round black boilers you can still see on the quayside today. Unlike the old ships made of planks of wood, the new structure will be made of planks of stone and glass, and instead of being dark within, it will be filled with light. The materials of glass and stone, both heavy and timeless, will play host to stories of the past, life of the present, and dreams of the future, with no chance of being washed away.



Short section through the contemplation space



Long section through the contemplation space

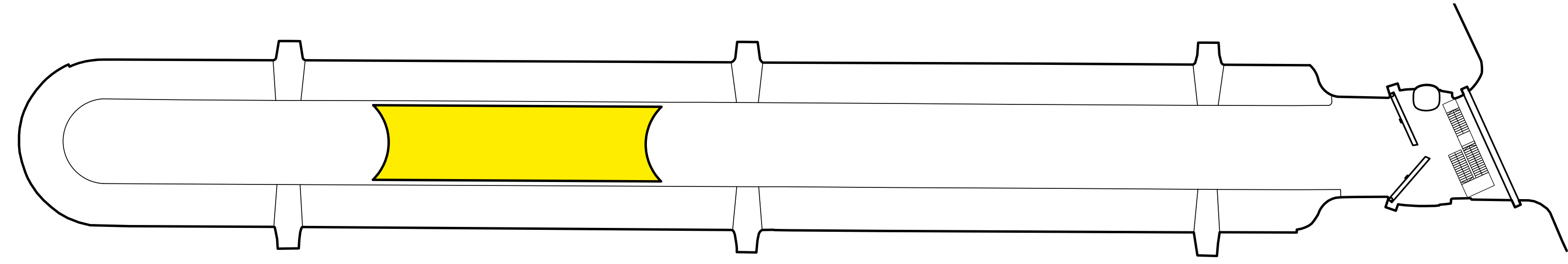


Plan view of the contemplation space

What kinds of experiences or events would you like to happen in the contemplation space?

CONTEMPLATION, EDUCATION AND STORYTELLING

With an internal area of 210 square meters and large external courtyard spaces on either side, the contemplation space is a flexible venue that can host a variety of functions. Most commonly to be found in 'rest mode', the space is intended as a simple, beautiful and uplifting space for visitors to pass through and dwell in on their journey through the site; a place of contemplation. The space can also function in 'active' programmed modes, such as an educational space when hosting school activities, a performance space when platforming the creative arts, or a commercial space when accommodating special events.

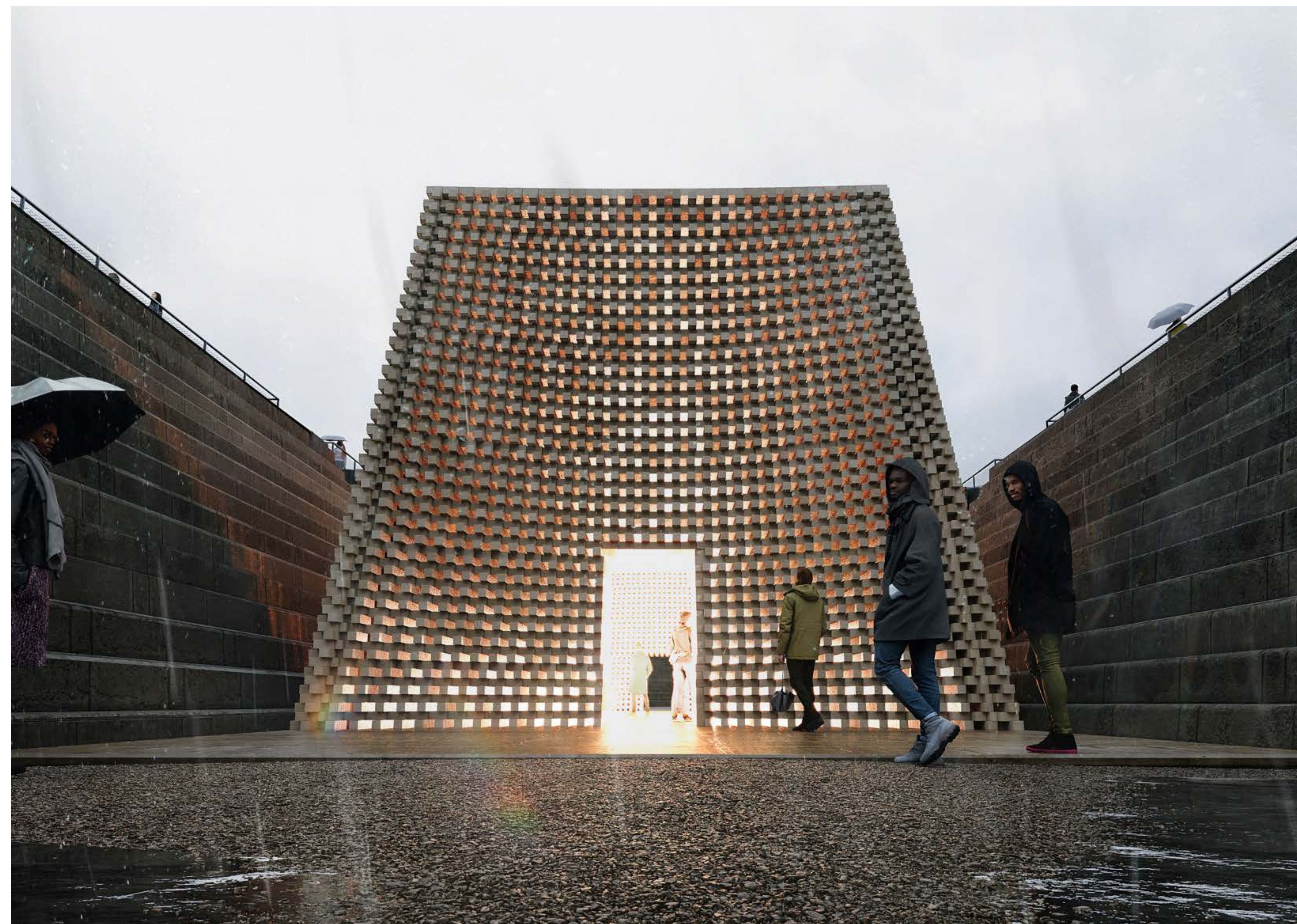


Plan showing the location of the contemplation space

07 Feedback & Next Steps

Thank you for taking time to view this information.

Following this consultation National Museums Liverpool will move towards the preparation and submission of a full planning application anticipated to be submitted in Summer 2023. At this stage, the proposals will be available for formal consultation on Liverpool City Council's planning portal.



Exterior view of the contemplation space within South Dry Dock

We look forward to welcoming you to Canning Dock.

MORE INFO

Further information, including the online feedback form, can also found on the National Museums Liverpool website: liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/waterfront-transformation-project

If you have any questions, or wish to leave a comment, please complete the online contact form or contact: waterfront.transformation@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Please feel free to give feedback online during the consultation period from: 5th – 23rd April 2023



Architect and Lead Consultant
Collaborating Artist

Client

Liverpool Community Partners

Access & Maintenance Consultant
AV-IT Consultant
Bridge Specialist Consultant
CDM Consultant
**Civils & Infrastructure, Lighting,
Sustainability & Maritime Engineer**
Cost Consultant and Project Manager
Design Manager
Facilitation and Narrative Consultant
Fire Engineering Consultant
Heritage Consultant
Planning Consultant
Security Consultant
Signage, Wayfinding & Identity
Structural Engineer

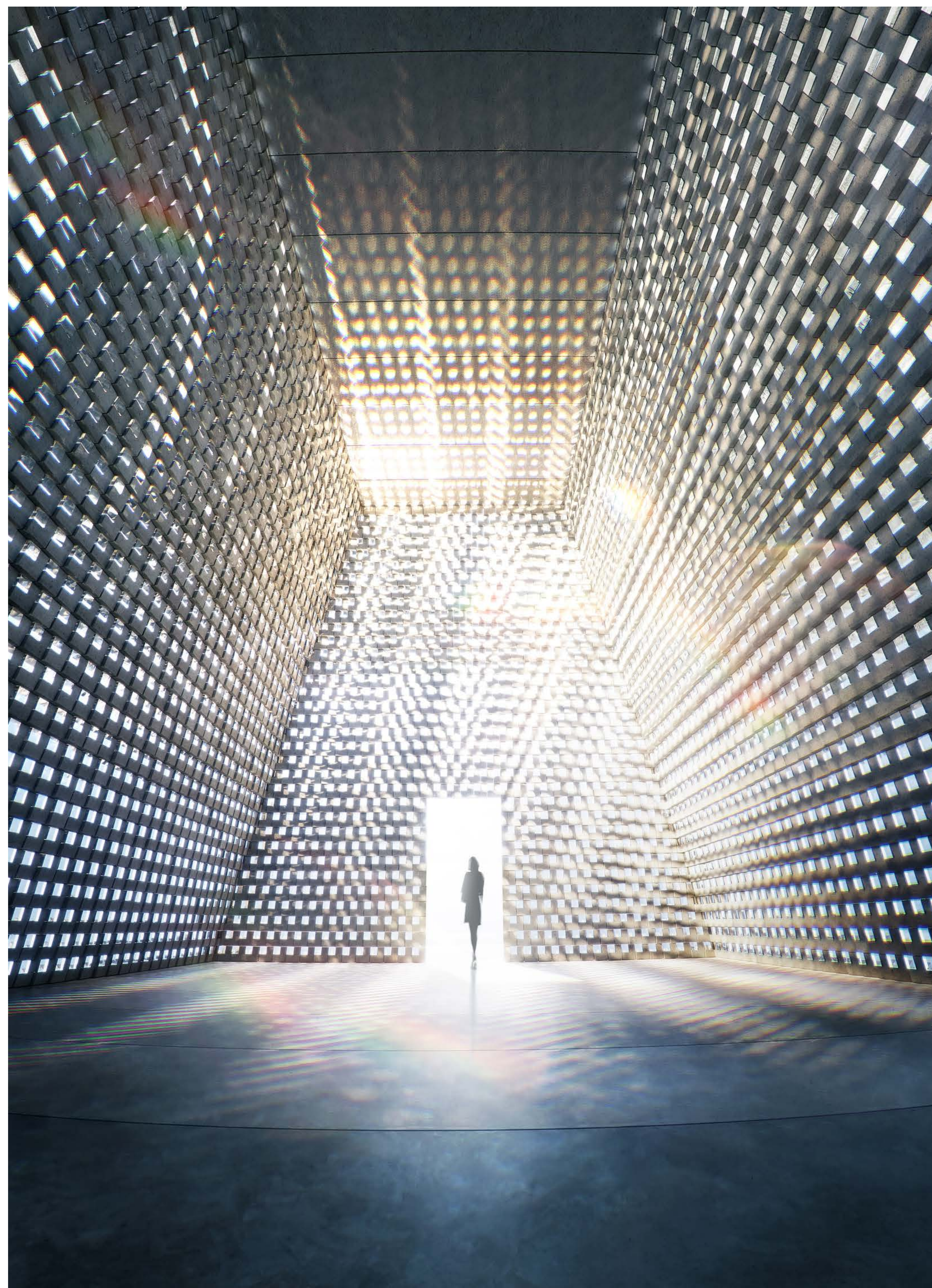
Asif Khan Studio
Theaster Gates

National Museums Liverpool

20 Stories High
Liverpool Black History Research Group
Squash
Writing on the Wall

TUV-SUD
Experience Studios
Eadon Consulting
Bureau Veritas
ARUP

Gardiner & Theobald
Plan A Consultants
The Place Bureau
James Fowler
Donald Insall Associates
Prior + Partners
Public Realm Protection
Hara Design Institute
AKT II



Interior view of the contemplation space