

Front & Side Facade Ideas!



Signage. Earlier in the document, there are a range of options highlighted for signage. These will have a big role to play in broadcasting the function of your building and announcing its ethos and activities. Both high and low level signage are needed to communicate from a distance or near to the building.

Brickwork. Although generally in good condition, the front and side facades feel very corporate with almost no detailing or visual interest. The square box also does little to add anything positive to the street scene. It makes complete sense to do expend some resources to project the right image for your organisation and what it stands for.

New Window. To increase options for subdivision internally, a new window would be added here. This would also be a different size to the others and would help to break up the steady pattern of the other 'office' windows.

Insulation. There is some potential to insulate externally behind any new cladding panels. However, it would be worth identifying the current levels of insulation first. This could be done by removing a brick to check cavity width and insulation type. Another option would be to insulate internally.

Timber Cladding. This is approaching the end of its useful life. It really should be replaced as part of the remodelling works. Main considerations are durability and maintenance as it is likely to suffer the most wear/staining.

Pavement. This Consider whether the Council would allow you to remove a few of the dreary pavement slabs and replace them a custom cast panels with either solid colours or perhaps a pattern. This I think would tie in with the ethos of WBBL, improving the townscape, but also draw pedestrian's attention that something interesting and different was going on in your building.

Winter Garden Space

Ideas & Technical Issues

A Winter Garden can be created with relatively low cost by creating a pergola structure over the first floor flat roof area. This could be covered with polycarbonate which has high light transmission but offers some insulation. This will create a warm pocket of air and shelter that will make a very pleasant outdoor space.

Subject to wall loadings it should be possible to put some quite substantial containers here which could house a good variety of plants including meadow planting that would be attractive to birds/butterflies as well as fruit/vegetable plants in containers.

There will also be enough space for some seating.

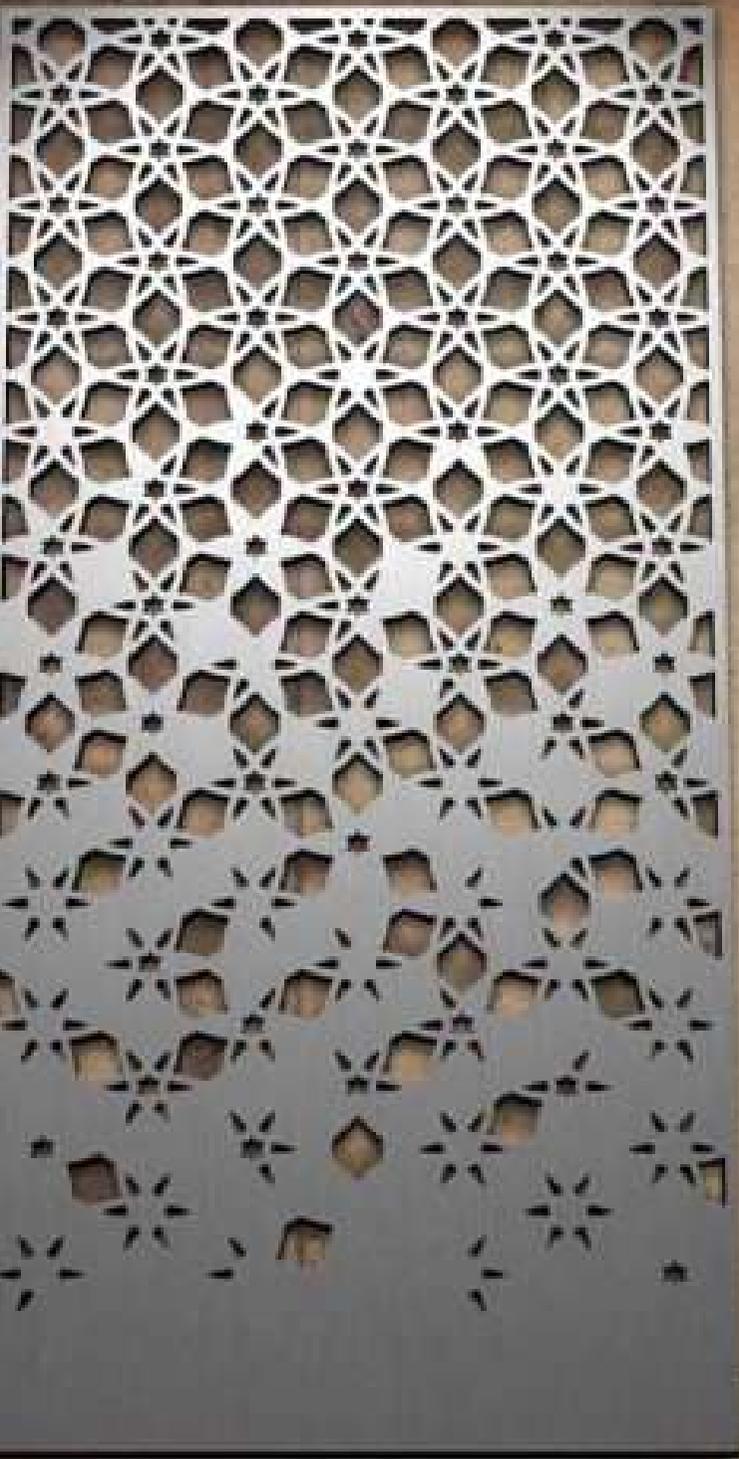


A view of the polycarbonate sheeting which has some thermal insulation properties. This allows the pergola to act as a thermal buffer to the building.

The existing roof can be overboarded with decking. Non slip characteristics will be a key criteria.

One strategy is to allow a 'filtered' space with slatted verticals that gives some privacy and allows for a balustrade while still being decorative.

Decorative Screens



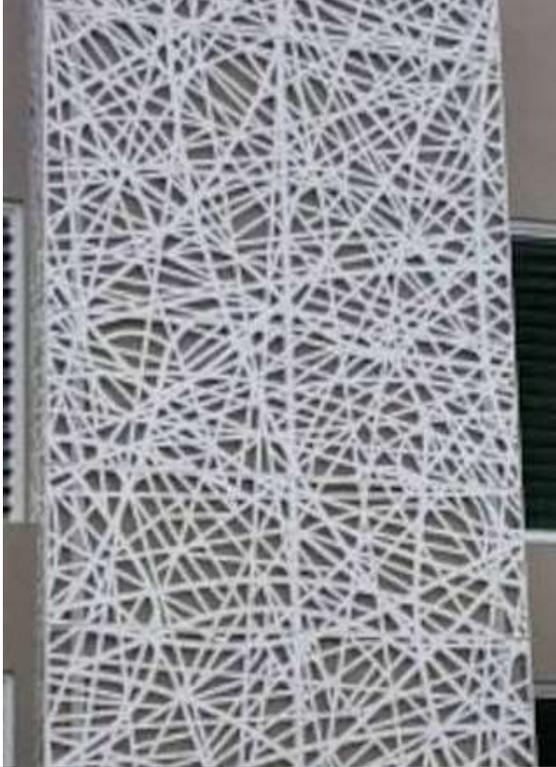
Ideas & Technical Issues

One option for re-vitalizing the front and side elevation would be decorative metal panels. These could be CNC cut locally to any pattern or design.

The advantages are that these would be hardwearing and also allow for some very striking lighting effects for night/winter afternoons. The designs could even form part of a competition to local artists or the public with final choices voted on and then fabricated.

These panels could be either left natural or powder coated to any colour. They would be fixed back to the existing brickwork.





Timber Panels

Ideas & Technical Issues

Another, perhaps more environmentally-friendly option is the use of timber. This could incorporate or use recycled timber (if it is good condition - ideally hardwood). There are a huge range of options for how this is put together, from slats to panels with various configurations of angles, widths and colours.

The timber could be left natural, or perhaps better, it could be stained. Either as a single colour or as a pattern or random palette. Even the stains themselves vary and could be translucent to show the grain or opaque to achieve solid colour.

Again the chosen method could be part of a public engagement event with local people/artists. For maximum participation, the panels could even be 'made up' as part of a public workshop with folks invited to stain and stack elements, ready for final fixings of the steel frames.

At night, slots could be used to house LED strip lights that would illuminate and enliven the building. These lights could be set to controllers to generate gentle patterns of movement.



