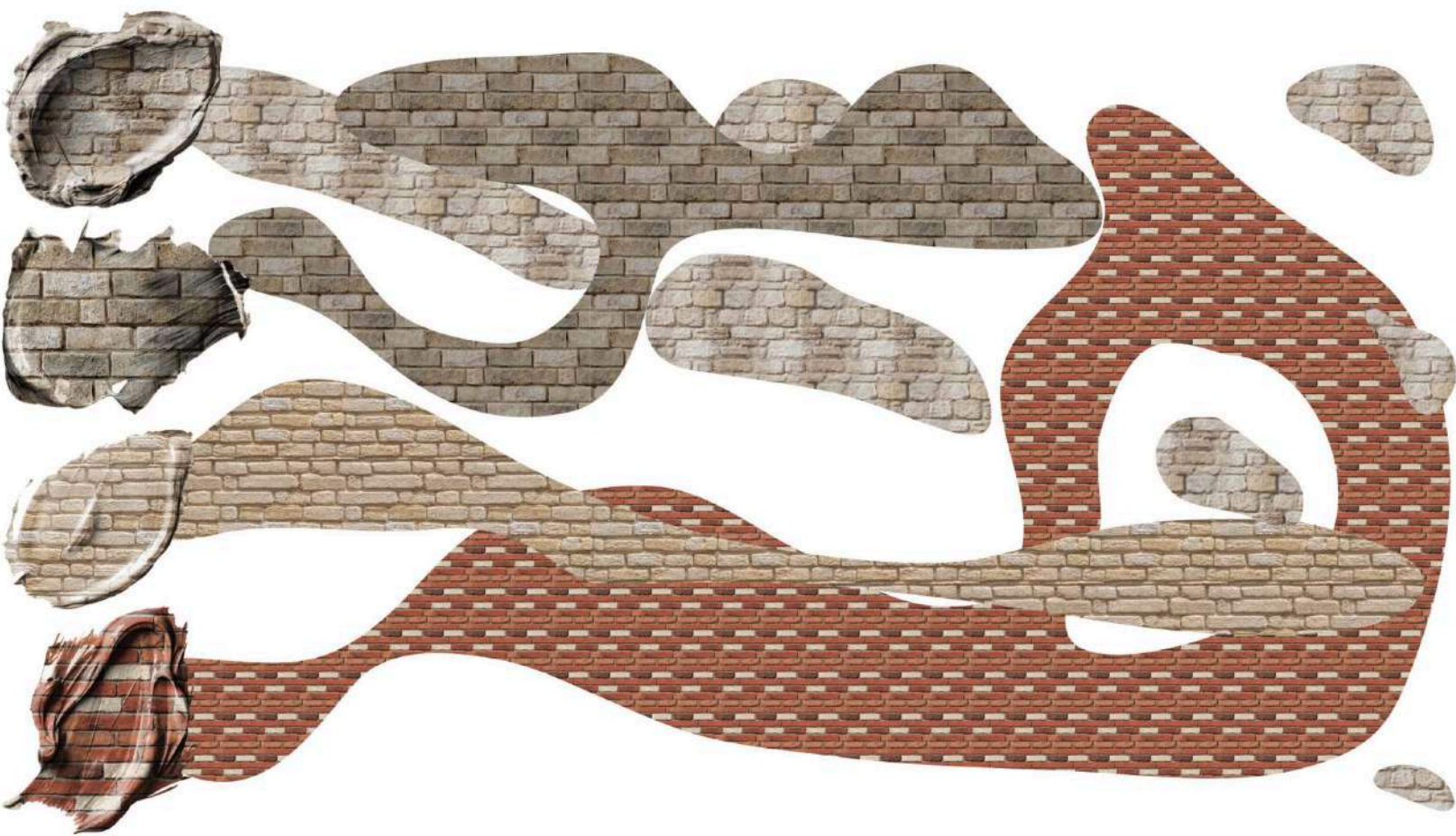
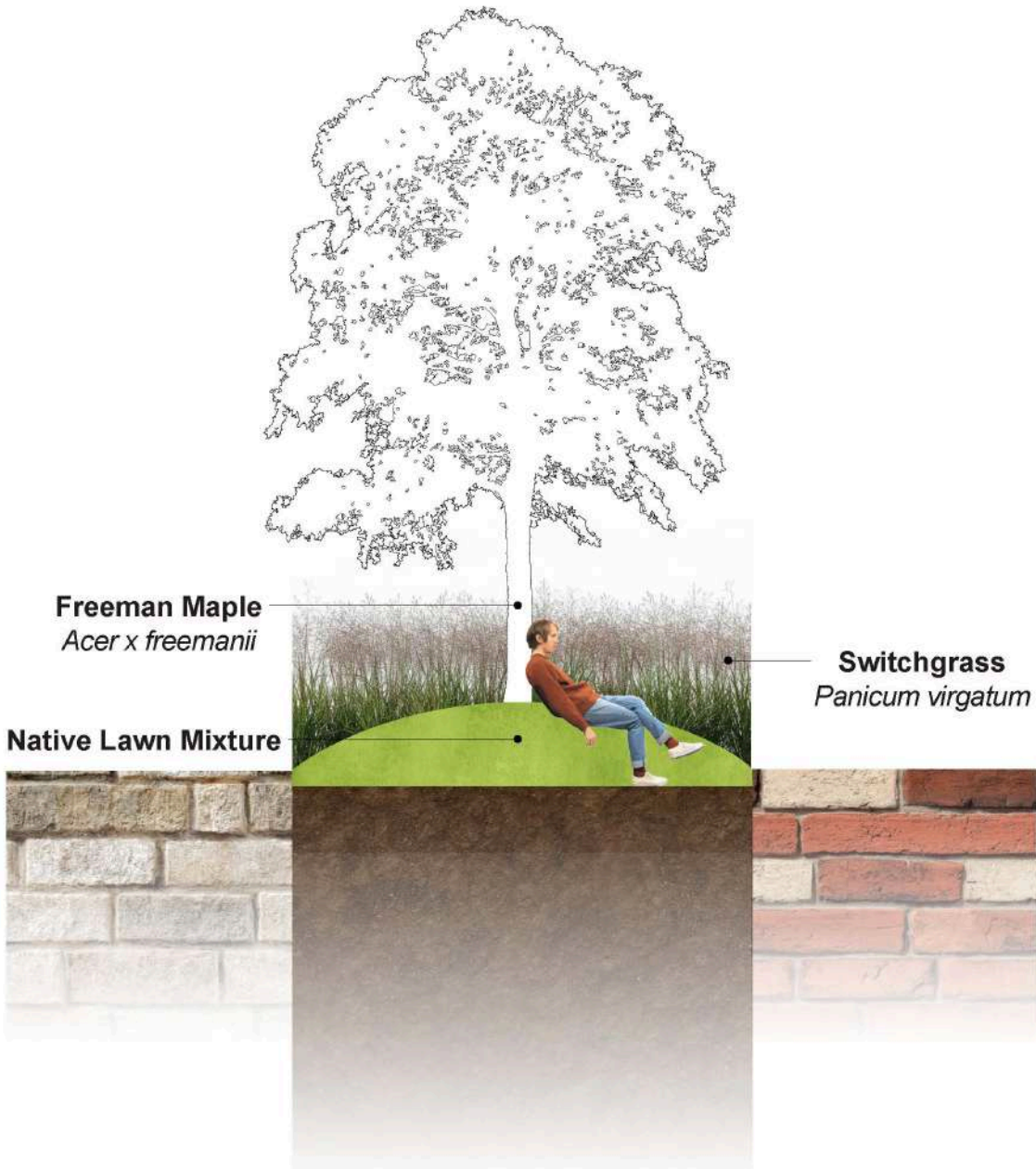
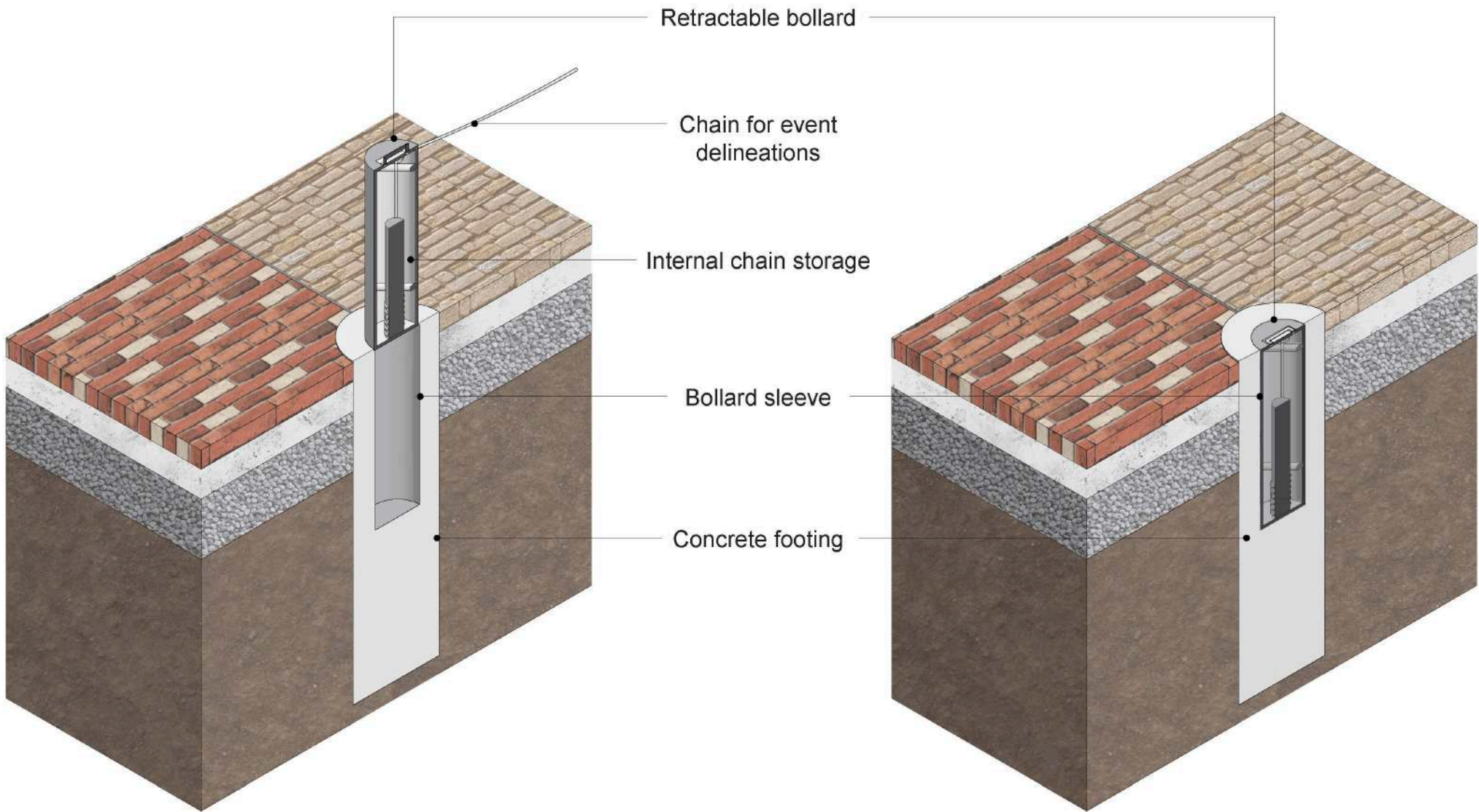
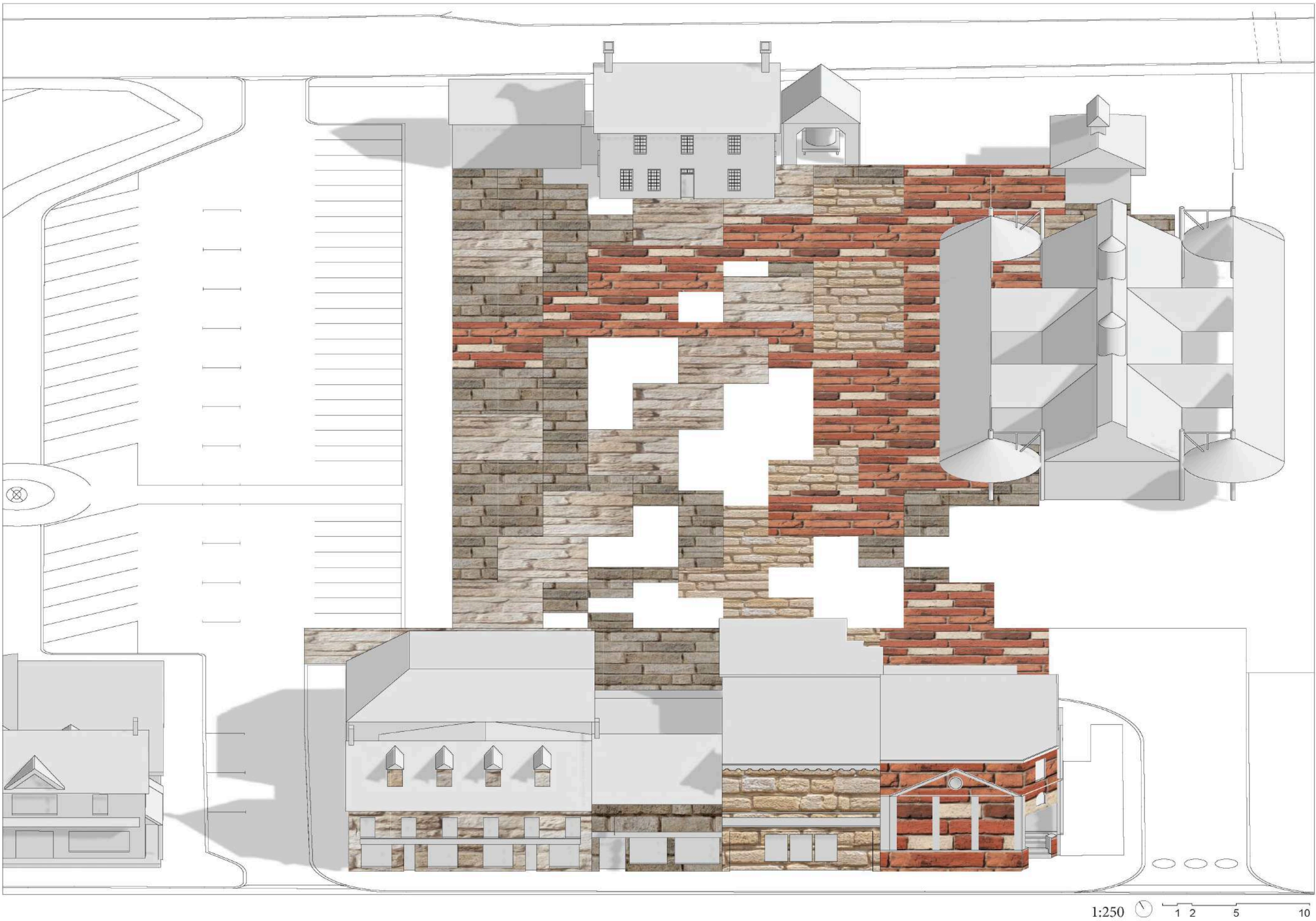
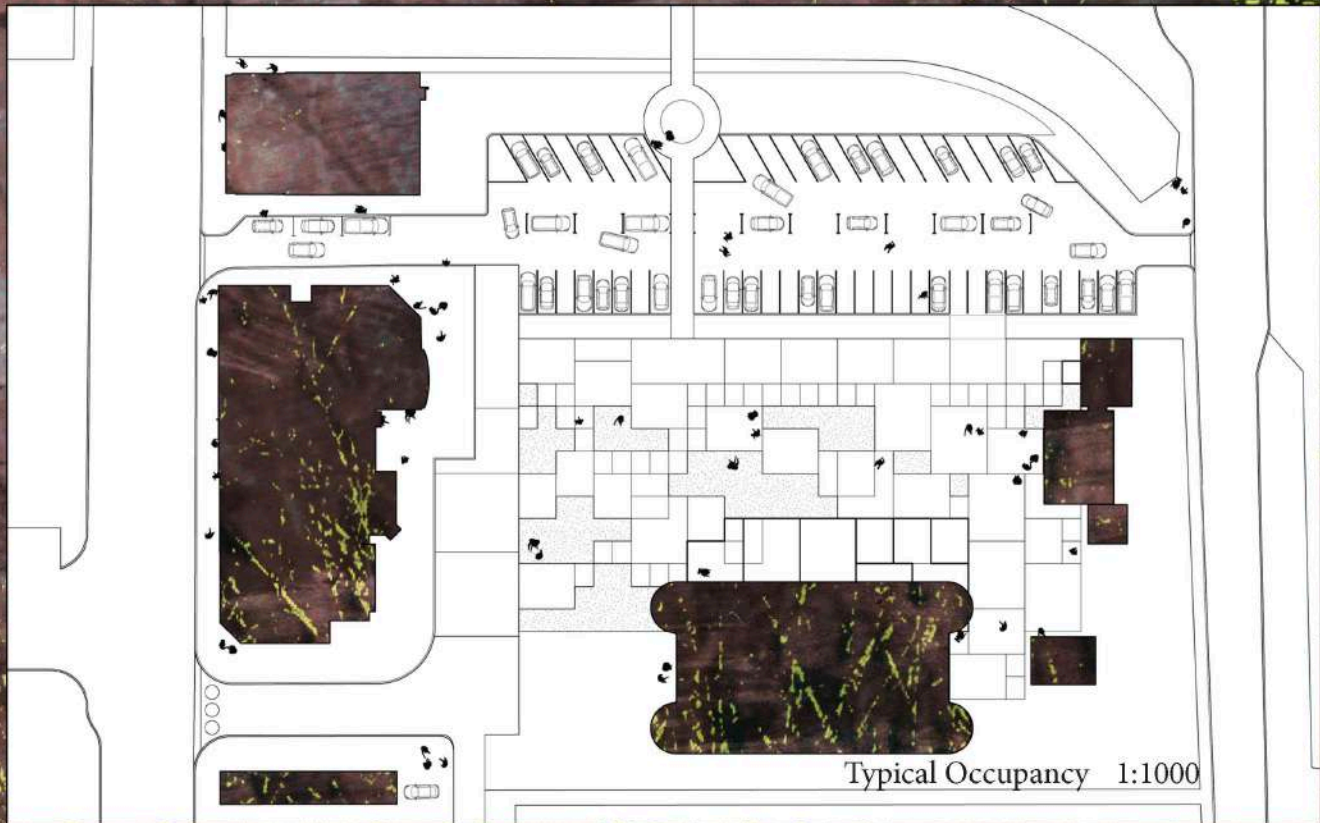


PAINTED IN STONE



The history of Perth, Ontario is painted in stone. Stone construction homes of different colours, sizes, years, and relations to the community stand proud along Gore Street East, steps from the Tay Basin and the heart of town. Now, history is still in the making as newer brick and stone homes blend over 200 years of cultural heritage into a lively painting of the Town's identity. These material histories form the paints of the Square's palette. As we traced these lines of heritage from the different periods of Perth's history, we imagined how the future of the Tay Basin public Square could accommodate residents' and visitors' kaleidoscopic program needs.





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Our goal was to weave together the material histories into program delineations using the four stone varieties found in the adjacent Gore Street East buildings. The resulting layout of the site's paving forms a pedestrianized Basin Lane through the square that seamlessly connects pedestrians, cyclists, and Stewart Park users into a reimagined Tay Basin Square. By paring back the through traffic to Colbourne Street, now a pedestrian-integrated, Eastbound one-way Walk, and moving the parking to the North side of the site, users can enjoy the site unimpeded by rush hour through traffic and reversing vehicles. Emergency vehicle usage and event parking can still use the redirected and pedestrianized Basin Lane as needed with access provided by retractable bollards in-situ.

By drawing on the stone and brick histories of Perth from 63-77 Gore Street East, the Town's identity is seamlessly integrated into a durable and sustainable paving solution. Where painted stone brush strokes leave gaps in the Square, garden beds of native perennials and shrubs and treed lawns provide urban reprieve and integrated drainage for the Square. The stone delineations also provide a framework for how the Square can accommodate varying program needs. Whereas for a farmer's market spatial delineations may not be needed, a private event such as a wedding may need to have the Crystal Palace or Red House cordoned off from the rest of the Square. At the intersections of the paving lines, retractable bollards with integrated chain storage management, designed specifically for Perth's needs, can provide the flexibility the Town's cultural vibrancy requires. These bollards can be pulled up as needed and connected with chains or they can be retracted to create a larger public open space, removing the need to store and move temporary event fencing.

The grid on which the Square is laid out, and which provides the flexibility for program delineations of varying sizes, also allows the Square to be easily subdivided into overflow event parking space. The 2.5m x 3.0m grid accommodates an additional parking space for every two adjacent cells. At the periphery of the Square, new, raised and narrowed road entrances signal to drivers that they are entering a shared, pedestrian-vehicle right-of-way, slowing traffic down within the Square.