

**BID ARTS & CULTURE**  
**PHASE 0 CANVAS PROPOSAL**

# Introduction and background

## Oxford University Development Ltd (OUD)

In June 2019, a major new partnership was announced between the University of Oxford and Legal & General Group plc, leading to the creation of OUD. The partnership will enable the University to move forward with its commitments to address the high cost of accommodation for staff and students and to develop innovation districts, both of which are key objectives of the University's current five-year Strategic Plan.

Begbroke Science Park is a cross-departmental research facility and science park with 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> office/laboratory space for research groups and high-tech science-based businesses and spin-outs; a conference venue and business training centre; a technical services provider; an educational establishment - and a key employer in Oxfordshire. It is the only science park in Oxfordshire wholly owned and managed by Oxford University and is already home to more than 20 research groups in engineering, materials and life sciences as well as around 30 high-tech companies. It hosts innovation and enterprise initiatives and provides a space where academic theory is converted into business practice by nurturing up-and-coming science-based industries.

The Science Park sits at the centre of 190 hectares of land earmarked in Cherwell District Council's Local Plan Partial Review for a high-quality mixed-use development. The aim is to deliver a range of research and development facilities, new homes and associated social and physical infrastructure, including schools, community centres, space for leisure and recreation, and excellent sustainable transport links to Oxford.

This proposed wider development, Begbroke Innovation District, will create a new and cohesive community that responds to both Oxford housing needs and the economic attraction of the Science Park as a place to live, work, and foster innovation and enterprise.

[Hawkins/Brown](#) are leading the master plan for the wider district; and [Assemble](#) have already been engaged to design and deliver a Public Art piece which sits in this programme and is set to complete in Spring 2024.

# Arts & Culture Strategy

## Curatorial statement: Another Landscape

'Another Landscape' is a series of site-specific commissions for Begbroke Innovation District that directly respond to, and are in dialogue with, the surrounding landscape and those that inhabit it.

The programme prioritises local materials, craft, the handmade, the self-built, skill sharing, innovation, knowledge exchange, co-design, experimentation, specialisation and local stewardship.

Reaching through time, the works seek to provide windows into, and connections between, the past and future. Landscapes within a landscape, we seek to offer a space to transpose complex ideas and systems into simple physical experiences.

*"One of the people that I admire is Fabiola Gianotti, the current and first woman Director-General at CERN. She strongly believes we need to break down the barriers between art and science. For her science and art are not different. They are both the highest expression of creativity and ingenuity of humanity"* - Daniela Bortoletto, Head of Particle Physics, Oxford University

'Another Landscape' is a material led programme that has three key areas of focus:

### Plant Cultivation and Regenerative Materials

Formerly the site of 'The Weed Research Organisation' and soon to be the site of [Assemble's 'Weed Garden'](#), Begbroke's Arts and Culture programme explores important opportunities for ecological research within the creation of artworks.

With just over half the development being dedicated to green space, there is a huge opportunity at Begbroke to deliver a productive landscape, that in turn drives material sovereignty and local enterprise.

A treasure trove of remedies, ingredients, traditions and superstitions; hedgerows, trees and meadows have always inspired artists. The intersection of science, nature and arts is in the soil.

*"The Garden is a great subject matter for an artist, it can be a source for studying science, or it could be a source for studying mathematics, it could be the source for many, many subjects."* - Ruth Asawa, from Rob Snyder's film *Forms and Growth*.

### Stone and Earth

Oxford, the city of dreaming spires, was built from the Great Limestone belt in Central Southern England.

# Arts & Culture Strategy

## Curatorial statement: Another Landscape

With its classically constructed high walls and enclosed courtyards, the city is composed of beautifully defensive structures. The opportunity at Begbroke is to use the same materials to deliver a different visual narrative, one that is distinctly open and playful.

Stone has always been a material used in self build, from shelter to timekeeping instruments, to spiritual gathering points, to art that can one day be returned to the earth.

### Material Sciences

At the heart of the district is Begbroke Science Park. Researchers from the Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences and Medical Sciences Divisions of Oxford University work in interdisciplinary groups to tackle some of the major societal issues facing the world in the 21st century.

The integration of this home grown scientific endeavour is key, as is opening up access and providing opportunities for experimentation and dissemination, in order to drive forward ideas, innovation and engagement.



# Design & Build STORE Projects

STORE drives social change by enabling public access to art and design. They are an association of artists, architects, and designers working from locations between London, Rotterdam and Oxford. They exist to facilitate the sharing of design skills and knowledge between experienced practitioners, aspiring students and the general public. STORE are working to ensure that the next generation of architects, artists and designers better reflect the communities they work for and live in.

**Project Overview:** An after and summer school programme for local students, where they co-design and build a modular system that can be used to create a social space on the platform side. Focusing on local and bio materials.

## Other partners:

- Residential Community
  - 30-120 x Local Secondary school students
- [Structure Workshop](#)
- OU researchers and academics

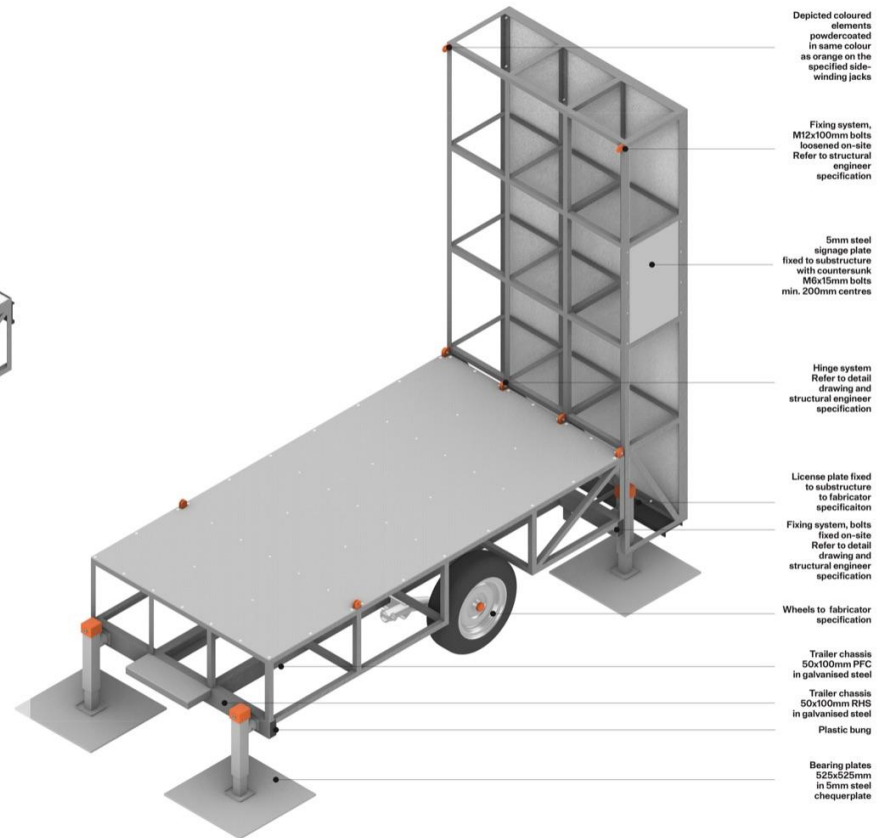
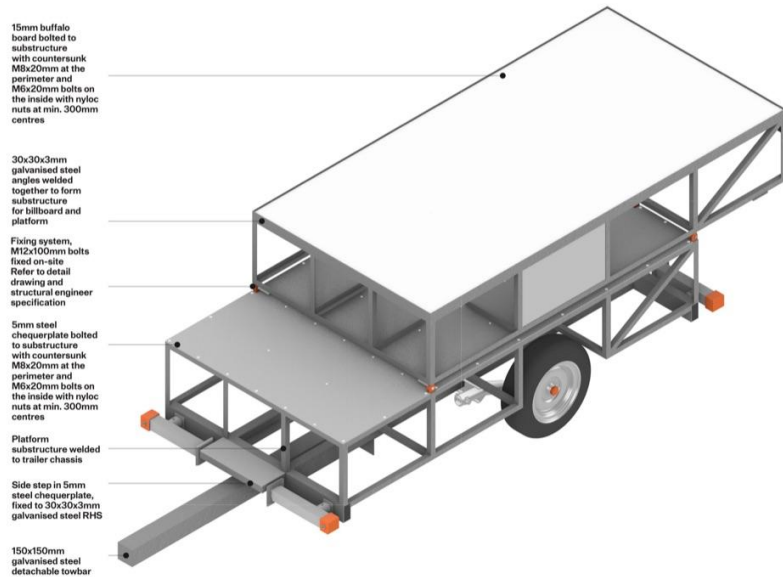


# Design & Build

## Initial design ideas

The outdoor canvas is fixed in a folded-down position when towed. The side-jacks are rotated, the bearing plates are stowed, and a tow bar is hitched onto the chassis in order to move the structure.

To erect the outdoor canvas, the bearing plates are placed beneath the side-winding jacks, which are wound to raise the structure. The billboard is folded up and fixed in place with bolts.



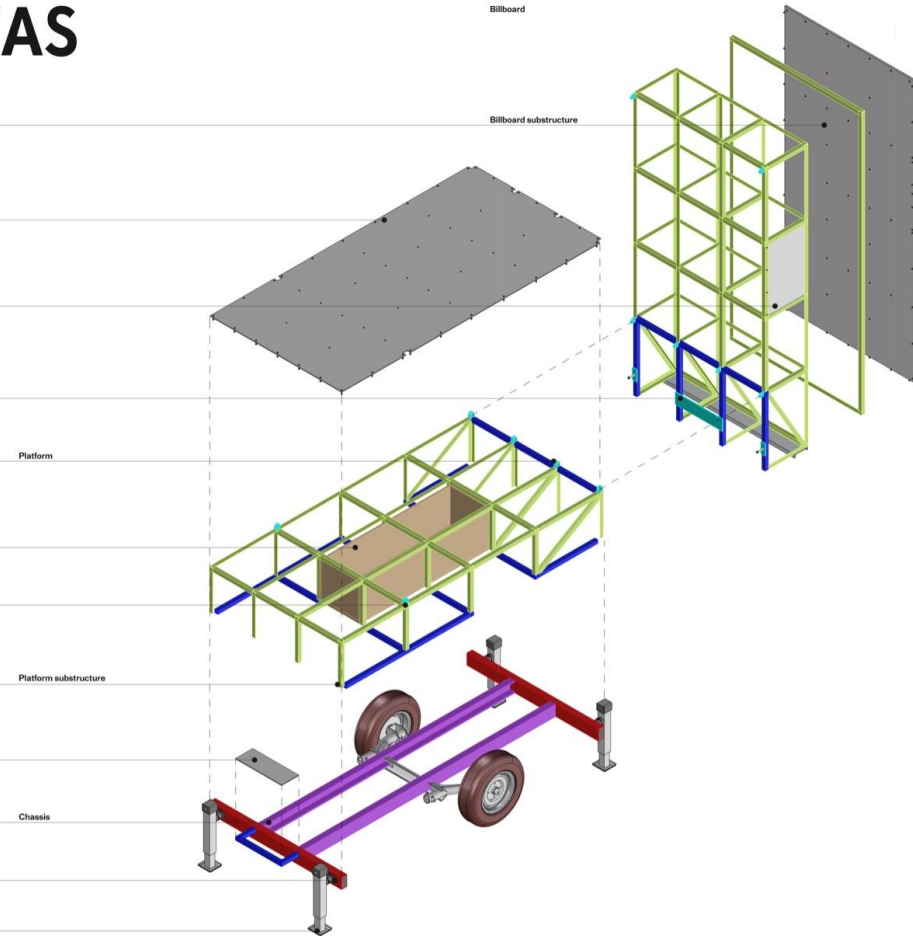
### AXONOMETRY

# Design & Build

## Initial design ideas

# OUTDOOR CANVAS

- 15mm buffalo board bolted to substructure with countersunk M8x20mm at the perimeter and M6x20mm bolts on the inside with nyloc nuts at min. 300mm centres
- 5mm steel chequerplate bolted to substructure with countersunk M8x20mm at the perimeter and M6x20mm bolts on the inside with nyloc nuts at min. 300mm centres
- 5mm steel signage plate fixed to substructure with countersunk M6x15mm bolts min. 200mm centres
- Steel friction plates, welded to substructure  
Refer to detail drawing
- Hinge system  
Refer to structural engineer specification
- Plywood box filled with ballast  
Refer to structural engineer specification
- Facing system, M12x100mm bolts fixed/loosened on-site  
Refer to structural engineer specification
- 30x30x3mm galvanised steel angles welded together to form substructure for billboard and platform
- 5mm steel chequerplate sidetee, bolted to welded 30x30x3mm RHS steel substructure
- Trailer chassis 50x100mm PFC in galvanised steel
- Trailer chassis 50x100mm RHS in galvanised steel
- Side-winding jacks

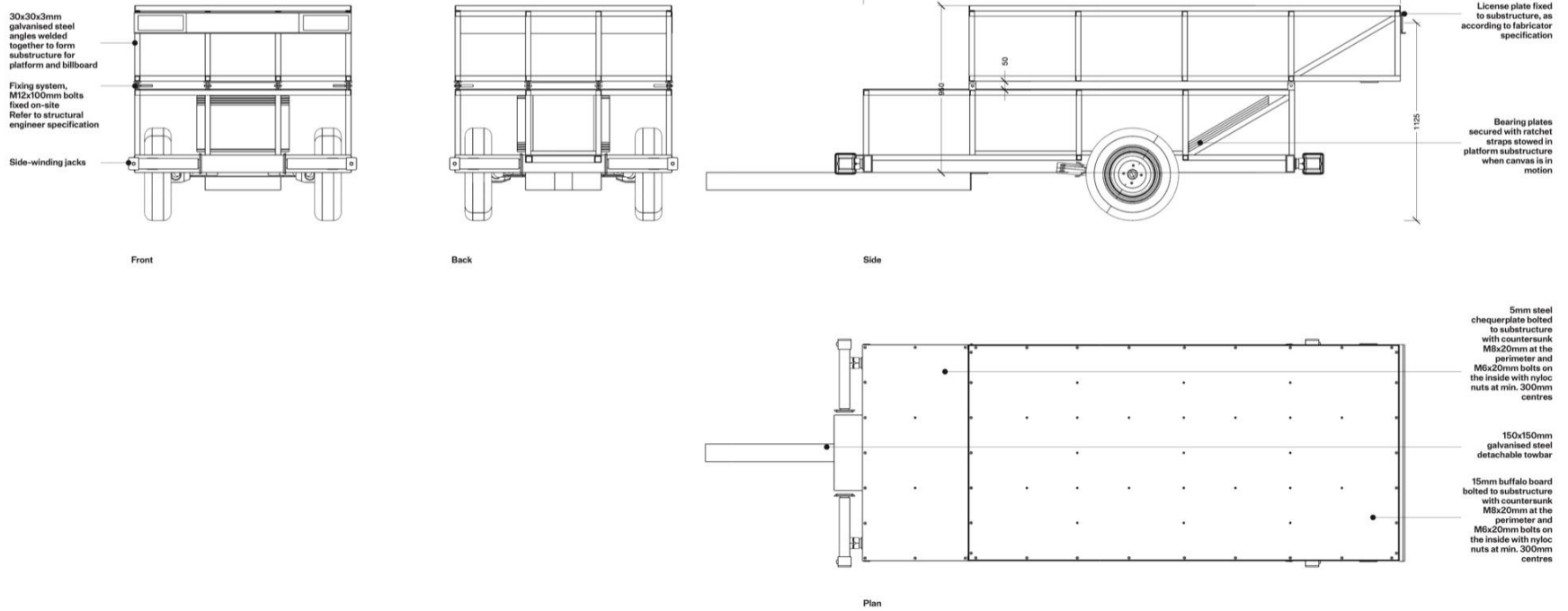


## AXONOMETRY

- 30x30x3mm angle
- 30x30x3mm RHS
- 50x100mm PFC
- 50x100mm RHS

# Design & Build

## Initial design ideas

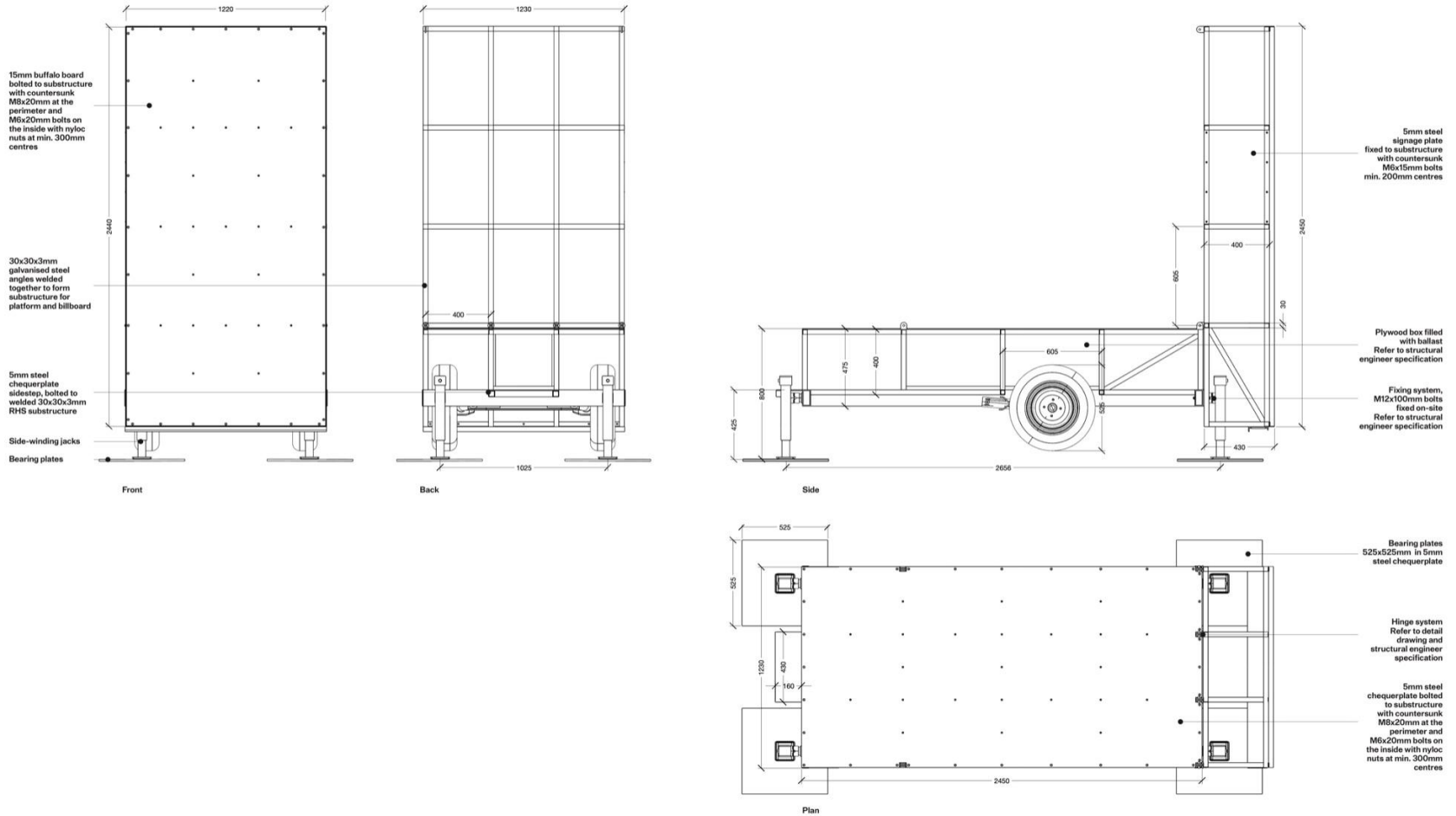


**PLAN & ELEVATION - CLOSED - 1:20 @ A3**



# Design & Build

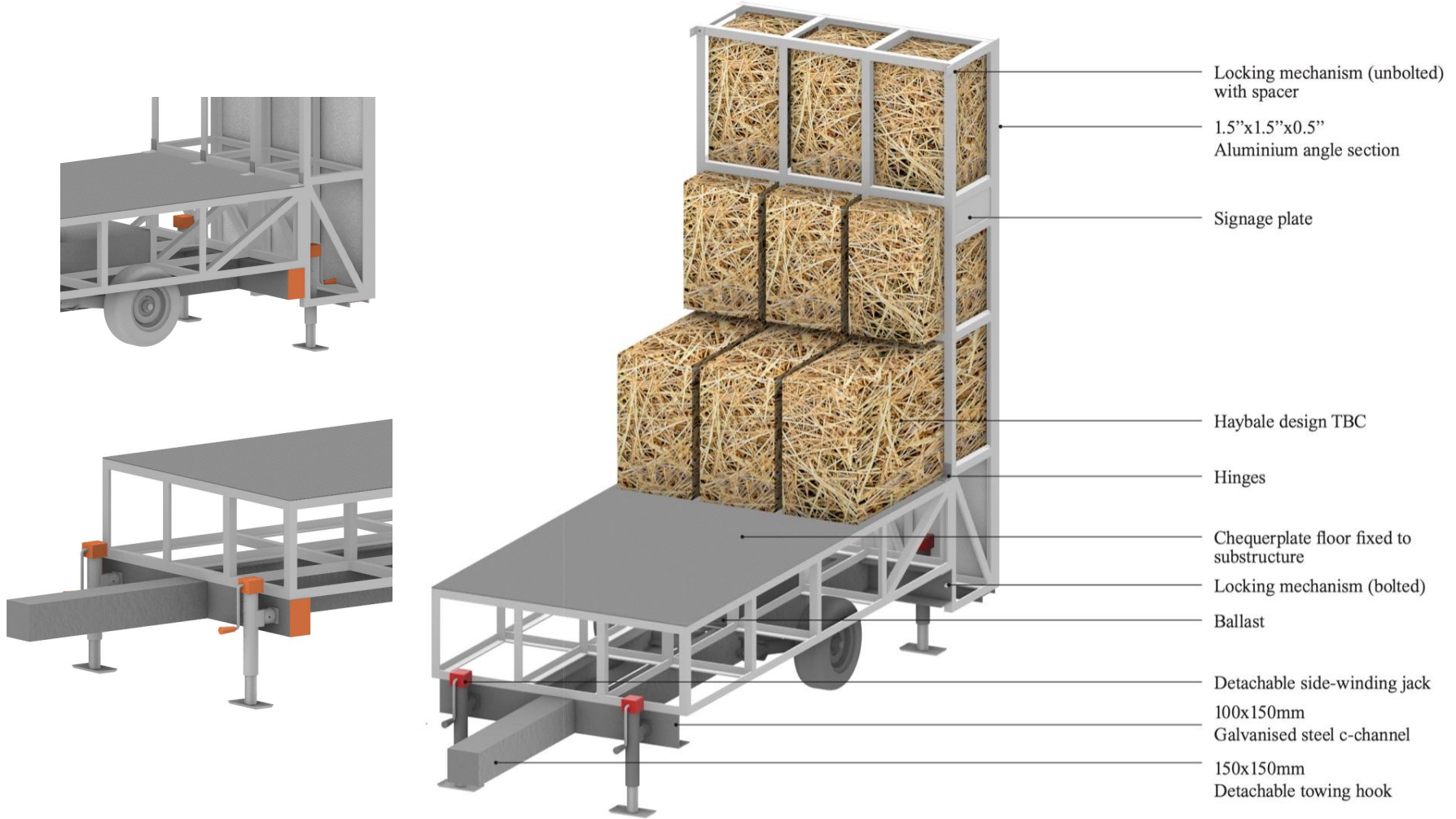
## Initial design ideas



**PLAN & ELEVATION - OPEN - 1:20 @ A3**

# Design & Build

## Initial design ideas



Note: Designs are in the process of being reviewed by structural engineer and fabricator

COMPANY, PLACE

# Design & Build

## Initial design ideas

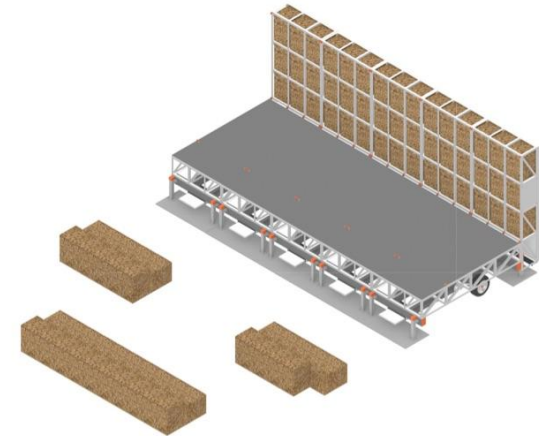
A moveable, foldable, modular outdoor canvas is comprised of a billboard on one side and a platform on the other side.

Five of these can be arranged in various permutations to allow certain activities, e.g. a performance or an exhibition.

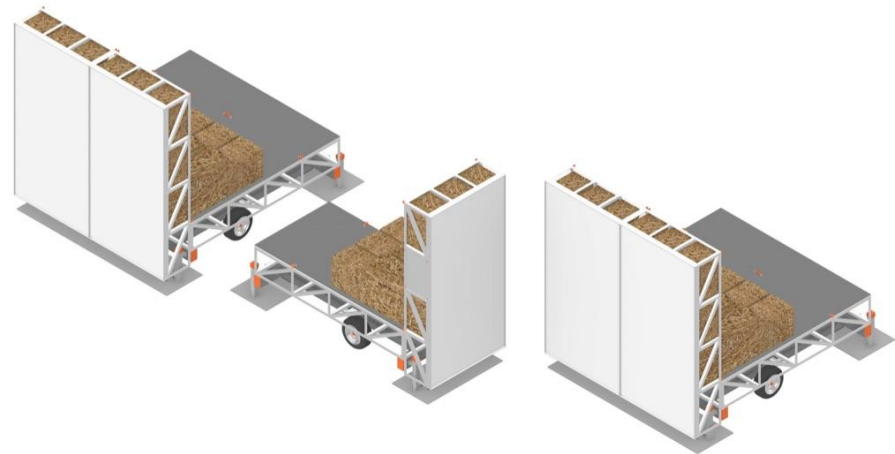
Drawing inspiration from the agricultural context of the site, the structures take after hay storage devices. As such, in the summer season when the outdoor canvas is in use, the structure will be filled with and surrounded by haybales in order to support a programme of activities.

STORE will run the following workshops to support the design and programme of these outdoor canvases:

- 1 - Structural design
- 2 - Archaeology
- 3 - Energy systems
- 4 - Hay baling



A performance



An exhibition

## AXONOMETRY

## Research & Artwork

### Inaugural Artist: The Rodina

[The Rodina](#) is a post-critical design studio with an experimental practice drenched in strategies of performance art, play and subversion. Both in commissioned work and in autonomous practice, they activate and re-imagine a dazzling range of layered meanings across, below and beyond the surface of design.

The studio explores the spatial and interactive possibilities of virtual environments as a space for new thoughts and aesthetics that come forward from between culture and technology. The Rodina has been researching performativity within graphic design since 2014. We coined the term "*performative design*" (in the field of visual communication) which is further described in *Action to Surface* publication.

[Data Connection](#) - The Rodina sit in a space between design and research, using visual identities, unique exhibition design, unforgettable user experience, and participatory installations. We think they would be able to highlight some of the incredible work taking place within the university. Data from and for the landscape.



## Research & Artwork

### Inaugral Artist: The Rodina - Initial proposal

We are interested in technical images produced by scientific tools and methods in the Begbroke Science Park. We want to use them in a poetic way to put them into dialogue and contrast with the Saxon artefacts found during the archeological research.

Another Landscape

Research

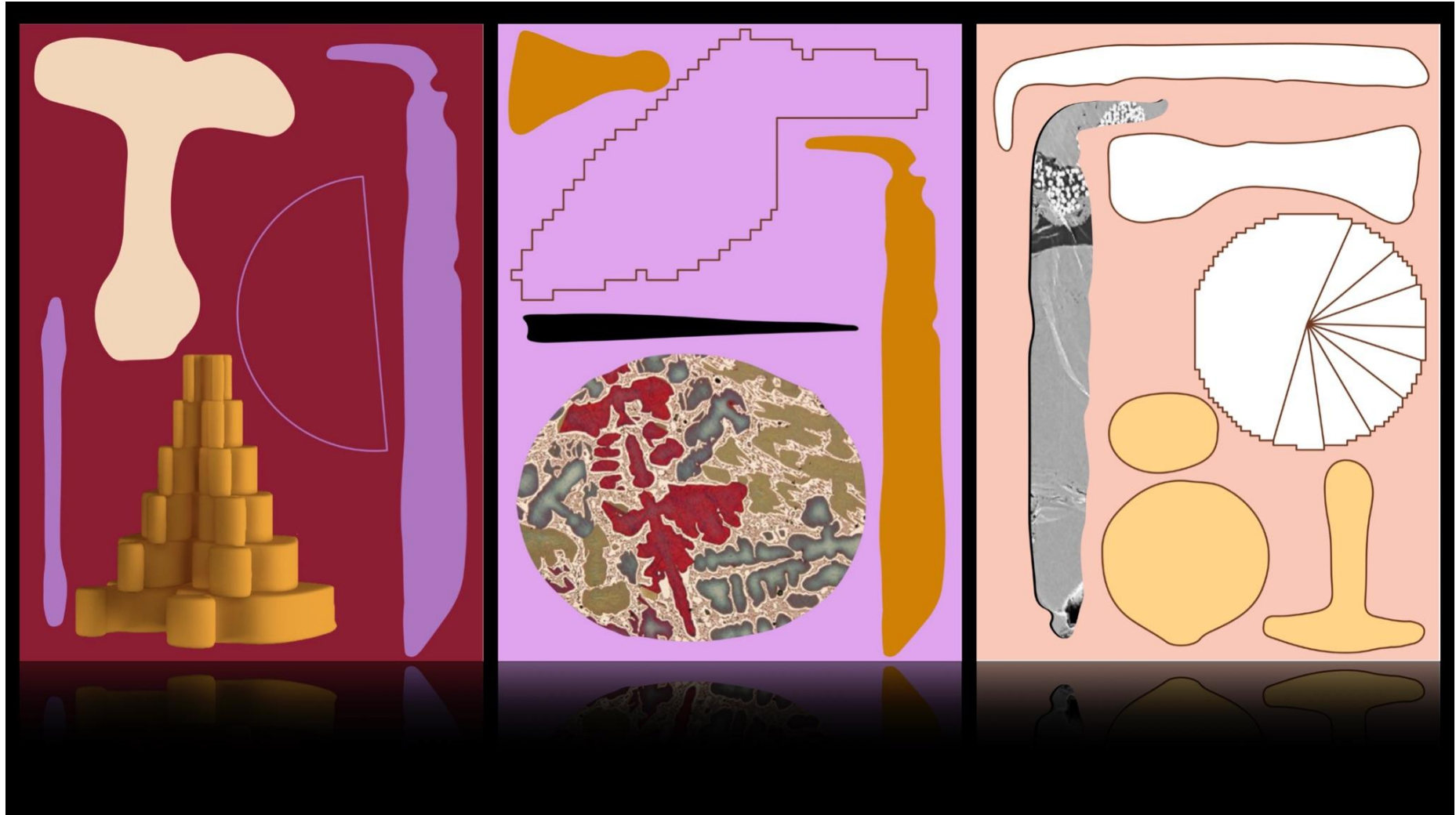
Technological

Scientific

Poetic

# Research & Artwork

## Inaugral Artist: The Rodina - Initial proposal



NB. Indicative designs, not the final artwork

# Research & Artwork

## Inaugral Artist: The Rodina - Initial proposal

### Overview



NB. Indicative designs, not the final artwork

## Research & Artwork

### Inaugral Artist: The Rodina

Design Methods: (1) Eco print; (2) CNC shapes attached to a banner  
(3) Visual Dialogue = using lab images from actual research.  
(4) Performative: we will paint it from ecological inks and acrylics at the spot. (5) Participatory: can be done on posters or during a workshop and then designed into a 'community' surface cohabited with technical images.

Another Landscape

Participatory

Ecological

Contextual

Poetic



# Research & Artwork

## Inaugural Artist: The Rodina

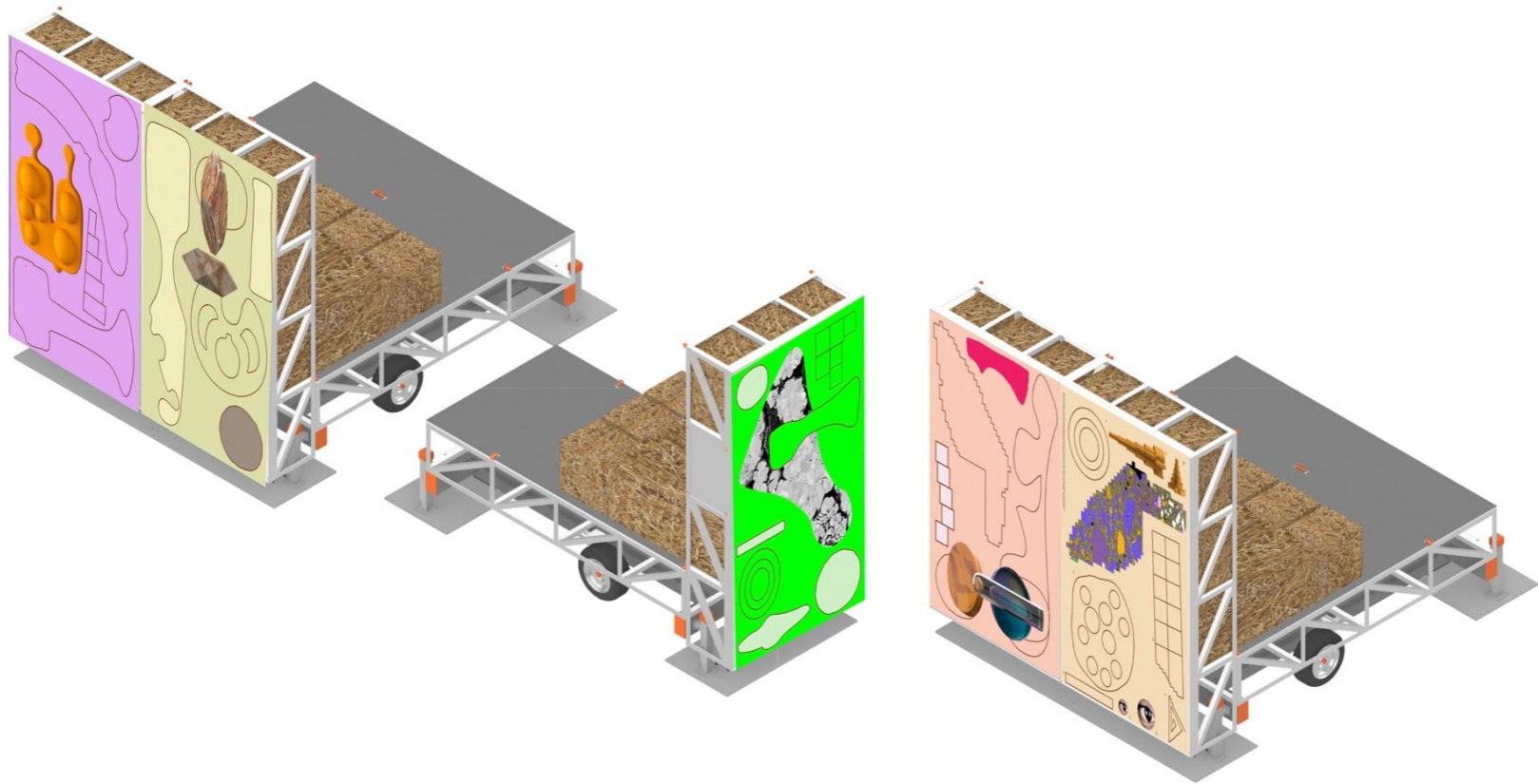


Participatory Design

NB. Indicative designs, not the final artwork

# Research & Artwork

## Inaugural Artist: The Rodina



NB. Indicative designs, not the final artwork

# Initial Siting Opportunities

Inaugural Installation: 1st September 2023 - June 2024

Initially we would like to locate the structure in and around the science park



# Initial Siting Opportunities



# Initial Siting Opportunities



# Initial Siting Opportunities

## Second Installation: June 2024 - June 2025

Post summer 2024 we would like to locate the structure in and around the new improved paths



# Initial Siting Opportunities



# Initial Siting Opportunities

