

# Open Up

WR-AP + GB Urban Studio + Francesca Perry

Turning barriers into green community connectors.

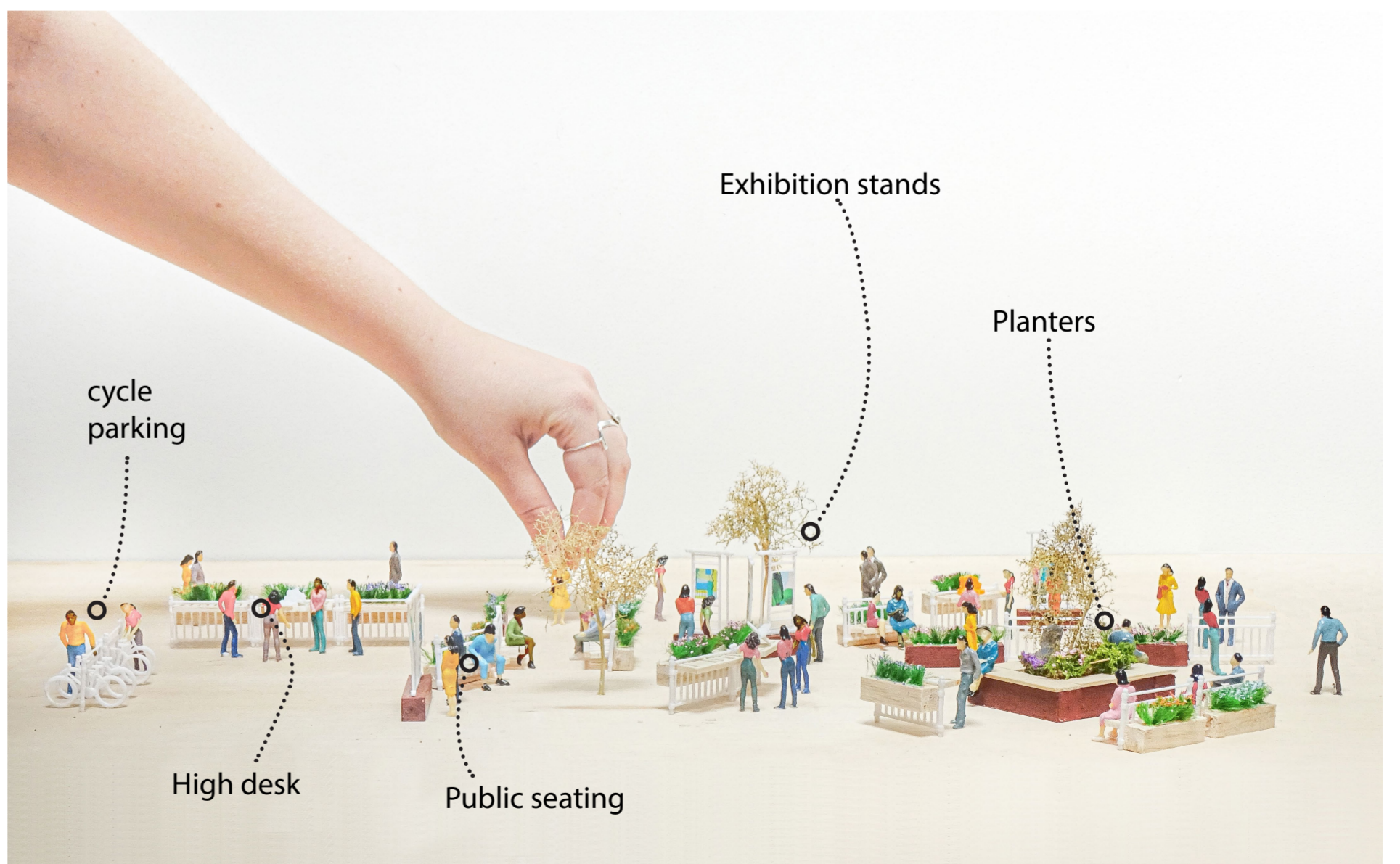


## Proposal

We propose a series of 'green pockets' across Notting Hill Gate that will become places of relaxation, leisure, culture, play, and greenery – and which celebrate sustainability and local creativity. One big idea is to replace the old metal railings in the middle of the road running eastwards from the Tube station with planters of bamboo, to add greenery into this traffic-heavy area and help improve air quality. This would continue the 1990s transformation in Notting Hill Gate, where trees replaced railings.

We believe in reducing waste, so want to repurpose these removed metal railings to become new forms of street furniture, combining them with wooden additions to form public seating, high desk, planters, cycle parking, play equipment and even exhibition stands to showcase local culture. Situated in the 'green pockets', these transformed railings would be joined by night-time lighting, community murals, more plants, and sustainable public seating made from recycled timber and rubble. We would save some railings and work with the RBKC Youth Council and community members to collaboratively transform them for the wider neighbourhood – in school yards, community centres and gardens.

We understand and support the community's desire to improve the pedestrian environment, enhance greenery and celebrate local culture – helping Notting Hill Gate become a healthier, greener place which brings people together and invites them to stay.



Please scan this QR code to submit feedback on the proposed competition entry



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Notting Hill Gate Central Line Tube Station



Performance and exhibition space in front of Itsu



The New Notting Hill Gate



Sean Weston

Max Rengifo

Germán Bahamón

Francesca Perry

Together as a team, we are committed to sustainable, participatory architecture that nimbly responds to context and brings joy. WR-AP is an architectural practice based in southwest London, founded in 2018 by Max Rengifo and Sean Weston, after sharing 16 years of professional experience in the UK. Their process emphasises strong community engagement alongside thorough architectural thinking.

GB Urban Studio is the practice of Germán Bahamón, a Colombian architect now living and working in Notting Hill Gate. Germán was co-founder of colab-19, a Bogotá-based laboratory of architecture which worked on rapid-response, post-pandemic constructions. Francesca Perry is founder of Thinking City, a platform for inclusive urbanism, and has a background in journalism and participatory urban design across London.