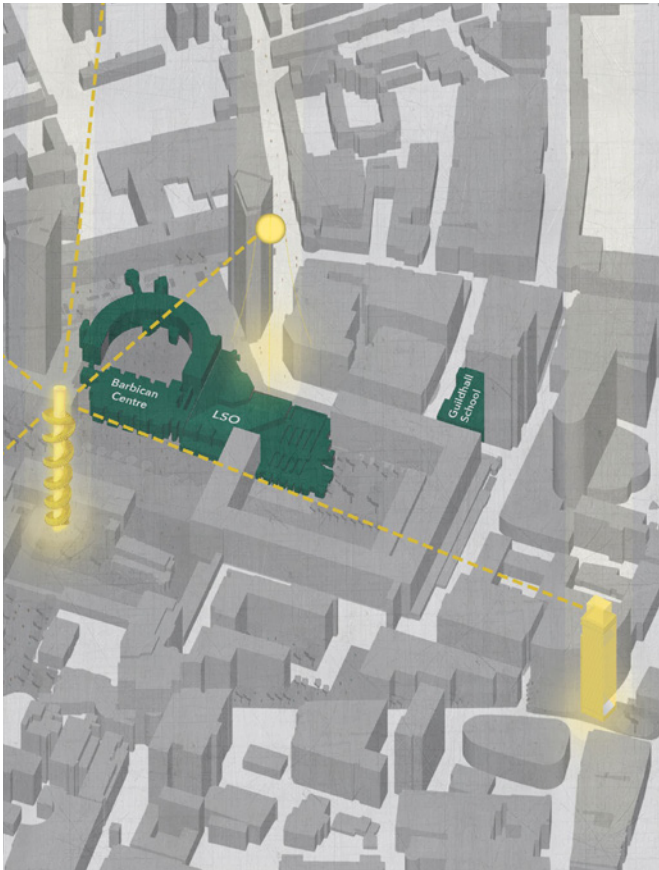


SPACEHUB

BEACONS INTERVENTIONS CONNECTIONS

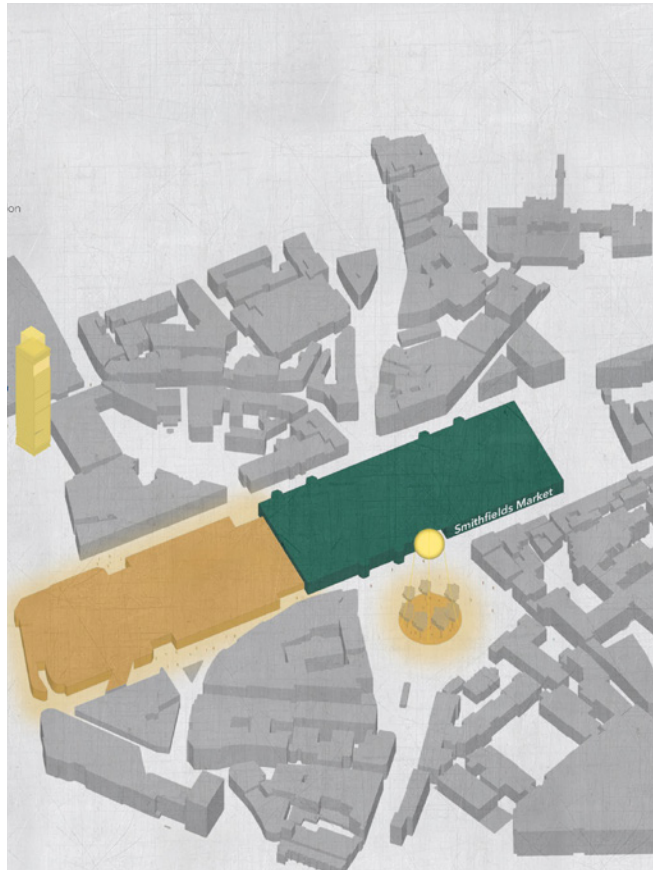
culture mile
summer speculations





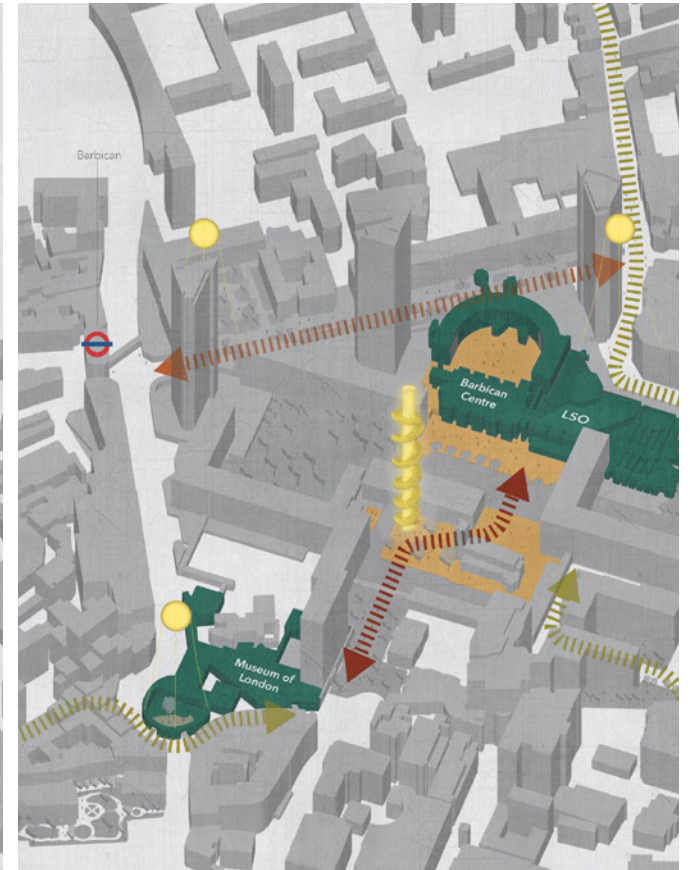
BEACONS

A wayfinding family of objects reaching up high in the sky and marking the way to cultural institutions and their outdoor interventions



INTERVENTIONS

Structures in open spaces adjacent to cultural institutions - site specific and tailored to bring the inside out



CONNECTIONS

New and improved links between beacons and through intervention sites to improve legibility and visitor experience of the Culture Mile



The square mile stretching from Moorgate to Farringdon Road is home to internationally recognised cultural institutions - such as the Barbican Centre, London Symphony Orchestra, Guildhall School for Music and Drama, Museum of London and Smithfield Market.

These organisations are fundamental to the cultural heritage of the city. Our proposals aim to establish the Culture Mile - a celebration of London's arts scene, brought outside into the public realm to animate the streets and revealing these cultural institutions to a wider audience.

Currently, the area is fraught with heavily trafficked roads, disorientating aerial walkways and vast buildings. A pedestrian's experience is confused, indirect and commonly ignorant of the cultural significance of the surrounding buildings.

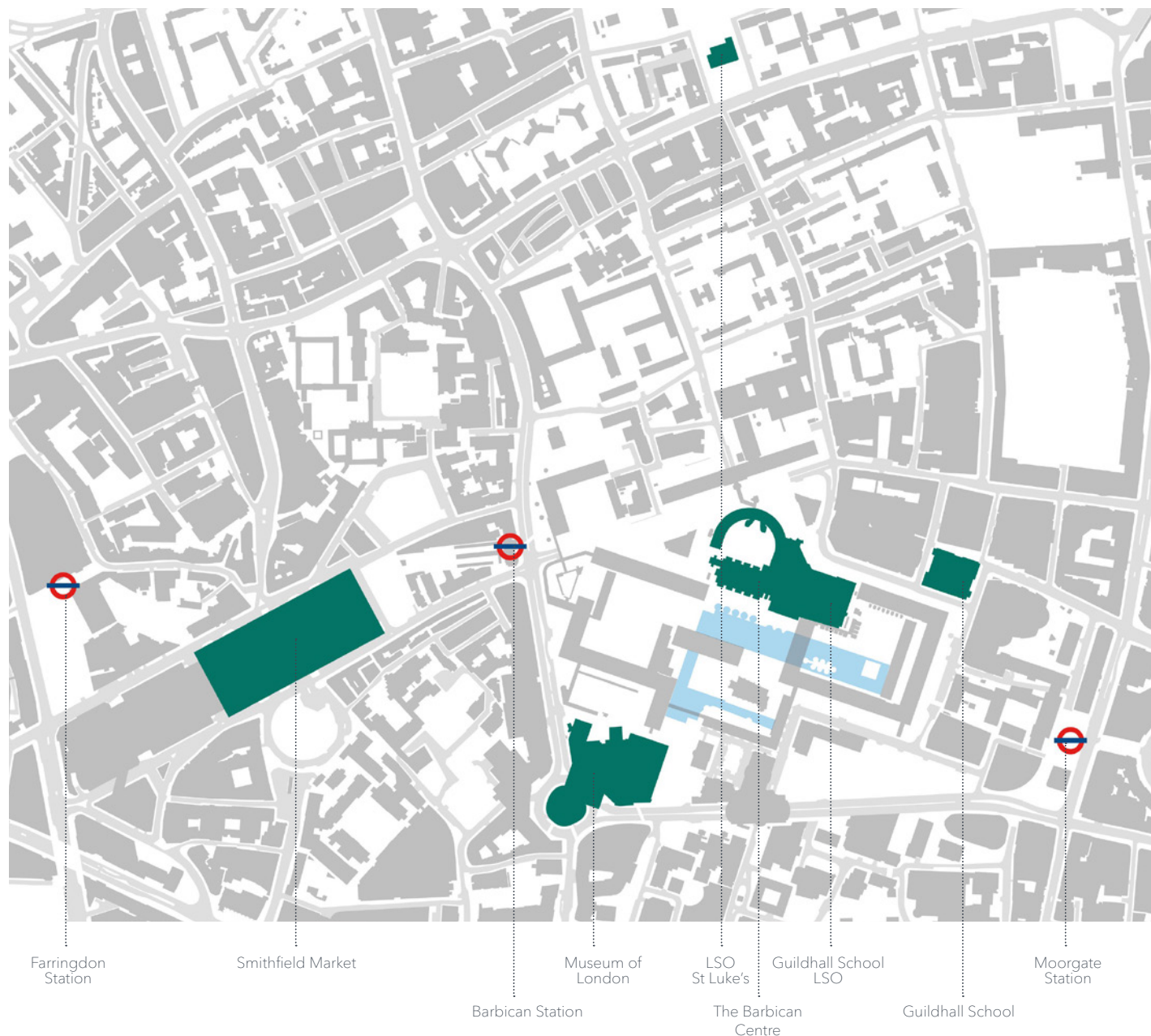
The area is also in transition. Over the next 5 -10 years the Museum of London will move to West Smithfield while a new home for the London Symphony Orchestra will be built in the Museum's current site. In this time, establishing the Culture Mile with a series of interventions will aid this transition whilst providing opportunities for meantime activity in currently vacant spaces.

With our proposals we aim to:

- Improve wayfinding and create an instantly recognisable symbol of the Culture Mile
- Enable cultural institutions to take their activities from the inside to the outside
- Connect spaces and institutions through an existing complicated urban network

These aims will be achieved through:

- The design and placement of a series of **beacons** at key locations within the Culture Mile
- The provision of built **interventions** for the cultural establishments to inhabit and expand their activities outside of their buildings and into the public realm
- Improved and new **connections** between beacons and interventions to help navigate the Culture Mile.



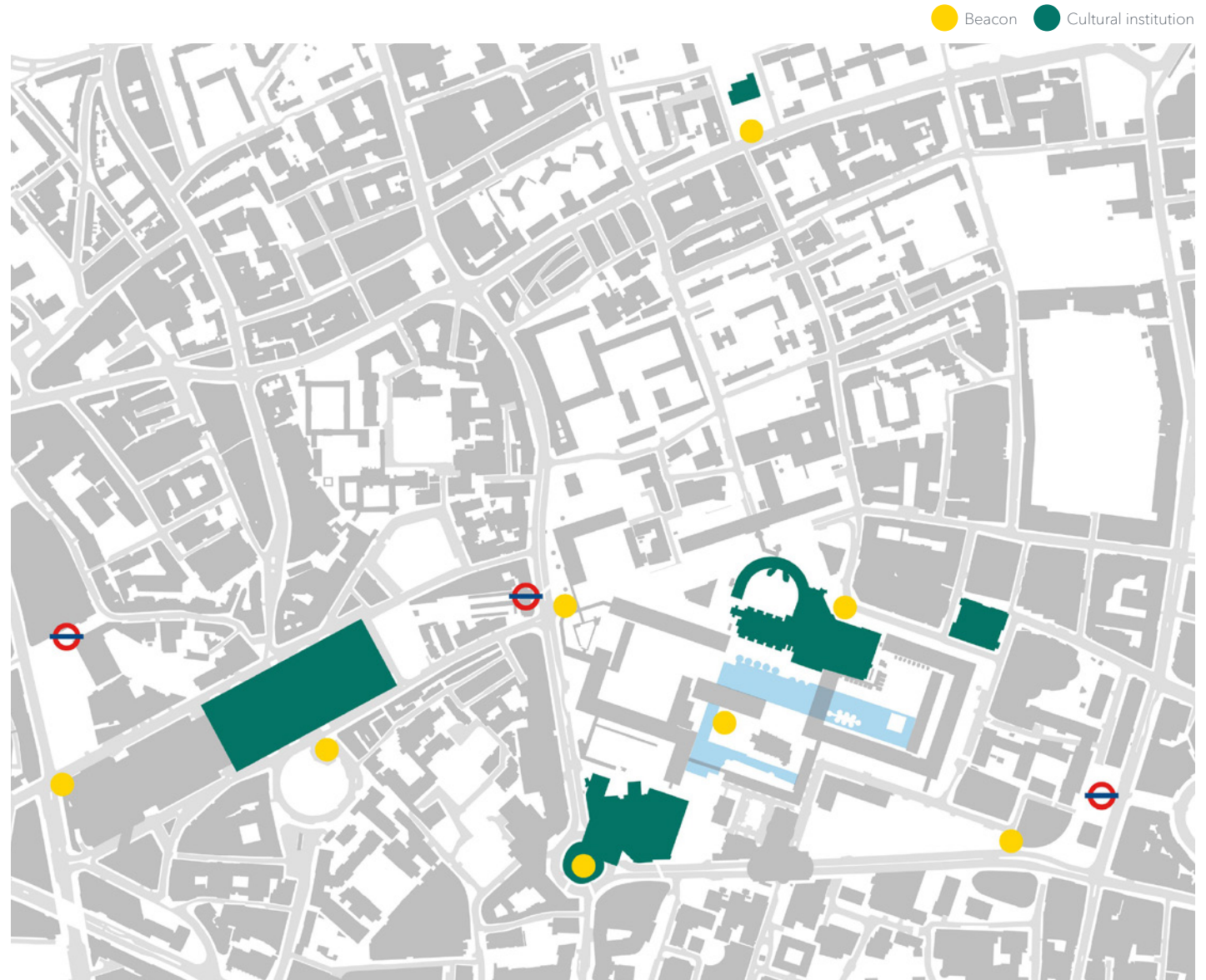
BEACONS

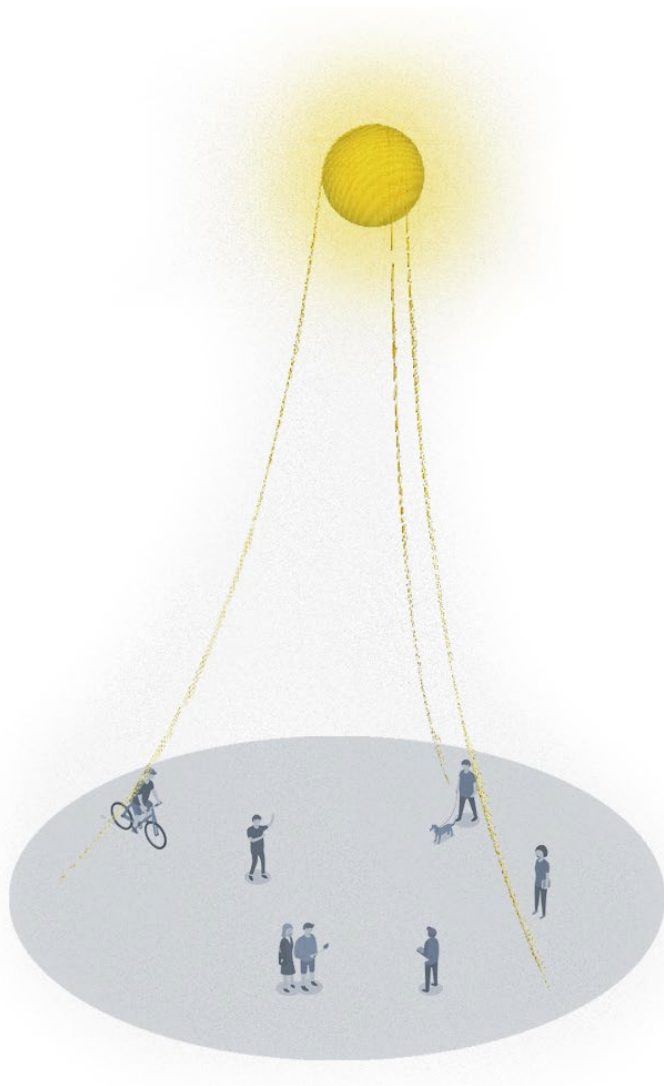


Wayfinding is integral to establishing the Culture Mile. Currently the area is blighted by main roads - busy, polluted and difficult to cross. Labyrinthine high walks in the Barbican, large buildings and broken connections make the journey through the area difficult to navigate - a key concern we aim to address through our **beacons**.

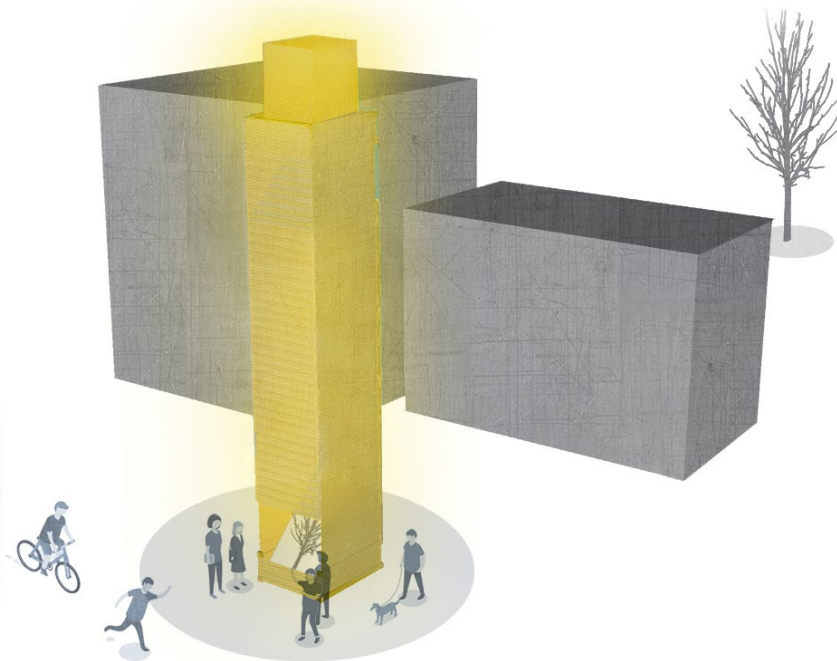
Our beacons guide the way through the Culture Mile. Each beacon is placed at key viewpoints and cultural institutions - at the Barbican Centre and Guildhall School, the Museum of London, LSO St Luke's and the future museum at West Smithfield. At each of these points, outdoor interventions bringing the inside of these cultural centres out into the public realm will occur.

The establishment of the Culture Mile will come in phases - as will the beacons. When the district is in its early stages, short term beacons will provide a temporary solution. As it becomes a distinguished centre for culture, the beacons can become more permanent structures.

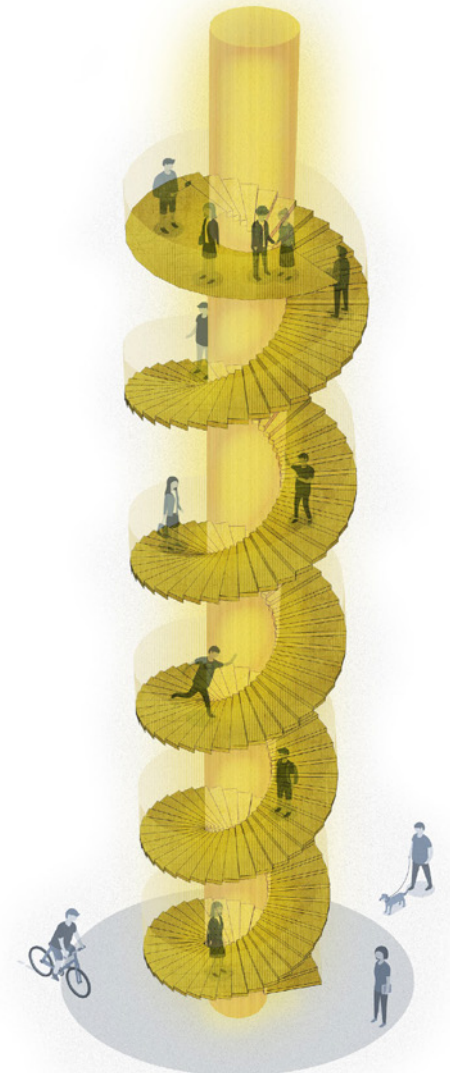




Short term - balloon lights floating above the built skyline offer a temporary and relatively inexpensive beacon for instant impact.



Medium term - giant periscopes offer views above the skyline whilst people pass at ground level. These could be made out of recycled material and placed at Moorgate and Farringdon Stations - the entrance points of the Culture Mile.



Long term - a viewing platform structure with steps and lifts. A landmark feature which could replace one or two of the other beacon types at key viewpoints.



INTERVENTIONS



Each of the identified cultural institutions have open spaces either adjoining them or located very close by.

This area is rich in open space - thanks to the network of gardens set within the Barbican. Other green spaces are scattered across the proposed Culture Mile area, some more used than others. This resource provides an excellent canvas for our proposals.

Due to their close proximity to each of the institutions, these open spaces are ideal platforms for bringing the inside out.

A series of **interventions** - structures which are multifunctional in their use yet site specific and tailored to each institution - will sit within each identified space and bring the activities of the inside into the outside - increasing the presence of the establishments within the public realm.

This family of structures have a coherent design language and will be recognisable as being part of the Culture Mile. They could be temporary or permanent depending on the institutions' needs over time, and can be easily adapted in the future.

In the following pages, we will show a few of the interventions, namely:

1. The Exhibition Structure, Barbican Centre
2. The Performance Structure, St Giles Terrace
3. The Play / Shop Structure, Rotunda Garden

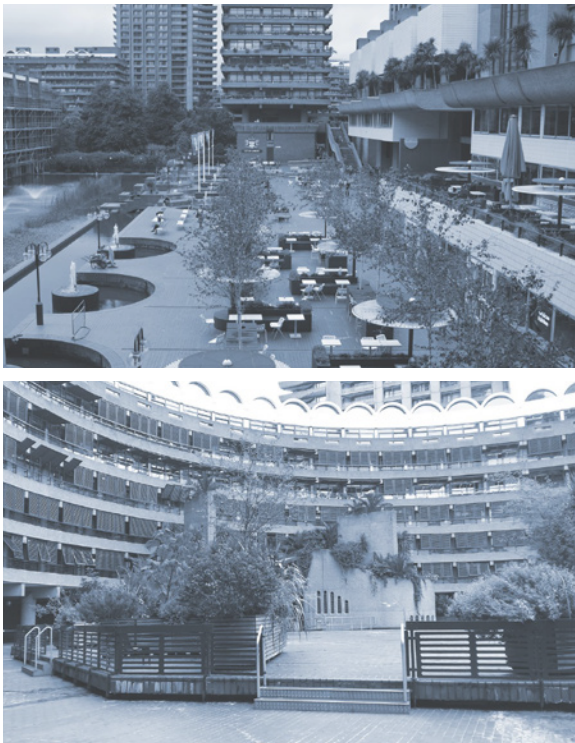
Elsewhere, interventions take on a similar theme, each adapted to their position and the people they will serve - whilst at West Smithfield the whole structure can be taken over with installations and events in preparation for its take-over by the Museum of London.



1. The Exhibition Structure, Barbican Centre

The Barbican Centre has various outdoor spaces, and this structure can inhabit any one of them on a temporary basis - perhaps to promote major exhibits or performances. The Barbican can hold exhibitions in these spaces - making arts and design accessible to all and visible to those who pass through these terraces. Display boards on pivots could be turned to arrange exhibitions differently, or moved to create 'rooms' and 'pockets'. Each board has seating, so when not in use as displays, they provide a pleasant space to sit and enjoy the terraces.

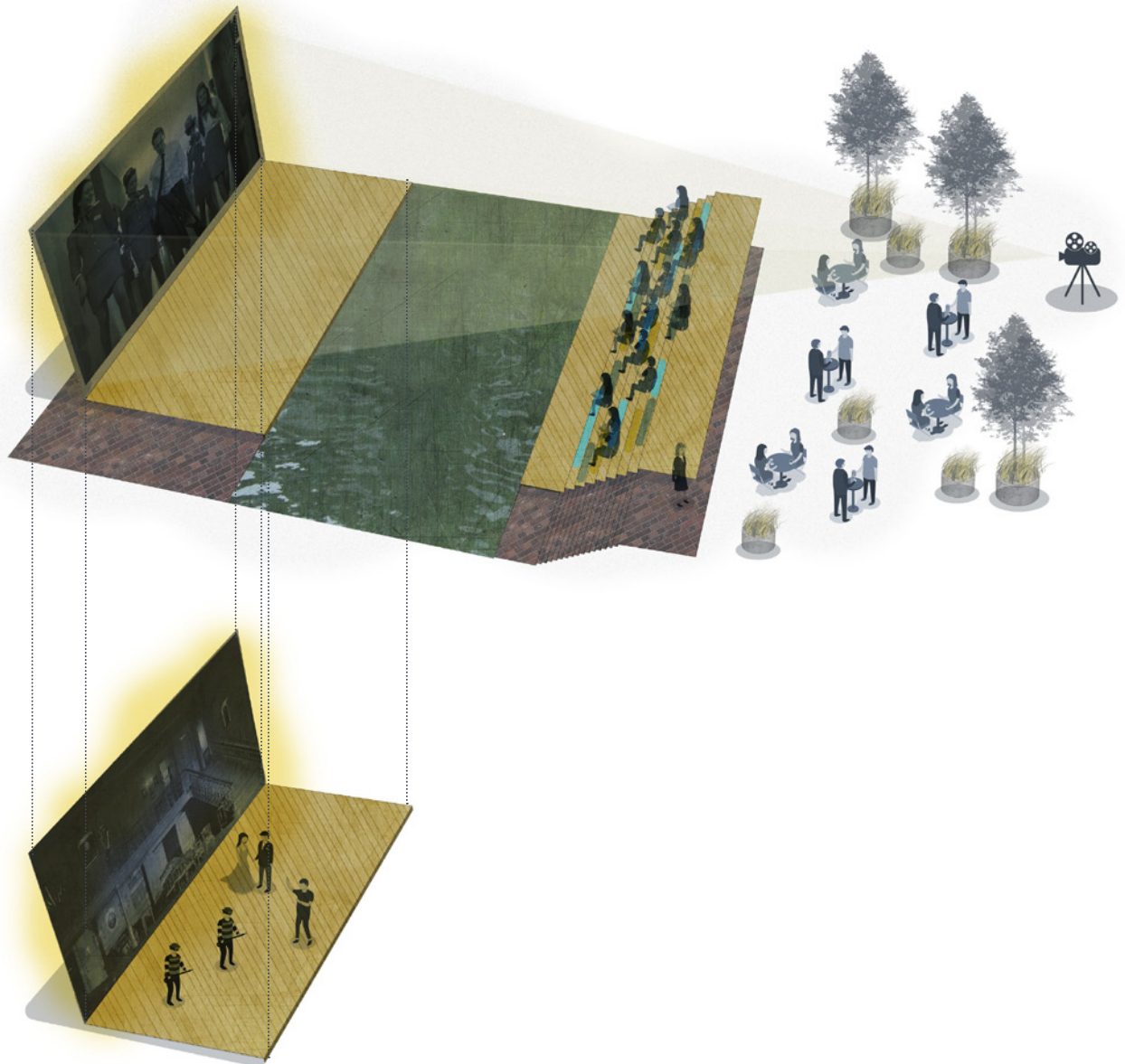
This structure provides an opportunity for the Barbican to push their activities outside and exploit their iconic terraces and gardens - catching people as they walk through who may otherwise not enter inside the centre.



2. The Performance Structure, St Giles Terrace

This intervention could be used by several of the cultural institutions who operate within the area - the Barbican centre, the Guildhall School and the London Symphony Orchestra. Located on an otherwise underused terrace of the Barbican, the stage and backdrop element could be put up on weekends and summer when the school opposite St Giles is closed. The seating element can remain as a more fixed intervention.

This structure brings film, drama, music and dance outside. These organisations can benefit from the rise in popularity of outdoor screens and theatres whilst making use of the area around St Giles and the existing stepped terrace.



3. The Play / Shop Structure, Rotunda Garden

Positioned in the West Smithfield Rotunda Garden, this intervention structure will bring some life back into the space and animate the area throughout the day - the operational part of Smithfield Market is only open in the early hours of the morning.

This structure could be a home to events from all cultural institutions in the Culture Mile, as well as a space for local events. Play is actively encouraged while structures for pop-ups or market stalls extend the hours of food culture in the area.



CONNECTIONS



Our final proposal is to improve **connections** in between our cultural establishments and their adjoining open spaces.

Currently, spaces are disconnected and although someone may see their destination, they find it difficult to travel along a clear and coherent route to reach it. With our new links and improved connections between institutions, we aim to offer logical and recognisable courses through the Cultural Mile - easily spotted from the beacons.

These connections take people through intervention sites and allow easier access to cultural establishments - activities and events will become more visible to passers-by. The connections will be recognisable as being part of the Culture Mile through common forms, colours, furniture, flags, artwork etc.

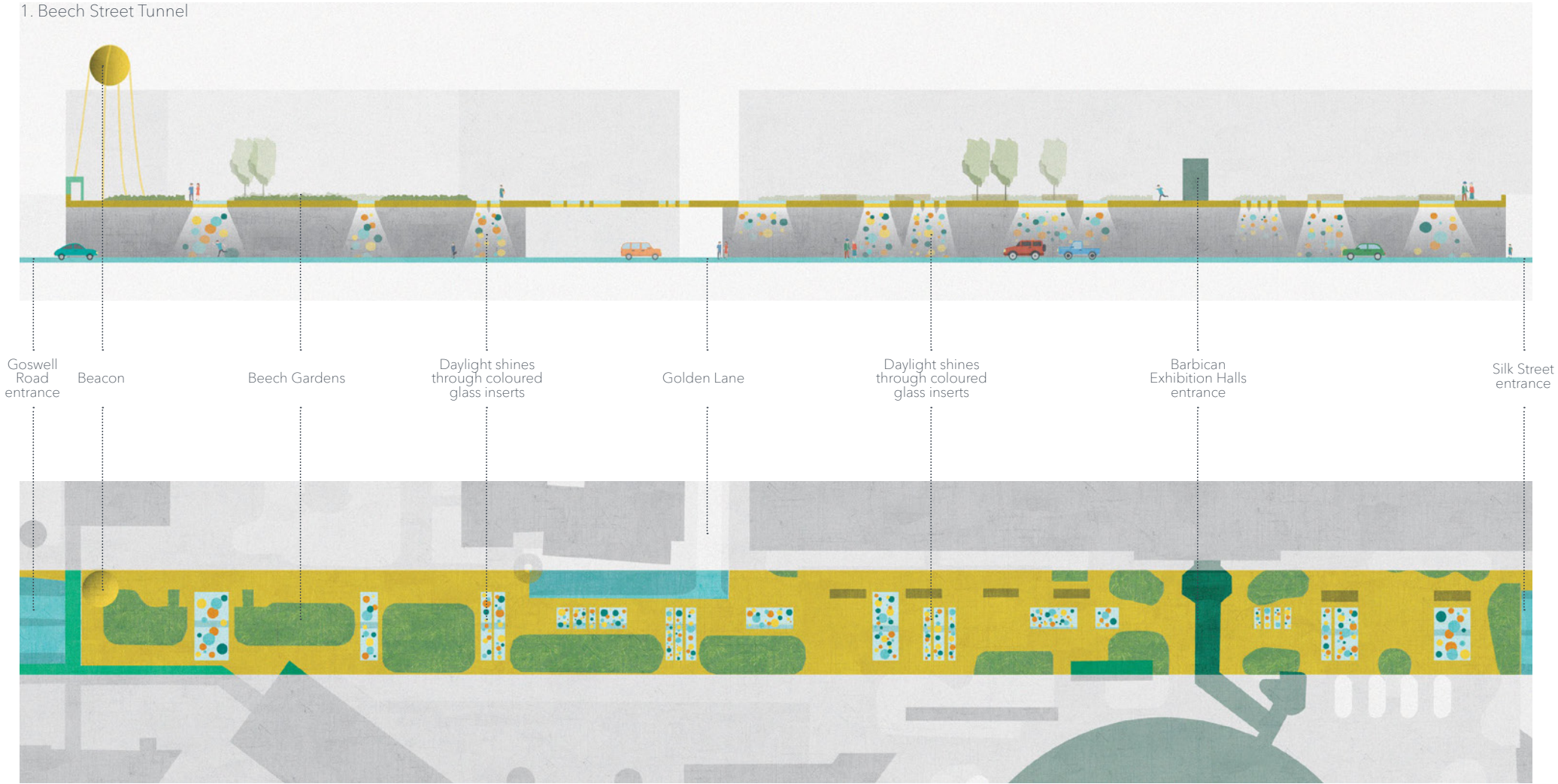
New and improved links also follow the 'inside out' theme:

- Breaking out parts of Beech Street Tunnel
- Bridging spaces on ground level which would otherwise be crossed inside buildings and highwalks
- Designing parklets in the street for outside dining/gathering - particularly on Whitecross Street where a weekday street-food market is held.

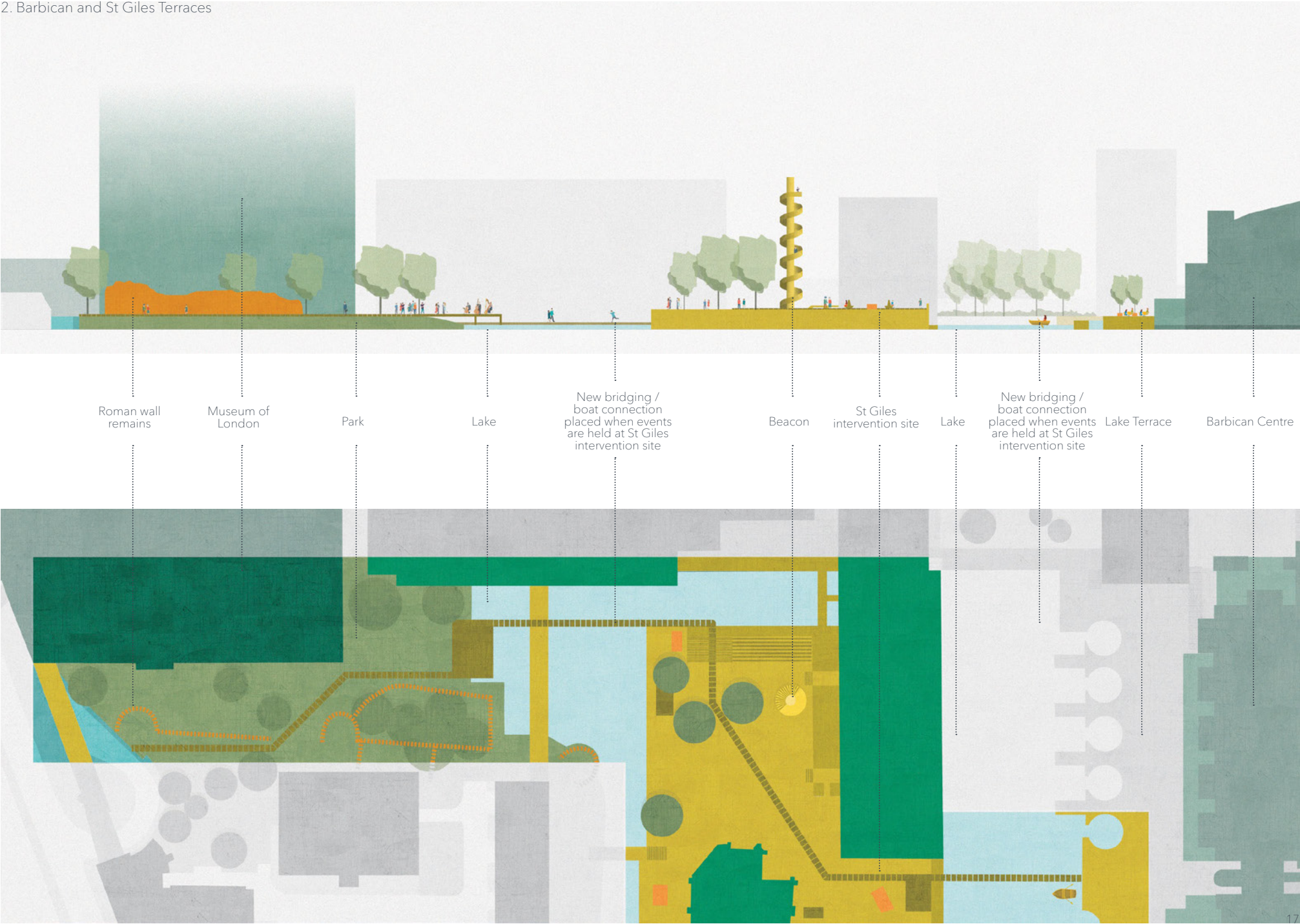
Pedestrian experience is enhanced by moving visitors through the Culture Mile and away from hostile road environments.



1. Beech Street Tunnel



2. Barbican and St Giles Terraces



3. Whitecross Street



