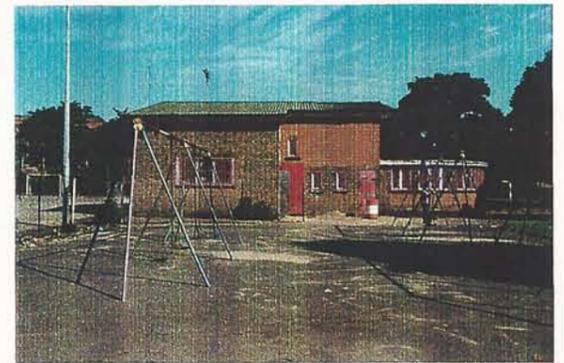
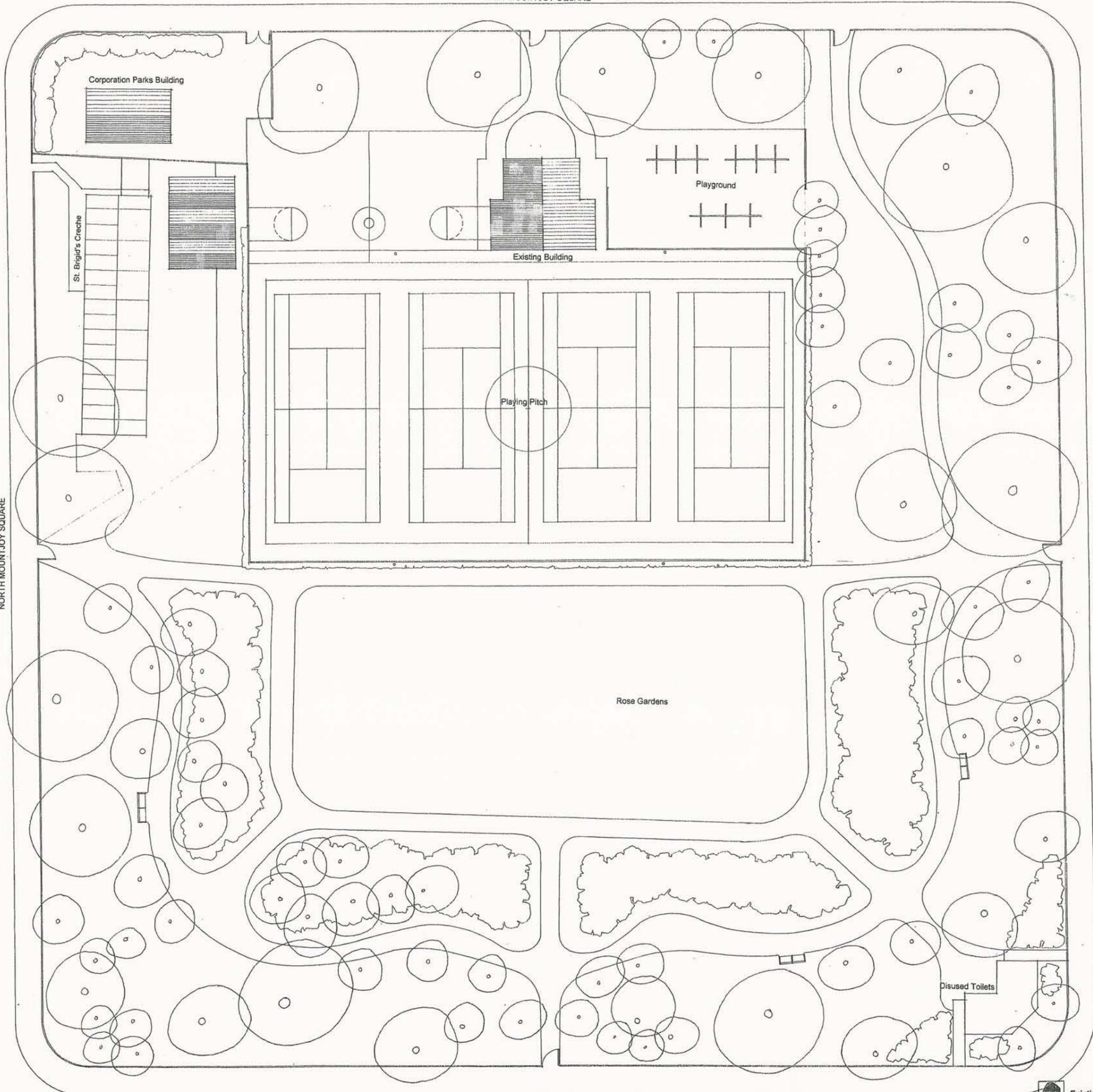
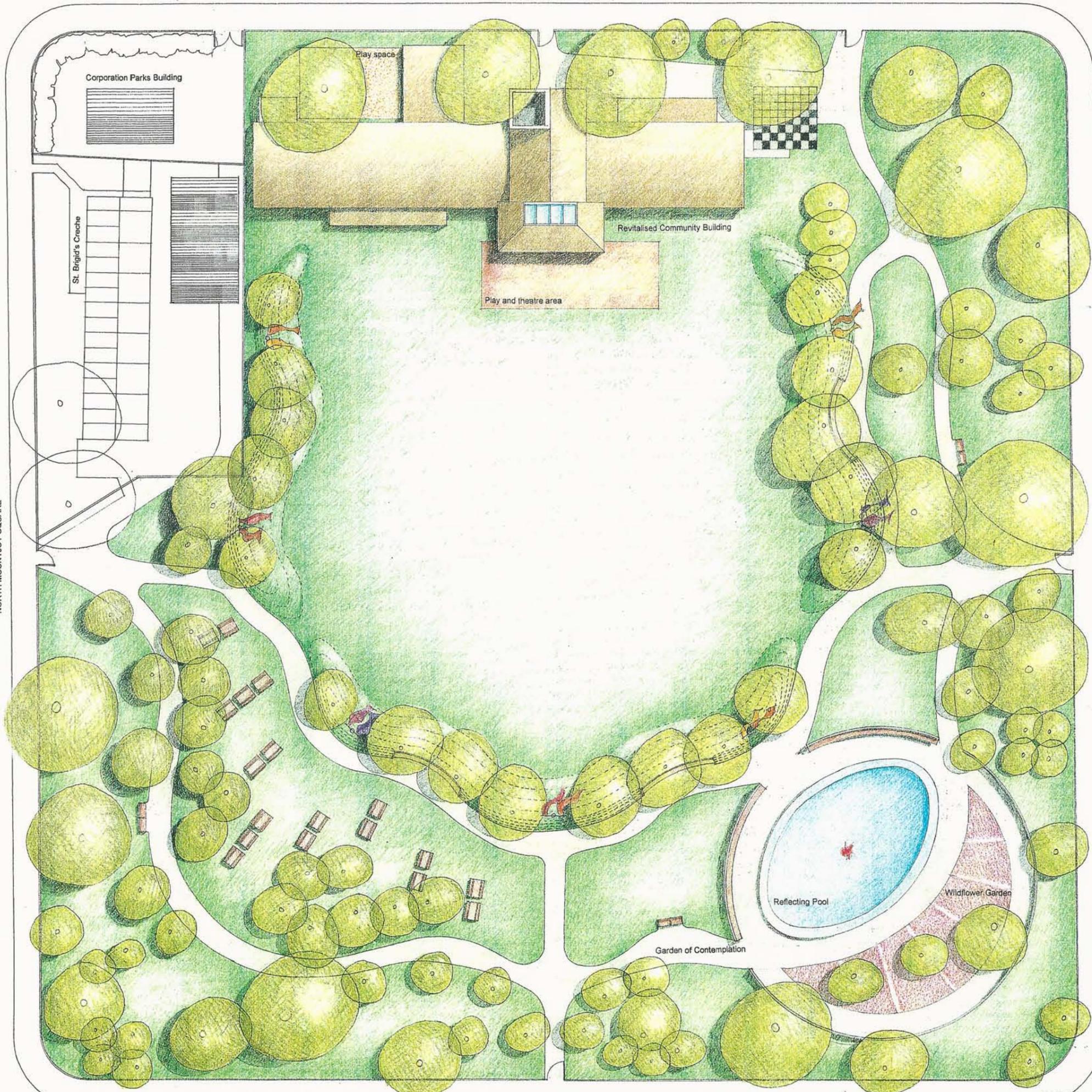


Mountjoy Square Masterplan 1998  
NJBA with Bridget Fitzgerald artist  
DIT NOW Programme





**Environmental Imperative - Reclaiming the Park**  
The biggest impediment to use of the Park has been its extensive bushes. While environmentally they appear quite attractive, they shield and isolate whole sections of the Park. The reality is a series of unsafe places which the local community hesitate to use. The NOW participants decided immediately that all the bushes and ground cover must be removed. Certain aspects of the park have also become associated with one sort of activity. This heavily restricted potential or more general community activities. From these two main issues came the decision to introduce a clearing at the heart of the Park as a symbol of regrowth. This space would become the central activity area of the Park allowing full community participation and involvement. Instead of fences and hedges this area is defined by a low undulating berm topped by *Robinia, Honey Locust or Silver Birch*. (The final decisions in relation to all planting will be made at community level). The clearing in conjunction with the building will become a place of celebration for the community. Lighting masts located along the top of the berm will both illuminate the space and provide a hanging space for banners to be produced by the local children each year. The problematic area of the toilets has been removed in favour of a garden of contemplation. The completed garden would contain a reflecting pond with an eternal flame, a meadow and herb garden giving forth a perfume to the space. Walls would be covered in *virginia creeper* and would have small pockets for mementos, prayers or memories.



**Project Sunflower**  
The Sunflower Project suggested here involves an education programme through which children from the community will actively learn about plants, by sowing seedlings and caring for the new growth. In addition to environmental information, available in the new building, information plaques would be erected around the park, so that the children can explore the larger realm of nature. To support the Sunflower project it is suggested that space in the community building will be devoted to information panels and other facilities.



**After Schools Project**  
The After Schools Project shares the existing building in the Park, with the Samba Band and the Football Coaching Project. The new facilities suggested here include an expanded space close to and embracing the play areas. The After schools space would have the benefit of being educational located close to the temporary and permanent exhibition areas.



**Samba Band**  
In similar circumstances to the After Schools Project, the Samba Band shares the existing building. As a generator of community action through art & music, the Samba band can play a very important part in the community development of Mountjoy Square through the outward expression of that community. In order to provide for performances and other community events it is suggested that the rehearsal / performance room will occur centrally in the building having two frontages: one to the internal organisation and the other to the external environment of the Park.



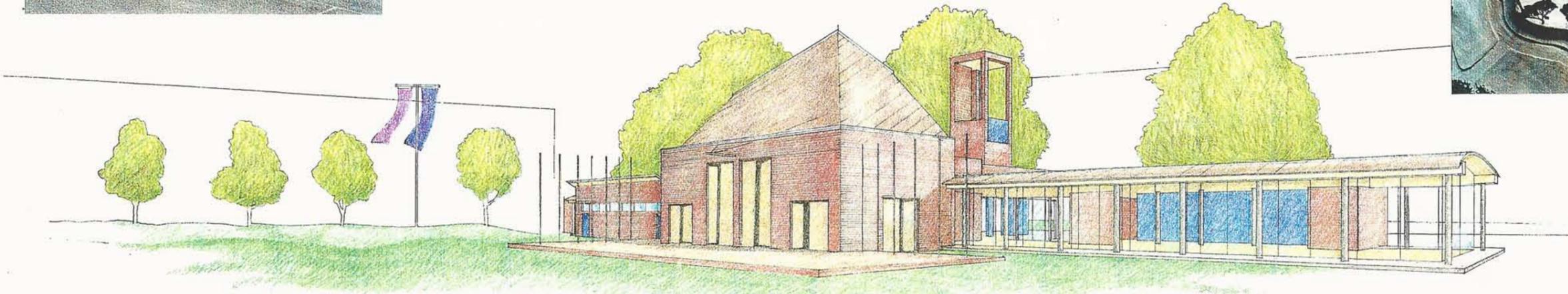
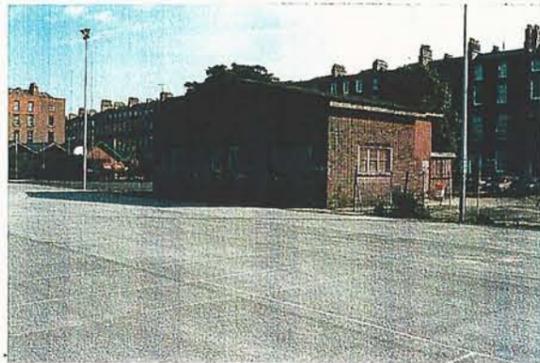
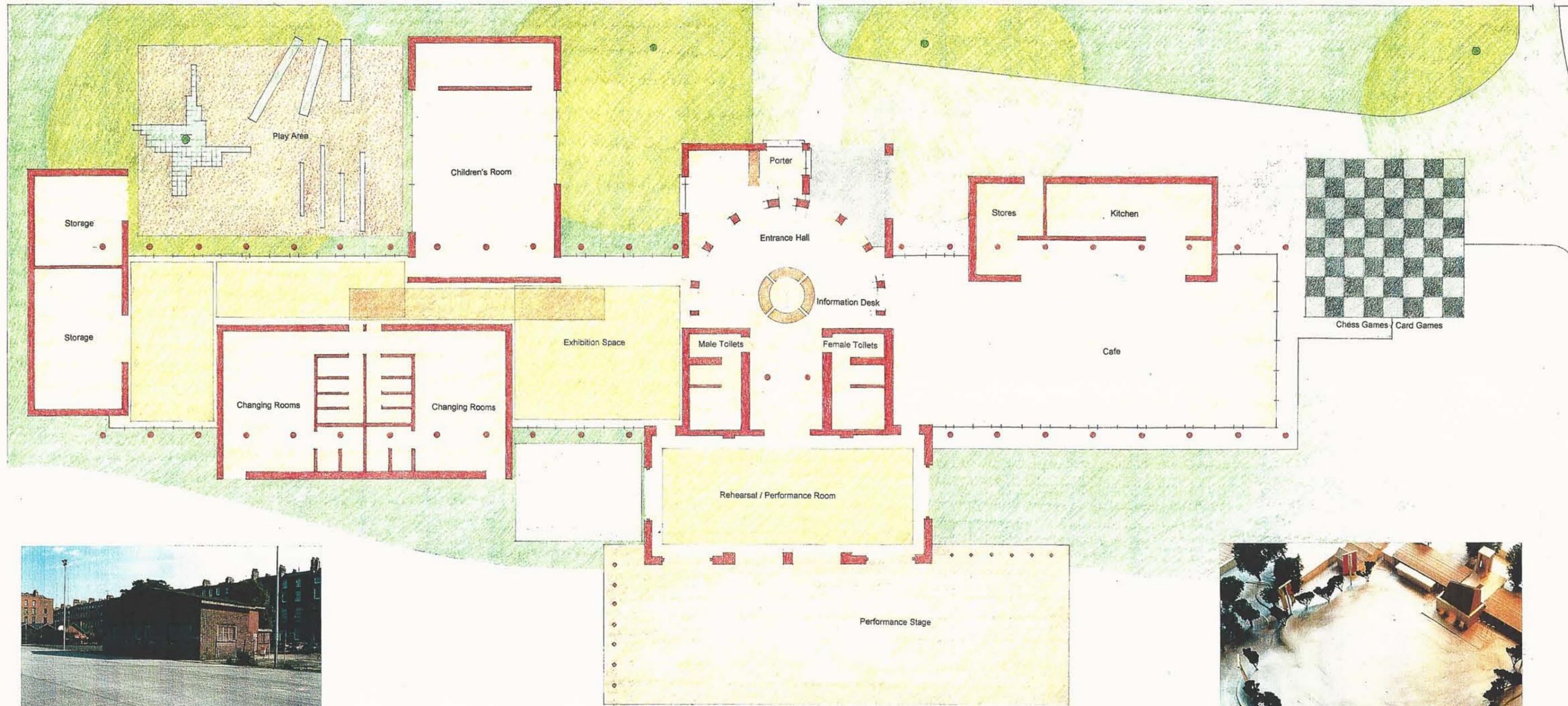
**Coaching Project**  
The value of the Coaching Project cannot be underestimated. Sport can be of great significance to young people, and while it appears that the specialised play areas have been removed, it is only in favour of grassed play areas. Game zones will be available in the central area under a new management plan, marked out as required by temporary markings.



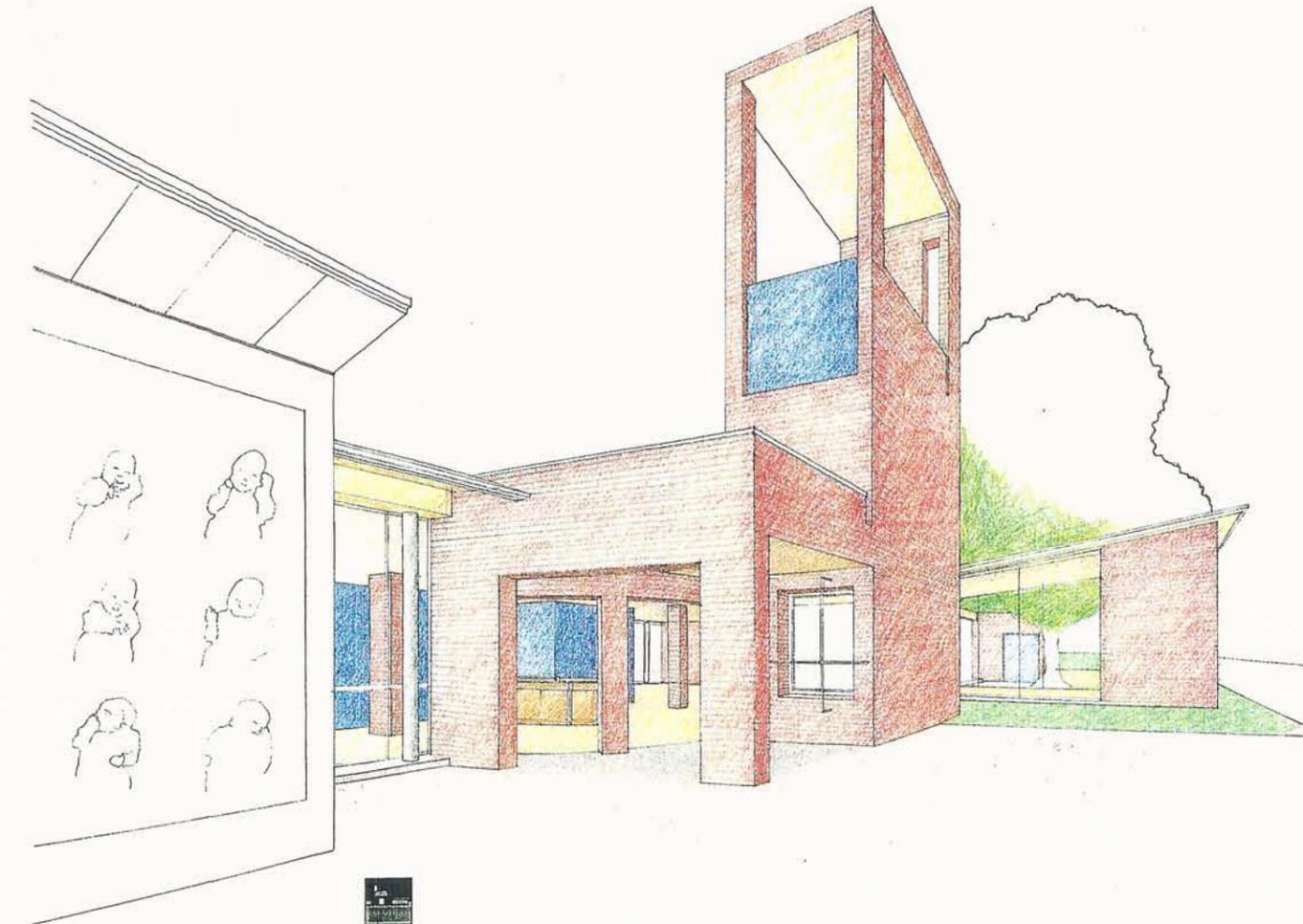
**Community Imperative - The Community Building**  
It is obvious that the revitalised building becomes central to the activities of the reclaimed park. This scheme does not attempt to solve every single community action plan. Instead it seeks to provide a flexible and adaptable structure which can be used by the various community groups for meeting, education, relaxation and cultural pursuits. This is a new town hall, a new theatre, a new art centre, a new school. It must be all things to all people. This suggested model is merely the beginning of what will be the community's own place.



NOEL JONATHAN BRADY ARCHITECTS  
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Architecture, Landscape and Urbanism



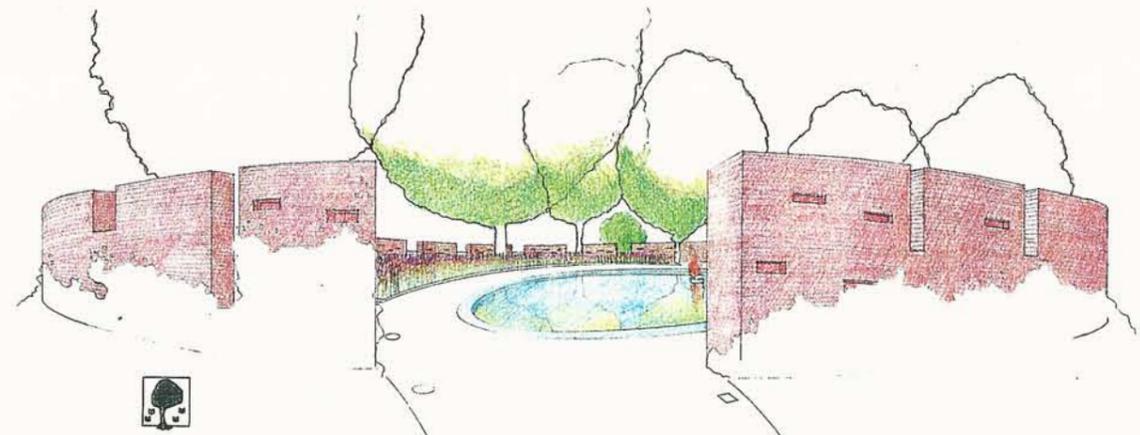
Perspective from Park to the Community Building



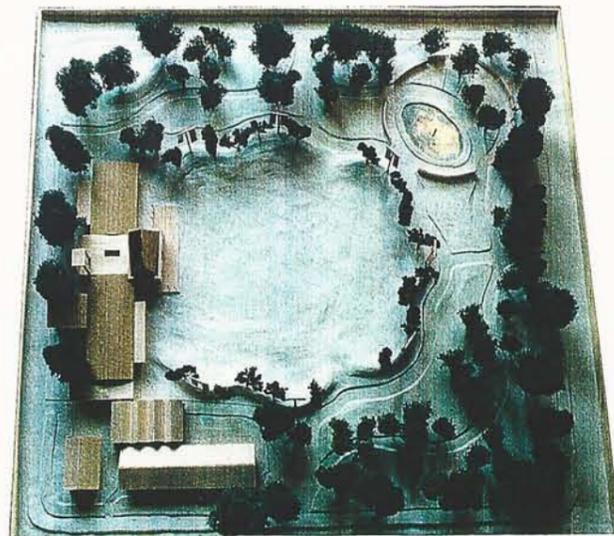
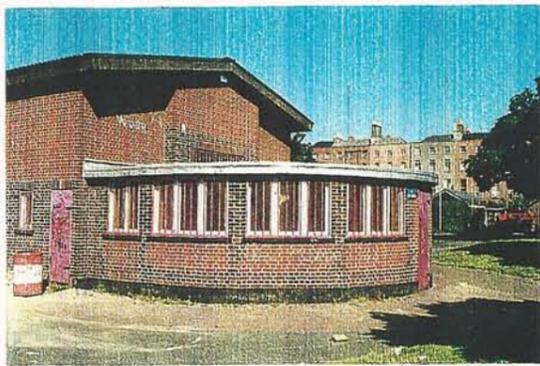
Perspective of New Entrance to Community Building



Perspective of Picnic Area and view of Bermed Central Space



Perspective of Garden of Contemplation



Perspective of Play Area to New Community Building