

THE GENTLE
DIVIDE
Portfolio

CONTENTS:



Mood Board



Specification Plan



Material Exploration



Making Of The
Partition



Final Renders



Lifecycle Of The
Partition Wall

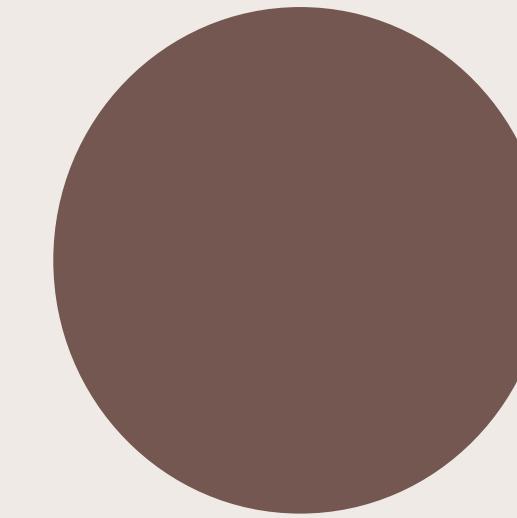


Meeting The Brief

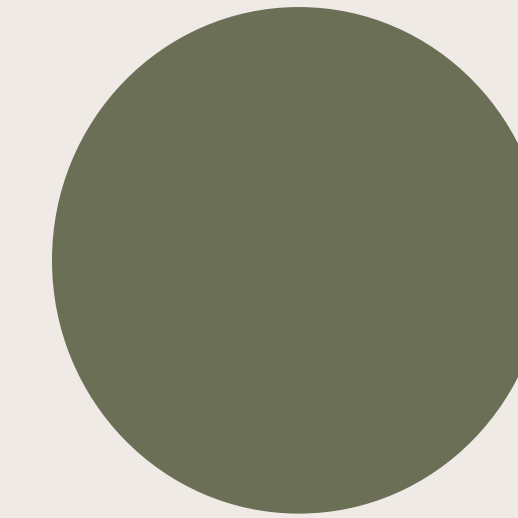
Mood Board



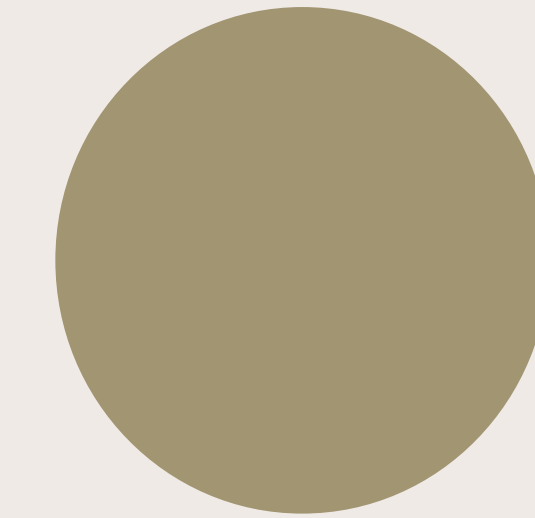
Colour & Material Palette



Clay



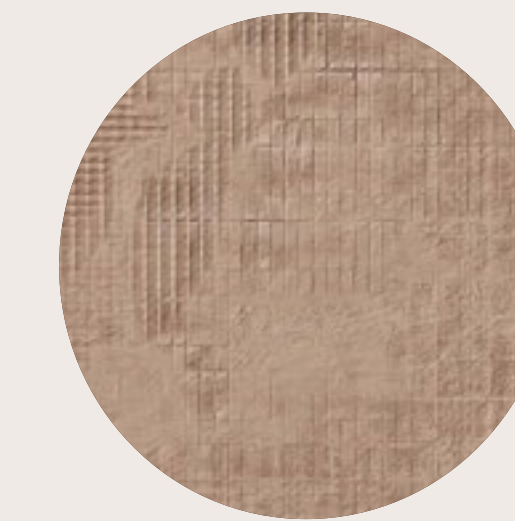
Fresh Bark



Olive



Sand



Terracotta



Hemp Rope



Agar

The Gentle Divide is a biodegradable wall divider made from agar infused panels with natural pigments. This semi-transparent screen is designed to dissolve over time, inviting users to reflect on impermanence, regeneration, and the intimate bond between humans and the natural world.

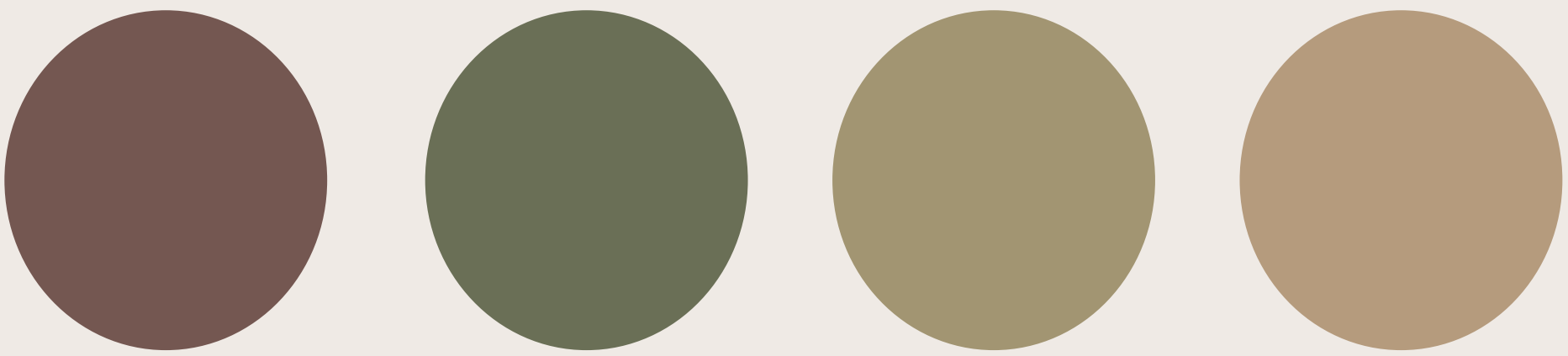
Functioning as both a spatial and symbolic threshold, the partition creates a soft division between environments while allowing light, scent, and movement to pass through. It's slow disintegration mirrors seasonal change and the material lifecycle, emphasising natural decomposition as a meaningful part of the design process.

Crafted from sustainable, compostable, and low-impact materials, The Gentle Divide offers an alternative to conventional plastic-based partitions. It exists not as a static object, but as a living material expression of transition, and mindful making, perfectly aligned with sustainability.

The Gentle Divide

Where materials melt,
spaces breathe, and nature
heals

Specification Plan■



Material Exploration ■

As a biodegradable, seaweed-based material, agar naturally embodies impermanence aligning with the themes of transformation and ritual in my design concept. It's translucency, flexibility, and ability to hold embedded elements made it an ideal medium for exploring symbolism and sensory experience through form and surface.



Experiment 1: Agar +
Dried Flowers

Dried petals were embedded into a thin agar sheet, highlighting its ability to preserve and frame organic material while creating a delicate, veil-like texture.



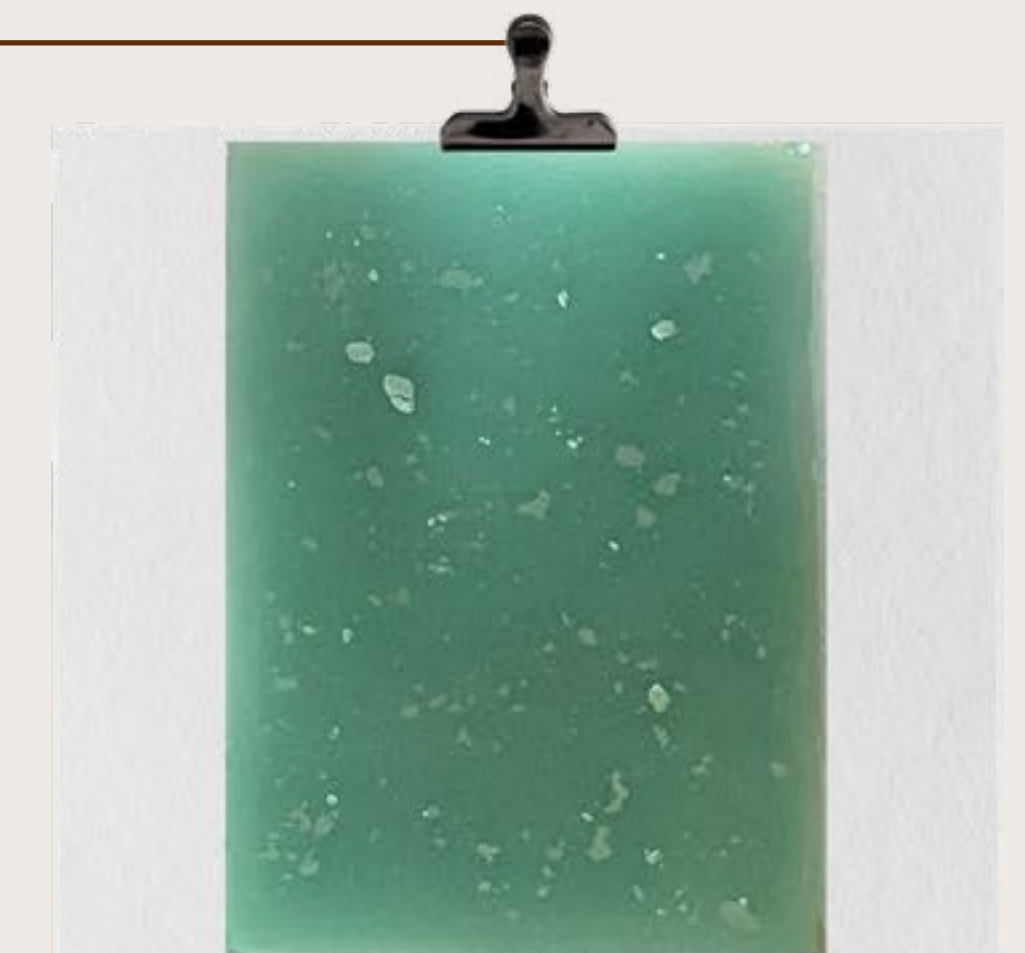
Experiment 2: Agar +
Dried Flowers + Crystals

Layering botanical and mineral elements into the agar introduced texture and symbolic contrast, representing earth and energy within a single ephemeral material.



Experiment 3: Agar +
Crystal Only

A clear agar sheet with embedded amethyst and jade chips explored material purity and focus, emphasising clarity and stillness in a minimal composition.



Experiment 4: Agar +
Spirulina Powder

Spirulina was mixed into the agar base, creating a green hue and matte finish. This test explored the material's potential as a colour-infused surface while maintaining its biodegradable qualities.



To begin each sample, I prepared silicone and glass molds in a clean workspace. I first arranged the add-ins including dried flowers, spirulina powder, and crystal chips directly into the empty molds. This allowed each element to remain undisturbed and visually intentional once set.



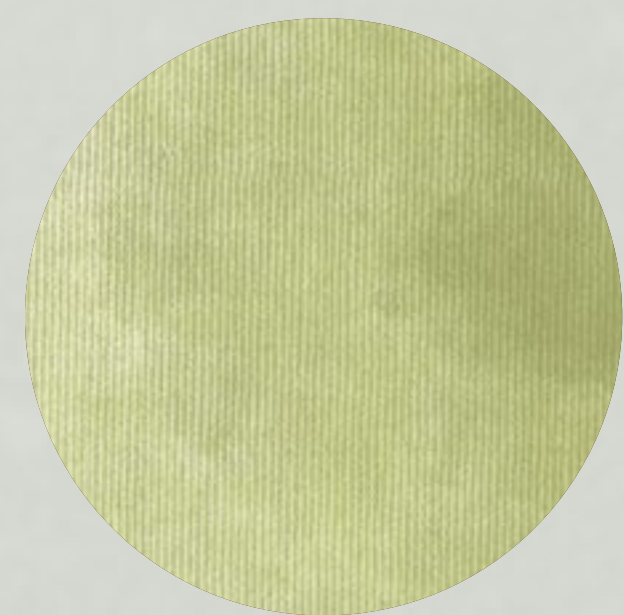
Next, I poured the warm agar base mixture over each prepared mold. The liquid agar settled around the materials, capturing them mid-suspension. As the mixture cooled and solidified, the textures and translucency of each embedded object became more pronounced transforming each pour into a preserved, sculptural moment.



This layered process mirrored the themes of ritual and offering, reinforcing agar's symbolic role in my project as both a natural material and a vessel for intention.

Making Of The Partition

The Gentle Divide is biodegradable formed from agar-based bioplastic sheets, suspended within a modular structural frame, top stitched with hanging holes. Designed to create a sense of spatial separation without heaviness, the piece embodies soft division, ritual clarity, and transience through natural materiality.



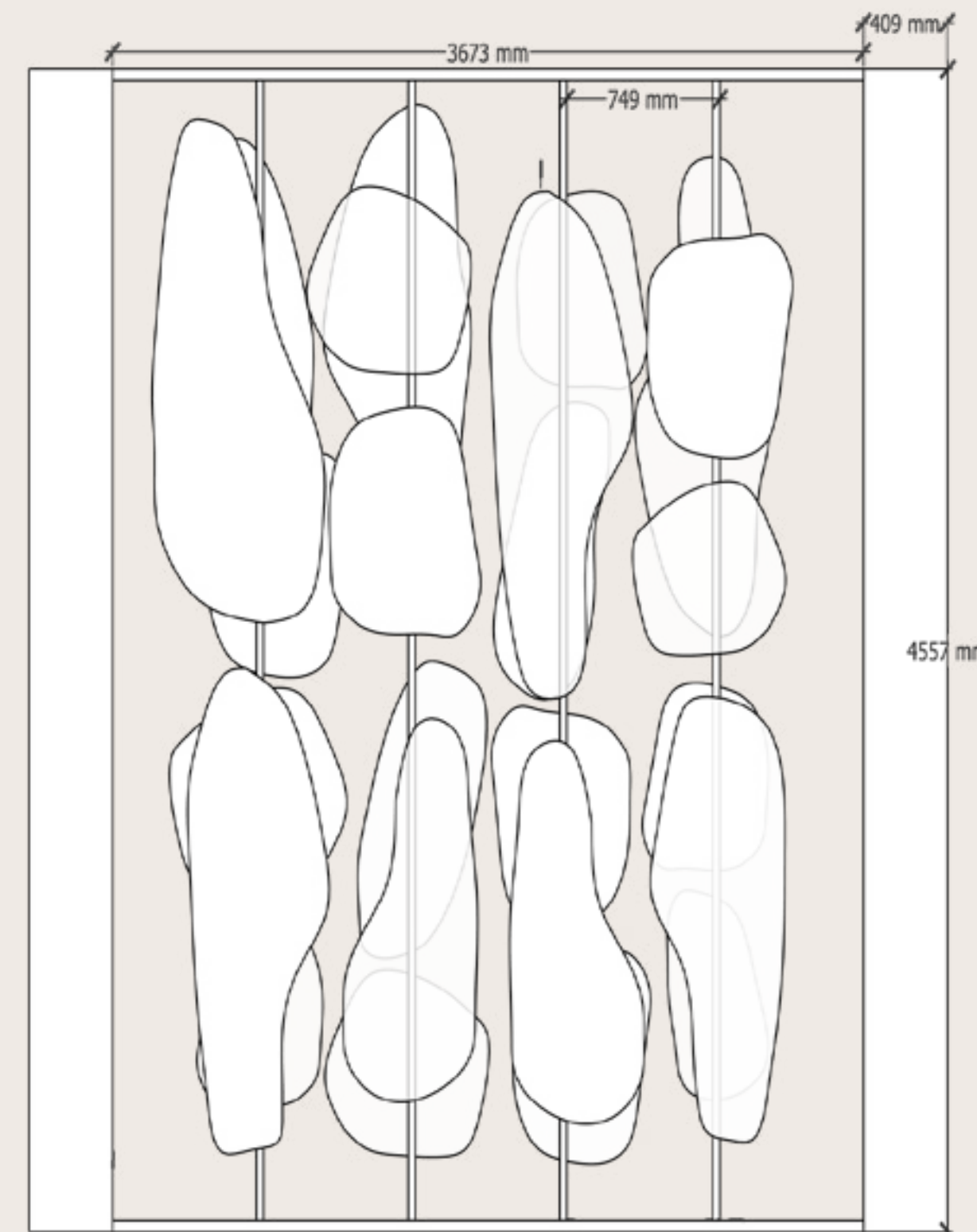
Agar
Sheets



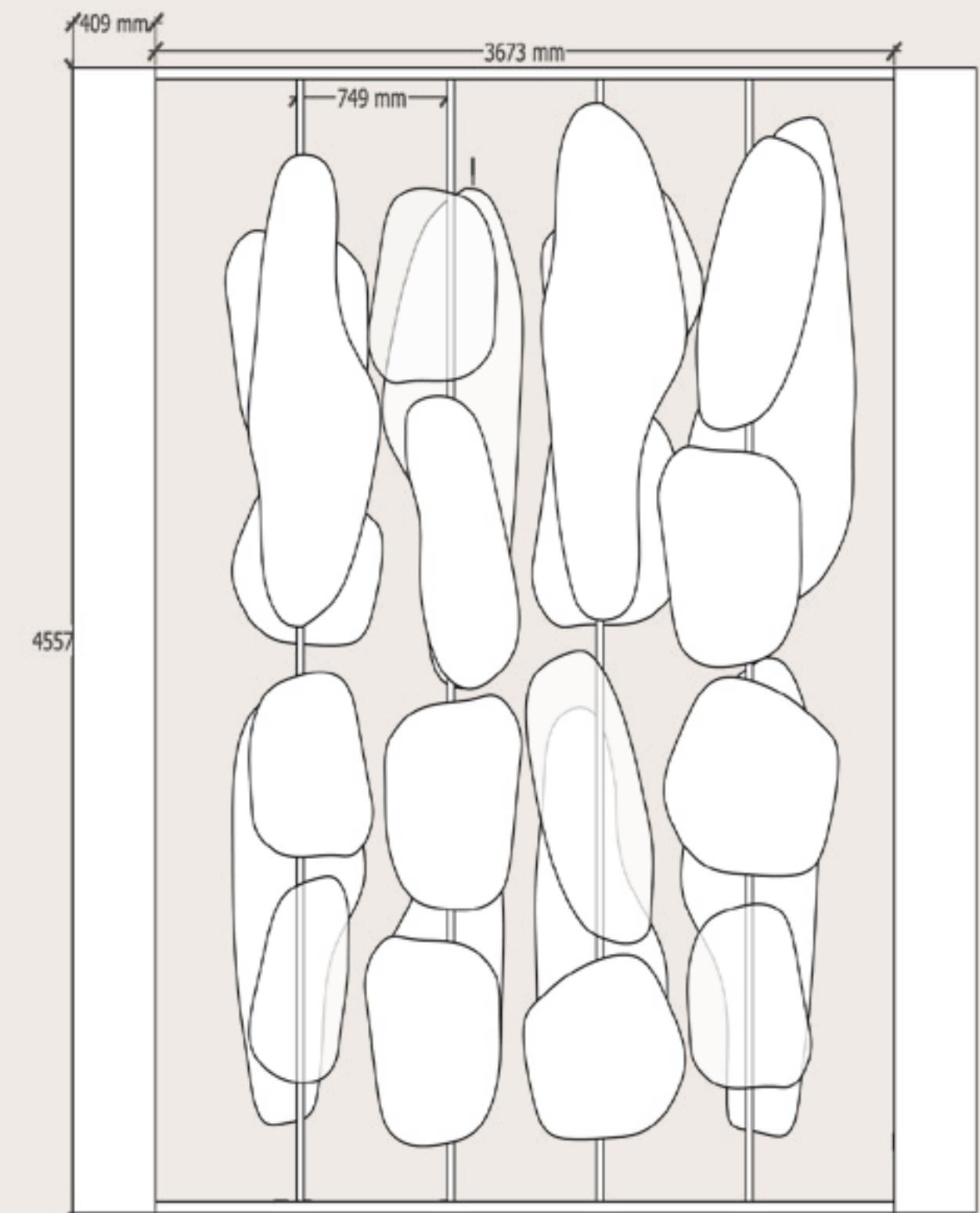
Hemp
Rope



Timber
Dowel

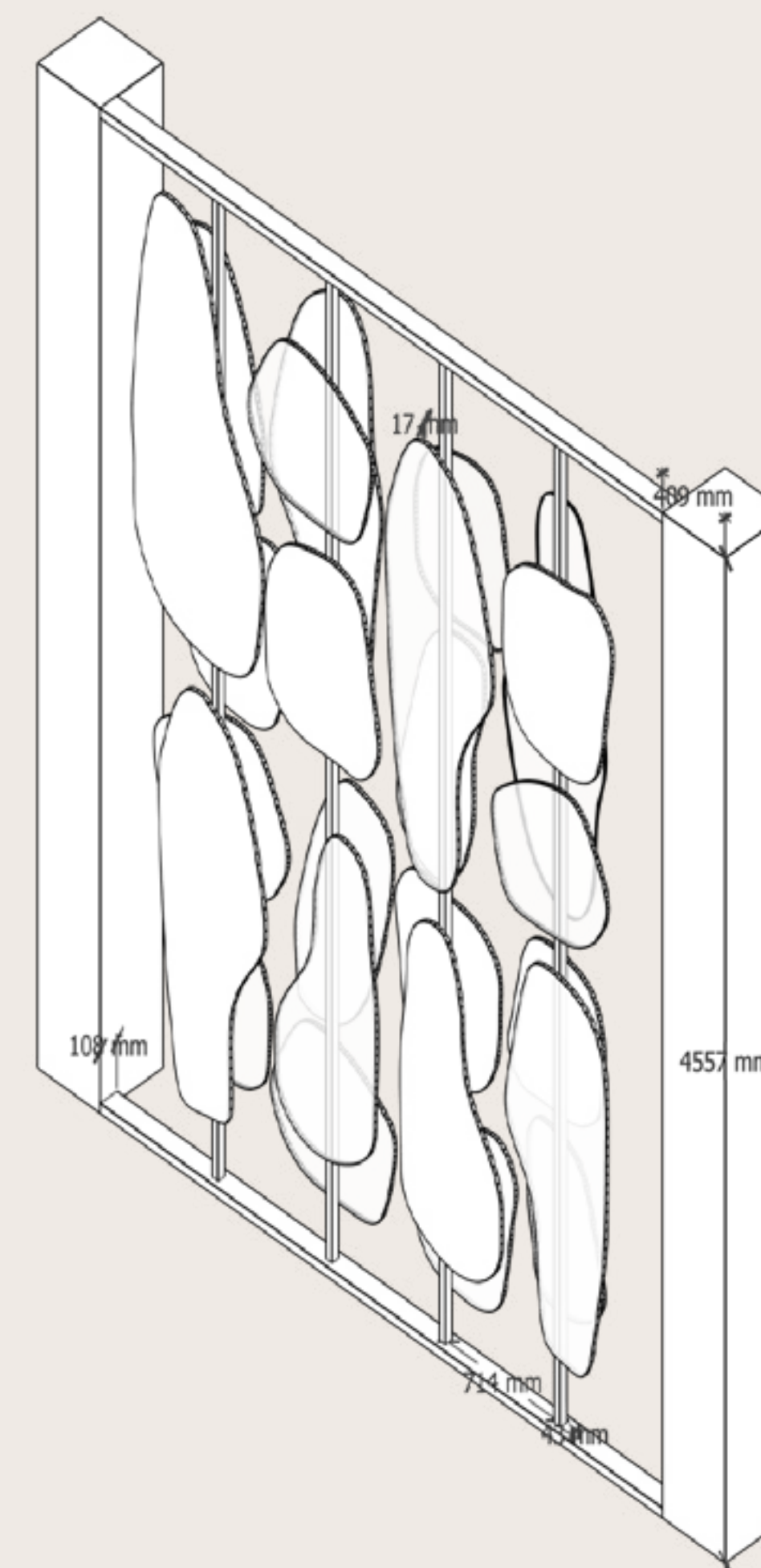


The front view shows the clean, planar surface of the agar panels suspended within a simple frame. The natural translucency of the agar allows light to pass through softly, creating a calming and gentle presence in the space.



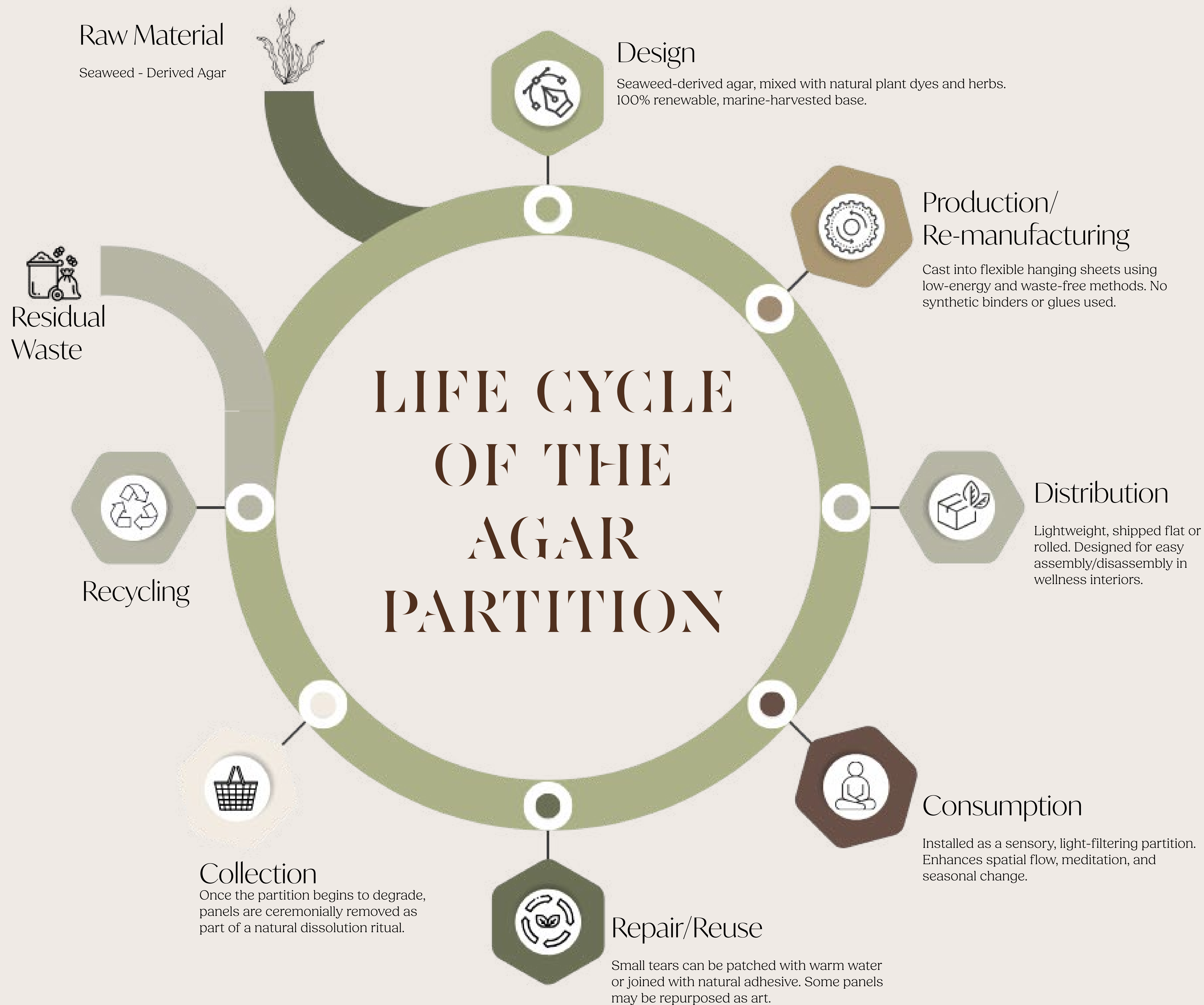
The back view reveals the structural system holding the agar panels in place.

The design prioritizes material efficiency and ease of assembly, with an understated construction that supports the panel without visually dominating it.



The isometric view illustrates the partition's spatial qualities and lightweight design. Its simple form and biodegradable composition make it suitable for temporary installations or interior settings that value low-impact design and environmental responsibility.







MEETING THE BRIEF

The Dissolving Wall Partition

The Gentle Divide responds to the brief by centering on a single biodegradable material: agar, a seaweed-based substance known for its translucency, tactility, and ephemerality. By using agar exclusively, I explored how a natural material can be both aesthetic and ethical, visually delicate yet rooted in environmental responsibility.

Through hands-on experimentation with dried botanicals, natural pigments, and crystalline inclusions, I investigated agar's potential as a medium for ritual, symbolism, and impermanence. Each sample captures a moment in the material's lifecycle, from liquid to solid to eventual decay, aligning with the values of circularity, sensory connection, and material honesty. This focused exploration demonstrates how design can honour nature not just through form, but through process, presence, and dissolution.

ABOUT ME!



Amelia Harrison
Interior Design Graduate |
Sustainable Interiors

Email: ameliawharrison@gmail.com

Location: Birmingham, UK

Instagram:
[@ameliawillowdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/ameliawillowdesigns)

Institute: BA (Hons)
Interior Architecture and
Design, Birmingham City University
2025

THANK YOU!

Email: ameliawharrison@gmail.com

Instagram: [@ameliawillowdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/ameliawillowdesigns)