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Caribbean Community Centre- Playgroup Extension (563)
PPG15 Statement

The Caribbean Community Centre is located on Withington Road, Whalley Range. This lies within a conservation area which was designated in October 1991 when boundaries were extended to include Alexander and Upper Chorlton Road to the West.
This road was originally one of two farm tracks in the area. Samuel Brooks later purchased some 63 acres of flat land containing the 2 farm tracks for a sum of £9600 and transformed the tracks into a backbone to the area that we now know today as Whalley Range.
Brooks proposed this transformation around 1832 during the industrial revolution when many people came from the outskirts to work in large scale factories in the city centre.
This suburban area just outside the border of the city was intended to be a nearby peaceful haven for gentlemen to raise their families away from the bustling smog ridden city centre, at the same time as allowing them to minimise travel time to and from work.
To enforce this vision, Brooks sold off plots of the land with the condition that anything built upon it would meet a specific set of guidelines, such as the need for traditional red-orange brickwork, blue-grey roof tiles, ornate lintels and crafted ironmongery. In addition to this the tree-lined roads, Dudley Rd, Chorlton Rd and Whalley Rd enclosed the area.
This would ensure that the area would be aesthetically pleasing and a pleasant place to live.
Sadly this vision was short lived, when after the WWII and shift of industry the community that had evolved, left the area to live further afield, leaving their properties vacant and the area to go into decline.
Eventually the larger houses would be converted into multiple bedsits to accommodate a new larger community.

More recently further investment has been granted to Whalley Range in an attempt to restore, preserve and regenerate some of the values and integrity that the area has lost over time.

With this in mind, our client proposes to create a space where parents can bring their families to interact and bond with the rest of the community. The extension will mean that children from the surrounding neighbourhood will have somewhere safe to meet, play, learn and communicate.

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It will essentially be a focal point for the community, a place to create new contacts and integrate within the community.
The extension will be able to accommodate more children and provide space for equipment such as learning apparatus and toys. It will also provide a space for a potential day care/ activity centre, where parents could send their children, whilst training or working.

This will be created in the form of a conservatory extension to the rear of an unsightly existing built community centre built in the 70s which will in turn ameliorate the overall appearance. Although it will not be directly visible from the main road, it will remain as our primary interest to produce a design that will compliment, if not enhance the immediate existing surroundings, as it is located in a conservation area.

This will be accomplished through careful selection of materials with respect to the surroundings such as the traditional brick and glazing. In addition to this the structure will have a thoughtful but modest approach with careful attention to detailing in keeping with the surrounding area.

The final outcome will be a well designed extension that will compliment its surroundings and provide a usable space to encourage interaction in the community.

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