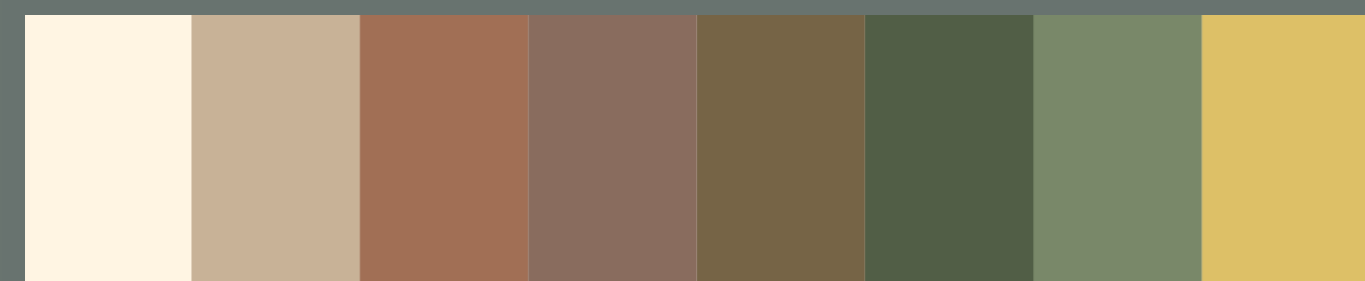




Heriot-Watt University
2022/2023
Final Major Project
“Implementing Autism
Accessible Design into
A Multi-use Space Using
A Set of Curated Interior
Architecture & Design
Principles”
Designed By: Kara F
Cummins

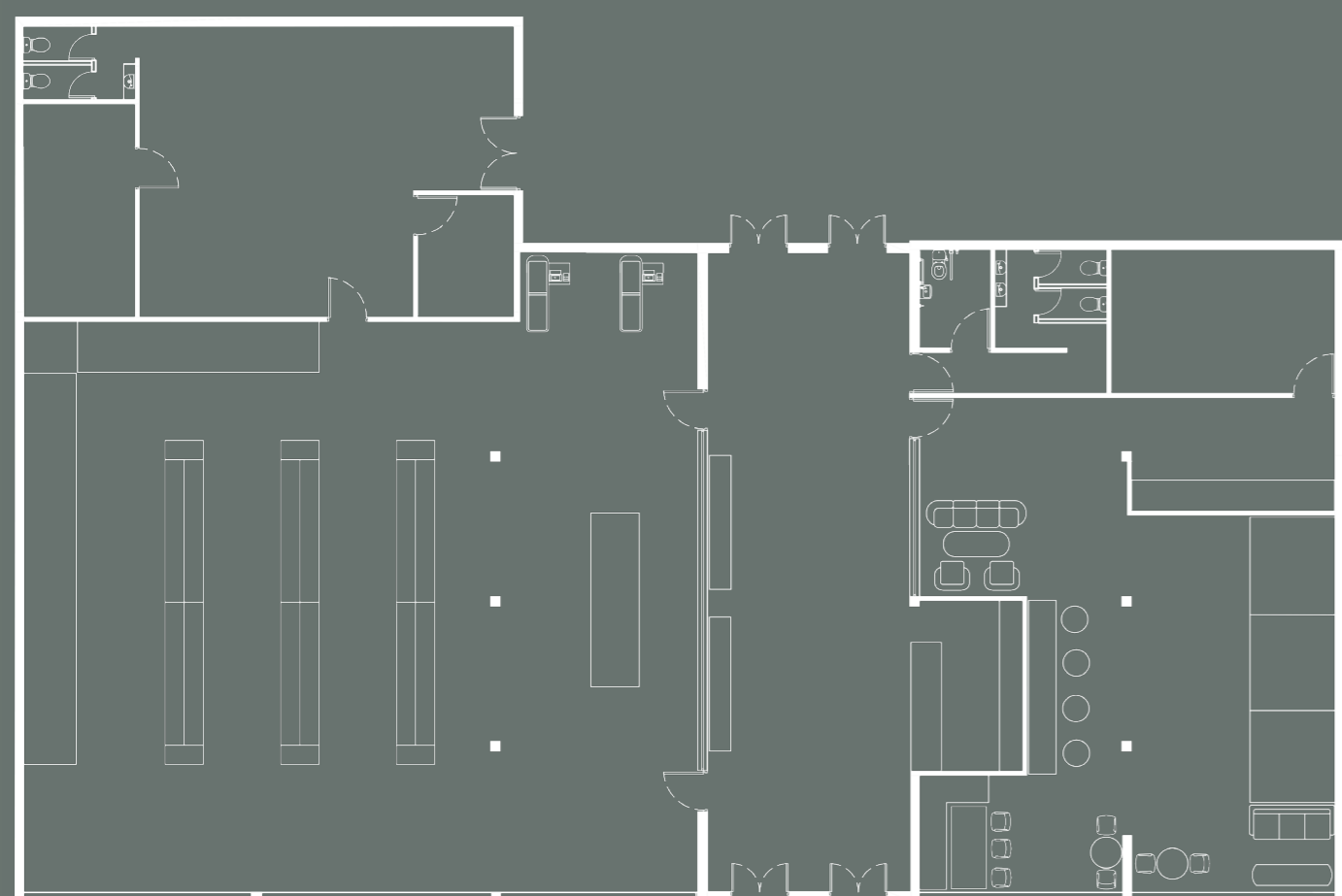
COLOUR PALETTE



MATERIALS PALETTE



DETAILED PLAN

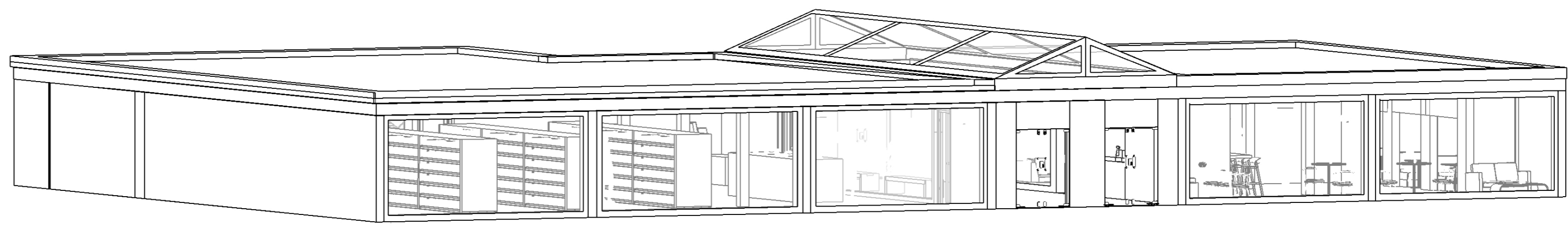


not to scale

ELEVATIONS



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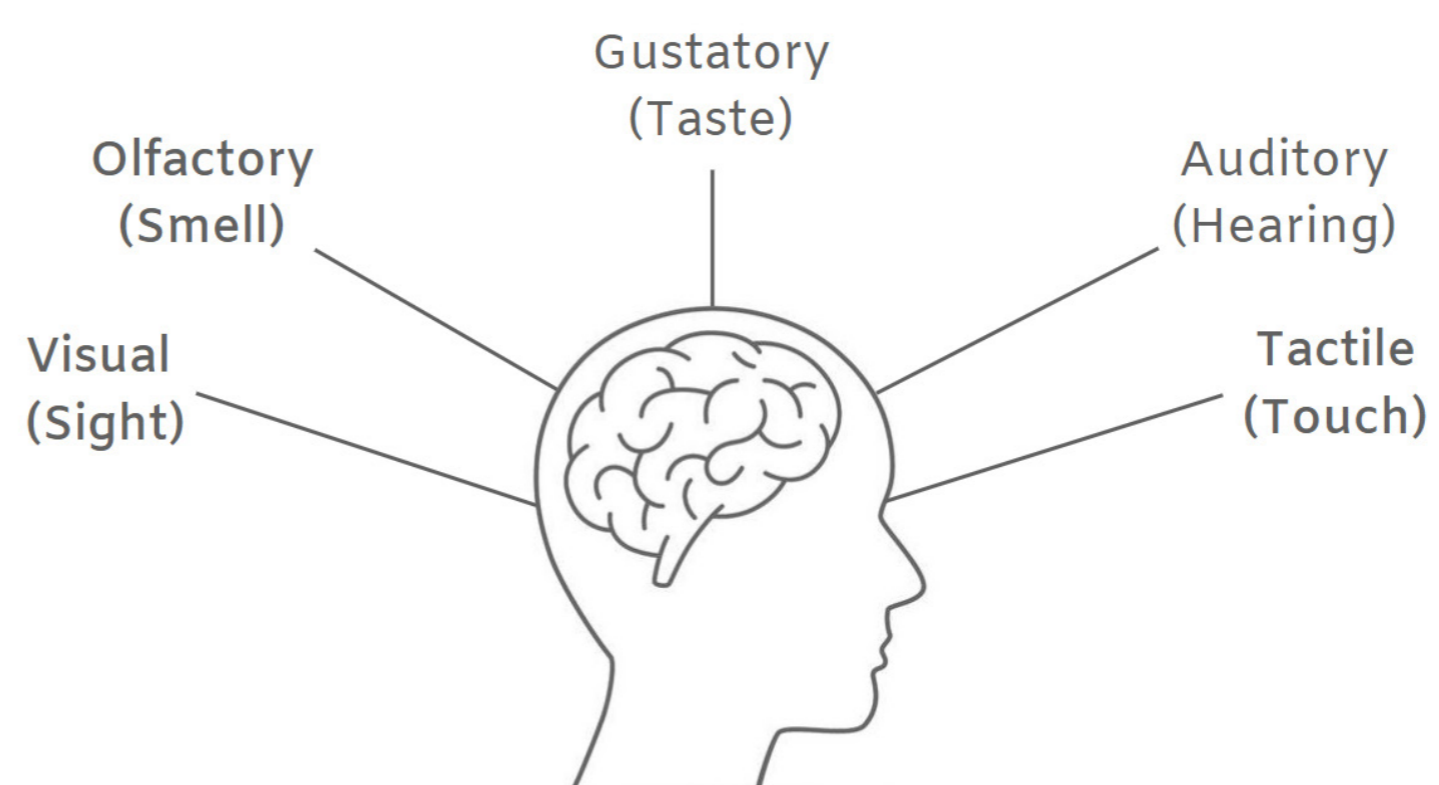
THE ISSUE

As the number of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnoses continues to increase in recent years, the need for ASD accessible spaces is becoming more relevant. This growth in diagnoses means that it is now crucial that designers develop and transform their ways of creating a built environment to include the accommodation of mental disabilities as well as physical. Currently, under sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the 2020 Non-Domestic Building Standards Technical Handbook provided by The Scottish Government, accessible accommodations are only considered for those with reduced mobility due to a physical disability, with no consideration taken towards those who experience mental disabilities which impact the way a person interacts with the built environment.

My final major project will focus on reviewing a pre-existing grocery shop and cafe and redesigning it into a multi-use space which can be utilised comfortably by those on the autism spectrum alongside all other members of the public. By doing so, this will create a space in which autistic individuals can take partake in tending to essential wellbeing and social needs, such as completing a food shop and visiting with friends, while not feeling alienated by the world around them and experiencing a strong sense of community.

WHAT IS AUTISM?

According to the NHS, autism is a developmental disorder in which individuals experience the world differently compared to those without the condition. This difference is partly due to autistic people’s unique sensory experience because of their brains composition and how it relays information. Autistic individuals often experience senses in a way that is either hypersensitive or hypo-sensitive, meaning that they either avoid sensory stimuli, or avoid it. People with ASD often experience hypo- or hyper-sensitivities, meaning that they experience the built environment and its sensory elements in a different way than one typically may. The sensory experience includes the 5 senses; sight, smell, taste, hearing and touch.



OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate current research findings from accredited sources which discuss how those on the spectrum interact with spaces and how this impacts them.
2. To gather information on current ASD accessible design through case studies and found literature.
3. To develop my own set of interior design principles, utilising case studies and found literature, which accommodate the needs of those on the autism spectrum.
4. To apply these principles to a pre-existing multi-use space to show a proven example of how the ASD design principles can be implemented into a wide range of public spaces.
5. To reconfigure a pre-existing grocery store and cafe into an ASD accessible shopping and dining experience which not only caters to, but elevates the meticulous sensory needs of autistic individuals while also improving the shopping and dining experience of all people, regardless of ability.

