St Patrick's Church, East Gosford
Foyer Proposal

18 October 2020

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The Brief

As part of St Patrick's Welcome Ministry proposal, the foyer of the church has been identified as a place for potential refurbishment to promote engagement.

The foyer should be **open** and **inviting**, be a **place of welcome** and embody the **vibrant community** of the parish.

The existing piety stall and partition wall between the foyer and the nave of the church are two primary concerns. Understanding financial restraints, considerations should be made for potential staging, exempt development and community participation.

In addition, wayfinding throughout the site should be considered as an extended welcome from various points of access to draw people in towards the church.

Entry Threshold

'And When Churches Are to be Built...'

213 Architecturally and symbolically, doorways and thresholds are significant places, linking two different kinds of space. In a church, the transitional or liminal space of the narthex marks the movement from introductory activities and rituals to the sacred action of the liturgy itself where the Body of Christ is constituted for worship and where the people enter into the mystery of God's saving action.

216 The narthex is a space through which people move rather than one for gathering or assembly. Nevertheless, some of the ritual action which takes place there needs to be visible from the body of the church and allow for the active participation of the assembly. The entrance should therefore give onto some internal space before seating for the people begins.

'AND WHEN CHURCHES ARE TO BE BUILT...'

Preparation, planning and construction of places of worship.

FIT FOR SACRED USE

Stewardship and renewal of places of worship

Entry Threshold

'Fit for Sacred Use'

953 A community blessed with significant church doors, perhaps carved in timber or even cast in bronze, should honour them and treat them with respect for all that they signify.

958 The decision to rebuild or enlarge a narthex provides the opportunity to enhance the beauty of the entrance and draw people into the sacred. The quality of the space is such that passing through it might become a transformative experience.

963 The narthex can easily become a storage space for lost property, miscellaneous tables and other items of furniture. The community requires consistent discipline to remove any clutter.

York Street Facade

1960s

Present

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Primary Access

Primary Access

Views from Cafes
Secondary Access

Views from Street
Tertiary Access

Major Pedestrian Access
Minor Pedestrian Access
Visible Street Frontages

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Wayfinding

Alteration

A Stairway from School
B Activated Facade
C Foyer Entry
D Corner Presentation to Cafes

A
Stairway from School
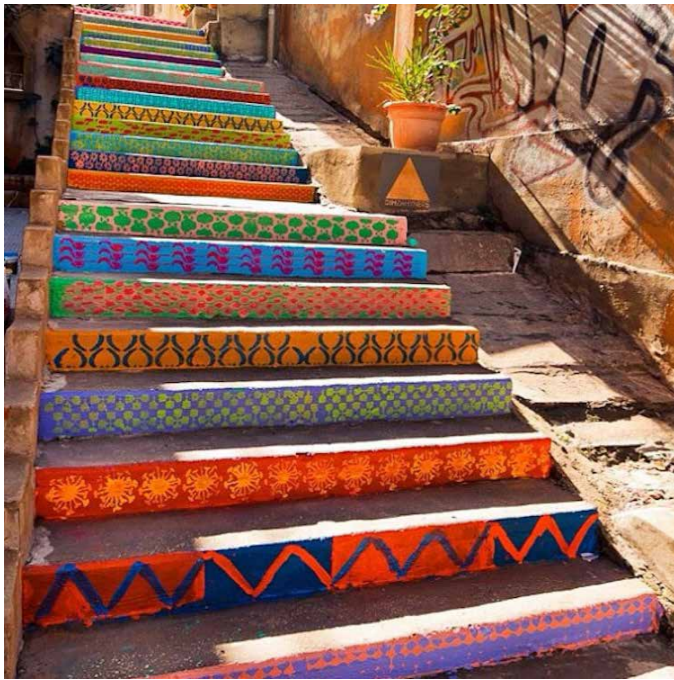
A seasonal artwork and an opportunity for community engagement.

The stairs could be used to share messages, create an image or reflect particular liturgical seasons and may be an instrument to visually connect the church with the school.

B
Activated Facade

Recognising the courtyard and church facade as an opportunity for engagement.

Facing the school access, parish office and Jordan room, the church is most active on this face. By integrating a changeable noticeboard or directional sign on this face is an opportunity for engagement.

C
Foyer Entry

The foyer as a place of transition and the entry into prayer.

Removing the clutter of the main foyer allows for a transformative experience between the outside world and the inner sanctuary of the church. This space should be beautiful, inspiring, light-filled and open
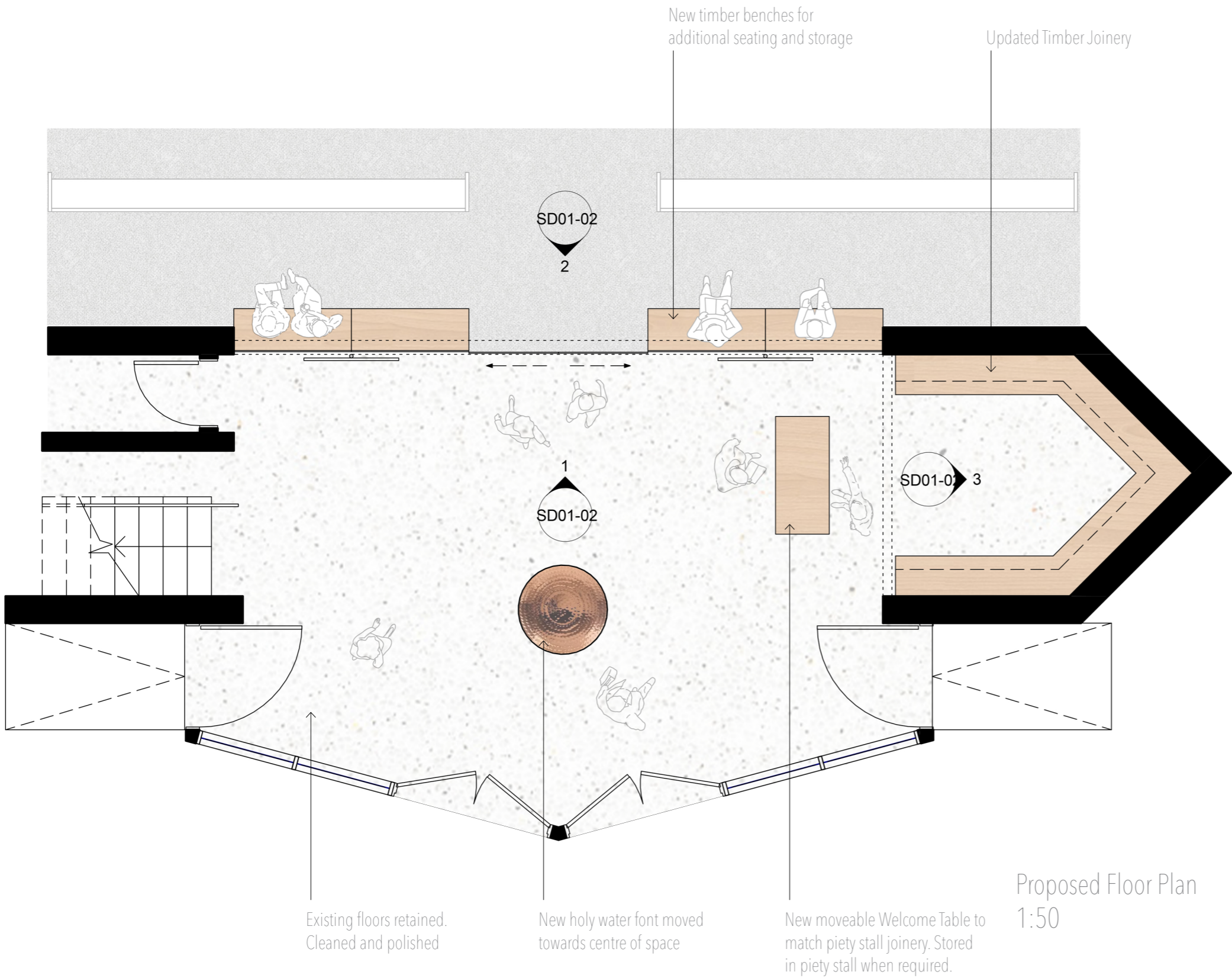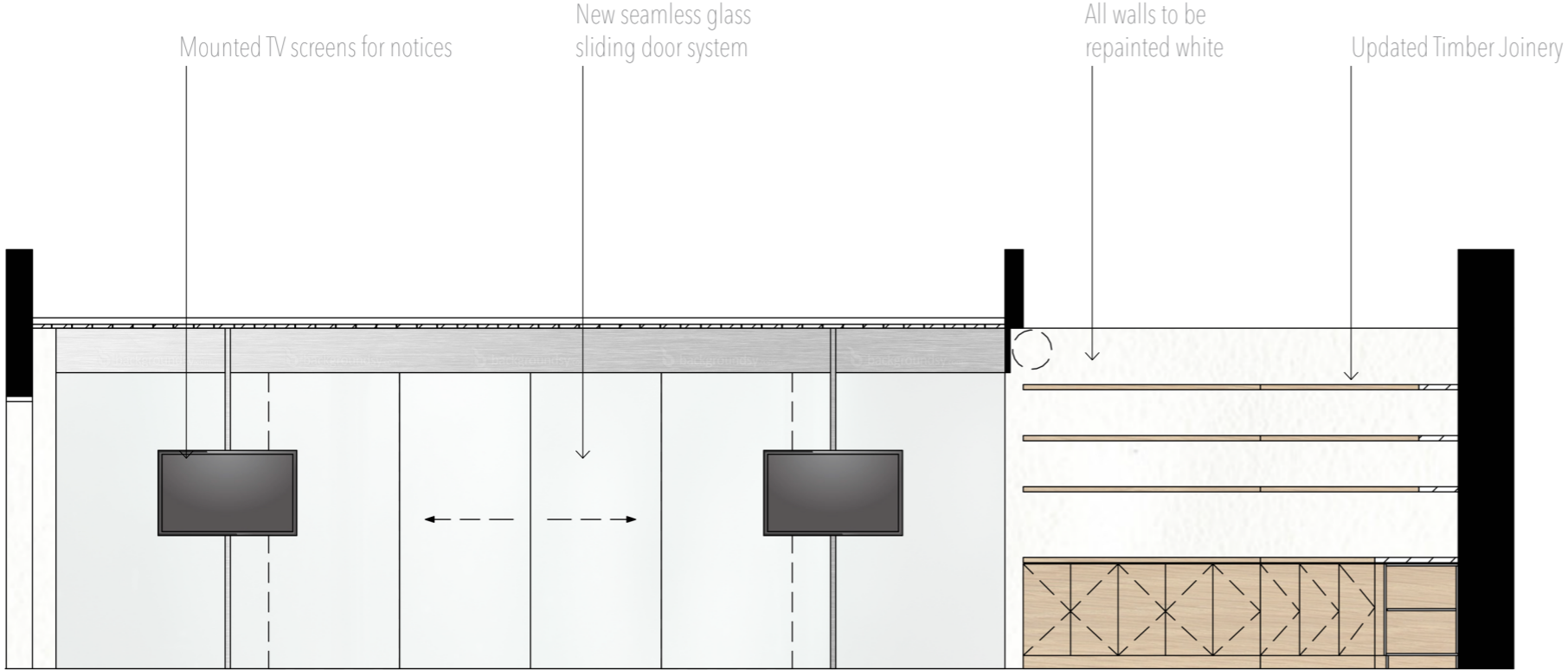
D
Corner Presentation

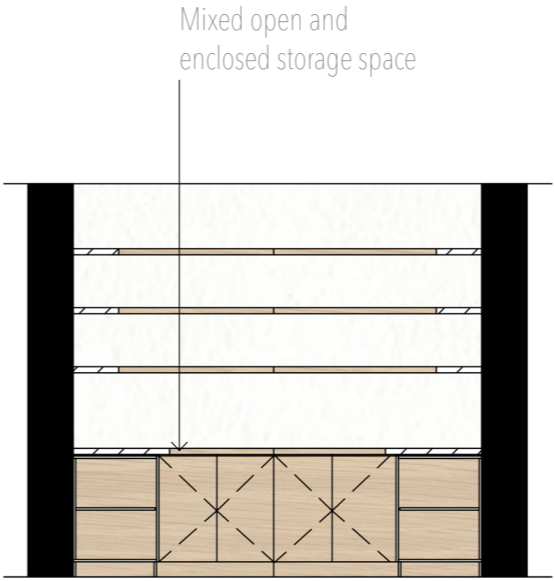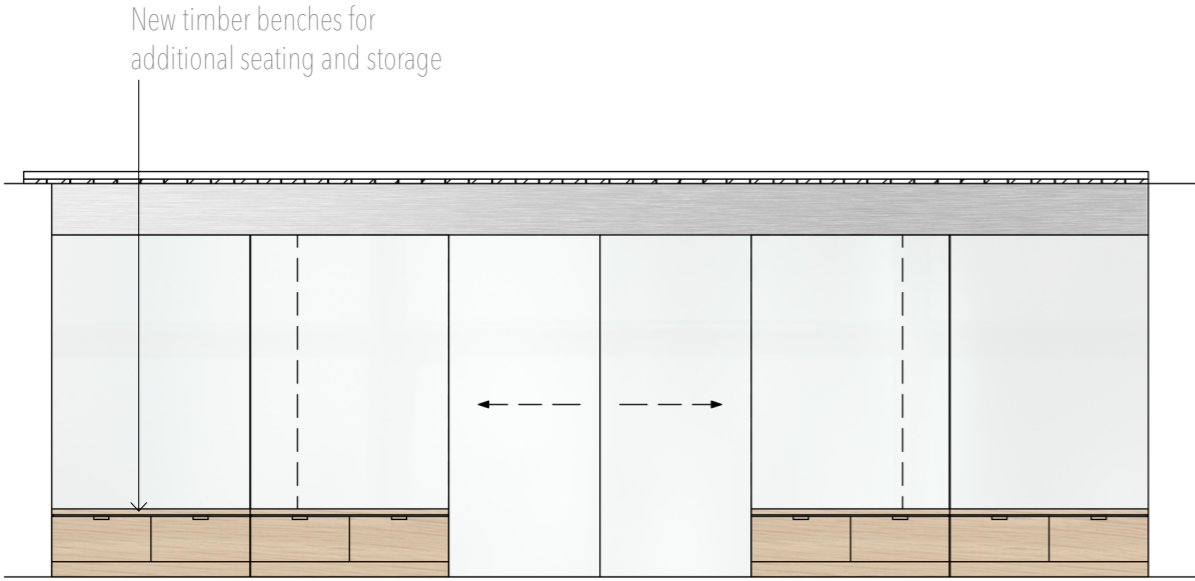The openness of the space invites frontage to the cafes, but could also be a prayerful garden space.

Using landscaping to enhance the existing 'green' character of this area, it could become a way of the cross, a meditation labyrinth, or simply a quiet place to sit.

New timber benches for
additional seating and storage

Updated Timber Joinery

SD01-02
2

SD01-02
1

SD01-02 3

Existing floors retained.
Cleaned and polished

New holy water font moved
towards centre of space

New moveable Welcome Table to
match piety stall joinery. Stored
in piety stall when required.

Proposed Floor Plan
1:50

Mounted TV screens for notices

New seamless glass sliding door system

All walls to be repainted white

Updated Timber Joinery

Foyer towards Church
1:50

New timber benches for additional seating and storage

Mixed open and enclosed storage space

Church towards Foyer
1:50

Piety Stall toward Street
1:50

Retained etched Glass

← Custom → Decal

Retained etched Glass

Option 1

Custom Decal

→ Retained etched Glass

← Retained etched Glass

Custom Decal
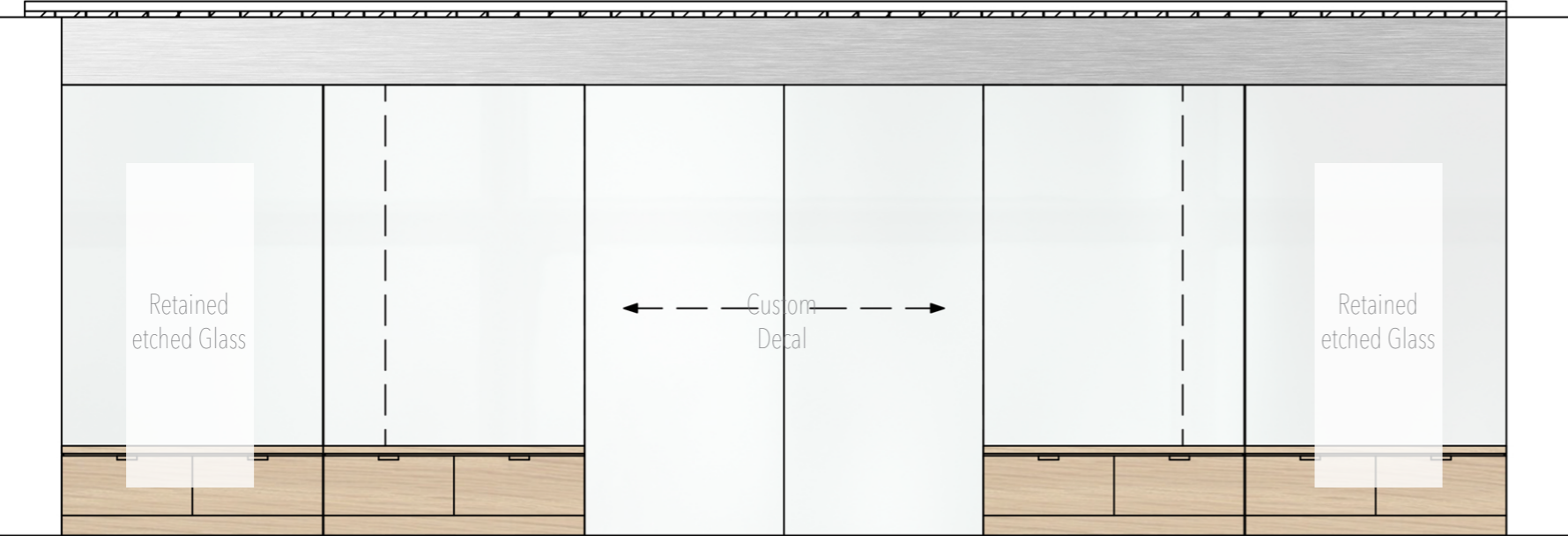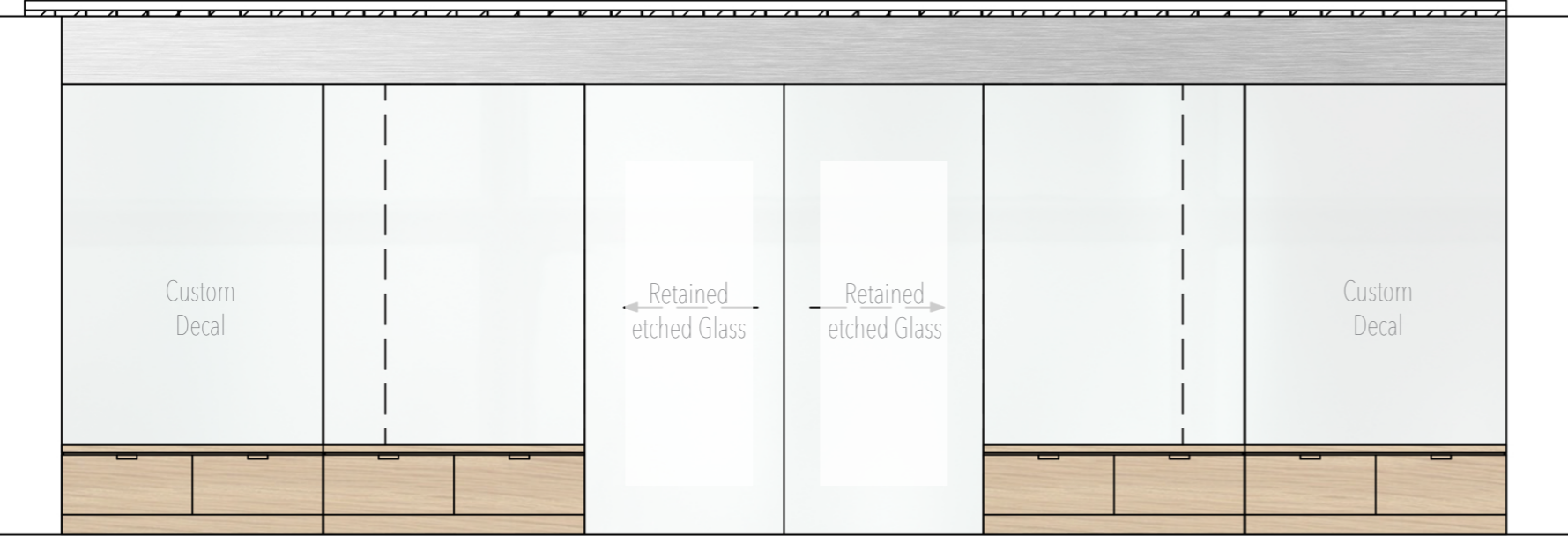
Option 2

Materials Palette

Existing Terrazzo Tiles

Textured White Paint

Blonde Timbers

Hammered Brass