

MANCHESTER LETHERIUM IDEAS COMPETITION CONCEPT BY LIMINAL SOLUTIONS

Water as a transitional medium figures prominently in the history of the Manchester Letherium. In our design proposal for the new Manchester Letherium, we at Liminal Solutions have chosen to place emphasis on the site's proximity to Rochdale Canal. The new Letherium will be submerged within its surroundings. Visitors will enter the site at ground level and descend into the museum. The new Letherium site will continue the institution's precarious relationship with water while simultaneously acting as a reminder of the past.

In an effort to preserve the spirit of a declaration made by the early keepers of the Letherium, we think it is integral to the success and longevity of this institution and others of similar ilk, to be open to the public, without a general fee for admission. Liminal Solutions is a firm believer in creating collecting institutions that double as sites of social-reinvention.

UPPER LEVEL features visible and easily accessible administrative offices located on the top level of the Letherium, on the periphery of the display area. The new Letherium will feature the following administrative divisions: Collections Management, Artist and Curator Residencies, Library Resources, and General Administration.

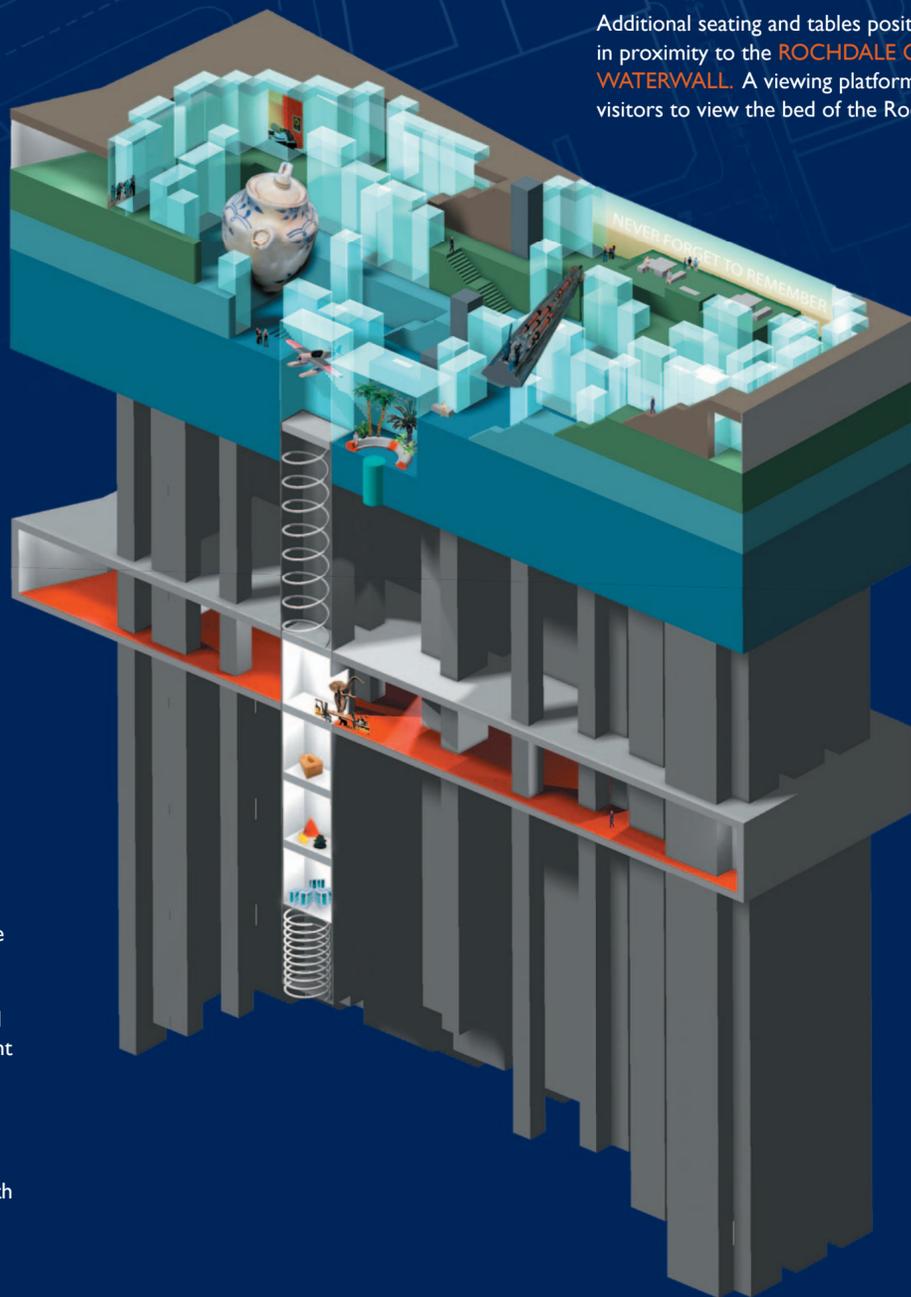
The **TIPSY TEAPOT** - an on-site pub and eatery

An intimately sized **OASIS GARDEN** in the centre of the lower level of the Letherium. The oasis will feature a small pond, lush greenery, and comfortable seating that is suitable for individuals interested in prolonged contemplation

Perhaps the most remarkable of the innovations we propose is the Abacus™ vitrinal **DISPLAY AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**. This system allows for a large volume of the Letherium's collection to be visible to the public via a traditional display technique enhanced by contemporary unconventionality. These vitrines will create a crystalline labyrinth through which visitors may meander. Within each vitrine will be a series of elevated platforms featuring curated displays. Each display may be altered by access to the subterranean collections management level. The series of platforms raise from and descend into strictly monitored, humidity and temperature controlled storage facilities. The most visually striking component of the Abacus™ system, the 120 vitrines ranging in height from 6' to 36', will be fabricated with ECHO™ Archival glass, the most reliable provider of UV protection currently available to the archival museum industry.



Additional seating and tables positioned in proximity to the **ROCHDALE CANAL WATERWALL**. A viewing platform allows visitors to view the bed of the Rochdale Canal.



Another gesture toward rebuilding the Letherium's relationship with the community comes in the form of the off-site **"ALWAYS REMEMBER TO FORGET" WATER TOWER**. Located in a nearby parkette, this resituated water tower will function as a satellite space that will give the public the opportunity to intimately invert an enterprise that is perpetuated by large collecting institutions everywhere. This modest-sized outreach service will allow individuals to de-accession their own ideas, objects, and documents with the security of permanent removal and the assistance of helpful Letherium staff. Hard-drive purification, document shredding, and object incineration are among the discreet services that will be provided by the Water Tower facility.



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