

Drawing Key

01. Cast iron sign post, refurbished to display information

02. A pair of water pumps, made in brass, can be used manually to draw small amounts of water to the table.

03. Brass wire mesh, inlaid over deeper sections of water, protects attenuated water from obstructions and child access.

04. Table legs, made from filigree metal cages, grounded with round stone ballast, allowing moisture to slowly percolate through.

05. A slender brass channel, steeply sloped, represents the journey of foul water.

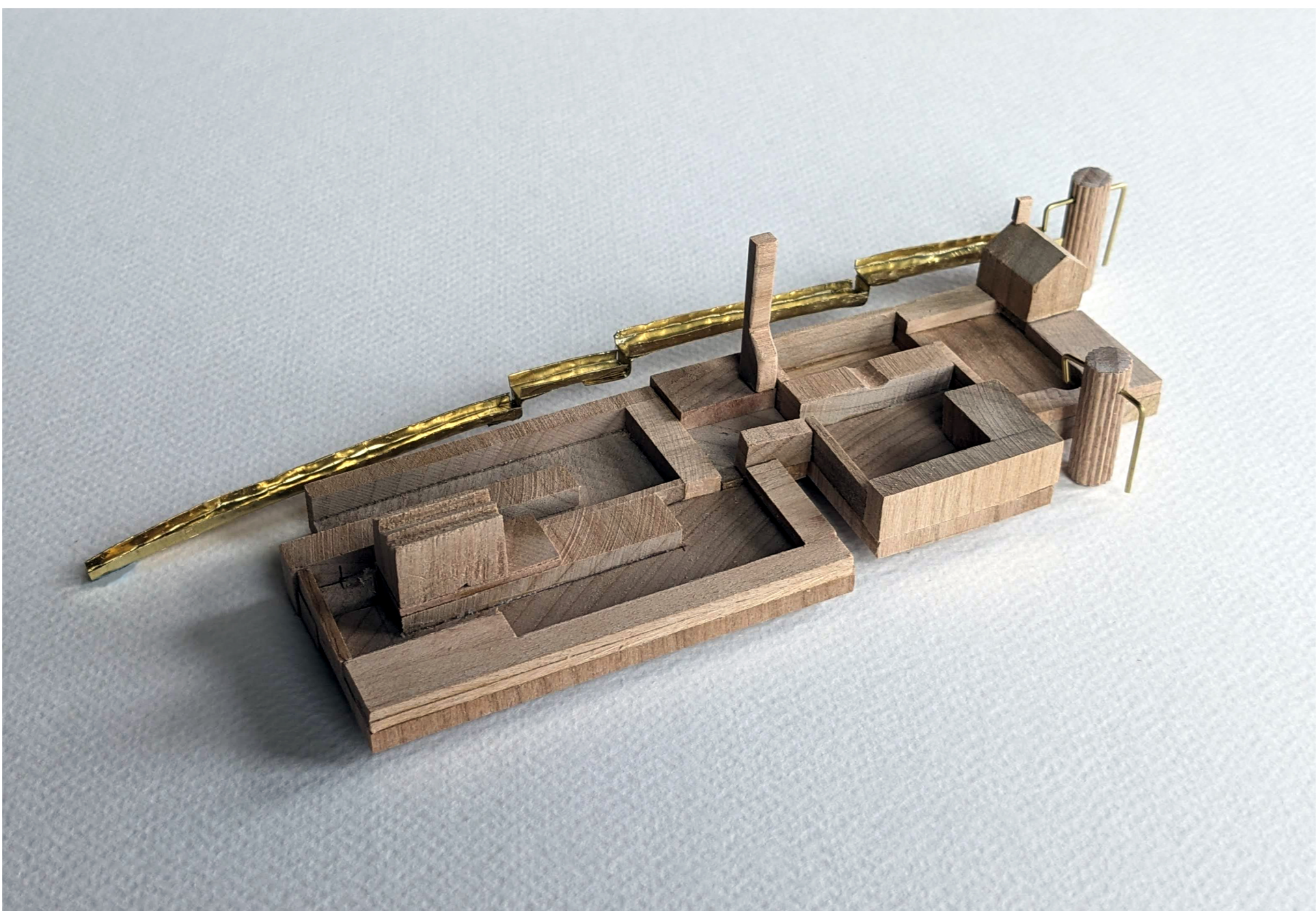
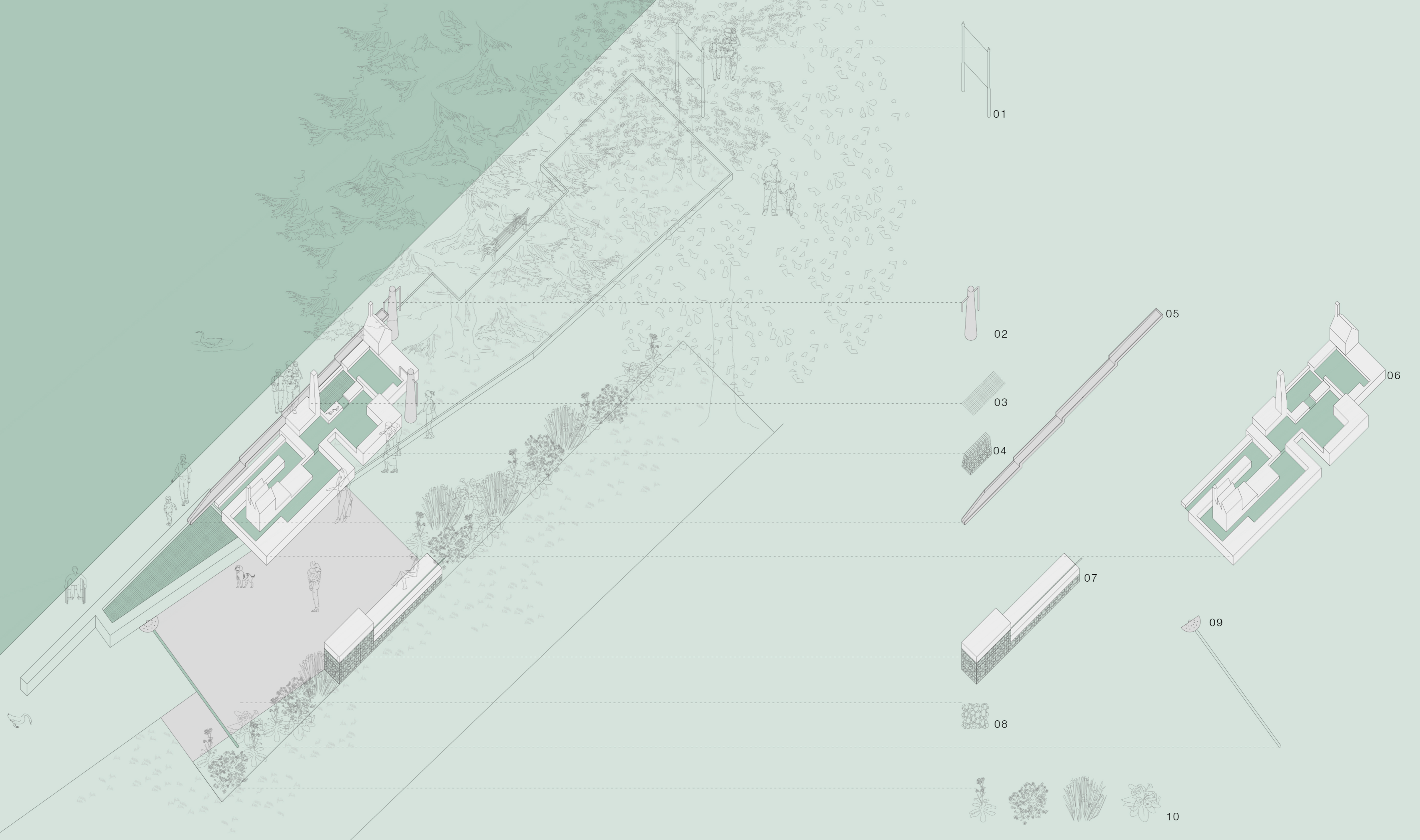
06. The table top, made from fired clay, represents the potential journey of storm water, which is slowed down and attenuated to protect the overall system from overflowing. A series of channels and vessels hold and release water in a controlled fashion.

07. Bench base formed from similar filigree metal cage, back-filled with rounded stone ballast. Bench top formed in fired clay.

08. The space between the table and bench is laid with permeable paving, so that localised surface water can be absorbed to avoid flooding.

09. A brass water channel is inlaid flush with the ground, taking water from the table to the planting.

10. Plants, such as Ragged Robin, Forget-me-nots, wild Primrose and Yellow Flag Iris have been selected for their ability to withstand moist soil.



The Water Table

This proposal introduces a new communal table and bench, which are envisaged as a civic space for the city of Belfast - a place which can be used by individuals or groups, to educate and promote public discourse about water in our society.

The installation will be located directly adjacent to the lower swan lake at the Waterworks park in north Belfast. As a site of historic civil infrastructure, this is a fitting setting in which to remind ourselves of the unique importance of water and the challenges facing our water system.

The installation promotes the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). Through a series of channels, vessels and permeable elements, this installation literally brings the concept of water and drainage to the surface, making tangible infrastructure, from that which is typically out of sight and out of mind.



Image References

- A Querini Stampalia Foundation Venice, Carlo Scarpa, 1963
- B Still Life Giorgio Morandi, 1955
- C Lagan, Ormeau Park Colin Middleton, 1940
- D Woman and child drawing water from an outside water pump Belfast, early 1900s
- E Cavehill, viewed from the Waterworks park, early 1900s
- F The Waterworks, aerial view 2020s

