

BM890

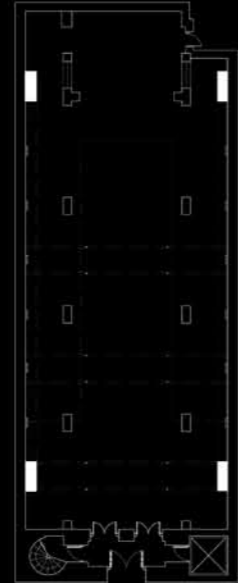
# energy – from Greek, *energeia* - *activity* .

"... You cannot keep everything the way it has been... we should focus on old buildings and see what we can do with them." Herman Hertzberger

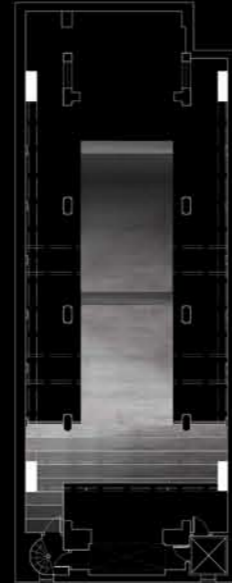
In times of doubt and skepticism, when congregations leave their ecclesiastical buildings in dereliction and disrepair, we as architects should look and re-think those spaces as what they were and what they could be. We must consider old buildings as being capable of accepting architectural interventions that are more than just temporary. We need to be thinking about reusing them in a contemporary and meaningful way. Every new use is part of a continuum and not a final instalment. Secondly, any reuse is sustainable both environmentally and socially due to the embodied energy within the existing fabric and the life brought back to a community.



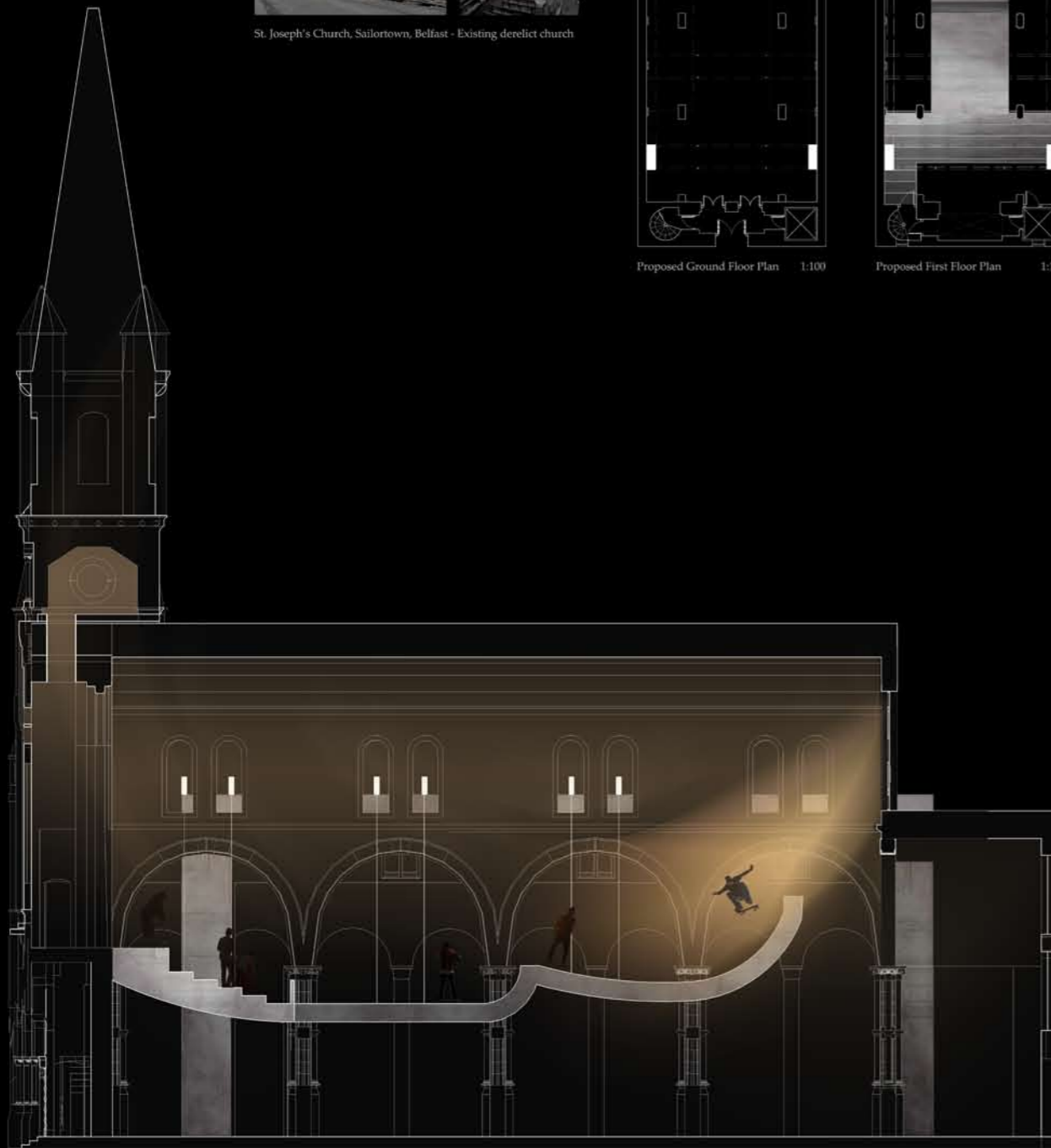
St. Joseph's Church, Sailortown, Belfast - Existing derelict church



Proposed Ground Floor Plan 1:100



Proposed First Floor Plan 1:100



BM890



With its undulating form, made possible by the inherent plastic qualities of concrete, the proposed canopy would provide a suspended layer of activity within the existing church shell. By bringing a typically external activity such as skating, the canopy allows this energy to be brought internally.

## kinetic energy



The undulating underside of the canopy, designed to provide the required sound reflection patterns makes possible the reuse of the existing church as a music/entertainment venue. The existing acoustic qualities of the church would provide a versatile sound environment for both chamber music and mechanical audio systems.

## sound energy



Both ground and first floors would provide flexible open plan spaces for social interactions such as marketplaces, concerts, sports events, community meetings, exhibitions etc. Thus, the currently unused and derelict building would provide once more a lively and interactive place for the surrounding community.

## social activity