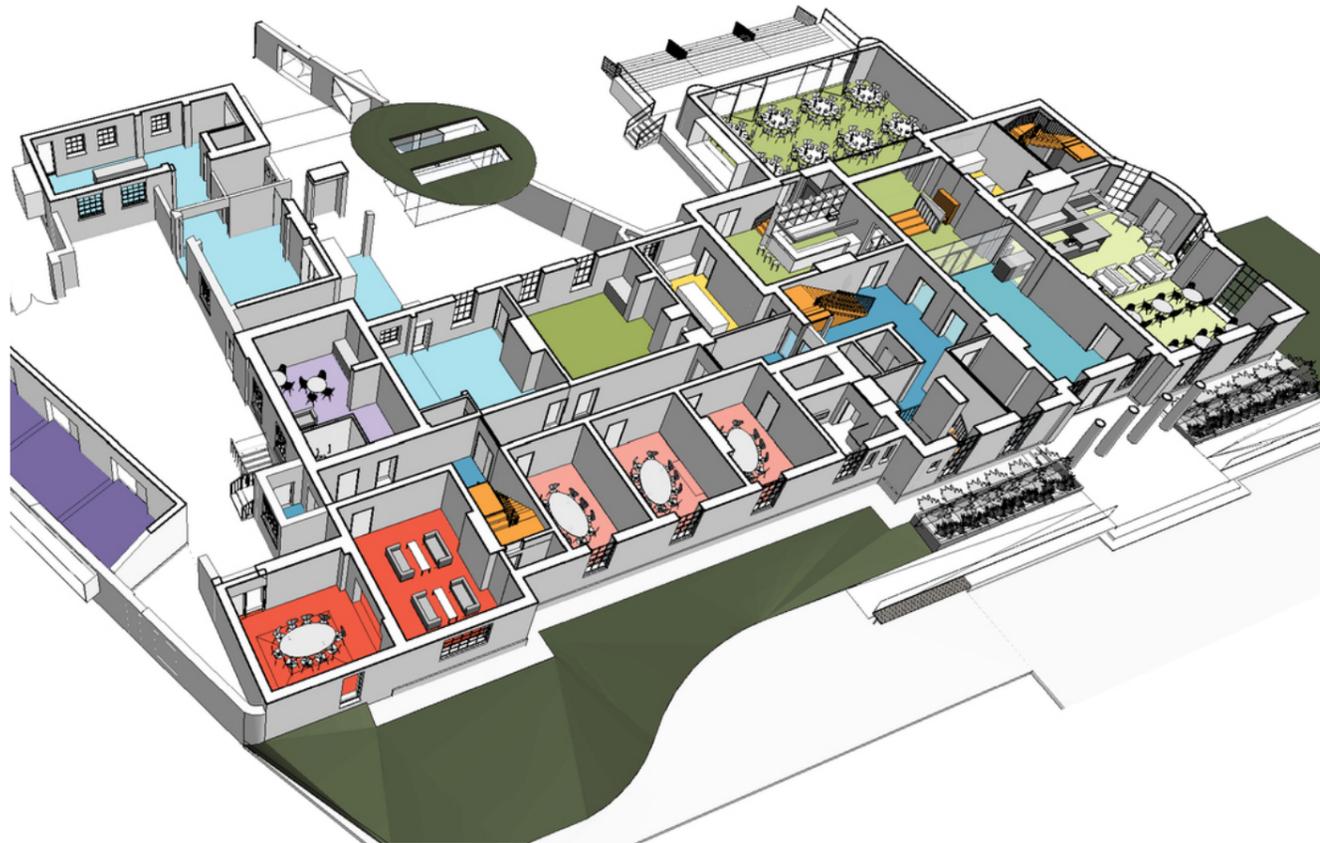


# THE READER, LIVERPOOL



**LOCATION:** CALDERSTONES PARK, LIVERPOOL  
**CLIENT:** THE READER ORGANISATION  
**COMPLETION:** 2019  
**VALUE:** £3.5M  
**SIZE:** 2006M<sup>2</sup>  
**SERVICE:** ARCHITECTURAL, LANDSCAPE, INTERIORS  
**SECTOR:** ARTS & CULTURE  
**CONTRACTOR:** JOHN TURNER CONSTRUCTION GROUP LTD  
**LANDSCAPE:** AUSTIN-SMITH:LORD  
**STRUCTURES:** CURTINS  
**SERVICES:** CHARLES ANDREWS LTD  
**COST CONSULTANT:** TODD & LEDSON  
**LISTING:** GRADE II

The project vision is to refurbish the Mansion House within Calderstones Park to create The Reader's International Centre for Shared Reading. Alongside the International profile The Reader is primarily a community based organisation, this project seeks to build on that relationship and improve both the facilities and the offer.

The Mansion House was constructed in 1828 and is grade II listed. It includes an art deco outdoor theatre in the "secret garden" to the rear of the house added in 1945.



The Calderstones from which the park takes its name are six pre-historic stones thought to be from a chambered burial mound on a nearby site. Repositioning the Calderstones to a more accessible location in the courtyard of the Mansion is a significant objective, which will symbolically reconnect the park with its history.

The project is the next phase of a masterplan which began with The Reader Ice Cream Parlour (2015) and The Storybarn (2016) in the stable block courtyard and future phases that include the conversion of the stable block into residential accommodation.

The project is HLF funded and will include reading rooms, library, a period room, a function suite including bar, café, offices, tenant spaces, workshops, shop, exhibition space and gallery.

The brief is a complex mix of uses underpinned by the daily life of the Reader organisation, which is to include group reading rooms, library and office spaces. The Mansion House will also have a cafe, bar and function suite.

To the rear of the house is an Art Deco theatre extension (1947), which will be reinstated and used for performances and cinema events situated in the 'secret' rear garden. There will also be a new visitor centre with shop and exhibition, period room and a display of the original Calder Stones. The Mansion House will also have various office and studio-style tenanted spaces; from literature rooms, to arts and ceramics studios.

The Reader is an inclusive organisation engaging with wide ranging groups from the local community and reaching out into regional, national and international communities. Visitors will include a wide range of ages, physical and mental abilities and cultural backgrounds. It is important that all of these communities feel comfortable and welcome within the refurbished building.

Entrance thresholds and navigating around the building are key to creating a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. The new entrance at the north west corner will incorporate a power assisted glazed door that allows views into the shop and through to the "secret garden".

A metal sleeve will signpost the new entrance and a welcoming approach from the main pedestrian spine invites the visitor to enter. This landscaped zone is extended alongside the shop to give access to the "secret garden auditorium" for theatre performances.

The porticoed entrance to the original mansion creates a more formal arrival point for events such as weddings and festivals. New ramps give level access on approach and from the outdoor seating area of the café. Similarly a new ramp will give level access from the bar to the "secret garden". By introducing a strategically positioned lift and minor adjustments to levels - we can achieve access to the majority of areas for all visitors and staff alike, where previously this was not possible.