

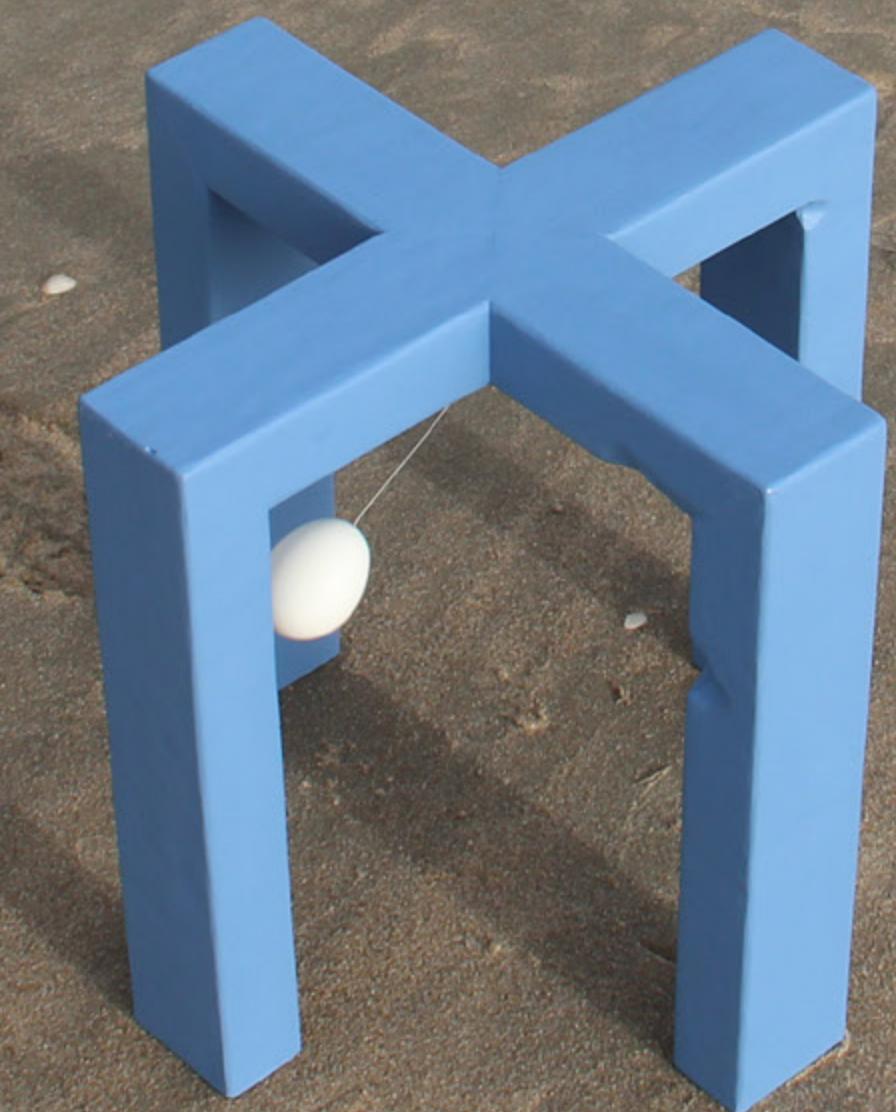
Sonya Levchynska



Selected Projects

1. An Egg. Celebration of Life
2. Collecting Water. Toilet as it ought to be
3. The Field Hat
4. The Roof Chair
5. Allow Perching (graduation project 2025)

An Egg. Celebration of Life





The project began with a visit to the Zuiderzeemuseum archive. An egg bowl caught my eye, its shape and color. The shape of the chair is abstract, and not appropriate for seating too long. It was inspired by the 90-degree benches in churches that are meant for concentration in a moment. The hanging egg acts as a reminder of life. The object intends to slow down people, focus, and observe whether themselves or what's around.

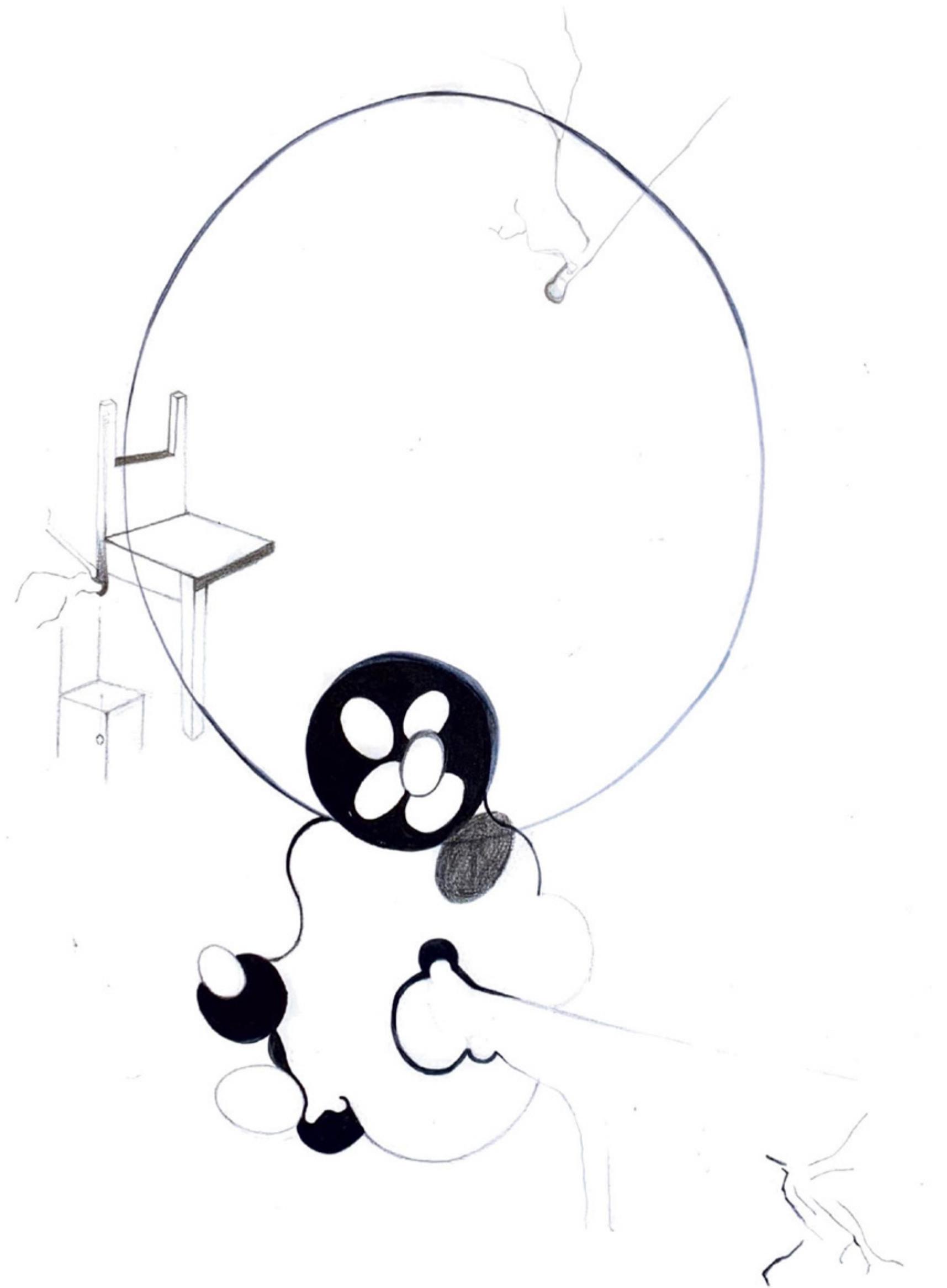


An egg chair in one of the houses at Zuiderzeemuseum.

Part of the Group Exhibition “Celebration” at Zuiderzeemuseum, Enkhuizen, the Netherlands.

Dimensions: 50 x 50 x 50 cm

Materials: painted wood and an empty egg



Initial concept drawings.

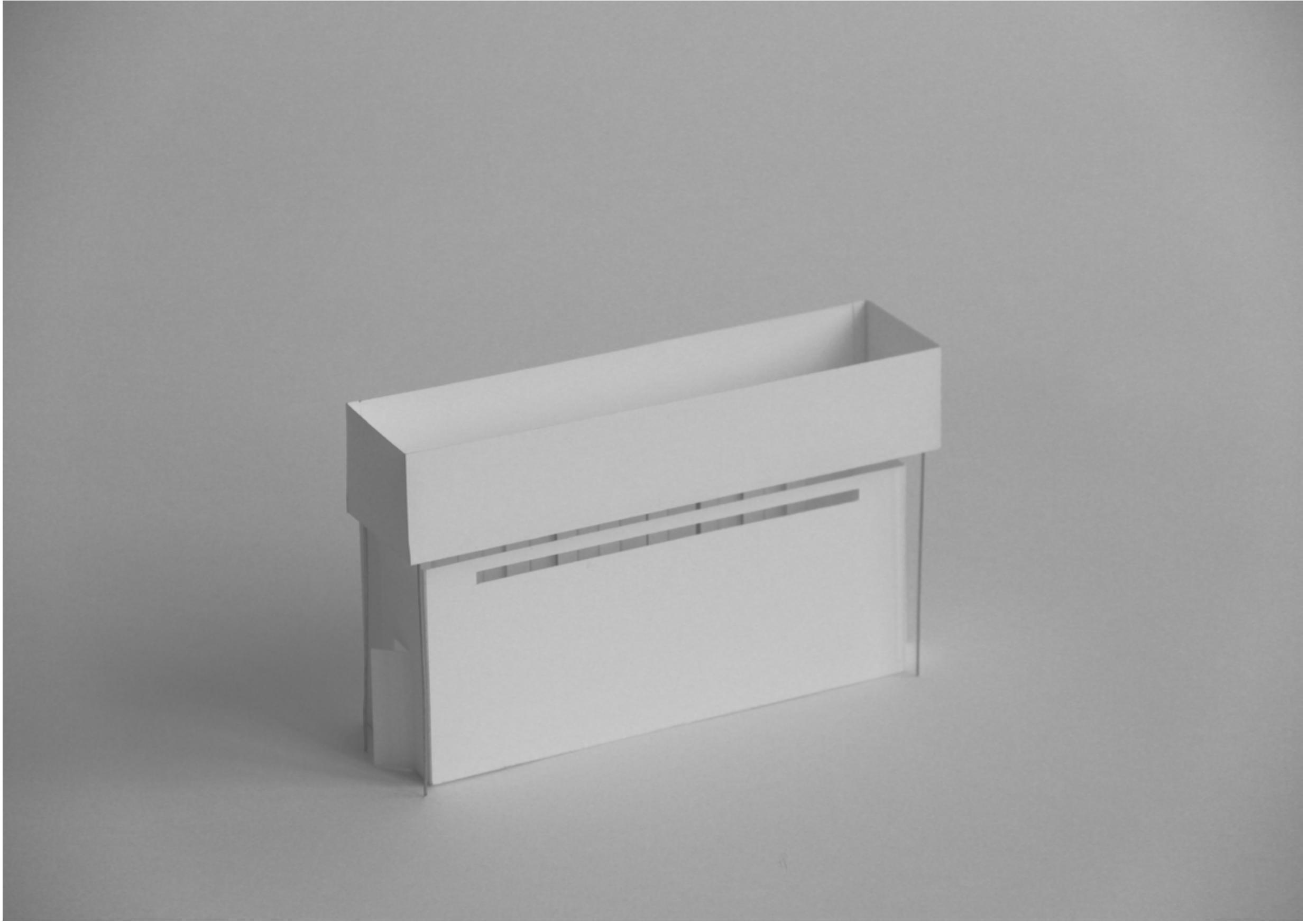
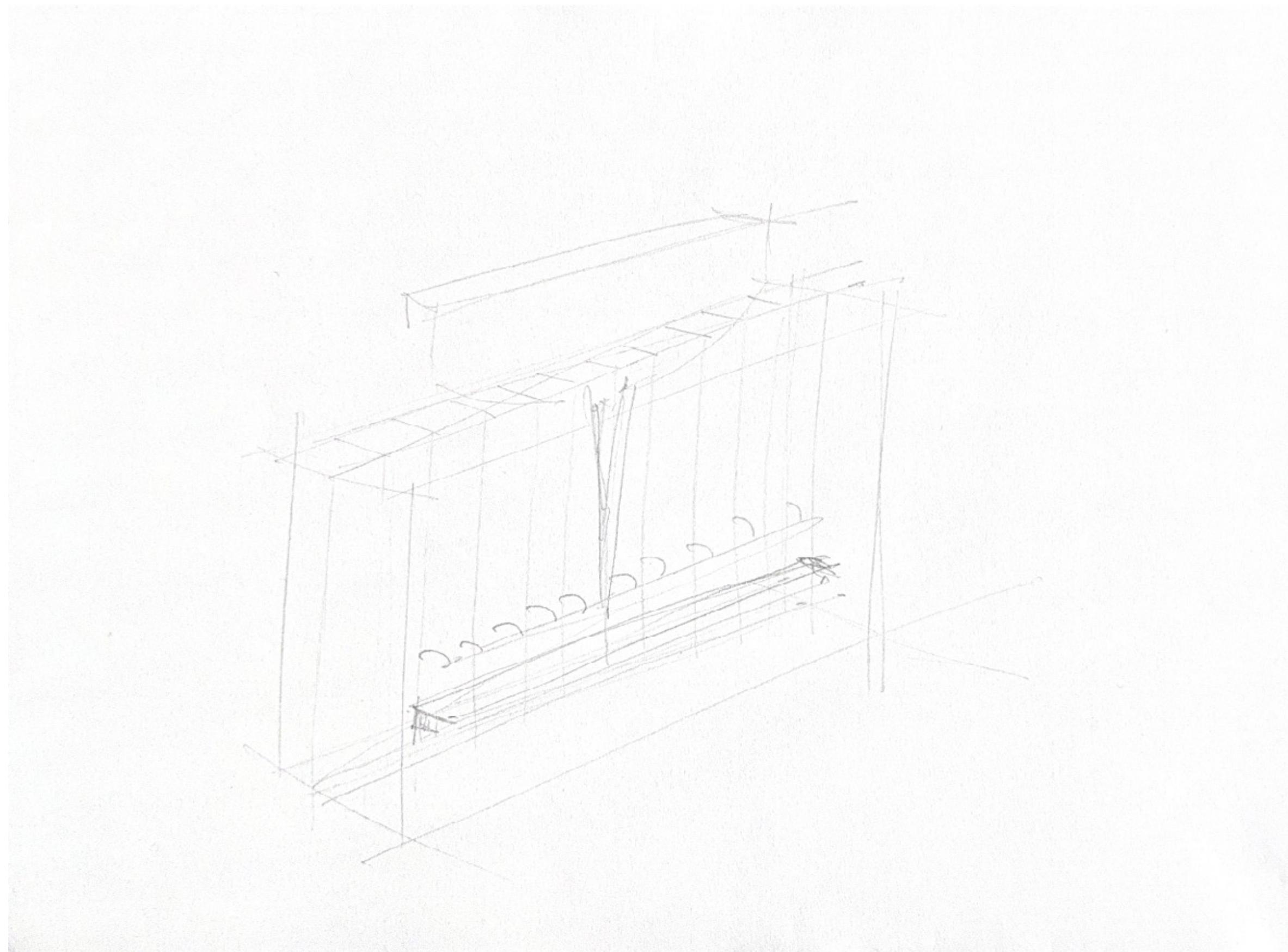


Collecting Water. Toilet as it ought to be

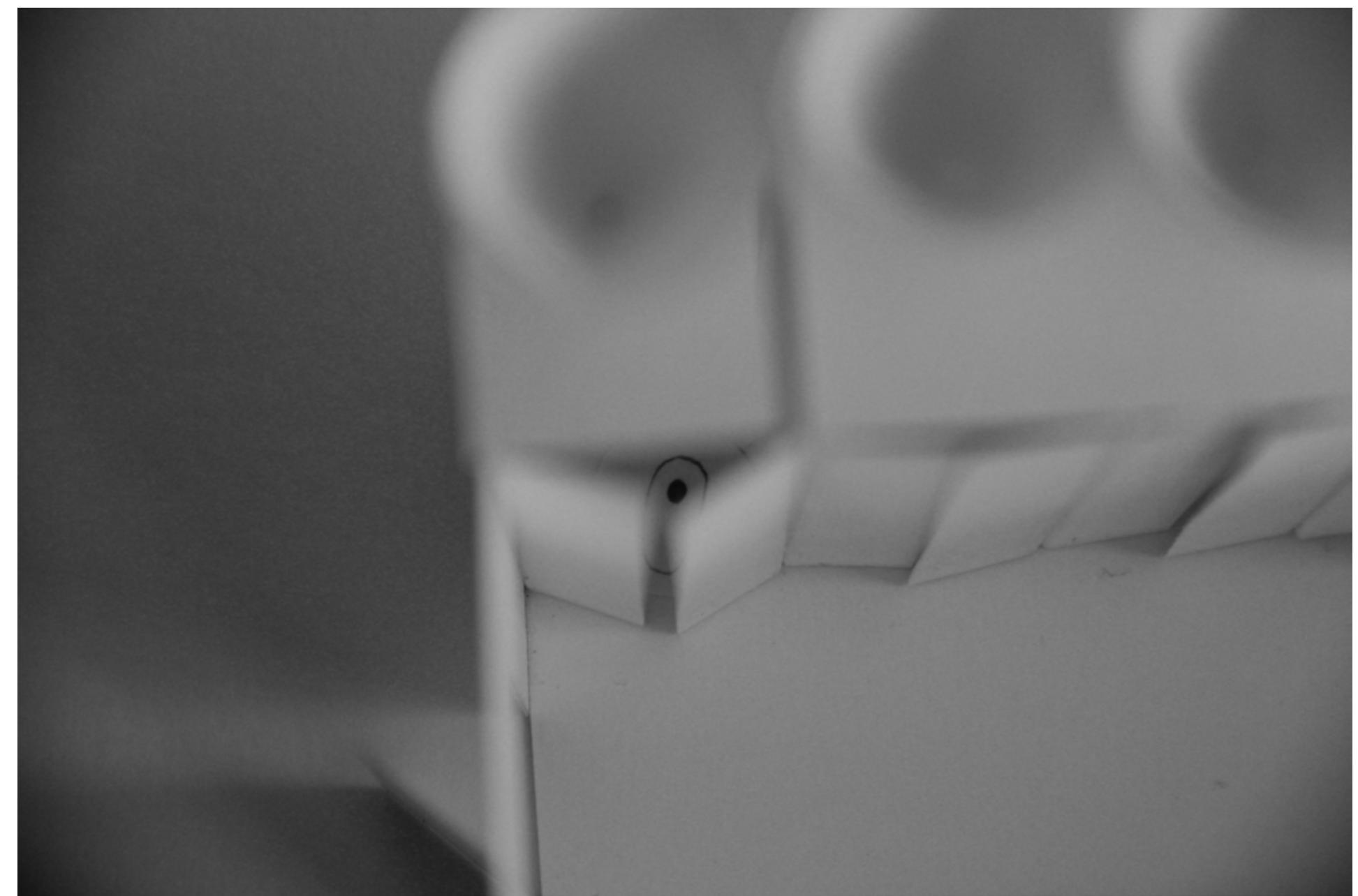
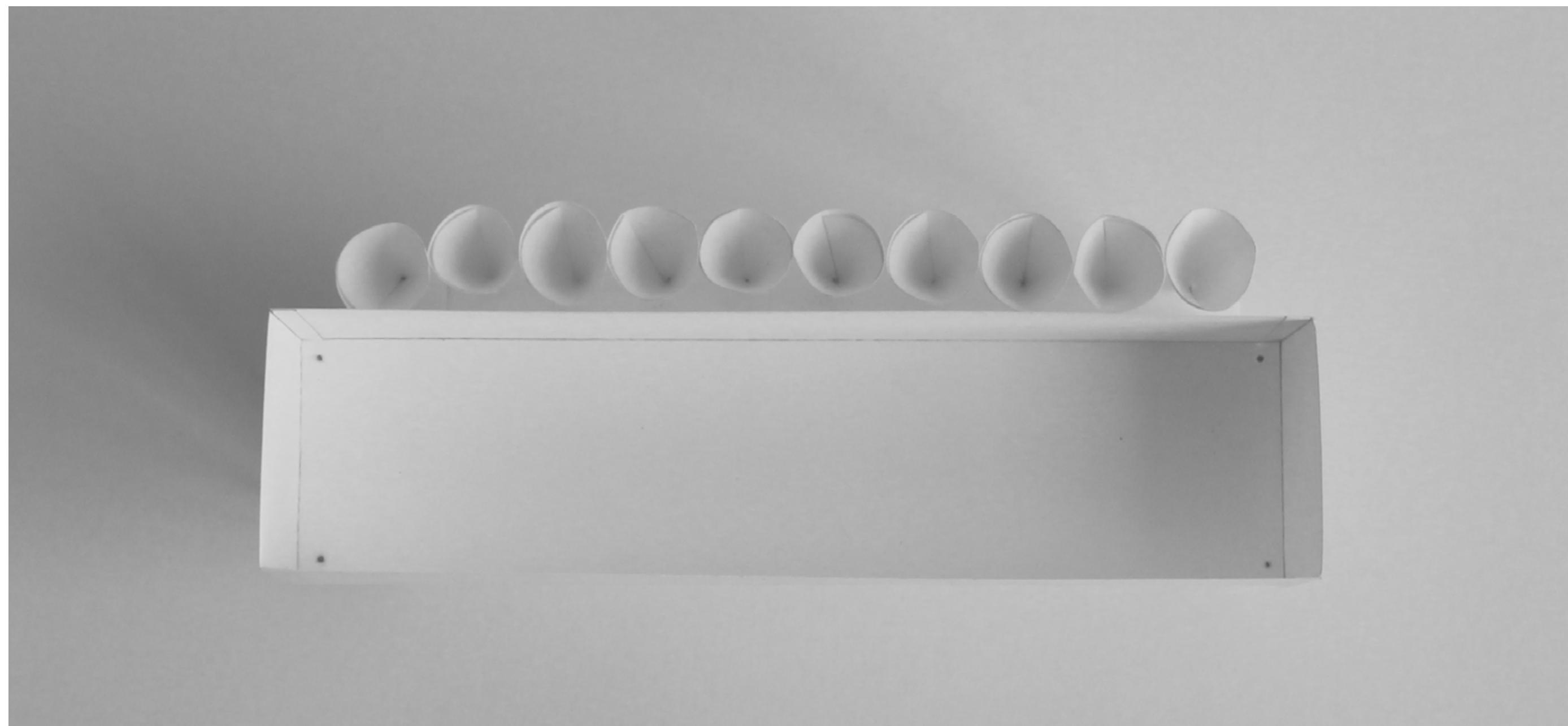




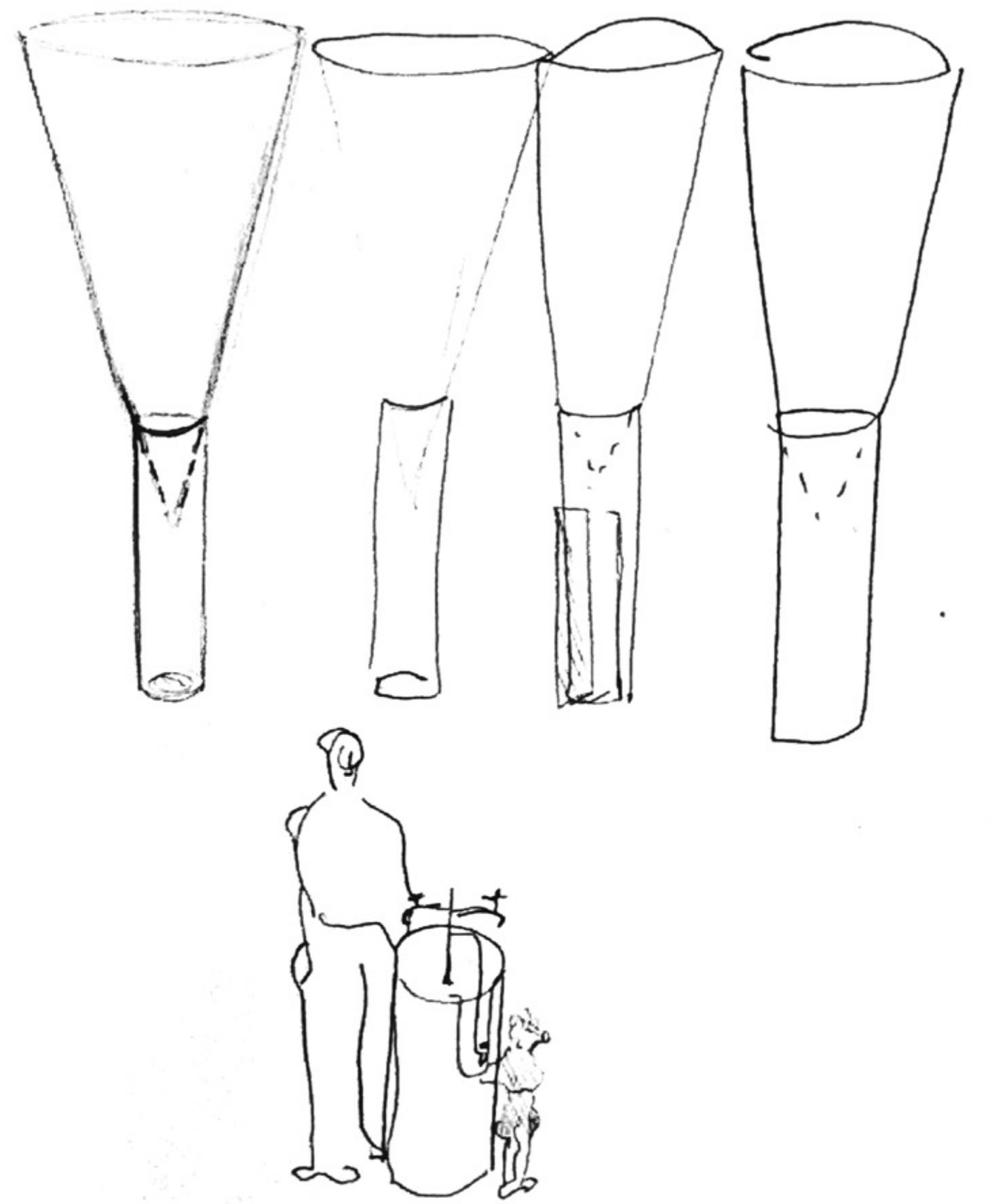
This project is a concept idea of a toilet building and a toilet itself for the OEROL festival on Terschelling island, the Netherlands.



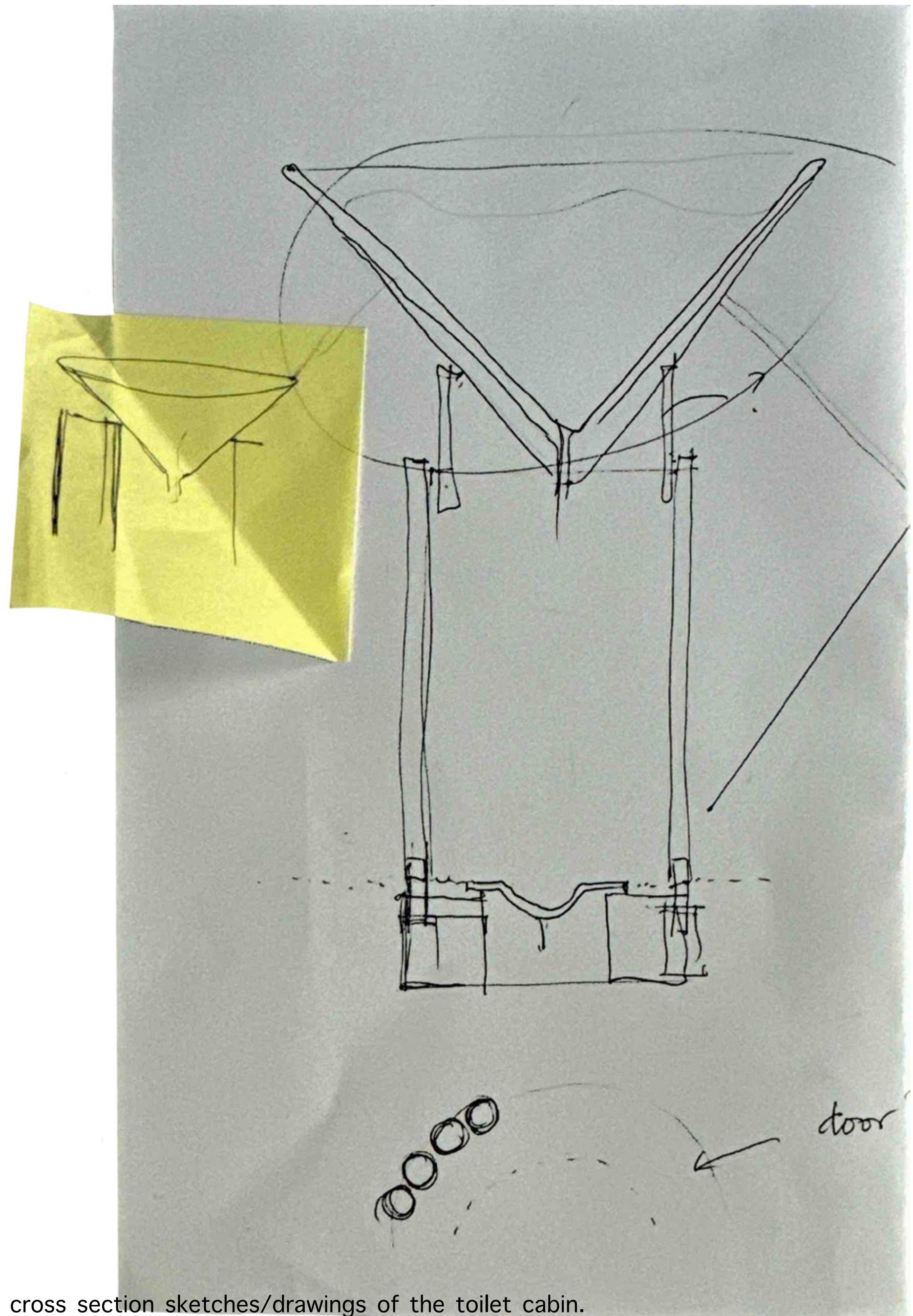
1st concept drawing and the model. I decided to use rainwater by harvesting it in the roof(s) for flushing toilets and washing hands.



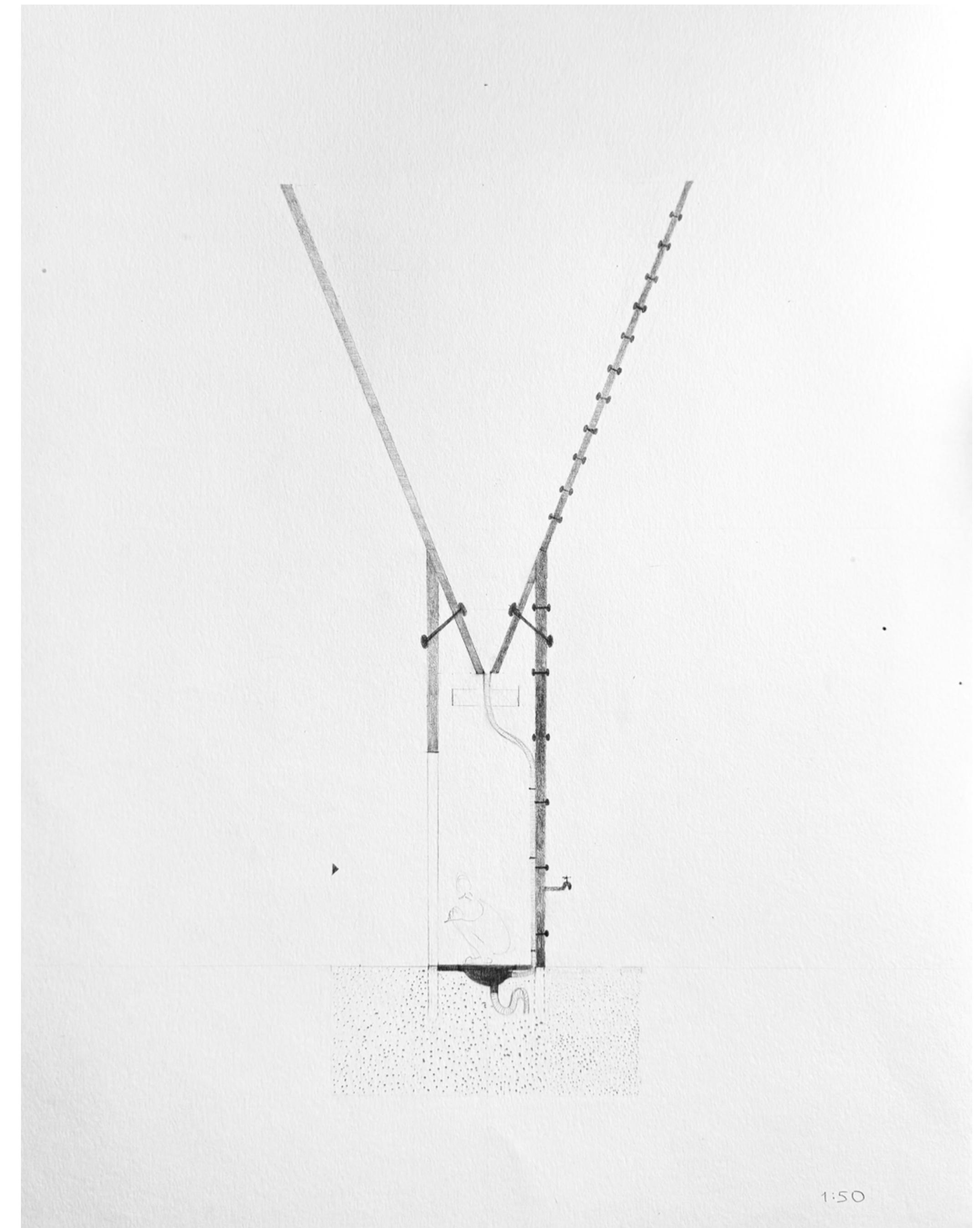
"Rain. Toilet as it ought to ~~be~~."



2nd concept idea of separate toilet cabins to be spread across the island instead of one toilet building.



The cross section sketches/drawings of the toilet cabin.

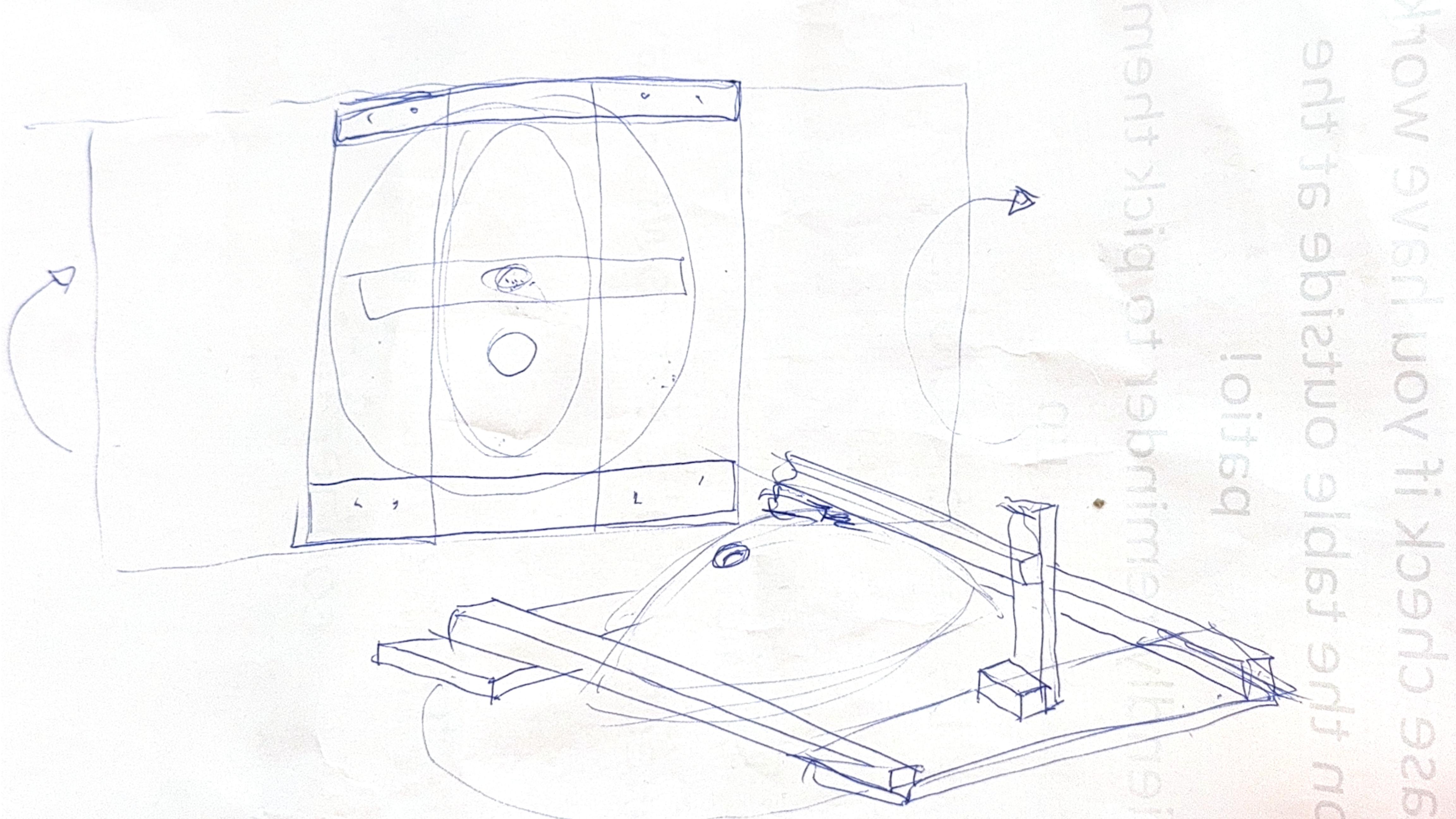




Experiments with shapes for the toilet itself and its size.



Scale model 1:10 of the toilet.



Sketches of the structure for the making/flipping of the toilet.



Production in the ceramics workshop.



The toilet itself is a squatting toilet. This type of toilet is more hygienic and more appropriate for general public use rather than a sitting/household toilet due to its design. The squatting defecation posture is more physiological, ideal, and relaxed.

Dimensions - 60X60 cm.

The Field Hat





The hat is designed in a porrelen way for workers of Noordwijkerhout. It is the center of the flower bulb region in the Netherlands. The word porrelen is used by locals and means as much tinkering or messing around in a constructive way with the materials that are at hand.

In that area strong UV light causes cancer, heavy wind is experienced due to the flatness of the landscape and rain is regular in the Netherlands. I decided to make a hat that protects from different weather conditions such as sun, wind, and rain for workers on the field, and gardeners. The hat is made from one spread of newspaper by just folding it. Folded parts are connected with pins, but can also be stitched, or taped.

Watch the video via this link: <https://youtu.be/0A1-vf1PrqE>



The Field Hat is waterproofed using beeswax.



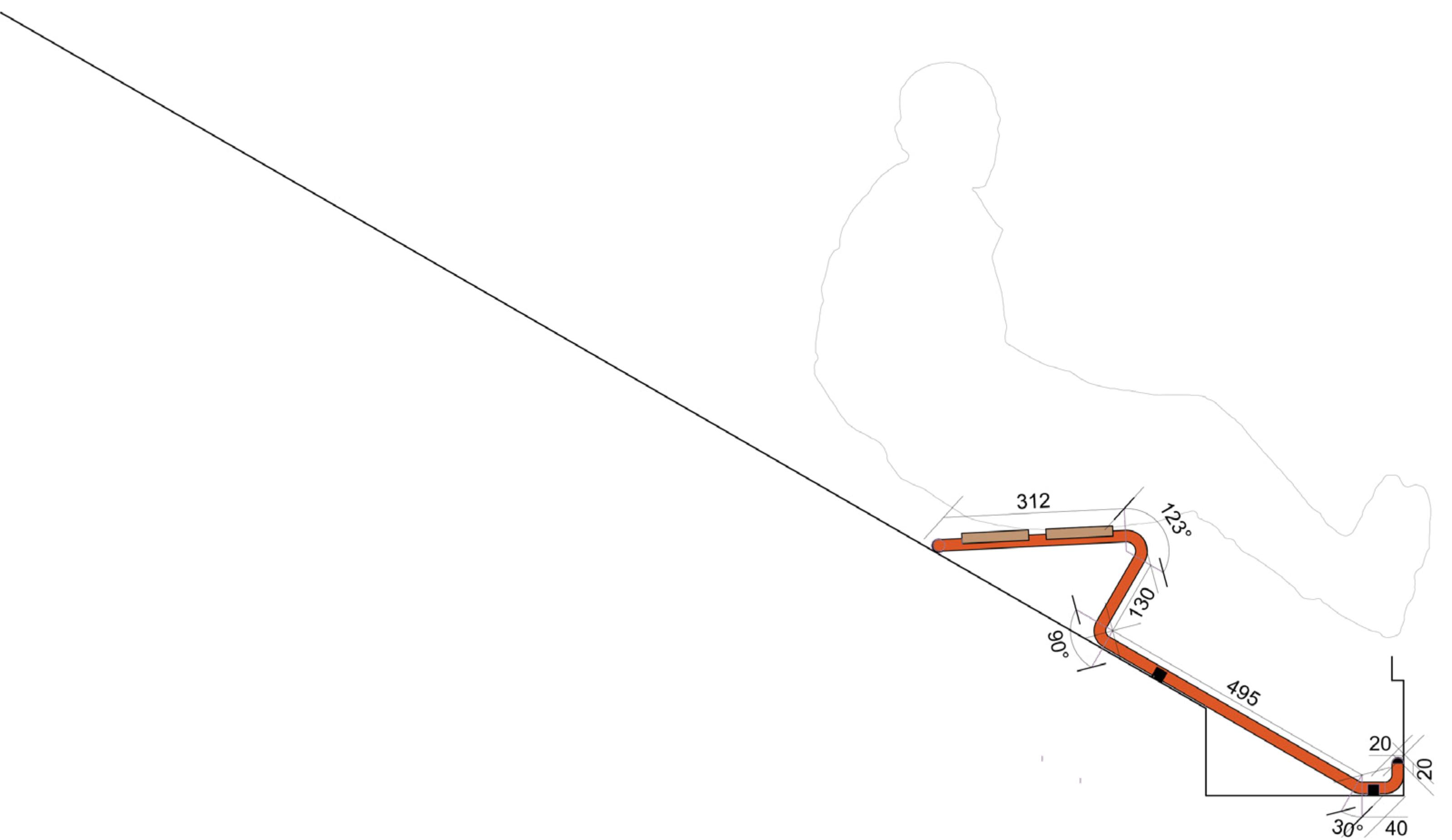
Analysis and thoughts after the project:

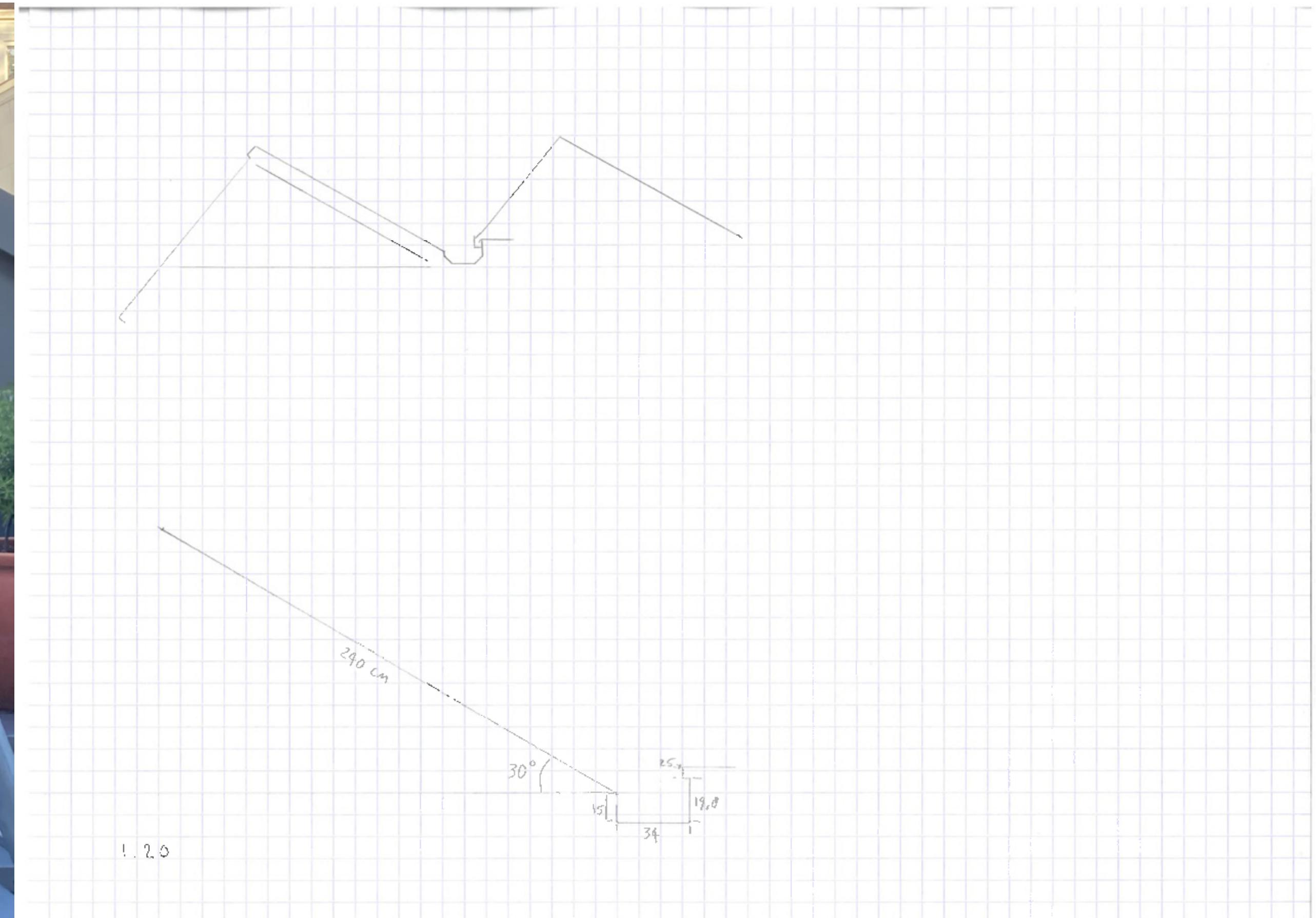
People live on Earth and face different weather conditions every day. Weather influences what people eat, how they spend their time, architecture, and even physical traits such as skin tone or eye shape. It also shapes what people wear.

The fashion industry, however, follows seasonal trends that offer people more choice than they truly need. Clothing often prioritizes style over comfort, functionality, or mental well-being. Moreover, fast fashion causes significant harm to the environment, through resource use, waste, and pollution.

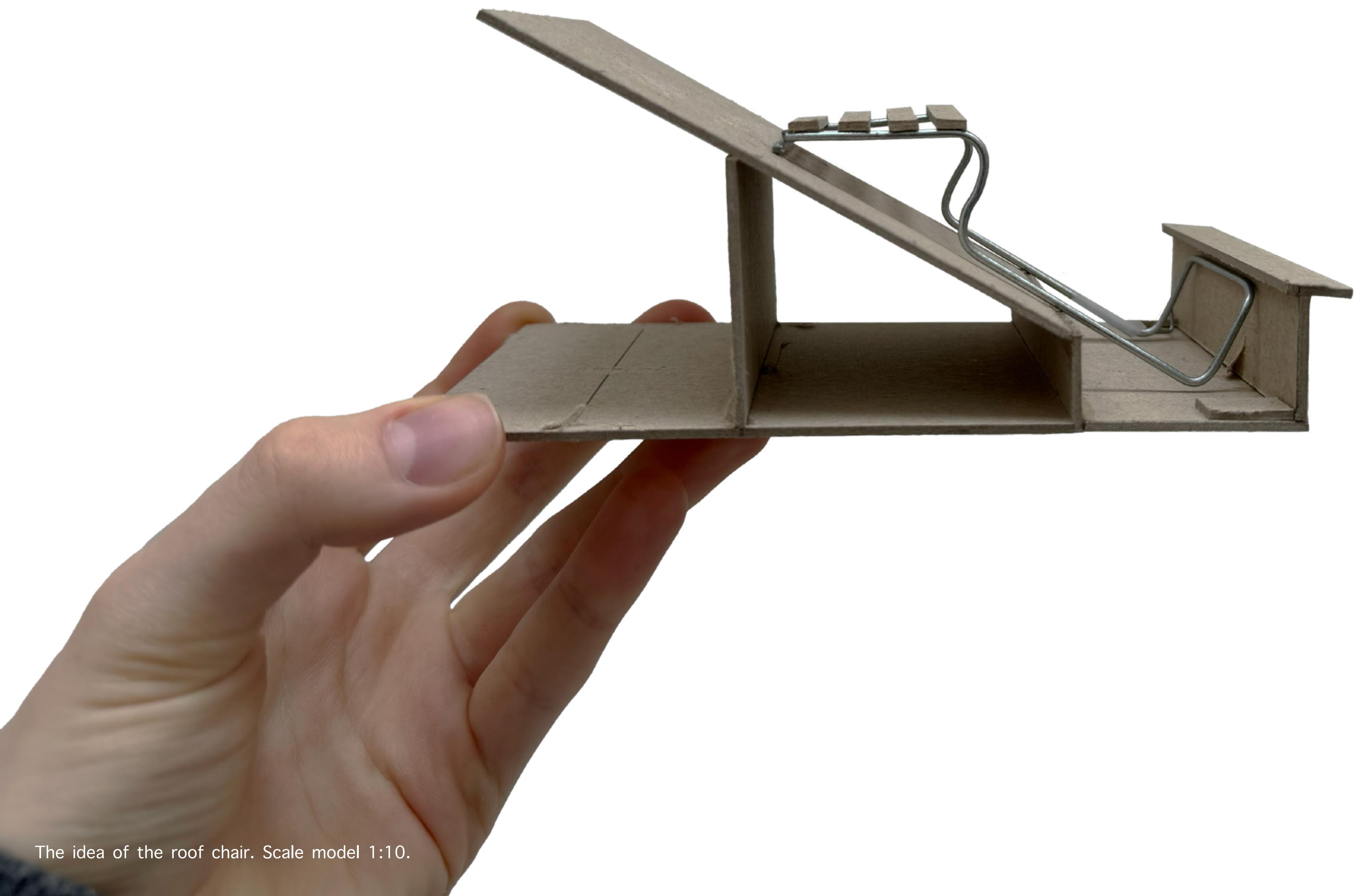
My goal is to rethink clothing design by focusing on comfort, durability, multifunctionality, and adaptability to different weather conditions. By simplifying production and creating versatile garments, I aim to encourage people to prioritize sustainability and meaningful interaction with their clothing, rather than constant consumption of trends.

The Roof Chair

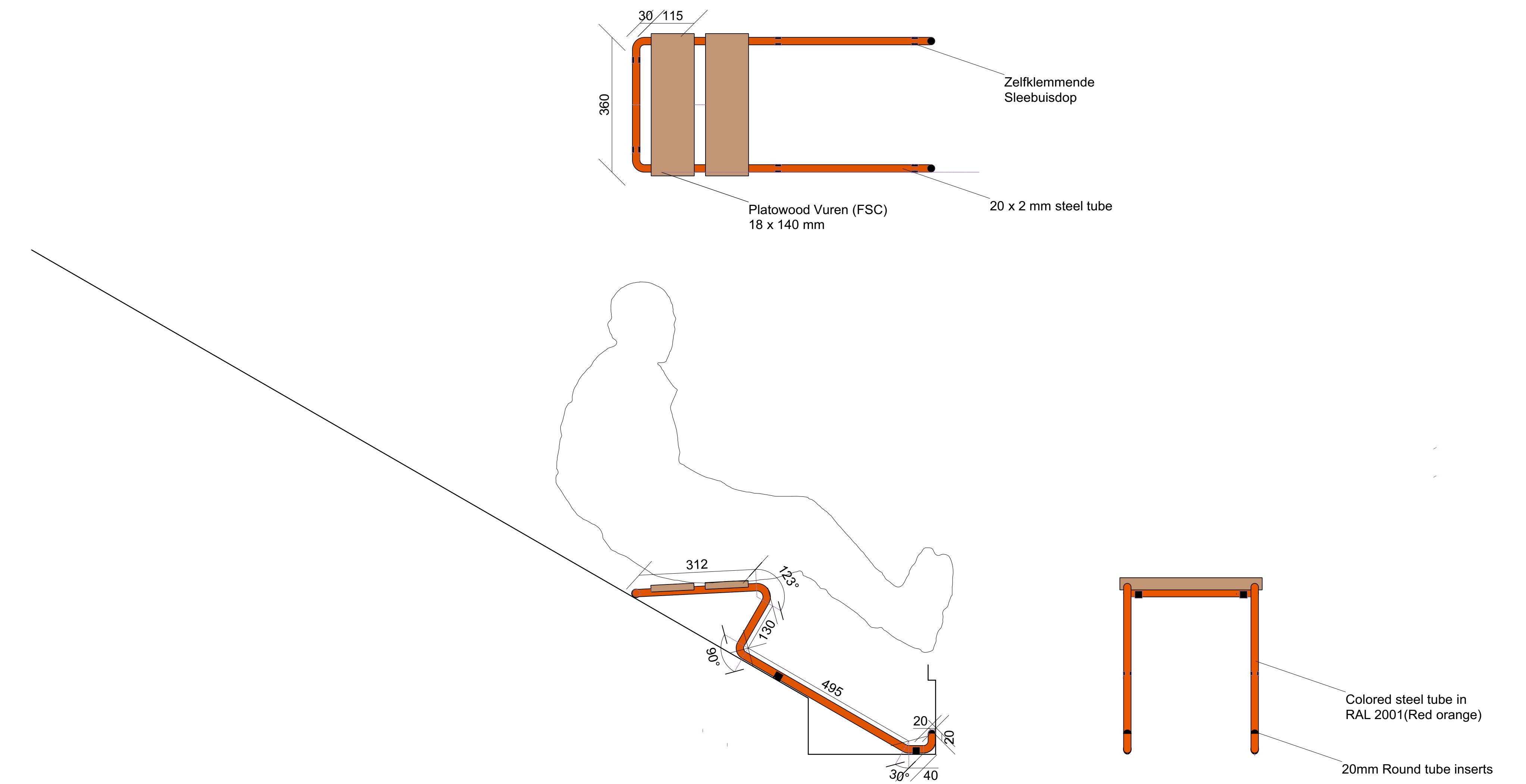




During my internship at MullerVanTol I was asked to come up with the chair specifically for the roof of their studio.



The idea of the roof chair. Scale model 1:10.



* alle partijen zijn verantwoordelijk voor de uitvoering van het eigen werk.
 * alle maten bepalen in het werk.
 * constructie volgens opgave opdrachtgever.

MÜLLER VAN TOL	opdrachtgever MVT	project Keizersgracht 73A	onderwerp Dak stoel onderdeel losse inrichting tekening nr. 80.00.00
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Allow Perching*



AP0 (Allow Perching 0)



AP1 (Allow Perching 1)



AP2 (Allow Perching 2)

*Perch (v.) - to alight, settle, or rest on a perch, a height, or a precarious spot.

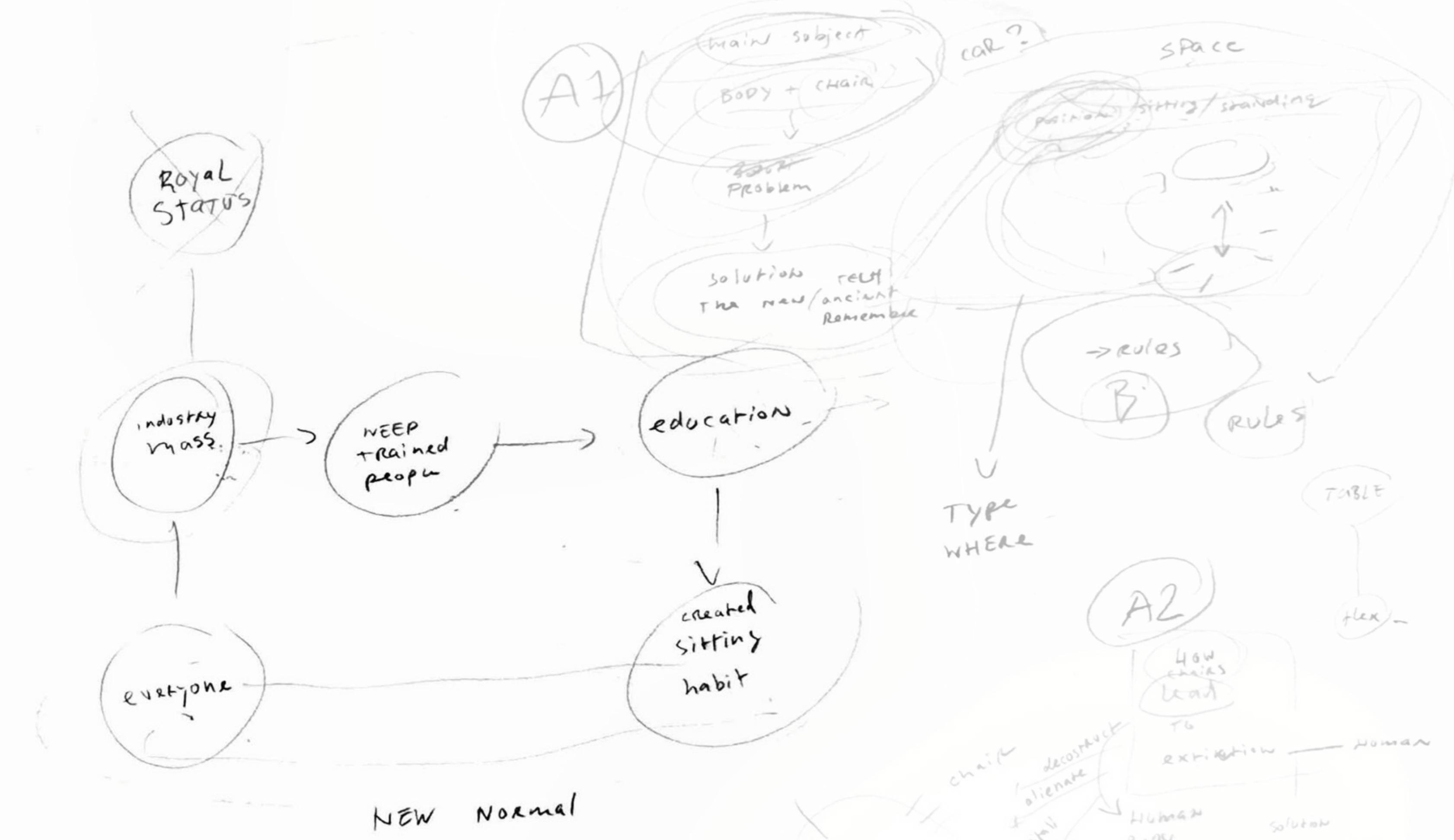


Pim: Not everything is about a chair.

I: Yes, it is. It is everywhere: schools, offices, hospitality venues (cafes, restaurants), hospitals, cinemas, theatres, religious spaces, public transport, cars, and airplanes. This means people use a chair to eat, read, write, paint/draw, watch, listen, rest, travel, and as a shape for a toilet. Yet, it can lead to extinction.

Pim: Whose extinction?

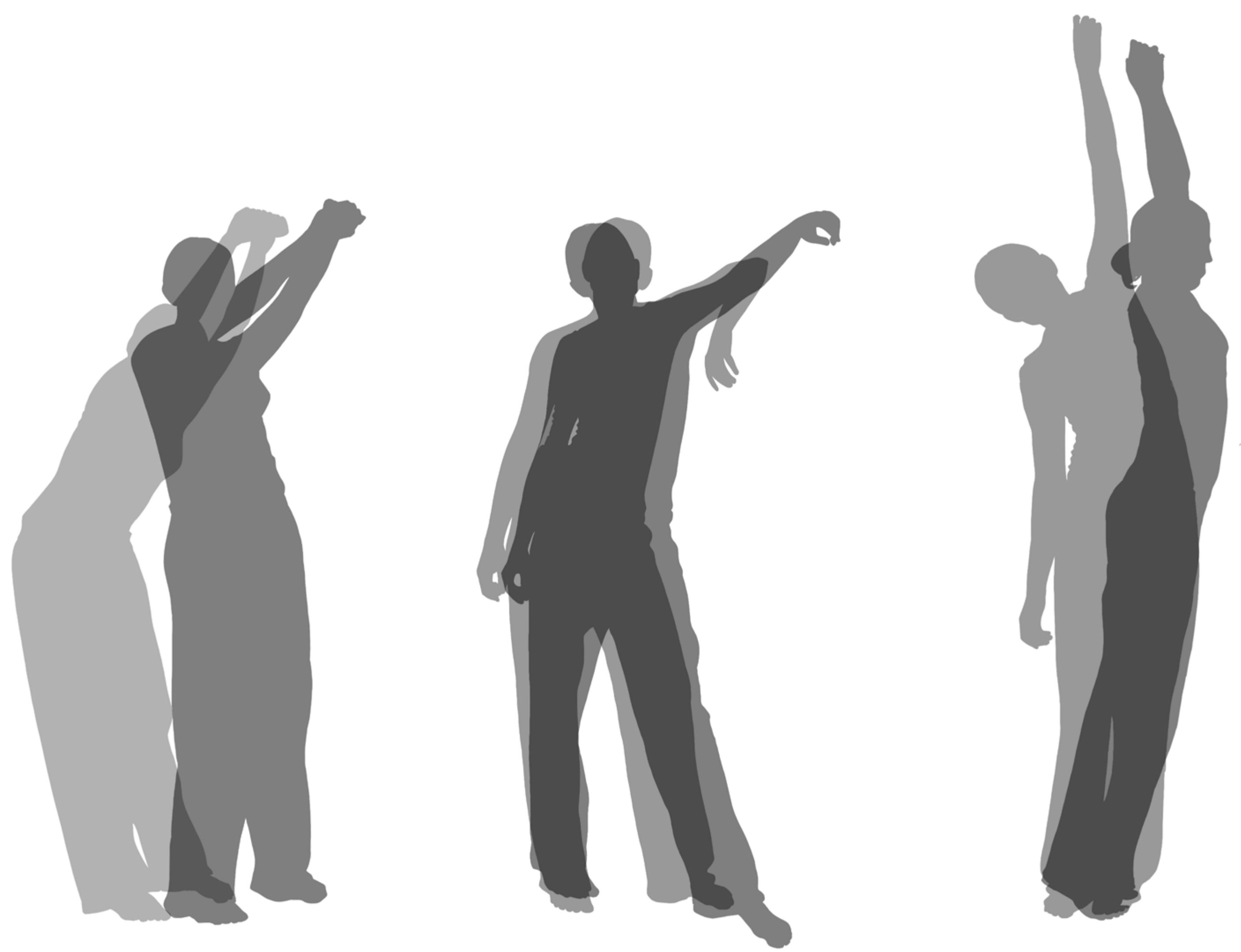
I: Humans'.



How do chairs lead to extinction? Chairs lead to human extinction because of their specialized* aspects—cultural, structural, and functional.

Humans are inherently prone to discomfort. Standing still, sitting, lying down, or even moving for extended periods without feeling fatigued can be challenging. As a result, we shift positions—transitioning from one posture to another—in response to our previous actions to alleviate these basic discomforts. The need for movement and changes in posture is automatic and instinctive; it reveals our bodies' adaptability. The chair denies this adaptability. It naturalizes one posture and limits bodily movement, while other postures—such as squatting, kneeling, or sitting cross-legged—are exoticized, marginalized, or associated with poverty or discomfort. The freedom of bodily movement is necessary. Objects for both action and rest—designed at varying heights to offer different spatial perspectives—communicate through physical interaction while remaining ambiguous in their identity as furniture. These aspects challenge the specialization that the chair silently upholds.

* The association between specialization and human extinction echoes Buckminster Fuller's claim in the Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth that "extinction occurs through specialization."



APO (Allow Perching 0) is like leaning on someone's shoulders—offering just enough support for a quick chat, a phone call. It also invites a gentle stretch, as it's set slightly higher, encouraging the body to lengthen. When placed lower, at hand height, it becomes something to casually lean into—offering rest without settling.

Material: waxed cherry wood

Dimensions: 26 cm X 5 cm; 20 cm X 4 cm

Technique: woodturning

*silhouettes as representations of users of a product





AP1 (Allow Perching 1) offers a full body rest by distributing the weight evenly throughout the whole body. It is inspired by the neutral body position that occurs in the absence of gravity. It's just large enough to support the so called 'sit bones', offering a minimal point of contact. The lightweight yet strong structure allows for a 360-degree rotation, enabling subtle shifts and continuous micro-adjustments.

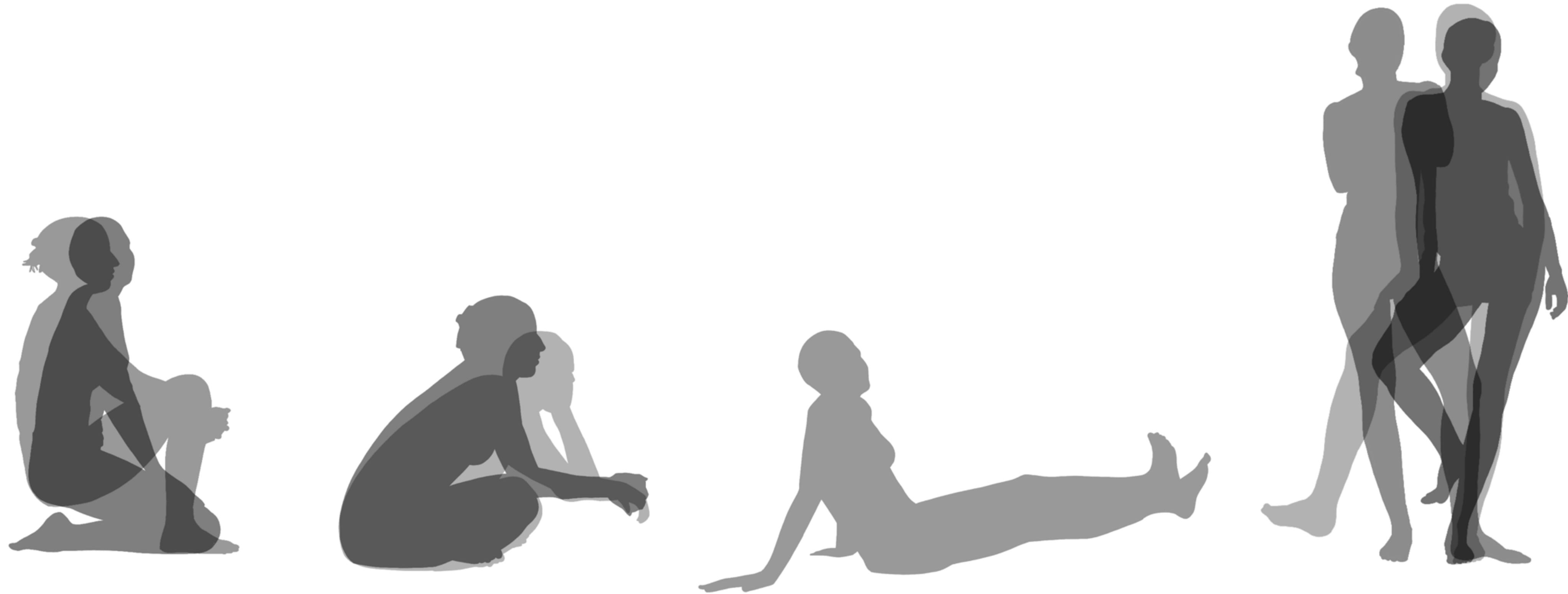
Material: bike frame, waxed cherry wood

Dimensions: 38 cm x 75 cm, footprint legs 46 cm x 49 cm

Technique: welding, woodturning

*silhouettes as representations of users of a product





AP2 (Allow Perching 2) invites to try out a range of positions and allows for gentle rotation. It's just large enough to support the so called 'sit bones', offering a minimal point of contact. When standing, it serves as a subtle support between the feet or underneath one foot. It can also be rolled and easily repositioned, making it interactive and responsive to movement.

Material: waxed meranti

Dimensions: 28 cm x 17 cm

Technique: woodturning

*silhouettes as representations of users of a product





Watch the video via this link: <https://youtu.be/zBUBy049RiU>