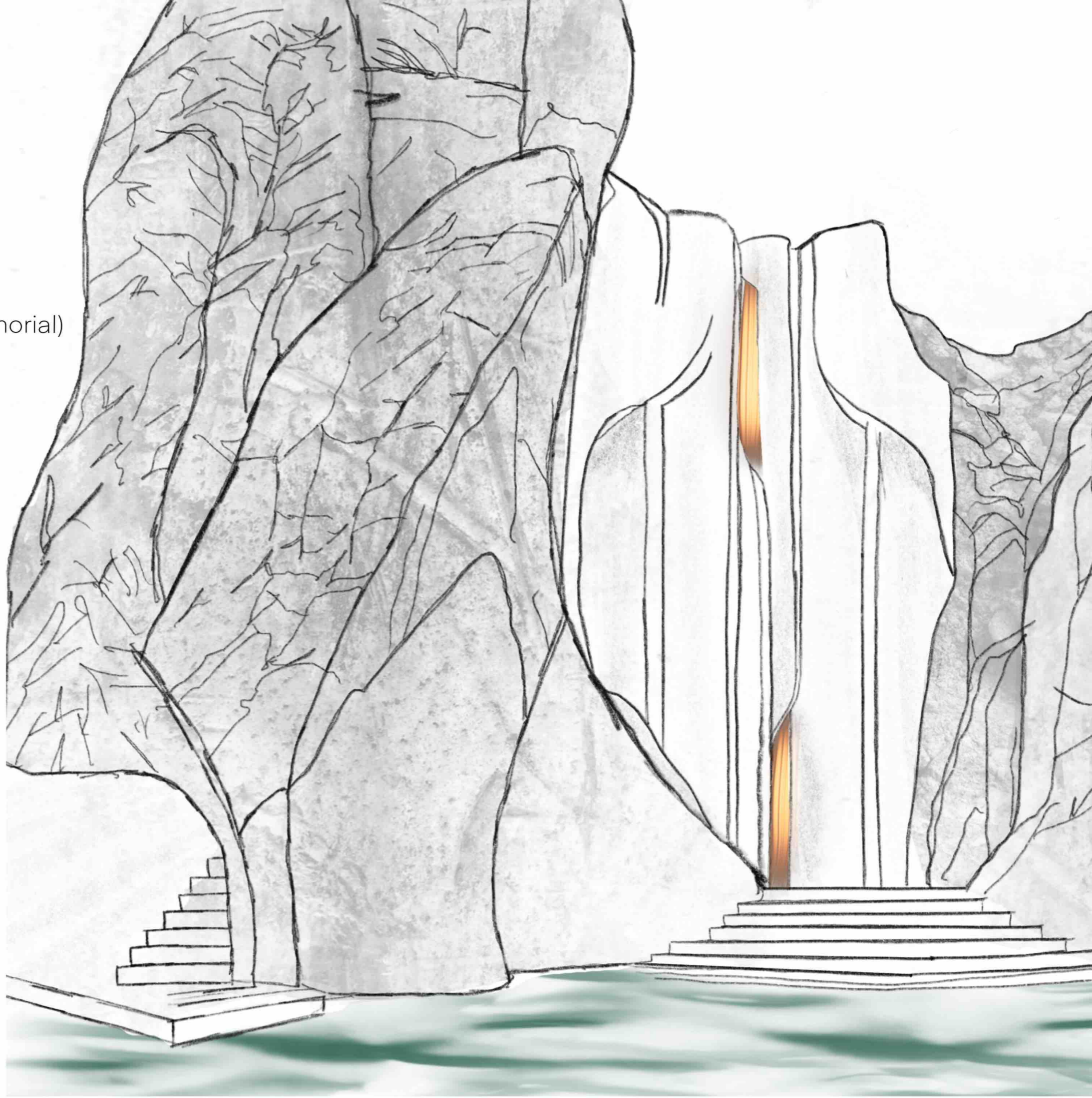


# RHITM

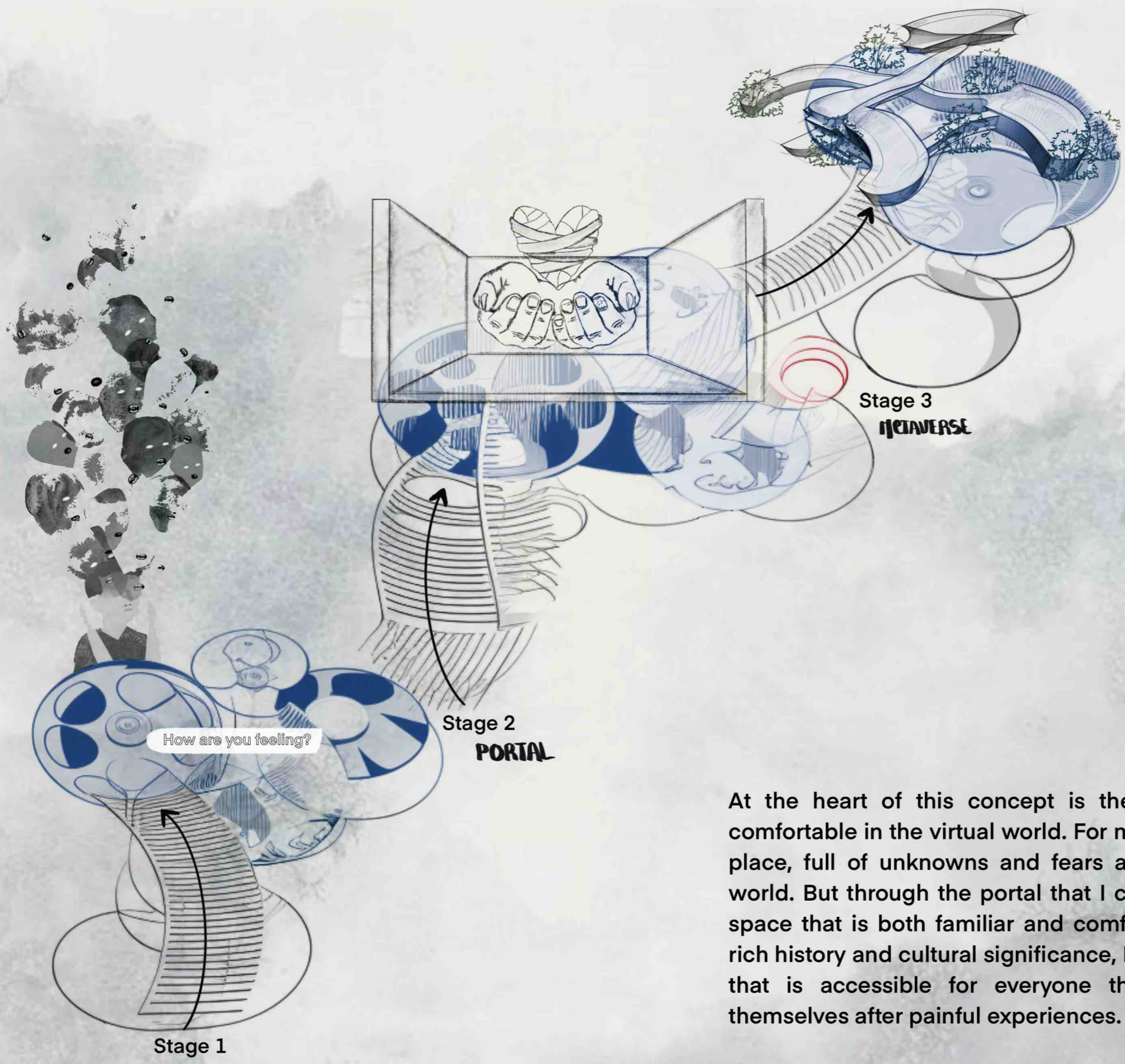
(Recreating history in the memorial)



# RHITM

My architecture project aims to bring the past to life in the metaverse through an innovative blend of organic modernism and vernacular architecture. By incorporating traditional materials and resources from the local area where the building is located, I aim to create a sense of connection with the environment and the history of the site. This approach will not only showcase the evolution of architecture over time but also provide a sense of familiarity and comfort to users in the virtual world. The fusion of old and new will allow for a unique experience that seamlessly blends the real and virtual worlds, inviting users to engage with the past in a new and exciting way.





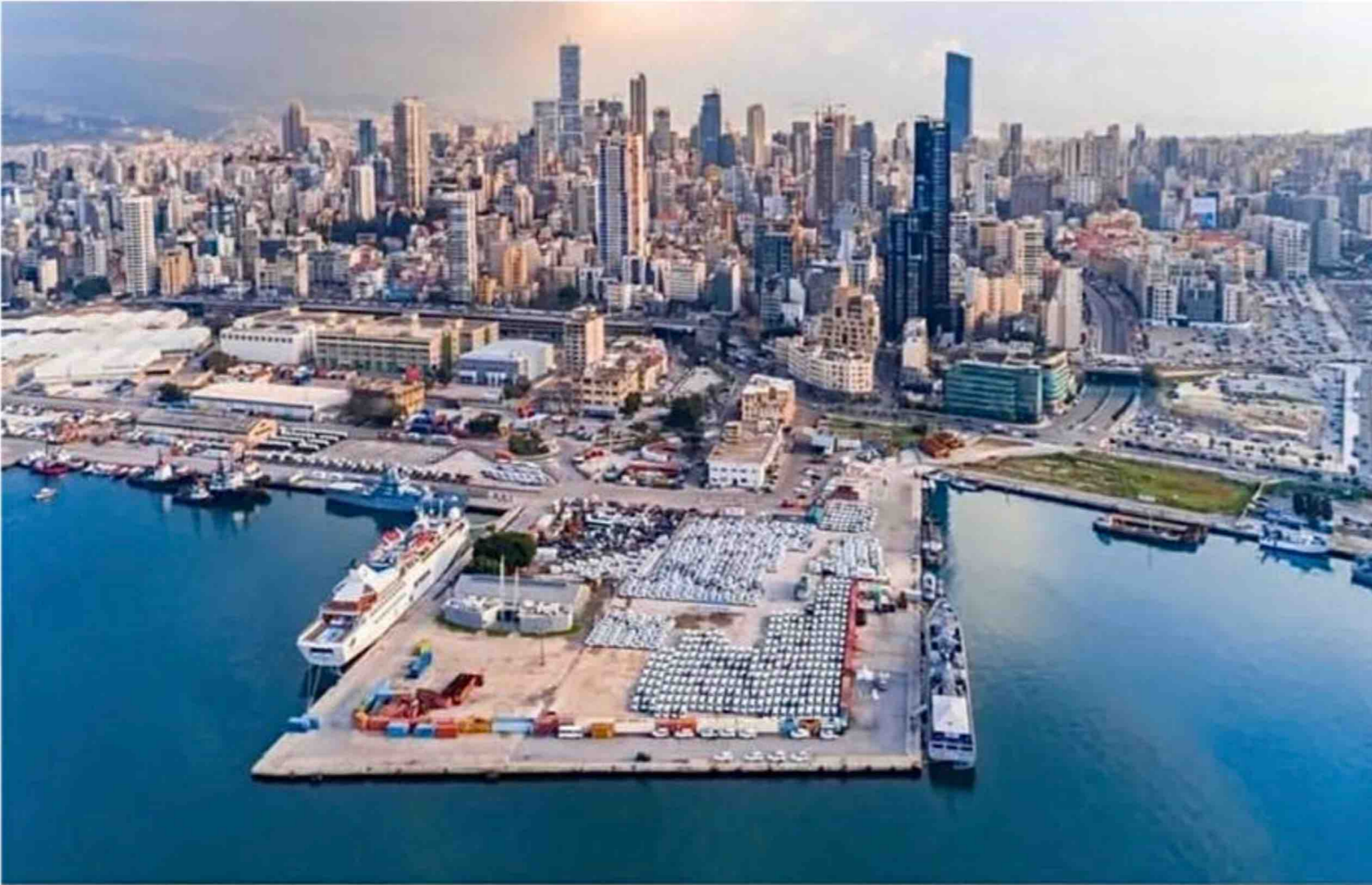
At the heart of this concept is the idea of helping people feel more comfortable in the virtual world. For many, the metaverse can be a daunting place, full of unknowns and fears about the technology taking over the world. But through the portal that I created, people will be able to enter a space that is both familiar and comforting. By choosing a location with a rich history and cultural significance, I am creating a space in the metaverse that is accessible for everyone that wants to reconnect and renew themselves after painful experiences.



The site that I have chosen is the port of Beirut, where a devastating explosion occurred in 2020. This location is full of meaning and symbolism, representing not only the tragedy that occurred but also the resilience and strength of the people. The devastation caused by the blast was felt not just by the people of Beirut but by people all around the world who watched in horror as the events unfolded.



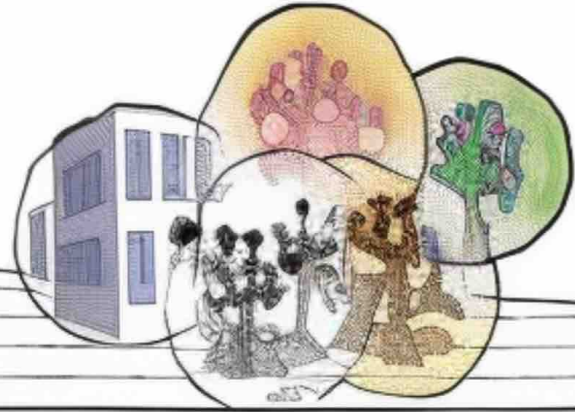
The Beirut explosion, which occurred on August 4, 2020, devastated the port of Beirut, Lebanon. It was caused by the unsafe storage of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, resulting in a massive blast that caused widespread destruction, numerous casualties, and a city in shock. The incident revealed a failure of government oversight and accountability, sparking public anger and calls for reform. Although the government admitted to knowing about the ammonium nitrate, progress in holding those responsible has been slow, leaving many skeptical about the government's commitment to justice.



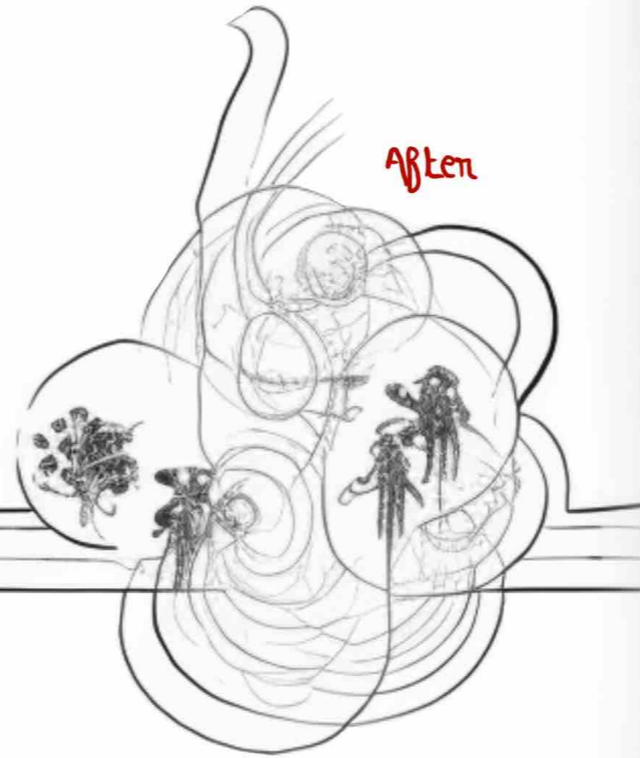
The explosion had a devastating impact on the people, both physically and emotionally. The blast destroyed homes, businesses, and infrastructure throughout the city, leaving many people homeless and without access to basic necessities like food, water, and medical care. The explosion also had a significant impact on the mental health, many of whom continue to struggle with feelings of grief, trauma, and anger in the wake of the disaster.



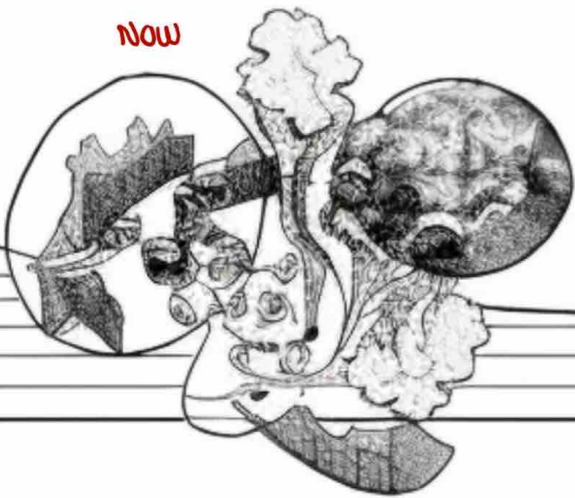
Before



After

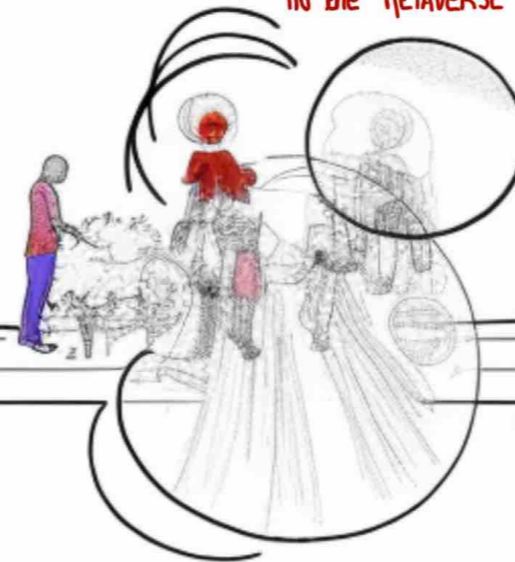


Now



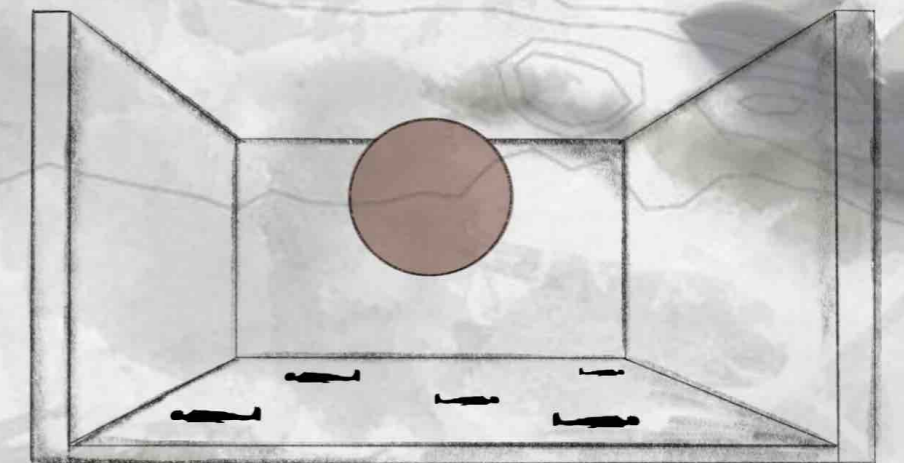
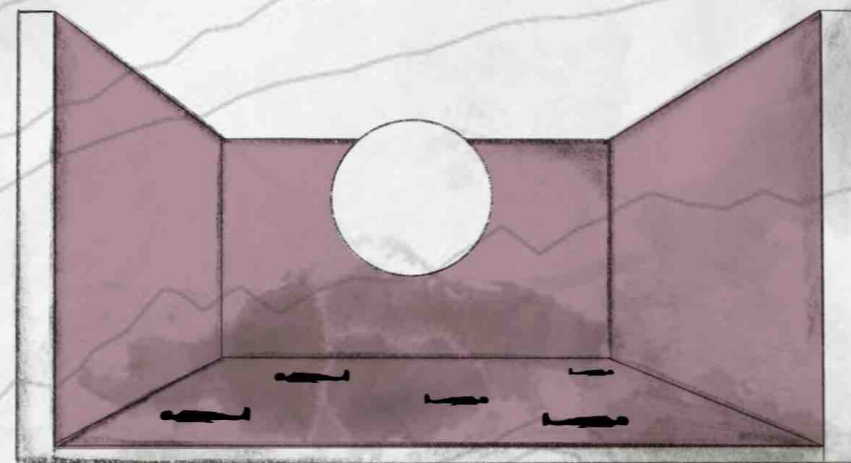
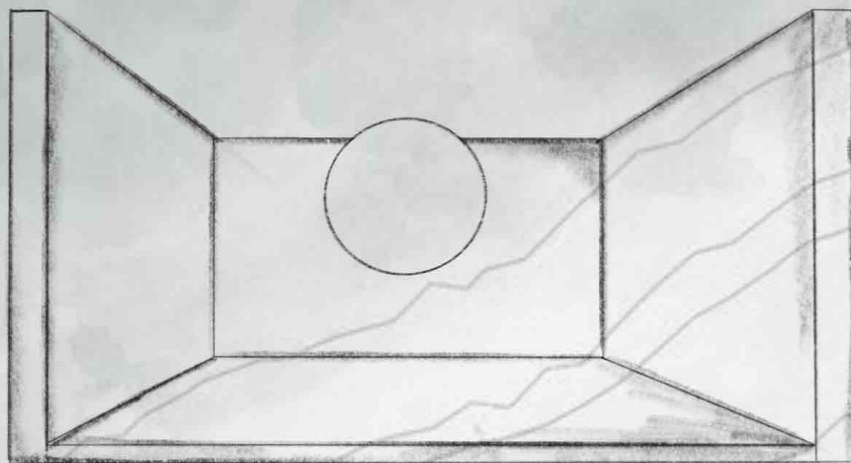
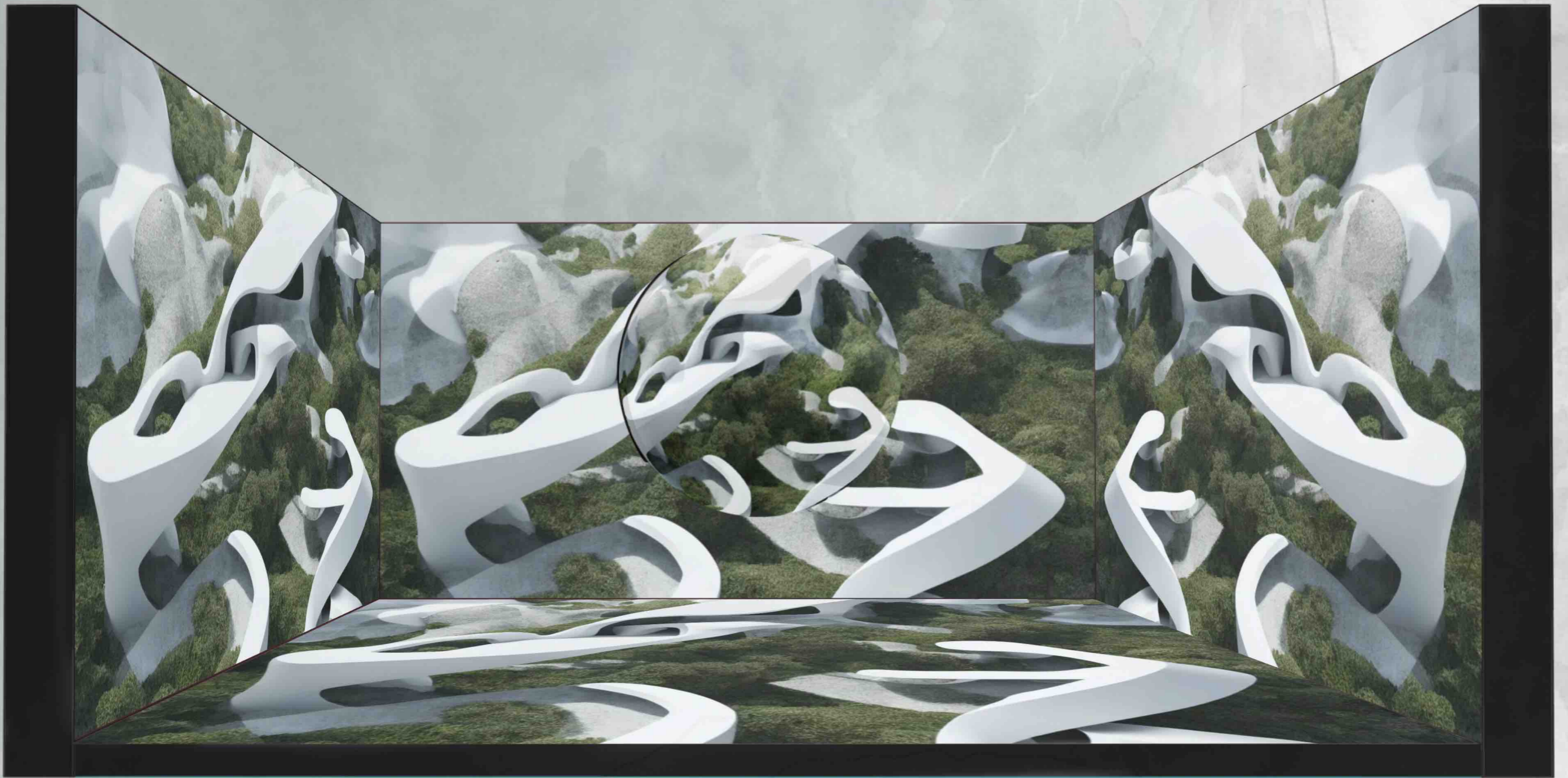
through the Portal →

Learning to recover  
in the metaverse



The virtual space would allow people to explore and interact with the site of the blast, to leave messages and tributes for loved ones, and to find solace and comfort in the midst of their grief. By linking the virtual space to the real-world site of the blast, the space becomes more than just a virtual creation. It becomes a bridge between the real world and the metaverse, a place where people can connect with one another and share their experiences.

This project has the potential to change the way we view and interact with virtual spaces. It is a reminder that even in the midst of tragedy, there is hope and the possibility for renewal and rebirth.



Through the portal that I have created, people will be able to enter a space in the virtual world

Digital screen that showcases the space you want to go in the metaverse

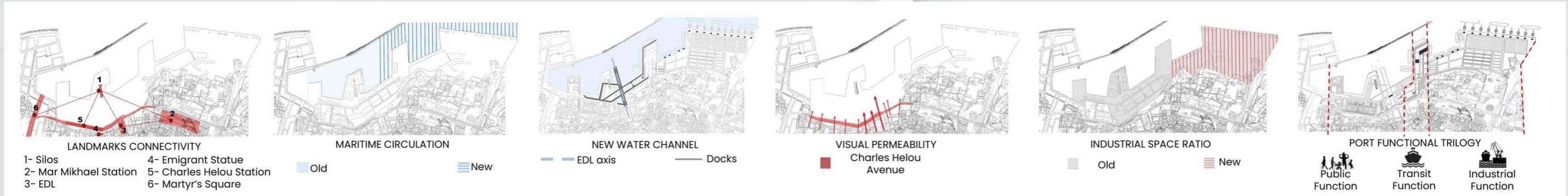
Mirrored sphere that reflects the virtual space itself when you put on a vr device

# BEIRUT PORT AN URBAN LIFE GENERATOR

FROM AN INDUSTRIAL BARRIER TO AN URBAN CONNECTOR



## DESIGN APPROACH





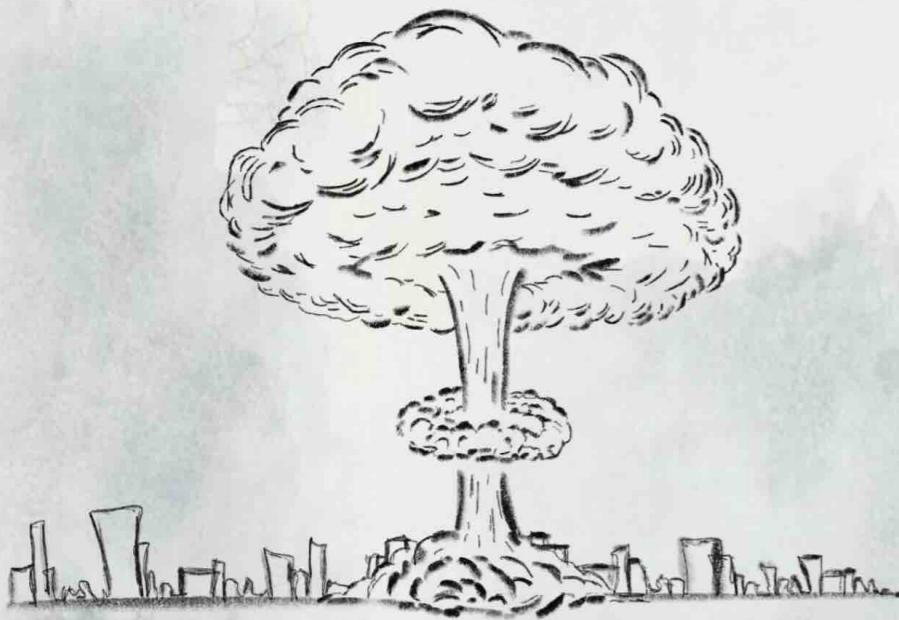
 Circulation

 Portal location

 Water

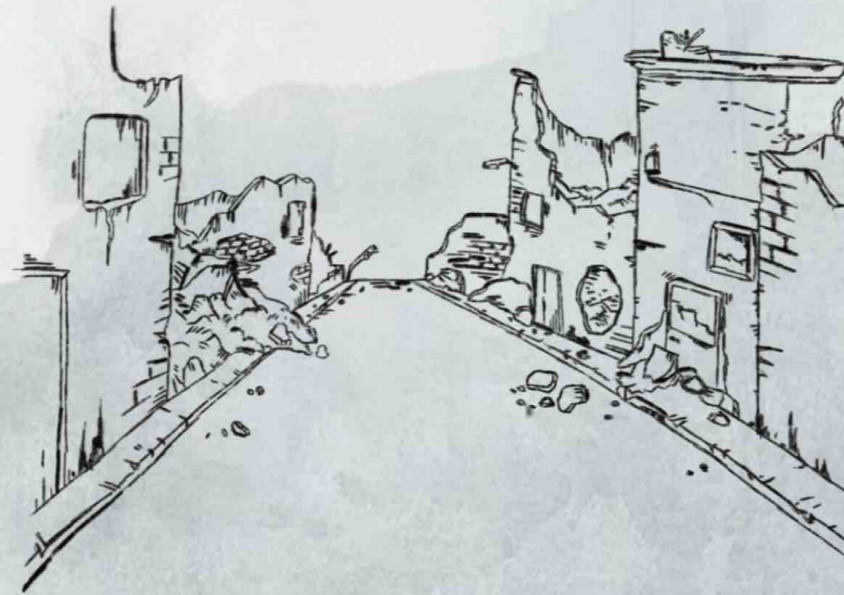


Portal on site



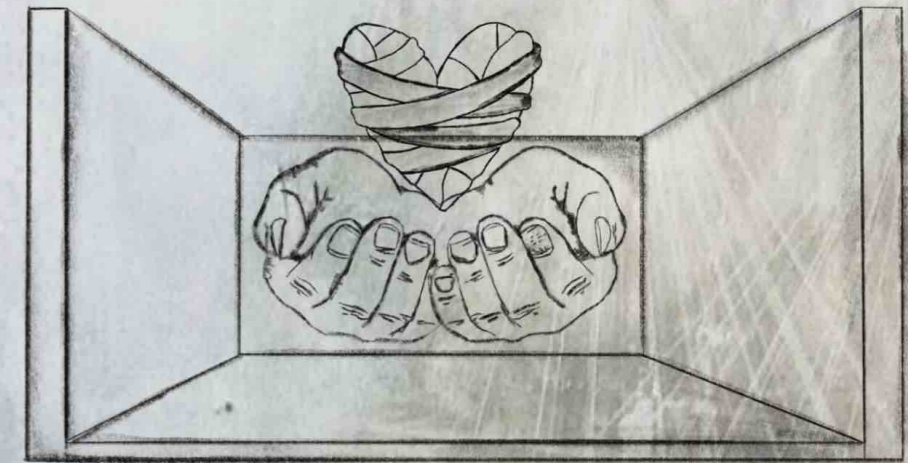
## Explosion

This concept offers the opportunity to resurrect a location that has been lost or destroyed and reflect it into the virtual world through a portal. By choosing a location with a rich history and cultural significance, we can create a space in the metaverse accessible for everyone that wants to reconnect and renew themselves after painful experiences.



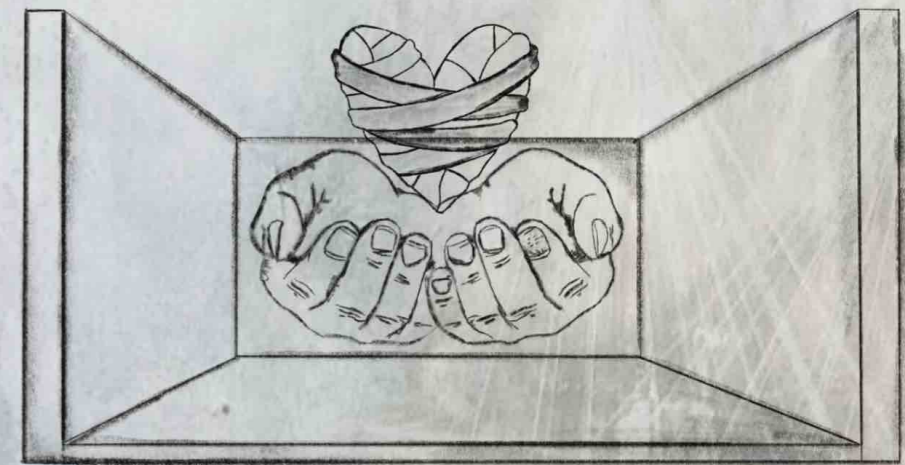
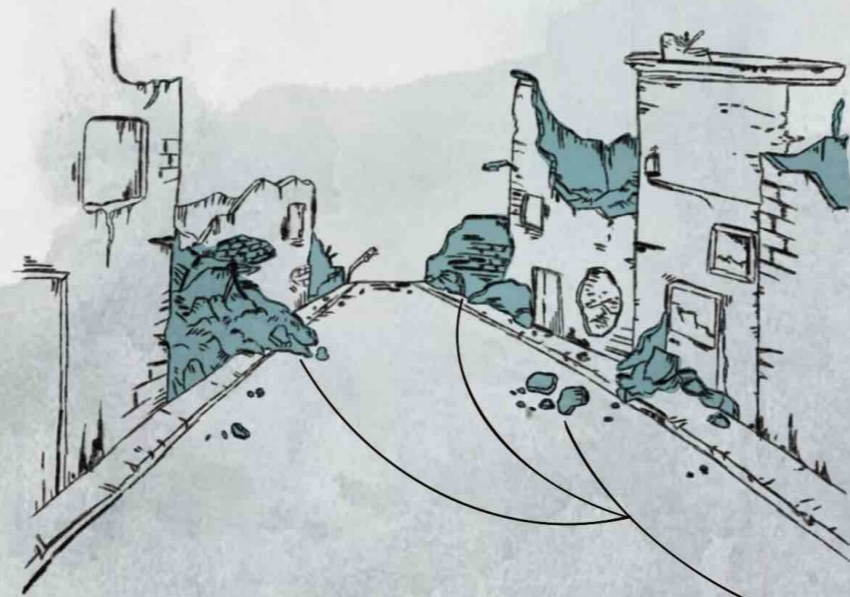
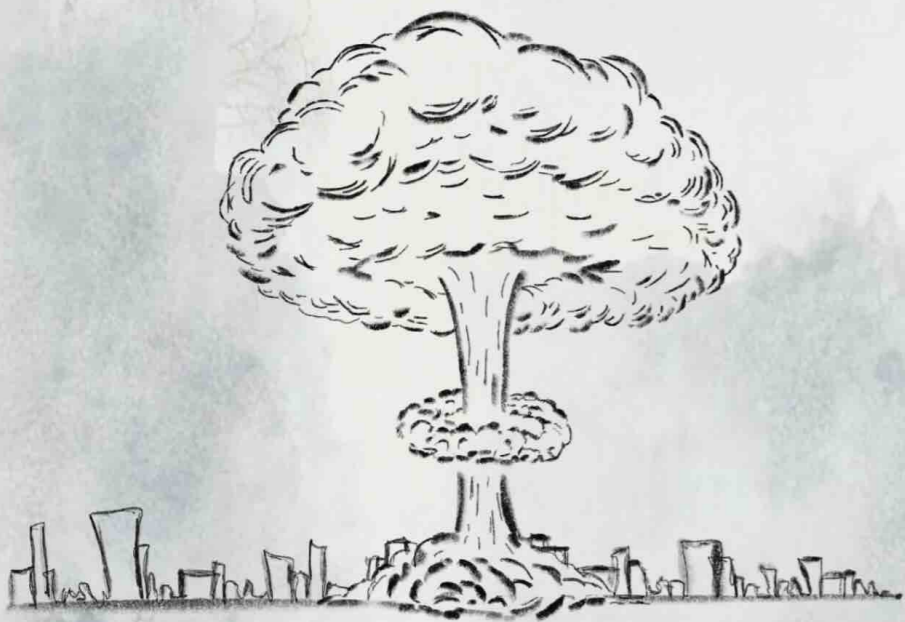
## Destruction

This innovative approach to historical preservation will allow people to connect with the past in a way that was previously impossible. Losses, traumas, pain and guilt.



## Renewal

Through a portal that is going to be located in the space of the explosion, people will enter a space in the virtual world that is going to help them escape the reality they live in and take a moment to heal and reborn.



▼ The portal made out of the debris of the explosion

From the portal into the metaverse

Earth color



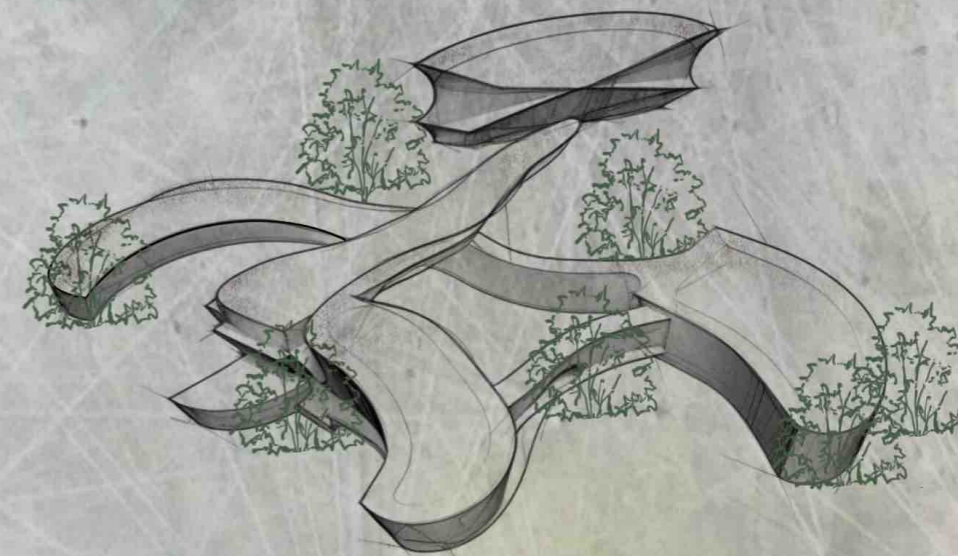
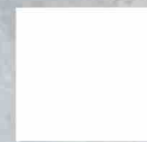
Life and nature color



Water color

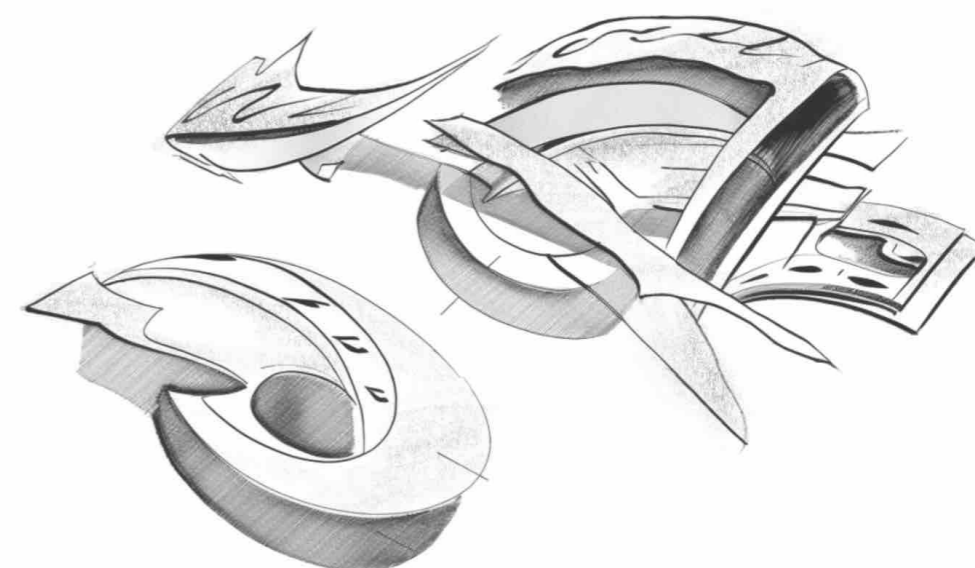
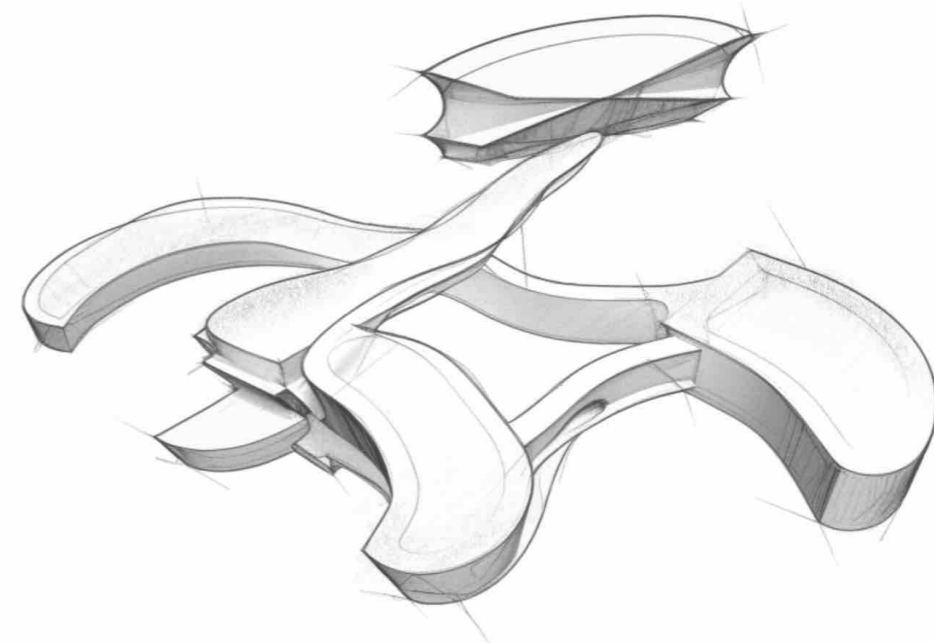
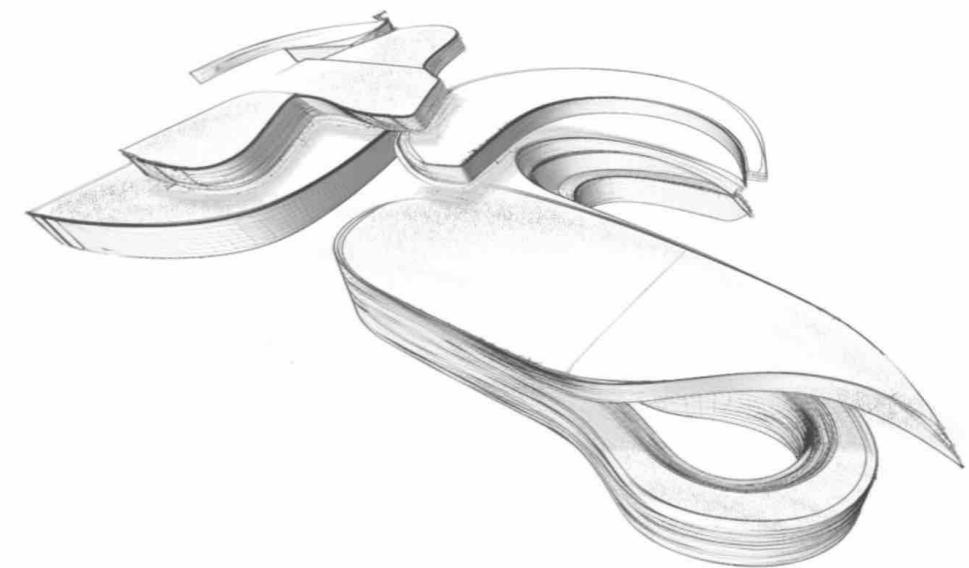


Nitrate amonium

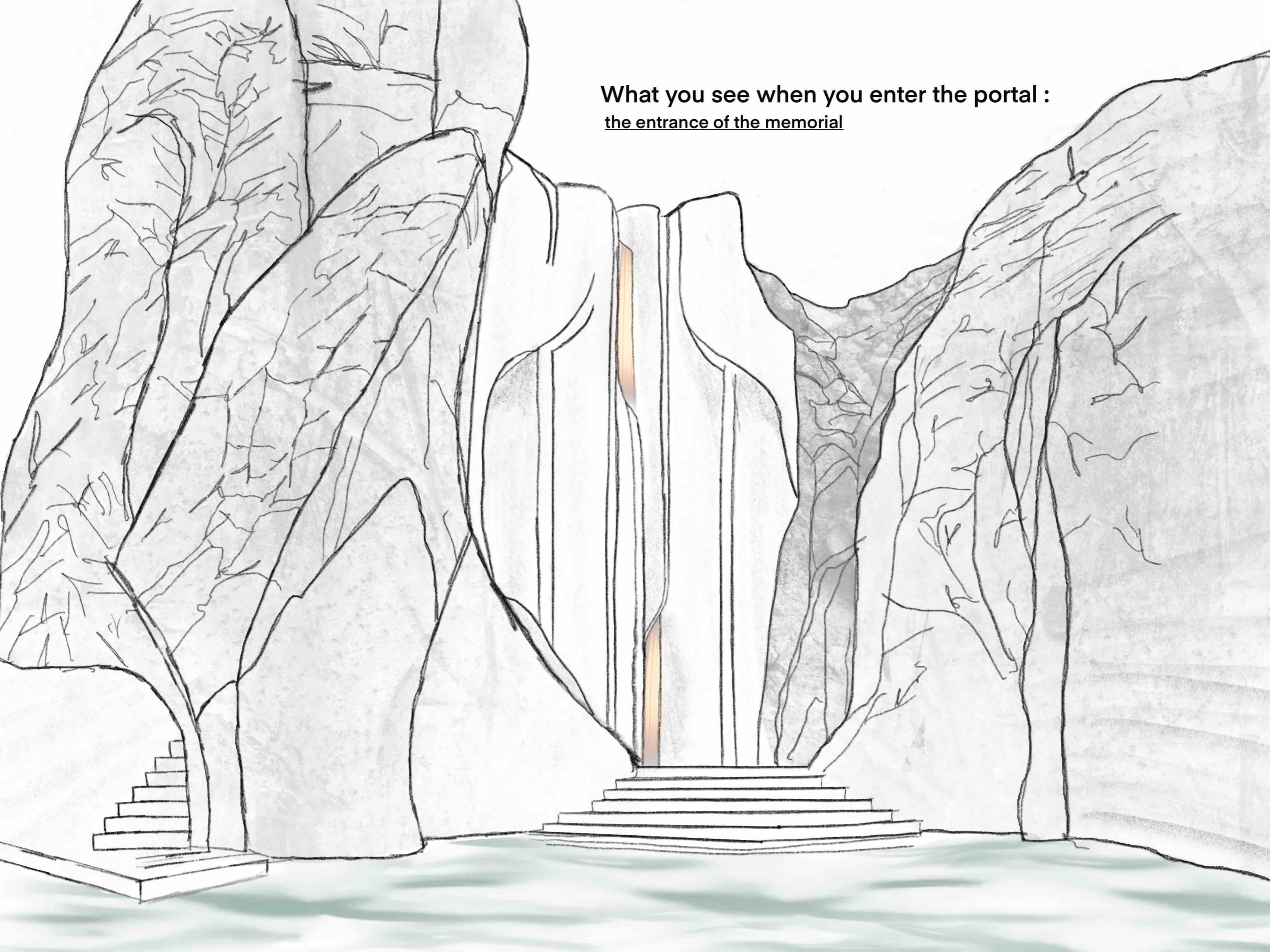


After a lot of research and sketching, I decided that the space I am creating inside the metaverse is going to be a memorial of the real world. It will be a space where people can come to pay their respects, to learn more about the history of the location, and to connect with others who have experienced similar traumas.

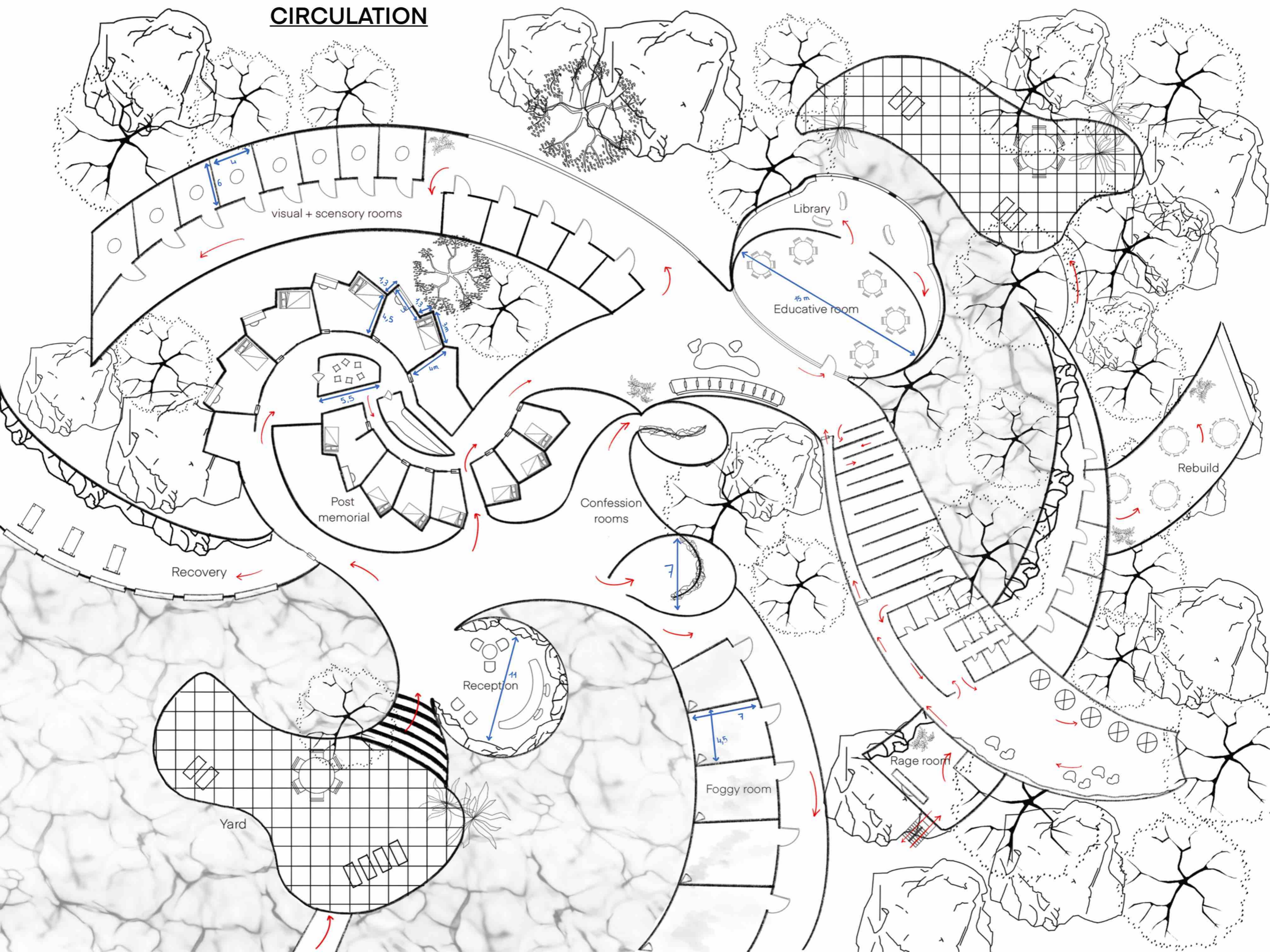
This innovative approach to historical preservation is what sets my concept apart. By using the metaverse as a tool for storytelling and connection, we can allow people to connect with the past in a way that was previously impossible. It is a way to honor the past, while also creating a space for healing and renewal.



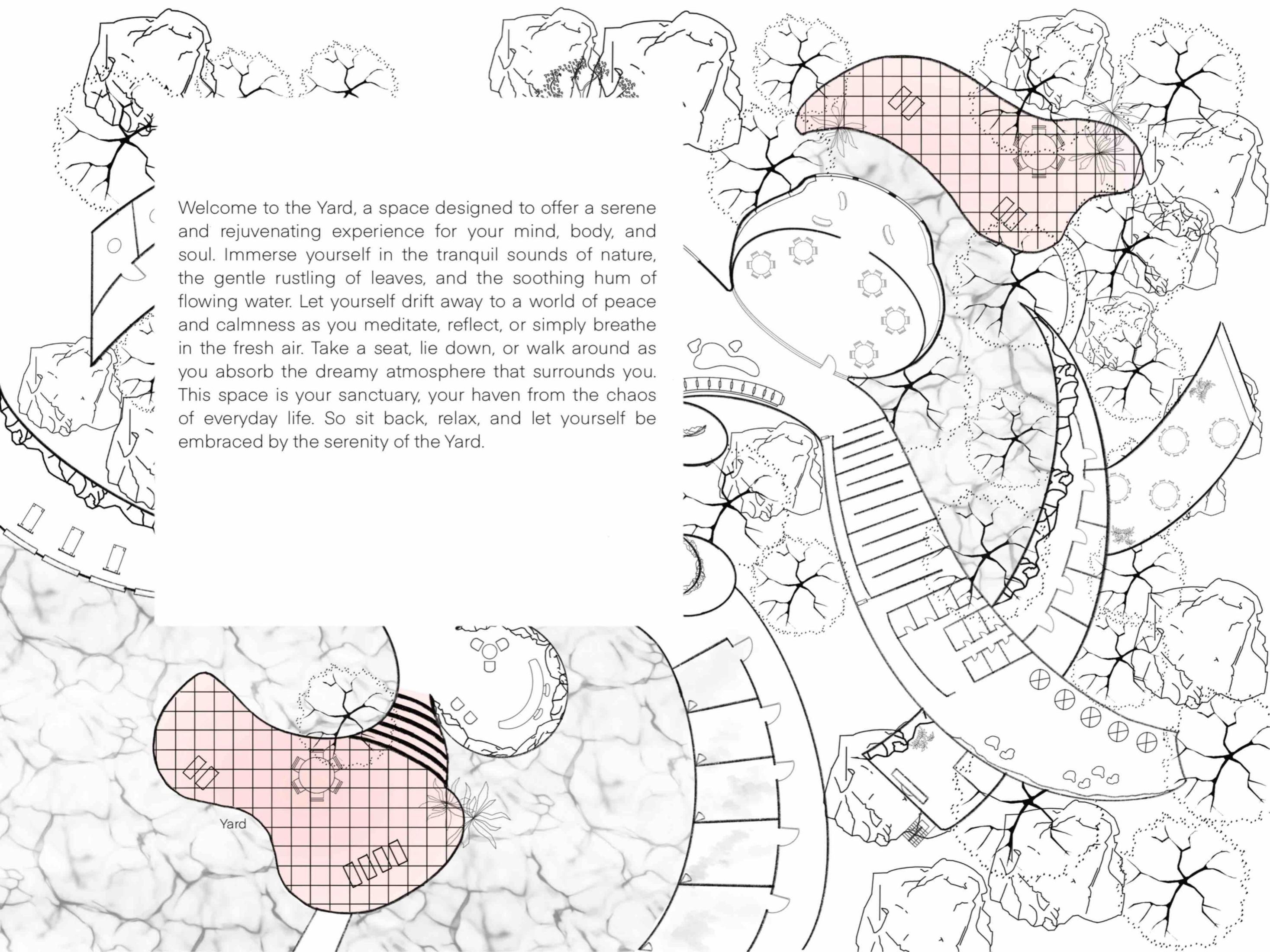
**What you see when you enter the portal :**  
the entrance of the memorial

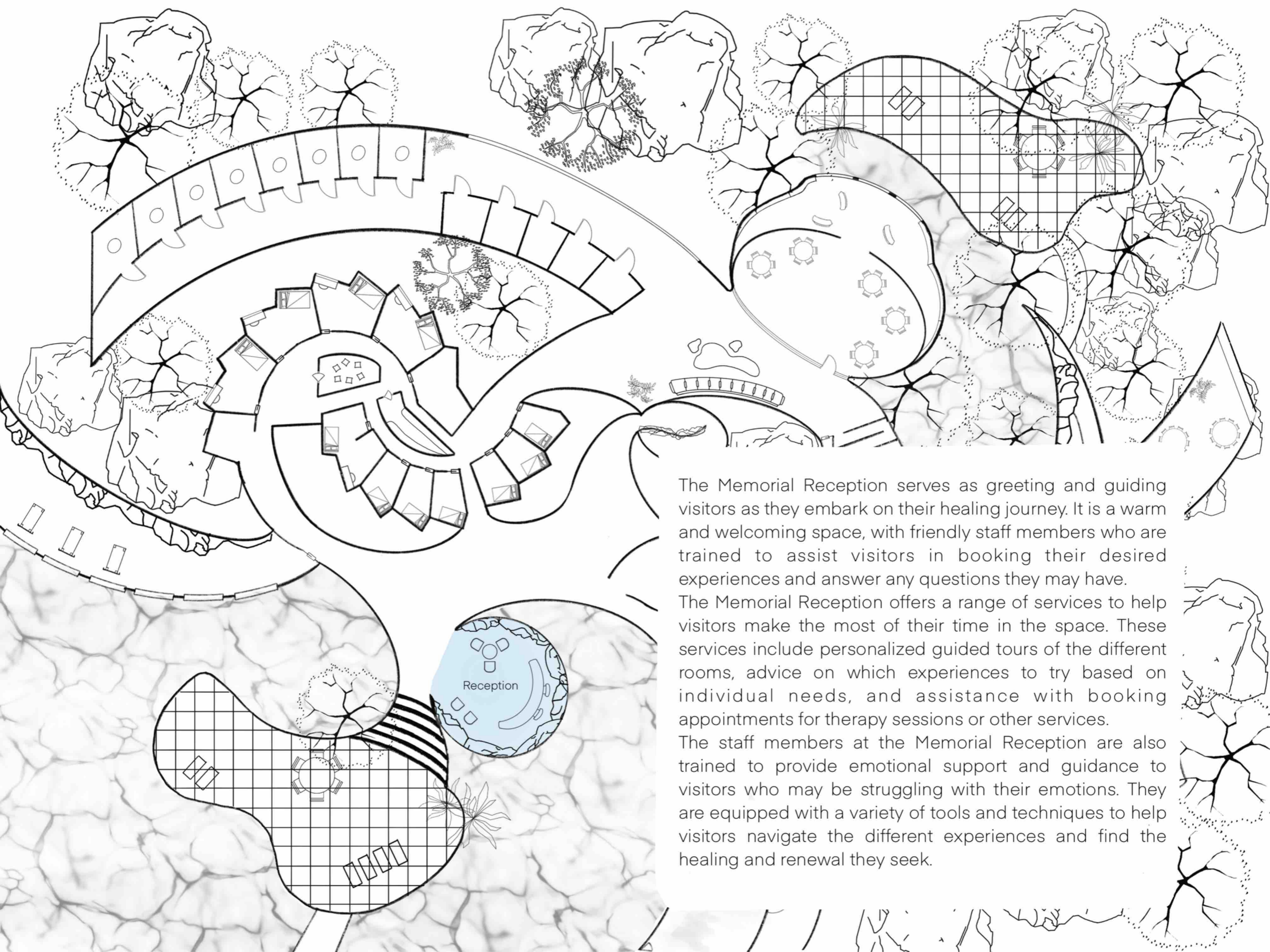


# CIRCULATION

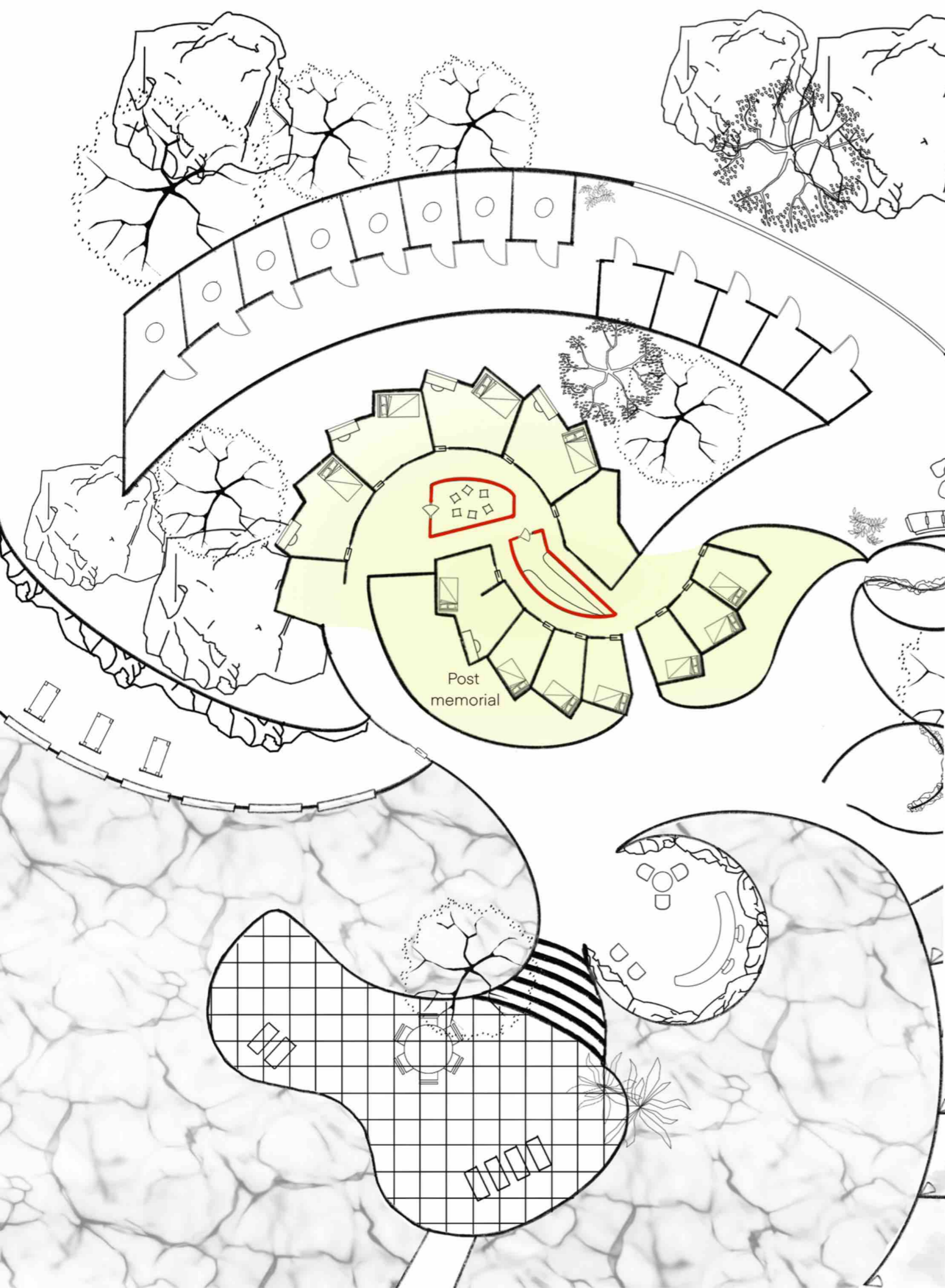


Welcome to the Yard, a space designed to offer a serene and rejuvenating experience for your mind, body, and soul. Immerse yourself in the tranquil sounds of nature, the gentle rustling of leaves, and the soothing hum of flowing water. Let yourself drift away to a world of peace and calmness as you meditate, reflect, or simply breathe in the fresh air. Take a seat, lie down, or walk around as you absorb the dreamy atmosphere that surrounds you. This space is your sanctuary, your haven from the chaos of everyday life. So sit back, relax, and let yourself be embraced by the serenity of the Yard.





The Memorial Reception serves as greeting and guiding visitors as they embark on their healing journey. It is a warm and welcoming space, with friendly staff members who are trained to assist visitors in booking their desired experiences and answer any questions they may have. The Memorial Reception offers a range of services to help visitors make the most of their time in the space. These services include personalized guided tours of the different rooms, advice on which experiences to try based on individual needs, and assistance with booking appointments for therapy sessions or other services. The staff members at the Memorial Reception are also trained to provide emotional support and guidance to visitors who may be struggling with their emotions. They are equipped with a variety of tools and techniques to help visitors navigate the different experiences and find the healing and renewal they seek.

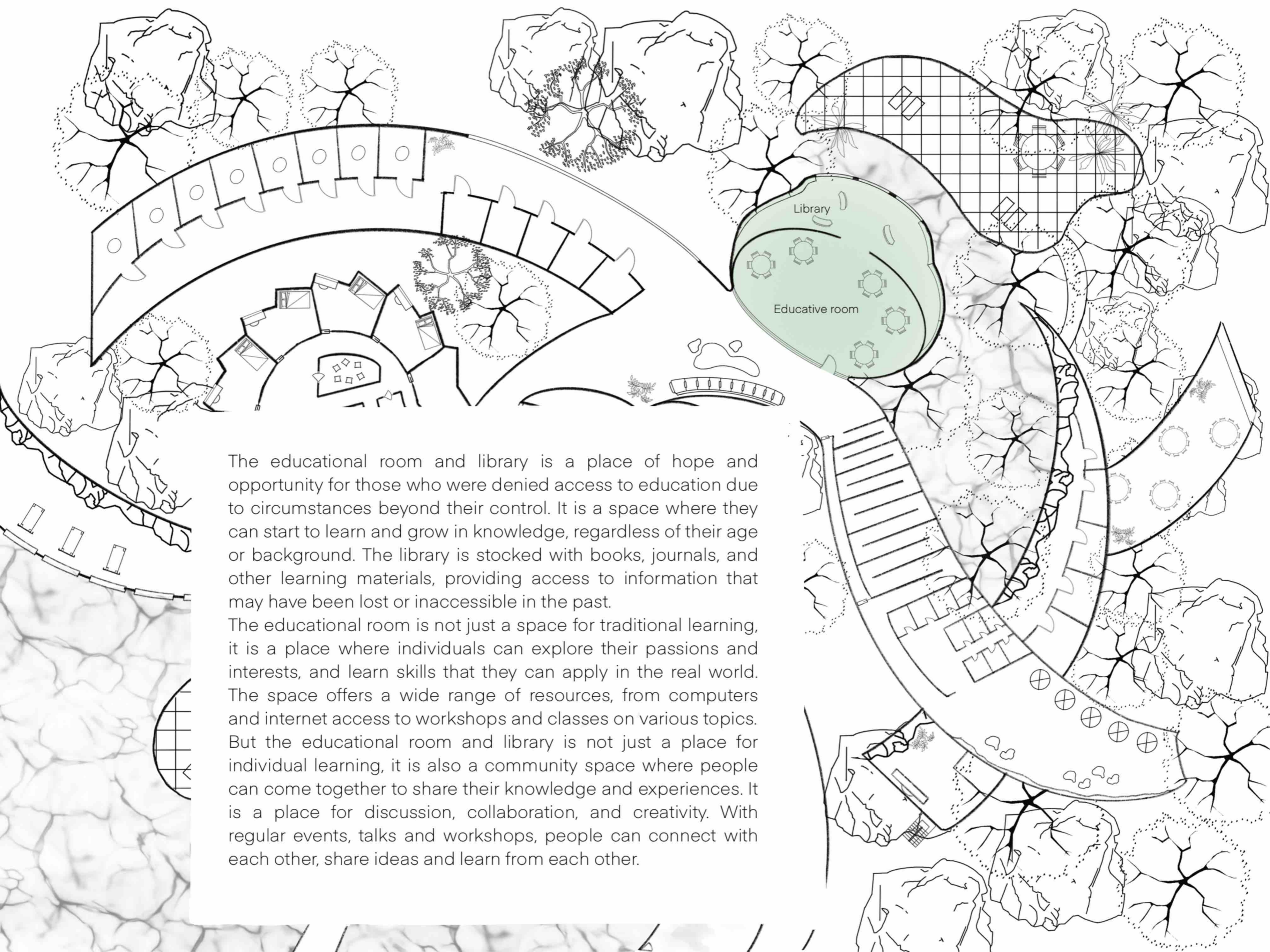


The Post Memorial is a space that honors the past while providing a sanctuary for the present. It's a place to acknowledge the scars and wounds of the past, but also a space to celebrate the resilience and strength of the human spirit.

As you enter the space, you're greeted with a sense of tranquility and peace, a welcoming embrace that encourages you to take some time for yourself. The private rooms offer a safe haven to meditate, journal, or simply breathe, allowing you to release the emotions that may be weighing you down.

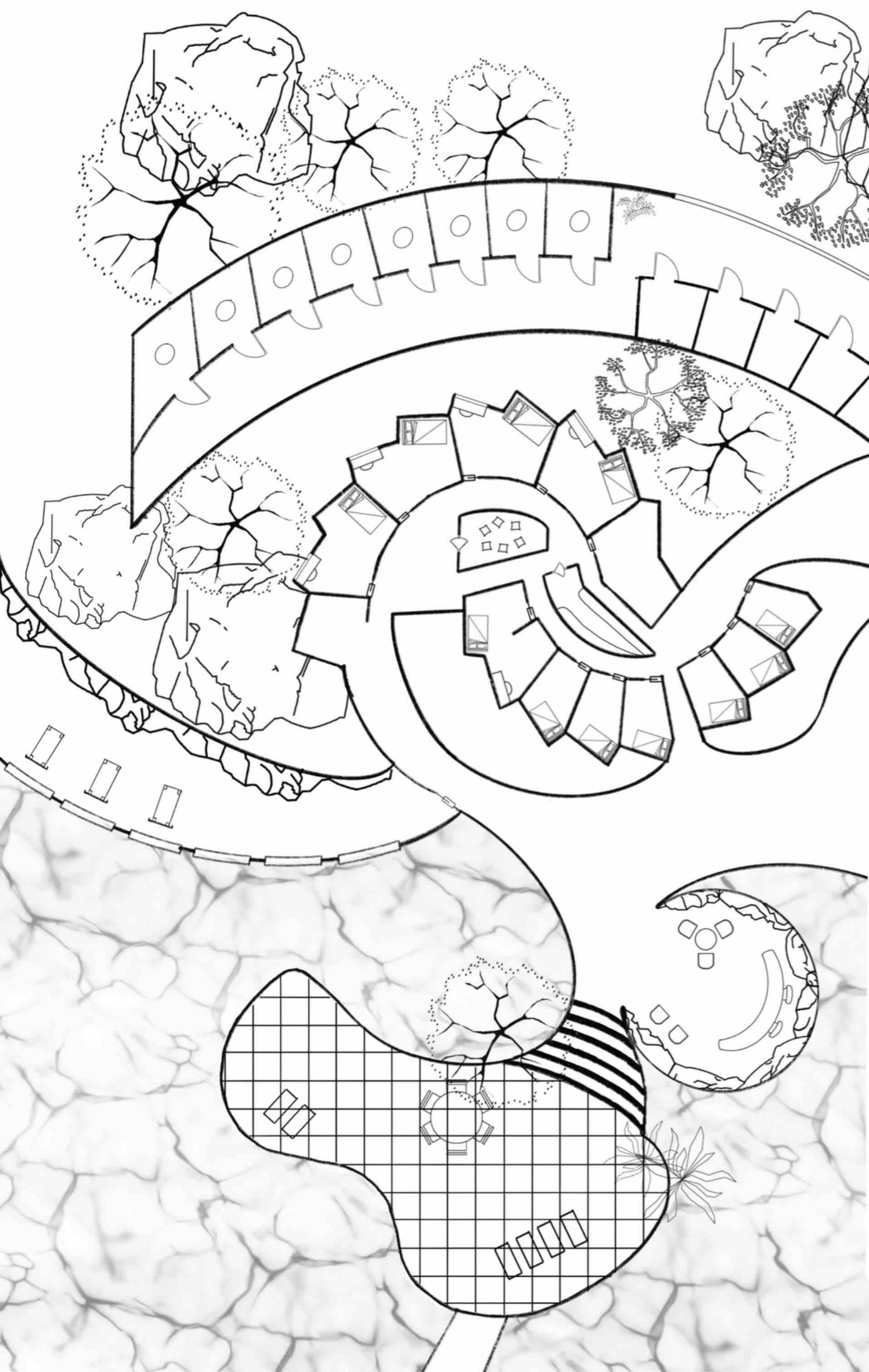
But the beauty of the Post Memorial is not just in the solitude it provides. The two communal spaces act as a bridge between the private and the public, allowing you to connect with others who may be going through similar experiences. These intimate circles offer a chance to share stories, offer advice, and be there for one another, creating a sense of community and belonging.

Whether you need to retreat to a private room or seek solace in the company of others; the Post Memorial is a space that offers a path towards healing and renewal.



The educational room and library is a place of hope and opportunity for those who were denied access to education due to circumstances beyond their control. It is a space where they can start to learn and grow in knowledge, regardless of their age or background. The library is stocked with books, journals, and other learning materials, providing access to information that may have been lost or inaccessible in the past.

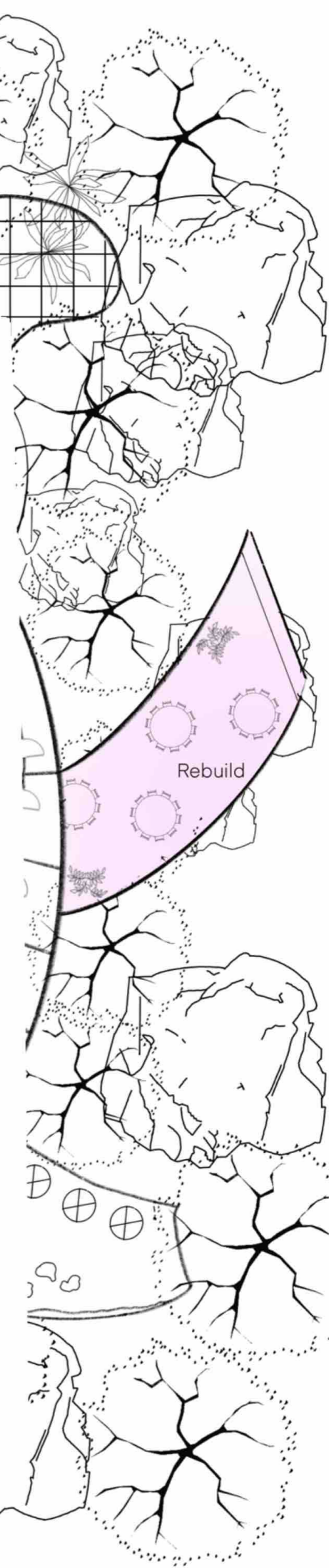
The educational room is not just a space for traditional learning, it is a place where individuals can explore their passions and interests, and learn skills that they can apply in the real world. The space offers a wide range of resources, from computers and internet access to workshops and classes on various topics. But the educational room and library is not just a place for individual learning, it is also a community space where people can come together to share their knowledge and experiences. It is a place for discussion, collaboration, and creativity. With regular events, talks and workshops, people can connect with each other, share ideas and learn from each other.

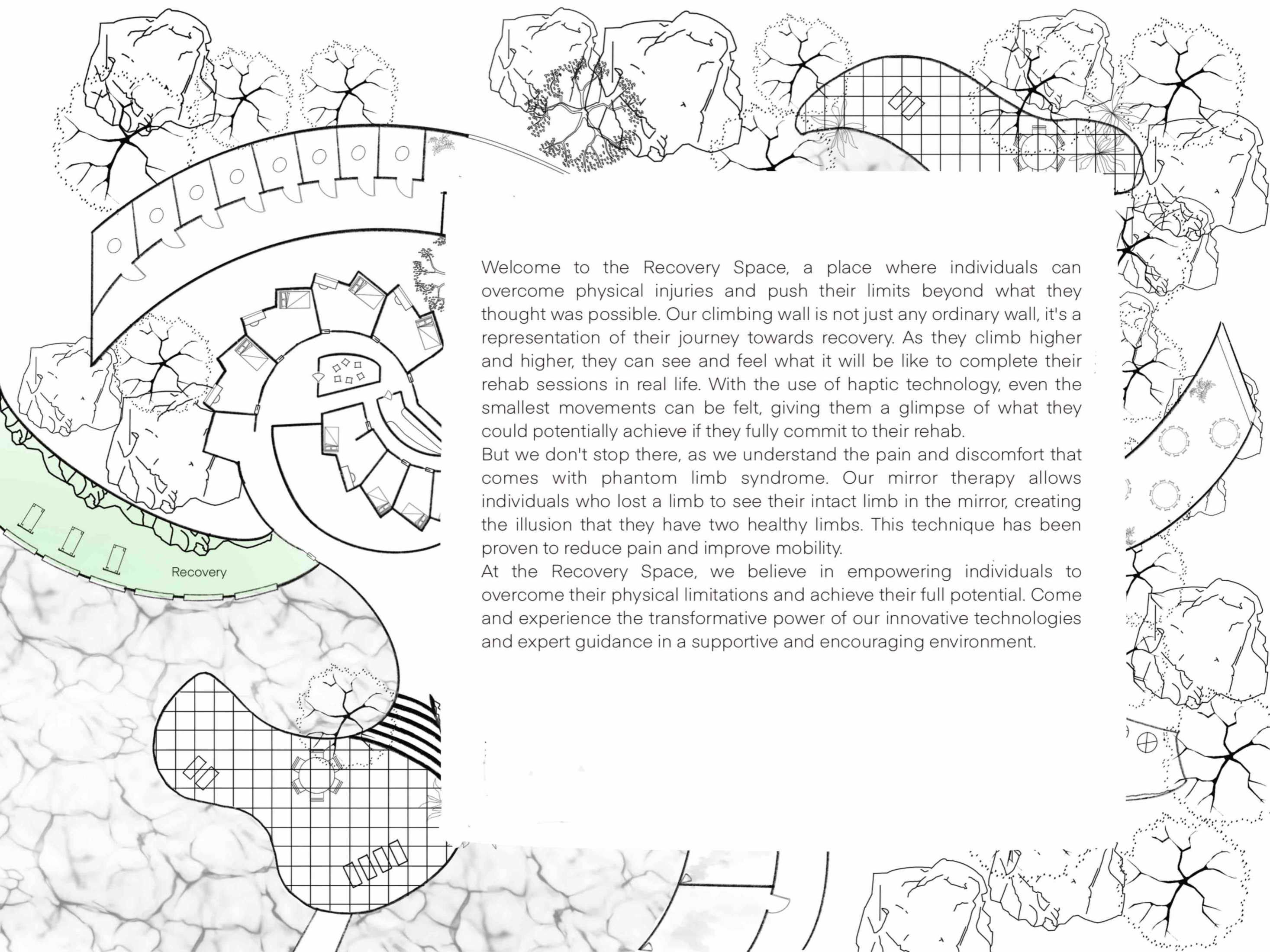


The Rebuild Room is a space for those who have lost their jobs or businesses to come together and find a way to rebuild their lives. Here, people can share their experiences, ideas, and knowledge to create something new and meaningful in the real world. The room is designed to foster a sense of community and collaboration, where everyone is encouraged to contribute and help each other.

The space is equipped with various tools and resources, such as computers, whiteboards, and projectors, to facilitate brainstorming and planning sessions. There are also breakout rooms where smaller groups can work on specific projects or ideas. In addition, the room hosts regular workshops and seminars on topics such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and finance to help individuals develop the skills they need to succeed in their new ventures. Experts in various fields are invited to share their knowledge and offer advice on how to start and grow a successful business.

The Rebuild Room is not just a physical space, but also a network of like-minded individuals who are committed to supporting each other. By sharing their stories and pooling their resources, people can find a sense of purpose and direction, and work towards a brighter future.





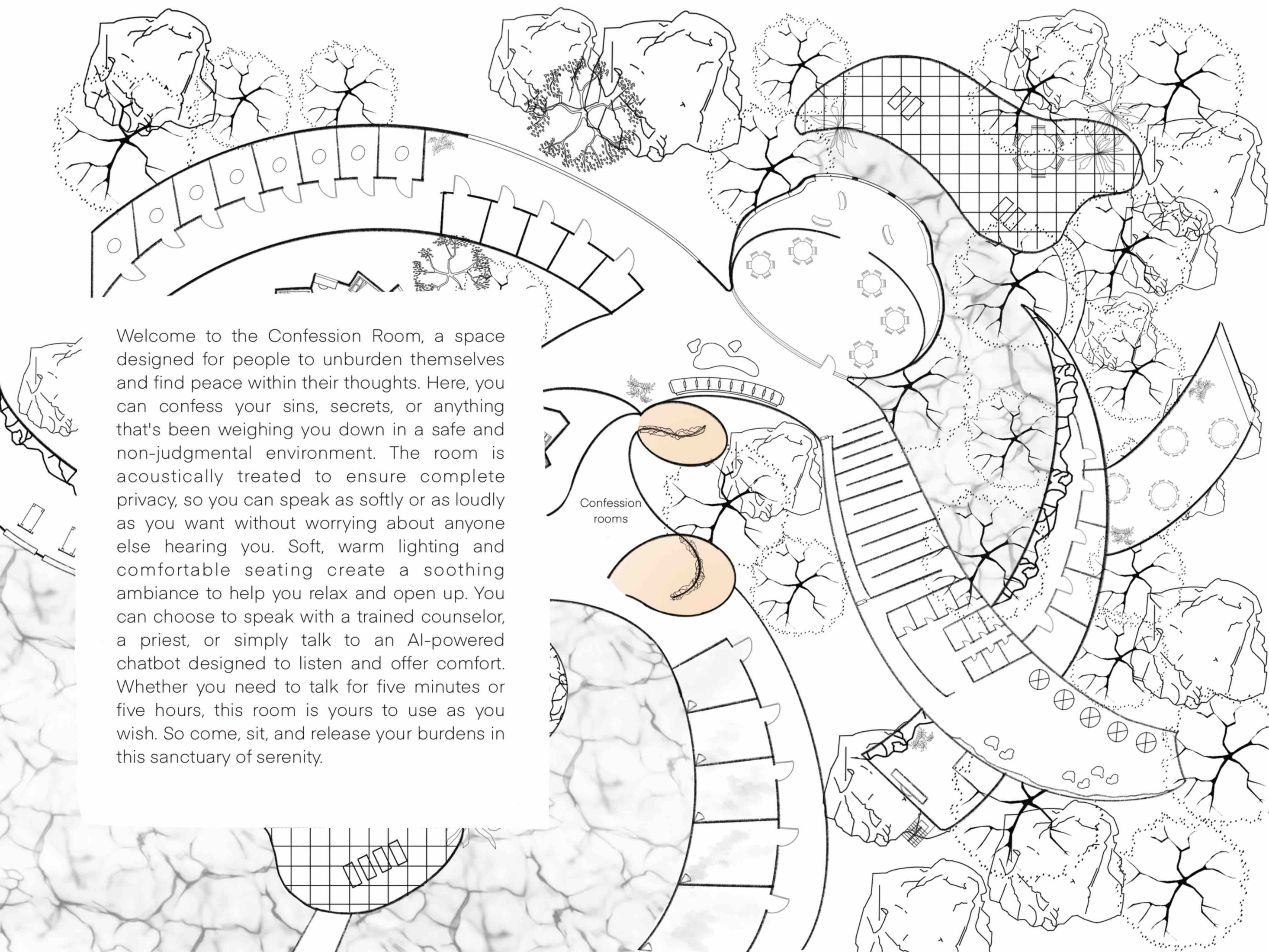
Welcome to the Recovery Space, a place where individuals can overcome physical injuries and push their limits beyond what they thought was possible. Our climbing wall is not just any ordinary wall, it's a representation of their journey towards recovery. As they climb higher and higher, they can see and feel what it will be like to complete their rehab sessions in real life. With the use of haptic technology, even the smallest movements can be felt, giving them a glimpse of what they could potentially achieve if they fully commit to their rehab.

But we don't stop there, as we understand the pain and discomfort that comes with phantom limb syndrome. Our mirror therapy allows individuals who lost a limb to see their intact limb in the mirror, creating the illusion that they have two healthy limbs. This technique has been proven to reduce pain and improve mobility.

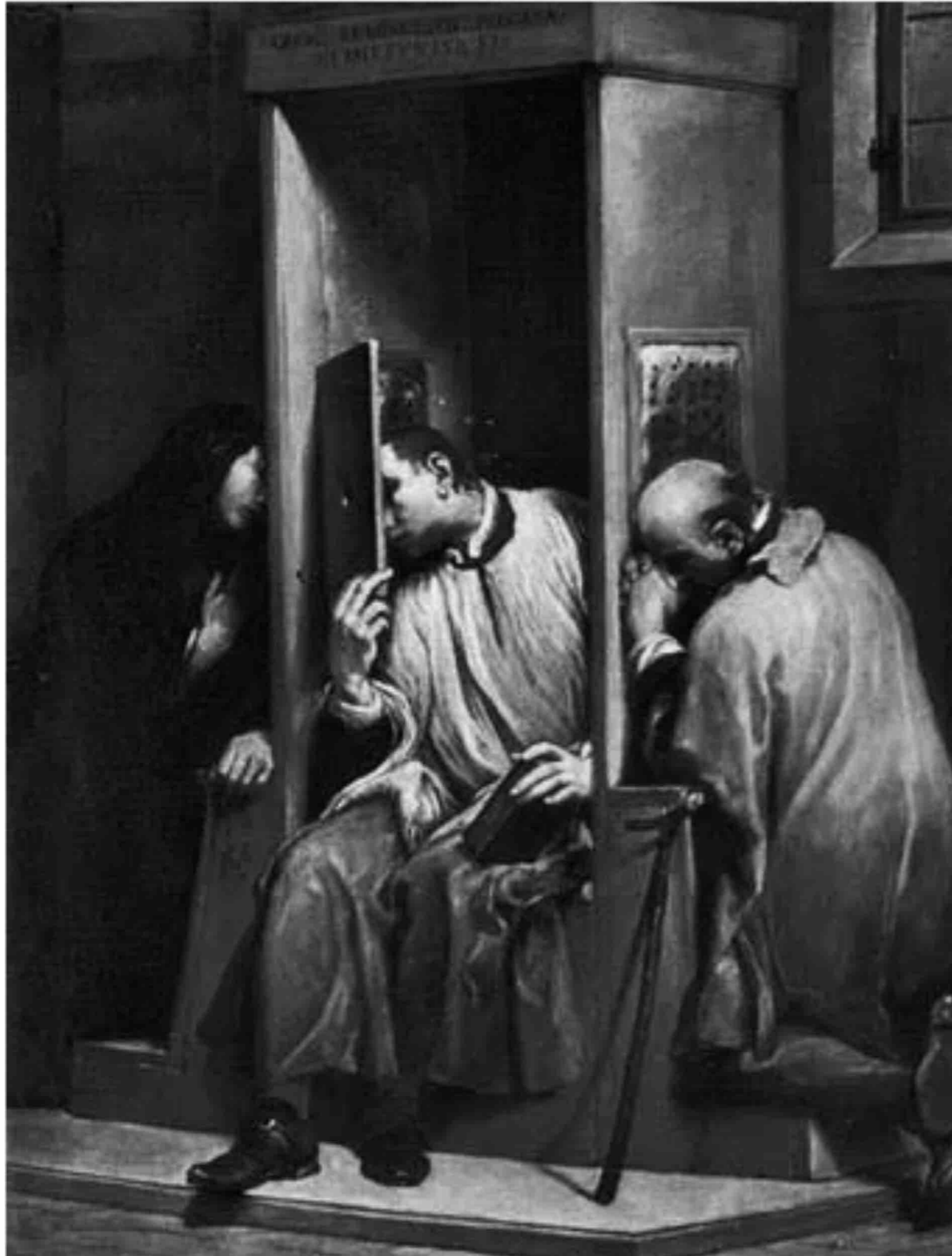
At the Recovery Space, we believe in empowering individuals to overcome their physical limitations and achieve their full potential. Come and experience the transformative power of our innovative technologies and expert guidance in a supportive and encouraging environment.



MIRROR THERAPY


The image is a detailed architectural floor plan of a Confession Room. The room is characterized by a thick, textured stone wall that forms a large, irregular shape. Inside this wall, there are several circular or semi-circular rooms, some of which are shaded in a light orange color. The plan also shows various furniture and fixtures, including tables, chairs, and what appears to be a reception desk or counter. The overall design is modern and minimalist, with a focus on creating a serene and private environment. The text is positioned in the center-left of the plan, providing a welcome message and describing the room's purpose and features.

Welcome to the Confession Room, a space designed for people to unburden themselves and find peace within their thoughts. Here, you can confess your sins, secrets, or anything that's been weighing you down in a safe and non-judgmental environment. The room is acoustically treated to ensure complete privacy, so you can speak as softly or as loudly as you want without worrying about anyone else hearing you. Soft, warm lighting and comfortable seating create a soothing ambiance to help you relax and open up. You can choose to speak with a trained counselor, a priest, or simply talk to an AI-powered chatbot designed to listen and offer comfort. Whether you need to talk for five minutes or five hours, this room is yours to use as you wish. So come, sit, and release your burdens in this sanctuary of serenity.



People would gather in sacred spaces, hushed and reverent, to reveal their innermost struggles, regrets, and transgressions.

Confessionals have evolved from the humble whispers of ancient civilizations to the virtual landscapes of the digital era. They serve as reminders of our shared humanity, our need to connect, and our collective longing for absolution and understanding. Whether whispered to a priest, shared within a support group, or expressed through art, confessionals continue to hold the power to heal, transform, and bridge the gaps that exist within our souls.



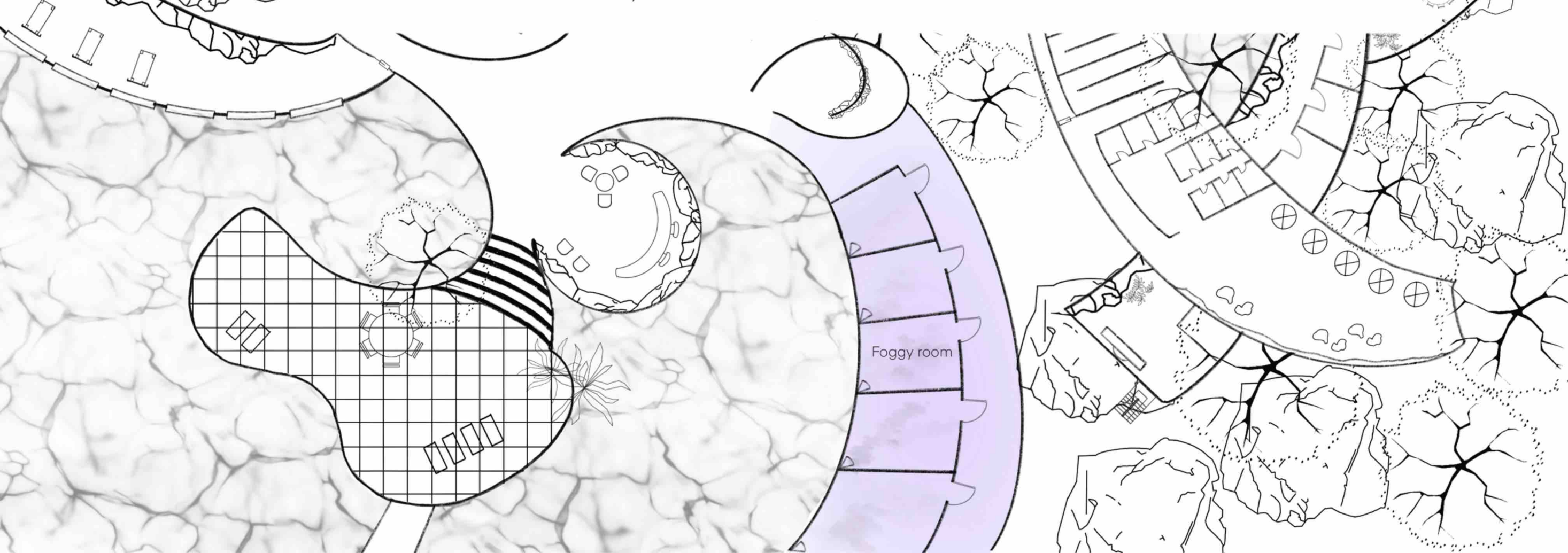
The foggy room is a unique and innovative space designed to help people overcome their fear of loud sounds and blurry vision caused by the trauma of an explosion. This space uses the technique of Exposure Therapy or Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, which involves repeated exposure to the source of fear while using techniques to change negative thoughts and behaviours.

Upon entering the foggy room, individuals are surrounded by a thick fog that creates a disorienting environment, making it hard to see and hear. Suddenly, a loud boom sound is played, simulating the explosion that caused the initial trauma. This exposure to the source of fear can be overwhelming, but in a controlled environment, it provides a safe way to confront and overcome it.

Experienced therapists guide individuals through the process, using techniques like deep breathing, mindfulness, and relaxation to help them stay calm and focused. They teach individuals to recognize negative thoughts and behaviours that are triggered by the exposure and guide them through changing these responses into more positive ones.

Over time, repeated exposure to the foggy room and the simulated sound can help individuals overcome their fear and anxiety. As they become more comfortable, the fog is gradually lifted, and the sound is played less frequently. In the end, individuals emerge from the foggy room feeling empowered and better equipped to face the world outside.

The foggy room is not only a space for healing, but it is also a place of hope, where individuals can reclaim their lives and their sense of safety and control.






**Concert I attended with fog**







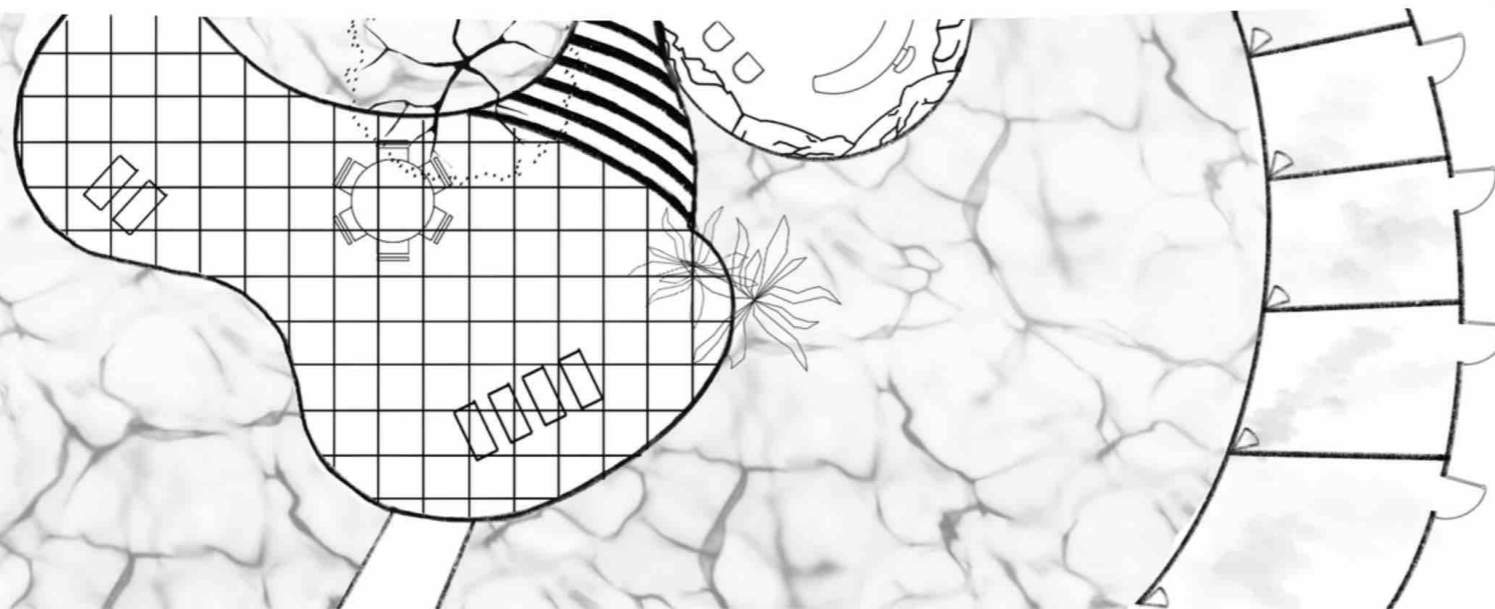
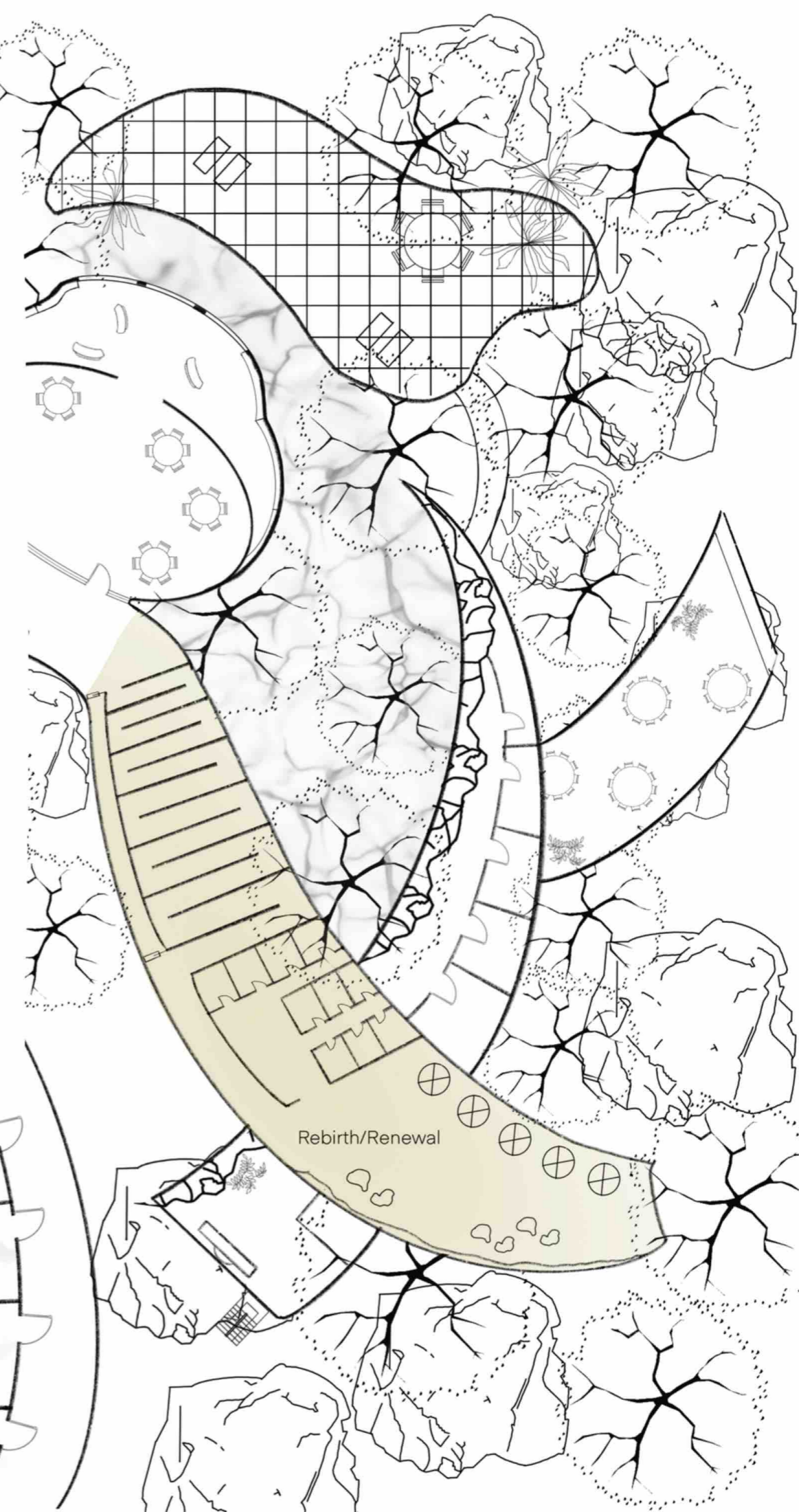
The Rebirth and Renewal space is a truly transformative experience. As you enter the maze, you are immediately surrounded by the memories of your life - both the good and the bad. The screens on either side of the labyrinth show images and videos that will challenge you, but ultimately help you to reflect on your life and the choices you've made.

Once you emerge from the maze, you'll find yourself in a room filled with solo reflection spaces. Here, you can take the time to write down your thoughts and emotions, to really delve deep into what you want to keep, what you would have changed, and what you regret.

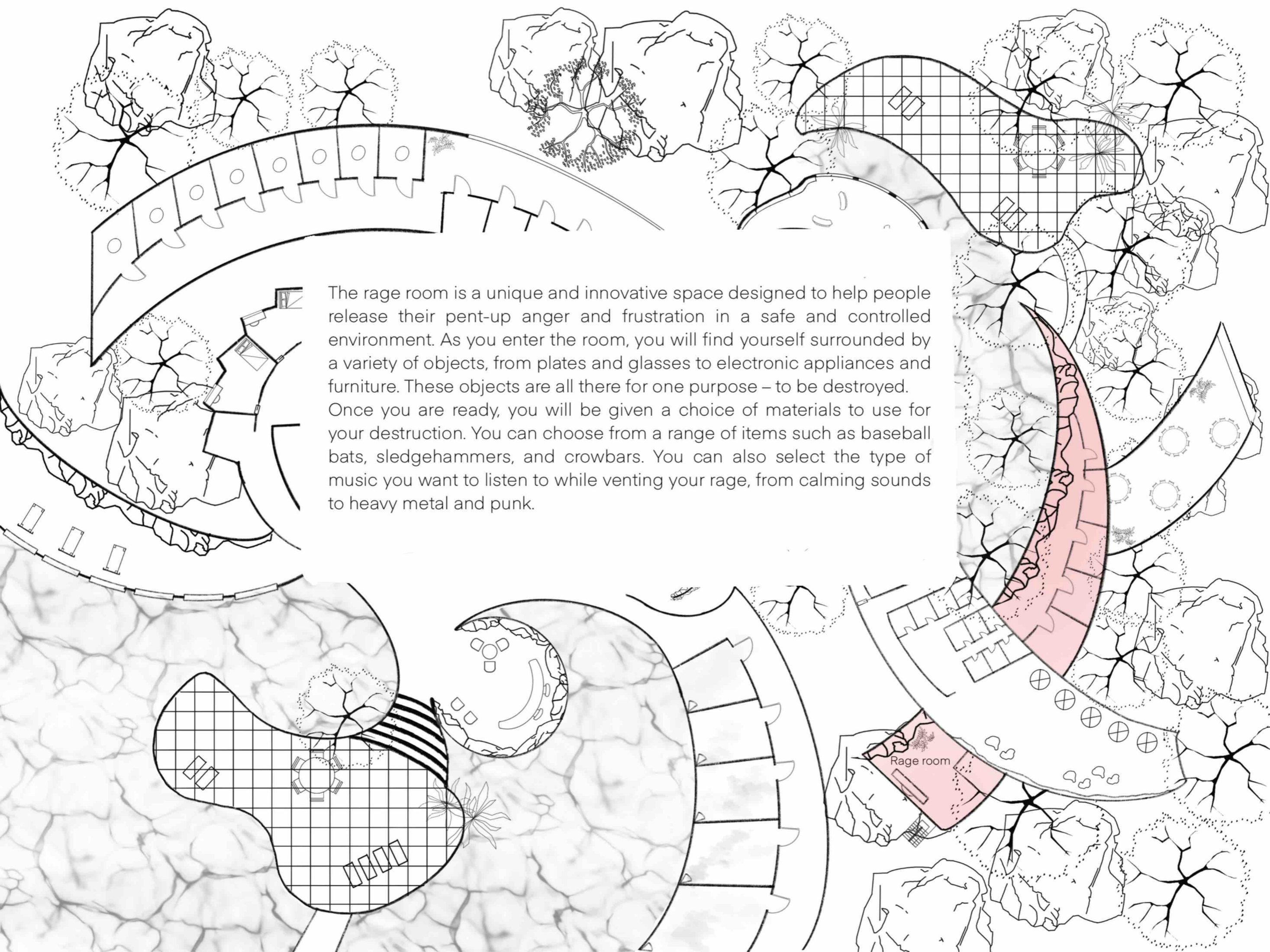
After reflecting, you'll move to the next step: the fireplaces. Here, you can burn everything you want to leave behind, everything that's holding you back. As the flames consume your past, you'll feel a sense of liberation and freedom.

Finally, as you prepare to leave this space, you'll write your best advice for others on the walls. This will be a permanent reminder of your journey and the lessons you've learned.

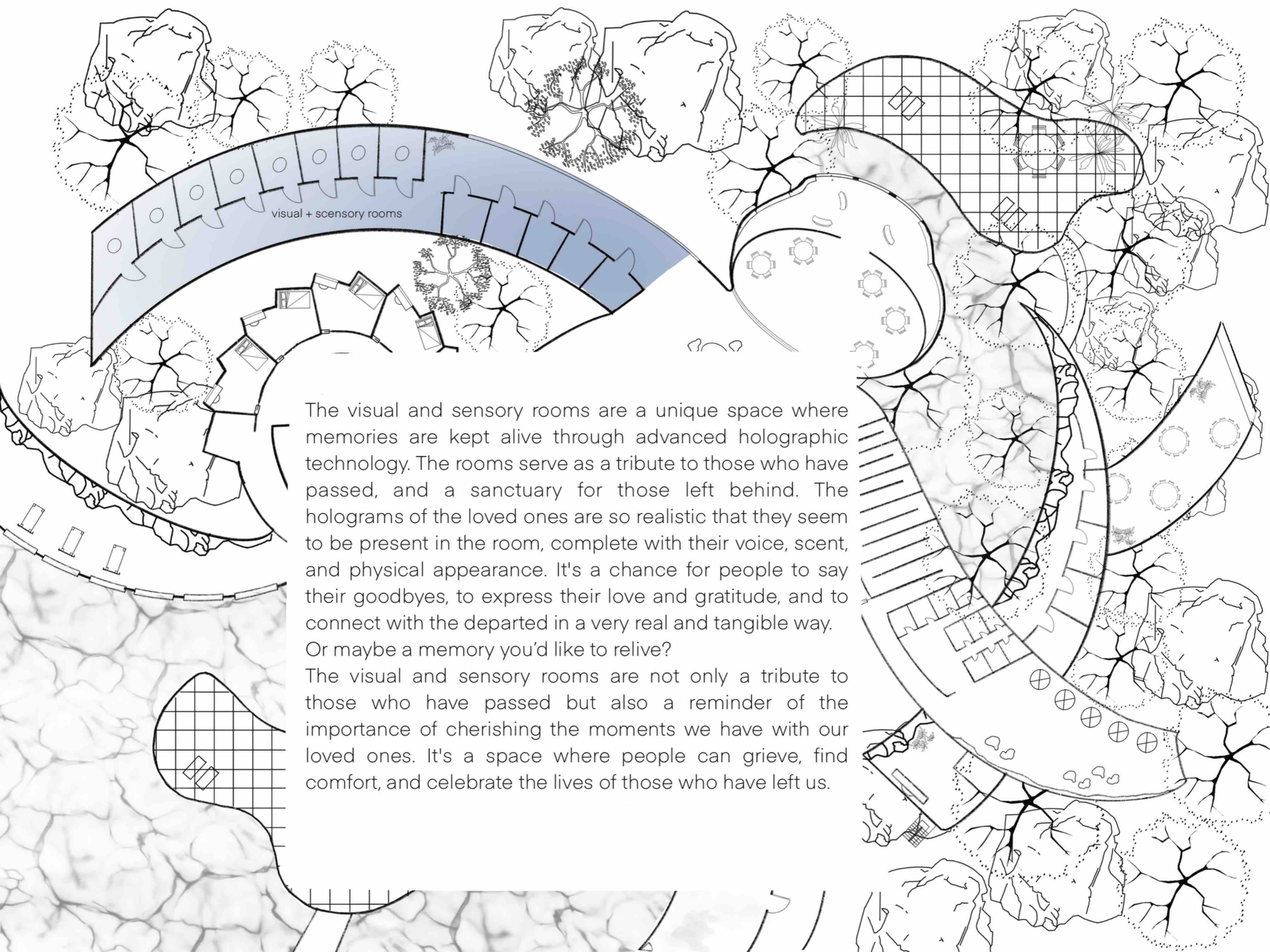
The Rebirth and Renewal space is not just a virtual space, but a spiritual and emotional one as well. It's a place where you can start anew, leave your past behind, and move forward towards a brighter future.







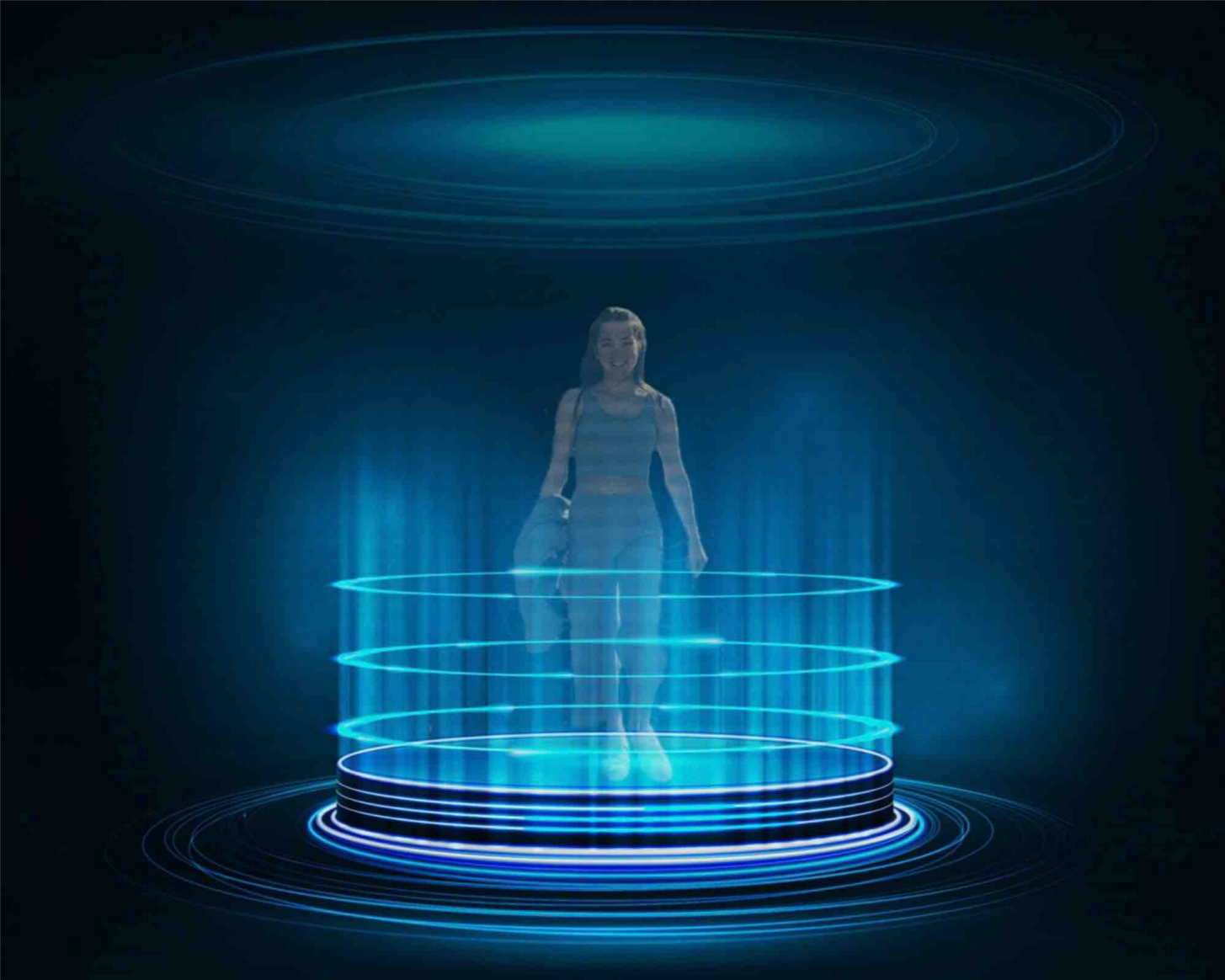
The rage room is a unique and innovative space designed to help people release their pent-up anger and frustration in a safe and controlled environment. As you enter the room, you will find yourself surrounded by a variety of objects, from plates and glasses to electronic appliances and furniture. These objects are all there for one purpose – to be destroyed. Once you are ready, you will be given a choice of materials to use for your destruction. You can choose from a range of items such as baseball bats, sledgehammers, and crowbars. You can also select the type of music you want to listen to while venting your rage, from calming sounds to heavy metal and punk.



visual + sensory rooms

The visual and sensory rooms are a unique space where memories are kept alive through advanced holographic technology. The rooms serve as a tribute to those who have passed, and a sanctuary for those left behind. The holograms of the loved ones are so realistic that they seem to be present in the room, complete with their voice, scent, and physical appearance. It's a chance for people to say their goodbyes, to express their love and gratitude, and to connect with the departed in a very real and tangible way. Or maybe a memory you'd like to relive?

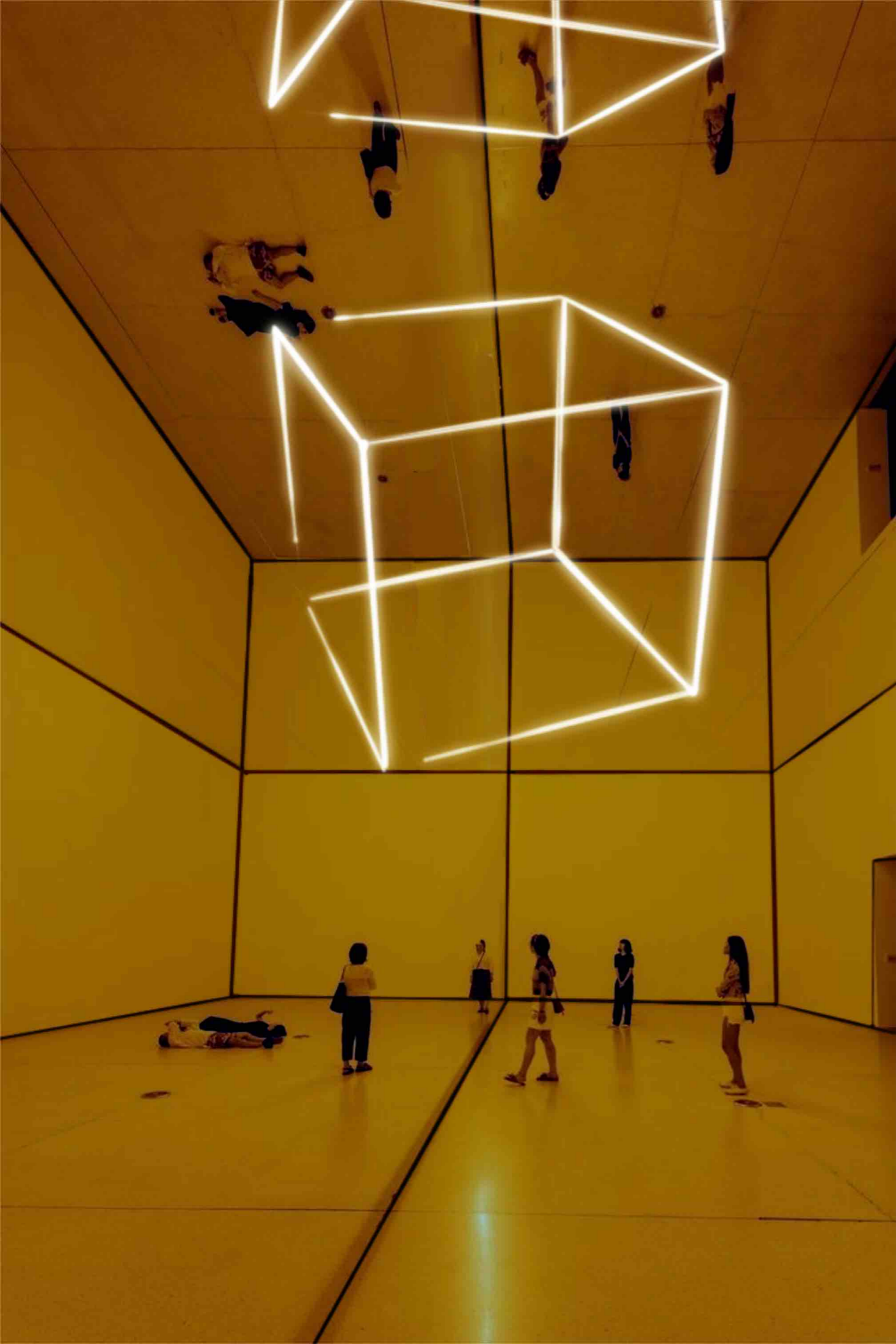
The visual and sensory rooms are not only a tribute to those who have passed but also a reminder of the importance of cherishing the moments we have with our loved ones. It's a space where people can grieve, find comfort, and celebrate the lives of those who have left us.



### **Interactive Art Installations:**

Within the memorial, interactive art installations create a sense of wonder and introspection. Visitors are invited to engage with immersive visuals, light displays, and interactive soundscapes that encourage reflection and contemplation. These installations not only engage the senses but also serve as a medium for emotional healing and personal growth. Each piece tells a story, echoing the experiences of those affected and offering solace in shared narratives.

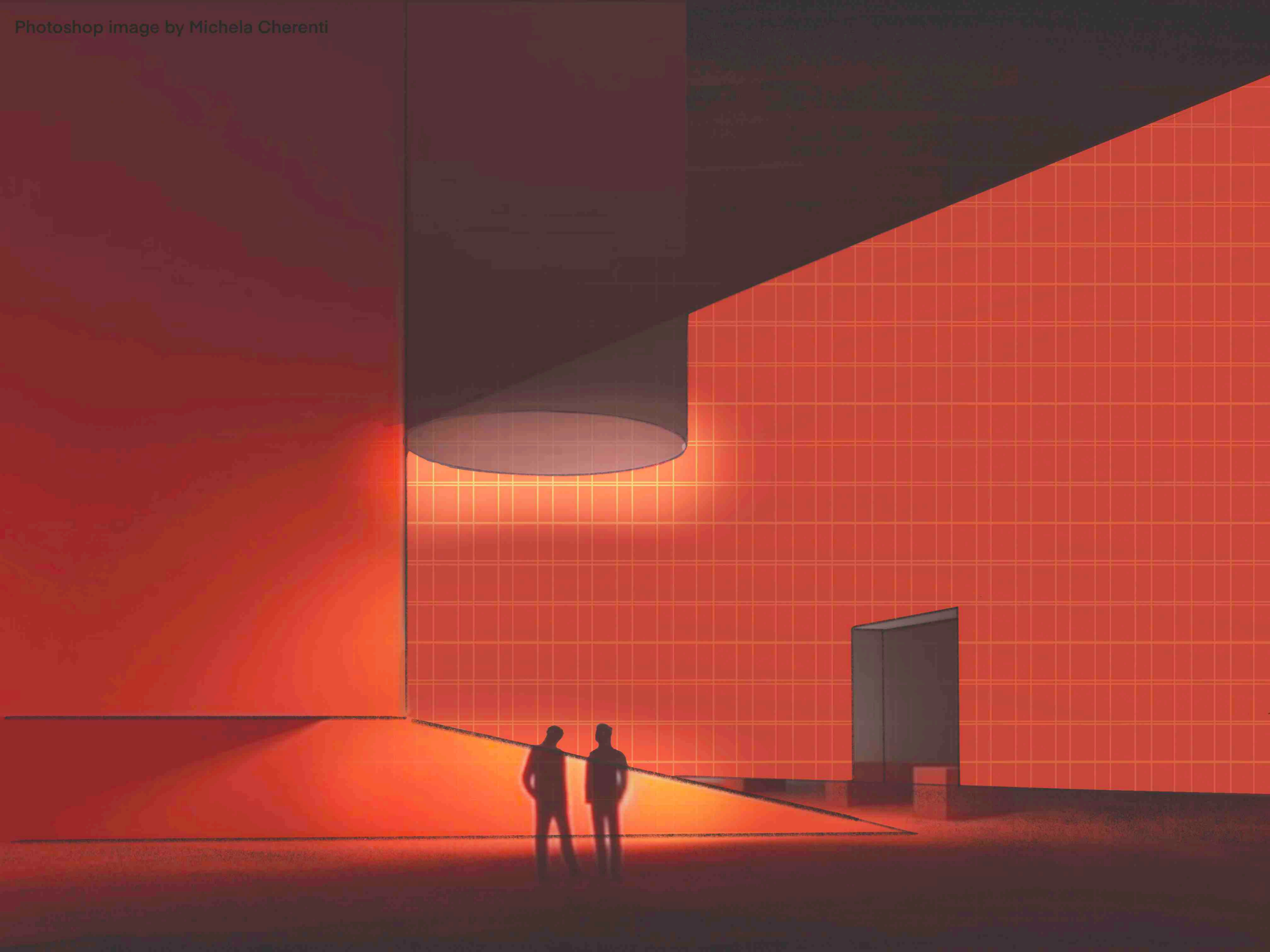
Drawing + photoshop of some visual ideas by Michela Cherenti



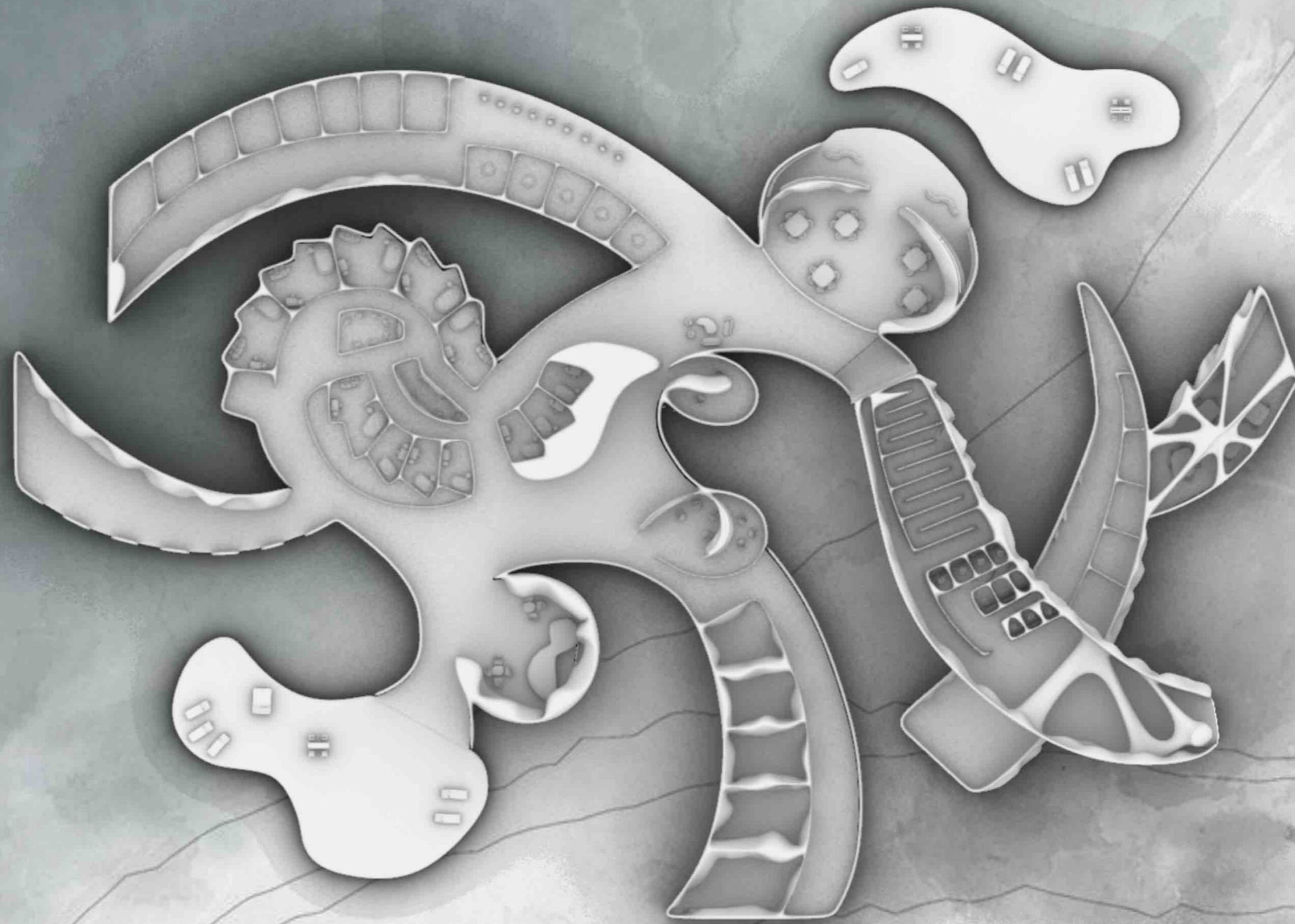


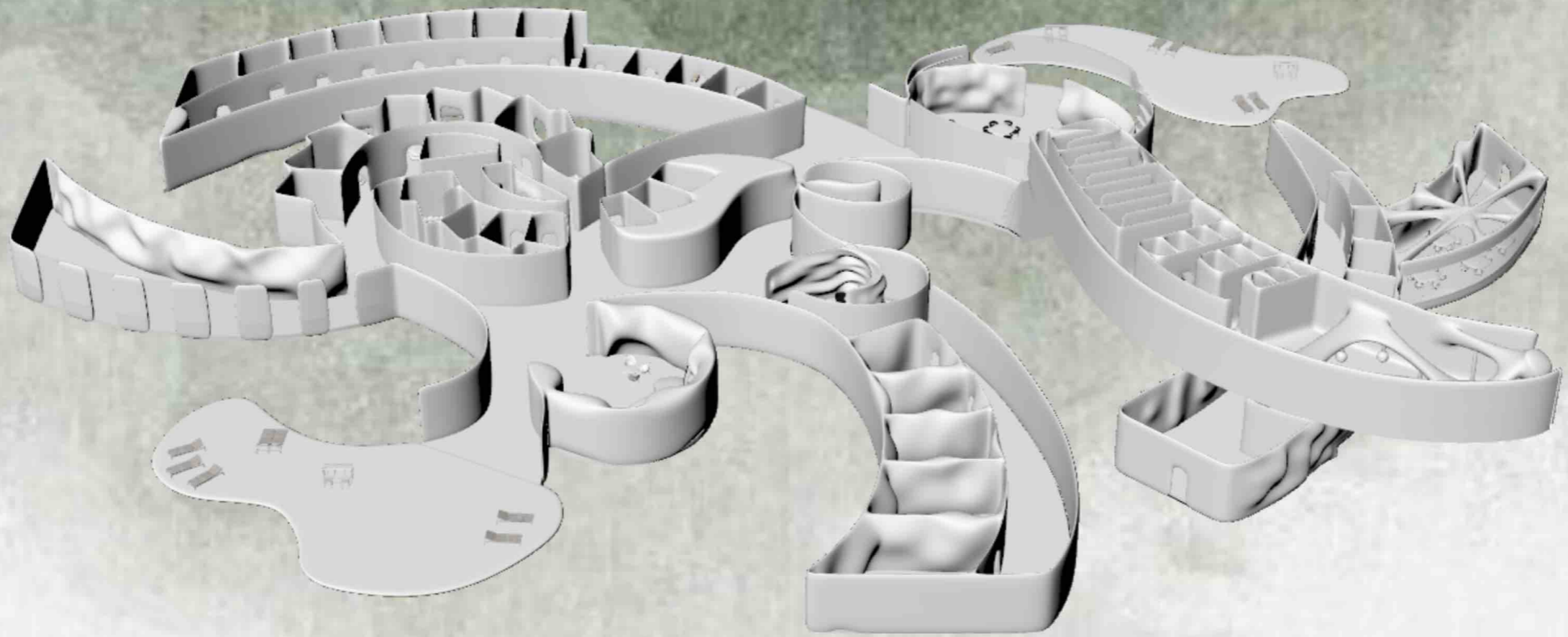
Sketching by Michela Cherenti



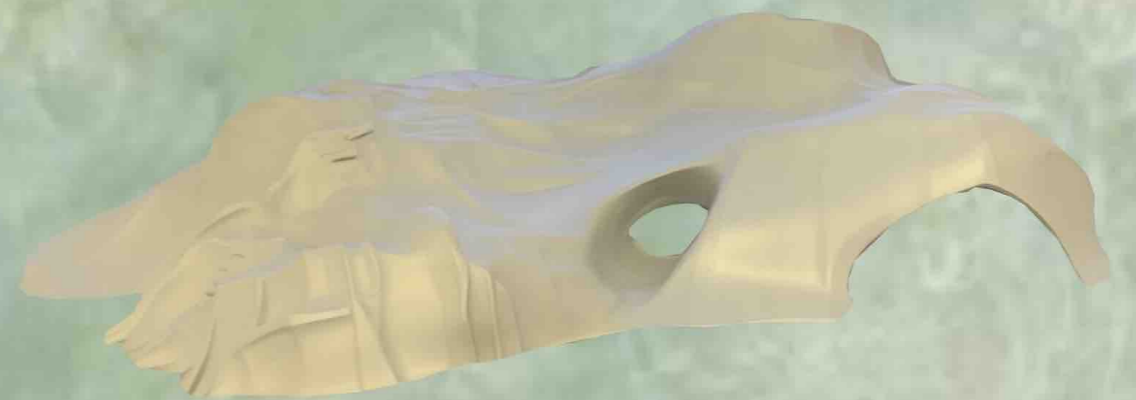
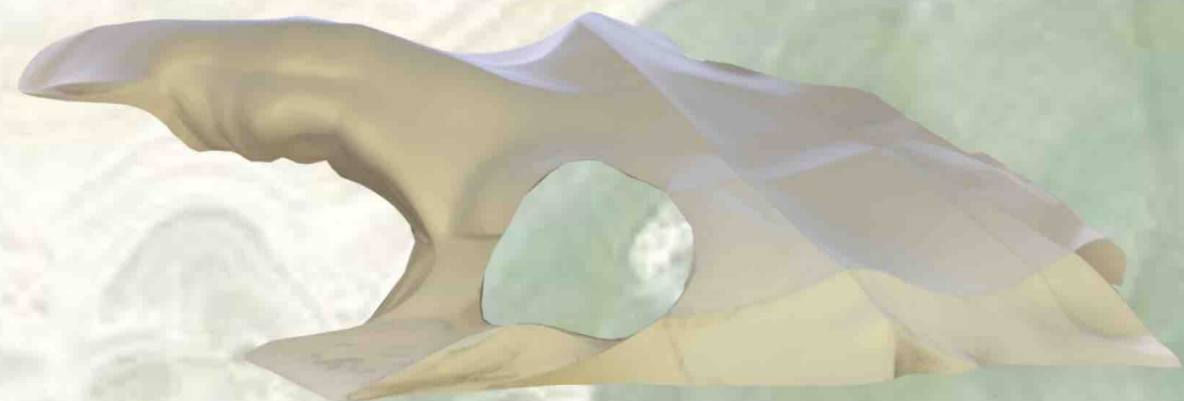
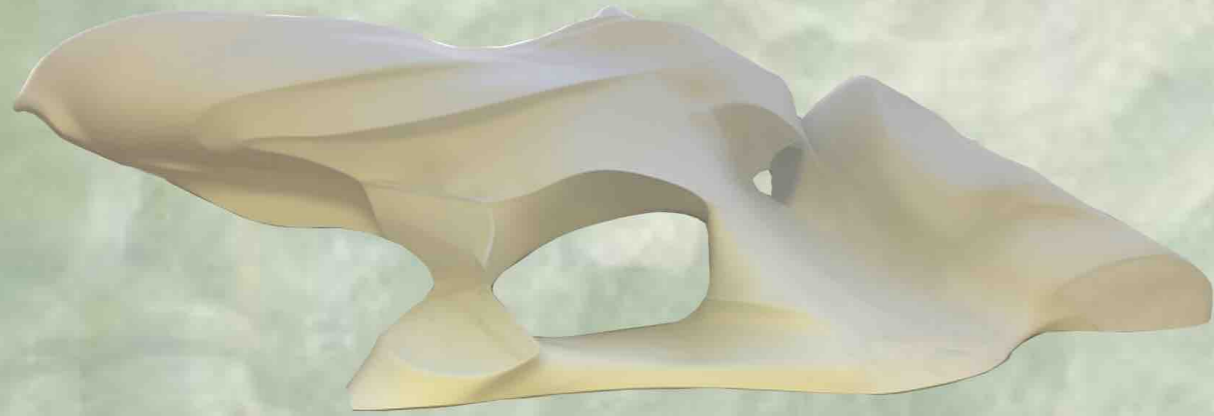


Rhino Top view



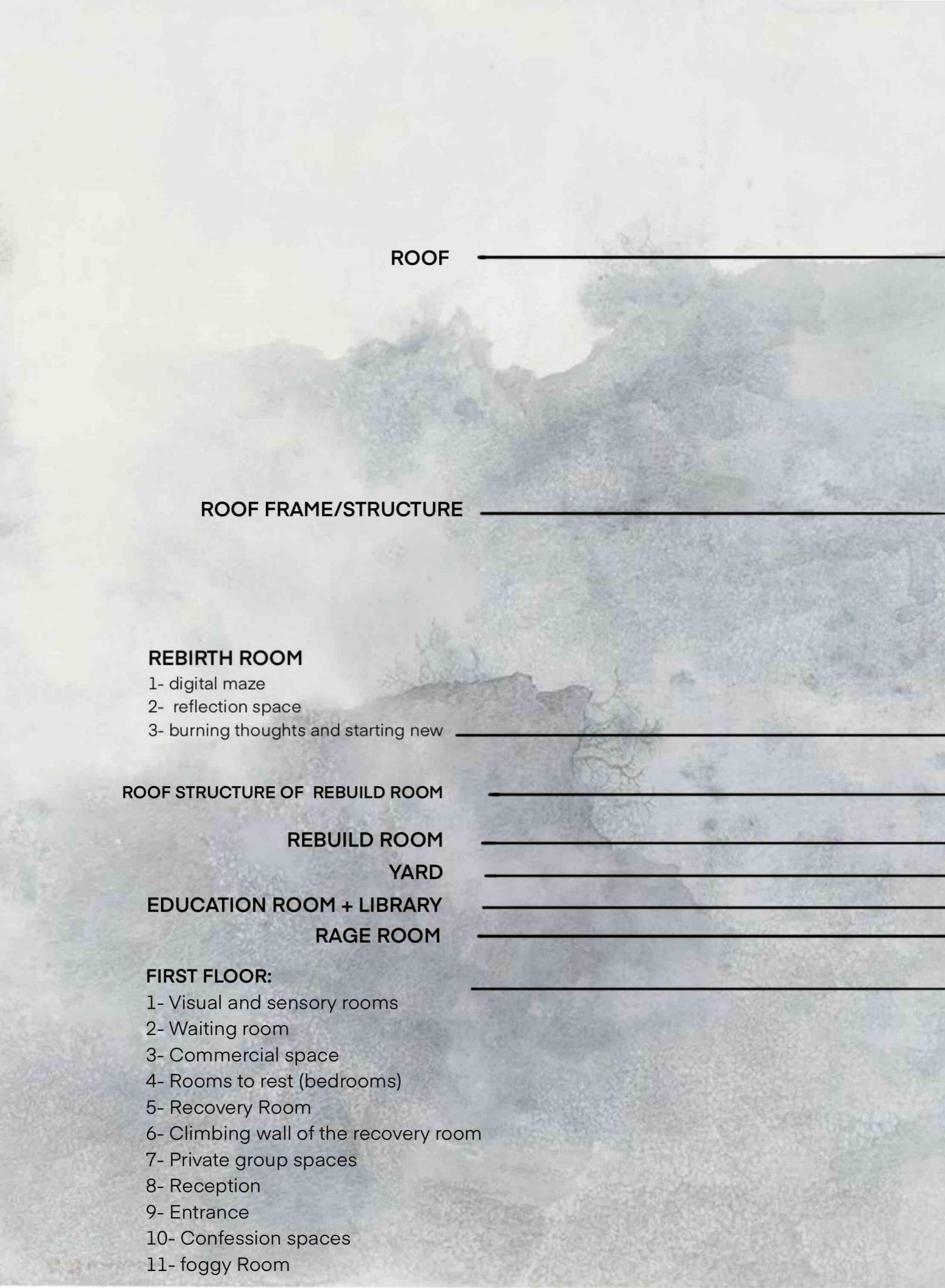


After finalising my floor plan, with white plastic as my medium, I meticulously crafted roof models, exploring modern and organic shapes. Each iteration captured the fluidity of nature and the innovation of contemporary design. The white color symbolized the nitrate of ammonium disaster, imbuing the creations with profound meaning. Through careful refinement, the roofs became a harmonious blend of aesthetics and functionality, a testament to the transformative power of architecture.





RHINO MODEL



ROOF

ROOF FRAME/STRUCTURE

**REBIRTH ROOM**

- 1- digital maze
- 2- reflection space
- 3- burning thoughts and starting new

ROOF STRUCTURE OF REBUILD ROOM

REBUILD ROOM

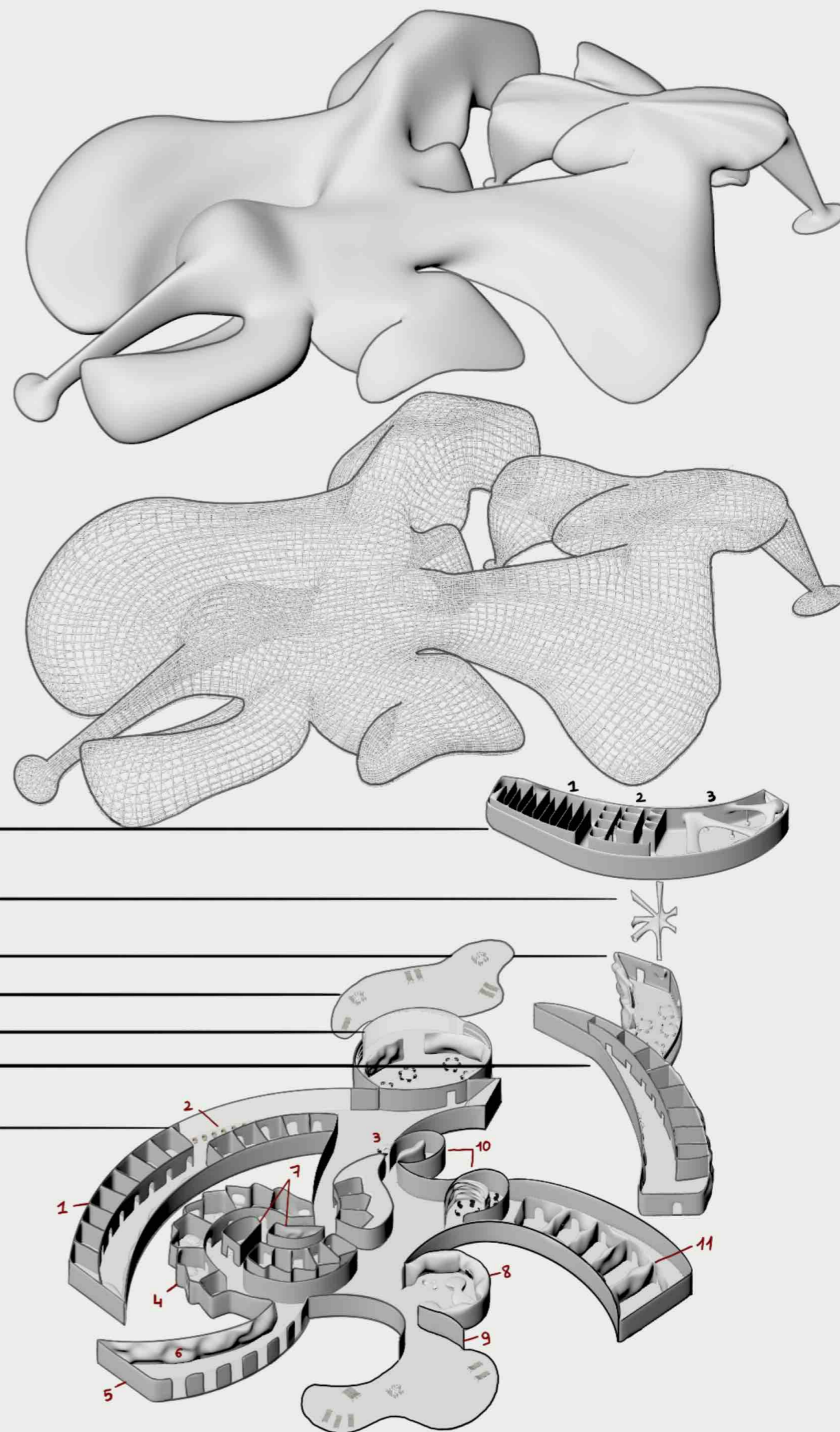
YARD

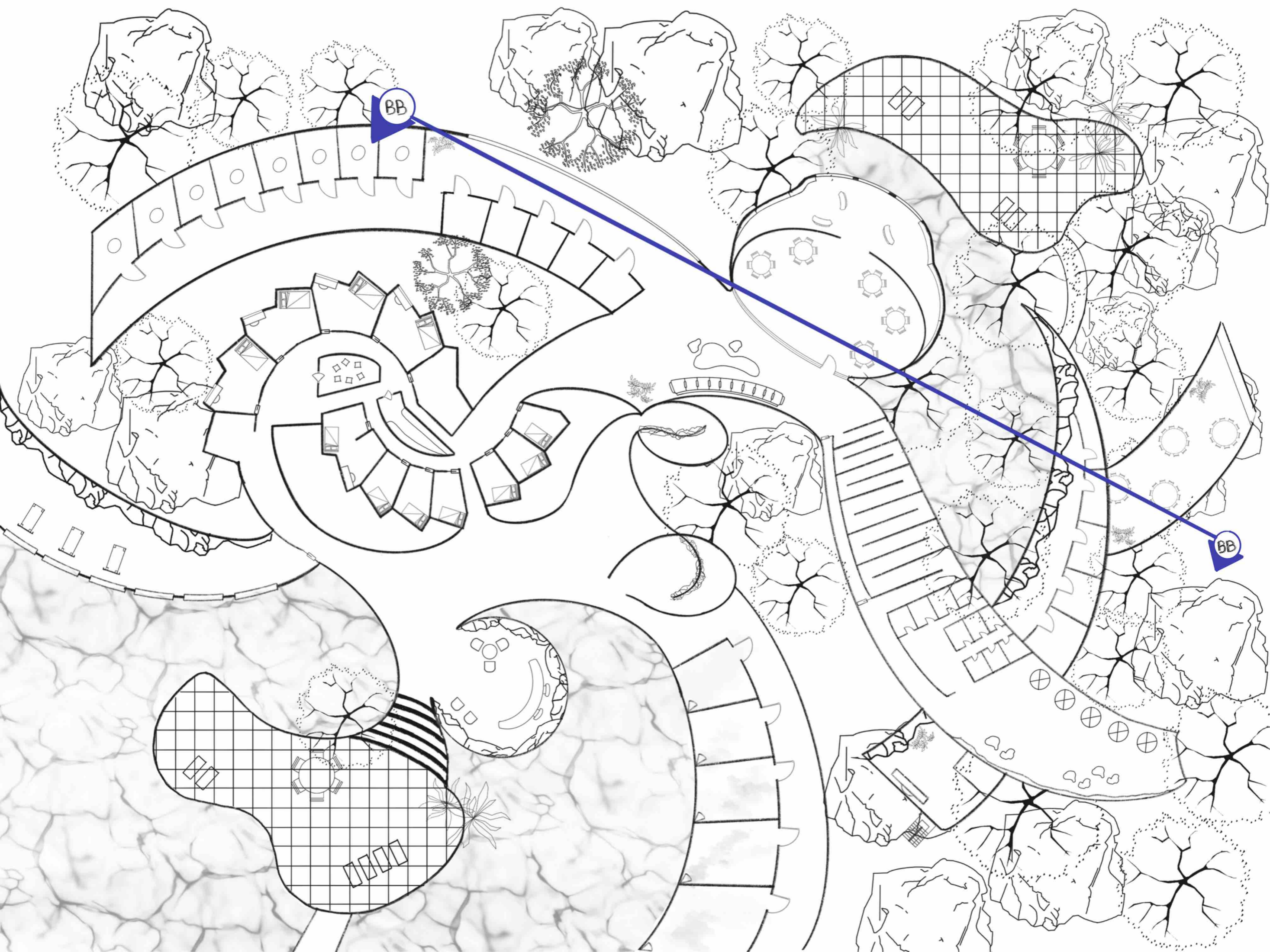
EDUCATION ROOM + LIBRARY

RAGE ROOM

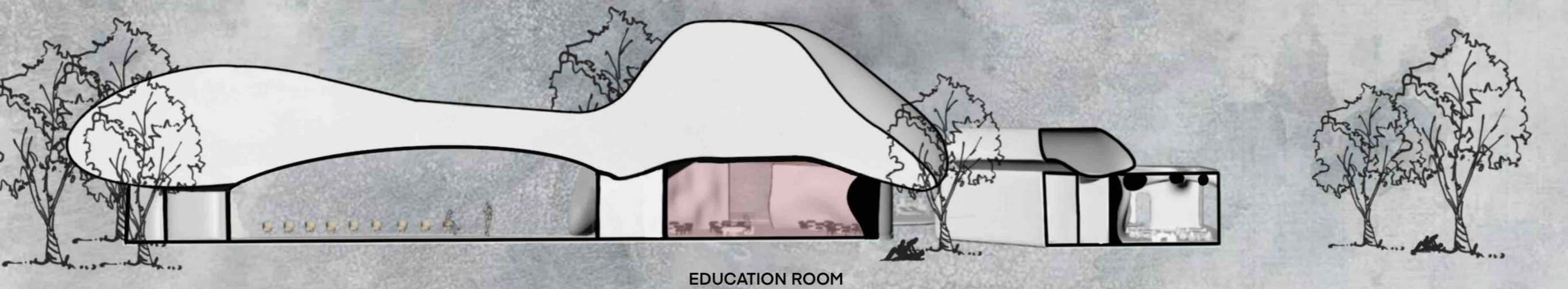
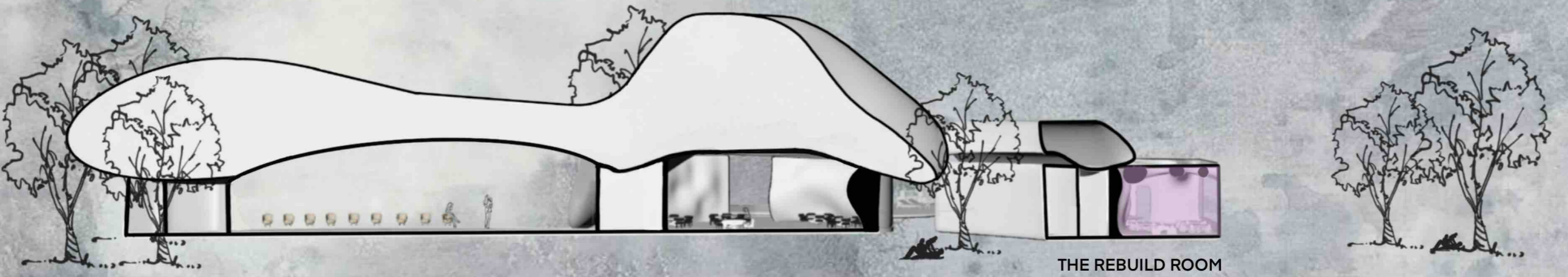
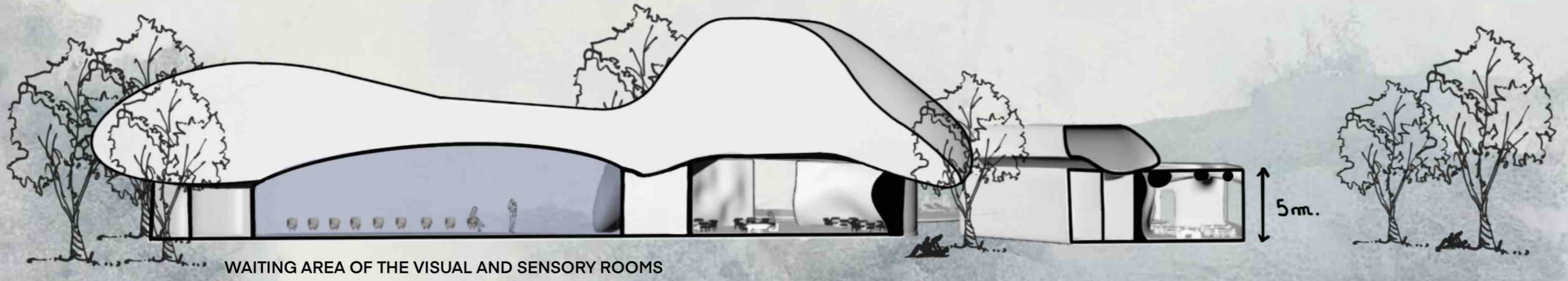
**FIRST FLOOR:**

- 1- Visual and sensory rooms
- 2- Waiting room
- 3- Commercial space
- 4- Rooms to rest (bedrooms)
- 5- Recovery Room
- 6- Climbing wall of the recovery room
- 7- Private group spaces
- 8- Reception
- 9- Entrance
- 10- Confession spaces
- 11- foggy Room

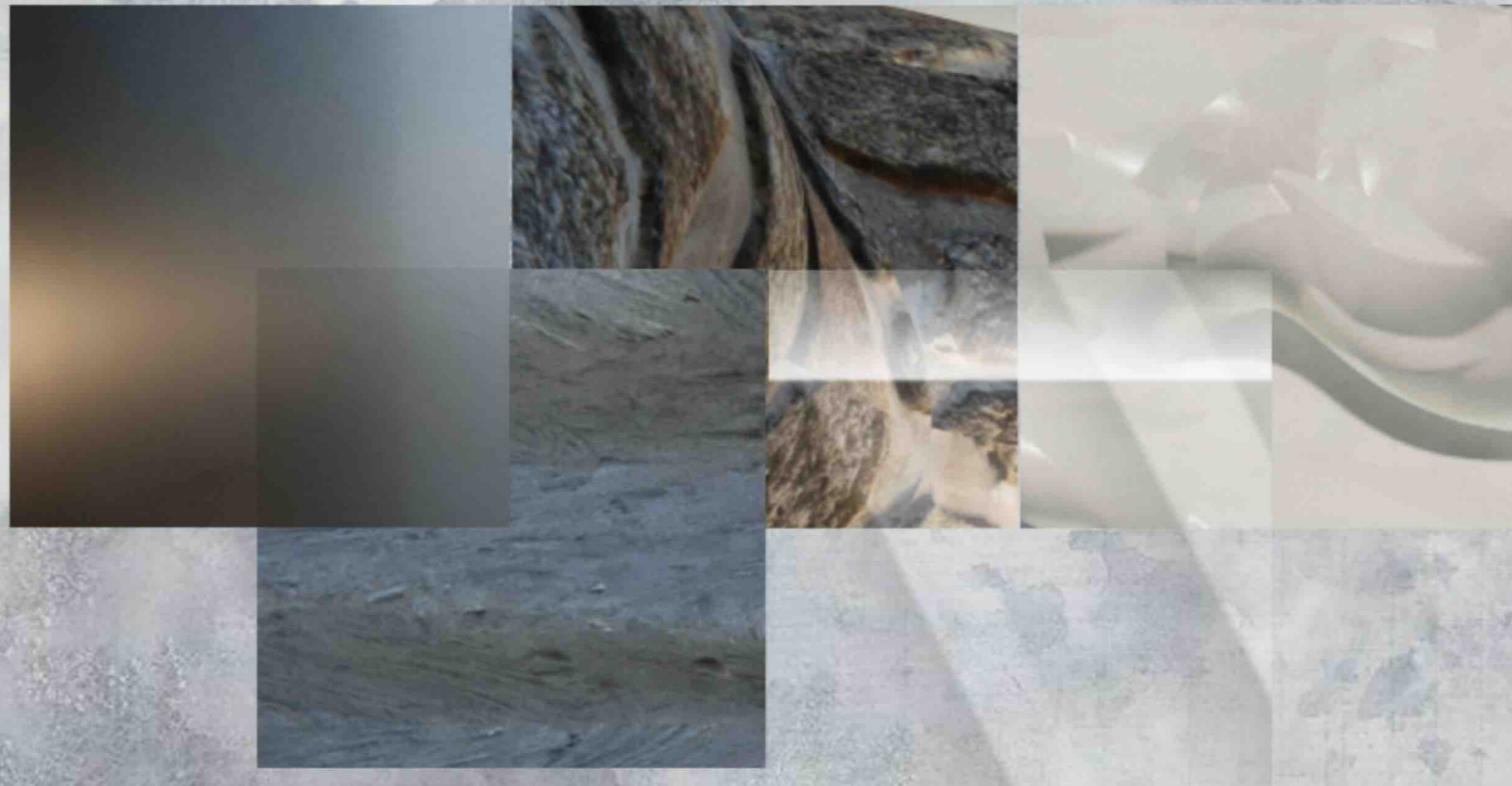




BB

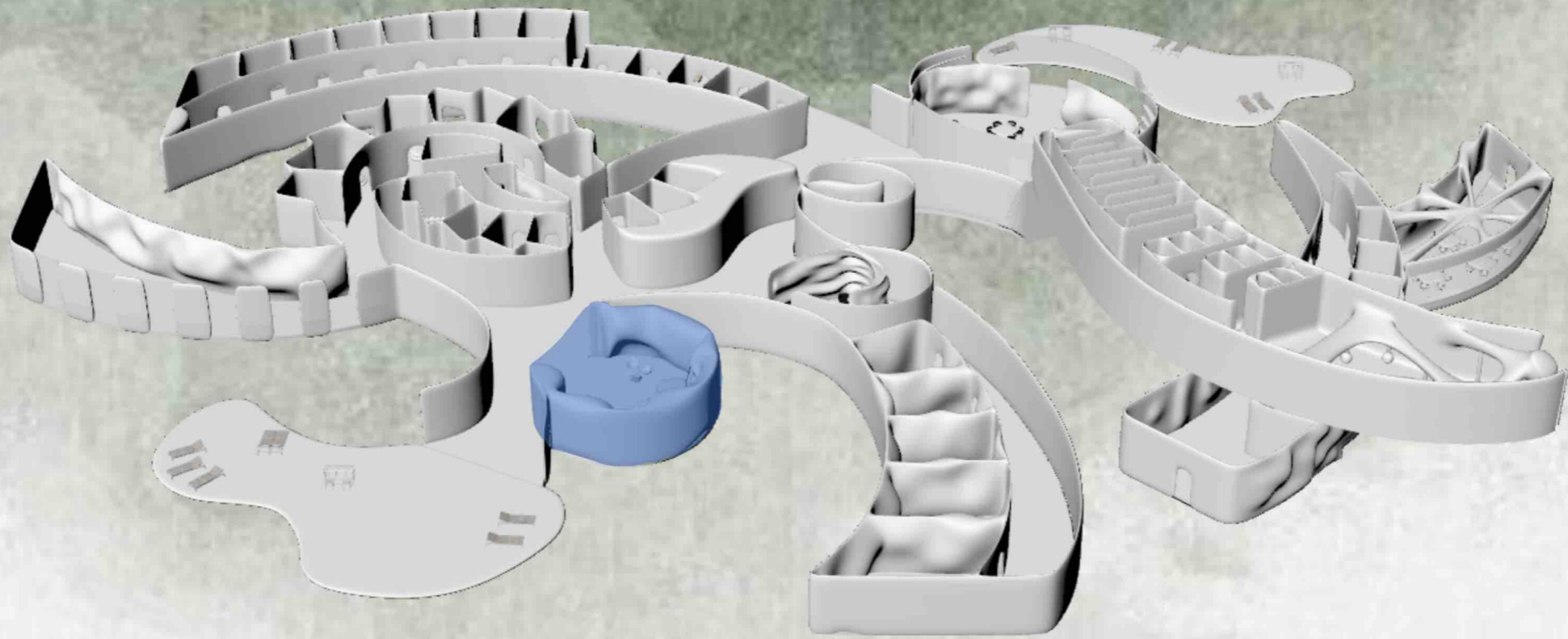


Materials combining old and new, modern and original, futuristic yet real stone, glass, copper...



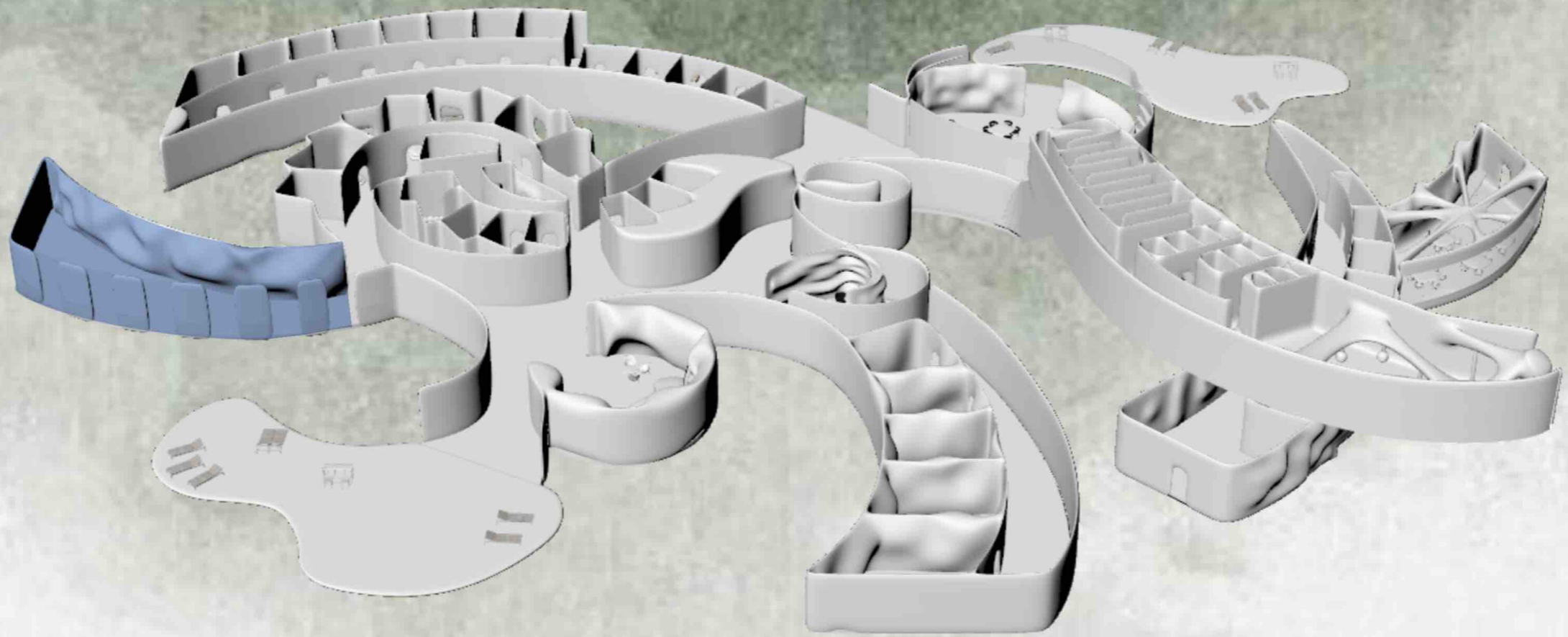


The choice of a desert landscape as the setting for the memorial is deliberate. Deserts often evoke a sense of desolation and emptiness, mirroring the aftermath of the real-world site that suffered profound destruction. This choice serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by the citizens who endured the devastating effects of the tragedy.



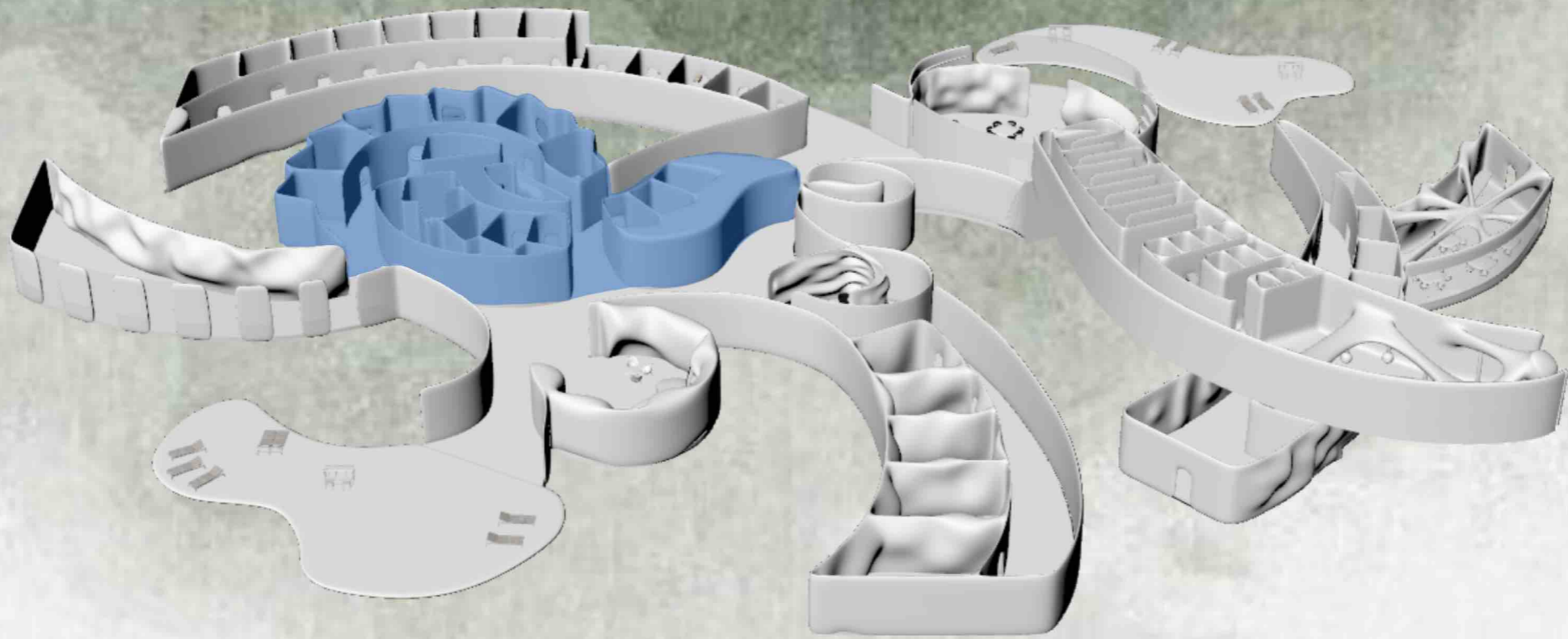


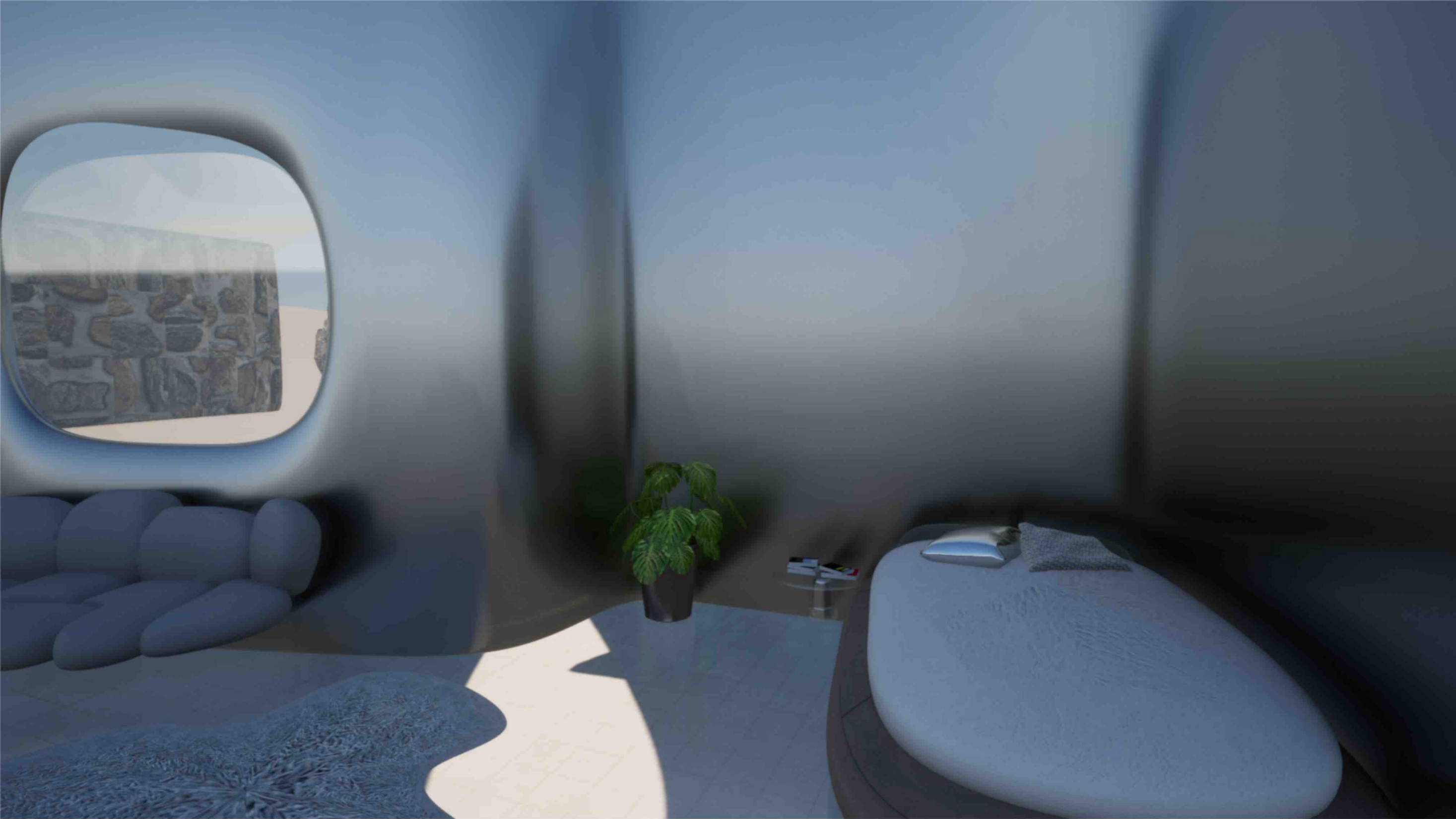
**RECEPTION**



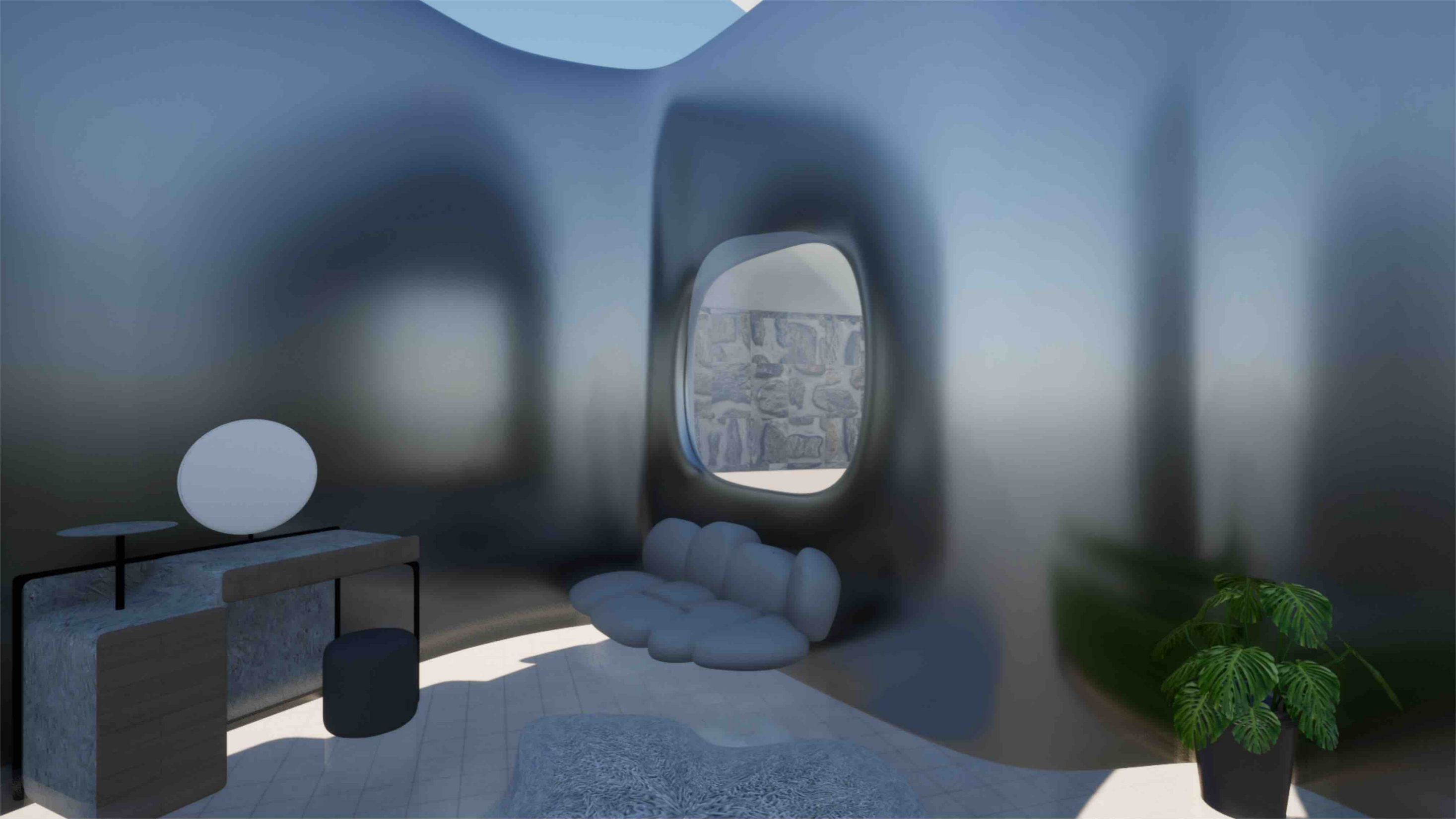


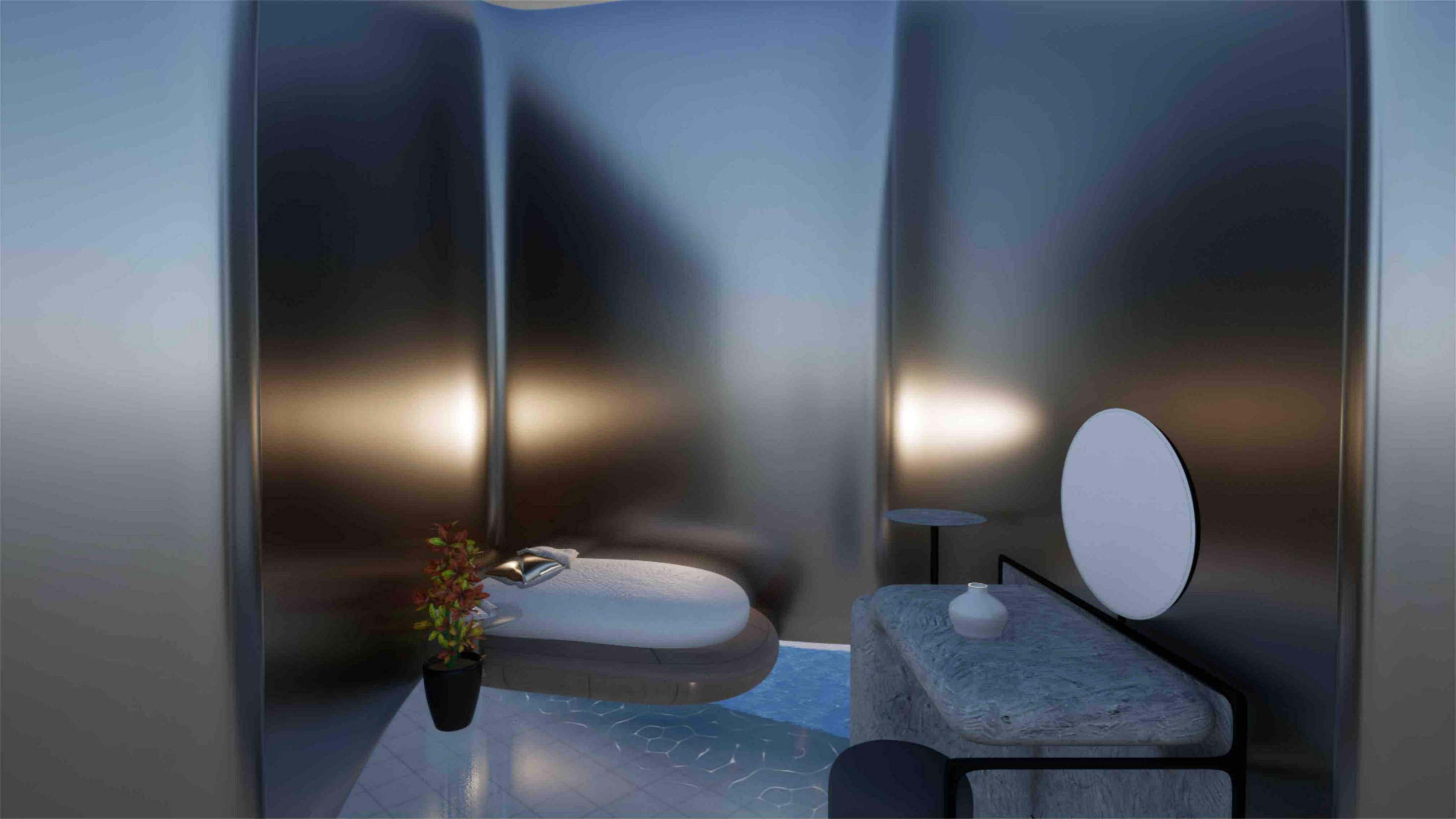
**RECOVERY**



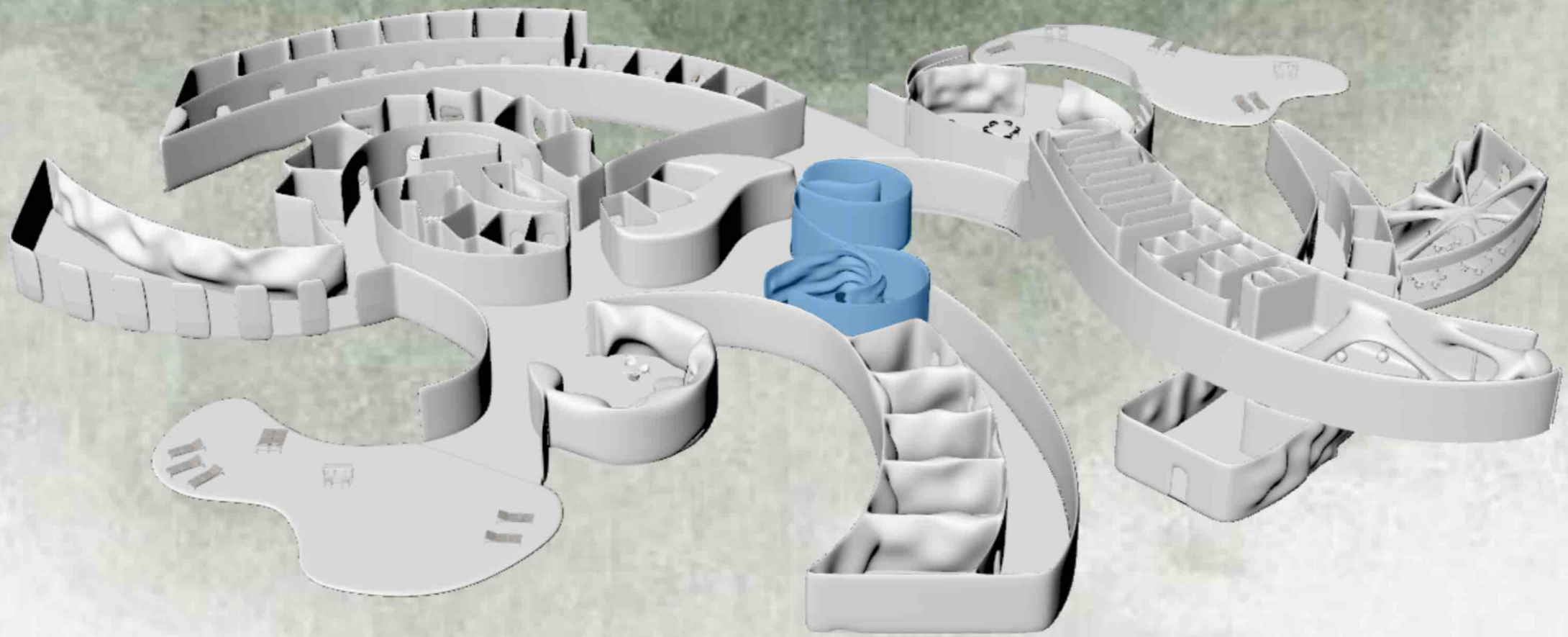


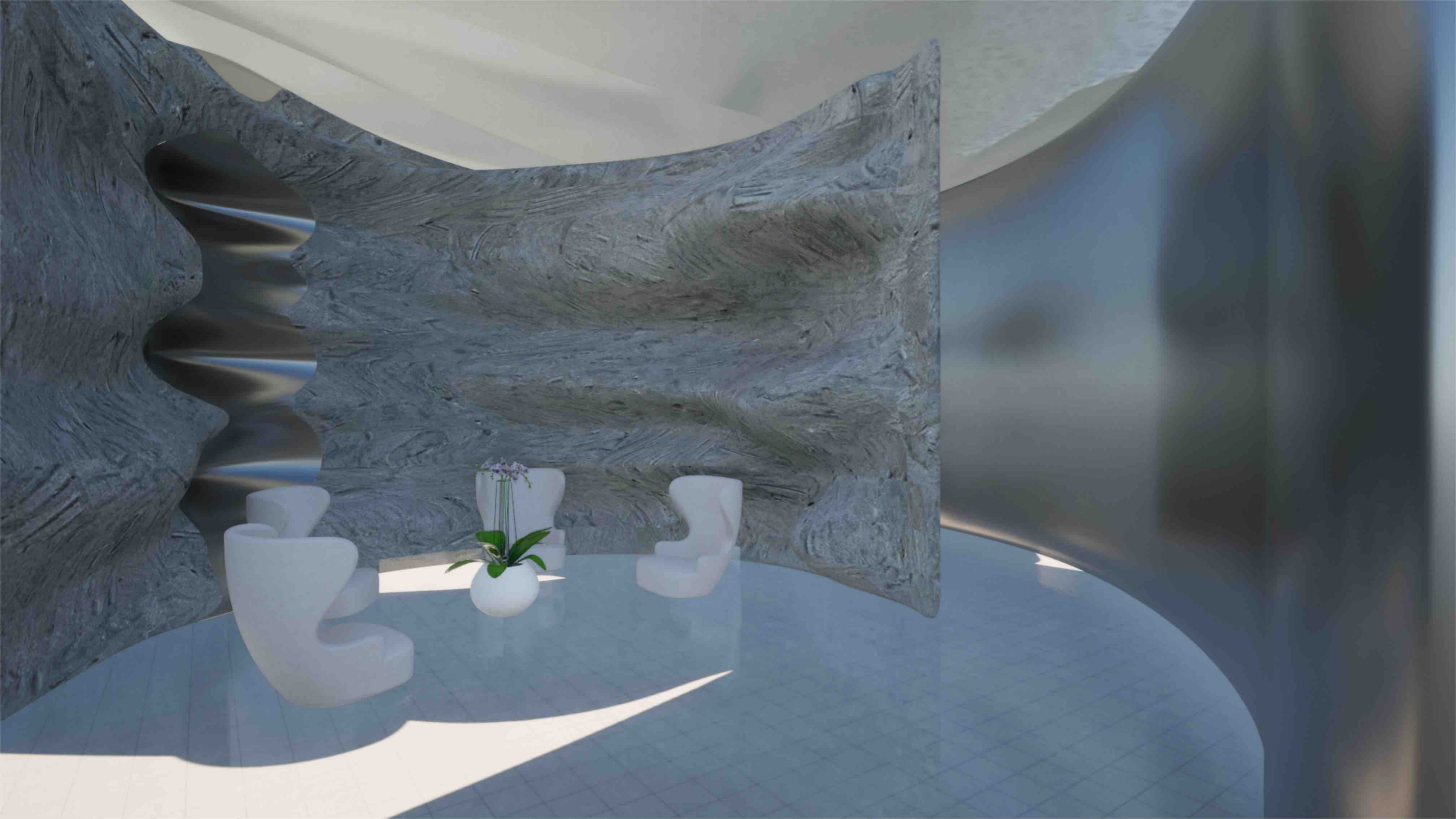
**BEDROOM**



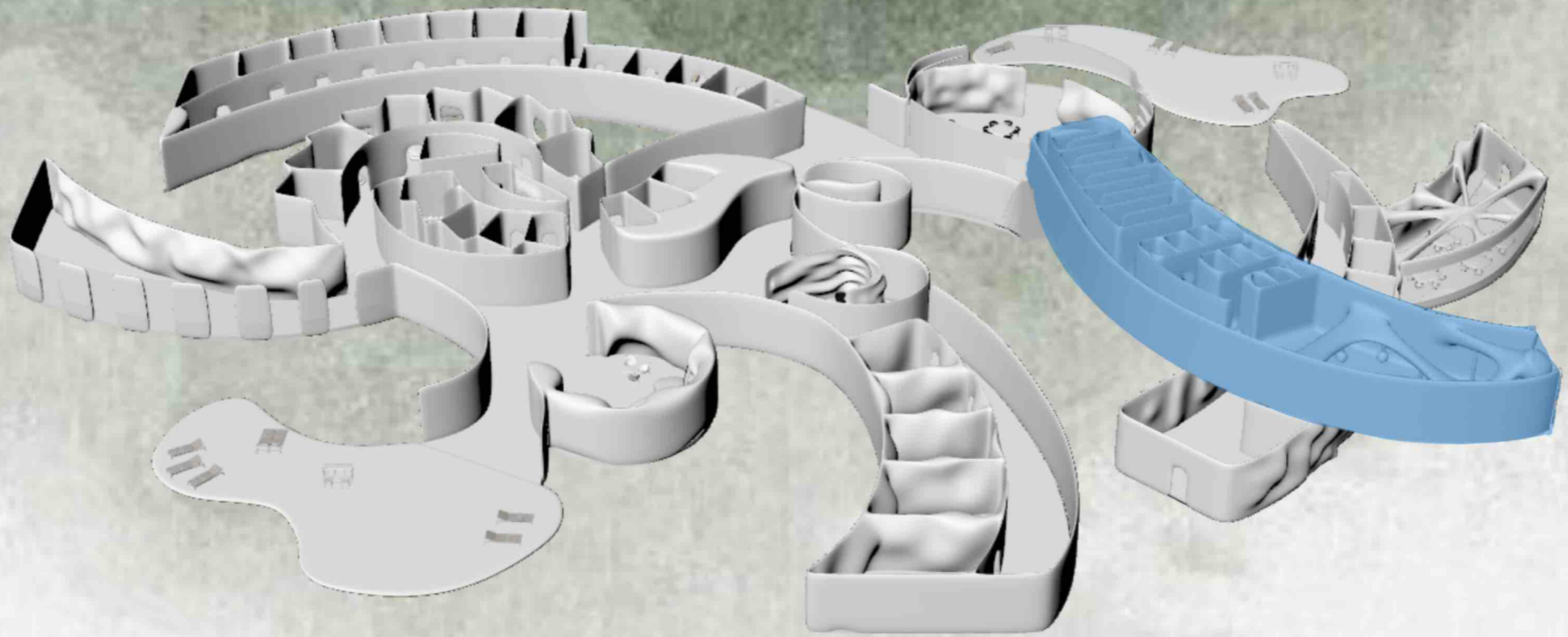


**SMALLER BEDROOM**





## CONFESSIONALS

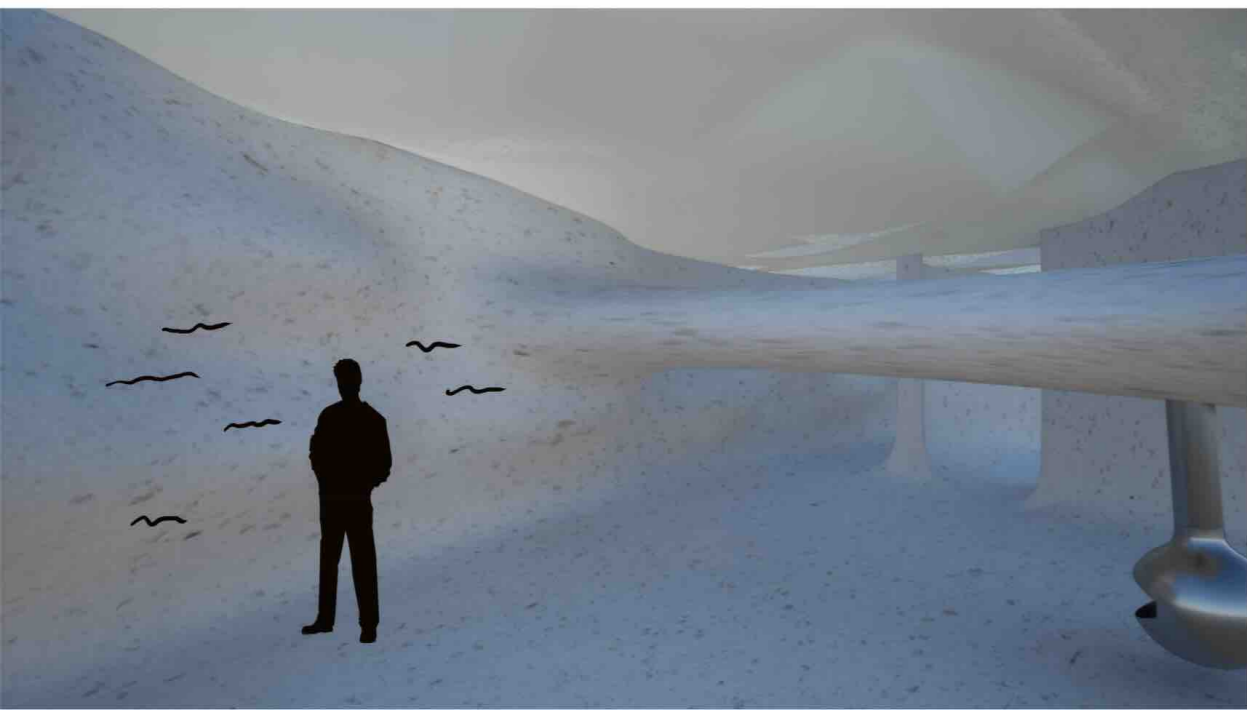




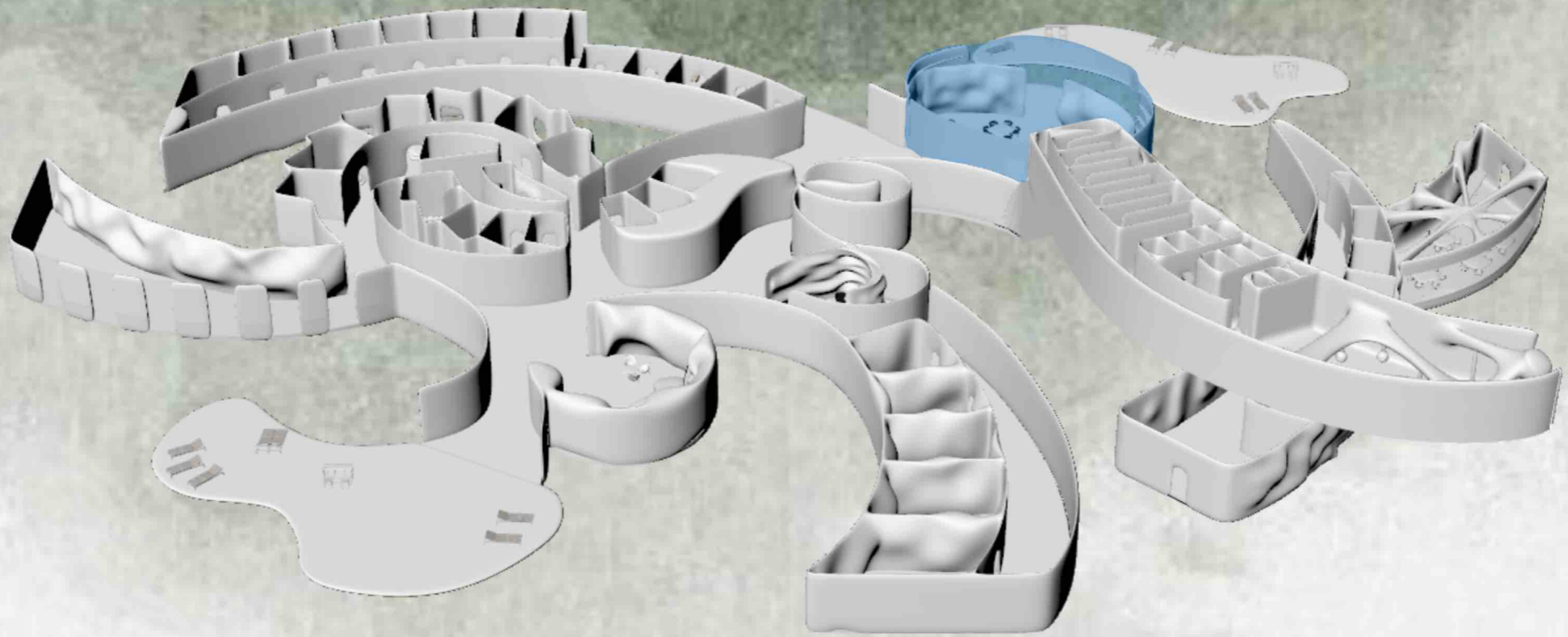
reflection space



burn your regrets



writing on wall to leave an advice for strangers

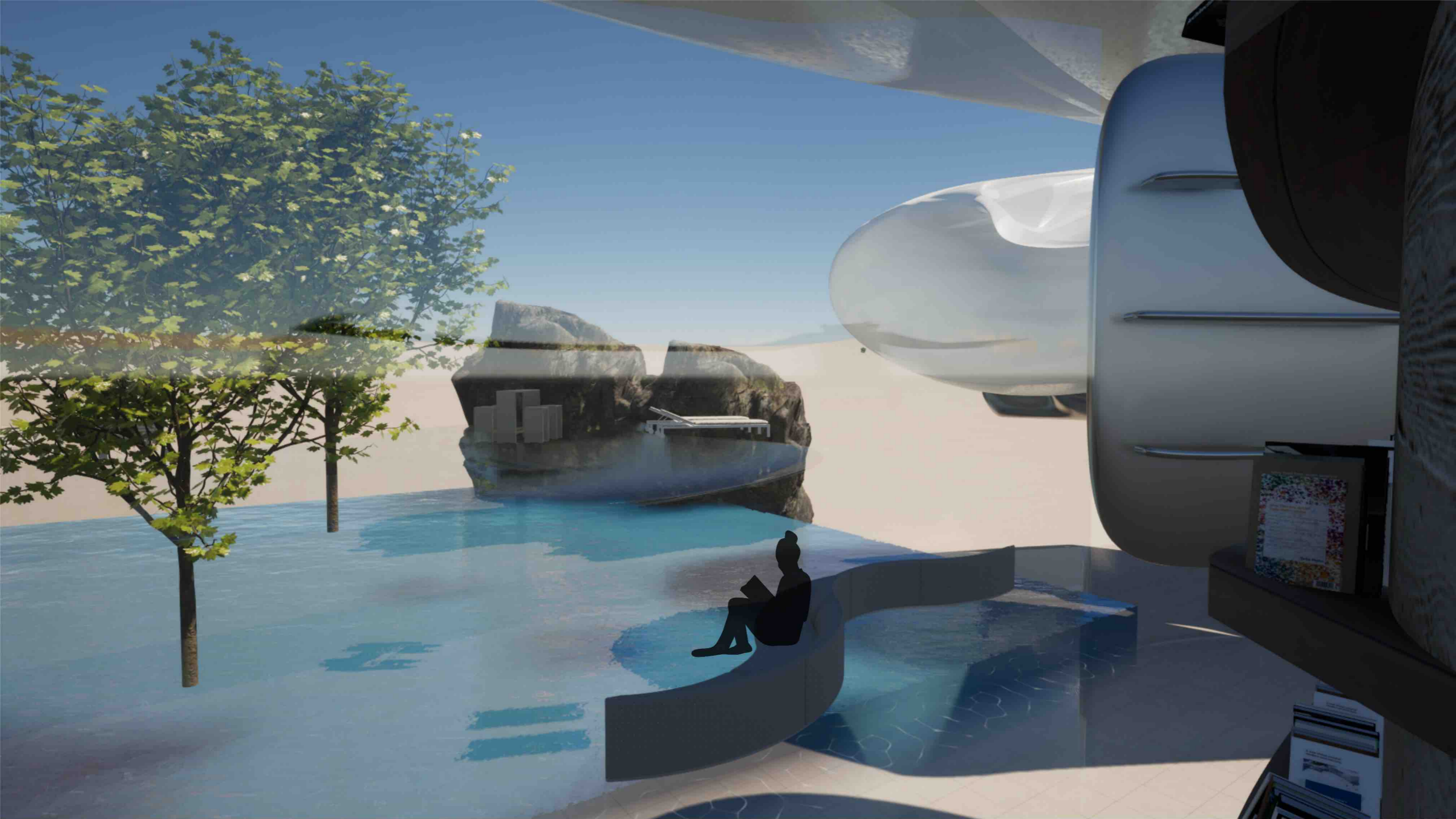


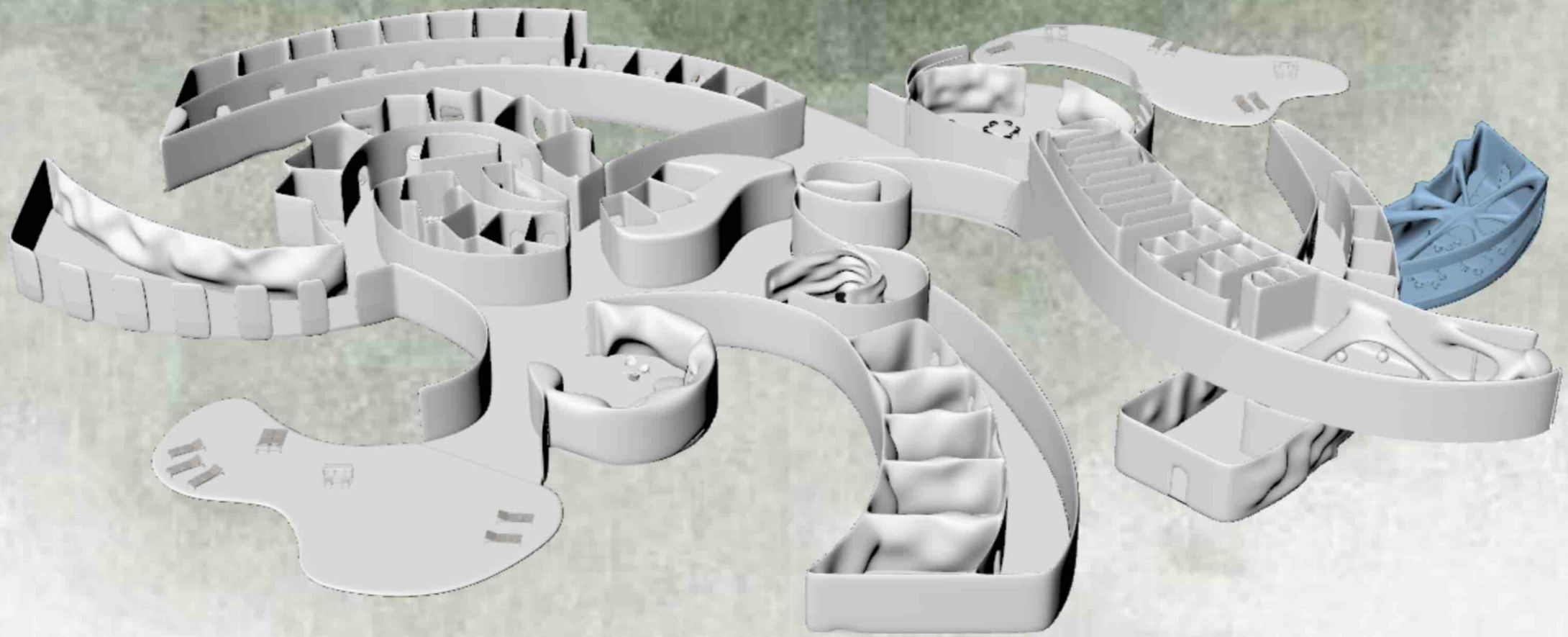


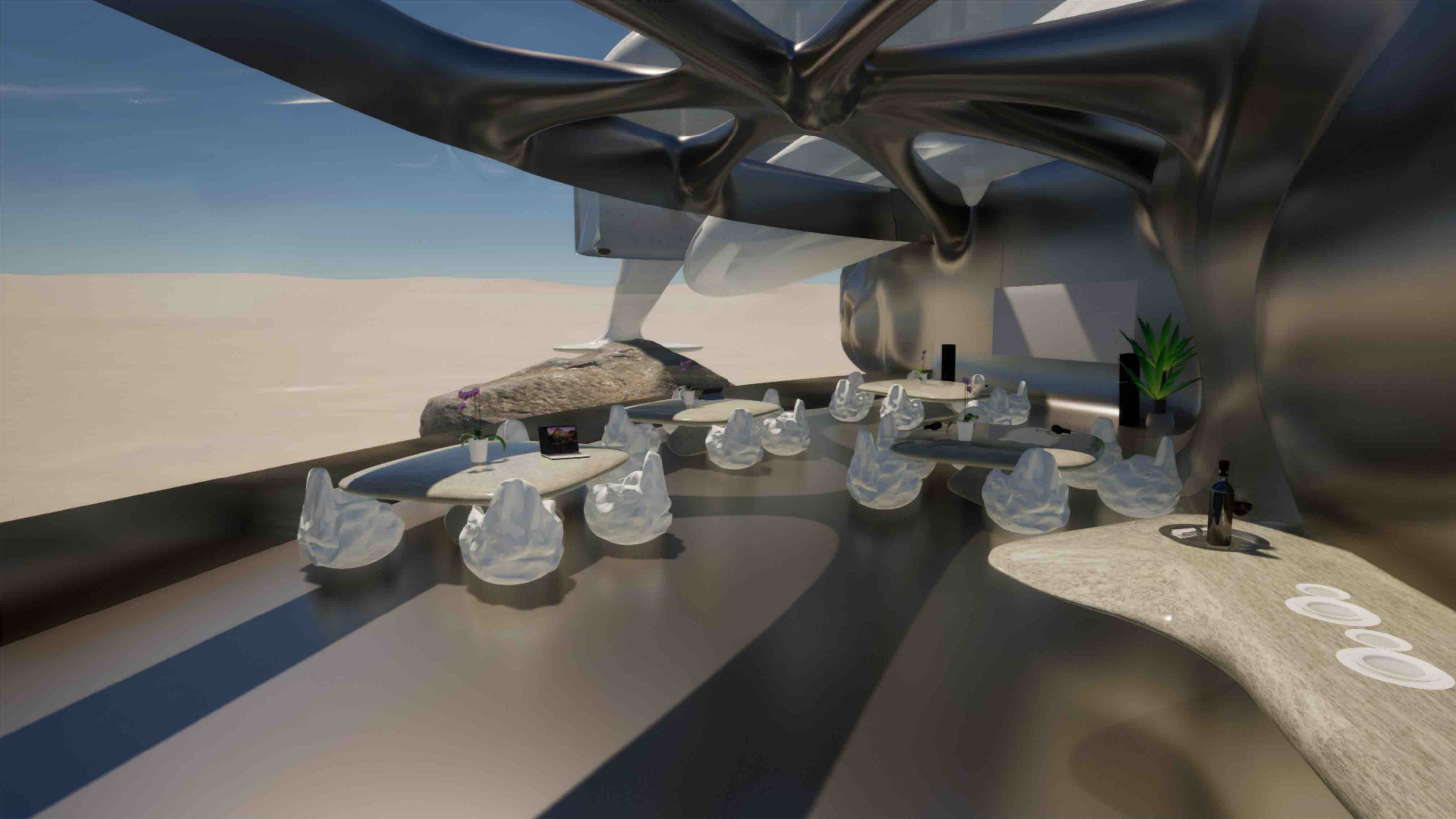
**EDUCATION ROOM**



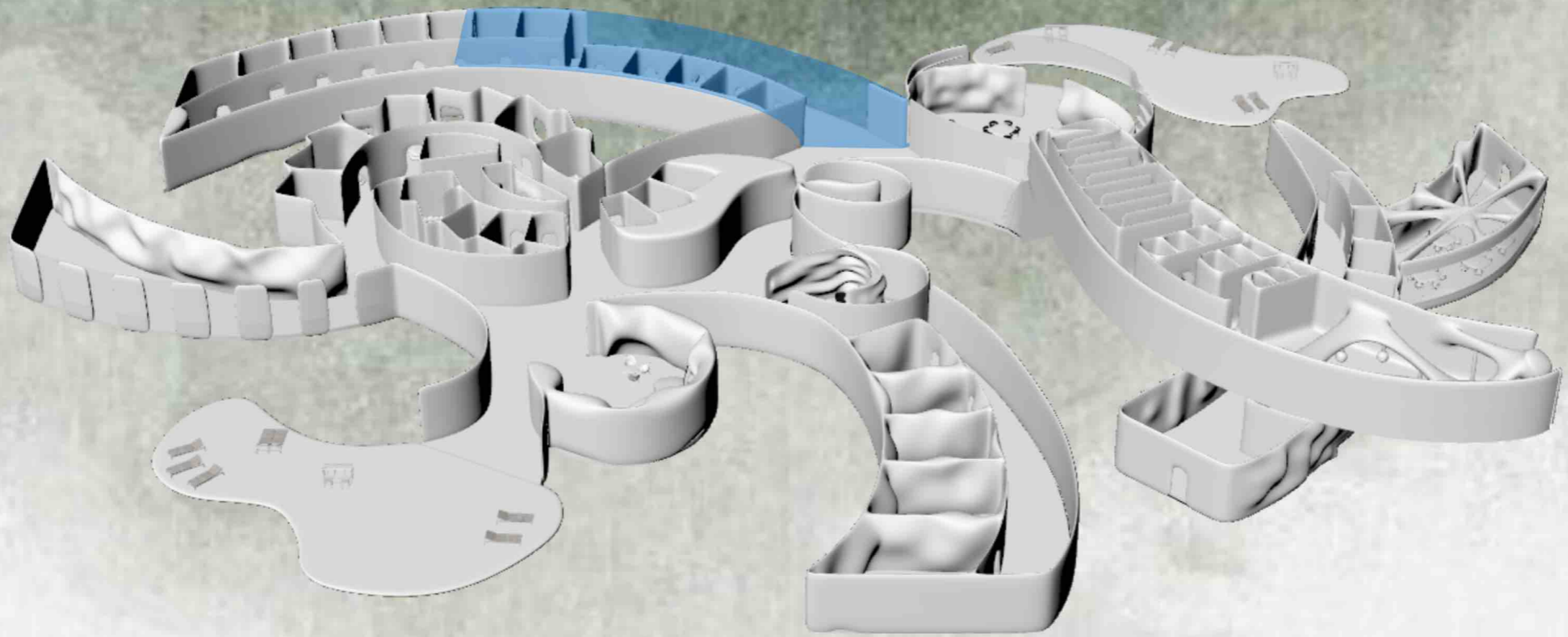
**LIBRARY IN THE EDUCATION ROOM**

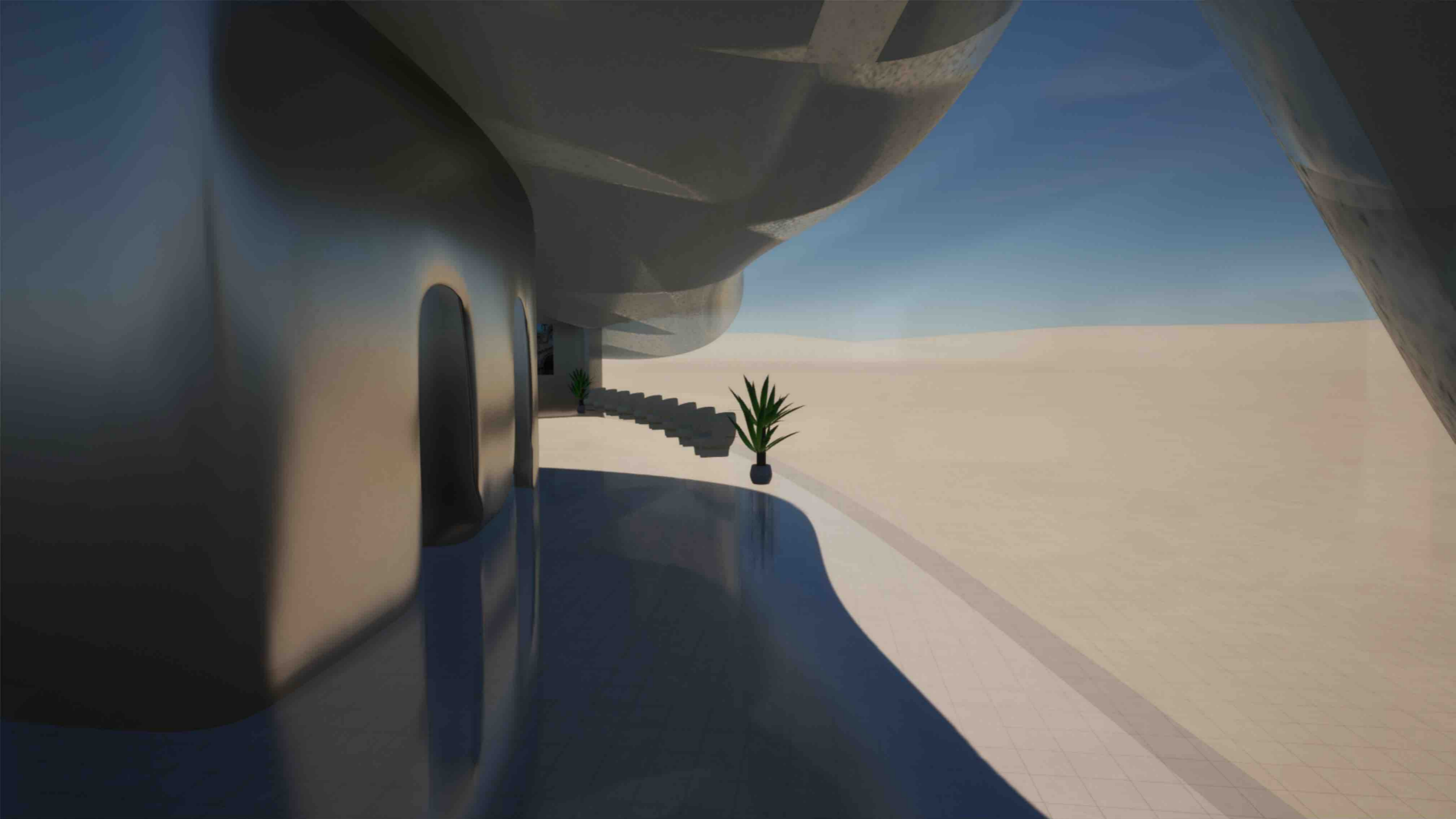




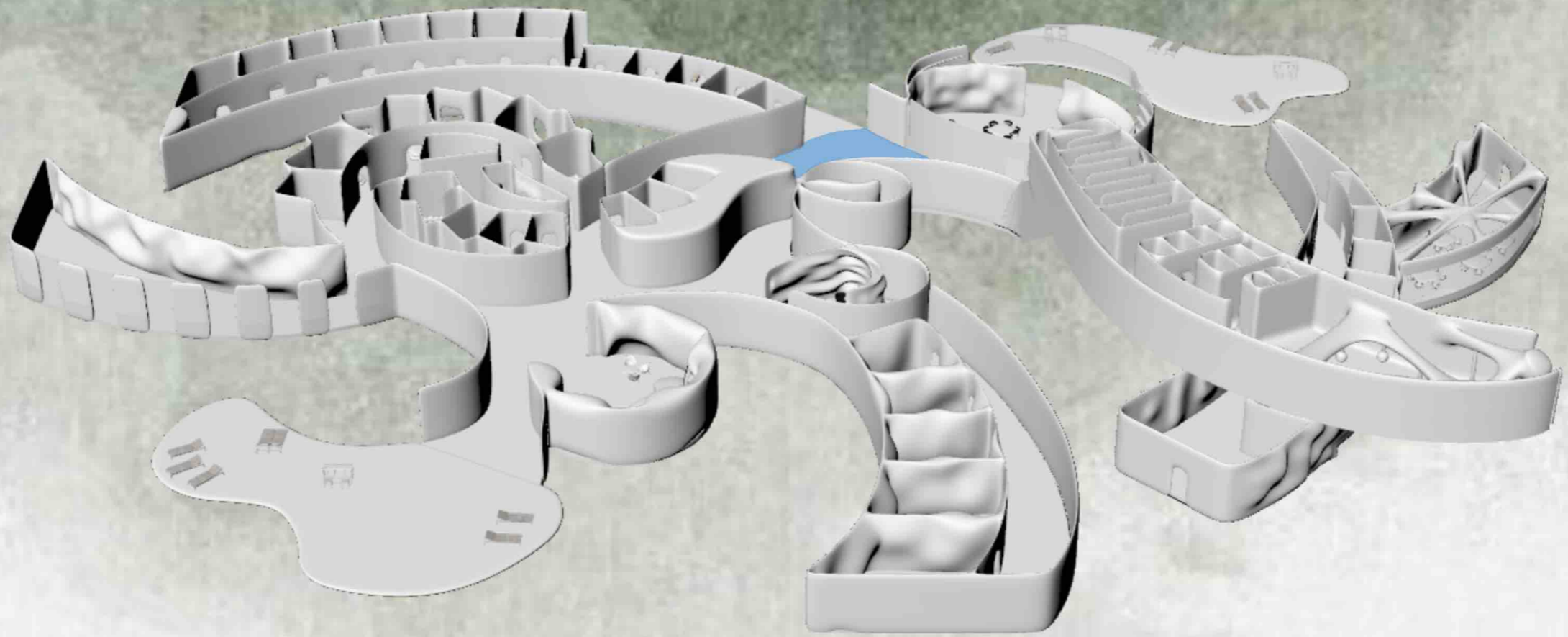


## REBUILD ROOM





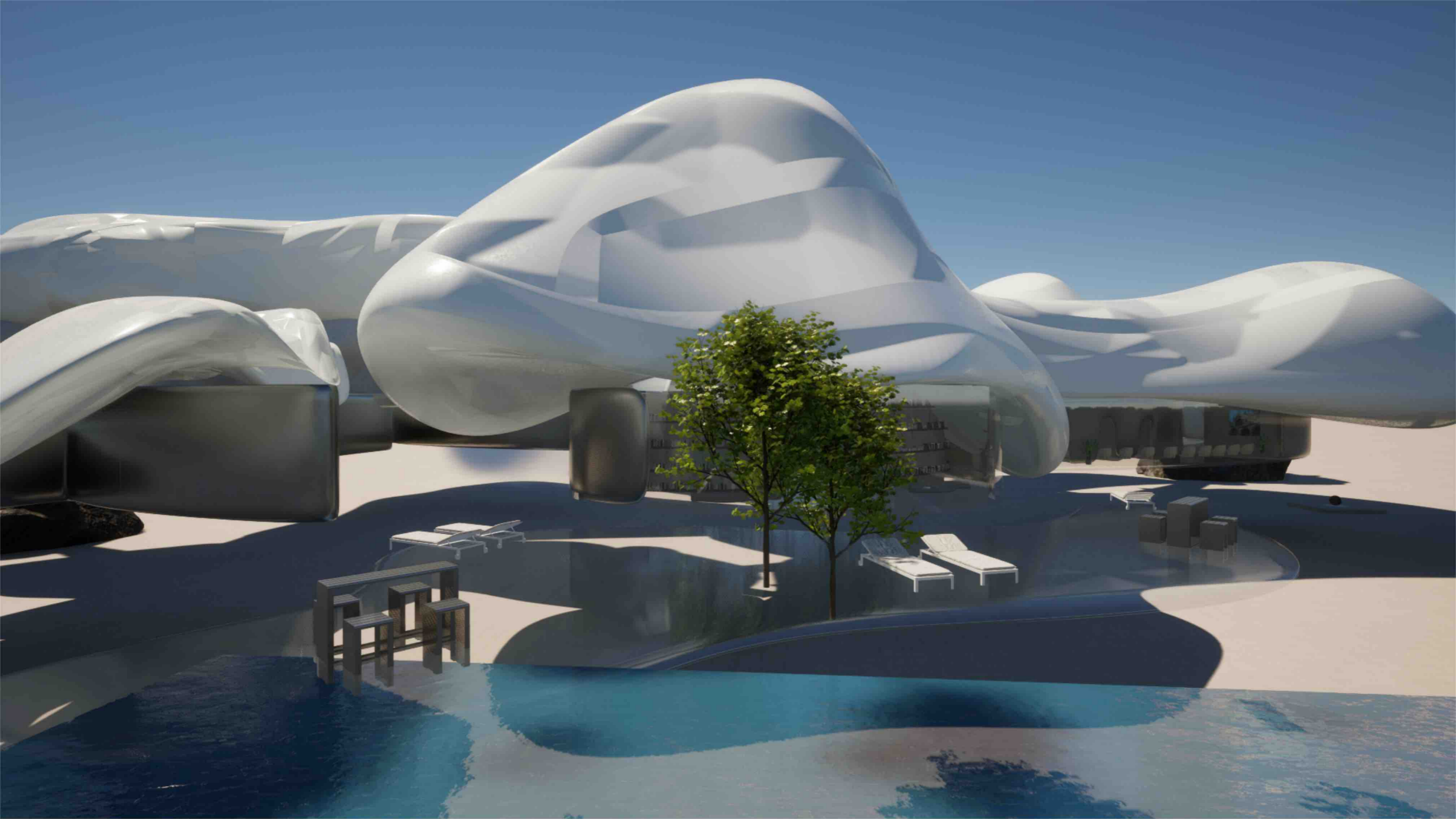
WAITING ROOM



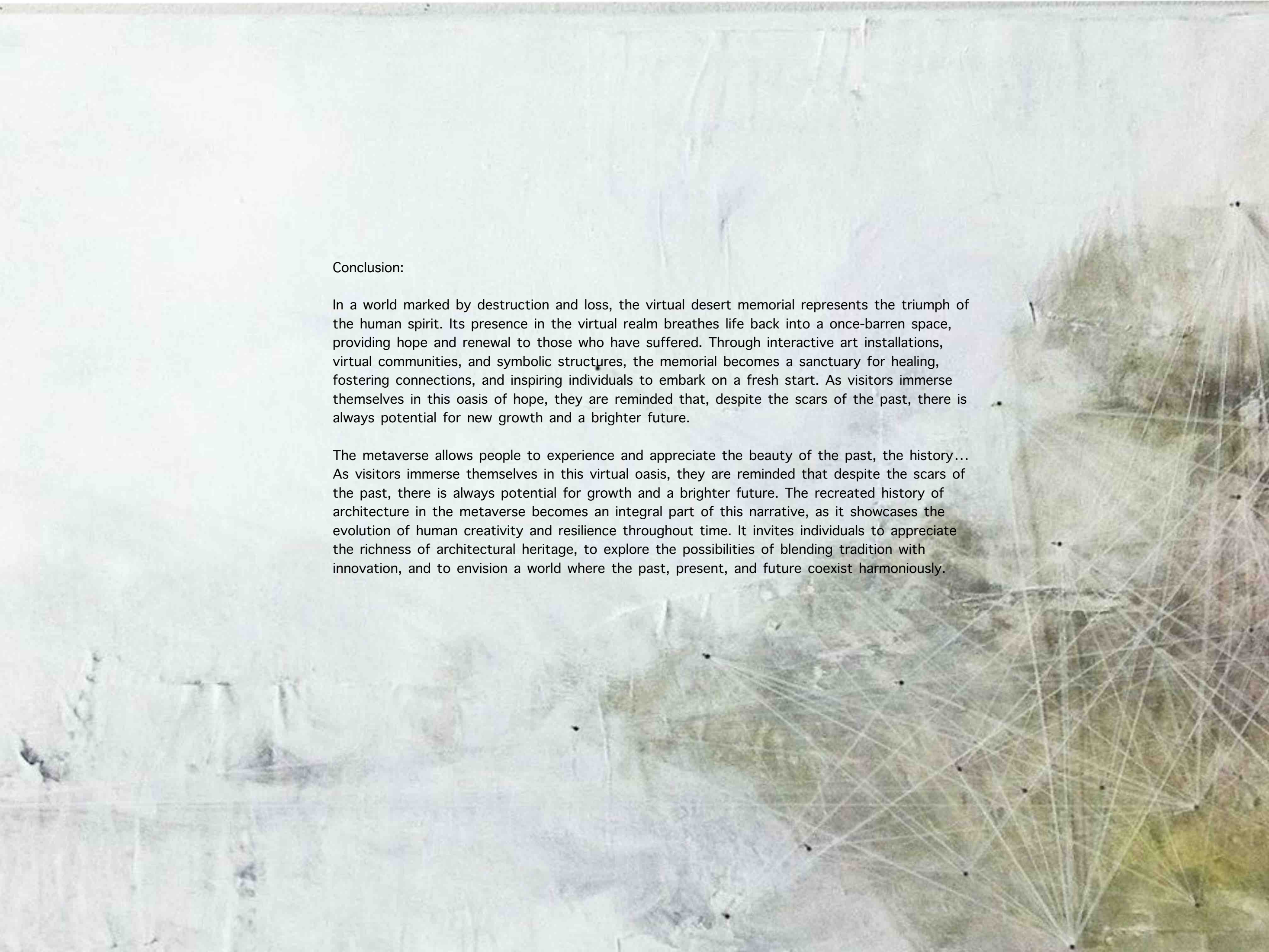


**COMMUNAL SPACE**





YARD



### Conclusion:

In a world marked by destruction and loss, the virtual desert memorial represents the triumph of the human spirit. Its presence in the virtual realm breathes life back into a once-barren space, providing hope and renewal to those who have suffered. Through interactive art installations, virtual communities, and symbolic structures, the memorial becomes a sanctuary for healing, fostering connections, and inspiring individuals to embark on a fresh start. As visitors immerse themselves in this oasis of hope, they are reminded that, despite the scars of the past, there is always potential for new growth and a brighter future.

The metaverse allows people to experience and appreciate the beauty of the past, the history... As visitors immerse themselves in this virtual oasis, they are reminded that despite the scars of the past, there is always potential for growth and a brighter future. The recreated history of architecture in the metaverse becomes an integral part of this narrative, as it showcases the evolution of human creativity and resilience throughout time. It invites individuals to appreciate the richness of architectural heritage, to explore the possibilities of blending tradition with innovation, and to envision a world where the past, present, and future coexist harmoniously.