

# Alameda X Bubble Land Hand Sponge Comb Beach

On the North end of Alameda Island in San Francisco Bay, on filled land just above sea level, lies a former Navy airfield, its two intersecting runways forming a giant concrete X on the flat and currently un-used scrubland. As sea level rises over the next 100 years, the slightly raised runway X shall prominently remain as the only land above water on the entire north end of Alameda, while the rest of the filled land will lie several feet below water, slowly eroding back into the tidal marsh once native to the bay coast. Massively constructed of thick concrete on deep, compacted gravel fill, this iconic X will remain a strong land-form available for productive habitation in the heart of a dense urban harbor, if its perimeter is protected by a thick ring of artificial reef and marsh habitat. Already extensively prototyped, the LandHand/SpongeComb system and accessory life appendages will ring the X island with air-inflated, water-filled, earth-filled, and superabsorbent-filled giant fabric bladders swelling and contracting across the mud and water, creating a unique artificial landscape interactive with the ebb and flow of its tidal environment, hosting ever-increasing sedimented soil and land vegetation spreading out into rings of deepening water habitat. The concrete X itself will become an enormous urban plaza/Ramblas ringed by plant, wildlife and human inhabitation of the surrounding bladder landscape. The bladders will host life, filter air and water, protect the preserved runways from erosion, provide soft finger piers for ferry boats and water taxis, and create an endlessly rich environment of contained tide pools, solar-heated salt water swimming pools, bobbing, blubbery, sun-warmed bladder beaches, and endless inflatable caverns and crevasses of natural life and urban living happily in tune with the flow of rising water.



- unfolded spongecomb a
- microspecies habitat island b
- spongecomb beach cove c
- microspecies habitat cove d
- spongecomb microbeach cove e
- bubbleland tidepool land f
- alluvial spongecomb g

