

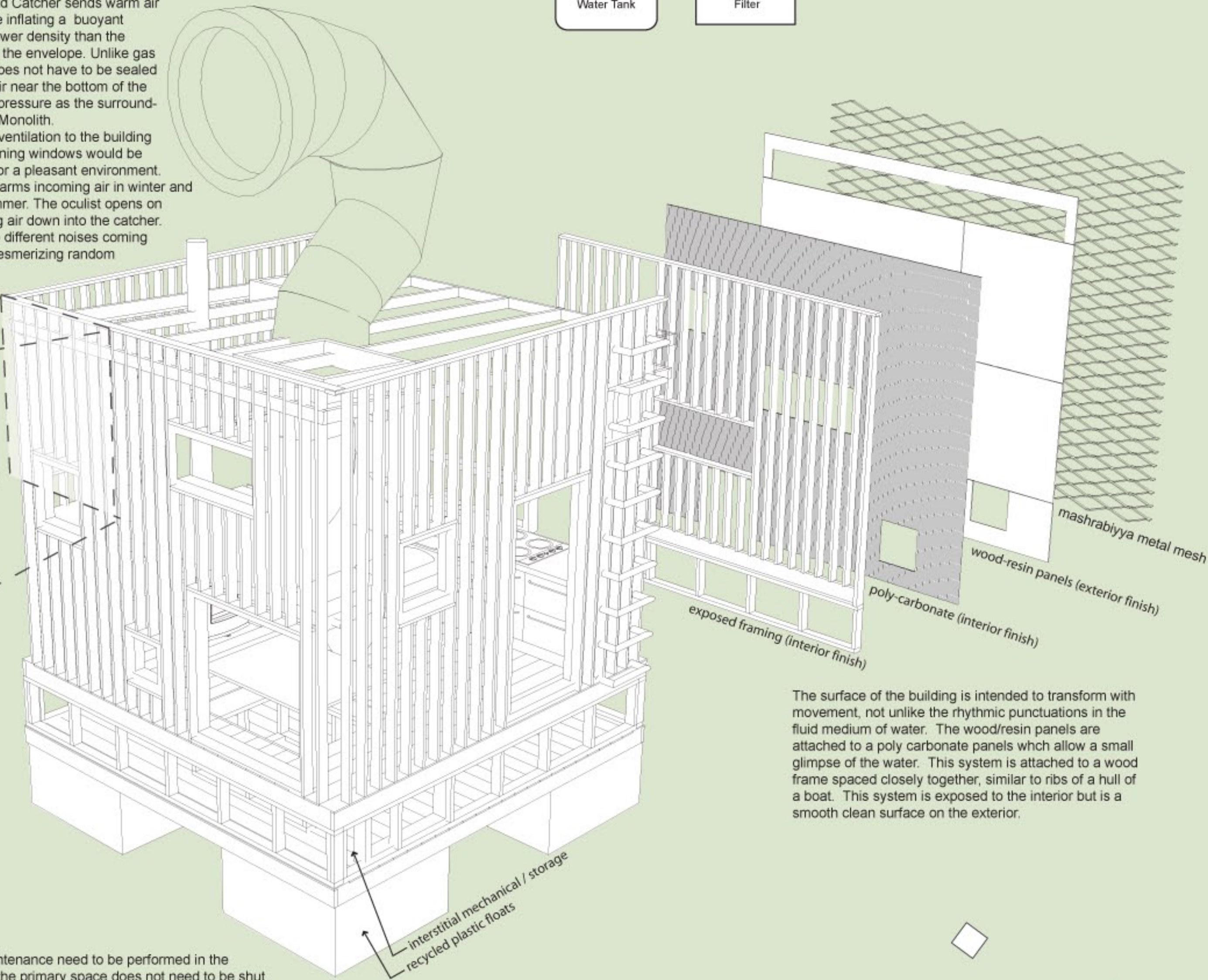
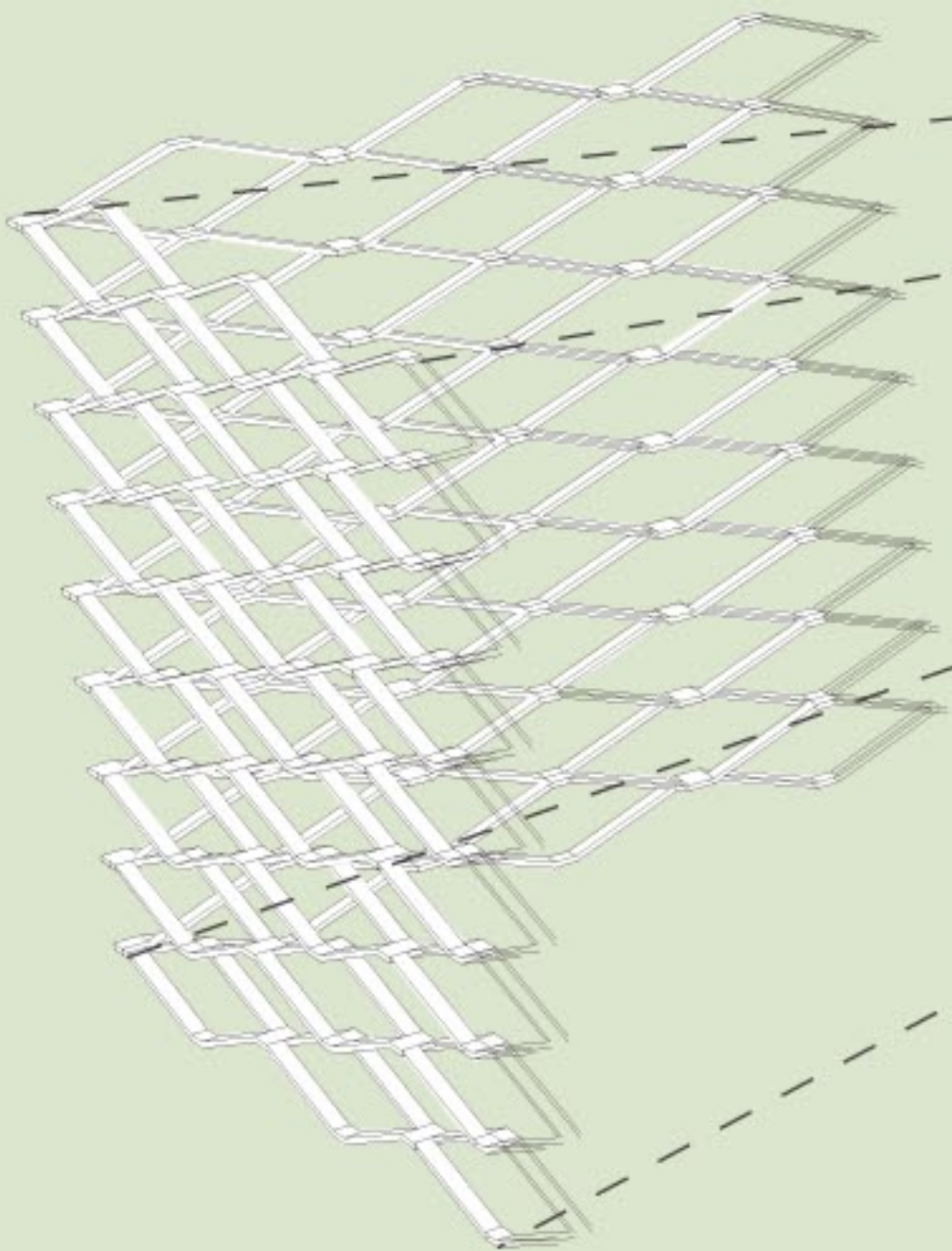
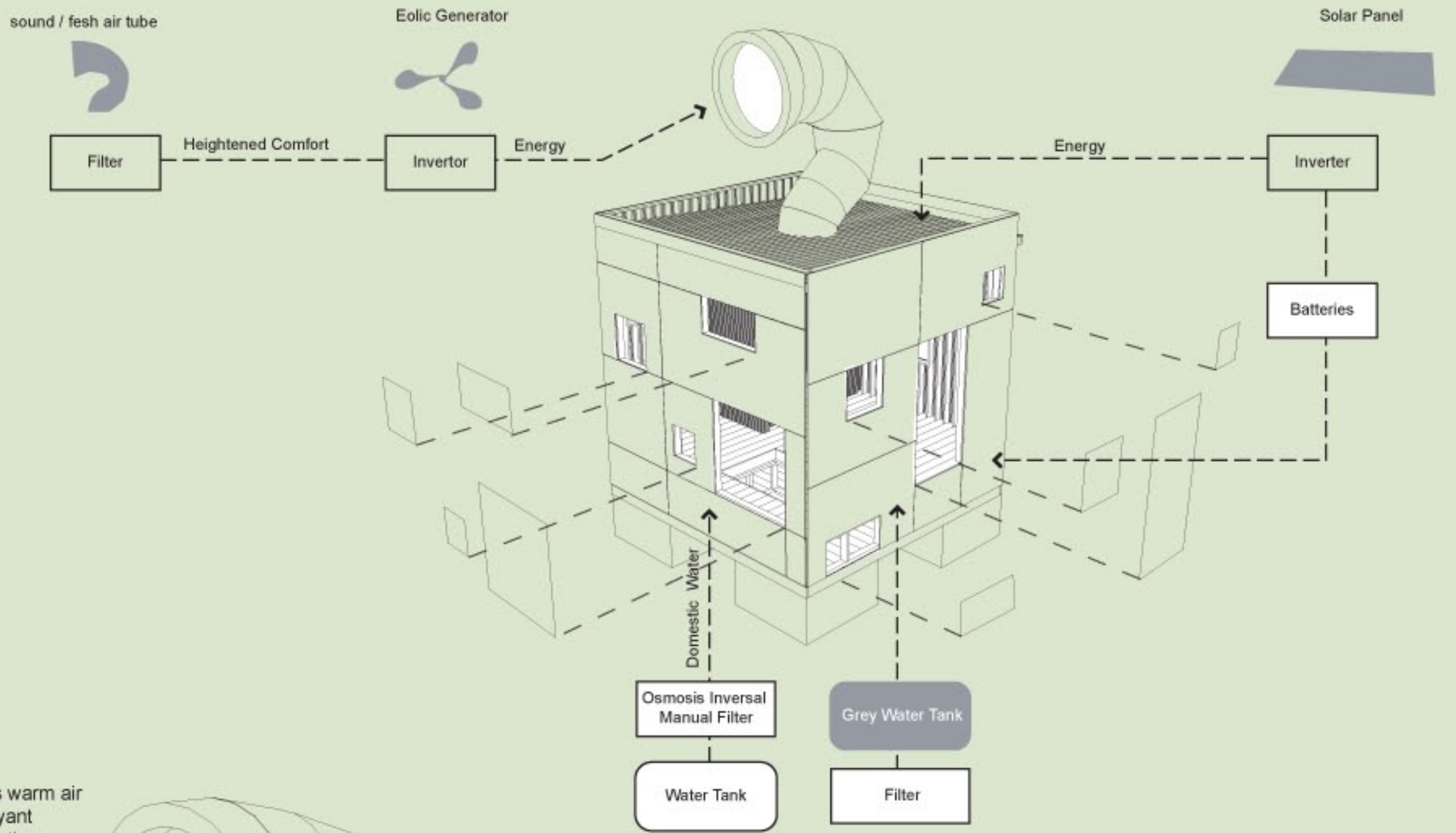


MINOLITH CONCEPT FOR A PROGRAMMATIC SKIN - FLOATING HOUSING

For the development of this project we calculated how the floating house is an invention, a discovery on how it might tackle the rising sea levels and urban density, and how the floating houses will be a resultant to the urban density problems with a sense of humor and curiosity by re-examining housing or metamorphosing banal temporary prototypes into proud social elements. Through the use of Dirigibles (the ability to lift very heavy awkward loads, and deliver them to difficult locations, such as disaster zones where traditional logistics would struggle) we will deploy the minolith concept. The floating houses will attempt to create new spaces that are in tune with the original function of a shelter, but tries to improve people's lives while celebrating and enjoying the inherent beauty of the sea and urban density.

**Wind Catcher**

When rotated up the Wind Catcher sends warm air inside a canvas envelope inflating a buoyant dirigible. Since it has a lower density than the relatively cold air outside the envelope. Unlike gas balloons, the envelope does not have to be sealed at the bottom since the air near the bottom of the envelope is at the same pressure as the surrounding air creating lift of the Monolith. The wind catcher brings ventilation to the building at windy times when opening windows would be too impractical, making for a pleasant environment. This Wind Catcher pre-warms incoming air in winter and cools incoming air in summer. The oculist opens on the windward side forcing air down into the catcher. The catcher resonates to different noises coming from the sea, creating mesmerizing random music...



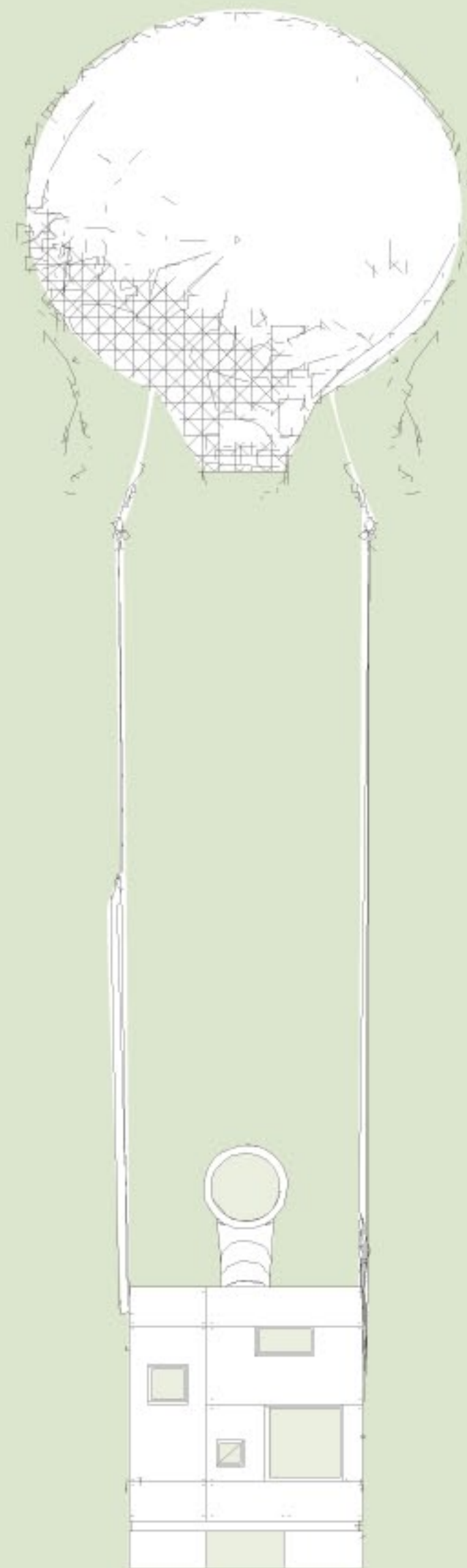
The surface of the building is intended to transform with movement, not unlike the rhythmic punctuations in the fluid medium of water. The wood/resin panels are attached to a poly carbonate panels which allow a small glimpse of the water. This system is attached to a wood frame spaced closely together, similar to ribs of a hull of a boat. This system is exposed to the interior but is a smooth clean surface on the exterior.

**Mashrabiyya**

The word is derived from the niches used to store vessels of drinking water. Latticed windows, have numerous holes that are necessary for ventilation. Such windows don't completely face the sun, but rather allow air to enter, in order to maintain a constantly cool room temperature. In arabic cultures women weren't able to go outside as much as men, this type of window provided a way to stay in contact with the world outside their homes. Women could observe the goings-on outside without being seen and check who was at the door. Windows like these are still in use today.

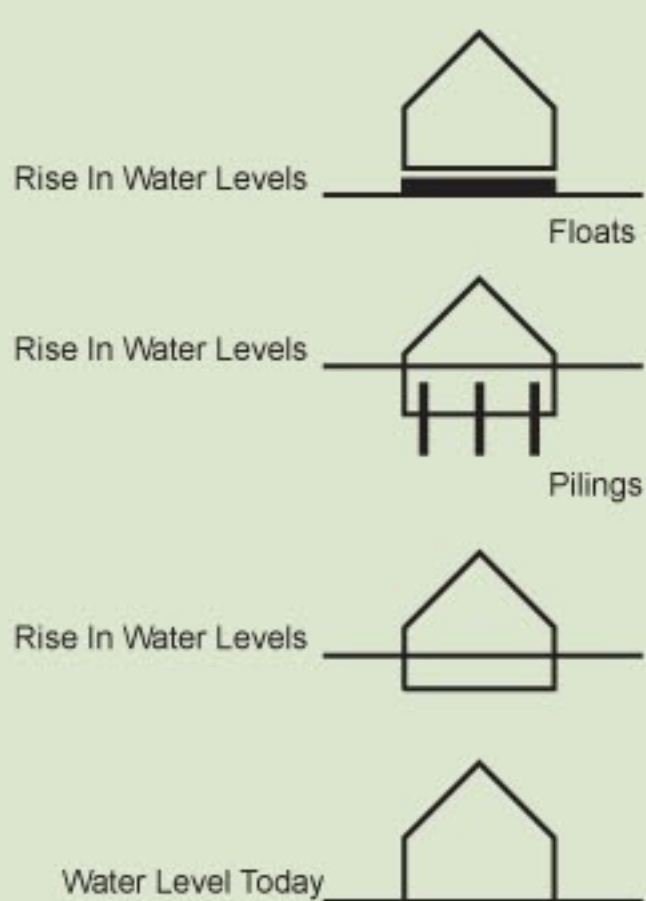
**Interstitial space**

If changes or maintenance need to be performed in the interstitial space, the primary space does not need to be shut down, which is important in small spaces. Unlike traditionally built buildings, where the mechanical space is located in the basement or on the top floor, the interstitial space needs few vertical penetrations and therefore leaves more open space on the primary floor. The entire floor plan can be more open because there are fewer fixed vertical penetrations through the floor and walls.



**Dirigibles as Transporters**

Airships fly much lower than planes – typically at about 4000 feet – which means that their emissions of water vapor have very little effect on temperature. Powered by hydrogen fuel cells, they would be almost silent, greatly reducing the effects for people on the ground. They can land without help on the ground and can alight on and take off from almost any surface, including water.



The Minolith defines a space for any person to use. It may be placed in various parts of a city along a canal or out in the seas, to provide persons with a place to relax, eat, sleep, etc. The Minolith is a low cost system that could easily be initiated and implemented by local communities. The required materials and knowledge of construction methods are all available to average citizens; no top-down organization or expertise is needed. Once moored at a site the capsule can be customized by the community to suggest a specific use. The capsule can be moved to a new site by one person, simply by inflating the dirigible. In areas with a high concentration of human activity, clusters of capsule might be needed.

