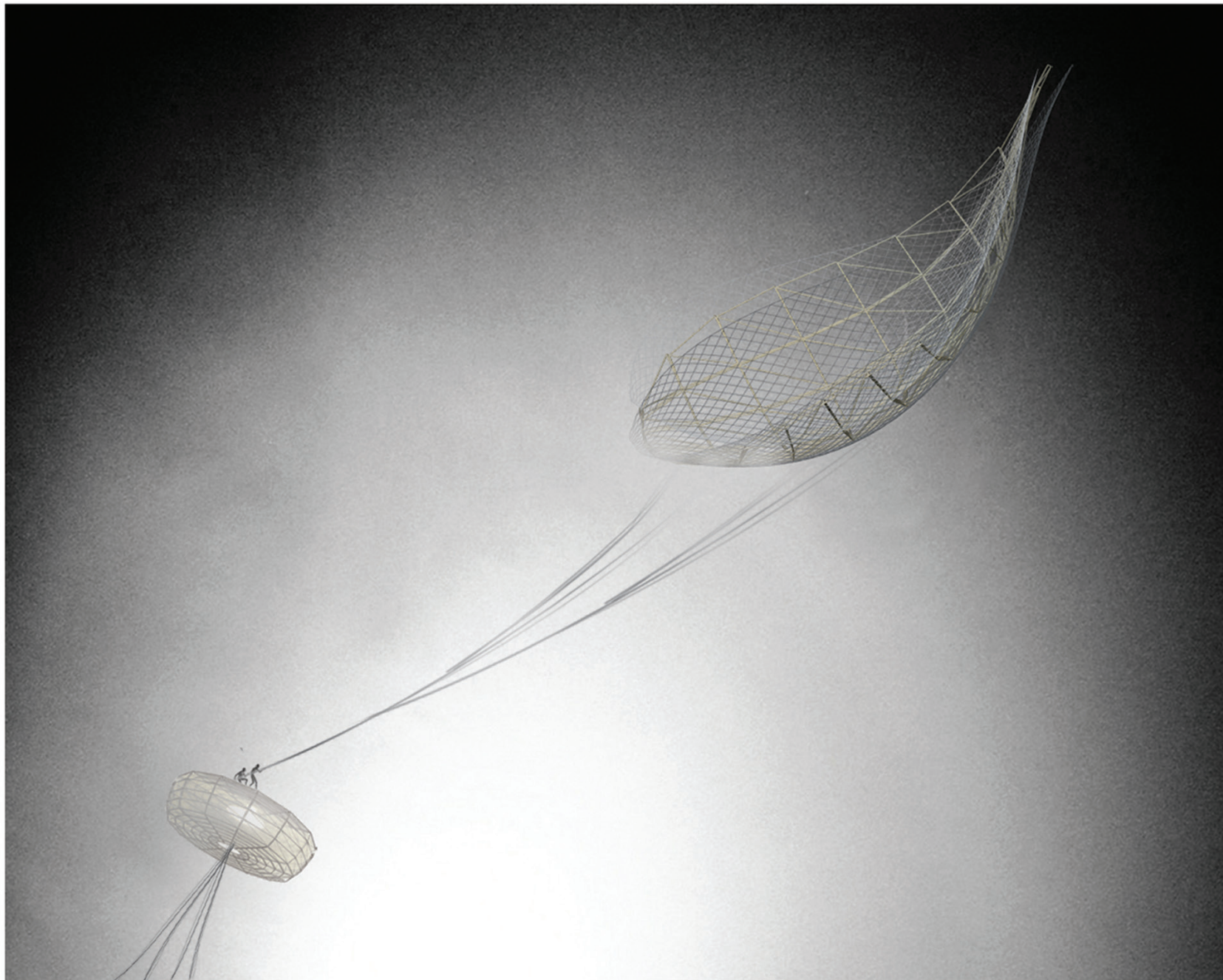


2011 FIRST PLACE

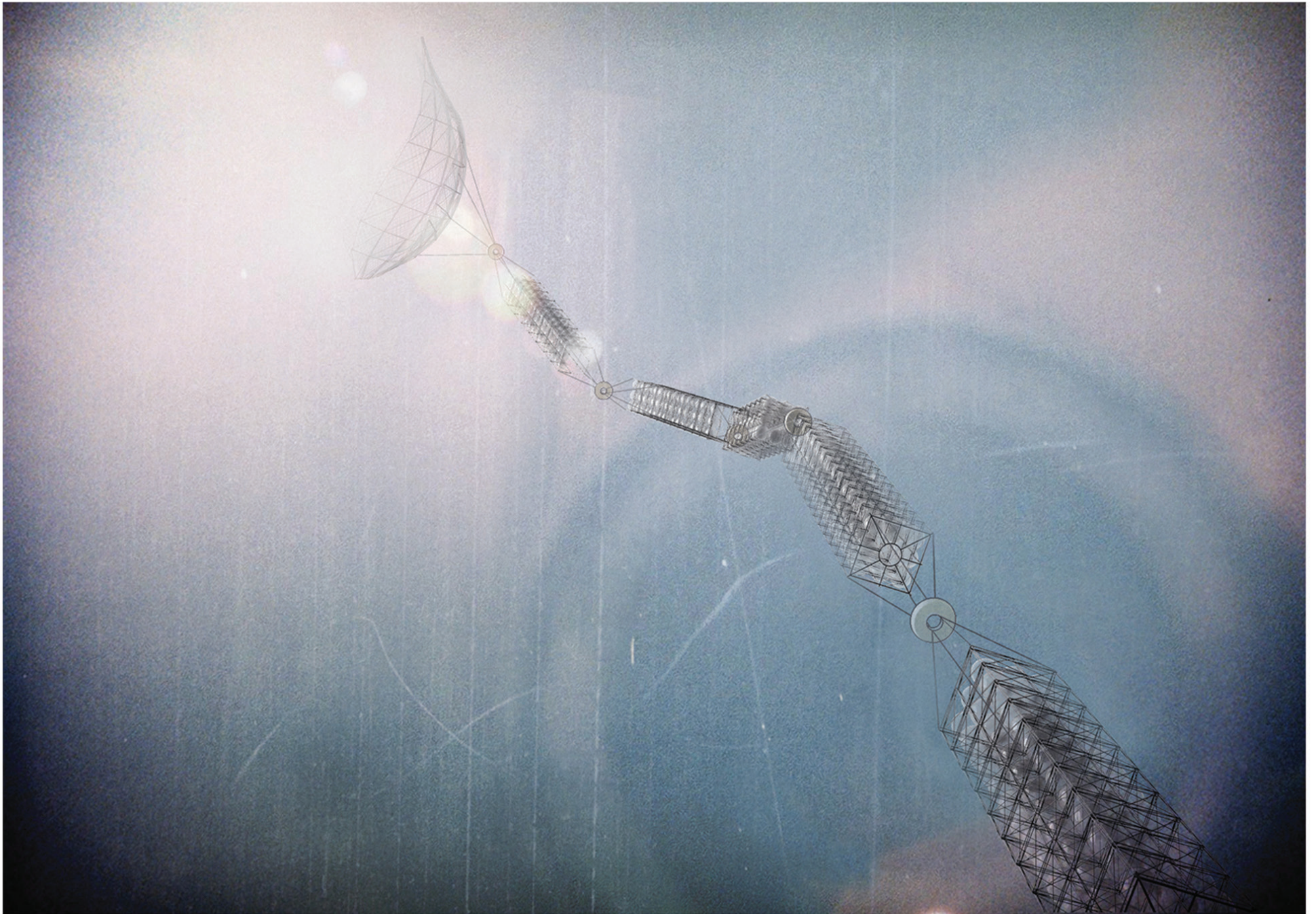
Meng Li

LYCEUM

*A traveling fellowship in Architecture*

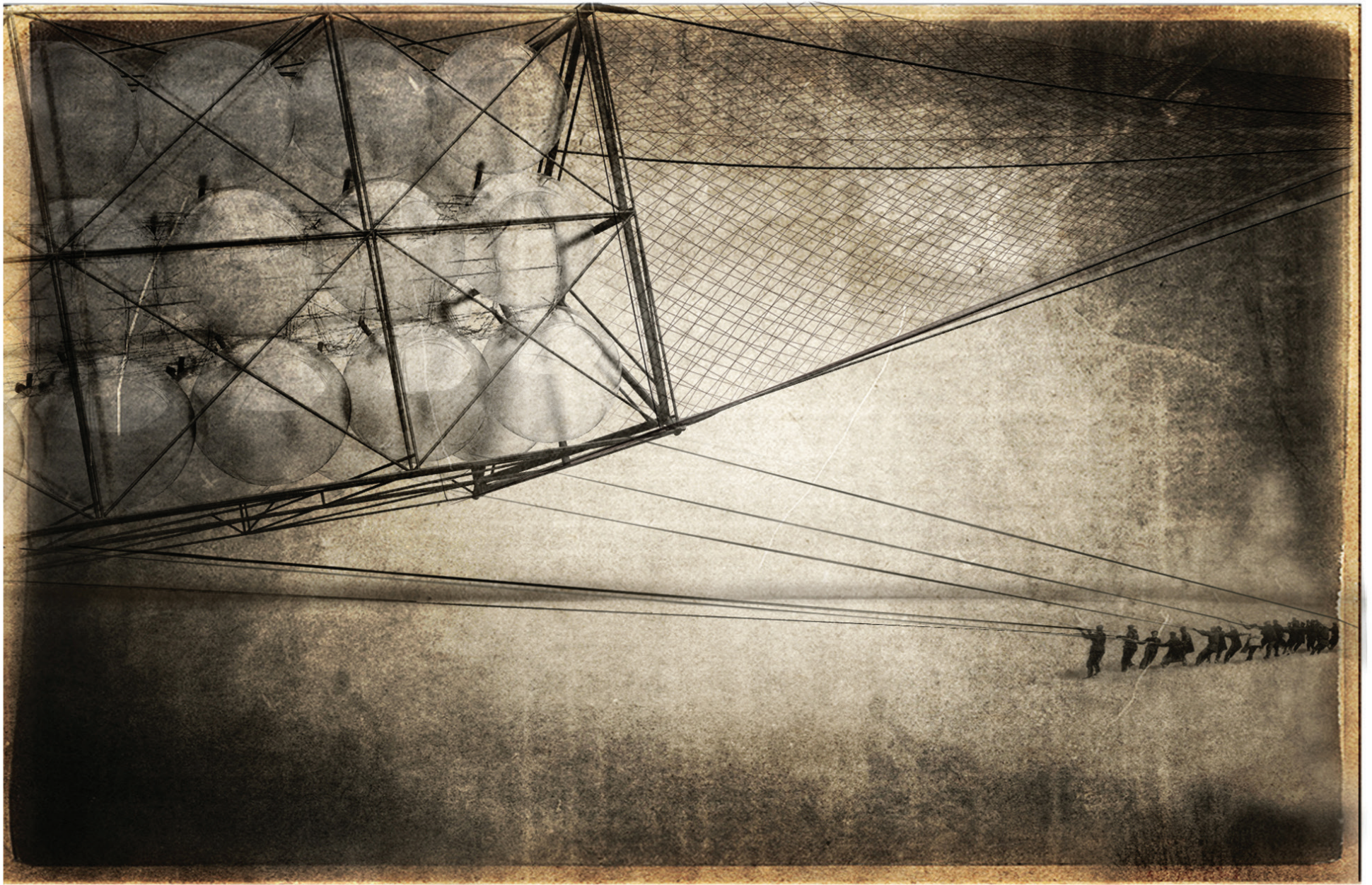


The vapor catch, like the spider web, is a huge net that traps the condensed water in the sky, collects it and sends it down to the ground. Above the cloud, it is a place of thin air and condensed water. Up there, the vanished dream has been found.

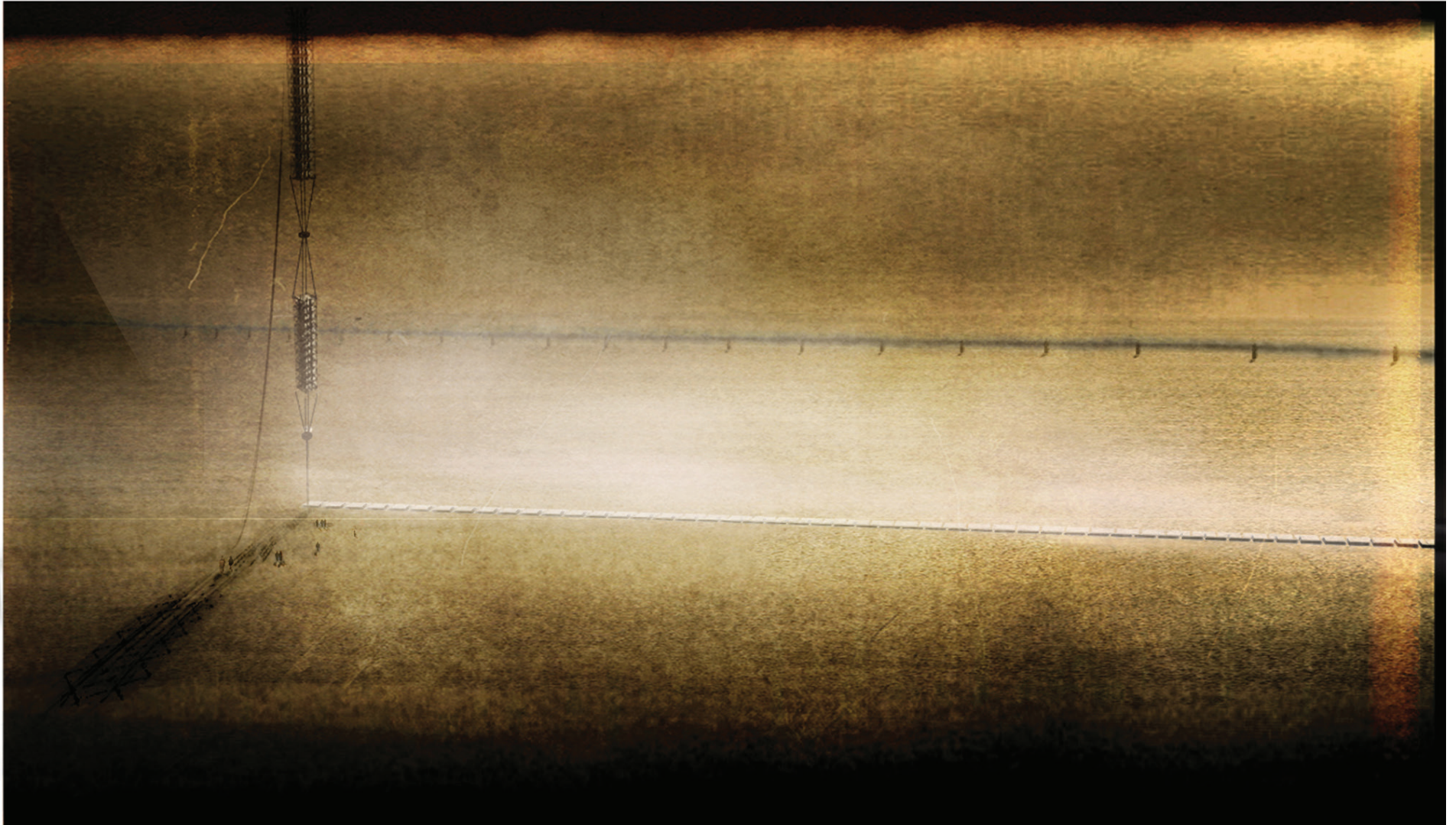


The 3000--feet tall tower, filled with hot air and hydrogen balloons, is lighter than the air.

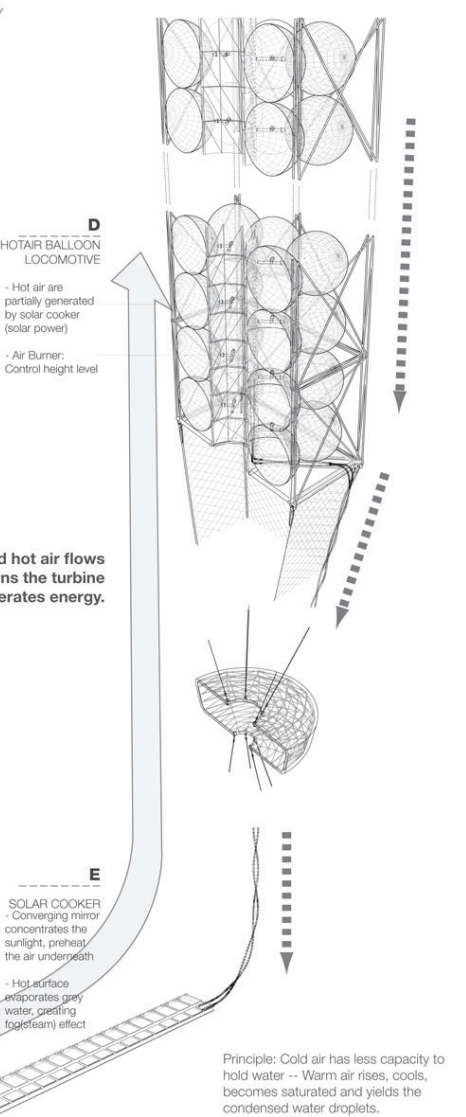
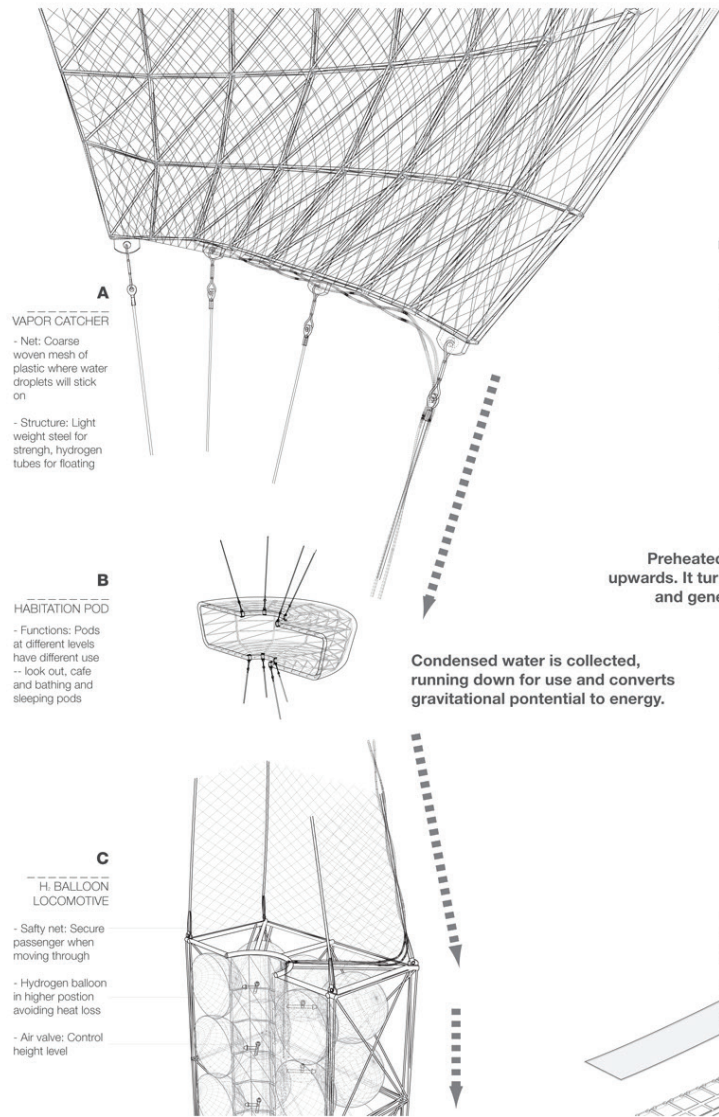
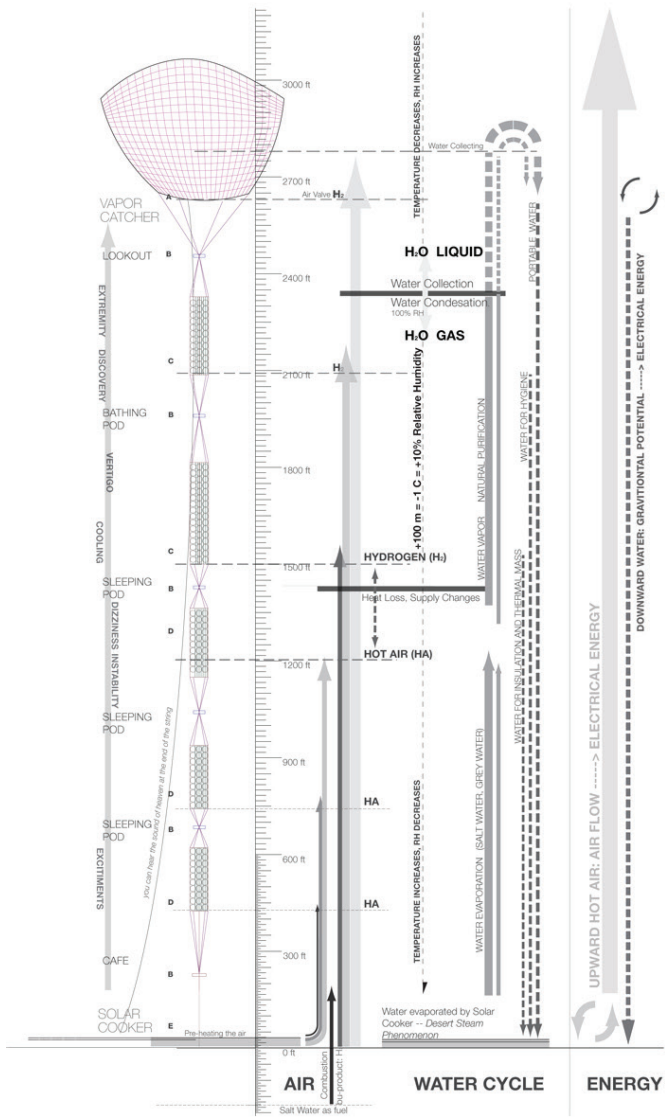
Leaving the ground, the desert can be seen from a different perspective. The removal of gravity allows us to be aware of our position on earth.

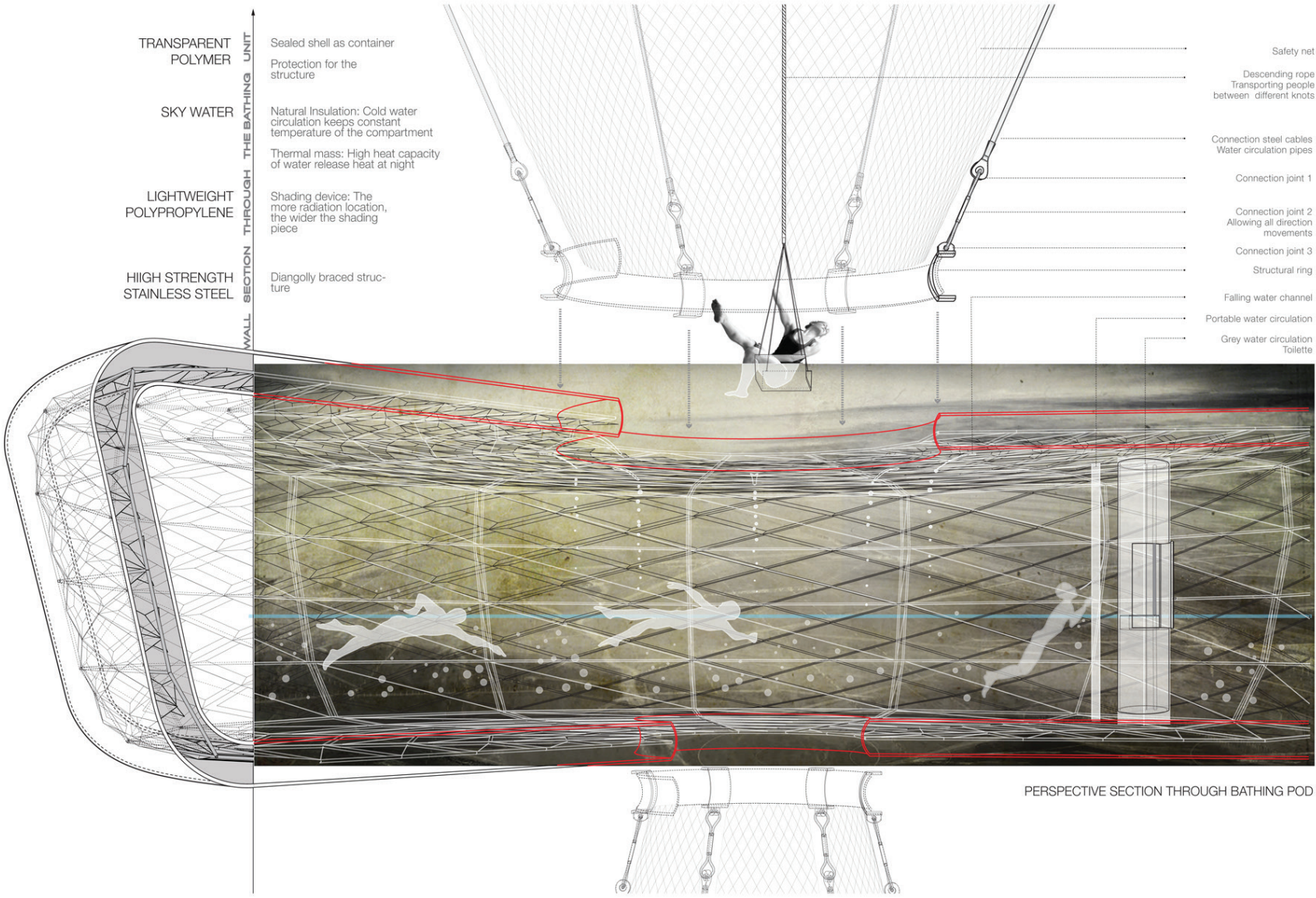


Once a day, the tower comes down. Being on it is a journey that requires time to complete. Weight, mass and power. To control this is never easy, it involves tremendous endeavor. The tower is both power and lightness, permanent and ephemeral. 3000-feet tall and yet if it were not tied to the ground it would leave the earth like a seed.



The solar cooker is an array of huge heat absorbing plates. It heats the air under for the balloon, and at certain times, the grey water is evaporated on its hot surface. Steam appears in the desert. One string comes down to the ground from the top of the tower. One can hear the sound of the heaven at the end of the string.





TRANSPARENT POLYMER

Sealed shell as container  
Protection for the structure

SKY WATER

Natural Insulation: Cold water circulation keeps constant temperature of the compartment  
Thermal mass: High heat capacity of water release heat at night

LIGHTWEIGHT POLYPROPYLENE

Shading device: The more radiation location, the wider the shading piece

HIGH STRENGTH STAINLESS STEEL

Diagonally braced structure

WALL SECTION THROUGH THE BATHING UNIT

Safety net

Descending rope  
Transporting people between different knots

Connection steel cables  
Water circulation pipes

Connection joint 1

Connection joint 2  
Allowing all direction movements

Connection joint 3

Structural ring

Falling water channel

Portable water circulation

Grey water circulation  
Toilette

PERSPECTIVE SECTION THROUGH BATHING POD



Every morning, the tower comes down completely to the ground and people step onto the different modules. The tower is filled with hot air ready for lift-off.

The hinged modules remain level as the tower rises up part by part, from the top to the bottom until it reaches the upright position, like a train driving towards the sky.

The rising tower creates an exhilarating counter-point to the flatness and expanse of the salt-flat. The floating tower is only tied to the ground at a point. Everything is in tension. We always believed we could fly.