

ALIGHT

A PROPOSAL FOR THE 2027 PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL

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ALIGHT

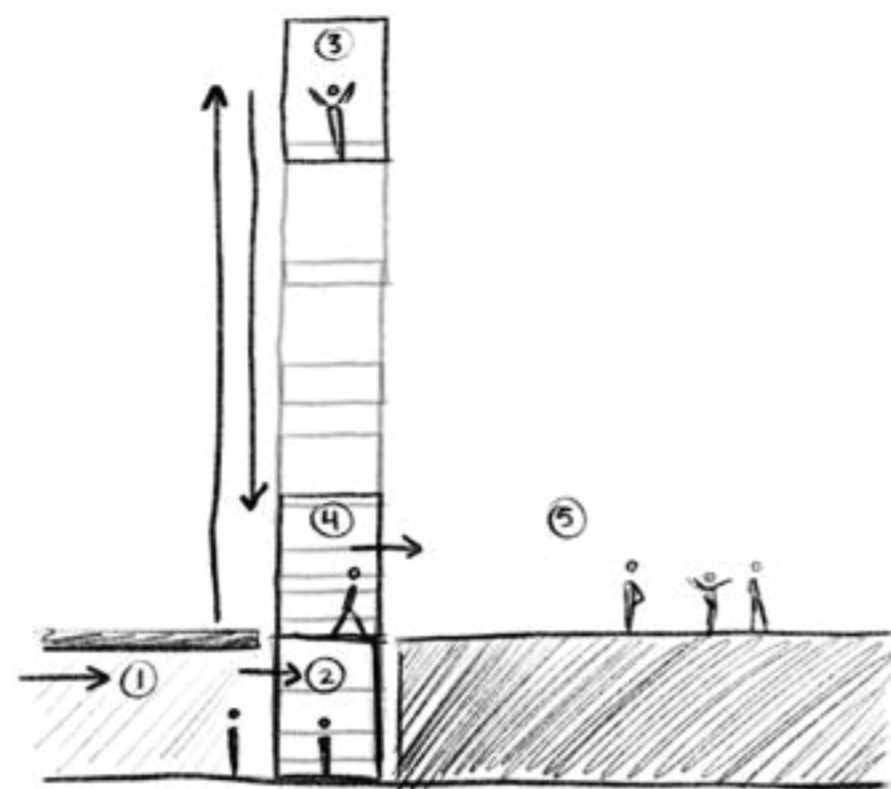
AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

The future of scenographic design calls the audience to be more than passive viewers. In Alight, participants are unexpectedly thrown into the spotlight, prompting a display of authentic reactions and personalities on stage. First, a ride in the glass elevators stimulates adrenaline and excitement, motion triggered lights encouraging participants to overcome nerves and let out their energy. Part two contrasts this with a calm place to share and reflect on the experience from solid ground. Both the observer and the observed, the goal is for participants to understand their individual experience as an important part within a collective.

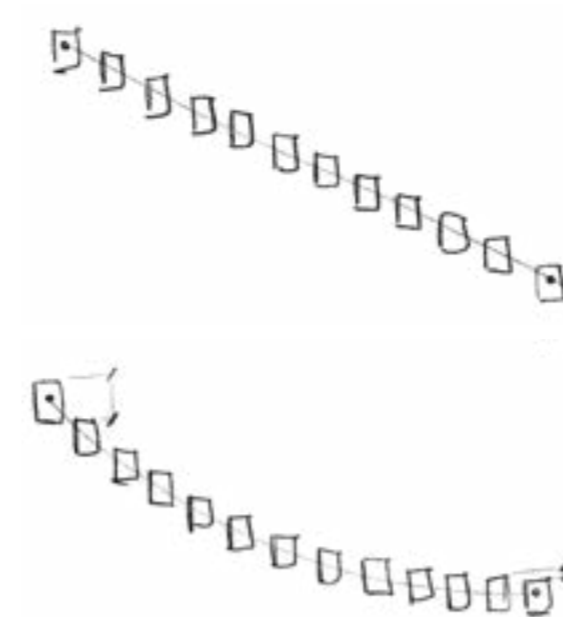


VIEW THE ANIMATION

<https://youtu.be/mx1ZBg3qy7g?si=CvS14XI4J5D3INOs>



SKETCH • STAGES OF EXPERIENCE



SKETCH • CURVES OF VERTICAL DISPLACEMENT

LINEAR

- Each elevator is equal vertical distance from others
- Steady change in height and speed
- Limited visual hierarchy

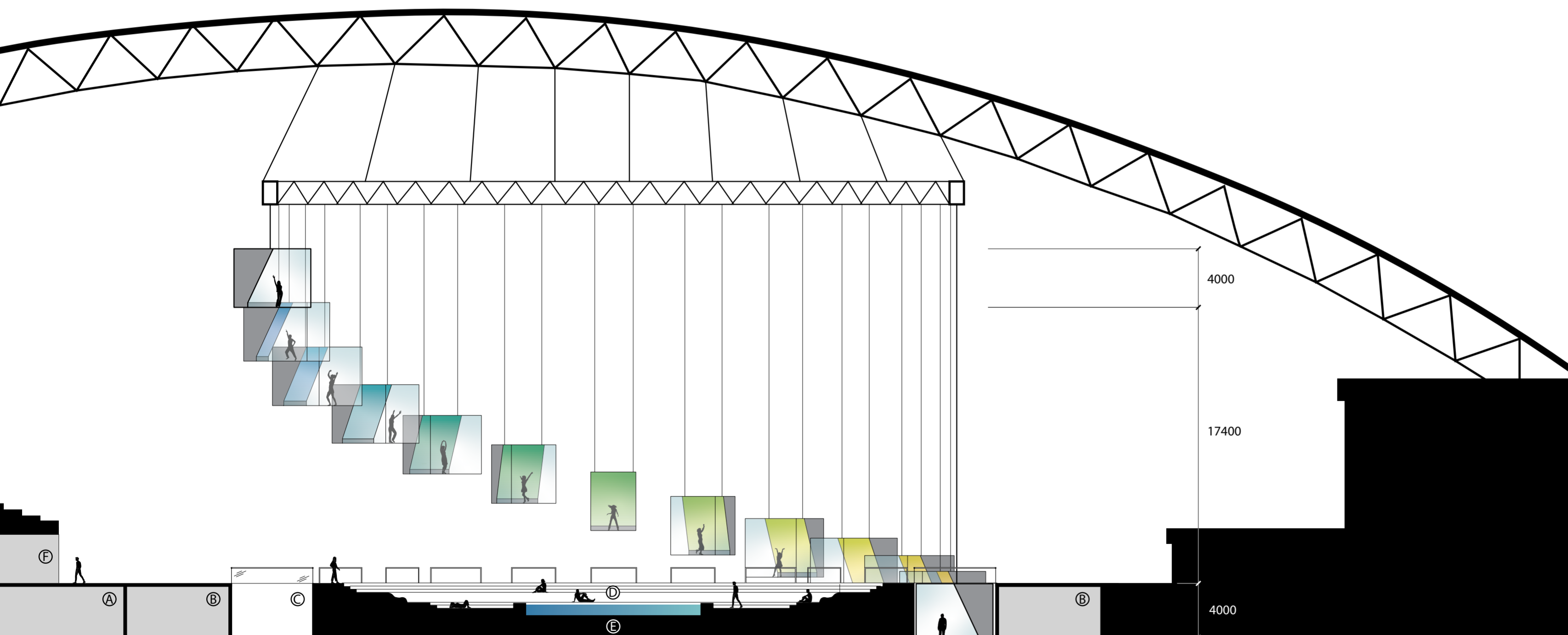
EXPONENTIAL CURVE

- Varying vertical distances
- Progress feels slow at start and end, but more dramatic at the top
- Visual emphasis on the highest point



Lights brighten or dim according to movement, intuitively encouraging individuals to be active and bold.

SKETCH • LIGHTING MECHANISM



- A • Venue entrance
- B • Elevator hall / waiting space
- C • Glass elevator

- D • The forum
- E • Reflection pool
- F • Exit

Each elevator solely moves up and down, but in tandem, they create a circular sense of action, enveloping the forum.

EXHIBITION SECTION



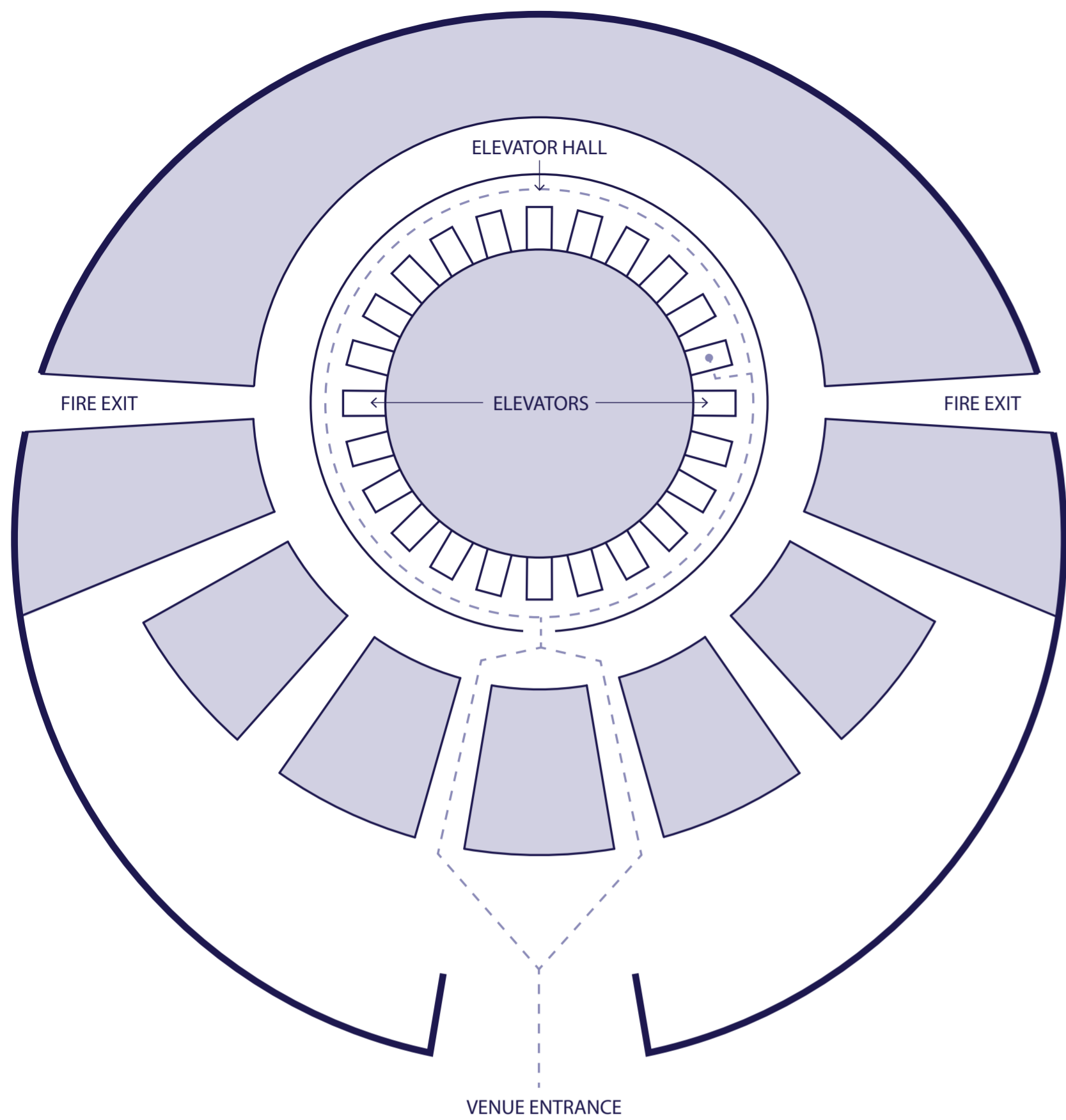
CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Prague quadrennial theme: **Absences and Silences**

I interpreted this theme to explore the dangers of individual complacency towards/within our communities and governments, which enables power imbalance and corruption.

People become pull away from society when uncertain, afraid, or overwhelmed.

I explored how to use design to push people to overcome these challenges, making themselves present and seen, even when it's easier to freeze and disappear.



ENTERING THE EXHIBITION

FLOOR 1 • OVO HYDRO • GLASGOW

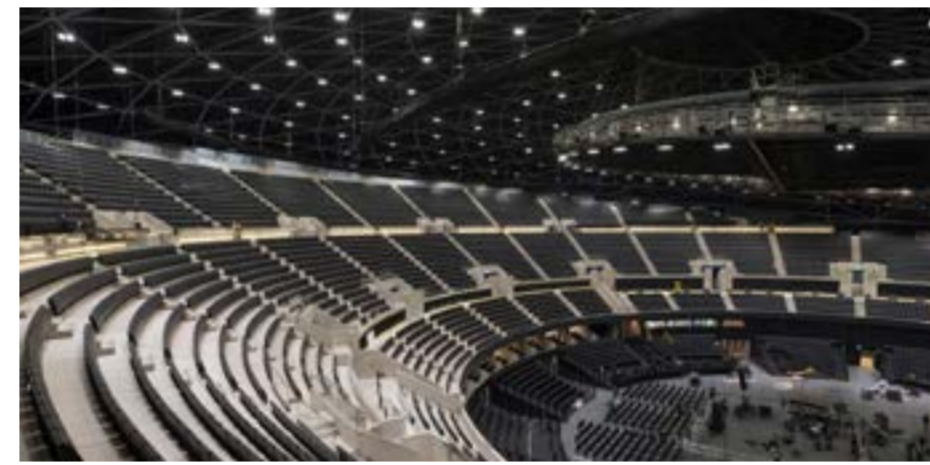
Participants are directed through the OVO's main entrance into the circular "elevator hall," where they find their assigned entrance and await the upcoming experience.



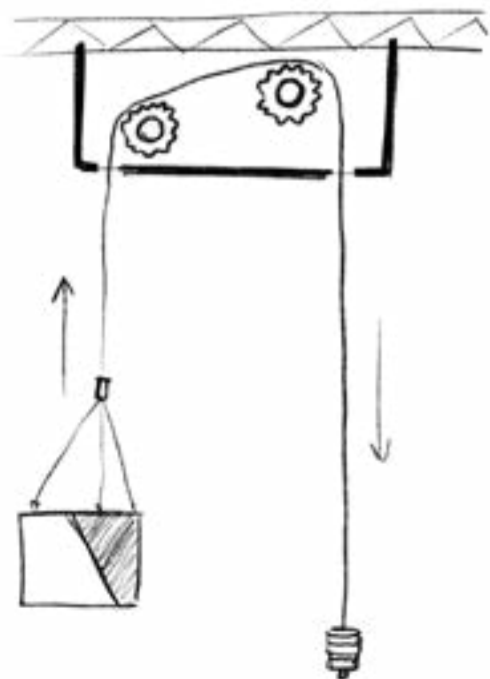
KEY PLAN + SECTION



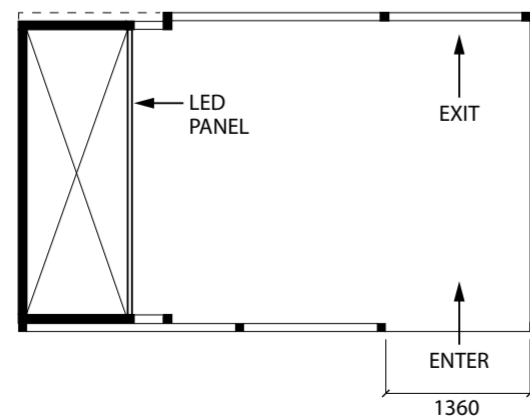
PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ARENA



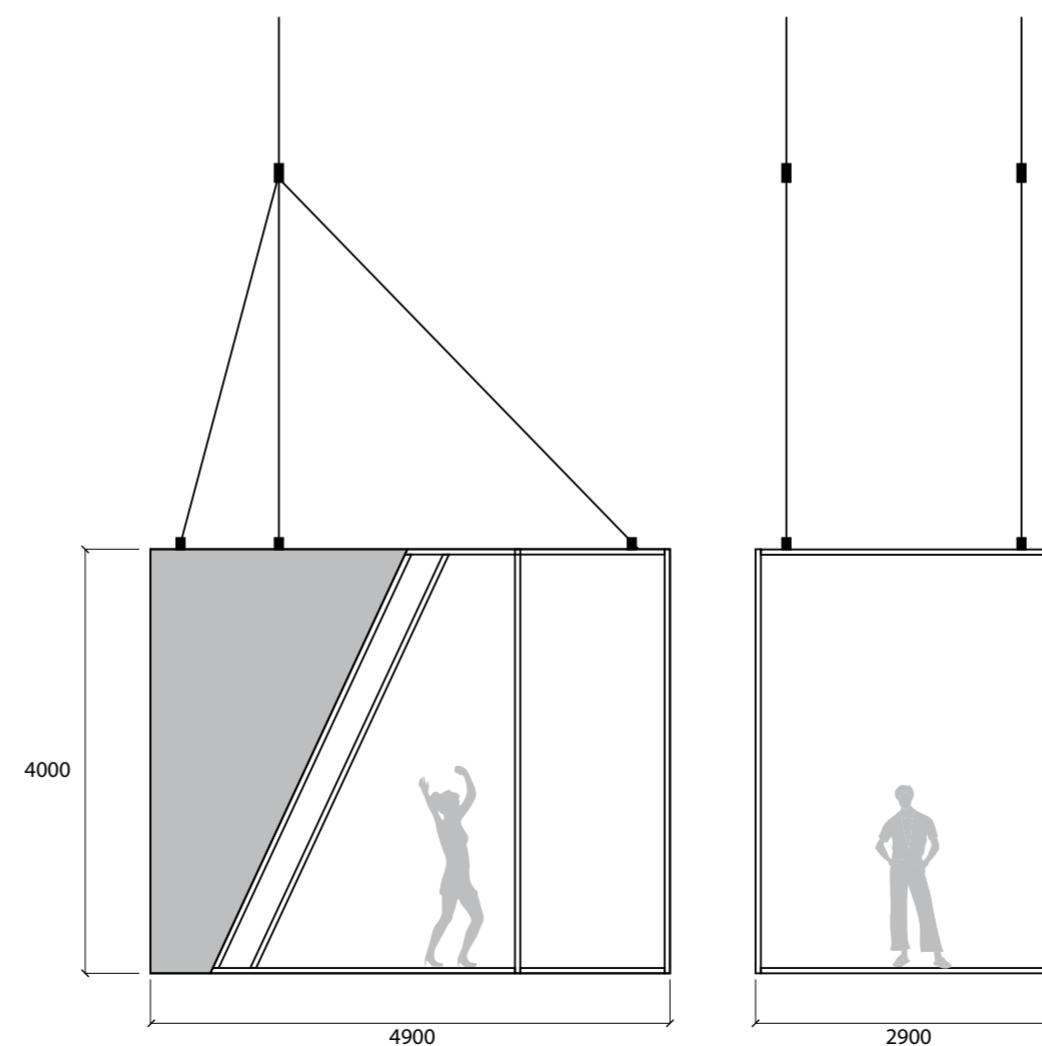
Foster + Partners, the OVO Hydro, 2013, photograph by Nigel Young, Glasgow, Scotland.



SKETCH • PULLEY SYSTEM



ELEVATOR PLAN



ELEVATOR ELEVATIONS

ANIMATION SEQUENCE



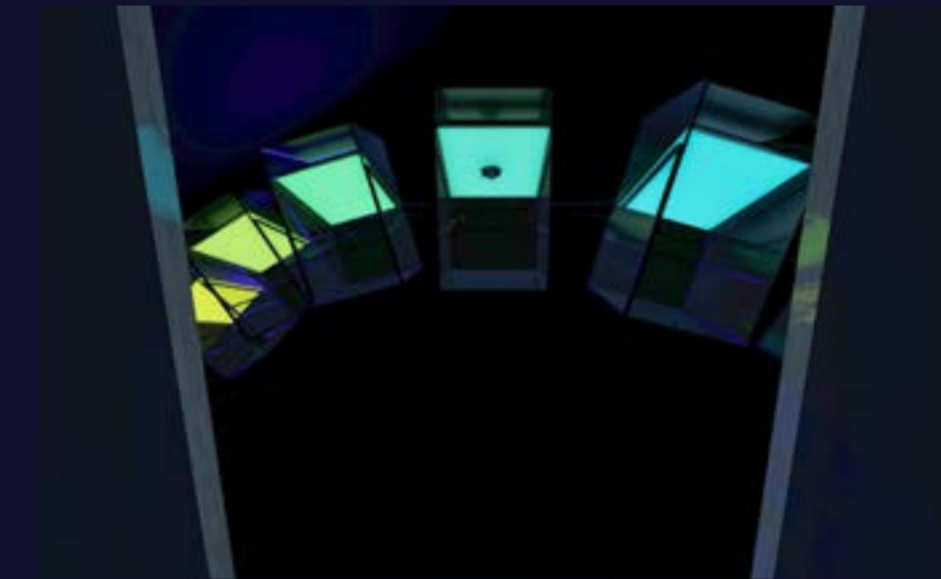
THE ELEVATOR HALL

- We begin in the elevator hall, an eerie circular passage of doorways revealing themselves endlessly around the bend.
- Dim lighting and a chrome reflective surface capture fellow participants as mysterious silhouettes.
- Isolation



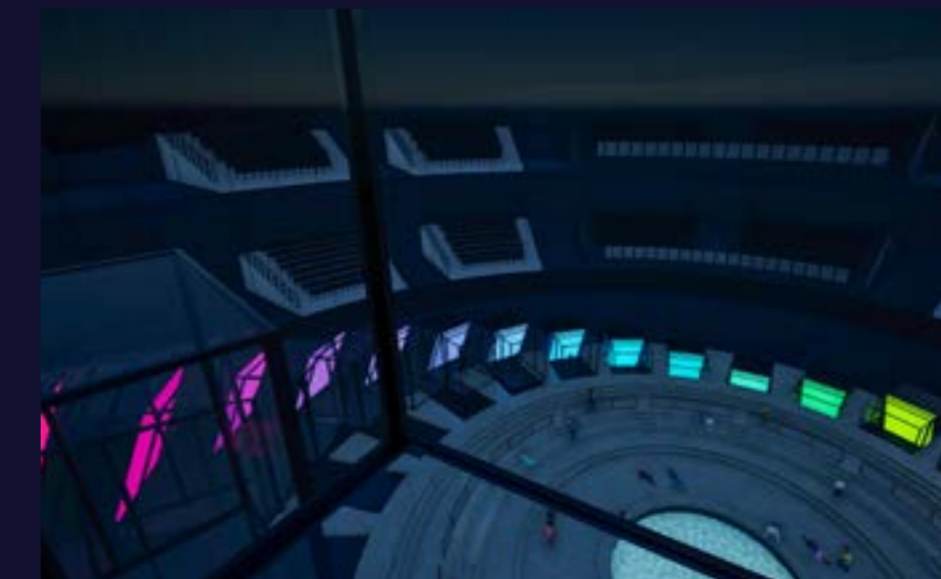
WAITING

- One by one, participants enter their designated pockets, where a mysterious door is waiting to open.
- For two minutes (the length of the ride), we stand still and theorize what might come next.
- Uncertainty



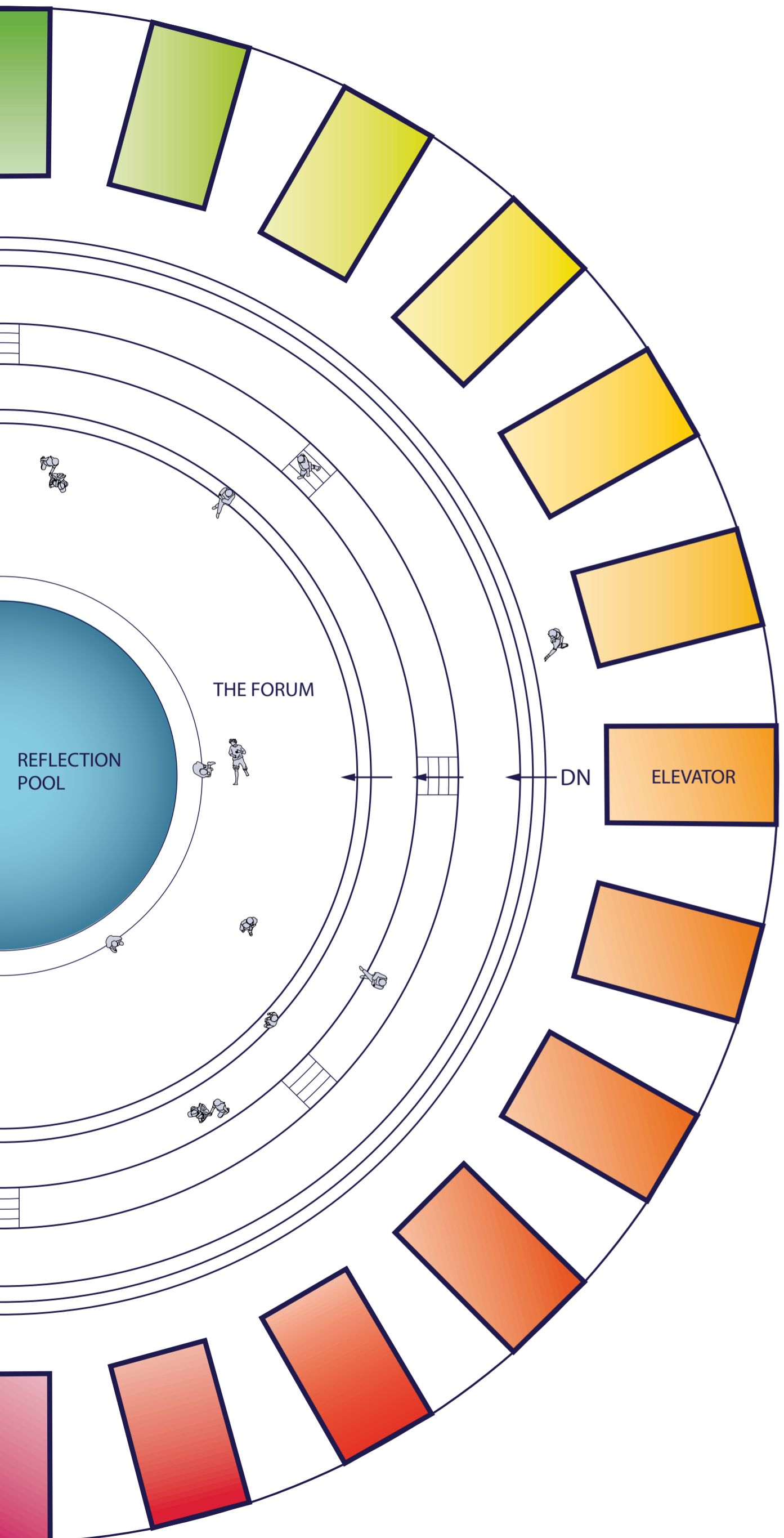
RISING

- The door opens and closes as we enter a small room, open at the top.
- We feel a sudden swooping in our stomach as it rises, and takes us with it.
- Surprise



LOOK DOWN

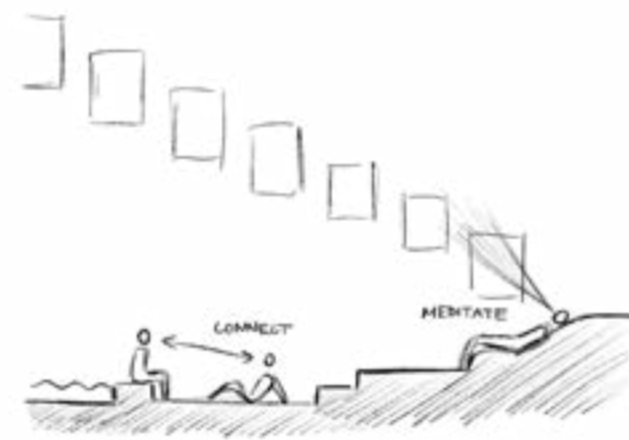
- The elevator gets further and further from the safety of the ground.
- Through glass walls and floor, the exhibition reveals itself: light filled elevators forming a circle in the abyss of the stadium.
- Nerves



THE EXPERIENCE

FLOOR 2 • OVO HYDRO • GLASGOW

Participants rise towards and above the arena, lifted high above the floor in the elevator before returning to the ground, where they exit out into the forum, joining the collective.



SKETCH • THE FORUM

- “Forum” describes a meeting place where people exchange thoughts and conversation as equals.
- The concentric space guides people to a central area of gathering.
- The levelled design creates informal spaces to lounge and linger while taking in the view or socializing.

THE REFLECTION POOL

- Reflection pools encourage gathering, calm, and meditation.
- This mirror-like surface further immerses guests in the surrounding imagery, and can even prompt new ways to view and consider the show.

INSPIRATION

Turrell’s 2013 light exhibition convinced me of the importance of creating space for contemplation--somewhere to linger, observe, form thoughts, and share the moment with others.



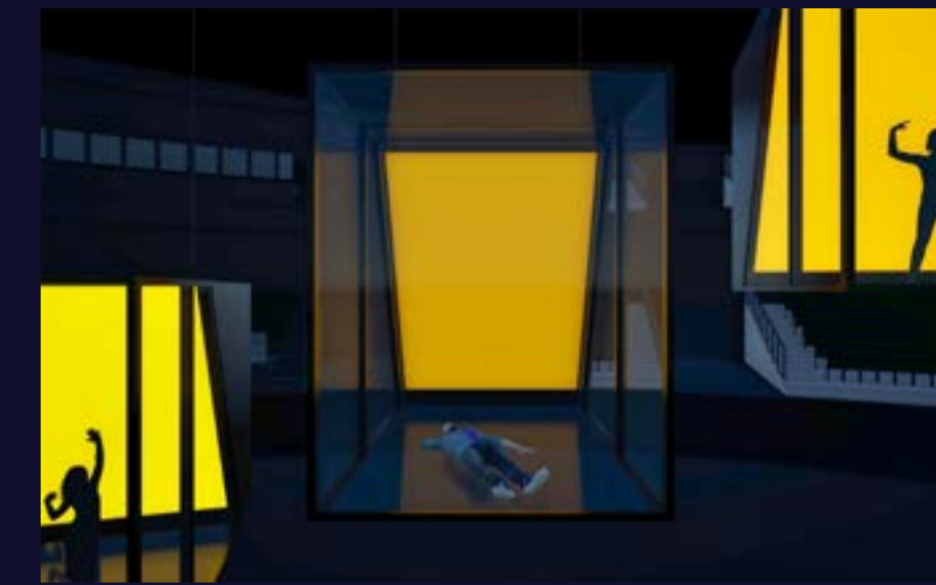
James Turrell: Rendering for Aten Reign, 2013, Daylight and LED light, Site-specific installation, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

ANIMATION SEQUENCE



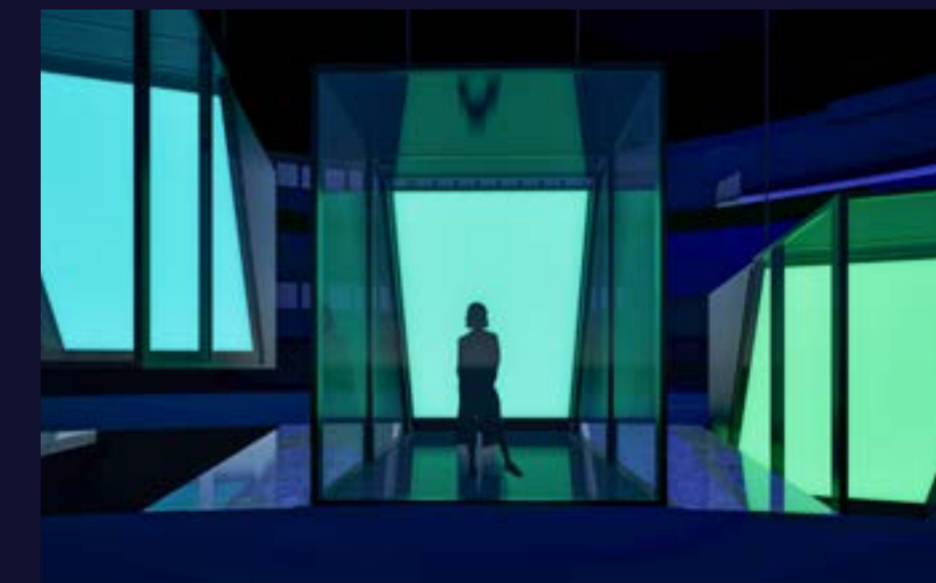
ACT

- The body moves, and coloured light flares in the elevator. Curious, we experiment: we raise our arms, spin, dance, and move however comes to mind.
- Adrenaline



OR FREEZE

- Or maybe, the uncertainty is too much. We freeze, contract, and disappear in the darkness.
- Fear



DOWN TO EARTH

- Feet on solid ground, the heartbeat slows, and the body lets go of tension. The doors open, we’ve made it out of the unknown.
- Catharsis



JOIN

- Exiting the elevator, we are welcomed into a large, round courtyard, the forum, filled with others who have undergone the same.
- Belonging



ANIMATION SNAPSHOT • THE REFLECTION POOL

ANIMATION SEQUENCE



WATCH

- Looking around, we shift our attention from our singular capsule to the 24 elevators as a whole performance.
- Each radiates a different colour of light into the arena, and outlines the silhouette of the participant within. Some are bright and energetic, some still and dim.
- Curiosity



REST

- Seats, lounges, and open floor space integrated into the forum pull us down and towards the centre to linger and immerse ourselves in the moment.
- Relaxation



REFLECT

- From the centre, we can look back upwards, but also down into the reflection pool where the surrounding lights ripple into one another.
- Contemplation



FINALE

- As elevators rise and fall, and people emerge from their boxes and join the forum, we understand that we are all together in the same experience; that our isolated lives are all part of a collective story.
- Realization