

“ More than a light sculpture, *light for a wash house* is an inclusive landmark completely tested, upcycled, designed, crafted and built specifically in Luxembourg. ”



lights for
a wash
house
by

an
atelier
of
other

architecture | matter

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Introduction



Photo by Brogi Carlo (1850-1925)

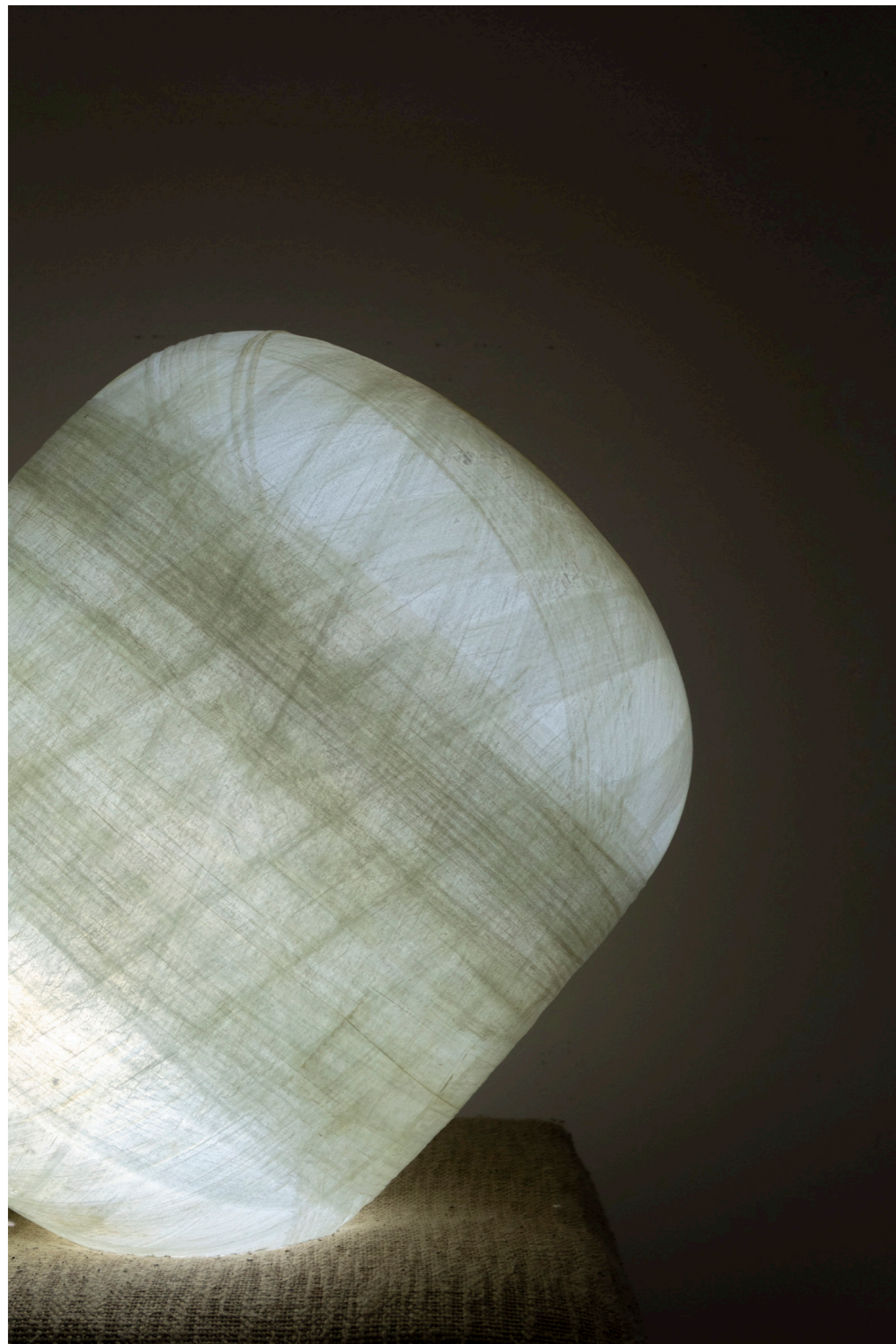
A wash house is a public place dedicated to the washing of clothes. Communal washing places were common in Luxembourg until industrial washing was introduced, and this process in turn was replaced by domestic washing machines and by laundrettes.

Built between the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries, the wash house is a visible sign of a simpler life, but also a harder past. Predominantly occupied by women, the chore of washing was divided into two basins, called “Wäschkutsch”. The women used one for washing every single piece of laundry with a laundry brush and a bat and rinsing them in another basin before the water is channeled back to the source.

More importantly, the wash house also served a social function. It was a place of productive gathering where people met and exchanged, from the latest news to juiciest gossip. It is derived that in Luxembourgish language “Wäschfra” (washerwoman) also means gossip, an ingredient that easily helped locals to bond over friendly and casual conversations. The informality of this public space is one example where community spirit anchors itself to, yet it is hardly present in this modern day.

The primary purpose of a wash house may seem obsolete in current context, but certainly not the social aspect that was cultivated within through simpler time and an essential function. Public spaces for gathering, resting, or idling are crucially necessary for our growing urban environment.

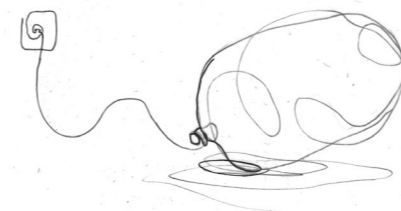
General and feasible concept



Light for a wash house is a proposal situated in the interdisciplinary subfield of ‘urban continuity’, examining the dialectical relationship between continuity and change in urban phenomena. When urban change accelerates, especially due to external and market forces, cities often face the dilution of identity, reflected subliminally by the choice of materiality and building processes.

The daily routine revolves around live, work and play. An act of waiting, resting or idling has a crucial intermission role on every activity, but often it remains unobserved and silent. As the city sprints for economic growth, a rapid shift occurs in the urbanity where non-productive spaces are challenged, undermined and gradually dissolved from the urban fabric. This void, a sort of spatial absence, lingers.

More than a light sculpture, *light for a wash house* is an inclusive landmark completely tested, upcycled, designed, crafted and built specifically in Luxembourg. This site specific character should be reproducible and shared across regions with traditional wash houses, with the capacity to include participants of different fields and demographics in the building process.



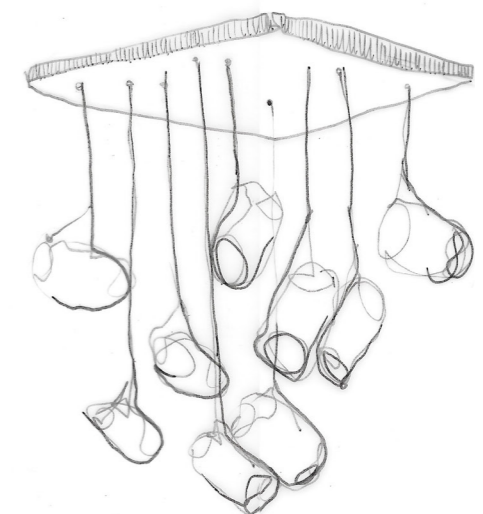
light cocoon
(woven fiber)

+



silk cocoons
(fabric & clothes)

=



Light for a wash house
(landmark)

Location and area of intervention

Beim Wäschbuer

49°31'23.7"N 5°53'08.6"E



Lights for a wash house is part of a material research into discarded fiberglass and studies the transience and mobility of waste hauling in the demolition industry and its ubiquitous presence in both the urban and natural context. The natural environment is unable to digest synthetic resin and her rejection of this material is clear. Yet we have not found a better way to manage such waste.

When an end-of-life fiberglass cylinder reaches a dismantling center, it would be mechanically crushed and grinded down before heading to landfill. The process is brutally simplistic and energy intensive. An alternative is incineration which releases harmful gases which otherwise need further capturing and processing before releasing into the atmosphere. But if the global market demand for fiberglass and production is ever increasing, isn't it counterintuitive to render it as waste for landfill.

The project is based upon a deceptively simple shift of purpose - the interior of a fiberglass cylinder - transformed from a volume occupied with gas to a volume that contains light.

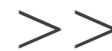


Photo by an atelier of other, at Presta Cylinders

Reviving Fiberglass: Light Series, Cocoon



by an atelier of other





Our material research into this composite material extends beyond raising awareness. We seek to repurpose and upcycle fiberglass, to subvert and reveal hidden qualities and potentials unrealised by the manufacturing industry and commerce.

The ongoing experiment meanders across form finding complex curves, testing and making, within which cultivating an alternative solution to give fiberglass material a second-life. Through rethinking and design, we immerse our projects in installations and objects which may find relevance in our local urban landscape.

Would it not be an invitation for the public to reflect and re-imagine how waste can also be precious?

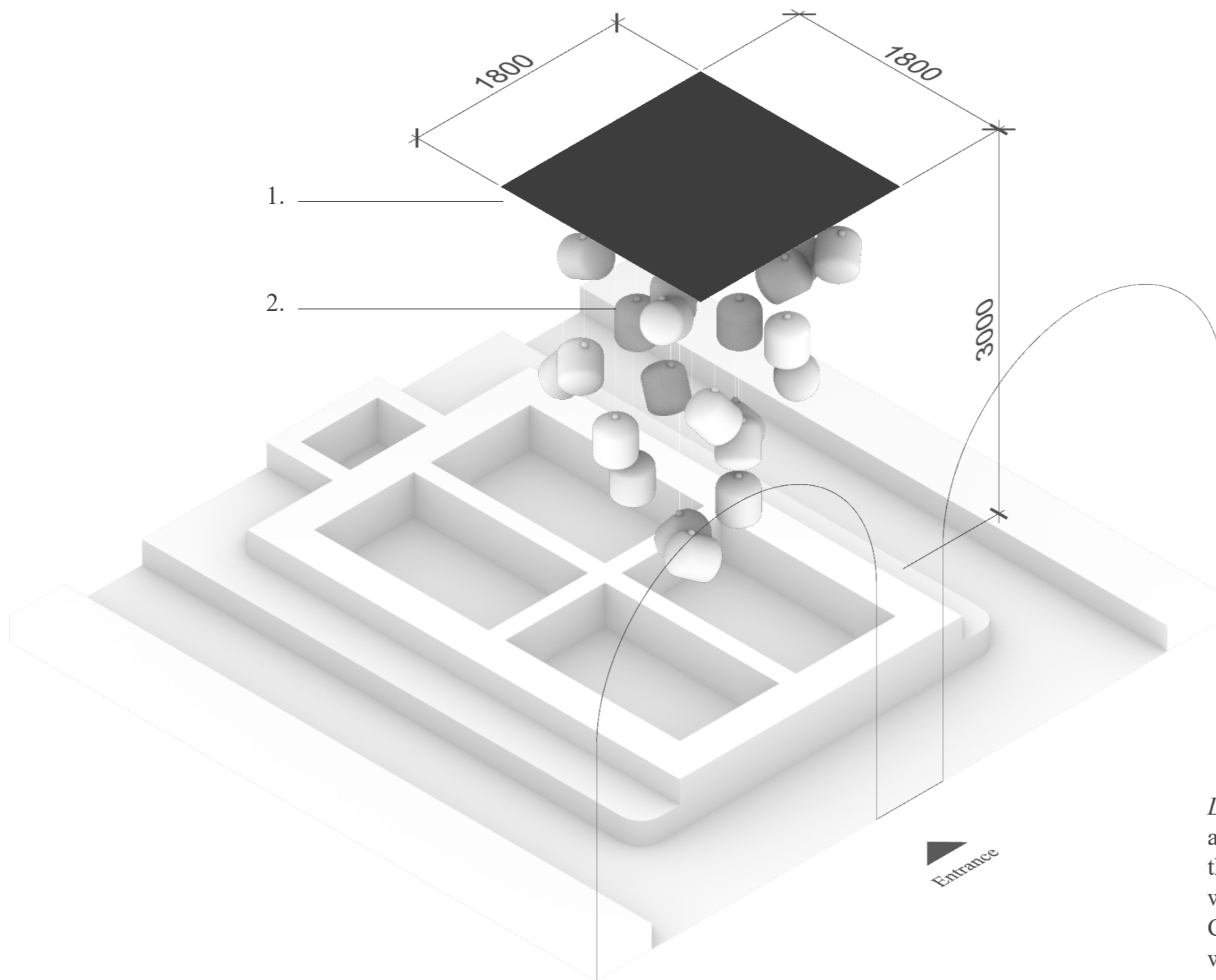


The cocoon glows soft among the plants at night.

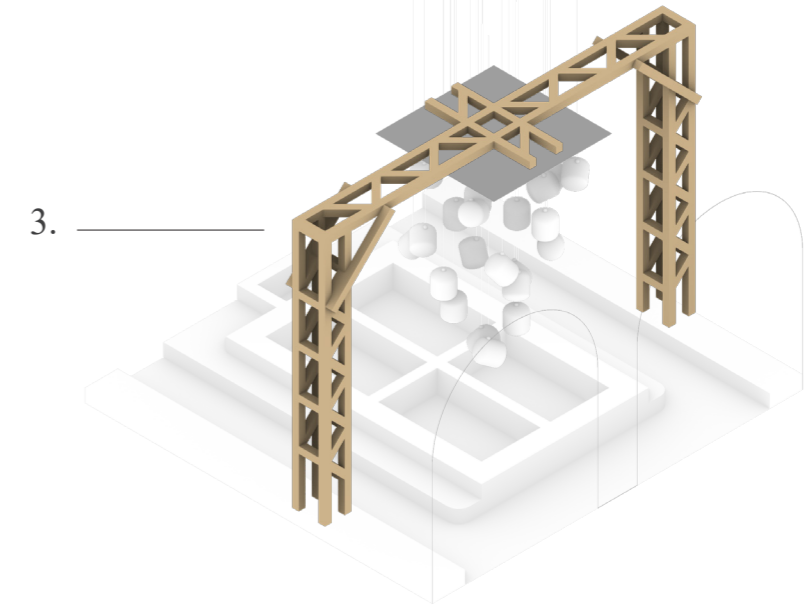


Night view - the wash house turns into a beacon

1. 1800x1800mm metal sheet with framework
2. Cocoon light sculpture
3. Timber structure/rigg (contingency plan)



Contingency plan to erect structure/rigg, if required.



Lights for a wash house aim to be installed in the ceiling, free of any external structural support. The visual experience is created by the lightness of these Cocoons suspended over an endless flow of water. The rippling movement of the water surface will reflect the Cocoons in an infinite direction, projecting the lights against all walls.

However, a contingency plan of a timber structure could be added if necessary to accommodate site specific regulations.



Involvement with locals

1. Building process
2. Decoration / embellishment
3. Changes to the project in the form of addition or subtraction
4. Maintenance of project's "health"
5. Fostering ownership to the built environment
6. Learning the processes of salvaging discarded materials

AAVS Building Workshop (please get in touch to learn more)

General budget

Lights for a wash house

Description	Amount
Material cost	€6,886.00
Labour cost	€2,292.00
PC sum	€287.80
Design + admin fee	€3,313.03
Subtotal	€12,778.83
TVA 17%	€2,172.40
Total	€14,951.23



Timothy Tan AADipl MNAL

Timothy Tan is an architect based in Luxembourg, co-founder of an atelier of other and Drawing of a Muchness. He was a tutor at the Department of Architecture in National University of Singapore and previously practiced at Jensen & Skodvin. With his academic peers, he runs AAVS Cambodia, an annual workshop focusing his research on the impact of material culture and its immediacy to urban continuity. Timothy's works span extensively across Singapore, London, Dubai, Shanghai, Japan and Oslo with development projects, private houses, sub-rural conversions, scenography and urban samplings.



Marion Delaporte AADipl MArch

Marion Delaporte graduated with a Master in Architecture in June 2020 and kept working on her project dealing with the repurposing of abandoned fiberglass boats. This led to the start of an atelier of other and Drawing of a Muchness, which she created with Timothy Tan. Besides working in an office in Barcelona, participating in a building-workshop in Japan, Marion took part in the Luxembourgish exhibition 'leidlenger Kiermess' as an artist.

a submission to



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Cover
View of Wash house

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