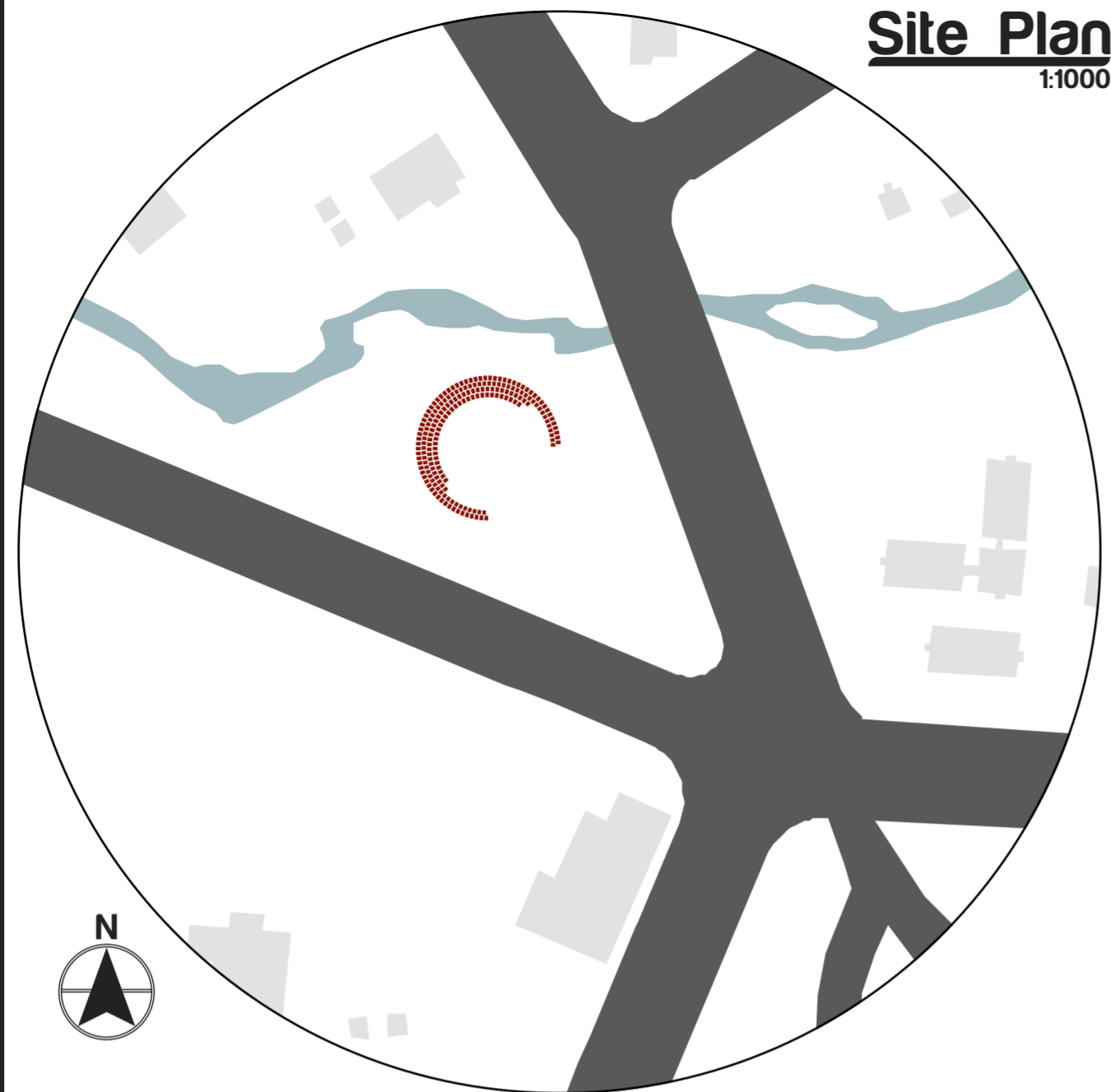


Community House

The design of Community House originates from the assumption that we cannot dictate to a community what they want. As architects and non-residents we felt that we did not have the knowledge or contextual experience to improve upon the wealth of DIY solutions currently being created. Typical 'architecture' designed for the North are "usually based on satisfying southerner's needs in a 'hostile' environment" (Z-rulo, 94). This is readily apparent in the wealth of failed designs prevalent in northern communities. From the matchbox house to the suburban layout, most designs do not actually take the needs of the community into consideration, let alone to heart. Instead of attempting another one size fits all housing design, we chose to focus on the spaces in-between. The negative spaces carved by buildings exist as barren voids used only as transitions from place to place. Filling these spaces are the cast offs of art life. Materials that currently have no purpose, but are filled with potential.



Site Plan
1:1000

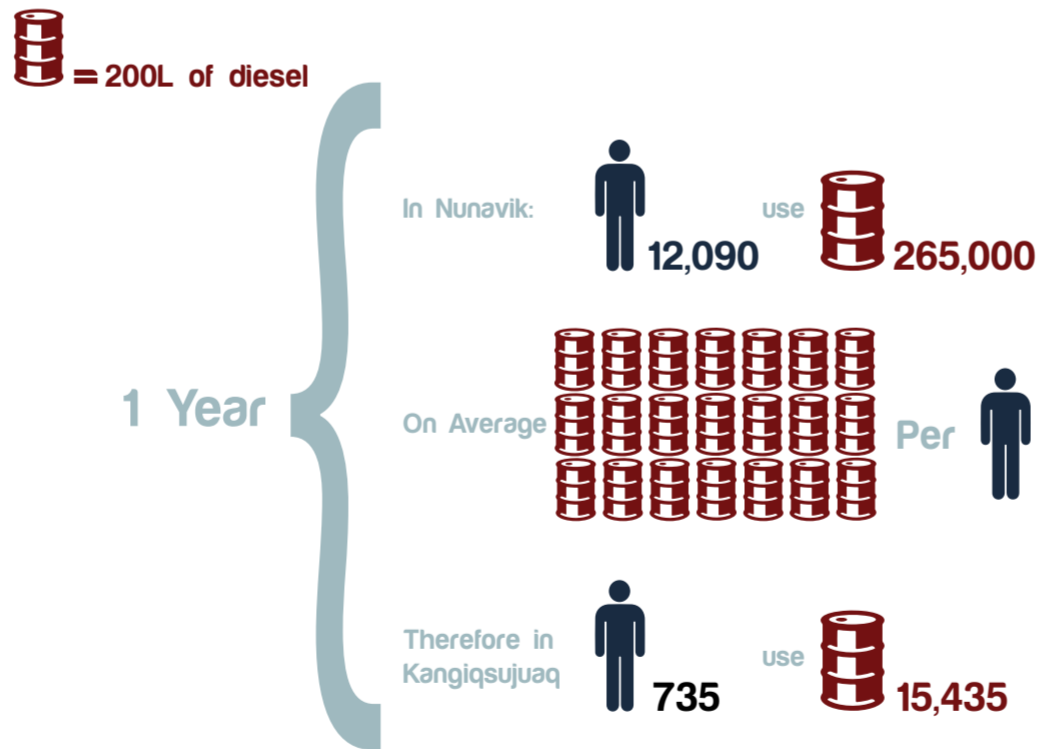
Community House is a shelter from both the natural, and the spiritual. As the wind is diverted to create a comfortable outdoor space, the form becomes a sounding board for the voice of the community. The structure is open ended in form and in use. From gathering place to story telling venue the circular shape bends to the needs of the people as they arise. The emphasis is providing an enriching community amenity that fosters ownership of place. When people have the opportunity and the means to construct their surroundings and build a sense of place, they are more likely to innovate, and invest in a better future. Our hope is that Community House will be the catalyst to reassembling the voice of the north.

Our project aims to take one of the most plentiful and oppressive scrap materials - the oil barrel - and transform it into a symbol of autonomy for the community.

Using data provided and our own research, we have determined that on average Nunavik ships approximately 265,000 barrels of oil per year. These barrels are either reused for personal uses or are discarded and accumulated over time. Although our design proposal has been focused on one specific community, this design can also be used all over the Nunavik region. By using commonly found materials in Nunavik we aren't contributing to a larger carbon footprint. It is a modest solution to creating an outdoor flexible space that is especially useful in the harsh winter months of the year.

To date, there are several plans in motion to connect Nunavik through its own autonomous power grid. Some plans include producing much of the needed energy through hydro electricity. This would be generated through the plentiful rivers within the territory. As Nunavik moves away from oil generated power all costs associated to living go down. When communities have greater access to cheaper energy there are larger and more plentiful opportunities for economic growth and the subsequent rise in the standard of living. While Community House does directly not deal with improving the access to energy, it does reduce the need for it. Wind screens have been used for centuries all over the world. When orientated correctly wind screens can reduce the cost of heating and prevent the piling up of snow. As more iterations of Community House are built, they embrace the village with shelters, while ironically reducing the cost of heating homes using the very containers the fuel arrived in.

Given that 53 Million L of diesel is consumed in Nunavik per year, how many barrels of diesel are used in Kangiqsujaq?



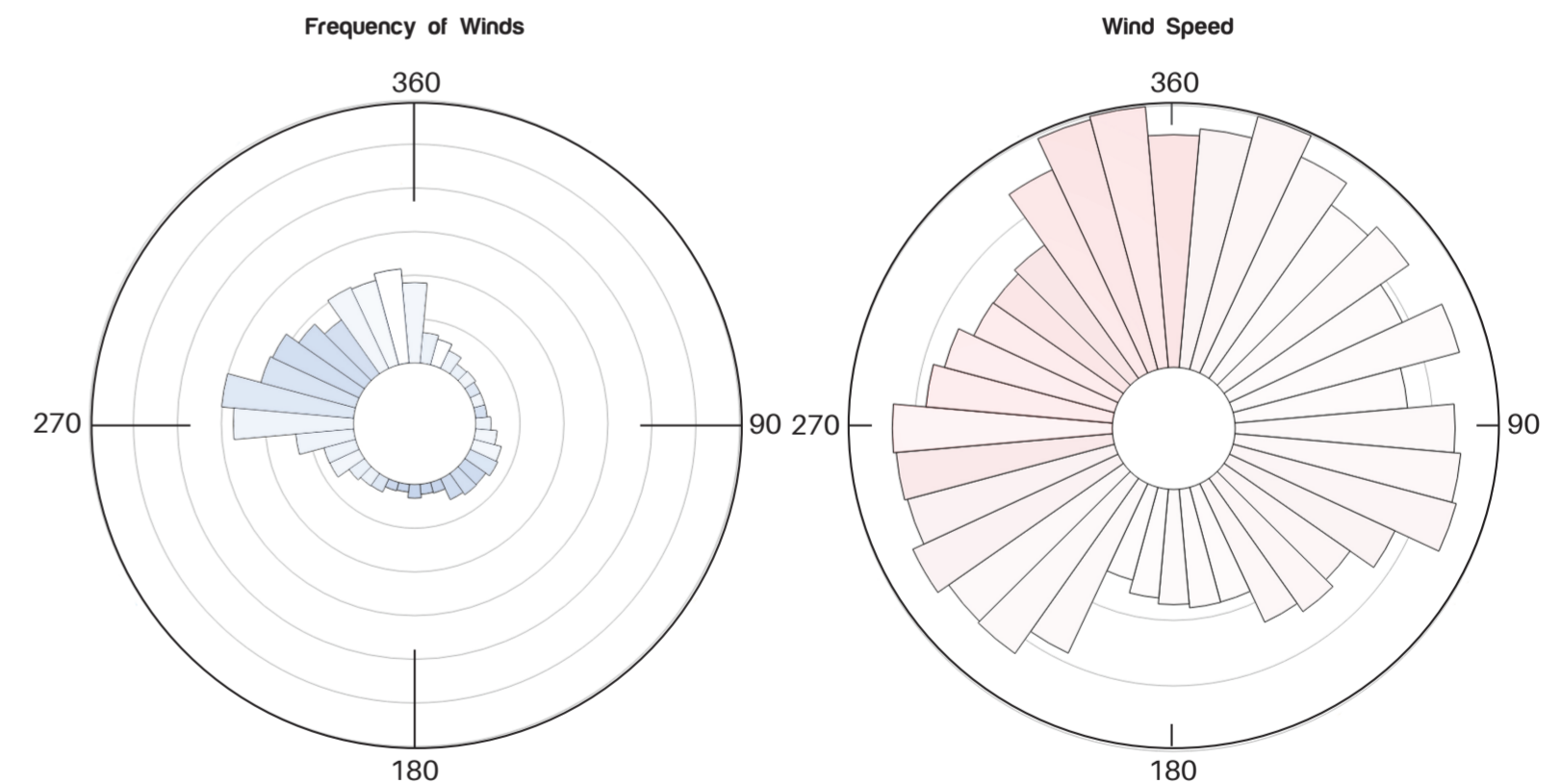
Community of Kangiqsujaq

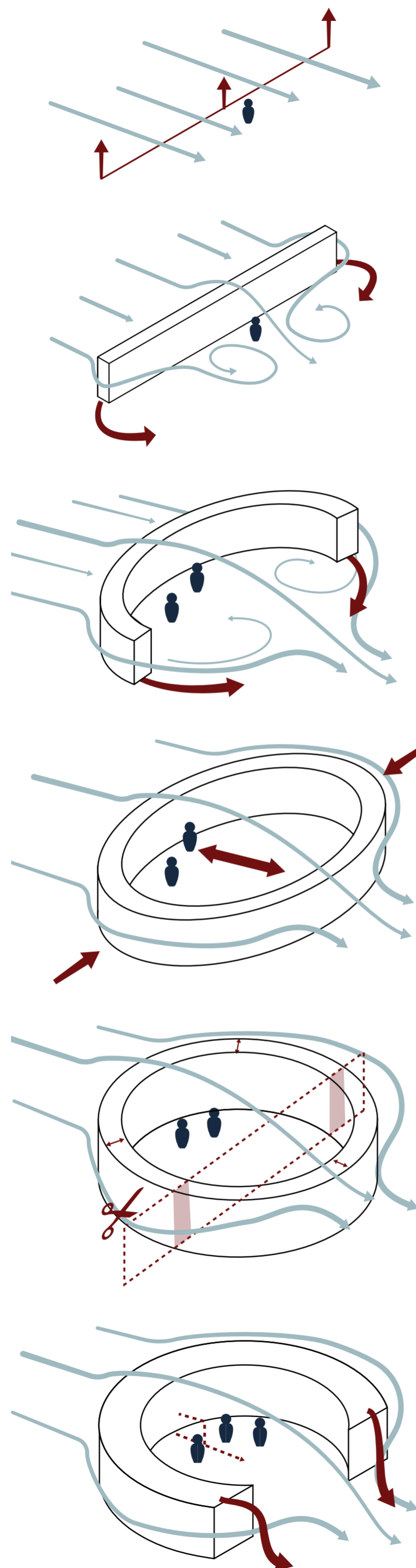
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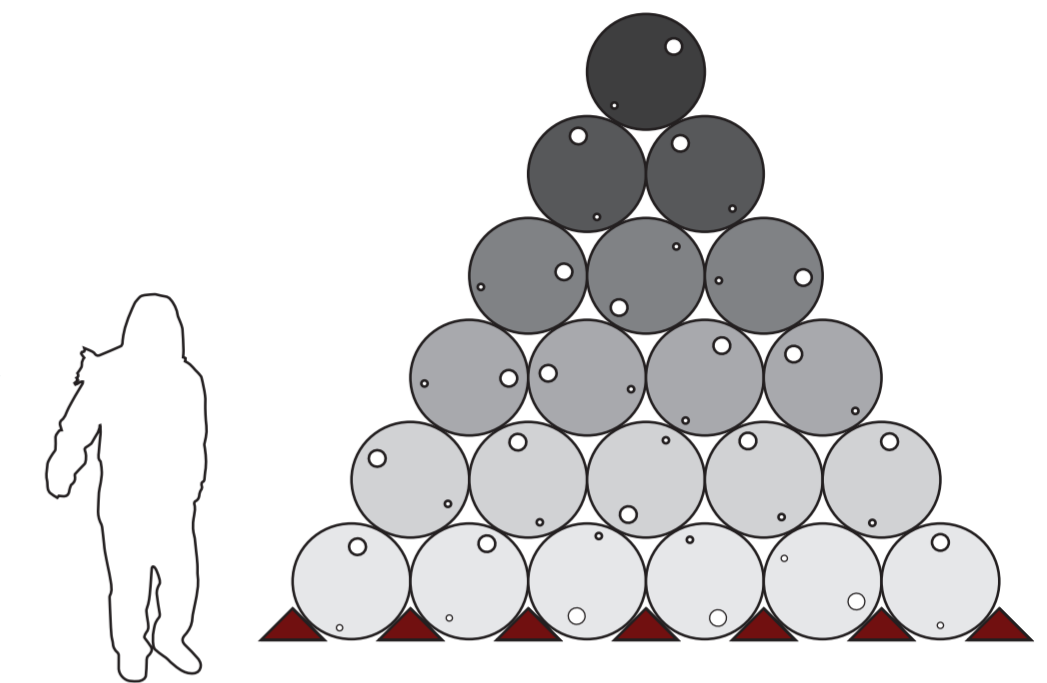
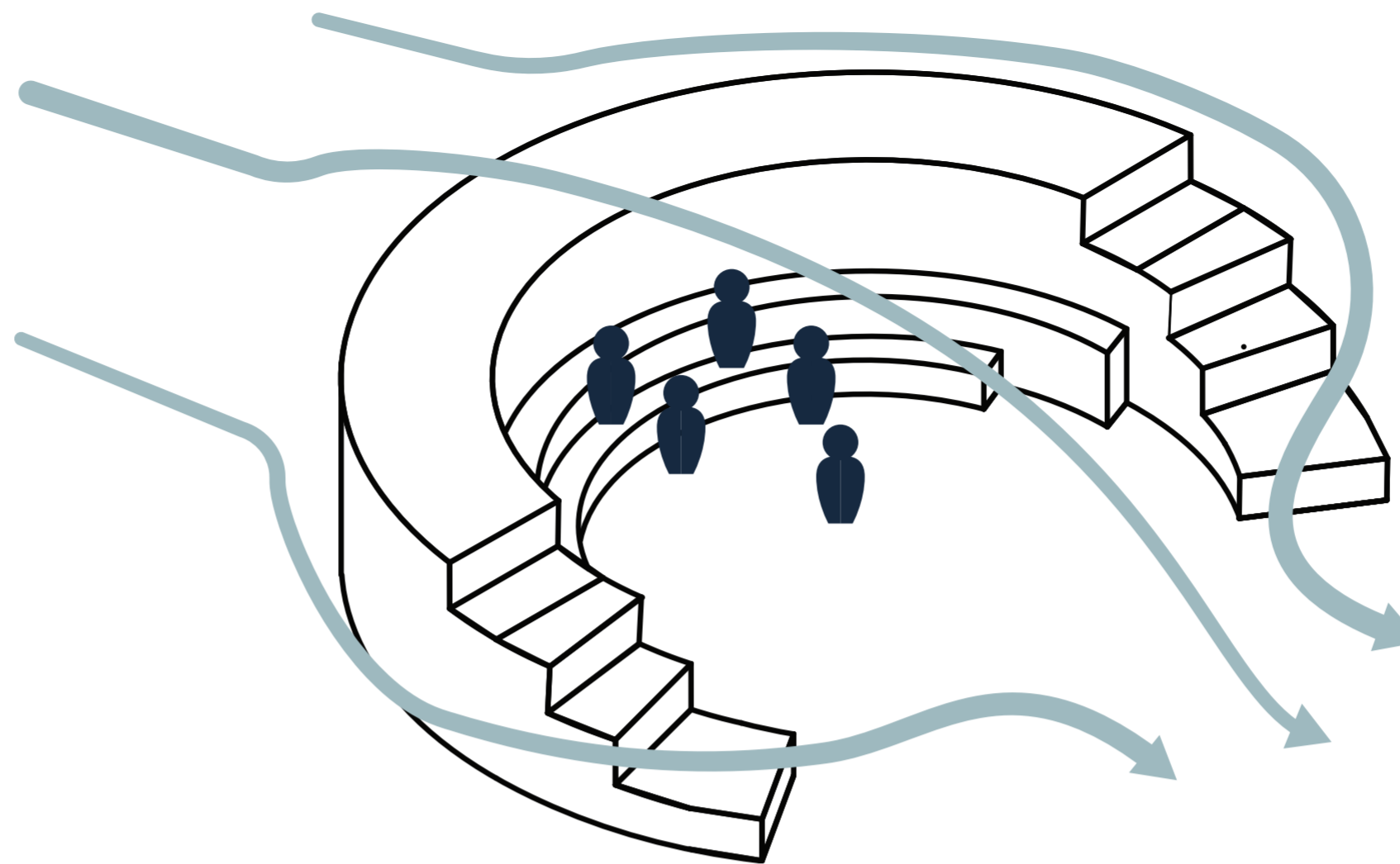
We chose to focus on Kangiqsujaq due to being exposed to strong and consistent winds. Strong winter gusts coming in from Hudson's Bay make the spaces in-between buildings difficult to be navigated. Within Kangiqsujaq, we decided to place our structure in an area that is surrounded by community facilities like schools, churches, and recreational facilities to accommodate for learning and storytelling at the site. The site also resides beside a small canal that flows through most of the village that makes the site more aesthetically pleasing. Having it placed at an urban node in the community allows for greater proximity to people and activity.

Wind Rose - Kangiqsujaq

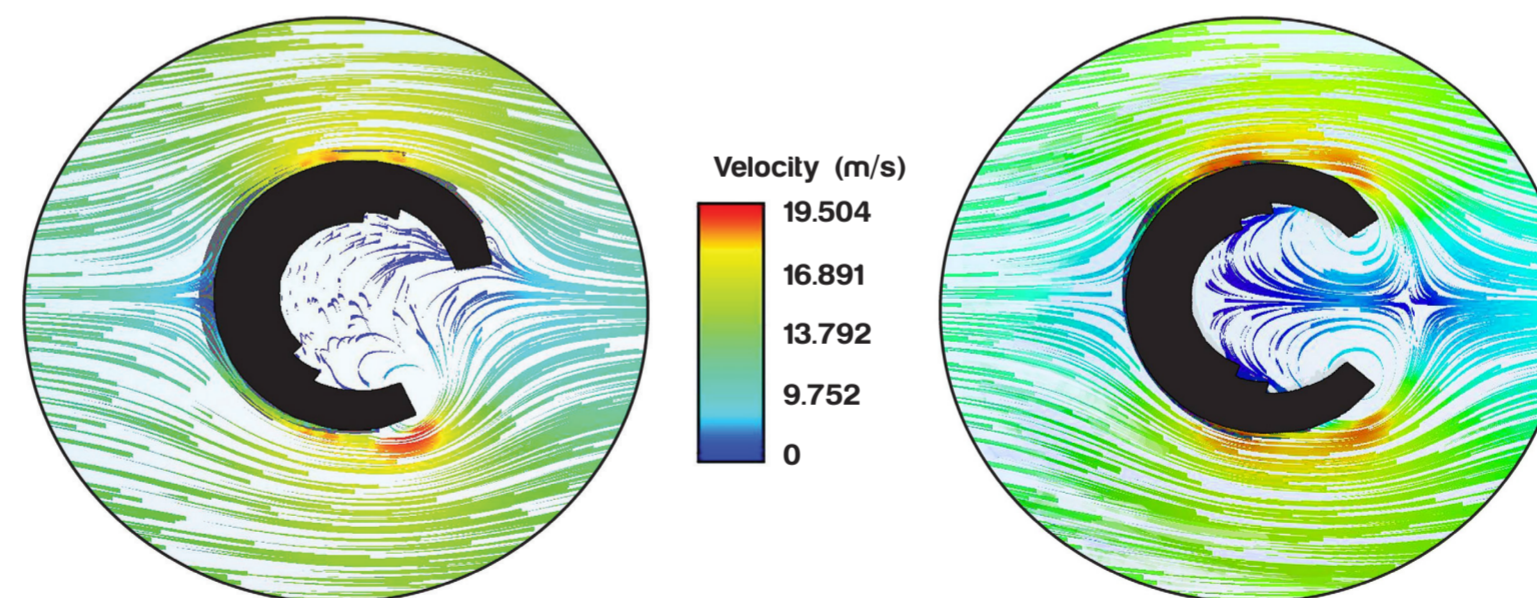




The distinctive shape of Community House was developed through rigorous testing of forms against the wind. Strong wind conditions are a feature of daily life in Kangiqsujuaq, and can come from any direction. The form directs the wind around its curved façade creating a comfortable pocket of air on the leeward side. This is where the majority of activity takes place. However, as the wind picks up and deposits snow upon the site, constantly shifting topography create a drifting echo of the shelter across the site that becomes a secondary venue.



Community House is built using readily available, reused materials that the people who use it can assemble themselves. The shelter is constructed through a simple method of stacking and wedging. Shims created from scrap material are placed on either side of base barrels to prevent rolling and form a strong foundation. All the barrels are weighted with soil or scrap material that will not decompose. The barrels are heaviest on the top, to prevent lift off. This also allows for an economy of ballast material in the lower levels because the top levels will weight them down. While the scale of the shelter dwarfs the human form when completed, the graduated stacking allows for an ease of assembly. When finished, the stacking can also serve as seating and beyond.



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