

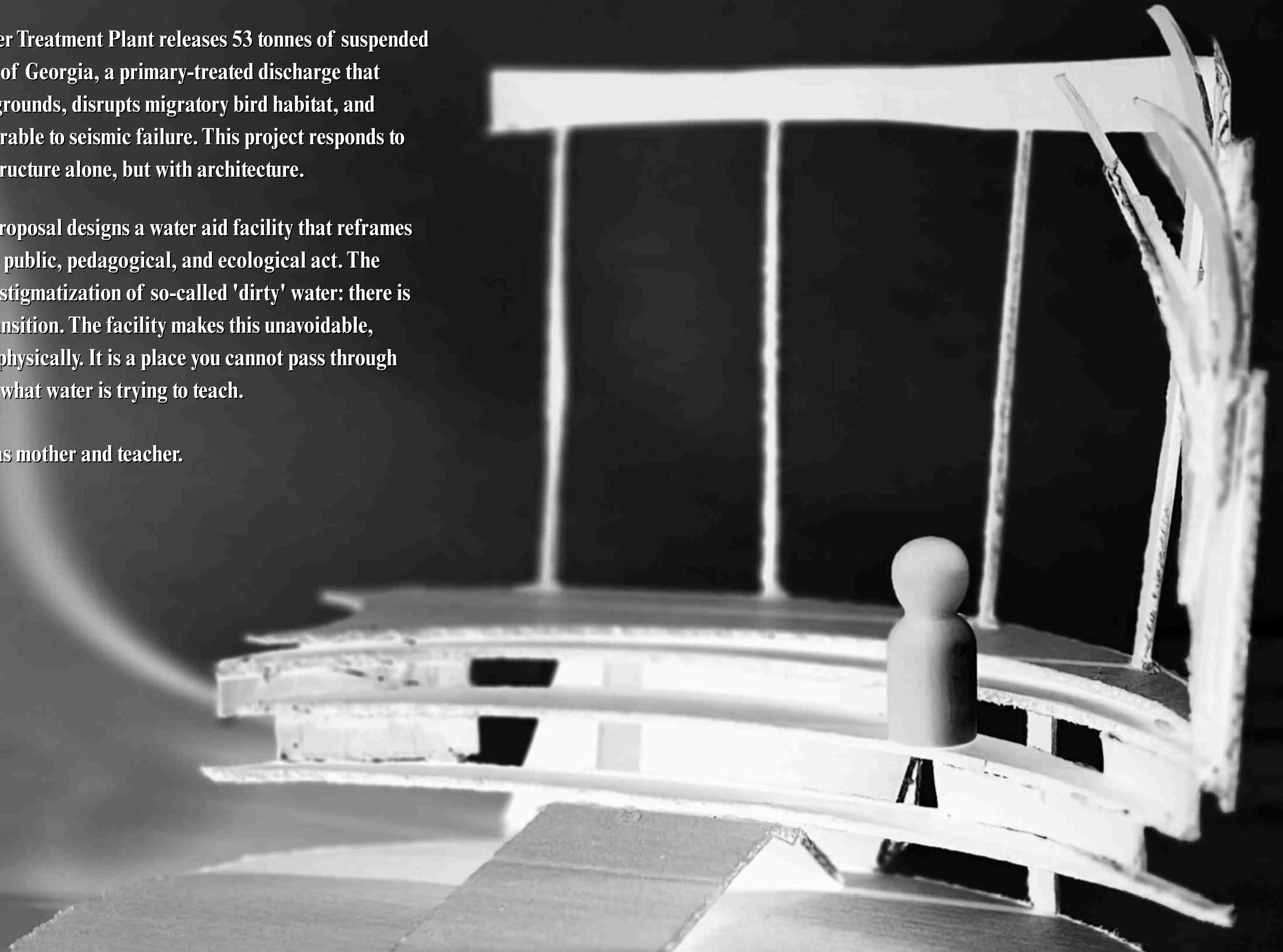
Mom Called You Last Night.

an addition to the Iona waste water treatment plant

The Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant releases 53 tonnes of suspended solids daily into the Strait of Georgia, a primary-treated discharge that damages salmon nursery grounds, disrupts migratory bird habitat, and remains structurally vulnerable to seismic failure. This project responds to that crisis not with infrastructure alone, but with architecture.

Sited on YVR Island, the proposal designs a water aid facility that reframes wastewater treatment as a public, pedagogical, and ecological act. The central argument is the destigmatization of so-called 'dirty' water: there is no waste, only water in transition. The facility makes this unavoidable, spatially, sensorially, and physically. It is a place you cannot pass through without being changed by what water is trying to teach.

Water here is understood as mother and teacher.



Drawing on the myth of Narcissus - reflection, confrontation, clarity; the building sequences movement from intake through progressive stages of treatment toward an open reflection pool: water returned, clarity, held under the sky. The journey through the building is the argument. Dirty becomes renewable, and the once concealed becomes witnessed.

The program integrates visible treatment processes, ecological restoration of the estuary, public education facilities, and seismically resilient infrastructure — capable of full operation under a major earthquake. Constructed wetland polishing zones return treated water to the strait at a quality that supports, rather than degrades, the Salish Sea.

