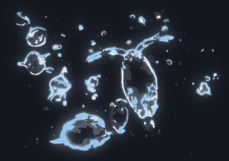
LUCENT TIDE

Lucent Tide is a nocturnal sanctuary situated at Northeast False Creek, located on the unceded, traditional territories of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam)**, **Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish)**, and **səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations**. It acts as a living threshold where the urban edge of Downtown Vancouver dissolves into a restorative ritual of communal swimming and biological light.

Decades of industrialization and urban development have turned False Creek into a rigid, polluted boundary. Informed by the biological porosity of sea foam, Lucent Tide disrupts this hardened edge. The intervention rejects the privatization of the waterfront, offering a filtered, protected pool within the nearshore shallows. By treating the water as an active participant rather than a backdrop, it reestablishes the site as a place of accessible, multi-species coexistence.

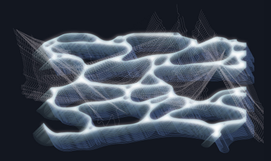
By anchoring its architecture in living filtration, the project transitions the waterfront toward a thriving, collective ecology. Flourishing here is defined as a shared, multi-species exchange where the glow of the water is a direct response to our physical movement within it. Here, we are invited to be present, focus on the weight of our bodies, the clarity of the water, and the quiet illumination of the tide.

The Living Threshold



Restorative Remediation

Multi-Species Exchange



Sensory Illumination

- Creek shoreline
- Building context
- Ecological zone
- Less industrial/green zone
- Industry heavy zone

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Restorative Architecture

Operating as a restorative vessel, the architecture physically revives the creek's native bioluminescent phytoplankton. A weathered wooden walkway rests partially submerged to allow the tide to flow freely through the structure. Submerged meshes carrying charcoal serve as the initial threshold. This carbon sieve strips urban pollutants from the water, acting as a primary layer of purification before the current reaches the planted beds. Indigenous aquatic flora form the second layer, sending dense root systems deep into the water to extract remaining toxins.

Detailed Plan

0 10m