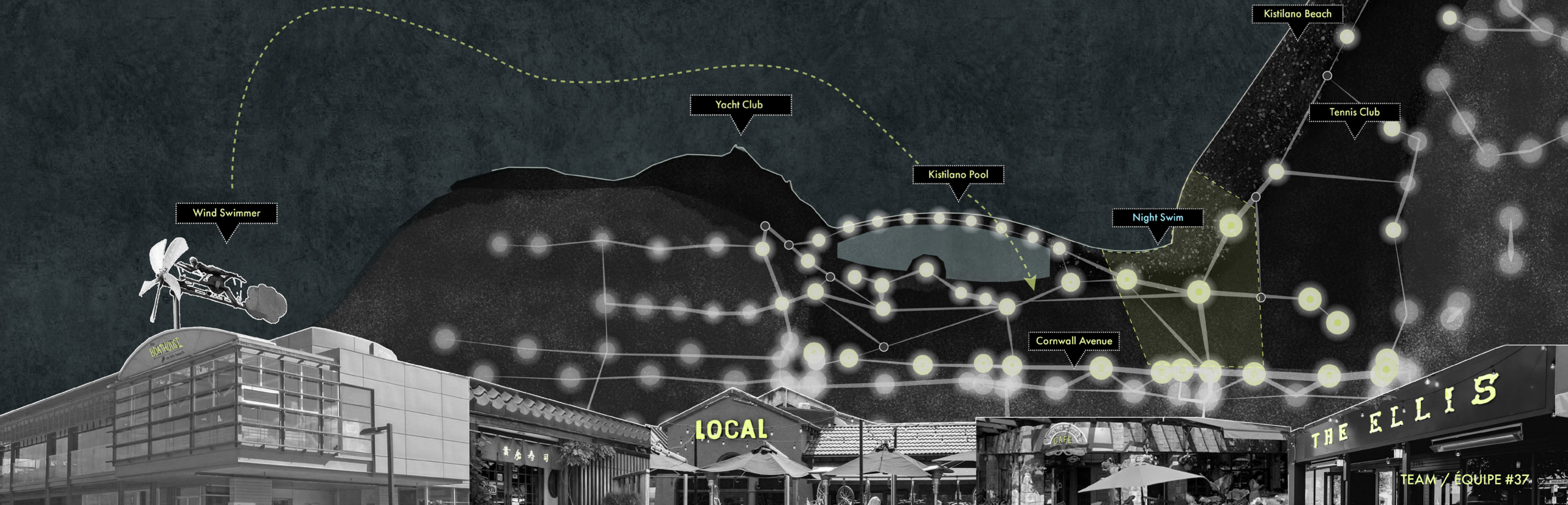


SOAK UP THE ATMOSPHERE / S'IMPRÉGNER DE L'ATMOSPHÈRE

The Kitsilano Pool in Vancouver is the longest swimming pool in North America. A tidal pool turned into an outdoor facility against Kitsilano Beach, delineated by a rigid seawall, describes the history of swimming culture in Vancouver. When the waters of the Beach become inaccessible due to safety advisories about *E. coli*, or when the Pool closes outside summer months and recently due to storm damages, **what is left for us to dip our toes in?** Our experience in the area makes us think that this site could be at the risk of becoming a non-place, coined by Marc Augé, as surrounding urban identity shrinks, particularly when night falls... The swimming pool has also been a racialized, exclusionary place that has reinforced social constructs about water and cleanliness (or racialized bodies and purity), often bounded by ticketed gates that can be bypassed with wealth.

In creating the future of inclusive night swimming culture responsive to its local context, what if we deconstruct the ways we hold, contain, and envision water itself?





This installation starts from the commercial strip at Cornwall Avenue and is activated by the absence of daylight, in synchronous with automated street lights at Kitsilano Beach. It also indicates the varying abundance of rain in the city, as it is the source of the steam being released at dusk. This process aims to democratize access to water in the form of vapour and then take advantage of the condensation process, using glass wall panels chilled by the ocean breeze at night to form water droplets onto the beach.

The street lights act as the skeletal structure of the steam, the architecture in which the public swims through at and after dark. The installation acts as the liminal space between the city and the beach, revive a collective memory amidst the threats of closures and restrictions that prevent a thriving nightlife culture in Vancouver. *Soak Up the Atmosphere* creates an alternative to conventional swimming, the blurring of sightlines under low-light conditions enhances the tactile experience of the ground material and the lightness of water.

