

Floating Night / La nuit Flottante

Waterfront Park, North Vancouver, BC

At the waterfront of Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver, constructed seawalls, docks, and decks separate land from water, privileging land-based activity. These infrastructures regulate access and turn the ocean into something to observe rather than inhabit. Our project reimagines this threshold as a site for communal night rituals, where water is not an edge but an active force shaping collective experience.

The journey begins at the dock of Waterfront Park, where visitors depart the illuminated city and move into darkness. As the distance from shore increases, the sound softens, the temperatures shift, and the horizon expands. Floating within Burrard Inlet under moonlight, the body becomes suspended between sea and sky. In this moment, night swimming becomes an act of humility. Water owns itself, and humans enter as guests.



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH
Esplanade Ave experiences heavy pedestrian traffic from workers and passersby, functioning as a busy and active corridor.



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM
Residents and visitors use the area for recreational activities such as dog walking and enjoying the park's amenities and open space.



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM
An active area where people gather at benches, visit for waterfront views, and walk along the shore for recreation.



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW
The open water is largely inaccessible to human, resulting in minimal human activity in this area. How does this dark waters create something new?

Intervention

Our design proposes a floating communal pool that drifts with the movement of waves while remaining lightly anchored to the seabed. Powered by tidal energy and an ocean water filtration system, the structure responds to water movement. The design is composed of three elements: a floating pool vessel, a lightweight illuminated canopy symbolizing the moon, and an underwater anchoring system that supports marine habitat regeneration.

At night, the warm pool becomes a luminous refuge on dark water. Steam rises into the cold air as reflections ripple across the surface. Visitors gather along the pool's edge, sharing the quiet intimacy of immersion while watching stars and distant city lights. Below the surface, marine life reclaim submerged structures, transforming the structure into a multispecies ground of care.

By redistributing access to the waterfront and embracing nocturnal sensoria—darkness, reflection, sound, and temperature—Wavehaven transforms contact with water into collective ritual: a floating commons connecting strangers, species, and the city with the sea.

A floating body, a warm vessel, an eternal moon—momentarily detached from land.

