



**CLIMATE CHANGE**, changing water ables and weather conditions have drastically affected island communities around the world. These communities often rely on tourism, local business and traditional disciplines to survive. When influences outside the scope of local populations pose a threat to these staples of daily life, it is necessary to adapt in new and intuitive ways. However, in addition to the environmental threats, local island populations are often less urbanized and therefore have significantly less access to the infrastructure necessary to adapt to risk factors compared to mainland communities or urbanized tourist centers.

**MAROU VILLAGE**, Naviti, Fiji, is no exception to these risk factors. An increasingly contaminated water table, lack of employment and declining opportunity has led to emmigration from Fiji's outlying island Naviti to the main island Viti Levu which has negativey impacted the community. As a rural island community consisting of about 50 households and a school, this closeknit community is in desperate need of a restorative solution that will help its inhabitants adapt to their ever-changing environment as well as revitalize tourism and decrease emmigration-- perhaps even inspire some to return to their home village of Marou. Marou Village is in desperate need of a renewable energy installation that will help subsidize their energy and water resources and restimulate the community and our solution, in partnership with the Land Art Generator Initiative may be able to supply that solution.

**THE QUESTION** we sought to answer with our solution was simply this: how might we develop an intuitive, replicable, easily maintained, and efficient installation that is able to assist with energy collection (solar) and water collection (rain) while remaining aesthetically connected with its environment and Fijian tradition?



**INITIATIVES** of this solution focus on the importance of community within Marou Village culture as well as the preservation of traditional imagery and disciplines. We sought to design a peaceful, dynamic, and experiential meeting place that could serve as both a medatative space and a community gathering place.

**VUVALE** is the fijian word for "family" and represents the significant role which community plays in the Marou Village. Because of this significance, vuvale became a driving keyword throughout our design process. In addition to the overt connection between VUVALE and community, the design itself represents a family of structures that come together to generate peace, energy, and sustainability.

**THE MODULAR** nature of VUVALE makes it possible to expand the number of structures and thus increase energy and water collection and efficiency without sacrificing the congruency of the installation. As our team felt it was importatnt to conserve congruency.

**INSPIRATION** considerations included traditional art such as the *MASI* (Tapa Cloth), local environment, reactive or experiential gathering spaces from around the world, traditional Fijian architecture and the *TANOA* or Kava Bowl. The TANOA is a major part of traditional Fijian culture as it serves as an opportunity for community building, communication and bonding between friends and family. These were distinctly important elements which we wished to communicate in VUVALE. Finally, the inhabitants of Marou Village insired us to create an installation that would serve well their active and and unique lifestyle.



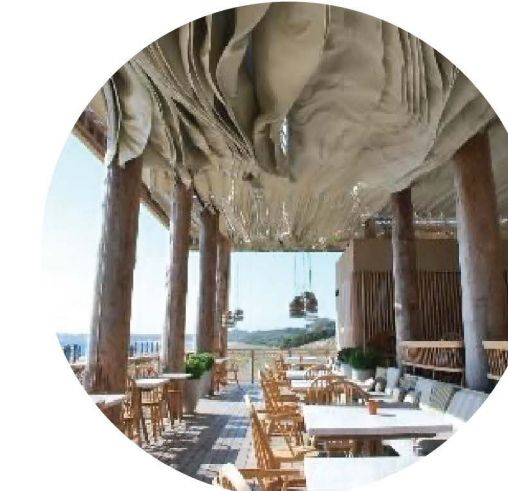
MASI (Tapa Cloth)



TANOA (Kava Bowl)



Environment



Gathering Space



Architecture

**SIMPLICITY** was an additional yet no less powerful motivator in our design process. In our research we found that many eye-catching designs submitted for similiar competitions focused more on aesthetics than executability. VUVALE is sought to bridge the gap between conception and execution with an emphasis on functionality.

