



LAGI 2025 Fiji Competition for the Village of Marou

# Sky Letters

## Letters to the Invisible: Beneath the Surface of Light

“Letters to the Invisible: Beneath the Surface of Light” (Sky Letters) is a structure that brings people together under one canopy—an ecological apparatus that harvests solar energy and rainwater for the benefit of the community. The design is inspired by many local ecological forms in Fiji. Rain trees and vutu trees have fluffy, brush-like flowers, evolved through convergent adaptation to the tropical climate. These blossoms are quiet communicators with the sky—opening at dusk, releasing scent, and catching moisture and light. Their blossoming echoes our intention for a design that honors ecological dialogue and cultural richness as much as it responds to technical demands.

Each Sky Letters module is equipped with solar panels, a gutter system, structural pipes, and water collection tanks. Each module measures 10 meters long and 5 meters wide. Across the full system, 352 solar panels of 2 m<sup>2</sup> generate a total of 26752 MWh of clean electricity annually and collect 1,196,800 liters of rainwater per year.

As the modules repeat, they can be elevated on higher water tanks and trusses, producing vibrant spatial effects and enabling diverse programmatic possibilities. The overall form is aerodynamic, designed to withstand cyclones.

The weaving of Sky Letters brings together not only light and rain, but also the people of Marou Village and visitors from near and far. A central walkway ramp points toward the mountain peaks beyond, leading to a communal gathering space. When it is not raining, residents can hang masi between the beams. On both sides of the central path, elevated platforms offer space for play and shelter. Light shines through the canopy’s gaps. Standing between the platforms and looking east—toward the village—one may see the rain pipes forming shapes reminiscent of Drua, the traditional boats of Fiji, evoking both technical mastery and symbolic power to navigate storms and dream beyond.

