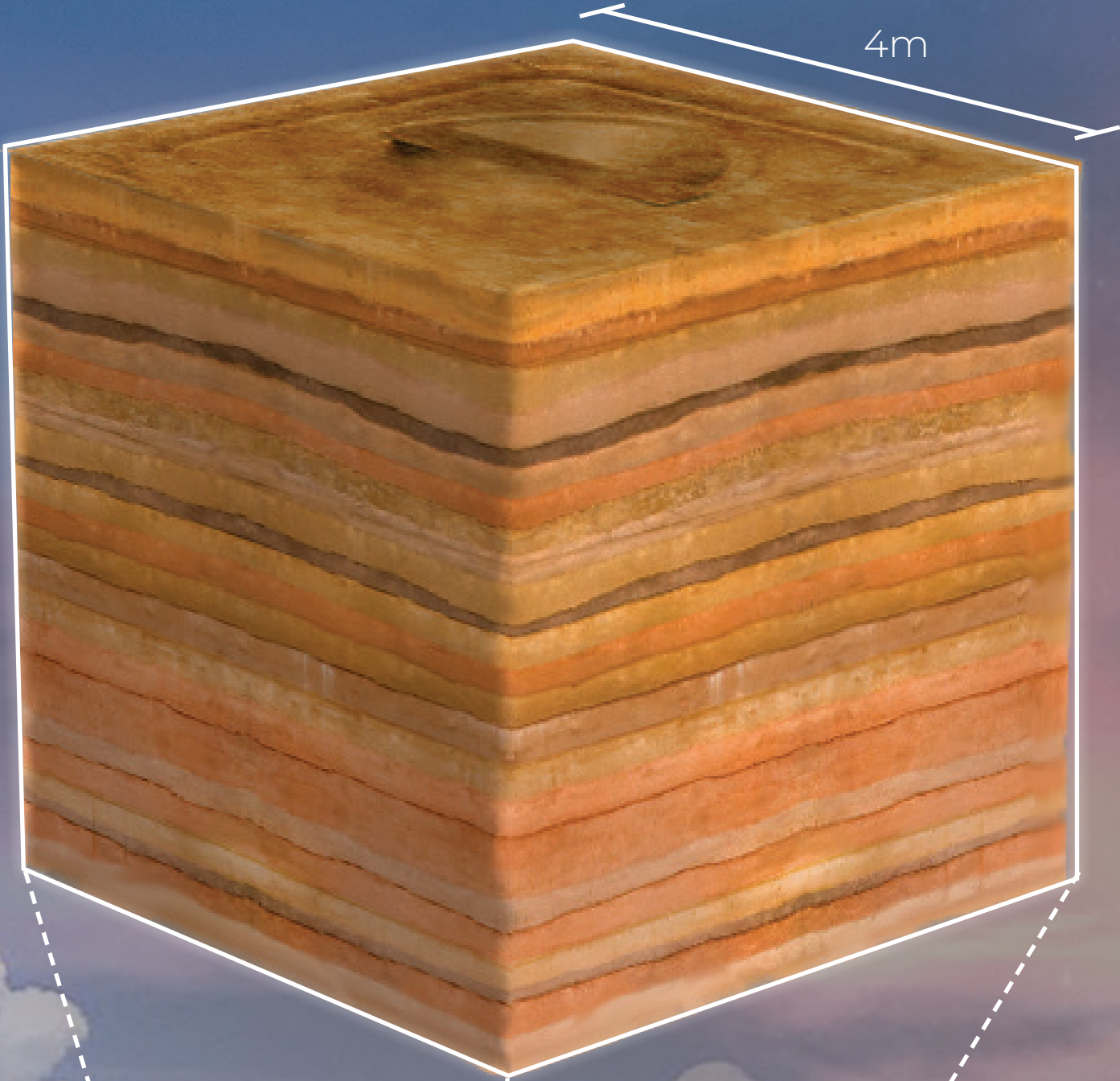
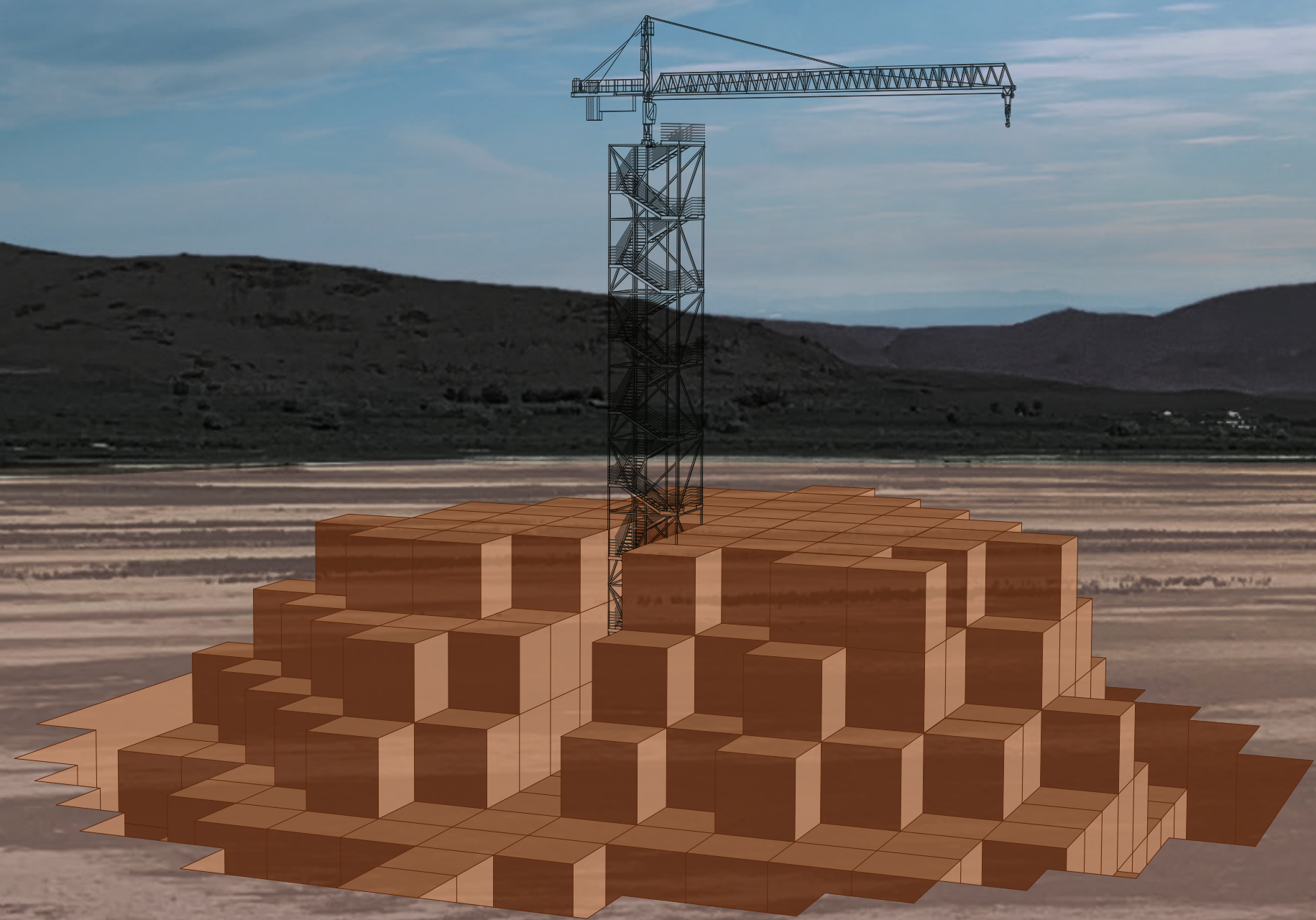


Rather than depending on high tech methods to store energy, *Grounded* takes an analog approach, relying on the basic principle of gravitational potential energy. The result provides a highly visual representation of energy production and human consumption, as the viewer can see the masses of earth shifting to hold and release energy. As it carves the blocks directly out of the ground, the project acts as a metaphor for the impact of human energy usage on the earth. Using rammed earth construction to form the blocks, this design minimizes the introduction of foreign materials to the site. Although the blocks are made of natural material from the site, their linear form and highly structural arrangement acknowledge human manipulation of these natural materials.



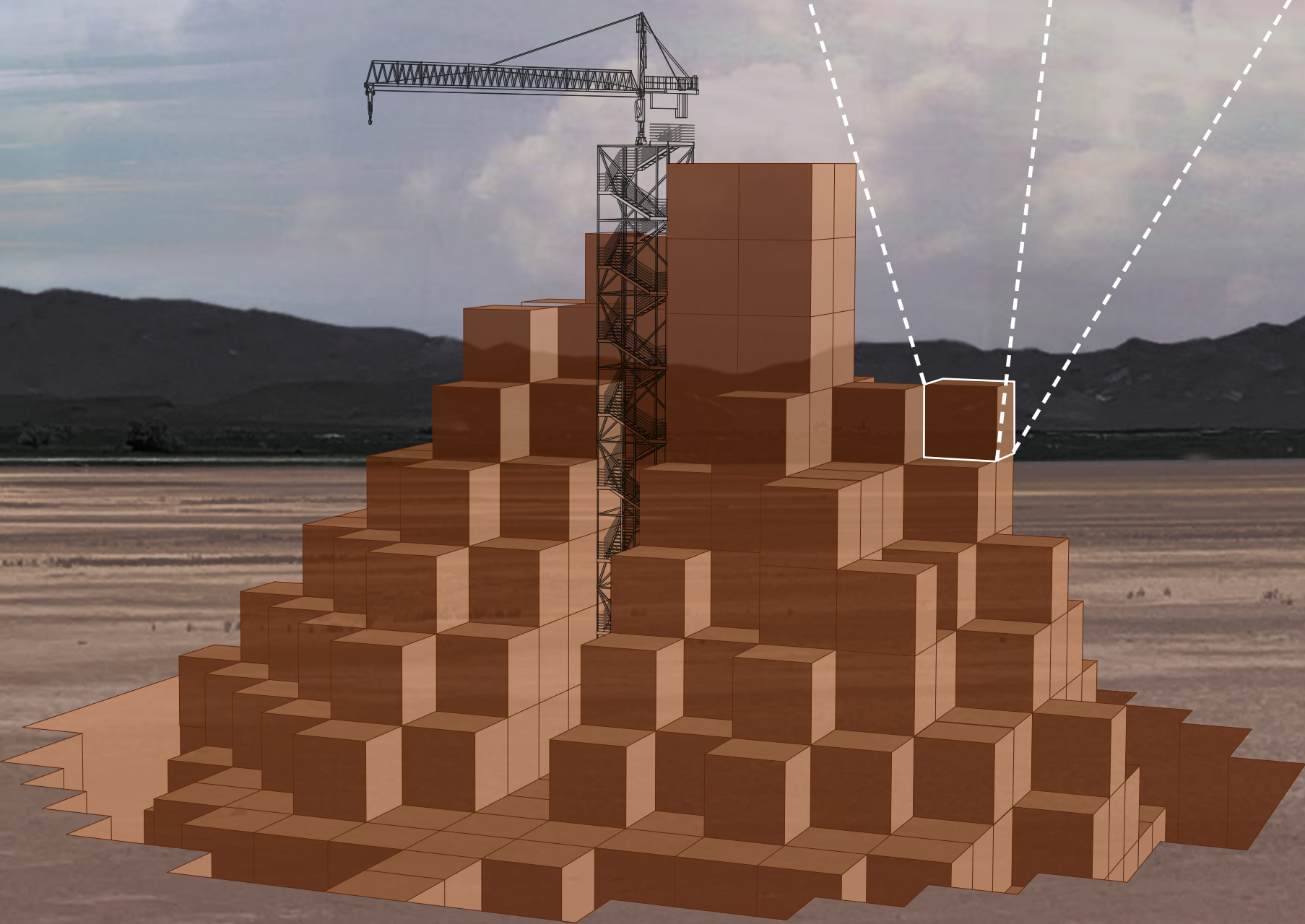
Each block is fitted with an embedded handle on the top, so that it can be lifted by the crane. For stability, Each block has grooved edges on the top and bottom, locking into neighboring blocks.

Comparable to heavyweight concrete, rammed earth weighs around 2080kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Each 4m<sup>3</sup> block weighs almost a 100 metric tons, requiring a specific 100-ton rated crane to do the lifting. This weight, however, allows for a large storage of potential energy - every time a block is raised 4m, an additional kWh of stored energy is added to the system. Using 600 of these blocks with a 40m tall crane creates a system that has the potential to store up to 6.5 MWh of energy at a time.



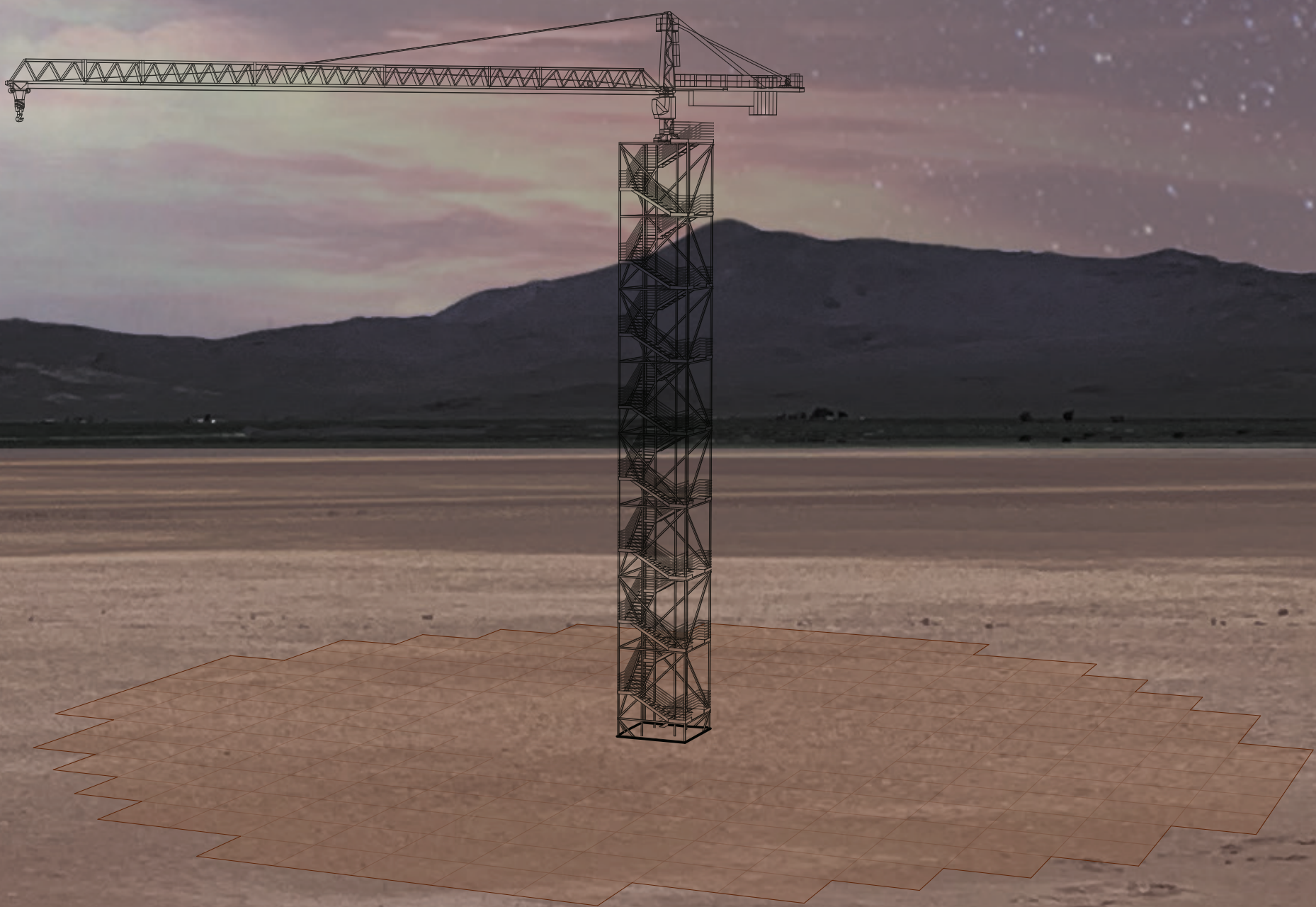
## WINTER / SPRING

Over the course of the year, the battery builds itself up, feeding on the energy generated from renewable sources on the site. Through human designed manipulation, the structure begins to take on a sculptural form with the building blocks pulled from the playa.



## SUMMER

In late summer as Burning Man Festival approaches, *Grounded* nears its tallest form, holding the most potential energy. It's monolithic presence in the flat environment of the playa calls attention to the scale of human energy consumption and its impact on the environment.



## FALL / WINTER

When the battery has released all its energy, the sculpture almost seems to disappear as the rammed earth blocks return to match the flat playa surrounding. Only the crane is left standing, a surreal industrial monument with bare scaffolding hinting at the potential for creation.