

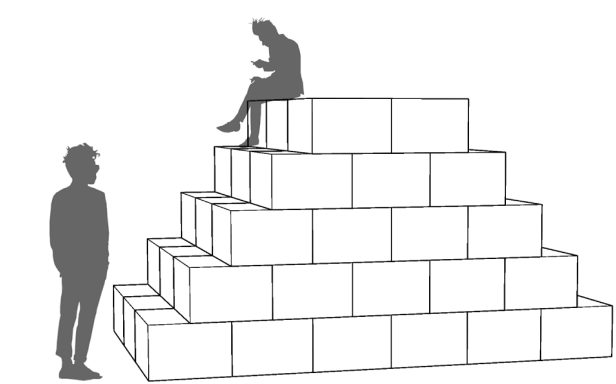
SAGE SPARK

user journey

1: IN THE LABYRINTH

The path towards sustainable, then regenerative habitation is neither easy nor straightforward. Miscanthus giganteus is planted to form a labyrinth in a structural nod to this reality.

As a landmark, it serves to attract and promote engagement with the process. A literal regenerative structure, its annual destruction and regrowth afford a dynamic space for visitors to use and explore.



AT ITS CENTER

At its center is the resting place for harvested biomass. No matter the season, visitors start their journey amongst the plants.

There, they open a bale and set off towards the playa carrying the material on a shoulder pole - harkening to lamp lighting as it is now and foreshadowing what it is to become.

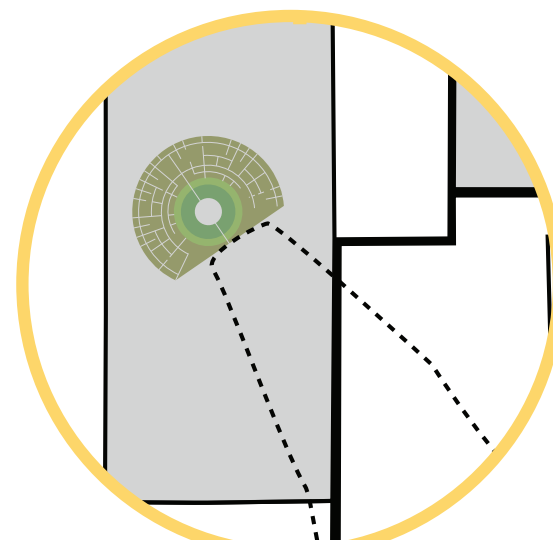


EXITING THE LABYRINTH

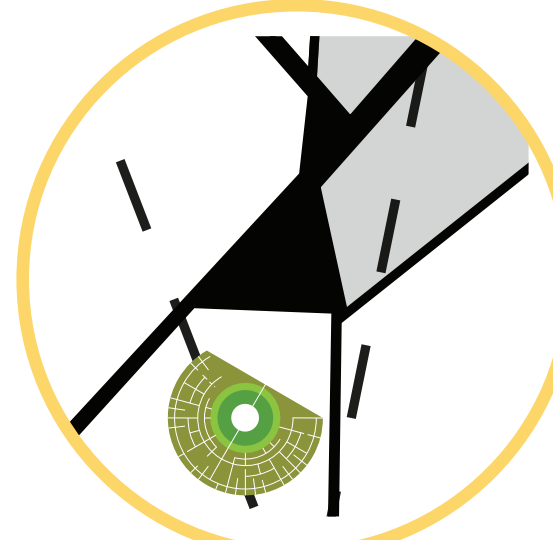
Bearing Miscanthus on their shoulders, visitors depart through a passage across the center clearing oriented towards the press site.

The northerly and southerly routes highlight different geological features and offer hikes of varying difficulty; the former brings visitors past the geyser, the latter focuses attention on the playa.

VIEW TOWARDS LABYRINTH CENTER



NORTH LABYRINTH FARM



SOUTH LABYRINTH FARM



BRICK PRESS
[FUEL PRODUCTION SITE]

ROUTES

NORTHERLY ROUTE
17 km // 4.5 hours

SOUTHERLY ROUTE
8 km // 1.6 hours

BOUNDARIES
■ PRIMARY
■ SECONDARY
□ CONSERVATION

ELEMENTS
1 LABYRINTH FARM
2 FUEL PRODUCTION PAVILION
3 COMMONS

0 1km
1:10000 SCALE

SITE PLAN

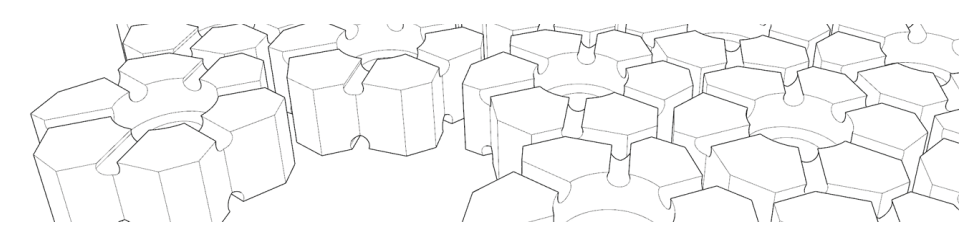
2: FUEL PRODUCTION SITE

The farm, commons, and Black Rock City define the axes of the press site. Approaching it, visitors are met with an unfamiliar feature: elevation change, affording a unique perspective of the local landscape. It is a place of shifting viewpoints and materiality. Metal and pressed earth stand in contrast on a hill spotted with native flora.

SITE DYNAMICS

Just as the labyrinth rises and falls with time, so does the press site. As the users dance, the shredded plant material is not alone in undergoing a transformation. So too does the miscanthus shading the dancers, though on a different timescale.

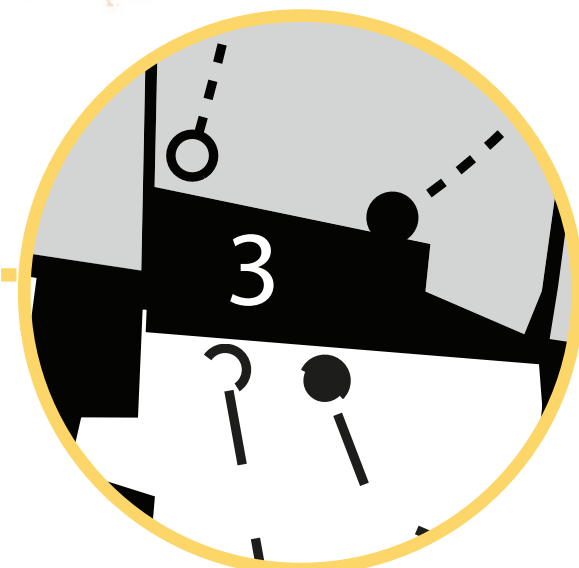
Seating appears - a place to rest and take in the view while the bricks set. Through the axial frames the viewer is connected to two BRCs, one an oasis for plant life, the other an oasis for culture. Both tower over us then vanish into thin air.



BIOMASS BRICK MAKING PROCESS

Brick-making starts with the shredding and wetting of miscanthus. Water from the cistern is pumped to a basin via a puquio, the wind (or on still days, a pump) aiding the flow. Atop the cistern is a wind organ, its volume and frequency modulated by the unseen water's level. Next, the user loads material into the press. Then, the dance can begin.

Linear actuators comprising the dance floors mechanically power the press. Tones unique to each actuator pair sound as they are stepped upon and supplement the dancer's sightless communication. Brickmaking progress is communicated to the dancers through the site itself.

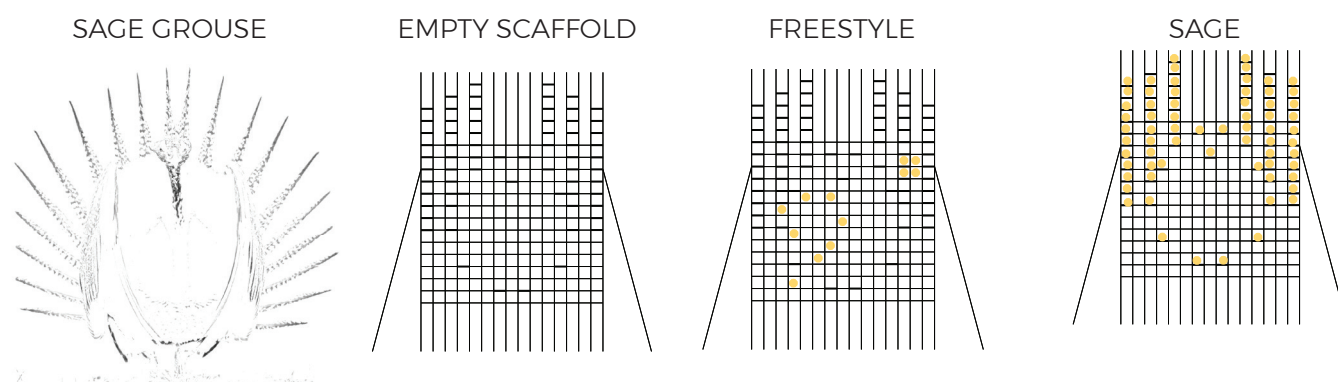


COMMONS
[LOCATION OF S.A.G.E.]

3: S.A.G.E.

S.A.G.E is a beacon and interactive art installation. It broadcasts progress towards sustainable habitation at Fly Ranch and sets a visible standard for participation; its flames are both sculpture and data visualization, representing both visiting artists' intent and the community's commitment to radical accountability and transparency.

The number of miscanthus briquettes available to power S.A.G.E. scales on simple metric: the mass of imported consumables at Fly Ranch. Capacity for expression expands in step with progress.



HABITATION SYMBOL

The sage-grouse is central to a Northern Paiute creation story; it started and tended a fire to dry a massive flood, eventually enabling habitation. Living at Fly Ranch today means tending to the regenerative ideal set forth at the project's onset. Visitors congregating in the shadow of S.A.G.E will awake the next morning ready to help realize it.

S.A.G.E serves to spark discussion and inspire action. A conversation about SAGE SPARK is a conversation about Fly Ranch, its relationship to the land, and how actions on and off the playa can translate into something captivating. Fire was and is emblematic of BM culture. Now it represents its future.

NIGHTTIME CELEBRATIONS AT THE COMMON

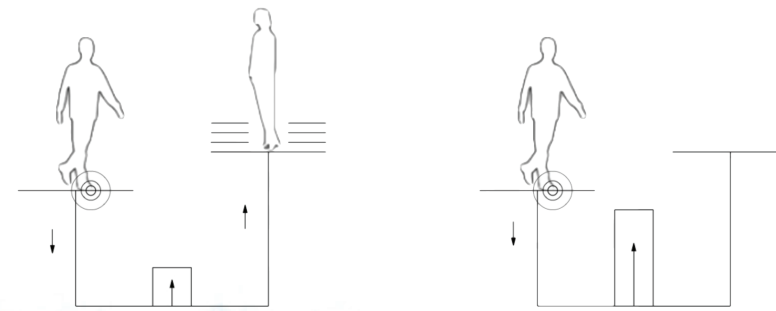


BRIGHT NIGHTS

Visitors are introduced to SAGE SPARK their first night at Fly Ranch. As darkness falls, the lamplighters go to work, first illuminating the commons and finally igniting S.A.G.E. (SUSTAINABILITY ADVANCEMENT GRAPHIC EMITTER).

SAGE PROCESS

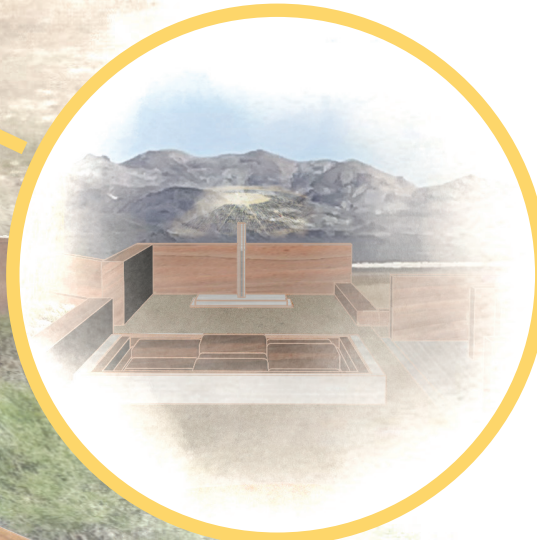
Visitors place fuel on a grid, bringing to life forms of their imagination when darkness falls. The point at which G.R.O.U.S.E reaches zero is embedded in the grid; should the users follow and complete a subtly marked elliptical path, a secondary fire element activates to light, in concert, the form of a Sage Grouse. The number of bricks required to do so corresponds to the zero-point.



RADICAL COOPERATION

The biomass fuel press is operated by at least two people performing a synchronized, adaptive choreography. The dancers are separated by both a difference in elevation and a wall of miscanthus yet must coordinate their movements to direct power to the press mechanism.

Two dancefloors comprising paired linear actuators power the press as the user steps. The force is transferred to the biomass via a screw jack so long as paired actuators are not stepped on simultaneously.



VIEWPOINT TO
BLACK ROCK CITY

VIEW OF BRICK PRESS PAVILION

