

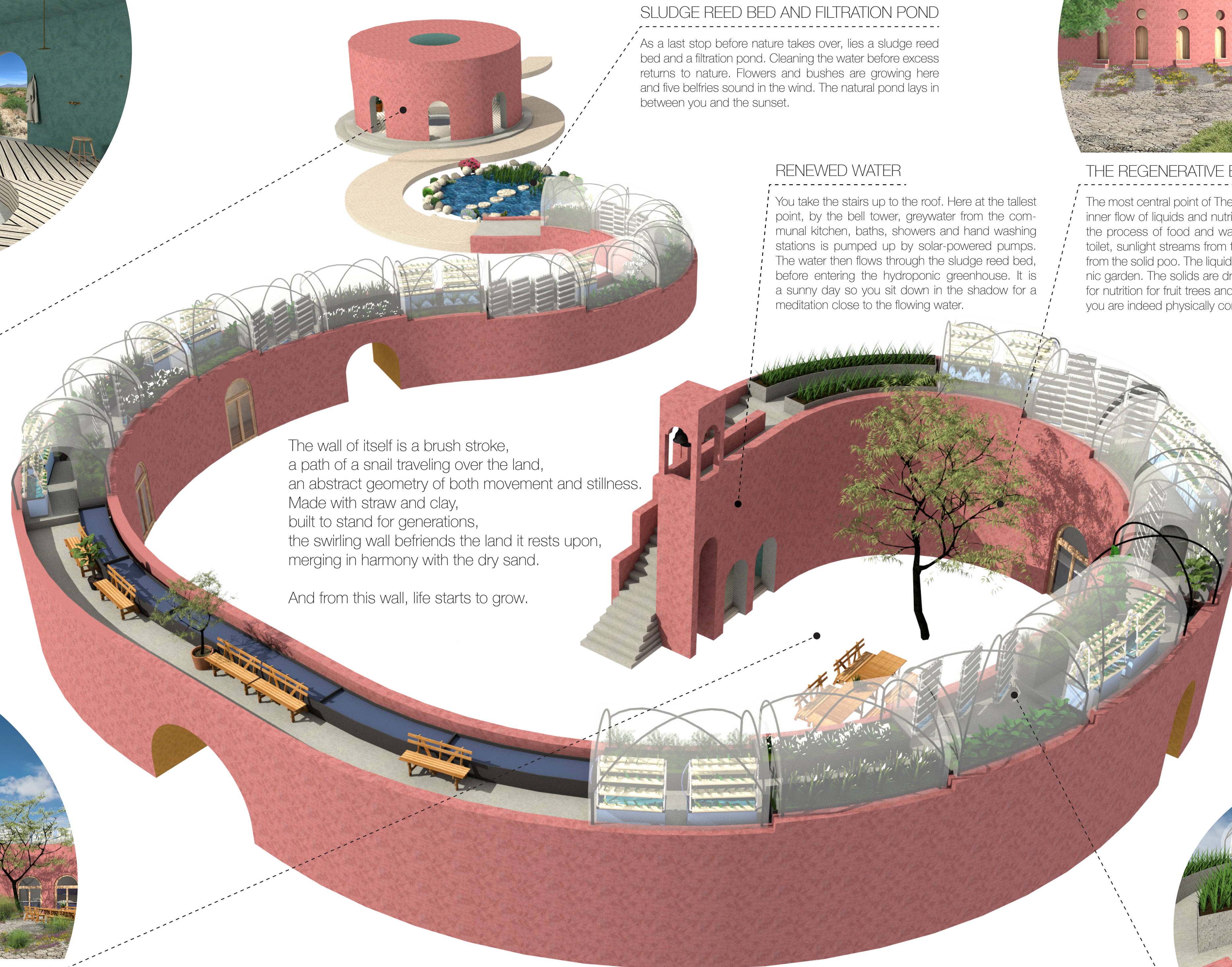
SACRED BATH

In a round building that reminds you of the Colosseum lies the sacred bath. Here, solar heaters and wood fire stoves warm the water that streams from 4 meters above you, through gigantic showers. A pool centers the room, where you can sit up to 8 people and be directly connected to the sky. The building is oriented and has openings in all latitudes to help you connect to your inner compass.



VEGETABLE GARDEN AND COMMUNAL KITCHEN

The food bell rings in the clocktower and you know that the dinner is served. You are entering where the meandering temple starts: the kitchen garden. The garden is surrounded by an almost closed circle of the wall that offers shadow during hot days, and stores heat for cold nights, which turns this area into a micro-climate. Here, vegetables and herbs are growing in compost and soil. Inside the wall is a room, a communal kitchen. People are happy and a thriving feeling surrounds them. They are cooking food and preparing a feast to celebrate the year's first harvest. Through an opening in the wall, a line of sight brings your seeing far far away.



The wall of itself is a brush stroke, a path of a snail traveling over the land, an abstract geometry of both movement and stillness. Made with straw and clay, built to stand for generations, the swirling wall befriends the land it rests upon, merging in harmony with the dry sand.

And from this wall, life starts to grow.

SLUDGE REED BED AND FILTRATION POND

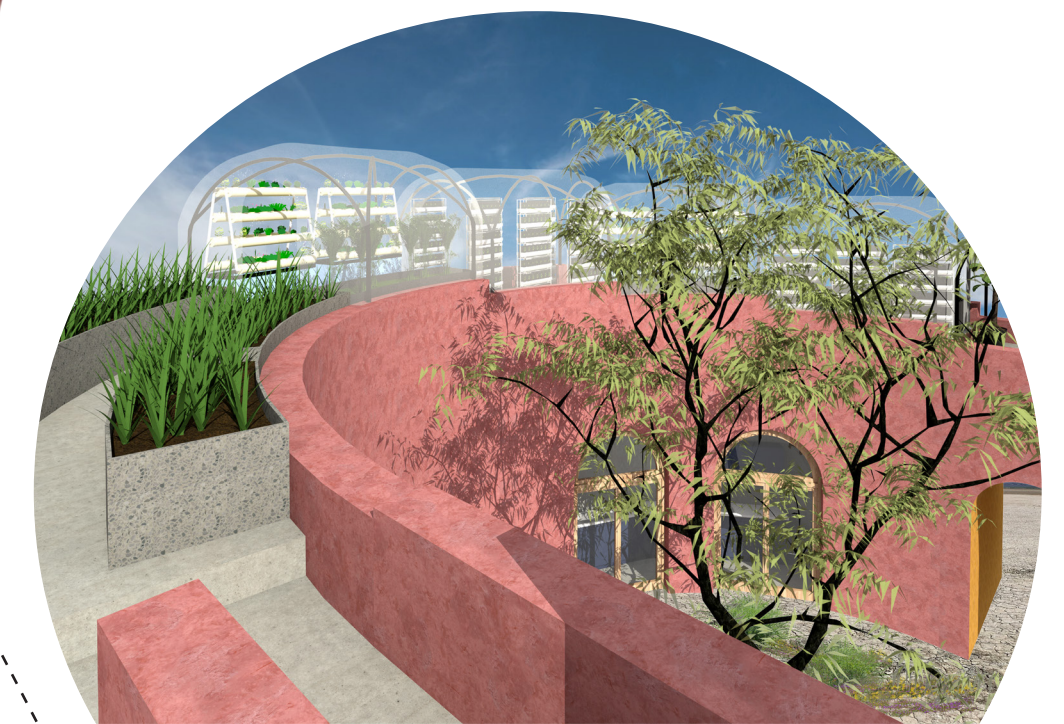
As a last stop before nature takes over, lies a sludge reed bed and a filtration pond. Cleaning the water before excess returns to nature. Flowers and bushes are growing here and five belfries sound in the wind. The natural pond lays in between you and the sunset.

RENEWED WATER

You take the stairs up to the roof. Here at the tallest point, by the bell tower, greywater from the communal kitchen, baths, showers and hand washing stations is pumped up by solar-powered pumps. The water then flows through the sludge reed bed, before entering the hydroponic greenhouse. It is a sunny day so you sit down in the shadow for a meditation close to the flowing water.

THE REGENERATIVE BODY

The most central point of The Loop is the toilets. This is where the human body's inner flow of liquids and nutrients meets the outer world. It is a sacred place in the process of food and water becoming pee and poo. When you sit on the toilet, sunlight streams from the high ceiling. Here the yellow liquid is separated from the solid poo. The liquid is used as a nutrient for vegetables in the hydroponic garden. The solids are dried by solar-heated-air into a compost that is used for nutrition for fruit trees and gardens. You sit down to take a shit and feel that you are indeed physically connected to the cradle to cradle ecosystem.



HYDROPONIC GREENHOUSE

Inside the air is warm, humid and carries a scent of fresh greens. Tomatoes, salad and herbs grow directly in water nitrified by pee. A gentle breeze flows through the air, and you enjoy the sound of water purling and dripping. Insects are pollinating the plants and it is so warm that you need to dress off a little bit.