THE DWELLINGS
ENERGY AND SHELTER

Like the bull thistle, humans have an impact on the landscape. However, these structures are an opportunity to minimize our visual impact. When not in use, these structures collapse to preserve the site’s viewsheds of undisturbed landscapes. Additionally, using biomimicry and traditional knowledge, the Dwellings are both adapted specifically to the extreme climate of Black Rock Desert, as well as meet the changing needs of Fly Ranch residents and visitors. Above ground, the petal-shaped solar panels harvest energy from the sun. The domed shape of the dwelling’s exterior borrows from traditional shelters used by native people in much of the western and southwestern United States. The curved shape is better equipped to withstand strong winds and weather conditions. This design adds to the traditional shape by using modern materials to create an airtight seal that prevents heat loss during cooler nights. The foundation of the Dwellings is submerged below ground level. Like many desert animals’ burrows, this takes advantage of the insulating properties of the earth and reduces the need for energy to cool or heat the dwelling.