



A Vessel for Detachment

LAGI 2020 Fly Ranch Proposal

PROJECT BRIEF

LAGI's 2020 design competition focuses on Fly Ranch, Nevada, a 3,800-acre property recently acquired in 2016 by the Burning Man Project in need of environmentally regenerative, infrastructural art. "The future of this project is an opportunity to mobilize the desert-tested ingenuity of the Burning Man community and the inspiration of a greater creative culture to build scalable and sustainable solutions in one of the harshest climates in the world."

- LAGI 2020 Design Guidelines

PROBLEM

The Burning Man Project is currently taking steps to mitigate and eventually reverse its negative environmental impact. Two immediately apparent issues include high carbon emissions and ineffective waste management.

Based on Black Rock Labs' estimates, scaling the 2007 Cooling Man model to current population and transportation levels, Burning Man's annual carbon footprint is projected to be approximately 100K tons. Besides transportation, one of the largest contributing factors is open playa burning conducted at temperatures too low to destroy toxins, thereby releasing 40 times more particulates per pound than high temperature combustion with modern safeguards.

While leaving no trace is a principle strongly upheld by most Burning Man participants, especially through the work of restoration teams in the weeks following the event, in practice this discipline often does not extend beyond the playa, prompting the use of illegal dumping hotlines and contentions with public works and the Bureau of Land Management.

STATEMENT

Regeneratively, the following proposal acts as an intermediate step towards a circular zero-waste economy by directly combating current issues of waste management and emissions while also heightening awareness of participants' consumption, the resulting waste, and its mutable form.

Experientially, the space acts as an extension of the ritual destruction characteristic of Burning Man and takes precedent from the event in strengthening the immediacy of experience and the cognitive impact of the desert on the mind. These phenomena reinforce the principles participants will take home: *decommodification and detachment.*

