



SOUR

DROPLET CASE STUDY

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"I've learned that people
will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget
how you made them feel."

- MAYA ANGELOU



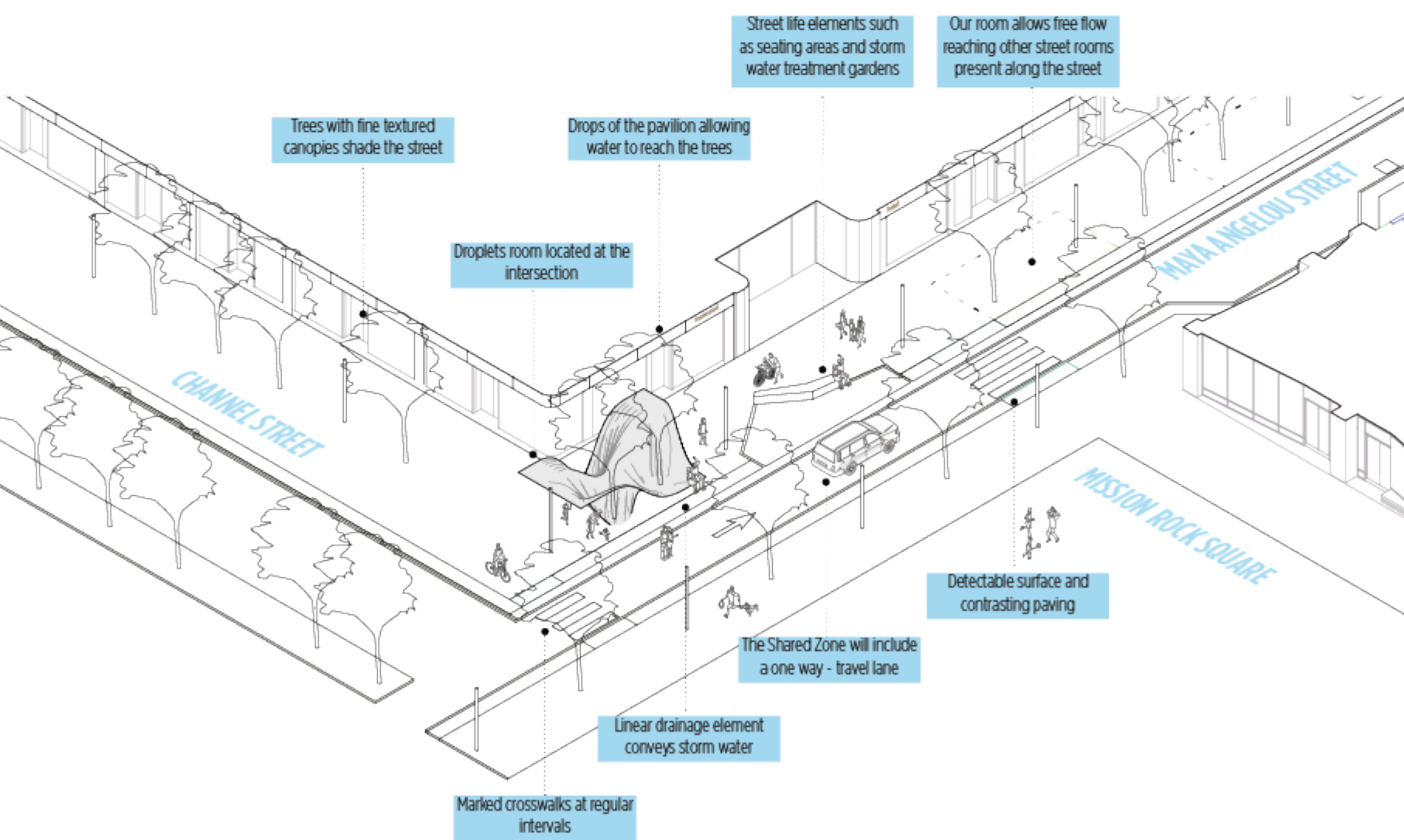
Americans are exposed to 4000 to 10000 ads each day according to Forbes. We are overloaded by content, digitally and physically in our environments, while still being hungry for historical storytelling. As we face new developments in robust urban settings, we have the opportunity and responsibility to echo the lands' history into new planning and create inclusive experiences that are educational and thought-provoking.

Looking into the urban intervention opportunities for Mission Rock, developed by the Giants in partnership with renowned developer Tishman Speyer and the Port of San Francisco, once a tiny rock and now a big landfill claimed from the water - we asked the question in collaboration with [Bednark](#): **How might we bridge a new development site to history, while creating a memorable experience for all ages?**



Meet DROPLET: an interactive and accessible exhibition structure that creates an immersive educational experience for the youth in Mission Rock, San Francisco. Inspired by the location and neighboring shores, the form follows movements of water and how each water drop gathers and becomes a nurturing source, similar to how the exhibition content aims to nurture minds.

With its engaging design, diverse content and appeal to all ages, DROPLET creates a unique urban experience which people will remember, talk about and drop by again.



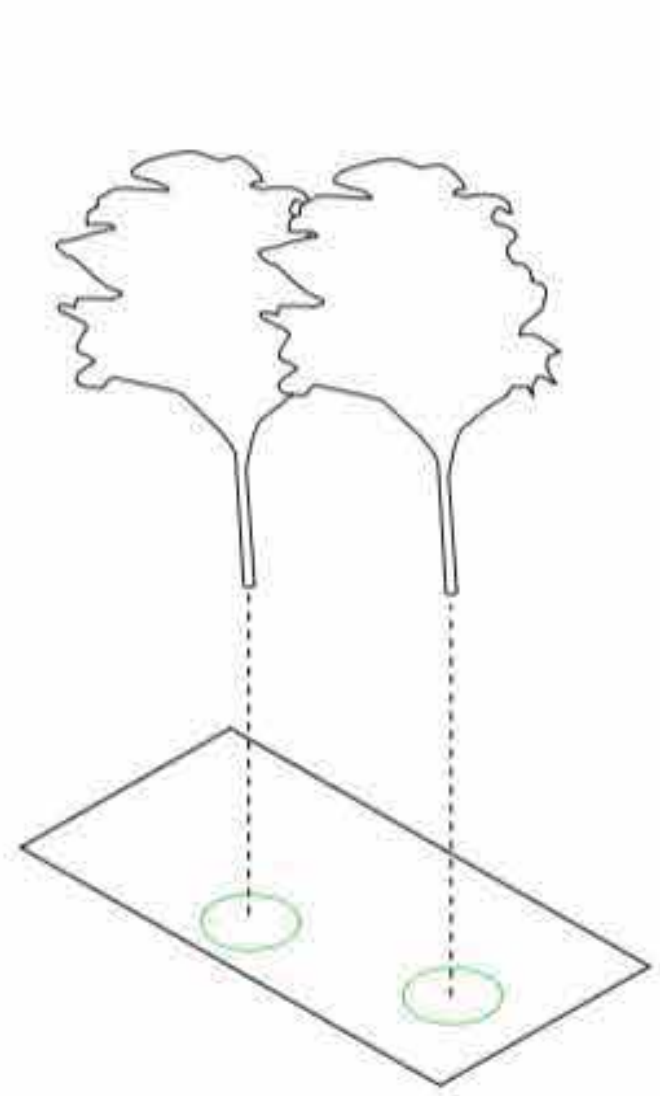
THE PROJECT

The form is not only informed by the history and location of Mission Rock, but also by the symbolic meaning of water. Water gathers nature and people around itself, it nurtures, it is forceful. It is playful, yet relaxing. The 13th-century Persian poet Rumi once said “You are an ocean of knowledge hidden in a dew drop”. DROPLET aims to become that ocean of knowledge for the youth, to raise awareness, provoke thought and inspire the next generations on global social and environmental subjects.

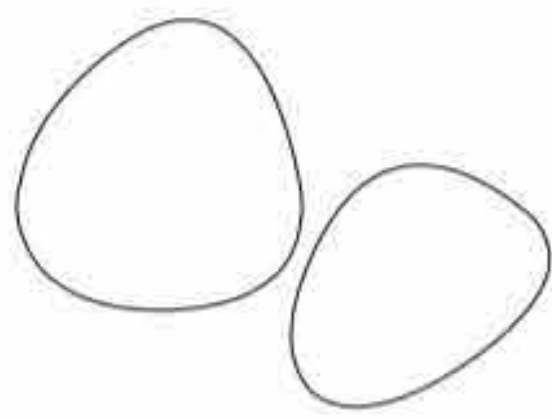
While the form is designed to surround the two existing trees as an exhibition and seating structure, it also aims to accumulate water from rain and mist into the tree roots, nurturing nature as it will nurture minds. The structure is permeable yet sheltering, becoming a curious refuge that lets in sunlight during daytime and is illuminated by solar charged lighting strips at night.



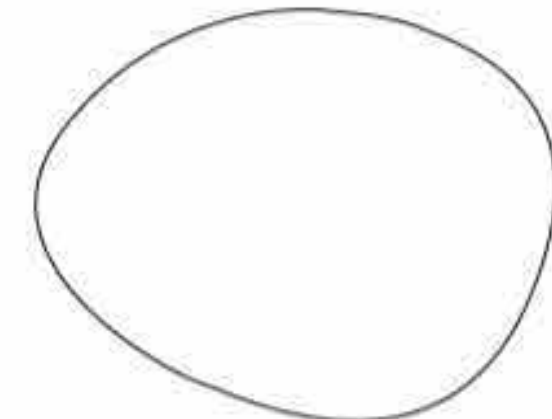
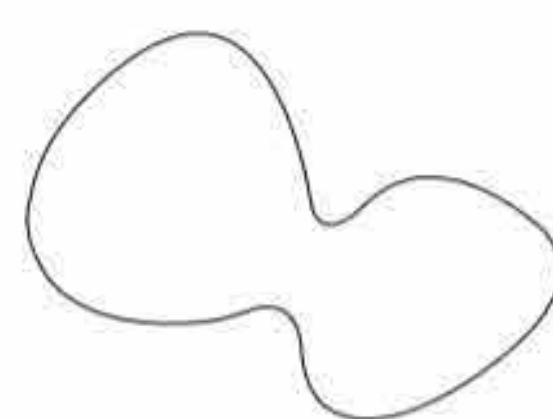
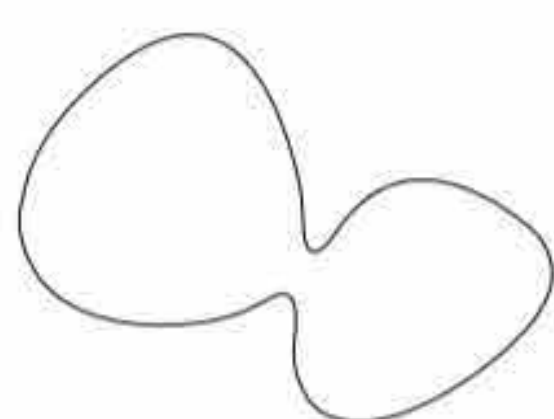
In a DROPLET of a structure, we aim to bring an ocean of knowledge year out, in an interactive and accessible exhibition structure, curated around social and environmental subjects. In line with Mission Rock’s community pillars and location, DROPLET’s exhibition themes can be around Inspirational Women Of The 20th Century to highlight the achievements of women like Maya Angalou, or around the sea, to help children understand why sea levels are rising, or fire, to understand the cause of forest fires in California and encourage thought on how to avoid them for the future.



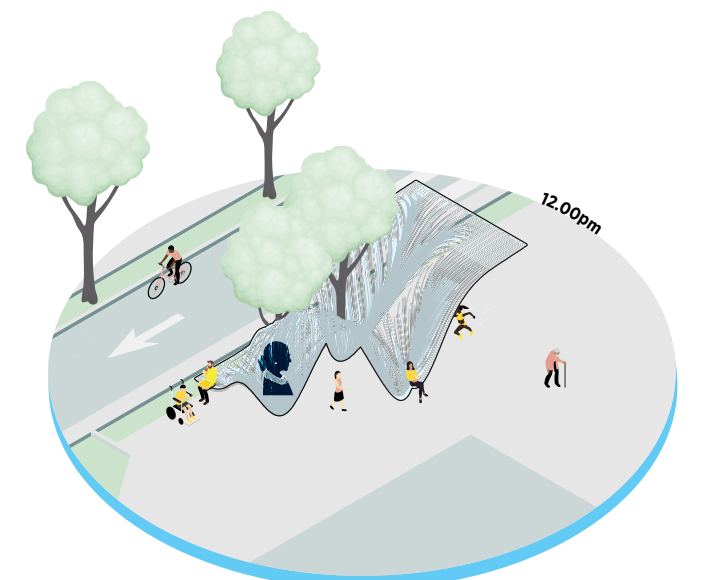
Trees as source for droplets



Inspiration: water droplets formation



Massing formation process



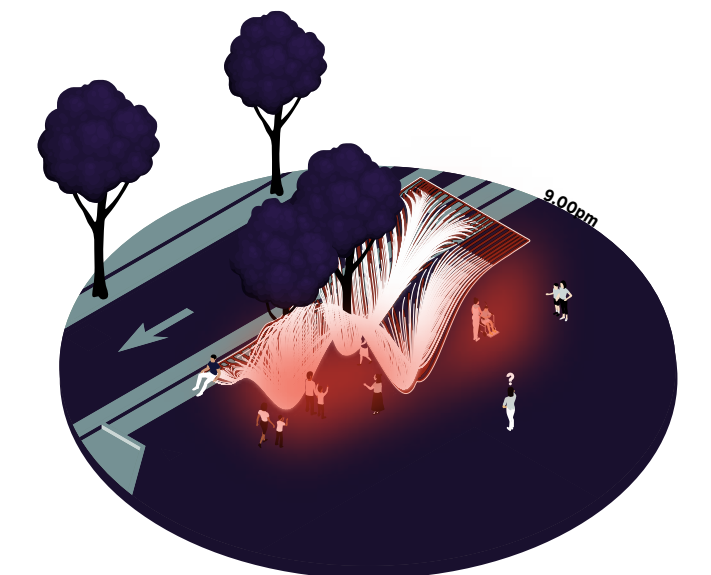
1 12pm - Lunch Time
Seating areas around the design increase eating / resting areas along the street.



2 3pm - Rain
When it rains the roof structure offers a shelter below and provides water for trees and the fountain above.



3 6pm - Rush Hour
The permeable nature of the structure does not obstruct the flow of the street even at the busiest time of the day.



4 9pm - Night Time
The street room houses exhibition spaces that teach children about issues such as rising sea levels, California wildfires, visionary women in history.

HOW WE DID IT?

Desk research - Historical sources give us an understanding of people and places.

Site Analysis - A deeper dive into the ecological, social and economic context of the project creates an understanding of the environment and connection to the city.

Expert Interviews - With local artists, sustainable material specialists, and curators.

Ethnographic Research - Observations and interviews with the local community to identify exhibition themes.

Food For Thought

Our built environment is where we live, work and play, and perhaps there is an opportunity to have higher expectations from our surroundings. How can we ensure all urban interventions are intentional and become catalysts for awareness and intellectual stimulation?