

PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION

Project Title:

Branching Light Refuge

Student's Full Name:

Nopparuj Sombatcharoennon

Instructor's Full Name:

Deniz Guvendi

Course:

Design 3

Studio Brief Title:

A Home is Not a House

Short Project Description (100 words max.):

The Branching Light Refuge enhances Lacaton & Vassal's agenda of design by subtraction, adapting to Cap Ferret's serene landscape. By using TAB technology, maritime pines serve as living columns, minimizing disturbance while creating elevated, nature-integrated spaces. Materials transition from manmade steel to natural timber, blending with the site's slope and Arcachon Bay views. Designed for meditation and connection, it invites reflection on how architecture can deepen harmony with nature, fostering serenity and sustainability.

Full Project Narrative/Text Description (300 words max.):

The Branching Light Refuge reimagines Lacaton & Vassal's House in the Pines by pushing the boundaries of nature-driven design and sustainable innovation. Nestled within the serene landscape of Cap Ferret, this proposal amplifies the original agendas of design by subtraction and respect for the existing environment. By riding the natural slope and integrating treehouse attachment bolts (TABs), the design allows maritime pines to serve as living columns, minimizing ground disturbance while creating elevated, adaptable spaces that flow organically through the forest.

The architectural language transitions seamlessly from manmade to godmade materials. Prefabricated steel ensures structural efficiency, while natural timber and untouched trees emphasize the site's inherent beauty. This interplay not only reduces the environmental impact of construction but also fosters a connection between inhabitants and the landscape. The elevated design responds to the Arcachon Bay to the east, offering framed views that invite meditation and introspection.

The house transcends its role as a dwelling by embracing the spirit of meditation. The site's natural features—its gentle slope, towering pines, and proximity to the bay—provoke calmness, inviting practices like tree bathing, contemplation, or simply being present. The design poses a critical question: how can architecture further align with nature to amplify serenity and sustainability?

By leveraging TAB technology, the proposal maximizes the role of trees as both structural and symbolic elements, blurring the boundary between the built and the natural. It opens possibilities for spaces that resonate deeply with the human spirit, fostering a sense of belonging, peace, and harmony. This project challenges conventional notions of design, asking not just how we can live within nature but how we can live with nature, creating a place where architecture becomes a bridge to the natural world.