

Learning Environment Module

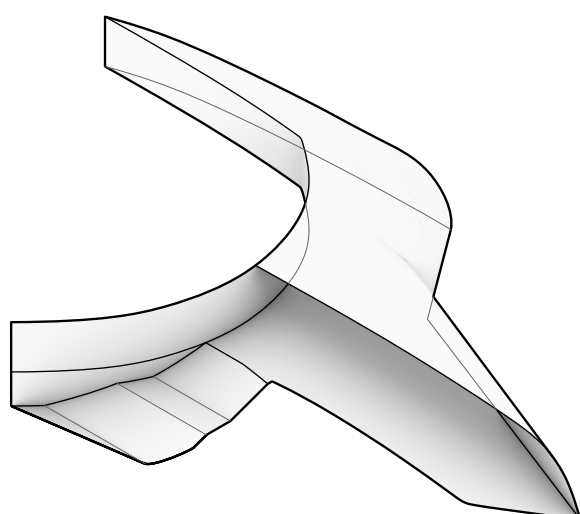
Design 201 Spring 2020

The welcoming social space of the Calgary Central Library's passageway provided curves for an initial prototype of a learning environment module, intended to be developed into a middle school classroom. The softness and embrace of a curved roof, with the unhindered site lines produced by flared walls, were enhanced in the module's design with further reduction of straight lines and sharp corners. Fit into a 30x40' site, the module presses up against the west edge, and is pulled up into a point past the north edge, causing the southwest corner and east edge to recede into a curve. The space extending out of the site is cut by a wall placed along the north edge into a transitional entrance vestibule, outside the site but inside the envelope. The current module is composed of this vestibule combined with a single, spare space, in order to flexibly accommodate the mutable nature of a school, both in the short term (activity to activity) and long term, and to express the egalitarian nature of social learning and enable interaction with a relatively expansive yet geometrically intimate space.

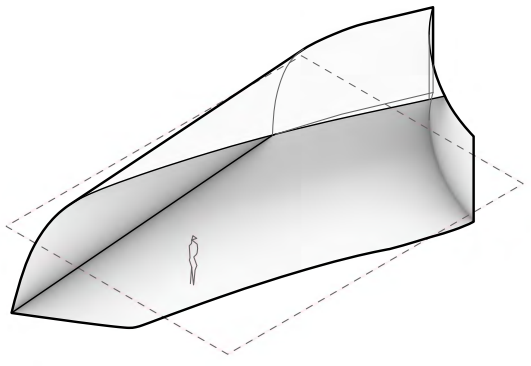
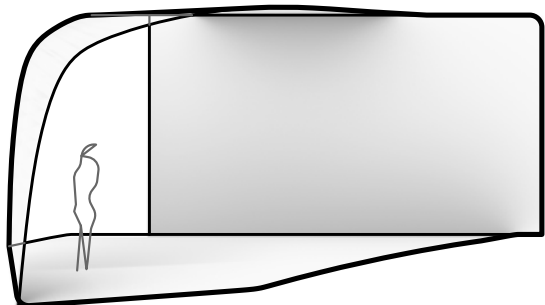
The space is animated by a single oculus facing upwards and the curvilinearity and sculptural thickness of the walls. The perforation does not provide any lateral exterior views, detaching the interior environment from the city, but the place-specific light provides an acute sense of place and time as the sun spot drips down the wall and travels along the floor like a drop of liquid. The tactile walls express the stored energy of an otherwise tranquil pod.

The illuminated simplicity of the space creates a meditative environment that enhances focus. Irregular curves and shapes are used as the antithesis to the traditional organizational/hierarchical grid, and their unusualness is meant to encourage curiosity through defamiliarization. Through its emphasis on the combination of focus and curiosity, the module represents a creative learning space.

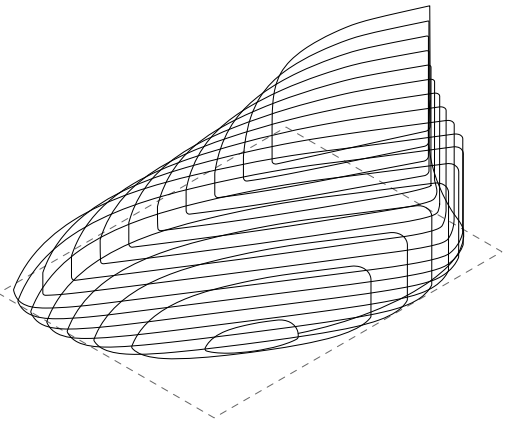
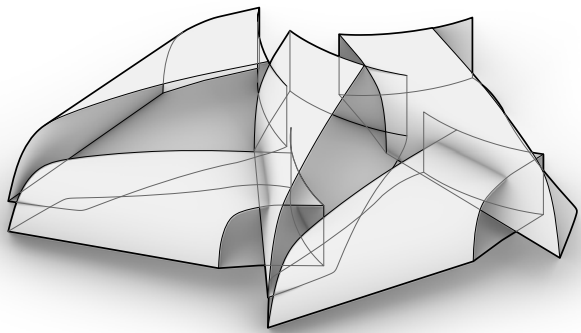
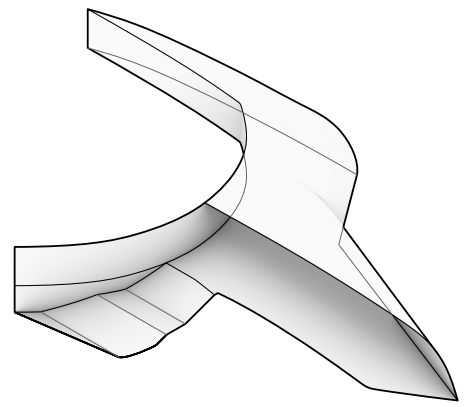
N.B. Sunlit renderings are not oriented according to the captions, as the site is not actually oriented, cardinal directions are provided for orientation.



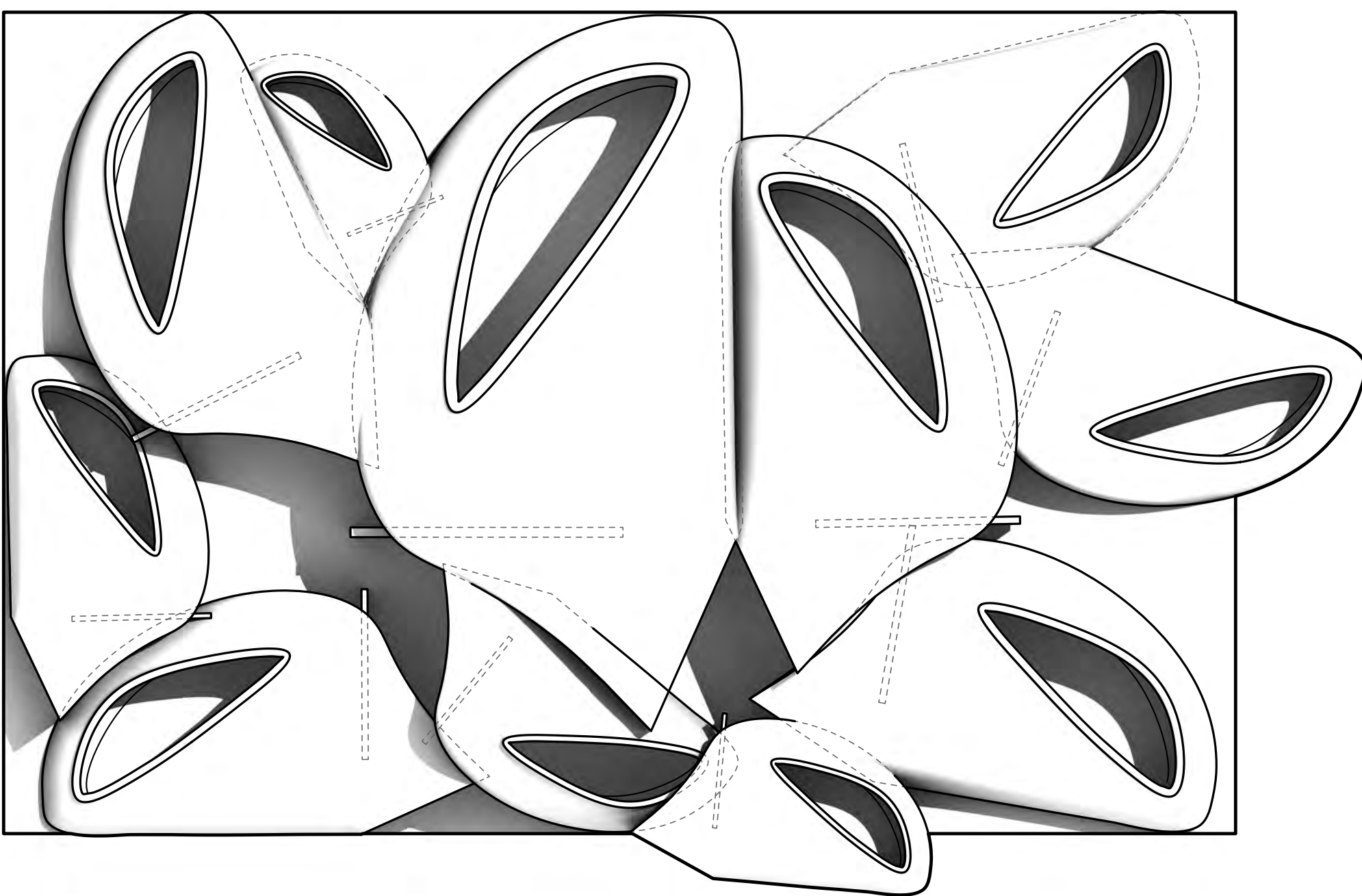
Calgary Central Library passageway



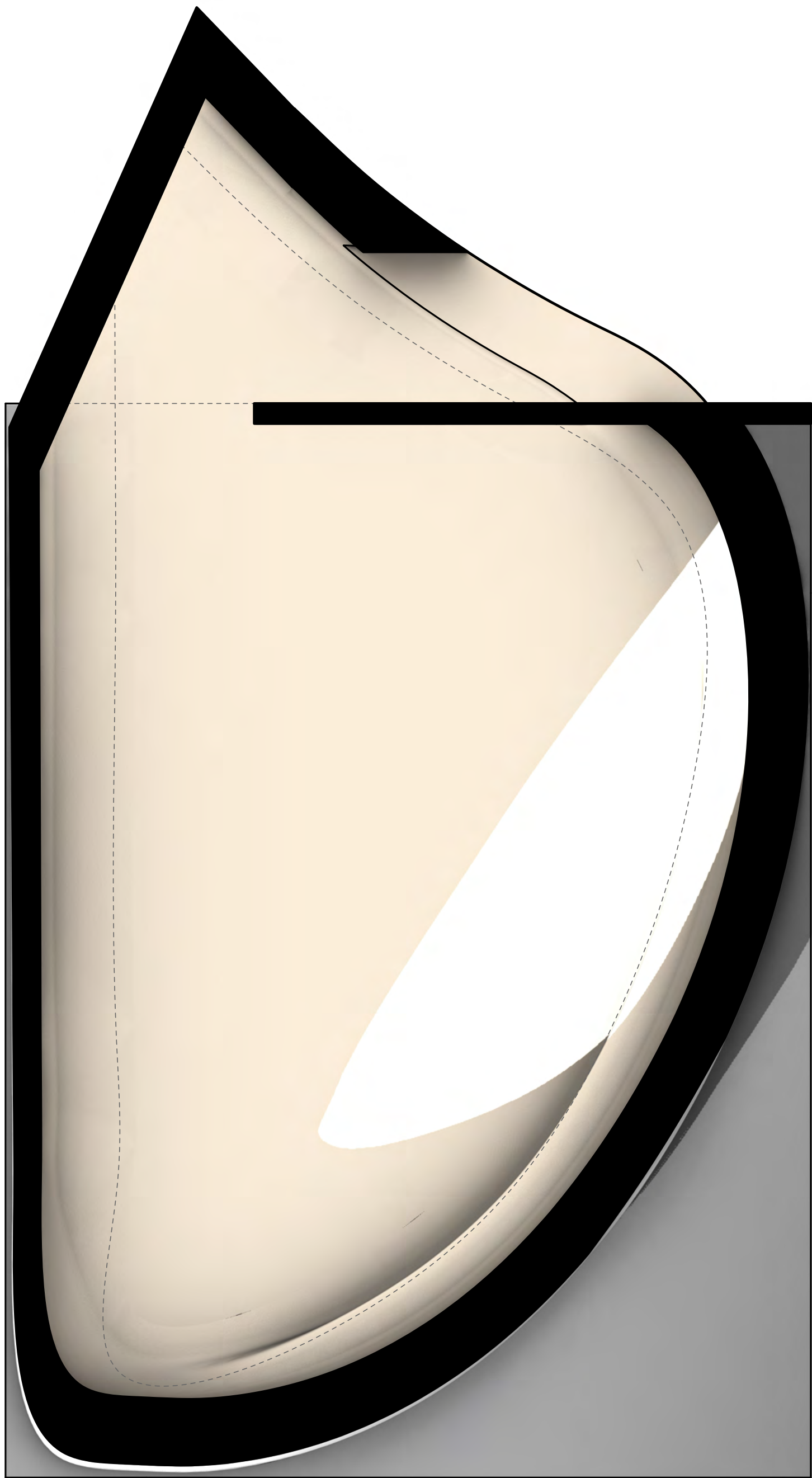
Initial module extracted from Calgary passageway



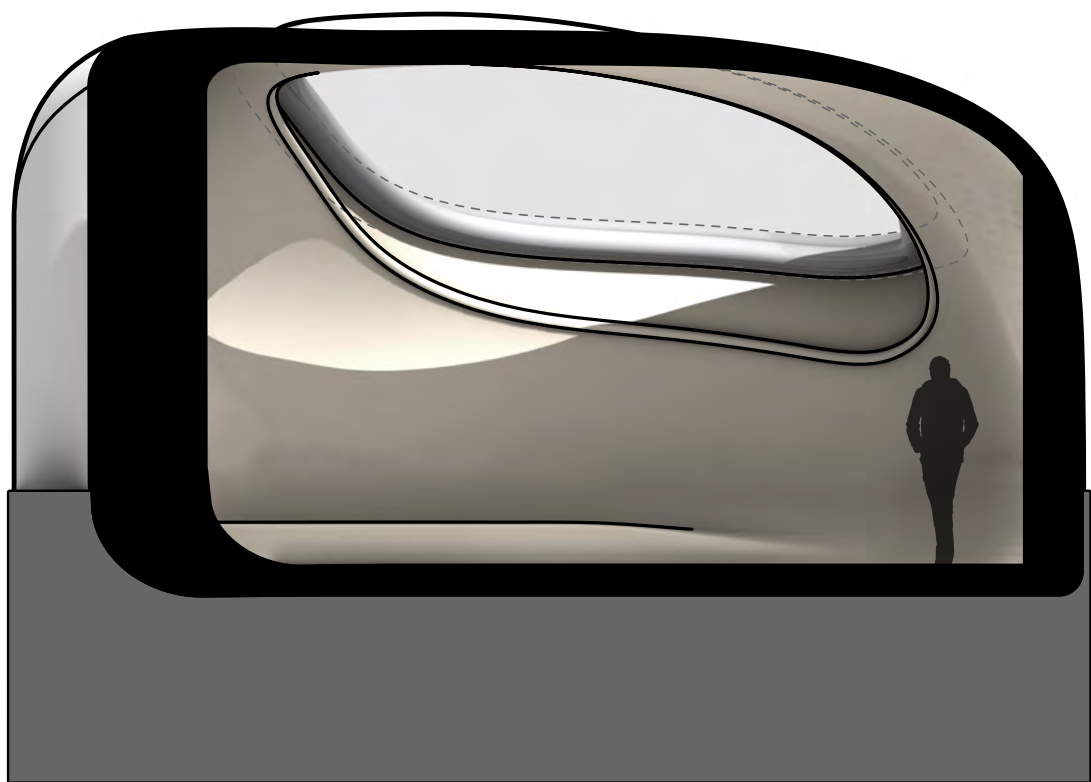
Module Development



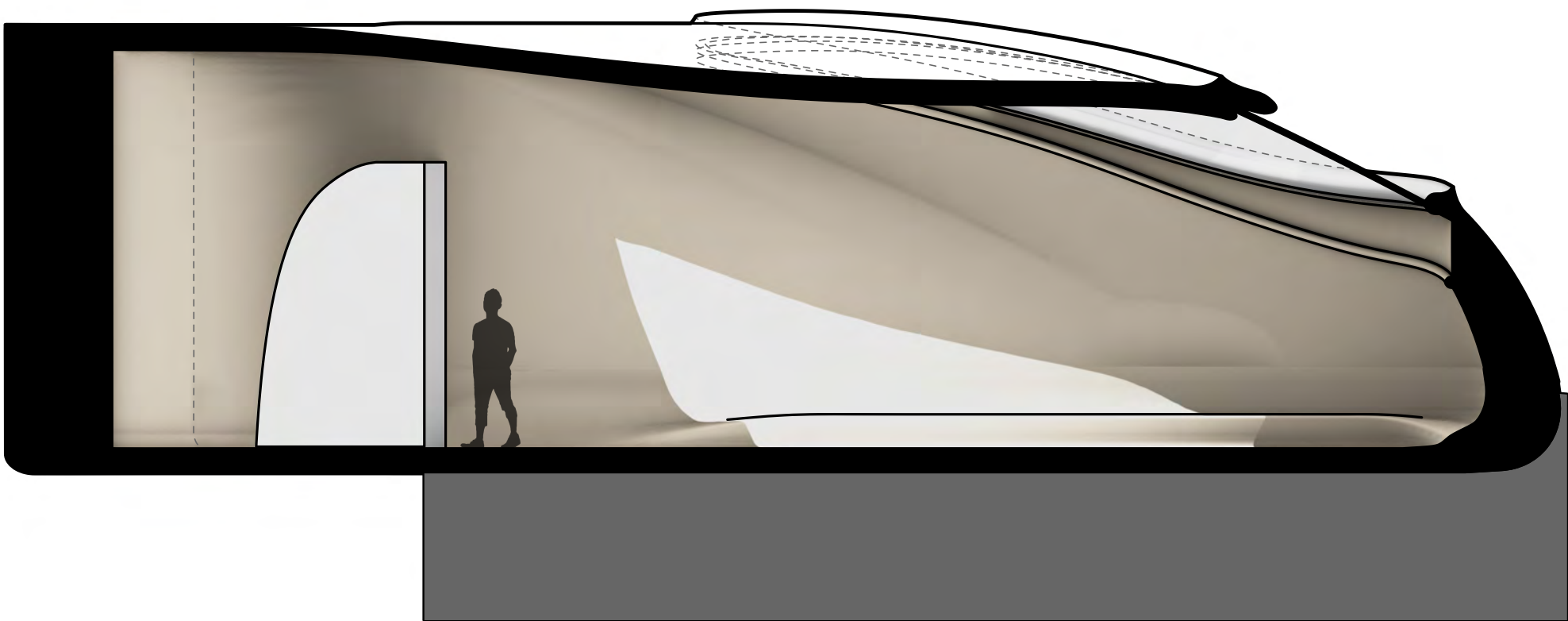
Aggregation Study
1/16" = 1'0"



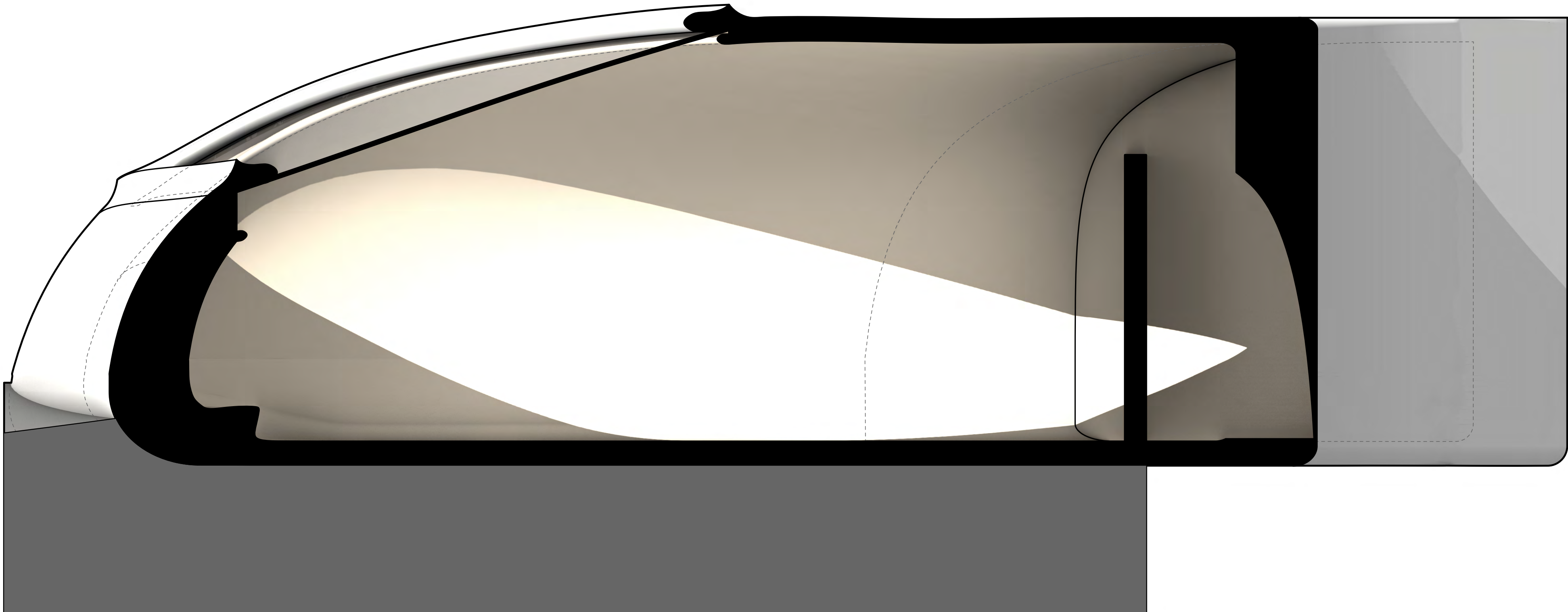
Plan
1/4" = 1'0"



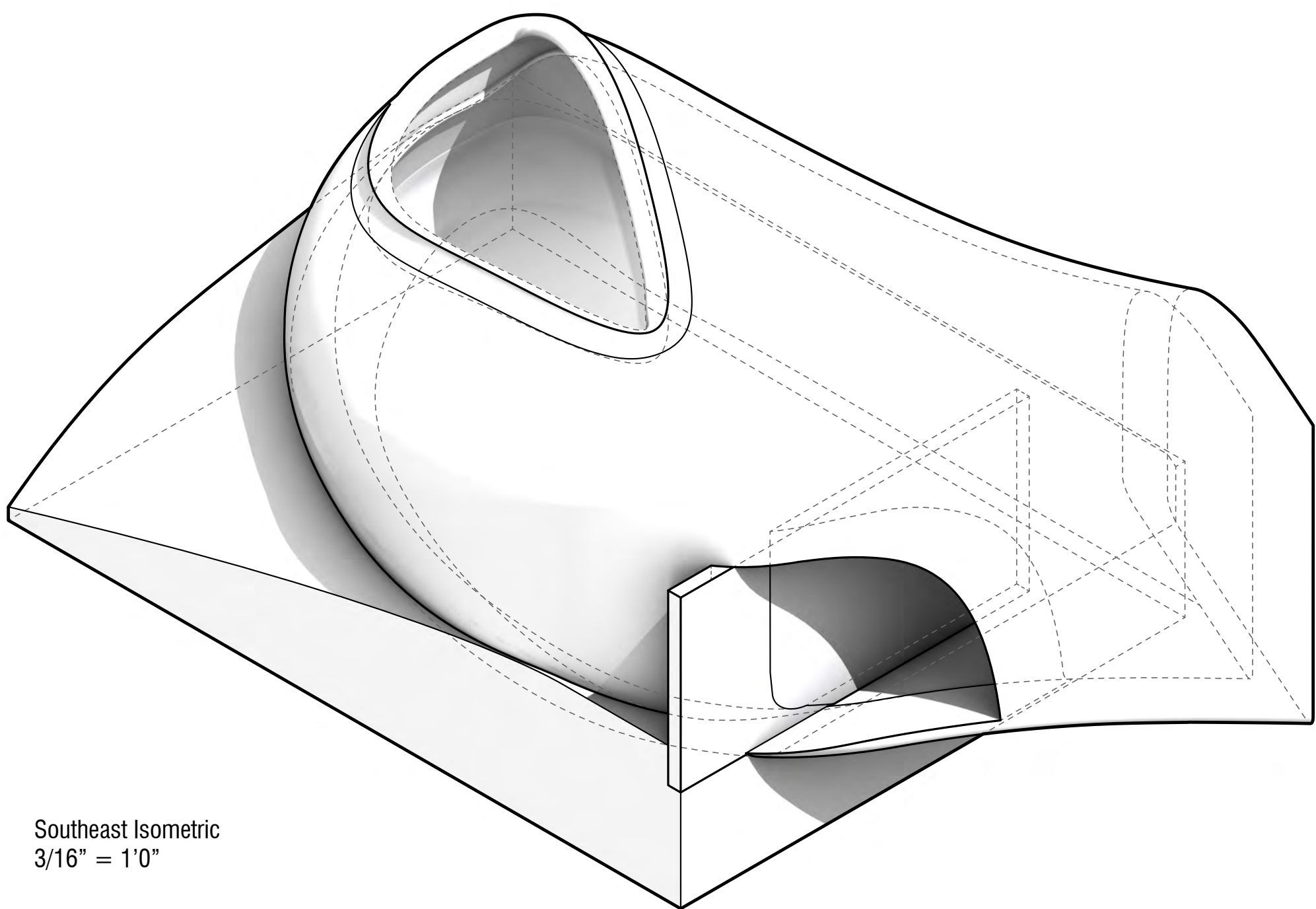
South Section
3/16" = 1'0"



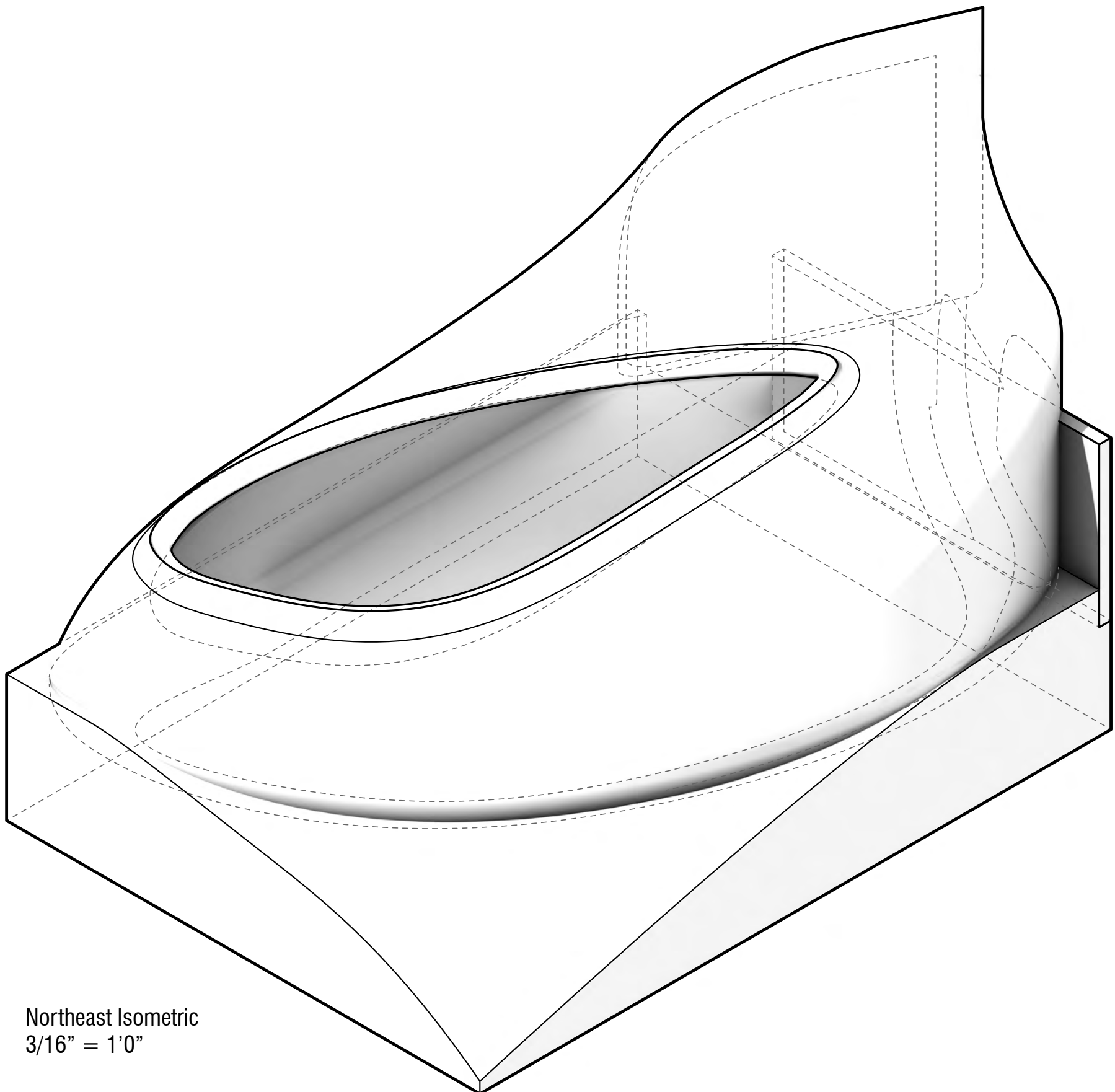
West Section
3/16" = 1'0"



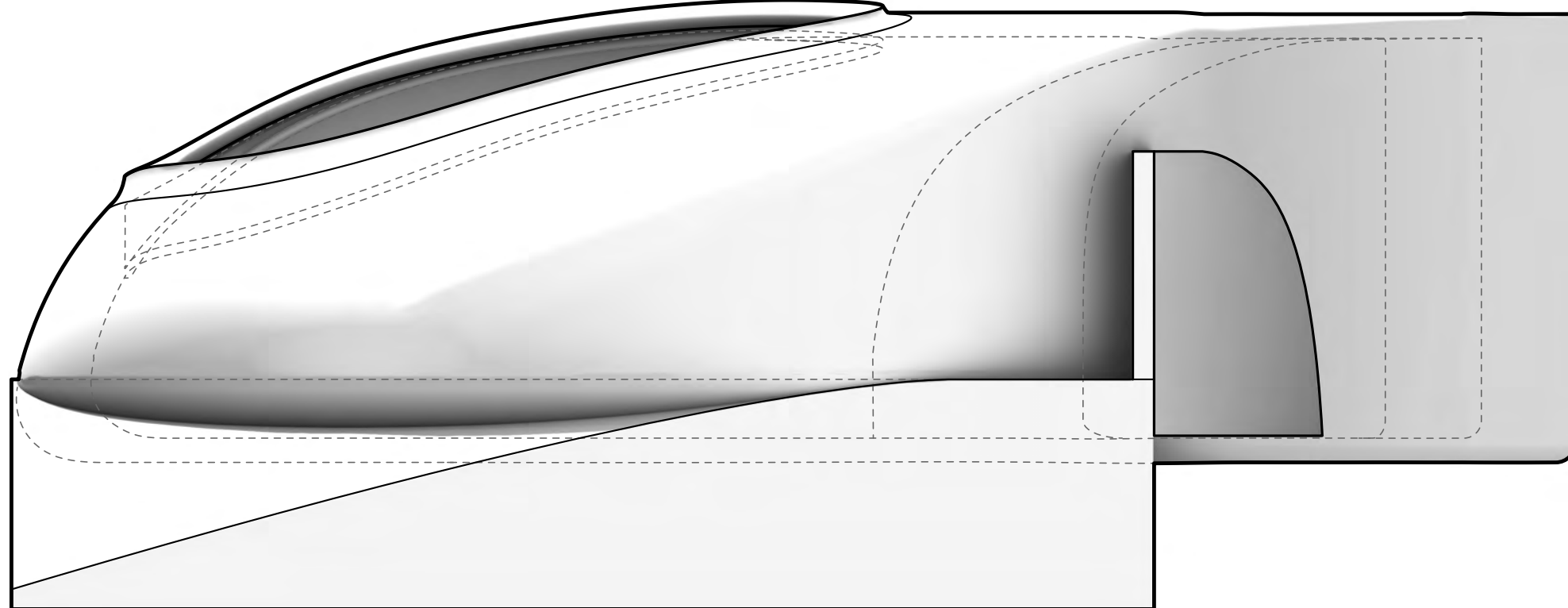
East Section
3/8" = 1'0"



Southeast Isometric
3/16" = 1'0"



Northeast Isometric
3/16" = 1'0"



East Elevation
3/16" = 1'0"