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DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

Jan van Eyck Academie

2019



Department of Water and Power is a site-adapted installation: a network of water (liquid and vapor) collected and spewed in relation to data and images. The work peripherally inhabited the three floors along the stairwell of the public atrium of the Bauhaus-styled Jan van Eyck Academie during Open Studios (2019), occupying an expansive yet almost invisible footprint in the building. Extracting water from the air and processing those drops into images (liquid gold), the work negotiated subjects of privatized water management and financial speculation, encapsulating a future of scarcity as it takes shape.

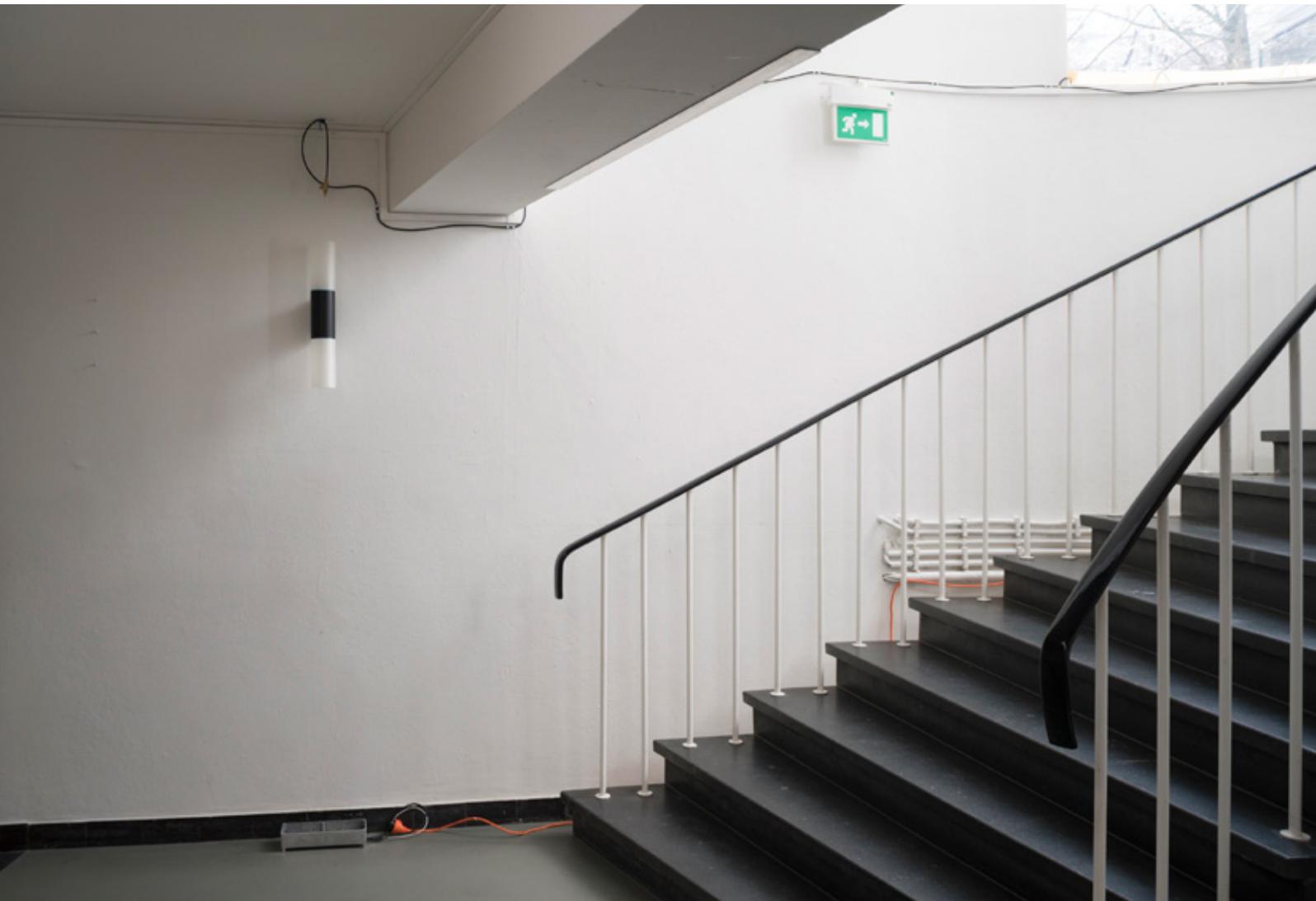
The installation consisted of: three windows clad with custom 6-meter vertical blinds; metals salt discs, sewn into the blinds, that drew minuscule amounts of moisture from the air; moisture that ran down the blinds at night accumulating in thermoplastic basins on the sill; basins that drained into the academy basement, where the collected water leaked drop-by-drop through a Bauhaus-esque “sconce camera” before hitting an evaporator and becoming steam (to be re-absorbed by visitors mouths and the blinds); images from this "camera" transmitted wirelessly up to a narrow display screen on the third floor; as each image appeared on a self display screen, a sticker spit out of a machine; the sticker accumulated in drifts at the top of the stairwell for visitors to take, and slid off the lip of the stairwell, fluttering down to the basement; outside, a weather station streamed images from dust cameras in Owens Valley (CA, US) to the Netherlands.



**INSTALLATION VIEWS AT THE JAN VAN EYCK ACADEMIE;
VERTICAL BLINDS, METAL SALTS (VAPOR EXTRACTION), FIBERGLASS,
ACETATE SHEET, LINEAR ACTUATORS, STEEL, ANTISLIP PADS,
THERMOPLASTICS, BRASS PIPE FITTINGS, IRRIGATION TUBING, CHROMED
STEEL LEGS, CUSTOM ELECTRONICS, MACHINE VISION PROTOTYPING
BOARD, LEDS, BATTERY, POWER CABLES, CONDENSATE EVAPORATOR,
THERMAL STICKER PRINTER, STICKER MEDIA, SHELF EDGE LCD DISPLAY,
TRIPOD, WIRELESS WEATHER STATION, WEATHERPROOF ENCLOSURE, LCD
DISPLAY, SINGLEBOARD COMPUTER, CUSTOM SOFTWARE, LIVE DATA FEED
TO OWENS LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CAMERAS.**













Time diff: 3274



Time diff: 6058

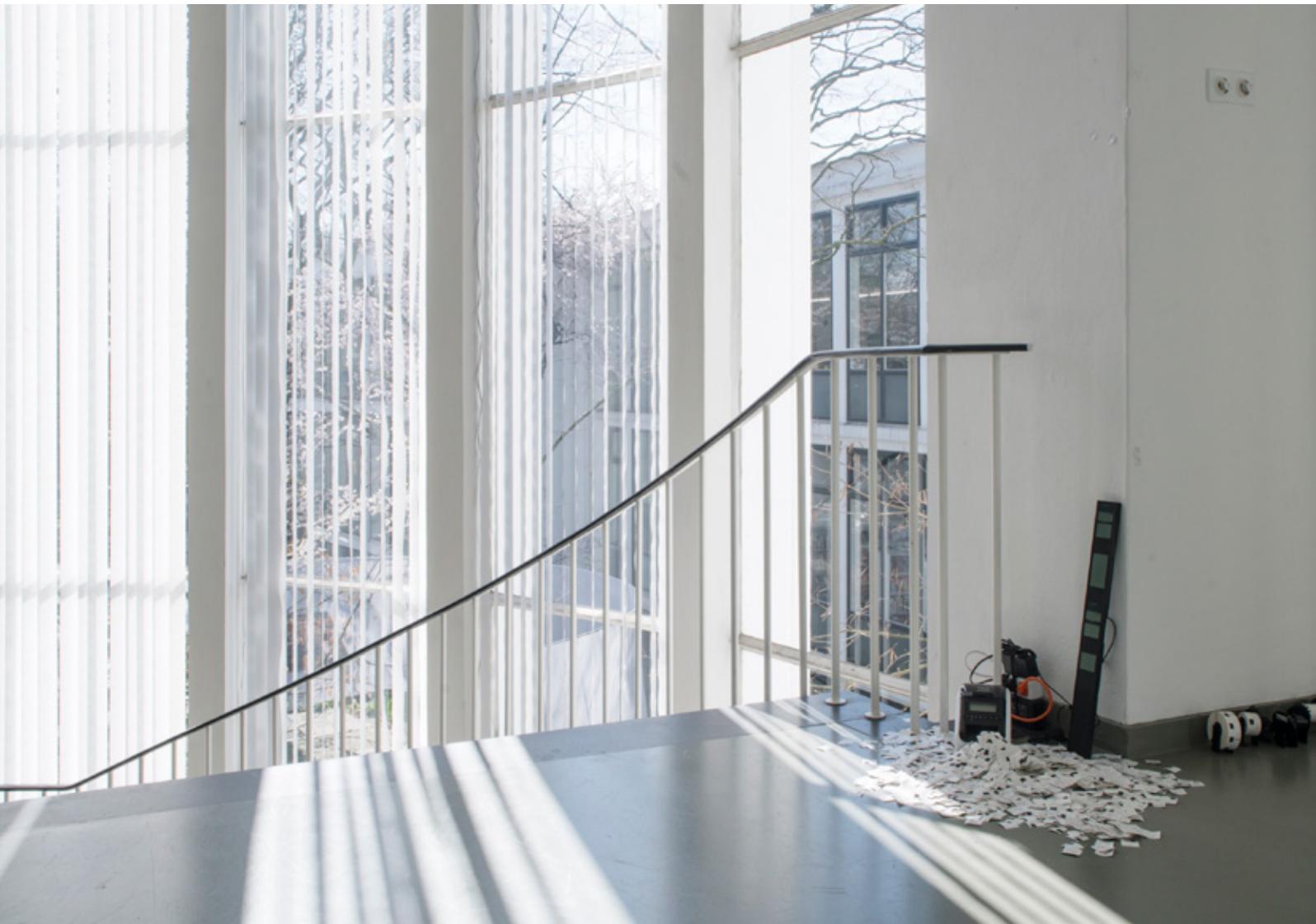


Time diff: 6251



Time diff: 7828



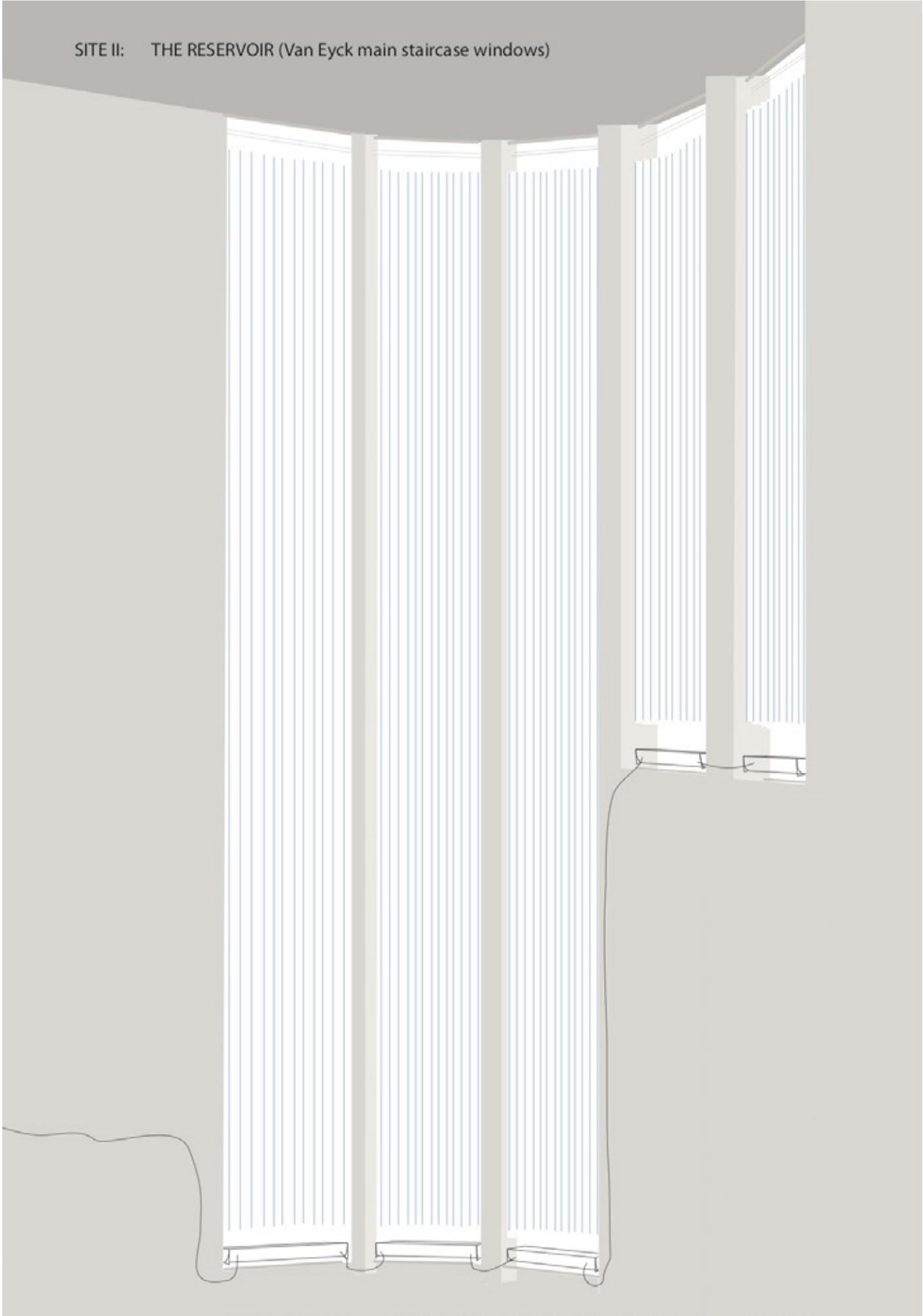




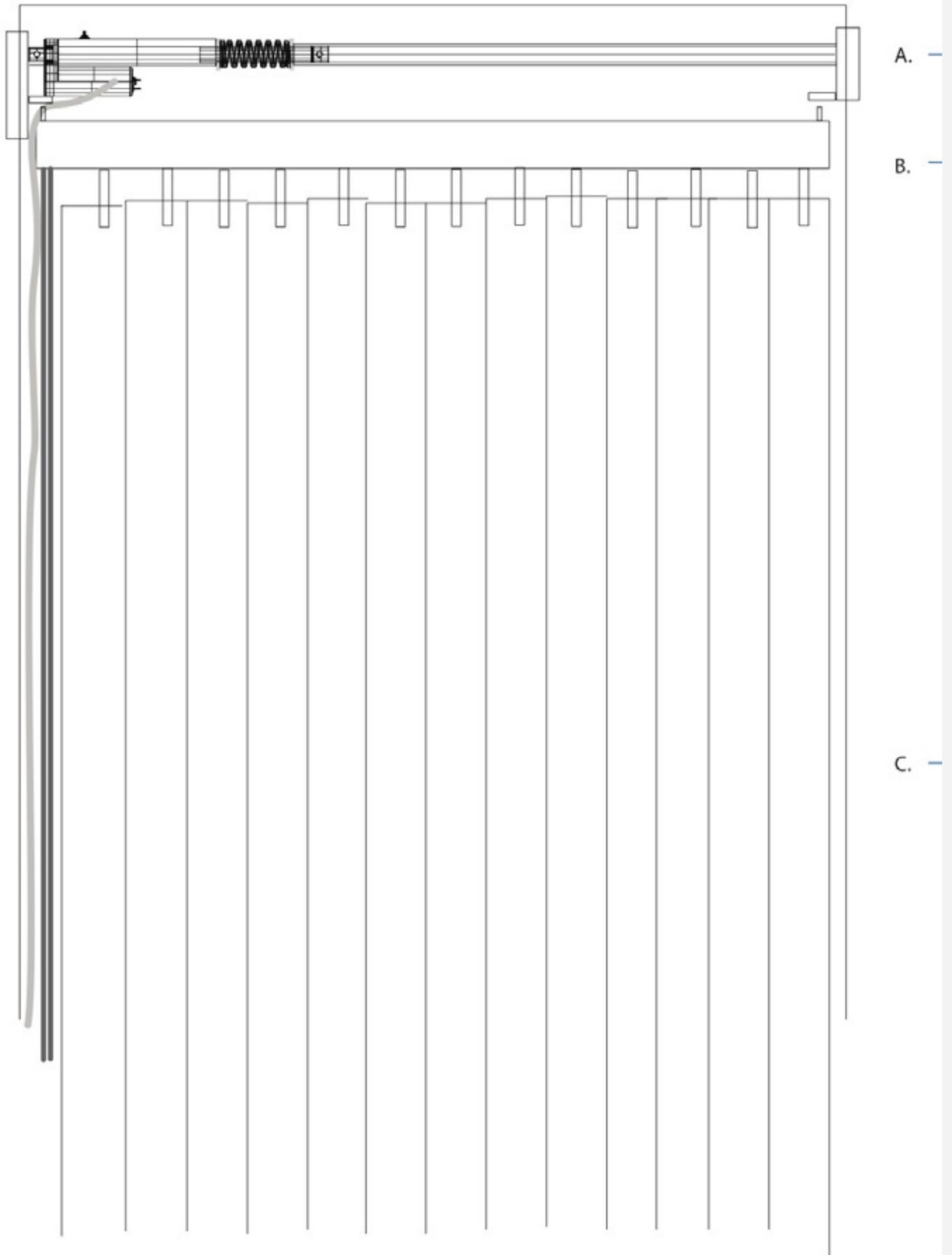




SITE II: THE RESERVOIR (Van Eyck main staircase windows)



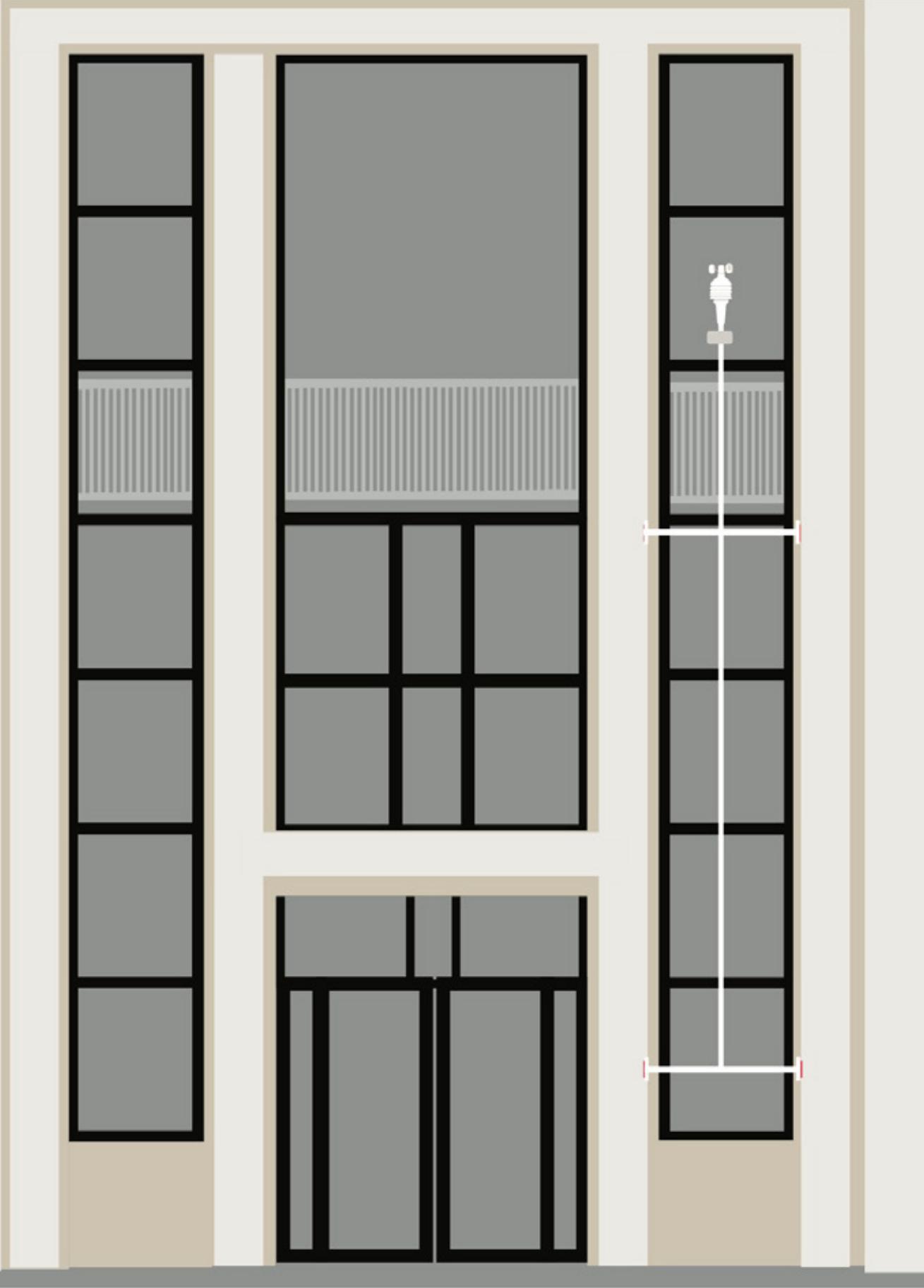
VERTICAL BLINDS: MOUNTING SYSTEM



INTERIOR THRESHOLD (the "drip catcher")



SITE I: THE THRESHOLD (Van Eyck main entrance)



the demons in stration
demonstrating the collective debt folding back into
the trapping (the trappings) of the accounting,
the accounted for,
the as yet unaccounted will be accounted for necessity of the shipping, the shipped, the as yet to be shipped
quoting
a cause and no curve
levels to
the embezzelling bevel
the beveling embezzelment
what small gestures will cook the books?
with every notepad accumulated, a few decimals can move, drip, dripping, dipped, dipping
the double entry
(transactional fraud)
the entry doubled
(transnational fraud)
debited from one account, credited to another; ensuring no loss, insures –
unless the power falters
and then the load, bearing, baring, dreams up the perfect, circular economy
(fantasy sup-reme)
of the neo-neoliberal dream
welcoming you to the Hotel California
where the management is silicon
and instrumentarian
zero mass water collectors
face the sun
harvesting moisture mouthed into the air
speculating on the behaviorial surplus market
while calculating improper expense recognition
witin the perverse joy of waste
(of wasting away)
while performing without rest, with the rest
flexing, flexible, accessible, ex-cessible, excessive
too much Ness
max I *mum*
custom data monitoring weather stations for regulating water
in the slow, drying, violence of
fluids futures
rendered along one ax-sis, two ax ses
IN ACC EX CESS IVE DEUS

