

MARISSA LEE BENEDICT

DAVID RUETER

---

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.





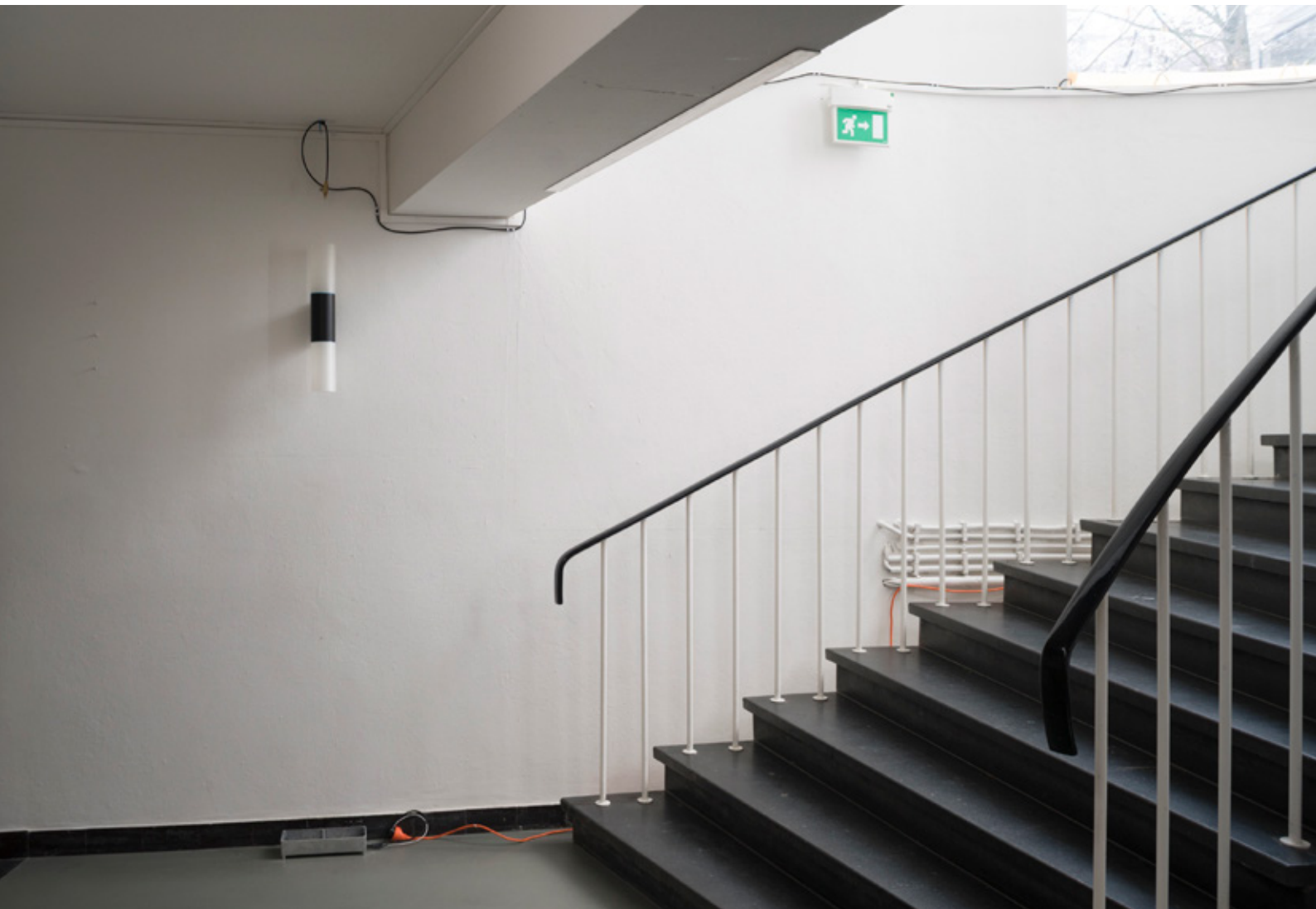
INSTALLATION VIEWS AT THE JAN VAN EYCK ACADEMIE;  
VERTICAL BLINDS, METAL SALTS (VAPOR EXTRACTION), FIBERGLASS,  
ACETATE SHEET, LINEAR ACTUATORS, STEEL, ANTISLIP PADS,  
THERMOPLASTICS, BRASS PIPE FITTINGS, IRRIGATION TUBING, CHROMED  
STEEL LEGS, CUSTOM ELECTRONICS, MACHINE VISION PROTOTYPING  
BOARD, 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





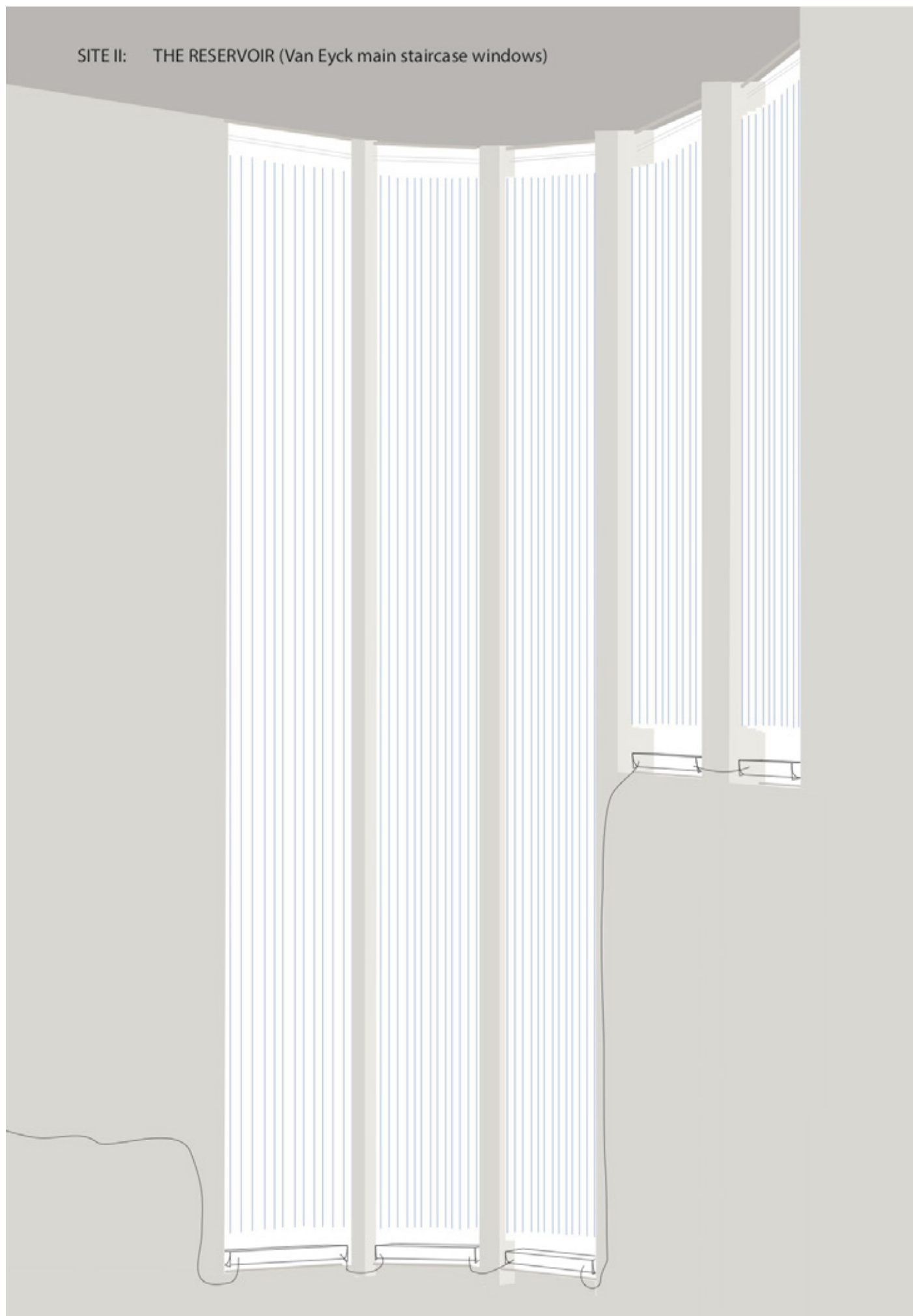






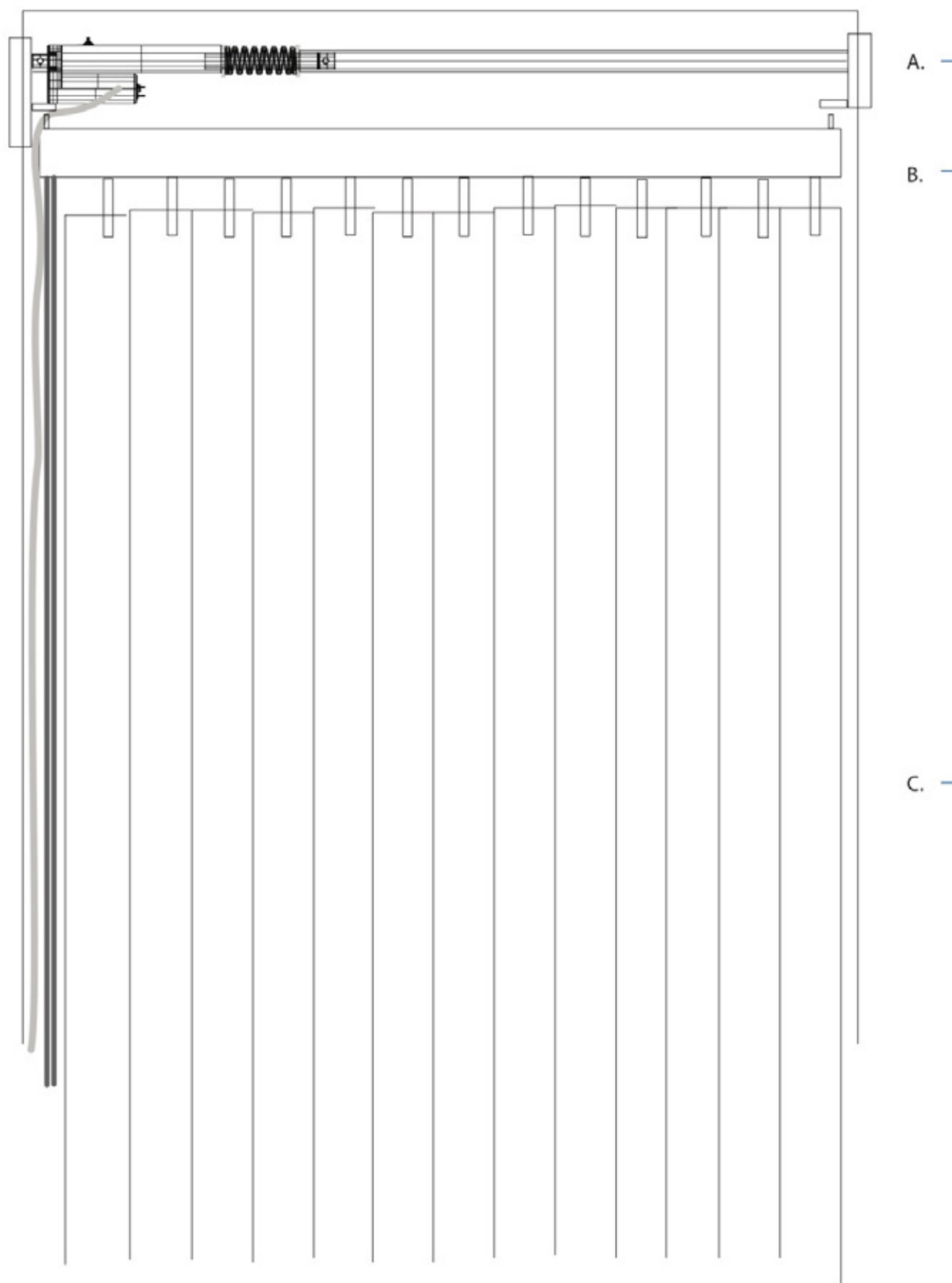


SITE II: THE RESERVOIR (Van Eyck main staircase windows)





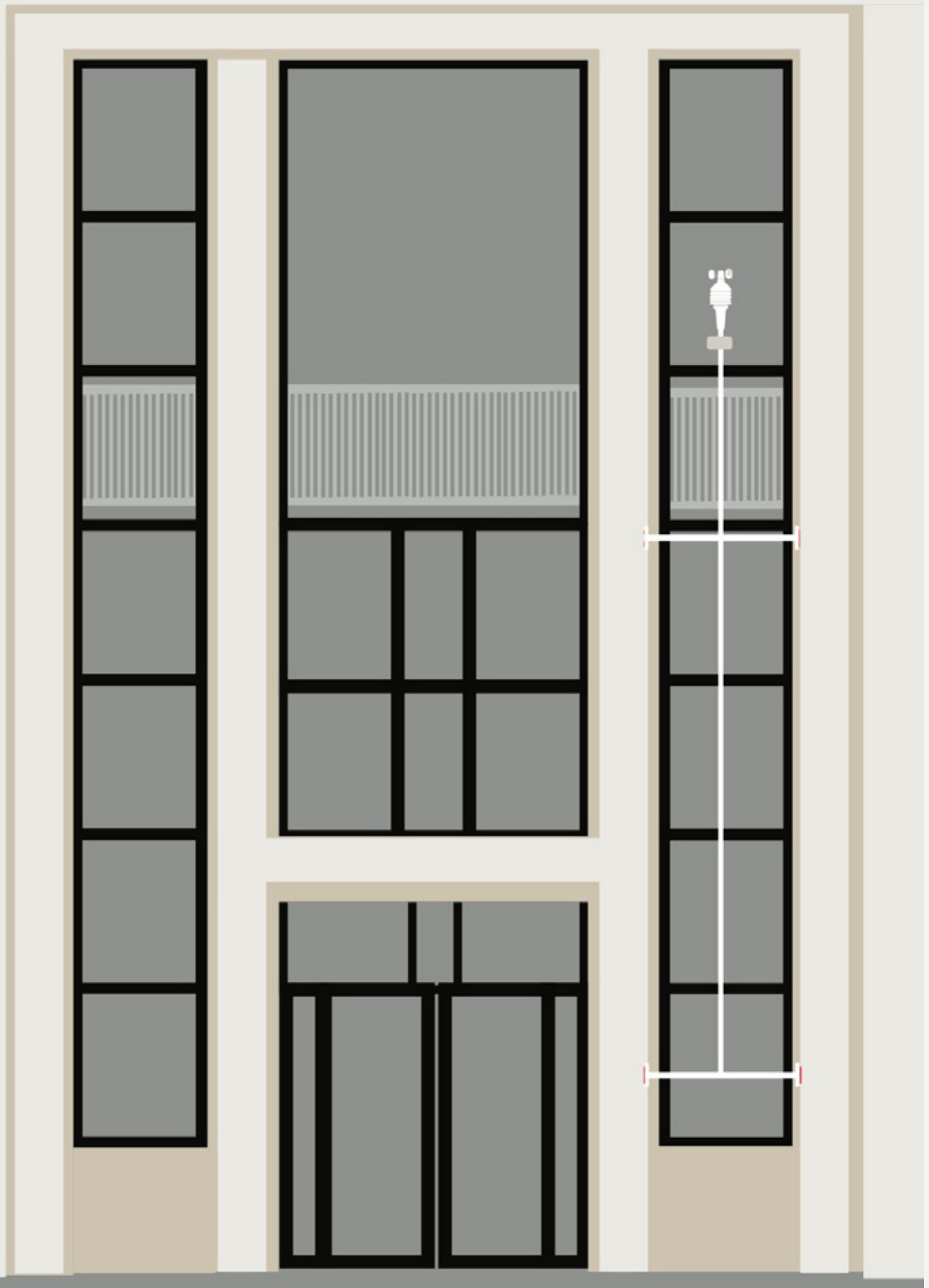
## VERTICAL BLINDS: MOUNTING SYSTEM



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 embezzlement  
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

