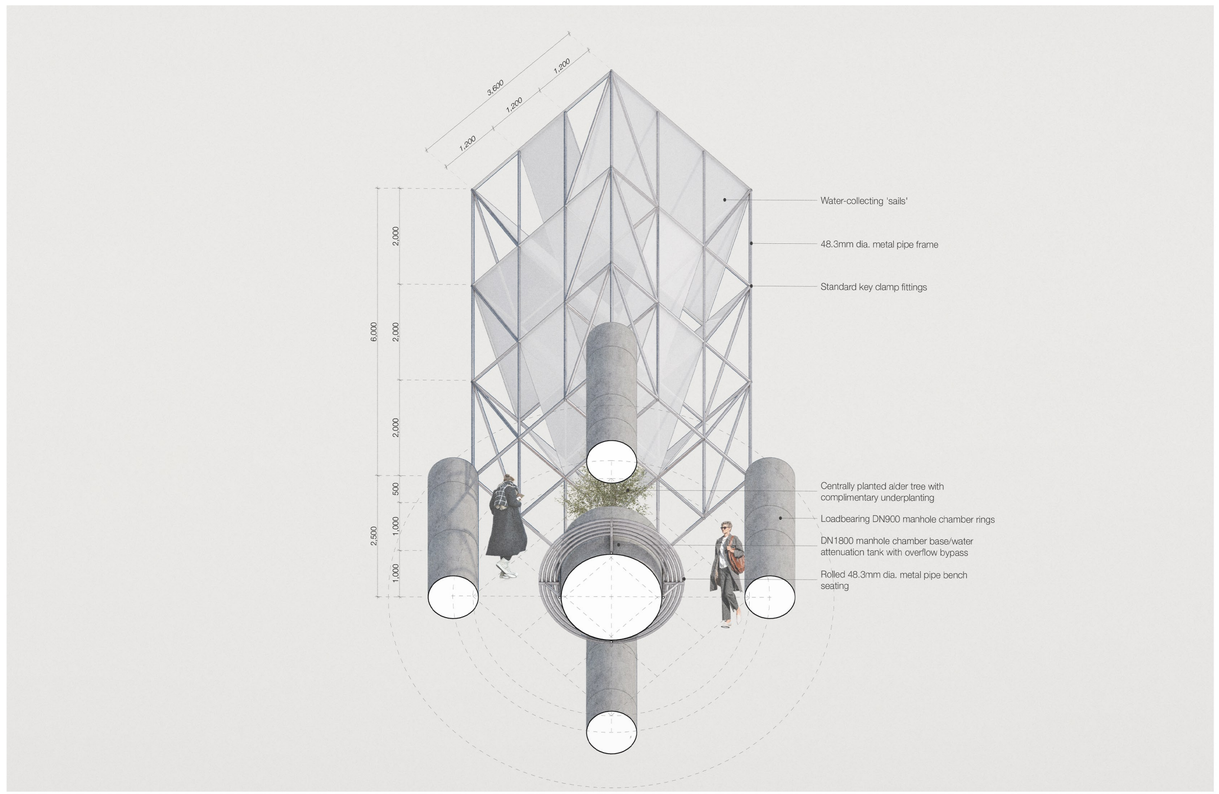
To Flow Together

‘To flow together’ is the literal translation of the Latin word ‘compluvium’, a feature of the ancient Roman domus whereby rainwater is directed internally via roof opening and stored for domestic use.

This proposal takes the inward sloping form of the compluvium roof and explodes it into a series of cascading fabric planes suspended within a lightweight metal structure. This frame is elevated by four columns constructed from precast concrete manhole chamber rings. As rain falls, the ‘sails’ gather rainwater from above and all four sides, directing it down the planes, pitter-pattering to a central planter formed from a larger manhole chamber base. The planter is encircled with bench seating, creating a place to take shelter, commune, and experience the collection of rainwater.

The planter also functions as a water attenuation tank, storing water in layers of soil and crushed stone, demonstrating how simple technologies can regulate the influx of water into an already overloaded drainage network.

Materials proposed for the structure are primarily found within domestic and civic water infrastructure, letting users interact with normally unseen elements of daily life. The pavilion would also be fully demountable, allowing for reuse in future interventions, or for reintegration back into our water infrastructure.