Light as Air, Rooted in Growth

The Idea

This idea began with creating a small ecosystem inside a fishbowl, exploring how life can exist and grow within a contained space. It evolved into a larger concept inspired by the lightness of a balloon, a form that feels as if it could float.

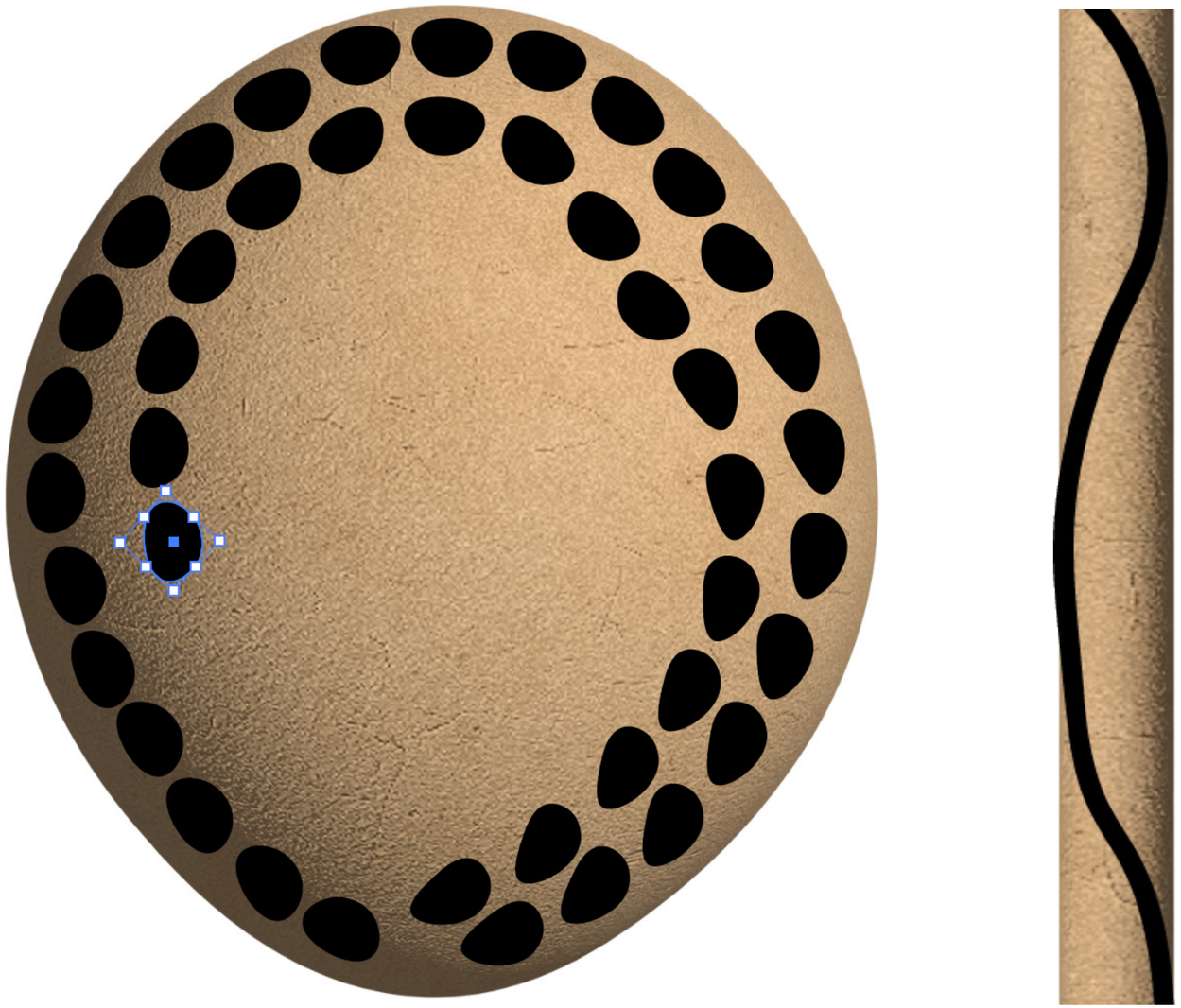
By reshaping trees and planting systems into more expressive, elevated forms, the project reimagines how greenery can exist in urban environments, making cities more inviting, improving air quality, and encouraging a more integrated relationship with nature.

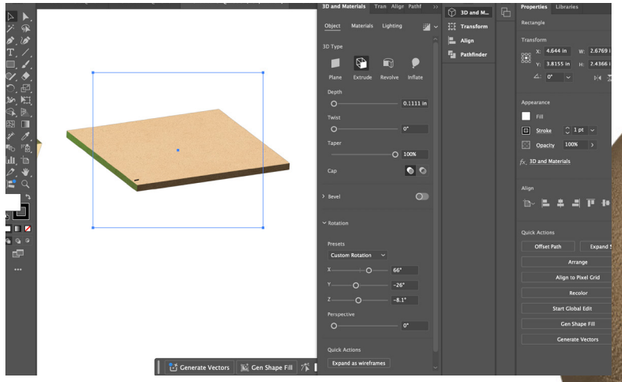
The inspiration

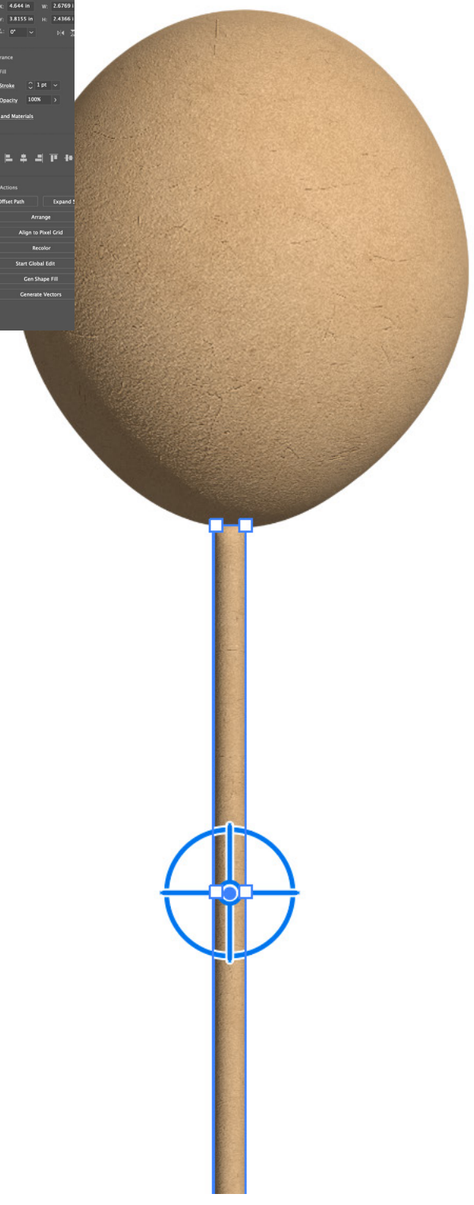
This collage draws inspiration from the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the earliest examples of elevated planting systems in ancient Mesopotamia. As an artist with Iraqi roots, I feel a deep connection to this history, where irrigation and design were used to lift nature above the ground and bring greenery into dense environments.

This project reimagines that idea through a contemporary lens. Instead of stone terraces, the gardens take on a balloon-like form, appearing light and suspended in the air. Like the ancient systems, it explores how plants can rise beyond the ground and exist within constructed environments, transforming urban space into something more alive, breathable, and connected to nature.

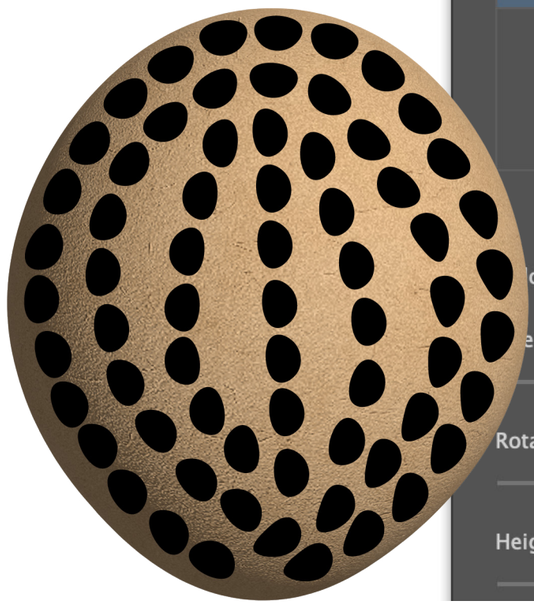
Digital design process

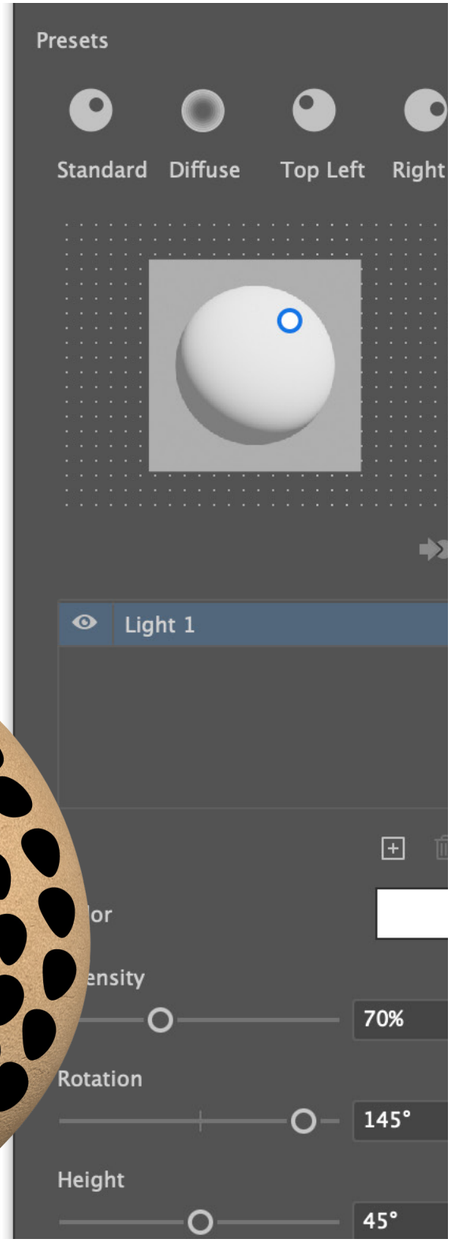



3D and Materials
Object
Materials
Lighting
3D Type
Plane
Extrude
Revolve
Inflate
Depth
0.1111 in
Twist
0°
Taper
100%
Cap
Bevel
Rotation
Presets
Custom Rotation
X
66°
Y
-26°
Z
-8.1°
Perspective
0°
Quick Actions
Expand as wireframes
Generate Vectors
Gen Shape Fill
Properties
Libraries
Rectangle
Transform
Appearance
Fill
Stroke
1 pt
Opacity
100%
3D and Materials
Align
Quick Actions
Offset Path
Arrange
Align to Pixel Grid
Recolor
Start Global Edit
Gen Shape Fill
Generate Vectors

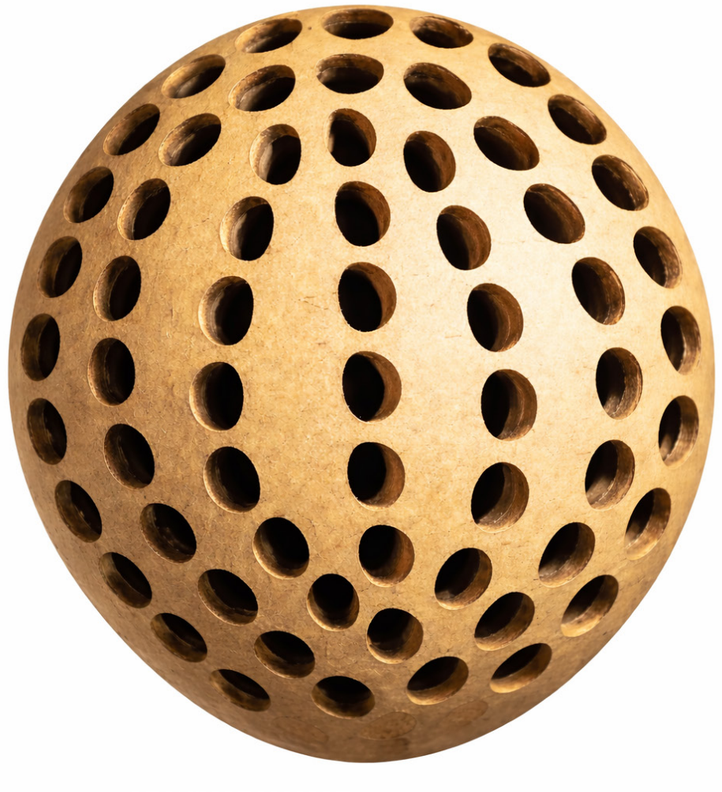



Steel Tread P...
Zinc Spade ...
Marble Paint
Cardboard P...
Handmade R...
Wallpaper W...
Smoothed L...
Troweled Da...
Wax Paint




Presets
Standard
Diffuse
Top Left
Right
Light 1
or
ensity
70%
Rotation
145°
Height
45°

3d Design

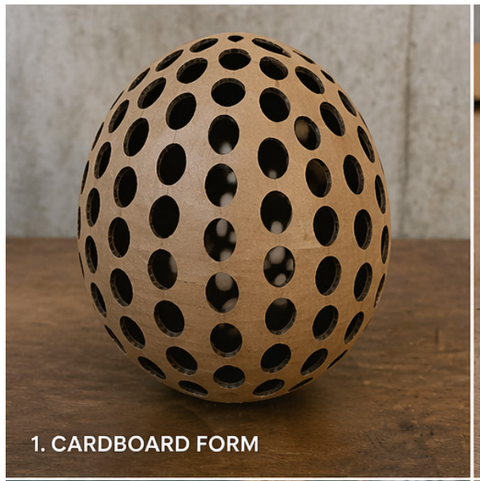


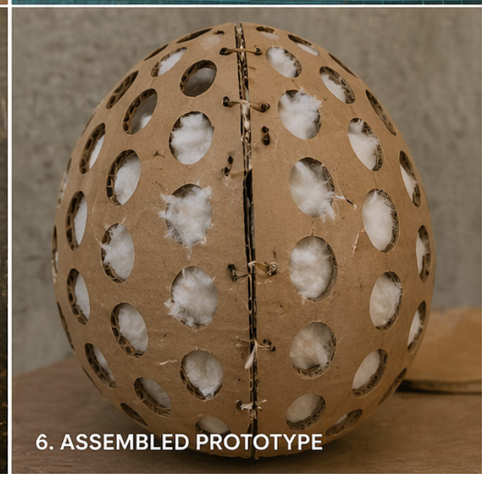
The application of the design

The process begins with a cardboard structure used as a prototype to explore form and function. The stem is carved to allow a water hose to run through its core, delivering moisture upward. Inside the structure, cotton acts as a growing medium, holding seeds and retaining water.

As water flows through the system, it is gradual-ly absorbed by the cotton, allowing seeds to germi-nate. Over time, roots de-velop within the interior while small plants begin to emerge through the carved openings.

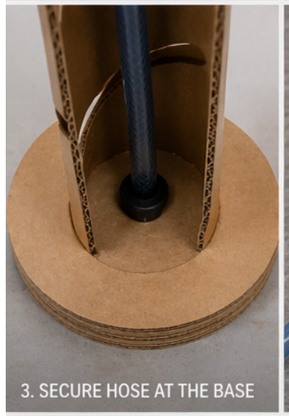
The balloon head enclos-es the upper ecosystem, creating a contained envi-ronment where growth con-tinues, demonstrating how water, structure, and plant life can work together in a vertical system.





1. WATER HOSE PREPARATION

2. INSERT HOSE INTO THE STEM

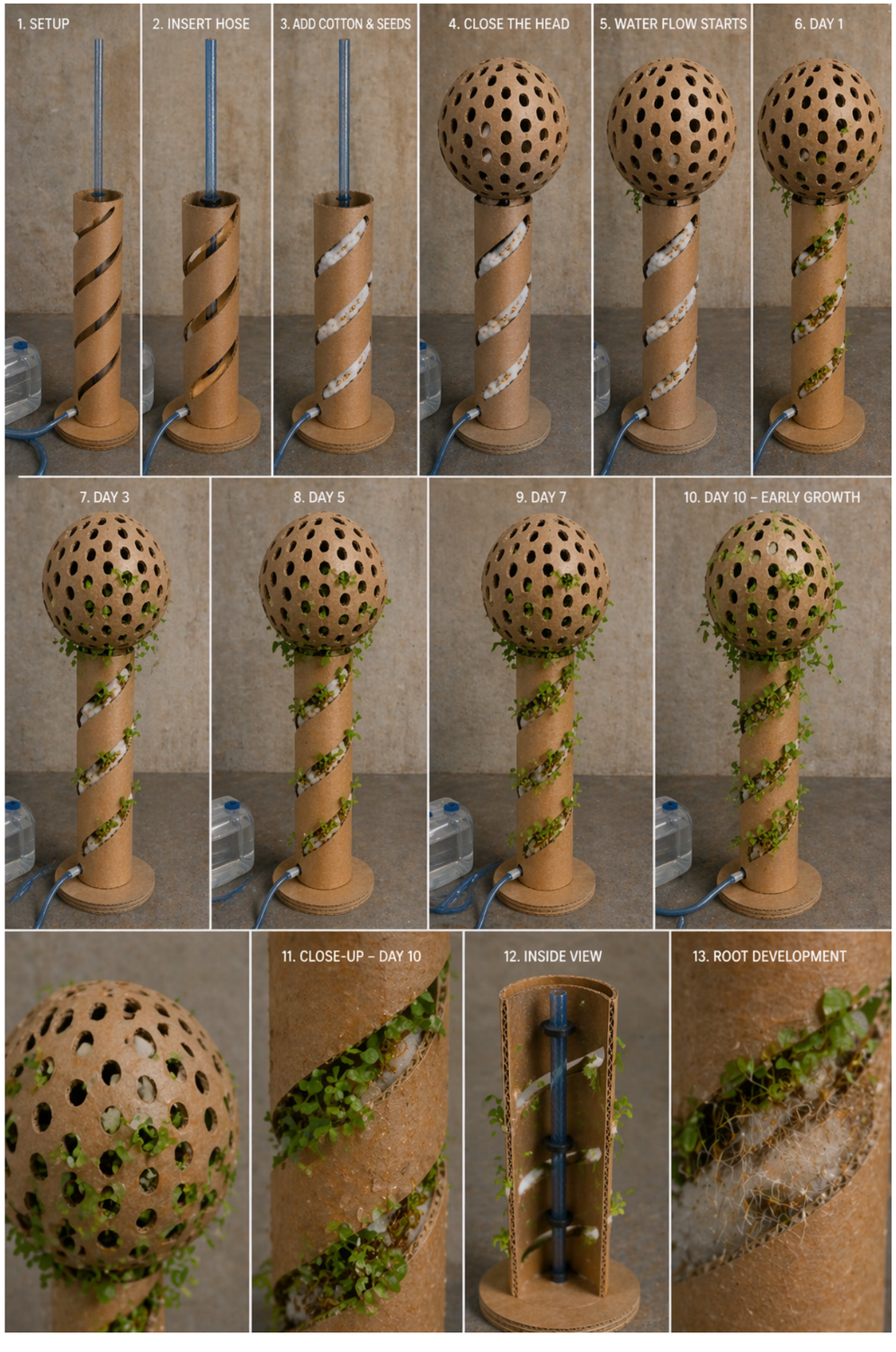


3. SECURE HOSE AT THE BASE

4. HOSE CONNECTION
(TO WATER SOURCE)

5. INSIDE VIEW

6. CONNECTION TO WATER RESERVOIR (EXAMPLE)


1. SETUP
2. INSERT HOSE
3. ADD COTTON & SEEDS
4. CLOSE THE HEAD
5. WATER FLOW STARTS
6. DAY 1
7. DAY 3
8. DAY 5
9. DAY 7
10. DAY 10 – EARLY GROWTH
11. CLOSE-UP – DAY 10
12. INSIDE VIEW
13. ROOT DEVELOPMENT

Imagined Design

Click here to view video

What if growth could feel weightless?

Rooted in the ground, reaching for the air.