

air forest

Denver, USA

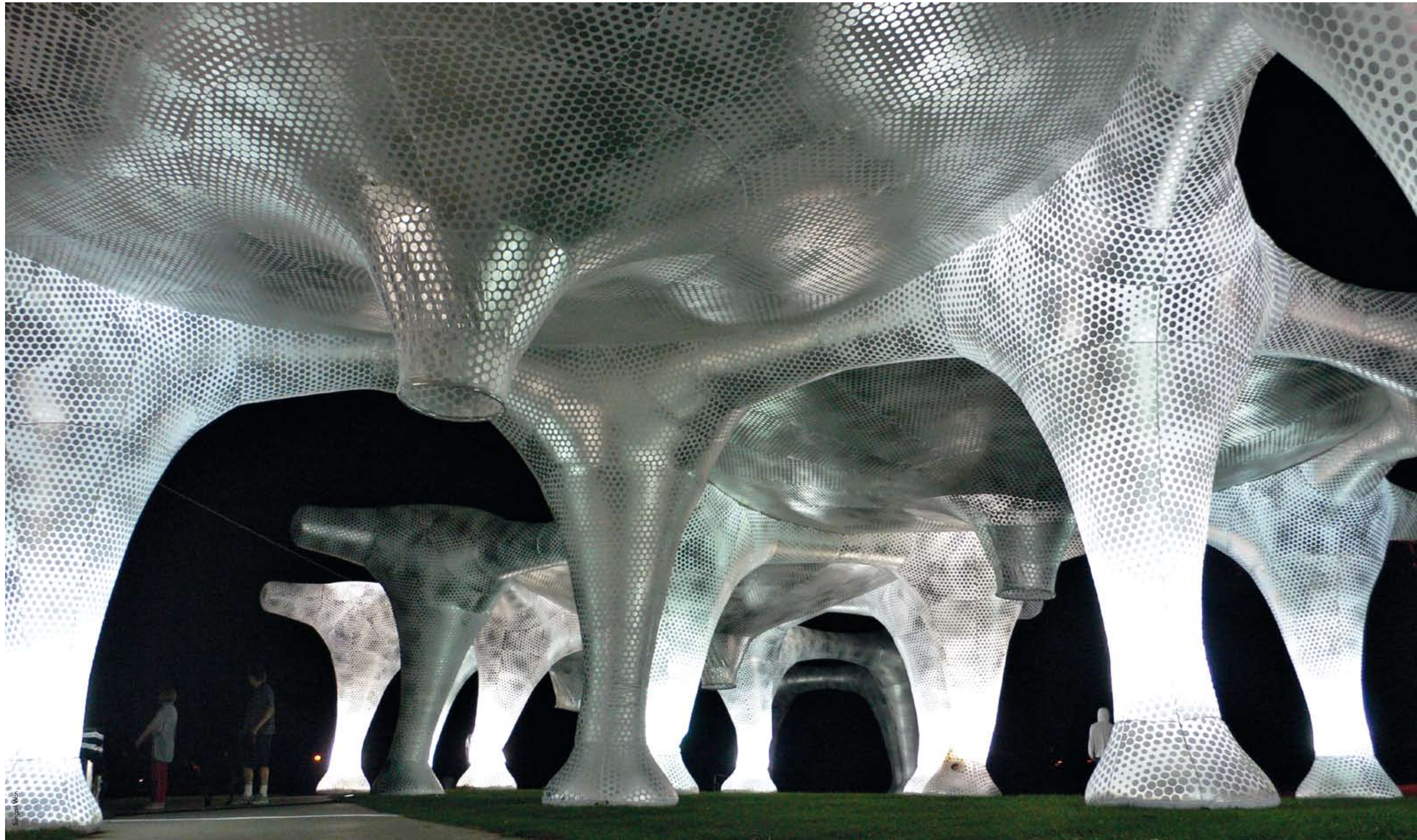
Mass Studies

project: Air Forest
location: City Park, Denver,
Colorado, USA
client: Denver Office
of Cultural Affairs
architect: Minsuk Cho + Kisu Park
design team: Mass Studies
(Joungwon Lee, Bumhyun Chun,
Kyungmin Kwon, Sungpil Won)
structure: pneumatic
building scope: 56.3m (L)x
25m (W)x4m (H)
gross floor area: 673 sqm
finishing: Nylon fabric
with silver dot printing
fabricator/construction: ABR
design period: April-August 2008
construction period: August 2008

photo by Jason Walp,
Sungpil Won



Mass Studies was founded in 2003 by Minsuk Cho in Seoul, Korea, as a critical investigation of architecture in the context of mass production, intensely overpopulated urban conditions, and other emergent cultural niches that define contemporary society. Amid the many frictions defining spatial conditions in the twenty-first century, namely past vs. future, local vs. global, utopia vs. reality, and individual vs. collective, Mass Studies focuses on the operative complexity of these multiple conditions instead of striving for a singular, unified perspective. For each architectural project, which exist across a wide range of scales, Mass Studies explores issues such as spatial systems/matrixes, building materials/techniques, and typological divergences to foster a vision that allows the discovery of new socio/cultural potential.



Air Forest è un padiglione temporaneo installato nel City Park di Denver in Colorado, Stati Uniti, per Dialogic:City, un evento artistico-culturale svoltosi durante la Convention Democratica del 2008. Situato nella parte centro-orientale di Denver, il City Park è il più grande e importante parco della città che si estende per 1.3 kmq con al suo centro il lago Ferril. Un asse centrale attraversa il lago da est a ovest: dal Museum of Nature and Science sulla punta orientale arriva al mirabile padiglione ad ovest sull'altro lato, oltre il quale si può ammirare la linea dell'orizzonte della città e le montagne dietro di essa. Per l'organizzazione dell'evento Dialogic:City furono invitati 10 artisti e architetti ad ideare o esporre progetti pensati specificatamente per il luogo e dislocati in differenti punti della città. L'invito rivolto al nostro studio riguardava la progettazione di uno spazio pubblico temporaneo destinato ad ospitare molteplici eventi ma da utilizzarsi anche come spazio pubblico. Air Forest è una struttura pneumatica lunga 56,3 metri e larga 25 metri, composta da 9 unità esagonali a baldacchino alte 4 metri. Queste unità, interconnesse e rese un unico pezzo, sono gonfiate da 14 ventilatori posti alla base delle 35 colonne, appesantite da elementi illuminanti che si accendono di notte. Le sei colonne pneumatiche connesse in forma esagonale creano un'apertura circolare al loro interno. Il tessuto di nylon è cosperso di un gradiente di punti argento la cui superficie riflessa mima i colori dell'ambiente circostante e allo stesso tempo fornisce una giocosa ombreggiatura punteggiata sulle persone che si trovano sotto la struttura. Air Forest è una vera foresta che appare come la continuazione del bosco e ne colma visivamente il vuoto.

Located in east-central Denver, City Park is the largest and most notable park in Denver. This historic 1.3 kmq park has large open grass fields with Ferril Lake in its center, with a ring of trees all around the lake and the park's perimeter. There is a main east-west axis that crosses the lake, starting from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on the lake's eastern edge (at the park's highest elevation) to the landmark boat pavilion to the west on the other side of the lake, past which one can see the Denver skyline and the mountains beyond. The ring of trees becomes disconnected at this axis on both sides of the lake, to provide a vantage point. Denver Office of Cultural Affairs had hosted an event called Dialogic:City, an arts and cultural event for the public, inspired on the occasion of the city of Denver hosting the National Democratic Convention 2008. The event invited 10 artists and architects to design or exhibit site-specific projects at various locations of the city, for the public to converge and spark dialogue across the city through innovative cultural initiatives, during the period of 24th to 30th August. Our invitation was to create a temporary public space to be utilized in a vast array of scheduled events as well as for the general public to enjoy. Air Forest is a 56.3 m long, 25 m wide pneumatic structure, composed of 9 hexagonal canopy units, at 4m height. These units are interconnected as one large piece of fabric, which are then inflated from the 14 blowers that are located at the base inside its 35 columns. These columns are 5m apart,

and are weighed down by dirt and lighting elements which are also inside the columns, which light up at night and provide a public space after dark as well. 6 each of these pneumatic columns form a unit as they are connected in a hexagonal manner creating a circular opening from their inside perimeter. Out of the 9 total hexagonal units formed, 3 of them are left open-air while the remaining 6 have vortex-shaped meshes that hang from them, providing shades for the public from the harsh sunlight. The nylon fabric is coated with a gradient of silver dots, whose reflective surface mimics the colors of its surrounding environment, as well as providing a playful dotted shadow on the people under the structure. The Air Forest is situated on the western edge of the Ferril Lake along the main axis. Being at one of the two disconnected open gaps of the ring of forests, this synthetic structure seems to be a continuation of the forest that bridges this gap.







Jasen Welp

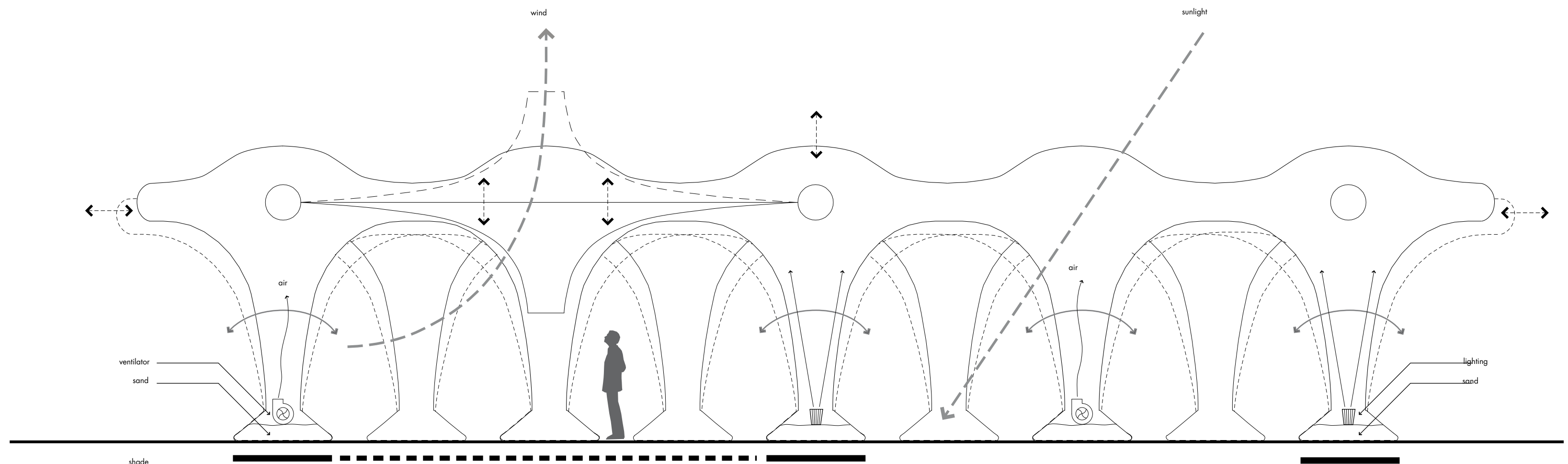


diagram of the structure

0 10 30 cm

