



# OPUS ARBOREUM

The project name “Opus arboreum,” which translates from Latin to “the work of plants” literally, is a neologism coined specifically to best express the idea underlying the artistic installation. It aims to evoke the “opus caementicium,” a skilled construction technique used by ancient Romans to build durable structures, often still visible today.

The project serves as both a critical manifesto addressing global warming, the cause of the current climate crisis, and as a rediscovered hope in the vast potential of integrating ecology into everyday life. This integration can transform the surrounding reality through what nature offers.

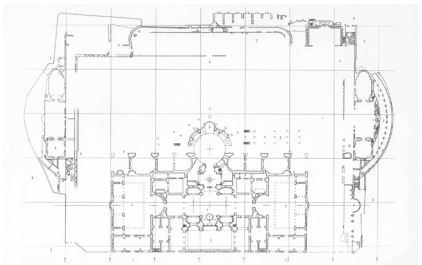
Starting from the concept that “Earth is a large spherical sauna,” visitors will walk among the ruins of some imaginarily reconstructed Roman baths. Unlike the original structures where the temperature in the warmer rooms was

maintained through intelligent hydraulic mechanisms, here, instead of heating, there’s a need for cooling. The Frigidarium and Tepidarium will be cooled through the use of the “opus arboreum,” positioning screening plants within the cavity of the cells’ masonry.

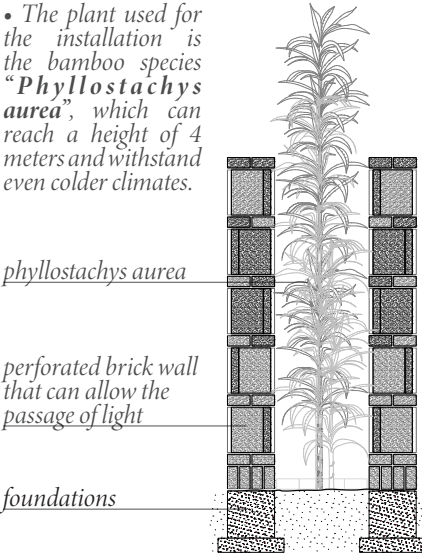
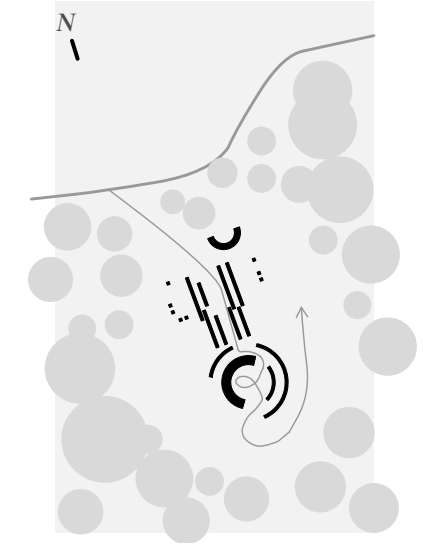
The hottest cell, the visitor’s endpoint, will display the current condition of the Earth, portrayed as a large semicircular Calidarium, devoid of plants and shading elements that could provide relief during the hottest days. Nevertheless, there’s still a faint hope represented by a small plant at the center of this semicircle, surrounded by a bench made of red bricks. This setup reminds the visitor that the solution to this unfortunate condition lies before their eyes: humanity must be grateful for what nature has provided and utilize this gift in everyday life, living in harmonious coexistence rather than aggressively destroying it.



• *Ruins of the Xystus, the central hall of the Antonine Baths, from “Vedute di Roma,” Giovanni Battista Piranesi (Italian, 1720-1778), printmaker.*



• *Plan of the Baths of Caracalla, Rome, built by the Emperor Caracalla (Marcus Aurelius Severus Antoninus Bassianus) between 212 and 217 AD.*



• The plant used for the installation is the bamboo species “*Phyllostachys aurea*”, which can reach a height of 4 meters and withstand even colder climates.

*phyllostachys aurea*

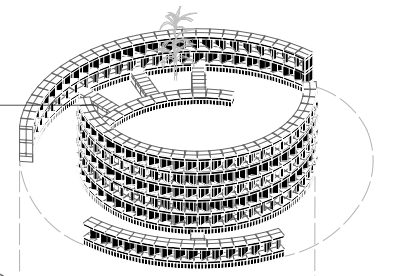
perforated brick wall that can allow the passage of light

foundations

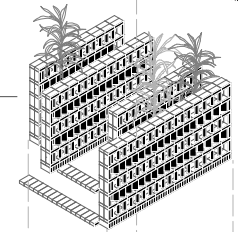




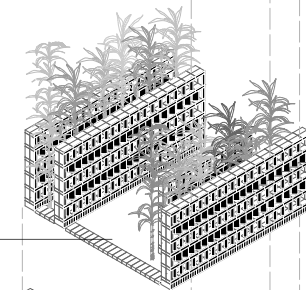
*Calidarium*



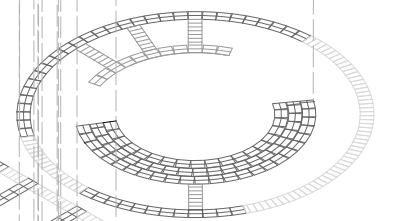
*Tepidarium*



*Frigidarium*



*Ruins*



*Project's plan*

