

Urban Cenote

A waterfall that cleanses urban waters for immersing in it

A cenote is a geological feature of the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. It is a clear water pond into which water trickles through the surrounding layers of rock, soil and vegetation being cleaned of any excessive nutrients, sediment and naturally occurring debris. It creates a space that culturally has a great significance as a sacred space often used for bathing and swimming.

This structure cleans urban bodies of water which are often polluted and unfit for bathing. It captures water smog which consists of microplastics and PFAS (forever chemicals), heavy metals, excessive nitrogen and phosphor from agricultural fertilisers to create an Urban Cenote where people can reconnect with the water safely.

The water is circulated and cleaned from PFAS and other microparticles through active-carbon filters and reverse osmosis membranes which are located within the centre-pod of the structure. The outside of this pod hosts a variety of aquatic plants and organisms which make use of the nutrients left in the water and prevent the excessive growth of harmful algae.

Bathing is more than hygiene; it's a ritual for relaxation, reflection, and connecting with nature. Across cultures, water symbolizes purity and renewal, making immersion a soothing and meditative experience. The Urban Cenote re-enables this practice in urban spaces, creating a sanctuary where individuals can experience the transformative power of water.

By bathing in the Urban Cenote, people engage in an ecological harmony, contributing to the health of urban water bodies. The structure purifies the water while creating a vibrant environment both visually and haptically.

The Urban Cenote restores the ancient practice of water immersion, providing a moment of respite and reconnection with nature. It serves as a reminder to preserve our water resources and maintain the delicate balance of ecosystems that sustain life. Through this reconnection, we find personal well-being and a renewed commitment to protecting our vital water resources.

Water is pumped up through the filters to the water tank and released through gaps in its side creating a clean waterfall.

A pipe system of carbon and reverse osmosis membranes capture PFAS and other microplastics as well as heavy metals and other toxins.

Aquatic Plants on a Grow Wall filter excessive nutrients that cause invasive algae growth.

A clean area of water is created that is safe and pleasant to swim in as well as free of forever plastics.



LEDs illuminate the waterfall at night.



Spray helps cool the heated air around the Urban cenote in summer.



The structure creates a space of clean water around it.