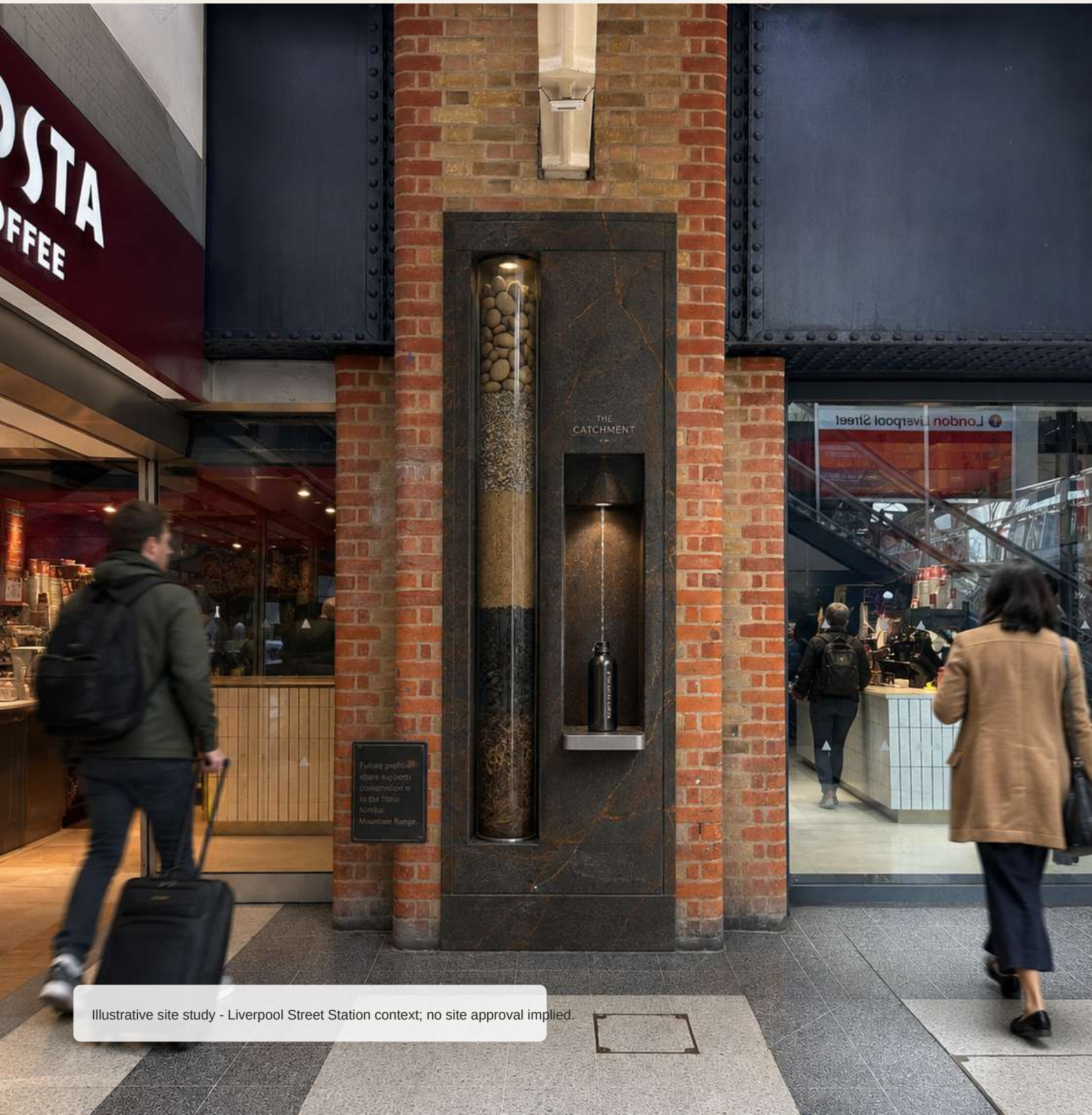
CONCEPT PROPOSAL · AUGUST 2026

THE CATCHMENT

Free public water as civic climate infrastructure - a refill station that reveals water's passage through earth.

PUBLIC WATER · FILTERED THROUGH EARTH · SHARED BY ALL



Illustrative site study - Liverpool Street Station context; no site approval implied.

A refill point should be more than plumbing.

The Catchment is a family of free public bottle-refill stations for transport hubs and civic spaces. It treats drinking water as a commons, while making the normally hidden processes of catchment, geology and filtration perceptible.

THE PROBLEM
In stations and airports people can be captive to bottled-water retail, while existing refill points are often anonymous, utilitarian and easy to miss.

THE RESPONSE
A sculptural but highly practical public utility: accessible, durable, serviceable and visually rooted in the natural systems that make drinking water possible.



Existing Liverpool Street brick pier - possible wall-integrated context.

DESIGN AMBITION
Create a brief ontophanic encounter - a moment in which water appears differently because the infrastructure reveals the world it comes through.

ORIGIN - NIMBA

The mountain is the infrastructure.



Film still: water collected directly from a Nimba mountain spring.



Nimba landscape - the living catchment and the earth cut open.

The design begins with a moment from the Nimba Mountains: park ranger **Moses Darpey** fills his bottle from a small high-mountain spring. Rain has entered the catchment and moved through vegetation, soil and rock before re-emerging as clear water.

Nimba is also an iron-ore landscape profoundly altered by extraction. Terraced mine cuts expose dark geological layers and mineral veins. The Catchment holds those two conditions together: **the living catchment and the earth cut open.**

“Water comes through worlds.”

The aim is not to imitate a landscape or add decorative “eco” cues. The form remains restrained, architectural and materially legible.

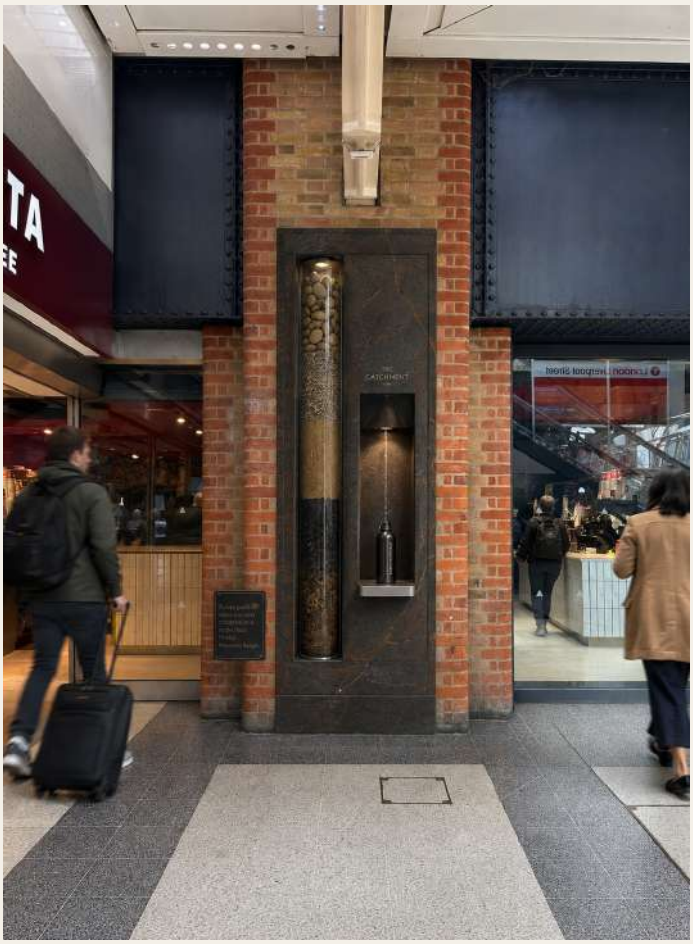
PRIMARY TYPOLOGY

Wall-integrated Catchment

The wall appears cut open, revealing a geological core rather than carrying a conventional drinking fountain.



Existing brick pier, Liverpool Street Station.



Concept visualization: wall-integrated Catchment embedded in the same pier.

ARCHITECTURAL The installation reads as part of the wall, not an appliance attached to it.

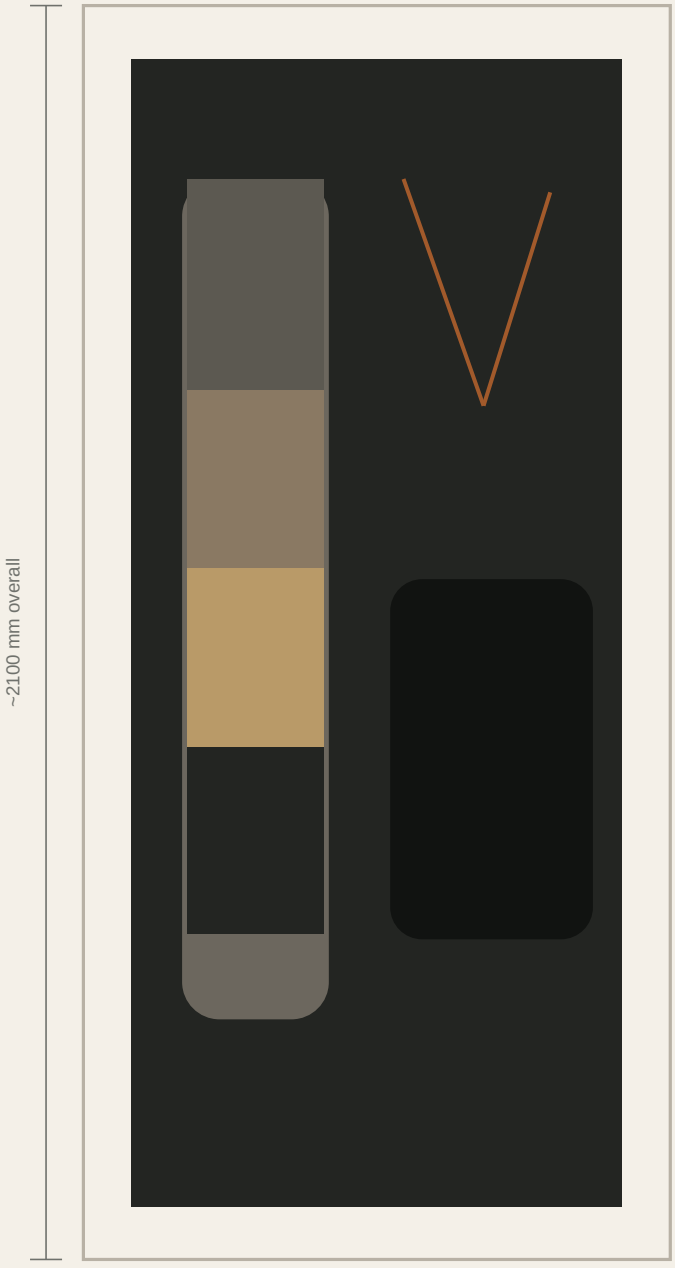
VISIBLE PROCESS A glass cylinder evokes a core sample - stone, aggregate, mineral and carbon-rich strata.

SPRING INTERFACE The bottle recess is a quiet void from which treated water emerges.

RETROFIT-READY A wall family suited to concourses, corridors, airports, universities and civic interiors.

Wall-integrated system

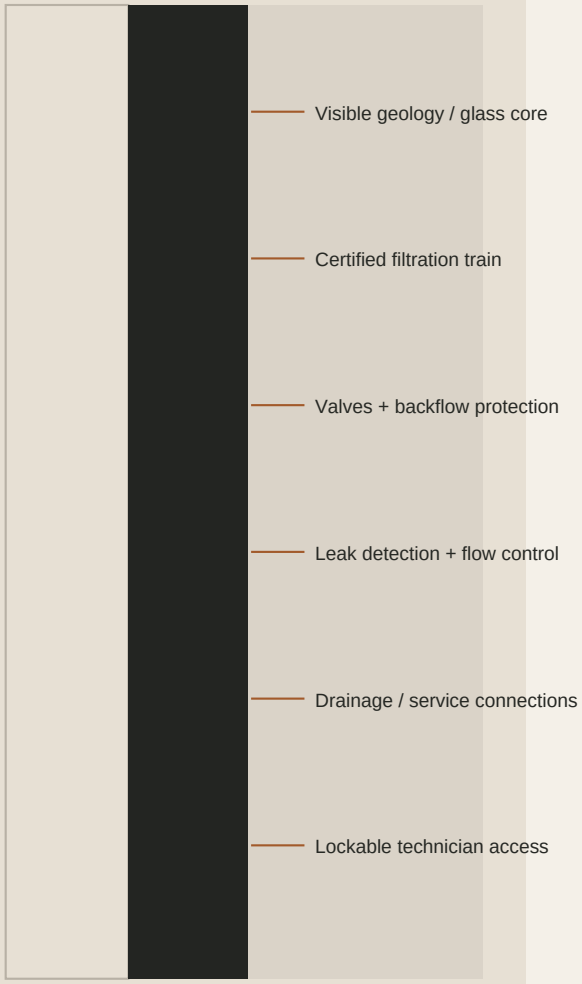
Indicative geometry for design development and host conversations. Final dimensions, structure, plumbing, drainage, materials and treatment architecture require specialist engineering and potable-water approval.



FRONT ELEVATION · INDICATIVE

SIDE SECTION

~300-400 mm service zone



SERVICE PRINCIPLE

The geological face is permanent. Treatment cartridges, controls and drainage sit in a concealed service zone so maintenance does not dismantle the public-facing object.

SECONDARY TYPOLOGY

Freestanding Catchment

For large station halls, airport atria and public interiors where the object can stand as a recognisable piece of climate infrastructure.



CIVIC MARKER
A vertical landmark rather than a small utility.

CORE SAMPLE
Visible filtration runs through a simple iron-veined mineral mass.

FAMILY LANGUAGE
The same palette, core and refill recess link the wall and freestanding versions.

WHERE IT FITS
- airport halls
- station atria
- museums
- universities
- public squares
- exhibition / pilot settings

The object can become a civic marker while retaining the same engineering and maintenance logic.

MATERIAL LANGUAGE + COLOUR PALETTE

Earth cut open, rendered with restraint.

The palette draws from Nimba's iron-rich geology, dark mine strata, wet stone, grassland and clear water. Materials should feel mineral rather than decorative: robust enough for transport infrastructure, but tactile enough to resist the generic stainless-steel language of public utilities.



Wall material study - dark mineral face, iron-rich fissures, transparent core.



Freestanding study - terraced geological body and glass core.

MATERIAL DIRECTION · dark mineral composite · recycled glass · ceramic or mineral aggregate · iron oxide accents · stainless internal hardware · translucent serviceable core

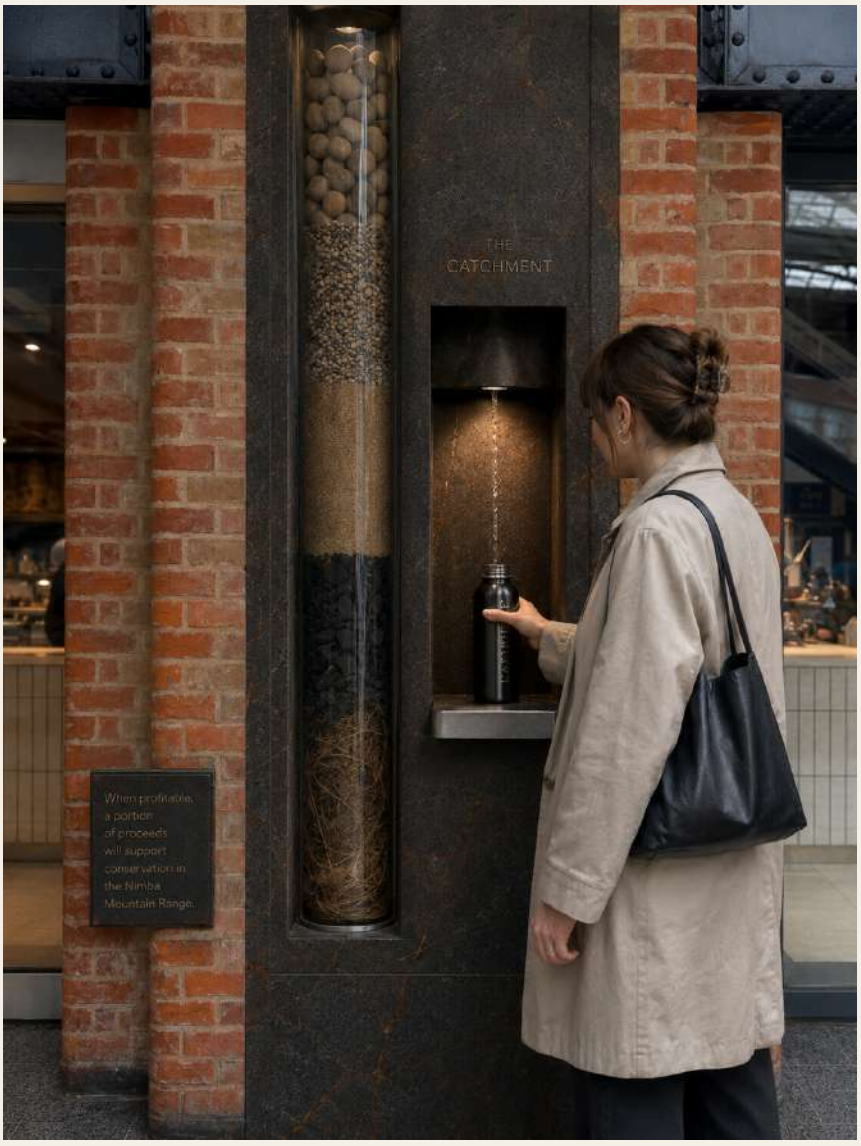
IMPORTANT
Visible geological media can express the filtration journey, while the final potable-water treatment train uses certified, serviceable components as required. The visible ecology and the hygienic infrastructure do not need to be the same thing.

Basalt	Iron ore	Oxide	Ochre sand	Moss	Water glass	Pale mineral
#232522	#5B3527	#A25A2B	#B99A68	#697158	#D9E8E6	#ECE7DD

USER EXPERIENCE

A small ritual of public water.

The encounter should remain simple enough for a hurried commuter, while allowing anyone who looks twice to understand the larger system.



01 · NOTICE

The geological column is a landmark rather than another small fountain sign.

02 · READ

Water appears to pass through strata, making the catchment logic visible without a screen.

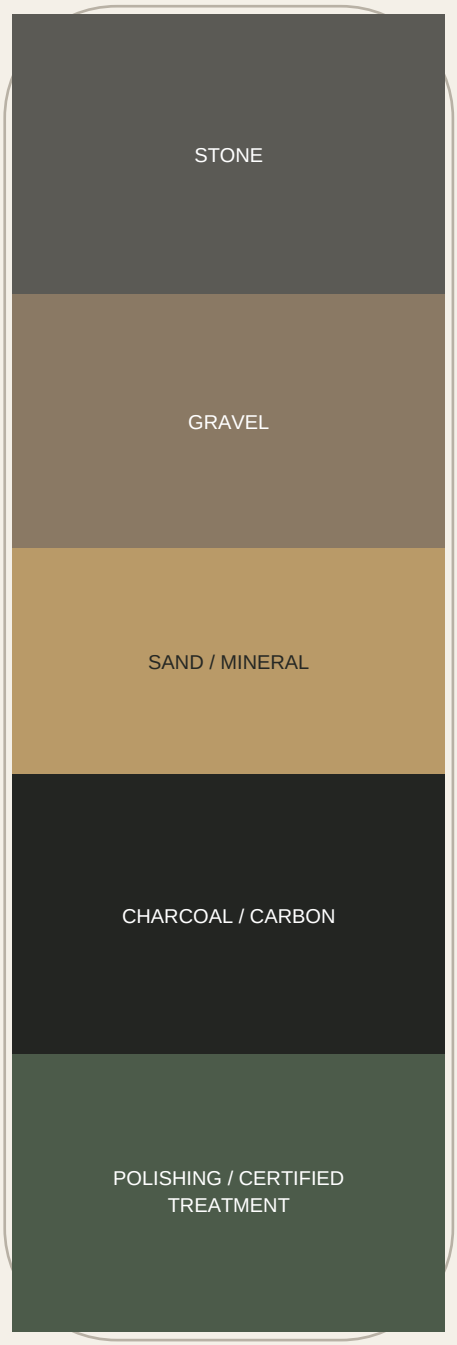
03 · REFILL

The bottle enters a generous recess designed for different bottle sizes and one-handed use.

ACCESSIBILITY FROM FIRST SKETCH

Reach, knee clearance, bottle height, visual contrast, one-handed operation, drainage and cleaning should be designed in from the beginning. Prototype testing should include wheelchair users, children, older users and people with limited hand strength.

Visible ecology, rigorous infrastructure.



THREE STRATA

Catchment: rainfall, runoff and landscape are suggested through the upper form and fissures.

Earth: visible layers make the logic of natural filtration legible - stone, aggregate, sand and carbon-rich material.

Spring: treated water emerges at the refill recess.

BEHIND THE FACE

A public installation would use a professionally engineered potable-water system with replaceable cartridges, hygienic materials, backflow protection, drainage, monitoring and a documented service schedule appropriate to the host site.

The design intentionally separates the **experiential geology** from any treatment stages that must be enclosed or certified. This protects both the poetry and the safety of the system.

Maintenance is part of the architecture:
service access is concealed from everyday users but designed to be fast, legible and dignified for technicians.

ENGINEERING PRINCIPLE
The visible strata communicate a natural process; the drinking-water path is engineered, testable and serviceable. Final media, treatment method and monitoring are determined with a potable-water specialist.

PROTOTYPE + FIRST PUBLIC PILOT

From concept to a credible public object.

The first goal is not mass rollout. It is a well-designed, technically credible prototype and one carefully chosen pilot installation.

01

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

industrial design, engineering review, accessibility, materials and service strategy.

02

FULL-SCALE PROTOTYPE

wall mock-up, core sample, bottle interface and working-flow demonstrator.

03

PILOT HOST

library, museum, university, market hall, civic building or manageable transport-adjacent site.

04

SCALE PATHWAY

use pilot evidence to approach transport operators, station owners, airports and water partners.

PHASE I DEVELOPMENT TARGET

Industrial / product design	£5-7k
Water / plumbing engineering	£2-4k
Accessibility + user testing	£1-2k
Materials + geological mock-ups	£2-3k
Full-scale prototype fabrication	£7-10k
Working demonstrator + testing	£5-8k
Contingency	£3-4k
RECOMMENDED FIRST ASK	**£30,000**

INDICATIVE ROUTE TO FIRST PILOT

Allow approximately **£60-90k cumulative** to move from concept through a credible working prototype into a first public installation, depending on site conditions, plumbing, fabrication, approvals and host requirements.

WHY £30K FIRST?

Large enough to fund serious design, water engineering and full-scale prototyping; small enough to be credible as an innovation, climate-design or public-realm development grant.

Build the infrastructure. Return value to Nimba.

The project is seeking collaborators who can translate a strong environmental and spatial idea into safe, repeatable public infrastructure - while preserving the connection to the Nimba landscape that generated the concept.

DESIGN

Industrial / product design, CAD, prototyping, material research and fabrication.

ENGINEERING

Potable-water systems, plumbing, drainage, servicing, monitoring and compliance.

PILOT HOST

A civic, cultural or transport-adjacent site willing to test the wall-integrated system in public use.

THE NIMBA RETURN

Commercial success should create a tangible return to the landscape that inspired the project.

Once The Catchment reaches a defined commercial profitability threshold, the intention is to allocate a **fixed share of annual net profits** to independently administered conservation and community-benefit initiatives in the Nimba Mountain Range.

The percentage, eligible partners and governance mechanism would be formalised before commercial rollout and reported transparently. This is framed as a future profit-sharing commitment - **not as a claim that the first prototypes or grant-funded pilots are already generating donations.**

INITIAL PARTNERSHIP ASK

Support a £30,000 design and prototype phase, provide specialist expertise, or host the first public pilot. In parallel, help shape a governance model that can make the future Nimba contribution credible and durable.





THE CATCHMENT

Public water. Filtered through earth. Shared by all.

A civic object for a changing climate: part refill station, part geological section, part reminder that water comes from landscapes before it comes from taps.

WALL-INTEGRATED TYPOLOGY FIRST

FREESTANDING TYPOLOGY SECOND

Conceptual design - not for construction · Illustrative station visualisations do not imply host or site approval.