ESTHER

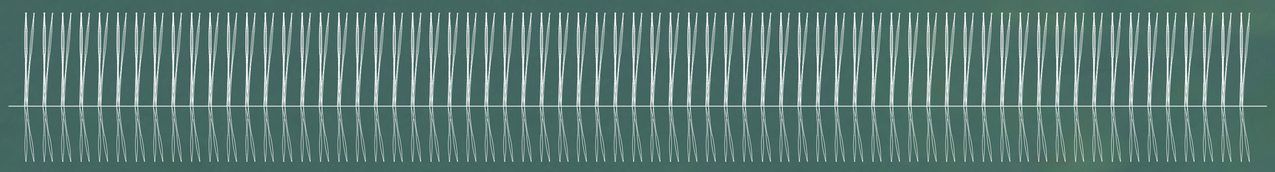
ESTHER captures the ephemerality of motion through water and air, harnessing these to generate purified water and clean energy. The design is conceived as two parts, an underwater point absorber buoy that harvests wave energy, and a piezoelectric torque generator 'mast' that collects wind energy as it sways above water.

This two part design takes inspiration from synchronized swimming, as epitomized by the classic 'aquamusicals' of Esther Williams from the golden years of Hollywood in the 1940s and 50s. Like the swimmers in an aquatic ballet, ESTHER elegantly moves in unison above and below water, creating a spectacle of the periodic movements of the tides and the forces of the wind. This dynamic movement is accentuated by the reflective fiberglass material which creates a play of shadows across the surface of the water. At the same time, the water is mirrored on the masts, reflecting a fragment of the sea into the horizon. The form of the masts were derived from the abstraction of a synchronized swimmer's leg and aerodynamic sailing spars.

The eccentric spacing created by the elliptical formation allows viewers from the Santa Monica pier to understand the installation as an object rather than a non-directional field, much as the bodies of synchronized swimmers collectively form an elaborate pattern. The tops of the masts light up at night allowing observers to enjoy the installation at all times of the day and in all weather conditions. The light is amplified by a fresnel lens on top of the mast that powers a small solar updraft tower. Unlike the CETO system, which is fully submerged and advertises its low visual impact, ESTHER attracts the viewer's attention highlighting the power generation taking place and hopefully encouraging heightened interest and awareness in clean energy.

SITE PLAN

ELEVATION



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