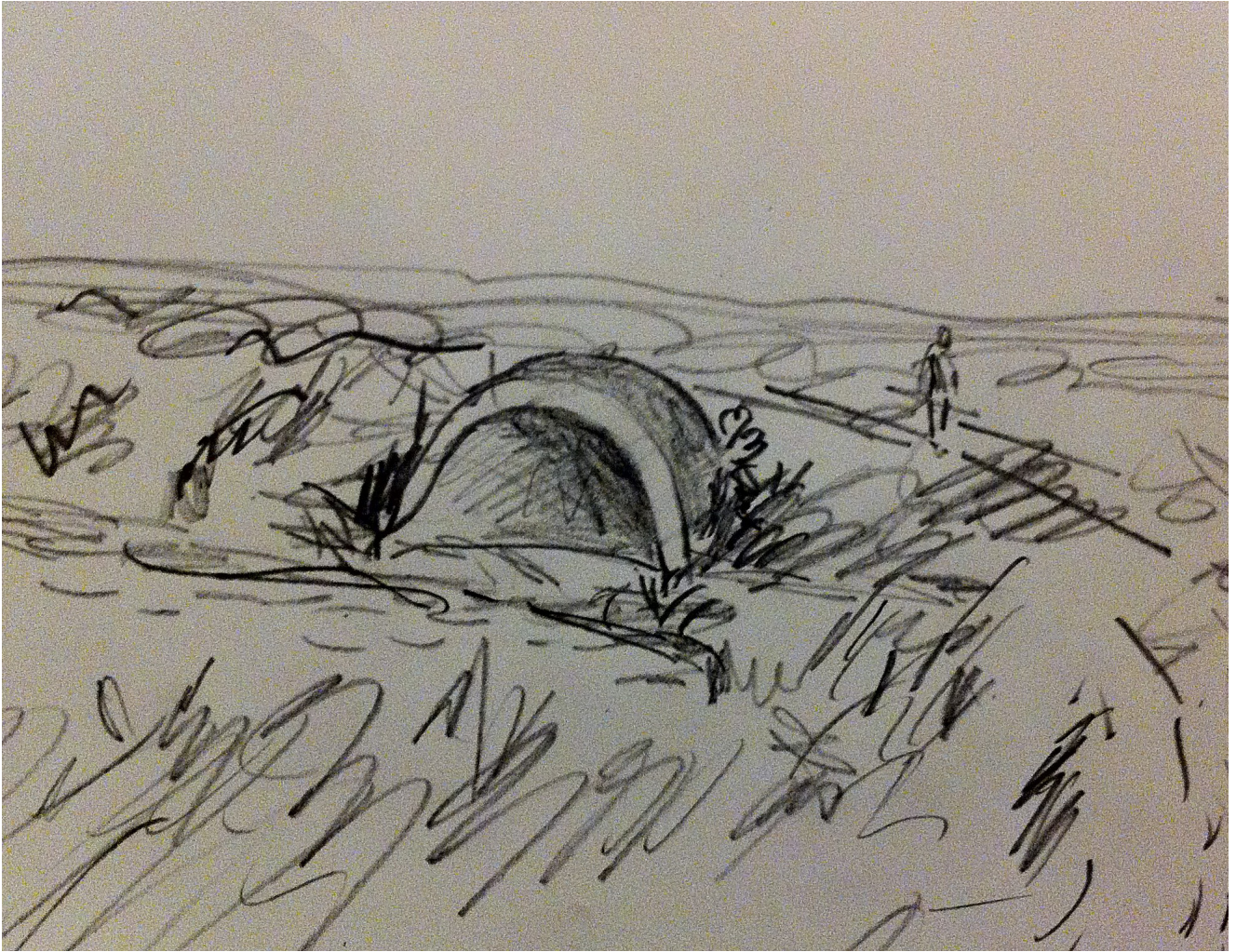
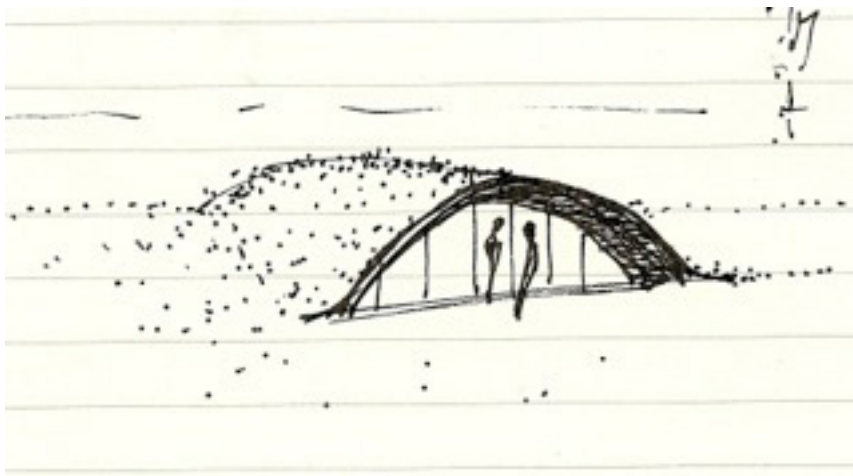


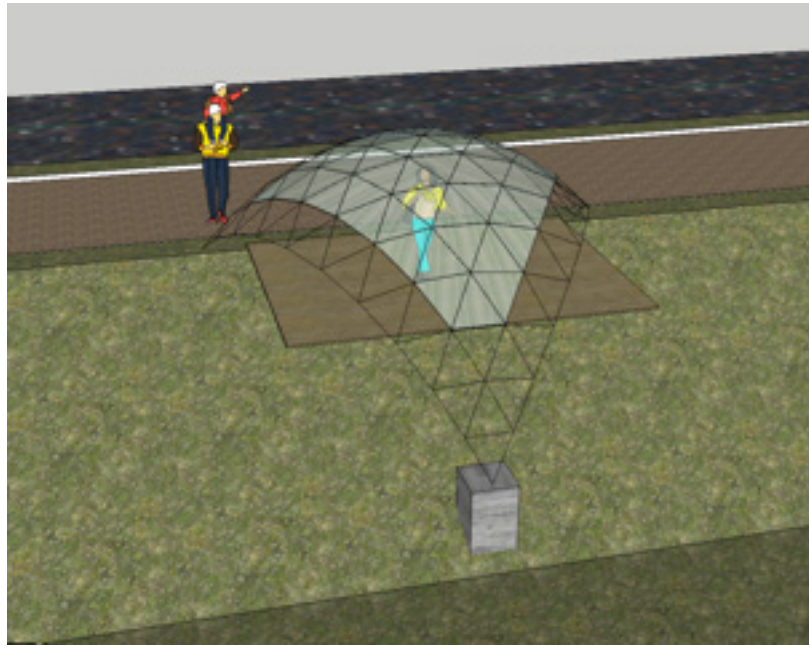
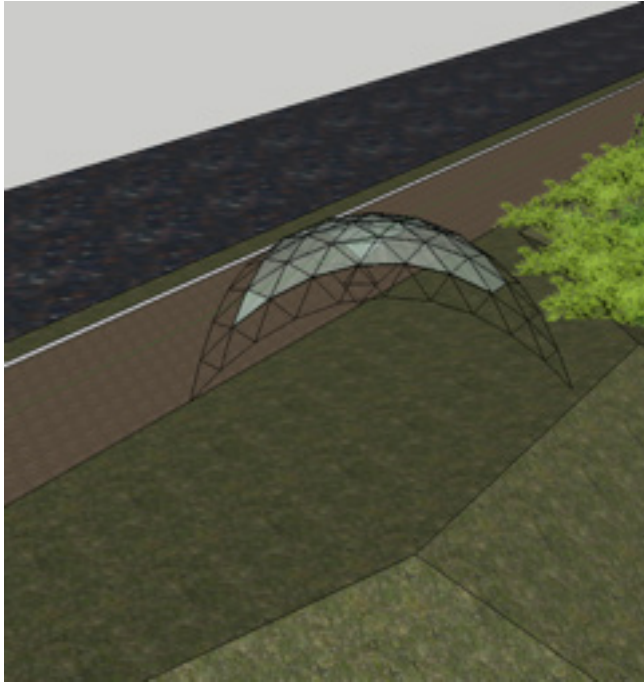
Susanne M. Winterling
Shelter, the lighthouse of fragility





first drawings,drafts and models





the material



photo: Susanne M Winterling
from the aerogel series



photo: scientific american



Empathetic Vision, 2014 (detail)

The material aerogel combines the interest in sustainable contemporary material with the research in bioluminescence and luminosity in the ecosystem related to photography and installation. (It is on the site of Lymington also referring to the saltmarches and the visual similarity to salt.)





Shelter: an idea becoming material within the ecosystem

Shelter the lighthouse of fragility is based on the concept of a shelter in a very basic sense. An approach to work with an ecosystem in the sense of incorporating historical, economical and material considerations of a structure in an outside space. Inspired by Virginia Woolfs novel to the lighthouse, the collaboration with Art South enabled the materialisation for the first time. Starting with curator Judy Adams the collaboration involved Lymington-based architect Magnus Ström, Barton Engineers London and Pete Durnell of Hampshire County Council Countryside Service, the ranger of the National Park.

An architectural sculpture on the seawall is blending into the surrounding landscape, the sculpture has the form of a wave-like shelter. It provides a place to stop, rest and contemplate the relationship the sculpture has with the environment, while sheltering from harsh breeze and weather of the coastline. Working with a broader ecosystem has more considerations: How to raise consciousness and bodily awareness of a broader ecosystem and its political consequences? Can it immerse with the given and how do we experience this immersion in a living environment? What material challenges can be met having contemporary technological and material science at hand ?

The material

The shelter mainly incorporates the material ‘aerogel’, which gives it a luminous quality. Originally developed by Nasa, aerogel has multiple qualities that constitute a sustainable material for the future:

Aerogel is the lightest material, and has the highest insulation capabilities, of all the materials we have so far explored and developed on earth. Its high energy and strength, luminescence, and ultra-light weight account for its tremendous value. Nevertheless, its physical qualities are visually quite similar to that of salt, and even when viewed in its original form, it could be mistaken for a grain of salt. Because the future is dependant on energy and energy management, aerogel can become, much like salt, one of the most valuable tools and trading materials we have today. Here the research and fascination with aerogel comes from a very sculptural consideration of the material and how it interacts with light, as well as an interest in paying tribute to new technological developments and the sustainability of the environment in dialogue with. While also emphasizing the lightest in weight can be the strongest. Aerogel is called frozen smoke and it is the material of another dimension because of the following : aerogel is 95% air, only 3 times heavier than air and the pores are 1000 times thinner than a spiderwebthread gram of areogel however has the surface of a soccer place.

The development of this work has been generously supported by Bayer Material Science.

Bayer Material Science

Image credits: Photo courtesy of Baxter Bradford. Technical drawing courtesy of Susanne M Winterling in association with Ström Architects and Barton Engineers.