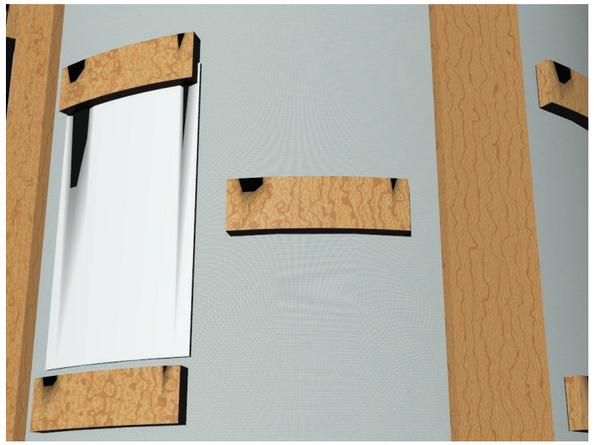
The Big Green Idea

Andrew Volpe, Human Centered Design
Edward Theut, Human Centered Design

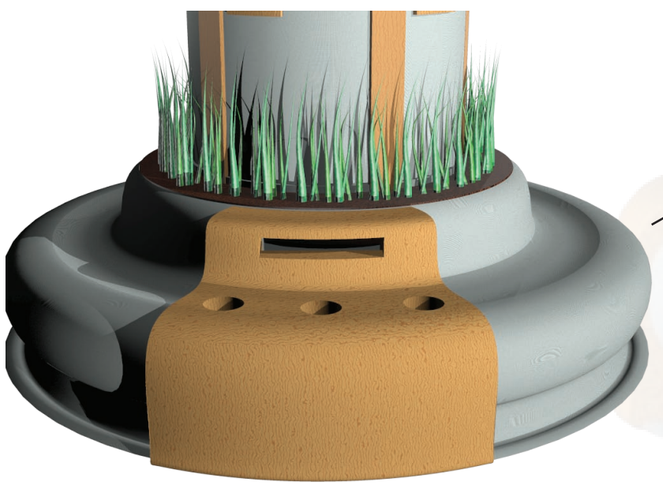
Clips that Section Posting



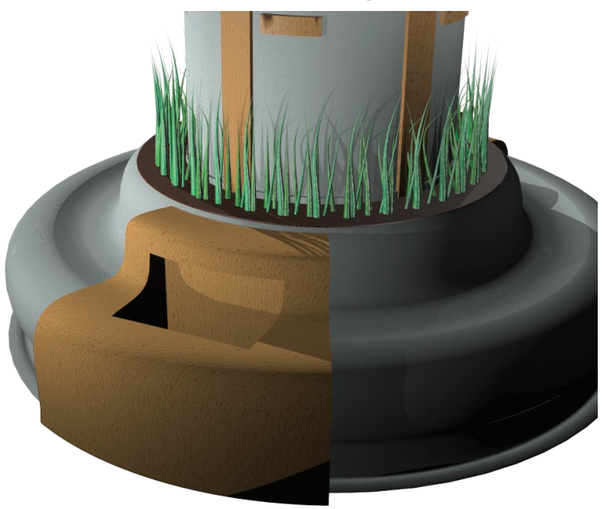
A Community conscience of Sustainability,
A Community focused on Reducing, Reusing and Recycling
And above all, A Community.

Gray Water fed planting

Recycling Center



Garbage



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Materials

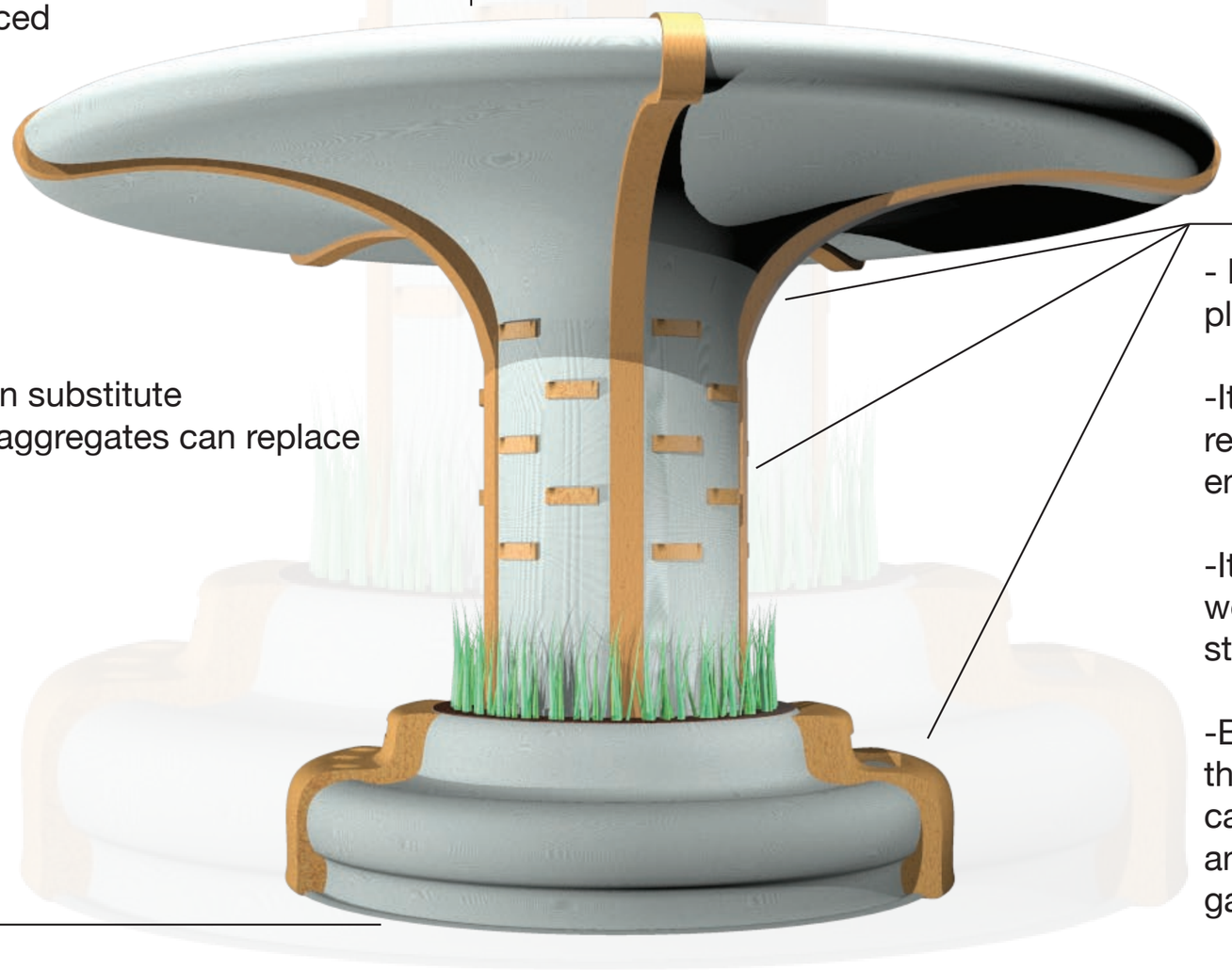
Ready-Mix cast in place concrete

Waste Minimization: Concrete is ordered and placed as needed and does not need to be trimmed or cut after installation.

Durability: Concrete stands up to wind-driven rain and snow, fluctuating temperatures and moisture damage. less replacement means reduced resource requirements.

Low emitting: Concrete has low VOC emission and does not degrade air quality

Recycled Content: Fly ash, slag cement, or silica fume can substitute partially for cement, recycled aggregates can replace newly mined gravel.



Laminated bamboo

- Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on the planet.

-It can be harvested and replenished with no impact on the enviornment.

-It is a viable replacement for wood, and has much more tinsel strength as well.

-Bamboo is a critical element in the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and helps reduce carbon dioxide gases.

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Andrew C. Volpe, and I, Edward L. Theut, are currently Juniors studying Human Centered Design in N.M.U.'s School of Art and Design. Andrew and I first heard of "The Big Green Idea" through our Professor, Peter Pless, and gained further support from our colleagues in Industrial Designer Society of America. As Industrial Designers, Andrew and I saw the Big Green Project as an opportunity to utilize the knowledge gained through Human Centered Design in order to implement ecological awareness through social reform.

The concept of our idea stemmed from an awareness that Northern doesn't facilitate recycling to the level in which they provide sole trash receptacles. The assertion that Northern Lacked an adequate amount of recycling depositories was reaffirmed through conversations held between ourselves with those of our fellow colleagues. The notion that the presence of garbage cans outweighs recycling bins can be illustrated if one were to enter the east entrence of the West Science building. Approaching the door, one could notice that there are three garbage cans within twenty feet of each other, where as any sort of recycling bin is absent. Having identified a problem that is so obvious it's overlooked Andrew and I began designing a recycling depository that not only functions as an object environmental conservation and awareness but symbol also as a symbol of Northern's progressive green initiative.

Andrew and I are suggesting that Northern Michigan University allow for a relic to be erected that acts as a shelter, monument, and convenient place to deposit recyclable. The structure would stand 12 feet talk from the ground to its highest point, while possessing a 10 foot circumference at it's base, and a 14 foot crown. The fact that the height out spans the base allows the structure to act as a shelter from the sun, rain, and snow, while its form, when juxtaposed with other archetypal shelters, offers a more visually organic quality. Due to the fact that its form lends itself as a shelter, this would allow for the structure to be a certified posting area, which offers enough space for 50 tabloid sized fliers to be placed around the central column. Lastly, and most importantly there would two receptacles for waste arrayed around the base of the structure. When all of these elements are combined a monument is created that portrays the Northern Naturally Paradigm.