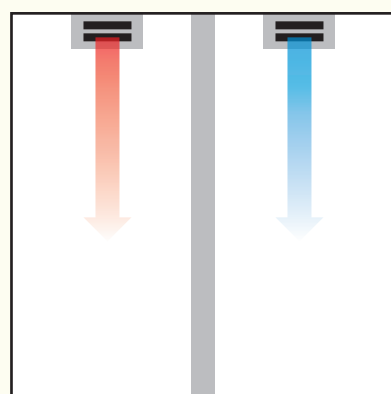


2.0 : Cycles Unlimited—one local effort

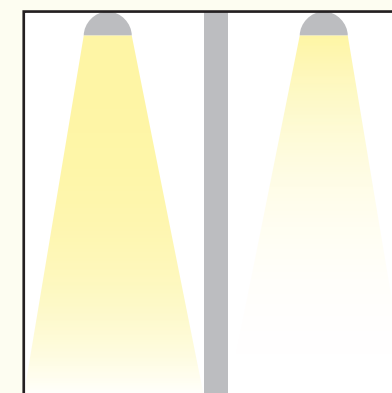
2.5 : the interior

Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, are chemicals that have high vapor pressure and enter the atmosphere, which can then contribute to air pollution. Many common products used in the construction of buildings and homes are high in VOCs and can create an unhealthy living environment, partially due to indoor spaces where air has less room to flow. Indoor environments have shown to contain 2 to 5 times more VOCs than outdoor environments.

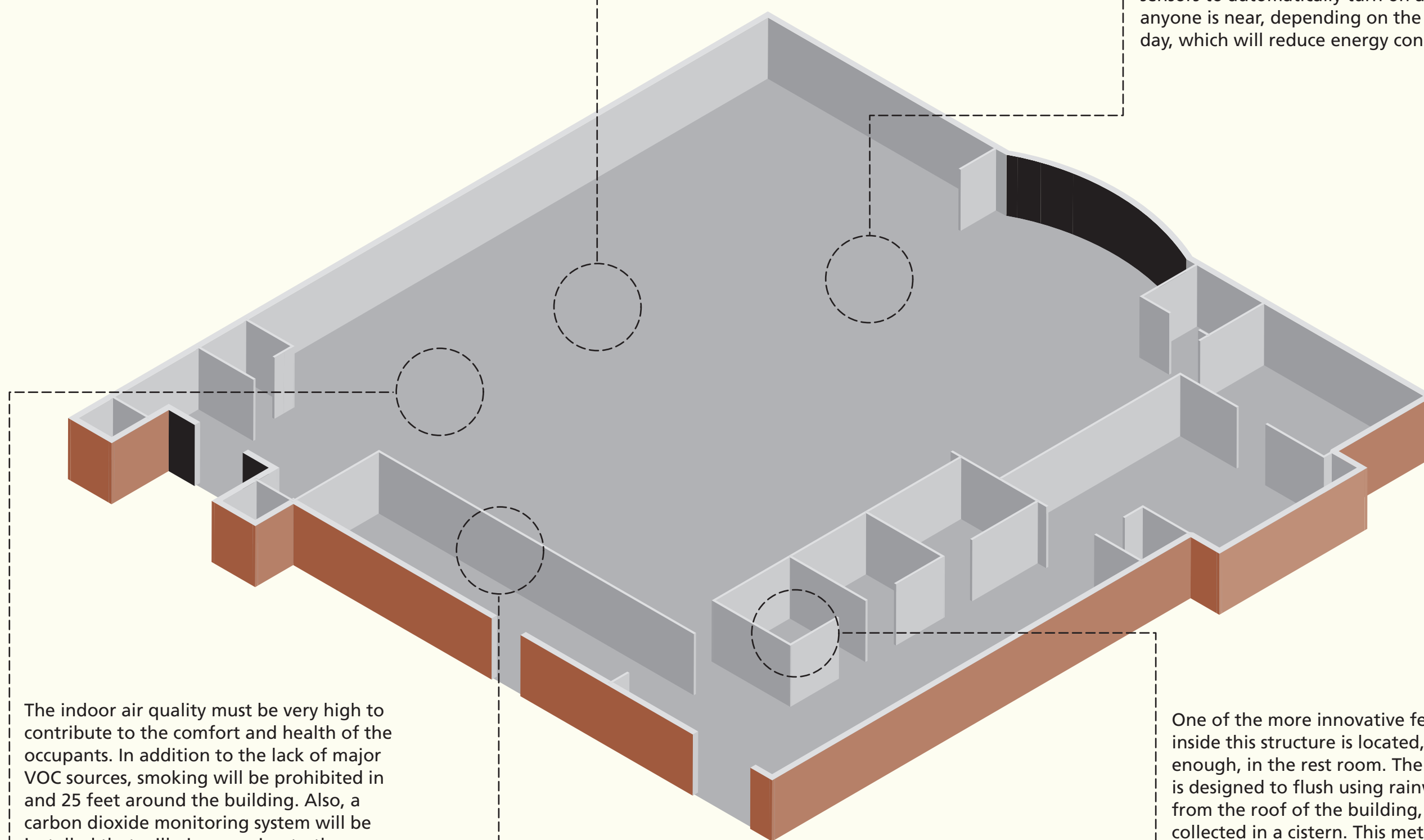
Common items used in construction that contain high levels of VOCs are composite wood, adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, and carpet. This building uses materials that are certified as no VOC or low in VOC emissions, which create a much healthier living and working environment.



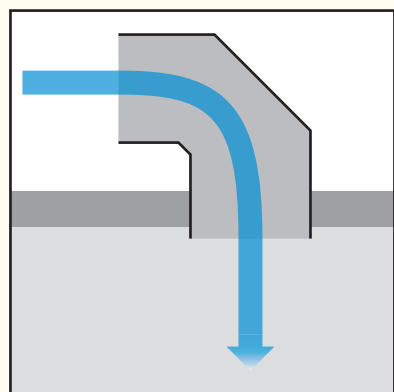
Measures will be taken to ensure the optimal comfort for those occupying this building. This includes designing the HVAC system to run at peak performance for this specific structure, which will allow proper comfort levels while reducing operating costs. This system will be permanently monitored to verify constant peak performance. The levels will be individually adjustable in every area to promote comfort and enhance productivity.



The interior lighting will be low emitting and will be designed so that occupants will have individual control of light levels to suite their specific needs and preferences, which will promote productivity and comfort. The lights will also have motion sensors to automatically turn on and off if anyone is near, depending on the time of day, which will reduce energy consumption.



The indoor air quality must be very high to contribute to the comfort and health of the occupants. In addition to the lack of major VOC sources, smoking will be prohibited in and 25 feet around the building. Also, a carbon dioxide monitoring system will be installed that will give warning to the occupants if carbon dioxide levels vary by 10% from a specified point. A natural ventilation system will be installed to provide fresh outside air to the occupants to promote comfort, health, and productivity.



In the instance that real wood is used in this project, such as interior walls or ceilings, it will come from a forest that adheres to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. However, the usage of real wood in this particular project is kept at a strict minimum.

One of the more innovative features found inside this structure is located, interestingly enough, in the rest room. The toilet system is designed to flush using rainwater runoff from the roof of the building, which is collected in a cistern. This method has shown to drastically reduce the usage of water from other sources and reduces the overall cost of water.

