

# [ BALŪ ]

GUPTA+HERPFER+XU

BALU, Hindi for 'Bear' and pronounced similar to 'Balloon', is a pavilion for learning and un-learning that shelters from the elements, like wind and precipitation, and inhibits more spreading of COVID. The pavilion structure itself engages with the qualities of inflatable structure by inflating vaults; blowers placed at the piers/vaults blow life into the structure while minimizing interior structure. The interior structure is defined by a permeable inflatable structure engaging with the basin -- and the basin's history -- while providing additional seating. The interior seating configurations could be configured and reconfigured depending on the programme. These configurations are defined by inflatable, movable, permeable partitions, where spheres allow for air to flow, yet are giving users different private spaces, different presentation spaces, and lighting/daylighting. The tables and seating are not only easily movable with handles; the tables are semi-circular, where users could sit at semi-circular tables or may join tables to form and sit at circular tables. Depending on the weather, the pavilion is expandable; that is, it is expandable by incorporating the existing seating of the plaza -- otherwise, it is always reflecting the lighting from Avery Library.

