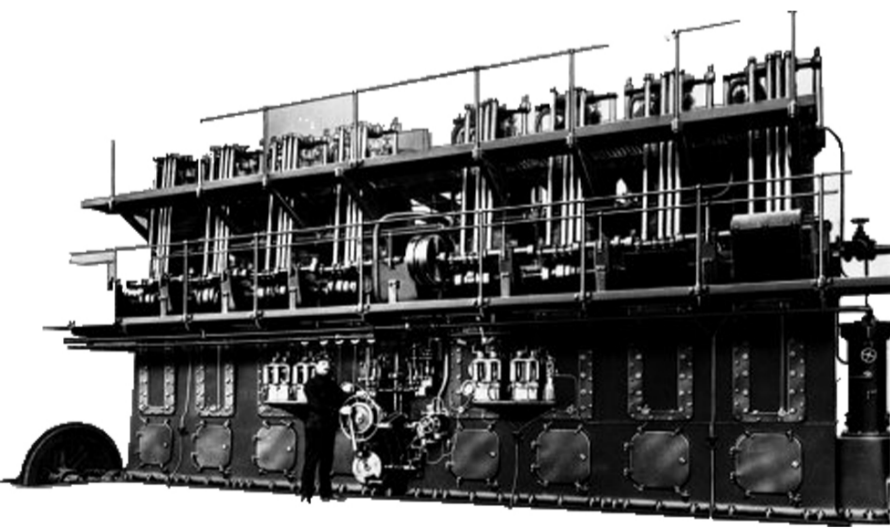
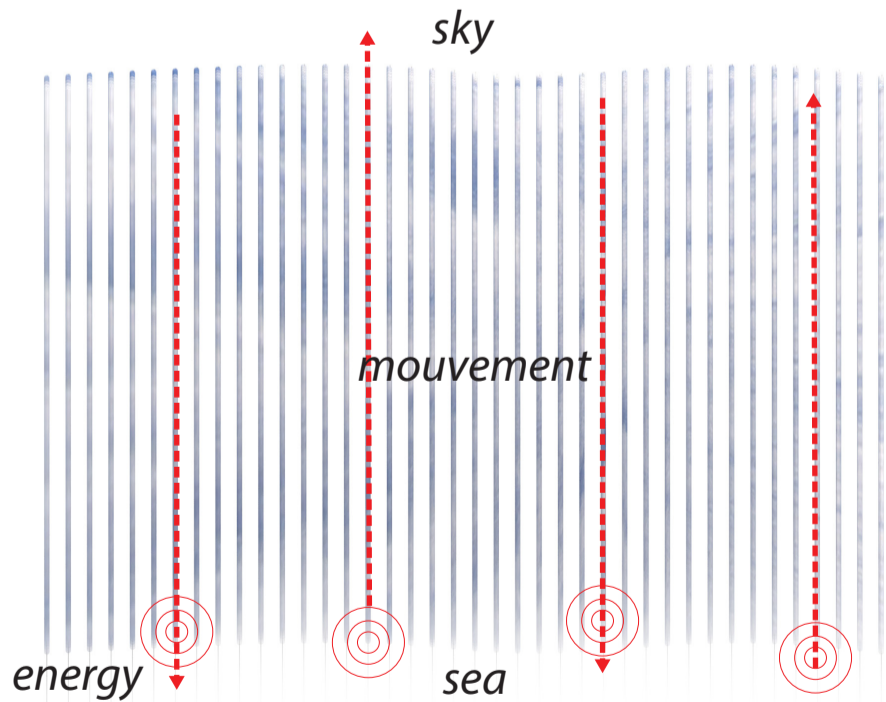
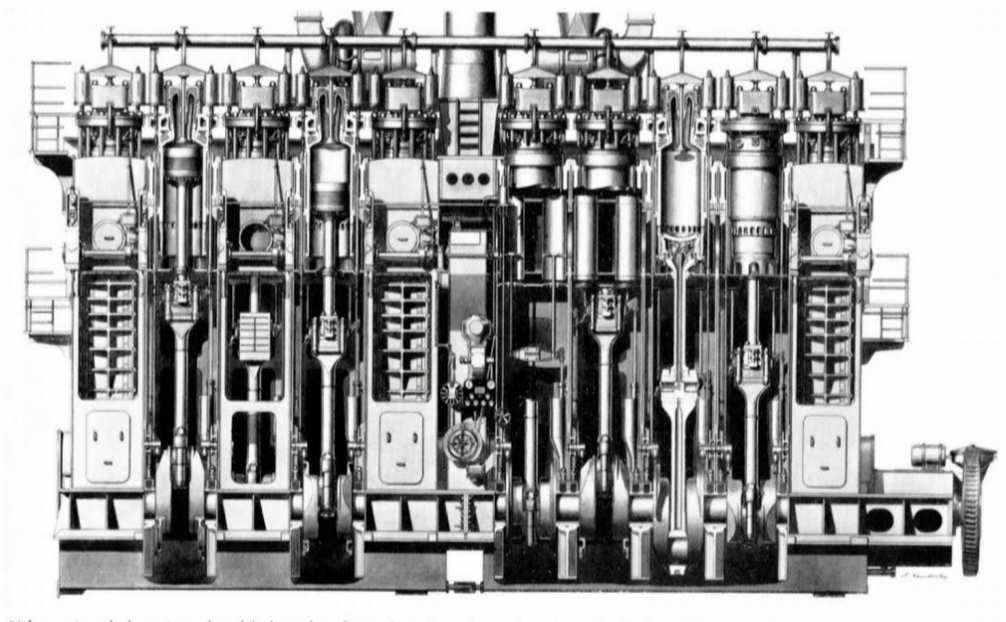


# the ephemeral machine

*"never can the innate power of a work be hidden or locked away.....it can be forbidden and rejected but the elemental will always prevail over the ephemeral."*



Burmeister & Wain steam engines



The ephemeral machine is at the same time a dense energy installation, and a landscape element that sets two major references with the surrounding site. The first pays tribute to the history of the site considered as an icon of Danish ship industry after that Burmeister & Wain established a major shipyard in 1871. The second one is the recognition of the present day landscape of a flat harbor punctuated by a series of marking vertical elements: chimneys, cranes, silos and antennas. So, the project ideally mixes the image of the steams engines produced by B&W (characterized by massive volumes with pistons moving vertically) with the vertical elements of the site to give birth to an evocative ephemeral machine.

Movement, and the energy produced by it, are the substantial elements of this installation while the form and the materials of its components are nothing more than ephemeral temporary conditions. In fact this 120m high massive installation occupies the sea portion in front of the former shipyard and it is composed more than 550 vertical elements. Each element is divided into an underwater structure leaned onto the sea floor, a floating buoy-like raft and a transparent vertical helium balloon connected by a steel wire to the raft. The whole is in an unsteady balance to be easily set in movement by the waves and the movements of the balloons. So the breezes and the waves create a continuous gentle movement source of the energy of the installation. Moreover the rafts are accessible by visitors contributing to the production of movement and energy.

From a landscape point of view the project creates a massive dense volume (hinting to the shape of engines but also to the voluminous encumbrance of present day cargos and sea liners) but it dematerialize it thanks to the lightness and transparency of the balloons the only visible elements from urban-scale distances. As the site sits in front of one of the most famous symbols of Copenhagen, the little Mermaid, the installation set a dialogue with it through a series of ephemeral and oniric scenarios both in day and night time. Like the Mermaid, the installation is partly below water and partly above it and this hybrid state is shown by its continuous movement.

