

research

research

acp43

phase i of *rsa* ,
phase iii of *research* ,
1/3 of 1/3 of 1/9 of

transtension

*“Three is a magic number
Yes it is, it’s a magic number
Somewhere in the ancient mystic trinity
You get three
As a magic number”*

Bob Dorough , *School House Rock* (1971)

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act iii of *research* ,
1/3 of 1/9 of
transtension

a
conversation peace
for three

transtension

fore.word

transtension

fore.word

i think i should start this one by saying i've been somewhat obsessed with platonic solids ever since i remembered them sometime during the first half of undergrad. i say 'remembered' because i do believe in the platonic doctrine of recollection.

anyhow, there really is something about triangles, and thus about tetrahedra (since they are just triangles in three dimensions), that has captivated me for some time now. in that sense, i think the earliest version of this peace originated the summer after my junior year of undergrad during a class with ken. i was just stacking and balancing various tetrahedra and playing with tensegrity in an intuitive way.

fast.forward to grad school and they kind of fell by the wayside, though always in the back of my mind, until i was in madrid during IAP of '25. we were doing a workshop with anton and playing around with 'composites', which is really just to say resin and junk (in the most endearing sense of the word 'junk'). and since i didn't feel like thinking [or trying] too hard, the idea to do a large scale tripod came to mind, partially as a reference to teepees and partially as a meditation on the only necessary aspect of architecture, that of shelter, and the fact that this was an architectural workshop and we were more or less working through art projects, though granted materially exploratory art projects. which is all to say no care or concern for shelter, which i consequently grappled with even harder. at the end we had a 'review' where we walked through the work and had conversations about each piece. mine had fallen and crumpled before the review even started, so i used the 'presentation' as an opportunity to talk about these gripes and qualms and trepidations i was having qua architecture and the necessity of shelter. anton brought up a quote from mies or corb or someone that 'architecture shelters the spirit of the times', which reminded me of the class i took with michael hays where either hegel or heidegger said something similar, i think hegel because it was about classical architecture housing or rather providing shelter for the void.

anyhow all that is to say i started to think about more specific things 'architecture', which is to say minor or de.capitalized Architecture, could provide shelter for (or from). and so when i think through this peace i come to believe, again and again, that it provides shelter from the pace of everyday life; it provides a reprieve from the incessant passage of space through time (or vise versa), perhaps even a liberation from time and space by providing a way through the other, to the other.

stats	
deploys	34
denials	3
covert.ops	9
rain.outs	4
interactions	161
impressions (approx.)	3429
prayers received	6
components broken	7
acquaintances	sarkis
	omari
	alex
	sheldon
	kathleen
	daniel
	jeremy
	lainie

- responses to ‘what is that/it/this ?’
- a toy
 - a drink
 - a game
 - a tetrahedron
 - a pyramid
 - a tripod
 - my thesis
 - a three.sided pyramid
 - a device of inter.subjectivity
 - a device of trans.subjectivity
 - a device of sub.subjectivity
 - an excuse to talk to people
 - a checkpoint
 - an object of pure light
 - a lover’s device
 - a light device
 - a research device
 - a beacon
 - a merkaba
 - a vessel
 - an experiment
 - wanna find out ?
 - a conversation peace

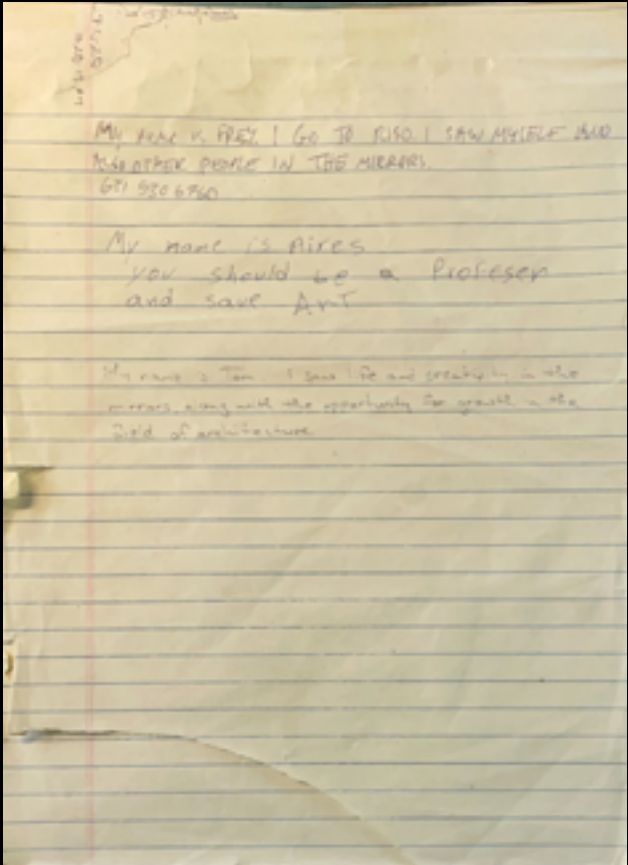
- i . WVI Memorial [(18:07 , 27.5.25) . Providence , RI]
- ii . Bennett Memorial Fountain [(13:46 , 28.5.25) . New Haven , CT]
- iii . John Marshall Park Plaza [(12:04 , 31.5.25) . Washington , DC]
- iv . Inner Harbor , Harbor Place [(14:45 , 1.6.25) . Baltimore , MD]
- v . Abner Clay Park [(14:10 , 2.6.25) . Richmond , VA]
- vi . Ten Mile World Record [(16:33 , 4.6.25) . St. Petersburg , FL]
- vii . 21st Street Lifeguard Tower [(16:35 , 6.6.25) . Miami Beach , FL]
- viii . Matt's House [(17:17 , 7.6.25) . Palm Beach Gardens , FL]
- ix . Rose of Sharon Fishing Pier [(09:25 , 8.6.25) . St. Augustine, FL]
- x . Fountain at Forsyth Park [(13:21 , 8.6.25) . Savannah , GA]
- xi . Marion Square [(17:57 , 8.6.25) . Charleston , SC]
- xi . Centennial Olympic Park [(10:36 , 9.6.25) . Atlanta , GA]
- xiii . Big Spring Park [(15:33 , 9.6.25) . Huntsville , AL]
- xiv . The Parthenon [(09:24 , 10.6.25) . Nashville , TN]
- xv . Port of Paducah [(15:56 , 10.6.25) . Paducah , KY]
- xvi . Former Pruitt-Igoe Site I [(18:45 , 10.6.25) . St. Louis , MO]
- xvii . The Gateway Arch [(10:46 , 11.6.25) . St. Louis , MO]
- xviii . Former Pruitt-Igoe Site II [(12:06 , 11.6.25) . St. Louis , MO]
- xix . James Madison Park [(20:21 , 11.6.25) . Madison , WI]
- xx . Cloud Gate//‘The Bean’ [(15:23 , 12.6.25) . Chicago , IL]
- xxi . United States Postal Service [(12:04 , 13.6.25) . Columbus , IN]
- xxii . Central Park Ampitheatre [(15:47 , 13.6.25) . Louisville , KY]
- xxiii . Knowlton School Roof , OSU [(12:56 , 14.6.25) . Columbus , OH]
- xxiv . Topiary Park [(13:53 , 14.6.25) . Columbus , OH]
- xxv . Strip District Railroad [(12:49 , 15.6.25) . Pittsburgh , PA]
- xxvi . Vacant Parking Lot [(15:54 , 28.6.25) . Durham , NC]
- xxvii . OG Shenandoah River Bridge [(15:12 , 29.8.25) . Harper's Ferry , WV]
- xxviii. Hare Pavilion [(12:00 , 30.8.25) . Wilmington , DE]
- xxix . Ideal Course // Carnegie Lake [(14:47 , 30.8.25) . Princeton , NJ]
- xxx . Ralph Ellison Plaza [(18:51 , 30.8.25) . Harlem , NY , NY]
- xxxi . Fort Allen Park [(12:54 , 31.8.25) . Portland , ME]
- xxxii . B&M Concord Turntable [(15:59 , 31.8.25) . Concord , NH]
- xxxiii. Westernmost Point of NH [(18:19 , 31.8.25) . Brattleboro , VT]
- xxxiv . MIT Architecture , 7-403 [(15:25 , 26.9.25) . Cambridge , MA]



the extended trip

part i of ‘the deploys’

transtension

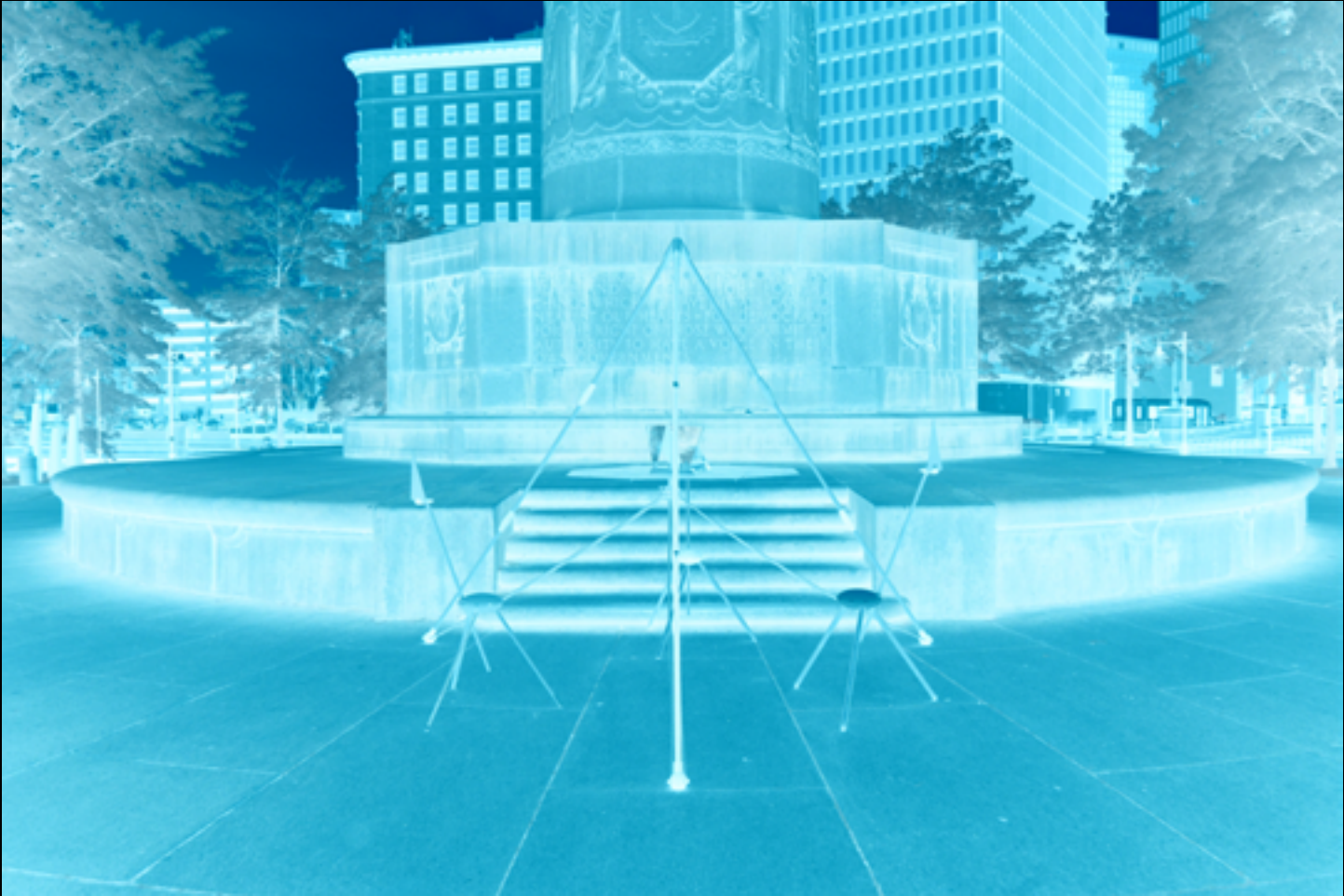


the ist deploy

at this point i still thought i might get all the way out to cali and back again
i was so nervous until the first person came up
their name was frey ; i told them i'd see them in cali if i could

a man named aires also told me to teach and save art
i feel a sort of obligation to him

my dad also sat down at this first deploy
so , even tho it was only the beginning , it felt like a full.circle moment



WWI Memorial [(18:07 , 27.5.25) . Providence , RI]



19 °c | cloudy | 1023.67 hPa

28.5.25
2019
My name is John Wayne
I get innocent people out of prison
The but the only side of prison is
about my investigation

My name is Valman Layon
I like Logan's concept
And would love to see
His work expanded to capture
all types of seasons
V Lyons - 203.937.9443
300 West Main Street CT

GET LIKE LASER BEAMS
GIVE FROM PAPER 2 MIRROR
TAKING PEOPLE & SOME STRUCTURE
IT POINT BEAMS
FROM JOHN
(SWLEY)

John Wayne
please leave to end. Except the Lord's
word, and understanding, be humble
yourself, and lose that ignorance, and
learn, without traveling
God Bless
Amen

the iind deploy

right after i set up here , an advocacy group pulled up and started handing out food to homeless people

a few of them came and sat down while they were eating . they told me they don't like yale cause they own everything around and they take and take and take , but don't give . they just take up space without creating any for others

one guy told me i should add lasers and more mirrors . i think i will , whenever i make another one of these

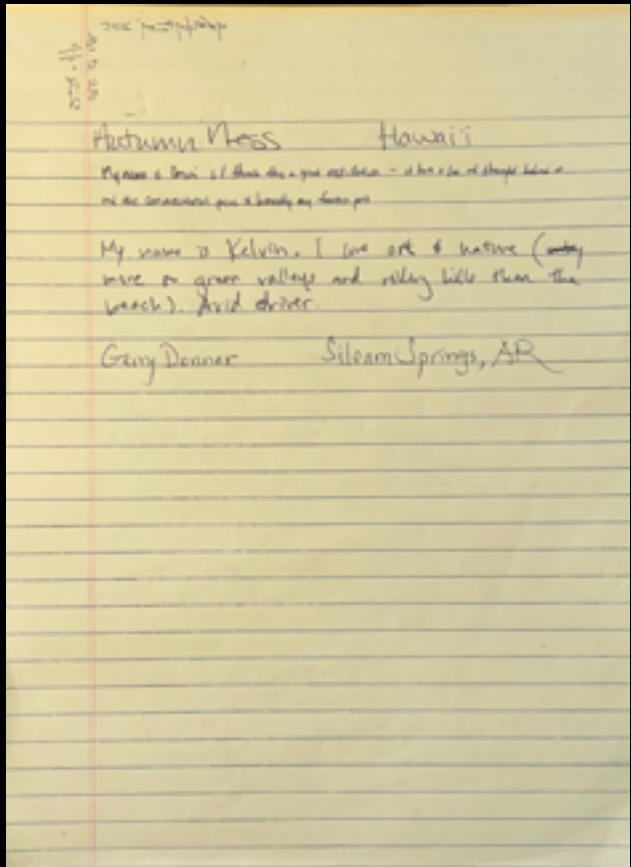
looking back , definitely an inception moment for 9 3rd things



Bennett Memorial Fountain [(13:46 , 28.5.25) . New Haven , CT]



19 °c | fair | 1024.91 hPa



the iiird deploy

i initially tried to set up right in front of the east wing , but security wouldn't let me , so i asked the cops if i could set up across the street

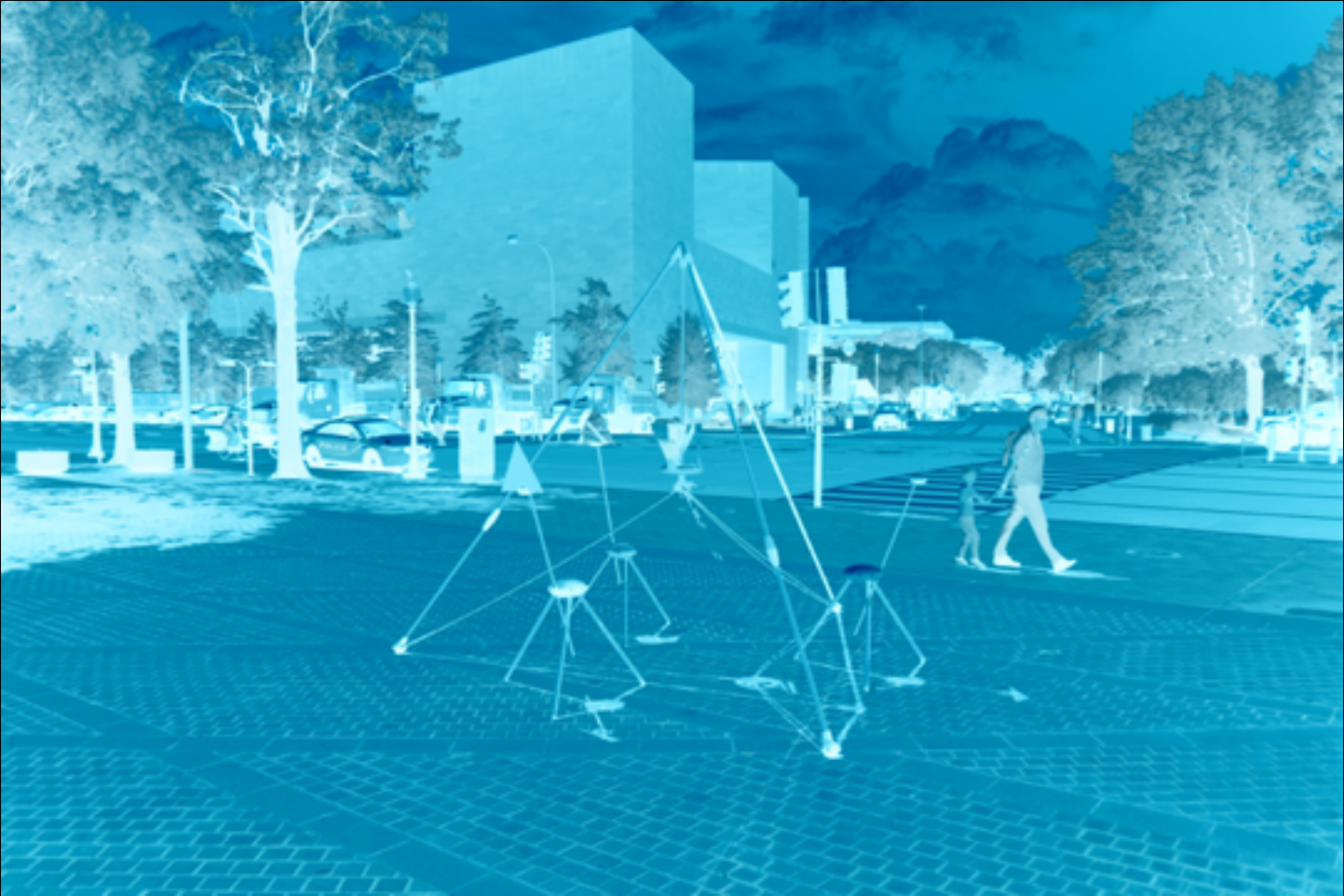
on this day more people passed by while staring than sat down , which i think says something about dc . but the ones that did sit down were incredibly open and wholesome , which i think says something else about dc

it started raining right as i was finishing packing up , so i went in.to the museum , which i first went to my first semester of undergrad at maryland

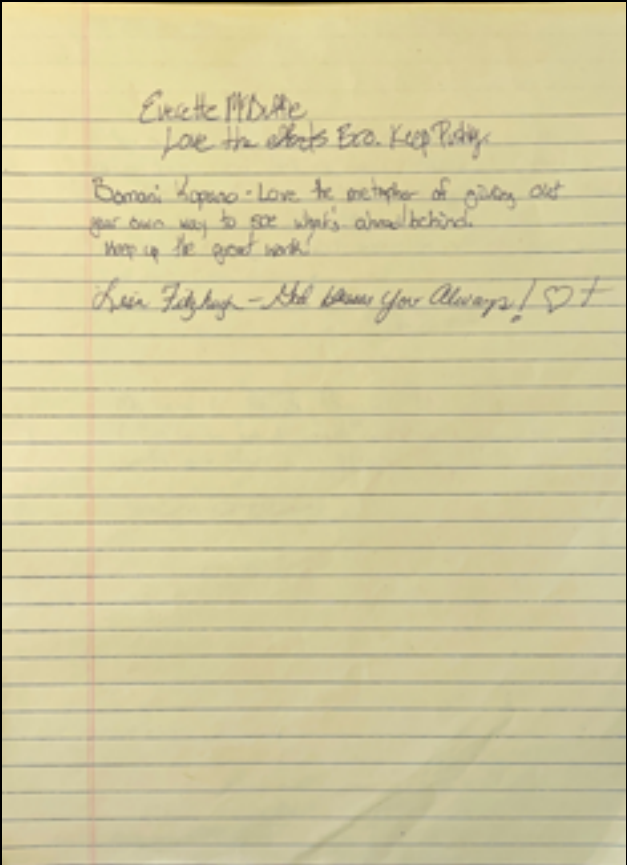
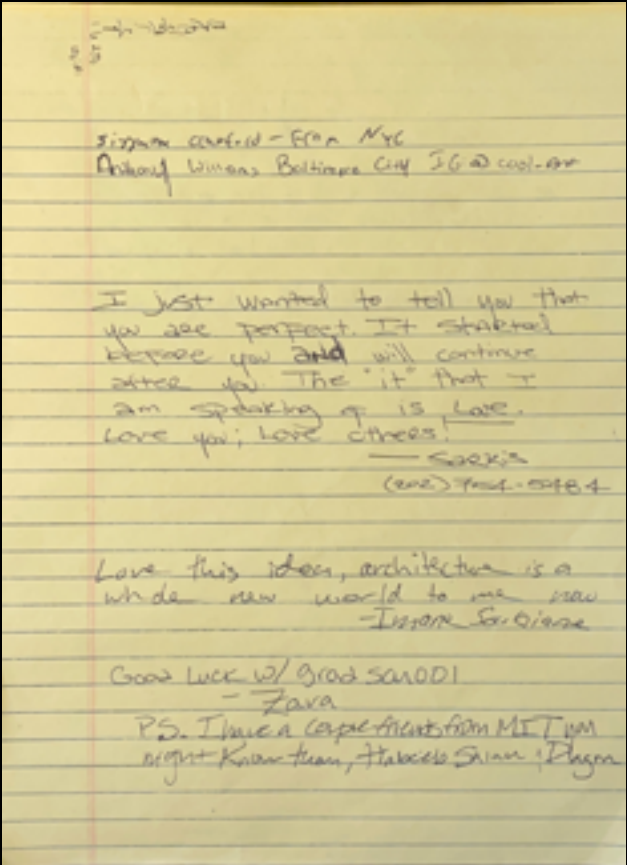
another full circle moment , as this is one of my favorite buildings of all time



John Marshall Park Plaza [(12:04 , 31.5.25) : Washington , DC]



14 °c | cloudy//light.rain | 1020.17 hPa



the ivth deploy

i have core childhood memories from the inner harbor , and i was definitely nervous to set up here because it's such a public place with so many people and also there was a good chance someone from my past would pass by

what actually happened was i had to wait the longest so far for anyone to come up and sit down . they were a few children . one of them spun the mirrors so hard one fell off and broke . the parents watched from a certain distance but didn't engage

once the kids sat down and stood up and went , many more [people] came and sat down . this is when i met sarkis , who knew exactly what i was up to , in his own way , and asked why i used aluminum pipes instead of copper [i said the pipes were recycled]

there was also a man playing a bugle just to my right , a soundtrack of sorts . afterwards , we talked like we were both fellow street performers . he told me he travels the east coast on weekends to make extra money , a second job of sorts it was illuminating

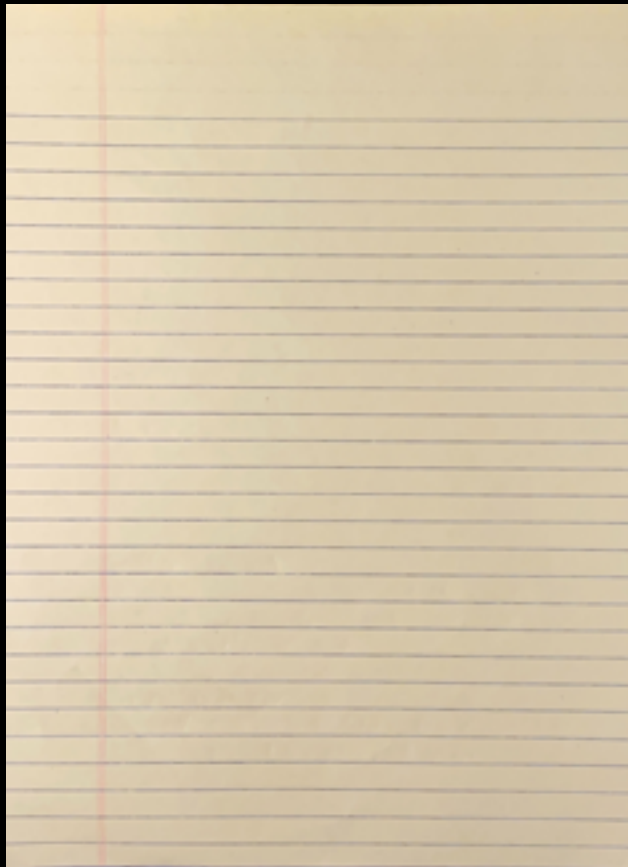
this was also the first time i got to show old friends some school stuff i think it further confused them as to what architecture even entails



Inner Harbor , Harbor Place [(14:45 , 1.6.25) . Baltimore , MD]



21 °c | cloudy | 1004.22 hPa



the v^{th} deploy

this was the first of what i refer to as the ‘covert deploys’

all this really means is no one sat down

it makes sense as i was on the outskirts of richmond in the middle of the day

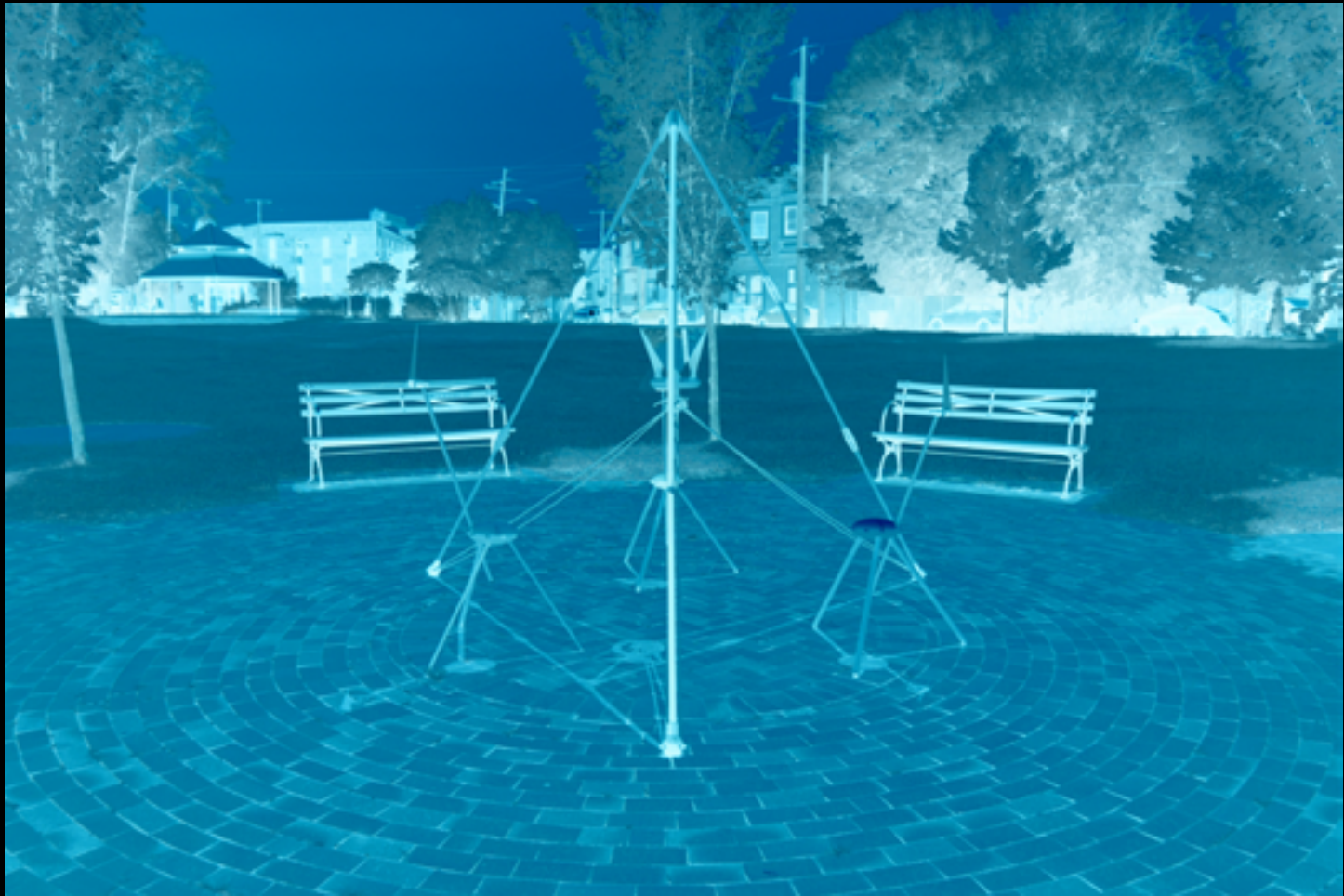
most people were at work

i sat down at a coffee shop before this and talked to the baristas about why i was there and what i was doing , but i didn’t ask them to come and try it
it felt too forced

so i sat down by my.self , in each position , and paid attention to the mirrors ,
and let the wind blow them and focused on following the reflections . it was nice

at that point , i decided maybe covert deploys weren’t such a bad idea

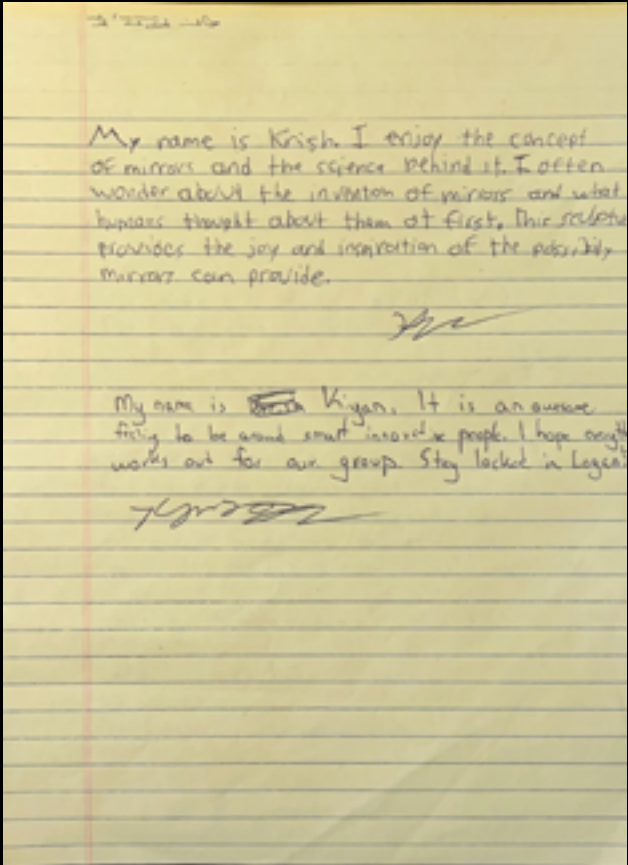
i also got over the fear of setting up and being completely ignored by all
passersby - more.so a blessing in disguise than anything else



Abner Clay Park [(14:10 , 2.6.25) . Richmond , VA]



23 °c | partly.cloudy | 1011.47 hPa



the vith deploy

if you're wondering , 'why st. petersburg?' , it's because i was in berlin earlier that year and met a bartender who was telling me stories of his travels through the u.s. , and he said if i was going on this survey i just had to go see the dalí museum in st. petersburg, fl.

so i did

i got my friend krish to come with me , and then our other friend kiyan met us after.wards

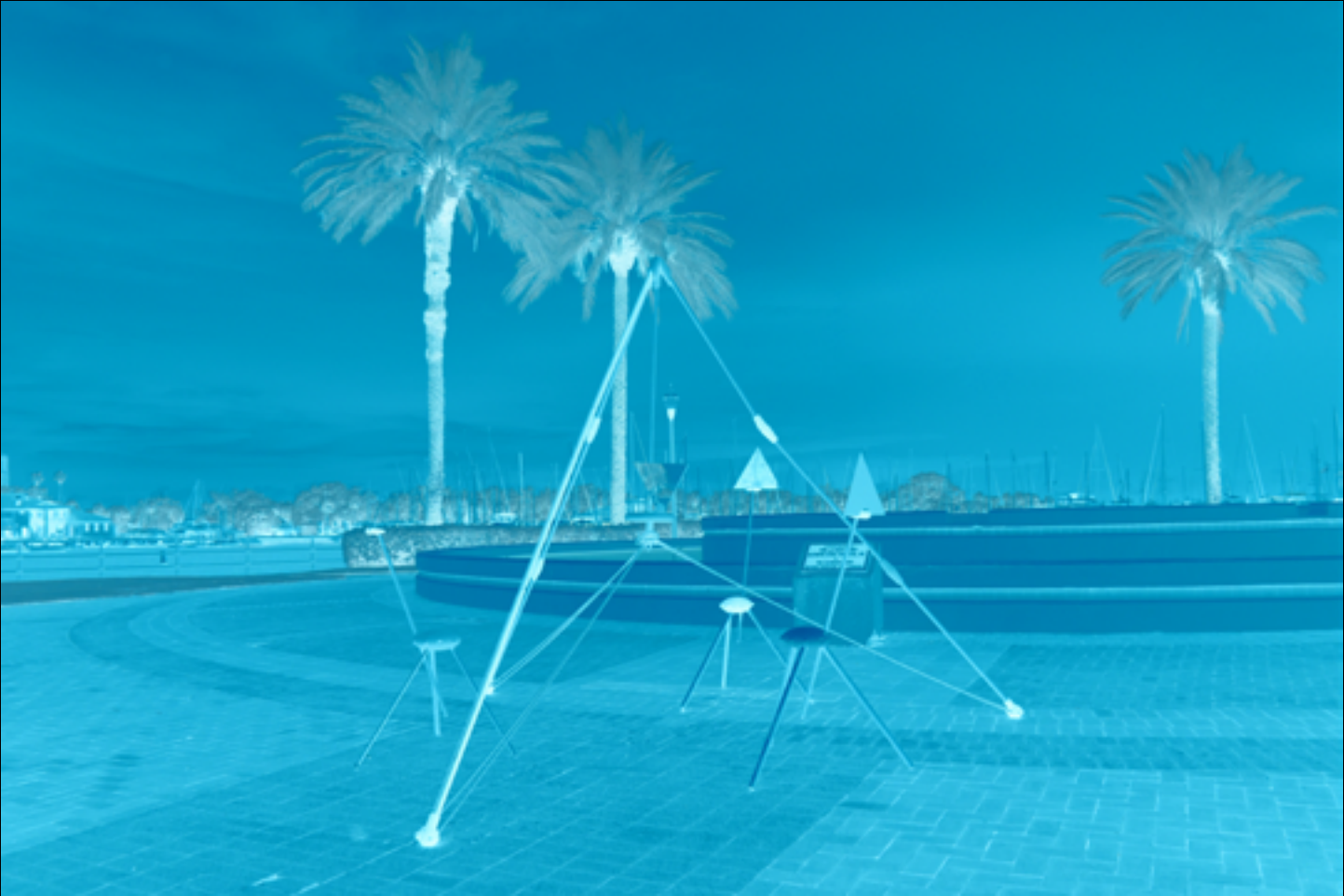
it was a rainy day so they were the only two to sit down

this was also the first time a component broke , one of the joints of the main structure [which is why the one leg looks like it's leaning in the images below]

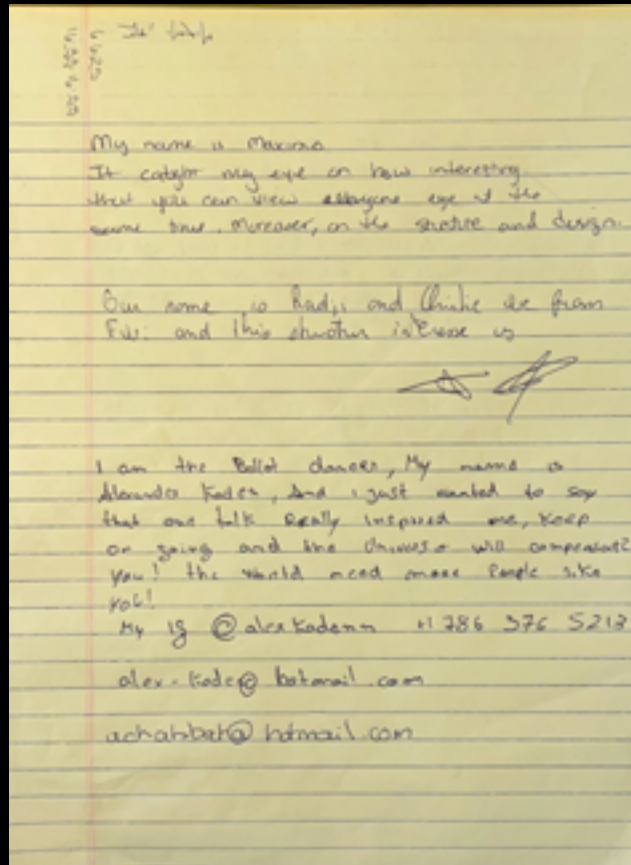
in that moment i felt quite validated in having brought extras of each component



Ten Mile World Record [(16:33 , 4.6.25) . St.Petersburg , FL]



26 °c | mostly.cloudy//rain | 1015.68 hPa



the viith deploy

at one point when i was telling people what i was planning to do that summer ,
celia told me i should take it to the beach

so i did

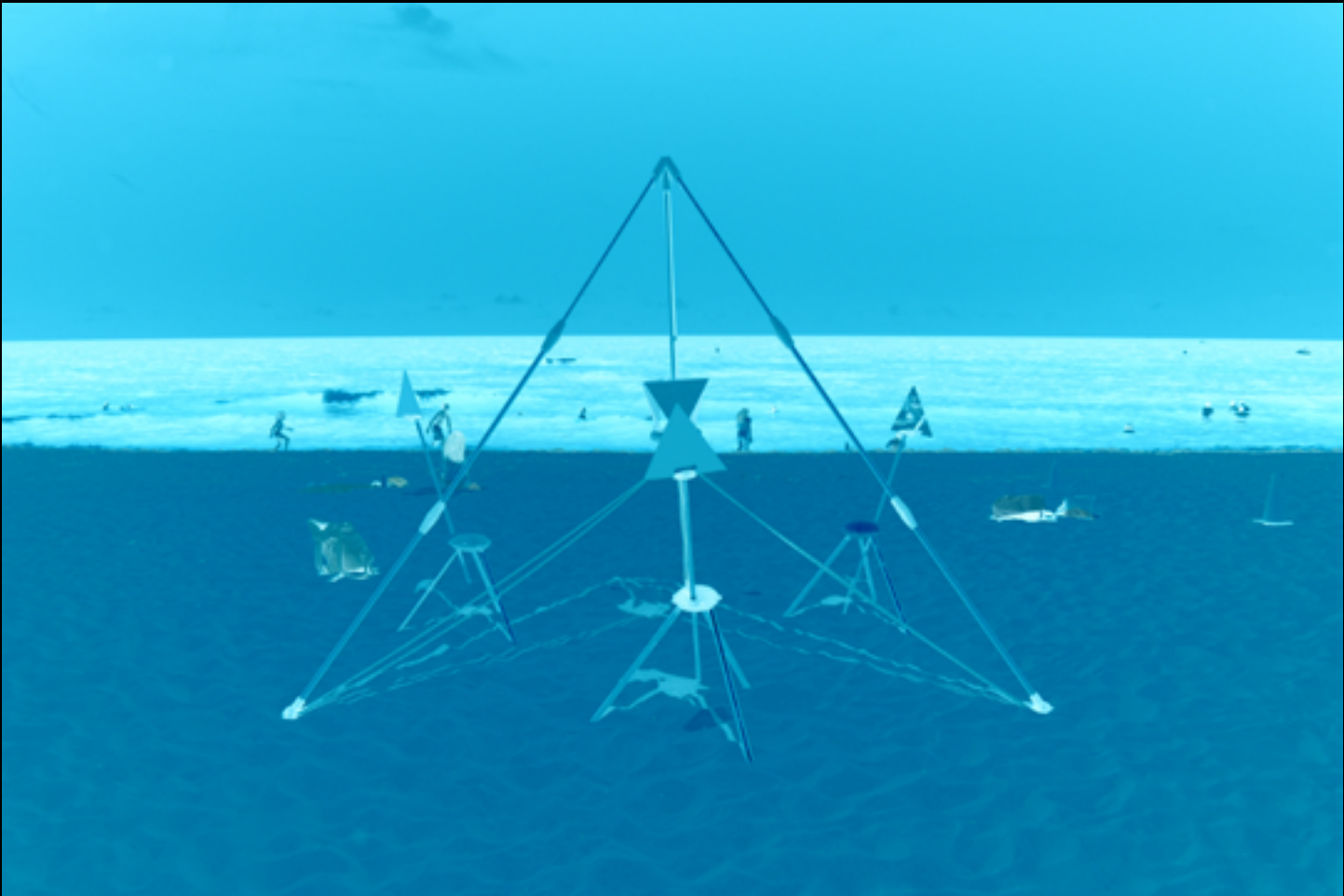
this was such a re.markably hot day

i sat up next to a lifeguard tower, wherein the lifeguard called down to me and
asked what i was doing . i told him to come and see for himself , so he did

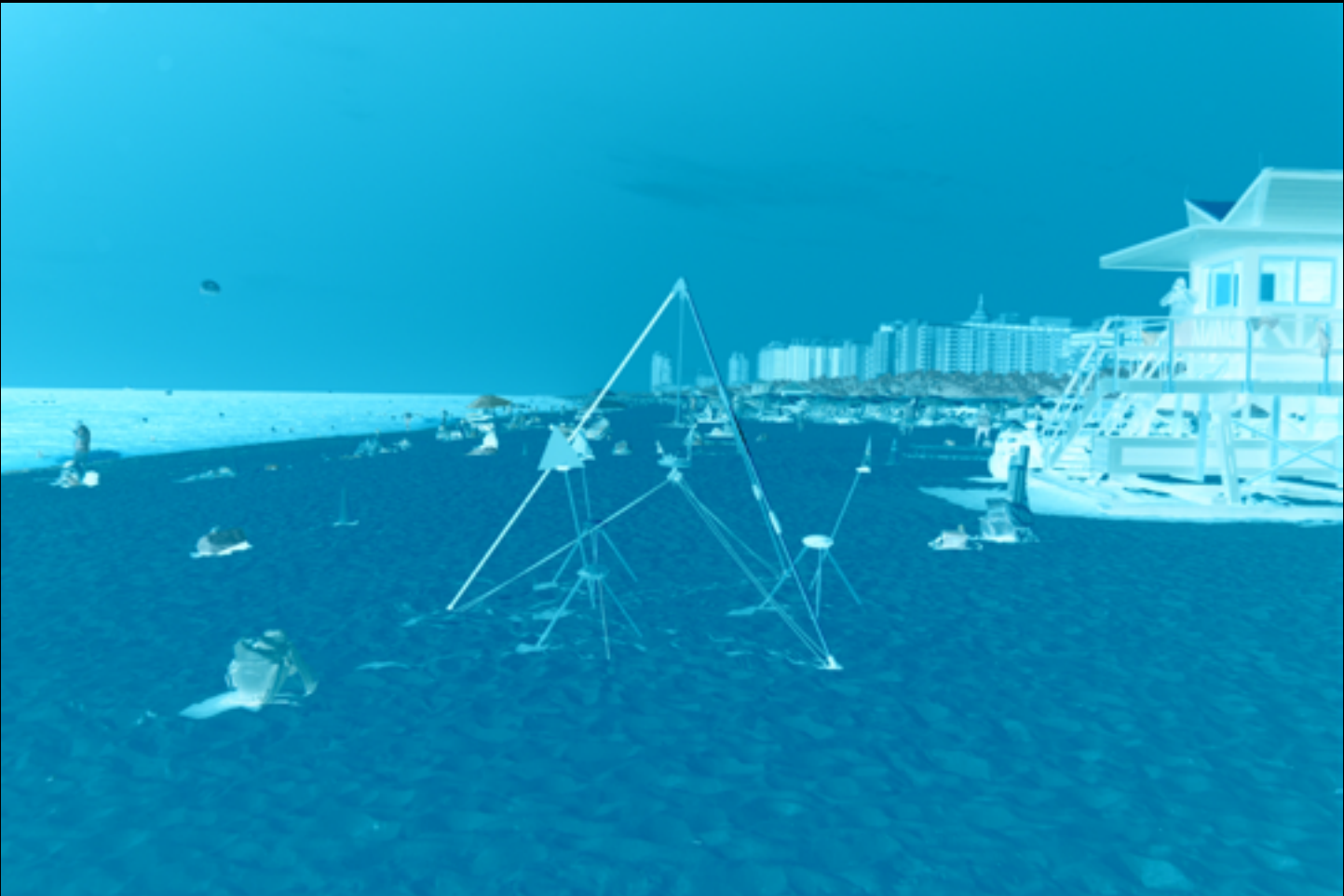
i also sat down with a couple and a ballerina

the ballerina invited me out with him and his ballerina friends , but i had to
decline becuae i had to get back to matt's house that evening for dinner

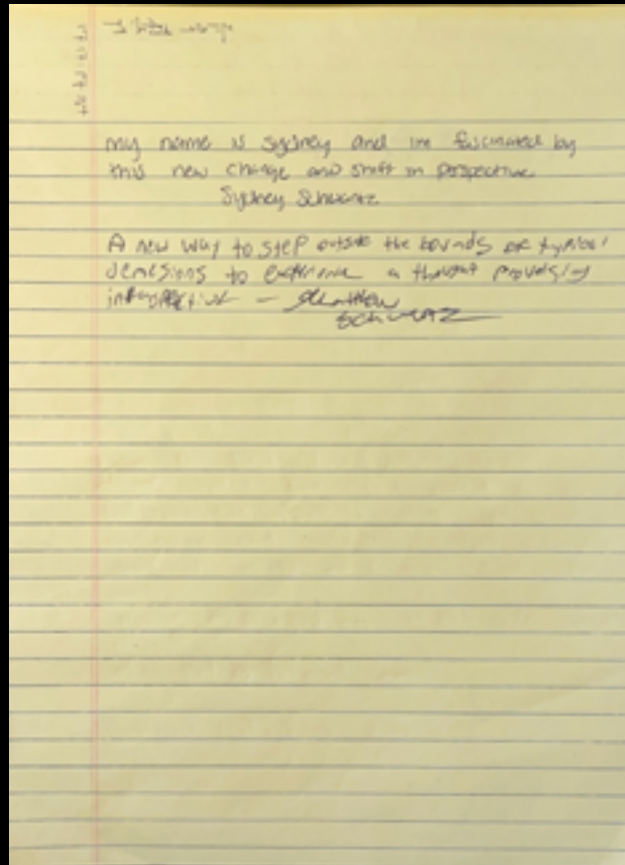
this was also the first time people asked me where they could find out more about
what i was doing , to which i responded this was an ephemeral endeavor , and the
moment we shared was all that really mattered



21st Street Lifeguard Tower [(16:35 , 6.6.25) : Miami Beach , FL]



30 °c | fair | 1016.91 hPa



the viiith deploy

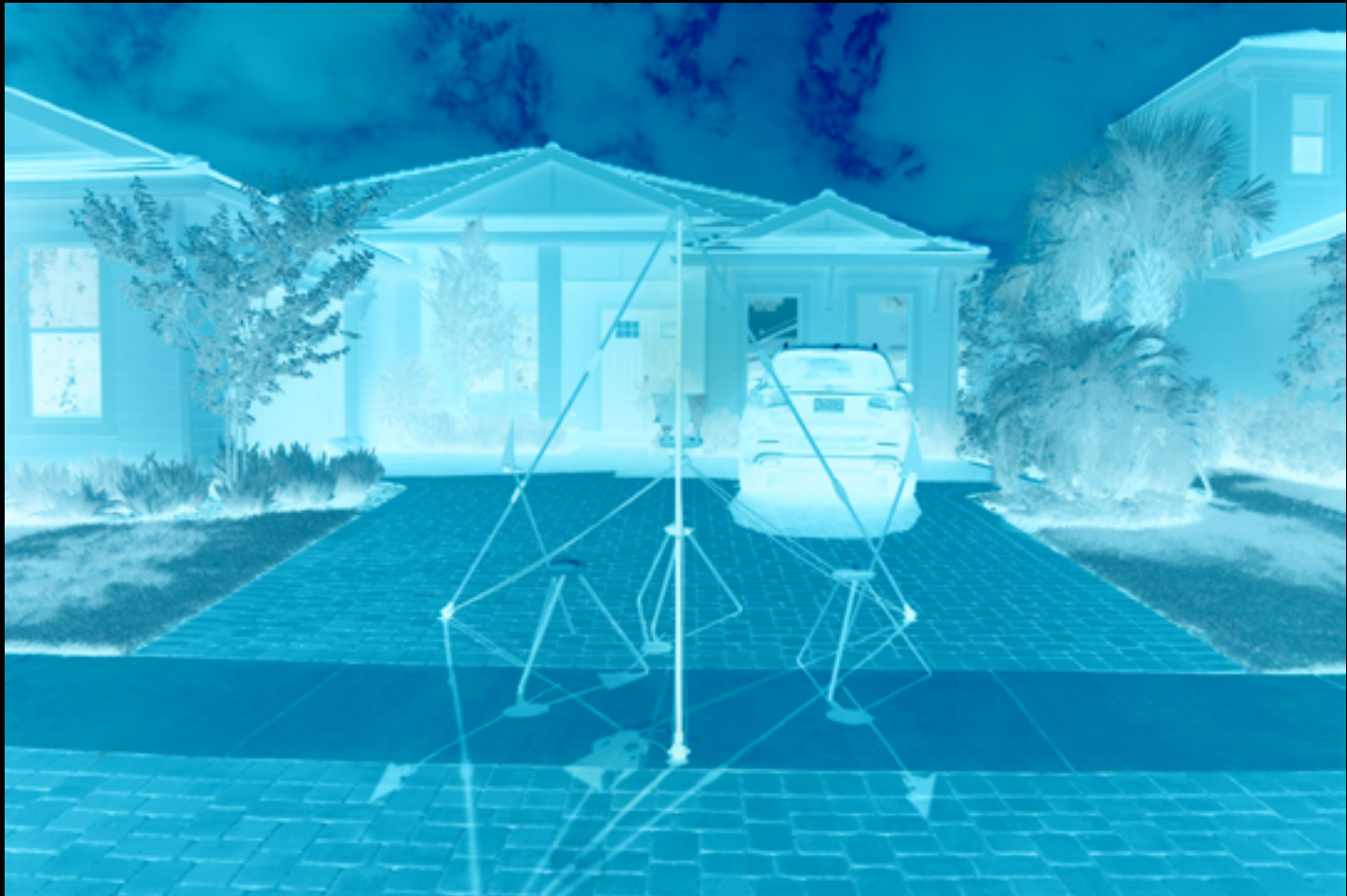
this was the only [documented] time i set up the structure on [totally] private property , aka matt's driveway

i sat down with him and his twin sister

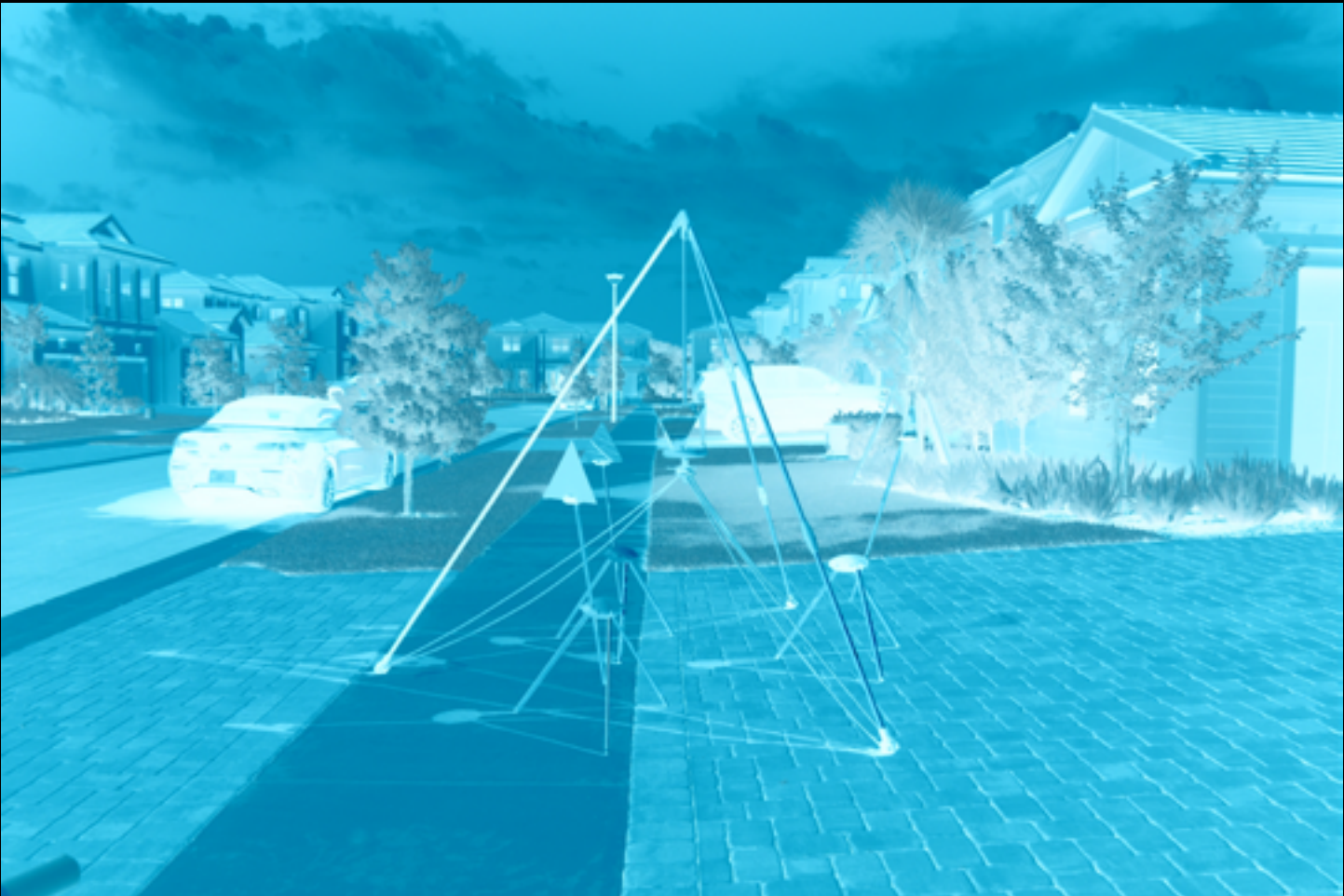
they really enjoyed it , and so did i

this was another moment when i really felt like i had developed a piece of mit and taken it with me to share outside of the bubble that is [mit]

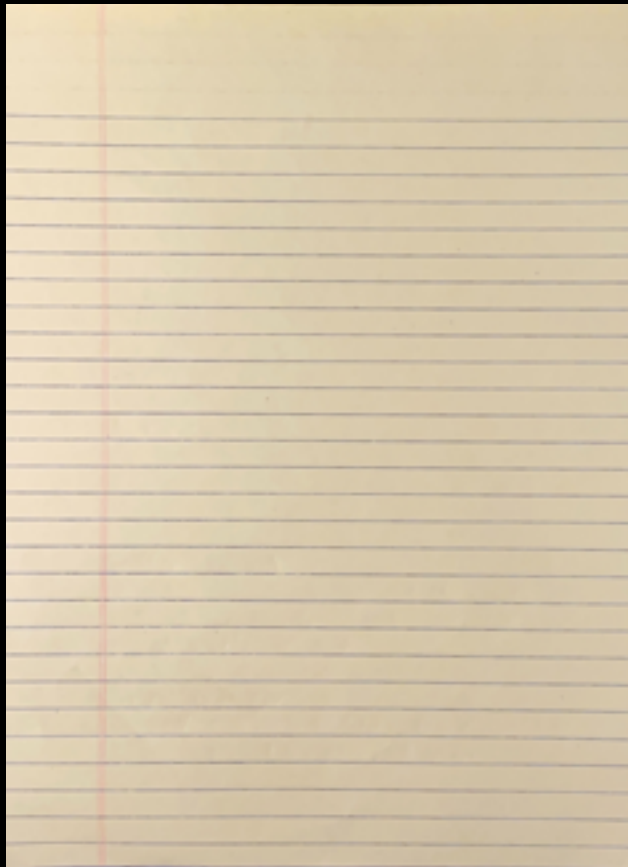
in other words , like i was actually offering a momentary reprieve from the pace of everyday life , a point in time and space freed of its own passage



Matt's House [(17:17 , 7.6.25) . Palm Beach Gardens , FL]



31 °c | fair.ly.cloudy | 1015.19 hPa



the ixth deploy

if you're wondering 'why st. augustine ?' , it's because while i was staying with matt i was talking to this cashier at publix who i told what i was up to and he told me i should go to st. augustine , because it was the oldest settlement in the country

so i did

this was also the second covert deploy , as i sat up on a fishing pier and no one sat down with me . as i was setting up tho , there was a man on the pier who i made eye contact with who gave me a look and nod of acknowledgement , while simultaneously and obviously having no desire to take part

to each their own

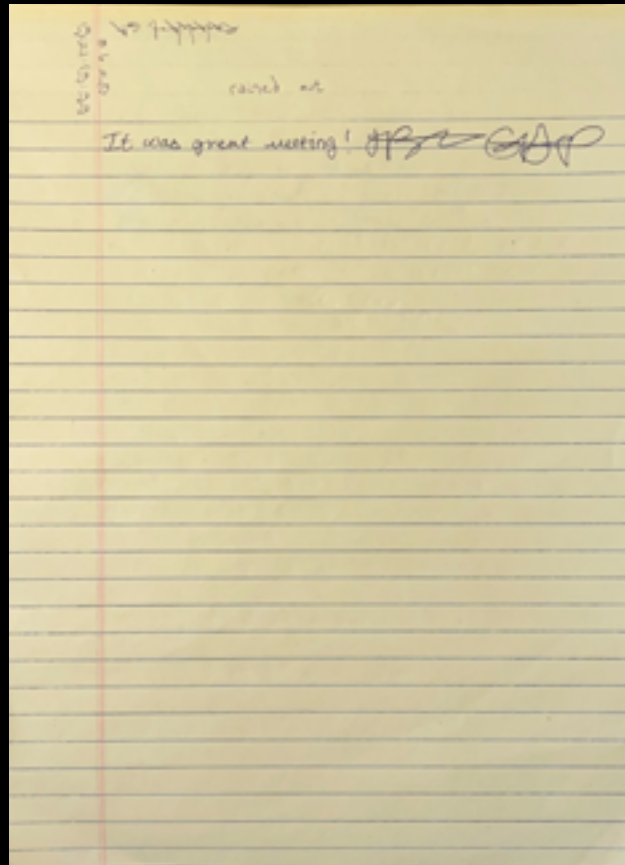
there were also a couple of couples who came while i was documenting who just cast glancing , curious rather than judgemental , looks , but said nothing



Rose of Sharon Fishing Pier [(09:25 , 8.6.25) . St. Augustine, FL]



31 °c | part.ly.cloudy | 1015.22 hPa



the xth deploy

they say savannah is haunted ; haunted has negative connotations ; i would say
savannah is enchanted

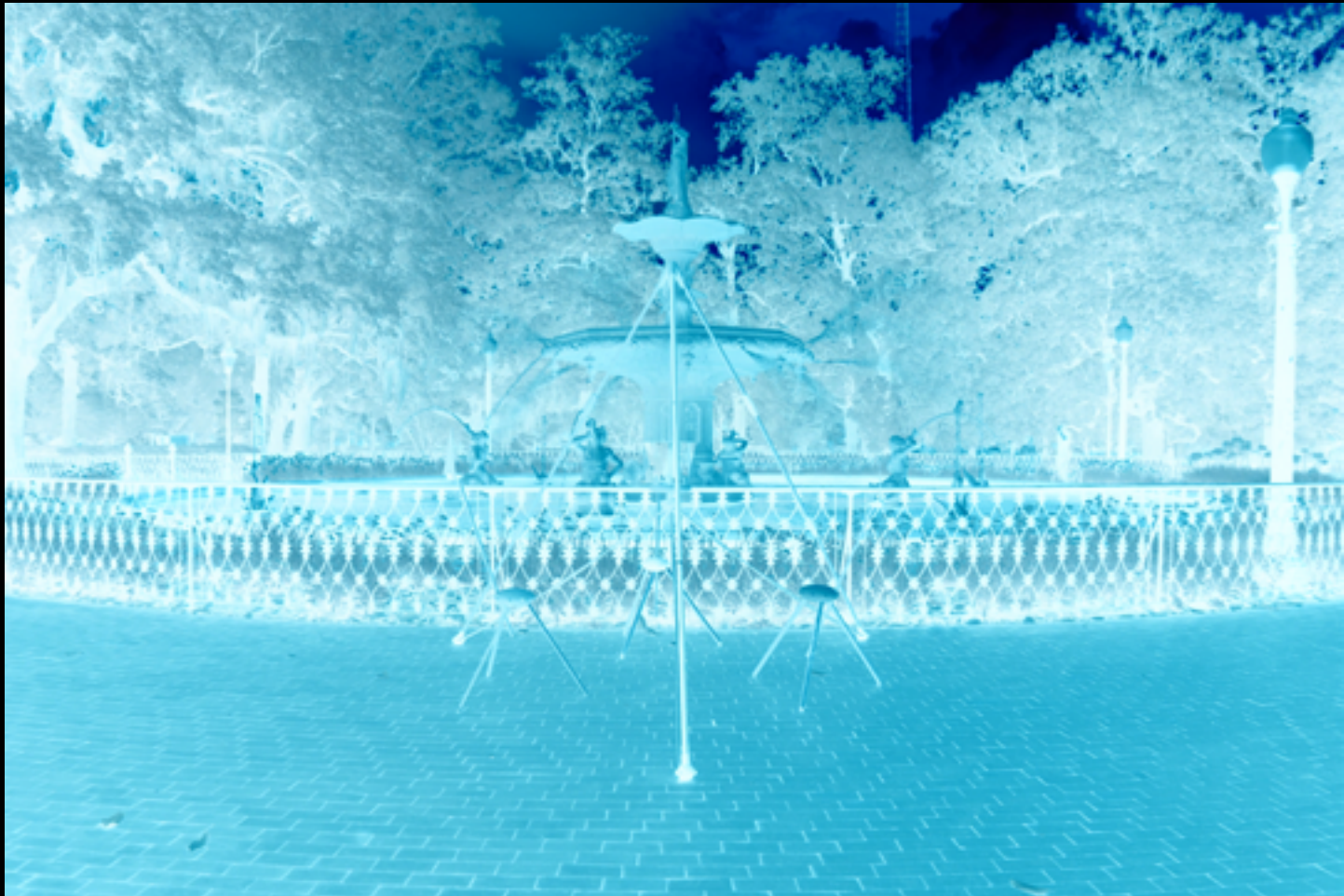
it started [for me] with the magnolias
and the timing of it all

two girls came up right as i was finishing setting up , and right after they left
it started pouring

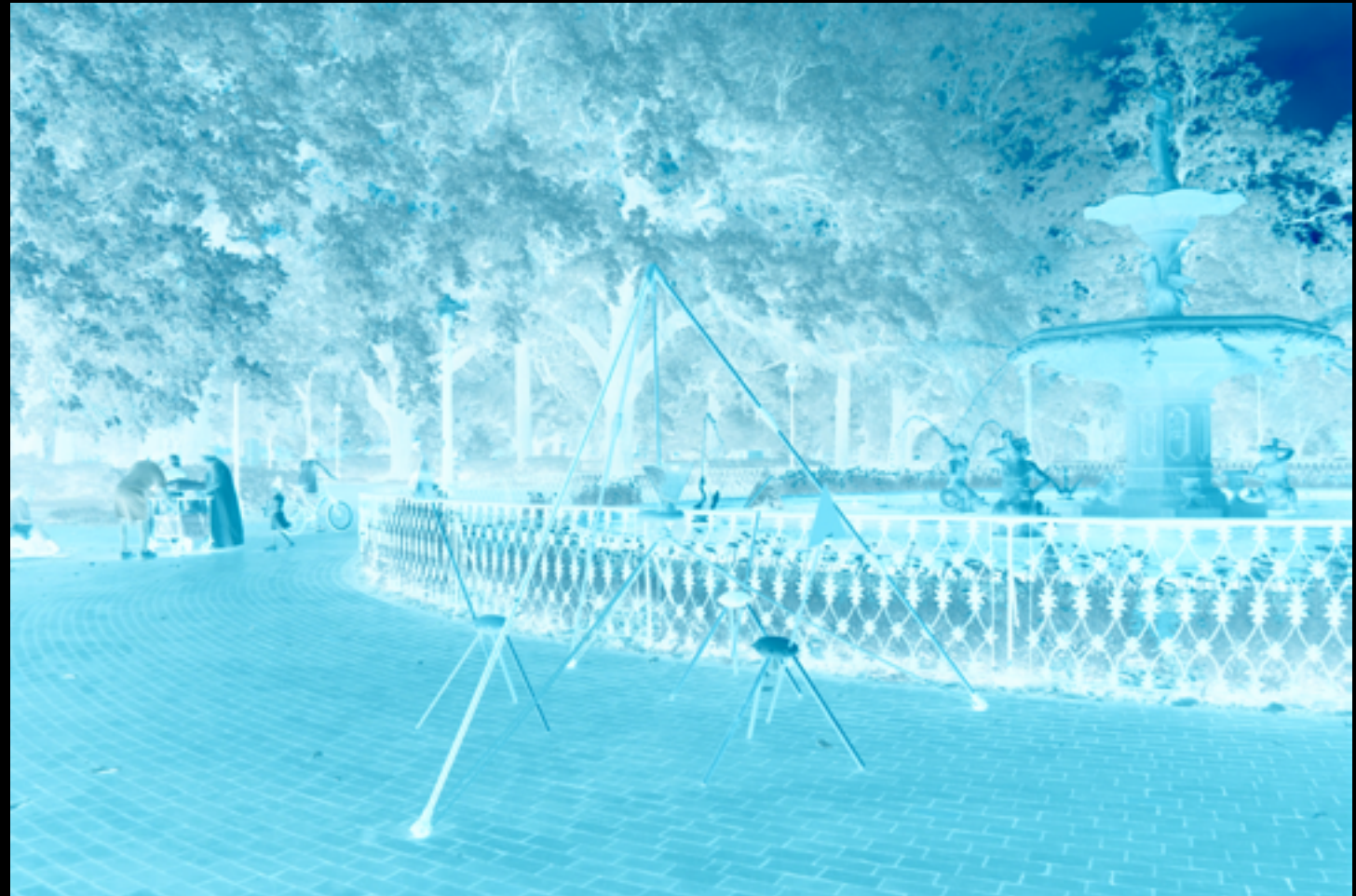
i knew it was going to rain , so i took off all my clothes and broke it down in
my swim trunks and sandals

i also got to talk to sheldon , who was a painter who sold his works in the park
he was explaining 'the game' to me , as i was expressing to him that the notion
of monetizing 'my' work felt impossible and far away

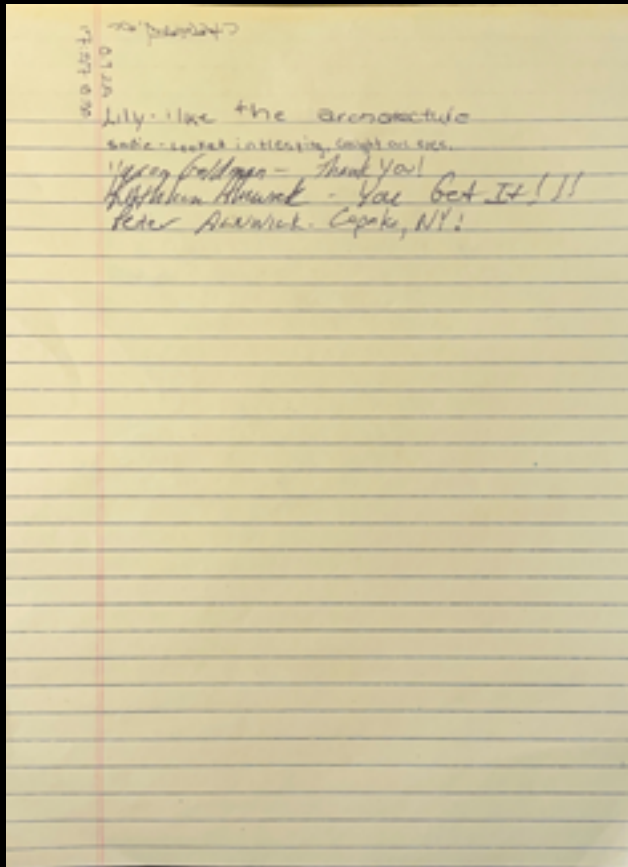
i'm grateful for the interaction , and i'm only remiss he didn't get to sit down



Fountain at Forsyth Park [(13:21 , 8.6.25) . Savannah , GA]



31 °c | over.cast//heavy t.storm | 1009.96 hPa



the xith deploy

i was slightly nervous to go to charleston cause it has ‘southern’ connotations
my nerves were quickly abated

it was also my third deploy of the day , so i was exhausted
i was quickly rejuvenated

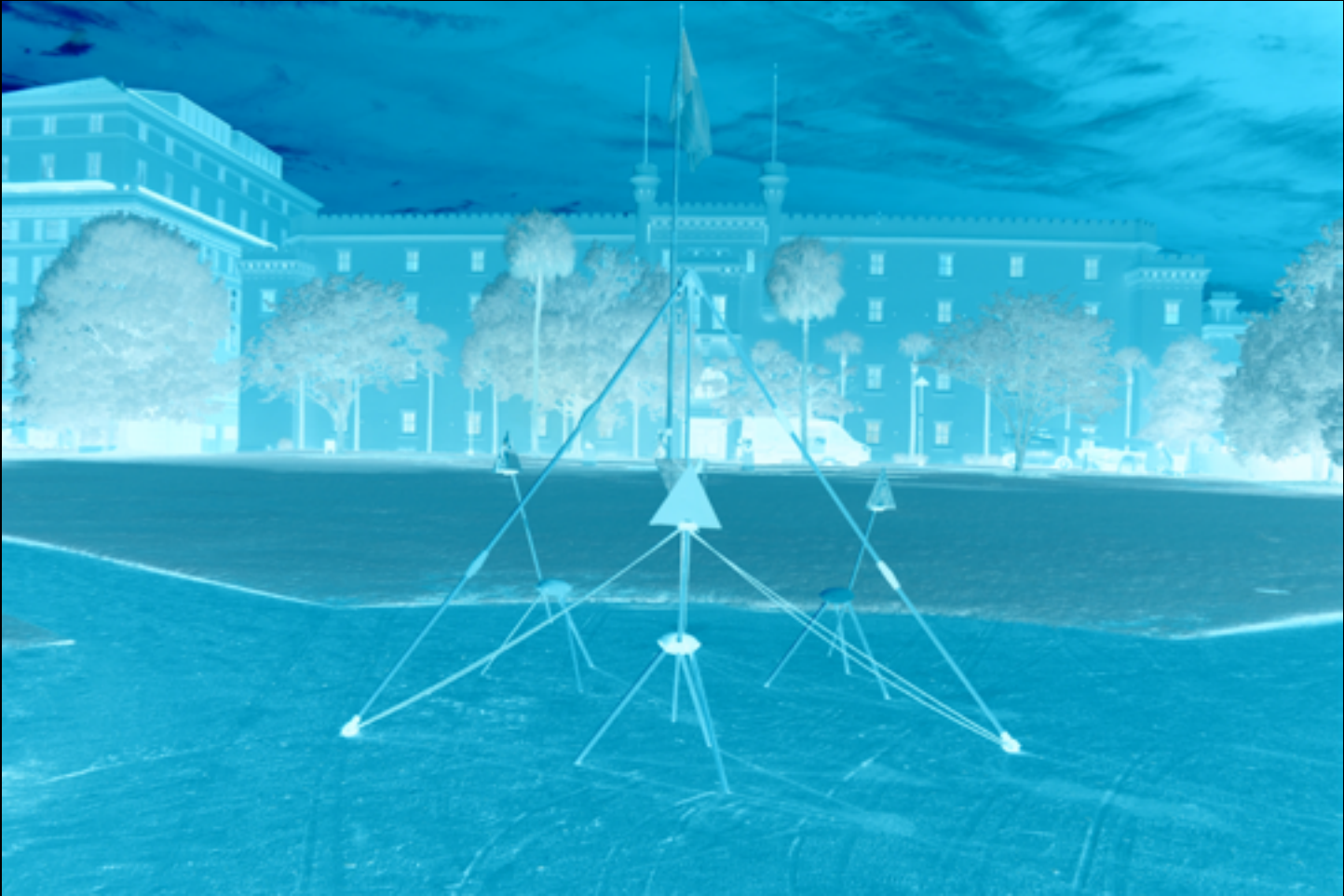
i set up in the dead middle of a square where it looked like they had just had an
event with pavilions and vendors , so the energy , or perhaps sub.sequent lack
there.of , was a tangible lethargy

at first a few people passed by . then these two girls came up , asked what i was
doing , and sat down

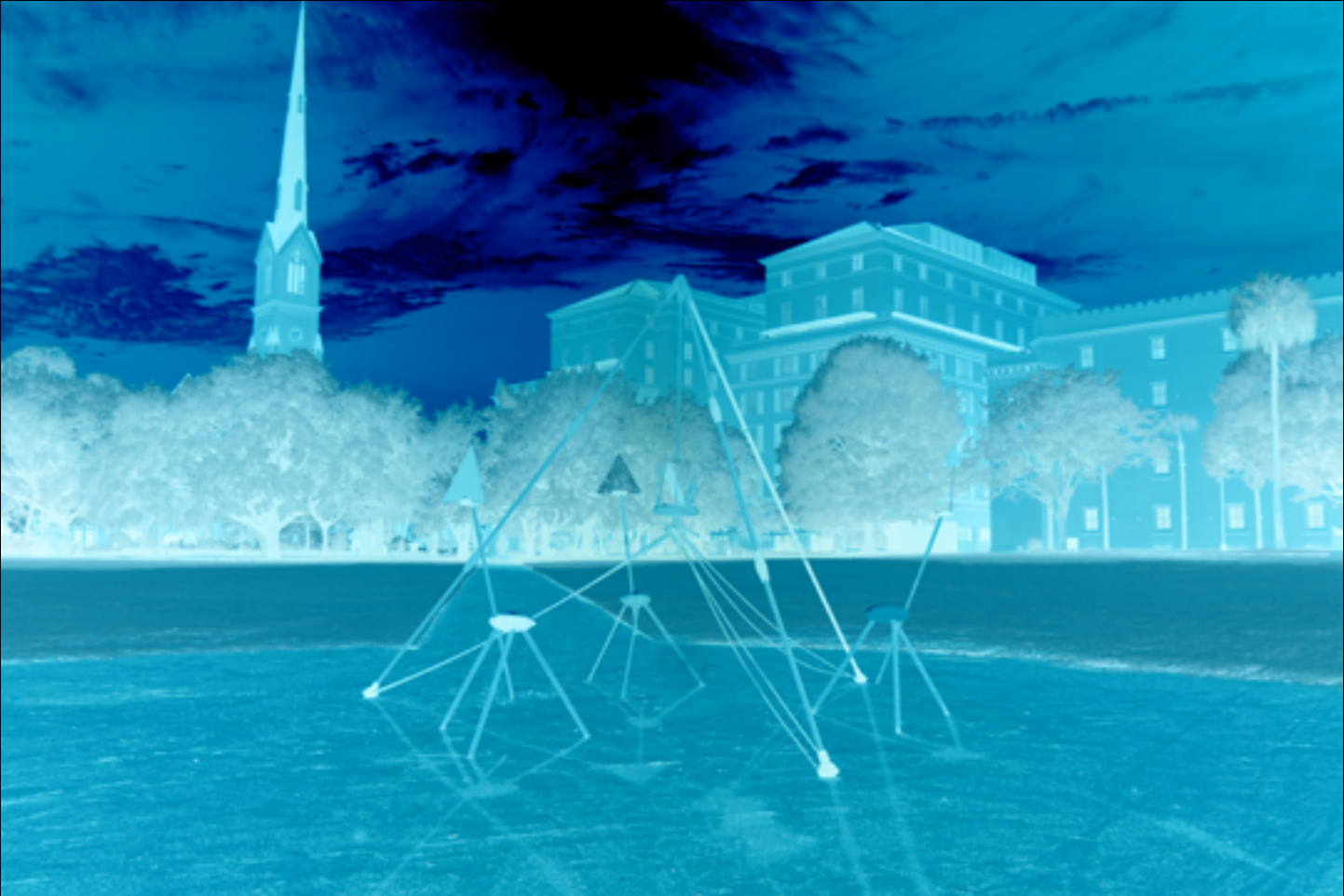
then this couple came up , and i met Kathleen and her husband , and she really
validated the entirety of what i was doing , and really made me feel as though i
was on the right path

she told me , ‘this is exactly what we [the world] need right now’

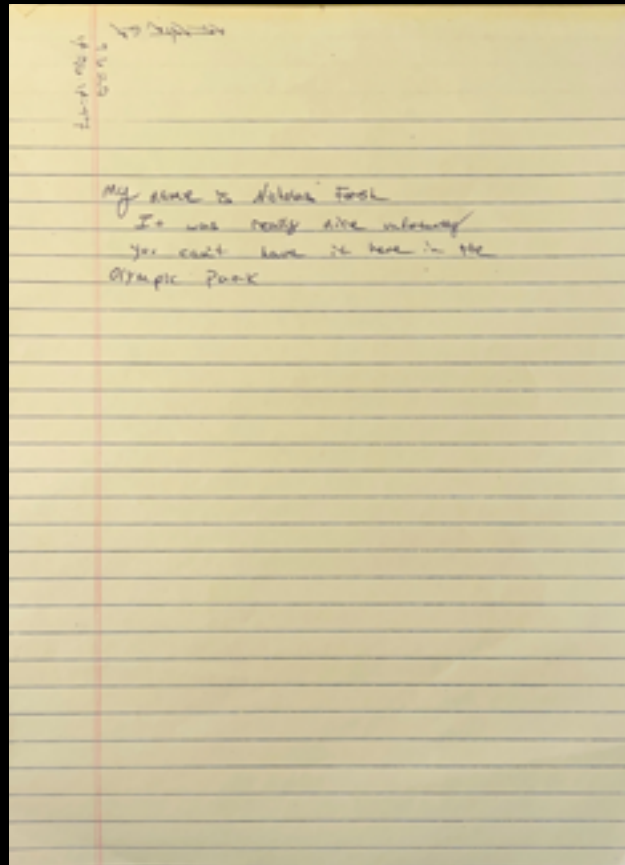
this was also helpful
as i was about to drive over four hours in.to [personally] uncharted territory



Marion Square [(17:57 , 8.6.25) . Charleston , SC]



29 °c | part.ly.cloudy | 1008.15 hPa



the xiith deploy

this was after the first night i spent in a hotel , and i almost didn't make it

atlanta struck me as much more of a city than i was initially anticipating then i remembered they held the olympics there , which explains how their 'development' got such a boost so as to have a full.on major city in the middle of the country

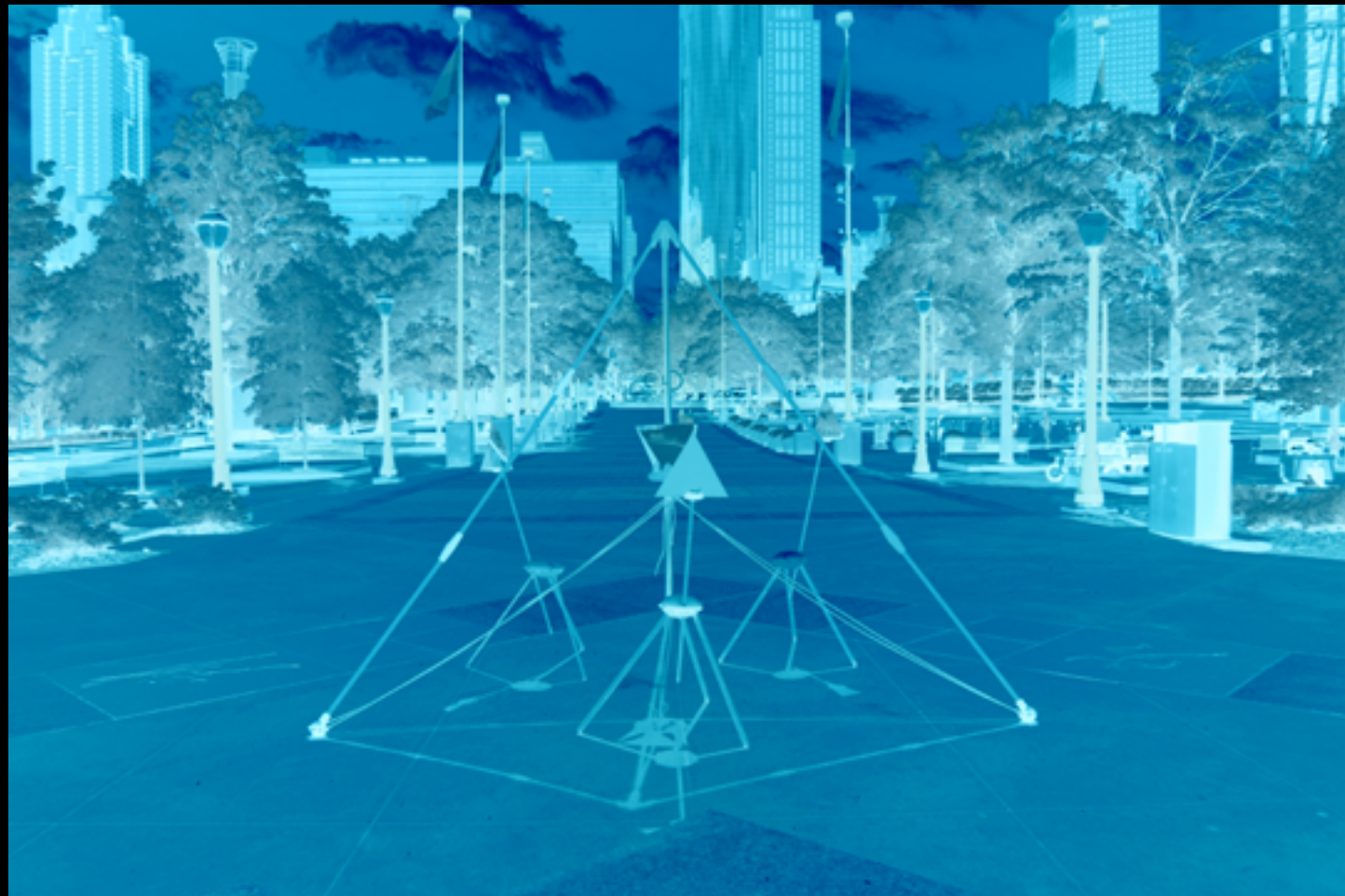
anyhow , while i was setting up a man came up and asked what i was doing , then asked how/if there was any way to make money off of it/if it could make him rich and famous . he left shortly after i explained what it was [without sitting down]

right after that security came , asked what i was doing , and told me i couldn't before i could explain . they were really nice about it , and after explaining it to them i got one of them to agree to sit down with me

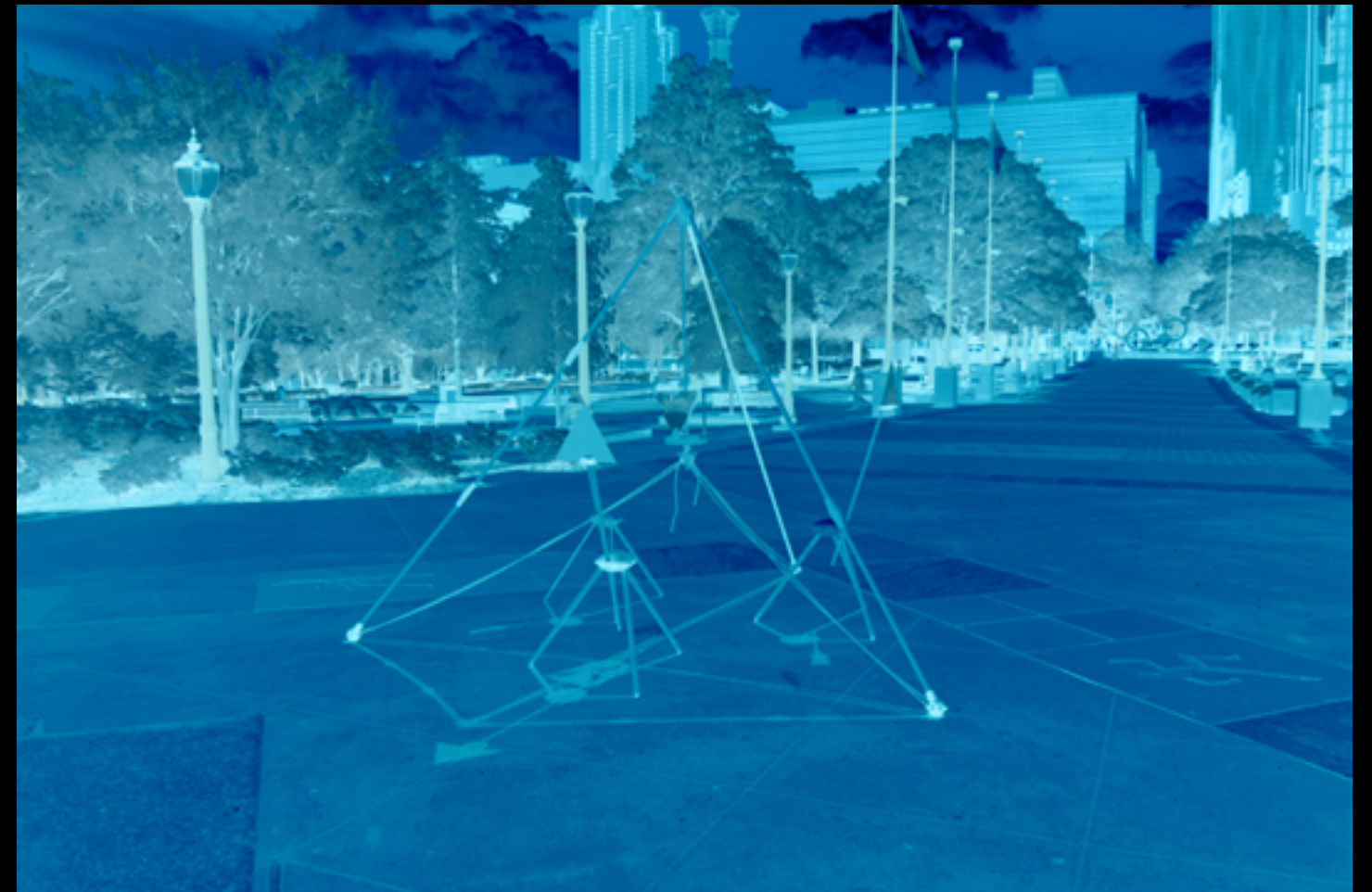
then i asked to see their office building because it was this amazing little pavilion , a crazy piece of architecture

in there i chatted with them about liability and why a structure like 'mine' couldn't be sat up in a park (read : place) like 'theirs'

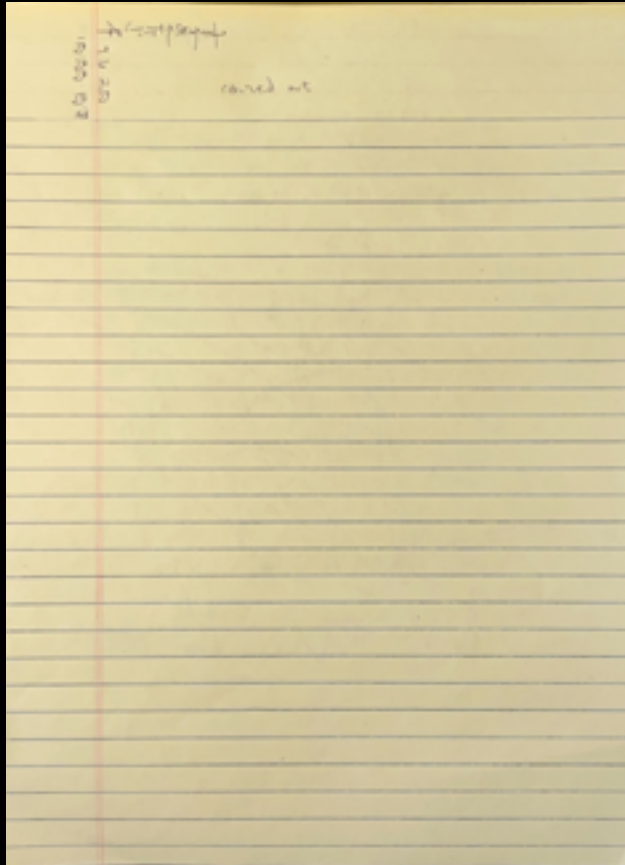
all's well that ends well



Centennial Olympic Park [(10:36 , 9.6.25) . Atlanta , GA]



26 °c | cloudy//over.cast | 983.47 hPa



the xiiith deploy

this was probably the only place i was truly apprehensive to set up

i think this was reflected in the fact that no one sat down with me

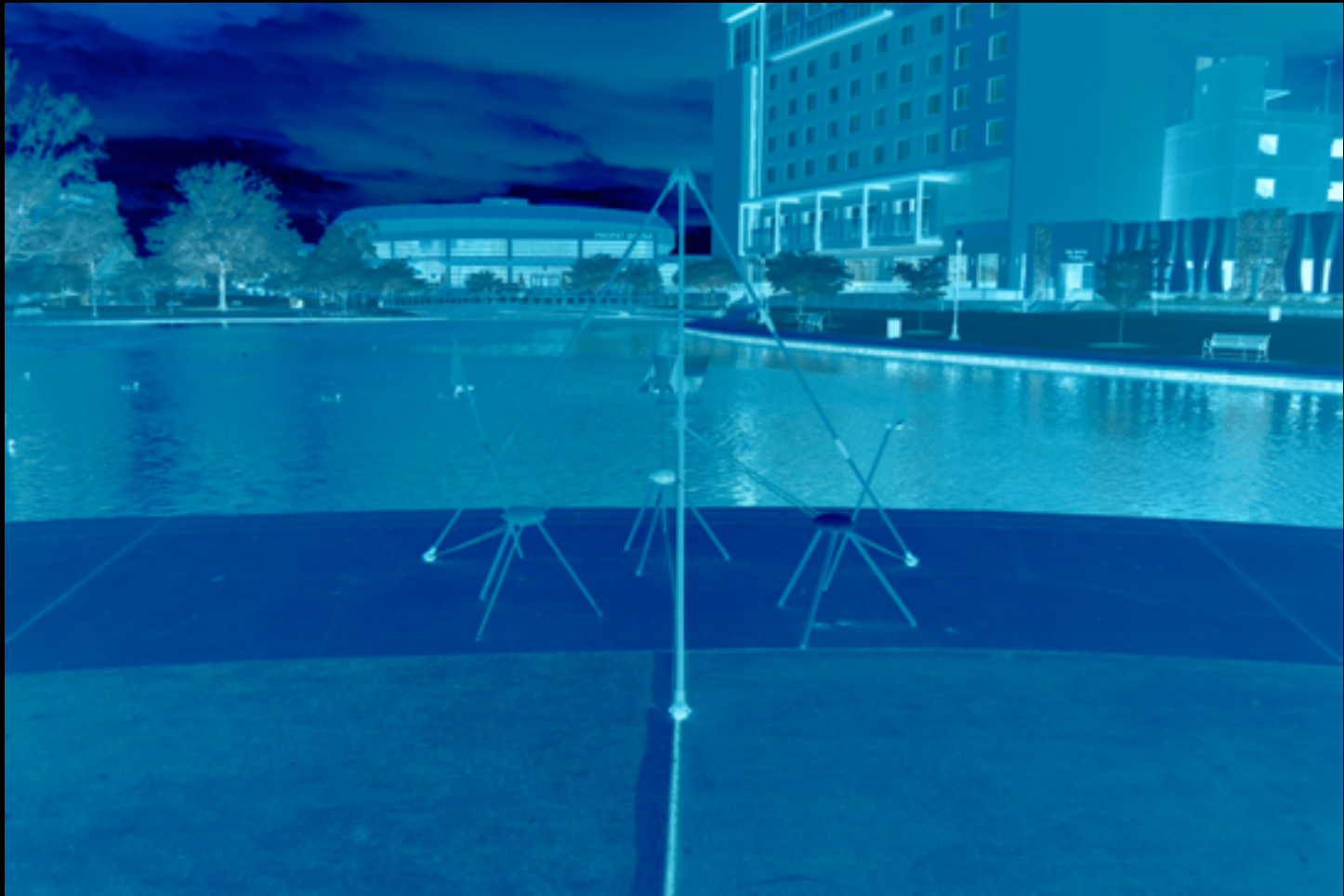
a family and a couple did walk up , asked what i was doing , and after telling them, made the conscious decision to not sit down and simply pass by

honestly i felt relief in the moment , but up.on reflection it feels apparent that if i had went in with less pre.tense , i would've interacted with some very nice humans

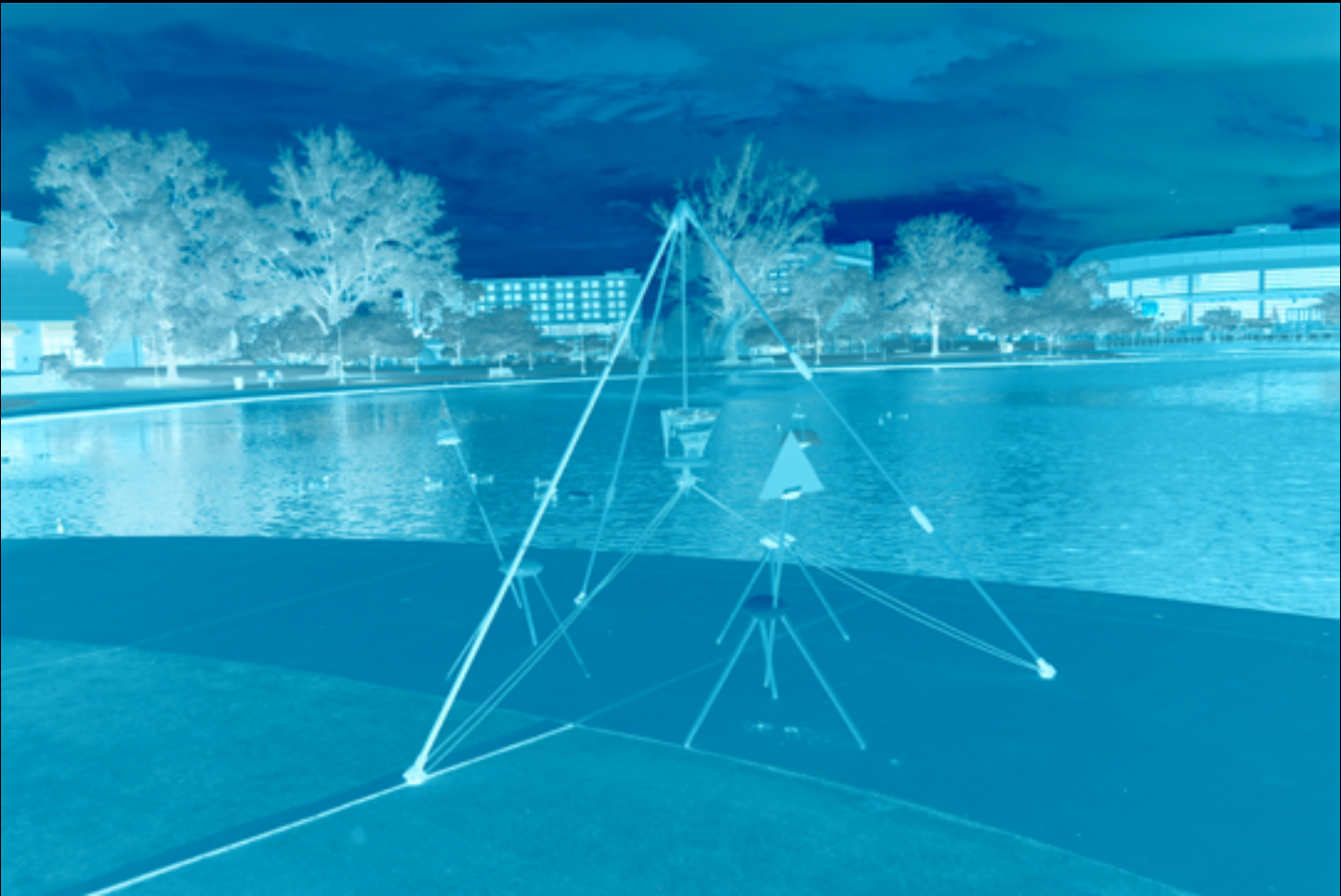
in some ways i was even in sync with the environment, as the darkest sky i had seen in a while was rolling in

after this i was re.minded of the importance of intention and sincerity and how this life is but a reflection of one's internal state

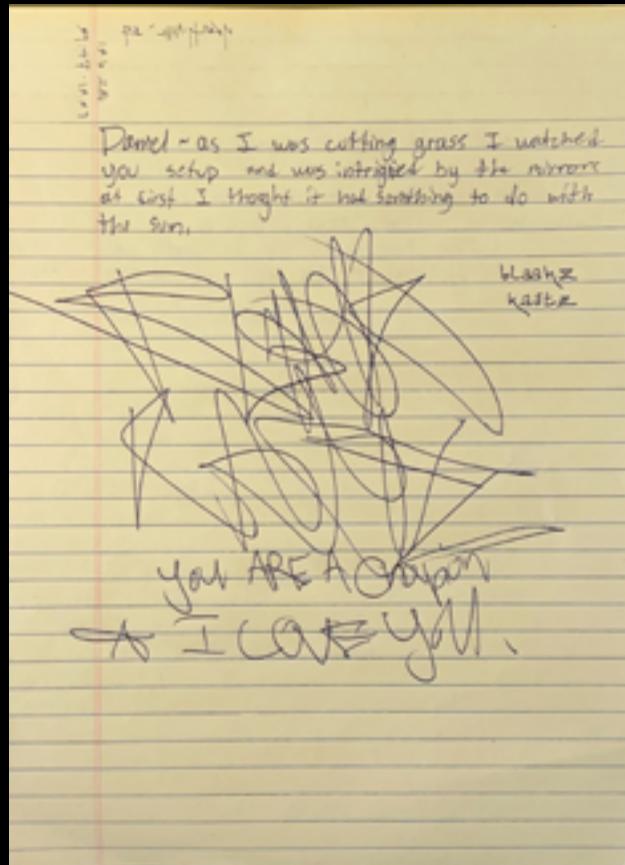
[this is corroborated by the similar situation in charleston where.in a dark sky was rolling in and i was excited rather than nervous [really about savannah in general] and sub.sequently getting to sit down with others and enjoy the rain]



Big Spring Park [(15:33 , 9.6.25) . Huntsville , AL]



27 °c | cloudy//heavy t.storm | 985.04 hPa



the xivth deploy

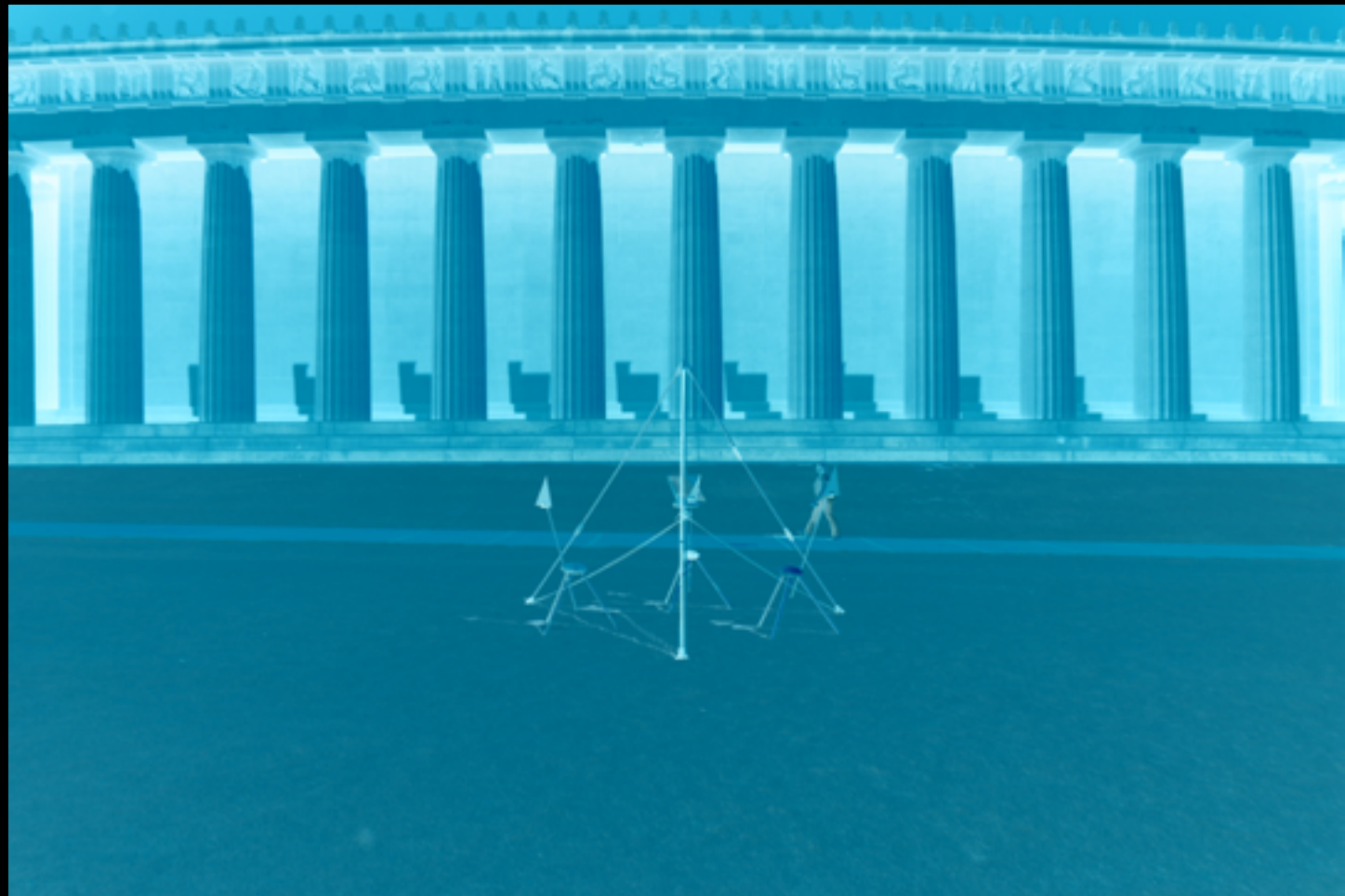
i had completely forgotten nashville had a parthenon replica until i saw it on google maps while searching for a place to set up

it was a no.brainer

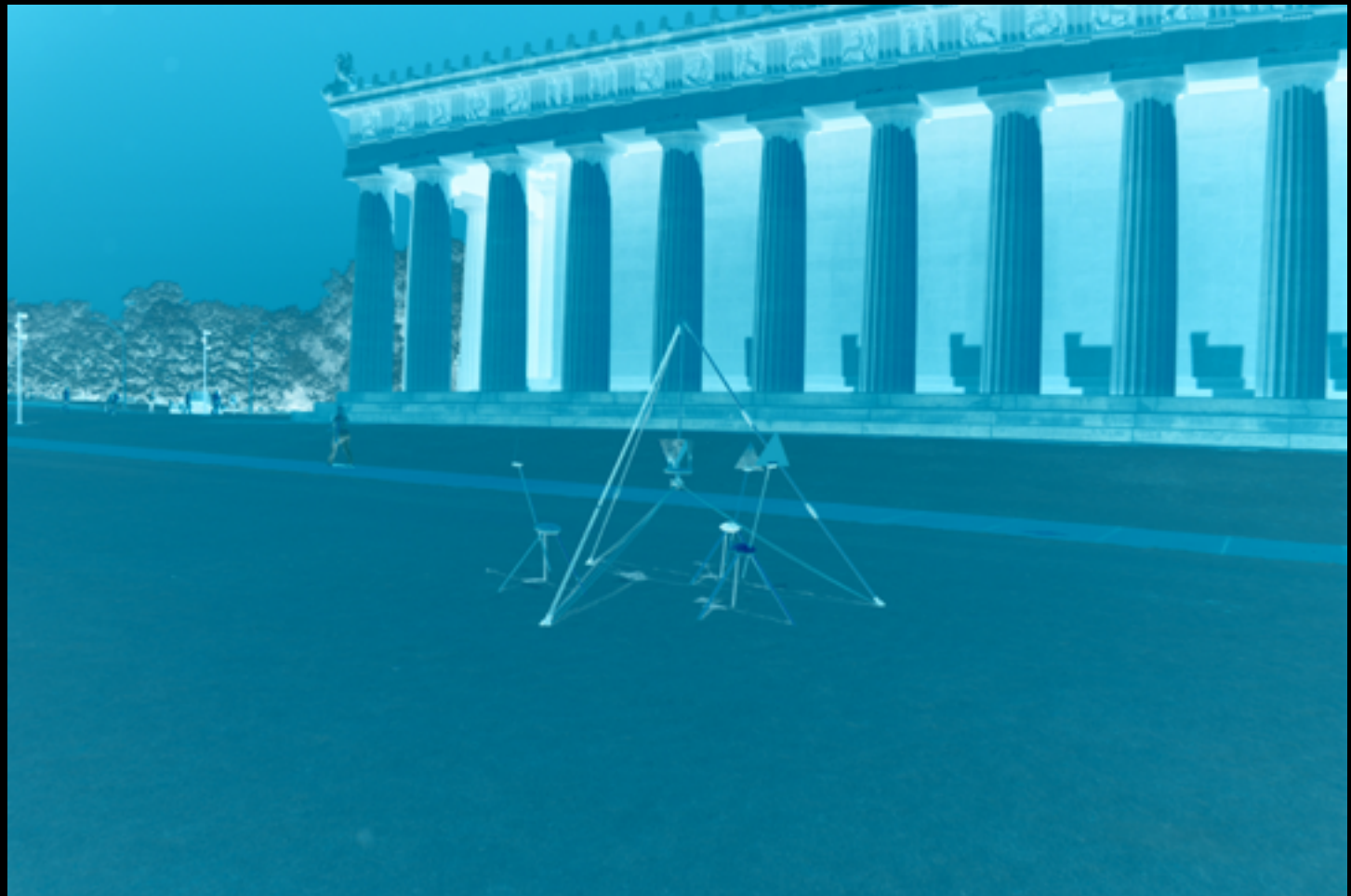
there was a man cutting the lawn who stopped the mower , got off , asked what i was doing and then sat down . turns out he was also an artist and showed me his work on his phone [it was nice]

then [unnamed] came up with his guitar , played me a little tune , and was explaining what it was like out there . he usually sets up camp somewhere around the parthenon because they have free wifi and the benches have these obscure outlets which he can use while staying outside

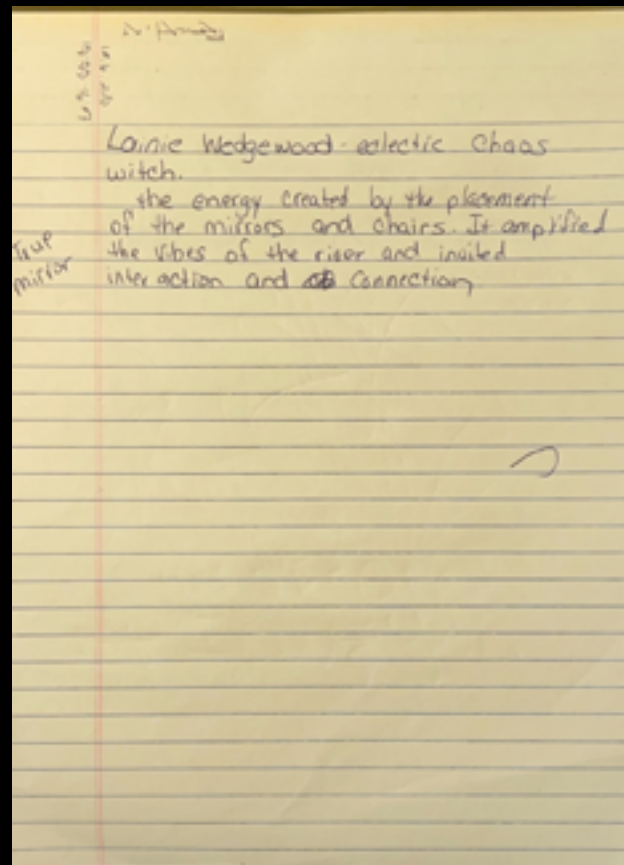
he also explained to me he liked it better this way



The Parthenon [(09:24 , 10.6.25) . Nashville , TN]



27 °c | cloudy | 994.39 hPa



the xvth deploy

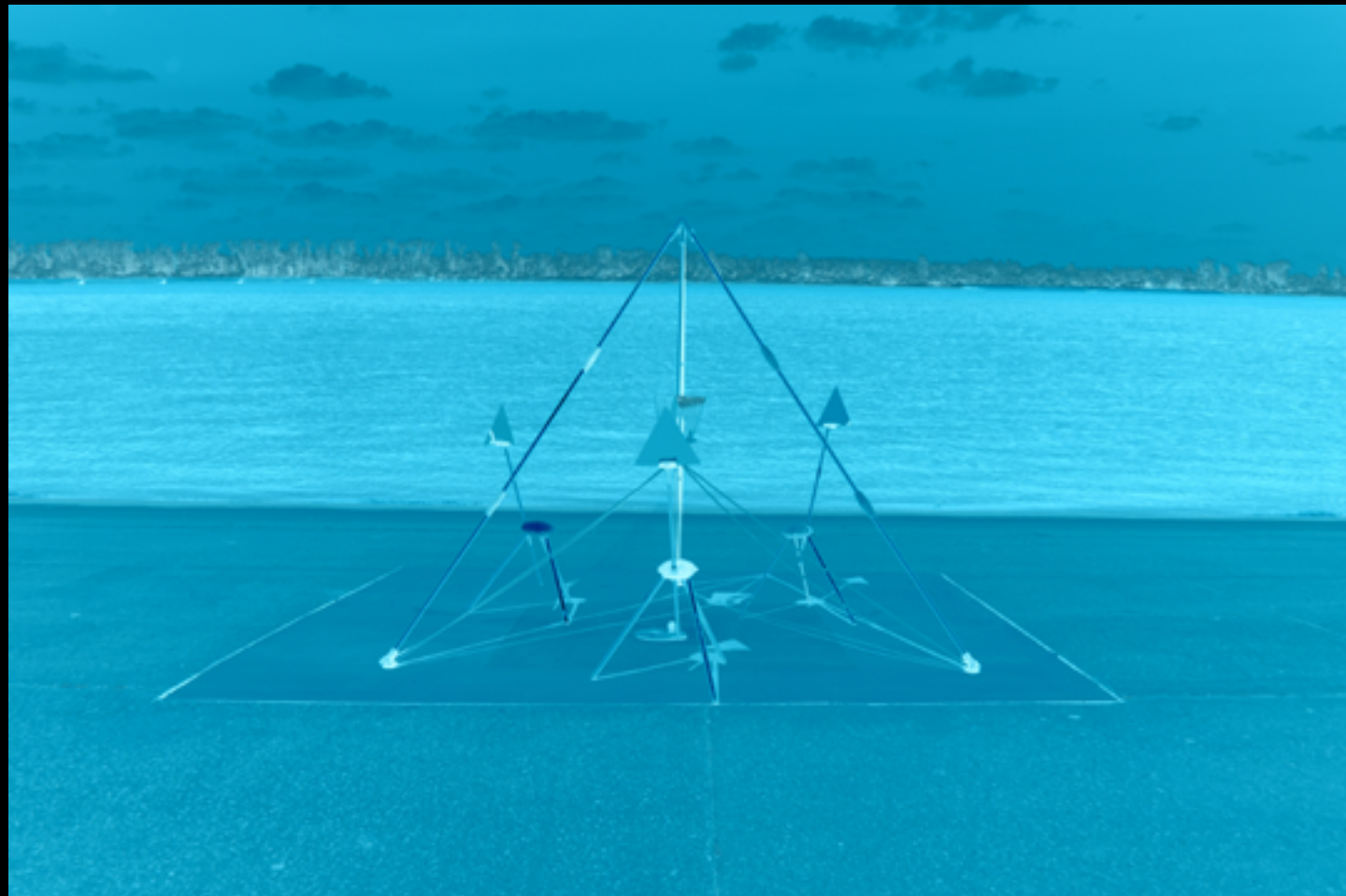
this was the first time i deployed acp 43 with the intention of talking to no.one
i didn't even intend to stop here - i was just falling asleep behind the wheel
and needed to rest

i was so pleasantly surprised by the place , i decided to set up on the concrete
riverfront . perhaps was compelled rather than consciously/willingly decided

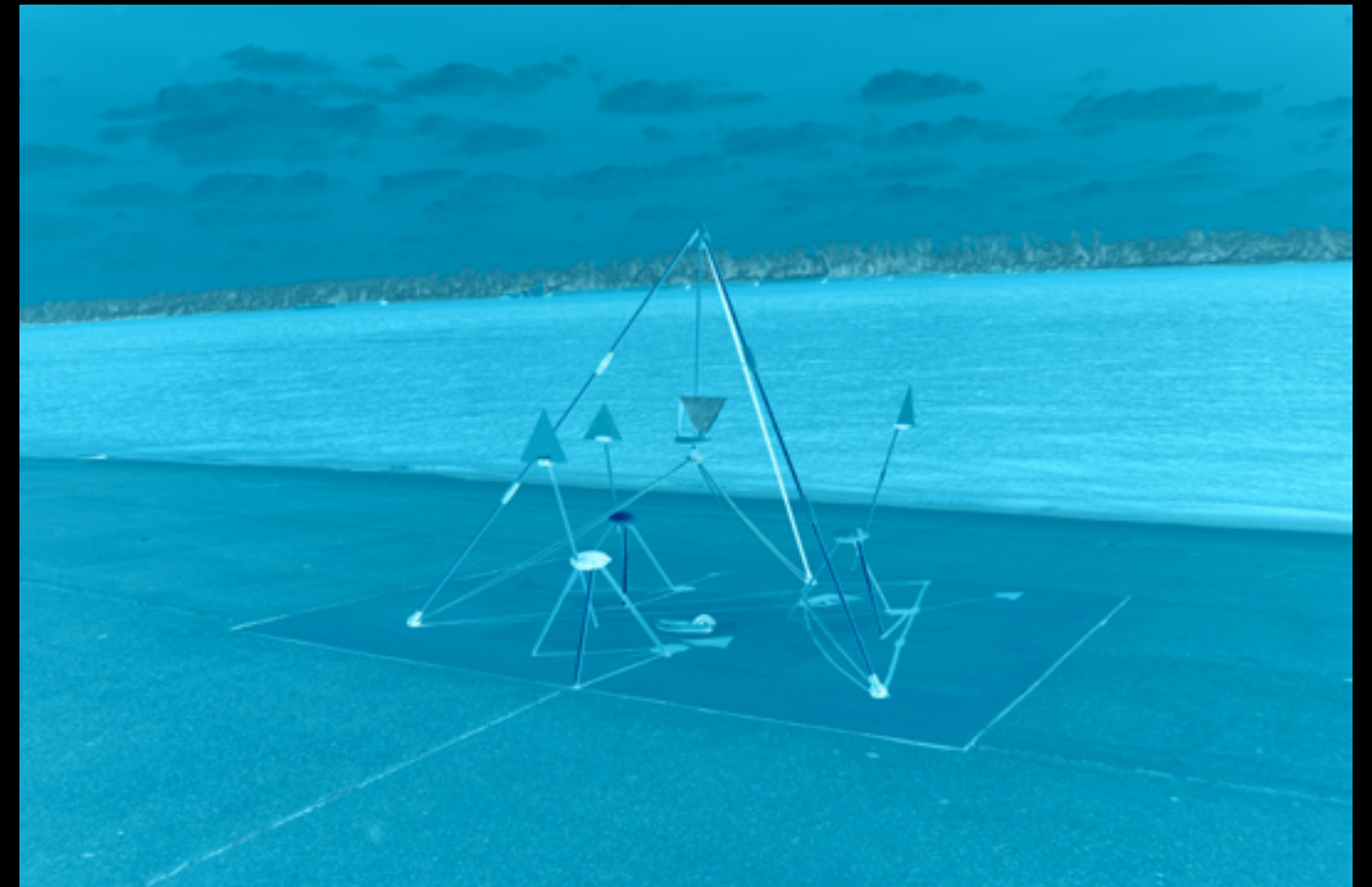
no sooner had i finished documentation when a lady walked up and asked what i was
doing . i was slightly caught off guard , cause again i didn't really want to
talk to anyone , and i was already running late

however , i'm very glad she did walk up . she introduced herself as an 'eclectic
chaos witch' and told me she noticed i was drawing energy off the river

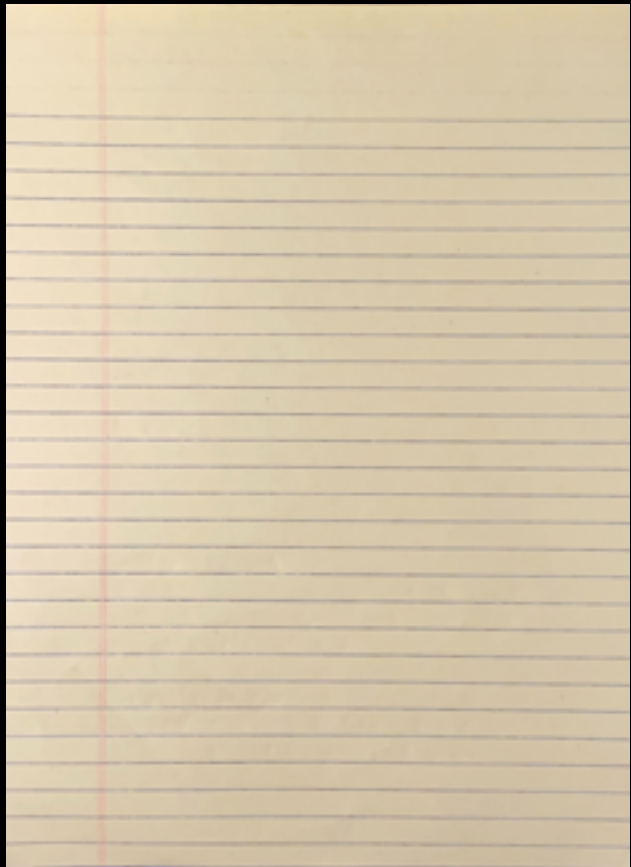
we ended up having a long conversation that ended in a prayer and a hug



Port of Paducah [(15:56 , 10.6.25) . Paducah , KY]



27 °c | part.ly.cloudy | 1000.61 hPa



the xvith deploy

as soon as i got to st. louis i went straight to the former site of pruitt igoe

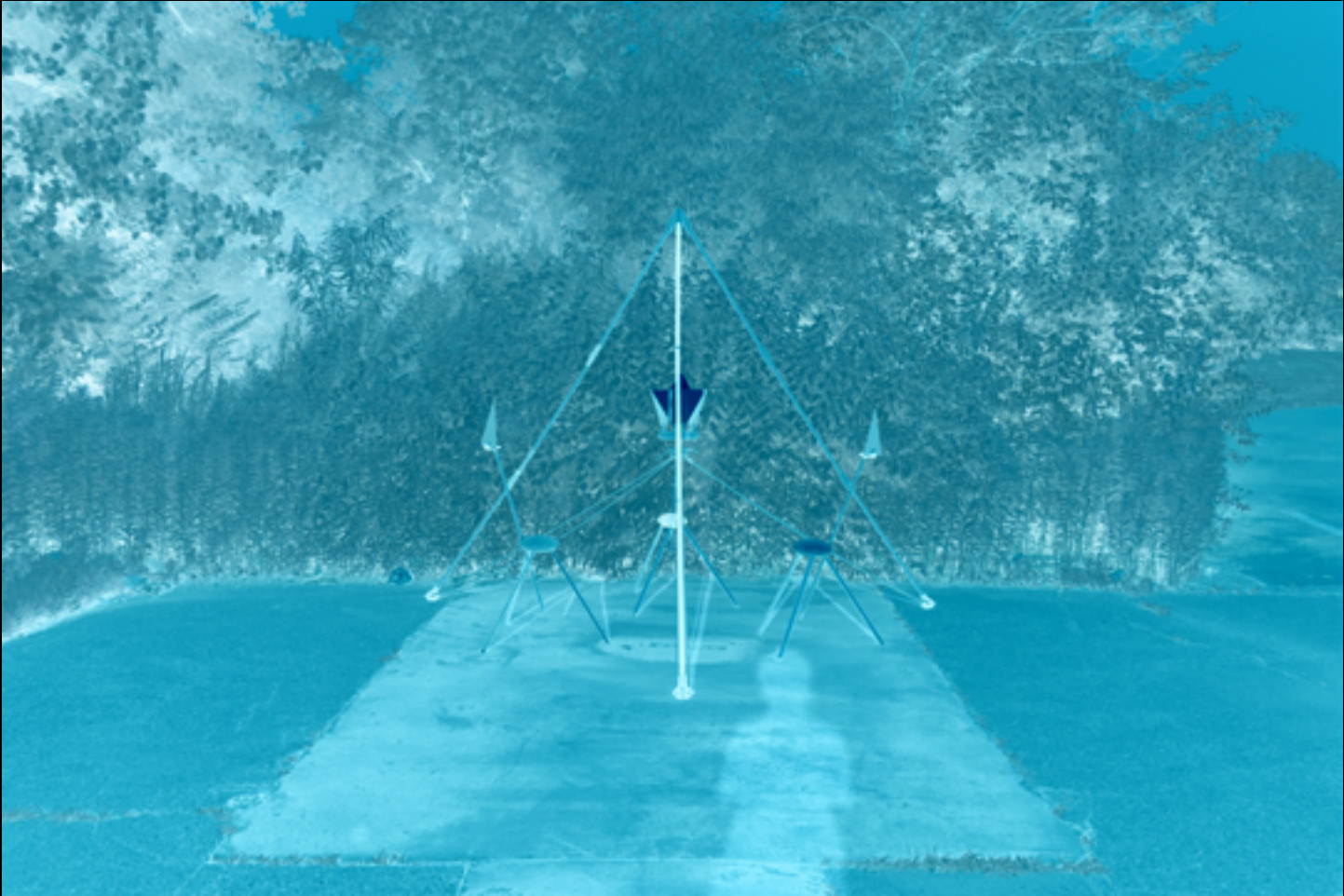
i had to see it for myself

the energy was tangible , and i was incredibly off.put

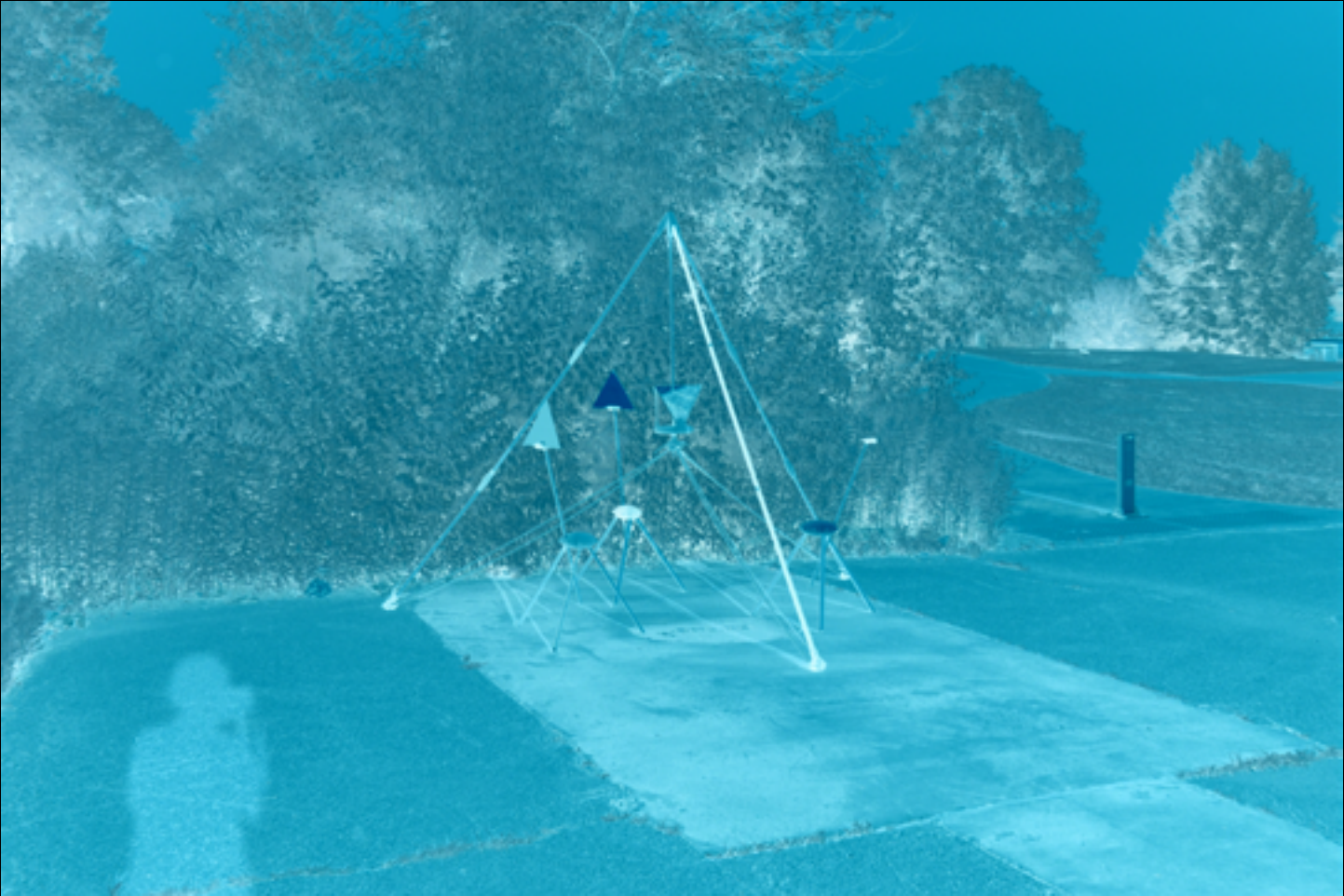
i left the structure up while i walked around in the fenced.off.forest
when i got back i noticed a black cat perusing around

i took my time breaking it down , and seriously considered leaving it up
overnight

there was a lot of trauma there , permeating the air , and i honestly felt as
though acp was transmuting it , if only a little bit



Former Pruitt-Igoe Site I [(18:45 , 10.6.25) . St. Louis , MO]



24 °c | fair | 1000.82 hPa

16 of 200
07/4/18

10/10/2018

Hepler Vending - Gateway Arch National Park -
36 CFR 1.5 (g) - no structures in park
Sound byproducts 1512

LEE HARRIS GATEWAY ARCH 3/12/18 DO
GENERAL COUNCIL / PARK SERVICE 314-820-2183

the xviith deploy

i set up at the arch after i woke up , as i couldn't think of anywhere else to go
and wasn't particularly motivated to explore the city proper ,
only to get back to the site

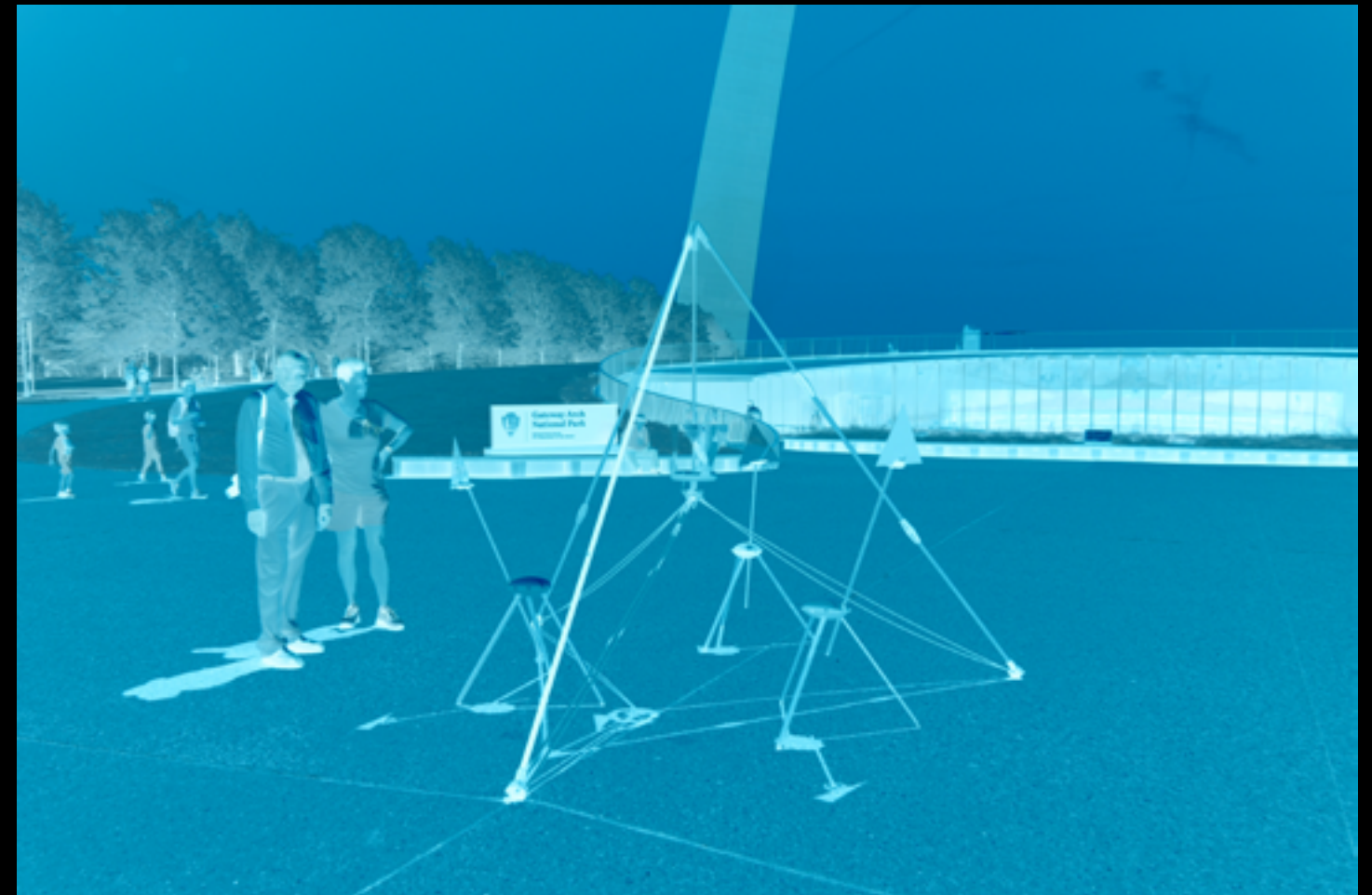
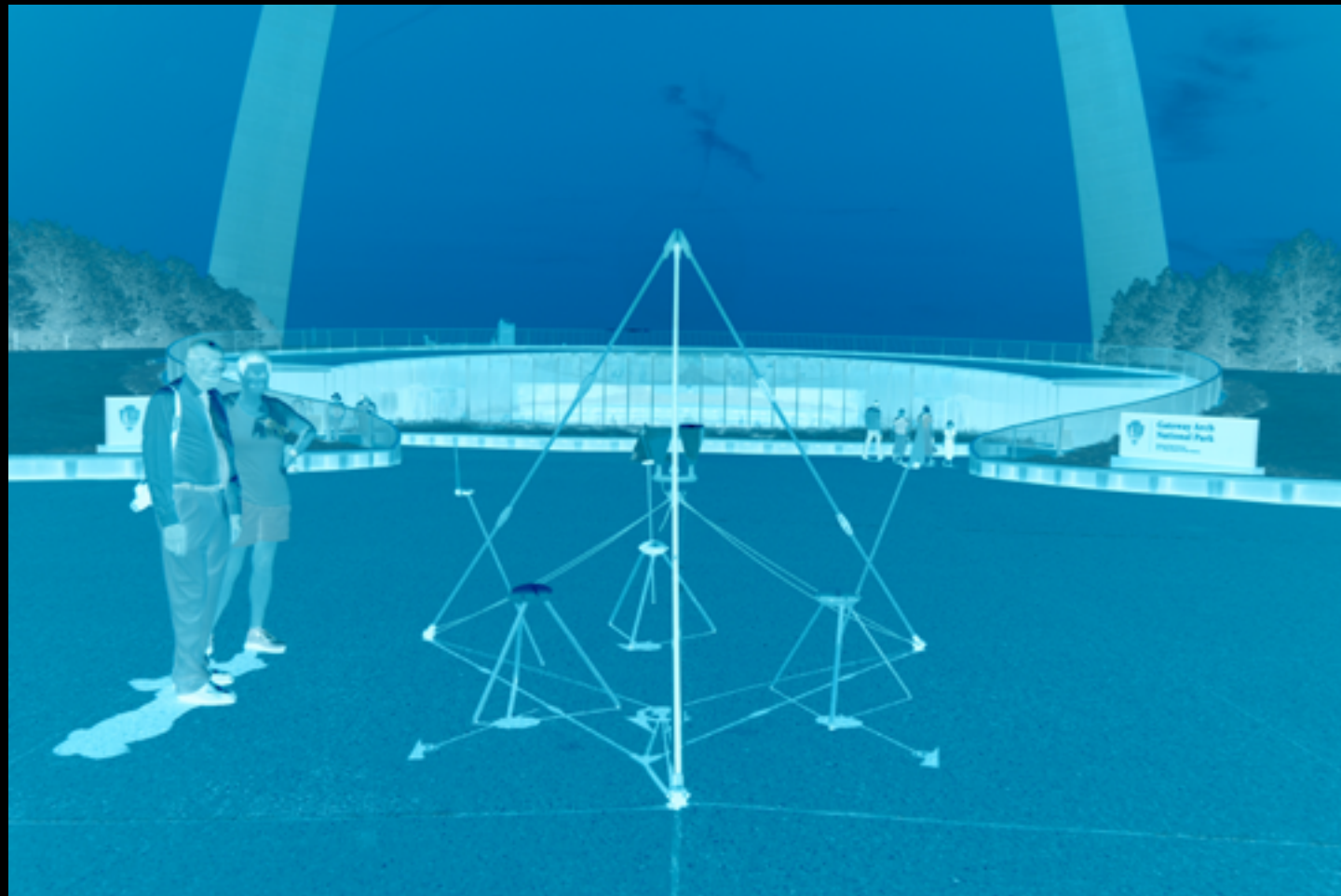
i'm glad i did , cause a man walked up and asked what i was doing , while everyone else just walked past and stared

he told me he studied architecture in school (Decades ago) , but never practiced
he worked as a graphic designer , and his office was right next to the site ,
literally adjacent to the arch

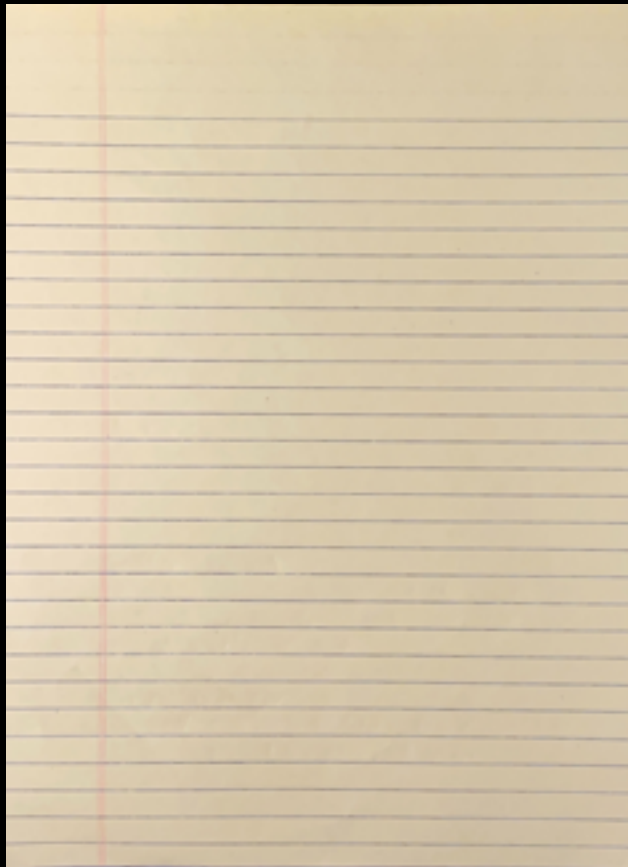
this was the first architect i had encountered , and sure enough he didn't practice architecture

security came in the middle of our conversation , asked what i was doing , and let me document the deploy before asking me to leave

one of them still sat down with me tho



29 °C | fair | 1003.83 hPa



the xviiith deploy

after walking around down.town a bit i headed back to the site

i felt i still had more to see, or rather feel

there is an L shaped street on the northwest corner of the site , [ironically]
name Thomas street , which provides access to the un.opened hospital and served
as the gateway to the previously failed development plans for the forest

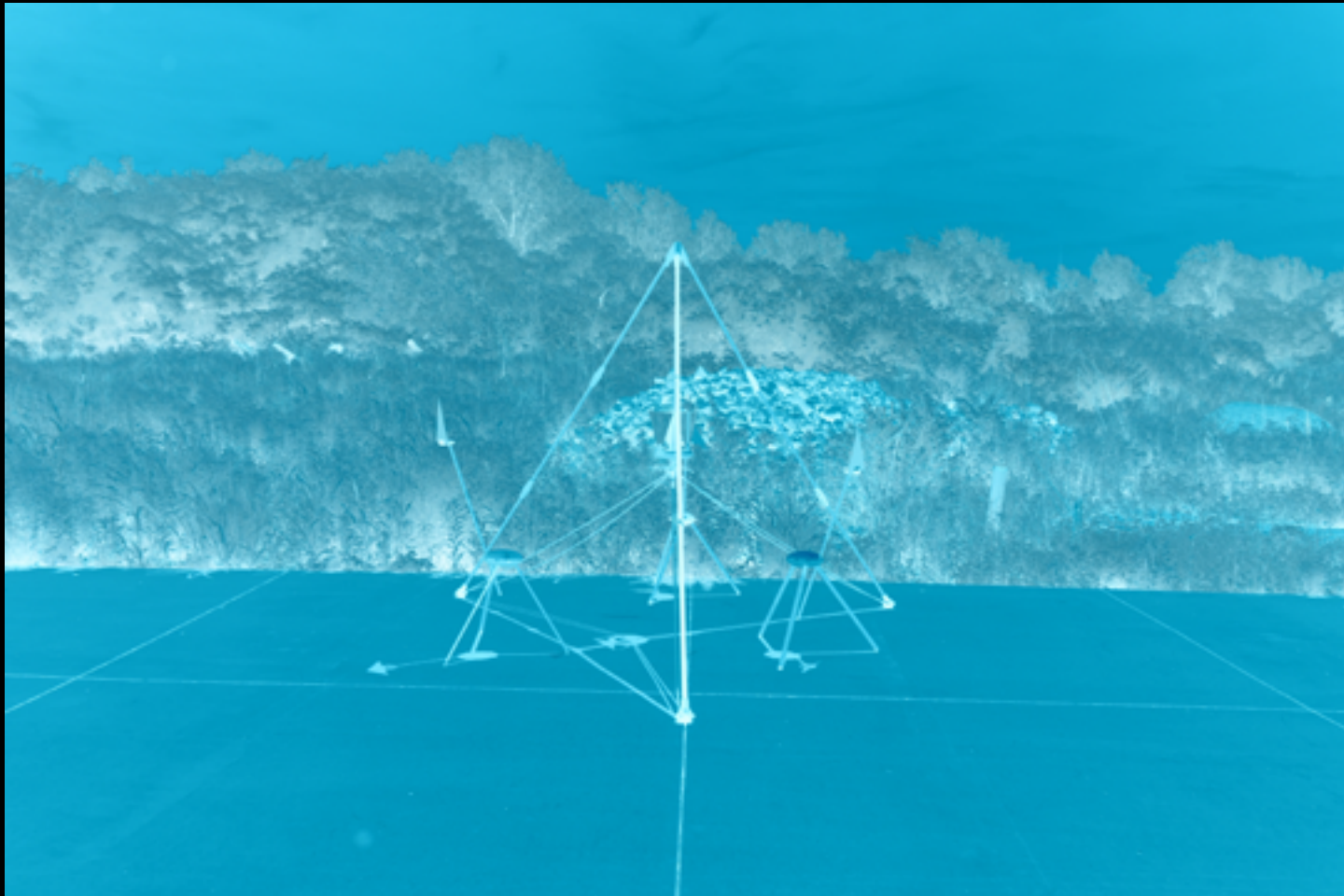
i set up at the corner of the L and walked around the field of debris and rubble

while on top of a pile of rubbled debris i looked across to the NGA campus

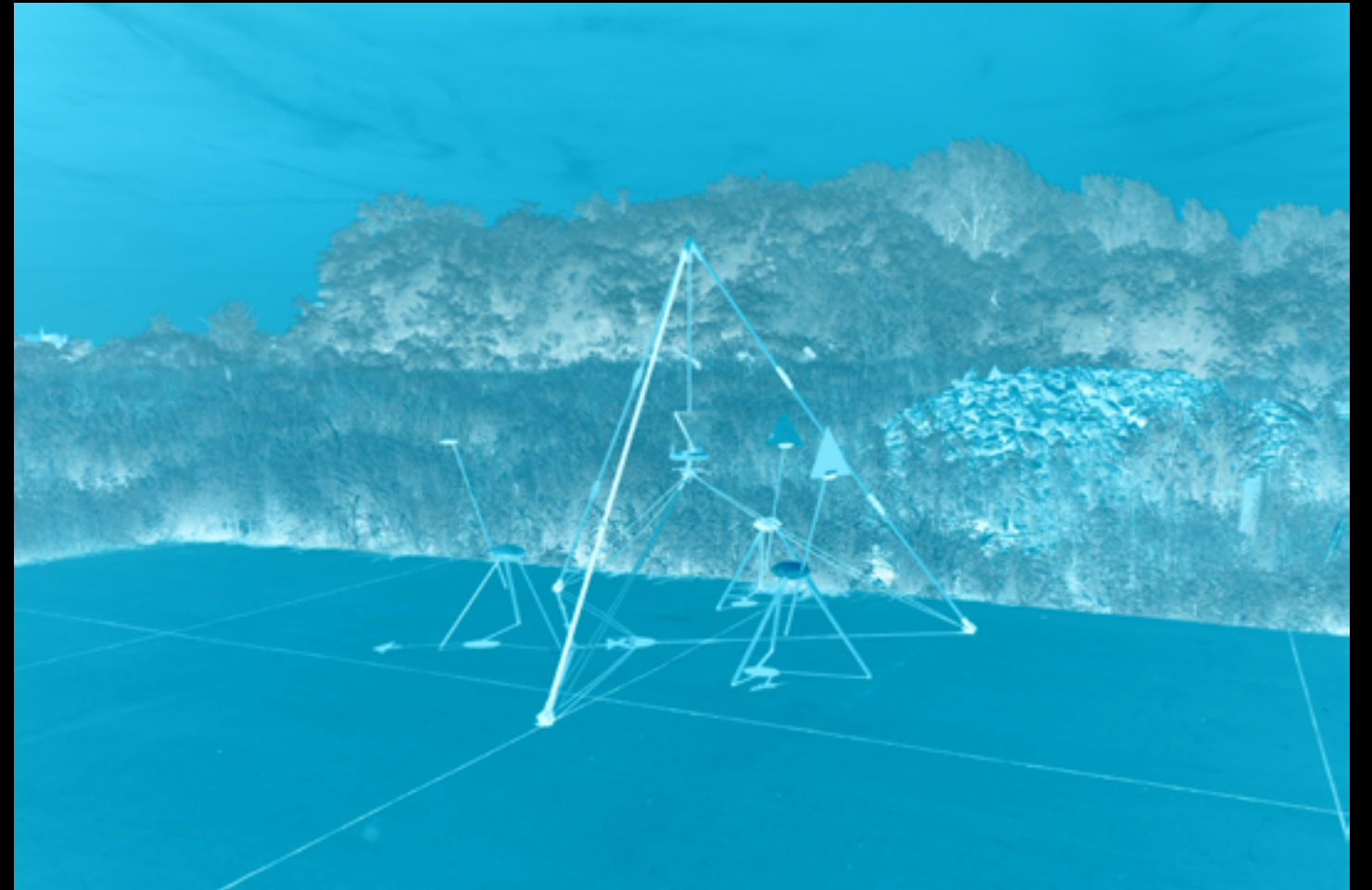
afterwards , i drove around jeff.van.der.lou taking photos . it looked as though
it had remained un.touched (read : neglected) since the time the pruit and igoe
complexes were actually alive and well

this was compounded by the fact that a tornado had passed through the week prior
needless to say , i left st. louis with a bad taste in my mouth and more cynicism
and pessimism in my heart than i had carried in a long time

this was an inflection point , literally and metaphorically



Former Pruitt-Igoe Site II [(12:06 , 11.6.25) . St. Louis , MO]



30 °c | fair | 1003.49 hPa

11.6.25
of friends
Oliver Mancoske - thought it looked like
a cool piece of art
Alyssa Paolucci - caught the eye
of my students
Alvin P. - thought it was an amazing thing
Mia Friend from Madison, WI, shared her ponder...
Allyson Towner - looks like a spaceship
Jayla Hogan - Madison, WI, it
was so unique, I had to
check it out, you are
amazing.
Dante Webb - how are you
P.S. I love you
Gabe & Gabe
IN LIFE

the xixth deploy

after st. louis i had a long drive to madison to visit cheng

it was the quickest time had passed in the car thus far , but it accelerated in a way - moving incredibly slow in the beginning to passing by in an instant at the end

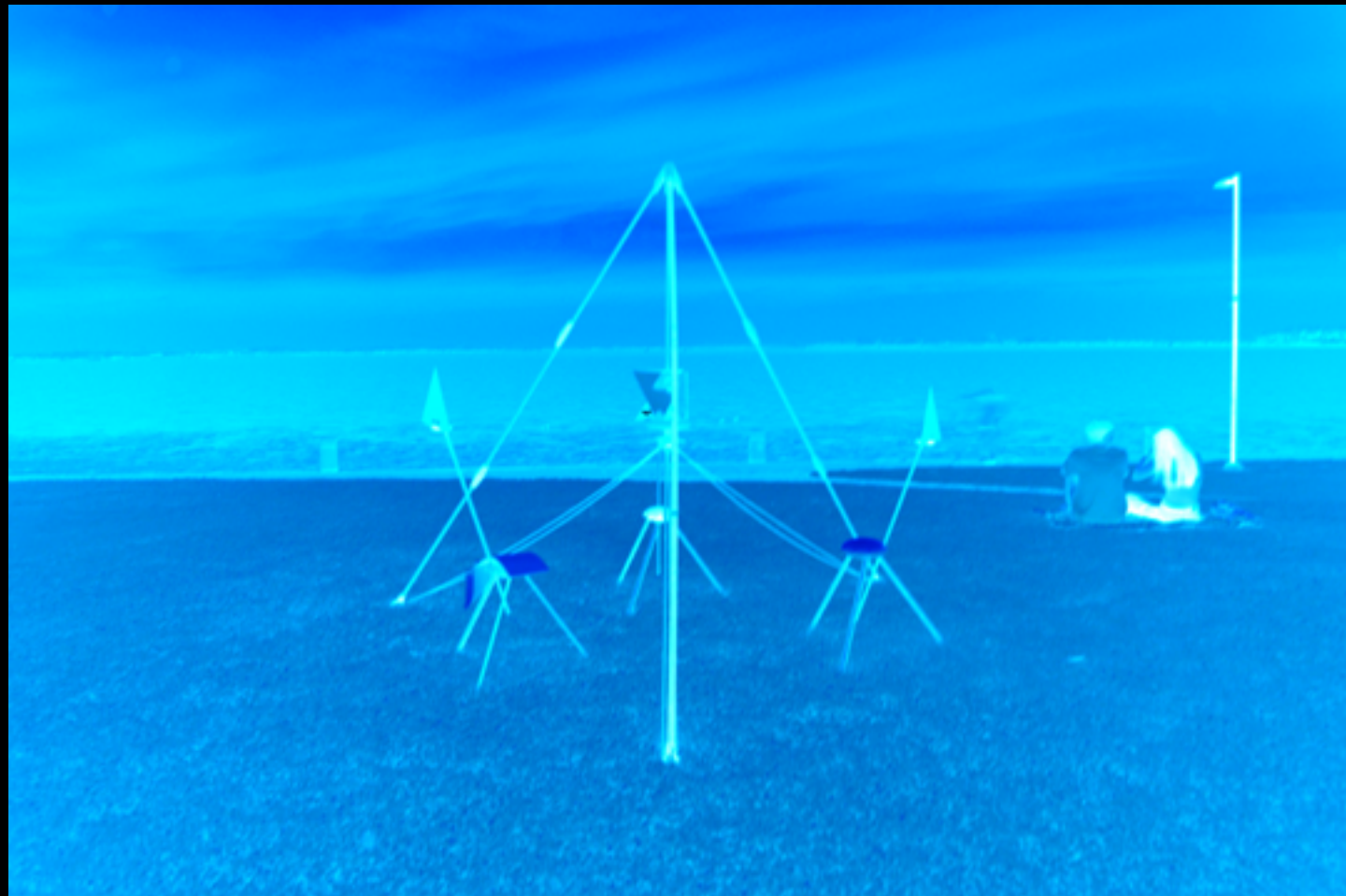
i imagine this had to do with going from an incredibly ‘negative’ moment to a truly ‘positive’ one , as cheung was the only friend i was visiting from grad school , someone who also studied architecture , and someone who knew the ‘present’ version of me quite well

as such , i set up in the evening after we had a picnic , and had some of the most positive interactions of the entire trip

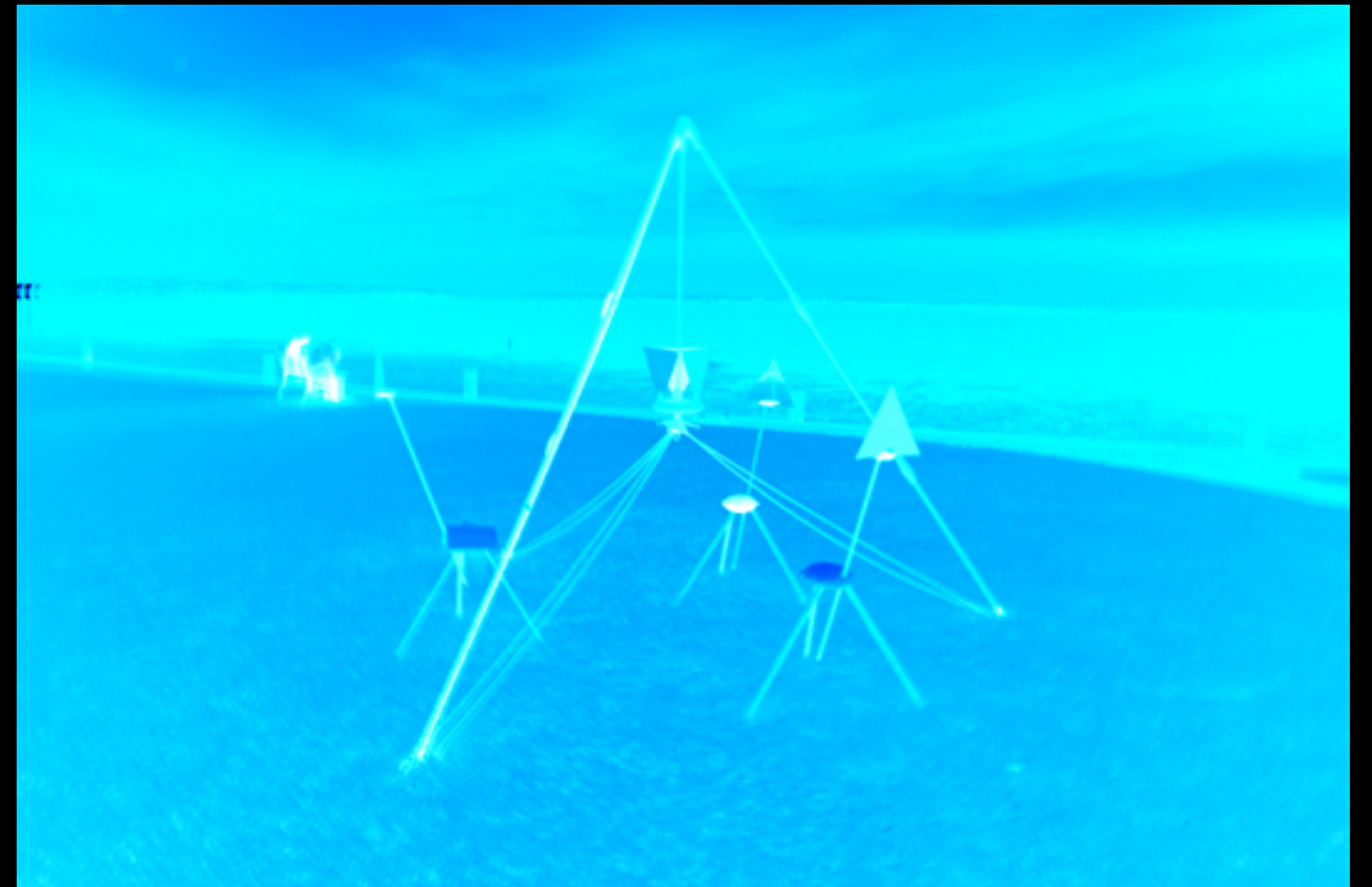
i think part of it had to do with madison being a pseudo-college town and students being on break and thus in high spirits , as well as me being more open than usual given that i was there with cheung

as such , some of the only images i have of myself and others inter.acting with acp 43 came from this deploy

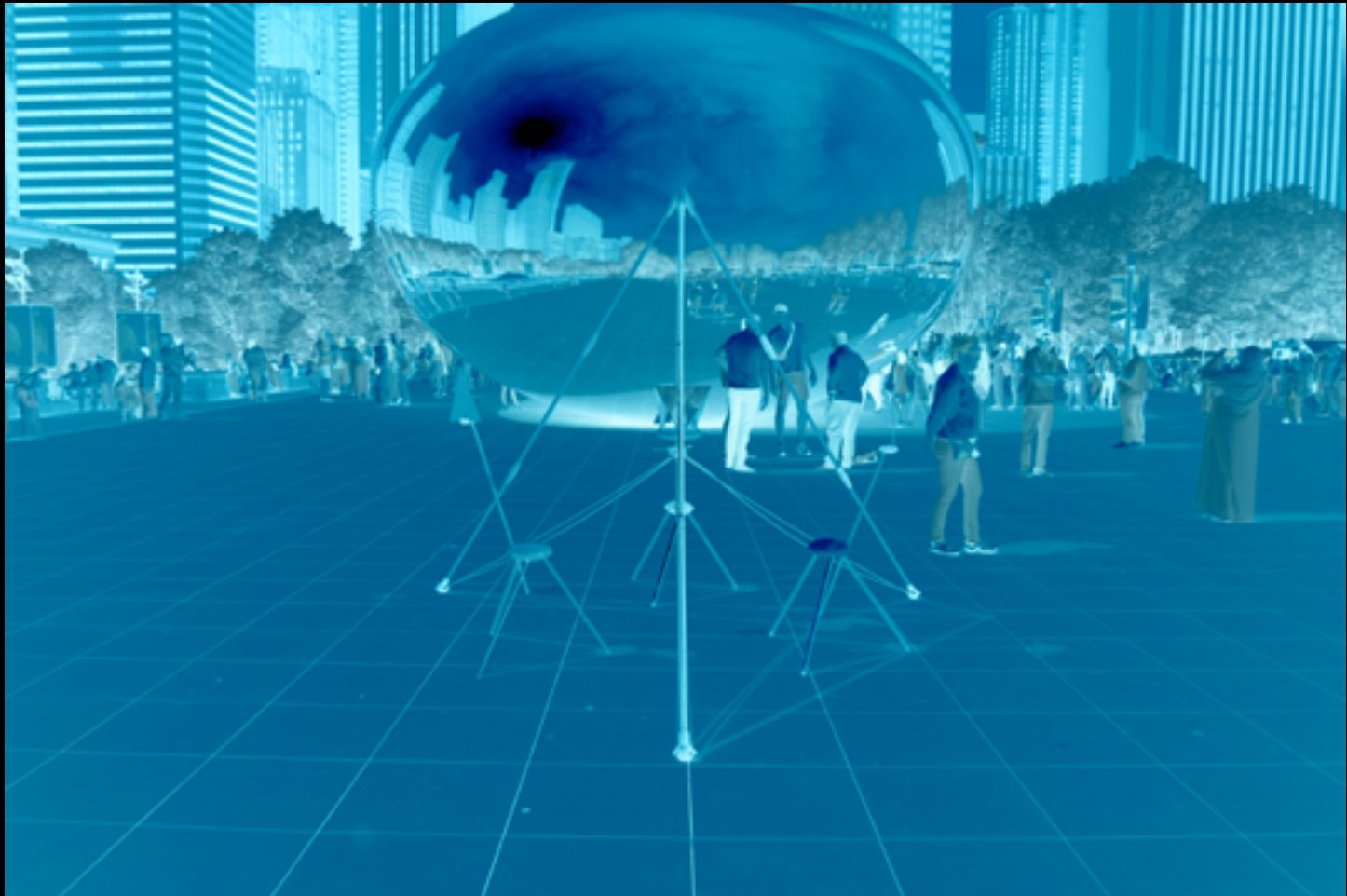
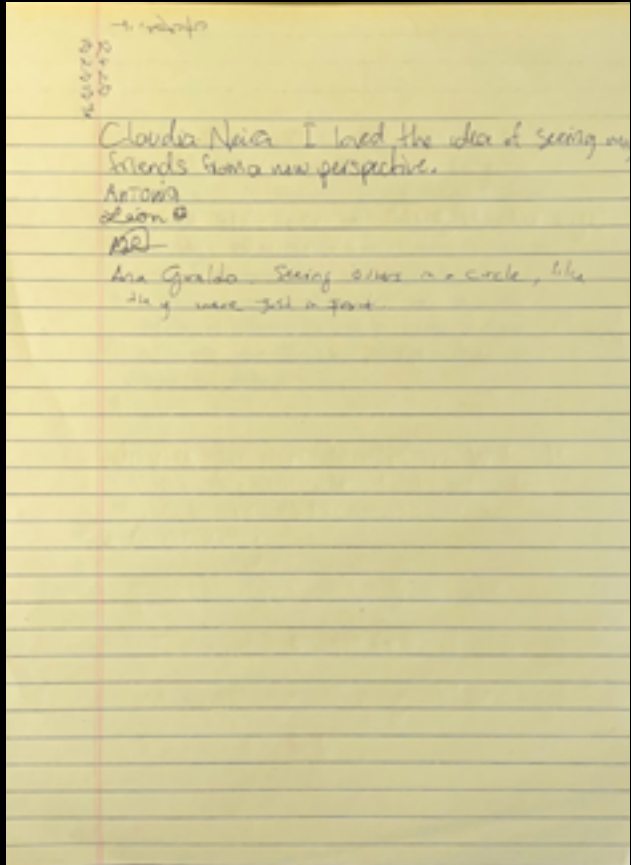
i also lost my wallet at this point
[later returned to me by a good samaritan , delivered by cheung months later]



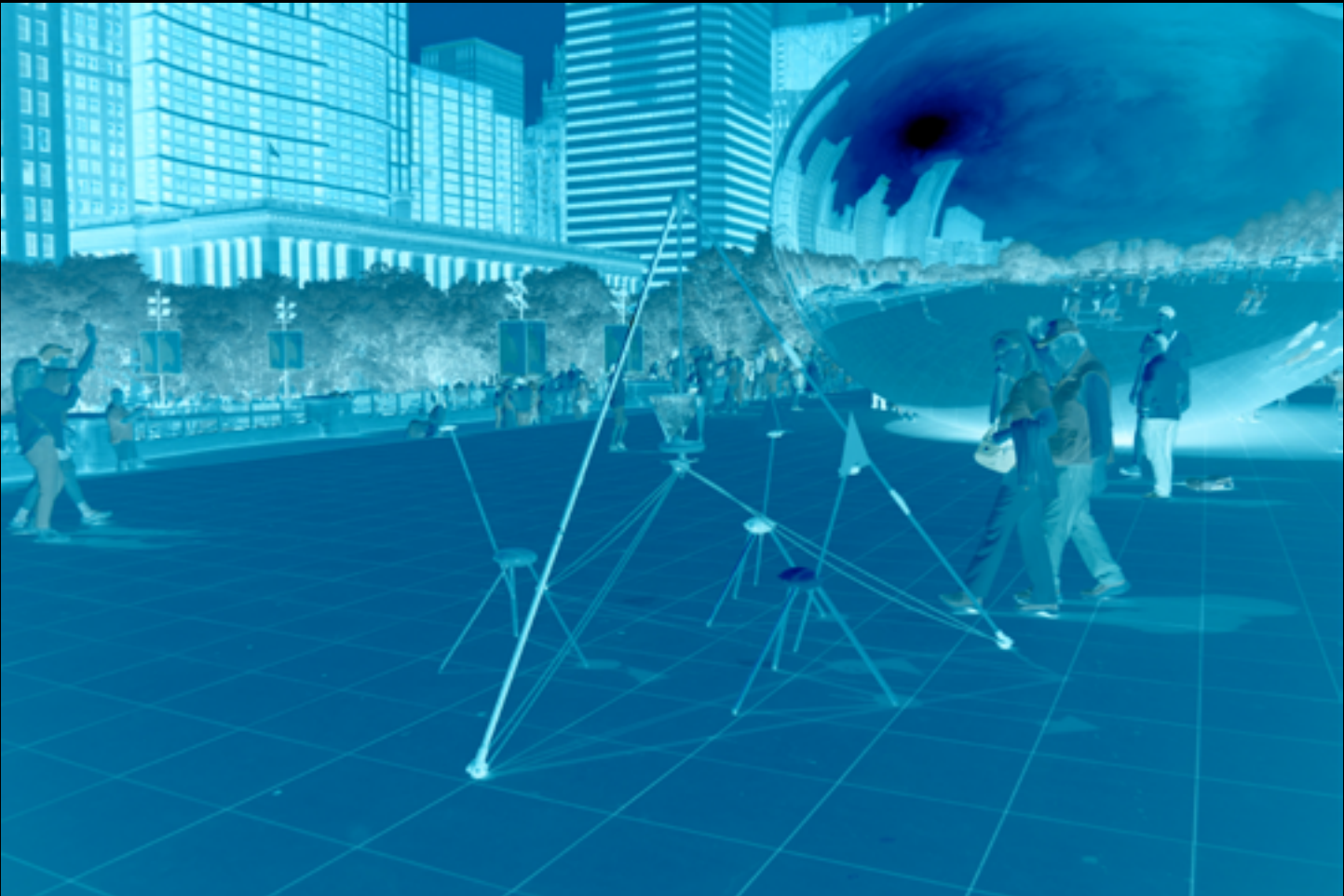
James Madison Park [(20:21 , 11.6.25) . Madison , WI]



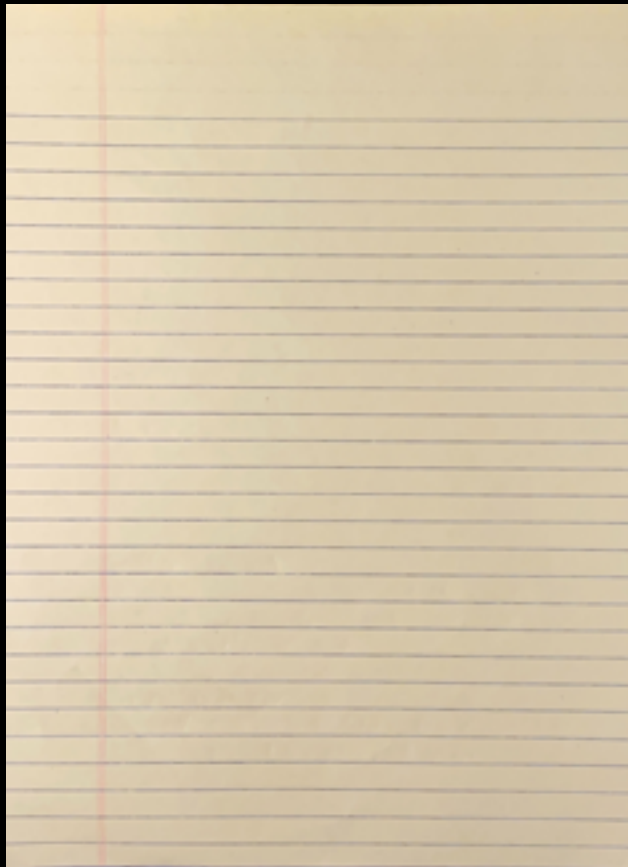
23 °c | most.ly.cloudy | 983.10 hPa



Cloud Gate//‘The Bean’ [(15:23 , 12.6.25) . Chicago , IL]



24 °c | cloudy | 994.01 hPa



the xxist deploy

ah , columbus indiana . really the architectural mecca of america

i can't say it was disappointing , but i could have if i hadn't spent so much
time in i.m. pei's cleo rogers memorial library

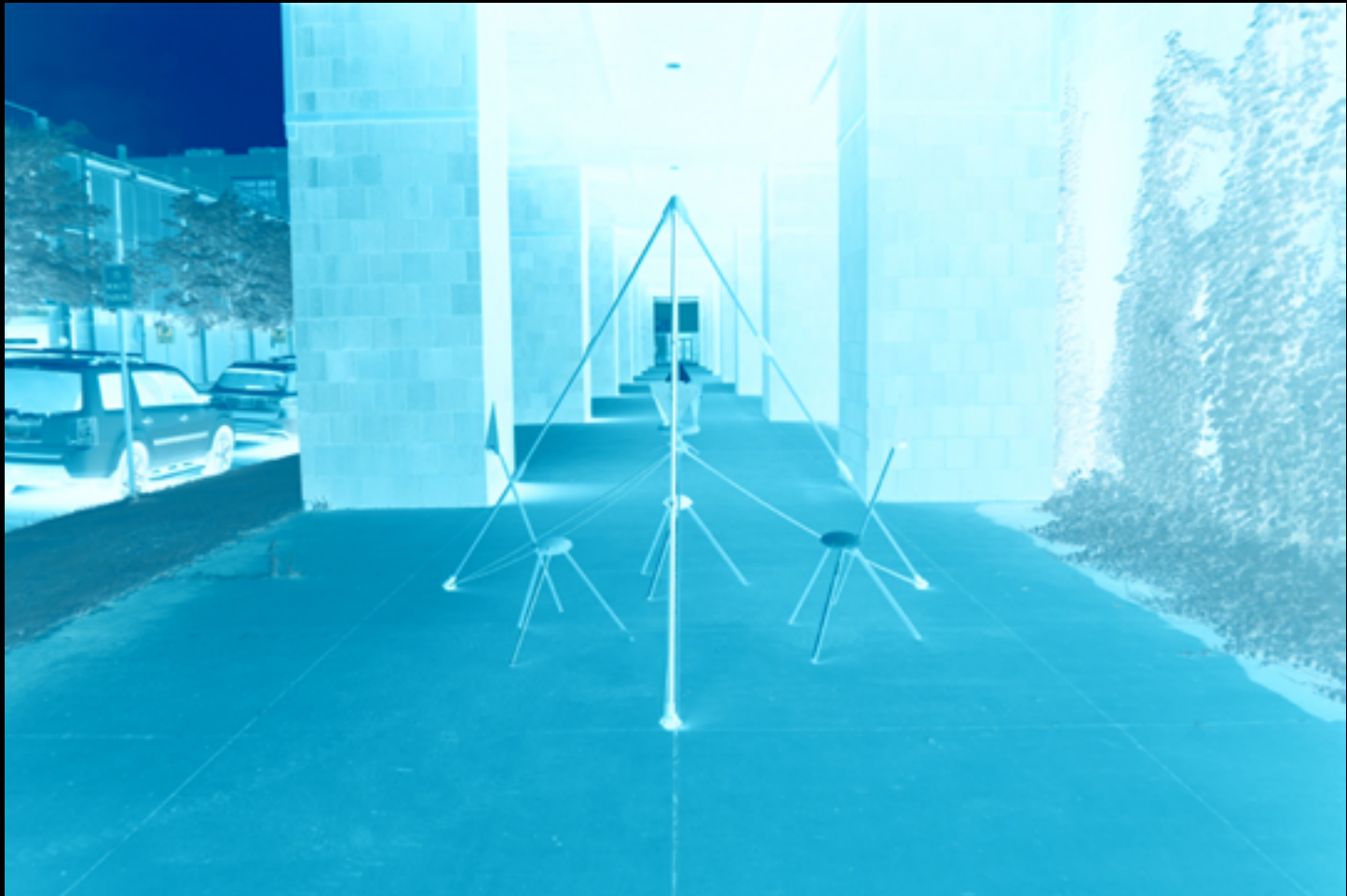
after visiting the pruitt igoe site , i was pretty hopeless qua architecture

after visiting the library , i was incredibly hopeful qua architecture , but
not because i thought it would lead to any sort of deliverance ; it just became
apparent to me that good design is tangible , even if context was still all.
important

i set up in the colonnade of kevin roche's post office because there aren't really
any colonnades in the states , and the columns were monumental in a way that told
me they were purely symbolic/semiotic

no one sat down , although a few passed by , and i think this was for the best

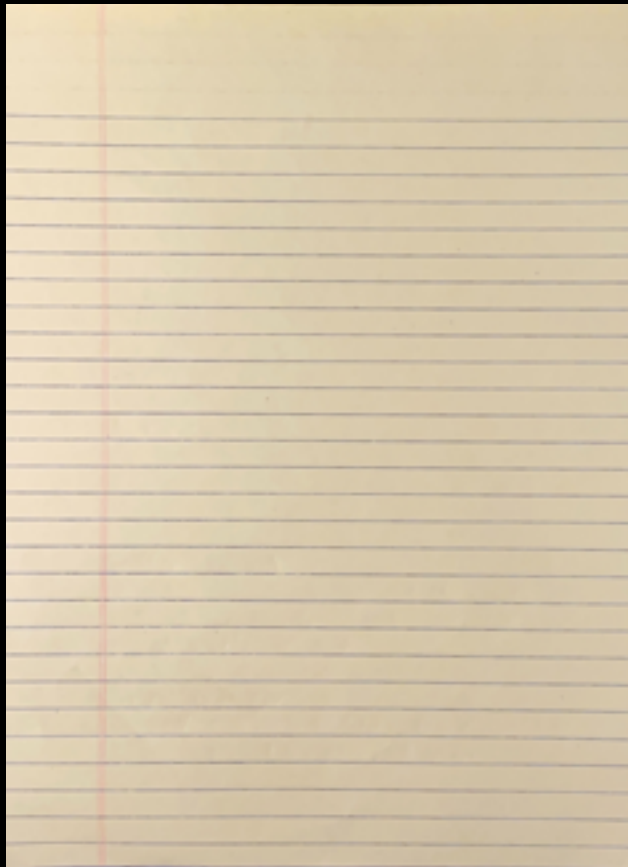
this was a second inflection point



United States Postal Service [(12:04 , 13.6.25) . Columbus , IN]



22 °c | cloudy | 991.52 hPa



the xxiind deploy

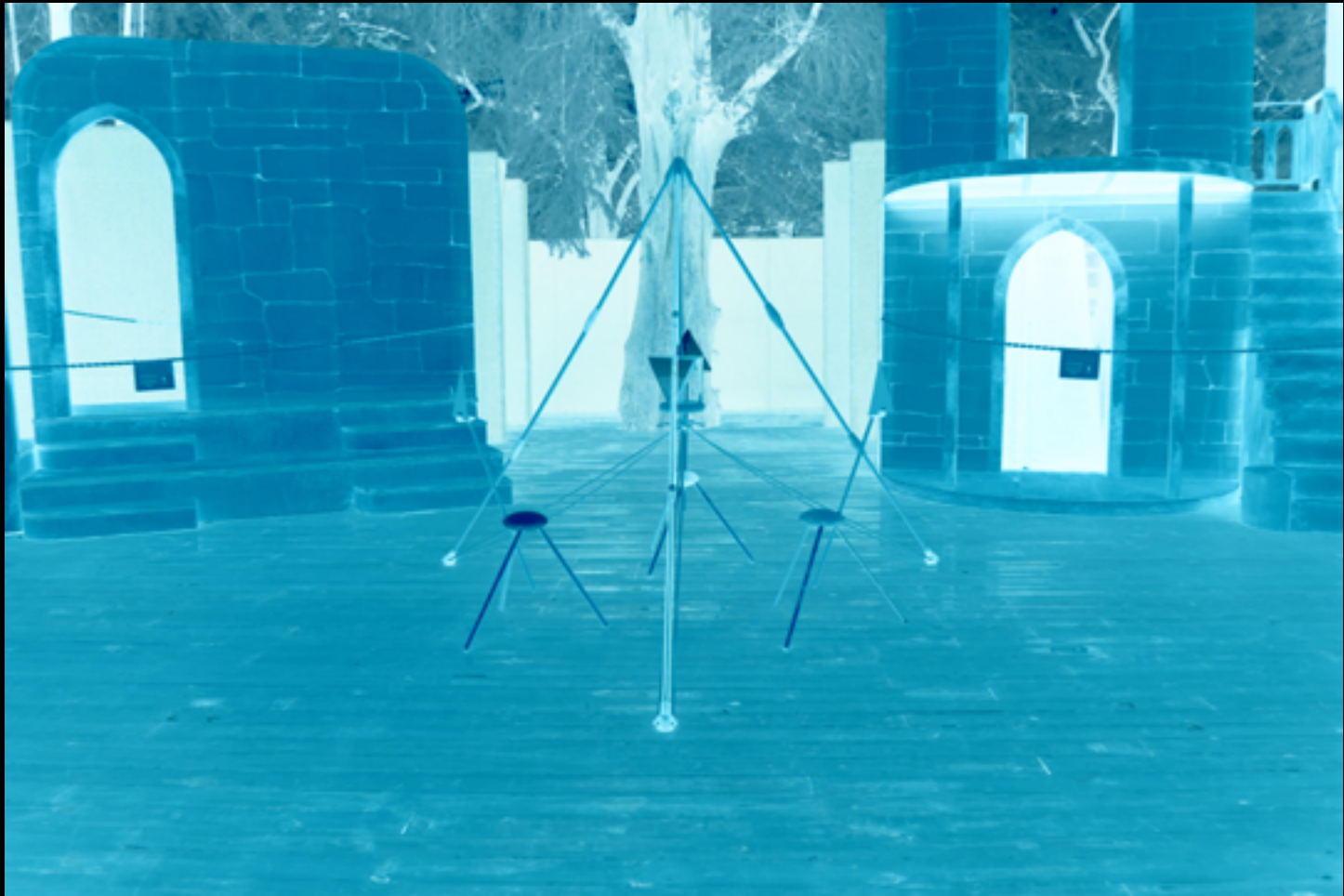
louisville was , for me , a quint.essential american city
sparse , not really walkable , and a certain stagnation permeated the air

with that being said , i liked it more than i didn't
i set up in a park because when i was looking on maps it stuck out to me as too
similar to the emerald necklace to not be an Olmstead design

it was
then i came across an outdoor ampitheatre of sorts with a stage set up as if
waiting to be performed up.on

i obliged , but no one else came up , so it was a one.man.show

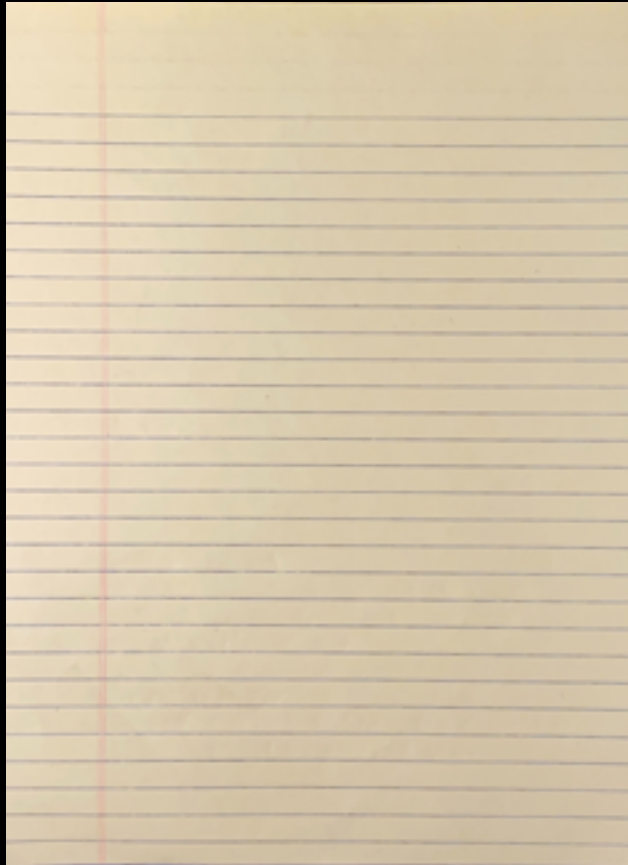
there was a certain liminality to the whole thing



Central Park Ampitheatre [(15:47 , 13.6.25) . Louisville , KY]



26 °c | part.ly.cloudy | 995.41 hPa



the xxiiird deploy

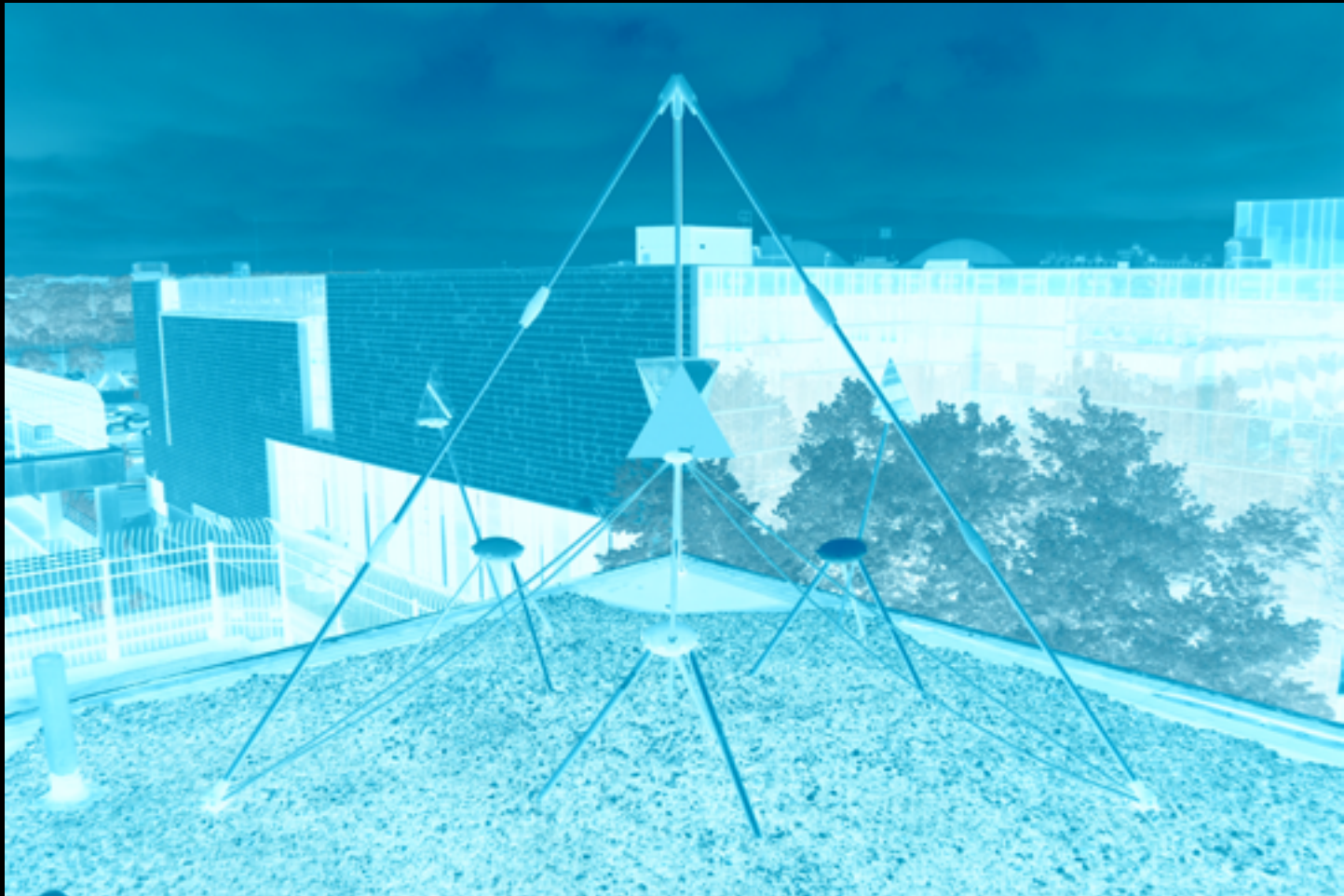
columbus was my last stop where i was visiting a friend , and i had to skip detroit because i was running out of money [and time , but those are basically the same thing]

i decided to visit knowlton on my own because aj was working out , and i'm a big mack scogin//merrill elam fan

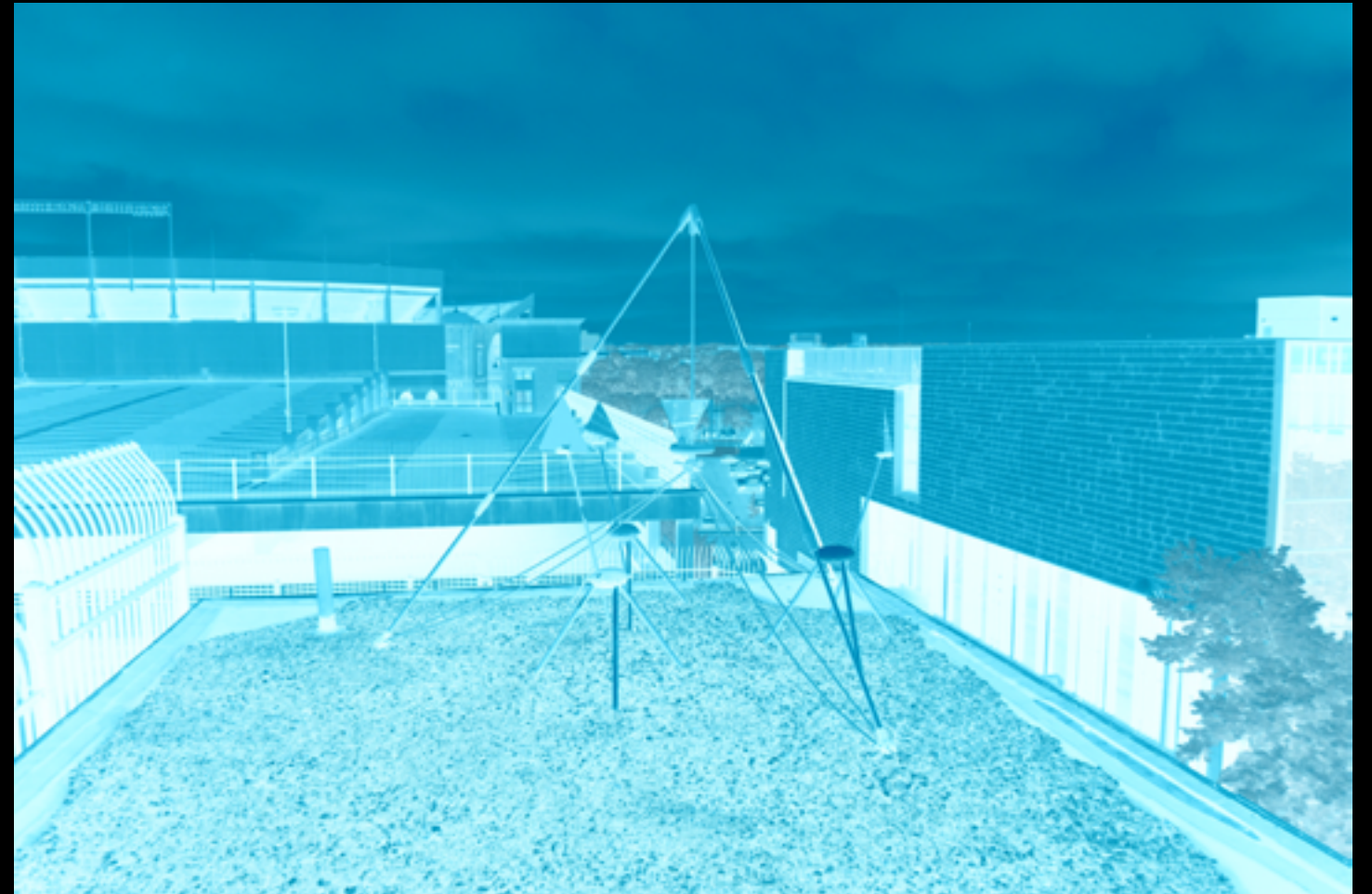
i was not disappointed
i did not realize the shakes//shingles were actually stone//ceramic until i got up close and touched them

i decided to set up on the parking garage roof because i wanted to be level with the building , so.to.speak , and also because there was no one around , so i didn't have to worry about accessibility

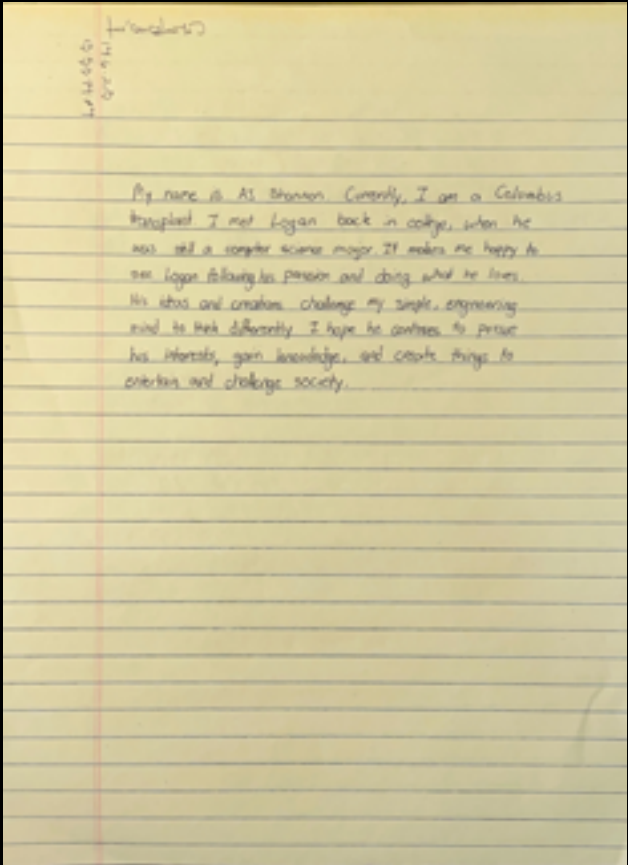
i look back on this deploy fondly



Knowlton School Roof , OSU [(12:56 , 14.6.25) . Columbus , OH]



24 °c | cloudy | 986.27 hPa



the xxivth deploy

after the knowlton roof , i headed back to downtown to meet.up with aj

i set up in front of a pond to get a reflected documentation from across the way

after aj sat down and i explained to him ‘the gist’ , i hurried and packed up so we could get on with our day . it was more important i got to show him than he got to see me interact with other people through it

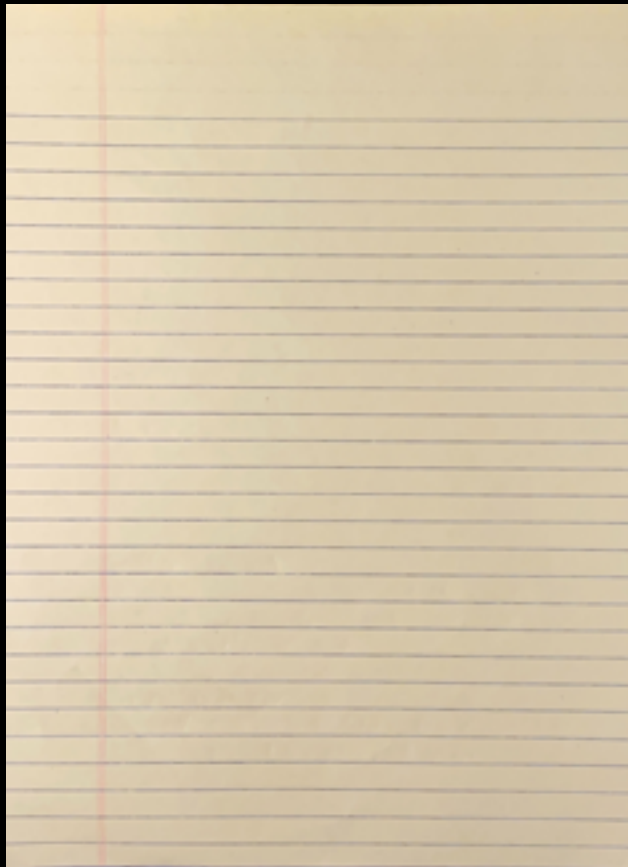
it was a beautiful setting tho



Topiary Park [(13:53 , 14.6.25) . Columbus , OH]



21 °c | cloudy | 985.61 hPa



the xxvth deploy

pittsburgh was the last stop before getting home , only because it was literally
the last thing i could afford

i didn't want to talk to anyone , as i knew i was incredibly close to the end
[of the first stint] and the long.term latent exhaustion of the whole endeavor was
starting to set it

i ended up setting up on some train tracks , mostly because i knew i would be
left alone , but also because it is 'the steel city' , after all



Strip District Railroad [(12:49 , 15.6.25) . Pittsburgh , PA]

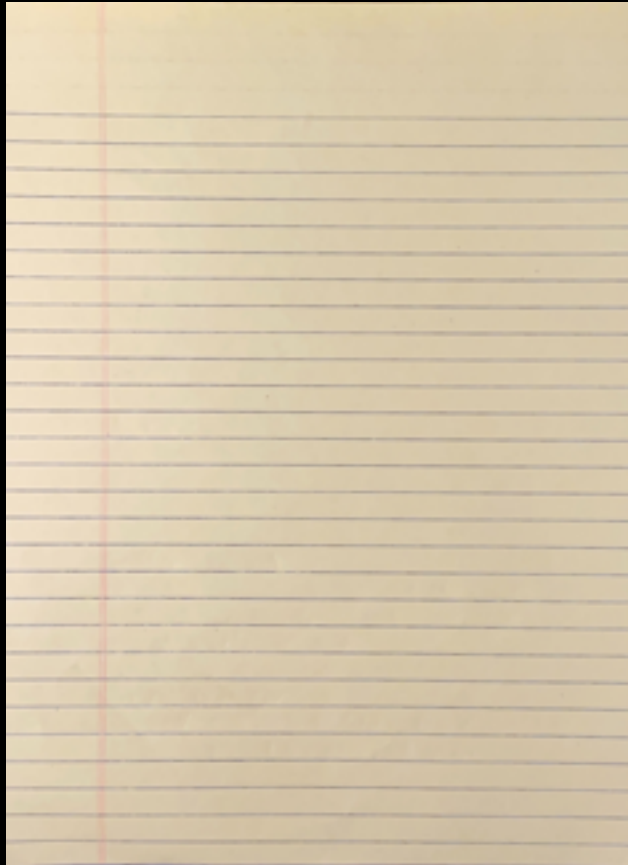


25 °c | [most.ly.cloudy](https://most.ly/cloudy) | 971.69 hPa

the compacted trip

part ii of ‘the deploys’

transtension

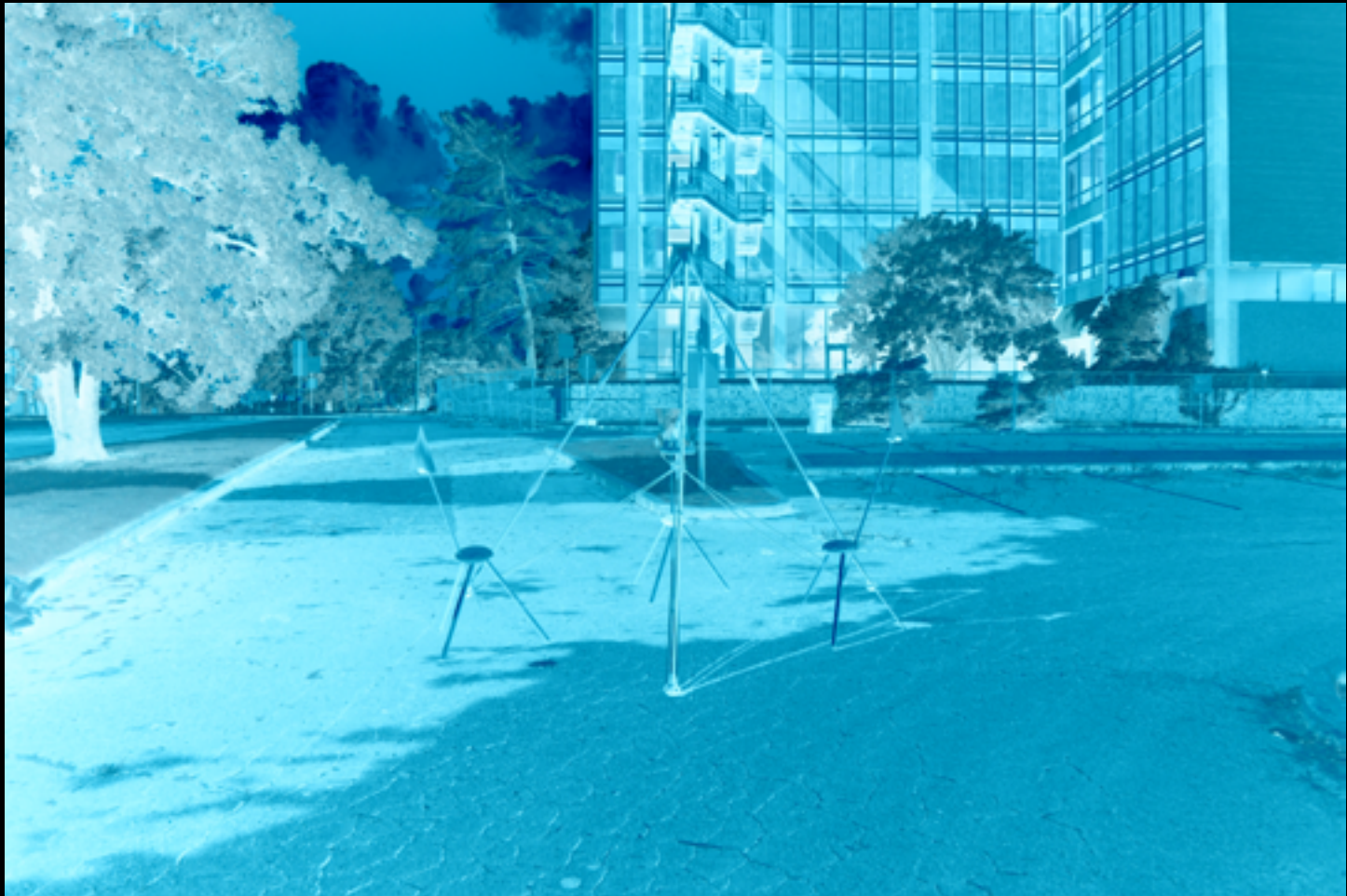


the xxvith deploy

this one is a bit of an outlier , because when i originally went to durham it was to visit bebo and conduct the survey , and i ended up deciding to come back and deploy later , as i was on a tight schedule in the beginning of the summer traveling from north carolina to florida with little time to waste

as such , when i came back to durham later that summer , i ended up grabbing lunch with bebo , trying to find the duke chapel to set up at , realizing new students had already arrived and were settling in , then got cold feet and set up in an abandoned parking lot

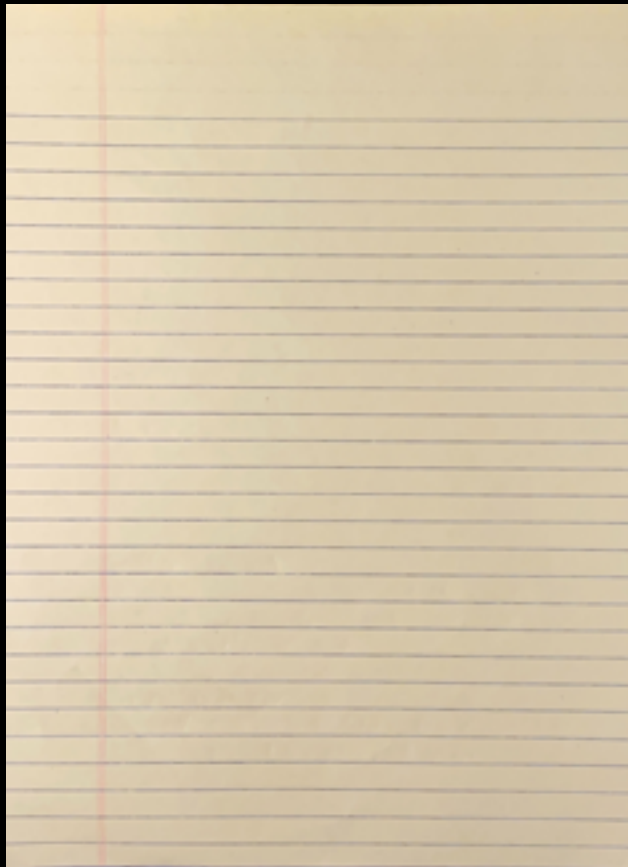
i have no regrets , as this was the only true parking lot set.up



Vacant Parking Lot [(15:54 , 28.8.25) .Durham , NC]



28 °c | most.ly.cloudy | 1003.21 hPa



the xxviith deploy

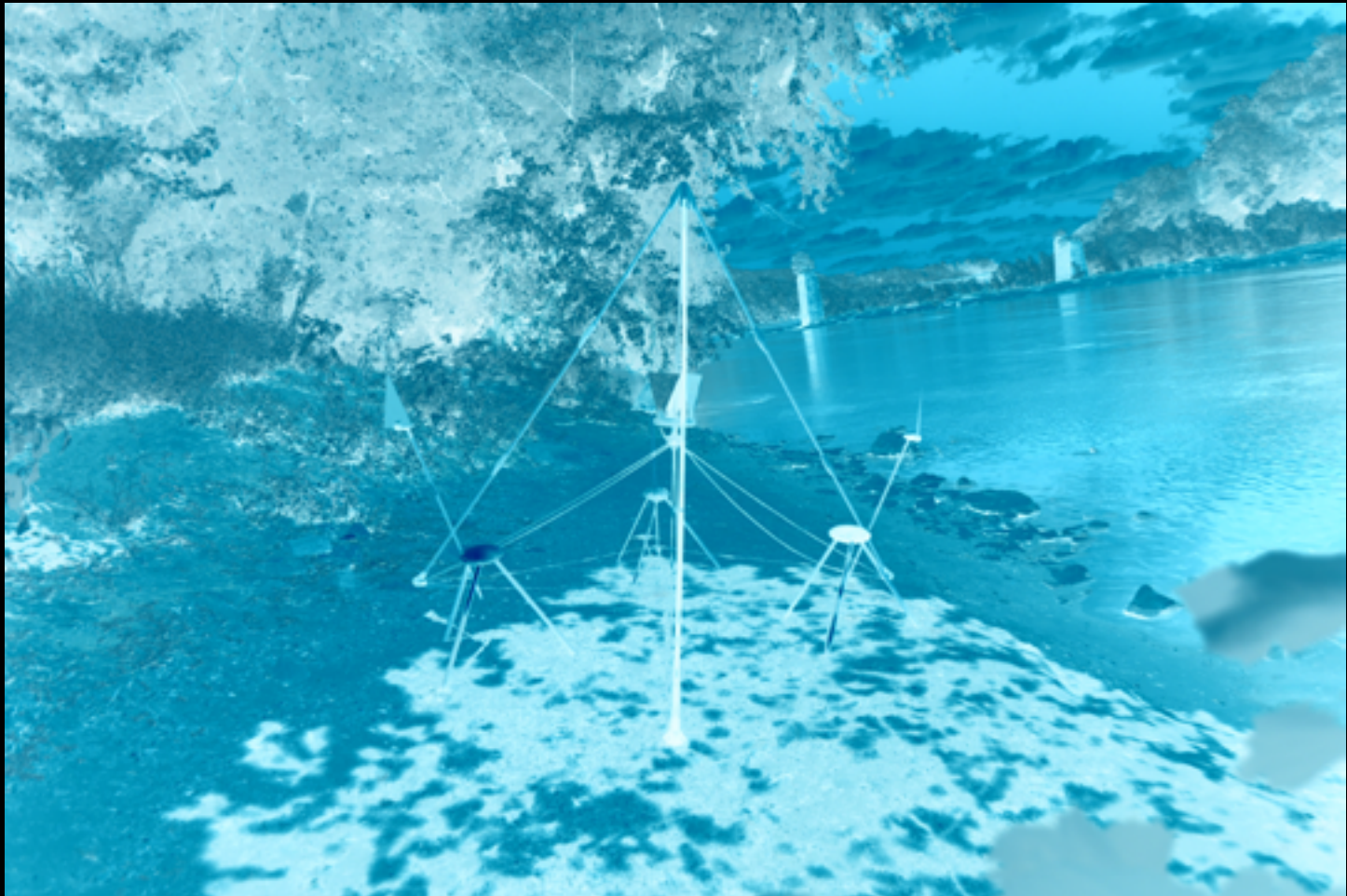
i didn't know what i was getting in.to going to harper's ferry , but i was pleasantly surprised to see i had happened up.on a time capsule of a 'city'

a lot of time had passed since the trip proper , and i felt like i was in limbo , still digesting the survey and compacted trip while simultaneously looking ahead to the semester and how everything would come together

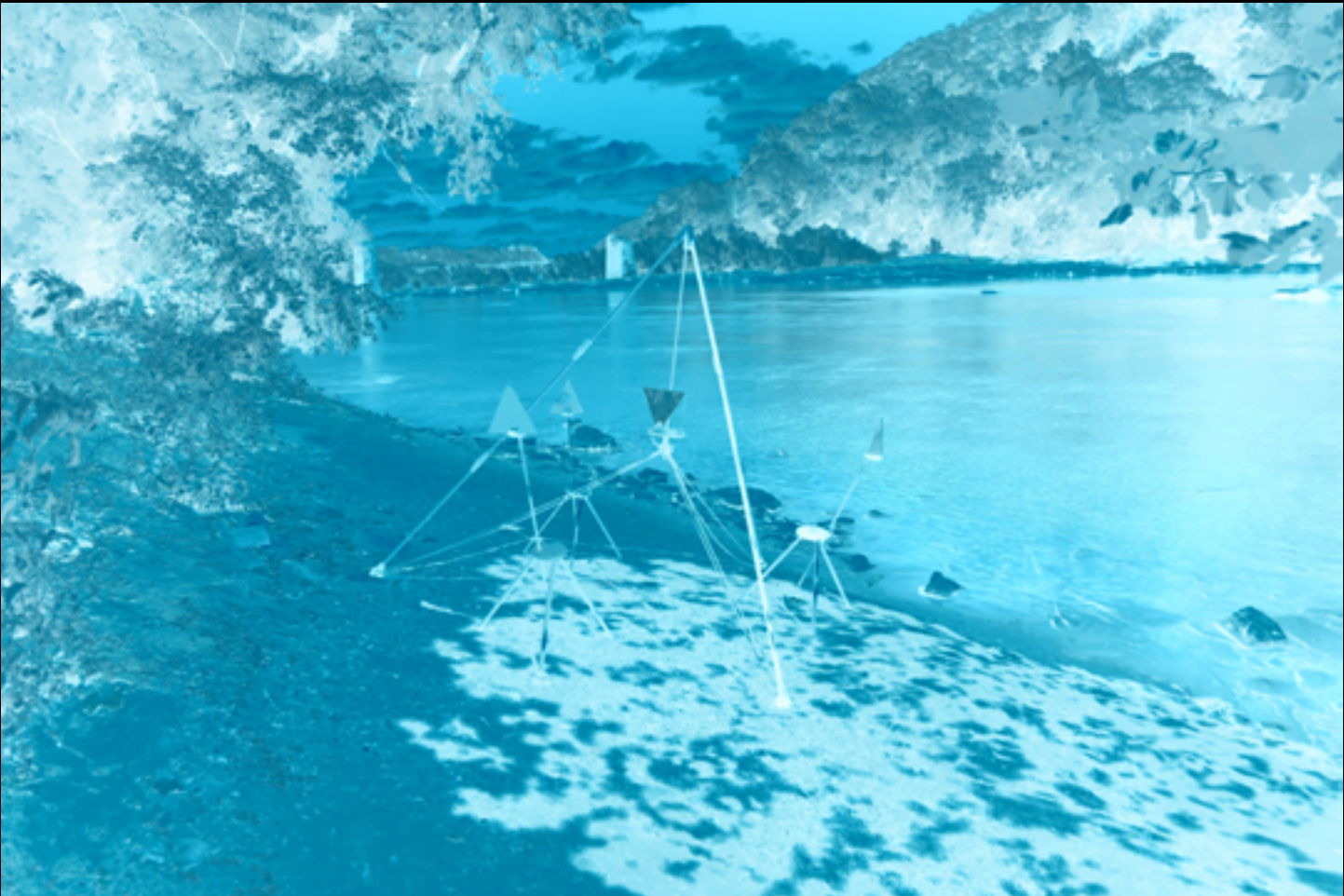
as such , i still wasn't quite ready to talk to anyone yet

thus , i went off the beaten path , literally , and set up next to the river so as to sit with myself , probably for the first time truly intentionally so [since pruit igoe]

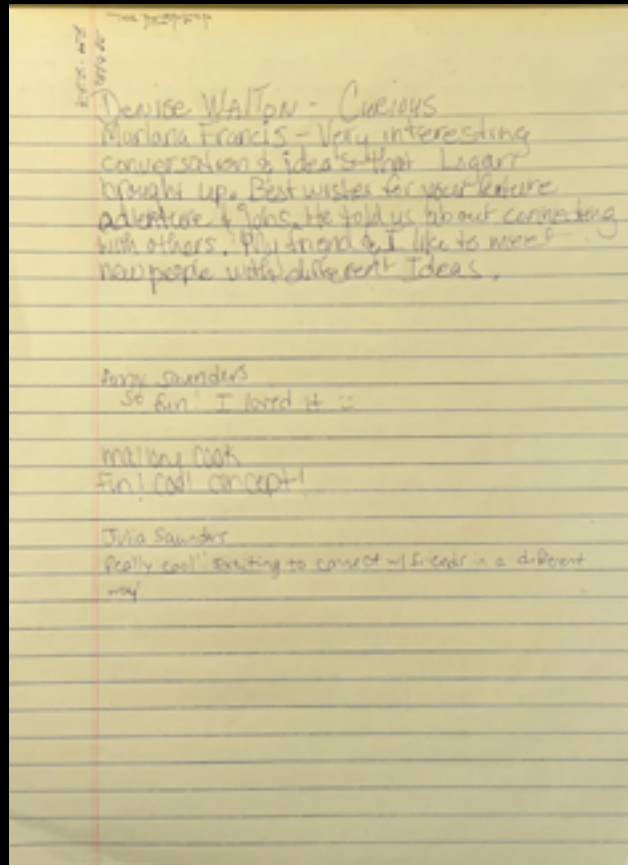
this is when a bird landed on the keystone and i felt as though everything was going to be alright



OG Shenandoah River Bridge [(15:12 , 29.8.25) .Harper's Ferry , WV]



25 °c | [most.ly.cloudy](https://most.ly/cloudy) | 971.69 hPa



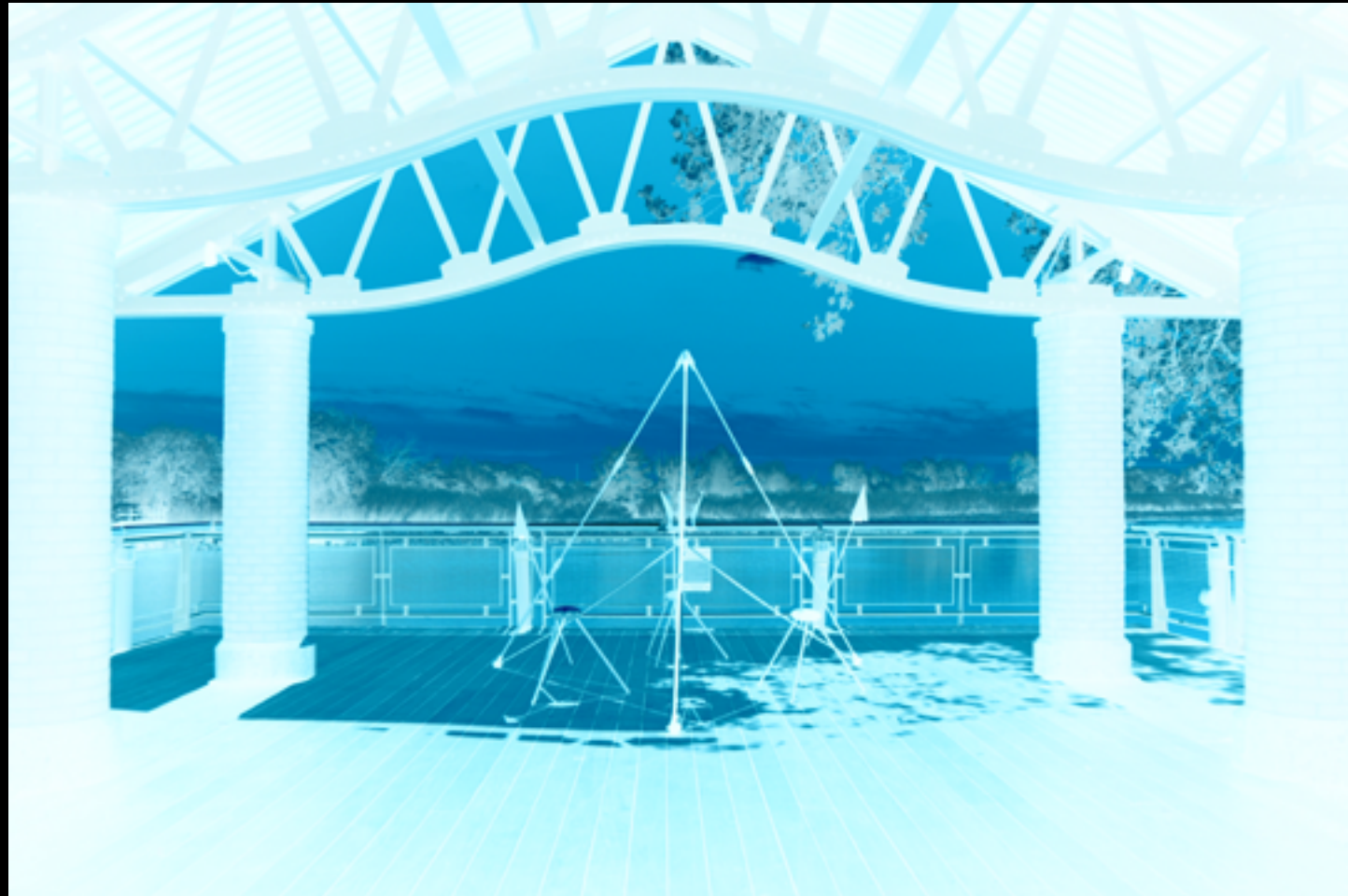
the xxviiith deploy

soo wilmington was much less of a city than i was anticipating , but i was driving up to school and had four stops to make that day

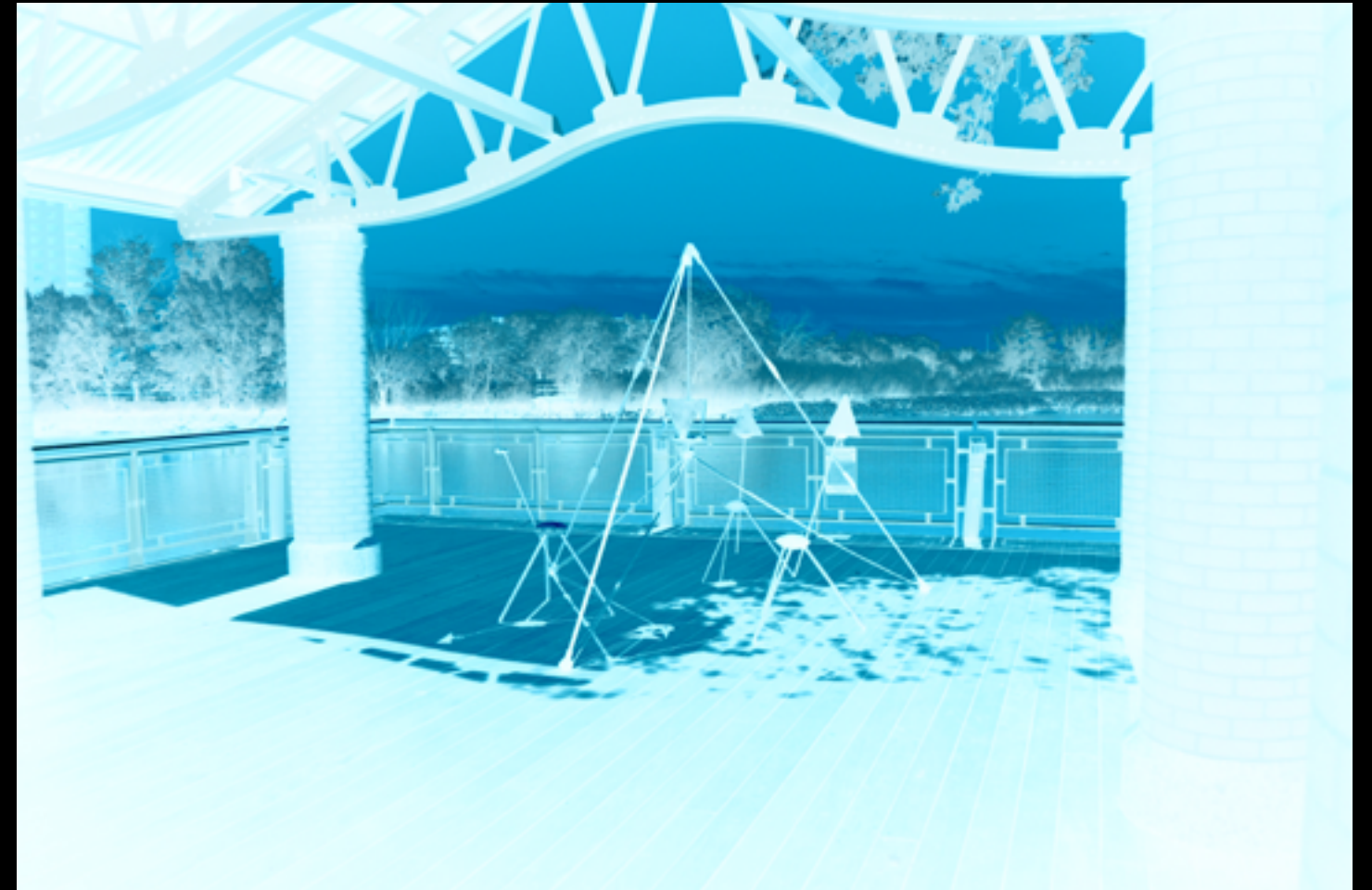
as such , i was pleasantly surprised when these two older ladies on a walk stopped , asked what i was doing , then sat down with me and had probably the most casual conversation of any deploy , playing with the mirrors for a bit before acting like the entire structure wasn't even there

then , right after they left and i was documenting and getting ready to break down , a trio of three younger ladies also on a walk stopped after having passed by earlier and said 'we had to come back and see what it was'

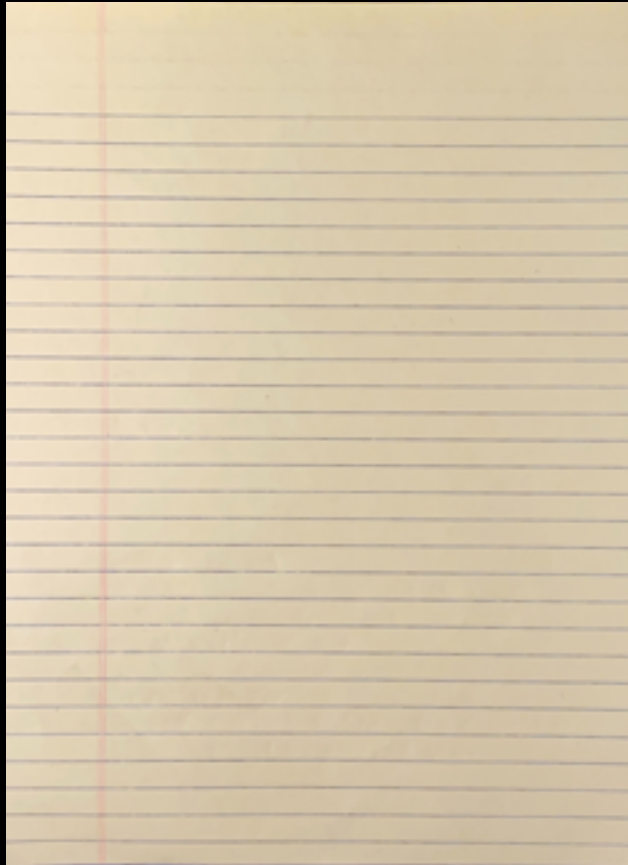
something (and excuse my melo.drama here) was transcendent about this mundane pair of moments because it was easy to imagine the older ladies being older versions of the younger trio - really just two friends on a walk allowing their curiosity to lead the way , even in as mundane a place as wilmington



Hare Pavilion [(12:00 , 30.8.25) . Wilmington , DE]



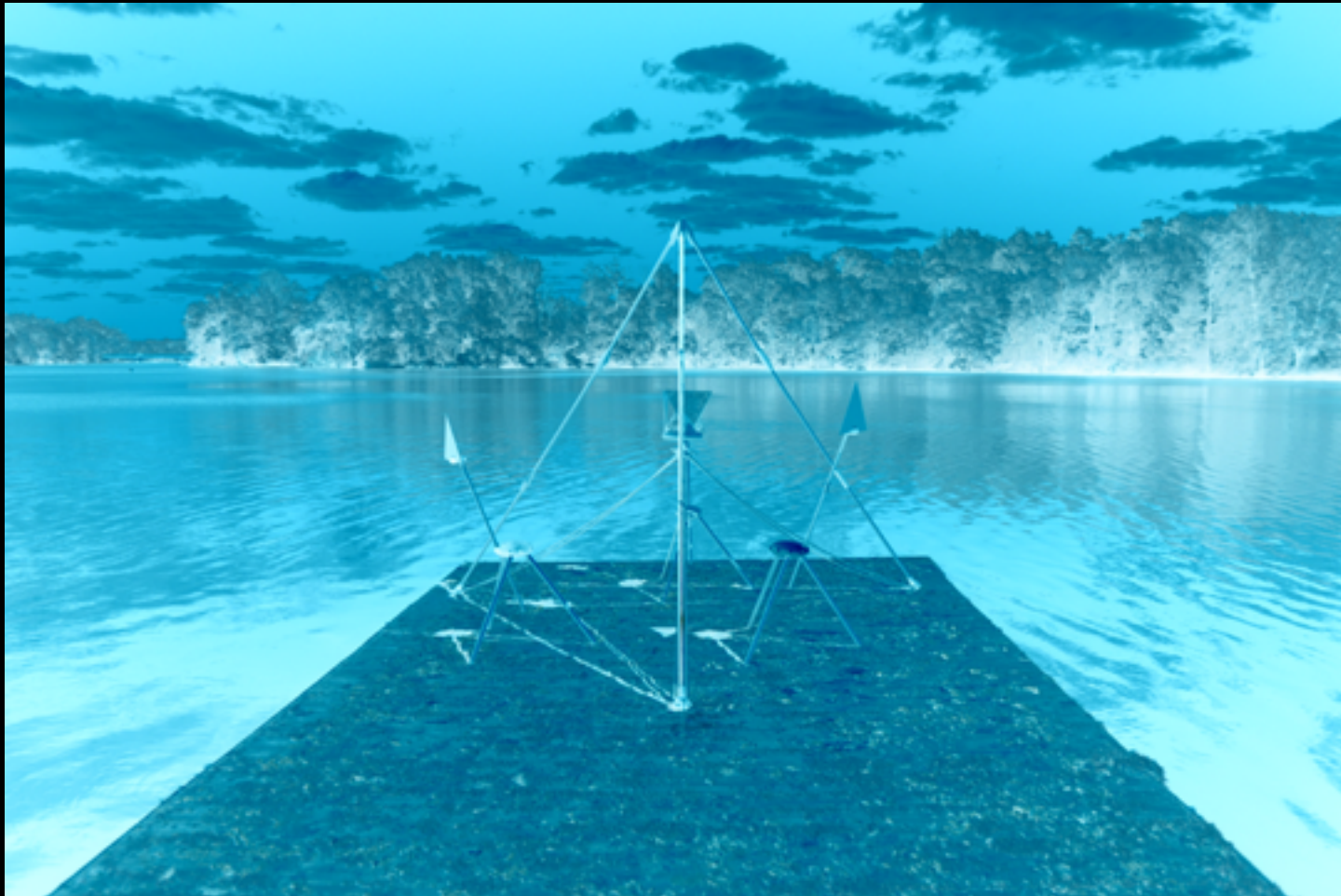
22 °c | fair | 1016.40 hPa



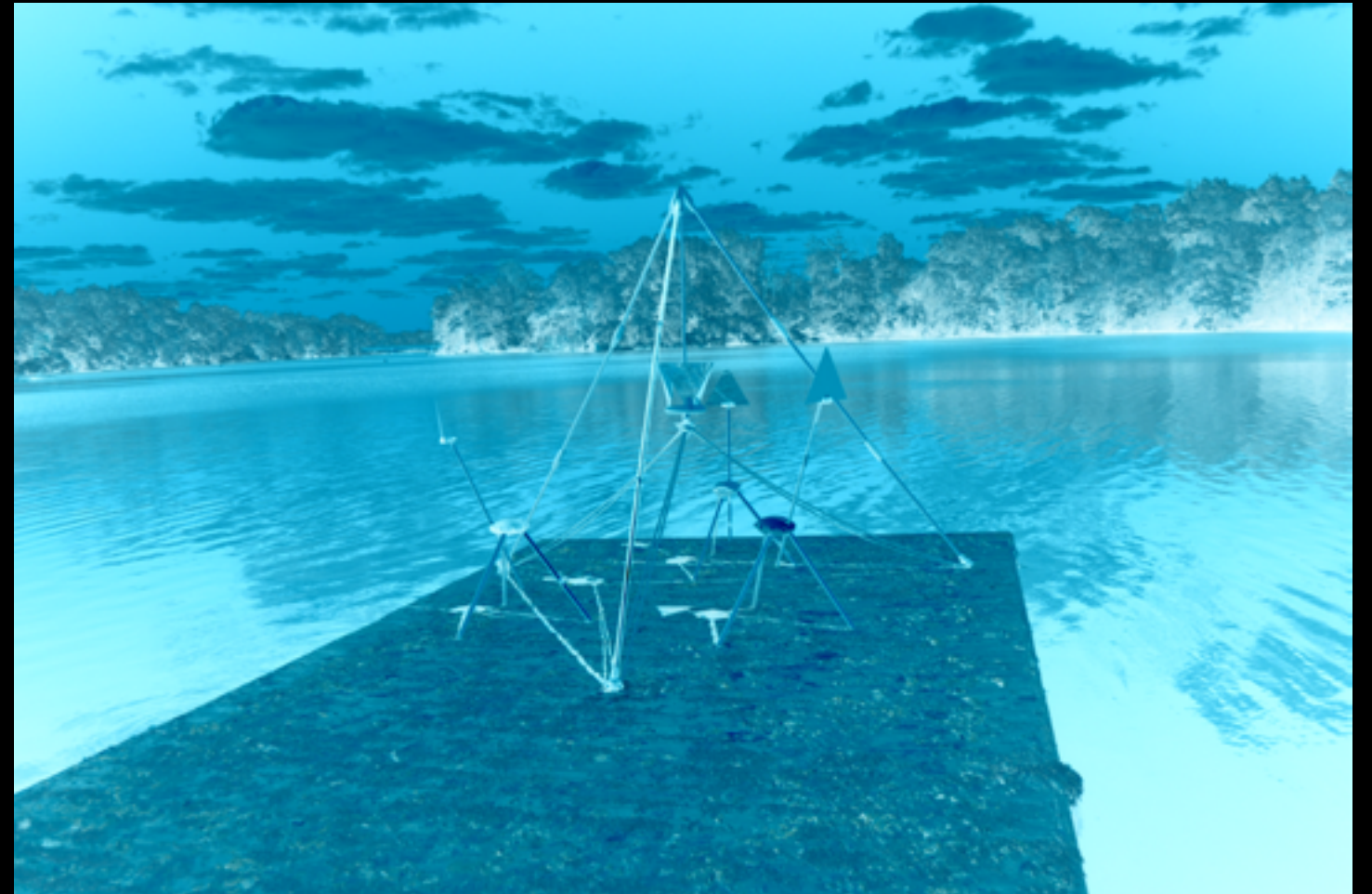
the xxixth deploy

this deploy was incredibly reflective for me , cause in about 1/3 of all timelines
i go to princeton instead of mit and i probably visit this pier a lot because
it's a secluded peaceful spot

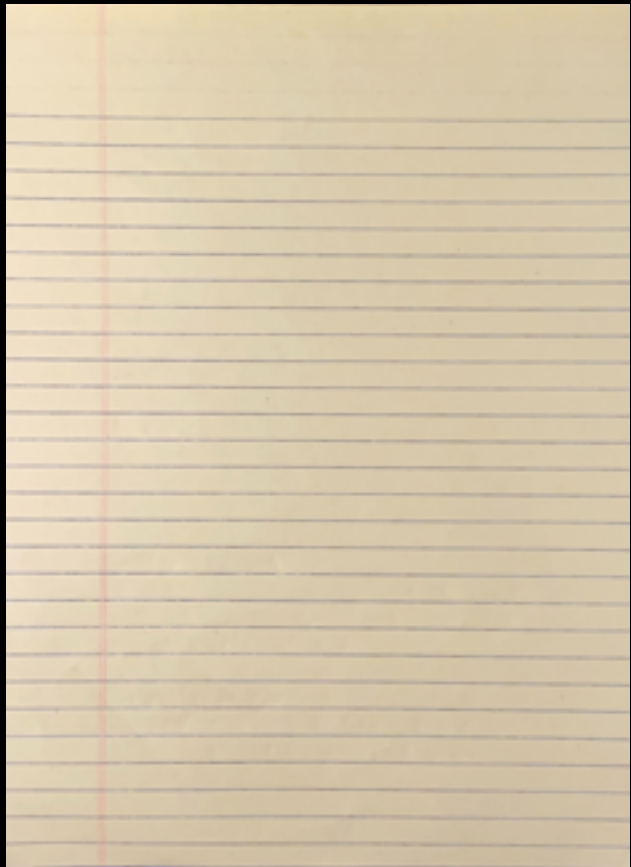
i really enjoyed this one ; one of the few true 'covert ops' that felt covert ,
almost as if i was getting away with something



Ideal Course // Carnegie Lake [(14:47 , 30.8.25) . Princeton , NJ]



24 °c | part.ly.cloudy | 1009.45 hPa



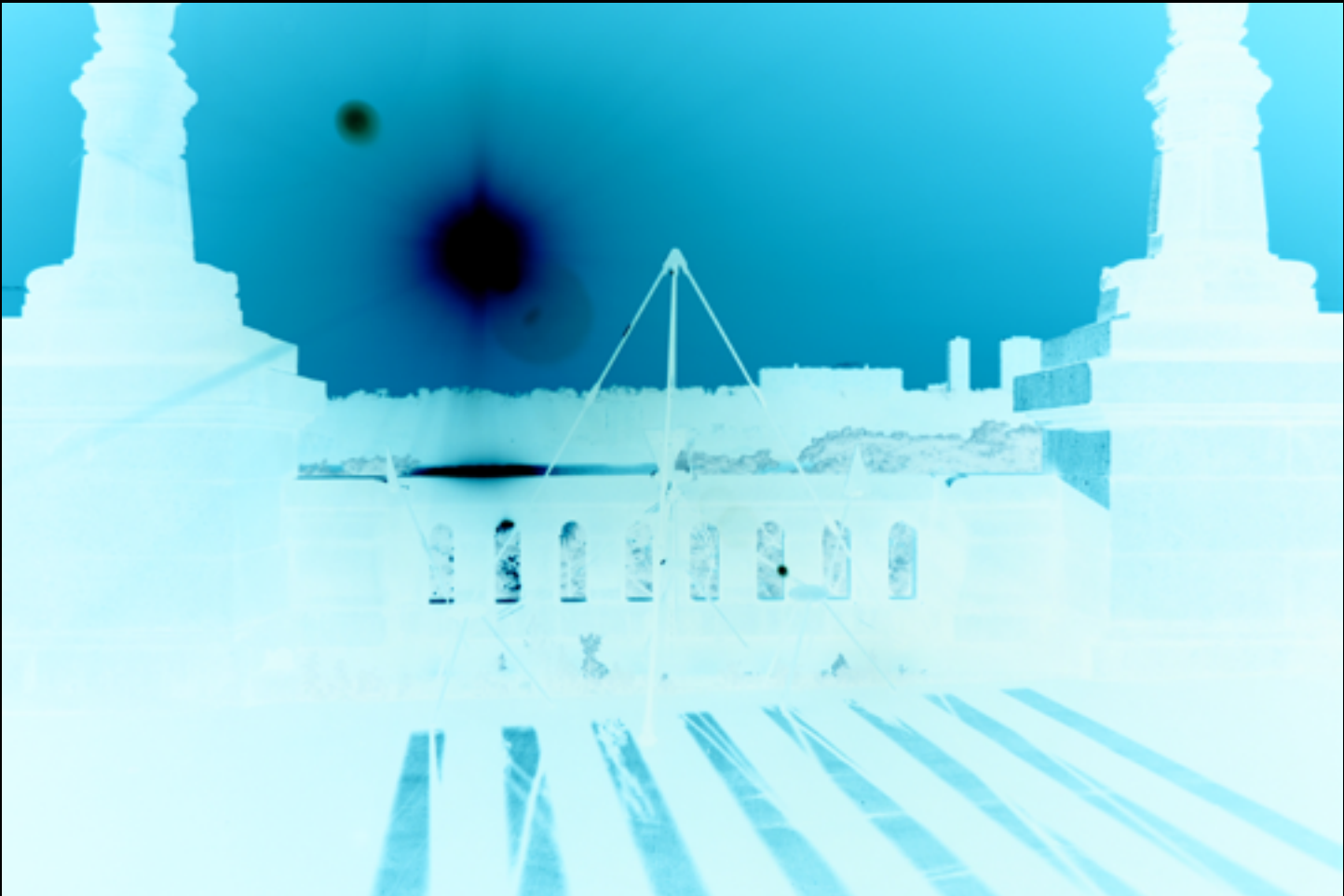
the xxxth deploy

it's somewhat ironic the way this deploy turned out , because new york is probably the one city i've visited regularly the past couple years . i was running pretty late tho so i stayed on the outskirts , then had trouble finding parking , then had trouble finding a place to set up

i ended up in harlem setting up on the river.side of river.side drive , separated from the river by the freeway and the highway . a few people passed by , but no one sat down , which i was grateful for because i was in a bit of a rush

this was a very fitting sunset deploy , even though i still had a few more deploys to go

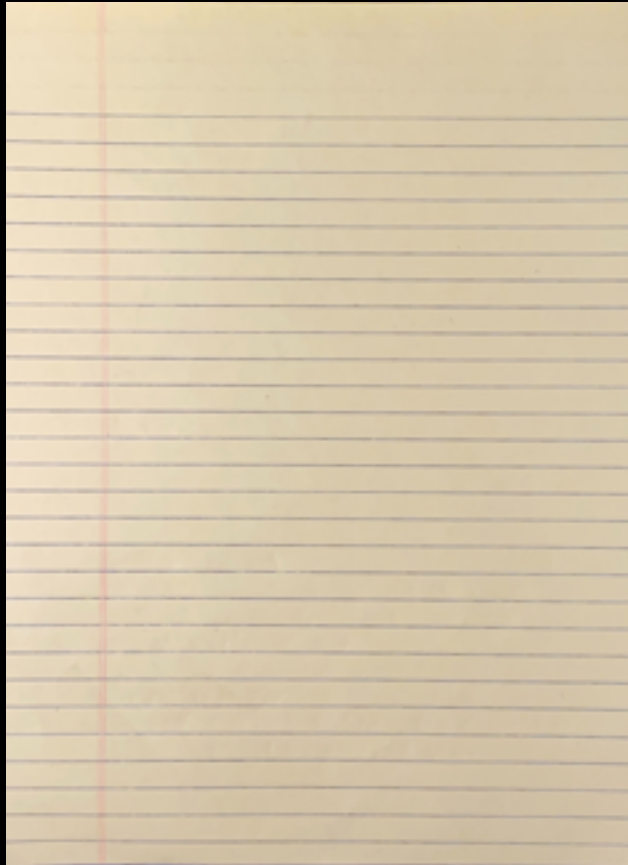
the sun truly was setting on the summer



Ralph Ellison Plaza [(18:51 , 30.8.25) . Harlem , NY , NY]



24 °c | fair | 1018.72 hPa



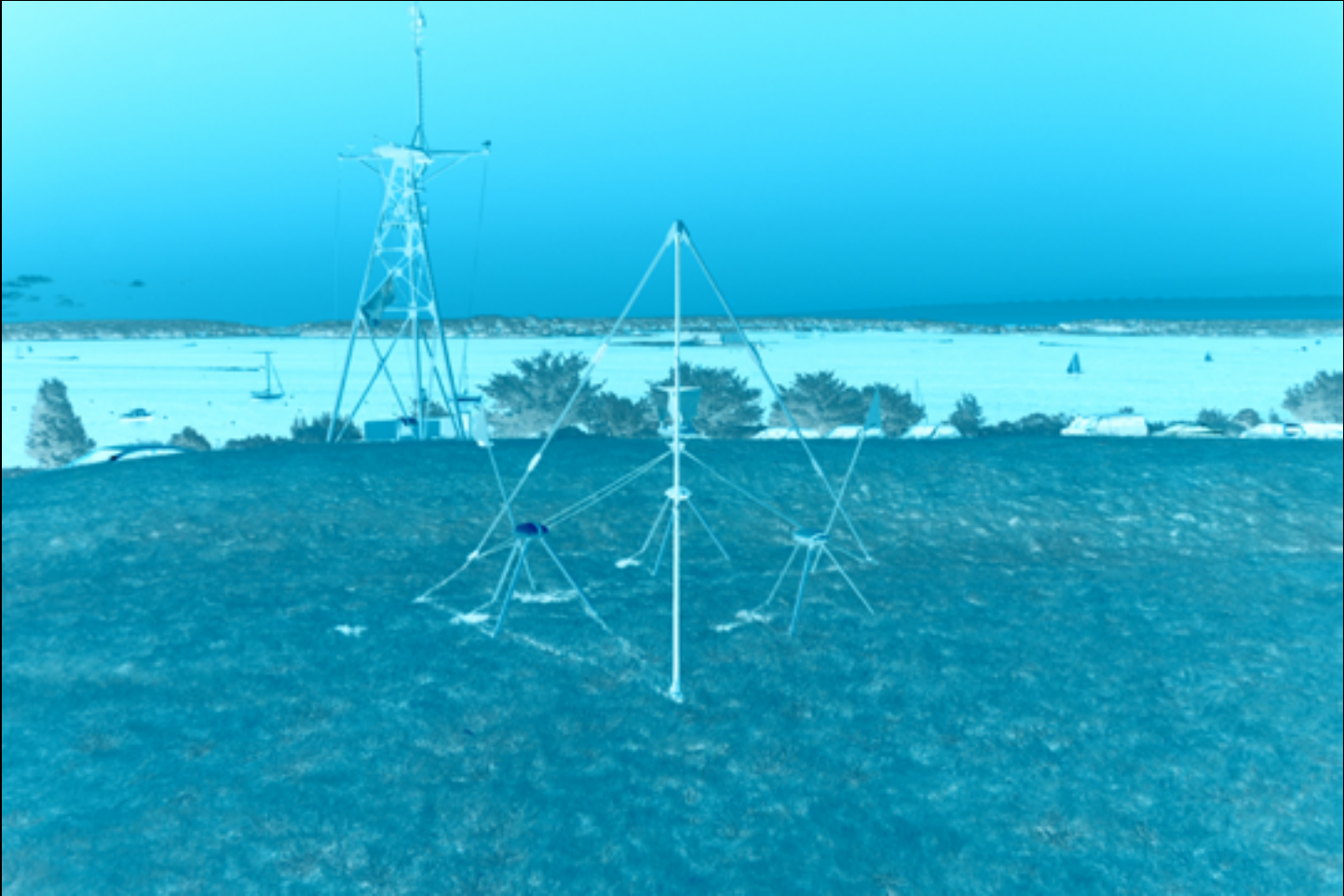
the xxxiind deploy

to be honest , i'm slightly annoyed how much i enjoyed portland , especially seeing 'the way life should be' on a sign heading in and practically scoffing

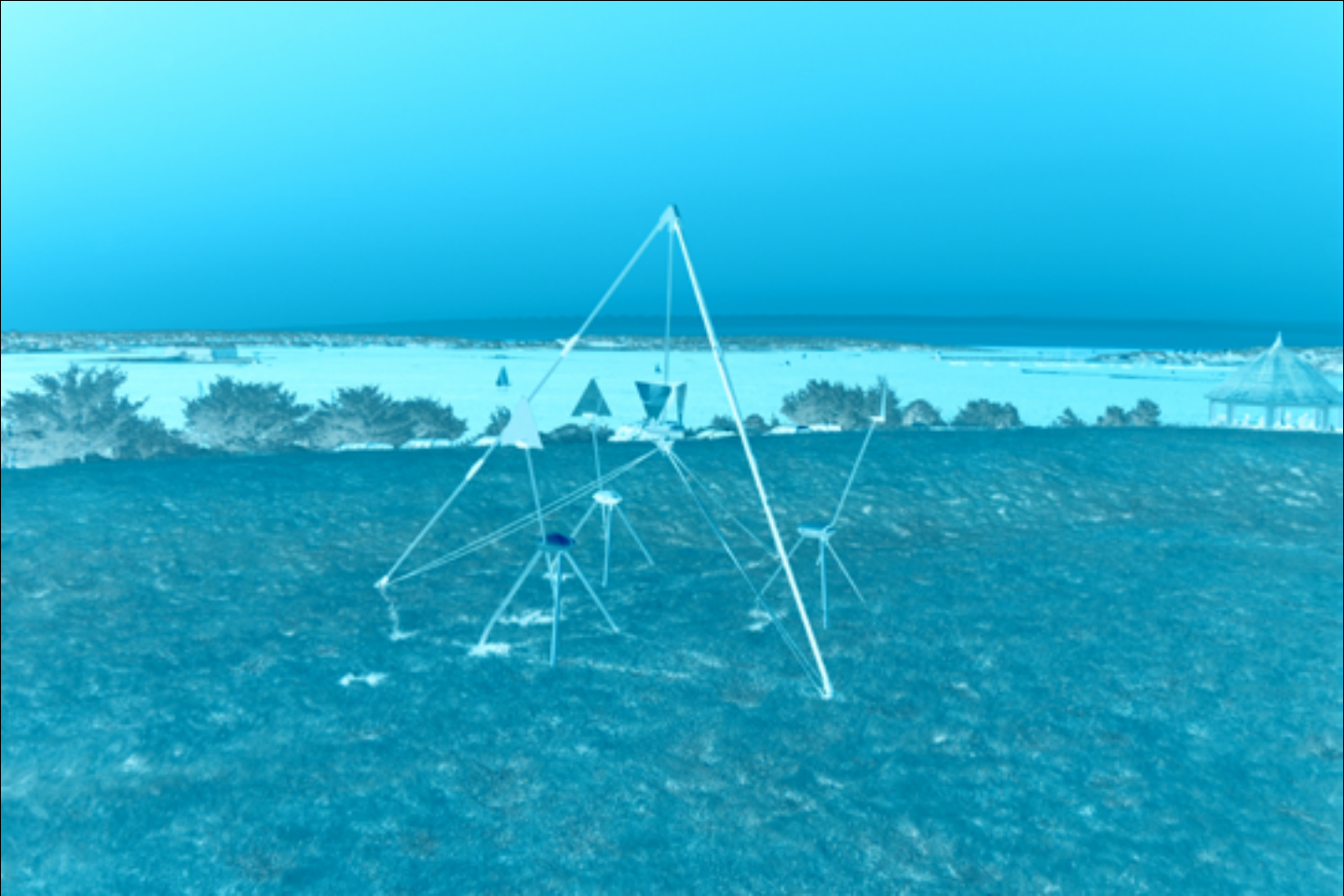
with that being said , where i was , with the ocean view and the elevational variation down to the beach.front , it really did feel like the way life (read : cities) should be

i didn't talk to anyone , and quite frankly i had no intention of talking to any.one at any.point on this loop , as the entire thing felt more completionist than necessary , and i knew i was only doing it so i could say i hit 24 states

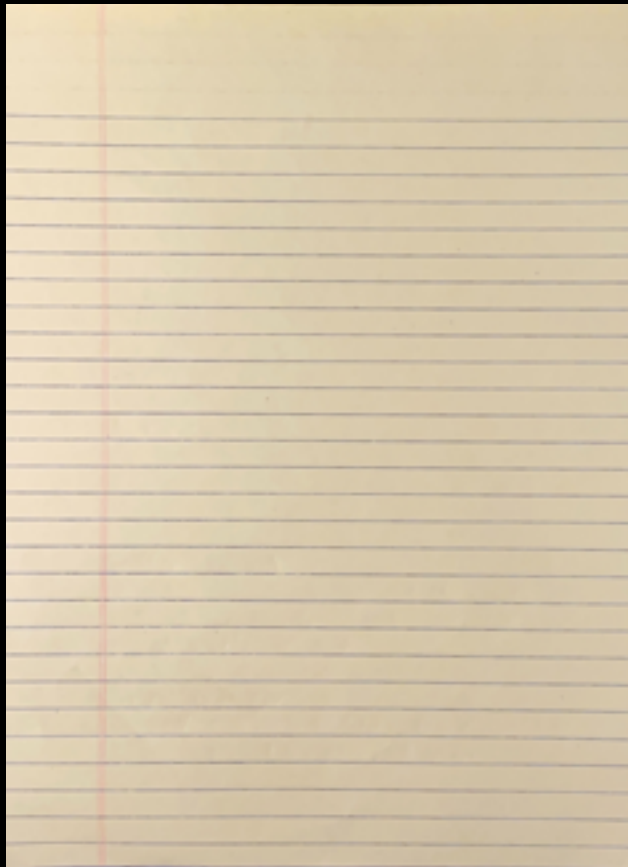
i did hit 24 states tho



Fort Allen Park [(12:54 , 31.8.25) . Portland , ME]



25 °c | fair | 1018.89 hPa



the xxxiind deploy

i set up in an empty lot adjacent to a sparse junk.yard

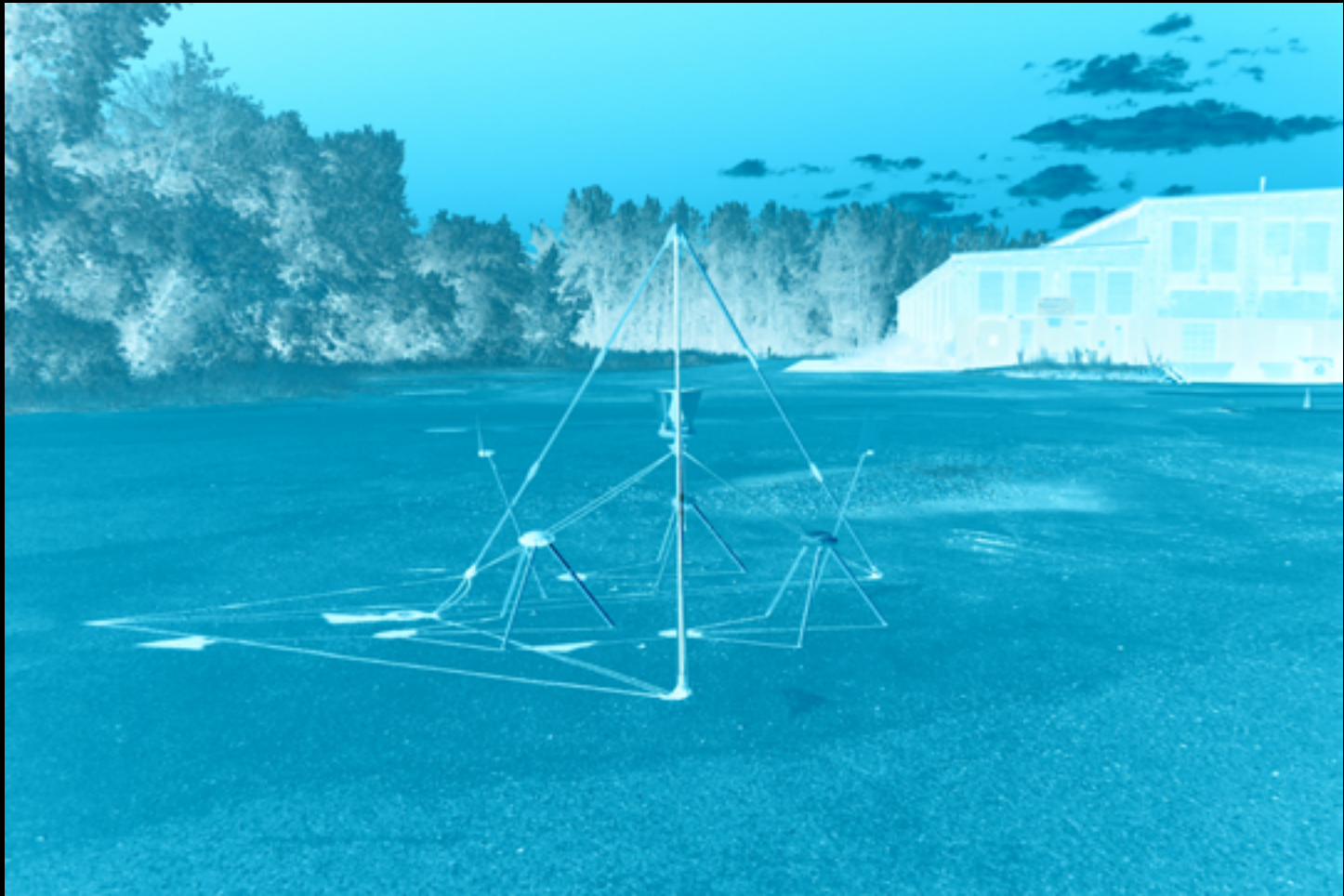
again , i had no intention of talking to anyone while on this loop

with that being said , there was something about the way that these deploys went
that made me sit with my.self for longer than i otherwise had

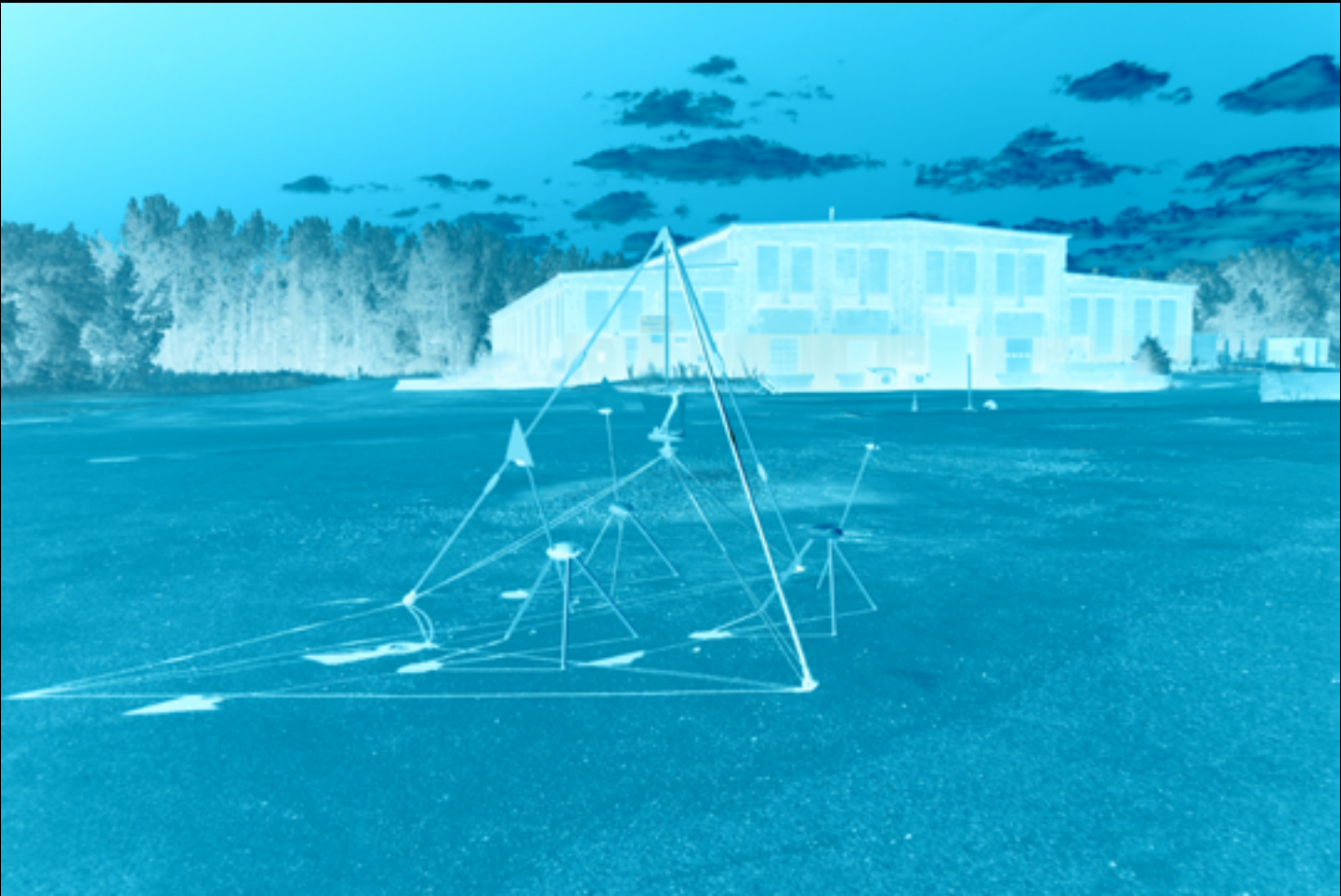
they were quite reflective , in that regard

(also , i didn't realize i had been to concord until i walked in.to the exact
same coffee shop i had been to the last time i passed through

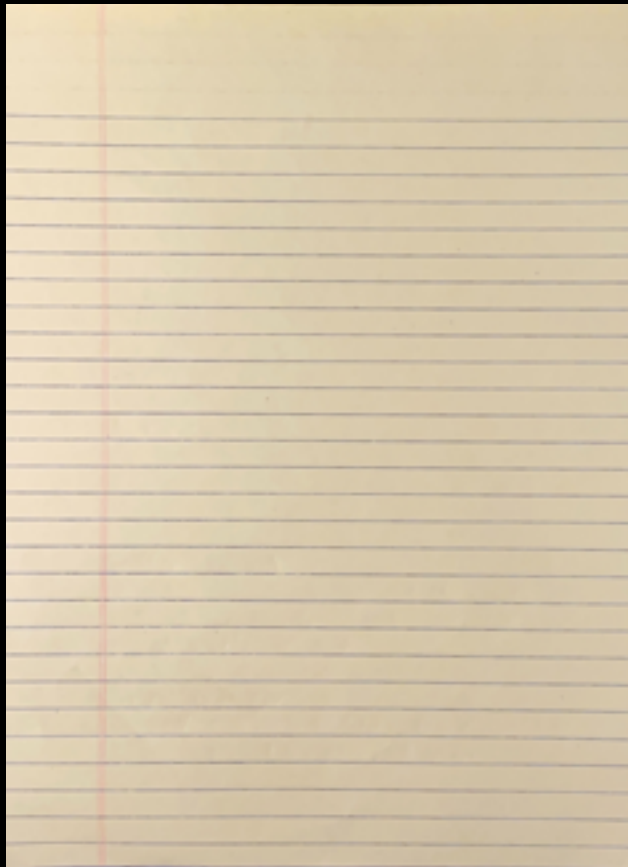
truly a full circle moment , the third one , by my count



B&M Concord Turntable [(15:59 , 31.8.25) . Concord , NH]



27 °c | fair | 1009.13 hPa



the xxxiind deploy

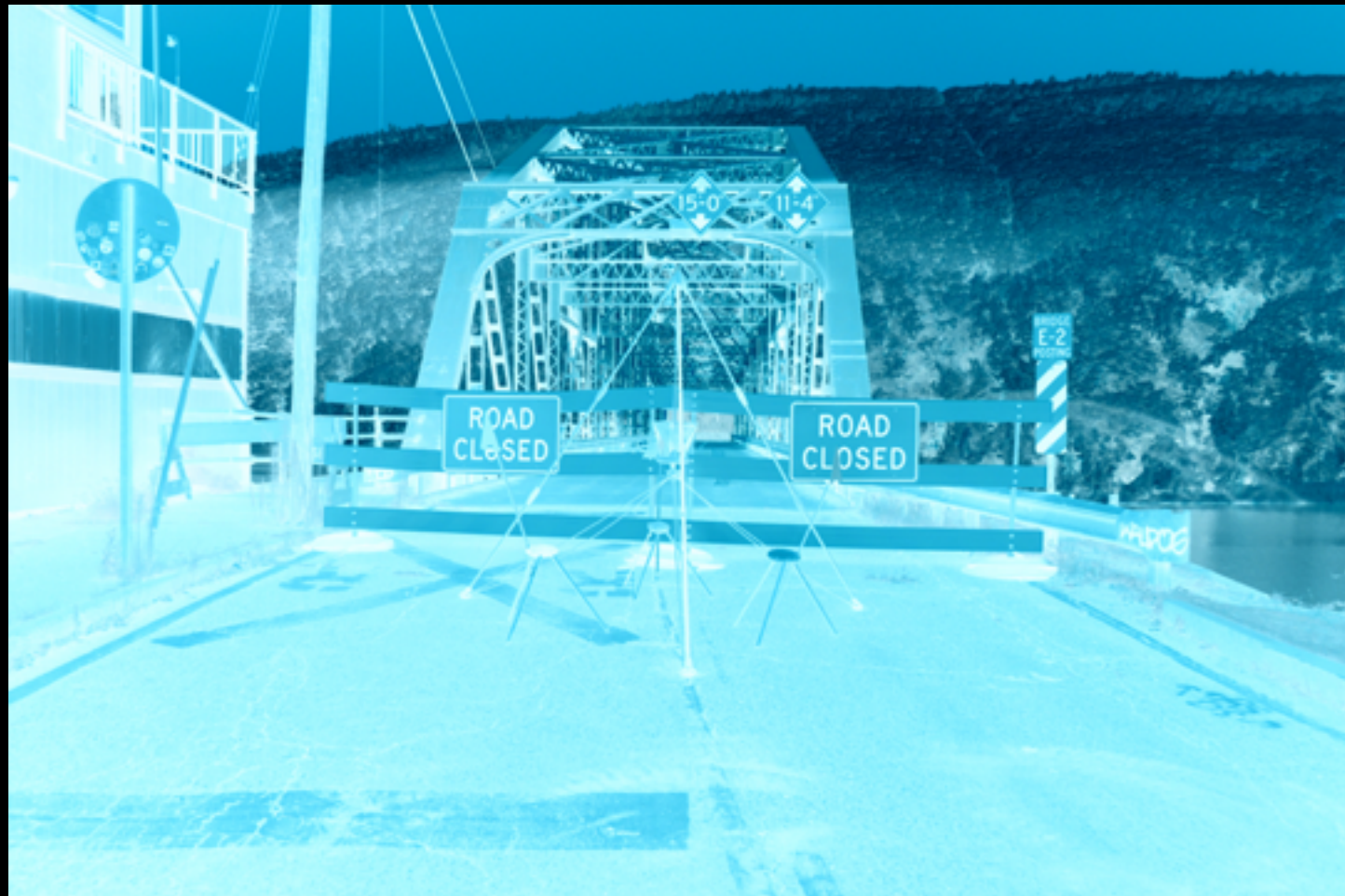
you may be wondering , ‘western.most point of new hampshire ? i thought this was supposed to be vermont’ . well , ‘western.most point of new hampshire’ is what it said on the map , and it was too good not to use

this was another sun.set deploy in the type of place i imagine i could settle down in , if not in this time.line then in an.other

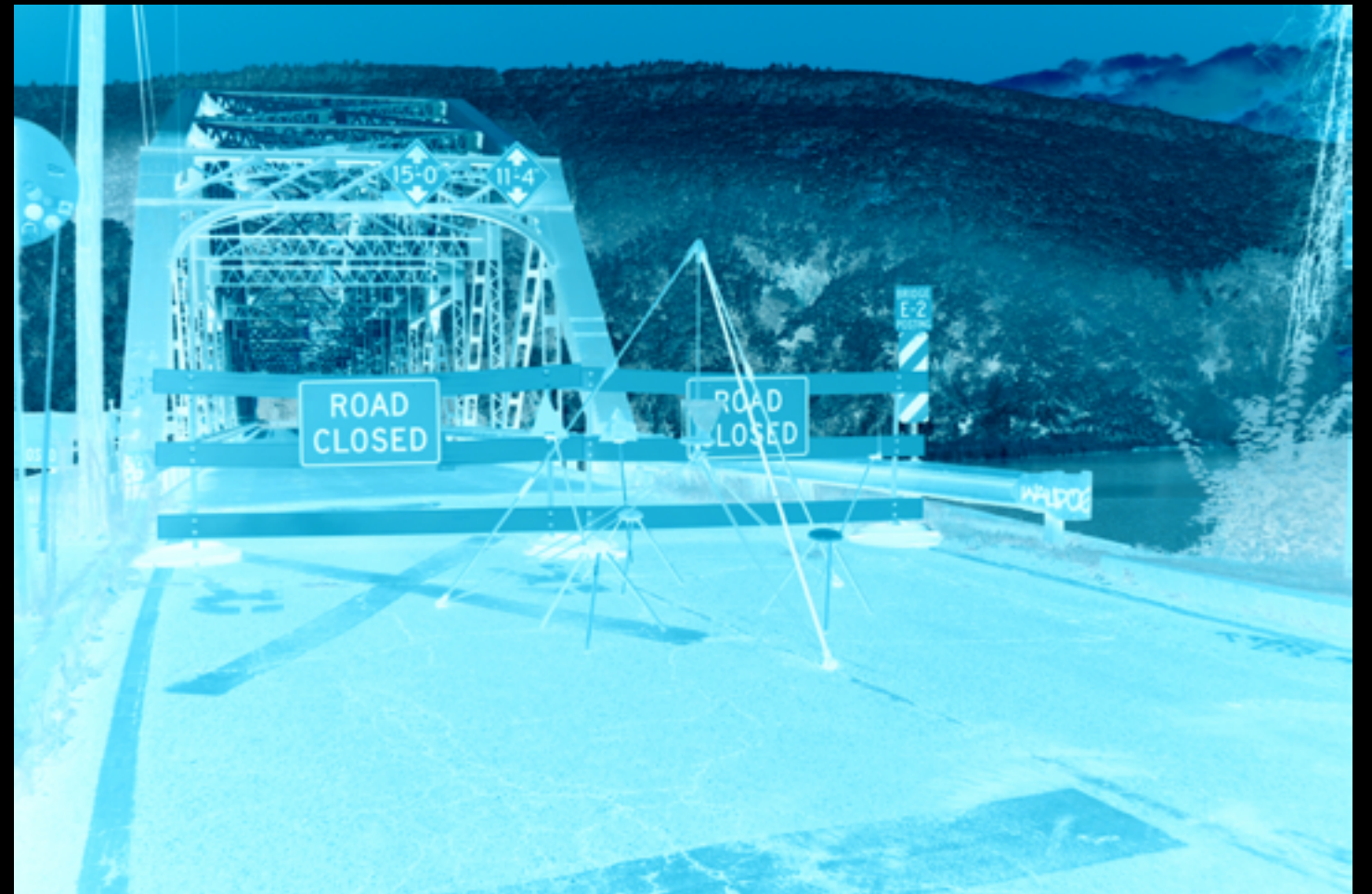
it’s in a valley , next to a river , and the architecture and urbanism possess aspects that have been frozen in time - truly my type of place

this bridge literally called to me , so i set up there , and in a way it felt like the edge , perhaps not of the world , but of something

as if i were on the precipice



Westernmost Point of NH [(18:19 , 31.8.25) .Brattleboro , VT]

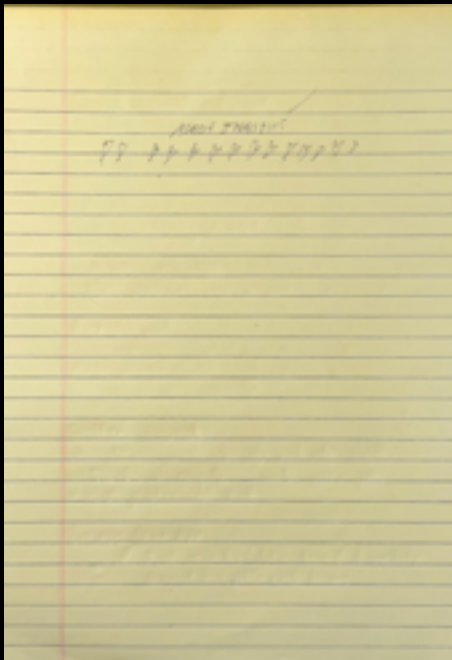
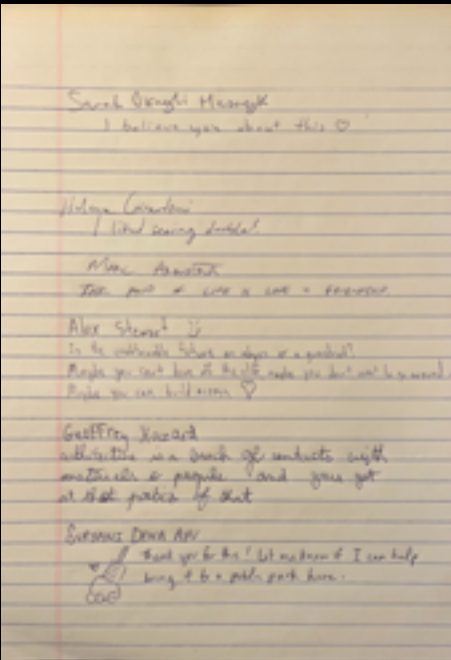
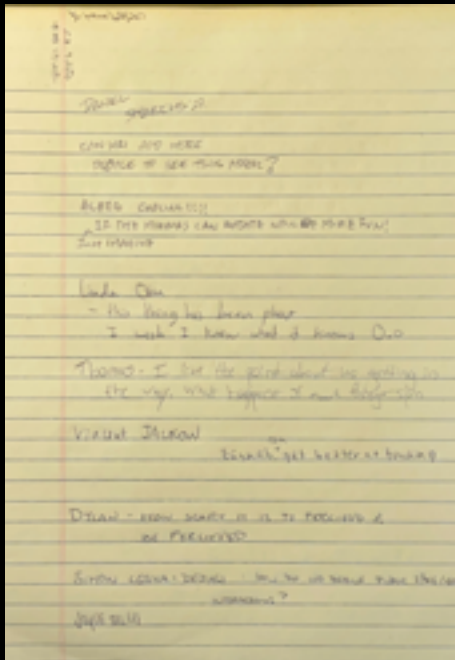


20 °c | fair | 1004.41 hPa

the non trip

part iii of ‘the deploys’

transtension



the xxxivth deploy

if we're talking full circle , then this was the circle en.compassing and inter.secting all the other circles

open thesis studios during happy.hour at school . it was really nice sharing this with the community . it also links back to the un.official , but actual , first deploy of acp 43 , (back when it was still ttpbair) , at another school happy. hour in april of that year

the final full circle moment [for now] , and , as ozzy would say , '... the end of the beginning , or the beginning of the end ?'

photos actually from the first first ever deploy, not the last ever one . i don't have photos from the last one



MIT Architecture , 7-403 [(15:25 , 26.9.25) . Cambridge , MA]

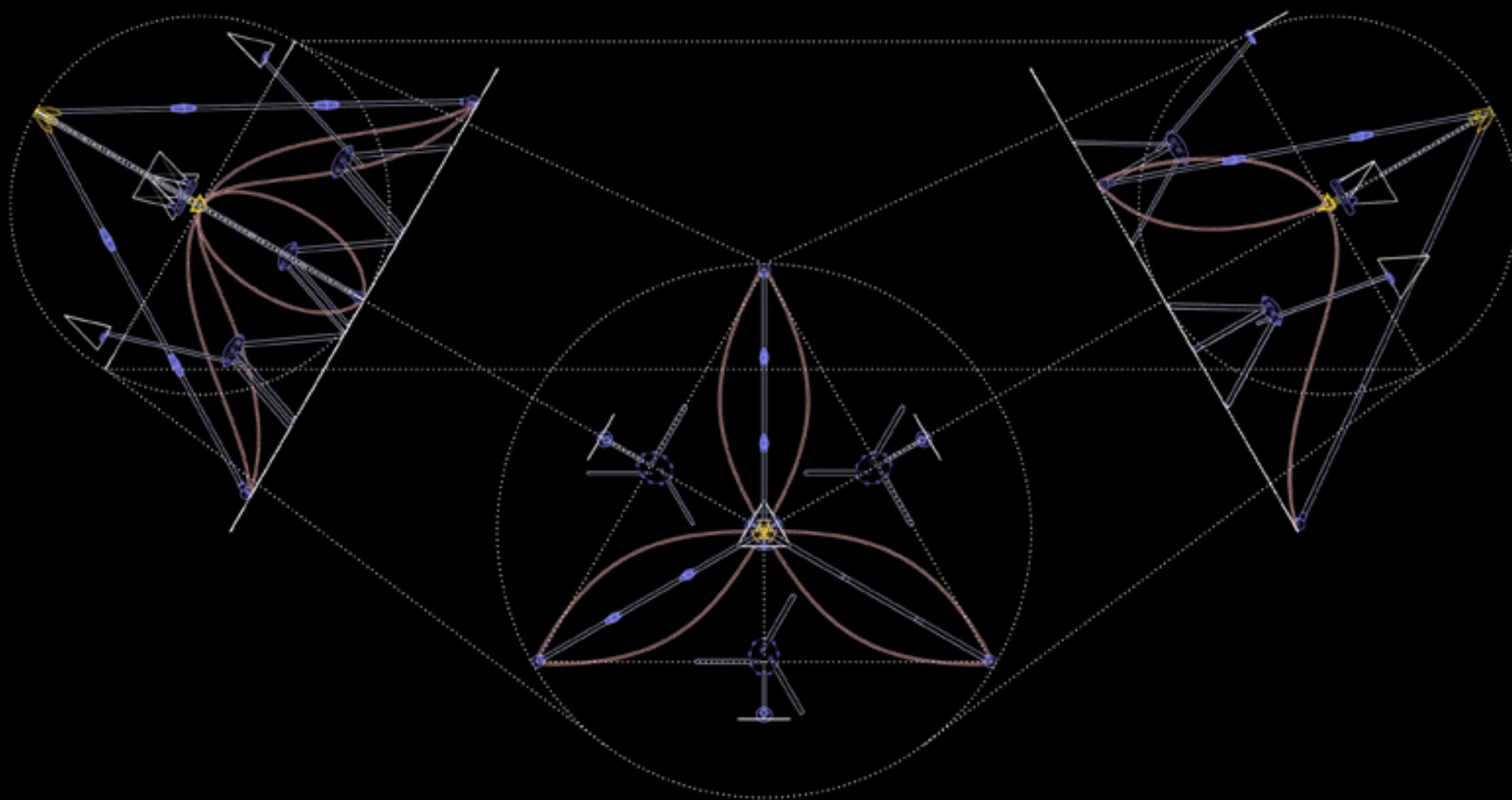


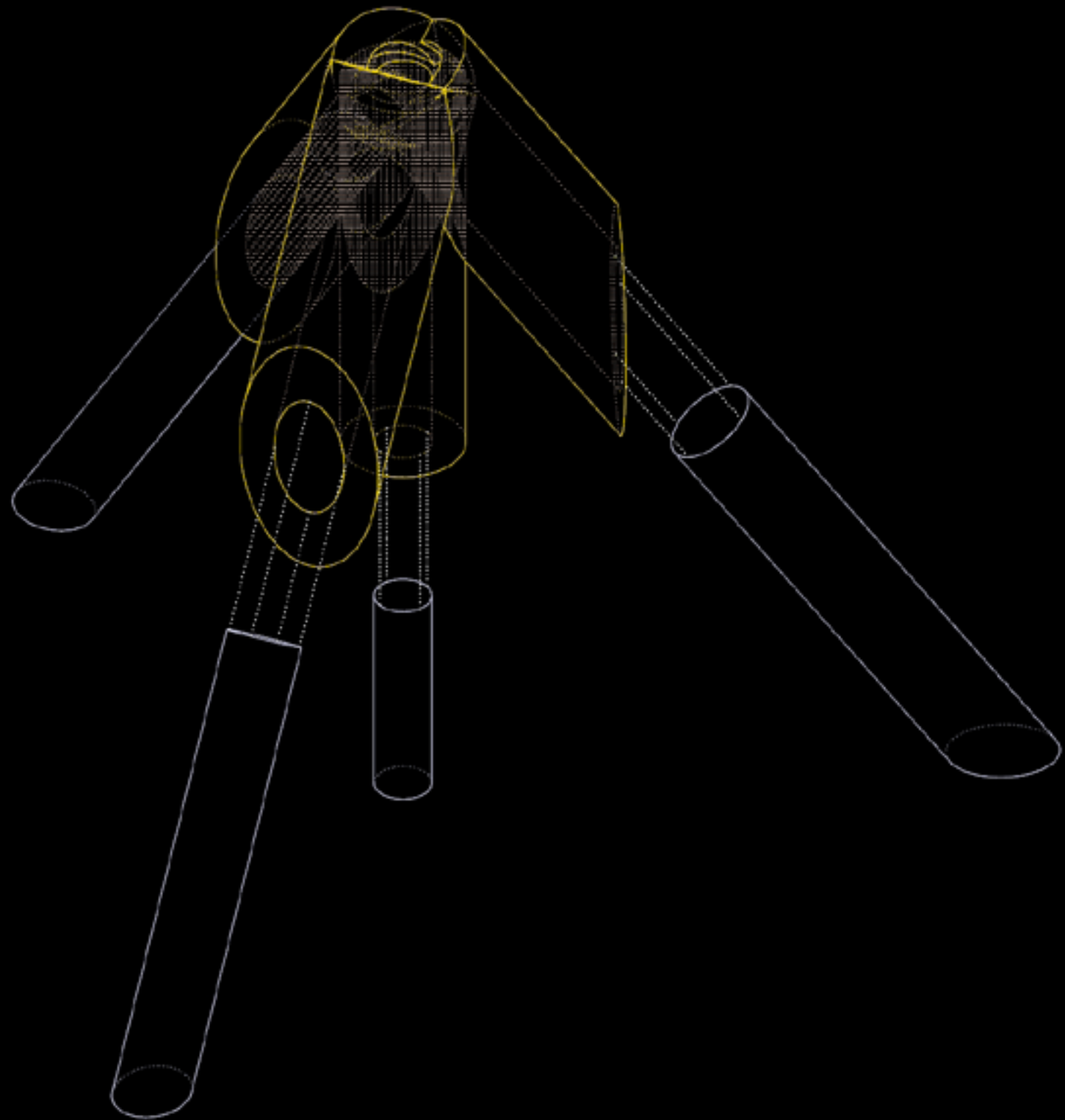
indoors // n/a

[orthographic] documentation

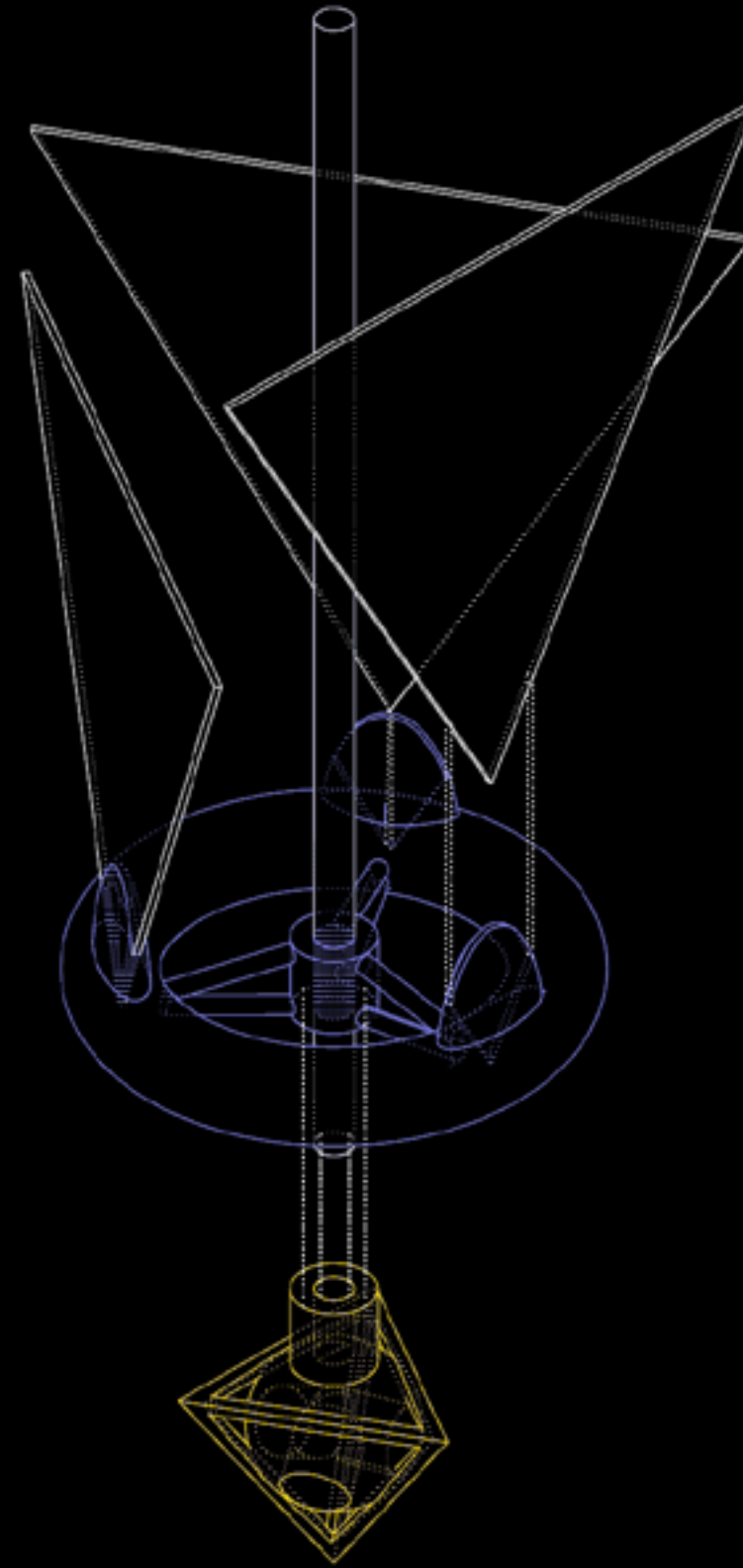
some cad

transtension





apex keystone



invex keystone // toroidal mirror grip

after.word

transtension

looking back on this trip, it feels like the most ‘meaningful’ or ‘valuable’ way i could have spent my time, given where i was at physically mentally and spiritually. looking forward, it feels like something i should continue to do so as to regularly step outside the comfortable bubbles i will inevitably craft for my.self throughout this life, with the knowledge that there is always more to be learned and more to understand through engagement with ‘the other’.

it’s funny, cause i still get nervousness and butterflies ex post facto thinking about setting this thing up and waiting for someone to walk up, and then actually engaging with a total stranger. believe it or not i’m an incredibly shy person and in that sense i am incredibly grateful to architecture for blessing me with the tools to develop a device so as to grant me some form of ‘exposure therapy’. the interactions i had and the notes people left are far and away my favorite part of this thesis, they quite literally warm my heart just by thinking about them.

i think i’ll continue to devise devices of this sort in my free time, once i’m free from this place, partially because it feels like a ‘meaningful’ and ‘valuable’ application of the skills i’ve learned and developed in architecture school, especially considering those skills don’t often feel ‘meaningful’ or ‘valuable’, and partially because i got a fair amount of feedback for how to change and improve and build up.on the structure thus.far. with that being said, i’m not sure how far i’ll take it, but i do fully believe it will take me as far as i need to go, as long as i allow it to.

acknowledgements

transtension

acknowledgements

for these acknowledgements, so as to not be so incredibly redundant with regard to survey and analysis, i really want to thank shah and bill for their help with the fabrication. shah in particular worked with me in stride and in step developing this thing, even finding some of the pipes for the final structure in the basement and bringing them to studio to drop them off to me, teaching me how to hacksaw metal, and load testing the stools, among literally countless other pearls of wisdom. bill was also a huge help when it came to printing, as i actually ended up breaking the really expensive formlabs fuse 3d printer when fabricating these joints, and he totally didn't mind.

these two guys, as well as chris and jen, really made my experience here so much better just by being themselves and offering other glimpses out of this crazy stone mit bubble. in doing so they often let just enough light in to grant me some hope in times when i thought all was lost.

the same can be said for numerous other people, but that's kind of what the Loveletters are for.

of course, I'm still going to thank my family for supporting me while i've been up here, as well as my friends for always being so excited to engage with the work, truly giving me the benefit of the doubt and being extremely generous about what my 'architectural' work actually entails.

