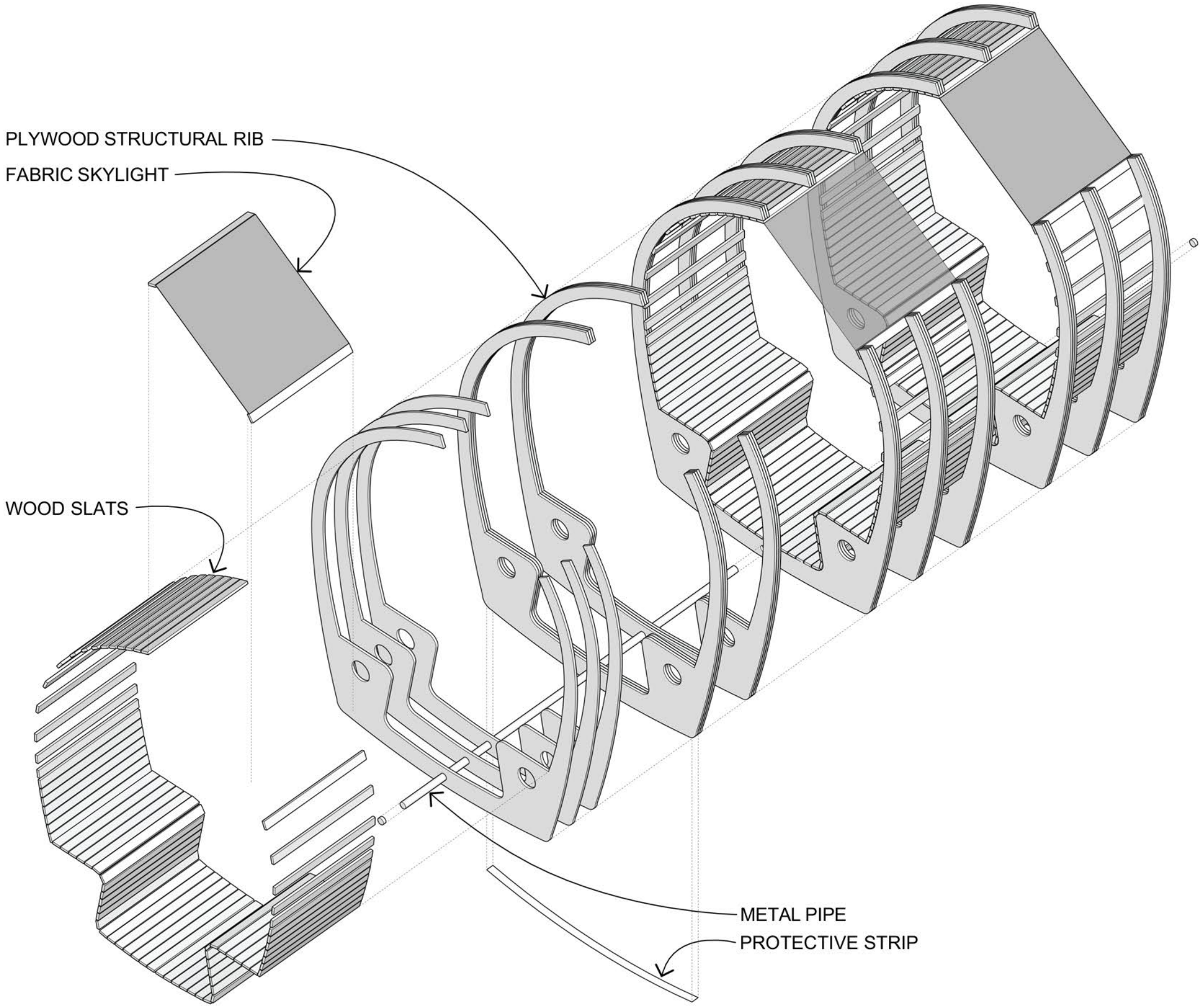


# SOCIAL SEESAW

## DESIGN NARRATIVE

The Social Seesaw creates a shaded seating area that is also a playful catalyst for community interaction. Up to twelve visitors can occupy the structure and, when seated directly across from each other, they can gently rock the form in three independent units. The resulting movement of the piece and its shadows draws the attention of those passing by. Not only does this installation provide a shaded place to socialize, but it also adds dynamic visual interest to the Square.

The design evolved from the abstraction of the familiar seesaw, which requires two users and can therefore encourage group activity. The vertical ribs generate the form, and the horizontal slats enclose the space, spreading further apart in key locations. This simultaneously allows visual contact with the features and occupants of the Square while still providing partial shade. While studying the seating and degree of movement, it became clear that designing to a human scale would be essential for the concept to work. We wanted to create an intimate space for friends to gather and talk, but also large enough for strangers to interact comfortably for the first time. Overall the Social Seesaw is an engaging object that rejuvenates a large, relatively featureless urban landscape.



## CONSTRUCTION & INSTALLATION

The three vertical ribs will be cut from 4' x 8' sheets of plywood using a laser cutter, then bolted together in layers to increase the strength of the larger profile. The seating surface will be constructed of 1 x 3 wood slats extending along the ribs, tying the unit together in a rigid assembly. As the bottom of the structure will rock against concrete, there will be a rubber or metal cap underneath each rib at the rocking surface for moisture protection and durability. The fabric skylight unites the ends of the ribs together which not only completes the shape, but also adds material variation, and offers further shading. A 2" diameter metal pipe running through the three units creates a single structure and acts as the pivot point for the rocking movement. The pipe also prevents torquing or user-instigated relocation or toppling. Pipe clamps and spacers at each end and between units will prevent horizontal shifting, while still permitting rocking of the independent units.

Prior to installation day, the structural profiles will be produced, and the slats will be cut. On August 17th, the pieces will be transported to the site and assembled. Given that the final dimensions of a single unit are approximately 7'-6" x 10' x 3', it is also possible to fully assemble each unit, transport them to the site and connect them with the metal pipe.

