

HEXARION

A M A R T I A N C O L O N Y

The Design Process

In search of a sustainable solution for a livable Martian colony, this study aims to provide for an intrinsic way of managing growth and provide for a circular economy that would thrive in the harsh martian environment. The design process is broken down into parts that ultimately prescribe a foundation for an automated development using data and parameters gathered from the surrounding environment.

The Hexarion colony aims to develop a prescriptive system in building a martian infrastructure capable of sustaining life by adapting modularity in automated assemblies. The growth will be based on the inhabitants and other environmental factors and is capable of harnessing its own energy, food, oxygen, and other essential elements for life by dedicating modules focused on these specific aspects. The concept design is adaptable with no fixed developmental growth but would depend on the computational concepts introduced.

À la recherche d'une solution durable pour une colonie martienne vivable, cette étude vise à fournir un moyen intrinsèque de gérer la croissance et de fournir une économie circulaire qui prospérerait dans le rude environnement martien. Le processus de conception est décomposé en parties qui prescrivent en fin de compte une base pour un développement automatisé utilisant des données et des paramètres recueillis dans l'environnement environnant.

La colonie Hexarion vise à développer un système normatif dans la construction d'une infrastructure martienne capable de maintenir la vie en adaptant la modularité dans les assemblages automatisés. La croissance sera basée sur les habitants et d'autres facteurs environnementaux et est capable d'exploiter sa propre énergie, sa nourriture, son oxygène et d'autres éléments essentiels à la vie en dédiant des modules axés sur ces aspects spécifiques. La conception du concept est adaptable sans croissance développementale fixe, mais dépendrait des concepts informatiques introduits.





Hexarion: A Martian Colony

Project Goals & Values, Human Needs, and Site Selection

A.1 GOALS AND VALUES



AUTOMATION



SUSTAINABILITY



SELF ASSEMBLY



MODULARISATION

The infrastructure of the colony needs to minimize the reliance on human labor and must be able to sustainably support life and manage the overall building lifecycle. To be able to achieve this, four goals were identified which will be the guiding principles of the overall design concept. The colony could achieve sustainability by identifying core typological spaces and separating their importance through modularisation. Construction of these infrastructures must implement automated self-assembly with different fitness values that parametrically dictate the growth of the system.

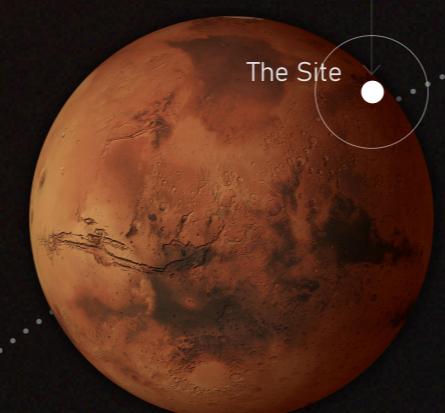
L'infrastructure de la colonie doit minimiser la dépendance à l'égard du travail humain et doit être en mesure de soutenir durablement la vie et de gérer le cycle de vie global du bâtiment. Pour y parvenir, quatre objectifs ont été identifiés qui seront les principes directeurs du concept de design global. La colonie pourrait atteindre la durabilité en identifiant les principaux espaces typologiques et en séparant leur importance grâce à la modularisation. La construction de ces infrastructures doit mettre en œuvre un auto-assemblage automatisé avec différentes valeurs de fitness qui dictent paramétriquement la croissance du système.

B.1 HUMAN NEEDS

B1 HUMAN NEEDS

To support life on Mars, there is a need to identify different basic human needs and how to manage them. Below is an infographic showing the basic needs of one modern human for subsistence per year.

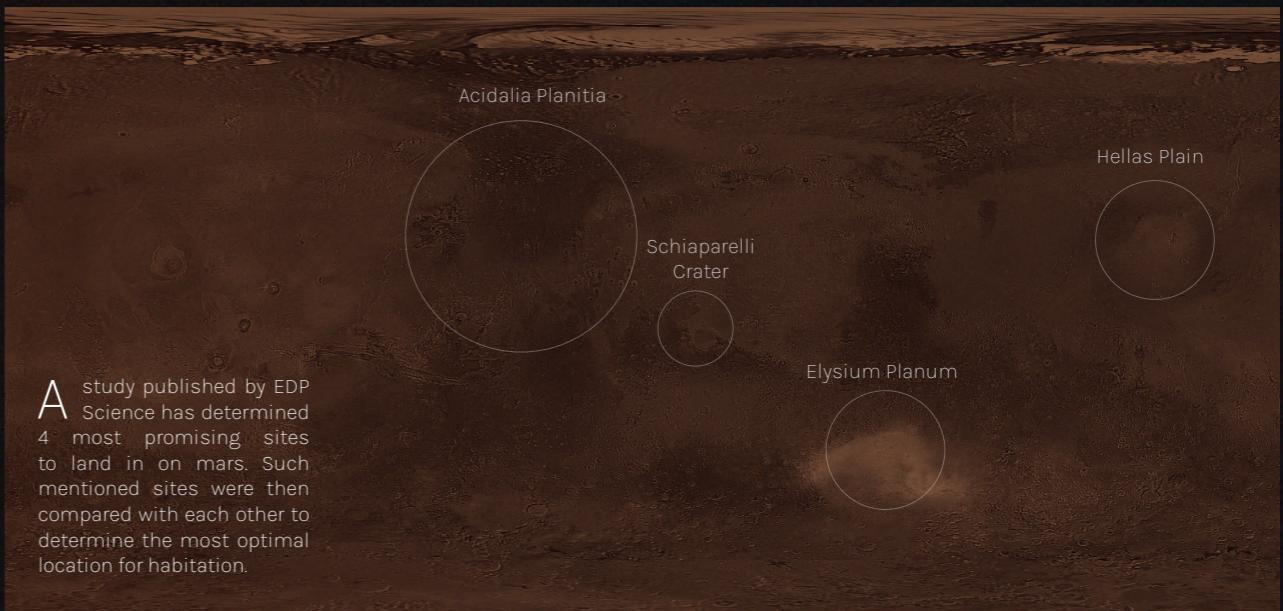
730kg	FOOD ¹
111 398 kg	WATER ²
200 750 kg	CONVERTED CO ₂ ³
822 kg	WASTE FACILITY ⁴



1. Disposable Food Packets Hydroponic Farming Processed Organic Waste
2. Treated Martian Water Processed Urine
3. Converted CO₂
4. Temporary Storage Facility Recycling and Processing Incineration

B.2 SITE SELECTION

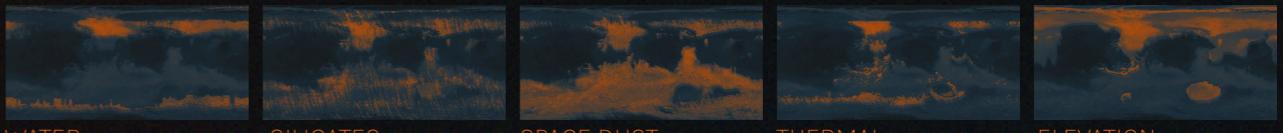
Best Landing Sites by NASA
CIRCLED BY AREA



A study published by EDP Science has determined 4 most promising sites to land in on mars. Such mentioned sites were then compared with each other to determine the most optimal location for habitation.

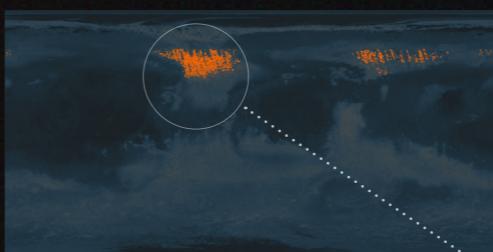
Mapping of Safe Zones

ORANGE MEANS
SAFE ZONE



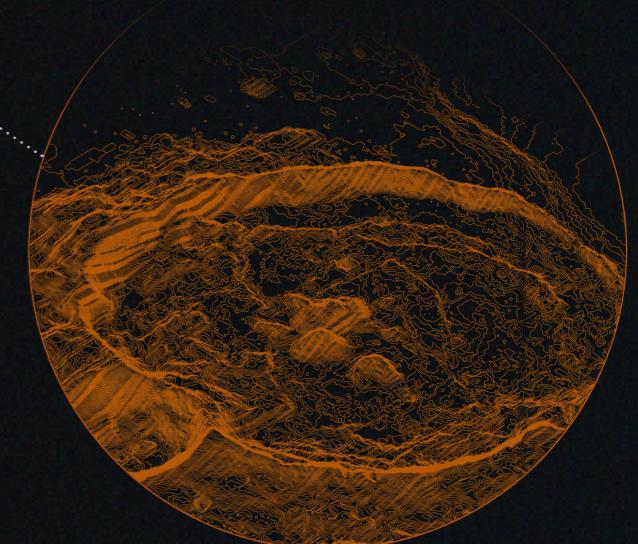
Resultant Map

ORANGE MEANS
AREA
WHERE
SAFE ZONES
INTERSECT.



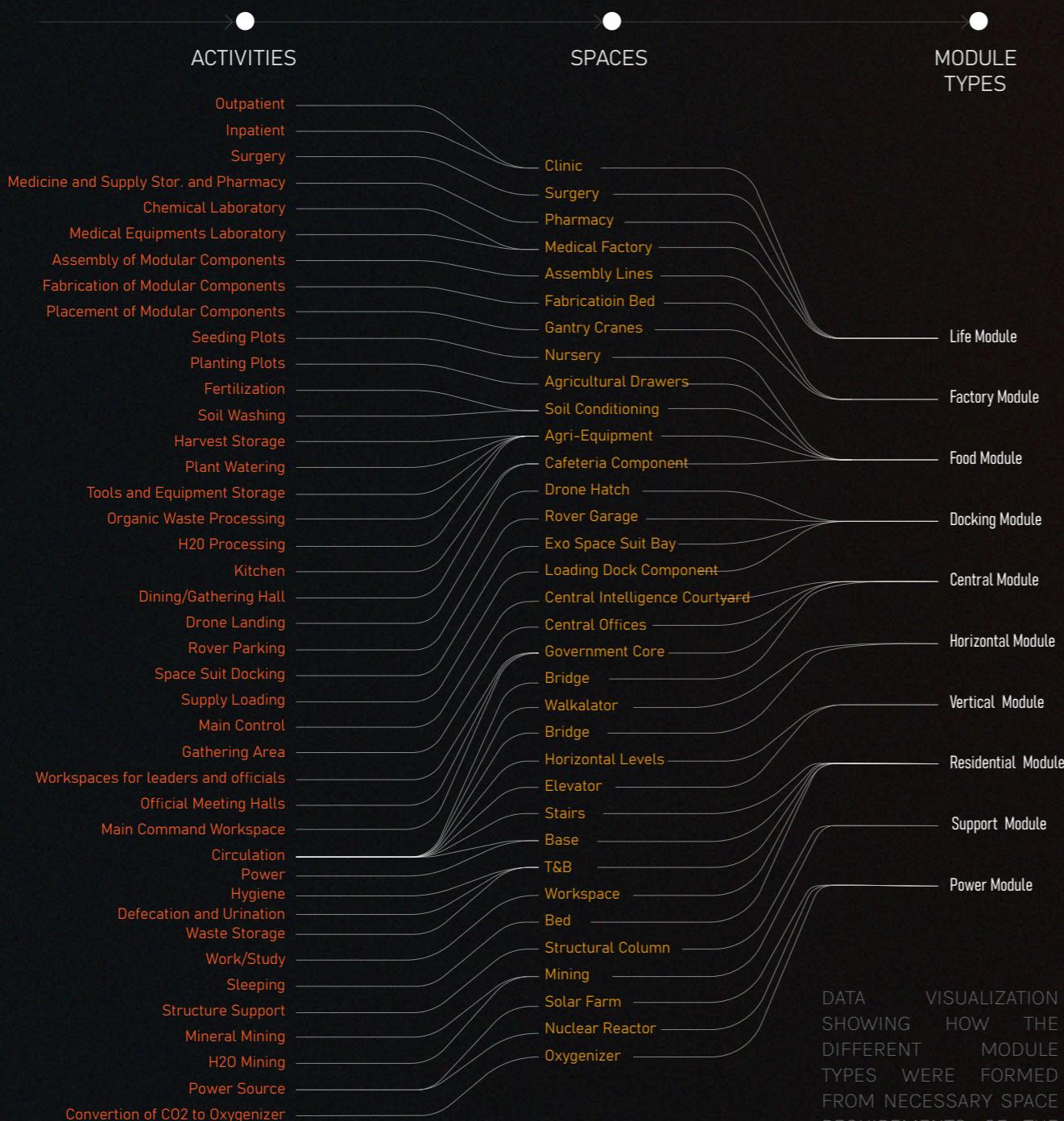
Acidalia Planitia

The final site is a shallow crater located at the highlighted areas within the boundaries of Acidalia Planitia. This was done to reduce the excavation efforts and structural cost, as well as provide natural protection against the harsh environment.

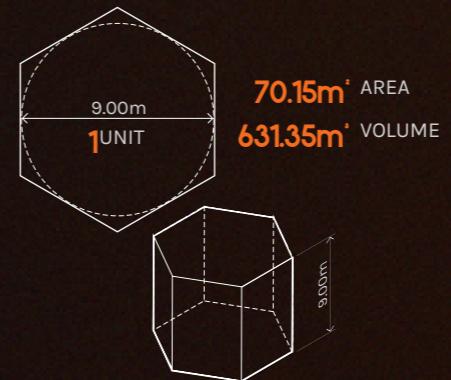


B.3 ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMMING

Defining the final architectural modules must be derived from analysis of the possible core functions and activities of the inhabitants of the colony, maximizing space use by clustering common activities, and diversifying the modifications allowed per module.



B.4 SPACE DIAGRAM

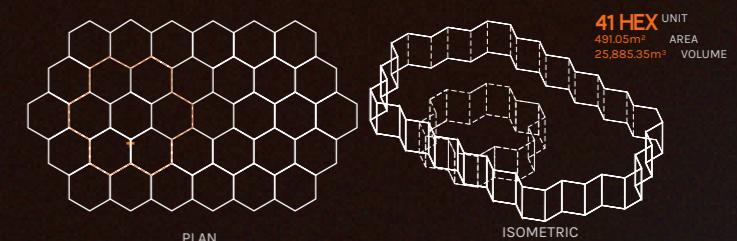


Based on the programming, the modular types are given context by volume and circulation using the hexagonal grid. The hexagon shape was used as a guiding form for the modules due to its inherent structural rigidity forming six triangles and its repeatable tile pattern which is essential in developing modular parts. The hexagon is circumscribed from a circle with a diameter of nine meters and also extruded into a solid with a height of the same nine meters. This ensures that the modular parts will have a uniform connection throughout the proliferation.

Residential



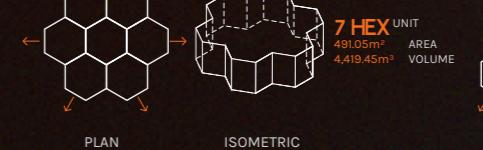
Power



Docking



Food



Horizontal



Vertical



Life



Support



Factory



Central

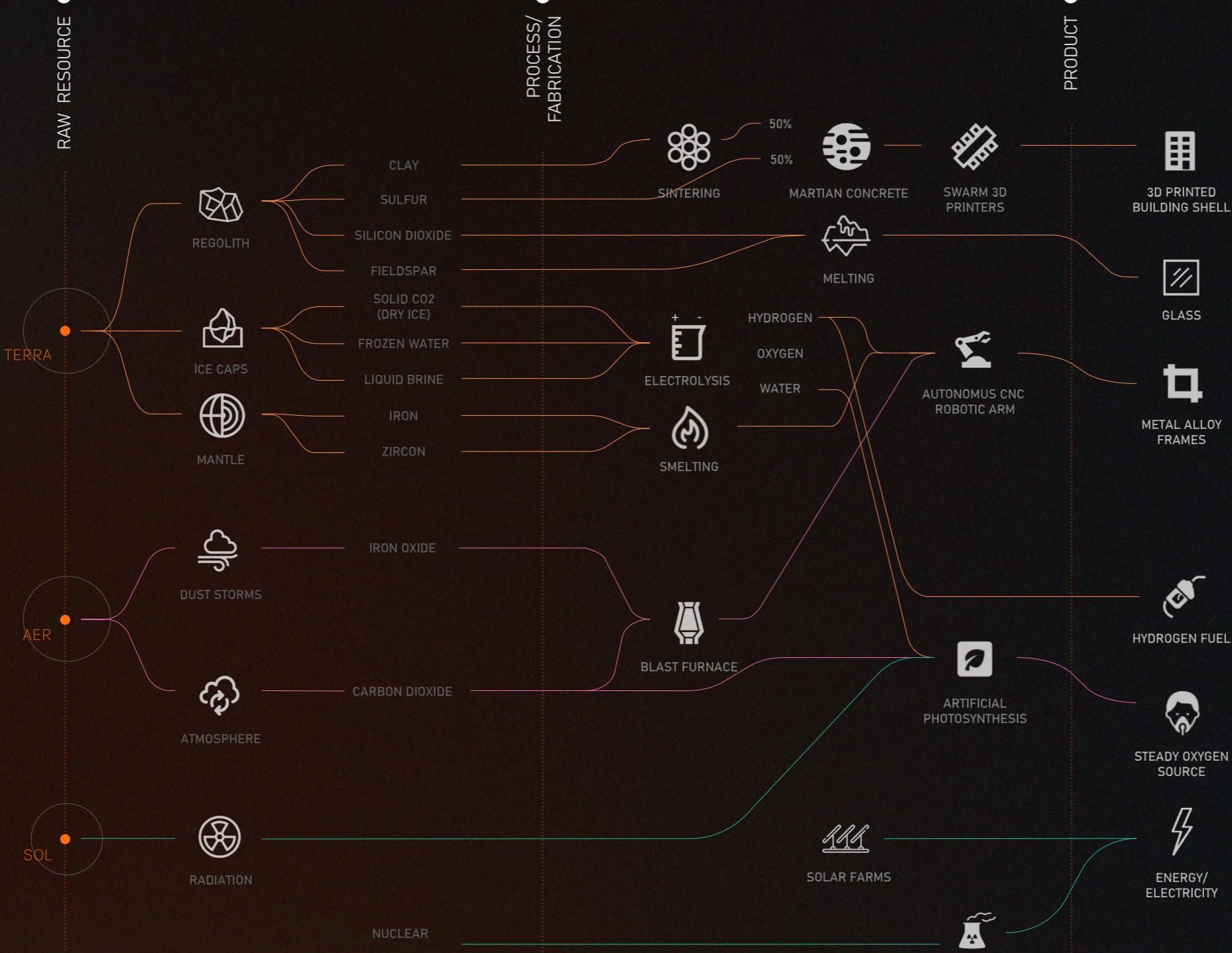


Hexarion: A Martian Colony

Research and Data Gathering: On-site Resource Utilization

B.5

ON-SITE RESOURCE UTILIZATION



Identification of chemical compositions of raw materials from the sun, atmosphere, and the regolith.

Understanding chemical compositions of minerals and resources and being able to provide different processes to synthesize the raw materials into usable products.

C.1

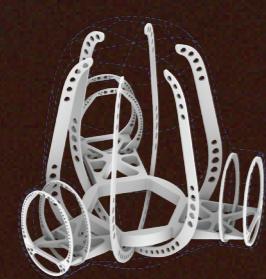
FABRICATION PROCEDURES

Understanding the methods and fabrication procedures ensures the survival of the colony.

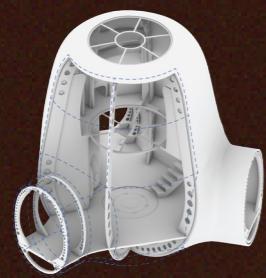
The methods are broken down into three main parts: the structural framing, the 3D printed shell, and the utilities, glass, and textile. The process will be automated by computers and robots, and will be deployed when certain conditions are met such as human population, needs, and materials.

Comprendre les méthodes et les procédures de fabrication assure la survie de la colonie.

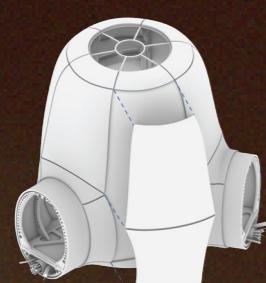
Les méthodes se décomposent en trois parties principales : le cadrage structurel, la coque imprimée en 3D et les services publics, le verre et le textile. Le processus sera automatisé par des ordinateurs et des robots, et sera déployé lorsque certaines conditions seront remplies telles que la population humaine, les besoins et les matériaux.

Framing
FIRST PROCESS

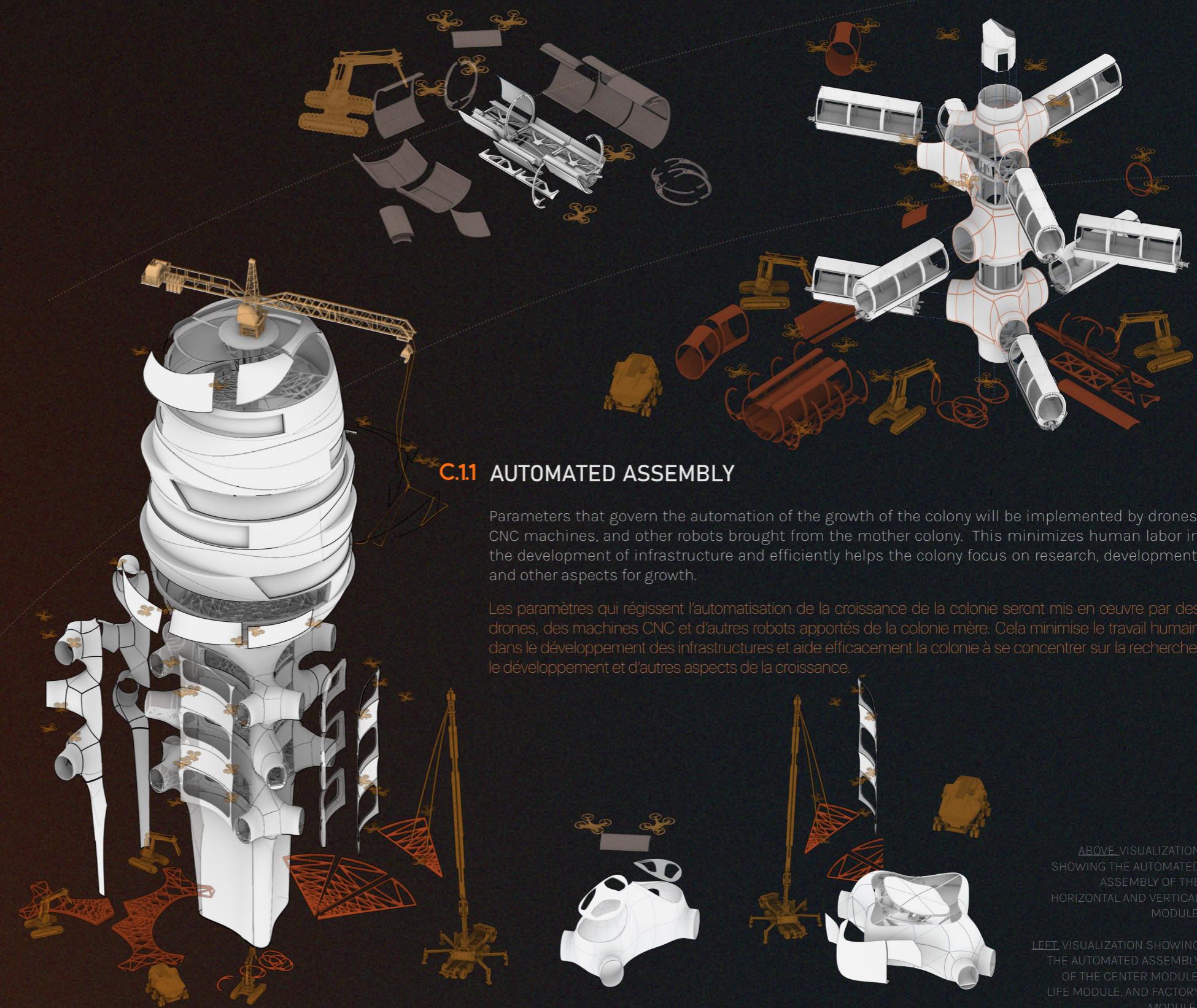
The structural framing will be made from the metallic alloys farmed from the regolith abundant in the area by using CNC machines and casting processes.

Shell
SECOND PROCESS

The shell will be built from the collected regolith. It will then be processed through sintering and coagulation to form 3d printing filaments, which will be deployed by 3d-printing drones that are automated on-site.

Polymers
LAST PROCESS

Different polymers are created like glass, textiles, and other utility elements by polymer processing machines and are assembled by CNC robotic arms.



C.1.1 AUTOMATED ASSEMBLY

Parameters that govern the automation of the growth of the colony will be implemented by drones, CNC machines, and other robots brought from the mother colony. This minimizes human labor in the development of infrastructure and efficiently helps the colony focus on research, development, and other aspects for growth.

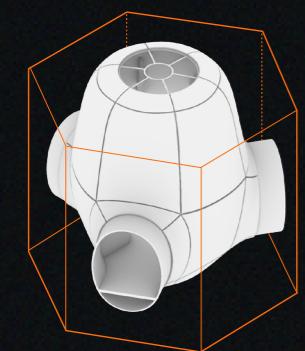
Les paramètres qui régissent l'automatisation de la croissance de la colonie seront mis en œuvre par des drones, des machines CNC et d'autres robots apportés de la colonie mère. Cela minimise le travail humain dans le développement des infrastructures et aide efficacement la colonie à se concentrer sur la recherche, le développement et d'autres aspects de la croissance.

ABOVE VISUALIZATION SHOWING THE AUTOMATED ASSEMBLY OF THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL MODULE.

LEFT VISUALIZATION SHOWING THE AUTOMATED ASSEMBLY OF THE CENTER MODULE, LIFE MODULE, AND FACTORY MODULE.

Hexarion: A Martian Colony

Architectural Concept: Modularisation



C₂

MODULARISATION

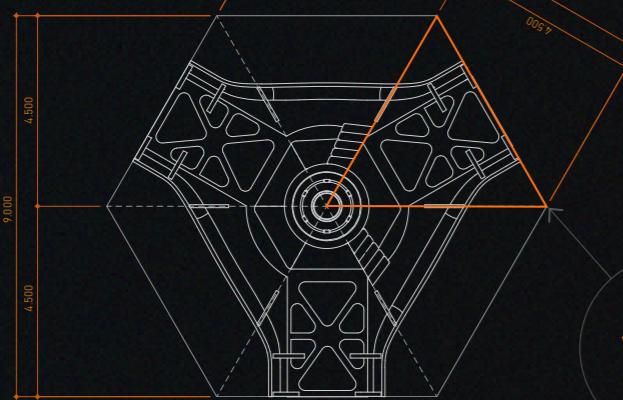
The parts become modular due to the introduction of the hexagon format as guiding principles for the proliferation of the development on the macro scale. The typology of the space for each module can also be modified depending on the usage of the module on a micro-scale. Even each type of module can be different depending on the usage and parameter requirements for each.

Les parties deviennent modulaires en raison de l'introduction du format hexagonal comme principes directeurs pour la prolifération du développement à l'échelle macro. La typologie de l'espace pour chaque module peut également être modifiée en fonction de l'utilisation du module à une micro-échelle. Même chaque type de module peut être différent en fonction de l'utilisation et des exigences de paramètres pour chacun.

ILLUSTRATION SHOWING THE LEVELS OF MODULARISATION OF THE PROJECT.



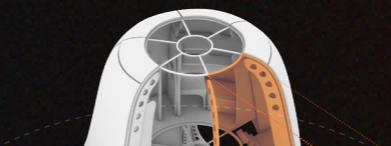
PLAN



MICRO MODULARISATION

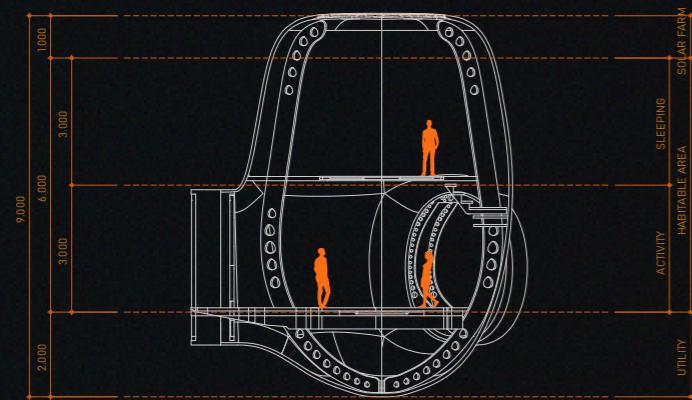
C.2.1 MICRO LEVEL

Modularity is applied on the micro-scale through standardized size for the part components and can be modified to fit the user for the module.

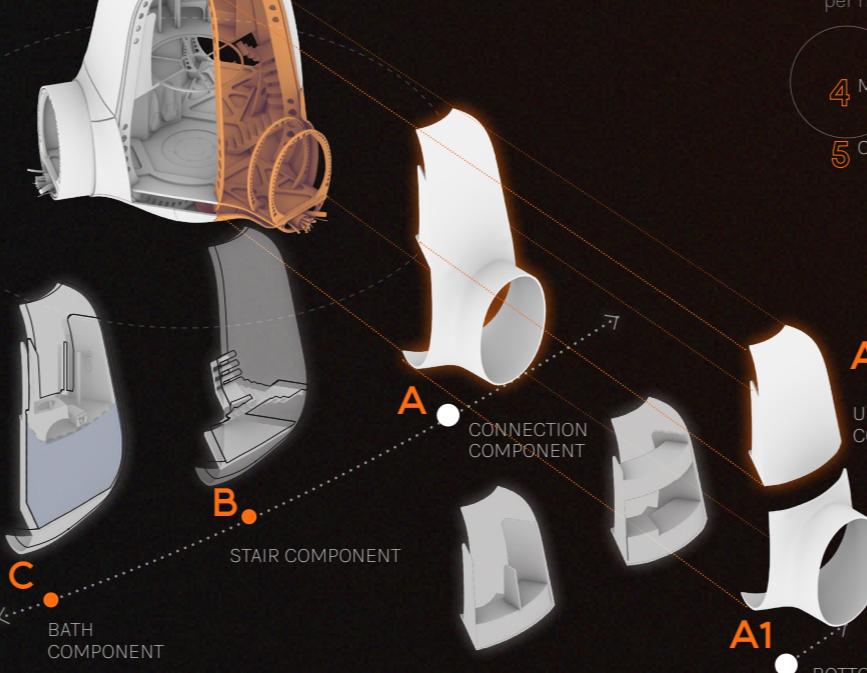


1 COMPONENTS ARE INTEGRATED INTO MODULES

ELEVATION



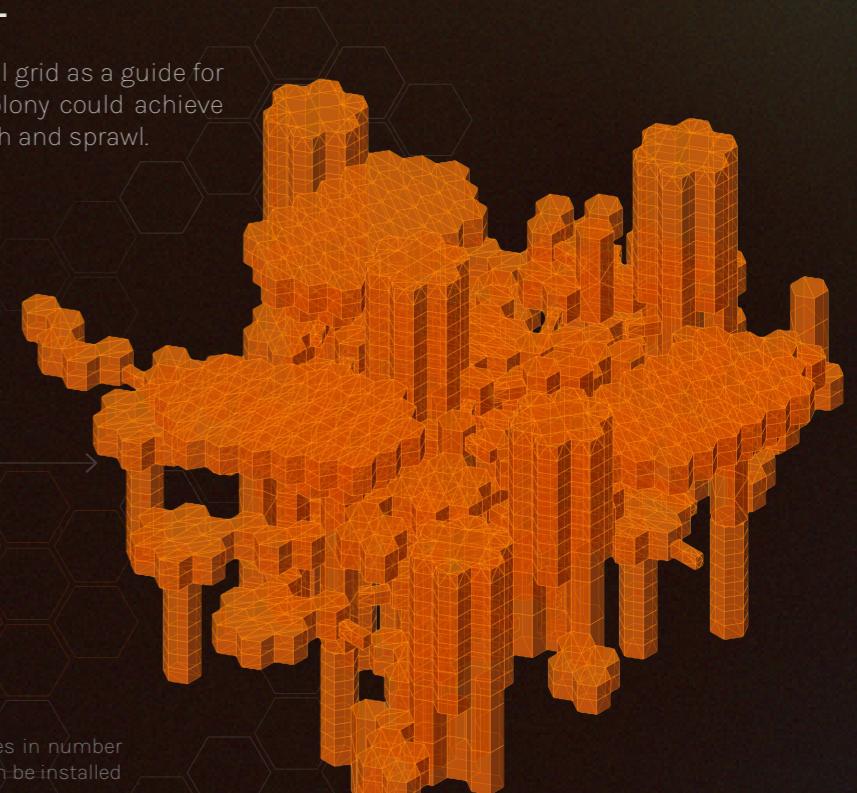
2 COMPONENTS ARE UNIFORMLY SIZED AND CAN BE INTERCHANGED DEPENDING ON THE MODULE USAGE.



C.2.2 MACRO LEVEL

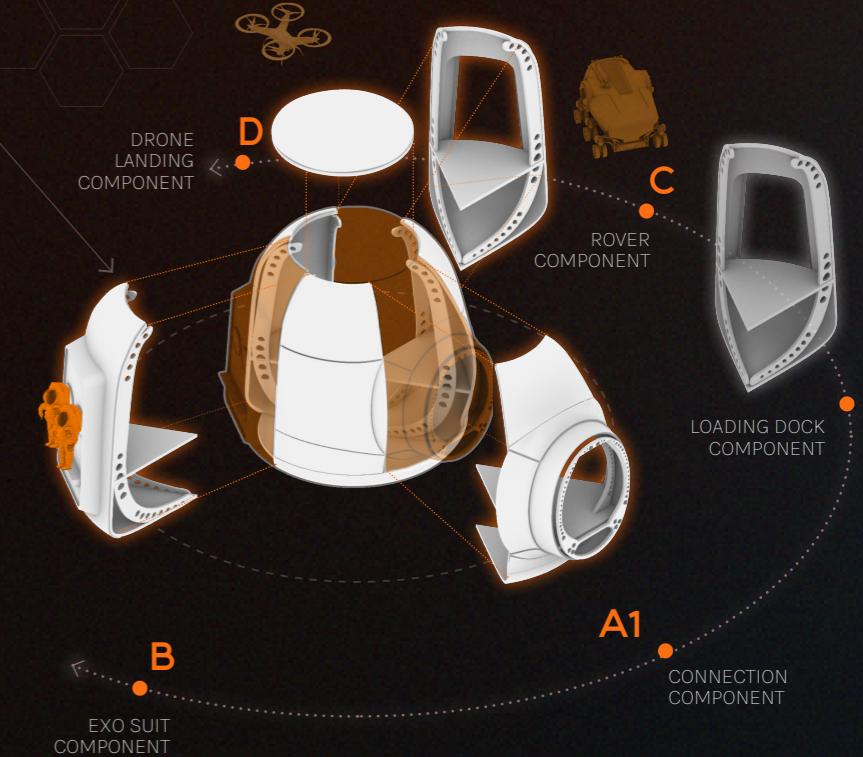
Using the hexagonal grid as a guide for proliferation, the colony could achieve modularity in growth and sprawl.

MACRO LEVEL OF MODULARISATION



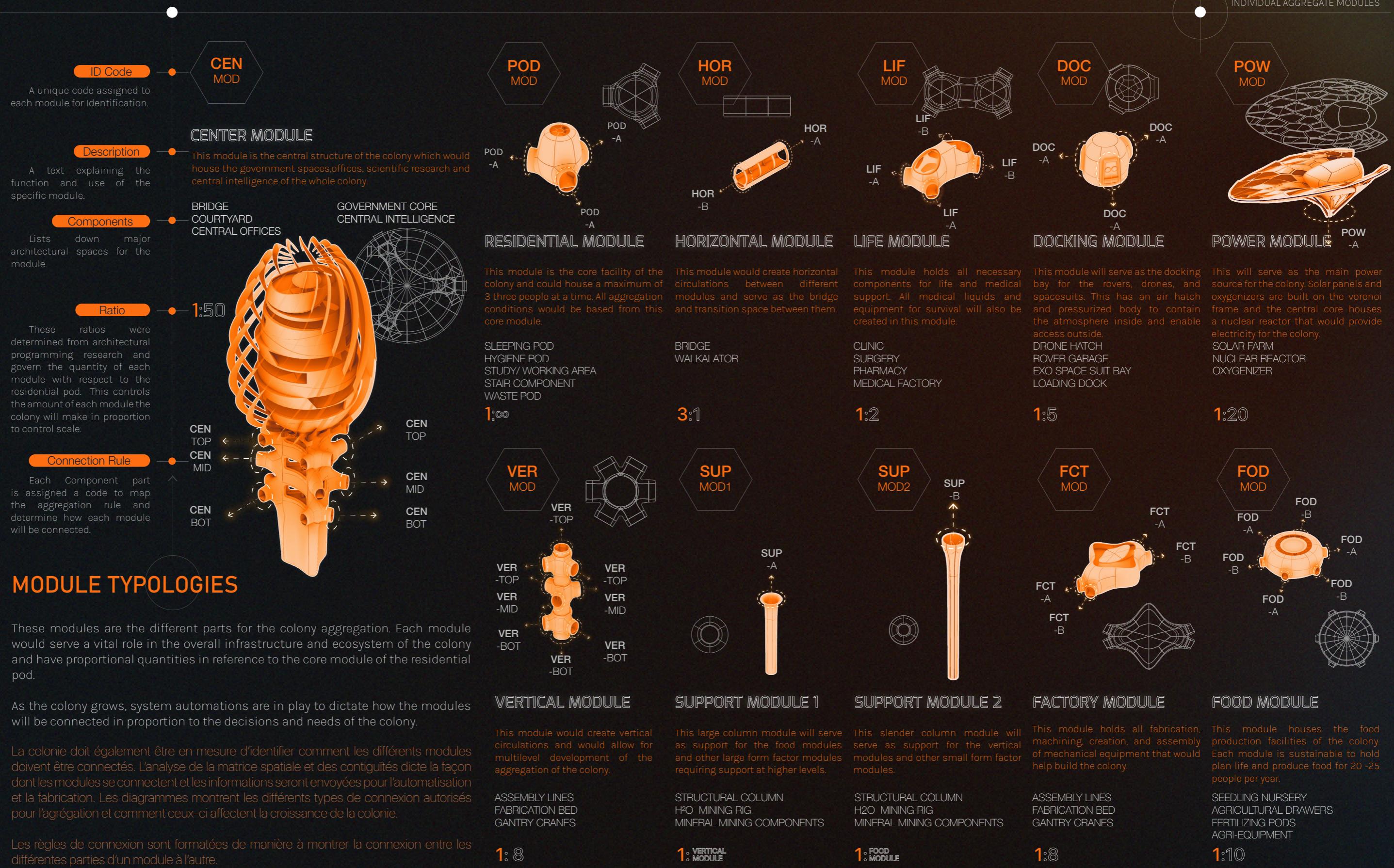
Each module also varies in number of components that can be installed per module unit.

4 MODULE CONNECTION
5 COMPONENTS



Hexarion: A Martian Colony

Architectural Concept: Module Typologies



C.3

MODULE TYPOLOGIES

These modules are the different parts for the colony aggregation. Each module would serve a vital role in the overall infrastructure and ecosystem of the colony and have proportional quantities in reference to the core module of the residential pod.

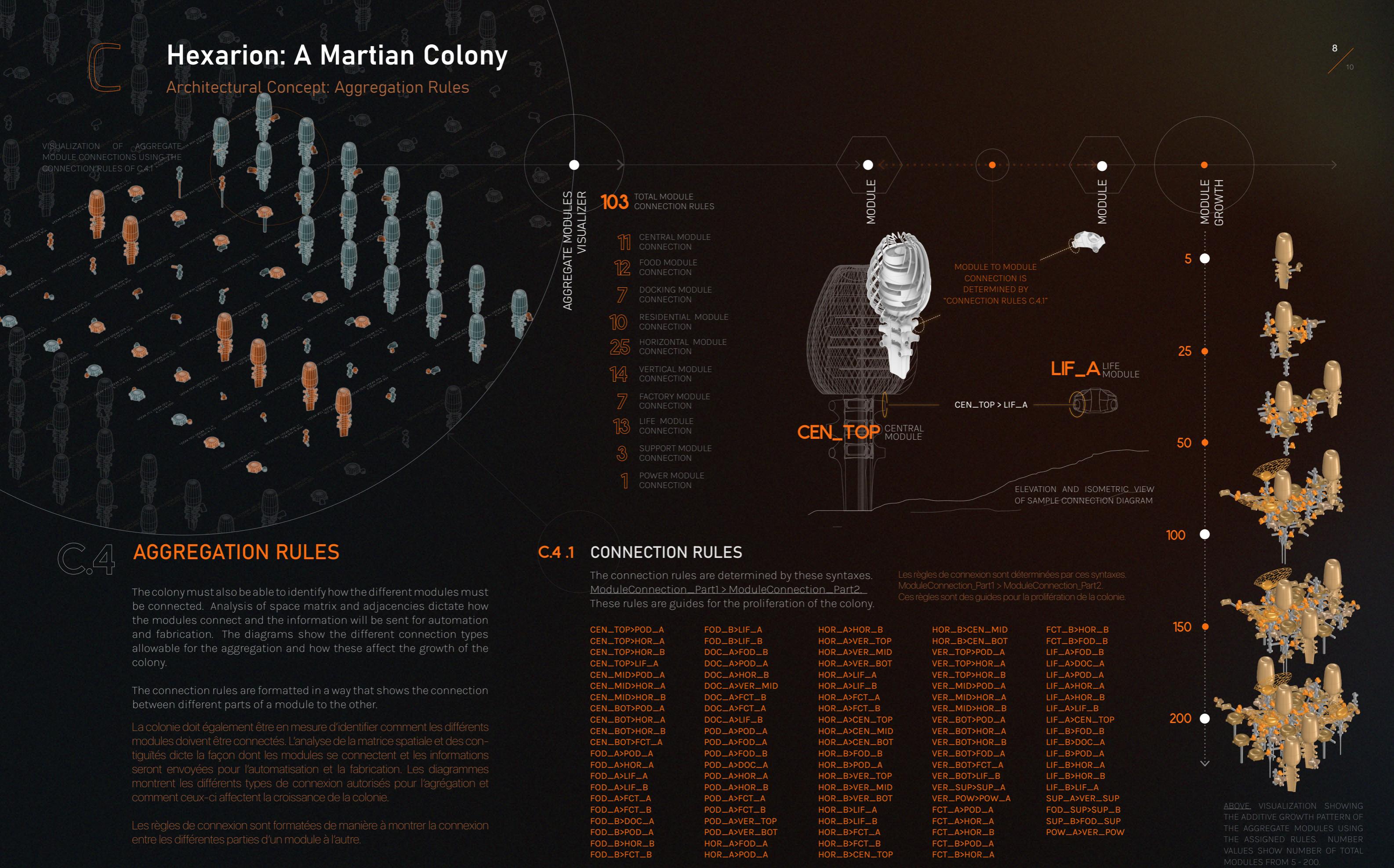
As the colony grows, system automations are in play to dictate how the modules will be connected in proportion to the decisions and needs of the colony.

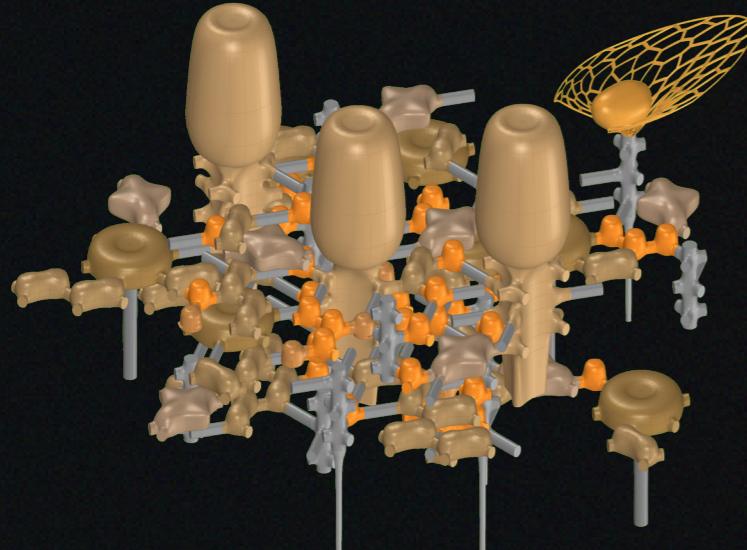
La colonie doit également être en mesure d'identifier comment les différents modules doivent être connectés. L'analyse de la matrice spatiale et des contiguités dicte la façon dont les modules se connectent et les informations seront envoyées pour l'automatisation et la fabrication. Les diagrammes montrent les différents types de connexion autorisés pour l'agrégation et comment ceux-ci affectent la croissance de la colonie.

Les règles de connexion sont formatées de manière à montrer la connexion entre les différentes parties d'un module à l'autre.

Hexarion: A Martian Colony

Architectural Concept: Aggregation Rules



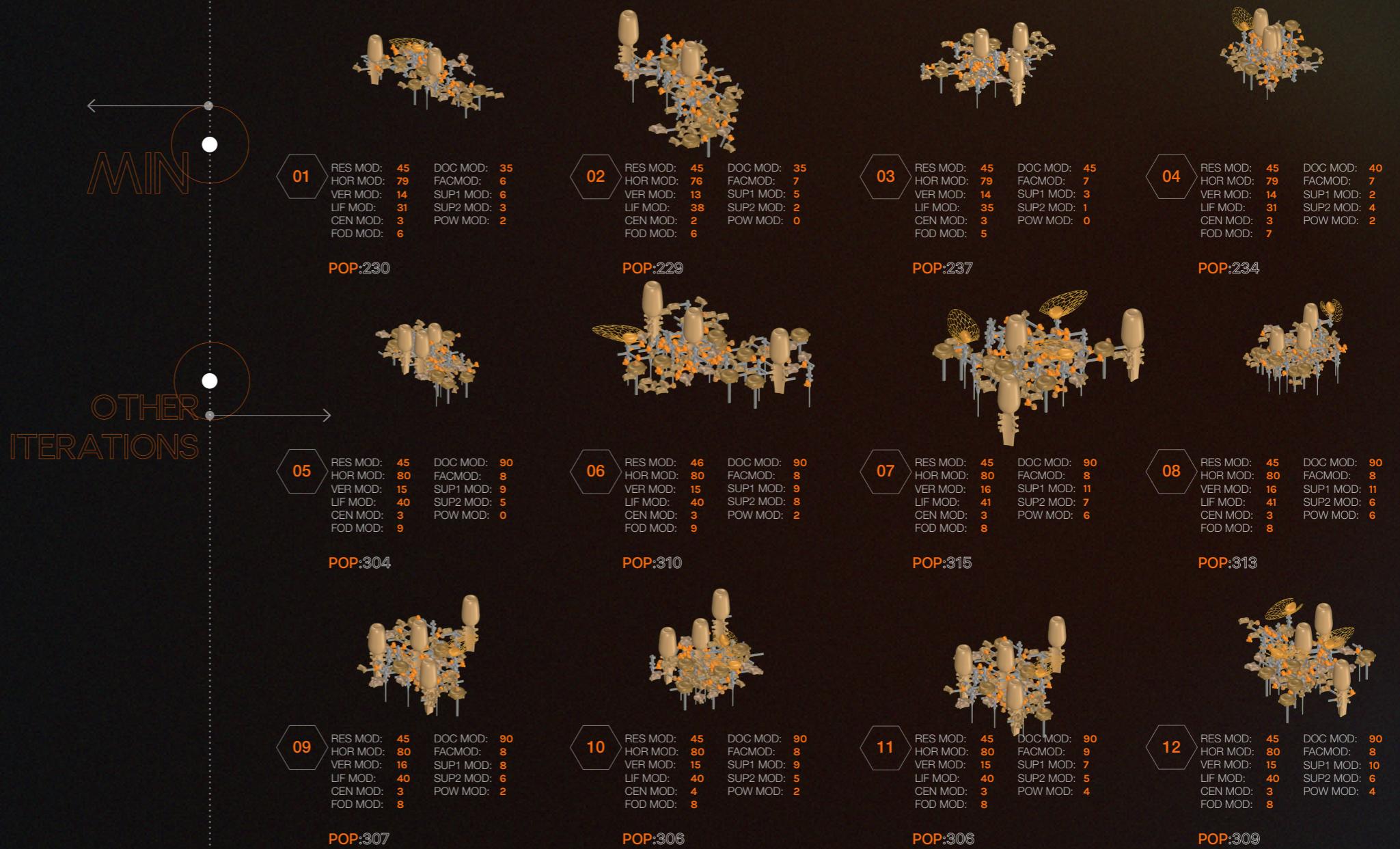


ITERATION

RES MOD:	4
HOR MOD:	7
VER MOD:	1
LIF MOD:	3
CEN MOD:	3
FOD MOD:	7
DOC MOD:	2
FAC MOD:	8
SUP1 MOD:	6
SUP2 MOD:	4
POW MOD:	2

POP:222

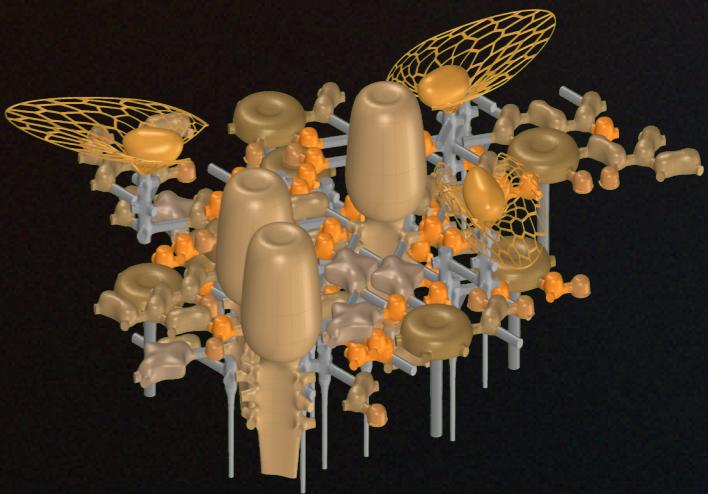
STOCHASTIC AGGREGATION



ITERATION

RES MOD:	46
HOR MOD:	80
VER MOD:	15
LIF MOD:	40
CEN MOD:	3
FOD MOD:	9
DOC MOD:	100
FAC MOD:	9
SUP1 MOD:	12
SUP2 MOD:	7
POW MOD:	6

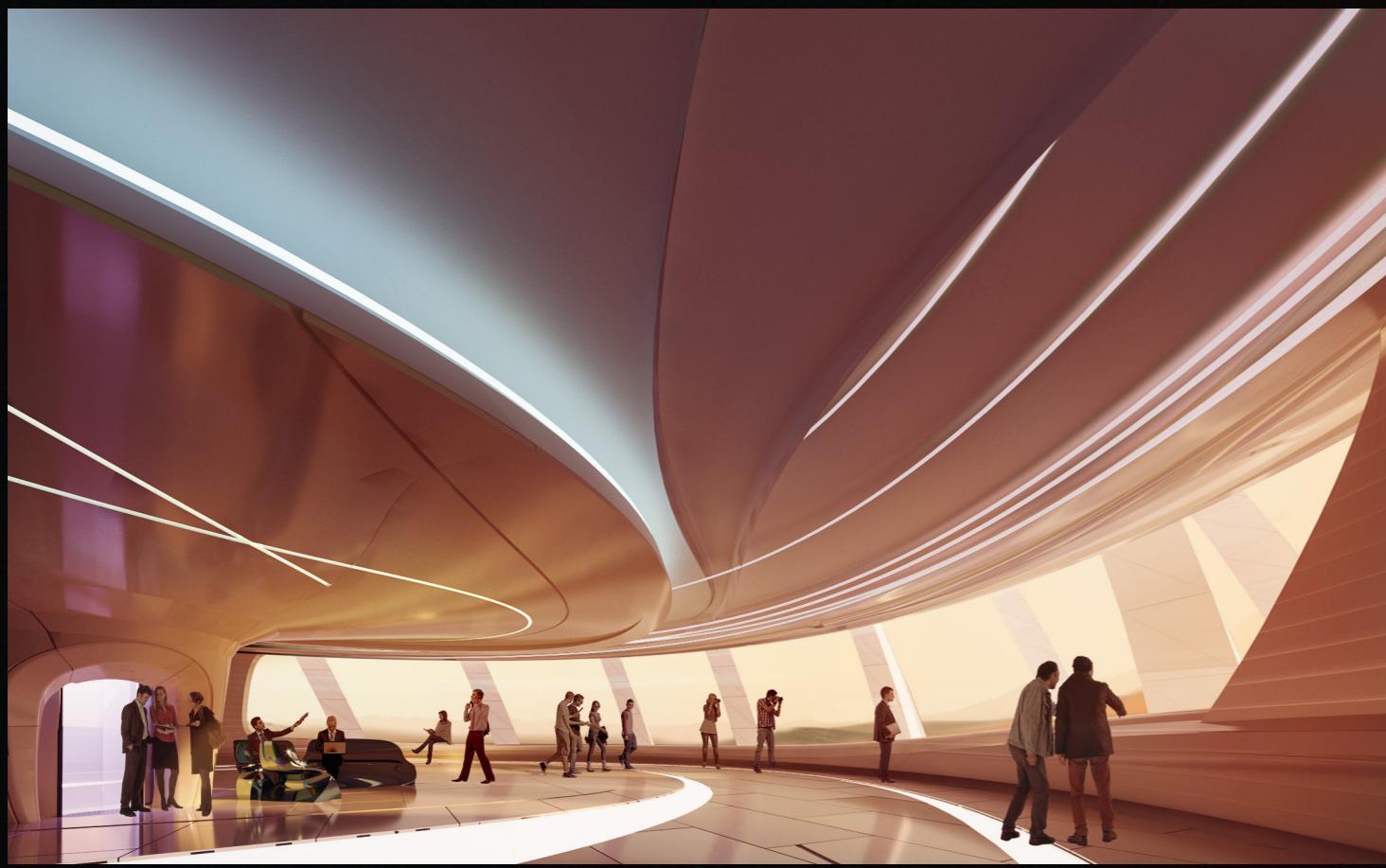
POP:327



HEXARION

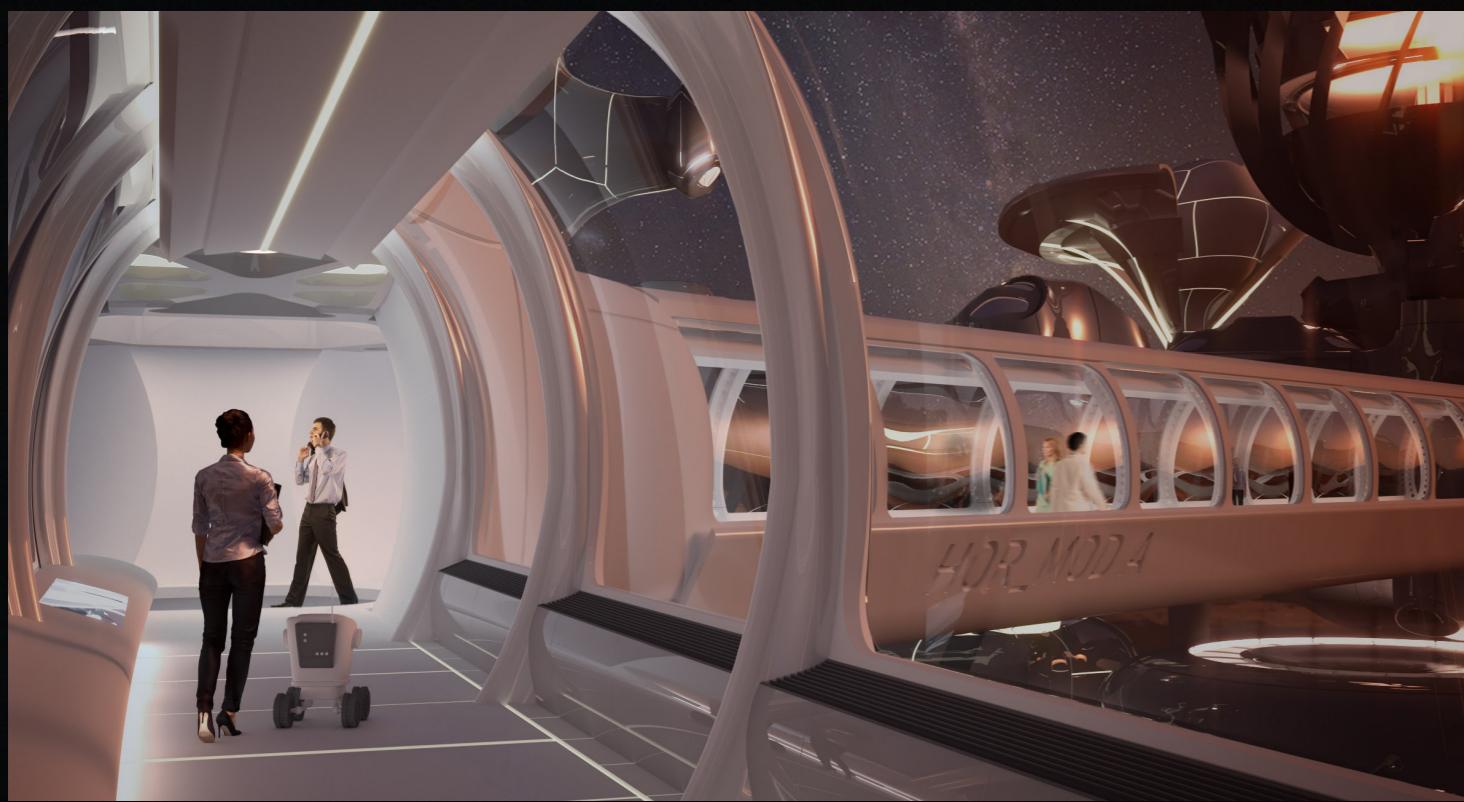
A M A R T I A N C O L O N Y

10
10



CEN_MOD

LEFT TOP IMAGE
INTERIOR
PERSPECTIVE
SHOWING CENTRAL
MODULE.

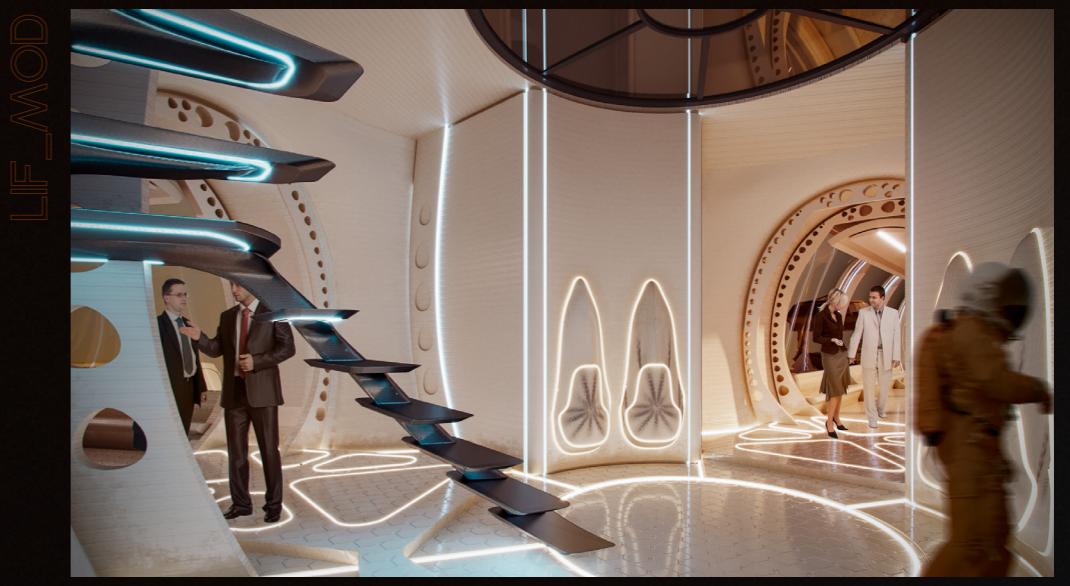


HOR_MOD

RIGHT IMAGE SHOWING
WALKWAYS AT
HORIZONTAL MODULE
“HOR MOD” AND HOW
IT CONNECTS TO OTHER
MODULES.



FOOD_MOD



LIF_MOD

RIGHT TOP IMAGE
PERSPECTIVE
SHOWING HYDROPONIC
COMPONENTS INSIDE
FOOD MODULE.

RIGHT CENTER IMAGE
SHOWS INTERIOR
PERSPECTIVE OF LIFE
MODULE.

RIGHT BOTTOM IMAGE
INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE
SHOWING LIFE
MODULE.

