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Guiltless Plastic 2022

Presentation

Plastic: a floating problem

It is estimated that the world's oceans are currently polluted by some 250 thousand tonnes of plastic waste, with almost one third of them - around 80 thousand tonnes - concentrated in a region of the Pacific Ocean as big as France. The "Great Garbage Patch", as it has been dubbed, is probably the most tangible sign of the pervasive pollution of the Oceans. Luckily, the global awareness on the issue is growing, and several projects - including the most successful, The Ocean Cleanup - have been launched aiming at harvesting these huge masses of plastic to protect saline and correctly recycle the waste.





Medusa, a sea creature to inspire sea preservation

Medusa has long been a suggestion for Spinzi, having already inspired projects in the past. The elegant, fluid shapes of the sea creatures proved to be stimulating for the designer, who found the perfect inspiration for a modular stool, assembled by putting together a set of "tentacles", the legs and, a "bell", the actual seating of the stool.

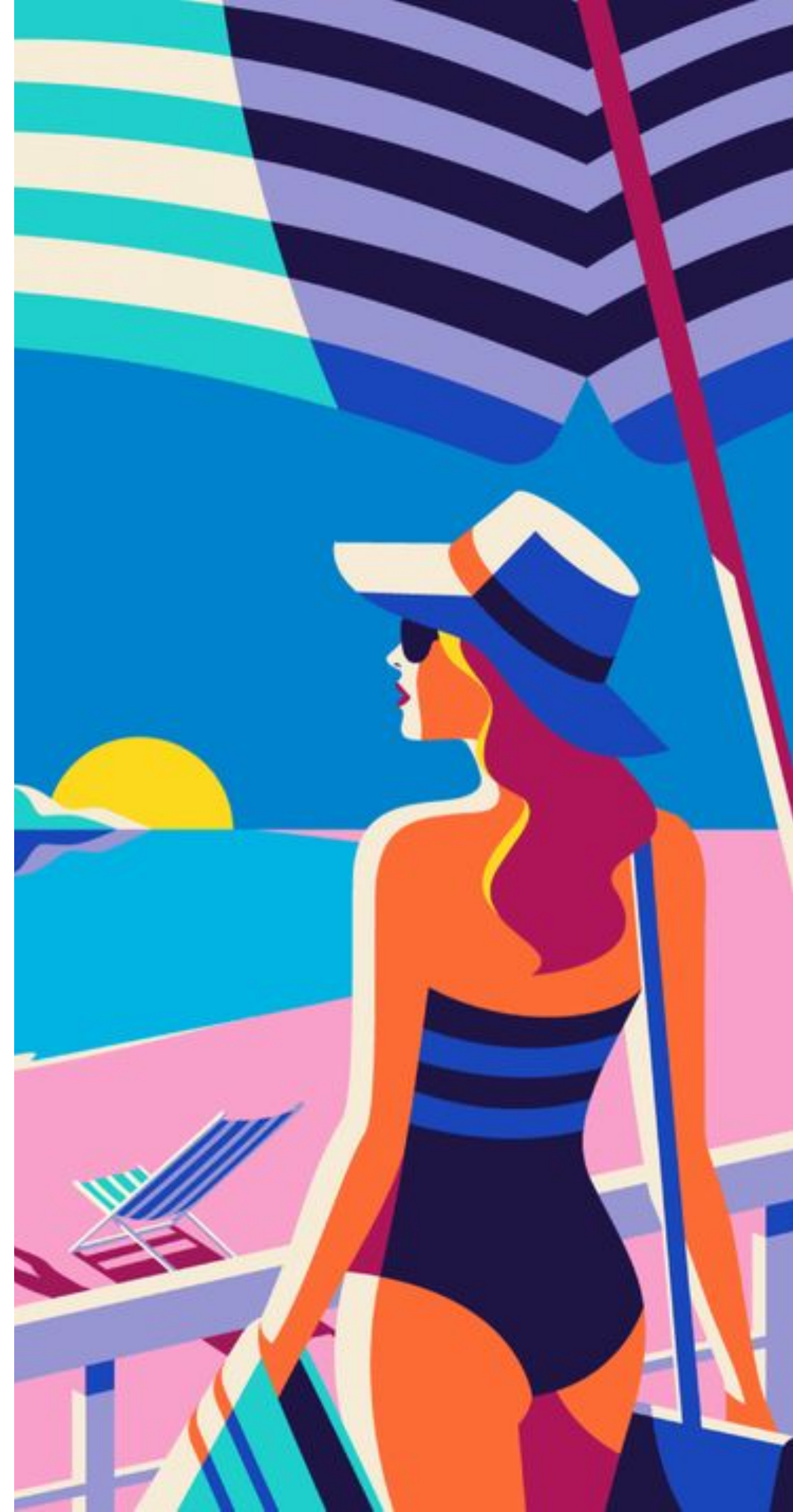
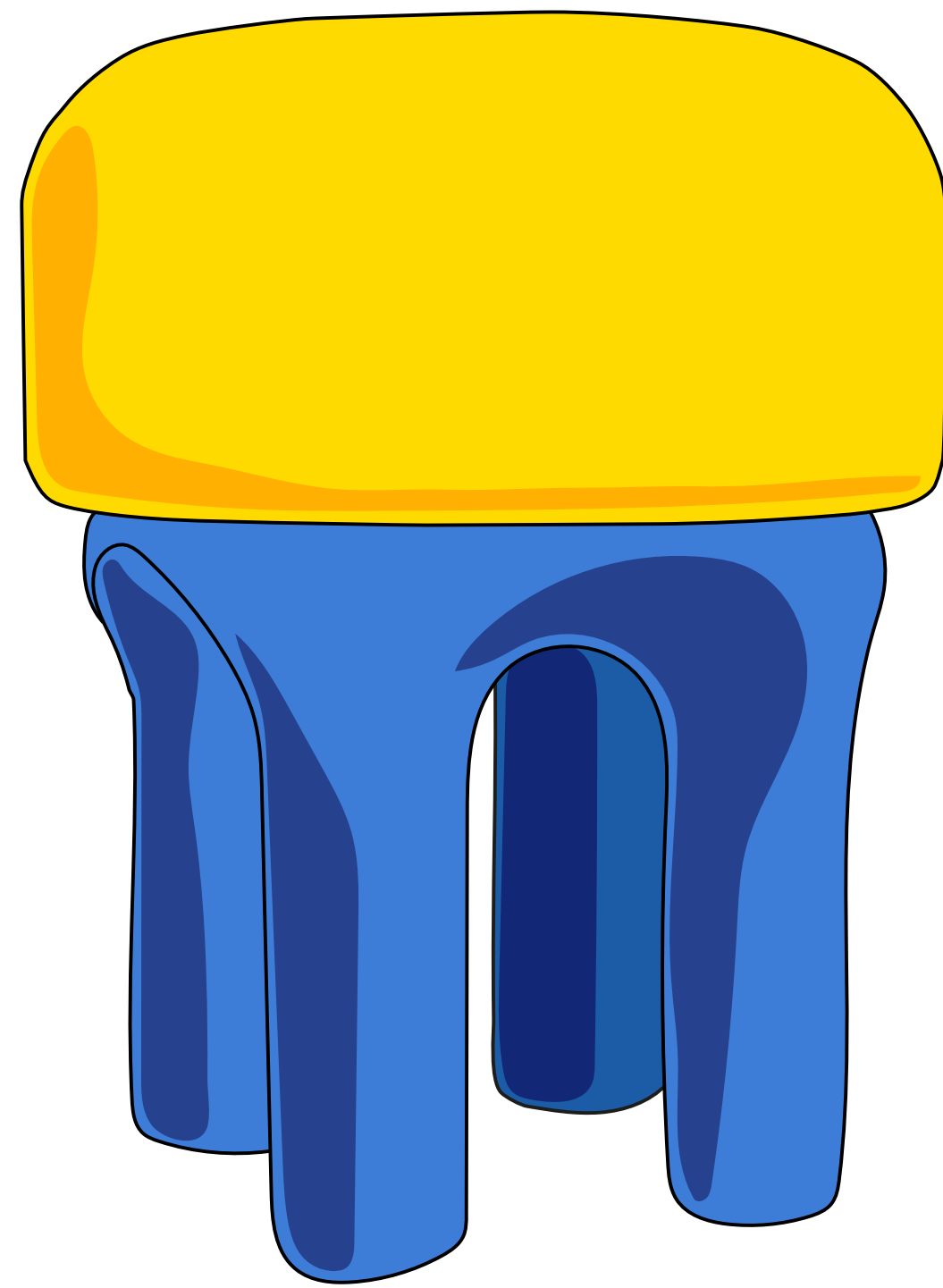
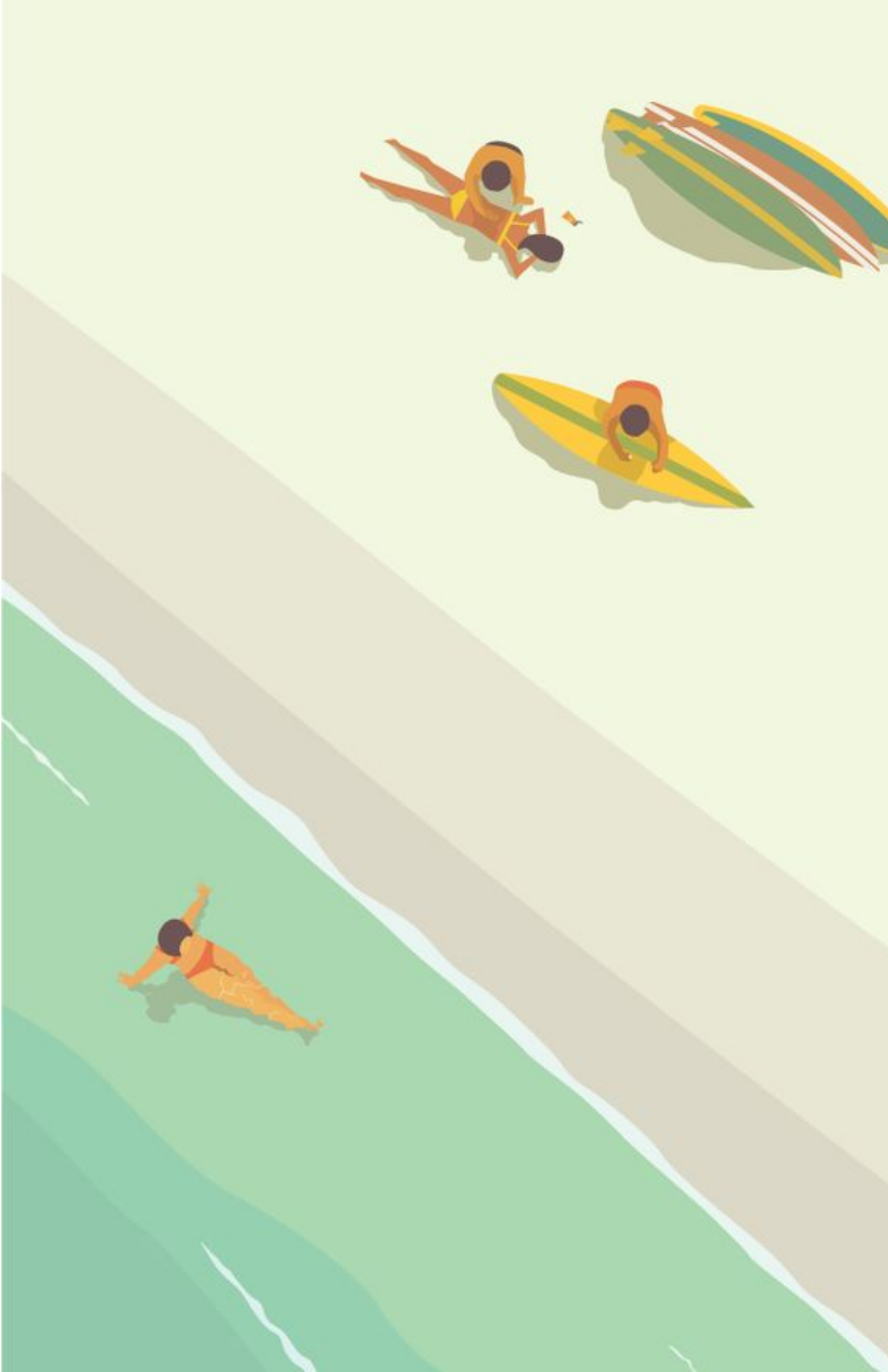
Now, Spinzi decided to update and improve the design in order to address the serious issue of plastic pollution, since a product inspired by a marine animal seemed to be the perfect "testimonial" for such a fight. The idea behind the small stool remains, but the modularity of the system now allows to obtain a wider range of creations from the same concept.

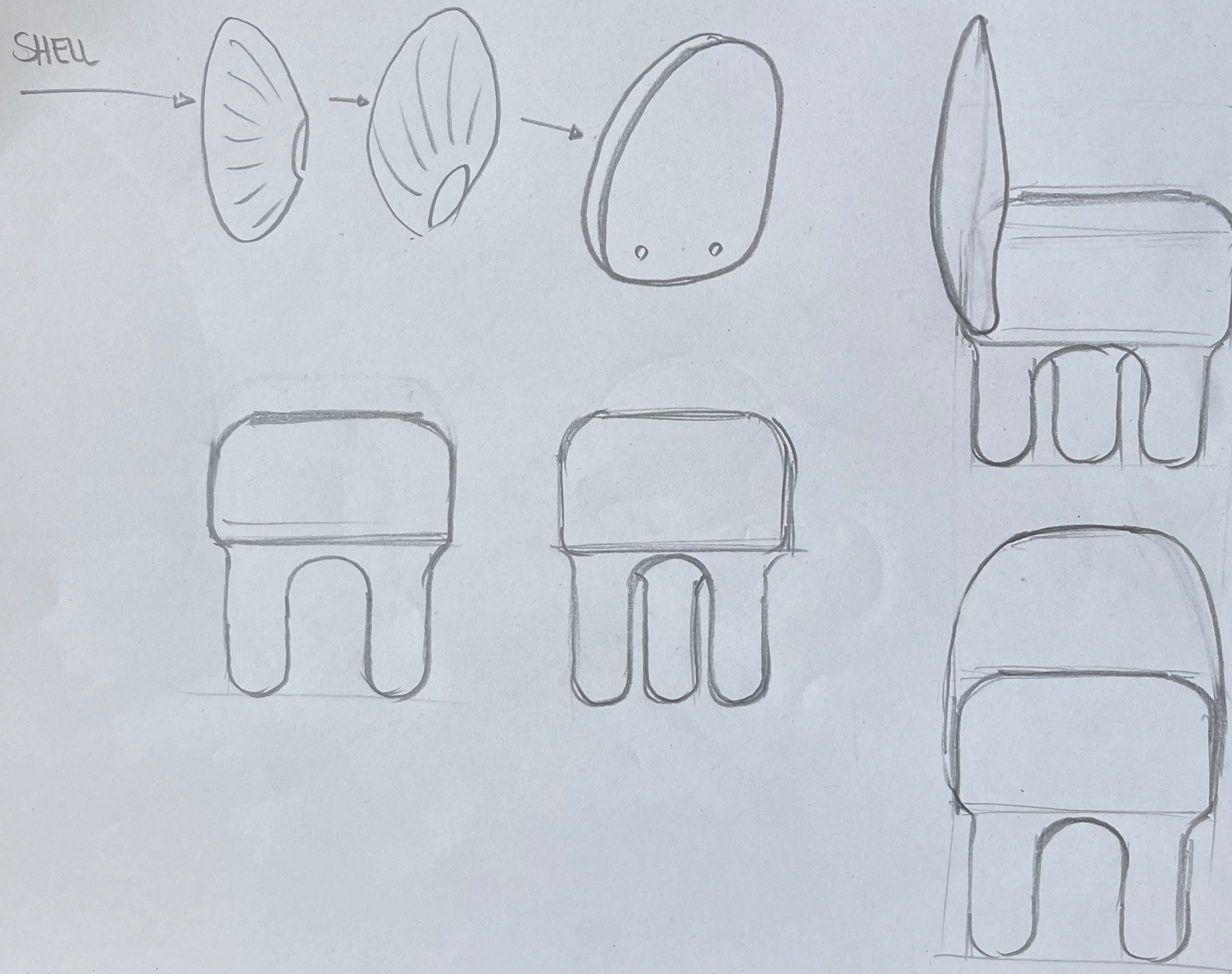


Out of the Ocean

The power of the idea also lies in the fact that, just like Medusa is inspired to a sea creature but “emerges” from the sea and lives on land, it could be crafted out of a material that follows the exact same path.

Reclaiming plastic from the oceans through a clean up operation and using it to produce a set of modular public furniture is the act between this design,

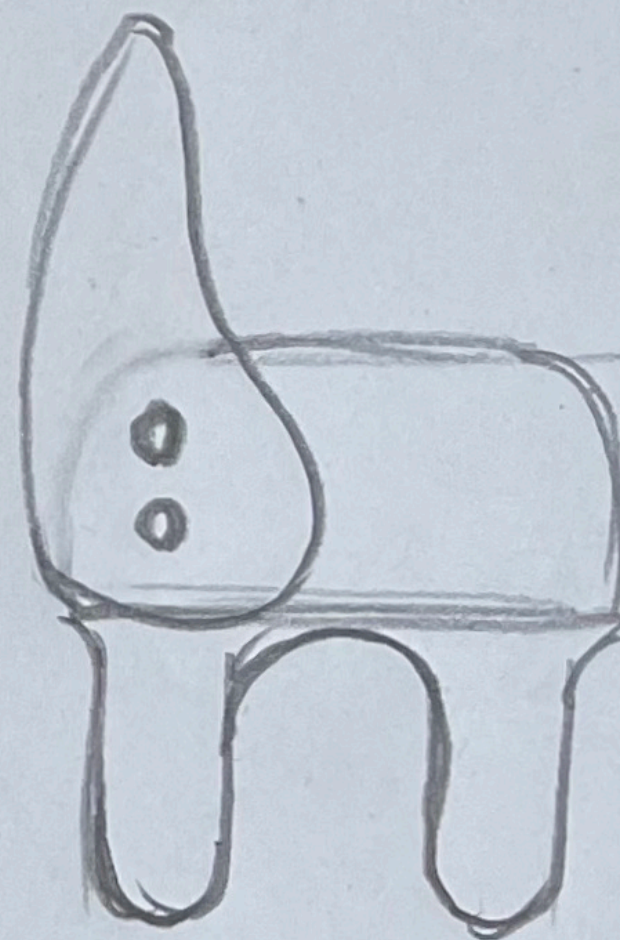
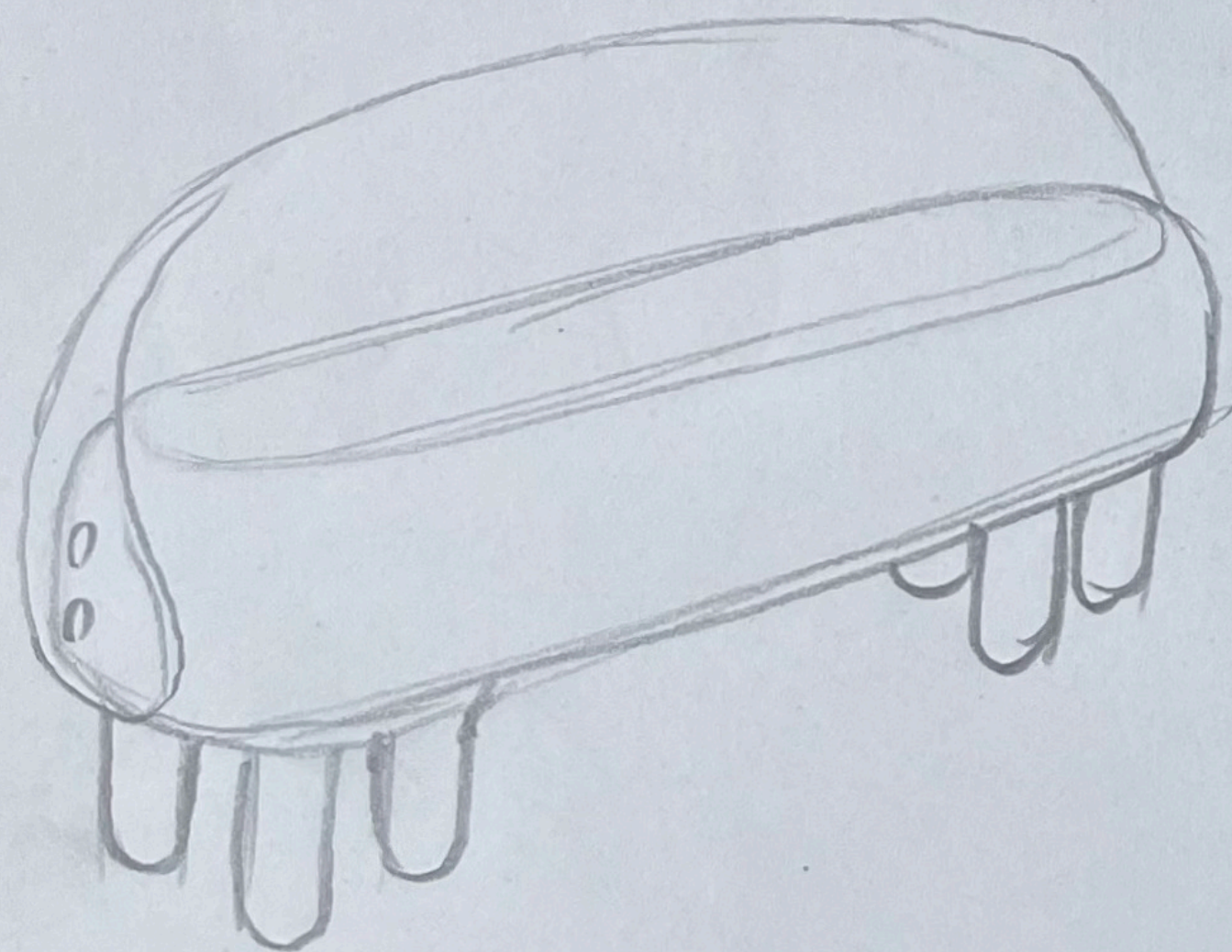
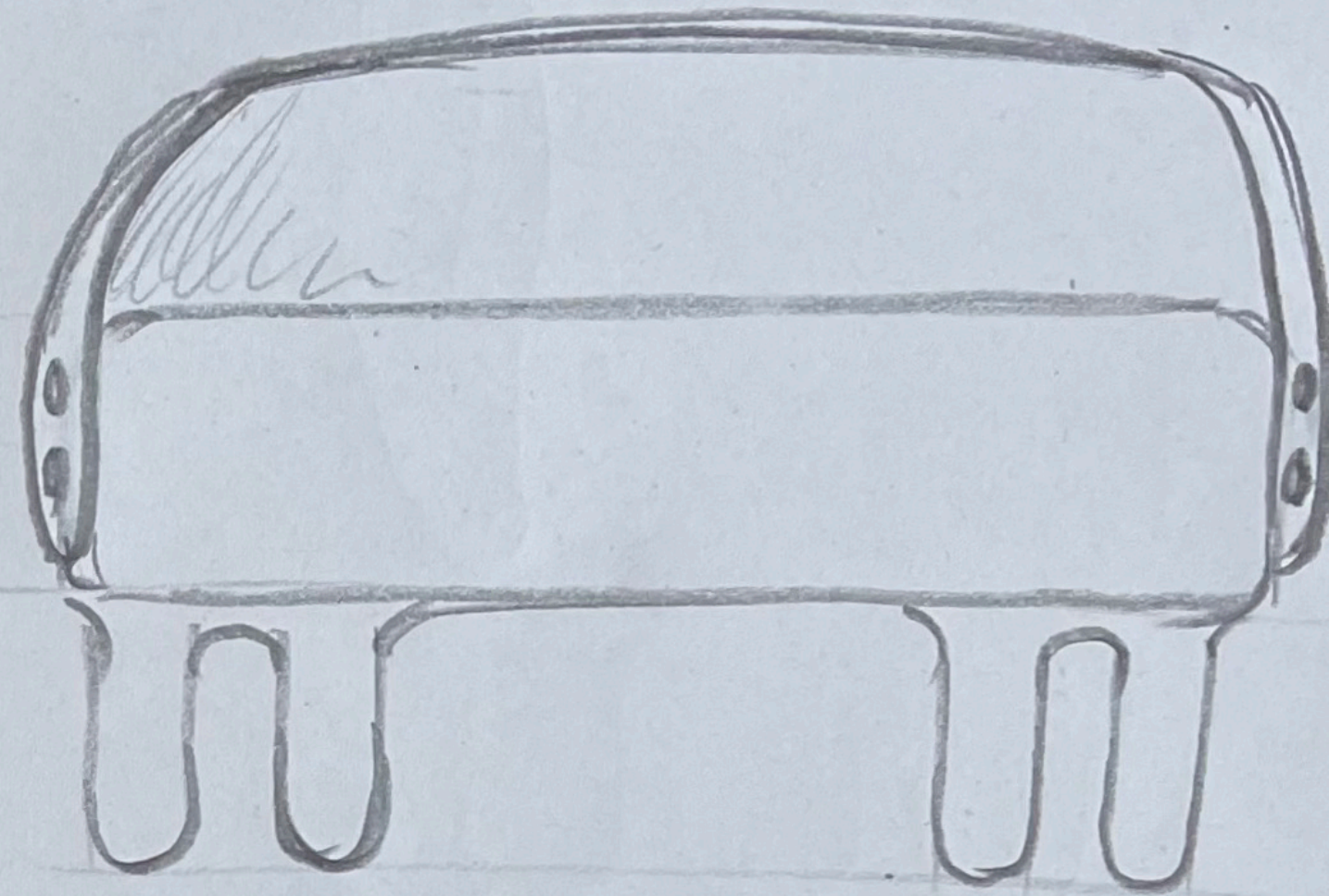
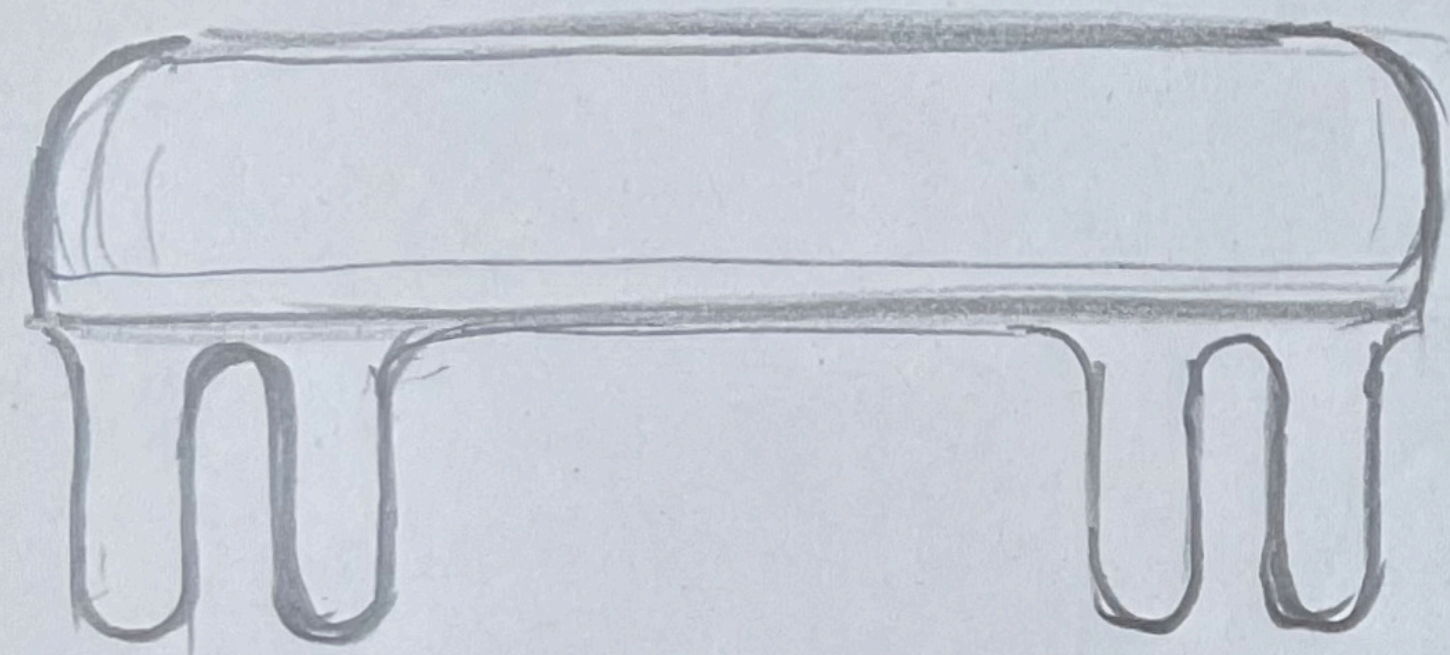




A sea of inspiration

Elaborating the original concept, some elements were added in order to achieve further usability of the "stool" and make it more ergonomic.

While in its simplest configuration it still is a stool, a backrest can be added to Medusa, turning it into a chair. The wrapping shape of the backrest was initially inspired by a seashell, to keep the Ocean as the main source of inspiration.



Furthermore, the concept is scalable: from the single seater stool/chair, to a longer bench. The seating and backrest element, in this case, change; but the legs and joining pins can remain the same, allowing for a quick reconfiguration of the furniture in a space in case of need.

More complex shapes for the seating elements can of course be elaborated; the concept, presented here with some initial sketches, can apply also to tables of several sizes.



A good cause to exchange marble for plastic

The fluid shapes of Medusa would look great if rendered in marble, the natural material that has the most similar character. However, in this case, it is of course imagined in recycled plastic. While certainly less precious, recycled plastic allows to obtain textures that are as intriguing as those of marble, and work well with the fluid nature of the design.

But, most importantly, recycled plastic holds a message of sustainability and invites to keep a low environmental impact by giving a second life to a material that would otherwise end up wasted.





Let's turn our vision into reality!