



# Peace Urn

## Ancient Ritual, Urban Grace

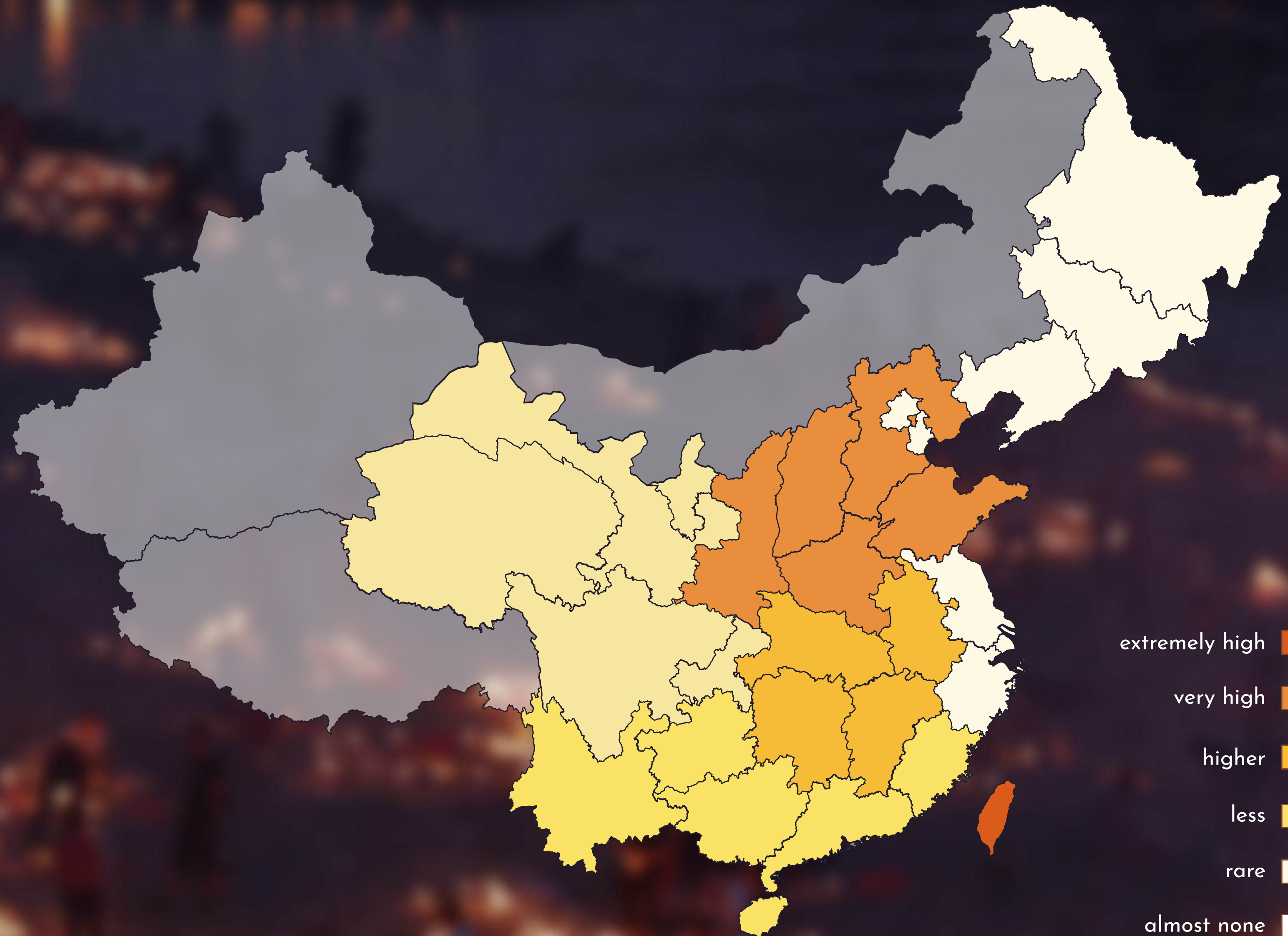
The Peace Urn addresses the pollution and safety issues associated with paper-cake burning in cities through a controlled clay-burning container and air-flow design, enabling the continuation of traditional ritual sentiments while achieving a more sustainable practice.

# Background

The Ghost Festival (Zhongyuan Festival) is an important traditional festival in China, where people burn joss paper and paper offerings to honor and remember the deceased.

In both urban and rural areas, this practice often takes place in streets, intersections, or temporary burning sites, forming a highly “public” ritual space.

Burning joss paper is not only a folk tradition, but also a cultural practice that continues to exist in everyday urban life.



# Problem Context

In modern cities, these rituals are often carried out directly on public streets, which often pose fire safety hazards and urban sanitation problems.



## Hot air

The hot air currents generated by the burning will cause the paper money to fly around, thereby affecting pedestrians and environmental safety.



## Environmental problem

After the burning process is completed, the remaining ashes will dirty the streets and are difficult to clean up, thus affecting the appearance of the city.

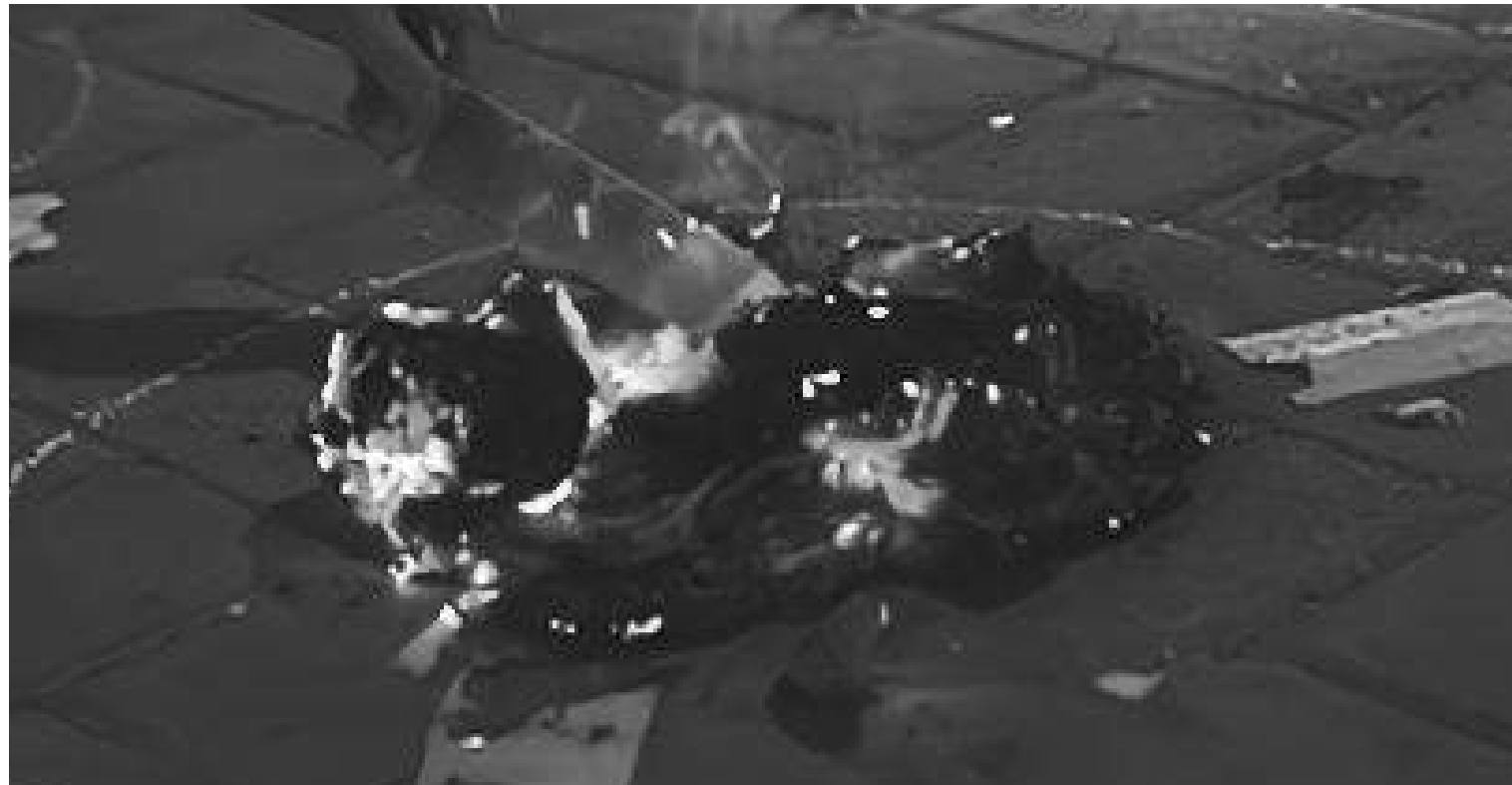


## Special rules

There are many specific rules to follow when burning paper money.

For example, paper offerings should not be removed immediately after they are burned.

# Key Insight



The problem lies not in the ceremony or the burning itself, but in the "uncontrolled manner of the burning process".

The ritual of burning paper money is an important expression of respect and remembrance for ancestors. However, in urban streets, uncontrolled burning creates pollution, residual ash, and fire hazards. The key insight is that the value of the ritual remains, but its execution conflicts with modern urban living, calling for a safer and more sustainable approach.

# Design Concept

## #1 Public containers for single-person use

### Custom :

Tradition dictates that different offerings should not be burned together, to ensure the intended spiritual message is conveyed correctly.

### Personalized / Family-oriented :

Single-person use preserves the ritual's privacy and emotional significance.

### Acceptability :

Deployment in centralized public burning spaces increases acceptance and facilitates safe, organized practice.

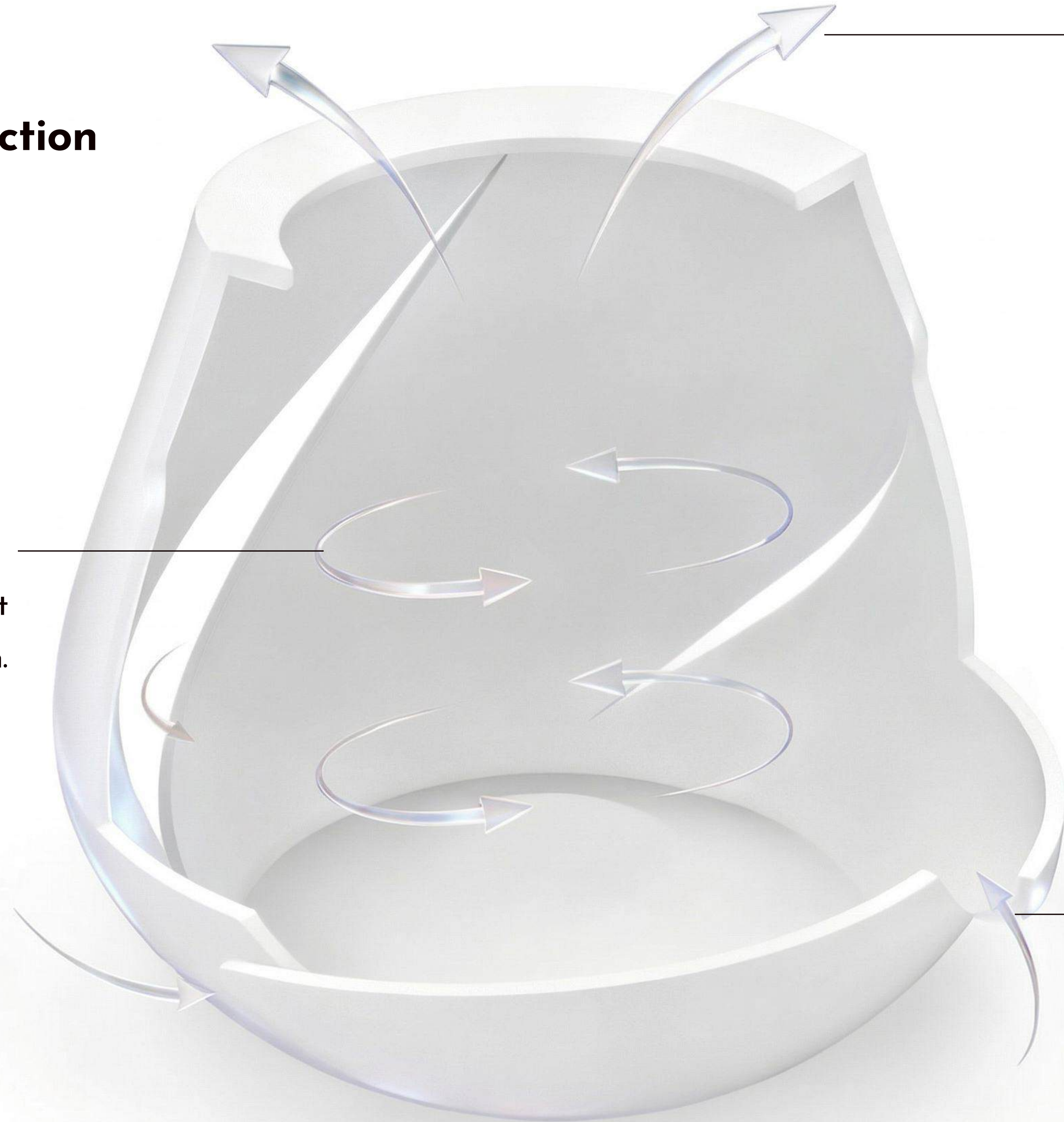


# Design Concept

## #2 Environmental protection and sustainability

### Airflow :

A air inlet structure ensures sufficient airflow for complete combustion.

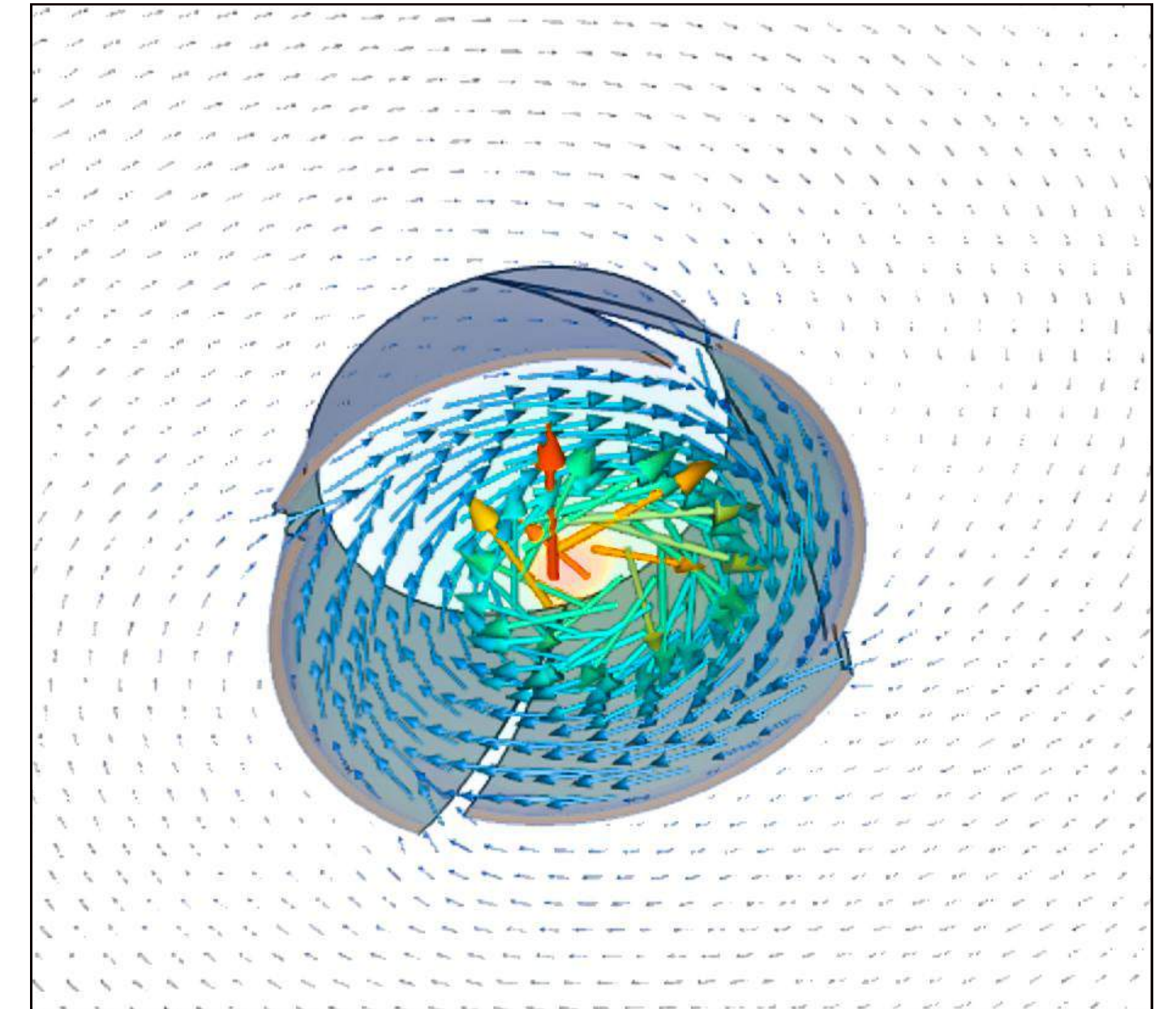
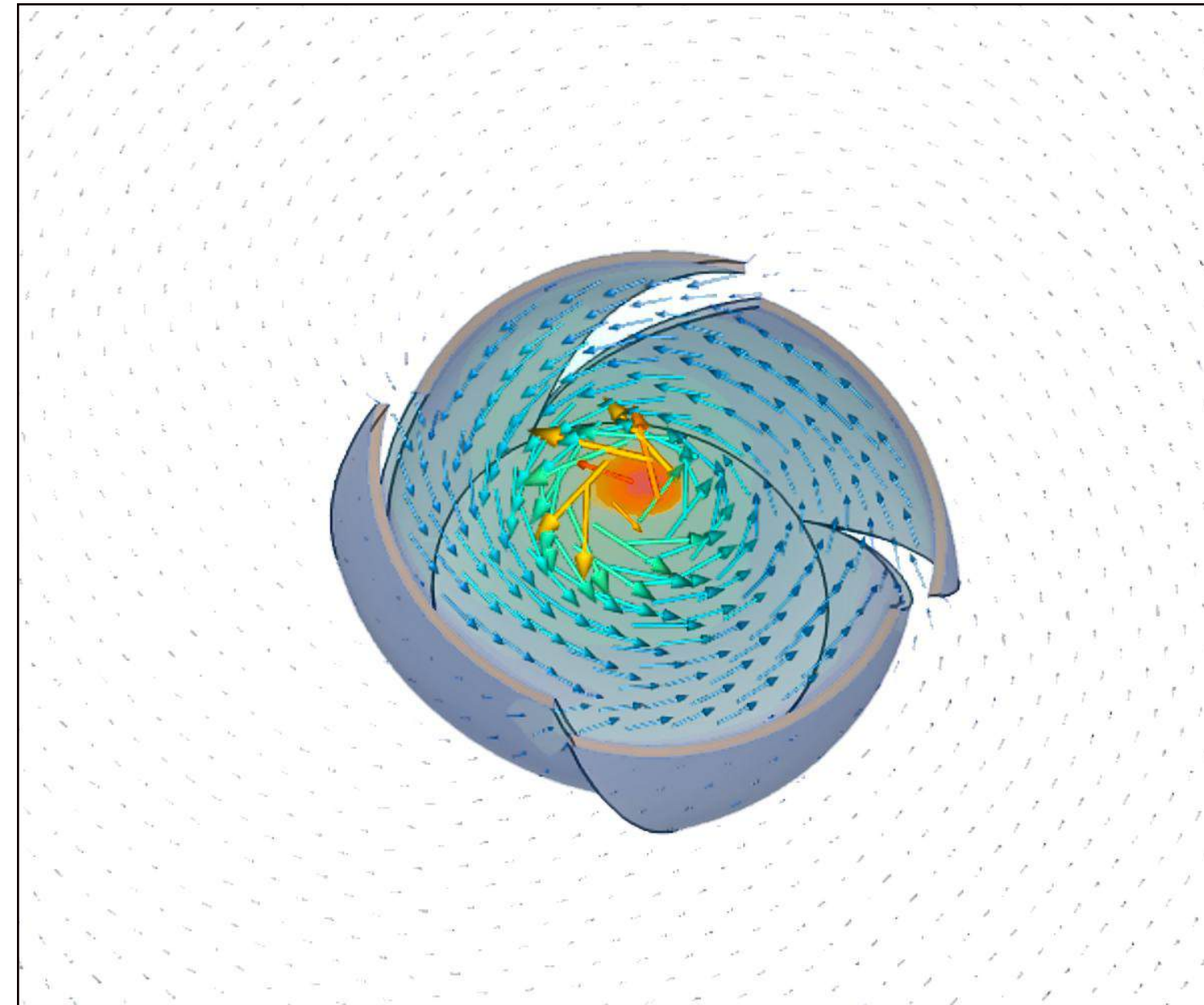
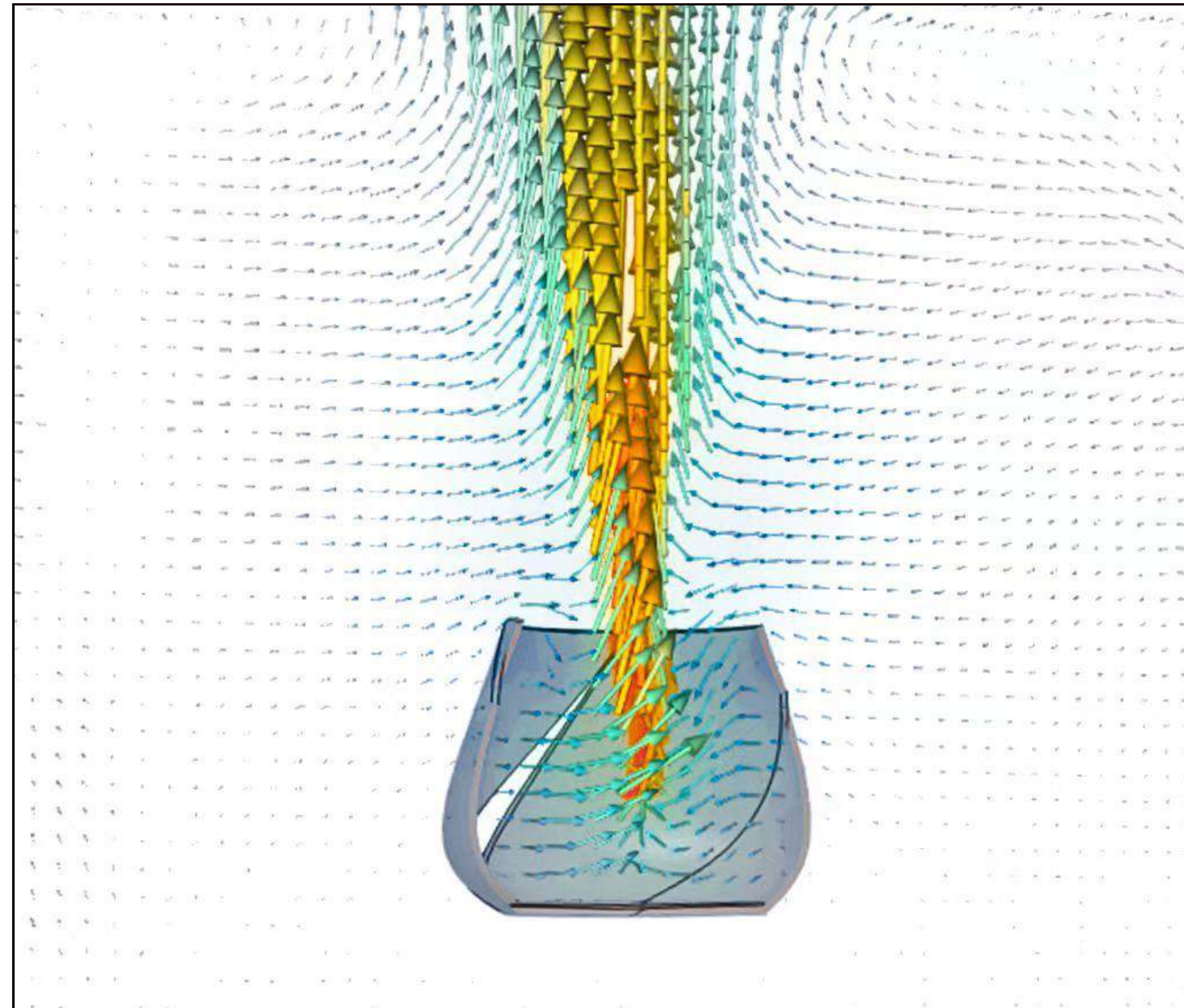


### Circulation :

Internal airflow circulates within the vessel, causing ash to hit the walls and fall back to the bottom, minimizing residue outside.

# Design Concept

## #2 Environmental protection and sustainability - Fluid Simulation Test



Through fluid simulation, we confirmed that the container's airflow creates a stable, upward-moving vortex. This design improves oxygen circulation for more efficient combustion while drawing smoke upward. Consequently, the system reduces emissions and keeps ground-level air cleaner.

# Design Concept

## #2 Environmental protection and sustainability - Material

### Functionality:

The container is made from a heat-resistant clay body, selected for its stability under high-temperature conditions, reliability in outdoor burning scenarios, and low production cost. It maintains structural integrity during combustion while remaining economically feasible for large-scale deployment, ensuring both safety and accessibility in repeated use.

### Cultural Expression:

Beyond its functional performance, the material expresses a raw, unrefined quality that resonates with traditional burning rituals. Its subdued, non-industrial character aligns with the street-based nature of the practice, preserving a sense of humility and cultural authenticity.

# Design Concept

## #3 Sentimental value

### **Firelight :**

Flames shining through the vessel's gaps create a visual connection, evoking presence and reinforcing the ritual's emotional significance.

### **Connection :**

Traditionally, people draw circles on the ground when burning paper, with the gap representing the direction of emotional transmission; this vessel preserves that symbolic gesture.

# Sustainability

A man is kneeling on a sidewalk at night, lighting a small, glowing ceramic pot. The pot is placed on a circular base on the pavement. The man is holding a piece of paper or a small object that is being lit. The scene is illuminated by streetlights, and the background shows a long, straight road with trees and buildings in the distance.

## **Environmental Impact :**

Efficient combustion and controlled burning reduce smoke, ash, and resource waste.

## **Social and Behavioral Impact :**

Safe, single-person use and deployment in centralized spaces make the ritual acceptable in urban settings while preserving cultural practice.

## **Material and Production :**

Durable ceramic is easy to produce, reusable, and also suitable for scalable deployment.

# Lifecycle



Use the containers that have been pre-positioned.



After use, leave the container in original place and leave.



Sanitation workers collected and stored it the next day.

Clean and Reuse



**A Safer Way to Burn**  
**A Gentler Way to Remember**