

Little Free Library / NYC

Take a
Book

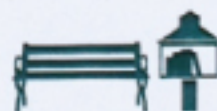


Return
a Book

Little Free Library / NYC places small book collections in neighborhoods for free use and exchange. The project is a joint effort between PEN World Voices Festival and The Architectural League of New York, and is realized in collaboration with Little Free Library, LTD.

HOST

Clemente Soto Velez Cultural
and Educational Center



[LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG](http://LITTLEFREELIBRARY.ORG)

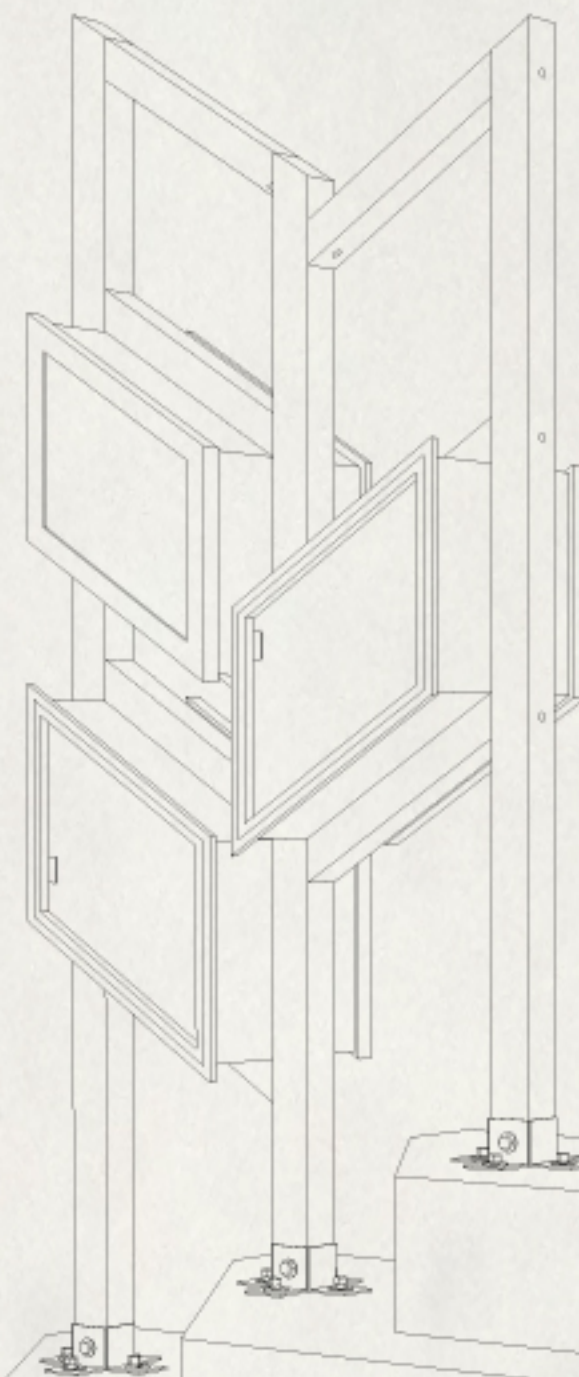
DESIGNER
Cevan Castle

**T H E A R C H I
T E C T U R A L
L E A G U E N Y**



littlefreelibrary.org
archleague.org
worldvoicesfestival.org

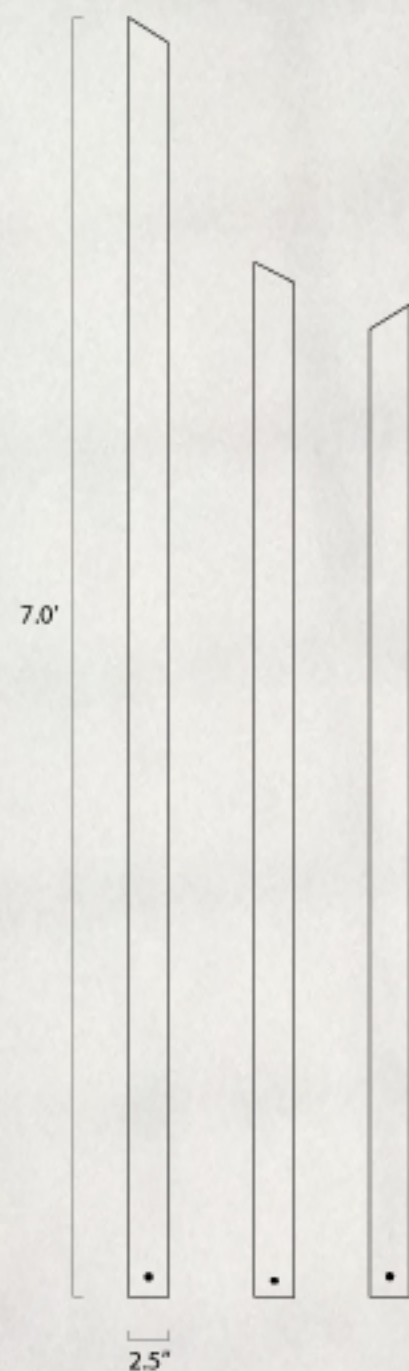
L.F.L. Charter No. 5696



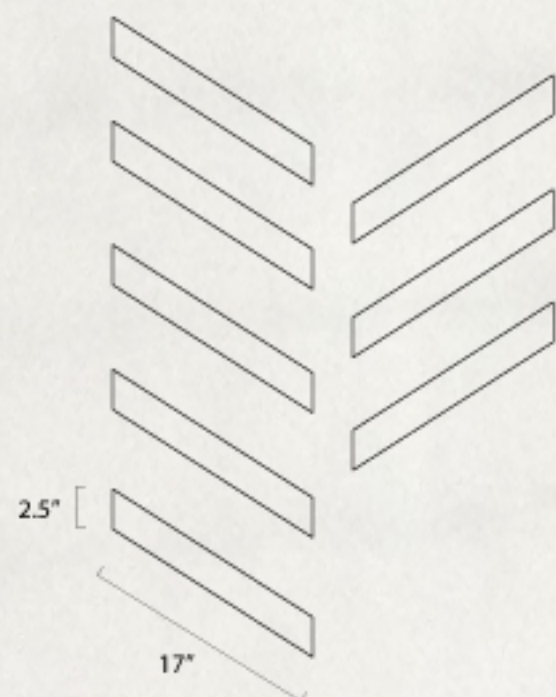
This Little Free Library (LFL) was designed with the idea of a library as a structure for many activities. It is not only a place that holds shared ideas and objects of collective ownership, it is, itself, a resource for borrowing. This LFL invites that collective act of programming or filling the space (amongst the shelves of books).

The geometric structure is an open framework that can support book boxes, artwork, planters with annual or perennial plants, lights, display items, signage, bird feeders, maps, toys...

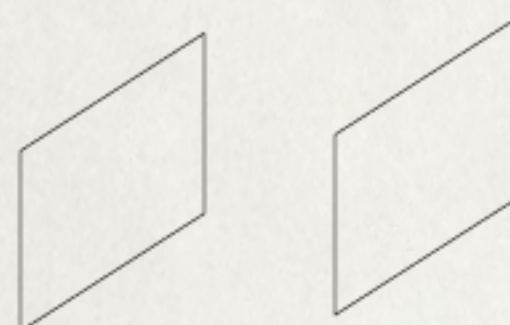
This structure is non-exclusive. The attractions are distributed vertically, allowing something to be at eye level for virtually all library patrons. It also allows this variation of the design to climb the steps!



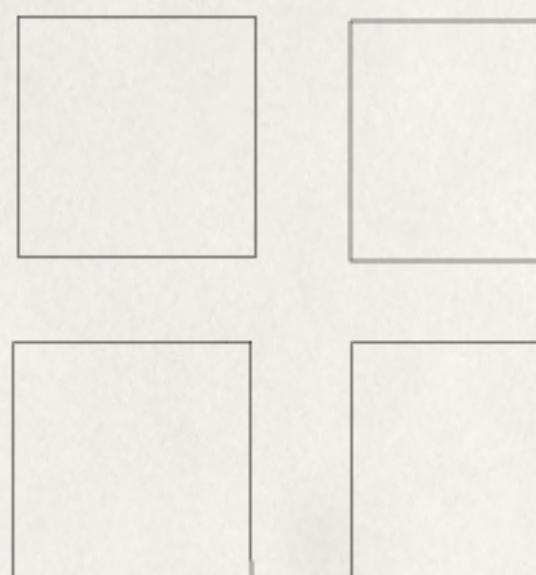
3 (or more) uprights.
This version used reclaimed fir from
water tower bases, custom cut into
2.5" x 2.5" stock.



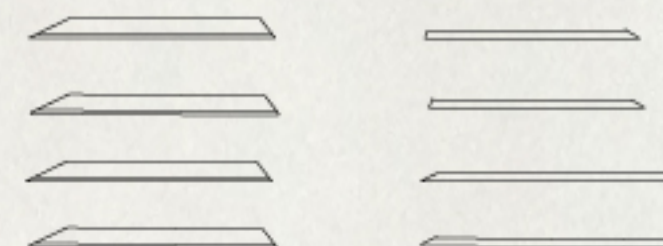
Cross members, of the same material
and dimension of the uprights,
to support the number of boxes and
elements you wish to include.



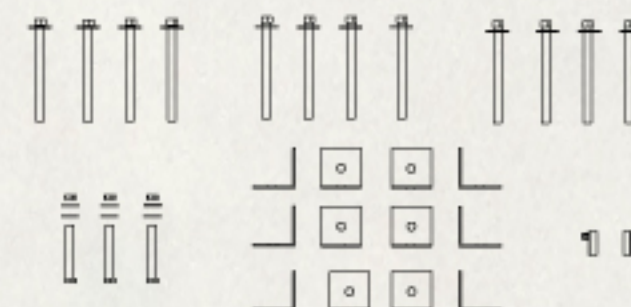
UV resistant plexiglass (polycarbonate),
for fronts and backs of boxes.



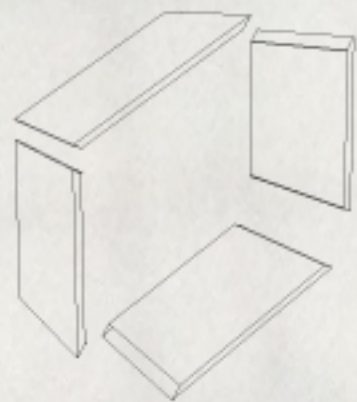
Marine plywood, cut into your preferred
box dimensions.



Angled corner trim to frame the plexiglass box back.
1/2" x 1/2" square wood trim to make a lip on the box front.



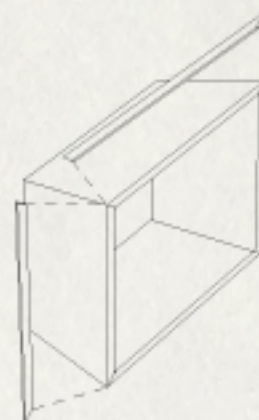
Recommended hardware: 2.5" post mounting brackets
or column sockets (dimension to match your lumber);
1/2" x 6" expansion anchors; bolts, lock washers and nuts
to attach upright lumber to mounting brackets; non-bore
inset glass hinges (usually for stereo cabinets).



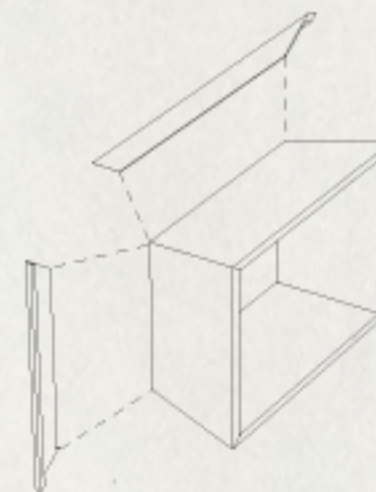
Determine the number of boxes and desired box dimensions (these will also determine the numbers, angles and lengths of your cross members). Restrictions on the blade tilt angle of your saw may help you arrive at these numbers.



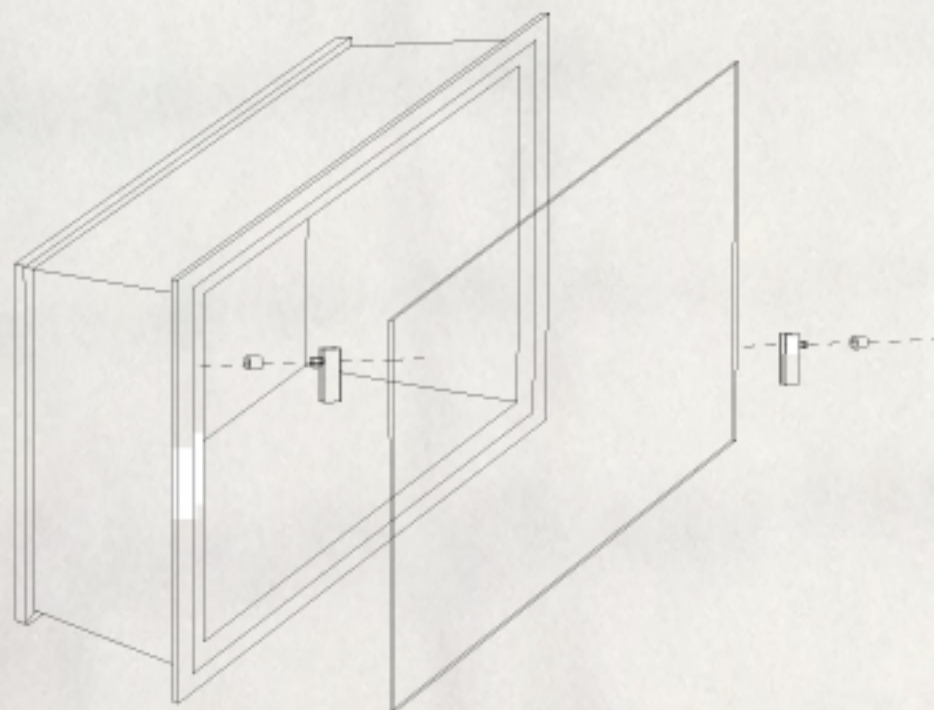
Use outdoor adhesive and brads to construct the plywood box.



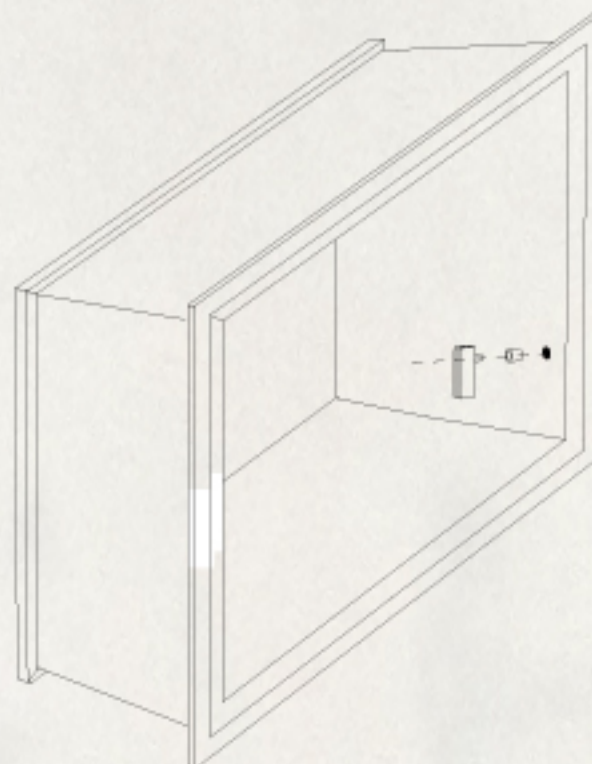
Attach a square dimensioned stock to the all sides of the exterior front rim of the box. This will prevent rain from spilling over the front edge.



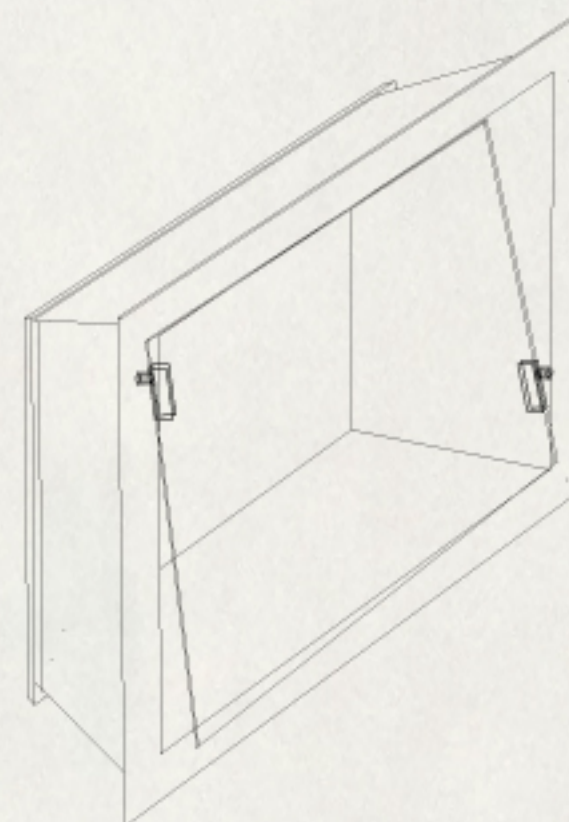
Attach angled corner trim to all sides of the exterior back rim of the box. The angled trim will allow you to set in a plexiglass panel for the rear wall of your box. Use a silicone exterior caulk.



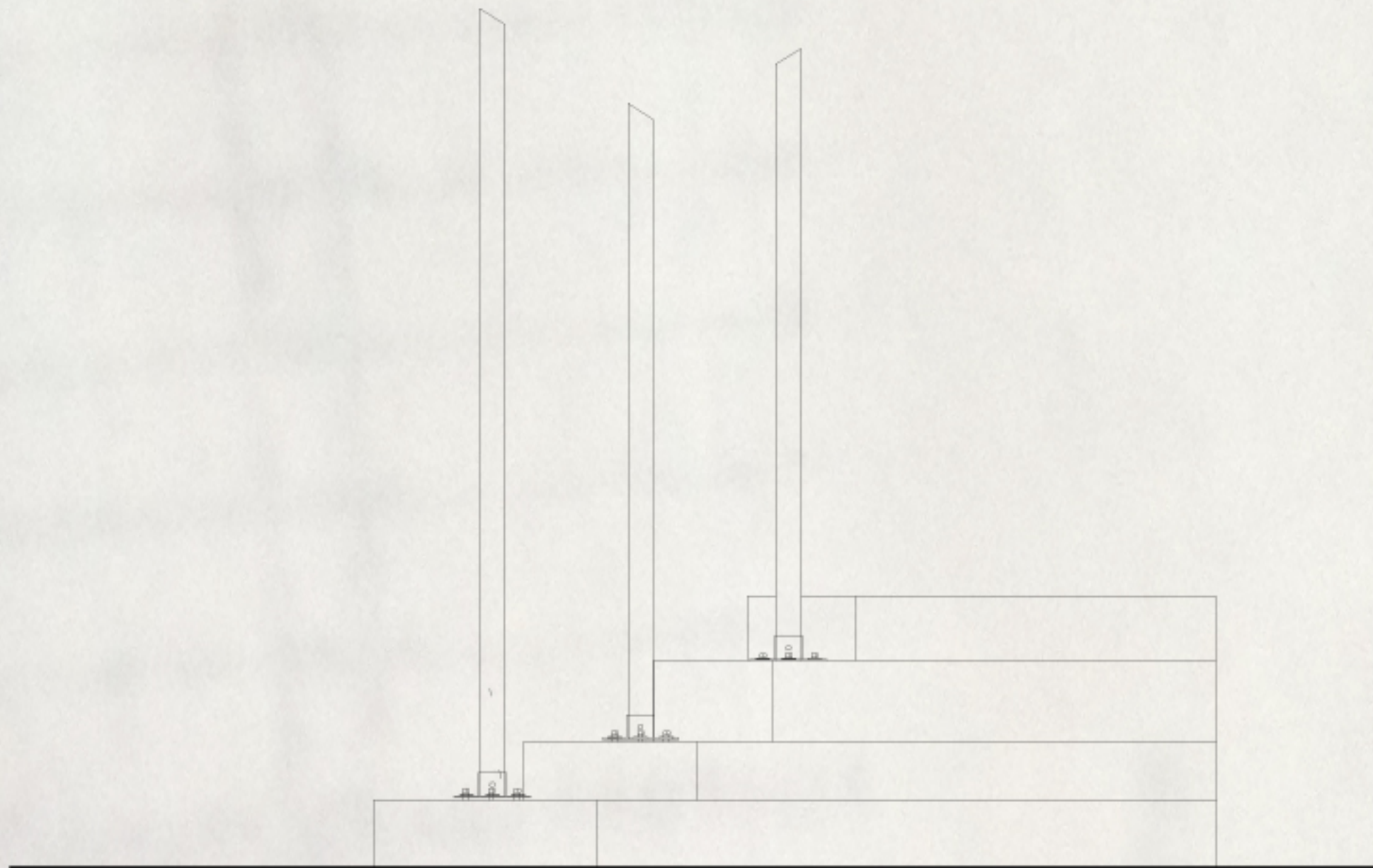
Fit the non-bore inset glass door hinges on the plexiglass door panels. You will need to trim the plexiglass so that the hinge sits flush with the edge of the plexiglass, or allow for the thickness of the hinge when determining plexi size.



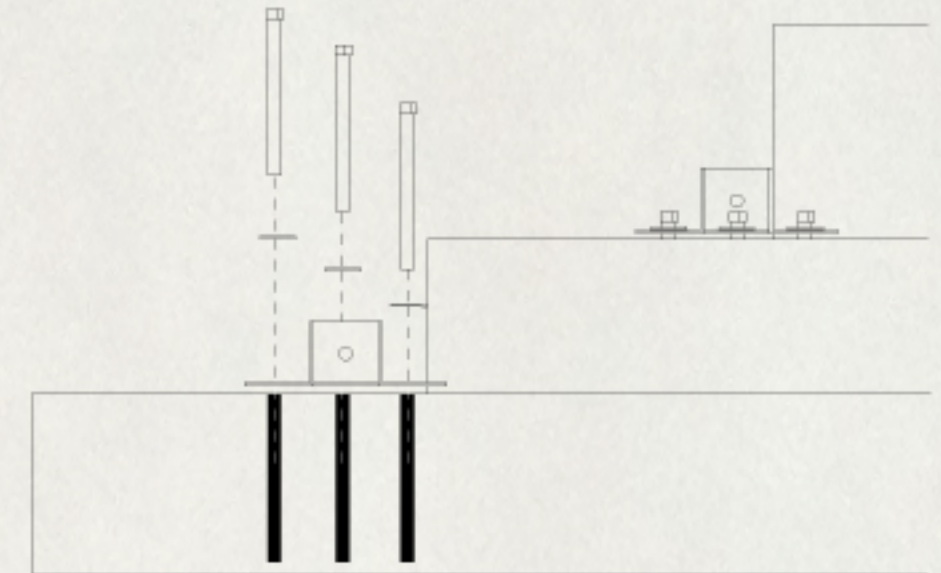
Drill holes to countersink the hinge cups in the plywood box.



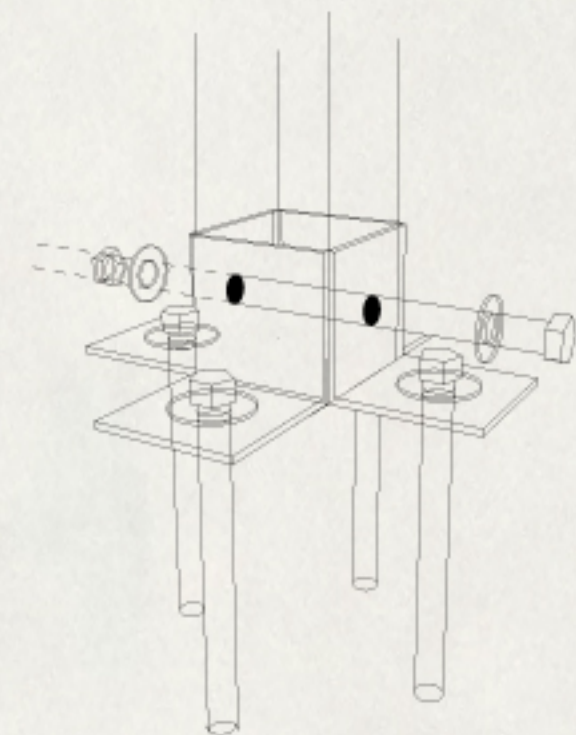
Permanently attach the hinges on the plexiglass, insert the receiving cup into the drilled holes, and gently bend the plexiglass door to snap the pivots into the sockets.



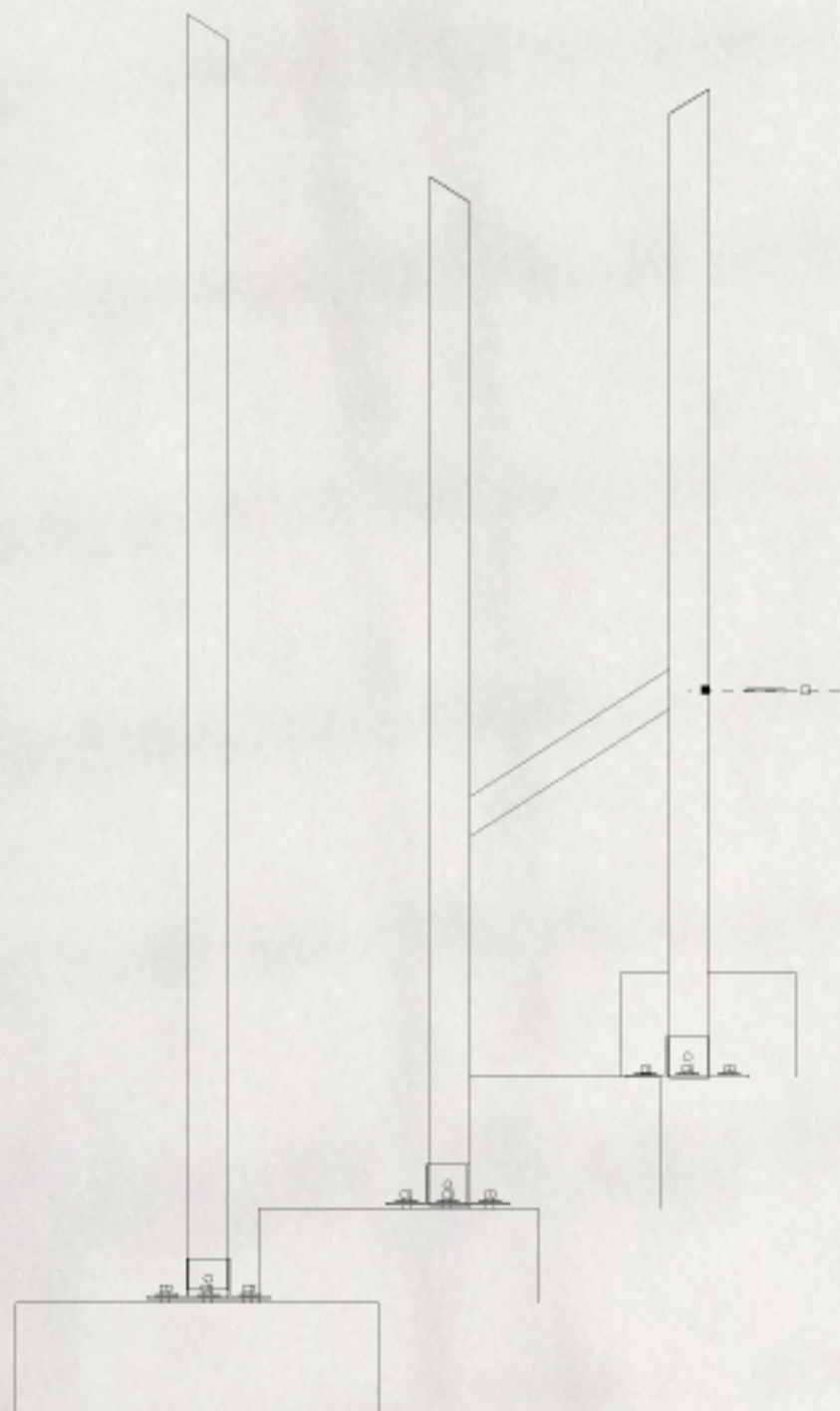
Temporarily attach post brackets or column sockets to upright lumber and mark footprint.



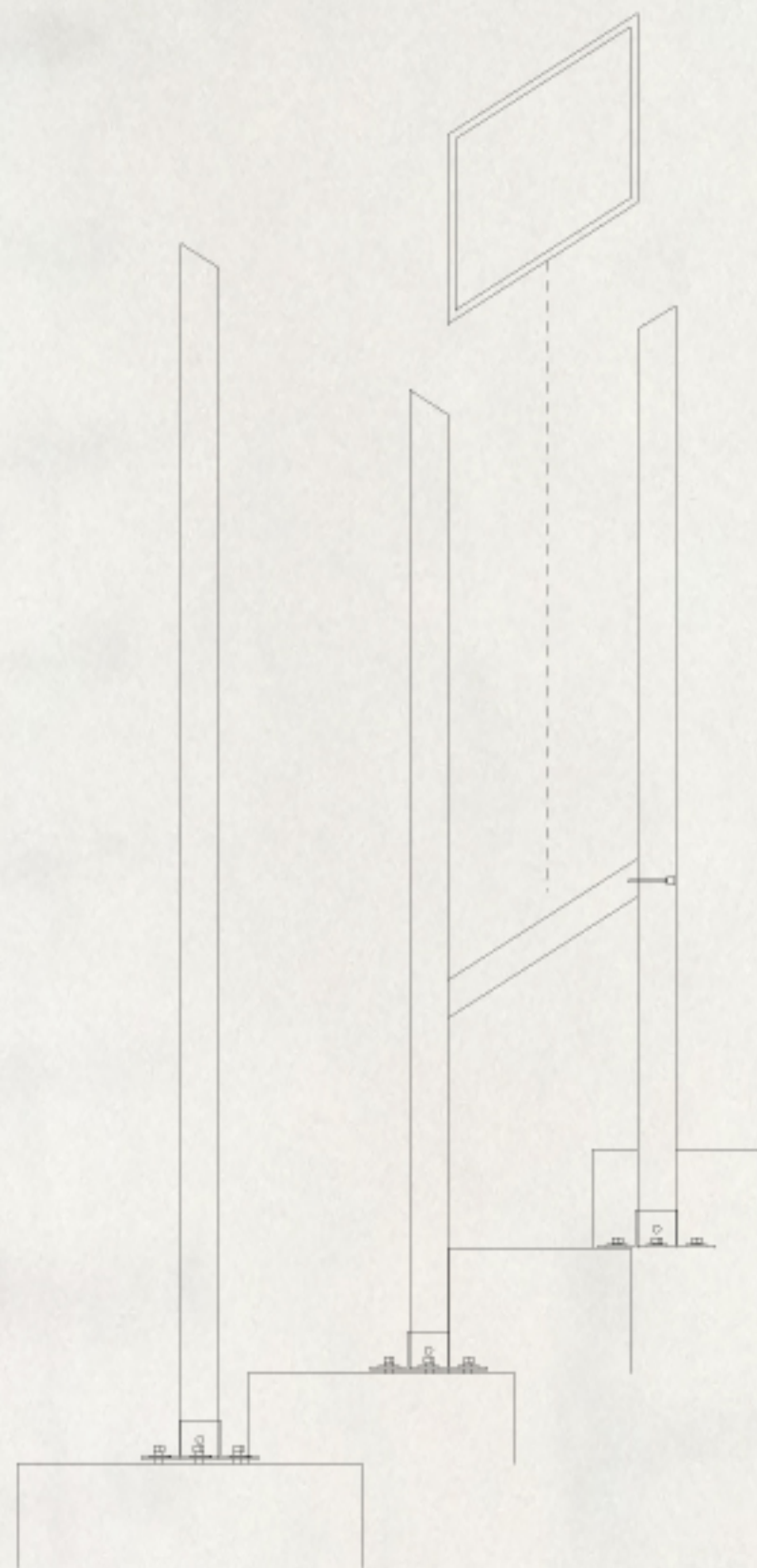
Drill holes and install expansion anchors.



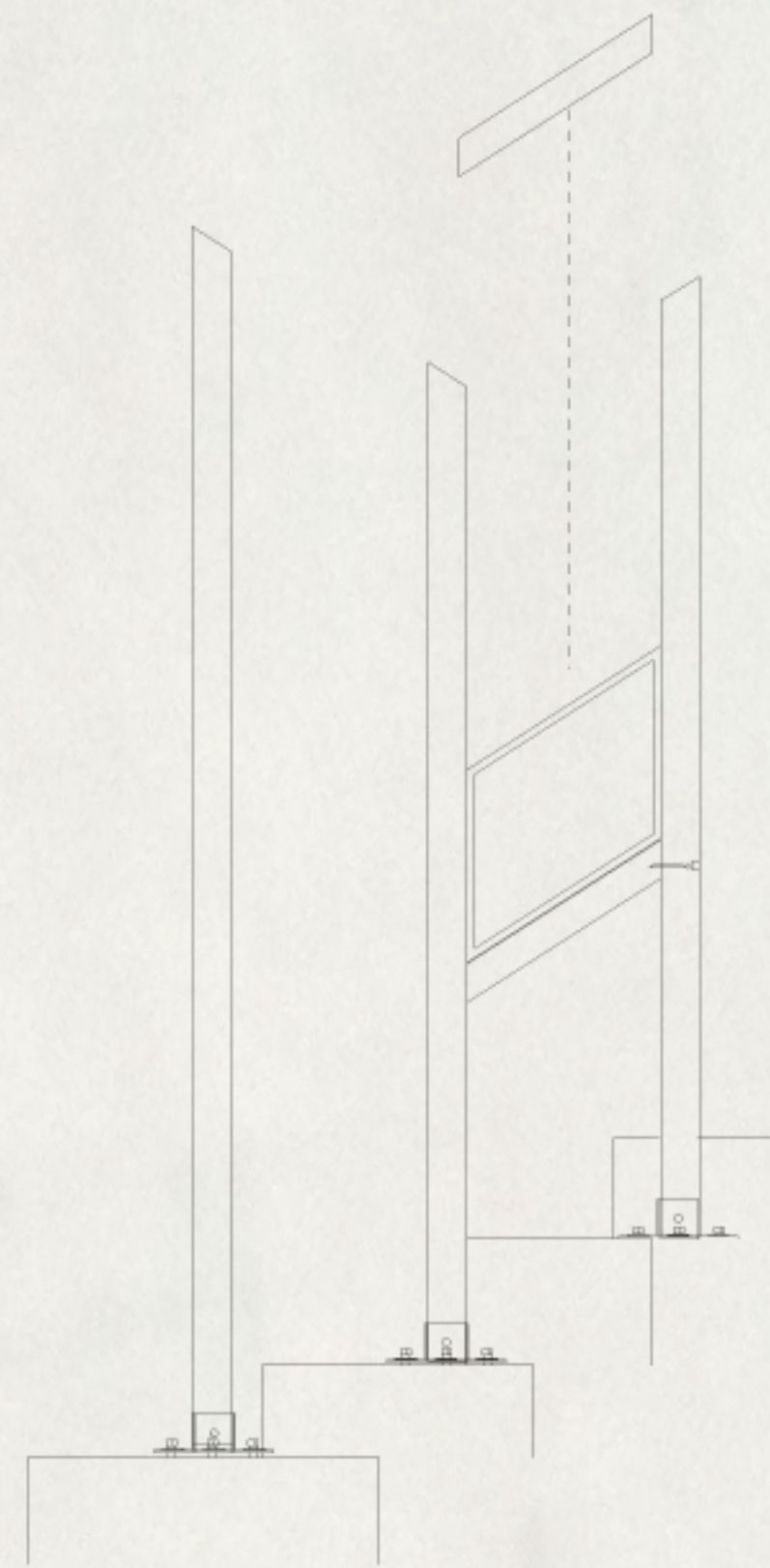
Pre-drill upright lumber pieces and permanently attach to brackets with bolts and lock washers.



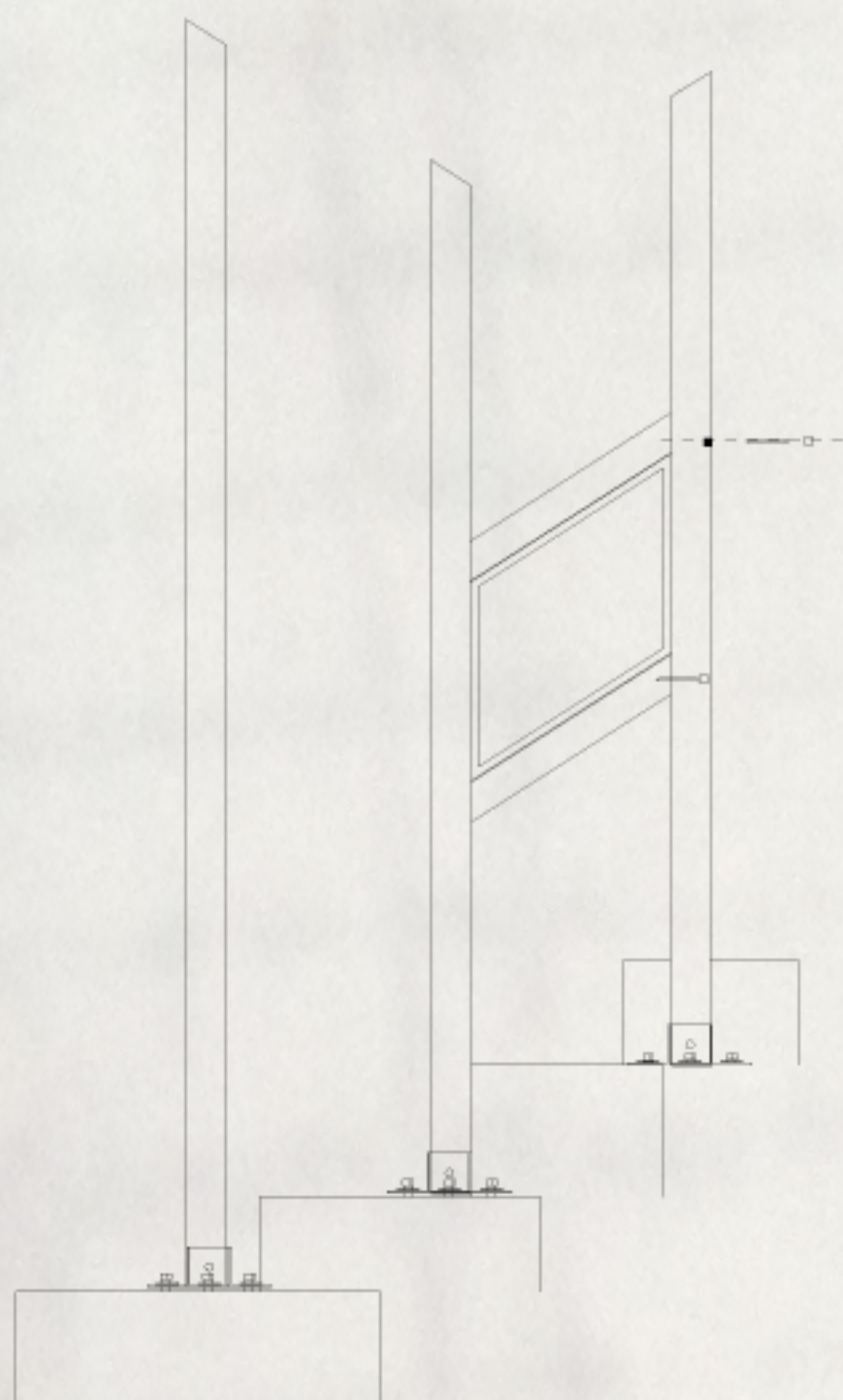
Begin assembly by installing one of the lowest cross members. After applying outdoor adhesive to the ends of the cross member, countersink a screw on the outside of the unit. Fill with adhesive and a flush-cut dowel.



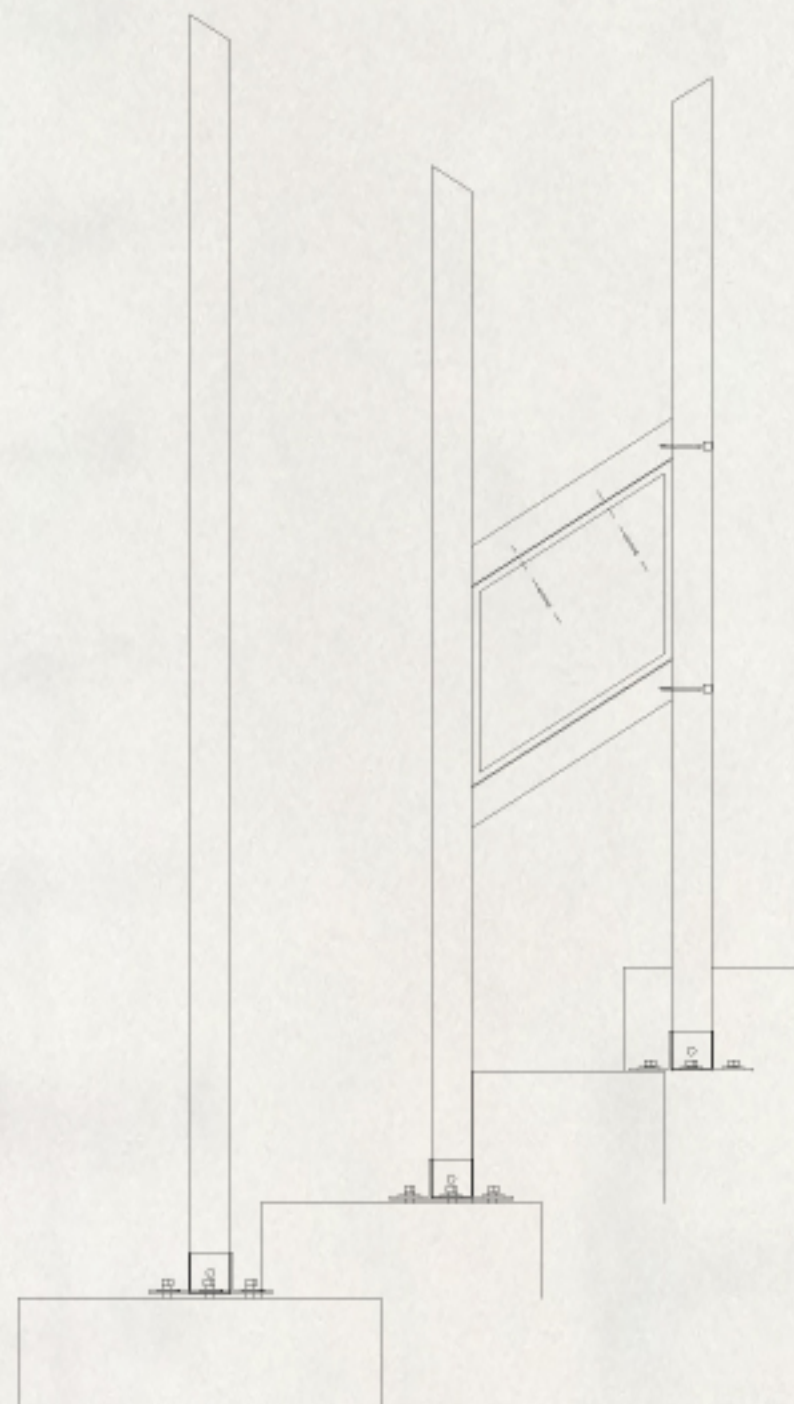
Lower a box into the channel (the trim on front and back of box will require this approach).



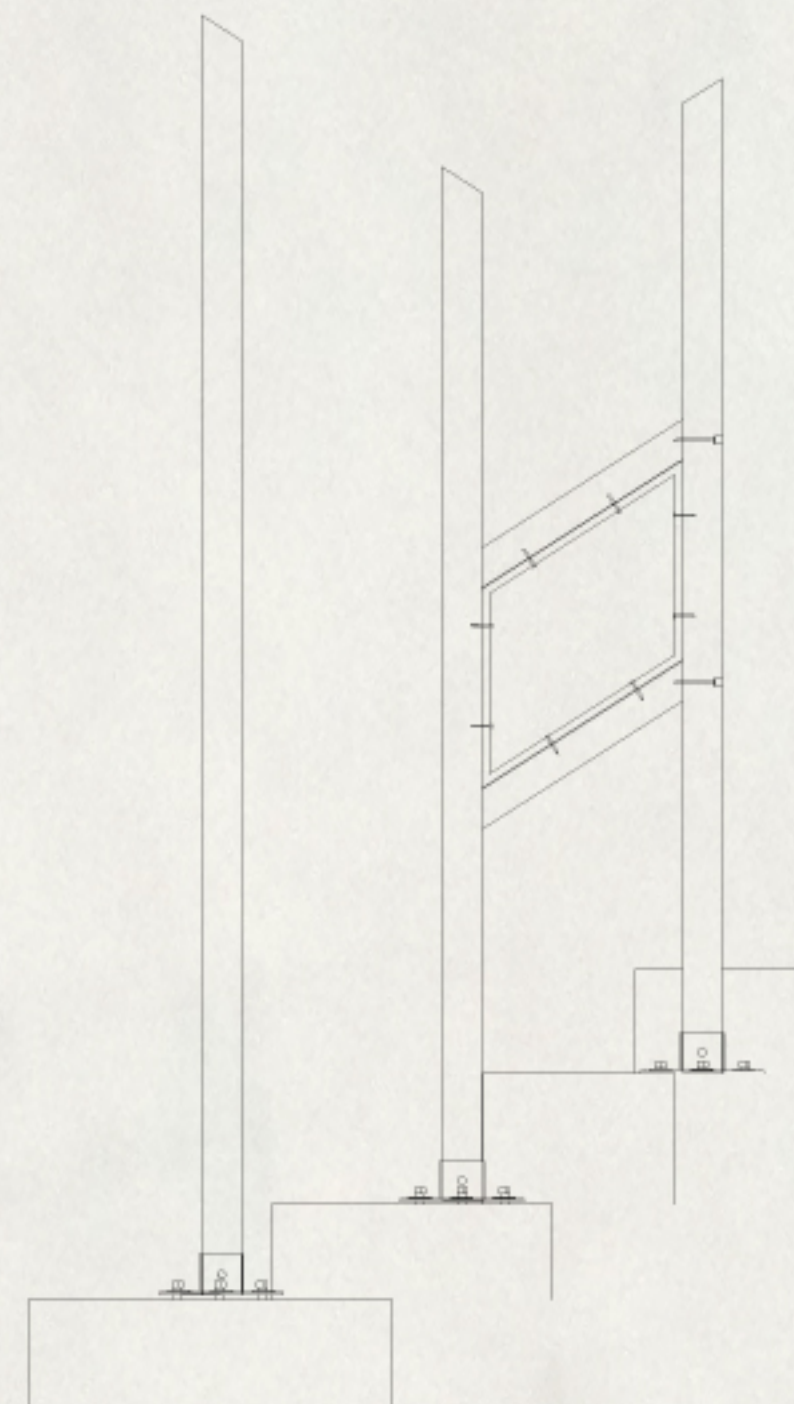
Insert a cross member, applying adhesive to the side in contact with the box, as well as the ends.



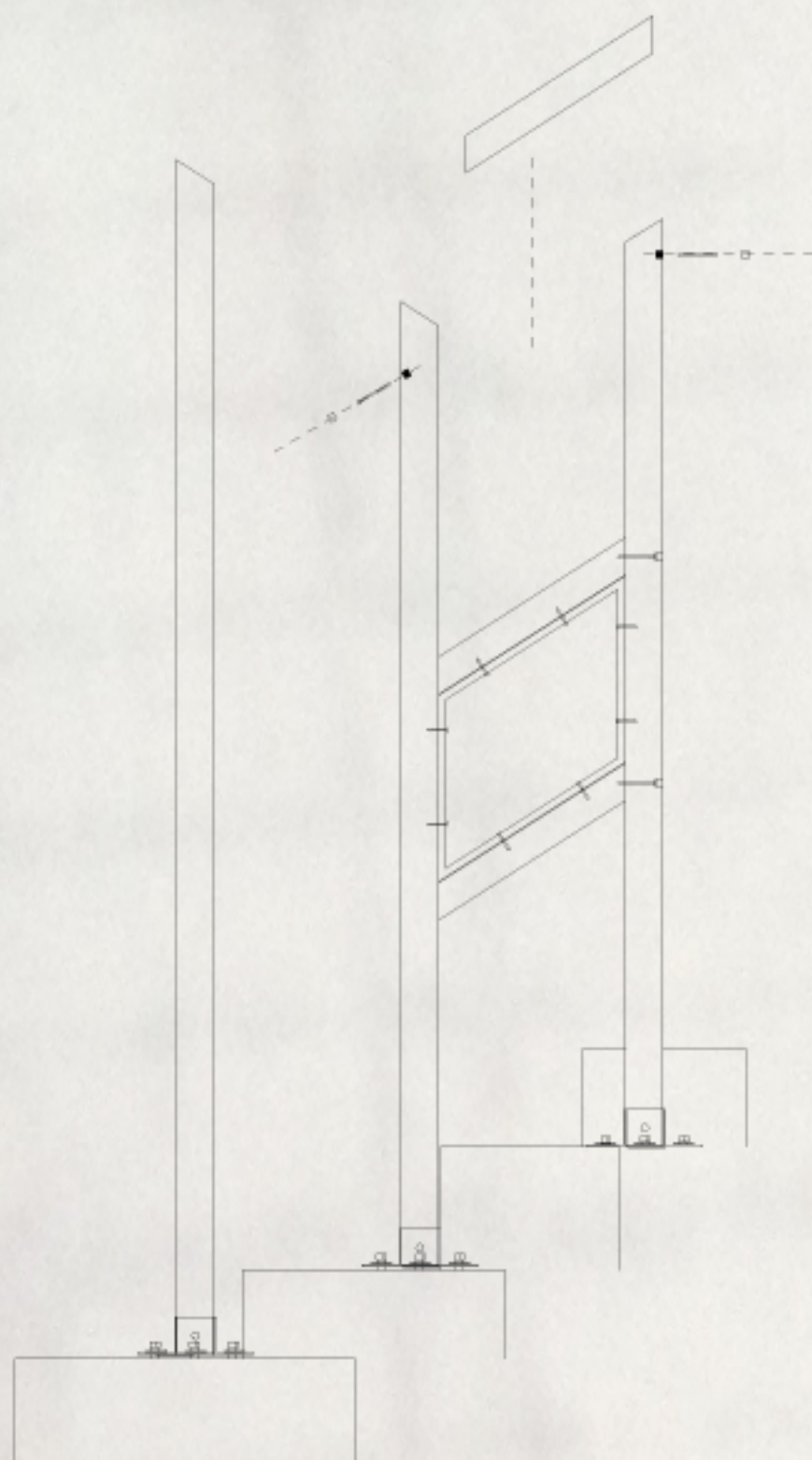
Countersink a screw on the outside of the unit. Fill with a dowel.



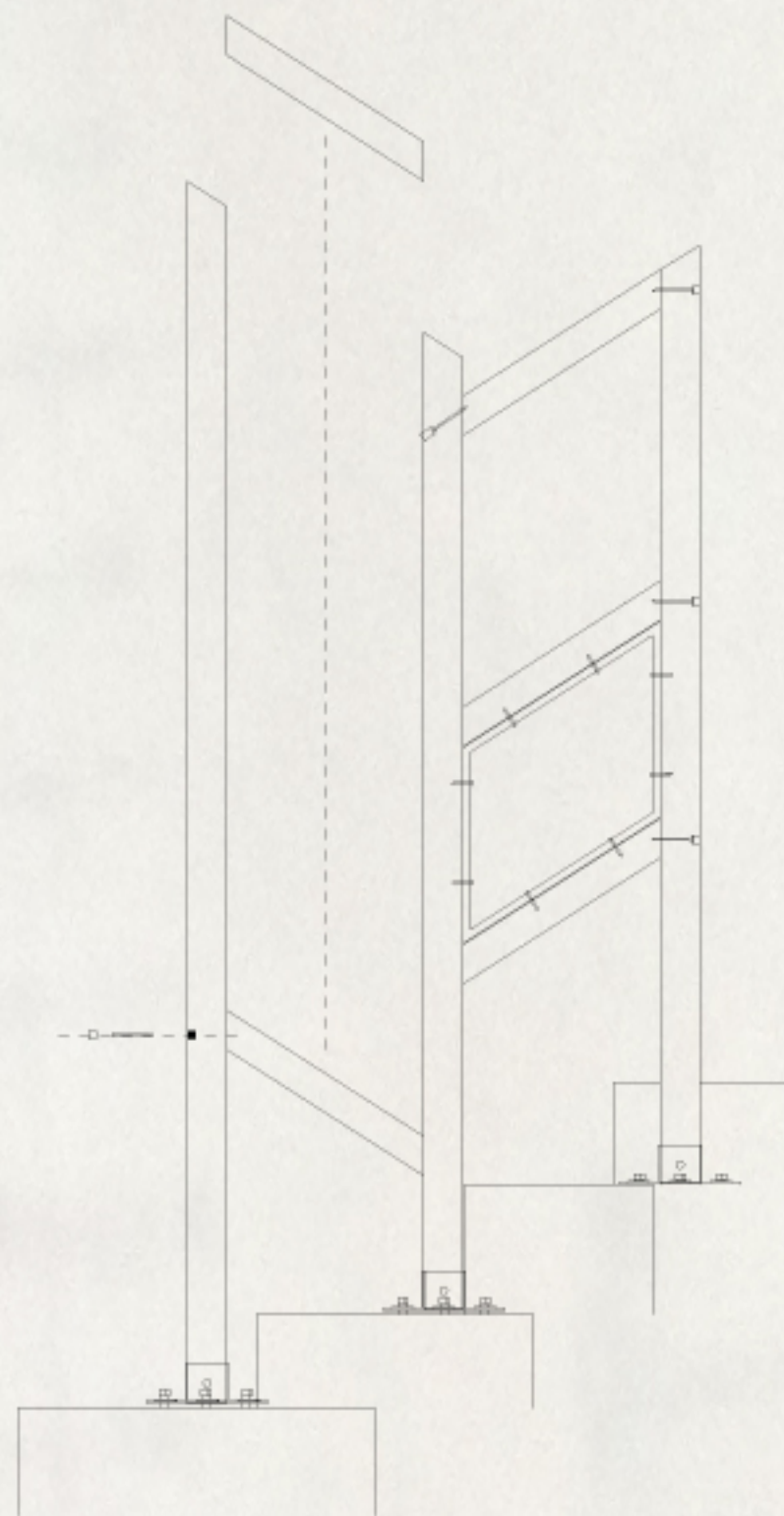
Additional screws installed from inside the box will increase durability and also apply pressure to the cross bar and inside seam while the adhesive sets.



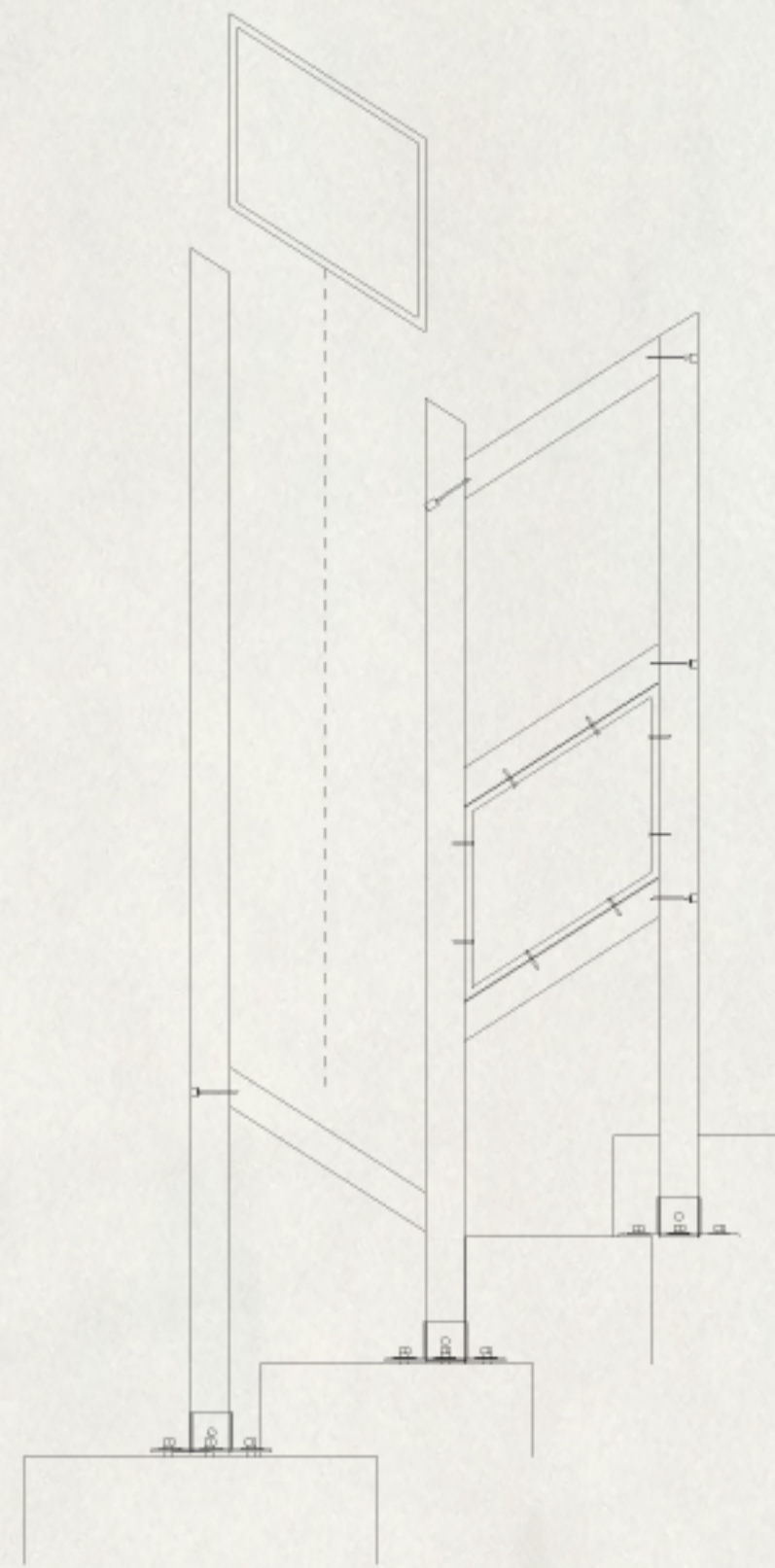
Secure box to cross members as well as uprights.



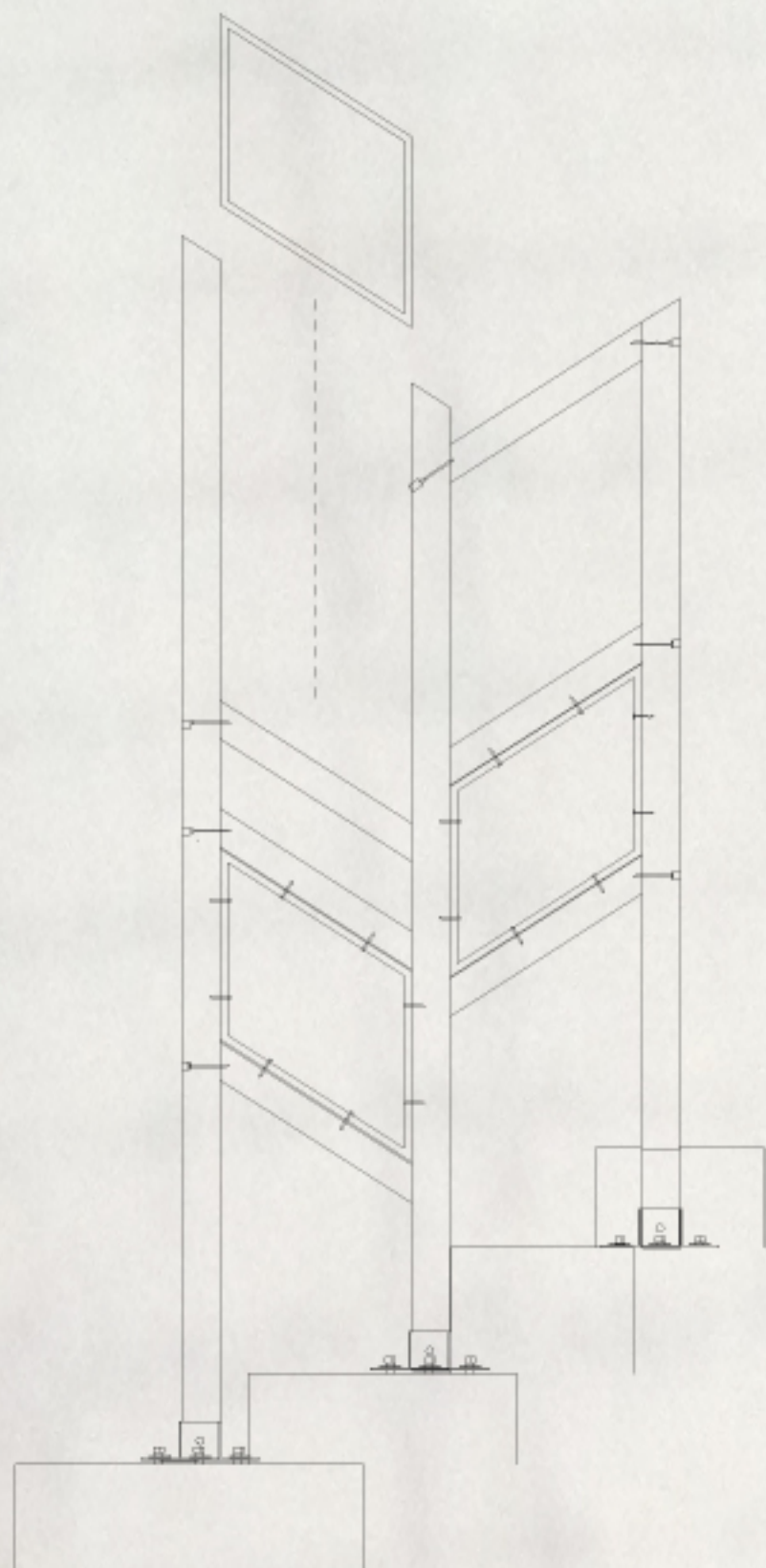
When the desired number of elements have been added, complete the structure by adding the top cross member. Secure with adhesive and a countersunk screw on both sides.



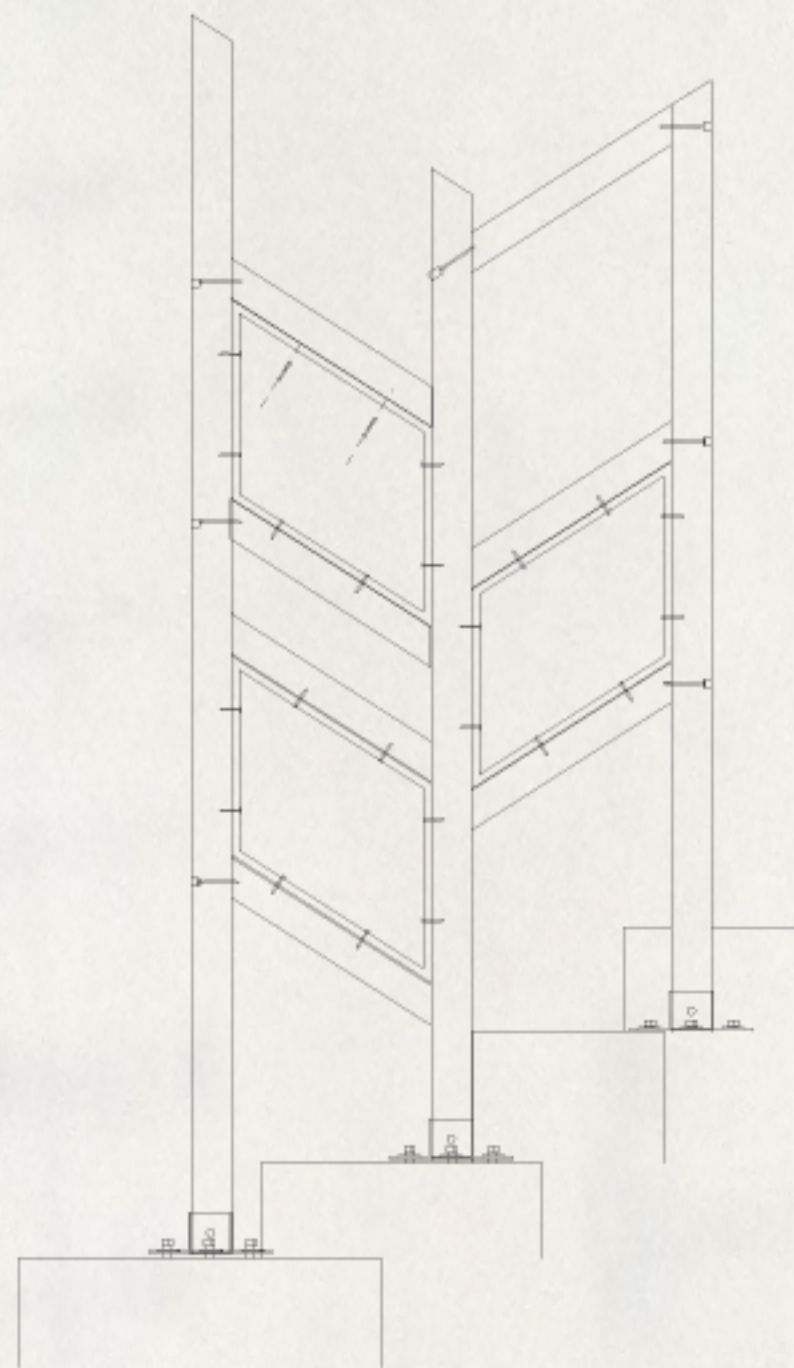
Begin the other side. Use different spacing to allow areas of different sizes to form in your pattern.



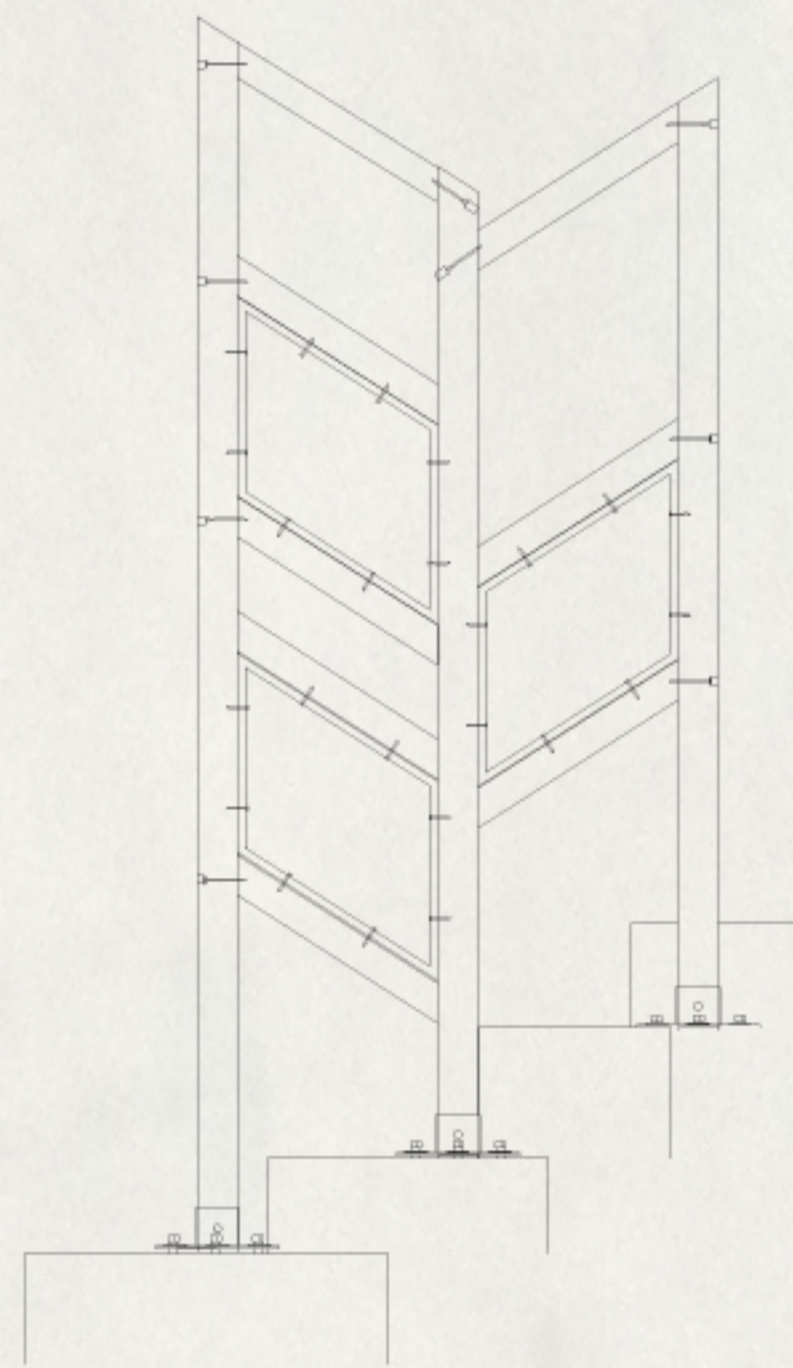
Add a layer of adhesive to top of cross member and attach box.



Asymmetry and flexible spacing create a more dynamic pattern.



The last box is secured on all sides.



The top cross member is installed and the structure is complete.

