

Framed Solution

work in progress

Framed Sea Cow is a structure made to fit a given room in accordance with the numeric measures and features of a skeleton, documented by Georg Wilhelm Steller, of a female Steller's Sea Cow individual killed on 12 July 1742, one year after the species was 'discovered'. The species is considered to have gone extinct by 1768.

The construction is entirely made from industrially identical wooden boards. First, a single board is measured from wall to wall along the longest side of the room. The board is slightly longer than the room itself so that when pushed into place it stays between the walls without additional support such as screws. It is placed at the exact centre of the room, at an equal distance from the walls at the edges, the ceiling and the floor. This is the spine.

The rest of the boards are placed diagonally against the spine. They have been measured and cut to be as long as the distance from the junction of the wall and the ceiling on one side of the room and the junction of the wall and the floor on the other side. The boards constitute a new floor in the room, one that divides the room into two equally large triangular or gable roofed rooms. These are the negatives of each other: one with a ceiling consisting of the original ceiling and one wall, the other with a ceiling consisting of the original floor and one wall.

There is one floor board for each vertebra of the model individual scaled to fit the dimensions of the room.¹ The two negative spaces are dissimulated as the floor is crafted into the skeleton, one vertebra/board at a time. Thus the room is turned into the skeleton inside itself, like a ship built in a bottle.

¹ A room six meters long accommodates a six meter long skeleton with 60 vertebrae according to the individual documented by Steller. In which case each board measures 10 cm across to create a gapless board floor across the room.

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Liquid Solution

A room is filled with seawater.
The water is allowed or made to evaporate
by the means suited to the circumstances of the room
and its placement in the world.

If it is below freezing or dry periods fail to occur,
the sun doesn't shine or isn't allowed to take its time, the water is
boiled.

All the solid that remains after the water has been hurried or waited out
of the room, is collected, assembled into a body and left in the room to
represent a character.

This character dissolves when water,
its liquid hiding place,
is reintroduced.

Pinnace is a cradle for storing a vessel indoors. It is made of individual units that can be fitted together, each one being a U-shape, self-standing on stilts. The size, height and curvature of the parts vary. Pushed together they form a standing seaworthy vessel. Pulled apart in alignment they stand as a support structure for a vessel that matches their collective curvature. The cradle is to be installed in a room that barely accommodates its magnitude. Alternatively it is to be built at a scale that fits the assigned room, thus leaving the absent vessel's appearance dependent on negligence of spatial limits or on a space exceeding vision.

