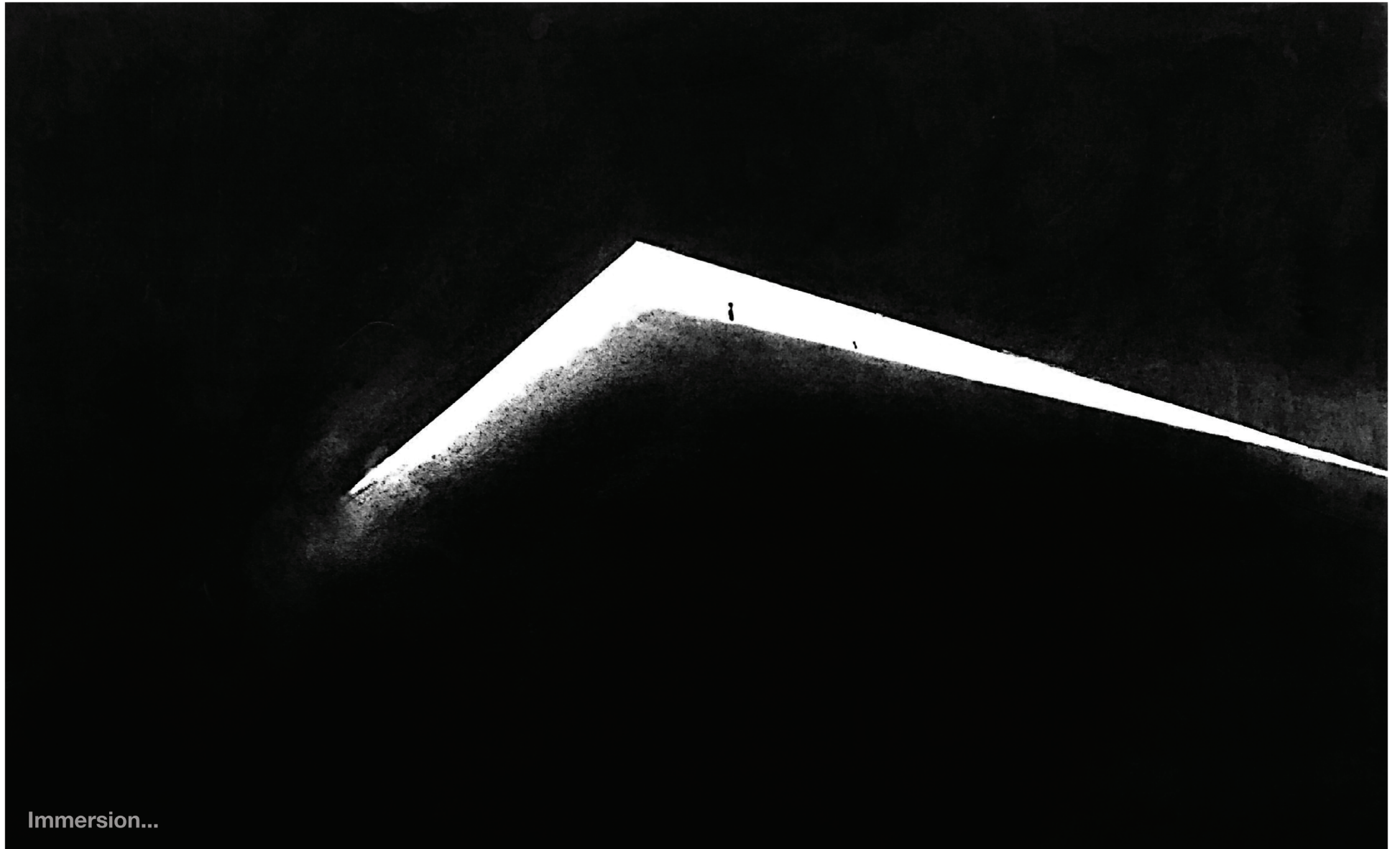


2019 MERIT

Phuong Karen Tran

LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture



Immersion...

Immersion...

/i-märZHen,i-märSHen/

noun

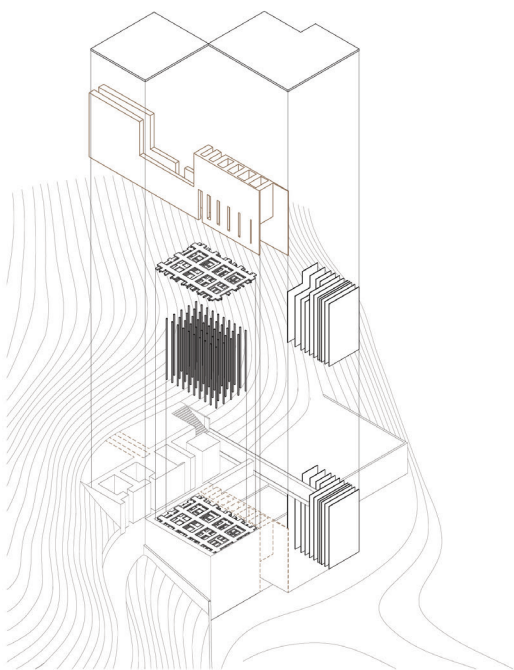
1. to involve deeply; to absorb

Angel Island has a history riddled with discrimination, segregation, and prejudice. Because of its haunting past, a place of escape becomes an essential deliverer of peace and of solitude. In a place plagued with turmoil, Immersion replaces the previous powerhouse as a poetic representation of new beginnings. Imbuing the island with peace, Immersion becomes a wormhole to other dimensions that are odes to the present, the future, and the past.

Immersion spawns from a series of charcoal drawings, studying the elements of darkness and of light. Their interplays formulate new meanings of varying spatial dimensions that provoke innate human emotions. In Immersion, concrete becomes a structural conduit of these dimensions that transverse people from their current states. In the heavy darkness of the concrete, there are emotions of mystery and of curiosity. Darkness is the dimension of the unknown where one is searching and discovering for the known dimensions. This dimension allows for self-discovery while wandering into the abyss of darkness. When light seeps in, the space transforms into a spiritual dimension for the present self and for the forgotten history. The glimmers of light gives a sacred tranquility for an island of brutal history. This sacred tranquility offers lost souls a connection to the cosmos. When light scatters away the darkness, the dimension of the future emerges, representing the pursuit of hidden potentials and the farewells of the past. As the island continues to prosper, there is an acceptance of history, but there is also an embrace for the future.

In these different dimensions, a sanctuary emerges from darkness, light, and human emotions. The poetry does not exist without living souls.





... To Time

The tapering hallway is a portal to other portals and other dimensions. One journeys to moments of tension but can also break free from the rhythmic pattern. Darkness conceals the dimensions, but the light reveals them. Thus, visitors must arrive at the place before understanding the place. The space is composed of heavy boulders until it reveals itself to be slits into the earth as visitors look up to see trees and shrubs. The cascades of light mimic the rhythms of movement as it records the progression of time and of cadence.



Searching The Light | perspective



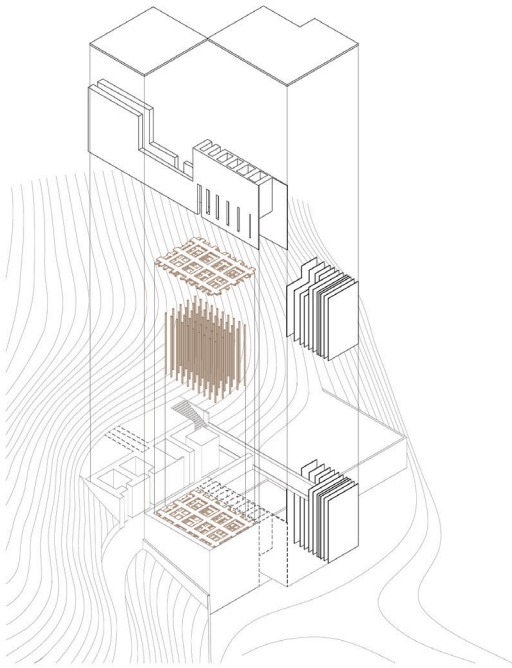
Searching The Light | preliminary charcoal study



Remembering The Past | perspective

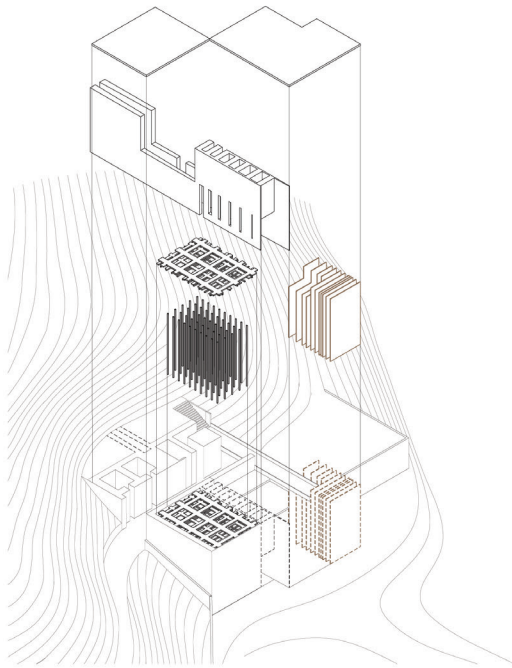


Remembering The Past | preliminary charcoal study



... To The Past

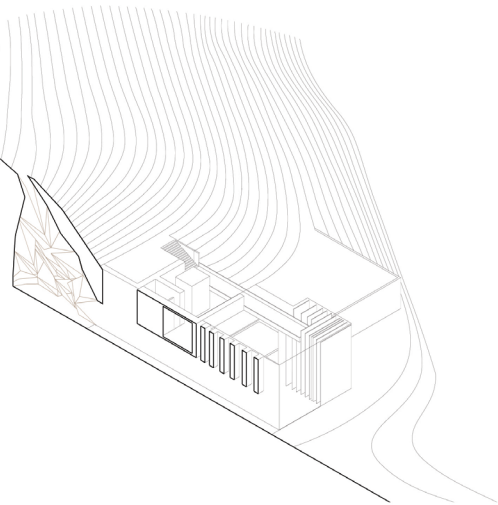
The canopy extends to the earth with 50 different columns. Each column has 3,500 tick marks that represent each of the 175,000 Chinese immigrants who were detained at Angel Island. The space is organized with a grid pattern that is further repeated vertically to create stary lights. Because of its dynamic organization, the space allows for heritage events to occur, and thus merging the past and the present together.



... To The Future

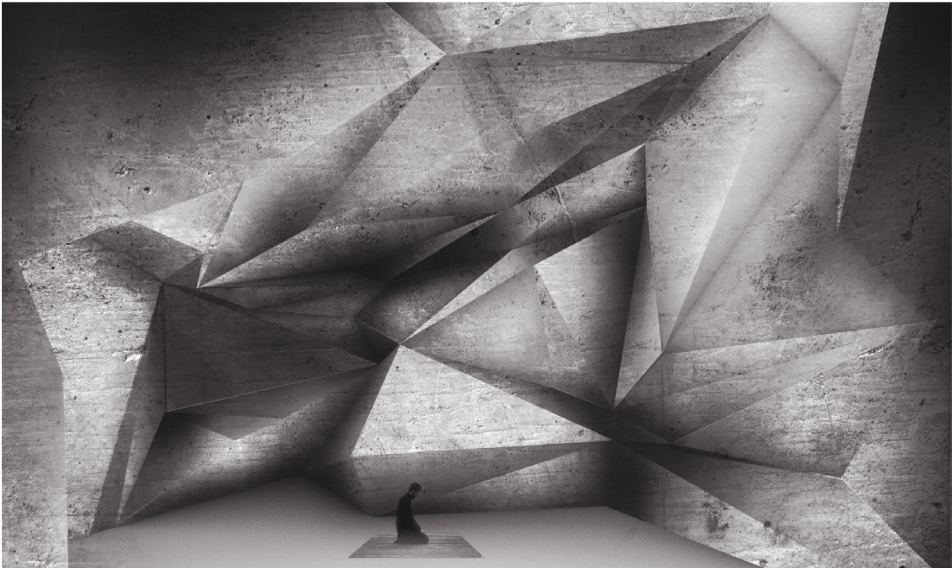
The ceremonial space has a series of glass screens. Light from the sun and ocean reflects on the glass and its prismatic colors infiltrate into the ceremonial space. At night, the glass screens are lit up from the interior light, providing a wash of colors to the night sky. The glass screens create an ambiguous moiré effect in which viewers on the outside can only see glimpses of the interior. Images are engraved into the glass and they are organized according to the timeline of Angel Island. One image cannot be seen without the other images; one moment cannot be seen without the other moments. As occupants walk through the glass screens, they are leaving the past and walking to the future, the sea.



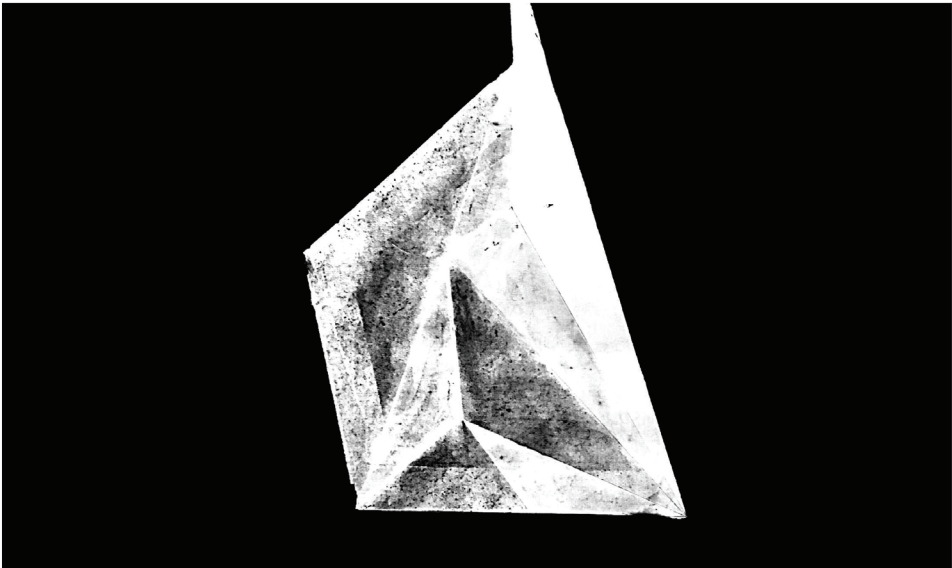


... To Self

Deep in the earth, the cave serves as a palace for occupants to have self reflection and to have a connection to the cosmos. It conceals itself in the darkness until one reaches an ambiguous light in a narrow crevice. They approach the crevice and are enlightened with unearthly lights.



Prayers | perspective



Prayers | primary charcoal study



