2012 MERIT

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LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
An abandoned quarry containing rust stains and drill holes on its surrounding walls became the evidence for an enormous industrial process. One of the most memorable photos of the The Wells-Lamson Quarry shows the derrick towers located on islands with interconnecting cables. These derricks are thin vertical structures which were essential for lifting granite out of the quarry over 500' depth. It is the image of the quarry derrick that inspires my design, which addresses the importance of memory. The design of a suspended structure located on the middle island evokes and expands on the image of the industrial derrick as a tool to simulate history and to bring back the memories of this abandoned quarry.

From a distance the massive structural grid of steel lattices column and beam can be noticed. The structure of the building is exposed, expressing the honesty of its design. Both ends of the structure are suspended off the island creating an experience within the quarry that allows visitors to remember the worker's environment, spatially – both vertically and with respect to their proximity to the granite quarry sides.
The memorial is along a path toward the building. Floors resemble the granites with drill holes to evoke the process of extraction that took place. Walls are built using the fluted granites of extraction.

The vertical component that encloses the artists’ residence acts as the counter weight for the suspended structure. One side of the resident units is exposed in close proximity to the quarry face while the other side overlooks the water.

The water in the quarry will be drained to a lower level, a tall atrium is designed to emphasize the thin vertical space that artists can experience, drawing back their memory of place when there is not much water inside the quarry.