2012 MERIT

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LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
MEMORY & MUSE

Memory is a major conduit for inspiration in art and design. It defines our self-concept and determines much of our understanding of what happens to us. This proposal uses a series of architectural elements designed to both evoke and create memory within a unique landscape condition: an abandoned quarry filled with waters deep and dark, and featureless as the human psyche. Each element is a minimal volume reacting to the natural landscape of the site, built using concrete with aggregates reclaimed from the quarry’s by-product. The buildings become platforms from which users can absorb the scenic aspects of the quarry, as well as peer over the edge into depths of their own experience. Guests are led through the forest, and brought to the lobby of the education center, and immediately confronted with a panorama that suspends them over the quarry waters, with an unobstructed view of the site, memorial, and the mountains beyond. The artist studios bridge accessibility and scale up the western facade of the site, while the residential units act as a series of interconnected float terraced up the mountainside.

At the center of the site is the memorial, serving as a reminder that the quarry is ultimately a scar upon the earth’s landscape, filled in by water, and restored by time. In the same way, memories that were initially muddied on the soil, become the quarries from which artistic expression emerges. The architecture becomes the framework for the evocation, creation, and exploration of memory that will serve as inspiration long after the artist has departed.
SITE PLAN
1. FOREST APPROACH
2. QUARRY OVERLOOK
3. EDUCATION PAVILION
4. SCULPTURE WALK
5. ARTIST STUDIOS
6. ARTIST RESIDENCES
7. MEMORIAL
8. VISITOR PARKING
9. RESIDENT PARKING

ARTIST CIRCULATION
VISITOR CIRCULATION
EDUCATION PAVILION

1. FOREST APPROACH
2. ENTRY
3. PANORAMIC LOBBY
4. INFORMATION
5. BOOKSTORE/CAFE
6. EDUCATIONAL PAVILION

FOREST APPROACH TO EDUCATIONAL PAVILION
MEMORIAL

The memorial serves as a visual anchor in the quarry, linking the architectural elements. It stands as a sculptural void, one final cut into the quarry rock to honor the visitors of the quarry. Clad in weathered metal panelling, the memorial reflects sunlight during the day and shines as a beacon of light during the night.