2019 FIRST PLACE

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ANGEL ISLAND SANCTUARY
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INTRODUCTION

ANGEL ISLAND SANCTUARY

Angel Island Sanctuary is a place for all: curious tourists, young and old immigrants, permanent residents, about-to-be U.S. citizen, or native born individuals. The site welcomes everyone.

The new sanctuary may seem familiar to those who have been here before. That's because each new building is constructed on the original concrete foundations of the pre-1940 immigration center. Thereby the new sanctuary acts as a growth from the past - adapting and evolving from the site conditions, rather than beginning with a tabula rasa.

Nevertheless, many of the other architectural qualities have changed. To begin, the materiality has evolved from a thin wooden construction to a solid in-situ concrete. The new buildings are permanent and resilient to an extended period of time and weather. Because of these qualities, the new sanctuary acts as a monument, which will serve as a reminder of the past immigrants who were once detained here. The sanctuary is reborn as an open air museum, providing lessons to heal past mistakes.

The gabled roof, characteristic of the old immigration centre, is revived in the new sanctuary. The form symbolizes an archetypal place of refuge across myriads of cultures, geographies, and histories. This, in return, gestures a commonality to each and every visitor.

Lastly, the experience itself has been carefully planned. Each building is connected to the next, which creates a clear journey through the grass hills to the ocean. The sequential journey results in spatial changes from dark to light, small to large, and thick to thin. Consequently, the sanctuary provides an universal emotional journey resulting in hope, freedom, and lightness.

The sanctuary is also meant to act as a safe place for immigrants where new connections can form and a sense of community is established. This sanctuary acts as a center for those who are seeking introspection and connection.
The new sanctuary is placed on the historic foundations of the 1913 immigration center. Previously, the site contained a pier, a power house, an administration building, a hospital, detention barracks, and cottages.

The sequence of spaces is represented in this diagram. As one progresses on the journey, the architecture changes in thickness and also in brightness.
1. ENTRANCE TO SANCTUARY
The entrance is placed within the administrative building. On one side, the visitors can receive information about the sanctuary, and on the other an office is placed.

2. DETENTION BARACK MUSEUM
The detention barracks have been transformed into a large open museum space with benches on either side to provide a place of silence and reflection on the detained immigrants.

Photograph of original bunkbeds in the detention barack at Angel Island Immigration Center (1910-1940).
2. DETENTION BARACK MUSEUM
The main focus of the detention barrack museum is the rotating exhibition space. In this illustration (above) a chosen artist has reinterpreted the metallic bunkbeds into a long wooden sculpture.

3. SPACE WITH GLIMPSE OF OCEAN
The next experience within the sanctuary is a space that is dimly lit. A small window, with a view of the ocean and horizon, allows some light to come in. This experience may bring back memories of being at sea for certain immigrants and serves as a moment of contemplation for others.
The following experience is a gathering space, which is a place for sharing memories and telling stories. Visitors are provided with low seating and a view to the ocean. Storage for the furniture is provided within the side wall.

The primary assembly space provides ample seating for a large crowd of people. It functions as the place for the US Citizenship Ceremony as well as smaller community gatherings such as heritage events and cultural lectures.
CITIZENSHIP ASSEMBLY SPACE

During ideal weather, the space opens up to the exterior with large operable doors and windows. Furthermore, the seating is part of the large concrete staircase, which provides excellent views of the ceremony, lecture, and landscape.

Photograph of immigrants walking on the dock at the Immigration Station on Angel Island (1910 to 1940) after a long journey across the Pacific Ocean.

WALK OF MEMORIES

The dock, which is attached to the assembly space, acts as a moment of reflection after an individual has just become a U.S. citizen, rediscovered their roots during a community event, or listened to an inspiring lecture.
WALK OF MEMORIES

The dock has been rebuilt to the same width as the original dock. It is meant to provide a moment of silence and contemplation.

SPACE OF GATHERING

An additional medium sized gathering space is located near the ocean. It will be used for events, discussions, and meetings, and holds 25 to 100 people. Storage is provided for furniture.
This collection of seating is sprinkled throughout the landscape to provide moments of relaxation and intimate conversation. Each moment is different and provides new views of the landscape.

The seating is placed halfway within the topography and thereby embraces the landscape’s abnormalities. Thus, the outdoor seating begins to mimic the architecture, which has similar sculptural qualities.