Protecting Memory

This lighthouse project is both an effort to protect the memory of the 32 lost souls of the Costa Concordia disaster, while reaffirming the most fundamental role of the lighthouse as vital safeguard against the unpredictable forces of nature. In this sense, this project must reckon with the concept of impermanence; both the fleeting nature of memory itself and the unpredictability of nature.

The project starts with the discovery of a small existing ruin on the peninsula as a way of connecting with the forgotten histories of the site itself. This existing structure is connected to the water, following a desire to cast the lighthouse on the threshold between land and sea; closest to the site of the Costa Concordia wreck.

The tall conic exterior of the project is meant to act as a legible symbol to travellers both from sea and from land. Inside the lighthouse sits a rock at the center of the memorial. This large rock is intended as physical re-creation of the rock that brought the ship to its tragic end. On the rock is a plaque with the 32 names. The memorial room itself is markedly different from the exterior. It is irregular, with large eroded stone volumes that stretch to an oculus 67 meters above. This room is open to the sea just outside.