ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Public memorials act as gathering spaces for commemoration and healing for all. As time passes, the immediacy of pain and grief surrounding the tragedy subsides but the memory of the public consciousness should never fade. Memorials continually tell the story of an event and of lives lost long after the first hand accounts have disappeared.

Similar to the hour hand of a clock, the movement of the segments would be unperceivable to the users experiencing the island landscape, yet still effectively mark the passage of time throughout the year for the citizens of Amsterdam. With a simple gesture of movement, the design is able to shift in the fundamental intentions for each use: the act of looking inward to the central sunken axis and forest during time of self reflection and memorial, and in contrast, the act of looking outward to the city and the water during time of activity and leisure. As the island separates, a sheltered forest becomes playful segments surrounded by water. The experience shifts from that of meandering through a forest to one of walking along a thin path fully immersed in views of the city and opportunities to engage with the water.

Arrival and Departure seeks to emphasize the invaluable qualities of a memorial while challenging the conventional idea of a memorial landscape park. The proposed design juxtaposes park and memorial in a continually shifting relationship, that creates a dichotomy of use and meaning. Public memorials act as gathering spaces for commemoration and healing for all. As time passes, the immediacy of pain and grief surrounding the tragedy subsides but the memory of the public consciousness should never fade. Memorials continually tell the story of an event and of lives lost long after the first hand accounts have disappeared.

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