LEGITIMIZING THE SENSES AND PROVOKING EMOTIONS

GREGORY I. MARTIN

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HANS C. ROTT
COMMITTEE CHAIR

JAMES R. JONES
COMMITTEE MEMBER

KAY F. EDGE
COMMITTEE MEMBER

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TO MY COMMITTEE
THANKS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF STAYING WITH THE ORGINAL IDEA INSTEAD OF LETTING ME TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT.

TO MY FAMILY
THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME DURING MY EDUCATION.

TO MY WIFE
THANKS FOR ALL OF THE LOVE AND SUPPORT YOU HAVE SHOWN DURING MY EDUCATION AND THE UNDERSTANDING WHEN I HAD TO WORK LATE ON MY PROJECT. IT’S PAID OFF.
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ABSTRACT

THIS THESIS WAS A STUDY OF A STRUCTURE THAT LEGITIMIZED THE SENSES AND PROVOKED EMOTION BY CREATING DIFFERENT EXPERIENTIAL CONDITIONS.
"MOST ARCHITECTURE IS SITUATION"
- HANS C. ROTT

"THIS ARCHITECTURE IS EXPERIENTIAL"
- AUTHOR
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ADDING A PIECE OF ALLURING ARCHITECTURE TO AN OVERLOOKED COMMUNITY PARK IN A SMALL TOWN ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO VISIT THE PARK AND EXPERIENCE THE STRUCTURE’S PURPOSE WHILE ENJOYING NATURE.
THE HERITAGE PARK AND NATURAL AREA IS 169 ACRES OF OPEN FIELDS AND ROLLING HILLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NATURE AND WILDLIFE VIEWING. THE PARK IS HOME TO THE DECOMMISSIONED BROWN FARM LOCATED ON GLADE ROAD IN BLACKSBURG, VA.
IN THE RUINS OF THE BROWN FARM STAND VARIOUS BARNs AND OUT-BUILDINGS AND TWO DILAPIDATED SILOS.

THESE TWO SILOS WERE THE INSPIRATION FOR THE STUDY OF CONFINED VERTICAL SPACES AND VERTICAL MOVEMENT.

STANDING INSIDE THE ROOFLESS SILO MADE ME AWARE OF THIS UPLIFTING VERTICAL SPACE THAT I WANTED TO INTENSIFY IN MY PROJECT.
A SERIES OF WINDOWS CLIMBING THE INSIDE WALL OF THE SILO CREATED A DESIRE TO EXPERIENCE THE VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND TRUE HEIGHT OF THE SILO.
THIS PROJECT IS FIRST INTRODUCED AS A SINGLE TOWER SITTING ATOP ONE OF THE HIGHEST HILLS NESTLED IN THE TREELINE NORTHEAST OF THE DECOMMISSIONED BROWN FARM AT HERITAGE PARK.
THE HANDRAIL IS ERGONOMICALLY DESIGNED AND IS LOCATED 3 FEET ABOVE THE NOSE OF THE STEP.
The second experience is the tunnel with its hidden entrance within the treeline, north of the tower. As the visitor is introduced to the tunnel entrance he is drawn into the large opening by a light at the end of the tunnel. Walking towards the light, the length of the tunnel is made apparent by the inclined floor. In addition to the inclined floor, the ceiling and walls taper in to impart a sense of compression as he walks toward the light. As he reaches the end of the compressing tunnel, there is a sudden release of pressure as he stands in this intimate interior vertical space of the tower filled with light.
ALONG THE WEST WALL OF THE TUNNEL, THERE ARE THREE OPENINGS LEADING TO THREE SEPARATE CHAMBERS.

THE CHAMBERS ARE DESIGNED TO BE SMALL ROOMS WHICH ARE INTENDED TO GIVE A MOMENT OF PAUSE OFF THE PATH OF THE TUNNEL. WITHIN EACH CHAMBER THERE IS A DIFFERENT SENSIBLE EXPERIENCE.

THE LEFT CHAMBER ENHANCES THE SENSE OF HEARING BY CREATING A SYMPHONY OF MUSICAL NOTES AS WIND BLOWS ACROSS THE DIFFERENT PIPES WHICH EXTEND THROUGH THE CEILING OF THE CHAMBER ABOVE GROUND TO VARIOUS HEIGHTS.


There are two types of formwork which make up one unit of the twelve units of the tower. The formwork is constructed of separate panels for ease of assembling and disassembling for the multiple castings.

Each wall of the exterior formwork is made of five panels, with the widest panel of 4 foot being in the middle followed by two 3 foot panels then two 2 foot panels, sandwiched between each panel is a 1 inch slat that reveals a pronounced joint in the formwork.

Attached to the inside wall of two parts of the exterior formwork is the stair formwork. This formwork is constructed of two main parts: the lower portion of the stair “treads” and the upper portion of the stair “headroom”. In the formwork for the headroom there is a quarter of a hemisphere placed in the corner which resolves an awkward corner transition.

Each wall of the interior formwork is assembled the same way as the exterior but consists of three 2 foot wide panels and two 1 foot wide corner pieces.
CONCRETE MODEL

1-\(\frac{1}{3}\) " SCALE MODEL
1-½" SCALE MODEL
CONCLUSION

THE WAY PEOPLE UNDERSTAND ARCHITECTURE IS BY HOW THEY EXPERIENCE IT.

BY INTENSIFYING THE EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ARCHITECTURE PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO EMBRACE THE EMOTIONS AND EXPERIENCES CREATED BY IT.

ALLOWING PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE ARCHITECTURE AT THEIR OWN PACE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF IT.
CREDITS

HANS C. ROTT QUOTE FROM STUDIO CRITIQUE
NOVEMBER 2ND, 2007

ALL DRAWINGS, MODELS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS
BY AUTHOR
APPENDIX A

CHARCOAL STUDIES AND WOODEN MODEL SHOWING CONCEPT OF PROJECT.
SKETCHES AND MODELS SHOWING THE INITIAL TOWER AND TUNNEL.
APPENDIX A

DRAWINGS AND MODEL SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT
APPENDIX A

MODELS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STAIRS AND HANDRAIL