

ABSTRACT

Title of Thesis: SUB CULTURAL RIFT: AN AFFIRMATION
ON AMERICAN SOCIAL CONFLICT

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Planning, and Preservation

Whether in equilibrium or imbalance, social conflict is inherent in any dynamic society, particularly in American culture. More recently it is apparent that social conflict in America is entering a phase of uncompromising imbalance where ideological differences between opposing social entities and their actions have created a noticeable 'rift' within the American strata. As a perpetual force, conflict is part of the social fabric that creates a dynamic society, however the effects created by any internal conflict can be extremely detrimental to entities on either side, more importantly to the society in its entirety. The result is an open wound in the social realm of the American culture that is being further contaminated. This thesis looks to materialize American social conflict in the form of an inhabitable monument by means of externalized social experiences to promote National awareness. It will seek to acknowledge the current state of American social strife and the underlying issues prevalent in the American social construct. Socially driven architecture will provide a stark reality regarding underlying American social issues for the public to reflect and meditate on the realities of modern America as well as their own lives as they begin to identify with those afflicted.

SUB CULTURAL RIFT:
AN AFFIRMATION ON AMERICAN SOCIAL CONFLICT

by

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Acknowledgements

Those afflicted.

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Chapter 1: American Social Conflict

The Issues

By the Numbers

In society today, it is apparent that social conflict in America is entering a phase of uncompromising imbalance. Social issues that were once covert topics in American society are now becoming overt within the public realm for open criticism and acknowledgment. There are many topics in the social realm that have made their way into the dominion of public scrutiny. Racial injustices are extremely prevalent in the American social fabric, in the form of economic, political, legal, and physical violence. Regarding economic inequality, racial and gender wage gaps in the U.S. remain, even as they have narrowed in some cases over the years. Among full and part time workers in the U.S., blacks in 2015 earned just 75% as much as whites in median hourly earnings and women earned 83% as much as men. Looking at gender, race and ethnicity combined, all groups, except for Asian men, lag behind white men in terms of median hourly earnings, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data (Figure 1.1). White men are often used in comparisons such as this because they are the largest demographic group in the workforce – 33% in 2015.¹

¹ Patten, Eileen. “Racial, gender wage gaps persist in US despite some progress,” Pew Research Center, Last modified July 1, 2016, <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/07/01/racial-gender-wage-gaps-persist-in-u-s-despite-some-progress/>.

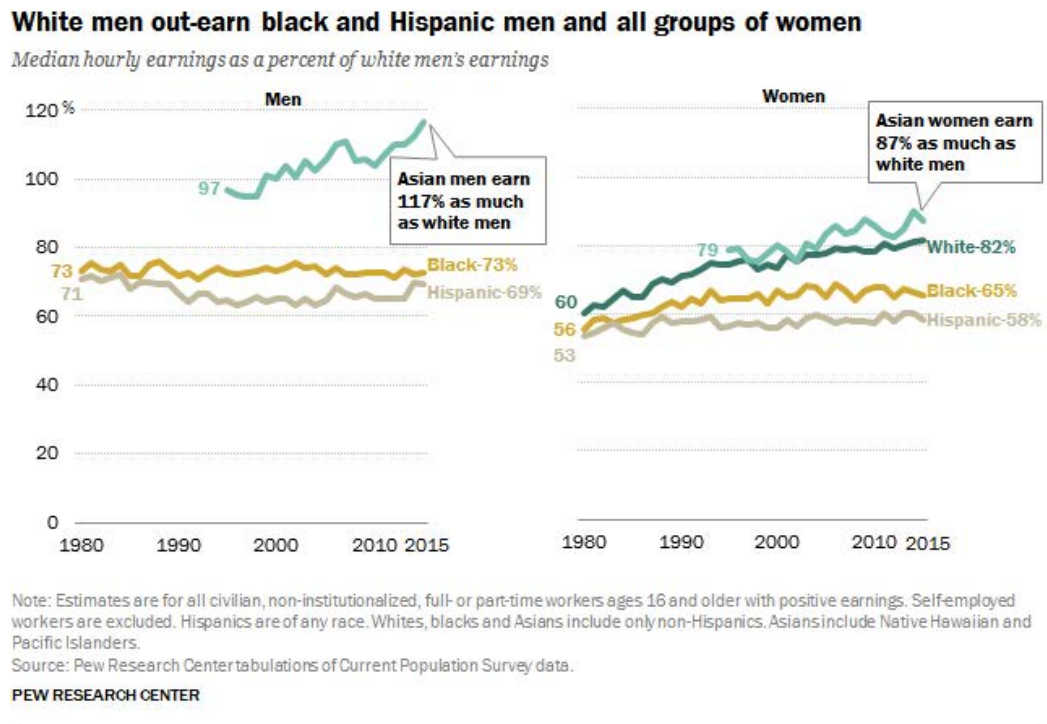


Figure 1.1, White men out-earn black and Hispanic men and all groups of women, 2015
(Source: Pew Research Tabulations of Current Population Survey data)

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, one in three black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetime.² A report by the Department of Justice found that blacks and Hispanics were approximately three times more likely to be searched during a traffic stop than white motorists. African Americans were twice as likely to be arrested and almost four times as likely to experience the use of force during encounters with the police.³ Individuals of color have a disproportionate number of encounters with law enforcement, indicating that racial profiling continues to be a problem. More specifically, physical and legal violence such as The Freddie Grey

² Lyons, Christopher J, and Becky Pettit. "Compounded Disadvantage: Race, Incarceration, and Wage Growth." *Social Problems* 58, no. 2 (2011): 257–280.

³ Eith, Christine, "Contacts between Police and the Public, 2008" US Department of Justice, Last Modified: October 2011, <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpp08.pdf/>.

case, and the Walter Scott shooting apart from countless others, have created an uproar within the black community, as well as the American social strata. A traffic stop in North Charleston South Carolina in 2015, by police officer Michael Slager would eventually end in the murder of Walter Scott. During a struggle over Slager's stun gun, Scott would eventually try to run away, in the process getting shot 3 times in the back after 8 shots were fired. Evidence showed that Slager used extreme lethal force that was unnecessary in relation the situation. Despite many attempts for sentencing, the case ended in a series of mistrials (Slager was eventually sentenced to 20 years in 2017).

Adding to the turmoil already felt by the Walter Scott case, the physical violence upon Freddie Grey would add to the increasing backlash against police brutality. Freddie Gray was arrested by the Baltimore Police Department for possessing an illegal knife under Baltimore law. Due to police negligence and mistreatment during his subdual and transfer Gray suffered a severe spinal injury while riding in the back of a police van which would eventually lead to his death a week later on April 19, 2015. Officials said Gray was angry and talking when he was first put in the van but was not breathing when he arrived at the police station. The two officers charged were the murder of Gray were however acquitted due to a hung jury.⁴ Grays death in addition to the outcome of the trial spurred massive uproar and protests in Baltimore, MD and eventually rioting over the debate on police brutality of black men. Due to

⁴ Hermann, Peter. "A Freddie Gray primer: Who was he, how did he die, why is there so much anger?" The Washington Post, Last Modified: April 28, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/04/28/a-freddie-gray-primer-who-was-he-how-did-he-why-is-there-so-much-anger/?utm_term=.828c31a9ac86/.

these injustices and many others over the years, modern activist groups such as the Black Lives Matters movement, have come into being set on a mission which is to build local power and to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. They affirm the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, undocumented folks, folks with records, women, and all Black lives along the gender spectrum.⁵ These cases, which involved excessive police abuse, mistreatment of black men, and murder stimulated appropriate responses of protests and public demonstrations. In retaliation to the creation of Black Lives Matter, All Lives Matter was created stating the importance of all lives, unlike Black Lives Matter which they “suggest”, overlooks the importance of other people. Simply put, the term All Lives Matter looks dismiss the reality of racism through denial and ignorance (Figure 1.2).

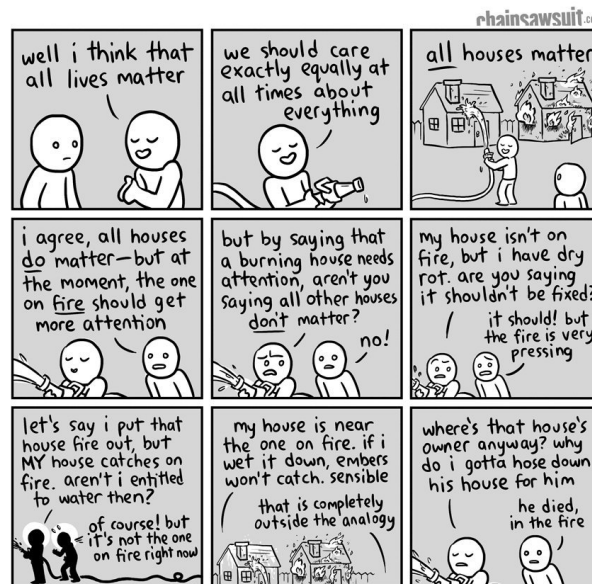


Figure 1.2, All Houses Matter, 2016
(Source: Kris Straub)

⁵ “Build Power,” About, Black Lives Matter, Accessed: May 5, 2018, <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>.

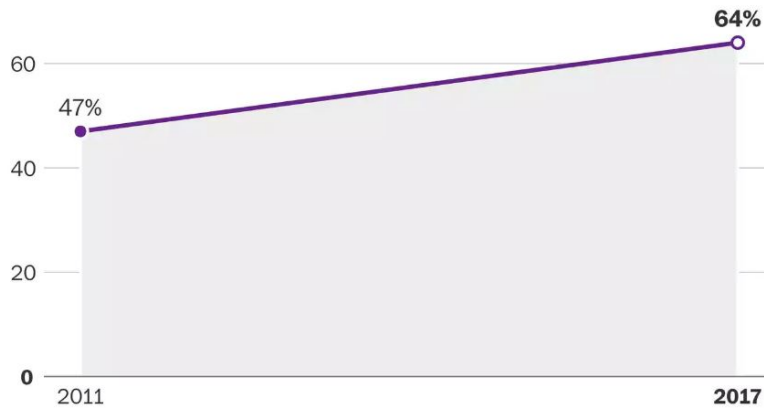
Alicia Garza, co-creator of Black Lives Matter states, "#BlackLivesMatter doesn't mean your life isn't important – it means that Black lives, which are seen without value within White supremacy, are important to your liberation."⁶ Politics have also played a major role in amplifying these social conflicts, specifically by comments made by President Donald Trump, during his presidency as well as his rise to office. Another major struggle within the American social fabric are gender issues, ranging from workplace sexual harassment and campus rape culture to LGBT alienation. In the United States, about 1 in 3 women (36.3%) experienced some form of sexual violence during their lifetime. Approximately 1 in 5 women in the U.S. (19.1%) experienced rape at some point in life.⁷ Based on a Washington Post-ABC News poll, many Americans now say that sexual harassment in the workplace is a "serious problem" in the U.S (Figure 1.3). This increase in the acknowledgment of the issue has coincided with the rise in several prominent harassment and assault cases.

⁶ Garza, Alicia. "A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement." The Feminist Wire. Last Modified: October 7, 2014. Accessed: May 5, 2018.
<http://www.thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>.

⁷ Black MC, Basile KC, Breiding MJ, Smith SG, Walters ML, Merrick MT, Chen J, Stevens MR. "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report." Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2011. 32.

Sharp increase in Americans who say sexual harassment of women in the workplace is "serious problem"

Q: Do you think sexual harassment of women in the workplace is a problem in this country or not? If problem: Is that a serious problem, or not serious?(% saying "serious problem")



Source: Oct. 11-15 Post-ABC News poll with error margin of 3.5 points among U.S. adults.
EMILY GUSKIN/WASHINGTON POST
(Leah Binkovitz)

Figure 1.3, Sexual Harassment of Women in the Workplace, 2015
(Source: Post-ABC News Poll)

There has been much controversy in the news regarding high profile individuals such as Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein where more than 20 women, including well known Oscar winners like Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow have come forth to share their accounts. In recent years we have also seen accusation against comedian Bill Cosby, Fox News chief executive Roger Ailes and Fox anchor Bill O'Reilly. Several women also accused Donald Trump of unwanted groping. Trumps demoralizing views on women were reaffirmed once a leaked tape captured Trump bragging about sexually assaulting women, saying that he can do whatever he wants to them because he's famous. Trumps states, "Grab them by the pussy [...] You can do anything." The revealing of the tape would be the catalyst in series of women

claiming that Trump had acted inappropriately.⁸ This would also spur the conversation on workplace sexual harassment and provide the motivation for other women in workplace situations to speak out. Regarding workplace sexual harassment cases, about 8 in 10 women who experienced unwanted advances involving work considered it sexual harassment, where over 3 in 10 considered it sexual abuse. When women were asked about unwanted sexual advances they considered inappropriate inside or outside their workplace, a staggering 54 percent majority of women said it's happened to them (Figure 1.4).⁹

Over half of women cite unwanted sexual advances from a man, including 3 in 10 from a coworker

(AMONG WOMEN) Q: Have you ever received unwanted sexual advances from a man...



Source: Oct. 11-15 Post-ABC News poll with error margin of 4 points among national sample of 740 women.

EMILY GUSKIN/WASHINGTON POST

(Leah Binkovitz)

Figure 1.4, Unwanted Sexual Advances, 2015
(Source: Post-ABC News Poll)

⁸ Desta, Yohanda. "How Donald Trump's Access Hollywood Tape Led to Hollywood's Sexual Misconduct Reckoning." Vanity Fair, Last Modified: October 9, 2017, Accessed: May 6, 2018, <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2017/10/donald-trump-access-hollywood-harvey-weinstein/>.

⁹ Gibson Caitlin, Emily Guskin. "A majority of Americans now say that sexual harassment is a 'serious problem.'" The Washington Post, Last Modified: October 17, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/a-majority-of-americans-now-say-that-sexual-harassment-is-a-serious-problem/2017/10/16/707e6b74-b290-11e7-9e58-e6288544af98_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.490a0e0c1136/.

In addition to sexual harassment, sex violence on campus has begun to reach epidemic levels. Studies have shown that during the first year of college, 1 in 7 women will have experienced incapacitated assault or rape. 1 in 10 women will also have experienced forcible assault or rape.¹⁰ Considering the topic is one which is taboo in nature, acknowledgment of the reality of campus rape in America is extremely necessary in to introduce proper resolutions. A major event relating to campus rape and unjust outcomes was the Brock Turner case. Brock Turner was convicted of assault with intent to commit rape of an unconscious intoxicated, and penetration of an unconscious and intoxicated person. “You don’t know me but you’ve been inside me...” is a stark message from the Victim to Turner. Although turner had been caught in the act by 2 bystanders, a California judge's made a decision to give Brock Turner, a former Stanford University swimmer a six-month jail sentence for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. The judge, Aaron Persky states, “A prison sentence would have a severe impact on him. I think he will not be a danger to others.”¹¹ Turner would eventually go on to spend only 3 months in a California Jail for the rape of an unconscious woman. This of course created widespread outrage across College campuses throughout America calling for a reassessment on campus rape statistics and prevention. Some victims can endure the harsh brutality which has been incurred. For others however, once their body has

¹⁰ Carey, Kate B, Sarah E Durney, Robyn L Shepardson, and Michael P Carey. 2015, “Incapacitated and Forcible Rape of College Women: Prevalence Across the First Year,” *Journal of Adolescent Health* 56 (6): 678–80.

¹¹ Emanuella Grinberg, Catherine E. Shoichet, “Brock Turner released from jail after serving 3 months for sexual assault,” CNN, Last modified: September 2, 2016, <https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/02/us/brock-turner-release-jail/index.html>.

been sexually violated, life is simply not worth living. A very sacred and private part of the body has been invaded which can make an individual never feel complete again.¹² The Turner case and its outcome has not only been construed as a gender issue but also brings into question the realism of white privilege. This due to ‘Stanford University photos’ as well as sentencing photos after the incident (Figure 1.5) being used, instead of an original mug shot, the same day of the incident (Figure 1.6).

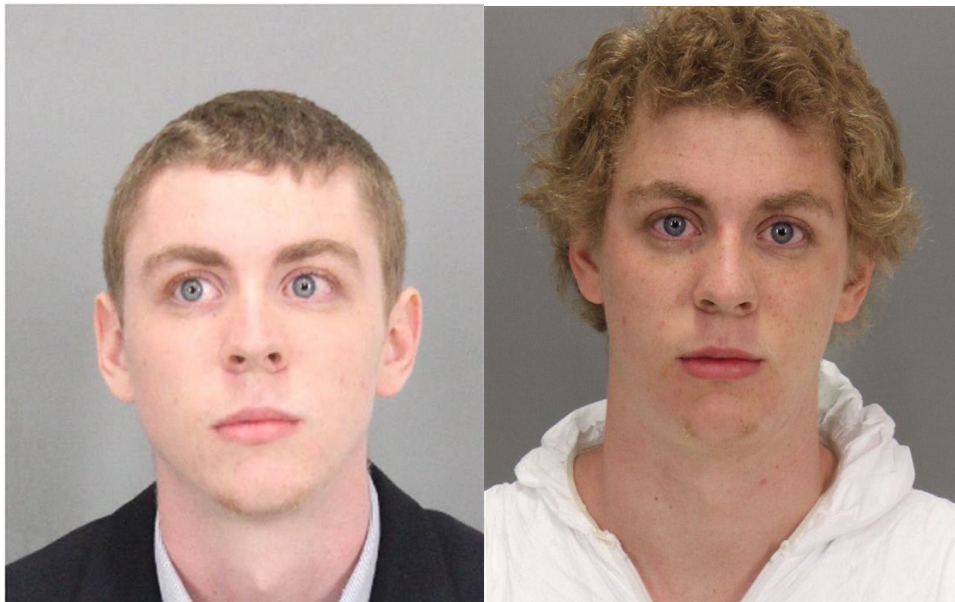


Figure 1.5 (Left), Brock Turner in a sentencing photo, 2015
(Source: Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office)

Figure 1.6 (Right), Brock Turner Original Mug Shot, 2015
(Source: Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office)

Another prominent controversy in American social fabric is LGBT+ and their wants to be accepted and recognized for who they really are. Additional issues that have

¹² Kelly Dawn Askin, “War Crimes Against Women: Prosecution in International War Crimes Tribunals,” The Hague: Kluwer Law International, 1997, 73.

surrounded the controversy is military involvement, public bathroom and locker room rights, hate crimes, workplace discrimination, and societal and familial alienation, just to name a few. A new nationally representative survey of 1,197 LGBT adults offers testimony to the many ways they feel they have been stigmatized by society (Figure 1.7).

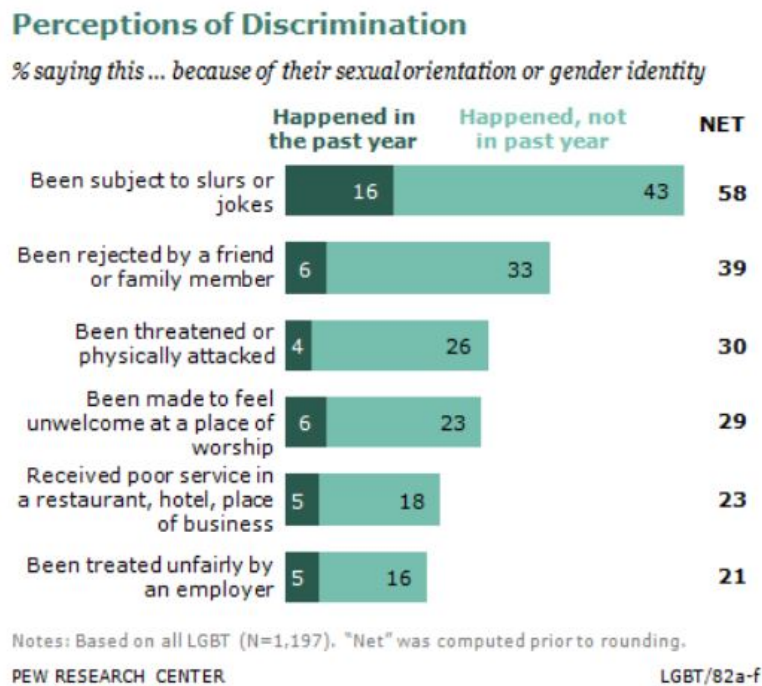


Figure 1.7, Perceptions of Discrimination, 2013
 (Source: Pew Research Center)

An estimated 3.5% of adults in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and an estimated 0.3% of adults are transgender. This implies that there are approximately 9 million LGBT individuals who in America.¹³ Regarding hate crimes against LGBT Americans, “LGBT people are targeted for violent hate crimes at a rate

¹³ Gates, J. Gary, “How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender,” The Williams Institute, Last modified: April 2011, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-How-Many-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf>.

of two times that of... Muslims or black people, four times that of Jews, and 14 times that of Latinos.”¹⁴

Unlike LGB having the freedom to serve in the armed forces openly due to the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell in 2010, discrimination toward transgender individuals in the military has also been a major point of the debate. The 2016 policy change by the Obama administration which allowed transgender military personnel to serve openly has received much backlash from the administration under president Trump, ordering a ban on transgender people serving in the military in 2017 which was blocked by the courts. Eventually he would try again in 2018 with new rules, allowing some exceptions to the ban that include people who have been "stable for 36 consecutive months in their biological sex prior to accession," servicemembers who "do not require a change of gender" and troops who started serving under the Obama administration's policy prior to the decision.”¹⁵ On the debate of transgender rights, the transgender movement looks to challenge the norm in society that suggests that one's gender is determined by the sex organ in which they are born with. The movement advocates that a person's sex should be determined by how a person feels. Their argument is for the acceptance and recognition for who they really are suggesting that people shouldn't be confined by stereotypical expectations of how males and females are supposed to be. Due to the lack of official acknowledgment of transgender people there has been a lack of legal protection within the U.S. The

¹⁴ Greve, Joan. "LGBT America: By the Numbers," PBS, Last Modified: 2016, Accessed: May 6, 2018, <http://www.pbs.org/weta/washingtonweek/blog-post/lgbt-america-numbers>.

¹⁵ Tatum, Sophie. "White House announces policy to ban most transgender people from serving in military," CNN, Last Modified: March 24, 2018. Accessed: May 6, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/23/politics/transgender-white-house/index.html>.

federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Education have recently taken steps to include transgender people under existing non-discrimination protections, however, there is still no comprehensive non-discrimination law that includes gender identity. According to the Human Rights Campaign's 2014 State Equality Index, only 19 states prohibit employment and housing discrimination based on gender identity. Only 18 states prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodations; and only 16 states prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in education. There has also been debate on public bathroom usage in terms of prohibiting transgender people from accessing public bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity.¹⁶

It is important to note that all these issues within the American social stratum have made their way into the American political realm. Not only is there a significant divide between opposing entities on the issues mentioned, but there is also a much larger divide within the country regarding the liberal approach and the conservative approach. The social issues prevalent in America today are major points in the debate between those who identify with major parties such as democrats or republicans. Although there are entities that are not directly impacted by major social conflicts today such as white or male privilege, in all cases, social conflict directly and indirectly effects all entities that are involved. Regardless of your action or lack of action, you are either benefitting from the situation or not. These conflicts can be very

¹⁶ "Understanding the Transgender Community," Human Rights Campaign. Accessed: May 6, 2018, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/understanding-the-transgender-community/>.

real and disheartening to those being afflicted whether the justification in their goal has merit or not.

Struggle Portrayed

Although a description by the numbers has its own way of providing an understanding of only a few of the social issues occurring today, a graphical portrayal of the cases across America can also begin to shed light on the issue in a different manner. The following graphical interpretations of social conflict across the Nation begin to depict a sense of tainting across the American social fabric. These maps begin to depict a few of many social issues such as gun violence (Figure 1.8), hate crime (Figure 1.9), police brutality (Figure 1.10), poverty (Figure 1.11), rape (Figure 1.12), and a synthesis (Figure 1.13) of these overlaid on top of each other to provide a comprehensive message on multiple conflict rather than singling out one.



Figure 1.8, Gun Violence, 2018
(Source: Author)



Figure 1.9, Hate Crime, 2018
(Source: Author)



Figure 1.10, Police Brutality, 2018
(Source: Author)



Figure 1.11, Poverty, 2018
(Source: Author)



Figure 1.12, Rape, 2018
(Source: Author)

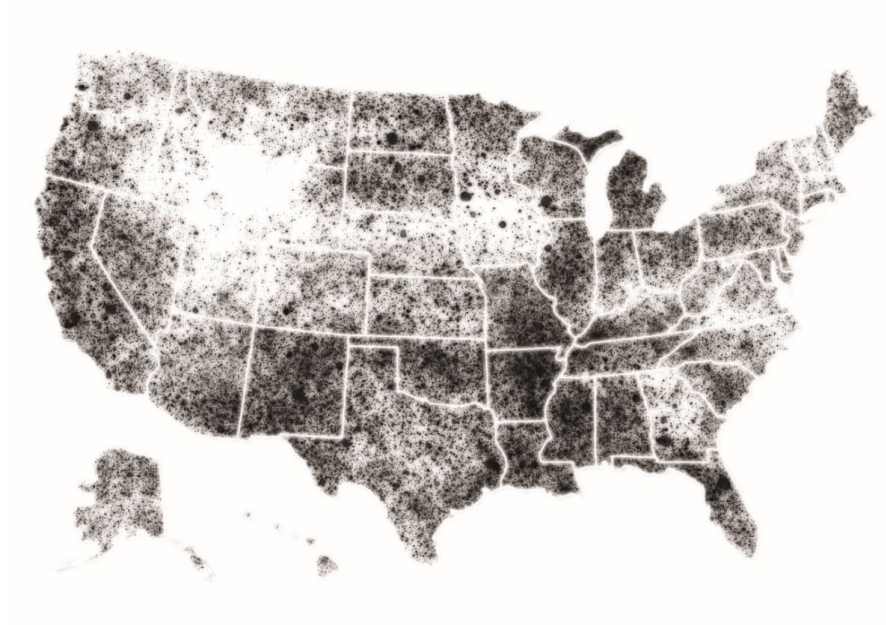


Figure 1.13, Synthesis, 2018
(Source: Author)

These graphics begin to animate the static nature that is provided by ‘struggle by numbers’ and allow for a more dynamic understanding of the issues. Regions that are heavy in black ink also provide an understanding that every region in the Nation is experiencing its own set of dilemmas based on its own history and the differences between the population that resides in that area. Although a general understanding of social issues that reside within a population is integral in beginning to provide National awareness, it is also necessary to focus on individual personal experiences and their vivid recollections to allow for a more cohesive understanding.

Chapter 2: American Interview

Interview Overview

Document

The interview questions that were created primarily focused on the demographics of the individual, a vivid description of the incident, how they are coping with it, their spatial experience and emotional state, as well as a leave behind statement for others. This leave behind can be anything from advice for others that have been afflicted, a statement of anger, of happiness, or even a message of hate if that is what is what they want to be shared (Figure, 2.1).

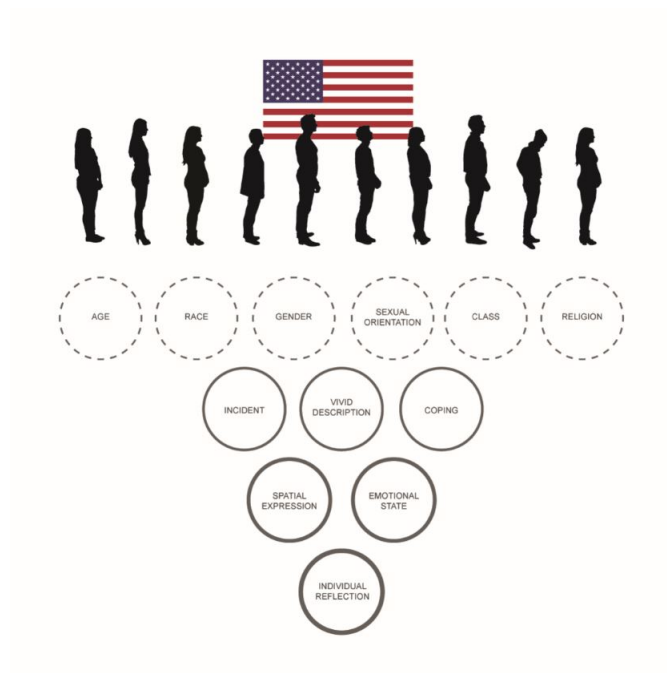


Figure 2.1, Interview Overview, 2018
(Source: Author)

The results of the interview began to create a narrative suggestive of not only internalized conflict (Figure 2.2) that is occurring within the individual during and after the incident, but also the need to externalize the issues in order to cope as well as provide additional awareness on the issue (Figure 2.3).



Figure 2.2, Internalized Conflict, 2018
(Source: Author)



Figure 2.3, Externalized Conflict, 2018
(Source: Author)

Incidents & Emotional Spatial Experience

The incidents themselves ranged from topics such as gun violence, poverty, harassment, autism, health issues, abortion, rape, racism, immigration, and discrimination. Brief descriptions of these incidents provided much darker imagery

that this thesis attempts to build on to inform the viability and confirm the purpose of the proposed inhabitable monument. These brief descriptions varied in detail where some simply stated the incidents and others provided more intense account of the occurrence. One individual who was interviewed stated that, “my parents lost their homes during the 2008 economy crash[...]My whole family went through a depression. I was 15-16 years old at the time. I began selling drugs and breaking into people’s homes for cash. The homes we moved in for rent were always infested with roaches. I couldn’t get used to that. My old home was always clean.” Another individual recounted the following, “I felt totally powerless. I never expected such a close friend take advantage of my kindness. I wanted to scream and kick him off me but was afraid he would ruin my reputation with all the new friends I have made. I let him do what he did so because I thought it was my only option.” Detailed descriptions such as these allow for a much deeper understanding by the designer to not only assume that they know the issues based on numbers, but also inform himself on the reality and rawness of their existence in order to create a design that truly resonates with the intensity of these social issues.

Each of these issues were connected to a unique set of emotional and spatial vocabulary that began to create a vivid portray of the incident in relation to the individuals internal state as well as begin to provide the ground work that would eventually inform the function and form of the proposed inhabitable monument (figure 2.4).

Chapter 3: Site Selection & Analysis

Washington, D.C.

Site Selection Process

As the process began for the selection of the site it was important to take into consideration specific elements related to the site that could work in conjunction with the immaterial idea of internal social conflicts. Major elements necessary in the site selection process is the cultural significance, government affiliation, public recognition, and public recognition. It would be important to select a site that has strong ties to the country in its entirety, rather than becoming concentrated in relation to state or city principles. Washington, D.C. became the ideal candidate regarding the proposal of a general statement on the social issues accruing throughout the country. Washington D.C. being the capitol of the United States of America, houses all three branches of the U.S. federal government: Congress (legislative), President (executive), and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial).

The city is estimated to be around 61 square miles with a population of 9,856 per square mile, based on a 2010 estimate. As of July 2017, Washington D.C. has an estimated population of 693,972. Whites and African Americans make up a majority of the Washington D.C. population. Whites account for 44.6% and African Americans account for 47.7 percent.¹⁷ Washington is one of the most visited cities in

¹⁷ “Quick Facts, District of Columbia,” United States Census Bureau, Last modified: July 1, 2017, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/DC>.

the world, with more than 20 million annual tourists.¹⁸ The city itself is defined by the Potomac river to the west and the Anacostia river to the east. The District is also bordered by Montgomery County, Maryland, to the northwest; Prince George's County, Maryland, to the east; and Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia, to the south and west. Washington D.C. also consist of the well-known National Mall which is a large, open park in downtown Washington on axis with the Lincoln Memorial and the United States Capitol. Due to its size, prominence the mall plays host for the location of political protests, concerts, festivals, and presidential inaugurations. There are also civic institutions which line the National Mall including famous museums, and memorials. The National Mall eventually meets the National Monument grounds which is located at intersection of the white house axis and Capitol axis. Here is located the Washington Monument which was built to commemorate the first president of the United States, George Washington. Due to the civic nature of the National Mall and the Washington Monument grounds, there are many well know annual event that take place, apart from daily organized events. These events include the 4th of July Fireworks, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Memorial Day, National Cherry Blossom Festival, and many others. The identity of Washington D.C. as the center for social and political change due to its government affiliation as well as its multiple civic institutions and open prominent open spaces provide a suitable base to establish an architectural affirmation on internal social conflict prevalent in America today.

¹⁸ Schmalbruch, Sarah. "The 10 most-visited cities in the US this year, Insider, Last modified: December 15, 2017, <http://www.thisisinsider.com/most-visited-us-cities-2017-12>.

Specific sites within Washington D.C. that emulated the major elements necessary in the site selection process relating to cultural significance, government affiliation, public recognition, symbolical adaptive re-use, and public accessibility, were the Washington Monument grounds, the Capital Columns at the National Arboretum in north-east D.C., and the National Mall. All these sites were taken into consideration due to their ability in telling a story on underlying issues for the public to judge for themselves. These sites were then scored on whether they met specific criteria that would assist in an affirmation on American social conflict (Figure 3.1). Based on the results, the Washington Monument met a majority of the criteria in a manner that would provide a stark and almost intrusive understanding for the public on the realities of ongoing social strife prevalent in America.

SITE SELECTION MATRIX			
	Washington Monument	Capital Columns	National Mall
Cultural Significance	● ● ●	● ● ●	●
Government Affiliation	● ● ●	● ●	● ●
Public Recognition	● ● ●	● ●	● ● ●
Public Accessibility	● ●	●	● ● ●
Views	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ●
Symbolic Adaptive Re-use	● ● ●	● ●	●
Structural Adaptive Re-use	● ● ●	● ● ●	
TOTAL:	20	16	12

Figure 3.1, Site Selection Matrix, 2018
(Source: Author)

Site Analysis

The Washington Monument grounds, unlike the Capital Columns and the National Mall, has a very strong presence in American spotlight, especially as a major

landmark that is representative of American virtues and ideals. The positioning of the grounds as well as the monument is at the junction of the north-south and east-west axis. These axis correlate with the White House, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, and the Lincoln Memorial (Figure 3.2). Major landmarks that are also associated with these axes is the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, and the National Mall on the east-west axis, as well as the Ellipse in relation to the north-south axis adjacent to the White House. The alignment of these axis in relation the political and cultural significance of the buildings as well as landscape elements heighten the importance as well as the hierarchy of the Monument grounds site.

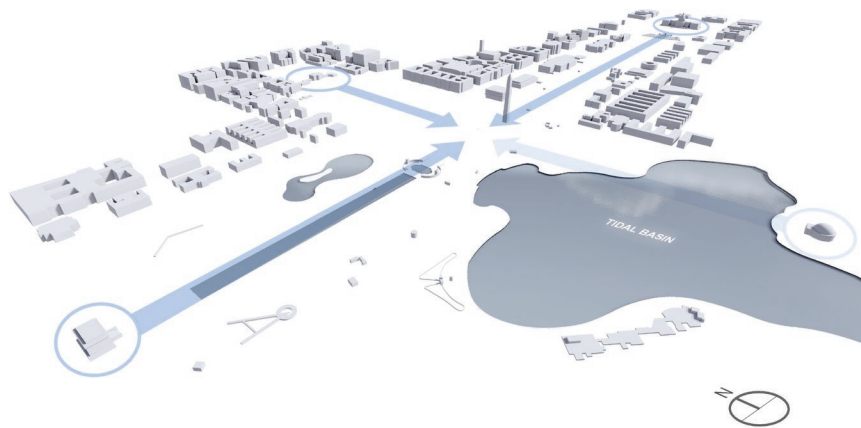


Figure 3.2, Political Significance, 2018
(Source: Author)

The hierarchy of the Washington Monument grounds are also heightened by the urban edge created by the civic buildings located along the National mall and the Ellipse. This liner of infrastructure emphasizes these two main corridors and their

progression of prominence as they lead away from the White House and Capitol toward a significant intersection point. Due to the civic infrastructure creating the corridors and defining the linear civic spaces, the views down the mall as well as the Ellipse remain unobstructed and add a sense of directionality toward the center or the heart of Washington, D.C. The program of these corridors correlate with the public realm (the national mall, the reflecting pool, the ellipse) (Figure 3.3) which allows for the proposed site at the center of the Monument grounds to be a focal point.

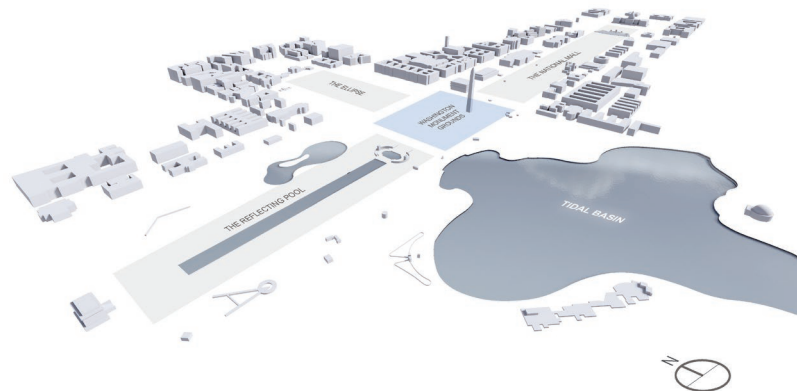


Figure 3.3, Public Domain, 2018
(Source: Author)

As previously mentioned, there is a multitude of civic infrastructure located in downtown, Washington D.C along the National Mall area as well as the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool area (Figure 4.4). Most museums and galleries such as the African American History Museum, the National Museum of Natural History, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institute, National Air & Space Museum,

etc. are located along either side of the National Mall, whereas a majority of memorials and monuments are located in the far western portion of the mall by the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the Tidal Basin such as the Washington Monument itself, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, The Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the MLK Memorial, to name a few (Figure 3.4).

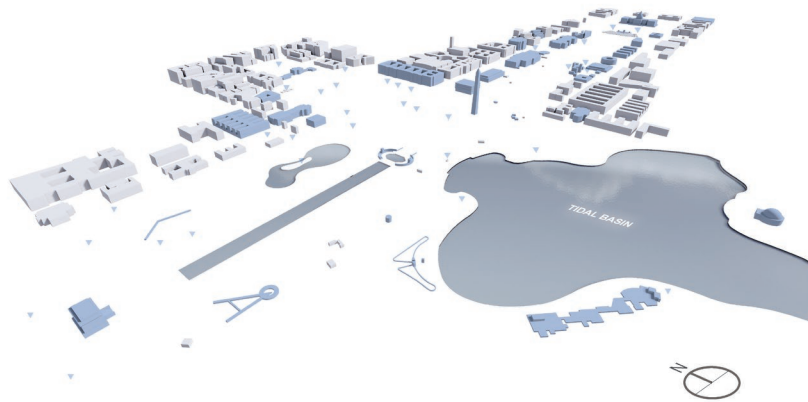


Figure 3.4, Memorials & Monuments, 2018
(Source: Author)

The centrality of the Jefferson pier marker being situated at the true center between the White House and the Capitol, further emphasizes the idea of the center of the nation, or the heart of the nation, which the proposed inhabitable monument looks to capitalize on (Figure 3.5). This axial relationship at the true center also depicts the Washington Monument being off center from the White House axis which may be an

additional opportunity to push the social message of a ‘rift’ in American culture, if not a juxtaposing element.

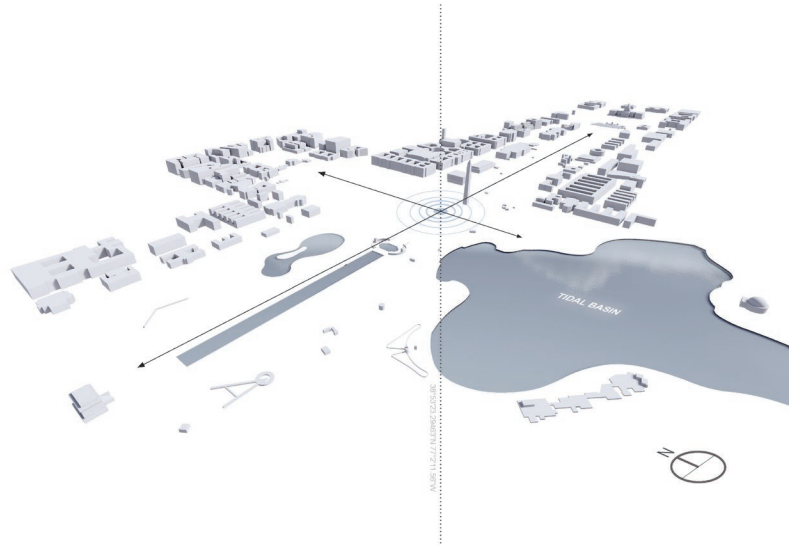


Figure 3.5, Heart of the Nation, 2018
(Source: Author)

The Washington Monument & The Jefferson Pier Marker

The Washington Monument was designed by Robert Mills and eventually completed by Thomas Casey. Located off center from the nation's capital along the corridor axis of the Capitol Building, it honors and memorializes the first president of the United States of America, George Washington. The Monuments construction began in 1848 and was completed in 1884, built in the shape of an Egyptian obelisk. When the Washington Monument was completed it was the tallest building in the world at 555 feet with a width of 34 feet at the top of the shaft and 55 ft at the base of the shaft. At the bottom of the base entry is a triangular foundation measuring 23 deep not including the perimeter pylons which add an additional 13 feet. At its widest, the base

of the foundation measures 126 feet on all sides.¹⁹ Apart from being dedicated to George Washington, the monument being an obelisk also stands for victory, achievement, and triumph as well as ego. The inhabitable monument will build off this idea and provide an alternative in contrast to an obelisk that dig downward rather than upward signifying failures, defeat, and humility in contrast to ego. The exact location, symbolic of the heart of the nation will take place at the exact point of the Jefferson Pier Marker.

The Jefferson Pier Marker was established by Thomas Jefferson and was meant to become the first meridian from which to calculate longitudes for years to come. He lined up the White House front door with the Capitol rotunda in 1793 and marked it with a small wooden post, not far from the present-day Washington Monument. The wooden post was replaced with a stone block capped with Aquia sandstone. The idea of the marker becoming the first meridian in which to calculate longitudes never became official and the stone's significance was forgotten about and eventually removed during the creation of the Washington Monument. Years later the stone pier was re-erected at the original site of the Jefferson Pier Marker.²⁰ The positioning of the Jefferson Pier Marker and its significance regarding its centrality on axis from the White House and the Capitol allow for an alternative narrative for the inhabitable monument and its symbolism of the heart of the nation as well as the center of the American individual and their struggles.

¹⁹ Smith, N. 2014. "Classic Project: Washington Monument," *Engineering & Technology* 9 (12): 100–101. doi:10.1049/et.2014.1239.

²⁰ Carter, Elliot. "Jefferson Pier Marker," *Atlas Obscura*, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/jefferson-pier-marker>.

Chapter 4: Architectural Precedents

Spomeniks

Spomeniks (monuments) are a series of memorial structures commissioned by former Yugoslavian president Josip Broz Tito from the 1950s-1990s in former Yugoslavia. Their intent was to honor its people's resistance struggle during World War 2 against Axis occupation. Spomeniks represent many different things to many different people. They are the legacy of a former era, witness to suffering they are the embodied aura of a generation, they are objects of anger, they are testaments to triumph, they are symbols of resentment. They commemorate not only the crimes which occurred during the region's brutal occupation, but they additionally celebrate the 'Revolution' which defeated them. They were designed by different sculptors such as Dušan Džamonja, Vojin Bakić, Miodrag Živković, Jordan and Iskra Grabul, as well as architects, Bogdan Bogdanović, and Gradimir Medaković. Although the monuments attracted a high rate of visitors in the 1980s, many of them have been abandoned or poorly preserved after Yugoslavia's split.²¹ It is important to understand the significance of the Spomeniks regarding their social messages as well as their undeniable effect of unease and curiosity. This is an element that the proposed inhabitable monument must adhere to by making a connection between victims of social conflict and the architecture that is meant to symbolize their struggle.

²¹ Niebyl, Donald. "Introduction: What are Spomeniks?" Spomenik Database. Last Modified: 2016. Accessed: May 3, 2018. <http://www.spomenikdatabase.org/what-are-spomeniks/>.



Figure 4.1, Spomenik #9 (Jasenovac), 2007
(Source: Jan Kempenaers)



Figure 4.2, Spomenik #22 (Ostra), 2009

(Source: Jan Kempenaers)



Figure 4.3, Spomenik #3 (Kosmaj), 2006
(Source: Jan Kempenaers)



Figure 4.4, Spomenik #16 (Tjentište), 2007
(Source: Jan Kempenaers)



Figure 4.5, Spomenik #13 (Korenica), 2007
(Source: Jan Kempenaers)

Roden Crater

Roden Crater, located in Arizona, is an astrological installation by James Turrell. It is a large-scale artwork created within a volcanic cinder cone used to for the experiencing and contemplation of light. The installation is minimally invasive to the external natural landscape with most of its circulation network found within the crater itself. Inside the crater are specially engineered spaces where the cycles of geologic and celestial time can be directly experienced.²² The spatial organization of Roden

²² Turrell, James. "About," Roden Crater, Last modified: 2018, <http://rodenrater.com/about/>.

crater and the axial connections that are dictated by the crater center relate to the site selection of the National Mall and its axial relationship between the White House and the Capitol (Figure 4.6). The center of the crater and the crater bowl (Figure 4.7) resemble the centrality of the Jefferson Pier Marker and its significance regarding the center or heart of the country.

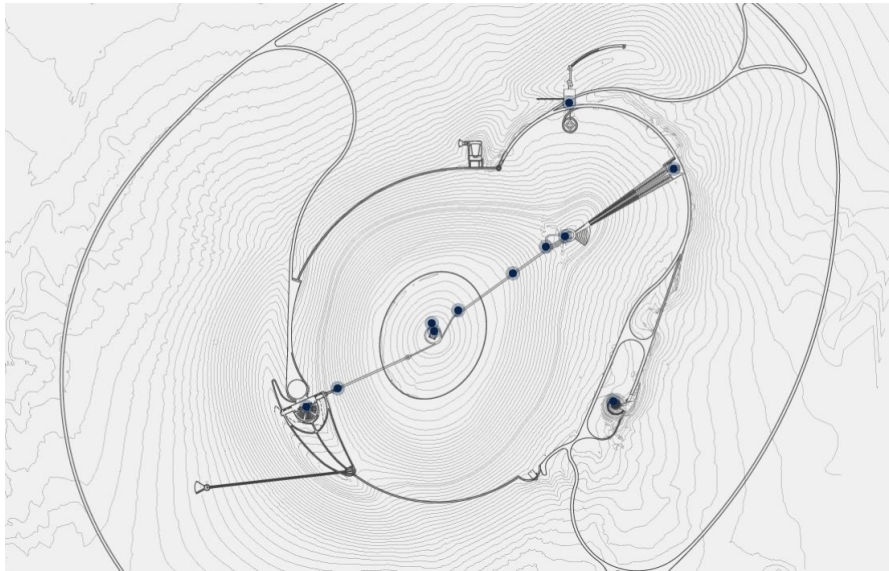


Figure 4.6, Crater Eye
(Source: James Turrell)



Figure 4.7, Crater Bowl
(Source: James Turrell)

Tempietto

The location of the Tempietto is the spot where it is told that St. Peter was crucified. Tempietto itself sits within the cloister garden of the church of San Pietro in Montorio. San Pietro was built in the 15th century designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Tempietto, a circular temple designed by Donato Bramante sits in the middle of the larger church's rectangular plaza.²³ The Tempietto consists of 2 major spaces, the main cella as well as the lower martyr room. The spaces as well as the symmetry of the round plan emphasize the central point in which St. Peter was crucified. This includes a small opening in the floor that further articulates the importance of the center of the space. The focus on the central point by multiple spaces in the Tempietto relates to the site selection at the Jefferson Pier Marker and how to sectionally show a

²³ Freiberg, Jack. Bramante's Tempietto, the Roman Renaissance, and the Spanish Crown. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2014. Accessed 2018, 43.

connection between interstitial spaces in order to achieve a cohesive narrative (Figure 4.8).

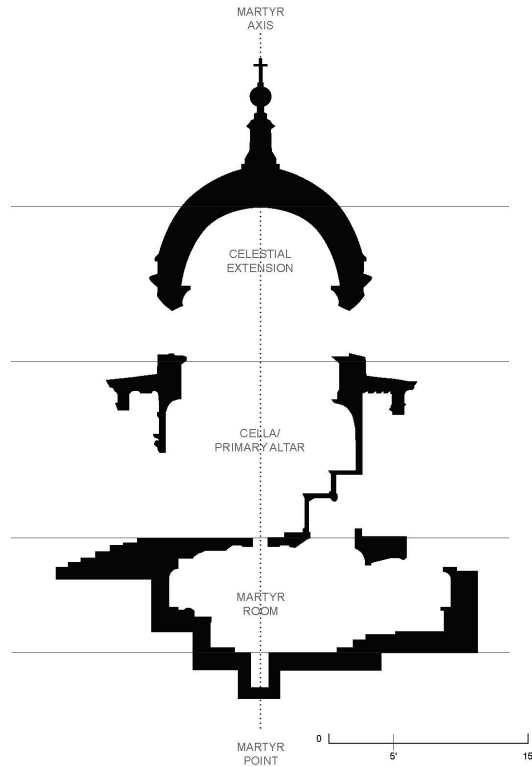


Figure 4.8, Tempietto Section
(Source: Author)

Steilneset Memorial

Louise Bourgeois and Swiss architect Peter Zumthor collaborated on a monument in Vardo, Norway dedicated to the ninety-one persons burned during witch trials in the seventeenth century. The victims of the witch hunts were mainly women, many employed as domestic servants, though a fair number of men from the indigenous Sami people, long regarded throughout Europe as sorcerer's met the same horrible

fate. The memorial consists of two structures, the first is the Glass Pavilion, which houses the installations, the Damned, the Possessed, and the Beloved (Figure 4.9). There is a steel chair centered inside that shoot flames from its seat with 7 oval mirrors, angled above the chair that twist the flames into odd and deformed shapes. Due to the combination of all these elements the portrayal of torture is immediate.²⁴ The other structure is Memory Hall (Figure 4.10), which is a long enclosure supported by a wood structure.



Figure 4.9, The Damned, the Possessed, and the Beloved, 2011
(Source: Guri Dahl)

²⁴ Indiana, Gary, "The Steilneset Memorial." ARTFORUM. Last Modified: September 2011. Accessed: May 3, 2018. <https://www.artforum.com/print/201107/the-steilneset-memorial-28797/>.



Figure 4.10, Steilneset Memorial
(Source: Jarle Waehler)

The walls of the main structure are white on the outside, made of stiff fabric stretched by wires. A wooden cat walk leads you down the linear installation with its inner walls being made of black fiberglass textile and Teflon which allows it to shudder in the wind. Ninety-one small, square windows are recessed in the metal frames that punctuate the walls at irregular heights. Each window represents a victim of the witch trials, identified, along with details of the individual's ordeal. Small, bell-shaped lightbulbs suspended in the windows give the long passage through the space a feeling of weightless movement (Figure 4.11). The sensation of feeling weightless is further heightened by the raised catwalk.²⁵ The focus on the user experience regarding the narrative of the memorial is important in how the proposed inhabitable

²⁵ Indiana.

monument will provide similar care in the user experience by means of the architectural detail and it benefits the narrative of American social conflict.



Figure 4.11, Queen Sonja of Norway touring Peter Zumthor's Memory Hall, 2011
(Source: Heiko Junge)

Chapter 5: Design

The Inhabitable Monument

The Story

The proposal of an architectural affirmation providing an articulate concise story that can stand alone as experienced from the exterior as well as the interior, is reliant upon the justification of the program. This program looks to utilize programmatic elements found in previously mentioned precedents studies in the form of Memorials, museums, monuments, and gallery spaces uniting them in a cohesive set of spatial relations ultimately providing an architectural affirmation on American social issues that materializes individual social strife for the user to acknowledge and begin to understand. The selected program includes a public reflection space, private reflection confessionals, spiral ramp symbolic of unearthing, condolence space, confrontation altar, and message catwalk.

Scheme Options

The following program schemes begin to provide architectural interpretations on the proposal for an affirmation on internal American social conflict. Each one of these schemes have their own story regarding how they go about depicting these internal struggles through the architecture as well as the landscape. These stories build off elements relating to underlying or covert issues, juxtaposing ideals, and inherently dynamic conflict. The three schemes that were explored are current named: Monumental Divide (Figure 5.1) (Figure 5.2), Symbolic Intrusion (Figure 5.3) (Figure 5.4), and Deep Wounds (Figure 5.5) (Figure 5.6).

Monumental Divide

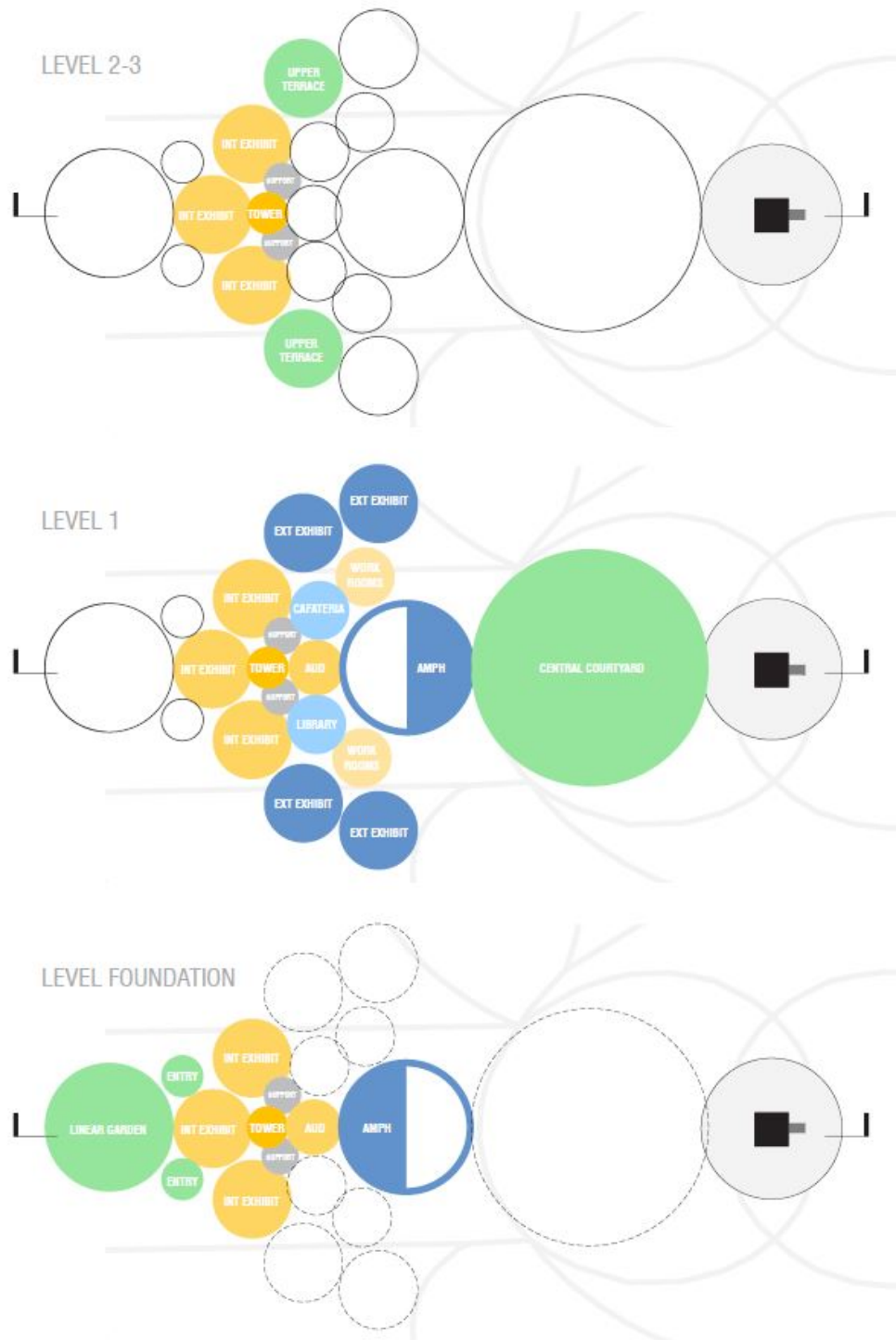


Figure 5.1, Scheme 1 Plan, 2018
(Source: Author)

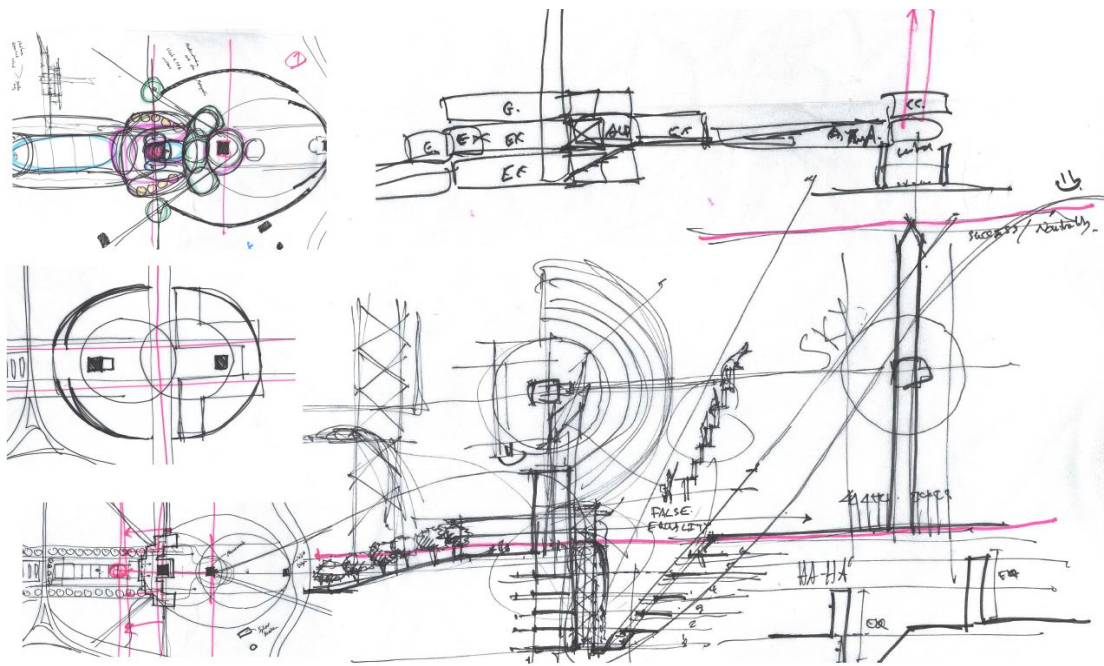


Figure 5.2, Scheme 1 Drawings, 2018
(Source: Author)

Symbolic Intrusion

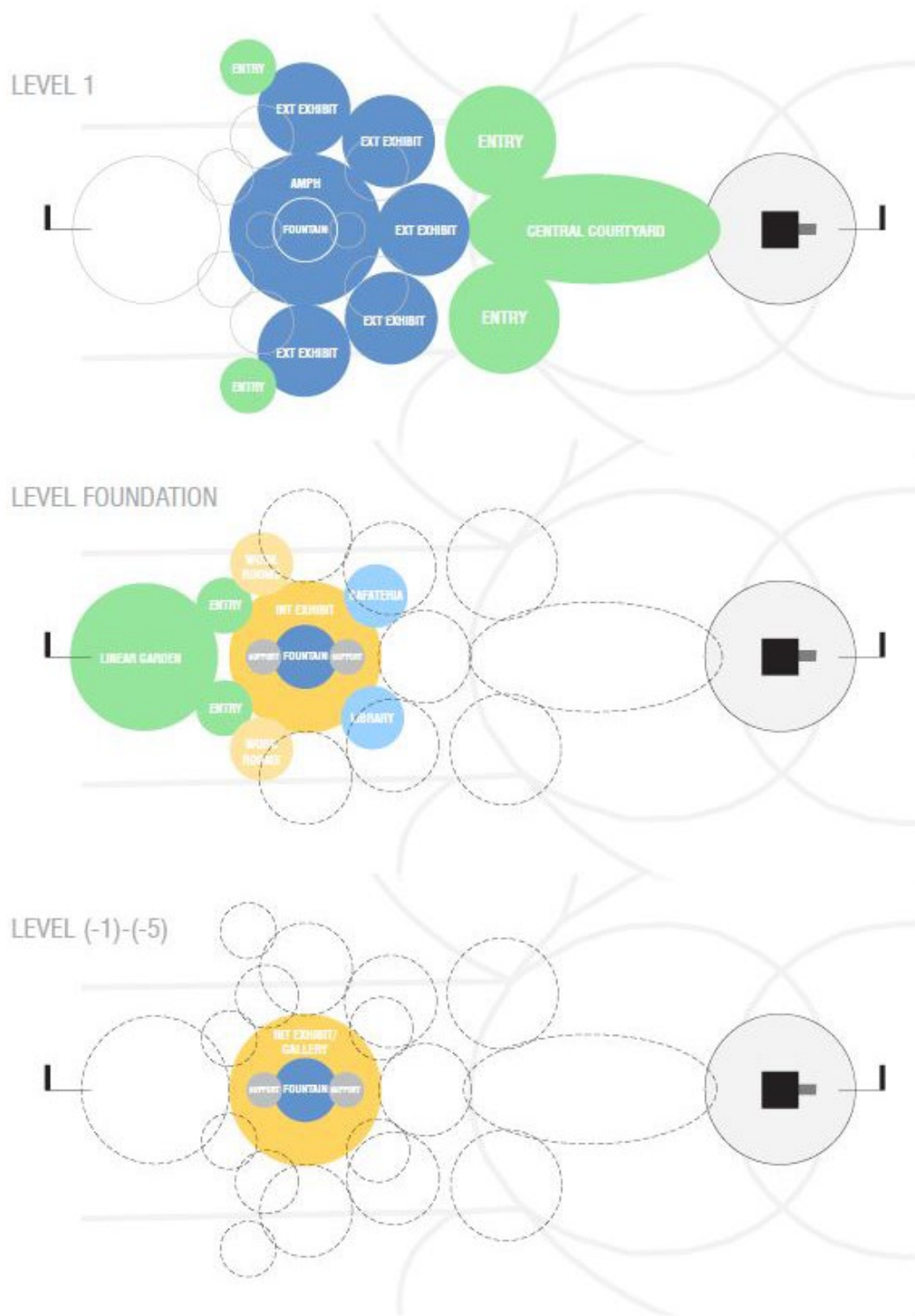


Figure 5.3, Scheme 2 Plan, 2018
(Source: Author)

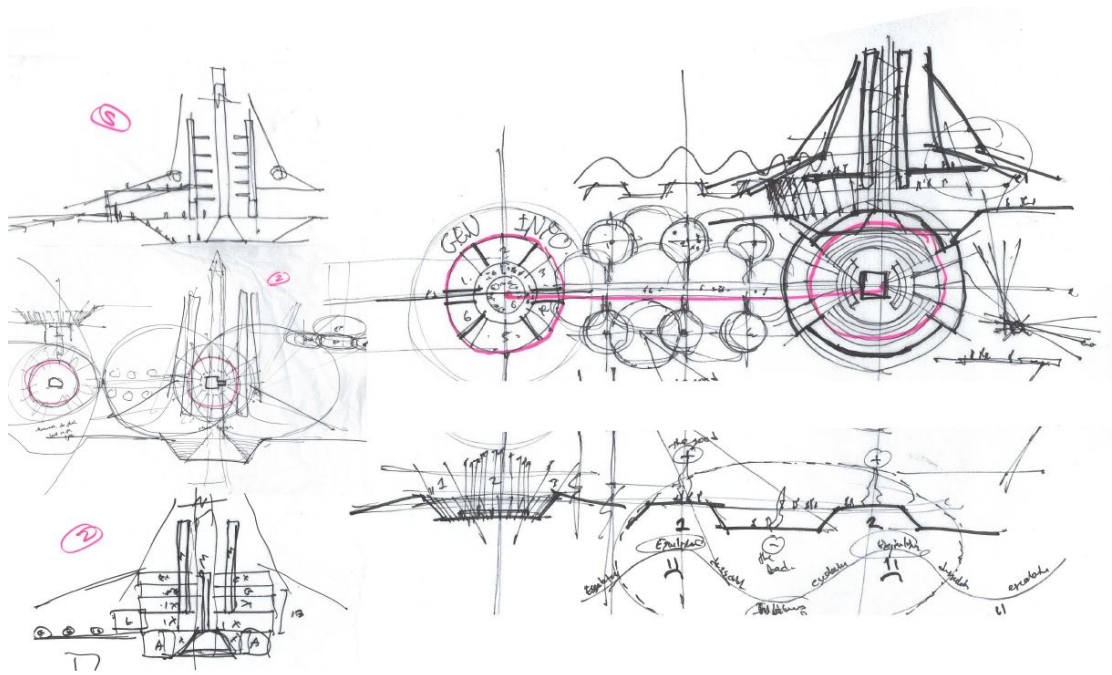


Figure 5.4, Scheme 2 Drawings, 2018
(Source: Author)

Deep Wounds

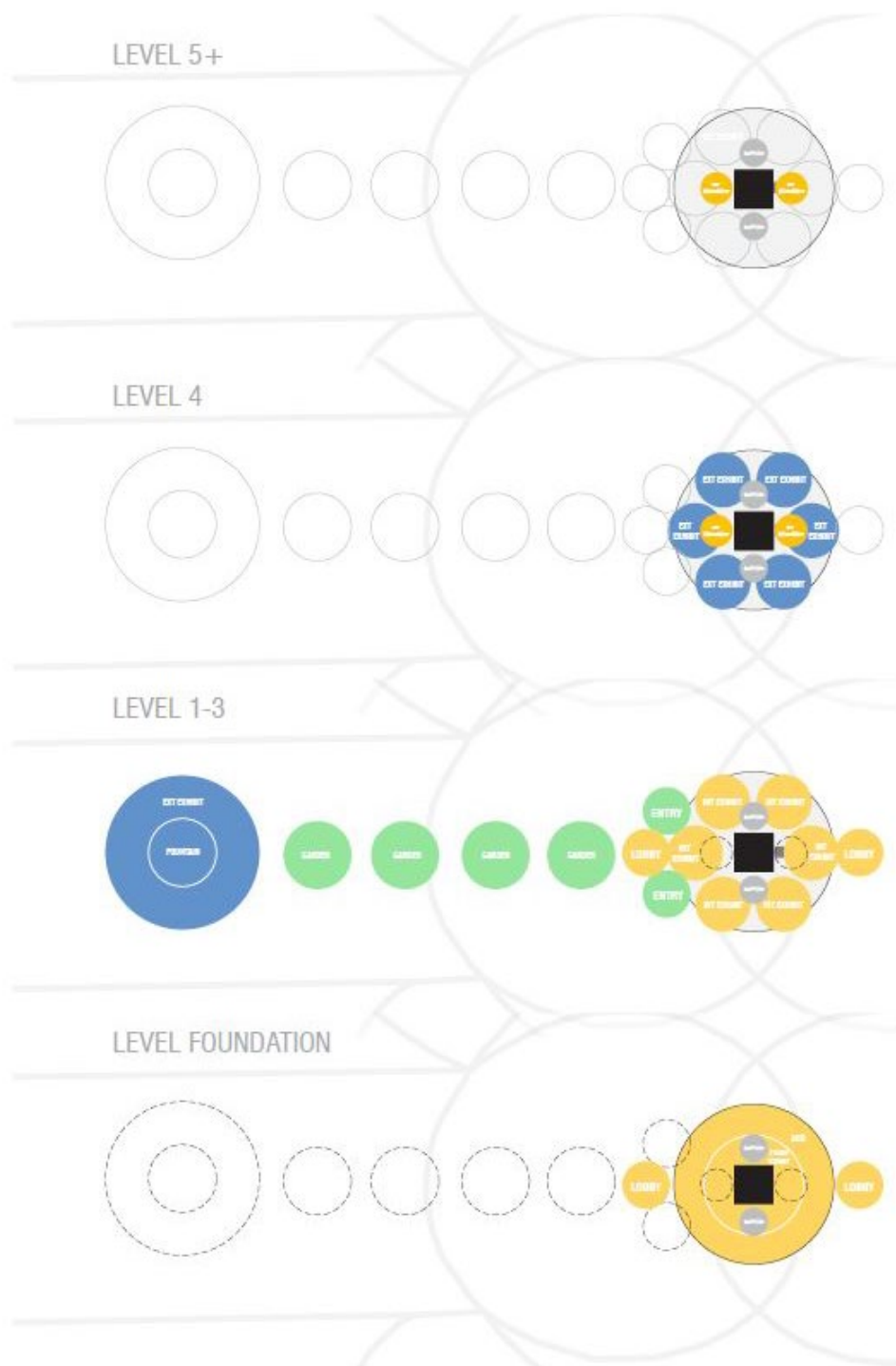


Figure 5.5, Scheme 3 Plan, 2018
(Source: Author)

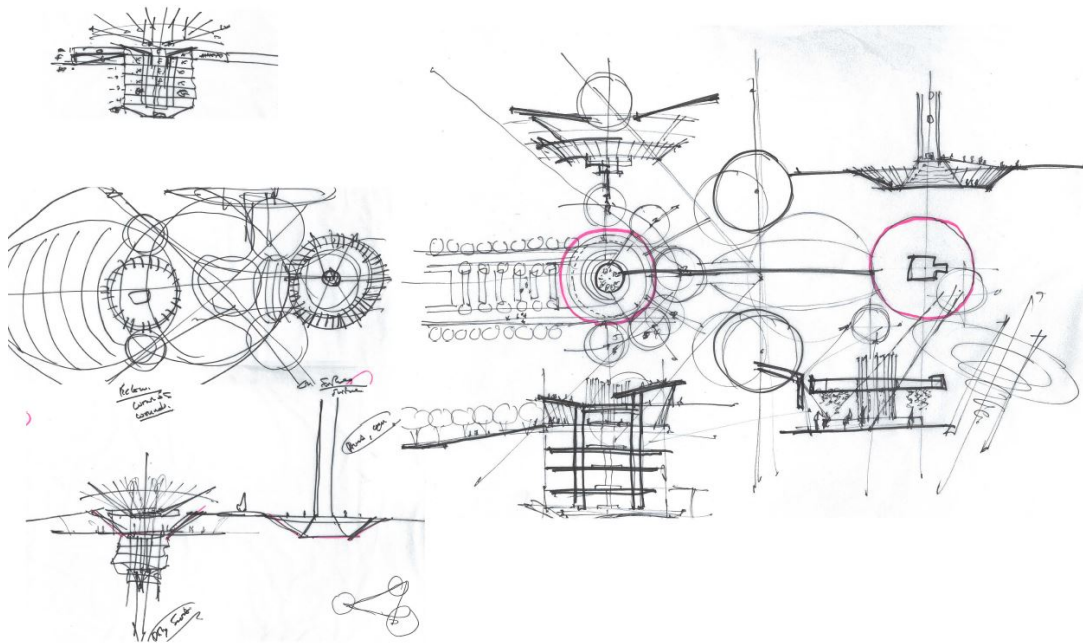


Figure 5.6, Scheme 3 Drawings, 2018
(Source: Author)

Final Scheme

Informed Parti & Principles

The program itself is meant to abide solely by terminology and understanding derived from the interviews of those that have been afflicted in America. This means that the function as well as the form will be informed by the emotions used to describe the incidents as well as the spatial description of how particular individuals felt before, during, and after the incident. As a result of this the inhabitable monument will look to express such terminology as the feeling of oppression, suppression, dark, cold, very cold, exposed, grey, vulnerability, powerless, etc. The parti of the design will take on the form of an inverted dome to symbolize the weight and significance of a multitude of these issues across the Nation (Figure 5.7).

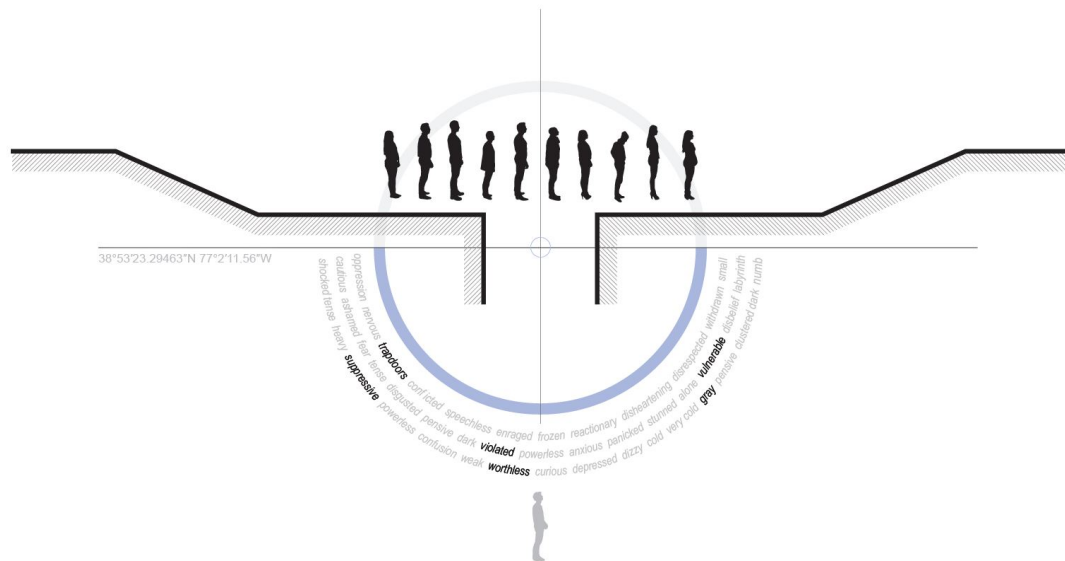


Figure 5.7, Parti, 2018
(Source: Author)

The parti itself will abide by four major principle that are integral to the design of the inhabitable monument in correlation with interviews of those afflicted. These four principles are: descend (Figure 5.8), confront (Figure 5.9), understand (Figure 5.10), and reflect (Figure 5.11). These principles in relation to the order from top to bottom to top again relate to how the user is meant to understand the social issues in progressive stages.

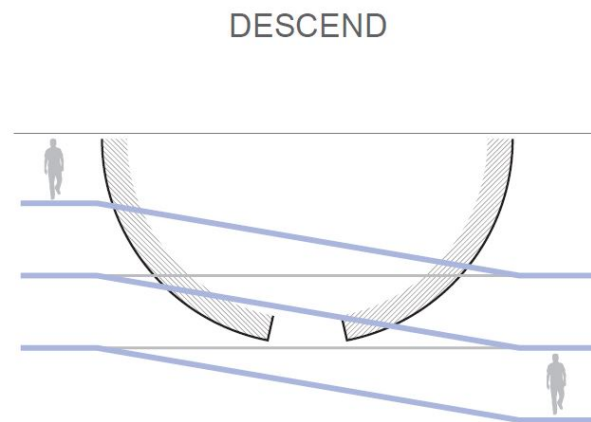


Figure 5.8, Descend, 2018
(Source: Author)

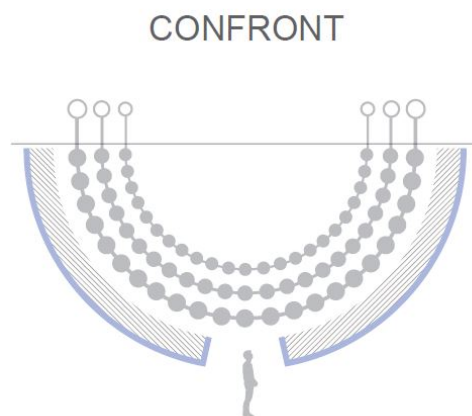


Figure 5.9, Confront, 2018
(Source: Author)

UNDERSTAND

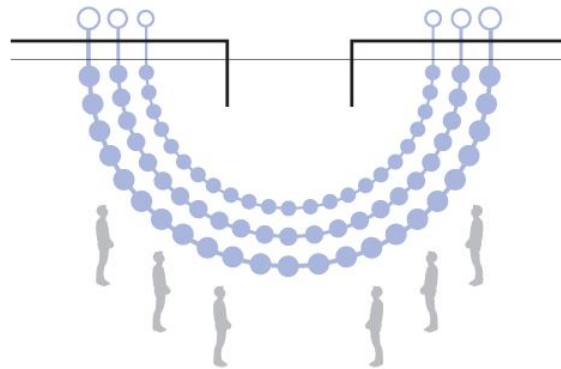


Figure 5.10, Understand, 2018
(Source: Author)

REFLECT

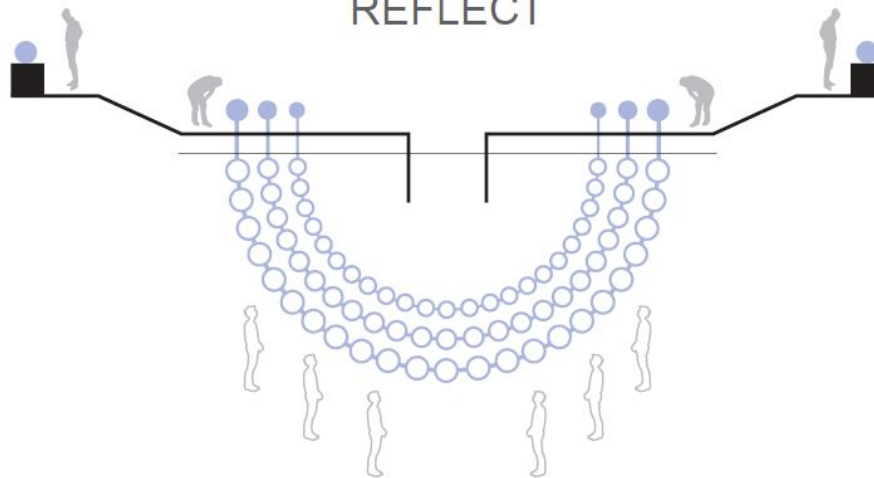


Figure 5.11, Reflect, 2018
(Source: Author)

Spatial Progression

As the user enters the underground monument they begin to ‘descend’ downward by means of a spiral ramp that signifies issues that are hidden that one must uncover or expose by the action of descending downward below ground level (Figure 5.12).

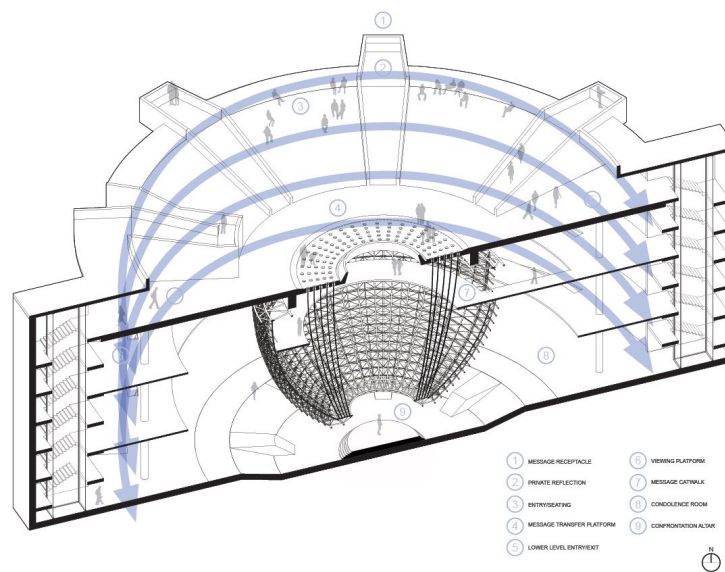


Figure 5.12, Section Perspective, Descend, 2018
(Source: Author)

The materials of interiors begin to tie into the idea of digging down and moving from the more pristine (in the public eye) to that which is hidden and decrepit. As you descend from the ground level down to the condolence room the materials take on a more rustic degradation that is described by the interviewees with terms such as cautious, fear, tense, dark, cold, very cold, grey. As the user moves down the inhabitable monument that are provided moments of glimpses of the central

chandelier (figure 5.13). Once the user has descended to the bottom of the monument they have reached the condolence room that signifies the lowest point of the pit.



Figure 5.13, Perspective, Spiral Ramp, 2018
(Source: Author)

At this point the user is faced with confronting the collection of a variety of social issue that previous users have left behind. These social issues are attached to the interior of the chandelier itself, fed from the top level in the reflection area once a user has descended, understood the issues, and made their way back up to the top of the underground monument. The shape of the hanging chandelier as a dome is meant to correlate to the vocabulary terms such as: confusion, weak, worthless, suppression, oppression, small, anxious, and frozen. The fact that it is not touching the ground and hovering over the individual emphasizes these feelings (Figure 5.14).



Figure 5.14, Perspective, Chandelier, 2018
(Source: Author)

The point of confrontation is set upon an altar to lift the individual up and separate from the main public ground elevation (Figure 5.15).

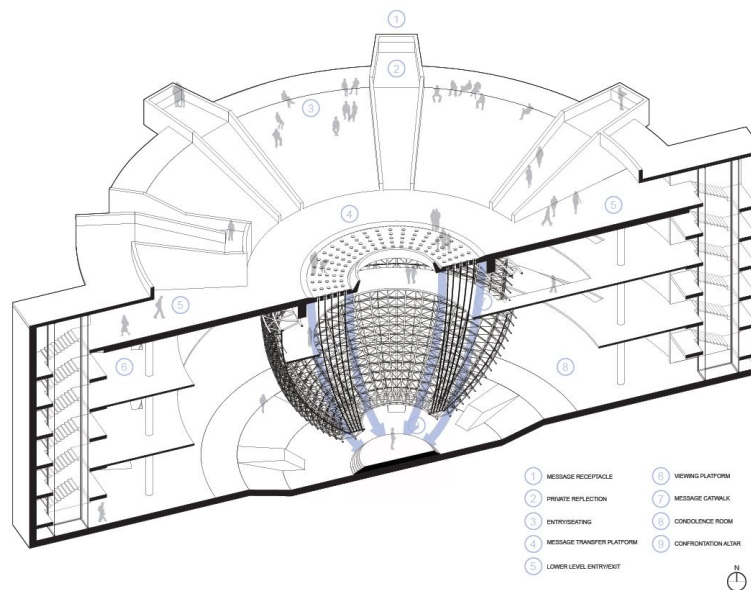


Figure 5.15, Section Perspective, Confront, 2018
(Source: Author)

Once on top of the confrontation altar, within the chandelier, the individual is shown the gravity of all the issues gather in on place. Although the user cannot read the messages left behind by those who visited the monument previously, the purpose of the spaces is to magnify the scale and enormity of the social conflict that is occurring in America to allow for a general understanding of the issues at hand in an abstract manner (Figure 5.16).



Figure 5.16, Perspective, Confrontation Altar, 2018
(Source: Author)

Once the user has experienced the confrontation portion of the inhabitable monument, they are then to move back up toward to top to get a better understanding of what the social issues are. At this point the users can literally read the messages of another individual that has either experienced a sense of social conflict, knows someone who has, or simply wants to comment on the situation at hand (Figure 5.17) (Figure 5.18). This allows for the opportunity for a more personal connection between those that have been afflicted and those looking to better understand the issue that are prevalent in America.

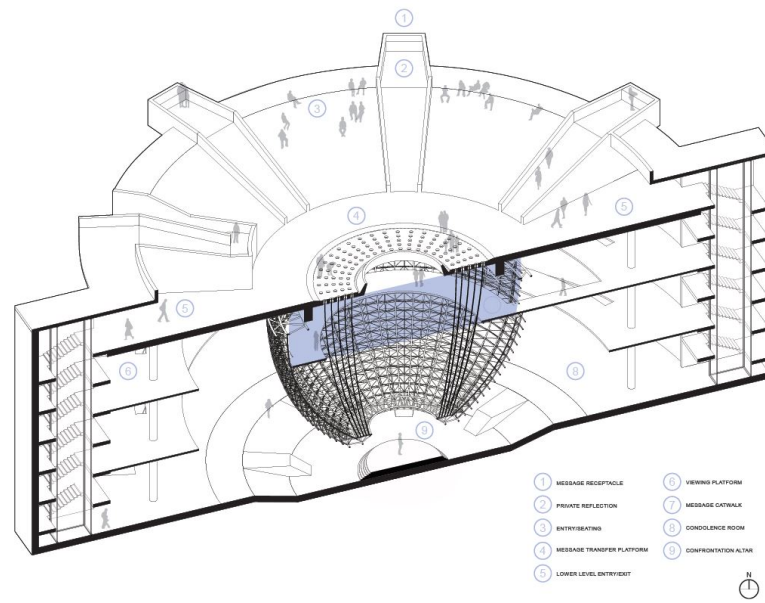


Figure 5.17, Section Perspective, Understand, 2018
 (Source: Author)

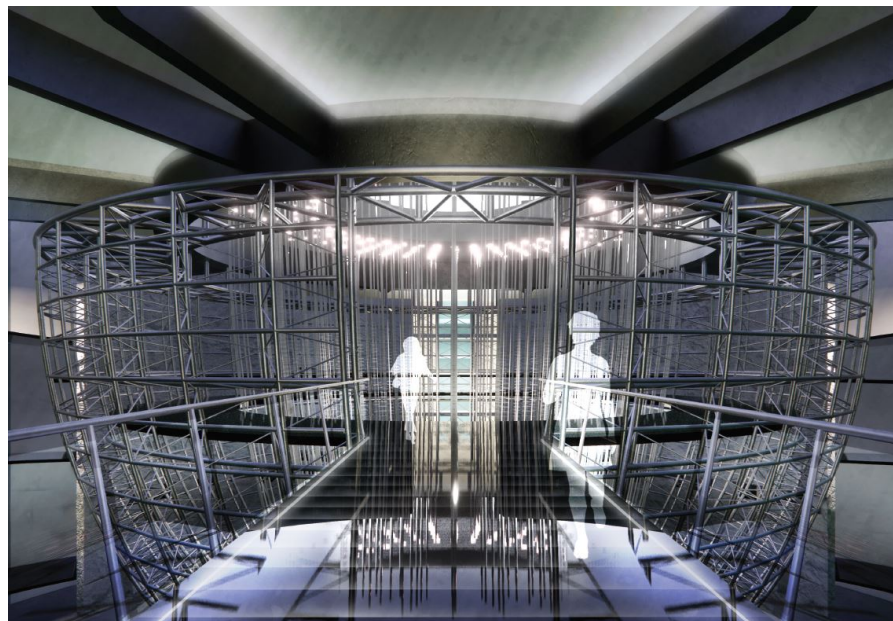


Figure 5.18, Perspective, Message Catwalk, 2018
 (Source: Author)

Once the users have gone through the acts of descending, confronting, as well as understanding the social issues prevalent in America today, they then exit by means of elevator located on either side of the inhabitable monument. The top of the monument signifies the reflection portion (Figure 5.19).

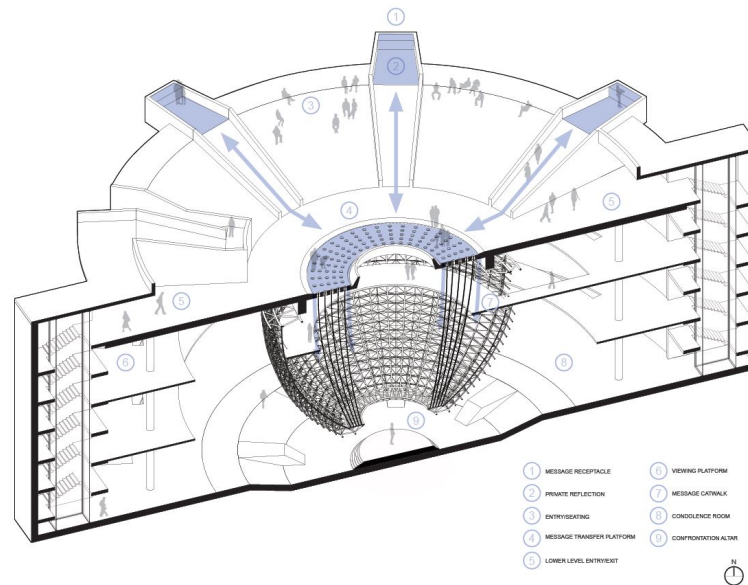


Figure 5.19, Section Perspective, Reflect, 2018
(Source: Author)

At this point of the monument, the user is now able to leave behind a part of themselves after they have gotten a better understanding of what other have left behind. As mentioned previously, what is left behind can be about an issue that they themselves have gone through, what someone they know has gone through, or simply a general comment on the topic. The user moves toward to the outer portion of the top hatch to the confessionals. Here they can write their message in a more private setting away from the central public message table. Once done writing their message they can then move to the center of the monument toward the message table and drop their

message in the message receptacle that corresponds with the state that the incident occurred (Figure 5.20).



Figure 5.20, Perspective, Message Table, 2018
(Source: Author)

The progression through the four principles of descending, confronting, understanding, and reflecting that dictated the design of the inhabitable monument orient the individual regarding the narrative of social issue acknowledgment as well as National awareness and contribution. Throughout this thesis these four principles not only dictated the design directly, but it also impacted me in terms of how to go about the design process as well as how best to portray the intended message.

The Designers Journey

Unintended to the thesis, I myself began to fall in line with the four principles as well. Of course, I have my own biases that attributed to the direction of the project however it was essential that I remain neutral regarding the good or the bad, as well as what I believed to be social conflict or simply 'fluff.' My original pre-conceptions lead me to design that built under the Washington Monument itself where you had a choice of taking the main elevator up like it was intended or down, in order to experience the social issue occurring beneath the surface. Another design iteration contrasted the National monument on axis from the White house and the White House itself. Here the new proposed monument would be inverted and dig down 550 feet which matches the height of the Washington Monument. This symbol would work in contrast to the ulterior meaning of obelisks being about achievements, victories, triumphs, and ego. This proposed upside down obelisk would talk about failures, defeat, as well as humility in contrast to ego. I soon found however that something was missing in terms of the substance and emotional connection for the users within the structure itself. There was not a proper narrative to begin to affect a user. It was at this point that the direction and viability was left up to those being interviewed and their responses. Their experiences tied with their emotional reactions as well as their coping methods dictated this project in its entirety. Pushing my own preconceptions aside in terms of what I assumed this thesis to be was essential. It was then that I realized that I too was descending regarding the existence of the interview. I was beginning to confront the experiences these individuals were vividly describing as well as opening myself up to understand how these scenarios arose and how they left

a scarring impact in some cases. This thesis began to come full circle not only regarding design but also regarding my own thoughts and emotions as well the social climate that others must struggle through.

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