

RINGS OF MEMORY



Forensic Architecture is a research practice that employs architectural tools and spatial analysis to investigate events and reconstruct hidden or contested histories. It interprets space as a form of evidence, where traces, materials, and spatial relationships reveal actions that are otherwise invisible or suppressed.

The site is understood as a layered temporal field, where past and present coexist. Spatial sequences operate as a timeline, allowing users to navigate through different moments simultaneously.



The project engages with the tension between trace and erasure, where absence becomes a primary spatial condition. Architectural interventions do not reconstruct the past literally, but reveal what has been removed, suppressed, or hidden.

The project adopts a forensic architectural approach, treating the former Arsenal site as a field of spatial evidence rather than a fixed historical object. During the military dictatorship, the site operated within a network of clandestine detention and disappearance, where traces were deliberately concealed.

Architecture as evidence — reconstructing events through space, traces, and spatial analysis.

The project is interpreted as a trajectory of movement and control, while circular nodes act as points of concentration — fragments of memory embedded in space. Through sequencing, repetition, and spatial transitions, the project reconstructs hidden relationships between events, transforming absence into a readable architectural narrative.

MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL SITES ARE USUALLY INCLUDES TRACES OF PAST VIOLENCE WHICH ARE ENCLOSED IN THEIR BUILDING STRUCTURES AND OVERALL URBAN LANDSCAPE. THOSE TRACES ARE OFTEN DEMOLISHED VIA PROCESSES OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION WHICH EMPHASIZE NEUTRALITY AND AESTHETIC APPEARANCE OVER HISTORICAL CONTEXT. THE FOCAL IDEA OF FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE PROPOSES THAT THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS A SHAPE OF SPATIAL TESTIMONY, CAPABLE OF SHOWING OFF EVENTS THAT WERE HIDDEN, DENIED, OR EVEN RENDERED INVISIBLE IN OFFICIAL NARRATIVES. INSTEAD OF TREATING ARCHITECTURE AS NEGATIVE BACKGROUND TO HISTORY, THIS NARRATIVE COMPREHENDS STRUCTURES, RUINS AND LANDSCAPE SURFACES AS EXISTING RECORDS OF ACTIONS AND WARS WHICH HAPPENED IN PAST.

A SUPPLEMENTARY DIMENSION OF FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE LIES IN HOW SPATIAL TESTIMONIES ARE INTEGRATED AND OBTAINED BY VISITORS WITHIN THE STRUCTURED SURROUNDINGS. THE UNDERSTANDING OF TRACES IS NOT RESTRICTED TO PROCESSES BUT ALSO RELATES HOW PEOPLE MOVE, ACT, EXPERIENCE AND COOPERATE WITHIN THE SPACE.

ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS NAMED AS SIZES, ACOUSTICS AND LIGHT BALANCE AS WELL AS MATERIAL CONTRAST IMPACT HOW TRACES OF TERROR ARE INTERPRETED AND EMOTIONALLY EXPERIENCED. INSTEAD OF JUST DELIVERING DATA DIRECTLY, DESIGN CAN GO THROUGH OBSERVATION BY UNHIDING SPECIFIC ELEMENTS MANUALLY, EVOLVING FRAGMENTS OF DISCOVERY AND REPLICATION. IN THIS CASE, THE INTERPRETATION OF SPACE TURNS INTO A PIVOTAL CONCEPT OF HOW TESTIMONIES ARE WITNESSED AND EXPERIENCED.

ARCHITECTURE WORKS AS WITNESS AND TRANSLATOR AT THE SAME TIME. WHILE MATERIAL STRUCTURES CONSERVE EXISTING ELEMENTS OF HISTORICAL ACTIONS, SPATIAL REDEVELOPMENT USE ELEMENTS TO EVALUATE AND TRANSLATE SUCH TRACES IN USEFUL WAYS. BY TRANSLATING ELEMENTS OF TESTIMONIES INTO SPATIAL STORIES, FORENSIC ARCHITECTURE ENABLES HIDDEN STORIES TO BE SEEN AND CRITICALLY OBSERVED.

Forensic Architecture



Using space as evidence to reveal suppressed events

Forensic Chain

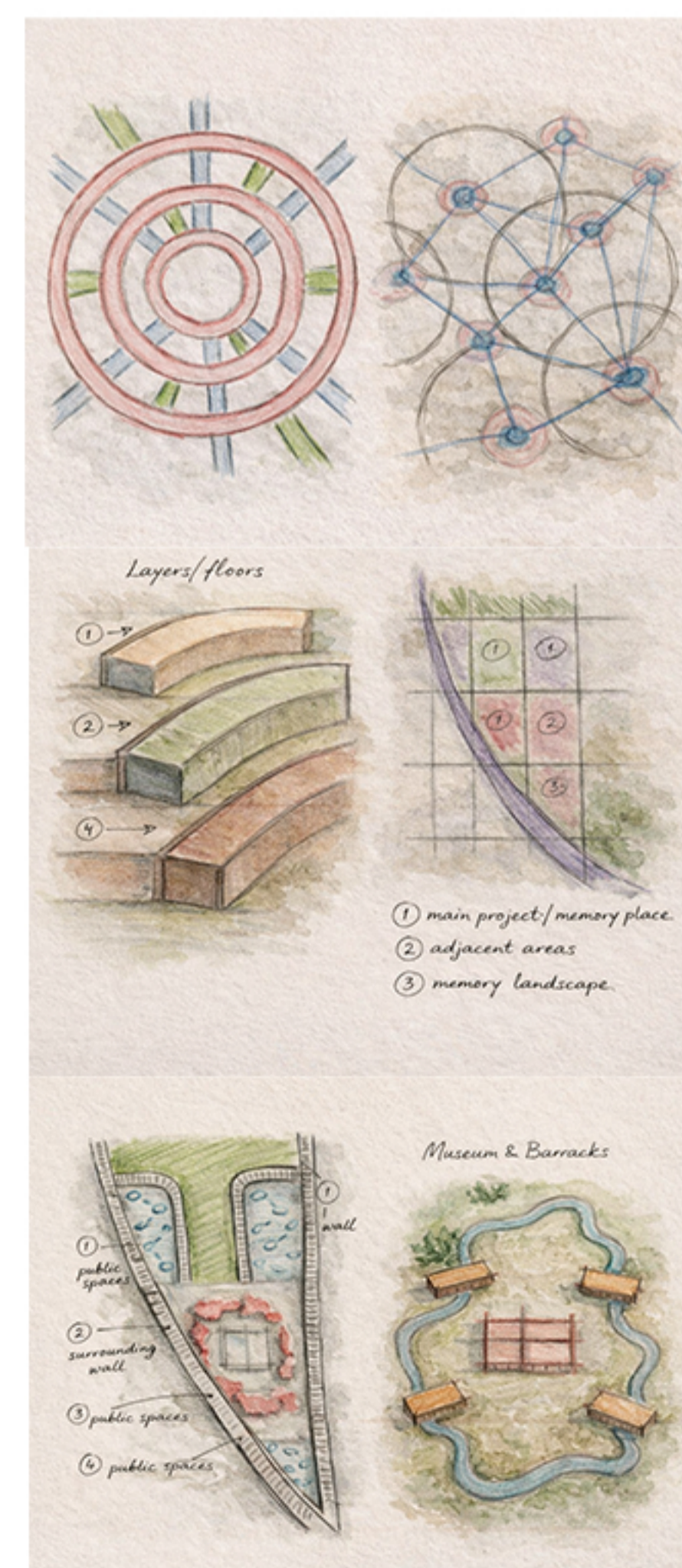
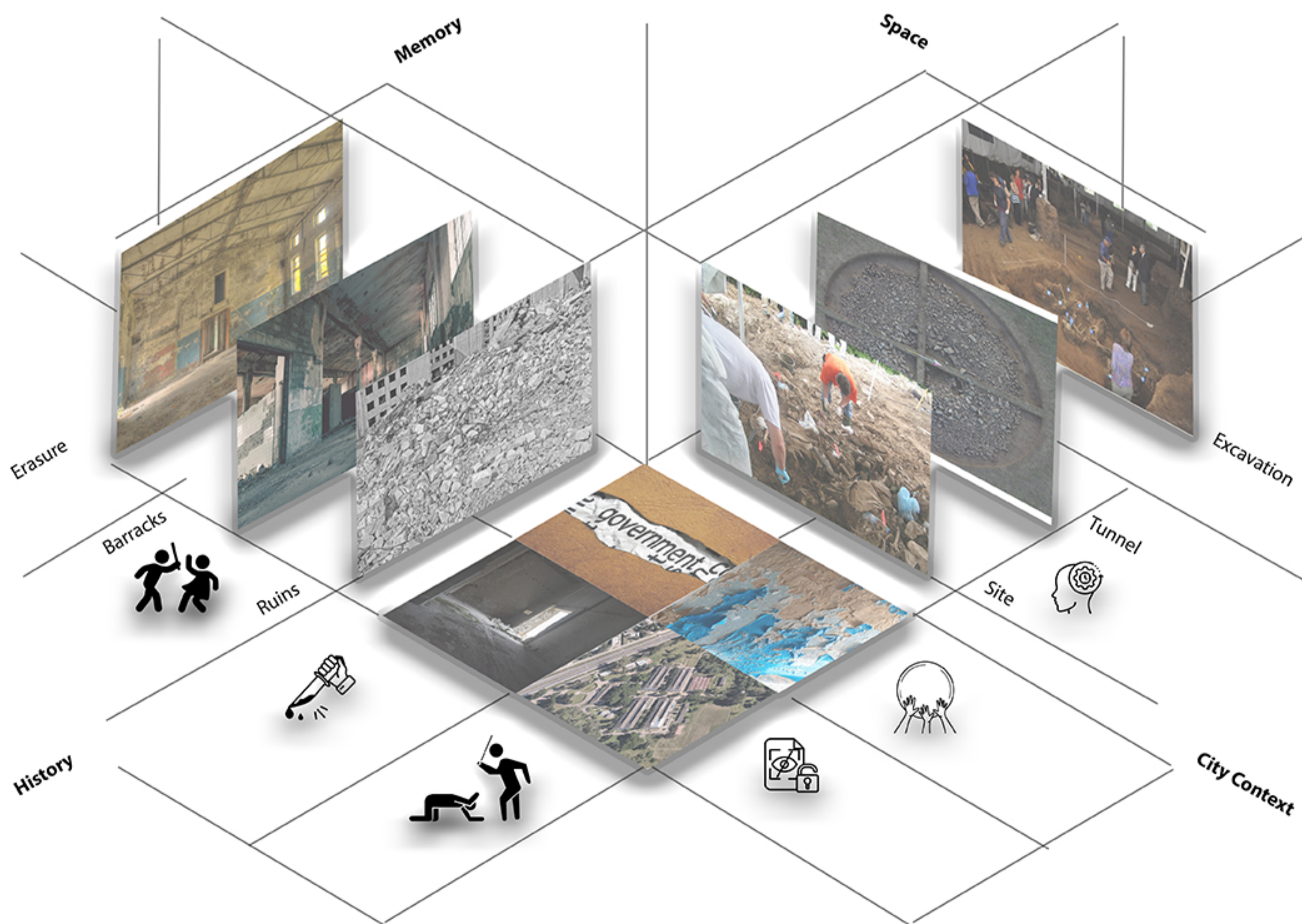


From event to trace to spatial reconstruction

Visitor as Investigator



The visitor moves through evidence, not narrative



ROLE OF ARCHITECTURE BEYOND DESIGN CONSTRUCTION, FORMING ARCHITECTS AS RESEARCHERS WHO CAN OPEN UP CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SPACE, TERROR, AND A HISTORICAL MEMORY. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE VISITOR IS NO LONGER A PASSIVE OBSERVER BUT AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCESS OF INTERPRETATION. MOVEMENT THROUGH THE PROJECT IS CONCEIVED AS A FORM OF INVESTIGATION, WHERE SPACE IS NAVIGATED THROUGH TRACES RATHER THAN PREDETERMINED NARRATIVES. THE SEQUENCE OF SPACES ENCOURAGES DISCOVERY, UNCERTAINTY, AND REFLECTION, ALLOWING EACH INDIVIDUAL TO CONSTRUCT THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITE. ARCHITECTURE, THEREFORE, BECOMES A MEDIUM THAT GUIDES PERCEPTION WHILE LEAVING MEANING OPEN TO INTERPRETATION.