

MARCH 24, 1976

The civil-military dictatorship begins in Argentina

Clandestine detention centers were used to oppress innocent people.
Depriving them of their freedom, torturing them, murdering them.



Victims, disappeared
Mothers asking about their children

Demonstrations took place, demanding answers, women, mothers, sisters of those missing would wear white headscarves during the protests and meetings, which became a symbol of resilience.

The uncertainty in the country and the cover-up of these events was a form of oppression in and of itself.

DECEMBER 10, 1983

The end of the dictatorship, the people elect a new government.
The powerless take their power back



However, the terrible events left scars on the population, the tragedy now forever cemented on the soil of the nation.

The responsibility we face today is to preserve history and tell it truthfully.

To protect the memory of those who fought, those who were oppressed, and those who were silenced.

The architectural elements,
the materials,
the paths,
the forms,
the silhouettes,
were chosen based on four elements



FRACTURE

That which is decayed,
broken, cold,
rigid, monumental



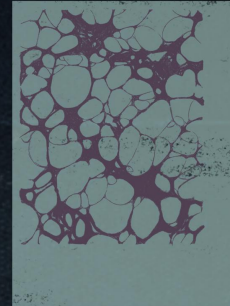
SKIN

The human,
the vulnerable, the pain,
the wounds



RESILIENCE

The scarf, families,
memory, struggle



RESTORATION

Responsibility,
history, teaching,
reconstruction

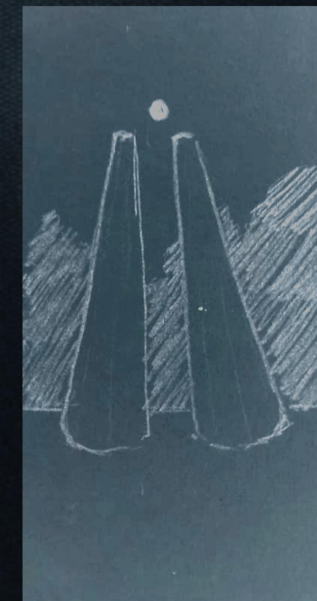


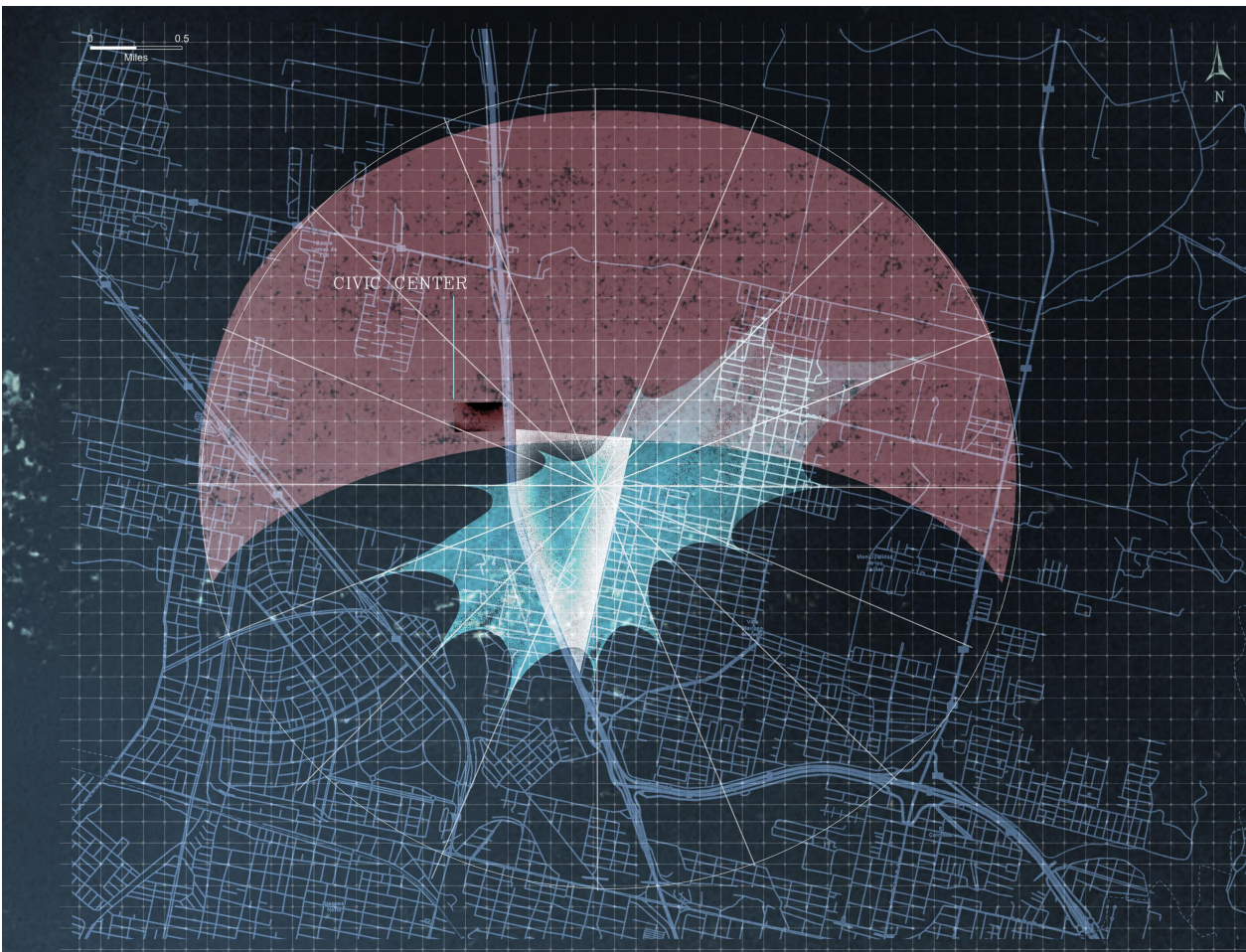
These four elements are blended to create
the design of the park and each new building, also
integrating some new materials to the existing
buildings of the CDC.

Following this concept, the proposed materials
consist of stone masonry, stone slabs, exposed
concrete, timber floors, wooden furniture, and
fabric for tensile structures.

The overall shape of the architecture integrates
both organic and linear geometry. The disposition
of elements such as walls, roofing, horizontal and
vertical circulation, floors, etcetera, is irregular,
playing with different levels and angles to reflect
inconsistency, disruption...

This design pulls focus towards two tall structures
that rise above the existing vegetation, serving as
a kind of beacon in the park so that the site's
historical significance can be appreciated even
from a great distance.





GENERAL LOCATION

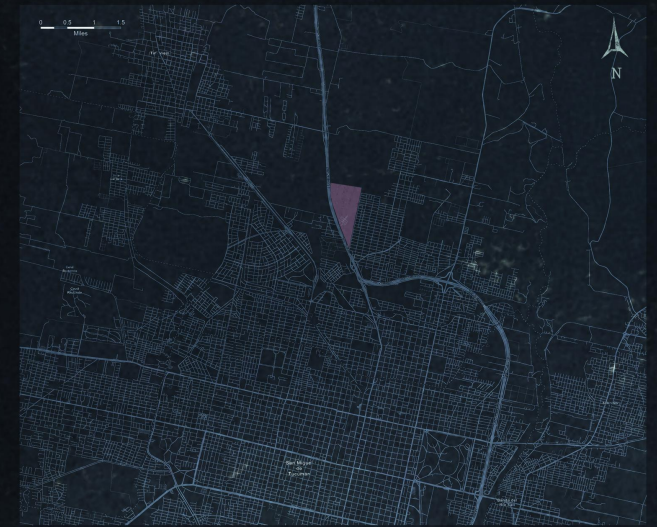
Site Analysis

The park is located north of San Miguel de Tucumán, the capital of the province of Tucumán, Argentina.

Land uses in the surrounding areas range primarily from residential to commercial; the proposed new urban grid for the district and the civic center to the northwest of the site were also taken into account.

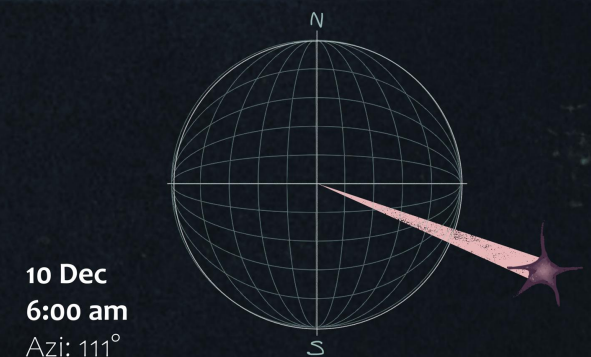
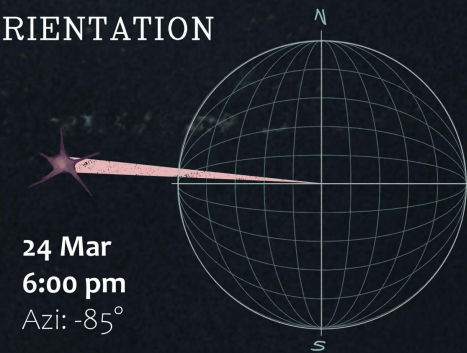
Sunlight comes from the north, and prevailing winds shift between the northeast and southwest. The topography of the area rises to over 44.00 meters from the lowest point of the site.

A key piece of data used in the design of the Interpretation Center was the angle and direction of the sun during **sunset on March 24 and sunrise on December 10**.



REGIONAL LOCATION

SUN ORIENTATION





Master Plan

The park design and the placement of new buildings respect the current context of the existing structures to be preserved, the mass grave found in the northeast corner of the site, the urban fabric, and the surrounding environment, while also maintaining and highlighting the existing vegetation.

The **main axis** of the design consists of a path that crosses through the middle of the entire site, **guiding visitors** toward the Interpretation Center, specifically to the Memory Plaza and the Pavilion.

The orientation of both ends of this axis aligns precisely with the path of the sun during **sunset on March 24 and sunrise on December 10**. This decision stems from the symbolism represented by both dates; the sunset, like the date when the dictatorship began in Argentina, represents the start of a dark, **uncertain period**; the sunrise, as the date when the dictatorship ended and the people elected a new government, represents the end of this period and **the beginning of a new day**.

The location of the park's main nodes and certain buildings in the architectural program was selected based on the context of the surroundings, respecting residential areas, shielding them from noise, and directing high-traffic activities toward the main thoroughfare. It features a bike path that circles the entire park.

Based on this, key activity areas and buildings such as **the Concert Hall, the Academic Complex, and the Amphitheater are located to the west**, facing the main road while also accounting for noise propagation during prevailing easterly winds. In addition, the site's dense forest cover is preserved as a noise protection strategy and to preserve the diverse species of the place.

The network of pedestrian paths varies depending on the area of the park. In the west, these paths are more **organized and linear**, creating clearly defined and prioritized zones while strategically connecting the various nodes, along with the Interpretation Center and buildings designated for preservation.

To the east, most trails are **irregular**, with the exception of those that connect directly to the buildings. The irregular trails serve to enhance the park and encourage exploration of its forest, creating a more open and minimalist space in terms of human intervention in order to reduce distractions, providing room for reflection and remembrance.

The various nodes of the park serve different purposes to meet the needs of residents and visitors.

These nodes include:

1. Recreational and commercial area (North)
2. Recreational area (South)
3. Shaded structure (South)
4. Functional interpretive garden (North)
5. Ornamental interpretive garden (South)

There are three parking areas serving the various facilities at the interpretation center and the park; the largest is located near the concert hall, and the other two each have a capacity of 56 cars and 3 buses, serving different facilities.



Functional Interpretive Garden (North)

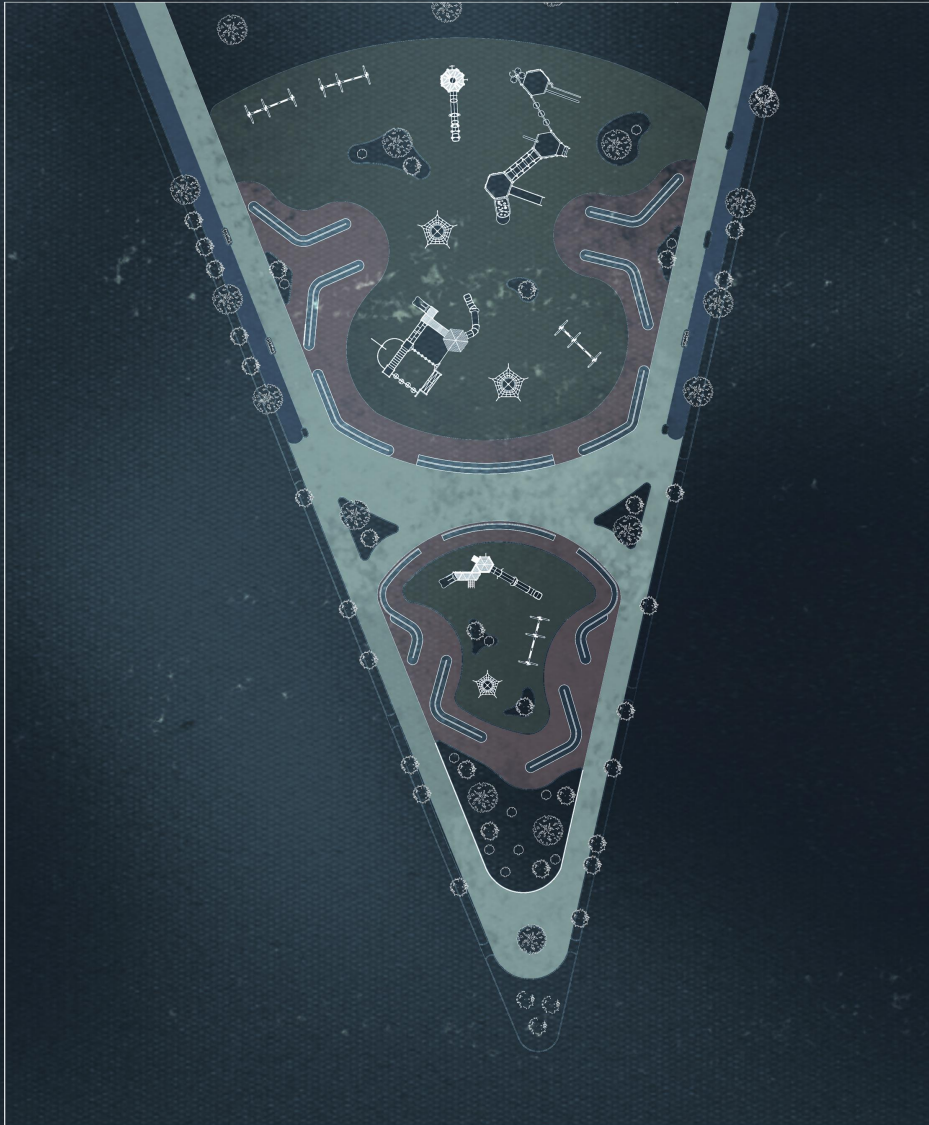
Located in the northern part of the park, adjacent to the recreational area, this interpretive garden showcases the various species characteristic of Tucumán, featuring primarily fruit, medicinal, and other plant species. It is equipped with a gardening shed and administrative facilities (1). The nearest access points are located within the proposed new urban development.

- Selection of species:**
- Annona emarginata*
 - Lithraea molleoides*
 - Cupania vernalis*
 - Celtis iguanaea*
 - Petiveria alliacea* L.



Recreational and commercial area (North)

This node features wide trails, various play areas, and seating areas surrounding the different zones, as well as a shopping and food court area and restrooms. The nearest access points are from the main west road and the proposed new urban development.

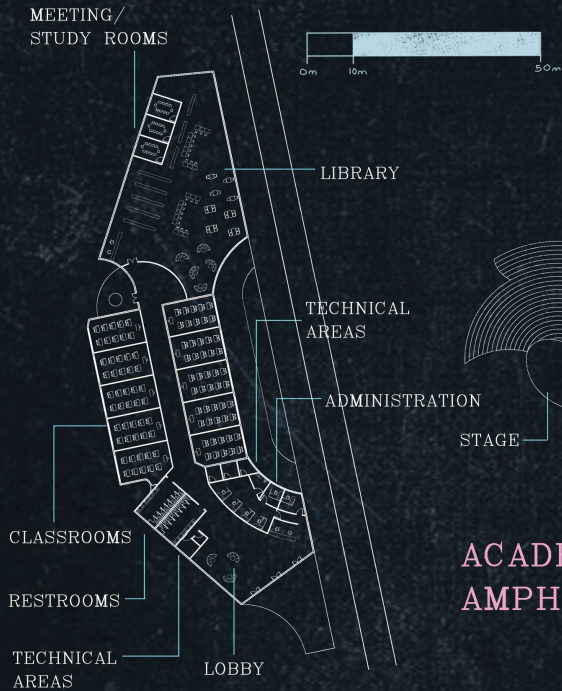


Recreational area (South)

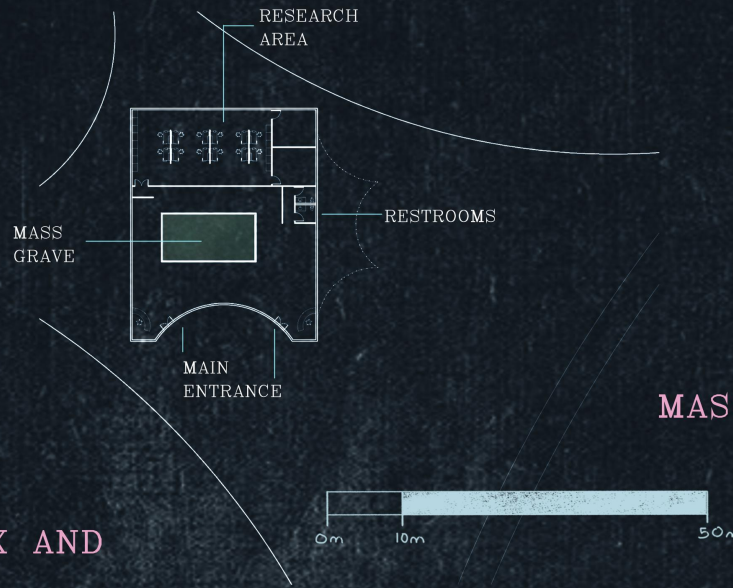
This node is located at the intersection of the two roads south of the park, connecting to the existing residential area as well as the proposed bike path.

It is equipped with recreational and seating furniture, and features a variety of vegetation to create a pleasant atmosphere.

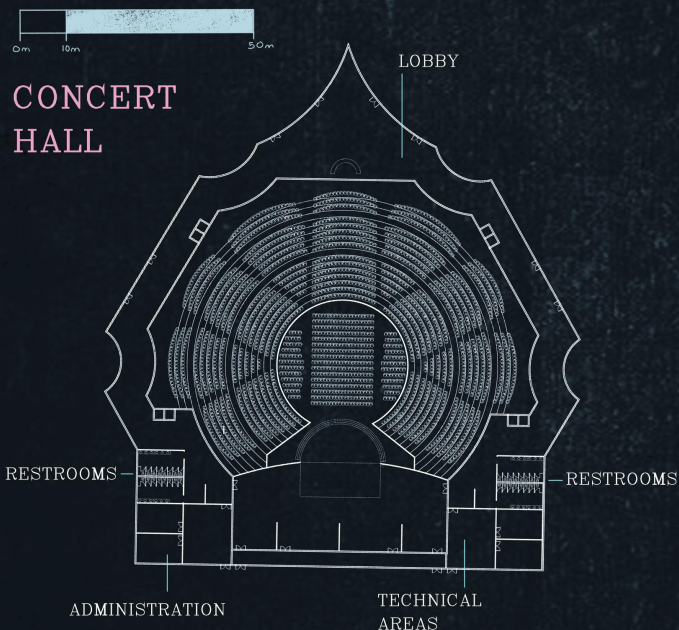
It serves as a gathering place for the community, taking advantage of its location and easy access from various routes. It creates a space where residents and visitors can come together.



ACADEMIC COMPLEX AND AMPHITHEATER



MASS GRAVE



CONCERT HALL

Most of the new buildings of the interpretation center are located along the horizontal axis in the center of the park, connecting to the existing CDC buildings via pathways. They maintain a minimum distance of 30 meters from the central axis pathway in order to highlight it and avoid obstructing the view of the park along that path.

Academic Complex:

This is a flexible space with 10 classrooms, a library, study, reading, and conference areas, an administrative zone, restrooms, and technical areas.

Its geometry plays with straight and diagonal lines, as well as curves, using concrete walls, glass, and wood finishes. The shape of its floor plan recedes in various ways to create garden spaces that offer a pleasant view from the interior and a strategic integration of nature with the study space.

It is located north of the central axis and connects directly to the outdoor amphitheater.

Amphitheater:

This outdoor space covers an area of over 1,000 m², connecting, as previously mentioned, to the academic complex, thus allowing their functions to complement one another.

It is oval and irregular in shape, with tiered seating facing a central area where the main stage is located. It is constructed primarily of stone slabs, utilizing the topography of the terrain to create the tiered structures.

Concert hall:

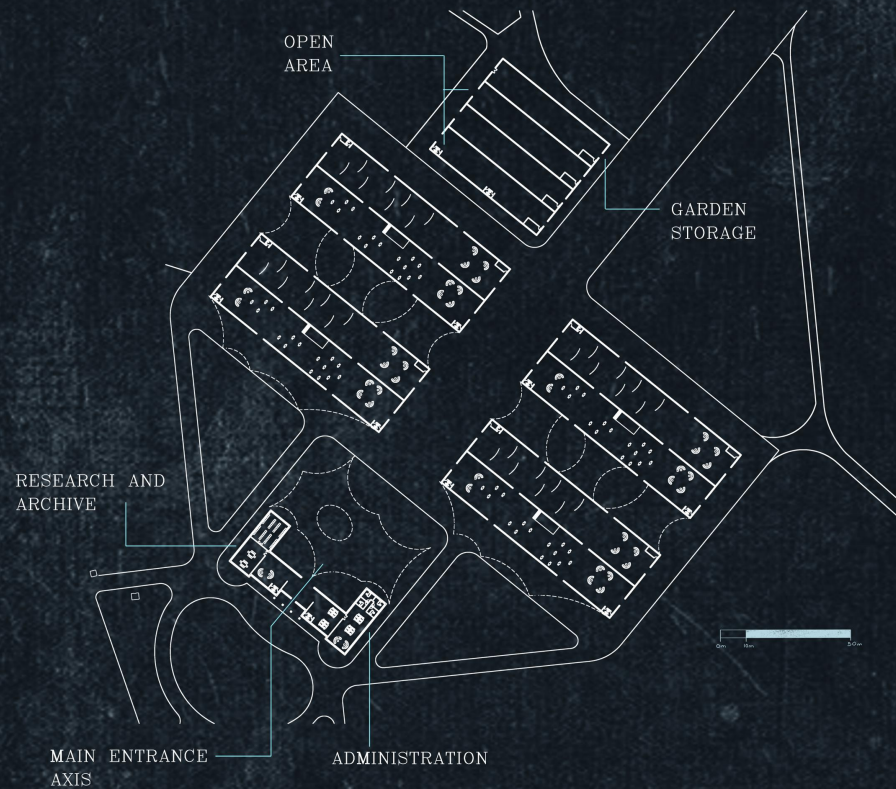
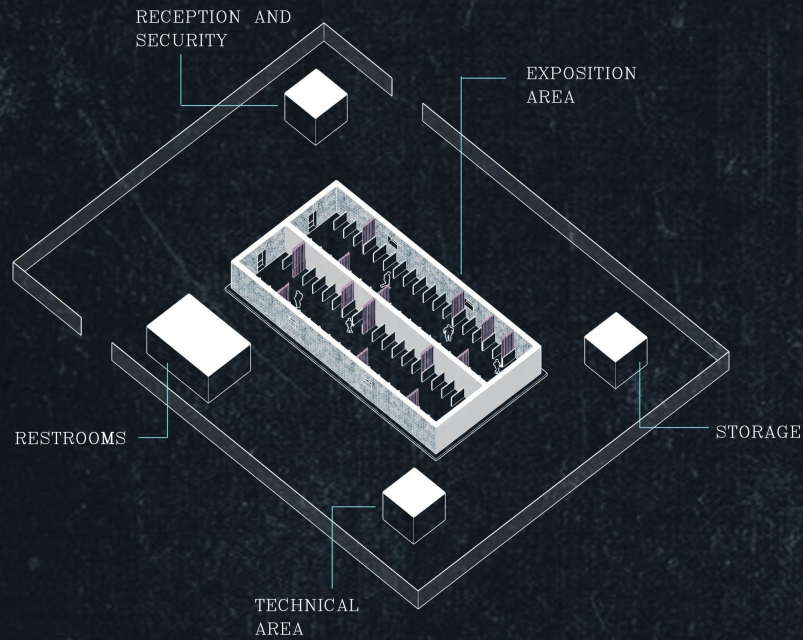
This three-story building has a capacity of 8,000 people, featuring a spacious lobby to the north, various vertical circulation points around its core, a radial layout of tiered seating—which is partially repeated on the upper levels—a central stage with a large backstage area, and various technical spaces to the south that complement it; these also connect to multiple entrances used for loading and unloading, as well as crew entry and exit; and finally, service and administrative spaces to the east and west of the building.

Its central radial form extends to transform into a play of curves and pointed lines, with a northern center that draws the public to the main entrance. Its materiality maintains the concept of the Interpretation Center, with wooden floors, concrete and stone masonry walls, tensile structure roofs on the exterior of the building, and exposed concrete finishes.

Mass Grave:

To preserve and improve the condition of the mass grave, an enclosure covered by a tensile structure is proposed. A visitor reception area is located at the building's entrance, designed to guide visitors and regulate entry and exit to preserve the site's integrity. A perimeter enclosure with glass windows facing the mass grave is also proposed; access to the grave is restricted to researchers, thus allowing for the study of the grave and controlled viewing by visitors. To the north, there is also a spacious, controlled research and archive space, equipped with technical and restroom facilities.

The design is subtle and minimalist, utilizing the same materials—stone, wood, exposed concrete, and textiles; minimalism is employed to encourage reflection among visitors and ensure the functionality of the research area.



CDC BUILDINGS TO BE PRESERVED:

Intervention in the CDC buildings is minimal, preserving their qualities due to their historical value. The proposals focus on flexible, multipurpose spaces serving activities for visitors, as well as maintenance and administration of both the park and the Interpretation Center.

Warehouse 9:

The buildings adjacent to the detention area serve as storage facilities, restrooms, and a visitor reception/information desk.

The detention area has been minimally altered, creating a space for reflection and historical exhibition of the site; textile elements, such as fabrics, have been incorporated to subdivide the exhibition and galleries within this space.

Barracks:

The barracks area is located near a main entrance, with its main path leading to a trail that connects to the central building of the Interpretation Center. The public is encouraged to visit this historic area through a variety of ways to use the space, as well as by connecting it to the ornamental garden located to the north.

The building that formerly served as the CDC's administrative headquarters now features rest and service areas for the public, with tensile structures added to the exterior to cover the entrances. It also houses meeting, archive, and research rooms, as well as facilities for the historical preservation of the Interpretation Center.

The buildings that formerly served as barracks are proposed for mixed-use recreational activities such as presentations, exhibitions, and relaxation, with some service areas, technical spaces, and storage facilities. The element of tensile structures is repeated to provide shade outdoors.

The building that used to serve as a workshop to the north provides an open space with minimal intervention for visitors, as well as gardening storage for the ornamental garden adjacent to the area.



MAIN BUILDING
UPPER LEVEL

ENTRANCE
ROOF

AXONOMETRIC
VIEW



INTERPRETATION CENTER (MAIN BUILDING):

The main building of the Interpretation Center comprises various areas of the architectural program, integrating open, semi-open, and enclosed spaces.

It is aligned precisely with the **central axis** and is located east of Memory Arsenal Park, as its activity spaces are quieter, such as the **gallery exhibitions, the Pavilion, and Memory Plaza**.

Most of the facilities are partially or fully **underground**, creating a subtle landscape of structures that occasionally emerge to the surface and then retreat again, alluding to the symbolism of a history that was **once hidden** and clandestine, waiting to be **revealed**.

These irregular forms of diagonals and curves draped across the grass, **resembling a cloth or a scarf**, allude to the concept and history of the center.

The space that stands out on one of the highest points of the topography is the **Memory Plaza and the Historical Exhibition Pavilion**; both spaces integrate and complement each other. The plaza is aligned irregularly but perpendicular to the main axis, creating **two wings** (north and south) that point to two parts of the history of the clandestine detention center: **the barracks** (the perpetrators' space) and **Warehouse 9** (the victims' space).

Areas of vegetation are integrated to break up the plaza's continuous stone slab, contributing to the irregularity and interplay between the architecture and the park's natural elements.

In the center of the plaza stand two identical, towering structures facing opposite directions; these form the **Historical Exhibition Pavilion**, a semi-open space dedicated to remembrance.

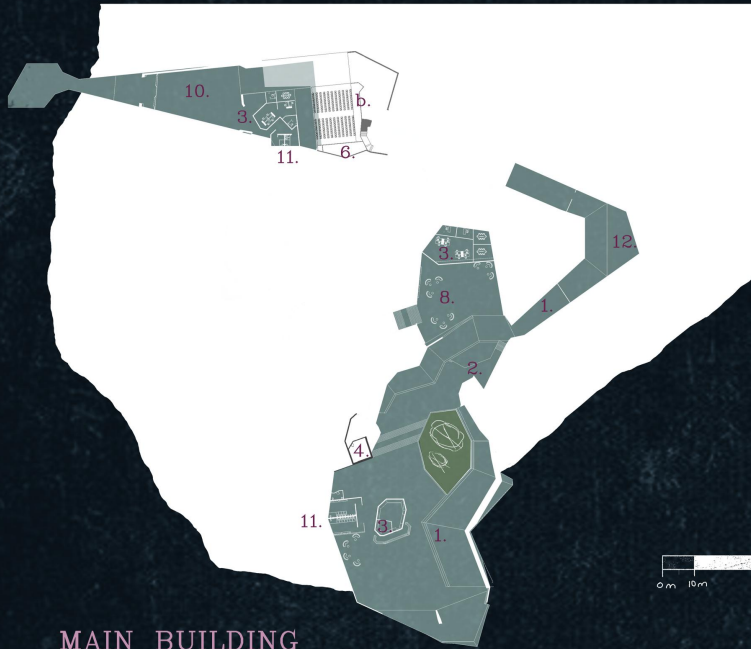
Their monumental, elevated form abstractly alludes to the **Mothers of Plaza de Mayo**, who fought to uncover the truth during this dark period. During their protests, they walked from the plaza in **pairs** because gatherings of more than two people were not allowed; based on this significant historical event, it was decided to design these **two structures**. Both point, like the main axis, toward different angles of the sun. The western structure of the pavilion aligns directly with the **sunset on March 24** (the start of the dictatorship in Argentina), while the eastern structure points toward the sunrise on **December 10** (the end of the dictatorship in Argentina).

This monumental element, repeated in both directions, consists of two reinforced concrete walls with a maximum height of 24 meters; along their length, they converge at a central point (the direction of sunrise or sunset, respectively) and taper down to a height of 3 meters. These walls cast a large shadow at sunset or sunrise, **highlighting the sun's position**; their expansive layout allows a large number of visitors to gather and witness this moment on both historic dates, especially during the March 24, **National Day of Remembrance and Justice**.

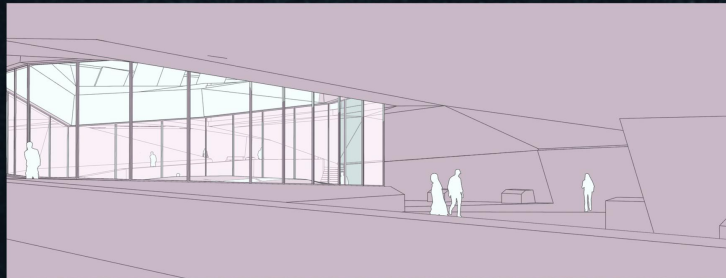
A white tensile structure is stretched along the sides of each wall, providing shade for the pavilion and symbolizing the mothers' scarves.

In the center of the plaza and between the two structures of the Pavilion are two elongated elements that unite the space and the forms, like a pair of obelisks; in addition to tying the architectural geometry together at a central point, they function as elevators connecting to the underground areas of the Interpretation Center. These also feature tensile structures. From the plan view, all these tensile structures create a shape that resembles **the knot of the scarves**.

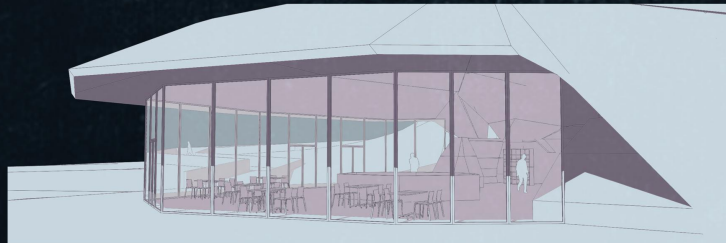
Another way to connect to the Interpretation Center is via two staircases, one in each structure of the Pavilion, descending into the stone slab.



MAIN BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL



INTERIOR VIEW OF GALLERY



EXTERIOR VIEW OF CAFE



The other facilities in the main building include:

1. Memorial Art Gallery
2. Presentation Stage
3. Administration
4. Maintenance
5. Storage
6. Technical Space
7. Café
8. Bookstore
9. Commercial Spaces
10. Conference Center
11. Restroom
12. High-Tech hall



MAIN BUILDING
MIDDLE LEVEL

INTERPRETATION CENTER (MAIN BUILDING):

The addition of the conference hall to the main building serves as a flexible space that allows for the extension of the gallery's audiovisual exhibitions, creating new uses within the interpretation center with a greater visitor capacity, thereby expanding the floor plan and complementing its exhibition and conversation functions within the space.

To the south of the building, at the lowest points of the area, is the main entrance, which leads to a spacious lobby equipped with restrooms, a reception desk, and a coat check for visitors. The first exhibition space is the gallery, which features distinct circulation paths, giving visitors the freedom to experience the space through various routes. On one side, to the east of the building, there is a ramp with a gentle 3% slope that extends further into the site. This ramp is wide and irregular; in the middle lies an internal courtyard that integrates vegetation into the building, and its perimeter enclosure of glass windows allows natural light into the area, creating an interesting interplay of levels between the underground spaces and the natural ground level.

The east ramp, like the stairs to the west behind the coat check, leads down to a lower level with a presentation stage, which is surrounded by another ramp that rises at a 3% gradient. This ramp connects to various spaces, integrating the gallery with other facilities, such as a central lounge area with bookshelves, tables, and ample exhibition space, as well as the administrative area. The continuation of this ramp encircles the eastern side of the building, connecting to the High-tech Hall for Immersive Audiovisual Performances. This space was integrated into the main building as part of the center's exhibition expansion. From the High-tech Hall, another ramp continues, rising at the same gradient as the previous ones, connecting to the conference center and the vertical circulation core that links to the Memory Plaza and the Pavilion, as shown in the floor plan on the right. The ramp continues westward to connect to the café, the bookstore, and the commercial spaces. This area connects to the exterior via a spacious terrace that extends the café area toward the park, rising from the ground to the surface, covered by and connecting to the plaza via a ramp.

In addition to connecting to the areas described above, the conference center has its own main entrance on the west side, aligned with the park's main axis, as well as a secondary entrance on the upper level on the north side. All of these entrances connect to the natural ground level.

The lower level of the conference center features a spacious lobby, reception area, restrooms, administrative offices, and technical spaces. To the north is a gentle 3% slope ramp connecting to the conference rooms, vertical circulation, the rest of the interpretation center, and additional restrooms.

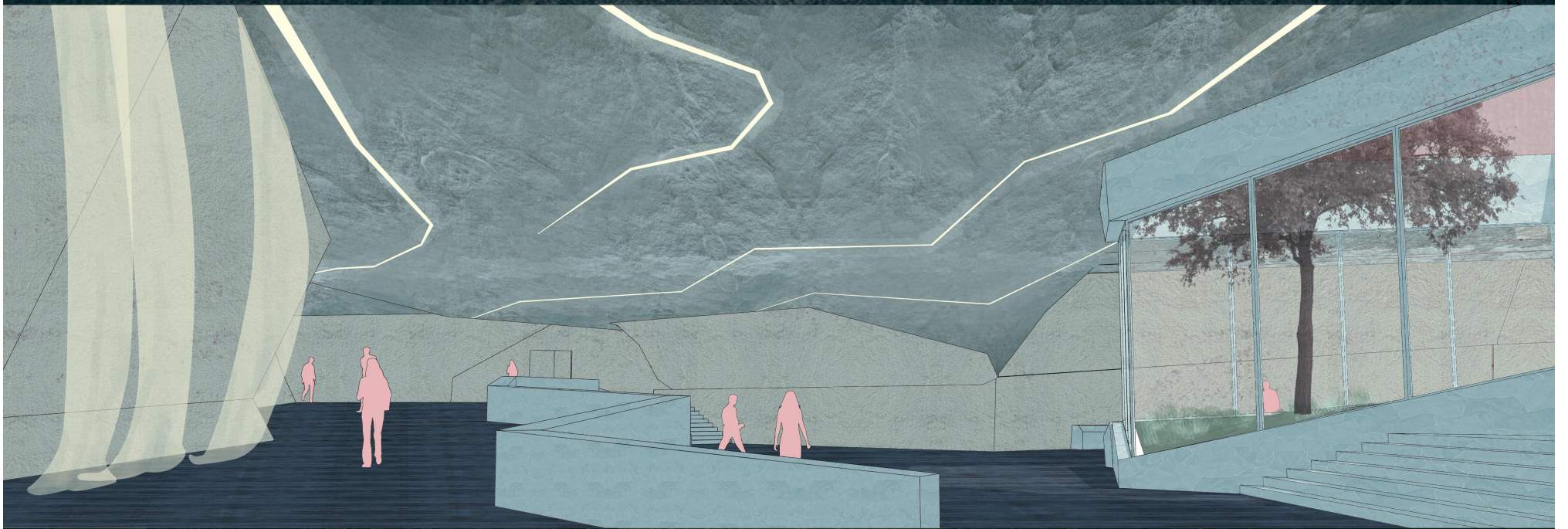
The conference halls vary in capacity.

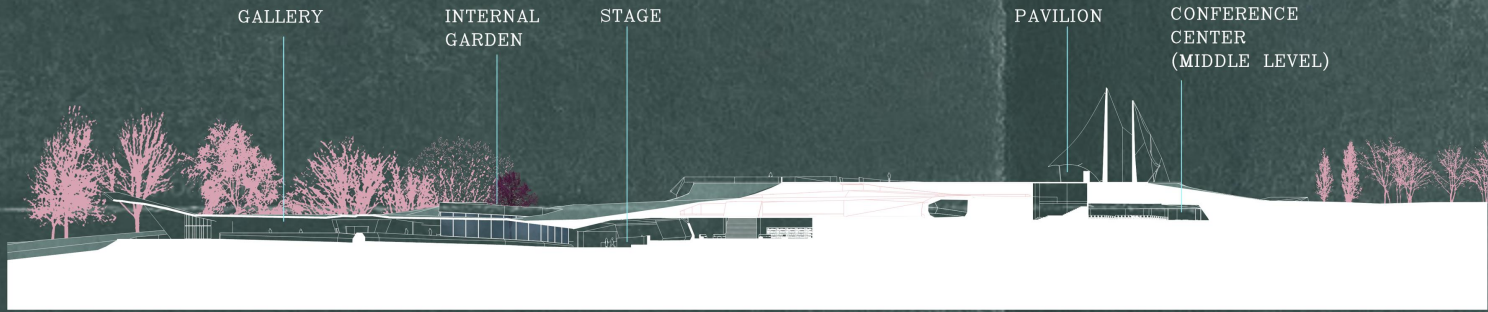
- a. A main hall with a capacity of 500 people, arranged radially with a central stage on the upper level
- b. Two secondary halls for 200 people
- c. Four meeting rooms for 50 people.

The entire structure of the main building utilizes a reinforced concrete shell and load-bearing walls to achieve these intricate forms, as well as to support the earth surrounding the underground spaces. This structure also allows for a column-free floor plan and provides thermal protection for the space in various climates.

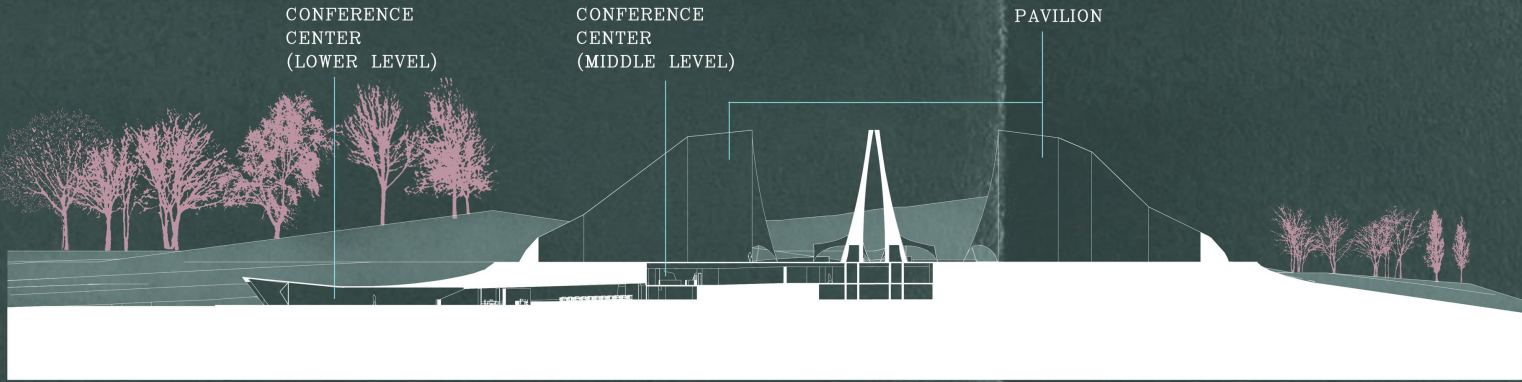
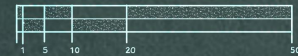
Materiality is a recurring theme in the design, featuring wood floors, exposed concrete, stone masonry, stone slabs on the exteriors, textiles in the interiors, diagonal and organic forms, and large glass windows.

INTERIOR VIEW OF GALLERY AND GARDEN

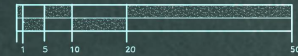


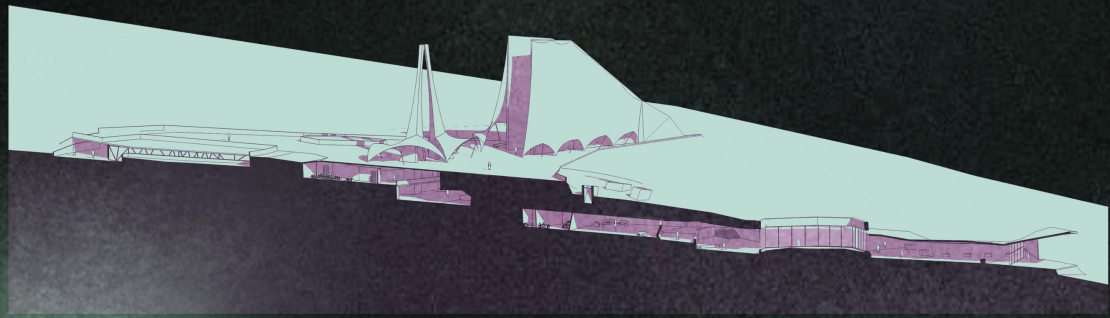


SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B'





AXONOMETRIC SECTION

ARSENAL MEMORY PARK

