

A0801 THE ALCHEMIST'S LAST STOP | THE CONCRETE CAVE

CONCRETE THAT CHANGES SECTION, COLOR (AGGREGATE) AND TEXTURE (FORMWORK) / A CINEMATOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE OF A CONCRETE CAVE



DIMENSIONS | 5m x 20m x 5m



SCENE 3

The alchemist reaches the end of the cave, where he observes a well, an oculus on top, and an opening on his eye level, where he encounters with the outside world once again.



CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE 01



Inspired by the construction of the Bruder Klaus Chapel (Peter Zumthor), the inner surfaces of the concrete box has a patina of a cave. Considering the story of the "Alchemist" written by Paulo Coelho, this box is located on a barren land like that of a desert. Therefore the patina of cactus is used to give the surface its own texture.

During the construction, layers of concrete will be poured and put on the existing surface of concrete, each around 60 cm thick, the concrete is poured on the cactuses. When the concrete is set, the cactus frame will be set on fire, leaving behind a surface of the cactus and burnt inner surfaces.

SCENE 2

The alchemist manages to move forward with the help of the light that is coming from a slit on top of the concrete cave.



SCENE 1

The alchemist enters the cave from a 70 cm opening.

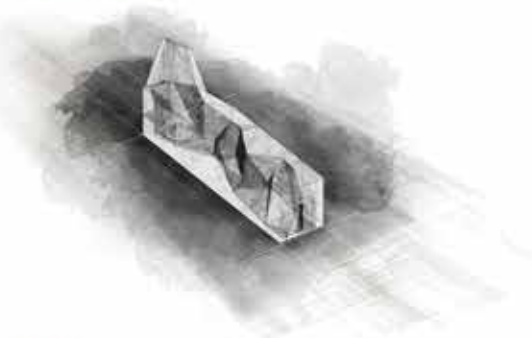


We came to this world alone and will die alone obviously. And yet, we still try to find the perfection in other people in order to achieve a satisfying life. In fact, this makes us suffer more regret and fail to experience wealth and other favors that the universe generously provides upon those who tries to find themselves. As a result, the idea that all individuals should live in the singular pursuit of their individual dreams should be the primary goal of a humanbeing in life.

This concept, that the individual should turn to him/herself marks our design in the very first step. Inspired by the Pilgrimage Roads that provides a route outside the cities to natural spaces in order to provide an inner peace, we also placed our concrete cave to barren lands.

This last stop of the journey of an alchemist that tries to follow his own "Personal Legend" is marked by a concrete cave. This cave ends up with a water and an oculus on top like that of a Hodoo. This fresh water well, provides water to travelers, as well as ironically refers to the story of Narcissus, who had fallen in love to himself looking to his reflection in a pond and died doing it so, as the last destination of the journey of the "Alchemist".

ISOMETRIC



PLAN

A horizontal slit is opened at the end of the cave, where the well is placed. This opening on the eye level, provides a view to the outside world, referring that one should have to know the outside world in order to know himself (as Goethe predicted centuries ago).



CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE 02

As well as the section and the patina, the color of this concrete changes throughout the tunnel. This is accomplished by using different aggregates while preparing the concrete mixture on site. The changing concrete color indicates the movement and the importance of the sections of the box. As a result, as the section changes, each section has a unique color marking its distance to the end of the tunnel, the point of destination. Starting with grey, the color changes to brown at the end of the cave, near the well.

CINEMATOGRAPHIC SECTIONS

