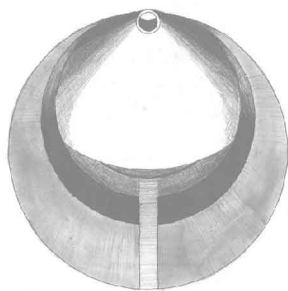
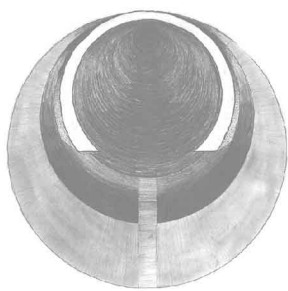
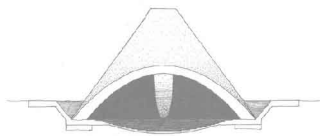
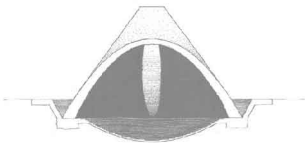
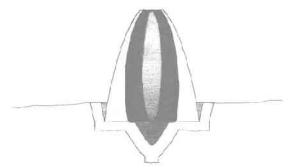
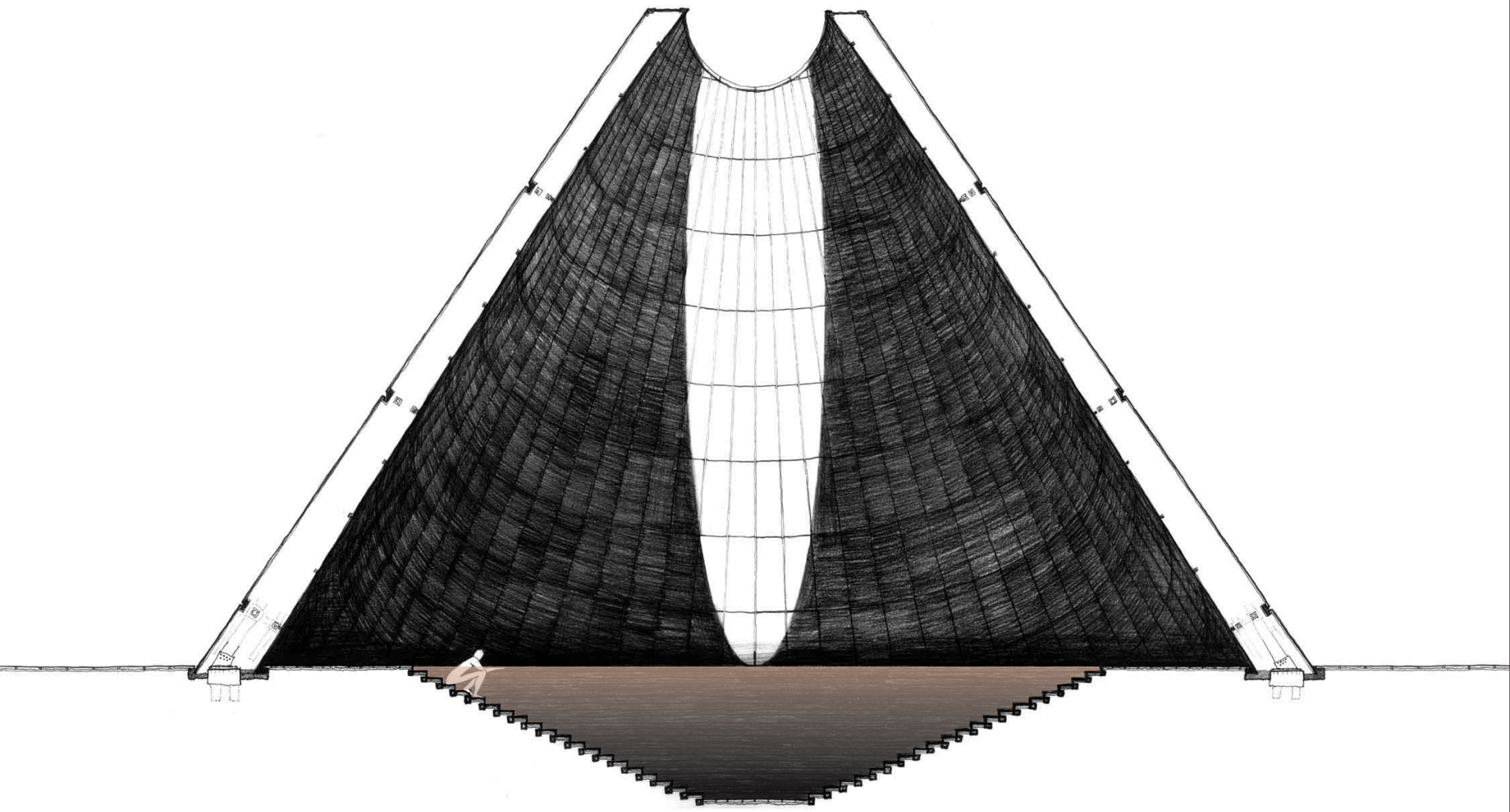


the solstice



Solar noon on the summer solstice reveals the culmination of all the geometric choices and deformations of the design and illuminates the project's purist purpose.

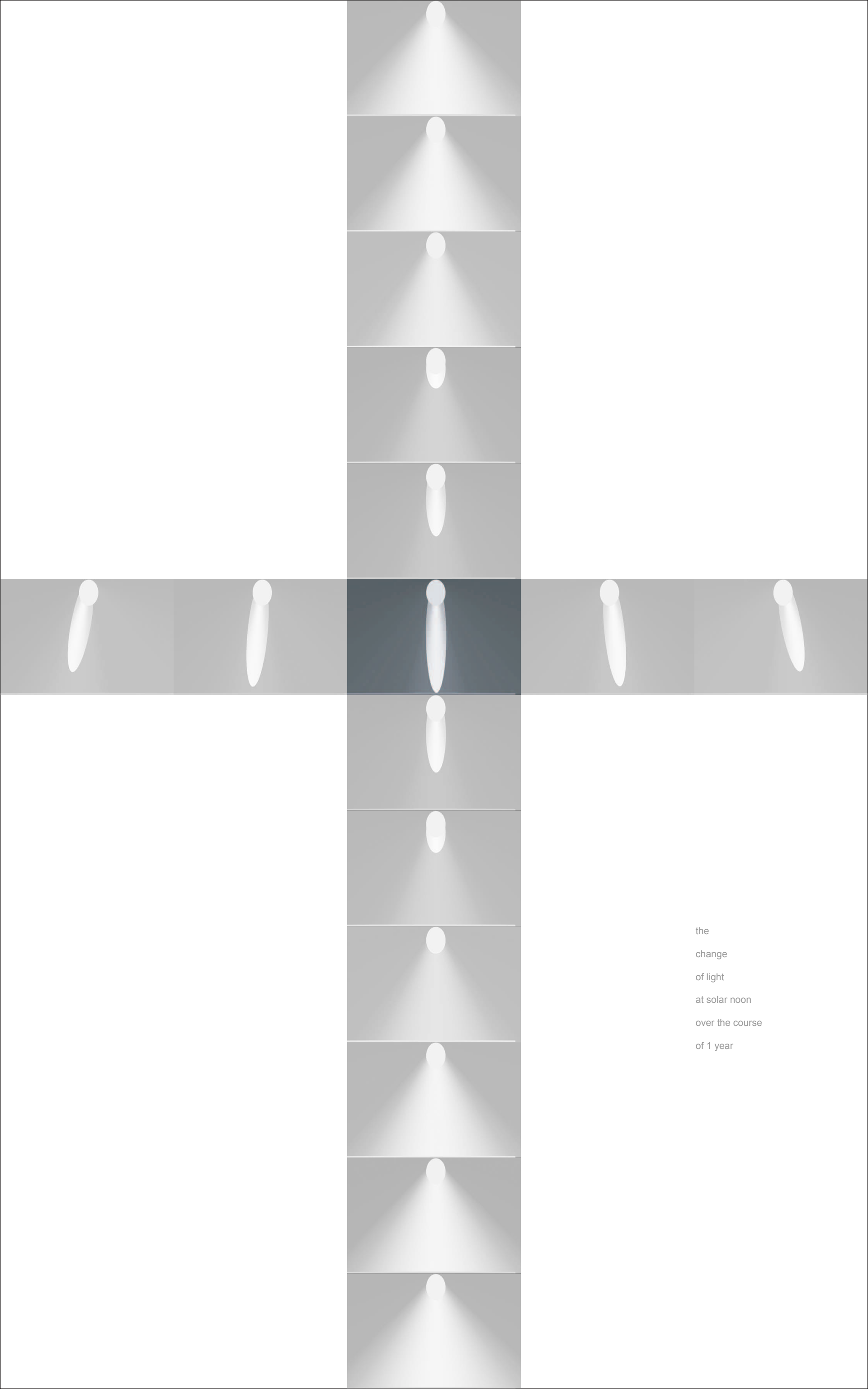
The form of the cone relegates the light to a uniform, indirect quality through the majority of the year. However, on June 21, the space becomes a more unique architectural moment. The tilt of the cone, the position of the pool, the location of the oculus, and the height of the northern interior edge of the cone converge to celebrate the struggle between the sun and its staggering heat and the pool and its cooling water. The light of the sun stretches down the side of the cone through the elliptical oculus. The edge of this ellipse of light will touch the northern tangent point of the pool and its water—culminating the struggle between the heat and the cool. The sun will attain its greatest chance to corrupt the purity of the water and ultimately fail.



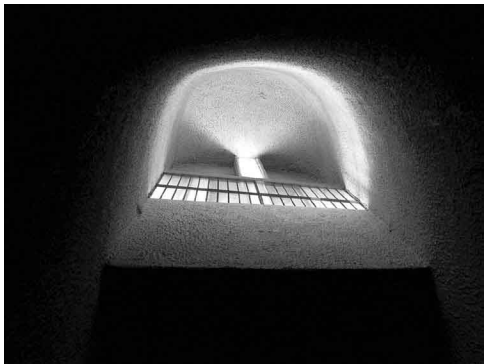
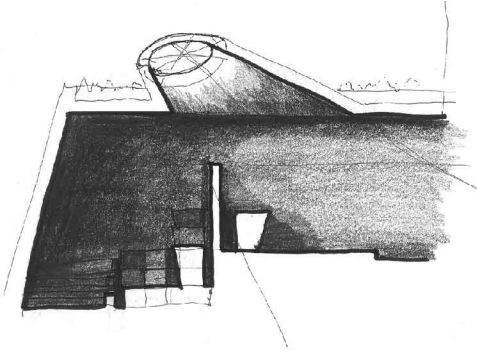
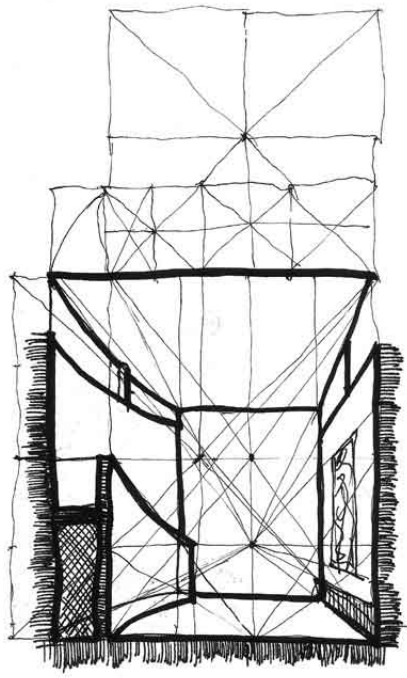
the progression of light to the solstice



the path of the sun during June 21



the
change
of light
at solar noon
over the course
of 1 year



r e f l e c t i o n

I am no scholar or poet. I know no secret pearls of knowledge or wisdom, but thus far I have come to one conclusion that I know is true.

Architecture is the place where life happens.

This is by no means the only truth of architecture, nor is it a trivial tenet. This is a truth that I have discovered, and it is the truth that guided, guides, and will continue to guide my role in the pursuit of design. Place, space, room, "building." This is a dominion that we serve. Life occurs, and architects have the means to sculpting it to the nature of its moments.

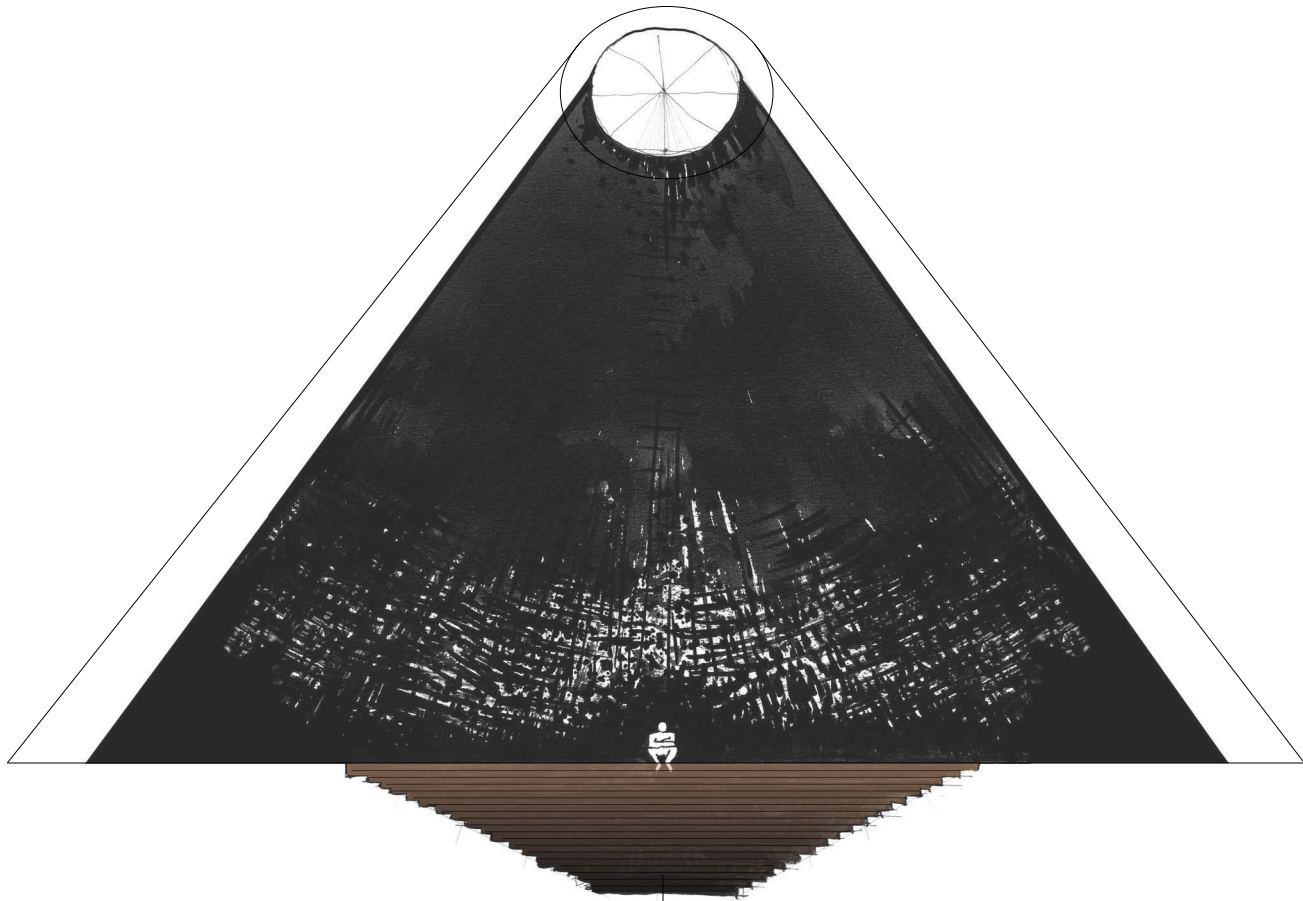
We live, work, eat, drink, sleep, laugh, watch television, discuss the merits of Mexican over Italian food, play guitar, write, and swim in places. Built places. Constructed places.

These places must uphold, reflect, support, and celebrate the activities and moments that happen in their spaces. Architects have the responsibility to sculpt, mold, and design these places to this utmost potential.

gallery--Villa la Roche

crypt--La Tourette

light tower--Ronchamp



Le Corbusier wrote once, while designing the chapel at Ronchamp, "perhaps...architecture is not an affair of columns but an affair of plastic moments." Such a simple statement is loaded and rife with interpretation. One such interpretation: to come to a design with the imposition of an "affair of columns," or rather, a predetermined course of design, an architect robs a place of its full spatial, architectural potential. Architecture is indeed an affair of plastic moments. The design of a building, of a space must be sculpted and molded to suit the nature of life that will happen in such a place.

I confess that this quote of Le Corbusier has not been in my mind throughout the entire course of this thesis; in fact, it is only a recent find. However, this gem of a sentence crystallizes the philosophy that I have tried to pursue and pinpoint since starting in the field of architecture and will continue to develop as long as I design. A dedication to ultimate realization in terms of form, space, and overall progression was the primary inspiration and goal of this project and exploration, as well as earlier work and future work.

photography, illustrations, and book
design by the author

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