Excavation in Toronto

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keyword: excavation, silence, void, mass, surface.
We will meet again
As we never say goodbye
on that platform
of
the leaving train...

In memory of
my brother, Tong,
for his love that reveals the meaning of life.
Should we be surprised by the fact that architectural form can be found in the plan of the city? Yes, if one considers the fact that there is no architectural intervention in the design of the plan. No, if one considers architecture as not just the practice of a specific form of “writing”, but primarily as an art of “reading.” It is the “reading subject,” the principle that generates the architecture of the city by displacing its plan to “another” realm. The realm of the urban text.

M. Gandelsonas *The Unconscious of the City*
In the fusion of train station, railroad and buildings, the city becomes both a backdrop to as well as an instrument involved in the search for intervention. The proposed site within the context of Toronto becomes an abstraction of the physical and psychological phenomena that characterize this metropolis: the void space, the ground plane, as delineators of space, serve as the vehicles through which the train station as built form, become an edifice within the city, in which the private relationship of it becomes civic. The intention of the project is to reveal that not only the physical boundaries between the internal and external, but also the human forlornness within the urban labyrinth, are indistinct. The mass is a visible manifestation of an invisible nothing. Architecture is to be experienced as the transformation of human sentimentality and social context.
In the urban labyrinth, I lost all sense of direction. On inhospitable streets that emanate forlornness, homelessness becomes a chronic condition.

M. Heizer "Double Negative"
City is like desert, swallowing up boundaries: It probably affected me almost as “negative form”. Negative not in the ethical sense, but as an impenetrable, compact and closed mass that allows no freedom to the other, an intruder into personal space.

M. Heizer “Double Negative”
I feel that I exist only outside of any belonging. That non-belonging is my very substance.
The excavation in my project stands not as architecture, but as architecture in reverse; not as object but as void.

The isolated stills convey the break-up of the storyline, the disjunction that is the characteristic of modern life. The feeling of loss and loneliness are thus experienced from the fact that a continuum has been broken. Exaggerated steps are designed to avoid people entering, since there exists a fear, a fear of going down, the feeling of “going back... back through layers and layers of space and time to an arche that is, perhaps, ‘older’ than the beginning of our world, the world, any world.” M. Taylor "Rendezvouz"
The observer becomes an actor, the life a script, and the architecture a reading of the script by the actor/viewer.
Excavation Level Plan
Lobby Plan

1. lobby
2. office
3. telephone
4. tunnel to platform
5. boutiques
Hallway Level Plan

5. boutiques
6. cafe
7. ticket booth
8. platform
West Elevation
A serial analysis of ground is to understand the two different but related issues: surface and solid. This was part of my thesis study while excavation was applied as the void within solid mass.


