

TRANSITION TUNNEL

THE EXPLANATORY LETTER

OPEN DESIGN CONCEPT FOR A COMPLEX ARRANGEMENT OF PANERIAI MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST AND
ALL VICTIMS OF NAZISM

IDEA

After a precise analysis of the needs and requirements in this competition and with full respect for the context of Paneriai Memorial, our project activities focused primarily on adding a completely new and independent architectural element. It is the transition tunnel that visitors overcome on the way to the Memorial Site. It is a link between the worlds of the living and the place of mass murder. It aims to put people in the right mood, lets calm down, given the seriousness of this place and comprehend atrocities against humanity perpetrated on this territory. It moves visitors from the busy parking lot to the silence of the forest. It is an entry to introducing a completely different world.

With a full respect to the context of place and existing forms of commemorating the victims of crime intentionally resigned from any means of artistic and architectural expression transform the original design. Introduced only elements ordering paths and places graves. Any new additions form, even though by its dimensions strongly influence the emotions of customers, wholly been hidden in the ground taking advantage of the natural terrain.

MASTER PLAN

The project consists of three main components: the entrance zone, transition tunnel and Memorial Site.

Parking has been designed to meet the current needs. There is 20 parking spaces for cars, 2 for coaches and the bus shelter.

The first element of what the visitor sees is a tube of corten steel. After descending the ramp, people will be on the bottom of a deep and dark hole in the ground. Through its size it is a place evoke strong emotions, lets calm down and give a moment to think. It it also shows the scale of the crimes committed here. The small passage directs visitors to the tunnel. The narrow gap in the ground which traverses the visitors is going to show the seriousness of this place and a sense of moral responsibility for historical events that took place here. At the beginning of the tunnel is the main entrance to the visitors center. Transition tunnel leads directly to the main square with the monument to the victims of Nazism. This is the point which to begin the tour of the Memorial and the site of major historical events and celebrations. Square surface made of concrete is drawing circles that tighten around the monument. Along the lines drained information describing the history of Paneriai Memorial.

Going forward path next visit tombs and monuments, we get to know the history of these places and especially the people associated with it. Paths are formed in such a way as to take account of differences in terrain and the use of the old parts of the previous track. The entire surface of the bottom of burners` pits was lined with corten. It has been imprinted subtitles with information about Paneriai Memorial. The path leading to the massacre pits is a ramp with two walls of corten that turn the visitor on a plaque commemorating the victims of crime. The main path has been led in such a way that visitors had the opportunity to see all the monuments and memorials. All information on this site can be found on the tables arranged

along the main path for visitors. The final section is combined in a symbolic and literal with the historical course of the prisoners` path. Lighting system of Paneriai Memorial is planned to highlight the most important places and monuments, and clearly show the main path. Some trees in the forest should be cut to create a scenic shots on the most important architectural elements at Memorial Site.

VISITORS CENTER

The building is mostly hidden underground. The main entrance was situated in the wall of the tunnel leading to the Memorial. On the ground floor is the main hall with info point, bookstore, cloakroom and exposition hall. The entrance area is poorly lit by, almost dark. The main light source is a skylight which is located two floors above. One of the main elements of the hall are stairs that lead to the two upper floors. The first floor has the office function with a windows in the wall of the tunnel. Café is situated on the top floor, which offers panoramic views of the Paneriai Memorial. By hiding almost all functions of Visitors Center under the ground it is in harmony with the natural and historical environment.

MATERIALS

The dominant material in the project is corten. It has been made all the new elements of the project. The existing tombs and memorials also have been enhanced by the corten plate.

Corten is a material that blends in harmoniously with nature and existing objects in this place. Its irregular pigmentation and shades as well as the rough surface structure well suited to the nature of the Memorial.