

## **TERRA MEMORIA: Where Memory Stays and Dissolves**

Atatürk Forest Farm was the land of an utopia of the republic. It was aimed to be a model for a modern Turkey in social life, industry, production and education. It was the land of an idea, which is now the land of **the memory** of that idea.

**Terra Memoria** aims to discover the memory of the past and strengthen it with the memory of today and the future. It sees the lands of AOC as the fertilizer of the memory of people living in the city of Ankara. It suggests **memory paths**-reaching arms of the land to the city, which start from where residential areas are dominant. Those memory paths are dialectical paths since memory is a dialectic of remembering and forgetting as Pierre Nora suggests. Until the memory paths reach to central axis-the spine- of all circulation in AOC, it serves evidences of the past and today.

### **Memory Paths**- personal experience of remembering and forgetting

The first phase of the memory path is the **building necropolis**. Here disregarded valuable buildings of the city would be placed by temporary supports. Aldo Rossi claims that "A city remembers through its buildings, so the preservation of old buildings is analogous with the preservation of memories in human mind." Why not bringing all the buildings to be demolished which are valuable architecturally here to **Terra Memoria**? They stand as the physical evidences of the "previous" city. The second phase is the **amnesia parks** where the experience of forgetting takes place in a sunken topography. It includes media forests reinforced with sounds and dramatic light embedded in nature. After realizing how we forget the path continues with **public archives**. These public archives, museums, are open-air museums that exhibit the relics of the time that has passed such as the flags from all riots happened in Ankara or the stones thrown at the police, or the gas masks used by people. Next phase is also **amnesia parks**, which are rather smooth than the previous ones. After amnesia parks a **memorial** starts with first a narrow corridor then a silent land of trees in perfect order. The last phase is the **cemeteries**, where the dead stays.

The axial memory paths sprawl through **Terra Memoria** reaching to the main axis. The personal experience yields itself to collective experience.

### **Main Axis- Spine** - collective experience of remembering and forgetting

This sprawl that began as memory paths meets at certain points to create nodes for collective gatherings. It provides a platform for collective remembering or acts. Those acts can both be determined or casual.

### **Memory Disposal Centers**

This sprawl leads to the memory disposal centers located around the main axis of **Terra Memoria**. These are the places where one can leave the reminiscents of a memory later to be dissolved by the nature. The memory disposal centers are the existing **illegal buildings** as the illegal palace and Ankara park. The monumental character of these buildings are seen problematic and as a solution the concept of an architecture suggested: The buildings will literally be cut into different parts and reveal their interiors.

This will provide both more interaction surface for the people and their objects-to-be-forgotten and their monumentality will be destroyed as a symbol of intervention to the issues of the city by people. The buildings are going to dissolve into nature in time with the memories disposed.

