

Trou de Memoire

Brief

By Eddy Harb
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Time and space are linked permanently and a real architect manages to gather them into a single reality. Sometimes, man decides to dedicate a space to celebrate a past time, influence the present, or simply shape the future; this is what I call: memorial museum.

Few countries have experienced the trauma of war as much as Lebanon has. These wars were always originated by political or religious conflicts. The army is the only organization that never took part in any of these conflicts, which led for this organization to become a symbol of respect, admiration, and peace for the people. Therefore, building this memorial museum is a tribute to the Lebanese army, a symbol of peace and a promise for a better future.

Now I want to take you on a journey, my memorial route, I want you to imagine yourself on this route and experience, feel, and discover the message I want to convey.

When entering the space, you see the memorial from a distance, it is the objective to be achieved, it is the end, it is light. You cannot access it directly; to get there you have to overcome several obstacles. Each of these obstacles has a meaning, each of these barriers is a personal experience facing the war. What I offer you is an obstacle course that is usual for the military and must never become for civilians.

From the words of the Architect Tadao Ando "Architecture is interplay of solid-voids, alternative of open and closed, contrast of light and darkness."

While studying the architect's point of view, the project crystalized. I visualized my own concept of bunker, a concept of the military architecture, which is the art of fortifying and defending by creating spaces of enclosure. The focus on simplicity enables to concentrate on inner feelings rather than appearances. This simplicity represents the aesthetics perceived from your own sensations. This experience turns into a confusion (the grey), moments of pain and suffer (the black), and moments of peace and light (the white). All these mixed feelings are represented within this journey through the labyrinthine, the equilibrium between concrete and light, dark corridors and clear parts, well lighted stairs and dark slope, nature and man-made elements, as well as open and close areas; a test for your inner soul.

"Trou de Memoire" (French expression) literally means, in English, "a hole in your memory". This project creates a black hole in your memory, which blends time and space and takes you on a journey in another dimension where you will get immersed in a changing reality through patriotism, expression of infinite emotions, and hope of a better future.