Cinamen prison

In the words of Cinamen, outlined by Laurence in De Riccius Nature, every falling atom has the possibility to unprececdently severe from its path in an undetermined moment. In the same way, humans have the possibility to change direction from a primary impulse which comes from the soul. This would contrast the opposing moment from submerse, stopping negative impulses induced from the outside world.

The objective of the project is to think of a space which is able to penetrate the soul of the individual in a deep and significant way. The space is to educate them "according to nature," thus using its surroundings to activate a sublimation mechanism.

The sublime is an idea that is substantially different to the idea of beauty. The sublime is something that can simultaneously produce both feelings of terror and exaltation, producing what could be defined as "delightful horror." Kant maintains that the sublime has an educative function, a negative feeling caused by the presence of an uncontrollable force produces a feeling such that totally changes human impulse, re-establishing the value of rationally controlling one's self from the sentient subject.

To activate such sublimation mechanism, we thought to put the prisoner in direct visual contact with nature, using the desert as an ideal location which creates a strong contrast between the vastness of the horizon and the melancholic fragility of the "ruins" a symbol of the finitude of man. And thus the ruin and sublimating structure of the prison on nature.

There is no longer a singular, omnipresent, insidious surveillance that observes the abandoned remains fumbling terror; the prison becomes an amphitheatre open to the sublime spectacle that is nature, turning man to lose the platonic core, and to open his eyes to himself and the world around him.

From a functional point of view, this project has been designed to have all the necessary facilities for day-to-day running, which is important being located in a very isolated area. On the two basement floors there are administrative services offices, meeting rooms, restrooms for staff and for families of the prisoners, as well as guest spaces, catering, shops, gym, chapels, hospital wards, and multipurpose spaces for the more deserving prisoners. In the main cells are arranged on the subsequent three floors, which lead out to the desert on a runway through a metaphysical twisted landscape.