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Revival on the stronghold

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Revival of the Forbidden on the Stronghold

In the 1890's, a religious movement called the Ghost Dance spread across the west amongst the Native Americans. This religious movement ultimately led to the brutal killing of 250 Oglala Lakota people in the Wounded Knee Massacre. This proposal is a vision for an architectural landscape in memory of the ancestors killed performing this dance, sited in the Stronghold Unit of the Badlands in South Dakota . This proposal extracts elements of the performance from the Ghost Dance such as the 7 directions or North, South, West, East, up, down, and within. This landscape is a spiritual journey that takes one through the dance metaphorically, reorienting them in these 7 directions pointing back out to the landscape to locations and places of events that contributed to the Massacre. The site frames out the 7 spaces of pause for prayer, meditation, reflection and anticipation leading up to the final and 7th spot for the direction of within- the highest point of connection to the ancestors looking out over the reservation peering out to the Wounded Knee Burial Site. Once one reaches the final space they will experience feelings and thoughts of death, sacrifice, oppression and robbery of ones culture and life. This proposal is meant to bring attention to the injustices from this specific moment in history – the mass persecution of an innocent group of people practicing rituals and beliefs, and for being unwilling to assimilate into others beliefs and cultures. Along with shedding light on this crime against Native Americans from the past, this proposal sheds light on more present day issues, such as the conflicts on the Standing Rock with more destruction of land, revealing that Native Americans today are dealing with continuous struggles of prejudice and oppression, lack of resources, and the threat of loosing more land. After the 7 points of reorientation, one is directed to turn back, moving through four circular spaces radiating out from planted trees for a continuation of the previous experiences. By going through this landscape, one will encounter change in direction and elevation in relation to the horizon, moving through and across thresholds defined by light, edges and voids. This is a space meant to experience the moments slowly, to reflect on the past, and to anticipate and receive connection to spirits and ancestors.