AD HOC CONDITIONS

PART

PROGRAM

BY SJIM VAN BEIJSTERVELDT
“Our epoch is one in which space takes for us the form of relations among sites.”

Michel Foucault

THE COLUMBARIUM

Program, in this project, was not used as a diagrammatic grid for a design to evolve on. Do it was conceived previous to the design process, it was only implemented when the main design was already well under way. This way the program became the alien part that was brought into collision with the original part, the design at hand at that time. This way the program was used to test the potential of the process.

Already during the research semester, the choice was made to design a columbarium for the city of Vilnius. The way myth is often constituted, this resulted out of the combining multiple events and factors being present in the city and the design thematic: Bricolage c.q. Adhocism. In search of the junction on other levels then solely the material and physical elements, Michel Foucault’ understanding of the term Heterotopia, presents a way of understanding program as a junction as well. Here it becomes a transition area, a collision where multiple dimensions are present at the same time. Multiple times in the museum for example. Also he argues how death and life are present simultaneously in places as the graveyard. Vilnius is a city which has been robbed of most of the traces of death within the city foremost by the obliteration of cemeteries during soviet rule.

With the design of the columbarium death is juxtaposed to life and re-enters the city. To stimulate its acceptance as a natural part of life an unconventional design should make the event into an unique experience creating a new dynamic within the existing conventions of ritual burial.
Assembly of parts
5th floor: columbarium
"Myth is constructed from a heterogeneous limited repertoire. It is intellectual bricolage"

Claude Lévi-Strauss