How can the manipulation of light and shadow through texture affect the experience of a space?

The design explores the interplay of light and shadow, focusing on a particular area to create a haptically rich experience. This area is designed to enhance the senses and provide a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

The project is situated in the Mojave desert, near the Valley of Fire State Park, an hour north-east of the greater Las Vegas area. The entire area surrounding the site is characterized by the unique landscape of the desert.

The project focuses on the experience of the site and surrounding landforms. By integrating the landscape into the building and the building into the landscape, the project becomes one with the environment.

There are two main areas of the project: the baths and the den. The Baths explore the tranquility of the body and heightening of the senses. The Den brings the soul into its natural environment by enhancing natural lighting and focusing on the surrounding backdrop.

Experiential Boutique Resort

Differentiation of Light

The tranquil exploration of the body within the baths paints a different experience than the focus of nature surrounding the suites. Differing experiences equal two different explorations of light and shadow.

A dark room in which one cannot see the other wall can create a sense of mystery. A room housed within a church lit only by a skylight and a focused view creates emotions of reverence and contemplation. The baths are designed in much the same way. With the massive concrete walls that echo sound to the slit of light steering your eyes toward a concentrated landscape the design fabricates an experience of admiration and awe.

In order to create the desired experience of the Den, the design needed to delve into the natural need of human exploration. Similar to a slot canyon, the space needed to change throughout the day. Due to the ever-changing natural lighting and differing angles needed to achieve a particular view this effect was accomplished.
Experiential Boutique Resort

1. Gated Entrance
2. Parking
3. Main Entrance
4. The Baths
5. The Suites
6. ADA Suite
7. 2 Bedroom Suite
8. Rainwater Runoff
9. Rainwater Gate
10. Rainwater Collection

CIRCULATION

WATER SYSTEM

MASSING + VIEWS

Summer Solstice
Spring Equinox
Winter Solstice
Fall Equinox
**Views Within the Den**

The Den brings the soul into its natural environment by focusing on the surrounding backdrop. The Den's centralized views are inspired by the natural erosion of a slot canyon found within the Valley of Fire State Park. Those views are fixed on the landscape to accentuate the constantly changing aspects within the suite. The diagram below illustrates the changing angles.

**View Within the Baths**

The Baths explore tranquility of the body and the heightening of the senses. To focus on the body, there must be focused views. There are a total of four areas within the baths that frame the larger surrounding environment: the main entrance, the baths, and two relaxation spaces.