

When we find a mound in the woods six feet long and three feet wide, raised to a pyramidal form by means of a spade, we become serious and something in us says, someone was buried here. **That is architecture.**
ADOLF LOOS, Architecture (1910)

The simple idea that a grave as a piece of architecture is an idea that can identify a connection from the culture of a place to the landscape of a place. In the Haven for the Dead, a series of structures and details question the way we connect the cemetery to the sense of place in the landscape. The cemetery is a timeless creation of architecture in the landscape. It should be of the place to reveal a ritual and hold a strong connection to the land in which the people of Northern Minnesota can participate. This cemetery also is inspired by the place to create a new ritual of burial for the bereaved and the deceased. There are four types of burial that are inspired by the ritual of a connection to the water, earth, sky, and dolly[ies]. The ritual is intended to re-examine the placement of the deceased in the landscape, and honor them in a unique way to reveal the landscape.

narrative

The site of the open pit is something of a majestic beauty. Its sense to the visitor is dreamlike. It is devoid of human inhabitants and surreal with its exposure of the rocky innards of the earth's crust. In areas the rocks appear to be the sliced skin of the earth that was cut by a large knife; it seeps orangy red tones from within the iron rich stone which looks like a bloody scab to be more beautifully expressed with time. The views of the site captivate the visitor with a mosaic of visual senses from the quality of light, extreme topography, hard / soft materials; all of this is balanced around the connection to the surface of the water reservoir at the base of the pit. One's eye tend to focus on the water as the central focus on the site. This is possibly because of the quality of reflection or movement which contrasts dense woods, open grassy areas, and enormous piles of excavated earth.

In a way the site evokes a sense of funerary architecture. Revealing a sense of loss, while at the same time, seems to look forward to a different future, in this world or the next. In a sense this Haven for the Dead is a place of life and death, past and future, the material world and the spiritual world held in balance.

chapel

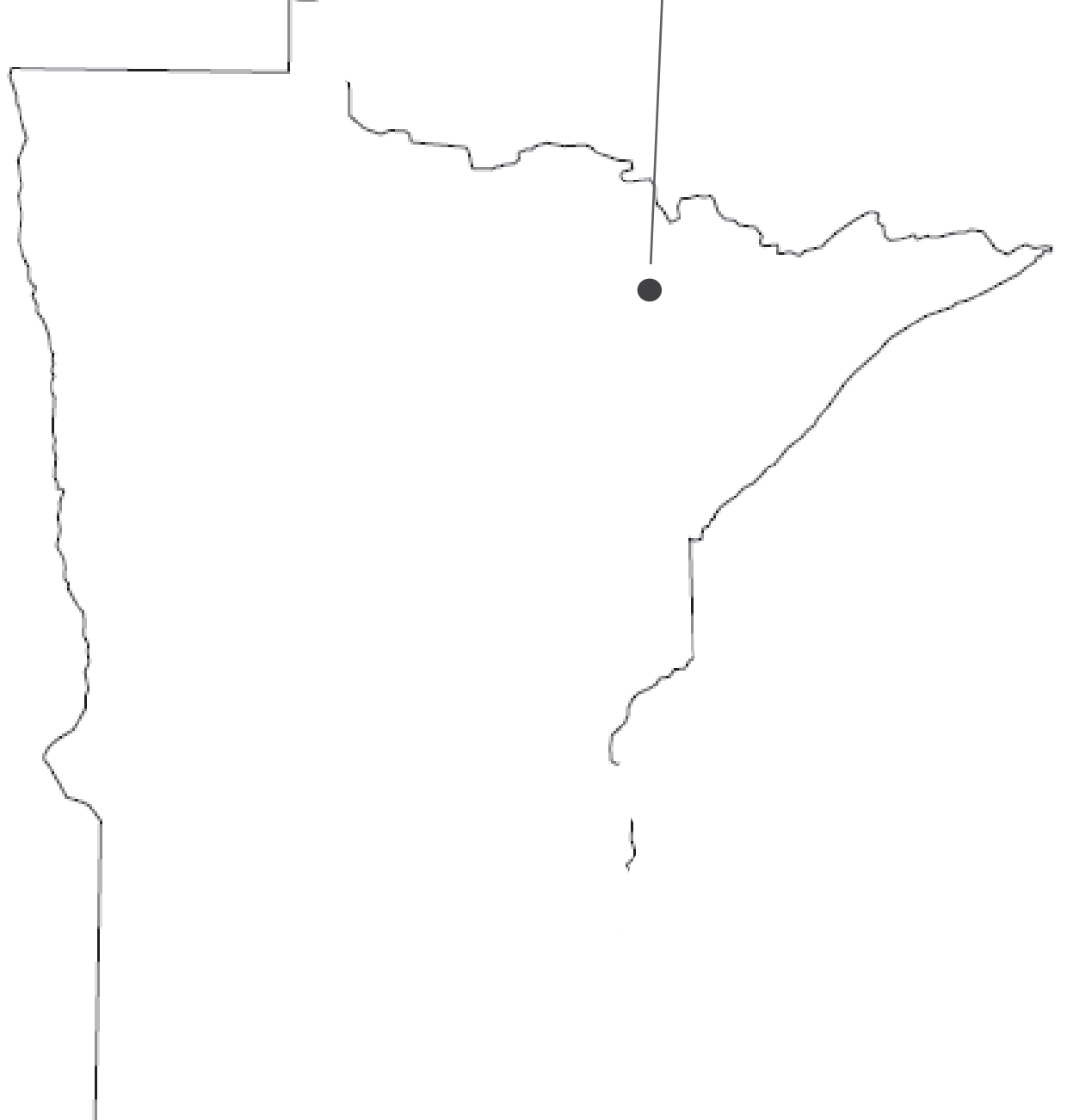
earth temple

sky temple

water temple

reflection temple

eveleth, mn



dead