

DESPINA ZACHAROPOULOU

TEMENOS

an architectural project dedicated to the work of G.Markopoulos and R.Beavers



Parallel Exhibition to the Temenos 2012 screenings at Lyssarea, Arcadia, Greece.
June 28th - July 1st, 2012

This project is an architectural proposal on the “Temenos”, a place envisioned by the filmmaker Gregory Markopoulos to be dedicated to his entire work as well as to his partner’s work, the filmmaker Robert Beavers. It was presented in 2010 at the National Technical University of Athens School of Architecture as Despina Zacharopoulou’s Dissertation Thesis (NTUA Supervisor Prof.: Vana Xenou, Andreas Kourkoulas, Architect Advisor: Christos Papoulias, NTUA Prof. Advisor on static: Miltiades Tzitzas). The proposed project is characterized by minimal architectural interventions-fractures in the landscape, which are unified through gaze and movement, in order to prepare the visitors/ spectators for the open-air screenings.

Inspired by Markopoulos’s vision on the “Temenos”, this architectural project has two basic intentions:

- 1) Architecture aims to function mostly in a “quiet way”, in the background, as the frame within which there will be the proper circumstances for watching the two filmmakers’ work. The architectural proposal tries neither to compete with the Film nor to introduce a new narrative of its own through symbols and references.
- 2) Architecture, expressed through simple and solid geometrical constructions, tries to investigate and express the presence of the “Temenos” within the natural landscape by using bipolarities such as: geometry vs. topography, architecture vs. nature, hardness vs. softness. In addition, there is the effort to manage the relationship between architecture and time by using tough materials (concrete, steel) and thus expressing a sense of monumentality as resistance over time.

The Main Concept: Having the Projection Screen as the core-centre, permanent architectural constructions-fractures are placed in the landscape and are unified through movement and gaze, as a reference to Markopoulos’s films where single frames are unified through movement and vision. Through the use of the landscape’s elements, a rhythm of hiding and revealing the view on the Projection Space is created, as the visitors move in the natural path following the topography while the existing vegetation either blocks or allows the view.

The proposed architectural interventions are:

- a) The Open-air Projection Space, b) The Archive Building (containing all written material, diaries and films of G.Markopoulos and R.Beavers), c) The Accommodation Building.

The ultimate goal is to help the visitors explore the landscape, and prepare them before watching the two filmmakers’ works.