

LOMA PRIETA EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL

**Loma Prieta Earthquake
Magnitude 6.9**

San Andreas Fault

Time 1989-10-17 17:04:16

Location 37.110°N 121.770°W

Depth 11.4km

Public Art Proposal, San Francisco, CA, December 5th, 2014

goals

- as identified in the community meeting on 06/28/14

Remember. Celebrate. Educate.

Reflect experiences of the whole city, as well as of Marina residents.

Embody the resilient spirit of the community.

Pay respect to firefighters, police and residents.

Tranquility. Serenity.

Blend in and complement scenic views.

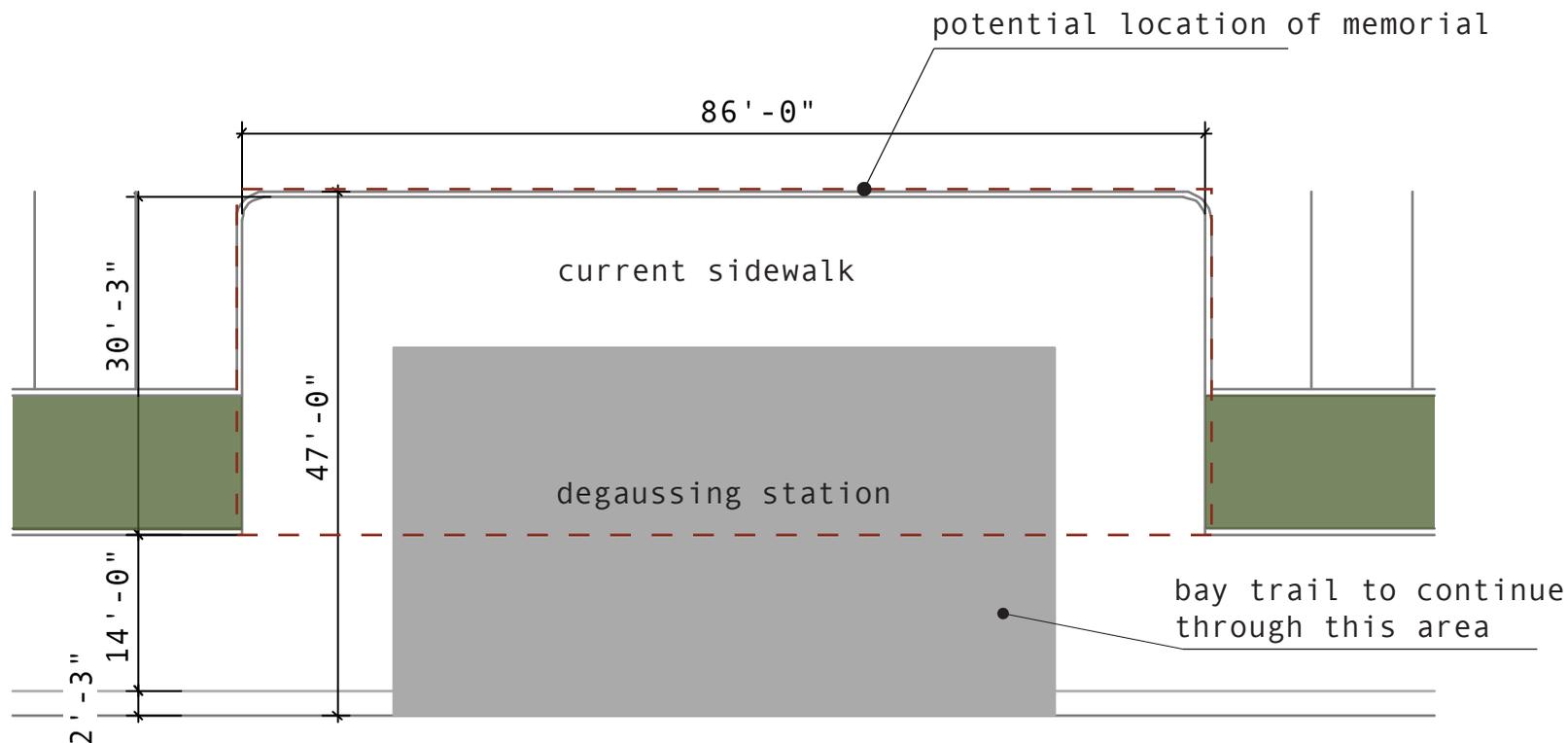
“A bad earthquake at once destroys our oldest associations: the earth, the very emblem of solidity, has moved beneath our feet like a thin crust over a fluid: one second of time has created in the mind a strange idea of insecurity, which hours of reflection would not have produced. it is a bitter and humiliating thing to see works, which have cost man so much time and labour, overthrown in one moment.”

Darwin 1845, on his experience of an earthquake in Concepción, Chile

site

The site that was originally considered for the monument is currently occupied by an abandoned building previously used as a Degaussing Station along Marina Green Drive.

At this point the monument will likely be placed at another location along the Marina Seawall. In either case, our design is based on an area equivalent to the Degaussing station site, which is about 10 parking spaces wide, and has a footprint of about 86' x 30'.

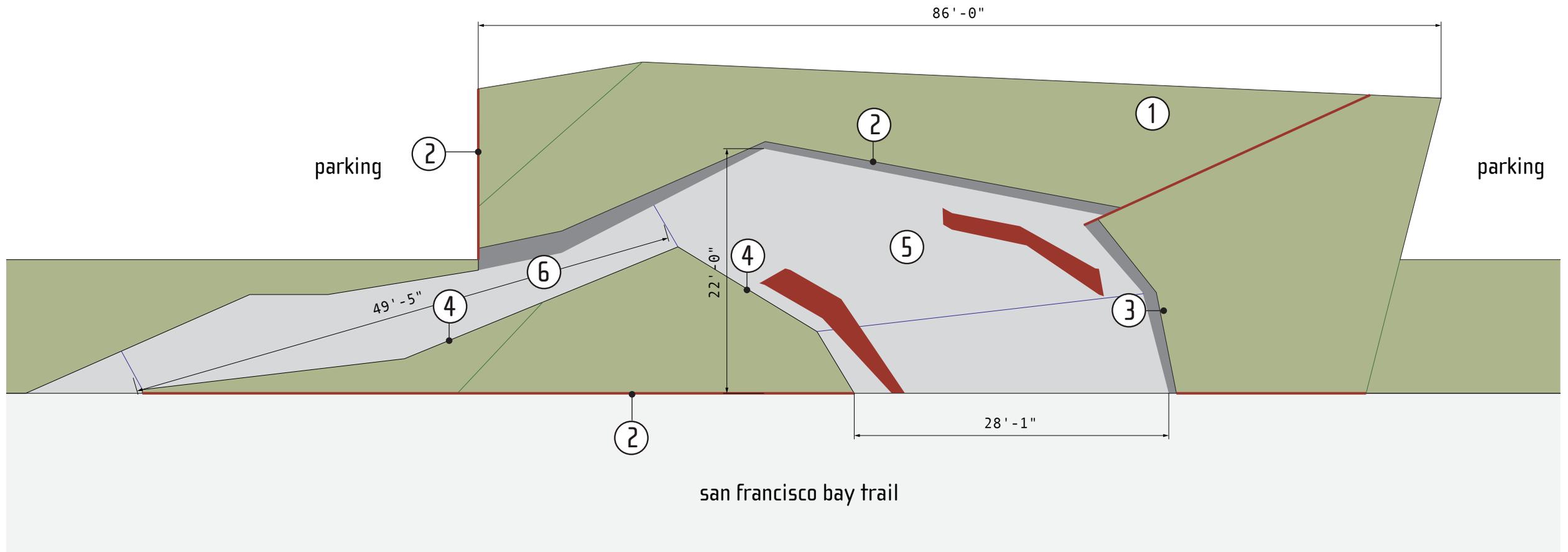


layout

A landscape formation slopes up from the surrounding and creates a space that opens to the ocean.

Various elements of the memorial satisfy different functions:

- ①- give a strong visual presence while at the same time integrating with the surrounding
- ②- introduce the topic to visitors
- ③- highlight the story of the Marina Fire and the Fire Boat Phoenix
- ④- tell many personal stories related to the Loma Prieta earthquake and remind the public to be prepared for the next earthquake
- ⑤- provide a quiet place for contemplation and gathering
- ⑥- create an accessible pathway to meander through / experience the memorial



plan view - no scale

materials

1 Concrete Wall Elements

Pre-cast concrete elements are treated with an acid etch that allows for complex graphic and text applications.

2 Rammed Earth

Large retaining walls will be created from rammed earth, text and/or graphic elements will be inlayed as metal cut-outs.

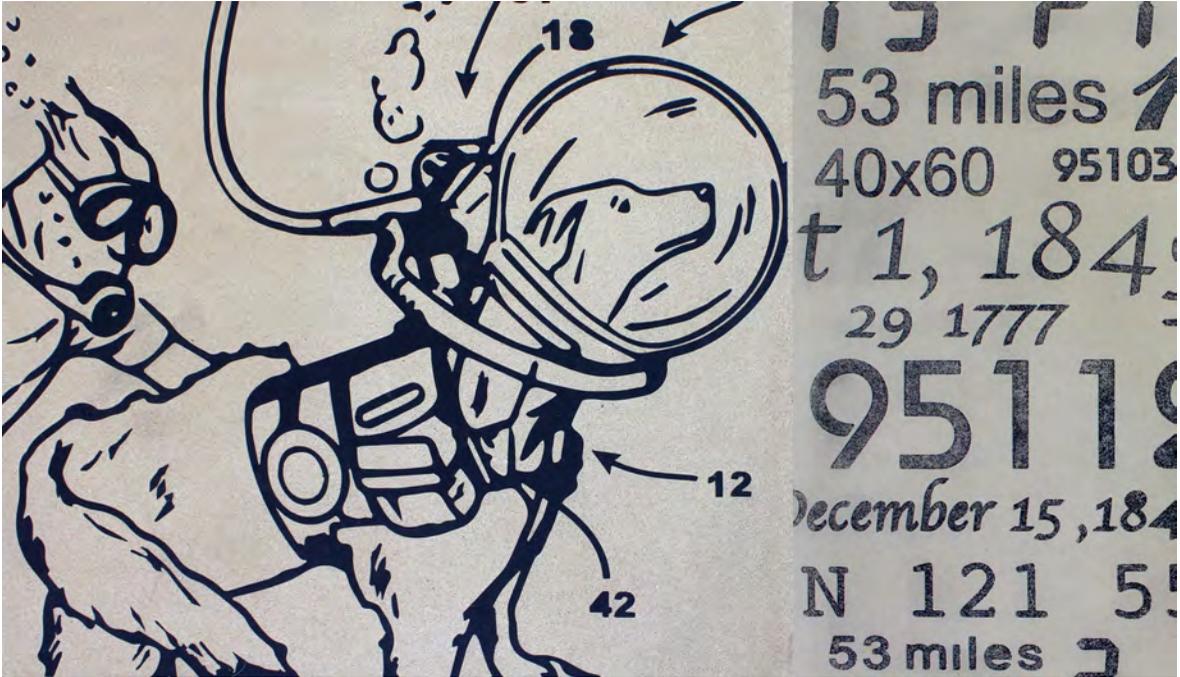
3 Corten Steel

Outside edges where the berms are cut will be covered by corten steel panels, that can have text cut into them

4 Ground Cover

Ground cover (i.e. "Slope Saver" Fescue, or Dymondia) will create a green, grass like surface on the berms

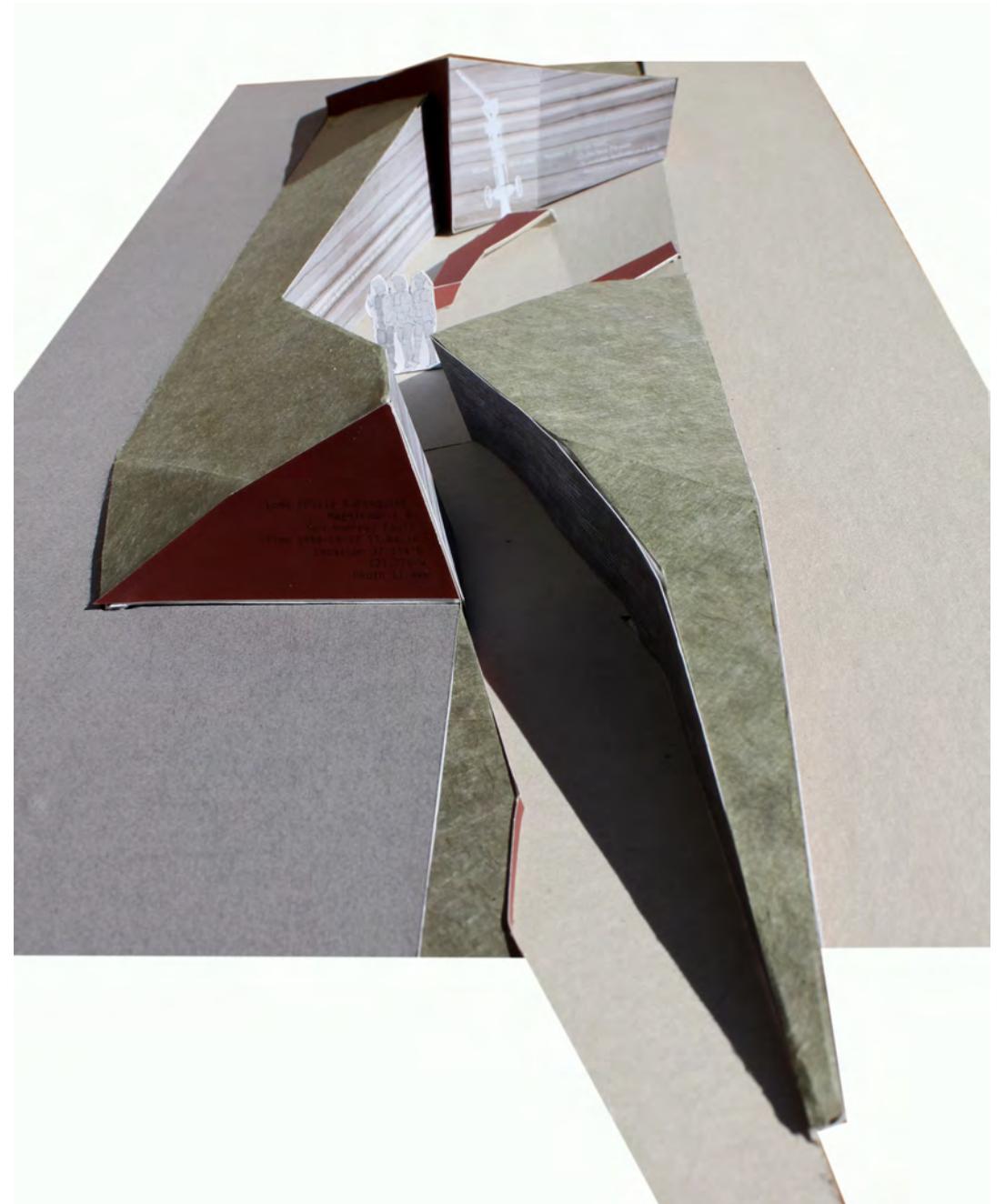
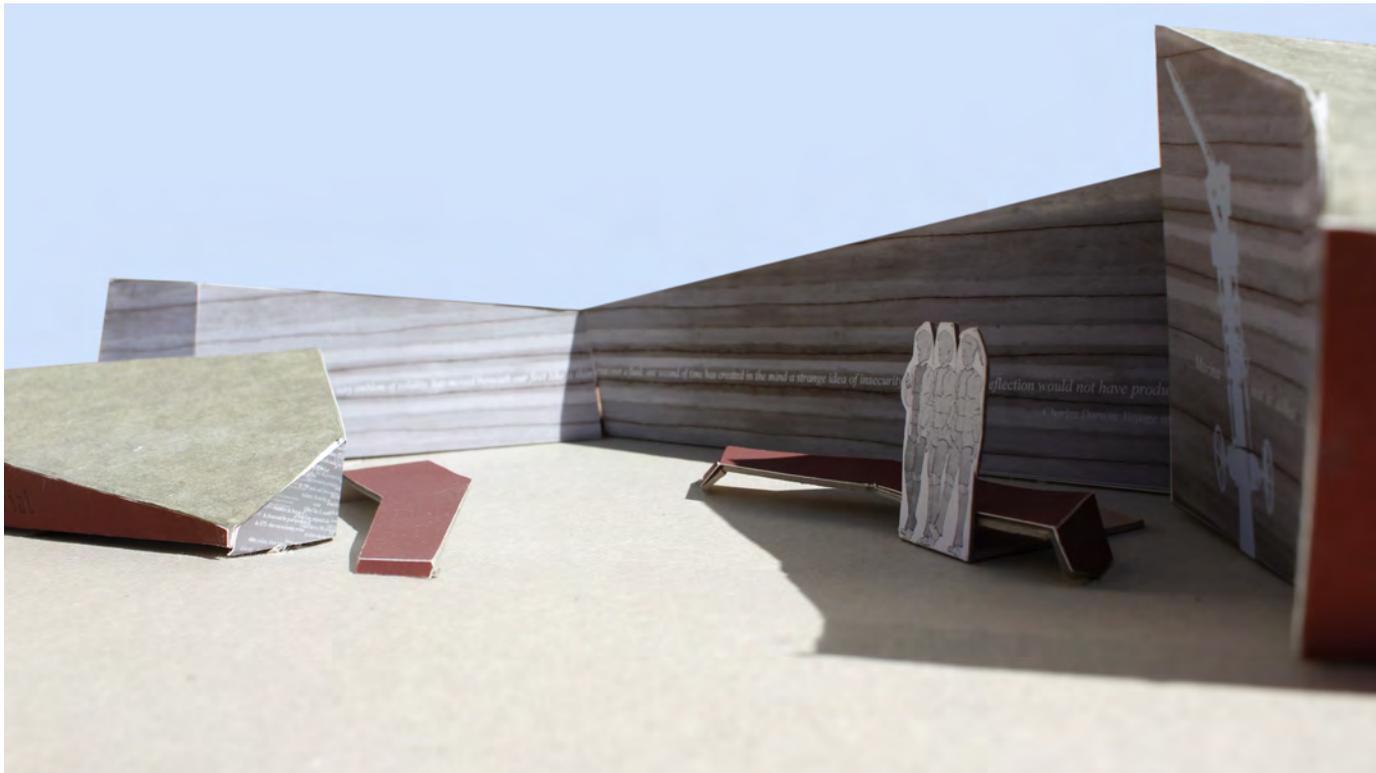
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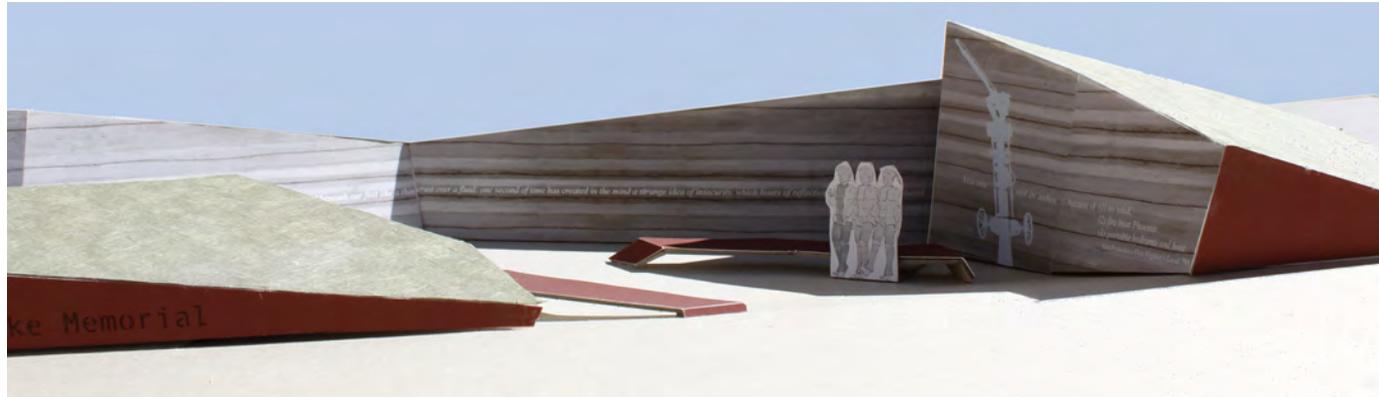
earth

A **fragmented landscape** is formed by earth berms held in place by rammed earth retaining walls. The walls' texture references geological striations.

By creating a space that is open to the ocean, and closed to the city in the back, the natural sounds of the bay are amplified, while the sounds of the city are blended out. This is reminiscent of a phenomenon after the earthquake that was shared by the community - the sudden **quiet** caused by the absence of city sounds.

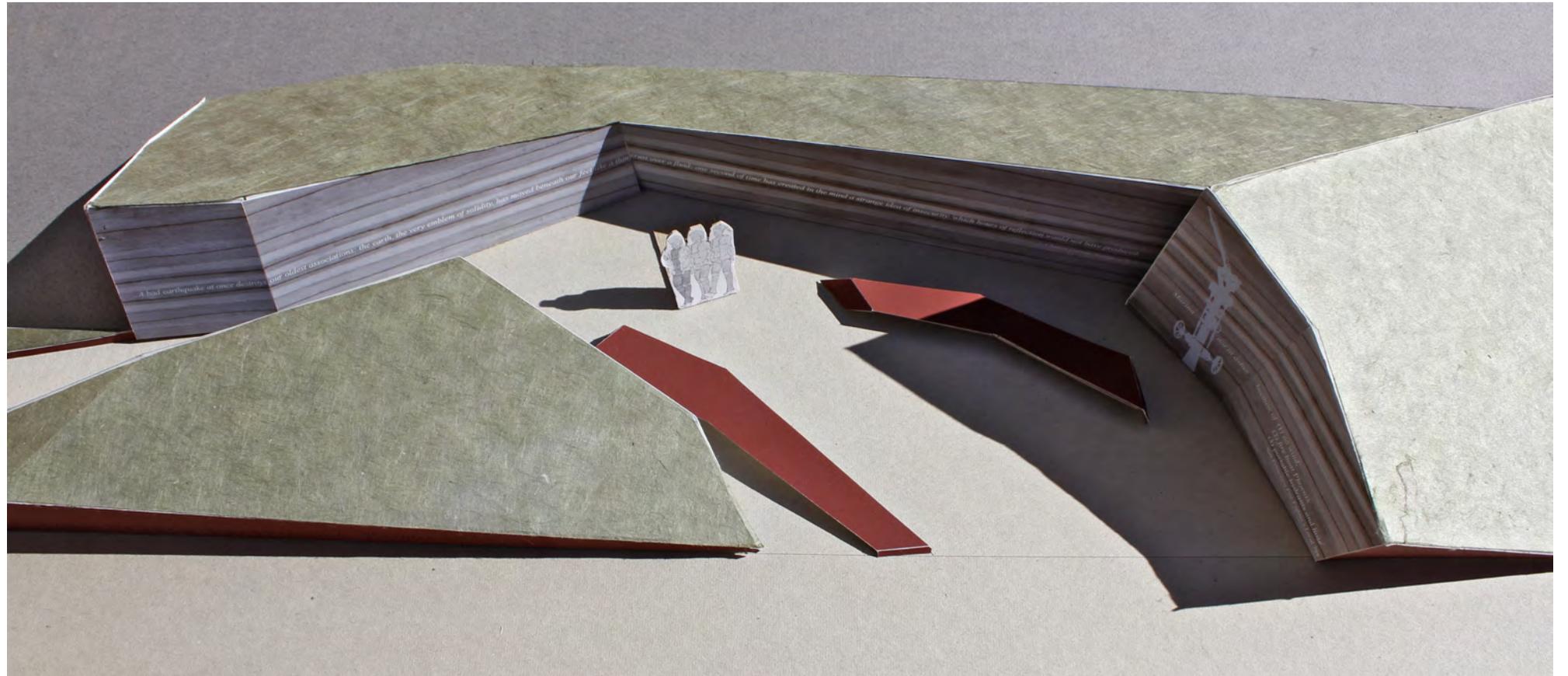


reflection

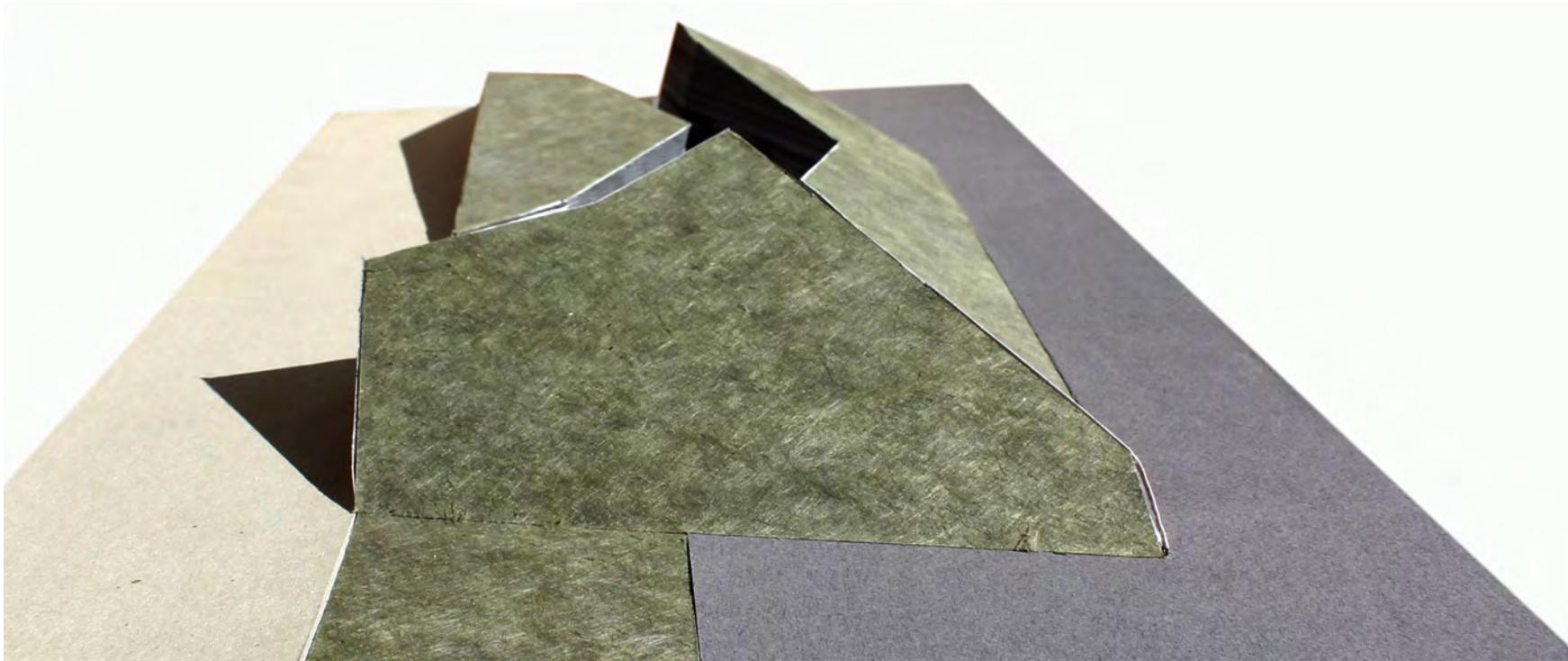
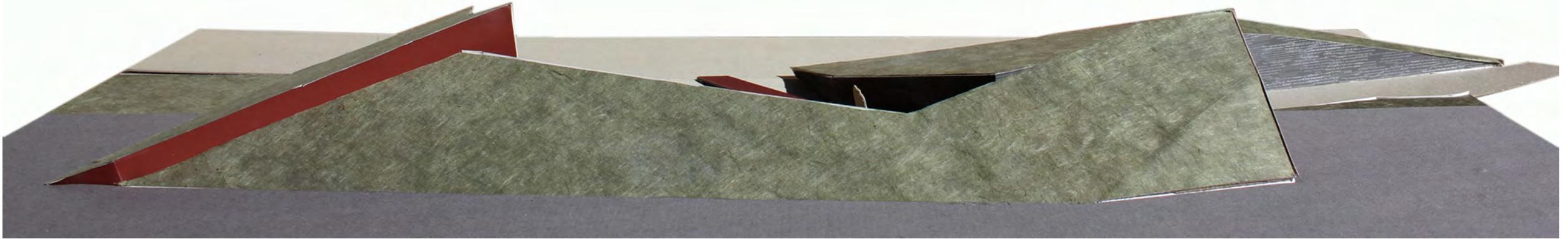


The concave space created by the earthen elements is sheltered from the wind;
Benches invite visitors to take time, read, and **contemplate**.

This space is dimensioned to allow a group of people to **gather and remember**.



integration



Landscape elements fold up the ground plane and visually blend with the surrounding.

theme

A simple quote will set the theme of the memorial; it will remind us that even what appears to be most solid in our lives - the ground itself - is constantly changing.

A bad earthquake at once destroys our oldest associations: the earth, the very emblem of solidity, has moved beneath our feet like a thin crust over a fluid: one second of time has created in the mind a strange idea of insecurity, which hours of reflection would not have produced.

Charles Darwin

stories

Through speaking to the community and other research related to the Loma Prieta Earthquake, we learned of many moving personal stories, see examples below.

Thirty civilians, whose names I did not get, ... manned lines attempting to stop the Marina fire. Both men and women manned the lines with total disregard to their own safety and well-being. - Lt. Peter Cornyn

The Marina Green turned gray with seashells scattered along the top because of ground liquefaction. - resident

John J. Anderson, 33, was a writer and editor covering computers and technology. The New Jersey native wrote for publications such as Computer Shopper and Atari Magazine. He was an editor for MacUser magazine in Foster City, California. He lived in Foster City with his wife, Lauren, son, Peter, and daughter, Katie.

There was loud noise and creaks during the quake, then silence afterwards -- extending for days afterwards. - resident

After the shaking stopped it was very quiet and then a few seconds later we heard the sound of rushing water up the street. About two houses down and across the street, our neighbor's pool had lost a bunch of water and it was flowing around the side of their house and out to the street. - resident

There was loud noise and creaks during the quake, then silence afterwards -- extending for days afterwards. - resident

I saw the large Modesto ash trees roots undulating beneath the grass as if it were a live animal just under the surface. - resident

Large buckles in the pavement. The smell of old wood and earth suddenly disrupted. They are images I'll never forget. - resident

Seconds ticked by, and the shaking continued... six seconds, nine seconds, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen seconds after I started counting the shaking stopped. Light poles continued dancing, alarms blared, Dad and son smiled at each other relieved that they were unharmed. - resident

It was eerily quiet, we saw the orange sky. - resident

Upon the arrival of the Fireboat ... we changed from a defensive mode to offensive. - Fire Chief Brophy

I was at a parking lot and the earth started rolling like a wave of water. It was a feeling like snow boarding. - resident

I'm a 4th generation San Franciscan and my grandfather survived the 1906 quake, and I plan to survive, with resilience, the next big one. - resident

There was a sense of community, of neighborhood, of unity. - resident

We listened to news on the street together with our neighbors on transistor radio. - resident

With the NERT training, I do not fear an earthquake as I have a plan of action after a disaster. Of course, I can be unlucky and be in the wrong place, but that is always possible in life. - resident

I make it a point to know most of the neighbors on my block ... Before the quake, I didn't know many of my neighbors. I took the NERT training and keep up with those skills. I've got a "Go" kit and supplies in the house for 72+ hours. - resident

Jeffrey Choi, 41, a native of Hong Kong, emigrated to the United States in 1986, for the sake of a better education for his three teen-age children. He worked for a local garment company.

The Marina Green turned gray with seashells scattered along the top because of ground liquefaction. - resident

Marina not in ashes because of (1) no wind, (2) fire boat, (3) portable hydrants and hose - statement at San Francisco Fire Fighter's Local 798

... these are two teams from California [Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants] and God only knows if they'll even get all the games in. An earthquake could rip through the Bay Area before they sing the national anthem for Game 3. - Kevin Cowherd in San Jose Mercury News three days prior to the game; the Loma Prieta quake occurred just before game 3

When I was a kid there was a rumor that in the event of a big earthquake our town would break off from the rest of the California coast and float out into the middle of the ocean. My dad used to tell me it would be okay though, because if it were to happen they'd probably just build a Target out on our small island of a town, and we'd be just fine. ...When I got home all but a single glass from the cupboard was out of place... I was disappointed! Why doesn't anything exciting ever happen to me? Why isn't our town floating in the middle of the ocean? Why is a single broken glass my only memento? - resident

There was loud noise and creaks during the quake, then silence afterwards -- extending for days afterwards. - resident

I pray that my family will be safe next time an earthquake hits. That we will be able to find each other and comfort each other quickly. - resident

I remember the bravery of the firemen and the good operations of the SFPD - there was no looting or riots. - resident

The citizens did everything possible to assist. I will not forget the acts or faces of our heroic citizens, but I do not know the names. - Fire Chief Shannon

I pray for those affected by the earthquake. Family members lost, houses destroyed, lives uprooted. - resident

I pray that our city will be prepared for the next time an earthquake hits. I pray that we don't fall into complacency, but have the courage to face the danger and prepare ourselves. - resident

Derek van Alstyne, 22, was visiting the city for a business meeting with his fellow MacUser editor John J Anderson when the front of a building collapsed, burying their car in debris from a brick wall. MacUser named two of its annual Editors' Choice Awards, celebrating distinguished achievement and up-and-coming talent, respectively, after the pair.

After I saw her, I just couldn't leave. - Firefighter Gerald Shannon, Truck 9, about his rescue of Sherra Cox

fire boat phoenix

The role that the fire boat Phoenix played in the rescue of the Marina will be highlighted in a graphic/text application to one wall segment. We are envisioning a cut-out metal image and lettering.



Marina not in ashes because of

- (1) no wind,*
- (2) fire boat Phoenix*
- (3) portable hydrants and hose*

San Francisco Fire Fighter