

« INAUGURATION »

« White Point – Meeting Point » relates to two different notions of space : firstly, on an architectural level, the project responds to the Plaza in the entrance area of Villa Grande. For the inauguration, its ground will be entirely painted in an easily worn off white paint material. This white-base coating will be applied in a thin layer to a very smooth base of dark-tinted concrete underneath to achieve a maximum of contrast between the Plaza's ground and the white paint on top. Like a blank canvas or a white sheet of paper the area is made ready to receive the traces of passage by future visitors to the center.

Secondly, the project investigates space at the human level. Diversity and respect of the other are key-values in this process and project. The project will aim to provide a context for an annual Meeting Point between local school children and people representative of the HL Center's missions including individuals of diverse religious origins and cultures including victims and perpetrators of recent conflicts. These meetings will create a memory of the interaction and discussion with real people in the present yet maintain a strong link to the historical.

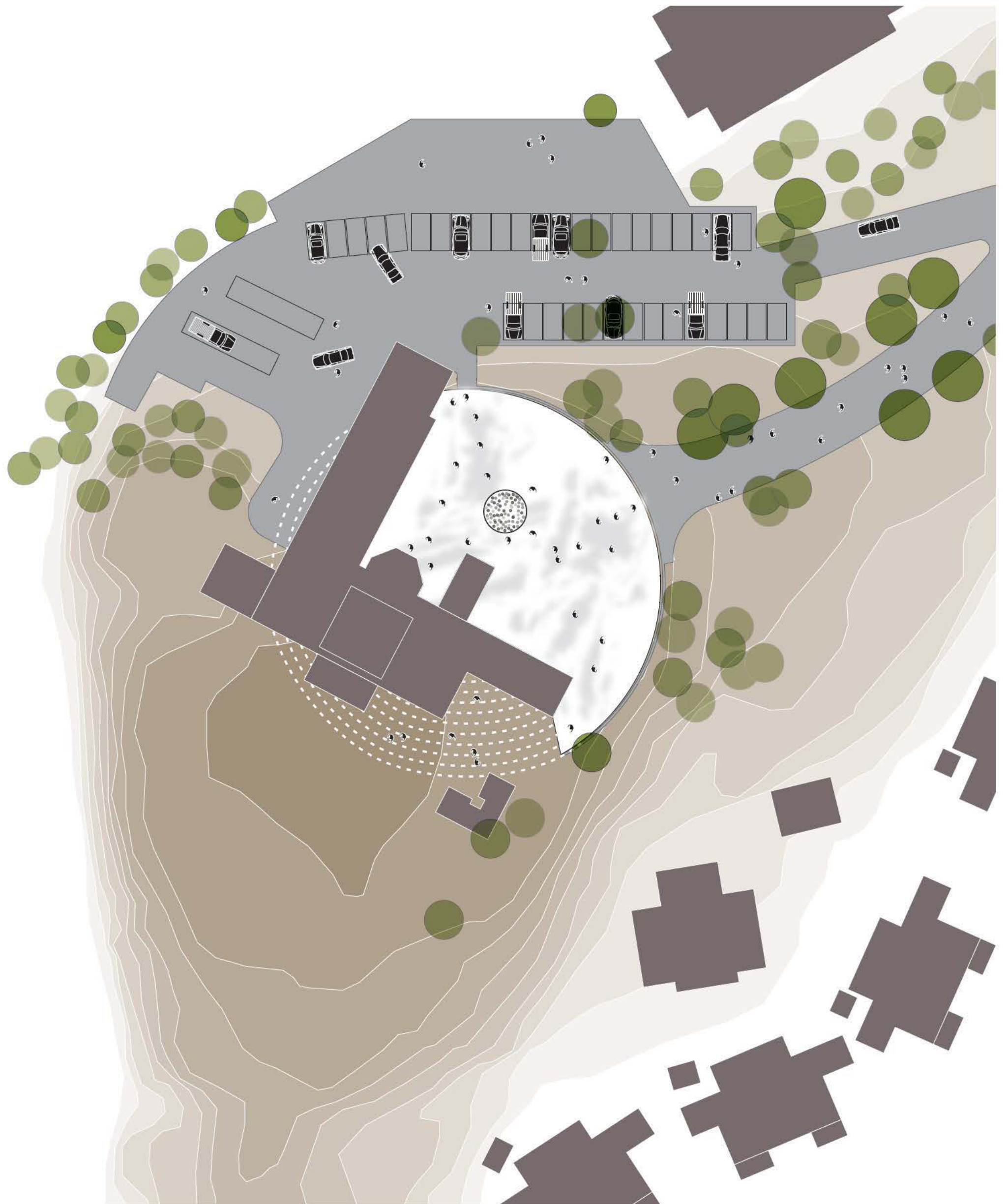


« INTERMEDIATE STATE »

Visitors to the HL Center will become active participants in the dialogues created by the project. Their physical interaction with the white surface and its rubbing away by the very soles of their shoes will result in them leaving their physical traces on the HL Center's ground. Through this action the site will become a significant metaphor and able to question the relationship of humanity and memory, the very status of which the HL Center is concerned with.

A change in the visitor's perception of the concerns raised by this work is made visible by his / her active contribution. The project's participatory nature leaves room for the delicacy of human interactions to play a significant role within the concept of the project and its process.

Through these actions a public space will emerge that offers new opportunities to transform ourselves, to keep our memory flowing and demonstrate our inseparable links to each other. The inspiration to invest in and create such situations and circumstances, always resides in the collective responsibility that is expressed through action. This project offers the citizen a way to form a personal and sensitive experience within whilst considering how to once more profile the notion of ritual.



« ANNUAL RITUAL OF RENEWAL »

After a year of interaction, of movement and residues created via presence, an abstract circulation pattern, a drawing will have appeared. Every year, the gradually vanishing colour of White Point is refreshed by (school)children the center invites. They not only repaint the ground, but engage in an interaction with all people concerned with the missions of the HL Center, that is, representatives of religious and ethnic minorities, multicultural societies, witnesses to history.

During a week, discussions and exchanges will take place, exemplifying mutual understanding and respect in contemporary society. Villa Grande transforms in a laboratory for future dealing with ethnic, religious and cultural diversity in a place where historically just the contrary took place. Thus, a « Meeting Point » emerges, based on the fragility of accepting and getting to know the other and his otherness. In the end, the school children choose next year's Meeting Point subject.

The element of participation is essential to my work, which consequently can be described as the result of collaboration. People are in fact the pivotal element of my projects. My procedure is precisely the opposite of the common understanding of art where the artist is at all times in control of his/her work. Instead, I tend to arouse awareness in people of their potential to contribute to society through art.

Consequently, the emerging artwork is not exhausted by its only recognition within the art world, but is, more essentially, profoundly approved and legitimised by its very participants.

