

Palau
Freedom Memorial



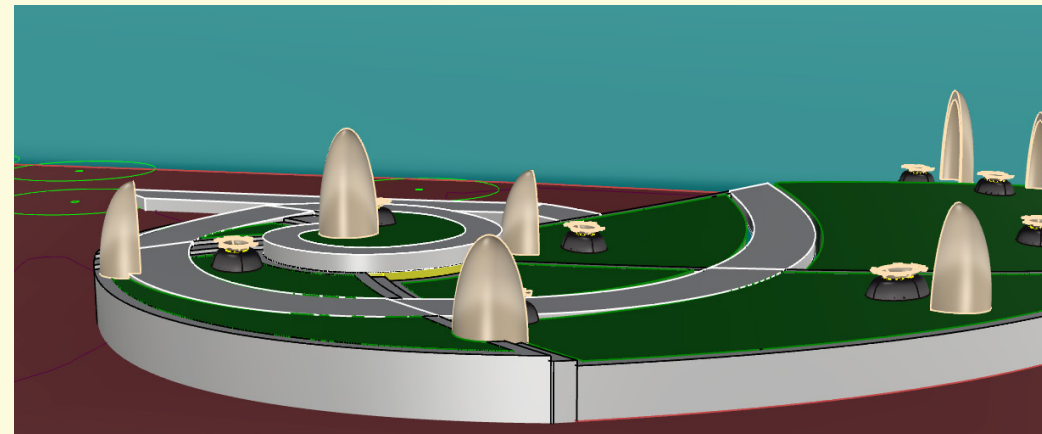
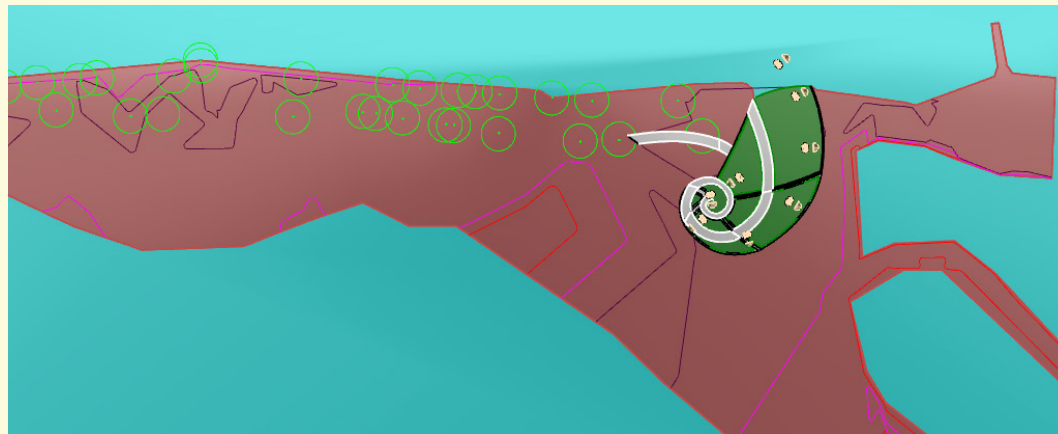
Palau Freedom Memorial



Project Description

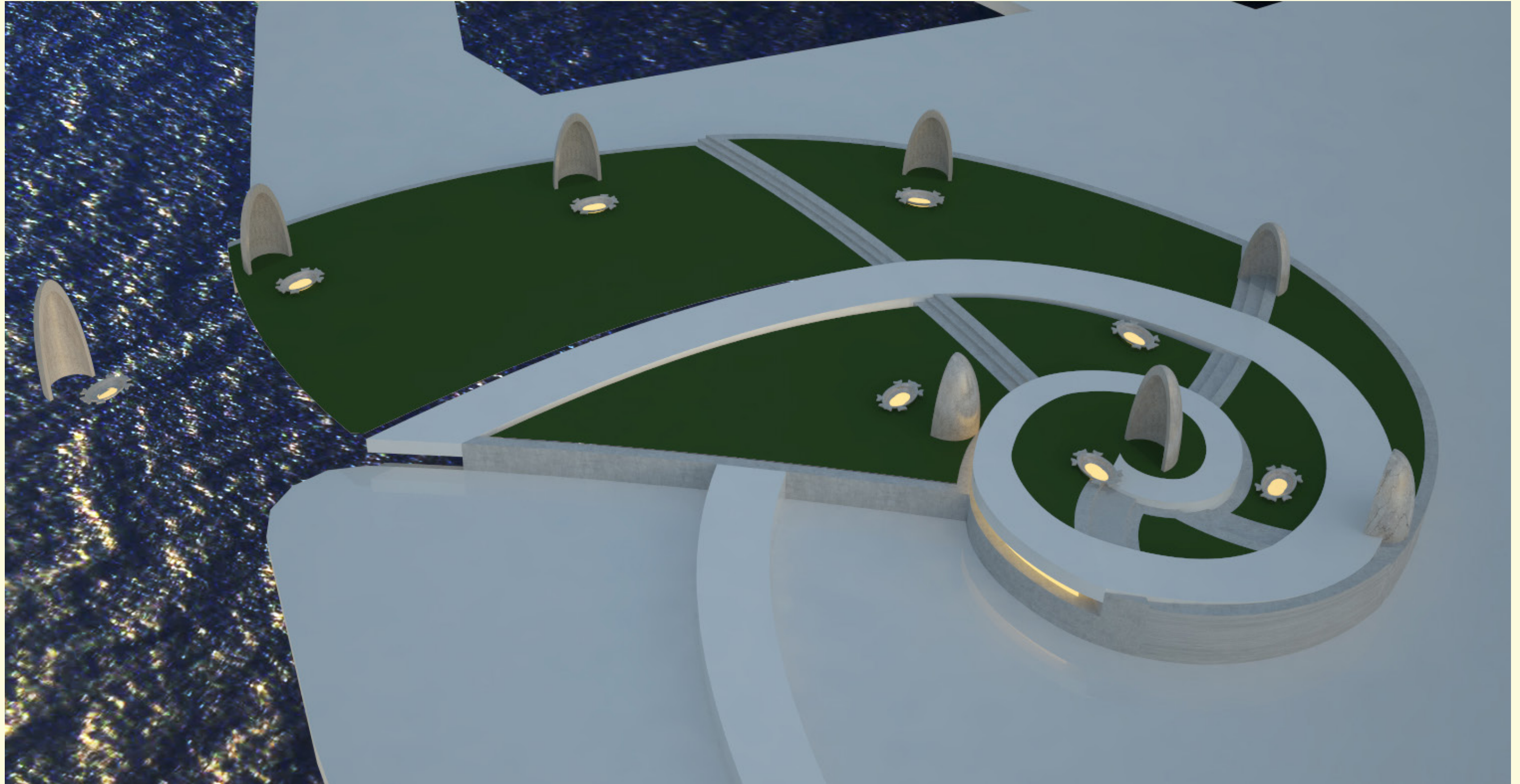
Otis College of Art and Design students have been given the opportunity to work with Palauan residents and community members to design a Freedom Memorial Park to commemorate the Palauans who have lost their lives serving in the U.S. military from the Vietnam War to the present, and who lost their lives during WWII.

This three year project began in 2011. During the first phase, students had the opportunity to meet Palauan civic leaders and family members of the military and also present four design proposals. Last year, during the second phase, we were able to narrow it down to one design. Now, in 2013, during the third phase of the project, students have worked to incorporate their designs from the previous year with the feedback collected to produce a final memorial design to present and share to the people of Palau.

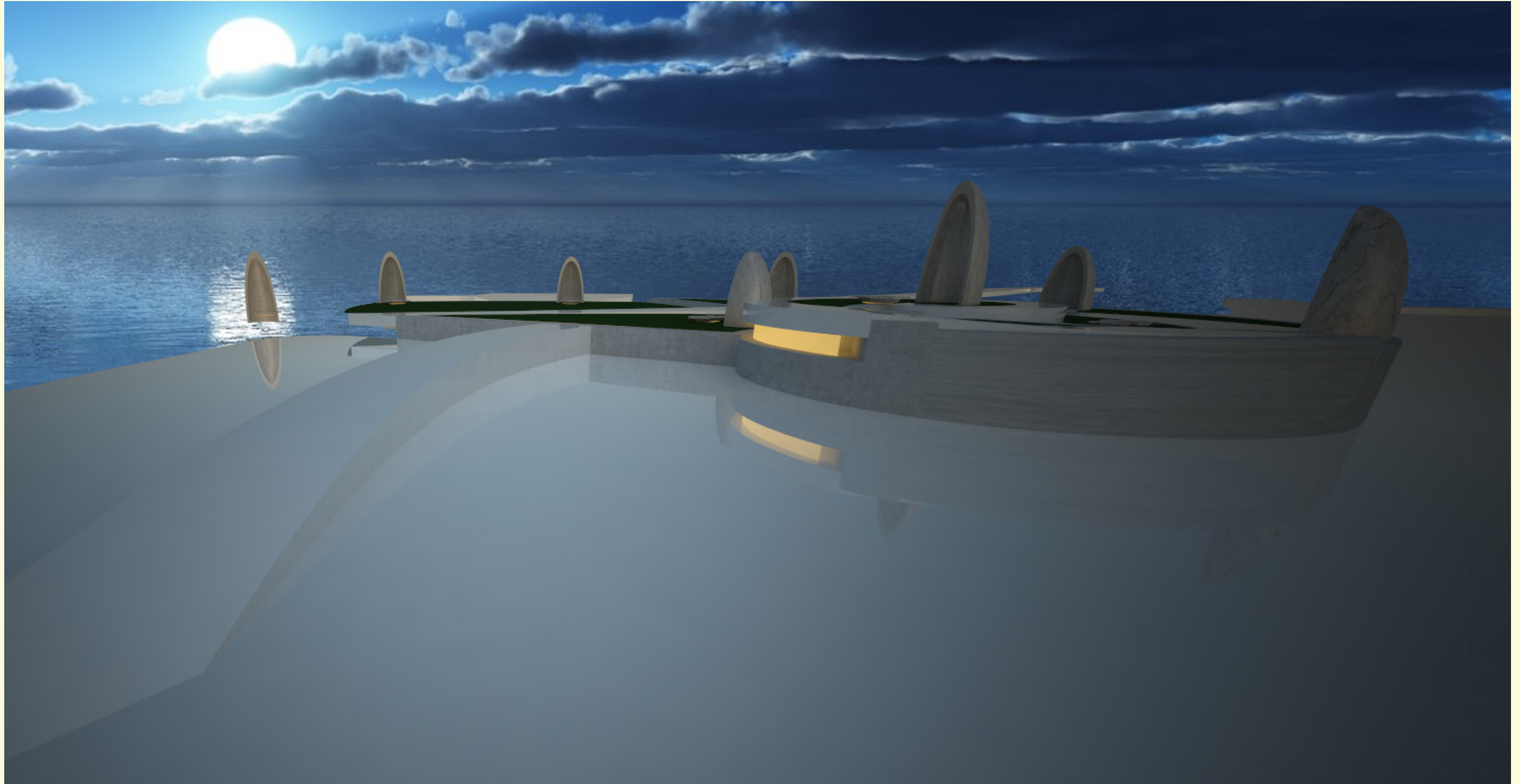


Instructors: May Sun and Cindi Alvitre | Mentor: Jeffrey Vallance

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Project Overview Detail

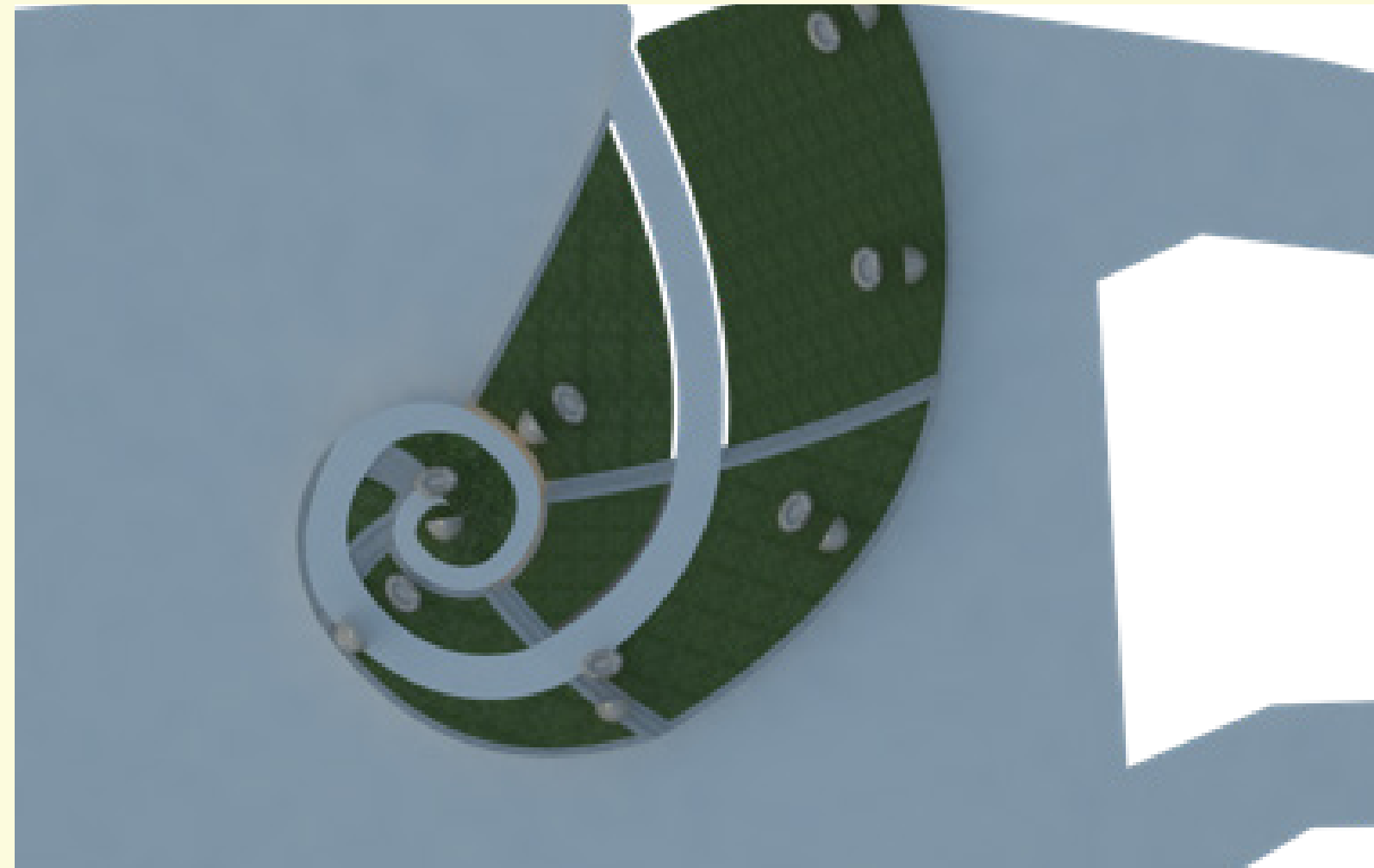
Elements

Eight carved limestone monoliths rise out of the earth along the curve of the spiral. Eight carved limestone representations of the Toluk, or Palauan woman's money; also rest along the curve. Terraced areas will build in elevation as the viewer approaches the eye of the spiral. As the tide changes parts of the sculpture will be revealed and submerged.

The Site: Long Island Park, Koror



Aerial View



Organizing Principle

The spiral creates a framework upon which the structure of our design unfolds.

The spiral is the underlying structural principal. Our elements exist within this structure to create a public space with features capable of influencing the viewer to connect with loss, remembrance, and great hope for the future. The memorial strives to commemorate the lives lost and life as it continues in Palauan culture.

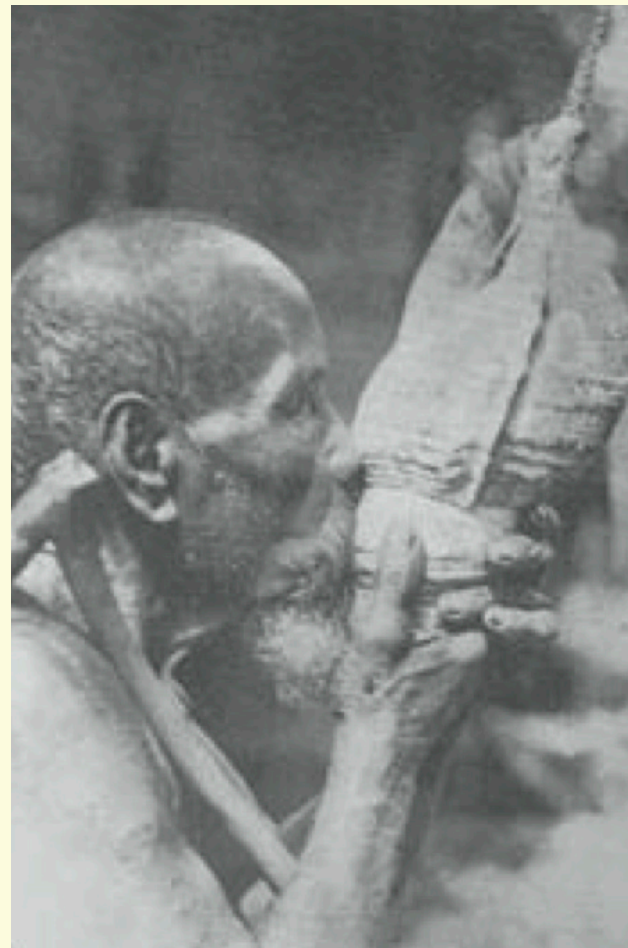


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The Spiral

Palauan Conch Shell Horn

An elder blowing a conch shell horn used to announce war, the passing away of titled men or to summon the community to the house of chiefs for important meetings. The shell horn was also used to warn the community of danger or possible siege.



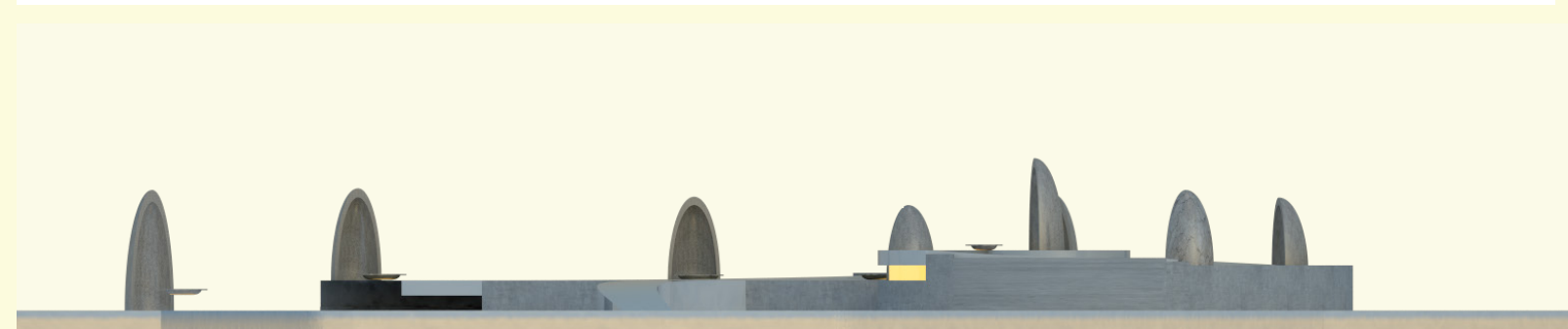
The Conch Shell



The Spiral in Nature

It embodies the dynamic principles of regeneration, of symmetrical and balanced growth. Life is either expanding, growing, being drawn out; or it is diminishing, dissolving, collapsing. We see it in the water and in the clouds, patterns dissolve and reappear out of nothing.

The eye of every spiral is a dynamic place where all opposites meet and where life and death are one phenomenon. All the forces that create growth and keep it in balance are at work in the eye, the source.



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A Deeper Look

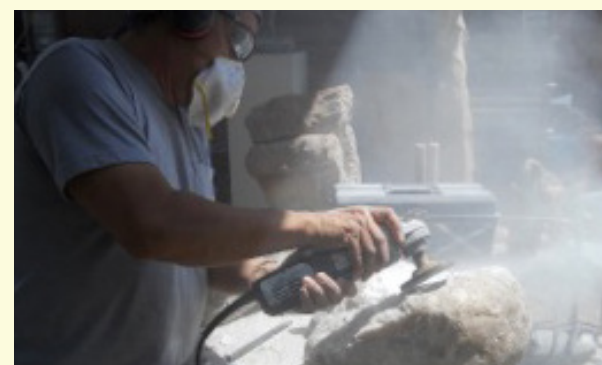
Community involvement



The Monolith, treatment

We plan to facilitate workshops for local artists and craftsmen to translate storyboard carving to a stone carving practice that would eventually be executed on the actual surface of the monoliths. Above is a Mayan Stela, a rectangular upright slab somewhat resembling a gravestone. The freshly quarried limestone was left in its rough state, the relief carving existing harmoniously with the imperfections of the raw material. "The sculptor's job would have been to 'see' and then enhance what was already there."

The Rock Islands



The students this year will collect oral histories and legends to be carved onto the stone monoliths.

16 States of Palau

Aimeliik, Airai, Angaur, Hatohobei, Kayangel, Koror, Melekeok, Ngaraard, Ngardmau, Ngatpang, Ngchesar, Ngarchelong, Ngeremlengui, Ngiwal, Peleliu, and Sonsorol

The Eight Principles

According to the research of the Palau Society of Historians and the Bureau of Arts and Culture, there are eight fundamental principles that are taught to Palauan children in their homes and clubs. They are as follows:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Occupation
- Obedience, kindness & perseverance
- Visits to kin and others
- Humility and verbal conduct
- Care and compassion
- Concern for the needs of family



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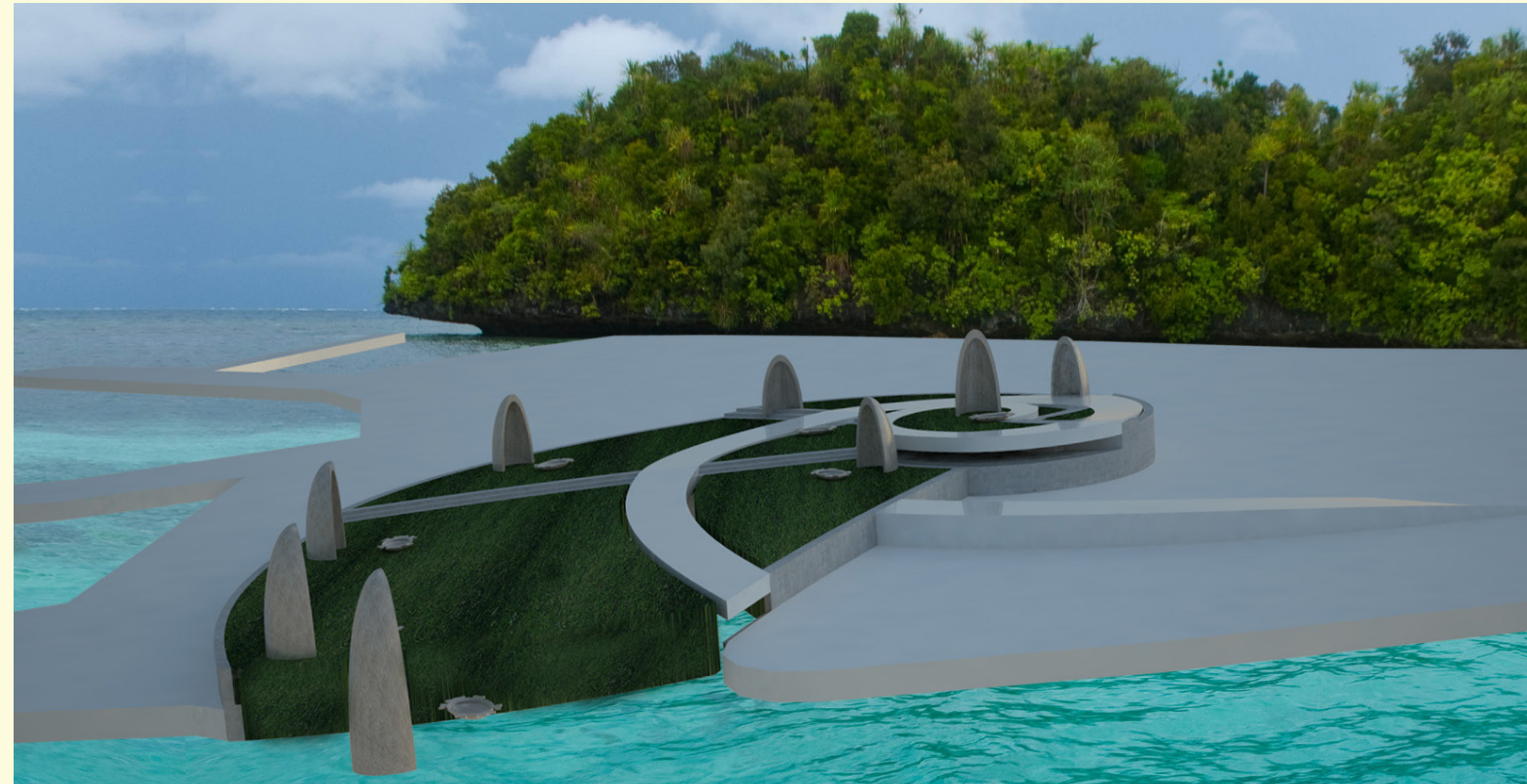
The Monoliths

The Monolith, material

The monoliths will be carved from Palauan volcanic limestone. Their shape and organization reflects the early stone monoliths found on the island of Bebeldaob in Palau. Archeologists date these structures to around A.D. 161 and believe some may have been supports for a massive structure.



The arrangement and form of the monoliths is inspired by the natural landscape of Palau. Above: The unique limestone formations of the Rock Islands.

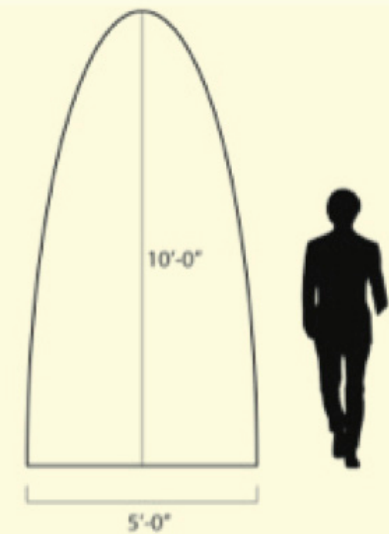


Charles and Ray Eames

The shape of the monoliths closely resembles these molded plywood structures designed and built by the Los Angeles design team who were very influential in America during the mid '40s to 1950s.

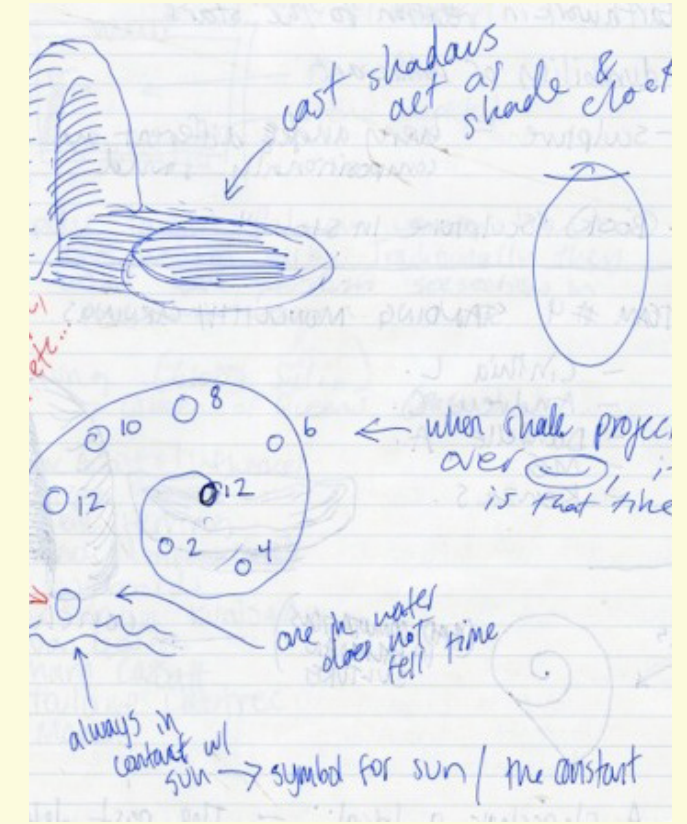
The monolith structures represent the male. These structures stand up-right, providing a changing shade that behaves much like a sundial throughout the day.

Babeldaob Monoliths



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The Monoliths



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The Monoliths

BAI

KOROR
elements on flag

- moon sliver
- 8 small stars
- 1 large star
- a bai

PROFILE VIEW OF BAI ON MONOLITH

* moon, stars and the bai are all 3D elements
 * half of the bai protrudes as if to be coming out monolith

STARS

sparkling

gaseous balls of fire

traditional (smooth)

(why do stars have 5 points? where did 5 point star originate?)

MOON SLIVER

with craters

traditional (smooth)

AIMELIIK

3 horizontal stripes
5 stars in a line

Questions:

- what do stars represent?
- what do # of stripes represent?
- what do colors " " ?

STARS

sparkling

balls of fire

traditional

convex

- symbols of flag (embossed)

concave

- symbols of flag (impressed)

How are 2 states to be represented?
Separated? or Integrated?

① each state has half (vertical)

ie:
a. Koror
b. Aimeliik

② ea. has half space (horizontal)

③ elements of each state are integrated

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The Toluk

The Toluk, material & form

Like the monoliths, a representation of the Toluk, or Palauan woman's money, will be carved from Palauan volcanic limestone. Water will collect and evaporate within the form as rain falls and the tides change. The lip of the Toluk will be wide enough to provide seating.



The Toluk, Underwater Component

The largest Toluk form, while also created from limestone and able to collect rainfall, also directly relates to the ocean. Actually placed in the water, the bowl will fill and drain with the rise and fall of the tide. Throughout the day, the bowl will disappear and reappear with the tides. Also, with holes added for draining, and with the changing tides, over time the inside of the bowl will become a natural tide pool and home to sea life and an underwater attraction.



The Toluk, Cultural significance

The Toluk, or Palauan women's money, is culturally specific to Palau. It plays a very important role in the daily lives of the Palauans, both male and female. The Toluk is used as exchange during funerals, cultural, and customary functions. Anywhere you go in the world, if you see the Toluk, you know it is Palauan. The size of the Toluk reflects the value of work performed within the family.

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Team Biographies



Alexa Stern

Alexa Stern is a 22 year-old sophomore studying Toy Design at Otis. Alexa has always lived in California, spending her time in both Los Angeles and San Diego. She enjoys watching movies, knitting, and spending time with family as well as creating things with her hands. She is very excited to be a part of this project and is proud to have contributed to some design of the Freedom Memorial. Alexa is grateful for the opportunity to help as well as the chance to travel to these beautiful islands.



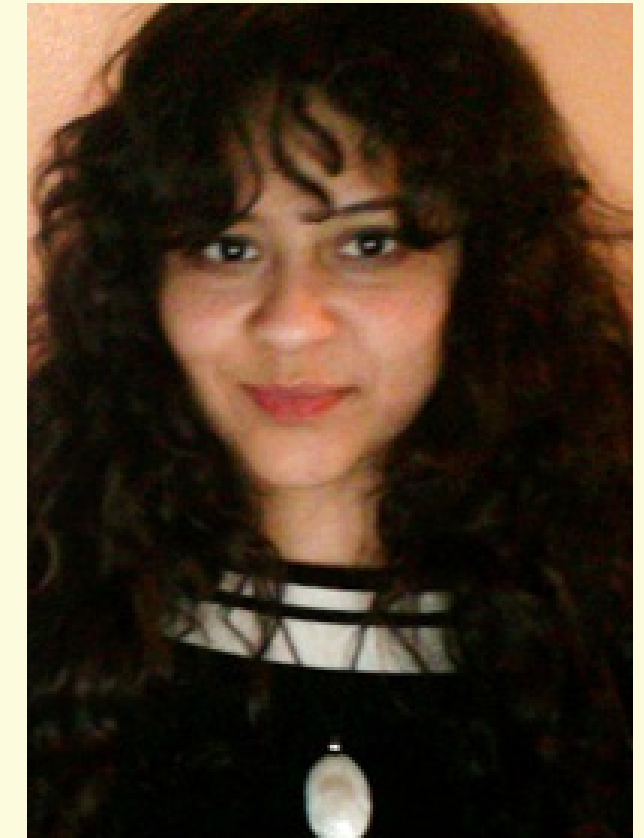
Ashley Chun

Ashley Chun grew up in Granada Hills located in the San Fernando Valley. Here she learned how much she loves art and began attending Otis College in 2011. Through her foundation year there, she entered the Toy Design program. Although much of what she does is focused on toys, she also strives to contribute positivity to other aspects of life. Ashley is determined to help change the world whether she is making toys or contributing her artistic talents to the communities around her.



Cinthia Lozano

Mamá camino las tierras, cruzando fronteras
Cinthia, un Producto de la fecundidad en el año 1985
Nacida el 9 de Enero, 1986 en las tierras de Califas, Aztlán
El hogar de muchos, en verdad vivido por pocos
Nacida en un mundo de dualidades.
Bebés de las fronteras, Te amo



Danielle Aguilar

As a very young child, I discovered how things I made for others could bring us closer to each other. I was most comfortable when alone, yet grew a strong desire to reach out to others. A desire that becomes only stronger as the years pass. I thrive on discovering the similarities between myself and others, because it validates my belief that we are all connected some way some how. My work is most inspired by my family members who have passed to the otherworld, their spirits who are with me, and by the infinite potential of my family here on earth.

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Team Biographies



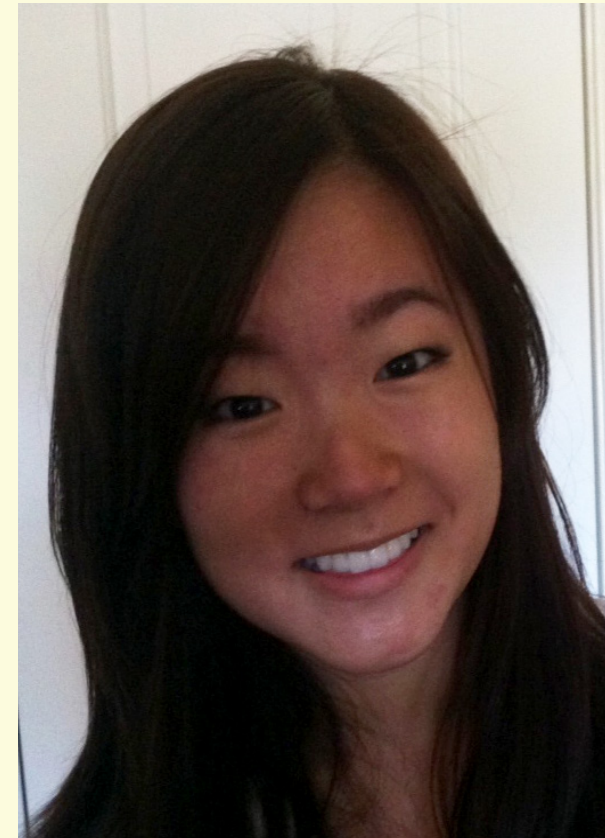
Dennis Delgado

Dennis Delgado is a product design senior born in Los Angeles, CA. The majority of the work Dennis produces investigates how people interact in the physical world. The opportunity to interact with a new culture and learn from the people of Palau attracted him to the Palau Freedom Memorial project at OTIS College of Art & Design. From this project he hopes to gain new beliefs in the works he creates, while enjoying the paradise that is Palau.



Esther Oldenkamp

Esther Oldenkamp was raised in a suburb of Seoul, South Korea. The cold winters lead her to travel to exotic places around the globe. After settling in Los Angeles, Esther began studying toy design at Otis. She believes that art should be part of everyday life, whether as a painting on the wall or as a simple toy on the floor. By participating in this project, she has realized the impact that art can have in daily life. She is honored to work with the Palau people that appreciate nature, tradition, and culture.



Janet Wu

Hello, my name is Janet Wu. I was born in Chicago and raised in San Jose. I'm studying toy design at Otis College of Art and Design. Being the only child in pursuit of creative inspiration in my family, I hope they can live vicariously through me. I find inspiration in everything- art, food, people, culture, and music. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending my time hiking, and exploring different areas of Los Angeles. I am driven by the desire to saturate my life with new experiences, to discover new things, and collect memorable stories along the way. I am honored to be a part of the Palau Freedom Memorial project, and to work with Palauan people.



Joo Young Hwang

My name is Joo Young Hwang. I am an asian girl but my first language is spanish. I was born in Paraguay but my parents are Korean. I have lived in many countries as Brazil, Paraguay, and Guatemala. I came to United States to study and now I am in Otis College. I am a Toy Design major.

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Team Biographies



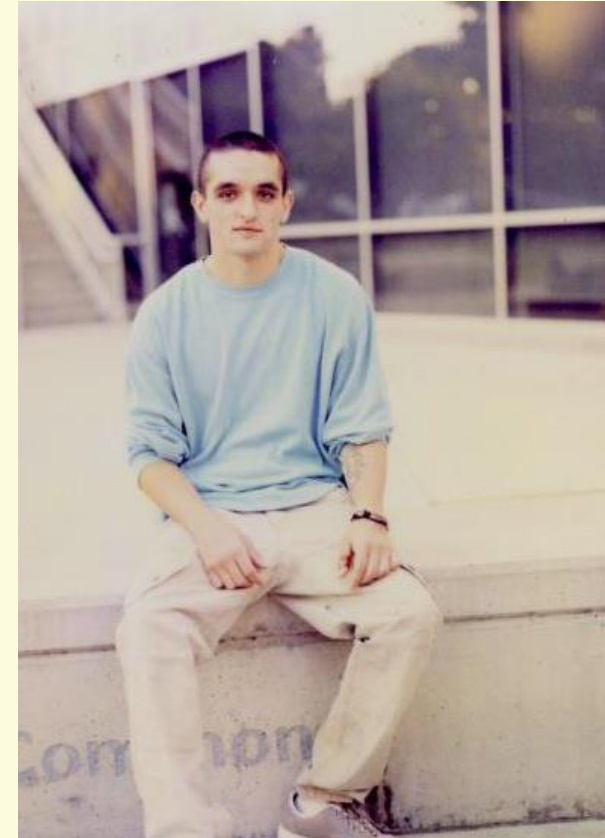
Laura Lindlief

Laura Lindlief is a Fine Arts Painting & Photography major living in Los Angeles, CA. She was born and raised in Los Angeles and decided to stay because of the cultural diversity, access to art, family, friends and of course, the weather. Laura's pursuit of painting and photography is because of her belief in the true universal language that art can communicate through. She wanted to be a part of the Palau Freedom Memorial project because of the inspiration of the Palauan peoples' hearts and dedication.



Linda Jiang

Linda is technically a "90s child" but not really because she relates more to people who grew up in the 50s and 60s. Many of her friends think she's from outer space because she doesn't understand 99% of their movie or popular song references. As a toy designer, her focus is girls' dolls but what she really wants to be in life is a philanthropist.



Logan King

Fine artist born in San Francisco, California and currently living in Los Angeles. Primary interests are painting, drawing, sculpture, and video. He is a firm believer in the balance of energy, and supports this lifestyle with exercise, education, fun, exploration, new experiences, an open mind, and an open heart. He has been blessed with the experiences of travel since a very young age, and continues to travel on a regular basis. His inspirations are his family, friends, experiences, and beliefs.



Michael Gallegos

My name is Michael Gallegos and I am majoring in Digital Media with minors in Illustration and Community Arts Engagement. I am interested in bringing art to the community, which will lead to a positive impact on and influence others in the process and creation of art. The majority of my artwork has an influence on culture and urban street art. I feel as though art has no boundaries and can unite people in ways that may seem impossible.

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Team Biographies



Steve Peraza

I am currently living in Los Angeles in the pursuit of receiving a diverse quality education. I am a senior this year and am studying for a bachelor's degree with a concentration in Architecture/ Landscape/ Interior. After Otis I plan to attain my graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering, while also attempting another degree in Botany. I believe the world we live in can be a better/more efficient home for our civilization with carbon negative inventions, as well as by thoroughly understanding nature. I aspire that my combined training will allow me to bring forth the tools necessary to prolong the life of the Earth in the healthiest of manners.



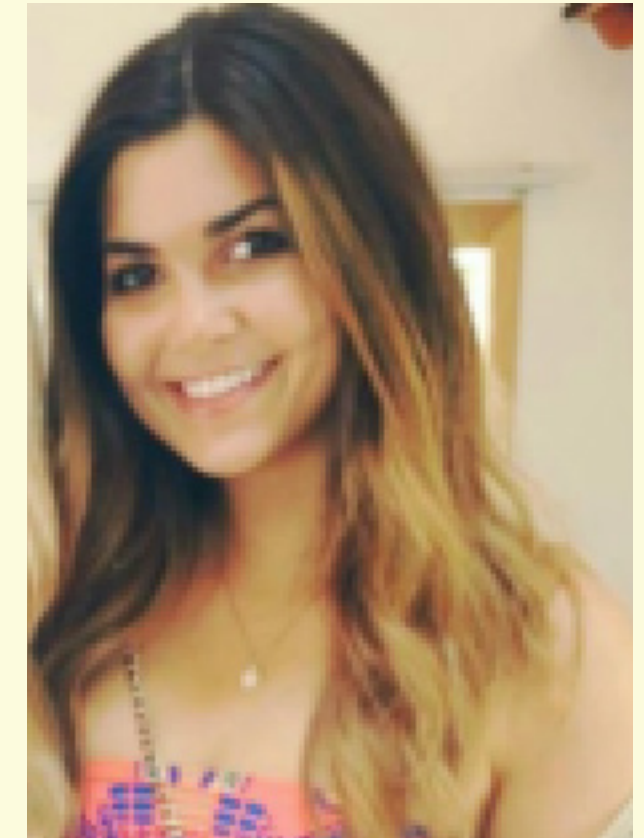
Yawsameen Ghassabian

As an Iranian American and a Los Angeles native, I have learned the importance of diversity and collaboration in the design process by being a problem solver. As a product designer I value the opportunity to impact the world through sustainable, compassionate and holistic designs.



Annie Lin

Xinxin Annie Lin graduated this summer with a bachelor's degree in Architecture/ Landscape/Interior Design. Inspired by the work of Rem Koolhaas' OMA firm, she similarly explores hyper-rationality in architecture with minimalistic designs. She believes that new architecture should emphasize more on the importance of flexibility and multi-purpose buildings so they can perform at their maximal potential at all times. Annie seeks to solve problems with innovative designs while combining logic and simplicity, hoping that in the outcome of her design, lives can be positively influenced.



Natalia Risheq

My name is Natalia Risheq and I grew up in Orange County, California and come from a family of six. I moved to Los Angeles one year ago to get my major in Fine Art Photography at Otis College of Art and Design. I aspire to become a travel photojournalist. I enjoy capturing new places, cultures, and people to tell the story of a new and different perspective.

Andrew Chau – Fine Arts Painting, Senior
Harene Kim - Product Design, Junior
Karolina Kurek - Product Design, Junior
Alfredo Reynoso - Fashion Design, Senior

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Resources

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