fig. 9.136. (author) Photo of the exam presentation.

fig. 9.137. (author) Photo of the exam presentation.

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Conclusion

While spatial consideration and intervention around graves was considered throughout the project, the finality thereof was challenged during the final examination. It was, however, the objective of this project to not only fixate on micro spatial conditions in and around the cemetery, but rather to focused on the macro narrative which from which the city and consequently the cemetery was constructed - the human desire to escape, and to attain this escape through building an artificial realm. While this artificial landscape provides fleeting moment of escape, it also subjects these creations to loss of amnesia and ruination as memory, and therefore its significance lapses. This has resulted in spaces which have become fringe to the city - hinterlands nested in the everyday fabric, but made inaccessible due to this loss of significance and subsequent ruination. It was, therefore, the task of this dissertation to uncover and explore the possibilities of architectural intervention through the deconstruction and mechanization of this desire to escape, not only to reanimate the cemetery, but also restore significance through this mechanization. This process was articulated on several scales of the intervention, and therefore limited a thorough exploration of the potential of the intervention on these scales. The dissertation, therefore, placed its emphasis on detail design - the construction and articulation of the negatives - as its primary focus. The capacity of this project for being a model, not only for the reanimation of the cemetery in a context created by the desire to escape, but also the restoration of significance to the cemetery through this process, has necessitated limiting the tenacity with which certain design elements could have been explored.

This process has also inspired the creation of a language which binds the architectural intervention (and the architectural language) to the reality of physical death and ruination of space, through reimaginative death. While the project was lauded for its theoretical exploration, the critique the project has received, and the level of engagement from the examination panel indicate the potential value of creating an architectural language as impetus for architectural intervention, as demonstrated by the dissertation. The seemingly obtuse nature and expression of this language was, however, questioned, and invoked fervent debate among the examining panel and between the examining panel and the student.
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