

## A HILL / THE QUESTIONS

1. A “stable” memory is like two ends of a tunnel: the starting point is “now” and the end is a predefined moment in the future. What is missing is the tunnel between these two end points. How can we make borings in segments of time?

2. Does an attempt to “create memory” not imply that memory is a fixed object, stable and unchanging – a packet to deposit in the future – rather than a volatile, organic material that takes form according to the needs of the moment in which it is evoked?

How does one place this “packet” in the future?

Doesn't this projection of such a “packet” constitute an abandonment of the sender's responsibility in relation to its content?

3. If memory is not a fixed, stable and unchanging object but rather living matter, how can one prefabricate it?

4. As a corollary to conceiving memory as a stable, fixed and unchanging object, can time be thought of as “material”, which can be cut up into segments and which one can keep off limits?

How can a segment of time be removed without harming, altering or destroying it?

Can such a time-segment avoid becoming a mere material to be used and misused?

On what basis can future generations be kept from accessing a segment of the temporal future?

And if we accept such an act as legitimate, how can the remaining time avoid narrowing or diminishing?

5. How can a geographic site - which can only be stabilized if it becomes an extra-temporal and extra-spatial site – remain in the temporal and spatial here-and-now?

How can the “out of space and time” be linked to the “in space and time”, life linked to death?

How can prefabricated memory – which is by nature “extra-temporal” -navigate in time? How can one imagine the survival of that which is deceased?

How can the mystification of such a site be avoided?

6. How can an individual's artistic project be positioned in relation to a collective project? Is there a risk that any attempt to integrate these two projects will either invalidate the individual project or the collective project, or that the two projects will neutralize each other?

How can a project be construed from intensely industrial reasoning (which maintains a highly industrial attitude in its structures, materials, ideologies, rites and rituals) in this post-industrial era?

How can a modern project be pursued in the post-modern era?

How can the contradictory aspect of this project be conceived – a sort of archeo-construction? How can a project be productive in and of its anachronism and temporal disconnection?

And what about the progressive disconnection between the founding ideology of the site and the changing necessities and doctrines which must surround it without affecting it? Is the nuclear program actually compatible with democracy?

What difference, if any, is there between creating memory in the form of a self-contained volume of meaning, independent of its environment or context and giving form to individual or generational contents so that they make their mark (or are accepted as elements) in the collective memory?

7. Is an inalterable memory not dead? And won't it be subjected to ejected from the flow of living memories?

How can death be materialized in the living world?



## A HILL /DESCRIPTION

1. The project is based on a temporal unit of 80 years, which corresponds to the approximate exploitation activity of the stockage center for short life span nuclear waste (and accessorially the approximate duration of a human life). The Center is located in Soulain-Dhuys in France's region, l'Aube.. This time-segment is both considered the object and the carrier of memory.

2. Taking charge of this portion of time in relation to a specific site implies treating it as active matter as well as maintaining this activity throughout the duration of the site surveillance, perhaps even longer. Such activation makes it necessary to invent a gesture that is repeated at the same place and at identical temporal intervals. This gesture becomes rhythmic and productive of an event-like quality similar to the notions of ritual. The echo-effect of this repetition in turn lends importance to the temporal rhythm and the site of its undertaking.

3. In order to render this "rite" more comprehensible, it needs to be linked to the notion of transmission - the most important rite of transmission being passing the rite on to a future generation. Thus the *ritualized action* takes place every 30 years, which corresponds to the average period currently allotted to the notion of a generation. Technically, 30 years corresponds to 3/8 of the duration of the Centre Aube's exploitation activity.

This ratio of 3/8 becomes the focal meeting point of the engineering, scientific and economic elements of the site with the artistic project.

4. The project is based on the postulate that the inevitable loss of memory regarding the site over a given time can be compensated by an augmentation of its volume. This enlargement has to be specifically structured so as to punctuate the entire duration of the site surveillance period.

At the term of approximately 80 years, in 2071, the thirty hectares of the storage area of the Centre Aube are to be buried under several sealed layers with an exterior layer that will be covered with vegetation. The topographical configuration of the site will thus give rise to a series of 12-meter high hills. Every 30 years, this chain of hills will be elevated and enlarged by 4.5 meters of soil, corresponding to 3/8 of the initial hill-height. These 30-year interval elevation interventions will take place over a period of 300 years. At the end of the process, the layers will have reached the total height of 57 meters.

5. The topsoil used to increase the volume of the site will be taken from the forest area adjacent to the site, specifically from two wooded areas known as *Petit Essard* and *Le Plie*. This gesture renders the source and the act of removing the necessary construction material visible to all. Including this action in the nascent rite creates visual instability in the proximity of the exaggeratedly full and the exaggeratedly empty spaces, which permanently compete for one's visual attention as the eye is drawn from one to the other. One wound another wound

During the 30 years intervals, no intervention takes place in the dug out area from which the topsoil is removed. After the last enlargement of the hill, the stripped earth area is abandoned.

## Volumes

Initial Volume:  $30000\text{m}^2 \times 12\text{m} = 360000\text{m}^3 : 4 = 90000 \times 3 = 270000\text{m}^3$

Initial surface area :  $30\text{m} \times 1000 = 30000\text{m}^2$

### First enlargement 2101

$39\text{m} \times 1009\text{m} = 39351\text{m}^2 \times 16,5\text{m} = 649291,5\text{m}^3 : 4 = 162322,88\text{m}^3 \times 3 = 486968,64\text{m}^3 - 270000\text{m}^3 = \mathbf{216\ 968,64\text{m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area:  $1000\text{m} \times 21,6968\text{m} \times 10\text{m}$

### Second enlargement 2131

$48\text{m} \times 1018\text{m} = 48864\text{m}^2 \times 21\text{m} = 1026144\text{m}^3 : 4 = 256536\text{m}^3 \times 3 = 769608\text{m}^3 - 486968,64\text{m}^3 = \mathbf{282\ 639,36\text{m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area after enlargement:  $1000\text{m} \times 49,961\text{m} \times 10\text{m}$

### Third enlargement 2161

$57 \text{ m} \times 1027 \text{ m} = 58539 \text{ m}^2 \times 25,5 \text{ m} = 1492744,5 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 373186,13 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 1119558,38 \text{ m}^3 - 769608 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{349\ 950,38 \text{ m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area after enlargements:  $1000\text{m} \times 84,955838\text{m} \times 10\text{m}$

### Fourth enlargement 2191

$66 \text{ m} \times 1036 \text{ m} = 68376 \text{ m}^2 \times 30 \text{ m} = 2051280 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 512820 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 1538460 \text{ m}^3 - 1119558,38 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{418\ 901,62 \text{ m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area after enlargements:  $1000 \times 126,8460\text{m} \times 10\text{m}$

### Fifth enlargement 2221

$75 \text{ m} \times 1045 \text{ m} = 78375 \text{ m}^2 \times 34,5 \text{ m} = 2703937,5 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 675984,38 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 2027935,13 \text{ m}^3 - 1538460 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{489\ 475,13 \text{ m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area after enlargements:  $10\text{m} \times 1000\text{m} \times 175,793513\text{m}$

### Sixth enlargement 2251

$84 \text{ m} \times 1054 \text{ m} = 88536 \text{ m}^2 \times 39 \text{ m} = 3452904 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 863226 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 2589678 \text{ m}^3 - 2027935,13 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{561\ 742,87 \text{ m}^3}$  to be added

Soil strip area aftr enlargements:  $1000\text{m} \times 231,9678\text{m} \times 10\text{m}$

### **Seventh enlargement 2281**

$93 \text{ m} \times 1064 \text{ m} = 98952 \text{ m}^2 \times 43,5 \text{ m} = 4304412 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 1076103 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 3228309 \text{ m}^3 - 2589678 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{638\ 631\ m^3}$  added

Soil strip area  $1000 \times 295,8309 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$

### **Eighth enlargement 2311**

$102 \text{ m} \times 1073 \text{ m} = 109446 \text{ m}^2 \times 48 \text{ m} = 5253408 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 1313352 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 3940056 \text{ m}^3 - 3228309 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{711\ 747\ m^3}$  added

Soil strip area  $1000 \text{ m} \times 367,0056 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$

### **Ninth enlargement 2341**

$111 \text{ m} \times 1082 \text{ m} = 120102 \text{ m}^2 \times 52,5 \text{ m} = 6305355 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 1576338 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 4729016 \text{ m}^3 - 3940056 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{788\ 960,25\ m^3}$  added

Soil strip area after enlargement:  $1000 \text{ m} \times 445,901625 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$

### **Tenth enlargement 2371**

$120 \text{ m} \times 1091 \text{ m} = 130920 \text{ m}^2 \times 57 \text{ m} = 7462440 \text{ m}^3 : 4 = 1865610 \text{ m}^3 \times 3 = 5596830 \text{ m}^3 - 4729016 \text{ m}^3 = \mathbf{867\ 814\ m^3}$  to be added

**Soil strip area at its final size:  $1000 \text{ m} \times 532,683025 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$**

**Total volume of added material:  $5\ 326\ 830,25 \text{ m}^3$**













































