

NATALIE BLOM

SADSCAPE

- materializing the poetic image of loss



MATTER SPACE STRUCTURE

Supervisor: Naima Callenberg
Examiner: Morten Lund

Abstract _ This Master's Thesis Project is a search for an architecture derived from emotions of loss through the exploration of poetry. Believing that by using poetry to inform design, a space of high emotional resonance and beauty can be discovered.

The poem I have selected to explore is Sand, by Han Kang (2016). It is a poem about fragility, temporality, and loss, where Kang use the material sand to embody her emotions. I chose Sand because of its' rich poetic image, believing that the cognitive sensorial experience of the poem has high architectural potential.

The poetic image can be described as the mental sensorial experience of a poem. This concept is widely discussed within Cognitive Poetics, a discipline combining poetic linguistics and cognitive science. In the first part of this project, called the Poetic Materialization Methods, I have used theories of Cognitive Poetics to analyse and materialize different facets of the poetic image of Sand. In the second part, called the Architectural Potential, I explore the architectural potential of the materializations made in part one. This is done through an iterative process, contextualizing the

materiality and narrative of the poetic image into an urban landscape. The proposals are meant to direct our attention, to function as gateways, encouraging people to connect and express emotions of sadness and loss.

The wider discourse of this project is in the societal disconnection to loss. In our secular urbanity, the church is no longer a place where people go to express and work through sadness. Public display of negative emotion is rare, and to openly grieve is almost exclusively done at funerals. A grieving process never really ends, but it can progress - this is where I believe architecture can fill an emotional function. It can make us feel, and make us reflect.

Sadscape is what I am searching for in this thesis: a universal architectural language of sadness, a representation of loss in the material realm.

Keywords: artistic research, cognitive poetics, poetic image, loss, sand