

Garden of Time; Landscape of Change: Women Suffrage Memorial St. Paul, MN 1996

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The design proposal is based on a fundamental assumption that human history and natural history are intertwined.

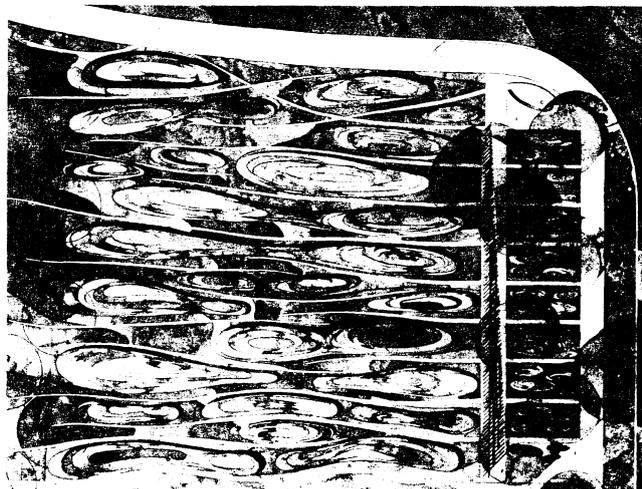
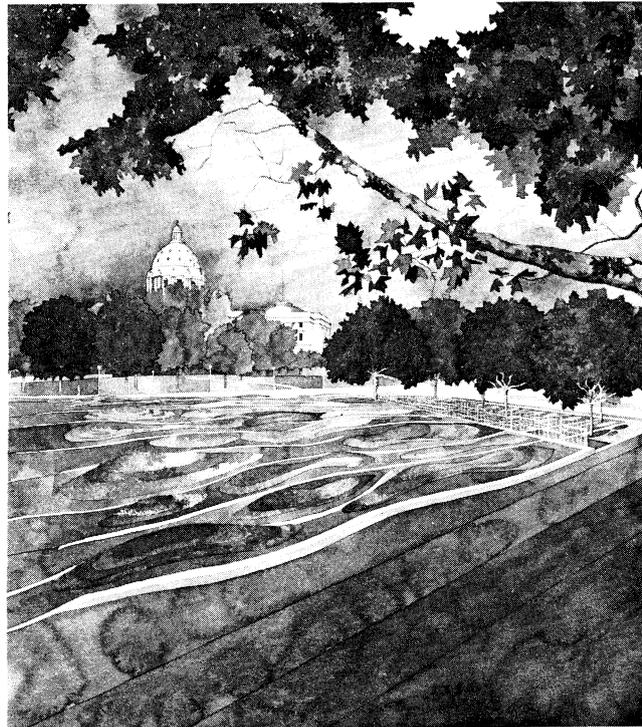
The Women Suffrage Memorial Garden gives presence to the spirit of individuals and collective organizations that brought about monumental change in the political, social and cultural landscape of Minnesota. It acknowledges the context of the greater Capitol Mall and the State landscape it embraces. The Memorial Garden is considered a microcosm of these broad landscapes; a revelation of natural and cultural forces.

Change

A vision of monumental, positive change lay at the core of the Women Suffrage Movement; the 19th Amendment is a change to the Constitution. Seeking to extend the depth of interpretation and educate through local analogy, the Garden is articulated by another forceful movement of geological transformation. Glaciation had the most profound influence on the landscape of Minnesota and the *process* of glaciation parallels the slow, steady and forceful changes brought about by the suffragist movement. In this way the project seeks to join human events with natural events, each illuminating and enriching the other.

Time

The Garden registers marks of time related to selected natural, cultural and political conditions of Minnesota. The Garden articulates time through physical form and phenomena. The dominant landscape of the memorial reflects the kettles and kames so indigenous to the natural landscape of the State. These marks of time are revealed on the site as stone garden edges. The connection is further reinforced by the joining together of a native prairie and a native woodland landscape by a *Woven Trellis*. This Trellis is composed of vertical elements that correspond to the years in which the Suffragists struggled for their cause. The stepped bench at the base of the Trellis registers intervals in years; each rise occurring at pivotal moments in history. The woven horizontal bands of the Trellis correspond to the lifeline of specific individuals and pivotal events. In this way the linear, compressed time of



history is connected to the real time of site experience. Each stone striation from the glacial marking on the ground plane is woven through each decade marker on the Trellis. Entry here brings the visitor to a segment of time from 1840 to 1850. Selected quotations on wide bands reflect upon the injustices faced by Suffragists and their impending struggle. Also noted are the names and birthdates of selected Suffragists born in this decade who may or may not have lived to experience the 19th Amendment. The middle segment of the Trellis covers the years 1850 through 1920 and is devoted to pivotal women, organizations and events that affected positive change or deeds in Minnesota. Sunlight casting through the cut-out band of each name can be cast onto the body of each visitor.

Context

The Garden responds directly to site-specific scale, context, material and local orientation. The major space of the Garden is scaled to the open space and view shed extending from the Capitol to the City. The Garden embraces the east side and northeast corner of the site along Cedar Street as a logical area in which to draw visitors or passerbys into the Garden. The sloped walkway is to provide easier wheelchair movement on this part of the site. If a visitor is moving uphill toward the Capitol, along the Trellis, the view of the Capitol is hidden through the grove of trees until the 1920 trellis mark near the corner, at which point it is revealed.

