

Landing Strip

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Program

A landing area located in the Arizona desert. The facility is used by small planes as a transition point for refueling and resting. The landing strip is not a private retreat but constitutes instead a shared piece of infrastructure, an oasis of sorts for planes on their way someplace *else*.

The landing strip is manned by a caretaker. The caretaker is in charge of air traffic control, general maintenance of the site, as well as mechanical repairs on incoming planes. The caretaker resides permanently on the site. S/he flies to the nearest town for supplies.

Site

In the tradition of great Land Art desert works of the 60s (Heizer, De Maria), the project is concerned with the making of a site in the landscape. A finite length of asphalt, the runway symbolizes both access to the site as well as disconnection from its surroundings: a road with a clear beginning and end.

Meeting the Ground Line

Landing Strip is one of a series of continuing investigations concerned with the idea of the ground line as architectural project. In this case, the airplane serves as a programmatic metaphor to celebrate the interface between building and ground, while the air strip combines perfect linearity in both plan and section.

Project

Main landing strip (1). Secondary landing strip (2). Taxi area (3). Stair to lower foyer (4). Foyer to showers, pool, changing rooms (5). Changing area (6). Showers (7). Pool (8). Pool deck (9). Water supply for showers (10). Hangar (11). Fuel slab (12). Observation tower (13). Caretaker's residence (14).

ILLUSTRATIONS

This page, top: Walter de Maria, *Cross*, El Mirage Dry Lake, Nevada, 1968.

Opposite page, top right: Michael Heizer, *Double Negative*, Mormon Mesa, Nevada, 1969.

Opposite page, bottom right: Le Corbusier, *Pavillon Suisse*, Cité Universitaire, Paris, 1932.



