



ART OMI ARCHITECTURE

Karla Rothstein is a practicing architect, co-founder and design director at LATENT Productions based in Manhattan, NY. LATENT's current building projects include 25 units of affordable housing for home ownership in Brownsville, Brooklyn, remediation of brownfield conditions and the revivification of a 9-acre, 240,000 SF former cotton-spinning mill campus in the Berkshires, and a meandering private vertical oasis in Carroll Gardens in New York City.

Rothstein is also the founder and director of Columbia University's DeathLAB, a cross-disciplinary research and design initiative housed at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) where she has taught graduate design studios for twenty years. Her professional and academic work has been published and reviewed internationally. In addition to numerous articles in diverse journals, it is included in Kenneth Frampton's *American Masterworks: Houses of the Twentieth and Twenty First Century* (Rizzoli, 2008) and in *Our Changing Journey to the End: Reshaping Death, Dying, and Grief in America* (ABC-CLIO, Praeger, 2013).

Rothstein and co-Principal Investigator Kartik Chandran have recently completed research related to alternative corpse disposition, funded by the Earth Institute's Cross Cutting Initiative. A solo exhibition at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan, entitled *DeathLAB: Democratizing Death*, features the lab's research, design proposals, and interviews. It is on view through March 2019.

OnSite: Karla Rothstein



Exhibition Credits: The architectural model on view was created for this exhibition. All images and video provided courtesy of the architect, LATENT Productions, and DeathLAB.

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From ancient to modern times, architects have conceived and designed ways to cement memory, to edify power, and support individual and collective grieving. Architects, and the patrons who commission them, attempt to make permanently visible what will or has already disappeared. Given the scale and permanence of architectural expressions, examples abound.

At times they take the subtle manipulated form of the landscaped setting of a cemetery such as the *Woodland Cemetery and Chapel* (1915-1937) in Stockholm, Sweden, by Erik Gunnar Asplund with Sigurd Lewerentz. A departure from the dense and urban “city of the dead” model with its long and continuing tradition.

Others, more conceptual instances, include *Einstein’s Tomb* (1980) by Lebbeus Woods which was designed as a cruciform structure carried out to space like a satellite and left to meander among the planets of our galaxy. It has no fixed orientation and contains no ashes of the genius.

In contrast, first published in 2013, *Constellation Park* is an open web structure designed to be suspended under a bridge. Within its woven public promenade, private repositories are laid out to hold individual remains. Furthermore, making poetry with light, the visible luminescence is generated by the natural process of decomposition. Rothstein and collaborators have made the invisible visible.

OnSite is an intimate exhibition series in the Kantor Lobby of the Benenson Center at Art Omi that focuses on architectural experiments and contemporary practices of architects.



Art Omi: Architecture facilitates projects exploring the intersection of architecture, art and landscape by architects. Through curated exhibitions in the Architecture Fields and the Benenson Center galleries and a new residency program, Art Omi: Architecture actively engages with, and introduces the work of, architects and designers at the forefront of experimentation, innovation, and exploration. Since 2016, architect Warren James has served as Director of Art Omi: Architecture.