TIME TUNNEL

Columbia University participates in deep time in its dispossession of native lands, changing its landscape and burrowing into the hills of ‘Manahatta’, creating sites of exclusion and artificial platforms to level its buildings on campus. In regards to Columbia’s origins as a mental health facility, the only remaining architecture on campus of this era is Buell Hall, GSAPP’s center for theoretical knowledge. As mental health, indigenous histories, knowledge, and geologic environments are ongoing realities on campus, although obscured by the presence of the university, the proposal seeks to disrupt the geometric order at Avery Plaza and material hierarchies.

A tunnel structure is designed to provide a passageway and a site of reflection on the layers of deep time embedded at Columbia through a gradient of material. A light construction of undulating wood frames centers the pavilion with openings on either side for access and breezeways using light fabric. Meandering planter boxes that are used as both seating at the tunnel and for growing native plants throughout cuts across the rigid existing planters and extends beyond the orthogonal limits of the existing planters.

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