TIMETALK:
Bikini Atoll

How does one communicate to a generation of humans thousands of years in the future?

ABSTRACT

If time is only an agreement among men, then we're agreed upon the wrong kind of time. We treat time as a linear abstraction full of points like infinite decimals between zero and one. When time is really a circulous, fluid, living thing that cannot be ordered, pressed, or refined.

This thesis is a combination of big questions that you never quite get around to answering.

The first:
How do we dispose of nuclear waste, which could be harmful for hundreds of thousands of years?

The second:
What is the lifespan of architecture?

The two questions combined become:
How does one communicate to a generation of humans thousands of years in the future?

My answer:
Through ritual and symbol perpetuated by inheritance.

I'm proposing that we collect all of the nuclear waste currently in the world and relocate it to an island in the middle of the pacific ocean called Bikini Atoll.

This Island is formerly a US nuclear explosion testing site. In the 1950's our military evacuated the 176 inhabitants of Bikini and detonated 23 bombs across the atoll leaving it radioactive to this day. [1]

Around 4,000 generations of humans will pass in the next 2 million years. By this time we will have reached "Direct Disposal Radioactive Equilibrium"[2]*, the point at which the waste has the same level of radioactivity it had when the uranium ore was taken from the earth.*
In only 230,000 years the waste will be safe to contact.

Currently the United states has no designated high level waste storage facility. Instead it is stored in temporary cooling pools near the site of nuclear power plants and research facilities. These are scattered throughout the US.

The amount of waste I'm proposing to store comes to a sum of 240,000 metric tonnes (and that number increases every year).

A total of 1,230 containers would be needed to store this quantity.

This container or "cask"[3] *manufactured by a company called Trans-Nuclear.*

Close proximity is not instantly fatal, however it is not recommended that one hugs a cask for one hour or more.

The program will extend across three individual islands within Bikini Atoll: Jabwj, Aritokkijj, and Enyu.

The casks will occupy the entire island of Aritokkijj. It will be guarded by the inhabitants: scientists, bikinians, and tourists.

Science fad us from the stone into the nuclear age. We let our ambition pull us ahead of time and created a poison that would last beyond our group of human history.

Those bombs that exploded in the fifties were detonated mostly in or over the lagoon. Even so they left behind craters in the coral. I'm proposing that each of these 23 detonations be marked by Nature and by Structure.

Nature *is represented by (the artificial atoll)*
a lattice will be placed over the lagoon, consisting of a 165' diameter circle centered on the C.o.B. (Center of Bomb), at the end of 10,000 years a coral reef will have grown substantially along the ruins.

Structure *is represented by (the incomplete path)*
Two sets of concrete pylons were poured off the coast of Jabwj on August 6th 1945 marking the first center of bomb. Over the course of ten thousand years the full path will have been constructed.

But even as it is being constructed it is being torn apart by time. The water will rot the wood and erode the pylons until nothing is left. The only evidence remaining will be whatever fraction of the path is currently under construction and the reef that rotates some semblance of the old boundary. There will only ever be an arc that hints at the circle that will never be whole.

In ten thousand years the process will begin again, to be repeated 22 times.

Building materials for the path will come from Enyu island where grove of coconut palm trees grow and Bikinians who wish to reclaim their atoll will live.

In ten thousand years the coral 'reef' will begin to form.

In 30 million years a new small coral atoll will form.[4]

Nuclear Waste is inherently dangerous and sometimes the processes that create it pose a risk. I believe we would be at fault for neglecting our responsibility to warn future generations of this danger's existence and the hazards of its creation.

Our responsibility is to memorialize either one of mankind's greatest achievements or our most shameful invention.

Data Citations

[1] "Evolution of Modern Humans: Early Modern Homo Sapiens" Evolution of Modern Humans: Early Modern Homo Sapiens. Dennis O'Neil. Web. 10 May 2016.

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[3] "Life Expectancy". WHO. World Health Organization. Web. 10 May 2016.

[4] "Smoke Detectors and Americium." World Nuclear Association. World Nuclear Association, July 2014. Web. 10 May 2016.

[5] "Backgrounder on Plutonium." U.S.NRC. United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 20 Sept. 2012. Web. 10 May 2016.

[6] Reilly, David. "Spent Nuclear Fuel: A Trash Heap Deadly for 250,000 Years or a Renewable Energy Source?" Scientific American. Nature American Inc., 28 Jan. 2008. Web. 10 May 2016.

[7] "Radioactive Waste Management." World Nuclear Association. World Nuclear Association, Oct. 2013. Web. 10 May 2016.

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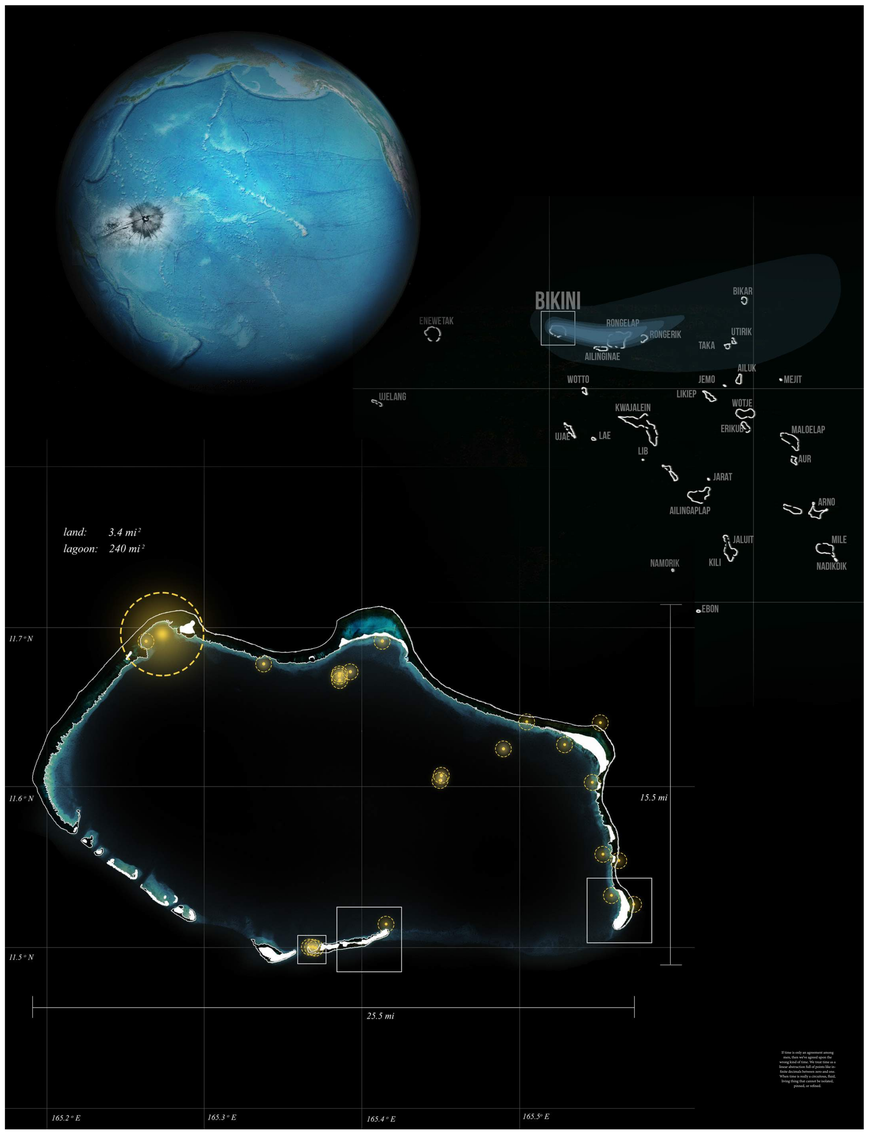
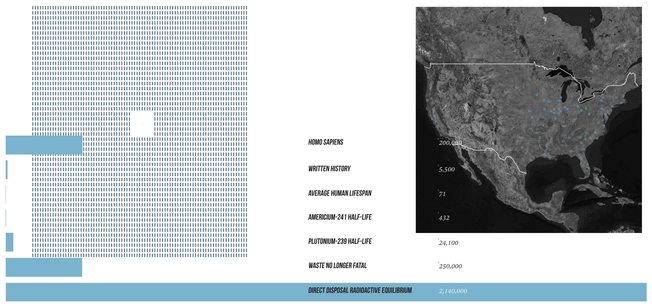
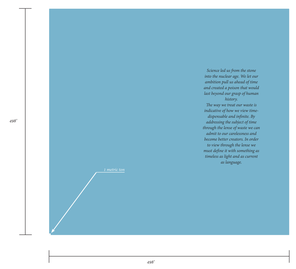
[9] "Residential Sale. "Welcome to Bikini Atoll." Bikini Atoll. KILMDonald Local Government Council. Web. 10 May 2016.

[10] "How Do Coral Reefs Form?" NOAA National Ocean Service Education. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 23 Mar. 2009. Web. 10 May 2016.

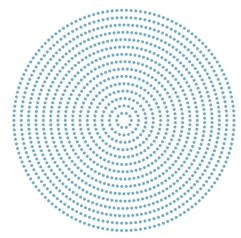




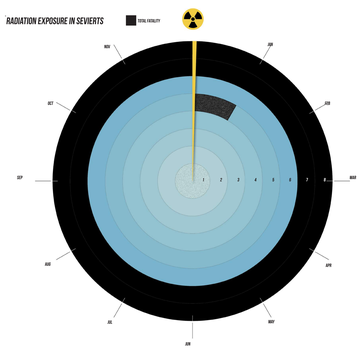
240,000 TONNES OF WASTE WORLDWIDE

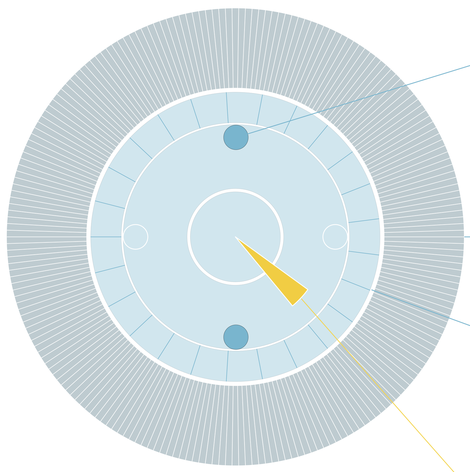


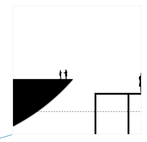
1,230 DRY CASKS

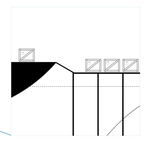


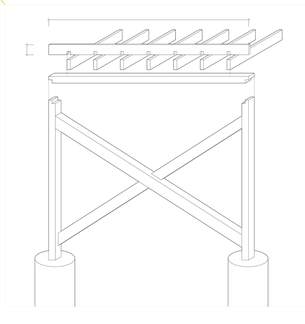
RADIATION EXPOSURE IN SEVIERTS

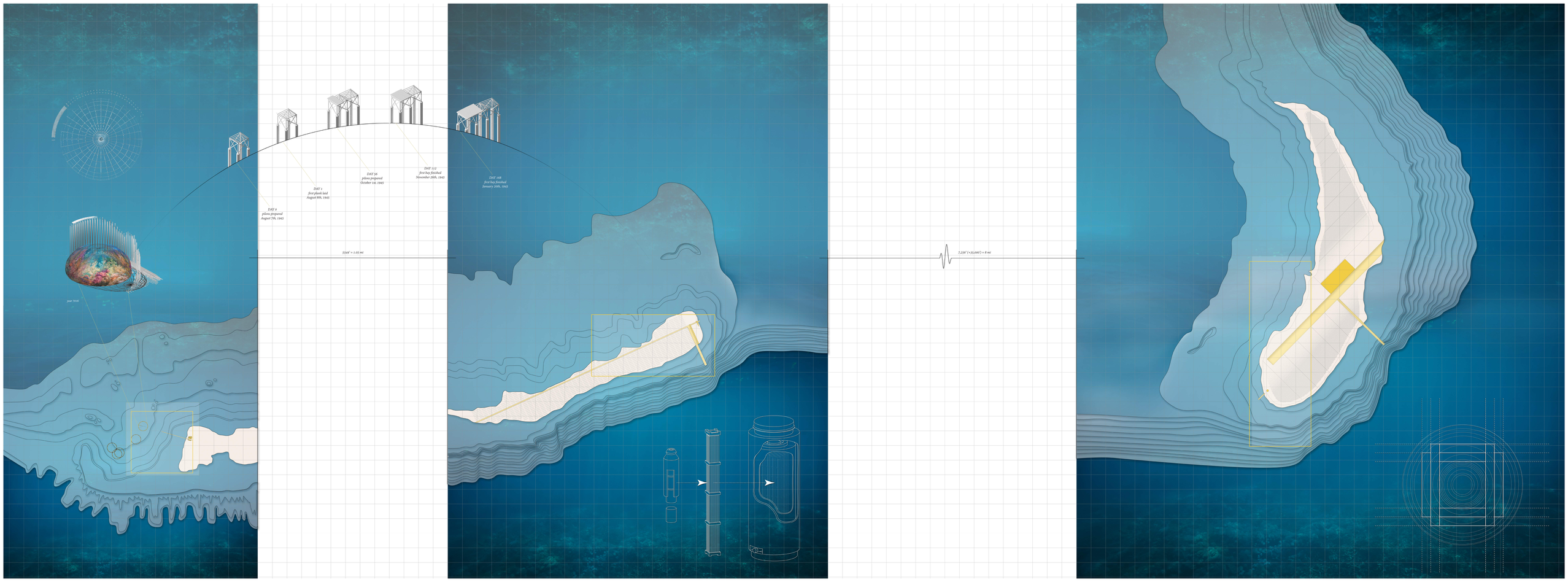


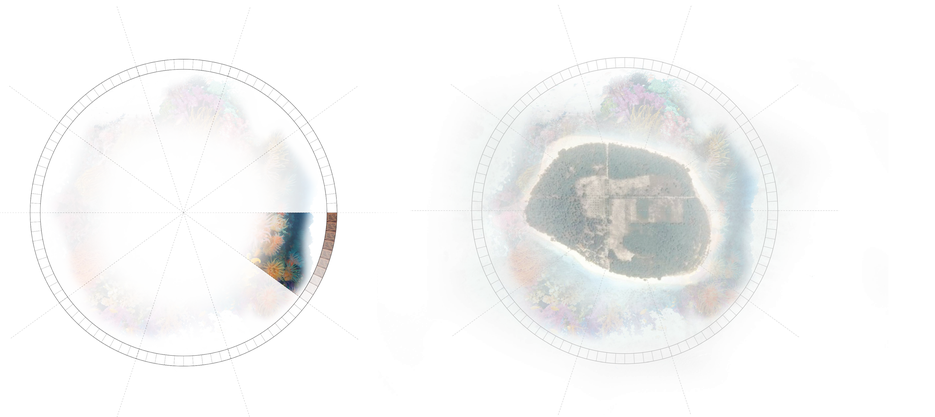












SCENE:

D: "In regard to the topic of storage, I understand there has been some pressure on the past - many of their stalled projects were completed and these were carried through."

J: "As of today, 70 years since we started this project, we have 1,000 years of waste we have being kept from nuclear waste storage site, on this earth."

D: "Which is the one we the greatest concern for the future?"

J: "You have to understand that it comes the program start human-sized bacteria."

D: "Challenge, the challenge will be to create a structure the both lasts longer than the Egyptian pyramids and also the Earth?"

D: "In regard to the issue of time, we talking about hundreds of thousands of years, right? Is there any way to speak easily to those who live in"

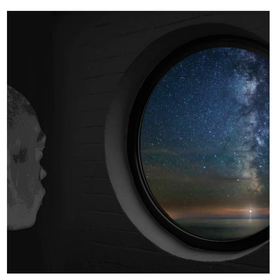
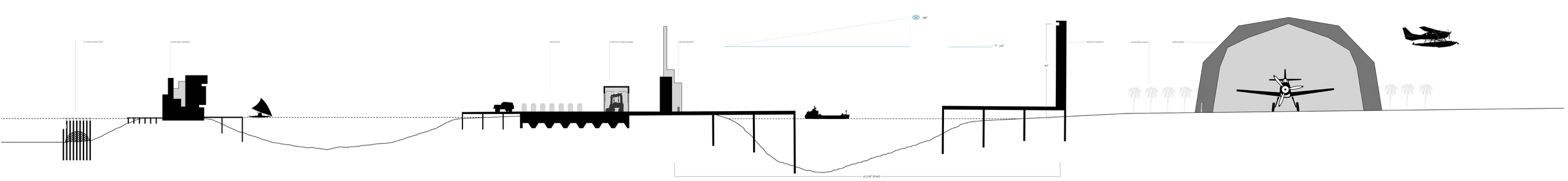
J: "We don't want to give instructions to people. We want to give them a place to we want to be in society as scientists. Some primal dogma, or ceremony. I mean, we have to create a place with sacred symbols and geometry, a sanctuary, a place that people will be drawn to. These symbols may not necessarily be understood by the people, but they will understand through the cultural and eternal movement of light. If the world ceases to exist, the sacred symbols, we needed no longer that."

Seventy-five years ago we started doing something from the earth. We started to take the resources from the earth terms about and at that playful time, we started to make bombs of mass destruction.

Fascinated by our ability to obliterate entire cities, we started to make bombs that are 4,000 times a ships size in ty. Scientists, over the pacemaker, stop and ask what is the long-term effects of fallouts. Taken by its own genius, by its own power, we forgot to think about the words around them.

Living within the Atomic Age, we forgot to think about the future. Back in 70 ma, it was a long time coming and we forgot to think about the future of people, ignorance and apathy.

They set in their left with the lights flickering, electrical by pulsing, and a sense of dread. Nuclear Waste is there since 2015 and even 70 to page. That is the time that we have to deal with radioactive or taking a really few ness dwell in storage. They, under the ground, in the ocean, underwater and unlikely to be seen or there ever. Nuclear Waste is a problem that we had passed before. The difference is time unbearable even to the gods.

Nuclear Waste is inherently dangerous and sometimes the processes that create it pose a risk. I believe we would be able to make a structure that is reliable to next future generations of the human race, and the continuation of the creation.

Our responsibility is to memorialize what one of mankind's greatest achievements, the atomic bomb, innovation.