



INSCRIBE

Mandi Hoskins and Melissa Williams
Graduate Level
The University of Cincinnati

Studio Professor: Marc Swackhamer

Inscribe: Questions + Answers

Q: What does it mean to generate activity?

A: The majority of visitors to the Olympics are most commonly the spectators of the various competitions who not only observe the sports, but are also part of the larger experiences of the crowd and the activity associated with that venue in particular. By mapping the conglomeration of a multitude of experiences at differing sites, the visitor can be located within the larger collective dynamic of the city and the spectacle of the Olympic event. The mere act of documentation and recording text enables an inscription of a memory, thus translating a singular notion into a tangible, visible object that is infinitely linked to the city of Athens. While allowing for multiple variables of user groups and ranges of time, this activity encourages both individual and group patronage, as well as supporting three levels of interaction varying from quickly citing a location to a more private journaling session. With an issued card, the visitor can electronically document themselves within the Olympic park at a multitude of sites by swiping the card, or have the option for journaling briefly or for an extended period of time. At the very least, the visitors depart Athens with individualized representations of their experiences, mapped within the physical context of the city. While every visitor would receive a completed document, the experience could be enhanced through additional journal entries of descriptions, observations, and perceptions.

Q: How is the form of in-scribe generated?

A: The systems of movement that are created by the varying speeds of the users were combined with the programmatic requirements of the activity to suggest the formal response. The placement of both the seated station in relation to the other two functions of the structure were important in establishing varying zones of activity and indicating their respective queuing locations. Similarly, the flexibility of the tensile membrane allowed for subtle contouring to either envelope the user, thus creating greater privacy while journaling, or make adjustments in height to support quickly moving groups on the more public exterior edges. Ultimately, the resultant form is tailored to provide a more accommodating human oriented-scale in relation to that of the venues and vastness of the landscape.

Q: How is the placement of this system determined within the landscape?

A: In-scribe anticipates and thrives off of the activity generated by the groups of people attending the Olympic venues. The system's core module is located within the landscape in anticipation of an event, and when the need becomes manifest, the remainder of the system is brought into place. As the activity level dissipates and the spectacle of the crowd wanes, the system becomes no longer of use and is moved to another active site. That which is left behind, is a visual representation of the strength of the activity that was once present. The varying intensity of the light, shone within the cavity of the remaining core module, illuminates aspects of the site immediately surrounding it and continues to reflect the persistent memory of what came before in the context of the ever-changing city.