

OSTIUMANCY

ostium: door, an opening, entrance or exit
-mancy: divination by a specified means

Doors; one of the classic symbols of opportunity, array around the centre of a tree set atop a small mound. Three tiers of doors face inward to the centre. The visitor approaches to the middle, from a ceremonial pathway, bordered by ornamental grasses.

The centre is made to feel simultaneously powerful and safe. It has the atavistic elements of landscape comfort and security; prospect and refuge. The geometry and encirclement gives the sense of the gravity to the centre, in the fashions of sacred sites, such as circular mound altars.

No clear route or order is suggested to the viewer, yet the doors' orientations present themselves as being expectant of the viewer's actions. The use of doors, as well as their layered creation of an interstitial space, creates a space of doubled liminality. These sorts of in-between spaces have classically had a mystical property in spiritual interpretation. The act of navigating through the doors to exit the installation, is an act of divination. Exiting from the outermost ring will lead the visitor to no obvious, or particular destination, free to ask themselves if they have arrived anywhere at all, and where they are to go next.



OSTIUMANCY *Layout Plan & Elevation*



