Relics of human history, 9000 years old: mysterious wall-paintings, artistic weapons, spectacular figures. The highly crafted artefacts and complex dwellings from Catalhöyük offer us a direct glimpse of life in the Neolithic Age, when humans transformed from hunters and gatherers into farmers and began to live in cities. Estimates of population is thousands.

The site was first excavated by James Mellaart in the early 1960's on the East Mound. Only 1/4 was excavated, but has been widely recognised as of unique international significance. Many hundreds of buildings in 16 levels were examined in the Southwest of the East mound. The site is a large artificial mound made up of layers of superimposed mudbrick buildings. In 1980, a new phase of work began under the guidance of Ian Hodder. The present project aims to use modern scientific techniques to answer questions about the role of the art, diet and health of the people, the way they lived their lives.

Building Type: Area Conservation

2010 Award Cycle: 3695.TUR
ÇATALHÖYÜK EXCAVATION PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES

Design
The design for the shelters had to fulfill a number of site-specific requirements, such as foundations which would not overly impact the archaeology, adequate load-bearing capacity, and variable compaction requirements as well as extreme weather conditions with high wind uplift, heavy snow load, and so on. The excavation in the trenches below would continue, therefore safety and working conditions for the archaeologists was of high priority, such as uninterrupted light requirements and adequate airflow during the hot summer months. The protection of the archaeological and the landscape should be considered.

Trial Sketches
- Cloud-like form on top of the mound / consistency with the topography / reshaping the structure / light weight / structure / consideration of impact on site
- Final form evaluation according to wooden beam production variables / to approximate excavation borders to shelter boundaries
- Usage lightweight of wooden beams / restrictions of small lifting cranes on site
- Design of a continuous reinforced concrete pinhole forming a rectangle around the area / space frame steel superstructure / using manpower to build the structure / small fractions that can be carried easily on site

Trial Sketches
- Searching for the structural system
- Given the size of the area / the nature of the topography / very limited budget / implementation of conventional steel frames but restrictions of heavy lifting cranes on site
- Design of a continuous reinforced concrete pinhole forming a rectangle around the area / space frame steel superstructure / using manpower to build the structure / small fractions that can be carried easily on site

Construction
- Covering the area of buildings first excavated between 1961–1965 / a large semi-permanent structure over an area 40m x 27m wide, dropping some 3 meters in height / a form along the topography
- Design of a continuous reinforced concrete pinhole forming a rectangle around the area / space frame steel superstructure / using manpower to build the structure / small fractions that can be carried easily on site

Excavation Area + Shelter Area
- Collaborative work done between archaeologists and architects at the beginning of the design process
- Final form evaluation according to wooden beam production variables / to approximate excavation borders to shelter boundaries
- Usage lightweight of wooden beams / restrictions of small lifting cranes on site

Construction
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