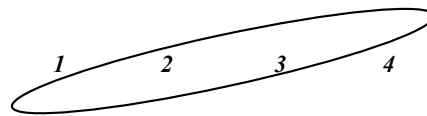


This text was part of the original installation

Chaco Canyon was originally designed as a memorial for 98 passengers that perished as a result of a plane crash in Iowa City, Iowa. In the memorial the individual pipes were a physical representation of an individual's life, thus the memorial contained 98 pipes. Being that each pipe was a different length each had a unique pitch that pitch was altered as it interacted with the wind currents in the environment. Chaco Canyon was named after the oldest Indian kiva in North America constructed by the Anasazi Indian tribe in 1100 A.D.

C h r i s t i n e W h i t t a k e r

Performance, Installations, and Multi-Media Sculpture



Chaco Canyon (Sound Pipes)

Proposal for Temporary Sculpture Exterior Placement

“Chaco Canyon” is a sound sculpture to be placed in a public environment, to be assembled on a concrete base. The structure would occupy a 12’H x 24’W x 24’ L square area. The pipes mounted at the top of the steel support structures are miked with sound transducers to monitor and regenerate sound. The sound would be preamplifier and amplified in an area beyond the sculpture parameter.

Wind current runs through the pipes creates sound. The range of sizes in the pipes allows for a range of sounds depending on each pipes length. The sound picked up by the pipes is amplified through the center structure. A vivid range of pitch and environmental sound is redefined through the 98 pipes. The center prism structure (a stainless steel speaker encasement) harnesses the speaker and light systems. The upper Plexiglas prism is lighted through the bottom to light the thick colored cables wrapped around the interior of the smaller prism. The sculpture is about how sound can reinterpret our perception of space, and the idea of constant change within sound.

The sculpture would resonate sound day and night; at night the inner Plexiglas structure would be lighted through beams of light from the bottom area.