Another land for Akari

“light things are handled as if they’re heavy, heavy things as if they are weightless—in this way, one finds an almost complete control over nature instead of being dominated by it.”

— Isamu Noguchi

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Concept Statement

"Floating mass"

The point of this project is to use different scales and locations of stones as the representation of the concept "Floating Mass", creating a dramatic space since Noguchi uses lots of abstract works in stone to demonstrate his understanding of the relationship between humans and nature.

Combining modern construction technology with natural materials to provide a surreal spatial experience. Using the floating system that could accommodate flexible use and reconfiguration, the suspended stones will be enlightened by different Akari. Presents a new transformation of nature in the interior space, also showing the existence of floating as a state of weightlessness.

Applying the unstable seats that could integrate the feeling of weightlessness to create a playful environment, and encourage people to interact with Akari. Allowing the customers to escape from gravity for a moment, and bring an experiential journey for offline purchasing.
Concept Development

Concept Driver and Design Language

End Piece, 1974

Costume for a Stone, 1982

Nine floating Fountains

Akari 16A

Juxtaposition of opposites

Stick structure

Floating Mass

Motion in stillness
Taxonomy
Integrate the design language in site

Location of Akari in different posture

Weightless seat for showroom

Floating system in different area

Turned as table for event/education
Site Analysis
Circulation between Noguchi museum; Building Materials; Visibility

Change the garage door to the glass windows so that it could be functioned as a window display, increasing the likelihood of both foot traffic and impulse purchases. Improving visibility from the interior and exterior.

Keep the existing entrance since it is the closest door from the Noguchi museum.
Material Research

Combination of natural material and materiality

Diagram

Material Model

Materiality

Soft

Diffuse reflection

Polished/Rough Organic

Industrial felt

Sustainable

Glass

Corten Steel

Wood

Stone
Rendered Sections
Design Language Applied

Section A 1/4"=1'-0"
Different heights of stones and Akari

Section B 1/4"=1'-0"
Encouraged to interact with Akari
Reflected Ceiling Plan
Rcp and Akari Display

Location of Akari
About 90-100 Akaris in the space

- Table Akari - Small
  - 10" - 17"

- Table Akari - Middle
  - 10" - 30"

- Ceiling Akari - Middle
  - 15" - 20"

- Ceiling Akari - Large
  - 20" - 40"

Floor Akari - Middle
- 10" - 30"
Assembly drawings
Floating system for ceiling stone

Stone suspended from the ceiling

Trolley System
Perlin

Callout Detail

Existing Beam
2" H Wheel
Trolley
Bolts

Dimension of the Joinery

Axo of joinery
Moving Track
Using the two doors as the entrance. The main entrance is the one next to the window display, increasing the curiosity of the people that pass by. Another entrance is for the one who came from another street, also for the passengers who just want to have a cup of coffee, making the Akari be noticed by different kinds of passengers.
Education Rendering
View from the Education projector area

Watching video of Noguchi
Showroom Rendering

View from the showroom seat

Sitting inside the weightless seat
Showroom Detail
Showroom Drawings with dimension; construction detail

1. Pulley
2. Connector
3. Tether
4. Stopper

Movable system
Hide the connector inside the stone

1. Enlarged Plan
2. Enlarged Elevation

Floating Display stones
Weightless seat

Pulley system
Attached to ceiling stone
Stainless steel tethers

3. Floating Stones System
Showroom Reconfiguration
Functioned as lecture/event room

View in the seat
Purchasing Point Rendering
Furniture in purchasing corridor; Distribution of Akari

Marble Countertop
Corten steel legs
Customized furniture

Concept Driver
Juxtaposition of opposites
Office Rendering

Customized furniture and perspectives of the office area

- Glass Panel
- Stones
- Axo of shelf
- Floating mass
- Marble Countertop
- Corten steel legs

Axo of office table

Plan

10' 5"
4' 4"
2' 6"

Elevation

Concept Driver
Juxtaposition of opposites
Outdoor Cafe Rendering

View from the cafe; apply of floating system

The Akari are attached to the stones as illumination while the location is random and dynamic, with this distribution bringing the Akari into nature and in this way giving vitality and life to each of them.