

Experiential Akari

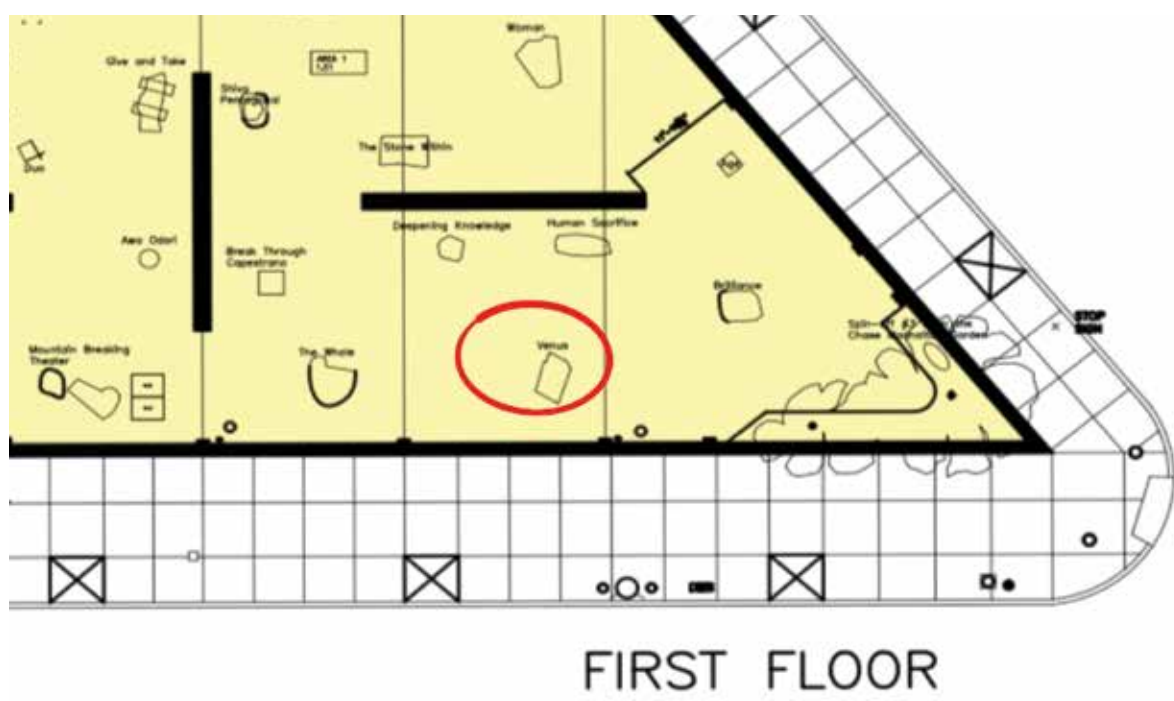
A pass through structure with multiple entrances inspired by Noguchi’s work with Akari. Utilizing similar materiality and construction methods as well as fluctuating levels of light, Experiential Akari provides a change in contrast and proximity to the visitor experience while providing a new way to look at Akari.

Background/Research

In the 1950s, Noguchi visited the town of Gifu on the way to Hiroshima. Gifu had a long tradition of making paper lanterns, though the industry had been on the decline. Noguchi created a new artistic perspective on the lamps using the same mulberry paper and bamboo. Noguchi featured Akari in many prominent exhibitions throughout his life, describing them as one of the only joyful chapters of his career.

Area of Interest

Noguchi’s previous work with scaled up Akari models and the creation of an akari surrounded space was the main inspiration.



Inspiration

Noguchi’s previous work with scaled up Akari models and the creation of an akari surrounded space was the main inspiration.



Process



Loosely based on Akari structure and materials - too inaccessible and abstract



More of an akari profile, too flat of a form



More of a 3D wrapping form with handrail, purpose unclear

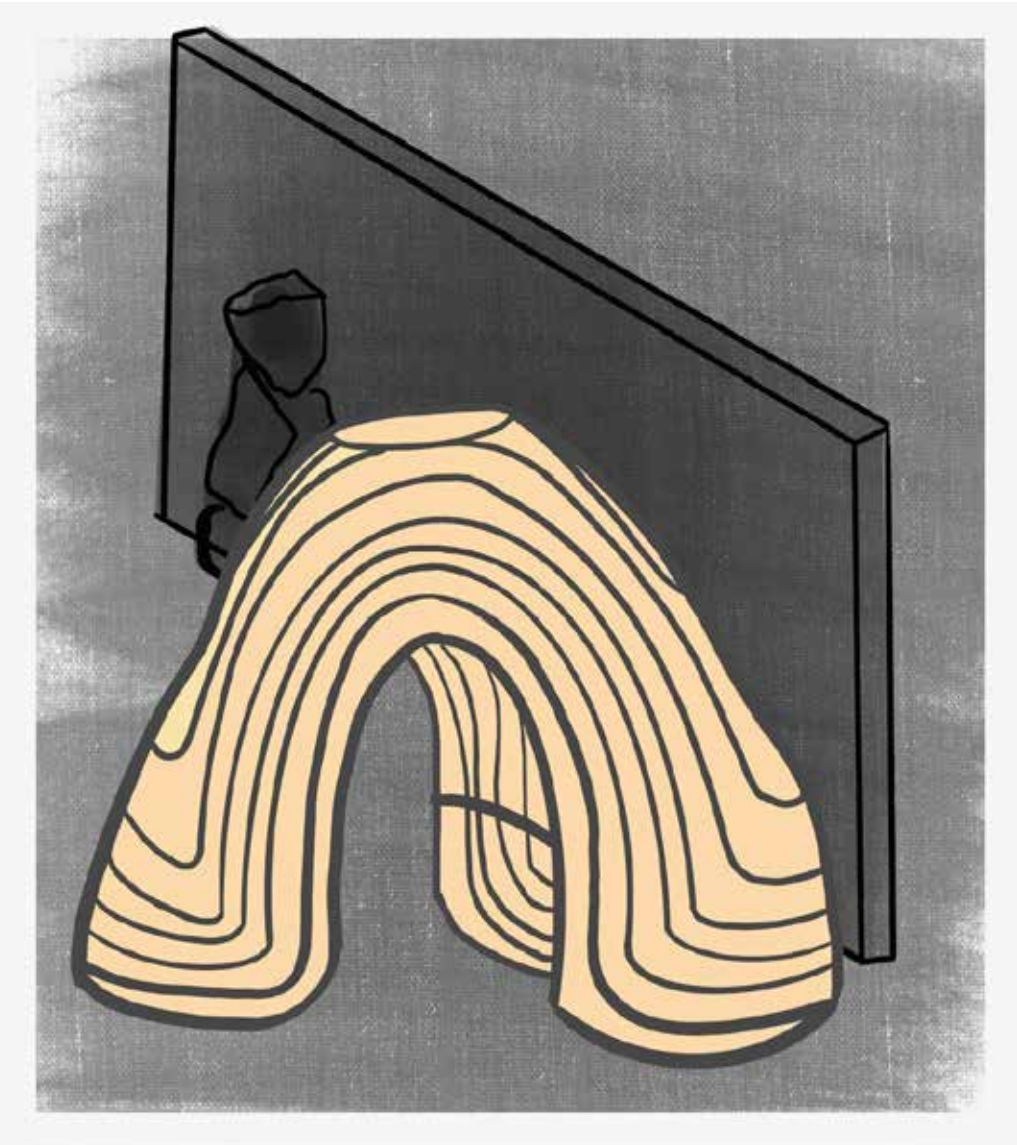


Taller for a more immersive experience - still in too crowded of an area

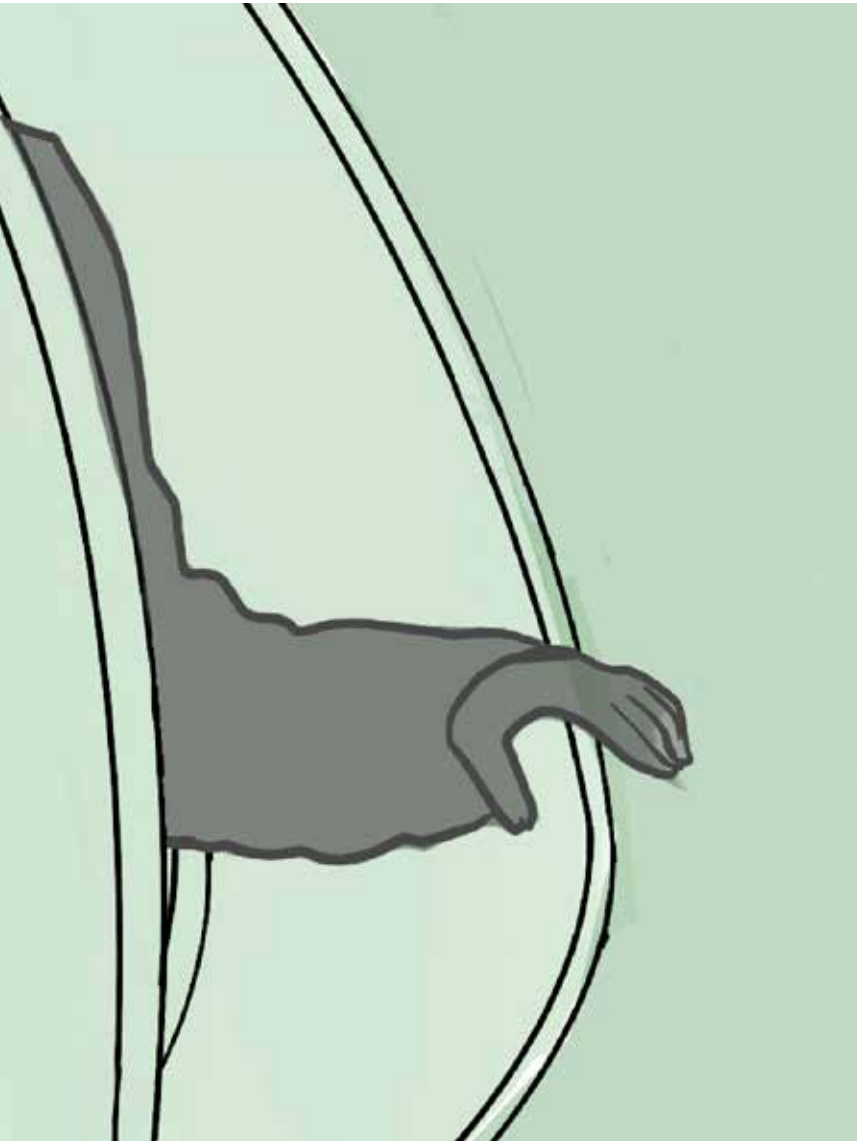


Pivot to a 3D structure, more space to move around, creates a separated experience

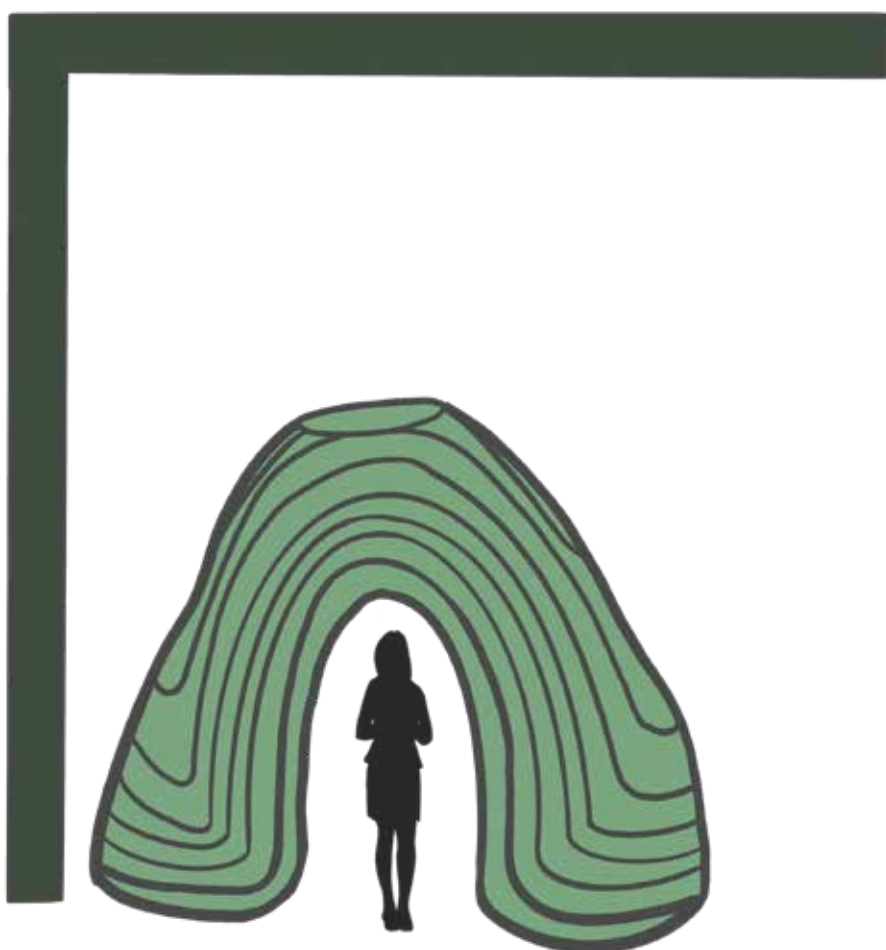
VS. (Design Taxonomy)



- Lit/Light Structure
- Unlit/Dark Structure



- Touchable Structure
- Untouchable Surroundings



- Further Proximity
- Closer Proximity

Fluctuating lighting as well as lighter weight materiality provides added contrast to the space.

The exposed structure provides an intuitive touch-point for visitors, contrasting the untouchable art and surroundings.

Lower ceilings and a smaller interior space provides a variety in proximity, making the museum experience more comfortable.

Proposed Design

Who: All Noguchi Museum Visitors

What: A lit up Akari Inspired Pass through

Where: The semi indoor portion of the garden

When: During the spring/summer to avoid bad weather

Why: Provides a closer experience and a visual contrast to aid the experience of the visually impaired

How: Using outdoor fabric to mimic mulberry paper and metal pipes to create a temporary akari-like structure



“The essence of sculpture is for me the perception of space, the continuum of our existence.”
- Isamu Noguchi

Ilana Wittle

Senior

Industrial Design