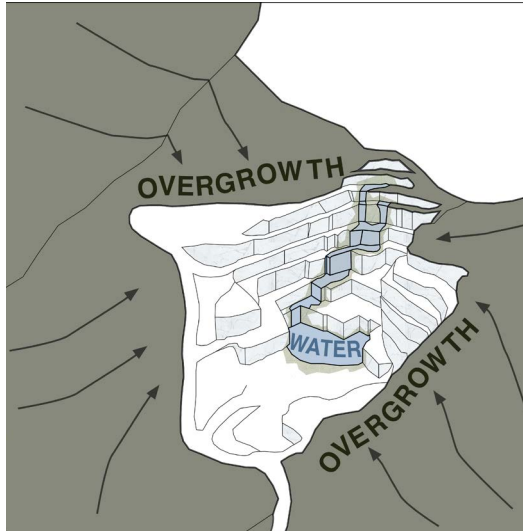


Carrara Thermal Bath Competition
by Kyle Chakour & Zack Werba



Parts of the Apuan Alps have been left untouched by the humankind. The unharmed mountain lays in a direct contrast to the core, which has been carved away by human consumption. By reinventing the thermal bath to an intimate connection with a beautiful material such as Carrara marble. The visitor can truly feel and understand natures' true value and beauty.

The Carrara Thermal Baths reduces mans' scale to manifest a palpable sense of something larger than ourselves. By replacing the excavated marble with the life-giving force of water, the area will begin the process of re-naturalization. The surrounding forest will descend upon the site, while the water nourishes a new ecosystem that extends outward. While inhabiting the spaces deep within the mountain the visitor gets the true sense of the land altering process of marble mining while being able to take in the breath taking experience of inhabiting these spaces once only seen by the eyes of the men and woman who excavated the stone.

The scale shift from the large pit flooded by a waterfall, to a small intimate space utilized for reflection on oneself, is effective in making one feel the true connection to nature and other beings. It is a true escape from our busy lives to become one with the natural environment. We, as humans, have the opportunity to benefit the environment and all living things. It is our relationships with the environment and other species that make us part of an ecosystem.

