

PHENOMENAL LANDSCAPES

Salt Chapel

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This theoretical project for a Salt Chapel at the edge of the Great Salt Lake in Utah explores the boundary separating wet from dry. The periphery of the Great Salt Lake in Utah illustrates this boundary's transience at its most extreme and surreal. The Great Salt Lake's terrain consists of a virtually level plain of endless negotiation between shallow water and relict salt flats. Wet and dry barter starkly in this landscape. An inch of rise within the Lake spreads the shoreline outwards by hundreds of yards across the ancient, visually limitless bed. The Salt Chapel tracks this boundary's motility literally by roaming this edge on immense 'landing-gear-like' wheels. Celebrating place in this landscape demands not a static 'rootedness' but a dynamic registering—both perceptually and conceptually—of the Great Salt Lake's peripheral vacillations.

In addition to this natural boundary, the Salt Chapel registers a cultural boundary. The religious character of the Great Salt Lake Basin is no less distinctive than its landscape ecosystem. In Utah, any exploration of sacral attitudes toward space immediately begs juxtaposition with the unique Temple typology established by the Mormons. The Salt Chapel phenomenologically 're-presents' the omnipresence of salt as a natural fact of the landscape at the same time as it 're-presents' the typological components of the religious aura dominant in the area.



