The proposed memorial recreates the events of May 4th according to the absurdly stated apolitical requirements of the competition sponsors. Due to the profound, perplexing and surreal content of the event, the designer took an abstracted, “black humor” approach. The site faces the Commons where the Kent State confrontation began. The Memorial acts as a viewing platform for the chaotic events, or as a metaphorical rock concert stage with its lead players poised for action. Five totemic characters are projected in front of the stage frame, four of which represent the murdered students. A fifth character, located at center stage level, is for the student who was shot and paralyzed for life. It is wheelchair accessible. Elongated pipes projecting from the backdrop gallery wall are aimed at the backs of each of the characters.

The memorial is a machine that evokes images of military hardware, such as machine guns, bayonets, and tanks. Surrounding spectators view an almost comic scene of the soldiers’ bayonets positioned on youths throwing flowers, and returning smoking tear gas canisters. The viewer is one of the soldiers taking aim. The five characters act as places where anyone can for a moment, view and remember, through a clear mask/shield, the senseless events of May 4th 1970.

The first ACSA Faculty Design Award for recognition of outstanding work in architecture and related environmental design fields as a theoretical endeavor to promote architecture and research as a reflective discipline.

Jury members: Panos Koulermos, USC, Christopher Genik, USC, Raymond Kappe (ACSA/AIA Topaz Laureate)

Award recipients:

Laurie Hawkinson, Columbia University; Henry Smith-Miller, New York City, Unoccupied Territory: A Proposal for a Los Angeles Arts Park

L. Lerup, M. Bell, A. Lao, T Rempel, Univ of California - Berkeley, Walled Sunday: A New Man’s Land Along the Berlin Wall

Bennett Neiman, University of Colorado at Denver, Surrealistic Landscapes: The May Fourth Memorial Competition

Peter Pran, Carlos Zapata, New York Institute of Technology, Consolidated Terminal for American Airlines and Northwest Airlines

Mark Robbins, Parson School of Design; Benjamin Gianni, Ohio State University, Two Architectural Illustrations

James Tice, Columbia University, On Common Ground: Four Housing Projects by James Tice

This was the first computer-generated project designed by Neiman. Computer modeling views were produced on a VAX-based Intergraph system.
anti-masque mask: behind the mask/shield (the victimized aggressor)
surrealistic landscapes
loaded sketches

surrealistic landscapes
MONDAY MAY 4, 1970

67 SHOTS
28 GUARDSMEN SHOOTING
4 DEAD
1 PARALIZED
8 OTHERS WOUNDED
13 SECONDS
CLOSEST 20 YARDS
FARDEST 250 YARDS
OHIO RIOT ACT
TEAR GAS SMOKE
FIXED BAYONETS
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD
REBELLIOUS STUDENTS
30 CALIBER BULLETS
THREATS
GESTURES TO FIRE
ROCKS
VERBAL ABUSE
CHANTS
CURSES
PROTEST
RADICALS
DEMONSTRATORS
SITDOWN
RALLY
RIOT
RADICAL ACTIVITY
REVOLUTION
FEAR
ROTC BUILDING BURNED
BLANKET HILL
COMMONS
VICTORY BELL
TAYLOR HALL
VIETNAM WAR
TRICKY DICK NIXON
INVASION OF CAMBODIA
WARM WEATHER
DRINKING
ORDER TO DISPERSE
ANTAGONISM
RESENTMENT
RUMOURS
INDIGNATION
CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE
ATMOSPHERE OF THEATER
ACTORS ON THE COMMONS
AUDIENCE ON THE SLOPES
ATMOSPHERE OF APREHENSION
BATTLE LINES BEING DRAWN
RINGING VICTORY BELL
LINE OF FIRE

LOCATION OF THE DEAD
LOCATION OF THE WOUNDED
THERE'S A MAN WITH A GUN OVER THERE
HILLEL MEMORIAL
BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION POINT
PAGODA
BLACK FLAGS
FLOWER INSERTED
SPECIFICATION NARRATIVE
CLEAR MASK AS SHIELD
BECOME A VICTIM FOR A MOMENT
IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE
FACES
BLACK MASK
VIEWED FROM STRATEGIC POINTS
DEATH MASK
WALL OF CONFRONTATION
LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF THE TIME
HENDRIX - ALL ALONG THE WATCH TOWER
CROSBY, STILLS, NASH, YOUNG
LENNON AND YOKO
ALL WE ARE SAYING
IS GIVE PEACE A CHANCE
PINHEADS
PSYCHEDELIC COLORS
WHAT A FIELD DAY FOR THE HEAT
RESISTANCE
HENDRIX AND MORRISON MILITARY PAROdieS
FOXY LADY
PURPLE HAZE
PROTEST
ESTABLISHMENT
I THINK ITS TIME WE STOP
CHILDREN
WHAT'S THAT SOUND
EVERYBODY LOOK WHAT'S GOING DOWN
SIGNING SONGS AND CARRYING SIGNS
STUDENTS CARRYING BOOKS
SOLDIERS CARRYING GUNS
I CAN'T GET NO
SATISFACTION
BLOOD SWEAT AND TEARS
SURREALITY OF PRECISION
LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL
SPECTATORS ALONG THE EDGE
A ROCK CONCERT STAGE
A STAGE LOOKING AT THE EVENTS
PARANOIA STRIKES DEEP
FOUR DEAD IN O-HI-O
FOUR DEAD IN O-HI-O
FOUR DEAD IN O-HI-O
HOW MANY MORE?
Kent State shootings - proposed memorial platform as military mechanism

1. Proposed memorial platform
2. Victory Bell: gathering place for protestors
3. Commons: National Guardsmen approach
4. Guardsmen stop to shoot students
• Locations of injured and dead students

surrealistic landscapes
significant points of view

surrealistic landscapes
this drawing received an Honor Award and Medal, Annual Ken Roberts Memorial Delineation Competition 1986

surrealistic landscapes
entry & brochure distribution; image gallery & viewing pipe; spectator pipes; ladder leading to mask/shield characters

surrealistic landscapes
multiple readings of five totem characters in position: five student victims; five guardsmen; five rock stars
mask/shield perspectival sequence

surrealistic landscapes
spilled blood (entry to the memorial)