Third movement | witch hut & presence

Joséphine the Empress lived for a short time in the Renthes Castle. She possessed the biggest collection of exotic plants in her Malmaison domain, in France, and the herbarium she commandited is still conserved in the Jardins botaniques de la ville de Geneve archives today. Among other plants, she is the woman that imported Mimosa in Europe from Australia. Her wealth and resulting freedom in space and time allowed her to have a presence in the scientific field and to research her interests. The question of presence, of occupying space and the right to do so is address in the third movement. This topic is also linked to the space women occupied for their voices to heard. From the domain-mansion typology of women wealthy and free enough to be remembered, the space occupied by the first wave of feminism at the beginning of the XXth century was more abstract. Acting on the writing of laws and decrees, women such as Alice Paul and Magery Corbett, to only name two, fought for women's right and equality. Working with an international point of view on an institutional level with the League of Nations (the former United Nations entity), the space occupied by women drifted towards the public sphere.

The feminism of the 70ies took over the streets. Squats, actions in the public sphere marked a strong appropriation of the city by women. Today, feminism manifestations follow this heritage and approach topics such as the reformation of the woman's collective body perception, the attached patriarchal values it presupposed and the related mentalities changes it needs

The proposed witch hut functions as a counterpoint to the Place des Nations, where expression and presence take place in an in-between space of privacy and publicness. Reaching back to simple elements of the protecting roof, the theatre ramp, the open stage and an enclosed room, the pavilion proposes an alternative to manifestation and larger group meetings.



