MH370: NARRATION OF DARK MEMORIAL LANDSCAPE

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Memorial landscapes are known as one of the most powerful types of open spaces that can affect human experience. Whether it is religious or secular, man-made or natural, memorial landscapes are always being considered as a healing space. The idea of memorialization in Western culture is commonly regarded as a place of commemoration in which people choose to remember and not to forget. Often times, memorial landscapes are regarded as a “sacred space”. This took place for those who consider themselves as a pilgrim who made repeated visits similar to a holy place. Nevertheless, designing a memorial landscape derived solely from the Western perspectives can be controversial in Malaysia where religion and religious requirements are highly valued as a way of life within the society. Designing a memorial landscape that can serve visitors from different religious and ethnic background is highly crucial not only to ensure the sustainability issues of the spaces but also to provide the best memorialization experience among diverse groups of visitors in Malaysia. Therefore, these issues being considered as the main challenges in designing a memorial landscape dedicated to the missing aircraft of Malaysian Airlines MH370. Instead of promoting the landscape as a space of “worship”, the proposed memorial design was intended to evoke emotional connection with the deceased while negating idols and figurative elements. The narrative of the dark event also serves as the fundamental idea that formulates spatial articulation of the memorial landscape through elements of sound, shadow and axial orientation.
A video installation - 2016