

SOCIETY'S CAGE

A BOLD EXPERIENTIAL INSTALLATION HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORIC FORCES OF RACIALIZED STATE VIOLENCE

THE PURPOSE

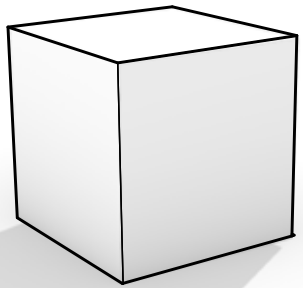
Society's Cage is a timely interpretive installation born in the aftermath of the George Floyd and Breonna Taylor murders as our society reckons with institutional racism and white supremacy. The public installation features a bold interpretive pavilion sculpted to symbolize the historic forces of racialized state violence. The experience educates visitors and functions as a sanctuary to reflect, record, and share personal thoughts. It is conceived in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement as a mechanism for building empathy and healing.

The initial installation of Society's Cage coincides with the March on Washington in support of Black Lives on August 28, 2020 and is located prominently on the National Mall, at 12th Street and Madison Drive, NW.

The main takeaway from this experience is to help the visitor understand that the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor are not anomalies, but rather the latest examples in a 400+ year historic pattern of unmitigated, unbound, systemic, anti-Blackness in the United States. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge and reckon with the severity of the racial biases inherent in the institutional structures of justice and creates a space for collective reflection, contemplation, sharing and healing.

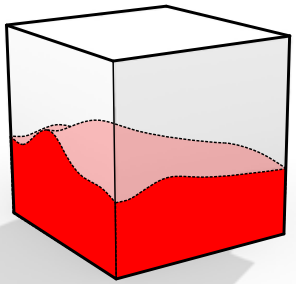
The pavilion is a series of bars which are hung to form a cube with a cavernous void that symbolizes our imperfect society and justice system. The void is shaped by historical data and serves as a visual metaphor to represent the primary institutional forces of racism that embody the Black American experience.

THE DESIGN



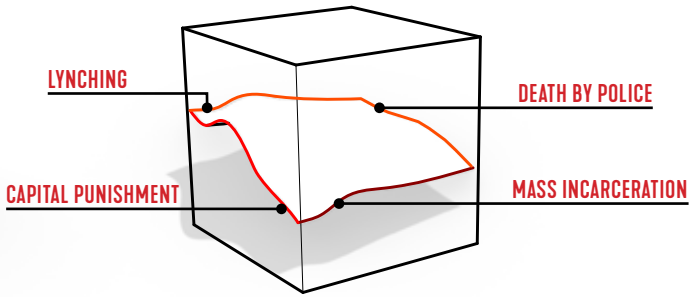
THE CUBE

The perfect cube form suggests a fair and equitable societal construct.



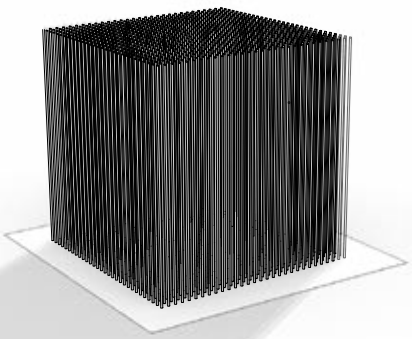
THE VOID

Carved out of the cube, the void is an obstacle-filled path symbolizing Black Americans struggle for survival.



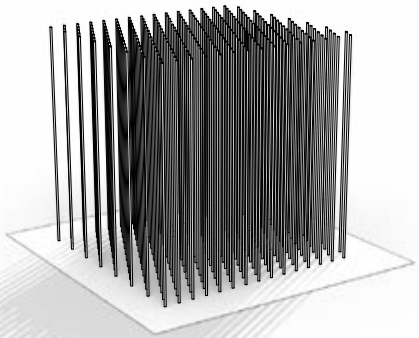
GRAVITY

Data is physically manifested to demonstrate the odds stacked against Black Americans; inside, the weight of oppression is experienced.



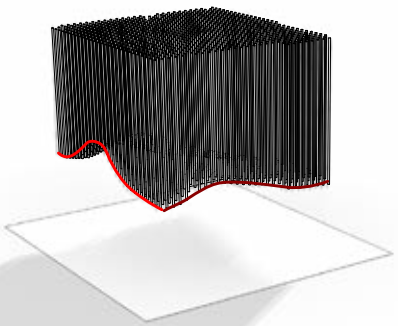
BARS

The perfect cube of bars represents the systemic oppression of white supremacy actively subverting Black progress.



1 IN 4

1 in 4 bars physically touches the ground, representing the statistical probability of being imprisoned as a Black American.



THE DATA

Systemic racism creates obstacles in every facet of life: employment, housing, education, police violence, mass incarceration.

THE DATA

- **72%** OF ALL LYNCHING VICTIMS WERE BLACK.

  HTTPS://WWW.NAACP.ORG/HISTORY-OF-LYNCHINGS/

- **34%** OF PRISONERS EXECUTED BY THE STATE IN THE U.S. AND **42%** OF DEATH ROW INMATES ARE BLACK.

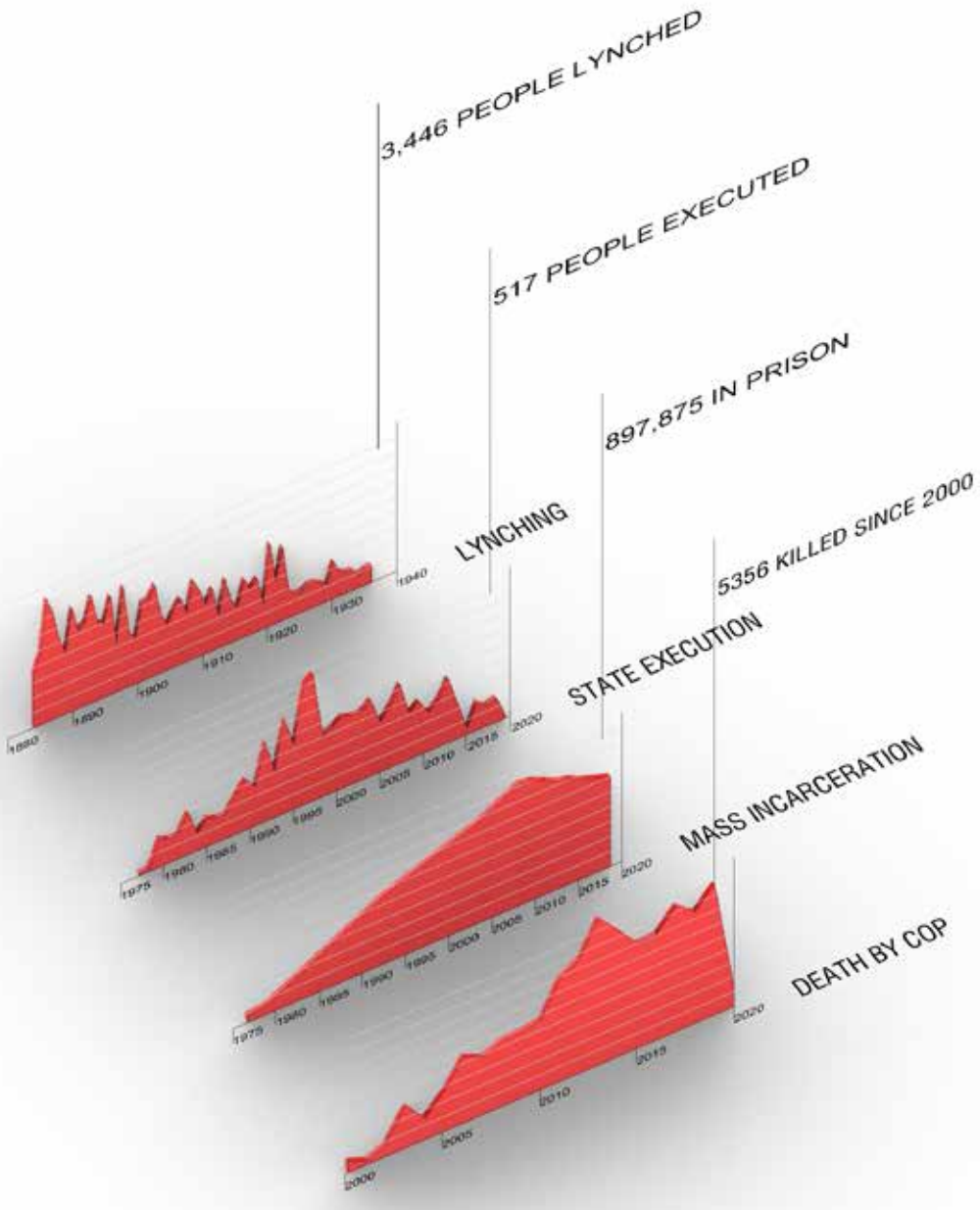
  HTTPS://DEATHPENALTYINFO.ORG/EXECUTIONS/EXECUTIONS-OVERVIEW/EXECUTIONS-BY-RACE-AND-RACE-OF-VICTIM

- **40%** OF PEOPLE INCARCERATED IN AMERICA ARE BLACK EVEN THOUGH BLACKS ARE **13%** OF THE U.S. POPULATION. WHITES ARE 39% OF THE PRISON POPULATION BUT 64% OF THE U.S. POPULATION.

  HTTPS://WWW.PRISONPOLICY.ORG/REPORTS/PIE2020.HTML

- **1** IN EVERY **1,000** BLACK MEN CAN EXPECT TO BE KILLED BY POLICE; 2.5 TIMES THE RISK FACED BY WHITE MEN. BLACK WOMEN FACE 1.5 TIMES THE RISK AS WHITE WOMEN.

  HTTPS://WWW.PNAS.ORG/CONTENT/116/34/16793



THE EXTERIOR EXPERIENCE: EDUCATE

Wrapping the edifice of Society's Cage is an interpretive educational experience about racist lynchings, police terrorism, mass incarceration and capital punishment as the primary institutional structures of anti-Black state violence. Visitors are directed to additional educational resources through QR codes.



THE INTERIOR EXPERIENCE: EMPATHIZE

The interior of Society's Cage offers the visitor an emotive experience. Enveloped in a soundscape commissioned for the installation, beneath a constellation of lights, this second interpretive experience is designed to build empathy and understanding.

Inside the pavilion is an opportunity to participate in a universal exercise of holding one's breath for as long as they can. This experience is inspired by the indignities performed on George Floyd in the 8:46 in which his life was tragically and unnecessarily stolen.

The visitor is then encouraged to record a video on their own smartphone stating how long they were able to hold their breath (in minutes and seconds) and provide a brief statement of reflection to upload to a social media platform with a unique hashtag specific to this installation.



SUPPORT

Sponsors invested in fighting for justice for Black lives, in uplifting the voices of Black artists and designers, and in bringing awareness to the historic continuum of anti-Black state violence are desired. Donations will be used to fund fabrication, installation and staffing. All additional proceeds will support the Architects Foundation.

The Architects Foundation mission is to lead philanthropic efforts to attract, inspire and invest in the next generation of architects who will create inclusive spaces, places and communities. The Architects Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, EIN 59-3819154. Make your tax-deductible donation in support of Society's Cage, and learn more about the Architects Foundation at architectsfoundation.org.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

GOLD: $10,000 AND ABOVE **SILVER: $5,000 - $9,999** **BRONZE: $2,500 - $4,999** **SUPPORTER: $1,000 - $2,499**

If you prefer to make a donation via check, please make them payable to the AIA Foundation, include "Pavilion Project" on the check, and mail to the following address:

The Architects Foundation
C/o David Paciotti
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20006

For more information on the project, go to smithgroup.com/societys-cage

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