PUNTA PITE

Category: Parks/Plazas
Location: Papudo, Quinta Region, Chile
Surface: 11 hectare
Project Year: 2005

dms 32° 30' 00" S / 71° 27' 49" W

elevation 21 m / 69 ft
Teresa Moller believes in the power of simplicity and discovery, and these two characteristics are manifested to their full extent within this one project. In this project, landscape interventions are created to assist the process of wandering and way-finding only whenever it is absolutely necessary. Instead of a solution, the project sets up a stage for visitors to search for their unique path and connection to the beautiful landscape and nature. Punta Pite means “place of the winds” in the indigenous language. It is a private condominium between Zapallar and Papudo, two beach towns on the Chilean coast about 150 km north of Santiago at the foot of the Pacific Ocean. The design aims to create a foot path along the coastline that is not about the architecture itself, but an open invitation for visitors to embrace the site and the experience of being here.
Materials are carefully chosen for the path and staircase. Hand cut granites are used, which is the same material as the cliffs themselves. They are only built for steep cliffs where walking was difficult. Natural landscape are left untouched at places where one can walk easily. As a result, a humble yet powerful language is created that blend the boundary of nature and manmade.

During an interview, Teresa Moller told a story when her son said “Mum, I am going to go under the ocean to see your steps (Punta Pite),” because they will always be there. She believes that her work is always alive and in a sense last forever because of the cycle of life. A wall can be designed to be a certain size, but a tree, we will never know. The steps in Punta Pite create a forever changing experience every time you visit because of the changing ocean, wind, plantation and atmosphere of the site.