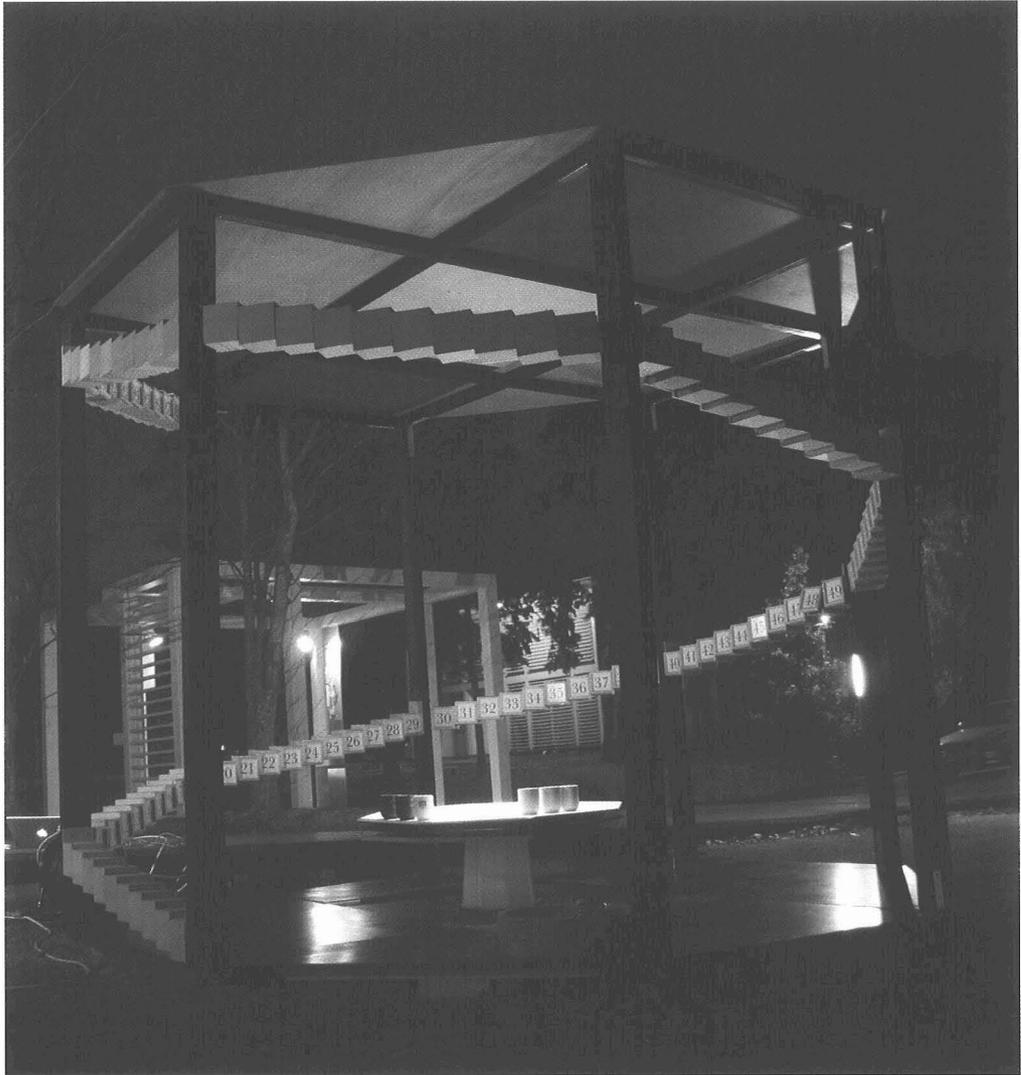


MASTABA: Family Digital Shrine

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What is MASTABA?

In Japan, the meaning of a grave is changing. Traditional Japanese graves have been eternal places where ancestors sleep. But today, many Japanese people think that preserving and archiving memories of the dead is more important than the burial place itself. We think that these modern graves should be called “family shrines.”

We designed MASTABA as the future family shrine. MASTABA allows generations of family members to hand down memories through digital pictures of themselves. This future family shrine consists of digital memories of ancestors shown on a tabletop large enough for family members to gather around, and is housed within a physical wooden structure. The glowing boxes framing the structure work with the RFID tags contained in what appear to be simple drinking cups that, held by participants, trigger particular configurations of images on the tabletop. In MASTABA, multiple users can view pictures of themselves at various ages, alongside images of their ancestors at those same ages. The lighting caracole consists of 100 steps indicating age 0 to 99 years.

Digital memories are eternal, but a physical shape of MASTABA is not eternal.

