The meaning of the feather
For Native American Tribes, the Feather embodies trust, honor, strength, wisdom, power, freedom. In order to get a Feather, the fulfillment of a brave deed was needed, and only after the story of the victory was retold in front of the tribal court, the awarded member was allowed to wear it on its headdress. Once the Feather was received, it had to be fully taken care of; and most importantly, it could not be hidden or dropped on the ground; it must be shown for everyone to see it, to be a constant reminder of how one should behave. Our design tries to follow this same intention of giving to the Feather a leading role by presenting them as the main aspect of our structure. The visitor will treasure the Feather all its journey to finally place it in one of the many installations located all along the site, and shaped in one of its different stages, either as a landmark, a shelter or an exhibition piece. Hence the Feathers will be shown to all and will dress the structure, resembling the meaningful moment of the placement of the feather on the headdress of a Native American, representing not only a symbol of bravery, but also a gift of wished peace, prosperity and happiness.

Timeline of changing process of the memory collector

How to participate
Every visitor here will get a feather at the starting point. This feather is a disposable recording pen, used to record the memories of tourists’ journey. At the same time, it is also a key to open our device. When more than 100 feathers are inserted into our device, our device will change from a landmark to a shelter. If more than 180 feathers are inserted, the shelter will open completely—becoming an exhibition that shows visitor’s memory recorded by the feather. Later, those who come here can pluck off the feathers that have been inserted and listen to the memories of the previous people.

What to gain
The device mainly relies on wind energy and human activities to generate electricity by friction of feather fibers. In particular, this design highlights the interaction between people and devices. It emphasizes the process from collecting to displaying people’s memory. People’s memory is like a seed, which is sown, then grown, and finally harvested.