Rapanui (Easter Island) was acquired by the Chilean state in 1888 in order to bolster its own position as a country worthy of world status. Prior to that, France, through missionary and commercial interests, re-formed Rapanui society into a miniature model of their Eastern Polynesian territories. After 1888, Chilean determination of what to do with their only colony waxed, but mostly waned, with modernism arriving in successive waves over the century following, arriving today with a power that threatens to obliterate distinctive island traits. Using Appadurai’s concept of ‘neighbourhood’ and Mageo’s exploration of ‘cultural memory’ I draw some lines of collaboration and resistance for the place as I too remember Rapanui over thirty years fieldwork there.