EXQUISITE GARDEN  Filling out an industrial void in Mexico City

the SITE LOCATION

the BACKGROUND

Pre-hispanic settlement next to a lake

XVIII - XIX century: gardens and farms

XX century: industrial settlements

XXI century: urban voids

During the 20th century Mexico City held most of the industrial activity of the country, however due to political, economic and environmental transformation, through the years these industries relocated in the outskirts away from downtown and the central area of the capital. Great urban voids appeared where the factories used to be, hence turning into unsafe isolated areas with considerable pollution, segregation and social problems, projecting a deteriorated image of the city.

no public space

gentrification

car supremacy

social segregation

The huge industrial spaces that are no longer in use become the core part of the area, turning into 4 plazas and gardens thus allowing us to recover the original essence of the place and real meaning of its name, since Pensil means in Spanish "exquisite garden".

the PROPOSAL

Monofunctional

land use: residencial

Respect HISTORY  Defend IDENTITY  Improve LIVING

Create NEW URBAN CENTER

The plazas are meant to be interconnected by pedestrian lanes, bike tracks and a private and public transportation circuit which will lead to the integration of the now isolated areas fostering and enhancing social and economic interaction in a dynamic and natural way.

Planet

Each of the squares will have a specific function and mix use, hosting businesses, offices and housing areas thus boosting the generation of new technology industries in order to make of it a versatile and productive center like the one it used to be. Existent industrial plant structures though deteriorated will be recycled for these purposes.

The square "Plaza del Metro" will become the main public space of the project since it represents the way in and out of the area through the subway station. The potential flow of more of 6 million persons a year, will serve to create a "tianguis" (street market area) very important in the Mexican tradition and also detonate commerce and service area for local and external visitors.

Prosperity

Specific modular structures will be designed for commercial kioscos and tianguis area, featuring solar energy collectors as well as a rain water recycling system to self-generate power and water needed for lighting, fountains and general maintenance of the public spaces in the project.

The "Exquisite Garden", once the pride of previous generations, will come back to life and no longer be a secret...

alvarez99@prodigy.net.mx  /  master of urban design projects  /  Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City  /  responsible professor: Gabriela Lee