Articulated Site
Water reservoirs as public park, Medellin, Colombia

Summary and appraisal by the jury
From a multidisciplinary vantage point, this project for a public park in Medellin, Colombia, centers on the creation of a new urban landscape. The project explores new ideas for water reuse and the value of abandoned spaces. The site is developed within the framework of a greenfield and is inspired by the existing topography and the urban landscape. The project aims to create a new urban landmark and to enhance the city's identity. The jury values the important steps undertaken by the design team to explore the interrelationship of fields such as architecture, landscape design, and civil engineering. The submitted design, in this sense, embraces - in a refined and poetic manner - the multiple criteria set forth by the Holcim Foundation's 'target issues'. Aesthetic, social, economic and environmental concerns are combined to form a sophisticated ensemble of public spaces, merging social imperatives with technical requirements to create a 'socio-technical' landscape of magnificent beauty.

Sustainability concept
Construction strategies: The construction technology was based on the availability of local materials and resources. The project was designed to minimize the environmental impact of the construction process, adopting local expertise and knowledge. Local materials such as recycled concrete, old bricks, and plastic were used in the construction. The project also promotes the use of local labor and promotes community participation. The design team worked with local contractors and engaged the community in the construction process. The construction process was designed to minimize the use of non-conventional energy and materials. The project was designed to be energy-efficient, using natural light and ventilation, and food waste control, among other strategies. The use of photovoltaic panels and skylights reduces the operating cost of the building in the medium and long term. Thermal comfort and energy efficiency: Thermal comfort involves temperature, relative humidity and several factors such as local climatic conditions, cultural clothing and individual activities. The bioclimatic design strategies include the use of natural light and ventilation, the use of recycled materials that reflect light and contribute to the building's energy efficiency. The use of green roofs and eaves overhangs generates shadowed spaces that reduce the operating cost of the building. The project was designed to maximize passive solar design, natural lighting and ventilation. The project uses rainwater harvesting systems and grey water harvesting through simple systems for the irrigation of the park. From a multidisciplinary vantage point, the project explores new ideas for water reuse and the value of abandoned spaces. The project is developed within the framework of a greenfield and is inspired by the existing topography and the urban landscape. The project aims to create a new urban landmark and to enhance the city's identity. The jury values the important steps undertaken by the design team to explore the interrelationship of fields such as architecture, landscape design, and civil engineering. The submitted design, in this sense, embraces - in a refined and poetic manner - the multiple criteria set forth by the Holcim Foundation's 'target issues'. Aesthetic, social, economic and environmental concerns are combined to form a sophisticated ensemble of public spaces, merging social imperatives with technical requirements to create a 'socio-technical' landscape of magnificent beauty.

Further authors
Mario Fernando Camargo Gómez and Luis Orlando Tombé Hurtado, architects, Colectivo720, Cali, Colombia

Image 1: Rooftop view and design process: Level, reuse, articulate, integrate and illuminate. The project established continuity using public space as the articulating piece and transitional axis between the city and the architectural object. The topography and the pre-existing elements are understood and transformed into landscape space that connects the program. Furthermore, local negotiation is used to improve environmental quality by creating embedded and sustainable public spaces.
Image 2: Outdoor auditorium: The architectural form adapts to the pre-existing elements to ensure minimal impact, and results in an affordable and sustainable building. The pre-existing environmental design strategies in both the pre-existing water infrastructure and the irrigation system were incorporated into the project. The project utilises recycling technologies that involve rainwater and grey water harvesting through simple systems for the irrigation of the park. The topography and the pre-existing elements are understood and transformed into landscape space that connects the program. Furthermore, local negotiation is used to improve environmental quality by creating embedded and sustainable public spaces.
Image 3: Ground floor plan: Potable water storage tanks transformed. The project provides public space for leisure and vitality.
Image 4: Water light and the city landscape; accentuate identity with place and enhance the urban landmark.
Image 5: The project provides public space for leisure and vitality.
Image 6: Public space and architecture articulated by an element that unifies and connects.
Image 7: Ground floor plan: Potable water storage tanks transformed. The project provides public space for leisure and vitality.
Image 8: Flexible spaces and universal accessible urban design stimulate different methods for low water use. This water management: The project is conceived from the structure of the existing tanks and pools, resulting in an intervention with minimal environmental impact. Considering the infrastructural use of the site, special attention is given to water management, which utilises recycling technologies that involve rainwater and grey water harvesting through simple systems for the irrigation of the park. In an interaction between nature and the urban landscape, the park seeks to improve the quality of life in the city.
Image 9: Water courtyard: Water as the key element that recovers the memory of place and corporate image.
Image 10: Building material and recycling: Used for urban furniture and building construction.