Articulated Site
Water reservoirs as public park, Medellín, Colombia

Main authors

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Summary by the jury

From a multidisciplinary vantage point, this project for a public park in Medellín, Colombia, centers on the creation of spaces around and above a series of water reservoirs. Tracing the site’s history, the architectural form takes its inspiration from the surrounding topography as well as 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 utilizes 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.

Appraisal by the jury

Exploring uncharted terrain, the project is situated at the intersection of a range of disciplines pertaining to the definition of the built environment, ranging from landscape and urban design to architecture and infrastructure planning. The jury values the important steps undertaken by the design team to explore the interrelationship of fields of expertise that are normally treated as isolated domains. 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.

Project data

Context: Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client: Empresas Públicas de Medellín
Background: Public commission
Planned start: October 2014

Further authors

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Image 3: Rooftop plan: Building merging with public space.

Image 4: Water, light and the city landscape accentuate identity with place, and enhance an 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 positive and negative space.

Image 7: Ground floor plan: Potable water storage tanks transformed.

Image 8: Flexible spaces and universal accessible urban design stimulate community activities.

Image 9: Water courtyard: Water as the key element that recovers the memory of place and corporate image.

Image 10: Building materials and recycling: Used for urban furniture and building construction.

More at www.holcimawards.org/projects/articulated-site