Fruit Salad
Riverside urban infrastructure redeployment, Manaus, Brazil

Main authors
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Summary by the jury
Flooding along the riverbanks is one of the major problems for the city of Manaus, Brazil, as the levels of the Amazon River greatly vary between the dry and rainy seasons. As a solution, the project proposes to transfer the activities currently on the fragmented waterfront to a floating platform in the river. A large roof offers protection from sun and rain. The reforestation of the river edge and the creation of a retention lagoon are part of a strategy to delay flooding. The platform, linked to the dry land by footbridges, is used both as a harbor and market – a meeting place connecting the activities of the river with those of the city.

The jury greatly appreciates the idea to conceive of a project as a reflection on an important subject matter – in this case, the question of how to inhabit the region without disrupting its ecosystem. Addressing urbanization processes in harmony with nature, the investigation deploys design as a means to explore the role of markets as a form of common infrastructure along waterways and riverbanks. The market platform – a kind of architectural “fruit salad” mixing manifold everyday activities – is intended to take on the role of an agent nurturing public and civic life in the vast territory of the Amazon Basin.

Appraisal by the jury
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Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design and infrastructure
Client: Municipality of Manaus
Background: Public commission

Further authors

Image 1: The association of service infrastructure with mixed architectural use reveals a strategy to create an effective urban project able to address the fragmentation process: increasing density and connectivity to control and mitigate the inertia of uncontrolled urban expansion. Furthermore, it generates multifunctional and multi scale territorial networks that favor the development of inclusive relationships among citizens and cultural integration.

Image 2: A: 1. Move to the river all the activities currently performed on the banks; 2. Create an urban park to connect the city to the river; 3. Intermingle the architectural trends and link them to the city. B: Flooding is the main current problem; the river level varies by 14m between the dry and rainy seasons. As a solution, the project proposes a floodable park on the bank and the activities currently performed on the banks are relocated on a floating platform, optimizing their development.
Image 3: The current waterfront appears as a tight area made up by the port, the old docks and a market.


Image 5: The footbridge guarantees the connection between the project and the city.

Image 6: The hall is an area for mixed use and supports spontaneous appropriation.

Image 7: The regional goods market enables water and road-based logistics and exchange.

Image 8: Section of the building over the market area.


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