Agriculture facility for inner-city voids, Campinas, Brazil

Project description by author

The project is located in the city of Campinas, Brazil. It was conceived based on a local investigation of the site and community. Although this project has a specific location and form, it is foremost a strategy. The concept can be materialized anywhere by modifying the size, form and program. Architecture acts as a support for the programmatic relations that occur inside and outside the project. The strategy is based on utilizing urban voids and inactive central areas. The program not only addresses the needs of local communities, but also breaks down current urban limitations. It dialogues with the city in several layers and scales. By the use of a technique of agricultural production with no land (hydroponics) and use of different substrates (mainly building materials), agricultural production can be taken to the interior of buildings located in strategic places that are close to the main centers, harbors or shopping areas.

In addition to agricultural production, the program includes a research and learning center for the development of new dimensions, techniques, leisure areas, a commercial center and a street market. New relations and synergies emerge from the juxtaposition of program elements not usually merged. These new relations and synergies emerge from the internal dynamics of the building and its surroundings, and at the same time favor natural ventilation and illumination of the building relates to the terrain and its surroundings, and its contextual and aesthetic impact. It enriches the landscape. It is landscape. The shape of the building relates to the terrain and its surroundings, and at the same time favors natural ventilation and illumination of the building. A building open to the public. Each façade is a mixed program featuring urban agriculture.

Further author(s) & legal guardian(s)

Further authors: Not applicable

Relevance to target issues by author

Quantum change and transferability

Something can be considered new or fresh not only if the theme is unique but also, and maybe more intriguingly, if one develops a new use of an old idea. The building combines its program in an unusual way. It can promote social progress, transfer and create knowledge, improve urban areas, intetify the use of the urban space and benefit local communities.

Ethical standards and social equity

In spite of its urban scale, the project dialogues directly to the local community. At the ground level, conventional plantations are used by local people as well as the street market. A research center is dedicated to the improvement of agricultural techniques. It helps to educate local workers and to improve their knowledge. The huge structure also supports leisure. It is a continuous landscape.

Economic performance and compatibility

Even with its urban scale, the project has a low impact because it contributes to social progress and economic growth (agricultural production, research centers, street market, commerce). It enriches the landscape. It is landscape. The shape of the building relates to the terrain and its surroundings, and at the same time favors natural ventilation and illumination (narrow fingers).

Contextual and aesthetic impact

As a continuous landscape, the building offers a linear ramp park. A linear production of flowers, fruits and events (bars, stores, sports). A building open to the public. Each façade has a unique color/texture as a result of the different plant species (production) located on its perimeter. Fruit on the north side (sunny side), green plants on the east-west sides (shading sun) and ornamental flowers on the south side (shaded side).

Comment of the Holcim Awards jury Latin America

This project is located in the city of Campinas, Brazil, but it’s transferable to any other place. Its core strategy consists of the occupation of urban voids and inactive real estate properties by agriculture. It dialogues with the city at several layers and scales. By the use of a technique of agricultural production with no land (hydroponics) and use of different substrates (mainly building materials), agricultural production can be taken to the interior of buildings located in strategic places that are close to the main centers, harbors or shopping areas.