In-Closure
Public park and interactive wall for urban revival, Seattle, WA, USA

Main authors
Etienne Feher, Paul Azzopardi and Noé Basch, ABF-lab architects - engineers, Paris, France

Summary by the jury
The master plan reintroduces a forest in the heart of Seattle, USA, giving homage to the past while reminding present-day and future residents of the city’s natural habitat. Embracing social life at multiple scales, an interactive wall at the park’s edge contains “event boxes” with different functions – cafés, a library, sports facilities, and areas for cultural events. Planned for implementation over decades to come, the project aims to be adaptable to future changes, an objective that is straightforwardly supported by the project’s current minimal interventions and restraint of formal means.

Appraisal by the jury
The question of how to revive civic space is at the core of the submitted entry. The jury, in this regard, greatly values the importance attributed to the very concept of “civitas” and applauds the manner in which this proposition is translated into an exciting piece of landscape architecture – a forest in the midst of the urban fabric encased by peripheral structures accommodating manifold programs. But the design does not stop there since the project’s essential contribution lies most prominently in the almost surreal atmosphere conveyed: trees mirrored in walls, partially transparent walls, or light reflecting on polished surfaces – blurring time-honored distinctions between the domains of the so-called “natural” and “artificial”.

Project data
Context: Landscape, urban design, transportation infrastructure and public utilities
Client: Seattle Center
Background: Public commission
Planned start: January 2014

Further authors

Acknowledgement
Image 3: Inside view of the park. Event boxes are closed, leaving room for a more peaceful ambience.

Image 4: External view from the street: the forest is protected by the event boxes.

Image 5: The night market: event boxes opening from the opposite side, creating a rich night atmosphere.

Image 6: Event boxes built from wood stacks as a symbol of Seattle's identity.

Image 7: Aerial view of the masterplan: a forest landscape protected with a delimited by the boxes.

Image 8: Extract from movie detailing technology innovation elements of the running surface on top of the boxes.

Image 9: Landscape: longitudinal cross-section.

Image 10: The program concept of the event boxes generating cafés, library, micro-theater, sport facilities, etc.

More at www.holcimawards.org/projects/in-closure