

CONCENTRATION BLOCK

Multiple Hybridization in the Fragmentary City

ABSTRACT

The Metropolis will become the greatest event of human concentration in history and the colossal dimensions that some of them have reached, make their evolution even more unviable in a global context that emphasizes the need for a rational use of the energies, a sustainable development that allows the city to grow in quality over its existing tissue and the elimination of the conflicts generated by social differences that express in the physical configuration of the city. The sprawl urban expansion of the contemporary city disables the optimization of collective transport systems, increases the city building costs, magnifies the social fracture in the territory and intensifies the environmental emergency caused by the gases of vehicles that carry out extensive itineraries. The hybrid project responds to these problems with more population density and typological diversity in housing as a reflection of social diversity, more presence and richness of "urban program" to endow it with metropolitan character, and better environmental considerations that tend the rational use of the energies.

The acknowledgement of the unsustainable conditions of the contemporary city allows the formulation of the project from the basis that it responds in an opposite way to these conditions without becoming its extreme opposed. If the city is formally fragmentary, the block is a sum of parts; if the city grows horizontally undetermined, the block grows vertically to the point of definition; if the city holds within a social fracture, the block summons the social diversity; if the city adapts clumsily to change, the block promotes its subsequent internal adjustments and perpetual update; if the city promotes a high level of contamination and energetic squandering, the block makes of sustainability its principal added value.

Facing the problems of the expansive city, a critical exercise of the current urban society is undertaken that sees its final repercussion into a project that makes of architecture, an active tool in service of society. The architectural project is an "ideal" approach of the basic cell that configures the city and defines itself as an exercise that doesn't pretend to respond to the urban regulations of any place as those regulations are always behind of the true changing needs of the city. A new urban block "model" is proposed with more concentration in terms of population density, typological diversity in housing to address the diversity of individuals that compose the contemporary society and more presence of uses and activities; more

density, cohesion and social diversity, evolving inside more “urban program” with the objective of creating the proper conditions of concentration around activities that stimulate the construction of public space as principal place for social life and encounter.

The hybrid program is gathered into a tower that stands out of the earth as a cube with two housing blocks oriented for solar light improvement and connected with habitable suspended beams that lodge collective services. Between the two blocks, a green fold oriented in direction of the sun, like a plant searching for light, becomes the primary space for social interaction and as coronation a green surface is located with wind power generators and solar cells that feed the hybrid of energy. Part of the project is hidden underground with various floors deep, destined to parking and leisure activities; this operation of hiding part of the program represents the primary condition of the contemporary city at a global scale: the multidimensional comprehension, material and intangible, of the urban event, characterized by the multiplicity of scenarios and perceptions that coexist in the same place at the same time.

Finally, the hybrid will function like any other dynamic system, modifying its interiors through time to respond in this way to its own needs and to the exogenous tensions imposed by the urban evolution; the “urban unit” consists of an aggrupation of elements disposed in a specific spatial zoning, where each part changes and modifies within its own boundaries, in harmony with the requirements of the whole city. This way, if a demographic alteration is presented, the houses combination shall reflect this reality modifying the obsolete social configuration to be updated for the existing needs of the current family structures. Changes also present in the others sector destined for other functions depending on the fluctuation of the different uses of the city, this means, more or less offices or commerce, profiting from the generic structure over which the zoning has been performed. This proposal conceived as a dynamic organism is therefore, and like final notation, not only a spatial proposal but also a new kind of “urban breed” with new forms of social relations within itself . . . a new perception of society.

A Utopia for the contemporary city

LINKS related with the project :

http://redalyc.uaemex.mx/redalyc/pdf/748/Resumenes/74811916013_Abstract_2.pdf

http://www.presidentsmedals.com/Project_Details.aspx?id=2159&dop=True&year=2008

<http://www.archilovers.com/p6314/concentration-block>