P2 REFLECTION

Name  Sotiria Diamanti
Student number  4255224
Studio  Complex Projects

Theme  Complex Projects
Teachers  Olindo Caso

Title of the graduation project  Reconnecting Southworks
Problem Statement

Southworks in South Chicago is a site of 250 acres being under decay since the closing of US Steel industry in 1992. The site stays empty, waiting for a new plan and the surrounding neighborhood follows the same decline, forcing many people to move out.

Making a proposal for an urban and architectural intervention in such an area means that one has to deal with number of interrelated issues that range from social, economical, cultural and spatial ones. The framework of such a proposal is therefore a complex urban situation in which all the aspects should be addressed in order for any intervention there to be succeeded.

The main issue that is going to be addressed through this research and design assignment is the reconnection of the site with its surrounding area in a spatial, social and economical way and the reformation of an active and functioning core. More specifically, what this assignment will focus in, is the role of public space and its related programme as a starting point of changing the image of a declining area. Also, the way in which this public space can function as a public domain, as a place for social and cultural encounter will be the subject of investigation of this research studio project.

Thus, the research question that the design will try to answer is:
Which is the relation between the public sphere and the physical space in order for places to be developed into public domains, aiming to a revitalization of an urban area? Which are the decisive factors and design disciplines that lead to the creation of public spaces characterised by cultural mobility and continuous exchange of multiple experiences?

The public space, and whole public sphere, is defined here as a place characterized by multiplicity, having the essence and significance that its users give it every time. It is additionally a place that functions as a connective tissue that binds different everyday activities together (Chase et al, 1999).

Goal

My goal is to find a possible answer to the problem of the revitalization of Southworks site, which at the same time leads to the revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood and community. More specifically, I want to give an architectural solution able to generate, both socially and economically, value in the Southworks and eventually to lead to a larger impact of the whole area in a national and international level.

Aiming to this, I first propose the development of the central part of the area as its social encounter. Thus, the combination of a big, central open space- a park, with a more built, campus organised area in the heart of it. Focusing more in the architectural intervention, I am proposing an Incubator building, orientated to Additive Manufacturing and located in the campus area. This building is addressed to new entrepreneurs interested of 3d printing, to people that want to learn how additive manufacturing works by providing the relevant knowledge and also to all people that want to 3d-print their designs, by providing working space and 3d printers. It is also open to the public, since part of it functions as an interior, transitional public space.

Therefore the Additive Manufacturing Incubator is addressed to all different users and at the same time represents one of the cluster-identities proposed for the area in the masterplan proposal. (The clusters proposed in the masterplan are the Medical, the Educational and the Additive Manufacturing one).

Process

Method description

The research concerning the first part of analysis of the in situ situation is based in data gathered mostly from official sources of the US government and other academic or well known sources in internet. The trip to Chicago was also a source of information brought to the studio and used for the whole assignment.
Furthermore, an urban research and design based on the aforementioned research question is proposed for the site area.

Finally, a more focused urban and an architectural design proposal is done in the central core of the area, which is my chosen fragment.

So, the methodology used throughout the whole assignment is as follows:

1. Research concerning the large scale
2. Site analysis and analysis of other architectural proposals
3. Strategy proposal concerning urban planning with diagrams
4. Choose fragment for focused research
5. Urban proposal for fragment chosen
6. Architectural design of a building within the fragment chosen

**Literature and general practical preference**

The basis of the research data used during the design assignment is the Research Booklets made by the studio group as a result of the research made the first 8 weeks of the graduation project. Moreover, the literature that concerns the theories used for the accomplishment of the urban and design proposal is the following:

**Books:**

**Papers:**
Fernández-Maldonado, A., Strategic Urban Projects in Cities of Latin America: Lessons to improve socio-spatial cohesion

Personal research is also made, related to case study projects both urban and architectural. Additionally, specific research concerning construction methods, material and climate design, individually or through case studies, will be held in order for the building technology part of my design to be fulfilled. Finally, my personal experience in other projects that dealt with complex situations in both urban and architectural level is also consulted here.

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

This graduation project is an example of how one can deal with such multidimensional cases in the urban and architectural field. Additionally, it would be a database for architectural -and not only- research, related to the Illinois, Chicago and Midwest area.
P4 REFLECTION REPORT
SOTIRIA DIAMANTI

COMPLEX PROJECTS GRADUATION STUDIO

RECONNECTING SOUTHWORKS

P4 REFLECTION
Chicago, the capital of United States’ Midwest region, is under a continuous decline during the last decade. It is the only city, of the 15 largest cities in United States, which in 2010 saw its population to decrease, reaching a low not seen since 1910. However, Chicago is still a global city. It has the appropriate combination of human resources, manufacturing businesses and world institutions and it is a control point for eleven of the most successful corporations in the world. What makes at present Chicago unable to fulfil its role, is the lack of important attributes related to a global city and more specifically the lack of being the centre of a significant industry. Aim of the Complex Projects graduation studio is to propose possible strategies that could bring Chicago back to the map, able to be once again a global player, and therefore a unifier of the Midwest region.

The field of research is the Lakeside site in South Chicago, which is explored as the site with the possibility to help Chicago achieve its global ambitions. Former site of U.S. South Works Steel, Lakeside is an area of 250 acres and it is under decay since the closing of US Steel industry in 1992. The site ever since stays empty, waiting for a new development plan and the surrounding neighbourly follows the same decline, forcing many people to move out. The students’ task for the graduation studio was to make a proposal for an urban as well as an architectural intervention in the site area. The method in which the whole project was carried out follows an articulated process of research and design in all scales, starting with a large scale strategic plan, continuing with the research and design proposal of an overall urban organisation; a more focused urban proposal to a specified area. The proposal finishes with an architectural intervention in a chosen location of the area.

Making a proposal for an urban and architectural intervention in such an area means that one has to deal with a number of interrelated issues that range from social, economical, cultural and spatial ones, something that makes framework of such a project to be characterised by complexity. And this complexity is what students have to handle and deal with.

The main issue that is addressed in this specific research and design assignment is the reconnection of the site with its surrounding area in a spatial, social and economical way and the reformation of an active and functioning core. More specifically, what this assignment focuses in is the role public space and its related programme play as starting pints for the revitalisation of a declining area. Additionally, another subject of investigation of this research studio project is the way in which this public space can function as a public domain, as a place for social and cultural encounter.

Thus, the research question to be answered through the design proposal is:

Which is the relation between the public sphere and the physical space in order for places to be developed into public domains, aiming to a revitalization of an urban area? Which are the decisive factors and design principles that can lead public spaces to be characterised by cultural mobility and continuous exchange of multiple experiences?
The public space, and whole public sphere, is defined here as a place characterized by multiplicity, having the essence and significance that its users give it every time. It is additionally a place that functions as a connective tissue that binds different everyday activities together (Chase et al., 1999).

The issue of the reconnection of the site with its surrounding area was present as a goal in all the stages of the research and design process, and is the one governing the whole project in all its scales.

The first part of the research about Chicago and Southworks, had as an outcome the existence of a poor area, with high crime rates, facing a decrease of population and a lack of organisation in many aspects. On the other hand the research revealed an area with strong multicultural identity and a successful industrial past. In this way, the only visible solution that came up as an answer to the question of reconnection was inclusiveness. Inclusiveness comes as an answer to the existing segregation between South and North Chicago and within the South Chicago itself, one characteristic present in all aspects of current city condition.

The inclusiveness as a term is defined here as a condition in which different identities, different people, different cultures, different social groups working together in a developing system. This system, with inclusiveness as a main principal, works efficiently only when all its different components are present and develop also individually.

Under this definition, inclusiveness is a main principal of the project and it is expressed each time in a different way, responding to the relevant scales.

Starting from the proposed strategy for the development of the area, three different identities are proposed, based not only on the industrial past of the area but also on the existing medical infrastructure of Illinois State. So, Medicine, manufacturing and education, are proposed as the basic identities to be developed in the area, translated in a way that responds to the contemporary life and way that cities advance. Thus, having the medicine as the first existing and developed component, additive manufacturing for medical use and education come to complete the cycle. In this cycle all three components coexist in symbiosis, nurture properly the medical...
expansion and contribute to the revitalisation of Southworks – and respectively Chicago-area.

Going further to the spatial expression of this strategy, the masterplan proposal seeks for the way in which the above mentioned concept can be spatially organised. Here, two spatial components are recognised as the key ones for the further development of the area and the city. The first one, is the existence of the Lake Shore Drive that penetrates the area, creating a physical border between the neighbourhood and the Southworks site. This high-speed road is the place of production, of fast movement, of density. The second component, that crosses Lake Shore Drive and penetrates the whole area as well, is a big open space, completely abandoned at the moment. This is the one chosen to be the focus of the masterplan research and the area of the urban design. It is recognised as the social, slow axis of the area, the place of encounter of all different identities and the connector between the existing and the new master-planed Southworks site. Both components are important for this system to work, and for inclusiveness to have its spatial expression and ground to grow. The core of this axis, of the social strip, is the place where it meets the Lake Shore Drive, the point where both worlds mix. This place, responding to both realities, is treated in a special way. It is densely built, with a design and a programme suitable for an activity core of an area that wants to play the role of the activator for the city’s further development.

Here, the public space and its design was conscripted as the tool to enact an efficient symbiosis of the two components. After relevant research the public space is designed with orientation to the formation of a public domain in which all individuals can coexist in a way that will revitalize the city and activate its further progress.

Finally, going to the smallest scale of the project, the architectural intervention is the actual implementation of the main idea of the project. Being the first building to built in the area, and situated in the central core of the social axis, it is the one that actually realizes the physical connection between the two worlds, the existing neighbourhood and the Southworks site. And this connection is made in such a way that both the important components of the area’s system, the Lake Shore Drive and the Social Axis, are present, both being able to progress also individually. Therefore, the proposed
building becomes a bridge above the Lake shore drive, having its feet in both the existing and the new sides. Additionally, it is not only a means of connection but it also aims in the continuity of the social, slow axis. This was a main concern in the design of the masterplan as well. In order for this central place of encounter to fulfil its role, it is necessary for it to remain uninterrupted, penetrating the whole area and connecting continuously the Lakeside with the neighbourhood. Thus, not only the physical continuity with a bridge is adequate but also a continuity in the qualitative of the space. In order for both criteria to be met, the building is also designed as an interior public passage, open to everyone to cross it.

Apart from that, as the building has the role of the initiator of the whole development but with a long-term contribution to the city, it offers spaces of different qualities, organised in cooperation with the public passage and able to be adapted to the city’s needs through the years. As a part of the overall strategy of the proposal the programme scenario that is proposed here, is a mixed use building of a 3d printing incubator, addressed both to professionals, start-up companies and the public, combined with retail stores, a small library, a small conference space and a restaurant. The programme chosen and its organisation within the building aims again at inclusiveness and the attraction of various people to interact in a public space of a different quality than the open one. It also aims to bring people into contact with the additive manufacturing, in order to further create a new industrial identity for Chicago. The method of research and design followed in the project is well articulated around a main principle and consists a coherent system of approaching the problem given. By giving a solution to how inclusiveness can be realised in all the project’s aspects, the result is a complete answer to how Southworks, and therefore Chicago, can become again a player in the global scene. Additionally, the method chosen is in line with the methodical line of approach of the studio, which is aiming to a multidimensional way of thinking. The method chosen is also addressing the problem in its complexity, by dealing at the same time with most of its different aspects. Moreover, the final design of the architectural intervention manage to respond to the research question and goals in different layers, resulting to a building that with its main principles corresponds to the ambitions of the masterplan.

A more thorough and analytical research about different programme scenarios for the building is recommended for further research. This project focused more in the spatial expression of a connection and continuity through a building leaving using the programme as an excuse of its existence. However, the programme is also important for the intervention’s future impact in the area. Thus, further research about it will add more value to the research already made and to the ability of the building itself to fulfil its role.

Last but not least, getting involved in this project was an important experience since all students gained knowledge in how to deal with complicated issues not only architectural but also those with regard to the wider social context. The whole concept and working method of the studio was in an experimental basis. Even though this condition created sometimes difficulties in terms of research and design progress, it really tried to bring the students into contact with a real, and thus multidimensional, social issue. It did not only restrict itself in purely architectural design assignment but also pushed the working field further, asking for the students to think from different points of view. They had not only to design a building but also to propose a development strategy for the whole area, based on economical and social research, and design an urban plan for it. Hence, difficulties, this complexity of the project gave them a more complete knowledge, needed to be gained from all today-architects-in-practice who are asked to correspond effectively to the changing demands of the society.
P5 REFLECTION REPORT
Reconnecting Southworks

Sotiria Diamanti

TU Delft
July 2014

Student Number: 4255224
email: sotiria.diamanti@gmail.com

Tutors:
Olindo Caso, Hubert van der Meel
CONTENTS

Introduction p. 7

01 Large Scale: Strategy /Overall Masterplan p. 11

02 Medium Scale: Masterplan Focus p. 33

03 Small Scale: Architectural Intervention p. 49

Appendix p. 77
INTRODUCTION

Chicago, as the capital of the United State’s Midwest region, is following the region’s continuous decline during the last decade. It was the only city, of the 15 largest cities in the United States, that in 2010 saw its population decrease, dropping to a low not seen since 1910. However, Chicago is still a global city. It has the appropriate combination of human resources, manufacturing businesses and world institutions and it is control point for eleven of the most successful corporations in the world. What makes Chicago unable to fulfil its role is the lack of important attributes related to a global city and more specifically the lack of being the centre of a significant industry.

Aim of the Complex Projects graduation studio is to propose possible strategies that could bring Chicago back to the map, able to be a global player, and therefore a unifier of the Midwest region.

The field of research is the Lakeside site in South Chicago, which is explored as the site with the possibility to help Chicago achieve its global ambitions. Former site of U.S. South Works Steel Southworks, Lakeside has an area of 250 acres and it is under decay since the closing of US Steel industry in 1992. The site stays empty, waiting for a new development plan and the surrounding neighbourhood follows the same decline, forcing many people to move out. The students’ task for the graduation studio is to make a proposal for an urban as well as an architectural intervention in the site area. The method in which the whole project was carried out follows an articulated process of research and design in all scales, starting from the large scale of the strategic plan, continuing with the research and design proposal of an overall urban organisation, a more specific urban proposal for a focus area and finishing with an architectural intervention in a chosen location of the area.

Making a proposal for an urban and architectural intervention in such an area means that one has to deal with a number of interrelated issues that range from
social, economical, cultural and spatial ones. Thus the framework of such a project is characterised by complexity, related to the existing urban situation in which all the aspects have to be addressed in order for any intervention there to be successful.

The main issue that is addressed in this specific research and design assignment is the reconnection of the site with its surrounding area in a spatial, social and economical way and the reformation of an active and functioning core. More specifically, what this assignment will focus in, is the role of public space and its related programme as a starting point of changing the image of a declining area. Also, the way in which this public space can function as a public domain, as a place for social and cultural encounter will be the subject of investigation of this research studio project.

Thus, the research question to be answered through the design proposal is:
Which is the relation between the public sphere and the physical space in order for places to be developed into public domains, aiming to a revitalization of an urban area? Which are the decisive factors and design disciplines that lead to the creation of public spaces characterised by cultural mobility and continuous exchange of multiple experiences?

The public space, and whole public sphere, is defined here as a place characterized by multiplicity, having the essence and significance that its users give it every time. It is additionally a place that functions as a connective tissue that binds different everyday activities together (Chase et al, 1999).

The issue of the reconnection of the site with its surrounding area was present as a goal in all the stages of the research and design process, and is the one governing the whole project in all its scales. And the answer given to this issue of the reconnection is inclusiveness.

The inclusiveness as a term is defined here as a condition in which different identities, different people, different cultures, different social groups work together in a developing system. This system, with inclusiveness as a main principal, works efficiently only when all its different components are present and develop also individually.

Under this definition, inclusiveness is a main principal of the project and it is expressed each time in a different way, responding to the relevant scales. The three scales in which the project is developed are the large scale, referring to the strategy and masterplan proposal, the medium scale, referring to the further development of a chosen masterplan fragment, and the small scale, which is the architectural intervention in the area.

These three scales are also the three different chapters in which this booklet is organised in order to help the reader understand the project better.

In the first chapter, the Large Scale, the proposed strategy for the redevelopment of the area is presented and how this is expressed spatially through the masterplan design.

The second chapter is the Medium Scale, and is a zoom in a chosen area of the overall masterplan. Here the concept of inclusiveness is applied spatially in a strategic area of the masterplan and is designed further.

Finally, the third chapter of the Small Scale, has to do with the architectural intervention on the area, the proposal of a building that realises first all the ideas of the strategy concept and is the initiator of the inclusiveness idea both spatially and programmatically.
01 LARGE SCALE
STRATEGY / OVERALL MASTERPLAN
WHAT IT USED TO BE

WHAT IT IS NOW
The first part of the research about Chicago and Southworks, had as an outcome the existence of a poor area, completely segregated from the north part of the city, with high crime rates, facing a decrease of population and a lack of organisation in many aspects. On the other hand the research revealed an area with strong multicultural identity and a successful industrial past. In this way, the only visible solution that came up as an answer to the question of reconnection was inclusiveness. Inclusiveness comes as an answer to the existing segregation between South and North Chicago and within the South Chicago itself, one characteristic present in all aspects of current city condition.

Another dominant characteristic of the existing situation is the empty plots. Due to the lack of jobs low income in the area, many people are forced to move from South Chicago. And since there are no investments and development in the area, many plots remain empty, enhancing the image of decline.

A negative cycle of low investment - low employment-low income has been developed in South Chicago and any intervention there must deal with it and aim at breaking it.
- strict grid organisation
- big central open space _physical
- Lake Shore Drive physical border
- water Penetrating the site
- industrial Leftovers_ ore walls
INDUSTRIAL TRACES

The Ore Walls
(picture taken from the site)

The Ore Walls
(picture taken from the site)

Rail Tracks
“Just pull back the curtain on this. Oh, the huts and the slums, the rich residents of the Rich. Unemployed, underemployed, marginally employed and housing. Behind the curtain you find people like my sister’s neighbors. Ed Wil is a fifty-something ex-con who can’t get back on his feet again because the stigma related to his status as a former prisoner denies him employment. You find Kierpa, a single mother of three, raising her children on her minimum wage job at a local supermarket. You find the after-school program, the shelter, the drop-in, serving children that run wild and free inside my apartment waiting to me to come play and laugh with them. Pulling back the curtain and questioning us against Kee Tow. Kee Tow’s neighborhood epitomizes what the teenage and young adult members of the hood(ling) who dwell in the criminal underworld once (or the other man) remains in this once thriving neighborhood.”

**URBAN CHARACTERISTICS**

**SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**HISTORICAL CHARACTERISTICS**
INCLUSIVENESS Vs. SEGREGATION
NEGATIVE CYCLE

LOW INVESTMENT

LOW INCOME (poverty)

LOW SAVINGS

LOW PRODUCTIVITY

LOW EMPLOYMENT

HOW TO BREAK THE NEGATIVE CYCLE

INCREASE INVESTMENT

EXPECT

INCREASE INCOME

GENERATE EMPLOYMENT

ATTRACT INVESTORS

LOW SAVINGS

LOW INCOME (poverty)

LOW PRODUCTIVITY

LOW EMPLOYMENT

LOW INVESTMENT
One of Chicago’s Current Investment Plans:

The first and most important thing that has to be done in order to break the negative cycle is to attract investors on the area, The investor that is chosen and proposed as the basic one for the Southworks area development is the Illinois Medical District. The extension of it is already one of Chicago’s investment plans. This kind of investment will promote inclusiveness by creating jobs, offering education and making health accessible to the current inhabitants of south works.

At the same time it will create a nurturing environment for the needs of further investments to be developed.

In addition to that, because medicine is mono-functional, activities that can work in a symbiosis to it are proposed as further investments. More specifically, additive manufacturing for medical use and education related to both medicine and 3d printing are proposed as the starting point investments to develop a new, well functioning and productive cycle for the area.
Bring the medical expansion into South Works.

Future investment developments that could coexist in symbiosis, properly nurture the medical expansion and influence positively South Work’s and Chicago’s current situation.
GROUPING PROGRESSIVE IDENTITIES
ORGANISATION CONCEPT
CASE STUDIES

BARCELONA@22, SPAIN.

Universities
Activities Center
Collective Residences

PHILADELPHIA, USA.

CREATIVE
PHILADELPHIA
MASTERPLAN ANATOMY
DYNAMICS
MASTERPLAN ANATOMY
ORGANISATION IN CLUSTERS

MEDICAL CLUSTER

EDUCATION CLUSTER

MANUFACTURE CLUSTER
MASTERPLAN ANATOMY
CIVIC BUILDINGS

Activators of clusters
Anchor points for integration

Medicine

Education
Communal center, Mazzanti Arch. Bocconi Campus, OMA.

Manufacture
3D Printers Factory
MASTERPLAN ANATOMY
OPEN SPACES
MASTERPLAN ANATOMY
OVERALL IMAGE
**MASTERPLAN ANATOMY**

**PHASING**

**PHASE 1**
- Extension of existing bus route (PaceBus N.6.)
- Introduction of Light Rail (extension of Metra service)
- Introduction and expansion of Green Belt
- Expansion and redesign of Forest Preserves
- Transportation Node
- Civic buildings

**PHASE 2**
- Extension of Light Rail into the site
- Extension of existing bus routes (PaceBus N. 79,87)
- Green spaces: further development
- Investment and development on Lake Shore Drive
- Manufacture-medical education related buildings

**PHASE 3**
- Introduction of new bus routes into the site and extension of bus route N.79,87
- Design of bike lanes
- Development of park/canal border
- Introduction of the rest of the civic buildings in the clusters
- Neighborhood border housing development

**PHASE 4**
- Development clusters (manufacture, health, culture) with dwelling and retail
- Further development of closed park
- Completion of dwellings (diverse typology/users)
02 MEDIUM SCALE
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE CROSSING
CONNECTION AND INTEGRATION
Focusing more in the spatial expression of the masterplan strategy, the masterplan proposal seeks for the way in which the above mentioned concept can be spatially organised. Here, two spatial components are recognised as the key ones for the further development of the area and the city. The first one, is the existence of the Lake Shore Drive that penetrates the area, creating a physical border between the neighbourhood and the Southworks site. This high-speed road is the place of production, of fast movement, of density.

The second component, that crosses Lake Shore Drive and penetrates the whole area as well, is a big open space, completely abandoned at the moment. This is the one chosen to be the focus of the masterplan research and the area of the urban design. It is recognised as the social, slow axis of the area, the place of encounter of all different identities and the connector between the existing and the new master-planed Southworks site. Both components are important for this system to work, and for inclusiveness to have its spatial expression and ground to grow. The core of this axis, of the social strip, is the place where it meets the Lake Shore Drive, the point where both worlds mix. This place, responding to both realities, is treated in a special way. It is densely built, with a design and a programme suitable for an activity core of an area that wants to play the role of the activator for the city’s further development.

Here, the public space and its design is conscripted as the tool to enact an efficient symbiosis of the two components. After relevant research the public space is designed with orientation to the formation of a public domain in which all individuals can coexist in a way that will revitalize the city and activate its further progress.
THE CROSSING: FAST/PRODUCTION LINE
SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

m.h. 21m
max h. 42m
sb 0m

m.h.: minimal height
sb: fixed setback from sidewalk

min h. 9m
max h. 30m
sb 0-5m

min h. 15m
max h. 27m
sb 10m

min h. 6m
max h. 21m
sb 20m

min h. 3m
max h. 15m
sb 2.5m

Open public space

min h. 9m
max h. 27m
sb 10m

min h. 6m
max h. 30m
sb 10m

min h. 3m
max h. 15m
sb 2.5m

min h. 6m
max h. 30m
sb 5m

building line

groundfloor block mass

space in between

zoning regulations

block massing

block groundfloor built area

space
THE CROSSING: FAST/PRODUCTION LINE
IMPRESSIONS
THE CROSSING: SLOW/SOCIAL LINE IMPRESSIONS

Aldayjover, West 8, Sagrera, Spain.
THE CROSSING: SLOW/SOCIAL LINE
THE HEART

THE HEART of the area
Integrator of the existing and the new
realising inclusiveness

cross Lake Shore Drive
create continuity
keep both “worlds” present
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE HEART: OVERALL IMAGE

DESIGNED IN 1:2500
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE HEART: ANATOMY

activity zones

open spaces

built / unbuilt
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE HEART: REFERENCE PROJECTS

Park Spoor Noord, Antwerpen
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE HEART: REFERENCE PROJECTS

Chasse Park, Breda
THE CORE of activation of the area
MASTERPLAN FOCUS
THE CORE: DESIGN PROPOSAL

DESIGNED IN 1:500

+0.00

+7.00
03 SMALL SCALE
ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION
small scale architectural intervention
Finally, going to the smallest scale of the project, the architectural intervention is the actual implementation of the main idea of the project. Being the first building to built in the area, and situated in the central core of the social axis, it is the one that actually realizes the physical connection between the two worlds, the existing neighbourhood and the Southworks site. And this connection is made in such a way that both the important components of the area’s system, the Lake Shore Drive and the Social Axis, are present, both being able to progress also individually. Therefore, the proposed building becomes a bridge above the Lake shore drive, having its feet in both the existing and the new sides.

Additionally, it is not only a means of connection but it also aims in the continuity of the social, slow axis. This was a main concern in the design of the masterplan as well. In order for this central place of encounter to fulfil its role, it is necessary for it to remain uninterrupted, penetrating the whole area and connecting continuously the Lakeside with the neighbourhood. Thus, not only the physical continuity with a bridge is adequate but also a continuity in the qualitative of the space. In order for both criteria to be met, the building is also designed as an interior public passage, open to everyone to cross it.

Apart from that, as the building has the role of the initiator of the whole development but with a long-term contri-
bution to the city, it offers spaces of different qualities, organised in cooperation with the public passage and able to be adapted to the city’s needs through the years. As a part of the overall strategy of the proposal the programme scenario that is proposed here, is a mixed use building of a 3d printing incubator, addressed both to professionals, start-up companies and the public, combined with retail stores, a small library, a small conference space and a restaurant. The programme chosen and its organisation within the building aims again at inclusiveness and the attraction of various people to interact in a public space of a different quality than the open one. It also aims to bring people into contact with the additive manufacturing, in order to further create a new industrial identity for Chicago.
DESIGN GOALS

03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

realising inclusiveness
CONCEPT: DESIGN PRINCIPLES

3 design principles to realise inclusiveness:

1. programme

2. continuity of public space - flow of movement

3. horizontality
1. PROGRAMME

MIXED USE BUILDING

INCUBATOR OF ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING FOR MEDICAL USE
RETAIL
CONFERENCE ROOM
RESTAURANT
PASSAGE

RESPONDS TO

PRODUCTION WORLD OF L.S.D.

CREATING JOBS
PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE

SOCIAL WORLD OF STRIP

INCORPORATING PUBLIC SPACES
OFFERING WORKSPACE AND TOOLS
COVERING EVERYDAY NEEDS

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING FOR MEDICAL USE INCUBATOR

THE NEW FACE OF MEDICINE
THE NEW FACE OF LIFE

start-ups spaces + training lab seminar spaces small library + public workspace public printing hall + communal spaces conference room
1. PROGRAMME

**Qatar Science Technology Park Business Incubator:**
- 12000sqm
- 700users
- ~17sqm/user

**Institute for Contemporary Art Arts Incubator:**
- 3500sqm
- 200users
- ~17.5 sqm/user

**One Trinity Green Incubator**
- 3085sqm
- 32 start-ups offices
- ~17.5 sqm/user

**Southworks Additive Manufacturing Incubator**
- Incubator + Retail + Public Space
- ~600users
- 10300sqm
- ~17 sqm/user

TOTAL: 10.300sqm.

- restaurant 350 sqm.
- total communal areas 2000 sqm.
- conference room 250 sqm.
- small library 200 sqm.
- workspace + printing hall 600sqm.
- lecture spaces 200sqm.
- start ups 1800sqm.
- retail 2000sqm.
- passage 1200 sqm.
- storage and maintenance 700 sqm.
- parking 1000 sqm.
2. CONTINUITY OF PUBLIC SPACE
2. CONTINUITY OF PUBLIC SPACE
LOAD BEARING SYSTEM

A
Bubbledeck Floor 450mm
dead +live load: 10kn/m²
max. span: 16.4m

Steel Columns CHS 269

B
Bubbledeck Floor 600mm
dead +live load: 10kn/m²
max. span: 21m

Steel Truss x 2
feet: RHS 350x250x6.3mm
vertical members: RHS 200x200x6.3mm

h = 5m  l1 = 54m  l2 = 57m

Steel Columns holding truss: RHS 500x300x
3. HORIZONTALITY

organisation in 3 layers of superimposed overhanging slabs

building impression _ sketches
03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

+0.00

+7.00

+12.00

+19.00

DESIGNED IN 1:200
03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

SECTION A-A'

SECTION B-B'

SOUTHERN ELEVATION

EASTERN ELEVATION

NORTHERN ELEVATION

WESTERN ELEVATION

DESIGNED IN 1:200
ORGANISATION OF FACADES

OPAQUE
wall / wall with vertical openings / skylights

SEMI TRANSPARENT
glass and second skin of horizontal rods
billboard above Lake Shore Drive
shading system

TRANSPARENT
glass
emphasizing Z exception points
emphasizing Z exception points
### MATERIALISATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bear concrete</th>
<th>steel</th>
<th>glass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**FLOOR**

**INTERIOR**
- polished concrete floor - bear concrete finishing

**EXTERIOR**
- anti-slip concrete floor with stones - rough finishing

**WALLS**

**EXTERIOR**
- precast concrete sandwich panels - bare concrete finishing

**PARTITION**
- precast concrete panels - bare concrete finishing

**GLASS FACADES**

- curtain wall facades with black aluminium frame and partitioning
left page: Exterior Night View

Interior Impression: Public Passage _ exhibition area
Top Floor Exterior Passage _ restaurant
Southwestern Perspective, exterior public route
03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

DETAILING

DESIGNED IN 1:20

Vertical Facade Fragment C-C'

Vertical Facade Fragment D-D'
03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

DETAILING

Longitudinal Facade Fragment_Interior F-F’

Longitudinal Facade Fragment_Exterior

DESIGNED IN 1:20
03 SMALL SCALE ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION

DETAILING

1.5 (designed) detail_rooftop parapet

1.5 (designed) detail_window frame + tapered slab

1.5 (designed) horizontal detail E-E'
CLIMATE

independency of spaces
combination of systems

Heating and Cooling Systems Diagram
CLIMATE

Mechanical Ventilation Schemes

Heating and Cooling Schemes
Public Passage Heating/Cooling System

Thermoactive Bubbledeck Slab

Active Chilled Beam

Office Cooling and Ventilation System

Typical Section_Public Passage

Typical Section_Office Space
Abstract

Aim of this paper is to deal with the notion of public space and its approach in the contemporary architectural discourse and practice. Through literature review and realized examples the paper addresses the following question and subquestion: Which is the relation between the public sphere and the physical space in order for places to be developed into public domains, aiming to a revitalization of an urban area? Which are the decisive factors and design disciplines that lead to the creation of public spaces characterised by cultural mobility and continuous exchange of multiple experiences? The results of this research will be used in a design project in the Southworks,
Chicago as the main principal of dealing with the rejuvenation of a declined urban area. Aiming towards an approach of the urban design that puts the multiplicity of human life and people’s interrelationships in the forefront, together with the – now dominant – physical form, the reading and mapping of cities’ social and cultural geography is needed. Furthermore, after accepting the characteristics and way of function of public places in the urban environment of today, the establishment of a cultural policy is proposed as a method to empower the development of the public domain in the urban public spaces. Analysing the work of Hajer and Reijndorp in the book “In search of a new public domain” and referring also to the ideas of Chase et al in the book “Everyday Urbanism”, three basic principles for urban design are introduced as the ones needed for a public domain to emerge: theming, compressing and connecting. The examples of Schouwburgsplein and The City Library, both in Rotterdam, are used as the real proofs that argue for the research results.

Introduction

Modern urban and architectural practices and the model of the city-machine implied the attenuation of the clear typology of public space that characterised the cities of the pre-modern era. Modern urban planning introduced zoning, mono functional clusters and, for the sake of the modern community, turned the public dimension into a system of “collective spaces” and the urban spaces into “living environments” (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 112). The result of this kind of thinking and designing together with the social fermentation of that era, was the crisis of modernism in the 1960s. The most dominant issue in the architectural and urbanistic discourse was the notion of the public space and the public sphere. The problems of an increasing individualization and of social ambivalence were the two main topics in the relevant discussions. Coming closer to our days, alienation is much more increased as the social and economic models of all societies orientate people to act in favour of their personal prosperity. This is the reason why, the whole post modern era up until today, is mainly concerned with the re-definition of the public space and consider this as the key to urban renewal strategies all over the world. Although the contemporary professional architectural and urban design methods try to address the problems of their modern predecessors and also to catch the pulse of what consists the contemporary urban life, they come up with a different approach of what consisted the mono-functionalization of the modernists. Shopping malls, amusement parks and business districts are the major representatives of the public space, designed all under the cultural and political implications of the capitalistic thinking.

When it comes to architectural practice and especially to cases like the masterplan and building design in the Southworks area in Chicago, the issue becomes much more complicated and the significance of public space as a space that different identities encounter and interact, becomes much more decisive. Searching for a new way of dealing with the meaning and form of the public space and through the review of the book of Hajer and Reijndorp “In search of a new public domain”, this paper will address the following research question and subquestion: Which is the relation between the public sphere and the physical space in order for places to be developed into public domains, aiming to a revitalization of an urban area?

Which are the decisive factors and design disciplines that lead to the creation of public spaces characterised by cultural mobility and continuous exchange of multiple experiences?

Aiming towards such a perception of public space, we should put the human experience as a primary aspect of any urban design approach (Crawford, p. 8). After putting the human factor in the forefront, it is then crucial to recognize the social and political importance of the public domain, as the perspective for the analysis of the existing public space and the search for its new concept. In order for the
specific characteristics that constitute a real public domain to be investigated, it is important to map the social and cultural geography of the city, finding the cultural identity and meaning of the diverse places of the urban field. We should, furthermore, aim towards interventions that strike a balance between the functional-spatial analysis and the attention to cultural meaning; towards spaces characterised by multiplicity of meanings and experiences.

The book “In search of a new public domain” of Hajer and Reijndorp has been chosen as the basic literature because it studies the issue of public space but from an aspect that puts people and their activities in the centre. In addition to that, Hajer and Reijndorp, having the same concerns as the author about public space’s past and present, try to define design principles in order to tackle the everyday problems of urbanity and bring into reality the public domain.

Two built examples, the Schouwburgsplein and the City Library in Rotterdam, will be used as realization of the public domain in existence, and also as examples of application of the design principles introduced from Hajer and Reijndorp. Finally, the book of Chase et al “Everyday Urbanism”, is the second literature reference of the paper, supportive and strongly related to Hajer and Reijndorp’s ideas.

Towards the development of places as public domains
Mapping the Cultural Geography

Contemporary professional design approaches are most of the times based on abstract ideas, driven and shaped by social politics and economics, leaving out of their field of interest the everyday life experience, the human aspect. Serving a capitalistic world, urban design aims also to the generation of money, creating containers of consuming, “well-being” and “feeling-good” kind of activities. It is true that urban design, despite its failures and disorientation from the human factor, over the course of the 20th century has become the major means for architects to preserve their social role (Kaliski, p.103). Designing cities and for the cities requires the ability of integration of many different factors, that have to do with the spatial, social, economical and political features of it. The designer has not only to introduce a functional framework for a city-machine to work but also to integrate the nature in it, to give opportunities for public debates to take place in it, to serve as defender of the disadvantaged, to develop a model for appropriate typologies (Kaliski, p.103). But, in spite of all the good intentions and declarations of professionals for integration and multi-variety of urban design projects, the result in many cases reduced to the creation of “single-purpose monuments to power” (Kaliski, p.103).

Giving priority to the everyday lived experience instead of the physical form in designing the city may be the solution to its lack of multiplicity of the human voice, which is actually what in reality creates the city. It is more than obvious that the design of an everyday space should start from the analysis, understanding and acceptance of the life that takes place in it. It is more than obvious also, that there is nothing such a universal solution for the city of the everyday but only multiple ones, for specific places and times. (Crawford, p. 11-13) What is important is to recognize and embrace the significance of the everyday experience, of all the different activities and people that constitute the daily urban routine of our lives. And the words “difference” and “experience” are the most important ones here, since they contain all the very meaning of this new approach of urbanism that starts for the publics. The play of difference is the main element of the city life; the overlapping of differences is the most important form of exchange, while this exchange creates, in the end, the experience of the city (Crawford, p.11). This kind of experience of the city is the “everyday urbanism” Chase et al are referring to in the book with the homonym title. This same experience is the analogue of the “public domain” of Hajer and Reijndorp. The public domain is defined by the authors as “the places where an exchange between different social groups is possible and also actually occurs” (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 11).

What they propose is the seek for the way for places to be developed as public domains, instead of the seek for the elements -mostly
physical— that consist “good pubic spaces”. They think for the public domain as the something bigger, the very essence of urbanity, that includes a series of places, public or not, which anyway serve the idea of social and cultural exchange between different groups of people. What they also believe is that the significance of a real public domain does not lie in the formal characteristics of it but, again, in the overlapping and exchange between different social groups. (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 112-113)

In order for the public domain to be in existence and especially for a strategy to be formed as a design tool for urbanists, the location of this kind of differences of the everyday experience has to be done. In other words, one has to map the social and—better—the cultural geography of the city. Mapping the cultural geography of the city is the active procedure in order for the focus to be shifted to the space not as a physical form only, but as a system of places with specific meanings for specific groups (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 35). The aim for the construction of public domains is, apart from the functional—spatial orientation of the design, the integration of the cultural aspect and a cultural construction of all kind of places that are saturated with meaning (Hajer and Reijndorp, p.36). Multiplicity of meaning is what produces the exchange of experience and finally makes the public domain to emerge. And, paradoxically, it is not simply the multiple difference in one place that consist the public domain but actually the interference of a different group of people in a place dominated of another specific group. According to Hajer and Reijndorp, this paradox is actually what brings public domain into being. “Entering the parochial domains of others” and experiencing then cultural mobility, is the prerequisite for a successful public domain (Hajer and Reijndorp p. 116). As they further state, the public spaces that are traditionally considered as good—such as the cafés and boulevards in Paris or the coffee houses in Vienna—although they were open to public, they were actually spaces of a certain group; whoever not bourgeois there feels like an unwanted guest (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 85). In that sense, it may be not the parochialization that prevents the development of the public domain but on the contrary, it may rather be the one that produces its experience (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 88-89). The idea of the good public space as a neutral meeting place for all different groups, regardless of class or lifestyle, maybe an obsolete idea, that hinders researchers and designers from understanding the very everyday nature of public spaces in reality; and also from realising that what is—by all means—tried to be avoided, is what in the end is the key characteristic of their whole quest.

Spatial or functional orientated decisions for the physical arrangement or re-arrangement of public spaces express, apart from an approach of the physical form of those spaces, the way the designers deal with the shaping of society. Design is a means of practice of cultural policy, as an application of the reading of city’s cultural geography and designers’ ambitions related to it. The aim of the establishment of a cultural policy for urban design, in not only the revitalization of the urban environment, but also the promotion and encourage of the active involvement of different groups of publics in the urban culture and further the creation of opportunities for the personal development of the individual (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 76). Nowadays, the task of a new cultural-political intervention does not have to do so much with the vitality of cities, which is however more a matter for economical regenerations related to commercial actors, but more with the creation of interfaces between the different landscapes that comprise the domains of various social groups (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 81).

But which are the possible design—or better urban planning—disciplines that can be used for the rekindling of the relationship between social and physical space, keeping in mind the demands of a contemporary mass culture in flux?

Hajer and Reijndorp, referring to Sharon Zukin and his belief that the trick is “to frame encounters that are both intimate and intrusive” (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 117), are trying to formulate three different strategies, which can empower a continuous social and cultural exchange in public spaces. Theming, compressing and connecting are the key principles in order for the public domain to emerge (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 117).

Theming and compressing can be used as the design principles suitable to create places imbued with meaning addressed to specific groups (theming) and at the same time to bring into close proximity elements that are meaningful for different groups (compressing). Finally, connecting as a design principle, has to do with the way these different places are related, having either a confrontational either a
seductive character. The designer’s task is to create a connection that makes it possible for one to be familiar with the cultural dynamic of different spheres. (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 119-120)

In order to explain further these principles of an application of a cultural policy to urban planning and design, the Schouwburgsplein and City Library in Rotterdam will be described in the next unit, as two examples where the public domain is active.

**Public Domain in existence**  
**Schouwburgsplein and City Library, Rotterdam, NL**

Adrian Geuze and the West8 team where the ones that rearranged Schouwburgsplein in Rotterdam in 1997. The “Theatre Square” as its name means, is situated in the heart of Rotterdam and surrounded by the City Theatre, the music hall, Rotterdam’s largest movie theatre complex. What Geuze has actually created there is a “city stage” for various different groups of young people, who have taken their spot on and around all the edges of the square. There is where they present their different lifestyles and express their particular personality. Quoting the characteristic description of Hajer and Reijndorp (Hajer and Reijndorp, p. 36),

“breakdancers on the square, the parade of Antillan youngsters driving round the edge of the square in front of De Doelen concert hall and congress centre in their cars on Friday and Saturday evening, groups of young women who cluster together on the long benches opposite the multiplex cinema.”

This the dynamic taking place in Schouwburgsplein, and is a dynamic of a multiple cultural geography with its meaning in a continuous flux, evolution and development. This kind of use of the square, which was not necessarily intended to be that way and is maybe undesirable for many people, enacts a “publicness” which gives space to a real social and cultural exchange and therefore for a form of a public domain to really exist.

The second example is one of a closed public space, the City Library of Rotterdam. Built in 80’s and renovated in 2001, the library is a very good example of theming, compressing and connecting can work together and create a working public domain. From the organization and design of its interior, the circulation of movement to the way it works is a realization of an actual public place in an urban centre. Starting form the way it works, the library is open to everyone, member or not. One can enter and leave like in an almost open space, without being checked by anybody, except for the electronic gateways used to check only that books are signed out before one leaves. The library has around 3,4 million visitors per year, diverse in composition. It is being massively used for many different purposes, created also by the different atmospheres offered inside. In the periodicals reading room many people, mostly international, read foreign newspapers, while in another spot of the space young people surf the internet. On the ground floor chess tables and the bigger ground chess invite people inside only for playing here and there. On the upper floors, students study in the study corners; in the children area, especially designed for the children to use it, children with adults read comics; scholars consult the Erasmus Collection and lovers of history or historians read about the history of the city. All these different places are especially dedicated to specific groups and at the same time are in close proximity to one another; all connected by a system of escalators, situated in the core of the building, which creates a continuous flow of people ascending and descending. This way of connection of spaces, reminiscent of a department store, keeps people and spaces in a visual connection and represents the flux of nowadays everyday activities.

Both examples of public spaces are work as contemporary public domains according to the characteristics principle and beliefs de-
scribed and analyzed before. They both meet the basic principles of what has been described as the cultural policy needed for a public domain to be developed. They also both put the human aspect and the everyday lived experience in their design course and in the forefront of their very operation in the daily routine of the city.

Conclusion

The design of many public spaces so far is to a large extent determined by the notion the frictionless public space is good public space. It is also determined by the need and purposes of other parties, the ones that are related with consumption and profit. This kind of thinking and designing of public space leads finally to its functionalization, which means its use and design in order for a specific purpose to be achieved; one that does not serve in any case the social and cultural exchange between people but mostly the development of the market in all aspects. Functionalization usually destroys the creation of public domain and hinders any real experience between publics. In this paper the public domain is understood as an experience of other worlds; and architects design task is the exchange and bending of these worlds and their liminal spaces. Furthermore, in the two examples presented here, it is proved how the combination of relative freedom and technical provocation can bring those spatial qualities into being. For Hajer and Reijndorp, this combination is the crux of the design task (Hajer and Reijndorp. p. 135). Through the examples is also shown how the design instruments of theming, compressing and connecting can be tangible and really create a different public environment that works for the sake of its users.

Public domain emerges from experiencing cultural mobility, from the presentation of new perspectives and from the confrontation with one’s personal patterns. The effort to achieve conformation only does not correspond to that perception of a properly functioning public domain; the challenge to relate to others is what aims to that direction. This conclusion together with the instruments presented here, will be the basis to handle the case of Southworks, Chicago. Its design and function as an urban environment will be re-approached having as a goal the creation of an urban place where all different identities meet, interact and develop, a properly functioning public domain.

References

Books