LOCATION

- Illinois
- Cook County
- City of Chicago
- South-Chicago
SOUTH CHICAGO

Area: 1.764 square miles
Population: 31198
Density: 10,675 people per square mile
TODAY

EMPTY SINCE 1994
CONDITION

Neighborhood:
1. bad image
2. food desert
3. unemployment
4. low education
5. crime
6. vacant plots

Site:
1. empty
2. nice view to the lake
3. hard border

URBAN DESIGN
GOAL

1. To develop the vacant lakefront site
2. To improve the condition of the neighborhood
3. To diminish the segregation
IMAGINATION

Of course we could imagine a fancy urban development like what SOM already proposed for the site.
BACKGROUND

But we have to live with the fact that the US is in crisis, which is an obstacle to the implementation of SOM's top-down masterplan.

Crisis: Short Of Money
Since there is not enough financial support for a large urban development at once, we need to think in the other direction.
1. To design a guideline of the growing process;
2. To define several pivotal projects which enable
3. For the rest, just let it grow.
URBAN FARMING

- Fresh food
- Farms & plant nursery
- Training
- Job
- Adolescent education
- Tourism

START

Low-cost, Temporary, Visible, Easy to get local people involved

FOOD DESERT
VACANT PLOTS
LOW EDUCATION
UNEMPLOYMENT
CRIME
BAD IMAGE
URBAN FARMS IN CHICAGO
MAYOR EMANUEL LAUNCHES NEW
“FARMERS FOR CHICAGO” NETWORK
FOR CHICAGO URBAN FARMERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2013
GUIDELINE

Farming  Researching  Living

local people  people from outside  mixed population
PROCESS

1. current situation
2. urban farming and planting
3. pivotal projects
4. mixed and balanced urban development
PIVOTAL PROJECTS (SEEDS)

Community Center → Farming
Market → Researching
Agricultural Research Station → Living
Agricultural College → Farming Researching Living
LOCATION CHOICE

Since the seeds are relatively small projects, it's wise to place them where existing elements concentrate so that they can take advantage of the existing elements to save cost or to have stronger identity.
THE ORE WALLS

Strong identity of the ore walls can help bind the pivotal projects into a whole. And the projects may bring added value to the deserted ore walls to avoid it to be demolished.
ORE WALL NETWORK

- Market Warehouse
- Ore Wall Farm
- Research cultivation
- Products Route
- Visiting Route
- Experiencing Route
- guest houses
ORE WALL NETWORK

Walkway on top of the ore walls
SITE LAYERS

1. Extend the existing infrastructure in the neighborhood
2. Create linear landscape strips
3. Old factory remanent foundations
4. Pivotal projects
PHASING

10 years

30 years
INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION
ROLE

Agricultural Research Station

Farming → Researching → Living
ORE WALL
ORE WALLS

ore wall as frame, with industrial content in the past.
INTENTION

COMBINATION OF FARMING AND THE ORE WALL
PUBLIC ROUTING
PUBLIC ROUTING

public route on roof 1 (finally to the lakefront)

public route on roof 2 (finally entering the building)
PUBLIC ROUTING

same volume, same length in total, but seemingly larger area for content.
VIEW
PROGRAM
PROGRAM

INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
PROGRAM
PROGRAM
PROGRAM
WOODEN BEAM TYPES:

- open web parallel cord trusses
- laminated veneer lumber beam
CONSTRUCTION
SUSTAINABILITY
GOAL DEFINED BY URBAN STRATEGY ACHIEVED

1. Farming and researching are well combined in the building. It is able to lead the transition from farming to researching.
2. Public routing defined in urban strategy are well integrated in the building.
3. The building provides space not only to researchers from outside, but also to local people from the neighborhood, which help bring a mixed population.

ARCHITECTURAL INTENTION ACHIEVED

The building emphasizes the combination of urban farming and the ore walls by means of inheriting the nature of the ore walls which is being frame, and using it to frame the urban farming activities. It really becomes a mediator in the combination.
THANKS!