PUBLIC BATHS OF CHICAGO SOUTH WORKS

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Complex Projects | Chicago | South Works
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INTRODUCTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Negligence, awareness
The gravity of the struggles in South Chicago is defined as a singular issue of violence from the outside. This in turn results in a severe case of negligence of the many issues and further establishes a status quo where one group is superior to another.

Distances
Long distances between different functions of the city causes stress on infrastructure and causes a big car in convenience.

Backside of the American dream
According to the American dream, a person has the opportunity to achieve anything through hard work. Yet, there is very little social mobility in South Chicago. It provides limited opportunity for either ethnic groups or individuals to achieve the goal.

Decay
Houses, materials, jobs, and the economy is in a state of decay. The structure of South Chicago was not sustainable, and what can be seen now is a state where nature and time governs.

Loop is interrupted
The loop is a machine that generates great prosperity. For itself and the areas close by, and conversely has the opposite effect on peripheral areas in the city.

Negative loop
The poor quality of the education, the difficulty to find a job, the ease of being attracted by criminal activity. The loose of faith in institutions, in a better future and in the possibility of change create a negative loop that is a downward spiral.

Rigid typology
The prevailing typology in South Chicago is the bungalow. This typology is not easily adaptable to other functions than residential.

Isolation and fragility
Due to the economic and social uncertainty in South Chicago, investors and external forces have the power to greatly inform and dictate the future conditions and lives of the inhabitants.

Vitality and inactivity
The density is low outside the Loop. These areas are virtually residential and characterized by homogeneity and lack of vitality.

Issues
COMPLEX PROJECTS :: CHICAGO SOUTH WORKS
Gerald Crevier
John Lecher
Gail Kippin-Nielsen
Johan Terheyden

The problems presented are a condensed sum analysis on Chicago and especially on South Chicago. Some problems have causes that reach way beyond the borders of the neighborhood and the city.

Without our Project we will try to develop strategies with these problems, without the presumption of finding them. Rather they are important subjects that we considered in order to challenge the status.
emancipation

Roman Law. The action or process of setting children free from the patrim potestas.

trans. and fig. Setting free, delivering from intellectual, moral, or spiritual fetters.

segregation

Line breaks: self, reg, isolation

The separation or isolation of a portion of a community or a body of persons from the rest.

Dispersion, breaks up (of a collective unity).

The separation of a portion or portions of a collective or complex unity from the rest; the isolation of particular constituents of a compound or mixture.

The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or institution.

evolution

Line breaks: a, iso, lution

The process by which different kinds of living organisms are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

The gradual development of something

The site should generate more urban density

There is a great deal of zoning along with a lack of density in the area. The project will aim to densify not only the site but more importantly the neighborhood.

Higher density will eliminate low-density areas and functions in the neighborhood and thus allow the area to function.

The site should be divided in different parts

We are against the zoning management of South Chicago and envision the South Works as an area with density that will host different functions, typologies, and densities.

South Chicago is a vast residential area with poor schools and a lack of amenities. By increasing the density of institutions and reimagining the manufacturing of the area we believe that the vision for the area will become more competitive, more visible, and more independent.

Empower people through education and jobs creation

Focusses, Manifestations and Visits are statements for the objectives of our future ideas.

This Framework speaks about the world we live in. It’s about our perceptions, intentions, interests and fashions. The Framework is the result of our analysis of the past and our feelings. It is not monodirectional, rather it is multi-directional. It doesn’t have one direction, it has many directions.

The Framework is composed of three main parts: Focusses, Manifestations and Visits. The Focusses are the concepts that guide our discussions and that guide our design.

The Manifestations are physical interpretations of the Focusses with the site and at the same time the interpretation of the Focusses.

The Visits are statements for the objectives of our future ideas.

This triple division expresses our intentions, interests and fashions in a way in which we would like to approach the future. All the Focusses, Manifestations and Visits are investigated with different tools such as sketching, drawings, discussions and the articulation of statements that stimulate the process of innovation and development.

Focusses, Manifestations and Visits are the way we think about the representation of the environment in a multi-dimensional and interconnected manner.
Nature
Reincarnation
...

Empowerment
Strong Future
...

Density
Intimacy and Openness
...

Narratives

These four Narratives are exercises that we can use to trigger our imagination. To help us think about what could be in the future and to find certain connections within the framework.

These ideas are not only explored with the text but also with the act of drawing. The drawing context is not simply illustrating the story but giving it a dimension and a physical presence. Still these rigid visions but rather through providing exploration.
DENSITY

Intimacy and Openness

I remember these lines of single houses along the streets of doors and windows that possessed no big differences or rarities. Often the windows were blocked by wooden panels and signs of foreclosure. There was not much activity on the streets, the only thing I can remember is children yelling and laughing while playing sports during school time. Police sirens were a common sound. Also, my favorite hotdog place – “Lake shore food” - got closed, as there was no place left to have a snack or drink.

But times are changing; the days of poverty are followed by more hopeful times. There are reoccurring signs of development and the South Side can start to be active again. From one to another, the streets seems to continue infinitely – multiplying its repertory of images - yet one side stops by the Lake Shore Drive, as a barrier with behind a big piece of land bewildered by flora with an unique view on the Lake. These days the streets are continuing towards the lake shore and the only barriers are fences. Buildings arise from the ground and create intimate space by four to five story high buildings -interspersed with buildings of almost similar heights - and narrower streets within smaller and irregular blocks. Continuing down these new streets I get the feeling of entering a new area. Especially when crossing the Lake Shore Drive. The built groups of buildings create spatial openness's in between with views of a landscape with views that even sometimes reaches the skyline of the Loop. The site is continuously evolving. One of the first built manufactories is already inhabited by a coffee shop and a grocery store on the first floor and affordable apartments on the upper floors. As I continue the street I encounter an alley that seems to lead to the canal near the Iron walls. These walls are possibly a memorial of the South Works history. When reaching the water I feel satisfied with the fact that the shores with its views are not distorted by buildings.
MASTERPLAN

Interdependent places
AMBITIONS

Fight depression in South Side Chicago through creating a center with increased opportunities

Ensuring a prosperous urban area with a strong identity by emphasizing the existing qualities of the site

Attacking the monotonous structure in South Chicago through multi-functionality, diversity and prosperity

Avoid negligence of the existing adjacent neighborhood by creating accessibility to the water

Allow growth and expansion into the neighborhood
QUALITIES OF THE SITE

Fascinations and physical manifestations of the existing qualities of the site.

water | skyline | scenery | ore walls | borders
FRAGMENT

“Buildings should be thought of from the beginning as fragments, containing within themselves a capacity to act with other buildings and be themselves links.”

Peter and Alison Smithson (2005)
AMBITIONS

The building and area should be an activator for the neighborhood. A certain degree of publicness is essential.

It should enhance the quality of the site (especially the water)

Leisure activities as swimming, iceskating and bathing suit the specific location and the ambitions.
RESEARCH AND CASE STUDIES

Contemporary places of activity with water
Ancient Roman Empire and public baths
Case studies of contemporary architecture

Therme Vals
Les Bains des Docks
Termas de Tiberio
Astoria pool New York | An public event in an American city
Rockefeller Center | Iceskaters being watched in downtown NY
Baths of Caracalla | Bathing complex with park, stadium, library and other functions
Therme Vals | Peter Zumthor
Les Bains des Docks | Jean Nouvel
Termas de Tiberio | Moneo Brock Studio
METHODOLOGY

Approach of phenomenology - academic field of research in contemporary architecture about sensory experiences and places - by study of spaces.

By a catalogue of stamp-size spaces, modelling of these spaces and a serie of different experiences.
CATALOGUE STUDY OF SPACES
BUILDING CONCEPT

The study of spaces are integrated with the program, both work well together. The experience of these spaces are the base for the design.
PROGRAM AND FACTS
SPORTS & CAFE
SWIMMING POOLS
THERAPY AND SPA

ground level
restaurant | kitchen | entrance | changing rooms | toilets and showers | sauna | massage rooms | restrooms | soundbath, flowerbath | waterfall pool | caldarium | fregidarium | tepidarium | natatio (pool) | hydrotherapy | hot tubs

first level
foyer | administration | daycare | changing rooms | toilets and showers | childrens pool | leisure pools | oculus pool | swimming laps pool | diving pool | diving equipment | outdoor pool | solarium

second level
sport reception | dance/yoga | fitness | cardio | changing rooms | toilets and showers | reading room | patio | café | administration/staff | kitchen

roof
installantions (airconditioning) | viewpoint | terrace
Ground floor - Therapy & spa, restaurant and mechanical rooms
First floor - entrance and swimming pools level
Second floor - Sports, patio, café and reading rooms
Roof - Terrace, installations and view
CONSTRUCTION AND CLIMATE DESIGN

How can construction and climate design rules enforce the building concept of creating a series of sensory spaces and enhance the cultivated nature (grotto experience) of the pools.
35/120 MM WESTERN RED CEDAR BOARDING
50X50 MM BATTENS
PLASTIC SEALING LAYER
INSULATION WITH LAMINATED LAYER
VAPOUR BARRIER
150/250 MM REINFORCED CONCRETE
150 MM INSULATION
IM REINFORCED CONCRETE EXTERIOR

INCLINED CONCRETE ELEMENT

35/120 MM WESTERN RED CEDAR BOARDING
400X500 MM INSULATED VENTILATION SHAFTS
60/80 MM BATTENS ON RUBBERS
MM LAYER OF CHIPPINGS
20 MM DRAINAGE LAYER
PROTECTIVE PLASTIC SEALING LAYER
150 MM POLYSTYRENE INSULATION
VAPOUR BARRIER
400 MM BUBBLEDECK CONCRETE SLAB
REINFORCED CONCRETE, 315 MM PLASTIC HOLLOW ELEMENTS, CONCRETE CORE ACTIVATION, 70i.
INCLINED WASTE WATER BASIN

SWIMMING POOL

WATERPROOFING LAYER

20 MM LEVELING SCREED WITH ANGLE FILLET

10 MM EPOXY LIGHT COLOURED FINISH

RUBBER WATERSTOP EXPANSION JOINT

300/400 MM REINFORCED CONCRETE

WATERPROOFING LAYER

20 MM LEVELING SCREED WITH ANGLE FILLET

10 MM EPOXY LIGHT COLOURED FINISH

CONCRETE BLOCKING

6 MM STAINLESS STEEL GUTTER

WATERPROOFING LAYER

70/400 MM REINFORCED CONCRETE

20 MM LEVELING SCREED

10 MM EPOXY LIGHT COLOURED FINISH

50/55 MM STEEL L-PROFILE

15/30 MM EXPOSED AGGREGATED CONCRETE FINISH

50 MM FLOOR HEATING IN SCREED

SEPERATING LAYER

40 MM SOUND IMPACT INSULATION

200 MM REINFORCED CONCRETE

6 MM STAINLESS STEEL GUTTER

WATERPROOFING LAYER

70/400 MM REINFORCED CONCRETE

20 MM LEVELING SCREED

10 MM EPOXY LIGHT COLOURED FINISH

50/55 MM STEEL L-PROFILE
CLIMATE DESIGN

Airconditioning handling units on roof one for swimming pools and one for other functions as foyer cafe and sports. One in the basement in mechanical installation area.

Waste water reuse by filtering. Waste water and fresh water basins available for preconditioning the water before used in swimming pools and other uses.

Sustainable design of fragment with natural pond and filtering (and recycling) the Lake Michigan water by constructed wetlands.
Ventilation distribution is through the raised flooring roof to the airconditioning rooms. The air intake goes through the walls to prevent suspended ceilings or mechanical installations in sight.
Concrete core activation in the cast concrete floors provide for constant temperature in the building. The floor heating is for extra heating and warm floors in bare feet areas. Cooling can be necessary in cooler areas. The Lake Michigan water temperature is used by a heatpump system.
To come as close to a natural environment, the specific odor of chlorine and skin/eye irritation is not wanted. The watertreatment system is sustainable and without acids or chemicals. Sphagnum moss and a ozone filter are used to treat the water. Waste water will be reused.
The Lake Michigan water is polluted. To be able to swim in the pond, the water needs to be filtered. The clean water can be flowed back in the Lake.
MATERIAL AND ELEVATION