Garfield Park community church

Merijn van Leeuwen
1 | Chicago and Garfield Park
2 | the west side crack
3 | Garfield Park community church
4 | from masterplan to design
Chicago and Garfield Park

- Garfield Park
- the Loop
over 90% African-American population
over 40% living under federal poverty level
highest number of crime reports (2015)
“Chicago most segregated city of USA”
CNN, january 5th 2016
Segregation
Gentrification
prevent displacement of current inhabitants
The west side crack
Vacancy and abandoned property

36% vacant or abandoned
Clusters in dispar

low income
high crime rate
abandonment
The Garfield Park crack

- DANCE SCHOOL
- MUSIC SCHOOL
- SPORTS FACILITY
- PARK
- OFFICE
- PLAYGROUND
- PUBLIC COMMUNITY CENTER
- SHOPS AND GROCERY STORES
- URBAN FARMING
- STAGE FOR PERFORMING ARTS
- RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY CENTER
- MIXED INCOME HOUSING
We are like a barrel of crabs: If one can get ahead, you don’t try to encourage that person to move ahead, You snatch him back down.

-Eddy
Social issues

“Who taught you to hate your own kind? Who taught you to hate the race that you belong to so much so that you don’t want to be around each other?”

- malcolm X 5th May 1962
I’ve seen the promised land...I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the promised land.

-Martin Luther King
Sunday truce

unwritten agreement that prohibits the use of violence against rival gang members or other enemies on Sunday.

Never on no Sunday.

- The wire
Religion as stepping stone for collaboration
Dilapidated churches

75% of Garfield park is religious
New community church

Catholic church ± 250 p.
Baptist church ± 175 p.
Presbyterian church ± 125 p.
West Garfield Park

47% vacant
intersecting gang zones
Original Masterplan

0. original intervention area
Rethinking

1. rethinking intervention area
West Garfield Park

2. densification & thinning
West Garfield Park

3. breaking the grid
The West Garfield Park crack
Garfield Park community church
Design
The shared social significance of food in African American communities will be the first step in collaboration.
Ecumenical space is a place where the focus is on the similarities in different religious beliefs.
In intervention zone are 200 single mothers with 600 children living below poverty line.
“The house of god does not necessarily mean to be ornate, but certainly should be strikingly beautiful ... a church can resemble normal housing, but wouldn’t you think god lives in the nicest house of the neighborhood?”

-S.J. Schloeder
classical church
Design

connecting three churches
Design

ecumencial space
Design

inner facade - outer facade
Design

differentiation
Title

emphasize cross shape
expand on volume design
Design

restaurant - kitchen - offices
Design

tower - communal functions
Exterior expression
Exterior expression
Exterior expression
Exterior expression
Exterior design

facade section
Exterior design
Exterior design
Exterior design
Design
Building design
Building design

- ground level
-0.9 m
-1.8 m
Climate design

kitchen  installation  ecumenical  churches
offices  room  space
“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. “

Matthew 16:18
Construction
Ecumenical space
church design

classic medieval church

Fr. Reinhold ideal modern church

reinterpretation of historic and modern
church design

classic medieval church

Fr. Reinhold ideal modern church

reinterpretation of historic and modern

Fr. Reinhold sitting for full participation

reinterpretation of historic and modern
1. pews
2. lectern
3. choir
4. chapel
5. confessional
6. sanctuary
7. apse
8. altar
9. credence table
10. narthex
11. storage
12. sacristy (2nd floor)
13. organ (2nd floor)
14.ducts
15. ecumenical space
16. food table
“…wonderful and uninterrupted light [...] pervading the interior with beauty and (urging) us onward from the material to the immaterial.

- Abbot Suger, 1140/1141
Illumination
Illumination
Construction
Interior
from masterplan to design
original masterplan
Proposed masterplan

Cemetery
education centre
obama presidential centre
halfwayhouse
prison
housing
urban market / farming
hip hop centre
social bridge
Garfield Park community church