Reflection of the Market to Museum project

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Research and design

Our urban design strategy is based on the urban research of South Chicago. South Works has been a vacant land since the steel company tore down their steel mills on this spot in 1992, which has a devastating impact on the surrounding neighborhood in terms of employment, public safety and urban environment. So our proposal is aimed at solving the neighborhood problem and develop the site at the same time. The main idea of our master plan development is "Growing" which means a transformation from agriculture production to urban development. At first place we use urban farming as a catalyst because it's low cost, easy to do and flexible. Then step by step we develop various programs which can still benefit from the urban farming landscape. After maybe 40 years it will finally become a mixed-use neighborhood which combines working, living and farming.

The development of the architecture project is also based on this dynamic process. The building will change its programs according the different phases of the master plan. At first it is a warehouse combined with market hall, which can directly help with the food dessert problem in South Chicago. After about 20 years when South work become a more attractive and accessible place for the rest part of Chicago, a museum program will then be added and combined with the market and warehouse. The museum will be a part of the Chicago lake shore public features. In short, at first the building is directly focus on farming storage and selling, and finally it will be transformed to farming exhibition, education and branding. The idea of the building is strongly connected with the idea of the urban development. In term of architecture, the main structure will stand in the first phase, which is the roof truss structure supported by the existing ore wall. The existing wall is a strong
and historical element on the site. And the roof is not only the main structure but also provide a big space between the existing walls at first place. Then the rest part of the building "grow" based on the roof, which is the exhibition boxes and the roof gardens. And all these elements create a unique feature which is the strong contrast between the black volumes on the ground and the white volumes hovering on top of it.

For the people passing by, the building appears as a sculpture like volume fit on top of the horizontal ore wall, which is a contrast between old and new. In the west end where the building is facing the lake shore drive, the big open plaza and glass facade are going to give people the feeling of welcoming and lead them into the building. And when people come inside, they can experience the contrast of spaces and materials. The market space on the ground floor is free and open, which makes it possible for people to meet each other and have all different activates. On first floor there is the exhibition rooms for museum, where you can look down at the market and warehouse on the ground floor, but in a more interior environment.

**Studio and my work**

The theme of the studio is the complexity of urban environment and architecture development. On one hand, the site is located in Chicago which is an international city with an ambition to brand itself in the coming future. On the other hand, the site is surrounded by a problematic neighborhood where the regular development mode failed to work.

Instead of having a static master plan, our group theme is to propose a dynamic developing process. We develop the phasing during 40 years of development which can benefit the neighborhood and attract new residents at all stages of the development. For the individual architecture project it also relate itself to different phases of the development. The programs of the building keep changing and they are based on the need of both local people and visitors.

In terms of architecture our topic is more related to the existing historical heritage of the site which is reminder of the industrial history of the site. The massive ore used to be a part of the transportation system of the steel industry. In our master plan the
area near the four 700 meters long ore wall will be transformed to a agriculture
theme park which combined the public programs and landscape features. As the
farmland in our site will be replaced by urban development, the central farming park
is where we keep out theme of urban farming at the final stage of development. It
will be a place for the public to get close to the farming practice and all the
information and research. The ore wall from the early time will be a strong landscape
feature that can work together with the idea of farming park. The architecture
project is also located at this area.

In my building project the ore wall is also one of the most important element. The
new volume and old wall compose a strong contrast with each other and also
indicate the different types of space and program.

The method of the studio is based on the urban analysis. The aim is to have a
continuous story line from big scale of urban development to small scale of
architectural design. Our group urban design project provide the programmatic and
spatial condition for the architecture project. Firstly the market program is connected
with the theme or urban farming. Secondly the idea of transformation of program is
based on the different phases of urban development. Finally the existing ore wall act
as an important element both in urban design and architecture project.

Wider social context

The urban project can be reference for future develop on similar former industrial
sites in US or other countries as a combination of neighborhood improvement and
urban development. It also offers a study of urban agriculture development which is
an interesting topic of the future urbanization. In our strategy urban farming is not
only considered as a goal but also as a flexible process which can be the starting
point of new urban development.

The development of building can be seen as an experiment to think about the
building as a process. The change of program of the building offer more possibilities
for both developer and users. So the development of the building can be realized in a
more flexible way. More generally it can be seen as providing different types of space
in one building and each type can be used for various programs.