The youth center in Garfield Park neighborhood

Introduction
As one part of the whole group work of Garfield Park, the project is situated near the Kediz-green station, studio study is focus on situation and history of Chicago, Garfield Park neighborhood and African American people. The segregation of city and scarcity of community facility made the project really in need and also hard to design. From 1: 20000 to 1:10 scale, the project develop in aspects of urban morphology, typology and building technology.

Based on research, the site (1:1000) on Garfield Park masterplan (1: 20000)
The early sociology Chicago school study (fig.1) made Chicago into a “semicircle” radiation morphology, and the local tend to live by race and social class cut Chicago into pieces.

Fig.1 Chicago School study of the archetype of Chicago (metropolis)
Public facility and resources are centralizing on rich area such as the Loop, while the poor area like the Garfield Park and south Chicago are vacant and abandon. So new facilities should enable local residents to get access to the better education, health and job chances, besides it is also efficient and economize. So a string of intervention projects are mending the city pieces, which are located from green line station to the Metra. (Fig.2)

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Fig. 2 A string of intervention projects.

From the GP Neighborhood to the project
For my project, the segregation in Chicago resulted in the place where children born and grow up decides if they will be succeed or loser. If they are guided well, the future of Garfield Park will become much promising. Therefore, I concentrate on the target group of youth, and create a safe place for local youth to study or play after the school time and on weekends, that is a youth center. As the social survey determines the program the youth center, then urban morphology, surrounding and typology influence the architectural plan, elevation and facade. The building is efficient, safe and longer-standing, so the main structure is concrete and steel. In order to create a homey, warm and modest character, the precast timber cladding, concrete floor slabs, walls etc. are applied, which also work for indoor and outdoor climates. To save energy and provide a better inner climate, when some parts of building are not used, it is close. As the program is working with the whole neighborhood, when the whole place becomes integrated, it will be used more effectively. To create a better activity space and respond to the environment, the building also blocks the traffic noise and dangers, which protects the youth from risk, enable them to gain network, ability and chances. In a word, the project is aim to develop the youth a positive social and educational quality, hopefully it is like an injection, schools, family and community are improves as well.

Conclusion
To critique my project and myself, I think the project took a longer period. It spent me a long time on the research and determining the program, especially when I consider about if the program will have effects. In terms of the impact of the program, it will work in the long term but will be lasting. Many people hold the opinion that neighborhood such as Garfield Park has severe problem and hard to solve, if the family has more money or cares about children growth, they will move to a better neighborhood. So there are less and poorer family left, government also has made less improvement,
for the urban planning, even the UIC campus moved away from the troubled area. But if a program such as youth center works like the injection, the change will happen in future. When I did survey and case study, I found the social program such as "urban warrior" in Chicago also has the same sequence that has study and social program supported by community, volunteer and sponsors. The shortage of the program is just like some part of my research and study method, the project will not have feedback immediately but to look ahead, especially when the local youth behave well and contribute to the GP in return. People have to imagine, in decades, the GP would will be totally integrated as the segregated chain is broken.

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2 "urban warrior", http://www.ymcachicago.org/blog/entry/ymca-of-metro-chicagos-urban-warriors-featured-on-chicago-tonight-3-18/#