

EDGE PHENOMENON. SIX FACILITIES OF SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Assemblage of Subjectivation:

The theoretical foundation of our diploma project, is based on an altermodern Understanding of urban space as well as a relational thinking of its inhabiting agents and material environment.

Our thesis starting point for our essentially strategic, conceptual urban critique, was the announcement of the 2010 European Competition "Designing the Edge: From Harbour to LivingSpace" for the City of Copenhagen. The post-industrial "Nordhavn" harbourscape shall be reintegrated into the urban fabric as a new quarter for 40.000 people, thereby supporting the city's aim to become the first carbonneutral capital in the world in 2025.

Our project is formally based on the recently announced masterplan competition design by COBE, Sleth and Rambøll. After a substantial analysis of the site and masterplan, we decided to drop the competition subject due to something more interesting discovered concerning the aspect of social sustainability of this new habitat.

Instead, we problematised the proposal and thereupon initialised rather a meta-discussion about the urban plan itself and the urban spaces and their different social relevance of greater or lesser extend it aroused.

Conceiving of the plan as an abstract machine, we simulated, how it will work and elaborated which social elements it will associate and put into relation. In an approach of spatial dramatisation, locating zones of utmost urban intensity, we created a network of new public programs and structures.

THE FACILITY NETWORK IS COMPOSED OF A "STAGE-ALLOTMENTS WATERFRONT", THE "PILE-DWELLING CITY", THE "EMBASSY OF INNOVATION", AN "URBAN FITNESS TRAIL", THE "BLACK BOARD MARKET" AND THE "ECO-CACHING FREE SCHOOL".

They incorporate different aspects of social, ecological and economical sustainability and urban communality, to critically bring about an urban design strategy, that facilitates sustainable acting for the inhabitants. This facilitation seems still to be an architectural edge phenomenon.

Trying to break up the public-private-dichotomy, we wanted to offer common facilities for spontaneous and selforganised action, to offer space for a new kind of subjectivation, which facilitates a culturally and socially effective cohabiting

That is why we conceive of our facilities like Foucault's "dispositives", which suit actual forms of life in the newly constituted modes of production. By enabling the possibility to interconnect and interact it repeats the contemporary biopolitical needs.

1) The "Stage-Allotment-Waterfront" is a converted old dock promenade, breed with private water-related housing and informally supported art district. Dispersed across the promenade, allottable structures are located for personal presentation and appropriation (galleries, studios, balconies, allottment gardens). Space thus is been filled with life, by individual spontaneous action and expression. This is enhanced by a outdoor beach-theater in front of two old silo remains.

2) To avoid a grey typical commercial quarter, we interfered the scheduled area by extending the harbour bassins underneath these buildings, in order to create an urban swimming pond. The lakeshore buildings repeat pre-modern living typologies of value creation and, being planned as combined residential and work cross-generation community dwellings, enable a dense and diversly mixed neighbourhood. "The Pile-Dwelling City" thus creates an extensively usable outdoor related riparian waterscape amongst its swimming-, sedimentation- and cleaning-ponds and wooden walkways.

3) The "Embassy of Invention" is located next to a planned cruise terminal, that tourist will pass by on their way into the city. The potential of exposing the Innovation of the new quarter, we established a forest of invention which replaces the scheduled theme park and tourist information. A forest settlement with subsidised studios offering accomodation for inventors, fellowship holders, bloggers, and others "ambassadors", allows curious visitors to get into contact with the inhabitants. It is communicational exchange with is the particular potential of this spot.

4) Instead of a planned stadium, we designed the "Urban Fitness Patch" to offer more types of sports and active movement for more persons. The sport fields can be booked online and allocated by interactive electroluminescent projection on different areas of decking. Embedded in an open accessible fruit orchard, the meadow also allows more casual activities like children's rollick, kicking around, or doing Tai Chi or having a barbeque.

5) The "Black Board Market" is a low-cost greenhouse. A spaceframe containing a programmatic mixture between a market, a bioreactor, warmhouse and garage. Space and are offered for rent for individually organised services (i.e. 20 qm space and chairs for offering a sewing lesson on friday evening, or just a flea market stand). The weekly market is also held here, as well as local assemblies, dancing schools or other events. A computerbased system organises the timetable, and corordinate-based allocation of the space. The greenhouse warming minimises warming-energy in winter, the biomass produced balances the ecological footprint and financial investments of the building furthermore.

6) An adjacent salt marsh prompted us to thematise the aspect of ecological heritage of post-industrial landscapes. It triggered the establishment of an educational facility of knowlegde exchange. Thus our programmatic proposal the "Eco-Caching Free School" invokes and reuses the vernacular insular danish friskole-system, so classrooms are sourced out to the class teachers house. The school building itself contains the specialist rooms for science and technology, which are bundled which educational facilities for grown-up and the elderly, libraries, seminar rooms and an auditorium which can also function as a small townhall. Gathering knowledge for example by pupil-led guidances across the nature reserves, pathfinding, geo-caching, ecology seminars pp., would facilitate a ecology based education of growing children with a retraining and skill enhancement of people moved to nordhavn. For sustainability is rather an attitude, than an attribute! We think, to establish Nordhavn as cutting-edge development of sustainable urbanism, it is about facilitating sustainable acting rather than building.

By creative living environments we understand the entire contemporary city. The city is for us today, what the factory has been for industrialisation – including similar questions concerning supply, living and working conditions, balance of work and life activities. But in todays biopolitical city production is everywhere. And:

"Actually, the production of the common is becoming nothing else, than city life itself." HARDT/NEGRI: COMMONWEALTH, 2009, S. 251. This common is becoming the main source for the creation of common wealth, knowledge and culture. In the newly constituted modes of production, that include information, codes, knowledge, images and affects, producers need an increasing degree of freedom an access to the common, especially in its social manifestations like communication networks, information pools or cultural circuits.

Innovation depends on the ability, to put oneself in touch with others. The ultimate core of biopolitical production might be the production of subjectivity (instead of "identity") and hence in the resulting common body. From this point of view, the role of the architect consists in providing space for free collective appropriation to convey social action and interaction. Because social sustainability will be need to be constantly constructed.