POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2 Degree in Architecture Honors theses

The International Design Competition for Environment Art Forum in Annaka

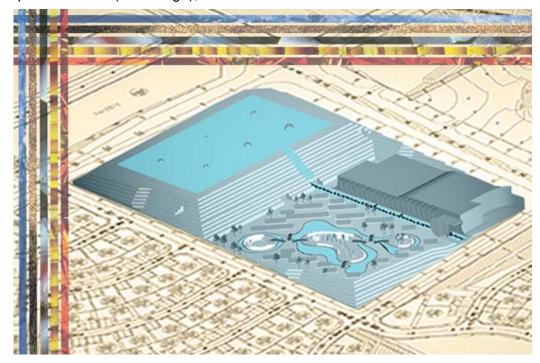
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My thesis's theme is an international design competition published on internet in 2002. The propounder of this competition is the city of Annaka, prefecture of Gunma, Japan. The site of the competition is near the Annaka-Haruna station. It is the central part of a large residential area, the project of which yet exists at the moment of the competition. The competition's aim is to realize a project which can give soul and visibility to Annaka. Besides it is important that the designer respects the site's nature.

Owing to a geographical, climatological and historical Japan and Gunma's analysis I decided the principal points of my project. These are the Japanese garden's culture and the Japanese idea that the garden is the tie between man and the god of nature; and the Feng Shui.

I get into the competition site changing as less as possible the present situation. The site is composed by an 8000 squared metres area (286m high) and another one of 11010 squared metres (276m high), between these two there is a third area with 12% slope.

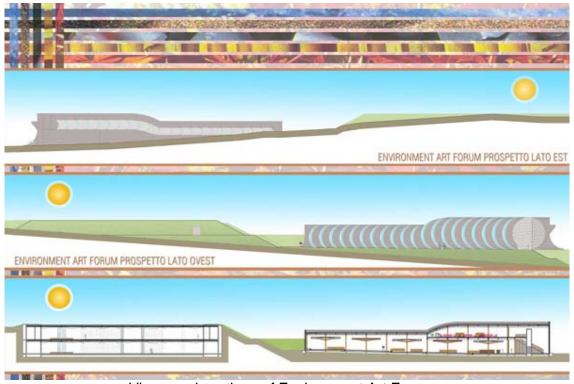


3D model of Environment Art Forum

The project is made of three parts:

- 1. an exposition building, totally buried and with a water roof
- 2. a bar-restaurant
- 3. an open exhibition garden

Project's principal axis is a dark grey granite path surrounded by water.



Views and sections of Environment Art Forum

1. The conference hall is two floors buried building. The entrance is at the end of the path. Once inside the user can decide his course: enter in the conference hall or continue for the exhibition hall.

The conference hall is 20 x 14m and can receive 156 people as maximum. The administration's offices surround it.

The exhibition hall is on two floors and is characterised by well placed panels, which can give hospitality both to unique exhibitions and multi session exhibitions.

The entire building is surrounded by a large air space which represents the escape way in case of danger.

The first floor has a balcony in its centre, which allow the show of the entrance. It is almost totally occupied by the exhibition hall.

At this floor there are the driveway.

2. The restaurant. It is a two floors building, and it is draw attention to itself for its lengthen shape and its particular windows.

The main characteristic of this building is the main floor, it follow the ground course. So the dining room's floor has a 2% slope.

In the dining-room the tables are arranged under some big "umbrella", to cancel the effect of loss due by the floor's slope from the mind of users, Each of these umbrella correspond to a plane floor circle.

On the backside there are the kitchens and the secondary entrance.

The first floor, entirely occupied by a bar, is smaller then the main floor.

Entering the user can notice that the bar is marked by a hidden bar-bench, and by three different kind of arranged tables instead of the number of people which have to sit on them.

The kitchens also in this case are in the east side of the building.

3. The garden with open-air exhibition is full of exposition panels, which are pieces of bamboo fences. This kind of garden fences are typical of Japanese tradition. These have double function of exposition panels and of garden's protection from the sight of the streets. As a matter of fact behind the panels there is a lake with three isles, that are the real gardens of the project. The users can arrive to the isles by wooden bridge. Each of these represent one of the aim of the project: ENVIRONMENT, attention for environment (relax garden); ART, a project to give vitality to Annaka (mirror's garden); FORUM, a meeting place (amphitheatre garden).



Ground-floor plan of Environment Art Forum

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