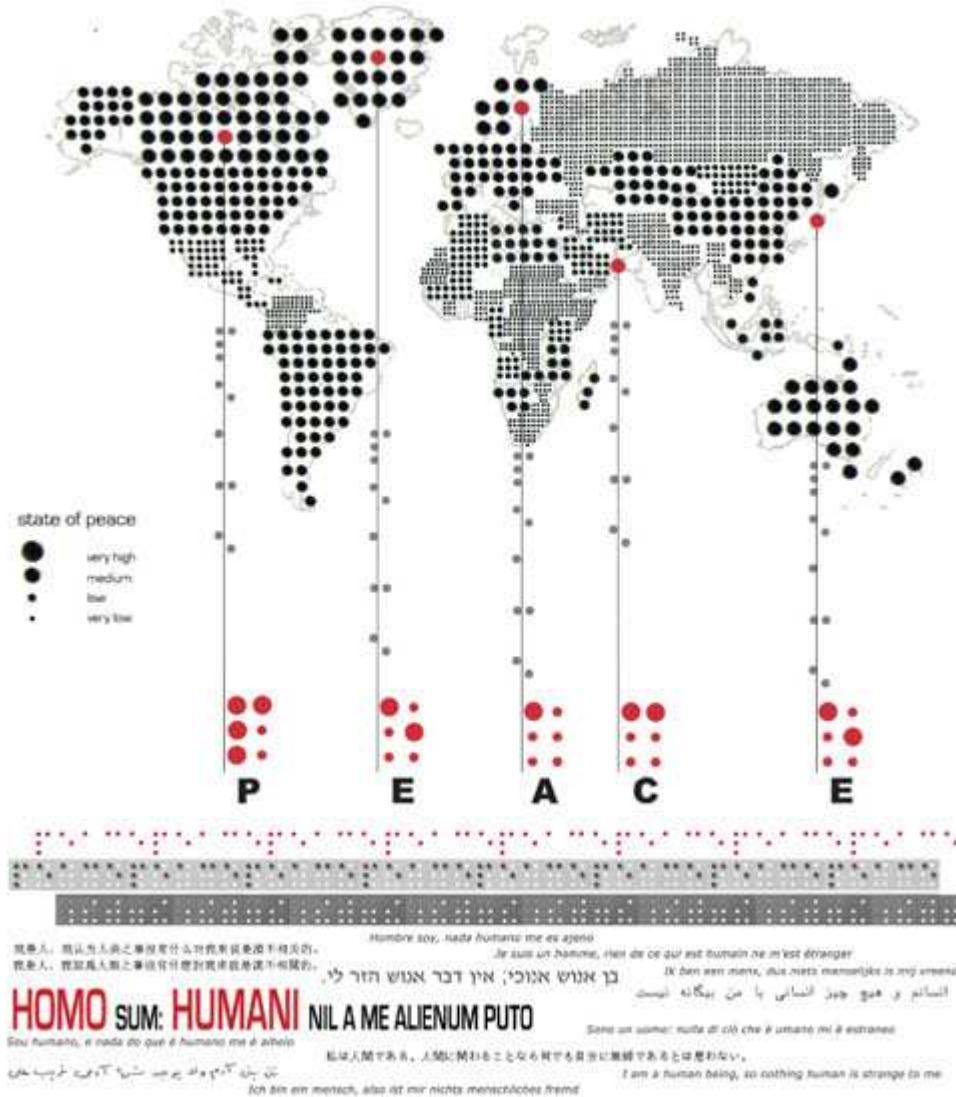


POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Sos NY _ Save the Overview of Sustainability

Peace Pentagon Competition: a call to action:
contest for new functions of a landmark in NoHo, New York City
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Concept

Thanks to the website "Europaconcorsi" we found the "Peace Pentagon: a call to action" contest which proposes two themes that we strongly support: the sustainable approach design and the opportunity to send a strong message through architecture. The building which we've been asked to work on is on 339th Lafayette Street, Noho, Manhattan.

The reason why we chose such theme for the thesis is, partially, the willing of face a challenge: we went abroad, before the ending of our academic path, to look out previously unknown, and even more intriguing scenarios.

Facing a metropolis such NYC added an amount of variables to keep under control: the extremely multiethnic environment and the huge differences, not only at neighborhood level but also on a lower scale, from block to block, make the contextual sociological evaluations extremely relevant.

Our work is based on three parts, useful to the contest first, to the inspection then, and in the end to the choice of a proper scale that allows us to represent the project in the most effective way.

"Integration" is a term that has constantly accompanied us during the project's procedure.

Integration with what already exists: having to work on a building from 1922, the link between old and new and the balance between the different parts turn out to represent a big issue for the structure's overall choices.

Integration of functions: public and community duties have to coexist with offices' areas, fostering the dialogue between the associations working in the "Peace Pentagon" and the district's people.

Social integration: the chance to freely use some spaces authorizes the natural creation of meeting places, that allow a cultural exchange among a variety of users. The prescriptions given by the contest promoters, who were part of the voluntary association "Friends of 339", were clear-cut, even though they contained different necessities that could seem to be in contrast with each other.

There were three goals: to offer visibility to the building, giving the chance to the functions inside, which were rich in ethical and moral meanings because they were militant associations for a peaceful world, to be recognized from the outside; to give the possibility to be autonomous when it came to energy, in order not to bear heavily on the environmental impact; to have reduced costs so as to not weigh down on the economic run of the residing associations, and to continue to be able to allow a usage of the common spaces which is free and open to everybody.



Isometric cross-section, longitudinal section

The announcement was related to a series of documents showing the various structural problems that the building carries back.

We are witnessing the desire for greater visibility, through the introduction of elements of peace propaganda, thus fueling the common interest without compromising the functionality of the building.

The aim of not weighing down on the environmental impact, achieved using energy from renewable sources, a proper management of the use of water saving and the introduction of innovative technologies for zero impact, does not just "obey" to the recent U.S. laws indications regarding the annual consumption of each building and "green policies" implemented by Barack Obama, but remains in line with the concept of fairness that the associations want to convey.

As for the guidelines to follow in the field of restoration in the United States, with the establishment of the NoHo Historic District, an area designated as urban historic district, much progress has been made with regard to compliance with the historic buildings. In parallel with this attitude, the desire to make the functionality and urban malleable to the needs of different ages exists alongside.

In technology, the law applies to LEED energy savings.



Ideological composition and overall view

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