

Silver 2008 Europe

Temporary urban extension in a former landfill, Maribor, Slovenia

Project data

Type of project Landscape design
Estimated start of construction June 2010

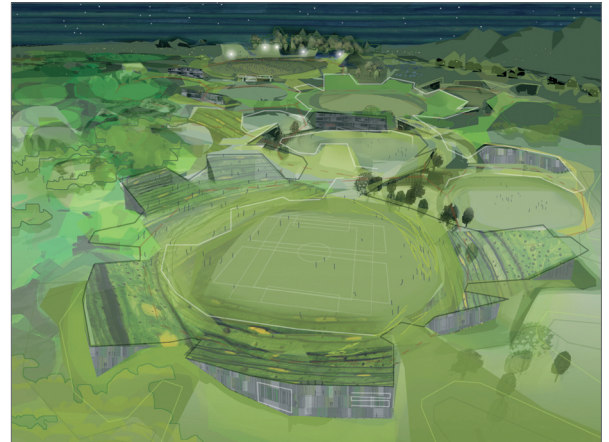
Main author

Name Belinda Tato
Profession Architect
Organization ecosistema urbano
City/Country Madrid, Spain



Further author(s) & legal guardian(s)

Further authors: 1. **Vallejo, Jose Luis**, Architect, ecosistema urbano, Madrid, Spain; 2. **Hurtado, Constantino**, Engineer, ecosistema urbano, Madrid, Spain; 3. **Garcia Setien, Diego**, Architect, ecosistema urbano, Madrid, Spain



Night view of the new urban extension in a former landfill.

Comment of the Holcim Awards jury Europe

The project's notoriety lies in its ecological and social qualities as well as its transferability and economic efficiency. The basic idea of revitalizing an existing municipal waste dumping area is unique. The project creates an elevated landscape shaped in large circles that will host manifold sports, recreation and cultural facilities for public use. The planned housing units surrounding the multi-use spaces are designed as earth shelters and therefore will be completely integrated into the landscape with a minimum consumption of energy and materials.

The striking concept includes, in addition to traditional architectural and landscaped elements, the dimension of time as a further design parameter. All buildings and the newly landscaped areas are temporary and designed for relocation and reuse. Such a design approach is visionary and innovative. It fits many other similar situations especially in emerging countries where waste is often disposed in a rather unprofessional way. Overall it is a very smart and economically-efficient solution for the reuse of an otherwise lost and abandoned territory.

Project description by author

The site in the Pobrezje district (Maribor) is the municipal waste dumping area, currently in the phase of ecological renaturalization and rehabilitation, which will take several years to be consolidated. We take this temporary feature as the project's leitmotif, since temporary processes are very close to architecture.

We understand architecture as a reversible process, that due to its slowness, requires the capacity of anticipation and the use of a strategic thought, including the time dimension as a necessary project material. We think that the architectural project is a plan to manage the built object's life, so we are interested in architecture which is projected for construction and also for dismantling.

We occupy the site for a short period of time. For this, a temporary landscape is artificially built on the flat land, creating a new building level (+2.5m) on which it is possible to build temporary structures. This new topography generates differently-sized enclosures or rings, on whose perimeters different buildings are constructed.

These rings contain open air green areas, sometimes dedicated to communal spaces linked to the residential dwellings, and others creating multipurpose venues of bigger size, ready to accommodate different public programs (fairs, concerts, sport facilities, etc.), linked to public services buildings.

Relevance to target issues by author

Quantum change and transferability

This innovative temporary solution for the period of time of renaturalization can be efficient enough to be applied at some other landfills with the same time need for regeneration. The industrialized housing elements can also provide a quick solution for low cost housing that can also be reversible.

Ethical standards and social equity

Maribor centre is only 2km away from the site. This means the new service area will not only attract foreign visitors, but also bring them to Maribor. Mariborians will have the complex as a local point of interest, where they can share diverse programs in open space with other citizens, or foreigners.

It will include collective residential units, set on artificial hills around green areas, as semi-enclosed spaces, easily controlled by the community landscape. Neighbors and inhabitants of the new settlement will use it in a domestic way. Children will meet there, playing in front of their own home.

Ecological quality and energy conservation

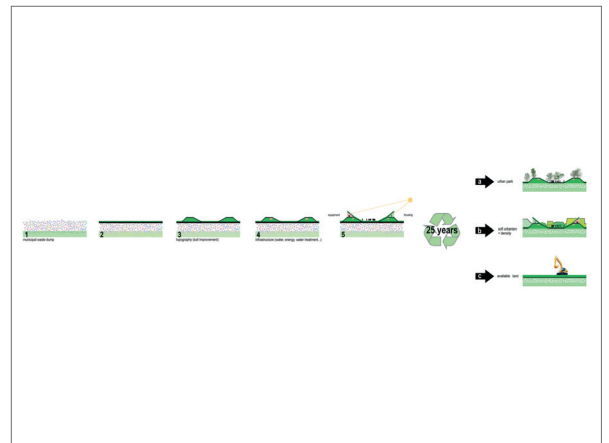
The new settlement involves an ecological, sustainable and bioclimatical development. Non-permanent building will be set on the non-permanent artificial topography, under green flaps constructed like earth shelters and closed by glazed surfaces, taking the greenhouse architecture as model. All the houses are composed by 3D components, containing different home facilities (kitchen, bathroom, etc), arranged and selected according to their specific needs by the owner. Criteria applied are: earth-sheltered solar housing, characterized by thermal stability and energy efficiency. Earth embankment moderates the adjacent environment, reducing the temperature drop. Passive solar glasshouse configurations will be used to warm up living spaces. Passive cooling is provided by a subterranean network of air pipes.

Economic performance and compatibility

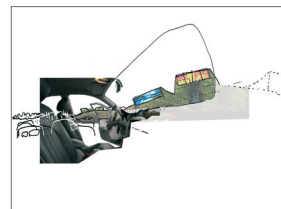
The project is a geographical attraction of regional interest. The motorway infrastructure will be used as a communication channel. People driving by will be tempted to join any activity announced on the highway signs. The complex will be a "five star" service area, where travelers can find different programs. It will bring growth and additional programs and will create more intense social relations.

Contextual and aesthetic impact

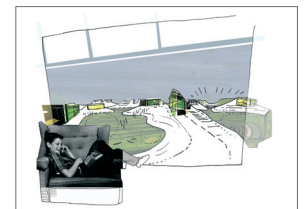
The architecture will be blended into landscape blurring the limits between natural and artificial. The artificial topography will provide thermal comfort and allow different kinds of vegetation to grow in different orientations.



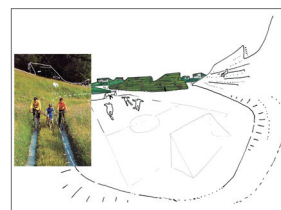
Strategy plan for the next 25 years after renaturalization.



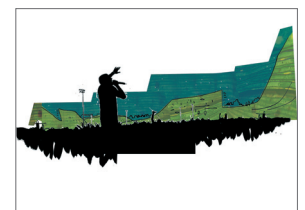
Driver view.



View from home.



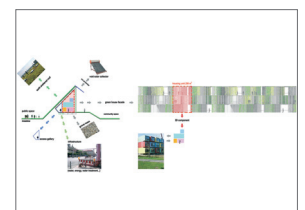
Bicycle lanes.



Cultural events.



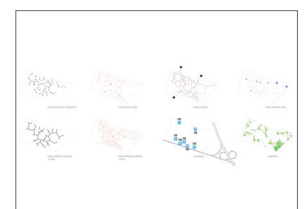
Information at the highway.



Light industrialized housing.



Plan of proposal.



Detail plan of proposal.