

Project: The Community Hub

Introduction

The project is a social reintegration system for newcomers, mainly immigrants, as a response to currently accelerating migration issues. The main building is a 'community hub.' The goal is to understand and analyze the current aspects that hamper the reintegration of migrants, and overlooked social, economic, and spatial aspects; subsequently, provide a breath of fresh air, maybe even in an unorthodox manner, to create a perceptive and innovative way of social integration. Additionally, for this study, New York is a reasonable place, as a laboratory. The diversity of the population, urban fabric, and the intensity of population movements in New York give access to opportunities for economic and social integration.

Project Plan and Proceedings

'The Cloud System', is a combination of buildings that stand against the camps, and clusters; it detects operable empty spaces and vacant lots in metropolitan areas based on a benchmark of several parameters (safety, diversity, distance from the city, recreational spaces, infrastructure, social facilities, and services), then finds the 'soft spots' to locate housing units and social buildings such as community centers. This combination of buildings at specific locations blend in a city without any conspicuity, due to clusters' unintended or uncalculated way of subconsciously aiding the differentiation of its inhabitants in urban memory. However, it is not to be located in places where the city is the busiest. To avoid the culture shock and the extreme level of hecticness and craziness in the city, the downtowns or the 'hearts' of the cities are avoided for the initial placements. On the other hand, it is also historically fallacious to locate them too further away from the city and the city's infrastructure, as the clusters and camps are proven to be insufficient in the long term.

Community Hub is the social component of the project

The form of the building and outside staircases with the roof access provides another street to the public. The interactive facade that can be changed seasonally or programmatically allows the users to take ownership of the building and it provides a new level of urban engagement. The entire building is there for the community to change over time and use its openness and unfinishedness to enhance its belongingness and integration. Lastly, the canopy creates a sense of half transparent and half protected area with sun and shade games on the street level, while holding the solar panels to create renewable energy.

The programs in the building are to engage newcomers and the host community in cultural activities, educational improvements, language learning, job training, and legal aid. Moreover, the daycare classrooms and the playground are protected with semi walls and glass walls as private places, but they are also before community's eyes, as Jane Jacob's eyes on the street ideas suggest, more public eyes will protect each other.