
Chapter Eight

Realizing The Project



“We firmly believe that in order for a building to be sustainable, it must be loved; it must touch the soul. People—not just the current owners, but future generations—must find enough value in a building to continue to occupy and maintain it. Some of this is aesthetic, some performance, some economics. The Roman architect Vitruvius told us that buildings must have “Firmness, Commodity and Delight”. True today more than ever.”

- David Arkin



Eight • *The Final Design*

• **Creation of a Common Ground**

The community complex begins with entry into the central axis pathway. Upon this pathway the user first interacts with the clinic, offices and pre-function building. The offices will be used on a daily basis for the purpose of running 'Children of the Nations' and the pre-function building will provide a large gathering space for volunteer groups to meet and become introduced to the many amazing things and people they will meet whilst within Barahona working with 'Children of the Nations'.

The Clinic functions on a daily basis and employs the design of a permanent and moveable form. The larger building houses four private physician rooms that will be open to the public. The module form will be situated upon the site, but at certain times will be moved off site via truck in order to become a unit for disaster response or to be situated within a Batey for a certain amount of time. The integration of this module form into the Bateys will allow for the daily care of many children and adults who currently do not have this care offered to them.

The heart of the community complex lies within the

center of the site upon the south-west axis path. It consists of three sectors: the community hall, the dining hall, and the activity pods. The large program for the communal space needed for this complex is carefully divided to provide numerous buildings of different functions, but all relating to the community needs within interior spaces. The community hall provides an indoor outdoor spaces that incorporates the modern interpretation of the Malecon. This hall provides a large open space for many functions for all ages. The roof incorporates a large clerestory allowing natural light and airflow through this large building, but also creating a new form of an indoor environment.

The library is designed as a permanent building with two re-moveable modules. The two modules house a small scale library which can be transported into the Bateys and Barrios. This library becomes important to 'Children of the Nations' as this programmatic function is currently not available through the organization or within the villages. Both may be removed and placed together to create a larger module library, or each may be removed separately at different times of the year to house small module libraries. The interior of the Library is designed to house a permanent collection of resources and books for the users of the

community complex. The entrance opens into an open space which leads back into the book stacks, and finishes within a reading section, which looks onto the greenery outside.

'I Love Baseball' calls for a building that can provide a large facility space for the program and users. This program runs within 'Children of the Nations' to provide young boys with the chance to follow their dreams in baseball, but at the same time teaching them the education that some go without. This building is situated next to a full size professional baseball field, which will be used on a daily basis by the program and their volunteers. Housing will also be provided for the ILB children, teenagers, employees and volunteers.

The Housing Units are defined within a unit system. Each unit is eight houses in tota. Each module housing Pod sleeps a total of twelve people. Each unit is designed around the street culture concept and the modern interpretation of the Malecon. Within the exterior spaces, users are encouraged to grow vegetables and fruits and engage in other social activities. The pathways created through the housing create a large enough space to enjoy as a social space. The housing pods are connected with a green trellis

which provides shading for the users to interact under, further encouraging the street culture within the community complex.

The community complex ends at sacred precinct within the large site design. Upon this sacred land is the chapel for the users of the site. This chapel symbolically represents a point of reflection for the user. The pathway upon the site ends at the point, where the user may sit and reflect back on their days or simple enjoy the presence of God. The outdoor/indoor space that is designed for this chapel also allows for the users to feel apart of nature and their natural surroundings. Forcing no view but the natural beauty of the site. The use of a clerestory roof represents a centralized light shaft and space for the pastor to preach his audience. This space becomes flexible to the needs of the people upon the site as well as creating a larger outdoor space to hold sermons and daily gatherings upon the reflection lawn. Each user's day begins and ends with the presence of God upon a newfound common ground; the sacred ground of a new neutrality.

The Office and Pre-Function Building

Fig. 8.1



The Clinic

Fig. 8.2



The Community Hall

Fig. 8.3



The Community Hall Interior

Fig. 8.4



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The Library

Fig. 8.5



The Library Interior

Fig. 8.6



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'I Love Baseball' Clubhouse

Fig. 8.7



The Housing Unit

Fig. 8.8



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The Housing Unit Interior Communal Space

Fig. 8.9



The Pathway to the Chapel

Fig. 8.10



The Chapel Interior

Fig. 8.11



The Reflection Lawn of The Chapel

Fig. 8.12





Eight • *Final Thesis Statement*

Within third world countries such as the Dominican Republic, it becomes clear through observation that architecture can only exist through permanence, stability, and common efforts of a community. Knowledge enables power, and providing knowledge through the proposed design of a community complex in Barahona, Dominican Republic, will create permanence and stability needed within the Batey communities. Through the design and creation of a newfound common ground, the social, cultural and economical problems will be allowed to resolve between the Haitian and Dominican inhabitants of Barahona. Architecture will become the bond between the existing cultural and social in differences between the people of the Dominican Republic. Architecture will become the identification of place.
