

7064 'Slant City' Ireland

Brief

A city in North America has been in serious decline since the 1940's due to the industrial and fishing industry has slowly closed down due to lack of competitiveness. This area has become abandoned, structurally unsafe and also ecologically damaging to the area. The cities council envisions an entire redevelopment of this central location and to transform the area into a modern and sustainable city centre. Their goals for the area were:

- To create an excellent public transport network throughout the city
- Create a central business, shopping and cultural hub
- Develop medium and high end living complexes in the centre
- To create large, green sustainable spaces for the city which will encourage biodiversity throughout the city

Concept

For a long time the decaying industrial skyline of the city has overshadowed the stunning country backdrop and lakeside frontage. The city councils vision to create a sustainable, eco friendly centre has allowed for a dramatic approach to redevelopment of a city centre.

The design proposal for Slant city is opposite of a conventional city design. Instead of working against nature, the restructured city is now working with it. Through the green ethos of the proposal, nature will work the redeveloped zone to bring a clean and healthy environment overall.

The central buildings are the first phase where green roofs will cover buildings. Green walls will be designed into the architecture of each building, immediately creating an environment to encourage biodiversity back to the area. Green roofs and walls have huge benefits for the buildings overall.

In the councils brief was the creation of large unique open spaces for the redeveloped centre. Public connections through excellent tram and underground rail line would bring vast numbers of people to this new business and cultural hub.

In the tram square, the decision to make it fully pedestrianised means that the road system runs underneath the square, which also connects to the underground car parking network for the shopping centre, theater and local museum. Pedestrianising the square has many spatial and ecological advantages. The main focal point of the design being the sloping seating area with outdoor screen/stage, creating a venue for people to gather for many cultural events. With restaurants, bars, the theater and a hooping centre the Tam sq will become the beacon for the cities large events.

Through the laneway connection to the Fish Market Square, there is a wall of colour, as a series of feature cables allow for plants and vines to grow to create a green connection above and below.

The Fish Market will become the cuisine of the area with restaurants, cafes and bars. The square keeps a hold of a part of its history by having a large market area. Surrounding this square is a large planting section that has huge value to the space by creating views and most importantly filtrating the storm water runoff from the surrounding area. All storm water runoff will flow into these natural filtrating beds where water is cleaned so it can be reused for the buildings in the centre or to flow back into the water system.

A strong central pathway through the centre of the square, leads people from the waterfront park all the way to the tram sq. This wide connection allow for an expanse of the market area and also for small performance spaces. The central water channel creates a tranquil relaxation zone near the museum. The location of the railway entrance connects people directly to the museum and also an easy visual connection to the surrounds areas.

The contemporary museum design being one of the catalysts for redevelopment for the centre is one of the strongest ecological areas in the city. Large expanse of water is to be home to a lot of wildlife whilst again naturally cleaning the surroundings runoff storm water. An ecological walkway is a place for interaction with the local ecology whilst being a

zone of education about the city's ecology. The museum gardens to the north side of the museum are to display outdoor sculpture and display information on the city's history. These quiet gardens are a perfect get away for visitors and workers of the museum, as well as the locals of the area.

The redevelopment of the lakeshore has brought about a contemporary boardwalk connection that runs all along the expanse of the lake waterfront. With the restoration of the large beach area, public facilities have been included in several locations all the waterfront to encourage people to the lake.

The vast space that was left unoccupied for so long has now allowed for the development of wide open lawn areas which can be used for many sports and play for the locals and visitors to the area. The beach front has also been given a feature play area where a sunken boardwalk down onto the beach wraps around it. This feature boardwalk allows those with physical disabilities to get to the sand level and get close to the water's edge, which were not accessible before. The mass low growing planting all along the beach front will be of importance to much of the local habitat.