

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION & DESIGN BRIEF **LAC RETBA**

Every project has to be based on a **concept**, as its rationale, is to convey an idea.

In this project, before we talk about concepts and ideas, let us tell a story: **The story of a place, and the people who inhabit it.**

This place is Pink Lake, located in Senegal in the African continent.

The Pink lake is located very near Dakar in a place of palm-covered dunes and filaos.

Its name in Wolof (Senegalese language) is **Lac Retba**, but is better known as Pink Lake (or Lac Rose) by the stunning colors of pink colored waters.

This color is caused by bacteria, and that already contains a high concentration of salts, making the solution turns purple color depending on the intensity of sunlight.

The lake is the center of life and source of income for Senegalese families who live here. **Fishing and salt extraction**, and subsequently prepare and sell salted fish in the **market**, is the routine and daily life of these people, who do not need much to live a simple life and self.

When we saw the statement of the project, decided to choose this hidden place, to pay tribute to these people, because this is precisely the concept of this project: In a world in crisis (economic, social, values ... etc) we praise **the simple life** of a simple and self-reliant people who do not need big things to live a full life.

We visited the Lac Retba and its people on a journey, almost by accident, and when the opportunity has arisen, we wanted to give them this project like a present, with the "genius loci" of the lake present at all stages of development, and social, ideological and aesthetic elements, that Senegalese appreciate.

To do a project description, we have to tell, step by step, the routine of the inhabitants of lac Retba, because each projected space, is linked to a chapter of their lives:

### 1. Sunrise at the lake, the fish are close to the coast: **WATER PLACES**

In spaces called Watter places, the activities carried out are, as the name suggests, those related to the aquatic environment:

- Bathing areas
- Children's swimming pools

- Professional fishing ponds
- Ornamental lakes
- Pontoon
- Dockland

The appearance of these spaces, is marked by forms derived from the inhabitants of the aquatic environment, as well as brightness and color of its scales.

## 2. The men, come in their canoes to fish: **CAYUCO PLACES**

In spaces called Cayuco places, the activities carried out, are closely related to the male world, we don't want to discriminate between genders, simply, as in life, each male and female, have a specific role to play, and teamwork of both is what makes their life work.

These spaces are therefore related to the world of sports (the Senegalese wrestling is one of the most popular sports in the area) and fishing. We also wanted to relate to "the world of men" school of Wolof (Senegalese language that currently is being created), the African rhythms school. Also communications (tram stop) are included in this group of spaces.

Cayuco called places spaces are:

- Sports areas
- Senegalese stadium fight
- School of traditional fishing
- School of Wolof
- School of African rhythms
- Catering area
- Sedentary areas under the shadow
- Ornamental lakes
- Tram stop

The appearance of these spaces, is marked by forms inspired by the cayuco canoes, fishing boats typical Senegalese, hand-made by themselves, with an elegant shape and exceptional colors.

3. Dusk at the lake, the women go out to get fishermen to the beach, then they make together the salting of fish, for subsequent sale on the market: **WOMAN PLACES**

In this places, activities that develop, are closely related to the world of the women of Lac Retba.

These spaces are therefore related to the fish market, fruit, textiles and handcraft objects. We also wanted to relate to "the female world," the school of African culture, dance, art and Senegalese cuisine school.

Woman called places spaces are:

- Fish market
- Fruit market
- Market of african fabrics
- The tailors square
- Sale of crafts
- School of african culture
- School of african dance
- School of african art
- Senegalese cooking school

The appearance of these spaces is based on African batik textiles, its color, its patterns, inspire us to build these places, where the textile architectures are the undisputed protagonists, which would be made based precisely on these fabrics.

4. Night falls, it is time to relax, the beach and people dress in joy and color, it's time to celebrate another day, in this simple but intense life, all together. Men, women, children go out to sing and dance in the streets, the moon reflected in the lake stains pink the night, batik clothing and vegetation of the mangroves are waving to the rhythm of the night breeze, magic fills this place : **FABRICS PLACES**

Fabrics places are devoted to fun and relaxation of the inhabitants of Lac Retba, and as such are the basic structure that supports the areas described above.

In fabrics places, nature is the protagonist and everything related to the plant world in this project, is encompassed in these spaces.

As we are Landscape architects, we decided that the museum, the very center of the project, has to be encompassed within this class of spaces. So, the museum is The Ecosystem Interpretation and Conservation of Mangroves Center. The mangroves are a natural jewel that deserves to be preserved and explained to its fortunate inhabitants.

Fabrics places are:

- Forest areas
- Botanical Garden of Senegal
- Mangroves Museum
- Walking area
- Shadow bands, textile architecture
- Beach

These spaces have been treated as undulating bands which extend and invade the entire performance area, as if giant African fabrics, covered the full space.

These bands form the basic structure of the project, catching in their nets the previous spaces: Watter places, Cayuco places, Woman places.

#### Conclusion:

Thus, in this project, joy, color and elegance of African culture, involves the space, contagiándonos at all times his desire to live, plunging us into a sweet cloud, making us see **LA VIE EN ROSE**.