UBUNTU: A Resilient Landscaper.

The architectural solution proposed is a “Resilient Landscaper” which can be built within the various cities of the Caribbean. The program of this mix-use building can be enlarged and expanded upon. Conceptualised and designed based on the concept of Ubuntu.

Ubuntu can best be described as an African philosophy that places emphasis on ‘being self through others’. It is a form of humanism which can be expressed in the phrases ‘I am because of who we all are’.

The concept of Ubuntu embodies the idea of bringing all aspects of nature and mankind to a point of integration. Blending not only individuals from all walks of life, but also the different rituals of life within architectural spaces. Thereby creating a cohesive eco-system where, one is not alone but along side another, living in code.

This concept was explored and applied throughout the design by the placement of spaces within the program. For example; a homeless shelter, library, community living rooms and gardens. The strategy of interlocking social spaces within formal and informal spaces create conversation zones, which foster a sense of unity and allow for others to add to their life by sharing with one and other.

The design also caters to the physical needs of man – their need for safe shelter and comfort. This was approached by addressing climate change and the persistent dangers of natural disasters posed by the ever nearing future. Futuristic strategies were adopted to mitigate possible threats.

Sustainability  – Its approach differed from the norm; the sustainability of the building is its social and pragmatic approach to the design. Meaning it acts as a garden city within a city. Allowing for the development of a unique identity and culture within, which can then be preserved and added to as time goes by. This along with solar generated power and water collection and purification; allows the structure to stand on its own.

The Inclusion of Vegetation within the housing program attempts to create a cooling strategy to aid in the mitigation of climate. These plants are grown using UV lights placed above the planters and the energy required is generated in a sustainable manner with the use of Solar Panels.

Community Gardens were attached to each floor. Becoming the responsibility of the residents inhabiting that specific floor. This gives the residents of each floor a reason to interact, fostering co-operation between individuals. They are also encouraged by the program to develop unique gardens and “cultural vegetation” based on the background of the residents. Co-operative strategies like this help reduce the chances of social, racial and political divides which could lead to civil unrest.

Large walkways create spaces for activity and in many areas communal furniture is added to create Community Living Rooms & Connection Bridges. Within these spaces one can live/work and in the case of Connection Bridges, Small Floor hall meetings and events can be held: For example, Christmas Parties.
This mixed-used design creates close-proximity to healthcare, social, commercial and other amenities, supporting inter-generational bonding. Set amidst a lush green environment with Universal Design features, the hybrid structure provides many spaces for multi-generations to enjoy.

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The chosen sample site for this project is located within Kingston, Jamaica. Between Kings' Street and Church Street. A historic building, the Supreme Court Justice was chosen to be an example as how to implement the solution while preserving the existing urban landscape and traditional Caribbean Architecture.
**UPPER**

**Floorplans: First Floorplan + Second Floorplan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apartment Type</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th># of Apartments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1: Couple (2-person)</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2: Single Person / Student</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3: 2-Bedroom</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 4: Extended Family</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 5: Elderly / Retired Persons</td>
<td>C &amp; D</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Pneumatic Waste Conveyance System: Household trash will zoom through vacuum pipes into a sealed container located in the services basement. Then used to create energy via Bio Waste Strategies.
2. Bioswales: Rainwater will be collected and filtered through a guttering system along the roof.
3. Individual Unit Green Boxes: This acts as both an aesthetic feature as well as a privacy device.

**THE DESIGN**

Urban Housing Program

View Along King’s Street looking East
Community Gardens were attached to each floor. Becoming the responsibility of the residents inhabiting that specific floor. This gives the residents of each floor a reason to interact, fostering co-operation between individuals. They are also encouraged by the program to develop unique gardens and “cultural vegetation” based on the background of the residents. Kingston in 2002 is expected to be a mixing pot, accepting immigrants from all over the world. This encourages a converge of creativity.

Large walkways create spaces for activity and in many areas communal furniture is added to create Community Living Rooms & Connection Bridges. Within these spaces one can live/work and in the case of Connection Bridges, Small Floor hall meetings and events can be held. For example, Christmas Parties.

The housing program was design to mitigate direct sunlight by recessing all balconies by minimum 2 meters. Extended Floor over hangs also create shelter from hurricane winds and harsh rainfall.

The inclusion of Vegetation within the housing program attempts to create a cooling strategy to aid in the mitigation of climate. These plants are grown using UV lights placed above the planters and the energy required is generated in a sustainable manner with the use of Solar Panels.

**SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES**

1. Solar Panel Plate Absorbing Solar Energy
2. Water Collection Feature
3. Roof Garden
4. Passive Cooling Strategies
5. Photovoltaic Glass
   (Glass to be shaded with screens)

**THE DESIGN**

Climate Mitigation + Sustainable Strategies

**UBUNTU IN SECTION**

Sectional Perspective