Title: Prophyl.axi(e)llaire urbain

Author: Lynda Bennadji

Institution: EPAU Ecole Polytechnique d’Architecture et d’Urbanisme

Undergraduate Course: Architectural project in urban context

Teacher advisor’s name: M. Azouz
At a time when the world is urbanizing, the urban landscape of cities tends to be transformed into a new urban dimension. Much more than a city image, the urban landscape is also a proof to the evolution of societies. Thus, in the context of Algiers metropolis in 2030, the landscape must not only represent a formal transformation but should also suggest the spirit of a metropolitan society, responsible and environmentally conscious.

My contribution, in this context, takes place in a prophylactic approach to these urban and environmental risks. Indeed, our proposal of an urban park (bringing back the nature in the urban environment), the "Park of hospitality" at Mustapha Superior square in Algiers, capital of Algeria, demonstrates that a link between metropolitan development, respect for the environment and quality of life in the city is possible. Beyond that, this proposal, based on the principle of eco-therapy, has a double impact. The first is the city's acquisition of an own and specific landscape. The second is the people's acquisition of a responsible and respectful behavior.

This awareness through eco-therapy takes form thanks to the multiplication of public spaces. Essentials of the city, those public spaces are places of interaction and social exchange where the concept of urbanity was born. It is in this same perspective awareness that deepens our thinking across the architectural project. We wanted to think architectural interventions as structuring elements of their environments and as a source of enlightenment of the population towards the middle.

It is this context that allowed the “prophyl.ax(e)llaire Urbain”¹ to emerge. Pure product of its environment, this architectural project developed as an axillary, articulating (formally and through its function-way) the park, the city and the hospital. Therefore, it is necessary as a major component in the prophylactic approach wanted and realized through the eco-therapy developed at Mustapha superior square.

Thereby, those urban and architectural proposals, developed in a metropolisation context, fit into the perspective that tomorrow's architecture should not be the one of the past or one of a contemporary architecture stereotype, but an architecture that integrates and respects its environment.

¹ -The title of the architectural project consist on a word’s game, a combination between all the concepts treated in this project: “urban profile” (profil urbain), “prophylaxis”(prophylaxie), “axis” (axe) and “area” (aire).