

Natural Models - Part III

Ecotourism in Galapagos: A Pavilion in the Landscape

Project Duration: 7 weeks

Moreover, when any one of the parts or structures, be it which it may, is under discussion, it must not be supposed that it is its material composition to which attention is being directed or which is the object of discussion, but the relations of such part to the total form. Similarly, the true object of architecture is not bricks, mortar, or timber, but the house; and so the principal object of natural philosophy is not the material elements, but their composition, and the totality of the form, independently of which they have no existence.

Aristotle

For complex adaptive systems to maintain themselves, they must remain open to their environment and change when conditions require it. Complex adaptive systems, therefore, inevitably evolve, or more accurately, coevolve.

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SITE: Baquerizo Moreno Port, Galapagos Islands

Galapagos

The Galapagos archipelago consists of some 20 young volcanic islands amounting to 3,000 square miles of land scattered over 50,000 square miles of Pacific Ocean on the Equator. Most of the islands are uninhabited, roadless and devoid of any permanent source of fresh water. The archipelago was named a UNESCO site in 1978 to protect and conserve its unique species. All but 3 percent of the land belongs to Galapagos National Park, and in 1998, the Special Law for Galapagos made the entire 50,000 sq miles of surrounding ocean a marine reserve, second only in size to the Great Barrier Reef. Only four islands have permanent human population, and since 1978, domestic and foreign tourism has boomed into a big industry within the archipelago. The inhabitants of the archipelago are faced with many problems due to a lack of resources, economic disparity and general disorganization in their town planning, building and infrastructure. Although immigration to the archipelago is currently curtailed, its population grew by 10 fold over the last two decades. This inevitably spurred spontaneous and disorganized growth. Investments are typically targeted to the preservation of natural resources and to the scientific study of these delicate ecosystems and to tourism. The infrastructural and economic needs and general quality of life of the inhabitants are frequently not addressed. It becomes a delicate balance between how relationships are maneuvered, negotiated and organized between the towns, their natural surroundings and their combined futures. The needs of the Galapagos are complex and frequently contradictory: to conserve the archipelago's delicate species, to address the requirements of a growing population and to address the demands of a booming tourism industry.

The site for the pavilion is on the small tidal basin located at the southeast corner of the Baquerizo Moreno Port. There is a canal leading into the basin from the National Park to the east and the town boardwalk runs north along the harbor from the basin. The local airport is situated just south of the site.



Program Objectives

In an effort to both improve the local economy of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, as well as control the flow of tourists to the island of San Cristobal (and clarify through information / education their visit to this unique place) this project will focus on the design of a visitors pavilion in support of eco-tourism that functions as a water taxi, bicycle/moped and pedestrian transit hub. The water taxi service will be available to take tourists and locals to the airport and to neighboring natural surrounds and beaches like Carola Beach. The pavilion will feature a bicycle station where bicycles and mopeds may be stored and/or rented. There will be bicycle lockers, indoor/outdoor racks, a small repair shop, a service counter and adjacent cafe with second story terrace and seating. The taxi service should pick up and drop off people at one of two docks located near the cafe and terrace. One dock is for passengers heading to the airport and the other is for neighboring surrounds. These docks must be partially sheltered. A large multi-functional gathering space is to be incorporated. This area will be used for small exhibitions on the National Park and Marine Reserve and for daily presentations given by pavilion staff to bicyclists and hikers seeking to explore the reserve by bike/foot. Lastly, a pedestrian and bicycle path will be designed to connect visitors to the National Park (along the canal to the east) as well as to the existing boardwalk to the north. This path is planned for heavy use by local commuters and tourists alike. The pavilion may be located entirely within the water or not. The pavilion must consider the delicacy of the natural surrounds, the limited supply of fresh drinking water and serve as an example of sustainable and durable construction. Lastly, solar panels must be located on the roof. Energy generated from these panels is used to run the cafe and to charge the electric mopeds.

A-2nd floor terrace and cafe seating - 1500 sf

B-cafe - 800 sf

C-bicycle storage and rental - 500 sf (may stack to 2nd floor terrace area)

D-repair shop and service counter - 500 sf

E-water taxi births- can hold 4 taxis per dock for a total of 8

F-multifunctional gathering space - 900 sf

G-classroom - 600

H-toilets and storage - 200 sf

Architectural Objectives

Design a pavilion with second-story terrace that will serve the educational and transit needs of the eco-tourist and local resident.

Develop and articulate a circulation strategy for the transit hub.

Design a storage system(s) for the bicycles and mopeds (for personal storage and rental)

Design a flexible building envelope with solar panels located on the roof.

INFO: <http://www.baq2006.com/eimagenes.aspx>

<http://www.baq2006.com/international.aspx>



PARQUE NACIONAL GALAPAGOS

PLAZA LA CAROLINA

PLAZA SAN

existing boardwalk

OCEANO PACIFICO

site

AMAZONIA NACIONAL

canal

PARQUE NACIONAL GALAPAGOS

airport

