

Nurtury

Architecture and nature

This thesis investigates the potential of integrating nature into our building systems. It explores how can nature be implemented into our buildings and how nature and our buildings don't need to be separated. Its about creating connections, drawing attention on how important it is to preserve and nurture living organisms, plants and inspire the visitors of the space to integrate nature into our everyday lives.

The project will propose a way to interact with nature, by including it within the building structure. Biophilic (according to a theory of the biologist E. O. Wilson an innate and genetically determined affinity of human beings with the natural world) and biomorphic concepts have shaped the logic of the investigation.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American spends 93% of their life indoors. Tree cover has declined all over the world. Forests are essential, they provide the world with oxygen, clean water, and valuable habitat for animal and plants species. The Worlds total forest area declined by 3%, the natural forest loss declined by 6% between 1990 and 2015. Even though most deforestation is tropical and it is well known that Scandinavians like to spend time in nature, it can still be hard to do so in the dark winters that are rather long.

By including plant growth into the structure of our buildings in specific layers, keeping the load bearing parts but connecting it with spaces and crevices that can host plant growth, I believe it is possible for nature to become integral parts of our living and public spaces.

In my opinion as we spend less time in nature, we forget how good it makes us feel, so why not connect nature and architectural design? Nurtury is a space, where plants are intertwined with architecture. The architecture of the space is made to host plants and humans. The building structure is designed based on the needs of each plant species. The building envelope is oriented and shaped based on what kind of plants are designed to grow in them and what way the space is intended to be used by humans. It is about spending time in nature indoors, reconnecting with nature with the tools of architectural design, exploring the idea of an indoor space not having to be flawlessly clean, but having a bit of dirt and dead leaves and some bugs.

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