

Catering architecture for migrating societies

Master Thesis by Polina Moroz

Over the past 30 years globalization emerged as the trend and has completely taken over the world we live in now. Hypermobility, neutralization of place and distance are the outcomes of the recent shift from the world to the global economy. The detachment from something familiar, losing the feeling of belonging became a norm to the millions of people willingly or forced having to leave their home. The project evolved as a response to a question in what terms architecture can react to drastically changing lifestyles of globalized world citizens.

Focusing on economic migrants as a target group, program set was a result of an investigation on sociological challenges, associated with the process of cultural adaptation. The thesis is based on an assumption, that architecture as the physical construct of our reality perceived visually is inseparable from sensual and psychological spatial recognition. While it is impossible and pointless to recreate the original environment of an immigrant in the newly established home, some measures still can be taken to restore the mental health and reduce the homesickness.

Project incorporates a design strategy for the site set in Brooklyn, New York and a proposal for the community centre. Its programme is based on the idea, that the physical space one used to call home once can be recreated through evoking memories through olfactory, sound, visionary and cultural sensations. Project mission is far from intention to recreate entire environment usual for its residents, but through the bits of something familiar to remind about place, one used to call home. The process of settlement of human soul and the adaptation to the new circumstances is something author put an effort in to shape as the architectural form.

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