

RE.GREENERATION

REGATHERING MEMORIES ALEPPO

Re.greeneration is a transitional place between Aleppo's past - present - future, valuing as much as possible its history and relationship with the social and physical context. The project is based on the idea of the demolished building as part of the resulting/current landscape. Understanding the place as an ecosystem, that not only involves natural but cultural elements: ruins, existing buildings, natural landscape, urban facilities, vegetation, insects, birds, humans, cultural background, and historical evolution. Those elements are considered layers that must be acting together, conforming a dynamic place where many processes interact seeking to regenerate the essential character of Aleppo.

Initially, it is a place where the sense of "community" will be restored, creating opportunities for future actions and reactions. A project created by its inhabitants, for them, where is possible to find new possibilities for developing new memories. Over time the building itself will be transformed by adapting cultural and natural developments. Re.greeneration is able to update itself according to new dynamics of a context with great cultural value; not only recovering its monumental historical character, but also exalting its natural potential. Green will regenerate a broken space and will create a landscape to breath, to admire, to cooperate and to cohabitate. Creating a transition between the natural structures of the place with the historical background, this project will represents a new generation memories.

Using landscape as a tool, topographical irregularities will be taken into account, water will flow, allowing biodiversity to activate natural cycles, cleaning and Re.greeneration the territory. Different instruments will appear: Natural barriers to embrace. Take advantage of recourses as water, sun, wind and green., Agriculture, recycling and composting to close natural cycles and to activate social sharing activities around communal kitchen and healthy habits. So on, living entities of the city will join this natural cycles, conforming dynamic territories of change.

Our main objective is to restore the physical connection and identity between the territory and its inhabitants, valuing all the historical processes that lead to its present. The strategy is to generate appropriation of the empty space in the city. Reading the void and reinterpreting the Ruins, it is possible to exalt the cultural and natural potential of the place. Through social reactions, the project will create a dynamic development that treasures the former presence of the place, transforming it into a transitional building where natural elements will reclaim an important place inside the city. There is not a fixed program for the building itself, because its character will change in time. Following the trace of the place, areas where the community can empower itself, new processes of healing will start. Communal workshops for polyvalent self-discovery activities, shared development gardening, encountering events like social cooking, physical recreation, cultural activities and exhibition spaces, ecological regeneration through urban gardening and fruit trees, individual recovering, among other possibilities; are the starting point for creating Re.greeneration. In time needs will change and the project will adapt its functions to serve as a cultural spot for understanding historical processes and highlighting natural potentials.

Our project is not a replacement or a demolition of the place's memory trace. The project is not created over an empty canvas. Understanding process and valuing the former trace of the building, new dynamic spaces will appear to allow dynamic processes to develop. Cultural elements are also key elements to take into account inside the initial design. Combining, the importance of water as a regenerating element with the value of traditional vegetation (Pinus halepensis presence) allows us to highlight the identity of the place. Promoting agriculture as a tool to reconnect with the soil (crops of Mesopotamia), valuing traditional materials and techniques to generate communal cooperation and reinvent a common future plan in order to rebuild community. The value of physical ruins as storytellers, creates an imaginary of what was before, highlighting the importance of respecting the void as historical element.