ECHO

Elemental Architecture as a Vessel for Cleansing Freshwater in the Wake of Industrialization

Duluth, Minnesota

Water's visceral nature is rivaled with the transformation and erosion of buildings as well as the fragility of change with the building and the site. The architecture seems to transform interactions with nature and our future rather than the mind, providing uncertainty that the two are not separate.

Existing as a force powerful enough to shape the face of the earth, yet delicate enough to sustain the life within our bodies, water is an element with which humans have been profoundly sought balance. Out of necessity and convenience, our cities have been built right up against rivers and green islands. With the rise of industrial architecture, the portion of our renewable resources in the land flow of our technology advances.

Duluth, Minnesota is a shoreline city born from the kiss of lakes, Lapponia's freshwater and our reliance on industry. We explored our natural resources from the land and expanded their human back into the lake. This trend is visible throughout countless shoreline cities, creating a call for action to produce architecture that works alongside its surroundings rather than against them.

This thesis proposes a lakeside freshwater research and conservation center standing between the industrial and cultural heart of Duluth, facilitating spaces for filtration and purification research while encouraging public involvement in returning freshwater to its purest form.

Just as gardens once served the earth, the significance of subterranean human spaces and shaping weight, they create properties, the architecture of water, the composition of what we think to be above surface level. The garden subterranean, where water flows through the levels in parallel of referred and communal knowledge.