

What we perceive as the city of Basel today is still tied to the city center on the Rhine. Where will the city find itself in its future path to development into a tri-national metropolis? Today the industrial area of the port it's feeling as bulwarks of resistant to the transformation of the city, but this area represents a huge potential to reinvent the city-through the public.

The urban approach of the project is based on liberating the end point of the harbour by demolishing the two storage buildings, that will no longer serve their purpose. The space around the complex of the existing buildings becomes a dynamic connection between north and south borders, continuing the Rhein promenade which is now expanded symbolically at its end in a big trinational public space.

A transparent volume it's proposed as an encounter point for all the new flows of people.

This building will work both as a social and physical connector, embedding a new pedestrian bridge into its structure. In our imaginary the empty public space in front of it it's a place with no rules, defined by the possibilities of enjoyment of a specific moment or an ephemeral event but always feeling the collectivity, so the former industrial complex is now becoming a community center and it is more than a simple building it is a citizen building. The project introduces different layers: imbricated public spaces with different features, open and seasonal conditions, organized and unified by the new addition itself.

The new building will work as a new facade for the existing industrial hangar and as a mediator, reaching the human scale of the public space. On the ground floor, the functions of the new building, both a cafeteria and activities rooms are thought to expand on the surroundings, the first one, to the public plaza, the second one under the big covered void, sharing the space with the manufactories atelier placed in the two floors of the small silos. The nude structure of the Hangar and the efficient structure of the new building are overwhelmed by people and connections. The big void of the hangar is a vast multifunctional space for projections, exhibitions, work, a merry go round.

It works as an open and dedicated space for social, creative, and productive activities with its climate control and serves an access to the different programs of the buildings. On the first floor the new building opens up into a public terrace; all one with the public ramp that becomes a proper bridge once it has reached the water and where inhabitants can admire the dynamic scene underneath.

In conclusion, the project encourages the gradual formation of an urban gathering place and public amenities in the triangle of the future community, linking the three border area as one unique eco-system: promote conviviality, encounter and freedom of expression.

