

Vertical Symbiosis Project.

The driving ambition behind the project is to illustrate a symbiosis between sustainable systems and sustainable community. The result is an inexorable link between these two facets of sustainable living into a single image of greenery, health and community living.

Symbiosis is the organizational driver behind the design. Allowing the freedom of sharing between bodies, mutually beneficial relationships are sought out and strengthened, finding new ways for creating an efficiency of resources, diminishing waste and encouraging community interaction otherwise stifled by the segregation of space and isolated program.

Park as Water Filtration center

The park is a community scale water filtration system that collects and cleans grey and storm water using sculptural bioswales, water features and green spaces which visually enhance the spaces of the park. These spaces accommodate a wide variety of uses and experiences within the park, promoting community interaction year round.

Community Center/ Living Machine

The community center, at the focal point of the park, is the fulcrum between the park the building above, The center functions as a community living machine housing versatile gathering spaces which benefit from the light quality and lush greenery of the space. The center is essentially a glass green house which emerges from the water to create a bridge into the building and draws pedestrians in from the park walkways, retail charged plazas and the existing pedestrian plaza to the east. Around the community center, the first two floors of the building are reserved for on grade retail, cafés, restaurants and live work units to charge to pedestrian spaces.

Vertical Community

The general organization of the building places the residential component atop the offices so that the excess heat from the computers and people during the day can be absorbed and displaced into the residences at night. The residences are vertically stacked on the east allowing room for a widened double skin buffer zone which acts as the buildings center for passive ventilation, thermal systems, rain water collection and grey water recycling. In addition this space provides a public sky garden overlooking the park.

Above the community center to the North a vertical spine of stacked gardens connect the spaces vertically, where communal programs of office cafeteria, daycare, gym, and residential common house are located. These stacked gardens are punctured by atriums and filled with plants which clean the air as it rises and add further connectivity to the common spaces.

Modular Versatility

The 36 2 story residential units are comprised of vertically stacked prefabricated modular units which are mass-produced and easily installed. The unique interlocking design of the units allows the spaces on the 2nd level to rotate bringing more daylight into the space. Within the units the double height flex spaces allow the unit to internally expand as families grow and needs change.

The building design centers around its ability to use sustainable systems to create spaces which gather people together and re-establish relationships within a community, as well as providing clean water, fresh air and thermal comfort.