

B-L-O-C-K

132



Nantes F

Urban Resonance – European 6 – Sicily ↑

The site is a vacant lot, a piece of waste land: a latent and ever-changing land. Wild and spontaneous uses of the lot have created a superposition of traces. We propose to highlight those signs, and to make them readable, accessible, and comfortable. The first step in defining a new use is emphasizing what is already there.

The second step of our intervention is defining the container, in order to make the contents materialize.

From now on, we view the whole arrangement as a conglomerate structure, a complex combination, which can potentially be appropriated for use, right now or later, permanently or periodically. The diversity, the complex mix and the intensity show through different habits of use.

The thickness of the block is compressed. The elevated screen devices leave the ground level open, allowing the passage of people. We create a hybrid from of street between traditional streetscape and the public spaces of the modern city.

Médiathèque de Proximité – Le Pellerin →

The Ministry of Culture wished to support the construction of district media libraries (500 m²) and organized an ideas contest among architects presented in the "New albums of young architects".

The site chosen for the project was Le Pellerin on the southern bank of the Loire. From the start, we suggested a different location and decided to focus on a neglected zone on the edge of the river: the recreational area of the "Bikini" island.

What drew our attention was the existing social use: the public swimming pool. By integrating it into other activities and thus adding to the simple functionality of a media library, a plurality of social practices is established.

Centre de Vacances Soulac-sur-Mer ↓

For this project, we propose to reaffirm the landscape and the marked architectural character of the site. We propose a project that echoes the natural and bathing-resort environment which constitutes the "genetic" heritage of the coastal landscape.

Sampling: The principal house is copied six times and placed in a network defined by a matrix. The clones are modified and converted into individual entities, architectural envelopes that are empty and "livable" in a primitive way. We propose five blocks of forty apartments on two levels and a technical and supply block. The sampled architecture is smoothed and reduced to a simpler expression: a body. The apartments with uniform plywood skins are accessible directly from outside through a row of individual entrances. The house loses the binary character of the original plan and adopts an "open" structure and a hybrid architectural form.

Micro-environment: The landscape conditions of the site necessitate an accompanying land improvement project including soil treatment to re-establish vegetation and provide the basis of a natural micro-environment.

