



Rotterdam, NL

## Simple Heart

Project for a City of 40,000,000 Inhabitants



Taking Gustave Flaubert's "Un coeur simple" (where every character serves the construction of Flaubert's idea as a physical model) as a source of inspiration, the project can be seen as an exploration of plausible relationships suggested by such a model in the strategic selection and composition of a universe of huge entities whose remarkable simplicity has tremendous territorial implications. Once disclosed, their direct confrontation defines the outline of an emergent new city. This is an entity that suspends all unnecessary celebrations in order to bring to light the only entity we wish to celebrate: an idea of the city that is served/preserved by the uncompromised/uncompromising following through of its own logic.

## Hellenikon Metropolitan Park, Athens



Our proposal for the Hellenikon Metropolitan Park in Athens is based on an all-embracing composition which is developable in incremental stages. The principle is a grid of parabolic progression which defines a sliding scale of distances encompassing the present range of opposing scales, from the smallness of the city blocks to the vastness of the airport. This grid, however, does not materialize literally, but it is established through a variety of park components, from a number of pocket gardens embedded in a pine forest, installations to circuit walks, and natural monuments to former runways transformed into promenades. The grid should therefore not be understood as mere ordering principle, but as orchestration of the infinite range of dimensional variations which gradually evolve from the scale of the city to the territorial scale of the airport, which is defined by the length of the runway and the vastness of the sea.

## Rethinking the Roadside



The demand of the project concerns the re-invention of the roadside inn typology. The project consists in the simple action of concentrating the program inside the highway dike in order to maintain a sharp contrast between the line of the road and the surrounding landscape. Mies van der Rohe and Autogrill inhabit a post-Venturi landscape. Rem Koolhaas, juror of the competition said about of this project: "It actually doesn't rethink a Roadside Inn. It doesn't rethink the road, nor the inn. This is a much more radical reinterpretation that looks at the future".

