Summary and appraisal by the jury

As waste removal becomes increasingly difficult to handle and landfill space ever more scarce, cities such as New York must become more resourceful in the manner in which they address their refuse. Confronting this problem, the project proposes a building in the model of the metropolis for waste collection and processing, a “machine for turning trash into treasure”. The Municipal Center for Harvesting Utility from Waste (CHUW) recognizes an opportunity to locally treat collected waste, breaking it down into its constituent components—organic substances, metal, paper, plastic, and glass—and on-sell for reuse.

Sustainability concept

Greatly appreciated by the jury is the idea to concur a new type of urban infrastructure that offers an answer to the problematic interplay of material flows in urban environments. In this regard, the project proposes to close the gap in the chain that links material processing to consumption and disposal. Applauded is the notion to propose an infrastructure building sited to mine the city, an important node within the metabolic system of a fragile urban ecology. Lastly, the jury commended the clarity and beauty of the drawings and models presented in the submission.

Further authors

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Background Research project

Prosperity: Each CHUW facility takes in 50 tons of household waste daily from pedestrian drop-off and trucks deposit collections four times a day. Pickers and conveyors bring the sorted waste to their respective levels for further sorting and baling. Each type of baled material then moves along the storage façade to a manufacturing floor where local fabricators have direct access to raw materials. Unused materials are stockpiled and stored behind vertical conveyor core.

Trash for Use

Municipal center for harvesting utility from waste, New York, NY, USA

Main author

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Context

Architecture, building and civil engineer

Client

New York City

Background

Research project