In-Closure

Public park and interactive wall for urban revival, Seattle, WA, USA

**Main authors**
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**Project data**
- **Context**: Landscape, urban design, transportation infrastructure and public utilities
- **Client**: Seattle Center
- **Background**: Public commission
- **Planned start**: January 2014

**Summary and appraisal by the jury**
The master plan reintroduces a forest in the heart of Seattle, USA, giving homage to the past while remedying present-day and future residents of the city's natural habitat. Embracing social life at multiple scales, an interactive wall at the park's edge contains "event boxes" with different functions – cafes, a library, sports facilities, and areas for cultural events. Planned for implementation over decades to come, the project aims to be adaptable to future changes, an objective that is straightforwardly supported by the project’s current minimal interventions and restraint of formal means.

**Sustainability concept**
The question of how to revive city space is at the core of the submitted entry. The jury, in this regard, greatly values the importance attributed to the very concept of "urban" and applauds the manner in which this proposition is translated into an exciting piece of landscape architecture – a forest in the midst of the urban fabric encased by peripheral structures accommodating manifold programs. But the design does not stop there since the project's essential contribution lies most prominently in the almost surreal atmosphere conveyed: trees mirrored in walls, partially transparent walls, or light reflecting on polished surfaces – blurring time-honored distinctions between the domains of the so-called "natural" and "artificial". The result will be a space that congregates history and identity together in a peaceful urban atmosphere that does not echo of "disconnection or negation" with its surroundings – but is imbued with a reverence for gathering, experimental contemplation, and the gestation of innovative ideas. The project will act as urban attractor in the eyes of Seattleites.

**Further authors**
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