Thesis Abstract

This thesis is a result of my personal experience after living in Paris for a year. Through observations and information gathered from other students in Paris, it is noted that there is a need for more affordable private housing with university hall amenities. Due to the lack of sense of home and strict regulation, halls are not popular among tertiary students. The project aims to investigate the issues of interactivity and continuity of space as a user moving through the building. The architecture aims to create a conducive, non-oppressive environment for the students to embark on cultural exchange and mutual learning. The collective experience of the students is being highlighted with the project being the fountainhead of these experiences and these experiences personified.

The vehicle chosen is a subsidised student residence, a hybrid of the convenience of both hall and private housing. It provides a variety of accommodations to suit different needs, budget and duration of stay. It is opened to all students, both foreigners and French, with the admittance to any of the universities or schools of higher education. The project is proposed to be located in the 19th arrondissement in Paris, next to the Parc de la Villette.

The proposed building looks into the use of plants to build a friendly and non-oppressive environment for the students. Small courtyards of existing apartments are grouped together to form bigger, functional ones and views to them are maximised. A passerby, outside, will experience a sense of time, showed by the juxtaposition of the old and new façades, and the delight of greens within the building. The user, inside, will experience the horizontal and diagonal movement with increase visibility between storeys. This is an approach different from the usual expressed verticality of the old Parisian apartments.

The building, with the integration of nature, offers a conducive environment for the students to interact, learn and most of all to experience together living in a home away from home.