

SAC2009RF0121

Urban Forest

The best example of a sustainable communal life is a forest.

It grows durably, through a process of give and take with nature, earth, and its surroundings.

It is dense but porous. It allows for sun and wind to infiltrate and reach all.

It shares a common ground of resources from which the roots of the trees feed themselves.

It is self-sufficient. It is a network regulated by the forces of nature in which the small makes the whole.

What if nature was to dictate the way to abide by, to create, appropriate conditions for a sustainable community life?

The massing of the project is spread into six “tree” towers.

The rooms grow around a structural and service core reaching down to a common underground for the sharing of services and systems: the “roots”.

They will be elevated as to free the ground: a social garden for the neighborhood where people meet, interact, create and become aware of the sustainable way of living.

The modular system of the towers allows for a flexible enduring growth that responds to the housing needs of the students and professors: the cores grow vertically in respect to the surrounding urban fabric and the rooms are plugged into the network, the Urban Forest.