

Indigenous Regenerators

Preface:

This project seeks to develop a social generator based on architecture that will allow for native indigenous communities around the world to create an intercultural exchange as necessary within an existing social structure. Utilizing existing local raw materials and qualities of these communities to develop such generators, using bases such as education, community programed buildings, self-sustained programs and social adaptation. Our goal is to develop and go in detail using three applied possible solutions to three different tribes located in different parts of the Amazon Rainforest with similar situations in three different countries: Brazil, Colombia and Peru. This paper will go further into detailing the reasons and facts for the three chosen countries, the three tribes and their related neighboring cities of intervention.

By developing a set of guidelines that could be used in similar places we seek to allow for urban planning strategies and architecture to create social adaptation between these segregated communities, while also educating societies of their importance by respecting the tribes and communities that are looking to stay as uncontacted tribes. The final outcome is to eventually help the indigenous communities that are looking for integration or for communities that were forced out of their environments to avoid putting them on the borderlines of society, and for them to become part of the social growth and change using their culture, privileged locations and knowledge while gaining advantages for the architectural field creating new indigenous cities. These interventions will serve as a tool to create social awareness towards the Amazonian indigenous peoples and the protection of their cultures.

Introduction:

Looking at the global scale of indigenous peoples it can be seen how even though continuous efforts from multiple organized groups have been trying to help them maintain their rights, most of the time is hard to implement and protect their rights. Based on the previous graphs the majority of indigenous groups are located in Asia, with a second majority located in South America in terms of population and the natural resources they hold. As the authors of this thesis are from South American countries, an interest of furthering the topic into the South American continent is a focus of the research. Indigenous communities are seen across the globe as communities that are rich in culture, beliefs and protection of the natural environment, these communities have maintained their strong historical background parallel to the growing urbanization of the neighboring cities or developments. With the growth of cities, in some cases these communities are marginalized and destroyed, forcing their cultures, languages and peoples to extinction.

The analysis will range from the global scale to the site specific and will study the subject in multiple scales: Global, Continent, Amazon, Country, Tribe and Site Specific. As the subject develops the analysis will use historical background information, mapping of movement, timelines, various charts that will guide the analysis to a deep understanding of the possible problems and outcomes related to indigenous communities.

focus:

With the long history of diverse settlements in the South American continent, it is known that one of the most attacked but also culturally intact segments of south America is located in the amazon territory. The majority of indigenous tribes in the Amazon jungle have tried to stay hidden from the rest of the world, hence their culture and beliefs have been preserved throughout the years. The map of South

America shown before depicts an abstract situation in terms of location of tribes within the continent, yet the largest number of tribes are actually located in the Amazon territory. The analysis continues by studying the Amazon rainforest and territory as an independent system within the South American continent by going in depth about its history, its settlers and its culture. The Amazon is commonly known as the lungs of the world, being a high diversity ecosystem, which in this case the Amerindians (Amazon Indians) population has greatly contributed to the history of its preservation. Therefore, in the following chapters, a deep study of the Amazon territory will be developed.

Issues:

Indigenous communities have been suffering multiple abuses and disadvantages throughout history starting with colonization, the rubber boom and the industrialization era. Even though the major historical changes have diminished the indigenous peoples in terms of diversity and quantity of individual tribes, the remaining communities have managed to maintain intact their cultures. These remaining cultures have grown and transformed as a response of their historical background, they have adapted to the changes that surrounds them and accommodated their lifestyles to serve their needs. The understanding of the current issues that these communities are going through will help in determining the best response for an architectural intervention that could serve as protection, adaptation and mitigation between these communities and the surrounding urbanization.

destination:

After a deep understanding of the research on the Amazon territory, history and detail, we intend to focus on three countries: Brazil, Colombia and Peru. Countries which based on the analysis were chosen because of the following reasons: They hold the largest indigenous populations located in the Amazon, the largest populations of uncontacted tribes, the biggest issues that endanger the Amazon and its population, the countries in which the indigenous population have been affected the most by wars, the ones with more historical impacts on the Amazon rainforest, and the largest cultural diversity. It was noticed that throughout the years, these countries have somehow isolated the indigenous communities from help because of the ongoing wars and political problems in each country. Due to their locations deep in the Amazon territory, these indigenous tribes were exposed to higher encounters with militia and war issues because war territories have been located in the Amazon. In the following chapters we will take a look at the main problems that have affected these regions, and what the governments of each country have done to help the indigenous populations and prevent them from being pushed to extinction because of isolation. Later on a specific tribe and a specific city will be studied to understand and respond to what we believe a typical situation and a possible solution would be for each of the chosen communities.

Target:

While researching each of the three chosen countries, it was noticed how different each government deals with their indigenous population, yet the situation of these peoples is usually a negative one. To narrow down the research even further, we chose one city in each country. To be able to analyze and compare the cities using the same methods, we decided to pick cities with similar characteristics. Therefore, each of the cities shall be: located in the Amazon rainforest, close to a prominent river, hold a certain percentage of indigenous population living in the city or on its peripheries. Also, each city shall be similar in terms of landscape features and similar in size.

Most of the indigenous populations living in cities end up there because of being forced to move out of their communities due to different reasons, and not by choice. Some of these reasons are: the taking of their lands, illegal deforestation and mining, agriculture, violence, contamination of their rivers, health problems due to western illnesses acquired by contact with outsiders, prostitution, drug trafficking, and many other horrendous conditions that they have to undergo. However, after leaving their communities, their problems only worsen as they have to find a new place to live, and when they are forced into cities, they have major difficulties in adjusting to western society. In the end, they lose their indigenous identities and culture, and become poor, unemployed citizens with little to chance in this new world.