

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: CREATING SOCIAL VALUE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGH ARCHITECTURE

Infrastructures are key to the transformation of the city and the territory in an increasingly and profound way, with a future projection, in which a great migration from the countryside to the city is foreseen, places where in a few years the greater part of humanity will be concentrated. Since this position, infrastructures appear as a **necessity** and **opportunity** for the development of the city of the XXI century. Nowadays, in our planet we produce more than 1.300 million tons of urban waste per year. Where does this waste go?

A **waste treatment plant** must have a positive feedback on the whole community, through the process of waste treatment itself and the energy production obtained therefrom. However, the social benefits and educational efforts that we propose from our waste treatment plant model are geared towards the younger sectors of society.

The significant population growth in cities and the increase in waste production mean that the educational factor in relation to waste and its recycling process is essential in recent years, making us aware of the fact we must assume in this matter and reducing the impact of the urban waste that we produce. In addition, the energy consumption and the relation with the environment associated to the waste treatment allows us to investigate and propose new models, according to our time.

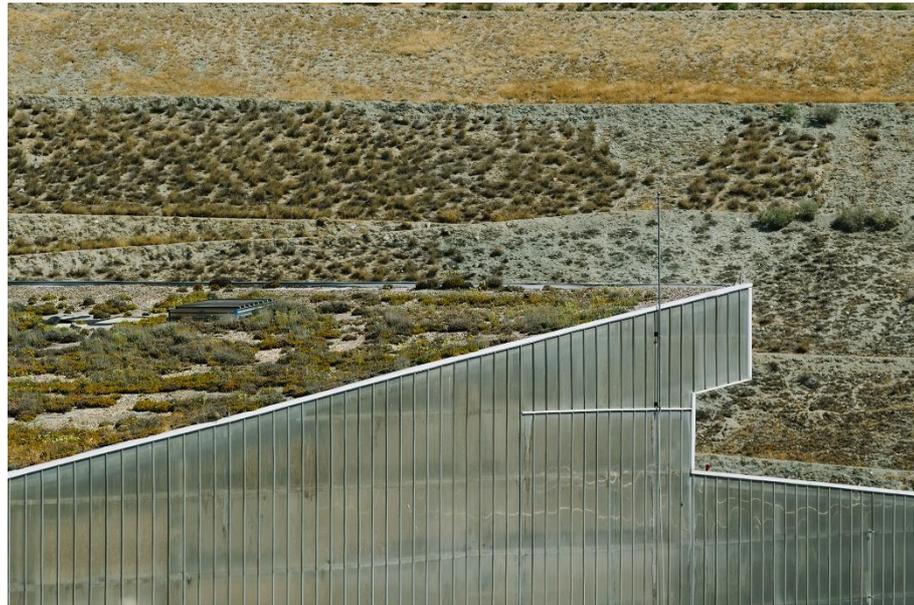
Our projects are conceived as real public facilities, capable of eliminating the negative connotations associated with this type of facilities, incorporating an educational and cultural center that relates the energy and the environmental potential of the plant, making all sectors of society be involved in the process, because they also play an important role in the management of our waste. As an observatory, the plant is a place to study, understand and contemplate contemporary society, which relates waste, energy and the city.

The relationship of the project with its environment, understood as landscape and contemporary territory, is basic, and should be understood as a source of inspiration. These types of projects must establish an intense relationship between landscape and technology.

As architects, we believe that preparation, through education, represents a fundamental aspect in the contemporary issue of waste and the problems that can be associated with it. For this, we propose to listen to the different sectors and collectives of our society, concerned about the impact that a plant can produce on its environment, and incorporate their proposals with the objective of improving the management of our waste and our relationship with environment.

The architectural concept and the design of a plant must become a powerful educational instrument and social awareness of responsibility. Our proposal is to make visible the energy and the environmental possibilities of a waste treatment plant and raise awareness among citizens.

**WASTE TREATMENT PLANTS:
SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS FROM ISRAEL ALBA ESTUDIO**



Madrid Waste Treatment Plant



Valencia Waste Treatment Plant



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architecture can change

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Buenos Aires Waste Treatment Plant



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