CLOUD GARDEN

Situated on the West side of the Arena Green Park, sits a low and open pavilion that stealthily blends into the existing grove of trees. Along with the pavilion will sit a tall, delicate lattice structure that will be a platform for both vegetation and visitors to enjoy. The pavilion will host flexible activities such as community events or pop-up shops. For the pavilion to blend into the existing context, the roof will be composed of large penetrations to allow existing trees to remain. Along with integrating the existing vegetation, the structure of the pavilion will be made as slender as possible so as not to be too visually intrusive.

The lattice tower will serve as a series of observation decks where visitors can enjoy views of the city and as an armature for vegetation to grow and ultimately cover the entirety of the structure. As rendered here, the tower is shown without vegetation to understand better the intent of the structure that is to be obscured over time. When lit from within, the coverage of the lattice in combination with the vegetation will result in a dimly present figure that will be delicately monumental.

With regards to addressing the net-zero design principles set forth by the competition, the performative intent of this proposal is for the monument to contribute towards the biodiversity of the existing park and to perform as a scaffold for vegetation that will help reduce carbon pollution in the air. Another inherent quality of this design proposal is that, except for the enclosed glass spaces on the ground floor, the majority of the vertical structure and pavilion spaces are meant to be outdoor experiences - thus reducing the need for air conditioning. As for power consumption, the overall expression of the tower facade lends itself to integrate photovoltaic solar tubes in either a vertical or horizontal configuration. The primary need for electricity is limited to lighting, a minimal amount of airconditioning for the ground-level spaces, and the elevator service core.

Materiality will not only play a vital role in the expression of the overall architecture but will also aim to mitigate the total carbon footprint of the proposal. The primary structure of the tower and core will be composed of engineered timber panels (CLT), while the facade is entirely composed of welded steel bars and plates.