



Estación Ferrocarril de Xalapa. Design Strategies for Reuse of an Example of Mexican Modern Movement

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The study and understanding of complex locations require a detailed knowledge of the context. One should understand the main lines of historic development, the urban structure, the architectural tradition and all the peculiarities that explain the present situation, in order to be able to project suitable plans for the future. In the spring semester 2008 the Department for Restoration, Modification, Intervention and Transformation of Buildings and Sites at the Faculty of Architecture, Delft Technological University, organized a special design studio: subject 'Estación Ferrocarril', the former passenger railway station in Xalapa, Vera Cruz (Mexico), designed in 1952 by arq. Guillermo Rivadeneyra Falcó. The assignment involved the transformation of the decayed complex of buildings and its direct context. The object of study being the adaption of or intervention in buildings or ensembles that form part of an existing stock so as to meet the demands of the future use. The railway station of Xalapa is an important example of the Mexican Twentieth Century Modern Movement and a very important building for the city of Xalapa and its architectural history. Having been built at the former edge of the city, the site is complicated as the physical and social border between the old organized city and the new squatters town of Xalapa. The main design concepts were agreed upon in direct consultation with the neighbors of our universe of study. The preliminary results were shown to Governor of Veracruz, Fidel Herrera Beltran, who has acquired the land where the project is located and offered to give serious consideration to the actual construction of some of our proposals.

The design studio is a cooperation project between La Universidad Veracruzana and TU Delft. It has been organized on the instigation of Dr. Sergio Amante Haddad, professor at UV and the undersigned, Dr. Jan Molema. Dr. Amante Haddad's team and undergraduates worked in collaboration with Dr. Joel Olivares Ruiz and several graduate students at the Escuela Gestalt de Diseño Xalapa, and with Dr. Jan Molema and Ir. L. Meijers from TU Delft with graduate students.

The object of the presentation will be the digital presentation of the various solutions designed by Mexican and Dutch students.

KEY WORDS: Railwaystation Xalapa