A RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UCLUELET BRITISH COLUMBIA

by

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ABSTRACT

Due to recent closures and downsizing within the logging and fishing industry on the periphery of the Clayoquot Sound region of Vancouver Island, economic sustainability for the permanent inhabitants who depend on this activity has become sporadic and inadequate. A thriving tourist industry contributes a limited income to the area due to seasonality and offshore ownership. This project proposes a research facility that would develop diversified industries that would preserve existing ecosystems while supporting the economic rights of the inhabitants. The project would supply immediate and direct benefit to the town of Ucluelet and surrounding area through complete integration of the facilities and program into an existing economic environment. Involvement in construction and supply of materials, income from billeting students and parking, involvement in research strategy, and employment benefits from the research being done, are essential targets.

The institute should operate as a satellite graduate program facility in conjunction with existing research colleges and, be the headquarters for other "satellite campsites" incrementally set up and established in the surrounding area; sites chosen for their uniqueness in ecological existence and economic viability. The outdoor nature of the academic program sets the precedence for a lifestyle that is comfortable being exposed to outdoor elements. Courtyards and work areas are created by strategic setbacks, by fragmenting and staggering the facility and by exaggerating roof overhangs and gutters necessary to channel extreme winter rains. The external circulation of the back spine of the main building suffuses throughout the site developing a central circulation core; the pivoting point for access to the administration, the research shed, the "campsite" dormitory, and for the knuckle of the institute, the central courtyard. The courtyard which evolves has public access from the walkway that starts at the public sidewalk of Peninsula Street, cuts diagonally past the main entrance at the south-western corner of the archival gallery, and continues past terraced research gardens to the seminar room. An external stairwell facilitates the final descent to Lyche Street, a public restaurant, and the proposed community hall near the government docks of Ucluelet Harbour; a linkage designed to activate and encourage pedestrian traffic at Lyche Street. The public/private overlapping of the project insures that the integration attitude is in place while presenting unique design opportunities. The building typology exploits local post and beam construction knowledge and uses common materials from local sawmills to provide a rough, unfinished cladding left subjected to weathering. The roof surface is punctuated with translucent skylights to facilitate a condition of light and life under the eaves.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The idea for the project came from a manuscript that I was reading at the time that I was in Ucluelet during the month of February, 1997. The manuscript, called "seeing the ocean through the trees" [compiled by Ecotrust Canada], discusses a conservation-based development strategy for Clayoquot Sound. It seemed right to develop a thesis project that dealt with a very real need, and, actually had a chance of being realised. I am grateful to David Martin for introducing me to this manuscript, this most remarkable natural habitat on Vancouver Island, and, for supporting me, both intellectually and financially, as I moved the project closer to its completion.

I am indebted to Ray Pradinuk for believing in the project right from the start and for his invaluable, indefatigable architectural guidance as I wrestled with the myriad of issues so essential to resolve when building on the success of any project in this field.

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Chris Mooi came onto the committee not knowing me nor the project, and supplied a professional attitude that will stay with me throughout my career.

When Ron Walkey had to leave for Greece for a studies abroad tutorial, Sandy Hirshen took over at the helm; he didn’t miss a beat as he led the project through the final stages of fine tuning.

And, as a final acknowledgement, I would like to thank my family for all the support they have given me as I tried to realise my dream.

Wayne Palchinski
potential industry from leftover waste

site: view looking east

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
model: bird's eye view
west elevation

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
4.

level: ground + 10'
scale = 1:750

model: bird's eye view
south elevation
[exposed roof]

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
5.

level: ground + 22'
scale = 1:750

peninsula st.

lychee st.

model: north elevation

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
model: bird's eye view
southwest elevation [exposed roof]

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
model: bird's eye view
southeast elevation

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
site: view looking west

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
key:
1. main entrance
2. accessibility
3. stairs
4. elevator
5. laboratory
6. office
7. seminar room
8. meeting room
9. lab
10. print room
11. coffee
12. corner
13. office
14. storage
15. laboratory

level: ground "0"
scale = 1:275

lychee st.

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
level: ground + 10'6"
scale = 1:275

research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
level: ground + 36'6"

scale = 1:275
research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development
research institute for sustainable environmental and economic development

east elevation
scale = 1:350

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