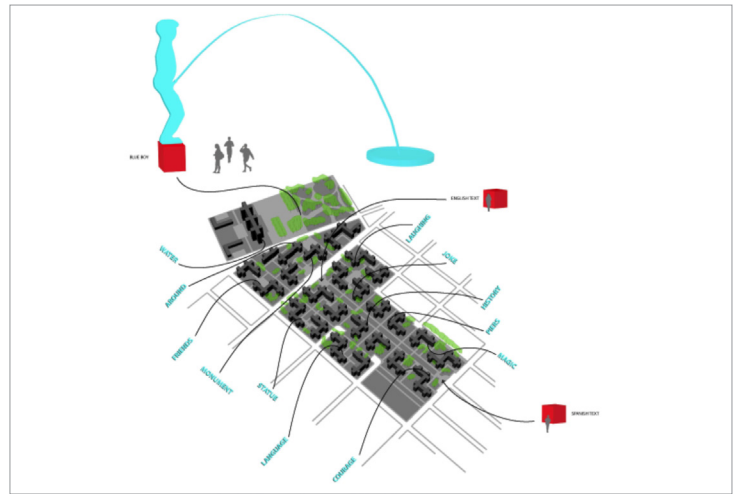


Over Walls

Study for the city of New York - Red Hook Project
Brooklyn, New York City, United States. 2008

Built in 1938, Red Hook is a large social housing development intended for longshoremen and their families. The complex is a success in terms of urban design as it includes areas where residents can meet and mingle. However, a sort of invisible wall surrounds it, isolating it from the rest of the neighbourhood. This proposal consists of a huge sculpture standing like a lighthouse at the junction of two areas that seldom mix, while words from the "text-legend" cover the façades of some of buildings in the form of painted metallic letters. This project pays tribute to the ties of friendship and solidarity that exist between the inhabitants of these neighbourhoods, which all too often become ghettos.



Over Walls

Text - legend

Two twin brothers and sisters would often play together in a large backyard. They didn't live in the smallest house but in the highest building for miles around. David and Claire had many friends in the neighborhood and loved living there. They would often have meals at some neighbors' and felt part of a large and friendly family. Often when the weather was sunny they would go out on the wooden piers to jump and dive into the water. It was close to the harbor where most of their dads worked.

They were once playing on a long mall. David and his sister were digging a big hole in the ground. Suddenly, some water came out. David shouted. It was so magic...They were playing fishing with a water rod and line. They were having a lot of fun. A lonely boy just arriving from another country was watching them. Making friends was not easy, as he couldn't speak a word of this new language. Nearby, he started digging his own hole so that he would get some attention from the twins. But even if his hole was deeper, no water came out. In order to have some water in his hole, he began peeing in it. All the children around pointed at him and made fun of what he had just done. David and Claire were both touched by his courage and smiled at him in return. Claire began clapping in her hands and little by little, so did the other children. They all cracked laughing and this boy was now accepted on this ground. His name was Carlo.

Since then, they have remained best friends and this joke has become history in the neighborhood. No-one would have thought that one day a statue would be raised for such a little boy. Can you recall such a friendship that you would like to build a monument for?