

Overall aims

The post-disaster scenario offers a glimpse on the situation of those left without a home, months after the storm.

We have analysed the data provided, and tried to understand the complexity of the situation. The people affected by the disaster have different cultural, ethnical and economical backgrounds. Without doubt, they do have different needs, goals and expectations. There is also a common denominator (tragic as it may be): they all share the traumatic experience of having lost their homes.

"What would the people need in order to recover after a disaster?", we have asked ourselves. The most obvious answer would be shelter and food. Hygiene, healthcare, a place to sleep and safety are also extremely important. Also, looking at things from the emotional point of view, one would need one's family to feel safe, comfortable and being able to look forward to a new beginning.

A community is based on the **social bonds** between its members; it is the way to establish social networks, make businesses work and achieve economical stability. A disaster strikes at the very heart of a community, destroying many of these

social bonds. In our analysis we have focused not only on finding an answer to basic needs, but also on offering the temporary inhabitants a little more: re-create the feeling of safety, warmth and privacy through small designing details and offer a good, stable basis for starting a new life.

The **meeting places** are a key element of our designing concept. Ranging from public areas to semi-public to private spaces, different gathering spaces are to be found in our unit.

Project description

Spaces with a more public, open character are placed at the street level. The prefabricated units are flexible in function, being able to host small shops, gyms, temporary daycare or emergency aid services. These spaces are connected to the courtyards, the street is partially extending into the ground floor and the limit is intentionally undefined - hence the translucent, "dual" character of the material used. The building is part of the street life, it actively defines and shapes the new public space.

Entering the building, the privacy level is gradually increasing. The limits between the public and private are better defined; the small apartment entrance "pockets" can turn into spontaneous conversation areas. These semi-public areas are then "dissolving" towards the absolute

privacy of the apartments. **Flexibility** was also an important design criteria; despite its temporary character, this building has to respond to the various needs of its users to its best. Due to economical and practical reasons, the apartments are based on the same structural module, 6300 x 3750 mm; this allows for great plan flexibility: up to 4 different apartment types can be obtained by combining these modules. Because the light partition walls are to be mounted on-site, the apartments can afterwards be easily converted to provide different functions, such as offices, small classrooms or hostel/hotel accommodation.

The rooftop of each unit consists of a large "living room" module, a light, semi-transparent box with an open plan organisation. The character of this room is clearly defined: a private common space to be used exclusively by the unit's inhabitants. This gathering space extends to the outside - two large terraces with vegetation provide the perfect place for parties, family reunions, meetings or a safe playing area for kids.

The "living room" also acts as a beacon in the urban environment - the semi-transparent material used turns the room into a light-emitting object, announcing the **presence** of these buildings among the others.