GREENHOUSE - NEW YORK

The site provided is the intersection of Madison Avenue and 6th Avenue, the whole block is the footprint of one of the landmark architectures of New York. The St. Patrick’s cathedral. This particular cathedral was built in 1878, given its massive dimension it can accommodate up to 2,200 people. Situated opposite to the Rockefeller centre, the cathedral is surrounded by massive skyscrapers and despite its twin spires rising up to 180m tall, the structure stands apart from the rest of the site.

In order to preserve the function and the symbolic value of the cathedral, the objective is to design with minimal disturbance to the site. The idea is to build beyond the limit of the site, and since the adjacent space is a large surface of water, the structure aims to reach out for water while having an appropriate connection to the cathedral itself. A greenhouse at this particular location has numerous benefits; the glass structure is orientated to receive maximum sunlight exposure (absence of the shadows casted by the skyscrapers). Its proximity to a large body of water raises the humidity and encourages research in desalination... The greenhouse is open for public exposition and has a restaurant at sea level, there is also an entire level for research and control.