material culture: sri lanka

design investigation into the material culture of an almost pristine and ancient island, caught up in the upheavals of the transition of ending a 30 year civil war, post-colonial strife, the 2006 Boxing Day tsunami, high energy costs, and current infusion of global capital, requiring a dire need for leadership in sustainable development, considered from a physical, social and material perspective. how do we design there?

program:

woodworking institute with associated forest plantation on the southern tip of the island of Sri Lanka, in conjunction with institute offices for coordination of overseas export of products near the Colombo airport.

site one:

outside of Galle/Fort, a Portugese/Dutch fortification, now a city of 80,000 inhabitants, Sri Lanka’s fourth largest town in the South province.

site two:

near the airport of the capital city of Colombo, a brownfield site, off a major regional road, crowded with traffic, tuk-tuk’s and occasional cow.

tags:

design, material culture, material labor, architecture as a social act, research, micro-enterprises, low-tech sustainability, tsunami, post-colonialism, colonialism, global capital, NGO’s, solar, evaporative cooling, mahogany, S. macrophylla, jackwood, sweetwater wells, living machines, sustainable communities, garden office, carbon neutral, net zero energy and water, darkness and shade, frangipani, change, beauty.

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