Project Summary  Living Landscape is a zero-carbon mixed-use building, with a positive impact on the environment and sheltering a local ecosystem. Living Landscape will be the largest wooden building in Iceland.

Programmatic elements are organized around a rich eco-systemic landscape creating an ‘O’ shaped building. The center core is designed as a local ecosystem that will be home to indigenous plants, local rocks and topographic surfaces, contributing to a rich, shared ecosystem for the project, the city and the planet.

The urban context of the Elliðaárvogur-Ártúnshöfði development is displacing a polluted industrial zone creating a new urban hub. The project will create a new ecosystem fabric including a rich environment between urban and natural conditions.

The team of local and international experts designed this project as an eco-systemic typology for growing urban cities to propose a precedent for Iceland’s numerous upcoming developments, and to become a prototype for the global community.

Key Components & Solutions

→ Living Landscape is an “O”-shaped zero-carbon building harnessing PassivHouse standards and objectives.

→ The reduction of the carbon footprint has been considered at each phase of the project’s life. For example, during the construction phase the team commits to avoid diesel machinery by exploring novel ways of fossil fuel free machinery running on electricity.

→ The project will be the largest wooden building in Iceland

→ Re-vegetation is key to this project. Green space will cover 75% of the site, including green roofs and a large central garden.

→ An ambitious strategy for low carbon mobility: 50% of parking spaces will be dedicated to electric vehicles. There will be no underground parking prompting the usage of an expanded walking and cycling infrastructure and a good connection to the new mass transit network.

Main members of the team

Team leader: UPPHAF / HEILD
Architects: JAKOB+MACFARLANE
Environmental expert: UPPHAF / HEILD