HORTUS AQUA

Seaweed and seagrass are generally considered to be an excellent natural source of minerals and macronutrients. With little surprise, these marine species have been used for centuries as a food source, fertilizer and even as a shelter material. Hortus Aqua sets out to explore the potential uses of seaweed and seagrass - highly abundant in the St. Lawrence estuary - as a fertilizer for the Garden's plants and possibly as an option on the restaurant's menu, establishing a processing platform that can be reused with each passing year.

The project suggests an inner space bounded by walls of drying seaweed, with water symbolically at the center stage. The installation becomes the visible part of a larger process with deep roots in the local marine landscape, while providing a strong visual and sensory experience for the visitors. Hortus Aqua offers an insight on how materials borrowed from nature can be used in construction, and how ancient techniques can be brought to life in a contemporary way. Simple construction methods and common building materials are used, such as recycled fishing nets and a 2x4 frame connected by round metal tubes. The lumber is charred to become weatherproof.



