



BRANCHING Durban

CHARLOTTE L. VELILLA NÚÑEZ SAN JUAN-PUERTO RICO,
ELAINE G. LÓPEZ ALSINA SAN JUAN-PUERTO RICO

The Branching Durban project encourages an intimate relationship between residents and nature, by relying on nature's intelligence and questioning commonly held notions of enclosed space. Each inhabitant is given the opportunity to spread out in life towards nature like a branching tree.

The highly customizable wooden complex is based on a series of modular units with set measurements that are tailored to meet the specific requirements of individual residents, including the intended use of the space as well as personal privacy concerns. As no unit is completely enclosed, nature is continuously engaged in the overall definition of space and is in constant interaction with the building's residents. By covering open exposures and providing privacy, nature protects the inhabitants and the building, and facilitates a balanced relationship with the outdoors.

The overall structure is divided into three unique spaces designed for commercial activities, work, and residencies, while a large plaza on the ground level is reserved for diverse cultural activities. Inhabitants would be able to live, work and shop within the wooden complex and the sustainable community it provides. The intertwined and branch-like relationship between these core structures ensures that community and social interactions are primary elements of the design and that the experience is directed towards the outside.



The highly customizable wooden complex is based on a series of modular units with set measurements that are tailored to meet the specific requirements of individual residents, including the intended use of the space as well as personal privacy concerns.

The overall structure is divided into three unique spaces designed for commercial activities, work, and residencies, while a large plaza on the ground level is reserved for diverse cultural activities. Inhabitants would be able to live, work and shop within the wooden complex and the sustainable community it provides.