Garden of Justice

'The Juice' idea competition about a park and a memorial to victims of violent crime at the Justice Department's building in downtown Los Angeles.

Entry by Henrik Valeur, 1995.

The competition was launched during the 1995 trial against O. J. Simpson in Los Angeles. Following the acquittal in 1992 of 4 LAPD officers for the video-documented assault on Rodney King and the resulting riots in South Central, on trial was the Los Angeles experiment – the first US metropolis where whites no longer constituted the majority of the population. Prejudices pertaining to the issues of racism and justice, the main ingredients of the trial, were not only affirmed, but turned upside down.
Los Angeles is the city of the automobile. This is not only a popular statement, it is also a statistical fact. Therefore, while it may seem sympathetic, replacing a parking lot with a park, it does not seem very realistic. But maybe there can be both parking spaces and recreational spaces in the same place?
A multifunctional facility is proposed, which combines park and parking. It has an 'upper level' for recreational activities and short-term parking and a 'lower level' for long-term parking, which includes a pool with sharks, a jogging track in a suspended glass tube and other artificial environments. Between the two levels there are scattered openings that might be perceived as "black holes" during the day and as "light balls" during the night.