For Haiti to rebuild, it must become reconnected to the global economy. This reconnection will occur through an urban center which will reorganize people to their country, themselves, and each other by rebuilding beyond what was once had. This center will coordinate the pouring-in of global aid and distribute it to areas of need. This will happen by the center being the headquarters of departments: housing, schooling and education, policy and infrastructure, banking and lending, food production and processing, and trade and industry. These departments will also manage the resources of Haiti by making necessary transactions and global connections. Thus, through this center, Haiti will announce to the rest of the world that they have 'arrived' as a global player by becoming reconnected to the global economy.

The site for the urban center will be located where the existing Haitian Presidential Palace currently sits destroyed. This site was chosen because of its location within Port-au-Prince. It sits in the middle of the planned top-down grid of the old city, the unplanned bottom-up shanty town network, and the Champ de Mars - a civic plaza and sculpture park. This site offers the most potential to reconnect the various areas of the city, at an urban design level, and symbolically reconnect the people of Haiti to their country, re-establishing their identity. This center will provide linkages to the different areas of the city by providing paths, gardens, and relaxation areas. Surrounding these linkages will be civic spaces and the new Centre de Nation Haitien.

The current context, with its angular roads and shifted grids, will be used to formulate a collage of circulatory and sedentary zones within the site. From this collage, circulatory paths will connect areas around the site; the sedentary zones will be exhumed from the space between the circulatory paths. The existing foundation and remaining walls of the Presidential Palace will be preserved, reused, and integrated within this overall design strategy by using the concept of wings, or arms, of the building to house program. This will further generate and strengthen the idea of having new departments of program as arms reaching out to make metaphorical connections to areas within Port-au-Prince that already have similar program. (i.e.: dept of trade & industry reaching out towards the sea port, etc.)

The influx of global aid can be overwhelming. Organizing it, putting it to good measure, and being able to see lasting improvements is vital. It is also important that this organizational process unifies the people of Haiti by celebrating the nationality and rebuilding of their country. This new organizational process can diffuse global aid amongst the people of Haiti effectively by taking the form of an urban center. This center will have a specific focus of aid deployment through the departments of housing, education, infrastructure, banking, food, and trade. These departments will connect to a central public hybrid space where a new, better Haiti will arise. This steel-framed flexible connection space will allow for the meditation of Haitian culture by having a think-tank of citizens and advocates push for prosperity, better living conditions, better employment, and better social awareness. It is through this bettering of civilization that the people of Haiti will begin to be reconnected to their country, themselves, and each other.
For Haiti to rebuild, it must rejoin the global economy. It must also take the current pouring in of global aid and put it to good, lasting, measure. Here diagrams show global aid statistics, people displacement, and the resources of Haiti. A specific program was generated from these diagrams: a facility to manage the resources of Haiti, and organize the global aid. The departments of program were then metaphorically connected to similar components within Port-au-prince, and thus the location of each department within the building was established.

The new Centre de Nation Haitien will manage the Haitian economy through departments of agriculture, housing, infrastructure, education, trade, and banking. It will sit atop the old ruins of the Presidential Palace. The urban fabric will also be reconnected through a series of new paths within the site. These were generated from the analysis of the existing grid, and established the geometry for the project.
program
1. lobby
2. reception
3. cafeteria
4. meeting rooms
5. offices
6. print lab
7. auditorium
8. media center
9. gallery
10. conference center
11. heliport
12. loading dock
13. archives
14. daycare
15. outdoor terrace
16. courtyard
17. plaza
18. gardens

departments
banking
trade
infrastructure
connection center
agriculture
education
housing

urban connection paths
presidential palace ruin
steel frame
floor plates
envelope
Auditorium: the space that connects all programmatic departments and unites the people of Haiti. Here, meditation and focus is centered on reconnecting the people of Haiti to their identity and national pride. This space, run by advocates and patrons of the country, will organize global aid and initiate rebuilding efforts. The multiple seating arrangements and retractable walls, drapes, and roof allow the space to transform.

**why steel?**
Steel will be used not only to frame the new facility, but also to support the old walls of the palace by sandwiching the existing concrete walls between steel columns. The steel will act as strapping and ensure stabilization of the remaining foundation. The steel columns on both sides of the wall will be held together with a series of tie-rods and wall-penetrating steel beams. The concrete will hold the steel and the steel will hold the concrete.

**espace de connexion**
Auditorium: the space that connects all programmatic departments and unites the people of Haiti. Here, meditation and focus is centered on reconnecting the people of Haiti to their identity and national pride. This space, run by advocates and patrons of the country, will organize global aid and initiate rebuilding efforts. The multiple seating arrangements and retractable walls, drapes, and roof allow the space to transform.