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BOGOTÁ-FAIR CITY?

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BOGOTÁ-FAIR CITY?

ABSTRACT

Colombia is one of the most unequal societies in the world. The gap between the rich and the poor is reflected in the built environment. The country's violent history has created massive flows of refugees from the countryside settling down in cities, which has resulted in fast population growth and urban sprawl. Inadequate planning has allowed the upper classes to lock themselves in, in exclusive, gated communities, while slums have emerged in the periphery as well as the central parts of Bogotá. The quality and security of public spaces are suffering.

Just like water is essential for humans to survive, safe and inclusive public spaces should be equally essential for cities in order to thrive. The main goal with "Bogotá - Fair City?" has been to explore a way of creating a safe and inclusive public space in downtown Bogotá. The aim of this project is to investigate the possibilities of inviting all the layers of society to coexist in a harmonious place on a site in the downtown area. Increasing urban safety will be essential in order to re-introduce fundamental concepts of public space in downtown Bogotá. This will be achieved through a conscious and humane design strategy.

With the interest of preventing unwanted activities on site, "Bogotá - Fair City?" focuses on introducing community surveillance rather than using physical barriers, enabling the strong to help the weak with a socially orientated program and finally implementing a characteristic outdoor environment. The final design proposal is a safe place and an injection of positivity. Hopefully a flow of security will spread from it like ripples on water throughout the city.



GUINEA PIG RACE ON CARRERA SÉPTIMA - BOGOTÁ'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SPACE

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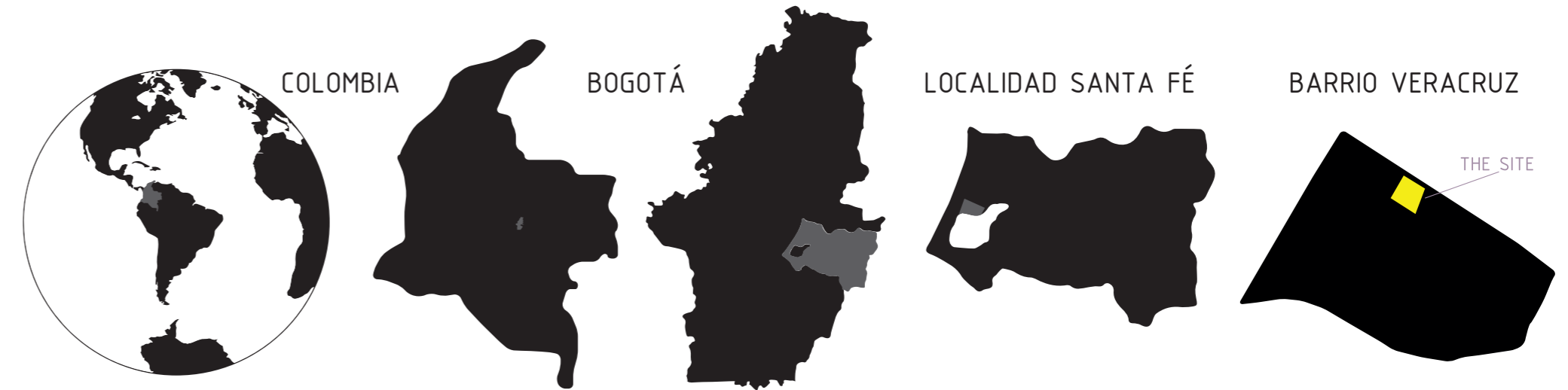
INTRODUCTION

During the fall semester of 2015 I did an exchange semester at Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. As it was my ninth semester of university studies, I decided to take this great opportunity to explore a city with big urban challenges and make it the location for my degree project. The aim was to find an accessible site relatively close to the university and where I lived. It was necessary for me to be able to combine the research work with my other studies.

Bogotá offers many interesting challenges, especially in the sprawling slum neighborhoods. But for me it would have been complicated and time-consuming to choose a site in the city's outskirts. Therefore, I decided to choose a site located in the traditional city center, Bogotá's downtown area. It is close to the historical center of La Candelaria where I lived and a 5-10 minute walk from the university.

The site I chose to work with is a block located in the localidad Santa Fé which contains many historically, economically, politically and culturally important buildings and places. The block is completely empty, and lies within the UPZ Las Nieves and in the barrio Veracruz. It is like a blank piece of paper in the middle of the downtown area with a size of approximately 8670 square meters, and it is located right next to the vivid pedestrian street Carrera Séptima.

I began the work on this site by identifying some of the issues the neighborhood and the whole downtown area are struggling with. I formulated my main focus with this project, which will be to investigate the concepts of social justice and security in public spaces in the urban context. The final goal has been to develop a design proposal for the chosen location with a strategy on how to target these issues.





METHOD

In October 2015 I started to gather information for the project. When I started to work and map the site I realized how important it would be for me to do proper research on the urban development of Bogotá. I also found it important and relevant to take a closer look at the history of the barrio and the site. It would be a matter of respect to the chosen context to know a little bit of the history behind the development of the city. I considered it important in order to understand why the urban challenges are of a different character compared to the Swedish working context I am used to. I created a timeplan for the site visits and went to the library at Universidad de los Andes to gather relevant literature. I found very specific and useful literature on Bogotá.

I began making site visits as a way of introducing myself to the site and its challenges. The idea was to find my focus by exploring the site, and quickly my interest for social justice and security was born. At the beginning I structured the work by creating a site report form to fill out after each official site visit. I continued with pinning down different parameters and things to consider while doing visits, based on my own experience and my earlier work at the university.

I tried to plan every site visit to have a clear purpose. The visits mainly focused on documenting the built environment around the site and analysing the surrounding blocks. I walked around the whole barrio looking at the city with the glasses of Kevin Lynch. The aim was to include well-known ways of analysing urban environments, to create some structure to the work.

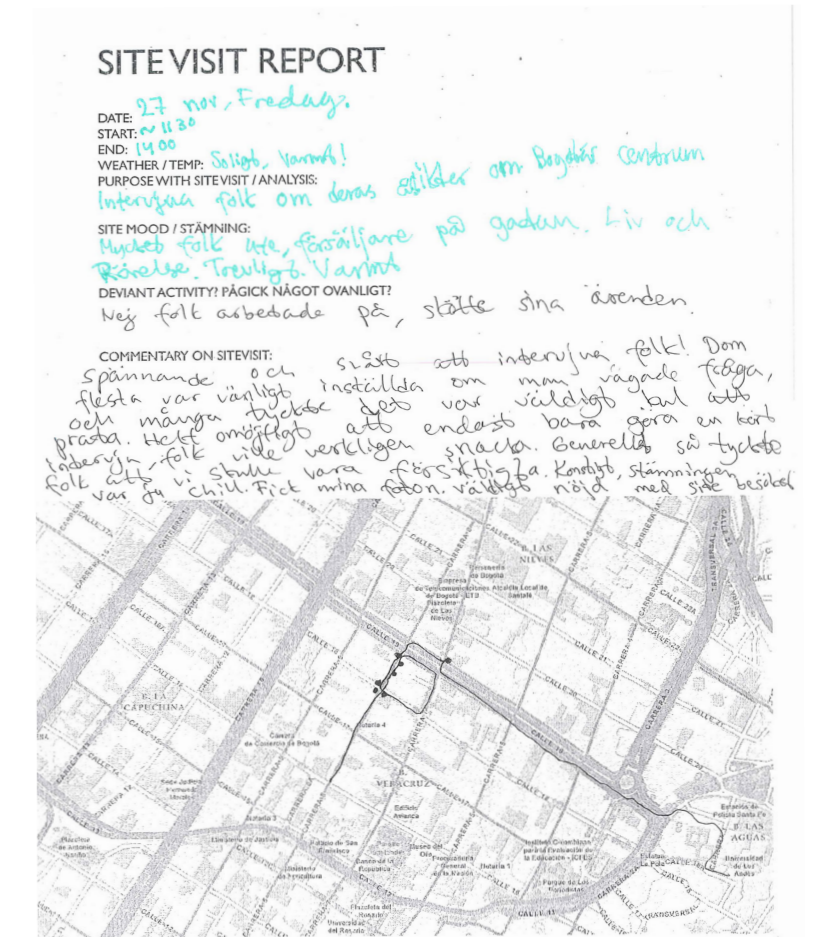
I also considered doing a proper Gehl-analysis but I abandoned this idea due to the heavy flows of people and traffic, and the fact that the site is not safe when it is dark. However, my approach is very much inspired by Gehl's way of working and analysing the city.

Furthermore, I did a SWOT-analysis and mapped the height of the buildings and the activities around the site. I went there at different times during the day, and week, to see if, and how the site changed over time. After every visit I noted my impressions and observations. I also did interviews with people in the streets. The goals of the site work was to provide a personal touch to the project, to see and feel the atmosphere and the soft values that are hard to discover by just looking at Google Street view images. The small details can be important triggers for the project on a later stage.

In a way, I consider my whole exchange semester as preparation for the degree project. Before I went to Colombia I had the idea of finding an interesting project to bring back to Sweden. To have the opportunity to live in the context of a project has been an important and valuable experience. I tried to keep my urban analytical glasses on everywhere I went in Bogotá during the daily life. I was exposed to all the urban issues I was reading about, and I learnt a lot by working with challenges of the city during my exchange semester at Universidad de los Andes.

Back in Sweden, the work process continued with summarizing all the information I had gathered in Colombia, and finding additional information on the subject in more general terms. I found articles and information online, and used the school library. There are plenty of articles about Bogotá and the city's challenges accessible online, that also deal with the social inequality and security.

I began to write the report to get started with the theoretical part of the project. After a while I started to develop a concept and a program with support from my findings and analyses. Lastly, I came up with a solid design proposal, and that process will be described further on.



SITE REPORT FORM FOR ORGANIZED MAPPING

LITERATURE REVIEW



AVOCADO VENDOR ON THE CORNER CALLE 19 AND CARRERA 8

Three literature sources were especially useful for placing the project in a broader, more general context. These sources enabled me to shape a relevant program and develop a final design proposal. The site specific literature was mainly used to get to know Bogotá on a deeper level, and in order to gather background information and will not be described or analysed in the literature review.

1. CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACES - OSCAR NEWMAN

Oscar Newman is an American architect who has dedicated his work to improve neighborhood safety in American cities. The book and its approach are interesting in relation to the project because the character of the safety issues in Bogotá are similar to the problems Newman deals with. Robbery, drug dealing and prostitution are real problems in the downtown area of Bogotá as well as in the inner city neighborhoods described in Newman's book. "Defensible spaces" provides practical advice on how architects and urban designers can shape the built environment to improve safety. It includes descriptions of the concept and reference projects. According to Newman, requirements for creating safer cities should be citizen dialogue, marking out territories and working with the transitional relationship between public and private.

2. HOW TO STUDY PUBLIC SPACES - JAN GEHL & BRIGITTE SVARRE

"How to study public spaces" is a guide describing Jan Gehl's toolbox for analysing the city and public spaces. The book also includes other methods and approaches created by other urban designers and architects. It is a perfect source of information on how to create successful public spaces in general terms. Gehl presents his life's work and inspirations, and how he applies theory into practise. Gehl's toolbox is well-known worldwide and even though the project's context and focus area is not prioritized in it, there are some sections in the book that relate to the subject. This book provides the basic definition and purpose of public spaces, which is always important to keep in mind whether the project is located in Sweden or in Colombia.

3. CITIES AND SOCIAL EQUITY. INEQUALITY, TERRITORY AND URBAN FORM - URBAN AGE PROGRAMME, LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

This report provides guidelines on how to target the issues of inequality reflected in the built environment of South American cities. São Paulo is the main focus, but Bogotá is included as a reference city. The research report has been a valuable source for understanding the needs of the site, and in order to develop a site specific program focusing on security and social justice. It was presented in 2008, but the situation remains much the same today. The world's most unequal societies are found in South America, and security issues and crime are presented in this report as a result of this development.

COLOMBIA AND BOGOTÁ

Colombia is located on the northeast tip of South America . Because of the topography, there is a big variety of climates and environments within the 1 141 748 square kilometer territory. The country has two coastlines and is connected with both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Moreover, Colombia is home to 10 % of the planet's biodiversity, including both flora and fauna.¹ The country's population is 47.2 million (2016) inhabitants and approximately 9.7 million (2015) live in Bogotá.²

In June 2016, president Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Timoleón Jiménez signed a historic peace declaration in La Habana, Cuba³. Violence and internal conflicts have ruled Colombia for more than a decade. War on drugs, guerrillas and paramilitary groups have forced people to flee from countryside homes to the cities. In addition the population growth has exploded, and caused a huge urban sprawl in Bogotá.⁴

Bogotá is an important city in South America with a long history. The city is located in the Andes Mountains on a high plateau, on an altitude of 2 640 meters. The land is very fertile, and the average temperature is 14°C year around.⁵ The weather is highly dynamic and it is said that Bogotá can experiences all four seasons in one day. Before the Spanish colonisation, the area was inhabited by an indigenous people, the Muisca⁶. The Spanish, lead by Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada, defeated the Muisca in 1538. They founded a new colony which they called Nueva Granada. On the Muisca ruins, Santa Fé de Bogotá was built.⁷

Santa Fé de Bogotá became the capital of “Great Colombia” during the revolution against the Spanish, with the national hero Simón Bolívar as the leader. Great Colombia was formed in 1819 and included Venezuela, Panamá and Ecuador. It was dissolved in 1830, but Bogotá remained the capital of the new Republic of Colombia.⁸ The city now consists of 19 localidades, each with their own local governing body.

Bogotá went on to become industrialised, and at the end of the 20th century 36 % of the country's factories were located in the capital. The city became a producer of glass, cement, beverages, dairy products, fabric and chocolate.⁹ Between 1949-1952 Le Corbusier developed the first real master plan for the city. Even though many of the plans were never realized, the city became a car-based city with an addition of functionalist buildings alongside the old colonial heritage.

In 1948 the “Bogotazo”-riots had a devastating impact on the built environment with fires and other destruction.¹⁰ The riots, along with the assassination of opposition leader Luis Gaitán, mark the beginning of Colombia's violent history, “La Violencia”¹¹ .Over the years, fear of violence has left farmers with no other choice than moving to the cities, where they, like many other Colombians, have been plagued by poverty.

In the 1990's Colombia saw a steady economic growth, and Bogotá has over the years become an important business hub on the South American continent.¹² The country is getting ever wealthier, but the gap between the rich and the poor remains. 44.3 % of Colombia's population lives in poverty, and 14.8 % live in extreme poverty. Colombia has one of the worst income gaps in South America, and the Colombian society is ranked one of the top 5 least equal societies in the world.¹³

The Greater Bogotá region is expected to become a mega city in the next decade¹⁴. In 2010 the capital district was home to 19 %¹⁵ of the country's population. In 2015 Bogotá's population was around 9.8 million¹⁶. It is the most densely populated non-Asian city in the world¹⁷. As previously mentioned, the urban sprawl is one of the greatest challenges Bogotá is facing. The shape of the plateau it is located on is a natural limit for the city, which is already covering a huge area.

In 1998 Bogotá had expanded on 31000 hectares of the plateau's 39000 hectares.¹⁸ The localidades in the periphery are mainly residential areas, including both formal and informal settlements. These areas have for a long time grown without any planning or control, and this has resulted in disharmony within the city.

The localidades in the periphery have developed into slum areas, struggling with lack of basic services such as infrastructure, education, healthcare and recreation.¹⁹ Exclusion and alienation is an additional result of the large distances and the lack of movability within Bogotá. Traffic jams and overcrowded public transportation is part of the everyday city life. If nothing is done to target the issues of mobility, the economic growth will soon be affected.²⁰

The slums in the periphery are the result of lack of management of the heavy refugee flow that is due to the country's violent history²¹. People have settled down where they have found space to do so, which usually has been in the outskirts of the city. However, it is not only in the periphery you can find slum areas in Bogotá. There is another type of slums that has emerged in the traditional center of the city²².

1 Gallon. D. About Colombia, 2014, *Politecnico de Milano* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMIny1ESUzs&t=25s>

2 The World Factbook, People and Society, *Central Intelligence Agency* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/co.html>

3 Blodig konflikt slut efter historisk vapenvila, June 23 2016, *Svenska Dagbladet* <http://www.svd.se/farc-och-colombia-har-skrivit-under-vapenvilan>

4 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 14-16

5 Ibid, 17

6 M. A. Vargas. Carrera Séptima de Bogotá: Patrimonio, historia y cultura, 6-11

7 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 16

8 Bolivar Establishes the Republic of Gran Colombia, *History Channel* <http://www.historychannel.com.au/this-day-in-history/bolivar-establishes-the-republic-of-gran-colombia>

9 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 17

10 L. Pizano. ¿Está Jodida Bogotá? Los alcaldes analizan la situación de la ciudad, 11

11 Steinick, Karl. La violencia, våldet som aldrig upphör, July 21 2004, *Svenska Dagbladet* <http://www.svd.se/la-violencia-valdet-som-aldrig-upphor>

12 Chan, Szu Ping. Colombia: From a failed state to Latin American powerhouse, February 28 2015, *The Telegraph* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/globalbusiness/11441732/Colombia-from-failed-state-to-Latin-American-powerhouse.html>

13 Pobreza en Colombia, 2016 <http://www.techo.org/paises/colombia/>

14 Wessels. G, Pardo. C F, Bocarejo, J P. Bogotá 21 - Towards a world-class, transit-oriented metropolis, October 2015, *Despacio* <http://despacio.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Bogota-21-english.pdf>, 15

15 Ibid, 9

16 The World Factbook, People and Society, *Central Intelligence Agency* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/co.html>

17 Cox, Wendell. World urban areas population and density: a 2012 update, May 3 2012, *New Geography* <http://www.newgeography.com/content/002808-world-urban-areas-population-and-density-a-2012-update>

18 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 17

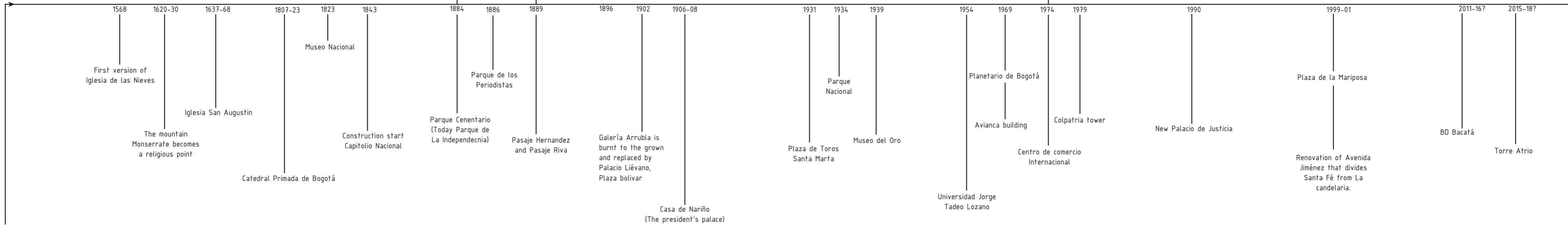
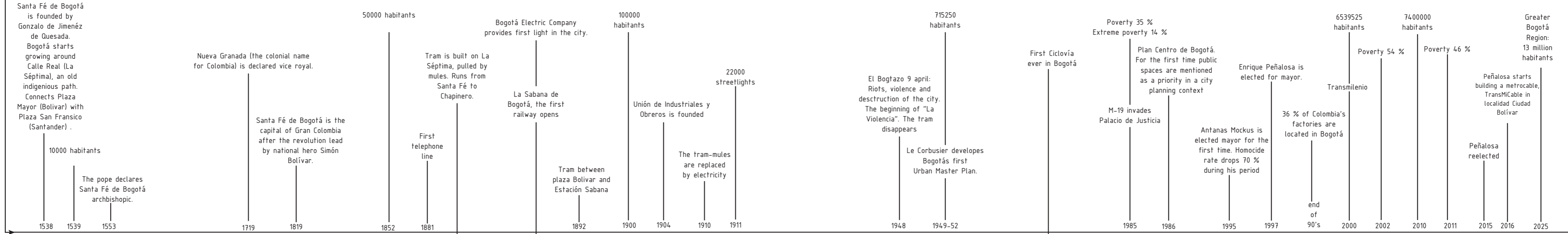
19 Ibid, 28

20 Wessels. G, Pardo. C F, Bocarejo, J P. Bogotá 21 - Towards a world-class, transit-oriented metropolis, October 2015, *Despacio* <http://despacio.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Bogota-21-english.pdf>, 17

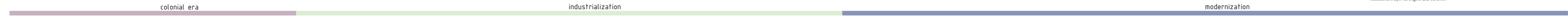
21 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 28

22 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 42

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN BOGOTÁ'S HISTORY AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPORTANT AND SYMBOLIC BUILDINGS AND PLACES IN SANTA FÉ AND ALONG CARRERA SÉPTIMA



Elaborated by the autor based on information from the books Carrera Séptima de Bogotá: Patrimonio, historia y cultura and Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C. together with information from Alkalía de Mayor de Bogotá and TECHO.

SANTA FÉ AND THE SITE

Localidad Santa Fé consists 42 different barrios²³. The barrios cover a size of 4887 hectares, and this is where the city's downtown area is located²⁴. The total population of Santa Fé is estimated to around 108 000 people, but it is difficult to give an exact number due to the wide-spread commuting in and out of the area.²⁵ In comparison with the slum areas in the periphery, the population of Santa Fé is not growing²⁶. The refugees do not end up in the traditional city center any more, and the number of residential buildings has decreased.

Santa Fé, along with many other localidades, has deteriorated over the years. Buildings are decaying and are often marked by destructive activities. The uncontrolled growth has affected the monocentric city structure. Even though the localidad La Candelaria is considered the historical center of Bogotá, Santa Fé also has a rich heritage and is considered the traditional center.

Today, the traditional city center has lost its original functions because of the decentralisation of the city. At the end of the 19th century, the government controlled and established important functions such as transportation, hospitals and commerce in central Bogotá. The traditional city center is no longer attractive, and societal functions are now located in various places in the huge area covered by the city. Places and buildings of the traditional city center have lost their original meaning.

In the beginning of the 1960s, so called “inquilinos”, abandoned houses, in the traditional city center functioned as transit houses for refugees. The train station was located nearby, and the areas around it became a natural gathering place for refugees, before they found their way to the periphery where they began building their own illegal houses.

The old transit houses have remained and are often used as an extra income among former refugees. Tenants have, over the years, often been involved in illegal activities such as drug trafficking, gang violence and prostitution.²⁷ This is how the red light district has evolved, and also how the areas like the infamous but now demolished El Cartucho became established²⁸.

The project site is located fairly close to where El Cartucho was located, as well as the red light district. Otherwise the site surroundings and barrio Veracruz mainly contains places of commerce, such as casinos, shops and restaurants. However the area also contains plenty of interesting places and landmarks like the Gold museum.²⁹ The combinations and clashes of city layers is one of the reasons why the site is interesting for a project focusing on social justice and security in public spaces.



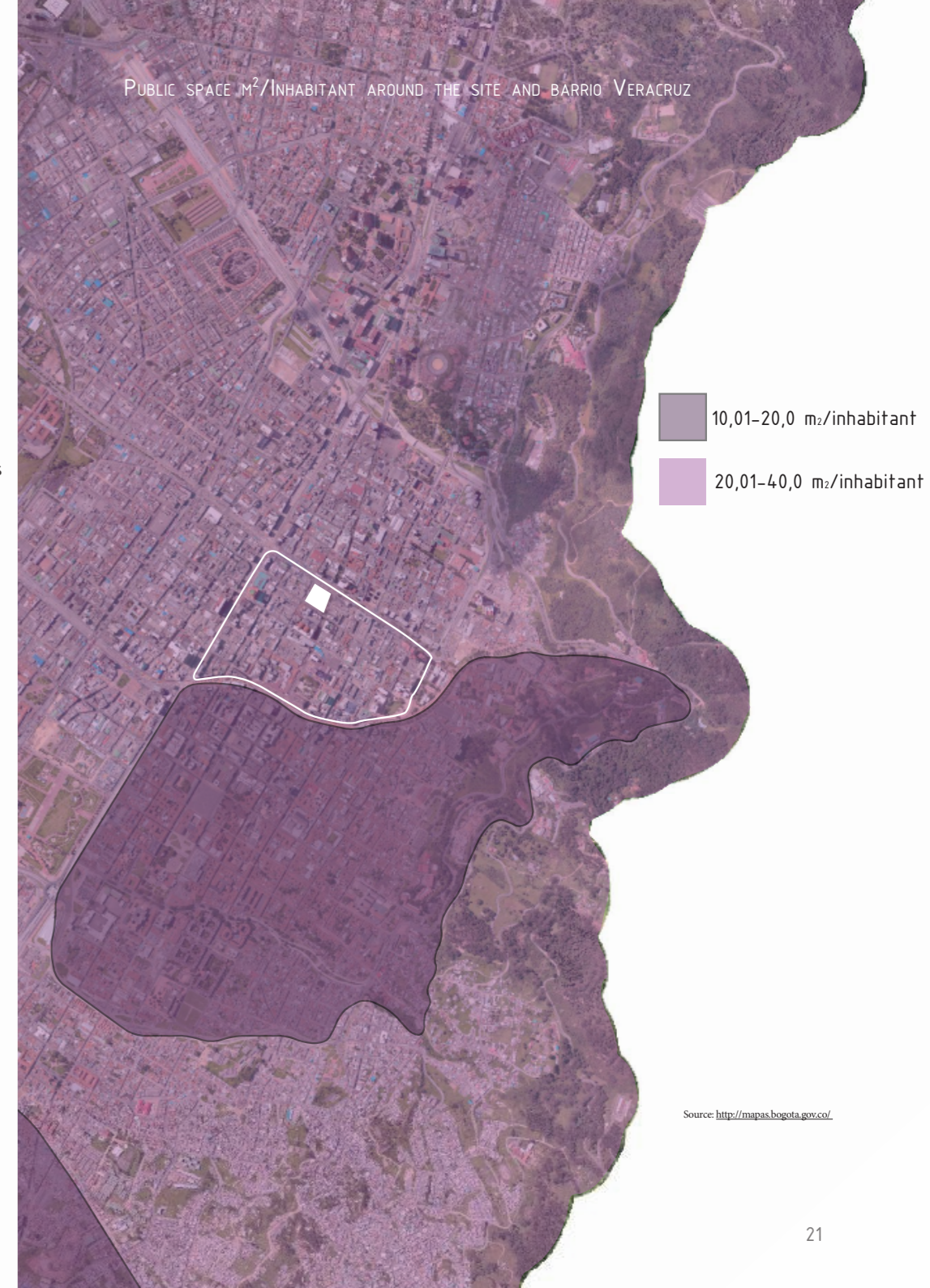
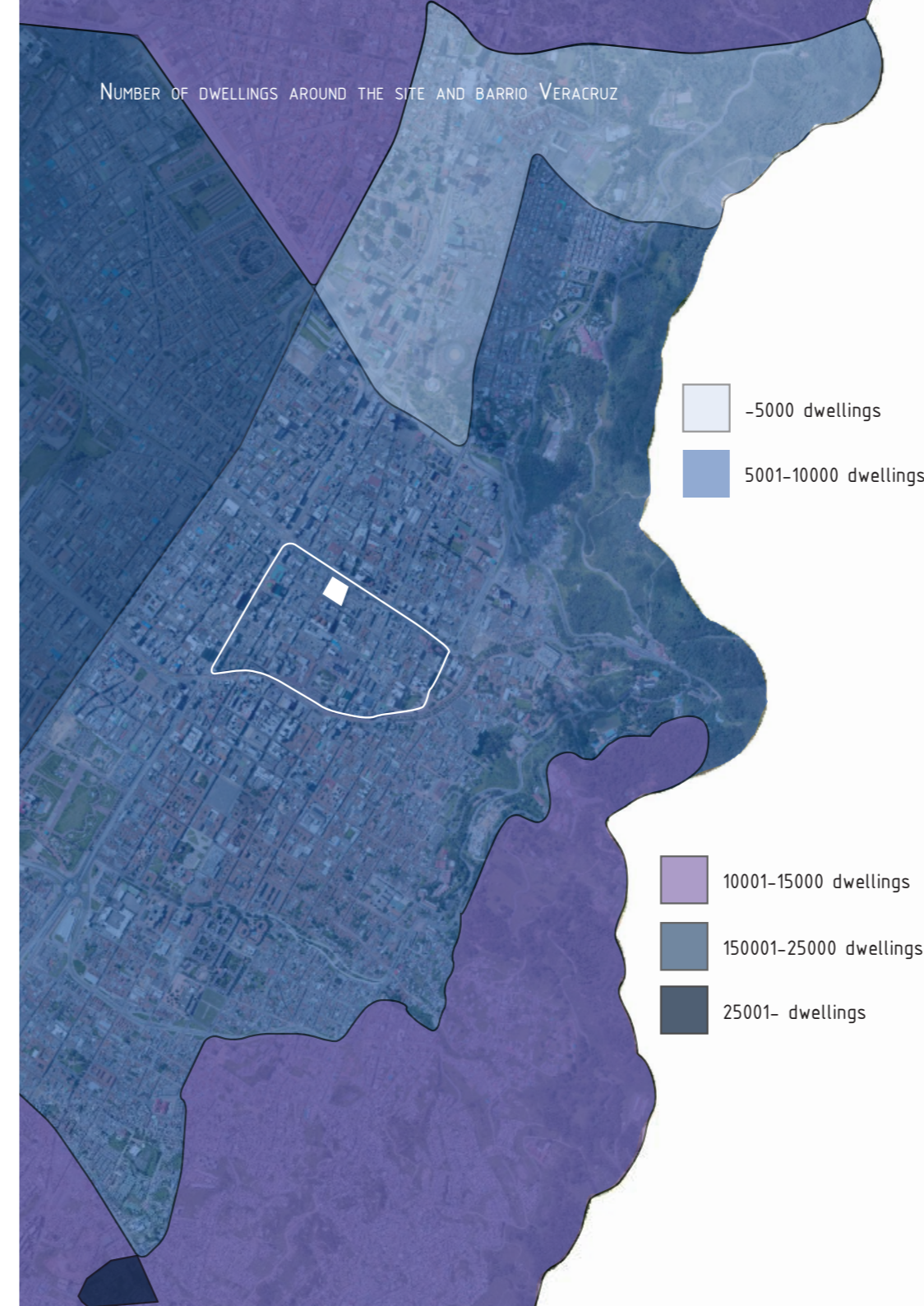
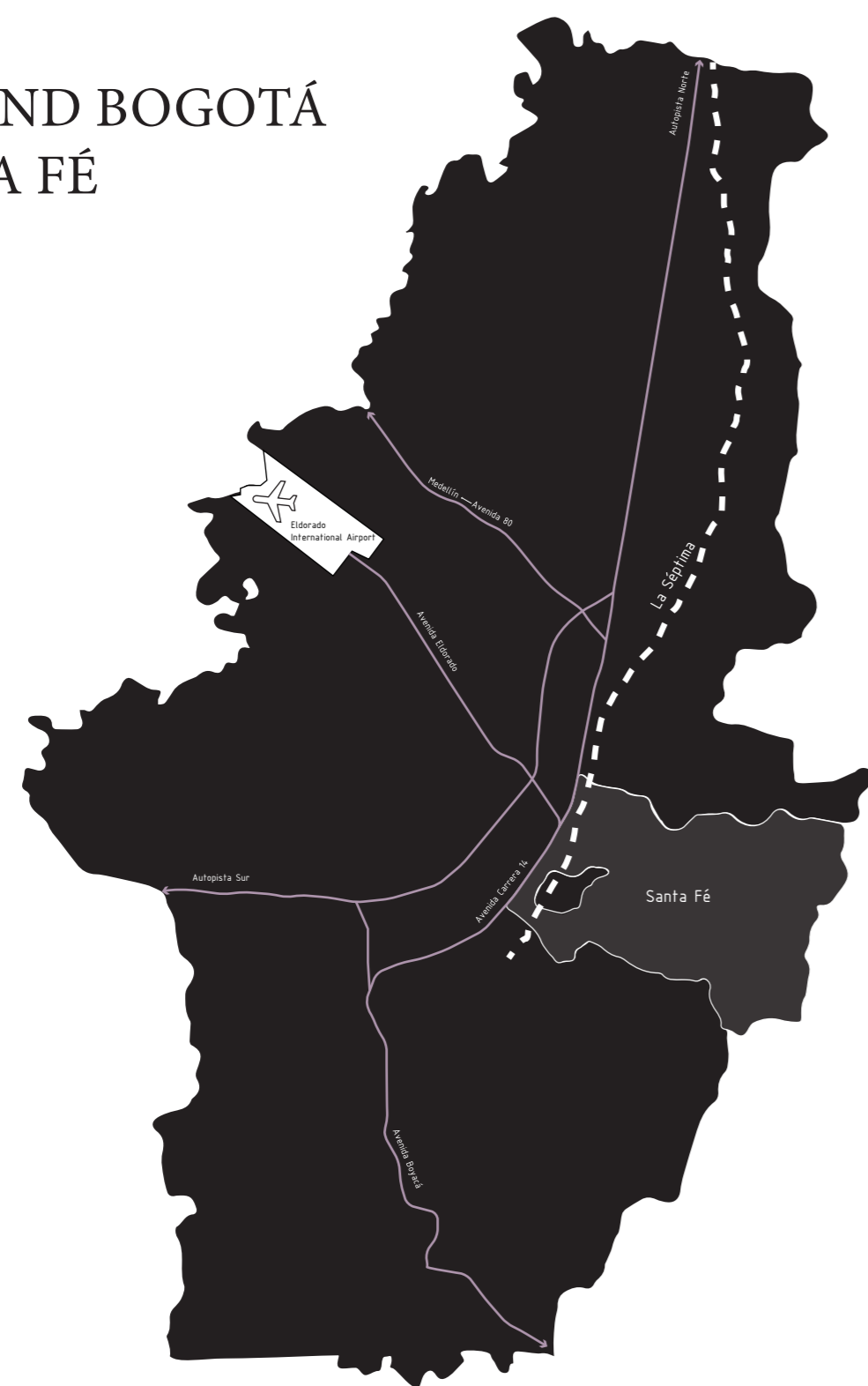
LOCALIDAD SANTA FÉ. TORRE COLPATRIA AND MONSERRATE MOUNTAIN TO THE LEFT AND THE UNFINISHED B.D BACATÁ IN THE BACKGROUND TO THE RIGHT.

²³ Barrios y UPZs en Santa Fe, November 2013, *Alcaldía de mayor de Bogotá* <http://www.santafe.gov.co/index.php/mi-localidad/conociendo-mi-localidad/barrios-y-upz-s>
²⁴ Mi Localidad, November 2013, *Alcaldía de mayor de Bogotá* <http://www.santafe.gov.co/index.php/mi-localidad/conociendo-mi-localidad/datos-de-mi-localidad>

²⁵ Ibid
²⁶ N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. *Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C.*, 21

²⁷ Ibid, 33
²⁸ Ibid, 70
²⁹ Sitios de Interés, November 2013, *Alcaldía de mayor de Bogotá* <http://www.santafe.gov.co/index.php/mi-localidad/disfrutando-mi-localidad/sitios-de-interes>

UNDERSTAND BOGOTÁ AND SANTA FÉ



Source: <http://mapas.bogota.gov.co/>



LA CARRERA SÉPTIMA

After its foundation, Bogotá expanded along an old indigenous road from north to south, eventually spreading out to the east and west as well. The old road was originally named Calle Real and was the city's first main street.

Today Calle Real is called La Carrera Séptima, and is by far one of the most characteristic public spaces of Bogotá. It stretches from La Candelaria to the localidad Usaquén in the north, alongside Santa Fé and Chapinero. This is where the Muisca once ruled the land, the Spanish colonizers saw the benefits of the location. All the necessities of a society, like a marketplace, churches and the center for power gathered along La Séptima. Many significant buildings and places can still be found along the road. Today La Séptima remains an important symbol of the city, with a great historical, cultural, political and religious value.

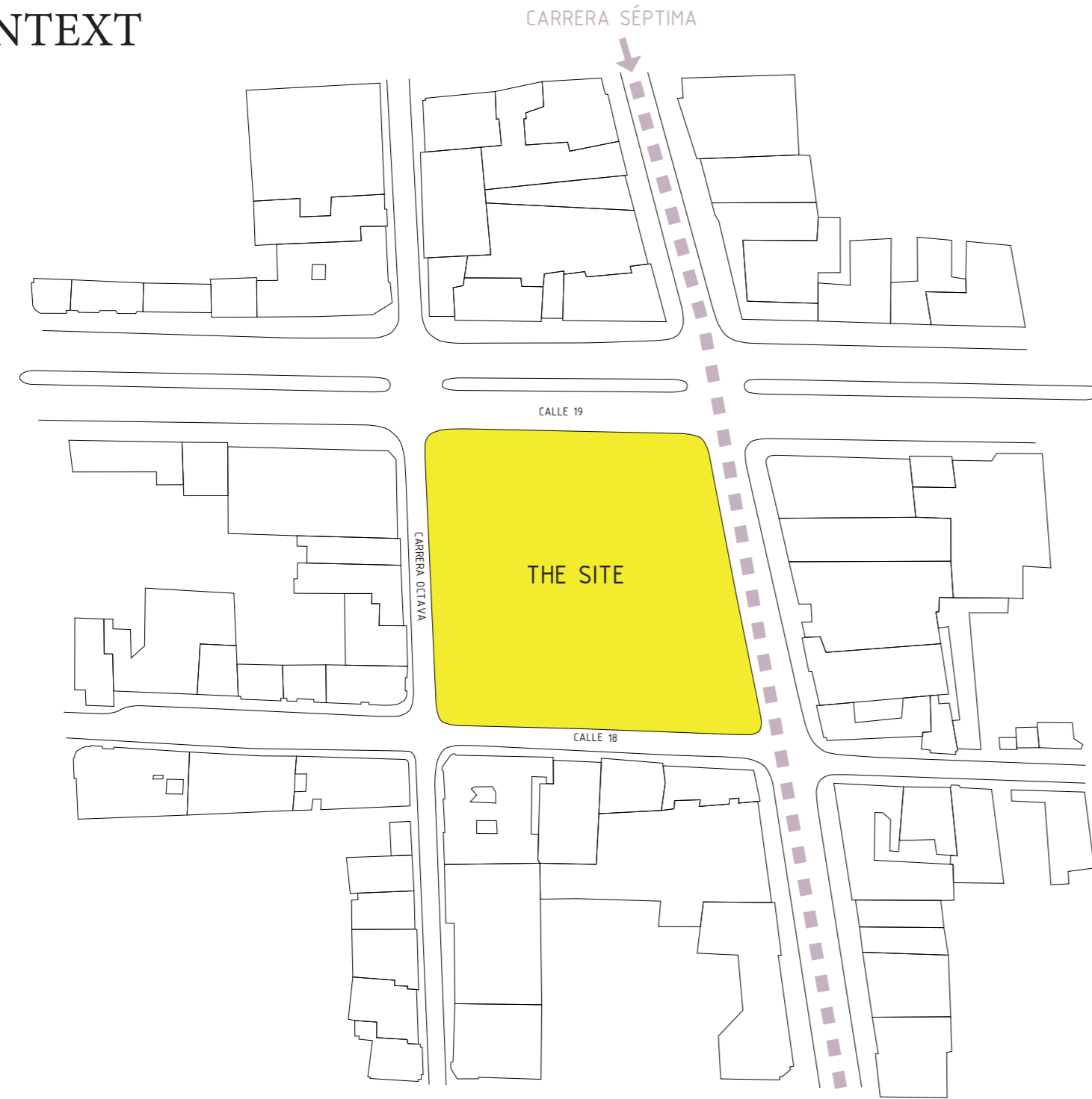
As a public space, La Séptima has been the location of religious ceremonies and military parades over the years. One example is the Corpus Christi parade, which starts by Catedral Primada on Plaza Bolívar and continues to Calle 26 before turning to the central cemetery. Today, cultural expressions and commerce are essential aspects of the street life. Carrera Séptima is one of the major routes on the car free Sundays, La Ciclovía, an event that was introduced in Bogotá during the seventies. Every Friday night is the "El Septimazo" and during these hours, the whole pedestrian strip is full of festivities.³⁰

30 Historia de la Séptima entre calles 19 y 26, March 28 2012, Alcaldía de Mayor de Bogotá <http://www.culturarecreacionysporte.gov.co/historia-de-la-septima-entre-calles-19-y-26>

Carrera Séptima has gone from having trams pulled by mules, to cars in the mid 20th century, to being converted into a pedestrian street. In the seventies the city began to construct high rise buildings, and today Torre Colpatria along La Séptima is a shiny landmark, with its light-covered facades changing its appearance every day. Similarly, in the whole localidad of Santa Fé, and even at the project site, colonial houses are located alongside modern high rise buildings. The barrios of Santa Fé were some of the city's original barrios, and Las Nieves and Veracruz where the project site is located evolved early on. A grid-like pattern with square-shaped blocks spread, grew and developed their own characters. One can easily notice the passage of time in the built environment.³¹

31 M. A. Vargas. Carrera Séptima de Bogotá: Patrimonio, historia y cultura, 26-32

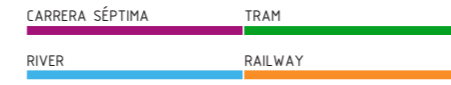
SITE CONTEXT



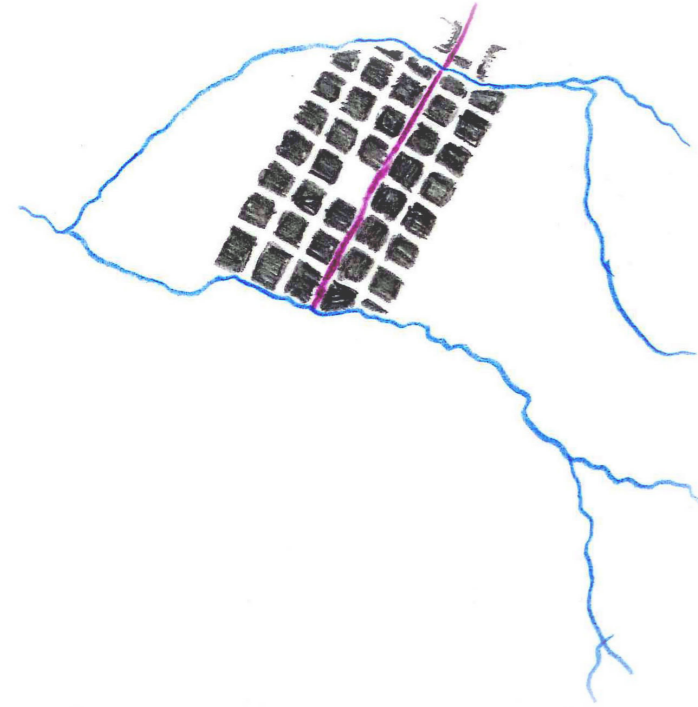
PLAYFUL ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE CLOSE TO THE SITE ON CARRERA SÉPTIMA.

BOGOTÁ'S URBAN EXPANSION

Diagrams showing how the city expanded along carrera séptima after the colonisation. the site has been exploited since 1784.



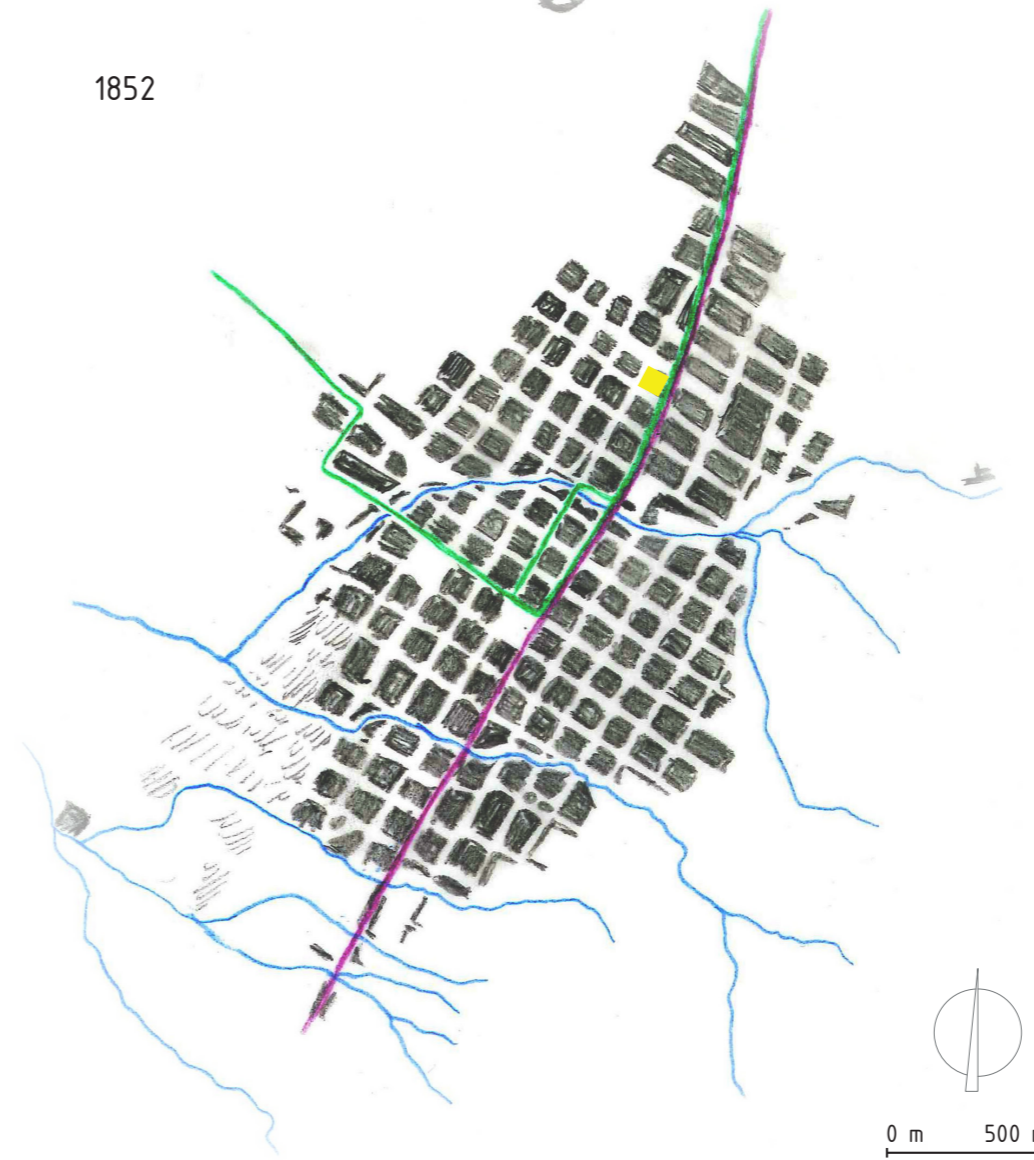
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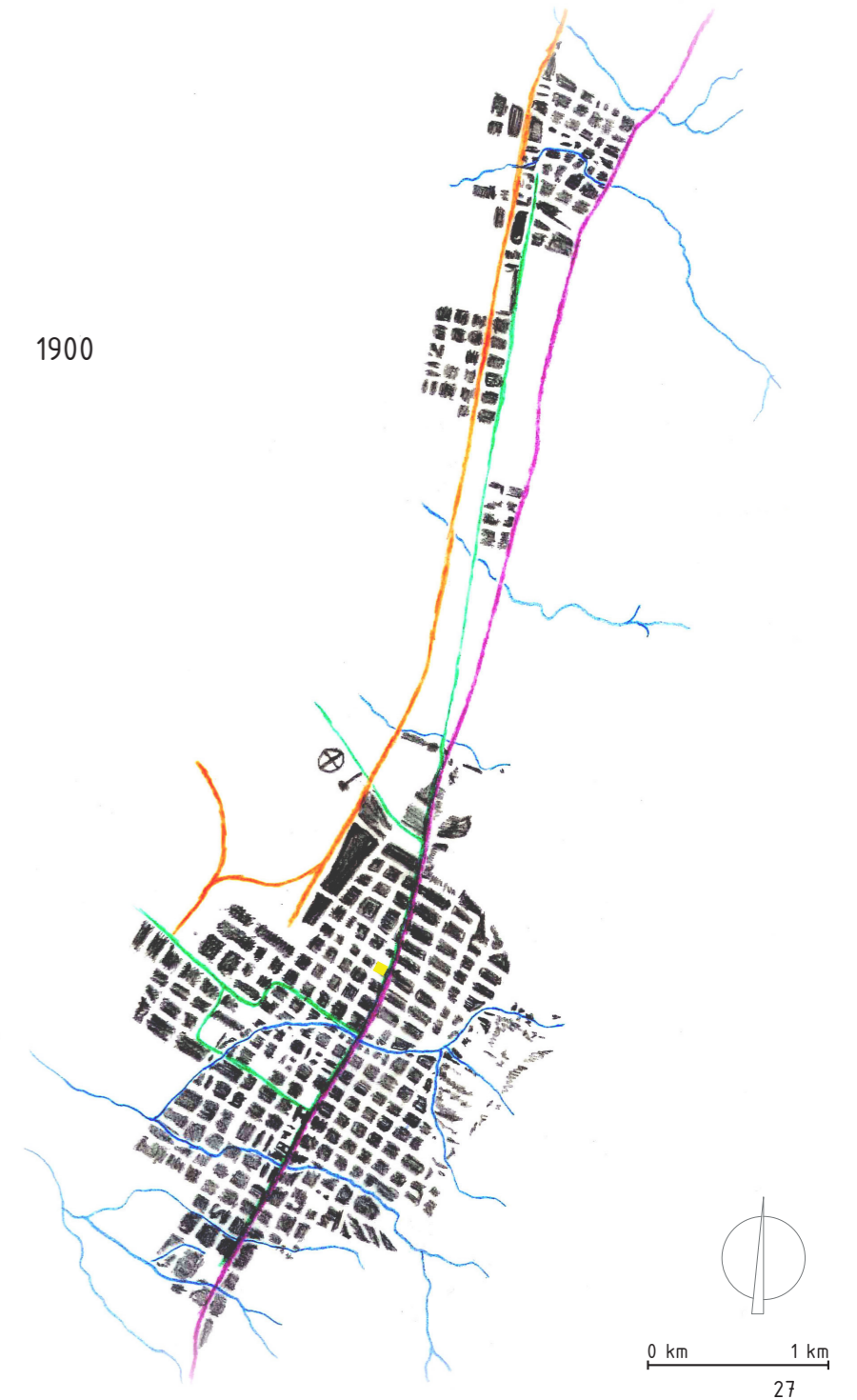
1784



1852



1900



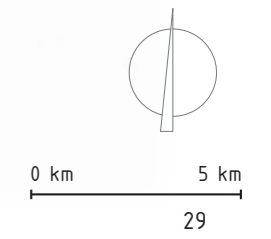
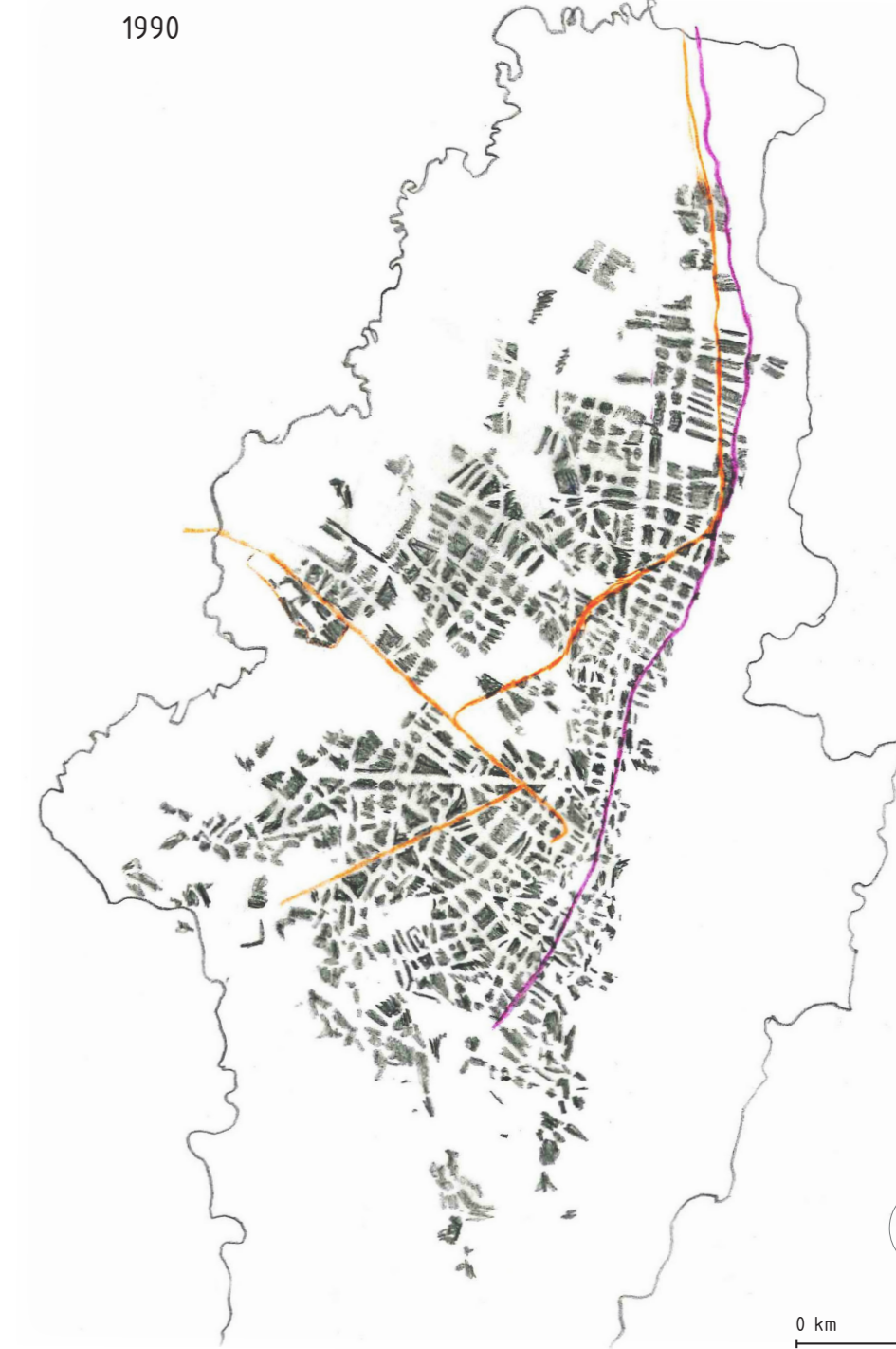
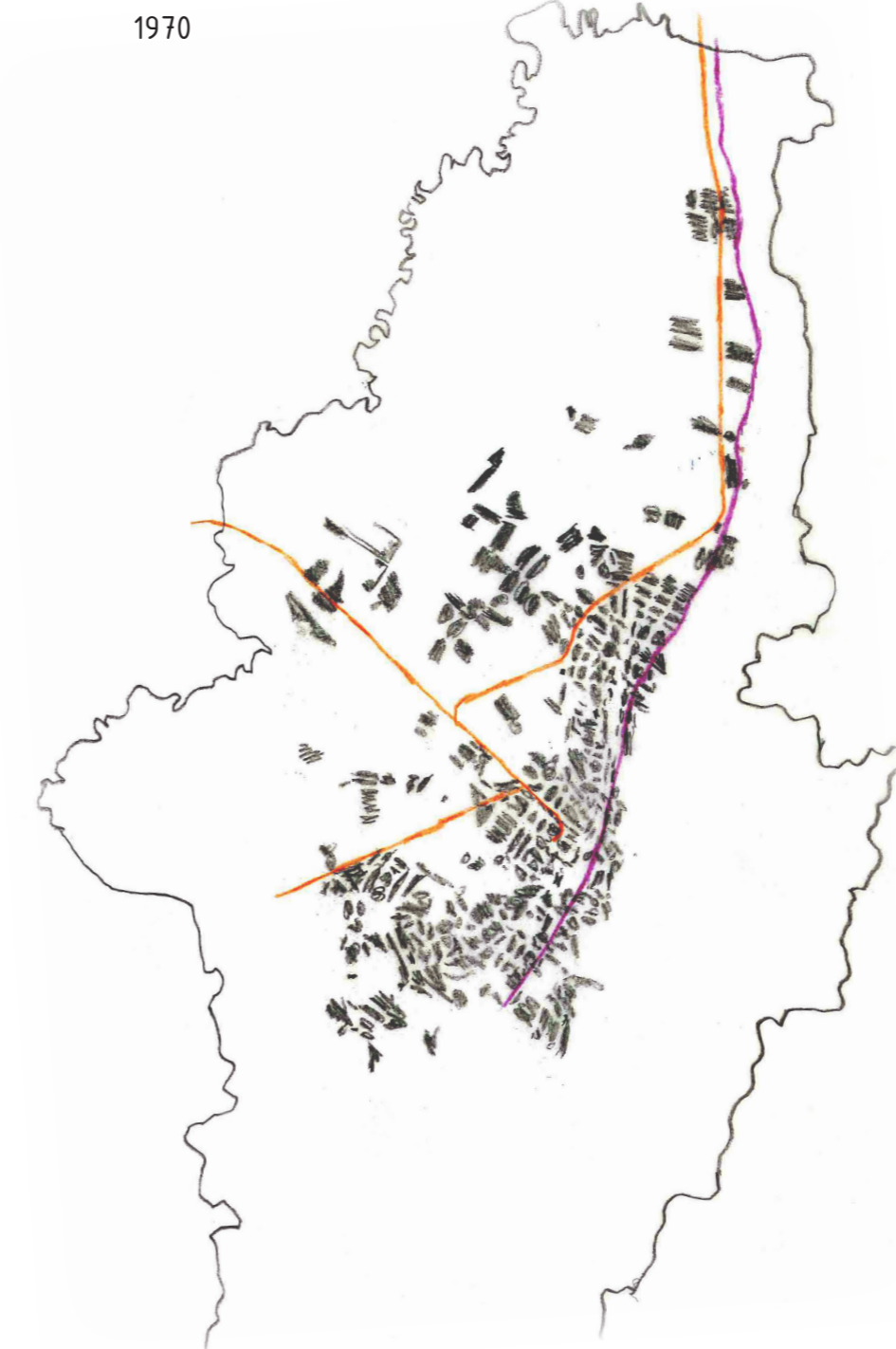
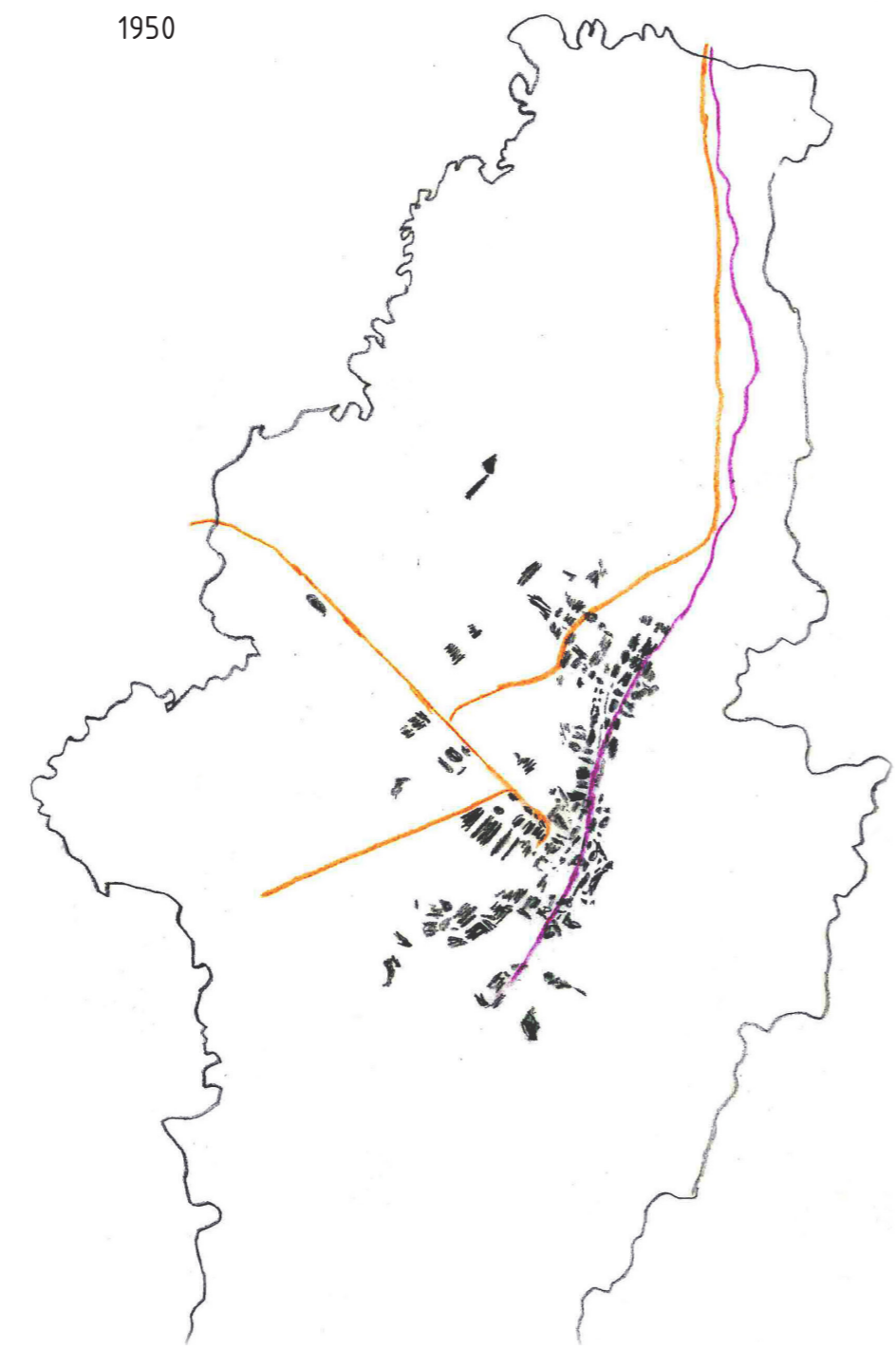
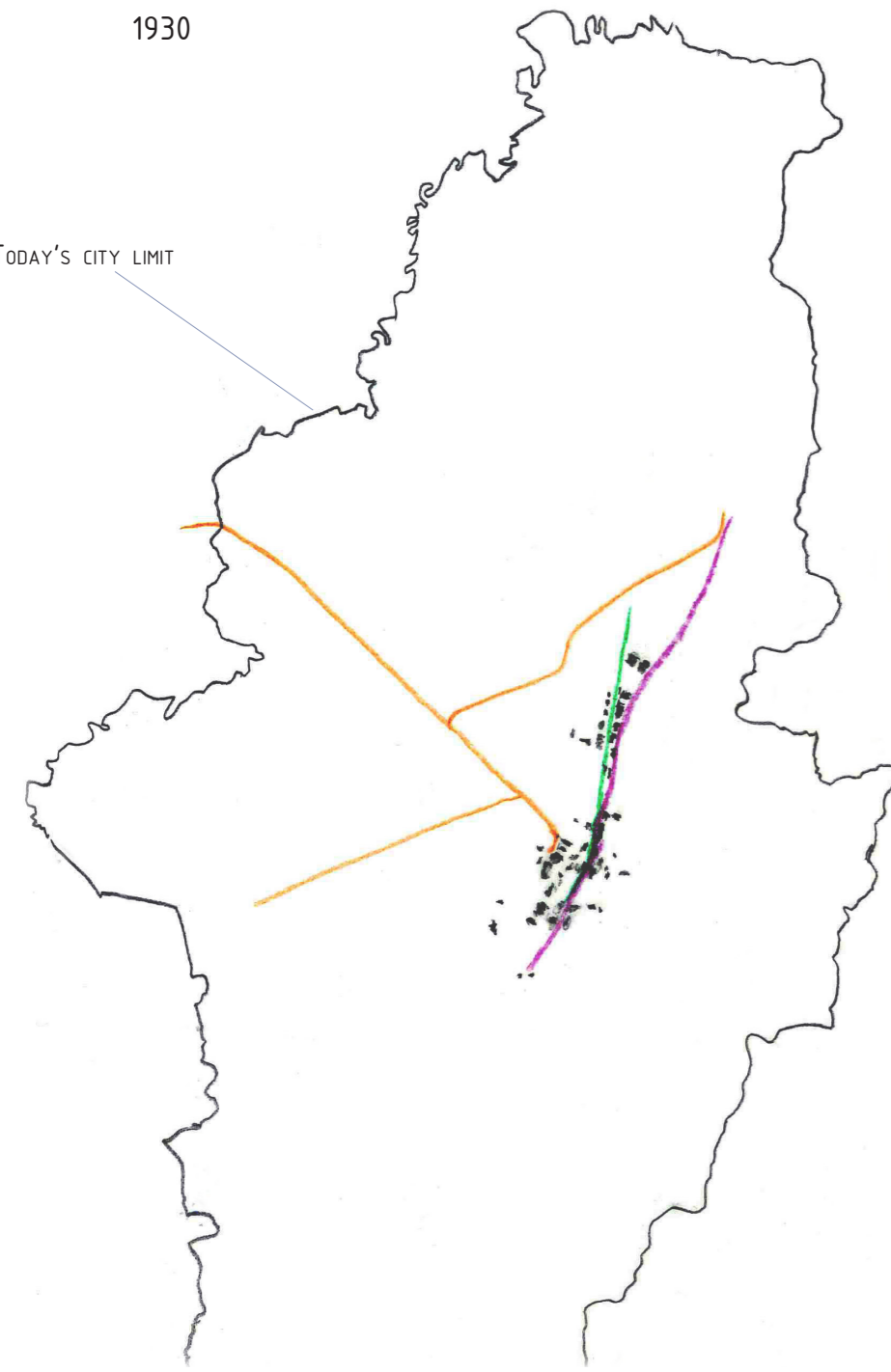
1930

1950

1970

1990

TODAY'S CITY LIMIT



SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE URBAN CONTEXT

The UN definition of social justice consists of fighting poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and enabling solidarity, harmony and equal opportunity within and between societies. Social justice creates a fairer, safer and more stable world. The Millennium Development Goals are tools for the UN to encourage social justice and development for people in the most vulnerable countries.³² As mentioned before, South America and Colombia struggle with the a income gap between rich and poor, regardless of the economic growth. This unequal development is evident in the built environment. Cities become polarised, with luxury malls and gated communities side by side with slum neighborhoods and informal settlements.³³

There are many examples of the lack of social justice in Bogotá. The idea with this degree project is to focus on the urban design and architecture. The UN objective for a fairer, safer and stable world should therefore be reflected in the urban development. In downtown Bogotá where the project site is located, there is today development fueled by economic interests instead of the actual needs of the public sphere.

BD Bacatá is a project under construction on Calle 19 and close to Carrera Séptima. In august 2015, the tower became the highest building in Colombia. In a sense, it is a symbol for the country's steady economic growth, but the question is how many of Bogotá's citizens that will ever have the opportunity to enjoy the view from the tower. The tower will house hotels, offices, luxury apartments and shopping malls, accessible for the selected group of people who can afford the lifestyle. BD Bacatá is only one of several skyscrapers planned or currently under construction in the downtown area.

The existing plan for the project site also includes a skyscraper, a privately funded project called "Entre Calles".³⁴

Another issue in the downtown area is all the empty parking lots occupying valuable land. The parking lots are privately run, and to access the space you have to pay. As a result, the downtown area is full of uninviting, barren areas which can be perceived as deserted and dangerous in the night time. Meanwhile, the city is in desperate need to become more dense in order to combat the urban sprawl.

Researchers are mentioning equity as a tool for developing inclusive public spaces. The concept of equity is an attempt to equalize injustice, but not by dividing everything equally. Instead, the idea is to divide resources after need. Although a city full of social injustice, creative initiatives and strong political forces have created an awareness of the urban challenges.³⁵ The previously mentioned La Ciclovía was introduced in December 1974, and on Sundays big roads are shut off, enabling people and cyclists to reclaim the streets for a few hours. It is radical, but directly targets the issue of unfair land division in the city. The land that normally belongs to car owners, becomes available for everyone.³⁶

The Transmilenio is another great example of an attempt to make the city more accessible for everyone . Transmilenio, the inexpensive Bus Rapid Transit system, was quickly implemented during Enrique Peñalosa's first period as mayor, and enabled people from poor areas in the periphery to access to central city to work. Peñalosa addressed the need for mobility with radical action.³⁷

Parking lots in Veracruz that could be used for socially driven public space innovations



³² Generalsekretarens budskap på världsdagen för social rättvisa, February 20 2009, *UNRIC* <https://www.unric.org/sv/fns-generalsekretarens-budskap-tal-och-arkitektur/22129>

³³ Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, *London School of Economics*, 6-7

³⁴ Pabón, G. Cuatro de los cinco edificios más altos de Bogotá fueron construidos hace 30 años, May 4 2015, *Cívico* <https://www.civico.com/bogota/noticias/top-5-de-los-edificios-mas-altos-de-bogota>

³⁵ Zimm, M. Rättvisa lösningar en arkitekturfråga, June 28 2016, *Arkitekten* <http://arkitekten.se/nyheter/rattvisa-losningar-en-arkitekturfraga/> <https://www.facebook.com/arkitekten.se/>

³⁶ Jenkins, M. How a Colombian Cycling Tradition Changed the World, August 17 2015, *Bicycling* <http://www.bicycling.com/culture/advocacy/how-colombian-cycling-tradition-changed-world>

³⁷ Daalsgard, A. Cities on Speed - Bogotá change, 2009, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwgWM3h_1-4&t=1517s

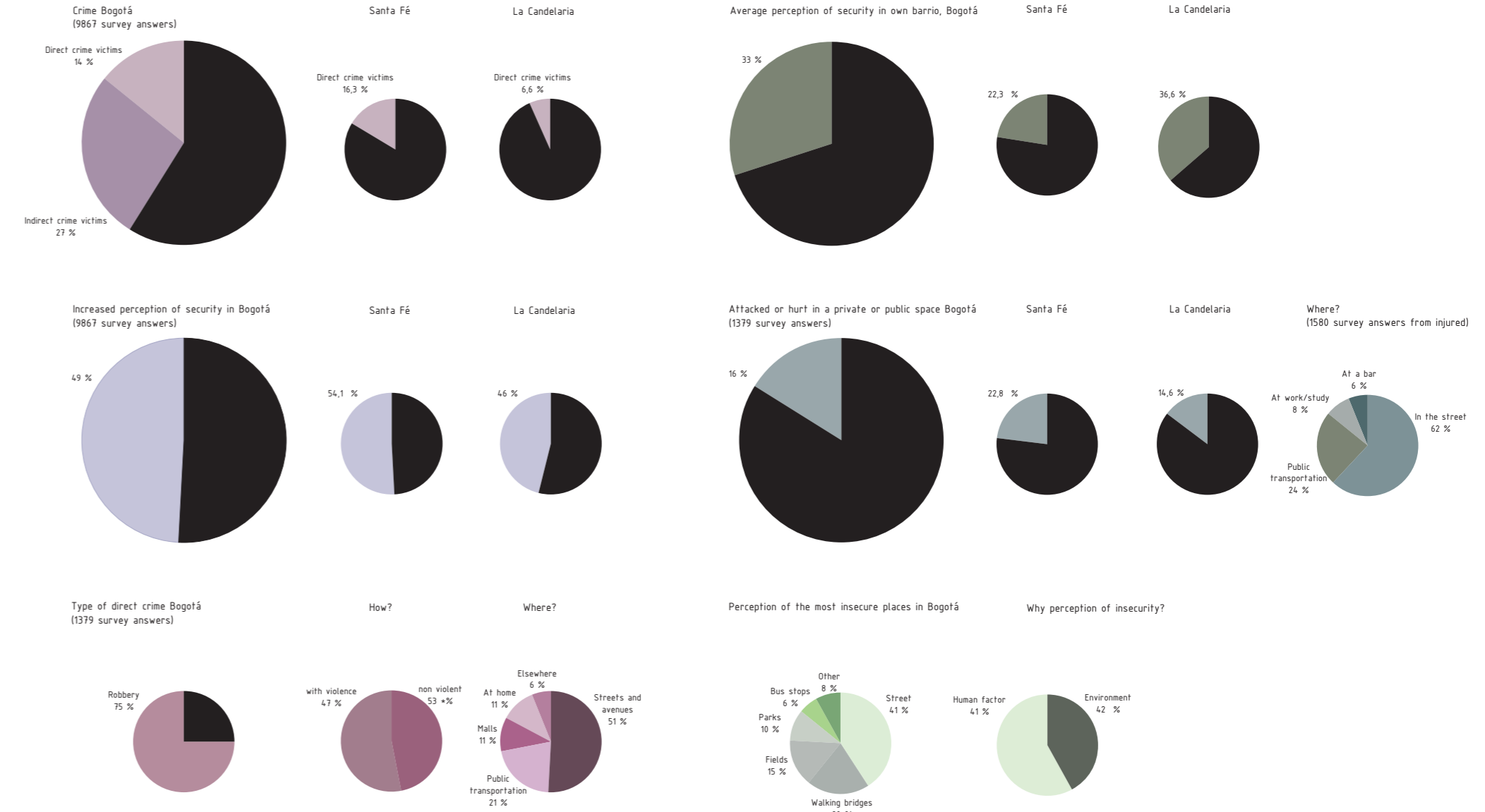
SECURITY

The common perception of public spaces as unsafe is a huge problem that needs to be dealt with if the downtown area of Bogotá is going to flourish³⁸. The UN Habitat programme Safer Cities launched in 1996, and improvement of the physical environment is mentioned as one of the three pillars to focus on according to the “Urban Crime Prevention Approach”³⁹.

The crime rate and lack of security in public spaces are results of an unequal society. In Bogotá fear has developed a typology of safe housing which has affected the concept of public space in the city.⁴⁰ To frame a house with bars, or putting bars on doors and windows, has become an industry of its own⁴¹. The people who can afford it lock themselves in their own, private high security castles. University campuses that are buildings and areas usually open to the public, are closed and carefully watched by security guards. To enter, you need to have an identification card. Universidad de los Andes has an amazing campus with a beautiful garden, but it is completely sealed off for everyone but its staff and students.

Every year, the chamber of commerce in Bogotá conducted a survey on crime, victimization and perception of safety in the city. In 2014 they did a survey on the situation in each localidad specifically. The results in Santa Fé were generally below or above average. The crime rate was above average compared to the rest of the city and the perception of safety was below average. The historical center, La Candelaria is a localidad of its own but it is actually located within Santa Fé. In comparison to Santa Fé, the results of the survey showed that La Candelaria had a higher perception of safety and a lower crime rate.

Unlike Santa Fé, La Candelaria is a neighbourhood with a strong identity and many important historical buildings are located here, attracting many tourists. The security of international visitors might have had some effects on the result of the survey. To summarize, the localidad of Santa Fe is perceived as a fairly unsafe area, with a crime rate above average. In 2014 75 % of the crimes committed in Bogotá's consist of robbery, and most cases took place in the streets.⁴²



38 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 43
 39 Safer Cities Programme, 2012. *UN Habitat* <http://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/initiatives-programmes/safer-cities/>
 40 Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, London School of Economics, 6-7
 41 Jiménez Pulido, C. Rejas en ventanas mucho más que protección, October 28 2015, *Homify* https://www.homify.es/libros_de_ideas/110719/rejas-en-ventanas-mucho-mas-que-proteccion

42 Encuesta de percepción y victimización, 2014, *Cámara de comercio de Bogotá* <http://www.ccb.org.co/Investigaciones-Bogota-y-Region/Seguridad-Ciudadana/Observatorio-de-Seguridad/Encuesta-de-percepcion-y-victimizacion>

SITE JOURNAL AND OBSERVATIONS

Describing the activities on the site is both difficult and overwhelming, because at the intersection of Calle 19 and Carrera Séptima, street life is incredibly lively. There are office buildings, banks, shopping centers, travel agencies, sex shops, book stores, casinos, street vending and various entertainment taking place all at the same time. During one visit to the site I saw an art installation with photos hanging on a clothing line between the trees. People move along the Carrera Séptima on foot, by wheelchair, stroller or bike. Regarding traffic flow on the streets that surround the site, Calle 19 is the busiest, with a heavy flow of buses, trucks, taxis, motorbikes and cars. Calle 18 and Carrera Octava also have a high traffic flow. The traffic flow, including both vehicles and pedestrians, was generally lower on Sundays and evenings.

While my impression of the site changed from time to time, the overall condition of the site is rather unpleasant. There is nothing there, just a construction site fence framing the whole lot. People use the sides of the fence as a public toilet, especially along Calle 18 and La Octava. Pedestrians have a tendency to keep away and walk on the other side of the street, close to the buildings. The site is currently occupied by homeless people. I observed a hole in the fence on one occasion, and it looked like people came in and out of there, probably buying drugs. During the weekdays I noticed some street vendors along the fence on Calle 19. The vendors would sell everything from food items to craftwork and gadgets.

When I interviewed people in the street, all of them told me to be aware of thieves and to hide my camera and my phone. While I did not perceive the site as unsafe at the time, when it was dark or no people around it, it did not feel safe at all.

I realized that the busy Carrera Séptima was the main safety zone in the area. When I left the site I walked alongside it the whole way home, even though it was not the fastest way.

While Carrera Séptima is crazy and busy most of the time, the surrounding streets house slightly more low-key block activities such as lottery kiosks, cafés, cobblers and natural health stores. After a while, I realized that some specific commercial activities were occupying Carrera Octava and Calle 18. On Carrera Octava I found four optician stores and on Calle 18 five stores were specialized on neck ties. During daytime I felt comfortable walking around the site on all of the streets. I did not perceive the site as unsafe. However when I visited the site during the evening the site did not feel safe at all. The street corner Calle 18 and la Octava was deserted and shady.

To conclude, my impressions from the site visits are that the built environment and the activities presently surrounding the site give you a feeling of dispersion in both activities and urban shape. The building heights can vary from 2 to 24 stories, so one could almost say that there are no guidelines regarding the design for my own project. Modern brick and glass buildings in both good and bad shape are sharing the space with old colonial houses.

The lack of green spaces in the downtown area is clear at the site. The only real greenery can be found on Carrera Séptima, the other streets have just 3 trees in total. Speaking of other living things, I observed donkeys on Carrera Séptima and a cat in one of the tie shops. My own opinion is that the site and the environment is not a suitable place for animals, and it could definitely be improved for humans as well.



LYNCH ANALYSIS

A Lynch analysis was done in order to recognize the neighbourhood and get a grip of the overall situation regarding the physical environment.

PATH

There are two major paths in the area. The first one is obviously Carrera Séptima and the other one is Avenida Jiménez, or Eje Ambiental. Barrio Veracruz has its southern border at Avenida Jiménez. The street is constructed breaking the traditional grid pattern. It was build in close relation to the landscape along the river San Francisco. Today the natural river has dried up and is replaced by a pedestrian friendly street with other water elements interpreting the old heritage of San Francisco. The layout of the street is recognizable and very pedestrian-friendly with wide pavements. Carrera Séptima crosses Avenida Jimenez and through the downtown area without much interference from traffic. Regarding the paths on the site, you only walk along the construction fence, and that is pretty much all the path there is on the site. There is a hole in the fence that could be interpreted as a path on the south side. Physically it is possible to access the site from this hole, but it is not inviting and it is an unofficial path made by those who use it and who occupy the empty lot.

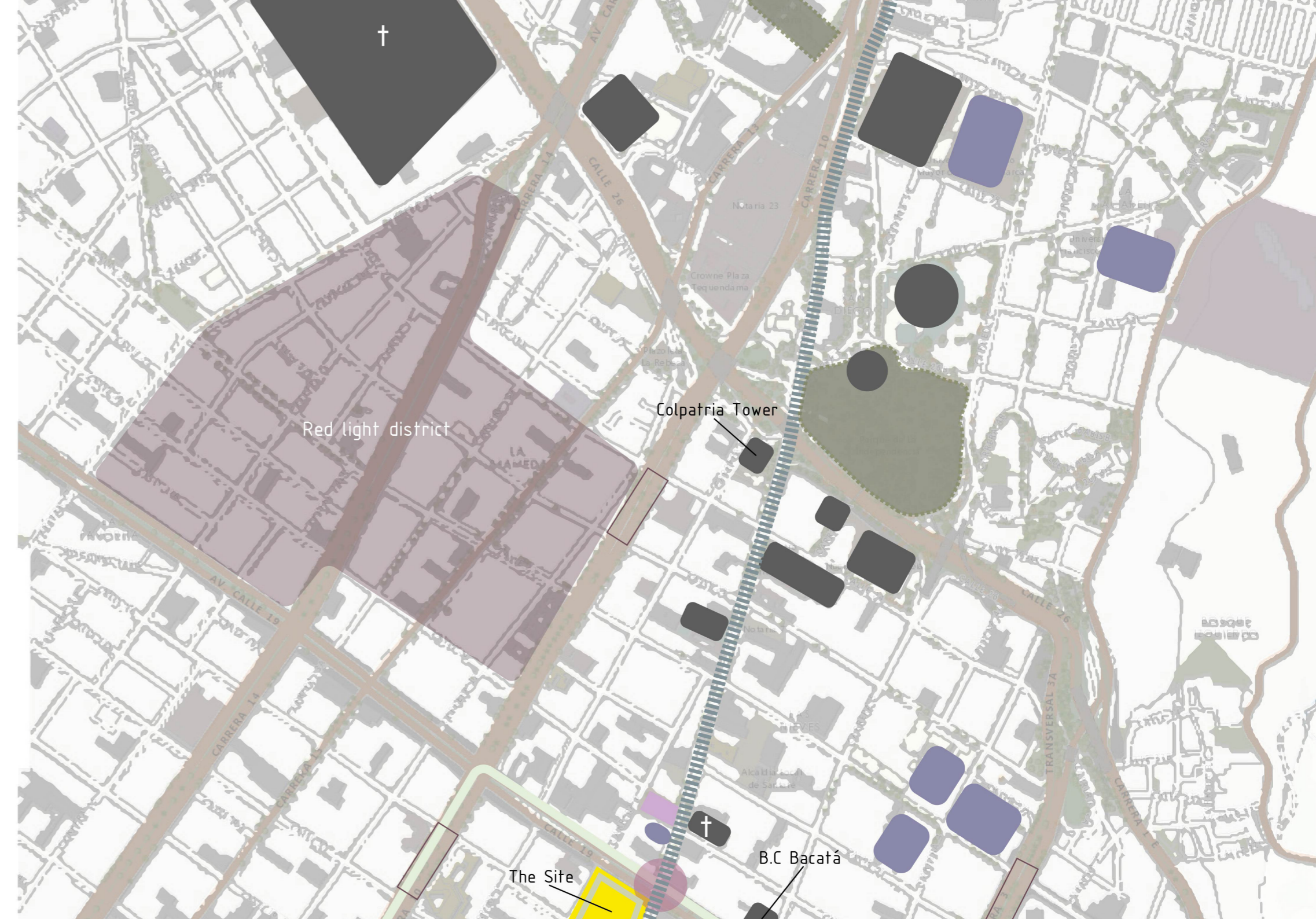
LANDMARK

There are plenty of landmarks close to the site. La Candelaria is only a three blocks away and the whole localidad is more or less a landmark itself. Seven blocks down from the site on Carrera Séptima and you end up on Plaza Bolívar which is surrounded by Palacio de Justicia, Capitolio Nacional, The congress and more.

On the way down to the square you will cross Avenida Jiménez. Here you find Bogotá's famous emerald trade. Elderly men are seemingly loitering in the area, but they are actually selling and buying the green gemstones. The Transmilenio station Museo del Oro implies the location of Bogotá's biggest tourist attractions, and is located next to the Avianca tower in front of Parque Santander. Other landmarks close to the site is Parque de los Periodistas. Santa Fé is also surrounded by the Andes Mountains and the Monserrate Mountain is one of the natural landmarks. You can actually see the mountains from the site, as the east to west-streets work as sightlines. Other important landmarks visible from the site are mainly Torre Bacatá and Carrera Séptima.

NODES

Parque Santander and the corner where Avenida Jiménez and Carrera Séptima intersect is not only a landmark but a big node uniting La Candelaria with Santa Fé and the barrio Veracruz. Two big pedestrian streets meet here, and the Transmilenio is reachable from the station Museo del Oro. This node is a landmark and the place where opposition leader Luis Gaitán was assassinated. The large open spaces are used by street vendors and for street entertainment. This corner is a big city life node, but there are also two big transportation nodes in connection to barrio Veracruz. First there is the big intersection where Avenida Jimenez crosses Carrera Décima. The Transmilenio station Avenida Jiménez is very busy. The other big node is the area around Transmilenio stations Las Aguas and Universidades. It is an important commuting node, especially for students. It is a big taxi meeting point, and smaller buses also pass this place.

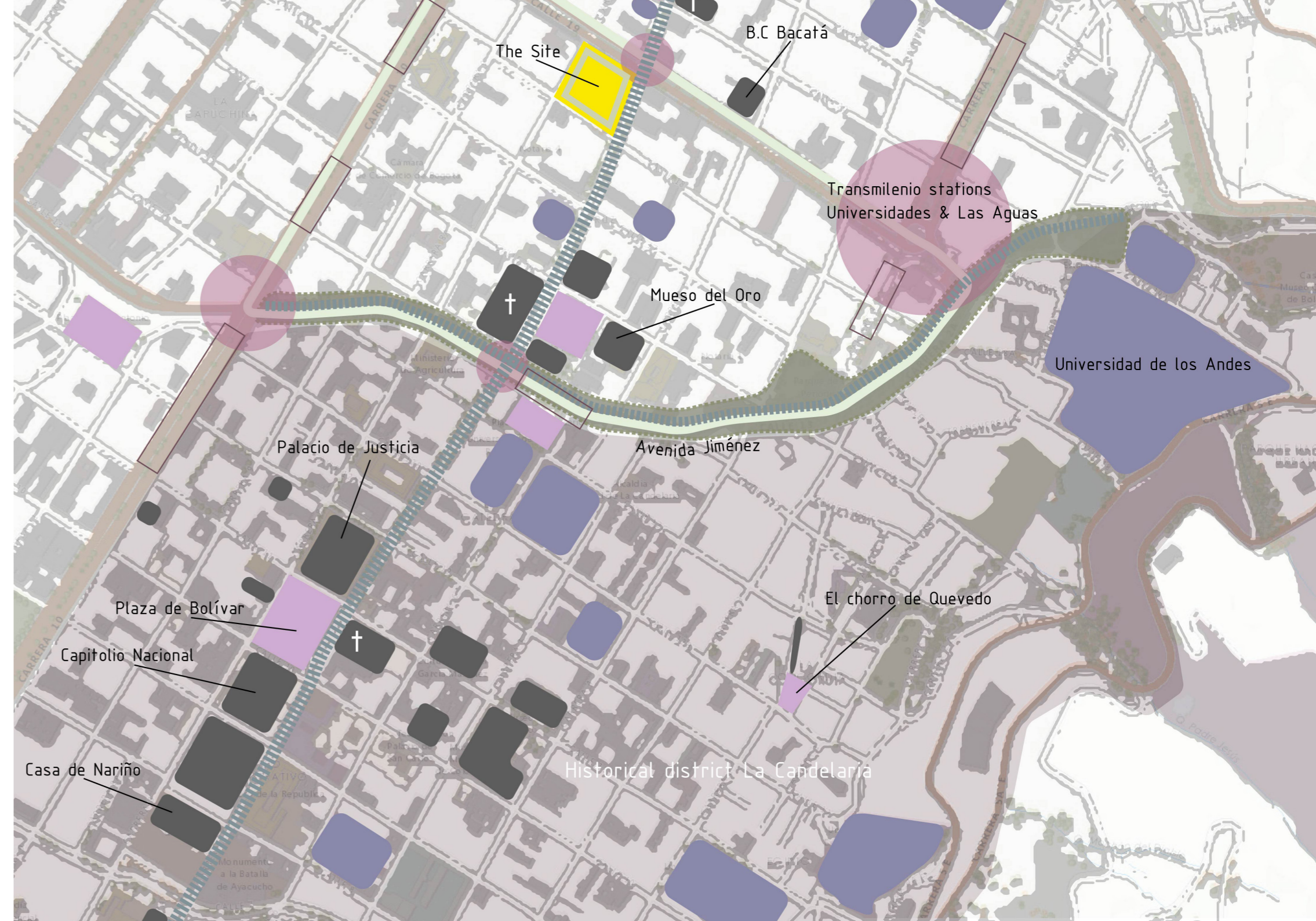
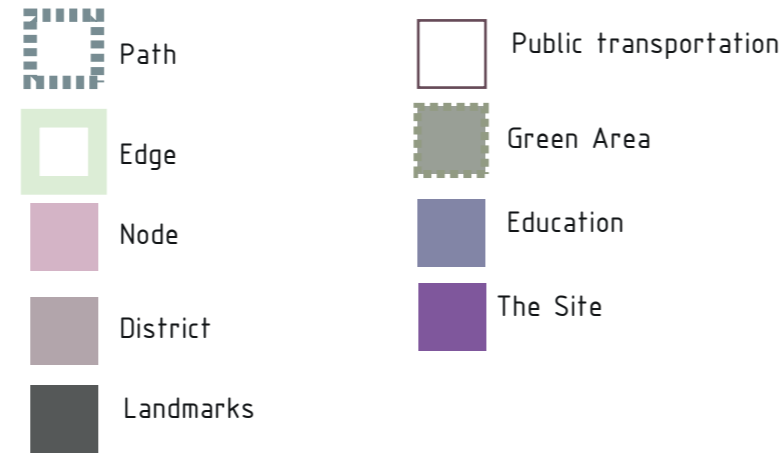


EDGES

The whole barrio Veracruz is framed by busy streets which constitute clear edges where the barrio starts and where it ends. Calle 19 and Carrera Décima are the most evident edges due to the heavy traffic. Avenida Jiménez has a softer expression. Its natural layout and accessibility for pedestrians is breaking the street grid system, and is experienced as a more natural edge compared to the other two more harsh edges. The buildings and streets framing the site are distinct physical barriers to the site. As a part of the grid, the site is shaped as a square. The construction site fence is an edge making only the surrounding streets the actual public sphere on the site today. The square itself does not really contain anything, it is like a blank sheet of paper. Moreover, Carrera Séptima works as a psychological edge regarding urban safety. On the east side of it you feel safer, and it was possible to recognize a difference in moods in the evening depending on which side of La Séptima you were standing on.

DISTRICTS

Defining districts in this busy environment is not an task. However, it is possible to recognize a difference between La Candelaria and Veracruz, and the rest of the downtown area. La Candelaria has a different building style and more unity, while there are various expressions in the center. La Candelaria has another scale and a slower pace. The city center and barrio Veracruz on the other hand, are busy and full of commerce and office spaces. It is a more stressful environment. As previously mentioned, Carrera Séptima works as a divider separating the safe district from the unsafe district. On the west side of La Séptima and north-west of the site, Santa Fés red light district is located.



SWOT ANALYSIS



STRENGTHS

The connection to Carrera Séptima is by far the strongest and the most valuable quality of the site. The pedestrian street generates a constant flow of people, even in the evenings, which makes this the number one street for safe walks when it is dark outside. Other strengths are the variety of activities and businesses you can find on the site. During the daytime, all the facades on the street level open up to the street. The specific theme with the necktie shops and the opticians are definitely a strength. The locals may even know the streets as “the necktie-street” and the “optician-street”, which is a subtle but important quality. There are some buildings worth mentioning regarding character and design. The glass house on the east side of Carrera Séptima in the intersection with Calle 19 has a unique glass pattern in its facade. On the south west corner in the opposite intersection of Carrera Octava and Calle 18, is an old colonial building that is very beautiful and well preserved. Buildings with character are definitely a strength on a dispersed site like this one.

WEAKNESSES

Even though there is some character in the businesses and the activities on the site, the neighbourhood itself and the buildings in general actually lack a unity in physical expression. This is experienced as lack of identity for the site. Lack of identity is often perceived as a weakness and “forgotten” places are potentially more dangerous. As a result, the site is dirty and characterized by an unpleasant smell. Site occupants use Calle 18 as their toilet. The filth adds to the weak impression of the site. Its closeness to the red light district where a lot of gangsters reside and conduct their drug trade further weakens the attractiveness of the site. The physical environment is not providing any sense of a safe public space or neighborhood.



OPPORTUNITIES

The lack of identity of the site can also be seen as an opportunity to create and present a completely new expression to the site without influence from old rules and ideas. The site may be close to the red light district but it is also close to some of Bogotá’s most important landmarks and popular tourist attractions. Universities in the nearby neighborhoods provide a young vibe and people flow. Both tourists and students are great generators for functioning public spaces. The fact that the site is a huge open area with basically nothing in it, on a top location in downtown Bogotá is a great opportunity for creating an inclusive public space. It is easily accessible from the whole city because the Transmilenio nodes are very close.



THREATS

The risk of gentrification and the perception of danger are the two biggest threats on the site. If the downtown area manages to improve the reputation of the neighbourhood, there is a high risk of gentrification of the site due to its size and location. It seems like the ongoing high-rise projects nearby are multiplying, and high rent and luxury apartments seem to be the answer to how the city is going to pay for these prestigious buildings. Perhaps the neighbourhood will experience a reduction of crime thanks to a fresh face of the downtown area, and the barrio will get a better reputation. This would of course be something positive, but again one has to ask oneself for whom the city center is reserved. Is it only for the rich people, and is it reasonable to create more safety zones exclusively for the ones who can afford it? One can say that gentrification may have a positive effect on at least the public spaces if the high rents and fancy buildings create safer environments, and after all, gentrification might be hard to avoid. Therefore, for this project and for this site, it is important to at least create an inclusive program with inclusive activities to address the threat of gentrification so that all citizens of Bogotá can find a place in the city center where they feel included.

THE POLITICS AND THE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC SPACE

The city of Bogotá is divided into 19 localidades that together constitute Distrito Capital. The localidades were divided after their socio-economic nature. The mayor (the Alcalde) is the legal representative for the whole city and the head of the administration. The mayor is chosen every third year without the possibility of re-election, but during the term the mayor has great power to influence the development of the city. El Concejo Distrital (the district council) is elected through popular vote every third year. The council has the power to evaluate and approve “El Plan de Desarrollo Distrital” (a plan for the district development) which the mayor suggests in the beginning of the period. In addition, every localidad has a local mayor and council. Their main function is to make sure that the localidades follow the mayor’s plan for district development.⁴³

The concept of public space was first introduced in Colombia’s urbanist networks in the 1980’s. The tradition had been long established in Europe and the rest of the world. The public space is considered a tool to regenerate cities again after the division of functions that became the norm of cities during the 1960-1970’s. It is also a way to prevent occupation of land by private investors. The focus on public space is thus a fairly new approach for Bogotá. The focus has moved from improving services and building motorways to repairing sidewalks, squares and maintaining parks.⁴⁴

The concept of public space was first brought to life at the country’s architectural institutions. At first, students considered the public space in a classical sense like the greek agora. It is a place for meetings, public activity and where you claim your civic rights. Later they saw the public spaces as objects. The geometry and composition of the places, parks, gardens and streets have been essential in the design process.

The projects and programmes that actually evolved from this movement regarding public space mainly focused on reclaiming the existing places, for example from street vendors and car-related activity. Instead of launching expensive and monumental public regeneration projects, politicians used simple, cheap and efficient acupuncture actions to change. One example is the project “Del centro el centro” which was carried out in 1982. The project focused on illumination of monuments, reparation of sidewalks and improvements of parks.⁴⁵

In 1986 the city established Plan Centro de Bogotá which was developed as a model for the biggest cities in Colombia. This was the first time an administration introduced the idea of public space in a context of planning. The plan was made to enable a debate about the use of space in the city and engage both businesses and citizens in the discussion.⁴⁶

Public space achieved an even more important role in the beginning of the 1990’s when the city wanted to include topography and waterways in the concept of developing the city’s surroundings. The city tried to be flexible in order to allow the market to direct the development in combination with the urge of keeping public space holy and untouchable. When the market was allowed to influence the urban development, it ended up with many deregulations. This contradictory approach resulted in many of the city’s problems that we still see today; the lack of housing, immovability, traffic jams and illegal occupation of land. The city has failed in uniting the private sector’s interests with the public’s and the citizens’ needs. The result is failed urban planning.⁴⁷ One example is the large number of private bus companies that ruled the streets of Bogotá before the Transmilenio was introduced - the situation was simply chaotic.⁴⁸

“Taller del Espacio Publico” was a project between 1998-2000 which attempted to focus on improvement of the public spaces of the city⁴⁹. The aim was to do this on a more standardized level, regarding both design and materials. All these public space initiatives have had a great impact on people’s awareness and confidence in politicians and their ability to change city for the better. Bogotá is living proof of how strong and determined politicians can make changes that really matter.

During the time period “milagro bogotano” Bogotá was lucky to have skilled politicians that changed the city fundamentally in a number of ways⁵⁰. The most significant and charismatic personalities among these mayors were Enrique Peñalosa and Antanas Mockus. Their success story is well described in the documentary series “Cities on speed”. Bogotá was referred to as the “the worst city on earth”, as it had suffered from corrupt politicians for a long time before Mockus was elected for his first period in 1995. He ran for mayor independently which meant he was “owned” by no-one, providing people with more reasons to trust him as a politician. Mockus is famous for his memorable and unorthodox methods to teach the citizens of Bogotá to be more humane. One of the most famous actions was when mimes taught the drivers to drive more respectfully in order to prevent accidents. During Mockus’ first term as mayor the homicide rate dropped 70 % and the number of people killed in traffic dropped with 50 %. He made sure all homes in the city had access to water and also asked residents to pay an extra 10 % tax. 63 000 people agreed to do so.⁵¹ Mockus changed the mindset of the people and taught them to behave more respectfully.

When Peñalosa was elected after Mockus he changed the focus to the physical environment of the city⁵². He founded the Transmilenio bus system, but also promoted the use of bikes and began building bike lanes. Today the city of Bogotá have a bike lane system which is 300 km long⁵³. Car traffic was reduced by only letting cars with a specific license plate to circulate during rush hour, depending on the weekday. Peñalosa also built schools, libraries and parks. The central slums have become important symbols for the politicians of the city, and previously mentioned El Cartucho was completely demolished during Enrique Peñalosa’s first term as mayor. He replaced the old barrio with a park, Parque del Tercer Milenio. The project have been criticized for not relocating the dwellers and there were riots and protests followed the demolishing of the area.⁵⁴ Many questioned Peñalosa and Mockus, and their radical methods during their periods as mayors, but they will still be remembered as ambitious politicians who changed Bogotá for the better.

During the fall of 2015 there was a mayor’s election in Bogotá in which Enrique Peñalosa was re-elected. Some say that people may have to high expectations on Peñalosa due to his old credentials.⁵⁵ After his last period, his successors were not able to keep up the positive development. Samuel Moreno was the mayor between 2008-2011 and he is known for severely hurting the trust Peñalosa and Mockus had built. He was suspected to cheat in the election by buying votes, and during his period he was criticised for not fulfilling the promises that he made during the campaign regarding the urban security.⁵⁶

43 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 25-26

44 C. Ferro Salazar, D. Ruiz Cendales. Bogotá y lo público, 69

45 C. Ferro Salazar, D. Ruiz Cendales. Bogotá y lo público, 71

46 Ibid, 72

47 Ibid, 73

48 Daalsgard, A. Cities on Speed - Bogotá change, 2009, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwgWM3h_1-48t=1517s

49 C. Ferro Salazar, D. Ruiz Cendales. Bogotá y lo público, 77

50 L. Pizano. ¿Está Jodida Bogotá? Los alcaldes analizan la situación de la ciudad, 47

51 Daalsgard, A. Cities on Speed - Bogotá change, 2009, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwgWM3h_1-48t=1517s

52 L. Pizano. ¿Está Jodida Bogotá? Los alcaldes analizan la situación de la ciudad, 83

53 Jenkins, M. How a Colombian Cycling Tradition Changed the World, August 17 2015, [Bicycling http://www.bicycling.com/culture/advocacy/how-colombian-cycling-tradition-changed-world](http://www.bicycling.com/culture/advocacy/how-colombian-cycling-tradition-changed-world)

54 Daalsgard, A. Cities on Speed - Bogotá change, 2009, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwgWM3h_1-48t=1517s

55 Mendoza, Camila. Bogotá cannot expect a miracle, January 13 2016, [Huffington post http://www.huffingtonpost.com/camila-mendoza/bogota-cannot-expect-a-miracle_b_8964590.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/camila-mendoza/bogota-cannot-expect-a-miracle_b_8964590.html)

56 Samuel Gustavo Moreno Rojas. July 13 2016, [La silla vacía http://lasillavacia.com/quienesquien/perfilquien/samuel-gustavo-moreno-rojas](http://lasillavacia.com/quienesquien/perfilquien/samuel-gustavo-moreno-rojas)

The biggest challenges for the mayor currently regard security, movability, improvements in health infrastructure, education and the post-conflict agreement. Peñalosa's old flagship mega-project Transmilenio is today overcrowded and poorly adjusted to the growing population. Moreover, Peñalosa has founded a company that will build Bogotá's metro. The design is not yet finished and experts claim it would be better to invest in improving the roads, bike lanes and the Transmilenio, instead of building an expensive metro.⁵⁷ In September of 2016 the construction of the "TransMiCable" began. A metro-cable will be built in Ciudad Bolívar, one of the poorer localidades of the periphery⁵⁸. Inspired by similar projects in Medellín, and Caracas in Venezuela, the metro-cable will improve the accessibility for the people of Ciudad Bolívar.

Since Peñalosa won the election, social media has constantly been promoting the mayor and his office with different campaigns. For example, videos showing different improvements can be found daily on the mayor's Facebook page, and "El día del espacio público", the day of the public space, was promoted with a hashtag to increase awareness. A new application for reporting crimes has also been launched. The application has several different functions, and will connect you to the nearest police station and alert friends and family if you are in danger⁵⁹. A video published in July 2016 claimed that the robbery rate has dropped by 12 % during Peñalosa's first few months, but whether this is true or not is unclear, but campaign for good citizenship behaviour continues. Similar to his last period as a mayor, Peñalosa will renovate an inner city slum starting August 2016. This time it is El Bronx, in localidad Los Mártires.⁶⁰

Even though the results may vary, Peñalosa does set an example for other politicians. He uses the mayor's whole toolbox for fighting inequality and poverty in the city. The most obvious actions are all the campaigns and projects that he has been running during both of his terms. Before the election, one of the pressing issues was giving the localidades and the local mayors more power. The north and the south differ a lot, and being able to control the urban development on an even more local level is a valuable tool for local politicians when the whole community has to come together to make improvements.⁶¹

The POT, Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial del Distrito Capital is another tool the mayor can use. It is valid for ten years and used to make long term plans for the city. The plan allocates public investment, government action, enables sustainable urban development, social equity and increased productivity in focus areas. The POT is supposed to generate a dynamic dialogue between the citizens and politicians, where they can share their visions for the city.⁶² Improvements and interventions of the city that have been accepted can be financed in different ways, for example as a collaboration between the public and the private sector, or by international organisations or NGO's. Techo⁶³ is an example of a non-governmental organisation that organises mass constructions of homes. La biblioteca de España in Medellín is an example of an internationally funded project. It was built with money from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation.⁶⁴

The local government of Santa Fé has made a development plan for 2013-2016 in order to improve the localidad⁶⁵. You can easily access the protocol online. The general goal is for Santa Fé to become reincarnated as center of Bogotá, and a safe and protected area. Although the built environment is not in focus in this development plan, some aspects are relevant for urban designers and architects to recognize.

Firstly, they want to construct a territory with equity in focus, for example providing better sidewalks so the citizens can move safely through the barrios. The movability should strive to be in harmony with the environmental and humane needs. They also want to make visible nature and water in the city. One sustainability goal is to decrease garbage production and recycle more. To target the safety issues, the protocol emphasises the importance of empowering and coordinating the police force. They also see the increased citizen participation as a possible solution.

The overall strategy is to reduce segregation and discrimination. The localidad must also be prepared for climate change, and local politicians want to empower and defend the public. The slogan for the protocol is "Santa Fé participando y decidiendo, vigorizando el centro, el medio ambiente y los derechos de todas y todos." "This can be translated into "Santa Fé is participating and deciding, living up the center, the environment and the rights for everybody". How all these goals actually will be fulfilled is not very clear, but considering the actual plan for the plans for the chosen project site, the protocol is quite contradictory.

The plan for the site is a skyscraper built by a private company. The site is empty and ready for construction, but it is impossible to find further information about the process and the project. "Entre Calles" is described as the best skyscraper in the region. It has a mixed use profile but by reading the available presentation material, you soon notice the height and how this new skyscraper will change the face of Bogotá and Colombia. According to the plan the skyscraper will have 95 stories and be 457 meters high.⁶⁶

How this project corresponds with the Santa Fé development plan is unclear. There is no single strategy for addressing issues of inequality. The current plans are neglecting the development of public spaces accessible to everyone. The official "Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial" from 2013, mentions that the buildings in the center will grow taller to densify the city. To avoid segregation the new buildings will be regulated, so both rich and poor can live side by side. With the high rises, the localidad expects to create more green spaces in the city center. The plan wants to create living spaces for people in the center to reduce the need for car-commuting, and public transportation and use of bicycles are also promoted. Right now the barrios in the periphery of the city are some of the densest areas, and it keeps sprawling because the houses are small but with a lot of people living in them.⁶⁷

57 Puentes, José Darío. Seguridad y movilidad, los principales retos de Enrique Peñalosa. October 26, 2015. *El Tiempo* <http://www.eltiempo.com/multimedia/especiales/elecciones-alcaldia-de-bogota-2015-seguridad-movilidad-y-salud-los-retos-del-proximo-alcalde-de-bogota/16410897>

58 Guerrero Arciniegas, Camila. "Todo listo para el cable a Ciudad Bolívar" July 15, 2016. *El Espectador* <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/bogota/todo-listo-el-cable-ciudad-bolivar-articulo-643590>

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61 Perfil Oficial Alcalde Mayor - Enrique Peñalosa Londoño, December 30 2015, *Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá* <http://www.bogota.gov.co/alcalde-mayor>

62 Parque Biblioteca España / Giancarlo Mazzanti, February 19 2008, *Plataforma Arquitectura* <http://www.plataformaarquitectura.cl/c/02-6075/biblioteca-par-que-espana-giancarlo-mazzanti>

63 2016, <https://www.techo.org/>

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65 Plan de Desarrollo Económico, Social y de Obras Públicas para la localidad de Santa Fe 2013-2016, September 21 2012, *Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá* <http://portal.bogota.gov.co/portal/libreria/pdf/3PDFSantaFe.pdf>

66 Torre Entre Calles Bogotá - Entre Calles Tower, April 9 2015, *Constructora Amco* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsuExM-SDyo>

67 El POT de Bogotá explicado con plastilina, December 19 2013, *Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL13HKZdwxE>



A woman in a pink shirt and black shorts is jogging on the left side of the street. She is wearing a watch and has her arms in motion.

Three cyclists are riding their bicycles in the center of the street. They are wearing helmets and casual clothing. One cyclist in the front is wearing a red shirt and blue jeans.

A group of five pedestrians is walking across the street. They are dressed in casual attire, including jackets and shorts. They appear to be heading towards the right side of the frame.

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ALCALDÍA MAYOR DE BOGOTÁ D.C.
CULTURA, RECREACIÓN Y DEPORTE
Instituto Distrital de Recreación y Deporte
"Animáte, usa tu bicicleta!"
DOMINGOS Y FESTIVOS DE 7:00 A.M. A 2:00 P.M.

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COLOMBIAN STEREOTYPES AND EXPECTATIONS

Most of the people can agree that Colombia is a country with a bad reputation⁶⁸. Drugs and the long, violent internal conflicts have made Colombia infamous as a country ruled by cocaine trade and kidnappings. Not many people know, that the homicide rate has actually dropped and the cocaine production has been decreasing since 2001. Less people are living in poverty, and the middle-class has grown. The economy is growing steadily every year, and still the world is fed with the image of Colombia as a war-zone⁶⁹. The image commonly projected in the media of Colombia and Bogotá, is a subject worthy a whole thesis project itself.⁷⁰ This section will be a subjective compilation of observations regarding both popular culture, national and international media, and you rarely hear anything positive in the news on Colombia.

There is no doubt that the violent history has affected the soul of Colombia. It is likely that the country's bad reputation also affects the mentality of the citizens of Bogotá. Surely, there is a high risk of robbery, but, as a matter of fact, you can get robbed in both London, New York and any other big city as well. Perhaps both Western media and citizens of Bogotá unintentionally maintain the bad image even though the situation is not as bad anymore.

However, international media and popular culture are still focusing on reproducing the images of danger and the violent history. *Narcos* is a popular show on Netflix which premiered in september 2015. Basically, it is Hollywood telling the story about Pablo Escobar and how he terrorized Colombia with his cocaine business.

Even though the show is highly entertaining and somehow informative, there does exist a need to question the angle of the show; the story about the conflict told from an American point of view.⁷¹

Moreover, there is an internationally known magazine called *Vice*, that mainly focuses on art, culture and news media. However, they also produce documentaries on current world phenomenons, some quite controversial. Presently there are four documentaries about Colombia and Bogotá available on the Vice website with the following titles: *Bogotá's Bulletproof tailor*⁷², *Sewers of Bogotá*⁷³ (about homeless people living in the sewage systems), *Sex workers of Bogotá*⁷⁴, *Colombian Devil's breath*⁷⁵ (a drug that will make you lose your own will and memory, used to rob and rape the victims). While Vice is only a tiny puzzle-piece in the international media, it is somehow still representative of a certain fascination for violence, poverty and drugs.

While in Colombia I came across a book called *¿Está Jodida Bogotá?*, written by Colombian journalist Lariza Pizano. The book contains interviews with many of Bogotá's former mayors. Just the title of the book tells you a lot about the local people's view of the city. *Está jodida Bogotá* can be translated into "This fucking Bogotá". So, while the author wants to get people's opinions on the city, it is already understood that this is not a book that is going to be celebrating the capital of Colombia. The starting point is that Bogotá is a bad city, which is in some sense true, but in order to make a noticeable change you have to start with the citizens' self-esteem and trust in their own city.

In order to target the problem of the country's bad reputation directly, the Colombian Department of Tourism launched a well-noticed campaign in 2008 with the title "*Colombia, el riesgo es que te quieras quedar*" which translates to "Colombia, the only risk is wanting to stay"⁷⁶. Several campaigns with similar slogans have followed, like "*Colombia, Magical realism*", which refers to Nobel Prize laureate and Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez.

There are additional initiatives online, which are all trying to communicate a fresh image of the country. For an example, "About Colombia" is a hashtag and Facebook page in English that started as a degree project by a Colombian student trying to challenge international prejudice against the country⁷⁷. The New York Times also published an all over positive travel piece on Bogotá⁷⁸. The writer introduced the reader to a metropolis with an exciting culture, cool bars and trendy neighborhoods. Even mayor Enrique Peñalosa is trying to communicate a more positive image of Bogotá through social media, although this may just be another method of campaigning for himself⁷⁹. Peñalosa recently launched the campaign "*Te amo, Bogotá*" ("I love you Bogotá"), in which people are invited to talk about what they love about their city⁸⁰. Unfortunately, all the positive things that actually exist have a tendency to drown in all the negative news reporting.

The city of Bogotá has many different layers. The rich usually refer to the poor people by using degrading terms like "gente pobre", "desechable", "gamín", "vagabundo" or "populacho"⁸¹. It all translates into words such as tramps, poor people, disposables and trash.

Both the physical and the psychological distance are enormous between the richest and the poorest people of Bogotá. They all meet at certain points around the city, like in the downtown area or in the public transportation system, but the meeting points are confusing places. The unknown is always frightening, and therefore the importance of a densified city, both mentally and physically, should be of the utmost priority in Bogotá.

Even though it is hard to target the issues regarding income gap and poverty with the current economic system, a city can still have a layout and a design that allows all of the layers of the city to meet without clashing. That is the only true way of fighting fear, and the beginning to gain a new, better sense of self-esteem.

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79 2016, *Alcaldía mayor de Bogotá*, <http://www.bogota.gov.co/>
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81 N. Rueda García, D. Rueda Sinisterra. Desarrollo Urbano y Pobreza en Bogotá D.C., 36

THE EXPAT’S VIEW

Before, during, and after I went to Colombia to study people kept asking me why I chose such a dangerous country to study in. There was really no competition for the spot at Uniandes from any other LTH student. Somehow this reflects the general assumption that especially Westerners have about Colombia and South America. This might even reflect the view Colombians have on their own country. I was invited to a family dinner during the semester and my Colombian friend’s parents asked if my parents were worried about me during my exchange.

The answer to why I wanted to study in Bogotá was because I was looking for a change of context as a student of architecture. I also wanted to learn a new language. The way I see it, you can learn a lot from living and working in another country with a different culture. I knew the work would be very different in Bogotá compared to the how I am used to work in Sweden, but I believe one can learn a lot from other people’s ways of approaching different issues. The ideas developed from working with social justice and security in public spaces in Bogotá can be valuable in other places as well, even though these issues are not as distinct in the Swedish society, they still exist and being aware of this is very important.

When in Bogotá, I lived in La Candelaria just like many other expats and international students. I could walk to Universidad de los Andes. This is not common among the Colombian students. They usually commute for hours every day, either by car or the Transmilenio. My Colombian friend Julian told me he did not like the downtown area, and in general it has a bad reputation and no one really wants to live there. In Lund you are used to everything being reachable by bike, and I valued the walking distances I had to the university in La Candelaria.

However, during my first month I was not at all comfortable walking alone in the streets. Both busy and empty streets made me nervous, regardless of the time of day. After a while I got acclimatized, and sometimes I even walked alone during nighttime. It is not something I would recommend however, unless you can walk in the right streets.

I am used to be able to walk home alone in the dark in Sweden and not being dependent on taxis. Once I had studied at a friend’s house only 5 minutes away from where I lived. The time was 11 PM and I took a taxi home because I had my computer and my phone with me. The fear of crime therefore made me feel limited at times. I am usually not scared walking alone in a dark street, but when everybody keeps telling you to always take a taxi you begin to feel inclined to do so. I soon realized there is a certain logic that rules the streets of Bogotá.

I got pick-pocketed during my first weekend in Bogotá, and many of the other international students were robbed by offenders carrying knives during the semester. The risk of crime is high, but I soon realized I did not always perceive the danger many of Colombians experienced when walking in the streets. People constantly tell you to stay safe. At one point during the semester, the university I attended arranged a workshop at Calle 22 in Santa Fé, close to my project site. The students in my group became nervous after we crossed La Septima walking into the “bad neighborhoods” and told me to hide my phone, but I did not perceive the streets as dangerous at all. In Colombia and in Bogotá they have an expression, “no des papaya”⁸². This does not mean that you should not give anyone papaya, but instead it is slang for not making yourself an easy target for a thief or what could be a bad situation.

82 M. Poole, Paige “Must-Know Colombian Slangs: Part II”, May 20 2013, *Uncover Colombia* <http://www.uncovercolombia.com/en/item/must-know-colombian-slangs-2>

You are basically responsible for yourself. I made myself an easy target for a thief during my first weekend in Bogotá, when in the barrio of San Victorino in Santa Fé I put my wallet with newly withdrawn cash in my backpack. I bought an empanada on a very crowded street and of course took my wallet out and then I put it back into my backpack. Ten seconds later when my friend and I were back on the street, my backpack suddenly felt weightless. My money and my favorite unicorn sweater had disappeared. So, I learned the street logic the first weekend and never got pick-pocketed again.

After a while you got used to the fact that people get robbed on a regular basis, and you adjust your lifestyle to this matter. I left my phone at home when I was going out, only took some money taxi, and eventually it actually became a sort of freedom not bringing a lot of valuables. At first going out in the streets was a hassle, but in the second half of the semester I had become used to the Bogotá city life. I had access to the “safe islands” of the city and could enjoy the variety of restaurants, museums, bars, clubs and cultural events. I realized the majority of the city’s inhabitants might not feel comfortable or even have access to these environments, which made me realize that I was privileged for being able to enjoy these aspects of the city. I watched the news of the terror attacks in Paris and thought to myself that you are not really safe anywhere anymore.

The safe areas need to be expanded and accessible for more than just the wealthy people. Everybody should feel safe out in the public of their own city. The fear of crime should not limit people’s life or access to the public spaces and public transportation. That is why I realized I needed to work with security and social justice.

Colombia and Bogotá have many fantastic places and qualities which are held back a lot of the time because of the history of violence and the poor planning of the city. Commuting hours and traffic jams destroy the city. To increase movability within the city would make the city more fair. I experienced the lack of movability and craved for a functioning metro system as a compliment to the Transmilenio. The scale of the city also has to shrink in order to become more humane.

Currently there are a lot of obstacles for enjoying the city, and I think that have a smaller number of annoying elements in the daily life could have a positive impact on happiness. Daily life in Bogotá is full of irritating moments for all its citizens, being surrounded by a nice and well-functioning built environment that belongs to everyone would at least be a start to create happier citizens that can coexist in harmony.

I believe Medellín is an example where this theory can be implemented. Medellín might have had an even worse reputation than Bogotá does, but when I visited Medellín I perceived it as a much nicer city than Bogotá. I felt relieved transporting myself efficiently by going on a metro and metro cable after months stuck in Bogotá’s heavy car traffic. The public spaces we visited also had a nice and relaxed vibe. The only time my friends and I took a taxi was when we left Medellín to go to the airport. Bogotá is a larger city with greater challenges, but I still believe it can follow the example of Medellín and focus on creating a nicer and more inclusive public sphere for everyone. I also believe it is important to begin with improving the situation in the actual city center which I believe represents the whole city.

THE VOICES FROM THE SITE

BERNARDO 32 YEARS, PUTS UP POSTERS FOR A LIVING.

You are living in central Bogotá?
Yes.

Do you want to see any changes in Bogotá? Is there anything you miss in the city?
Toilets. Also, the street vendors are disturbing my work. I want them gone.

Do you want to see something else? Here, they are putting in a new building. What do you think is missing here?
I want to see a mall.

Why is this missing?
Here in El Centro there is only a certain type of building where only some people can enter. I want something where everybody can access, like a mall.

Like a plaza?
Yes, or a supermarket, or an Exitó. Right now they are building for the rich people, like the expensive apartments.

Like BD Bacatá?
Yes, it's worth 700 million pesos. It's for the rich people and not for the poor. I want to see buildings for the poor people, or something.

Like social housing?
Yes, but it will not happen here.

Do you know anything about this site?
No, they said before that they would build a mall, but it has not happened. El Centro is turning into apartments only, expensive ones. The people have to move to the south.

What about the security?
I would say it is rather unsafe. El Centro is always unsafe, it never changes, but it was worse before. In 1985 or something, this was the worst place.

Why is it more secure now?
Thanks to the police, but you can still buy stolen cellphones in the street. If a new one is costing 1 million, you can buy one in the street for 300 000 pesos.



NEDA AND CLAUDIA, SHOP ATTENDANTS ON THE CORNER OF THE SITE

What do you think about El Centro?
It is really ugly. A lot of trash, poor people and thieves. That is what makes the city insecure.

Are you from Bogotá?
Neda: I am from Manizales.

Do you want to see any changes here?
Yes of course. I don't want to see as much trash, poor people and thieves.

Do you miss anything here?
There should be more parks.

Are you living here in El Centro?
Neda: I live on Calle 20 de Julio. Put away your cell phones, you will get robbed. The hotel across the street is for the gringos.

Do you know what was here before?
No, we don't know.



JAVIER, TAXI DRIVER

What do you think of central Bogotá?
It is a little bit dangerous. Parque Nacional is pretty. There is almost nobody living here in central Bogotá, not compared to La Candelaria. In La Candelaria there are many foreigners and artists. Many people go there for the cocaine and marijuana, haha! In the northern part of the city, the rich people live in the city's most expensive apartments. Bogotá is a city of many faces depending on localidad and barrio.



ABUELITA, 85 YEARS, RETIRED

What do you think about this part of the city where we are right now?

This part, Calle 19 con la Octava? You have to be careful, there is a lot of shady people lurking around. Where we are standing not much is going on, but there is a lot happening down in the street, so be careful. Colombia has a lot of good, but there are many bad things also.

Would you like to see any change here in central Bogotá?

I would like it to be more secure.

What was it like before? Was it safer?

Yes, it was more secure when I was 30-40 years old. Now it is not safe at all.

What about this place?

It is close to Monserrate, but it is not safe. I might as well say it how it is. This is not safe. Do not do anything stupid. No des papaya! Hide your cameras. I never go here at 10-11 pm in the evening. There are many poor people out in the streets. I am at home at 6 pm. I leave my phone at home so there will not be any risk.

Is it like it was before? Today this area is full of malls and commercial spaces. Was there more housing before?

El Centro is the same.

This site is empty. What was it before?

There were buildings.



What type of buildings?

I do not know. They tore everything down and left it ugly like this. When I was young I worked at the American Embassy. I worked on Calle 19, but then I became sick and I could not stay.

What did you work with on the American embassy?

Cleaning and refilling coffee and papers. I was young when I started working there, 16 years old. I was poor and did not have any money. Now I am old and I don't get any pension. It is a hard life. You are young. It must be so nice. My daughter has a space here in the building. She kept it because it brings in money, but now she has moved to the United States.

Where are you from?

I am from Santander.

Where can we find the richest barrios?

In the north. The people with money live in the north.

ESAIAS, SHOP OWNER

What do you think about El Centro?

They did a lot of changes here so now it is much safer than before. You can find good business here and the changes they have done here have improved the situation. It is much safer. People are a lot nicer now, before, they hardly looked into each other's eyes. So the changes have been good.

Would you like to see something else change? Is anything missing?

Yes, more space, like a park would be nice. There is only a small one in Las Nieves. Someone with power like journalists should pay attention to this and write about it.

This site is empty. What would you like to see here?

They will construct a building but I would like to see a park.

Are you living here?

Yes, I live in El Centro, in another barrio here in Santa Fé.

You are from Bogotá?

Yes, or I was not exactly born here, but I went to school here. My family is not from here.

What is this place like in nighttime?

It is not as safe in the nighttime. Sometimes I close my shop, but end up staying here in the neighborhood. When I go home I have to be careful. If you compare with how it was before, it is much better to live now. Before it was more complicated.

Why was it more complicated?

There was a lot of drug trafficking.

Here?

Yes, but they turned La Séptima into a pedestrian street and that changed a lot. The fact that the presence of the police has increased has not made any difference. It is thanks because of the changes in the city that you can notice a difference.





CARRERA SÉPTIMA SEEN FROM CALLE 19

MARINA, STREET VENDOR

How long have you worked here?
Not very long. Around one year.

What is your perception of security here in your work zone?
It is ok, there are no problems here.

So the center is not as dangerous as everybody says?
No, in this neighborhood it is alright.

Would you like to see any changes in this area? Like a park for example?
No, we do not need a park here in El Centro. We have Parque Central and that is enough, and Parque de la Independencia on Calle 26. How would it be possible to place a park here in El Centro?

What about a green zone?
NO, NO, NO...

So, you don't want to see any change?
Here, no. The only change I would like to see is more security

Do you live here in El Centro?
No. I live one hour from here if you walk down that block.

Are you from Bogotá?
No, I am not from here.

Do you think a metro is missing?

I think a metro is missing more than a park here in El Centro. They have talked and worked on developing a metro for years now.

If you could choose between a commercial project or a public project, what project would you like to see here?
I do not know. I do not care what they build. You should ask someone else.



NICOLAS AND JERSON, 24 AND 18 YEARS, STUDENTS

What do you think about El Centro?

Can we speak openly? El Centro is full of contrasts. In this part we have a lot of commercial activity and it is nice. Sort of cosmopolitan. A block away from here you can find a lot of business buildings and the government is located down La Séptima. It is also full of culture. So, there are many contrasts and that is pretty awesome. There is diversity but within the diversity there are also many differences.

In what way differences?

Social differences, you notice that. It does not make sense that this neighborhood reflects the diversity, it should be a more diverse place. In this part they are right now constructing BD Bacatá. It will be hotels and offices.

What do you think about the urban development? Like the BD Bacatá?

It will give El Centro a new face. It is important in one way, on an international level. There are many foreigners coming here and doing business. On the other hand the problems we have here in Bogotá are not concealed. If you are constructing something, I mean, you can not just cover it up with make-up, you have to solve the problems too. You should not cover up the poverty with something pretty.

Is anything missing in El Centro? What would you like to see here?

There are a lot of plazas along La Séptima and it is nice to walk there, but El Centro is full of commercial and business spaces.

There should be room for a cultural center. One should find a secure site and build something that emphasizes the diversity here in El Centro.

Something that is open for everyone?

Yes, exactly.

Do you live here in El Centro?

No we study here, performance art. Have you been at La Plaza de Mariposas by the Los Jiménez station? Our school is located there. It is an old art school and you can study any kind of art there. The school is protected, but the area itself is chaotic. There are a lot of poor people and roaming street vendors. There is no control. It is a space with so many opportunities, but that is so badly organized. From here to La Décima the neighborhood is pretty, but down that way, no.

So Carrera Décima is a boarder?

Yes! La Décima is a border. It should not be like that. You should be able to walk around without looking at it like a boarder. From La Cuarta to Avenida Caracas the neighborhood is really cool. You can find diversity and culture there. La Candelaria with El Chorro also has a lot of culture. Some parts of El Centro are forgotten and excluded. A government should make sure all parts are remembered.

What about security?

I have never been a victim of crime and I finish school 10 pm. Jiménez station is deserted in nighttime and there are many poor people. El Centro has a bad reputation and children learn that when they are small.

My niece started to cry when I said I was going here. So, the children are brought up with the fear.

How can the situation be improved?

I can not say I believe in more cops. They are just sitting around in their station talking shit. They also have a really bad salary. A poorly paid cop will not risk their life for nothing at all, if it is a gang fight or something related to drugs. The police force needs improvement. Let us say the police earn 1 million pesos. If you raise the salary they will not be bought as easily. So, we do not need more police but better salaries.



EVALUTATION OF THE INTERVIEWS

Conducting the interviews was a great challenge for me. Doing them in Spanish was the hardest part, even if I had brought a friend to help me. The language barrier prevented me from asking further questions and explore the answers more. I lost control over the interviews sometimes, when my friend began to ask leading questions, or when some of the interviewees, Nicolas and Jerson wanted to help out and almost took over the interview with Marina. However, I liked that almost everyone had an opinion and that the answers turned out to be so different. It really shows the many different ways people perceive the city and the public spaces. Overall, I am pretty satisfied with the information I received from the people I interviewed.





PUBLIC SPACE OROUIDEORAMA, MEDELLÍN

THEORY

The ideas on how to achieve the goals of justice and security in public spaces for this degree project are partly based on well-known, existing theories but also on subjective conclusions of different reference projects.

The most relevant theories on how to target issues site specifically, have come from the research paper by the Urban Age Programme at London School of Economics. To target social inequality is essential for decreasing the gaps between the rich and the poor. One way of doing so is to adjust and manipulate the built environment of cities, and to create an inclusive urban design where public spaces are accessible for all, regardless of the money in their bank account. Urban Age Programme discusses some recommended actions, which involve daring radical change, densifying city centers, limiting sprawl and creating a dialogue between politicians, urban experts and citizens. The planning and establishment of different urban systems, should always consider a potentially unequal outcome of a project. Regeneration strategies should be a cooperation between the public and the private sector to avoid negative consequences such as gentrification.⁸³

Material inequality is hard to target, because one would have to change the whole economic system. However, to target the issue with social justice in public spaces, closing off streets from car traffic can be a simple way of approaching the problem and creating a more inclusive space. Another issue is crime, which is often a result of an unequal society and also a difficult problem to tackle. Something needs to be done on a structural level in society to really target the crime rate.

83 Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, London School of Economics, 3

Safety solutions of the rich, with private security and fence installations can improve security for a specific area, but in the long term, this approach has destructive effects on the city as a whole⁸⁴. It is an aggressive building- and design language.

Some of the methods and theories described by Newman in *Defensible spaces* are relevant for this degree project. The book is basically a guide for urban planners and architects on how to create places that will decrease the likelihood of people committing crimes. As previously mentioned, putting up fences and walls is the most common way to prevent crime and in Colombia, and especially Bogotá, today.

Newman celebrates the use of fences as a way to shut off streets from car traffic and to define private spaces⁸⁵, which can be done in many ways. In Bogotá you can see buildings with both armed security guards and electrical fences defending the private sphere. The definition of private spaces is crucial according to Newman, and fences will help, but they should not be used in an aggressive way, as is often the case today. Fences that both limit the sight and physical access to a place are not being used correctly. There are other ways to change the hierarchy and re-orientate the streets for pedestrians. Fences should be used to define a space, but also to give the people who own it a chance to control it through visibility and maintenance.⁸⁶

84 Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, London School of Economics, 2
85 O. Newman, *Creating defensible spaces*, 43
86 Ibid, 115-116

The design of a building and a neighborhood are important for making it easier for a community to control its private and shared territories. The importance of territory is a key concept among Newman's theories. While each household has its own territory, there is also a shared responsibility for the surrounding spaces with the whole neighborhood.⁸⁷ The idea is to make criminals feel uncomfortable by promoting a community watch.

Another well known method to create successful public spaces is to limit traffic and prioritize pedestrians. Gehl is one of the biggest promoters of the importance of pedestrian streets in cities. The foundation in Gehl's urban planning theories is built on a scenario where humans reclaim the city from cars. Pedestrians and cyclists take the leading role and create more humane flows of people in the streets.⁸⁸ In Bogotá, this is already happening on Carrera Séptima, and this concept will be applied on the whole site. The pedestrianisation of Carrera Séptima has enabled a lot of different activities to take place in the street.

To limit car traffic is also a way to increase access to the city for people who can not afford a car. Movability within the city is one of the most important problems to solve in order to create a more fair city, which for example is mentioned in the study by the Urban Age Programme⁸⁹. It is considered essential to target the polarisation of the rich and the poor in Latin American cities. It is important on all scales, both in considering the establishment of a metro system or the Transmilenio, and shutting down car traffic on one single street. It is a question of creating the right kind of accessibility, which as many people as possible can benefit from.

⁸⁷ O. Newman, Creating defensible spaces, 28-30
⁸⁸ J. Gehl, B. Svarre. How to study public life, 151
⁸⁹ Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, London School of Economics, 12

A more abstract issue which should be considered equally important, is the ability to express one's right as a citizen. As architects and planners we could emphasize this right by planning spaces for dialogue. Participation is key for safer and more fair public spaces.⁹⁰ Sometimes a space needs a specific generator to come alive.

For many Pokémon fans around the world, the summer of 2016 will be remembered as the summer when Pokémon Go! was launched, but for urban designers, this was the summer when cities came alive in the most unexpected way. Suddenly places which normally drowned in the cityscape became relevant thanks to Pokémon Go! The game has located forgotten landmarks and art works in cities around the world, and it has brought them back to life. Players gather around or pass these points of interest, and by doing so inhabit the space. Public spaces that usually are empty or deserted can thus become inhabited and safe.⁹¹ Pokémon Go! illustrates the importance of bringing character to places. This does not require a geotag application in a smartphones, as this phenomenon already exists. Places with a strong character are more unlikely to be forgotten. People remember a place with a distinct physical environment.

It seems that people are generally more eager to take care of and maintain a place with a strong character. A clean, bright space with a strong character that attracts people will most likely not be a place for drug-trafficking or armed robbery. Character can be achieved through many means; by function or activity, but also by design. Sometimes all these three work simultaneously, sometimes just one by one. The character of a place can be its beauty, but also its quirkiness or obnoxious identity.

⁹⁰ What is Placemaking?, December 31 2013, Project for Public Spaces, http://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/
⁹¹ Norberg, Håkan. Pokémon Go ger staden liv, July 30 2016, Sundsvalls tidning <http://www.st.nu/allmant/medelpad/pokemon-go-ger-staden-liv>

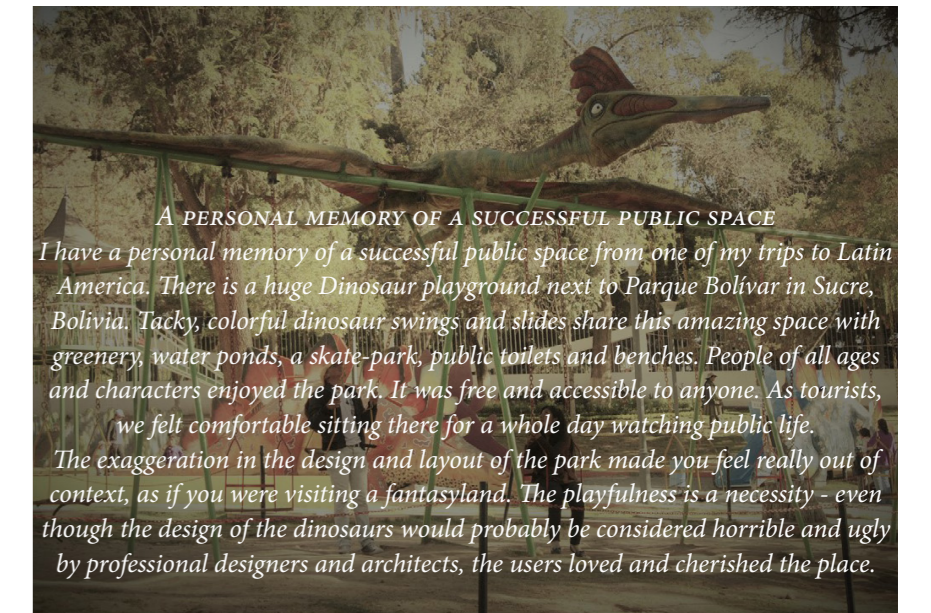
The key concept is that unexpected awakens people's curiosity, and curious people explore. To create attraction is something that can be done in many ways, from gigantic, almost impossible structures, to just splashing some paint on a wall. "Painting the Favela" is a well-known project by Haas&Hahn set in a Favela in Rio. After the artists came and involved the community in the painting project the favela is a lot more safe, and tourists come to look at the bright and characteristic paintings.⁹²

Medellín has become an important symbol for how distressed cities can change. In 1991, Medellín was the most violent city in the world, with 381 homicides per 100 000 inhabitants. In 2007, the number had dropped to 26 homicides per 100 000 inhabitants. The city was awarded most innovative city in the world in 2013 by the Urban Land Institute⁹³. Medellín has invested in building schools, museums and libraries - places where citizens can be part of the public dialogue. Safe public spaces have emerged around these projects.

Medellin has also been praised for its innovative public transportation systems and connectivity. The poorer areas are better connected to the city center. The characteristic place-concept can also be found in many of the projects. La Biblioteca de España is an example of how strong and distinct design has affected a whole barrio in a positive sense. Before the building of the library, Santo Domingo Savio was a dangerous gang-controlled area, but now the barrio has been reclaimed by the community thanks to this acupunctural architectural action.⁹⁴

⁹² Rosenfield, Karissa. TED Talk: How Painting Can Transform Communities / Haas&Hahn, December 7 2014, Archdaily <http://www.archdaily.com/575928/ted-talk-how-painting-can-transform-communities-haas-and-hahn>
⁹³ Colombia's Medellín named 'most innovative city', March 1 2013, BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-21638308>
⁹⁴ Urban Age Programme. Cities and social equity - Inequality, territory and urban form - Executive summary, September 2009, London School of Economics, 23

Other examples of strong, characteristic design and activity concepts in Medellín are the Barefoot Park and the Orquideorama, located in the Botanical Garden. The Barefoot Park is supposed to be a memorable experience. The Botanical Garden is a free of charge public space, and the Orquideorama is an impressive geometrical flower structure adding that extra character. In conclusion, Medellín is a city where you can find projects where all the theories discussed above have been applied in the built environment.



STRATEGY

The design strategy to reach the aims of this project is to create inclusive, controlled and clean places where all layers of the city can meet without clashing.

CONCEPT STRATEGY

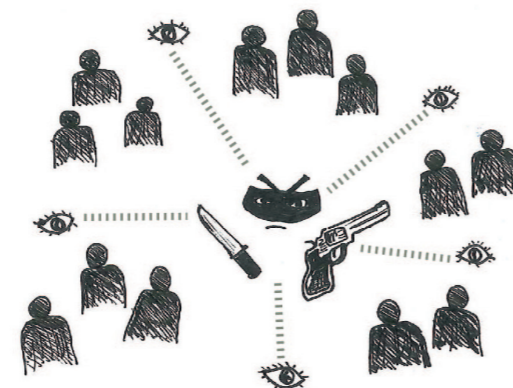
COMMUNITY CONTROL

In this degree project, fences will be used to give the inhabitants privacy and safety, but also the possibility to control their semi-private shared spaces. A strong and connected community will function as an alternative to fences and walls. By knowing who your neighbors are, it will be easier to spot and report unwanted activities. There will be two types of communities occupying the housing part of this project. First there is the shophouse community, which will function as the main building block of the project. With direct connection and control of the ground level, this community will make sure the street space outside their homes is clean and taken care of. A messy outdoor front area may negatively affect their businesses. Ideally, the community will grow stronger over time, and perhaps family businesses can be passed onto future generations. As neighbors, people have the same goals in keeping their surroundings safe and inviting, in order to maintain a good climate for both business and dwelling.

The other community that will inhabit the housing complex is the students. There are plenty of universities located in the nearby neighborhoods, but hardly any students live here. Instead they commute for several hours every day. If born and raised in Bogotá, many remain at home, living with their parents.

The concept of communal living spaces for students is therefore not very well-established in Bogotá. Creating a housing complex for students close to the universities would be beneficial in many ways. Instead of wasting time on commuting, students would have more time for studying, recreating or even doing volunteer work. Other students will function as new “siblings”, and the shophouse community will partially have the function of a parent. The idea is that the shophouse community will sublet and take care of the general maintenance of the student flats and corridors.

A student housing complex is a good way for international students to meet Colombian students, and to quickly become part of the everyday Colombian life. The international students would also be a generator for the police to target and protect this neighborhood in particular, just like they have done in the well-visited area La Candelaria. An increased police presence would benefit the entire area. Furthermore, students bring a young and creative vibe, and can be an asset for the new social program of the neighborhood.



SOCIAL PROGRAM

The implementation of a social program is a key strategic move to challenge the taboo of letting the effects of inequality and poverty to be visible on one of Bogotá’s most interesting and expensive lots. Today, poverty is visible, and people get annoyed by street vendors and beggars. This project strives to give the society’s most vulnerable a natural place in the city. The aim is to include them, and the idea is to enable the stronger people of the society to help and support the weaker.

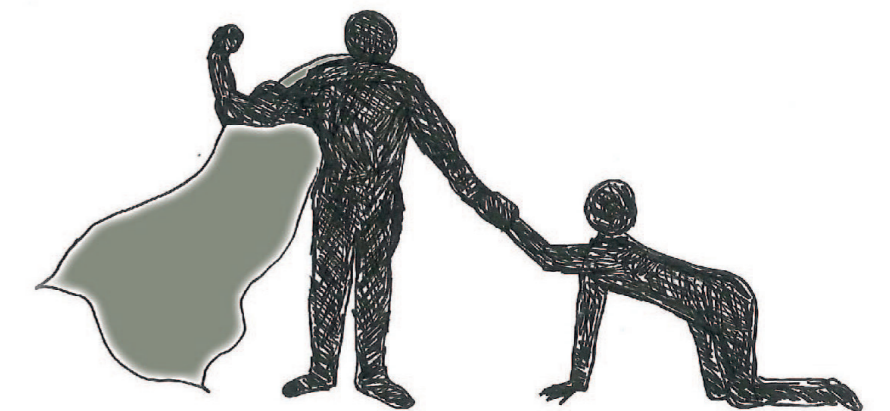
In this case, the student community represents the strong. All activities will be directed by the authorities, but with the help of volunteer student workers. The block will become a new meeting place where all layers of Bogotá can exist side by side.

A preschool and a daycare with overnight possibilities will enable hard working poor people, like street vendors and prostitutes, to leave their children in a safe environment while working. The daycare center will also cooperate with a new women’s shelter. The shelter will among other things provide protection, basic health-care, therapy, lifestyle advice and a safe place for women in need.

A community center with cultural events and meetings will be an attractive place for all citizens of Bogotá. In order to reach out to the homeless and the poor, the community center will also be a place with free public toilets and at times it will transform into a soup kitchen.

The people who can afford to study usually come from wealthier families, and by enabling easy access to charity work, a space is created where different social layers can intersect. Anyone is welcome to volunteer, for instance tourists, but the main focus will be to engage students for more lasting contacts.

The daycare center, women’s shelter and community center will not be able to cover the whole need for support in the surrounding areas. However, as a part of a network with similar establishments nearby, and well-planned surrounding public spaces, hopefully a more humane inner city life will emerge. As mentioned before, in just barrio Veracruz there are plenty of empty parking lot wastelands available for improvement. They could all be included in this new chain of socially orientated establishments in the center of Bogotá, and they would all be surrounded by new inclusive and safe public spaces.



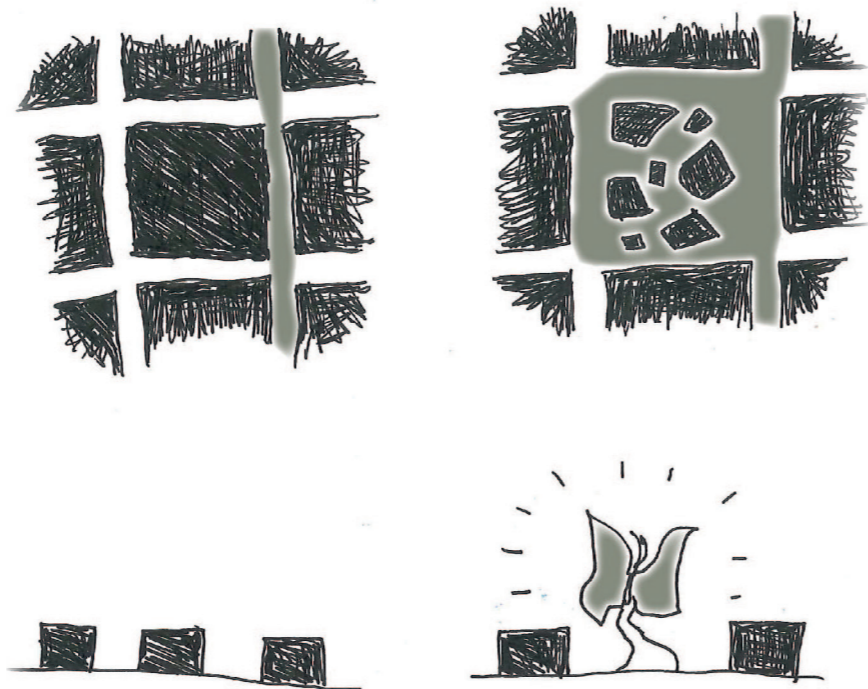
DESIGN STRATEGY

TRANSPARENCY

Bogotá's historical center is built in a grid-like street pattern. The corners are sharp, and in general it is impossible to penetrate the block or to take a shortcut. You can turn down the wrong street and after only a few meters, the sense of safety has changed completely. Closed blocks and straight streets in a grid pattern quickly become deserted at night when businesses on the ground level close. This is the situation for many streets in downtown Bogotá. By creating transparency and porosity in the block and building design, people will feel more in control over their movements in the city. Being able to take a shortcut through a block or having the ability to see activities in a building through the facade will create a more inclusive approach in the city's layout. The aim is to spread the positive and safe flow from La Séptima to the other side of the block where it is much needed in the night time.

STRONG CHARACTER

A public space with a strong character and a clear purpose is usually not the place where criminals are comfortable committing crimes. One can of course get pickpocketed anywhere, but in general the more violent crimes take place in deserted and derelict spaces where criminals feel confident and anonymous. A unique and recognizable element and block layout will hopefully push away the types of destructive behaviour and activities this neighborhood is suffering from. There will be no room for drug dealing, prostitution or robbery. Instead, the block will be another memorable stop along Carrera Séptima.



PROGRAM

HOUSING COMPLEX

The design of the housing complex has emerged from the concept of a semi-public inner courtyard. The ground level and the first level are both inhabited by the shophouse-dwellers. The shophouses will be homes to small families or anyone who is interested in living and working in the same place. They will have their businesses on the ground floor and their living space on the first floor. The outward facing facades on the ground floor strive to create open-ness in order to maintain a vivid street life⁹⁵. Active facades are an important parameter regarding the security in the street, especially in nighttime. The inward facing facades consist of private terraces on the ground level, and private balconies on the first level. The terraces could be used by workers from the outside hired by the shop-dwellers, whereas the balconies would be for family members only. The point is to have a nice place for a break from work as well as for general family life, and at the same time watch and control the life in the courtyard which will be accessible for the public during the daytime. The panoptical connection between the dwellers and courtyard will hopefully remove the need of fences. The courtyard will have two entrances and the path that connects will be a shortcut through the block.

The concepts for the interior design of the shop houses are simplicity and flexibility. Depending on what type of business the family is running, the wall that separates the shop and the “office” space is not going to be a bearing wall and can therefore easily be adjusted according to the family’s needs. It is the same with one of the bedroom walls, so that the family can choose to have three small bedrooms or two big ones.

⁹⁵ J. Gehl, B. Svarre. How to study public life, 104

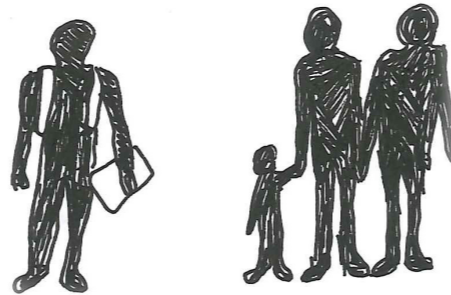
The student housing will be located on the second and third floor. The floors are going to be accessible directly from the street. One stairwell is located on the east side of the complex and the other one on the west side, along with an elevator. There are two types of student housing. First there are single flats with a private kitchen and bathroom facilities. Secondly, there are student corridor-type of rooms, with ten single rooms, each with a private bathroom. The corridor dwellers share a kitchen and communal space. All the students in the complex can access the terraces where they can workout in the outdoor gym, throw parties, arrange barbecues or just relax. Some of the larger terrace spaces are strategically located by the courtyard’s entrances in order to see who enters the space.

HOUSING COMPLEX

SHOPHOUSE - 14 units
SHOP/WORKSHOP/OFFICE SPACE - 67 m²
STAFF WC - 2 m²
KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - 45 m²
BATHROOM - 4 m²
BEDROOM 1 - 12 m²
BEDROOM 2 - 9m²
BEDROOM 3 - 9m²

STUDENT APARTMENTS - 20 units
ROOM - 22 m²
BATHROOM - 4 m²

STUDENT CORRIDOR ROOMS - 40 units
NUMBER OF ROOMS IN A CORRIDOR: 10
DORM ROOM - 11 m²
BATHROOM - 4 m²
COMMUNAL SPACE - 88 m²



COMMUNITY CENTER AND WOMEN’S SHELTER

The community center is available for many different activities, and the goal is to become a meeting place for the entire community. The whole ground floor is meant to function as an open house, accessible for anyone during daytime and in the evenings. Here, there will be a place to rest and to read the news or study. Suggested activities for the open spaces could be different cultural events, like exhibitions or charity events. The assembly hall can host open lectures and community meetings. The outdoor stage is ideal for spontaneous performances. The canteen area will generally be run as a regular cafe or restaurant, but at times it will turn into a soup kitchen. Public toilets will be accessible on the outside of the building, as well as from the canteen area. The ground floor has two public entrances. You could walk through an exhibition, pass an open lecture, turn to the left by the lush mini-courtyard and end up in the canteen area before exiting the building into the restaurant patio.

From a separate entrance next to the canteen area’s entrance, you can access the stairs to get to the women’s shelter. Following the stairs, you arrive a lounge area reserved for women and community center staff. There are two therapy rooms and one examination room for basic health care. There is a larger meeting room for group therapy sessions and staff meetings. The staff also has an office and a smaller kitchen, which the women are also welcome to use. The shelter is a safe place where the staff and people who need help can meet in a friendly ambience. The first floor also has a tiny terrace that overlooks the stage and the tiny hill. On the other side is the lush courtyard. Walking up another set of stairs, you end up in another, small lounge area and the dormitory.

The women who need to stay a night, here have the possibility to shower and rest in a safe refuge. If they bring their children and there are not enough beds in the shelter, there is the possibility to fit them into the overnight dormitory over at the daycare center across the diagonal passage.

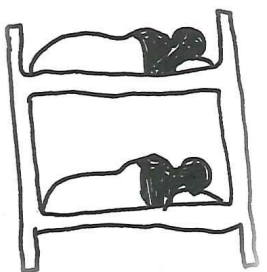
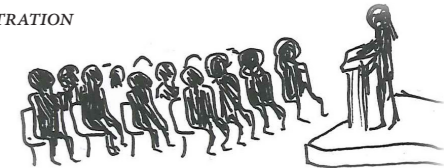
COMMUNITY CENTER AND WOMEN’S SHELTER

FIRST FLOOR - PUBLIC INDOOR AREA
ENTRANCE AREA/EXHIBITION HALL - 252 m²
CANTEEN/CAFE/RESTAURANT - 116 m²
ASSEMBLY HALL / PROJECTOR ROOM - 84 m²

WCx2 - 8 m²
KITCHEN FACILITIES - 35 m²
STORAGE/COLD ROOM - 8 m²
CHANGING ROOM - 4 m²
STAFF WC - 3 m²
STAGE STORAGE ROOM - 10 m²

SECOND FLOOR - WOMEN’S SHELTER/ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE - 28 m²
MEETING ROOM - 22 m²
THERAPY ROOMS - 2x15m²
WC - 3 m²
LOUNGE - 83m²
EXAMINATION ROOM - 14 m²

THIRD FLOOR - WOMEN’S SHELTER
DORM - 62 m²
WC AND SHOWERS - 4x2 m² + 6 m²
LOUNGE - 22 m²



PRESCHOOL / DAYCARE CENTER

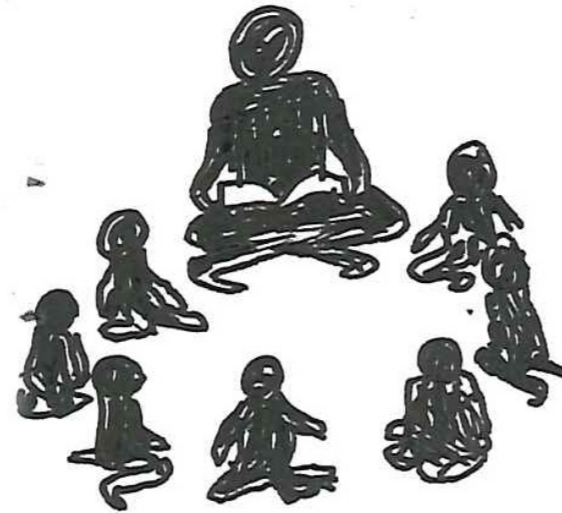
This preschool is an important part of the project. Parents who for some reason need to work long hours or during inconvenient hours of the day can feel safe dropping off their child here. The preschool is open 24-7 and run by a regular staff and student volunteers. The ground floor has a kitchen, kitchen staff dressing room, a bathroom with a diaper station and the children's canteen area. The only official entrance to the preschool is located in front of the rain fountain. The entrance area is intentionally separated from the rest of the ground floor for safety reasons. You can lock the door to prevent intruders, but also the escape of children who like to wander off.

There are two outdoor spaces belonging to the preschool, one play garden and one outdoor classroom. The garden can be seen by the staff from their food corner. If you continue up one set of stairs, you will find a classroom or playroom depending on the schedule. The spaces are supposed to be easily adjustable to different activities. The staff has their own lounge on the first floor and lastly, there is a nap room where children can also spend the night if needed. Similar to the design of the women's shelter, the design and the concept of the preschool facilities are quite basic. This will not be the place where children go to school every day for years, but more of a safe, and trustworthy temporary solution.

PRESCHOOL/DAYCARE CENTER

GROUND FLOOR
ENTRANCE/CLOAKROOM - 59 m²
CANTEEN - 113 m²
KITCHEN - 30 m²
STORAGE/COLD ROOM - 9 m²
DIAPER STATION - 9 m²
WC - 3x3m²
STAFF CHANGING ROOM - 5 m²
STAFF WC AND SHOWER - 4 m²
OUTDOOR CLASSROOM - 52 m²
PLAYGARDEN - 77 m²

FIRST FLOOR
NAP ROOM / OVERNIGHT DORM - 72 m²
CLASSROOM - 63 m²
TEACHERS LOUNGE - 38 m²
TEACHERS WC - 6 m²



PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACES

The most distinct design element in the outdoor public space is the characteristic blue paving covering the whole block, including Carrera Séptima. It is slightly elevated so that vehicles will notice when they enter the area. They aim is to reduce speed, and lanes will also become more narrow, due to newly installed guiding lights in the ground.

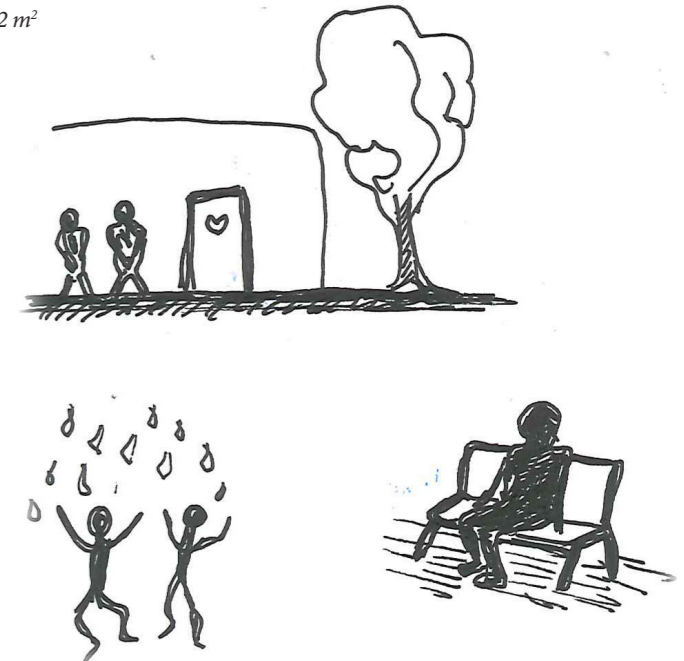
The goal of the public space is to serve as a place for a well deserved break from the busy downtown area. If you want to sit down for a minute there are two interactive seating modules, one along the facade of the community center, and one along the line of trees next to Carrera Séptima. Children can climb and play on the modules, while adults can simply take a seat. If you prefer to sit on the grass, the artificial hill is an excellent option. You can sit in an elevated spot overlooking the crowded Carrera Séptima, or choose the other side and sit on the integrated seating facing the stage.

The stage will be a place for children to play, for street musicians to use, or for organized concerts, theatre plays and demonstrations. As a spectator will be possible to sit on the grass, use the seating or stand in front of the stage. All spontaneous performances are encouraged and the stage is lit during night time. All distinct objects in the outdoor public space will be fully lit during night time, including the rainwater fountain, the seating modules, courtyards and the hill.

If you seek tranquility, the housing project courtyard is the perfect place to calm down. The community center also has a courtyard, but it is more exposed. In addition to the green spaces, there is a large open, plaza-like space in the northwest corner of the site. The area's local businesses on ground level are more than welcome to occupy a space in the street or on the plaza. This is also a place that roaming vendors can use without blocking the sidewalk for the pedestrian flow.

PUBLIC OUTDOOR SPACES

PUBLIC WC
MEN - 3 m² + 7 m²
WOMEN - 4x3m² + 12 m²
OUTDOOR STAGE - 52 m²



PROCESS

The writing process and concluding and summarizing the background part of the report has been a generator for the design process. The strategy is based on the theory and I have tried to apply my chosen theories for achieving the goals with the project in the design. I decided to write the report from subjective, objective and analytical viewpoints, in an attempt to provide many different perspectives on the urban development in Bogotá. Summing up and the theory behind the project has been intense. When I went back to Sweden to start working on the report, I was nervous that the information I had gathered in Colombia was not enough. Luckily for me, the Internet is full of articles and websites on Bogotá from an architectural and urban planning-perspective.

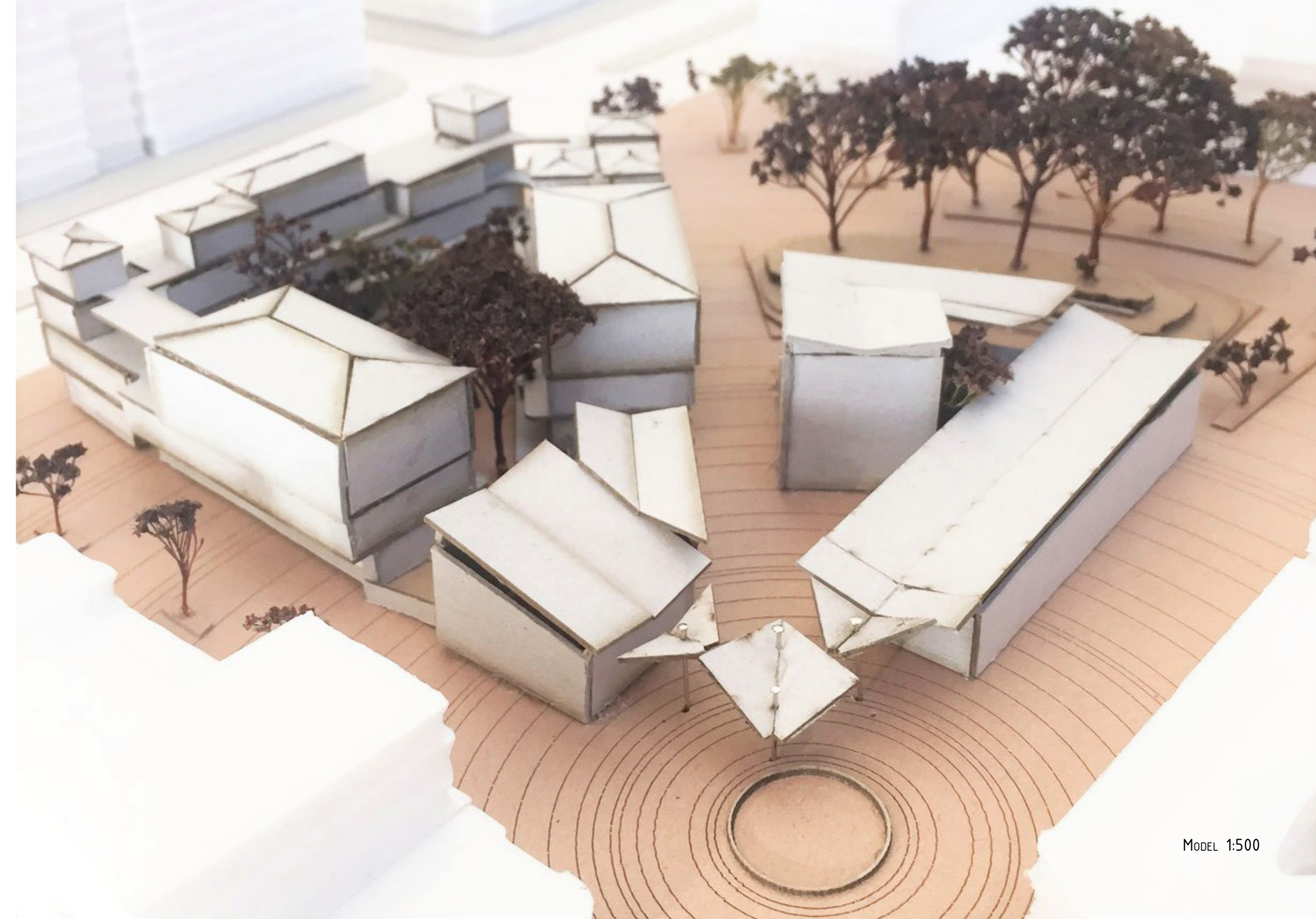
Throughout the whole process, it has actually been very difficult to limit my sources of information. Almost every week I have discovered more and more interesting and relevant information in the local newspapers of Bogotá and on the official Facebook page of the mayor. There are simply loads of information. Over time, just keeping myself updated on the development in Bogotá and Colombia has become a natural element of my daily life. The report has become a journal for my working process, I have been adding constantly to the text in this report, and if I got stuck on the design I turned to the report and vice versa.

For me, the design process has been the hardest part of this project. I have always seen my own ability to come up with ideas and concepts as my greatest strength, but when it comes to visualizing my ideas I often find myself struggling and in lack of the right tools.

However, when I felt ready to explore the design possibilities for this site, I started by developing a concept. I made a list of ideas that I thought might be suitable for the project site based on my theoretical conclusions. For instance, the concept of emphasizing strong character was something that I wanted to work on, early on in the project. It was something that I had thought about for a long time, even before I began work on my degree project, so I had already come across some information to support the idea that strong character helps keeping an area safe. I also wanted to properly frame and give attention to the already existing architecture, like the hotel on the corner of Carrera 8 and Calle 18.

I tried to address every existing issue that I have had identified on site during my analytical process. The lack of greenery, the dark, the gentrification, the busy environment and the lack of public toilets. All are some of the basic needs for an attractive and pleasant public space. Based on my theoretical findings I had now started to find the challenges with the site and my program for the site starting to evolve through these findings.

I wanted to create an oasis in the city center. A calm, green and safer place in the middle of the busiest street. From this idea I came up with the need for a courtyard and the concept with community surveillance instead of fences, referring to Newman's territorial theories. There would be different layers of the public space in the project, some very busy and full of life and others with a calmer profile. The inside of the courtyard would be semi public and accessible during daytime for anyone who needed a break.



MODEL 1:500



To continue with the design of the outdoor environment I set up a meeting with a friend who is a landscape architect. We talked about the importance of sightlines and also about the idea of creating a specific pattern in the paving. At this point I knew I wanted to draw attention to my focus area, and also that I wanted to make the whole site as pedestrian friendly as possible. In order to attract people to the corner of Calle 18 and Carrera 8, there has to be something there to invite them to explore the area. The idea of using rainwater as a characteristic design element had been an idea early on in the process.

The exciting and characteristic waterplay should be visible from Carrera Séptima to spark people's curiosity and give them a reason to stay, and wander around the site. The water concept of the roofs was established, but I needed a way to connect the buildings to the outdoor area. We realized that it would be interesting to involve the paving and incorporate a wavy pattern that would lead you through the site and guide you to all of its highlights.

Later on I changed my mind regarding the wave pattern as I felt that it was too complex and messy. The project already had so many different elements in it. So, after consulting with another friend of mine, a pattern designer, the idea of ripples on the water was born. It was a simple but still referring to water and a relevant pattern that would awaken people's curiosity to explore the whole site. After changing the paving to a circular pattern I also changed the shapes of the public buildings that had had a round shape until now as a contrast to the rectangular housing complex.

I kept on adding details and made choices regarding the materials for all the project's outdoor spaces and buildings. I explored options for the construction of the water roofs and found the butterfly roof both beautiful and fitting for what I had in mind regarding both function and expression.

The process of this whole project has been long and bumpy at times, but after the intense background research on everything related to architecture and urban planning in Bogotá, and how to create inclusive and secure cities, I feel confident in my project and its outcome. I used the literature to remind me of what a successful public space needs, very much using Jan Gehl's 12 criterias⁹⁶. This list supports many of the choices I made regarding the design of the outdoor space like enabling the possibility to walk, see, sit, perform, play and protection against crime.

96 J. Gehl, B. Svarre. How to study public life, 106-107

During my mid crit I got a good input on how to carry on with the programming of the buildings. I realised the importance of a social program and got a lot of inspiration to continue to only focus on the social needs on site. Before, the program was diffuse and not entirely consistent, for example, partly because I was imagining a mix of office spaces due to the high value of the site. After the mid crit the program became more socially oriented and I got rid of the office spaces. One could say that I went from typical inner-city activities to a more radical focus on social equity. I had several ideas for social activities in the buildings, like student housing, shops, dwellings, a rehab clinic, youth clinic, soup kitchen, women's shelter, homeless shelter and a day care center. At last I narrowed it down to the current program and decided to focus on the women's shelter, day care center, community center and the housing complex for students and shop dwellers. Over time, the program became one of the main strategies for targeting the issues of social justice and security in the city.

Earlier I described the site as a blank sheet of paper in the middle of a busy downtown area. Due to the variety of building heights and typologies, one could say that at the moment there are no clear prevalent rules governing the site. Therefore I felt the need for creating my own restrictions and make up a criteria for the design of the project. Regarding the actual block design and the early evolution of the shape, I early I visioned a diagonal through the site that challenges the traditional grid pattern.

This was an idea I presented during the mid crit, but at that time it was not fully developed. I should have showed more of my ideas about the actual physical space in order to get more useful input at the mid crit. But one important note I got was that I should change the center of the project. My conceptual drawings were made with the center of square as the center of the project. Instead I changed the center to a more interesting spot, the dark corner with the colonial style hotel. It made more sense to make this spot my focus area because this corner needed most love. All the new building modules would now frame and accentuate this corner from now on.

In the early phase the dwellings were rectangular and very basic, and that is basically how they remained throughout the whole project. After all, my most important focus was on the public sphere and not so much on the private. However, the use of the private territories had become an important tool for this project in order to succeed with the goals for the public spaces. Because of this, I wanted to be careful with the placement and shape of housing complex. It finally ended up in the northwest corner of the site, partly because I did not want a large complex blocking up the people flow from La Séptima.

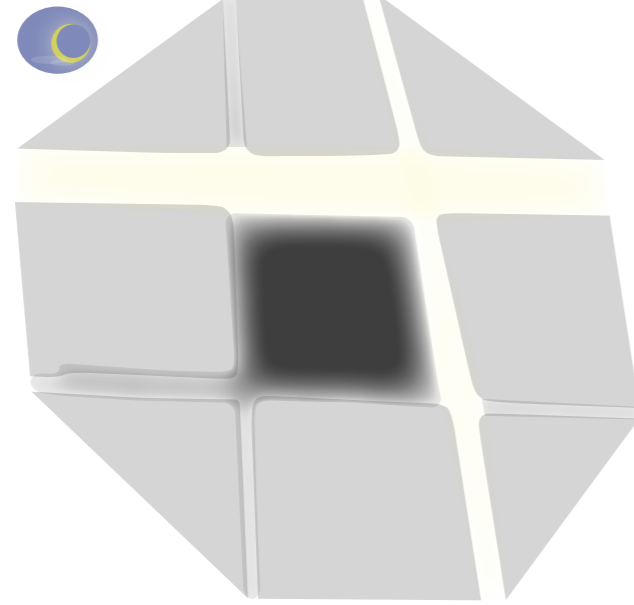
As mentioned before I wanted different layers of calmness in the new public spaces. The housing complex and the courtyard would be the "last stop" and calmest point when transporting oneself through the site from La Séptima to the opposite side. I also wanted the buildings to help accentuate the new diagonal path.



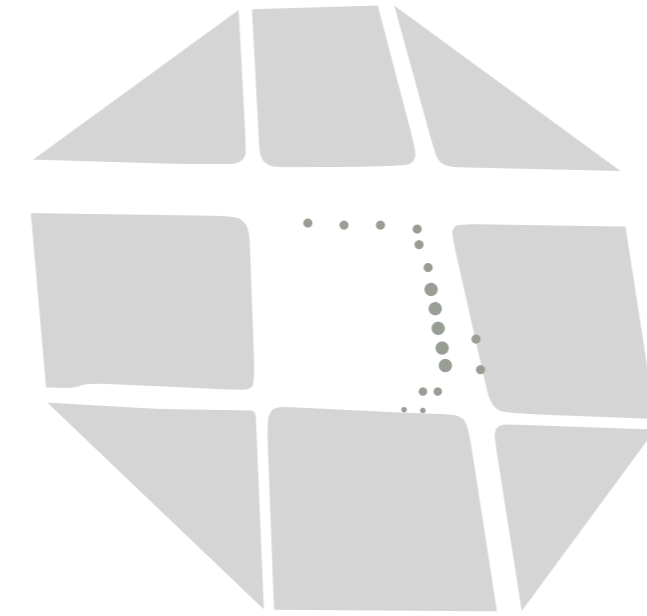
DESIGN PROCESS

The following diagrams show how the new urban form for the site has evolved during the process. The first four diagrams on this page show the existing situation today and the most important parameters to consider while designing. After finding a suiting alternative for a site plan through this method, the project continued to develop vertically and in detail.

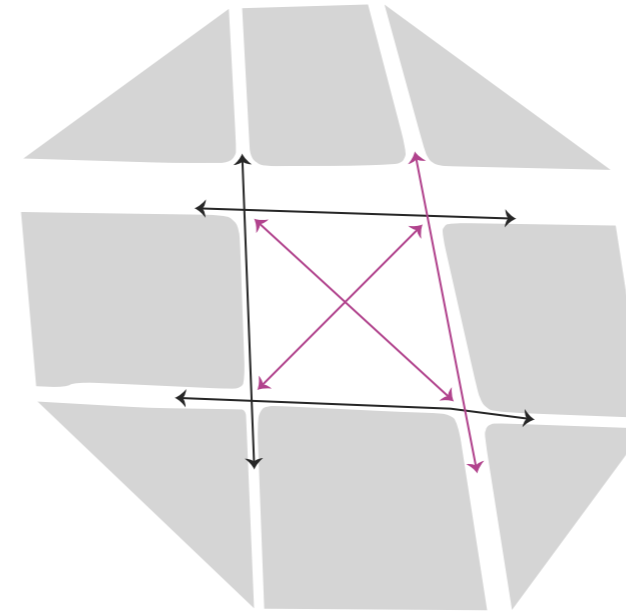
STREETLIFE INTENSITY NIGHTTIME



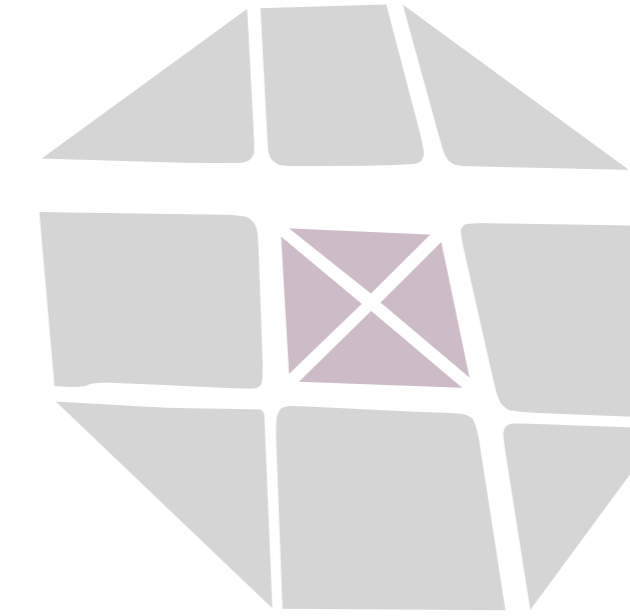
EXISTING GREENERY



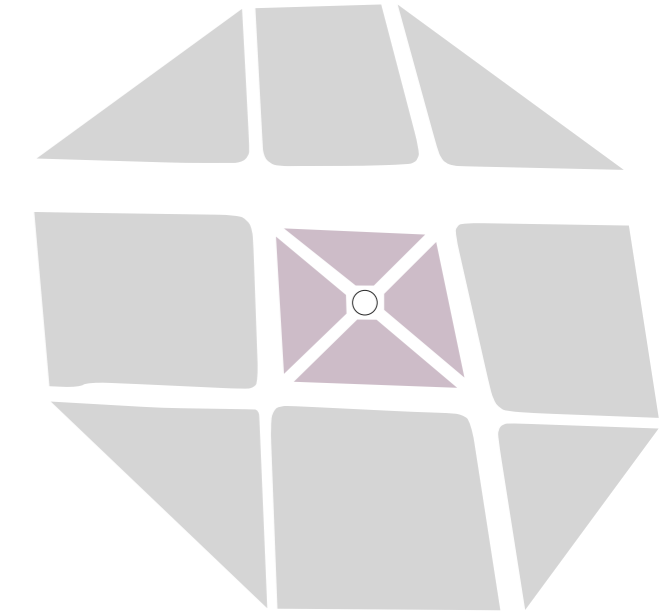
1. SUGGESTED NEW MOVEMENT THROUGH SITE



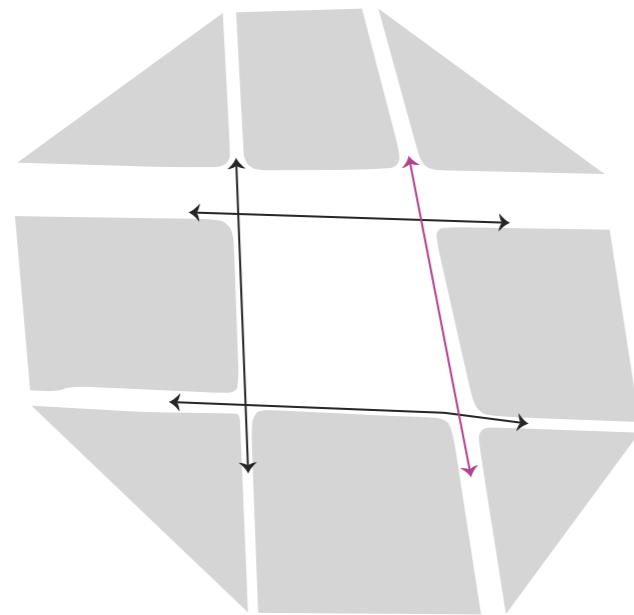
2. MODULE PLACEMENT BASED ON DESIRED DIAGONAL MOVEMENT



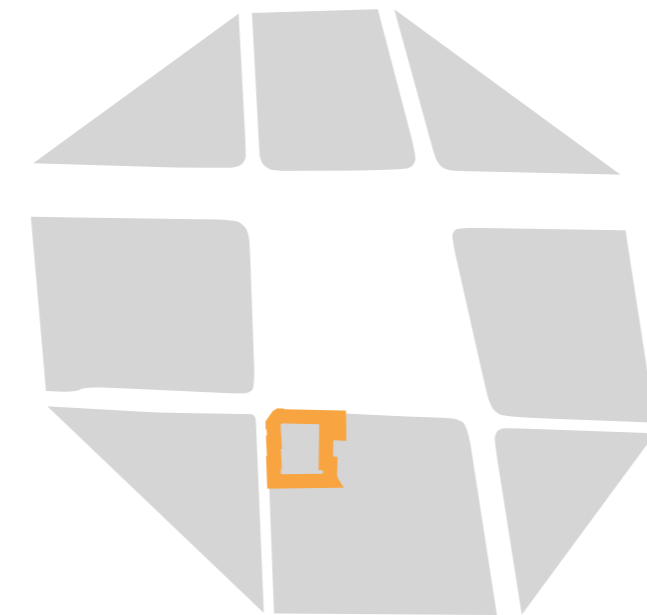
3. MOVEMENT NODE AND NATURAL SITE CENTER BASED ON MODULES' PLACEMENT



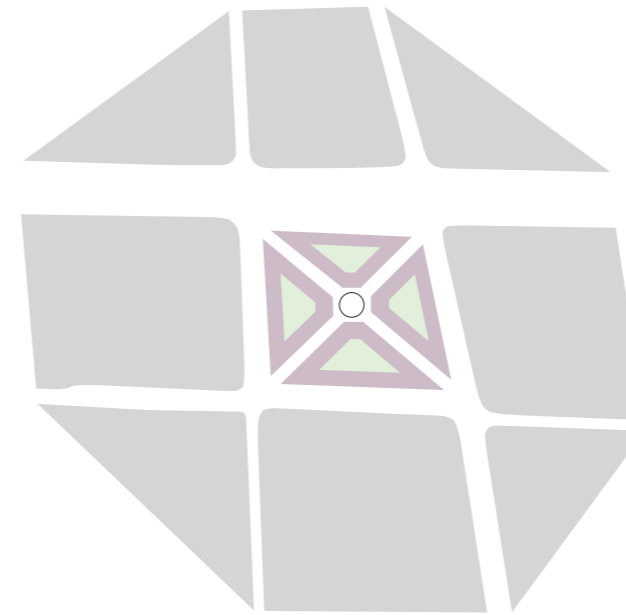
MOVEMENT PATTERN



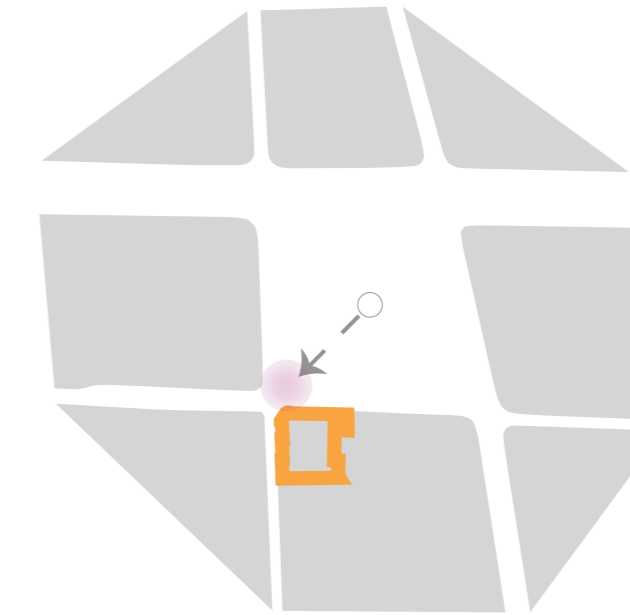
BUILDING HERITAGE, COLONIAL HOTEL



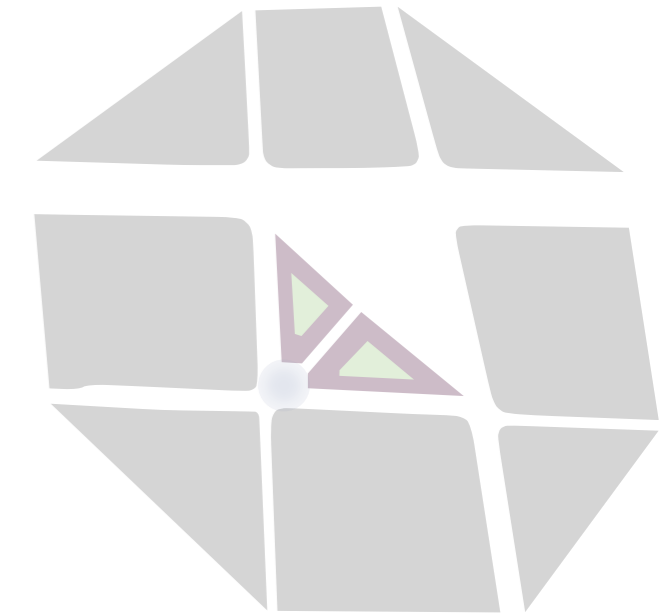
4. DESIRED QUALITY OF THE MODULES: GREEN COURTYARDS AND CITY OASIS'



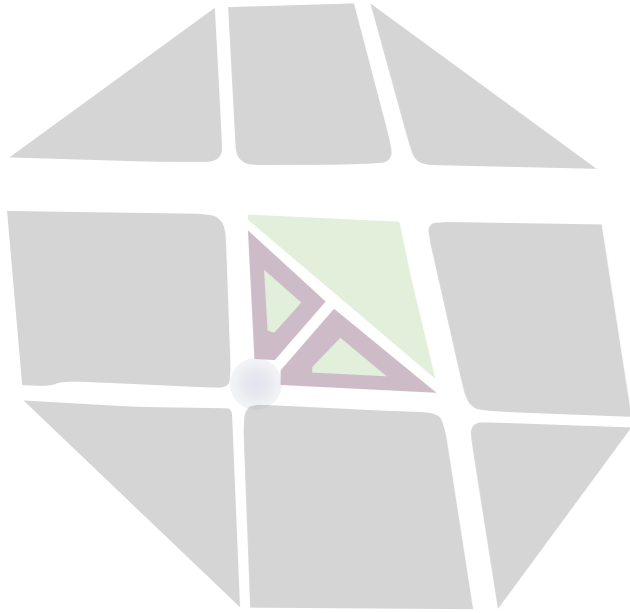
5. NEW AND MORE LOGICAL CENTER/FOCUS AREA BASED ON THE SITE'S CONDITIONS AND QUALITIES



6. FRAMING THE FOCUS AREA WITH THE BUILDING MODULES.



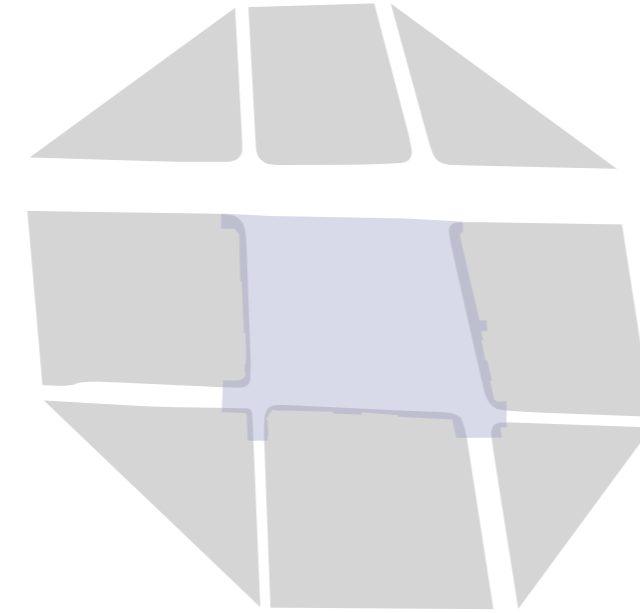
7. ADDRESSING THE NEED OF MORE PUBLIC GREEN SPACES IN THE CITY CENTER



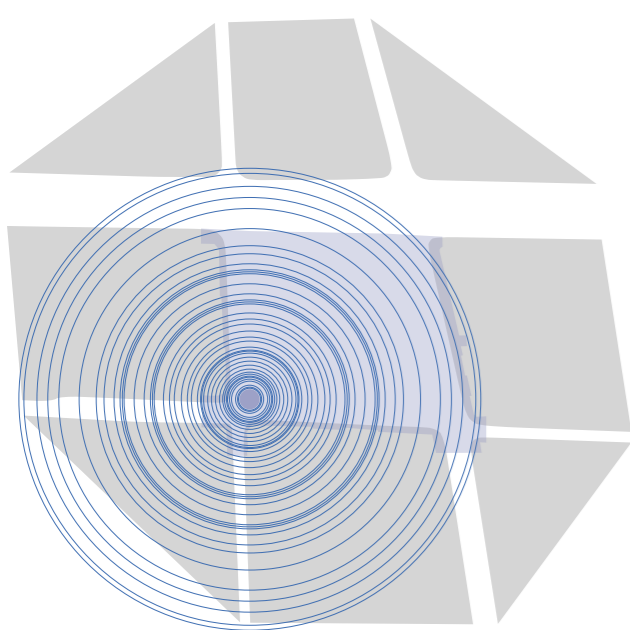
8. NEW SHAPE OF MODULES IN AN ATTEMPT TO BLOCK SOME OF THE TRAFFIC NOISE



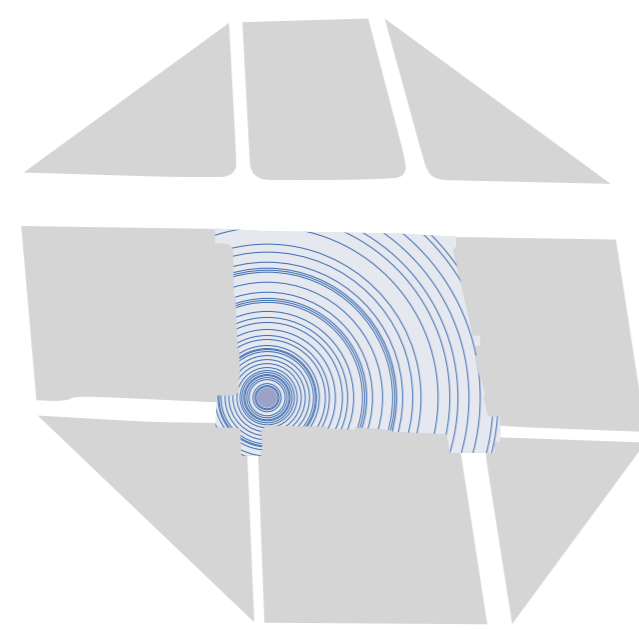
9. COVERING THE SITE WITH THE SAME PAVING



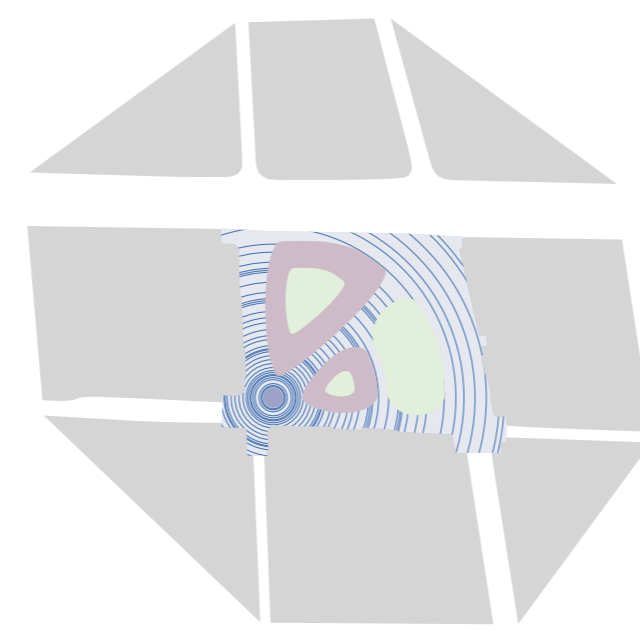
10. EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR THE PAVING PATTERN



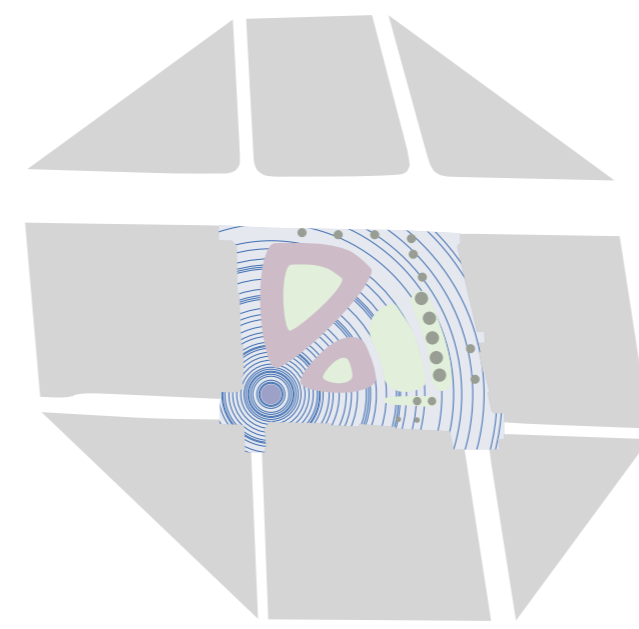
11. EMPHASIZING THE FOCUS AREA WITH A CHARACTERISTIC PAVING PATTERN



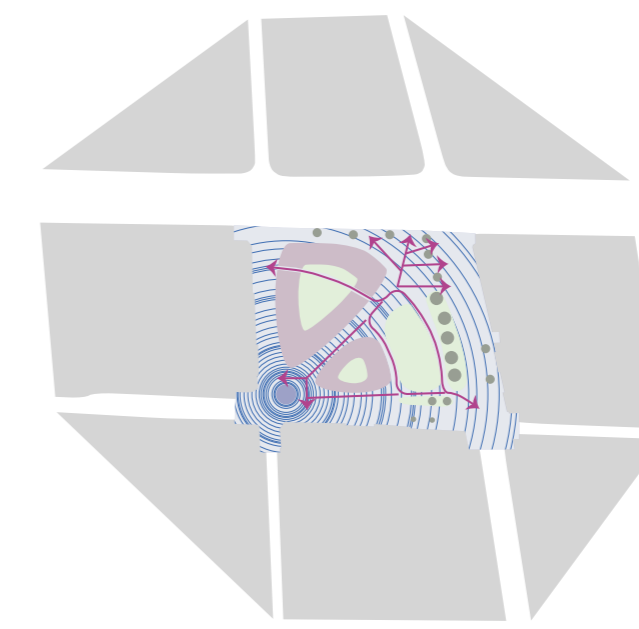
12. ALLOWING THE MODULES TO FOLLOW AND STRENGTHEN THE PAVING PATTERN



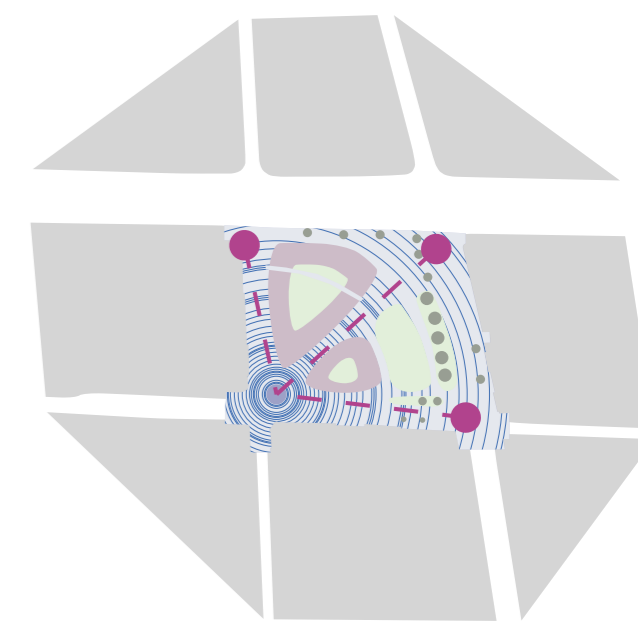
13. INTEGRATE WITH THE EXISTING GREEN



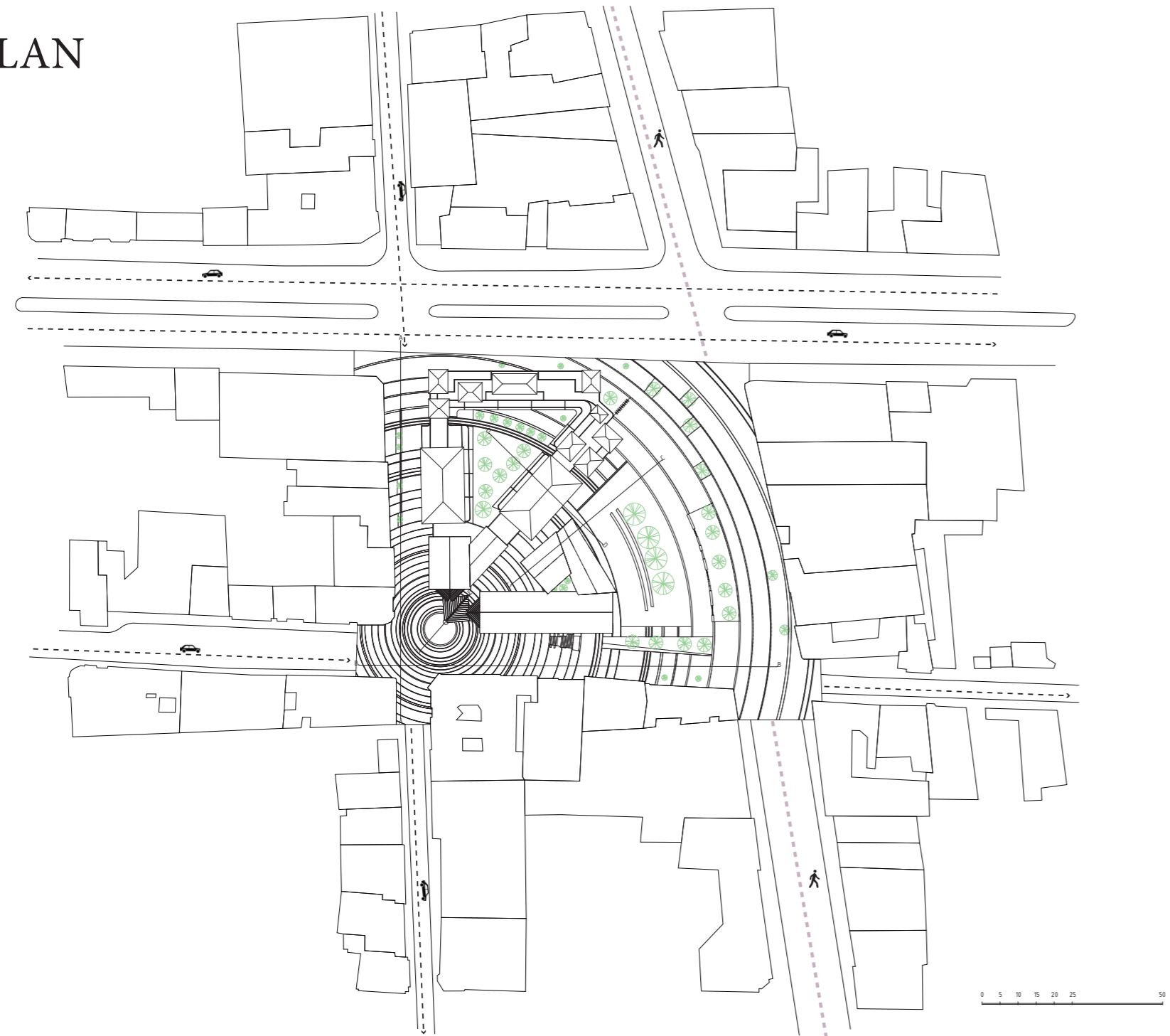
14. NEW MOVEMENTS ON SITE THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND SHORTCUTS



15. ADJUSTING BUILDING SHAPES TO SIGHTLINES FROM IMPORTANT VIEWPOINTS

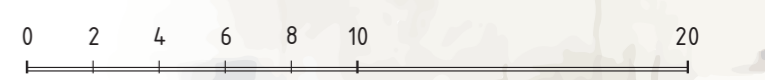
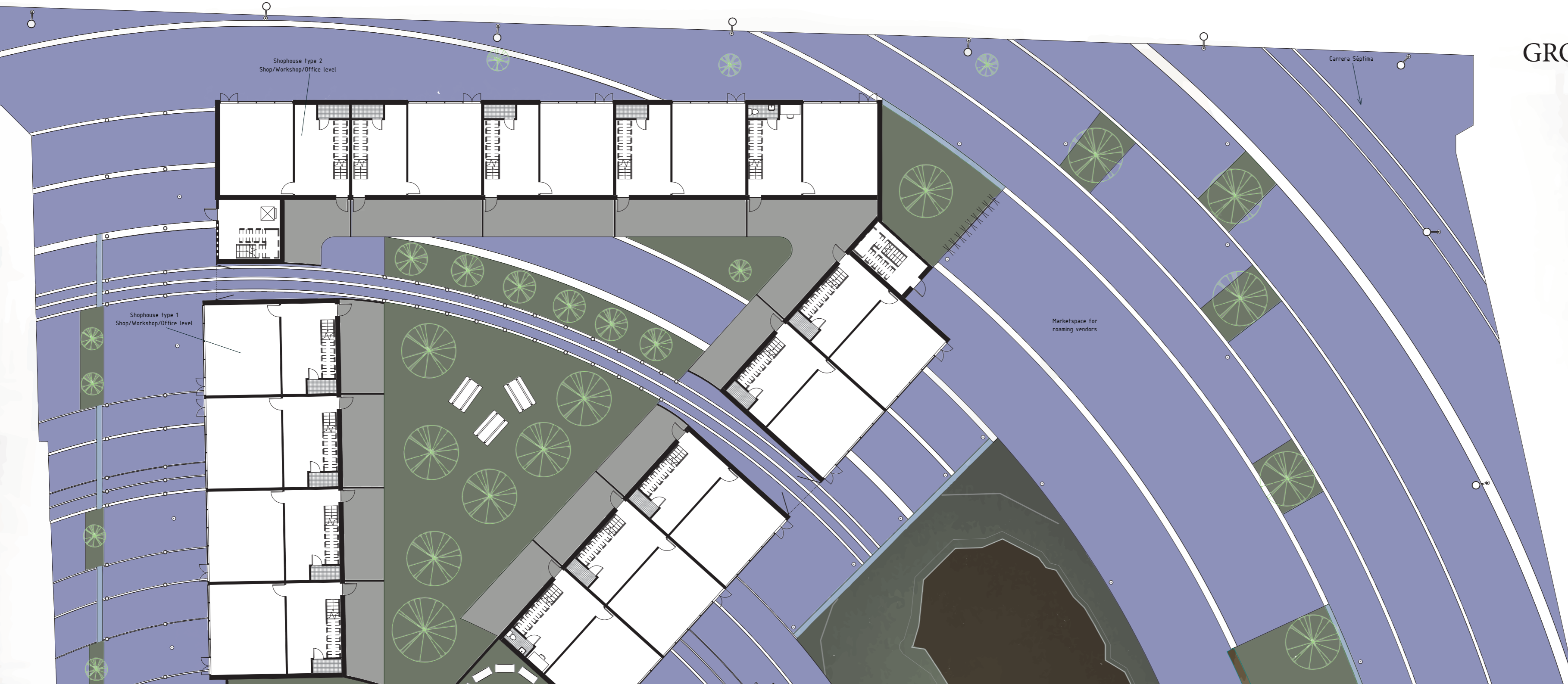


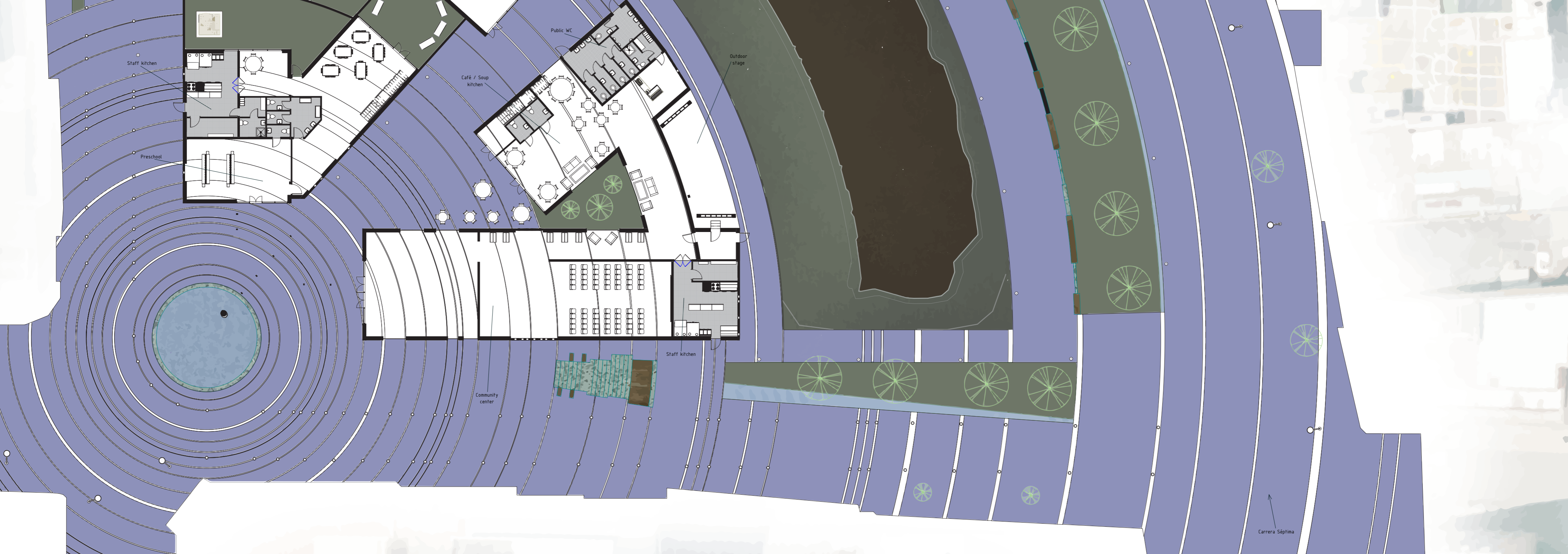
SITE PLAN



STREET LIFE CARRERA 7

GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN





Staff kitchen

Preschool

Public WC

Café / Soup kitchen

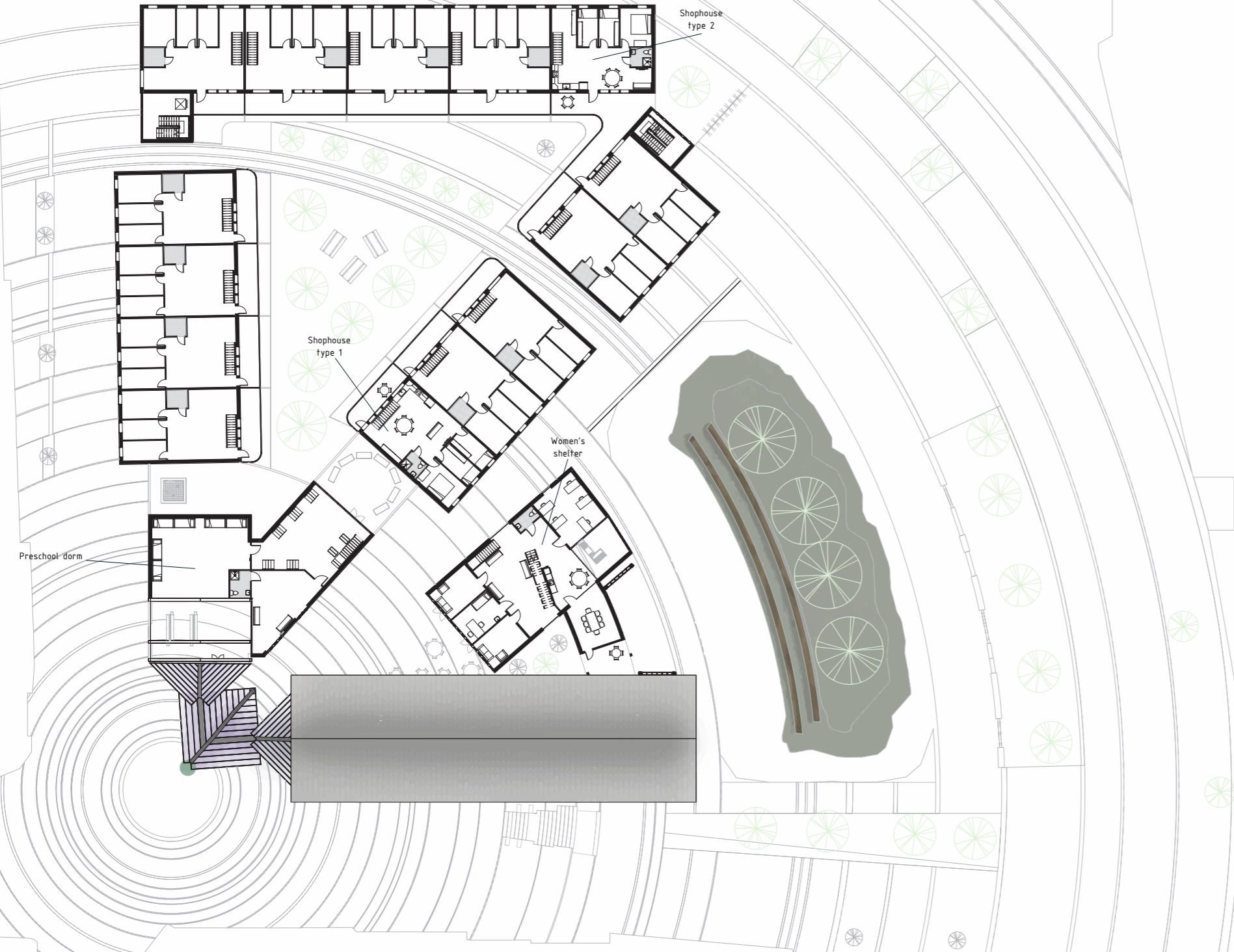
Outdoor stage

Staff kitchen

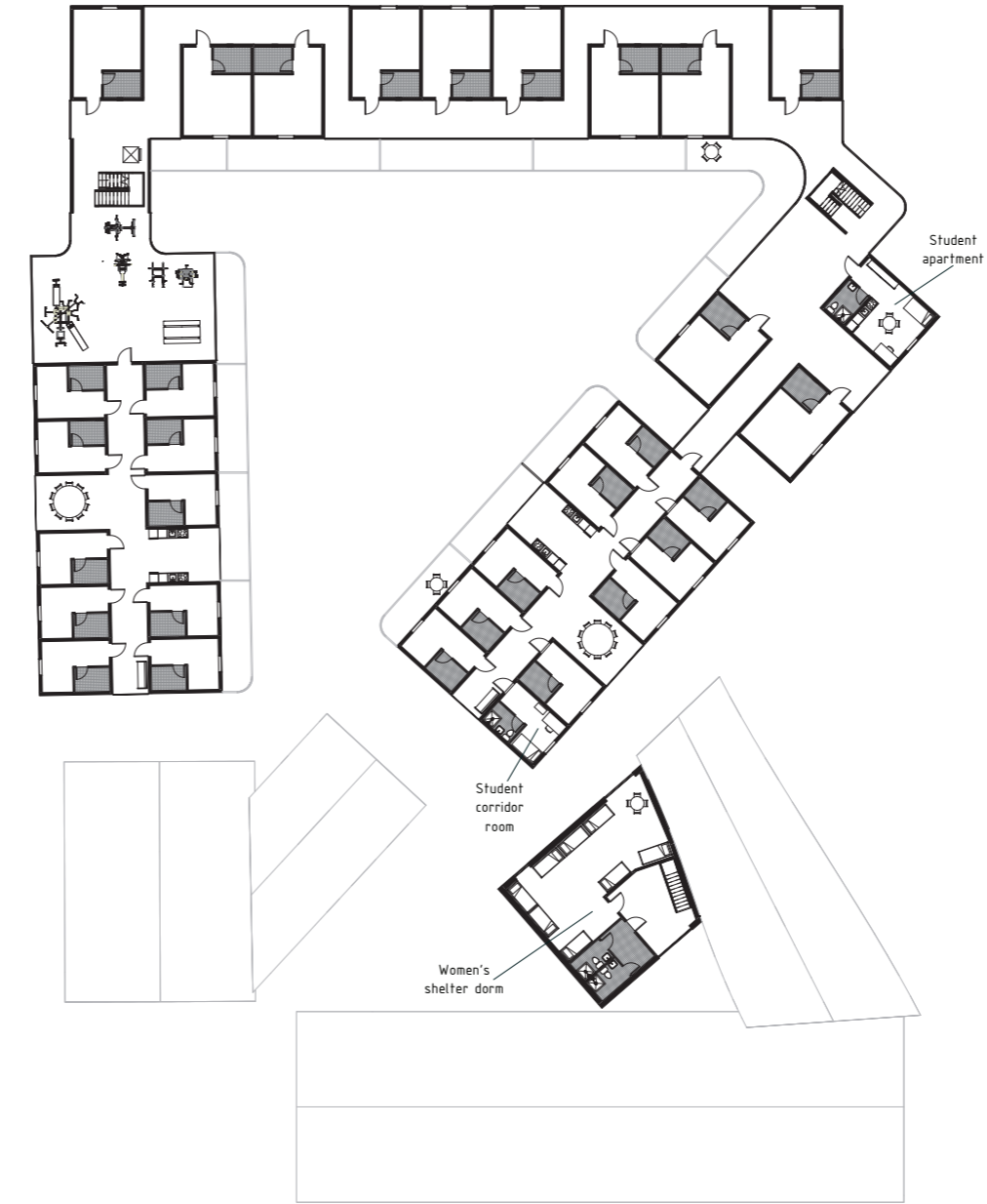
Community center

Carrera Séptima

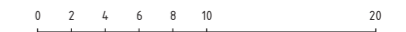
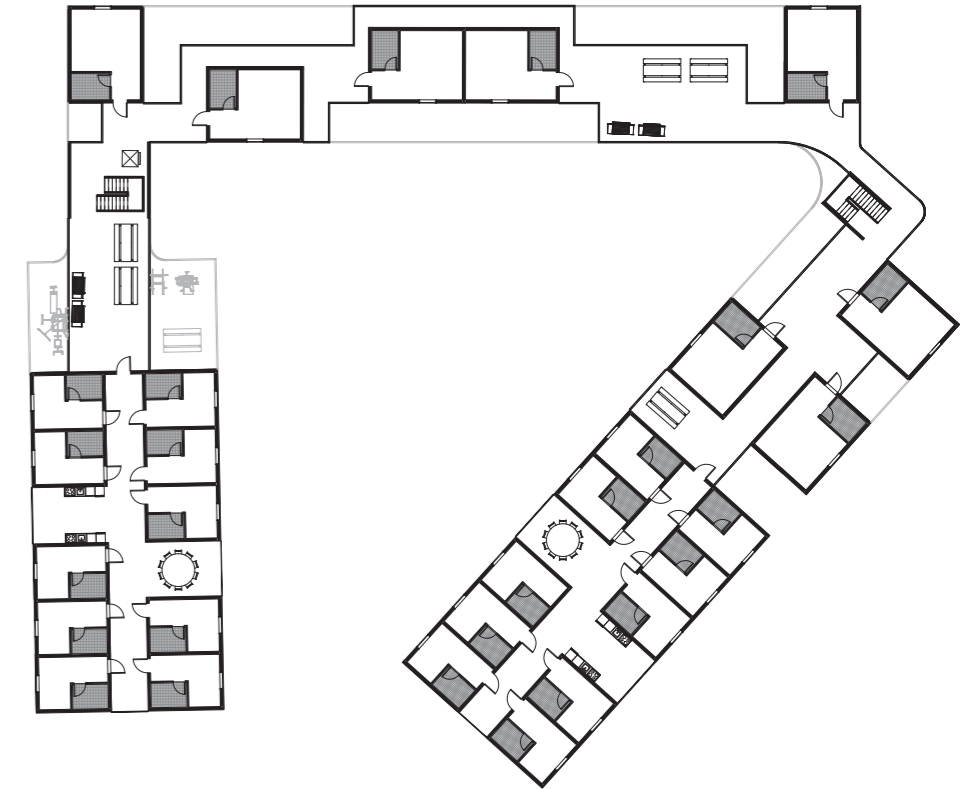
LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN



LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN



LEVEL 3 FLOOR PLAN



DESIGN PROPOSAL

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY FOR OUTDOOR PUBLIC SPACES

Water is an essential element in the design of an outdoor public space. In Bogotá, rivers have run through the surrounding neighborhoods throughout history, but today, the rivers have all disappeared⁹⁷. Now, the local government of Santa Fé is stressing the importance of making water visible in the city. Therefore, and also because of Bogotá's dynamic weather changes, water and rain have each earned a special place in this project.

The most distinct water element in the project is the rain-water fountain, which gathers the run-off from the roofs of the community center and the preschool. The roofs are butterfly-shaped in order to collect, and direct the water flow. Before reaching the pool, the water passes butterfly-shaped glass covers. They are made out of colorful glass and supported by steel beams, and this is the last stop before the water finally splashes down on a plate of green marble before entering the pool. During heavy rainfall, the volume of the pool may not be enough to handle all the water, which is why there is also a water-collecting container located underneath the pool, to which excess water is directed. The harvested rainwater will be used to flush the public toilets located in the community center. To avoid flooding on other places in the site, conventional rain water drainage will be implemented in the paving. The water will be directed underground to the water container under the rain water fountain.

The new establishments on the site will not directly affect or be affected by the surrounding buildings. However, the new paving will cover all the surrounding streets except Calle 19, but including Carrera Séptima.

97 El agua en la localidad de Santa Fé: ¿qué se ha avanzado?, April 13, 2013, *El Turbion* <https://elturbion.com/?p=7025>

The color and the pattern design of the paving is inspired by water. It resembles the movement of the falling water splashing down from the butterfly roofs, into the rainwater fountain and spreading like ripples on the surface throughout the block. The distinct blue color will also make a memorable impression.

Regarding the already existing structures by the site, one of the buildings that should deserve more attention is the bright yellow colonial style hotel located on the southeast corner, in the crossing of Carrera Octava and Calle 18. There are other interesting buildings framing the site, but a beautiful house located on such a forgotten place is one of the reasons why I wanted to direct the focus of the whole project to this corner. The intention is to draw attention to this place with the rainwater fountain. When people follow the water they might perhaps discover something else that they can appreciate, something beautiful with a history that somehow had become forgotten.

Speaking of framing, sightlines also play an important part in the idea of a characteristic object that can draw the attention of curious people. It has to be visible from a distance, and therefore the placement of the buildings and the landscaping has been adjusted to the concept of sightlines. You can see the rain water fountain from all the corners of the block. Carrera Octava, Carrera Séptima and the new diagonal passage allow visitors to spot it from the corner where La Séptima crosses Calle 19. The block will have a new kind of pedestrian flow, which will be quite unique for this part of Bogotá.

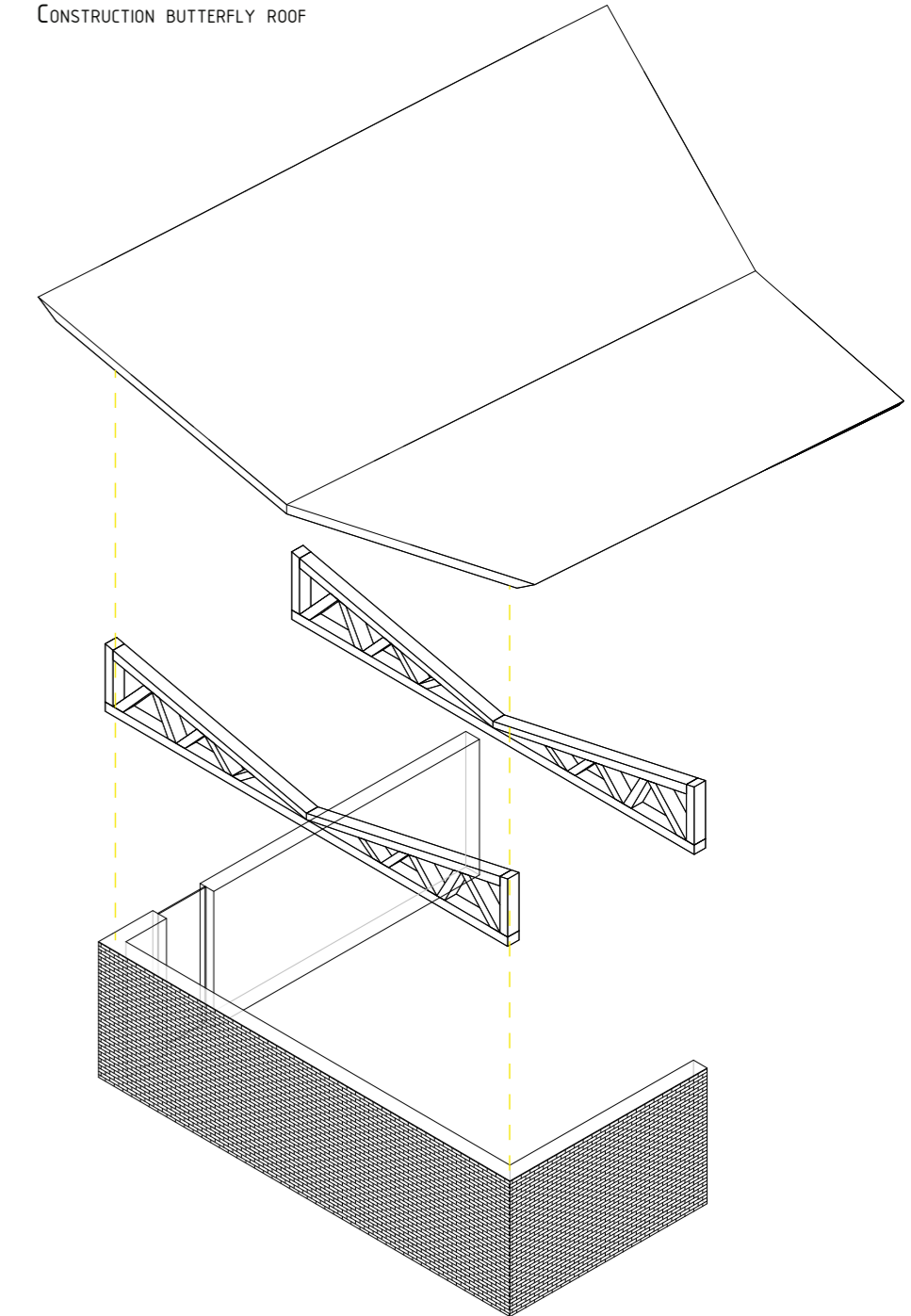
Even though it will not be as straight, there is also a new passage and shortcut on the other diagonal of the block through the courtyard of the housing complex. While the pedestrian flow will be ranked higher, traffic flow will be limited in capacity but not completely prohibited. The elevation of the paving and the guiding lights will direct the traffic flow instead of blocking it. The material of the paving will be the same as the one seen in the bright red square in "Superkilen" in Copenhagen, which consists of brightly colored concrete.

The rain water fountain is not the only characteristic object located in the public space. A playful and interactive wall with seating and a sitting module will all be constructed in the same material as the rain water fountain. Along with the green marble plate sculpture, green granite will be a firm and solid material for these new elements in the streets. The green color is referring to Bogotá's famous emerald trade and its bright green gemstones⁹⁸. For comfort reasons, the specific seating areas on the modules have a wooden finish. When it is not raining the rain water fountain will be used as seating and a meeting point.

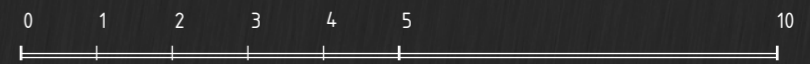
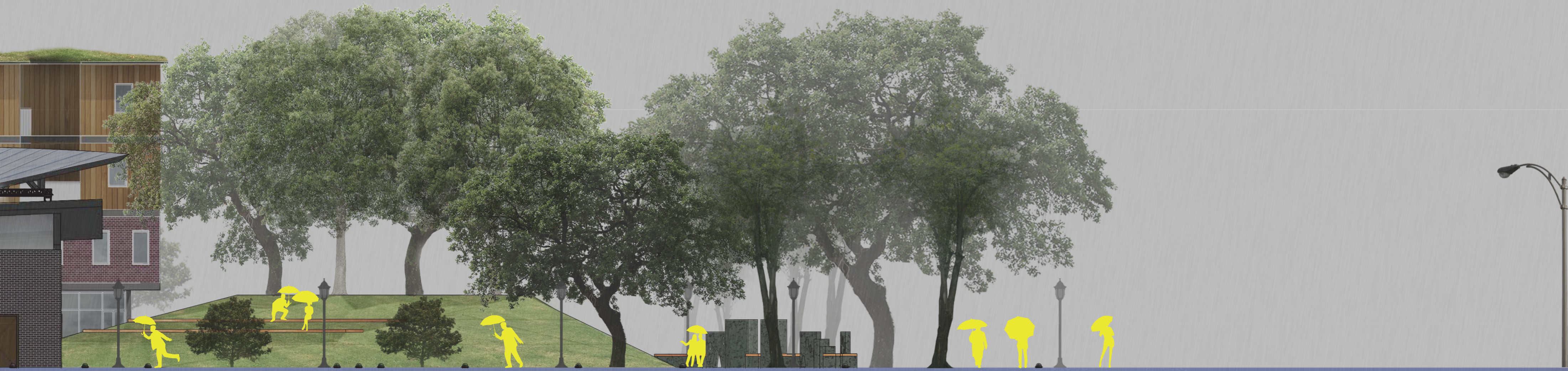
The whole outdoor area, with all its specific elements and green spaces will be arranged to follow the shape of the water circles in the paving. The new green spaces also include an artificial hill, which will have the function of an amphitheatre in front of the community center stage. The green strategy regarding the existing greenery is to keep all the existing trees but frame them with the paving pattern. Additional trees will be planted in the courtyards and on the hill.

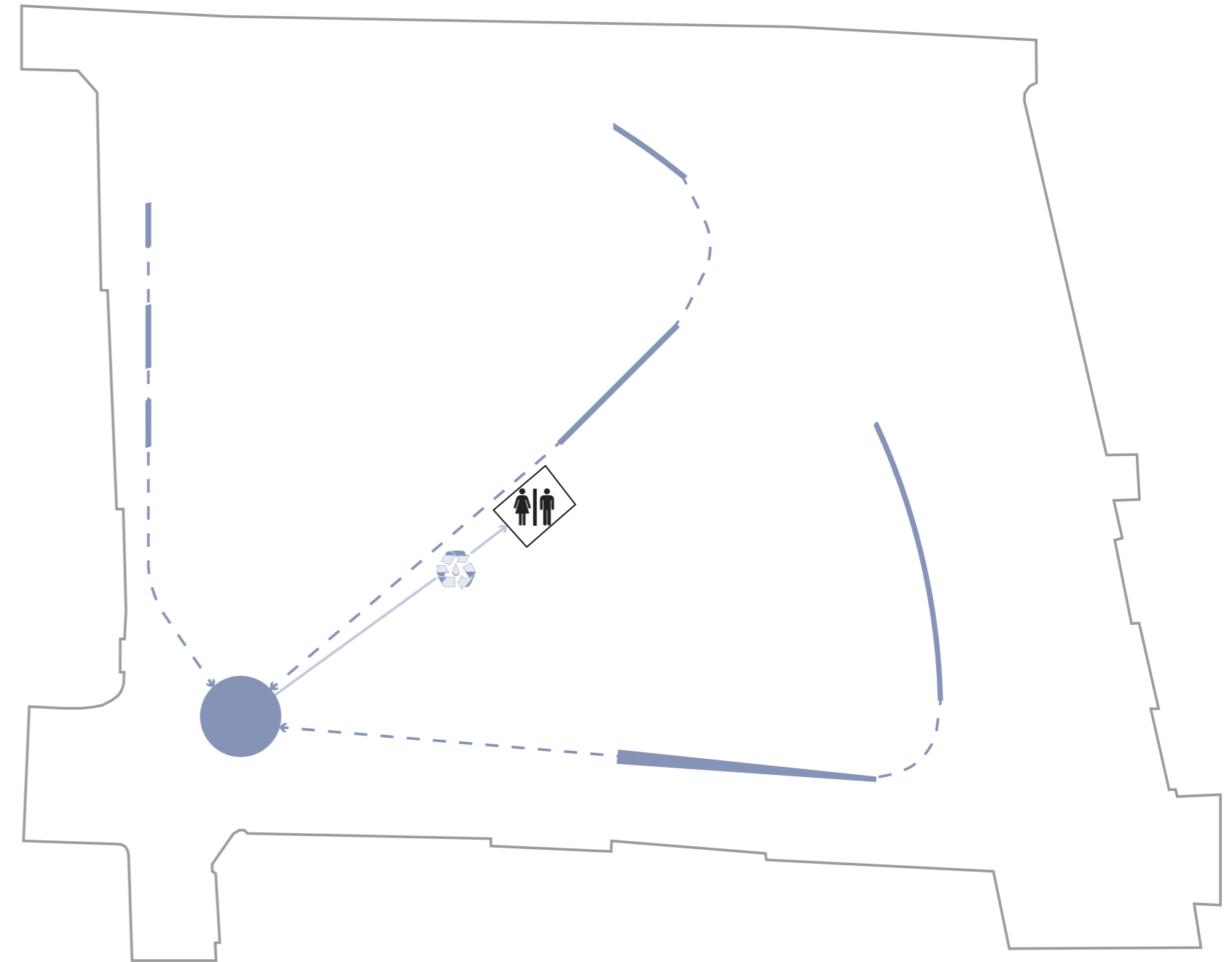
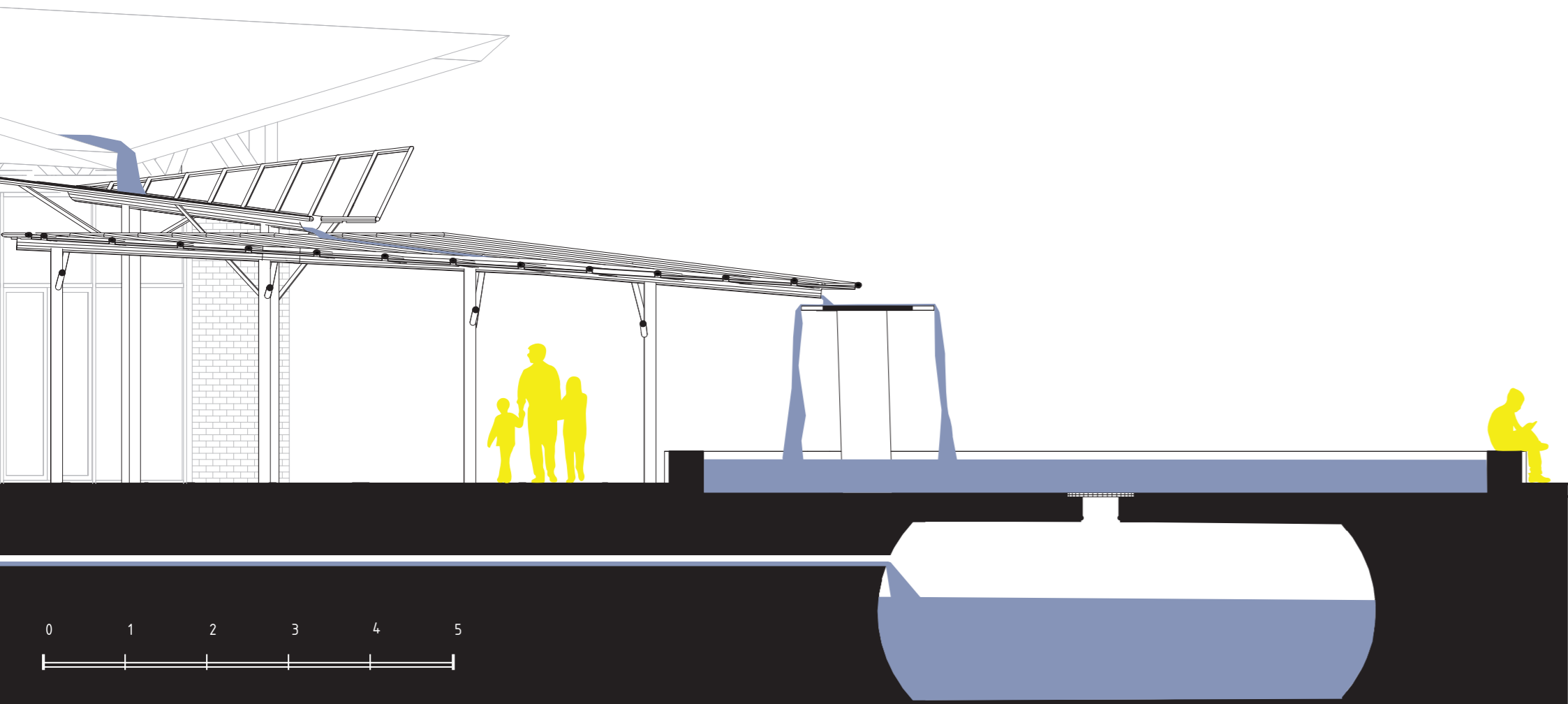
98 M. A. Vargas. Carrera Séptima de Bogotá: Patrimonio, historia y cultura, 32

CONSTRUCTION BUTTERFLY ROOF











DESIGN PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HOUSING COMPLEX AND THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The housing complex is designed to facilitate control over the courtyard. The individual designs of the shops and living spaces are simple and flexible, whilst the design of the housing complex as a whole reflects control and porosity. Public access to the courtyard during daytime and glazed ground floor outward facing facades awakens people's curiosity and invites them to explore the shops or the courtyard.

The choice of bricks as facade- and structural material is based on its heaviness and resistance. The shop dwellers community is the foundation of the housing complex and the foundation ought to be solid. Tree houses has inspired the choice of facade material for the student housing. Wood is a living material and symbolizes the dynamic student lifestyle. The shop house dwellers might live in the same house for generations, while the student community is constantly changing. The roof material for the shop houses is basically the second floor and terraces of the student housing whilst the roof material for the top floor will be green. Ideally, the green roofs will help reduce noise from the busy Calle 19 and also slow down runoff.

Just like the shophouses, both the preschool and the community center have brick facades. Brick is the most common building material in Bogotá and therefore the natural choice, as a key material in that sense.

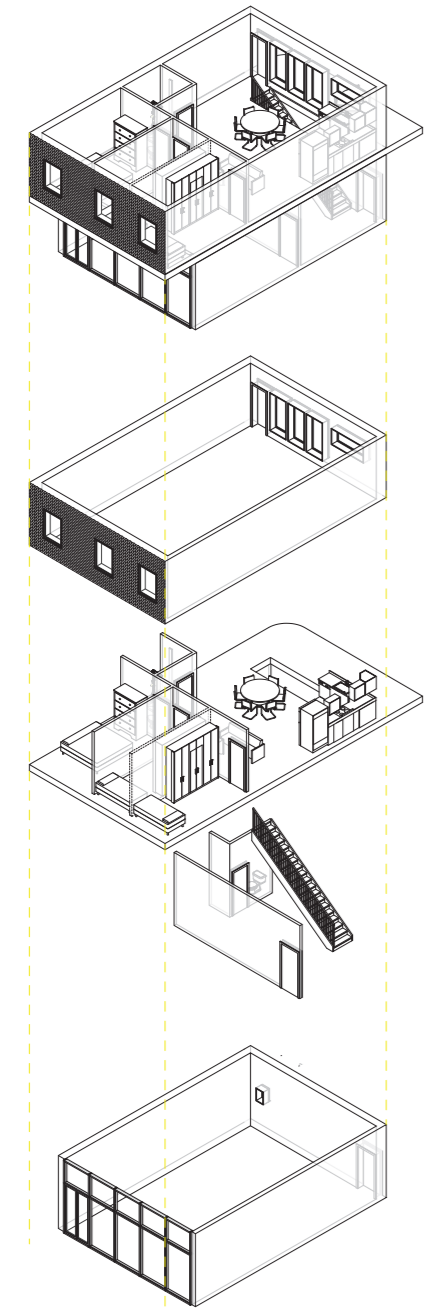
In order to avoid a flat and dull impression for these rather large constructions, the brick facades are constructed with elements of glazed sections and patterns with glass blocks creating variation and transparency. The patterns created with the glass blocks are inspired by old Muisca patterns, as a reference to Bogotá's pre-colonial history.

The water collecting roof has a solid membrane made out of zinc. The choice of a high quality material is important because of the large amounts of water during the rainy seasons and in order to minimize the need of maintenance. The roofs are supported by a construction of wooden framework beams. The beams are generally supported by the strong brick walls, but in some cases there are extra pillars supporting the construction where a thick brick wall does not fit in. As a contrast to the circular design of the outdoor public space, all the buildings in the project are square or rectangular shape in order to avoid an obsessiveness with the circles in the paving.

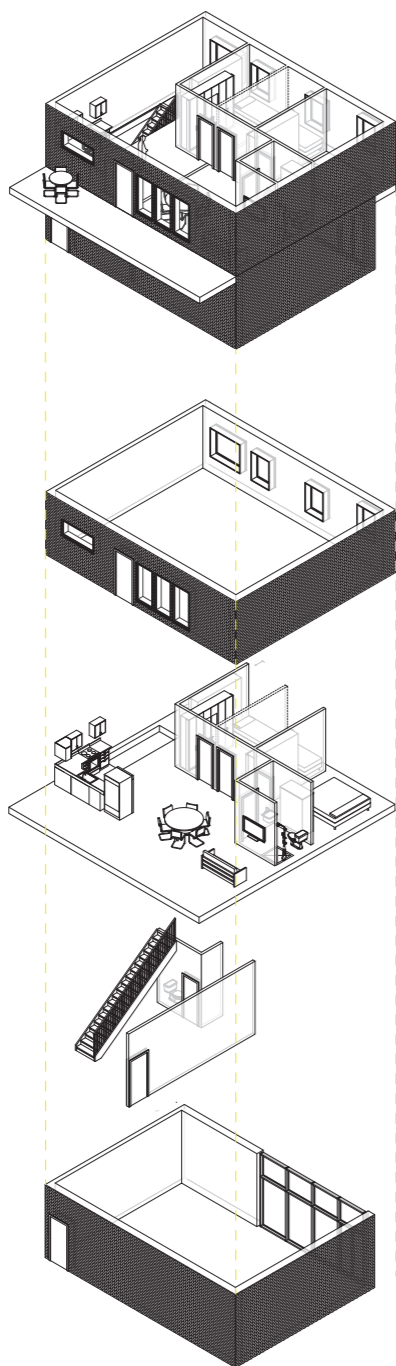




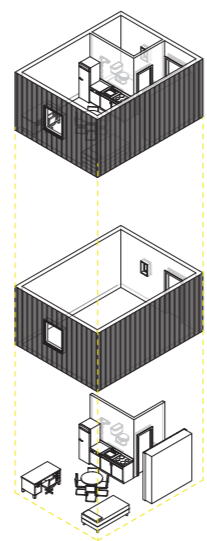
SHOPHOUSE TYPE 1



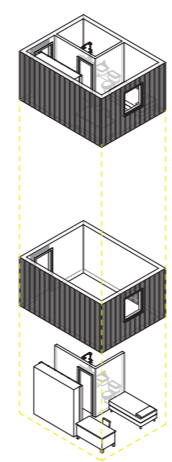
SHOPHOUSE TYPE 2



SINGLE STUDENT FLAT



DORM ROOM



MUISCAN SYMBOLS - INSPIRATION FOR BRICK PATTERN

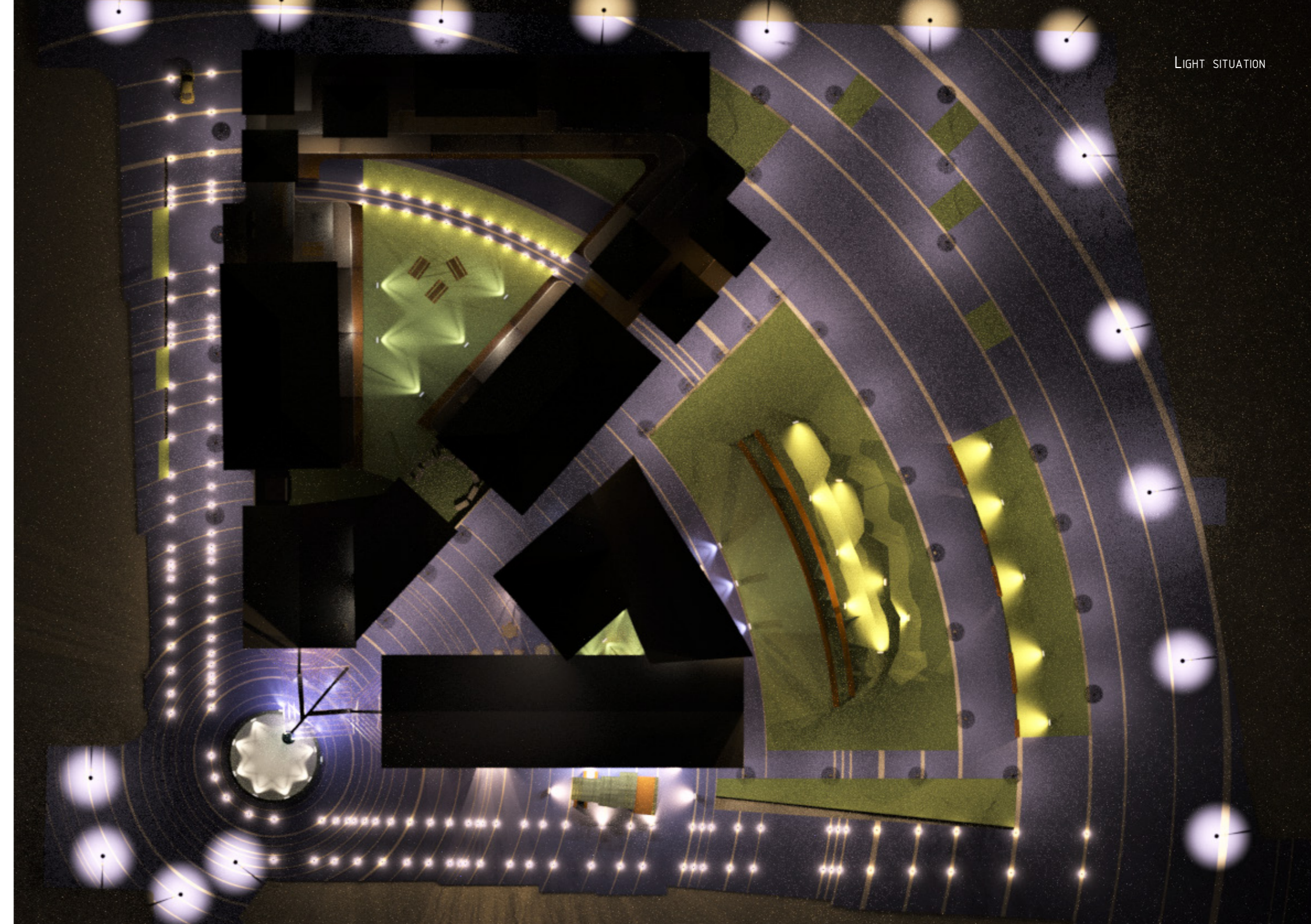


VIEW CALLE 18

LIGHT STRATEGY AND CONCEPT

Light is a key tool for achieving an increased perception of safety. The problem area of this project is the corner where Calle 18 and Carrera Octava intersect. This corner has therefore been targeted specifically with a conscious light setting. The rain water fountain is one of the spots that will be particularly illuminated. Beyond the specific illumination of important objects in the public space, the idea is that the community center and daycare shall be illuminated more or less 24-7.

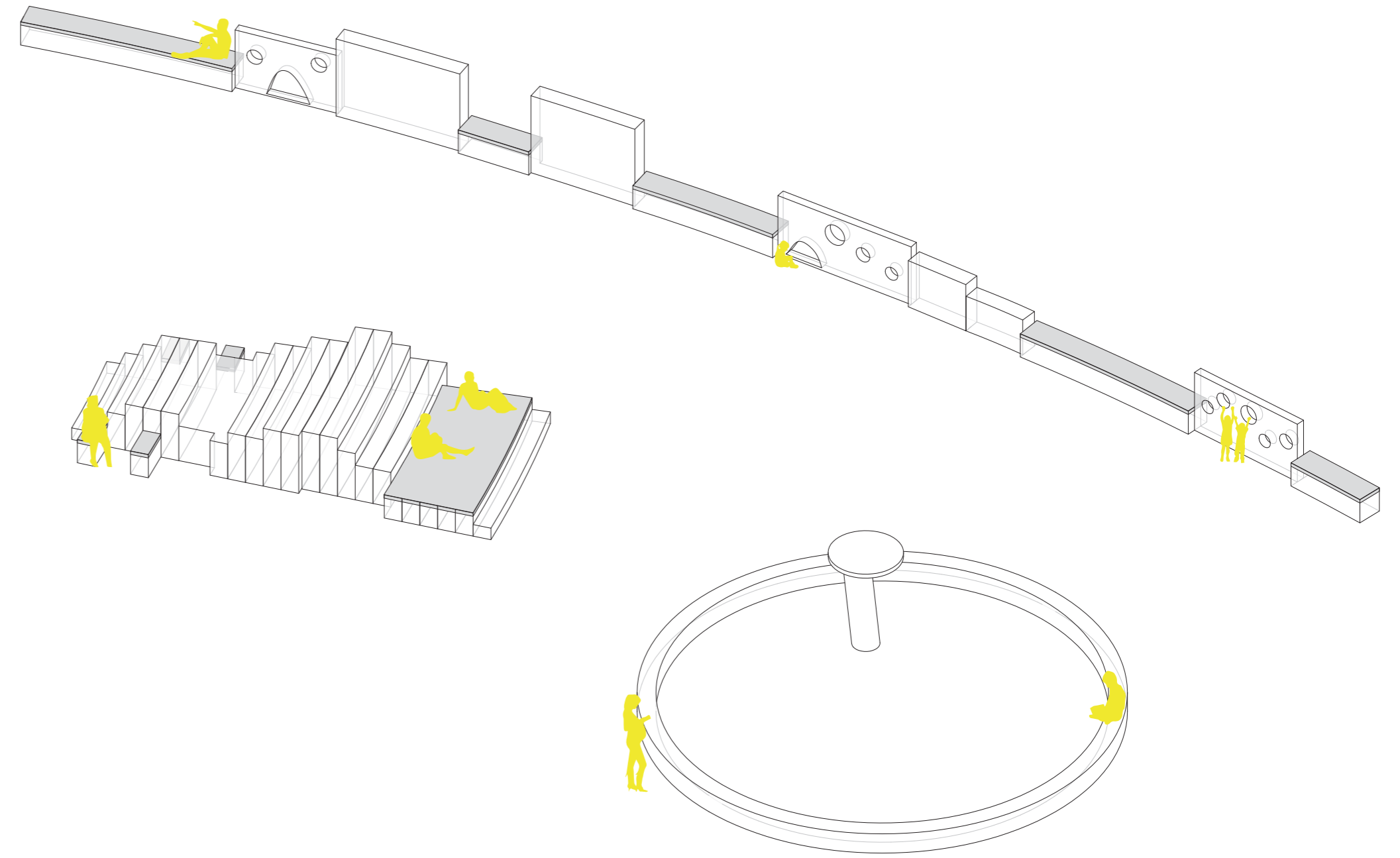
The brick walls with the Muisca pattern will be illuminated from the inside, and cover Calle 18, Carrera Octava and the diagonal passage in a cozy light. The light installed in the pavement will guide the cars, but also direct pedestrians to the previously poorly lit corner. Ideally, this spot will be more crowded in the evening thanks to the new lights. There will be two types of street lights used for the general illumination of the site; one old-fashioned type of lamp for adding coziness, and a bigger and brighter for a more functional purpose.





CORNER OF CARRERA 8 AND CALLE 18 BY NIGHT

THE PUBLIC SPACE OBJECTS AND TARGETS FOR SPECIFIC ILLUMINATION



SECTION C:C





DISCUSSION

Even though Bogotá and Colombia seem like a context far removed from Sweden, I have recognized some important lessons that we can learn from the city's urban development. Many elements in my project are very basic and consist of things we take for granted in Sweden - cities that are clean, green, fairly safe and accessible. It is important to preserve all these qualities and never ever forget to plan inclusively. After studying this subject I know this more than ever.

The low crime rate in Sweden is probably due to the relatively high social equality and living standard. We also have well-functioning public spaces and "allmansrätt"⁹⁹ which is more or less celebrating the concept of social justice and that the idea that our nature belongs to everyone. However, people still perceive public spaces as unsafe in Sweden. Therefore I find my project and my research very useful and relevant for my professional life. I want people to know the dangers of alienation and gated communities, and what that typology communicates to the rest of the society. I wish to always keep in mind the ideas about inclusiveness when I design public spaces in the future.

Another thing about this project relevant for both Sweden and Europe today, is the fact that Bogotá has been a target for massive refugee flows during a long time¹⁰⁰. Many of Bogotá's urban issues exist today because of the inadequate handling of the refugees. We have a chance to learn from the mistakes and prevent from happening here. That is why it is relevant in these times for a Swede like myself, to study and address the urban challenges of a city like Bogotá.

⁹⁹ Allmansrätten, *Naturvårdsverket* <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/Var-natur/Allemansratten/>
¹⁰⁰ A refugee in their own country – the fate of the Colombian IDPs, *UNRIC*, <http://www.unric.org/en/colombia/27002-a-refugee-in-their-own-country-the-fate-of-the-colombian-idps>.

Even though the urban problems are more severe in Bogotá, you can still see fragments of negative development in Swedish cities. The issues that exist in mega-cities like Bogotá also exist in Stockholm and Malmö, but under less extreme circumstances.

The media continues to report shootings in Malmö, and even though most of the shootings occurs between groups criminals, the city has now earned an undeserved bad reputation¹⁰¹. Malmö has plenty of good qualities. The only time I have actually been robbed face to face was in the Stockholm metro. Stockholm is a segregated city¹⁰², just like Bogotá. Sure, the distances are smaller and we have a metro and a bus system covering large areas, but with the ticket prices continuing to rise every year the disconnection and alienation of the suburbs will increase. Just like in Bogotá, it is important to fight for densifying Stockholm and make it more accessible and inclusive.

Social programs and meeting places with an inclusive design are highly relevant in Sweden as well as in Bogotá. The flow of refugees is not likely not stop any time soon. If it is not war-related, it will be the climate that is changing and forcing people away from their homes. Bogotá is a refugee city gone bad, and it is important for us now that we still have a chance to learn from Colombia's mistakes.

On the positive side, Bogotá's campaign machinery for a better city is something politicians and urban developers in Sweden can gather inspiration from.

¹⁰¹ Höök, Lovisa. *Färliga Malmö en myt*, January 16 2011, *Sydsvenskan* <http://www.sydsvenskan.se/2011-01-16/farliga-malmo-en-myt>
¹⁰² Blankel, Anna-Klara. *Stockholm allt mer segregerat*, September 22 2015, *SVT Nyheter* <http://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/stockholm/stockholm-allt-mer-seg-regerat>

In my opinion, the strategy to engage the people in a citizen dialogue is much more distinct and efficient in Bogotá. Social media is also a powerful tool, and the effect digitalisation can have on cities and public spaces is an interesting theme to further explore. Pokémon Go and Bogotá's crime reporting application are just the beginning. Issues of a big city may seem overwhelming and hard to grasp, but we should not become passive just because something appear frightening.

It is possible to make changes that matter through simple and small means. We can start with one block at the time. If located on a strategically good spot, change in one block can trickle down to more places, and ideally, create a ripple effect of positivity throughout the city.

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