Critique and Acephaly
Urban Densification Issues in Latin American Cities

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Bogotá, Foro Territorios Productivos | Pontificia Universidad Javeriana | 6.10.15

1 The European Tradition of Liberal Urban Design: a Search for Urbanity, Mixité, Landscapes to be Consumed

2 Dwelling at Proximity Scale: Hamburg Hafencity; Lyon Confluence

3 Latin America. Regeneration as Densification: Some Design Issues

1 The European Tradition of Liberal Urban Design

90's

The 90s saw the awareness of having to deal with a largely fragmented and discontinuous city.

1 **Abandoned of Industrial Zones**

2 **Spectacolarization of Historic Cores**

3 **Urban Sprawl**

The result is an heterogenous and discontinuous city

> a need to go back to read and analyze the city

A new commitment to description, a collective effort to return to describe the territory moved by a feeling of inadequacy

This led to different paths and different descriptive practices

The urban project acquires a narrative dimension.

The end of the of urban growth saw the decline of the antinomy public-private: the deflagration of the public in minute countless situations resulted in the fall of the concept of the public described by Habermas, Arendt and Sennett.

Evaporation of the traditional concept of the collective

A process of individualization of society

> Gradual de-politicization of urban planning

Milan. Abandoned Industrial Areas

90’s / 2000

Descriptions

Scenarios

Regeneration Processes

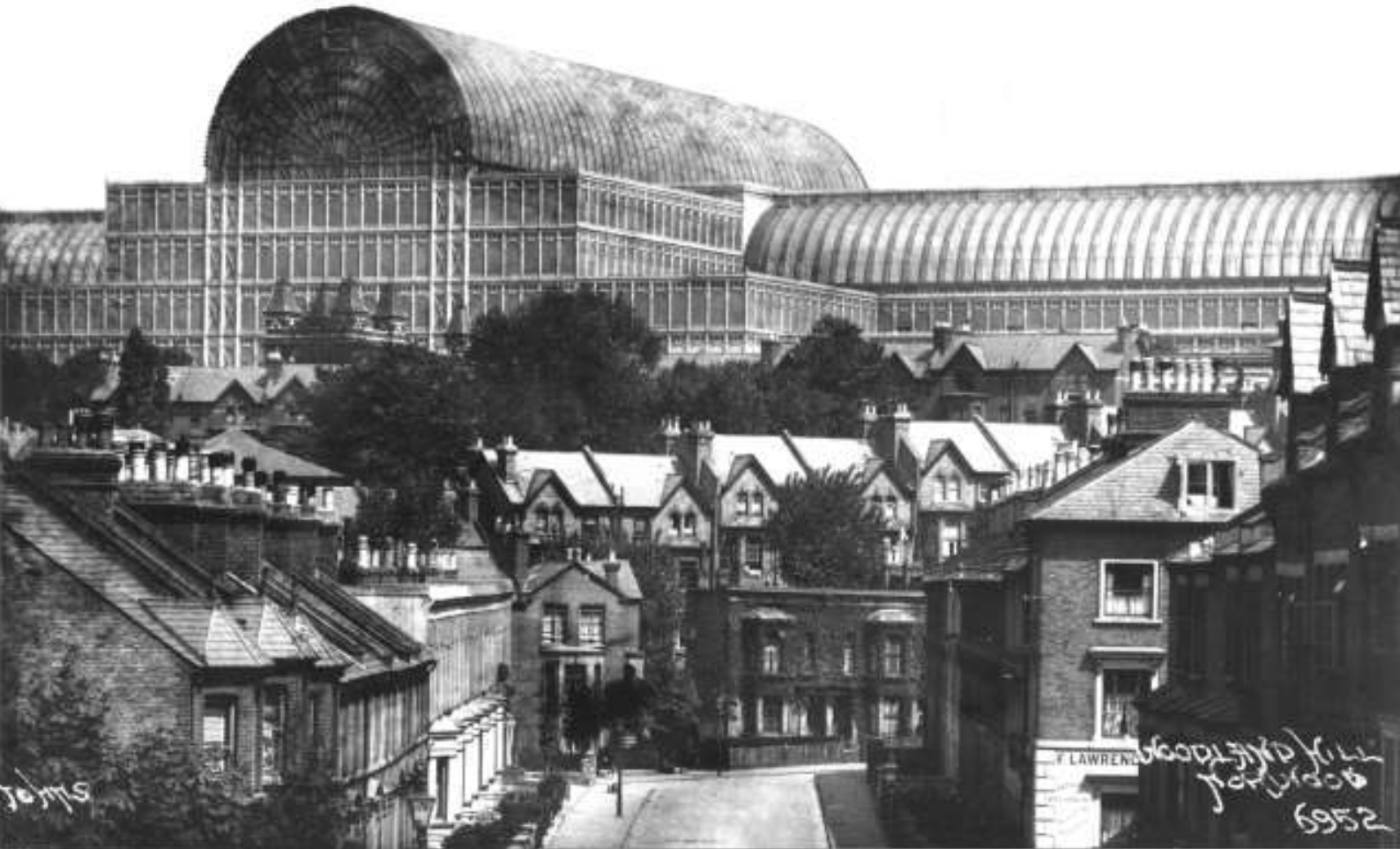
> Urban Design Acquires a Narrative Dimension

Rashōmon, Akira Kurosawa, 1950

LIBERAL URBAN DESIGN

This building-atmosphere describes the main features that different western urban contexts tend to acquire through some prevailing practices of urban design; features of transparent, controlled and culturally reclaimed spaces.

The combination of this image with the urban conditions redefined by some recent urban design tendenciens was proposed by Peter Sloterdijk.



Sloterdijk uses this building as a metaphor to describe how the liberal economies and global economic processes, modify western urban spaces as a culturally and climatically controlled greenhouse.

The controlled atmosphere produces comfort but also invisible boundaries, as a total work of art that acts as a space of exclusion. The Crystal Palace describes the interior world of capitalism.

Observed from the perspective of European urban design practices, transformation of the European city of the Noughties can be seen as a particular capitalist mode of production of urban space

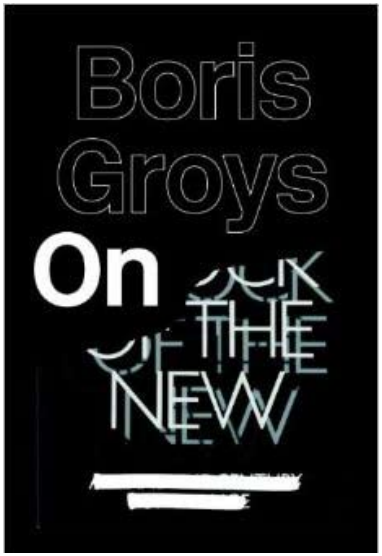
a continuation, decanting and clarification of strategies and themes identified in the nineties, which can be described as 'liberal urbanism', i.e., marked by a special attention to the cultural dimension of space and aimed at finding strategies of spatial control and economic growth through values or the identitiy of the territory.

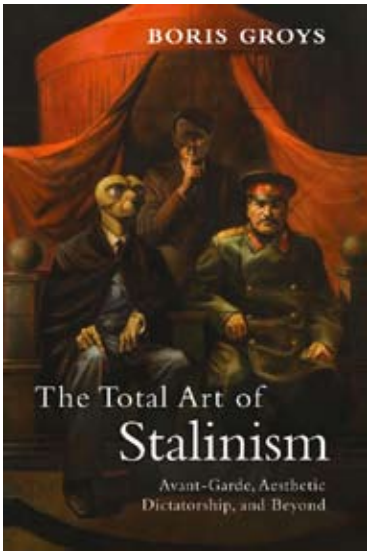
These forms of urban design consider the city and the territory as a overcontrolled space of consumption and correspond to the definition of forms of social control and the research of spatial transparency of an implicitly pan-optic type, inasmuch as sought after by means of seemimgly neutral operators, such as cultural discourses (identity, palimpsest, heritage) or by means of landscape enjoyment-induction strategies (Slavoj Zizek): the city as landscape to be consumed.

A space culturally reclaimed through the identitarian and patrimonial discourses

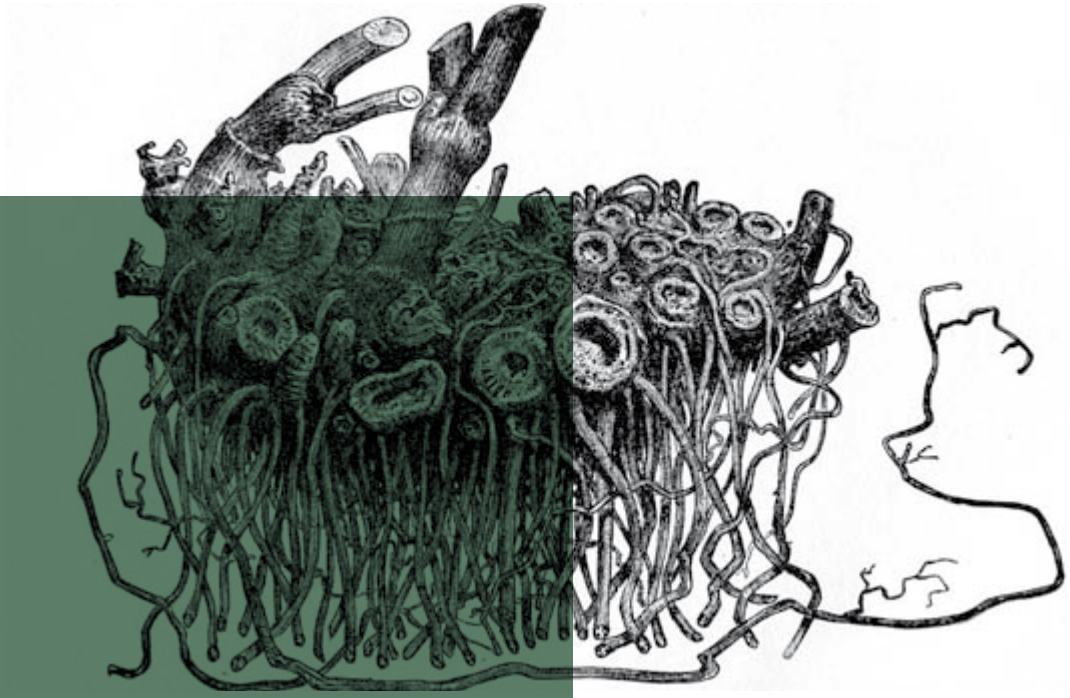
A transparent space, reclaimed by conflicts, characterized by a controlled and safe atmosphere.

Boris Groys: “cultural smog”





Bentham Reloaded



the invention of urban design

Liberal Urban Design

An important series of design experiences that began approximatly thirty years ago: recovery of London's Docklands in 1979 and projects for the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Margaret Thatcher / Reaganomics: a set of economic policies inspired by the neo-liberal ideology of Milton Friedman, the main urban transformations saw the decline of public action and the increasing power of private investors.

90s neo-liberal economies > urban design

Relationships between neo-liberal economies and urban design practices produced:

urban transformation projects determined through benchmarking processes

the development of services and increased the weight of finance in urban economies

promoted dwelling practices where the city is seen as a space of consumption and tourism as a lifestyle.

In this period the main framework images of urban design practices, are at least two:

urban sprawl, which has put the theme of landscape as a public space at the center of urban design action

the infrastructure reticular growth for private mobility, the project for the network-city.

The urban project is taken within the dual need to be flexible but locally declined, able to strengthen local identity and to adapt to changing global economies, it is in a state of constant wakefulness in order to capture resources.

In a phase when administrators consider planning as a strategic action, urban design becomes "requalification of an urban image" for designers and "vision" for advertisers and politicians.

Basically non-technical, unlike the traditional urban plan made of rules, the urban project is mediatic, aiming to produce the city-effect, it is usually communicated through slogans; references to political issues are vague not to produce tensions, not to impede the action of the promoters.

The images project frequently refer to the historic town, to the town's heritage and local identity in order to emphasize the difference with unhistorical or decontextualized logics, who have dominated modern planning practices.

During the Eighties and Nineties the mosti visible urban transformation projects focued mainly on urban coress, on abandoned industrial and portual areas as well as on waterfronts.

Events, particularly those of international concern, such as Expo or Olympic Games, become occasion to start urban regeneration policies; culture and its places become central.

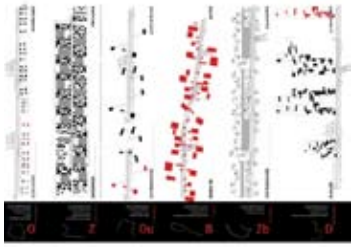
Logic of events has fostered the processes of competition between cities, the construction of iconic projects, the design of neighbourhoods as landscape scenes and established models of local development by identifying the vocations of cities and territories.

The city is a special decantation and materialization place of economic processes. Liberal economies in recent decades have seen the urban space as the place where to seek answers to the look for solutions to the decline old industrial economies.

The city is regarded as one of the main places of wealth production and consumption, at the same time it is conceived as a unity of images production and consumption.

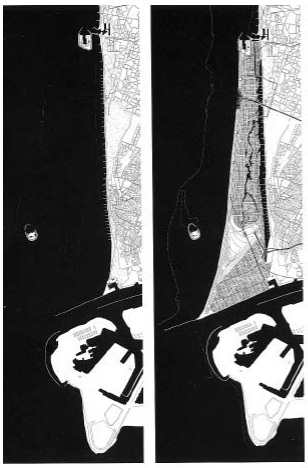
90s / 00s.
main urban design
tendencies

sprawl design



infrastructural urbanism

landscape urbanism



sustainability as a
communication device

To better describe some of the characters of the liberal urban design we can use three main images:

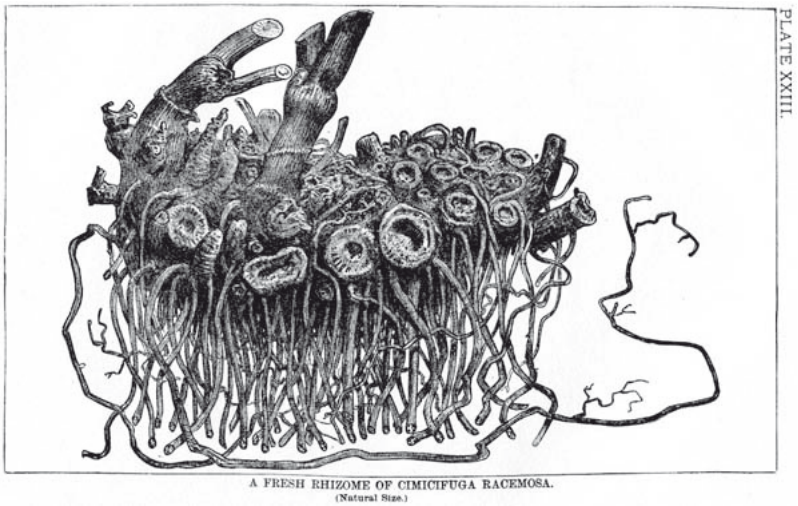
the network-project or the light project

the triumph of blurred concepts

the myth of the public space

The advent of a multiplicity of actors and powers the urban design project becomes cooperative, strategic, it requires flexibility and **the adoption of a basic language, understandable to everyone, able to capture and metabolize misunderstandings, it acquires so the form of the network**

the network-project as a light project is free from social conflicts but open to cultural differences, able to accept progressive adjustments without impeding movements.



The term rhizome was used by Deleuze and Guattari (1977) to describe a particular semantic model diffenent from tree models of though.

The need to communicate and establish a relationship has led the design practices to the adoption of fluid concepts “suitcase-words” which have the advantage of leaving each network figure the chance to produce their own interpretation and action strategy.

Resilience, smart city, re-cyle, are examples of faded or blurred concepts.

the triumph of blurred concepts

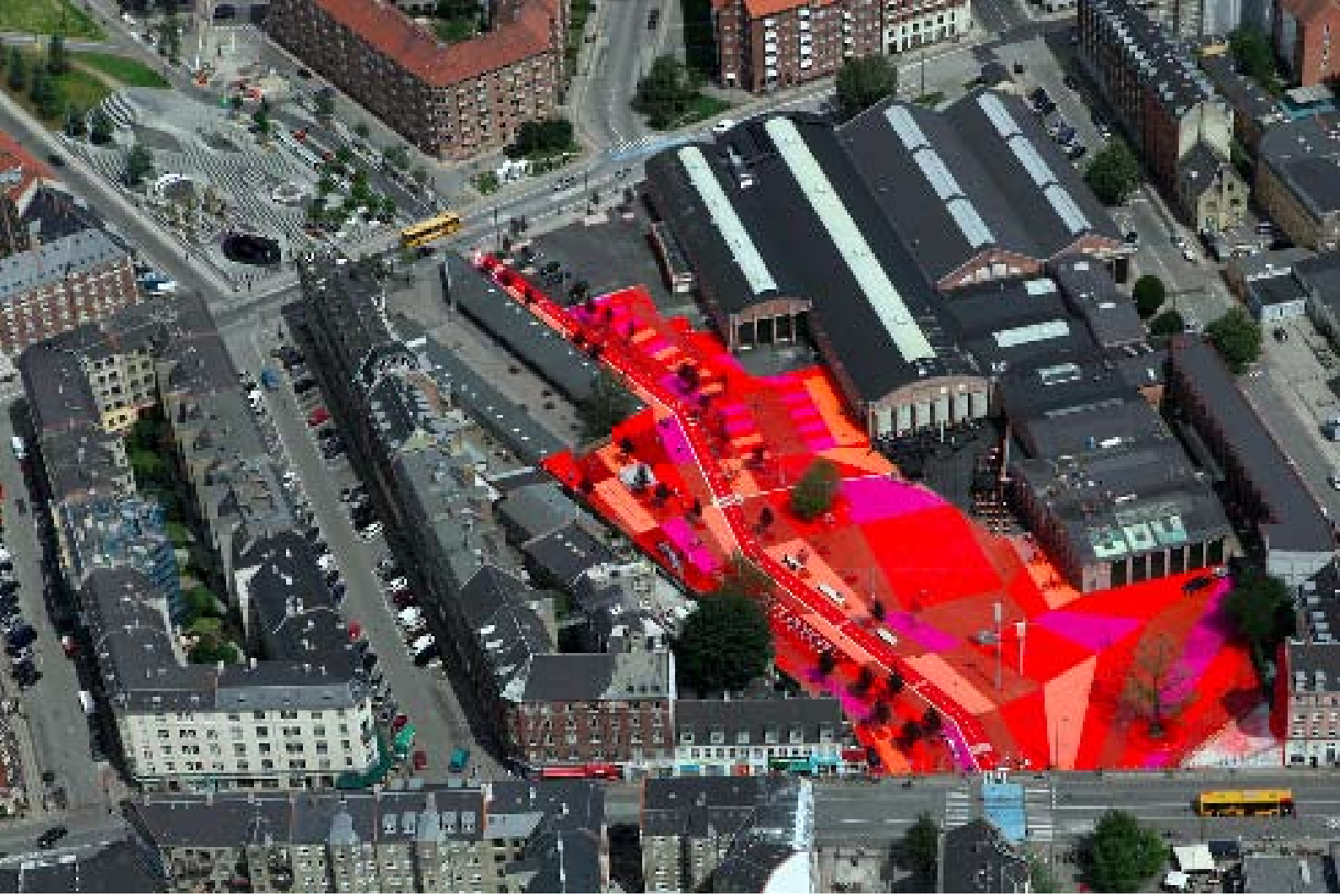
Public space as image-space, an aestheticially seductive space

When a city is considered as a consuption space, differencies are highlighted but in concrete, they are redefind as a set of situations, theme-places where for people it is possible to make the same choices, the same decisions, and constantly do the same things.

The quest for transparency does not mean therefore opening or accessibility, but control, surveillance, separation.

An aestheticized urban space is a particular theatrical space where inhabitants are both observers and actors it, but, affirms Michael Sorkin, it is also a place of production.

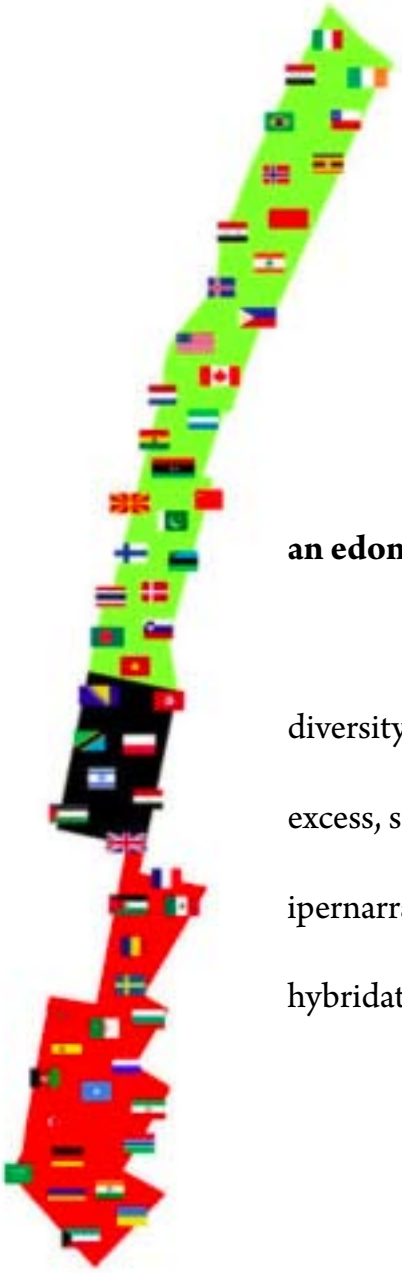
The quest for transparency does not mean therefore opening or accessibility, but control, surveillance, separation



Topotek 1 + BIG Architects + Superflex , Superkilen
Location: Nørrebro, Copenhagen, Denmark
Client: Copenhagen Municipality
Budget: 11 MIO USD
Area: 30,000 sqm
Year: 2012

МОСКВИЧ

موقف باص



an edonistic idea of urban space as well as of social integration

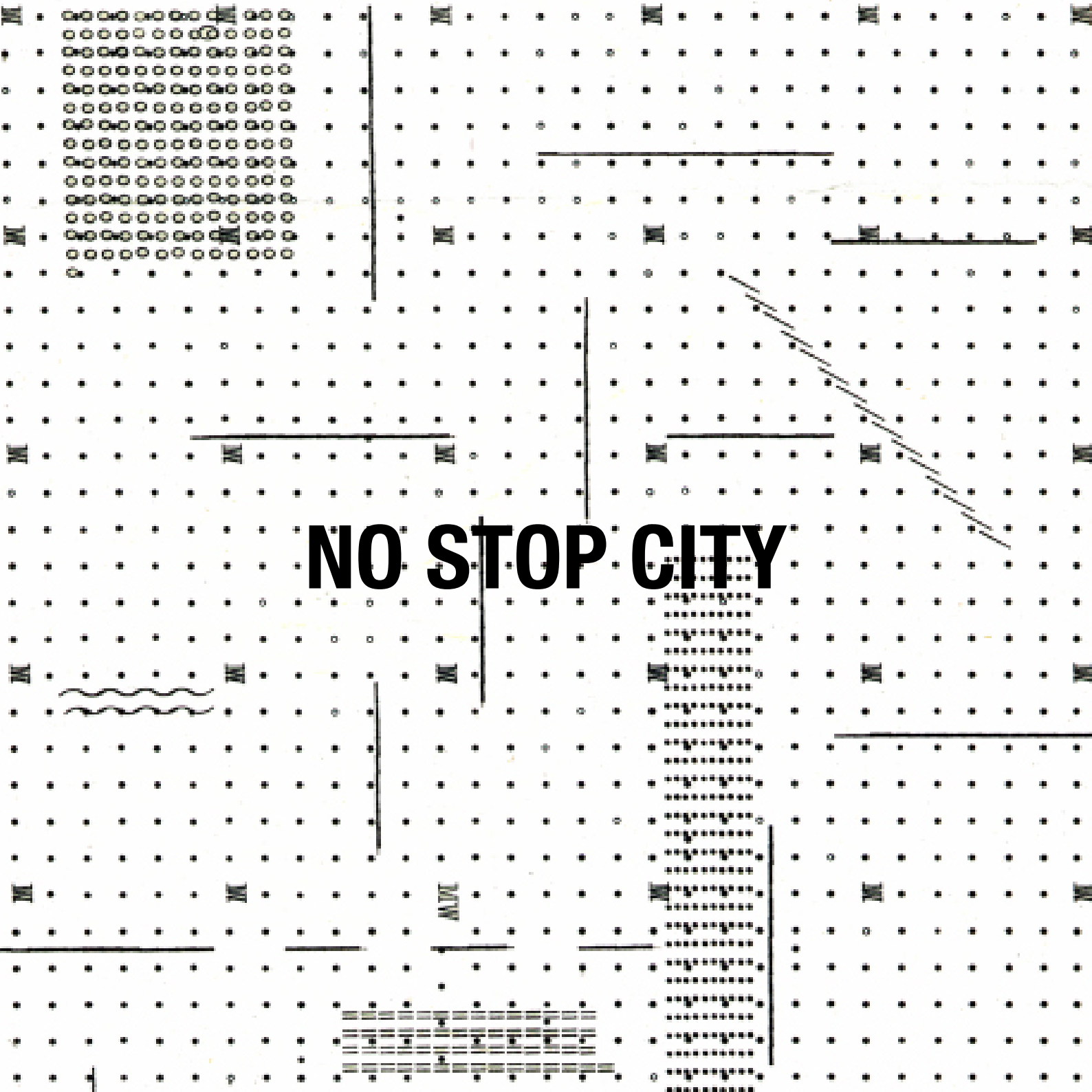
diversity, multiculturalism, coexistence

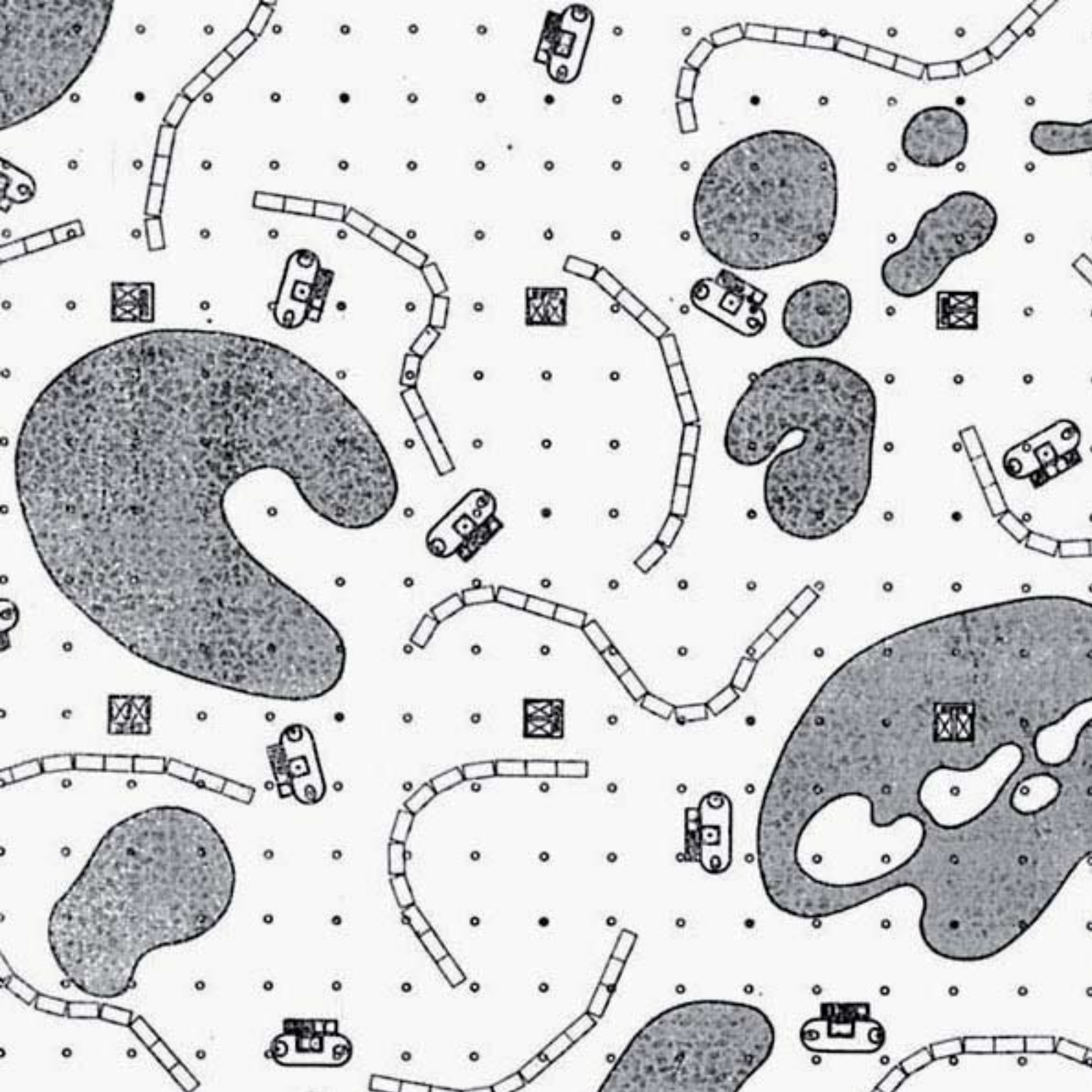
excess, saturation, congestion

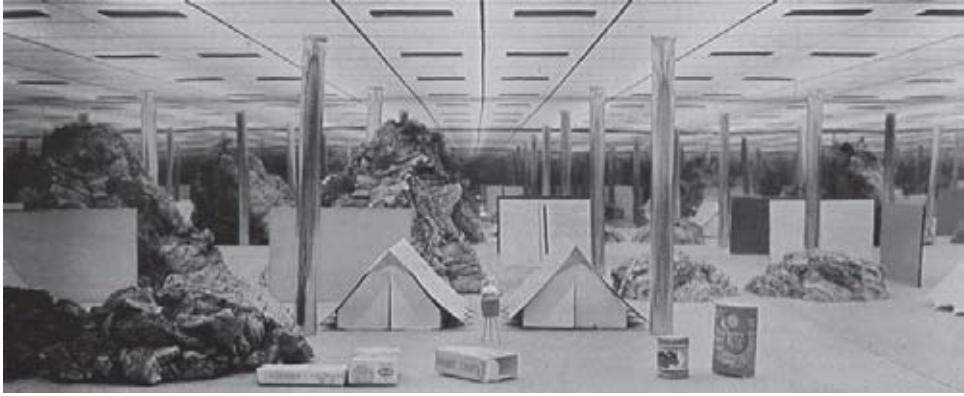
ipernarrativity of urban space

hybridation/fragment/quoting

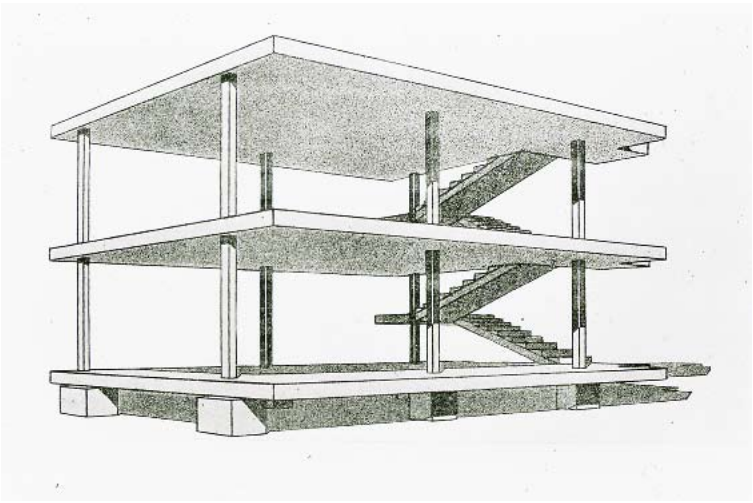
AMARO
RAMAZZOTTI
POSSO OFFRIRTI
UNA CITTÀ?
RAMAZZOTTI
AMARO


NO STOP CITY





Disappearance of Design
The No-Stop City is the output of the application of two constructive types well settled at that time: the Dom-ino system and the Bürolandschaft.



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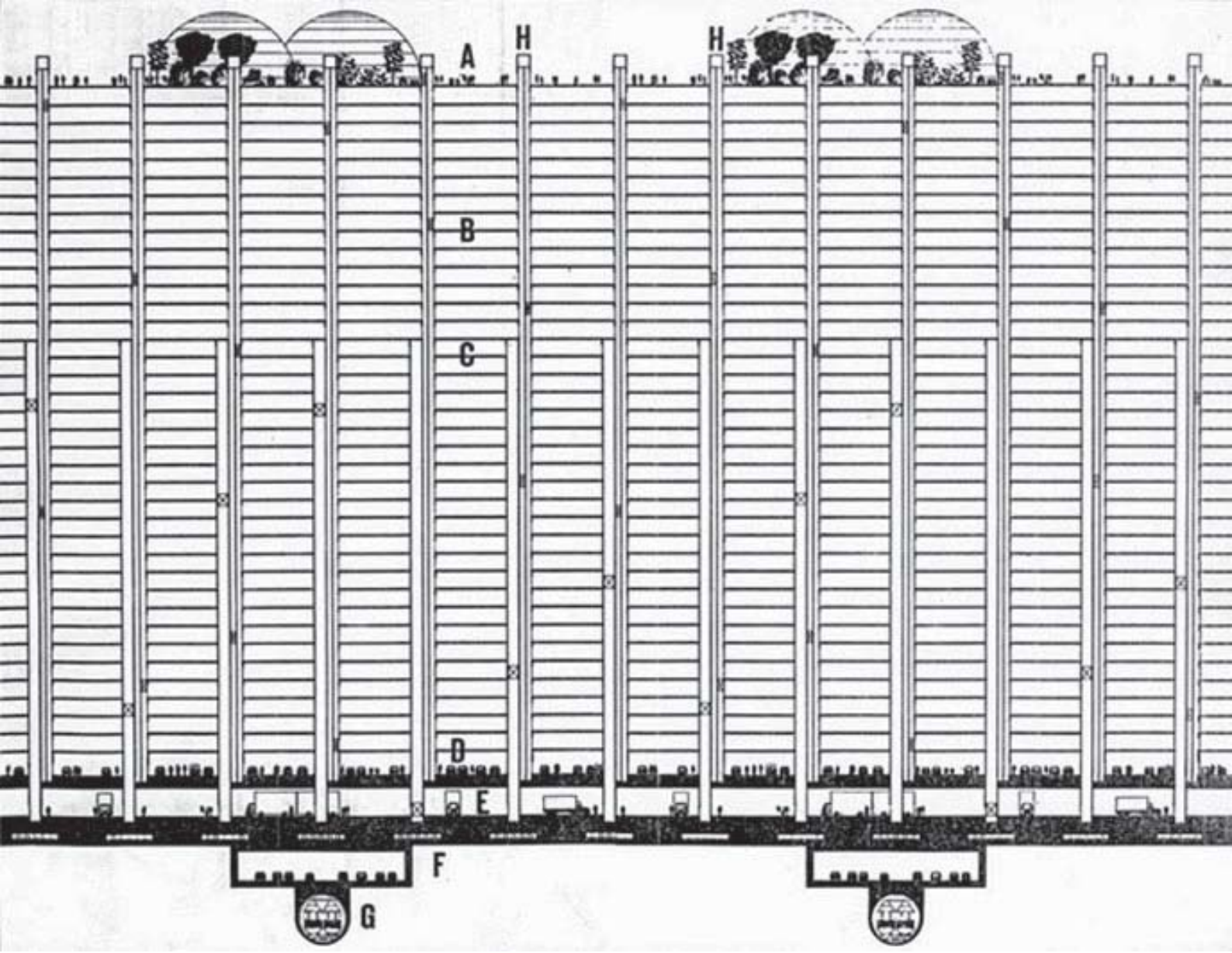
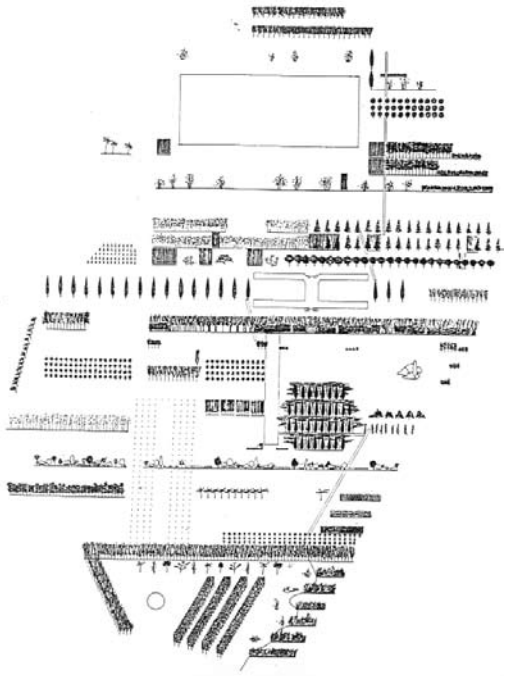
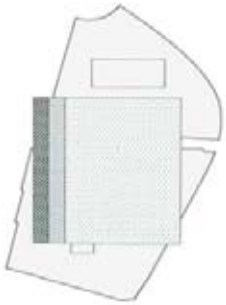
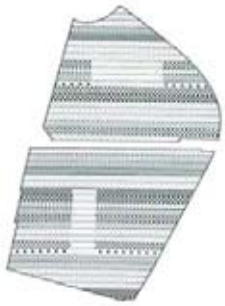


No-Stop City, *Residential Parkings*, 1971 / **Layering**



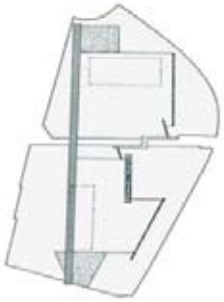


Initial Hypothesis

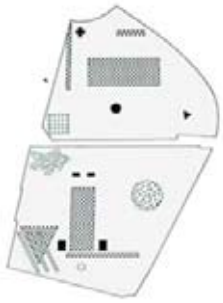


The Strips

Confetti



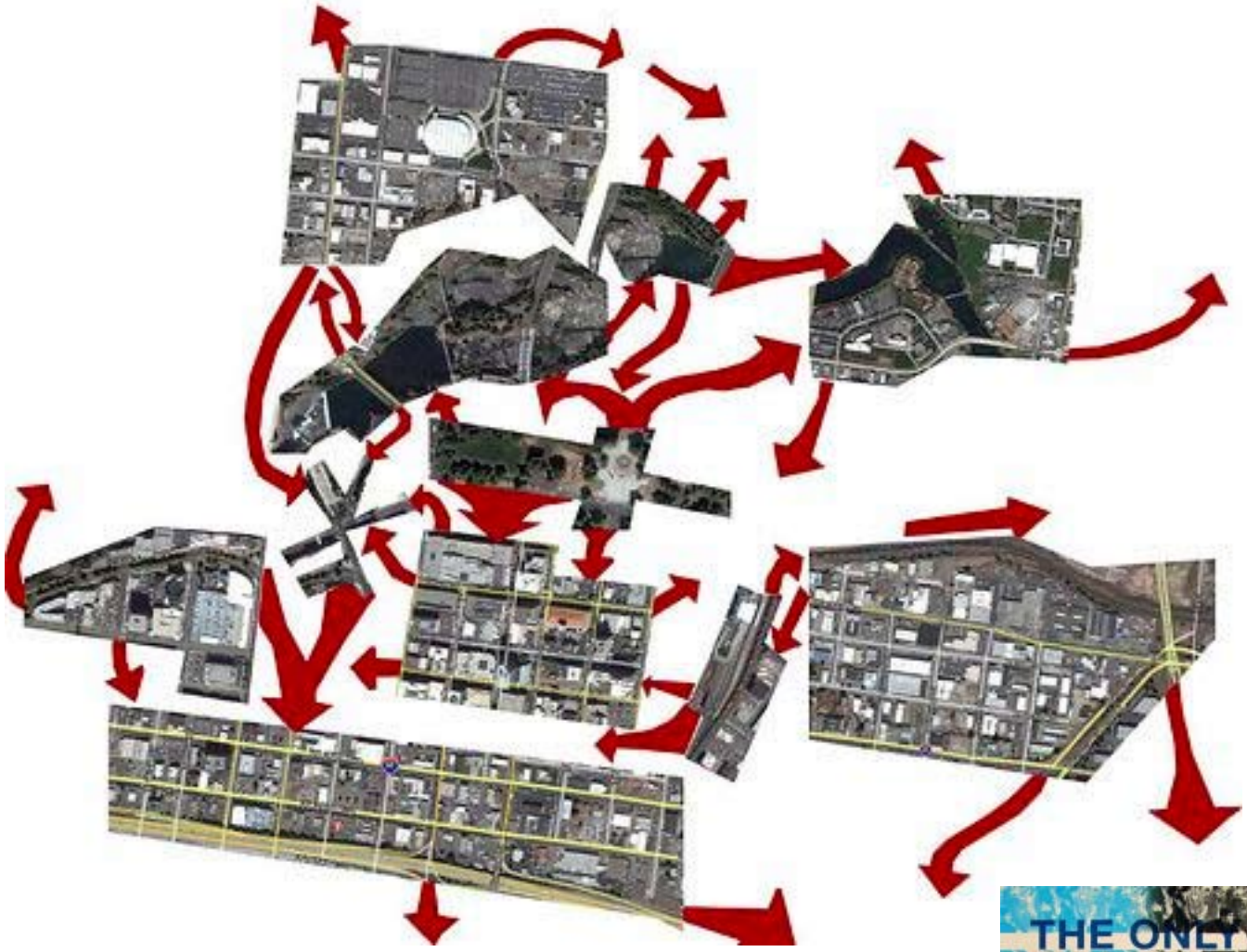
Access & Circulation

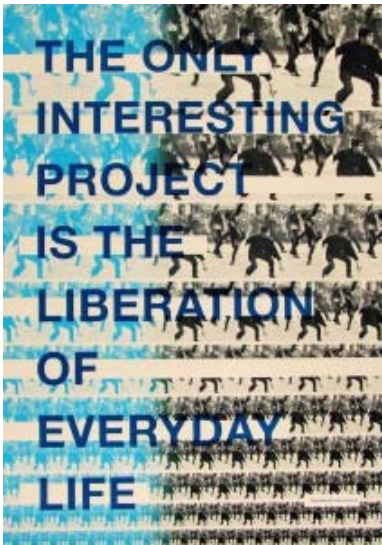


Installations

Final Layer

All Layers

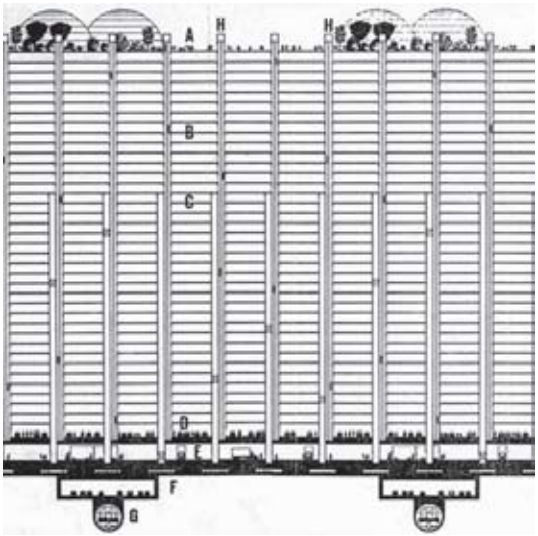


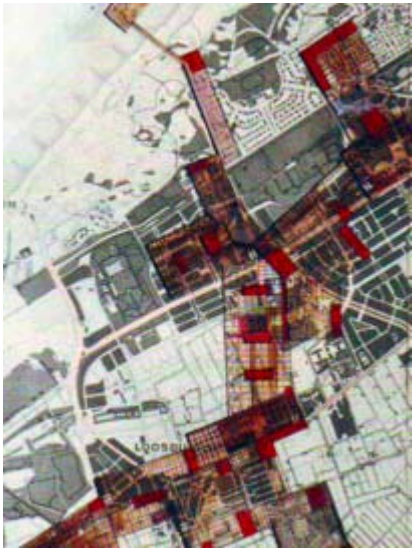


the situationist as an urban interiorist

NEW BABYLON

unban interiorist as a professional situationist





layering

bürolandschaft

microclimate

no design

inexpressivity

isotropic space

net

definition of situations

overflight of the existing city

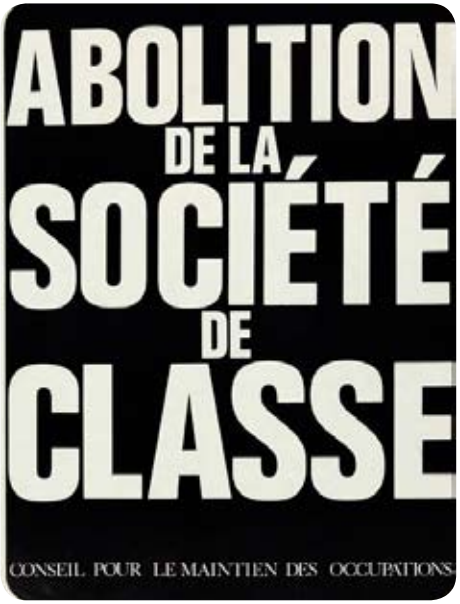
inner articulation

absence of work

labyrinthine space

they share:

the idea of the dweller as a nomadic subject
desire of dissolution of bourgeois interior domestic characters



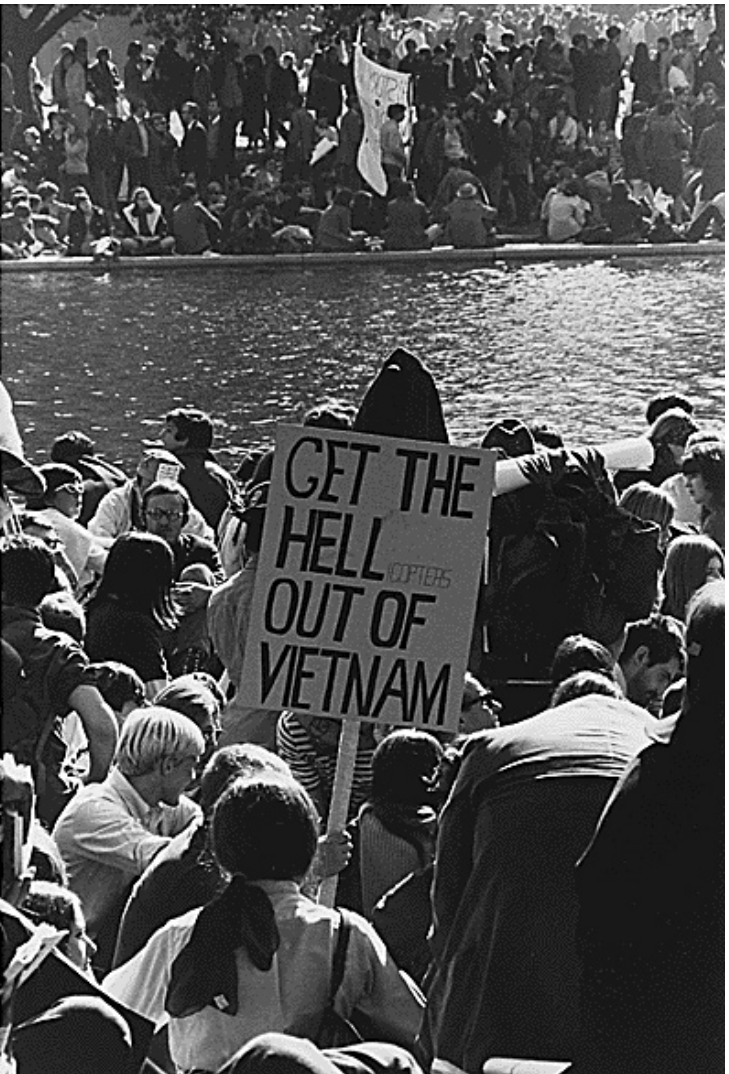
Sous le pavé la plage / bajo el pavimento, la playa

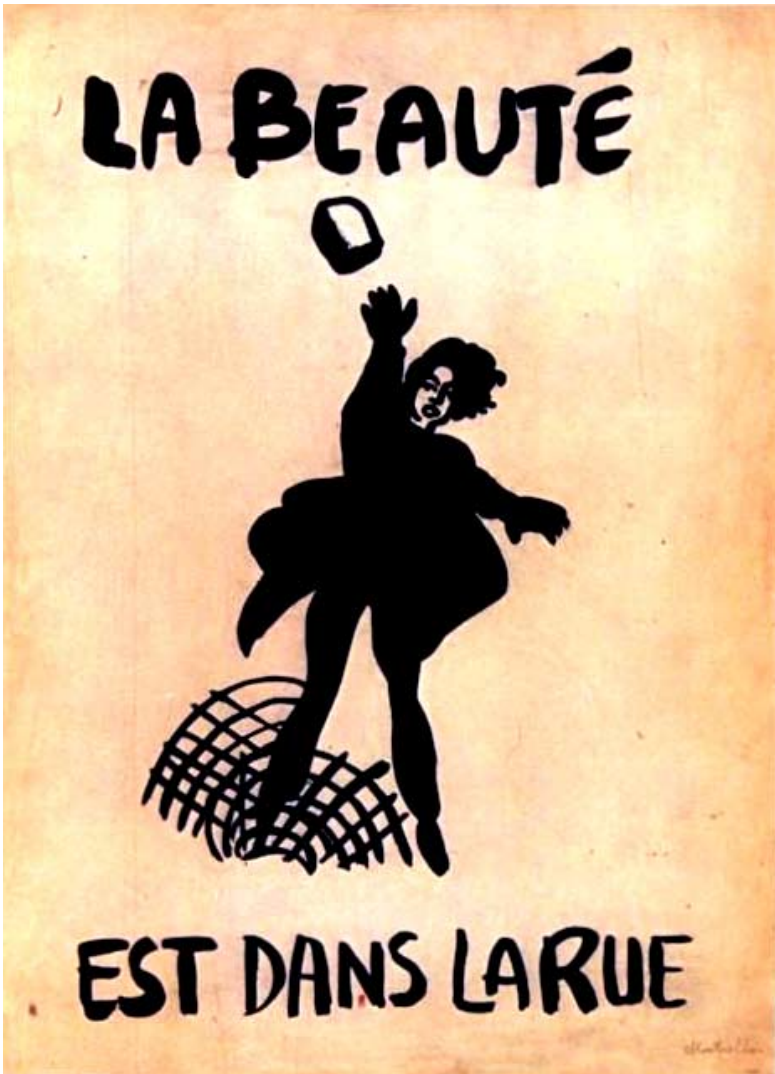
La definición de nuevas relaciones entre las sociedades urbanas, individuos, y espacios urbanos.

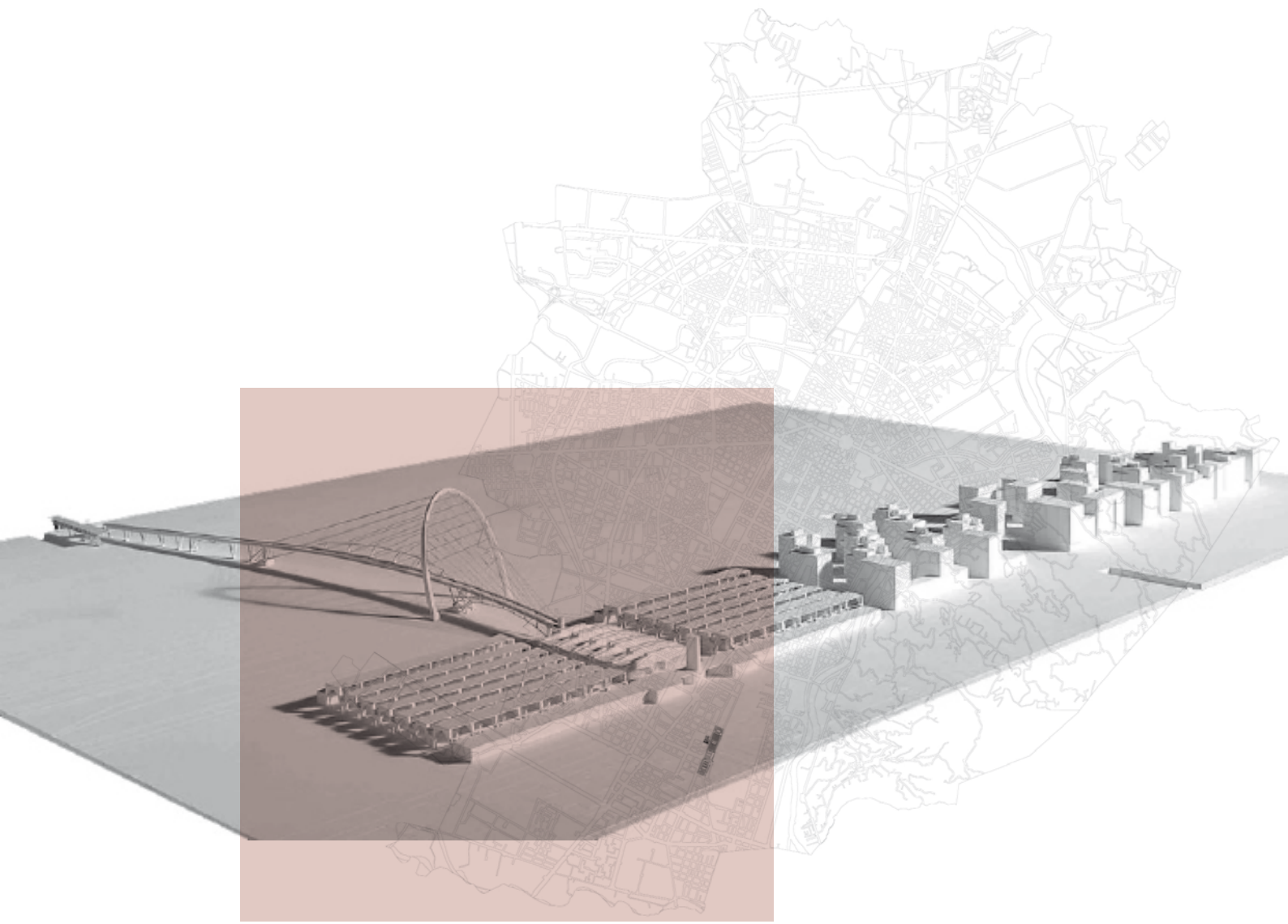
La paciente búsqueda de dimensiones físicas y concretas de bienestar individual y colectivo.
La fin de la ciudad moderna se corresponde con la invención del contexto y la integración de la incertidumbre en las prácticas del proyecto urbano: aparece la técnica de diseño del layering o de la estratificación.
El habitante de la ciudad es el *Homo Ludens.*

La estetización progresiva y democrática de la vida individual. La ciudad está entendida como un conjunto de situaciones, de fragmentos> aparece el mito del espacio público.

Esta narración se define como una crítica de la máquina-ciudad moderna


GET THE
HELL
OUT OF
VIETNAM


LA BEAUTÉ
EST DANS LA RUE



Turin. The Olympic Village. 2006

Il Villaggio Olimpico

Il progetto dei Mercati ortofrutticoli è localizzato in un settore della città, la cui edificazione risale ai primi decenni del XX secolo. Qui si localizza il complesso dei Mercati Generali inaugurato a metà anni trenta su un'area di 44.500 mq.

Città di Torino: proprietà dell'area
Agenzia Torino 2006: stazione appaltante

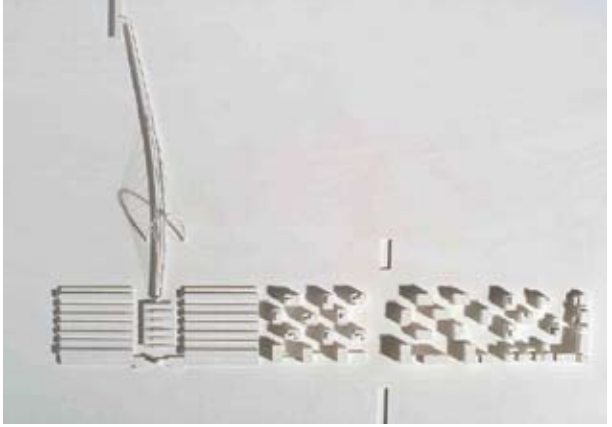
Giugno 2002: concorso internazionale di progettazione
Febbraio 2003: data affidamento
Settembre 2005: data ultimazione lavori

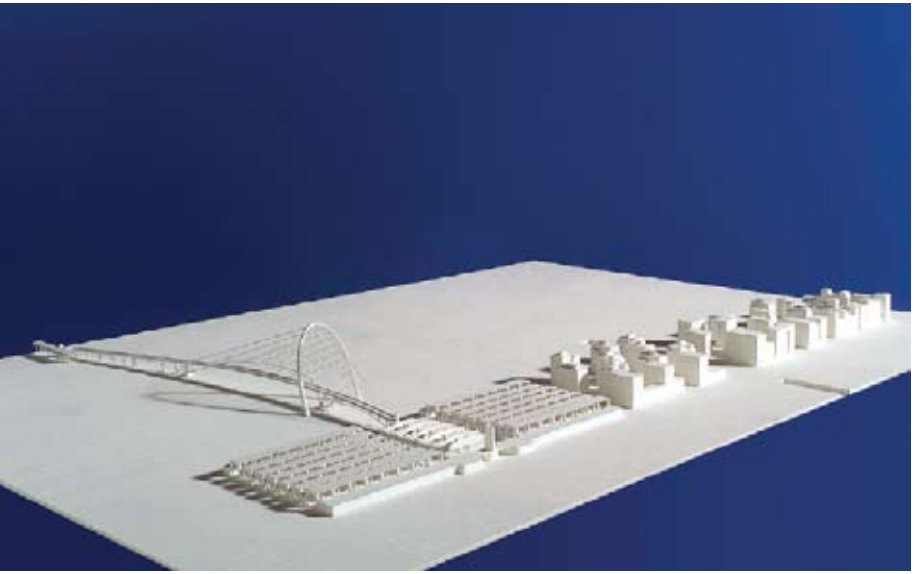
Costo di realizzazione: 137.519.602 euro
(fondi di cui alla Legge 285/2000 e fondi della Città)

Il piano degli interventi per lo svolgimento dei Giochi Olimpici Invernali del 2006 individua nell'area dei Mercati ortofrutticoli il fulcro del Distretto Olimpico.

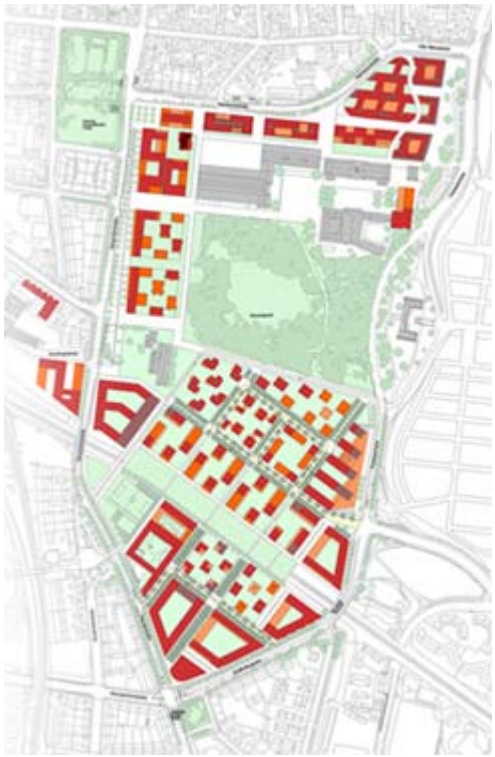
Il mercato è dismesso nel 2001.

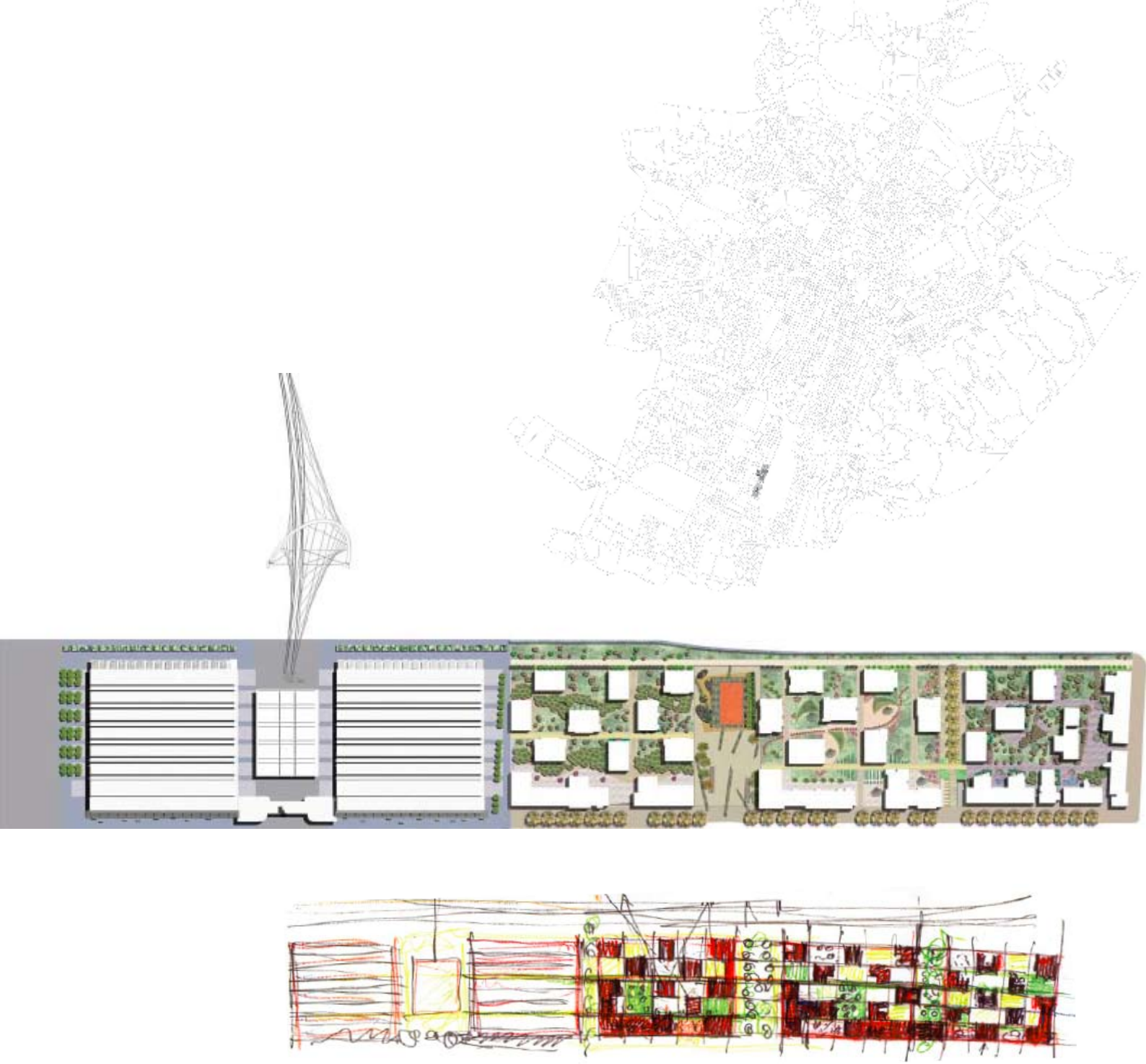
L'intervento prevede il restauro e il recupero funzionale dei fabbricati storici dei Mercati destinati a zona internazionale di servizio; la realizzazione di un Villaggio Olimpico per 2.500 atleti; la realizzazione di una passerella pedonale lunga 400 m.





Otto Steidle, Monaco, Quartiere della fiera



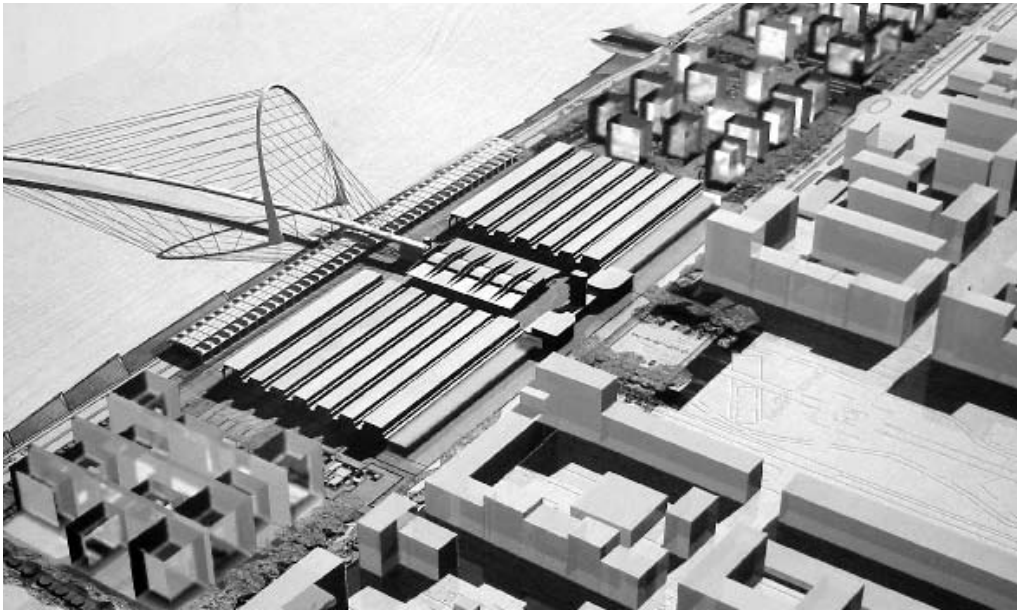


2 SIGNS

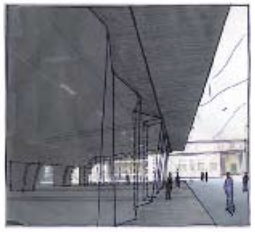
- the footbridge
- multiplication of architectural languages

4 STRATEGIES

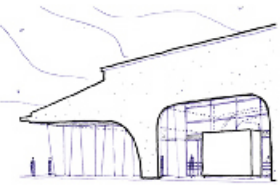
- continuity with exhisisting city
- landscape design
- modularity
- sustainability

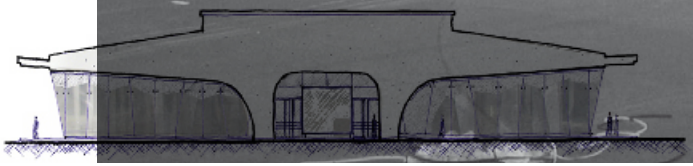


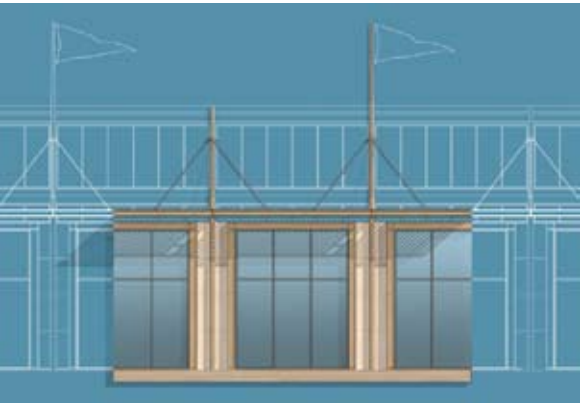
Torino



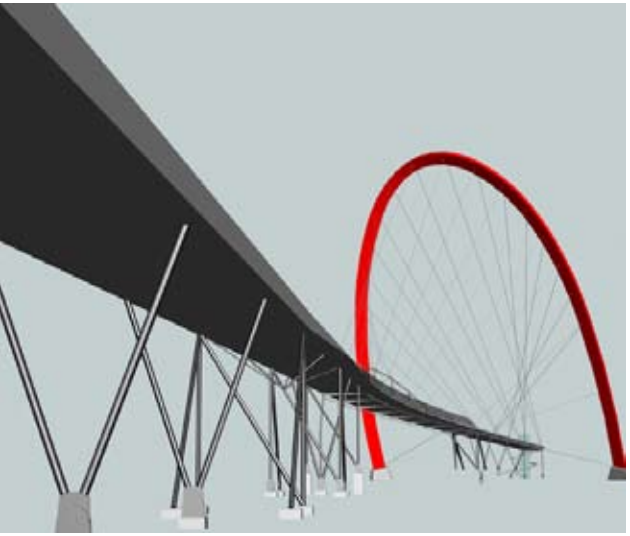
26.266 mq
23.472.43,15 euro
Benedetto Camerana, Albert Constantin, Giorgio Rosental







la passerella - lotto 6



ARCH HEIGHT: 35 M
LENGHTH FOOTBRIDGE: 234 + 155 M
7.853.225 EURO
PROGETTISTA: HUGH DUTTON

3 – O. Steidle, consulenti Diener & Diener, Atelier Krischanitz

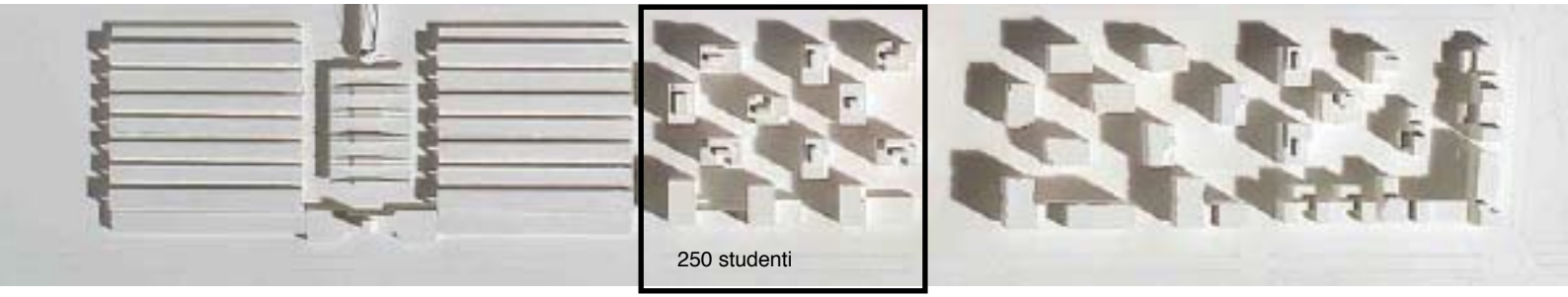
4 – B. Camerana, G. Rosental, consulenti Ortner & Ortner, Hilmer & Sattler

5 – P. Derossi, E. Barone, D. Derossi, P. Derossi, G. Rosental

residential areas

quantità lotti	3	4	5
superficie del lotto (m^2)	10.870	11.040	10.320
superficie coperta (m^2)	4.717,06	3.518,30	3.303
superficie lorda di pavimento (m^2)	19.665,20	19.110,00	17.872,99
altezza massima edifici (m)	21,85	21,85	28,20
volume (m^3)	65.000	63.000	59.000
appartamenti	190	260	207
camere singole	196	183	239
camere doppie	365	349	223
posti letto	926	881	685
posti auto	205	257	180
spazi commerciali (m^2)	1.765,44	835,00	1.236,89
investimenti (euro)	20.502.245	20.063.033	18.966.429

“Quando abbiamo impostato il progetto abbiamo immaginato innanzitutto un nuovo quartiere di periferia con un bel panorama sulla collina, ecologico, poco inquinante, senza auto, con molti giardini, sostenibile, probabilmente più bello di altri penosi agglomerati urbani senza decoro e senza colori... Si trattava di fatto di costruire un grande pezzo di città.”


250 studenti

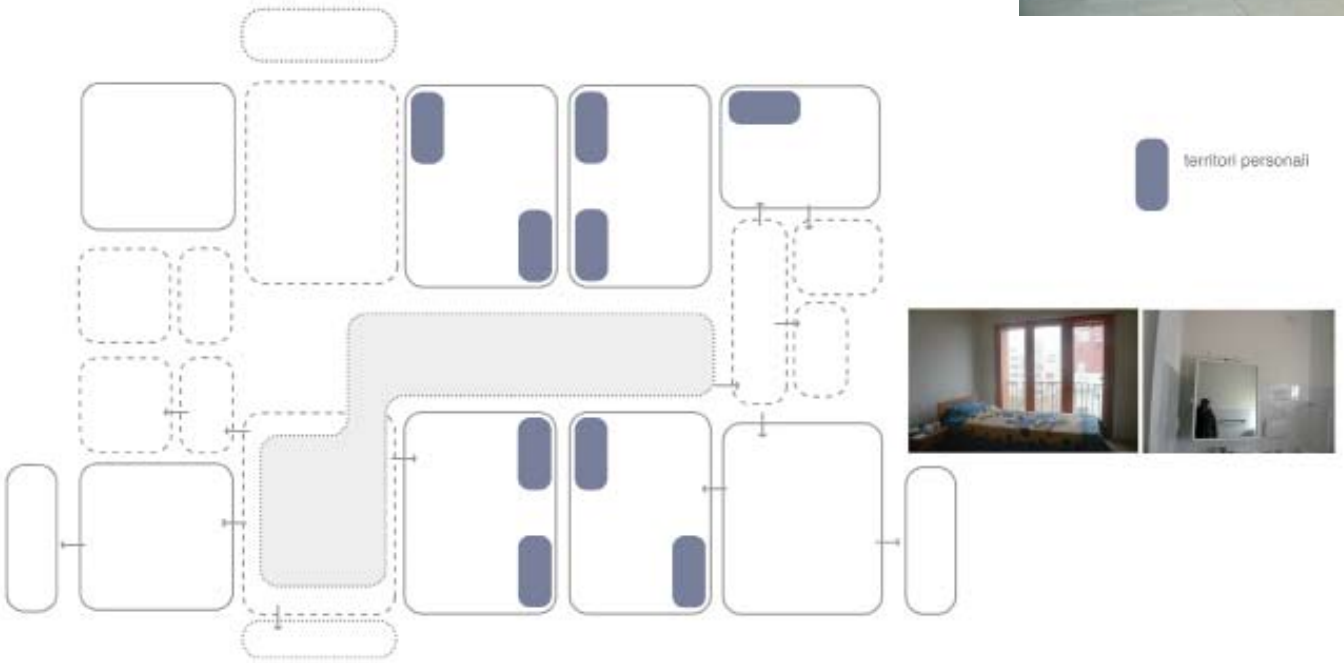
uffici ARPA piemonte

Two images around which it is possible to organize questions related to dwelling in the Olympic Village: “parklife” and “landscape as a wrapping, the house as an exterior”

Parklife

Village’s open spaces are marked by the desire for security and control, and by an ambiguous use of the common spaces.

Open spaces are considered by the inhabitants as important elements but their dwelling practices often consider them as residual spaces.



Inversion between Interior and Exterior

The space of the house shows the characteristics of an exterior to be colonized where the space of the bed is the only " personal territory ".

To recover an attitude in urban design more focused on the definition of spaces and forms rather than on images.

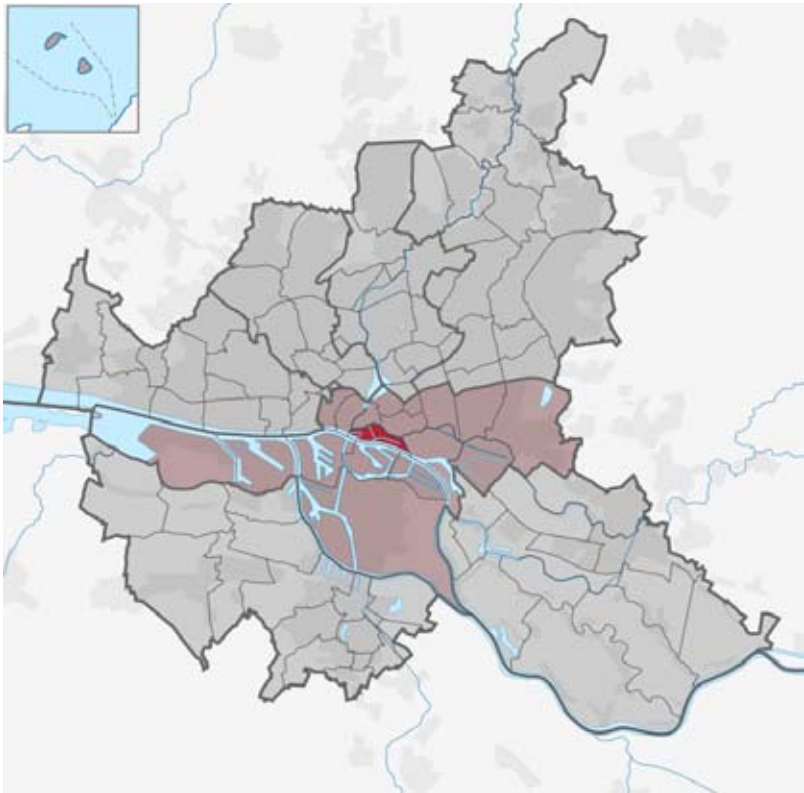
Invention of new devices for social interaction; new kind of public spaces / sharing spaces / commons

To reflect on the question of urban interior in a non-domestic or bourgeoise way
Beatriz Colomina, *"domesticity is always at war"*.

2 Dwelling at Proximity Scale: Hafencity; Lyon Confluence

Hamburg, Hafencity 2000 -2020

Zentrale HafenCity
Westliche HafenCity
Östliche HafenCity
Brooktorkai/ Ericus
Am Lohsepark
Oberhafen
Elbtorquartier
Überseequartier
Am Sandtorpark/ Grasbrook
Am Sandtorkai/ Dalmannkai
Strandkai
Baakenhafen
Elbbrücken



HafenCity is a quarter located on the Elbe river islands.
It is currently Europe's largest regeneration project, when completed HafenCity will increase the size of downtown Hamburg by **40%**.

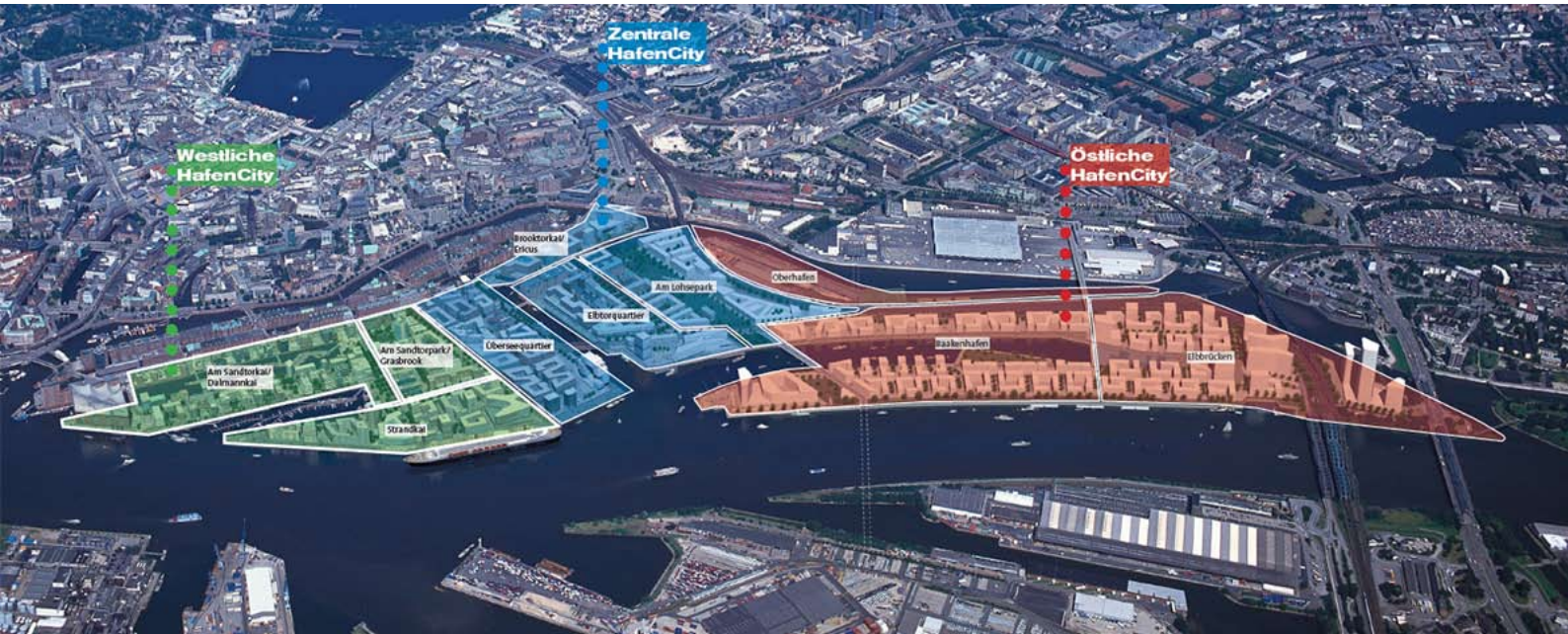
HafenCity is to be redeveloped as a mixed-use inner- city space, with office and residential uses, retail, restaurants and bars, as well as cultural and leisure facilities.

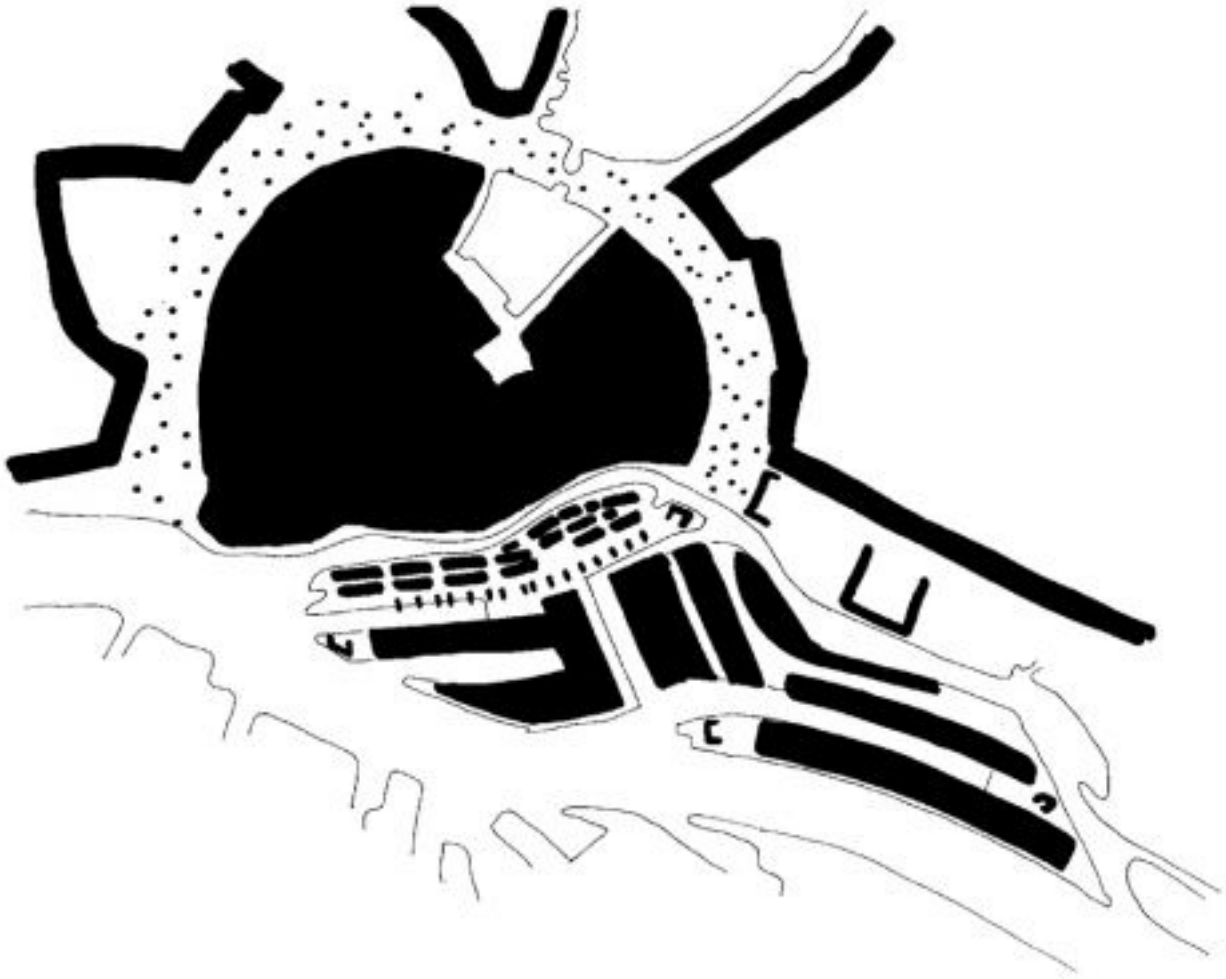
The project is coordinated by HafenCity Hamburg GmbH.

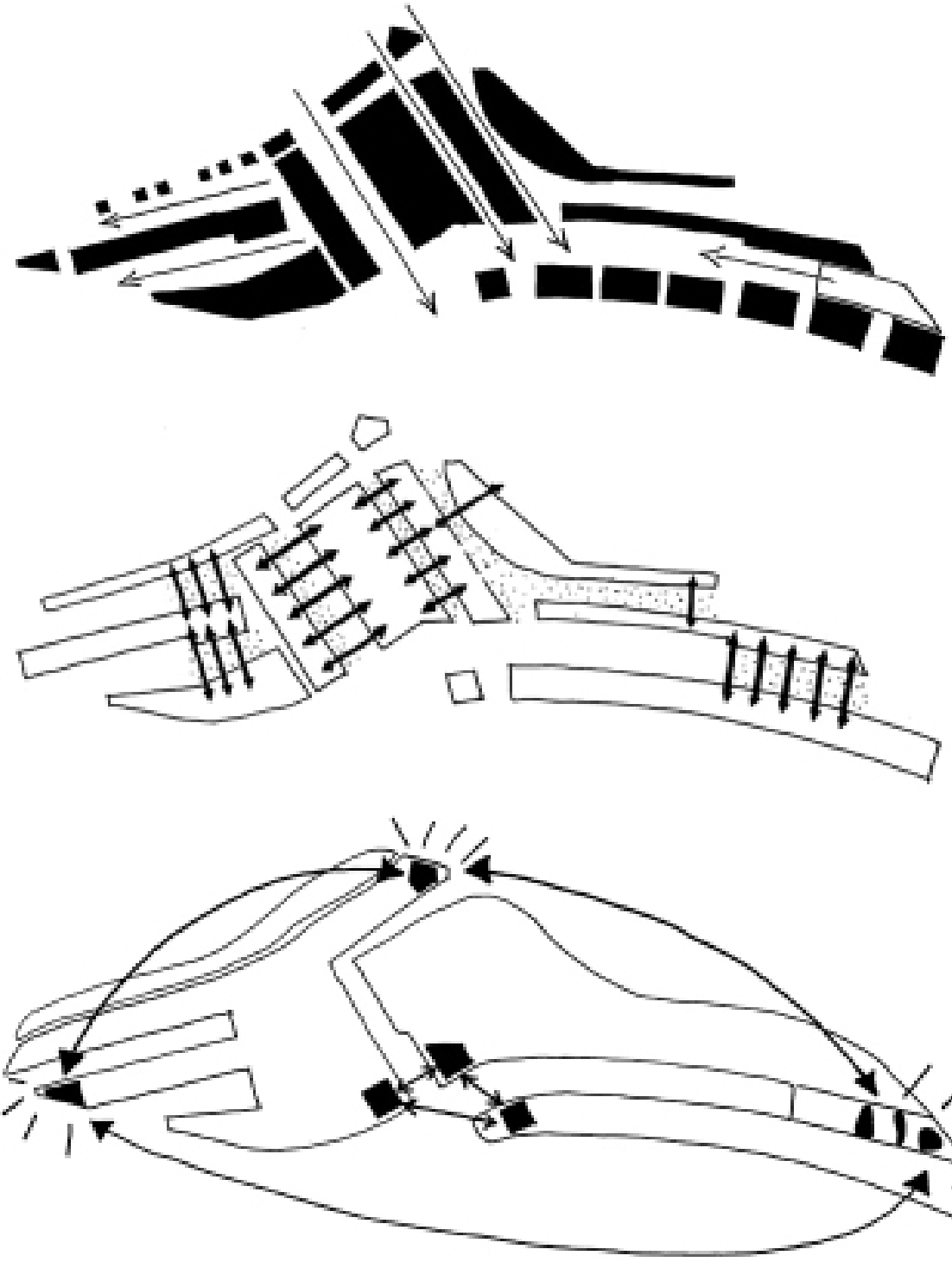
The prospect for completion will probably be around 2020-2030.

165 ha
5.800 residences
45.000 workspaces, culture, leisure, restaurants, retail, parks, squares and promenades
KCAP/ASTOC Masterplanner and supervisor

>urban horizontal and vertical mix of uses

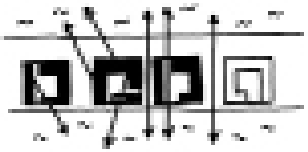


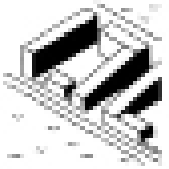




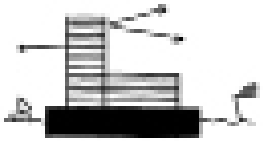
Sandtor / Brooktor / Elcus

Kaispeicher A / Dalmannkai

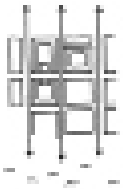




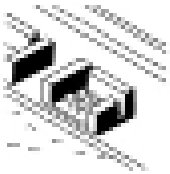
Strandkai Grasbrook



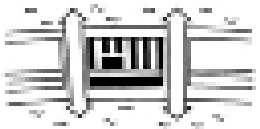
Magdeburger Hafen



Baakenhafen Nord



Baakenhafen Süd



Elbbrückenzentrum

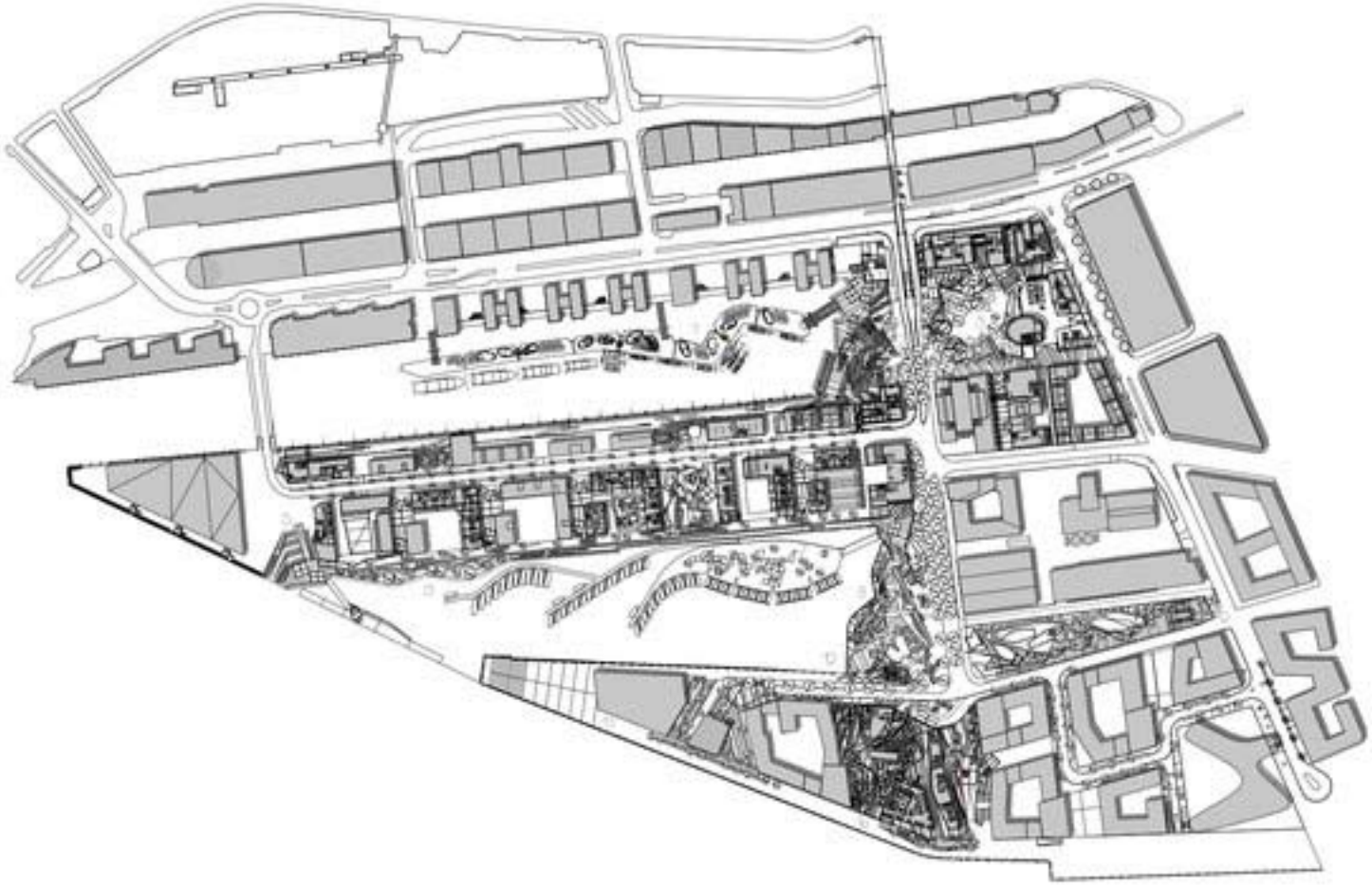
Oberhafen

The City of Plazas, Parks and Promenades
Benedetta Tagliabue, EMBT

Water level (0,00): A big floating platform provides access to small boats, sport boats and ferryboats, as well as leisure areas. Special floating elements provide the presence of greenery and trees at the water level. Water is visible from the borders and through holes, to create a pond like effect.

Low promenade level (4,50): This level is mainly for pedestrians, and will host small cafes thereby creating a relaxed promenade overlooking the water. This level will be flooded only on exceptionally bad weather days, on an average of twice or three times a year.

Street level (7, 50): We propose pedestrian and playing areas also at street level, separating heavy traffic from pedestrians.



Spiegel building at Brooktorkai

Lohsepark in the center

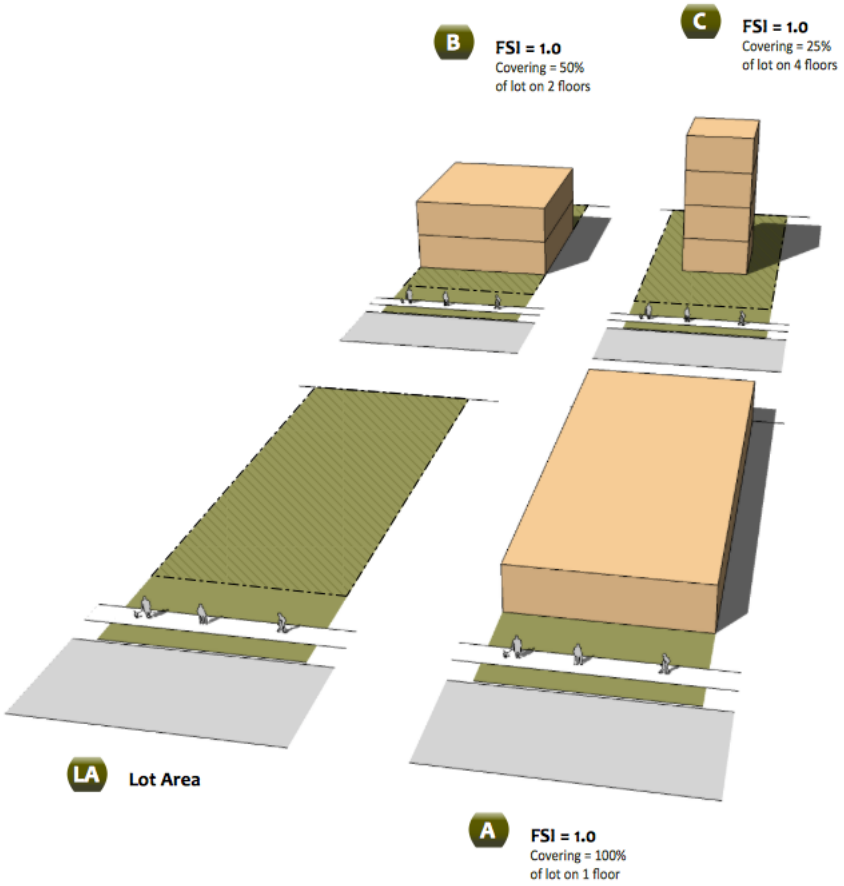
Four-hectare Lohsepark, for which the open space concept was designed by Vogt Landschaftsarchitekten AG, is the largest contiguous park in HafenCity; it will incorporate a variety of urban, social and ecological functions.

HafenCity is setting leading-edge standards for the future through sustainable urban development.

Efficient land use

Intensive use is being made of the ground as a resource through high building density: floor space indexes (FSI) range from 3.7 to 5.6 according to neighborhood, which is in line with density in other European urban centers.

In HafenCity, density of uses is correspondingly high, with 94 residents and 355 local employees per hectare (land surface).



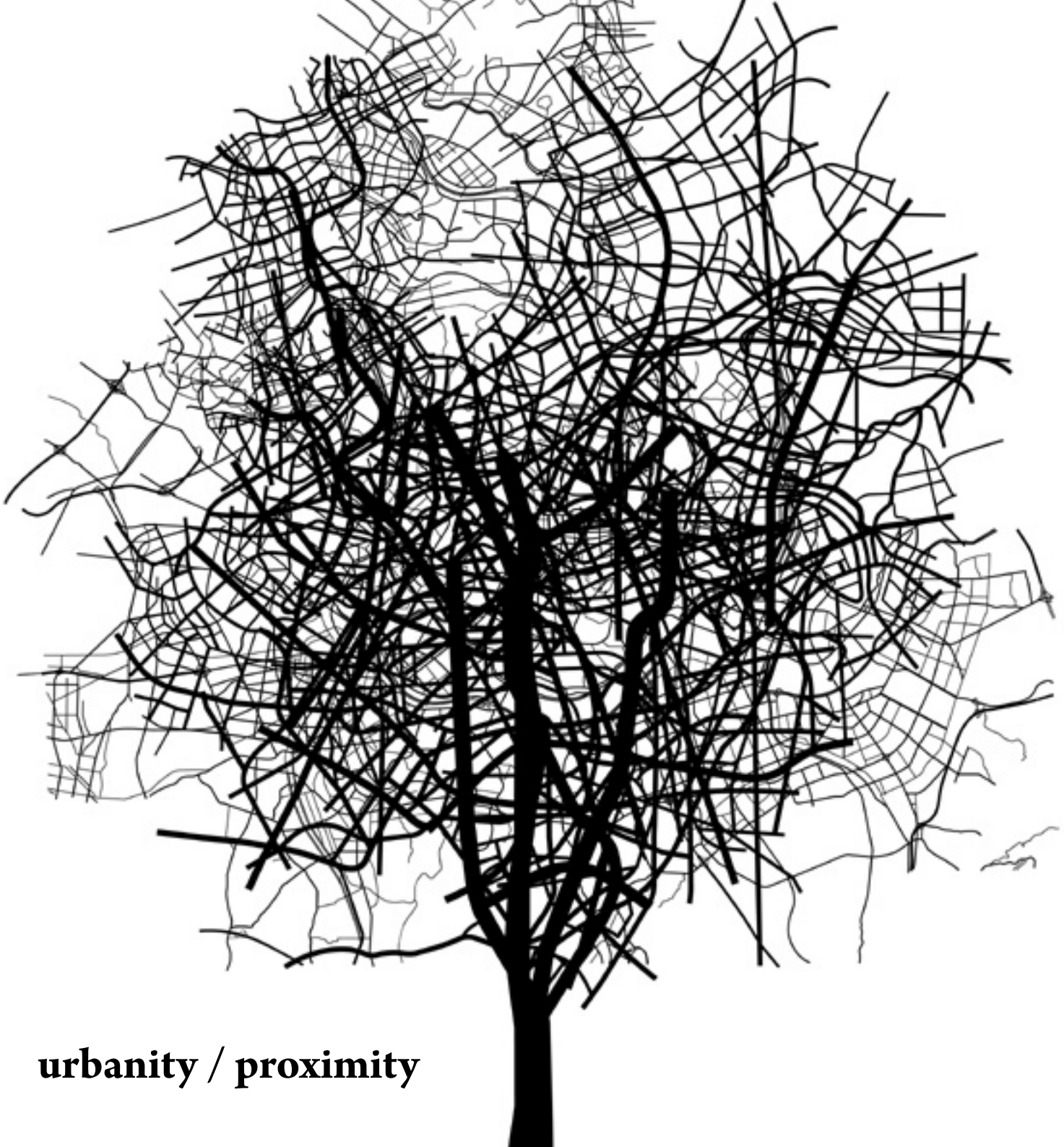
FSI **Floor Space Index (FSI)** means the **gross floor area** of all buildings on a **lot** divided by the **lot area.**

Road areas take up only 25 percent of land area (compared with 40 percent, including road surrounds, in Hamburg City), while 37 percent is available for publicly accessible open spaces.

Thus HafenCity creates a high density of uses with a high proportion of public spaces and low proportion of necessary access roads.

Attractive distances

HafenCity is also characterized by a fine-grained horizontal and vertical mix of a variety of urban uses. Everything – homes, workplaces, cultural and leisure facilities, commerce – is close by, making for short distances. The close-knit network of non-motorized routes also makes use of private space.



urbanity / proximity

Over the past two decades `urbanity' has been a constant presence in progressive urban planning debates. The divorce with modernist planning and the shift to an antimodern urbanism seem now to be widely accepted and indeed advantageous to forward-thinking politicians, urban planners, and developers.

What is urbanity?

Urbanity is a somewhat elusive word. Most dictionaries do not even try to define it: instead they refer to an urbane quality or urban life.

Urbanity is defined precisely by the very elusive qualities that it contains.

Urbanity is an aesthetic experience, involving but moving beyond the urban built environment. It is to some extent intangible.
Quite simply urbanity is the unexpected that is produced by, or comes out of, the urban.

The operational definition of urbanity is based on the one put forward by **Henri Lefebvre**, he, like critics of modern architecture and planning, was critical of modern urbanism because it undermined urban life.

For Lefebvre urbanity was about encounter, the meeting of difference, of strangers in the city, it was about everyday life and play, the sensuality of the city.

Urbanity then is both a sociocultural construct and a built environment construct.

Through this lens **urbanity is a liberal middle-class rhetoric about quality of life in the city.**

Planned urbanity in HafenCity

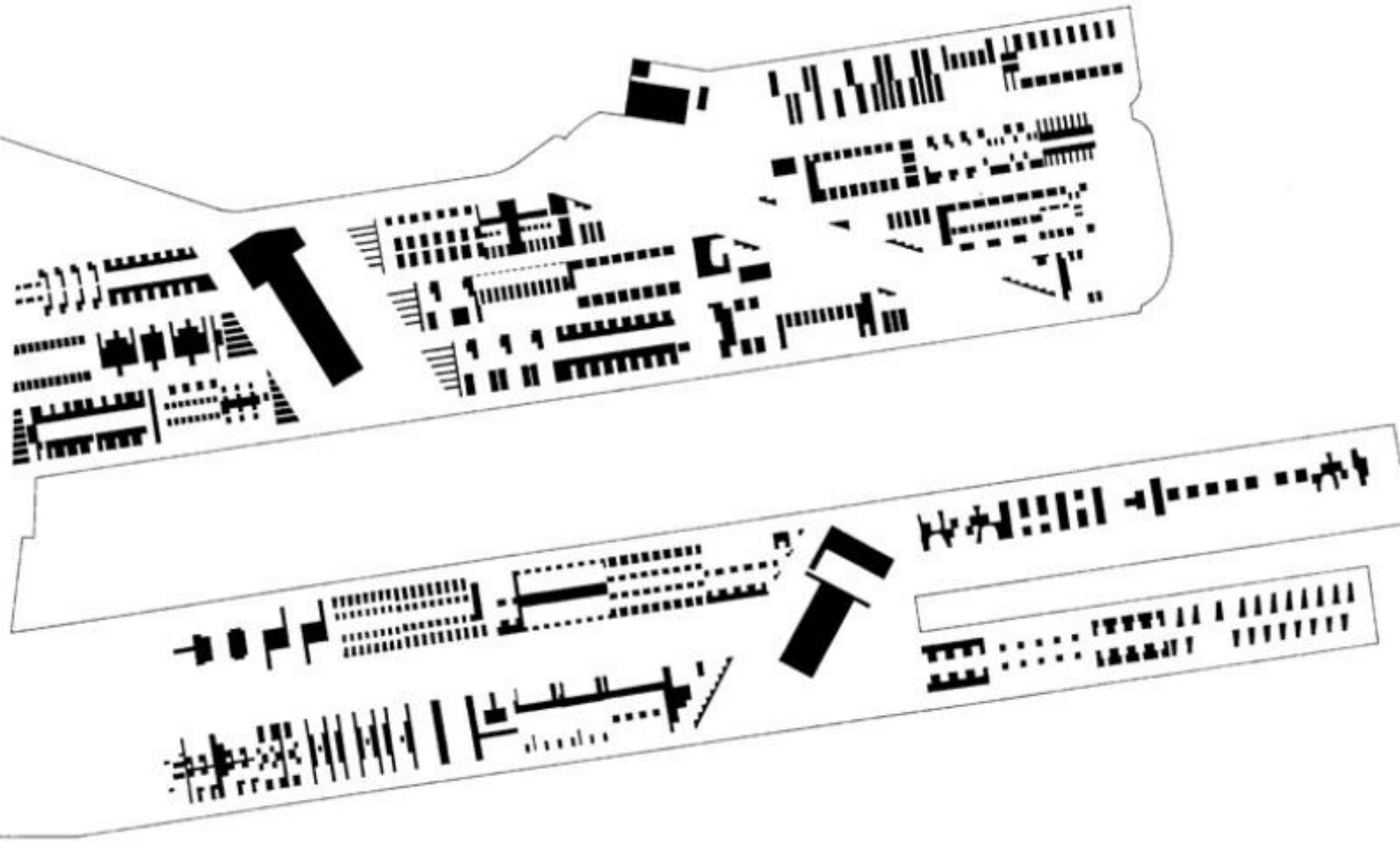
12 000 residents will share HafenCity with 40 000 workers and 80 000 visitors..

The target market is equally varied: singles, young families, empty nesters, retirees, gay couples, etc. HafenCity seeks to bring together 'people, milieus, lifestyles and interests that might otherwise never come across each other'.

The fine-grained mix is not just at the neighbourhood level, but also at the level of individual buildings. The ground-floor stories of buildings are publically accessible .

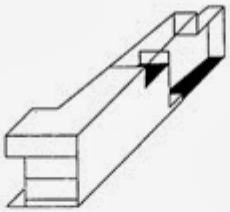
HafenCity tries to encapsulate Lefebvre's notion of `urbanity'.

West 8 , Borneo Sporenburg, Amsterdam, 2006

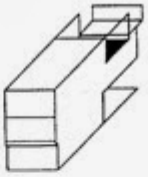


Claus & Kaan

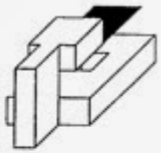
Höhne & Rapp



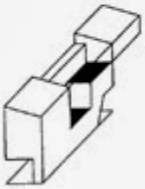
Arne van Herk



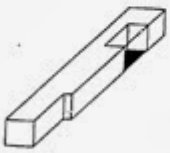
Cees Christiaanse



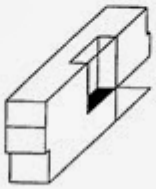
Liesbeth van der Pol



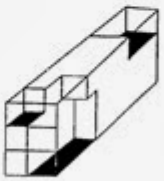
Hans Tupker



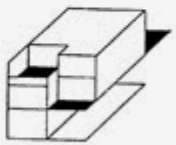
Marlies Röhmer



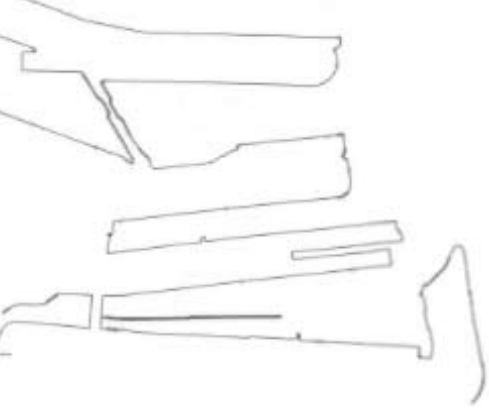
Herman Zeinstra



Van Berkel & Bos

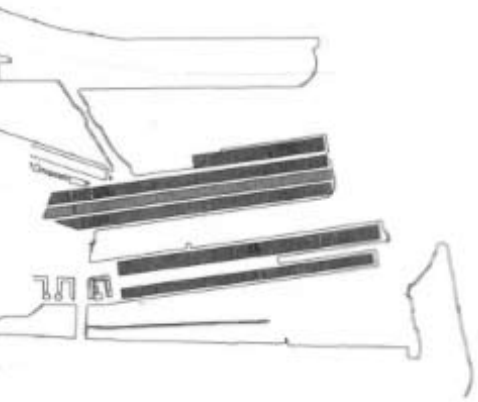


Willem Jan Neutelings



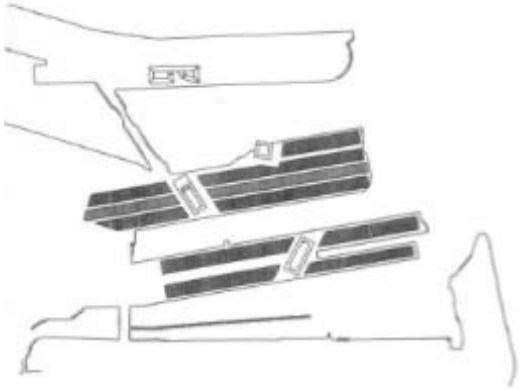
Contour

Contour



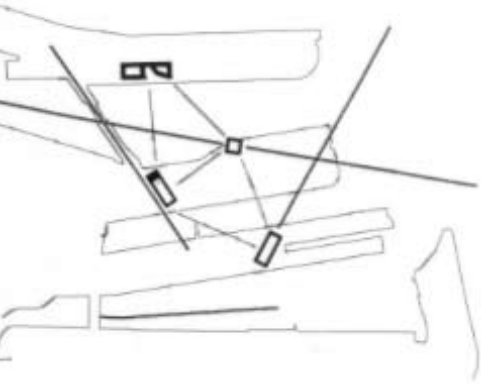
Staccato van laagbouwwoningen

Staccato of low-rise dwellings



Superpositie

Superposition

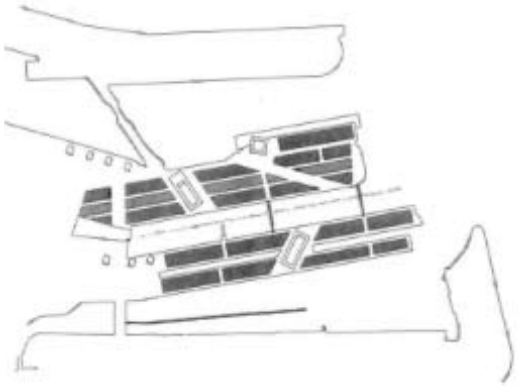


Sculpturale blokken

gerelateerd aan landschap

Sculptural blocks

related to landscape

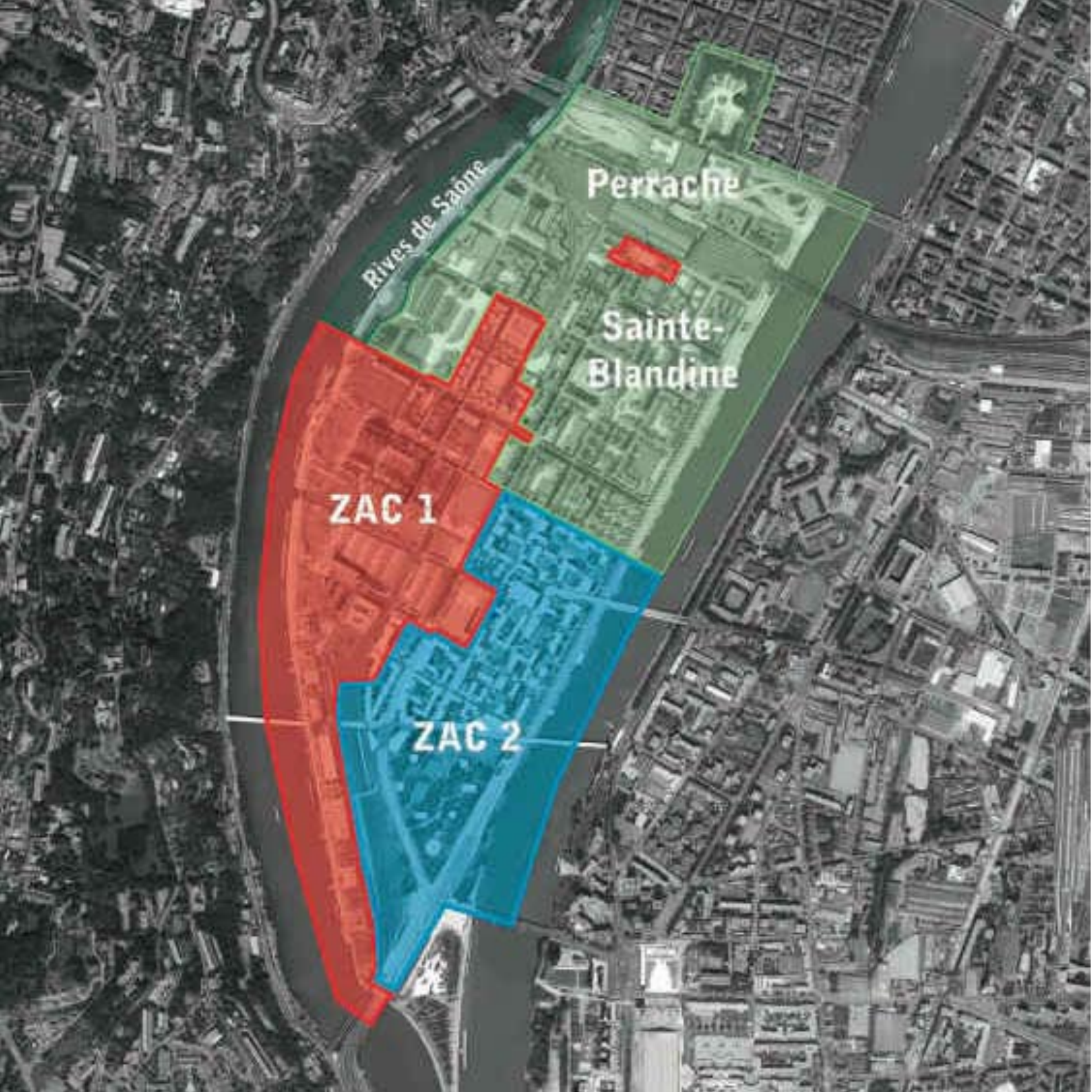


Openbare ruimte

Public space

Commercial Shops
School
Mental Institution
Restaurants
Commercial Offices
Yacht - club
Sportscenter
Residential

Lyon Confluence, 1997-.2020


Rives de Saône
Perrache
Sainte-
Blandine
ZAC 1
ZAC 2

In 1997 Preparation of the first draft entrusted to Bohigas Melot, Mosbach > a regeneration process aiming at duplicating the historic city and redefining the image of Lyon.

In 1999 public-private company, SEM Lyon Confluence, is established to coordinate the regeneration project beginning with the acquisition and land reclamation in order to sell them to private operators.

In 2000, the SEM entrusts François Grether and Michel Desvigne the drafting of a plan for the first ZAC (Zone d'Aménagement Concerté) on 41 hectares along the Saône.

In 2009 the preparation of the master plan for the second phase (ZAC2) is entrusted to Herzog & de Meuron with Michel Desvigne landscape.

This masterplan proposes a strategy based on an evolutionary process, where fragmentation is used positively to insinuate gardens, promenades and canals in a soft and tiny urban fabric, a startegy able to support a slor buildings replacement process.

In 2000 the area had 7,000 residents.

In its completion in 2020 the project will include 4,000 new homes for a population of 16,000 people, 230,000 square meters of facilities, 15,000 square meters of shops, hotels and other services to individuals and 35,000 square meters of services public.

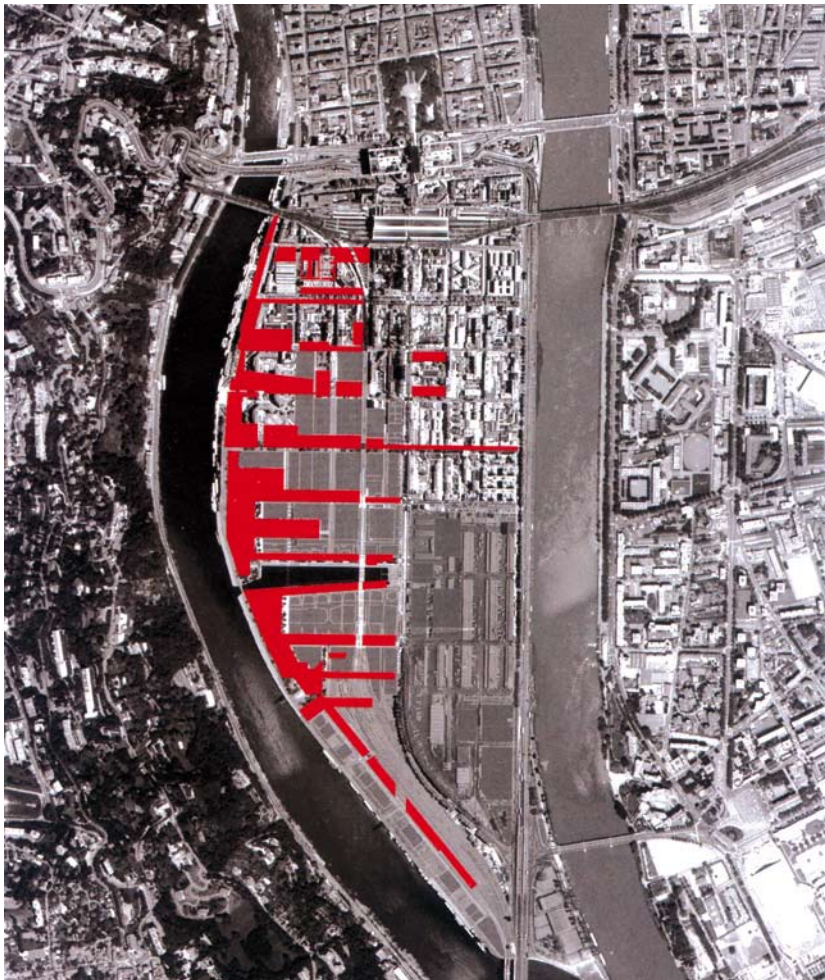
The district is expected to generate 25,000 jobs

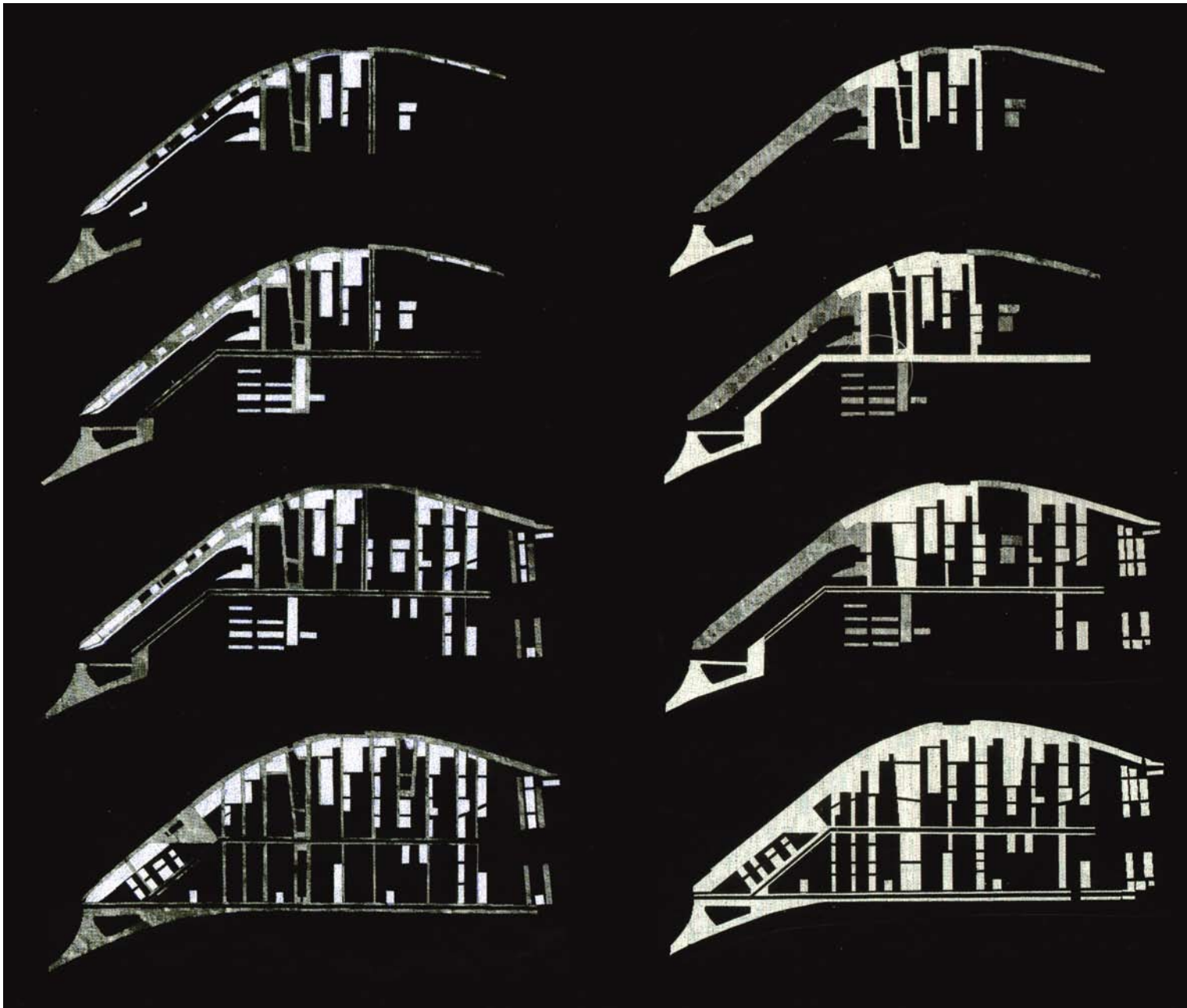
3,000 new trees

Landscape design here it is conceived as temporal approximation process able to adapt to successive transformations.

The structure of the landscape becomes the armor of the future urban respecting the existing spatial articulation.

Instead of the creation of traditional urban parks, separated from the urban fabrics, Desvigne prefers to disseminate a landscaped plot that is divided along with existing buitl areas. The neighborhood evolves according to the signs of history.



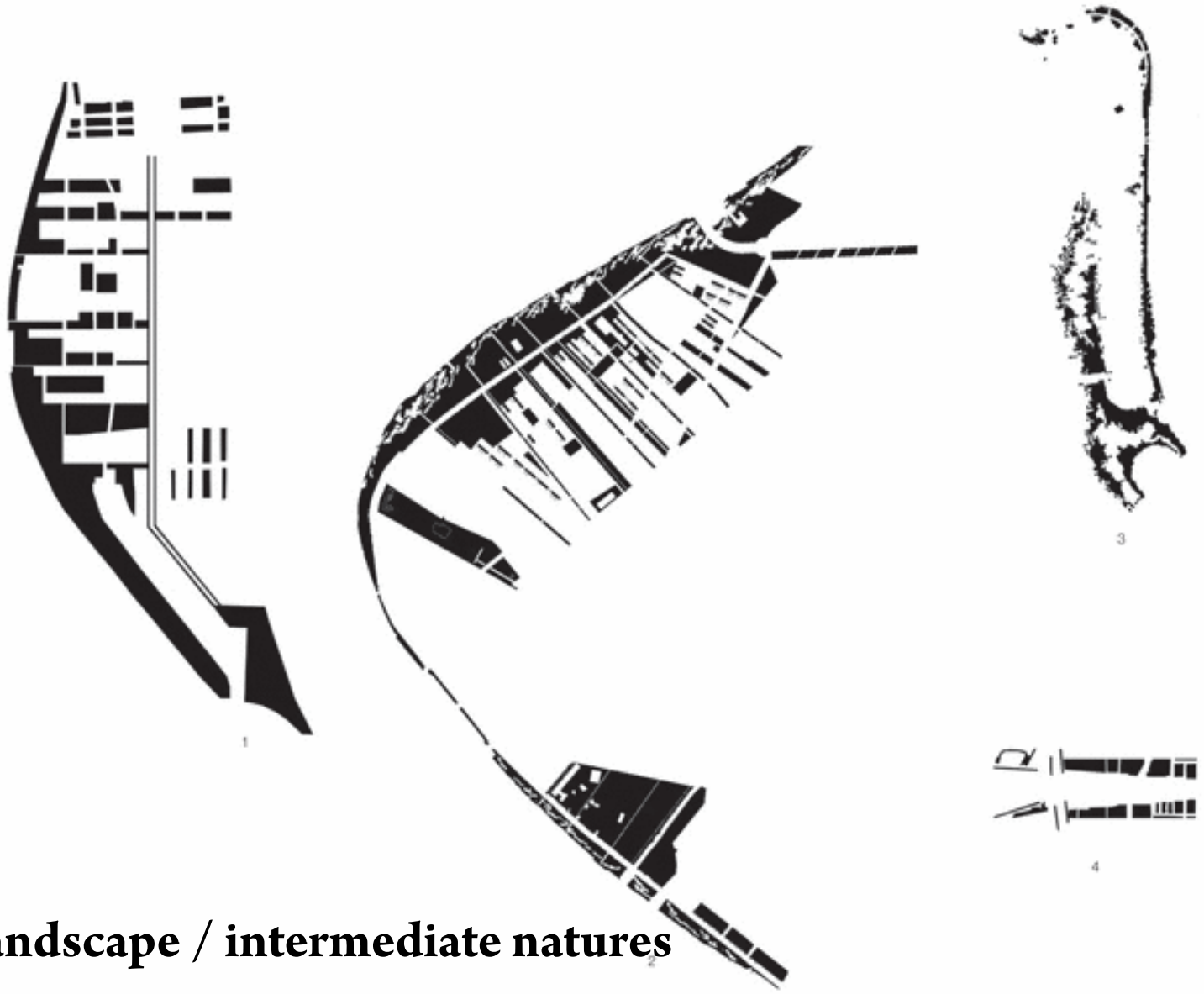


Massimiliano Fuksas, Vincenzo Amantea, Clément Vergély e H.T.V.S Architecture, Buildings in Place Nautique

Jakob + MacFarlane, Le Cube Orange

TERRITORIES AND SHAPES OF TIME

URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS AND LANDSCAPES IN COUNTERPOINT



landscape / intermediate natures

Desvigne proposed a strategy of infiltration, an evolutionary process of occupation, taking advantage of the fragmentation of the territory to introduce gardens and promedanes "; the intent is to create "a system of provisional parks accompanying all transformations without waiting for the big project."

> triggering a process of time through the implementation of an "intermediate nature," the achievement of a "hypothetical and illusory final state will take place through a sequence of states, corresponding to different states of metamorphosis.

The exterior surfaces appear, disappear, moving according to the evolution of the buildings.

The e green long walk of 2.5 km along the Saone support temporary and permanent perpendicular greenbelts organizing the new blocks. green bands have different sections, from green areas to simple lines of trees; These elements restore the physical relationship between the two rivers.

The vegetation strengthen the existing signs of urbanization, giving them a new and more clear hierarchy and establishing new relationships between spaces.

The technique of "plates-garden", allow to not affect at the ground, they create large beds of-container filled with soil, inside of which are planted shrubs. This will create the temporary areas of green, immediate and easy to remove.

Strategies and Physical-environmental Principles

on settlement	stratify diversify remould
on open spaces	signify centering landscape valorization
on relationships	connect reorganize refer to local contexts

Regeneration of Productive Territories

Strategies and Socio-economic Principles

on governance	cooperate believe participate
on cohesion	communicate belong take care
on feasibility	manage resources be pragmatic create values

urbanity
density
mixed uses
public spaces as consumption spaces
...

> the construction of the european union imaginary

3 Latin America.
Regeneration as Densification: Some Design Issues

Silent Dwelling

It is possible to synthetically describe many Latin American urban space as a composition of specialized places, a space functionally and socially divided, marked by clearly defined both spatially and temporally rhythms and forms of dwelling, that basically allows few forms of appropriation by its inhabitants, excluding some informal trade or sport practices. It is therefore of places where forms of dwellings tend to acquire some extreme characters.

A dense dwelling, which manifests itself, according to well-defined rhythms in some of its more central parts colonized by a variety of forms and commercials practices.

At the same time, in most of its exclusively peripheral residential parts, in the richer as well as in poorer ones, a silent and rarified dwelling appears.

Separation, alignment, distinction, preeminence of the image over materials and spatial qualites, in its extensive residential parts of the city, urban space, even if it doesn't present particular social insecurity, conditions, offers substantially limited social exchanges opportunities beyond the house front door.

On the Surface: Repetition Everywhere

Everything here resembles everything else.
Repetition is not a consequence of incompetence, or even a poverty of imagination, but rather is rendered inevitable by a range of spatial practices repeated without reflections.

Repetitious urban spaces are the outcome of repetitious gestures (those of architects, planners, dwellers, property developers) associated with two instruments which are both duplicatable and designed to duplicate: the *damero* and the row house.

An urban space of this kind is a product strictu sensu: it is reproducible and it is the result of repetitive actions.
What characterizes many peripheral urban settings are their pronounced visual appearance. They are made with the visible in mind: the visibility of status, people and things.

Overcoming Cartesian (and Cortesian) Logic

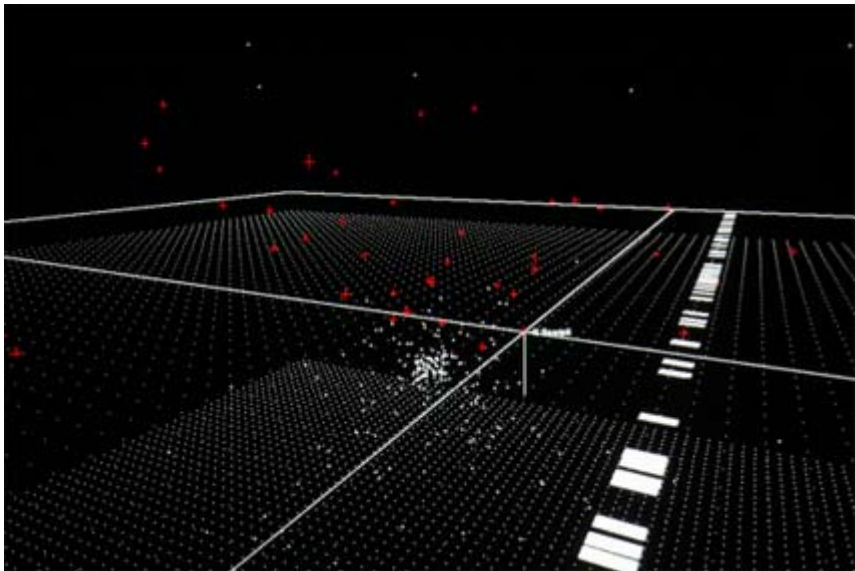
The colonial idea of smooth and geometrical urban space recalls the concept of space conceived by Descartes.

The limitation of these views of space is that this concept of space is a mathematical one, which inevitably makes a consideration of 'social space' seem strange.

Separation and fragmentation are the primary conditions and means by which these spatial logics preserves themselves producing a constant process of colonization of new areas in order to replicate itself.

Persistent opaque colonial logics produce and reproduce urban spaces that embody a close association between daily routine and urban reality, within networks which link up places set aside for work, private life, and localized leisure equipments.

By reproducing the feature of a Latin-American colonial space, architects, planners or inhabitants are destined to continuously establish the most extreme separation between places and dwellers.



Against the Native Grain. Counter-projects

The link between fragmentation and the persistence of colonial logics characterized by specialization, rarefaction, functional and social separation, is not coincidental, their association is inevitable. Thus, a truly alternative space would necessarily entail recapturing connections, redefining new 'densities', among dissociated elements and spaces.

Main objective, then, is to define counter-projects, counter-proposals and counter-spaces.

This task is a shift from a 'problematic of space', or the assertion of an all-encompassing networks of explanations which are a direct expression of abstraction and reductionism in densification strategies, to 'spatial practices'.

This approach throw into question the primacy of the visual realm in urban regeneration practices, i.e., densification as a quest for metropolitan images, and the graphic dimension which belongs, as one of its chief properties, to an abstract space, a space leading to a generalized state of deprivation.

2 Hypothesis can be Investigated and Tested.

The first hypothesis is that a spatial and social recomposition of contemporary Colombian cities and a redefinition in most inclusive ways of the forms of living and of social interaction at the scale of proximity can be pursued through precise urban space densification strategies.

Urban densification strategies, can be defined focusing on the experimentation and the invention of particular spatial devices for social interaction characterized by a superposition of uses and functions able to define dense forms of use in actually residual spaces.

The configuration of these devices will make the urban mosaic more liveable and inclusive, configuring a geography of places designed as membrane spaces between neighbourhoods inhabited by different social classes.

Densification, definitely, here is understood a series of counter-project defining protocols of consolidation and intensification of uses and social exchanges more than increasing of volumes or inhabitants per hectare.

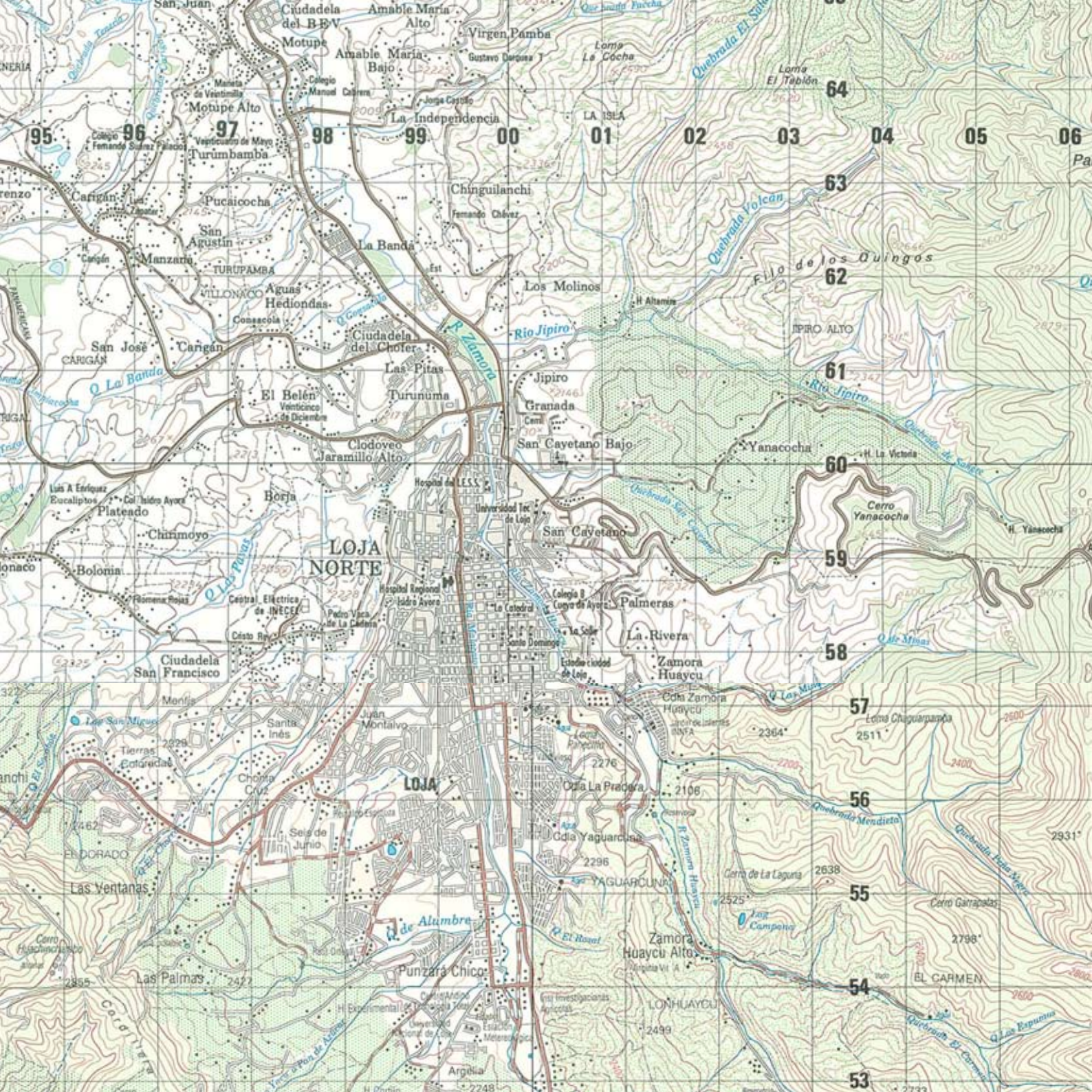
These counter-projects presuppose a collective ownership and self-management of space founded on the permanent participation of the interested parties with their multiple, varied, and even contradictory interests. It thus also presupposes confrontation.

The counter-project help to surpass separations and dissociations between social groups, spaces and finally times.

The second hypothesis is that the massive residential growth and the resulting processes of consumption of land will not be solved by traditional policies of urban densification such as new low cost residential areas or increase of volumes densities in central areas low-rise blocks or in abandoned or empty areas.

These problems can be solved in the long run, only through innovative economic and social policies able to act on rural areas government and to put in crisis persisting colonial imaginaries about rural dwelling, and through policies able to strengthen the role of small urban centers.

What is missing is a public discourse around economies and dwelling imaginaries in rural areas. Until countryside inhabitants will see the city as salvation and the only place where to find a "good life", the influx directed to middle and large cities will continue.


LOJA
LOJA NORTE
Ciudadela del B.E.V.
Amable María Alto
Virgen Pamba
Motupe
Amable María Bajo
Motupe Alto
La Independencia
Turumbamba
Chinguilanchi
Pucaicocha
San Agustín
Manzano
TURUPAMBA
Aguas Hediondas
La Bandá
Los Molinos
Ciudadela del Chofer
Las Pitas
Turunuma
El Belén
Jipiro
Granada
San Cayetano Bajo
San Cayetano
Yanacocha
Clodoveo Jaramillo Alto
Borja
Platendo
Chinmoyo
Bolonia
Ciudadela San Francisco
Palmeras
La Rivera
Zamora Huaycu
Cdla Zamora Huaycu
Cdla La Pradera
Cdla Yaguarcuna
YAGUARCUNA
Zamora Huaycu Alto
Punzará Chico
Las Ventanas
Las Palmas
EL DORADO
LONHUAYCU
EL CARMEN
Argelia
Cerro Yanacocha
Cerro Garrapatas
Loma Chaguarpamba
Loma El Tablón
Loma La Cocha
Filo de los Quingos
Quebrada Volcán
Quebrada El Salado
Quebrada Mendieta
Quebrada Honda Verde
Quebrada El Carmen
Río Jipiro
R. Zamora
R. Zamora Huaycu
Q. La Banda
Q. Las Pavas
Q. de Alumbre
Q. El Rosal
Q. Las Minas
Q. Los Espumos
Q. Los Sauces
Q. Los San Miguel
Q. El Salado
Hospital del IESS
Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja
Hospital Regional Isidro Ayora
Central Eléctrica de INECEL
Colegio Manuel Cabrera
Colegio Fernando Suárez Palacios
Colegio Veinticinco de Mayo
Colegio Cuerpo de Ayora
Escuela Universidad de Loja
Pedro Vicente Maldonado
Veinticinco de Diciembre
Seis de Junio
Santa Inés
Juan Montalvo
Ciudadela Universitaria
Ciudadela Jipiro Alto
Hacienda Yanacocha
Hacienda La Victoria
Quebrada de Sangre
Quebrada San Cayetano
Quebrada Honda
Quebrada Las Minas
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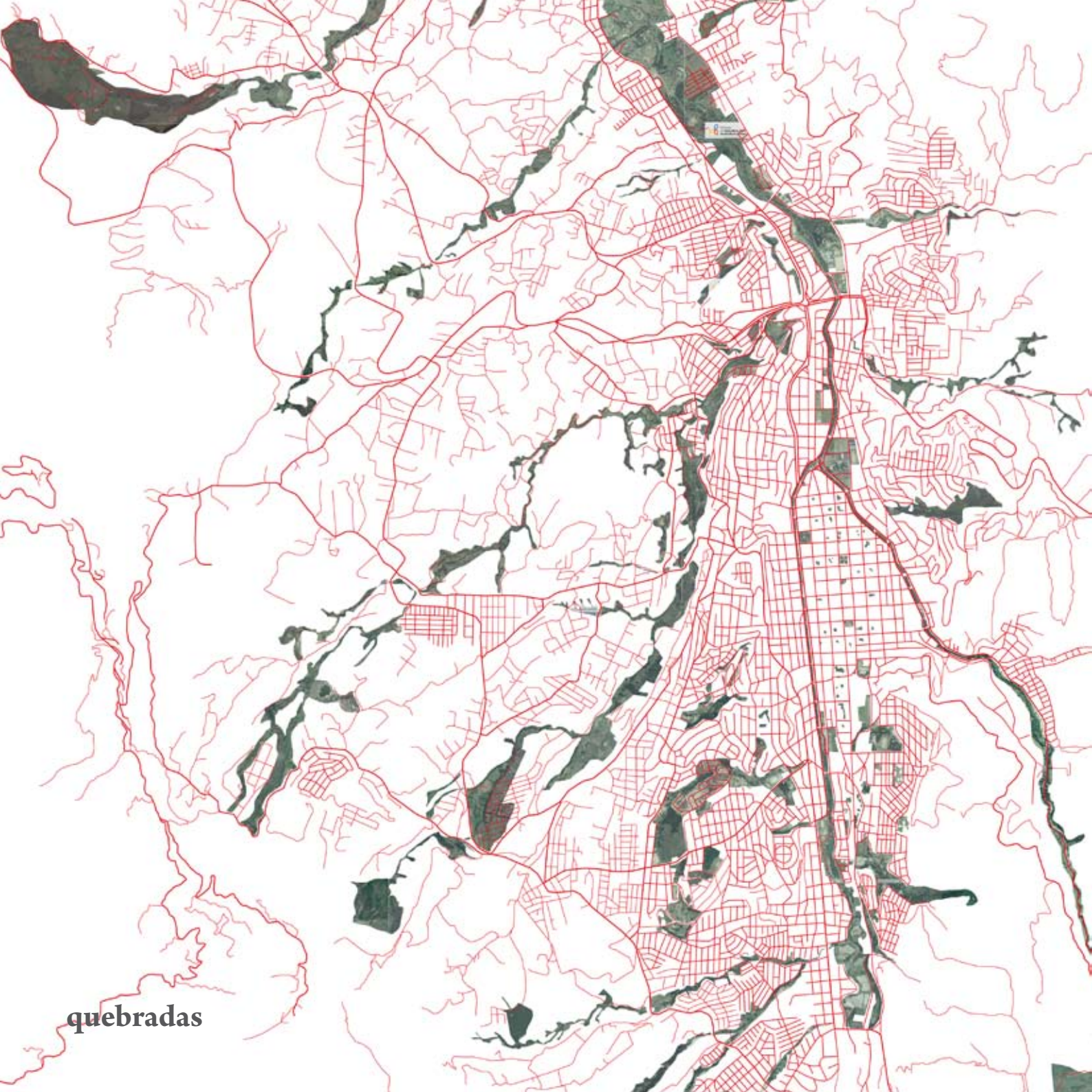
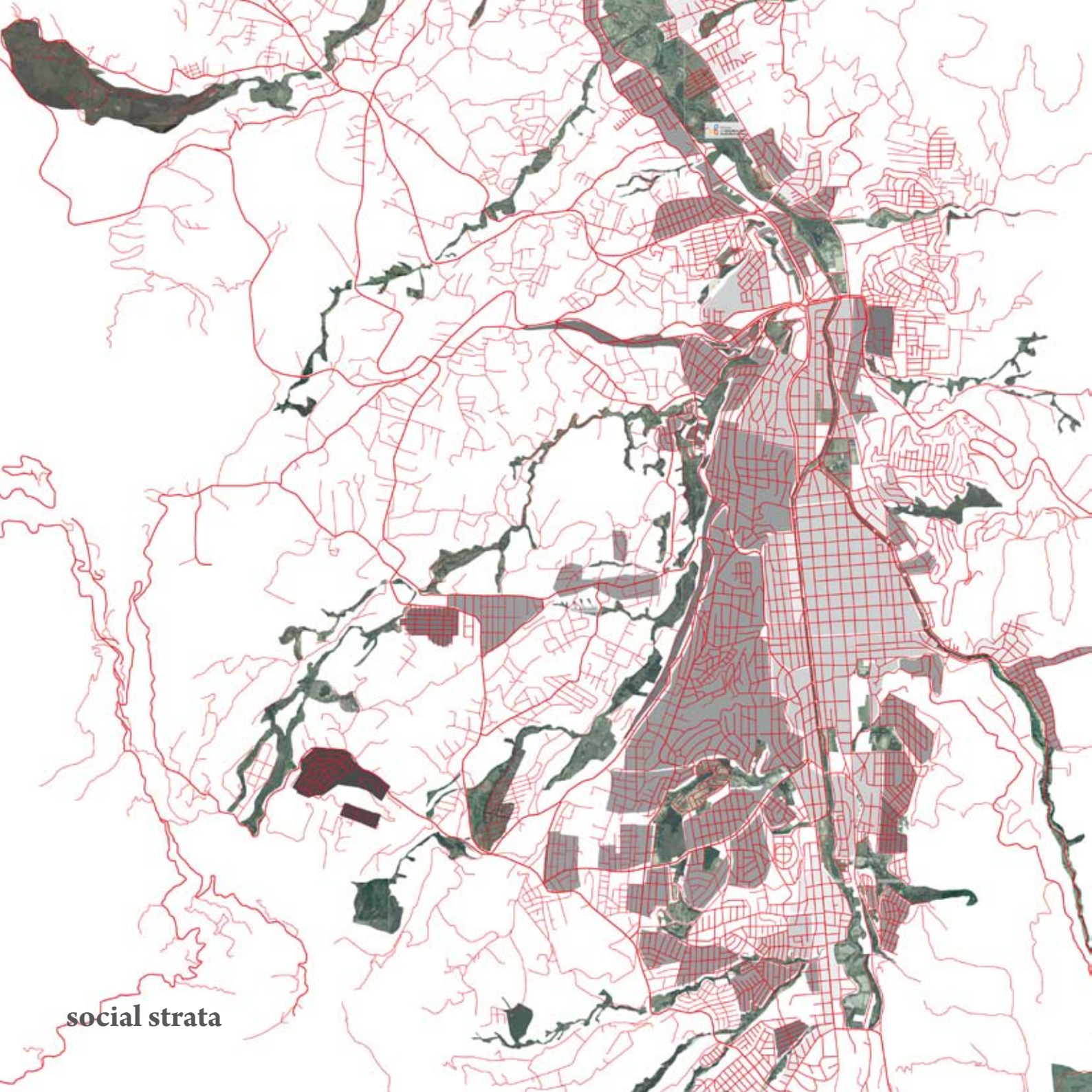
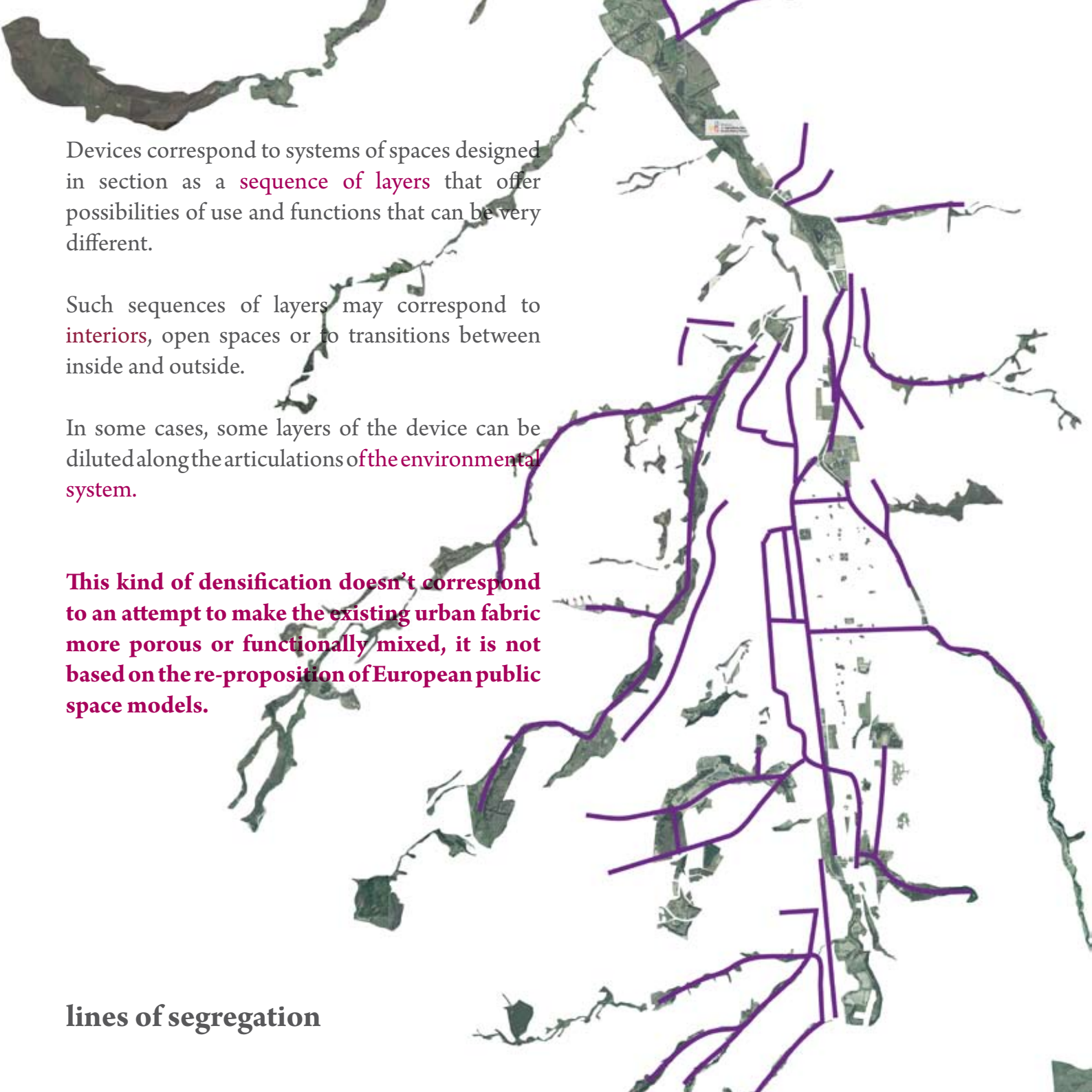
Quebrada El Rosal


quebradas


social strata



Devices correspond to systems of spaces designed in section as a sequence of layers that offer possibilities of use and functions that can be very different.

Such sequences of layers may correspond to interiors, open spaces or to transitions between inside and outside.

In some cases, some layers of the device can be diluted along the articulations of the environmental system.

This kind of densification doesn't correspond to an attempt to make the existing urban fabric more porous or functionally mixed, it is not based on the re-proposition of European public space models.

lines of segregation

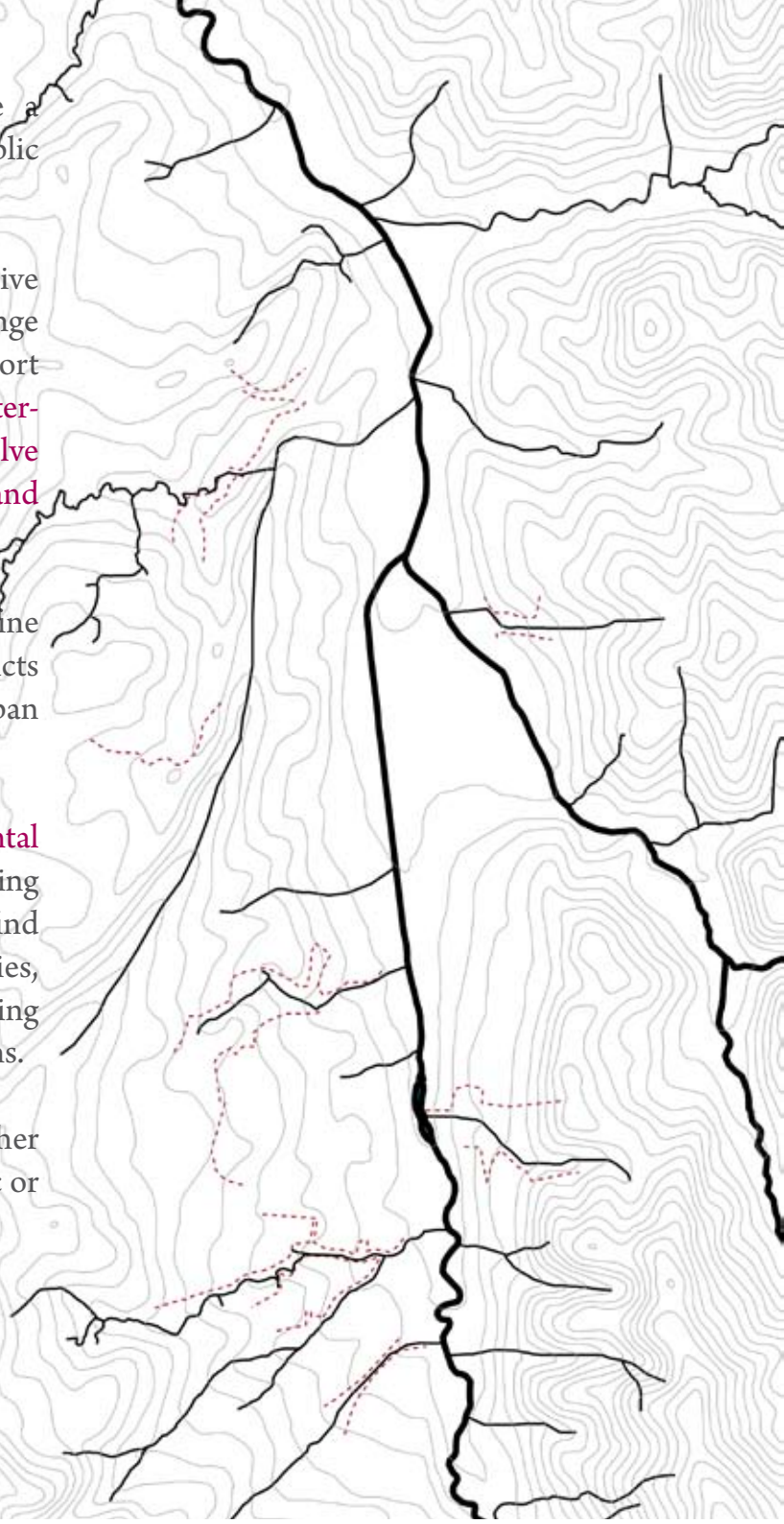
These devices may have from time to time a semi-public, communitarian, sometimes public character.

The result is the definition of a number of innovative central places able to host a variety of social exchange process related to leisure, commerce, work or sport activities, which will reduce the current center-periphery commuting movements and will solve the friction between the abstract grid of blocks and environmental system.

The definition of these spatial devices will redefine in more inclusive way relations between districts inhabited by different social classes, increasing urban comfort qualities.

These processes will indirectly favor incremental slow physical densification processes in existing neighbourhoods since its inhabitants will finally find adequate urban comfort conditions, centralities, workspaces and leisure time equipments, triggering processes of incremental residential modifications.

Inhabitants will not desire to move into richer district, even when they improve their economic or social conditions as, it happens now.

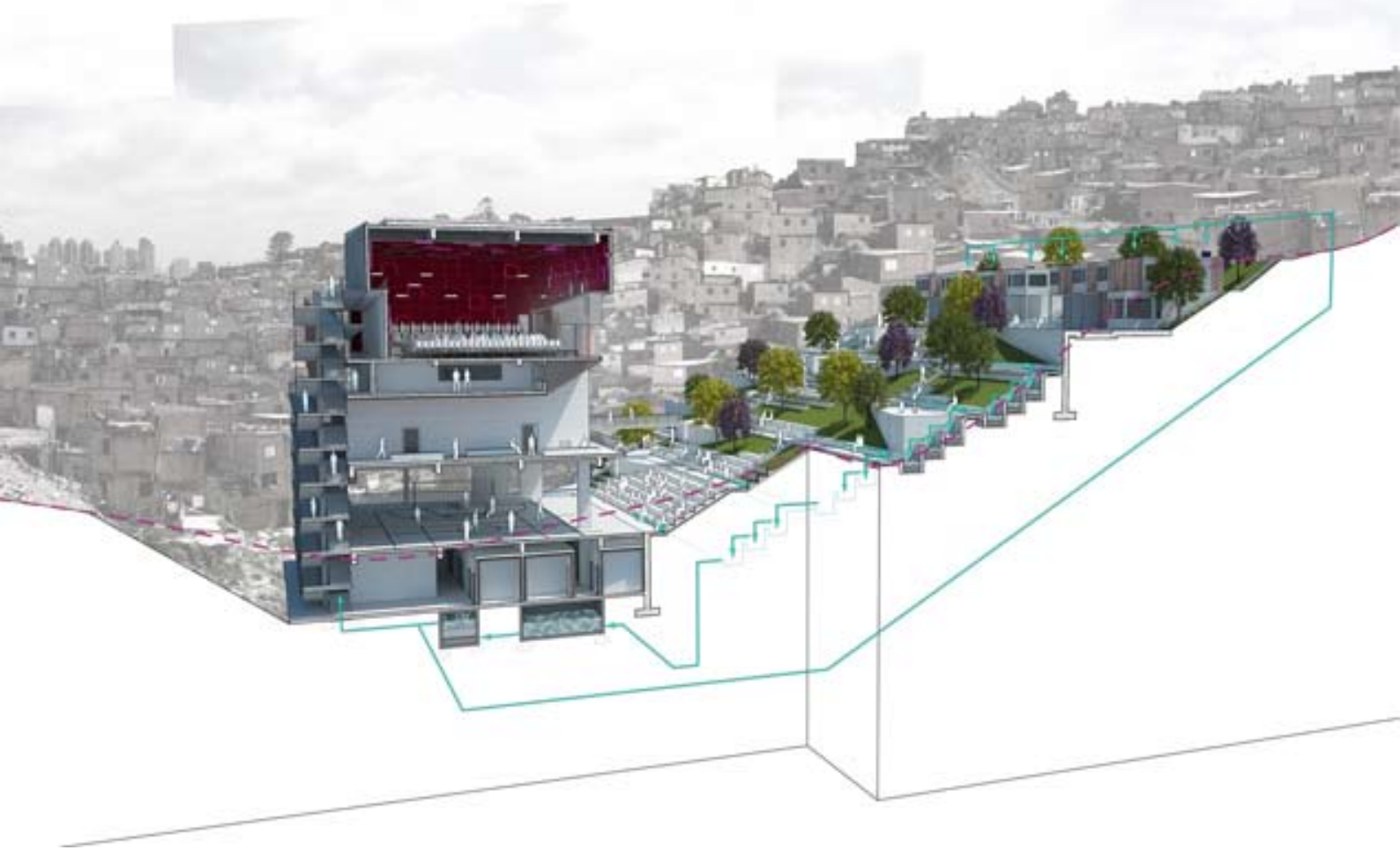


membranes

U-TT Grotao community center Sao Paulo, 2009 -2014

In the Grotao Community Center and Park, the priority is equipping this peripheral neighborhood with infrastructure, water, sewage networks, lighting, services, and public space.

In addition to stabilizing the precarious ground and eliminating erosion, the terraced landscape transforms Grotão into a “natural arena” that encourages diverse community participation.



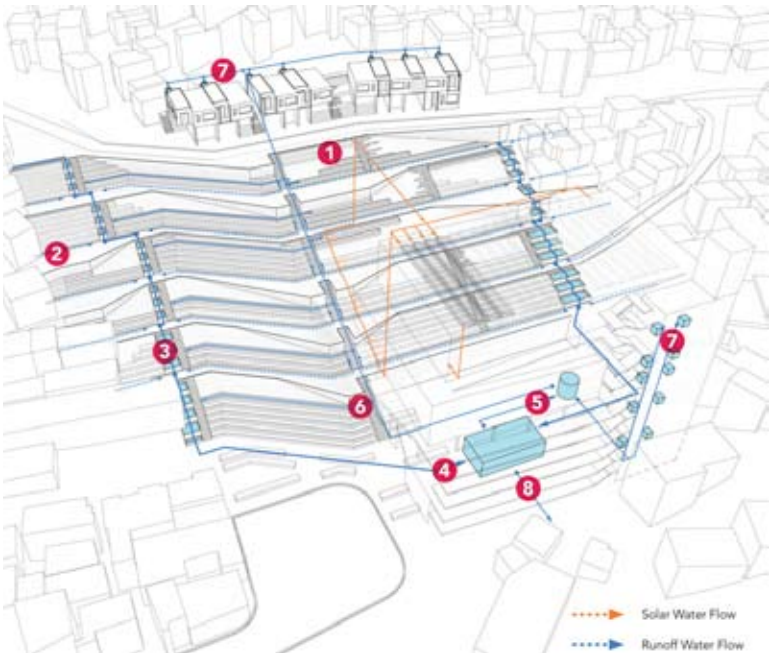
The lower zone of the site contains the music school prototype, which vertically stacks several diverse programs to maximize site potential. These include the bus station/transportation infrastructure, soccer pitch, community center, and the music school, which contains classrooms, practice rooms, recording studios, and performance halls.

Commercial spaces are also introduced on the first level as an economic vehicle that activates the street level.

The upper zone contains new replacement housing for those displaced from high-risk zones.

The building maintains both physical and visual connections within the area through a large, open level that works as a continuation of the terrace system.

Grass
Grass Pavers
Agriculture
Wetlands


1
2
3
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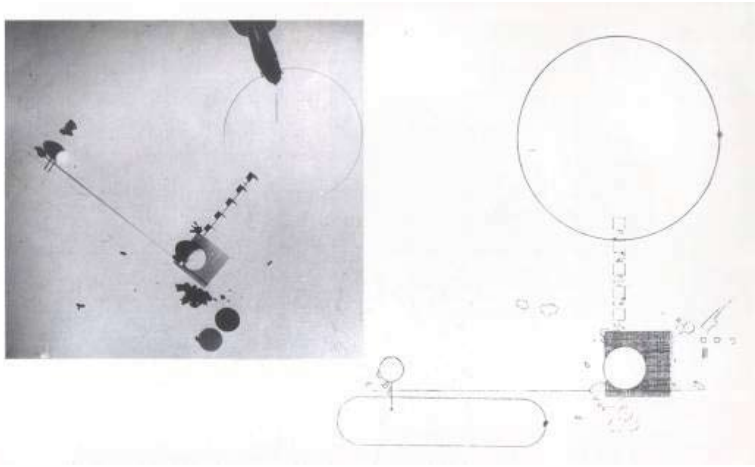
7
8
Solar Water Flow
Runoff Water Flow

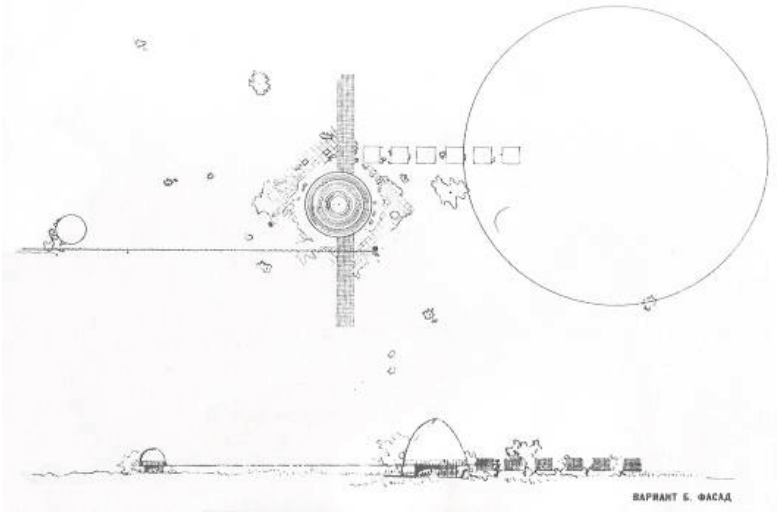
Ivan Il'ič Leonidov's Social Condenser

It is convenient to classify Leonidov's social condensers into tree kinds by means of their scales, namely the workers' clubs (e.g. the Club of a New Social Type) in building scale, cultural complexes (e.g. Palace of Culture) in an urban scale, and a city planning (e.g. the Socialist Settlement at Magnitogorsk) in a larger scale.



Club of New Social Type
above. VARIANT A. model and plan
below. VARIANT B

The intention of the social condenser was to influence the design of public spaces, with a goal of breaking down perceived social hierarchies in an effort to create socially equitable spaces.

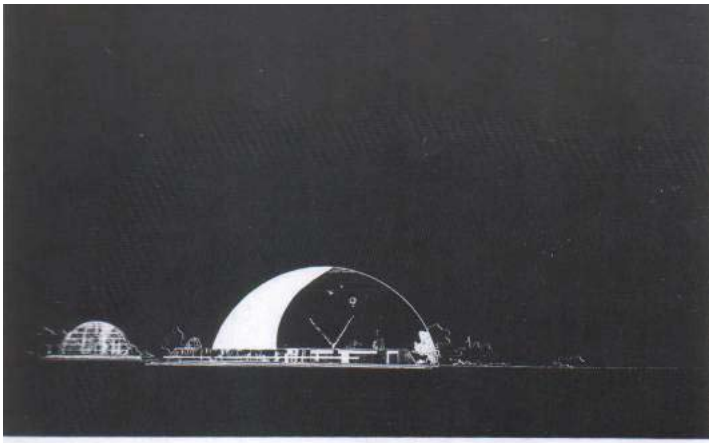


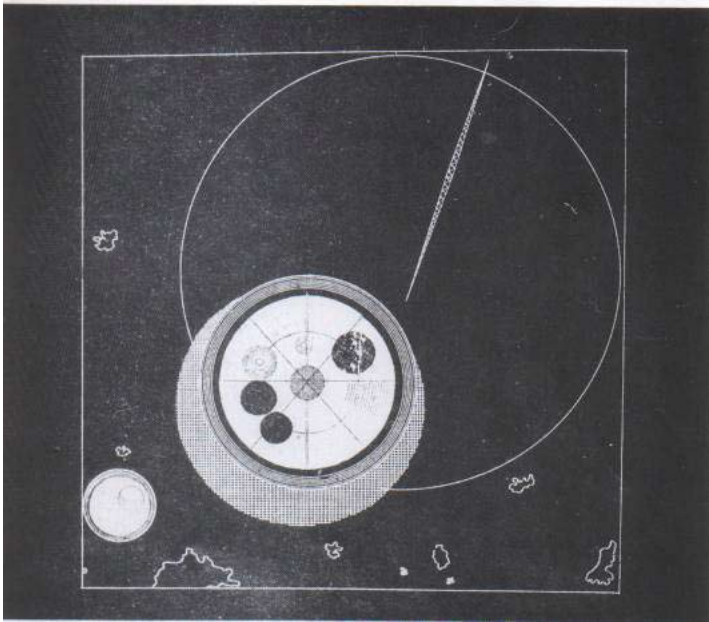
Leonidov's design of club in the 1920s

" [...] in order to involve those strata of workers who are not so far being properly served, it is essential that cultural work should not be confined within the framework of the club, but be developed within the enterprises themselves, the workshops, workers' barracks and hostels, and workers' settlement".

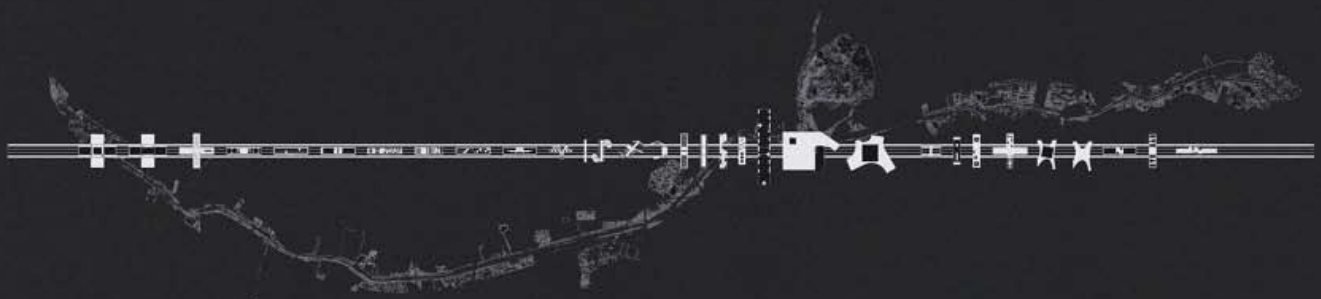
In 1928, Leonidov produced two variants of an experimental design for a "Club of a New Social Type" including a "number of separate but interconnected buildings, some of which were reserved for specialized purposes, while the rest were intended for unrestricted use".

Palace of Culture. Mass Activities Sector, elevation and plan

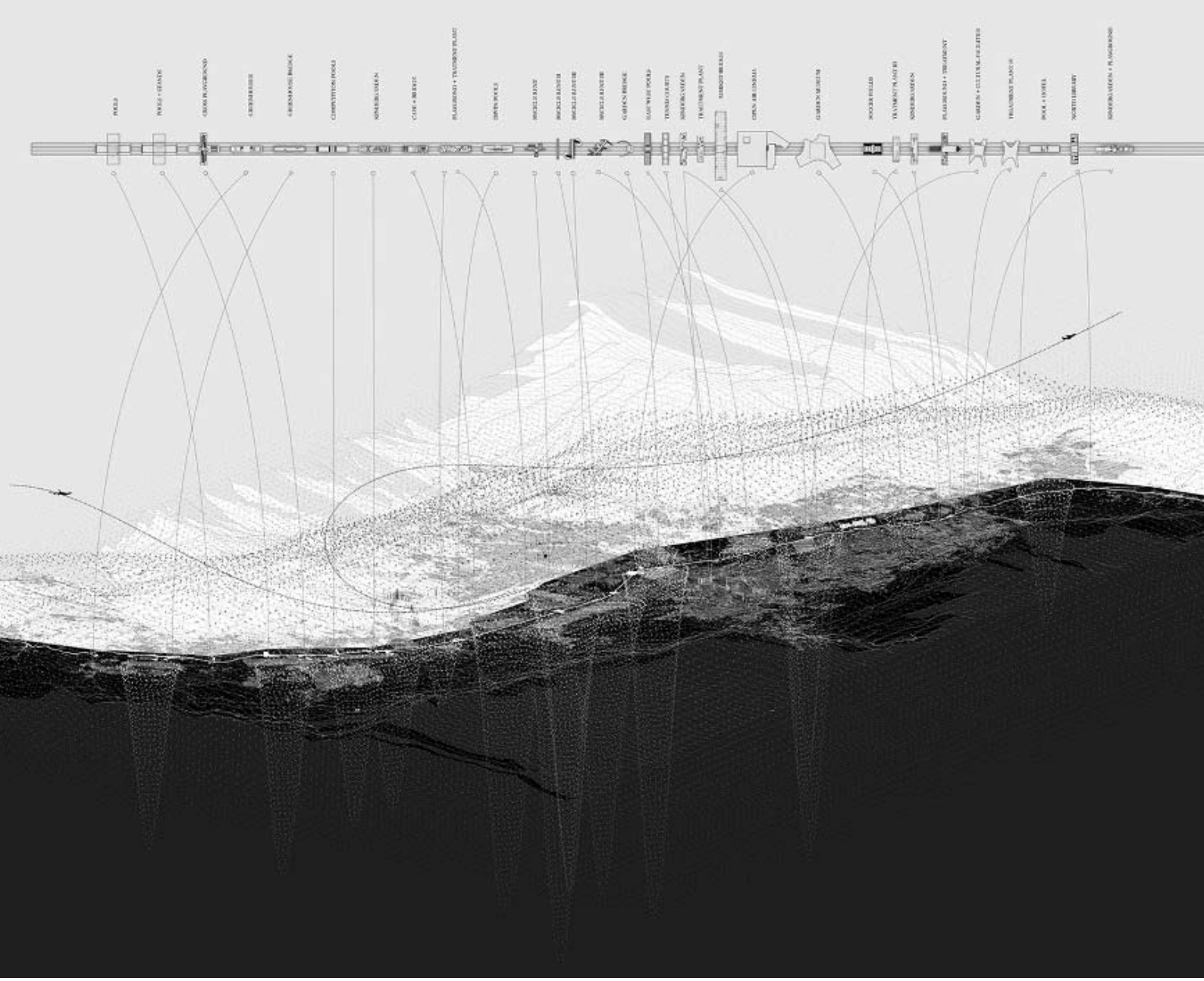




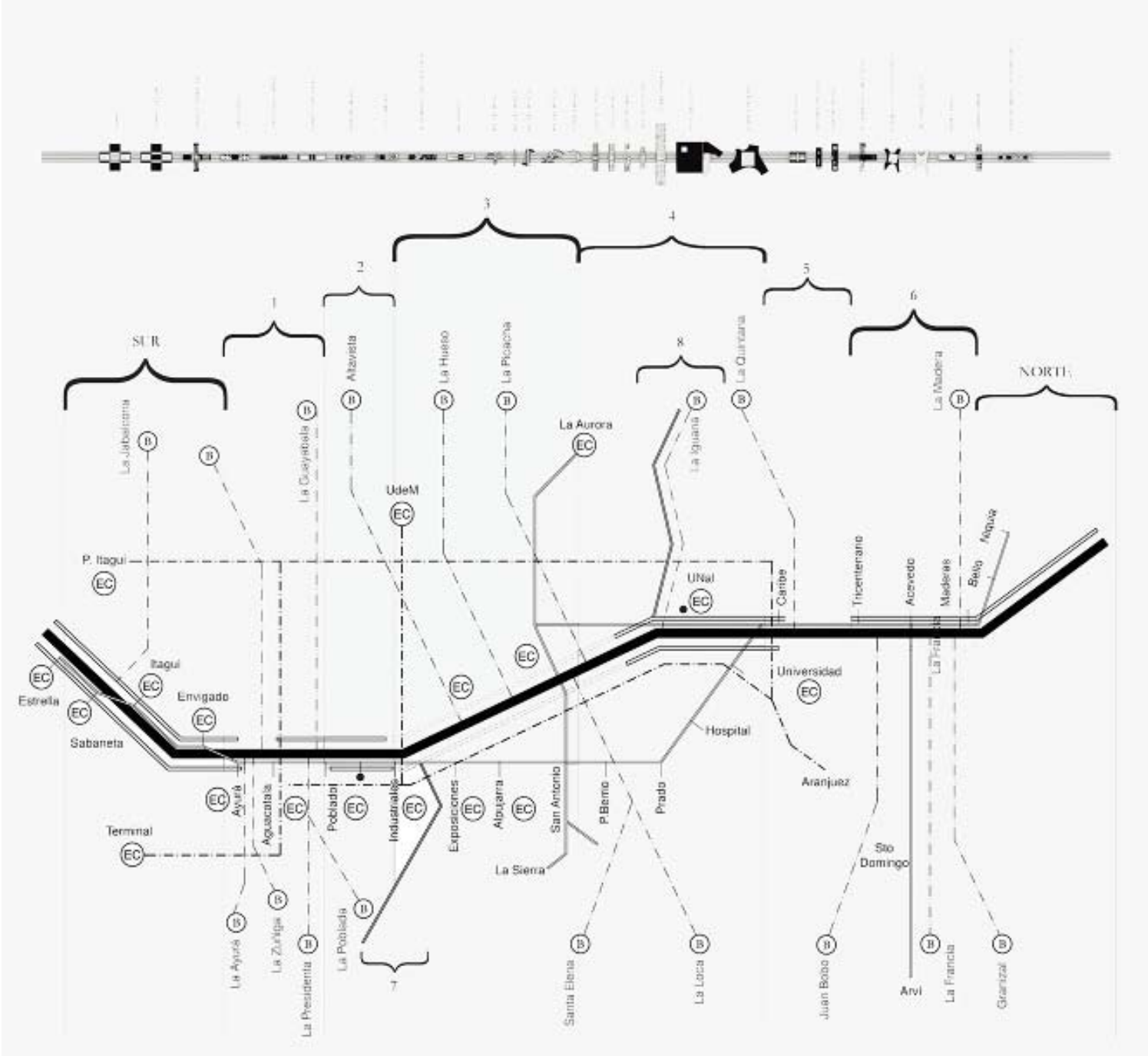
LCLA Office, MEDELLIN / The river that is not



Medellin's "river" is not a river any more and this condition is not reversible.
A series of hard public platforms would be installed in on the river without modifying the existing canal. These platforms will host programs that are traditionally contained in public buildings (like Libraries, kindergartens and sport facilities) and will be located exactly at the point where the streams meet with the polluted river, triggering the encounter of civic public occupation exactly at the points where it is still possible to provide meaningful landscape interventions along the canal.

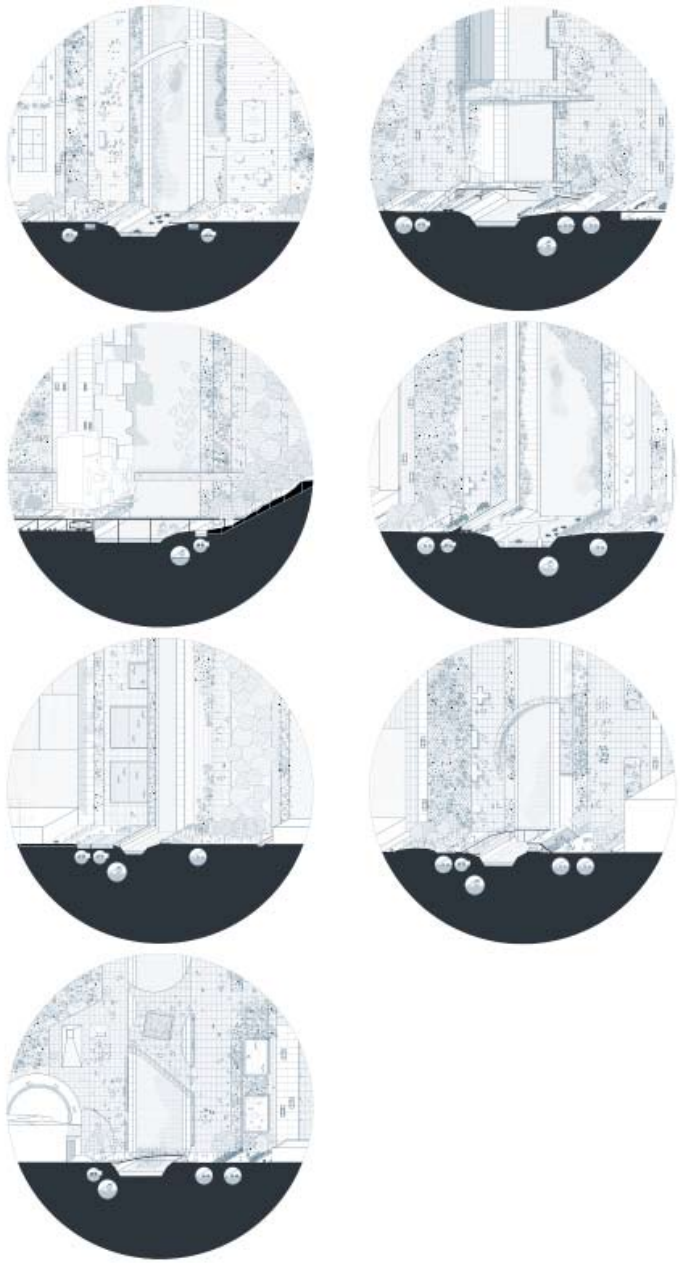


{ Modelo de contaminación aerea, acuática y subterránea en Medellín. Determinación de zonas de oportunidad y zonas a remediar en los próximos 50 años }



{ Monumentos, hidrología y movilidad. Alineación de programas significativos para descentralizar la ciudad}

{ Arquitecturas de impacto territorial. Diferentes programas recreativos, culturales y deportivos como infraestructura de cruce. Descentralización de actividades }

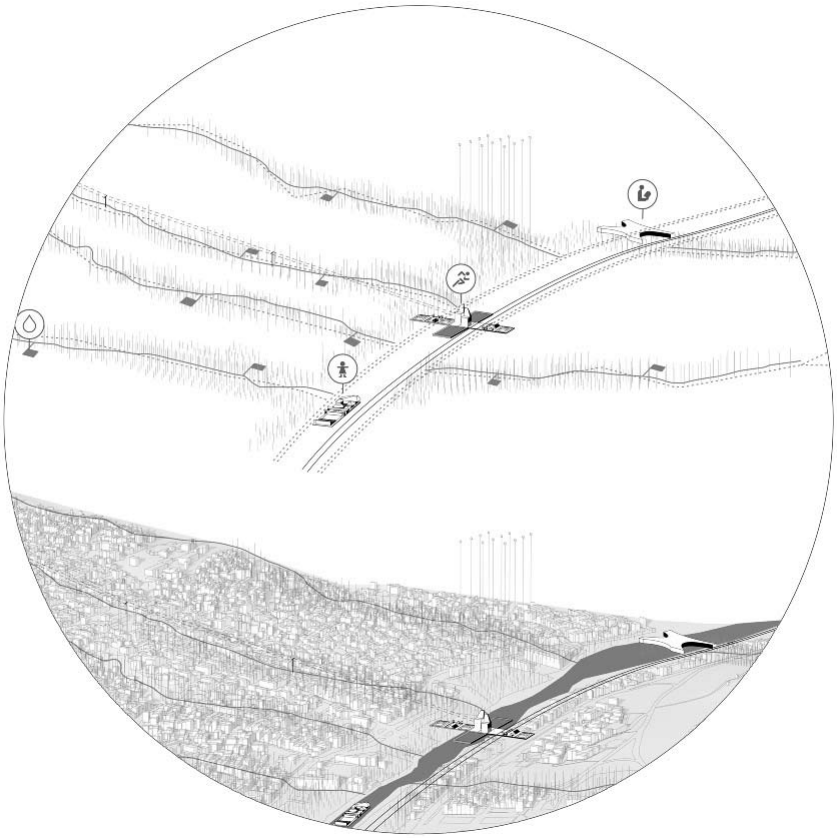


{ figuras duras y blandas en diferentes configuraciones en relación al cauce canalizado }

A corto plazo - ocupación donde se requiera - del curso del río. Proceso sistemático a partir de la inserción de atractores sociales como equipamientos deportivos, culturales institucionales (arquitectura) bajo criterios de responsabilidad, necesidad y espacios de oportunidad (urbanismo).

Tramo Sur
Sembrar el tiempo libre

La intervencion en tres estrategias:



{ Nuevos monumentos. Insertar programas significativos como bibliotecas, jardines infantiles e infraestructura deportiva sobre el río }

a. Dinamizar las estructuras urbanas existentes del costado a partir de infraestructurar el corredor del río con sistemas de transporte de bajo impacto que estimulen la movilidad blanda y construyendo sistemas de permeabilidad peatonal tejiendo las dos margenes del río apartir de puentes dotados con programas que extiendan los rangos horarios de uso.

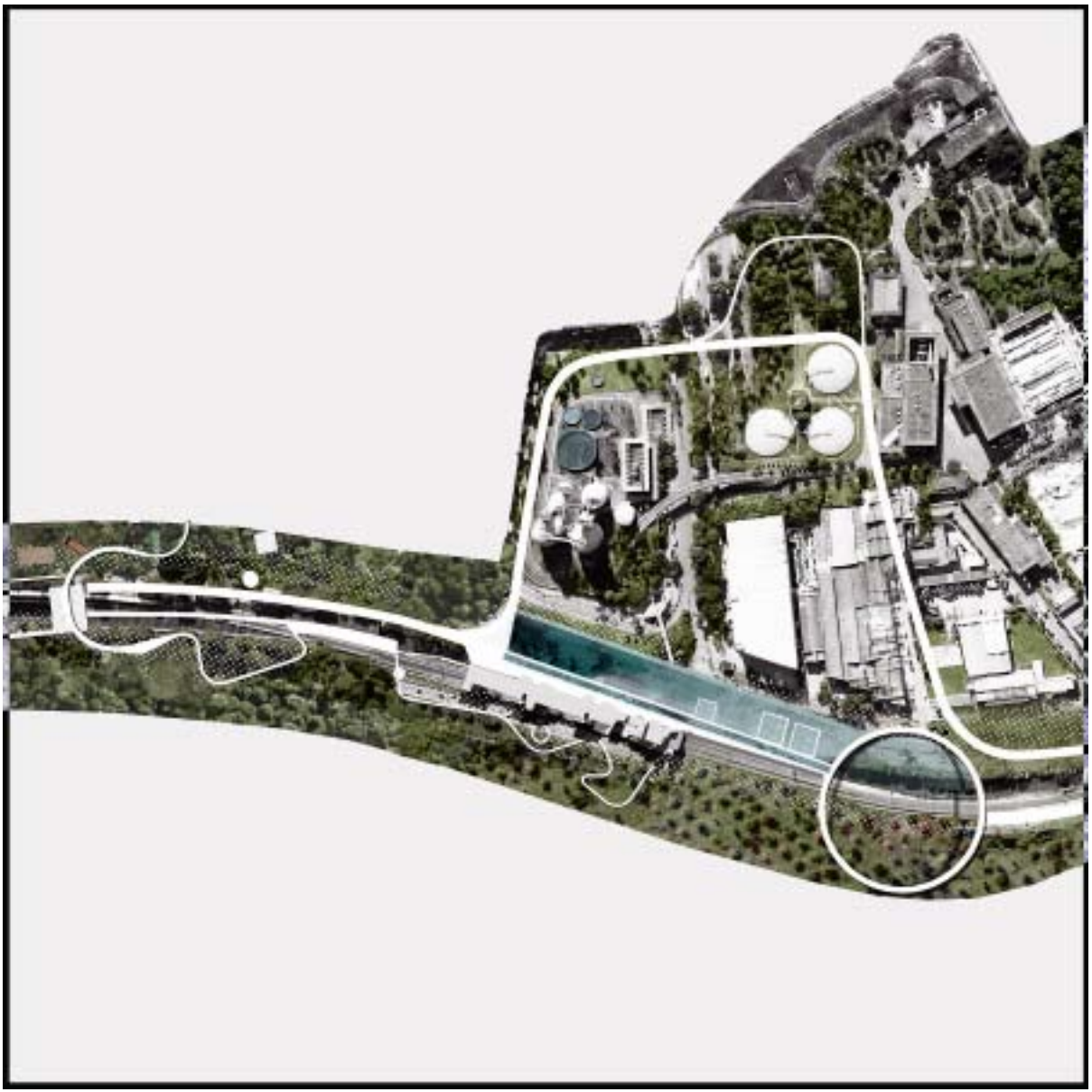
b. Desarrollar la margen Oeste tiene una condición de oportunidad inmobiliaria que a futuro presenta grandes areas para redesarrollos de vivienda y oficinas.

c. Tejer las dos margenes de actividades diferenciadas a partir de la inserción de programas altamente diversos en el corredor del río y anexos a él para propiciar el encuentro social.

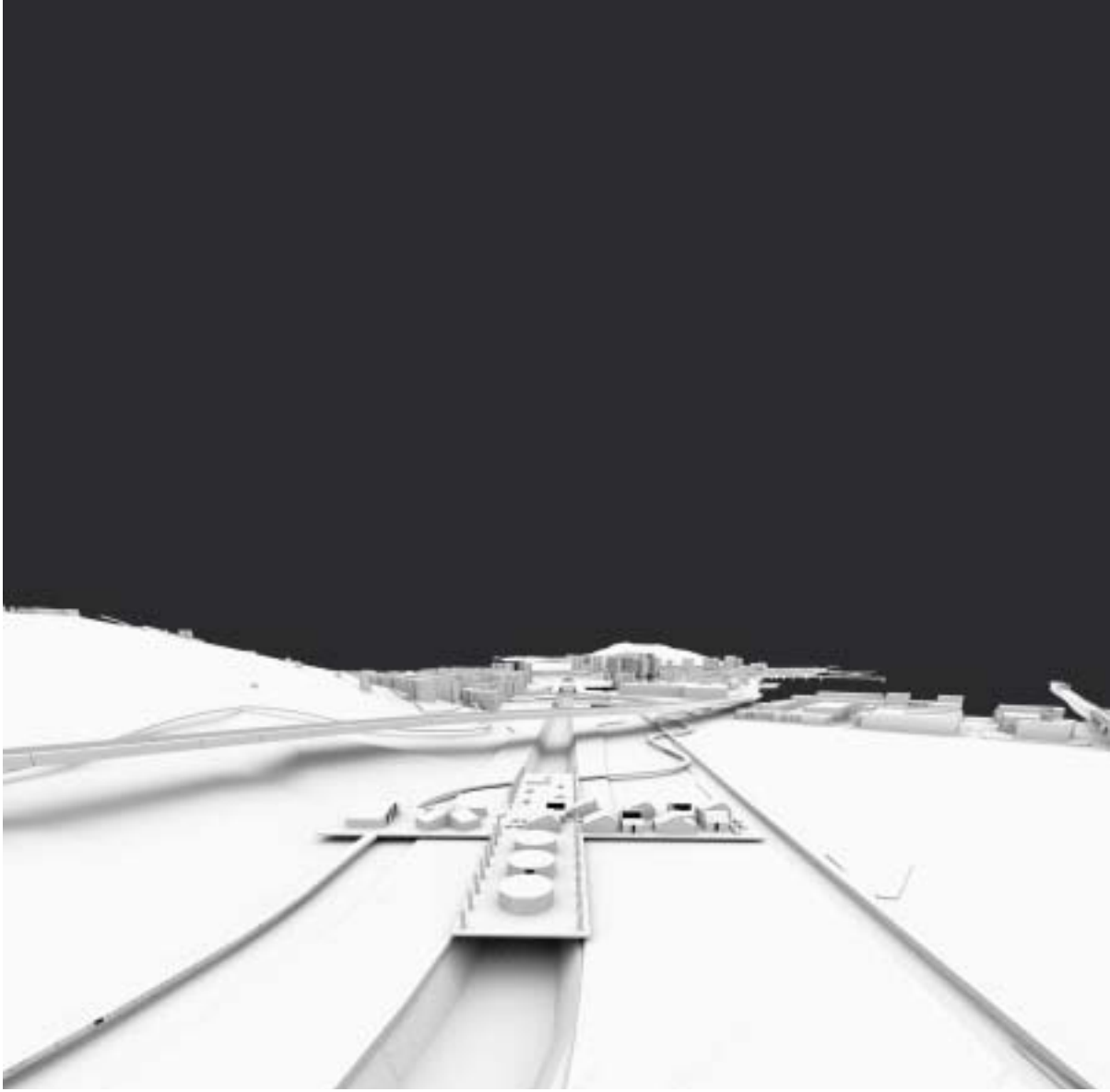
{Monumentos, hidrología y movilidad. Alineación de programas significativos para descentralizar la ciudad}

{ Zona central. Nuevo distrito creativo económico }

{ Zona Norte. Bosques del Norte, las riberas degradadas como parque metropolitano }



{Zona Sur. Remediación sistematica de lotes industriales. Plantas de tratamiento como parque públicos}



{ Jardines infantiles sobre el Río}

Teddy Cruz

The Club Sandwich Urbanism

Casa Familiar Senior and Housing with Childcare

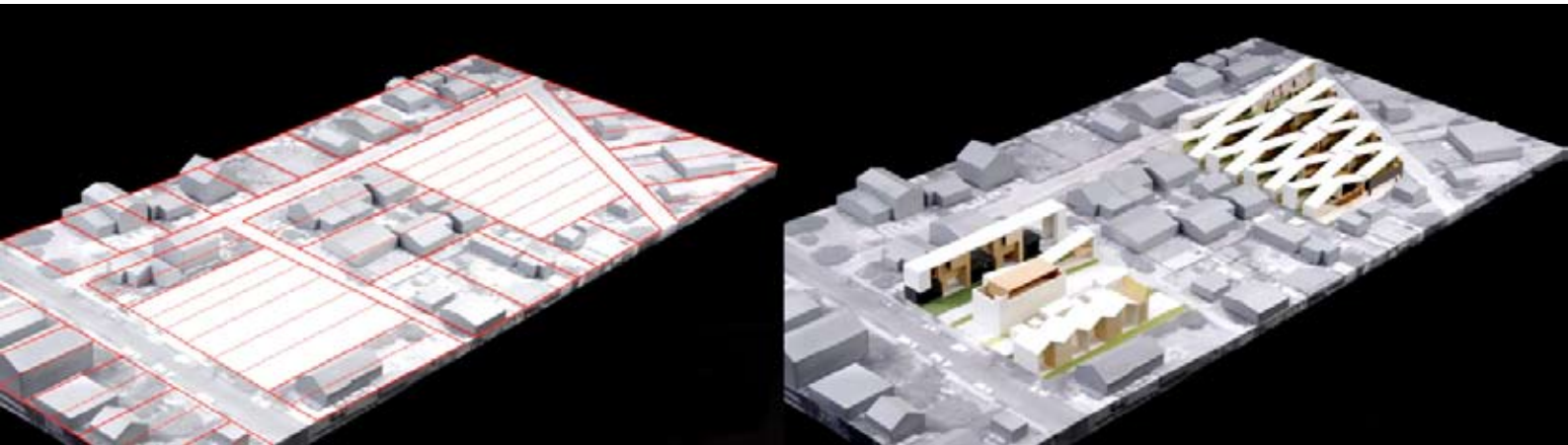
"Living Rooms at the Border": to provide a new type of affordable housing, and stimulate political, economic and social transformation, to densify in San Ysidro, a community in San Diego

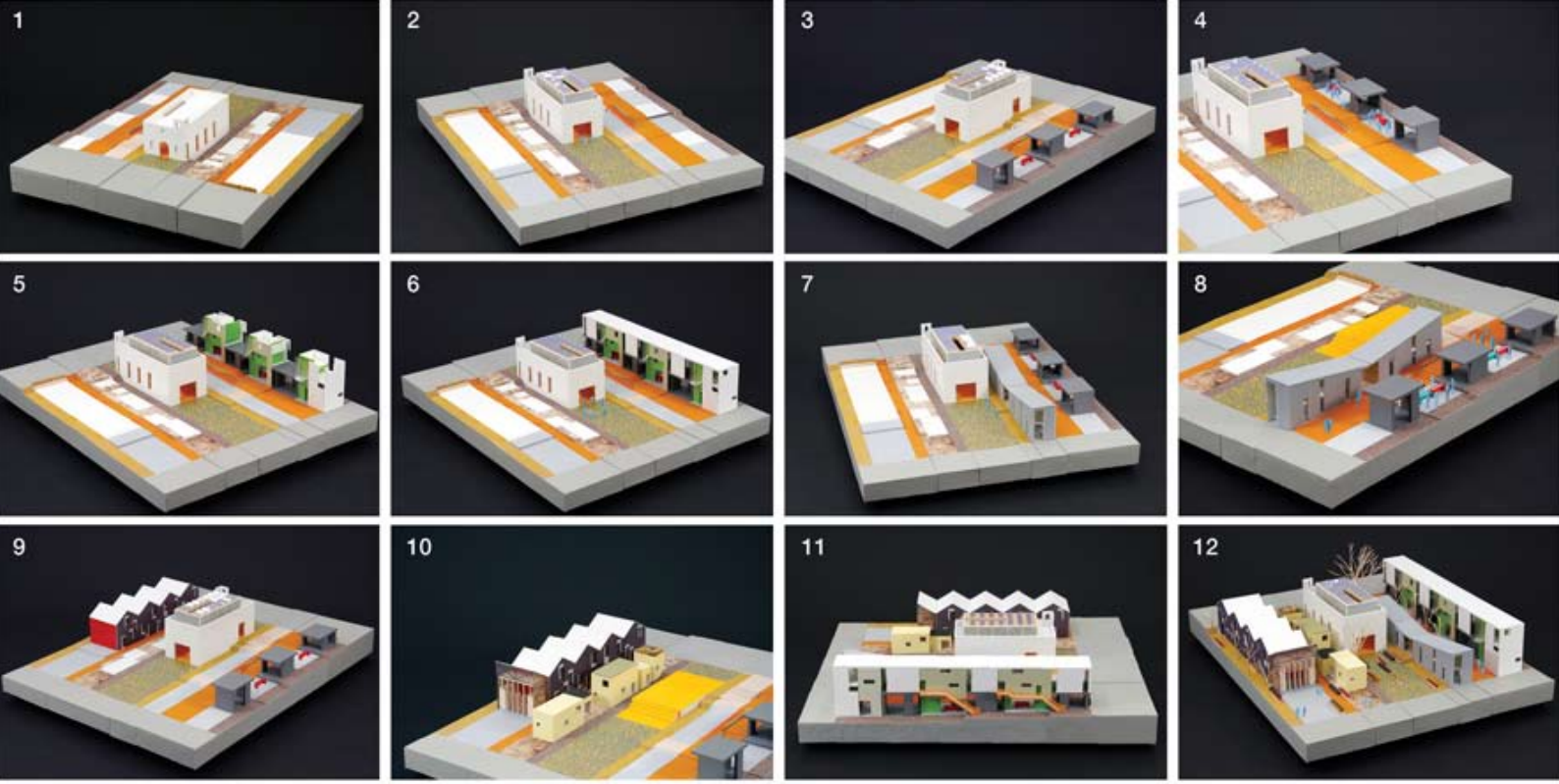
Site / Physical Context
Abandoned and undeveloped suburban parcel

Socio-economic Conditions
Overpopulated, poverty stricken, shanty town

Materiality / Technical Performance
All units will be made up of a series of geometric parcels. Inside each unit will be an open 12-foot cube-shaped space centered around a kitchen or bathroom which can be subdivided with prefab wooden or sheer walls.

The senior housing portion of the project will be a repetitive series of masonry concrete walls and wood framing with the lobby walls made of a system of stackable aluminum windows. The existing church space will become a "building within a building".





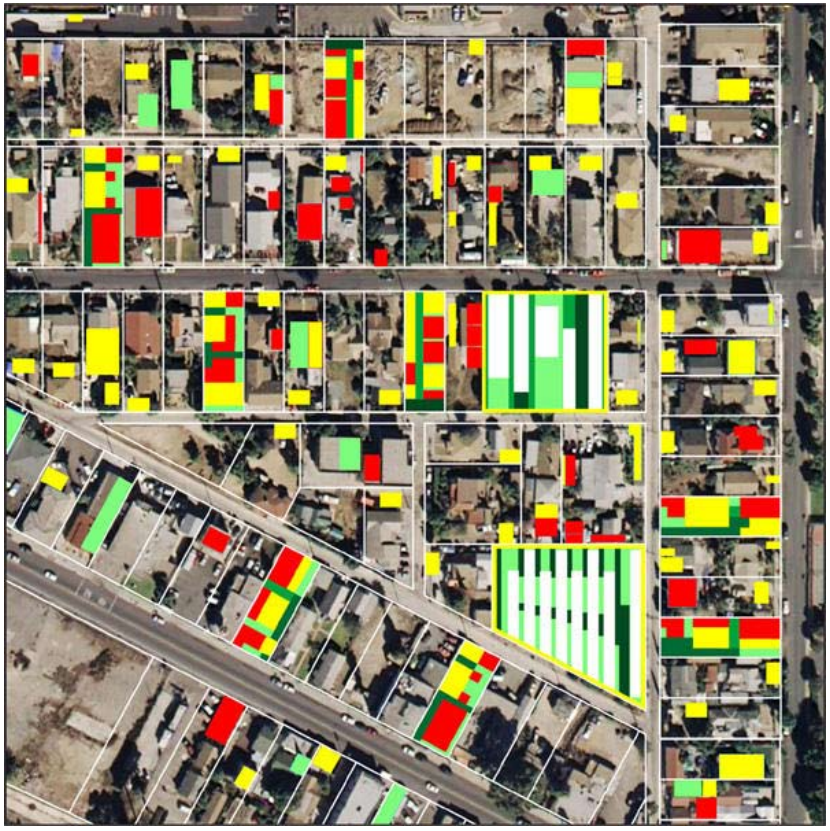
Living Rooms at the Border
A row of 12 housing units "is conceived as a series of interlocking rooms that can be broken down into two one-bedroom units or pieced together for large families.

'In a place where current regulation allows only one use,' [Cruz} crows, ' we propose five different uses that support each other. This suggests a model of social sustainability for San Diego, one that conveys density not as bulk but as social choreography.'

Squeezing so many different typologies onto one land parcel is part of what's innovative about this scheme. But even more interesting is the set of social relation between them. The development would begin with a row of open structures housing collective kitchens, informal markets and community workshops. This would be the public dimension at the base of the apartment building.

At the heart of the plot is a 1920s church that is now Casa Familiar's cultural centre, and which would be coprogrammed by the artists in the live-work units.

So one parcel of land is providing everything from a diverse range of housing to social amenities and a cultural programme. All of which is connected by a dense system of social relations between the neighbors within the plot and the community outside it.

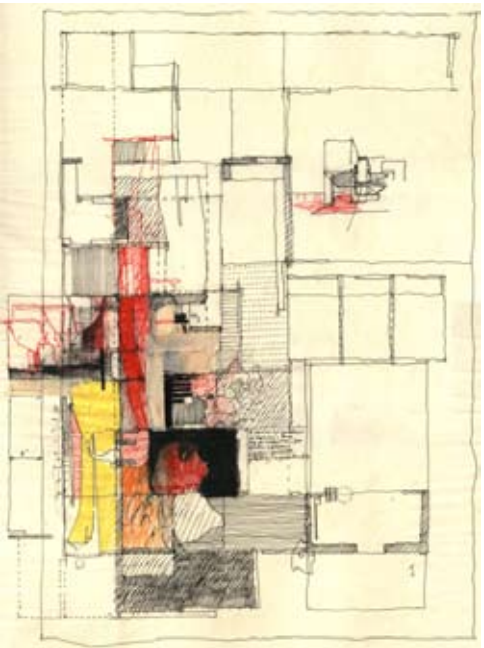


Parcel-by-parcel investigation of land use in San Ysidro

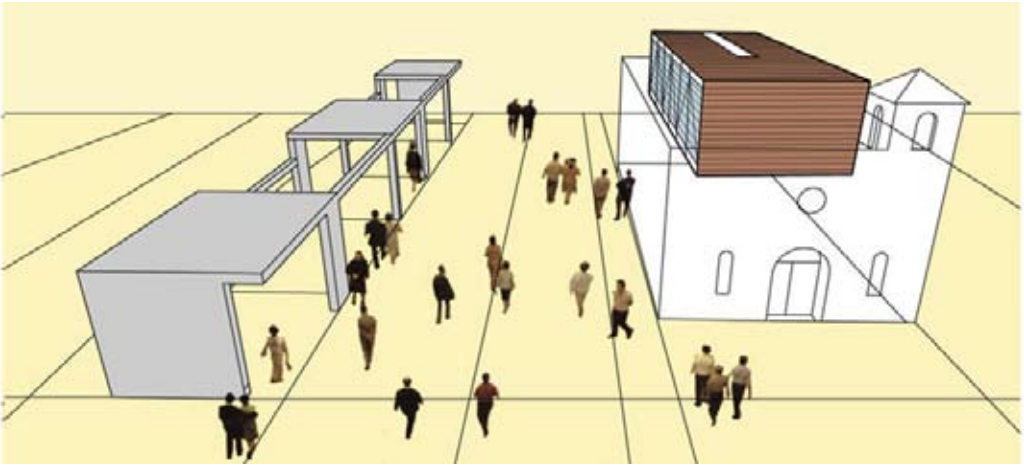
The project proposes densification strategies typical of Mexican urban settings: spaces that can be alternately closed off for private use and opened to the community, it aims to weave internal circulation paths with existing city transportation lines such as trolleys.

The development is designed to be built in layers, starting with pathways, communal green space, and electricity-bearing service walls that can be shared by neighbouring residents.

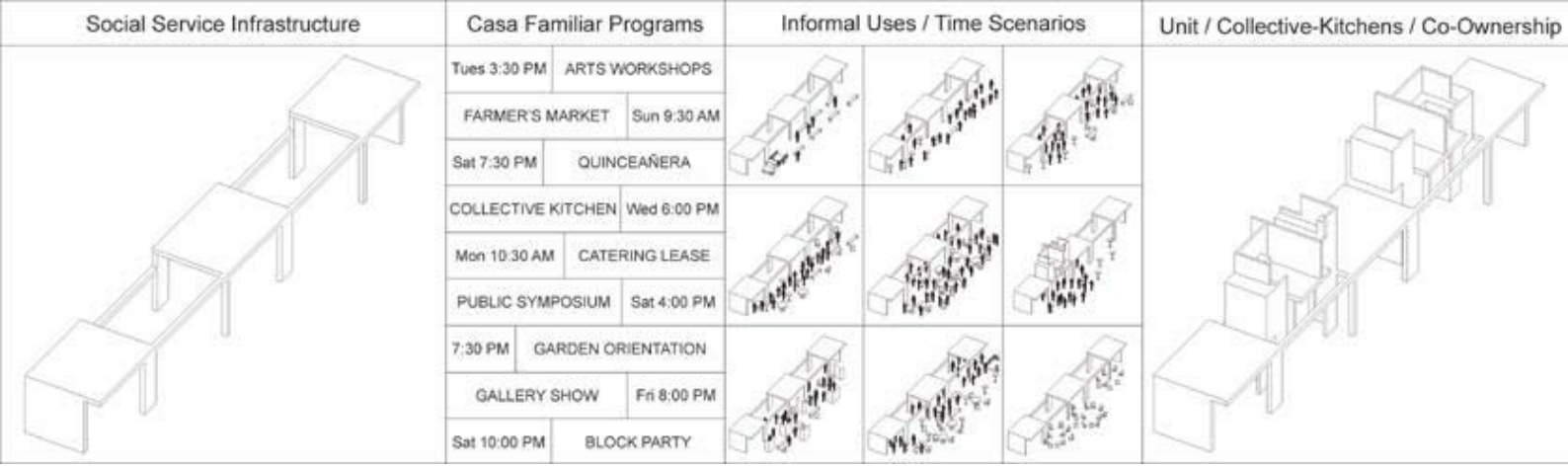
The open space underneath will function as a marketplace, among other uses.



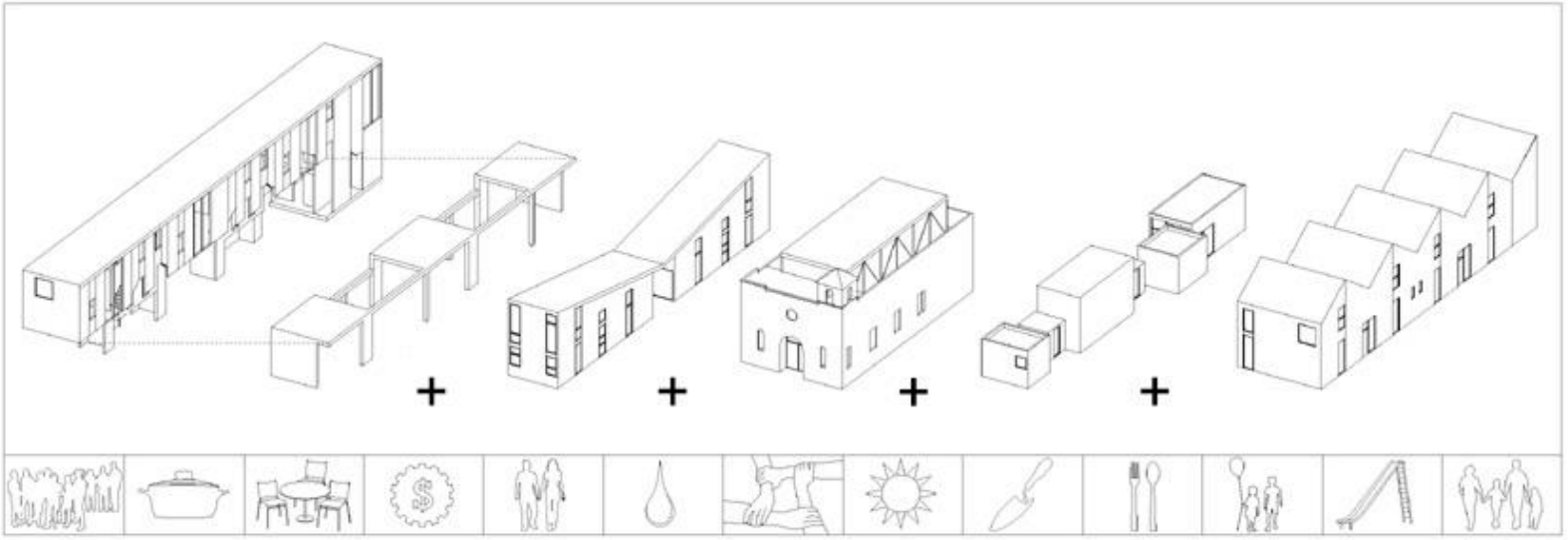
Concept collage using Donald Judd's 15 Untitled Works in Concrete (1980-84)



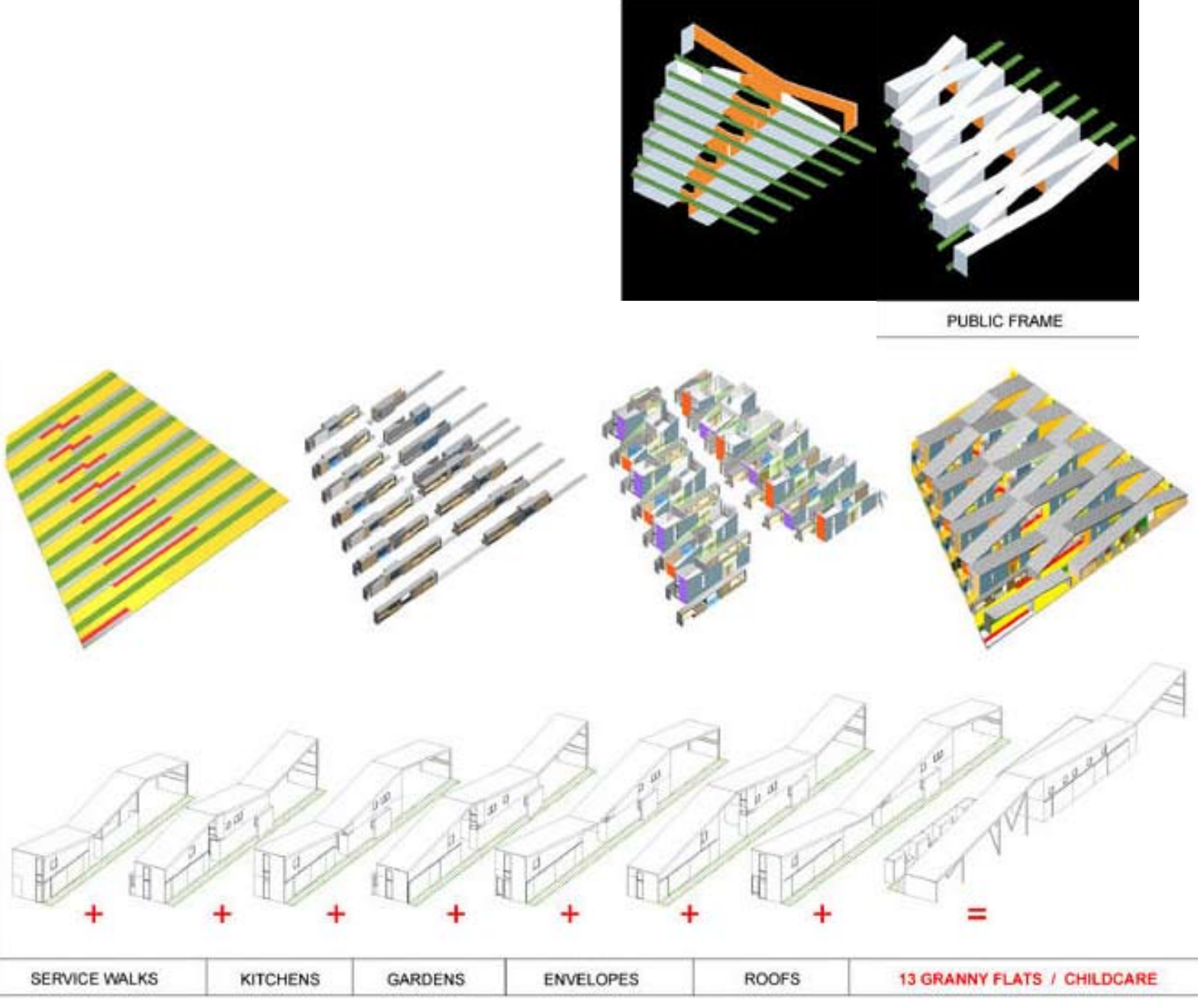
Small unwanted bungalows are trucked from San Diego across the border into Tijuana for reuse; they are often set up above street level on concrete frames, becoming two-story buildings with space for a store- front, garage, or other use below level.



Various applications of multiuse frame over time



Typologies included in Living Rooms at the Border



Senior Housing with Childcare

Cruz has designed a set of unique row houses providing thirteen granny flats with a childcare incorporated, which would be partially run by the seniors themselves.

What is potentially seminal about this project is the diverse set of land uses.

We need a new concept of density.
Density is still measured as a number of things, units, per acre. Why not measure it as a number of social and economic exchanges per acre?

Designing the protocols or the interfaces between communities and spaces, this is what's missing.

This means: how collective kitchens, informal markets and portents can all co-exist in the same building. > to challenge the American conception of the city as a rigidy zoned

To draw on the much more complex dynamics of informal economies, where no space goes to waste, where every inch belongs to a dense network of social and economic exchanges.

Urban Densification / Regeneration

Acupuncture / Networks
urban densification by overlapping multiple uses in punctual areas
> section

Ecological Design
urban densification by overlapping multiple uses in minor environmental nets
> section

‘Club Sandwich Urbanism’
>plan

Interior Urbanism / Superposition of uses

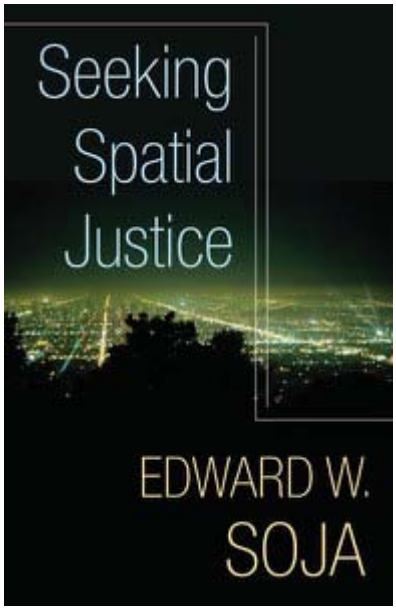
>Typologies Dislocation

Latin America, as a whole, has an uncanny ability to dislocate typologies. Cable cars are transplanted from ski resorts to tropical slums, escalator is plucked from its rightful place in airports and department stores to the urban mountainside.

What is at Stake in Urban Densification Strategies: **Spatial Justice**

"None of us is completely free from the struggle over geography", writes the Palestinian cultural critic Edward Said.

The scales of spatial justice are not separate and distinct; they interact and interweave in complex patterns. It is useful, then, to use a critical spatial perspective to explore the possibilities for developing new strategies to achieve greater socio-spatial justice.



In Latin American cities the quest for spatial justice mainly correspond to a 'right to centrality' to the definition of new spatial devices, new densification strategies able to provide social interactions and exchange places.

The Lefebvrian concept of "right to the city" occupies a special place in spatial justice research strategies as the two concepts, spatial justice and the right to the city, are so interwoven in their contemporary usage that it has become increasingly difficult to tell them apart.

In many Latin American cities, distributional inequality and spatial confinement in repetitive urban patterns, are the basic expression of spatial injustice.

In this sense, what is at stake in the search for urban densification strategies is a desire for a more spatial justice, a demand for greater control over the spaces in which people live.

Justice/Freedom

The specific term 'justice' has recently developed a particularly strong hold on the public and political imagination in comparison to such alternatives as 'freedom', with its now strongly conservative overtones.

In this sense, combining the terms spatial and justice opens up a range of new possibilities for social and political action.

Seen in this ways, recalling concepts of counter-projects, social and spatial justice, these urban densification project helps to achieve a more inclusive and amenable built urban environment in Latin American cities.

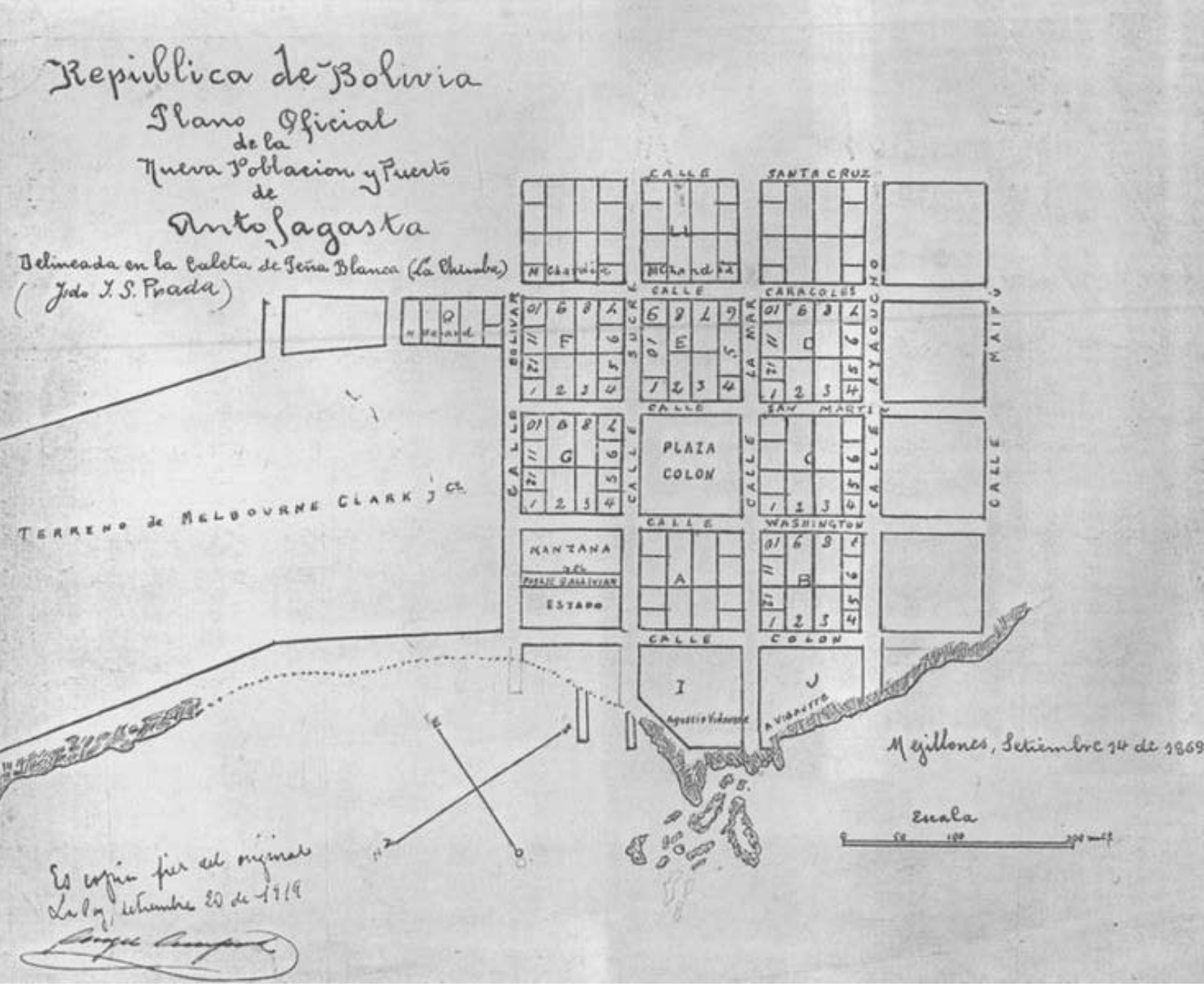
What is to avoid is the emergence of spaces for the pseudo-fête, or entertainment spaces, of spectacles, in which the apparent exuberant of the celebration thinly veils its disconnections from everyday rhythms and its capture within the domain of consumption.

What is to avoid is public space transformed into a stage of consumption rather than of sociability, or political action.

The Triumph of the Un-Lettered City?
It isn't the European city of memory and identity; it isn't any longer longer the classical modern city

This kind of city calls for modes of intervention that go beyond the perpetuation of the modern/ colonial logics that informed former planning strategies.

La critíca y la acefalía



El régimen pedagógico de la modernidad letrada

Se necesita pronunciarse en resistencia a las escenas marcadas por la presencia de una Imagen y un orden de Saber. Se trata de una forma de pensamiento sobr ela ciudad que muestra su incomodidad y su inquietud respecto de su propia condición. Experiecias que trazan una insistencia en un pensamiento entendido como una experiencia radical y transformadora, ligada a una disposición etica signada por dos actitudes fundamentales: **la critíca y la acefalía.**

La critíca es ante todo una actitud respeto del saber. Es la interrogación por su horizonte de posibilidad y es la sospecha inquieta respeto del proprio suelo en que la interrogación se produce. Supone, pues, una incomodidad y un recelo respecto al saber moderno y los lenguajes con que se compone su legitimidad.

La acefalía representa el fin de la cabeza, de la autoridad, de la jerarquia vertical. Remite, no ya a un sujeto, sono a una forma de conocimento que no tiene cabeza, en el sentido que no està dominada por un patron de pensamiento unico y uniformado.

Quitar al discurso la esterotipia, los enunciados cristalizados que cujan en una moral perezosa y conformista.

Descolonizar el discurso sobre la ciudad

Buscar una sintaxis entrecortada, fragmentaria y explosiva, una dicción ***menor*** como la llamaría Deleuze.

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