“Ollas”
urban phenomenon
in the city of Bogotá

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“Ollas” urban phenomenon
From urban decay to the revitalization of high complexity areas in the city of Bogotá

Approach to a model of urban and architectural strategies for the analysis and intervention of deteriorated territories for their reintegration into the urban life
The purpose of this document is, from an architectural point of view, to set out a question upon particular areas with atypical conditions in the territory and analyze them in spatial terms to consolidate an understanding, and subsequent proposal, based on the opportunities that lie at urban level in the city of Bogotá.

This idea is developed with the aim of constitute a dissertation work project that deals with the spatial and social problems of the chosen case, leading to the production of a urban and architectural proposal to opt for the Master’s degree in Architecture.
Abstract

"Ollas" urban phenomenon in the city of Bogotá, intends to analyze the cases known as "ollas" in the Colombian capital scenario, understanding these urban decay cases from an abstract concept applied to an area of high complexity where spatial, institutional and social factors converge and result in a built territory inhabited by vulnerable populations isolated from legality and conventional city dynamics; the above, with the aim of generating an urban and architectural proposal in the character of a model of acting based on the analysis of causes and effects of the entire system.

Problem

The cities are composed by a series of complex networks of relationships that shape an urban fabric based on the social condition developing around the territory. The urbanism that rules most human establishments today, can be clearly differentiated by the conditions in which the inhabitants have appropriated the spaces that constitute the urban centers.

In the case of the city of Bogotá, the contrasting territory is notorious. The capital district stands as the largest urban center in the country, which has a great historical, economic, and social burden and yet stands out strongly for its anti-value of urban deterioration.

Within the rest of the city, some sectors coexist despite of being on undergoing process of deterioration because of urbanistic and social reasons that determined the spatialization of the crime and marginal dynamics. This issue has spread and become more complex over time.

The areas called "ollas", remind the city the consequences of oblivion and indifference toward broken zones, and at the same time, set an opportunity to transform the urban environment through architectural actions.

Aims

1. Investigate the objectives of interventions in the urban space, through the study of its repercussions in the city, in order to complement the effective action strategies in the urban revitalization of marginal sectors.

2. Identify the particularities of a disrupted urban space, by means of the analysis of the functioning of the city regarding the existing “ollas”, in order to elaborate a proposal according to the determinants and conditions of the specific contexts.

3. Revalue as a whole the dimensions that are part of the problem of deterioration, through the forceful incorporation of the social, cultural and historical factor, to formulate an inclusive project that handles all the elements of the urban phenomenon in the sector.

4. Identify the system of “ollas” as zones of high complexity, by means of the study of the previous similar experiences, to identify guidelines that direct the urban approach towards the integral recovery of the area.

5. Propose guidelines that support the approach to a model of urban and architectural strategies to be applied in the case of an urban “olla”.

Methodology

1. Approach and analysis of the general deterioration problem and its translation into the specific situation of “ollas”.

2. Study of the urban phenomenon to identify problematics and opportunities.

3. Characterization of the case studies’ sites accompanied by a framework of concepts and references that support the interpretation of the matter.

4. State the urban projections.

5. Formulate a manual/model/catalog for urban and architectural actions using urban tools which area applied to the referred case studies.
General problem

Urban decay

Urban phenomenon
WHAT ARE THESE AREAS IN A PROCESS OF DETERIORATION?

WHY CERTAIN URBAN SPACES ARE ARISING TO WHICH THE CITY ITSELF IS INDIFFERENT?
"Latin American cities share a problem and also a great opportunity: Expansive urban growth that contrasts with large deteriorated or underutilized central areas but with the best urban supports."

Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Secretaría Distrital de Planeación, 2015

Complex networks of physical and intangible relations that shape the urban fabric

Urban neuralgic points

Diverse types of appropriation of the space

Abandonment, oblivion and indifference inside the city dynamics

Progressive and reiterative urban deterioration process

SOCIAL DISARRANGEMENT
(Loss of identity and value)

FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT
(Migration of activities)

PHYSICAL DECLINE
(Material damage)

The cities’ cores were formed by privileged residence and power centers.

With the industrial revolution, factories and commerce got infiltrated into the urban fabric and were located in the middle for accessibility reasons.

The residence use moved to the suburbs and a change of character of the city centers took place in terms of appropriation of the space.

+ Overuse of strategic land
+ Unsuitable infrastructure and spatial organization for the new uses

A progressive damage to the urban nuclei zone due to the migration of activities and dynamics became notorious.

The most vulnerable zones degraded physically and socially up to a point of no return.

XIX Industrial city

XIX Contemporary city

IMPAIRMENT OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE DETERMINED BY A SOCIAL PERTURBATION

Resulting from the growth model of cities that determined "transition zones" or "areas of deterioration" due to the migration of populations and the takeover of the sector by activities or services.

Ernest W. Burgess
Urban sociologist
University of Chicago
**DETERIORATED AREAS**

*Zones of high complexity*

The system of intricate conditions typical of a vulnerable territory in the process of degradation constitutes the base for the establishment of a phenomenon of spatialization of violence and crime in the area.

### Institutional view

+ Lack of knowledge of the inhabitants and of the general problems of the sector
+ Non-comprehensive interventions
+ Impunity
+ Absence of integral public policies
+ Security and justice deficit

### Spatial view

+ Physical impairment
+ Lack of basic services and minimum quality of life conditions
+ Spatial segregation
+ Architecture without identity
+ Change of function and meaning of public space
+ Lack of appropriation of the place

### Social view

+ Social disarrangement
+ Exclusion of populations
+ Groups of people in vulnerable conditions
+ Disintegration and inequality in the social fabric
+ Insecurity and crime issues
Conceptual framework

"CASTIGAR AL ENEMIGO: CRIMINALIDAD, EXCLUSIÓN E INSEGURIDAD"
Massimo Pavarini
(Reflections on the perception of urban decay)

"LUGARES E IMAGINARIOS EN LA METRÓPOLIS"
Alicia Lindón, Miguel Ángel Aguilar, Daniel Hiernaux
(The human experience as a necessarily spatial matter)

"TERRITORIOS DEL MIEDO EN BOGOTÁ"
Soledad Niño Murcia
(Stigmatization of territories in the city)

IN THE INDUSTRIAL CITY...
A zone is deteriorated when, in its shortfall, it is breaching concerning the mission of the urban space to organize itself in favor of the production process.

THE DETERIORATED AREAS:
Are those urban territories that generate a sense of strangeness, annoyance, anxiety and fear because it reveals an unresolved conflict over the use of public space and over the conventional regulation of social time (phenomenon and social behaviors that, when manifested, violate norms that they seem shared by some, many or few, and that concern the public space).

THE URBAN DECAY CONCEPT EMERGES FROM A SUBJECTIVE PERCEPTION

Elements of physical disorder, social disarrangement, and urban infrastructure

+ Social construction of places considered as central
+ Appropriation/belonging and identification with the public spaces of the city
+ Labelling of the “spaces of fears”

IMAGINARIES OF FEAR AND INSECURITY:
The developing of a process of creation of threatening figures and places turns up as a social construction of fear. These specific subjects and spaces reflect the social fears and disintegrate the experience of the city by subjecting it to the principle of threat and uncertainty.

City scenarios are formed from perceptions and social practices related to insecurity

Whatever is perceived as scary or simply disruptive is excluded and removed

Public spaces are associated with fear-producing places

When spaces and subjects associated with the production of fear coincide, it gives rise to cases like...

El Cartucho
in the city of Bogotá

From the social imaginaries are constituted forms of stigmatizing these sites and social subjects identified with risk and the type of use of public spaces

ISOLATION AND SEGREGATION

The imaginary world conditions the behavior of citizens in the city and the ways they interact with each others
“BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY”
James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling

(Model of behavior)

The physical disorder of some parts of the city accompanies the process of weakening the bonds of belonging between the territory and who inhabits it.

+ Freedom to commit a crime without any problem
+ The fear generated by the sector, not only for those who inhabit or frequent it, but also for those people who are foreign to it, but who indirectly learn about it through the mass media, bringing this situation to its stigmatization and an increase in the process of social marginalization.

Urban scenery where there are no state or community controls.

“CRIME PATTERN THEORY”
Paul J. Brantingham and Patricia L. Brantingham

(The insecurity has a geographical component and a spatial logic)

The crimes do not happen randomly, there are sectors, neighborhoods, or areas in which there are patterns or tendencies that are translated by transgressors as opportunities to commit crimes.

1. Identification of insecurity patterns in territorialized urban settings
2. Construction of criminal maps and the identification of factors that contribute to or consolidate this type of scenario.

“SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY”
Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay

(The phenomenon of the territorialization of citizen insecurity)

Violation of a tacit agreement on the rules of public behavior, which has effects on collective action.

Criminal nuclei originate and consolidate from the “social disorganization” that comes from the characteristics of an area, place or sector and the urban development reflected through its population.

Homeless people, prostitutes, addicts, and gang members.

CRITICAL POINTS OR VULNERABLE SECTORS:
The appropriation and sustained capture overtime of phenomena such as insecurity and criminality in certain urban areas or neighborhoods.

Explanatory theories
OF THE TERRITORIALIZATION OF INSECURITY THROUGH THE TERRITORY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT
"Ollas"

Urban phenomenon
Urban phenomenon

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CONCEPT OF URBAN “OLLAS”

Highly complex areas inside a context of urban fragility where spatial, institutional, and social factors come together, resulting in a territory inhabited by vulnerable populations isolated from legality and conventional city dynamics.

* The word “olla” in Spanish would translate directly as “pot”. The meaning, in this case, refers to a metaphor of a pressure cooker, filled with water, brought to a boil. The valve, clogged, does not let off steam and eventually the pot will burst. It refers to a godforsaken place doomed to blast at some point.

WHERE THE “OLLAS” COME FROM?

CASE STUDIES IN...

The World

Poblado Penamoa
Spain
The Bronx
United States
Taunusstraße
Germany
Secondigliano
Italy
Topito
Mexico
La colonia 22 de abril
El Salvador
Favela Rocinha
Brazil
Villa del Bajo Flores
Argentina
Marconi
Uruguay

Colombia

“Callejón Carrillo”
Cartagena
“Zona del Cachacal”
Barranquilla
“Curva Pele del Ojo”
Cúcuta

“Cueva del humo”
Armenia
“El Cartucho”
Bogotá

“El Calvario”
Cali

Bogotá

SANTA INÉS:
The story of a forgotten neighborhood

Consolidation of El Cartucho

CONFRONT THE FEAR:
A demolishing story

The development of the “ollas” can’t be conceived without understanding first the case of El Cartucho

Development of the Urban Phenomenon

The ghosts of the former “olla”

Tercer Milenio metropolitan park, why?
REFE"RENT CASES

Territorialization of citizen insecurity

In these territories, the deterioration, abandonment, urban decline, and the lack of action; initially led to some problems considered minor (invasion of land, clandestine use of public services, drug consumption, sale of narcotic drugs at retail). But with the passage of time and the sustained inaction of the State, it led to more serious situations (ruin and decline of housing, micro-trafficking, consolidation of criminal structures, and social fear of these sectors).

In NEW YORK, neighborhoods like the SOUTH BRONX in the 70s and 80s experienced a time of decline due to the economic situation, the high crime rate and drug-related social problems.

The deterioration and abandonment of the most vulnerable areas and the stigmatization of the sector made the process of social exclusion to increase and therefore its poverty, inequality and unemployment. Against this background, criminal activities and drug trafficking were the only option to survive.

TAUNUSSTRASSE in FRANKFURT, near the central station, is a sector characterized by a perceptual change in space due to its night dynamics in establishments for the consumption of alcohol, drugs, prostitution and the presence of mafias; all along one street.

Only when the problem was no longer ignored, it was able to start an urban and architectural space recovery process.
EL CALVARIO neighborhood is located in the central area of the city of CALI.

Thanks to the absence of a comprehensive public policy necessary for social and space reconstruction, the problem led to the deterioration of the territory and the marginalization of addicts and street dwellers.

The institutional response focused on the implementation of three types of measures: urban, coercive and social; within the framework of an urban renewal project.

The action was aimed at the relocation of street vendors, the construction of new buildings, equipment and the improvement of existing spaces. In the coercive and social aspects, police interventions and executions of resocialization programs and attention to the population were carried out.

EL POBLADO PENAMOA, in LA CORUÑA, was a settlement that after 28 years and four plans for eradication, no longer exists - it was evicted year after year until finally in 2012, the last house and farmhouse were demolished to build a road work.

It was called “Chabolista” - in Spain known as a poor neighborhood made up of socially excluded people -.

Before entering to demolish the settlement, the electricity and aqueduct services were installed, urban infrastructure works were carried out and social programs were started.

There was an isolation of the area, a disorderly growth and an absence of public policies, which generated the marginalization of the sector. Most of its inhabitants engaged in street vending, buying and selling scrap metal, selling drugs, and crime.

TEPITO is a popular neighborhood in MEXICO CITY known for the culture of illegality.

The relevant feature of this particular case was the actions taken against the problems.

The construction of sports centers, schools and spaces for artistic exhibitions was launched to take the population away from crime. Likewise, an initiative was led to build rehabilitation centers for drug addicts in the sector. Furthermore, as a participatory and inclusive strategy, cleaning and cleaning campaigns were carried out at stalls, corridors and streets with the participation of inhabitants and merchants.

Concentration of informal and illegal trade

Tolerant and permissive government against crime

Social stigmatization and clustering of poverty

Presence of criminal micro-traffic structures

Lack of projects to revive the economy

Concentration of poverty

Lack of a public policy that seeks the recovery of the social fabric and equity

Overcrowding of homes and surrounding areas in poverty

Functional architectural impairment

Indifference towards crime

Informal trading

Micro-traffic consolidation

This zone once represented a critical area for insecurity, but the recovery that was achieved also stands out.
A place called El Cartucho

The disappearance of El Cartucho led to think within the collective imaginary that the critical problems of insecurity in central urban sectors had disappeared; when in reality, they only were dispersed.

* The name “Cartucho” comes from the flower cartridge, that was commonly present in the gardens of the houses of this street in the old Santa Inés neighborhood.
Background of The Bronx

Plaza San Victorino before the intervention, 1991
Agglomeration of commercial activity

Plaza San Victorino after the intervention
Partial recovery of public space

Specific problem: "Ollas"

First intervention
(1998-2000)
El Cartuco

Land reference values 2016,
Santa Inés
The intervention was very successful in terms of land valorization

Second intervention
(2016)
The Bronx

Land reference values 2016,
Bronx and area of influence
The consolidation of the commercial vocation of the Voto Nacional’s sector, has a great land development potential

In the center of power
The Bronx was located less than a kilometer from the country’s main institutions

In El Cartuco’s footprint, the current Tercer Milenio metropolitan park was built. A good initiative with a flawed urban design.
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE BRONX? THE CARTUCHO’S LEGACY

Displacement and strengthening of the dynamics and actors of “El Cartucho”

Spatialization of activities in warehouses, abandoned buildings and public space

Consolidation of a critical sector that the District could not ignore anymore

Need of a partial plan proposal for the entire sector of Voto Nacional and La Estanzuela

Displacement of the actors and activities to nearby vulnerable spaces

+ SOCIAL INTERVENTION ("Olla’s inhabitans")
+ ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION (Urban renewal: demolition)

+ Intervention of The Bronx

TERRITORY CONTROL AND URBAN RENEWAL
+ Taking of the territory by the institutions in charge
+ Cleaning and lighting of the sector
+ Urban renewal project that begins with the demolition of 80 properties

SECURITY AND JUSTICE
+ Disarticulation of criminal gangs
+ Eradication and punishment of the crimes that took place
+ Establishment of security in the area

SOCIAL INTERVENTION
+ Social care for the inhabitants of the Bronx
+ Restitution of rights to the vulnerable populations
+ Action programmes with a social focus

CHALLENGES AND RISKS
+ The State has limited information of these areas
+ Risk of displacement of the problems
+ Danger of get worse conditions for some population groups
+ Opposition of inhabitants to the imposed measures
Mapping the identified elements enables to link the illegality and insecurity issues with degraded zones. The spatialization of violence and crime is evidenced in areas of the city with an active process of general decay.

In Bogotá there are several vulnerable areas that are occupied by illegal activities such as drug markets run by criminal networks.

This system has been intervened by the district in a non-comprehensive way with a single purpose of control of the territory. The previous has encourage the problematic activities that took place in a former sector to persist and get dispersed in another locations.

The atomizing of the issues works as a process of metastasis by sectors of the city in which optimal conditions for the development of these dynamics are provided: areas in urban decay process.
ACTORS AND DYNAMICS

The urban space and the inhabitat

The so-called “ollas” have a complexity of components that can be explained from the kind of appropriation of the space given by the people who inhabit it.

Commerce and industry are present activities in the majority of cases of deteriorated zones

The presence of recycling warehouses is a point in common in the formation of “ollas”

The homeless people are mostly used by criminals to commit illegal acts in their behalf

Minors are victims of criminals due to the proximity to educational institutions
As relevant actors of the system, the homeless population’s behavior helps to track the displacement of the dynamics of the “olla” based on their appropriation of the space, and specifically recycling as essential activity. Recycling warehouses are a survival input for homeless and recyclers who move and establish there to generate profits.

The previous is linked to the fact that the most deteriorated sectors owe their condition, in part, to the presence of industry and warehousing. Uses that often lack of appropriation and activeness.

Tracking the degraded sectors and vulnerable industrial and warehouses hubs, is clear that the flow of homeless population tends to displace where they can find similar conditions of the former “olla” continuing the former logic.

On the other hand, the drug markets see also in these non-places the ideal clandestine scenario to operate. Through harassment and blackmail, they usually use the inhabitants of the streets to consolidate a system of impunity.
Street inhabitants

URBAN “OLLAS
FROM THE OUTLOOK OF THE MAIN ACTORS

To comprehend the operation of the system of the “ollas”, it is necessary first to understand the dynamics through the sight of the people that inhabits the streets every day and are highly engaged: the homeless population.

How a street inhabitant is treated in a city measure the level of society and the capacity of the State to act upon the particular situation of these vulnerable citizens.
"The street dweller has a way of occupying the space, and the city does not want to conceive a place for them. They try to conquer territories, but the State has ran them out from each spot, until it has taken them to the most ignominious place there can be: a channeled river."

Alberto López de Mesa, 2018

**How do they survive?**

- **Specific problem: “Ollas”**
- **Care program:**
  - 48% of the aid offered to the homeless population comes from an official institution
  - 51% of street dwellers do not agree with the care programs

- **Street dwellers attended:** 11,487
  - “Blue Angels” 700
  - 2,607 in Idipron
  - 9,631 in SIS

- **2,125** accepted the relief services
- **404** completed the assistance process
- **1,030** in the process of care
- **5** more care units under construction

39% of street inhabitants obtain income through recycling, which is why they maintain a constant rapport with recycling warehouses.

**How is the State’s assistance in this regard? What do they think about it?**

- There are currently shelters located in Santa Fe, Los Mártires, Puente Aranda, and Engativá
- The “Blue Angels” tour the city to persuade street dwellers
- 81% of the homeless population is aware of the district plans

**How do they understand their space?**

- Companionship status is assumed to be solitary
- Lack of belongings is taken for granted
- Assumption of a necessity of changing the lifestyle in a forceful way
- The assistance programs are provided in isolation

CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STREET (Place of living)

DIFFERENT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE URBAN SPACE (Contrasting modality)

SEGREGATION EFFECT (Socially-spatially)

THE HOMELESS POPULATION IS NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR AFTER AN INTERVENTION, AND NEITHER THE DRUG USE SCHEME

From the spatial dimension, the levels and capacities of the urban environment can be worked out in order to assimilate the social complex situation.
Inside the system, the "ollas" can be sorted according to their scale of size and distribution scheme. The mother "ollas" (big scale) represent the completely consolidated territories according to the mentioned features. Characteristics also present in small scale neighborhood "ollas" linked to the network.

Classification of “ollas in Bogotá”

Major or central “ollas”
- Satellite or peripheral "ollas"

FROM the inhabitants » TO the territory

Social vulnerability
- Inequality
- Concentration of poverty and unemployment
- Street dwellers and minors as vulnerable characters

"Ollas" in Bogotá
- Instrumentalization of vulnerable actors along with the indifference of citizens

Structural condition
- Deregulated urbanization
- Conditional appropriation of public space

Security and justice gap
- Weak or non-existent attention in certain places in the city that generates spaces of impunity
- Fragility of the State as institution

Ability of criminals to take over rundown areas with dysfunctional institutions

+ Mother “ollas”

Amberes
Quarter El Rincón
UPZ 28: EL RINCÓN
Locality of Suba
- Socioeconomic stratum 2 homes with narrow, heavily trafficked streets
- Amberes Park surroundings renowned for the sale and consumption of drugs
- Location of the CAI of

Diana Turbay y Quiroga
Locality of Rafael Uribe Uribe
- Located next to the school La Paz C.E.D
- Narrow, unpaved roads, grey work building site houses with tin roofs and building materials stacked on the sidewalks

San Cristobal Norte
Quarter San Bernardo
UPZ 11: S.C. NORTE
Locality of Usaquén
- Dynamics of selling drugs with home delivery
- Conventional urbanization
- It is located a few blocks from the CAI Villa Nidia

San Ber
Quarter San Bernardo
UPZ 95: LAS CRUCES
Locality of Santa Fe
- Trading of stolen goods and common crime
- Narrow, dirty and poorly lit streets

Cinco Huecos
Quarter La Sabana
UPZ 102: LA SABANA
Locality of Los Mártires
- It is adjacent to the Agustín Nieto district school and is a few blocks from the San José Hospital
- Presence of rubbish, camouflages and high levels of overcrowding

Cuadra Alegre
Quarter Carvajal
UPZ 45: CARVAJAL
Locality of Kennedy
- Bars, discos and liquor stores
- Active nightlife
- Great influence of people

Cartuchito
Quarter El Amaparito
UPZ 80: CORABASTOS
Locality of Kennedy
- It is adjacent to Corabastos' headquarters (where the drugs come in)
- Narrow, unpaved streets, with the presence of cambuces, concentration of rubbish and garbage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific problem</th>
<th>&quot;Ollas&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SECURITY FORCES</strong></td>
<td>Paradoxically, C.A.I. or police centers are present nearby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ZONE OF IMPUNITY</strong></td>
<td>Microtraffic activity (gancho) and active roles of &quot;bell ringer&quot;, &quot;ticket agent&quot;, &quot;sayayin&quot;, dealer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct personal sale</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indirect door-to-door deal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOMELESS POPULATION</strong></td>
<td>Refugee population instrumentalised by crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNREGULATED URBANISM</strong></td>
<td>Exceptions or unusual conditions in the urban environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narrow or non-existent connectivity</td>
</tr>
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<td>Isolation due to urban voids</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SPACE AREA</strong></td>
<td>Existence of parks or plazas that are used as transition points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td>Positioning close to institutions for children (vulnerable population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESOLVED STREETS</strong></td>
<td>The space becomes confined and invisible to the city itself</td>
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<td>Tendency towards urban segregation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WAREHOUSE</strong></td>
<td>Recycling cellars with and architecture unrelated to the context</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Survival activity for waste pickers and street dwellers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADAPTIVE CRIMINALITY</strong></td>
<td>Presence of small scale &quot;ollas&quot; near a big scale one to follow-up</td>
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*There is always a prevailing process of real state speculation driven through public policies by the landlords market and large capital holders*
Uncovering the “ollas”

Site characterization
The "ollas" are not produced spontaneously in the city. They need a propitious urban environment and particular social conditions to be able to adapt and establish themselves in the territory.

The whole is now part of the territory and spreads in its entire urban space.

The system adapts by means of punctual interventions that coexist with the conventional dynamics of the sector.
Uncovering the "ollas"

The Urban Decay: Is Pre or Post "olla"?

Causes and Consequences

WHERE

HOW

- does the conflict occur?
- can be categorized?
- to intervene?

AN "olla" ESSENTIALLY REQUIRES THE SPACES AND DYNAMICS THAT ONLY A CITY CAN PROVIDE

The territorial transformation processes incurred by urban spaces depend on whether the deteriorated scenarios are conducive to the development of an "olla", or whether they are degraded due to the presence of a former one.
An “olla” without city is not an “olla”

"To put an end to the ‘ollas’, although desirable for the tranquility of the citizens, is also naive if what is wanted is to implement a process of ‘urban cleaning’ that nothing can confront the fundamental reasons that lead to spaces like these being developed in the city.”

— El Espectador, 2008

"Las ‘ollas’, aun si su número parecería crecer, siempre han existido. Borrarlas del espacio físico, hacer como si su desaparición fuese una simple tarea de “limpieza” y “remonción”, no constituye una respuesta indicada.

“Las ‘ollas’, even if their number would seem to grow, have always existed. Deleting them from physical space, making their disappearance a simple task of “cleaning” and “removing”, is not an indicated response (...).”

— El Espectador, 2008

"(...) the inevitable formation of slums or places deteriorated by society and space, as responses to the vertiginous movement, to ‘order’, to work; activities typical of a city that belongs to a political and economic system that, although it pretends the uniformity of people, necessarily generates opposite spaces, more sensitive, that respond to human nature."

— Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural, 2011

"... The city requires alternative spaces to get it, to consume it, to establish sexuality, the need to live illegality as legality: The city is a living being (...)."

— Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural, 2011

"The underworlds are different, the city itself dialogues with the identity of that deterioration and shows a historicity, it is an exchange of times."

— Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural, 2011

"La ciudad requiere de espacios alternativos para conocerla, consumirla, establecer la sexualidad, la necesidad de vivir la ilegalidad como legalidad. La ciudad es un ser vivo."

— Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural, 2011

"Los bajos mundos son distintos, la ciudad misma dialoga con la identidad de ese deterioro y muestra una historicidad, es un intercambio de tiempos.” (Entrevista Personal María Teresa Salcedo 2 de Septiembre de 2009).

"A city without an “olla” is not a city"
CINCO HUECOS

Controversial junction

The street is known as Cinco Huecos. It’s actually in Carrera 19A, between 12th and 13th streets, a few blocks away from San Jose Hospital, Plaza España and the former train station La Sabana. This street is considered supremely dangerous since it hides not only drug consumers, but also criminals with extensive backgrounds.
20TH CENTURY
first three decades

Los Martires locality arises from the park under the same name, round which an urban development was generated consolidating its condition of central area, overall due to its level of metropolitan influence facilities and economic activities, and as well because of its geographical position.

40’s - 50’s timeframe

The neighborhood was formed by commerce, small industries and a resident population with a rental system. The Plaza España, a wholesale marketplace, was located there and was evicted by other supply plants.

CINCO HUECOS sector is related to the evicted uses of the squares and fleet terminals that attracted informal activities of all kinds, such as street sales, repairs, bottle, paper and scrap recycling warehouses, and which strengthened rental systems such as tenancy.

In the last 30 years period

Since the 1970s, the deterioration began to affect the area directly.

In the 80’s there were dynamics of drug trafficking.

The urban processes were shaping, in the town, highly dangerous sectors popularly known as “ollas.”

Who resides in the site?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>154</th>
<th>764</th>
<th>240</th>
<th>206</th>
<th>148</th>
<th>175</th>
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<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>25-59</td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>0-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEARS OLD</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vulnerable minors and adults (street dwellers) as sensitive population of the system of impunity

Which are the relevant characteristics of the area?

Of the population of the UPZ La Sabana, is in the lower-middle and lower stratum; the remaining percentage is called as “no stratum”

The rental housing and the model of renting rooms contributes to the low appropriation and attention to public space

The sector has a large amount of facilities in relation to its population:

+ Welfare facilities
+ Education facilities

Properties of cultural interest in the area

Small scale or neighborhood-type parks
Uncovering the “ollas”

The change of infrastructure in the sector with the creation of main roads and extensions, reinforced the limits. The road system is high traffic letting spaces practically pedestrian or activity free.

There is a devaluation of the urban environment near the study sector, likewise in this one an urban deterioration is consolidated before the “olla”, so it even gets exacerbated.

Land uses

There is a grouping of dynamics in which the presence of storage use becomes relevant with a set of architecture that do not generate relations with the pedestrians.

Urban stratification

The urban context is determined by housing and public space with low urban supports.
CONSOLIDATION AND
CHARACTERIZATION OF THE “OLLAS”

CINCO HUECOS CASE

Uncovering the “ollas”

1. SAN JOSÉ HOSPITAL
2. PLAZA ESPAÑA
   Public space: plaza
3. AGUSTÍN NIETO CABALLERO
   NATIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL
4. ANTONIA SANTOS NATIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL
   Institutions for children
5. CENTRAL FIRE DEPARTMENT
   MARTÍRES POLICE STATION
   Institutional security facilities
6. WHOLESALE TRADE CENTERS
   Fluctuating activities of storage, parking and hotels
7. COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSES
8. CLOSED STREETS
9. LA SABANA STATION

Presence of rubbish, cambuches and overcrowding of street dwellers
Micro-traffic net with continuous direct sale and consumption on the site

THE UNRESOLVED AND DETERIORATED AREA IS CONFINED AND BY CONSEQUENCE INVISIBLE TO THE CITY AS A RESIDUAL SPACE
ÁMBERES

Urban public space as point of disguise for crime

This area northwest of Bogota has some different characteristics from the other major “ollas”. Most homes are low-rise surrounded with narrow busy streets. Even though there is an active urban life and a police center around the park, this place is renowned for its drug consumption regardless of all the children from nearby schools that also live here.
In the villages that compose the territory, especially in El Rincón, at first, the Chibcha indigenous group took shelter and stood up for themselves. Their main economic activity was agriculture and the commercialization of its products around the square, which today is a park.

It is characterized because the quarters are mostly consolidated, as their development began more than thirty years ago. The Rincón sector concentrates the largest number of legalized neighbourhoods.

Today Ámberes Park is a scene of social gathering that hides gang activity.

An urban deterioration is present due to the levels of density and the low urban support.

There is a notorious overcrowding and invasion of public space by street vendors, huts, awnings and market places, which make pedestrian and vehicular traffic a problem.

**Who resides in the site?**

- **4.8%** are seniors over 64
- **27.5%** are children under 15

24.8% of the locality’s population lives in the site.

**Where do the services fit?**

- Facilities per capita
- Green area per capita

The condition of high density population contributes to a breakdown in the urban infrastructure of facilities and green areas.

**Which are the relevant characteristics of the area?**

- **60.4%** Represents the total of 6,731 tenants out of 11,711 inhabitants which are registered in the rental modality

Rental housing is predominant, contributing to low appropriation and attendance of the public space.
Uncovering the "ollas"

**Mobility infrastructure**

The narrow streets are crossed by several means of transport such as buses, motorbikes, taxis and bicycles. There is a main road at 500 mts, Calle 127; and pto 1 km away, the Suba Avenue as a connection to the Transmilenio system.

**Land uses**

Residential activity predominates and is complemented by neighborhood commerce such as various shops, bakeries and stationers.

**System of parks and educational and security facilities**

The study sector is developed around one of the Ámberes Park, with the presence of the CAI Rincón. The area has a low percentage of facilities per capita, of which educational centers prevail.

**Urban stratification**

The neighborhood is consolidated and contains the largest number of legalized neighborhoods in the locality. The majority of the homes are of stratum 2, which exposes its classification as a residential area of incomplete development.
CONSOLIDATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE "OLLAS"

AMBERES CASE

- Villa Elisa District School
- School Gimnasio Santander
- Globert High School
- Child Development High School
- El Nuevo Colombiano
- Ramón de Zuburbia School
- Neil Armstrong School

Institutions for children

Ámberes Park
Main public scenario and civic meeting point

C.A.I. Rincón (Police Station)
Institutional security facility

Closed and Narrow Streets
Dead points in the connectivity and heavy traffic transit

Presence of street dwellers in demolished or abandoned buildings nearby
Drugs trade with home-delivery method and direct sale and consumption in the park

IllegaL Activities Take Place in the Sight of the City and Its Residents Defining the Site as an Urban Area of Impunity with Informal Architecture

Camouflaged crime in the urban daily dynamics
Quarter-scale residential and commercial activity

Close vulnerable young population as main drug users
CUADRA ALEGRE

The role of urban dynamics in local contrasting areas

In the Southwest of Bogotá, this zone, formerly known as “Cuadra picha”, is a party area known for the amount of bars, discos and liquor stores located there. In these adapted establishments, illegal drug and alcohol consumption is common, especially at night in comparison to the diverse urban dynamics in the deteriorated area in the daytime.
Kennedy’s urbanization began with the construction of the hacienda called Techo in the 1930s. From the airport emerged the working class neighborhoods through the proposal of self-construction.

The Carvajal neighborhood began its construction to provide shelter for those displaced by the violence.

The neighborhood was thus consolidated according to the housing activity.

Occupation processes continued through the urban development that this program meant was unprecedented; it was the core of an accelerated process of urbanization that included improvements in transportation infrastructure.

With a high density of population and single and multi-family homes, commerce made inroads and this, added to the consolidation of Corabastos, led to an industrial system with storage spaces.

The informal occupation of land and filling of wetlands generated problems of lack of quality in the urban environment.

Who resides in the site?

- Vulnerable minors and adults (street dwellers) as sensitive population of the system of impunity

Which are the relevant characteristics of the area?

- Higher employment participation: 22.9%

- The use of storage warehouses was established in the sector and it occupies the second highest share of the locality in this activity. There is a centralized tendency to trade in the corridor of Avenida 1 de Mayo or the "zona rosa of the South."

- As far as residential use is concerned, most of it is in non-residential property (self-constructed housing)

- The zone has a good support of green areas and facilities lead by the educational and cultural uses
There are two main roads less than 500 meters away: Avenida Boyacá and Avenida 1 de Mayo. The avenues have STIP routes, but no connection to the Transmilenio system. The conformation of blocks shapes a series of closed streets.

Residential activity prevails despite the occasional presence of consolidated commercial areas. Warehouse use is present in the sector.

The area has a metropolitan park, as well as a high percentage of green areas around which educational facilities are developed. The sector also counts with the presence of the CAI Plaza.

The sector is almost entirely composed of buildings of stratum 3, which qualifies the urban supports of the area in the middle of the scale.
Uncovering the “ollas”

CONSOLIDATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF THE “OLLAS”
CUADRA ALEGRE CASE

PUBLIC SPACES
Residual green areas and closed public spaces

CHAMBERS SCHOOL
Institutions for children

C.A.I. PLAZA LAS AMÉRICAS
(POLICE STATION)
Institutional security facility

TRADE CENTER PLAZA DE LAS AMÉRICAS
Fluctuating activities of storage, parking and hotels

COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSES

CLOSED STREETS
The truncated morphology of the roads plus the dynamics of the area have led to the trellising of the streets for safety reasons

MUNDO AVENTURA
Amusement park

Presence of street dwellers in nearby areas

Micro-traffic net with an interrupted direct drug sale and consumption on site

SPOTLIGHT ON URBAN ACTIVITY WITH ADAPTED ARCHITECTURE THAT HOSTS SPECIFIC LEISURE DYNAMICS AT NIGHTTIME IN CONTRAST WITH ITS STATE OF DECLINE
FIELD RESEARCH

Delve into the matter from the experience

In order to analyze the information gained from the diverse areas that compound the system, the external perspective of connoisseurs that work on the matter from either the sociologic aspect or from the urban logic creates the perfect window of opportunity to link the subjects and obtain a relevant and useful input.
Psychologist known as ‘the guide of the other Bogotá’ shared his experience since he has been walking the streets of the city for 40 years, with a special focus on the most vulnerable areas.

“I have been walking the city of Bogotá day and night since the 1970s and I have been going to all those infamous places for years. As soon as I lapsed into the Bronx and the Cartucho, they called me ‘the mayor ‘nero’...

I know many of these dynamics, but above all I know processes that are linked to them that are not easily detected or enunciated”...

In one of the many times when I used to take walks with the street inhabitants, talking with a child at 10 p.m., we arrived at the middle of a block and he told me that he would not pass further because, right in that spot, they had killed his little friend; symbolically for him, the territory ends, there is the limit between life and death". It is the limit of his resistance, of his possibility to do something, even if that does not determines anything to him physically or spatially. It is a very profound cultural element that the district policies do not take into account...

The deterioration occurs through symbolic variables such as fear... there are territories which people understand do not belong to anyone, and then, they start to deteriorate... Space starts to deteriorate because in fact it does not belong to anyone, but then, it begins to be inhabited by the underworld of drugs, drug trafficking, and delinquency.”

Hernando Gómez, 2018
SYSTEMATIZATION OF INFORMATION

Typification of the referenced "ollas" within its system

Although the pots in Bogotá share characteristics, they can be classified according to the relationship of deterioration and the level of incidence of particular urban conditions.

Major or central "olla"

Big nodes

Widespread "olla"

Base territory with irregular urban conditions + "olla" (negative dynamics) = Already degraded territory worsens with further deterioration

Conventional territory + "olla" = Negative dynamics prevail

The whole is now part of the territory and spreads in its entire urban space.
Uncovering the “ollas”

**Major or central “olla”**

![Diagram of Major or central “olla”](image)

**Onset of deterioration**

![Diagram of Onset of deterioration](image)

**Embedded “olla”**

![Diagram of Embedded “olla”](image)

**Base territory with good urban conditions**

“olla” (negative dynamics)

Area in the process of urban deterioration

**Conventional territory**

“olla”

Common and negative dynamics coexist

The system adapts by means of punctual interventions that coexist with the conventional dynamics of the sector.

**Major or central “olla”**

![Diagram of Major or central “olla”](image)

**Onset of deterioration**

![Diagram of Onset of deterioration](image)

**Embedded “olla”**

![Diagram of Embedded “olla”](image)

**Base territory with good urban conditions**

“olla” (negative dynamics)

Area in the process of urban deterioration

**Conventional territory**

“olla”

Common and negative dynamics coexist

The system adapts by means of punctual interventions that coexist with the conventional dynamics of the sector.
Uncovering the “ollas”

“Ollas” space, sale and consumption concentrated taking place within architecture, besides recycling activities, uncharacterized for covering the entire territory with spaces of decay that are favorable for the development of the dynamics of the “ollas.”

Space for sale and consumption that occur in isolation, as well as recycling activities, indigence, delinquency, and illegally.

Space of sale and consumption that is presented in a conditioned way. Recycling and homelessness activities are independent of crime and illegally.

Space of being particular cases with specific conditions. These are diffused with the dynamics of the economy and get deteriorated thanks to the mutation of the

Characterized for adapting and blend with the functioning of the territory and cause deterioration of the space thanks to the progressive mutation of itself.

Characterized for covering the entire territory with spaces of decay that are favorable for the development of the dynamics of the “ollas.”

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Characterized for covering the entire territory with spaces of decay that are favorable for the development of the dynamics of the “ollas.”
Uncovering the “ollas”

Phases of the “ollas” system

Strategies

Public space as a transition

Uncovering warehouses

Institutions for minors

Nearby security centres

Street dwellers and recyclers

Criminals

Minors

"Olla"

Unveils inevitable mirar atrás y repasar la cronología del lugar para darle inicio a la identificación de las circunstancias por las que esta antigua y prestigiosa zona decayó.

"(...) it becomes inevitable to look back and review the chronology of the place to start identifying the circumstances by which this ancient and prestigious area declined."

Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Instituto Distrital de Patrimonio Cultural, 2011.

1. Find out the spaces to intervene in the city from the symptoms that point to places prone to become “ollas” in the future.

2. Carry out actions with respect to the essential factors that produce “ollas” as these are inaudible in the city.

MORE COMPLEX SOLUTIONS FOR MORE COMPLEX CASES

Components

Deterioration

Abandonment

Illegality and crime

Spatial segregation

Transport infrastructure

Territory in irregular urban conditions

Structural condition

Element of urban fragility

Territory in good urban conditions

Fear and insecurity

Impunity system

Illegality and crime

Security and public policy deficit

Absence of integrity in the interventions

Ignorance of the issue

Spaces for sale and/or consumption of drugs

Network of relations between actors

Vulnerable population

Exclusion and marginalization

Social disarrangement

Functional impairment

Components
Uncovering the “ollas”

Possible factor interactions

i.99
i.100
i.101

Conditions within the range

Mayor or central “olla”
Satellite or peripheral “olla”
Widespread “olla”
Embedded “olla”
“olla” type 1
“olla” type 2
“olla” type 3
Spatial action
Institutional action
Social action

PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES
TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGIES

LOOKING AHEAD

+ The zones in decay are breeding grounds prone to the formation of new “ollas”
+ The leading mutating areas are highly concentrated in the center of the capital

Bogotá now has 1,372 critical susceptible points

There are 11 identified mother “ollas” and more than 600 small weak spots

Vulnerable areas in the city
Uncovering the “ollas”

Change and concentration of “ollas” in Bogotá

Variation in the dynamics and projections

(2016) The Bronx
Condition after intervention
Probability of existence of “ollas” (Future)

Increase
Stable
Decrease

(2016) Corabastos
Condition after intervention
Probability of existence of “ollas” (Future)

Null
Low
High

Shortly after interventions, a spillover effect happened, as gangs and regular visitors to the sector sought out new areas with similar characteristics that would allow them to continue their activities.
System conclusions

In the city of Bogotá, the overlapping of deteriorated zones and areas with concentrations of crime results in the urban areas in which the "ollas" are developed.

This urban phenomenon behaves like a pathological strain.

When there is a process of deterioration, urban mutations of the spaces are developed in a physical and functional state.

According to this, they merge with social factors of vulnerability and an "olla" is generated.

Diverse factors of space, institutional, and social order with different levels of complexity converge and generate "ollas" as zones of complexity.

An "olla" does not arise spontaneously, it is made due to urban factors plus a mixture of social conditions.

The "ollas" are shaped as spaces of fear, insecurity, and spatialized deterioration.

There are complementary conceptual categories such as space (the metrically constrained) vs. the territory (the culturally inhabited).

Delimitation of the "olla" with mainly territorial elements (symbolic limits) involving the cultural factor.

It is possible to make a classification of "ollas" according to the relationship with the urban environment and its state of transformation within the territory.

There are different typologies of the phenomenon with common urban conditions.

The rooted type of "ollas" have accumulated a lot of experience of transformation. Although their dismantling has been announced several times, reality shows that they do not disappear. THEY MUST BE ASSUMED AS PART OF THE CITY.

Activities that take place like recycling could be separated from crime, but street dwellers and recyclers will continue to interact as part of the system.

The key is to find the spaces to intervene in the city from the symptoms that paint the places prone to become "ollas" in the future. As well as accidental current ones according to their scale.

The actions with regard to the essential factors that produce "ollas" require more complex actions for more complex cases.

"(...) these are experiences of urban degradation (...), which require us to adopt models of territorial intervention in highly complex scenarios."

Razón Pública, 2019
Urban scenarios

Prospective city images
What if...?
WHAT IF THE "OLLAS" SPACES CONTINUE TO BE IGNORED RATHER THAN TREATED AS A STRUCTURAL URBAN PROBLEMATIC WITHIN THE CITY?
WHAT IF IT IS DETERMINED TO END THE SITUATION ONLY BY DE-MOLISHING TOWARDS A "CLEAN SLATE" APPROACH?

Loss of architecture identity driven by a utopian thinking of city perfection

Resurgence and migration of the problematics in other parts of the town led by urban decay
WHAT IF AN URBAN-ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT COULD BE A TOOL TO TACKLE THE CITY CRISIS AND SOCIAL COMPLICATION GENERATED BY THE “OLLAS”? 

Act taking in account the city innovation plans on “Economia naranja” (creative economy) 

Points of deterioration as potential triggers for social relations and reintegrations into the urban life
Urban strategies

Urban/architectural operations/inputs
Methodology

N.1 Identify the urban “olla” within the city: this complex territories can be distinguished according to the previously analyzed features

N.2 Check its general and particular characteristics based on the presented categories

SCALE: SIZE AND SCOPE
SETTING: TERRITORY APPROPRIATION
CONDITION
TYPE t1 t2 t3

N.3 Choose the suitable strategies according to the filters applied

GENERAL p c t
SPECIFIC sp in so

N.4 Apply the strategies using the inputs from the toolbox: this method allows to break down the urban operations in concrete architectural actions

N.5 Implement the interventions regarding the proper sphere: this sorting aims to reach a integral vision of the overall proposal

N.6 Analize the results of the intervention: this step serves in order to verify and adjust the actions

Infographic synthesis of the set of criteria and recommendations for the drafting of an urban “olla”
SPHERES

Addressing urban strategies by field of action

Being these complex territories part of a structural issue, the actions taken upon them, rather than just being classified in some fields, act in a cross-sectional way. To reach an integral idea of an intervention it becomes essential to first identify the main areas involved:

**Territory**
- Take advantage of the brownfield sites and previously used and derelict land
- Reuse of existing buildings
- Aim for a high density development (compact living)
- Create mixed-use and attractive developments with access to culture, leisure and commercial buildings
- Define well the public spaces

**Actors**
- Consultate with the local community
- Contribute to the economic and social well-being
- Address social exclusion through inclusive building projects
- Plan affordable, low running cost housing
- Provide centres for marginalised individuals
- Create opportunities for local training and employment

**Welfare**
- Ensure ample and accessible green spaces for the community
- Provide community spaces of gathering
- Enhance pedestrians and cyclists paths
- Create environments of human scale
- Contribute to create safe neighbourhoods with the urban design

**Sustainability**
- Educate, discuss, agree and set targets for sustainable design with all stakeholders
- Design buildings as educational tools with explicit explanations or demonstrations of systems used
- Integrate nature through landscape design
TOOLBOX

Urban instruments for operations in the territory

The urban and architectural inputs presented here are set of open source implementations to support every step of the urban action process, from early prevention design to project implementation and evaluation of the interventions.

STRUCTURING AGENTS

Urban strategies

HOW TO APPLY THE STRATEGIES?

Concrete actions

+ Technology and innovation lab
+ Creative industries center
+ Cultural center
+ Sport complex
+ Care facility for vulnerable population
+ Training and reinsertion workshops
+ Shelters
+ Recycling hub

URBAN DEVICES

Architectural pieces that serve the purpose of catalysts of the project and detonators in the territory adding intensive activities in terms of innovation, creativity and culture.

TRIGGERS

Active spaces that make an addition of diversity and social dynamics to the sector. Include the interventions to define appropriate density in housing and set mixed uses.

BOOSTERS

Small-scale interventions that complement the other inputs.

WORK CHANGING THE LOGIC OF SEGREGATION BY USING THE FRAGMENTATION RELATED TO "OLLAS" TO PROMOTE COHESION OF THE PRE-EXISTING AND NEW PROGRAM

+ Mix-use building typologies: residential + complementary uses
+ Active ground floor ribbons
+ Block intersitium interventions
+ Hard and soft surfaces (parks, plazas)
Model of urban and architectural strategies for the analysis and intervention of deteriorated territories for their reintegration into the urban life.

Next, the strategies are checked through their application (focusing on one at a time) in each case study.
URBAN OPERATIONS

Models of territorial intervention in highly complex scenarios

In the face of the forces of change that act upon a deteriorated urban area, the strategies used in the intervention of an “olla” must provide a solid and flexible base to efficiently guide transition toward an integral and sustainable development.

In order to present an integral and inter-institutional intervention in case of an urban “olla” space, the manual explores five main project strategies: place, enliven, adapt, permeate and integrate; being all the compound capable of holding the past of this territories, and at the same, time catalyzing change for the future.
Demolition rethink

RETHINKING THE WAY OPERATE IN THE DISRUPTED ARCHITECTURE OF THE “OLLAS”

Whenever possible, within the intervention, buildings should be adapted. However, in the “ollas” some of them are at such a point of physical deterioration that it becomes impossible to recover or reuse them.

It is necessary to reconsider the demolition as a process that develops over time and should be taken as a whole rather than a step. All of this, in order to avoid the lack of continuity of intervention and redevelopment.

Cuadra Alegre
Case of residence building transformed into a leisure bar/club partially used at nighttime due to its deteriorated state.

Strategy | Condition | Action
--- | --- | ---
1 | Reinforced decay | Demolition
2 | Onset of deterioration | Operation
2. Abandoned and deteriorated buildings

Cinco Huecos
Case of former residence building modified towards and industrial and storage function, strongly deteriorated and then left in abandonment

3. Buildings with negative impact

Cartuchito
Case of self-construction building in bad condition used to host occasional storage/recycling and informal/marginal dynamics
1. Underutilized buildings in decay

2. Abandoned and deteriorated buildings

3. Buildings with negative impact

**Timeline**

1. Evaluation of the condition of the building and planning of adequate intervention
2. Thorough demolition
3. New construction on 1st phase
4. Proposed building completion

**Cuadra Alegre**
- On ground floor level with public functions and/or commercial uses
- Dense in height with complementary uses like dwellings and collective areas

**Cinco Huecos**
- To take control of the territory
- Infills and selective cuts
- To improve and upgrade

**Cartuchito**
- Demolition (Only)
- Integral action

**Impositive/Unaware**

Always with the look in the **POTENTIAL** of the space
Urban strategies

01 Provide shelter for the homeless population under their own terms.

+ “Parasitic housing”
+ Adaptability: modular arrangement for new structures added onto, between, or inside the others.
+ Blend housing with the surroundings functions.

02 Address the social issue from the well-being need of the involved population.

+ Generate connections between the facility and its context.
+ Combine the facility with public space areas.
+ **Hybrid devices**: multiple-spaces/multiple-programs.
+ Activate the flow of people by combining storage with other uses like commerce.

+ **Warehouses + Recycling hubs**: active hybrid devices related in use.

+ Host the disperse and informal recycling activity in the “ollas” under a system of facilities

+ The proposal considers recycling-wise architectural devices to work in a cooperative way along the different “ollas” within a urban system
In the “olla” a notorious call for change of dynamics is present due to the negative impact of these urban center’s points to the city.

By means of the insertion of structuring agents (urban devices) in a punctual and tactical way in the territory, a set of new residential, commercial, and innovative dynamics can take part in. Through adding operating inputs to the present architecture, a dense and compact development within a mix-use logic starts to consolidate.

The chosen architectural devices come from the diagnosis of an “olla” space, and have the aim to:

+ Cultivate stable populations, diverse economies, and vibrant urban life
+ Encourage development using the approach of improve public realm

**Main strategy**

**Insert**

**URBAN DEVICES**

+ Technology and innovation lab
+ Creative industries center
+ Cultural center
+ Sport complex

1. Care facility for vulnerable population
2. Training and reinsertion workshops
3. Shelters for citizens of the street
4. Recycling hub

**Complementary strategies**

1. Urban corridors
2. Continue the urban fabric
3. Complement the public space with small-scale commerce
4. Mix-use buildings: dwelling + commerce/industry
5. Block intersitium intervention
6. Hard and soft surfaces (parks, plazas)
7. Spines of commerce
8. Buildings back-facing part activation
9. Neighborhood-scale flexible public scenario
10. Open and porous block’s layout
11. Hybridate existing architectural typologies
12. Warehouses as hybrid devices: storage + commerce

**Cartuchito case study**

- Isolated, marginal, closed

- Central supply market

- Hospital

- Warehouses
Embrace the intrinsic and masked relation between industry and "ollas" by mixing uses and open the space.

In-situ integral attention to the citizen of the street.

Rather than displace the practices, integrate them in the same site.

Edge-placing looking for activation through the settled dynamics.

Reintegrated, compelling, open.
Urban strategies

The urban layout is reshaped towards openness and porosity through the physical and functional reinterpretation of warehouses, key points in “olla” spaces, that together with recycling as intrinsically linked activity, can be potentiated like hybrid active devices; no longer vacant, closed to the urban space and in poor conditions.
New facilities with a social approach design take the place of deteriorated buildings with negative impact, and combined with areas for collective use, the architectural compound manages to integrate the marginalized territory and connect in a sustainable rapport the community with functional public space.
Urban strategies

**S5 | INTEGRATE**

**ARTICULATE**

- Complement the public space.
- Pedestrian friendly focus.
- Commercial corridors.

**S1 | PLACE**

**INSERT**

- Social magnet
  - Large anchor building to bring coherence to the site.
  - Cultural and creative district.
  - Reference point in the territory.

- Collective green areas on the top
- Transparent and open ground floor façade

**S0**

- Semi-open structures
- Walkways
- Small-scale commerce
Urban strategies

07 Mix-use logic
+ Dwelling plus complementary uses on the first floor.
+ Densify residence in height to create activity and appropriation.
+ Open and porous blocks layout

08 Activity magnet
+ Landscape and public space design.
+ Infiltration of the shared space with cultural activities and creative uses.
The “ollas” are entitled as dying city centers embedded in general decay. To change this reality, the space should become a lively urban atmosphere led by the activity and the environment as guidelines. The revitalization proposal aims to reactivate the social, economic and real estate appropriation and re-use of buildings.

+ Addressing the architecture in decay through the physical transformation, enables to activate the buildings by accommodating new uses along with the existing ones. By using an approach of multi-spaces/programs, innovative functions related to the site character are proposed to set interest in the potential development of the area.

+ On the basis of the environment as a public shared resource of the city, it is proposed to modify the relation of the existing devices with their public space by revitalizing the green system. The binding potential of streets, parks, and open spaces goes beyond the physical connections.

**Main strategy**

**Revitalize**

1. Delineate the public space
2. Refurbish buildings with no use
3. Activate borders along institutions
4. Address vacant green zones, parking lots and derelict land
5. Establish dynamic activity corridors at daytime

**Recover**

- Derelict land
- Architecture in decay
- Renaturalize and equip the channeled river in decay
6. Focus on the pedestrian realm

**Complementary strategies**

- Mix-use buildings: dwelling + commerce
- Warehouses as hybrid devices: storage + commerce
- Open and porous block’s layout
- Economic revalorization
- Urban corridors
- Park as agglutinant
- Active ground floor ribbons
- Hard and soft surfaces (parks, plazas)
- Break the physical barriers

Densify residence to create activity and appropriation
Cultural center
Sport zones
Block intersitium intervention
Encourage relations with the institutions through urban dynamics.

Transform, re-use, and activate.

The architecture pieces mutate in the interior to complement the new uses of the sector.

Linked, lively.
+ Take advantage of neglected urban pockets to bring ecology and recreation into the urban environment.

+ Neighbourhood scale green spaces that can be temporary or part of the whole parks system.

+ Can be applied to unresolved patches, parking lots and block interstices.

+ Open functional public spaces.

+ Buffer zones with a flexible character of urban dynamics.

+ "Tactical urbanism": small interventions with simple resources and innovative solutions.
Urban strategies

S5 | INTEGRATE
RECONNECT

11 + Detonate activity by adding collective use areas.
   + Link the surrounding site of educational institutions present near the “ollas” with public space.
   + Public square character that creates appropriation.

S1 | PLACE
INSERT

12 + Project the social work required in the “ollas” throughout the architectural piece for training.
   + Pedagogy with the community.
   + Care protocols with social integration projects.

Hard and soft surfaces

Sport and recreational zones

Permeable arcade
On display public work studios

Green element in the core

Training and reinsertion workshops

UD So

Urban strategies
+ Urban incubators

+ Act taking in account the city innovation plans on “Economía naranja” (creative economy)

+ Facilitate social relations in the site for its reintegration into the urban life

+ Set interest in the potential development of the area
The "ollas" require to improve the public realm to overcome the negative perception of the site as not a very safe, clean or pleasant place to spend time. It is proposed the rearrangement of the operation of architectural pieces in relation with public space, and in addition its hybridization (residential function along with several other uses in the ground floor level).

In these territories of complexity, the intervention considers embracing the marginal practices of the sector integrating them in a comprehensive way to avoid overlapping, segregation and migration of the dynamics. The integration of the architecture where marginal activities are carried out implies the reinterpretation of relationships of the sector and its inhabitants with the rest of the city.

Bumping points as buffer zones: the shared character of these places where the community can come together and diverse activities can take place contributes to well-being and diversification.

Mix and extend the dynamics.
"Ollas" spaces’ perception is planned to be reshaped with the help of anchor buildings to attract new dynamics and bring cohesion. A lively district for creative development, culture and leisure is proposed as well as the reuse and adaptation of no-man’s-land to turn it into active points of the city.
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+ Restore the deteriorated city urban elements “caños” (channeled rivers) undertaken by marginal dynamics.

+ Generate an urban structure that involves the water channel.

+ Infiltrate activities at the edge of the river.

* Neuralgic point:* space for exchange and transition.
The ongoing logic of segregation is planned to be changed by using the fragmentation related to “ollas” to promote cohesion of the pre-existing and new program. Allowing the dynamics and green system to extend inside the project establishes a public and porous space in which relationships between the different agents take place working with the and activation of edges.

*Open up to the neighborhood: Tearing down the physical barriers and truncated corridors, enabling connections and sight lines, which makes a safer, active and inviting space.

*Extend into the green.

*Activities related to the system as recycling can be used to link the population appropriation and the ecological compound.
Urban strategies

Overcome the urban limit

Recover the public space + care protocols with social integration projects

Integral, active, green
The revived “caño” as a linear park is connected to the new system of green public space and sport and recreational zones; part of the sustainable strategy for attract population, create site identity and infiltrate the green element. Altogether works along a permeable residential layout, social-integration workshops and the mix-of-use in existing buildings towards a dynamic ground floor that buffers the urban elements’ edges.
The lack of appropriation and overlook of the "ollas" are relevant issues to be addressed. It is proposed to reinforce a positive identity with the site that would be immediately recognizable and associated with the place. By taking advantage of the rooted dynamics and the public scene it is possible to create an urban identity guided by social innovation.

In parallel, a strategy of stitching the former "olla" with the city aims to reconnect the segregated areas and dynamics involving them in an integral system. Within a compact city where there's no separation between all the different uses, the streets, parks and open spaces are the chosen elements to bring them together to overcome the urban limits.

**Main strategy**

**Reconnect**

1. Integral circulation system
2. Detonate the activity with sport and recreational areas
3. Sew the urban fabric with transversal connections

**Articulate**

4. Educational institutions through sport and recreational areas
5. Continue the urban fabric
   + Truncated streets into a permeable mesh
6. Enhance the water channel as a neuralgic point
   + Mobility intersection with the natural element
   + Dead-end streets with urban corridors

**Stitch up**

7. Complement the public space with small-scale commerce
8. Bring together the territory using the park as agglutinant
9. Link the disperse urban elements
   + Mobility infrastructure
10. Channeled river within the green system
11. Crosswalks towards a pedestrian friendly focus

**Complementary strategies**

1. Address sustainability targets
2. Bumping points [open functional public spaces]
3. Mix-use buildings: dwelling + commerce
4. Creative industries center
5. Cultural center
6. Pocket park
7. Consolidate activity borders
Urban strategies

Activity programming

Commercial dynamics are enhanced by the renewal and functional reinterpretation of public space

Bind, expanded, permeable
In the current panorama, “ollas” and their surrounding areas stand out as hot spots in Bogotá.

There is a trend towards fragmentation and dispersion of this urban phenomenon into new territories within the city. The zones have gone from being concentrated in the center of Bogotá to the periphery.

This dynamic has been influenced by the institutional actions, perhaps without overview, the diversification of the activity, and the adoption of marginalized dynamics.

The above is overlapped with the trend of the main characters, street dwellers, that follows the trajectory of the establishment of recycling warehouses and the atomization of impurity sites.

With the proposed model it is possible to consolidate a network under architectural actions to redirect the urban mutations of the “ollas”.
In response, by acting strategically at points in the system, as shown in the case studies, a network of actions is shaped (based on the analysis of the determinants) that can be replicated as a model in the city by using the proposed urban tools; all in all, to redirect the urban mutations of the “ollas” towards spaces that are perceived in the city with an integrated, dynamic, sustainable, and revitalized character.

With this scope, the use of the proposed Catalog of Strategies seeks, beyond planning the possible suitable interventions, to serve as a tool and support material in which some guidelines are established for the restructuring of “olla” spaces and outline a methodology for the city adaptation model.

Key points

Break down the overlapping of deteriorated areas and marginal spaces with an open and dynamic architecture scheme based on public space and social programs.

Take advantage of the common space features of storage and informal recycling to promote innovation of activities and inclusion of the diverse population through different architectural pieces.

Focus on the public realm with its specific social needs (vulnerable population) to respond with a holistic way, along with spatial and institutional scopes, by enhancing the public space and providing social-institutional-focused architectural projects.

Overcome the notions that “ollas” generate:

Fear
Program territories with identity to create appropriation.

Unsafety
Adapt the architecture towards an open layout to be integrated with the rest of the city.

Deterioration
Revitalize the city shared urban elements like parks, plazas and “cafés” (channeled rivers).

Deteriorated buildings are refurbished, and adaptive reuse takes care of its new possibilities (innovation and creativity approach). But what about the public space? Punctual interventions (fills and selective cuts) with experimental solutions to bring cohesion.

Bogotá’s “ollas” spaces state is a clear indicator of how the city logic has been working. With the ongoing decline in these vulnerable zones, the disruption in the urban processes beyond than show deterioration (spatially and socially), could reach to define a guideline for the evolution of a broken city.

Is it possible to reshape the course of the “ollas”? The effects of marginalization and degradation in these spaces are evident, and so, the urban and social cohesion is missing as well.

The proposal presented above could be the answer for the necessary urban processes of transformation and adaptation, providing an integral approach by studying the multiple interactions of the factors that characterize the system in the areas of complexity and approaching a connected and lively urban model.
Final considerations

ARCHITECTURE CAN BE A POWERFUL STRATEGY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND VINDICATION OF URBAN SPACES AND ACTORS SYSTEMATICALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE EXCERSISE OF CITIZENSHIP

FROM URBAN DECAY TO THE REVITALIZATION OF AREAS OF COMPLEXITY IN THE CITY OF BOGOTÁ

"Reborn to rise".
+ Saldarriaga Roa, A. (n.d.). El deterioro del paisaje urbano [PDF]
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Appendices