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# BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC

TRANSFORMATION OF THE NOTION OF COMMON SPACES  
IN THE CITY OF CALI



# INDEX

## ABSTRACT

## INTRODUCTION

## OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Thematic context and problem situation:	13
General data case study: Cali:	14

## THE PUBLIC SPACE IN FOUR PERSPECTIVES.

Public space as a historical project:	19
Urban heritage and collective memory.	19
Public space as a social process.	23
Public space from urbanism.	27
The public space from the regulations:	33

## TWO HISTORICAL MOMENTS OF THE CITY:

The city of the colony: The traditional urban layout	41
The street as a common space.	43
Emblematic buildings of the city of Cali: Cali Center	44
The arrival of public space and its definition:	46
Towards the modernization of the expanded city.	46

## MORE THAN PRIVE AND PUBLIC: physical-spatial analysis.

Statistical data:	50
Municipality 3	50
Municipality 17	51
Effective public space:	52
Case study: Two urban fabrics:	55
Urban fabric Type 1, Barrio La Merced:	56
Urban fabric Type 2, Barrio Valle del Lili:	57
URBAN FRAGMENT STUDY AREA 1: Ancient city	58
URBAN FRAGMENT STUDY AREA 2: Expansion zone	60
Operational phase:	62
Matrix of dimensions, Morphology matrix:	62

Dimensional matrix: traditional city:	64
Dimensional matrix: expansion city:	65
Morphological matrix: traditional city	66
CLOSE UP Morphological matrix: traditional city	68
Morphological matrix: expansion city	70
CLOSE UP Morphological matrix: expansion city	72
Preliminary conclusions: urban fragment 1 - 2	74

## MORE THAN PRIVE AND PUBLIC: The common Socio-spatial analysis.

Understanding the place from a socio-spatial perspective	80
Interviews as a tool:	80
Accesses, paths, and edges	82
The way of inhabiting the spaces: Interfaces Urban fabric 1	86
The way of inhabiting the spaces: Interfaces Urban fabric 2	87
Accesses and paths diagrams	88
Edges Urban fabric 1:	90
Edges Urban fabric 2:	92
The city at eye level: 12 quality criteria	93
Quality criteria preliminary conclusions:	96

## FINAL CONCLUSIONS: Another idea of “public space”

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## ABSTRACT

Urban transformations are processes that are part of the dynamics of urbanism. The processes of progressive transformation of the different urban configurations expand the ways of using urban spaces. However, these different interactions, phenomena, and subsequent forms of appropriation of spaces by citizens, evidence different representations where the current idea and generalized definition of the so-called “public space”, ignores some characteristics in special social dynamics and attributes of urban surfaces that goes beyond the private or public.

Cali is a Colombian city, in which these urban processes are reflected in each context, in this way, the spaces of the traditional urban fabric, (which in their beginnings were based on common spaces characters), cannot be read under the same idea of public space of the current city, avoiding the specific characteristics from each context, forgetting its historical value, both physical and functional. Faced with this issue, it is necessary to question: What is meant by public space in Cali? How are the spaces of public character in the traditional context and in the modern context? How are public spaces perceived in the two urban fabrics? Is correctly applied the concept of public space in the historical center of the city of Cali? This research has as purpose to answer these questions from various contrasts and forms of definition in which the notion of the problem exposed, by means of morpho-typological and socio-spatial analysis of both urban fabrics, one belonging to the traditional historical context of the city, and the other to the modern context, these being the axis of the investigation and of the final reflections.



The illustration features a stylized city skyline in the foreground, composed of various building shapes in shades of gray and black. Behind the city is a mountain range, with the highest peak on the left topped with three small crosses. A thick vertical bar in shades of yellow and orange runs along the left edge of the page, partially overlapping the mountain and city.

## INTRODUCTION

The city of Santiago de Cali, founded in 1536, is the third-largest city in Colombia and is located in the southwest of the country, near the southwest coast of Colombia on the Pacific Ocean. Its population is approximately 2 300 000 including populations in adjacent urban and rural areas and the area of its area is 561.7 km<sup>2</sup>. In Cali, there is a large number of urban phenomena, in which countless interactions originate and develop as a characteristic of urban life, but at the same time conflict scenarios are generated that derive from decisions and changes that suffer the social, cultural, economic, political, urban facts, among others that build the city. From this point of view, the different definitions of public space mention architectural, and functional aspects and a focused on its symbol part r t.( Rincon et al., 2009)

Cali has been adapting to the challenges that have arisen over the years, the forms of occupation and the dynamics of urban surfaces that occurred in a specific time and place, have been modified. In this way, the so-called public space today must be understood as an urban process that becomes a fundamental element for the development not of cities.

The public space of recent years has adhered to global processes and ideas that endanger its identity and authenticity, homogenizing its dynamics, in addition to the privatization of spaces that segregate and fragment the city. The regulations related to the urban surfaces of the city are recent regulations that have aimed to collect and expose information concerning the order of the dynamics of the territory and its distribution, where public space is not exempted at the time of the implementation of policies for its operation. The current regulations have gradually changed their scale, from national policies to the implementation of plans at municipal levels. As the background is the constitution of 91 with which the approval of new laws begins: Law 9 of 1989 or Law of Urban Reform, Law 388 or Organic Law of Territorial Planning at the national level, giving way to the POT (plan de ordenamiento territorial-land development plan) of 2000, and subsequent POT 2014 at the municipal level in the city of Cali, allowing a phenomenon of decentralization that was developed, producing the migration of people towards the limits of the city.



In terms of public space, there are instructions for the consolidation of the ordering of public space such as the MEP Manual of Public Space in 2003, MECEP Manual of design and construction of Constitutive Elements of Public Space in 2010, MECoEP Manual of Complementary Elements of Public Space, 2017 and the most recent Manual of public space for early childhood MEPPI. Even so, when defining objectives, implementing programs or strategies about the order and functioning of public surfaces, their effect is lost as they are generalized norms and definitions for a city composed of a multiplicity of urban scenarios. About the above and as the main topic that will be addressed in this research, the contrast between the traditional city and the expanding city is urban processes conceived in two different historical moments of the city, therefore, the public surfaces (today called public space) of a traditional context should not be studied under a regulation equal to that of a current context in expansion, where the public surfaces were projected under recent regulations and concepts.

Because it is an investigation aimed at the study of a contrast between two urban processes of the city of Cali, whereas the first instance the concepts of public space indicated in the urban regulations of the city will be redefined taking into account each context, to then describe and compare how these two ways of inhabiting the city of Cali work in terms of their morphology, typology and operation, in such a way that the attributes of each context can be demonstrated by understanding what it is and that it is not public space according to the regulations established concerning each context and find new dimensions in which public surfaces must be studied in the city of Cali.



1. Cali's Visual from Sebastian de Belalcazar





## OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### Thematic context and problem situation:

The fact of the transformation of the cities also supposes a modification of their urban spaces, also conditioned under the different regulations that arrive with the time. It is evident that it is necessary to organize the cities for their functioning, its development and growth, but the development of generalized regulations, even decontextualized, that seek to study and at the same time organize the city, being less thoughtful when it comes to delving into the true dynamics that organize the city, the new ones modified from these rules generate a false progress that is fragmenting the cities and stripping them of vitality.

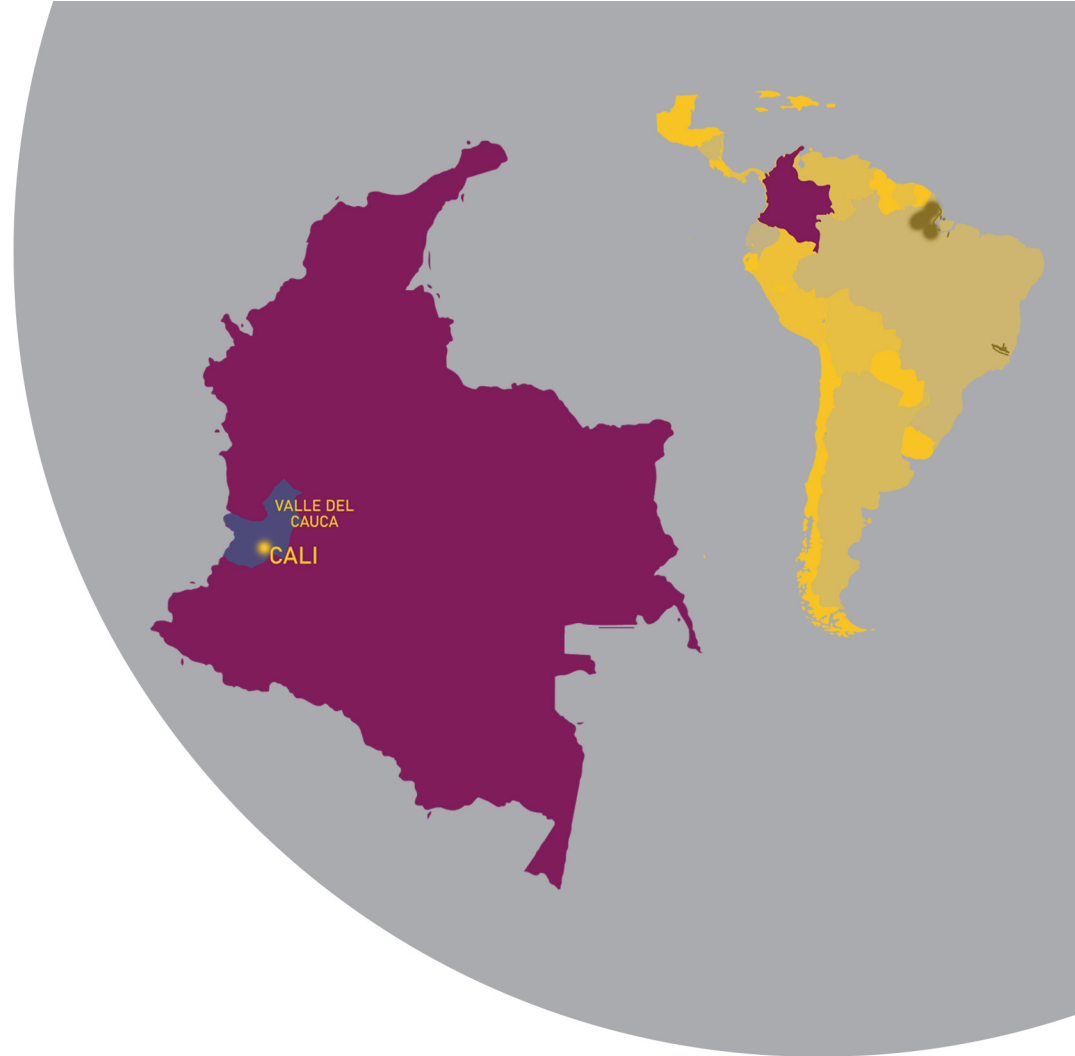
The aforementioned situation generates impacts and consequences that are later reflected in transformation processes evidenced in the different forms of occupation and distribution of public space, in that sense the proposal of this thesis is oriented to:

- Evaluate in a temporal range what is now understood by public space in two urban fabrics of the city of Cali-Colombia.
- A comparative physical-spatial analysis of urban fabrics through their morpho-typological configurations.
- Identify and compare the conditions in terms of quality from a socio-spatial analysis, identifying the ways in which public space is inhabited.
- Build an idea of public space from what was found in the development of the investigation.

### Methodology:

The comparative methodology will be the main method of this research, since a contrast between two neighborhoods of the city belonging to different times is addressed.

The main techniques are morphological comparison matrices that describe in physical terms what the public space is like, later in the socio-spatial chapter, the interviews as a complement to the above and finally an analysis based on concepts developed by Kevin Lynch and Jan Ghel for the analysis in qualitative terms.



## General data case study: Cali



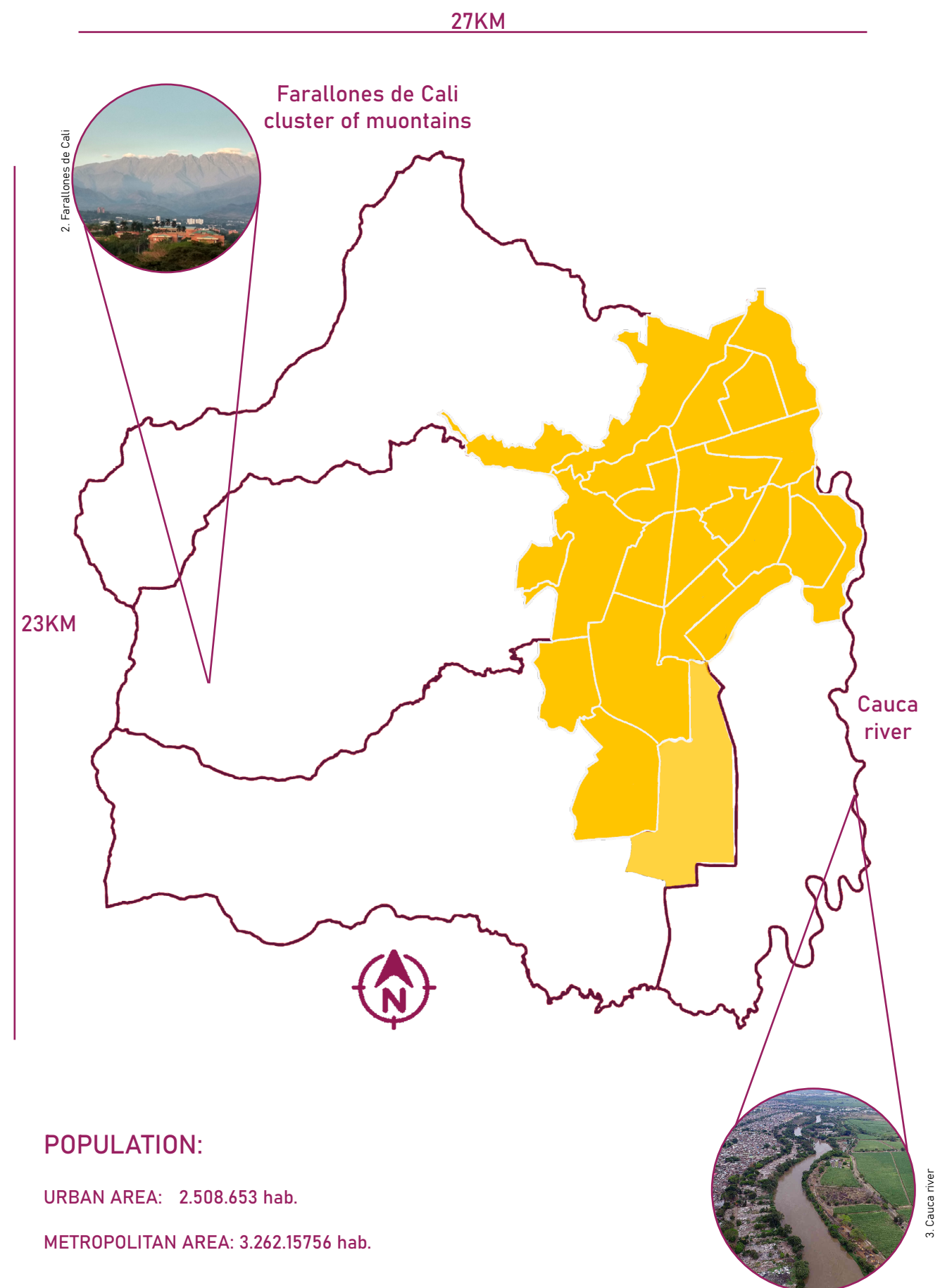
2. Panoramic view cali



3. Panoramic view cali from Cristo Rey

Santiago de Cali is the capital of the department of Valle del Cauca which is located in the south west of Colombia, it is a special district, sports, cultural, business tourism and services. It is the third most populated city in Colombia. As the only large Colombian city with access to the Pacific coast.

The city rests approximately 1.000 meters (3.281feet) above sea level. Cali features a dry-summer tropical savanna climate



## THE PUBLIC SPACE IN FOUR PERSPECTIVES.

The public space of Cali has been transformed by the new ways of living the city, with the arrival of land use plans, laws and decrees designed, allowing the city to start operating based on regulations, defining as well how the city it should be organized. Therefore, what existed prior to this, had to be adapted to the new norms and to the new city that gave way to modernism and industrialization, on many occasions, was the desire to replicate what was happening in cities in other parts of the world.

With the aforementioned, it is necessary to review different concepts that reflect the before and after the arrival of the rules that to this day regulate public spaces in the city.





## Public space as a historical project: Urban heritage and collective memory.

Public surfaces are those that are produced and used by societies, are the reflection of the social dynamics of a city in a given time and space, although specifically physical coordinates are usually attributed to space, it is necessary to take into account that time is an important characteristic when deepening its valuation. From this point of view, these surfaces have history and express meanings that derive from collective ideas that are conceived from the reality of a society.

The public space and how it is conceived corresponds to how cities work and are organized in a certain era, that is why it must be taken into account that these elements of the past, keep their characteristics to the needs of how the citizens of that time inhabited the spaces, in this way it would not be correct to generalize or attribute current characteristics to surfaces that were thought differently. The surfaces with specific functions and activities, today are not perceived in the same way, even so, they are spaces conceived from a collective idea that at some time held great importance, they become for the city in singular elements as an image of a city that is no longer there but that remains immutable and are located in the collective memory of a society. *For Aldo Rossi in his text architecture of the city, he exposes that urban development is correlative in a temporal sense, in other words, the city is endowed with a before and after, and that does not want to suppose a rupture.* This urban development is composed of urban facts, and some of these surfaces are specific urban facts with historical characteristics, from this perspective, the physical form of the surfaces and public buildings of the ancient cities, is the representation made the architecture of the urban facts of the moment.



4. La Merced church located in the center of the city of Cali



Cali has been developing from a past of impositions in terms of architecture, even so, this architecture had its logic that deserves a deepening in the recognition and analysis of its values. In colonial times, the urban layout imposed by external urban models defined how the city was ordered, the physical space was present but its value becomes important from its forms of use and the dynamics that occur in them, The main square, works as a multifunctional space where everyday life of society converges. It thus becomes that fundamental element that begins to structure the city. "It is the geometric, symbolic and vital center of the colonial city, and its streets are the image of the flows of urban life of that time. These meeting spaces were a place of market, a place of celebration.

*The markets were done in a habitual way and outdoors, being held every Saturday in the central square to which the production of the haciendas and family gardens converged. In the market, the different social classes were confused. (Gómez V et al., 1986)*, in this way, and with many other dynamics, these meeting places are the expression of a meaning of a collective ideal of society, of a specific era, they become the image of urban life of the moment. In other words, these collective spaces of the traditional city are the physical expression of the development of these spaces according to their needs. The center of Cali is the image of the colonial city that remains as a support for the collective memory of citizens, it is one of the physical parts of the city that links today's society to the ancient, and the architecture around it may have been replaced or modified but these spaces have a vocation to maintain and leave a legacy. So, the traditional city, full of history, is a place of teaching since through the spatial configurations, from their authenticity, they become a reference of different systems, through formal and spatial characteristics that persist in the city, in this way they are part of the collective memory of the city.

-The urban and architectural heritage is the constant reflection of innumerable traditions of each era, which nevertheless time produces identity and culture.

-The public surfaces of the ancient city are the physical presence of the urban life of that time, coming to life from collective ideas.

-The urban heritage functions as a support for the collective memory, summarizing the image of the city of each era.



5. La Merced complex-Panoramic Cali

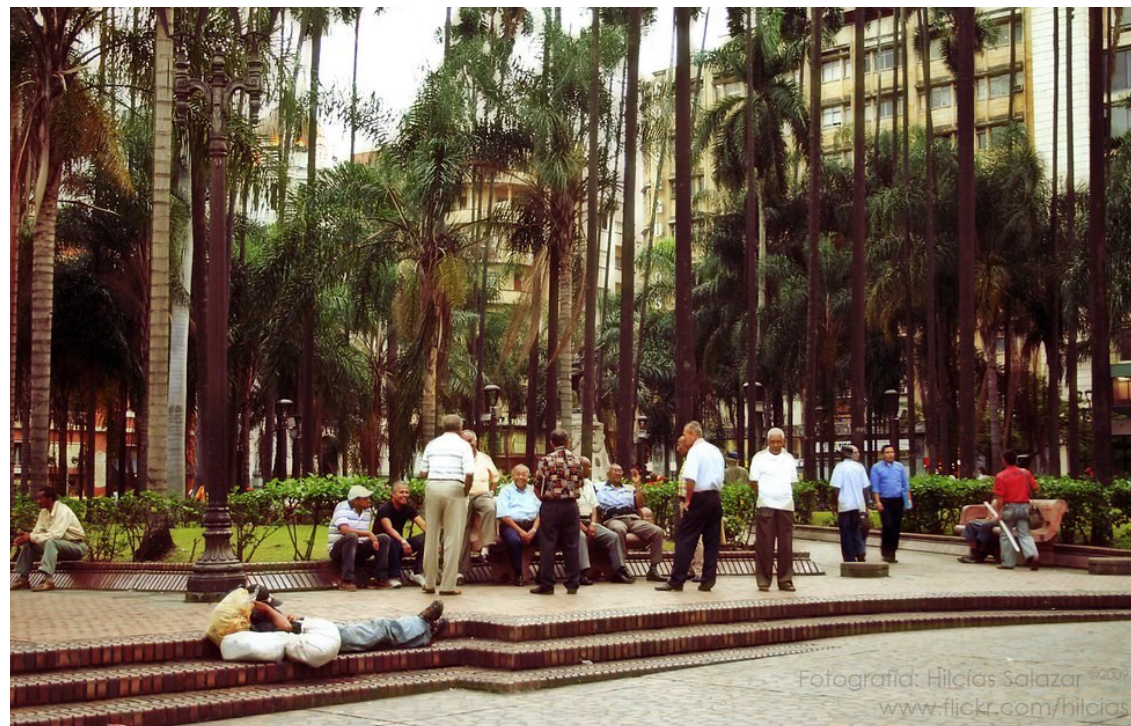


## Public space as a social process.

The processes of transformation of the city, such as the modifications that the public surfaces have had, are related to architectural, technical, and environmental areas, but also aspects of a social nature. Just as society is modifying logics and its ways of living, are the different urban spaces of the city.

Speaking of the traditional city, the public surfaces conceived in the old city, are a materialization that starts from social content, are the collective experiences and memories of a territory, and then a social construction of the past that as already mentioned above, is a fundamental part of the collective memory of a city.

As an important concept of this study, **collective memory**, in addition to being endowed with historical character, is importantly related to urban transformations since these are a consequence of the decisions or actions of the social content (they can be economic, political, social) with which the identity, appropriation, and links with the territory are built, fostering a sense of belonging. In times of the Colony in Cali, the collective surfaces were defined by the same citizens who developed the different activities, the citizen gave value to the space thus creating a life according to their needs, the center of Cali, the street had the role of in addition to connecting the city, it was a container of flows and at the same time a meeting place for citizens, and the squares, those places where the use and enjoyment of a space belonging to the community.



6. Caicedo's square-Cali center

Over time, the value of the surfaces was reduced to terms of progress and development related to processes of commodification, cutting the social bond that builds the city. The citizen left aside the sense of belonging to those spaces, spaces defined and managed by the power of the state. According to Aldo Rossi, the activities that materialize in different parts of the city are established by social content, thus forming an urban structure.

The recognition of the territory and the environment is fundamental to create, renew or maintain common goods either of the old city or the city of modernity and above all to renew civic traditions aimed at aligning individual, collective needs together, *"I am because we are" (Ubuntu)* and that collective mentality, which comes from the traditional city, currently it is also built from state policies, governance, and local administration, in this case of public space, where regulations, plan, and projects determine land uses, urban form and as a consequence another way of transforming the city, and therefore the transformation of public space. This transformation that over time has faced great challenges has gradually broken the link between the citizen and the city, in this way, the citizen does not recognize that he has the potential to make changes, be active and interesting in a process of transformation of the territory in which he lives, but also to create awareness among other people of something. (Bollier & Helfrich, 2019)

Currently, processes of collective collaboration of various projects related to the common good, offer citizens the opportunity to express opinions and perspectives on the organization and development of the territory in which they live, that sense citizens have the possibility (either as a community or individuals), unlock a potential urban creator, renewing links with the administration of the city. That said, from a social perspective, management must be shared, not only by the individuals of the communities, the link between the mayor and the citizens is also a key, in the words of Nicola Capone *"The basic idea is that the management of Civic and collective urban use must be a shared management: the government must be the administrator of the property, thus providing maintenance and creating the conditions for a society and culture where the community can exercise its self-regulated collective rights for the use of the property. goods that, in many cases, contributed to return to public enjoyment"* (Capone N, 2017).



7. Activities in territory-Cali Mayor's Office



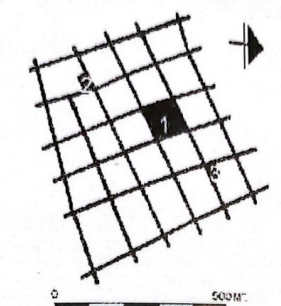


8. Cali green corridor urban project- Opus+Espacio colectivo

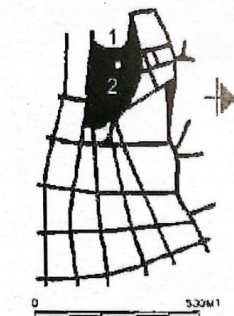
## Public space from urbanism.

There is a large number of urban phenomena in cities, which are linked to the complexity of each territory in which countless interactions originate and develop, this is a characteristic of the urban life of each city. Cities have been adapting to the challenges that have arisen over the years, and the forms of occupation of the territory have gone through modifications with which the city begins to gain or lose quality in terms of urban life. In the urban configuration of Cali, from its foundation in 1536 until 1920, the formal urban spatial structure of Cali corresponds to that of a typical compact city of the Hispanic function of the sixteenth century. (Universidad del Valle, 2012)

The urban layout of the city at that time originated from the center with the Plaza Mayor (principal square), and from there, little by little it grew with the continuous expansion of the grid, the trace that was established as a guideline for the implementation and development of cities institutionalized in the “Leyes de Indias” (Spanish colonial law ) where the first practices of urbanism in the country were determined. As the population grew, so did the growth pattern through this urban layout, the central square remained as an open and available space for what the city decided to do with its most emblematic space. (Universidad del Valle, 2012), little by little the sense of the public, also moved to the use of the interior spaces of some buildings



**BARRIO SAN PEDRO**  
1 Plaza de la Constitución  
2 Plazoleta de San Agustín  
3 Plazoleta de San Antonio

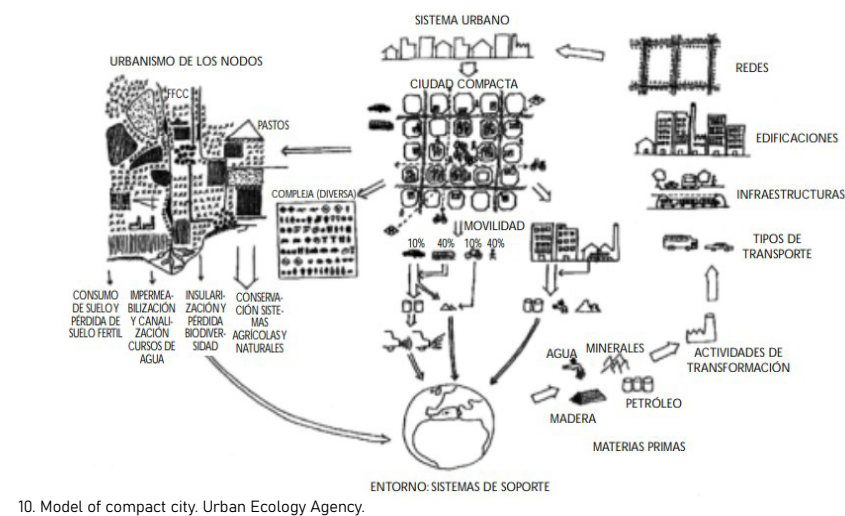


**BARRIO SAN ANTONIO**  
1 Capilla de San Antonio  
2 Colina de San Antonio

9. Layout and open spaces of the San Pedro and San Antonio neighborhoods (U. del Valle)



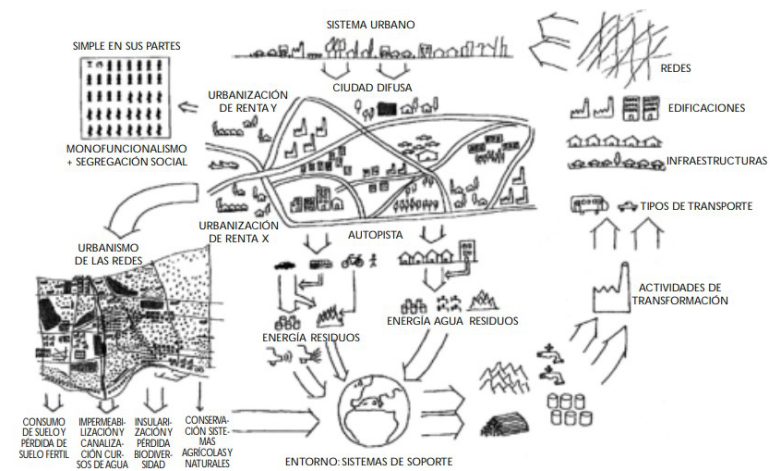
Until 1920 all the public surfaces were integrated by the traditional layout of the streets and squares, then the street element also is a fundamental element, in addition, within the collective imaginary spaces are added as areas of the river for recreation and as mentioned above, buildings that had functions aimed at the service of the community, even so, in this same year the phenomenon of expansion began to have force, increasing the decentralization of the city, going from a compact city to a sprawl city. The boom in the expansion of cities is a global vision that, in effect, brings many changes, one of them is the urban growth that has made evident its accelerated trend, with this, cities go through new urban processes such as the decentralization of cities, in this way what behaved compactly, of diverse dynamics in uses and activities, it has been transformed giving way to cities of dispersed dynamics with urbanization processes that seek a massive occupation of the territory, then the city is dispersed and with it, dysfunctions appear. (Barcelona Urban Ecology Agency, 2010)



10. Model of compact city. Urban Ecology Agency.

The city as a whole is composed of different systems that work in favor of the city, as well as various dynamics that the city presents evidence of the responses of the metabolism of the city that is represented as an organic being. The aforementioned dynamics, together with ideological, social, al and other processes that we have mentioned above, cause changes in use and activities, and even change some functions and the spirit of the city, this implies partial transformations, and even total in its morphology, in its urban and environmental structure, in this way the city is a physical spatial process in continuous transformation. Public space is one of the fundamental systems that make up the city and being the representation of the physical form of the city, it is subjected to multiple transformations: "It is the space of citizen coexistence and form, together with the network of facilities and green spaces and stay, the main axes of social life.

The quality of the space is not only an indicator related to the concept of compactness, but at the same time, it is an indicator of stability." that is why current urban models must be questioned and examined in such a way that as proposed by the urban ecology agency, the city transforms its current urban model to a sustainable urban model with a systemic approach where the city functions as a whole, where a city-environment relationship and the elements that compose it are promoted. (Barcelona Urban Ecology Agency, 2010).



11. Model of sprawl city. Urban Ecology Agency.

Cali went from having a compact model to being a dispersed city as the population lacked and the peripheries began to be occupied, in this way, systems such as public space were affected in terms of quality, and ceased to be integrating routes of the city, to dispersed elements and voids of meaning to create links with citizens. The public space in Cali as an infrastructure of the city sometimes loses the opportunity to interrelate with other infrastructures of the different levels of urban plan to diversify the exchanges between them and enhance their main characteristic structure spaces and channelers of flows of the territory. (Abundance, 1993)

A transformation of the current urban model of a city implies, then, a diversity of challenges in the achievement of sustainable models, for example, the transformation of public space in terms of habitability, valuing its own characteristics, redefining concepts, methodologies, and strategies for the appreciation of the attributes of public space, taking into account that it is a structural element of a more sustainable city model. (Barcelona Urban Ecology Agency, 2010)

- The public space from the urbanism, is a system that is part of the functioning of the city, that is, of its metabolism.

- Having a potential structuring of spaces and the channeling of flows, public space functions as an infrastructure that must guarantee articulations with other infrastructures of the city.

- The city moves from a compact city model to a dispersed system, thus transforming uses, activities, and dynamics.



12. Cali, top view Cali. Source: Atlas historico de Cali



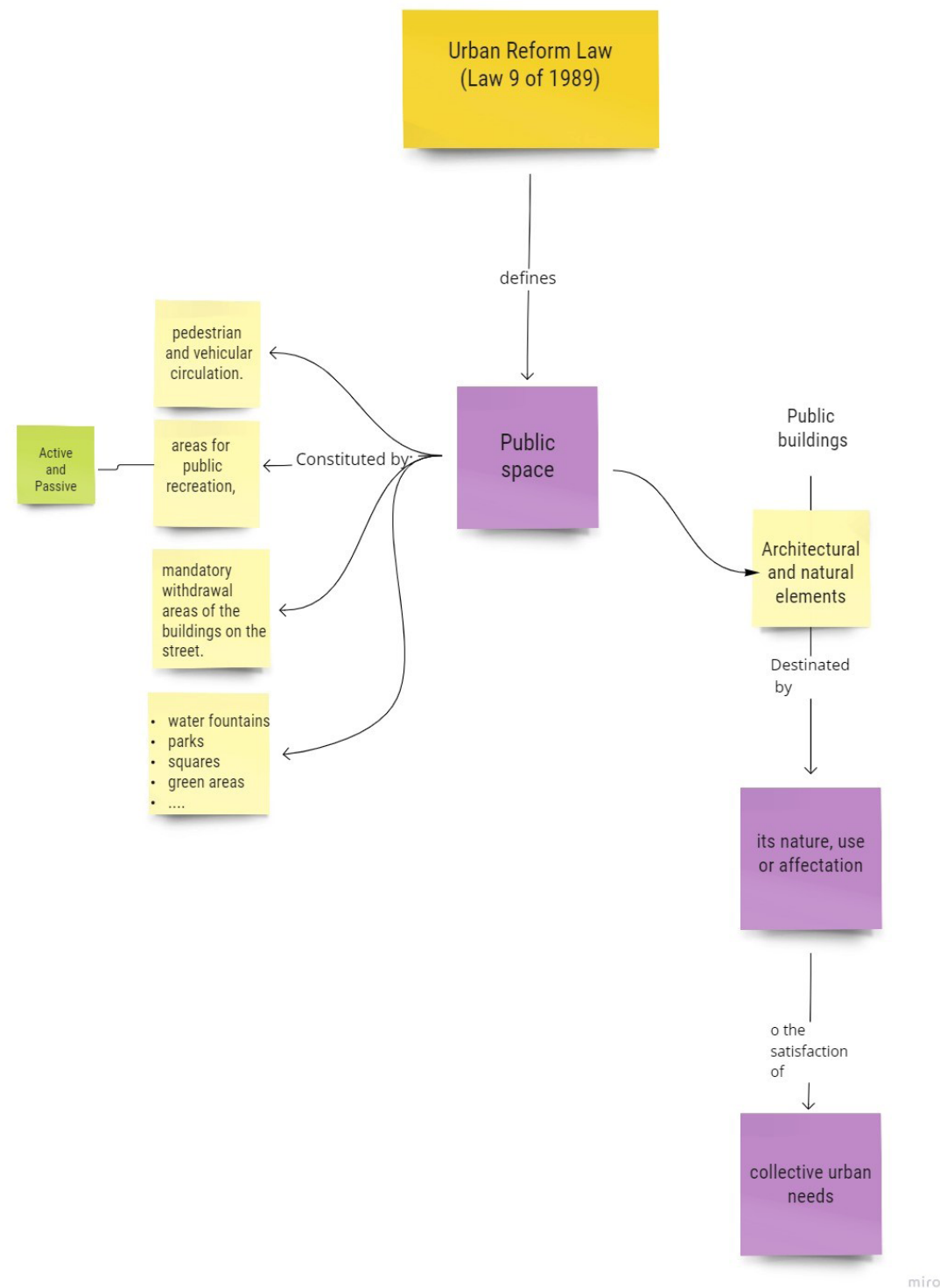


13. Panoramic view of the hill of the 3 crosses of Cali

## The public space from the regulations:

The urban growth of Cali is a set of scenarios where different sociocultural processes converge and consequently, the search arises to regulate the urban planning of the territory, this as a vision at the national level, as the first antecedent, the Law 9th of 1989 or Law of The Urban Reform "To achieve optimal conditions for the development of cities and their areas of influence in the physical aspects, economic, social and administrative, municipalities with a population greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) inhabitants." By this time, this law together with the policies related to the urbanism of the cities still maintained in the conception of centralist that came from the constitution of 1886, (LAW 9a OF 1989 URBAN REFORM, 1989).the 9th Law became the expression of the political will aimed at ordering the development of the municipalities. (Vergara Varela, 2009).

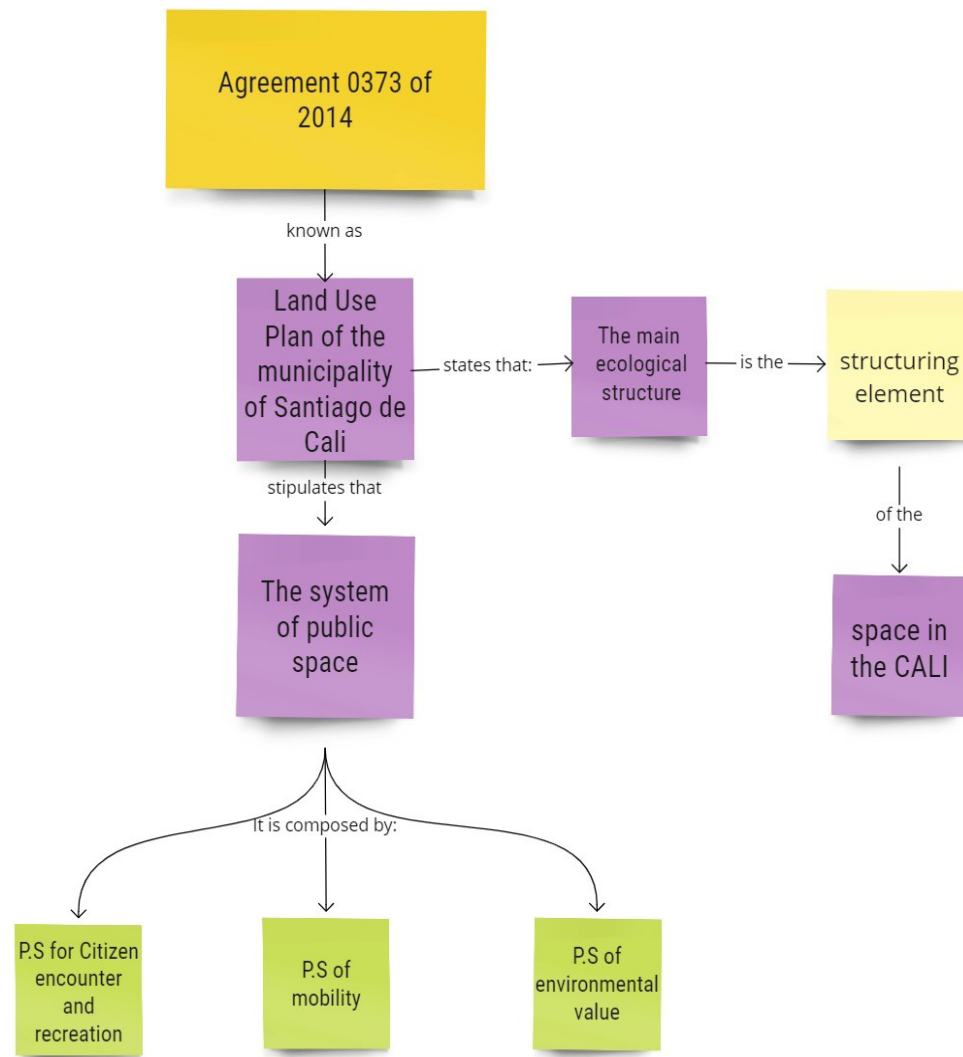
Law 9 of 1989 defines public space as *the set of public buildings and the architectural and natural elements of private buildings, destined by their nature, by their use or affectation, to the satisfaction of collective urban needs that transcend, therefore, the limits of the individual interests of the inhabitants. Thus, the public space of the city constitutes the areas required for circulation, both pedestrian and vehicular, the areas for public recreation, active or passive, for security and citizen tranquility, the strips of withdrawal of buildings on the roads, water sources, parks, squares, green areas and the like, those necessary for the installation and maintenance of basic public services, for the installation and use of the constituent elements of urban furnishing in all its expressions (...), in general, for all existing or duly projected areas in which the collective interest is manifest and convenient and which constitute, therefore, areas for collective use or enjoyment.* (LAW 9TH OF 1989 URBAN REFORM, 1989)



14. Law 9. Own elaboration

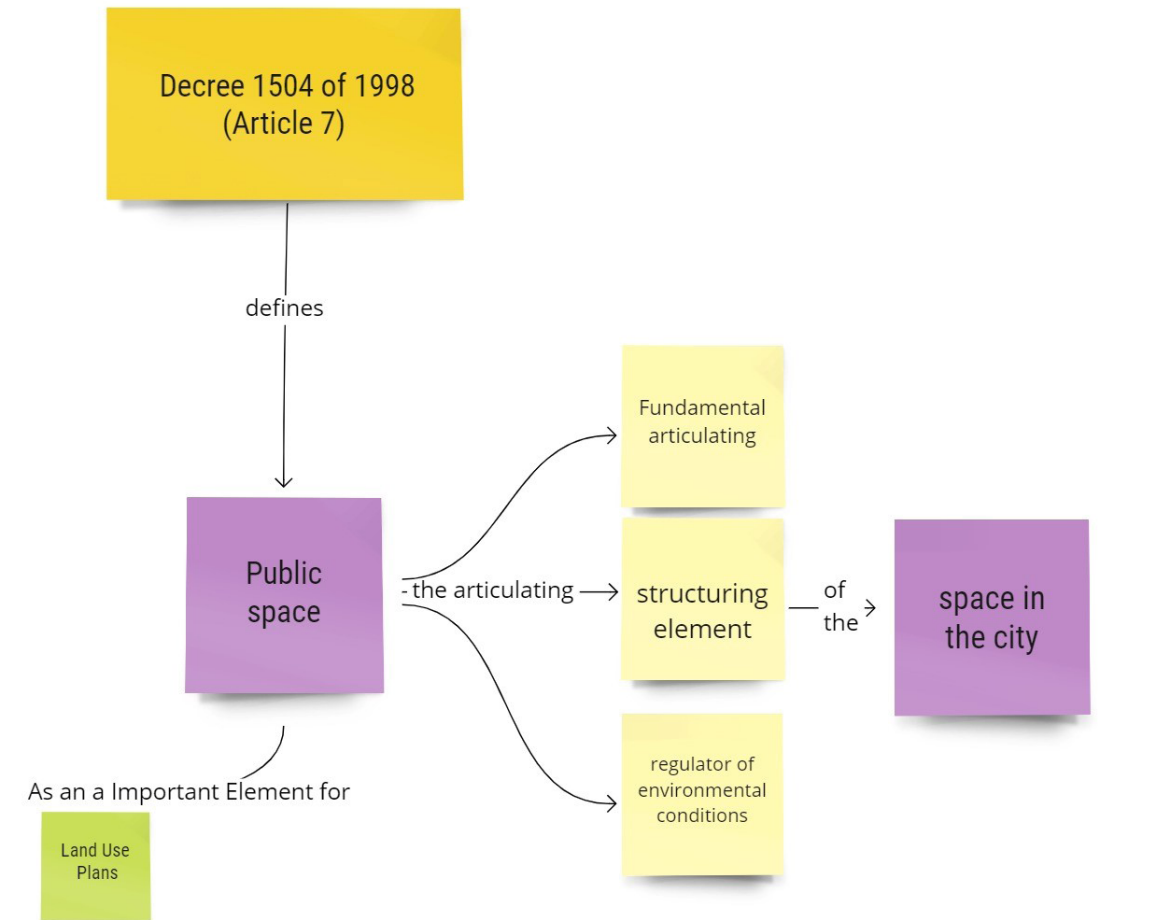
With the constitution of 1991, the population of Colombia is recognized as diverse, multiethnic, and multicultural, that is where each city builds its processes and contexts, of course, diversity does not point to a hierarchy, it supposes that our cities must be that space of encounter and recognition, therefore the update is made in the urban regulations contained in Law 9 of 1989, to obtain a more comprehensive framework of action in urban public policy this happens through the updating of this law through Law 388 of 1997 or also called the Organic Law of Territorial Planning, it is a legal instrument that begins to understand and recognize that each city as a territory of the different process where diverse contexts are established and where the economy at the national level begins to create other economies at the regional level through an urban network that allows integration into urban-regional systems. (Vergara Varela, 2009). With this law arise the territorial planning plans (POT) which give way to decentralization in terms of the planning of the municipalities, contextualizing a little more these norms, seeking to integrate everything that makes up the urban complexity of the cities establishing an administrative “order” focused on areas of expansion, metropolitan areas, public spaces, land uses and management, centralities, mobility, coverage of public services order in economic and environmental terms, where attempts are beginning to be glimpsed for the development of cities with integral visions and about the search for sustainable territories.





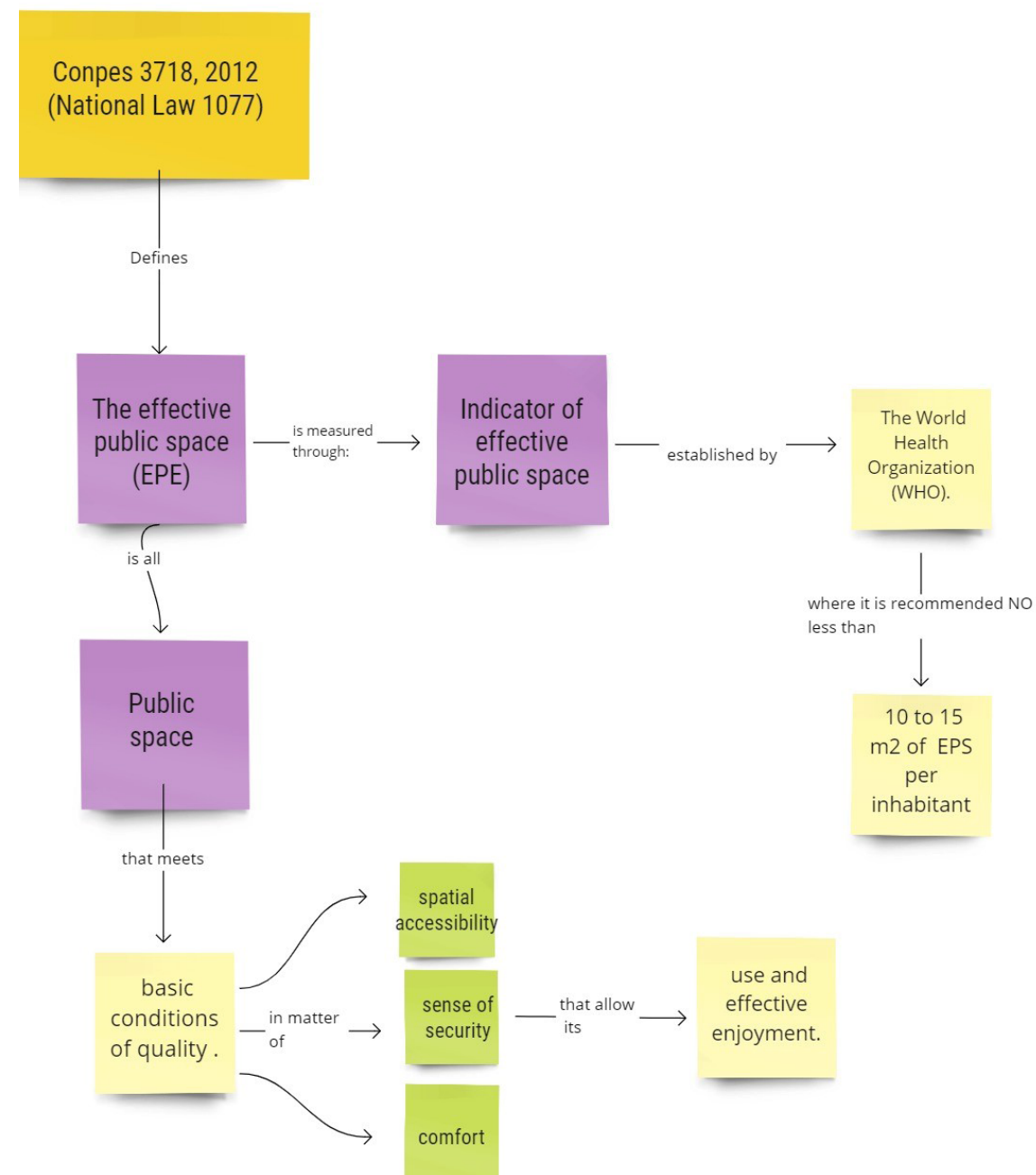
15. Agreement 0373 2014. Own elaboration

In article 7 of Decree 1504 of 1998, public space in territorial planning plans is defined as the fundamental articulating and structuring element of space in the city, as well as the regulator of the environmental conditions of the same, and therefore constitutes one of the main structural elements of the Territorial Planning Plans. It also establishes that the measurement of the quantitative deficit will be based on a minimum index of effective public space (EPE), that is, the permanent public space, made up of green areas, parks, squares, and squares. (Congress of Colombia, 1998)



16. Decree 1504. Own elaboration

Currently, from the point of view of the national documents mentioned above, the POT (land development plan) of Cali proposes to increase the index of effective public space. According to the POT, the current average index of public space is 2.6 square meters per inhabitant. For this reason, the goals of the Territorial Planning Plan of Cali are to increase this index by taking advantage of environmental elements such as eco-park banks and forest areas so that they are used by the people of Cali as recreation spaces. (Cali, 2014). Finally, public space at the national level has a fundamental role in the planning, articulation, and development of the territory as mentioned above, public space functions as a fundamental element that structures the territory, while, in the city of Cali, the element that structures the city is its main ecological structure. In that sense, how the city is structured and developed is directly linked to the natural conditions that the city enjoys.



17. Conpes law. Own elaboration

In summary, the regulations specify five points to highlight and that will be based on the development of this research:

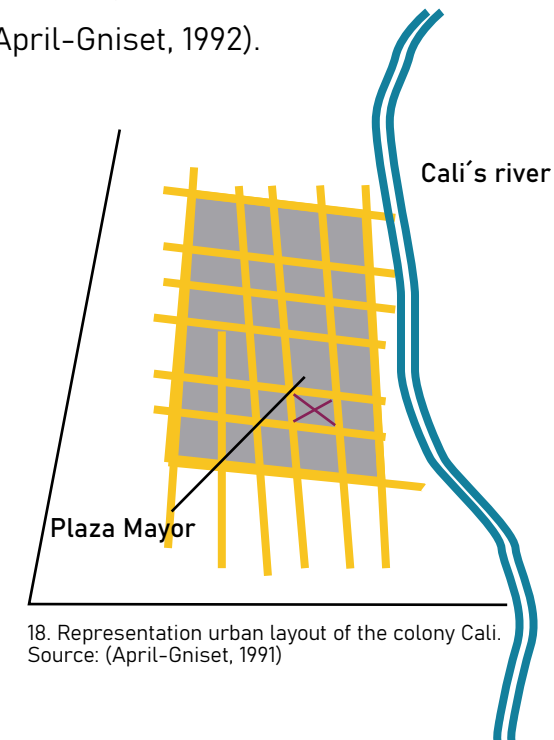
1. Public space is designed to meet collective urban needs in spaces where the collective interest is manifest.
2. In Cali, the element that structures the city is the urban ecological structure, therefore, the Public Space System is configured from the elements of the ecological structure.
3. According to the index of effective public space in Cali is in deficit since the current average index of public space is 2.6 square meters per inhabitant.
4. The public space system is composed of public spaces of environmental value, meeting and recreation, and mobility.
5. Public space in terms of quality, takes into account: accessibility, safety, and comfort.



## TWO HISTORICAL MOMENTS OF THE CITY:

### 1. The city of the colony. The traditional urban layout

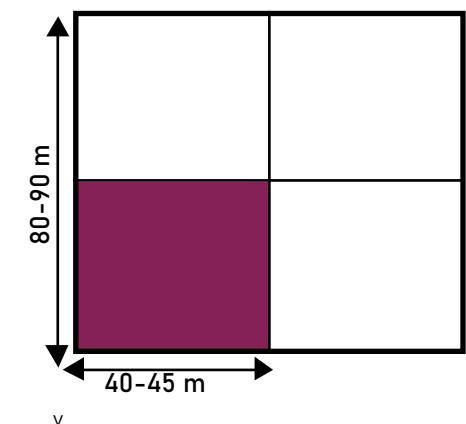
The layout of this sector and its architecture are born from some formulas of continuity established in colonial times in the nineteenth century, until the beginning of the twentieth century. Its orthogonal layout originates in the physical provisions of the Leyes de indias (Spanish colonial law) that as Aprile affirms, in this compilation you could find the origin of practices or norms in force today, therefore, here the first rules of urbanism that Colombia had were reflected. (April-Gnisset, 1992).



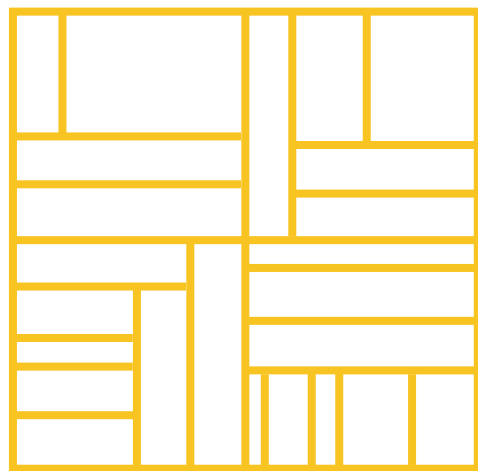
18. Representation urban layout of the colony Cali.  
Source: (April-Gnisset, 1991)

These right angles "to rule and string" as defined by Aprile, result in an orthogonal grid formed by the crossing of streets, these streets as a set of longitudinal bands (with a certain width) forming the meeting spaces of the time, and the space between them (the blocks), the private space that later becomes fractionated.

Each block was divided into four plots, each plot as a corner property belonging to a family. Each property had a façade of 45 meters on each side, of this distribution of properties, is born in the country the private property of latifundista type, it should be added that some of these properties were mainly intended for housing, were designed for other types of complementary uses. (April-Gnisset, 1991)



This property fragmentation occurs for reasons such as changes of owners for inheritance or fiscal reasons. The houses of the blocks begin to have different characteristics according to the need for housing, oscillate in volume, height and with a façade of smaller dimension than others. The increase in the rate of construction in the city does not result in an expansion to the outside but a much more compact morphology accompanied by the increase in densification, this being the mode of growth of the “Colonial city”.



20. Representation of Block in time of the colony. Cali. Source: (April-Gnisset, 1991)

Economic processes such as the local crisis between the years 1810 and 1830, and in the course of processes of pre-industrialization and recovery of the territory in economic terms, the growth of the city was modest since there were no urbanization processes at encouraged migration to Cali since the difference between the living conditions of the rural area was not very different from that of the population centers. “In the case of Cali, the population of “la traza”, had a decrease in the rate of urbanization. “ In the nineteenth century, the population of the municipality of Cali increased 3.8 times, while in the twentieth century increased 200 times... Population growth was due more to vegetative behavior than to immigration.”

### The street as a common space.

Until the end of the nineteenth century the public services did not have a sufficient provision, the lighting was precarious and for the sewerage ditches that ran through the center of the cobbled streets were reduced as well as the sewerage. The street was then those surfaces that house the flows of the city and where multiple identifiable actions can happen in relation to the image of the city, in the same way it is an important space for the constant relationship between the interior and the exterior, the dialogue between the private and the public. From a collective sense, the street and the sidewalk almost functioned as one, what differentiated them was the change in texture in the material. The street addition to connecting and organizing the city, were meeting spaces for citizens. The street is an element that builds its image, and its function from cultural patterns, the street can be flows, circulation, routes, as well as permanence's, meeting, stay.



21. Image: Cali Antigua. Source: Departmental Library of Cali



22. Image: Cali Antigua. Source: Departmental Library of Cali

23. Old Cali urban profile. Own elaboration





Emblematic buildings of the city of Cali: Cali Center



Urban Fragment Case Study    Emblematic buildings



Religious Complex and Colonial Art Museum La Merced.

24.Source: Cali's Municipality



San Francisco Square

25.Source: Cali's Municipality



Bank of the Republic of Colombia

26.Source: Cali's Municipality



Municipal Theater of Cali

28.Source: Cali's Municipality



Proartes Cali House

27.Source: Cali's Municipality



Valle del Cauca government

29.Source: Cali's Municipality



San Francisco Square

30.Source: Cali's Municipality

The center of Cali is the place that best reflects the passage of time reflected in its diversity of architecture evoked in each building, it is the center of churches, museums, cultural centers, banks, theaters, clinics and government buildings, which tell stories from the colony, until modernity.



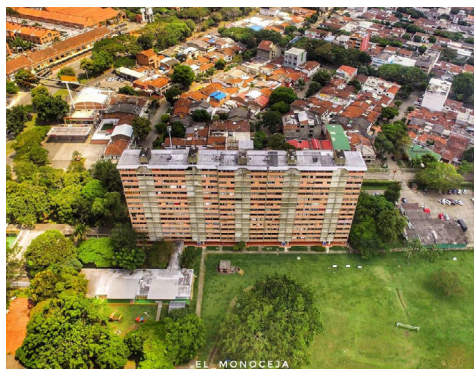
## The arrival of public space and its definition:

Towards the modernization of the expanded city.

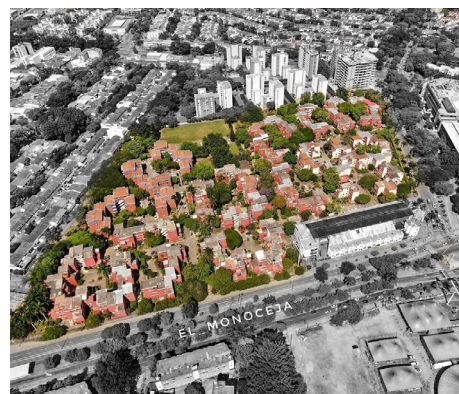
Later in the period of the arrival of the tram and the takeoff through which the city crossed 1910–1930), the center that already had a mixture of uses and resided the elites of the city began to have a high demand for land for commercial purposes, therefore, the land closest to the center had higher prices and those of the “peripheries” with low prices. In this way, an urbanizing phenomenon is manifested that starts from the eviction of the center and as a consequence begins to observe urban fabrics that begin to specialize in uses, then on the one hand we have those who live in the new neighborhoods near the center demonstrating their purchasing power and their social status, and on the other hand, the low-income people who come to the city in search of opportunities, located on the outskirts of the city making even more visible the segregation of social classes.

In Cali a new spirit arises due to modernization that comes as an influence of everything that happens in other parts of the world, a spirit nourished by the landscapes of modernity in European cities and that influenced the construction of buildings with architectures to present Cali as a modern city (Rincon et al., 2009), buildings that today, are located in the center of the city. new developments in terms of infrastructures of the city, allowed the urban transformation of the moment to be modified to adapt it to what at the time was something new, the automobile, which ultimately came to stay since 1913 causing the urban profiles of the streets of the center and the rest of the city to be modified little by little.

For 1956 the first example of modern architecture in multifamily housing and the start of the gated communities, called the Republic of Venezuela building or Venezuelan building, and and the Santiago de Cali Residential Unit.



24. Venezuelan building- housing complex  
Source: El monoceja photographer

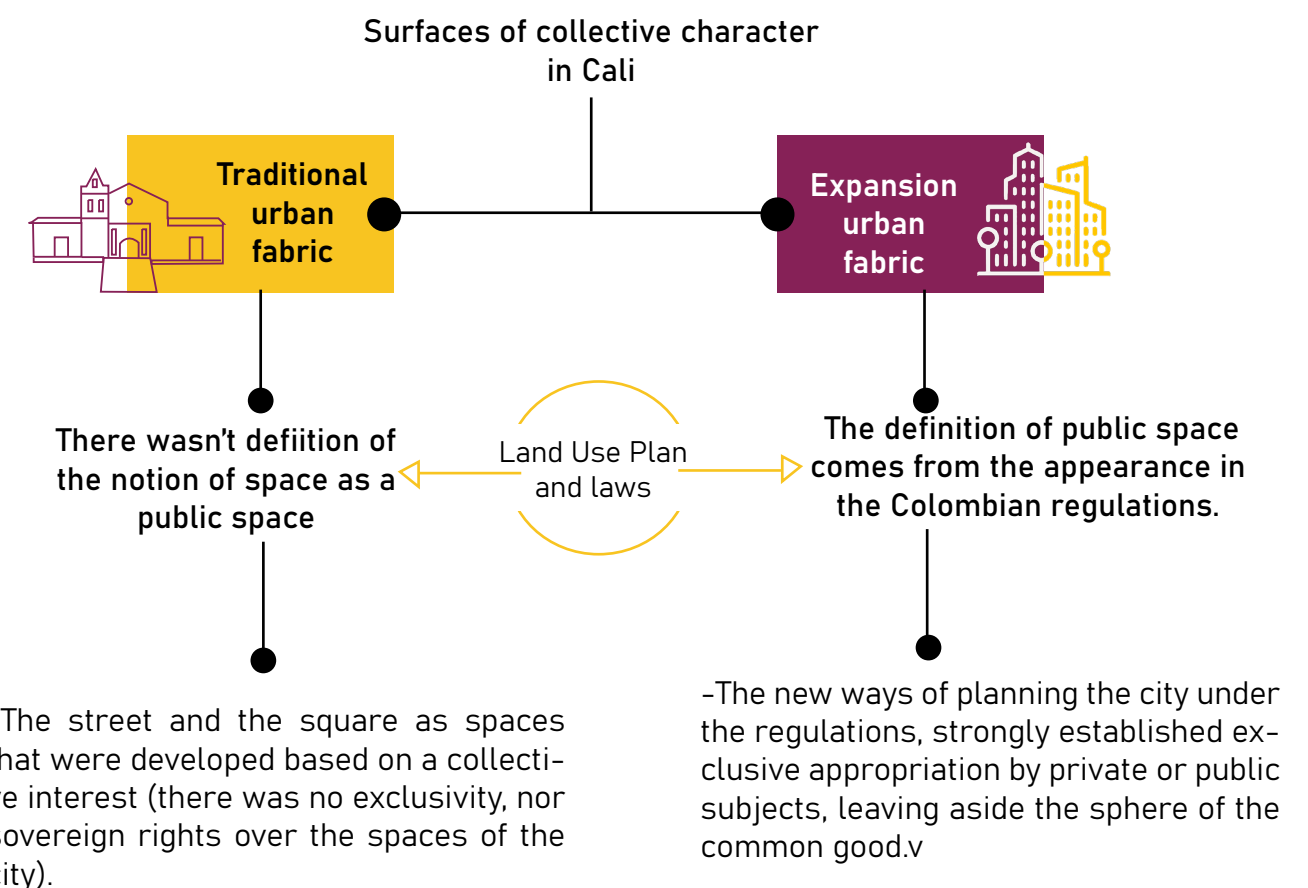


25. Santiago de Cali housing complex Source: El monoceja photographer

The development of public works in the city continued to advance and in which a high steets, and highways development emerged in Cali to recognize the city as a representation of “progress”, but in reality this so-called “progress” implied socio-spatial conflicts of segregation in the city. One of these socio-spatial conflicts was caused by development of mobility in favor of the car and not to walk the city.

After some urban projects for the city, and the arrival of the new laws the surfaces of common character undergo a great transformation under the definition given by decree 1504 of 1998 and its disposition later embodied in the subsequent management plans territorial (2000,2014).

The expansion is evident in a north and south direction, leaving behind the logic of the other compact city, now the extended city, even disconnected, insists on marking a logic that positions the city nationally and internationally, through the construction of works as collective facilities for education, religion, industry, and sports, that marked in the collective imagination an urban image that differentiates the new city from that of colonial legacy.





## MORE THAN PRIVE AND PUBLIC: PHYSICAL-SPATIAL ANALYSIS.

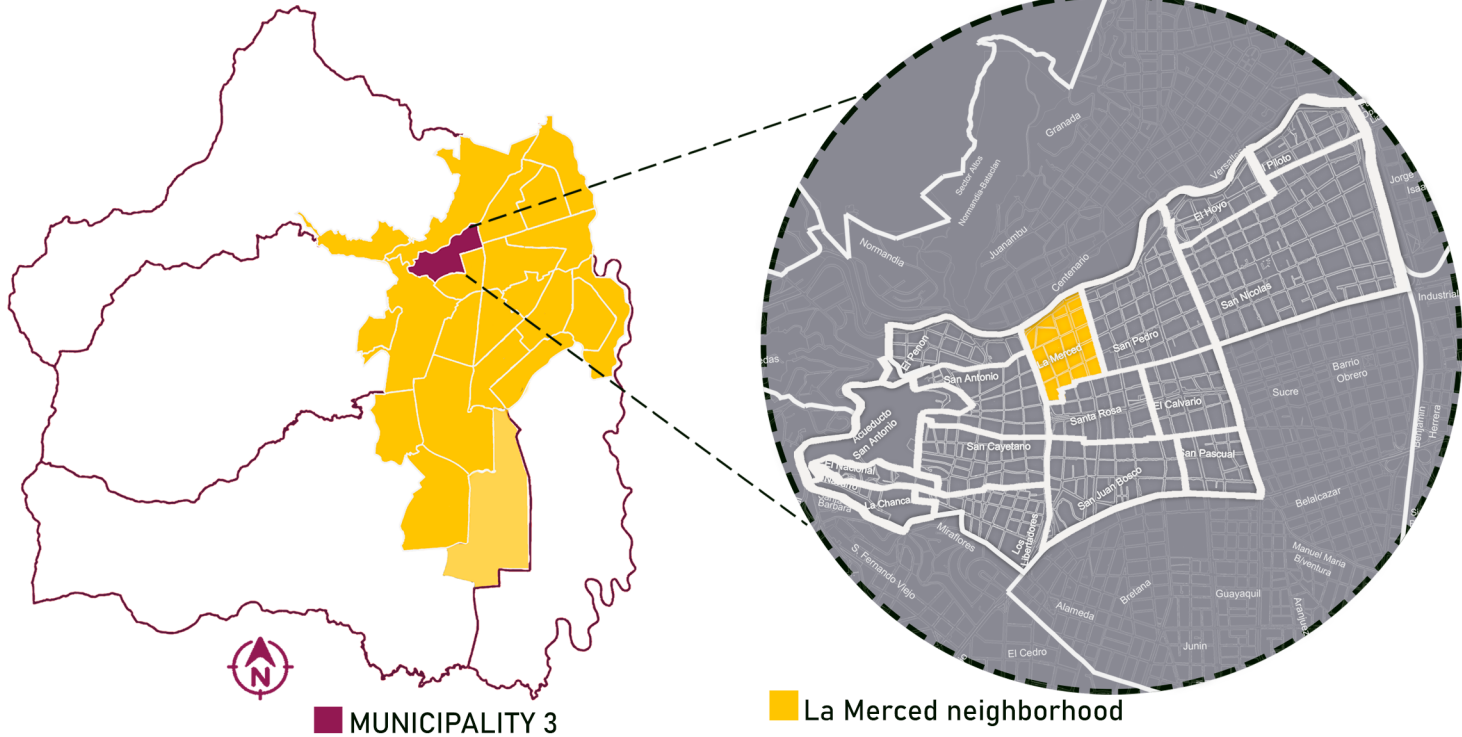
The acceleration and expansion of Colombian cities have given rise to a multiplicity of phenomena, producing sequels reflected in processes of transformation and new ways of building cities, evidenced in the different ways of using surfaces, such as the forms of occupation and distribution of space. public space.

In the particular case of Cali, its complexity derives from many reasons that have made it the city it is today: late public policies, recent regulatory frameworks, deterritorialized and descriptive regulations rather than action plans for the development of strategies. The city and its “order” are described and quantified, but quality is not measured or discussed, where public space is not exempt from this issue.

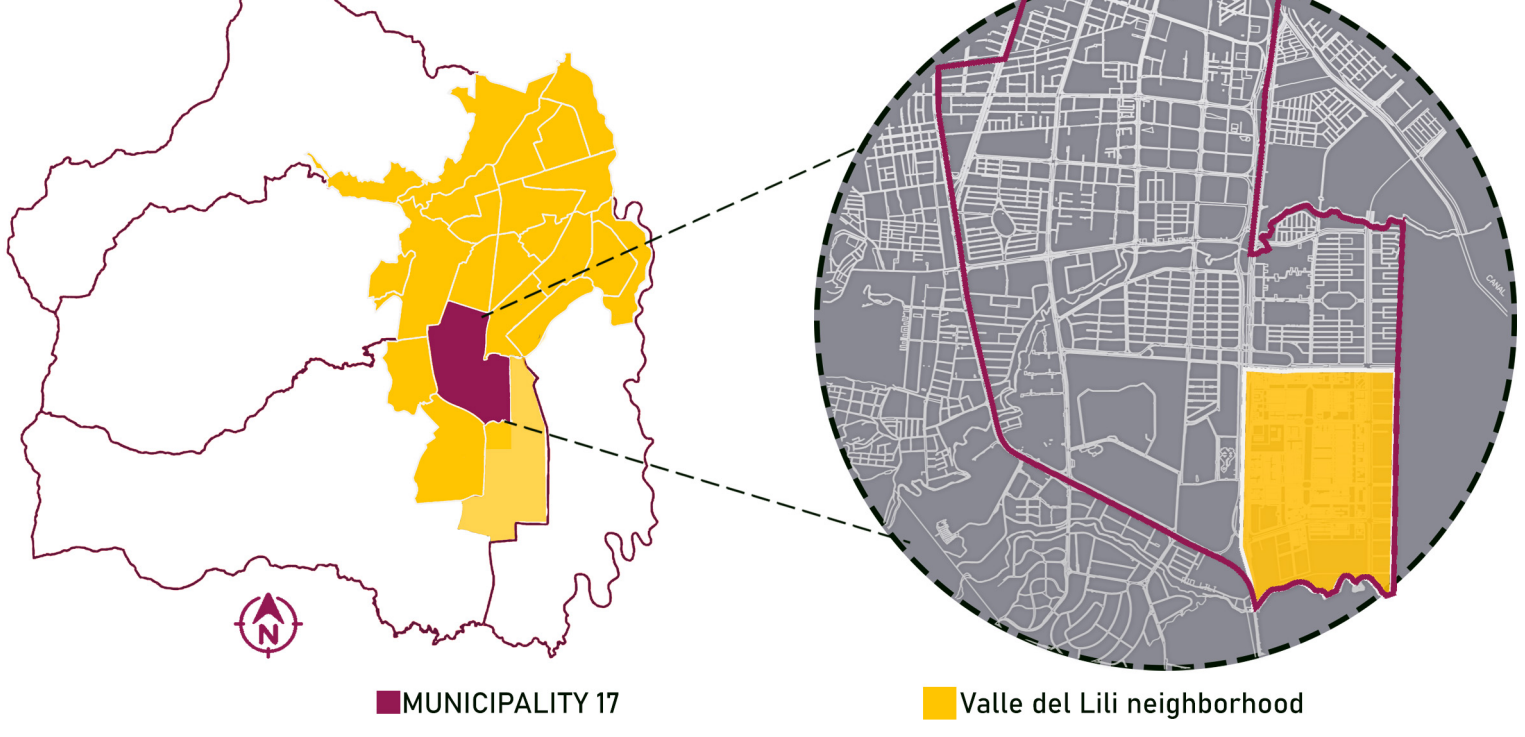
Despite the importance given to public space as a structural element of the city together with the ecological structure of the city, there is a deficit of public space in qualitative and quantitative terms. The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend less than 10 to 15 m<sup>2</sup> of green areas per inhabitant, thus mitigating the damage caused by the accelerated growth of cities and their daily practices that threaten the consumption of resources, putting at risk the quality of life, environmental structures. Currently the deficit in Colombia is 3.3 m<sup>2</sup> per inhabitant, being more evident in dense urban centers and where there are new settlements there is no adequate provision of public space. (Conpes 3718, 2012)



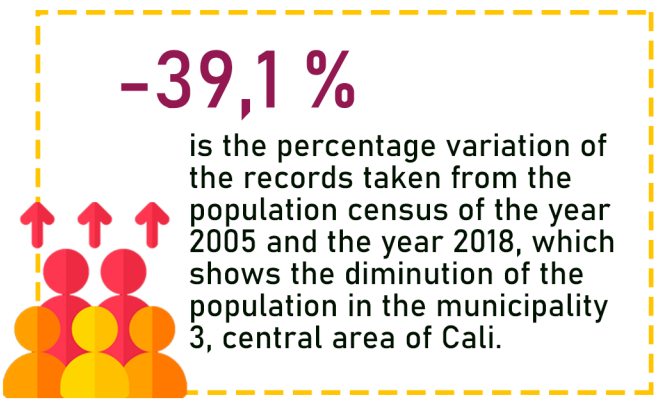
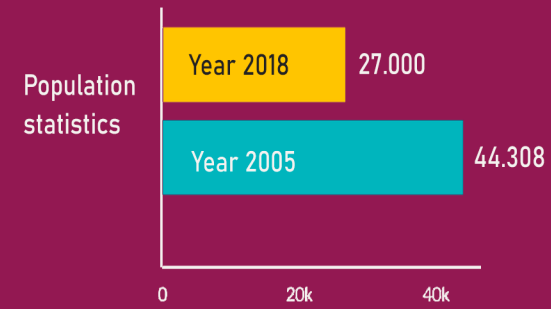
Statistical data: Municipality 3



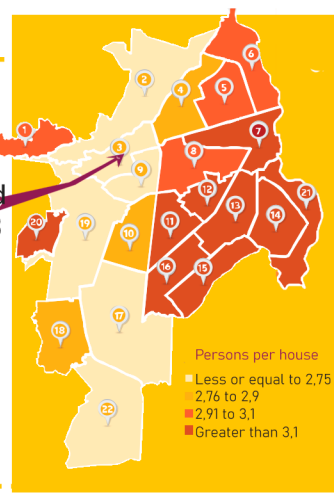
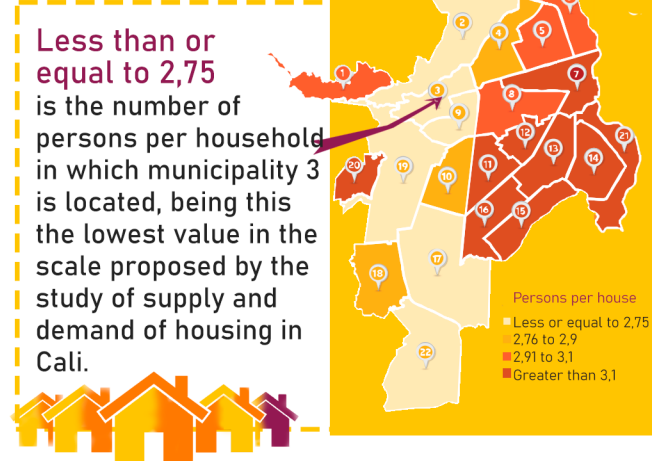
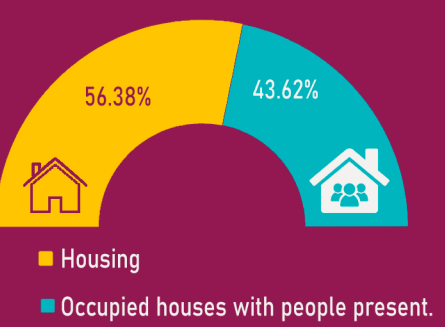
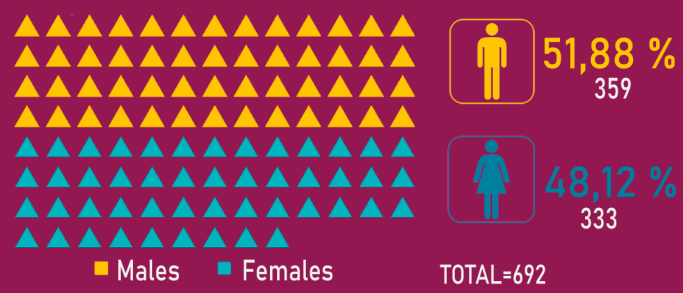
Municipality 17



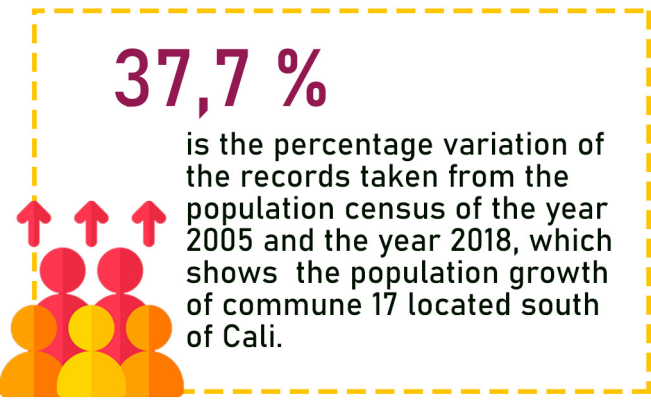
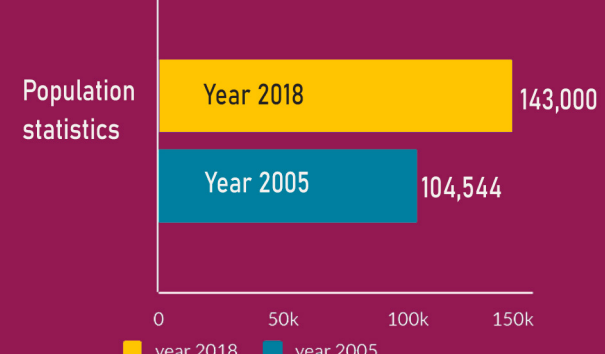
Population statistics municipality 3



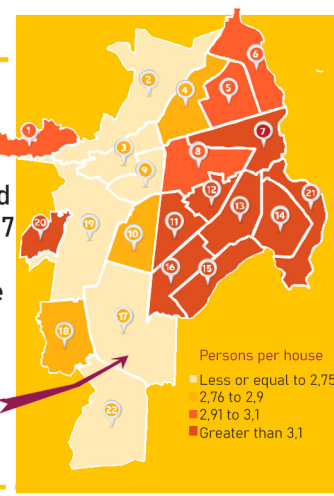
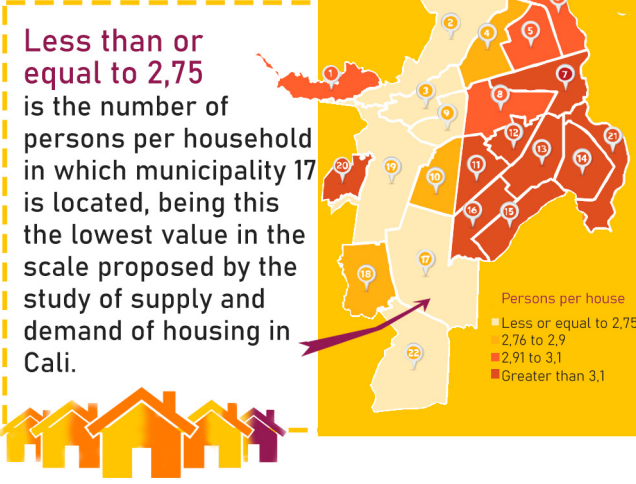
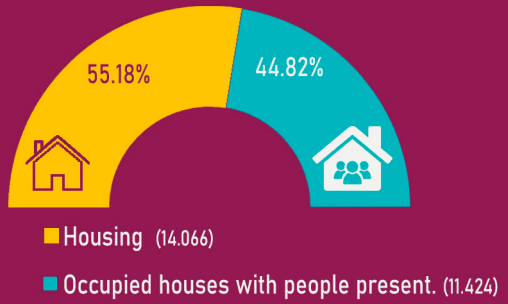
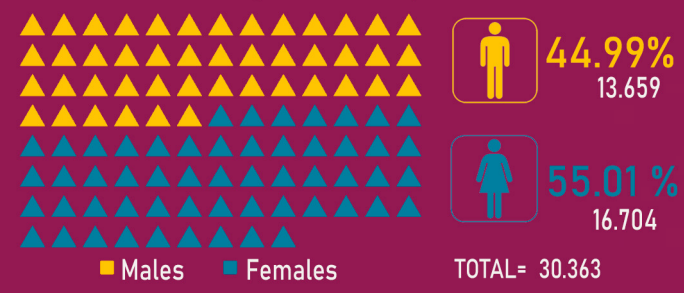
Population statistics La Merced neighborhood (statistics 2018)



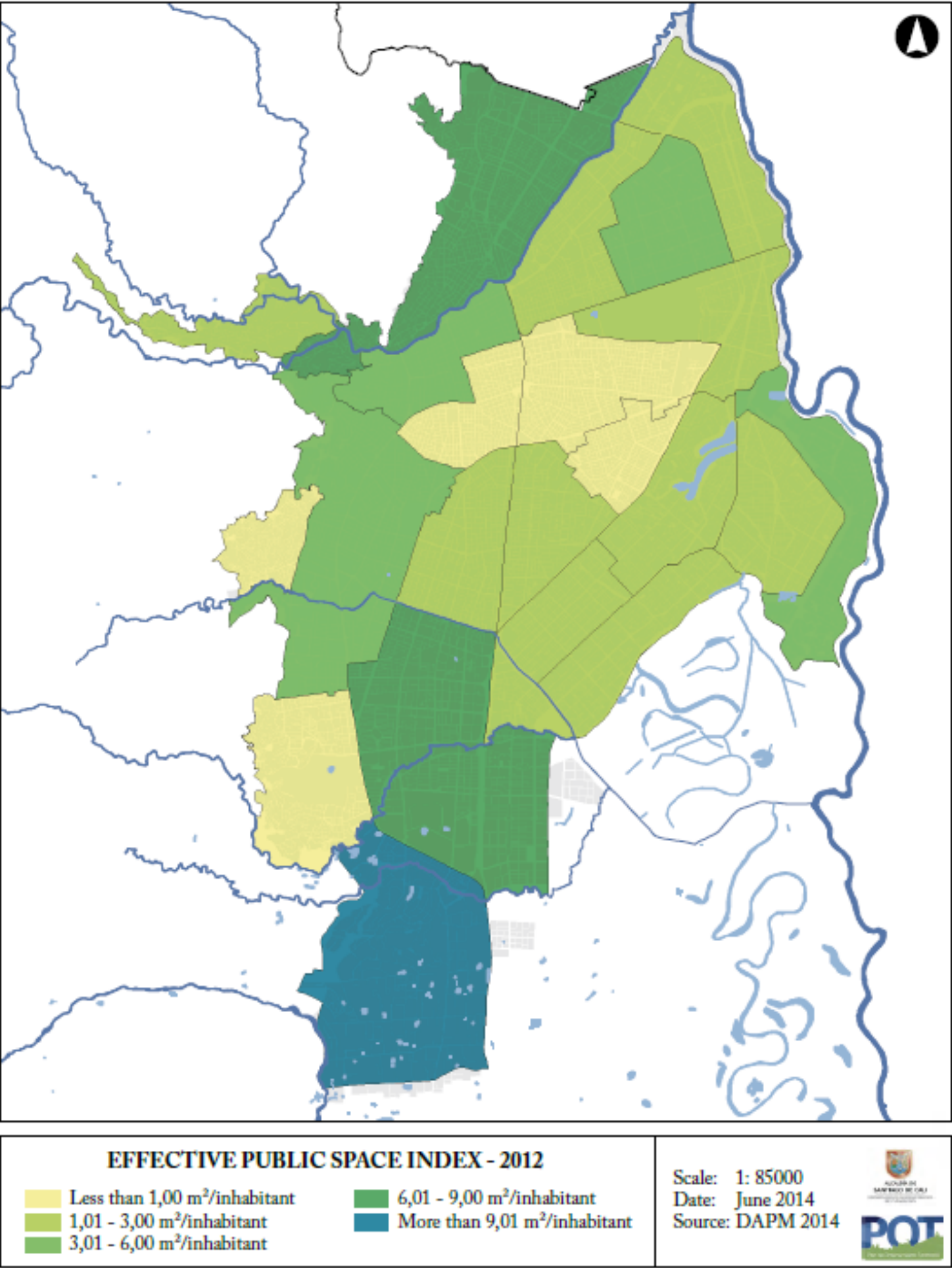
Population statistics municipality 17



Population statistics VALLE DEL LILI neighborhood (statistics 2018)

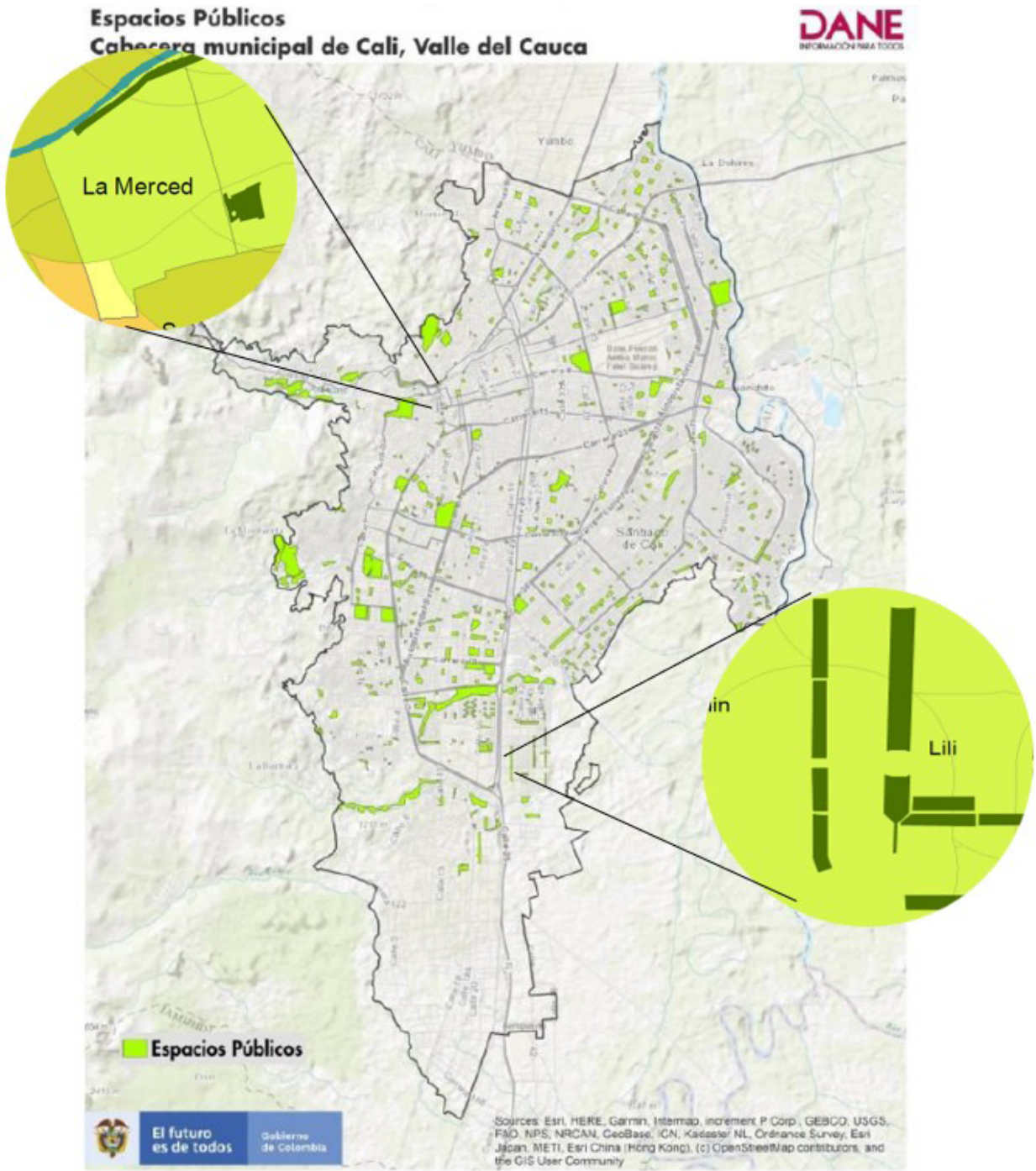






31. Source Land development plan for Cali

According to the public space index applied in the city, commune 3, where Barrio la Merced is located, has an index of 3,011-6.00m2 per inhabitant, and the Valle del Lili neighborhood in commune 17 south of Cali, it is in a range of 6.01-9.00m2 per inhabitant.



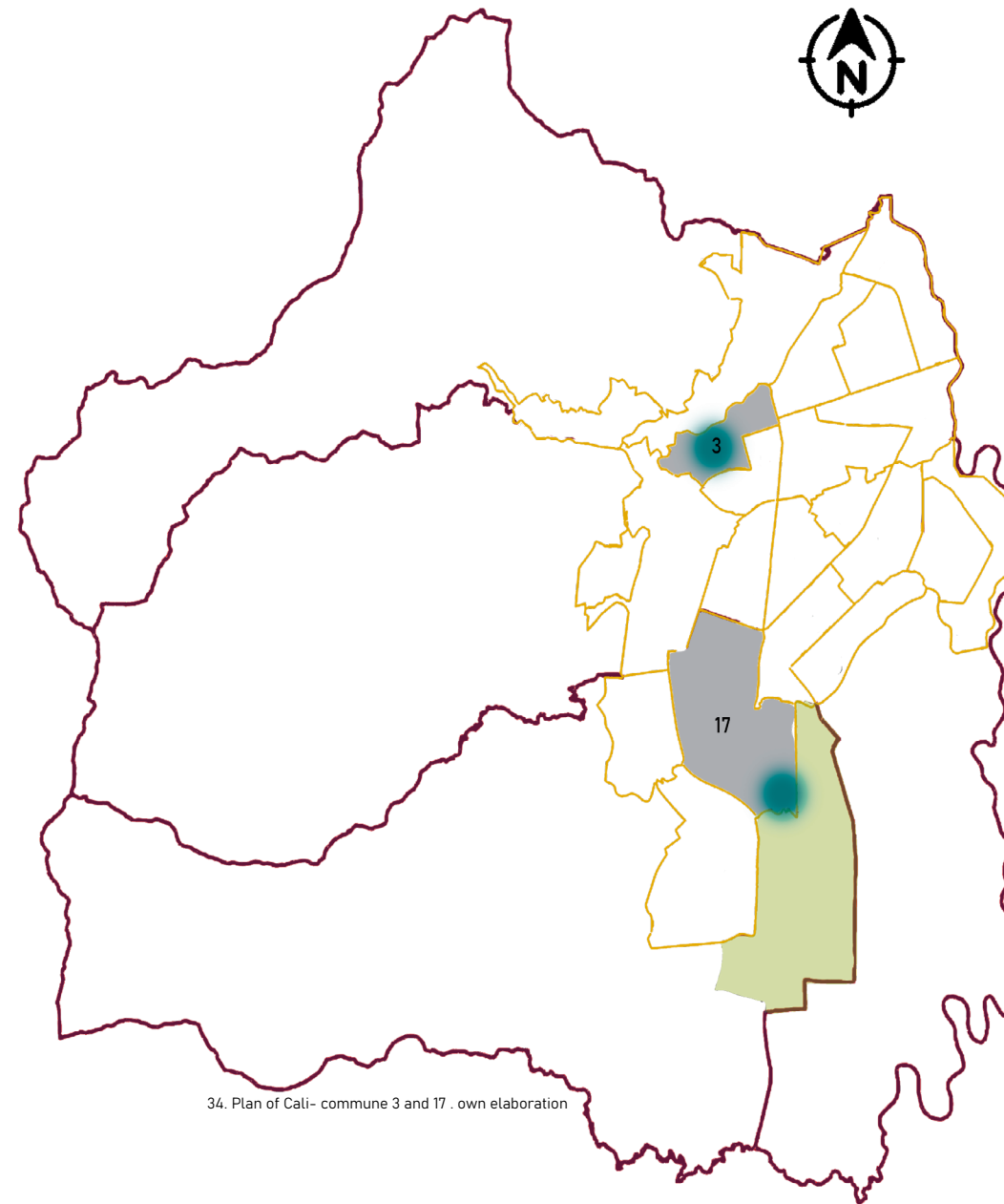
32. Public space system for Cali. Source: DANE



## Case study: Two urban fabrics



33. Cali panoramic Source: Diario de Occidente



34. Plan of Cali- commune 3 and 17 . own elaboration

The chosen study areas are urban fabrics of two urban fabrics representative of two important transformations of the city, are representations of the ancient city and the modern city, where their typological and morphological configurations, through time have undergone some changes in their dynamics, uses and activities. Urban fragment 1 is located in the historic center of the city as part of the founding fabric of the city and the compact city model. The urban fragment type 2, is located in the southern part of the city, in the peripheries of the city also with configurations typical of a modern city and part of the dispersed city model.



Urban fabric Type 1, La Merced as an example of a traditional configuration

Currently, in the provision of territorial planning, the neighborhood of La Merced is part of commune 3 according to the Administrative Department of Planning of Cali with its statistical yearbook Cali figures, 2016 it had a population of 34,452 and currently has a population of 33,652. The housing estimate has gone from 12,476 in 2016 to 12,226 in 2021. It has a socio-economic level of 5(Administrative Department of Planning of Cali, 2021). The polygon is located in commune 3 of the city and according to the POT of 2014 classifies as an area of mixed and endowment activity, it is the historic center of the city and therefore with cultural real estate of national and municipal scope which leads it to have urban conservation treatment.



35. Top view Cali center, urban fragment 1

Urban fabric Type 2, Barrio Valle del Lili as an example of the current configuration

Currently, in the provision of territorial planning, the neighborhood Valle del Lili is part of commune 17 and is the largest in the city according to the Administrative Department of Planning of Cali with its statistical yearbook, Cali figures, for 2016 it had a population of 154.032 and currently has a population of 168.002. The housing in this commune has the participation of 52% of the licenses granted for real estate construction. It has a socio-economic level of 5 (Administrative Department of Planning of Cali, 2021). The polygon is located in commune 17 of the city and according to the POT of 2014 classifies as an area of expansion where the uses are predominant residences.



36. Top view Cali south, urban fragment 2 Source :Jaramillo Mora

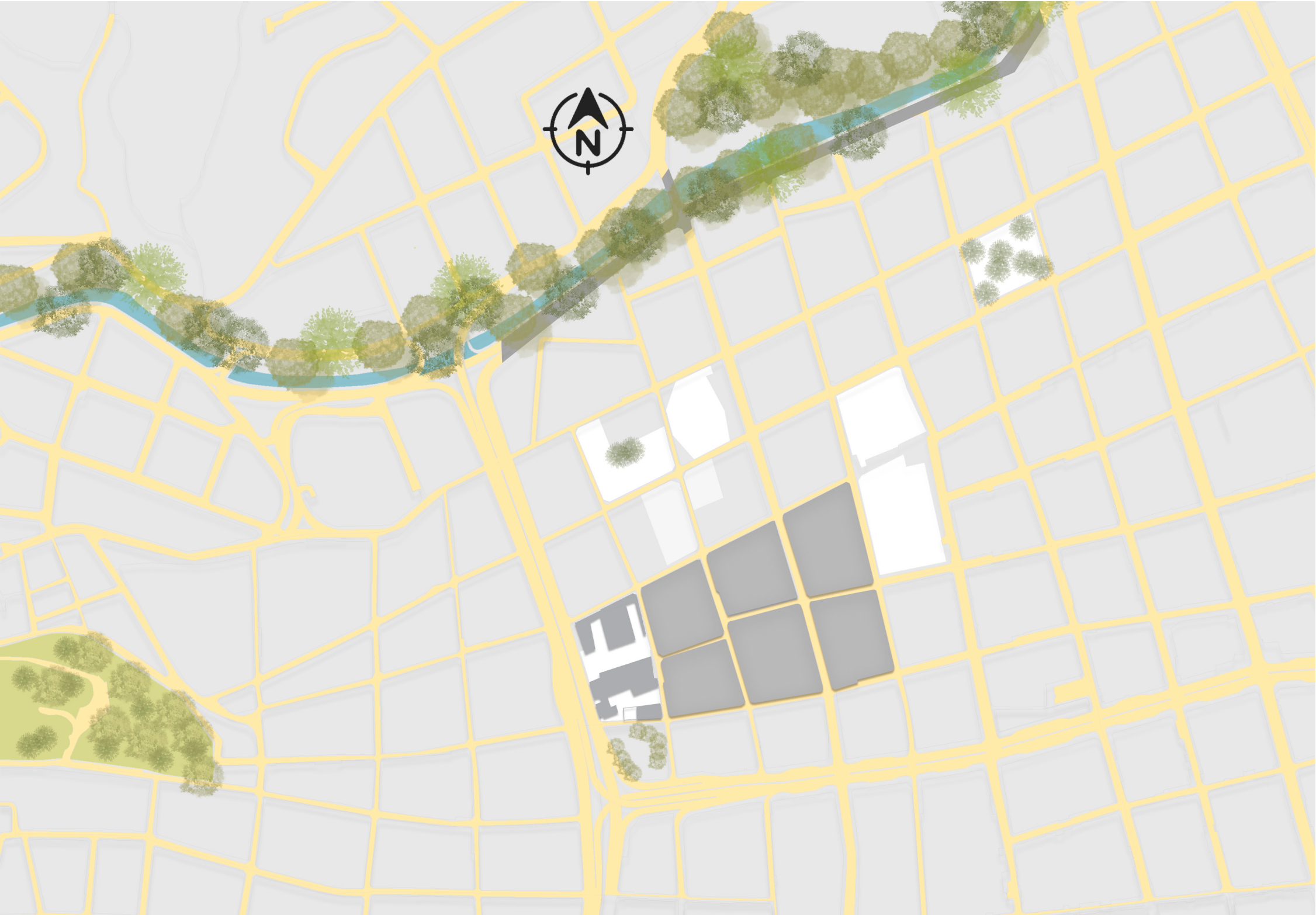


URBAN FRAGMENT STUDY AREA 1: Old city

The polygon defined the urban cut type 1 for its description and subsequent evaluation is delimited by the 5th road to the 9th road, and the 8th, and 6th streets. Within this polygon, it is worth highlighting as important equipment the Municipal Theater adjoins other facilities such as the Cultural Center of Cali and the Bank of the Republic of Colombia. The Merced sector is part of the historic complex of the city along with other neighborhoods such as San Nicolas, San Pedro, Santa Rosa, San Antonio, and San Bosco. It has a condition of antiquity a little higher than the other neighborhoods of the historical sector where tradition holds that in La Merced the first mass was celebrated, although there is no documentation to support this assertion. (Municipal planning, 2007)



37. Top view Cali center, urban fragment 1, taken from Google maps



38. Top view Cali center, own elaboration.



URBAN FRAGMENT STUDY AREA 2: Expansion zone

The polygon defined the urban cut type 2 for its description and subsequent evaluation is delimited by the 25th race to the 42th race, and the 99th, and 97h streets.

It is a neighborhood endowed with a high housing activity, where the typology of closed housing complex (gated communities) predominates. It is also endowed with an important environmental infrastructure.



39. Top view Cali center, Taken from Google earth

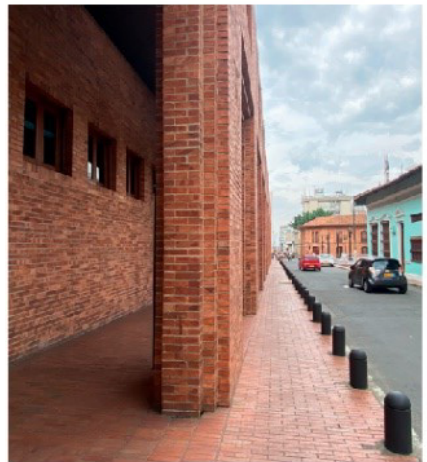
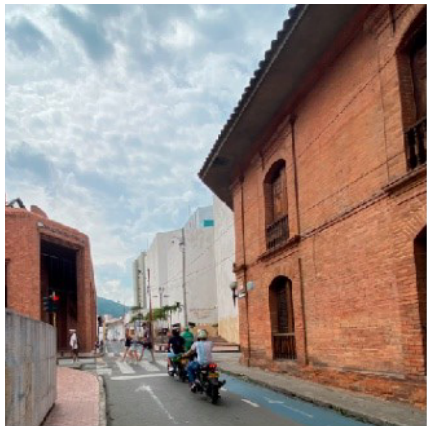


40. Top view Valle del lili, own elaboration.

**Operational phase:**

**Matrix of dimensions, Morphology matrix:**

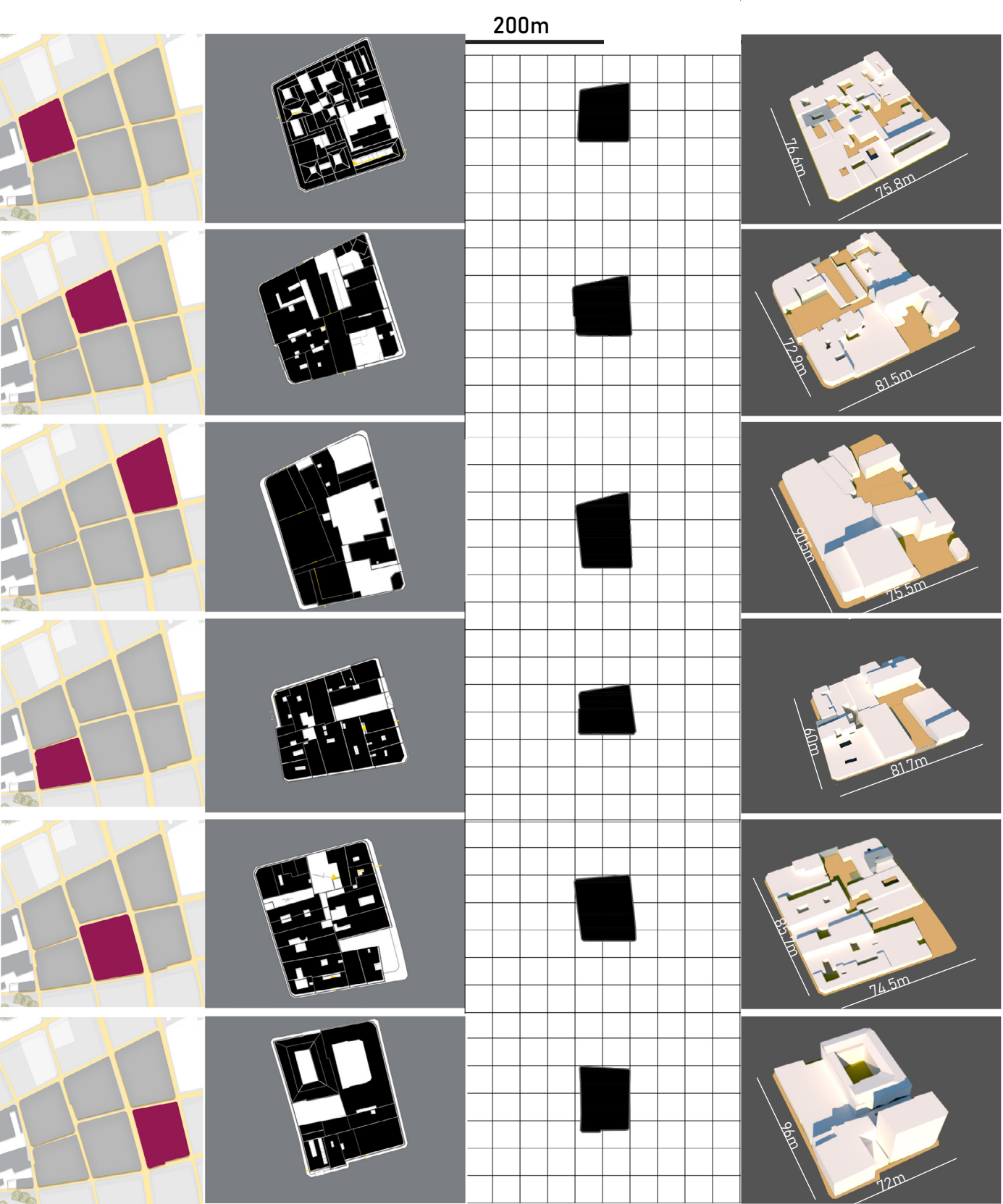
For research, it is important to analyze and understand what the current public space is like. The functioning in physical-spatial terms, allows us to observe the changes that the urban profile has had or how they have been planned, which brings us closer to some first ideas of its attributes and defects in physical terms, all this in relation to the current activity of each sector, its density First, a matrix is constructed that allows the COMPARISON IN THE DIMENSIONS of the blocks and followed by this, MORPHOLOGY MATRIX, obtaining the first preliminary conclusions of this part.



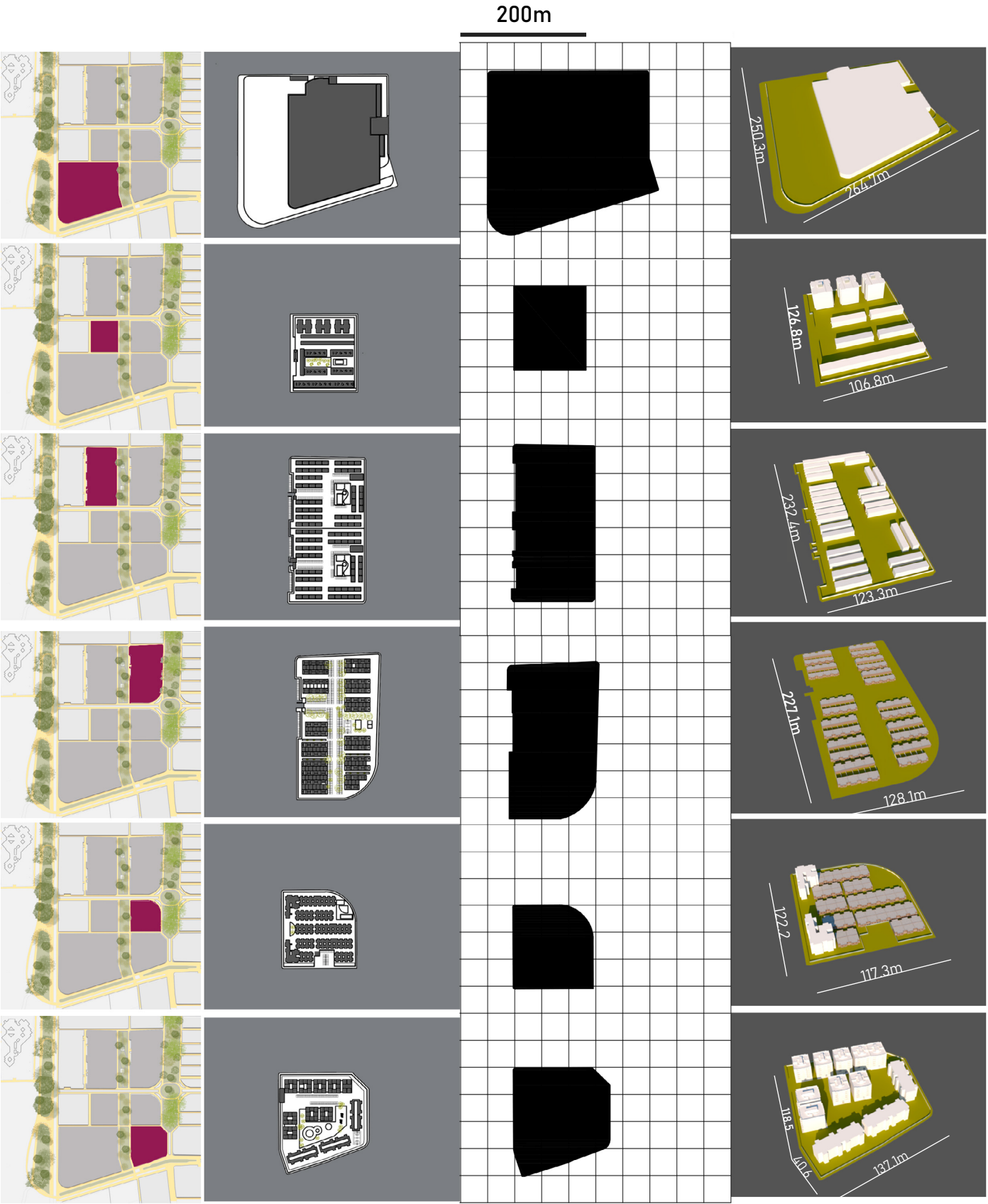
41.Photos taken on site



Dimensional matrix: traditional city

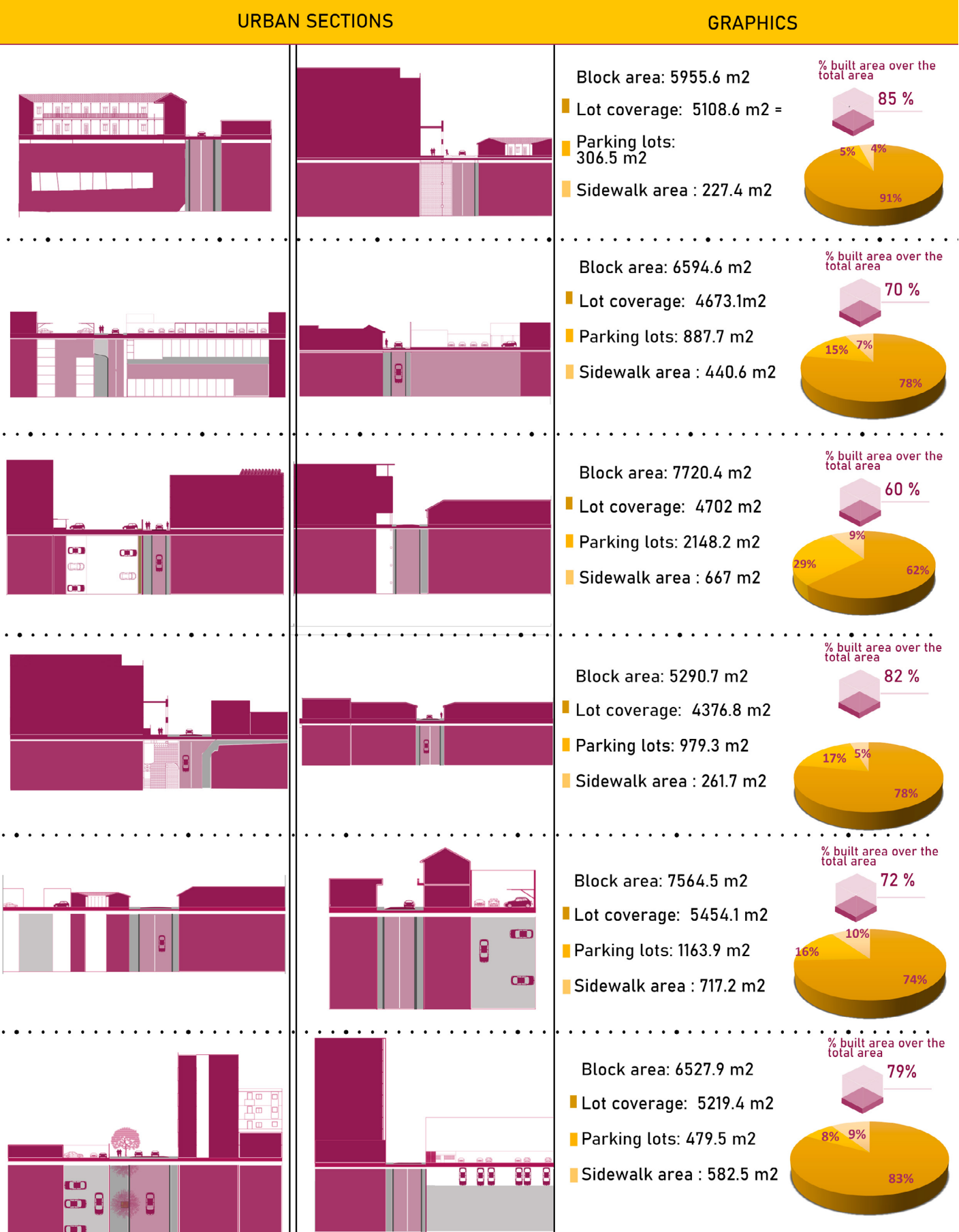
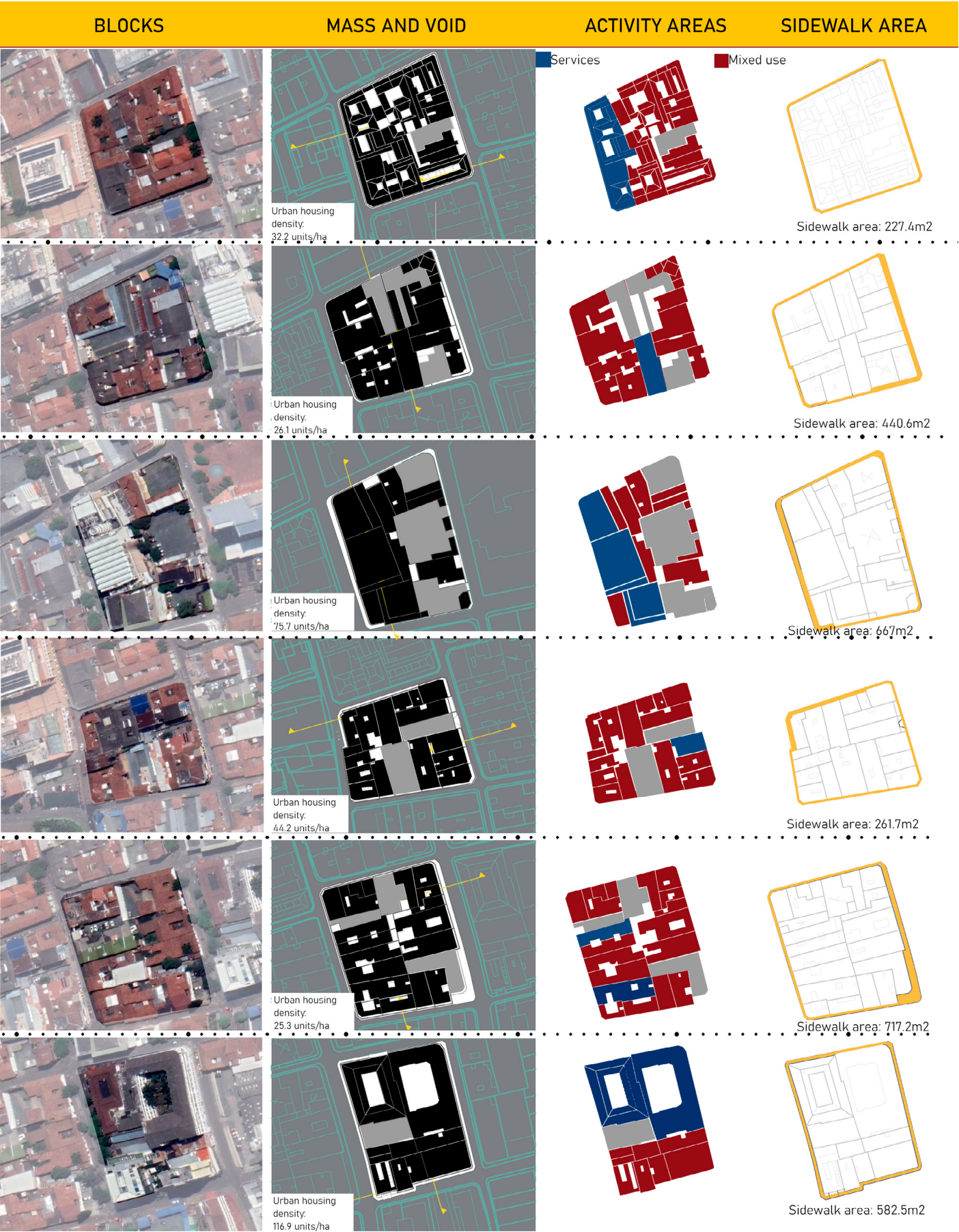


Dimensional matrix: expansion city

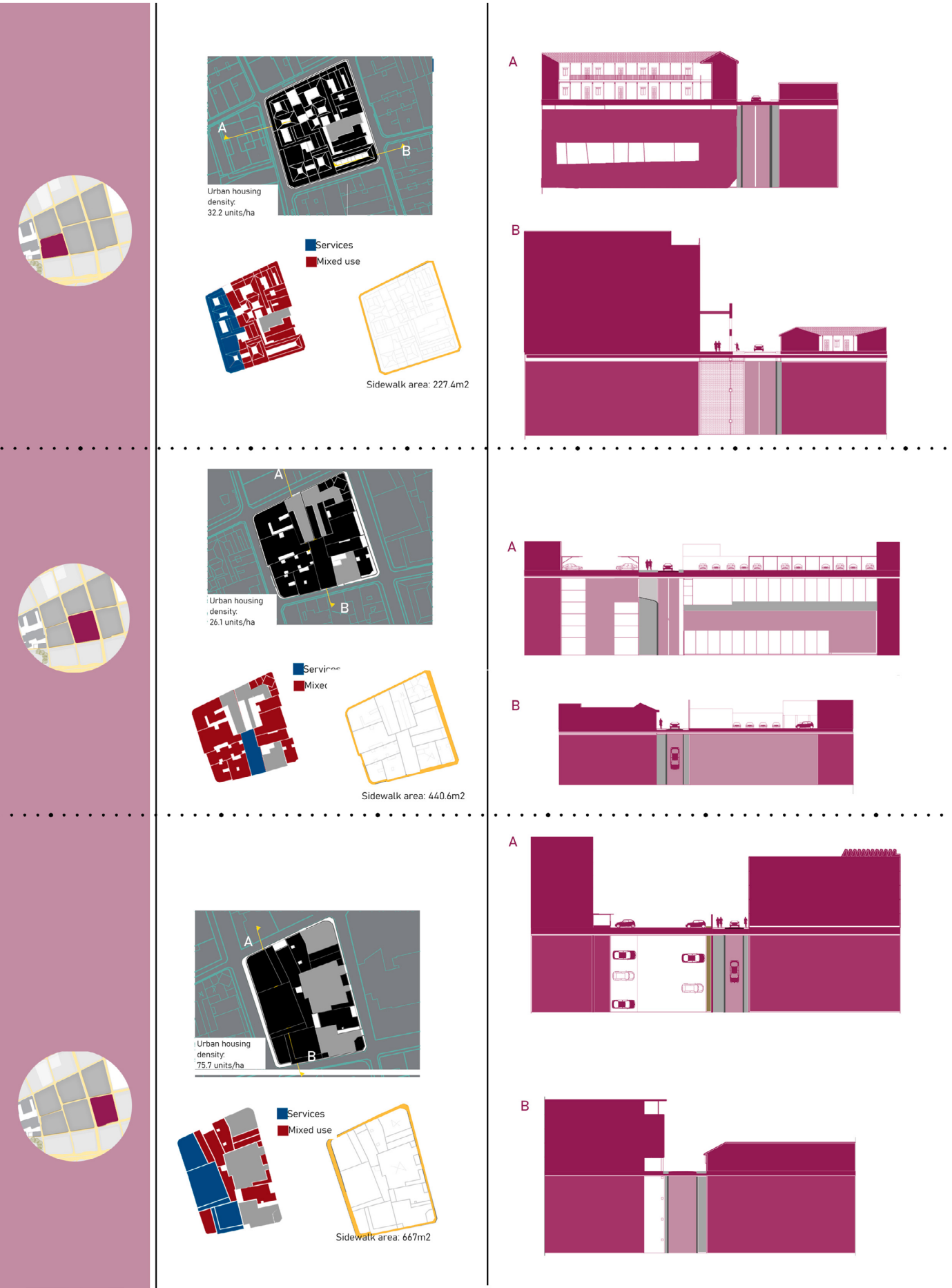
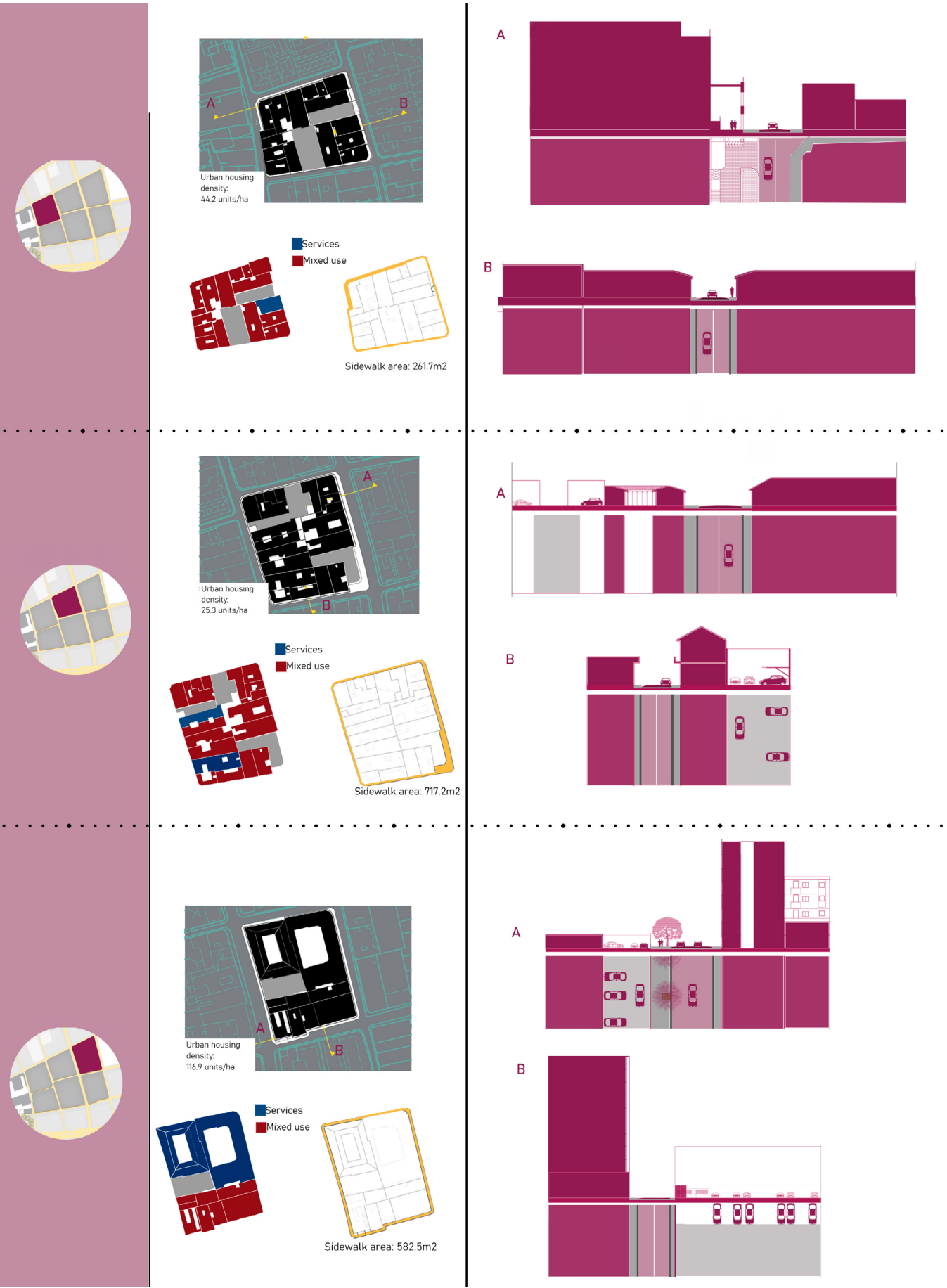




Morphological matrix: traditional city









Morphological matrix: expansion city

BLOCKS	MASS AND VOID	ACTIVITY AREA	SIDEWALK AREA

Housing density: 116,9

Housing density: 76,6

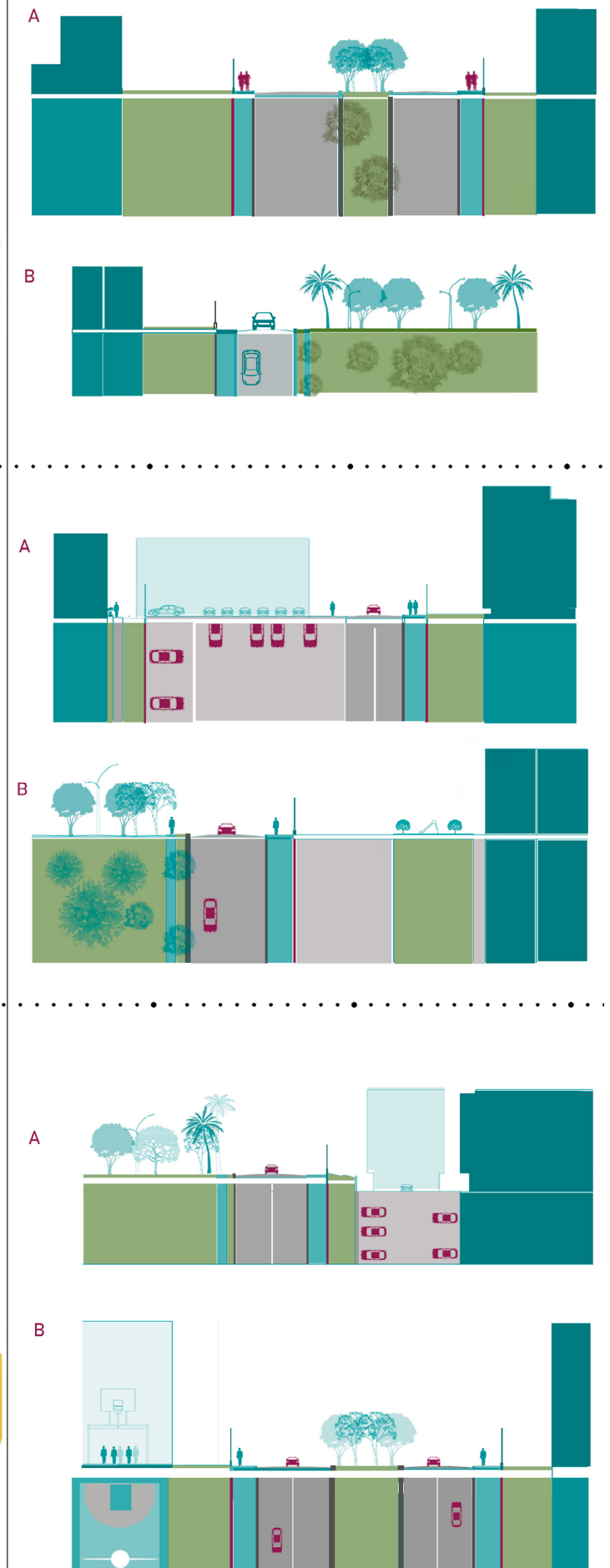
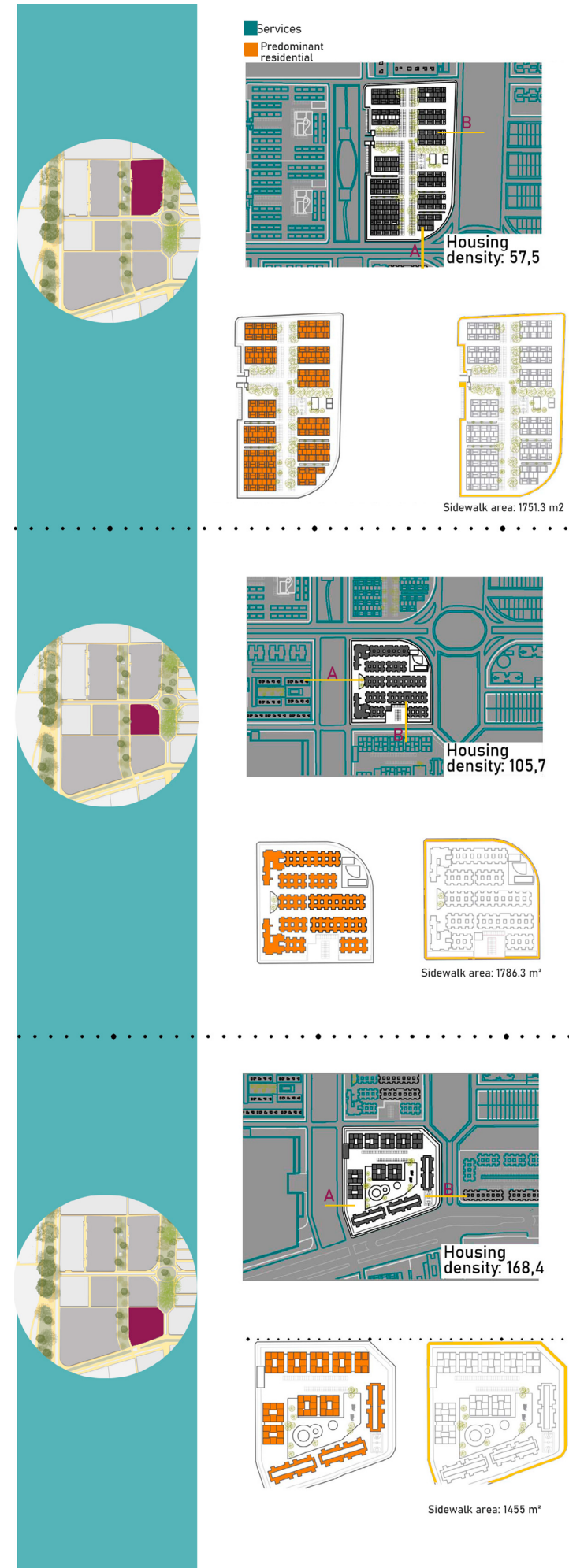
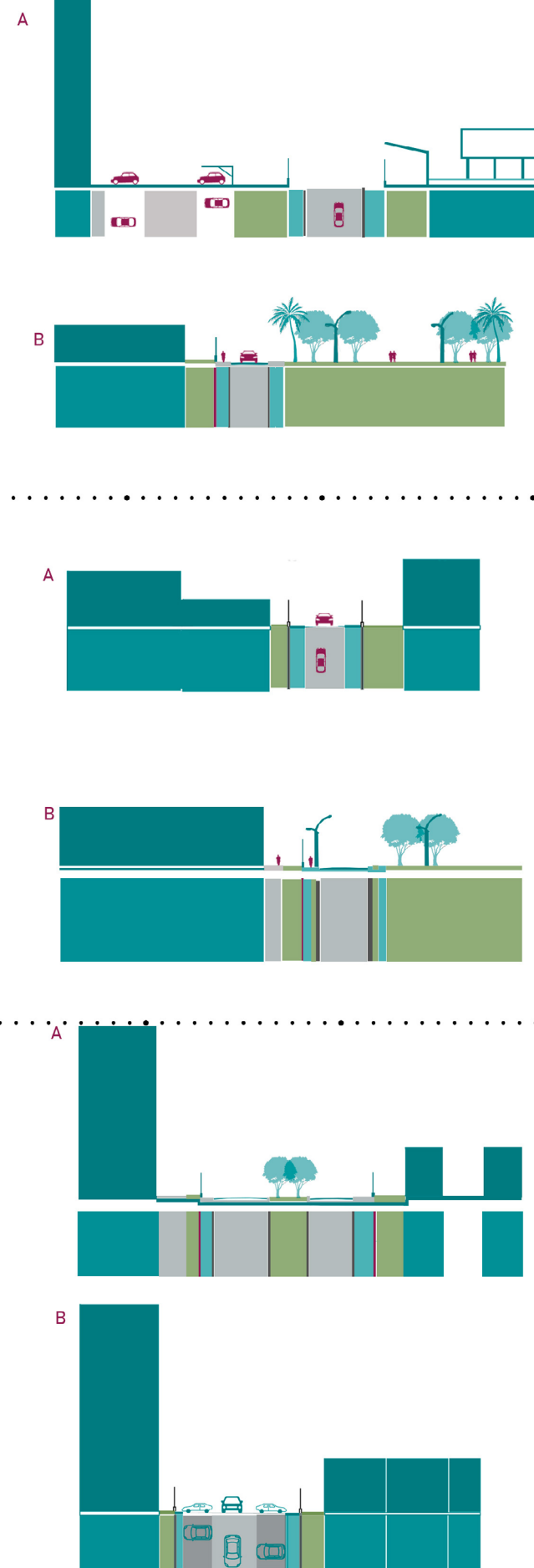
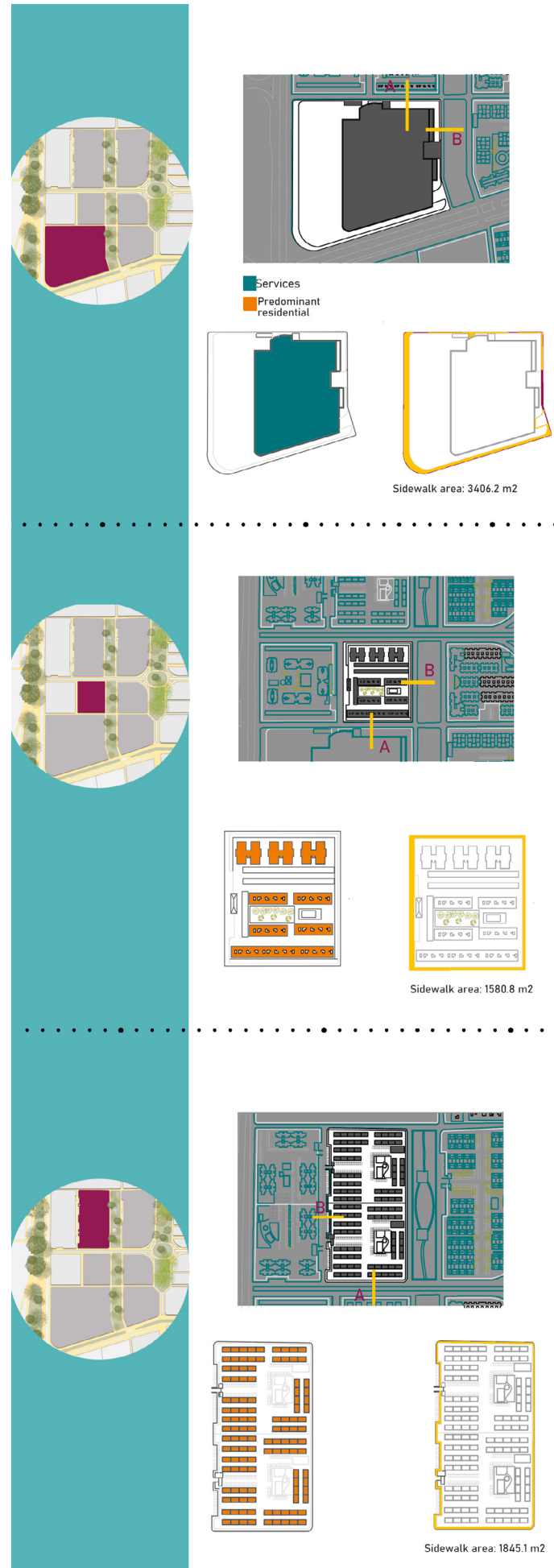
Housing density: 57,5

Housing density: 105,7

Housing density: 168,4

URBAN SECTION A	URBAN SECTION A	GRAPHICS
		<p>Block area: 51.630,5 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 25.910,1 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 48.224,4 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 3.405,1 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>50,1 %</p> <p>4%</p> <p>34 %</p> <p>62 %</p>
		<p>Block area: 13.229,2 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 4.990,9 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 11.642,4 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 1.580,8 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>37,7%</p> <p>12%</p> <p>38%</p> <p>50%</p>
		<p>Block area: 27.409,4m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 7.667,8 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 25.564,3 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 1.845,1 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>28%</p> <p>7%</p> <p>29%</p> <p>64%</p>
		<p>Block area: 28.584,9 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 10.585,2 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 26.833,6 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 1.751,3 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>37%</p> <p>6%</p> <p>37%</p> <p>57%</p>
		<p>Block area: 14.082,2 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 5.613,2 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 12.095,7 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 1.986,3 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>40%</p> <p>14%</p> <p>40%</p> <p>46%</p>
		<p>Block area: 19.618,1 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Lot coverage: 5.486 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Free space (Private): 18.162,1 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Public space (sidewalk area): 1.455 m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>% built area over the total area</p> <p>28%</p> <p>7%</p> <p>28%</p> <p>65%</p>





## **Preliminary conclusions: urban fragment 1 - 2**

### **Relation between public space and architectural typology**

Both urban fabrics share the same urban layout system, with different blocks in morphological and typological terms. For each urban section, the main points to take into account between the street and typology relationship were found.

- There is a direct relationship between the house and the street, where the sidewalk is the articulator between them.

### **Relationship between public space and land uses**

- The process of decentralization of the city gave way to the fact that the center was mostly of mixed activity, in which the majority are commercial or service establishments.
- Being a commercial sector, cars parked on the road invade part of the street.
- The abandoned housing estates or those that have been demolished, has the function of solving a parking problem in the area as it is commercial.
- There is no physical element such as front gardens, enclosure bars, that divide the buildings and the street.
- The continuity of the street is affected by the street vendors who are on the sidewalk.

### **Public space according to scale.**

- Being a historical sector in its architecture, the houses inside the neighborhood do not exceed two floors in height.
- For the center, the sidewalks range between 80cm and 1.10 meters wide and the tracks are maximum 6 meters wide.
- The continuity of the street is affected by signaling elements for the vehicle, which makes it difficult to pass through the dimensions of the sidewalk.

### **Relation between public space and architectural typology**

-It is found that the typology of closed residential complex is surrounded by a grid (gated communities).

-The gated complexes enjoy green areas, swimming pools, basketball, football courts inside the complex, are exclusive only to those who live there, and are not part of the outdoor public space.

### **Relationship between public space and land uses**

- The predominant land use is housing.
- Single access in the residential complexes for cars and pedestrian. Access is controlled by security persons.

### **Public space according to scale.**

-The scale increases in this sector, usually there are towers of 5 floors up to 9, also predominate houses, which gives a diversity of scale.

-The complexes meet a barrier between the sidewalk and the built by means of green zones. Between the encounter of the sidewalk and the isolation, there is the "enclosure bars".



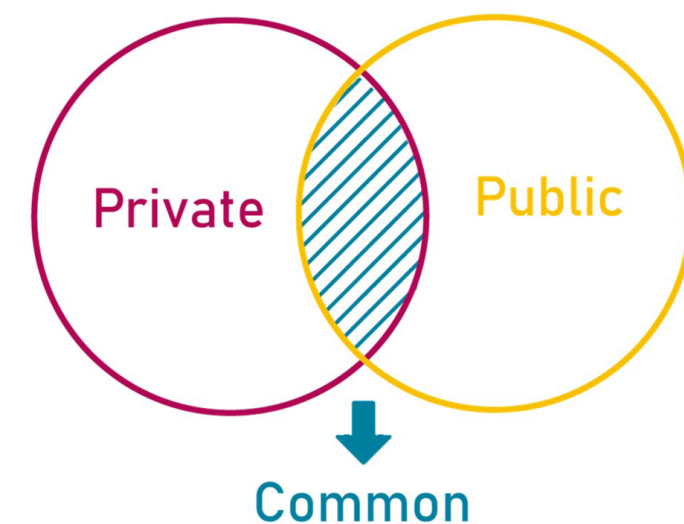
## MORE THAN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC: THE COMMON

### SOCIO-SPATIAL ANALYSIS.

Usually, cities and their spaces are characterized by being public or private, independent of use and activity, but what's between this dichotomy present in urban space that composes the city? How should be that space that mediates between the two spheres? (Sometimes very marked and separated from each other).

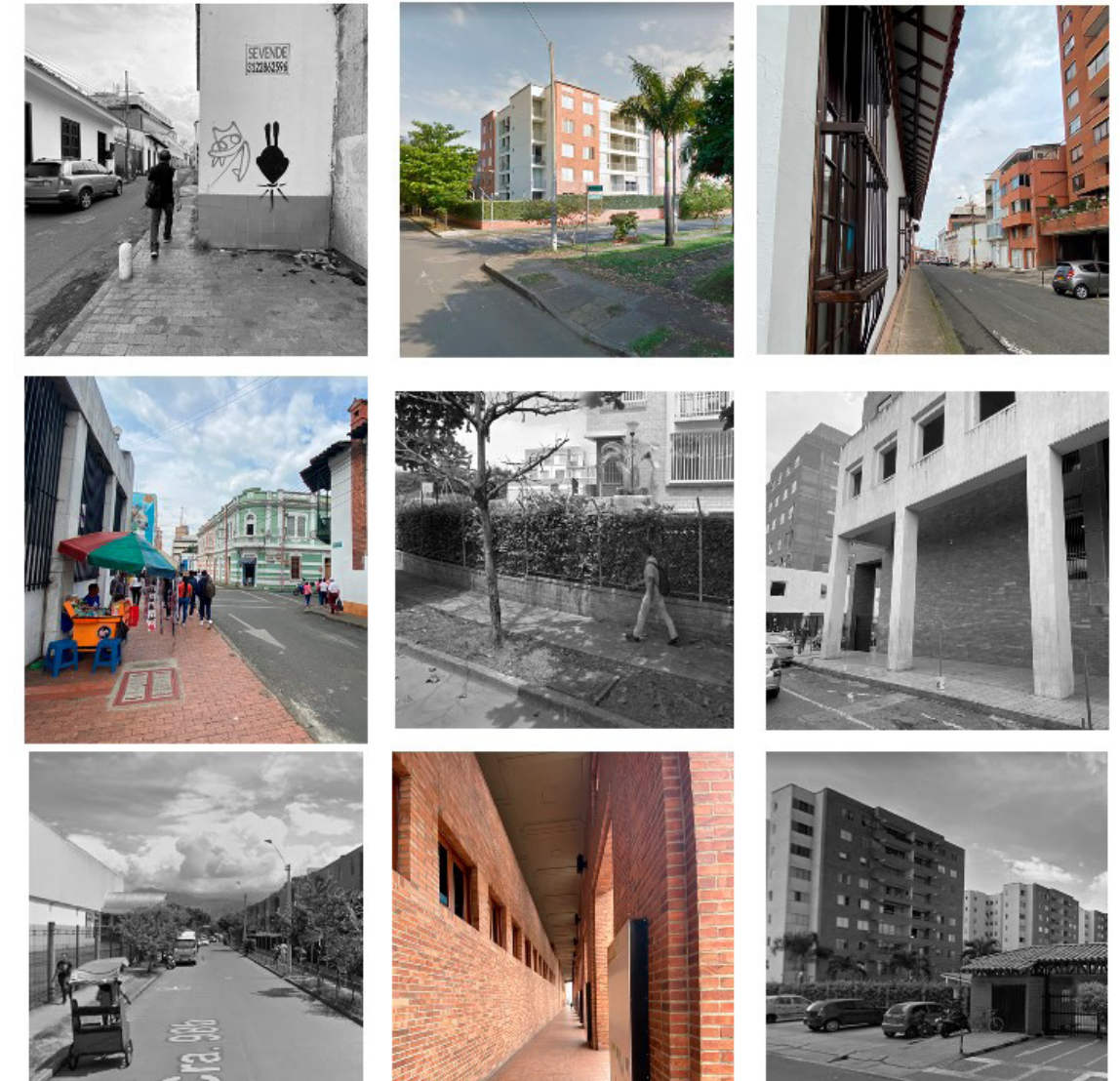
The common, then, would be the middle point where no matter which is the character of the space, the purpose the common use for the citizens and not exclusive use for those who frequent it most. This common interface may be loaded with meaning that will give by the same community depending on the context where is located, in other words, there will be spaces that although private or public are loaded with collective memory, or sometimes the same collective memory gives the sense of the common to the spaces, in others they will be loaded with an environmental value, all with different approaches, but based on a real collective interest.

Even so, the growth of the cities, the arrival of modernization along with the vehicle, and the new planning regularizations have erased that indispensable threshold for the vitality of the cities, then the city has become saturated with barriers, that generate limits, barriers that divide, being these physical and non-physical, then the sense of ownership is marked reaching spaces that become exclusive for the use of a few by encouraging segregation “ The exclusive (and exclusive) right of property mutates the very meaning of equality: equality in possession becomes the decisive factor in overcoming disparity. Inequality is thus constitutionalized. Citizenship is concentrated on the property (Rodotà, 2018).



“La ciudad vital es una ciudad que invita a ser recorrida.”

“The vital city is a city that invites to be toured.”



42. Photos taken on site

As mentioned above, one of the major problems concerning public space is the lack of methodologies and tools that allow a study in qualitative terms, which allows more territorialized investigations and solutions related to each context in which the public space is located. For this reason, this chapter will specialize in the study of the socio-spatial structure of urban interfaces, its urban elements, and patterns that allow evidencing the current conditions of public spaces of the neighborhood la Merced and the neighborhood Valle del Lili, starting from the interviews carried out with some actors involved in the investigation as the inhabitants, followed by the analysis of the interfaces. taking some notes and instruments from the text: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH BUILDINGS by Jan Gehl.



## Understanding the place from a socio-spatial perspective

### Interviews as a tool:

The dialogue with the different actors involved in the dynamics of the urban spaces of the city, are resources prior to the production of answers, conclusions or designs that allow a more real visualization of the socio-spatial structure of private, public, common and private surfaces. This instrument was key to this research in a way that it functioned as a source of information.

In this stage, which functions as an X-ray, a series of questions were formulated to the different actors involved, according to the key elements of the space found in the previous chapter, such as: enclosures, accessibility of the public pedestrian road, in order to know what elements give vitality to these spaces, how they perceive and use them.



**For pedestrians of La Merced Neighborhood:**

- What are the qualities you think the Cali center has?
- What are the defects you think the Cali center has?
- How often do you visit the Cali center, and why?
- Would I live in a house in the city center (yes-no.... why)?
- What must the city center have or change for you to decide to live in?

**For inhabitants of Valle del Lili Neighborhood:**

- What reasons influenced the decision to live in a gated community?
- Would you still live in a gated community in which the enclosure elements are not bars but a commercial edge or communal areas?
- Do you feel safe walking outside your gated community?
- Do you use the parks or green areas near your home? yes-No/// why?
- In your opinion, which gives vitality to a neighborhood?

**City Council.**

- What are the successes and failures of the EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SPACE INDEX as a quantifying mechanism of public space in Cali?
- What mechanisms are used to measure public space in terms of quality?
- Do you think the study of the public space of the Cali center through this index is adequate?

IN RELATION to the expansion area of the city:

- What is the current condition of the public space, green areas in the neighborhood Valle del Lili in terms of appropriation by the inhabitants?
- What are the reasons why some public spaces are not used by the inhabitants?
- Why does the current regulation do not promote that the conformation of neighborhoods isn't developed through enclosures (gated communities)?



43. Key Words- own elaboration

Socio-spatial structure:

### 1. The way of inhabiting the spaces:

The interviews with the inhabitants of the two urban tissues are key tools that allow us to visualize the real radiography of the socio-spatial structure of the interfaces and how they work, understanding what the space called private and public is like, and where common interfaces can be found between them, in relation to how people live and inhabit it.

### 2. Accesses, paths, and edges:

The journey and the visual experience are opportunities of the improvement of quality of a city about the achievement of more vital cities, the relationship between interior and exterior while touring the city are key components in the construction of the urban fabric, therefore, the study of these allows to recognize the current conditions of urban tissues about routes and visual experiences

Accesses: The information collected is also support for this next step related to the reading of the accesses, where their classification and their study is made from the condition of their position:) Their position:

- A) Faced (accesses located on the same street)
- B) Displaced (access in the same street, but not faced)
- C) In pairs: access next to each other.
- D) Isolated: a single-street access

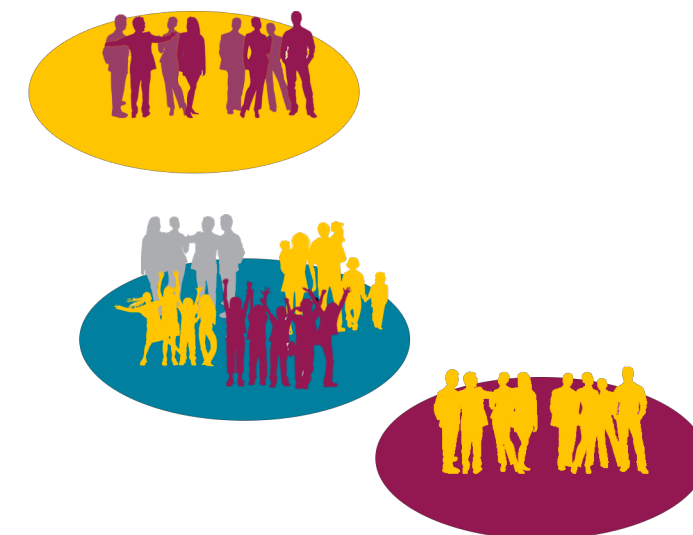
3. **Paths:** Subsequently, the accesses are also determinants of the different paths that the inhabitants usually trace when touring the neighborhoods, having said that, a mapping of the different routes taken by the inhabitants of each sector of the case studies is made, also supported with the information obtained. with the interviews.

4. **Edges:** Finally, to qualify how are the edges that the pedestrians of each urban fragment find when making the paths.

### Public- common and private interfaces:

Cali is a city in which the line between the private and the public is evident, and the intermediate that is common is not very visible in the City, if it is a school it is for students, if it is a hospital it is only for those who are there, but the spaces in which, regardless of whether it is a private or public good, where it is read that there is no ownership of the space, this interfaces have a lack participation within the urban areas of the city.

The interface as a technical language, is the zone of communication of action of one system on another, in architecture translates into a crucial dimension for the urban design and the achievement of vital cities, and is key to the social, commercial, and dynamic exchange through "Active edges" (Bentley, McGlynn, Smith, Alcock, & Murrain, 1985), where relations between the interior-exterior, public-private take on great importance for the construction of consolidated urban fabrics. In the last few years, many cities have used this survey tool to measure the attractiveness of a ground floor as part of their initiatives to create and develop good quality public space, allowing to compare cities or districts and also be starting points to establish proactive policies that ensure the presence of attractions that contribute relations between the private and the public. (Gehl et al., 2006)





From these questions it was important to draw some conclusions that would allow formulating some possible preliminary conclusions of the socio-spatial structure of the public space of the two urban fabrics, being part of their transformation and their notion. Therefore, in general, each actor was intended to understand:

A. Most of the people who visit the centre it's because they work there or because they have the Centre's status in terms of a centrality of services, which means that people have to move to the centre, but they are not a permanent population and none of the people interviewed live there.

B. Some young people frequent the center in recent years, since in some terraces of the center city used as bars, which has been revitalizing the center at night.

C. In the current conditions of the center, people would not make the decision to live in it, but if security and apartment typologies are guaranteed, they could consider it.

D. Within the fortresses of the center, they recognize it as a heritage of the city in terms of buildings of value in it, but not the whole neighborhood as an urban heritage.

E. Another strength is that there is a variety of commerce, therefore it is a sector with a lot of movement during the day, but when the commerce close, it feels insecurity at night.

F. Another factor that prevents them from visiting the center, is that they perceive it very chaotic, it is difficult to walk or drive in some points, either by the invasion of vehicles or the dimensions of the sidewalks.

G. Obstacles such as informal commerce, and walking so close to cars and motorcycles make pedestrian mobility unpleasant, since the dimension of its sidewalks that are part of an urban profile drawn under the dynamics of an era, currently find many obstacles and unpleasant elements for its pedestrian traffic and even for the same vehicle.

H. For the owners of informal commerce, they perceive the center as a strategic place for their sales, but since there are no open spaces, they decide to use the sidewalks.

Related to de expansion zone:

A. What gives them security to live in a gated community is not the "bars" as an element itself, but that confinement that provides the bars delimits The known of the unknown, providing a sense of security and exclusivity.

B. In the opinion of the director of Public Space of the Mayor's Office of Cali, the index of effective public space is not the most relevant tool to study public space, since it is not precise in some of its considerations.

C. The public space in the expansion zone suffers a great problem of appropriation, since these inhabitants are contained in these closed sets with exclusive spaces for them, who do not feel the need to make use of the nearby public space

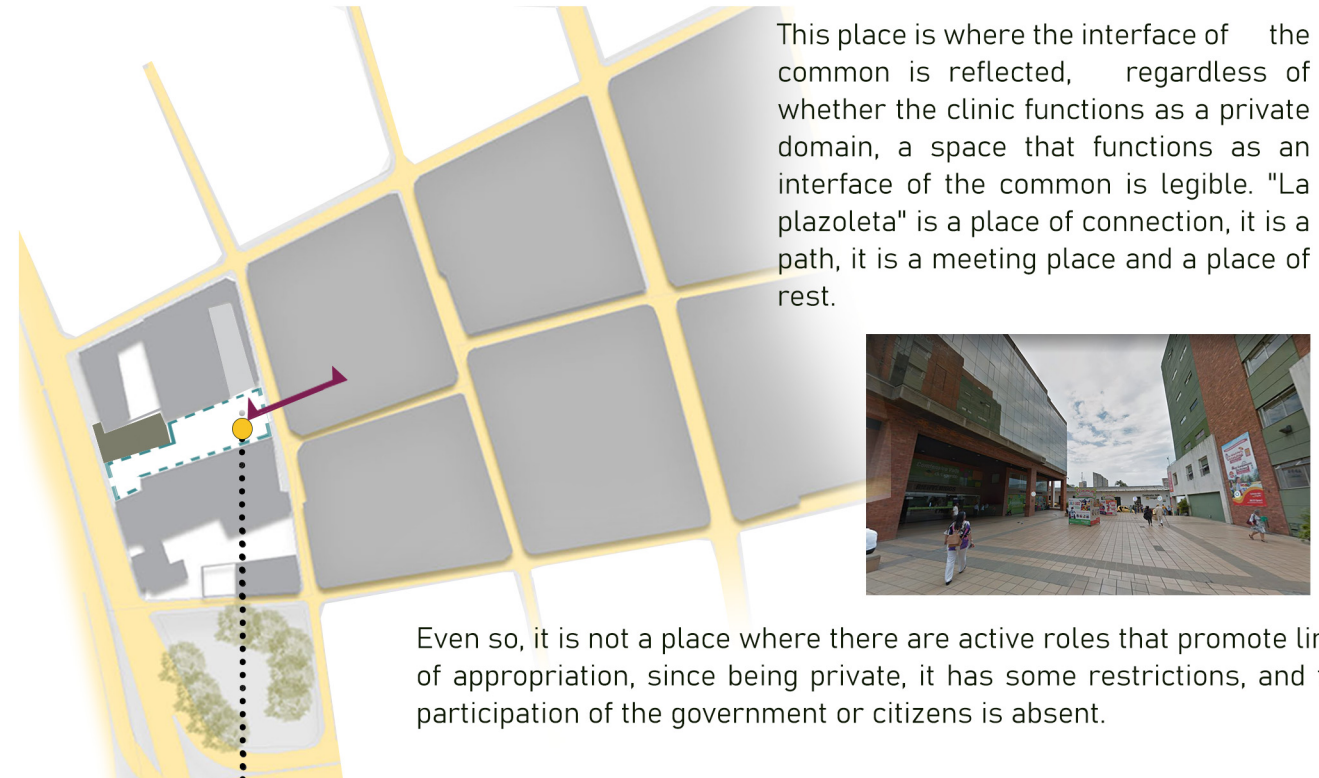
D. Those who decide to live in a gated community, they do it for security and because they believe that those who also live there are on equal terms, finally they seek people with the same socioeconomic level, who possess the same and therefore do not pose a threat to themselves or their belongings.

E. The "bars" is a consequence of the "softness" of the urban rules that are directed towards what the market requires. According to the Land Planning Director of the Administrative Department of Municipal Planning, builders are not interested in a standard that promotes commercial platforms, because it doesn't have a sales flow equal to that of housing. The gated is then promoted because there is no norm that prohibits it.

F. In the opinion of the director of Public Space of the Mayor's Office of Cali, construction companies don't find it attractive to build a housing with commercial platforms, however, if they are the differential project that offers it because there is no service available in the area, if they see it as a business opportunity.



## The way of inhabiting the spaces: Interfaces Urban fabric 1



This entity provide not only health, but also education, culture and recreation services, sometimes they do activities here in this space to promote their services.

Andrea  
Accounting assistant  
Age:38  
Clinic officer.



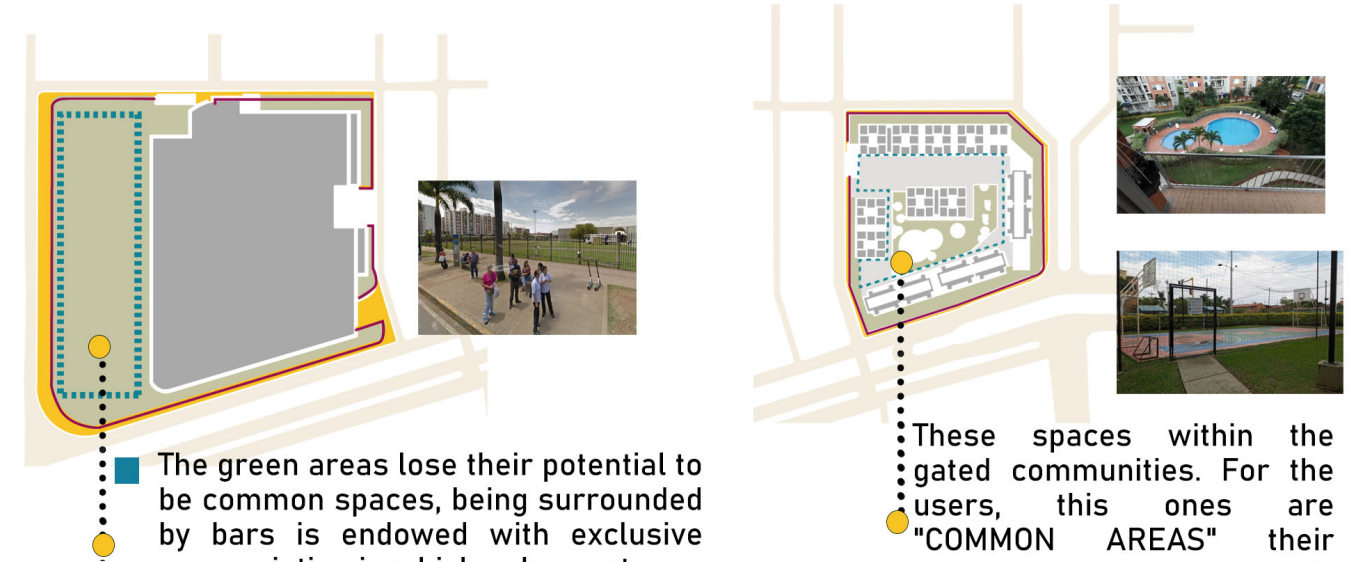
Javier  
Informal commerce  
Age:52

We know that it is not comfortable where we are, neither for the pedestrian nor for us, but it is a strategic place for us because of the clinic and all the shops that are here, since the square belongs to the clinic, we cannot go there, so we decided to use the platform.



## The way of inhabiting the spaces: Interfaces Urban fabric 2

■ SIDEWALKS ■ GILLS ■ BUILT



These spaces within the gated communities. For the users, this ones are "COMMON AREAS" their common character are only for those who live there with basketball courts, playground for children and swimming pool.



"The place I frequent the most in the neighborhood is the mall because there is supermarket and gym"

Sebastian  
Inhabitant  
Personal trainer  
Age:27



"I use the green areas outside my gated community only when i give walks to my dogs, but at night I feel insecurity"

Jorge  
Inhabitant  
Entrepreneur  
Age:33

"I use the parks and green areas but the ones inside my gated complex, because there are cameras, there are surveillance men and those who use them are other people who live here. In the parks of the neighborhood I do not find security, there may be robberies"

Gabriela  
Business administrator  
Age:25  
Inhabitant





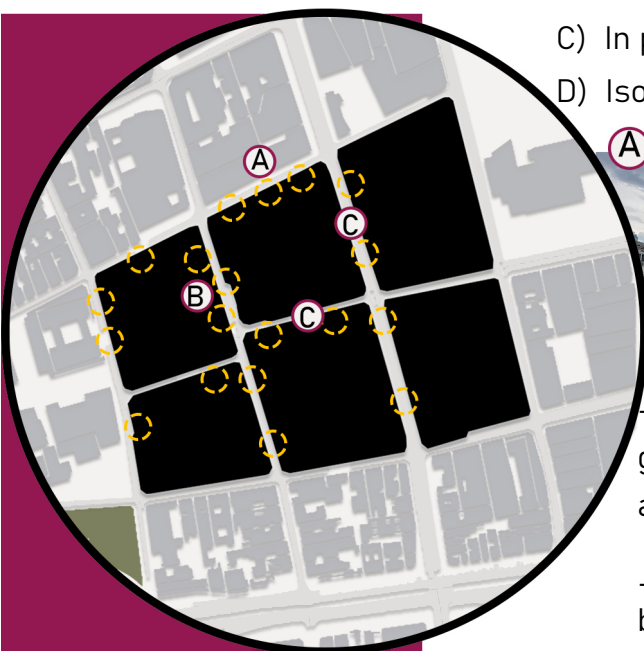
## Accesses and paths diagrams

**Accesses:** The number of accesses in the perimeter is a key factor in understanding the level of softness or hardness of the interface and, in turn, of the physical characteristics reflected in the uses and activities of the sector.

**Paths:** They reflect the movement of pedestrians through space, they are the flows that connect different points of the city, and which in turn are in relation to the accesses and borders along these.

Categorization of ways to access:

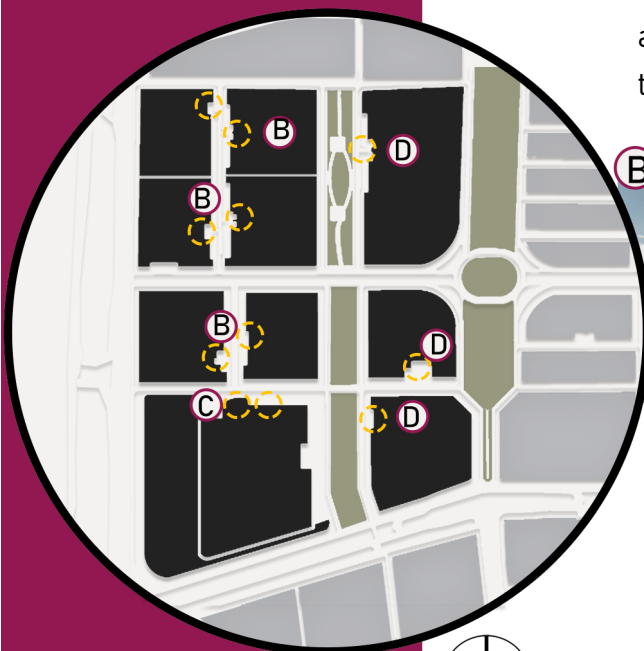
- A) Faced (accesses located on the same street)
- B) Displaced (access in the same street, but not faced)
- C) In pairs: access next to each other.
- D) Isolated: a single-street access



-The center has variety in the types of accesses, in general, it has accesses every 6 meters, which allows a diverse dynamic in the routes of the city center.

-The places where the accesses are reduced are the blocks that have lots destined for parking.

-In the Valle del Lili neighborhood there are three ways to access: (a) on the same road, (b) facing each other) and in a dispersed way the unrelated (d). Only at the main entrance of the shopping center there's a type C access: in pairs (one next to the other).



The accesses that exist correspond mostly to the entrances of the gated communities.

## Paths



Andres  
Student  
Age:20  
Pedestrian

Actually I don't usually go to the center, when I do it's because there is a presentation at the municipal theater that I like or because I have to go to a bank.

I almost always see many people near the mall, only there is a large flow of people in the neighborhood.

Natalia  
Housewife  
Age:44  
Inhabitant

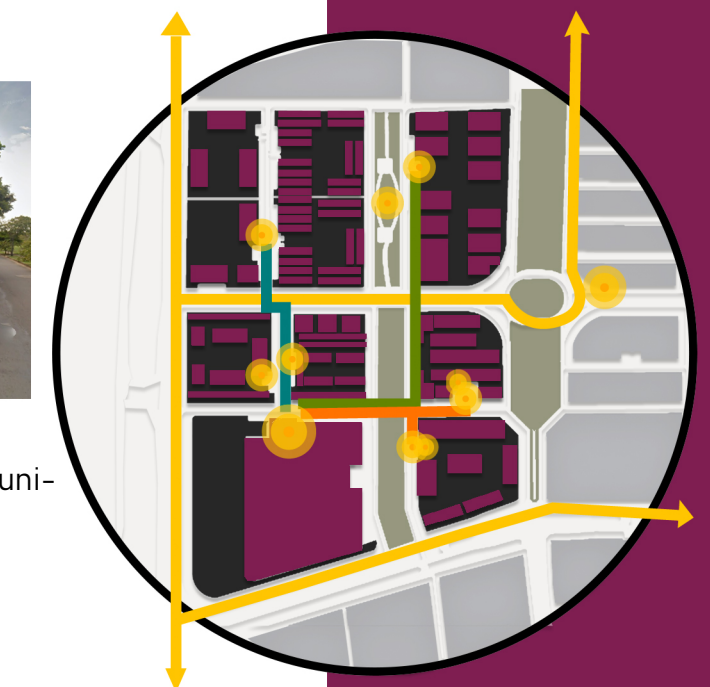
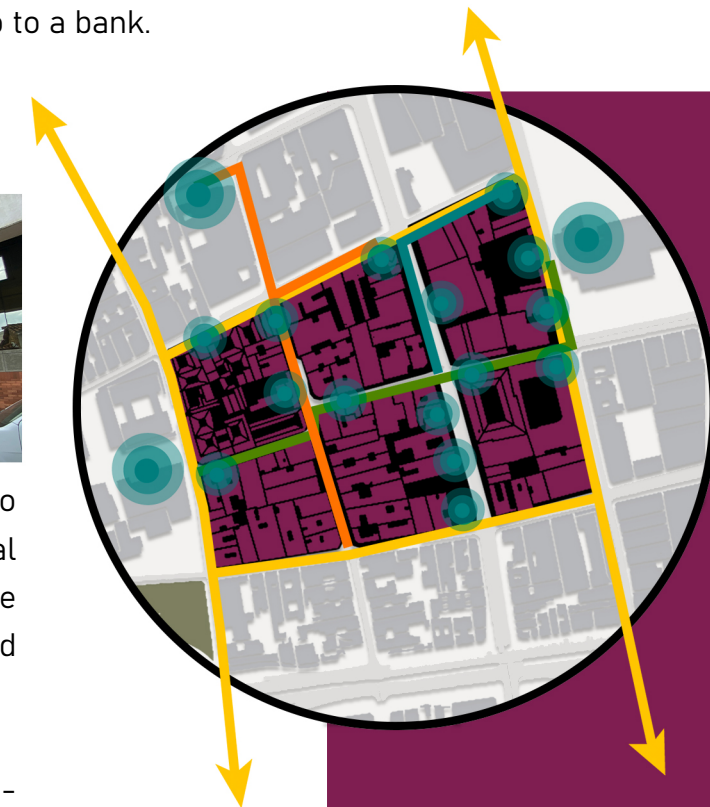


-The paths that take place in the center are given to people who go to the Confenalco clinic, or to cultural events in the municipal theater, who at the same time are the ones who leave their cars in the lots destined for parking lots in the blocks.

-In Valle del Lili, the paths most taken by the inhabitants are towards the shopping center, since there are market services, a gym and banks.



The paths correspond to the accesses of the gated communities, and a low flow towards the parks or green areas.





## Edges:

The edges, are that meeting between the interfaces, it is the exchange between the building and the city, (Gehl et al., 2006) and also allow the pedestrian to live different experiences in their routes. These depend on the design of the ground floor, allowing pedestrian flow or not and therefore urban life.



### A) Active

- Many units, numerous gates (15 to 20 accesses per 100 meters).
- Large variety of functions
- No blind facade
- Fountains of buildings with interesting reliefs.



### B) Friendly

- Relatively small units (10 to 14 accesses per 100 meters)
- Relative functional variety
- Some blind facades



### C) Mixed

- Large and small units (6 to 10 access porr every 100 meters)
- Modest functional variation
- A certain number of blind facades.



### D) Boring

- Large units, few accesses (2 to 5 accesses per 100 meters)
- no functional variance
- Large number of blind facades.

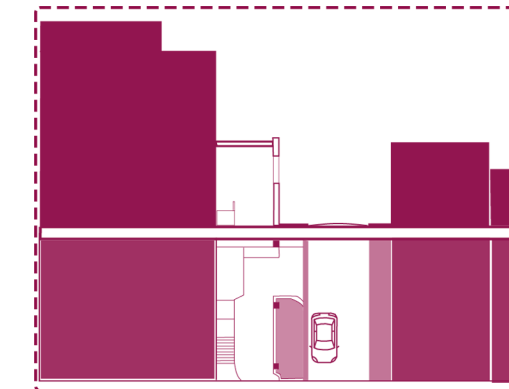


### E) Inactive

- Large units, few accesses and sometimes even none (0 to 2 accesses per 100 meters)
- absence of functional variety
- Blind and passive units

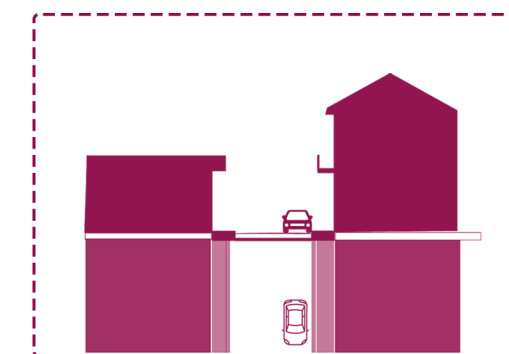
45. Edges categorization- Jan Gehl

## Edges Urban Fragment 1: La Merced:



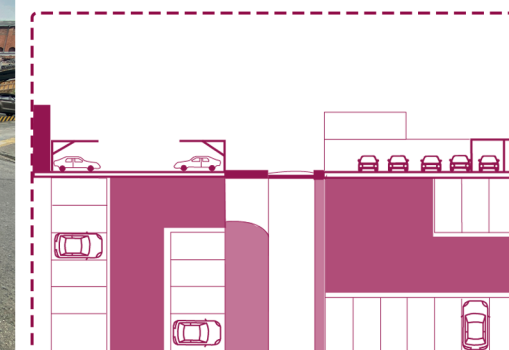
FRIENDLY  
EDGE

Vehicular routes have gradually displaced the pedestrian to walk on small sidewalk. The new buildings in the center have provided other ways of exploring the neighborhood with wider sidewalks and embraced by porticos.



ACTIVE

The diversity of types of commerce in the sector indicate the accessibility of the edges that shape the perimeter, the activity of these borders is high since there are always people coming and going.



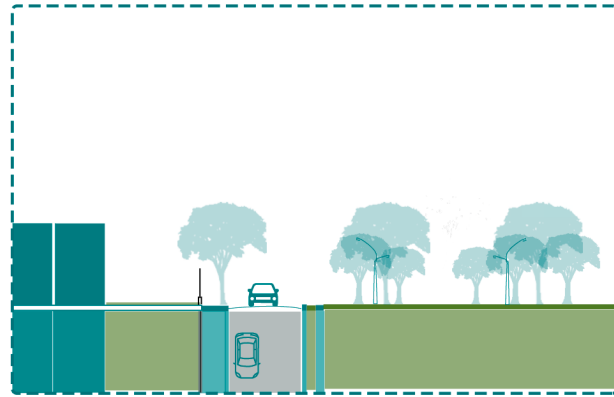
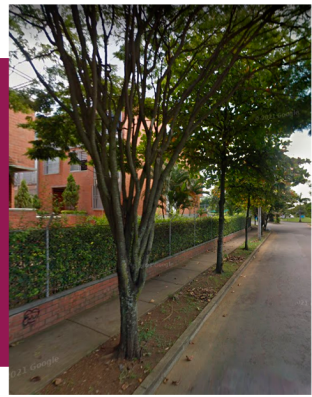
MIXED

When there are parking lots within the block, not only the type of border changes, by reducing the openings to only the access of cars, in addition, the sidewalk is interrupted for their entry and exit.

46,47,48 . Images taken on site.

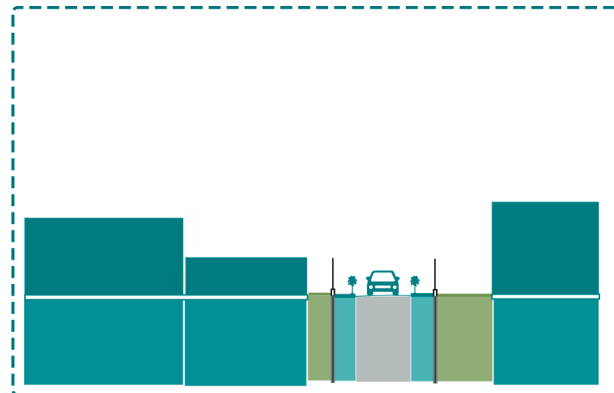


## Edges Urban Fragment 2: Valle del Lili



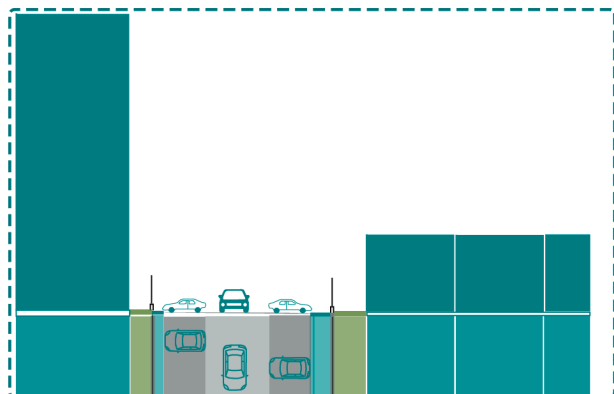
INACTIVE

Although for the inhabitants walking among trees and parks is part of the vitality of a neighborhood, they do not feel safe walking outside their houses, for them what is outside is the unknown.



INACTIVE

When there are two gated communities facing each other, the edges are marked by the bars in which there are no openings, they only have a percentage of visibility that was stipulated by the regulation.



INACTIVE

The continuity of the sidewalk is interrupted and modified by the spaces destined for “visitor parking” in the gated communities, so the pedestrian walks between an inactive edge provided by the bars and the parked cars.

## The city at eye level: 12 quality criteria

In Gehl's text, he exposes 12 vital criteria divided into three groups (protection, delight and comfort) for the urban spaces of the city and also as a systematic overview of the most important quality criteria.

It's important to ensure that spaces offer good comfort and invite people to the most important activities, using urban interfaces based on common interest and building bounds of identity with the spaces.

With the aforementioned, this methodology is used as a tool that qualifies the spaces according to the information obtained by the interviews with the inhabitants and providing a qualification level (poor, fair and good) for each criteria in each urban fragment studied.



Protection	<b>PROTECTION AGAINST TRAFFIC AND ACCIDENTS — FEELING SAFE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection for pedestrians</li> <li>Eliminating fear of traffic</li> </ul>	<b>PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE — FEELING SECURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lively public realm</li> <li>Eyes on the street</li> <li>Overlapping functions day and night</li> <li>Good lighting</li> </ul>	<b>PROTECTION AGAINST UNPLEASANT SENSORY EXPERIENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind</li> <li>Rain/snow</li> <li>Cold/heat</li> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Dust, noise, glare</li> </ul>
Comfort	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room for walking</li> <li>No obstacles</li> <li>Good surfaces</li> <li>Accessibility for everyone</li> <li>Interesting façades</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO STAND/STAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edge effect/ attractive zones for standing/staying</li> <li>Supports for standing</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO SIT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones for sitting</li> <li>Utilizing advantages: view, sun, people</li> <li>Good places to sit</li> <li>Benches for resting</li> </ul>
	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasonable viewing distances</li> <li>Unhindered sightlines</li> <li>Interesting views</li> <li>Lighting (when dark)</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK AND LISTEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low noise levels</li> <li>Street furniture that provides “talkscapes”</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY AND EXERCISE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitations for creativity, physical activity, exercise and play</li> <li>By day and night</li> <li>In summer and winter</li> </ul>
Delight	<b>SCALE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings and spaces designed to human scale</li> </ul>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLIMATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun/shade</li> <li>Heat/coolness</li> <li>Breeze</li> </ul>	<b>POSITIVE SENSORY EXPERIENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good design and detailing</li> <li>Good materials</li> <li>Fine views</li> <li>Trees, plants, water</li> </ul>

Figure 3.36 Keyword list: 12 quality criteria concerning the pedestrian landscape (Gehl)

52 . 12 quality criteria-Jan Gehl



# PROTECTION

Criteria	Urban fabric 1 Center	Urban fabric 2 Valle del Lili
<b>PROTECTION AGAINST TRAFFIC AND ACCIDENTS — FEELING SAFE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection for pedestrians</li> <li>Eliminating fear of traffic</li> </ul>		
<b>PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE — FEELING SECURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lively public realm</li> <li>Eyes on the street</li> <li>Overlapping functions day and night</li> <li>Good lighting</li> </ul>		
<b>PROTECTION AGAINST UNPLEASANT SENSORY EXPERIENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wind</li> <li>Rain/snow</li> <li>Cold/heat</li> <li>Pollution</li> <li>Dust, noise, glare</li> </ul>		

Urban fabric 1 Center	Urban fabric 2 Valle del Lili

-Center: The pedestrian walks very close to the vehicular road.

-VL: There are good intersections and wide sidewalks

-Center: Active edges stimulates the activity, but the homogeneity of uses (commerce) means that it is not safe at night.

-VL: The inactive edges and the homogeneity in uses (housing) give a feeling of insecurity.

-Center: Pollution from cars and motorcycles is concentrated in the streets as they have small in width.

-VL: The afforestation and the width of the roads, moderately dissipate the pollution of the cars.

# DELIGHT

<b>SCALE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings and spaces designed to human scale</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLIMATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun/shade</li> <li>Heat/coolness</li> <li>Breeze</li> </ul>		
<b>POSITIVE SENSORY EXPERIENCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good design and detailing</li> <li>Good materials</li> <li>Fine views</li> <li>Trees, plants, water</li> </ul>		


-Center: The maximum scale of two floors is friendly to the pedestrian.

-VL: Although there is a setback between the before and the building, the pedestrian walks between towers through the apartment buildings.

-Center: The width of the streets and the eaves of the balconies of the colonial houses allow ventilation and shade effect.

-VL: Good vegetation allows the reduction of heat islands.

-Center: The streets and sidewalks are deteriorated and there is no continuity of textures. No vegetation.

-VL: Good vegetation, roads in good condition, continuity of levels and textures.

# COMFORT

<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room for walking</li> <li>No obstacles</li> <li>Good surfaces</li> <li>Accessibility for everyone</li> <li>Interesting façades</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO STAND/STAY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edge effect/ attractive zones for standing/staying</li> <li>Supports for standing</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO SIT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zones for sitting</li> <li>Utilizing advantages: view, sun, people</li> <li>Good places to sit</li> <li>Benches for resting</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasonable viewing distances</li> <li>Unhindered sightlines</li> <li>Interesting views</li> <li>Lighting (when dark)</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK AND LISTEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low noise levels</li> <li>Street furniture that provides "talkscapes"</li> </ul>		
<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY AND EXERCISE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invitations for creativity, physical activity, exercise and play</li> <li>By day and night</li> <li>In summer and winter</li> </ul>		

Urban fabric 1 Center	Urban fabric 2 Valle del Lili

-Center: Signage for cars, informal commerce interrupt the continuity of the sidewalks.

-VL: Although the continuity of the sidewalks is very good, the element of the bars that encloses the gated communities makes it less pleasant.

-Center: Although the border effect is active, there's no places for standing.

-VL: The borders are inactive and there are no places for standing,

-Center: The zones for sitting that exist are only in the clinic square.

-VL: The zones for sitting that exist are in the parks, but the inhabitants don't use them.

-Center: There are interesting views because of the architecture of the houses but at night there is not a good lighting.

-VL: There are interesting views through the vegetation of the parks, but at night there is not a good lighting.

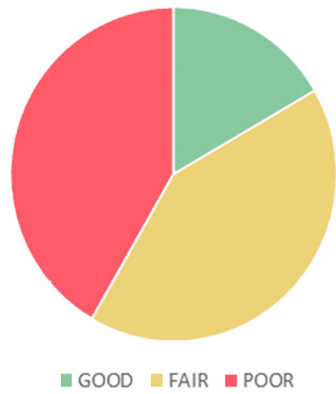
-Center: The ambulances from the clinic, the sound of motorcycles and cars increase the noise level.

-VL: The flow of cars is less and the wide spaces reduce noise levels.

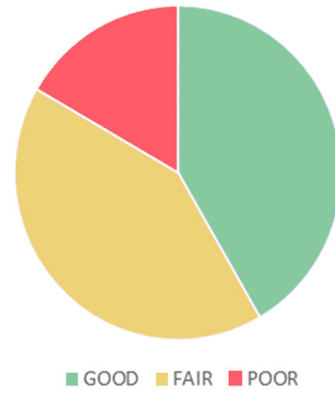
-Center: There are no spaces for recreation.

-VL: There are parks, outdoor gyms, but these are rarely used since the inhabitants have them in their gated communities..





55 . Own elaboration



56 . Own elaboration

### Quality criteria preliminary conclusions:

The radiography made of the urban space through the accesses, roads and borders, together with the information obtained in the interviews, allowed us to understand the need to transform these urban spaces, not only in physical terms, but also the characterization of the spaces and their potential to connect the city and improve practices based on an increase of the common interface as an articulating channel between the private and the public.

In general terms, we see that the center has less favorable conditions in terms of quality to generate urban life, despite its active dynamics, the problems that had been found before such as the eviction of the center and the consecutive homogenization of activities are reflected in how the inhabitants decide to visit it and go through it.

In the south of the city, the quality conditions are more favorable, according to the inhabitants the infrastructure of parks and green areas are a main factor to conceive a neighborhood as vital. Even so, being outside their gated communities, their perception of security decreases.

On the other hand, it is necessary to mention that the results in terms of quality have a deeper background, since the imbalance between public and private interfaces does not allow the emergence of other types of dynamics based on the common good, in a way that citizens are linked to spaces in which commitments are agreed allowing them to assume roles and responsibilities, reducing the authority of the public administration over the urban spaces of the city.

In the center: traditional city.

-The new regulations and definitions for city planning have affected the dynamics of the urban fabric, deteriorating it in terms of urban vitality, a vitality that is provided through diverse factors in which the center does not have good conditions.

-It's difficult to read spaces in where there's a good relation between public and private interfaces to produce a third interface based on the common good that can oppose both property and sovereignty, emerging a new rationality based on the social bonds that exist on the goods. (Rodotà, 2016, p. 115).

-The historical and cultural condition of the center has been displaced by the proliferation of commercial activities, which means that people have designated destination points within the center, whether they are banking, health or commercial services, distancing the interest in getting to know it, exploring it and create links that perceive its value.

-The common goods of the center, due to their historical condition, should be produced in favor of the construction of a collective memory that gives value not only to the architectural heritage of the buildings, but also spaces that evoke the dynamics of the past, in such a way that people create unique experiences when touring the center.

In the expansion zone: Valle del Lili neighborhood

In neighborhoods as Valle del Lili, which are the reflection of the growth of the city, the bars not only affects those who live within it but also those outside it. It's an element that delimits and as a consequence segregates communities. By segregating communities, there is no evidence of spaces that are used by members of different communities, since they do not feel the need to do so, in addition to the feeling of confinement and protection that they feel within their gated communities make what is on the other side of the bars be the unknown and unsafe for them.

-That sense of security also provides an exclusivity in spaces, in which people feel safe, in addition to the above, they assume that people who live in the same gated community are supposed to have the same economic conditions, therefore, they do not feel any threat to the protection of their property. It gives them a feeling of believing they know their neighbors.

-Within these gated communities there are common spaces ( named by the residents) but NOT based on a common good, since they are not accessible to all and those who take roles and responsibilities are people of the same community, they are spaces that due to their condition of enclosure don't promote a common good at a city scale.



57. Collage own elaboration



FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

ANOTHER IDEA OF “PUBLIC SPACE”



The need to question the current definitions related to the public space of the city of Cali makes essential an analysis to understand what is meant by public space, what its characteristics are, how its transformation has been, not only morphological, but also in its social dynamics, through two temporarily different urban fabrics, to finally observe the consequences of the arrival of the regulations.

Although this regulation is necessary to know a part of how the city works, of course it is not enough to cover all the urban processes that make up the city, in addition to this, it is important to know how to name things at its specific time.

Public space was born as a definition from decree 1504 of 1998 and is consolidated with the land management plan of 2000 and 2014, in this way it is necessary to mention and understand that there is a before and after that suppose the transformation of the surfaces of the two urban fabrics. The retrospective of the dynamics of the colonial city allowed us to understand that there was no notion that worked from the so-called "public space" as it is currently known and that the physical representation of these old dynamics are still valuable but modified thanks to what is legally stipulated.

In retrospect with the methodology carried out through the physical-spatial and socio-spatial comparison, it was possible to conclude that:

- The current tools and mechanisms to measure or study the city in relation to public space are reduced to quantitative terms: it is defined that there is a deficit and the effort is then, to reduce the deficit, but the current and projected spaces are lack of a qualitative character that allows to deepen valuing the attributes of the current spaces, understanding their own logics in which they were conceived or where they are going to take place.

- The need to understand how these spaces currently works, implies analyzing the physical form of urban fabrics, since these elements allow us to visualize the transformations that the city has undergone. With the new ways of occupying the spaces, the classification of land uses, they have clearly modified the dynamics of the historic center, which led to one of the key historical moments in the

growth of the city, such as the gradual decentralization and a later expansion to the south.

- WITH THE MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY carried out, it was evident that the center has been one of the many urban fabrics of the city affected by the arrival and priority given to cars and motorcycles, so pedestrian mobility becomes difficult, since the dimension of its sidewalks that are part of an urban profile drawn under the dynamics of an era, currently it finds itself with many obstacles and unpleasant elements for its pedestrian traffic and even for the same vehicle, to the above is added the modification of the heights, the homogenization of uses and activities have brought unfavorable conditions to this urban fabric. In the current city, formed after the POT (land management plan), one can speak of a PUBLIC SPACE AS AN URBAN PROJECT.

- The "enclosure bars" is found as a barrier and delimiting element produced by gated communities and housing as a predominant use, limiting the diversity of information carriers in all parts of the urban system. (Rueda & Departament de Medi Ambient de la Generalitat, 1999).

- The regulations to organize the city have accentuated the limits between public and private interfaces, depriving them of a more subtle and friendly dialogue between them in such a way that allows the construction of a city with a more solid fabric, hence, it is necessary that the city be accessible, permeable in order to the city becomes a network of points where the encounter with the other takes place, different from private spheres, understanding that the encounter with the unknown is not synonymous with insecurity.

- The distinction between the private and the public has left aside the value of the common good that goes beyond these two interfaces, The common goods in the words of Rodota belong to no one, they are accessible to all, no one can seize exclusive rights , its ownership is diffuse

- The ways in which people inhabit and go through spaces depend a lot on the permeability of the edges of the blocks that are conditioned by the number of accesses, visibility and level of relationship between the interior and the exterior, in this way, the perception security also increases or decreases.



## THE OLD CITY CAN NOT BE A PRODUCT OF THE CURRENT CITY:

In short, the sidewalk-street system should not be the same for the two urban fabrics, in this way the logics of each fabric are being ignored, and a claim that the city should function the same and according to the vehicle. The generalization of the idea of public space defined by the regulations has not generated a favorable condition in terms of urban development. In the traditional city cannot be measure or understand what is called public space with current instruments.

From what is defined as public space, where they state that they are *spaces that are projected in favor of the satisfaction of collective urban needs in the spaces in which the collective interest is manifest, made up of public spaces of environmental value, meeting and recreation and mobility, that have quality in terms of accessibility, security and comfort.*

It was found that in the center there are no evident spaces that are projected towards the satisfaction of collective urban needs and that there are also no spaces in which the collective interest is manifested beyond the encounter with another. There are no public spaces of environmental value, recreation or good mobility, in addition to the fact that the temporary space idea that supposes a historical character and therefore a potential to reinforce the collective memory of the citizens, is totally excluded, this memory is reduced to the buildings of architectural heritage as reference points, but it is forgotten that urban spaces such as the street and the sidewalk are valuable elements as a physical image of what the city once was, the buildings are admired and cared for, but the street-sidewalk condition does not, and finally, the city's little effort to preserve the historic urban space as a whole and not just buildings means that accessibility, safety and comfort conditions are not the best

The definition then, is not consistent with the reality of the traditional city, since nowhere does it expose the interest in understanding that there are urban spaces in which their space-time condition places them in a historical time of their own logics, the regulations adapt that historical condition to what is happening today, this being a serious mistake.

The interesting thing about the research is that in addition to finding that the concept of public space applied in the historic city is not adequate, it is NOT adequate in the city planned under its regulations:

The public space of the Valle del Lili neighborhood is well endowed with wide spaces of easy accessibility and comfort, they have environmental value, recreation and mobility as the concept says. The problem is that THERE ARE NO PEOPLE WITH THE NEED TO USE THESE SPACES, there is no interest in wanting to foster an encounter with the other, and relate to the unknown, since the barriers imposed by gated communities and exclusivity produce a segregation between communities, which are torn between what is safe and insecure, in other words, here again we see that they are not spaces designed for the satisfaction of collective urban needs and that there is also no collective interest.

It is imperative to return to the deep meaning of the colonial era of the city, where urban spaces functioned from the common character due to the fact that there were no ownership rights over the spaces, and these spaces were open to a diversity of activities (where they prayed, it was celebrated and even markets were held), and the street was that basic element of collective use where urban life also continued, it was also a meeting point, of celebration, of flows and there were no obstacles due to the impositions that we see today due to growth of cities.

Unlike what is now called “public space today” (a definition to which it will be given another idea) where it currently lacks a common character, because although it is available to everyone and we can all access it, but it is necessary to understand in *At what point do these spaces go beyond the public interface*, at what point do they foster situations in which the community assumes roles and distributes responsibility and management between them and the council administration.

In other words, the management of public space in the city goes beyond quantitative terms, because there can be a lot of public space, which is very favorable, but in terms of quality, what does it offer the citizen so that he can have a sense of belonging? (for example, in the case of the spaces surrounding the gated communities) and how to make these urban spaces revive the sense of belonging, revitalizing the collective memory (in the case of the old city in the center of Cali).

So for the sense of belonging and the revival of collective memory to increase, it is necessary to develop spaces based on the common and not just the spaces themselves. The buildings in the urban context, the ways of planning the city, the uses of the land, must be channels that promote the development of these spaces. In the two urban fabrics it was difficult to read spaces based on the common character, and those mentioned are public spaces where the common only remains in the fact of access for all, but they are not spaces that promote the development of roles and the achievement of rules and commitments for the management and care of these, “In this way, the community of reference is not only in charge of *«what in other times would have been described as the capacity for self-management [...], but also the much more important opportunity to independently define the basic rules of use-appropriation of the common good»* (Capone, 2017).

However, in order to respond to the objective of giving an idea related to the public space that is not there, it is necessary to clarify that the public urban surfaces of cities are spaces that have coordinates, which are also linked to the time dimension, this being a crucial characteristic and that the continuous transformation of the city supposes then, a continuous reformulation in the definition of these spaces, since every time new situations arise or elements are discovered that had not been perceived before.

In this case I expose the importance of the historical character of the transition from the common spaces of the colony to public spaces of modernity and how these must be co-managed based on the common good for their proper functioning, where where stepping on these old spaces, the awareness is created understanding that these places are those that link us to the city of the past, some places the architecture could have been replaced or modified but the public urban space has the vocation to persevere, to have a legacy and finally collect memory.

That said, the idea of public space should be taken into account as: Urban public surfaces projected based on the common good, in favor of the satisfaction of collective urban needs so that the collective interest be manifested, establishing links with citizens. and therefore contribute to the construction of a collective identity from the sense of belonging, likewise, assimilating the space-time condition that implies its own logics improving the encounter of the citizen with history, as a support for the consolidation of a collective memory.



Finally, for all this to work, it is necessary to formulate two major situations:

1. The basic idea is that the management of civic and collective urban use it must be a shared management: *the government must be the one of the property, thus it will need maintenance and creating the conditions for a society and culture where the community can exercise its self-regulated collective rights for the use of the property that, in many cases, will contribute to bring back to public enjoyment.* (Capone, 2017), the distribution of responsibilities between the council administration and the citizens is necessary, in order to there is an active participation in favor of the construction of pacts based on participatory democracy that establish the roles of each actor under the idea of co-management.

2. Reformulate city planning models: It is important to regulate in a better way the project decisions of those who are in charge of building in the city, so that it is imperative to reinforce urban life to the point that people can circulate, can walk and spend time in parks, squares, green areas and in this way real security or in terms of perception, will improve. In addition to the above, an important factor within this topic is the design of the ground floor of a building, since this has a large-scale impact in terms of the development of urban life, with gestures like this it is possible to achieve that our role in the development of the city is notable at the time of public policy decision-making and construction of the city, aiming at the general interest of the population where urban life displaces the divided city.



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## IMAGES source

1. Cali's Visual from Sebastian de Belalcazar  
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2. Panoramic view Cali  
<https://audiovisuales.icesi.edu.co/audiovisuales>
3. Panoramic view Cali from Cristo Rey  
<https://audiovisuales.icesi.edu.co/audiovisuales>
4. Farallones de Cali  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Farallones\\_de\\_Cali\\_alternativa.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Farallones_de_Cali_alternativa.jpg)
5. Rio Cauca  
<https://90minutos.co/cali/avanza-el-plan-jarillon-que-busca-despejar-las-zonas-invasidas-en-el-rio-cauca-06-04-2022/>
6. La merced  
<https://audiovisuales.icesi.edu.co/audiovisuales/handle/123456789/81320>
7. La merced complex  
<https://audiovisuales.icesi.edu.co/audiovisuales/handle/123456789/81320>
6. Caicedo's Square Cali  
<https://audiovisuales.icesi.edu.co/audiovisuales/handle/123456789/81320>
7. Trabajo en territorio  
: <https://www.cali.gov.co/participacion/>
8. Green corridor urban Project Cali.  
Source Opus+ Espacio Colectivo

9. Layout and open spaces of the San Pedro and San Antonio neighborhoods (U. del Valle)
10. Model of compact city. Urban Ecology Agency.
11. Model of sprawl city. Urban Ecology Agency.
12. Cali, top view Cali. Source: Atlas historico de Cali
13. Panoramic view of the hill of the 3 crosses of Cali
14. Law 9. Own elaboration
15. Agreement 0373 2014. Own elaboration
16. Decree 1504. Own elaboration
17. Conpes law. Own elaboration
18. Representation urban layout of the colony Cali.
18. Representation urban layout of the colony Cali.  
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19. Representation of Block in time of the colony. Cali. Source: (April-Gnisset, 1991)
20. Representation of Block in time of the colony. Cali.
- Source: (April-Gnisset, 1991)
21. Image: Cali Antigua.  
Source: Departmental Library of Cali
- 22.. Image: Cali Antigua.  
Source: Departmental Library of Cali
23. Old Cali urban profile.  
Own elaboration

24. La Merced Source: Cali's Municipality
25. Cultural Center Cali Source: Cali's Municipality
26. Republic bank of Colombia Source: Cali's Municipality
27. Teatro municipal Taken on site
28. Proartes Source: Cali's Municipality
29. Gobernacion del valle. Taken on site
30. San francisco complex Source: Cali's Municipality
31. Source Land development plan for Cali
32. Public space system for Cali. Source: DANE
33. Cali panoramic Source: Diario de Occidente
34. Plan of Cali- commune 3 and 17 . own elaboration
35. Top view Cali center, urban fragment 1
36. Top view Cali south, urban fragment 2  
Source: Jaramillo Mora
37. Top view Cali center, urban fragment 1, taken from Google maps
38. Top view Cali center, own elaboration.
39. Top view Cali center, Taken from Google earth
40. Top view Valle del lili, own elaboration.

41. Photos taken on site
42. Photos taken on site
43. Key Words- own elaboration
44. own elaboration.
45. Edges categorization- Jan Gehl
46. Images taken on site.
- 47 . Images taken on site.
- 48 . Images taken on site.
49. Images taken on site

