



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF

Abstract

**Rehabilitation, Conservation and Socio-
environmental Regeneration of the Rio Fucha
Basin, Bogotá**

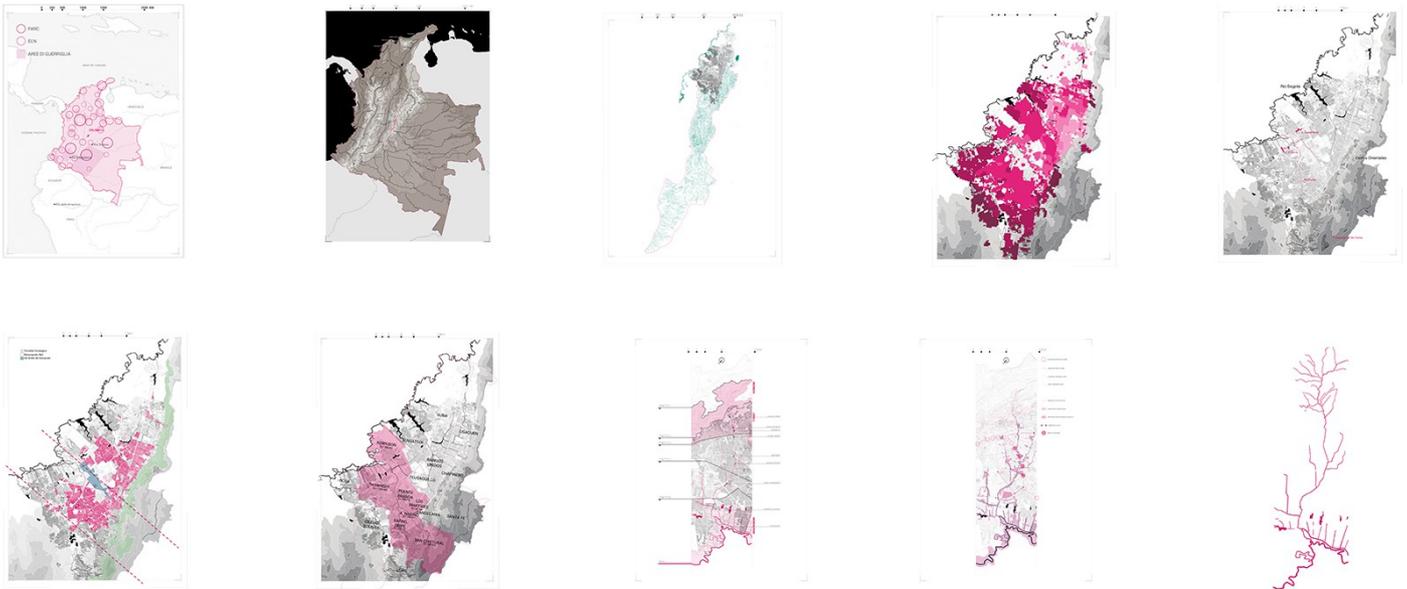
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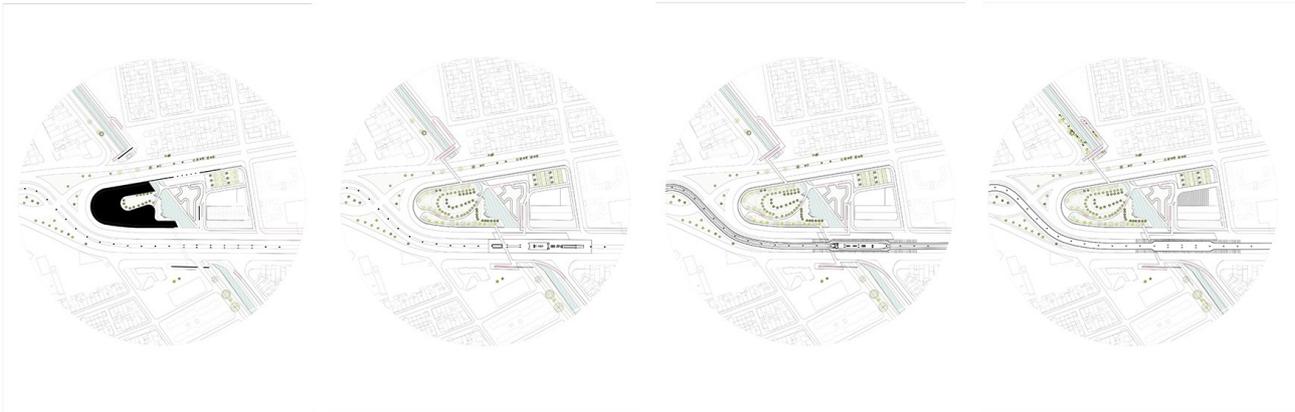
by

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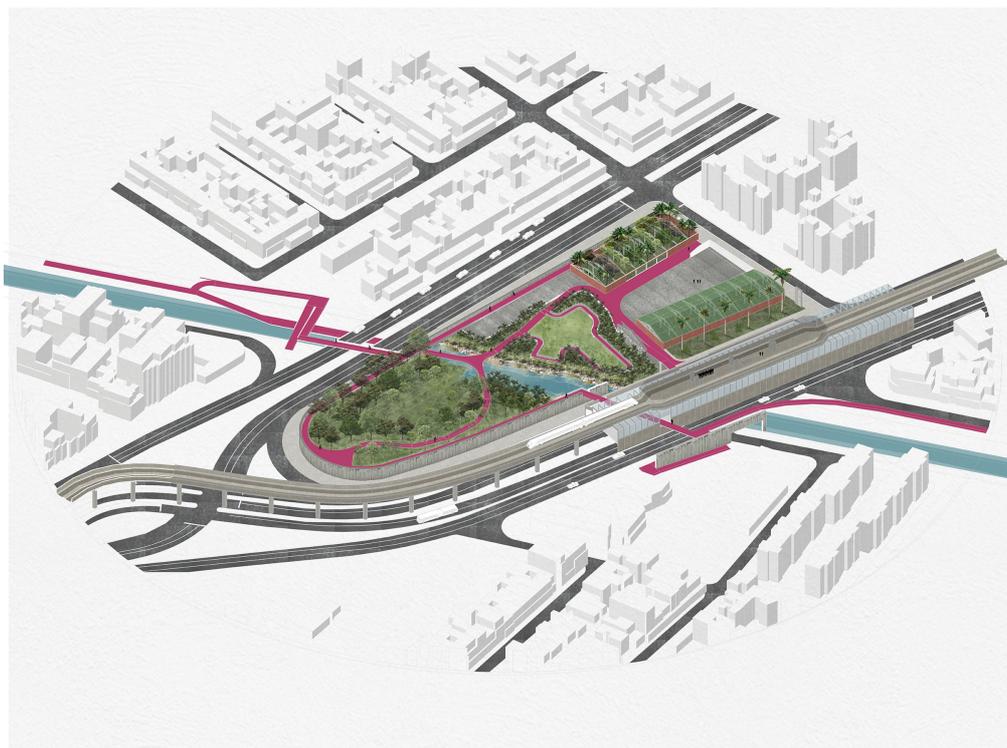
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“In today’s Latin America, architecture is a political act, as well as having aesthetic and cultural relevance. Architecture cannot be ignored when undertaking any action intended to transform space so as to further well-being and community participation and to implement urban proposals that foster opportunities for meetings and actions, regardless of whether they oppose or support democracy. Aesthetics must be ethical.” Rogelio Salmons’s words aptly describe the issue of design in the South American continent and in particular in the context of cities that are meeting places par excellence but equally catalysts of contrasts and mirrors of society. Bogotá is a complex metropolis and its socio-cultural stratification, which is one of its most striking assets, began on its plateau long before the city was founded. Equally striking is its natural environment surrounding as well as the potential of the country of which it is the capital. Today Bogotá, like other Colombian cities, is experiencing a period of relative stability and economic growth, thanks to the resolution of the many conflicts that had torn the country apart. It is a period of excitement arising from an urge to reverse the negative approach that has been followed so far in environmental matters and social conditions. The purpose of my urban intervention is to regenerate a natural element, the Rio Fucha, as a solution to issues such as the decay of the local and regional ecological structure, the increasing segregation of more vulnerable population groups and the lack of a public space in which citizens can enjoy the most important asset of Colombian cities: Nature. The axis formed by the Fucha and the other tributaries of the Rio Bogotá is a framework upon which to build the premises of a city that is laying the ground to represent one of the most promising of Latin American countries. The project aims to provide the city with green infrastructure that will act as a catalyst for Bogotá’s future economic developments and create a break with the current growth model, which is at present verging on collapse. It is through its public space that the spirit of the city speaks out. Wherever citizens appropriate space, such public space can contribute to forming citizens. Not only does it become a place for exchanges between the city’s inhabitants, but also between citizens and their city. Existing space has been subjected to



a process of fragmentation owing to the city's privatisation and to the priority that has been given to building major transport axes that divide the urban fabric like the slashes of a knife, creating vast expanses of space that cannot be inhabited by human beings. This is the backdrop against which the regeneration of an important river like the Rio Fucha can provide the city with an inviting space that encourages its exploration. The thesis presents a preliminary contextual analysis, starting with Colombia as a country and then concentrating on the Rio Fucha river basin. The central part of the study describes the work developed for a public contest at the L.A.P., or Laboratorio de Arquitectura y Paisaje of Medellin, where I worked during my internship in Colombia. Lastly, the study presents a personal analysis of the upper reaches of the Fucha basin, the priority area considered by the study for the regeneration of natural spaces.



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