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MSc. Territorial, Urban and Landscape-Environmental Planning



**Temporary Urbanism in Public Spaces:
A comparative between Europe and Latin America**

Master Thesis

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Abstract

Temporary urbanism has become increasingly prominent in urban planning practices and policy debates. However, while extensive research has focused on its application in the Global North, there is limited exploration of the Global South. To add relevant cases and broaden the theoretical debate, this thesis presents a comparative exploration of the practice of temporary urbanism in open spaces between the contexts of cities of Europe and Latin America.

The theoretical framework of this thesis enhances the understanding of temporary urbanism as a global phenomenon by examining its diverse interpretations in European and Latin American contexts. Additionally, it introduces and explores the concept of "citizen urbanism," a term commonly used in Latin America to describe projects with characteristics similar to those of temporary urbanism.

This thesis explores mirror case studies and main case studies. Mirror case studies provide insights into how temporary urbanism projects are implemented across different contexts in Europe and Latin America. In Europe, projects from Bremen and Barcelona are analyzed, while in Latin America, case studies from Santiago and Sao Paulo are examined. The main case studies focus on a detailed analysis and comparison between two distinct contexts: the city of Turin and a vulnerable neighborhood in Lima. All the projects studied in this thesis demonstrate how diverse urban environments –formal and informal– are appropriated under practices of temporary urbanism that employ bottom-up, top-down and hybrid approaches with different proposals that act as catalyst for urban issues.

Finally, the thesis analyzed through the case studies and interviews conducted to urban agencies, the academy and policy makers how the urban conditions of the formal and informal cities, the roles of the citizens, promoters and municipalities influence in the implementation of temporary urbanism in European and vulnerable Latin American contexts. Based on this analysis, the thesis identifies key challenges and strengths in both contexts and offers recommendations for implementing temporary urbanism in vulnerable neighborhoods.

Key words: Temporary urbanism, Latin America, Europe, public space, citizen urbanism.

Introduction

From the 1930s to the 1970s, Latin American cities experienced significant expansion, transforming into some of the most urbanized areas globally (Milian, 2020). This rapid growth was driven by various factors and often began with informal settlements, which developed without the supervision of urban planning experts (Matos Mar, 2012). Consequently, the informal expansions have led to contemporary issues such as abandoned and vacant spaces (Milian, 2020). In some cities, such as Lima, Peru, where vacant spaces were intended to serve as public areas, but the lack of action from the government leaves these areas without urban proposals since the 60s until nowadays (Matos Mar, 2012).

In recent years, the concept of Temporary Urbanism has emerged as a potential strategy to address such underutilized spaces. Under the broader umbrella of Temporary Urbanism, some scholars identified it as a strategy to address city spaces that do not produce commercial benefits necessarily – such as open spaces in vacant areas of cities – by responding to the urban challenges they pose (Garcia-Vazquez, 2024; Patti & Polyak, 2017; Alegre, 2022). Although, during the past decade has seen a growing interest in temporary urban projects for abandoned and vacant spaces in Latin American cities (Milian, 2020), the concept of temporary urbanism has predominantly been studied and developed in the Global North (Andres & Zhang, 2020; Garcia, 2020; Milian, 2020; Rodrigues et al., 2020). Consequently, the aim of this study is to provide an understanding of the implementation of temporary urban projects in public spaces in Latin America while contrasting them with successful cases of Europe.

The thesis will focus the comparison between the European case of *The Precollinear Park* from the city of Torino (Italy) and *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* from an informal neighborhood of Lima (Peru). Following this line of research, the study will be guided by the question, how the urban conditions of the formal and informal cities, the roles of the citizens, promoters and municipalities influence in the implementation of temporary urbanism in European and vulnerable Latin American contexts.

Lima was chosen as the main case city study not only due to its pressing need for innovative public space solutions, where there is a deficit of an average of 1,900 hectares of public spaces in the city (Huaman et al., 2021). But also, because, as its resident, I aim to contribute to the urban development in my country. Furthermore, I was part of an internship made from August to October 2024 with the local urban NGO *Sistema Urbano* from Lima. This NGO regularly

carries out temporary urban projects in vulnerable areas of Lima. This experience has granted me invaluable firsthand insight into the distinct dynamics and challenges these interventions face, particularly in informal neighborhoods. The exploration of temporary urbanism in Europe is crucial to this study, as the concept has been more extensively researched and applied in European contexts (Andres & Zhang 2020), offering key lessons and frameworks that could contribute to the Latin American context.

In the context of Latin America, this thesis will introduce the concept of *citizen urbanism*, which was developed in 2022 by the NGO where I completed my internship, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the NGO *Ciudades Comunes*. I identify this concept as a Latin American equivalent to temporary urbanism, as it shares similarities in being implemented for limited periods in vacant urban areas while involving collaboration with multiple stakeholders. Crucially, citizen urbanism emphasizes the active participation of local communities, ensuring that projects are responsive to their needs and aspirations (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).

To answer the research question, the thesis is organized into four chapters, in addition to this introduction. Chapter II presents the Literature Review, which explores two key concepts: (1) Temporary Urbanism, and (3) Citizen Urbanism. The first concept focusses on the origin and current state of temporary urbanism, exploring its main characteristics and identifying key concepts that will guide the case studies. It also includes a comparative between the different concepts of urban planning under this broader umbrella of temporary urbanism. Furthermore, it explores how this phenomenon of temporary urbanism is unfolding in the Latin American context. The second concept –citizen urbanism–, is essential to explore as it represents the term used to describe the urban practice for the transformation of *The Principal Park*, main case study of the Global South (Lima). This section will delve into its conceptual framework and examine the gaps of this experimental urban practice addresses in the impact into public policies.

Chapter III presents the case studies divided into two groups: mirror case studies and main case studies. The first group will explore and analyze the practice of temporary urbanism in Europe in the cities of Bremen and Spain. While in the context of Latin America it will be explore the practices implemented in Santiago de Chile and Sao Paulo. The assess will be done by theories and criteria found in the literature review. On the other hand, the main case studies will explore and analyze in a deeper examination the urban context, the methodology of

implementation and their impact into public policies. For the Global South, the main case study is located in the informal neighborhood of Pamplona Alta in Lima, project developed by the NGO *Sistema Urbano*, where I interned. For the Global North, the main case study is located between the neighborhoods of Borgo Po and Madonna del Pilone from Torino, the project was developed by the Cultural Agency *Torino Sratosferica*. Both main case studies are followed by a comparative analysis between the two projects. In addition, this chapter also discusses the findings from the interviews conducted with urban agencies from Lima and Turin, the academia and policy makers from Latin America.

Finally, Chapter IV concludes the thesis with a discussion and conclusion about the research findings. It will provide insights about the challenges and strengths for the implementation of temporary urban projects in public spaces in Europe and Latin America. These insights will be focus in how the formal and informal cities' condition shape the implementation of the temporary public spaces in both contexts. Additionally, the chapter will offer recommendations for future urban interventions, relying on the temporary urbanism approach.

CHAPTER I: Methodology and Methods of Investigation

1.1 Methodology

This section presents the methodological framework that underpins this research, detailing the approach taken to investigate the phenomenon of temporary urbanism. It provides a comprehensive explanation of the theoretical framework selected and its relevance to the European and Latin American contexts. Additionally, it outlines the criteria and rationale for the selection of the case studies analyzed in this study, highlighting their significance in addressing the research objectives.

1.1.1 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework centers on two key concepts. First, it examines temporary urbanism and its application in both the Global North and Global South, this last one with a specific focus on Latin America. Second, it explores the concept of citizen urbanism, as utilized by the organization '*Sistema Urbano*'—where I completed my internship—highlighting its similarities with temporary urbanism.

In the first hand, the exploration of Temporary Urbanism led me structure its practice in two primary ways. The first relates to theories related to the *entrepreneurial city* (Harvey, 1989), in which temporary projects serve as tools for fostering creativity and entrepreneurship. The second framework approaches temporary urbanism as a "lab and catalyst for urban issues" (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, 2018) and as part of "informal and unplanned practices" (Andres, Bryson, and Moawad, 2021), in which projects serve as tools to decrease urban challenges. Given that my research focus in Latin-American scenario, I have chosen to concentrate primarily on the second framework, as it aligns more closely with my exploration of public space in informal neighborhoods. To support this framework, I examine three core theories: (1) the five key components of temporary urban projects, as outlined by Bishop & Williams (2012); (2) the categorization of temporary urbanism into bottom-up, top-down, and hybrid approaches, as defined by Patti & Polyak (2017); and (3) the two main typologies for integrating temporary urbanism into legal frameworks through heterogeneity across legal frameworks or transferability of practices and policies, also proposed by Patti &

Polyak (2017). These theories will support to assess the different mirror and main case studies in the following way:

- The Five Key Components of Temporary Urban Projects (Bishop & Williams, 2012): The component “formal/informal” will be used to analyze whether the temporary urban interventions are part of formal urban planning processes or operate outside formal channels, often driven by community initiatives or unregulated actions. The component “legal and illegal” will be, if the projects received official approval from local authorities or by contrast, operate outside the law, without necessary permits or official approval. The component “planned and/or spontaneous” will explore whether the temporary urban interventions are planned initiatives by public or private authorities or if they arise spontaneously through grassroots movements. The component “long-lasting and/or temporary” will examine the duration of each case study. And the component “founded through various methods” will examine evaluate how the projects were initiated—whether they were top-down governmental initiatives, bottom-up community-led actions, or hybrid approaches.
- The categorization of temporary urbanism into bottom-up, top-down, and hybrid approaches, as defined by Patti & Polyak (2017): This framework offers a valuable lens for understanding how the different case studies are initiated and organized, highlighting the varying degrees of community involvement, institutional support, and collaboration.
- Heterogeneity across legal frameworks or transferability of practices and policies from Patti & Polyak (2017): This framework aids in assessing whether urban interventions were implemented within the legal structures of the city where the project was developed or if the practice and policies to make real the temporary intervention were transferred within the same country or different countries.

In addition, this research examines citizen urbanism, a concept rooted in the Latin American context and promoted by the ‘*Inter-American Development Bank*’ (IDB), as well as urban NGOs such as ‘*Ciudades Comunes*’ and ‘*Sistema Urbano*’. The IDB supports urban development in Latin America by funding initiatives in areas like housing, water and sanitation, urban rehabilitation, and social inclusion. ‘*Ciudades Comunes*’ operates as a collaborative

project uniting various urban agencies across Latin America to share knowledge and resources. Meanwhile, ‘Sistema Urbano’ under their initiative “Ocupa Tu calle” (Take your street) focuses on implementing public spaces under the framework of citizen urbanism, which emphasizes creating cities by, for, and with the people, ensuring their inclusion at every level of decision-making and fostering community-driven urban development. The exploration of this concept aims to highlight its shared characteristics with the concept of temporary urbanism while recognizing citizen urbanism’s distinct traits as contextualized within the Global South. It also examines the challenges of integrating this concept into public policies. The literature review draws primarily from the book “Citizen Urbanism in Latin America: Superbook of Citizen Actions for the Transformation of Cities”, a collaborative effort by the IDB and the aforementioned urban agencies

Table 1: *Approach of the practice of Temporary Urbanism*

Ways to approach the practice	
Explored	Theoretical Framework
Not use	<p>Entrepreneurial City (Harvey, 1989)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Creative Adaptability’ (Andres, Bryson, and Moawad, 2021) ● ‘An incubator for creative minds and entrepreneurs’ (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, 2018)
Use	<p>Informal and unplanned practices (Andres, Bryson, and Moawad, 2021)</p> <p>A lab and catalyst for urban issues (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, 2018)</p>

Source: Created by the author based on personal property and analysis.

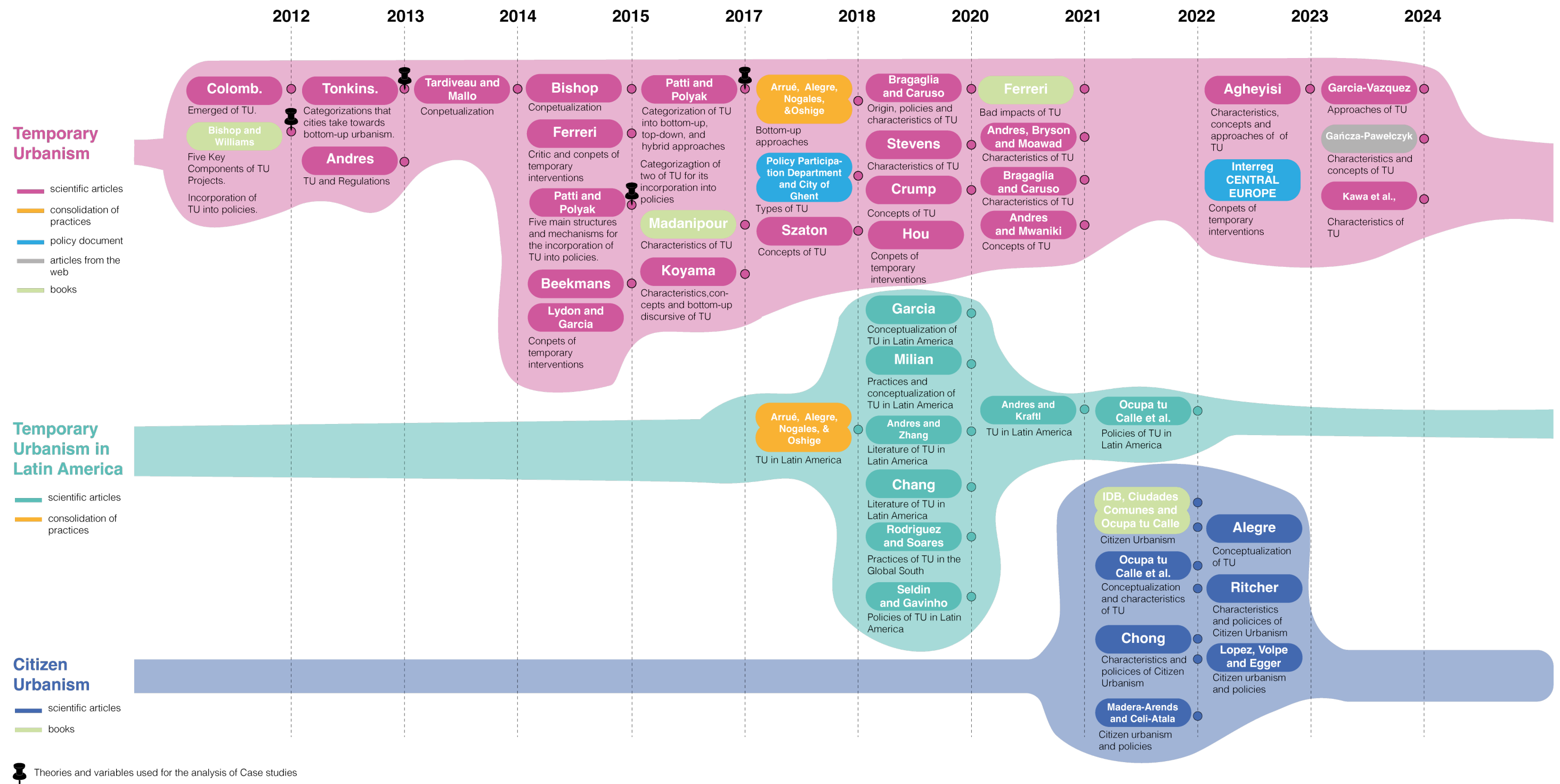
Figure 1 from below, illustrates the various authors referenced in the development of the theoretical framework for this thesis. The figure is organized into three main topics explored in the literature review. The first topic ‘Temporary urbanism’ includes authors whose work contributes to a broader understanding of the concept of temporary urbanism. The second topic ‘Temporary urbanism in Latin America’ highlights the specific authors whose research sheds light on the interpretation and current status of temporary urbanism within the context of Latin America. Finally, the topic ‘Citizen Urbanism’ presents the authors whose insights were instrumental in defining the concept of citizen urbanism and establishing its relevance to this thesis.

This comparative analysis of the theories highlights that the concept of temporary urbanism is relatively new on a global scale. This is evident from the timeframe of the theoretical explorations, which span from 2012 to 2024. In the context of Latin America, the research uncovered scientific articles primarily published between 2020 and 2022, pointing to a noticeable gap in research since 2022 in this region.

Additionally, *figure 1* underscores the limited availability of literature on the concept of citizen urbanism, with only a single publication identified in 2022. This further reflects the nascent stage of scholarly exploration in this area.

Inside *figure 1* also outlines the specific theories and variables used to analyze the case studies and guide the subsequent discussion in this research. This selection is based on an exploration of temporary urbanism between 2012 and 2017.

Figure 1: Jencks Diagram of the exploration of theories

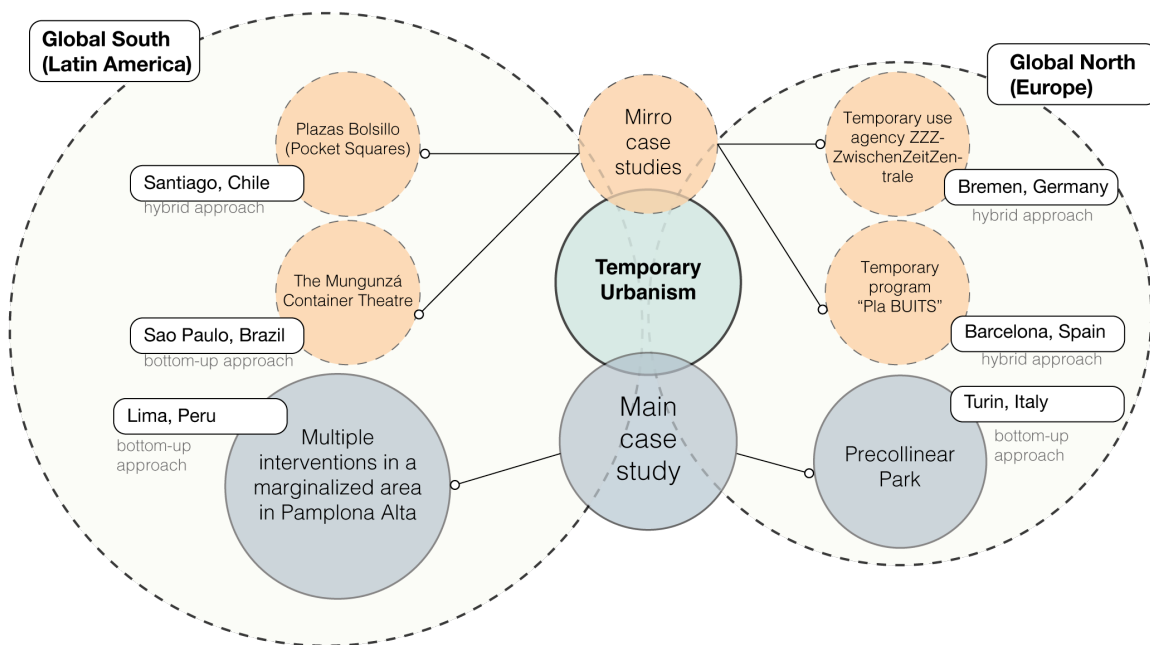


Source: Created by the author based on personal analysis.

1.1.2 Case studies selection

This thesis examines two sets of mirror case studies and one main case study for both the Global North (Europe) and the Global South (Latin America). These case studies are designed to compare and contrast approaches to temporary urbanism across different socio-economic and geographic contexts.

Figure 2: Case studies diagram



Source: *Created by the author*

- Global North

The investigation in the Global North will offer a comprehensive framework for understanding current concepts and practices of temporary urbanism through two European cities serving as mirror cases. These cities—Bremen, with projects by the Temporary Use Agency *ZZZ-ZwischenZeitZentrale*, and Barcelona, with the project *‘Pla BUITS’* will be analyzed to identify common patterns and lessons across different approaches, ranging from top-down to hybrid models in vacant lands and buildings. By examining these cities, the study will explore how temporary urban interventions have been implemented, their challenges, successes, and the broader social, economic, and political contexts influencing their outcomes.

Special attention will be given to the case of Turin, with *The Precollinear Park* developed by the cultural association *Torino Stratosferica*. This case will offer a deeper understanding of how temporary interventions have been integrated into the urban fabric of cities in Europe, providing valuable lessons for adapting similar approaches in different contexts.

- Global South

In contrast, the mirror case studies in Latin America, located in Chile and Brazil, examine both top-down and bottom-up approaches to temporary urbanism within vulnerable neighborhoods. These cases will highlight the diversity of activities that can be proposed for open spaces in informal or marginalized contexts.

The main case study, based in Peru and developed as part of my internship with ‘*Sistema Urbano*’, offers a comprehensive analysis of the unique challenges and opportunities involved in creating temporary public spaces in an informal Latin American urban environment.

1.2 Methods of Investigation

The methods of investigation of this thesis will focus on the research question presented in the introduction. The methodology integrates primary and secondary data sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of temporary urbanism in Europe and Latin America.

1.2.1 Data Collection

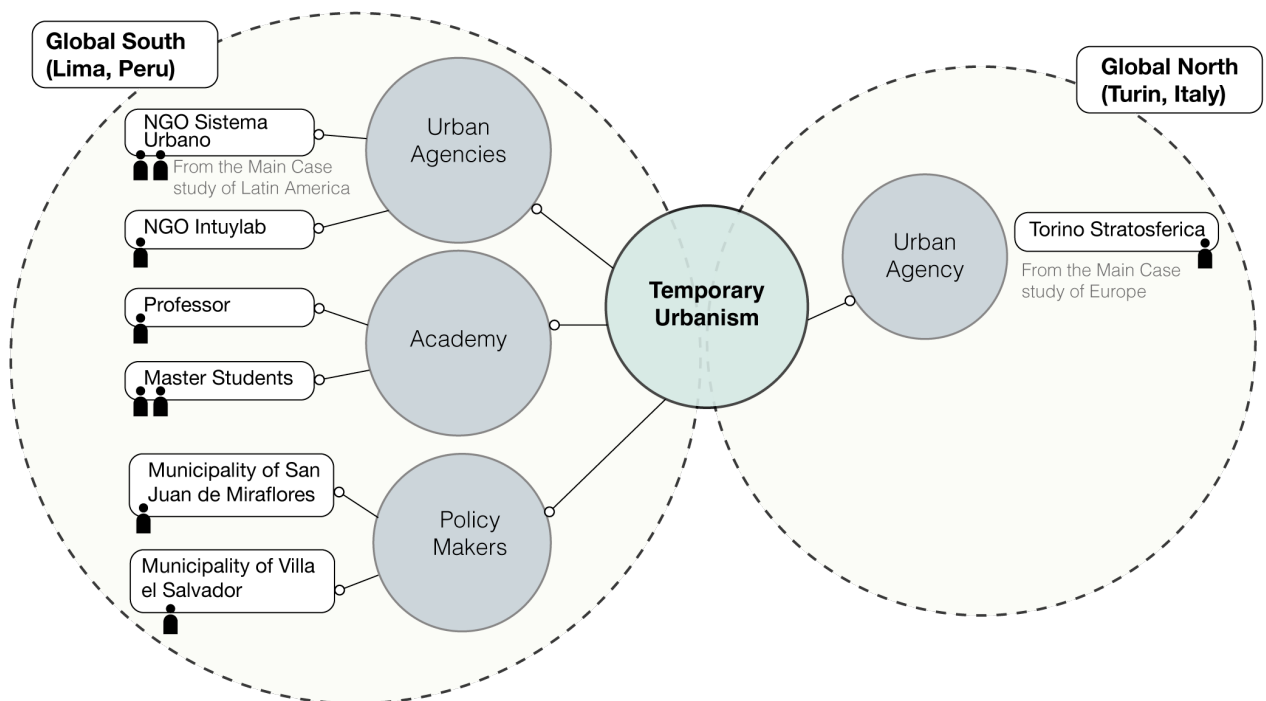
This study adopts a qualitative research framework to explore and understand the phenomenon of temporary urbanism and its application in the contexts of the Global North and Global South. First, the exploration of theories related to ‘temporary urbanism’ were gathered through media websites that produce articles about the temporary urban interventions. Additionally, the data collection related to the case studies were gathered through the websites of the key stakeholders in charge of the development of the projects. In the specific case of the exploration of ‘citizen urbanism’ theory it was used the book “Citizen Urbanism in Latin America: Superbook of Citizen Actions for the Transformation of Cities” (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).

1.2.2 Field research

This thesis employs qualitative research to collect data from key stakeholders involved in the implementation of temporary urban projects in Lima and Turin. The interviews with professionals from Lima seek to capture diverse perspectives on the effectiveness, challenges, and potential of temporary urban practices in transforming vacant spaces into public spaces in informal neighborhoods across Latin America. To achieve this, there were conducted interviews with urban agencies, policy makers and professionals from the academia through open questions. The selection of the urban agencies and policy makers were focus in professionals involved in the main case study of *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* (Global South)

In the case of Turin, it was conducted one interview with a team member from Torino Stratosferica that was involved in the development of the main case study of *The Precollinear Park* (Global North)

Figure 3: Interviews diagram



Source: Created by the author

Interview with Urban Agencies

This section will present open interviews I conducted with key stakeholders from two urban NGOs in Peru (*see annex 1*): (1) ‘*Sistema Urbano*’ and (2) the NGO ‘*Intuyllab*’. Both NGOs do interventions in public spaces within informal neighborhoods. The interviews will explore topics such as the implications to develop urban projects in informal neighborhoods the role of the auto-construction in public spaces, the practices of participatory processes and the situation of temporary urbanism in local policies.

The selection of professionals from *Sistema Urbano* resulted from my interaction with team members during my internship. Ingrid Salazar and Flavia Muro are responsible for developing public spaces using non-traditional urban planning methodologies in vulnerable neighborhoods. On the other hand, the professionals from *Intuyllab* were selected through a snowball sampling method, which was shared among architects in Peru.

Table 2: *Stakeholders from urban agencies interviewed*

Category	Organizations and Institutions	Nombre	Role	Professional Background	Countries of studies
Urban Agencies	Sistema Urbano	1. Ingrid Salazar	Coordinator of Citizen Urbanism	Msc. in urban and regional planning Civil Engineering and Bachelor in Civil Engineering	Master: Argentina; Bachelor: Peru
		2. Flavia Muro	Urban Design Analyst	Msc. In Urban, architectural spaces and mobility and Bachelor in Architecture	Master: Spain; Bachelor: Peru
	Intuyllab	3. Jose Cepero	Team member from the Research and Publication area	Msc in Urban Planning and Bachelor in Architecture	Master: United Kingdom; Bachelor: Peru

Source: Created by the author

In addition, for the main case study of Europe, I conducted an interview with Daniele Vaccai, team member part of the intervention for *The Precollinear Park*, with the main propose of gaining a better understand of how the implementation was developed. Refer to Table 12 for information about Daniele Vaccai.

Interview with Policy Makers

The interviews conducted with policy makers (*see annex 3*) were focus in professionals from the municipalities of two districts in Lima that were originated as informal settlements and still retain some informal characteristics and abandonment in their public spaces.

The professionals from both municipalities were selected through a snowball sampling method, which was shared among architects in Peru.

Table 3: *Policy makers interviewed*

Category	Organizations and Insitutions	Nombre	Role	Professional Background	Countries of studies
Policy Makers	Municipality of San Juan de Miraflores (Main case study from the Global South)	1. Rafael Cabrera	Urban Development Manager, who oversees the management of public spaces in the district.	Msc in Marketing and Bachelor in Industrian Engenieering	Master: Peru; Bachelor: Peru
	Municipality of Villa el Salvador (Neighborhood with informal settlements from Lima)	3. Carlos Kuylen	Urban Development Manager	Bachelor in Architecture	Bachelor: Peru

Source: Created by the author

Interview with the Academia

The interviews conducted with academics from Peru (see Annex 2) focused on professionals in architecture with a background in urban planning, as there are no dedicated urbanism schools in the country.

The selection of Susana Lopez was made by personal communication as consequence of her collaboration with *Sistema Urbano*, during the period of my internship in the NGO. The collaboration she did was as part of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru for the analysis of Pamplona Alta under a course from the Architecture school.

The remaining professionals were selected using a snowball sampling method, targeting professionals specialized in urban planning and with expertise in vulnerable neighborhoods of Lima. Alessandra Rodriguez, was included due to her work with the Municipality of Rimac, a district in Lima with areas of vulnerability and informal settlements. Similarly, Estefanie Quispe was selected for her involvement in a publication called *Barriografía*, where she analyzes the history, identity, and cultural factors of San Cosme, a slum neighborhood in Lima

These interviews will provide insights into how temporary urban practices are perceived by professionals in the field of urbanism. As well it will provide a point of view from the professionals about the lack of urban planners in the context of Peru.

Table 4: *Scholars and professor interviewed*

Category	Organizations and Insitutions	Nombre	Role	Professional Background	Countries of studies
Academia	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.	1. Susana Lopez	Professor of architecture at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.	PHD in Urbanism, Department of Urban Planning and Land Use from Polytechnic University of Catalonia and Bachelor in Architecture	PHD: Spain; Bachelor: Spain
	Harvard Graduate School of Design	2. Alessandra Rodriguez	Student of the Master degree in Urban Planning	Bachelor in Architecture and current studen of a Master in Urbanism	Master: USA, Bachelor: Peru
	Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) and Technological and Innovation Projects from International University of La Rioja (UNIR)	3. Estefanie Quispe	Graduate of the Master degree in Urbanism at IAAC and from the Master in Design and Management of Technological and Innovation Projects at UNIR	Msc. in Urbanism, and in Design and Management of Technological and Innovation Projects. Bachelor in Architecture	Master: Spain; Bachelor: Peru

Source: Created by the author

1.2.3 Data analysis

The data analysis of the mirror cases was conducted using a structured framework grounded in three core theories from the literature review, presented within single charts:

1. The five key components of temporary urban projects, as outlined by Bishop & Williams (2012).
2. The categorization of temporary urbanism into bottom-up, top-down, and hybrid approaches, as defined by Patti & Polyak (2017).
3. The two main typologies for integrating temporary urbanism into legal frameworks, focusing on heterogeneity across legal frameworks and transferability of practices and policies, also proposed by Patti & Polyak (2017).

Additionally, the analysis incorporated general project information, including:

- Country and city where the project was developed.
- Timeframe of the proposal.
- Type of intervention (e.g., cultural, social, economic).
- Nature of the vacant space (e.g., open space or unused building).
- Stakeholders involved (e.g., government, NGOs, grassroots organizations).
- Urban challenges addressed (e.g., inequality, lack of green spaces).
- Objectives of the proposal.

For the contrasting analysis of the primary case studies in Europe and Latin America, the same three core theories and the general projects information were applied. The selected projects in both regions shared general characteristics, such as a bottom-up approach, initiated by non-governmental institutions and developed through participatory processes. Additionally, both projects focused on public spaces. For this reason, the following theories were taken into account for their analyses.

Examination of the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015) to introduce the practice of temporary urbanism into policies:

- Transparency
- Mediation and Assurances
- Taxes and incentives

- Permissions
- Fundings and Loans

As well the cases studies were analyzed by the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013):

- **Facilitating Cities:** Actively support bottom-up initiatives by establishing legal, political, and property frameworks that facilitate citizen-driven urban regeneration.
- **Tolerant Cities:** Allow organizations to act but only within specific spaces of tolerance, without providing active facilitation.
- **Restrictive Cities:** Actively exclude bottom-up urbanism, preventing citizen participation and innovation.
- **Abandoned Cities:** Have completely abandoned urban interventions, leaving the responsibility for regeneration entirely in the hands of citizens.

To enhance the analysis, the interviews conducted with the agencies '*Torino Stratosferica*' and '*Sistema Urbano*', who developed the main cases studies presented in this thesis were took in count. These interviews provided deeper insights into the decision-making processes, challenges faced, and outcomes of the projects, enriching the comparative framework and ensuring a robust evaluation. As well the point of view from the academy and policy makers from Latin America about the implementation and research about temporary urbanism was included in the analysis.

Chapter II: Literature Review

2.1 Temporary Urbanism

2.1.1 Origin of Temporary Urbanism

The concept of temporary urbanism emerged in the 1990s, as noted by Colomb (2012), evolving from citizens' responses to various challenges, primarily economic downturns, social shifts, and urban renewal efforts. In fact, some practices can be traced back as far as the post-World War II period (Colomb, 2012). Over the years, however, the practice of temporary urbanism has evolved and adapted to new urban challenges and contexts (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). In the Global North, particularly in Europe, this concept materialized in some projects, such as: '*Urban Catalyst*' (2001-2003), which compiled strategies, types, and examples of temporary reuse initiatives throughout Europe; the '*Fund of Temporary Use*' (2014); and the European URBACT program '*Refill*' (2015-2018). This last one analyzed (1) ways in which the municipal administration can exchange knowledge, experiences, challenges, and tools within and beyond the city, (2) how the city can model sustainable development, and (3) how a more adaptable government can build connections, partnerships, and legal support (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, 2018). An additional example is the current project '*T-Factor*' (Kawa et al., 2024).

Bragaglia & Caruso (2020) highlight a key shift over the years from citizen-led (bottom-up) temporary interventions to greater government involvement (top-down). This observation aligns with Andres & Kraftl's (2021) view that contemporary temporary urbanism in Europe increasingly relies on policies and practices designed to enable spatial adaptability. With this shift in mind, the following paragraphs will examine the origin of temporary urbanism as a top-down approach in Europe, while also exploring the current state of this concept within the Latin American context.

In the Global North's context, Bishop & Williams (2012) note that temporary activities are not a new phenomenon, but have seen significant growth in recent years, highlighting their important role in city-making. Similarly, Milian (2020) notes that the temporary appropriation of urban spaces is not a new phenomenon in Latin American cities. Alegre (2022), urban planner and director of the organization *Sistema Urbano* in Peru, explains that in Latin America's informal cities the concept of '*citizen urbanism*' has existed long before it emerged

in the Global North. This concept started as a form of grassroots resistance by citizens seeking access to urban infrastructure, because urban planning is often lacking there (Arrue et al., 2018). According to my point of view this concept is related to temporary urbanism and will be further discuss in the next topic.

In Europe's case, the global economic crisis in 2007/2008 – originating in USA and UK and spreading across Europe and among different worldwide economies – has significantly exacerbated social inequalities among residents in numerous cities (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020; Garcia, 2020). This crisis has resulted in a cut of municipal budgets and austerity measures, giving as a response the use of the pure physical interventions on urban space like the so-called temporary urbanism to decrease different problems such as: marginalization, socio-spatial polarization, territorial fragmentation, vacant sites (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020; Garcia, 2020).

This crisis also contributed to the current practice of temporary urbanism – top-down approach – that emerged as a topic of discussion in urban development during the 2010s. A variety of projects and practices emerged, defined by their short-term nature, that showed potential for driving urban transformation (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). Nowadays, in European countries, this practice has become a planning tool introduced in various cities (Patti & Polyak, 2017). On the other hand, Garcia (2020) shows that different actors led implementation of this practice in Latin American cities, without necessarily becoming a formal planning tool by governments.

In essence, temporary urbanism has become a trendy topic in Europe, attracting significant Academia research in recent years, but its exploration in Latin America remains limited – a divide that will be further elaborated upon in section 2.1.5. This phenomenon is confirmed by Andres & Zhang (2020), who demonstrate that while the concept of temporary uses has been primarily implemented and extensively studied in the Global North, particularly in Europe, North America, and Australia, it has hardly gained foothold in Latin American academia literature. This statement is affirmed by different authors: Garcia, 2020; Milian, 2020; Rodrigues et al., 2020. Despite the limited research of temporary urbanism in certain regions, the concept has gained global interest, thus reflected the interconnectedness of cities and enabled processes of exchange, learning, and adaptation across diverse urban environments (Andres & Zhang, 2020; Garcia, 2020).

In Latin America, the literature does not pinpoint a specific event marking the start of temporary urbanism in practice. Even so, authors show that uses of this concept have spread to the Global South too (Andres & Zhang 2020).

Alegre (2022) also notes that strategies related to temporary urbanism like *tactic urbanism and placemaking* have served to bring to public agenda the debate around the importance of public spaces and the need to promote public policies (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022). Even so, Alegre (2022) notes that, while Latin American governments have started to adopt strategies encouraging experimentation and participatory processes, these efforts rarely come to fruition, as the traditional structure of public administration often fails to support or enable genuine, effective participation; and specially because of governments' reluctance to accept that some experimental projects can fail (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).

As discussed, the origins of this type of urban intervention may be intertwined or stem from different roots in the Global North or South. In both cases, though, temporary urbanism emerged as a tactic for addressing certain urban challenges through a bottom-up approach. Over time, efforts were made to incorporate this practice into government policies and strategies. In Europe, these efforts largely succeeded, while in Latin America, such integration has yet to be realized. As previously mentioned, the concept of temporary urbanism has evolved in both regions; however, despite some practices being incorporated into urban frameworks, its visibility in Latin American academia literature remains low.

2.1.2 Why do we talk about temporary urbanism nowadays

The growing popularity of temporary urbanism can be attributed to several key factors, which I summarized in three main points: (1) its adoption by municipalities as a tool for urban revitalization; (2) the increasing use of it by NGOs and private agencies; and (3) the rise in scientific research and publications on the topic.

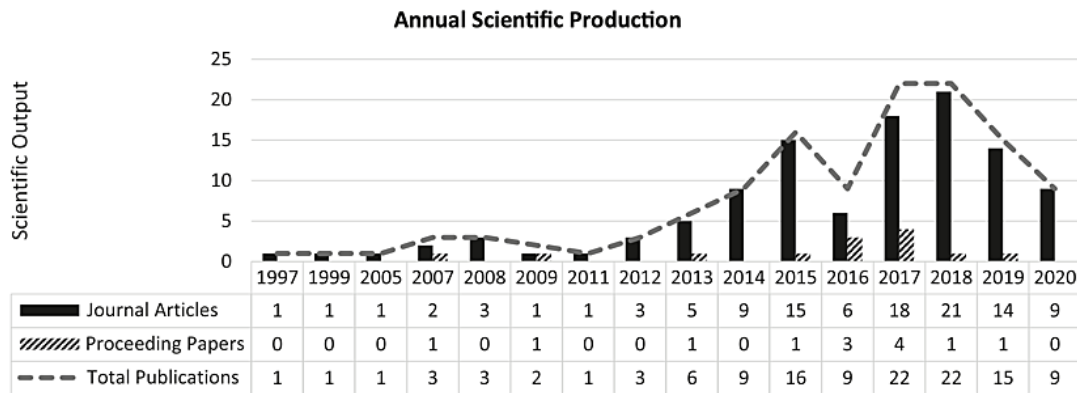
The first key factor is explained by Bragaglia & Caruso (2020), who note that there is an increasing number of municipalities that are utilizing temporary uses to revitalize their most disadvantaged areas, not just as part of a short-term strategy, but also for long-term improvements. Additionally, due to its cost-effectiveness, Patti & Polyak (2017) argue that financial constraints across European cities have prompted municipalities to adopt temporary

urbanism due to the need to rethink and repurpose existing infrastructure, thus reactivating spaces by introducing new functions and involving diverse stakeholders. The positive outcomes of temporary interventions have led municipalities to develop tools that simplify their processes, making these approaches more accessible and easier to implement (Kawa et al., 2024).

The second key factor is the growing involvement of private agencies and NGOs—such as *Sistema Urbano*, the organization where I completed my internship, and which is central to this thesis—which use temporary urbanism to create improved urban spaces. According to Flavia Muro, coordinator of *Sistema Urbano*, they work on various ‘citizen urban’-oriented projects. Muro explains that they focus on two main types of temporary projects: short-term (lasting a few hours or days) and semi-permanent (lasting several months). She adds that these types of projects are also used to assess whether the intervention has the potential to evolve into a long-term urban initiative (F. Muro, personal communication, October 23, 2024). In fact, the Peruvian *NGO Sistema Urbano*, founded in 2014, has carried out over 60 urban interventions using this approach (F. Muro, personal communication, October 23, 2024). Another example from the Global South is in the city of São Paulo, where the use of parklets has grown steadily in recent years as a recurrent material to implement different temporary urban projects. By 2019, the city had implemented a total of 131 parklets areas, highlighting the increasing popularity of such practices (Rodrigues and Soares, 2020). This rise in temporary urban interventions reflects a growing global awareness of the need for flexible and adaptive solutions to rapidly changing urban challenges.

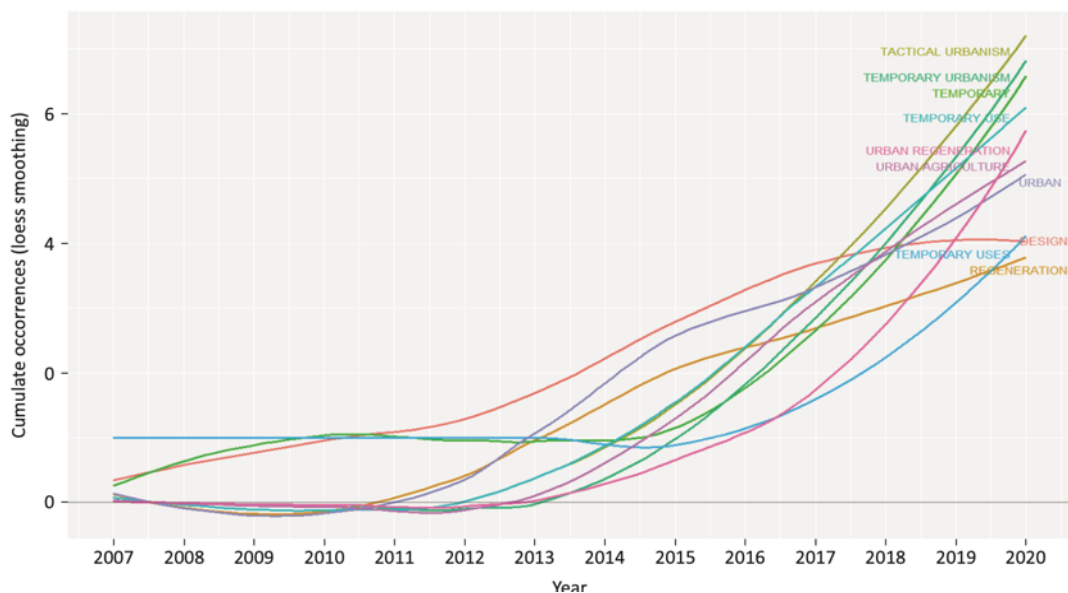
The third key factor in the increasing popularity of temporary urbanism is the rising scientific production between the 1990s and the 2020s (Chang, 2021). Chang (2021) shows in *figure 4* the growth of scholar literature between 1997 and 2020, and she analyses in *figure 5* how words related to ‘Temporary Use’ in abstracts, titles and keywords had increased between 2007 and 2020.

Figure 4: Annual scientific production about Temporary Urbanism from 1997 until 2020.



Source: Chang, 2021.

Figure 5: Keyword growth associated with Temporary Urbanism from 2007 until 2020.



Source: Chang, 2021.

2.1.3 Conceptualization of Temporary Urbanism

In the following sections, it will explore core concepts of temporary urbanism in both Europe and Latin America. Given that this thesis is based on an internship in Latin America, particular attention will be given to the terminology used by the host organization.

The first section will outline key aspects of temporary urban project. The second section will discuss the concept of temporary urbanism in Europe. And since the terms ‘Temporary Urbanism’ and ‘Temporary Uses’ are not commonly discussed in Latin American literature, it will be introduced the framework of “citizen urbanism” which contextualizes temporary interventions in Latin America.

Key Characteristics of Temporary Urban Projects

There are vast physical structures where temporary urbanism used to be implemented in as well as it varies in terms of user’s right (Agheyisi, 2023). Andres, Bryson and Moawad (2021) provide examples of such spaces: vacant sites, buildings, lands and transport corridors and parking spaces, which have transitioned from ‘anti-spaces’ to ‘livable spaces’. Temporary urbanism creates opportunities for urban activities and social groups that are small, marginalized, or in conflict with dominant land uses, providing them with access to urban spaces typically reserved for more conventional purposes (Stevens, 2020).

This section will outline the primary components that define temporary urban interventions. Specifically, it will focus on five essential aspects: duration, which determines the project’s timeframe; stakeholders, who bring resources and diverse perspectives to the process; budget, a crucial factor that dictates the scale and scope of the intervention; materials, which reflect both the sustainability goals and practical limitations of each project; and their adaptability, which reflects the project’s flexibility, that is, its capacity to adjust in size, form, and function to suit various contexts and conditions. I contend that by exploring these elements, we can better understand how temporary urbanism functions in practice in both European and Latin American contexts.

One of the defining characteristics of temporary urban interventions is their duration, as implied by the term ‘temporary’ itself. Even so, there is a complex conception about this characteristic, because the authors disagree in the time frame. On the one hand some authors indicate that they last for short-term urban activation (Madanipour, 2017; Milian, 2020; Chang, 2021). On the other hand, Gańcza-Pawelczyk (2024) explains that temporary uses can span over varying scopes: short-term uses lasting a few weeks, medium-term uses extending to several months, and long-term uses persisting for years. Temporary interventions can refer to short- and medium-term interventions (C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group & C40

Knowledge Hub, 2023). For this thesis we will use the general definition of duration of temporary uses defined by Bishop & Williams (2012): long-lasting and/or temporary.

In contrast to this vague characteristic of the duration, a clear statement about the characteristic of duration in the European context is made by Bragaglia & Caruso (2021) and Gańcza-Pawelczyk (2024), who demonstrate that agreements for temporary uses can involve a contract between the main actors involved in the projects which sets a fixed start and end dates, or alternatively a flexible arrangement with a brief cancellation period.

The involvement of diverse stakeholders is equally essential in navigating the complexities of temporary urban projects in order to have them materialized and defined (Kawa et al., 2024). Bragaglia & Caruso (2020) identified three main types of promoters of temporary uses: local authorities, civil society groups, and private companies. Local authorities and private companies typically drive formal initiatives, while civil society groups can be involved in both formal and informal efforts. The outcomes of this practice depend on the intentions and motives of the promoters (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020).

Budget considerations are fundamental in shaping the scope and scale of temporary urban interventions. Typically operating within strict financial limits, temporary urbanism presents a cost-effective alternative to conventional planning and regeneration policies (Kawa et al., 2024; Martins and Deas, 2020). The choice of materials is closely tied to budget constraints, with low-cost, versatile options often favored for temporary urban projects. The main characteristics of the frequently utilized material types are: affordable, easy to transport, and adaptable across various purposes (Kawa et al., 2024). Some examples in different case studies described by different authors are: pallets (Stevens, 2020), parklets (Rodrigues et al., 2020), second-hand shipping containers (Kawa et al., 2024). In these resource-limited cases, characteristic materials for temporary urban interventions were the ideal solution (Kawa et al., 2024).

In some temporary interventions, existing or recycled materials are used to increase resource efficiency and reduce costs (Bishop, 2015; Kawa et al., 2024). Likewise, local materials are often preferred for their availability and for being easy to assemble and disassemble, aligning with the adaptable nature of temporary projects (Kawa et al., 2024). And as mentioned, an important characteristic of temporal interventions is their adaptability. As discussed by Koyama (2017), temporary urban practices can begin as a local intervention and then expand

globally. “The Flying Grass Carpet” is a good example of it, a traveling park designed to bring joy to various locations worldwide. This temporal intervention has traveled to twenty destinations across the globe (Koyama, 2017). This carpet, crafted from diverse types of artificial grass, ranges in size from 18 by 22 meters to 32 by 58 meters, and can be adapted to fit different contexts and available spaces (de Boer, 2008; Project for Public Spaces, 2015). Additionally, this temporary park serves a variety of purposes, including interim uses, events, contests, recreational activities and performances (Koyama, 2017).

The five aspects discussed in this section outline the general characteristics of temporary urbanism. Together, they form the primary theoretical framework for understanding this concept across different contexts across the world. The next section will delve into specific applications of temporary urbanism within Europe and Latin America.

Concepts of Temporary Urbanism in the Literature

In my general overview of the concept, it is clear that different authors agree that temporary urbanism is hard to define because of the variety of terms and approaches associated with it (Bishop & Williams, 2012; Chang, 2018; Andres & Zhang 2020; Crump 2020; Gańcza-Pawelczyk, 2024). This variety presents itself mainly through a diversity of temporary urban projects and practices (Koyama, 2017). Some examples of the diversity of urban projects are: cultural events, temporal housing, temporary shelters, temporary public spaces (Koyama, 2017). Related to the practices, is important for this thesis the geographical dimension and its relation with informality in context like the Global South (Andres & Zhang, 2020).

In addition, temporary urbanism can be approached from different theoretical angles and described using various terms (Ferreri, 2015; Andres & Zhang, 2020). For example, in the Global North's context, Ferreri (2015) indicates three of them: ‘pop-up shops’, ‘guerrilla interventions’, and ‘interim uses’. Whereas Andres & Zhang (2020) mention ‘insurgent guerilla’ and ‘tactical’.

In the case of Latin America, temporary urbanism will be introduced for this thesis into the field of "citizen urbanism". This field, as it is led in Latin America, involves many kinds of different temporary interventions, thus making use of temporary urbanism, although without a discrete theoretical framework. Three important agencies encompassed different urban movements, such as: ‘collaborative urbanism’, ‘DIY’ (Do-It-Yourself urbanism), ‘participatory urbanism’, ‘guerrilla urbanism’, ‘tactic urbanism’, ‘placemaking’, among others

in the field of ‘citizen urbanism’. The complete list of movements can be found in the book “Citizen Urbanism in Latin America: Superbook of Citizen Actions for the Transformation of Cities” (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022). Following the same line, Milian (2020) places temporary use in the middle of the spectrum between the concepts of do-it-yourself urbanism and everyday urbanism.

The following chart presents different characteristics of some of the terms related to temporary urbanism in the different contexts of Europe and Latin America:

Table 5 : Concepts of Temporary Urbanism

	Pop-up urbanism	Guerrilla urbanism	Interim uses	Tactical urbanism	DIY (Do It Yourself) urbanism	Everyday urbanism
Definition	"Flexible, volatile, and temporary forms of architecture and urbanism..." ^{1,2}	"Unsanctioned, unscripted, and seemingly 'undesirable' activities..." ³	"...the temporary activation of vacant land or buildings with no foreseeable development demand." ⁴	"... Tactical Urbanism is an approach to neighborhood building and activation using short-term, low-cost, and scalable interventions and policies" ⁵	"Not all DIY urbanism efforts are tactical, and not all Tactical Urbanism initiatives are DIY. [...] DIY Urbanism is the expression of the individual, or at most a small group of actors..." ⁶	"... an approach to Urbanism that finds its meanings in everyday life." ^{7,8}
Duration	A few weeks to months.	Temporal or long-term.	A few weeks to a few years.	A few weeks to years.	Short term.	A few weeks to years.
Stakeholders	Various. There can be private companies, non-profits, government funds, etc.	Private individuals or organized communities; the parties involved in the city-making.	Private or public. It often relies on volunteering.	Public, private, non-profits, citizen groups, or private individuals.	Private individuals or a small group with common interest.	Local residents, businesses, and municipalities.
Budget	Low.	Typically low, but the level of spending varies based on the project's size and its intended durability.	Low.	Low to high.	Low.	Low to medium.
Materials	Light and portable materials that allow swift and easy mobilizing, assembling and dismantling. E.g., inflating structures and mobile units.	Cheap and locally readily available materials.	Cheap and locally readily available materials.	Temporary, accessible, and easily mobilized materials.	Temporary materials, either recycled, readily available in the residents' proximity, or already owned by them.	Reused elements, light and transportable materials.
Adaptability	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
Informal / Formal	Formal or informal. Bottom-up.	Informal, bottom-up.	Formal, bottom-up.	Formal or informal. Bottom-up or top-down.	Informal, bottom-up.	Formal or informal. Bottom-up or top-down.
Location	Various, but local. It can be outdoors, on the street, in a dedicated indoor space, or in a temporarily designated area.		Local, in an area that is not ready for development or is neglected.	Varying. It can be used as a prototype for permanent project or as a local activation approach.	Highly limited, typically to the neighborhood of the actors.	Local neighborhoods and public spaces.

Source: Created by the author with references indicated in the table

¹ Beekmans, & Boer (2014)

² Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE. (2023)

³ Hou (2020).

⁴ Blummer, (2006)

⁵ Lydon & Garcia (2015, p.2)

⁶ Lydon & Garcia (2015 p.6-8)

⁷ Chase & Crawford (2008)

⁸ Everyday Urbanism: Transforming Daily Life in Cities. (2024, October 20)

To address this variety of characteristics, this thesis defines temporary urbanism within two theoretical frameworks. First, the research consider the theory put forth by Andres et al. (2021), characterizing temporary urbanism with two key elements: (1) “creative adaptability,” which encourages innovative urban lifestyles through experimentation and testing of new ideas, often led by artists, local businesses, and community groups; (2) “informal and unplanned practices,” capturing the daily survival strategies of vulnerable communities (Andres, Bryson, and Moawad, 2021).

The concept of ‘creative adaptability’ (1) of Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021), generally reflects temporary urbanism practices in the Global North. In this context, projects often focus on attracting the creative class—artists and businesses—to make a city appear trendy and innovative, thereby also attracting tourists (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). Some examples of these kind of temporary interventions are pop-up bars, restaurants, shops and galleries (Madanipour, 2017). However, Bragaglia & Caruso (2020) note that some authors criticize this approach, questioning whether temporary urbanism truly benefits society as a whole or serve only a select few. In the Global South though, cities encounter major challenges including, but not limited to, informal settlements, inadequate housing, and insufficient transportation systems (Andres et al., 2021). In these contexts, temporary interventions should prioritize addressing these fundamental needs over market-driven objectives.

On the other hand, the concept of ‘informal and unplanned practices’ (2) of Andres et al. (2021) is often found in temporary interventions across both Europe and Latin America. Andres et al. (2021) note though that in the Global South there is a mix of “bottom-up, citizen-led, unplanned, and informal actions and processes that are poorly accounted for in formal planning decision-making processes” (p.29). Similarly, Alegre (2022) suggests that temporal intervention in Latin America are usually bottom-up initiatives that usually seek to react to the appropriation of public spaces by residents (Arrue et al., 2018). Additionally, Andres et al. (2021) highlight the “limited planning capacity and resource constraints” in the Global South, which intensifies the informality (p.29).

In the Global North, Bragaglia & Caruso (2020) highlight that bottom-up practices – which can be categorized as informal or formal depending on the specific context – are today being used to address different urban challenges that have been made worse by economic struggles

and austerity policies (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). In this regard, after examining the theoretical framework provided by Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021), this thesis will focus on the concept of "informal and unplanned practices" (p.168) for case studies in both Europe and Latin America. This approach is selected because it enables us to examine relevant examples from both regions.

The second theoretical framework comes from the City of Ghent in Belgium, which identifies two types of temporary use: (1) "an incubator for creative minds and entrepreneurs" (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, p.11, 2018), which aligns with the 'creative adaptability' concept from Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021), and therefore will not be the focus in this thesis; and (2) "a lab and catalyst for urban issues," which will be central to this thesis (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, p.15,2018).

The concept of temporary urbanism as 'a lab and catalyst for urban issues' relates to "contemporary cities face a great deal of complex social, spatial, economic and ecological challenges for which there is no simple solution" (Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent, p.15, 2018). Examples particularly relevant to this investigation include temporary urbanism's role in fostering social inclusion and enhancing communities' quality of life, as highlighted by Bragaglia & Caruso (2020). As argued by Agheyisi (2023), temporary urbanism in the Global South acts as a component in the development processes, and in the Global North as a mode for enabling urban regeneration and innovative urbanism.

The concept of temporary urbanism as a 'lab and catalyst for urban issues' is especially relevant in the Global South given the variety of challenges faced by large cities there. These urban challenges are often related to their degree of deprivation: limited green spaces, housing shortage, vacant buildings, unauthorized use of properties, social segregation and squatting (Rodrigues and Soares, 2020); areas "taken over by gangs" (Garcia, p.134, 2020); and lack of spatial planning and rapid urbanization (Agheyisi, 2023). Due to these characteristic urban challenges in Latin America, temporary urbanism often functions as a substitute for services offered by municipalities (Milian, 2020).

On the other hand, in the Global North, temporary urbanism acts as a 'lab and catalyst for urban issues', often driven by factors such as industrial decline, economic disinvestment, suburban sprawl, land contamination, population decline due to migration, failures in the land market, and neighborhood gentrification or filtering (Agheyisi, 2023).

These diverse approaches as well in the Global South and North open up various possibilities for cities, such as activation, stimulation, experimentation or impulse (Szaton, 2018), as well opportunities for public engagement through the different activities proposed in these interventions (Tardiveau and Mallo, 2014). In both Global North and South countries, temporary urbanism should not be seen as the solution for the different urban challenges, but as an intervention that can help cities in different dimensions: economic, financial, social, and cultural constructs (Andres, Bryson and Moawad, 2021; Garcia 2020), as well as being able to revitalize spaces and make them more vibrant and livable by tackling specific urban shortcomings and encouraging targeted improvements within neighborhoods (Rodrigues and Soares, 2020).

The following sections will explore a diverse range of examples illustrating how temporary urbanism is applied in both the Global South and North, taking in count the concepts of temporary urbanism as ‘a lab and catalyst for urban issues’ and ‘informal and unplanned practices’. Additionally, the concept of temporary urbanism will be examined in greater depth for each context, highlighting its unique applications and nuances in these regions.

2.1.4 The evolution of Temporary Urbanism in Europe

From practice to policy

Many authors concur that in the European context, the concept of temporary urbanism has been successfully incorporated into public policies (Patti & Polyak, 2015; Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). The integration of temporary urbanism into policymaking represents one of the most significant differences between Europe and Latin America, and for this reason, it will be a key focus of the analysis in this section during the exploration of concepts and projects developed in different European countries. The projects analyzed will be aligned with the earlier discussions in the literature review, where temporary urbanism was introduced as ‘a lab and catalyst for urban issues’, offering a flexible platform for addressing complex urban challenges. As noted by Patti & Polyak (2017), this adaptability is key to temporary urbanism’s success, as it enables the transformation of vacant spaces into active, revitalized areas, tailored to the residents’ needs throughout diverse urban contexts.

Patti & Polyak (2015) listed five main structures and mechanisms that a city needs to take into account for advancing the practice of temporary urbanism into policies relating to it. These

components are: (1) Transparency, (2) Mediation and Assurances, (3) Taxes and incentives, (4) Permissions, (5) Fundings and Loans. Patti & Polyak note “When all these elements come together, they constitute the necessary conditions for successful temporary use” (2015, p.132).

Patti & Polyak (2015) defined the first component of ‘transparency’ as the public information from the government to show vacant spaces in their territory. As good example they mentioned the case of The Municipality of Amsterdam, who in 2011 published an online map of municipality-owned vacant lands. And in 2011 by law the owners need to notify the municipality about their vacant properties (Patti & Polyak, 2015).

The second component ‘Mediation and Assurances’ is defined as the mechanisms and tools employed to manage relationships, expectations, and potential conflicts between the various stakeholders involved in temporary use projects (Patti & Polyak, 2015). As mentioned by Patti & Polyak these tools are mostly related to legal assistance, and they can be “...model documents, design templates, budget estimates, and guidelines for temporary use...” (2015, p.129).

The third component ‘Taxes and incentives’ is defined by Patti & Polyak (2015) as mechanisms designed to motivate property owners to participate in temporary use projects. This involves financial or regulatory measures that make it more attractive or feasible for owners to make their vacant properties available for temporary use (Patti & Polyak, 2015).

The fourth component ‘Permissions’ is related with the inflexible regulations and bureaucratic structures (Patti & Polyak, 2015). As mentioned by Patti & Polyak, temporary urbanism needs “...flexible regulations and permission procedures...” (2015, p.131).

Finally, the fifth component ‘Fundings and Loans’ refers to financial mechanisms designed to support the implementation and sustainability of temporary urban projects (Patti & Polyak, 2015). As Patti & Polyak mention “Although very few municipalities have the capacity to subsidize or invest in temporary use activities, there are many ways in which public administrations can help the financial demarche of temporary use projects.” (2015, p.132). Some of these ways mention by the authors are through “...Through renting offices and spaces...”, “...cooperation of creative producers and developers...” (2015, p.132).

There are also two main criteria that are outlined in the literature to analyzed temporary urban projects in relation with its incorporation into policies. The first, is described by Bishop &

Williams (2012), who categorize temporary urbanism based on five components: (1) formal and/or informal, (2) legal and/or illegal, (3) planned and/or spontaneous, (4) long-lasting and/or temporary, and (5) funded through various methods. These components highlight the versatility of temporary urbanism, allowing it to function within diverse legal, formal, and financial frameworks.

The second criterion is identified by Patti & Polyak (2017), who mention two main typologies for incorporating temporary urbanism into legal structures, both of which facilitate quick decision-making while remaining responsive to specific local needs and resources. The first typology will be called “Heterogeneity across legal frameworks “, which involves that each city develops its own tailored legal structure. This approach recognizes the unique conditions of individual contexts, requiring legal frameworks to be adapted to address the specific characteristics and challenges of each temporary urban project. The second typology will be called ‘Transferability of practices and policies’, in this case practices and policies are transferred within the same country or different countries (Patti & Polyak, 2017). The authors observe that in Europe, cities frequently adopt and adapt successful temporary urban practices from one another. This is enabled by shared cultural, administrative, and linguistic similarities, which foster collaboration, streamline policy adoption, and encourage mutual learning among cities (Patti & Polyak, 2017).

Bottom-up and Top-down discourse in urbanism

To understand one of the main differences in the concept of temporary urbanism in Europe and Latin America regarding the production of urban spaces in a conceptual context within urbanism, it is important to distinct between top-down and bottom-up urban approaches. From the Latin American context, the non-governmental institutions: Ocupa Tu Calle, ONU-Habitat and Fundacion Avina define that there are two primary approaches to city-making today. The first approach is through government planning and management policies, i.e., top-down methodologies and the second approach is bottom-up urban practices, driven by actions of groups or individuals to transform cities (Arrue et al., 2018). These institutions indicate that in some cases, these efforts are supported by government initiatives that encourage community actions. However, in other instances, the population acts without government permission (Arrue et al., 2018). Initial exploration of both concepts is essential for understanding urbanism in Latin America. Where, out of necessity, citizens rely on bottom-up approaches to create cities and develop urban projects (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022;

Agheyisi, 2023). These efforts, however, frequently go unrecognized or unsupported by official government policies, in contrast to the more integrated approaches recorded in Europe (Agheyisi, 2023).

In the context of Europe, according to Koyama (2017), bottom-up approaches empower local citizens to take initiative, innovate their lives through new urban dynamics, and collaboratively enhance the cultural vibrancy of their surroundings. A similar theme is echoed in Garcia-Vasquez's (2024) study on New York, where the active involvement of residents in the design, execution, and management of urban projects is identified as the key characteristic of such interventions. Both authors emphasize the critical role that local communities play in shaping urban landscapes and generating cultural distinctiveness. Additionally, Koyama (2017) emphasizes that this approach fosters unique narratives and identities in a world where homogenization of cities is growing.

Garcia-Vasquez (2024), referencing Tonkins, categorizes four approaches that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism, which further illustrates the varying degrees of citizen empowerment and involvement in urban processes. In the first approach, cities actively support bottom-up initiatives by establishing legal, political, and property frameworks that facilitate citizen-driven urban regeneration (Garcia-Vasquez, 2024). This aligns with the idea from Koyama (2017) about empowering citizens to innovate and enhance cultural vibrancy. The second one refers to cities that don't facilitate, but neither exclude organizations from taking action; in this case cities allowed organizations to act but just in specific spaces of tolerance. Conversely, in the third approach, cities actively exclude bottom-up urbanism, preventing citizen participation and innovation, which stands in stark contrast to the empowerment Koyama advocates for (Garcia-Vasquez, 2024). Finally, Garcia-Vasquez (2024) presents the fourth approach: cities that have abandoned urban interventions altogether, leaving the responsibility for regeneration entirely in the hands of citizens. This can lead to a form of spontaneous, grassroots innovation, echoing Koyama's emphasis on the potential for unique narratives and identities to emerge from such bottom-up processes, though without formal support from the city.

In relation with these different approaches to practice temporary urbanism, Patti & Polyak (2017), categorize temporary urbanism into three distinct types based:

- *Bottom-up temporary urbanism:* is driven by individuals or collectives, often emerging in contexts with weak or limited planning frameworks. This approach includes practices such as squatting, informal economies, and community-led projects.
- *Top-down temporary urbanism:* operates in a context of neoliberal planning. Driven by those in positions of power, such as developers and local authorities, this approach is characterized by a broader vision of urban transformation, with decisions primarily shaped by stakeholders with significant influence over urban development.
- *Hybrid temporary urbanism:* characterized by many small-scale temporary projects, relies on a mix of improvisation and resourcefulness among key stakeholders, including both decision-makers and those who can envision and implement the initiatives. This suggests that the distinction between top-down and bottom-up approaches is blurred.

2.1.5 The concept of Temporary Urbanism in uneven cities in Latin America

Background of the landscape of Latin American cities

For contextualizing temporary urbanism in Latin America, it is important to first have a general idea of the urban landscape in this continent. During the 20th century, cities in Latin America experienced processes of population growth and urban transformation. According to Szupiany (2018), who references Romero (1976), the major urban centers in Latin America began altering their landscape starting from the 1930s. This rapid growth was driven by various factors and often kickstarted with informal settlements developing without intervention of urban planning experts. These informal expansions have led to contemporary issues such as abandoned and vacant areas that were intended to become public spaces, resulting, as highlighted by Milian (2020), in a deficit in public spaces alongside the existing housing deficit in Latin America. Additionally, Szupiany (2018) outlines a deeper transformation in 1980 and highlights that this demographic growth stems from specific problems in different contexts. But in general, it was marked by a rural exodus, with immigrants from depressed rural areas, impoverished villages, and small towns flooding into the main urban centers (Szupiany, 2018). Szupiany (2018) notes that the insufficient physical resources in those cities resulted in construction of "own cities" (p.109). As result, the proliferation of these illegal settlements, which also could be called a bottom-up approach to city-making, has become part of the landscape of Latin American cities bringing with it different problematics.

Some of these problems are highlighted by Costa and Hernandez (2010), who point out that the population living in informal settlements ends up having limited access to employment and to cultural and leisure areas. In the same vein, Carranza et al. (2016) determine that the informal urbanization in Latin America ends up deteriorating the quality of public spaces and green areas of the city. This creates fragmentation, Szupiany demonstrates (2018), between the legal and illegal urban regions in Latin America, where the illegal settlements are not integrated into the broader urban fabric. Another point to consider is offered by Costa and Hernandez (2010), who argue that the informal access to land and production of housing in Latin America has been increasing over the years. In fact, the authors Costa and Hernandez (2010) prove that nowadays between 40% and 70% of the urban population in big cities in Latin America lives in illegal settlements. These informal settlements are the primary focus of this thesis, primarily regarding temporary urbanism practices that characterize them. This study will explore how

temporary urbanism can address the lack of public space and contribute to the development of better urban environments.

The concept of temporary urbanism in Latin America

During the research of temporary urbanism, I noted that one of the key differences between the application of this urban tool in Europe and Latin America is the role that informality plays in urbanization processes. As Andres & Zhang (2020) point out, there is limited literature on temporary urbanism practices outside the Global North, which overlooks the significant connection between temporariness and informality in regions in Latin America. Indeed, the term ‘temporary urbanism’ is not used in the urban vocabulary of Latin America and there were few papers found.

These two key characteristics—(1) informality and (2) a gap in the literature—are highlighted by various authors as defining features of urban development in the Global South. The first characteristic, informality, reflects the resilience of local populations in addressing urban planning deficiencies, often stepping in where the state fails to act (Arrue et al., 2018). This informality underscores the adaptability and creativity of communities in dealing with systemic neglect. As well, the informality is related with the not availability of “the structures of public institutions and urban infrastructures (e.g. transportation, water, electricity, etc.) of the Latin America region” (Garcia, 2020, p.132).

Regarding the second characteristic, the gap in the literature, García (2020) argues that the "southern perspective could enrich the debate" (p.128) on urbanism, explaining that these contexts provide valuable insights that are often overlooked in mainstream discourse. Together, these aspects underscore the need for a more inclusive and context-specific understanding of urban practices in the Global South.

Agheyisi (2023) highlights another distinguishing characteristic of temporary urbanism in the Global South: it is framed as "a component of the development processes of cities in developing countries" (p. 1). This contrasts sharply with its primary role in the Global North, where it is seen as an "opportunity for urban regeneration and innovative urbanism" (Agheyisi, 2023, p.1). This distinction underscores the differing socio-economic and urban contexts in which temporary urbanism operates, with the Global South often using it to address fundamental urban development challenges, while the Global North leverages it to experiment with creative

and regenerative urban strategies. Additionally, Garcia (2020) mentions that temporary urbanism should not be considered as the “unique solutions to solve city needs” (p.129).

Temporary urbanism in Latin American cities is mostly performed by “activists, civil society and public agents” as a platform for innovative and temporary urban interventions (Garcia, 2020, p.132). In interviews conducted by Garcia (2020) in Chile, government representatives described temporary urbanism as a way

“...to evaluate a more definite thing... and presented as pilot projects and as ‘models in scale 1:1 [...] that will later give rise to a definitive [emphasis added] project” (p.133).

In the same line, a different interviewed

“...criticized temporary practices when they are not oriented to ‘long-term strategies’ (referring to more permanent material changes) and when they ‘do not go beyond doing the action in itself’ (Garcia, 2020, p.133).

By this, Garcia (2020) reflects that professionals from the government see temporary urbanism as a “precondition for the ‘permanent’ (or ‘definitive’) physical change in the city” (p.133). Garcia’s (2020) analysis underscores a fundamental difference in how temporary urbanism is perceived and implemented, revealing a more constrained framework in Latin America compared to its European counterparts.

According to the characteristic of informality is important to first identify general practices that are related to the bottom-up approach in Latin America. In the guide "Urban Interventions Made by Citizens: Strategies to Better Public Spaces," Arrue et al. (2018) show that everyday urban practices in Latin American context have demonstrated people's ability to innovate and to develop alternative forms of public spaces within their cities. Examples include “street vendors” (Agheyisi, 2023, p.5), parties, swimming pools and carnivals in the streets as manifestation of a big necessity of better spaces for community gatherings (Arrue et al., 2018). This guide suggests that many of these actions, present in Latin American cities, are currently sought by groups of citizens in North American and modern-European cities, where there is a growing interest in activating neighborhoods and enhancing public life (Arrue et al., 2018). This reflects an important characteristic of the exploration of the temporary urbanism concept in cities from Latin America, where, the development of public spaces in unequal cities turns

out in a necessity of direct actions from the population, rather than from the government, and without waiting for permissions from formal institutes (Arrue et al., 2018).

The literature highlights many advantages of using temporary interventions as an urban tool in unequal cities. For instance, Andres et al. (2021), in their research on temporary urbanism in the Global South, argue that temporary and informal dynamics can serve as effective alternatives in contexts where creating, implementing, and enforcing formal planning is challenging. They emphasize that planning in the Global South should acknowledge and incorporate informal and temporary developments, with flexibility being a key component of the planning process. Additionally, Garcia-Vazquez (2024) suggests that temporary uses can help address social demands, such as the deficit of public spaces, which do not necessarily generate commercial benefits. This aligns to the theoretical framework for this thesis, where temporary urbanism is not explored under the umbrella of the entrepreneurial city.

Figure 6: *Temporary swimming pools driven by neighbors*



Source: RPP website (2015). Pools obstruct the circulation of vehicles.

<https://rpp.pe/lima/actualidad/callao-piscinas-armables-impiden-circulacion-de-vehiculos-noticia-765283>

Policies of Temporary Urbanism in Latin America

In the context of Latin America, the implementation of policies has different challenges and opportunities, this section examines, emphasizing the role of participatory processes, the impact of resource scarcity and the replication of European practices.

In Latin America, urban development has traditionally “reinforced the role of planners and architects as experts”, often excluding meaningful citizen participation (Crump, 2020, p. 111). This top-down approach presents a significant challenge to the implementation of temporary urban policies, which, as previously discussed, depend heavily on participatory processes as a core principle. Related to this, Garcia (2020) mentions that temporary urbanism practices should not be considered as a replacement of policies. In fact, the argument of Garcia (2020) is valuable if we consider that, as noted by Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) there is not continuity in urban plans in different countries of Latin America and even absence of legal frameworks that ensures the permanence of traditional urban planning. By this, Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) argues that this reality makes difficult “the implementation of urban transformation projects” (p.42). Adding to these challenges, resource scarcity remains a critical issue in the Global South. As García (2020) points out, this scarcity goes beyond limited budgets to include constraints such as insufficient time for professionals to implement changes and the lack of appropriate regulatory frameworks to support innovative and practical urban planning. These combined limitations underscore the difficulties in adopting and sustaining temporary urbanism – a not traditional tool for urban planning – in the region.

Seldin et al. (2020) note that spectacular projects and mega events play a key role for the implementation of policies related to temporary urbanism in the Global South. Even so, they criticize that Latin American countries could replicate “...ready-made formulas originated in North-American and European cities...” (2020, p.775), but with a delay of years or decades and not necessary “compatible with the particularities of certain social realities” (2020, p.776). This effect is reflected in the case of the mega event of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Seldin et al. (2020) showcase that the local government followed European models for the intervention of some spaces. The authors put as an example *The Creative Port District*, a development as part of the city's image regeneration. Seldin et al. (2020) mention that the project “aimed at gathering 50 companies and 250 entrepreneur professionals with hopes of turning some of them into permanent residents, thus revitalizing the area through mixed

creative clusters, aided by tax exemptions” (p.777). Even so, this project does not fully align with the principles of temporary urbanism because its overall approach was more aligned with large-scale, permanent urban redevelopment rather than flexible, short-term interventions. It incorporated elements often associated with temporary urban strategies, such as activating underutilized spaces and fostering cultural and economic activities (Seldin et al., 2020). The authors highlight the main critique to this project is the ignorance of the local government of the concept of “the anti-mainstream ‘creative class’” (2020, p.777) and they mention it as a good example “of the need to reflect upon whether the policies developed in more equal and economically stable cities are fit for other contexts” (2020, p.777).

Although this example aligns with the theories of ‘creative adaptability’ proposed by Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021) and the concept of ‘an incubator for creative minds and entrepreneurs’ from the City of Ghent (2018), which were discussed earlier but not central to this thesis, it remains a relevant case to address. The inclusion of Rio de Janeiro's experience is significant as it illustrates a flawed methodology in the transferability of practices from Europe to Latin America. By highlighting this case, we can better understand the potential pitfalls of applying European strategies in distinct social, economic, and cultural contexts without sufficient adaptation or participatory frameworks.

The following analysis of temporary urban projects will be focus in cases related with the theoretical framework selected for this thesis and its relation with the implementation of the practices into policies: (1) ‘informal and unplanned practices’ from Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021) and (2) ‘a lab and catalyst for urban issues’ from the Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent (2018).

2.2 Citizen Urbanism

In recent years, policymakers have increasingly focused on the involvement of local citizens and non-governmental organizations in urban transformation processes (Brody, 2016). ‘Citizen urbanism’ is inside of this wide umbrella of concepts related to participatory processes. The research about this concept arises because ‘citizen urbanism’ was a term used during my internship, where the Peruvian NGO of urbanism *Sistema Urbano* use this term to refer projects with participatory processes, many of which were temporary in nature. This concept encompasses processes, projects, institutions and actors that propose alternatives to traditional urban planning in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean (Inter-American

Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022). *Sistema Urbano*, contributed to the development of the book “*Citizen Urbanism in Latin America: Superbook of Citizen Actions for the Transformation of Cities*”, which will be called ‘*Superbook*’ in the following paragraphs. This *Superbook* aimed at introducing this emerging concept into urban literature. In this publication, the term ‘citizen urbanism’ was described with a clear intent: “We seek to position it as a discipline in the current theoretical discourse of city-making” (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022, p.9).

2.2.1 Conceptualization of Citizen Urbanism

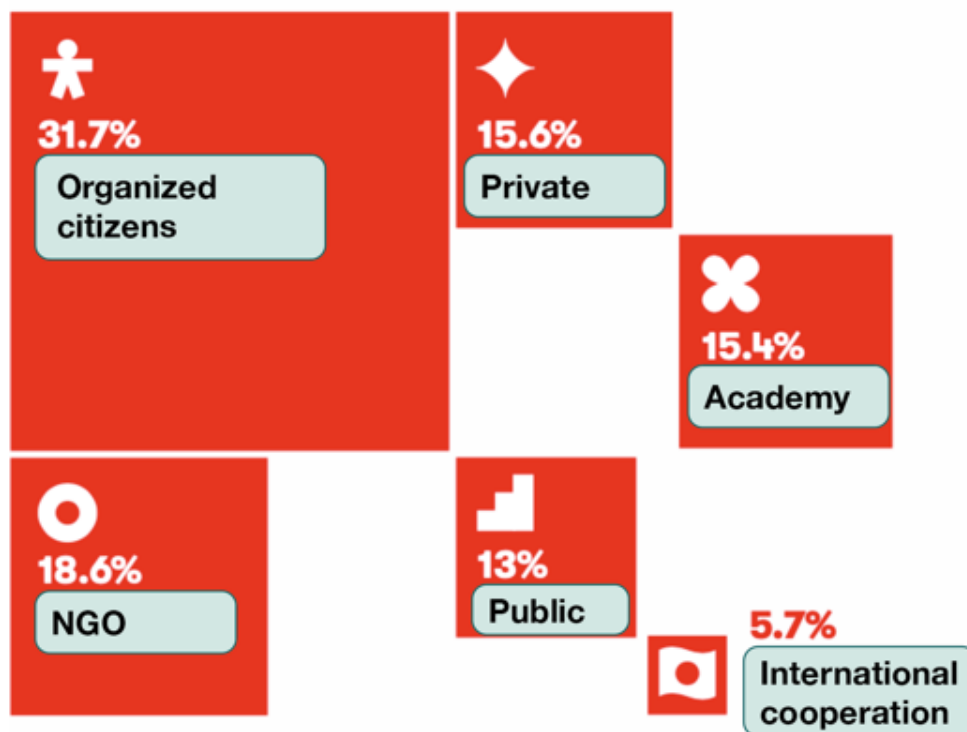
As Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) points out in the *Superbook*, this concept—similar to that of Temporary Urbanism—suffers from a significant scarcity in the literature (p.41). To address this gap, the *Superbook* has compiled and utilized a comprehensive database of over 630 organizations and actors across 19 countries, serving as a vital source of quantitative information for further exploration (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022, p.41). The following analysis of this concept will draw upon insights derived from the *Superbook*, building on its valuable contributions to the field.

As it was mentioned in the section “*2.1.5 The concept of Temporary Urbanism in uneven cities in Latin America*”, the cities in this region were mainly auto-constructed by the neighbors (Milian, 2020). This process of auto-construction extended beyond housing to encompass the various elements that constitute urban life. Alegre underscores this by stating, “a city does not exist only with housing and, therefore, the habitat has also been a result of urban auto-construction: the process by which citizens themselves produce their housing and the environment in which they live” (2022, p.35). To illustrate this self-generated environment, Alegre highlights community-driven initiatives such as “...implementation of public services such as the installation of water and sewage connections throughout tasks and work days, to community centers and community kitchens, and, of course, from squares and children's games to the construction of roads and sidewalks.” (2022, p.35). This reflection is part of the concept of ‘citizen urbanism’, that different authors (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022) from the *Superbook* mention it as the power citizens have to create cities. In fact, Lopez, et al. (2022) indicate that, in the context of Latin America, participatory processes have a bigger practice in marginal neighborhoods because of their auto-constructed characteristic. Citizen urban projects as noted by Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) are “pilot interventions or low-cost prototypes, rapid

implementation and evaluation, the purpose of which is experimentation or learning to develop a future solution with a vocation for permanence” (p.47).

Alegre highlights that groups of activists and urban promoters play a key role as facilitators or intermediaries to carry out urban interventions within the framework of ‘citizen urbanism’, but as well she emphasizes “but never protagonists of the stories of urban transformation”, in fact the author states “there is not citizen urbanism without neighbors” (2022, p.35). Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) reaffirm what Alegre (2022) mentions, but she adds that in the process of citizen urbanism is also important “a mixture and a complementation of knowledge, which can be obtained through alliances that nourish these processes with technical knowledge, financing, institutional support and/or legal assistance” (p.43). The following graphic, a study from the initiative ‘Ocupa tu calle’ from the company *Sistema Urbano* illustrates in the figure 7 the involvement of different promoters of citizen urbanism, showing that the main promoters are the citizens.

Figure 7: Types of urban planning promoters according to sector

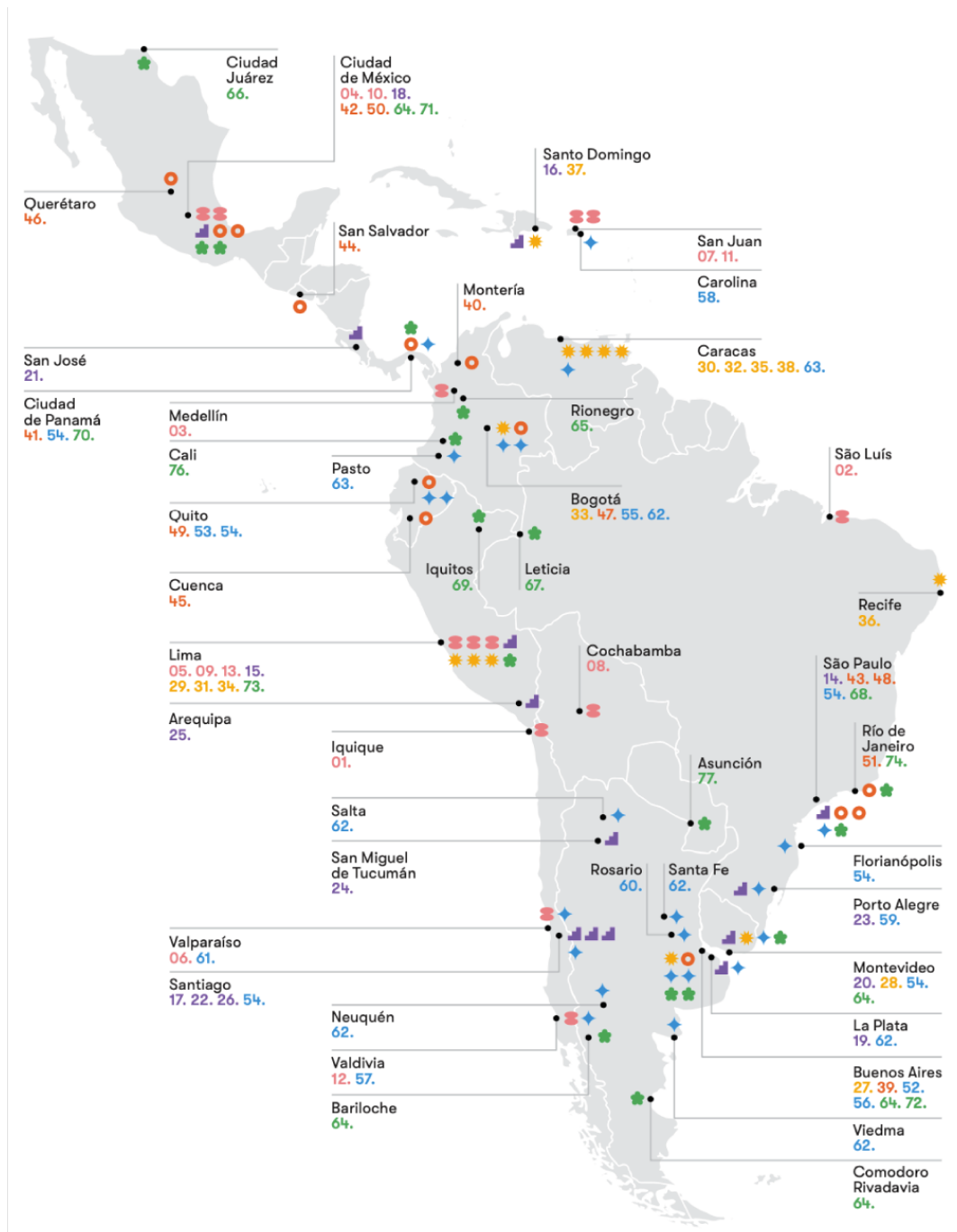


Source: Modified graphic, extracted by Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022, p.41.

Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) mentions four key components of the concept of citizen urbanism: (1) collaborative work, (2) contagious effect, (3) citizen participation and (4) transdisciplinary character. The first involves integrating social dynamics with the cultural traditions of the region, creating a synergy between people and their environment. The second component emphasizes the replicability of citizen urbanism projects, highlighting how easily these initiatives can inspire and be adapted to other contexts. The third component underscores the direct involvement of citizens at every stage of the urban intervention process, ensuring that projects are rooted in local needs and perspectives. The fourth component focuses on the technical side of implementing citizen urban projects. It involves collaboration among professionals from diverse fields such as social sciences, environmental studies, economics, law, and more, ensuring a holistic and sustainable approach (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p. 44).

The *Superbook* categorized six typologies in which citizen urbanism address different urban challenges and these are: (1) *cultural*, through projects aimed at making visible, valuing and redefining art, culture and local historical heritage; (2) *inclusive*, through projects that involvement of relegated social groups such as children, women, the LGTBIQ+ community, among others; (3) *informal*, through interventions in the informal city; (4) *mobility*, through projects that aim to enhance the allocation of public road space to accommodate all types of users and their various modes of mobility; (5) *resilience*, through projects designed to address pressing urban crises and respond to pivotal moments in the social and historical development of local communities; and (6) *green*, initiatives focused on promoting environmental sustainability within urban areas or ecological regions (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022). The following map illustrates the mapping of these typologies of citizen urbanism around Latin American countries.

Figure 8: Citizen urbanism in Latin America



Source: (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022, p.107).

Key Characteristics of Citizen Urbanism

This section will outline the primary components that define citizen urban projects. It will focus on five essential aspects mentioned by Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022). These components include temporality, materiality, human scale, small scale, and measurable impact. By examining these elements, we can gain a deeper understanding of how citizen urban projects are designed and implemented within the Latin American context.

Related to temporality, Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022) mentions that these interventions can be of short periods or longer periods. There are three main categories related to the temporality: (1) ephemeral, lasting only a few hours; (2) temporary, which can span from hours to several months or even years; and (3) permanent, designed from the outset to endure over extended periods (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).

Materiality is closely linked to the temporality of the projects of citizen urbanism (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022). The projects of short duration can “require a minimal number of materials, which are usually low-cost or reused” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.47). On the other hand, the ones related to longer duration can need “a more significant cost and use, similar to permanent interventions” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.47). For ephemeral projects, materials tend to be “very light, easy to transport, and recycled, or economically very cheap” (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022, p.105). Temporary projects often involve economical or easily installable materials, balancing cost and durability; meanwhile, permanent projects generally necessitate “higher budgets and more robust materiality to ensure longevity and functionality” (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).

Two components address the scale of these interventions. On the one hand, the component of human scale refers to the direct relation of the design and the different kind of users, such as “girls, boys and their caregivers, older adults and people with disabilities” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.47). On the other hand, the small-scale component refers to the “Easy implementation and replicability that helps to make the change visible” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.48).

Finally, the fifth component measurable impact refers to the use of “different quantitative tools such as surveys and counts, or qualitative tools such as observations and interviews with users, which allow the main changes and improvements to be made visible and communicated before and after the intervention” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.48).

Together, these five characteristics highlight the dynamic and context-sensitive nature of citizen urbanism, offering a comprehensive framework for understanding its practical applications in urban transformations. As mentioned in the introduction of this thesis, citizen urbanism emerges as a concept used in my internship that parallels temporary urbanism within the Latin American context. Indeed, these five characteristics underscore their similarities. To illustrate this connection more clearly, the following chart provides a visual comparison of the two concepts.

2.2.2 Citizen urbanism and its gap on public policies

This section explores the integration of citizen urbanism into public policies in Latin America. It is crucial to first situate the concept of citizen urbanism within the global framework of urban development. According to Chong (2022), citizen urbanism aligns with the discourse of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), emphasizing the importance of participatory processes for achieving sustainable urbanization. However, as the following paragraphs illustrate, significant limitations hinder the incorporation of citizen urbanism and innovative urban strategies into public policies in Latin America.

A key point to address the insertion of citizen urbanism into policies is to differentiate it from the traditional planning. In relation with this Lopez, et al. (2022) note that “traditional planning was developed for slow-growing cities” (p.419), and nowadays cities are growing fast and as consequence there are different urban challenges Lopez, et al. (2022) argue that for these challenges “...innovation in vulnerable contexts is not a luxury, but rather a necessity to react to rapidly changing realities.” (p.419). In relation with this, Lopez, et al. (2022) point out that is necessary to experiment new ways to make cities to proof actions and theories related to temporary interventions and their low budget, faster and low impact characteristic before creating permanent projects. Additionally, Richter (2022), indicates that short-term interventions need an evaluation to determine if they have a positive impact to implement them for a long-term period. The different author’s statements outline that temporary interventions in Latin American context are a precedent of a permanent project, which differs from the practice in Europe, where the interventions are initiated as temporary since its proposal.

The authors Lopez, et al. (2022) point out there is not lack of urban innovation in Latin-American – which can be reflected in the *figure 8* – but there is a lack of synergies between the

different stakeholders to elevate this urban innovation into public policies. Chong (2022), also highlights the importance of regional events in Latin America like the “placemaking week” and “international forums of urban interventions” (FIIU) to share experiences between cities from this region about citizen innovation, urban interventions and public spaces. Even so, as mentioned by Lopez, et al. (2022) there are limitations from the government to develop innovative urban projects, they give some usual phrases used by professionals within governmental areas such as “it’s very difficult, it’s never been done”, “we are a very small team, we lack people”, “we do not have the resources for that” (p.418).

In relation with the first expression “it’s very difficult, it’s never been done”, Lopez, et al. (2022) argue that is real that existing regulations often hinder the implementation of innovative urbanism. Moreover, the authors point out a reluctance to challenge bureaucratic obstacles from the side of the government, particularly when a project is unprecedented (Lopez, et al., 2022). In fact, Lopez, et al. (2022) state that “Urban governance requires the political will to break the usual patterns and take certain risks that allow us to break with tradition and try new ways of thinking or planning the city” (p.420)

Lopez, et al. (2022) also highlight a scarcity of technical professionals within local councils and small teams. They critique this issue by emphasizing that opportunities still exist to foster collaborations with the private sector, civil associations, and universities, which can support various government areas in developing more effective strategies (Lopez, et al., 2022). Adding to this, master plans in Latin America, according to Lopez, et al. (2022), does not follow long term strategies, but temporary political programs, depending on the duration of an electoral period, for some cities four or six years. For this problematic, Richter (2022) proposes that through ‘urban labs’ – as reference to urban NGO’s or agencies– traditional institutions can mitigate risks of future failures.

The *Superbook* mentions two temporary projects that had impact in public policies: (1) ‘Laboratorios Itinerantes de Urbanismo Táctico – LIUTS’ (Itinerant Tactical Urbanism Laboratories) in Quito, Ecuador, (2) ‘Pacto por los espacios públicos’ (Pact for public spaces) in Lima, Peru (*Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022*).

In the first hand, the LIUTS initiative, implemented between 2016 and 2019, aimed to enhance public spaces in peripheral neighborhoods through participatory processes led by citizens, academia, and NGOs (Madera-Arends & Celi-Atala, 2022). According to Madera-Arends and

Celi-Atala (2022), in 2019 the municipality of Vienna shared its placemaking methodologies with the municipality of Quito, resulting in regulations for urban laboratories and the involvement of social actors in their maintenance. Notably, these interventions operated “...outside the municipal budget and planning” (Madera-Arends & Celi-Atala, 2022, p. 472).

On the second hand, the “Pact for public spaces”, which began in 2019 from the NGO *Sistema Urbano* under their initiative ‘*Ocupa Tu Calle*’ is described as:

“...planning and action instrument for the improvement of urban public policy and a citizen tool for supporting municipal authorities and management in relation to the management and quality of public spaces.” (Ocupa tu calle, n.d.).

LIUTS and “Pact for public spaces” illustrate how temporary interventions can influence public policies and demonstrate the potential for experimental urbanism, in this specific case, citizen urbanism, to address urban challenges in Latin America effectively.

Chapter III: Case studies

3.1 Mirror cases of temporary urbanism across Europe

The analysis of temporary urban projects will focus on two key examples: (1) the Temporary Use Agency *ZZZ–ZwischenZeitZentrale* in Bremen, Germany, and (2) the temporary program ‘*Pla BUIITS*’ (Plan for Urban Voids with Territorial and Social Implications) in Barcelona, Spain. These examples highlight distinct typologies of temporary urbanism and demonstrate diverse approaches to initiating such projects. Their analysis will offer valuable insights into the critical components to consider when implementing temporary urban initiatives.

For the case of the Temporary Use Agency *ZZZ–ZwischenZeitZentrale*, two projects will be analyzed:

- Project Neuland, which involved the activation of a vacant building.
- Project Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, which focused on revitalizing an open space.

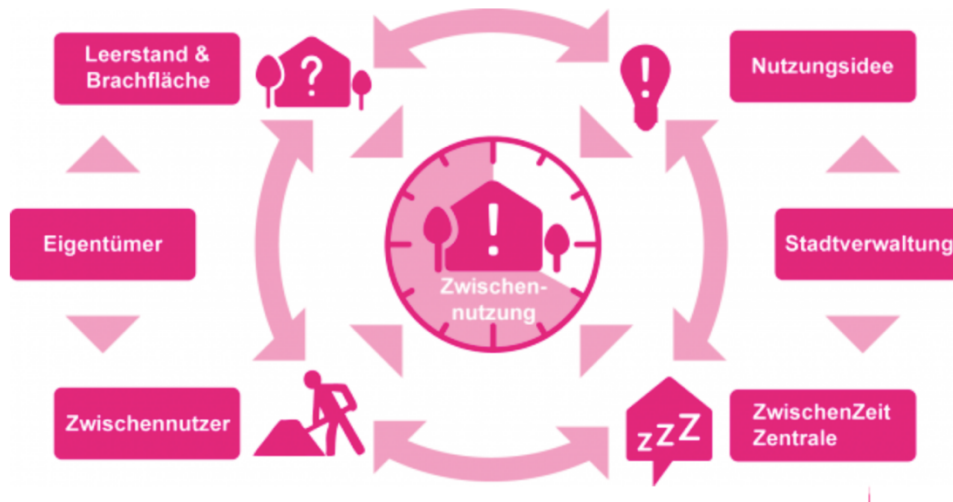
For the case of the *Pla BUIITS* program in Barcelona, one project will be analyzed:

- Project Espai Germanetes, which also utilized an open space.

All examples will be evaluated using a chart, applying the three key criteria established in the previously discussed theoretical framework.

3.1.1 Temporary use agency ZZZ- ZwischenZeitZentrale from Bremen, Germany

Figure 9: Interim formula of ZZZ



Source: Image retrieved from ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen website (n.d.)

Kayoma (2017) notes that implementing temporary urban solutions has become a conscious choice by governments, and ‘ZwischenZeitZentrale’ (ZZZ) is a relevant example from Germany of this. The ZZZ that started in the city of Bremen on 2009 is not a government agency but operates as an independent organization with significant collaboration with municipal authorities (Taylor and Dellenbaugh-Losse, n.d.). Its relevance is given because this agency was one of the first temporary use programs established by a municipality and co-founded by the Germany's national urban development policy program (Patti & Polyak, 2017). Furthermore, according to Patti & Polyak (2017) the ZZZ is a notable example of the transferability of practices and policies between different German cities – in this case, into the city of Bremen.

This agency is perfect example of the second component, ‘mediation and assurances’, of structure and mechanisms mentioned by Patti & Polyak (2015) because the ZZZ agency acts as mediator between the different stakeholders. This component is reflected by Chang (2018), who mention that the most distinctive characteristic of ZZZ’s approach is their acting as

mediator between the owners of the vacant spaces and potential temporary users. In addition, Oliver Haseman in an interview notes:

“Convincing private owners is still challenging even as we see that some owners/developers do discover the incentives of temporary use for their real estate. In the long term it is important to be reliable and to have a trustful relationship.” (As cited in Maraquin, 2023, para. 3)

This statement underscores the importance of mediators for the propose of temporary urban interventions.

This practice of temporary uses began as tool to revitalize vacant areas and buildings with funding from the ‘*Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik*’ (National City Development Policy) among NGO’s or private companies’ investment (Patti & Polyak, 2017). It then got extended to cities like Hannover, Leipzig, Stuttgart, and Frankfurt (ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen, n.d.b). Additionally, this practice has influenced urban policies in other German cities by demonstrating the potential of temporary use as a strategic tool for managing urban challenges, such as vacancy and social inclusion (Taylor & Dellenbaugh-Losse, n.d.)

The ZZZ initiative began with a focus on addressing vacant space management, fostering start-ups and cultural entrepreneurship and minimizing public spending on unused properties (Maraquin, 2023). As it was mentioned in an interview to Oliver Haseman, a co-founder of the ZZZ agency, over time the ZZZ scope expanded to “... support to poor or de-industrialized areas became more important as well as the network function as a support hub became more important” (as cited in Maraquin, 2023, para. 2).

An important characteristic of ZZZ agency is its emphasis on empowering temporary users. Chang (2018) explains that this initiative at surface level provides resources and training to help informal boards of temporary users manage their interventions effectively. On the second level, after an agreed-upon period determined during the initial planning phase – which could be months or years –, ZZZ transitions the responsibility for managing the space to its temporary users. This shift allows users to develop their own management models tailored to their needs and priorities, fostering self-sustainability and local ownership (Chang, 2018).

Another important characteristic of ZZZ’s approach is mentioned in a press release by the Mayor of Bremen in 2010. She argued that temporary uses offer the opportunity to try new

things, exchange ideas, and can give a valuable boost to districts. The reason why, she explained, is that these spaces offer a symbolic rent contract, rather than the rates prevalent in the market (Pressestelle des Senats, 2010). Chang (2018) shows that this rent could be 1€ per m² for the temporary users. The ZZZ initiative also reflects the criterion of being planned and funded through various methods, as defined by Bishop & Williams (2012), since it involves coordination among multiple stakeholders.

This section presents two case studies of temporary urbanism initiatives where the agency *ZwischenZeitZentrale* acted as a mediator to bring urban interventions to life. The first project, *Neuland*, was a temporary intervention in a vacant building that lasted just three months over the summer. Proposed by the government, it serves as an example of a top-down intervention. The second project, *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz*, began as a short-term intervention in an unused open space but eventually evolved into a permanent community hub. Although initiated by the community, it involved significant collaboration with the government, making it a hybrid form of temporary urbanism. Both case studies will be evaluated using three key criteria discussed earlier, providing deeper insight into their respective practices.

Project Neuland

Figure 10: Facade of the project and playground area



Source: Images retrieved from Website ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen. (n.d.c).

The building, originally an old 19th-century clinic, is part of a 10,000 m² site where various structures were added over the years. In February 2010, the site became vacant, coinciding with plans for a new roadway that necessitated the demolition of the buildings (ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen, n.d.d).

Under the patronage of the Zucker Club, the site was temporarily repurposed into a collective space for local subcultural activities. The Zucker Club, through the mediation of the ZZZ, established a temporary use agreement with Immobilien Bremen, the property owners. This partnership enabled the realization of around 15 distinct temporary projects during the intervention, showcasing the potential for vacant spaces to serve as vibrant community hubs while awaiting permanent redevelopment. (ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen, n.d.c)

This case demonstrates how temporary urbanism can effectively foster cultural and social activities. The *Neuland* project, in particular, showcases how an external agency, such as ZZZ's, can serve as an effective intermediary to achieve goals like activating underutilized spaces and supporting innovative urban development initiatives through temporary interventions. It also exemplifies the value of short-term experimental projects designed with a predefined duration agreed upon by all stakeholders from the outset. The following chart provides an analysis from data found in different sources (Ziehl and Oßwald, 2015; C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group & C40 Knowledge Hub, 2023; ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen, n.d.c).

Table 6: *Analysis of Temporary urban projects across Europe – Project Neuland from Bremen, Germany*

Project Neuland from ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale			
Country	Germany	Period	1 June 2010 to 31 August 2010
City	Bremen (Northern Germany)	Property Owner	Private
Type of intervention	DIY- practice: Cultural hotspot project with cinema, theater, music performances and galleries (Ziehl and Oßwald, 2015)		
Type of vacant space	Open space	not applied in this case	
	Unused Building	x	
Key stakeholders	Architects with experience in urban planning from the inter-agency 'ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale'		
Stakeholders	Zucker club, Immobilien Bremen (owner of the building), cultural entrepreneurs.		
Urban Challenge	The city of Bremen started this initiative to deal with an urban challenge. It was to revitalize vacant buildings and brownfields as a place for industry (2015).		
Objective	Create an urban experimental space for summer season in an unused building that was about to be demolished. In this specific case the stakeholders repurposed a former rehabilitation center, turning it into a dynamic space for hosting various activities such as concerts, theatrical performances, community discussions, and social events like parties.		
First criterion: First criterion: Bishop & Williams (2012)			
(1) formal and/or informal	Informal: The intervention was not part of a formal urban planning process.		
(2) legal and/or illegal	Legal: The intervention was a legal because it set up with proper permits and permissions.		
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: The project was intentional designed and organized in advance by the different stakeholders.		
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Temporary: The project was planned since the beginning for a specific period of time (1 June 2010 to 31 August 2010).		
(5) funded through various methods	Government Funded: Funded by the Senate departments of Economic Affairs, Labor and Ports, Sustainability, City Development and Transportation, and Finance. Who provide a budget of €560,000 to support temporary-use projects (C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group & C40 Knowledge Hub, 2023).		
Second criterion of analysis: Bottom-up and top-down discourses by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Bottom-up temporary urbanism: The project was driven by the ZZZ agency			
Third criterion: Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Typology	heterogeneity across legal framework	not applied in this case	
	transferability of practices and policies	x	Transfer to different cities of Germany

Note: This table was created by the author based on original data analysis.

Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz

Figure 11: *Community work in the project Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, Bremen*



Source: Images retrieved from Ab Geht Die Lucie website (n.d.).

As noted by Brody (2016), temporary urbanism has evolved from the bottom-up tactic to an urban regeneration strategy, enabling stakeholders to revitalize neighborhoods through collaboration with local communities. A notable example of this is the case of Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, a public square. This example illustrates the challenges of institutional approaches in addressing urban vacancies while also showcasing the community's proactive efforts to create sustainable and inclusive urban solutions.

The story of this square starts in 2003, when the government implemented an area of 4,200 m² as a public space (ZwischenZeitZentrale Bremen, n.d.). Initially this square faced disapproval from residents due to its expansive, paved areas that created an unwelcoming atmosphere (Faller et al., 2019). As Baier & Müller (2020) vividly note, "...the people living in the shared apartment could see – from their kitchen window, as it were – a vacant gray space." (p.70).

Despite these initial concerns, the space underwent significant transformation thanks to the initiative of local residents. This change was acknowledged by the government, with Baier & Müller (2020) noting that the city of Bremen hailed the urban transformation of Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz as "the first grass-roots democratic process in urban development."

The lack of functionality and aesthetic appeal prompted residents to take matters into their own hands, initiating efforts to reimagine the square's use. Their collective actions, aimed at transforming the space into a vibrant and functional area, will be explored in detail in the following paragraph.

In 2012, a group of residents reached out to the ZZZ agency with the goal of transforming the vacant public space into a green area (Faller et al., 2019). Acting as a mediator, ZZZ facilitated communication between the resident's group and the local council, enabling the request for temporary permission to intervene in the space by collecting 300 signatures (Baier & Müller, 2020; Faller et al., 2019). This petition was made through a 'Bürgerantrag' (citizen's petition), a formal request or petition initiated by citizens in Germany, allowing them to propose or suggest changes to public policies, projects, or decisions made by local governments (Faller et al., 2019).

In 2013, a group of residents applied for government funding to formally establish the NGO 'KulturPflanzen e.V.' (Faller et al., 2019). The same year, it started the implementation of community gardens inside the Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, as well since that moment the square was used for several cultural events (Faller et al., 2019; Baier & Müller, 2020). The local council initially granted permission for only three days, but it was extended multiple times, eventually making the site a permanent space (Projektgeschichte, n.d.). In 2017, the NGO 'KulturPflanzen e.V.' signed an agreement with the local council to redesign the square, taking on full legal and financial responsibility for the public space from that point forward (Projektgeschichte, n.d.). According to the website of the project '*Ab ghet die Lucie*', the project is still active and managed by the community.

This example illustrates how temporary interventions can empower citizens to take a more active role in shaping their cities. It also aligns with the discussion in the introduction to temporary urbanism literature by Bragaglia & Caruso (2020), who highlight the significant role of government involvement in such practices, often adopting a top-down approach. Similarly, the Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz, aligns with Andres (2013), who emphasizes the importance of the state shifting its perspective from a regulatory stance to a more facilitative one, allowing users greater freedom to explore the potential of vacant spaces. This example also indicates that public spaces that originate as temporary urban projects have the potential to evolve into permanent public spaces. In the context of Bremen, it underscores the transformative nature of temporary urbanism, demonstrating how such initiatives can serve as experimental solutions that, over time, address community needs and achieves permanence through community-led management of the space, rather than relying on oversight by the local council.

Table 7: Analysis of Temporary urban projects across Europe – Lucie-Flechtman-Platz from Bremen, Germany

Project Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz from ZZZ - ZwischenZeitZentrale			
Country	Germany	Period	From 2 of June from 2013 and actively until now
City	Bremen		
Type of intervention	DIY- practice: Urban Garding, Community Gardens, Environemt education, open air cinema, fairs, among others		
Type of vacant space	Open space	x	
	Unused Building		
Key stakeholders	At the beginning of the initiative: ONG ' KulturPflanzen e.V' (Community ONG), ZwischenZeitZentrale, Local council Nowadays: ONG ' KulturPflanzen e.V'		
Stakeholders	Diiferent Institutions and ONG (e.g. Woltmershausen Local community office, Spökfabrik, Sparkasse Bremen, Anstiftung)		
Urban Challenge	The vacant open space, left unused since 2003, represents a significant urban challenge as it highlights the issue of underutilized government-owned properties that could otherwise serve the community. In 2012, the local community identified the potential of this space and took collective action, submitting a formal request backed by over 300 signatures to repurpose it.		
Objective	Initially, the primary goal of the project was to create an experimental urban space for the summer season in an open area that previously served as a commercial and parking lot. Over time, its focus shifted, and the space is now dedicated to activities such as local gardening, recycling, and "super-recycling," all carried out through participatory processes that actively involve the community in every proposed activity.		
First criterion: Bishop & Williams (2012)			
(1) formal and/or informal	Informal: The proposal of the intervention was from outside of the government planning.		
(2) legal and/or illegal	Legal: The intervention was planned and implemented trough official channels. The residents submitted a petition to the local council asking for permission to grow, process and consume food locally and collectively..		
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: The project was intentional designed and organized in advance by the different stakeholders.		
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Long-lasting: Initially authorized for just three days, the project was progressively extended—first to 30 days, then three months, followed by an additional three months, a year, and so on. This incremental extension has continued to sustain the project to this day.		
(5) funded through various methods	Public Funding and Hybrid Support (Private investments and Non-Profit or NGO Support): Initially, the project received funding through the Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik (National Urban Development Policy), which aimed to support innovative urban interventions. Today, the management and financial sustainability of the square fall under the responsibility of KulturPflanzen e.V., the current NGO overseeing the site. This organization actively seeks partnerships and collaborations to secure funding for the various activities and initiatives hosted in the space, blending public support with private and community-driven efforts.		
Second criterion of analysis: Bottom-up and top-down discourses by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Bottom-up temporary urbanism: The "Ab-geht-die-Lucie" project was initiated and driven by local residents through their nonprofit organization, KulturPflanzen e.V. Recognizing the potential of the vacant space, the group collaborated with the ZwischenZeitZentrale (ZZZ) agency and the local council to formalize their vision of creating an urban garden. This partnership enabled them to secure necessary authorizations and funding. The project benefited from public funds provided by the government for initial interventions, supplemented by financial support from various associations and private collaborators. This hybrid approach showcases a blend of grassroots initiative and institutional support, illustrating a model of temporary urbanism rooted in community involvement and shared responsibility.			
Third criterion: Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Typology	heterogeneity across legal framework	not applied in this case	
	transferability of practices and policies	x	Transfer to different cities of Germany

Note: This table was created by the author based on original data analysis.

3.1.2 Temporary program 'Pla BUIITS' (Plan Urban Voids with Territorial and Social Implications) from Barcelona, Spain

Figure 12: Garden 'Huerto de Queni' from Pla BUIITS



Source: Image retrieved from Ajuntament de Barcelona website (n.d.).

A perfect example of top-down initiatives that include temporary urbanism in their policies is the 'Pla BUIITS' program, launched by the Barcelona City Council in 2012. This initiative aimed to repurpose underutilized municipal land by providing temporary opportunities for social and community activities through a public competition (Brody, 2016). The competition, an open call for projects to public and private non-profit entities of Barcelona (Ajuntament de Barcelona, n.d.), where the proposals are evaluated and selected by an independent committee, who evaluate three main criteria: (1) Ephemeral and provisional nature, (2) Involvement and capacity for management and maintenance of the space and (3) High social impact and performance (Ajuntament de Barcelona, n.d.).

This initiative serves as an excellent example of the first component, 'transparency,' as outlined by Patti and Polyák (2015). It demonstrates transparency by publicly showcasing vacant government-owned properties to citizens, allowing them the opportunity to propose new uses for these spaces. This openness fosters greater citizen engagement and ensures that the community is actively involved in shaping urban development.

As outlined in the competition's guidelines, the council offered 20 vacant plots for temporary use, with an initial one-year term that could be extended depending on the project's success

and adherence to the program's objectives (Ajuntament de Barcelona, n.d.). The Barcelona City Council (n.d.) stated that "...the 20 available spaces were strategically distributed, with two allocated per neighborhood. This approach aimed to ensure an equitable impact of the initiative across the city" (p.7). An essential aspect of the program was its emphasis on non-commercial activities. As Brody (2016) highlights, "Initiatives that have a clear economic or profit-gaining goal, such as uses exclusively planned on catering, are not taken into consideration" (p.7). This focus ensured that the projects aligned with the program's objective of fostering social and community-oriented uses of public space.

Brody argue that a project like the '*Pla BUITS*' "...are in an experimental phase, there are many unresolved questions regarding administration, and the management of the sites" (p.14, 2016). This is reflected in different interviews made by Brody (2016) to initiators of the program. For example, one of the problems she highlighted was that these public spaces are not accessible twenty-four hours and their openness depends upon the number of participants in the project (Brody, 2016). In relation to this, one of the initiators mentioned "...that the rule, the contract, is creating a barrier" (Brody, 2016, p.11), because in order to have the place open activities has to be happening on it.

To exemplified better this program one of the projects that won the competition will be explained and evaluated under the main criteria of theories for this thesis in the following section.

Figure 13: *Espai Germanetes*



Source: Image retrieved from Meanwhile Foundation website (2019).

The vacant plot where this project was developed covered 500 m², but it was part of a larger superblock of 5,500 m² (Axinte, 2019). The local council had owned the space since 2006, and within this superblock, several community facilities were constructed, including a nursery, a secondary school, a daycare center, and housing for both young people and seniors (Axinte, 2019). However, as noted by Axinte (2019), due to the real estate crisis of 2007, the plot remained vacant until 2012. And for this reason, the local council put part of its area inside of the Program ‘*Pla BUITS*’ on 2012 (Axinte ,2019).

A group of residents with proposed a project for this space, winning the competition with a plan centered on five key elements: (1) a community garden, (2) a sports area, (3) pedestrianized streets adjacent to the plot, (4) and (5) spaces for social and cultural activities (Axinte ,2019). In fact, one of the main activities taking place on the lot is gardening because of the minimum paperwork involved. As explained by one of the people managing the space in an interview conducted by Brody

“People who were having a gardening activity did not need to license their activity. But if you want to have another activity other than gardening, we have to ask. [...] We

have to make a site plan, where we want to do activities, what will we occupy, plan emergency exits... it also demanded the signature of an official, and this not only costs you 200-odd euros, it costs also the license plus the other 200-odd license works...” (2016, p.11-12).

This project is a prime example of how temporary urban interventions can evolve into permanent community spaces. As previously noted, projects under the ‘Pla BUIITS’ program could extend their occupation period if they proved successful in the neighborhood. In fact, as Axinte (2019) points out, “...the project was very successful and attracted a lot of interest from locals. Besides the community garden, the neighborhood meetings and the educational activities...” (paras. 6) , reason why until nowadays the projects is active. Practices like this one put on the table to consider to regulate temporary interventions, as mentioned by a city official from the local council of Barcelona in an interview made by Brody: “...One of the main activities taking place on the lot is gardening. As explained by one of the people managing the space in an interview conducted by Brody” (2016, p.13).

Table 8: *Analysis of Temporary urban projects across Europe – Project Espai Germanetes from Barcelona, Spain.*

Project Espai Germanetes from the initiative <i>PIA BUIITS</i> (Empty Spaces Plan)			
Country	Spain	Period	2013-Nowadays
City	Barcelona	Property owner	Government
Type of intervention	Collective urban garden, local market, community space, training activities (English, capoeira, swing)		
Type of vacant space	Open space	x	
	Unused Building	not applied in this case	
Previous use	Religious space ‘Convent of the Sisters of the Poor’		
Key stakeholders	City Council of Barcelona, ‘Recreant Cruïlles’ collective (Neighbourhood Association)		
Urban Challenge	The site remained an unused space between 2001 and 2013. Ownership was transferred to the local council in 2006. Spanning 500 m ² , the area is part of a larger 5,500 m ² superblock, presenting a significant opportunity to transform underutilized urban land into functional community spaces.		
Objective	According to Brody "The aim of the program is to avoid unwanted uses and social exclusion, offering an opportunity to invite different stakeholders in the regeneration and revitalization of marginalized spaces through empowerment and active participation of citizens" (2016, pg.7)		
First criterion: Bishop & Williams (2012)			
(1) formal and/or informal	Formal: The intervention at Espai Germanetes was formal, as it was part of a structured competition organized by the local council under the <i>Pla BUIITS</i> initiative. This program invited local groups to propose projects for the temporary use of publicly owned spaces, ensuring that interventions were implemented within an official framework and adhered to municipal guidelines for community engagement and urban regeneration (Axinte, 2019; Ajuntament de Barcelona, 2016).		
(2) legal and/or illegal	Legal: The intervention at Espai Germanetes was fully legal as it was established under the <i>Pla BUIITS</i> initiative, a formal local council program that provided legal frameworks, proper permits, and permissions for temporary community use of vacant public spaces. This ensured compliance with local regulations and alignment with urban development policies.		
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: The project was proposed taking in count three main criteria in its planning provided by the Local council. As well it was approved by the local council to meet community and urban objectives (Axinte, 2019; Faller et al., 2019).		
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Long-lasting: Initially approved for just three years, the Espai Germanetes project has continued beyond its original timeframe, with multiple extensions granted, solidifying its role as a permanent community hub and demonstrating its long-term success and adaptability (Faller et al., 2019; Projektgeschichte, n.d.).		
(5) funded through various methods	Hybrid Support (Public and Collective Association): On the public side, the local council provided the legal framework, initial permissions, and funding to support the transformation of the vacant space into a community hub under the <i>Pla BUIITS</i> program (Ajuntament Barcelona, 2016). Meanwhile, the collective ‘Recreant Cruïlles’ taking a leading role in designing and managing the space, contributing volunteer efforts, and organizing cultural and social activities. This partnership between the public sector and grassroots organizations ensured the project's sustainability and success, relying on shared responsibilities and resources from both sides (Faller et al., 2019; Axinte, 2019).		
Second criterion of analysis: Bottom-up and top-down discourses by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Hybrid temporary urbanism: The initiation and the framework was established by the local council showing a top-down approach. However, the involvement of local community groups and their ongoing management also adds a bottom-up component.			
Third criterion: Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Typology	heterogeneity across legal framework	x	
	transferability of practices and policies	not applied in this case	

Note: This table was created by the author based on original data analysis.

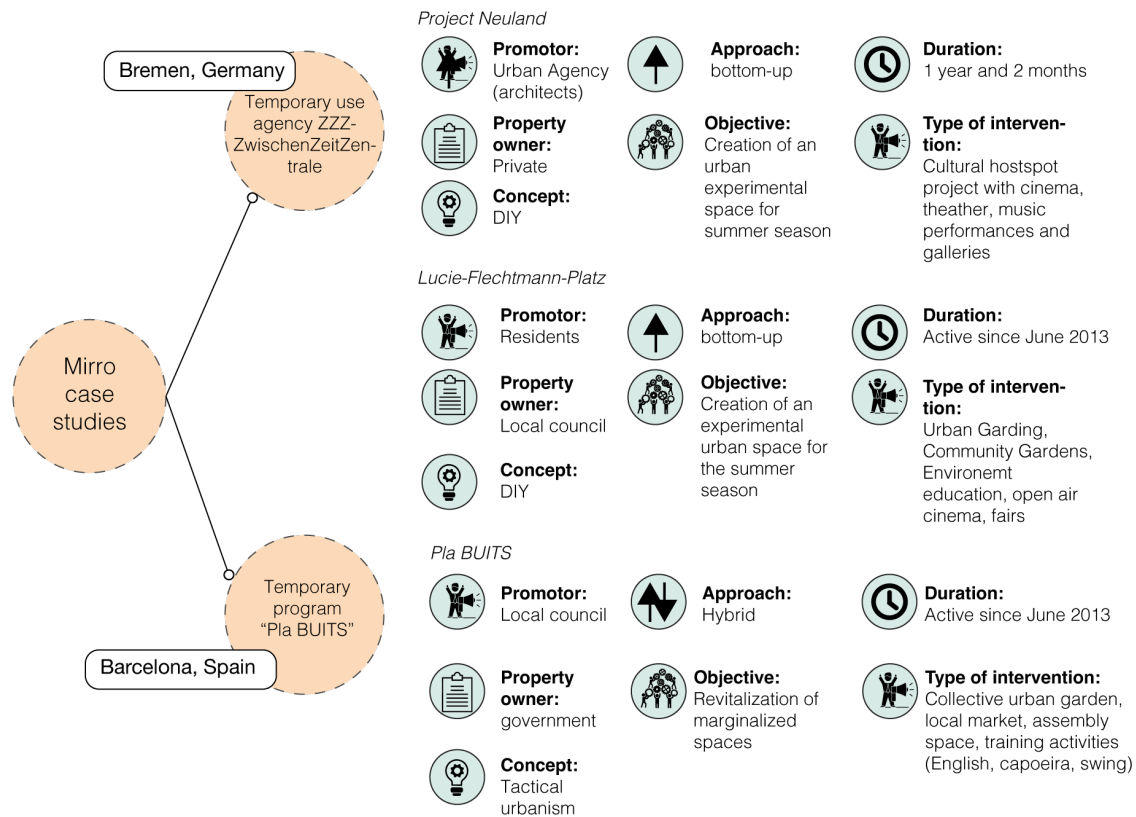
3.2. Considerations from the mirror cases across Europe

The previous examples serve to this thesis provide a foundation for this thesis to explore various methodologies for implementing temporary urban projects within the European context. They facilitate the analysis of similarities and differences in the design, execution, and management of such initiatives, offering valuable insights derived from each case study. Furthermore, this analysis aids in understanding the criteria under which temporary urban projects are selected for implementation in specific scenarios. The review of these three examples also sheds light on the concept of temporality, that as discussed in the literature review is not clear by different authors (Madanipour, 2017; Milian, 2020; Chang, 2021; Gańcza-Pawełczyk 2024). Based on these criteria, the following paragraph will outline key considerations identified in the previously examined case studies.

The implementation, as shown in *figure 14*, can be initiated from bottom-up approaches, as demonstrated by the cases of *Project Neuland* and *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz*. While both projects involved collaboration with the municipality, the primary initiative to bring these spaces to life came from the urban agency, which acted as a mediator between the landowners and the local community. The concept of mediation represents a significant methodology employed in European cases and offers valuable insights that could contribute to the effective implementation of similar interventions in the Global South.

As highlighted in the literature review, such projects can also emerge from government-led initiatives (Patti & Polyak, 2015; Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020). A notable example is the *Spai Germanetes* project, which was executed using a top-down methodology as an initiative of the local council, developed in active collaboration with the community. Central to this process was the mapping of vacant and abandoned areas by the local council, emphasizing the critical role of georeferenced data within public institutions as a foundation for initiating urban projects.

Figure 14: Comparative analysis of the mirror case studies of Europe



Source: Elaborated by the author

Even so the case studies from Bremen were not initiated by the local council, the community counted with policies that gave them the option to do collaboration with the government. As *figure 14* illustrates the objective of the two case studies from Bremen were to experiment new uses for urban spaces that were vacant or abandoned. Both of them counted with the funds from the Nationale government. In the case of Project Neuland under funds from the Senate departments of Economic Affairs, Labor and Ports, Sustainability, City Development and Transportation, and Finance *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz* under the Stadtentwicklungspolitik (National Urban Development Policy). This policy aims to support innovative urban interventions (Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik, n.d.). In addition, the specific case of *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz* the community made use of the 'Bürgerantrag' (citizen's petition) to propose changes in the public space. This demonstrates the necessity and importance of regulations for the implementation of temporary urban projects.

As it was explained this practice is currently associated with formality due to the involvement of governmental institutions in Europe, the presence of formal structures does not necessarily result in less bureaucratic procedures for implementation. This is evident in the case of *Espai Germanetes*, where Brody (2016) noted that gardening activities became a primary focus of the temporary intervention largely because they did not require formal licensing. This highlights a shortcoming in addressing the component of "permission" as described by Patti and Polyák (2015), demonstrating that even in Europe, some cases fail to adequately streamline regulatory processes for temporary urbanism initiatives.

The analysis about the implication of policies for the implementation of temporary intervention, taking as samples *Project Neuland*, *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz* and *Espai Germanetes* demonstrate; on one hand, that policies that allow the involvement of the community for new proposals in their cities are important for the implementation of temporary and experimental intervention. On the other hand, taking as example the *Espai Germanetes*, it shows that there are still weak components in some regulations. Moreover, an important note is that in all the cases, the budget was provided by stakeholders from the country where the projects were developed—a characteristic that differs significantly from the context in Latin America, where funding often depends on international organizations or NGOs due to the limited capacity of local governments.

Finally, the analysis of the temporality between the three mirror cases shows that interventions in the urban spaces under temporary projects can be active for specific periods like the case of the *Project Neuland* or they can also be potentially permanent as the cases of *Project Neuland* and *Espai Germanetes*. These cases show us two different methodologies took to indicated the temporality. In one hand, *Project Neuland* was established and communicated to the residents that the project was going to be temporal. On the other hand, *Espai Germanetes* was made under a contract with the possibility to become extended or permanent.

These examples provide to this thesis a deeper understanding of the European context, highlighting valuable tools such as the role of mediators, the importance of georeferenced data, the influence of policies on implementation, budget availability, and the potential for temporary spaces to transition into permanent ones. These characteristics will be further analyzed and discussed in relation to the Latin American case studies in Chapter IV.

3.3 Mirror cases of temporary urbanism across Latin America

The analysis of temporary urban projects in Latin America will bring to this thesis a better understanding of how these interventions is practice in this region. The literature review showed that practices like temporary intervention are increasing in Latin America, as mention by Ocupa tu Calle et al. (2022), “over the past decade, small-scale, people-centered urban interventions have been replicated rapidly and enthusiastically across the region” (p.46).

The mirror case studies will analyze two key examples within the context of Latin America. The first is the national program *Plaza Bolsillo* in Santiago de Chile, which seeks to revitalize abandoned spaces through temporary activations in public areas around the cities of Chile. This case study will illustrate how urban policies are working in Latin America in relation with the implementation of temporary urban spaces. The second example is the *Mungunzá Container Theatre* in Sao Paulo, an independent initiative not tied to urban policies. This case highlights the typical challenges and regulatory conditions commonly encountered in urban governance across Latin America.

These cases underline the diversity in the implementation and conceptualization of temporary urbanism across Latin America (Rodrigues et al., 2020). For a better comparison in the discussion part of the thesis, both examples will be evaluated under the same chart in the analysis of temporary urban project across Europe, applying the three key criteria established in the theoretical framework for this thesis.

3.3.1 Plazas Bolsillo Program (Pocket Squares) from Santiago, Chile

Figure 15: *Pocket Square Teatino and Santo Domingo*



Source: Retrieved of the article “Nuevas plazas céntricas” (New central squares) from the website LTFinde (2016)

The Pocket Squares a top-down initiative, launched in 2013 by the Metropolitan Regional Government of Santiago, aims to reclaim vacant urban lands efficiently and affordably (Government of Chile, 2017) through short-term action, long-term change (Araneda, 2018). The idea of this initiative emerged when “Ministry of Public Works were asked to clean up a vacant prominent site in the historical city center to cover up the “absence of investment” (Crump, 2020, p. 114). The projects of Pocket Squares create temporary scenarios that make visible a specific problem and the development of temporal interventions to solve them (Araneda, 2018). Additional, Garcia (2020) note that the emerge of temporary urbanism in the Chilean context is “a sign of the global interconnection of cities which have opened processes of exchange, learning and adaptation among different urban contexts” (p.131). This can reflect an interconnection with European practices. Even so, Garcia (2020) notes that the main reason of temporary urban implementation in Chile is because of scarcity and opportunity. Understanding scarcity as “the lack of time to produce changes—due to the short length of political cycles and needs for accelerating change—and to the absence of appropriate planning regulatory frameworks for engaging with creativity in practice” (Garcia, 2020, p.131). An opportunity as the possibility to use vacant sites,

“...to reverse a misuse; to use a space ‘meanwhile’ in time; to leave a legacy within short political cycles; to demonstrate possible changes by experimenting and therefore, allowing failure as a possibility; and also, to earn a living, perceiving it as a space for an entrepreneurial opportunity” (Garcia, 2020, p.131).

Figure 16: Location of Pocket Squares across Santiago de Chile



Source: Extracted from *New Experiences in public space implementation*.
https://www.gobiernosantiago.cl/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GUIA-PLAZAS-PUBLICAS-DE-BOLSILLO.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The initiative was supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), this initiative has gained international recognition, with the *IDB* promoting similar projects in other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean such as Uruguay and Dominican Republic (Egger, 2019). Its success and innovation earned it the ‘*Avonni New City*’ prize in 2016 (Government of Chile, 2017). According to the guide ‘*New Experiences in the Production of Public Space*,’ Pocket Squares can be developed on both public and private properties. For private lands, agreements are made between the government and landowners to temporarily transfer the property to the state for a duration that matches or exceeds the infrastructure's intended lifespan. This model relies on partnerships between public entities and local stakeholders, including businesses and food vendors, fostering collaboration in managing and activating these temporary spaces (Gobierno Regional Metropolitano de Santiago & Gobierno de la Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, n.d.).

The Metropolitan Regional Government of Santiago has established four key steps for developing a Pocket Square: (1) identifying the site and its owner, (2) evaluating the project's feasibility, (3) designing the space, and (4) budgeting for its implementation (Gobierno Regional Metropolitano de Santiago & Gobierno de la Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, n.d.). The process begins with leveraging both social and traditional media to identify vacant properties and their owners, creating awareness and engagement around the initiative. The feasibility phase evaluates the availability of critical infrastructure, such as water and electricity, which can often be scarce in some Latin American neighborhoods (Gobierno Regional Metropolitano de Santiago & Gobierno de la Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, n.d.).

Once feasibility is confirmed, the design stage integrates input from stakeholders to ensure the space reflects community needs and aspirations. Finally, while the Metropolitan Regional Government provides initial funding, ongoing operational and maintenance responsibilities are transferred to stakeholders like local councils and food truck operators, fostering collaborative management (Gobierno Regional Metropolitano de Santiago & Gobierno de la Ciudad Autonoma de Buenos Aires, n.d.).

To simplify implementation, Araneda (2018) notes the existence of intervention guides detailing design, materiality, and execution processes. Additionally, Araneda (2018) describes this initiative as an example of ‘*citizen urbanism*’, a term synonymous with temporary urbanism in the context of Latin America. This concept will be explored further in subsequent

sections to highlight its role in shaping inclusive, flexible urban spaces. At the same time the project is described as '*tactical urbanism*' by Araneda (2018).

This case highlights significant similarities with the structure and mechanisms observed in the European case studies of temporary urbanism analyzed earlier. These parallels can be effectively demonstrated using the four of the five components described by Patti & Polyak (2015): (1) transparency, (2) mediation and assurances, (3) taxes and incentives, (4) permissions, and (5) funding and loans.

Transparency is evident in the government's strategic use of diverse media platforms to publicize the initiative, ensuring that it reaches a broad audience and encourages public participation. Mediation is reflected in the implementation guides, which provide clear and accessible instructions on how to carry out these types of projects. Assurances are built into the agreements made between the government and property owners, particularly when the land is privately owned, safeguarding the terms of temporary use. Moreover, permissions and funding, essential components of this initiative, are managed directly by the government, showcasing its top-down nature.

The proactive role of the state in facilitating and financing the project mirrors the practices found in European examples, reinforcing the shared methodologies and policy frameworks that characterize temporary urbanism across these regions. This project will be also analyzed taking in count the three main criterion of the theoretical framework use in the exploration of temporary urban projects in Europe in the following chart.

Table 9: Analysis of Temporary urban projects across Latin America – Project Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo, Chile

Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo			
Country	Chile	Period	2016-Nowadays
City	Santiago de Chile	Property owner	Government
Type of intervention	Collective urban garden, local market, cultural events, food trucks		
Type of vacant space	Open space	x	
	Unused Building	not applied in this case	
Previous use	Vacant site for more than 40 years.		
Key stakeholders	Interamerican Bank of Development (IBD), Metropolitan Regional and Local Government of Santiago, FONASA (Health entity), Directorate of Architecture from the Ministry of Public Works.		
Urban Challenge	The site remained an unused space for more than 40 years		
Objective	The project seeks to recover unused land to convert it into squares during the time that its owners do not have a definitive project in mind in order to improve the quality of life of the residents and users of the surroundings of these abandoned sites (Government of Chile, 2016).		
First criterion: Bishop & Williams (2012)			
(1) formal and/or informal	Formal: the government demonstrated a strategic and systematic approach through the identification of potential public properties, the development of a stakeholder-mapping methodology, and the assembly of a designated design group. Furthermore, the allocation of a dedicated budget for implementation reflects the intervention's adherence to formal planning protocols and the prioritization of transparency and accountability.		
(2) legal and/or illegal	Legal: This initiative was embedded within the Pocket Squares program, a regional governmental policy that provided the necessary legal structures. This framework facilitated the issuance of permits and permissions for the temporary public use of vacant spaces, ensuring compliance with local regulations and urban development strategies.		
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: The project was meticulously planned, from the initial site selection to the detailed architectural design. Bishop & Williams (2012) emphasize that thorough planning is essential for integrating urban interventions into long-term strategies.		
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Long-lasting: The sustained use of the site for over five years, supported by an agreement between the government and FONASA (the property owner), aligns with Williams and Bishop's advocacy for stability in temporary interventions. While the exact duration is not specified, the agreement reflects an intent to ensure longevity, which strengthens the project's impact and contributes to its credibility as a meaningful urban initiative.		
(5) funded through various methods	Hybrid Support (Public and Collective Association): On the public side, the Metropolitan Regional Government of Santiago played a pivotal role by providing the necessary legal frameworks, permissions, and funding for the project's launch. On the collective side, the involvement of the local council and private entities, such as food truck operators, in managing operational costs and maintenance demonstrates a balanced partnership model. This hybrid approach not only reduces the financial burden on the public sector but also fosters community engagement and shared ownership, enhancing the project's sustainability.		
Second criterion of analysis: Bottom-up and top-down discourses by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Hybrid Temporary Urbanism: Driven by the Metropolitan Regional Government of Santiago. The government identified properties, allocated funding, and established the legal framework through the Pocket Squares program, with participation from the local community in different processes.			
Third criterion: Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Typology	heterogeneity across legal framework	not applied in this case	
	transferability of practices and policies	The initiative count with the technical support of the IBD	

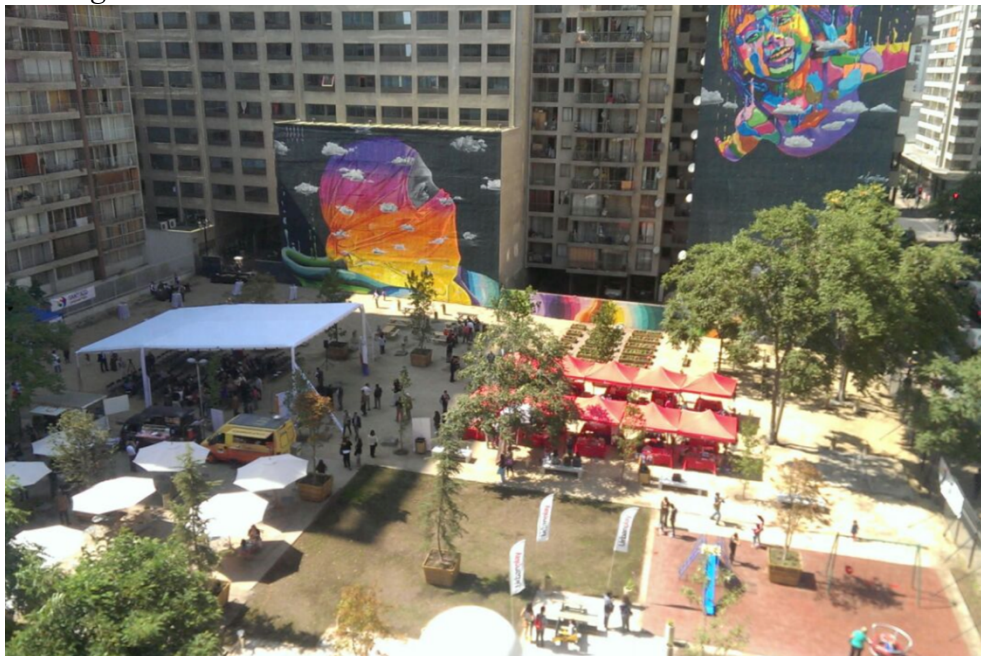
Note: This table was created by the author based on original data analysis.

Figure 17: *Before implementation of the Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo*



*Source: Extracted by the X account “Plazas bolsillos”.
<https://x.com/plazasbolsillo/status/805846064288952321>*

Figure 18: *After implementation of Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo*



*Source: Extracted by the X account “Plazas bolsillos”.
<https://x.com/plazasbolsillo/status/805846064288952321>*

3.3.2 *The Mungunza Container Theatre from Sao Paulo in Brazil*

Figure 19: *Context of the Mungunza Container Theatre*



Source: Retrieved from the CIAMungunza website

According to Rodrigues et al. (2020), temporary urbanism in Brazil "has always been part of the country's culture, exemplified by traditional food or flea markets in key underused areas of districts" (p. 201). One notable example is the Mungunza initiative, a temporary urban project implemented in the historic center of Sao Paulo, a neighborhood marked by social vulnerability, pervasive drug abuse, and homelessness (Rodrigues et al., 2020).

Figure 20: *Context around the project*



Source: Retrieved from Google Street Maps (April, 2024).

Figure 21: *Corner of the area where the project is located*



Source: Retrieved from Google Street Maps (January, 2023).

This project was initiated by the theater company ‘CIA’, which took proactive steps to address the area's challenges. The company began by mapping a vacant area with the intention of creating a cultural and social space, initially funding the project with its own resources (Mungunza, n.d.). Recognizing the need for broader support, they sought collaboration with the local municipality to secure the land through formal agreements (Mungunza, n.d.). Additionally, they engaged various stakeholders to provide financial assistance for sustaining and expanding the project (Mungunza, n.d.). Thus, the Mungunza initiative serves as a clear example of a bottom-up approach, where grassroots efforts and community-led action drive the transformation of underutilized urban spaces into vibrant cultural and social hubs.

According to Rodrigues et al. (2020), the Mungunza Container Theatre, built in 2016, "is a theatre company who established themselves for a three-year period on a vacant plot of municipal land" (p. 206). The project was developed through an agreement with the local municipality, utilizing shipping container structures for its materiality (Rodrigues et al., 2020). This choice of material not only set the theater apart from the surrounding historic buildings but also mirrored “the lively assemblage of architectural forms and urban fabric of the area” (Rodrigues et al., 2020, p. 206). Initially intended as a temporary intervention for three years, the project gained approval in late 2018 for the permanent use of the land (Rodrigues et al.,

2020). This extension highlights the theater's success in meeting community needs and fostering a vibrant cultural space.

The Mungunza Container Theatre offers a diverse range of programs that cater to both local residents and visitors, including educational and artistic activities. Special events are also organized for homeless individuals, ensuring inclusivity in its mission (Rodrigues et al., 2020). The site features multiple facilities, such as "an external geodesic dome for outdoor performances, a playground, a sports court, and a gardening installation," serving a wide array of users—from children playing and cultural attendees to homeless individuals using the seating and toilet facilities (Rodrigues et al., 2020, p. 207).

Figure 22: *Public space inside the project*



Source: Retrieved from the CIAMungunza website

This project exemplifies the concept of temporary urbanism as described in the theory 'a lab and catalyst for urban issues' by the Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent (2018). It demonstrates how the creative reuse of vacant land can emerge from bottom-up approaches and effectively transform a challenging urban environment into a dynamic and inclusive public space, particularly in the Latin American context. Additionally, analyzing this intervention through the framework proposed by Patti & Polyak (2015), which outlines five components for successful temporary urban projects—(1) transparency, (2) mediation and assurances, (3) taxes and incentives, (4) permissions, and (5) funding and loans—reveals certain gaps. While the fourth and fifth components, permissions and funding, were addressed through collaborations with municipal, but the others were not present in this intervention. This project will be also analyzed taking in count the three main criterion of the theoretical framework use in the exploration of temporary urban projects in Europe in the following chart.

Table 10: *Analysis of Temporary urban projects across Latin America – Project Mungunza Container Theatre from Brazil*

The Mungunzá Container Theatre			
Country	Brazil	Period	2016-Nowadays
City	San Paulo	Property owner	Private
Type of intervention	Cultural and recreational		
Type of vacant space	Open space	x	
	Unused Building	not applied in this case	
Previous use	Vacant site for more than 40 years.		
Key stakeholders	CIA theater company		
Stakeholder	Municipal Department of Culture		
Urban Challenge	Social vulnerability, pervasive drug abuse, and homelessness inside the neighborhood.		
Objective	Propose cultural activities for the residents of the neighborhood		
First criterion: Bishop & Williams (2012)			
(1) formal and/or informal	Formal: The use of the vacant land was allowed by the municipality.		
(2) legal and/or illegal	Legal: The intervention remained within legal frameworks. The collaboration with the municipality and the subsequent agreement for permanent land use legitimized the project.		
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: The initiative was predominantly planned. Grupo de Teatro Mungunza mapped the vacant area and envisioned its transformation into a cultural and social hub. The inclusion of elements such as a geodesic dome, sports courts, and spaces for community activities indicates a well-thought-out approach.		
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Long-lasting: Originally conceived as a temporary initiative with a three-year timeline, the project's success and its positive impact on the community led to its transition into a long-lasting intervention. The municipality granted permanent use of the site, illustrating how temporary projects can evolve into enduring solutions when they prove their value.		
(5) funded through various methods	Hybrid Support (Public and Collective Association): The funding for the theater came from multiple sources, showcasing a hybrid model. Initially, Grupo de Teatro Mungunza invested their own resources. Over time, they garnered financial support from stakeholders, including the municipality and other partners. This mix of self-funding, public funding, and stakeholder contributions exemplifies the varied funding strategies often seen in temporary urban interventions.		
Second criterion of analysis: Bottom-up and top-down discourses by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Bottom-up Temporary Urbanism : Initiated and driven by Grupo de Teatro Mungunza, the theater company identified a vacant municipal plot, invested their own funds, and collaborated with various stakeholders, including the municipality, to secure land use agreements and establish a cultural and social space. This initiative underscores the power of grassroots efforts in addressing urban challenges while fostering inclusivity and demonstrating how bottom-up approaches can evolve into long-term urban solutions.			
Third criterion: Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)			
Typology	heterogeneity across legal framework	not applied in this case	
	transferability of practices and policies	not applied in this case	

Note: This table was created by the author based on original data analysis

3.4 Considerations from the mirror cases across Latin America

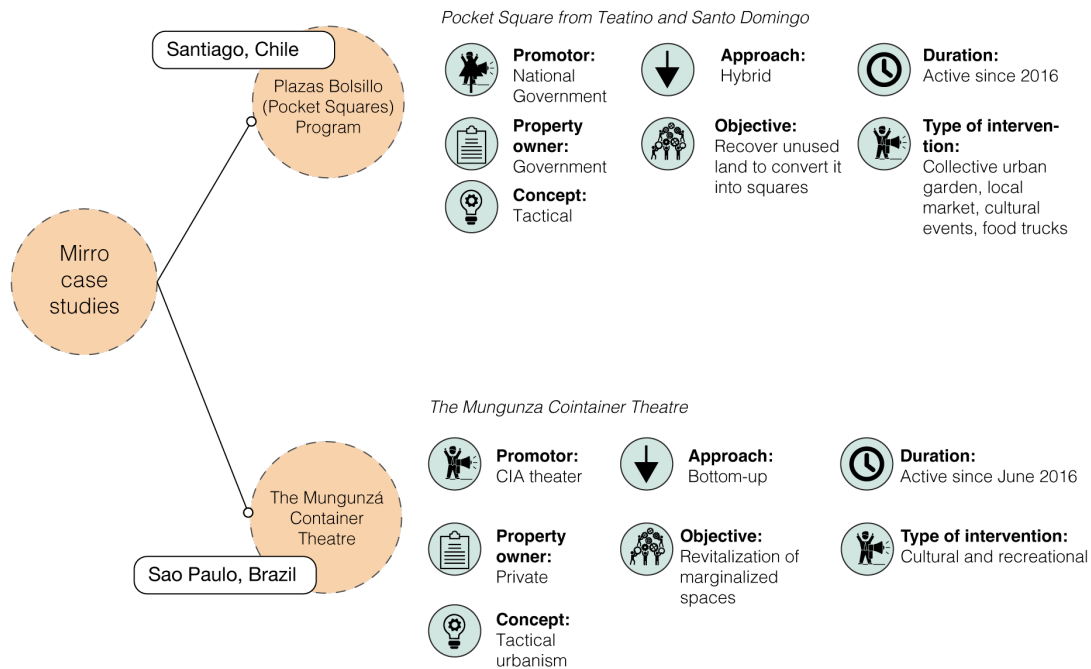
The previous examples serve to analyze the context of Latin America and the different approaches used to implement temporary projects. Moreover, this analysis cover one of the few cases of implementation of regulation for temporary urbanism in this region. In the literature review, it is explored how temporary urbanism in Latin America faces significant challenges when it comes to integrating it into official urban policies; reason why the case *Plazas Bolsillo Program* enrich the picture of the Latin American context for a future discuss. Meanwhile, the second project, *The Mungunza Container Theatre*, showcase the more regular situation of Latin America, where these practices are not linked to policies and are implemented from bottom-up approaches.

The Mungunza Container Theatre is located in a vulnerable area of the city of Sao Paulo, in opposition *The Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo* is not located in a vulnerable area. This comparison will serve later to discuss about the challenges that a temporary urban intervention can face in vulnerable contexts. The two case studies explored offer insights into how temporary urban projects address urban challenges, such as the public space deficit and social exclusion. *The Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo* exemplifies a government-driven, hybrid initiative that addresses public space needs, while the *Mungunza Container Theatre* highlights the power of grassroots, bottom-up initiatives to activate vacant spaces and engage marginalized communities.

The examples of the *The Mungunza Container Theatre* and *The Pocket Square from Teatino and Santo Domingo* show that temporality in public spaces have a big potential to become permanent. Both projects started as temporary interventions under specific agreements of time to use of the space, even so they have already eight years of permanence. This shows that temporary interventions can serve as testing explorations of what kind of activities can be develop in specific contexts.

Moreover, both projects show a potential to contribute to urban regeneration, especially in cities where formal planning structures are often unable to meet the needs of rapidly growing and informal urban areas.

Figure 23: Comparison between mirror case studies of Latin America



Source: Elaborated by the author

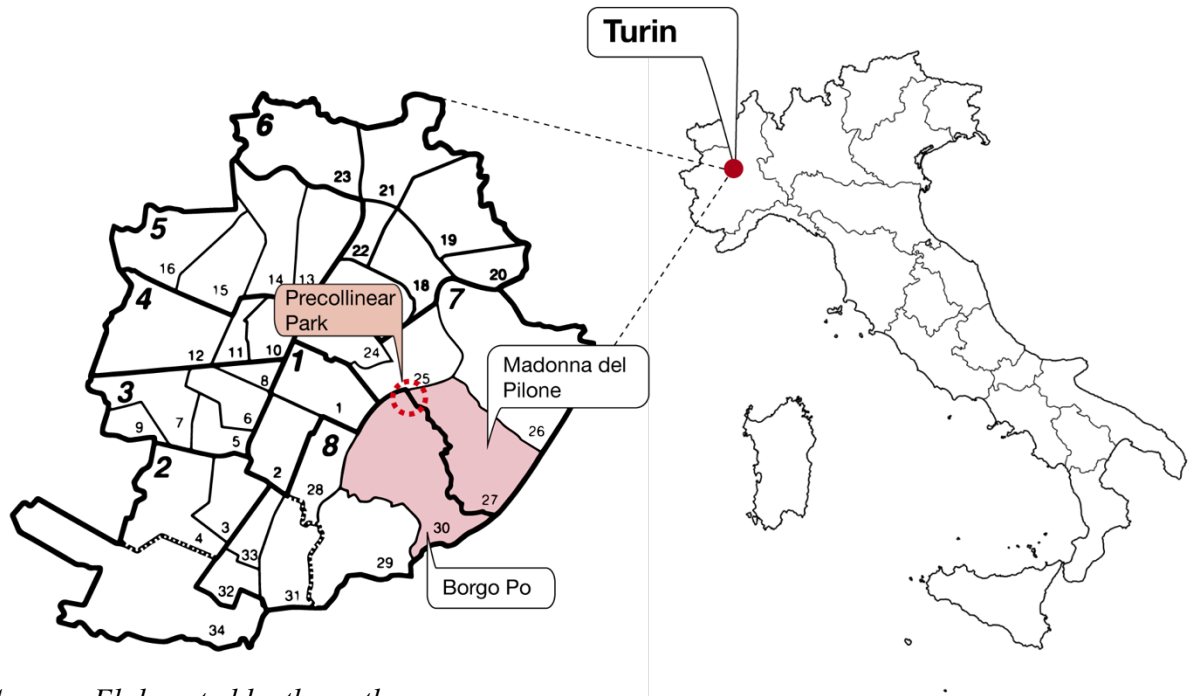
Despite certain gaps in their implementation, both cases highlight that these temporary urban projects effectively addressed various urban challenges in the specific neighborhoods. They demonstrated the potential of temporary urbanism to create positive change, such as improving public spaces and fostering community engagement. As noted by different authors such as Andres & Kraftl (2021) and Garcia (2020), these initiatives reflect how temporary urbanism, though not by perfect implementation, can offer immediate and impactful solutions to pressing urban issues in Latin America, particularly in informal and underserved areas, as the case of Sao Paulo.

Looking ahead, there is a growing opportunity to refine the use of temporary urbanism as a means to address the challenges facing Latin American cities. The considerations found in the analysis of the mirror cases of Latin America will be an initial point to be talk in the discussion section of this thesis.

3.5 European Case study: The Precollinear Park in Turin, Italy

3.5.1 Urban characteristics of Turin

Figure 24: Turin Location



Source: Elaborated by the author

Turin is located in the northern part of Italy, capital of the Piedmont Region as illustrated by *figure 24*. Turin has 53.2% of m² of green urban area per inhabitant (Cimini et al., 2024), indicated in *figure 25*.

Between 2000 and 2010, the city of Turin addressed, transformed, and repurposed over 60 million square feet of abandoned industrial spaces (Carter, 2016). According to Vanolo (2008) the city of Turin “represents a typical example of an industrial town, trying to promote new urban representations at an international level, and celebrating ideas of a cultural, post-industrial economy through campaigns of urban branding” (p.1). This spirit of urban resilience remains evident in the city today. This thesis will explore this resilience through an analysis of *The Precollinear Park*, an experimental urban intervention in Turin.

Figure 25: *Urban green spaces*



Source: Retrieved from Urbanlaborino, 2019.

3.5.2 Case study: *The Precollinear Park*

Figure 26: *The Precollinear Park Project*



Source: Retrieved from Torino Stratosferica website

This case study focuses on *The Precollinear Park*, a temporary urban intervention in Turin, Italy, developed by the Cultural Agency *Torino Stratosferica*. Situated in an abandoned area of the city, the project serves as a significant example of urban transformation through temporary use.

This section will explore the location and history of the site, detailing its past as an abandoned area and the subsequent changes brought by the intervention. The analysis will be framed within the context of theories and variables introduced in the literature review, providing a deeper understanding of the project's impact and relevance within the Global North context. This analysis will be divided into five components: (1) Analysis of the Dynamics of the Urban Vacancy, (2) Analysis of key characteristics of the intervention: stakeholders, budget, materiality and adaptability, (3) Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015), (4) Analysis through the five criteria from Bishop & Williams (2012), and (5) Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013).

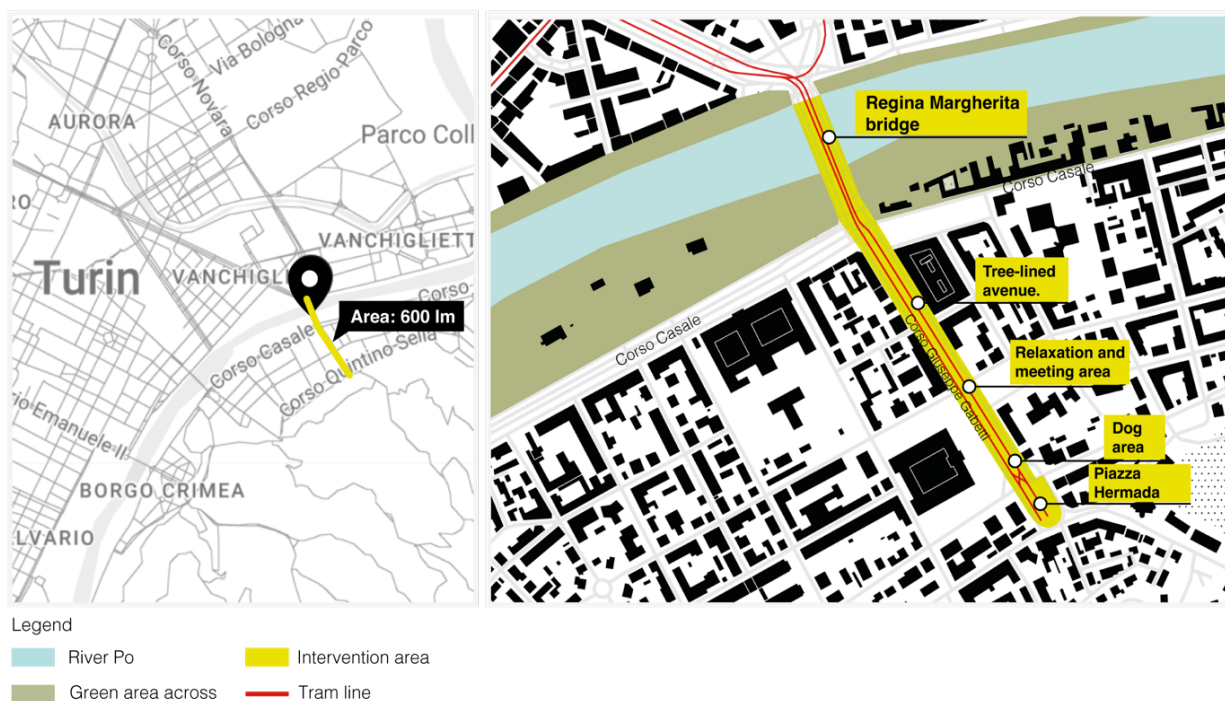
3.5.3 Location

The *Precollinear Park* is located in Turin, north of Italy, between the districts of Borgo Po (Sector 30) and Madonna del Pilone (Sector 27), it is also over the River Po.

The intervention was made in a vacant tram area through the street of Regina Margherita bridge, overpassing the street Corso Casale heading towards Piazza Hermada along the tree-lined avenue of Corso Giuseppe Gabetti. The area of intervention was approximately 600 linear meters.

The *figure 27* shows the location of *The Precollinear Park* in a smaller scale, where it is shown the urban context around it and the different areas around the project during its implementation.

Figure 27: Location maps of *The Precollinear Park*



Note: On the left side is the macro-scale map, while on the right side is the smaller-scale map. Figure modified from the website Paesaggisensibili

Figure 28: *Urban context of The Precollinear Park*



Source: Google earth (2024)

Figure 29: *Intervention of The Precollinear Park*



Source: Website of Paesaggi sensibili (2024)

3.5.4 History of the abandoned area and its transformation

The agency *Torino Stratosferica* played a pivotal role in transforming an abandoned strip of land, formerly part of Tram Line 3's route in Turin, into a temporary park. The following paragraphs detail the process leading to the abandonment of this urban tramway infrastructure, as depicted in *figure 30*.

Since 1989, Tram 3 has included a stop in Piazza Hermada (Tram di Torino, 2020), a square that became part of the '*The Precollinear Park*' project. However, in 2013, public transportation authorities and city administrators decided to shorten Tram 3's route, citing increased costs and technical issues with the tramcars (Baldo, 2021).

Between 2015 and 2017 the tramway was reutilized by another tram line (Baldo, 2021). As a result, the tram tracks on the Regina Margherita bridge and through Corso Gabetti, as well as the Hermada terminal, were excluded from the transportation network, leaving these sections abandoned. In 2020, the website of the tram of Torino published "Piazza Hermada would remain as a waste track for broken engines. This project seems to have been approved and financed, all that is missing is the start of the works" (Tram di Torino, 2020).

According to Baldo (2021), the abandoned section of Tram Line 3 began to show visible signs of neglect:

"The green areas were all but abandoned, with grass and scrubs appearing where the tram cars once transited, along the tram tracks and in the central square. Cleaning services seldom operated due to bureaucratic uncertainty over the authority on the area" (Baldo, 2021, p.51).

"...with no trams transiting anymore, the safety barriers placed to prevent people from crossing the long tramway tracks had just become a useless architectural barrier, limiting pedestrian movement from and into the two districts" (Baldo, 2021, p.51-52).

In 2020, according to Baldo (2021), as strict COVID-19 restrictions confined movement, residents of Borgo Po and Madonna del Pilone began walking along the grassy strip between the tramway fences dividing Corso Gabetti. This simple act highlighted the growing need for accessible green spaces within their community (Baldo, 2021). According to Baldo (2021), this act was watched by Lucca Ballarini, founder of *Torino Stratosferica*.

As it was mentioned in the *Interview 1* located in the annexes, to Daniele Vaccai, *The Precollinear Park* project started with week meetings with the neighbors:

“...Regarding the local community, they were involved since the beginning. The main tool to gathering and involve the residents was the routine we had for 3 years every Saturday from 9 a.m. to lunch time. For this, we offered lunch to create this community moment. Most of them were young architects or urban planners, so every idea was coming up with a very collective brainstorm...” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).

According to Daniele Vaccai from *Torino Stratosferica*, the intervention was envisioned as a temporary space from the very beginning. Given that the property belonged to the municipality, they clearly communicated to *Torino Stratosferica* that the space would be temporary. The following excerpt from Interview 1 captures Vaccai's explanation of this point in greater detail:

“The project lasted around three years, later the city council decided to re install the tram way line. We were aware of the fact that it was a temporary use, that sooner or later it was going to happen. When you do this kind of experiments the concept of temporary is very wide, it could be one year, two years or whatever. We didn't have a contract with specific time, but there was an annually contract.” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).

The abandoned area was transformed into an experimental park, inaugurated in June 2020 and it operated until November 2023 (Guida a& Rubbo, 2022).

Figure 30: *Tram 3 stop in Piazza Hermada in 2012, before transformation.*



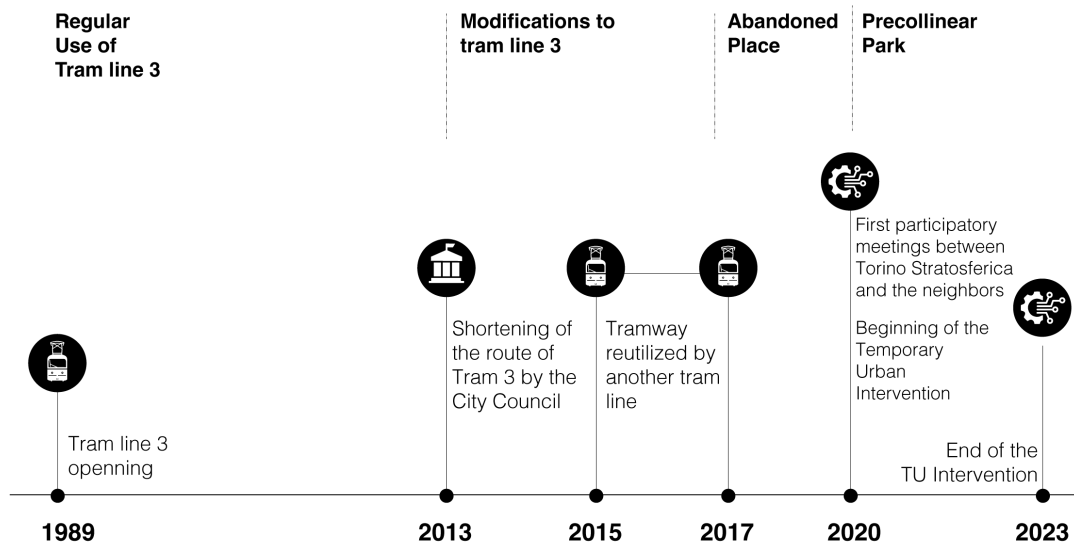
Source: Google Street Maps (2012)

Figure 31: *Proposal part of The Precollinear Park project in Piazza Hermada in 2020.*



Source: Retrieved from Torino Stratosferica website

Figure 32: Timeline of The Precollinear Park project



Source: Created by the author

3.5.5 Analysis of the Dynamics of the Urban Vacancy of The Precollinear Park

According to the information from the section “3.5.4 History of the abandoned area and its transformation” I can pinpoint four different levels of the vacancy and its transformation:

1. Scale of Vacancy: Small-scale vacancy, representing a limited area within the broader urban fabric of Torino.
2. Previous use: Tramway section
3. Type of Vacancy: Administrative vacancy of an open space, resulting from the site's position at the intersection of two distinct administrative districts within the Municipality of Torino.
4. Cause: The physical vacancy was caused by the tramway's abandonment between 2017 and 2020.
5. Main Purpose of the Transformation: To enhance Torino's image and urban identity, according to Daniele Vaccai “Our work in *Stratosferica* in placemaking is strictly connected to city image” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).

3.5.6 Analysis of key characteristics of the intervention: stakeholders, budget, materiality and adaptability

This section analyzes the key characteristics of the temporary project, as identified in the literature review, with focus on the intervention of *The Precollinear Park*. The key characteristics examined include stakeholders, budget, materiality, and adaptability.

Stakeholders

The success of the temporary urbanism project hinges on the active involvement of various stakeholders, each contributing unique resources, expertise, or support. These stakeholders include both institutional and community partners, whose collaborative efforts enable the realization of the initiative. The following section outlines the roles and contributions of the different stakeholders, ranging from governmental entities and service providers to non-profit organizations and local community members. The analysis is organized into four key categories of participation in the development of *The Precollinear Park*: (A) Project Developers, (B) Volunteers, (C) Public and Private Sector Partners, and (D) Funding and Support Stakeholders.

A. Project Developers

The project was developed by the Agency *Torino Stratosferica*, which, according to its website, comprises a team of eighteen interdisciplinary professionals.

The *table 11* presents key information about the individuals involved in the development of *The Precollinear Park* project. Notably, none of the listed project developers are urban planners. Luca Ballarini, the founder of *Torino Stratosferica*, holds a background in architecture. Daniele Vaccai, a project developer and copywriter, specializes in cultural tourism planning, communication, and territorial management. Chiara Bertetti, another architect and project developer, also has an architectural background.

Table 11: Project Developers Stakeholders

Project Developers				
Name	Female/Male	Country	Occupation	Studies
Luca Ballarini	M	Italy	Founder of <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>	Architecture
Daniele Vaccai	M	Italy	Project Developer & Copywriter at <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>	Msc. Planning, Communication and Management of Cultural Tourism, Sviluppo/Gestione and territorial planning
Chiara Bertetti	F	Italy	Architect and project developer from <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>	Architecture

Source: Created by the author with information extracted from *Paesaggisensibili* website

This information suggests that the team's expertise is more focused on architecture, communication, and cultural tourism rather than urban planning specifically. Furthermore, an examination of the *Torino Stratosferica* website reveals that urban planners are not represented within their team, which further reinforces this observation.

B. Volunteers

The following data is an extract of the different volunteers that participated to help to implement the project of *The Precollinear Park*. According to the website *Paesaggisensibili*, there were days where the number of volunteers could be forty or fifty.

Table 12: Sample of volunteers from The Precollinear Park

Volunteers							
N	Name	Female/Male	Age	Country	Occupation	Resident	Studies
1	Andrea	F	23	Italy	Student	Yes	International cooperation
2	Deniz	M	24	Turkey	Student	No	Architecture
3	Bruno	M	46	Italy	Worker	Yes	Informatics
4	Reneé	F	23	Italy	Student	No	Architecture
5	Paola	F	28	Italy	Worker	Yes	Architecture
6	Francesca	F	22	Italy	Student	No	Architecture
7	Marco	M	28	Italy	No indicated	No	No indicated

Source: Created by the author with information extracted from *Paesaggisensibili* website

Table 12 indicates that the volunteer group is predominantly young, with ages ranging from 22 to 28, which suggests a high level of student involvement. The gender distribution is relatively balanced, with a slight majority of female volunteers. Most volunteers are from Italy, with one volunteer from Turkey. This indicates that the project attracted a largely local volunteer base, but also engaged international participants, which may contribute to a diverse set of perspectives. Among the volunteers, there is a mix of students and workers, with a notable presence of architecture students (four out of the seven volunteers). Additionally, some volunteers are residents of the area, while others are not, suggesting that both local and external participants were involved in the project.

The volunteers predominantly come from architecture and international cooperation studies, reflecting a strong presence of individuals with skills relevant to the design and development of urban spaces. This is also indicated by Daniele Vaccai:

“Regarding the local community, they were involved since the beginning. The main tool to gathering and involve the residents was the routine we had for 3 years every Saturday from 9 a.m. to lunch time. For this, we offered lunch to create this community moment. Most of them were young architects or urban planners, so every idea was coming up with a very collective brainstorm.” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).

Figure 33: *Volunteers of The Precollinear Park*



Source: Retrieved from paesaggisensibili

C. Public and private sector stakeholders

The involvement of various public and private stakeholders was crucial in the successful realization of *The Precollinear Park* project.

The collaboration between public and private stakeholders provides the necessary resources and infrastructure to make *The Precollinear Park* viable and sustainable. Each institution's involvement addresses specific needs, from regulatory approval to waste management and essential services, ensuring the project's success and long-term impact.

Table 13: *Public and Private stakeholders of The Precollinear Park*

Public and Private Stakeholders	
Institution	Role and Involvement
Municipality	Granted permission to use the space in accordance with Local Regulation No. 389: "Discipline of Contrast to Urban Degradation and Reinforcement of the Diffuse Form of Public-Private Partnership." (Gribling, 2024).
AMIAD	Managed waste collection for the project.
SMAT	Provided free access to drinkable water.
IREN	Supplied electricity to support the initiative.

Source: Created by the author with information extracted by Gribling (2024) and Interview made to Vaccai (2024)

D. Funding and support stakeholders

The financial and material support provided by various stakeholders plays a key role in the success of *The Precollinear Park* project. The contributions of these stakeholders are indicated in the following *table 14*.

Table 14: *Funding and Support stakeholders from The Precollinear Park*

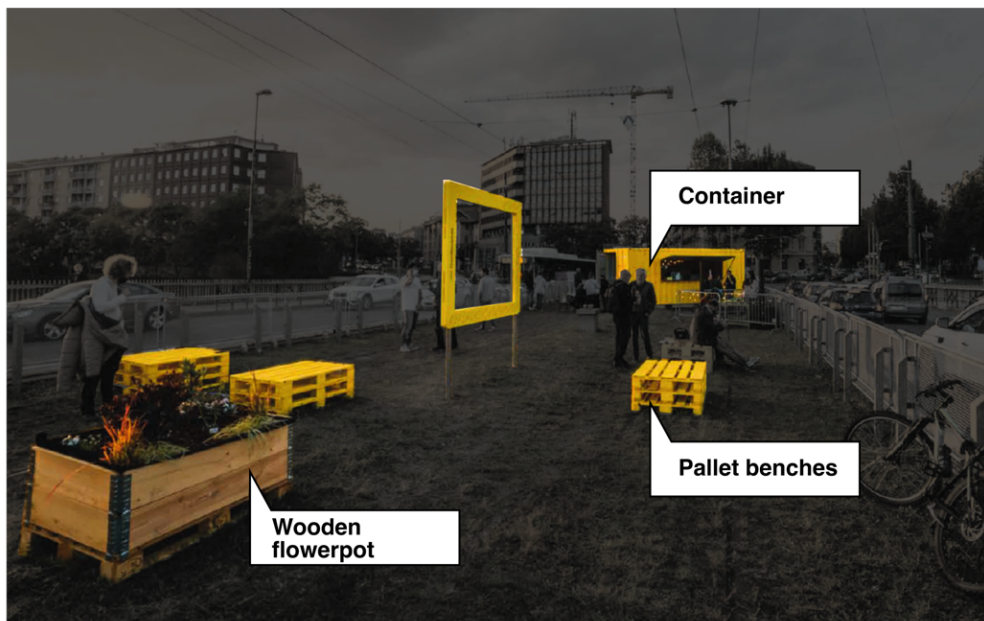
Funding and support stakeholders	
Institution	Contribution
IGPDecaux	€ 20,000.00
Cities4Forests	Workshop of auto-construction with wood
Community	Donations (money and labor)

Source: Created by the author with information from the Interview made to Vaccai (2024)

Budget, Materiality and Adaptability

Figure 34 and figure 35 illustrate the diverse materials used in the construction of the urban infrastructure and spaces for *The Precollinear Park* project. The images highlight that the infrastructure is primarily composed of low-cost materials, such as pallets, recycled wood, and containers. These choices reflect the adaptability of them to be easily transported and easy to be self-constructed by the volunteers.

Figure 34: *Urban Infrastructure from The Precollinear Park*



Source: Retrieved and modified from the website of Torino Stratosferica

Figure 35: *Urban infrastructure from The Precollinear Park*



Source: Retrieved and modified from the website of Torino Stratosferica

Figure 36 demonstrates how a simple plastic band, typically used for construction purposes, is employed to mark a path. This minimal yet effective use of materials highlights the project's resourcefulness and its ability to create functional spaces with accessible, everyday items

Figure 36: *Zig zag path within The Precollinear Park*



Source: Retrieved and modified from the website of Torino Stratosferica

3.5.7 Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)

Table 15: Five main structures and mechanism applied in *The Precollinear Park*

Five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)	
1. Transparency	For the development of <i>The Precollinear Park</i> the Municipality of Torino did not provide any systematization of vacant spaces mapped, for this reason the criterion of transparency did not apply for this project
2. Mediation and Assurances	<p>The mediation and assurance with the municipality was reflected on the 7th of August of 2021, where according to Gribling (2024) “the city of Turin had publicly approved the “temporal and free concession” of the area to the cultural association <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> for the realisation of <i>The Precollinear Park</i> Project in the area between Piazza Hermana and Corso Gabetti.” (p.652)</p> <p>The mediation with the residents, according to Daniele Vaccai from <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> (2024), there were two main tools used for this project:</p> <p>“I believe the two main tools we utilized were: the weekly volunteer sessions held every Saturday and the cultural activation involving some of the best cultural entities and organizations, not only from Torino but beyond” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).</p>
3. Taxes and Incentives	For <i>The Precollinear Park</i> it did not exist taxes or incentives in the developing of the project. This is reflected in the interview with Daniele Vaccai “Our food trucks never had rents, is a public space so we can’t ask people to pay. The food trucks owners were not part of the community.” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).
4. Permissions	<p>In general, <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> operated with the necessary permissions from the local council. However, according to Daniele Vaccai, implementing experimental projects like temporary urban initiatives often involves significant challenges. The following quotes highlight his perspective:</p> <p>“We were in a public space, so the city administration was one of the key stakeholders, because we need the permission to use the space ... We asked help to different stakeholders related to companies from the water, energy, waste management. For example, we asked to AMIAD, the company for the waste management, to create a new path to take the trash from the park, because before the intervention there weren’t trashes. The dialogue was not always easy with the different actors, but we tried to create a cooperation with them.”</p> <p>“Yes, there are always bureaucratic challenges, especially in Italy. We are proposing a not traditional urbanism, there are people from the local council that understand this. But most of the time we deal with people afraid to allow us to do something in public spaces because it is their responsibility.”</p> <p>“... in Italy specially, there is culture of risk, because if we talk about the northern countries in Europe there are different, citizens are more responsible of their actions. But in Italy, it seems to be that the politics and the local administration are taking all the risk. They only take care about us to not create a dangerous situation because it would be problem for them. So, citizens are delegitimate of their own actions.” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).</p>
5. Fundings and Loans	<p>The project was initially funded solely with resources from <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>. Daniele Vaccai elaborates on this in various remarks made during the interview conducted for this thesis:</p> <p>“...<i>Stratosferica</i> decided to expend some of our budget for the maintenance of the place, with a very light vision, by just keeping clean, taking care of the trail, putting some lights, to showcase the project we had in mind.”</p> <p>“...It was an intervention basically for free by just investing our money and being economically self-sufficient from the city...” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).</p> <p>The project's budget was further supported by contributions from the community and a prestigious award won by <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>. In 2021, <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> received €20,000.00 as part of a prize from IGPDecaux and Edison, recognizing their excellence in community engagement and urban regeneration in Turin.</p> <p>“Regarding private companies, there were some giving us materials for free as a kind of sponsorship for the project ... We also won a prize from IGPDecaux, a big company related to urban advertisement, we won around 20k that helped us to develop the project the first year.”</p> <p>“We had also lot of donations from the community by the different cultural events launched every week in the intervention. So, the community were coming and maybe they have a little drink and, in that way, they gave us some economical support to take care of the space. It was not for profit, but it helped to maintained an economical balance between our effort and the results.” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).</p>

Source: Created by the author

3.5.8 Analysis through the five criteria from Bishop & Williams (2012)

Table 16: Analysis of The Precollinear park through Bishop & Williams five criteria

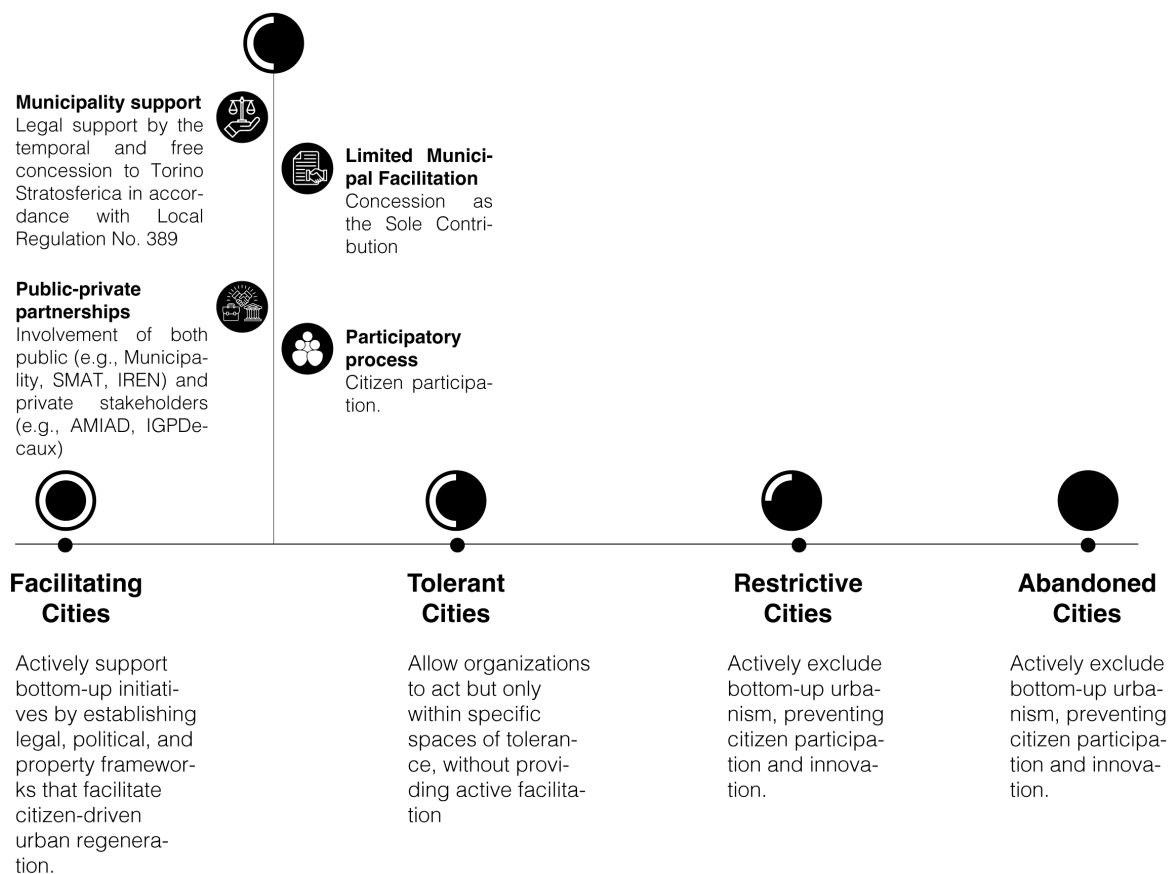
Bishop & Williams (2012)	
(1) formal and/or informal	<p>Informal: The initiative was not part of the formal urban planning of the government. It was an experimental activation of the space driven by the agency <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> and the community, as it is mentioned by Vaccai:</p> <p>"...Precollina Park became an experiment of citizen activation by evolving the community." (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024)</p>
(2) legal and/or illegal	<p>Legal: According to Gribling (2024) the use and management of the vacant space was given to <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> from the municipality through a temporal and free concession in accordance with Local Regulation No. 389: "Discipline of Contrast to Urban Degradation and Reinforcement of the Diffuse Form of Public-Private Partnership."</p>
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	<p>Planned: Planned initiative from <i>Torino Stratosferica</i>, which was discussed for a long period of meetings with the residents.</p>
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	<p>Temporary: The duration was planned as temporary since the beginning of it, as mentioned by Daniele Vaccai:</p> <p>"The project lasted around three years, later the city council decided to re install the tram way line. We were aware of the fact that it was a temporary use, that sooner or later it was going to happen." (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024)</p>
(5) funded through various methods	<p>Hybrid Support: The project initially relied solely on funding from <i>Torino Stratosferica</i> but later received support from various stakeholders.</p>

Source: Created by the author

3.5.9 Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013)

I position the project as a middle ground that combines the strengths of both Facilitating Cities and Tolerating Cities. This hybrid approach is rooted in the city's ability to enable grassroots action while maintaining a hands-off stance, refraining from direct intervention, technical assistance, or funding support. The project was realized through the active collaboration of the community, emphasizing a participatory process that fully included citizen involvement without excluding or overshadowing their contributions.

Figure 37: Analysis through Tonkins categorization of bottom-up interventions

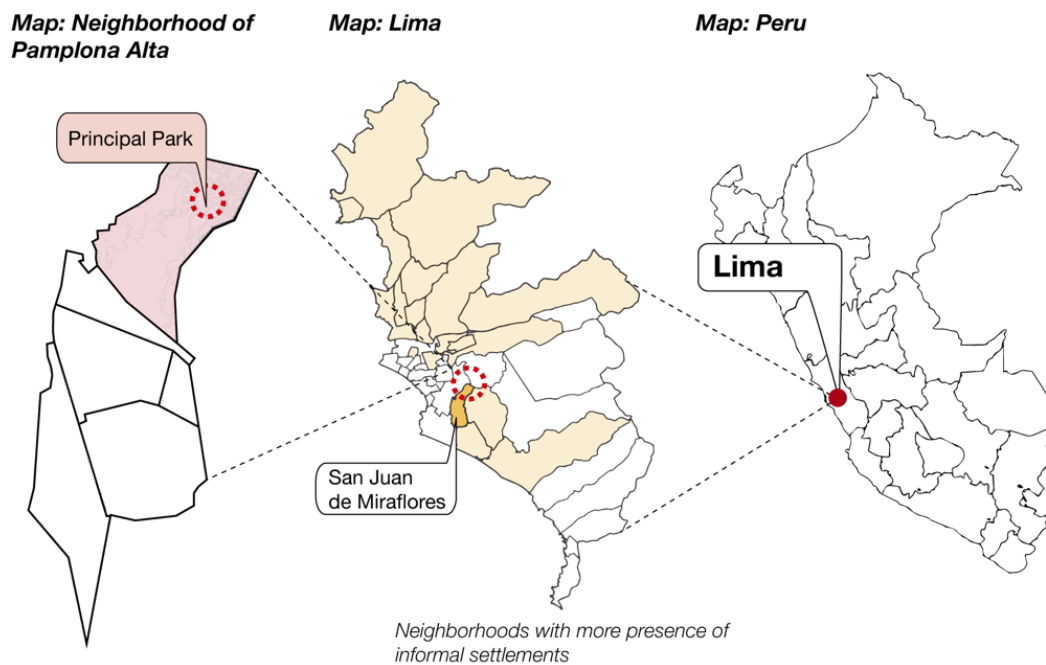


Source: Created by the author

3.6 Latin America Case study: The Principal Park in the vulnerable area of Pamplona Alta in Lima, Peru

3.6.1 Urban characteristics of Lima

Figure 38: Macro location of Pamplona Alta



Source: Elaborated by the author

Lima is a city where the majority of its population live in informal settlements established through land invasions (Matos Mar, 2012). By 2016, state policies in Lima had led to the formalization of 3,520 informal settlements, providing legal recognition to areas where approximately 7.8 million people reside (COFOPRI, 2016; Jitka et al., 2017). *Figure 38* illustrates the current urban dynamics of Lima, highlighting the distribution of formal and informal settlements across the city. Twenty neighborhoods in Lima exhibit a predominant presence of informal settlements, whereas eighteen smaller districts are classified as formal. Additionally, the five districts located in the southern part of Lima, shown on the map, are characterized as beach neighborhoods still undergoing expansion.

San Juan de Miraflores is an example of a district with a big presence of informal settlements, where approximately 10,8% of the population lives in this condition, this represents 12 304 families and 46 755 individual people (TECHO, 2018).

Figure 39: *Neighborhood of Pamplona Alta (informal city) and Neighborhood of Surco (formal city), Lima.*



Source: TECHO (2018)

Figure 39 highlights the inequality within Lima by illustrating the distribution of informal and formal settlements across the city. These inequalities manifest in various dimensions, such as access to basic services, housing availability, and the quality of construction materials (TECHO, 2018). This thesis focuses specifically on the significant lack of public spaces, a challenge prevalent throughout Lima. But particularly acute in larger informal settlements due to the absence of urban planning (Matos Mar, 2012). This is shown by Huaman et al. (2021), in its urban analysis of Lima, where it is indicated that this city faces an average deficit of 1,900 hectares of recreational public spaces. The specific neighborhood of San Juan de Miraflores have only 1.62 m² of public spaces per inhabitant, while its 3.89% of its territory is zoned as public space.

San Juan de Miraflores was chosen as a case study because it exemplifies the urban challenges associated with informal settlements, including the scarcity of public spaces and the broader consequences of unplanned urban growth. Its unique context provides an opportunity to

explore how temporary urban interventions can address these deficits and contribute to more equitable urban development.

3.6.2 Case study: *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*

Figure 40: *General proposal for The Principal Park in Pamplona Alta*



Source: Sistema Urbano (2021)

This case study focuses on the intervention of a public space made by the NGO *Sistema Urbano* in the neighborhood of Pamplona Alta from Lima, Peru. The intervention is situated in a public abandoned space of the neighborhood. The project was described by *Sistema Urbano* as citizen urbanism project. In an Interview conducted to Flavia Muro, part of team of *Sistema Urbano*, she explain her point of view about the concepts of Temporary Urbanism and Citizen Urbanism.

“...I wouldn’t see them as entirely different. Instead, I view citizen urbanism as a mechanism that can support and validate temporary urbanism. I would consider it another methodology, as citizen urbanism enables us to achieve various outcomes—whether they are temporary interventions, permanent solutions, cultural projects, or others.” (F. Muro, personal communication, December 13, 2024)

This section will explore the location and history of the site, detailing the characteristics of the district where Pamplona Alta is located. The history of the district will serve to understand the situation of public infrastructure in settlements that were born from the informality of

invasions. Later on, it will be explaining the process of the transformation of the public space made by *Sistema Urbano*. The analysis of the intervention will be framed within the context of theories and variables introduced in the literature review, providing a deeper understanding of the project's impact and relevance within the Global South context. This analysis will be divided into five components: (1) Analysis of the Dynamics of the Urban Vacancy, (2) Analysis of key characteristics of the intervention: stakeholders, budget, materiality and adaptability, (3) Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015), (4) Analysis through the five criteria from Bishop & Williams (2012), and (5) Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013).

3.6.3 Location

The case study is situated in Lima, Peru, specifically in the slum area of Pamplona Alta, a sector within the district of San Juan de Miraflores, located around hills. The area has been the site of several urban interventions, three of which were carried out by the NGO Sistema Urbano: (1) Principal Park, (2) Cerrito Hermoso, and (3) El Óvalo. These interventions are strategically located along the community's main streets, close to key infrastructure such as a communal building, a childcare center, and a public school. The *figure 41* shows the map of the several interventions mentioned.

This thesis focuses on the intervention "*The Principal Park*" due to initially it was conceived as a temporary project. Additionally, as part of my internship with Sistema Urbano, I gained access to valuable data and insights about this specific intervention, making it a central focus for in-depth analysis.

Figure 41: Location of the case study of Pamplona Alta



Source: Created by the author

Figure 42: Context of Pamplona Alta



Source: Google earth and Sistema Urbano (2024)

Note The image above was sourced from Google Earth. While the image below was provided by Sistema Urbano, taken within the framework of the international cooperation project “Strategic Plan for the improvement of socio-spatial accessibility in Pamplona Alta (Lima)” of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC - BarcelonaTech), funded by the CCD-UPC, in strategic alliance with Ocupa Tu Calle, Arquitectura sin Fronteras and the Faculty of Architecture PUCP.

San Juan de Miraflores is one of the first ‘barriadas’ in Lima, Peru. According to Matos Mar (2012), a ‘barriada’ emerged when an organized group of individuals invades a piece of land, establishing informal settlements through collective actions, such as carrying mats and displaying a large Peruvian flag alongside smaller ones to symbolize their unity. This is how the district of San Juan de Miraflores emerged. Villamar (2008) explains that the primary driver behind these land invasions was the influx of migrants from the countryside, leading slum-like conditions in Lima's neighborhoods. Additionally, Matos Mar (2012) notes that invasions in the specific area of Pamplona Alta began in 1960, and by 1965, the government officially recognized San Juan de Miraflores as a district. This narrative mirrors the history of many districts in Lima, which started as informal, bottom-up invasions and gradually transitioned into legal urban areas.

The process of legalizing these areas gained significant momentum in 1996 when the government enacted a law that legitimized land invasions by granting legal land ownership titles to residents of informal settlements (Calderon, 2005). Because of this reason, the invasions in the district of San Juan de Miraflores continued during the early 2000s. An analysis conducted using Google Earth, as shown in *figures 43* and *figure 44*, reveals that the urban context of intervention for the case study of Pamplona Alta began to develop through self-construction processes in the early 2000s.

Although many ‘barriadas’ have been recognized as formal districts, parts of these areas still suffer from a lack of basic services and essential infrastructure, such as public spaces, due to absence of urban planning. There is still a significant gap between planning in the ex-barriadas and the more consolidated districts in Lima. A notable example of this is the case of Pamplona Alta, which to this day lacks several essential infrastructures, including public spaces.

In Peru the municipalities are in charge to administrate public spaces. But since many neighborhoods that were born as informal settlements are not recognize from the municipalities as part of their jurisdiction, they do not provide services to them. Ingrid Salazar, from *Sistema Urbano*, talks about this complex situation in the following extract from an interview made for this research:

“In Pamplona case, they are a settlement that have documentation by the Agency for Formalization of Informal Property (COFOPRI), which is part of the Ministry of Housing. However, this area is considerate as informal settlement by the municipality.

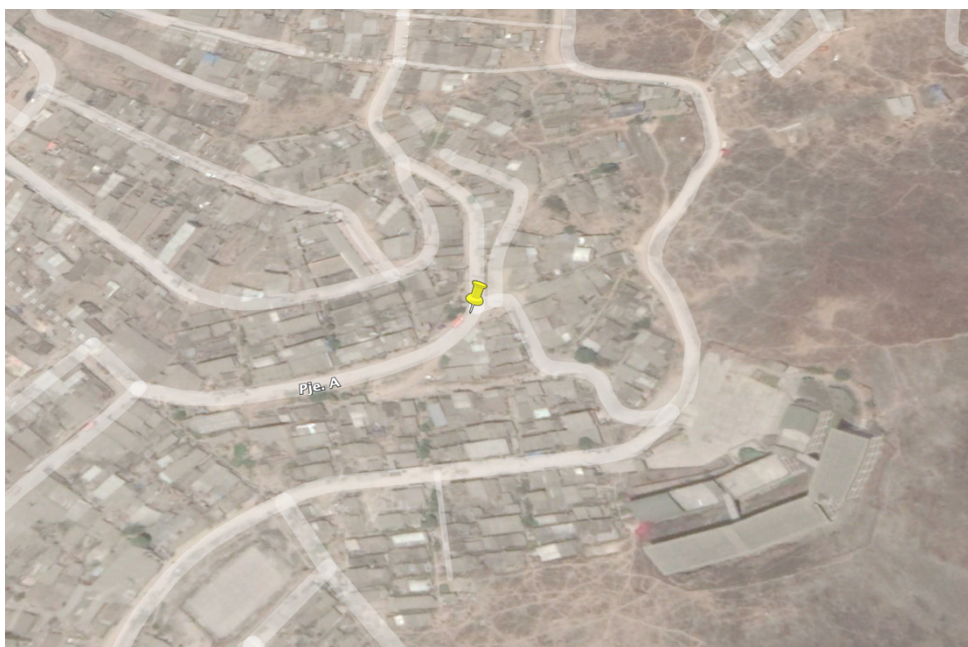
And this complexity makes Pamplona to be informal, but from *Sistema Urbano* we do not consider it as informal, because if we talk about papers, they have it. We consider these kind of settlements as auto-constructed settlements or neighborhoods that are in process of consolidation.” (I. Salazar, personal communication, December 13, 2024)

Figure 43: *Intervention area in 2019 extracted from Google Earth*



Note: The yellow pin is located in the area of The Principal Park

Figure 44: *Intervention area in 2002 extracted from Google Earth*



Note: The yellow pin is located in the area of The Principal Park

3.6.4 History of the abandoned area in Pamplona Alta and its transformation

The case study of *The Principal Park* reveals that it was in poor condition from its inception, as it emerged organically through self-construction within an informal neighborhood. This lack of planning during the area's expansion is evident in the comparison between *figure 45* and *figure 46*.

Figure 45 illustrates the condition of the public space in 2015, while *figure 46* depicts its state in 2022, prior to the intervention by Sistema Urbano. Both figures highlight the poor condition and abandonment of the public space over a period of more than seven years.

Figure 45: Area of intervention in 2015



Source: Google street maps (2015)

Figure 46: Area on intervention in 2021



Source: Extracted by the publication “Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

In 2020 during COVID-19 period, *Sistema Urbano* under the "Reinitiate Your Neighborhood" program, as part of *Ocupa Tu Calle*, an initiative from them that aimed at providing basic services and enhancing urban resilience in marginalized areas of Peru started the process to implement public spaces in Pamplona Alta (*Sistema Urbano*, 2021). The following extract of an interview with *Sistema Urbano*, where Salazar details different aspects of the process of interventions in Pamplona Alta:

“In the case of Pamplona Alta, it was a different case. It began by us; we first did a global analysis of different vulnerable districts of Lima. The chosen of Pamplona Alta was influenced by the stakeholder “Hermanas Parker” who were already working in this area with some kindergartens. We also reviewed some indicators as reference from the NGO “TECHO”, and we identified different potentialities around the context of Pamplona Alta, such as a public school that has kindergarten, elemental and high school. We also identified a principal bus stop, as well an organized “*junta vecinal*” (neighborhood council) and an organized “*olla común*” (common pot). After identifying the potential areas for public spaces, we started to look for funds. That was our process for Pamplona Alta.” (I. Salazar, personal communication, December 13, 2024)

The website *Architecture in development* indicates how the initiative of "Reinitiate Your Neighborhood" started:

“This area was one of the most affected during the pandemic due to the loss of jobs and the lack of nearby access to safe and public recreational areas that would facilitate social distancing. In San Juan de Miraflores, the district where the area is located, only 3.8% of its area is designated for recreation, equivalent to 1.6 m² per capita (*Ojo Público*, 2021). It is in this context that the *Ocupa Tu Barrio* program was born, an initiative that seeks to strengthen citizen ties through community nodes and the development of resilience protocols at the neighborhood level that allow the generation of an effective action plan for the neighborhoods.” (Nogales, 2023, para. 2).

Sistema Urbano explains in their Publication *Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta* (2021) four main steps as part of the process of intervention in Pamplona Alta, they are shown

and explain in *figure 47*. From the step “Neighborhood recognition” the data from the *table 17* was found in relation with the weaknesses and strengths of the area.

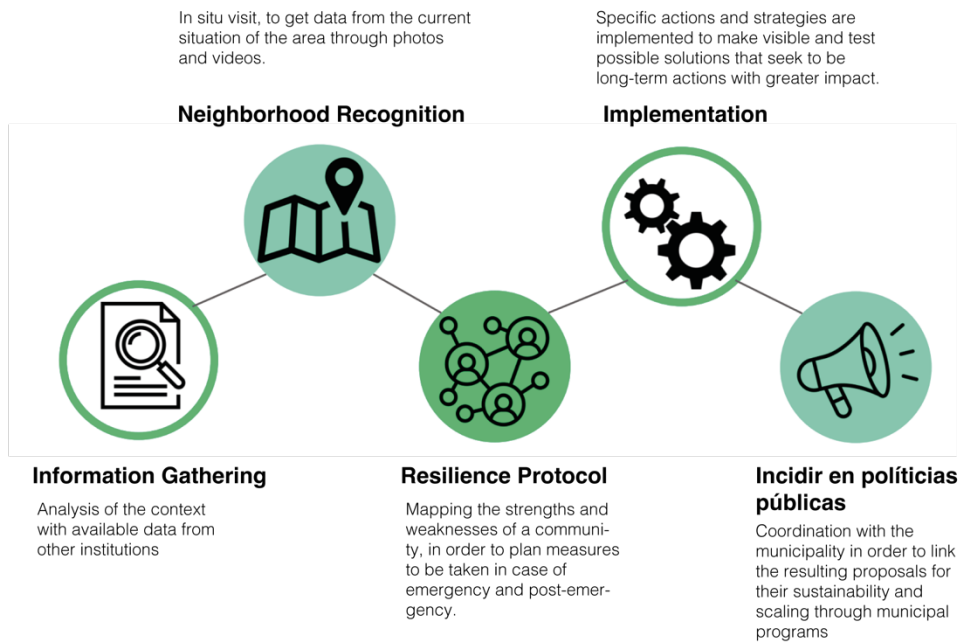
Table 17: *Weaknesses and strengths from Pamplona Alta*

Weaknesses	Strengths
The municipality collects waste 2 or 3 times a week.	Organized community. They are organized through a neighborhood council
The community do not have drinking water or sewage service and they have to pay for every 1 or 2 times a week.	In 2008, with the support of the German Embassy, the community center was built.
Self-constructed houses with noble and precarious materials	Green areas. Presence of trees (ficus, molle, geranium, cucarda) and orchards.
Lack of spaces for children to play. Young people and adults take turns using the sand court, but children do not have accessible and safe spaces to play in.	There are designated areas for the construction of furniture for children to play in.
Stairs are the main means of circulation. They are made of concrete, wood or rubble, the railings are made of wood and are in poor condition, they are also used as play furniture.	School presence close to the area.

Note: Table created by the author with information from the Publication Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta (2021).

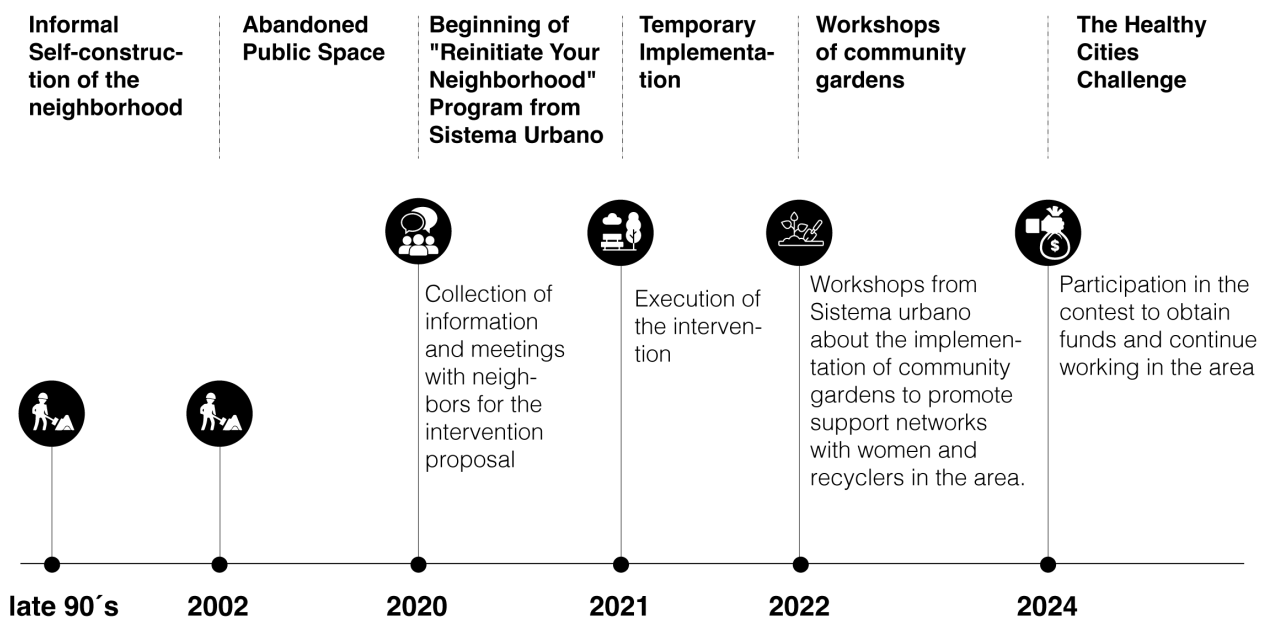
Under this analysis made by Sistema urbano they started the proposal of the intervention. The *figure 47* illustrates the process made by Sistema Urbano to make real the intervention of the three areas. *Figure 48* shows the timeline of the project and for how long the area was in condition of abandonment.

Figure 47: Process of the project from Pamplona Alta



Source: Figure translated from the Publication “Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

Figure 48: Timeline of The Principal Park



Source: Created by the author

Figure 49: *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta after execution*



Figure 50: *Children urban furniture*



Source: Extracted from the Publication “Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

Figure 51: Architectural plan of the proposal of The Principal Park



Source: Extracted from the Publication “Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

3.6.5 Analysis of the Dynamics of the Urban Vacancy

According to the information from the section “3.4.3 History of the abandoned area in Pamplona Alta and its transformation” I can pinpoint four different levels of the vacancy and its transformation:

1. Scale of Vacancy: Big-scale vacancy, representing a common characteristic in different informal settlements in Lima, Peru.
2. Previous use: Public space in bad condition.
3. Type of Vacancy: Administrative abandonment of an open space, resulting from the informality development of the neighborhood.
4. Cause: Informal settlement.
5. Main Purpose of the Transformation: Strengthening citizen ties through “Community Nodes” (Ocupa tu calle, 2022)

3.6.6 Analysis of key characteristics of the intervention: stakeholders, budget, materiality and adaptability

This section analyzes the key characteristics of the temporary project, as identified in the literature review, with focus on the intervention of *The Principal Park* develop within the neighborhood of Pamplona Alta in Lima, Peru. The key characteristics examined include stakeholders, budget, materiality, and adaptability.

Stakeholders

The stakeholders include both institutional and community partners, whose collaborative efforts enable the realization of the initiative. The following section outlines the roles and contributions of the different stakeholders, ranging from governmental and private entities to non-profit organizations and local community members. The analysis is organized into five key categories of participation in the development of *The Precollinear Park*: (A) Project Developers, (B) Volunteers, (C), (D) Residents, Public and Private Sector Partners, and (E) Funding and Support Stakeholders.

A. Project Developers

Table 18: *Project developers analysis from The Principal Park*

Project Developers				
Name	Female/Male	Country	Occupation	Studies
Mariana Alegre	F	Peru	Founder of Sistema Urbano	MSc. in City Design and Social Science, Urbanism; Bachelor in Law studies
Lucía Nogales	F	Spain	General Coordinator of Ocupa tu calle	Bachelor in Architecture; Diploma in Basic Habitability for Social Inclusion
Ingrid Salazar	F	Peru	Project Coordinator of Ocupa tu calle	MSc. in urban and regional planning; Bachelor in Civil Engineering

Source: Created by the author

The project developers bring a strong interdisciplinary foundation, combining expertise in law, urban planning, architecture, and engineering to address both technical and social dimensions of urban projects. In addition, it reflects a mix of local (peruvian) and international perspectives (spain).

B. Volunteers

The following data shows the different volunteers that participated to help to implement the project of *The Principal Park*. The data was extracted from the Publication *Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta* (2021) made by Sistema Urbano. The students involved as volunteers were part of the course Architecture and Participation from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru.

Table 19: *Total of volunteer involved in The Principal Park urban design proposal*

Volunteers							
N	Name	Female/Male	Aprox. age	Country	Occupation	Resident	Studies
1	Fatima	F	20-22	Peru	Student	Yes	Architecture
2	Jessica	F	20-22	Peru	Student	No	Architecture
3	Tamia	F	20-22	Peru	Student	Yes	Architecture
4	Aaron	M	20-22	Peru	Student	No	Architecture
5	Marcelo	M	20-22	Peru	Student	Yes	Architecture
6	Christopher	M	20-22	Peru	Student	No	Architecture

Source: Data extracted from the Publication Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta (2021).

The volunteers, all architecture students, bring technical expertise to the project. None of them are residents of the neighborhood, which means they approach the intervention from an external perspective. According to the website of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, the course developed different urban design proposals from a socio-spatial analysis. (Arquitectura PUCP, 2023).

C. Residents

The following data shows the different residents from the community of Pamplona Alta that collaborated with Sistema Urbano in different participatory meetings for the analysis of the space. The residents also participated in the proposal of the design and its execution. The data was extracted from the Publication Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta (2021) made by Sistema Urbano.

Table 20: *Residents involved in The Principal Park proposal, design and execution*

N	Name	Female/Male	Age (Aprox)	Country	Occupation	Technical/UniversityStudies
1	Juan Carlos	M	40	Peru	Worker - General Secretary of the community	No
2	Flor	F	40	Peru	Worker	No
3	Patricia	F	40	Peru	Worker	Social Assitant
4	Alejandro	M	40	Peru	Worker	No
5	Soledad	F	50	Peru	Worker	No
6	Lindaura	F	40	Peru	Worker	No
7	Marco	M	60	Peru	Worker	No

Source: Elaborated by the author with information from the Publication Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta (2021).

Given the low-income status of the community and the limited free time residents have due to their work schedules, the level of participation is considered positive. As Salazar explains:

“... I could say another challenge is the participation. Even that our methodology is based on it, it is a real challenge to gather them, because they live from the day, so they work most of the days. That’s why from Sistema Urbano, we try to adapt to their already scheduled activities” (I. Salazar, personal communication, December 13, 2024).

Figure 53: *Participatory meetings*



Figure 52: *Participatory implementation of The Principal Park infrastructure*



Mantenimiento de baranda existente
Foto: Ocupa Tu Calle



Nivelado de terreno
Foto: Ocupa Tu Calle



Armado de cerco
Foto: Aaron Carbajal



Volado de losas
Foto: Ocupa Tu Calle



Source: Extracted from the Publication “Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

D. Public and private sector stakeholders

The involvement of various public and private stakeholders was crucial in the successful realization of *The Precollinear Park* project. The *table 21* outlines the roles and contributions of key institutions in the development and operation of the space.

The collaboration between public and private stakeholders provides the necessary resources and infrastructure to make *The Precollinear Park* viable.

Table 21: *Public and Private stakeholders from The Principal Park*

Public and Private Stakeholders	
Institution	Role and Involvement
Ocupa tu calle	Urban Design and Participatory workshops
Lima como vamos	Gathering of data.
Pontifical Catholic University of Peru	Urban Design proposal options
Municipality	Support for the execution of the physical intervention with the qualified labor and necessary machinery.

Source: Created by the author

D. Funding and support stakeholders

The financial and material support provided by various stakeholders plays a key role in the success of *The Principal Park* project. The contributions of these stakeholders are indicated in the following table:

Table 22: *Funding and support stakeholders for The Principal Park*

Funding and support stakeholders	
Insitution	Contribution
German Society for International Cooperation -GIZ	Financing
Reciclaje.pe (NGO)	Financing
Qroma (Private company)	Donation of 60 pallets

Source: Created by the author

The project demonstrates a collaborative approach, combining financial support from GIZ and Reciclaje.pe with material donations from Qroma, a private company. This multi-stakeholder involvement highlights the alignment of international, local, and corporate interests. Together, they address both funding and material needs, ensuring resource efficiency and project sustainability.

Budget, Materiality and Adaptability

Figure 54 and figure 55 highlight that some of the infrastructure is primarily composed of low-cost materials, such as pallets, eucalyptus sticks and gravel floor. These choices reflect the adaptability of them to be easily transported and easy to be self-constructed by the volunteers. The election of these materials from *Sistema Urbano* were proposed to test the space.

Given that Pamplona Alta lacked public spaces, and considering that the land use in the intervened area was designated as public space. But had been in poor condition for years due to its origins as an informal settlement, *Sistema Urbano* decided to incorporate permanent materials, such benches and floors of concrete, to enhance the basic conditions of the public space. This is illustrated in *figure 56*.

Figure 55: *Materials used in The Principal Park*



Source: Retrieved from the website of Ocupa tu calle (2021) and modified by the Author

Figure 54: *Community gardens from The Principal Park*



Source: Retrieved from the website of Ocupa tu calle (2021) and modified by the Author

Figure 56: *Use of permanent materials in the Principal Park*



Source: Elaborated by the author with images from the Publication Reinitiate Your Neighborhood Pamplona Alta, Ocupa tu calle (2021).

3.6.7 Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)

Table 23: Analysis through the five structures and mechanism from Patti & Polyak

Five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)	
1. Transparency	For the development of <i>The Principal Park</i> , the Municipality of San Juan de Miraflores did not provide any systematization of vacant spaces mapped, for this reason the criterion of transparency did not apply for this project.
2. Mediation and Assurances	On the municipality's side, no tools or guidelines were implemented for the development of the project, nor for its mediation or assurance. On the part of Sistema Urbano, mediation and assurance were carried out through participatory meetings with the residents, who were the end users of the space.
3. Taxes and Incentives	Not applied as it was located within a public space rather than on private land and without proposal of economic activities.
4. Permissions	Sistema Urbano operated with the necessary permissions from the local council.
5. Fundings and Loans	The project was funded through different institutions (see <i>table 22</i>).

Source: Elaborated by the author

3.6.8 Analysis through the five criteria from Bishop & Williams (2012)

Table 24: Analysis through the five criteria from Bishop & Williams

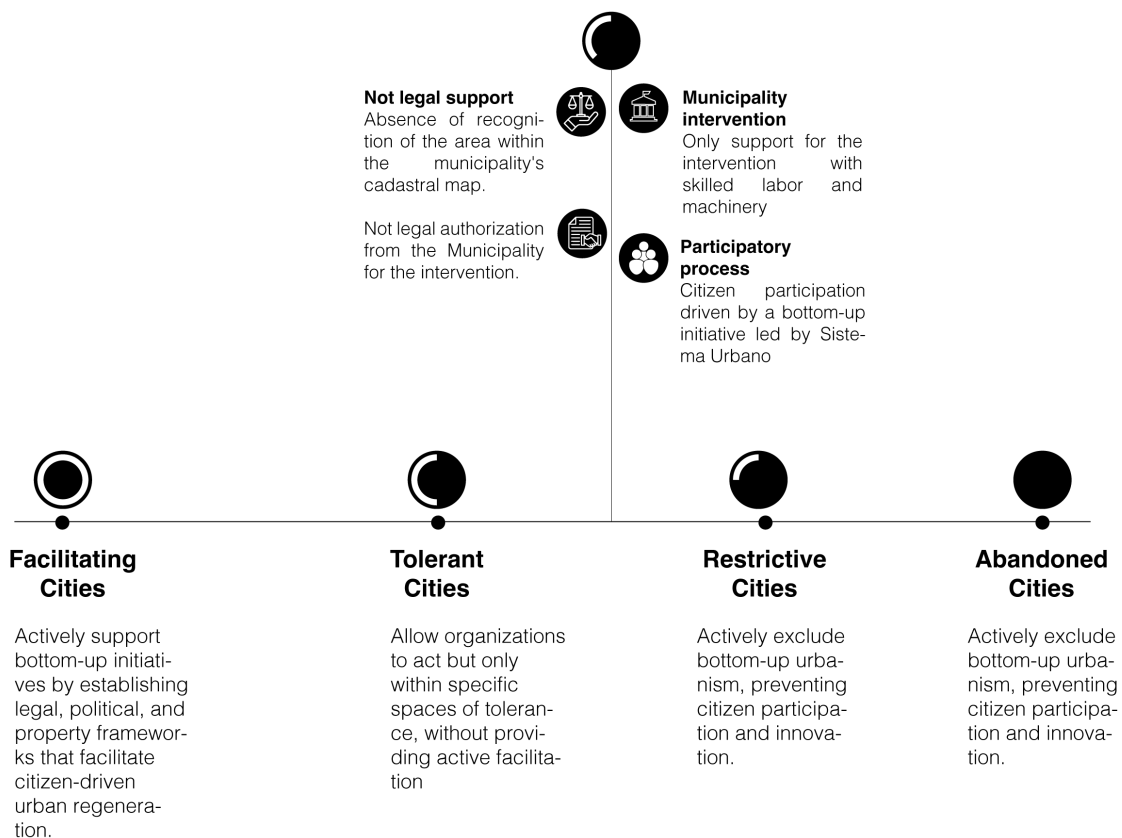
Bishop & Williams (2012)	
(1) formal and/or informal	Informal: The initiative was not part of the formal urban planning of the government. It was an experimental activation of the space driven by the NGO Sistema Urbano under its initiative Ocupa tu calle.
(2) legal and/or illegal	Illegal: Although the intervention was carried out in collaboration with the Municipality, there was no legal document authorizing its implementation.
(3) planned and/or spontaneous	Planned: Planned intervention from Sistema Urbano, which was discussed through participatory meetings with the residents.
(4) long-lasting and/or temporary	Long-Lasting: The duration was initially planned as temporary to test the space. However, due to the area's lack of public spaces, the residents decided to transform it into a permanent public space.
(5) funded through various methods	Hybrid Support: The project received support from various stakeholders (see table 22).

Source: Elaborated by the author.

3.6.9 Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013)

I position the project as a middle ground that combines the strengths of both Tolerating and Restrictive Cities. This hybrid approach stems from the complex legal framework: while the Municipality does not recognize the area as part of its jurisdiction, the site has legal documentation from a national government institution. Furthermore, the city enables grassroots action with a hands-off approach, abstaining from direct intervention, technical assistance, or funding. The project was realized through active community collaboration, emphasizing a participatory process that fully valued and incorporated citizen contributions.

Figure 57: Analysis through Tonkins categorization of bottom-up urbanism



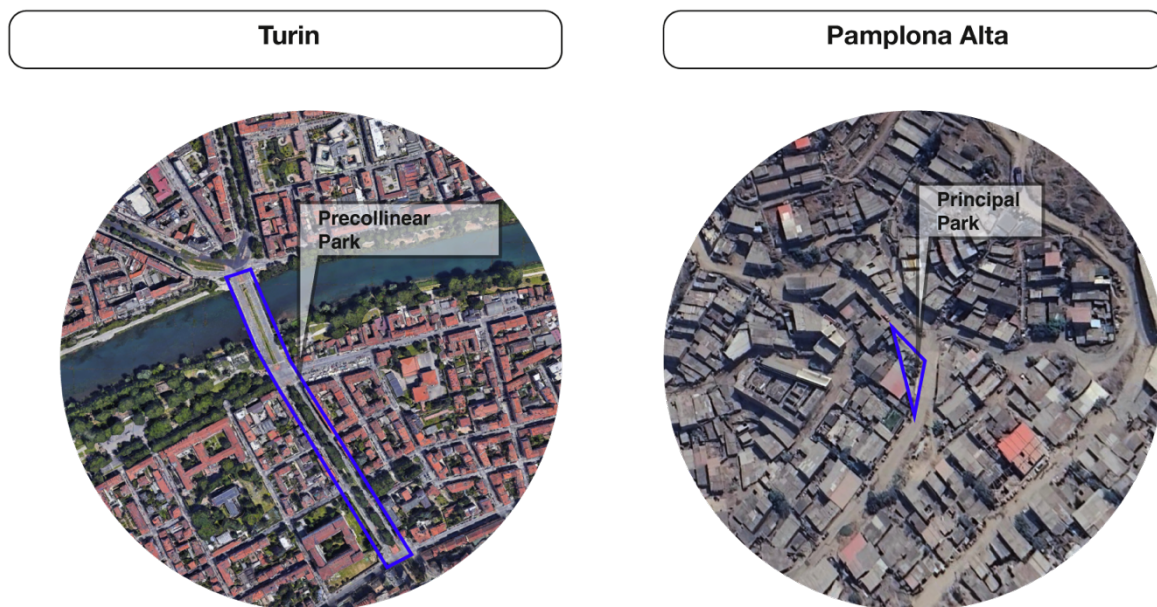
Source: Created by the author

3.7 Considerations between European and Latin America main case studies

The principal differences between the main case studies are the urban context where they were applied. From one side, *The Precollinear Park* of Turin, was implemented in a formal city. While *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* was implemented in an informal city. This duality brings contrasts in the urban characteristics between the both contexts, as shown in *figure 58*. Turin in the left side, present a highly structured urban fabric with a grid-like street network, orderly block and high presence of green areas. While Pamplona is characterized by a more irregular and organic urban layout, and housing structures are densely concentrated with lack of green and open spaces.

Another important contrast in their urban configuration is the different percentage of public spaces between both cities. In the case of Pamplona Alta, as consequence of its informality and unplanning the lack of it is 1.62% of m² per inhabitant (Huaman et al., 2021). On the other side, Turin has 53.2% of m² of green urban area per inhabitant (Cimini et al., 2024).

Figure 58: *Plot plans of the main case studies*



Source: Elaborated by the author with images from Google Earth (2024)

The differences between these two contexts played a crucial role in shaping the objectives of the temporary interventions. On one hand, *The Precollinear Park* was designed to enhance the image of the city– a goal that formal cities used to seek for. On the other hand, *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* aimed to address the significant lack of public spaces in the area– a common urban issue of informal cities. These contrasts underscore the versatility of temporary urbanism as a strategy that can be effectively implemented in both formal and informal cities. Its low-cost, flexible, and rapid characteristics make it adaptable to diverse contexts and challenges (Kawa et al., 2024).

The selection of these case studies was based on their common approach to implement the space under bottom-up practices, taking in count that in the majority of cases from Latin America the experimental urban interventions are made under this approach (Alegre, 2022). Moreover, the implementation of *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* was aligned with the concept of ‘informal and unplanned practices’ described by Andres, Bryson, and Moawad (2021). Additionally, both projects embody the idea of temporary interventions as “labs and catalysts for urban issues,” a concept emphasized by the Policy Participation Department and City of Ghent (2018). In the case of *The Precollinear Park*, the primary urban issue was the vacancy and abandonment of the space. *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*, sought to create much-needed public space in a vulnerable area and at the same time to cover the “limited planning capacity and resource constraints” (Andres et al., 2021) from the local government.

This section of the investigation focuses on understanding the methodologies used to implement these projects. To achieve this, the research analyses the main aspects in relation of the urban vacancy and abandonment of the spaces, *table 25* illustrates a comparison between both projects.

Table 25: *Comparison of urban vacancy between The main case studies*

Analysis of Urban Vacancy		
Criterion	<i>The Precollinear Park</i> (European context)	<i>The Principal Park</i> (Latin America context)
Scale of vacancy	Small-scale	Big-scale
Type of vacancy	Administrative vacancy of an open space from the Local Municipality	Administrative vacancy of an open space from the Local Municipality
Cause of vacancy	Tramway's abandonment of 3 years	Informal settlement
Main Purpose of Transformation	Enhance Torino's image and urban identity	Strengthening citizen ties through “Community Nodes”

Source: Elaborated by the author

Furthermore, both case studies were analyzed based on the key characteristics of their interventions: stakeholders, budget, materiality, and adaptability. In addition, the projects were examined using the three distinct theories and variables outlined in *table 26*. This analysis allowed the research to identify and understand the contributions of governments, agencies, residents, and other stakeholders involved in the various processes of both case studies.

Table 26: *Theories and variables for the analysis of the main case studies*

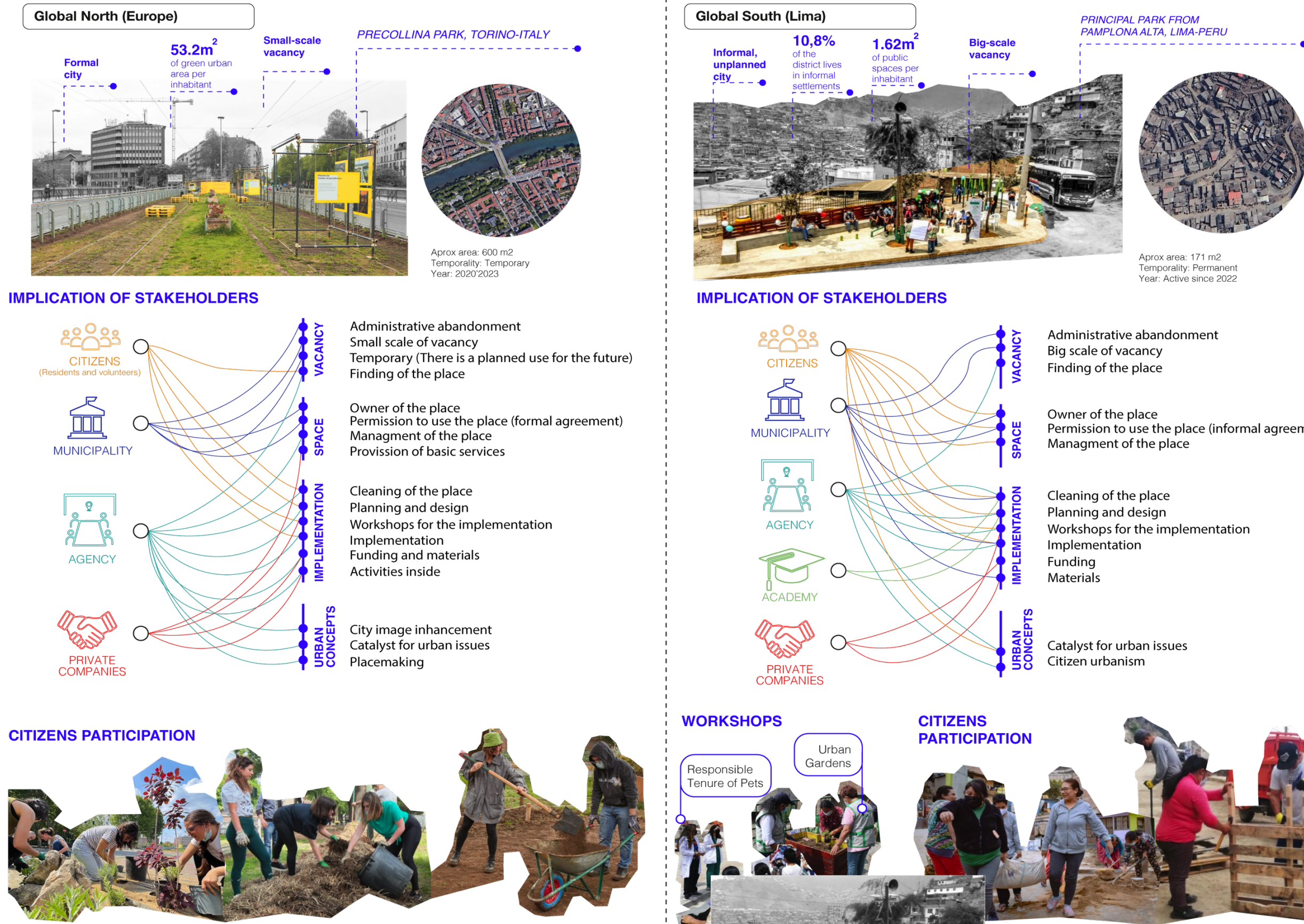
Theories and variables from the Literature review	Stakeholders implication			
	Government	Government and/or Agencies, Residents	Government and/or other stakeholders	Government or Private owners
<p><i>Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)</i></p> <p><i>Analysis through the five criterions from Bishop & Williams (2012)</i></p> <p><i>Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013)</i></p>	<p>Transparency</p> <p>Permissions</p> <p>Formal and/or informal</p> <p>Legal and/or illegal</p> <p>Facilitating cities</p> <p>Tolerant cities</p> <p>Restrictive cities</p> <p>Abandoned cities</p>	<p>Mediation and assurance</p> <p>Taxes and incentives</p> <p>Planned and/or spontaneous</p>	<p>Fundings and Loans</p> <p>Funded through various methods</p>	<p>Long-lasting and/or temporary</p>

Note: The circles encompass similar characteristics between theories

Source: Elaborated by the author

The following illustration compares the main considerations and the implications of the different stakeholders. This is the result of the analysis found under the theories from *table 26* applied in the main case studies of *The Precollinear Park and The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*.

Figure 59: Comparative analysis of the implication of stakeholders between the main case studies



Note: elaborated by the author with images from the website of Paesaggi sensibili, Sistema Urbano and Goggle earth

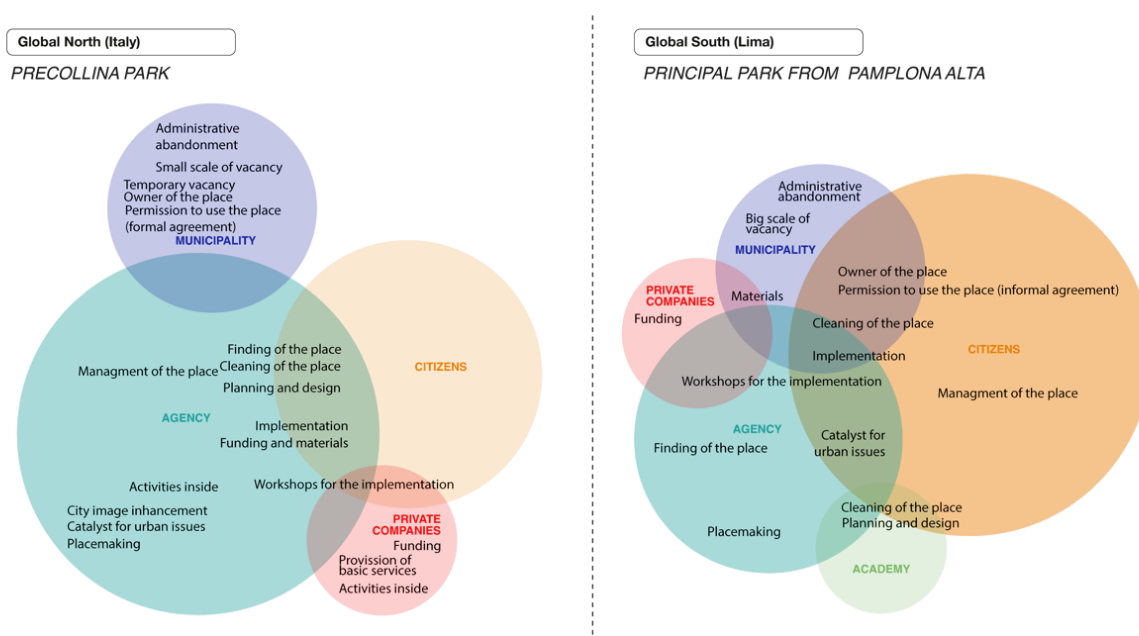
This comparative illustration presents an analysis of the relationship between stakeholder actions and the four main topics: (1) characteristics of vacant areas, (2) attributes of spaces where implementations were carried out, (3) actions taken for implementation, and (4) the urban concepts underlying the projects.

Regarding vacancy, in both cases, the project spaces were in a state of abandonment by their respective municipalities. However, in the case of *The Precollinear Park*, there is a planned future intervention by the government. In contrast, *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* remains excluded from any government plans, both past and present.

The vacant area for *The Precollinear Park* was identified as having potential for transformation into a temporary space by citizens and Torino Stratosferica. In contrast, *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* was selected by the NGO Sistema Urbano, which proposed the intervention based on an analysis of various vulnerable neighborhoods. In both cases, citizen participation played a crucial role in the successful implementation of the projects.

Private companies involved in the projects played a more limited role, primarily contributing funding and supporting workshops. In the specific case of *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*, there was additional collaboration with academia institutions, further enriching the project

Figure 60: Comparison between the specific implications of the stakeholders



Note: Scale of circles are in relation of the proportion of the implication of each stakeholder.

This comparison shows that even that the urban contexts from the Global North and Global South are different, the structure and process for the proposal of temporary intervention in public spaces are similar and have as main actors the citizens and the promoters, that in this case were the agencies.

A notable aspect of this comparison is the involvement of academia in the case of *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*. Among all the examples analyzed in the mirror case studies, this is the first instance of academia collaboration. This partnership is particularly significant given that temporary interventions often operate with limited budgets (Kawa et al., 2024). Engaging with academia can provide access to research, innovative ideas, technical expertise, and human resources, all of which can significantly enhance the planning and implementation of such projects. However, it is important to note that in the case of *The Precollinear Park*, as highlighted in its analysis, the volunteer team included architects, bringing expertise to the project despite the absence of formal academia collaboration.

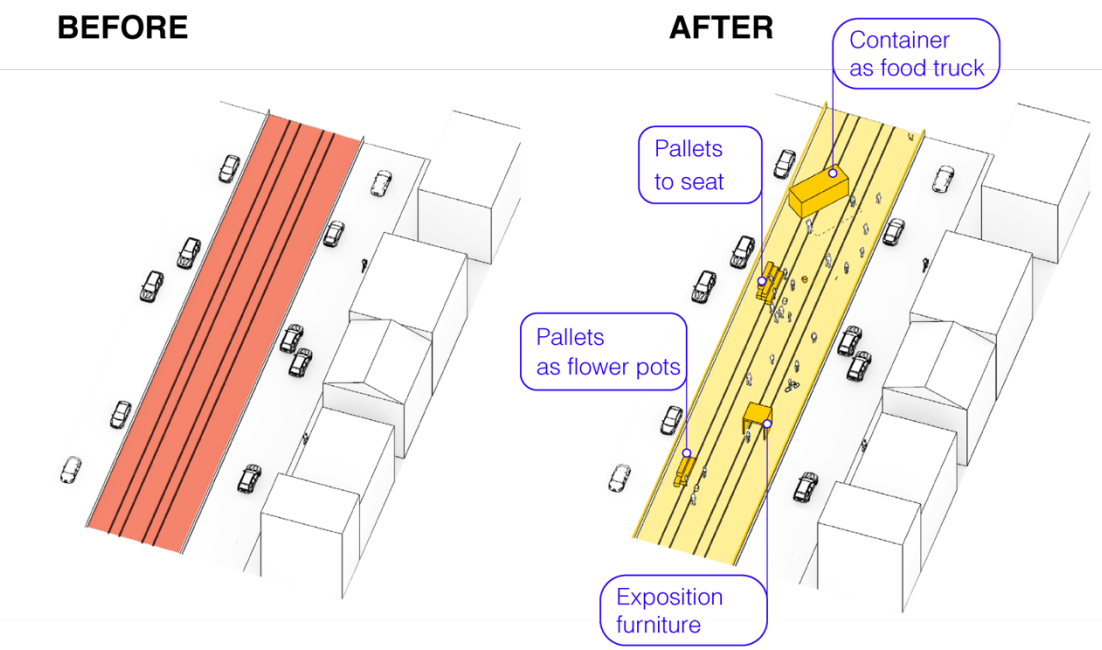
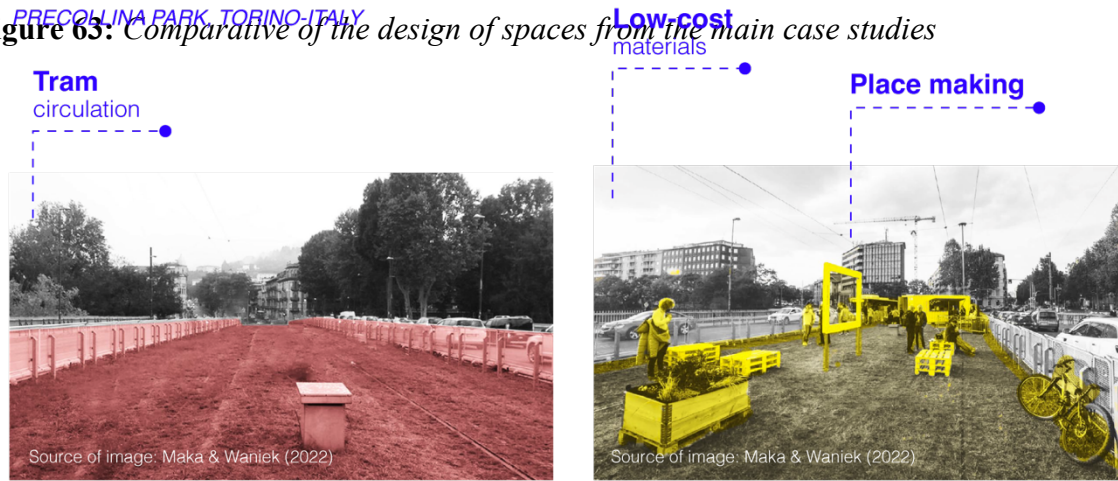
For both projects it was used low-cost materials. Although, since it was explained at the beginning of this section, both projects were implemented in different urban context. For this reason, in *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* it was also used concrete materials to enhance the quality of the area, since its use was a public space, but in poor condition. *Figure 61* illustrates these differences among others such as the kind of spaces implemented, the professionals from the agencies involved in both projects and the kind of users of the spaces.

The considerations explained in this section will bring a better perspective for the discussion about the comparison between the use of temporary urbanism in the Global North and Global South.

Figure 62: Comparative of the design of spaces from the main case studies

Global North (Turin)

Figure 63: Comparative of the design of spaces from the main case studies



PROMOTERS

- Cultural association
- Architect, Luca Ballarini
- Architect, Chiara Bertetti
- Msc. Planning, Communication and Management of Cultural Tourism, Luca Ballarini

USERS



Global South (Lima)

PRINCIPAL PARK FROM PAMPLONA ALTA, LIMA-PERU



PROMOTERS

- Urban Agency
- Msc. in City Desing and Social Science, Urbanism, Mariana Alegre
- Architect, Lucía Nogales
- Msc. in urban and regional planning, Ingrid Salazar

USERS



Chapter IV: Discussions and conclusions

4.1 Discussion

This chapter explore the research question: how the urban conditions of the formal and informal cities, the roles of the citizens, promoters and municipalities influence in the implementation of temporary urbanism in European and vulnerable Latin American contexts? To answer this, the discussion draws on insights from the theoretical framework, mirror and main case studies, and an analysis of the study's limitations.

The theoretical framework provides a deeper understanding of the concept of temporary urbanism in both regions and its implications for various stakeholders. The mirror case studies highlight the opportunities and challenges that emerge when implementing temporary urban practices in distinct urban realities. Finally, the limitations outline the constraints that shape the scope of the findings, offering a critical reflection on the study's boundaries and potential avenues for further research.

Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework of this thesis enhances the understanding of temporary urbanism as a global practice, examining its diverse interpretations in both European and Latin American contexts. Five key theories and variables, identified through the exploration of this topic, were selected to guide the analysis of both the mirror and main case studies. These five criteria, presented in *table 27*, structure the comparative analysis between the Global North and Global South.

The selection of theories and variables for the mirror case studies was guided by three key criteria. First, the aim was to highlight the different approaches to implementing these interventions: top-down, bottom-up, and hybrid, under *The categorization of temporary urbanism into bottom-up, top-down, and hybrid approaches, as defined by Patti & Polyak (2017)*. The second criterion focused on assessing the increasing relevance of these practices for governments and their impact on public policies under *The Five Key Components of Temporary Urban Projects (Bishop & Williams, 2012)*. Finally, the third criterion sought to understand whether these practices were developed with a focus on transferability, under the

Heterogeneity across legal frameworks or transferability of practices and policies from Patti & Polyak (2017).

Table 27: Theories for the mirror and main case studies

Theories and variables from the Literature review	Stakeholders implication			
	Government	Government and/or Agencies (A), Residents (R)	Government and/or other stakeholders	Government or Private owners
<p><i>Approach of the intervention, according to the classification from Patti & Polyak (2017)</i> [●○]</p> <p><i>Legal Structure by Patti & Polyak (2017)</i> [●○]</p> <p><i>Analysis through the five main structures and mechanisms introduced by Patti & Polyak (2015)</i> [●]</p> <p><i>Analysis through the five criterions from Bishop & Williams (2012)</i> [●○]</p> <p><i>Analysis through the four categorizations that cities take towards bottom-up urbanism proposed by Tonkins (2013)</i> [●]</p>	<p>Top-down temporary urbanism</p> <p>Heterogeneity across legal framework</p> <p>Transferability of practices and policies</p> <p>Transparency</p> <p>Permissions</p> <p>Formal and/or informal Legal and/or illegal</p> <p>Facilitating cities</p> <p>Tolerant cities</p> <p>Restrictive cities</p> <p>Abandoned cities</p>	<p>Hybrid temporary urbanism</p> <p>Bottom-up temporary urbanism (A and/or R)</p> <p>Mediation and assurance</p> <p>Taxes and incentives</p> <p>Planned and/or spontaneous</p>	<p>Hybrid temporary urbanism</p> <p>Fundings and Loans</p> <p>Funded through various methods</p>	<p>Hybrid temporary urbanism</p> <p>Long-lasting and/or temporary</p>

- Main case studies
- Mirror case studies

Note: Circles join similar concepts

On the other hand, the selection of theories and variables for the main case studies analysis were focus on having a better understanding and a deeper analysis of the active roles of the stakeholders in temporary interventions within formal and informal urban contexts. Through the analysis of these criteria, the study uncovers valuable insights from each project discussed in the case study chapter.

Mirror and Main case studies

This thesis explores the practice of temporary urbanism in public spaces, focusing on its implementation in both Latin America and Europe. In Latin America, temporary urbanism projects are often executed on a large scale, as demonstrated in *figure 8*. The study uncovers important insights into the similarities and differences between these two regions, shedding light on the dynamics that shape such interventions.

A central finding of this research is the role of urban development patterns of urbanization, which contribute to the unique expressions of temporary urbanism in each context. In relation to this, Agheyisi (2023) highlights the Global North focuses its practice on revitalizing and innovating urban spaces to enhance their potential. While the Global South aims to address this practice to provide essential services, and bridge gaps in urban planning (Agheyisi, 2023). This ambiguity could be discussed, taking as reference the analysis of the mirror case studies and main case studies. In the case of the mirror case studies across European countries, all of them were initiated as experimental interventions to insert new uses in vacant spaces— which aligns with the statement of Agheyisi (2023). Similar to this, was the case of the main case study of Europe, *The Precollinear Park*.

Conversely, the Latin American mirror case studies revealed a broader spectrum of realities within the region's approach to temporary urbanism. For instance, *The Mungunzá Container Theatre* exemplified Agheyisi's (2023) perception of temporary urbanism in Latin America, as it was implemented in a vulnerable area to provide cultural alternatives, addressing socio-economic inequalities and a lack of access to cultural spaces for the lack of planning. Similar to this and aligned with Agheyisi's (2023) perception was the main case study of Latin America, *The Principal Park*. On the other hand, *The Pocket Squares Project* in Chile illustrated that certain parts of Latin America have policies supporting temporary urbanism, indicating a more structured and institutionalized approach similar to that seen in the Global North.

This comparison of the goals of temporary urbanism highlights that, in the European context, the practice is strongly characterized by its focus on revitalizing and innovating urban spaces, as described by Agheyisi (2023). In Latin America, while this approach is less prevalent, there are specific contexts where temporary urbanism is implemented with similar objectives to those in Europe, often achieving successful and meaningful impacts. Nevertheless, it is important to

note that such cases remain exceptions rather than the norm in Latin America, where temporary urbanism is often driven by grassroots initiatives and urgent needs rather than formal policies or experimental aspirations (Alegre, 2022).

The mirror case studies from Europe brought under the table important considerations such as: the intervention of mediators between residents and municipalities, the importance of georeferenced data to implement temporary programs or initiatives from the government, necessity and importance of regulations for the implementation of temporary urban projects.

The analysis of *The Project Neuland* and *Lucie-Flechtmann-Platz*, highlighted the significant benefits of incorporating mediators—organizations independent of the government—to assist residents in implementing temporary interventions. This aligns with Bragaglia and Parker's (2023) observation of the growing involvement of *intermediary-actors* in planning activities across Global North countries. These actors, described by Bragaglia and Parker (2023) as “mediators, negotiators, resources, regulators, or advisors” (p.56), play a crucial role in shaping policy agendas while working in collaboration with the governance. However, this collaboration implicates, as mentioned by Bragaglia and Parker (2023) a dependence “on regulatory spaces” (p. 58), because the interventions are made within formal cities. One of the reasons of the growing involvement of *intermediary-actors* could be what Bragaglia and Parker (2023) points out, that many communities rely on these intermediaries to help them navigate regulations and policies (Bragaglia and Parker, 2023). Even in countries with participatory planning programs, residents often have “little idea of how to construct a neighbourhood plan formally” (Bragaglia and Parker, 2023, p.60), highlighting the necessity of mediators in bridging the gap between policy frameworks and community needs.

In relation with the Latin American case studies in vulnerable areas, this thesis argues that formally integrating the role of mediators in the region could be beneficial. As shown in *figure 7*, 18.6% low-budget temporary interventions in this region are promoted by NGOs (*Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022*). Currently, many NGOs, such as *Sistema Urbano*, are informally assuming this role. Formalizing government collaboration with NGOs could streamline their work, improve operational efficiency, and even facilitate access to additional funding. In addition, as mentioned by Bragaglia and Parker (2023) a collaborative work between agencies and governments could help to translate policies to the communities and “translating community aspirations into formal policies” (p.60). This dynamic is particularly relevant in the Latin American context, where the absence of comprehensive urban

planning remains a significant challenge. In cities like Lima, where there is a lack of planning frameworks, integrating mediators into governance structures could serve as a strategic entry point to address this absence. As one interviewee noted:

“...If we analyze the organizational structure of Lima, and probably in the rest of Peru it does not exist a program of public spaces, not even one, it does not exist.” (J. Cepero, personal communication, January 14, 2024).

This highlights the urgent need for structured interventions and collaborative efforts that formalize public space initiatives. A collaborative effort between the government and external institutions can help “to mitigate the impacts of unhelpful Local Planning Authorities” as it happened in the Neighborhood Plan of England (Bragaglia and Parker, 2023, p. 61). However, the role of mediators is not neutral, as their actions are often shaped by the priorities of their funding institutions, which is mentioned by Bragaglia and Parker (2023) by arguing that mediators “use their agency to influence the process” (p.57). This trend is also evident in Latin America, where agencies increasingly shape their actions based on the priorities of their funders. This influence was highlighted in an interview with *Sistema Urbano*, where they were asked: “What is your organization’s approach to identifying sites for temporary urban interventions, particularly in settlements that originated informally?”

“Depends on the kind of process and the kind of fund we get. In one hand, many times the foundations already have some topics as main objectives. For example, if we talk about one organization that study migration, they ask us to identify areas where there is a potential of these phenomenon. Another example, could interventions made in collaboration from the initiative of Urban95, they focus on the elaboration of interventions that impact early childhood.” (I. Salazar, personal communication, December 13, 2024).

The analysis of incorporating mediators in the development of temporary urbanism reveals both opportunities and constraints in Latin America, where interventions often rely on external funding rather than autonomous decision-making. Formalizing partnerships between governments and NGOs could lead to more stable and context-driven approaches to urban transformation. Moreover, unlike in the European context, where mediators operate within formal frameworks (Bragaglia and Parker, 2023), temporary interventions in Latin America are more common in informal urban areas, where regulations are often overlooked. This

contrast is reflected in the following statement by a member of Intuyllab, an NGO working in vulnerable neighborhoods of Lima:

“...in general, the organizations that work doing these kinds of interventions work mainly in areas with high percentage of informality. It’s not usual to work in formal contexts because there are more regulations, the neighbors do not collaborate as much as in the informal cities. Neighbors from the formal cities can say “this can’t be done in this way”, so I think is even not possible to work in those contexts.” (J. Cepero, personal communication, January 14, 2024).

The primary case studies of *The Precollinear Park* and *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta* were led by organizations independent of the government. In both instances, these organizations facilitated participatory processes, empowering communities to envision and propose designs for transforming abandoned urban spaces. Despite the lack of formal collaboration with municipal authorities, both organizations obtained authorization to work in these areas. However, they effectively assumed the role of mediators informally, guiding community engagement and shaping the transformation process without an official mandate. This reflects an urgent formalization of the work of these institutions in both regions.

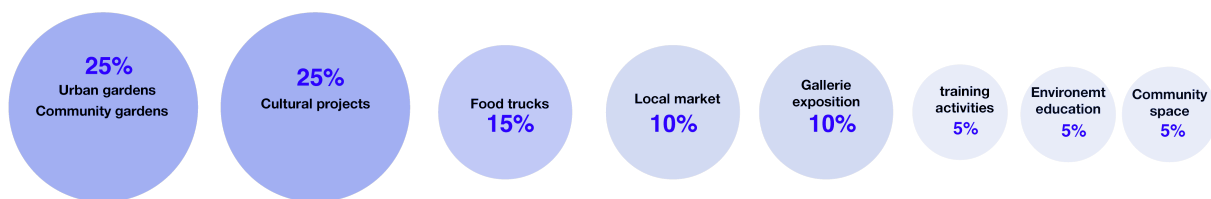
The second consideration, the access to georeferenced data, is an important difference between Latin America and Europe. In the majority of vulnerable areas of Latin America, the governments do not count with this systematization. This was proved in the interviews to the professionals from vulnerable neighborhoods of Lima: “The municipality in this moment do not count with georeferenced data” (R. Cabrera, personal communication, December 14, 2024); “What happens here is that we do not have an urban cadastre. We will start to develop one next year in collaboration with the Agency for Formalization of Informal Property (COFOPRI).” (C. Kuylen, personal communication, December 11, 2024). This factor, affects urban planning, decision-making, and the implementation of temporary urbanism projects; in contrast with the European context, which benefit from established georeferenced databases. Bridging this gap would not only enhance urban governance but also empower vulnerable communities by ensuring more targeted and effective interventions.

The third consideration—the necessity and importance of regulations—is a factor that, while well-developed in Europe, still reveals certain shortcomings in practice. The analysis of *Espai*

Germanetes highlighted this issue, showing that many temporary interventions are implemented precisely because they bypass the need for formal licensing. For example, urban gardens often fall outside the scope of regulatory requirements, enabling their relatively swift implementation (Brody, 2016). This highlights both the flexibility that such regulatory gaps can provide and the potential challenges in formalizing and scaling these initiatives within more rigid regulatory frameworks.

In connection with this final consideration, *figure 62* illustrates the percentage distribution of activities proposed across the various mirror and main case studies, with urban gardens representing the largest share. According to Brody (2016), the prominence of urban gardens can be attributed to the fact that their implementation typically does not require formal regulations or licensing. This regulatory flexibility makes urban gardens a popular choice for temporary interventions.

Figure 65: *Percentage of activities in the case studies*



Source: Elaborated by the author in relation with Brody (2016) theory.

The case studies also revealed significant differences in key components, such as the sources of financial support. In all the European case studies, funding was sourced exclusively from within the continent. In contrast, the Latin American case studies showed that the majority of funding originated from within the same country as the project's implementation. However, the main case study stood out by securing financial support from an international agency. According to the website of *Sistema Urbano*, this approach—combining local funding with international collaboration—is a common strategy for securing resources in the region.

Another significant finding from the analysis of the mirror case studies is the potential for temporary projects to evolve into long-term or even permanent interventions. Of the seven case studies analyzed in this thesis, five originally conceived as temporary eventually became permanent, with some lasting over eight years. Notably, all the case studies from Latin America

transitioned into permanent urban interventions. Highlighting a recurring trend in the region where temporary initiatives often serve as precursors to more enduring urban transformations, this was expressed continually by professionals that were interviewed for this thesis:

“It’s also essential to clarify that the intervention is temporary because it will eventually lead to an improvement of the space and a permanent transformation. It cannot remain purely temporary; if it does, it could become a risk in itself. Temporary urbanism in vulnerable areas must be part of a larger-scale plan that ultimately results in something permanent.” (S. Lopez, personal communication, December 19, 2024).

“Temporary interventions in vulnerable Latin American contexts can be effective, but only if they become part of a broader process of formalization and improvement in those areas. I wouldn’t consider them a valuable tool for abandoned spaces in vulnerable contexts if they remain purely temporary.” (S. Lopez, personal communication, December 19, 2024).

“I consider temporary urban projects as strategy to activate vacant or unused spaces, only if they end up being permanent” (C. Kuylen, personal communication, December 11, 2024).

“... I would insert this kind of urbanism as phase of a permanent project.” (R. Cabrera personal communication, December 14, 2024).

“As well there is a bias about these kind of interventions from the government by thinking that they are not useful and also the lack of vision from the government to scale these kinds of interventions to something permanent.” (F. Muro personal communication, December 13, 2024).

These perspectives from Latin American professionals highlight the importance of integrating temporary urbanism into broader, long-term urban strategies rather than treating it as a temporary, experimental intervention. A reason of this could be the extensive informality in the urbanization of Latin American cities, which often exacerbates challenges related to planning and development (Milian, 2020). A notable example is Lima, where the prevalence of informal urbanization has contributed to a deficit of an average of 1,900 hectares of public spaces (Huaman et al., 2021). This underscores the need for permanent solution because the entire city has a lack of it.

The main case study of *The Principal Park* exemplifies how temporary and permanent solutions can be effectively combined in vulnerable areas through thoughtful material selection and strategic zoning. Building on the need for temporary interventions to be integrated into broader urban strategies, as emphasized by Latin American professionals, this project demonstrates how such an approach can address the lack of public spaces in these vulnerable areas. Recognizing the community's urgent need for public spaces, the NGO *Sistema Urbano* enhanced the quality of the area by defining its boundaries with durable materials like concrete. Simultaneously, they introduced flexible spaces using low-cost, easily removable materials, allowing for adaptability if certain elements proved unsuitable for the community. This balanced approach ensures that temporary interventions not only respond to immediate needs but also contribute meaningfully to long-term urban improvements, aligning with the broader objectives of sustainable urban planning.

An important element from temporary intervention is the creation of these projects with participatory processes in collaboration with the local communities. Nevertheless, four of the seven projects analyzed were developed under bottom-up practices and only two of them had active action from the governments. One reason can be contributed to the factor that governments in vulnerable areas –such as the main case study of Lima– lack of professionals with studies related to the management of territories. This brings as consequence that municipalities have not regulations for experimental urban intervention, since this practice is not in their professional lenses. Even in the European context, most of the cases analyzed were also promoted by non-governmental entities, despite the presence of a significant number of urban planning schools in the region. It can be argued then, that for both case scenarios there are low initiatives from the government to implement temporary urban projects, regardless of the differing urban and educational disparities characteristics of these contexts.

The study demonstrates that temporary urbanism aims to provide citizens with an opportunity to play a more active role in shaping their cities and participating in decision-making. It offers a new approach to combining bottom-up initiatives with top-down policies in the management of public spaces, as seen in examples such as *PLA Buits* in Barcelona and the *Pocket Squares* in Chile.

For instance, there is a notable disparity in the participation of citizens related in the educational backgrounds of the participants. In the European context, citizens typically possess a professional background, and, as exemplified in the case of *The Precollinear Park*, some even

have formal education in architecture (see *table 12*) or urban studies, as said by a team member of Torino Stratosferica in an interview:

“Regarding the local community, they were involved since the beginning... Most of them were young architects or urban planners, so every idea was coming up with a very collective brainstorm” (D. Vaccai, personal communication, December 18, 2024).

The prior knowledge, as architects or urban planners, facilitates the work of the project promoters. In contrast, citizens from vulnerable areas in Latin America, such as those in the case of *The Principal Park of Pamplona Alta*, often lack formal educational qualifications (see *table 20*). As a result, the work of promoters in these contexts could be more challenging.

Another significant difference lies in the delegation of management and maintenance responsibilities, which are often transferred to citizens through formal agreements with the municipality in European contexts. In contrast, this approach may be less feasible in vulnerable areas of Latin America, where limited financial resources hinder the capacity of local populations to assume such responsibilities. Nevertheless, in many instances, communities in these marginalized areas are compelled to take on these duties, primarily due to the inadequate attention and support from local municipalities, as well as the pressing need for the development and maintenance of public spaces in these regions (see *figure 59*).

In terms of executing interventions, citizens in Latin America often possess greater practical expertise due to their frequent involvement in occupations related to construction, woodworking, and metalworking. As highlighted by Susana Lopez under an interview, she states that this characteristic is a strength from Latin America:

“The “auto-construction” is just a topic from Latin America, because here in Latin America there are not the regulations that exist in Europe. This plays in favor of Latin America, because Europe’s regulations can be too rigid that can act as a limitation to do some interventions. For example, if you know someone from the community that knows how to work with iron or wood it is easy to access and involve them in the transformation. Not just by involving them in the design, but also in the execution and this means that it reinforces the identity with the space. Because if you did the chair that you have in the park Infront of your house, you will take care of it. As well, involving people from the community in the production and execution of an

interventions also means that we will pay to them.” (S. Lopez, personal communication, December 19, 2024)

In Latin America, the community effectively serves as skilled labor, eliminating the need for workshops focused on the implementation of urban infrastructure. Therefore, skills associated with “auto-construction” play a crucial role in facilitating temporary urbanism practices in these contexts, enabling local communities to actively contribute to the realization of such projects without relying on external professional expertise.

The informality in vulnerable areas of Latin America also shapes the organization of the neighborhoods. In the case of Lima, these vulnerable areas always count with community organization formed by residents (Matos Mar, 2012). This provides a better foundation for collective action and community-driven initiatives, as these organizations often play a crucial role in addressing local issues such as infrastructure, security, and social services. Such grassroots structures from informal cities enable residents to have a more direct influence on the development and management of their neighborhoods, fostering resilience and promoting collaboration with external actors, including NGOs and local authorities, in urban interventions such as temporary ones.

This discussion of temporary urbanism across Latin America and Europe reveals both shared opportunities and distinct challenges shaped by their respective regional contexts. It demonstrates how the informal and formal characteristics of cities influence the strategies for implementing temporary urban projects.

Citizen urbanism theory

According to different authors there is a large number of terminologies to refer to temporary urbanism around different contexts and regions (Bishop & Williams, 2012; Chang, 2018; Andres & Zhang 2020; Crump 2020; Gańcza-Pawelczyk, 2024). In light of this ambiguity, one notable distinction emerges in the context of Latin America, where the term "temporary urbanism" is not commonly used to describe temporary experimental interventions of low-cost budget.

This was evident through the literature review and interviews conducted with various stakeholders. The interviews with professionals from Lima revealed that most individuals from urban agencies, academia, and policymaking circles were unfamiliar with the term. However,

some participants associated the concept with tactical urbanism. And others had clear that there is an overlapping of concepts:

“...there are many examples of these practices in Latin America, I think there’s a lack of alignment in methodologies. In general, concepts like placemaking and tactical urbanism exist, but their processes don’t differ significantly from one another...” (I. Salazar, personal communication, December 13, 2024).

“I don’t know if you refer to temporary urbanism as tactical urbanism” (S. Lopez, personal communication, December 19, 2024).

“I’ve never heard about temporary urbanism” (A. Rodriguez, personal communication, December 23, 2024).

“... many overlapping terms have emerged. For example, some organizations or studios chose to call it “Do-It-Yourself Urbanism,” which became popular in a specific context. Meanwhile, in other contexts, it is called tactical urbanism, placemaking, or temporary urbanism, but ultimately, they refer to the same idea. Because they are concepts that are born from the practice nobody agrees about what is what and everybody has their own interpretation of the concepts. To have many concepts that describes the same phenomenon is complex, and is mainly because nobody has interest to make theory about it. At the same time, there is not a general consensus about what is what. And I’m sure from here to five years there will appear two or three new concepts, for example someone could put the term “tik-tok urbanism”, a scene that is only set up to put it in the tik-tok media.” (J. Cepero, personal communication, January 14, 2024).

Furthermore, during my internship with a Peruvian urban NGO, I encountered the term "citizen urbanism," which was used to describe practices sharing similar characteristics with temporary urbanism as shown in *table 28* . Even so, the concept citizen urbanism, such as Lopez et al. (2022) highlight is more commonly implemented in marginalized neighborhoods due to their self-built nature. Additionally, it emerges from grassroots initiatives, where local actors—often without formal governmental support—lead interventions to transform urban spaces (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022). For these reasons, citizen urbanism has distinct characteristics that influence their implementation in the informal cities of the Latin American context. Particularly in terms of temporality, as it considers both temporary and permanent projects within its framework.

However, as explained in the materiality characteristic, when a project is designed as permanent, the materials used differ from those typically associated with low-cost temporary urbanism.

Citizen urbanism introduces two key characteristics that are not typically considered in temporary urbanism but could significantly enhance its conceptualization: human scale and measurable impact. First, human scale emphasizes a deliberate focus on inclusive design, ensuring that urban spaces are accessible and accommodating for vulnerable users. This aspect is often absent in temporary urbanism, as demonstrated by several case studies analyzed in this thesis, where interventions failed to incorporate adequate design solutions for these populations.

Second, measurable impact is a crucial factor in assessing the effectiveness of interventions. However, a review of the literature examined in this thesis reveals that this characteristic is largely overlooked and is not explicitly considered within the conceptualization of temporary urbanism. Even so, some projects, such as *The Precollinear Park*, have incorporated evaluation methodologies. Integrating measurable impact as a core dimension of temporary urbanism could strengthen its theoretical foundation, enhance its legitimacy, and contribute to a more comprehensive and socially responsive approach to urban transformation.

Table 28: Comparison of key characteristics of Temporary and Citizen urbanism

Key characteristics in Temporary Urbanism and Citizen Urbanism	
Temporary Urbanism	Citizen urbanism
<p>Duration: Complex conception about this characteristic, because the authors disagree in the time frame (Madanipour, 2017; Milian, 2020; Chang, 2021; Gańcza-Pawelczyk, 2024; C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group & C40 Knowledge Hub, 2023). This thesis uses the general definition by Bishop & Williams (2012): long-lasting and/or temporary.</p> <p>According to Bragaglia & Caruso (2021) and Gańcza-Pawelczyk (2024) agreements for temporary uses can involve a contract between the main actors involve in the projects which sets a fixed start and end dates, or alternatively a flexible arrangement with a brief cancellation period.</p>	<p>Temporality: ephemeral, lasting only a few hours; temporary, which can span from hours to several months or even years; and permanent, designed from the outset to endure over extended periods (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022)</p>
<p>Stakeholders: Local authorities, civil society groups, and private companies (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020).</p>	<p>Stakeholders: Is not mentioned as key characteristic for the concept of citizen urbanism.</p>
<p>Materiality/Budget: Affordable, easy to transport, and adaptable across various purposes, existing or recycled materials to increase resource efficiency and reduce costs (Bishop, 2015 ; Kawa et al., 2024).</p>	<p>Materiality: Linked to temporality of the projects. Ephemeral are easy to transport, and recycled, or economically very cheap. Temporary are easily installable materials, balancing cost and durability. Permanent have robust materiality to ensure longevity and functionality (Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] et al., 2022).</p>
<p>Adaptability: Temporary urban practices can begin as a local intervention and then expand globally (Koyama, 2017)</p>	<p>Small Scale: Relates to the ease of implementation and replication, which contribute to making the transformation more noticeable (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022)</p>
	<p>Human scale: Refers to the direct relation of the design and the different kind of users, such as “girls, boys and their caregivers, older adults and people with disabilities” (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022, p.47).</p>
	<p>Measurable impact: Quantitative methods like surveys and counts, along with qualitative approaches such as observations and user interviews, help identify and communicate key changes and improvements before and after the intervention (Ocupa tu Calle et al., 2022).</p>

Source: Elaborated by the author

The term “citizen urbanism” further contributes to the terminological complexity surrounding temporary urban practices, as scholars and practitioners use diverse concepts to describe similar interventions. At the same time, it contributes to its conceptualization for the region of Latin America, where it is related to the informal city and their unique characteristics. Even so, there is limit research about this term.

Limitations of the thesis

This thesis investigates the dynamics of temporary interventions in public spaces across the Global South and Global North, where the exploration in the Global South is mainly focus in vulnerable areas. The exploration of temporary urbanism has different limitations. Firstly, in the theoretical framework, where it was shown that there is an overlapping between the different concepts around temporary urbanism (see *table 5*).

Another notable limitation is the gap in research on temporary urbanism in the Global South (Andres & Zhang, 2020), resulting in a limited availability of academia literature and resources for analyzing these practices in Latin America. This gap not only poses challenges for academia inquiry but also complicates the practical implementation and institutional recognition of temporary urbanism, as different stakeholders operate within varying conceptual frameworks, leading to inconsistencies in policy and practice.

Beyond these conceptual challenges, this thesis also faced methodological limitations in the fieldwork conducted within the Latin American context, specifically in Lima, where access to urban planners was limited. This challenge can be attributed, in part, to the absence of urban planning schools in the city. As illustrated in *tables 2, 3, and 4*, the majority of interviewees with a professional background in urban planning pursued their studies outside Latin America.

By examining regional differences in the practice of temporary urbanism, the findings of this thesis offer valuable insights and lessons drawn from both contexts, enriching our understanding of temporary urbanism, especially in the context of Latin America. Moving forward, the conclusion will summarize the key findings and provide recommendations for enhancing the implementation of such projects in diverse urban environments.

4.2 Conclusion

The projects that have been presented in this thesis transform vacant and abandoned urban spaces, a transformation consciously undertaken by bottom-up approaches rather than top-down. Due to this process of transformation, this research considers that temporary urbanism in Latin America, has unique characteristics mainly as consequence of its relation with the informal city, that is not present in Europe. These characteristics influence the implementation of the practice of temporary urbanism in this region. Moreover, this research argues that temporary urbanism in Latin America is more closely related to do-it-yourself urbanism than to tactical urbanism (see concepts in *table 5*). While both represents citizen-led transformations of urban space, the action from tactical urbanism used to have more collaboration of municipalities (Lydon & Garcia, 2015). On the other hand, do-it-yourself urbanism do not, necessary, have collaboration from municipalities and either try to have implication in policies (Lydon & Garcia, 2015).

As discussed in the previous section, most of the projects documented in this thesis illustrate a comparable yet contrasting phenomenon, where public spaces in the formal and informal cities are transformed through the efforts of agencies, residents, or municipalities. The data collected from the analyzed projects across Europe and Latin America demonstrated that vacant and abandoned spaces can be revitalized and activated through a variety of uses (see *figure 60*) and creatively transformed with minimal resources for both context (Kawa et al., 2024), despite their urban differences. But as it was discussed previously, the practice in vulnerable areas of Latin America should consider also to use permanent materials, as it is included in the concept of citizen urbanism, in order to provide to the community a base for the experimentation. Considering that, in many cases, the areas designated as public spaces in the informal city are little more than bare land, such it was the case of *The Principal Park* (see *figure 45* and *46*). Thus, integrating permanent elements into these projects is a vital strategy if what the intervention is looking for is to address urban issues.

As many professionals mentioned in the interviews conducted for this thesis, temporary interventions in vulnerable cities should be integrated into long-term urban plans to ensure their evolution into permanent or definitive spaces. This perspective aligns with findings from Garcia (2020) in Chile, where professionals from the municipalities also highlighted the use of temporary interventions as a “precondition for the ‘permanent’ (or ‘definitive’) physical

change in the city” (p.133). Similarly, this trend is observed in Europe, where financial constraints from municipalities often push the use of temporary interventions not only as short-term, but also as long-term improvements (Bragaglia & Caruso, 2020).

This thesis considers that for the case of vulnerable areas of Latin America, to achieve this integration of temporary intervention as part of a long-term plan there is necessity of more technical professionals involve on it. To achieve this, municipalities could work in formal collaboration with the academy and agencies like *Torino Stratosferica* or *Sistema Urbano*. For this, the implementation of mediators is necessary to translate what the government requires and what the community needs as mentioned by Bragaglia and Parker (2024). In addition, this research suggests that municipalities in Latin America could also consider ask for international collaboration, especially in cases where there is not only lack of professionals, but also lack of georeferenced data.

Throughout this thesis, it became evident that vacancy and abandonment are crucial conditions that foster the emergence of innovative temporary uses. The research also highlights that in the informal city, where there is a significant need for public spaces, temporary urbanism can play a vital role in providing such spaces and, at the same time, serve as an initial step toward improving the quality of public spaces. However, as many professionals interviewed for this research emphasized, it is essential to make it clear from the outset that these interventions should not be viewed as a final solution to the ongoing lack of public spaces of vulnerable areas.

Overall, the comparison between European and Latin American cases highlights how each context contributes unique insights to the global framework of temporary urbanism. Even so, there remains a critical need for greater scientific production from the Global South, as this thesis has demonstrated that such interventions are actively practiced in the region. Additionally, further research is needed to explore how temporary projects can be effectively integrated into formal urban planning in Latin America. Furthermore, developing a comprehensive guideline for these practices in the informal city could provide valuable direction and ensure more sustainable and meaningful outcomes.

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Annexes

Annex 1: *Interview to Urban Agencies*

Interview 1

Interview to Daniele Vaccai

Agency: *Torino Stratosferica*

Date: 18 of December 2024

1. Can you please introduce yourself very briefly and what is your role in Torino Stratosferica?

My name is Daniele, I've been working for Stratosferica since 2020. At the moment I hold several roles within the organization. I manage the production of editorial content and oversee the operations team. Additionally, I coordinate the production of various events organized by Stratosferica.

As a copywriter, I handle communication for our consulting projects in the urban sector. In general, in Stratosferica the team is little, so I'm the head of operation and I follow all the processes around projects we run.

2. What prompted you to propose a temporary urban planning intervention in Turin such as the Precollinear Park case? Can you briefly describe the project?

The Precollinear Park was born as a vision. Our work in Stratosferica in placemaking is strictly connected to city image. Everything started 10 years ago by gathering once, twice per week the cultural and creative leaders of the city around the same table to discuss about how to enhance the potential of the city of Torino. Not by a very technical point of view, but with some more inspirational attitude, without considering the regulation. During one of those vision sessions, emerged the idea to transform an abandoned tram line area into a public park. That was the first time that we mentioned the idea to create the Precollinear park, but at that time it was just an idea.

During covid-19, where we started to hear more about the importance of public green spaces in cities. According to this concept, Stratosferica decided to expend some of our budget for the maintenance of the place, with a very light vision, by just keeping clean, taking care of the trail, putting some lights, to showcase the project we had in mind. In June we invited the residents, people from the city council and different friends around Torino Stratosferica at that time.

We started to involve the community to start to understand how to transform that space to get their inputs. For this, we started to gather with the neighbors every Saturday morning. We also started to activate the space from a cultural point of view. In 2020, during the summer we started to organize two or three cultural events per week such as book presentation, dj sets, exhibitions, gardening workshops, events for kids, among others. In very short time the Precollina Park became an experiment of citizen activation by evolving the community.

The project lasted around three years, later the city council decided to re install the tram way line. We were aware of the fact that it was a temporary use, that sooner or later it was going to happen. When you do this kind of experiments the concept of temporary is very wide, it could be one year, two years or whatever. We didn't have a contract with specific time, but there was an annually contract.

3. This project required collaboration among the city administration, private organizations, and local communities. Could you break down the roles and contributions of each stakeholder throughout the project? How did their involvement evolve over time, and were there any unexpected challenges or synergies that arose from these partnerships?

We were in a public space, so the city administration was one of the key stakeholders, because we need the permission to use the space. Of course, is not always easy to talk with public administration. But in general, I would say that we collected very positive feedbacks from the public council because we were taking care of a public space without asking money. It was an intervention basically for free by just investing our money and being economically self-sufficient from the city. We asked help to different stakeholders related to companies from the water, energy, waste management. For example, we asked to AMIAD, the company for the waste management, to create a new path to take the trash from the park, because before the intervention there weren't trashes. The dialogue was not always easy with the different actors, but we tried to create a cooperation with them.

Regarding the local community, they were involved since the beginning. The main tool to gathering and involve the residents was the routine we had for 3 years every Saturday from 9 a.m. to lunch time. For this, we offered lunch to create this community moment. Most of them were young architects or urban planners, so every idea was coming up with a very collective brainstorm.

Regarding private companies, there were some giving us materials for free as a kind of sponsorship for the project. Because they believed it was a nice project to support and consistent with their mission and vision as companies. We also won a prize from IGPDecaux, a big company related to urban advertisement, we won around 20k that helped us to develop the project the first year.

We had also lot of donations from the community by the different cultural events launched every week in the intervention. So, the community were coming and maybe they have a little drink and, in that way, they gave us some economical support to take care of the space. It was not for profit, but it helped to maintained an economical balance between our effort and the results.

4. Considering the marketing of project was taking as reference the High Line Park name, project from New York. Could you explain why this particular reference was chosen in your promotional materials? Did you adapt any specific practices or methodologies from the High Line model, or were there elements of its success that you felt particularly aligned with the goals of your own project?

They are two different scales; the high line park is like the highest level of revitalization and probably one of the most iconic projects of the last 20 years. But it was a reference because it was something we were studying for a lot of time. In fact, in our festival, *utopian hours*, in 2022 was hosted by the Jhoshua Hammond, the man behind the vision of the high line. It was a reference also because with all the complex urban environment from New York, the high line park showed that is possible to re imagine radically an abandoned infrastructure. So, we chose that reference because in a way it was the same model of urban regeneration. Of course, in two different scales, in the precollinear park, stratosferica were doing placemaking with a low budget and low impact in the environment, with temporary infrastructure. But at the same time with similar points like the attention to the urban ecology, the community involvement.

Some people in Torino are not really friends of stratosferica's work. It is very hard to find a general agreement between all the stakeholders involved.

5. Measuring the impact of a temporary urbanism project is crucial for understanding its effectiveness and areas for improvement. What tools or

mechanisms did you use to assess the transformation of Precollinear Park? Did you rely on community feedback, quantitative data, or other forms of evaluation? Given that this was your first placemaking project, how did these methods evolve throughout the process?

There were daily measurements of the interaction of the people in the space. For example, we monitored the number of people using the space and the kind of people using the space and the new uses of the areas. For instance, there was an area mainly used by students in Corso Gabbeti, because it is really close to a high school. So, in lunch time it was like an arena for them. We did this measurement day by day, month by month and year by year and trying to see if the numbers were increasing.

In the Ponte Margareti bridge area, we saw that people started to use the central area of the bridge instead of the sidewalks because they perceived it as a safer area. We basically did these measurements through daily observation and on field observation.

6. Keeping a space active and vibrant is a key element of temporary urbanism. What strategies did you use to ensure continuous city engagement? Did you implement a calendar of events, seasonal programming, or other activities to attract diverse groups of people? How did you use branding and marketing to support this?

I believe the two main tools we utilized were the weekly volunteer sessions held every Saturday and the cultural activation involving some of the best cultural entities and organizations, not only from Torino but beyond. Through the volunteer sessions, people actively participated in the transformation of the space, fostering a sense of ownership and community engagement. Meanwhile, the cultural activation offered a diverse range of programs, ensuring the space remained vibrant and continuously active.

Between January and March, we worked on the organization of the different events for the cultural program. And in the beginning of May we had a fully complete program for the whole season. The cultural events were program from May to September for the public.

7. Many temporary urbanism projects involve entrepreneurs—like food trucks—who pay a symbolic rent for the use of public spaces. Did you adopt a similar model

for the businesses involved in your project? How did you balance financial sustainability with accessibility for local entrepreneurs, and what benefits did this arrangement bring to the overall project?

Our food trucks never had rents, is a public space so we can't ask people to pay. The food trucks owners were not part of the community.

8. In my thesis I analyzed different temporary intervention and even when the government is involved there are still some bureaucratic challenges. Was this the case? If so, how did you overcome them, and what lessons could other cities or organizations learn from your experience in navigating these challenges?

Yes, there are always bureaucratic challenges, especially in Italy. We are proposing a not traditional urbanism, there are people from the local council that understand this. But most of the time we deal with people afraid to allow us to do something in public spaces because it is their responsibility.

9. Are there any policy changes you would advocate for to encourage more flexibility and experimentation in public space use?

To start this kind of experimental interventions is necessary to be more flexible. Rules are fundamental to regulate, but at the same time if you see that there are organizations, a collective or a group of citizens are doing something following the common sense why to say not? is something to reflect on. But in Italy specially there is culture of risk, because if we talk about the northern countries in Europe there different, citizens are more responsible of their actions. But in Italy it seems to be that the politics and the local administration are taking all the risk, they only take care about us not to create a dangerous situation because it would be problem for them. So, citizens are delegitimate of their own actions.

In Torino, as far as I know there was only one case used by the new tool from the TUTUR program for the flashback habitats project in the hill of the city. Thanks to this tool and the dialogue between the city council and the cultural entity flashback, this space now is a little museum, bar with sometimes cultural events in summer time. But until now is the only case created by this tool and probably will be the only one that will be realized.

10. Now that the Precollinear Park project is over, you have created a new temporary urban design space in Corso Farini. Was this project born from the same premises as the first one or did it differ in some way?

In a way it was the same idea and process, but since it was the second project, we had experienced and we were more aware of the risk, challenges and so on. The main difference with the Precollinear Park is that we immediately found a very strong connection with the city council and also with an international partner, which was *cities for forest*. This international stakeholder, is an international network of 82 cities from the world, they take care of urban environments and tropical forests. They gave us money and timber material to create the project. As well, one of the founders of *cities for forest* was in Torino helping our team to follow the self-building workshop that involved the participation of the community.

11. Urbanism in the Global South faces unique challenges, including limited access to public spaces, green areas, and informal settlements. Do you believe that temporary urbanism could be an effective strategy in these contexts to decrease these challenges? Underlining that it wouldn't be seen as a solution.

I think temporary urbanism could be an effective strategy for the future of city-making because it produces positive aspects. In one side the involvement of people, that creates sense of belonging with the area intervened. On the other side, there are a lot of abandoned and under used areas in the cities, and usually, big investors and municipalities are not always able to take care of those spaces. As well, if there are some visions from others to create new spaces in abandoned or under used areas why not to let them do interventions.

In general, temporary doesn't mean nothing; it could be permanent also. It depends on how you manage the project and is related to how you follow the process and in the outcome.

Interview 2

Interview to: Ingrid Salazar (IS) and Flavia Muro (FM)

Agency: Sistema Urbano

Date: 13 of December 2024

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and describe your role?

IS: I'm Ingrid Salazar, Coordinator of Citizen Urbanism from the NGO Sistema Urbano, which has under its charge different initiatives such as Ocupa tu calle and Lima Cómo Vamos.

FM: I'm Flavia Muro. I have a specialization in urban design and I'm also part of the citizen urbanism team. I collaborate with the design, management and execution of projects. We work in Sistema Urbano with the methodology of citizen urbanism, an urbanism from, for and by citizens, this methodology works through participatory processes in all the different steps of interventions.

2. Do you consider citizen urbanism to be synonymous with temporary urbanism, or do you see them as distinct concepts? How do these ideas relate to informal settlements and their unique challenges?

IS: I think we need to have different considerations. For example, the actions we do are mainly done by funds and in collaboration with the neighbors. In this sense, we have to think very careful in the election of materials, taking in count the budget and its sustainability. We try to involve the municipalities, specifically since the "pact for public spaces" to influence in public policies. I'm not sure about the European context, but we worked in collaboration with the municipality of Bordeaux from France and they told us that for them is almost impossible to involve the residents in the intervention of spaces, so they don't promote this kind of participation.

In Pamplona case, they are a settlement that have documentation by the Agency for Formalization of Informal Property (COFOPRI), which is part of the Ministry of Housing. However, this area is considerate as informal settlement by the municipality. And this complexity makes Pamplona to be informal, but from Sistema Urbano we don't consider it as

informal, because if we talk about papers, they have it. We consider these kind of settlements as auto-constructed settlements or neighborhoods that are in process of consolidation.

The challenges in these areas are mainly that the municipality do not take care of them. And that makes that when we do it some urban interventions the maintenance is not constant by the neighbors. This is basically, because the residents cannot be in charge of it, because they have several necessities, even basic necessities such as access to drinking water, sewage, electricity, low economy. However, these communities have a positive factor that is the organization and that is how they can manage these interventions most of the time. In this sense, the first challenge is that the municipality do not take care of these areas and from the citizens we have to look for ways to maintain these interventions.

The second challenge is the budget. Usually, the funds we get are really small and doesn't allow us to use permanent materials, they used to be recycled materials. Additionally, I could say another challenge is the participation. Even that our methodology is based on it, it is a real challenge to gather them, because they live from the day, so they work most of the days. That's why from Sistema Urbano, we try to adapt to their already scheduled activities.

Additionally, in the case of Peru also sometimes is better not to ask for permission to make some interventions. Because if you ask for it to the municipality they put you some obstacles, that's why sometimes this kind of interventions are consider as illegal. But at the same time since these areas are not considered as part of the municipality they cannot do so much.

FM: To build on what Ingrid has already explained, I wouldn't see them as entirely different. Instead, I view citizen urbanism as a mechanism that can support and validate temporary urbanism. I would consider it another methodology, as citizen urbanism enables us to achieve various outcomes—whether they are temporary interventions, permanent solutions, cultural projects, or others.

3. What is your organization's approach to identifying sites for temporary urban interventions, particularly in settlements that started since the informality?

IS: Depends on the kind of process and the kind of fund we get. In one hand, many times the foundations already have some topics as main objectives. For example, if we talk about one organization that study migration, they ask us to identify areas where there is a potential of these phenomenon. Another example, could interventions made in collaboration from the initiative of Urban95, they focus on the elaboration of interventions that impact early childhood. But from Sistema Urbano, we always try to link the interventions to the “pact of public spaces” to make actions that will last for a long period and that influence public policies.

We also ask to municipalities through the “pact of public spaces” some requirements to access to our interventions. For example, we ask that the space where they need the intervention has to be part of a bigger project. And for this we have a form where municipalities ask for this intervention.

In the case of Pamplona Alta, it was a different case. It began by us; we first did a global analysis of different vulnerable districts of Lima. The chosen of Pamplona Alta was influenced by the stakeholder “Hermanas Parker” who were already working in this area with some kindergartens. We also reviewed some indicators as reference from the NGO “TECHO”, and we identified different potentialities around the context of Pamplona Alta, such as a public school that has kindergarten, elemental and high school. We also identified a principal bus stop, as well an organized “junta vecinal” (neighborhood council) and an organized “olla común” (common pot). After identifying the potential areas for public spaces, we started to look for funds. That was our process for Pamplona Alta.

In general, we apply to different funds from international organizations such UN or IDB and depending on them we align our guidelines to what they are looking for.

FM: I would add that in our experience we discovered that when a project seeks to enhance interpersonal relationships is usually to use temporal urbanism. Apparently, this type of urban planning encourages the community and its organization so they make a click.

4. Do you think there are any risks in using temporary urban planning in informal neighborhoods in Latin America? For example, do some European practices end up reinforcing inequalities or displacing communities?

FM: I think in general these kind of interventions like temporary urbanism or placemaking have a bias in the regulation within Latin America. In some areas is changing such in Colombia and Peru. Particularly in Peru the school of architecture just incorporated an ephemeral urbanism as a typology and something similar in Colombia. But in general, I think the risk is related with the government, especially the local municipality, who should be in charge of the management and maintaining of these kinds of interventions.

As well there is a bias about these kind of interventions from the government by thinking that they are not useful and also the lack of vision from the government to scale these kinds of interventions to something permanent.

5. How would you describe the involvement of private, public and academia organizations in your projects? Are there differences in how these partnerships function in informal versus formal urban areas?

IS: In the case of the private organizations their involvement is basically related with social responsibility that obligates them to take action with the communities around the area where they are located. But there are other with more creativity where they do contests to communities get a fund.

In relation with the government, I consider that citizen participation should be reinforced because there is a bit of fear. There are some actions, but not constantly. Here is weird that citizens could speak directly with the major of the district about the problems of their neighborhoods. Here is usually to see majors with five or six bodyguards, which make it hard to speak with them.

In relation with the academy, I would like to see more participation from the school of engineering. But I'm as an engineer can say that the university do not teach us about methodologies of citizen participation. As well, there is so much theory from the academy but not practice. Additionally, many of the studies made by the academy start by going to the place and they never come back to tell them about the results.

In general, we need to understand that necessities in the formal and informal cities are totally different. From the side of the informal city, they are more worry about basic services, violence, abuse. And from the side of the formal city can be worry about real state.

FM: In the academy, I believe it's crucial to involve multiple disciplines. It's often difficult to find universities that encourage collaboration between different departments on these types of projects. Typically, we receive invitations from architecture schools, but it would be valuable to include sociologists, lawyers, engineers, and other experts to conduct more comprehensive research.

From Sistema Urbano, we were part of some courses of participatory processes from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and we took the students to the site areas to not stay just with the theory.

In relation with the differences between how stakeholders are in informal and formal urban areas, I would say that there are big differences. Basically, these differences are mark by the economic dimension, so in this case, for example, the private companies have no interest in representation in formal areas, in these areas they do intervention more in relation with branding or marketing. In the case of public entities, I consider that in formal areas, they are more careful in their communication and how to involve or not to involve the participation of the neighbors. On the other hand, in informal settlements I consider the municipality do not care about the communication with the neighbors. And the involvement of the neighbors in informal areas is basically because of their own vulnerability and necessity of those spaces.

Additionally, in the academy there are more studies in formal settlements. And the studies in informal settlements are focus in urban challenges and risks. In general, I consider the differences are mainly mark by the economic dimension of the informal and formal city.

6. What tools or methods does your organization use to evaluate the success or impact of a temporary urban intervention? Do you approach impact measurement differently in informal urban areas? How often do you review these impacts over time (e.g., months, years)?

IS: It depends on the type of project and the materials used. From the very beginning of an intervention, we always inform the community about how long the project will remain in the space. If it's temporary, the maximum duration is six months to a year, after which the space must either be improved or the intervention removed. In this context, we measure the impacts both before and after the interventions. Additionally, we monitor other interventions carried out by municipalities or local residents in these areas.

7. How would you describe the balance between research and practice within your organization?

IS: Lima Como Vamos, we conduct an annual survey to assess various aspects of the city of Lima. We also offer courses aimed at citizens; for instance, during the electoral period, we organized a course titled 'What is the Role of Municipalities?' to provide voters with essential information and help them make more informed decisions.

As well we are part of the website call "Collaborative Urban Library" with a compilation of open and available publications related to urbanism.

FM: Also, for the interventions we have to do something like research to do strategic plans for the interventions.

8. Why do you think there is a lack of research on temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism in the Latin American context, especially in academia literature?

IS: I believe so. While there are many examples of these practices in Latin America, I think there's a lack of alignment in methodologies. In general, concepts like placemaking and tactical urbanism exist, but their processes don't differ significantly from one another.

FM: I think research on this topic is just beginning in Latin America, as most of the existing literature generally comes from the USA or Europe.

9. Does your organization actively work to influence or shape public policy? Can you give examples of successful cases where your work has contributed to policy changes, particularly in informal urban contexts?

IS: Yes, we make a consistent effort to do this, especially through initiatives like the 'Pact for Public Spaces.' Additionally, we contribute to the development of urban plans by providing feedback and opinions. A few years ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we collaborated with the Ministry of Housing to help draft a new law for public spaces.

FS: During that time, we also collaborated with the Ministry of Housing to create a guideline on how to use public spaces in the context of COVID-19. Additionally, as part of our framework at Sistema Urbano, the final phase of any intervention always focuses on influencing public policies

IS: We also organize an annual event called the International Festival of Urban Interventions (FIIU) to raise awareness and highlight urban actions and the needs of cities

10. What changes or advances would you like to see in the field of citizen urbanism/temporary urbanism in the context of Latin America?

FS: I would emphasize the importance of incorporating these types of interventions into public policies. From our experience, we've observed that many professionals working within municipalities share this vision individually. However, there is often a conflict with the priorities of the municipality's leadership. I would also like to see Urban Development Plans in each municipality begin to integrate these kinds of urban interventions. Currently, they tend to focus solely on large-scale projects, which often lack sufficient funding. On the other hand, temporary projects require smaller budgets, making them a more feasible and accessible option for municipalities to implement.

Interview 3

Interview to: Jose Cepero

Agency: *Intuylab*

Date: 14 of January 2025

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and describe your role?

I'm Jose Cepero, I'm architect. I did a Master in UCL in Urban Design for the Development. I'm a co-founder of Intuylab, an association that has more than ten years working in Lima for the development of public spaces, especially in vulnerable areas of the city. In Intuylab I'm in charge of different topics like management, design, administrative; my roll change depending on the projects we have.

Interviewer: Could you tell me how many people work in Intuylab and what methods of fundings you use to get to finance your projects?

The people who work with us change depending on each project. For example, if we need five people for a specific project, we hire them accordingly. However, we are permanently three partners and one administrative staff member.

Regarding finances, we rely on foundations, competitive funds, and private companies from abroad. So far, these have been our main sources of funding.

2. Do you consider citizen urbanism to be synonymous with temporary urbanism, or do you see them as distinct concepts? How do these ideas relate to informal settlements and their unique challenges?

I believe the concepts of citizen urbanism, pop-up urbanism, tactical urbanism, and temporary urbanism are essentially the same; the key difference lies in the contexts in which they are applied. For instance, comparing Torino and Pamplona: in Torino, a formal city with regulations and structured urban systems, temporary projects can exist purely as temporary interventions. In contrast, in Pamplona's case, after Sistema Urbano completed its intervention,

the responsibility shifted to the neighbors. Without their organization and effort, those interventions would likely remain until, eventually, they would need to be removed because they had deteriorated into waste.

I believe the approach to temporary urbanism in these different contexts is fundamentally the same: it involves citizen participation, the use of low-cost materials, and independent initiatives outside of government structures. What differs are the contexts, which, in the long term, influence how these interventions evolve—particularly in terms of their maintenance.

What also happens here is that these different contexts have minimal theoretical basis, with few people writing about these concepts because they originate from practice. As a result, many overlapping terms have emerged. For example, some organizations or studios chose to call it “Do-It-Yourself Urbanism,” which became popular in a specific context. Meanwhile, in other contexts, it is called tactical urbanism, placemaking, or temporary urbanism, but ultimately, they refer to the same idea. Because they are concepts that are born from the practice nobody agrees about what is what and everybody has their own interpretation of the concepts. To have many concepts that describes the same phenomenon is complex, and is mainly because nobody has interest to make theory about it. At the same time, there is not a general consensus about what is what. And I’m sure from here to five years there will appear two or three new concepts, for example someone could put the term “tik-tok urbanism”, a scene that is only set up to put it in the tik-tok media.

These concepts are related to the urban challenges from informal cities, when organization like Sistema Urbano or Intuyllab work in vulnerable contexts. About the challenges, for example from Intuyllab there were some interventions that we made that with the time they fall and at the end this added a new problem to the community.

In general, I consider there are two ways to develop this kind of interventions in vulnerable areas. One, when the communities look for solutions to work in their public spaces. And the other when the organizations are the ones looking for these spaces to work on, this is how Intuyllab was born. We wanted to work in the informal city, and we looked for these spaces. For this we had to see who have the power of decision in each area, because the community could just reject us.

3. What is your organization’s approach to identifying sites for temporary urban interventions, particularly in settlements that started since the informality?

We have a clear criterion and it is that we work in areas where there are already organizations working with the community. These organizations do not have to be necessarily related with design, architecture or urbanism. For example, we worked in Manchay– a vulnerable neighborhood from Lima– with an organization that worked with the community that was not related with architecture or urbanism.

To have this base and collaboration with other organizations give us the security that the interventions we do are going to be sustainable. Not only to arrive, to do and go, because in vulnerable context the community organizations could be fragile. And that's why we prefer to work with NGOs rather than community organizations.

4. In your opinion, what role does temporary urban planning play in solving the urban challenges of neighborhoods that arose from informality, such as the lack of infrastructure, public spaces, or social inclusion?

I think the impact is really limited. A temporary or tactical intervention would not solve the lack of infrastructure or public space in vulnerable contexts. But I think they play an important role, because they allow to speculate or to imagine how could be a future, I don't want to say developed, but one with better conditions. So, if I can speculate or imagine with this intervention in a collective way, each one will have a meaning to those spaces according to different things like how many times they use it, how close to their home they are, etc. In this sense, I think that's the main role of this kind of urbanism.

5. Do you think there are any risks in using temporary urban planning in informal neighborhoods in Latin America? For example, do some European practices end up reinforcing inequalities or displacing communities?

I think there are many risks. The first is that the government could believe that the urban problems are solve with these interventions. It is often romanticized that neighbors create their own public spaces, but we forget that is the government who should be doing this and in a good way.

A second risk is in the physical dimension, with this I mean to create interventions in areas with possible landslides, or for lack of budget the quality of the intervention gets affected. For

example, something that happens regularly is to use tires when there is not budget, even we did it, but not anymore. Because the tires come with wires, and in the long term those wires get frayed, and this puts children at risk.

Another risk is the lack of maintenance or attention from the government, driven by the assumption that once a project has been developed in these vulnerable areas, no further action is needed.

6. How would you describe the involvement of private, public and academia organizations in your projects? Are there differences in how these partnerships function in informal versus formal urban areas?

I think the participation from these stakeholders are not so different because in general the organizations that work doing these kinds of interventions work mainly in areas with high percentage of informality. It's not usual to work in formal contexts because there are more regulations, the neighbors do not collaborate as much as in the informal cities. Neighbors from the formal cities can say "this can't be done in this way", so I think is even not possible to work in those contexts.

Interviewer: Is there a law or regulation that allow organization like Sistema Urbano or IntuyLab to work in collaboration with the municipalities?

No, the projects start because organization A contacted organization B, and one of them had a previous contact with the municipalities. If we analyze the organizational structure of Lima, and probably in the rest of Peru it does not exist a program of public spaces, not even one, it does not exist. There are some initiatives, but really isolated ones, for example in Miraflores – part of the formal city– on Sundays the Arequipa Avenue is closed to have more activities on it. Under my lens that is a placemaking activity, but is not part of any regulation, program or strategy from the government.

In general, I think there only little projects that are not institutionalized. There is not an institution that works for the public spaces of Lima. About the academy, probably is a particular case. I consider the academy sometimes have a fixation with certain topics, like the *barriadas* and the informal city, that they want to understand the context and the complexity of the

phenomenon that exist there, but it remains on it. In the case of Intutylab, the private institutions or the academy collaborated as financiers or clients that we provide a service, but remains on it.

Something we need to learn is the complexity of this kind of job. In a regular business model, you have a client that pays for your service. But as NGOs, our business model is different, because the one who pays you is not necessary the client that gets the product. This makes complex the delivery of the product because in a regular business model, you have constant contact with your client, but in this one is like a power struggle over what each person wants.

7. What tools or methods does your organization use to evaluate the success or impact of a temporary urban intervention? Do you approach impact measurement differently in informal urban areas? How often do you review these impacts over time (e.g., months, years)?

The principal tools we use are from Gehl. The office of Jan Gehl has a wide range of tools to measure the impact. We use to do the measure before the intervention, a week after the intervention and one or two months after. This is because the deadlines and budgets are limited, so if we finish a project the maximum amount of budget you get to monitor the project is a month. To do the evaluation after a year is complex because there is no one to finance it, at least is a long-term project so the budget includes the evaluation and improvements. But in general, is difficult to do evaluations in long-term.

Interviewer: Can you give me some examples of the tools from Gehl that Intutylab uses?

Yes, for example, in a plan of the area where you will carry out an intervention, you start by marking points from 1 to 21 over a period of thirty minutes. Each number represents a person. For each number, you describe characteristics such as gender, age, the activity the person is engaged in, among other details. This helps us determine whether the space is being used or not. Sometimes, it happens that after thirty minutes, you don't reach 21 points because there aren't 21 people using the space. We apply this method both before and after the intervention.

8. How would you describe the balance between research and practice within your organization?

Is a constant and complex work because many times the research is not funded. Actually, there are little opportunities of fundings for research. In IntuyLab we do more practice and from that we do a reflect on that, but is not really scientific research. And the research we do is focus on design, to have insights of how to design our projects. For example, the monitoring is for us a way to research, but is something that doesn't go beyond the intervention.

I would say that is always present, but our research is not focus in create theories, is mainly about the development of the interventions.

9. Why do you think there is a lack of research on temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism in the Latin American context, especially in academia literature?

Because there are two worlds that haven't found a common point yet. The ones who practice, practice, and the ones who research, research. Few people do both at the same time. I would even say there is an issue of egos, as there is a belief that researchers only criticize, while practitioners are seen as people who just do, do, do without thinking. This creates a reluctance to find a middle ground between research and project development.

Regarding the lack of research on citizen urbanism, I believe it's because it is still a relatively new topic. Even though it has been around for 10 or 20 years, systematizing results remains challenging. Often, cases of citizen urbanism are short-term or superficial in their development, making it difficult to evaluate them even a month later.

10. How to address the legal and bureaucratic obstacles related to the use of public or private areas to develop temporary urban development?

We really never experienced that. All of our projects were in collaboration with municipalities, so the permissions or any management we have to do in order to use the public spaces was for granted since the municipality was involved.

Interviewer: How is the agreement you have with the municipalities?

There is not agreement with the municipality, but with the neighbors. And in some way, we ended up removing legitimacy to the municipality. Because what the municipality should have done is done by an external organization, and this creates much more trust in these organizations than in the municipalities from part of the neighbors. And for example, if the municipality come to dismantle the intervention for some reason, the neighbors could say to them “why you come here to dismantle this, if you didn’t come for 10 years”.

11. Does your organization actively work to influence or shape public policy?

Not actively, if the projects include it yes, but not actively.

12. What changes or advances would you like to see in the field of citizen urbanism/temporary urbanism in the context of Latin America?

First, I consider urban design and urban planning are different. Urban planning is understood as something super general, vague and with little concrete actions. If I would think about a change, it would be to have more recognition of how citizen urbanism contributes to urban planning.

Also, I would institutionalize this kind of practices such as citizen urbanism or temporary urbanism as part of the local budget and regulations. Because nowadays it doesn’t exist, there is not budget to experiment within cities at pedestrian level.

Annex 2: *Interview with academia*

Interview 4

Interview to: Susana Lopez Varela

Date: 19 of December 2024

1. Can you please introduce yourself very briefly and what is your role?

My name is Susana Lopez, I'm an urban architect from Spain. In relation with my academia role, I'm a social professor in the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru - PUCP and advisor for thesis Masters in Architecture.

At professional level I've being Director for four years of the Special Landscape Project of Rimac River, a program to enhancement of the historic center of Lima. Currently I work as external consultor of the International Development Bank.

2. Are you familiar with the concept of temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism? If yes, could you describe your understanding of it? How long have you been studying this research topic?

I have a doubt, because I don't know if you refer to temporary urbanism as tactical urbanism. But in relation with citizen urbanism, I understand is an urbanism center for and from the citizens.

3. Have you ever been involved in any way in the realization of a Temporary Urbanism project? If yes, can you briefly describe it?

In the execution not, but with the design proposal yes, taking in count the concept you gave me of temporary urbanism, which I take it as the preamble of a possible permanent intervention. It could be also an experimental element to know if an urban emptiness or residual space can have the potential to be a public space. Here in Latin America, it could be a way to change the perception of abandoned spaces in conflicted areas like "red areas", landfills, dangerous areas, in general degraded areas. I think these kinds of spaces in degraded areas can contribute to the neighbors can see in other way the public spaces to understand them as a potential area of socialization because they have a bad image of what a public space is.

In this sense, during my work in the Special Landscape Project of Rimac River, we worked within indigenous community in collaboration with the embassy from Australia called “semillas duraderas”. This collaboration came to us because one of the people worked with us studied in Austria and he won a prize for his involvement in social projects. It was a pilot project for the development of a public space for kids. In this case we generated a little park through participatory processes with the kids by explaining environmental knowledge through recyclable workshops. We also planted trees and named them after each of the children. For this project, we thought it was more important to work with children and not with adults, also since we generated a space that the kids will use at the end the adults will protect them.

Also, in other project called “Monserrate”, that started from a fire in 2020, we did through tactical urbanism an intervention in an area that was before occupied in informal way and we transformed it into a public space for kids. At the beginning the neighbors from Monserrate didn’t want that we make any intervention. There are many people that have resistance to have changes in their public spaces, especially because they are tired to be part of studies and workshops of promises that at the end won’t happen.

All of these projects precede a subsequent phase of formalization of the public space. So, they are temporal urbanism, but aggregative, they are not temporary and goes away and then the empty space remains again. They are like a pilot project to test and change the mentality of the people, because people from degraded and vulnerable areas in Latin America have a bad perception of the public space. And these changes have to be done through participatory processes.

As well in my work in the PUCP I did some projects under the course of “Participatory Processes” in collaboration with *Ocupa tu calle*.

4. What role does the concept of "auto-construction" play in shaping the strategies of temporary urbanism in informal settlements?

The “auto-construction” is just a topic from Latin America, because here in Latin America there are not the regulations that exist in Europe. This plays in favor of Latin America, because Europe’s regulations can be too rigid that can act as a limitation to do some interventions. For example, if you know someone from the community that knows how to work with iron or wood it is easy to access and involve them in the transformation. Not just by involving them in the design, but also in the execution and this means that it reinforces the identity with the space. Because if you did, for example the chair that you have in the park Infront of your house, you will take care of it. As well, involving people from the community in the production and execution of an interventions also means that we will pay to them.

So, I think “auto-construction” is a really powerful tool in Latin America and it helps to create more identity with the spaces, but always is necessary the guide from professionals. But also, we need to take in count that in Peruvian universities the lessons and trainings in public spaces is scarce.

5. In Peru, there are no dedicated schools of Urban Planning; the closest field offered is Architecture. Given this, do you think architecture programs in universities adequately address the gap left by the absence of urban planning education?

One of the reasons why I came to work in Lima is because when I visited this city, I said there should be a lot of work here because the city is really poorly design and many of the problems it has is because of the lack of planning. Here I would divide the urban planning and the urban design, where the last one is more detailed like how to address mobility problems.

In Peru the architecture schools are really focus just in how to make buildings and not even in the repercussion in the context of where you build the buildings. It is a mistake to think that architects are only good at making buildings.

6. What urban tools do you consider important to improve the quality of life in cities that started from the informality?

First, when we talk about informal cities, I think we need to try that they will live in safe zones. It is useless to improve places that are in flood or landslides areas. And I won't talk about the obviously fact that first they also need basic services.

When we talk about informal settlements, we mean areas that are slum-like, where the population has made the most of self-construction and therefore there are some residual spaces. In this sense, I think is really important to find these residual spaces. I believe in informal settlements with slopes the role of the stairs is really important, that nowadays in Peru they are understood just as a system to go up and go down. But they could be seen as a soil container system, an element to bring people together in case of an earthquakes, an area where we can create public spaces adding community gardens, good public lighting, good urban furniture. To me is really impressive that this has not been done.

In general, I think we must be very careful when transferring the formal city to the informal one. For this, we need first to understand it and to have all the reality in data and adjust our proposals to it. As well I think we need to propose network of urban spaces not just one intervention.

7. Do you consider citizen participation essential for the formulation of urban projects, especially in neighborhoods that emerged from informality?

Yes, I consider it very important, especially the participation of the children and women.

8. Considering there are many vacant/useless sites in different informal neighborhoods from Lima until nowadays. Do you think temporary urbanism can address the lack of formal urban planning in informal neighborhoods, specifically to develop public spaces? How?

I think the maintenance of the spaces play a key role, I say it because for example in the cases I mentioned before, they were really good but I went there after the intervention and there is not maintenance. It is true there must be a commitment from the neighbors to take care of it, but if you don't have a water supply that's not possible.

I wouldn't describe them as 'useless sites' because the municipality does assign them a purpose. However, in practice, they are often used differently. Insecurity also plays a key role here—there's no point in implementing tactical urbanism if the result is aesthetically pleasing but remains unused after 6 p.m. due to safety concerns. Ultimately, it risks becoming underutilized.

Temporary interventions in vulnerable Latin American contexts can be effective, but only if they become part of a broader process of formalization and improvement in those areas. I wouldn't consider them a valuable tool for abandoned spaces in vulnerable contexts if they remain purely temporary. Moreover, they can lead to disrepute among residents, especially when only low-cost materials are used. For instance, in various areas of Medellín, we see excellent examples where public spaces are constructed with high-quality materials, avoiding stark contrasts in quality. This approach empowers people and instills pride in their communities.

9. Why do you think there is a lack of research on temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism in the Latin American context?. Do you consider this gap should be address primarily from the academy or the government?

From both, but I think there are papers about this kind of urbanism, but is not called “temporary urbanism” in Latin America. However, what I think there is a lack is the inter relation between academy-government. If from the academy we started to implement it by courses, is not sufficient because we would need the collaboration of the government to make our proposals real and not let them just in papers. As well, I noticed there is just a few universities that put informal neighborhoods as areas to propose projects, most of them are focus just in the formal areas. By doing this, universities are generating professionals that do not know to work in informal settlements.

In this sense, I believe local councils are key to initiating change. We need to place greater value on architects who design community centers in vulnerable areas—something that isn't happening enough nowadays. For instance, the salaries of architects designing beach houses are significantly higher than those working for municipalities. There are various challenges overall, but given that so many people in Lima live in vulnerable areas, this type of development should be prioritized.

Also, because the municipalities do not have good budget, they can't pay good professionals. And again, there is also little academia training in urban planning.

10. Do you consider there are some risks in using temporary urbanism in informal neighborhoods in Latin America. Example: some European practices end up reinforcing inequalities or displacing?

I think a risk could be the lack of resources the local administrations have to maintain temporary interventions, so if there is not a continuity resident from vulnerable areas can understand temporary urbanism as something negative.

It's also essential to clarify that the intervention is temporary because it will eventually lead to an improvement of the space and a permanent transformation. It cannot remain purely temporary; if it does, it could become a risk in itself. Temporary urbanism in vulnerable areas must be part of a larger-scale plan that ultimately results in something permanent.

11. Do you believe the academia perspective plays a crucial role in shaping urban policies? Have you ever been invited to contribute your expertise to such policymaking processes?

I didn't be part of policymaking processes because is not my specialization. But I've being invited as academia from different non-governmental entities, such as *Urban95*.

The academy should play a crucial key, but it is not taken into account. Also, sometimes there are many meetings between governmental entities with other stakeholders, and they don't end up in something concrete.

12. If the concept of temporary urbanism is not currently part of the curriculum at your university, would you consider advocating for its inclusion? What potential value do you see in introducing this topic to students?

We have different courses in relation with this concept but not as mandatory, they are elective and not from the Architecture school, they are from Anthropology, Sociology. In general, I think is really important to work in participatory processes from the academy. As architects we need to be active actors in these processes in collaboration, of course, with other professionals.

Interview 5

Interview to: Estefanie Quispe

Date: 12 of December 2024

1. Can you please introduce yourself very briefly and what is your role?

I am Estefanie Quispe. I studied architecture at University of Lima in Peru. I did a Master in Urbanism at the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC) between 2021 and 2022. As well I also have a Master in Design and Management of Technological and Innovation Projects from International University of La Rioja (UNIR), which I did between 2023 and 2024.

I also work in topics related with urban planning in entities like IDB and CAF. I'm also founder of two urban companies in Peru: *Impostergable* and *I.mapping*. *Impostergable* is about strategic urbanism and *I.mapping* is about urbanism and technology.

As well I'm doing personal research called "Barriografia" in the not consolidated neighborhood of San Cosme from Lima. It is basically a biography of this informal settlement.

2. Are you familiar with the concept of temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism?

If yes, could you describe your understanding of it? How long have you been studying this research topic?

I understand that temporary urbanism is similar to tactic urbanism. And about citizen urbanism is the kind of urbanism that is built from the citizens.

After your explanation about temporary urbanism, I consider is different from what we understand here in Latin America. Here we see this kind of urbanism as a first step to have something consolidated.

3. Have you ever been involved in any way in the realization of a Temporary Urbanism project? If yes, can you briefly describe it?

From Impostergable we did the project called “Pucu” in Pucusana in 2020. This was a project in collaboration with the Municipality of Lima with the Agency “City Coordinator (under construction)”, this last one is not active anymore. They taught us about the methodologies related to tactical urbanism, that for them it was the first step to test and show urban strategies that could work in long-term period. With them, under Impostergable, we designed two public spaces.

They called these kind of projects “seed project”, because of the analogy if you put a seed in the land to know if a plant grows or die, in this case to know if a project works or not in that specific area. There was a difference with the term “pilot project”, because for them a pilot project referred to a pre-approve project. On the other side, the “seed project” was a testing tool.

4. What role does the concept of "self-construction" play in shaping the strategies of temporary urbanism in informal settlements?

From my personal experience, I think is important to understand that residents in these kinds of settlements “self-construction” their houses, and they know how to do it, but once in Pamplona Alta they told me “we really know how to build our houses and we do not need architects, but we do not know how to build a park, a market, a cycle path, and for these things we need help”. That is why I think is more successful this kind, tactical or temporary, in informal settlements because the residents want to learn how to generate these spaces for their community because they do not have it. Unlike housing, where they already have experience, because many work in construction.

5. In Peru, there are no dedicated schools of Urban Planning; the closest field offered is Architecture. Given this, do you think architecture programs in universities adequately address the gap left by the absence of urban planning education?

Yes, I consider we are educated to think more from the architecture to the urbanism. That's why also when we see who are in charge of urbanism in Peru, they are civil engineers, economists and lawyers. Especially these last two professionals are the ones who are more involve in making urbanism because they manage better topics related to regulations, data. But I consider architects have a key characteristic that is to read the space in different scales.

I consider in my personal experience in my university that I learnt good knowledge about urbanism in seminars and also in studio classes, especially in the last semesters where we were more focus in the city than in buildings.

6. What urban tools do you consider important to improve the quality of life in cities that started from the informality?

I think the base is the communication, something that maybe architects lack. With communication we can have an exchange of ideas, to imagine future scenarios, and from this factor the citizen participation workshops begin. For me participatory workshops are important, not as a preview, but as something continuous. If there is something I learn is that sometimes we look for this participation of the community just in the start to get insights but later not.

In the specific case of informal settlements, the communication and meetings are really a key tool for the developing of projects because at the end, the community itself is the one that will self-build, manage, and use those spaces. To think projects from top-down design end up conditioning the use of space, especially if is something proposed by architects, who sometimes focus more into win prizes than into develop something that the community really will use.

I consider also as a key tool the history of the place, because it is always good to recover the legacy, the stories or to link spaces through emotions. This helps to generate identity with the place. And nowadays, I use a lot the technology, and I think that the use of technology should not be biased towards not consolidated settlements.

7. Considering there are many vacant/useless sites in different neighborhoods that emerged from the informality in Lima until nowadays. Do you think temporary urbanism can address the lack of formal urban planning in informal neighborhoods, specifically to develop public spaces? How?

First, I think it is important to see the characteristics of each neighborhood, because even though all the informal settlements have a similar problematic they are not always in the same kind of contexts. For example, some of them are in areas green hills that for some seasons are green, but in others they are like deserts; so in this context we need to approach the strategies taking in count this characteristic that would not be required for other informal settlements.

Also, I'm not sure how much of planning there is in informal settlements, this topic was discussed in the forum "100 years of slums" in the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. They mentioned in this forum that in South America there is not planning in the formal or informal city, and that there is a gap in our urbanism because of it. They also mentioned that probably part of our culture there is more action than planning, because in our history we have been denied planning by being colonized, invaded, dictatorships, etc. So, our South American history can make us believe that we act more thinking about the now and we don't sit down to plan like Europeans do. In difference with Europe, where cities like Barcelona or Paris were planned; our cities have responded to what the context gave them.

In general, in informal settlements, I think the planning have to come from the citizens, it should not come from the municipality without taking in consideration the residents.

8. Why do you think there is a lack of research on temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism in the Latin American context?. Do you consider this gap should be address primarily from the academy or the government?

I'm really not sure about the state of art related to this topic. But I would say that more than research, there is practice of it. And probably there are more interventions done by some entities and later after the execution they do a paper about it. So probably there are more studies about case studies, than theoretical research.

And in relation from the government there is not so much, but as I mentioned before I participated in a project where the municipality in collaboration with an agency gave me some methodologies to develop tactical projects.

9. Do you consider there are some risks in using temporary urbanism in informal neighborhoods in Latin America. Example: some European practices end up reinforcing inequalities or displacing?

I consider the risk could be to impose a space that is not a characteristic from the neighborhood. Another risk could be the maintenance of the intervened area in long-term period.

10. Do you believe the academia perspective plays a crucial role in shaping urban policies? Have you ever been invited to contribute your expertise to such policymaking processes?

Yes, I consider the academia perspective plays a crucial role in shaping urban policies. Specially, because the academy handles up-to-date knowledge, research more in tendency, or most up-to-date data.

And yes, I've been invited by different municipalities to share my knowledge about urbanism.

11. If the concept of temporary urbanism is not currently part of the curriculum at your university, would you consider advocating for its inclusion? What potential value do you see in introducing this topic to students?

I'm not teaching courses related to urbanism now. But in general, I consider this kind of urbanism with participatory processes is important and necessary for the students specially when we work in contexts that they are not familiar.

12. The interview is over, would you like to add any further thoughts?

I consider really interested to make this comparison, because we usually think that Europe, Asia or the USA are the best and already did everything in relation with this topic, but I think Latin America have a lot of experience that work different that the Global North context. I think temporary urbanism in Peru could be a start to achieve something in intermediate-term and it allows to test the spaces and uses.

Interview 6

Interview to: Alessandra Rodriguez

Date: 23 of December 2024

1. Can you please introduce yourself very briefly and what is your role?

I'm Alessandra Rodriguez, I study architecture at University of Lima in Peru. Currently I'm studying a Master in Urban Planning at Harvard Graduate School of Design. I am a research assistant at Harvard on real estate. From 2020 to mid-2024 I have been a teaching assistant at the University of Lima.

2. Are you familiar with the concept of temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism?

If yes, could you describe your understanding of it? How long have you been studying this research topic?

I know the concept of citizen urbanism, but I've never heard about temporary urbanism. In relation to citizen urbanism, I understand it as a concept that has participatory processes in all the different levels, from the analysis, diagnosis and design. And in base to that, there is a proposal where the community is involved. These projects can be in small or large scale.

I know about this concept in relation with the different initiatives in Medellin, Colombia. As well, during 2020 I took the course "Urbanismo próximo" (Nearby urbanism) at University of EAFIT. I also read part of the book "Citizen Urbanism in Latin America: Superbook of Citizen Actions for the Transformation of Cities", where there is a recompilation of different tactical urban interventions in Latin America.

3. Have you ever been involved in any way in the realization of a Temporary Urbanism project? If yes, can you briefly describe it?

Yes, I've been involved in one project that could be part of the concept of temporary urbanism, but not from the academy. In 2019 was being created the project "Lima 95" in collaboration with the organization *Urban95 and Bernanrd van Leer Foundation*. This project sought to create public spaces for children from 0.95 centimeters and below, because they are more vulnerable to find things like garbage, fences and they do not see so much vegetation. This project was carried out in different neighborhoods, my group was in charge of the

neighborhood “Pucusana”. We did a workshop to have the analysis, diagnosis and the beginning of the proposal. Later we started to develop a macro master plan and thinking how this master plan could be divided into three specific interventions.

But because these kind of projects in Peru are related to the public sector. So, since there is no budget on their part and it is not a permanent intervention, they end up only on paper. This was the case of the proposal for the neighborhood of Pucusana, where we did participatory methods and the new public spaces were abandoned areas. More than abandoned, they were areas without maintenance from the local council and as well without basic urban furniture.

4. What role does the concept of "self-construction" play in shaping the strategies of temporary urbanism in informal settlements?

I think it plays a really important role and is something you can see a lot in these kinds of settlements. For example, there are a lot of flower pots in car tires, in pallets or in plastic bottles. I think the self-construction shapes how the community conceives public spaces.

Professional support for this type of intervention is a noble and good initiative as it provides the technical knowledge that the community often does not have. I also think that it is going into a niche that almost no professional wants to get involved in, where a lot of work and a lot of resources are needed and it is not necessarily very well paid. I think is a necessity in Lima that needs to be develop in collaboration between professionals and community. As well I think it should be included the collaboration of public entities, like the regional or local government, so they can contribute to the maintenance and continuation of the interventions.

5. In Peru, there are no dedicated schools of Urban Planning; the closest field offered is Architecture. Given this, do you think architecture programs in universities adequately address the gap left by the absence of urban planning education?

I really being asking me this question during the whole period I have in my Master. Specifically in the context of the USA, is really common that people that enters to a Master in Urban Planning have as a Bachelor degree in relation with urbanism, so they have a better knowledge about it. In Peru, I think since Architecture schools they teach urbanism but really general, about the history, how it is related to architecture, how a building can impact in the urban landscape and vice versa. But it is not addressed like a methodology, in the sense to know that

not necessary we will have a physic product, it could also be a program, and initiative, something audio visual to address a social, physic or economic problem.

I think the Architecture schools in Peru do not address the gap of the absence of urban planning. They only give an approximation of what the urbanism is. Also, the universities from Peru teach about how other countries develop the urbanism, but not necessary what are the problems from our cities and how these problems could be addressed. In general, I think is important to create schools of urban planning.

6. What urban tools do you consider important to improve the quality of life in cities that started from the informality?

First to have closeness with the community. Second to have good communication and diffusion. The part of communication means has empathy and understand their needs and what they want. It is important the balance between the technical professionals and the participation of the community.

After an implementation is also important to keep track of it, to know whether the space improve or not. From my experience in the master, I can add that in the USA something that helps in urbanism is that they have small participatory budgets. For example, if you want to create a community garden you need to do some papers and the government gives you around 300 dollars to start this project.

7. Do you consider citizen participation essential for the formulation of urban projects, especially in neighborhoods that emerged from informality?

Yes, I totally consider citizen participation is essential. And citizens must be involved since the beginning in any kind of project small or large; short or long terms. And I think the government in Peru do not care about short-term projects, but they forget that citizen want to have benefits in short periods.

8. Considering there are many vacant/useless sites in different neighborhoods that emerged from the informality in Lima until nowadays. Do you think temporary urbanism can address the lack of formal urban planning in informal neighborhoods, specifically to develop public spaces? How?

I think it could be a good initiative to increment the access to public and green spaces. But I'm not sure if it would address the lack of formal planning in not consolidated settlements in Peru, because in general there are many urban challenges like housing, basic services, among others. In this sense, I think all of these urban issues should be address at the same time, not just the lack of public spaces. As well, because of these characteristics of informal settlements, their residents do not give much importance to public space.

In general, I think this kind of urbanism could act as a pilot of something that will be permanent in not consolidated areas. As well, it is a good way to test if the citizens will really use those spaces, because we can propose something that covers their necessities, but not necessary something that they really will use.

9. Why do you think there is a lack of research on temporary urbanism and citizen urbanism in the Latin American context? Do you consider this gap should be address primarily from the academy or the government?

Because I think people do not see the potential of this kind of urbanism, and because since it is not necessarily permanent, they do not see a potential on it for the future. I think it also has to do with how this practice is spread in Peru, because these practices are made mainly or just by NGOs.

In general, I think the research about this kind of urbanism should be address first from the academy to later have an impact in the government. But I also consider that in Peru, from the side of the architects, not all of them necessary believe in participatory processes and in the fact that citizen can contribute to new ideas.

10. Do you consider there are some risks in using temporary urbanism in informal neighborhoods in Latin America. Example: some European practices end up reinforcing inequalities or displacing?

What I think could happen is something like slum tourism, because of the transformation It can become a famous case study for urbanism. If something like this happens, it could be also reflected in the fact that rents could start increasing, or in different socio-economic factors.

11. Do you believe the academia perspective plays a crucial role in shaping urban policies? Have you ever been invited to contribute your expertise to such policymaking processes?

I think the academia plays an important role, especially if the professionals participate in interdisciplinary forums, so they can be aware of what other sectors are doing to have better cities. And I've never being invited to any table of discussion in relation to policymaking.

12. If the concept of temporary urbanism is not currently part of the curriculum at your university, would you consider advocating for its inclusion? What potential value do you see in introducing this topic to students?

I've only been a professor's assistant, so I didn't have the authority to decide what to include in the curriculum. However, if I were the lead professor, I would make sure to include this topic—or at least introduce the concept of participatory processes. From my experience, I've often heard professors in the academy caution students about how they communicate with communities during studio classes focused on informal settlements. This is because there's a risk of creating false expectations, where the community might believe the academy will deliver a real, tangible project. I think this is a very sensitive issue when working in such contexts, and as an academia institution, we need to be clear that we are conducting research and, whenever possible, involve the community in that process.

Another way to introduce the concept of temporary urbanism could be by aligning our studio projects with initiatives that the communities are already working on. This way, students can contribute to their efforts meaningfully. However, I believe this sensitivity is one of the reasons universities often hesitate to engage deeply with these contexts

Annex 3: *Interview with policy makers*

Interview 7

Interview to: Rafael Cabrera

Municipality: San Juan de Miraflores, Lima

Date: 14 of December 2024

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and describe your role?

I'm Rafael Cabrera I studied Engineering. Since 2023 I'm the Urban Development Manager of the Municipality of San Juan de Miraflores, this area is in charge of three sub areas: Sub-management of public works and investment projects; Sub-management of private works, land registry and management; and finally, the Sub-management of disaster risk management.

2. Are you familiar with the concept of temporary urbanism? If so, could you describe your understanding of it?

No, because I'm an engineer. About urbanism, my knowledge of it is more related to the paperwork we do in the municipality, but I don't know the concepts that this career manages.

3. Are you aware of the concept of citizen urbanism? If so, how would you define it?

No, I didn't hear about it.

4. Based on the presentation, do you think your district has ever implemented this type of urban intervention?

Yes, now that the concept is clear for me. I consider there are some urban interventions in the district of SJM really similar to this concept. We have some interventions with materials like pallets and car tires. Also, in collaboration with the Ministry of interior there is a program where they seize weapons of illegal origin, and they melt those weapons through an agreement with a private company in order to create urban furniture such as swings, seesaws and slides for playground areas in parks. In this way with these alternatives of recycling we recover some public spaces.

5. Given the absence of urban planning schools in Peru, does your team include urban planners or professionals with experience in urban development? Do you believe that these types of professionals are essential for land management? If not, what types of professionals typically play similar roles in your organization?

Yes, but more than include in our staff these professionals, we were lucky that at least two of the four architects in our team have experience in urbanism. Specifically in the design of parks, by giving it a concept, to integrate these areas with the history of the district.

We also have to understand that the concept of park in this district, unfortunately it is the place where some guys go to drink or to smoke weed. This leads to neighbors fencing the parks or putting grease on the chairs. Also, our parks are areas where thieves can meet and that makes it have a negative connotation.

6. Does your district have collaboration with any external organization (national or international) for the development of urban proposals, such as academia, NGOs or urban agencies?

- **If not, do you know any of these organizations?**
- **If yes, what type of projects are they currently working on?**

Yes, but my area is not in charge of this interrelation agreements. The area in charge of that is the Area of Ornamentation and Green Areas, which is a sub area of the Environmental Management. As far as I know there are some collaborations with NGOs that help to recover public spaces with recyclable materials.

And of course, there is openness for collaborations. In fact, we actually knock doors of NGOs because we lack of budget.

7. What are the main mechanisms you use to address the different urban challenges, such as the lack of public spaces, the scarcity of green areas, among others, that your district faces?

The problematic in public spaces in Pamplona is that it started as invasions, so that area was not planned. Many previous administrations have tried to improve the area. But at the same time during the time, many of the areas that were zoned as public space were also invaded. And if add that some areas also do not have access to water is not easy to have green areas.

These two challenges are some of the reasons why there is a lack of public spaces in Pamplona. The municipality tries to keep what already exist and to get invaded areas through eviction. But is really complicated because there are not areas where to re locate these people.

In general, I couldn't mention what mechanism we can use, but basically what we do is to recover the invaded spaces to decrease the lack of green spaces. In SJM we are not in the process of enhance these areas, we have other priorities that are: the security, build of roads and sidewalks. In relation with green areas, we are just maintaining what exists.

8. Due to the informal way the district was formed, there are probably still unused lands within the municipality that belong to the public sector. Has the municipality mapped these vacant lands and are they categorized for potential use?

- **If yes, could you give me some examples?**
- **If not, do you think this could be a good strategy for developing future public spaces?**

In relation with the cadastral mapping, we are in diapers. We are just starting with this in collaboration with the Agency for Formalization of Informal Property (COFOPRI) by using drones. The municipality in this moment do not count with georeferenced data.

But as I mentioned before, more than unused spaces there are invaded spaces for more than 20 years. And we mapped some of these areas. For example, one of the last areas we just recovered had approximately 529 m2 and we will make a public veterinary clinic and an academy for students. This space was invaded for an ex major for around 16 years and was being used as storage.

But in general, in this moment the invaded spaces we are recovering are not prioritized to have a future use of public space.

9. Would you consider using temporary urban projects primarily as a strategy to activate vacant (unused) spaces for a defined period or do you see them as a precursor to permanent urban developments?

Yes, but considering the different zones of the district have not developed at the same urban level, in some of them that are already consolidated we could propose temporary urban projects

for specific times. But in the case of Pamplona Alta, that is not a consolidated zone, I would insert this kind of urbanism as phase of a permanent project.

Interview 8

Interview to: Carlos Alberto Kuylen Samhan

Municipality: Villa el Salvador, Lima.

Date: 11 of December 2024

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and describe your role?

I studied Architecture. I'm the Urban Development Manager of the Municipality of Villa el Salvador (VES)

2. Are you familiar with the concept of temporary urbanism? If so, could you describe your understanding of it?

Not really. But I can guess is related with a temporary or partial intervention.

3. Are you aware of the concept of citizen urbanism? If so, how would you define it?

It refers to the capacity we have to plan cities based in citizens.

4. Based on the presentation, do you think your district has ever implemented this type of urban intervention?

I consider we did not implement this kind of urbanism because most of the interventions are made since the beginning as permanent ones. The only projects that have community participation do not use to be that creative as the ones you mentioned in your examples (Precollinear Park and Pamplona Alta). The projects in VES with these characteristics are related to the enhancement of green areas, or maintenance of public spaces. Basically, these projects are temporary jobs that the Government finance in vulnerable areas.

- 5. Given the absence of urban planning schools in Peru, does your team include urban planners or professionals with experience in urban development? Do you believe that these types of professionals are essential for land management? If not, what types of professionals typically play similar roles in your organization?**

Urban planners are important. But I think in Peru the architect used to be the one who assume this role. Universities teach topics related to urbanism such as urban zoning, land uses. In the case of VES the majority of its jurisdiction was planned, and it was planned by the Architect Romero Sotelo. And this district is one with the most bigger street sections, so this district was not consolidated without planning.

- 6. Does your district have collaboration with any external organization (national or international) for the development of urban proposals, such as academia, NGOs or urban agencies?**

- If not, do you know any of these organizations?**
- If yes, what type of projects are they currently working on?**

We basically work just with programs from the National Government. Currently, we do not count with external collaboration either for technical support or budget. But some weeks ago, there was an isolated case, where the UN told us they want to do a park in a specific area. But currently we are not working with any NGO.

I consider in a district like VES any kind of collaboration is good for us because everything will help us. It doesn't matter if they are by agreements, state contribution or NGOs, as far as they respect all the required processes. The more agreements we have with different institutions, more resources we will have to have a better district. And as I mentioned before, since this is a planned district is easier to identify what happens on it, what we need now is to consolidate at least in streets and sidewalks and after that the rest of urban infrastructure like green areas.

7. What are the main mechanisms you use to address the different urban challenges, such as the lack of public spaces, the scarcity of green areas, among others, that your district faces?

Everything depends on the budget and the necessity from the citizens. The urban need in this district lies mainly in having roads and sidewalks. The idea of the major is to end that need first, and we are doing it. In some areas of the district, we are starting to focus in the second phase that are green areas, but our priority are the roads and sidewalks.

8. Due to the informal way the district was formed, there are probably still unused lands within the municipality that belong to the public sector. Has the municipality mapped these vacant lands and are they categorized for potential use?

- **If yes, could you give me some examples?**
- **If not, do you think this could be a good strategy for developing future public spaces?**

What happens here is that we do not have an urban cadastre. We will start to develop one next year in collaboration with the Agency for Formalization of Informal Property (COFOPRI). In this sense, without having a cadastre we cannot identify the real situation of each property that is part of the district. What we have mapped are the properties that are under our property, but in relation with other properties we don't count with a systematization for them.

The georeferenced data is important and will make us to get a better idea of the current situation of our district.

9. Are there urban regulations within the district that allow residents to propose and manage the creation of new public spaces on their own initiative?

- **If not, what key challenges do you think would need to be addressed to establish such mechanisms, especially in the context of informal urban areas?**

It doesn't exist forms to ask for initiatives related to public spaces. But citizens can request it through a request at the reception desk, for example if there is an initiative from the citizens to propose a sport center, they can do it. But we have to take in count for those requests the uses, for example if you ask to get a new sport area inside of a park, you will transform a the "public passive recreation" into "public active recreation" and we cannot do that.

In general, citizens can request to propose the creation of new spaces, but they have to follow the regulations and land uses. These requests can be projects to be executed just by the citizens, in collaboration with the municipality, executed just by the municipality or with collaboration with private companies. In case citizens ask to change the land use of an area it is possible, but it is really complicated and is not within the faculty of the municipality, it depends on other responsibilities.

10. Would you consider using temporary urban projects primarily as a strategy to activate vacant (unused) spaces for a defined period or do you see them as a precursor to permanent urban developments?

I consider temporary urban projects as strategy to activate vacant or unused spaces, only if they end up being permanent for a context like VES. If an intervention is good for the community and the district so it will be welcome. We would just need to map the vacant areas from the municipality.