

THICKENING the THRESHOLD

Agnieszka Panasiuk 5 July 2019

# Summary of the presentation

#### Points of departure for design

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Thickened threshold

Ground oscillations

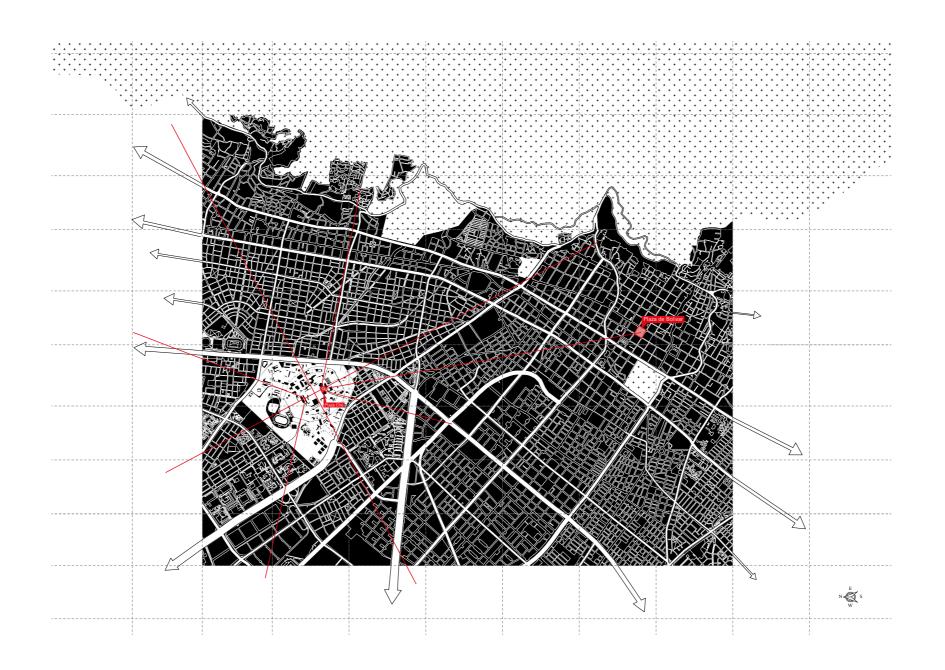
**Design Strategy** 

Challenging the strategy

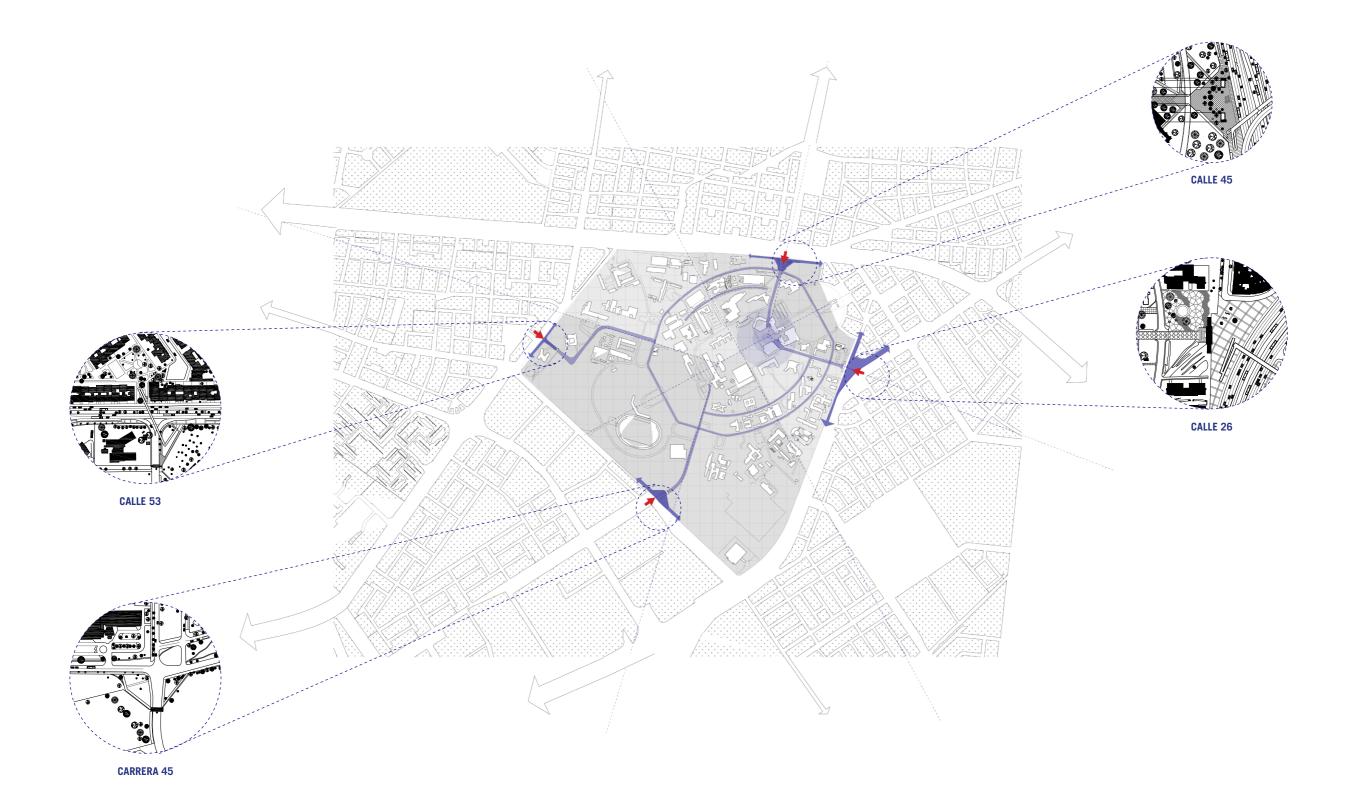
Conclusions

Points
of
departure
for
design

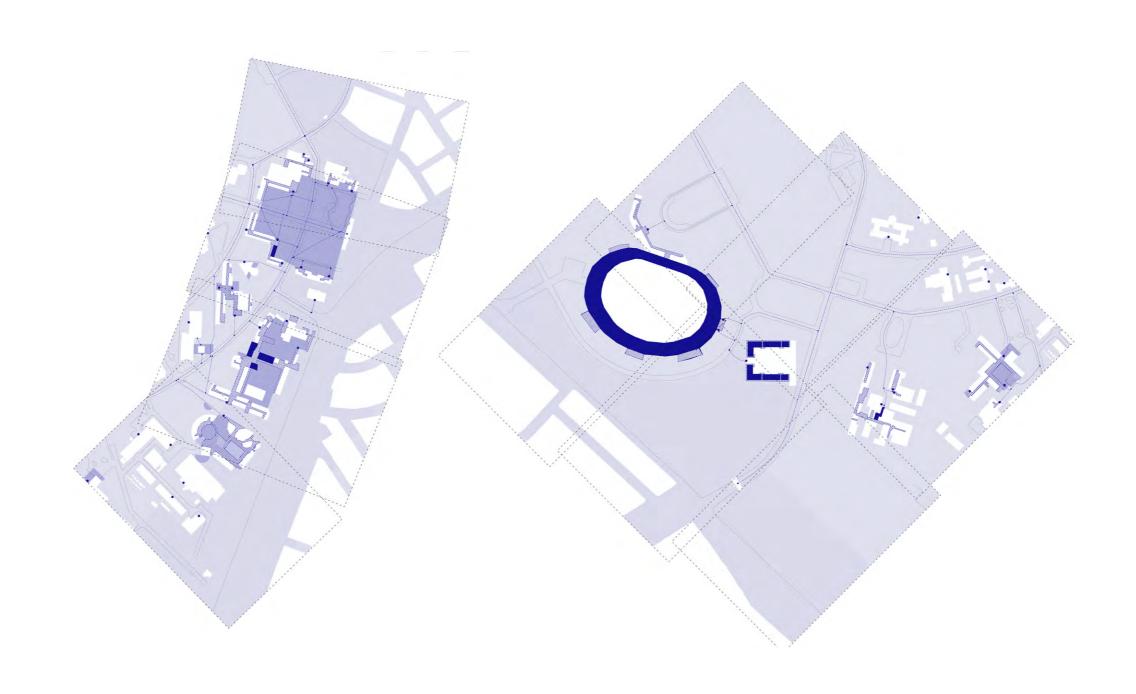
# UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA, BOGOTA



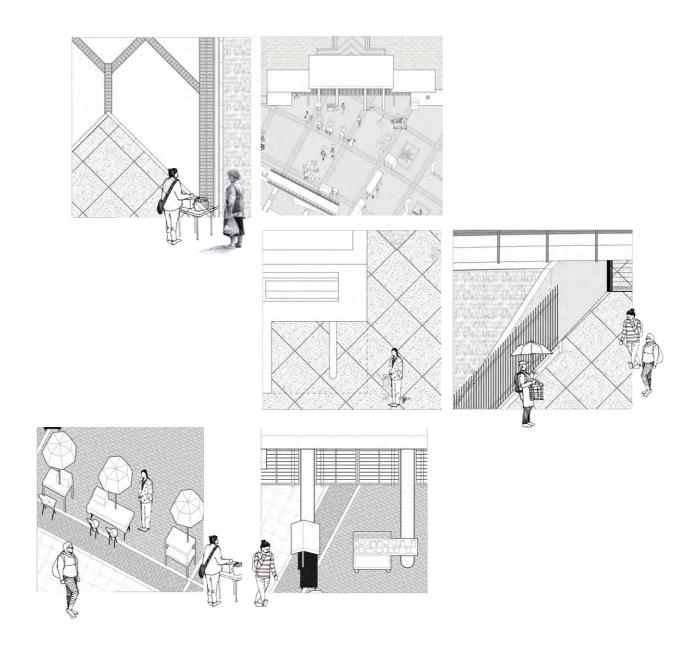
# ENTRY SQUARES OF UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA



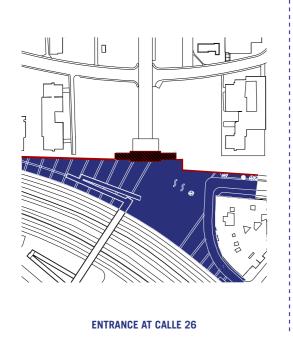
# MARGINALIZATION OF THE PERIPHERAL AREAS

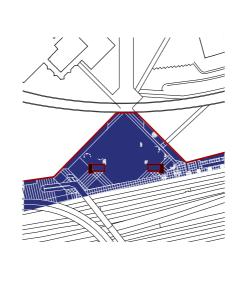


# ACTIVITY AT THE ENTRY SQUARES

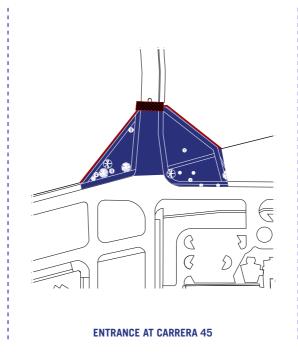


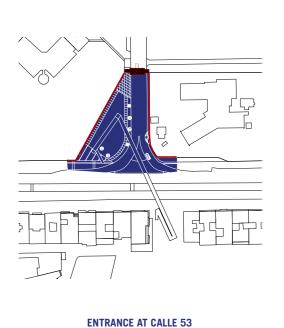
# UNIVOCITY OF THE ENTRY SQUARES





**ENTRANCE AT CALLE 45** 





# UNIVOCITY OF THE ENTRY SQUARES









**ENTRANCE AT CALLE 26** 

**ENTRANCE AT CALLE 45** 

**ENTRANCE AT CARRERA 45** 

ENTRANCE AT CALLE 53

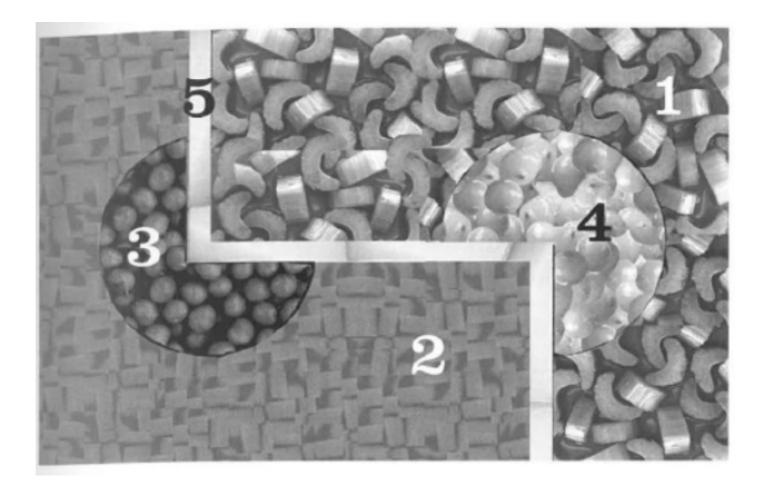
# THIRDING-AS-OTHERING



#### 'THIRD SPACE', EDWARD SOJA

Thirding-as-othering is a critical strategy proposed by Edward Soja in 'Third space' as an alternative to thinking in binary opposites. Thirding-as-othering is a process of restructuring information that draws from both sides and allows to notice fields of concurrence

## **SMOOTHING**

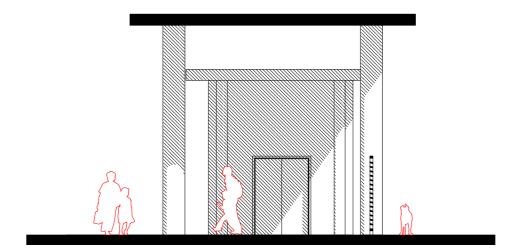


# 'ARCHITECTURAL CURVILINEARITY. THE FOLDED, THE PLIANT AND THE SUPPLE' GREG LYNN

'Smooth mixtures are made up of disparate elements which maintain their integrity while being blended within a continuous field of other free elements. Smoothing does not eradicate differences but incorporates free intensities through fluid tactics of mixing and blending.'

(Above: 'Cubist Vegetable Patch', Paulette Singley after P.A. Saladin's description in Tommaso's Marinetti's 'The Futurist Cookbook'; in 'Eating Architecture', ed. Jamie orwitz and Paulette Singley, p.11)

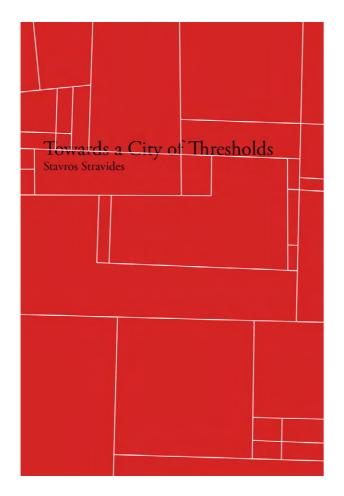
# THRESHOLD



#### 'THRESHOLD SPACES', TILL BOETGER

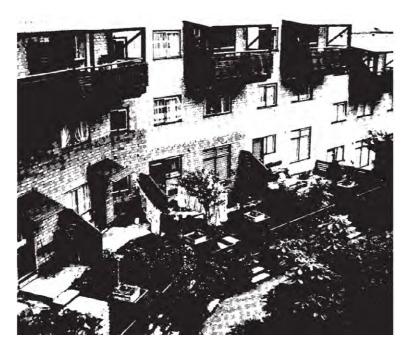
Threshold is a space that has a dual nature. It can connect and separate. The state of it changes from open to closed. Ambiguity is at the essence of the meaning of threshold. Due to that it escapes the symbolic and customary meaning.

### POSITIVE SOCIAL IMPACT



#### **EMANCIPATION**

Thresholds are spaces where different groups of 'others' encounter each other on equal basis. People can exercise different roles in a threshold space not based on his or her identity. Stavros Stravides hypothesises that if space gives form to social constructs, threshold can inspire a different social world.



# BELONGING (BYKER, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 1969-1980, ARCHITECT: RALPH ERSKINE)

In 'Life between buildings' Jan Gehl speaks of 'soft edges'. Soft edges permit activities more prolonged more than just coming and going. Soft edges can counter the alienation that frequently effects the residents of contemporary cities.

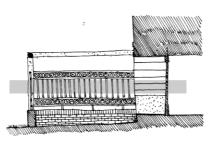


# HOSPITALITY (MONTESSORI SCHOOL DELFT, ARCHITECT: HERMAN HERTZBERG-ER)

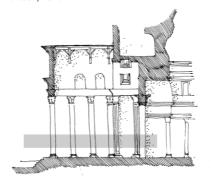
Threshold as a place where two world overlap combats mistrust, hostility between the sides.

# **ANALYSIS OF THRESHOLD SPACES**

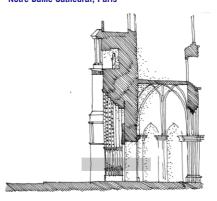
DOMESTIC THRESHOLD Teusaquillo, Bogota



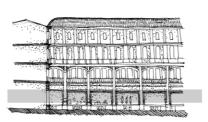
**PORTICO** Panteon, Rome



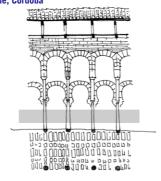
PORTAL Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris



ARCADES De Passage, Den Haag



HYPOSTYLE HALL Mosque, Cordoba



RAMP Rolex Learning Centre



CITY GATE Calle 26, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

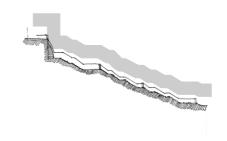


TURNPIKES Dobrzynskie Turnpikes, Plock, Poland





URBAN STAIRS Spanish Stairs, Piazza di Spagna, Rome

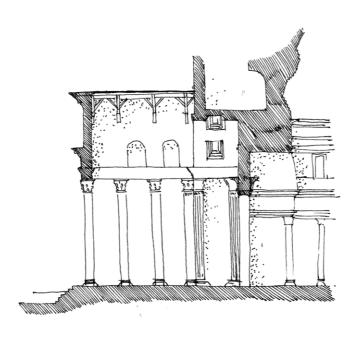


# ANALYSIS OF THRESHOLD SPACES

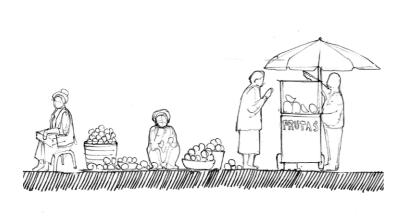


# ANALYSIS OF THRESHOLD SPACES

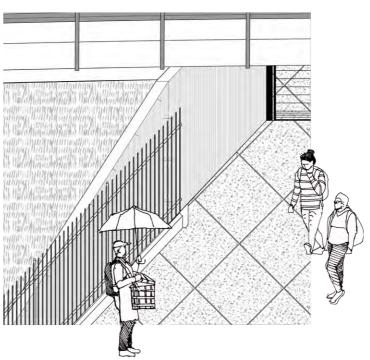
	Portico Panteon, Rome	Arcades De Passage, Den Haag	Hypostyle hall Mosque, Cordoba	Ramp Rolex Learning Centre	Gate Calle 26	Turnpikes Dobrzynskie Turnpikes	Urban stairs Lleras Building, Bogota	Garcia Marquez Culture Center, Bogota
Urban scale								
Architectural scale Relation with the surroundings		Graft Feed States			плиш			
Architectural scale Inner composition		000000	2000 State data a co					The state of the s
Detail scale			עעעעע וריירון					
Furnishings								232 2 30000
Function					<u> </u>			A OR B A



Thickening the thresholds at the boundary of University campus.



Can thickening the threshold encourage many different groups of users to spend time in the entry squares and provide good conditions for the informal vendors?



Can thickening the threshold empower the people crossing the gate?

# **Ground** oscillations



CALLE 26, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA



PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, SIENNA



LANDHAUSPLATZ, INNSBRUCK

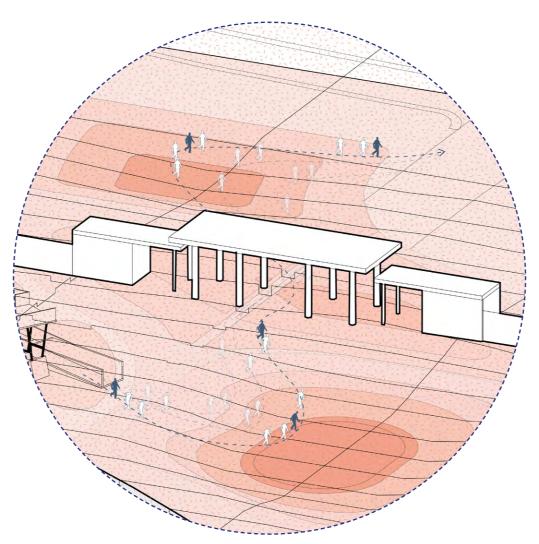


CENTRE POMPIDOU, PARIS



PLAZA DE BOLIVAR, BOGOTA

# HYPOTHESIS



DVERTING THE PATH OF THE PEDESTRIAN

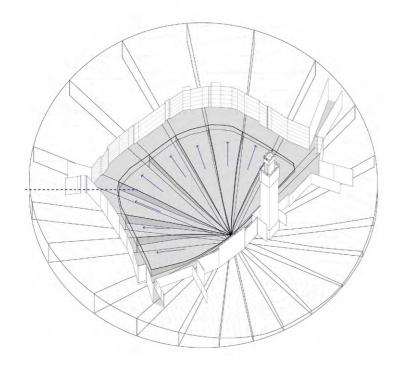


Enriching the use of the entry squares with the use of ground oscillations.



Empowering the passer-by while crossing the gate with the use of ground oscillations.

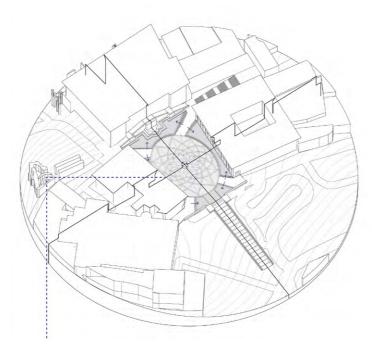




#### PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, SIENNA

Providing privacy without puting up any boundaries.

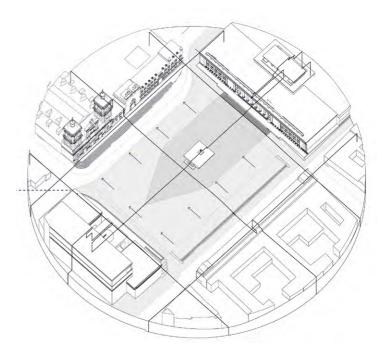
Key section: 9 sections intersecting at the focal point of the square



#### CAMPIDOGLIO, ROME

Intersection of flat and sloping surfaces.

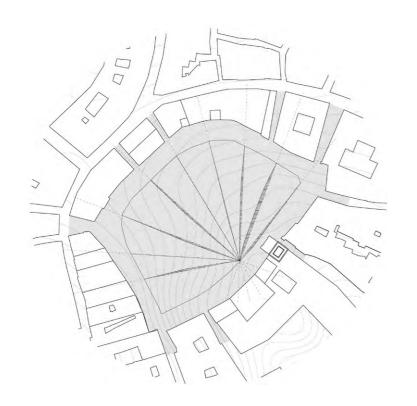
Key section: Symmetrical intersecting at the centre of the



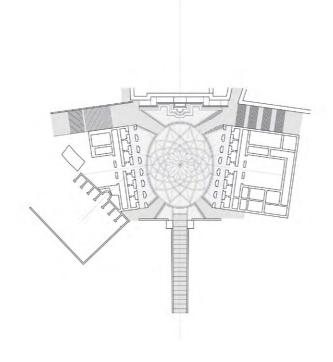
#### PLAZA DE BOLIVAR, BOGOTA

Treatment of the ground at the meeting with the facades.

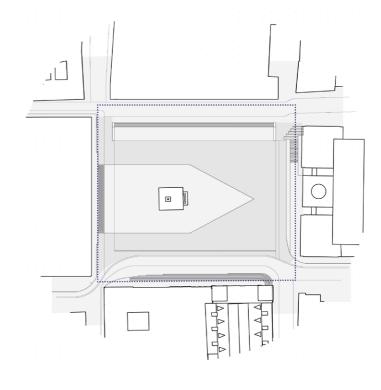
Key section: Along the facades and cutting the square in the middle.



PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, SIENNA Focality without monumentality.

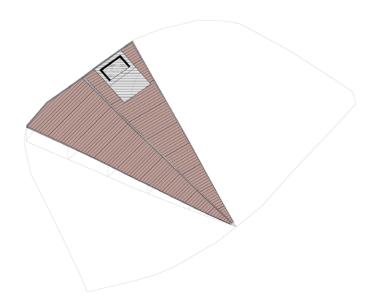


**CAMPIDOGLIO, ROME**Enclosed urban interior.



**PLAZA DE BOLIVAR, BOGOTA**Treatment of the ground at the meeting with the facades.

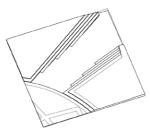
Joints of the floor which make possible the functioning of the landscape in respect of water drainage, structural stability, thermal expansibility.



#### PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, SIENNA

Pronounced seam

The incline and direction of the slope are irregular. The seam accentuated in a differying paving colour, pattern and the slight concave emphasize the focal point of the square and create a seeming impression of flat triangular surfaces converging in one

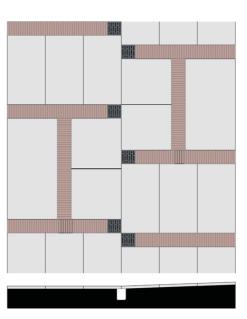




#### CAMPIDOGLIO, ROME

Pronounced seam

A stepless seam delimits the edge characterized by biggest accessibility. Where access was meant to be more difficult the transition between a flat and a sloping surface was formed with the use of other directions and surfaces. The steps resulting from this operation give a subtle definition to the oval shape of the plaza.



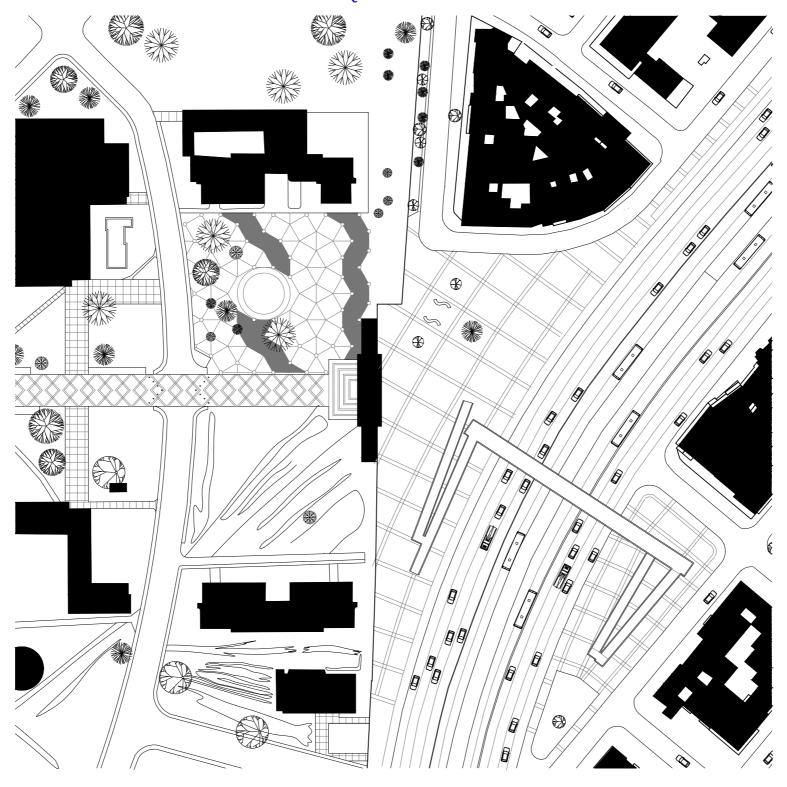
#### PLAZA DE BOLIVAR, BOGOTA

Unpronounced seam

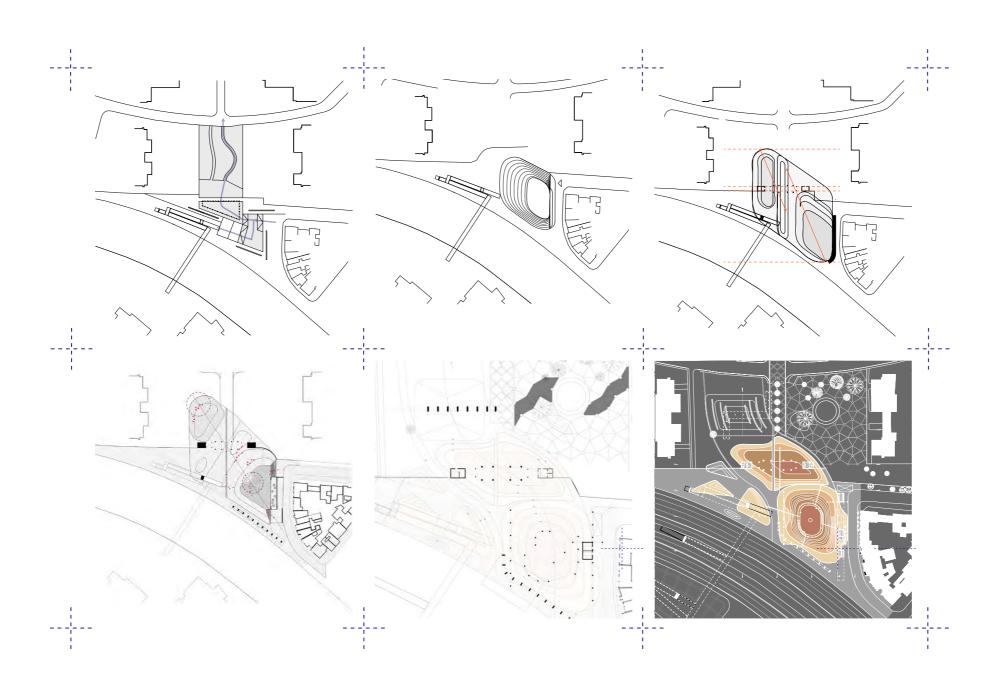
The seam between flat and tilted surfaces is concealed by continous paving pattern. However some of the seams are marked by drainage pipe inlets.

# Design attempts

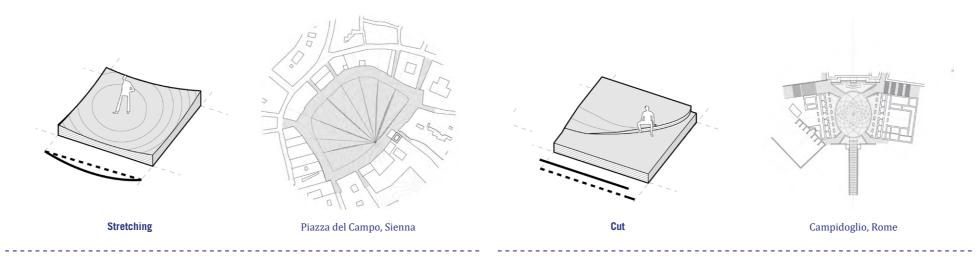
# ENTRY SQUARE AT CALLE 26

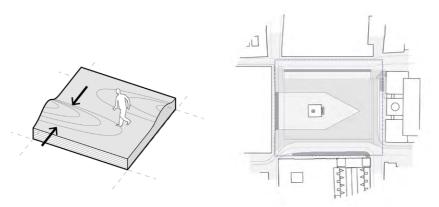


# DESIGN AS A PROCESS OF SUBSTRACTION



# GEOMETRICAL OPERATIONS ON THE SURFACE





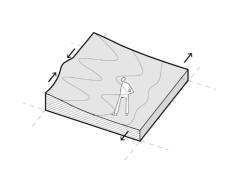




Folding Plaza de Bolivar, Bogota

Weaving

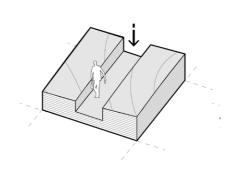
Libraries at Jussieu, Paris







Rabalderstraede musicon, Rolskide, Denmark

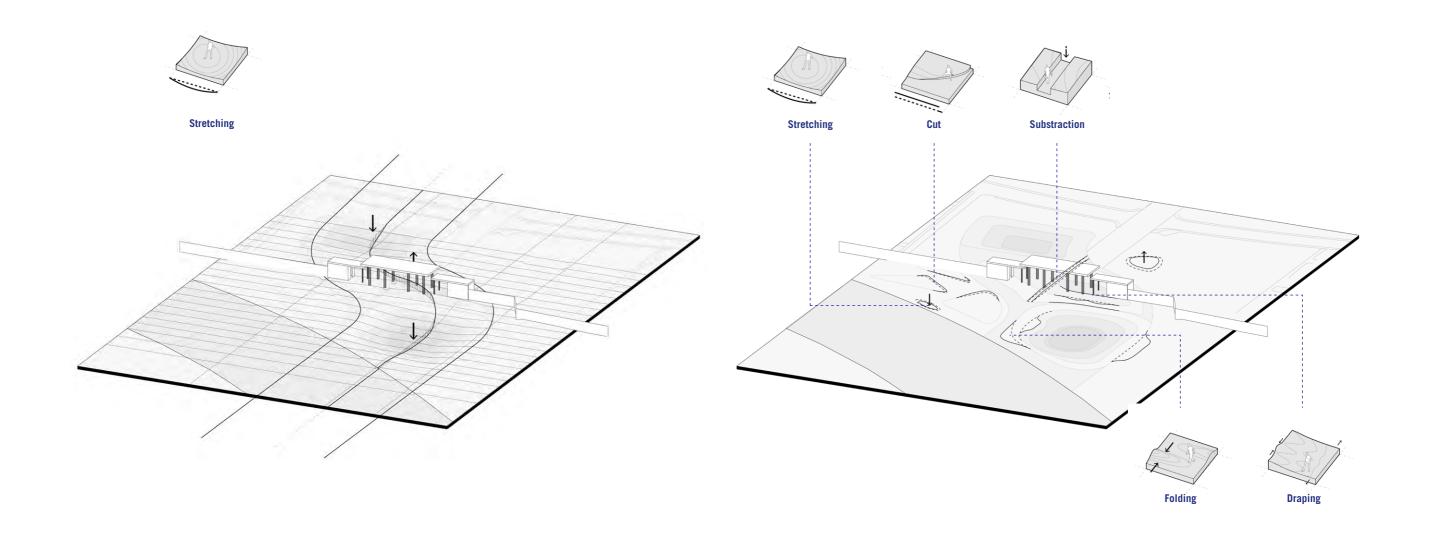


Substraction



Serpentine Pavilion, Herzog de Meuron

# GEOMETRICAL OPERATIONS ON THE SURFACE



# WRITING EXERCISE PERCEPTIONS OF THE BODY



#### ACT 2 SCENE 1

I walk to the university after I get of the bus. Perception of the ear

As I slip on the other side of the colonnade the noise is allayed. Something else starts to prevail. It is an animated sound of people coming from many directions. It s a rattling sound of dishes and a rustle of packaging. Heated discussions happen around me. I do not hear the street any more.

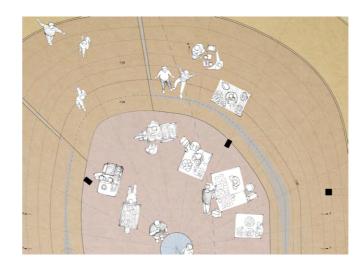
Perception of the body

I run down the slope accelerated by the inline. I spring aside the people who I find in my way. My steps are erratic and my calves tense as I try to slow down and avoid collision. There



Perception of the eye

I climb up the slope. I cut the gate diagonally. I turn around to gaze at the space which I have left behind me. A group of people sits on the floor just a couple of meters away. They are having lunch, absorbed with their conversation. I can observe the entire market from the place where I am.



#### ACT 2 SCENE 2

Perception of the body

Before I know it I find myself in the lowermost point of the landscape. I feel something has changed. My body is at ease. I do not need to resist the gravity any more. The ground is flat soft and cold.

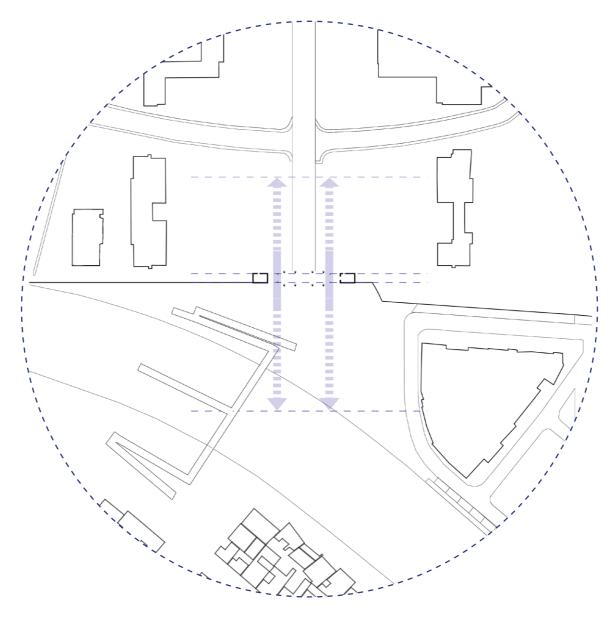
Perception of the eye

This place is dark. The ceiling gravitates towards the ground. The floor and the ceiling close the perspective into a narrow gap. When I look outside I can only see the lower part of the bodies of the people passing. It is as if the height difference has moved us away from each other.

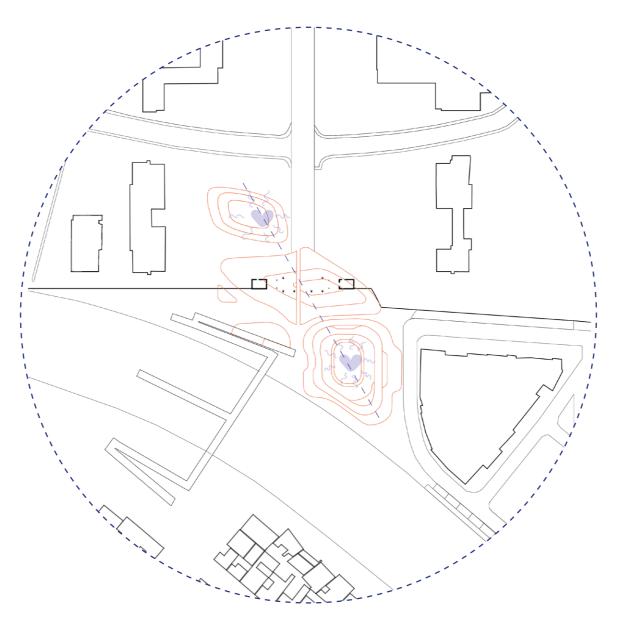
#### ACT 2 SCENE 4

As I run down the slope, I step on the soft grass. A few steps more and I am standing on the hard concrete again. Students are enjoying their lunch break laying down on the grass or hurriedly revising for the next lesson. I am running late. I leave the place behind me.

Design strategy







1 TOPOGRAPHY continously undulated through the gate.

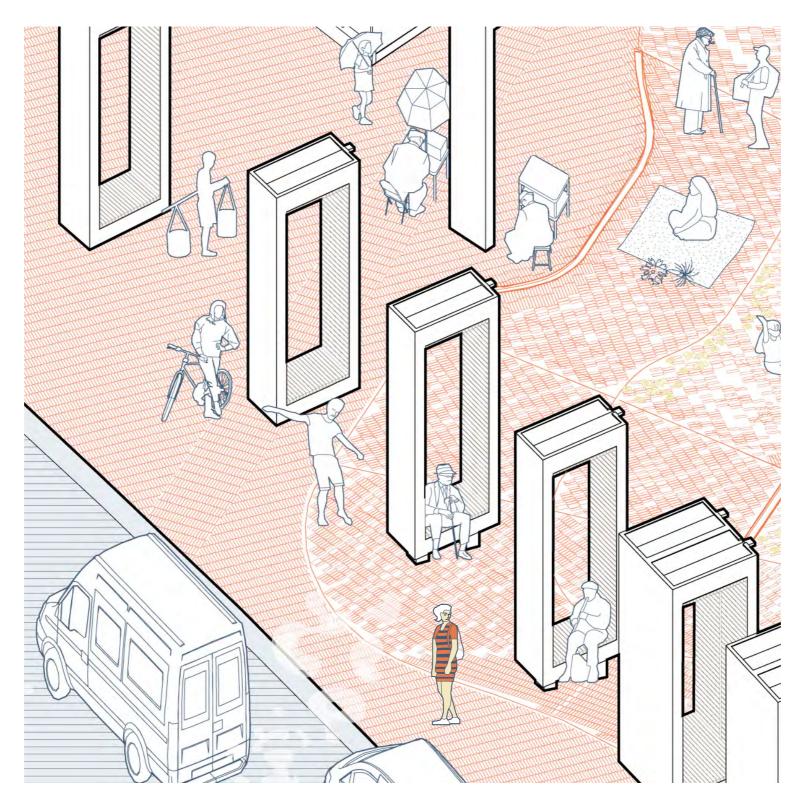


**GRADIENT** of two materials blurring the transion and defying the division of space into functional subspaces.

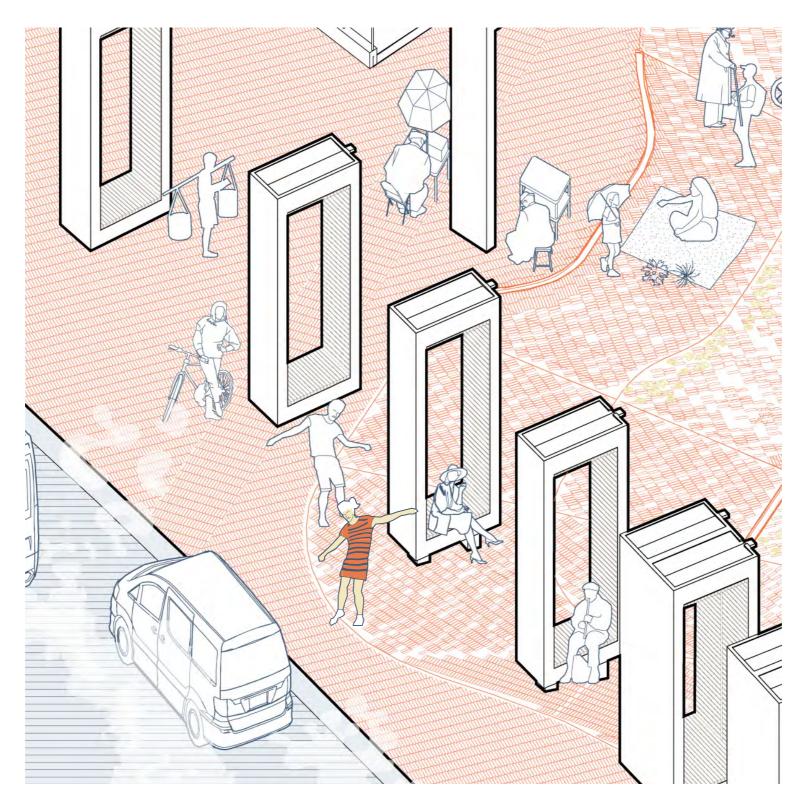


THIRDING the dominant position of the gate with pavilions which capture the body and sight of the passer-by.

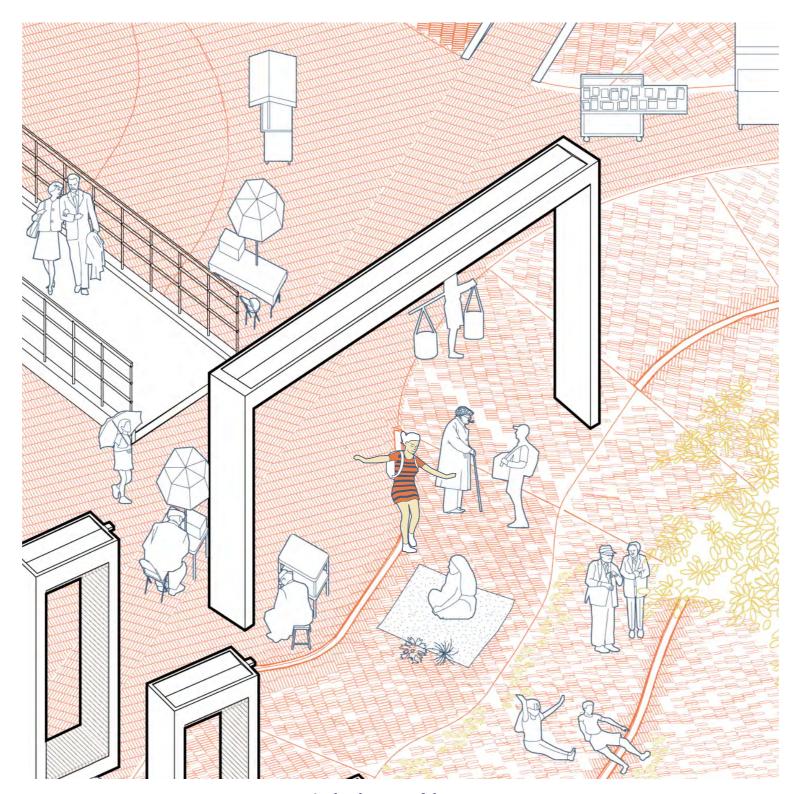
# Walk I topography



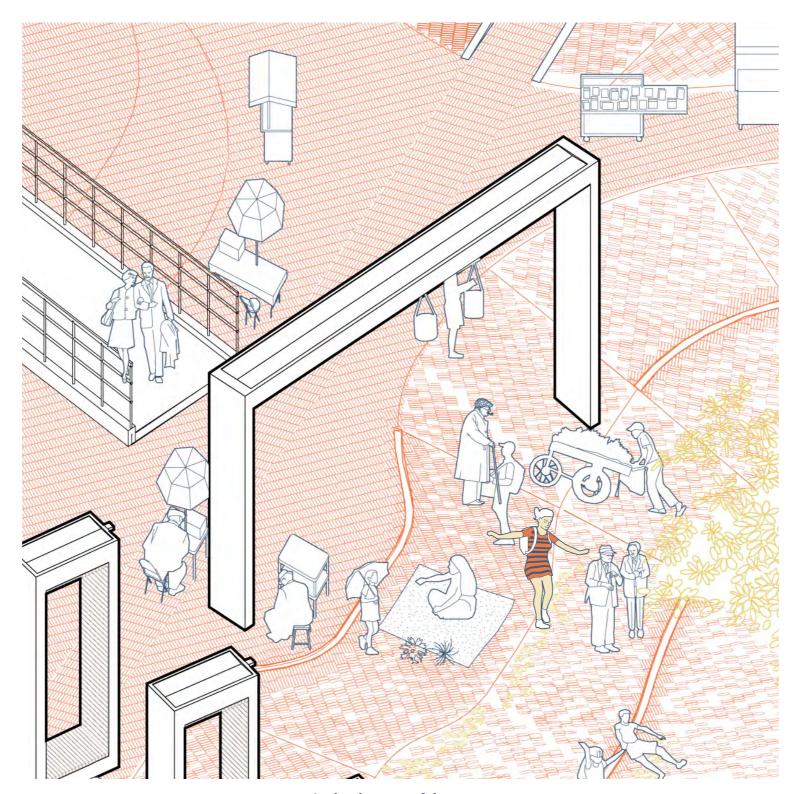
The edge of the street



The edge of the street



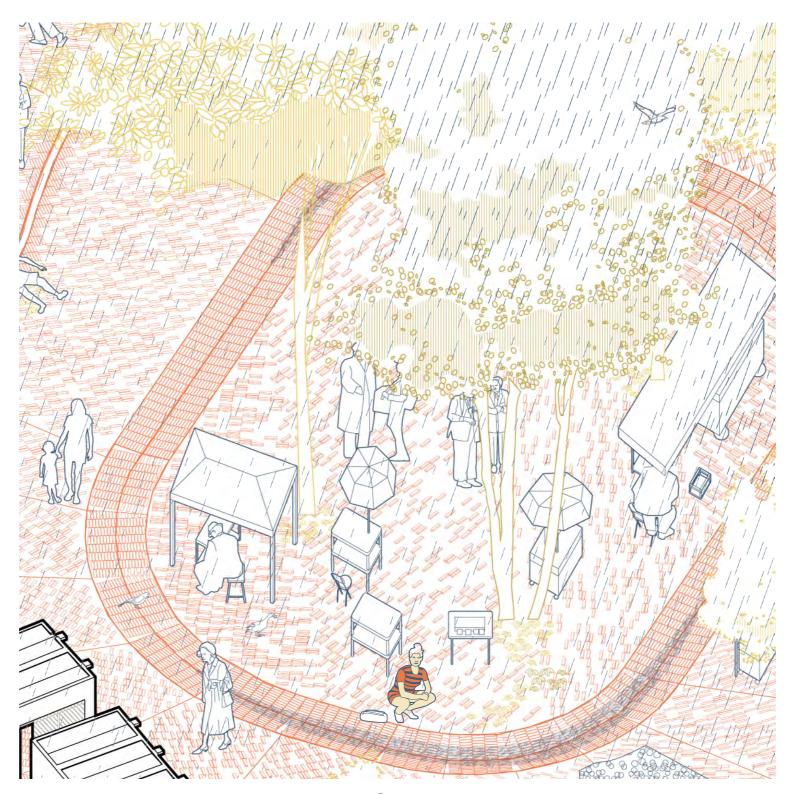
At the descent of the stairs



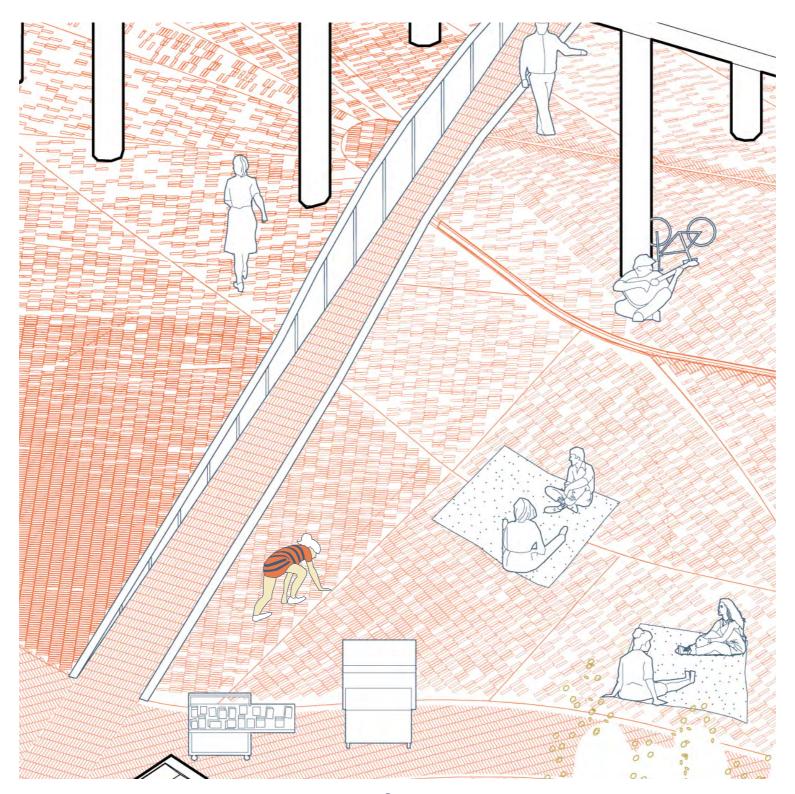
At the descent of the stairs



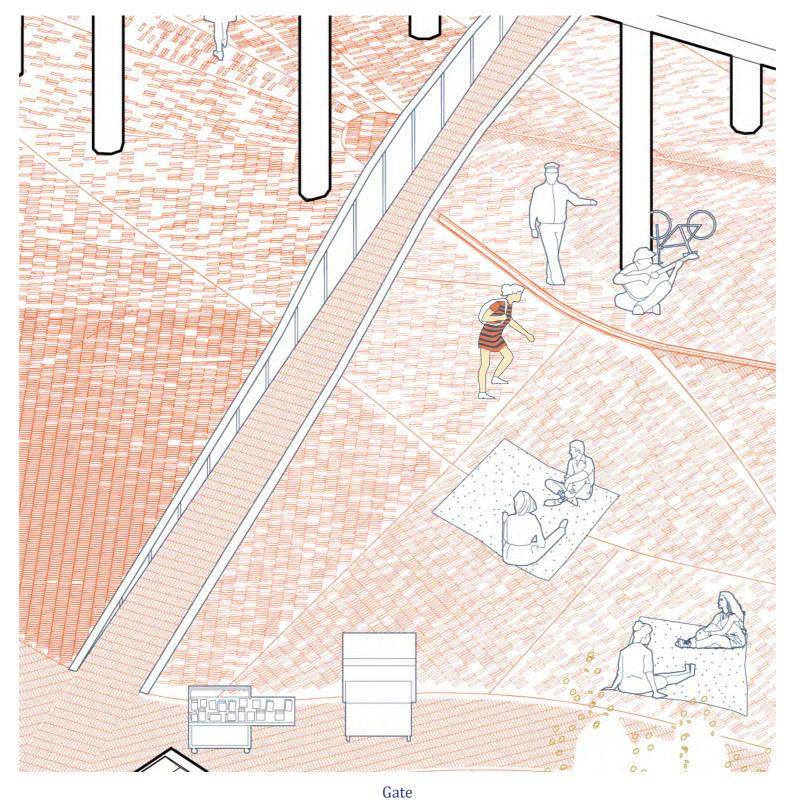
Center

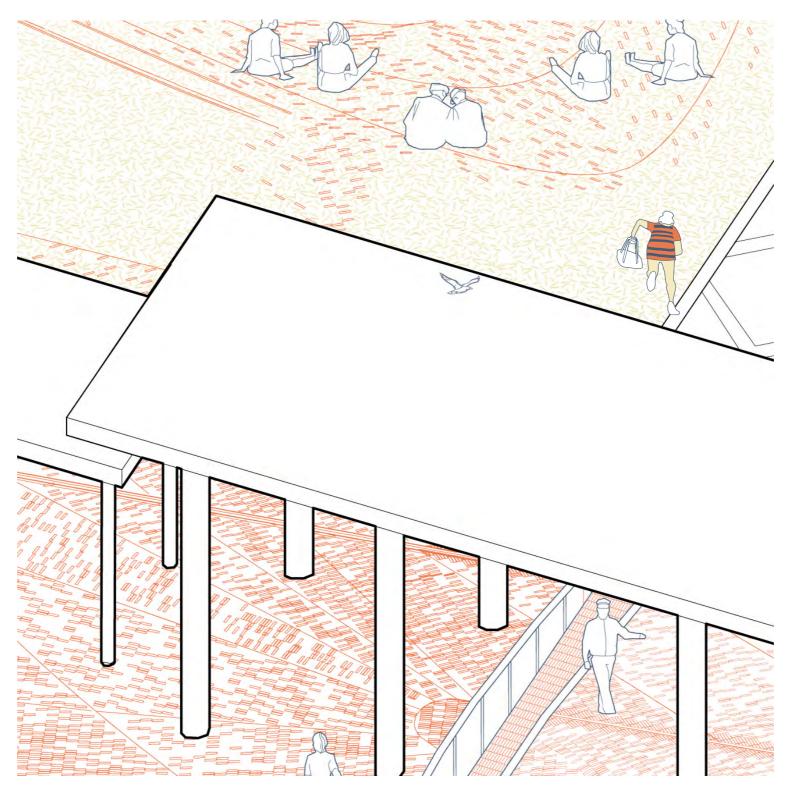


Center

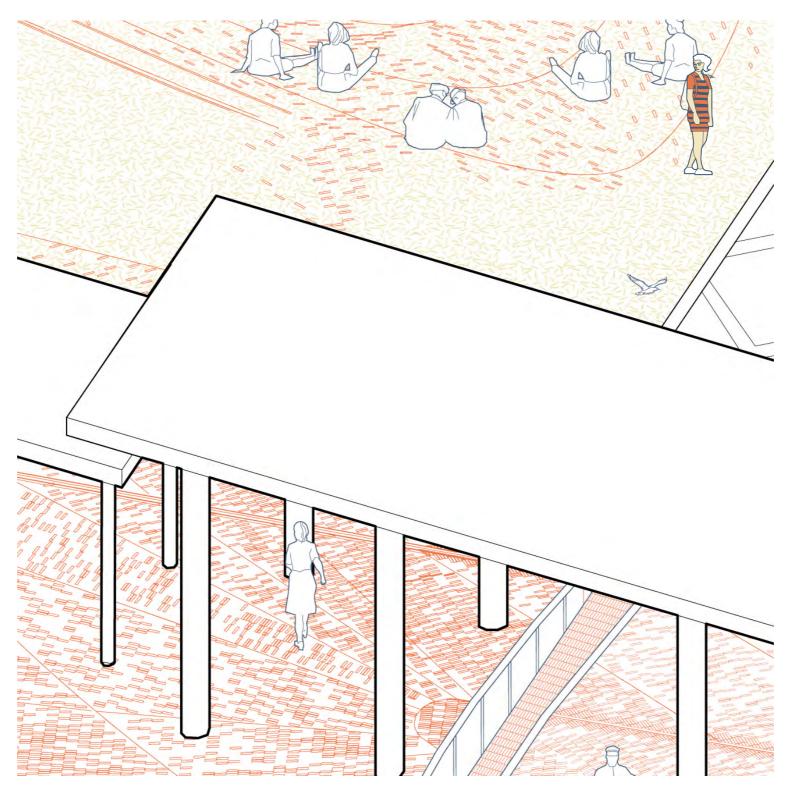


Gate

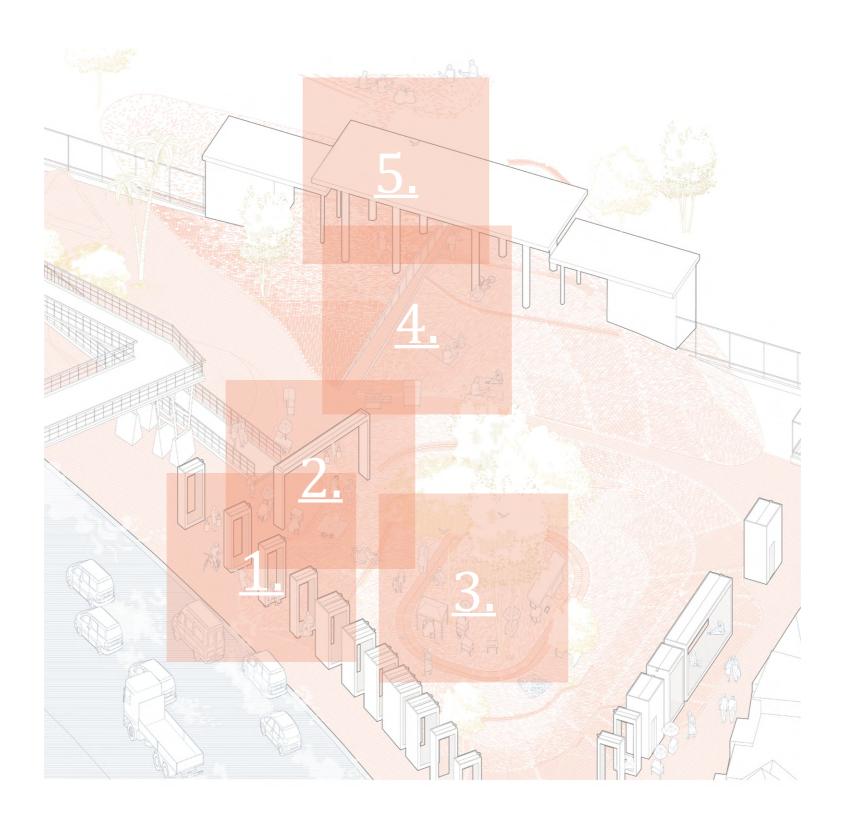




Inside the campus



Inside the campus



Map of the walk

## Material

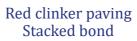
#### TEXTILE BY OLGA AMARAL



CESTA LUNAR 016, OLGA AMARAL
Source: https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/olga-de-amaral-colombian-b-1932-5793758-details.aspx (accessed: 30.06.2019)

#### WEAVE OF CLINKER PAVING AND GRASS

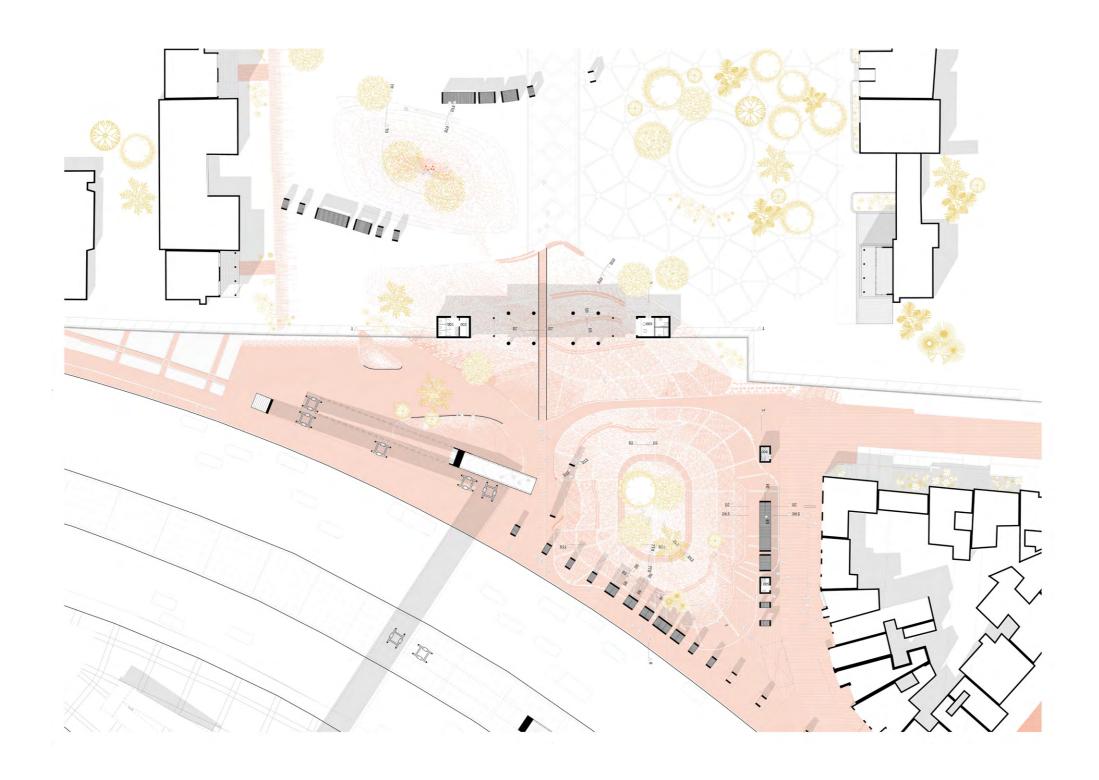






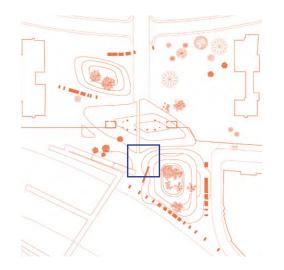
Grass

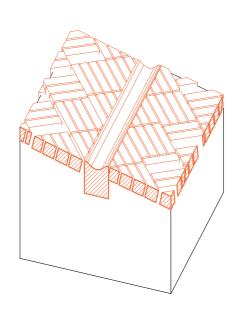
## GRADIENT

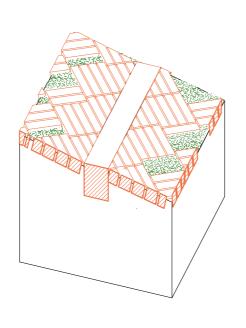


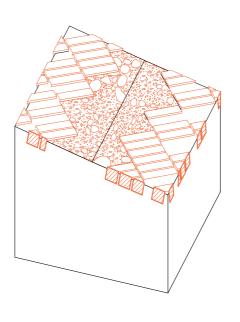
## ACCENTS IN THE WEAVE

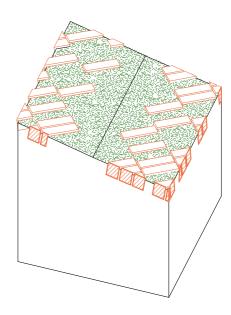












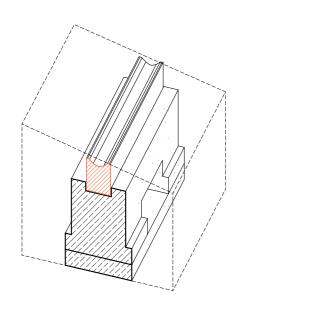
Accentuaating seams
Non-permeable floor

 $\underline{B}_{\scriptscriptstyle \blacksquare}$  Permeable floor

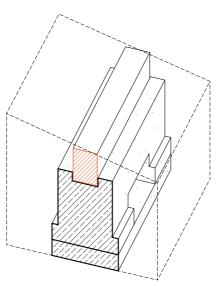
C. CONCEALED SEAMS

Non-permeable floor

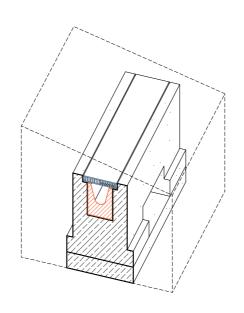
 $\underline{D}_{\bullet}$  Permeable floor



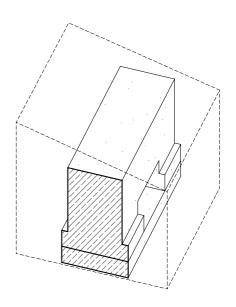






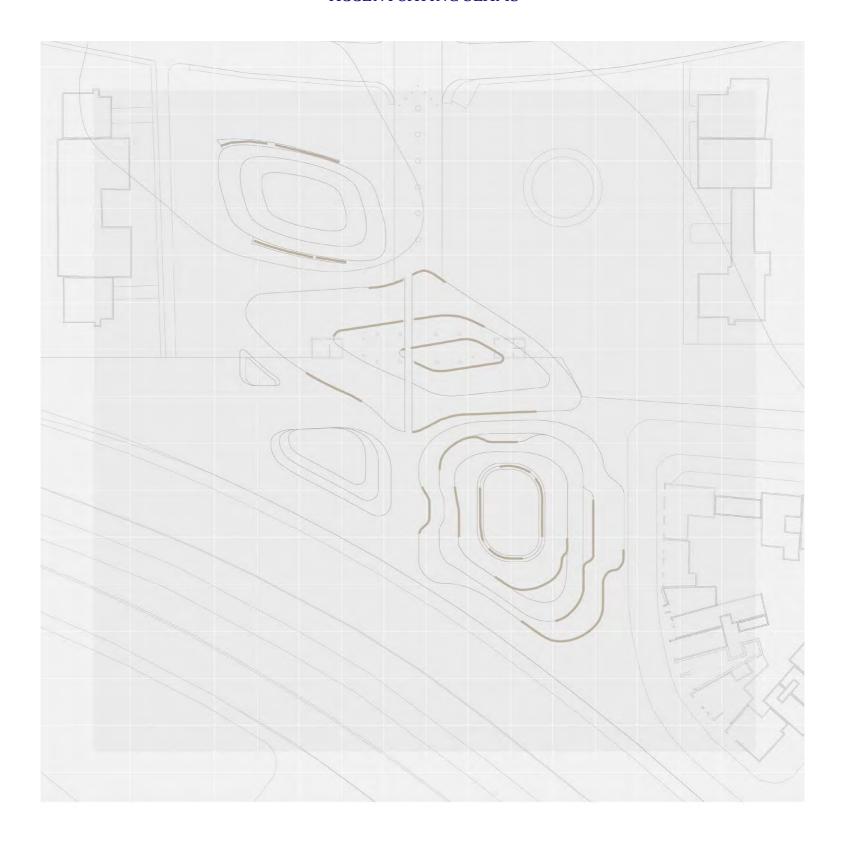








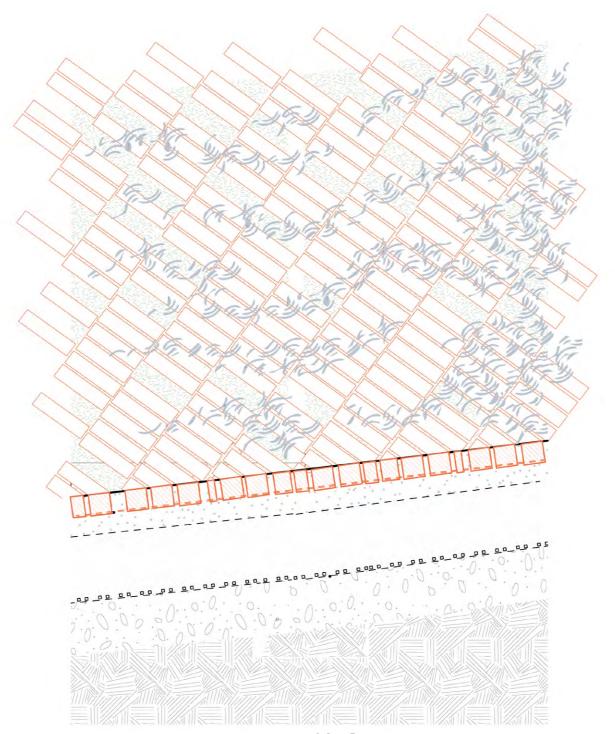
### ACCENTUATING SEAMS



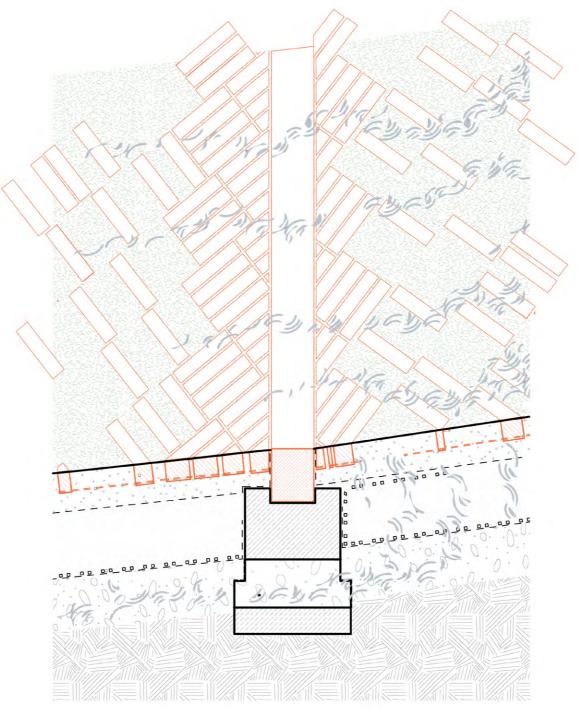
### CONCEALED SEAMS



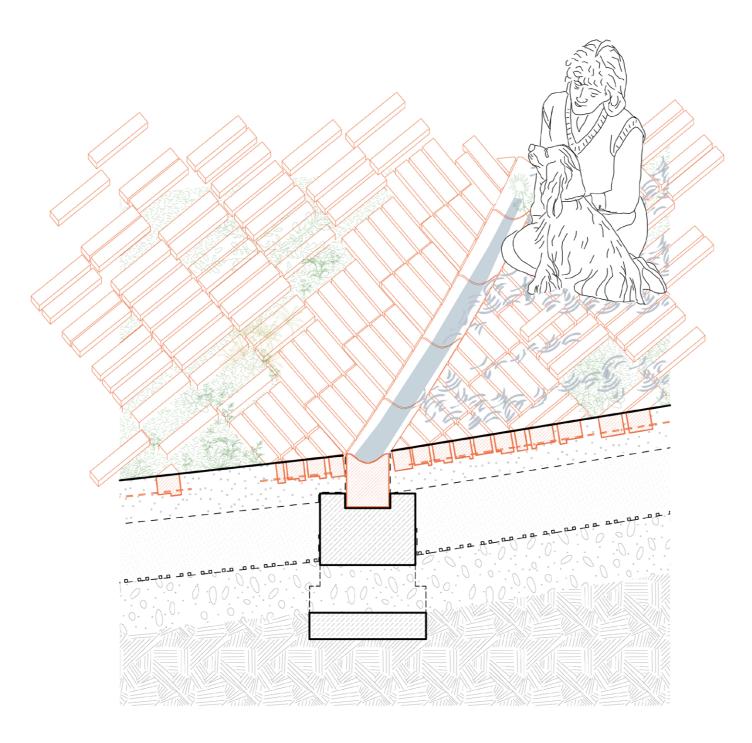
# Walk II Water



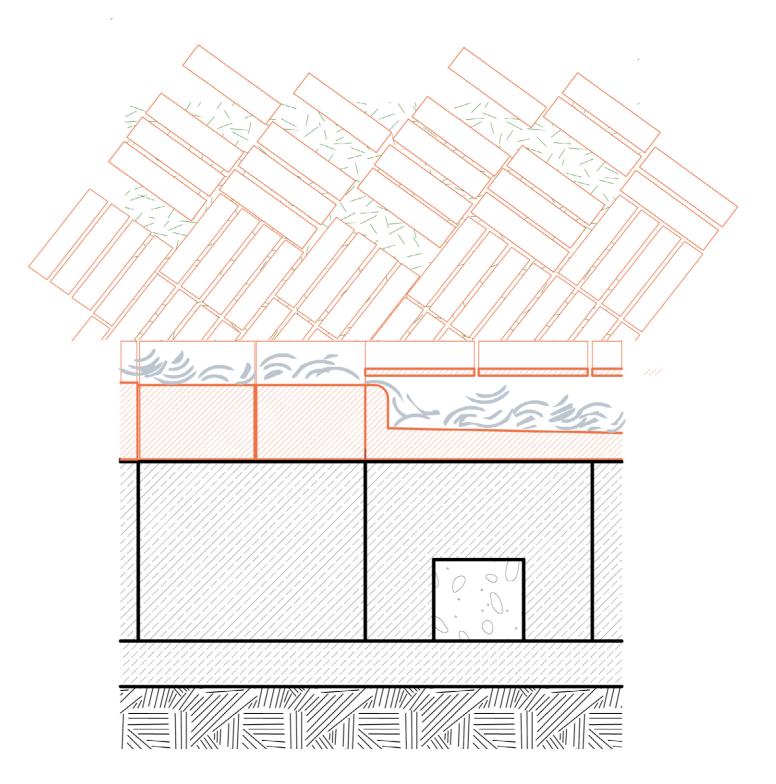
Fragment of the floor



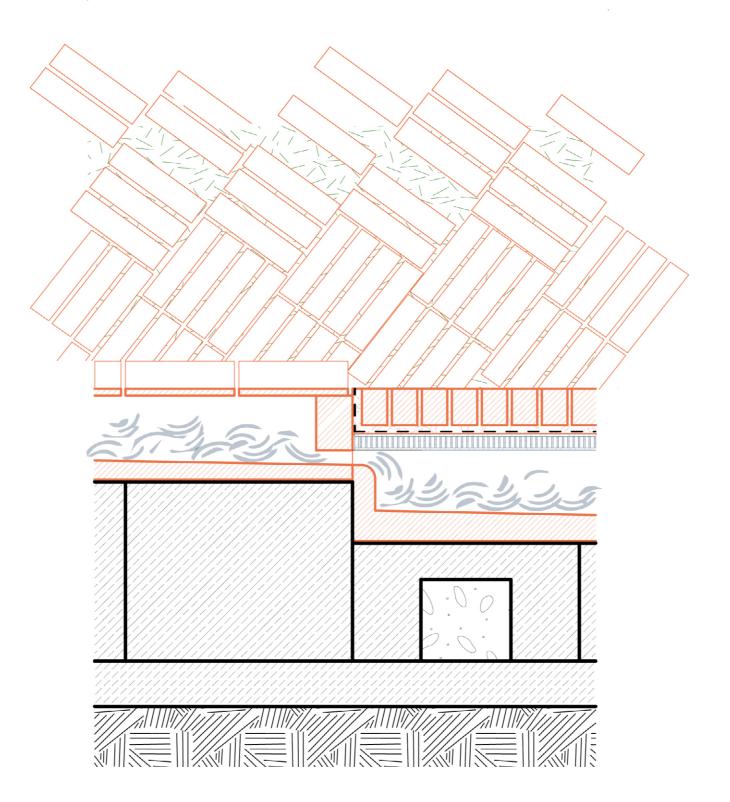
An accentuating seam
Permeable floor



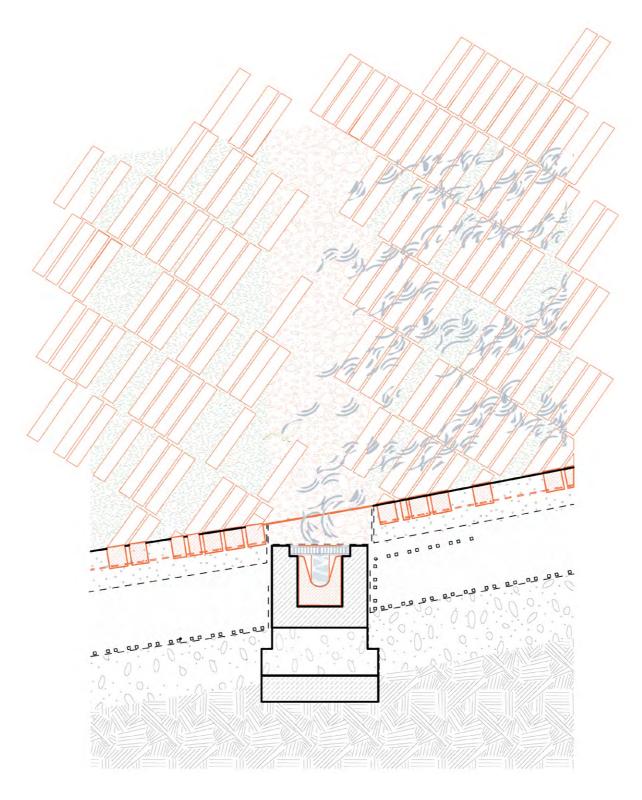
An accentuating seam Non-permeable floor



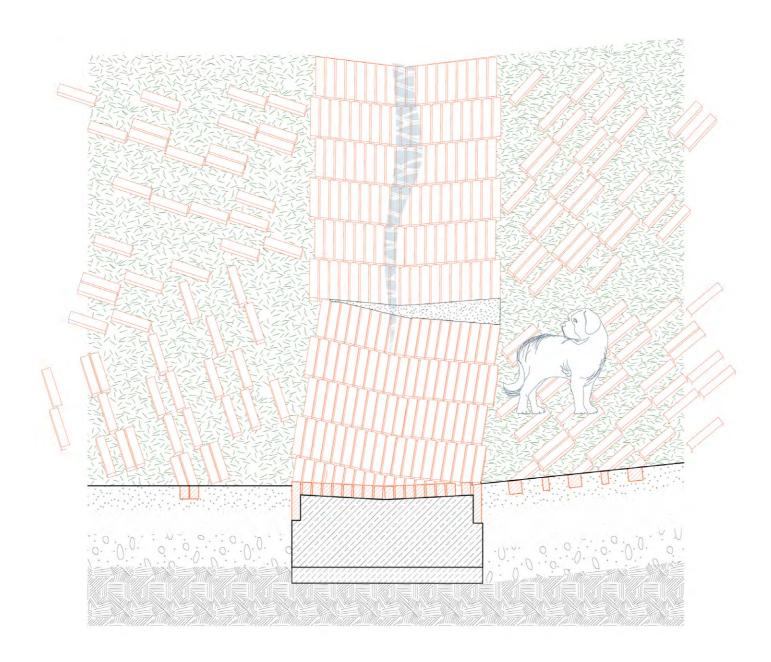
An accentuating seam Non-permeable floor



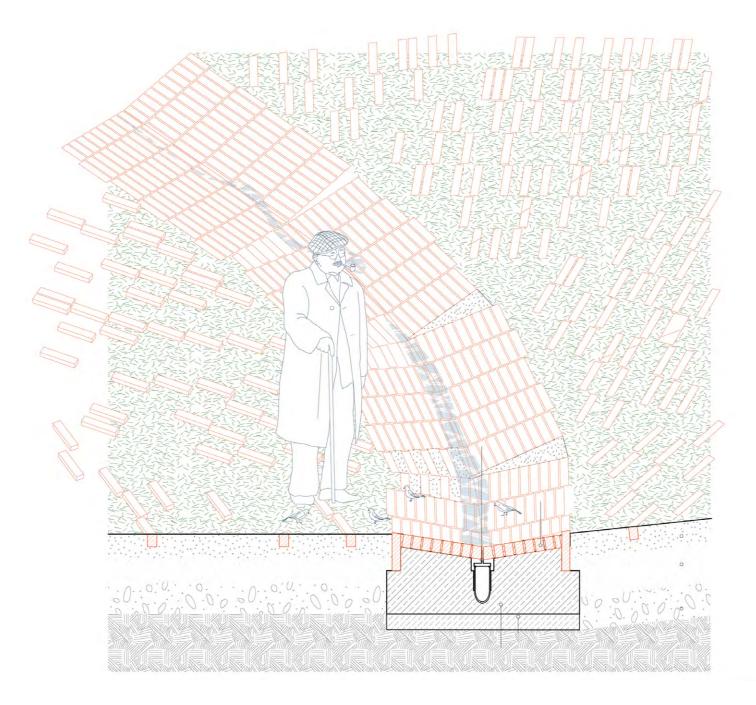
An accentuating seam/concealed seam Non-permeable floor



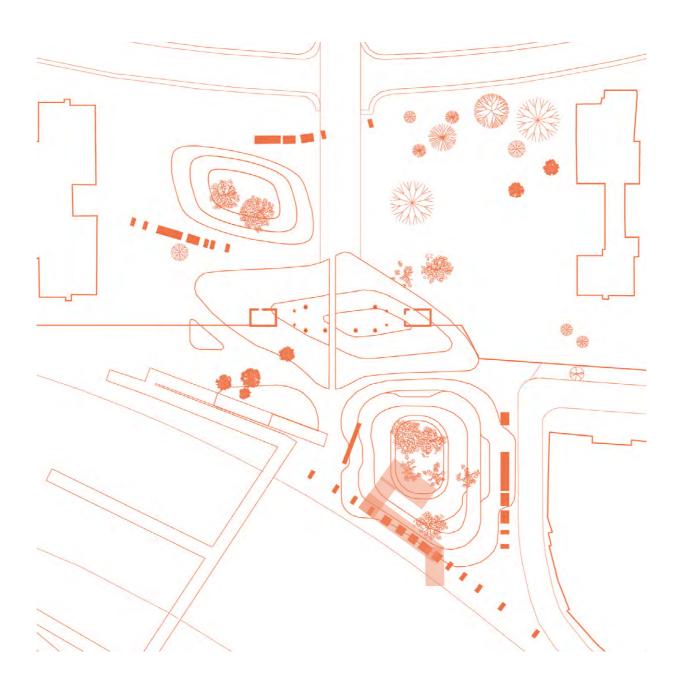
A concealed seam Non-permeable floor



Creek around the center of the market

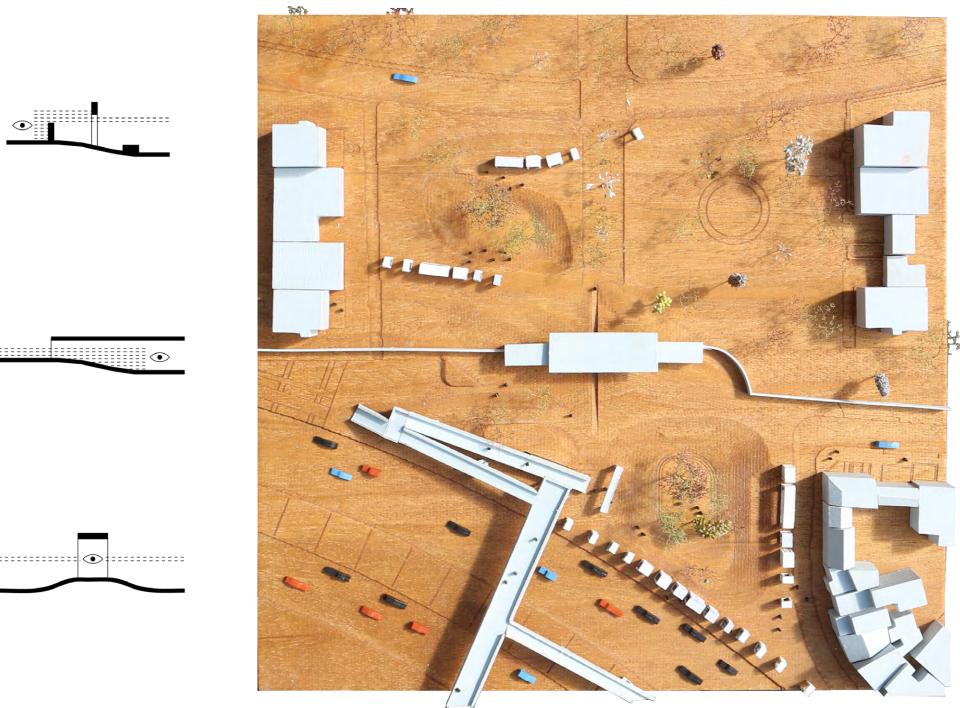


Creek around the center of the market

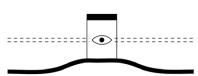


Map of the walk

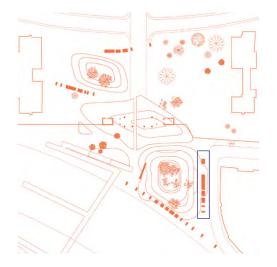
# **Pavilions**

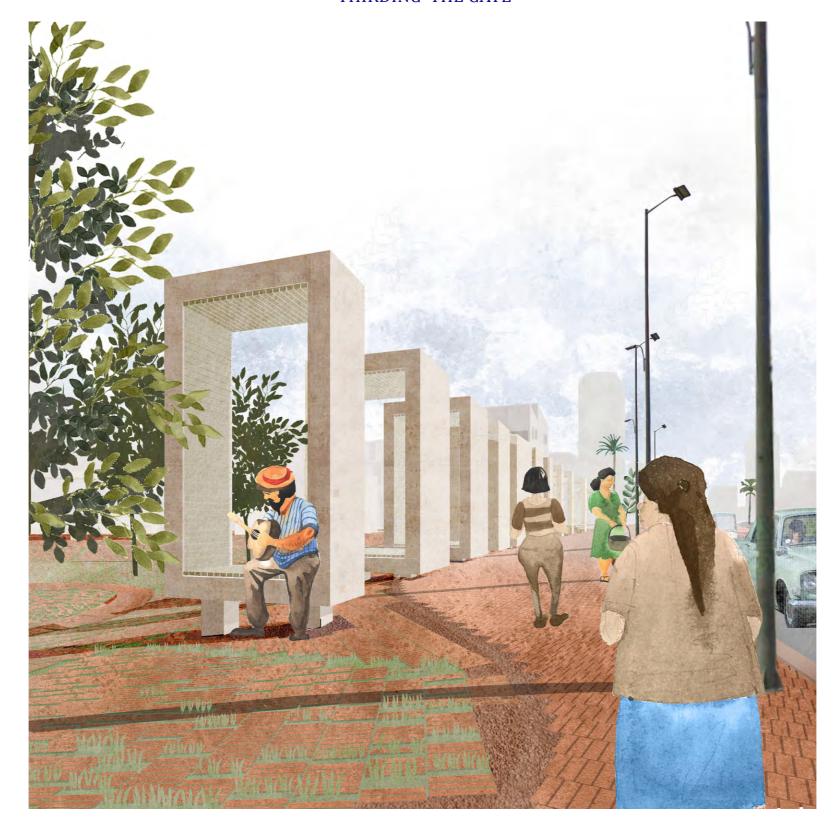


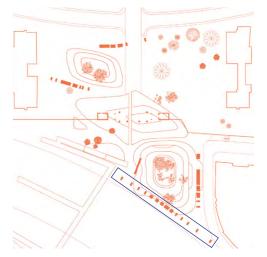




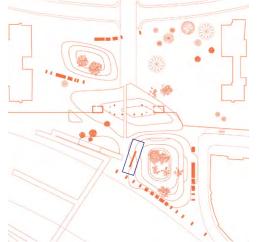




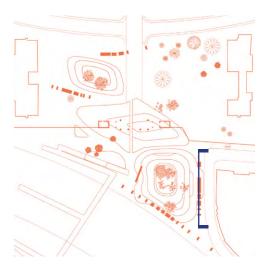


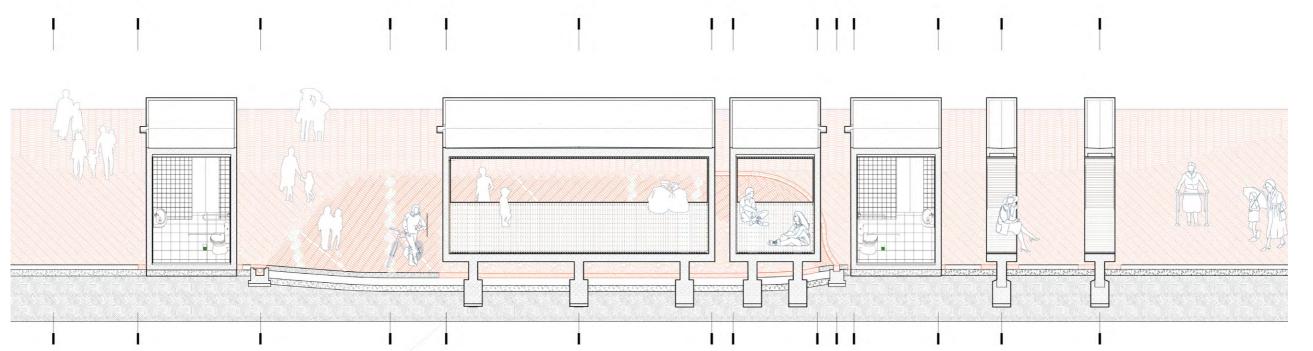




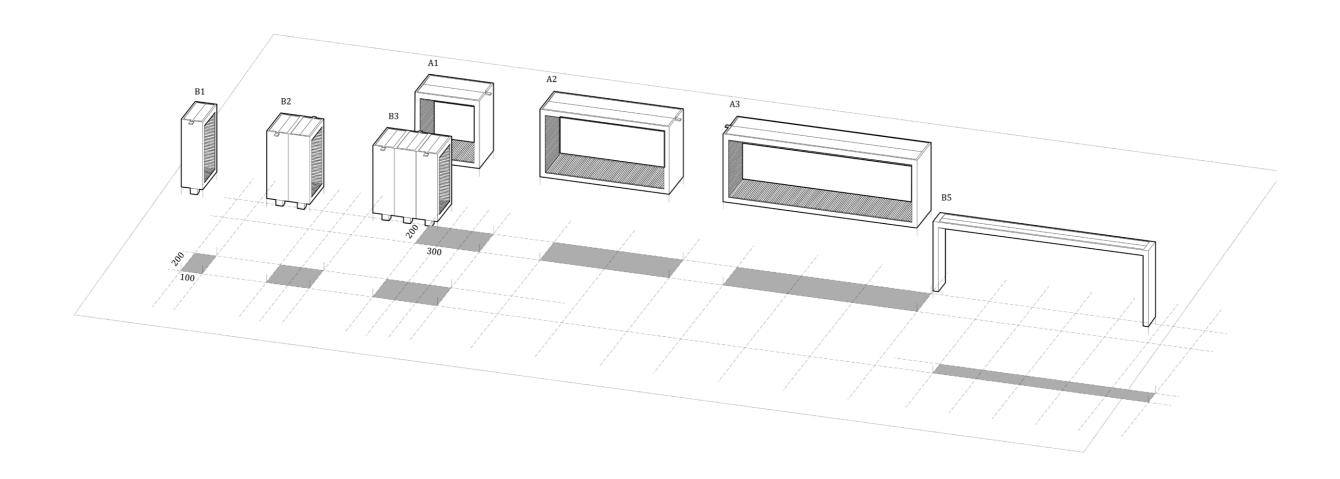


#### AN ARRAY OF PAVILIONS

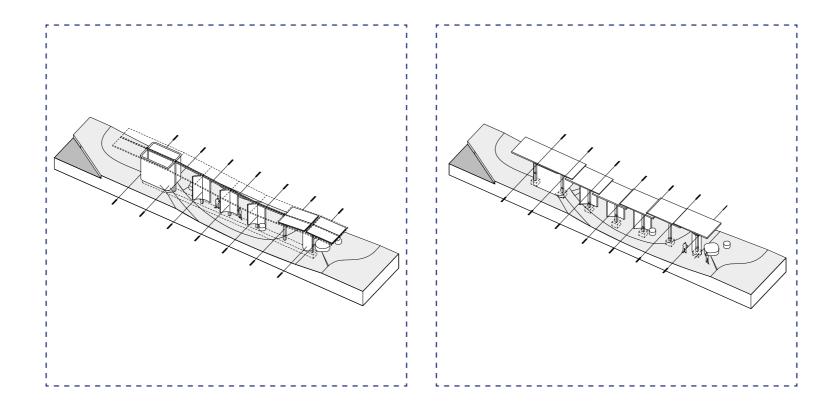




#### A MODULAR SYSTEM

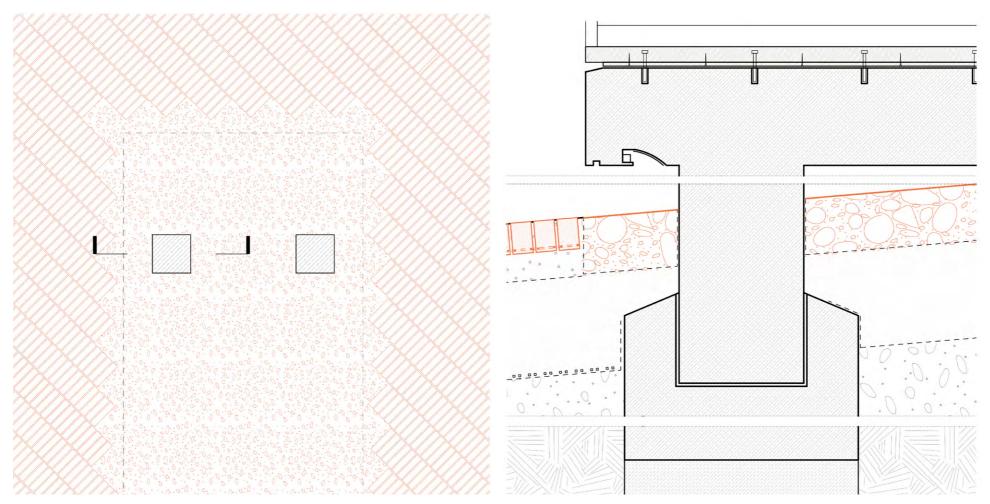


#### ENCOUNTER WITH THE FLOOR



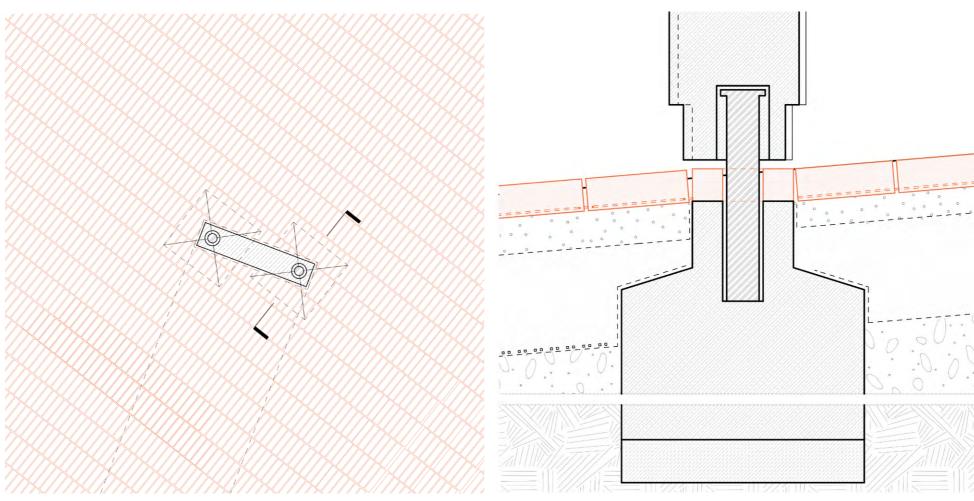


#### ADMISION INTO THE FLOOR



In this solution of the joint the continuity of paving is interrupted. Shape of the pavilion is reflected in the floor in a 'shadow' filled with crushed clinker. The foundation sinks into the crushed clinker.

#### ADMISION INTO THE FLOOR



In this solution the bottom of the pavilion is perfectly fitted into the brick puzzle. Bricks flow around, underneath or through the pavilions undisturbed.

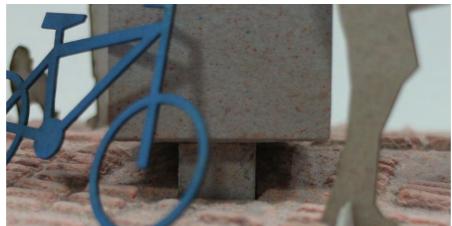


Fragmented Matte Warm





Fragmented
Matte
Warm
Soft



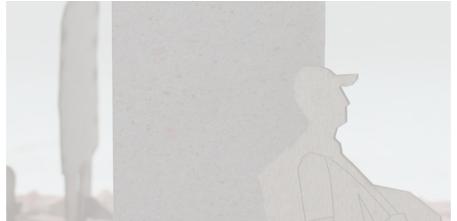
Coarse Rough Dark



Monolythic Seamless Smooth Fine Cold Hard





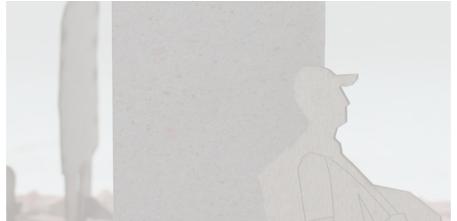


Monolythic Seamless Smooth Fine Cold



Shining Dainty Minute





Monolythic Seamless Smooth Fine Cold Hard



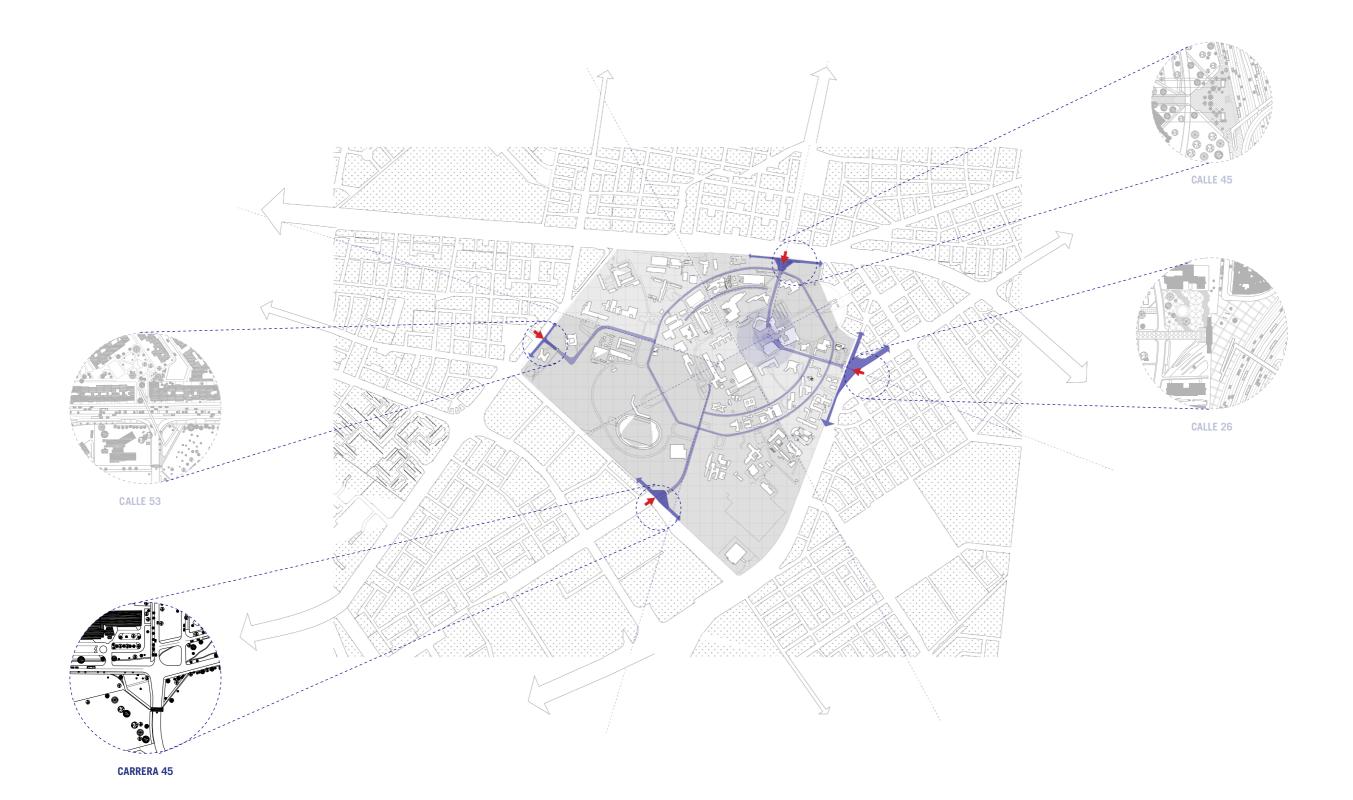
Shining
Delicate
Dainty
Ceramics
Monolythic



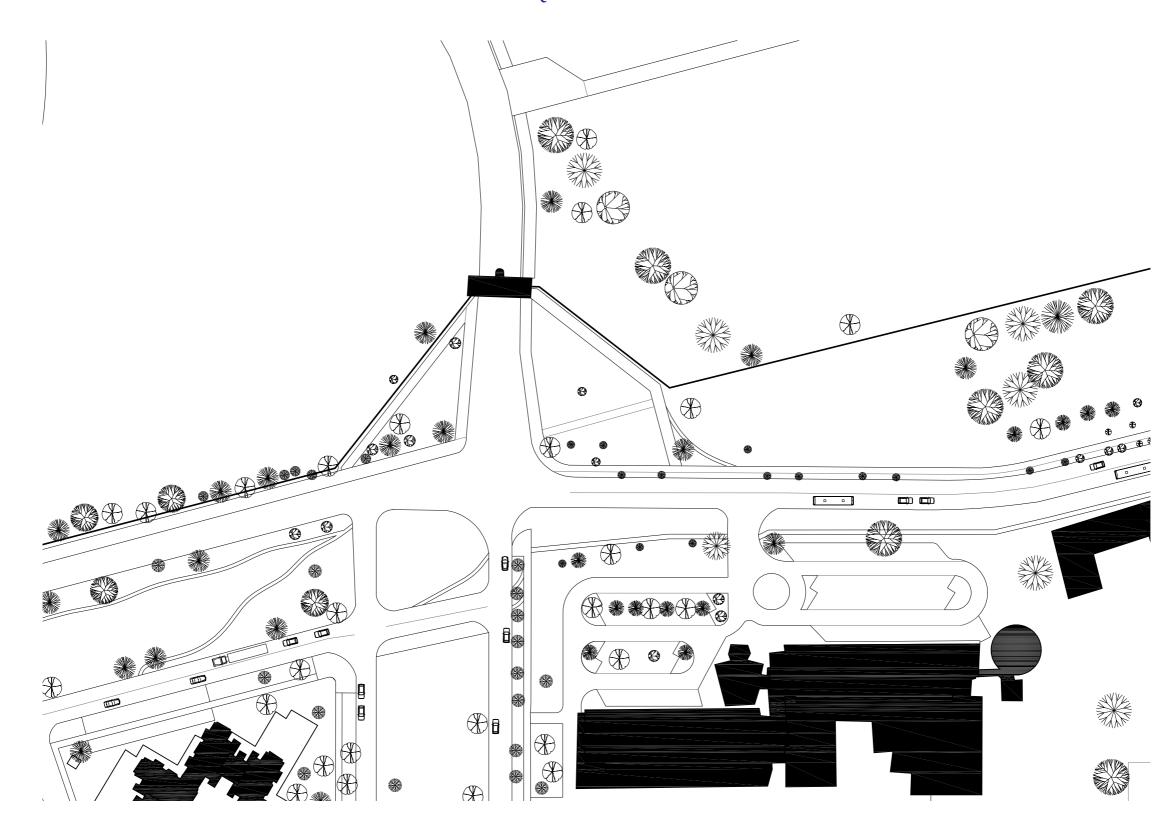
Assembled Matte Warm

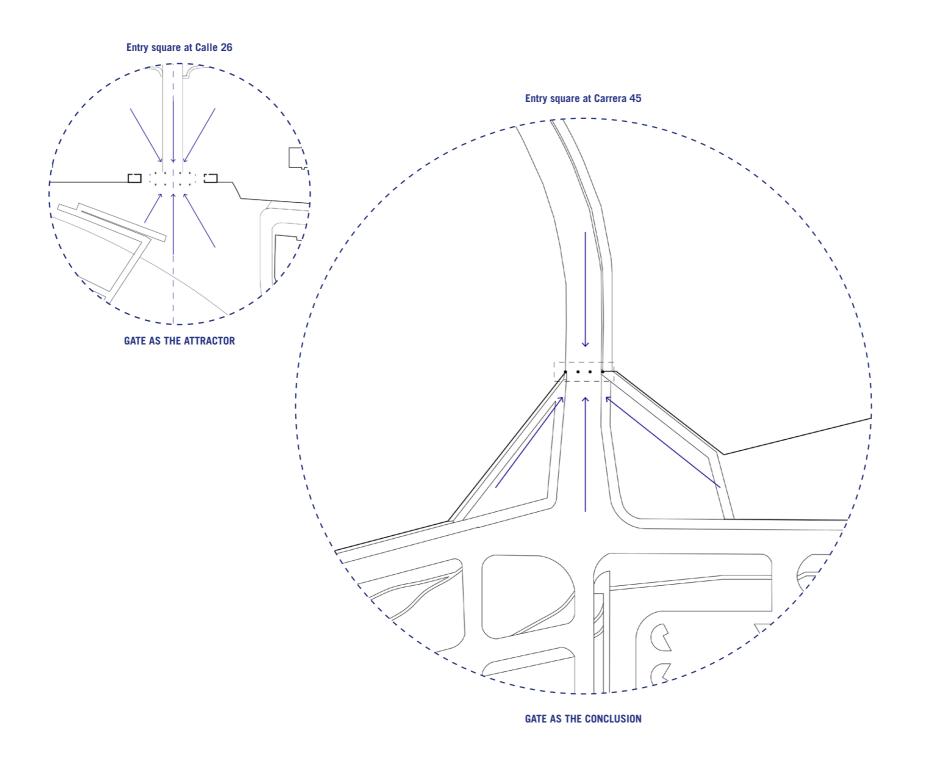
# **Challenging** the strategy

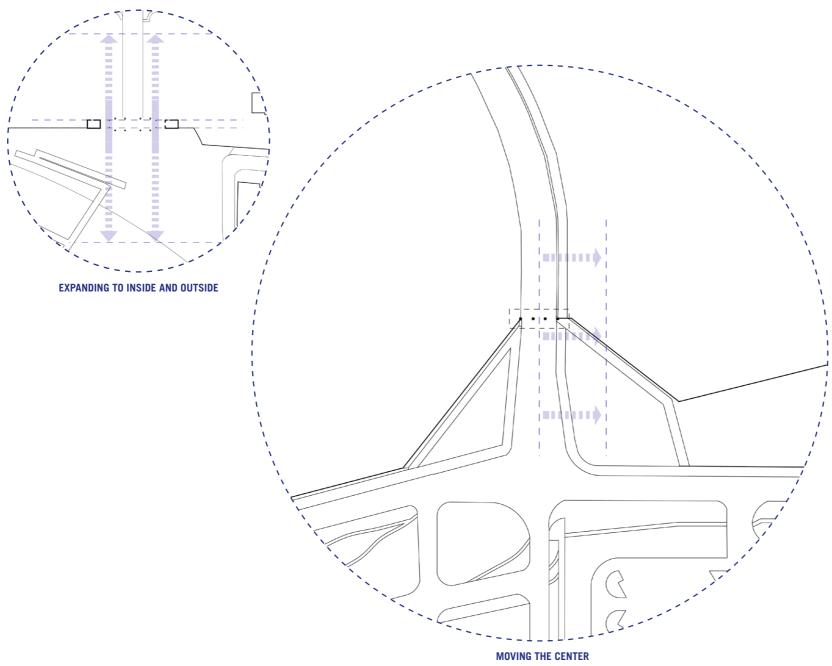
# ENTRY SQUARES OF UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA



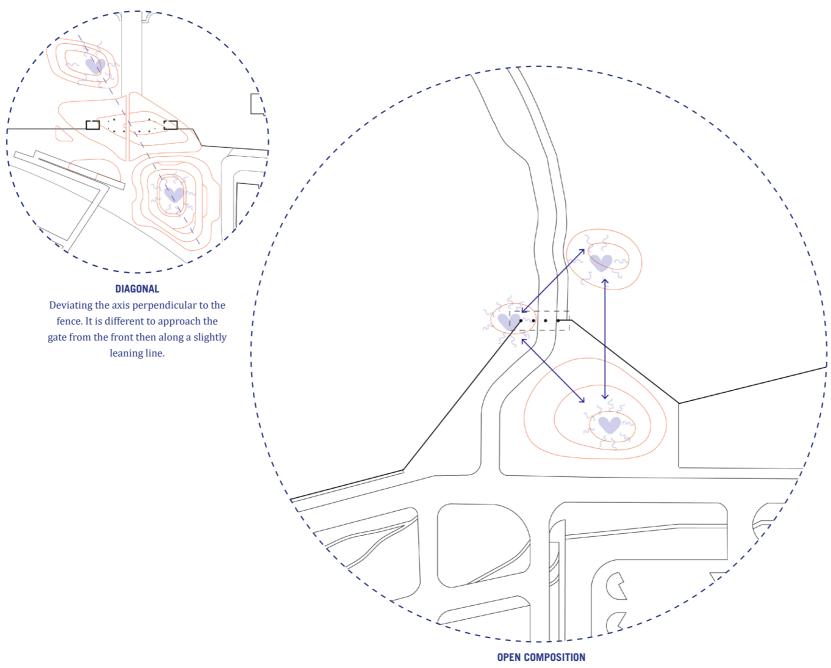
# ENTRY SQUARE AT CALLE 26





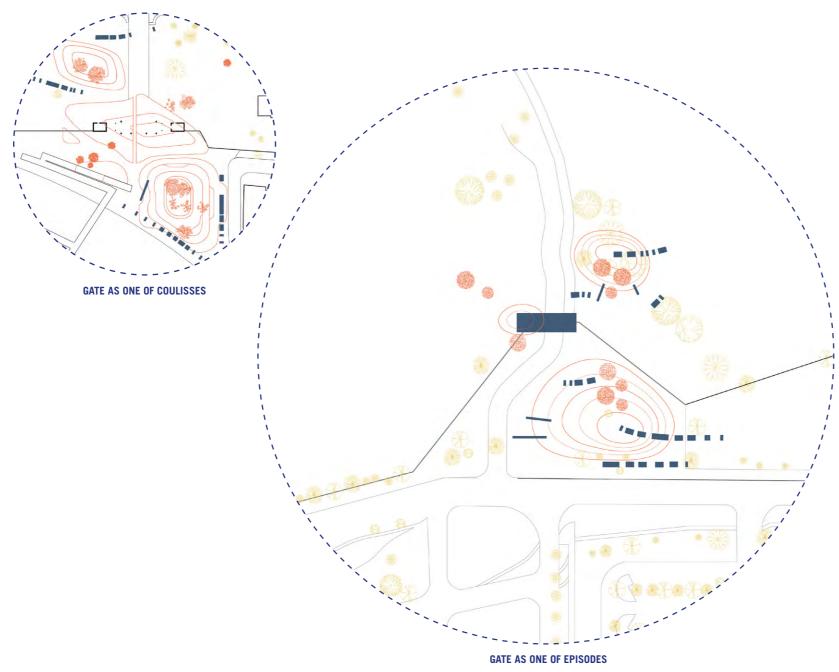


The centrality can be broken. The perceivable center of the space can be moved from the gate.



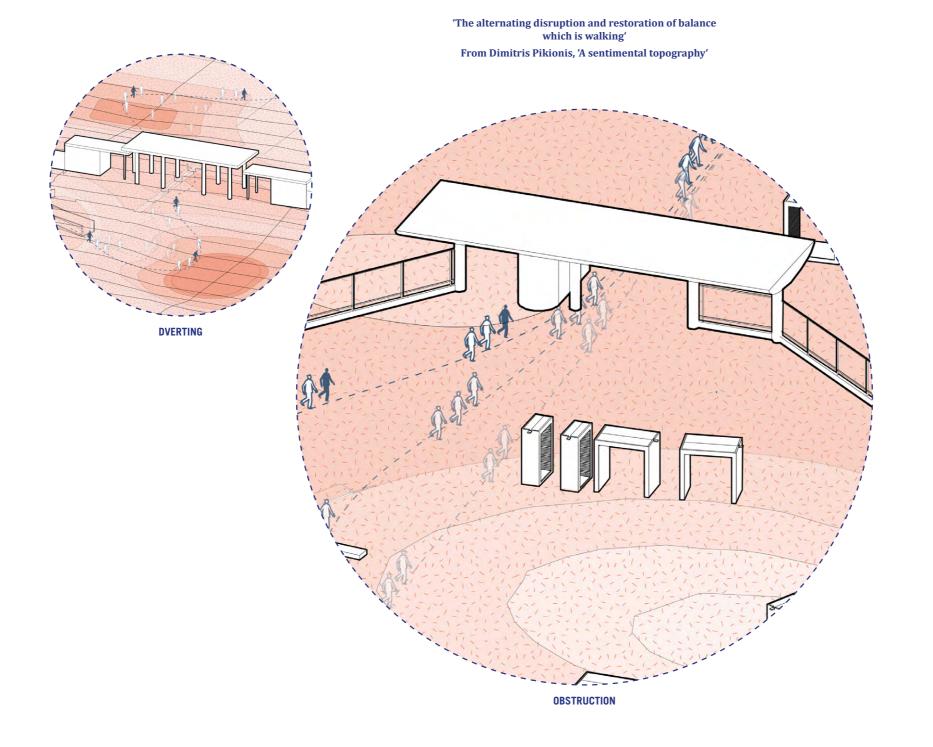
Moving the axis beyond the gate. Creating a composition that puts the pavilion of the center. Shifing the attention.

Composition which can be multiplied along the fence.

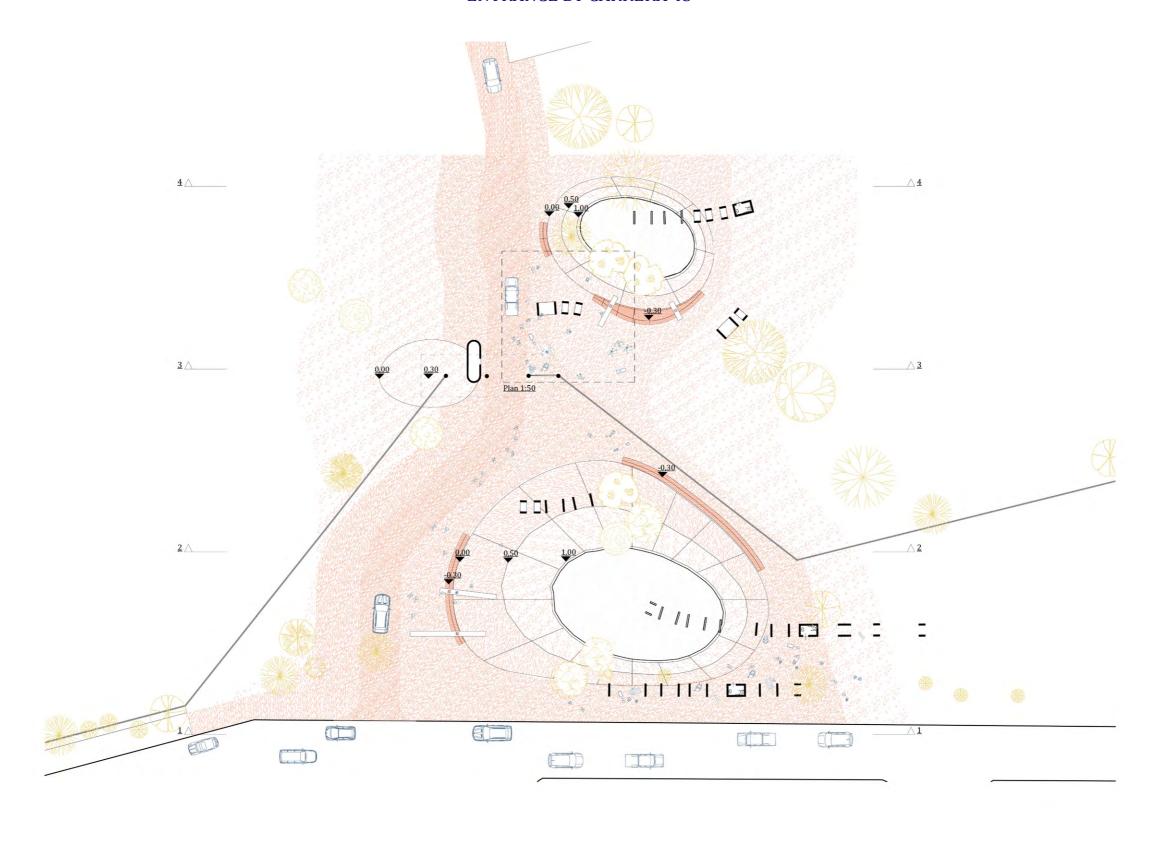


Changing the frontal perception of the gate pavilion by thirding it with other small buildings.

#### INFLUENCING MOVEMENT



## **ENTRANCE BY CARRERA 45**

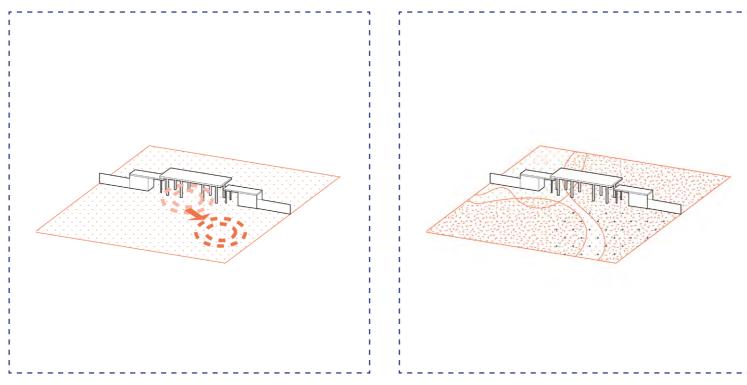


# LEISURELY USE



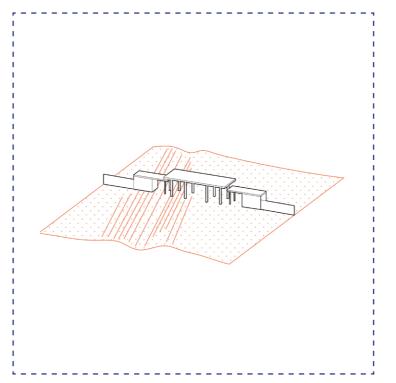
# Conclusions

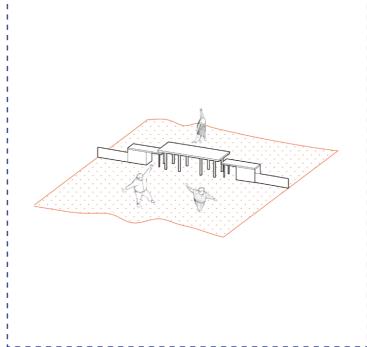
A manifesto of a thickened threshold



THE CENTER of a thickened threshold does not lay in the place where the boundary can be crossed.

FUNCTIONS are not represented in or assigned to specific spaces.



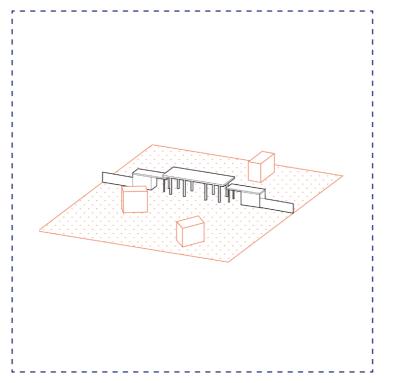


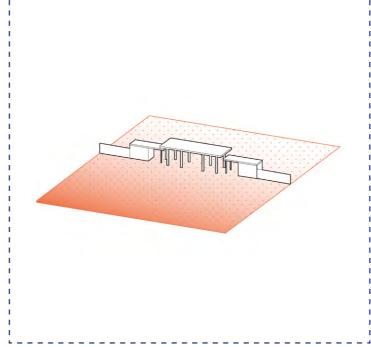
<u>3.</u>

CONTINUOUS GESTURES used upon the floor have effects transmitted over large portions of it. Any space can be influenced by introducing changes in distant parts of the floor.

<u>4.</u>

Unlocking the **VERTICAL DIMENSION** the vertical dimension influences the perceptions and the reactions of the body of the user.

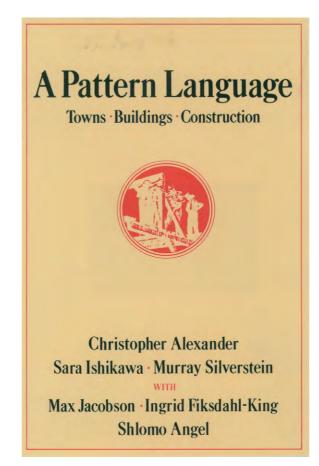




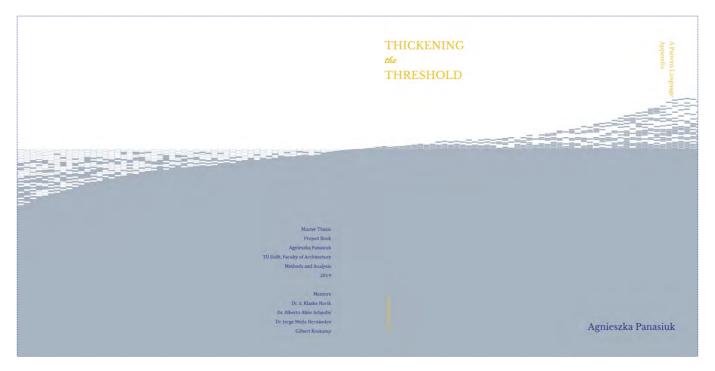
THIRDING the dominating built structure with elements of similar size allows to change the perception of crossing as the main activity to one of the activities enacted in a space.

**GRADIENT** merges the forms and functions smoothly with one another.

Appending 'A pattern language'



Cover of 'A pattern language'.
Source: https://www.goodreads.com/book/



IN WHAT SITUATION can I use this method?
WHAT can this method be useful FOR?
WHAT INSTRUMENTS, actions and instructions
does this method entail?



#### PATTERN NO. 258 ESTRANGEMENT

Making the familiar strange Discovery, destabilization, surprise, fear or amusement, irony, joke.



## PATTERN NO. 257 AMBIGUATION

Proliferation of meaning.
Reluctancy, contamination, differentiation, quantity, incompatibility.

Influence on the schemes of behaviour





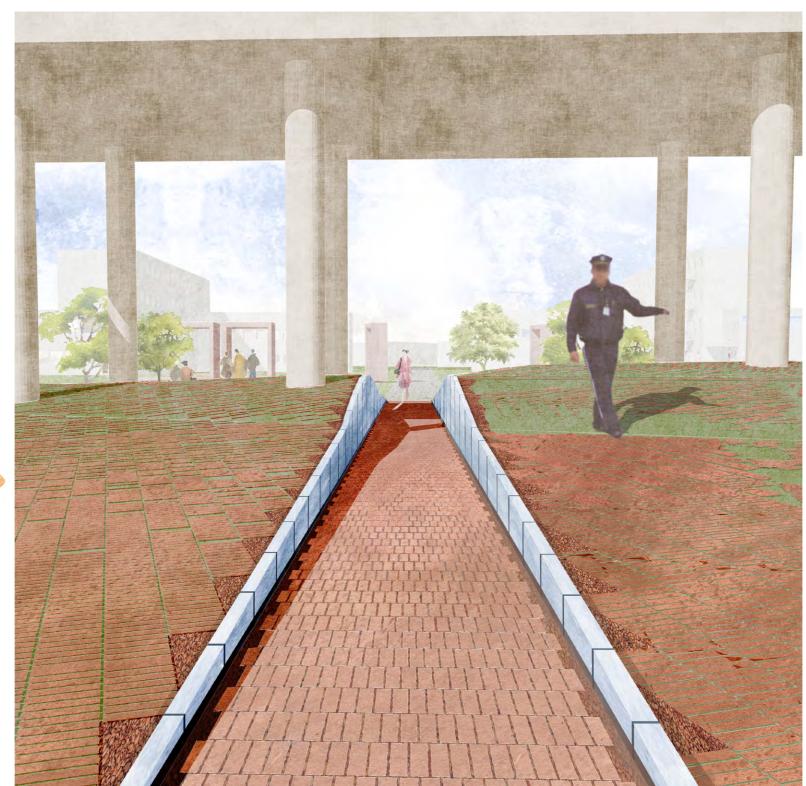
#### **GUARD:**

Always at noon the musician shows up. Sits on the same spot every day. Takes the case of his guitar and puts it in front of him.

It is difficult to ignore the presence of the man. I need nothing with his kind. I look far ahead. My eyes slide right off the straw hat worn by the man onto the back of the old florist trying to sell roses to a gringo. Not this sound again.

What is he playing? Haven't I heard it already.

This beggar must be playing the song my father once taught me. Is it possible that he s been to my hometown?

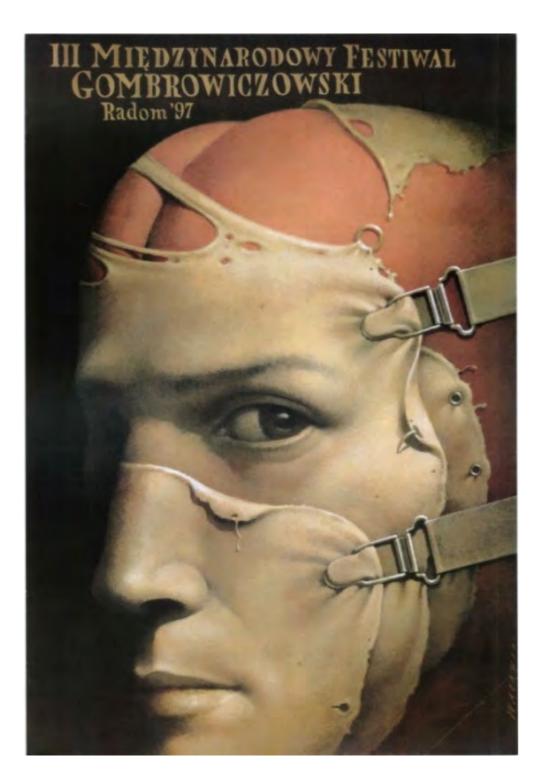




#### STREET MUSICIAN:

I keep my eyes open for security. I am used to being startled by them. I try to avoid being seen. I find shelter in places that belong to noone. Finding safety in the open has become my skill.

This time I was not careful enough. The guard nabs me. I shudder as he pats me on my back. 'What is it, you are playing' he asks.



# SPACE OF SURVEILLANCE Michel Foucault, 'The Subject and Power'

In a space of surveilance roles are imposed on us. Actors follow normalized behaviour codes which are in force in a space. The behaviour codes are imposed with the means of techniques of surveillance and punishment.



# SPACE OF APPEARANCE Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition

It a thickened threshold daily repeatable practices are disrupted. Masks are shredded. Agents and practices gain a new meaning. Perception of self and others changes. Discovery and surprise are introduced into people's daily lives. People start to question the sensibility of the world around them and begin to reshape the environment in accordance with the new relations.



Ceasar Franckstraat, Delft



Ceasar Franckstraat, Delft

