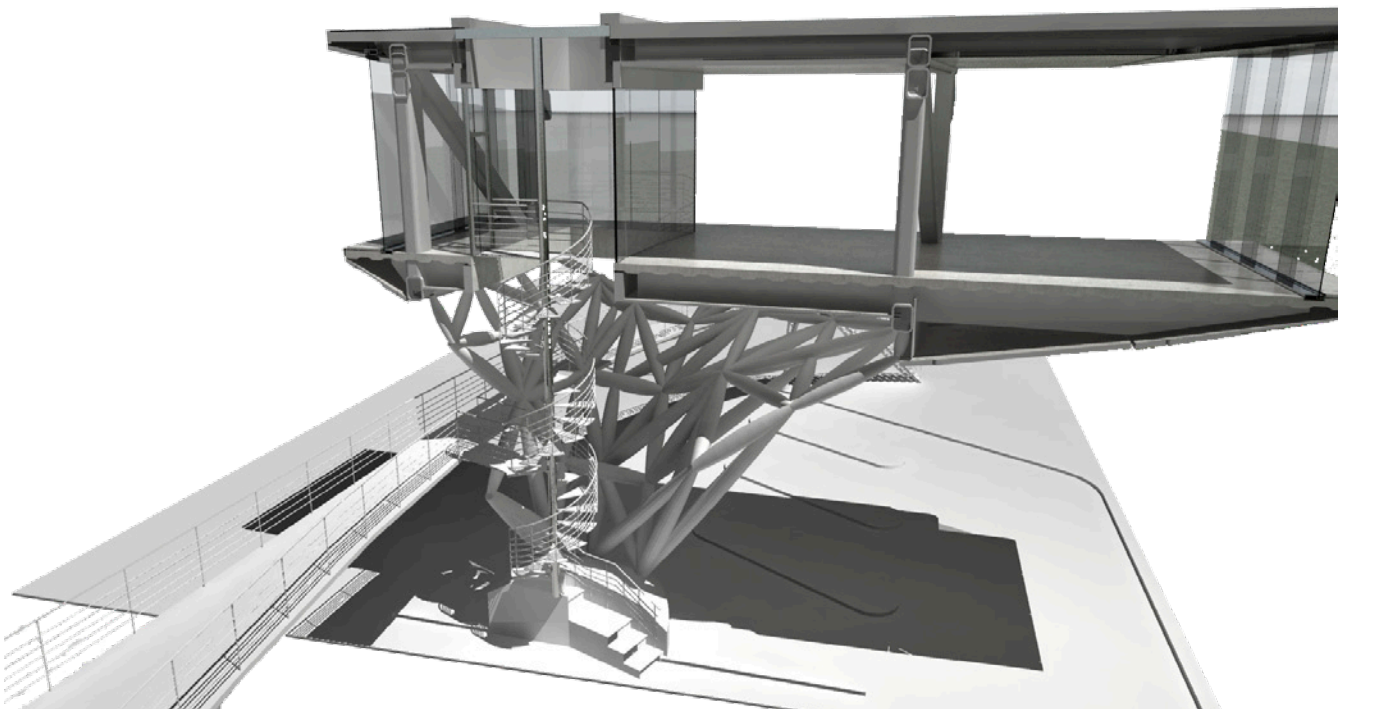
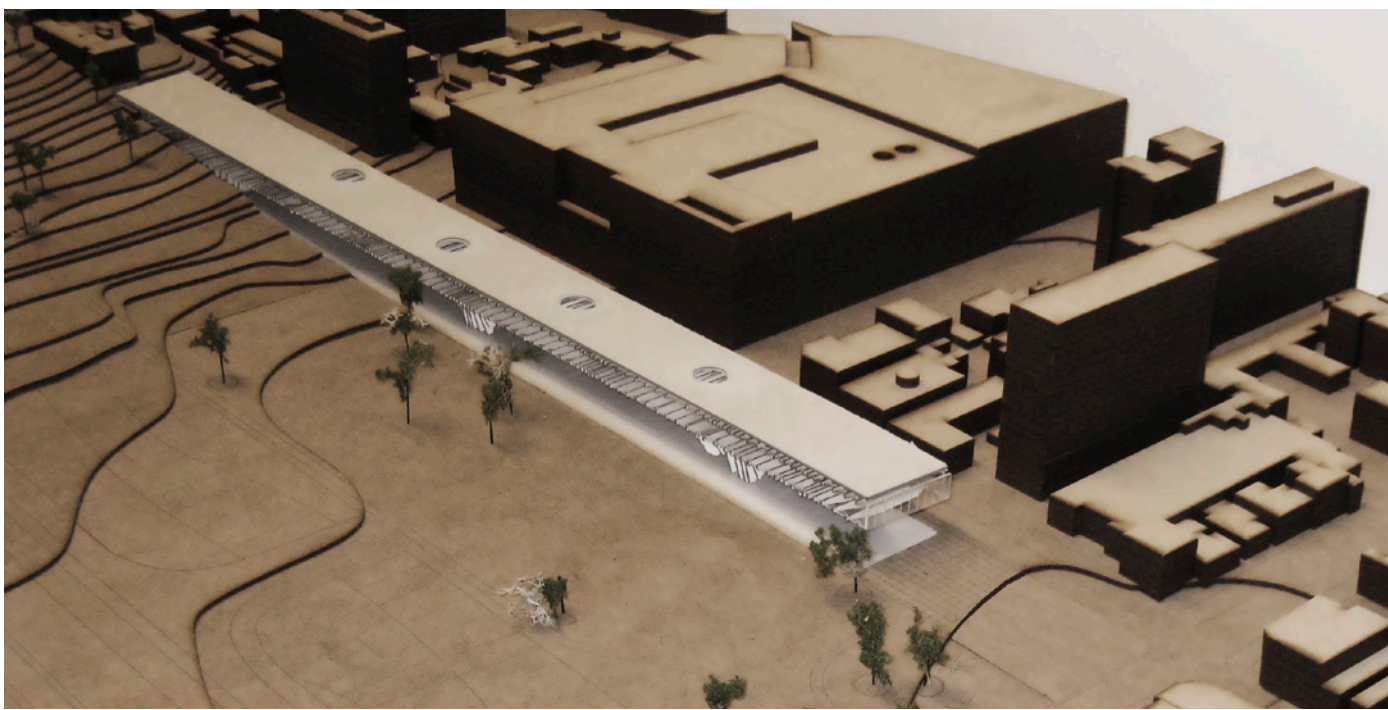
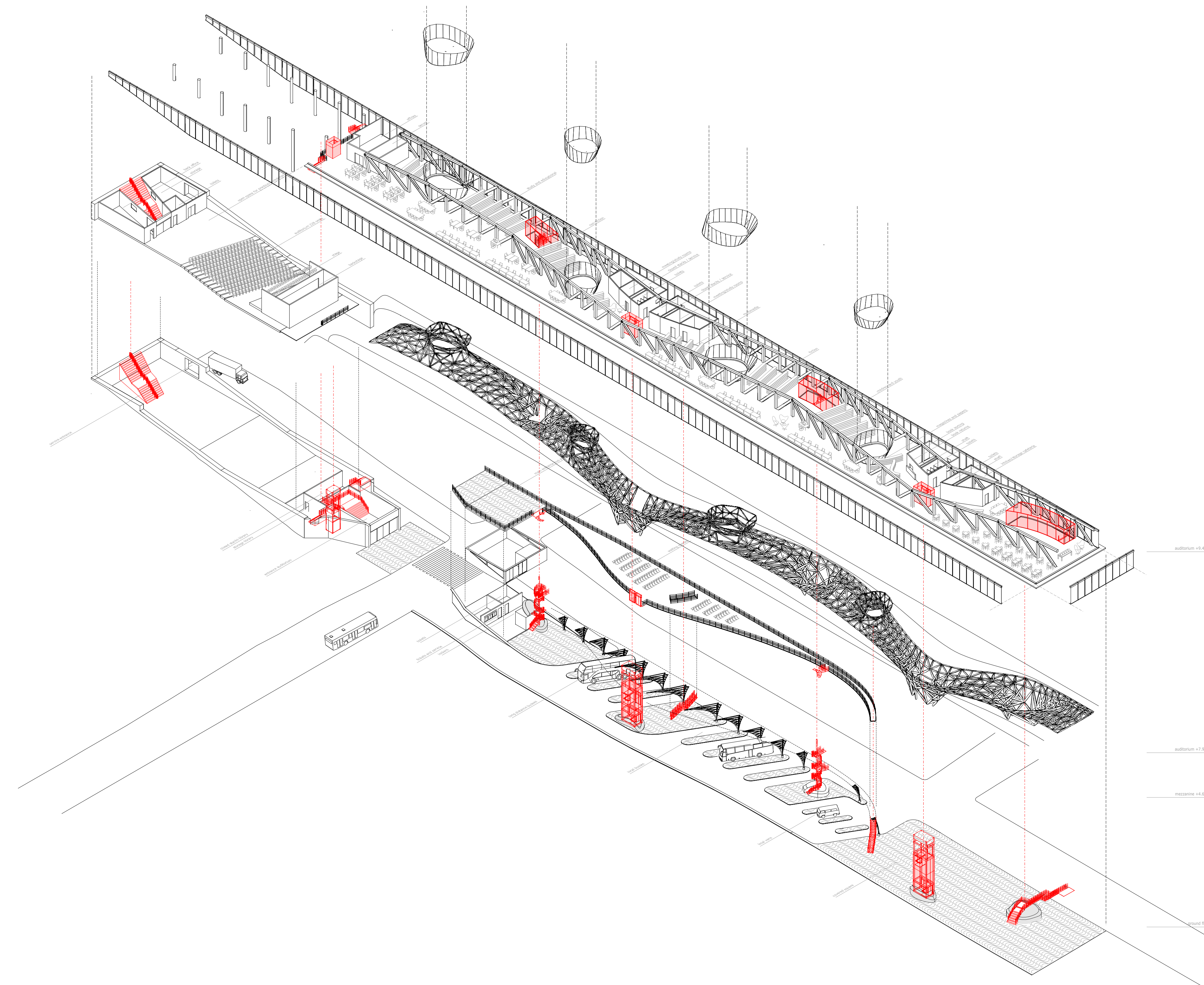
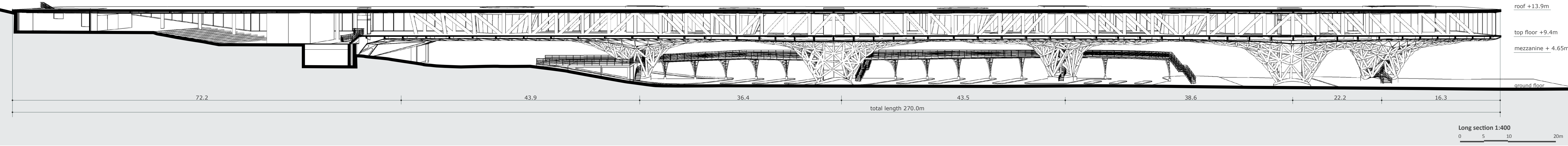
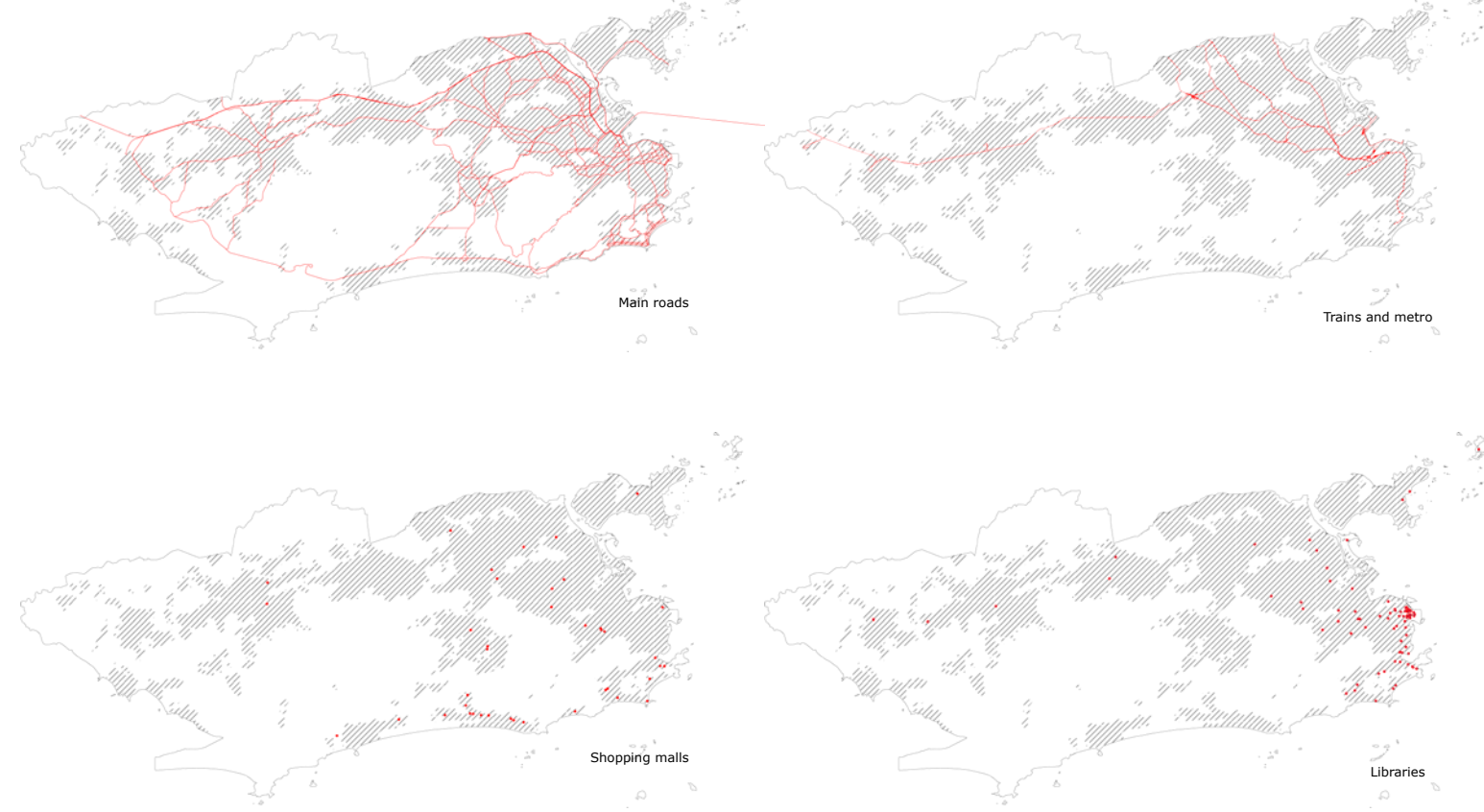
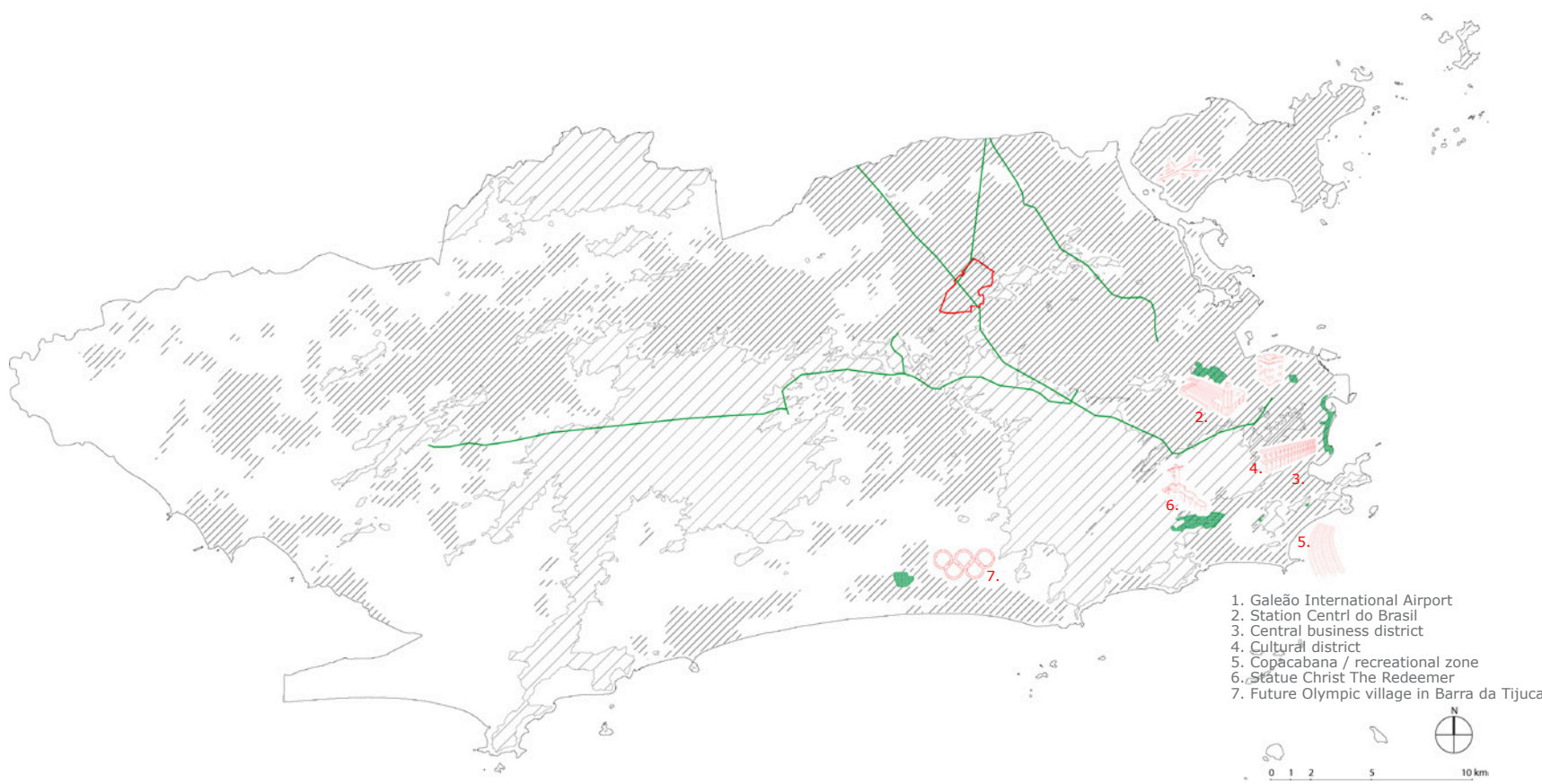
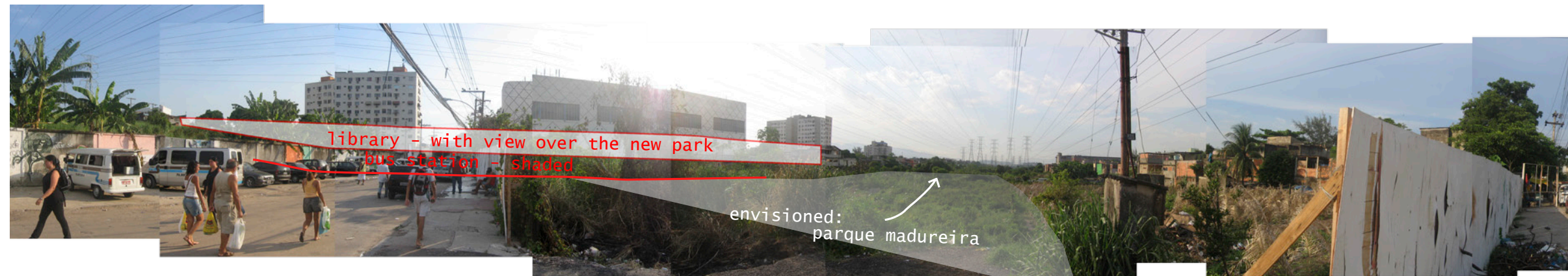


IN\_FORMAL SPACES  
Towards Urbanity in the Peripheries of Rio de Janeiro: a Piecemeal Intervention

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Madureira, Rio de Janeiro \_\_\_\_ 22 52" 19" S - 43 20' 25" W



Rio de Janeiro transformed from a modernizing city of city planner Alfred Agache, and mayor Pereira Passos in the first decades of the 20th Century, into a modernist city of Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer in the 1940s and 50s. The city center was formally planned, while the peripheries remained untouched by city planning, and developed informally from the 1950s onwards. The Modernist dichotomies of rural/urban, traditional/modern, industrial/agricultural, religious/secular, and local/global, which long ago began to lose their footing, have been pushed into even more extreme contortions by informality.' (Fabricius 2008). The paradoxical development of Rio de Janeiro is one of qualitative urbanization in the city centre (constructing roads, sewage, and public buildings), while the parts of the city that experienced the strongest quantitative urbanization lacked behind on such services. I call this the paradox of urbanization. Private spaces, such as shopping malls and houses, have taken the place of the public domain in Rio de Janeiro's peripheries, separated from public buildings and facilities in the city centre. Qualitative improvements on strategic locations are needed, to represent publicness in Rio de Janeiro's peripheries.

Of particular interest was a plan of Le Corbusier, an idea that has remained a series of undeveloped sketches. Already in 1929 Le Corbusier proposed to connect the separate neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro, by creating a long building, stretching from the neighborhoods in the city center to the mountains that surrounded these neighborhoods. The building contained houses and offices. Le Corbusier proposed to construct a highway on top of the building, while the space underneath the building remained open. Here, in the shade that protected the residents from the hot sun, would be public and pedestrian spaces. I departed from Le Corbusier's sketch and propose a similar concept for Madureira. Instead of private spaces, the building will contain public programs, to reurbanize the peripheries of Rio de Janeiro.

The site is surrounded by dense urban fabric. Adjacent to the site is one of the largest shopping malls of the city. On the other side is an open space, currently occupied by overhead transmission lines. This space is envisioned to be transformed into a public park and small agriculture. The building will relate to this open space. I propose to construct an elevated slab, that contains a public library and an auditorium. The slab will have an open facade that faces the park, offering a sense of social security for the visitors of the park, and contrasting with the closed appearance of the shopping mall. The shaded space underneath the slab is used as a bus station and a square that can be used for a small market. These spaces will function as an entrance to the park. To the south the slab sits on a hill; the directions in which the building opens faces north-west, where Rio de Janeiro's vast peripheries continue to grow. To these areas I propose an architecture, as a representation of urbanity in Rio de Janeiro's vulnerable peripheries.

