Cold steel shutters break rhythm, revealing a crack through the city.
Pushing against walls of fractured bricks and rusty steel rods, the pavement widen into a small clearing.

Shielded from the chaos of buses and cars, street sellers sit by kiosks selling cigarettes and sweets. A homeless man leans against a wall, taking shelter from the sun.

A metallic screen hangs from a slender structure wedged between its neighbours. Partially concealing the movements of those beyond, the screen is perforated by a warm entrance that draws in wanderers. Inside, a mixture of sounds echo against the walls, reverberating down an open stair.

Reductive axonometric
Intervention between Calle 12 and 13
1:200
A familiar guard holds a greeting as he opens a robust gate and releases the plastic chain. Stripping up from the street onto a smooth concrete plinth and passing through the threshold, the noise of the city fades and gives way to a partially covered courtyard. Crushed fragments of clay for broken paving, soaking in vapour from the humid air.

Familiar faces sit and stroll between framed patches of sky, passing beneath covered spaces as they wander. Quiet rooms push into the ground, opening out through tall, wide doorways.

**Reductive axonometric**

Intervention between Calle 12 and 13

1:200
The floor hums and shakes as people push past in a hurry. Doors slide open and closed in a syncopated rhythm as people come and go. Products are traded, prices punctuate the air as salesmen set to work. Clocks tick as sewing machines spin, perfume bottles clink as chemicals are mixed. Knives and forks scrape plates as lunch orders are taken and tables are cleared. Kitchen boys chop, wash, and sweep. Old men sit asleep in their chairs.

The life of the city condenses, seeping into every pocket of space. A dissonance arrests the attention of each and every participant.
Backpacks lean against walls as tired workers seek beds for the coming days, weeks or months. Residents gather in circles of chairs, sitting in doorways as laundry dries behind them. From one entrance, a distinctive pile of books spills out from a secluded room. Copies are dusted, recorded and stacked as readers shuffle through elusive rooms above, paging through countless stories.

The life of the city dissolves. The mind drifts to other places, skywards towards the mountains, while closing inwards in search of respite.
The characteristics of each room are defined by access, circulation and their expression as tectonic or stereotomic elements. Due to the varying building module and irregularity of each site, all rooms are slightly different in their proportions. Each has access to basic services, improving flexibility and encouraging variety of use. This results in a constellation of spaces loosely woven together by clear and robust relational principles.

By defining spaces through these relational principles, the rigid zoning of functionalism is avoided, providing conditions that are capable of absorbing unpredictable patterns of use. Each room becomes an active part of the city, responsive to its needs at any one time. Through this relationship between the room and the city, the stability of the intervention persists as functions and social practices change.

Two interwoven routes - the Garden and the Bridge - define whether a space operates as a retreat or a connector, encouraging or inhibiting programmes that benefit from either detachment or engagement.

Garden rooms occupy the upper layer of each building, accessed via a series of outdoor courtyards and tall stairways. These reclusive spaces can be accessed as individual units with private verandas, or opened up and worked as part of a shared, interconnected route.

Bridge rooms are characterised by a continuous connection, allowing each room to operate independently as a shop, office, canteen or light workshop - anything that depends on the footfall of passersby and connectivity to the street.

Plan variations depict scenarios of appropriation, filling the intervention with objects and functions that were encountered during the fieldwork.
1. The first layer of the steel platform is assembled above a concrete foundation. Barring wires and secondary beams are bolted into place.

2. A steel deck is fixed to the platform using shear studs, adding stability and creating work space for the next stages.

3. A second platform layer is added, following the same steps as the first.

4. The overhanging roof deck is fixed with a pin connection at one end and a roller connection at the other, allowing for thermal expansion and movement in the structure.

5. Integrated water pipes are laid onto the steel deck. Once in place, the decks are filled with concrete and the composite slab is left to cure.

6. The outer bays of the frame are suspended from cantilevered roof beams and braced with steel ties.

7. Once each platform structure is complete, bridge elements are hung between them to create a continuous route.
The steel frame structure uses short spans of varying modules, using increments of 600mm horizontally and 300mm vertically. Short spans and regular bracing allow for a slender, lightweight frame and simple connections that are easy to replace or disassemble. This enables easy recovery components as required if the intervention is removed from one location.

Primary columns support the central bay and back from the perimeter to protect frame from rain and reduce spans. By hanging the outer structural back from the roof, cold bridging is reduced and more structural movement is accommodated.

The primary roof beams are exposed to indoor and outdoor temperatures and are more vulnerable to expansion and movement. They are fixed to columns using a pin connection at one end and a roller connection at the other, allowing them to move without straining other structural members.

Primary components
1. 120mm Square hollow section column
2. 260x140mm Universal beam

Secondary components
1. 140x100mm Steel T section
2. 260x75mm Steel channel section
3. 40mm SHS pinned to channel and suspended from primary roof beam

Connections
Hearing plates welded to columns and connected by steel rods
Pin connections bolted through welded plates
Roller connections welded to end of columns

Structural Connections
Roof Construction
- Bitumen roof coating
- 18mm plywood substrate
- 100mm Softwood battens to form ventilation void
- Waterproof membrane bonded to substrate
- 60mm rigid insulation
- 300mm Composite steel deck, water pipes cast within slab
- 240mm Pin-jointed steel frame
- 30mm Service void
- Suspended plywood or gypsum panels from steel hanger

Floor Construction
- 30mm Softwood battens
- 40mm Acoustic and impact absorption
- 120mm Composite steel deck, water pipes cast within slab
- 240mm Steel frame
- 30mm Service void
- Suspended plywood or gypsum panels from steel hanger

Ground Floor Construction
- 100mm Screed concrete finish
- 200mm In-situ slab cast between foundation walls, bearing on piles
- 60mm Rigid insulation formwork
- Levelling sand
- Ground fill

Wall Construction
- Aluminium rainscreen panel mounted on steel wall ties
- 50mm Ventilation cavity
- Waterproof membrane
- 18mm OSB
- 60mm Rigid insulation between steel stud wall
- 120mm SHS Steel column