Power and domination
An open eye on the 21st century’s urban conflicts in Central Bogotà.

P5 Presentation
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the 9062nd, 30th June 2017, Delft
FROM THE PAST AND THROUGH THE PRESENT
CENTRAL BOGOTÁ
LA PERSEVERANCIA, BARRIO OBRERO DE BOGOTÁ

Positioning of the barrio in the area of central Bogotá

Bird-eye photograph
Historical Analysis

Phase 1 1912 - 1950s

- La Perseverancia, first configuration

- Bavaria Brewery

Phase 2 1950s - 1990s

- New bourgeois residential units

- International centre, construction site
UNIÓN OBRERA - FOUNDED IN 1912

Map of Bogotà, 1933
source: claudiasegura.com/Derivas urbanas con Marlon de Azambuja

Brewery Bavaria at the beginning of the 20th century
source: Liliana Ruiz Gutiérrez and Esteban Cruz Niño, La Perseverancia, barrio obrero de Bogotá

Barrio la Perseverancia in 1933
The overall configuration did not change in over 80 years
PLAN OF LA PERSEVERANCIA

Grid configuration
Maximum efficiency
Homogeneity
Streets’ width between 8.5 mt 3.5 mt

La Micromananza
Minimum dwelling
Poor material: Adobe

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA OF CENTRAL BOGOTÁ DURING THE 60s

source: clucolombia-ph.com/historiadeedificio
LA PERSEVERANCIA | SOCIAL AFTEREFFECTS

Advanced level of decay spread over the entire neighbourhood

Complete impenetrability of the houses from the exterior, windows with iron grating and barbed wire fences
**Housing units' self constructed expansion:**

**Methodologies of superimposition**

**Spatial implications:**

**No scalar proportion between the element of this urban fabric**
LA PERSEVERANCIA, A CONTAINER OF REACTIONS
“No nation can now afford to miss out on the global unification game and hope to survive”

Urban Environments populated by Impositions
The reasons:

- Strategic location (real estate objective)
- Low economic level of its population (obstacle to the system)

How gentrification performs:

- Systematic abandonment of the administration
- Progressive deterioration
- Gradual expulsion of its inhabitants

Social implications:

- Replacement of the lower-income inhabitant with middle-upper class

Cultural implications:

- Cancellation of local identity
- Overriding the sense of belonging of a territory
LA CHICHA FESTIVAL.

Cultural practices - A defensive Instrument

Chicha, Corn and Happiness Festival - Founded in 1988
CHICHA “la cerveza andina”

A drink with a long history in working class cultural identity.

"In those days, the workers brewed beer, but were drunk with Chicha”
source: Liliana Ruiz Gutiérrez and Esteban Cruz Niño, *La Perseverancia, barrio obrero de Bogotá*

- Rediscovery of a traditional drink
- Psychological revenge over history’s cultural oppression
  and
- Over economic-driven abuses of power
SOCIAL COHESION AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- 3 - 4 months of preparation
- Over 250 families are involved
- The sales constitute a relevant part of the domestic income
- Reduction of lawless activities
CURRENT STATE OF LA CHICHA’S PRODUCTION SPACES

- Private houses
- Disorganisation
THE PROGRAM | PRELIMINARY STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION
Programme

Production of Chicha

As medium for:

Activate Self-management processes

Intensify the community Cohesion

Strengthen cultural identity

Restore the reputation of the barrio
CURRENT RIGID CONFIGURATION

DERELICT CONSTRUCTIONS

Individuation of the unused and derelict constructions

DEMOLITION

Demolition as necessary operation for a change of image
DEMOLITIONS OUTCOME

STRAATEGICAL PLOTS

NEW COLLECTIVE SPACES
**HOW TO:**

**Demolition**

**Creation of space**

**Employment of the new space to organise the production of Chicha and for collective use**

**Emptying-out and Opening of private properties ground level.**

**Employment of the new space to organise the production of Chicha**
NEW CONCEPT OF FACTORY

The inhabitants became owners of their own activity

The entire community becomes simultaneously employer and employ

No longer a proletarian neighbourhood

PRODUCTION AREAS

La Chica micro-areas of production scattered over the entire neighbourhood
TRADING DOMESTIC SPACE FOR INCOME IN COLOMBIA
Individuation of the weak edges
LA CHICHA’S POINTS OF SALE

Element of contact with the city controlled and run community

Management on the entire production-distribution loop
THE DESIGN PROCESS

RESOURCE: COMMUNITY’S KNOWLEDGE ON SELF-CONSTRUCTION
ARCHITECTURAL PROBLEMS: TOTALISING UNIFORMITY

FACTORS:  
- Grid  
- Density  
- Lack of open spaces  
- No typological variety  
- Closeness  
- Scale  
- Chaos (Non regulated self-constructed development)
ARCHITECTURAL AIMS:

- Introducing more typological and functional variety
- Introducing a new scale
- Providing public spaces
- Creating space at the ground floor
- Introducing types of spaces that establish different patterns of ownership
EVERYTHING HAPPENS BEHIND A WALL

Transformation pushed by individual interests

Unsatisfactory result in terms of space for the community

Switch in the attitude from individual to collective

PROCESS OF DE-PRIVATISATION
CHARACTERISTIC SPOTS

- CROSSROADS
- WIDE STREET
- NARROW STREET
- TRANSVERSAL AXIS
- THE EDGE
**SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS**

- **FREEING OF SPACE THROUGH DEMOLITIONS AND OPENINGS AT THE GROUND FLOOR IN PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

- **REORGANISE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CIRCULATION**

- **DEFINITION OF PRELIMINARY SPATIAL INTENTIONS.**
ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTIONS:

- **BREAKING THE RIGIDITY OF THE GRID DISSOLVING THE CONTINUOUS FACADE.**

- **FOCUSING AT LEVEL OF THE GROUND FLOOR.**

- **PARTIAL DISSOLUTION THE HEAVINESS THAT CHARACTERISED THE AREA.**

- **COMBING ACCESS TO HOUSES AND PUBLIC SPACES WHEN BENEFICIAL FOR MY INTENTS.**
**Abstract Principles:**

- **Moving out towards the street with light structure.**

- **Compensate for the space taken giving out space from private properties.**
Abstract Principles:

- Creating accesses on the first floor


**Abstract Principles:**

- Permeability on the ground floor.

- Introducing perpendicular circulation to the street.
Abstract Principles:

- Unify ground floor spaces of previously separated properties.

Accesses on the first floor
### Abstract Principles:

- **Light Structure on the Street**
- **Moving Back the Facade**
- **Accesses on the First Floor**
- **Permeability on the Ground Floor**
- **Circulation Crossing the Block**
- **Unifying Private Properties**
### Configuration Approach

Not specific form (close system)

Approach based on the definition of principles
THE MODULAR SYSTEM
- Modularity would provide for:  - Flexibility  - Order and Coherence
THE MODULAR SYSTEM

THE HEAVY MODULE
- PERMANENT
- MAIN FUNCTIONS

THE LIGHT MODULE
- OUTDOOR SPACES
- VERTICAL CIRCULATION
THE HEAVY MODULE

X. ___ 2700 MM
Y. ___ 1800 MM
Z. ___ 2500 |...| 3200 MM

THE MODULE

THE HEAVY MODULE

EXPLODED VIEW.
THE HEAVY MODULE

x. = y.1 | 910 MM

y.2 | 2700 MM

Z.1 | 1200 MM

Z.2 | 2500 | ... | 2800 MM

Z.3 | 3700 | ... | 4000 MM

J O I N T D E T A I L

5.5 mm

W a t e r p r o o f
m e m b r a n e

O v e r g r o u n d
B r i c k s f o o t i n g

E X P L O D E D V I E W.

B O T T O M C O N N E C T I O N D E T A I L

O v e r g r o u n d
B r i c k s f o o t i n g

W a t e r p r o o f
m e m b r a n e
Final Outcomes
X - Blocks

Ten blocks used to test the modular system
**Intervention I**

**Location of the intervention within the barrio**

![Diagram of the intervention within the barrio]

**Design principles applied**

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<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Diagram of circulation" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="Diagram of unifying" /></td>
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**Current State**

![Image of current state]

**Demolishing Operations**

![Diagram of demolishing operations]
INTERVENTION I

CHICHA'S PRODUCTION AREA

PUBLIC SPACE
**Intervention II**

**Location of the intervention within the barrio**

- [Diagram of intervention location]

**Design principles applied**

- **Light structure on the street**
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**Current State**

- [Image of current state]

**Demolishing Operations**

- [Diagram of demolition operations]
INTERVENTION II

CHICA’S PRODUCTION AREA

PUBLIC SPACE
### Intervention III

**Location of the intervention within the barrio**

- [Diagram of the intervention location]

### Design Principles Applied

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### Current State

- [Image of the current state]

### Demolishing Operations

- [Diagram of the demolishing operations]

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Intervention III
Chicha’s distribution area
Public space
**Intervention IV**

**Location of the intervention within the barrio**

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**Design principles applied**

- Light structure on the street
- Moving back the facade
- Accesses on the first floor
- Permeability on the ground floor
- Circulation crossing the block
- Unifying private properties

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**Current State**

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**Demolishing Operations**

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INTERVENTION II

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS' PRODUCTION AREA

PUBLIC SPACE
East elevation on Carrera 3a

Ground floor plans contextualised within the blocks

West elevation on Carrera 3a_bis

Scale 1:200
East elevation on Carrera 3a

Ground floor plans contextualised within the blocks

West elevation on Carrera 3a_bis

Scale 1:200