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Yesterday I lived in the City, today I am on a boat to the Other City. Its thick walls rise out of the water. The big gate reveals a glimpse of the main street. The roofs of the houses reach for the sky.

The steps bring me close to the Inner City. I see how the arcade encloses the city centre, while simultaneously housing countless inhabitants.

The moon draws the city in silver silence, driving out its buzz and life, freezing time to a weightless still.

The Other City
Cementerio Central / Bogota / 1836
“One day, and probably soon, we need some recognition of what above all is lacking in our big cities; quiet and wide, expansive places for reflection. Places with long, glazed cloisters for rainy and sunny weather where no noise of wagons or of shouters would penetrate, and where good manners would prohibit even priests from praying aloud - buildings and sites that would altogether give expression to the sublimity of thoughtfulness and of stepping aside. The time is past when the church possessed a monopoly on reflection, when the vita contemplativa always had to be first of all vita religiosa; and everything built by the church gives expression to that idea. I do not see how we could remain content with such buildings even if they were stripped of their churchly purposes. The language spoken by these buildings is far too rhetorical and unfree, reminding us that they are houses of God and ostentatious monuments of some-supra-worldly intercourse; we who are godless could not think our thoughts in such surroundings. We wish to see ourselves translated into stone and plants, we want to take walks in ourselves when we stroll around these buildings and gardens.”

Friedrich Nietzsche - 1882

An insightful observation
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An insightful observation
Monastic seclusion
Contemporary seclusion
Common denominator
Bogota / La Concordia
Not a shelter against the chaos of nature. But a shelter against the rigor of the city.

Not an escape from the unpredictable natural world. But an escape from the repetitive city life.

Not a shelter against the dangers of wild animals. But a shelter against the dangers of the stressful city.

Project objective
I want to provide an escape from everyday life.

I want to create a place where one can take the time to dream, contemplate and reflect.

I want to construct the Urban Retreat.
I. How to construct a place secluded from the outside world?

II. How to construct a place of reflection in the inside world?

III. How to traverse from the outside world to the inside world?

Retrospective focus of investigation
I. Approaching the project from the outside in.

II. Approaching the project from the inside out.

III. Approaching the project as a sequential procession.

Method of inquiry
FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

How to construct a place secluded from the outside world?
Chaos of the city
Build a wall
Attract activity
Bogota / La Concordia
Bogota / La Concordia
Mercado de Concordia
Plan +0
Plan +1
Plan +3
Facade west
Facade south
Public stairs
Arcade with shops
FROM THE INSIDE OUT

How to construct a place of reflection in the inside world?
From the inside out
From the inside out
From the inside out
From the inside out
From the inside out
Baths
In-between space
Shower + stairs
Sky bath
Cold bath
Hot bath
Rooftop pool
In-between space
Hot bath
SEQUENTIAL PROCESSION

How to traverse from the outside world to the inside world?
Yesterday I lived in the City, today I am on a boat to the Other City. Its thick walls rise out of the water. The big gate reveals a glimpse of the main street. The tops of the houses reach for the sky.

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Approach
Approach
Approach
Approach
Approach
Approach
Approach
Approach
Descent
Descent
Passage
Structure
Materials exterior
Materials interior
CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS
Three distinct approaches
Balance vs Contrast / Order vs Chaos
THE URBAN RETREAT

Thanks for your attention