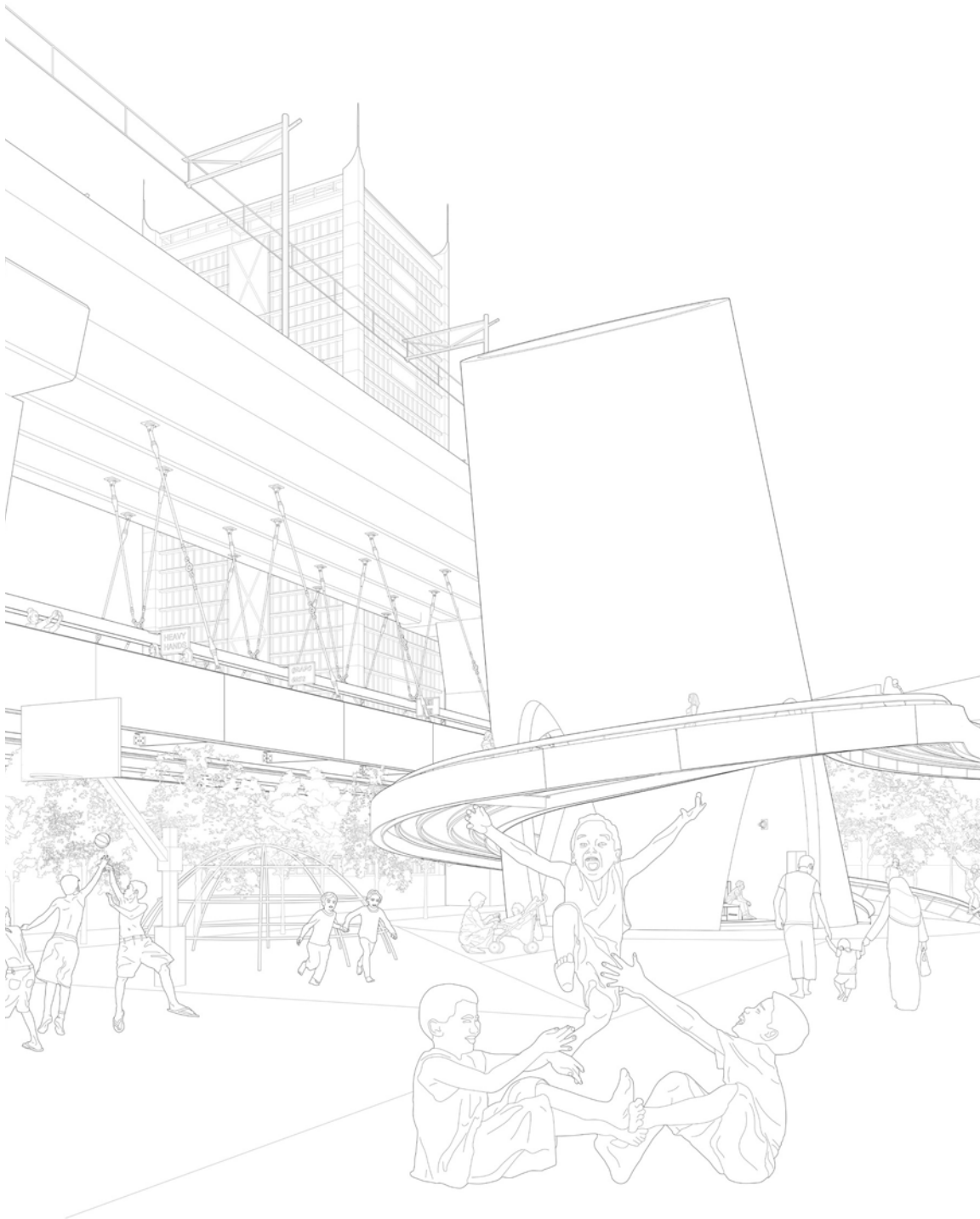


PATRICK DE GRACIA

ENTANGLING MANILA'S SEAMS



*blurring the
patchwork
city's
social
boundaries*

Contention

3

Identifying Seams

4 - 9

Case Studies

10 - 13

Blurring Boundaries

14 - 19

Entangling Manila’s Seams

Patrick de Gracia

Advisory Group - *Extra Ordinary: Architecture as a Social Instrument*

Advisors - *Terrance Goode*

Susan Henderson

David Shanks

Assistants - *Hannah Elias*

Ella Plowman

“The particular success of malls in Manila is partly a function of there being only one park in the centre of Manila—the sole significant public open space for family recreation—hence the people of Manila “had to find an alternative place where the family could get together at weekends” enabling Mandaluyong’s “primary thrust to promote its malls as a wholesome family place for shopping, strolling, eating, watching movies or simply being together” (Philippine Daily Inquirer 2 June 1995). In this marketing device and orientation they have proved successful. Rather than cathedrals or market places, the malls have become the new parks. The relatively poor are largely excluded from the malls by their inability to purchase and consume, hence these are ‘pseudo-public’ spaces, in that malls represent themselves as public spaces, but do not “accept the associated responsibilities and inconveniences” (Goss, 1993, page 41).”

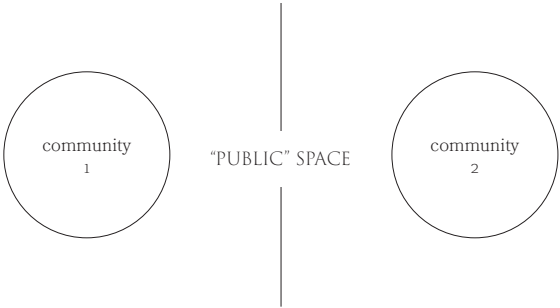
(Connell 1999, 417 - 439)

Manila, Philippines, is a city fragmented into slums and upper-class enclaves. The adjacency of their separated development contributes to intensifying class-relations; each side is fearful of the other. On the one hand, fear of insecurity causes the wealthy to force spatial boundaries dividing social class. In contrast, these barriers have instilled a sense of discrimination within the slums (Garrido 2019). Physical boundaries materialize as walls that close off enclaves from the dangers of the street. Symbolic manifestations of the border are made apparent due to economic inaccessibility, emphasizing social stratification. The emergence of the middle class has encouraged the private sector’s growth and public space neglect. “Public” projects exhibited through freeways and malls accommodates those with capital but further estrange those who are impoverished (Connell 1999).

I’m interested in blurring the boundaries maintaining social segregation to enhance public spaces’ quality, specifically through redeveloping the shopping mall. Truly public space is where power dynamics are absent, and anybody could do anything at any time. It is a place that fulfills demands but of people with different socio-economic backgrounds. In public space, laws cannot prohibit expression as the individual should transgress society’s standards (Cuyvers 2007). By inserting the idea of social condensers into these borders, the opportunity to unite communities arises. The entanglement of seams attempts to defy the illusions of capitalism and expose society’s problems. It aims to build trust and understanding between urban actors, initiating public discourse, and humanizing Manila’s divorced population (Dolan 2018).

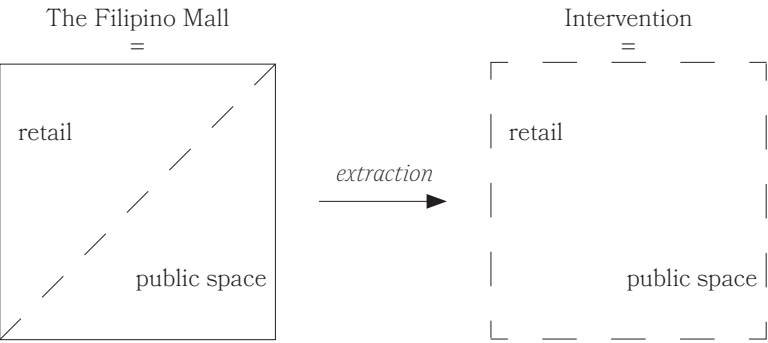
identifying seams.

contrary
connections
that sepearate
immediate
populations



blurring boundaries.

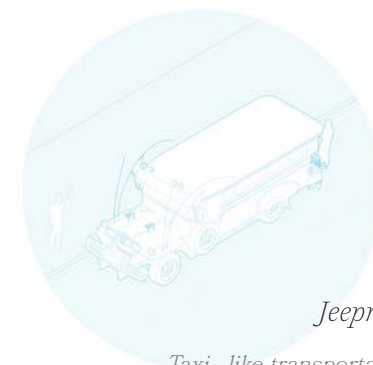
introducing
social
condesers
to allow for
interaction
between
communities
by activating
dead spaces



CONTENTION



1 mi. 3 mi. 5 mi. 10 mi.



Jeepneys

Taxi - like transportation driving multiple patrons on a local level



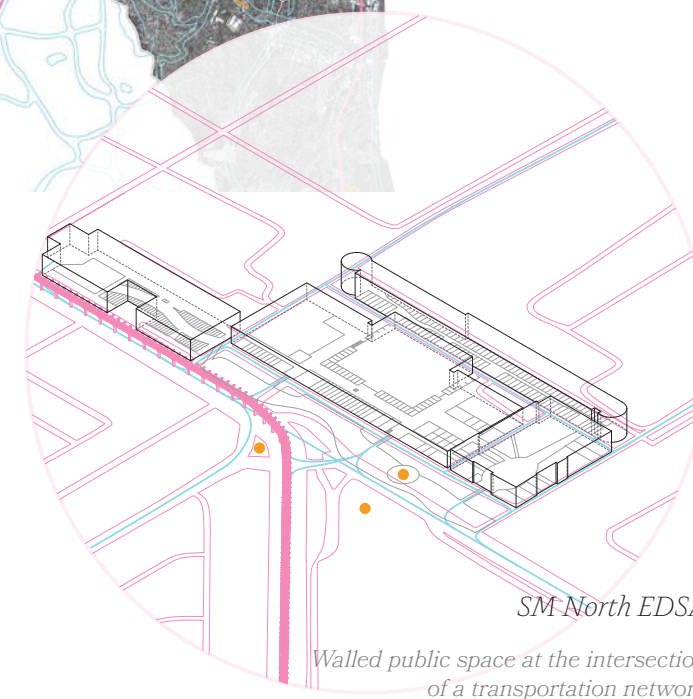
MRT

Train lines surrounding the city of Manila and extending to outer cities



PUB

Busses connecting commuters from Metro Manila's edges to the inner city



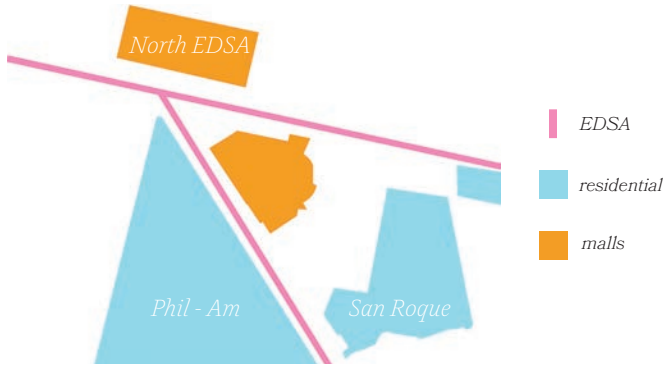
SM North EDSA

Walled public space at the intersection of a transportation network

the filipino shopping mall - transportation network

HIGHWAY CONDITIONS

The EDSA is a physical manifestation of social conflict. Phil-Am residents would rather drive to adjacent malls than use the walkway out of fear from being ambushed by suspected thieves from San Roque.



Initial construction, gradually expanding over the years

Corruption incited a peaceful revolution lead by a coup d'etat

Forceful police murdering leads to mourning of innocent victims on the EDSA

average of 2.34 vehicles access the highway daily



1930 1940 1986 2001 2016 2020~

construction of EDSA finishes, standing for Epifanio de los Santos Avenue

The EDSA Revolution occurs to upheave president, Ferdinand Marcos

The EDSA Revolution II leads to the withdrawal of President Estrada

Protests occurs in reponse to President Dueterte's war on drugs

Phil - Am
middle - class enclave

People's Revolution
EDSA as a tool for expression

San Roque
informal settlement



community church in the enclave used by San Roque residents

stigmatized as criminals, vulgar, uneducated, and political dupes

facilities

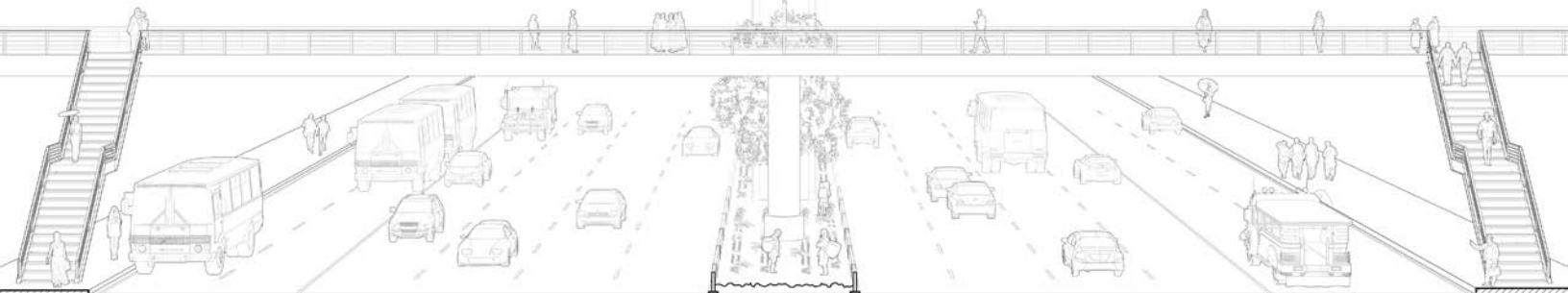
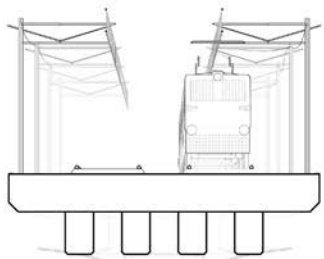
labor

Phil-Am's barangay or neighborhood government has "adopted" SanRoque out of a sense of pastoral obligation. It offers various services to their resi-dents, such as eye exams, dental cleanings, and vocational workshops.

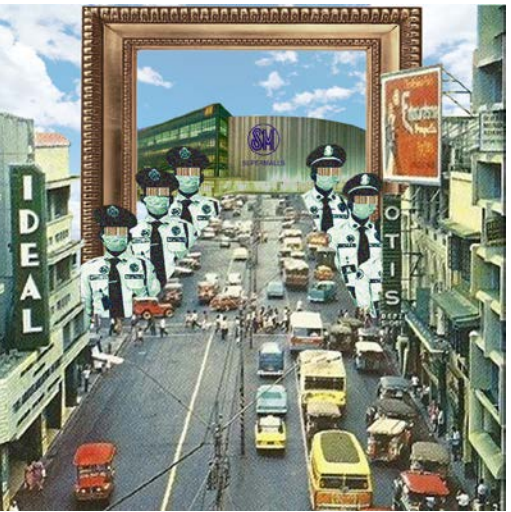
Phi-Am residents depend on San Roque for the labor needed to maintain their standard of living. They look to the slum for construction workers, handymen, laundry women, maids, and clerks.

(Garrido 2020, 11)

(Garrido 2020, 10)

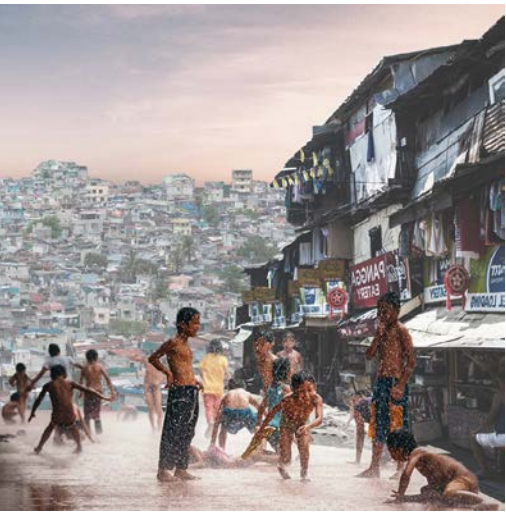


EDSA - contrary connections



Street as

transportation
or
gathering



Shopping as

efficient
or
interaction

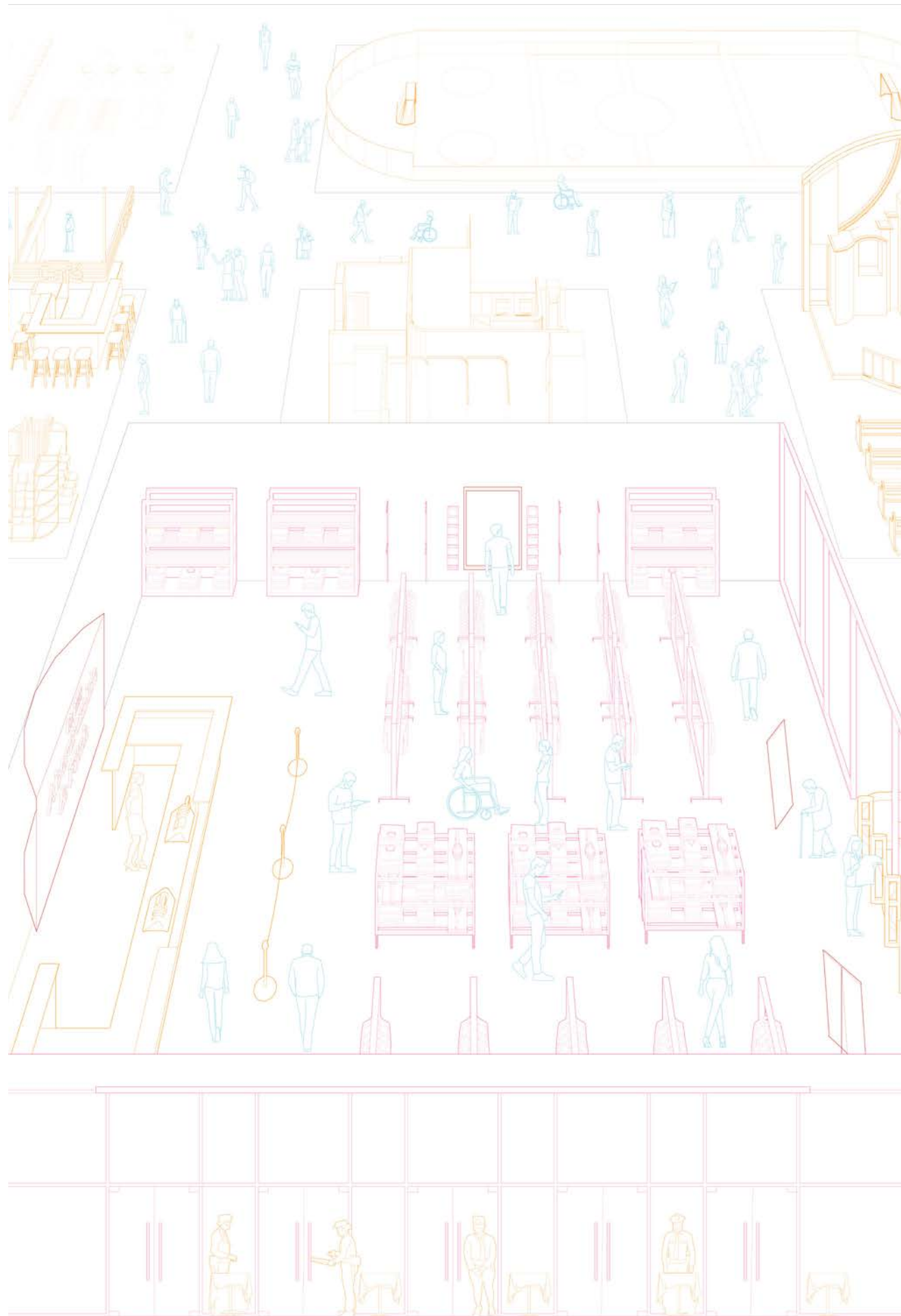


Leisure as

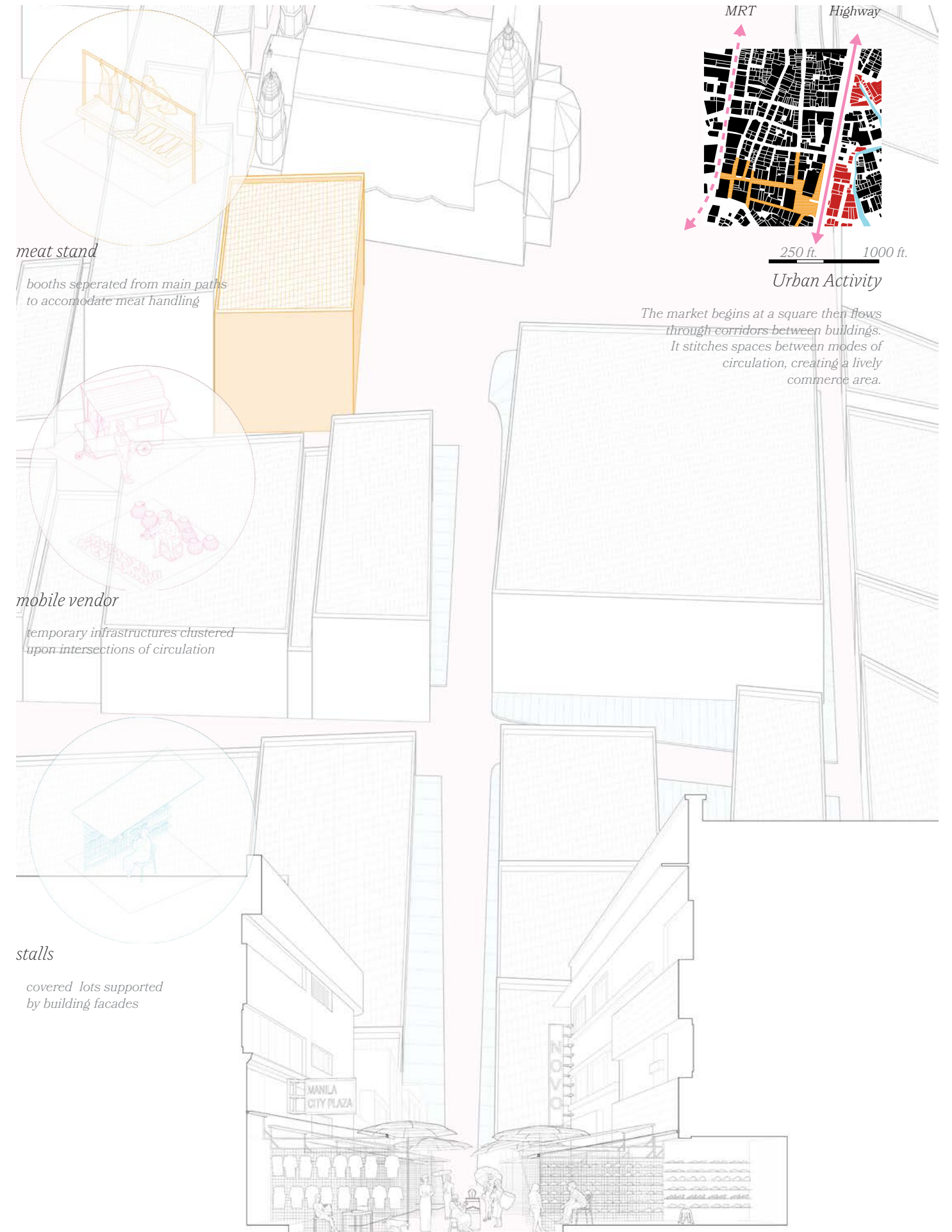
escape
or
impromptu



dichotomy of formality



the filipino shopping mall - eat, shop & pray



quiapo market

parc de la villette
Paris, France

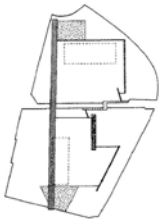
“we have read the program as a suggestion, a provisional enumeration of desirable vnumber of actitives on the site.

...how to design a Social Condenser, based on horizontal congestion, that is the size of the park.”

(Lucan 1991, 88-89)



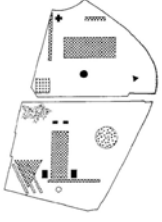
programmatic banding
variety of park space including the gardens, playgrounds and discovery gardens divided and mixed up into strips



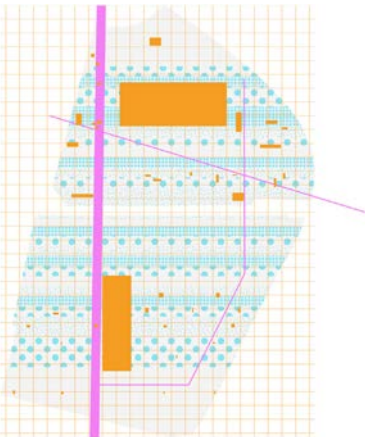
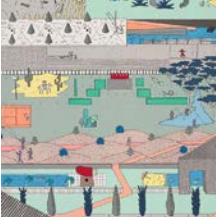
access and circulation
vertical axis for fast transportation and intersecting path for strolling



point grids
small scale elements such as picnic tables, refreshment bars and kiasks distributed througout the site



final layer
major components that are too big to be constrained by the system



Bijlmermeer
Amsterdam, Netherlands

“proposal for the renovation of the urban pattern of a rigid, resolutely mdoern complex of social housing situated to the southeast of Amsterdam...

In our opinion it is not the buildings that determine the urban quality; rather, here it is more at ground level, in the open space between buildings”

(Lucan 1991, 106-107)



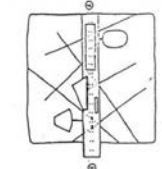
circulation
connects housing complexes and networks of transportation



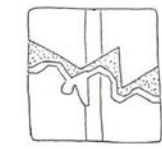
leisure facilities
addition of communal programs



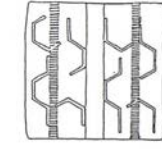
new housing
typologies co-existing with green features



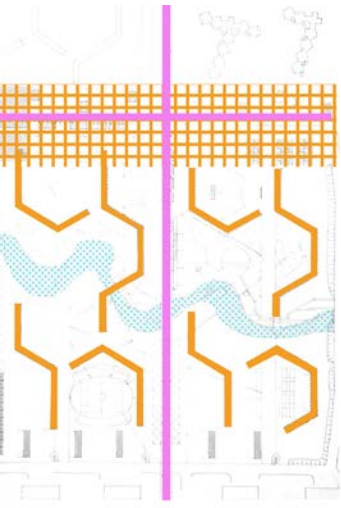
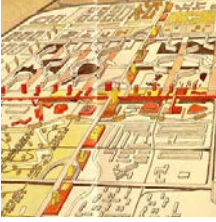
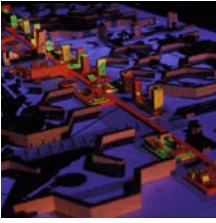
viaduct
bypasses city and host programs relating with industry



park space
counteracts transportation infrastructures



garages
underground space complimenting housing

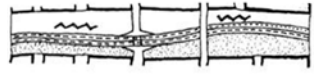


Melun-Sénart
Sénart, France

“The essence of this project is a system of voids-in bands inscribed into the site...

The bands follow the path of the major streets create controlled urban elements, while others distribute the major components of the new town on the site. It is our thesis that if this system of bands is established, the town of Melun-Sénart will be guaranteed beauty, serenity, accessibility, and urban services, regardless of the architecture that is to come”

(Lucan 1991, 114)



parking



transportation



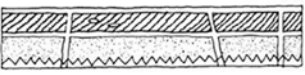
band of program



landscape park



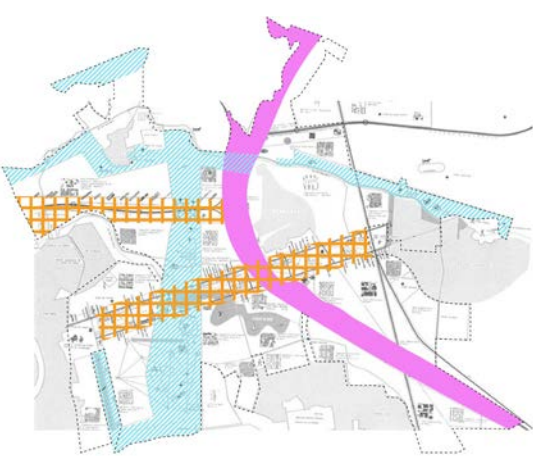
empty band



border band



border band



park space

buildings

movement

layering

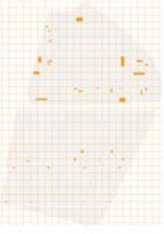
bands

tactics of layering guarantees permeability of each programmatic band by all the others



point - grid

occasional promximity between points create random/accidental interactions

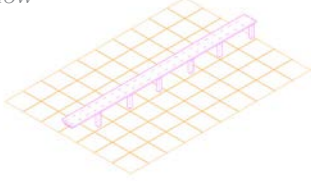


insertion

transportation leading to shopping center



shopping space intergrated below



transfer of commercial activities

voids

built environment



carving out voids

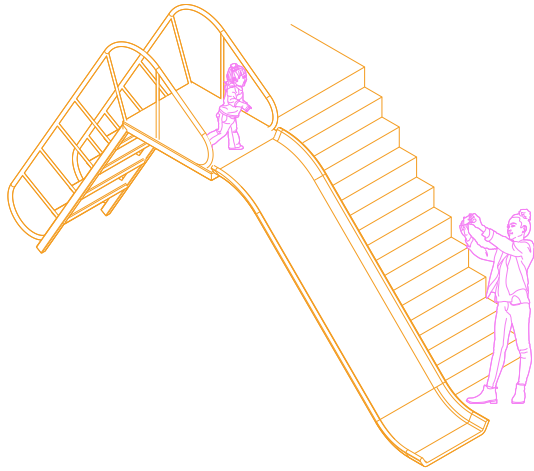


filling with program



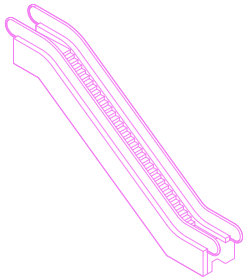
A variety of small scale renovations that improve habitation in Comuna 13. These small urban gestures require minimal intervention and resources, thus creating a quick impact to impoverished populations.

(Díaz 2017)



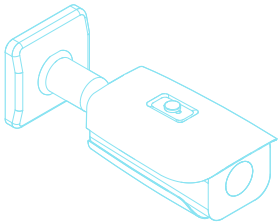
conversion

slides intergrated into existing stairwells around the neighborhood promotes activity and discourages crime



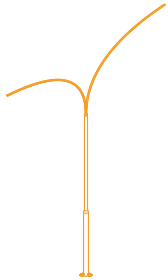
escalators + slides

provides better accessibility and creates a space suiting children



public surveillance

promotes safety in areas associated with danger



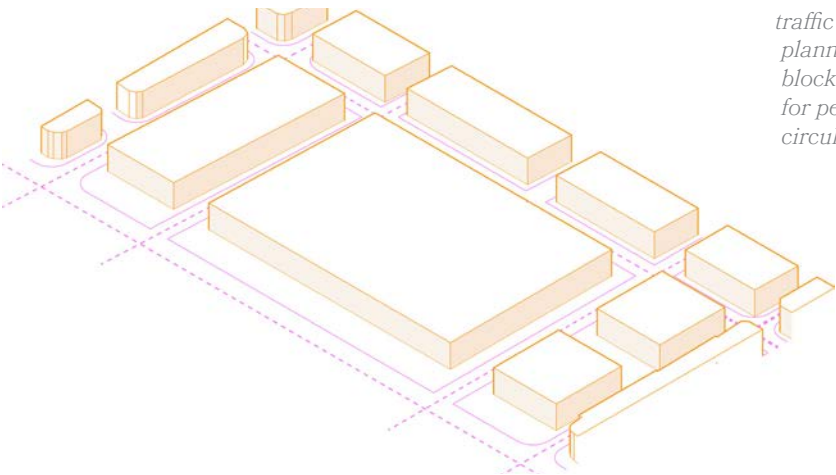
lighting fixtures

extends the occupation time of outdoor space

Medium
Plaza

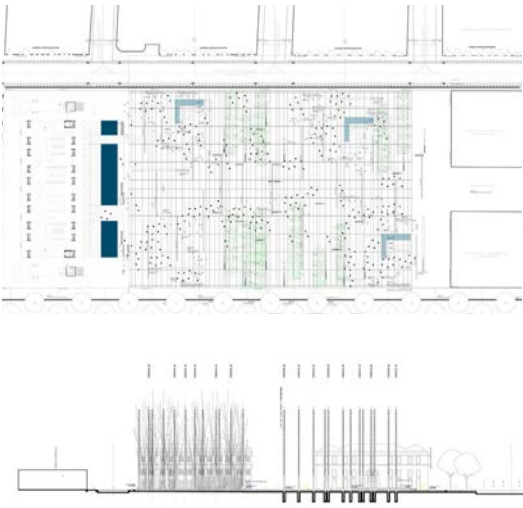
Gradual abandonment of buildings in this area lead to its demise. However, Fajardo's iniative lead to the building of public buildings to reinvigorate the site. To supplement the location's sudden growth, land was reconfigured to enhance street quality.

(Fracalossi 2009)



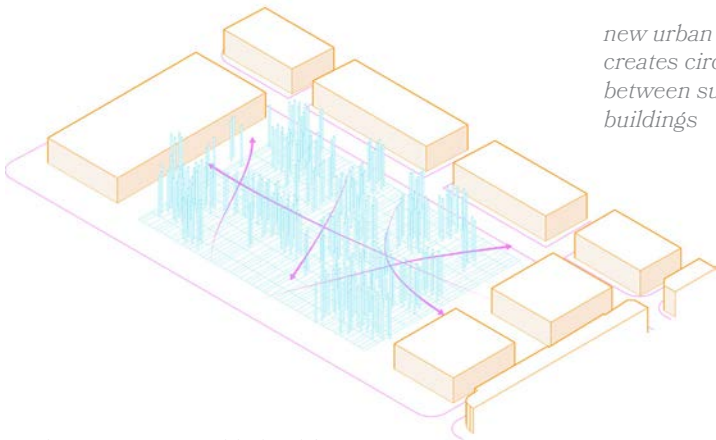
gridlock

traffic dominated planning makes blocks unnatractive for pedestrians circulation



plaza space

new urban condition creates circulation between surrounding buildings

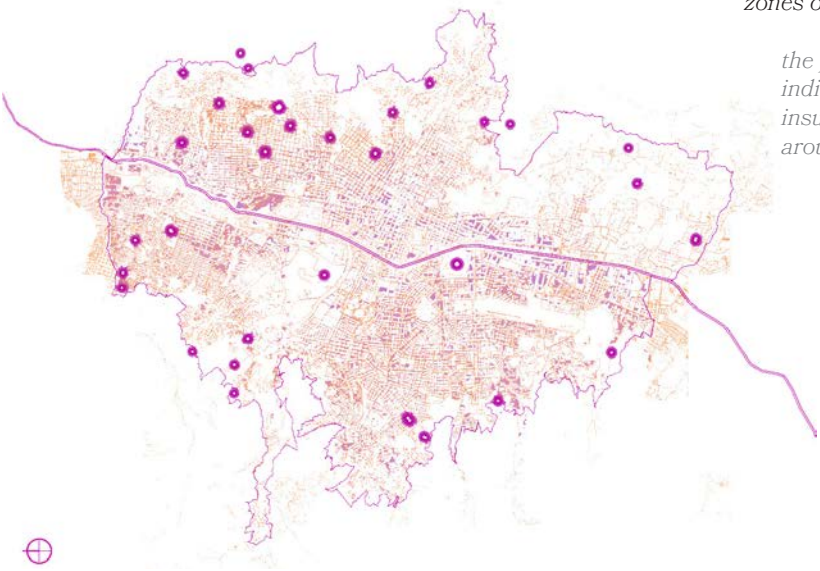


plaza recovers usable land for the public from the busy street

Large
City

Medellin's privately-owned public utility company, EPM, has supported projects around Medellin since Fajardo's tenure. Their research regarding the city discovered areas lacking proper lighting, areas around water towers. Private backing allowed these places which were sources of violence to be transformed into public spaces.

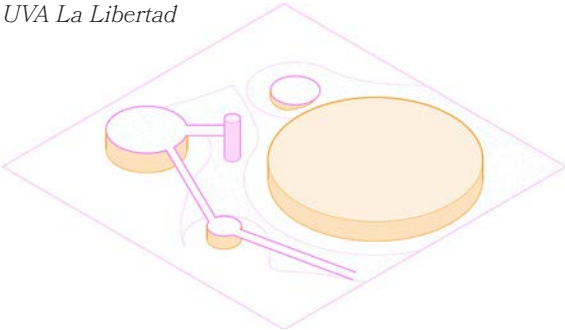
(Valencia 2020)



zones of darkness

the purple dots indicate areas with insufficient lighting around Medellin

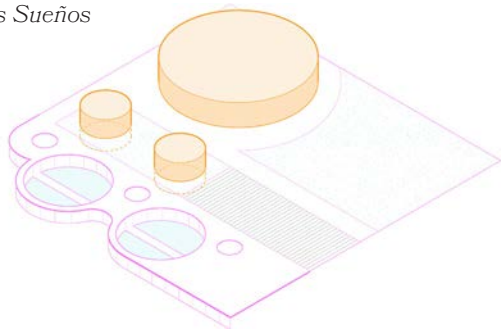
UVA La Libertad



UVA La Libertad

area around and above water towers turned into lawn space

UVA Los Sueños



UVA La Armonia

addition of lighting fixtures combat potential for conflict



UVA Los Sueños

intergration of water-works such as fountains and water playgrounds

water

existing water tower

intervention



North EDSA Mall



Gateway Mall



Forums Robinsons Mall

■ Intervention ■ Road ■ Points of Interest



BLURRING BOUNDARIES
I. site

Phase I.

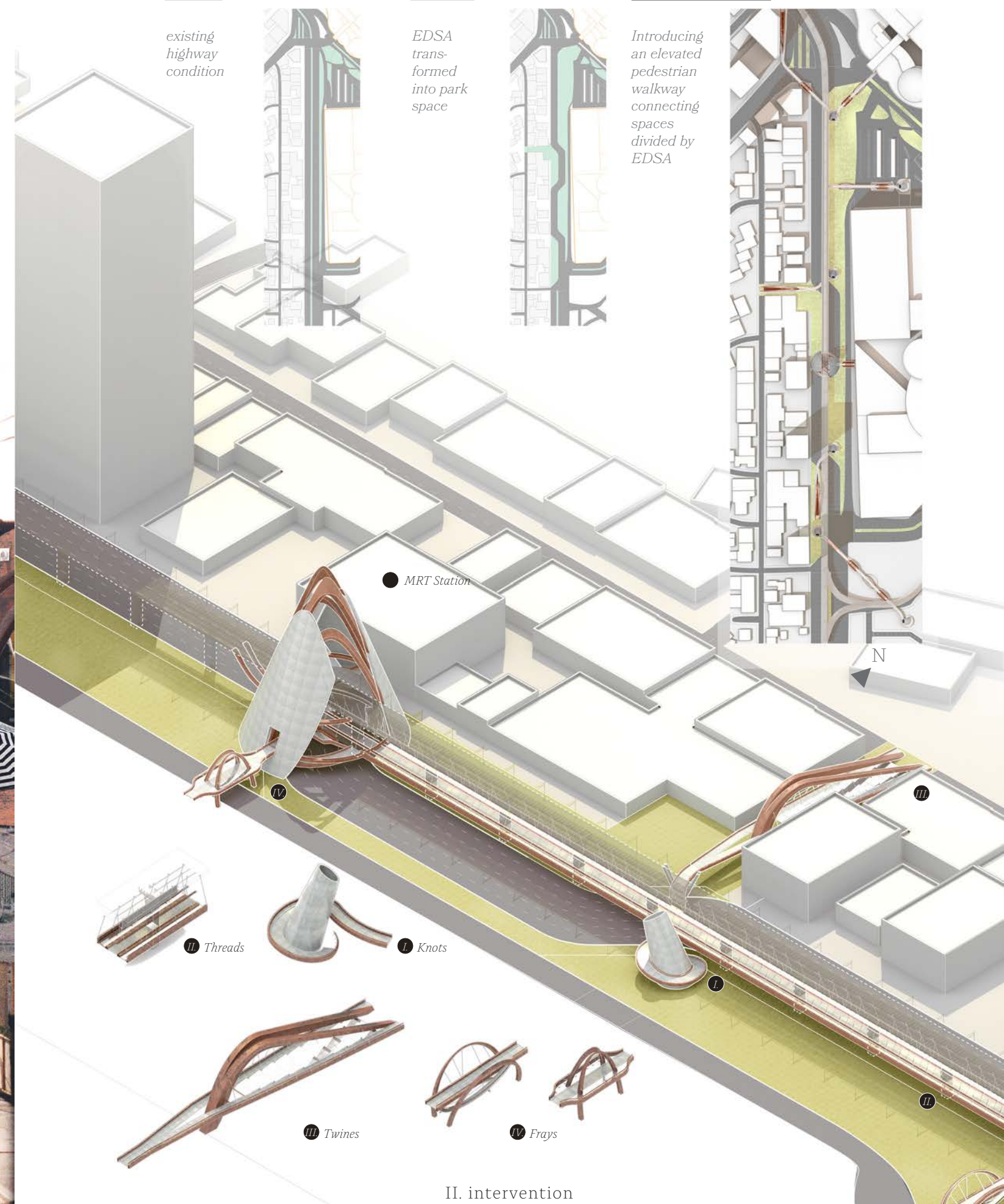
existing
highway
condition

Phase II.

EDSA
trans-
formed
into park
space

Entangling Seams.

Introducing
an elevated
pedestrian
walkway
connecting
spaces
divided by
EDSA



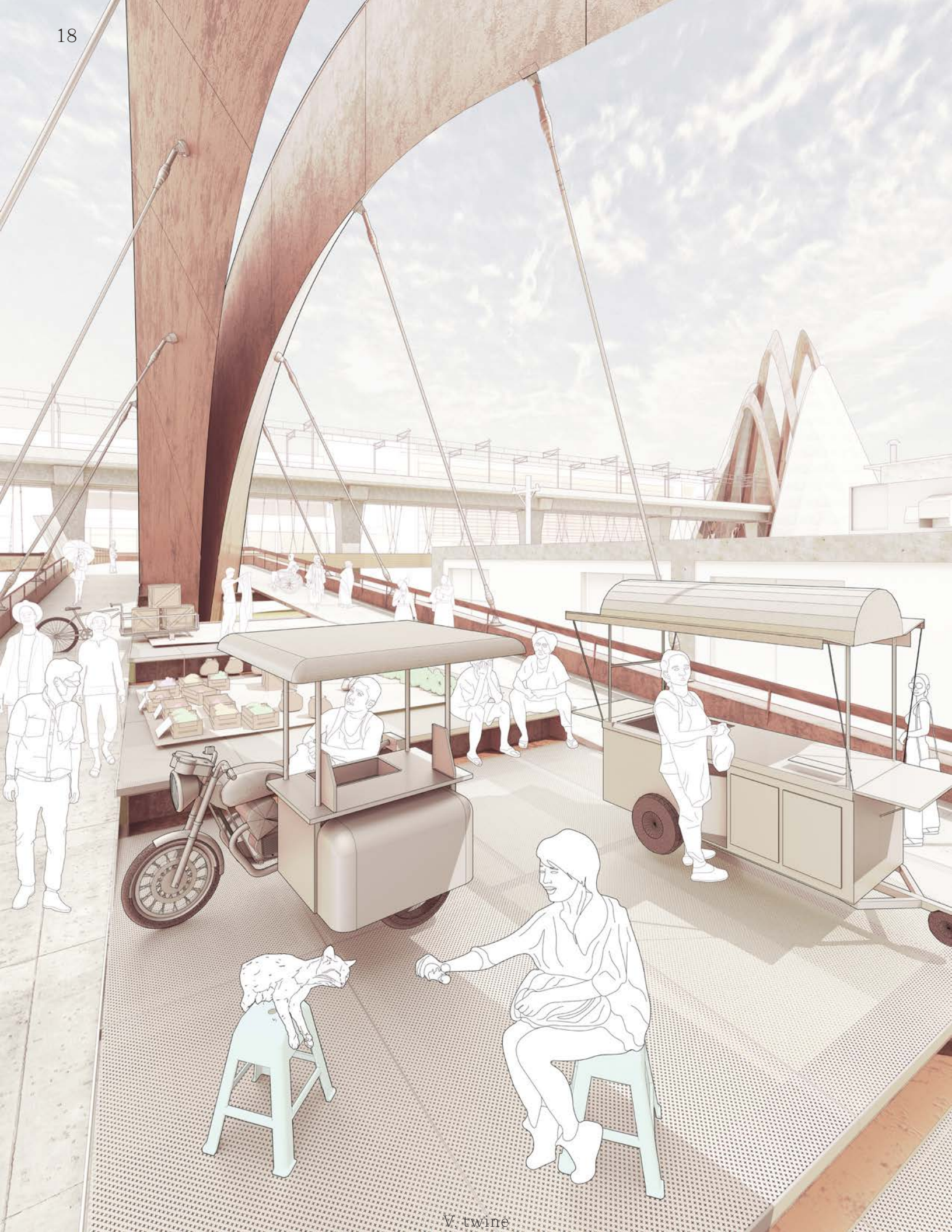
II. intervention



III. hardscape



IV. thread



Al, Chuihua Judy Chung et. Project on the City 2: Harvard Design School Guide to Shopping. Taschen, 2001.

Connell, J. "Beyond Manila: Walls, Malls, and Private Spaces." *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 31, no. 3 (1999): 417–39.

Reyes, Therese. "Eat, Pray, Shop: How Mall Culture Moved to the Center of Philippine Life: Coconuts Manila," December 21, 2018.

Body of readings that offer insight on the position of malls amongst society. Sources include a broad range of mall typologies across the globe and examples specific to the Philippines. Comparative analysis of these malls provides a better understanding of the Filipino mall's unique relationship to its country.

Choi, Narae. "Metro Manila through the Gentrification Lens: Disparities in Urban Planning and Displacement Risks." *Urban Studies* 53, no. 3 (2014): 577–92.

Garrido, Marco Z. *The Patchwork City: Class, Space, and Politics in Metro Manila*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago press, 2019.

Garrido, Marco. "The Sense of Place behind Segregating Practices: An Ethnographic Approach to the Symbolic Partitioning of Metro Manila." *Social Forces* 91, no. 4 (2013): 1343–62.

Shatkin, Gavin. "Colonial Capital, Modernist Capital, Global Capital: The Changing Political Symbolism of Urban Space in Metro Manila, the Philippines." *Pacific Affairs* 78, no. 4 (2005): 577–600.

Shatkin, Gavin. "Planning to Forget: Informal Settlements as 'Forgotten Places' in Globalising Metro Manila." *Globalisation and the Politics of Forgetting*, 2018, 175–90.

Variety of sociological entries investigating social inequality in the Philippines. From qualitative to quantitative data, the research offers numerous scales regarding Filipino society. The data implicates conflict between social classes due to both infrastructural and personal conditions.

Díaz, Rodrigo. "Medellín's Comuna 13 Shows Why All Great Public Spaces Should Be Kid-Friendly." *ArchDaily*. ArchDaily, November 6, 2017.

Dolan, Martin. "Radical Responses: Architects and Architecture in Urban Development as a Response to Violence in Medellín, Colombia." *Space and Culture* 23, no. 2 (2018): 106–28.

Fracalossi, Igor. "Plaza De Cisneros / Juan Manuel Peláez Freidel + Luis Fernando Peláez." *Plataforma Arquitectura*. Plataforma Arquitectura, September 8, 2009.

Sotomayor, Luisa, and Amrita Daniere. "The Dilemmas of Equity Planning in the Global South: A Comparative View from Bangkok and Medellín." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 2017.

Valencia, Nicolás. "The Story of How Medellín Turned Its Water Reservoirs into Public Parks," June 16, 2020.

Documentation of political forces responsible for positive change in Medellín after the peak of the drug cartel that plagued the city in the twentieth century. The products of their efforts resulted in the addition of public space.

Lucan, Jacques, and Rem Koolhaas. *OMA-Rem Koolhaas: Architecture, 1970-1990*. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991.

Formal strategies showcased by speculated works of the architectural firm OMA. The recurrence of linear moves in their selected works demonstrate the potential of blurring boundaries between spaces.