Understanding Change: Public Space Construction in Bogota, Colombia

The Plaza de San Victorino

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Main Research Question:
How does the recently remodeled Plaza de San Victorino influence the quality of life of its users?

1. How can a Post Occupancy Evaluation - POE be implemented in the Plaza de San Victorino to describe this relationship, and be of use in Bogotá and elsewhere?

2. How does the quality of space of the Plaza affect the quality of life of its users?

Methodology:

Data Collection

Data Analysis

Design Strategies and Recommendations

Design Proposal

1. Participant Observation
   Weekdays: 2 Mornings 2 Afternoons July
   Weekends: 1 Morning 1 Afternoon

2. Surveys: 45 Total
   15 Weekday Morning 15 Weekday Afternoon
   15 Weekend Morning and Afternoon December

3. Historical and context documentation

Plaza

Quality of life

Users

Quantitative measures

Quality of life

Qualitative measures

Counts
Observations
Mapping
Secondary sources

POE

Interviews: User Perceptions

POE on Public spaces

Accessibility
Climate comfort
Use

Studies on the social life of Public Spaces

Sociability
Uses and activities
Access and linkage
Comfort and image
Spatial relationships

Maps
Diagrams
Charts

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1. The Plaza de San Victorino

Location:
Downtown Bogota

District:
Localidad de Santa Fe

Planning Unit:
Las Nieves

Area:
15000 m²

Design:
Taller del Espacio Publico / Lorenzo Castro
1. The Plaza de San Victorino

History:

- 1598: Foundation of the San Victorino Parish
- 1827: The church is destroyed in a fire
- 1890: Antonio Narino Statue put in place
- 1910: Paving of the San Francisco River to create the Avenida Jimenez
- 1930: Construction of the Avenida Caracas and narrowing of La Alameda road (carrera 13)
- 1940’s: Creation of the Carrera Decima. Expansion and remodeling of the Plaza
- 1948: El Bogotazo - The Plaza is one of the most affected
- 1962: Creation of the Galerias Narino in the Plaza space
- 1977: Physical segmentation of downtown formal and informal commerce
- 1998: Beginning of the Process of change

1932
1944
1965
1. The Plaza de San Victorino

The New Plaza:

1998
- Announcement of the New Plaza Project
- July - December 1999 - Evictions and negotiations

2000
- January - Beginning of public works
- June 19th - Inauguration of the Plaza

2001
- Initiatives from merchants of the area to improve their services and continue with the improvement of the area

2003
- February - Informal vendors go back to the plaza. First signs of deterioration are detected
- May - Announcement of the construction of the San Victorino Transmilenio station
- March - Agreement between the government and local merchants to keep the Plaza clean

2004
- February - The mayoralty urges the informal vendors to leave the plaza peacefully
- September - Police deployments to evict informal vendors in the Plaza
- November - Clashes between formal and informal vendors in the area

2009
- IPES keeps relocating street vendors that arrive to the area
- Announcement of the project for the new mall including formal and informal vendors

2011
- More deterioration of the Plaza: Reports of drug dealing and prostitution in the area

2012
- Efforts by the IPES to organize the street vendors

2013
- Publishing of the Partial Plan for the San Victorino Area
- Inauguration of the new Transmilenio station on the Carrera decima
- Reports of deterioration on the floor of the Plaza
1. The Plaza de San Victorino

Analysis of the zone:
1. The Plaza de San Victorino

Uses around the Plaza de San Victorino:
1. The Plaza de San Victorino

The space of the Plaza de San Victorino - Diagrams
2. User Groups

User Profiles and Distribution
3. User General Perceptions

- **Comfort and Image**
  - Maintenance
  - Butterfly
  - Garden
- **Sociability**
  - Friends
  - Family
- **Accessibility**
  - Uses an Activities
- **Uses an Activities**
  - Workplace / Commerce
    - Formal Commerce
    - Informal Commerce
  - Point of reference
    - Butterfly
  - Diversity
    - Animals
    - People / Movement
- **Disorder / Dirt**
  - Missing Facilities
  - Street vendors
  - Trash
  - Lack of Furniture
  - Bad smell
  - Butterfly
- **Crime**
  - Homeless
  - Drug dealers
  - Thieves
  - Street vendors
- **Prostitution**
3. User General Perceptions
Cognitive Mapping Exercise

**Nature**
- Garden
- Palm trees
- Pigeons

**Transportation**

**The Butterfly**

**Commerce**

**Trash**

**Insecurity**

**The Plaza itself**

**Various elements**
4. Perceptual and Spatial Analysis Synthesis

The Plaza in Pictures
Conclusions
5. Design Recommendations and Strategies

Synthesis of Design Strategies
5. Design Recommendations and Strategies

Recommendations for each space of the Plaza

1. Trash accumulation, Inaccessible Green space
   - Define Plaza Border
   - Create Vantage Point Fragment Green Space

2. Shady Space, Trash accumulation
   - Lift, Light Communicate History
   - Increase sitting area, Decrease water area

3. Mobile Police Station (CAI)
   - Constant Multifunctional Police Station (CAI)

4. Dying Palm Trees
   - Install and Protect Wide Canopy Tall Trees

5. Historic Lamp Posts
   - Increase Lighting Create new lighting strategies

6. Few Trashcans
   - Increase Trashcans Create multifunctional furniture

7. Damaged Brick Paving
   - Change to Concrete Coloured Paving Create Maintenance Plan

8. Lack of Plaza Programming

9. Missing Services

New Spaces for
- Recreational Activities
- Activities for Children
- Social Gatherings
- Workshops
- Cultural Activities

Public Restrooms
Police Station
Multpurpose space
Urban Auditorium
6. Design Proposal

General Plan
6. Design Proposal

The Plaza as an Urban Theater
6. Design Proposal

New Service Pavilion / Police Station Lights
6. Design Proposal

Sections
6. Design Proposal

Spatial Analysis

Lighting - Traditional and new strategies

Tree canopy cover and green space

Urban furniture and sitting spaces

Paving materials

Trashcans Lamp Posts Sitting spaces Bike racks Selling modules

Brick Paving

Patterned Concrete Paving Concrete Brick Paving

Shoeshiners Street vendors Corn vendors Photographers Policemen Movers Unwanted “Visitors”

Pidgeons Llamas Toy cars and horses
6. Design Proposal

Expected user distribution and use

- Shoeshiners
- Street vendors
- Corn vendors
- Photographers
- Policemen
- Movers
- Unwanted
- “Visitors”
- Pigeons
- Llamas
- Toy cars and horses
6. Design Proposal

New Gathering Spaces and Butterfly Display