

Zig Zag Park: Solidarity through Participatory Architectural Actions

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Abstract

The peripheral zones of many Latin American cities are often sites where the conditions of social and spatial fragmentation are tangible. The liminal spaces of Bogota’s hinterlands are no exception and these tensions have continued to be reproduced as these areas have expanded in recent years. Several of the ‘comunas’ (neighborhood communities) in the southern part of the city that were founded and developed through pirated urbanism in the latter decades of the twentieth century have been legalized and now pertain to Colombian municipalities. Even with this stature, residents in these zones have received limited assistance to obtain essential public services and are lacking basic infrastructure. Inhabitants have struggled to create a sense of belonging in spaces that have been marginalized by governing bodies, marked by violence, and endured tragedies such as “Falsos Positivos”. These conditions have been exacerbated by the arrival of internally displaced

Colombian citizens and Venezuelan refugees. In *The Social Production of Urban Space*, Gottdiener stated that, “Social relations that improve life must take on material form through the social production of space.” Zig Zag Park was developed with citizens to appropriate Lefebvre’s ideas of the ‘right to the city’ and transform this mantra into participatory architectural actions in Ciudadela Sucre, a ‘comuna’ in the municipality of Soacha, Cundinamarca. Workshops were developed and culminated in the disruptive urban tactic of transforming a public space. Zig Zag Park was constructed through a participatory process that involved imagining, designing, learning, developing, fundraising and building. This project demonstrates that co-designing and building serve as a form of spatial activism that is able to strengthen and instill a sense of solidarity in vulnerable communities.

Gottdiener, Mark. *The Social Production of Urban Space*. University of Texas Press, 1985.

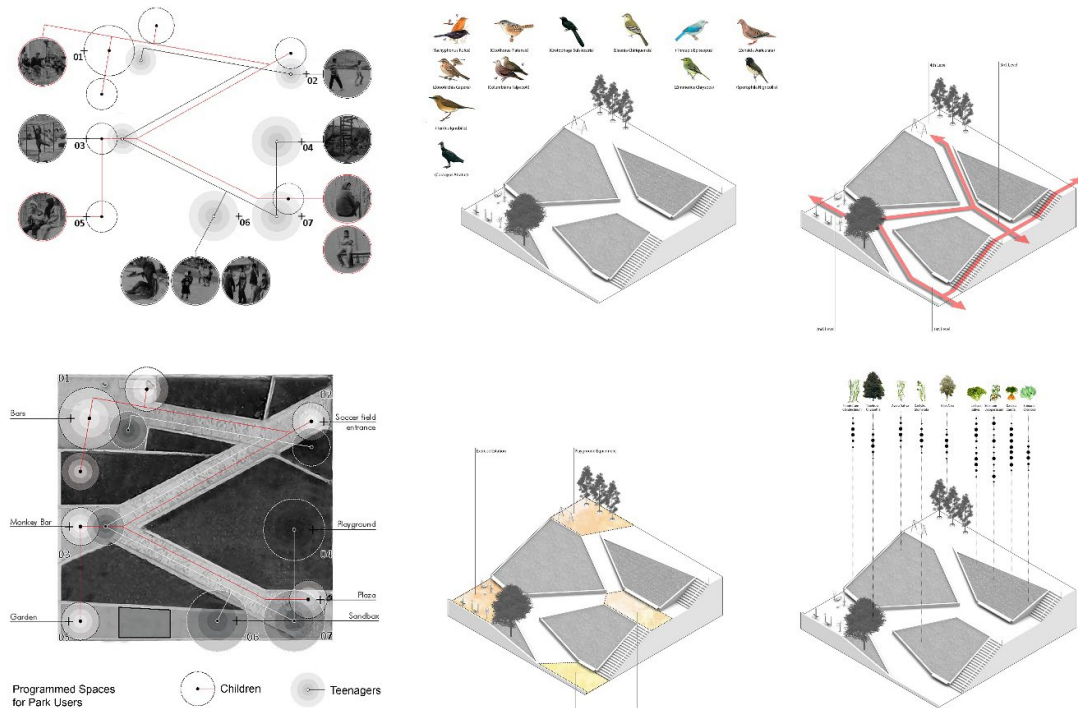


Figure 1. Diagrams developed through social cartography and design workshops with the community.



Figure 2. Axonometric visualization that has superimposed a photograph over the three dimensional representation.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph that shows where Zig Zag Park is sited in Ciudadela Sucre.