

P R O T E M P O R E

A N E P H E M E R A L I N T E R S E C T I O N

Graduate Architecture Thesis

by

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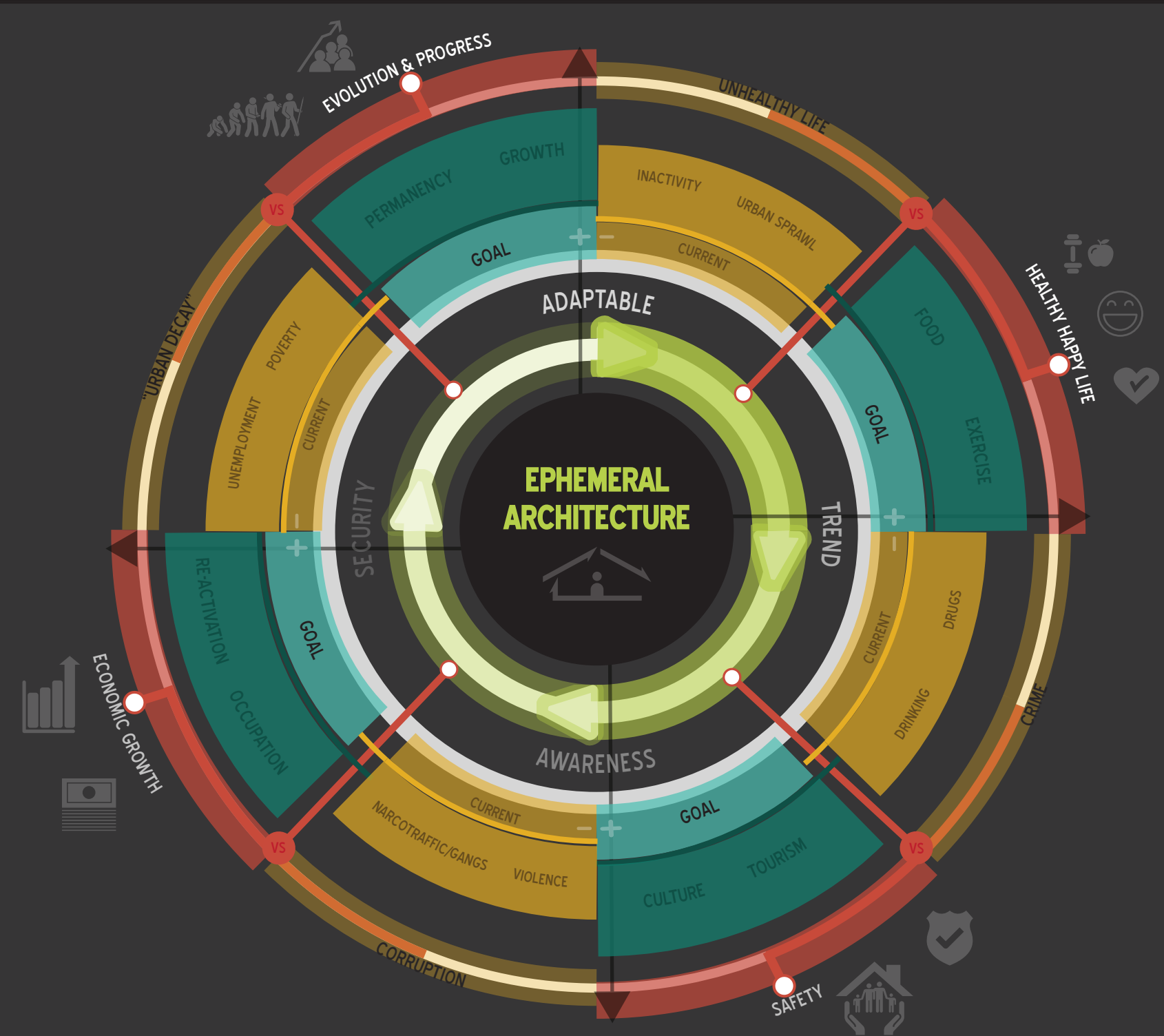
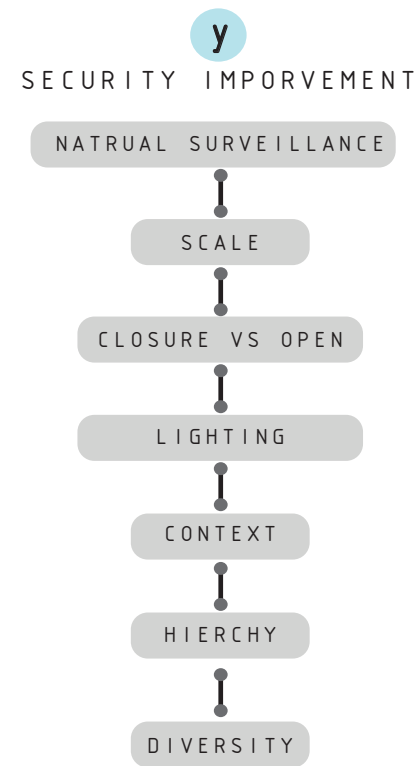
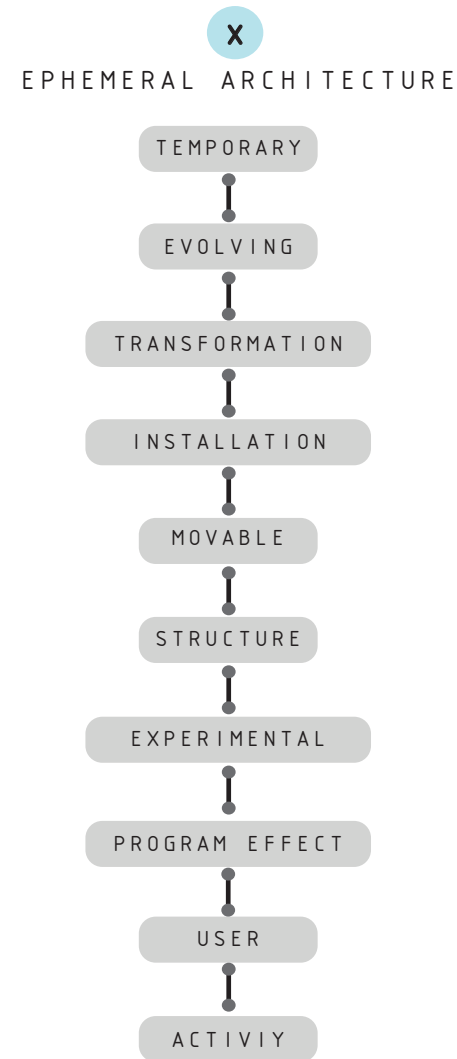
A B S T R A C T

Around the world city growth is inevitable, specifically in Central America, the lack of resources, power and control to implement formal masterplans, makes them incapable of responding to today's urban emerging issues. With the help of new emerging technology, society is able to move, create, and evolve faster. As such, it is constantly seeking for change that will bring new possibilities and solutions for further city progress and development. However, due to this fast pace at which our lives are moving, incredible amounts of old and new urban spaces originally designed for a purpose, are left empty and abandoned because they can no longer satisfy society's current needs and wants. Urban space such as plazas are in urgent need of reactivation in order to survive today's chaotic urban growth.

This thesis explores the ephemeral qualities and characteristics of design which can allow abandoned and crime affected public space to activate through the actions of anticipation and celebration. The proposal involves a fast response, an affordable solution, and a creative design which can contribute and respond to societies fast evolving needs and wants. Two types of approaches to plazas and playgrounds appear to have emerged. The first one involves loose parts. In this case the users are given a certain object(s) to which they respond and interact with to create their own play sculpture. This idea has become successful by reactivating space on the basis that it is versatility and can be transported from site to site. The second one is plays capes, which works on the thesis of combining play with landscape design. These playground transform urban spaces into vibrant play spaces. Together, both could bring about a new and faster approach that can unlock the potential of many empty urban sites now, rather than in ten years.

Ephemeral architecture as a tool for security improvement will reactivate the public realm and increase cultural, economic, & urban growth

{fitness, food, & health for the active evolving life}



CRIME : A MAJOR FACTOR OF IMPACT

INTRODUCTION

Crime is a world problem that is and will continuously be addressed by the different fields of professionals as it has a major impact in all of our lives. The wellness and health of people as individuals and as a community are held back by the impact and consequences provoked by delinquency. Such issues are powerful enough to control and dictate our lifestyles. Substantially, results are highly visible in the decrease of economic growth, social activities, and further urban development of a place, city, or country.

Diverse approaches to solving the issues of crime eventually provides reasonable and ultimately successful solutions. It is in one's responsibility to become involved in the different components that may help resolve crime issues and as such, contribute to building up of a greater and safer future. This means, people in fields such as law, politics, economy, and culture, should collaborate together in the act of fighting against crime. Nonetheless, reality and true facts expose the ineffectiveness and lack of initiative to work together and understand the relationship between the later mentioned fields to which crime highly impacts. Continuous failure results by neglecting each other, feeling discouraged to work together, and not realizing the potential of the support each can bring to resolve delinquency.

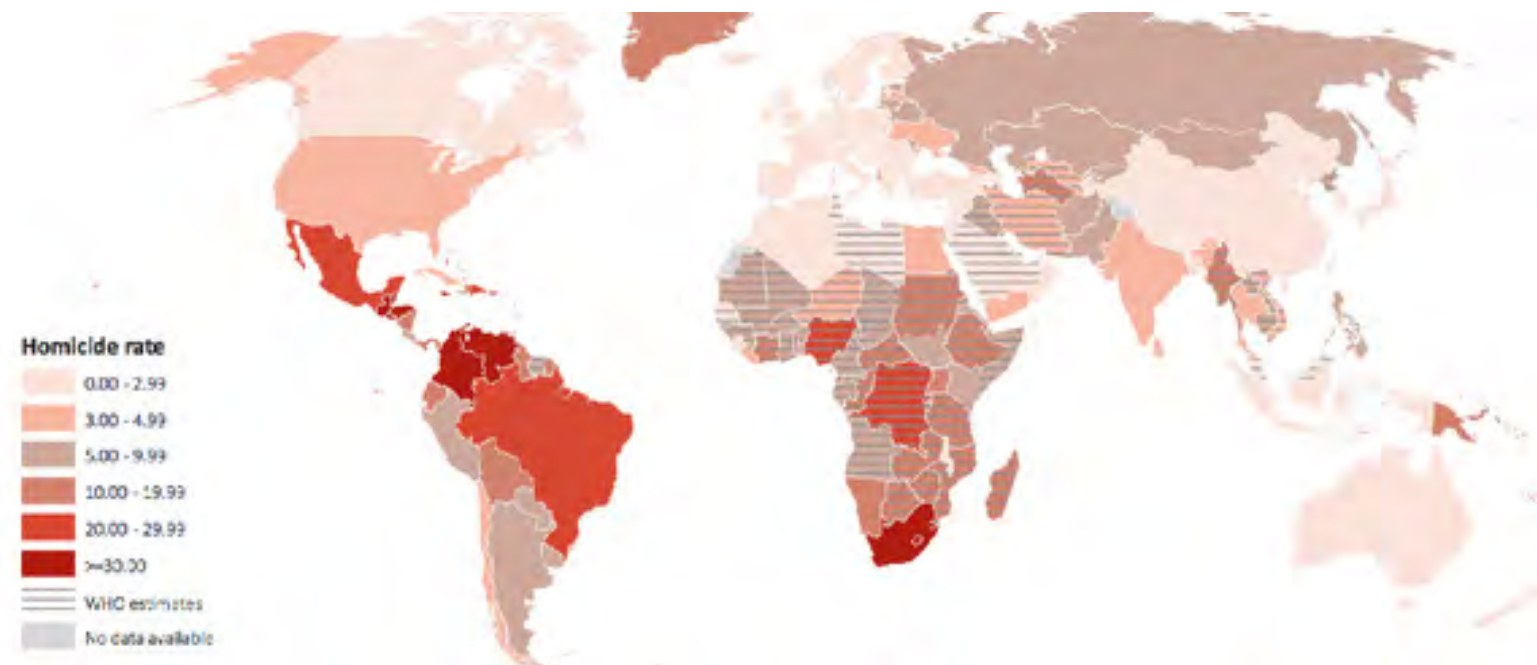
Architecture plays a very important role, as research indicates, architectural theory and environmental psychology influence, in subtle ways, the paths by which we live and think. Architecture can be neutral and be the common ground to which economy, politics, law and culture are brought in to harmoniously coexist. However, architects also fail to establish a connection due to miscommunication and lack of integrity between the other fields. A reevaluation is needed on how architecture connects to each as it can become critical in the process of assisting with the reduction of crime, as architecture or either of the fields can't act alone to solve a highly concerning problem.

Crime, rates higher in developing countries, as they have yet to overcome greater obstacles with little to no monetary support. They are in great need for help as they deal with higher unstable government officials, laws, and poor economy and to say the least, crime feed of this, highly preventing the country from any progress.

Guatemala, a developing country, has one of the highest violent crime rates in Central America. With a rate of 34 homicides per 100,000 people. Other countries among the top five in Latin America include El Salvador and Honduras. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama crime and violence levels are significantly lower than the ones previously mentioned, but still of rising concern.

Key factors that contribute to Guatemala's crime rate are an increase in narco-trafficking activity, growing gang-related violence, a heavily-armed population and a police/judicial system that remains either unable or unwilling to hold most criminals accountable.

Such security and safety issues provoke an immense decrease in recreational activities for both locals and tourists bringing about many more layers of obstacles that prevent for the improvement of an underdeveloped city. With this ongoing problems many of the popular public areas that were once considered to be safe and enjoyable are now dangerously occupied by thieves and other criminal activities.



HOMICIDE RATE BY COUNTRY OR TERRITORY (2012 OR LATEST YEAR)

FIGURE 1.1



FIGURE 1.2



FIGURE 1.3

GUATEMALA : A CITY CONSUMED BY CRIME

BACKGROUND: BRIEF HISTORY

Guatemala City is the largest city in Central America, and the political, social, cultural, and economic center of Guatemala. Lying in a valley of the central highlands at an elevation of 4,897 feet above sea level, it has a temperate and invigorating mountain climate. The estimated population of 2013 is of 15,528,000 .

Guatemala City used to be the ancient Maya city of Kaminaljuyu . Throughout the territory many temple mounds excited and some were protected before urban development hit and they built over them with freeways, shopping malls, luxury hotels and residential areas.

Before Guatemala City became the main city, Antigua Guatemala was the Spanish Capital. However, after the Santa Marta earthquakes that destroyed Antigua in 1773, King Charles III of Spain moved the capital. This dramatically increased the potential for expansion of the city, which involved the rebuilding at a significant distance from the volcanos believed to have caused the earthquake. This new building gave way to the name New Guatemala by Europeans. Later on September 15, 1821, the Captaincy-general of Guatemala officially declared its independence from Spain.

THE CITY TODAY

Today the city has extensively grown and had an increase in urban development. The city became of great importance as it functions as the main port of entry into the country, with international airport, La Aurora International Airport and most major highways in the country originating or leading to the city. The city offers a wide variety of restaurants, hotels, shops, and a transport system known by locals as "Transmetro".

Guatemala City is subdivided into 22 zones designed by the urban engineer Raúl Aguilar Batres , each one with its own streets and avenues, making it pretty easy to find addresses in the city. Zones are numbered 1-25 with Zones 20, 22 and 23 not existing as they would have fallen in two other municipalities territory. Addresses are assigned according to the street or avenue number, followed by a dash and the number of meters it is away from the intersection further simplifying address location. The zones are assigned in a spiral form starting in downtown Guatemala City.

The city has a wide variety of art galleries, theaters, and sports venues and museums cultural activities, nonetheless they no longer reach their whole potential due to the effects of exceeding crime.

1.2 ECONOMY

Guatemala's economy is dominated by the private sector, which generates about **85%** of GDP. Economic growth was about 3.7% in 2013 with agriculture contributing to about **13%** of Guatemala's GDP and **38%** of the labor force. Exports include coffee, bananas, sugar, vegetables, and apparel. Its main industries include sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, and tourism.

The United States is the country's largest trading partner, providing **36%** of Guatemala's imports and receiving 40% of its exports. The economy was seriously damaged during the global recession but rebounded slightly in 2012. However, more than half of the population lives below the poverty line. According to the World Bank, Guatemala has one of the most unequal income distributions and highest levels of poverty in the hemisphere. Guatemala works closely with the U.S. on security issues, but drug trafficking persists, and Mexican cartels continue to expand their influence in the country.

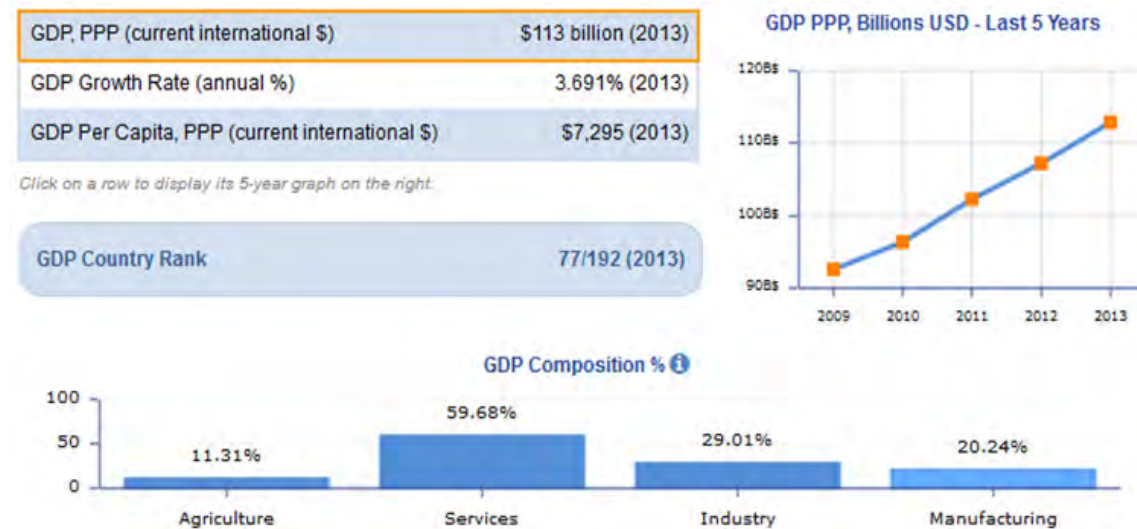


FIGURE 1.4

IMPACT OF CRIME IN THE ECONOMY

With the rise of crime the inability to grow economically also increases. Crime can affect economy in different ways. In Guatemala, some of the most common cases are private business that not only get affected when accidents like shootings or burglary occur, but as a further result generates fear to the consumer who doesn't come back or stays away from the danger zone. Business then have to shut down and the areas where this business are located become dangerous and abandoned.

Common solutions to rehabilitate the areas from an economist point of view include reducing the market prices of both rent and products, however income turns less and business are unable to sustain themselves for long. It then becomes a cyclical event where another business comes and replaces he one before them, and after a while most commonly encounters the same problems that the previous business had. It is not until a developer comes up with a new idea that attracts the attention of the people back into the place, which only occurs with developers willing to invest great amounts of money.

Guatemala, corruption is perhaps the biggest issue every term government continues to fall under. Its law enforcement is not only weak and corrupt but also institutions have proved incapable of containing the powerful organized crime groups and criminal gangs that contribute to one of the highest violent crime rates in the Americas. Illegal armed groups are believed to be responsible for ongoing threats and targeted attacks against civil society actors and justice officials. According to official figures, there was 95 percent impunity for homicides in 2010. Deficient and corrupt prosecutorial and judicial systems and police, as well as the absence of an effective witness protection system, all contribute to Guatemala's alarmingly low prosecution rate.

Current President Otto Perez Molina principal promised during his campaign to reduce crime and violence that has increased over the past years. Among his many campaigns to diminish crime the most popular one was his proposal to legalize drugs, this would also be implemented in the other countries that compose Central America, helping to fight crime by controlling illegal activities. However, this campaign was believed to be boycotted by the United States as only the president of Costa Rica and Panama came together with Molina to discuss the subject. After this events not much improvement has been made with regards to the high rates of crime in the city. In fact as of 2015, president Molina and other major political parties were found and accused of many crimes involving corruption. the year of 2015 has become one major peaceful protest filled, to overthrow all major political parties involved.

1.3 CULTURE

Guatemala is rich in culture composed of 21 different indigenous Mayan populations, mix that with Spanish and European populations. The main language spoken in the city is Spanish. The Mayan influence is deep and profound all around the country but in the city one can grasp a higher Spanish influence. Major religions include Roman Catholic 50 , Protestant 40 , other 10 includes various Mayan indigenous religion.

One of the most important cultural traits in Guatemala is its cuisine. Many traditional foods are based on Maya cuisine and it is what makes it so special and an original expression of our culture. Most of this traditional plates feature corn, chilis and beans as key ingredients. This includes tamales, paches, tortillas, beans, and many more. Festivities feature the feasting of many of this traditional dishes. One could say that food is the one thing that unifies the diversity of ethnicities and culture in Guatemala.

IMPACT OF CRIME SOCIALLY AND CULTURALLY

Being able to express freely and engage in social and cultural activities has become harder as one is controlled by the parameters of crime. There is no true freedom to do what one wants as one is always thinking of one's safety. Methods of transportation are mainly vehicular even though distances are short enough to walk to. Due to the extensive amount of criminal activity on a daily basis the Guatemalan is bound to take security measurements which includes the use of vehicles to arrive to a place faster and to engage the least possible with the people surrounding them.

Beautiful parks, plazas and urban recreational areas all around the city have been abandoned because of the criminal activities that have over taken them further allowing them to develop and allowing their whole potential of celebrating the beautiful landscape, views, climate that Guatemala offers.

Crime issues have become a great deal in the life of the Guatemalan as it is so abundant to a point where it is disturbingly common to anticipate for the worst or to not be surprised by the surrounding criminal activities such as the

FIGHTING BACK

2

2.1 THE PRIVATE SECTOR: "LA MUNI"

Like numerous countries around the world, Guatemala lacks resources to invest in enough prosecutors, police, jails, juries, and judges, and additional expenditures will receive diminishing returns. Moreover, even at current rates of enforcement, complaints of civil rights violations, false arrests, incompetent police officers, and malicious prosecutors plague the system. With so many issues involving the corrupt government arises a private sector known as "La Municipalidad" that helps address this issues.

The "Municipalidad de Guatemala" or Municipality's main functions of the "Municipalidad" is the planning, control and evaluation of urban growth and development keeping in consideration social aspect to improve the quality of life of the people.

The City Council is the highest corporate boVdy, deliberation and decisions of municipal affairs whose members are jointly and severally responsible for the decision making. It is composed of the mayor, aldermen and councilors, all directly and popularly elected in each municipality. Together, they work to achieve and administrate the services that a city or town needs. The resources desired are mainly obtained from the payment of excise, as ticket adornment, Single Property Tax (IUSI) and fees charged on some business .



FIGURE 2.1

2.2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF "LA MUNI"

Municipalidad has truly reached out to help Guatemala City. Two well-known successfully executed projects are "Transmetro" and "Pasos y Pedales" both of this projects help resolve urban scale issues of great importance.

The "Transmetro" for instance, is a mass transit system created in order to improve the quality of life of people by developing better urban mobilization and releasing the municipality of its congestion problems. This being economically competitive, socially and environmentally responsible. The project had great response back as it not only helped improve transit but also replaced the previous form of public transportation that was disrupting the city by increasing traffic and polluting the air. Not to mention security and safety issues that involved the people traveling in this buses as well as those driving around them.

Pasos y Pedales is another successful urban project that addresses different urban issues. This project is presented as a new dynamic and attractive proposition for residents of the city that are for specific areas within the city for healthy family activities. The administration of Mayor Alvaro Arzu has given continuity to this project that began in 2001 giving importance to it, so that neighbors from both Guatemala City and surrounding municipalities can enjoy a family healthy recreational space around existing linear parks.



CURRENT PROJECTS

It is important for this thesis to pay close attention to the current projects being executed by this private sector. Among the projects, is the POT (Plan de ordenamiento territorial) a basic policy and urban planning body comprised of technical regulations, legislation and regulations that the Municipality of Guatemala states to regulate and guide the development of their territory. The POT is based on the categorization of the territory in general areas ranging from rural to urban, taking into consideration the availability of transportation to determine areas of high density for high dense construction and reducing construction in those areas classified as environmentally valuable areas or of high risk .

Studies show that out of 100 people only 24 live in the city. This means that most of the people live outside the city and have to travel long distances every day for work. This project seeks to redensify the city and encourages it to grow vertically in areas connecting with the transmetro to create a more efficient city with regards to movement, traffic, and lifestyle. There is great focus on the effective use of vertical space to provide residencies, as it will bring about more people to live in the city and closer to work.

This project has a great vision that aims for great change in 2020. The execution of the overall project involves different scale projects. Projects that aim to resolve different scale issues among of which mainly includes security and safety in the city of Guatemala.

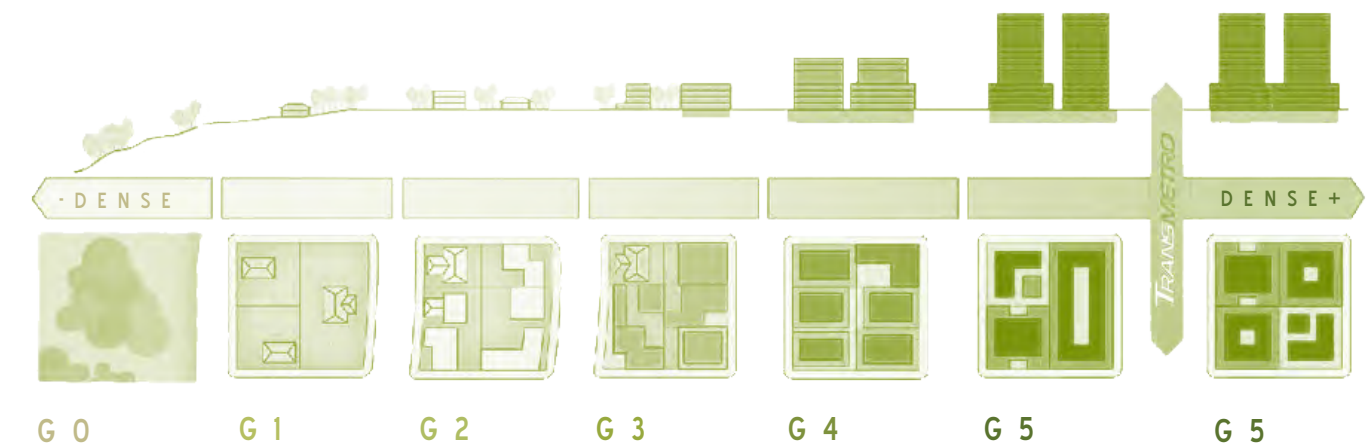


FIGURE 2.7

2.3 OTHER GROUPS

It is also important to highlight other organizations that are treating issues with regards to security. Their research and development contributes to further research and discoveries that could be beneficial to other groups. Different groups also contribute to different points of views and approaches towards concerning issues and therefore different solutions that can be incredibly beneficial.

One can find several organizations, parties, groups taking the initiative to help with the transformation of a safer and more prosperous Guatemala. "Mejoremos a Guate" is an initiative created by a group of entrepreneurs joined forces and resources to develop a strategy for influencing public policies for integral development. The initiative is driven by the business sector united, integrated projects and technical initiatives, marking the path that will allow us to walk together toward a more prosperous, caring, secure and transparent nation. They seek to resolve a wider variety of issues such as generating more jobs, more investment and more income for the state to meet its obligations. They want to approach Guatemala with Solidarity which means achieving a better social investment in education and health, providing greater opportunities for welfare to the needy Guatemalans through it helping solve issues related with security and justice leading to a peaceful life.

ARCHITECTURE FOR A CHANGE



3.1 TENDENCY TO RISE AND FALL

It is through discipline and continuous trial and error that one comes near archiving success. Designers, architects, urban planners, among others, have to go through extensive quantities of research that essentially drives them to create something that will improve upon what was successful and achieve what the other projects couldn't.

There is great inclination in the architecture world to design with no honest purpose of concept or function. Projects neglect the long-term impact on the building itself, on the buildings around, and on the city as a whole. There is always great hype when a new innovative projects is built. However, in the long run, most of this innovative projects tend to fail. Some examples include Museum of Bilbao which broke the boundaries of computer aided design. Nevertheless, through the years it stopped being such a great innovation and the impact that the building cost, which is still costing the city, is immense.

Similar to Bilbao, Santiago Calatrava's Ciudad de las Artes y Ciencias in Valencia had a negative impact on the city on the years following its opening. Not only both of this projects experience constant maintenance problems but, rather than the building to pay for itself like it was originally intended to happen over the years is instead costing the city. Of course not all of it is negative. There is breaking design aspects to both of this projects that allows for future generations of architects, engineers, contractors and other to study carefully what future projects might be facing and needing for them to be successful and beneficial to its surroundings whether economic, political, socially and or culturally. With the speeding up of technology and the effects that it has upon our lifestyles, there is constant and rapid change to which there is need to either adapt or evolve with. What one designs today will most likely be subjected to changes in the future when it actually gets built, because ones current needs will probably not meet the same needs of the society later in the future.

3.2 URBAN PROJECTS

Guatemala keeps falling into this tendency of great hype followed by total rejection. It is in the culture that the new innovative becomes a sensation and in no time projects rapidly lose popularity and fall into oblivion. The original excitement fades away sometimes faster than other times. It is the ability of the project to either adapt or evolve with the society's needs and wants that keeps the project alive longer than others. Not to mention that a lot of it has to do with the monetary means to support the project if subjected to change.

3.3 OLD VS. NEW

Failing to adapt or advance drives a project into desolation, furthermore follows occupation of wrong crowds that together create a less attractive and unsafe place for the users to whom the project was intentionally built for. Projects that fall into dejection tend to act as dominos, where one building falls and begins to take down buildings around them until the whole area gets consumed into the same situation.

Many examples are found in Guatemala City. Some of the most popular zones such as "Zona Viva" and "4 grados norte" have become the most dangerous areas of the city. With issues ranging from drug trafficking and homicides to burglary, this popular tourist and local areas have become completely unattractive to the different users. Essentially, affecting the zone's economic growth and chances for further urban development and prosperity.

As previously described in chapter one, Guatemala is divided into different zones. Zone 10 belongs to Zona Viva. This zone is in the east of Avenida Reforma and north of Boulevard Los Próceres. For a long time, it was considered the most affluent district hosting a high density of bars, restaurants, hotels and discothèques. In addition, a great number of shopping malls and office buildings making this area a bustling business area for the City. However, over the years it has gone through many shooting and other violent criminal accidents. Even though it has fought back to keep the area safe, this past years it has been rated as the most dangerous zone in the city. Buildings, residences, stores have gone out of business in effect, decreasing economic and social growth. This area is now extremely populated by drug dealers and gangs. The nightlife that once was so rich has translated to a "safer" zone.

In response to this occurrences other projects come forth with the concerning issues of solving crime. Similar in concepts, projects like "Fontabella" and "Ciudad Cayala" take different approaches to address difficulties of safety and security to which the city is increasingly day to day being subjected to.

Plaza Fontabella is the first open air mix use project in Guatemala. The project hosts retail spaces, offices and housing areas. It is located in a specific residential sector according to City Hall officials, named Barrio de Santa Clara. Designed to create a sense of community, Plaza Fontabella has become an important place for social activity in Guatemala City. Its Mediterranean-style architecture resembles a small town with six separate buildings connected by passageways. The center's open air plazas make it a unique experience and the gardens, decks and fountains add to its appeal. Underground parking is provided allowing only for pedestrians to circulate around the plazas. Restaurants in this complex are the most successful program.

When first opened, Fontabella was the new sensation at Zona Viva as it became part of the night experience by providing a safe place to eat and hang out with friends as well as to park once car. This became a parting point for most locals to spread out to the bars or the surrounding the area after eating at any of the restaurants or bars. It was incredibly successful during the morning and afternoon, as most families and friends liked to eat lunch there and later take a small walk around the shops. This past year however there has been a decrease in the consumers. Restaurants remain popular but Fontabella no longer relates or interacts with Zona Viva like it used to before as it has become more dangerous. A great place to be seen and see slowly became desolated with no one to see any more people began the search for the newest and most crowded place to be in a place where "everyone we know will be there".



FIGURE 3.1



FIGURE 3.2

Years later the inauguration of a new urban sensation by urban planner Leon Krier, open its doors to the public. The project everyone was anticipating goes by the name of Ciudad Cayala which means Paradise in Cakchique. Referred as "the city within a city" is located in Zone 16. A project which goals include enjoying nature, the commodities of modern life, and access to various buildings for religious, cultural and recreational activities of the community.

The project aimed to decrease crime by implementing numerous crime reduction architectural designs, for instance, four story buildings that would increase natural surveillance. The first phase of the project goes by the name of Paseo Cayala, taking over 63 acres of land, the concepts include areas that provoke walking and stop the use of cars by providing shops living space and recreational areas.

So far, like every other project, there was great excitement and as the project continued to develop with the opening of more restaurants, clubs and a movie theatre, larger groups of people were driven back. However, complaints about the parking design are all negative, as it is very small.

One notices here that as the car becomes a greater part of our lives, if the building can't embrace and learn to better integrate this part, the project will drop in popularity. Also, many apartments and locals have complained about poor floor plan design, issues with failure in appliances dealing with electrical and plumbing. This issues rapidly got out to the interested parties that were looking into possibly including their business to this area. However, with high prices, electrical and plumbing issues, many of the lots that were meant to be filled are now vacant.

The same issue took effect upon the apartments, where many of the residences moving in decided that because of proximity to street level, they felt uncomfortable with the sound of clubs and other activities taking place. Issues like this forced the reallocation of one the main magnet of this project which was a safe club, one that Guatemala City had been lacking for a long time. Issues of crime also lead to increase in security guards all around the complex and additional cameras. One can only hope that this project won't end up like the rest in Guatemala, nevertheless, the direction in which its currently going doesn't seem promising. Not to mention that two more phases are still coming into play, which can either take a negative blow from Paseo Cayala or could possibly save it.



FIGURE 3.3



FIGURE 3.4



FIGURE 3.5



FIGURE 3.6



FIGURE 3.7



FIGURE 3.8



FIGURE 3.9



FIGURE 3.10



FIGURE 4.1

GLOBAL:CENTRAL AMERICA



FIGURE 4.2

LOCATION:
 GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY

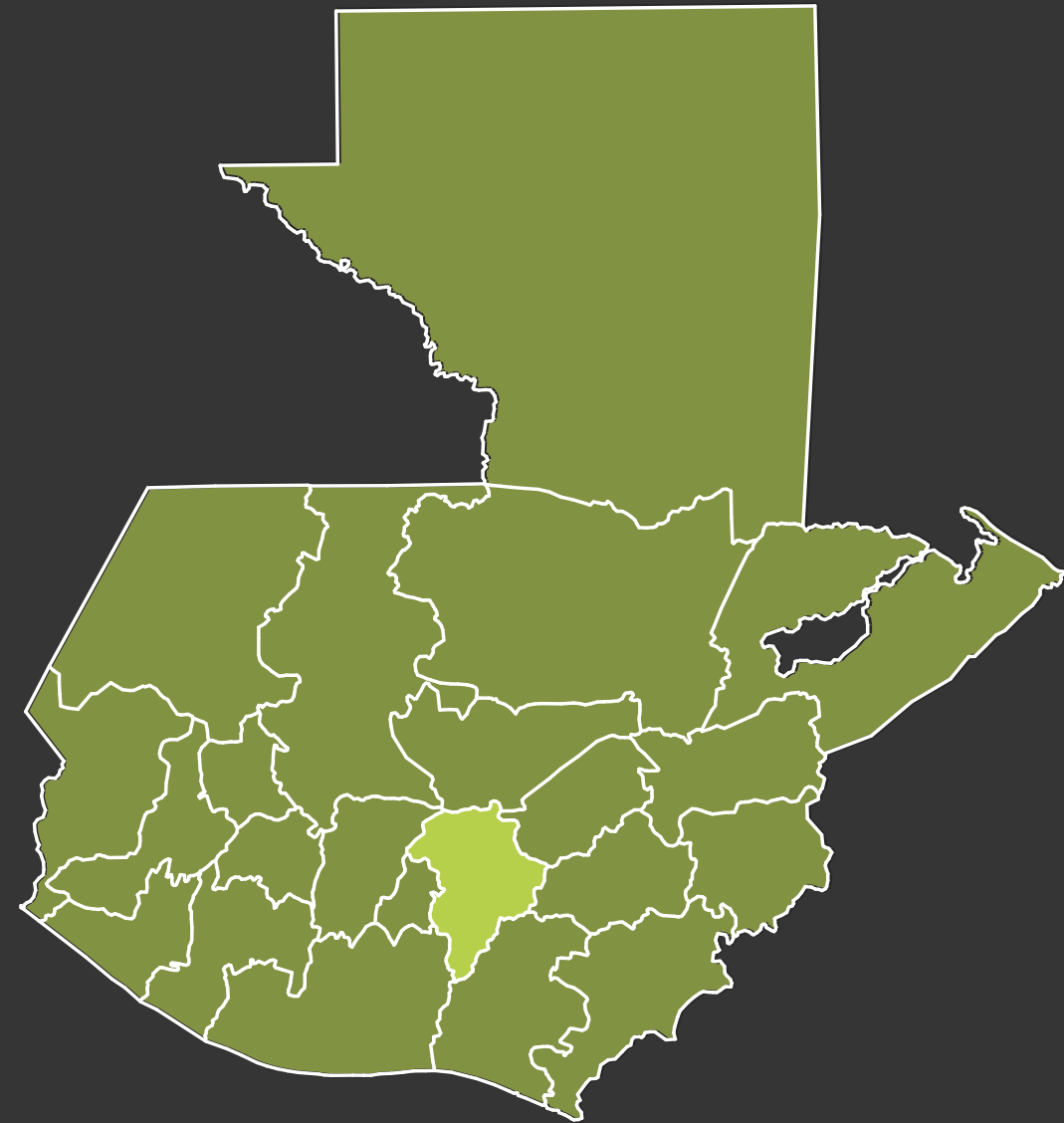


FIGURE 4.3

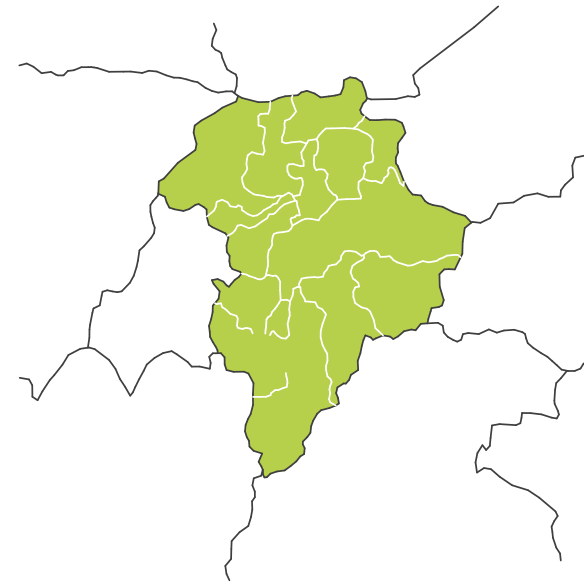


FIGURE 4.4

GUATEMALA CITY

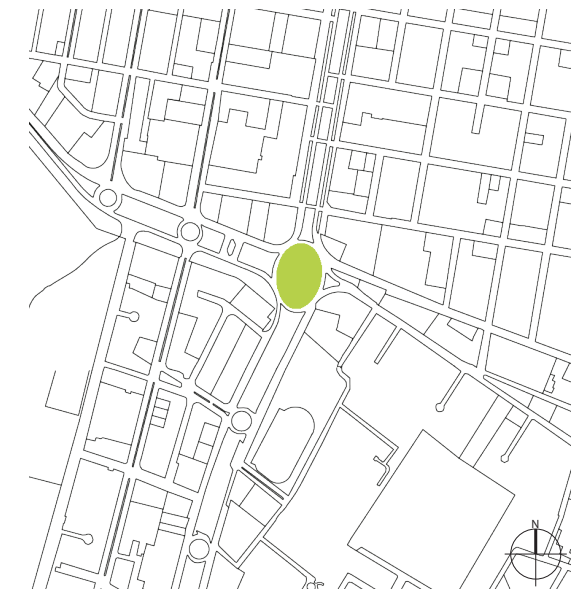


FIGURE 4.5

PLAZA OBELISCO

LOCATION:
GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY

El Obelisco or Monumento a los Próceres de la Independencia is a monument in Guatemala City, Guatemala built in 1935 under dictator Jorge Ubico and designed by Rafael Pérez De León. It commemorates the independence of Central America. the 18-metre high, 220-ton stone structure is situated on a huge roundabout called Plaza del Obelisco, where the Avenida Reforma, Boulevard Los Próceres, Avenida Las Americas and Boulevard Liberacion meet. At this place once the neoclassic Palacio de La Reforma stood, destroyed by the earthquakes of 1917/1918 {1}. In 1950, under president Juan José Arévalo, a flame of liberty was installed by the column.

PLAZA OBELISCO

GUATEMALA CITY



FIGURE 4.6

GUATEMALA CITY
CAPITAL ZONES

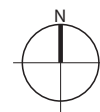


FIGURE 4.7



FIGURE 4.8

ZONE G5

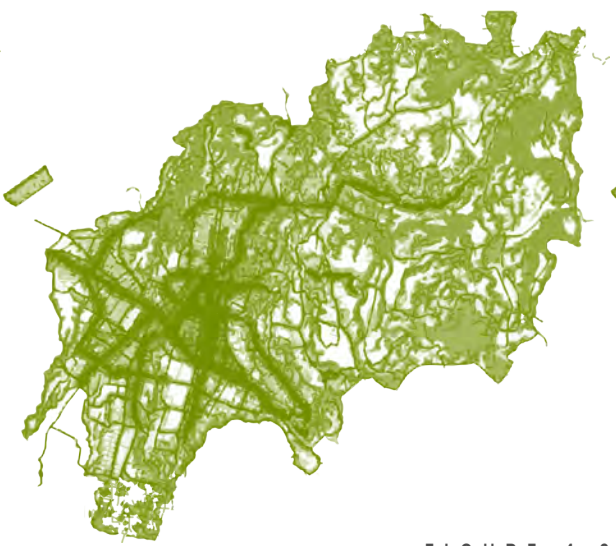


FIGURE 4.9

ZONE G4



FIGURE 4.10

ZONE G3



FIGURE 4.11

ZONE G2



FIGURE 4.12

ZONE G1



FIGURE 4.13

ZONE G0

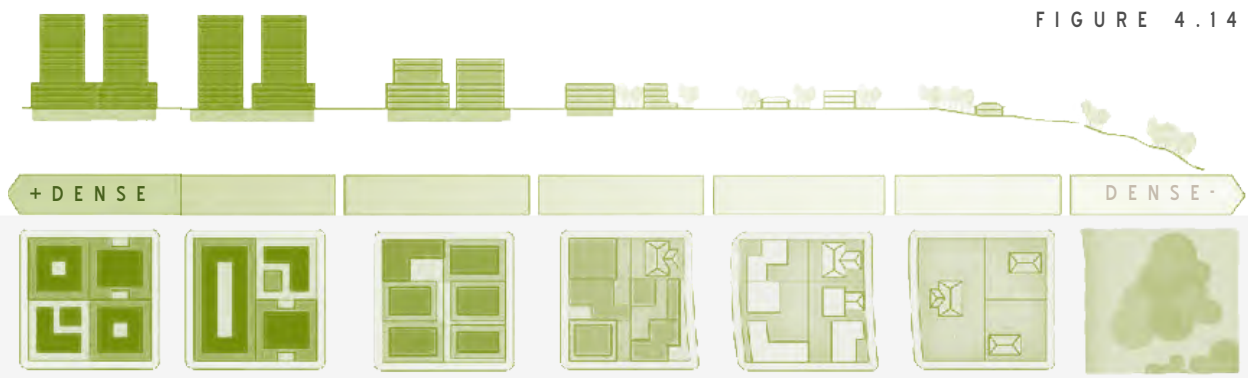


FIGURE 4.14

PLAN DE ORDENAMIENTO TERRITORIAL
[POT]

FIGURE 4.15



SPECIAL AREAS

FIGURE 4.16



AERONAUTICAL RESTRICTIONS

FIGURE 4.17



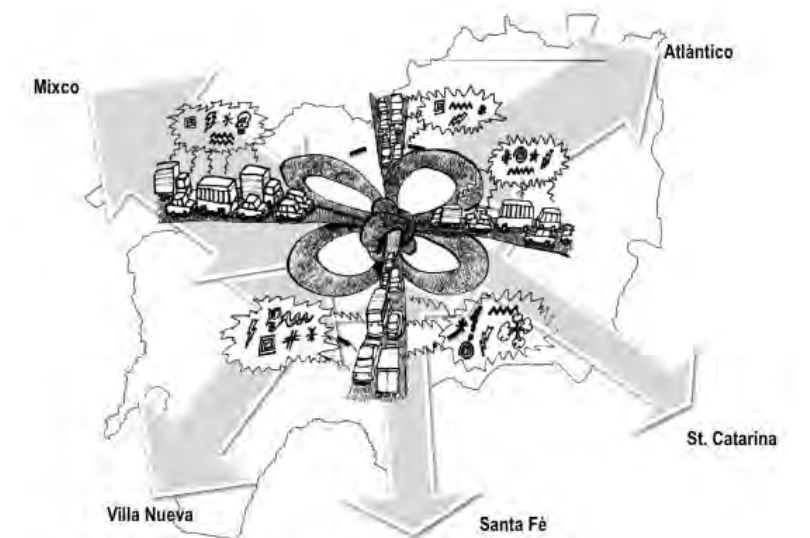
DIVISION BY DELEGATIONS

FIGURE 4.18



POT COVERAGE

FIGURE 4.19



URBAN NODE

URBAN GROWTH CONCENTRATION

FIGURE 4.11

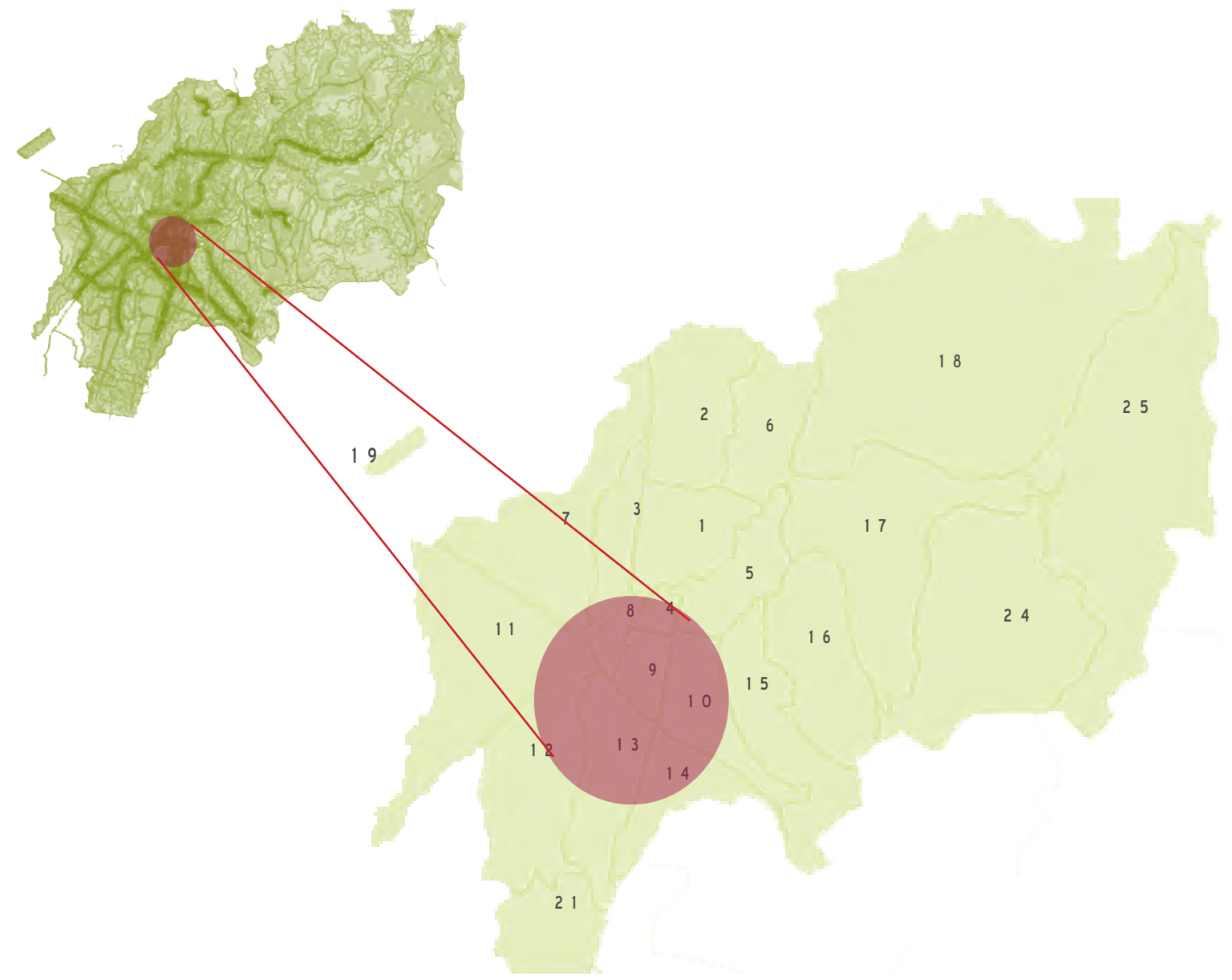


FIGURE 4.7

FIGURE 4.20



FIGURE 4.21

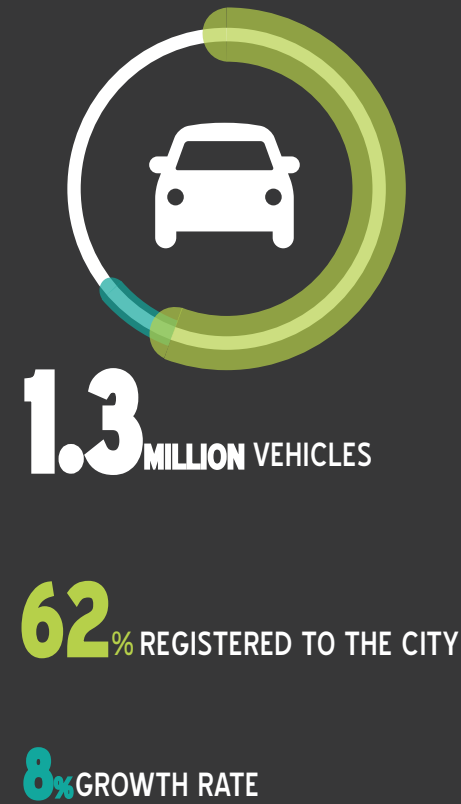


FIGURE 4.22

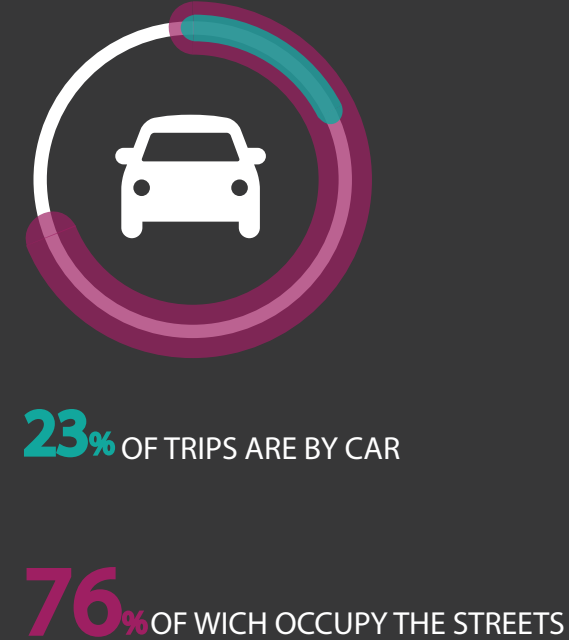
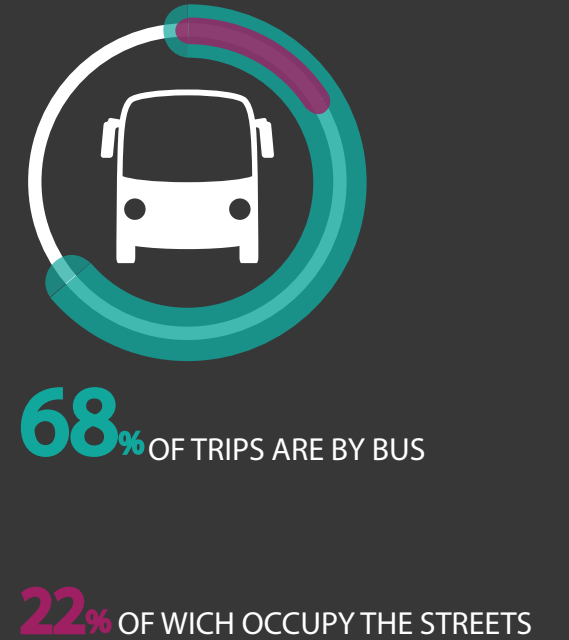


FIGURE 4.23



VEHICULAR GROWTH

INEQUITY

URBAN CHAOTIC STRESS NODE

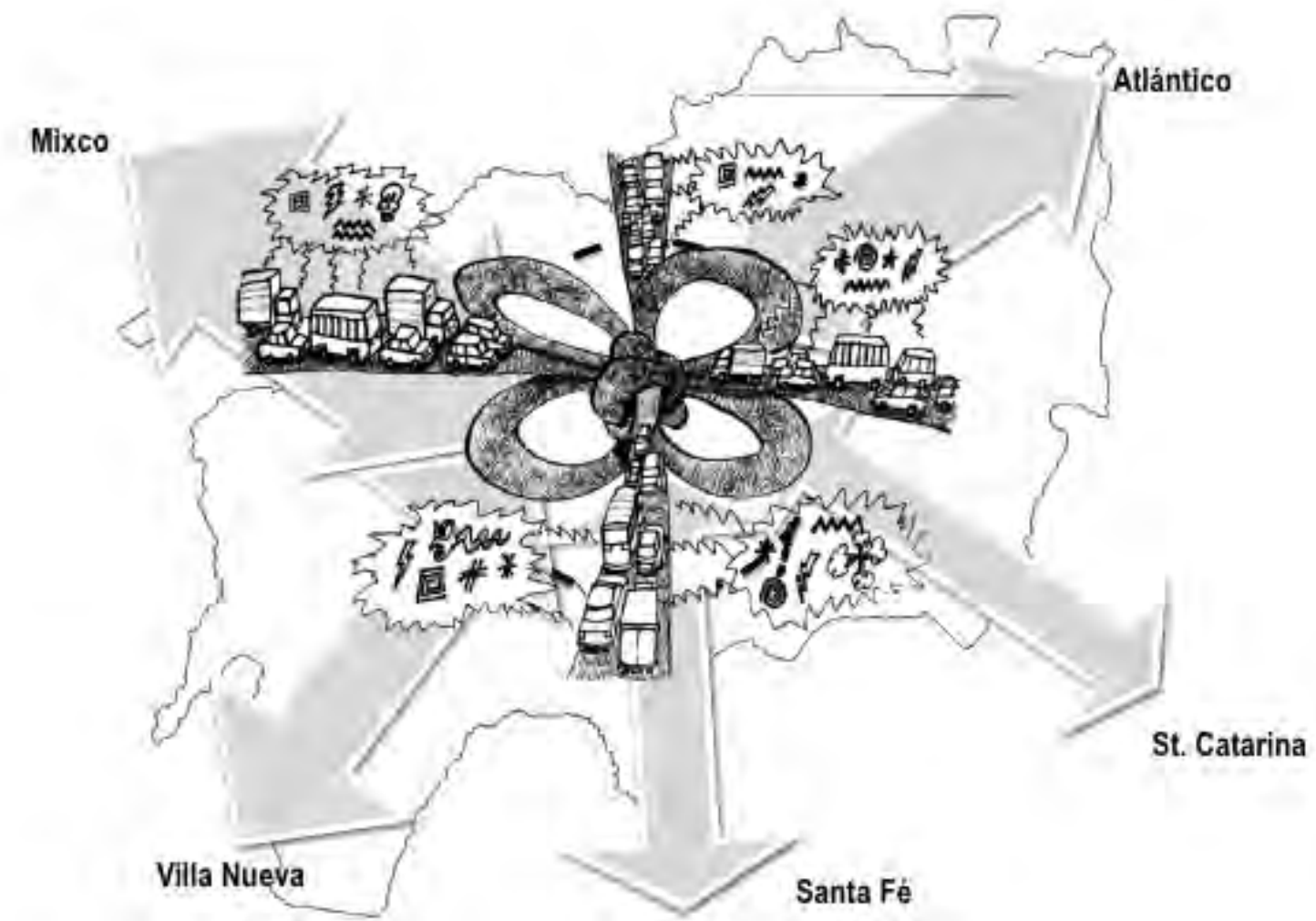


FIGURE 4.19



N O D E L O C A T I O N
 Z O N E S 9 , 10 , 13 , & 14



FIGURE 4.24

FIGURE 4.11

PLAN DE ORDENAMIENTO TERRITORIAL

FOR ZONES 9, 10, 13, & 14



FIGURE 4.24

- ZONE G 5
- ZONE G 4
- ZONE G 3
- ZONE G 2
- ZONE G 1
- ZONE G 0

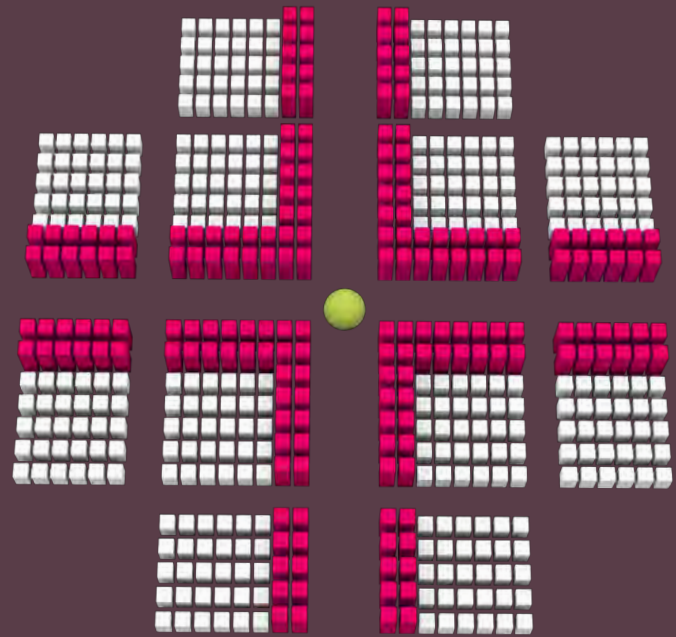
EDGES

TO

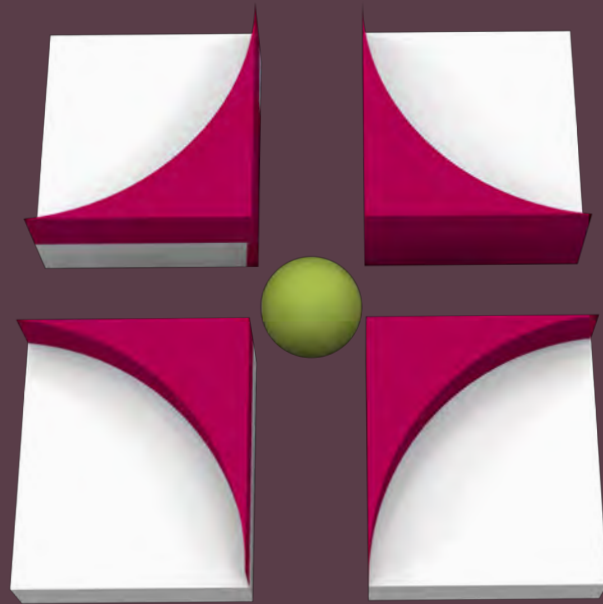
CORNERS

TO

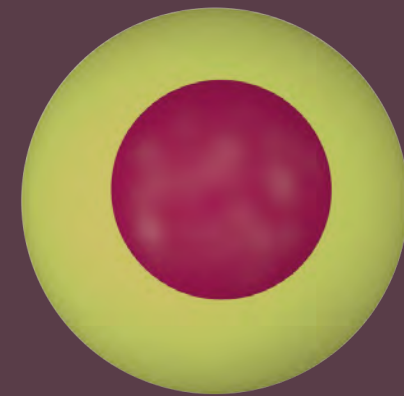
CENTER



“ THE URBAN ”



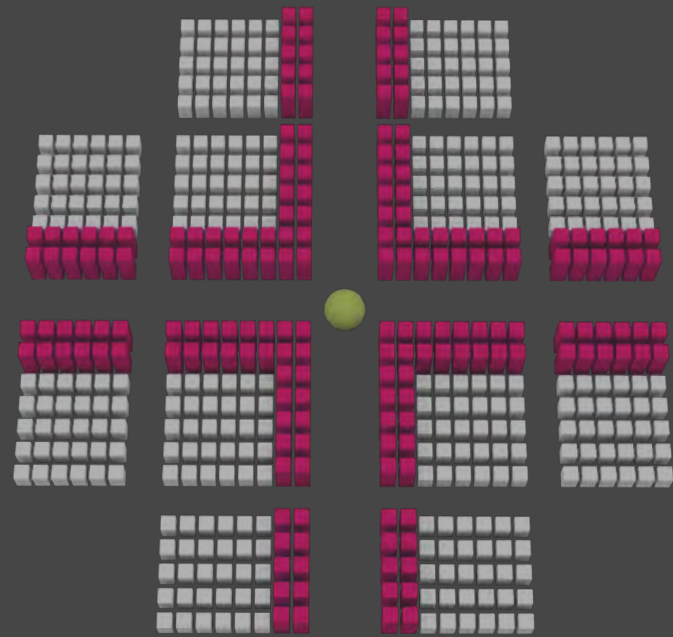
“ THE LANDSCAPE ”



“ THE SITE ”

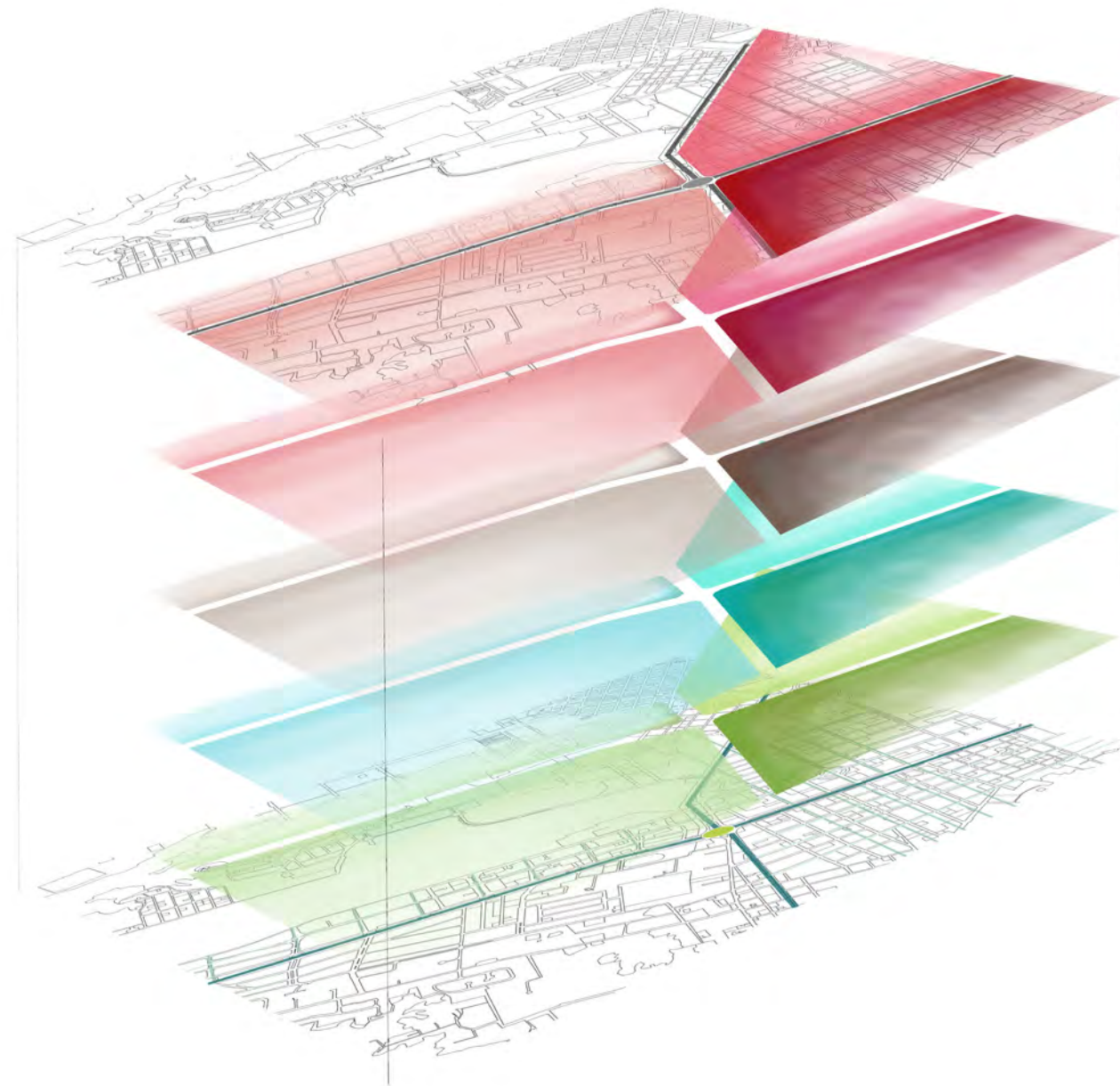
SITE ISSUES

THE EDGES



EDGES OF THE CITY AND ITS LAYERS

Layers are superimposed in the city that protrude into the modern fabric through change, adaptation and evolution.



- MOST DANGEROUS
- RELATIVELY DANGEROUS
- SECURE
- RELATIVELY SECURE
- SOCIAL
- WORK
- CULTURAL/ENTERTAINMENT
- LIVING
- MEDIUM-HIGHCLASS WORKFORCE
- LOW-MEDIUM CLASS WORKFORCE
- 25-50 YEAR OLD COUPLES
- FAMILIES
- RESTAURANTS/BARS
- FINANCE AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS
- NEW HIGH RESIDENTIAL
- OLD HIGH END RESIDENTIAL
- ZONE 10
- ZONE 9
- ZONE 14
- ZONE 13

FIGURE 4.25

FACING NORTH OF THE SITE

ZONE 9 & 10

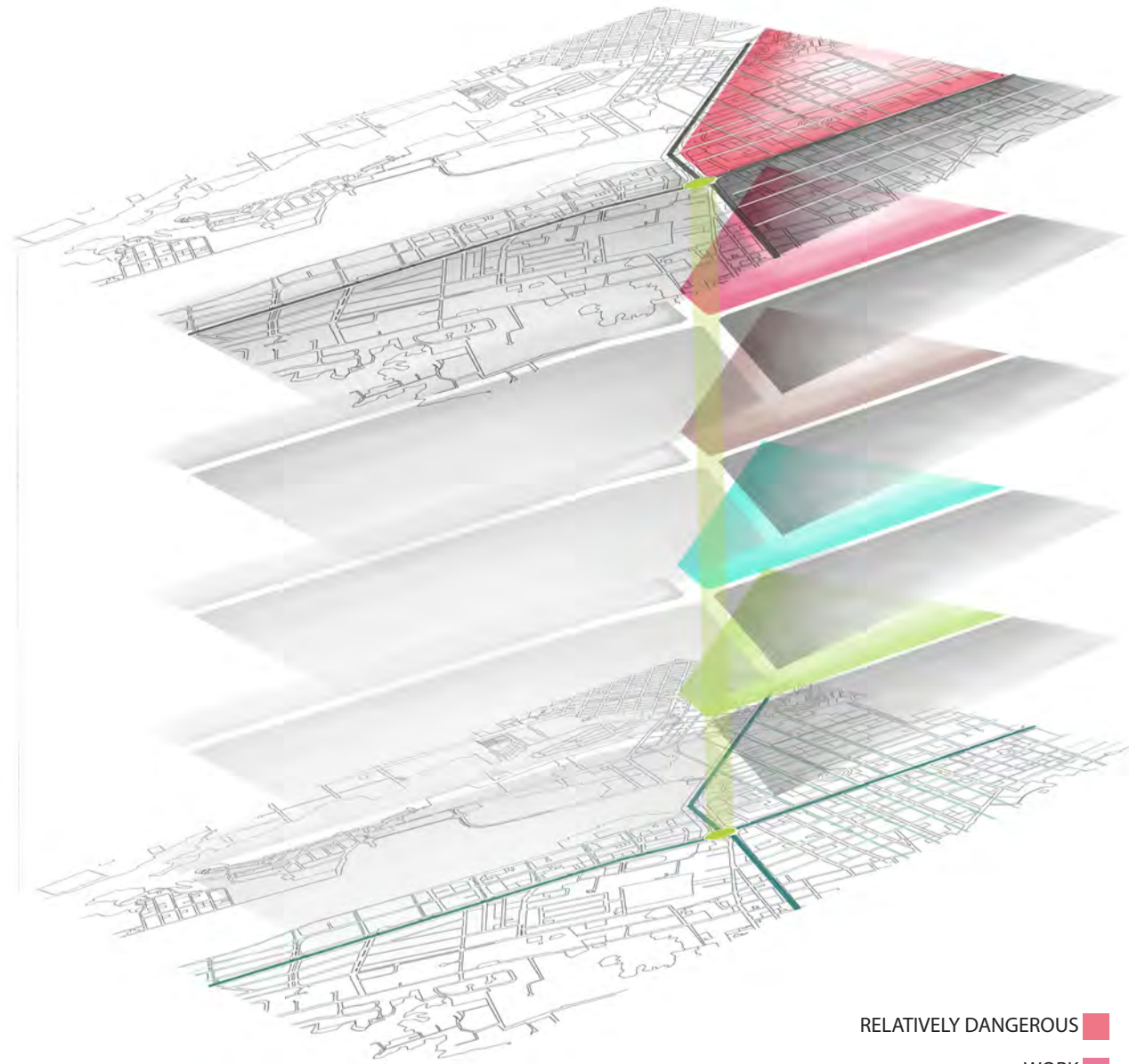


FIGURE 4.218



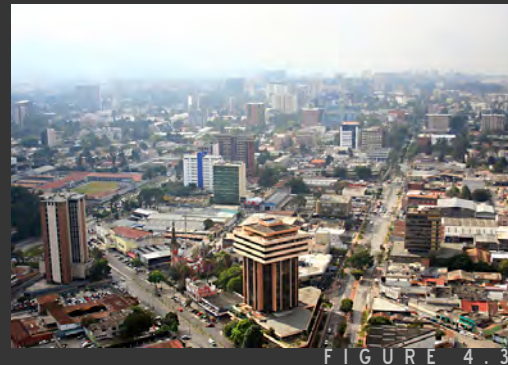
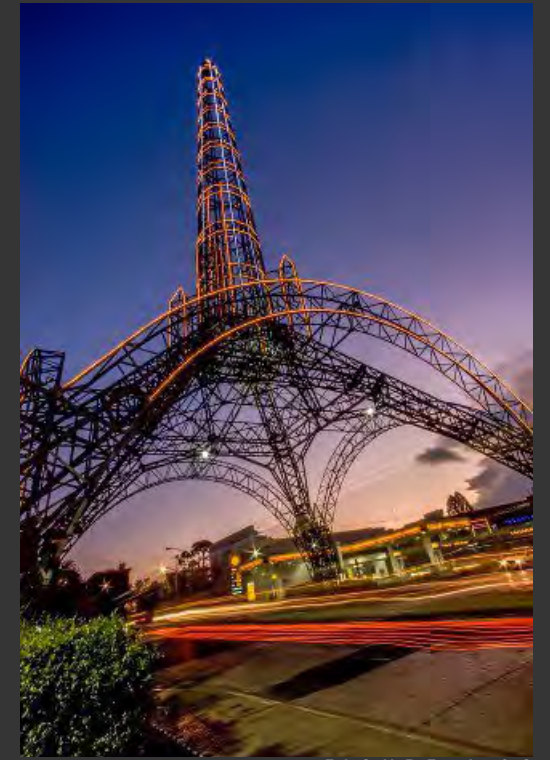
Zone 9 is considered the new center of the city. Here are headquartered leading financial and banking institutions.

Places of interest:
Torre del Reformador
Parque de la Industria
Avenida Reforma
Obelisco



- RELATIVELY DANGEROUS ■
- WORK ■
- LOW-MEDIUM CLASS WORKFORCE ■
- FINANCE AND BANKING DISTRICT ■
- ZONE 9 ■

FIGURE 4.27



ZONE 9



Zone 10 used to be one of the most active tourist and local attractions. Now it is desolated do to ilegal acts including illicit drugs and gang related violence.

- Places of interest:**
- Universidad Francisco Marroquín
 - Museo Ixchel
 - Universidad Galileo
 - Museo Popol Vuh
 - Zona Viva
 - Jardín Botánico59
 - Plaza Fontabella
 - Oakland Mall

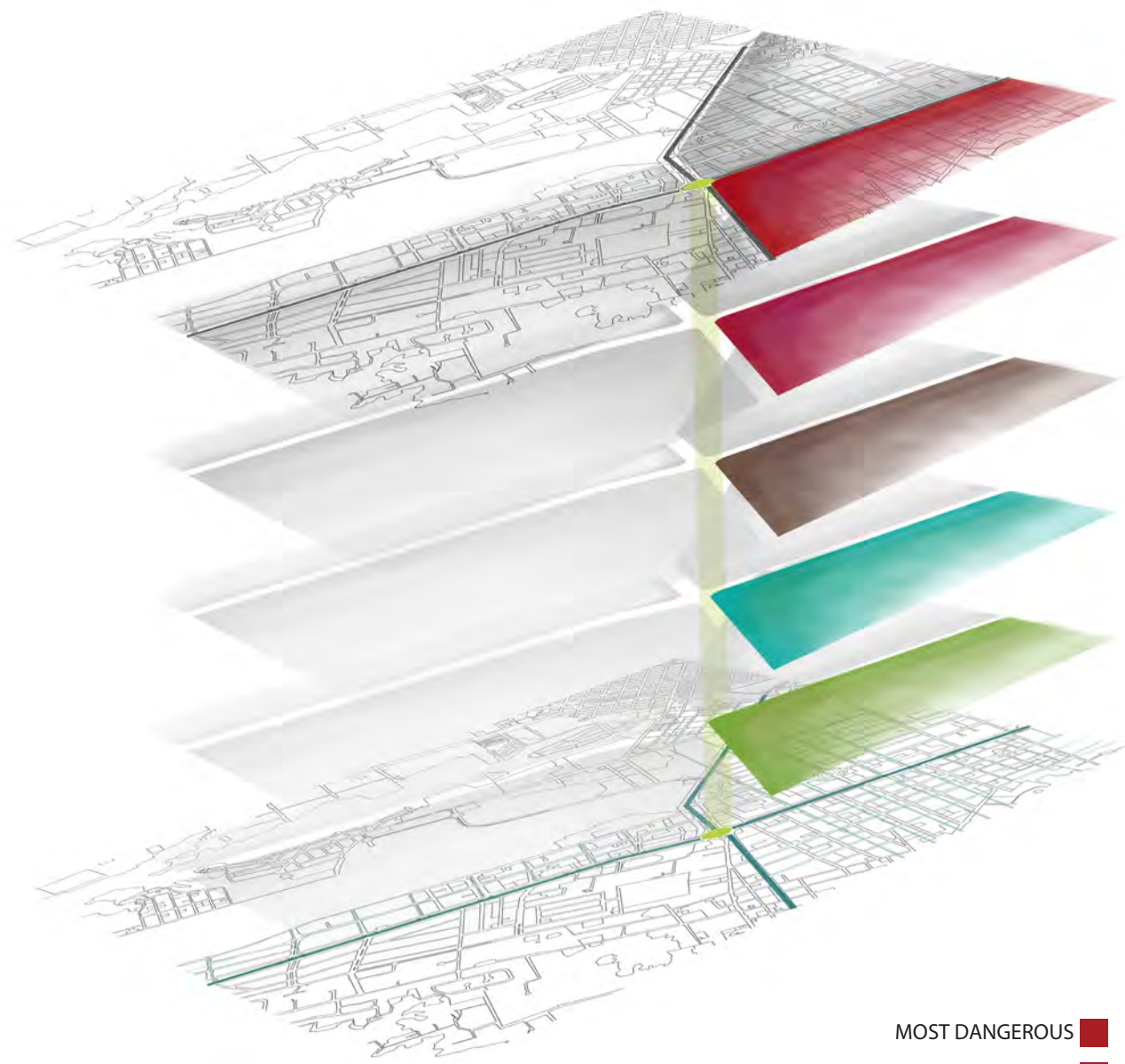


FIGURE 4.34



FIGURE 4.35

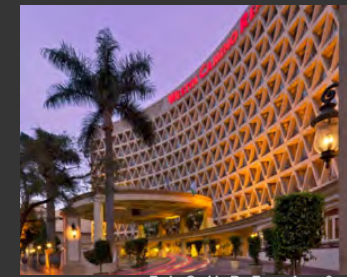


FIGURE 4.36

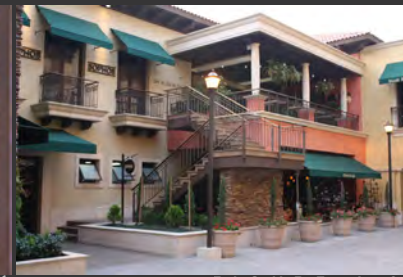


FIGURE 4.37



FIGURE 4.38



FIGURE 4.39



FIGURE 4.40



FIGURE 4.41



FIGURE 4.42



FIGURE 4.43



FIGURE 4.44

ZONE 10

FACING SOUTH OF THE SITE

ZONE 13 & 14



FIGURE 4.45



Zone 13 is the first area tourist encounter when they land in the international airport. Around the airport there are numerous attractions, parks and monuments.

Places of interest:

- Museo de Arte Moderno
- Museo de los Niños
- Zoológico La Aurora
- Aeropuerto Internacional
- Avenida de las Américas
- Universidad del Istmo
- Domo Polideportivo
- Mercado de Artesanías
- Reloj de Flores
- Antiguo Acueducto

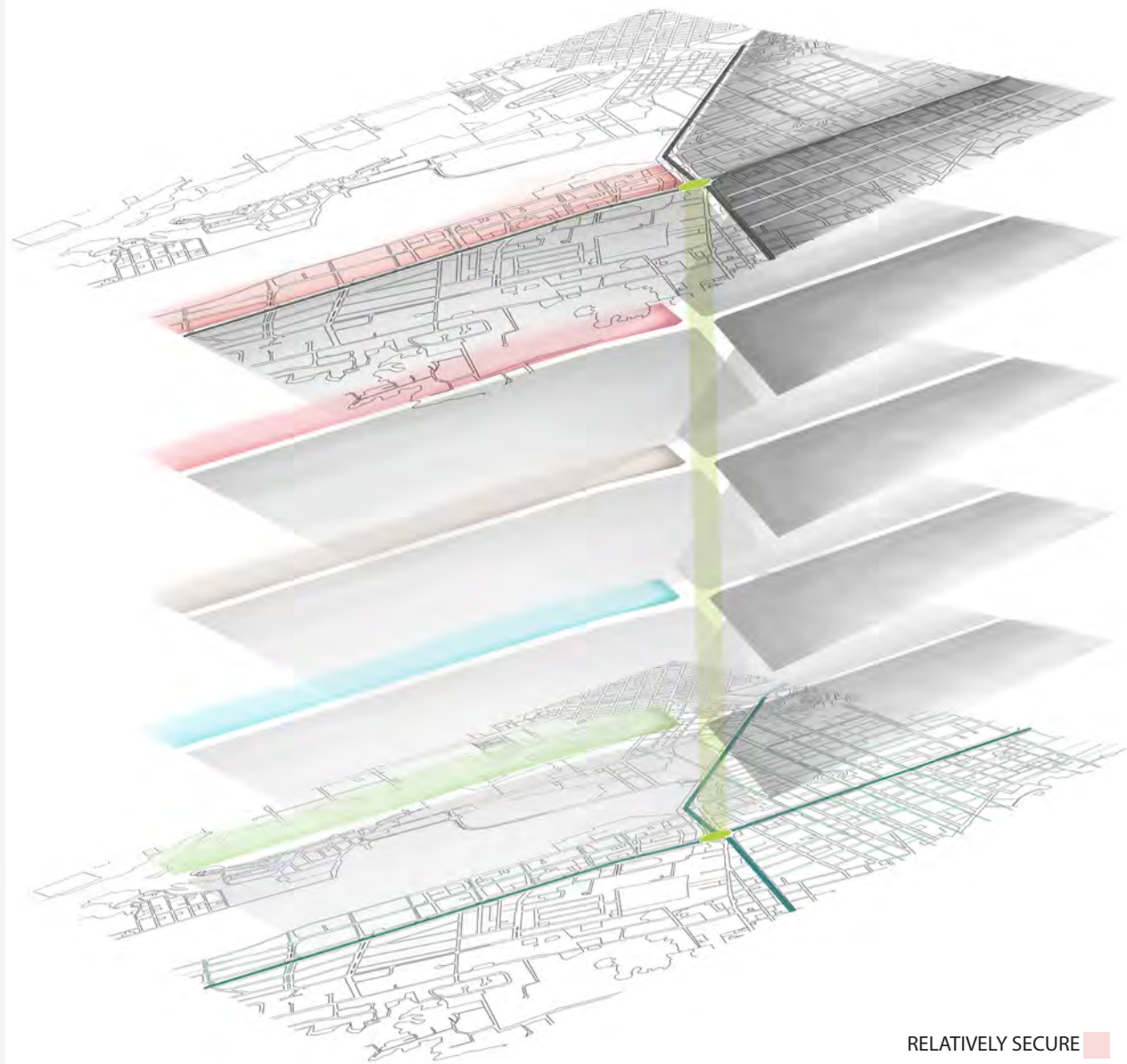


FIGURE 4.46

- RELATIVELY SECURE
- CULTURAL/ENTERTAINMENT
- FAMILIES /TOURISTS
- OLD HIGH END RESIDENTIAL
- ZONE 13



FIGURE 4.47



FIGURE 4.48



FIGURE 4.49



FIGURE 4.50



FIGURE 4.51



FIGURE 4.52



FIGURE 4.53



FIGURE 4.54



FIGURE 4.55

ZONE 13



Zone 14 defines the skyline for the city. Immense increase in urban growth over the past couple of years

Places of interest:
 Centro Recreativo Universitario Los Arcos
 Avenida de Las Américas
 Parque de La Cañada
 Centro Comercial La Pradera

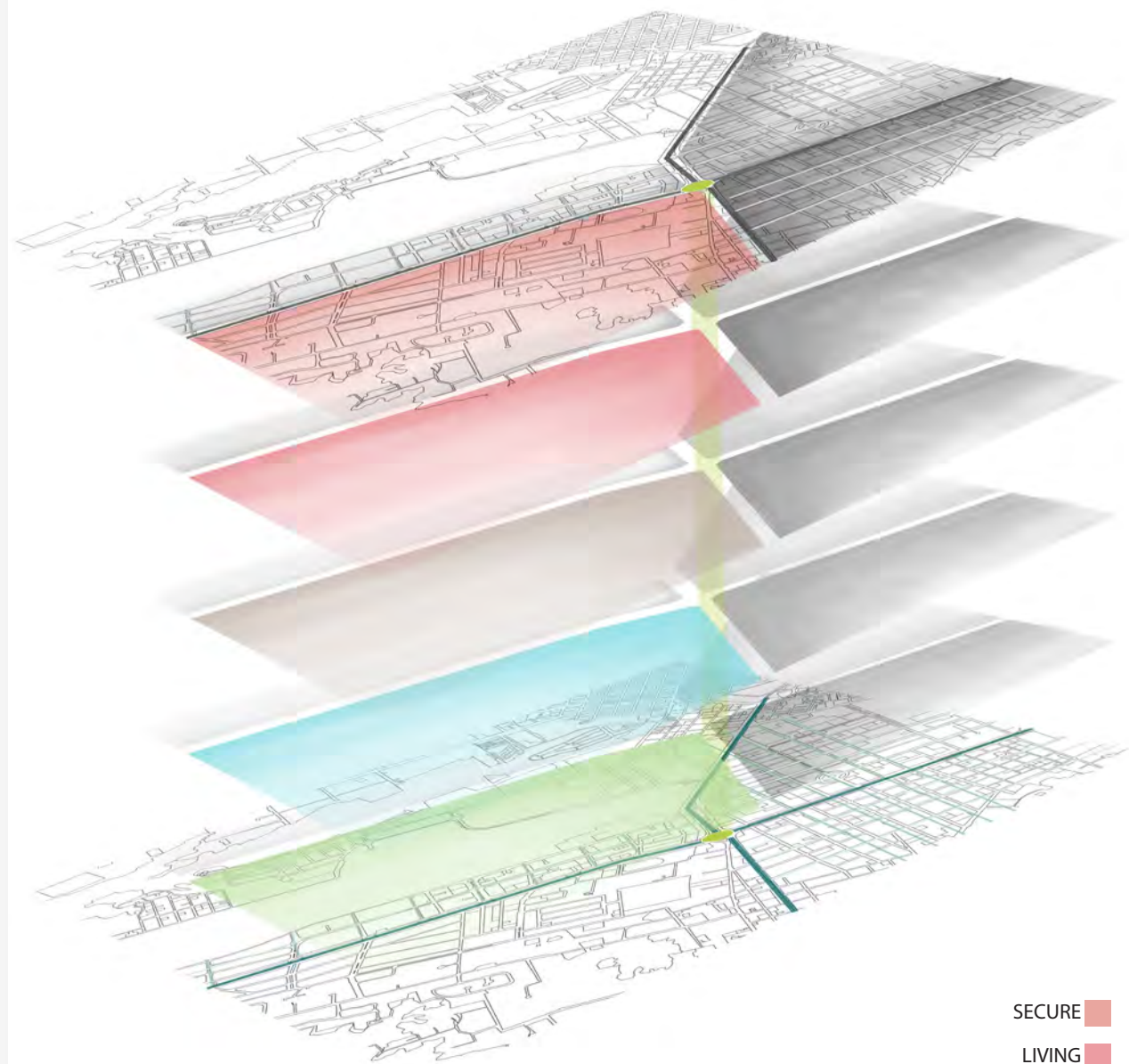


FIGURE 4.56

- SECURE ■
- LIVING ■
- 25-50 YEAR OLD COUPLES ■
- NEW HIGH RESIDENTIAL ■
- ZONE 14 ■



FIGURE 4.57



FIGURE 4.58



FIGURE 4.59



FIGURE 4.60

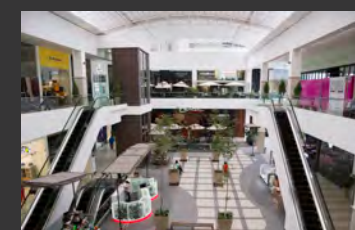


FIGURE 4.61



FIGURE 4.62



FIGURE 4.63

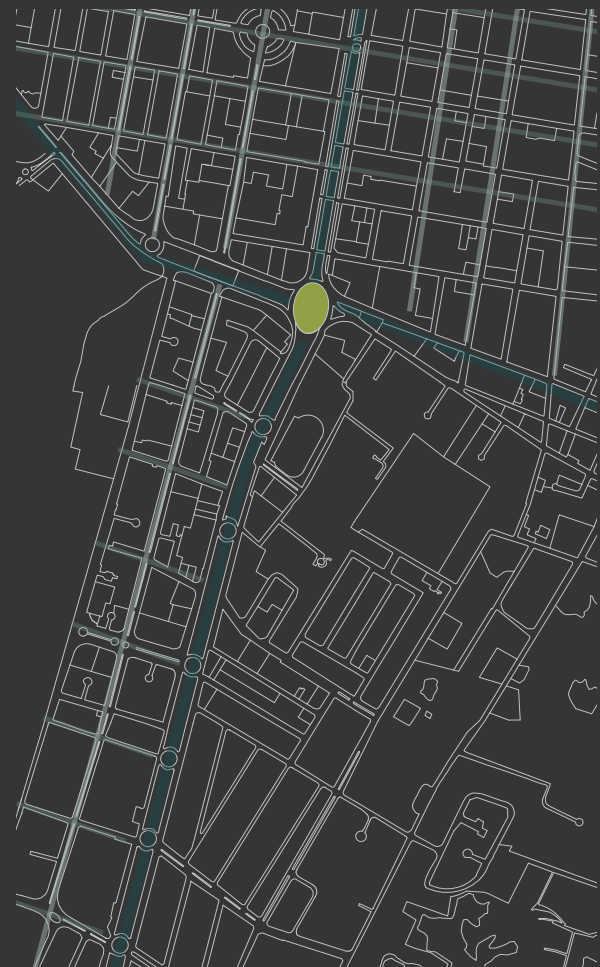
ZONE 14



FIGURE 4.24



FIGURE 4.64



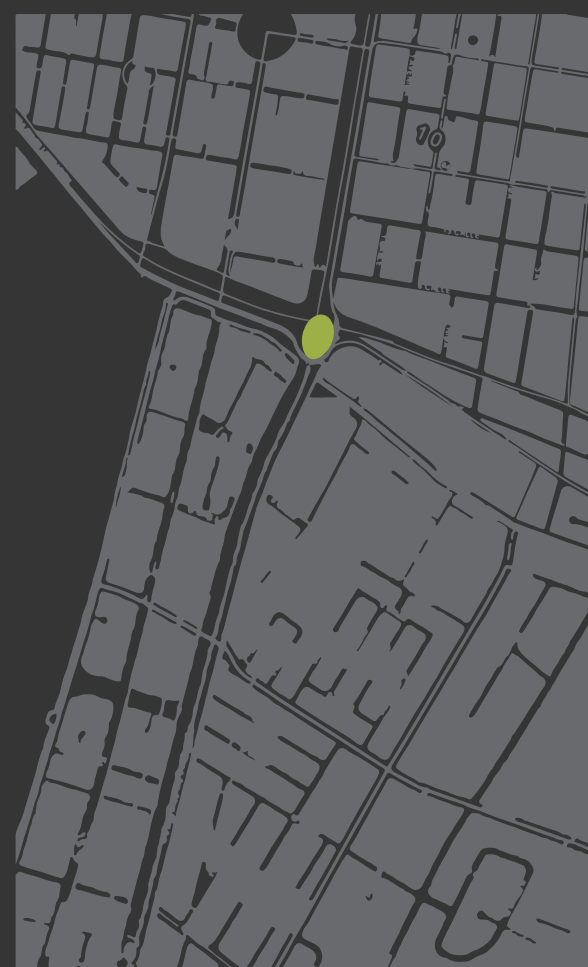
GRID AREA

FIGURE 4.65



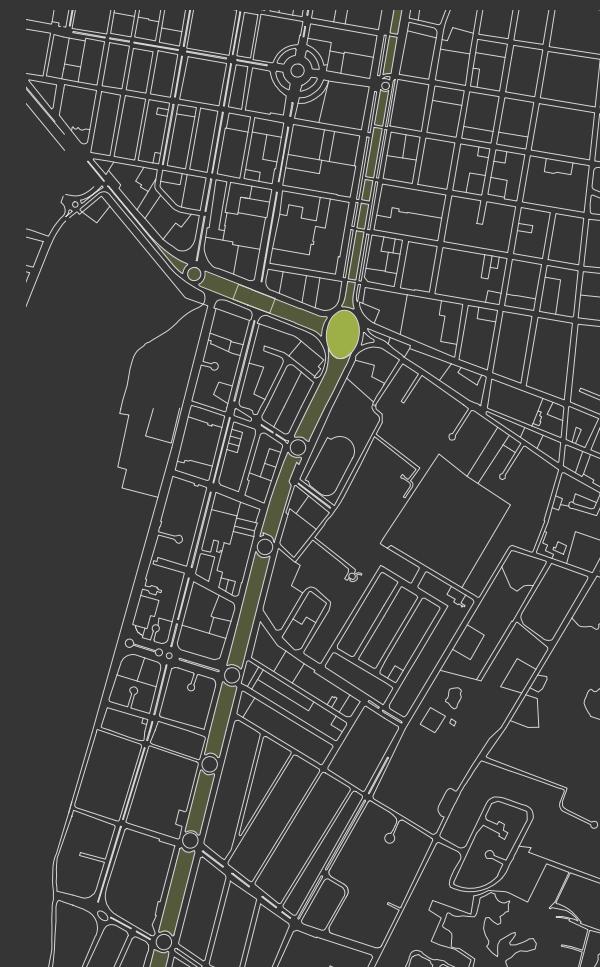
DISTANCE COVERAGE

FIGURE 4.66



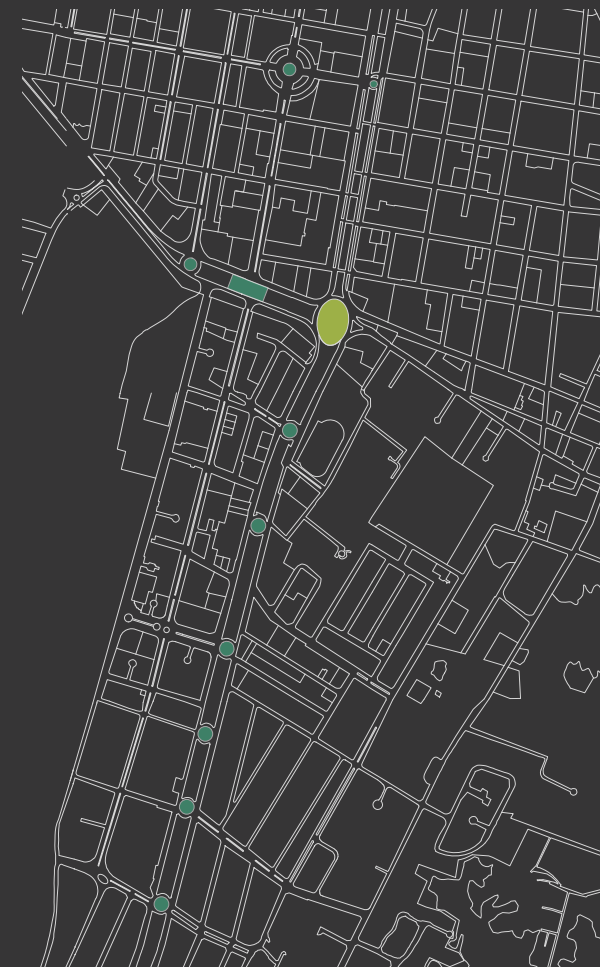
MAN-MADE FEATURES
[BUILDINGS]

FIGURE 4.67



NATURAL/PARKS FEATURES

FIGURE 4.68



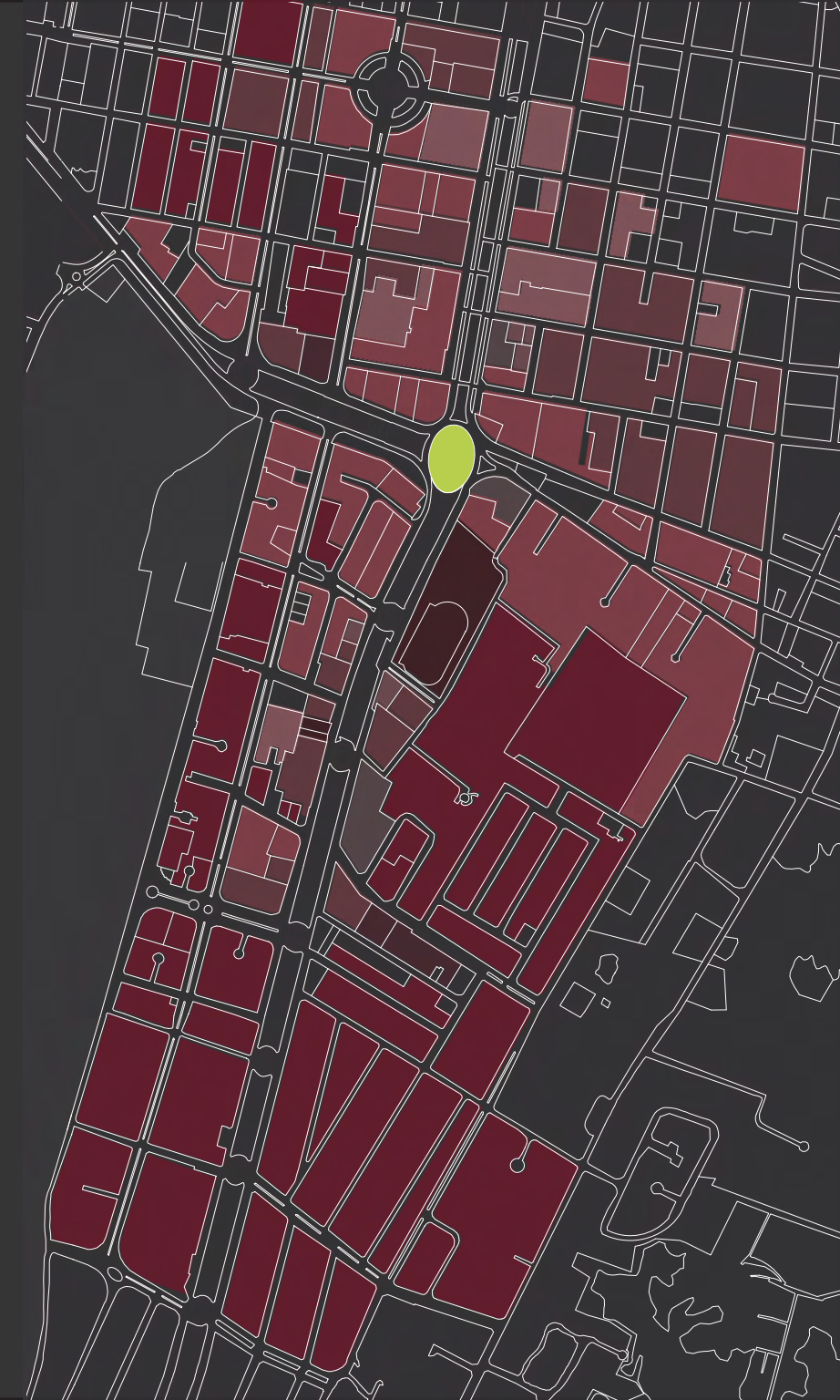
MONUMENTS

EXISTING SURROUNDING CONDITIONS

ZONES 9, 10, 13, & 14

SORROUNDING BUILDING TYPOLOGIES

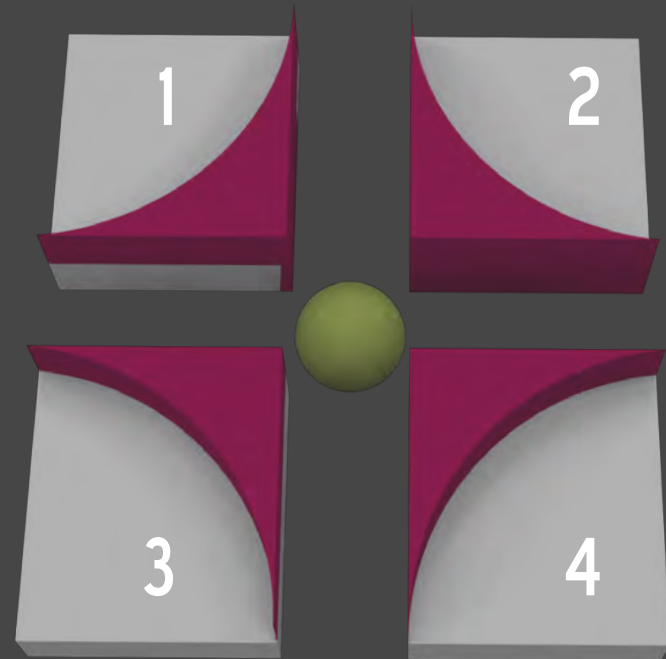
ZONES 9, 10, 13, & 14



- RECREATIONAL
- HOSPITAL/RELIGIOUS
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMERCIAL
- FOOD/RESTAURANTS
- HOTELS
- PARKING
- BANKS
- AIRPORT
- GAS STATION

FIGURE 4.69

THE CORNERS

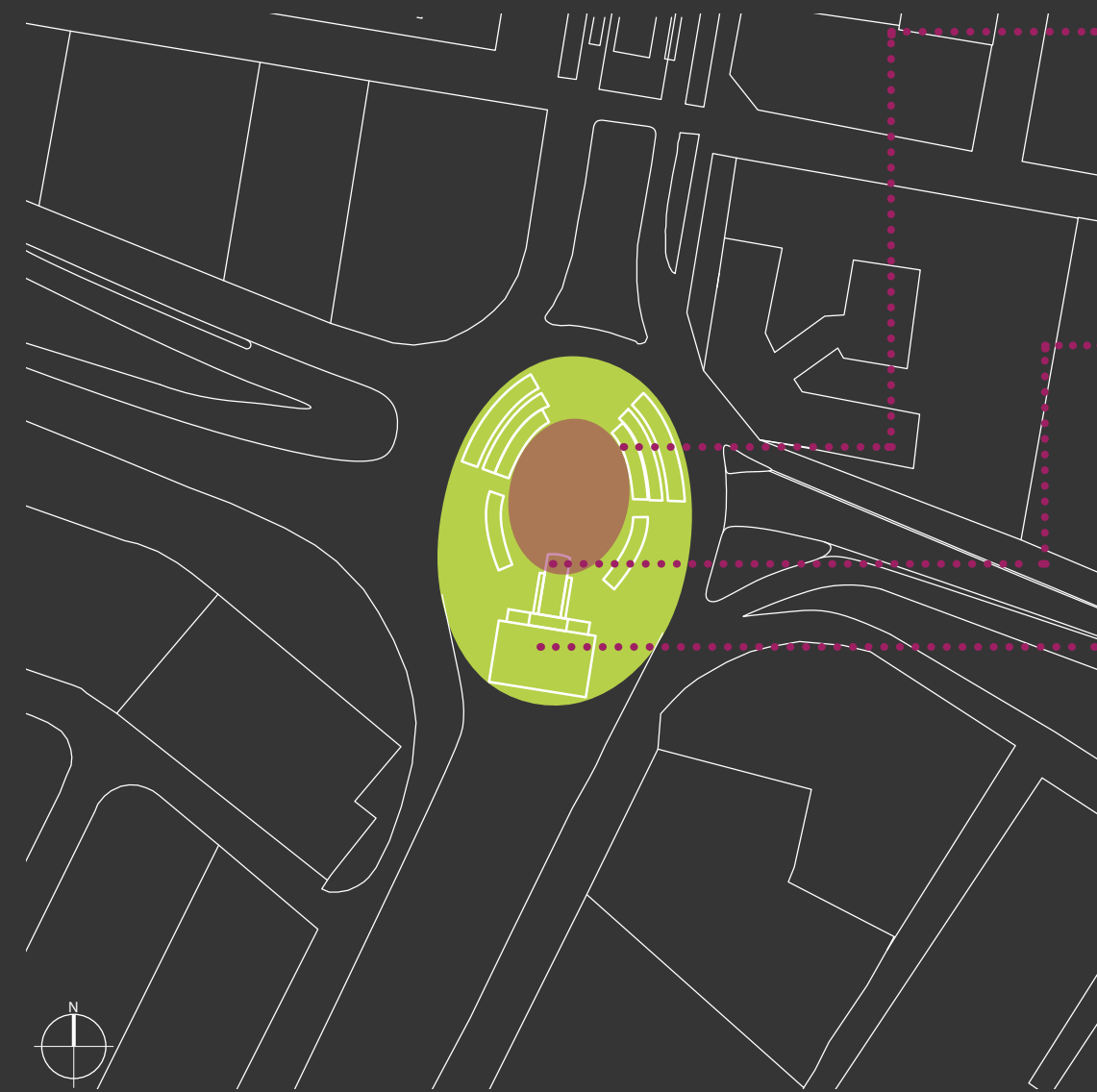


CORNERS IN RELATION WITH THE SITE



- RECREATIONAL
- COMERCIAL
- BANKS

FIGURE 4.69



DIMENSIONS

APPROXIMATE PERIMETER: 1,030 FT
 LONG AXIS: 377 FT
 SHORT AXIS: 270 FT
 APPROXIMATE ELLIPSE AREA: 80,000 SQ FT

EXISTING STRUCTURE

WATER FEATURE

MONUMENT: OBLISCO

LANDSCAPE

FIGURE 4.70

THE CENTER



FIGURE 4.71



FIGURE 4.74



FIGURE 4.77



FIGURE 4.80



FIGURE 4.72



FIGURE 4.75



FIGURE 4.78



FIGURE 4.81



FIGURE 4.73



FIGURE 4.76



FIGURE 4.79



FIGURE 4.82

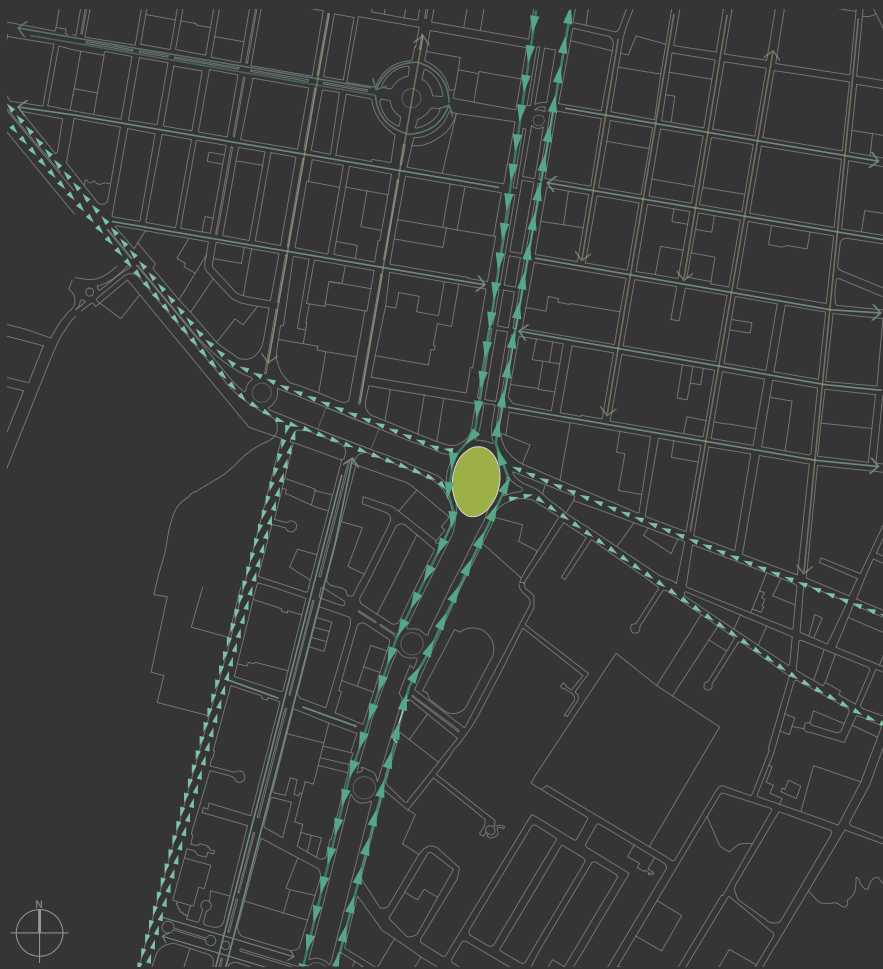
SITE SPECIFIC CONDITIONS



FIGURE 4.85

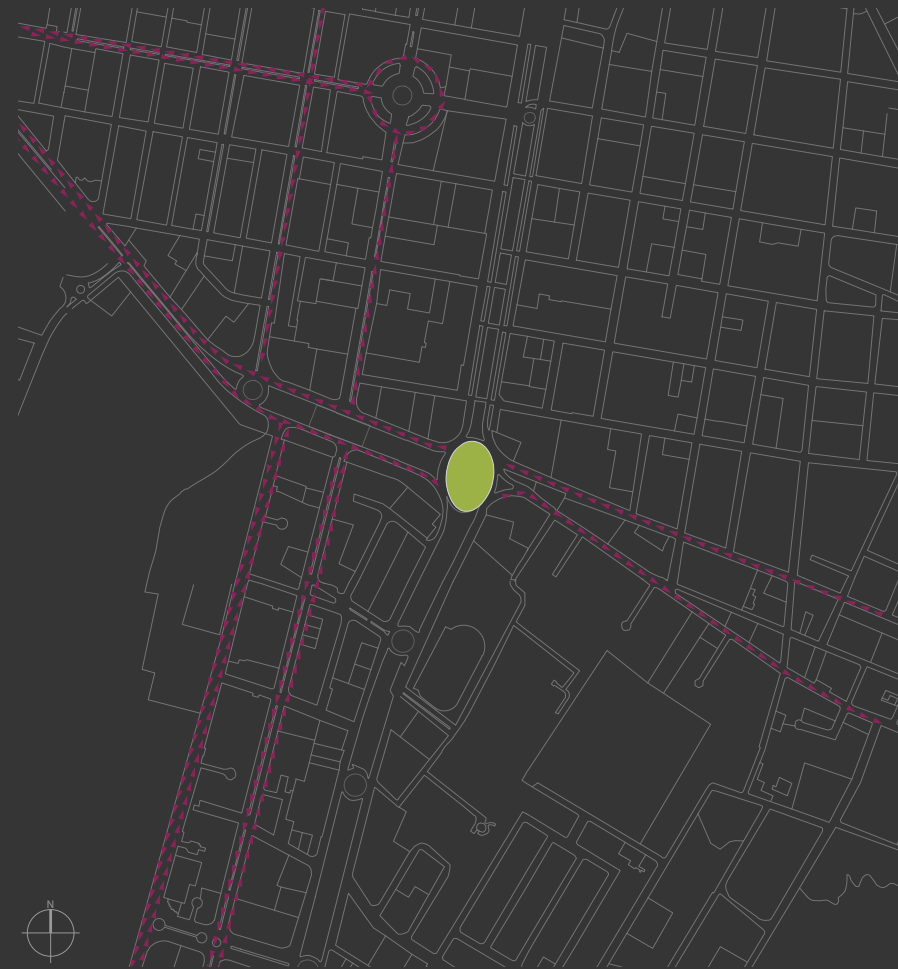
APPROACHING THE SITE
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

FIGURE 4.86



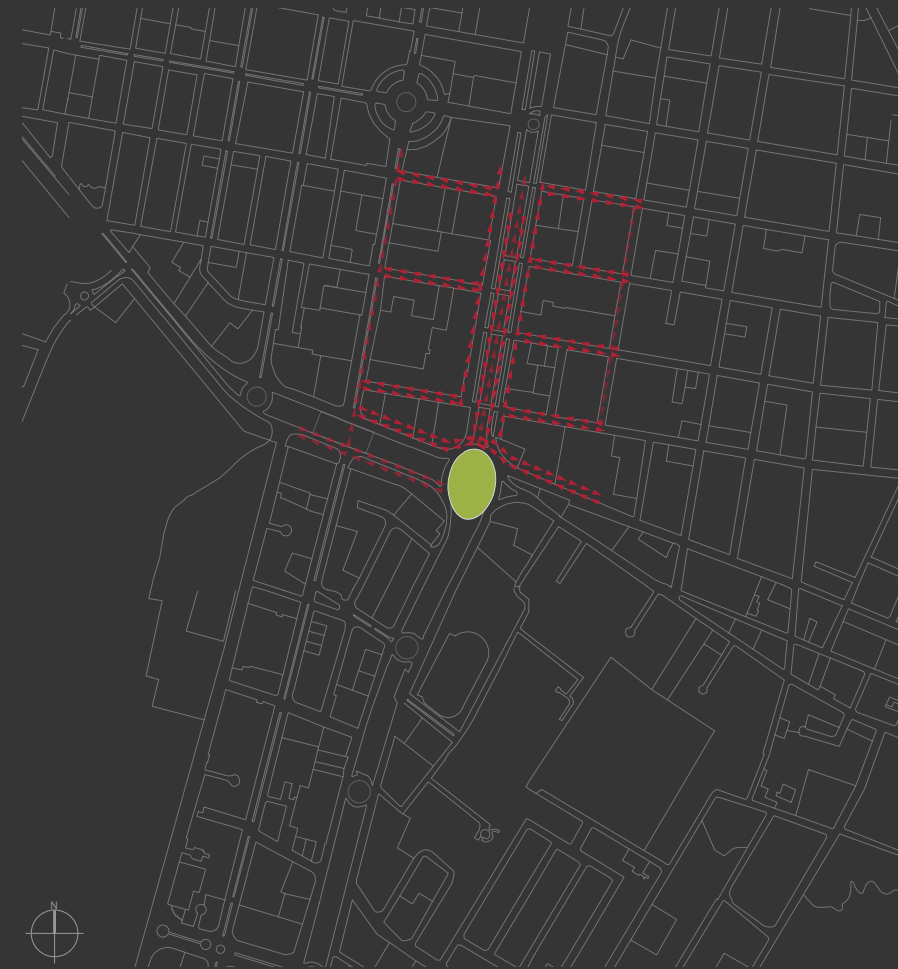
CARS

FIGURE 4.87



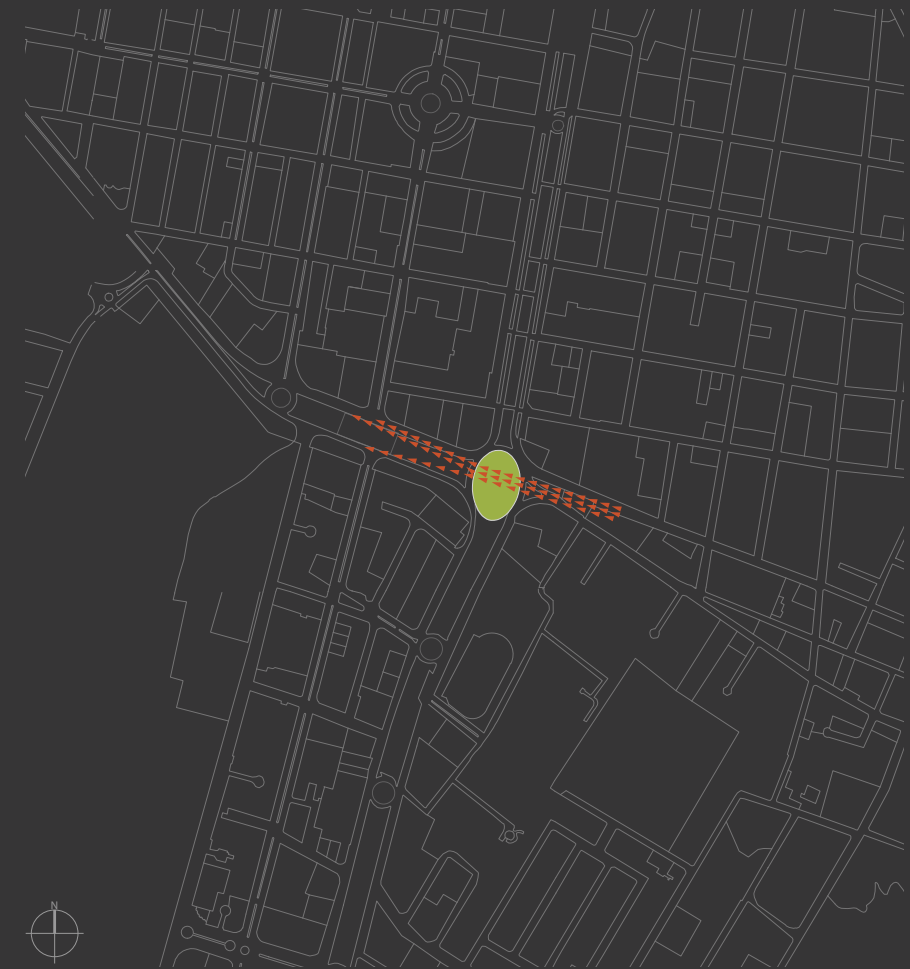
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
[TRANSMETRO]

FIGURE 4.88



PEDESTRIAN

FIGURE 4.89



UNDERPASSES

CIRCULATION
ZONES 9, 10, 13, & 14



FIGURE 4.90

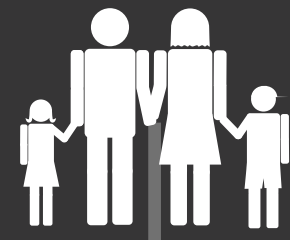
SCALE
BIG OPEN EMPTY PUBLIC PLAZA SPACE

CURRENT USE AND ACTIVITIES
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

USER



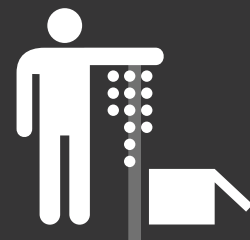
FOOD VENDORS



NEW FAMILIES



YOUNG COUPLES



ILEGAL/LEGAL VENDORS

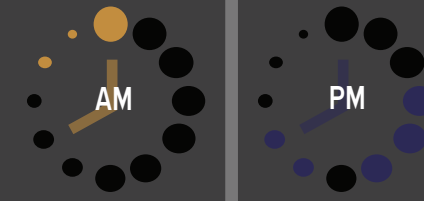
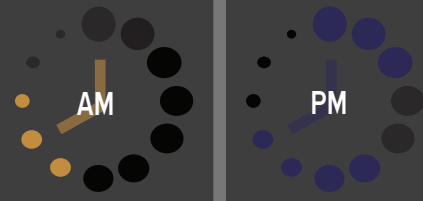


INFORMAL MINI MARKETS



STREET PERFORMERS

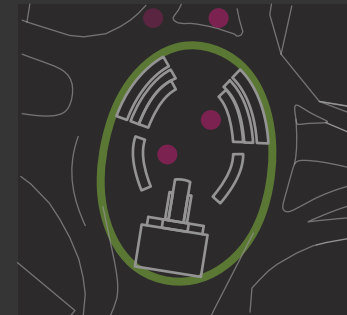
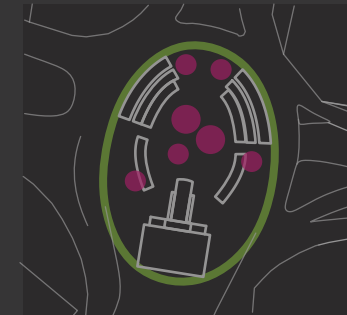
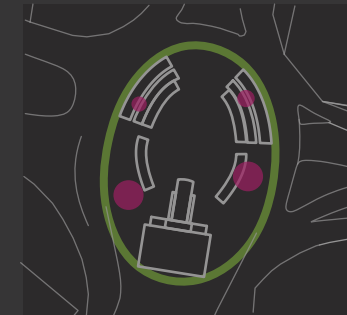
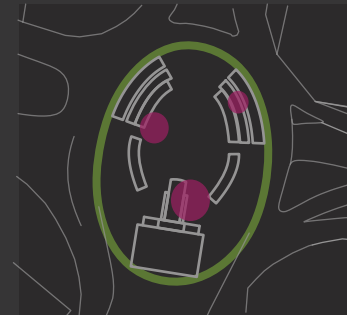
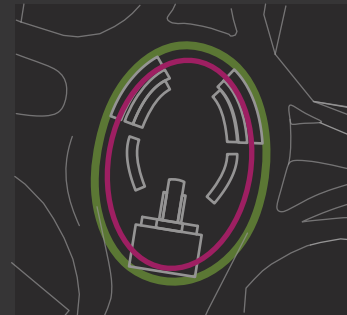
TIME OF USE



ACTIVITY



LOCATION PREFERENCE



How do we achieve better **connection and interaction** between each zone utilizing Plaza Obelisco (frequently empty public plaza, which its main use is as a vehicular roundabout in the center of a chaotic urban node) ?

FINDING A CONNECTION

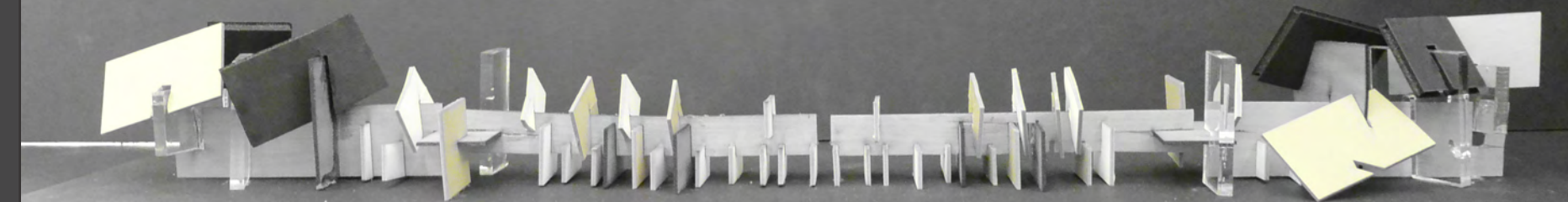


FIGURE 5.1



FIGURE 5.2

The following concept model intends to mimic the **different edges** of the city being brought together in **harmony** that are attracted and united by **similar interest**. The model explores the ideas of **connectivity** and bridging different objects. In the case of this conceptual model, it is achieved using different materials that connect to a linear element creating a linear rhythmic organization where different objects are drawn to meet and discover certain order or harmony.

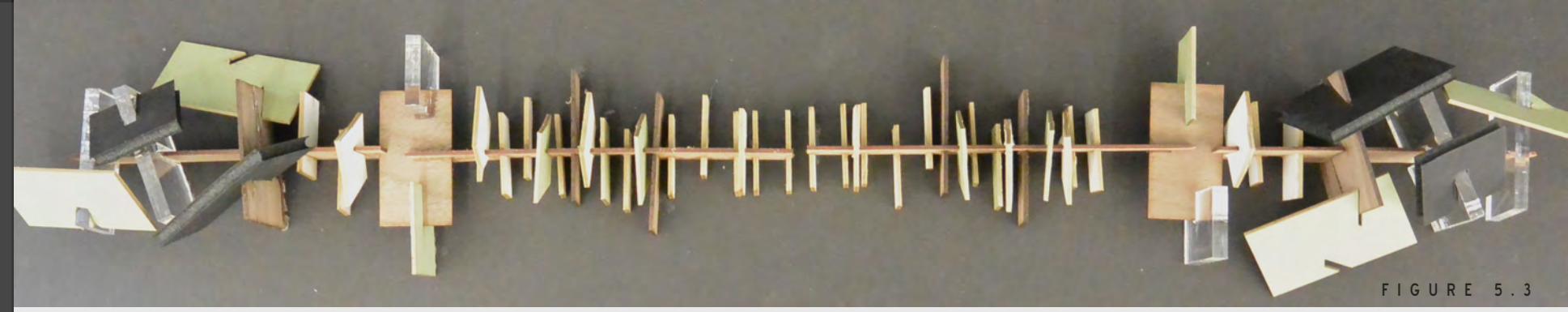


FIGURE 5.3

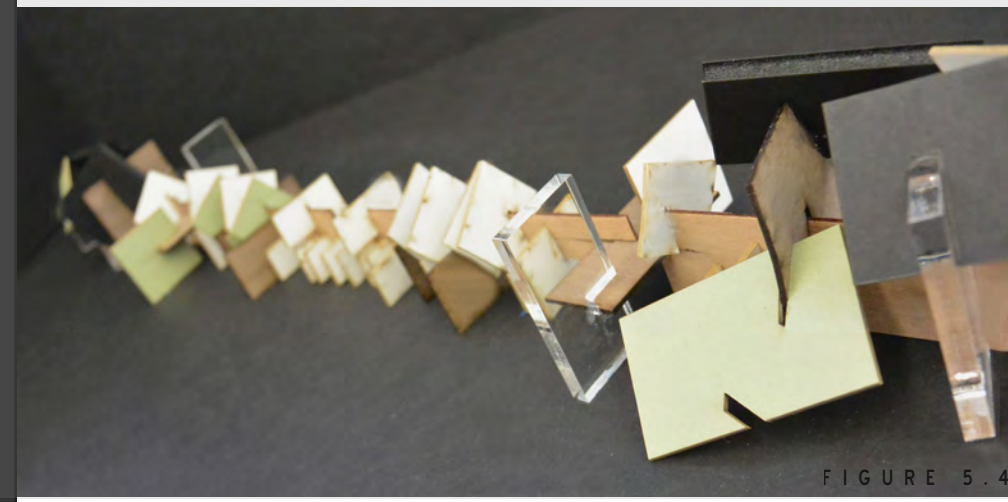


FIGURE 5.4

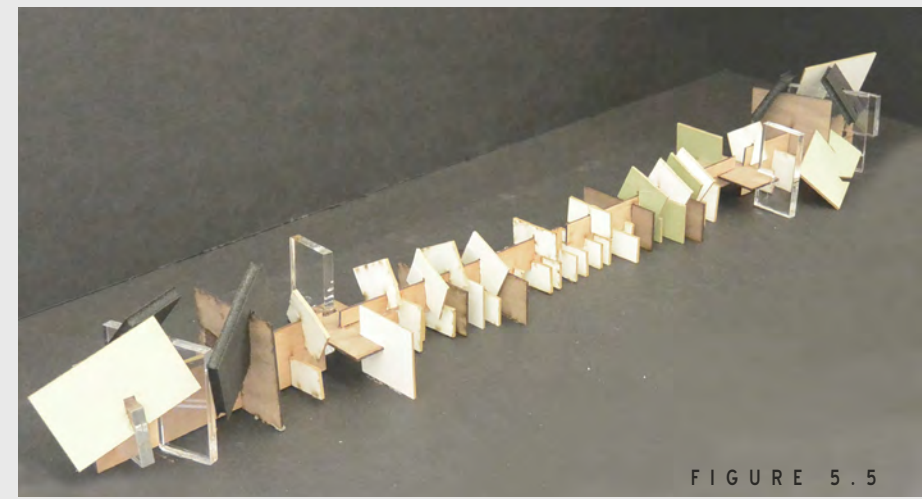


FIGURE 5.5

“UNA CONEXIÓN CHAPINA” : A TRUE GUATEMALA CONNECTION

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM

The first approach into program development began with a question. How do we achieve better connection and interaction within each zone through the use of plaza Obelisco (a public plaza frequently empty used as a vehicular roundabout in the center of a chaotic urban node)?

It was key to understand how Guatemalan’s worked and interacted. Through research and personal experience and involvement with the culture a shared or common interest is discovered. The three main questions asked were:
What do we all have?
What do we all need?
What do we all want?

Targeting the answers to each of this questions took research to a new level of understanding and most importantly to a successful program design to which Guatemalan’s could respond to.

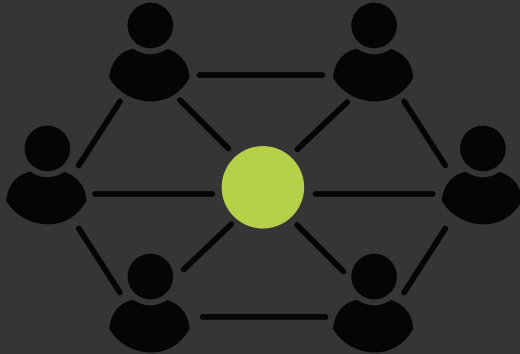
It is through making use of what we already have and are that we discover how to relate with one another. It is our needs that drive us to a certain goal or action. Finally, understanding our current wants help to design for change, adaptation, and evolution.





FIGURE 5.6

WHAT WILL ATTRACT PEOPLE TO THE SITE?



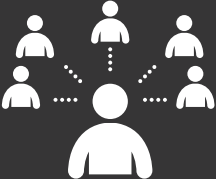
SHARED OR COMMON INTEREST

WE ALL HAVE?

CULTURE



KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST GOSSIP AND TREND



"TO SEE AND BE SEEN"

WE ALL NEED?

FOOD



NECESSITY OR LUXURY



AN ART WHICH CREATES A UNIQUE REFLECTION AND IDENTITY OF A COUNTRY

WE ALL WANT?

HEALTHY HAPPY LIFE





FIGURE 5.7



FIGURE 5.8



FIGURE 5.9



FIGURE 5.10

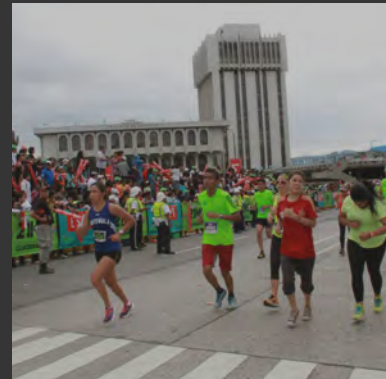


FIGURE 5.11



FIGURE 5.12



FIGURE 5.13



FIGURE 5.14



FIGURE 5.15



FIGURE 5.16

WHAT MAKES A PLACE POPULAR OR ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE STAY?



THE CURRENT **TREND** WITHIN A **CULTURE** AND **MARKET**

A **TREND** CAN ACT AS A LEADER WHO DRIVES OR INCENTIVATE OTHERS INTO A LONGER LASTING INDICATIVE.

WHAT IS AND MEANS TO BE A "GOOD" **TREND**?

IT IS A MEASURABLE CHANGE OR TEMPORARY BEHAVIOUR . IT MEANS IT HAS THE QUALITIES AND ABILITY TO **ADAPT**, **CHANGE**, AND **EVOLVE**.



PROGRAM

[FITNESS, FOOD & HEALTH FOR AN ACTIVE EVOLVING LIFE]