

Fair city Bogotá

Implementing security and social justice in downtown Bogotá

Just like water is essential for humans to survive, safe and inclusive public spaces should be equally essential for cities in order to thrive. "Fair city Bogotá" is an investigation in creating a safe and inclusive public space in downtown Bogotá.

Colombia's violent history has created massive flows of refugees from the countryside settling down in cities, which has resulted in urban sprawl among other challenges. On top of that, Colombia is one of the most unequal societies in the world. The gap between the rich and the poor is reflected in the urban layout. The upper classes lock themselves in, in exclusive, gated communities, while slums have emerged in the periphery as well as the central parts of Bogotá.

The project site is located in the downtown area, close to the infamous neighbourhoods. However, it is also close to universities, governmental buildings and areas with rich cultural heritage. In addition, the site is located next to the most vivid pedestrian street in the city, Carrera Séptima.

The aim of this project is to explore possibilities of inviting all the layers of society to coexist in a harmonious place in the city. "Fair city Bogotá" aims to increase urban safety in order to re-introduce fundamental concepts of public space in downtown Bogotá. This will be achieved through a conscious and humane design strategy.

With the interest of preventing unwanted activities on site, this project focuses on introducing community surveillance rather than using physical barriers, enabling the strong to help the weak with a socially orientated program and finally implementing a characteristic outdoor environment.

The main goal is to create a safe place, an injection of positivity and a flow of security which will hopefully spread like ripples on water throughout the city.