

stba Contemporary City

INFORMAL URBANISM
ACTORS

stba Contemporary City

Morphology: Informal Urbanism

Informal Urbanism - What is it?

Slum – Today a condition that affects 1 billion people = every 6th person
Slum has been defined in legislation to include buildings and areas that are environmentally and structurally deficient. Slums are considered to be the result of multiple deprivations such as:

- illegal land tenure
- deficient environment
- inadequate shelter

A worldwide way of making cities: from Dharavi (Mumbai), Kibera (Nairobi) and Rocinha (Rio de Janeiro) to Prishtina and Istanbul

A phenomenon with a variety of local names:
Barriadas (Peru), Favelas (Brazil), Colonias proletarias (Mexico), Barrios (Venezuela), Gececondu (Turkey), Bustees (India), Bidonvilles (Algeria, Morocco), Kampung (Asia), shanty town (English speaking world)

Informal Urbanism - What is Informality?

Informal sector: A term from economics.

The informal sector is the **part of an economy that is not taxed, monitored by any form of government or included in any gross national product (GNP).**

Any exchange of goods or services involving economic value in which the act escapes regulation.

In developing countries up to 60% of the labor force (with as much 40% of GDP) work in the informal sector.

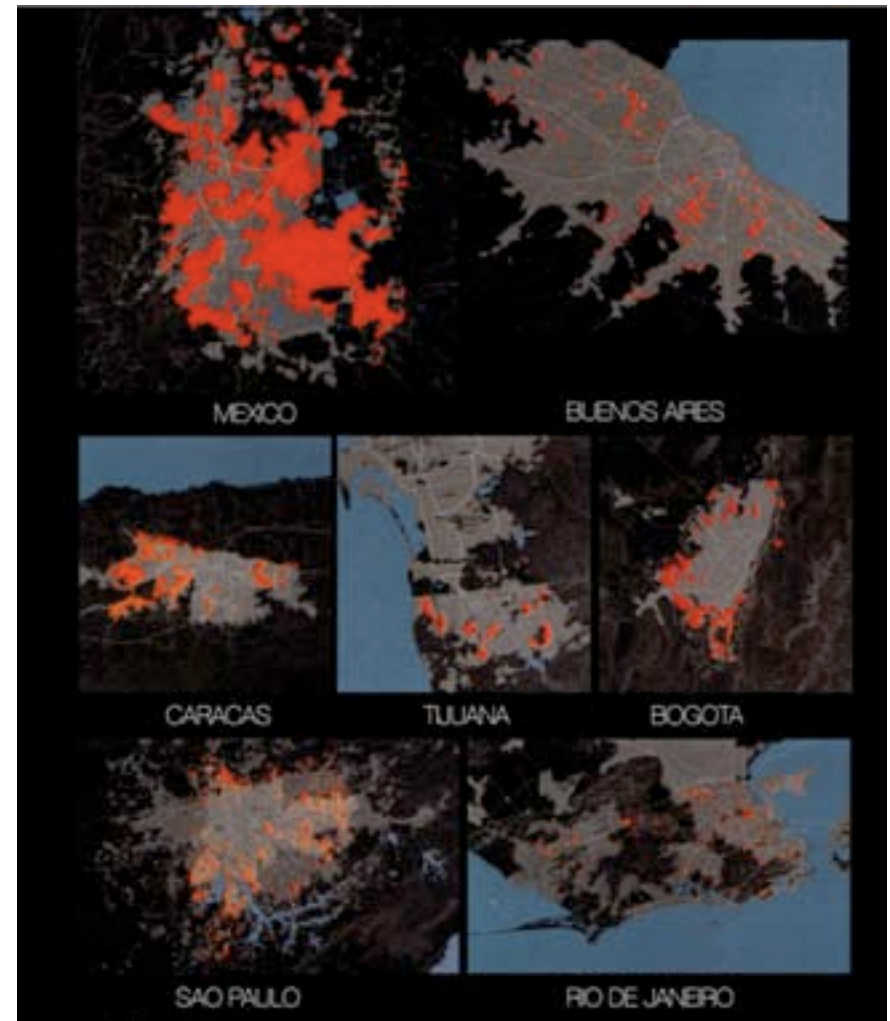
Most influential book on informal economy is Hernando de Soto: El otro sendero, 1986, admiring the entrepreneurial spirit of the informal economy in Peru.

Extension of informal settlements in Latin American cities

In developing countries, shanty towns account for at least 20-30% of the urban population

Bogota 60%
Casablanca 70%
Addis Ababa 90%

1940-2000, in the developing world, the shanty town is the sign for rapid urban development.
After 1980, a parallel phenomena occurs, the real estate boom begins



Caracas

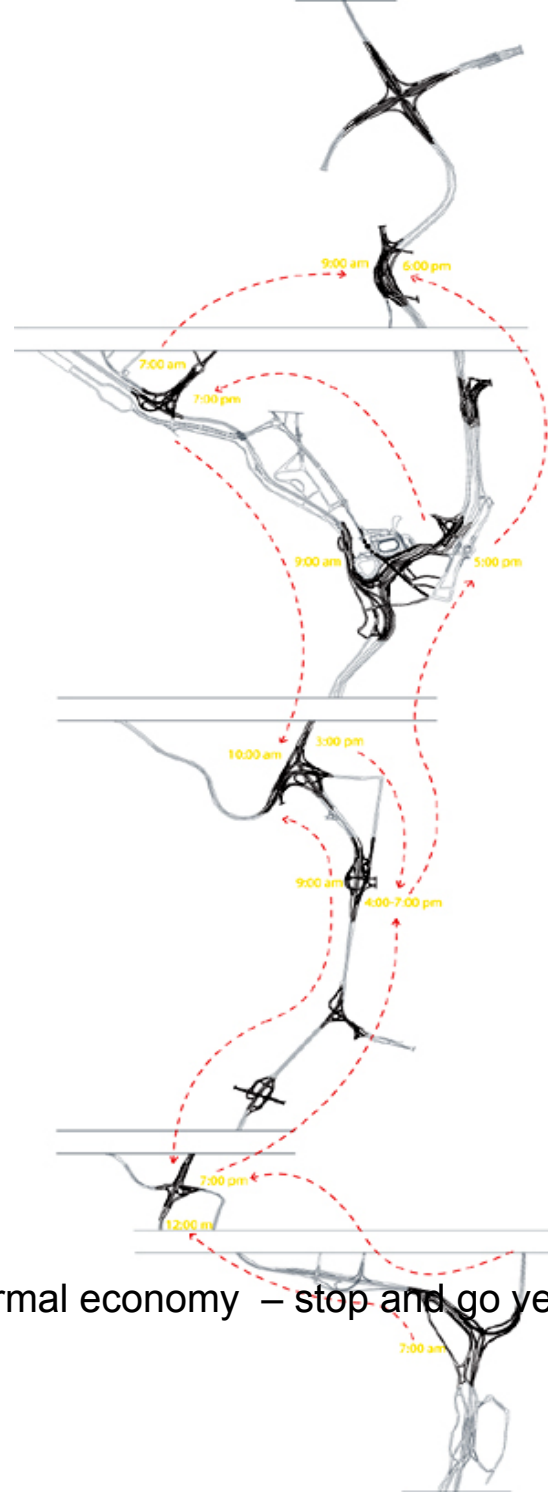


Caracas , map of informal settlements





Informal economy – street vendors



Informal economy – stop and go vendors

Informal economy – post termination investments



Informal Urbanism - Why is it?

Informal urbanism is the result of massive **inner migration**.

Spatial polarization

Primate cities - largest city is superordinate in size and influence – cause regional imbalances (in the Netherlands richest region is twice as rich as poorest; in Venezuela 6 times – 1976)

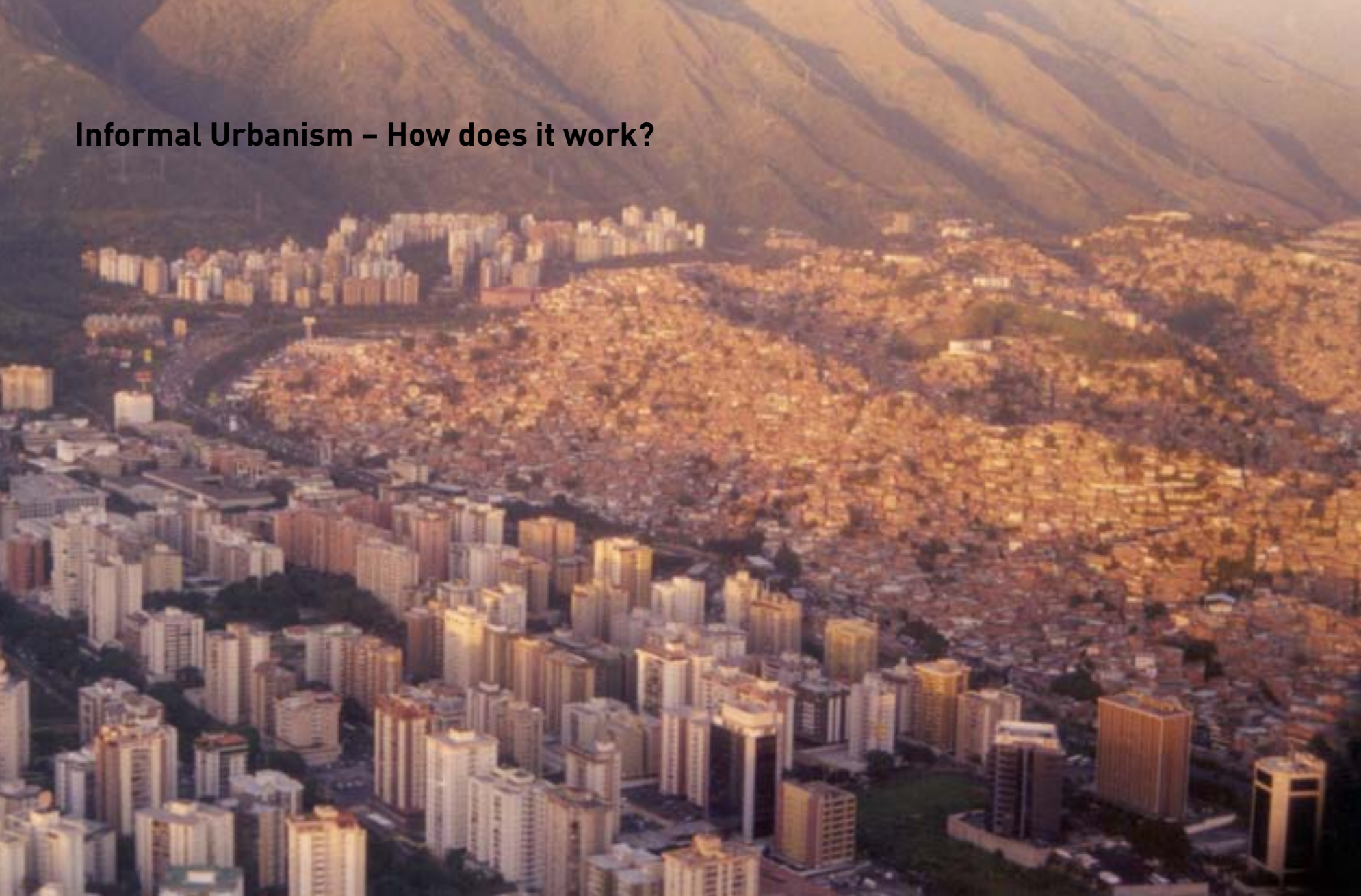
Push factors: unemployment, poverty in rural areas (Venezuela: rural incomes only 40% of urban incomes) and environmental change

Pull factors: enhanced health care, education, concentration of industrial and commercial job opportunities, informal sector - a set of perceived opportunities

In the city the **urban bias** continues, also in the form of personal income divergence (10% earn 36% of total income),

(reading: The city in the developing world, Potter and Lloyd-Evans, 1998)

Informal Urbanism – How does it work?





Informal Urbanism - How

Moving around - into the city, out of the city

In 1972 Eyre published one of the first Caribbean studies on urban geography, showing that **the inner city tenements and not the shanty town was the first destination of rural migrants**, then when stable work is found and income saved people move out to the peri-urban shanty towns.[3]

In the shantytown there is income variation.

3 distinct types and locations of poor urban dwellers:

- Homeless, street sleepers, street children
- Renters in slums or tenement slums (existence of squatter landlords)
- Squatters and occupants of shanty towns

(reading: The city in the developing world, Potter and Lloyd-Evans, 1998)

Moving into informality - into the city, out of the city

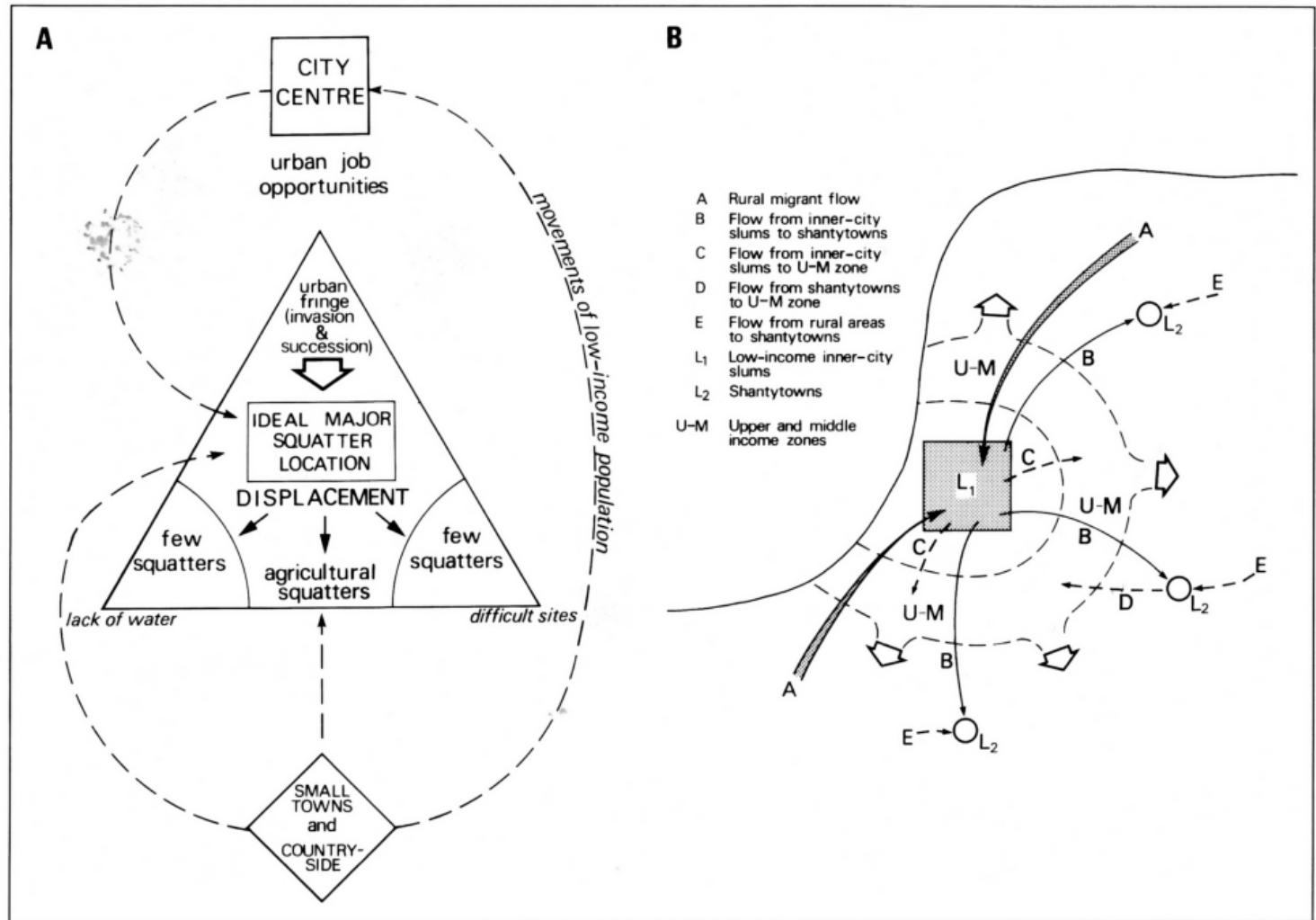


Figure 7.1 Locational and migratory aspects of low-income settlements.

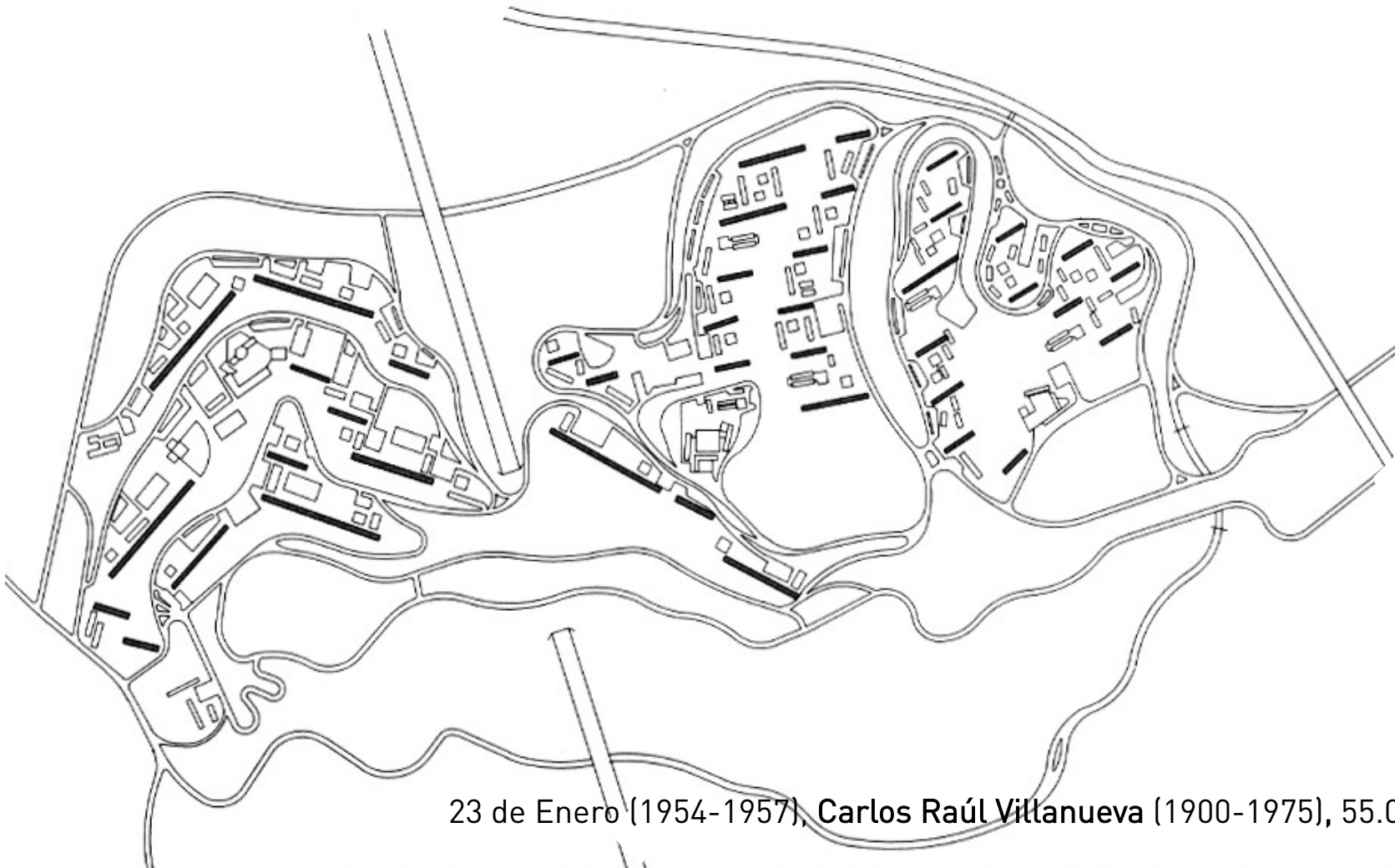
Informal Urbanism - Throughout the city



Informal Urbanism - Usage of spatial gaps



23 de Enero, 2003



23 de Enero (1954-1957), Carlos Raúl Villanueva (1900-1975), 55.000 inhabitants

“progressive development,” vs “instant development” of public housing schemes, 23de Enero , Caracas, 1957



23 de Enero, 2003



23 de Enero, 2003



23 de Enero, 2003



Informal Urbanism - Taking risk



Tactics and Strategies; Self - organization

Tactics are the means of the **weak**.

A tactic **depends on time, mobility and opportunities**. Gaining from the strong a tactic makes an unorthodox usage of a system, its strengths are subtlety and tricks, but at the same time it is characterized by uncertainty and indeterminacy.

Strategies on the other hand are the methods of the **strong**.

Strategies are subject to will and political or institutional power, often separated from an 'environment'. They need and command a place, which is a base for relations with an exterior distinct from it. Strategies control space through a **panoptical practice**: seeing, watching, measuring, and capturing.

The Practice of Everyday Life, Michel de Certeau 1980

A **Self-organizing System** is a system based on the interaction of its smaller parts. In a flock of birds, the birds are the smaller parts and the intelligent behavior includes orderly flying towards one direction and the formation of 'V' shaped flying. Self Organizing Systems - Lecture 1, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Flocking: three simple steering behaviors: separation, alignment and cohesion.

Flocking requires that the individual reacts only to flock mates within a certain small "neighborhood" around itself. The neighborhood is measured from the center of the boid) and an angle, measured from the direction of flight. Flock mates outside this local neighborhood are ignored.

Craig Reynolds, Boids, <http://www.red3d.com/cwr/boids/>

Self organization – local interaction of small parts



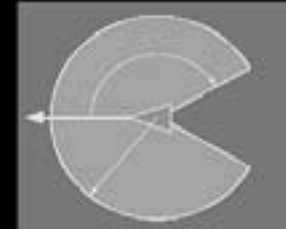
Separation: steer to avoid crowding local flockmates



Alignment: steer toward the average heading of local flockmates



Cohesion: steer to move toward the average position of local flockmates



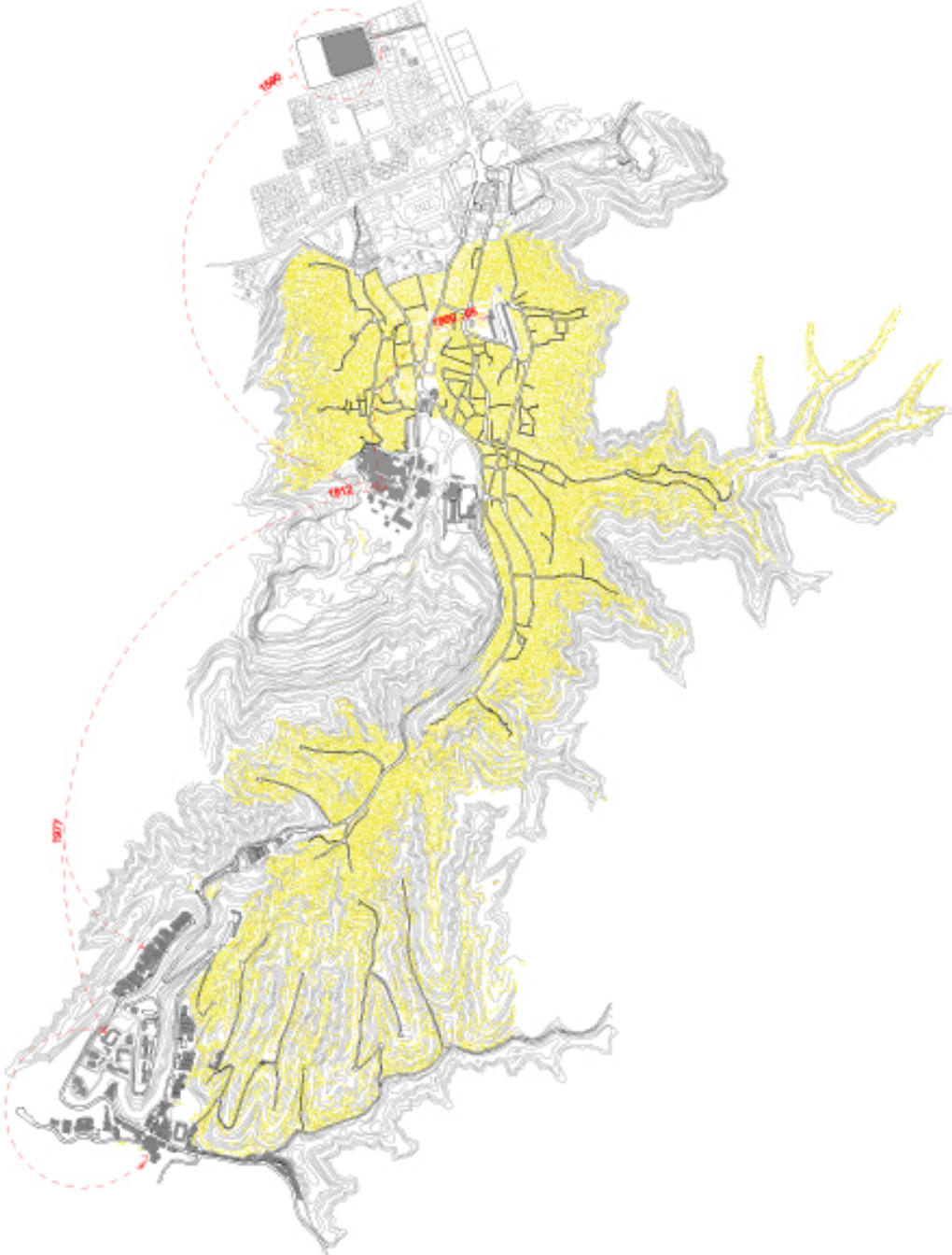
bird's neighborhood

Informal Urbanism - Local rules (... based on local conditions)

'slum as illegal settlements' vs. 'slum as self-built community?'

- **Site specific** conditions – existing infrastructure, nature of topography; growth pattern based on pedestrian movement
- **Time-based** conditions - gradual expansions dependant on need and means (Over time, residents may upgrade from cardboard to corrugated metal to brick, add floors on top of the roof, and from single to multi-story)
- **Locally negotiated** - who builds first wins
- **Dependant on outside factors** - availability of construction material, no stability, no control
- **Infrastructure comes last** often finally accepted by the municipality - how to form and finance the public

Rules – La Vega Valley



Rules – Site specific



Rules – time based development



Rules – time based development



Home of the Perez family, 1977

Rules – time based development



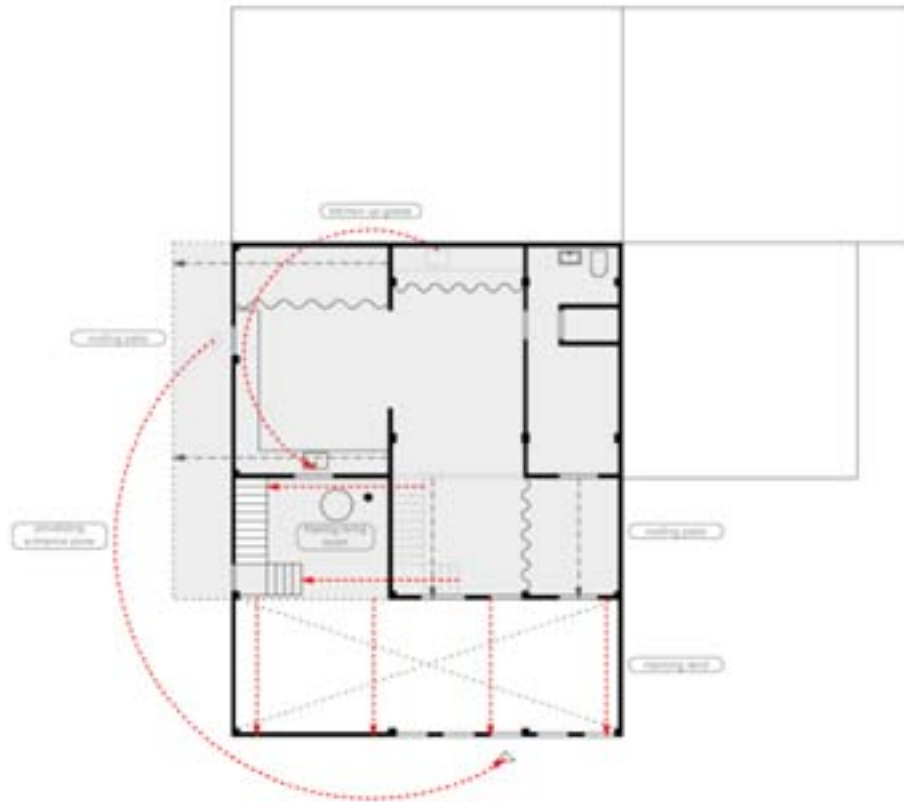
Home of the Perez family, 1980

Rules – time based development



Home of the Perez family, 1985

Rules – time based development



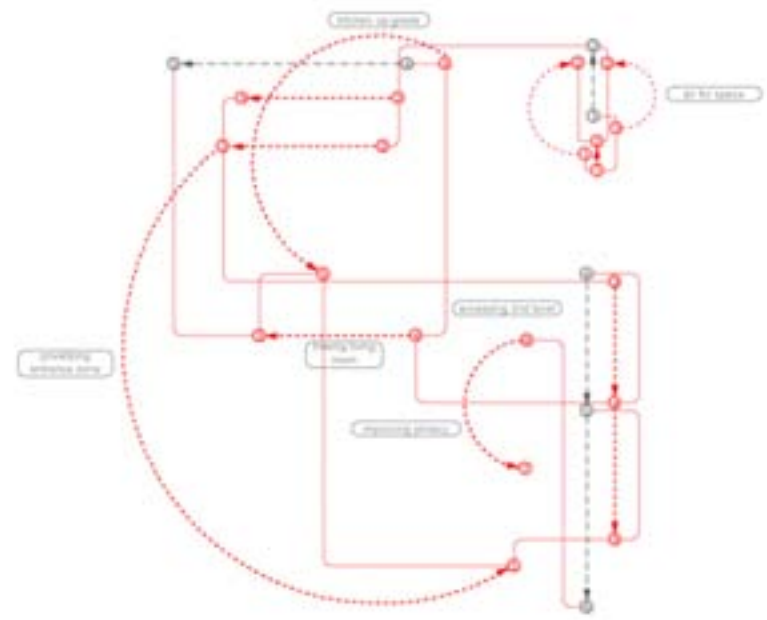
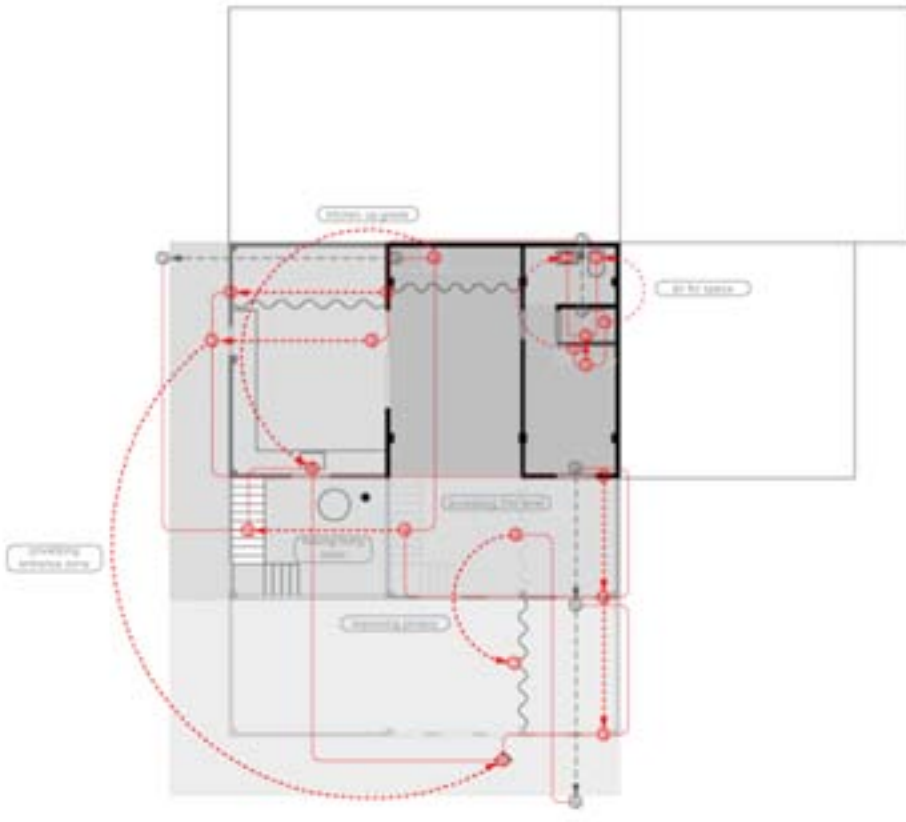
Home of the Perez family, 1995

Rules – time based development



Home of the Perez family, 2003

Rules – time based growth



Housing should be viewed not as a noun but as a verb, J.C. Turner , 1972

Rules – Site specific and time based development

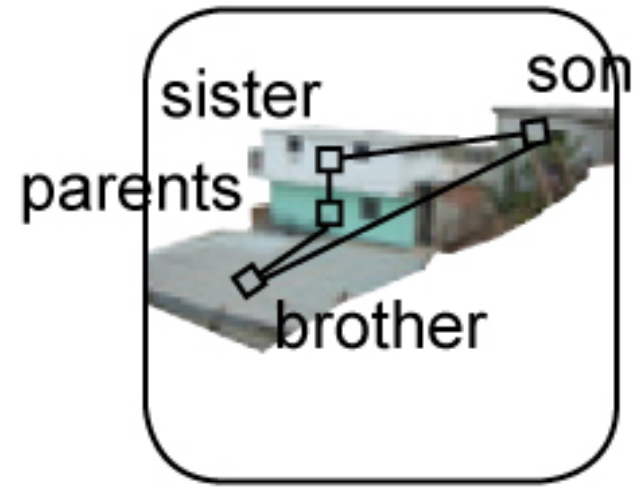


Rules – Site specific, pedestrian access

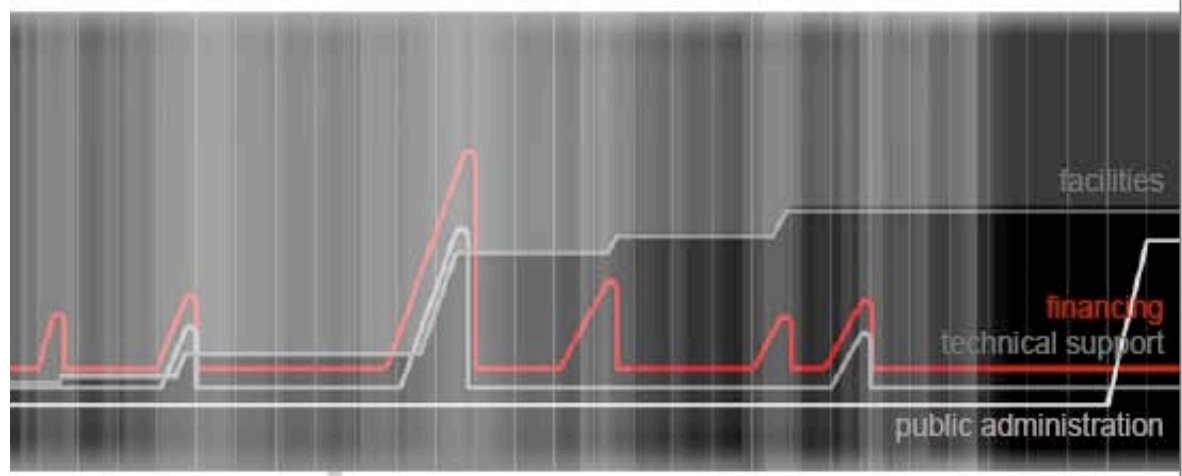
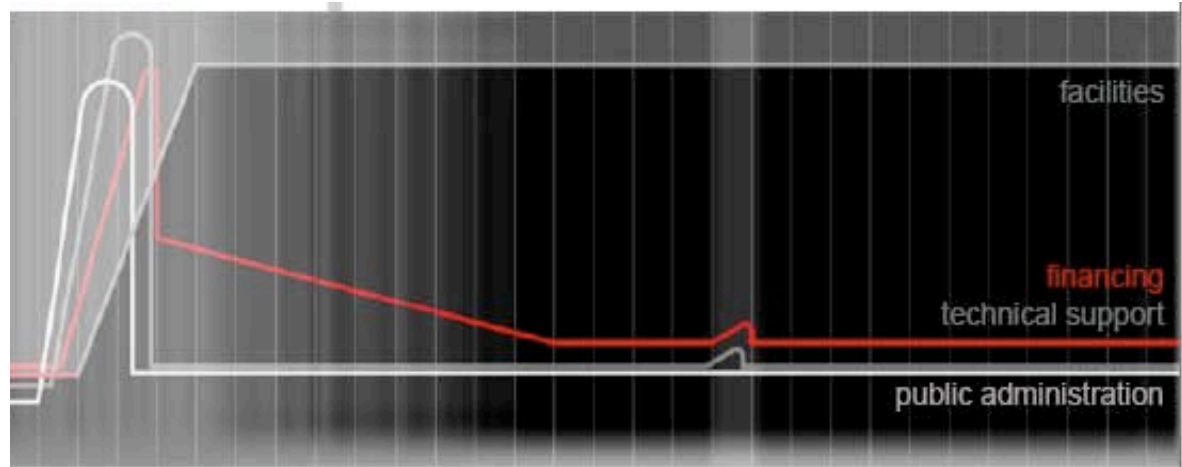


Pedestrian Connectors, 2001, M. & M. Pinto

Rules – Site specificand densification

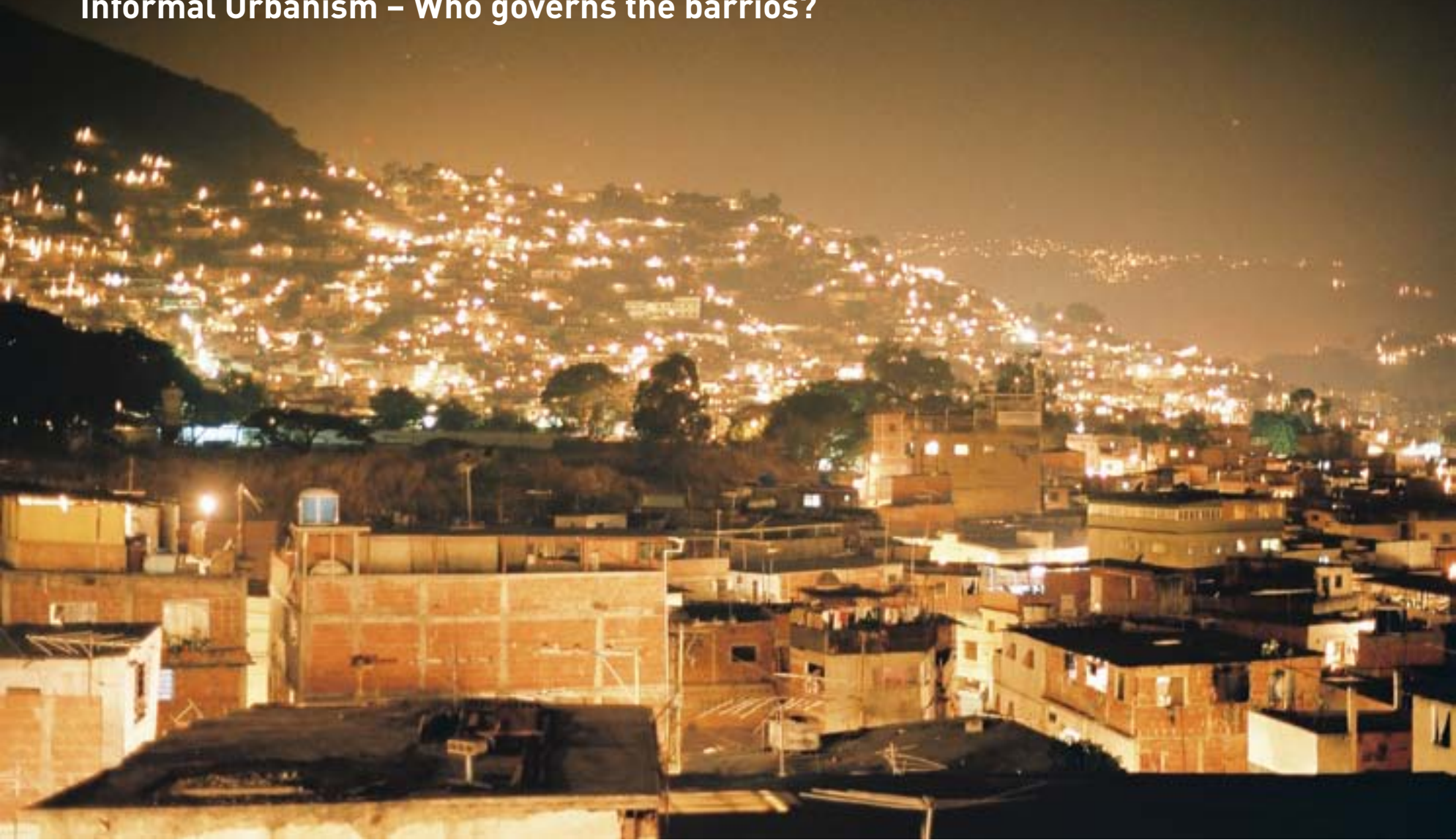


Rules: infrastructure comes last



Time ranges: formal vs informal production of housing

Informal Urbanism – Who governs the barrios?



Informal Urbanism - Problems and Potentials

Problems:

- lack of sanitation and social infrastructure (community kitchens, creche)
- lack of public space, lack of security
- it is expensive to be poor: bottled water, no bulk transportation

Potentials:

- high level of self-organization and association,
- walkable
- high-density
- and mixed-use, meaning that housing and commerce mingle

(State of the world's cities 2010/2011, bridging the urban divide, UN Habitat)

J. F.C. Turner, self-help advocate, influenced World Bank to initiate projects.

Caracas Slum-Upgrading Program

“Plan Sectorial de Habilitación Física las zonas de Barrios de Caracas”,
1999-2004

Urban Upgrading

finances the design and execution of **Community Neighborhood Improvement Plans**

Including pedestrian and vehicular access, water distribution, sewerage and sanitation, electricity distribution, and community centers.

Institutional Development

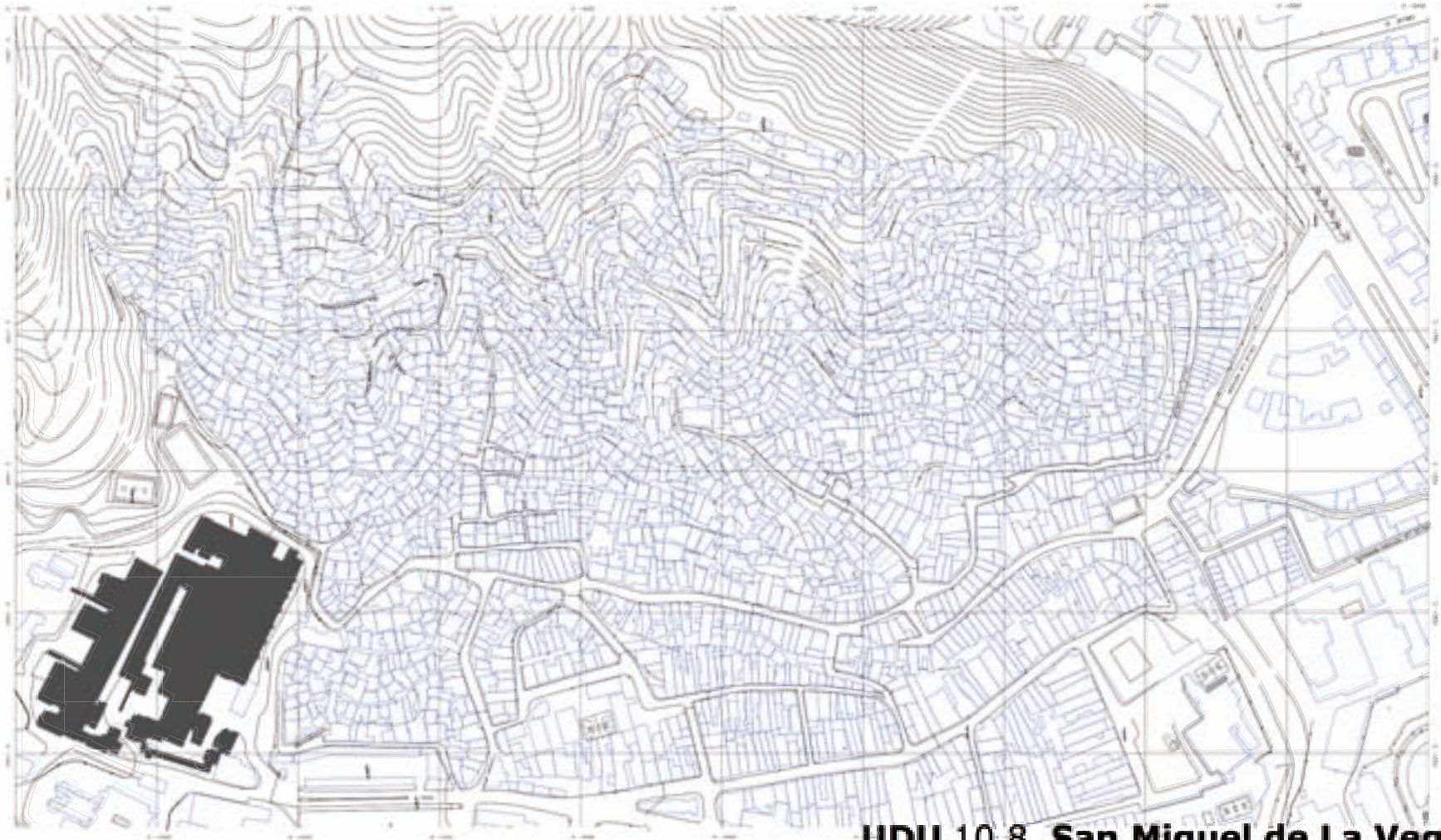
finances the start-up and operational costs for the project management unit, including technical assistance.

Housing Improvement Loan

finances the development and operation of a market-based housing improvement loan fund which will provide consumer credit to low-income individuals residing in the barrios to finance improvements.



Existing Conditions (Mat. By M. Pinto)

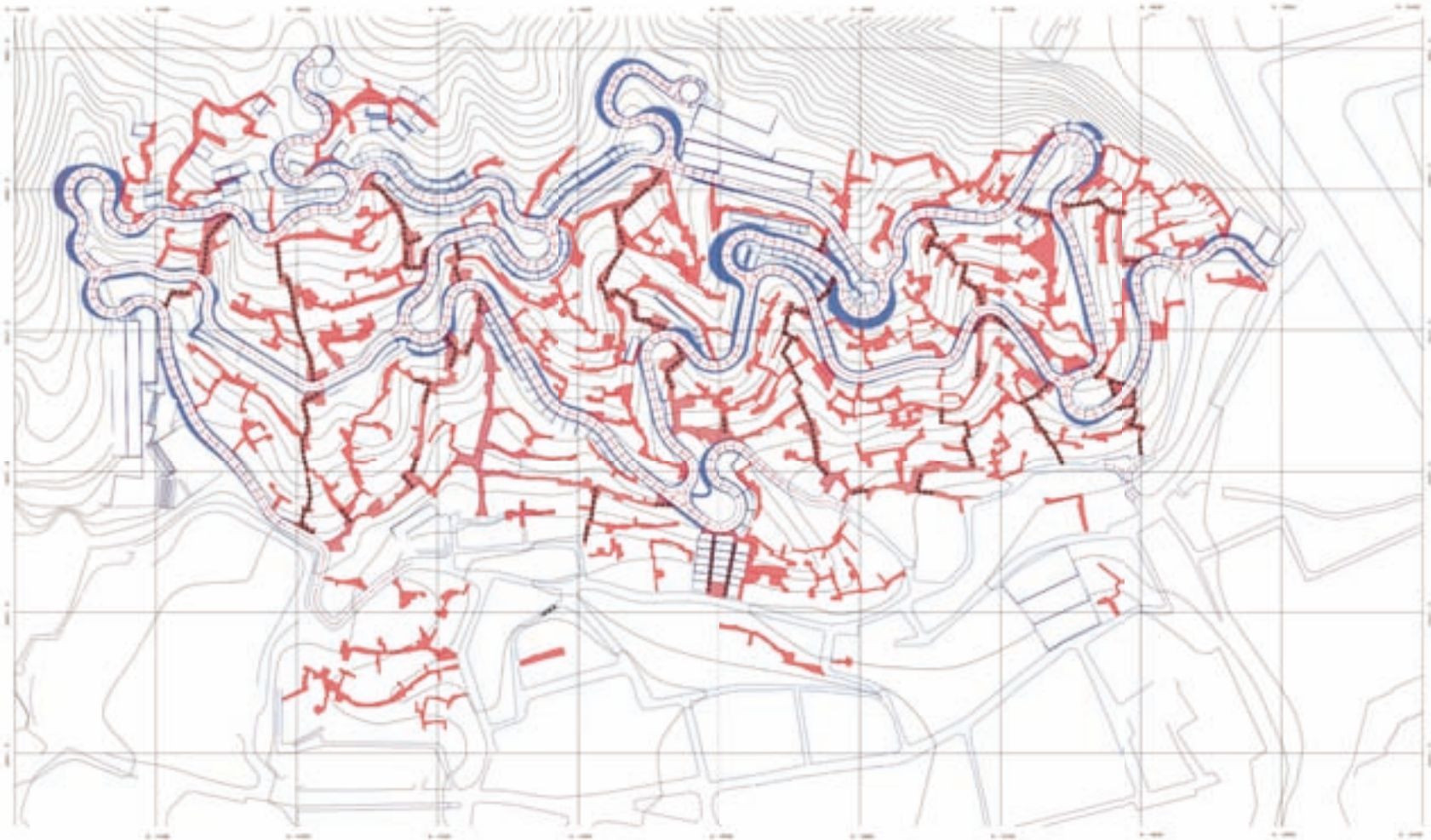


UDU 10.8 San Miguel de La Vega

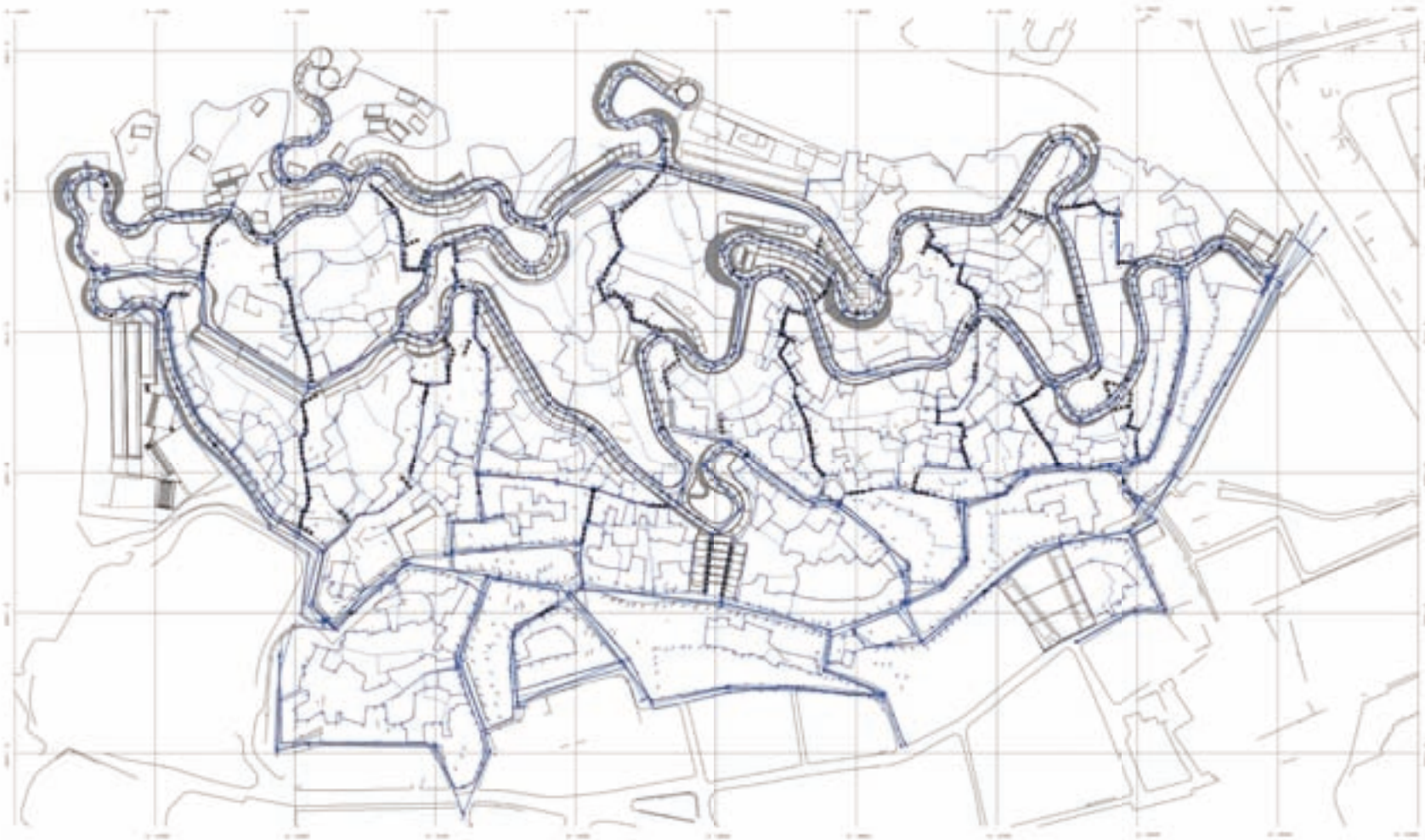
Potential urban up-grading plan (Mat. By M. Pinto)



New vehicular road – existing pedestrian network (Mat. By M. Pinto)

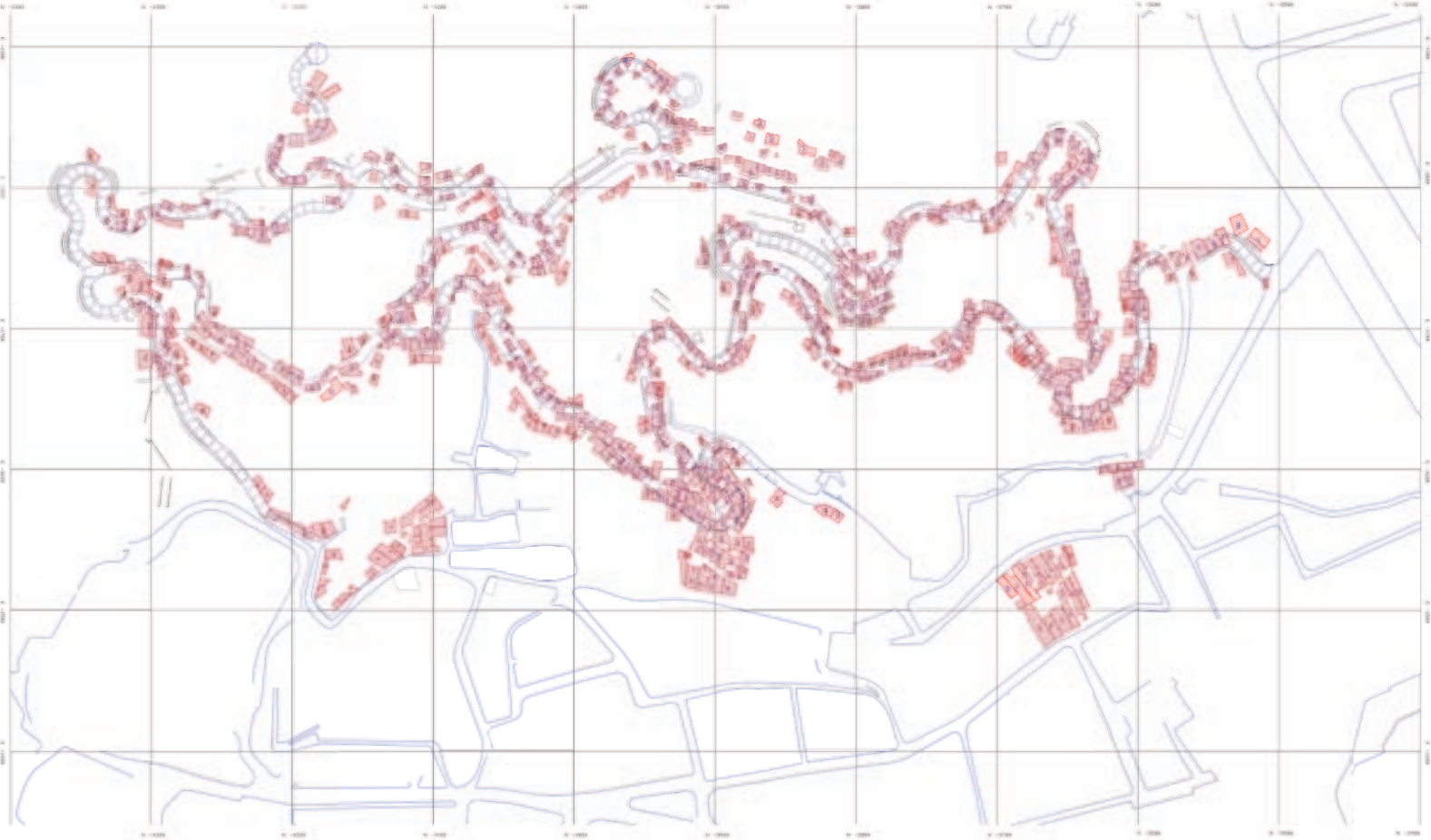


Infrastructure (Mat. By M. Pinto)



Water distribution, sewage, drainage, electricity, public lighting

Urban fabric to be removed (Mat. By M. Pinto)



Services and infrastructure (Mat. By M. Pinto)



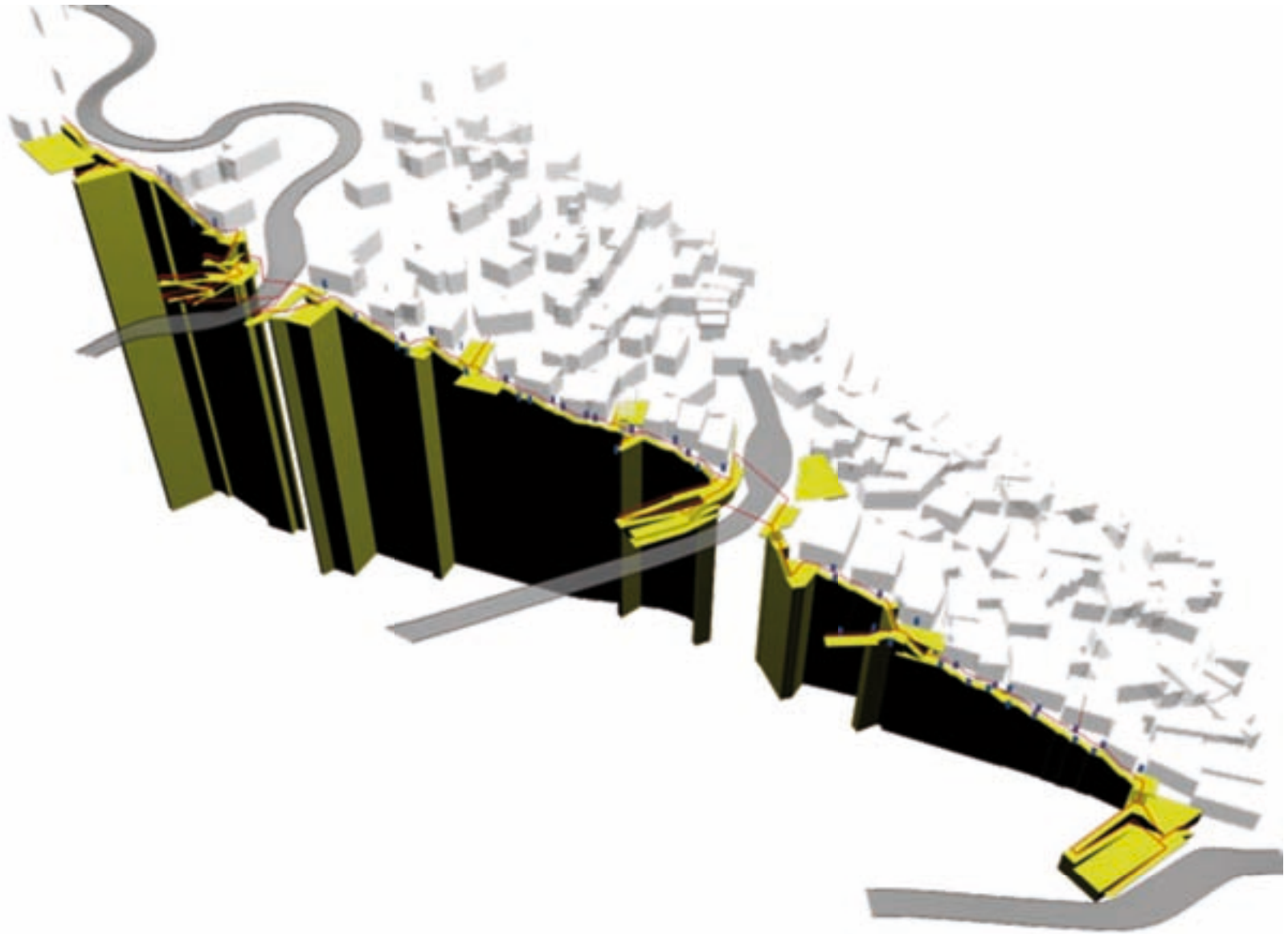
Places and uses (Mat. By M. Pinto)



Potential sites for new programme (Mat. By M. Pinto)



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Metro Cable Medellín, 2004



Metro Cable Medellín, 2004



I Retrofitting informal settlements

The dense fabric lacks basic infrastructure and public spaces

Add infrastructure

- transportation, communication, sewage, fresh water

Light systems and small footprints

- cable cars, mobile phones, vacuum toilets

Go vertical

- ...

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ACTORS

Everyday Urbanism

Science

Actors – from science to design

Everyday Urbanism

1. Concept (definition): *What kind of city?*

community based, race-savvy, bottom-up, unpretentious
Contrast to planned, officially, and underused of public space.

What kind of architecture?

social and civic engagement instead of style, form and stardom

What theses / goals?

architecture has an ethical responsibility, a moral sense of service
challenge status quo to engage environmental and social change

2. Spatial strategy: *What scale are we talking about?*

modest, small in scale

single house, out buildings, community center, chapel

What are the basic design instruments?

face to face negotiations, architectural design with new, used, and found materials

Who are the stakeholders?

working poor, lower and `middle´ middle class neighborhoods

Multiple adaptive re-use, East Los Angeles



Informal food services



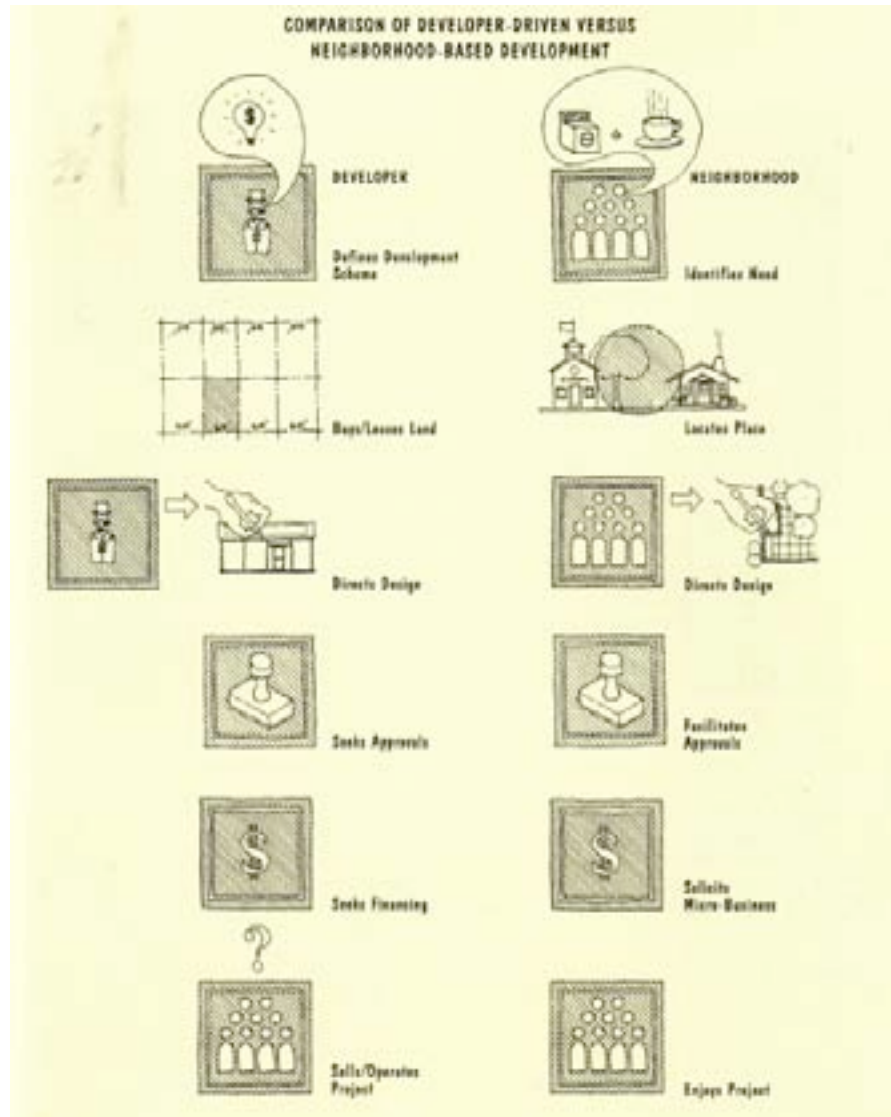
Empty lot / front + back yard businesses



Information + services



Developer-driven vs. neighbourhood-based development



Actors: Science

How actors shape the city

Participation and negotiation: Paul Davidoff „Advocacy Planning“ (1970s)

Everyday, bottom up processes, informality, **self-organization**, **self-help**, **appropriation**, **participation**, complexity mapping

Logics of **self-organizing** cities: opportunistic tactics of the weak, local adaptation

Governance

Rule based planning: Direct Urbanism: Interactive Rules, KCAP

Governance

Governance:

the process of decision-making and implemented formal and informal actors and instruments (tools)

□

Good governance:

participatory, consensus oriented, transparent,
Responsive, equitable and inclusive, follows the rules of law

Governance and cities: mayors

Jaime Lerner, Curitiba - Pedestrian areas, Speed-Bus development corridors,
Pascal Maragall, Barcelona – Olympics (1986), Public Spaces (1992), Culture
Forum (2004)

Enrique Peñalosa, Bogota - Children in cities, pedestrian space, Transmilenio
bus system

Characteristics of good governance



An aerial photograph of a residential development. The scene is dominated by a large, irregularly shaped green space in the center, which is crisscrossed by a network of dirt paths. To the left, a multi-story apartment building with a light blue facade and numerous windows is visible. In the background, several other similar apartment buildings are situated on a slight rise. The overall impression is of a planned urban environment with a focus on greenery and pedestrian-friendly routes.

Actors - from science to design

Atelier Bow Wow

Pet Architecture

Buildings that have been squeezed opportunistically into left over urban spaces

Cheaply built, unspectacular in design, small, exhibit a sense of humor

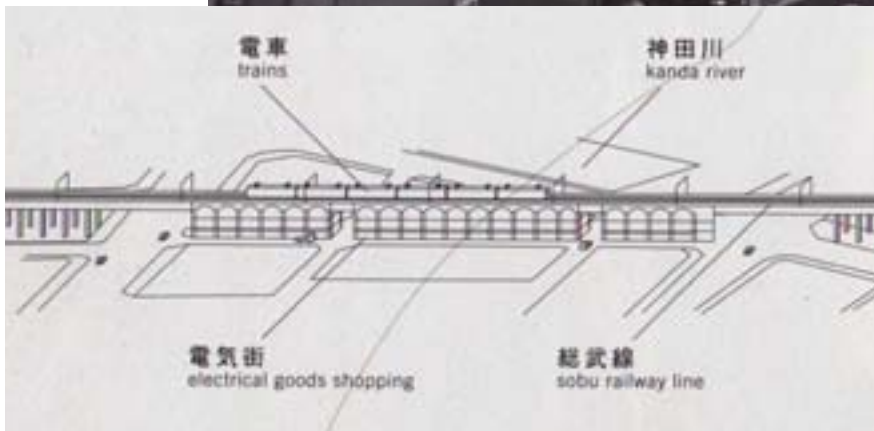
Behaviorology

Seeks to integrate the built environment across different scales
this includes buildings, furniture, civil engineering, and urban planning

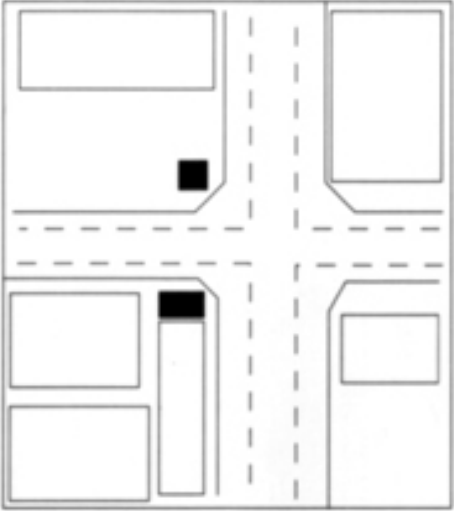
To: understand the complex relationship between people (the inhabitants of a space), the building, and the urban context

Atelier Bow Wow's buildings are formed to reflect the interaction (behavior) between building, its users, and its urban surroundings

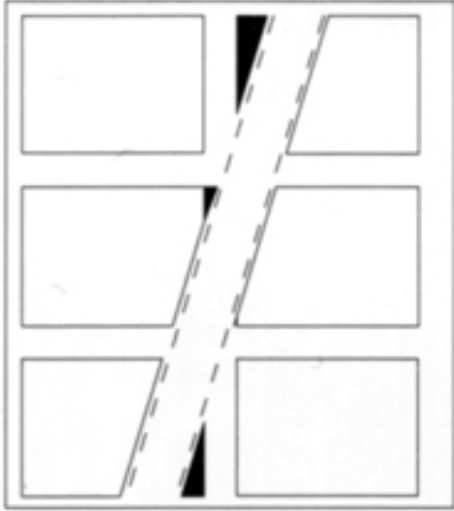
Made in Tokyo, electric passage, railway bridge + shopping arcade



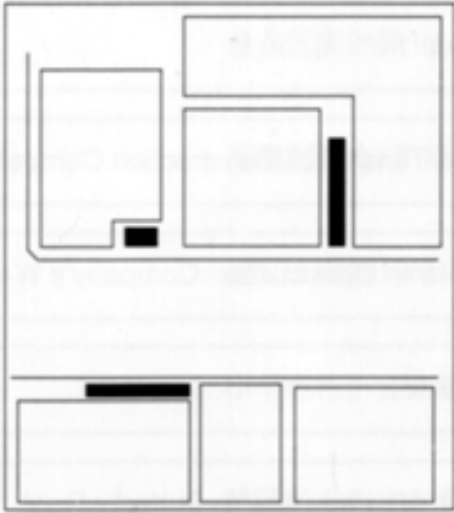
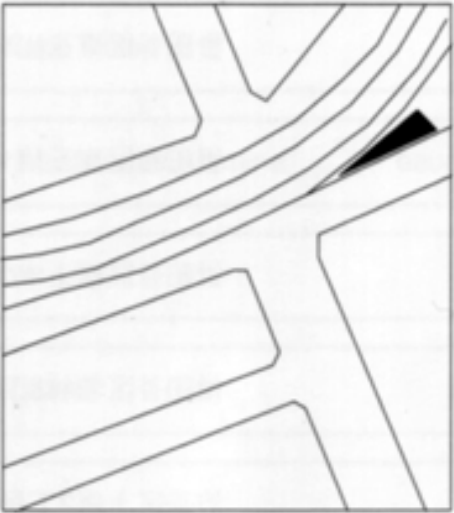
Atelier Bow Wow, Pet Architecture, Pet Architecture Typology



道路の拡幅



古い街区に通された計画道路



Atelier Bow Wow, Pet Architecture, Restaurant + Office



Top down – bottom up: I Self help

Text: Fifty years of Barriadas in Lima: revisiting John F. C. Turner, Freedom to build - dweller control of the housing process, and Hernando De Soto, economist - the poor man's capitalist

□

Housing Competition Quinta Monroy, Iquique, Chile 2007

ELEMENTAL (Aravena, Montero, Cortese, la Cerda)

Social housing as investment, density without overcrowding,

Collective spaces (extended families),

„Porous” structure to allow each unit to expand 30 to 72qm),

ELEMENTAL, Housing competition, Iquique, Chile, 2007



ELEMENTAL, Housing competition, Iquique, Chile, 2007



ELEMENTAL, Housing competition, Iquique, Chile, 2007



Top down – bottom up: II Urban planning from below

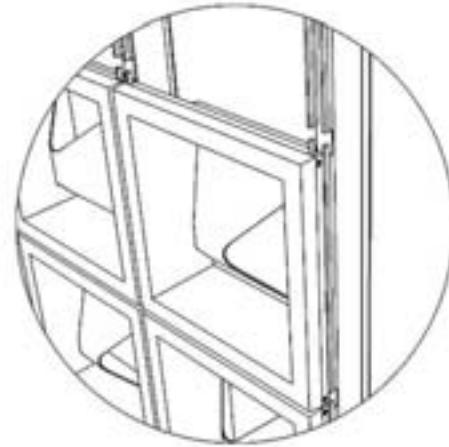
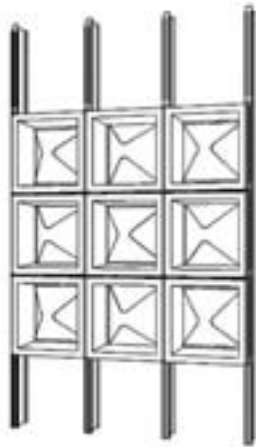
“Lesezeichen Salbke” – Open-air library in Magdeburg, KARO*
shrinking urban district Salbke; replace previous library;
After a workshop, a 2-day open-air library installation, then the
new structure to Re-use materials (recycling der
Nachkriegsmoderne);

“Mit Zwischennutzungen Stadt entwickeln” - Klaus Overmeyer
(studio urban catalyst)
Zwischennutzungen in Berlin: Tiergarten as Notgärten, Polish
market at Potsdamer Platz, Club scene in 90s, Strandbar Mitte.
Time-space voids open up in de-industrialization process.

Lesezeichen Salbke – Open-air library in Magdeburg, KARO*



Lesezeichen Salbke – Open-air library in Magdeburg, KARO*



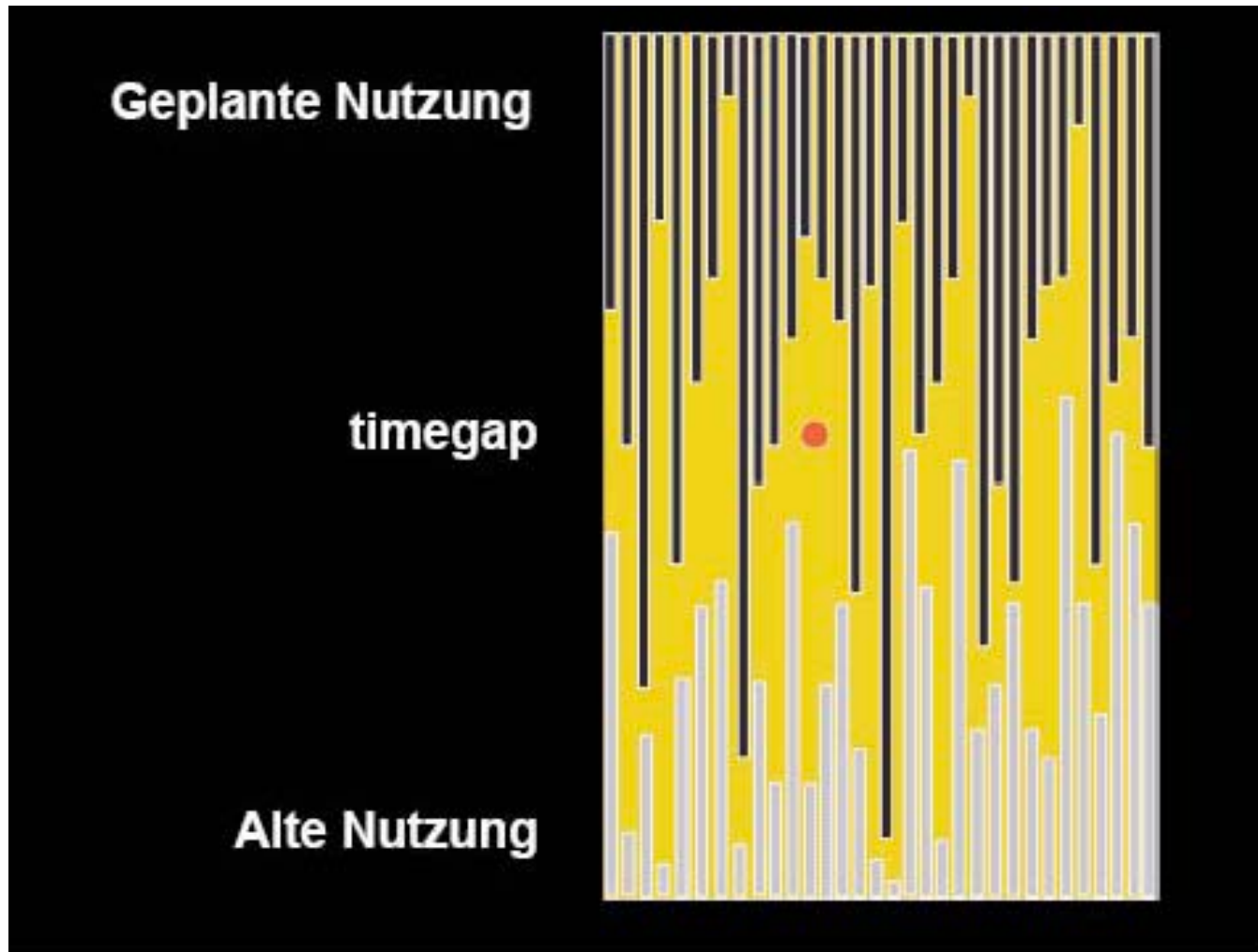
Lesezeichen Salbke – Open-air library in Magdeburg, KARO*



Lesezeichen Salbke – Open-air library in Magdeburg, KARO*



„Mit Zwischennutzung die Stadt entwickeln“, Klaus Overmayer, SUC



„Mit Zwischennutzung die Stadt entwickel“, Klaus Overmayer, SUC



Unternehmer
Entrepreneurs



Aussteiger
Drop-outs

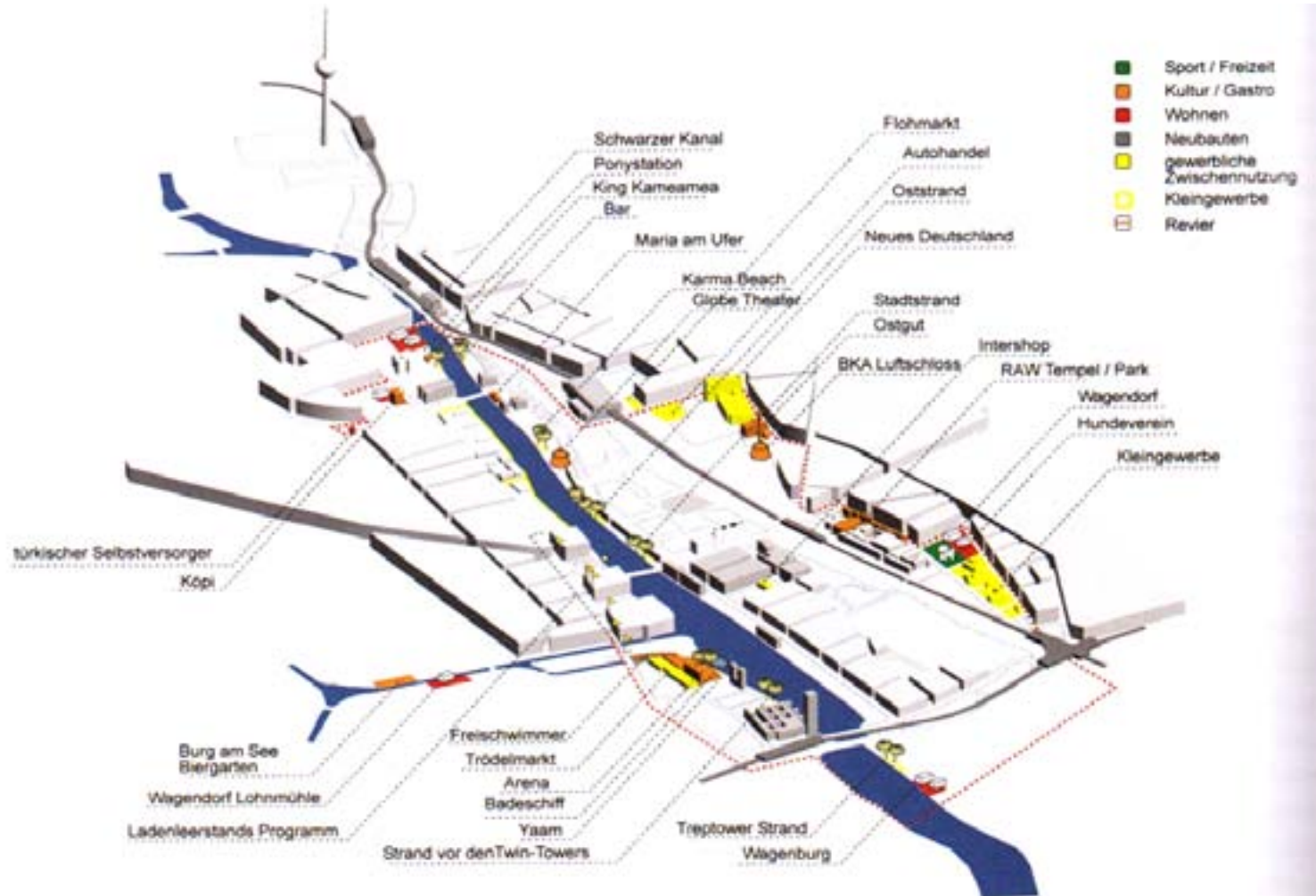


Ehrenamtliche
Voluntary workers



Öffentliche Betreiber
Public bodies

Zwischennutzungsrevier Spreeraum Ost, Klaus Overmayer, SUC



Zwischennutzungsrevier Spreeraum Ost

A high concentration of temporary use projects has developed around the banks of the river Spree in former East Berlin.

„Mit Zwischennutzung die Stadt entwickel“, Klaus Overmayer, SUC



Rule-based urbanism

□ Wijnhaven, KCAP

No high rise plan, rather a performance demand:

Tower slimness, max base area, unobstructed views of Maas.

□

Design Your Own Neighbourhood 2001, Kaisersrot und KCAP

Dynamic (interactive) software to enable profound participation;

Each plot seeks to optimize access to services, context, function.

A system that replaces masterplan drawing; transparency.

□

□

□

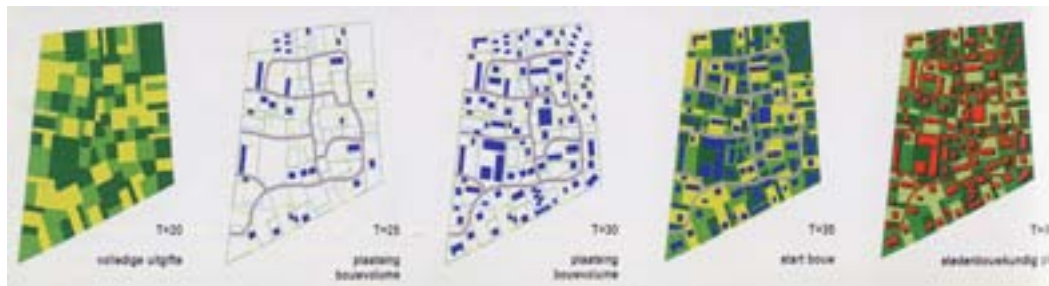
Wijnhaven, Rotterdam, KCAP



Wijnhaven, Rotterdam, KCAP



Design Your Own Neighbourhood 2001, Kaisersrot with KCAP



woning & kavel:

type	omvang	1 kamer flat	omvang	2 kamer flat	omvang	3 kamer flat	omvang	1 kamer woning	omvang
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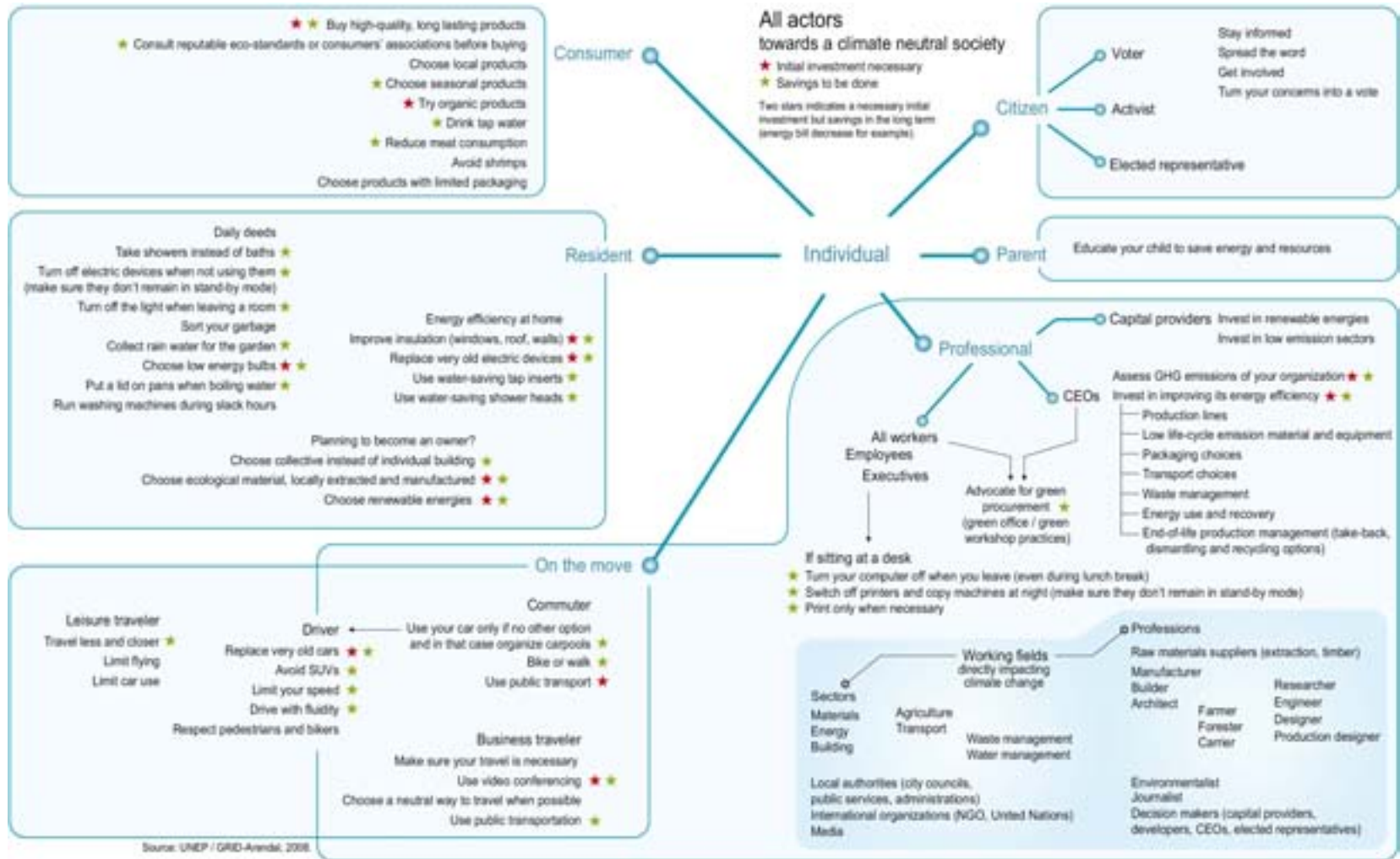
ruimte/verdel:

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slaapkamer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
badkamer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
overige	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

soorten:

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Actors, all actors towards a climate neutral society



Design as activism: innovative + socially meaningful design

Rural Studio

context based learning

„putting their educational work as citizens“

Instead of classroom studies build structures

Working poor dwelling - rural South, USA



Rural Studio, Sam Mockbee + Diploma students



Rural Studio, mason's bend community center



Rural Studio, mason's bend community center



How Actors shape the city

“I want to be a citizen”, Santiago Cirugeda
(civil disobedience in the form of architectural intervention),
Exploit gaps in administrative structures – pockets of non-law
Additive pods (spatial + functional prosthesis)

Santiago Cirugeda, taking the street; dumpster-scips



Everyday Planning

What is it that makes space public?

When a group takes space and makes it public. Taking action is a central right of citizenship.

□

What is the opposite of: planning by the state? What is bottom-up planning?

A field of practice which strives to discover "how to make it possible for people to be involved in shaping and managing their environment." (Harvey Sanoff. 2004)

Use network technologies to facilitate participatory democratic practices.
People are most effective when they act as members of communities.