



La manzana productiva verde

Las Cruces is a neighborhood in the historic city center of Bogotá, the capital of Colombia. It is located within 10 minutes walking from the commercial and political city center it is separated by an invisible border of stigmatization due to poverty and insecurity. The project focused on the global emerging topics of affordable housing for the local, socioeconomically disadvantaged population and of productive neighborhoods.

We decided to focus our intervention on the block between Carrera 7 and Carrera 8 in proximity to the Street of Calle 6, making it a "Manzana Productiva Verde". We redefined the traditional colonial block structure by creating a spine, which works as the backbone of the block. The Spine connects all the Sub-strategies we developed: The entrance situation, the Productive Yard, the housing and the green yard. These strategies are thought to break the borders that separates Las Cruces from the rest of the city centre: The physical - Calle 6 - and mental borders - poverty and criminality. In the entrance situation we created a more welcoming space for the visitors with a green and more urban square. With the productive yard we developed a productive system, that would work for the people of Las Cruces and which follows a circular economy system. The new housing -thought as a participatory design process- is developed in the back of the existing housing. In the block is possible to find a wide range of green infrastructures, such as agriculture, extensive vegetation, green roofs, bee-hives, leisure and chill and sport and play.