
I. METROPOLITAN CORE

ETH Studio Basel
Contemporary City Institute
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Autumn Semester 2013

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I.

METROPOLITAN CORE

OLD AND NEW CENTRALITIES

AN OUTGROWN PLAN

**The Idea of a New Capital
Expansion and Verticalization**

CENTRO: DUSTY DOWN TOWN

**The Composed Quadra
Urban Equipment for Diverse Activities
Large Scale: Street Event
Linchpin of Movement
Remaining only a Passage Way?**

SOUTH: A NEW LIFE STYLE

**The Fragmented Quadra
Controlled Environment
Large Scale: Leisure Enclave
Shift of Qualities?**

'CENTRO VIVO'

**Official Strategies
Renewal or Saving the Memory?**

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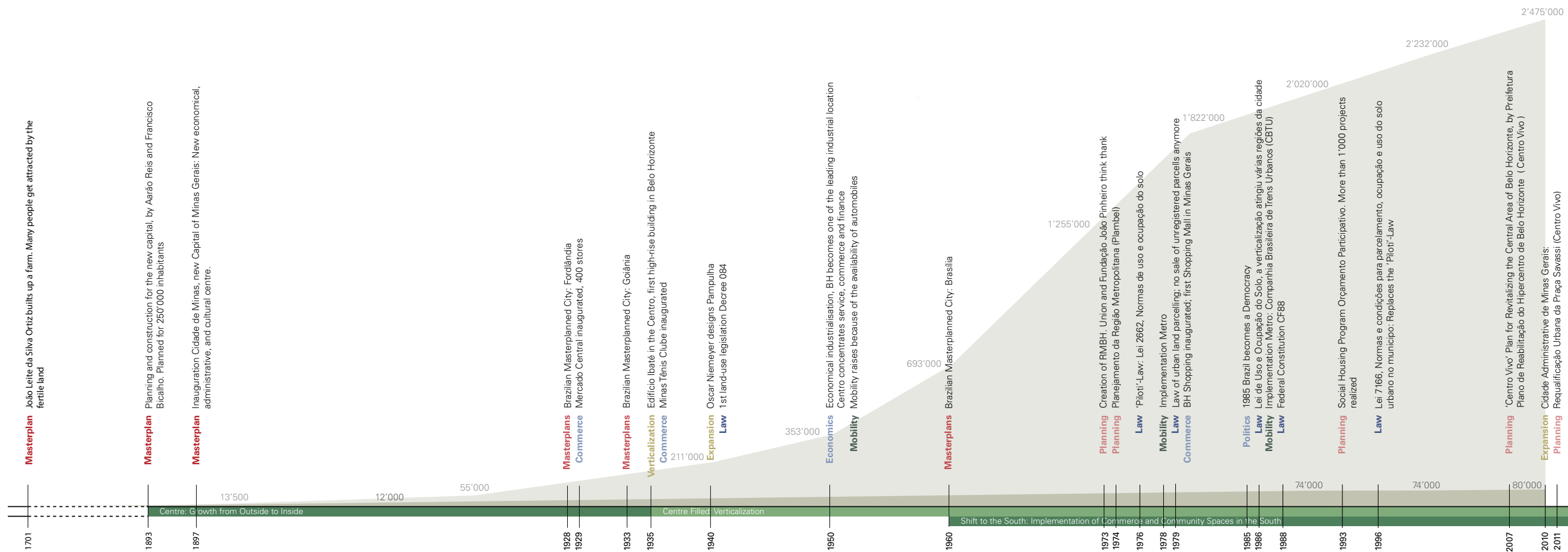
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AN OUTGROWN PLAN

In 1887 Brazil became a Republic and with that the search for a new capital for Minas Gerais began. The first masterplanned city of Brazil should be a symbol of Modernity to break away from the memories of colonialisation and slavery. 1893 the farm village Curral del Rey was chosen to become the new economical, administrative and cultural center as a replacement for Ouro Preto. The location was chosen due to good connectivity to other capitals as well as climatic and topographic conditions.





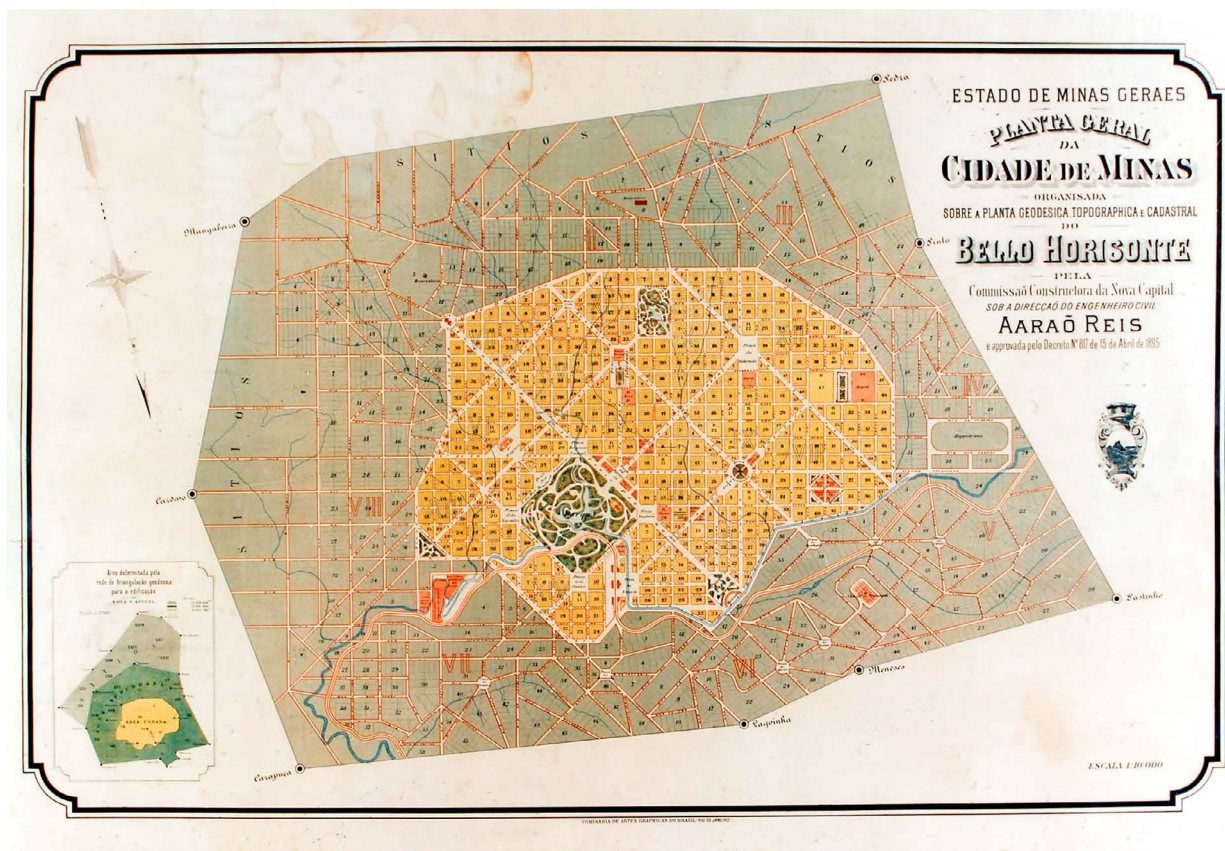
Demography

- Light Green: Belo Horizonte
- Dark Green: Central Area

Masterplan vs. Urban Growth

Several occurrences in the history of Belo Horizonte led to its current morphology and the urban growth. The city grew at extreme rates from the 50's on and demographic rates are still rising. The center although experience a period of shrinking.





Praça Sete: Point zero, where the first parcels were sold



Jardim Zoológico: Blocks were left empty until 1935 when the Minas Tennis Clube was opened



Praça da Liberdade: Administrative heart where the government buildings are located including the governor palace



Estação Ferroviária: Train main station-became the Metro Station



Mercado: Commercial area with a public square that was never built, in 1971 the Estação Rodoviária, bus terminal was built



Parque Municipal: Integrated the Rio Ribeirão Arrudas, was planned 4 times bigger than it is today

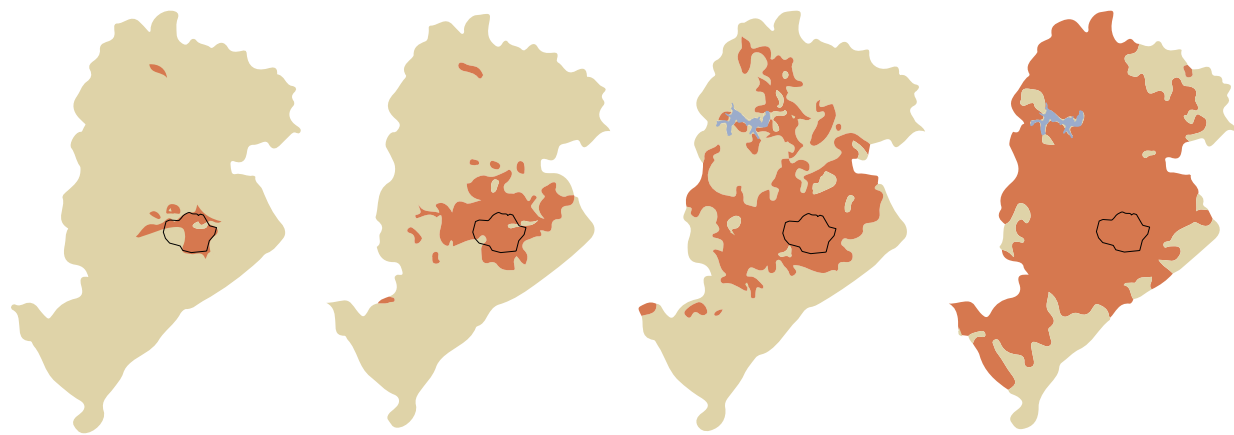
The Idea of a New Capital

Aarão Reis, a Brazilian urbanist, set up the masterplan for the new capital in 1895, after the ideal of Washington D.C. with a symmetrical array of perpendicular and diagonal streets. The masterplan was divided in 3 zones - the urban, the suburban and the agricultural. All public institutions were located in the urban zone but no other building regulations existed. 1897 Belo Horizonte was inaugurated, but still unfinished. The city was called Cidade de Minas until 1906 when the name was changed to Belo Horizonte.

Elements of the Idea

The urban zone contains all public spaces and functions. The vast Avenues, with a span of 35 meters, were more like linear parks at that time, linking the public buildings and squares which were set at the intersections. As strict as the plan was drawn, it was never realized that way although over time all public functions did find their place inside the grid.





1918

1935

1950

2005



Edifício Ibaté
First High-rise, 30m



Expansion and Verticalization

Parts of the Southern side of the center were still unoccupied when the verticalization around Praça Sete started. At this point it was rather an act of prestige than a necessity.

The city expanded very fast, so that today the Belo Horizonte Area grew to it's limits but is still densifying through the process of ongoing Verticalization for which the Edifício Acalaca stands as a symbol.



Edifício Acalaca

BELO HORIZONTE - MINAS GERAIS - BRASIL

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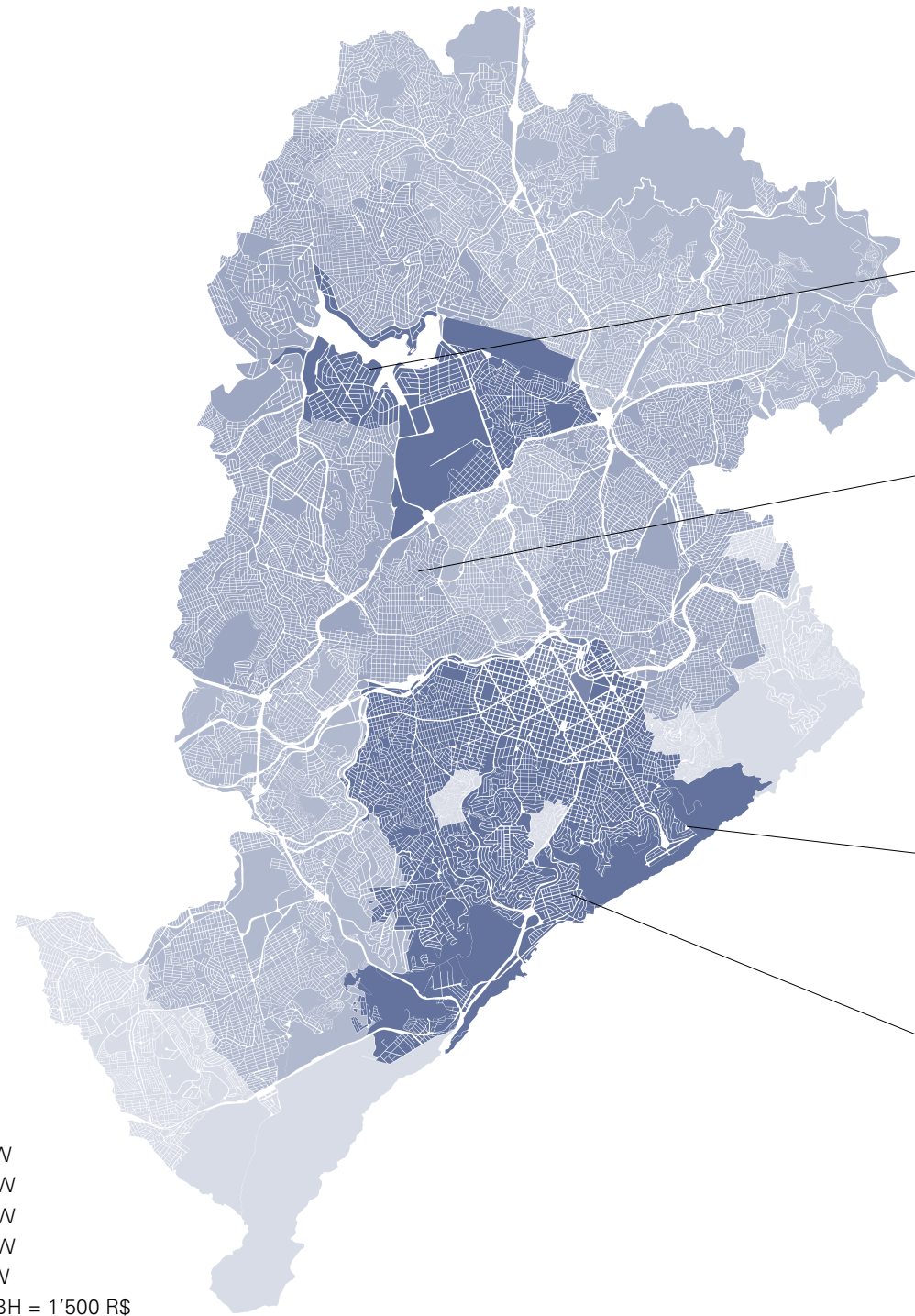
Strength of Form vs. Logic of Urbanization

The building of the new city started with the destruction of Curral del Rey. The farmers of Curral del Rey and the builders of the city were pushed into the suburban zone while the gridded urban zone ignoring topography and history took its form. Therefore the city started growing from the outside to the inside.

After the inauguration party the deadlines to finish the city by the Minas Government were abandoned and occupation took place little by little with auctioning the parcels. First settlements took place in the down town area between main station and Praça da Liberdade, which the map of 1928 shows.

Fragment of an Urban Landscape

Today the masterplanned area is integrated into a big urban carpet covering the hills of Belo Horizonte but still it's strict morphology of the grid remains giving the city its identity.



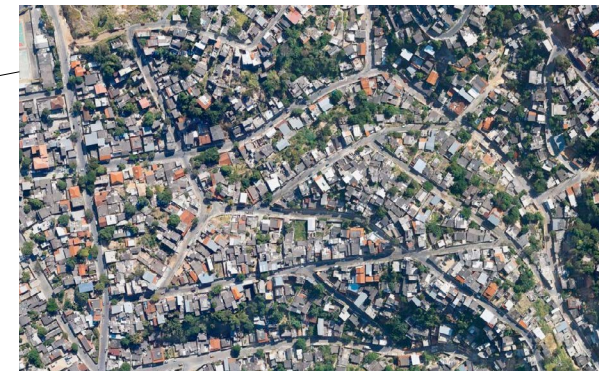
Income Levels

- 6+ times AW
- 5-6 times AW
- 3-4 times AW
- 2-3 times AW
- - 2 times AW

Average Wage BH = 1'500 R\$

Urban fabric around the Core

75% of the Area of Belo Horizonte is overbuilt. It's morphology is characterized by very diverse settlement types, which are correlating to the landprices and income levels.



Informal Settlement - Jardim Alvorada



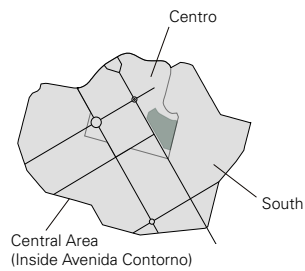
Low rise neighbourhood - Pampulha



Villas - Mangabeiras



High rise Condominio - Belvedere



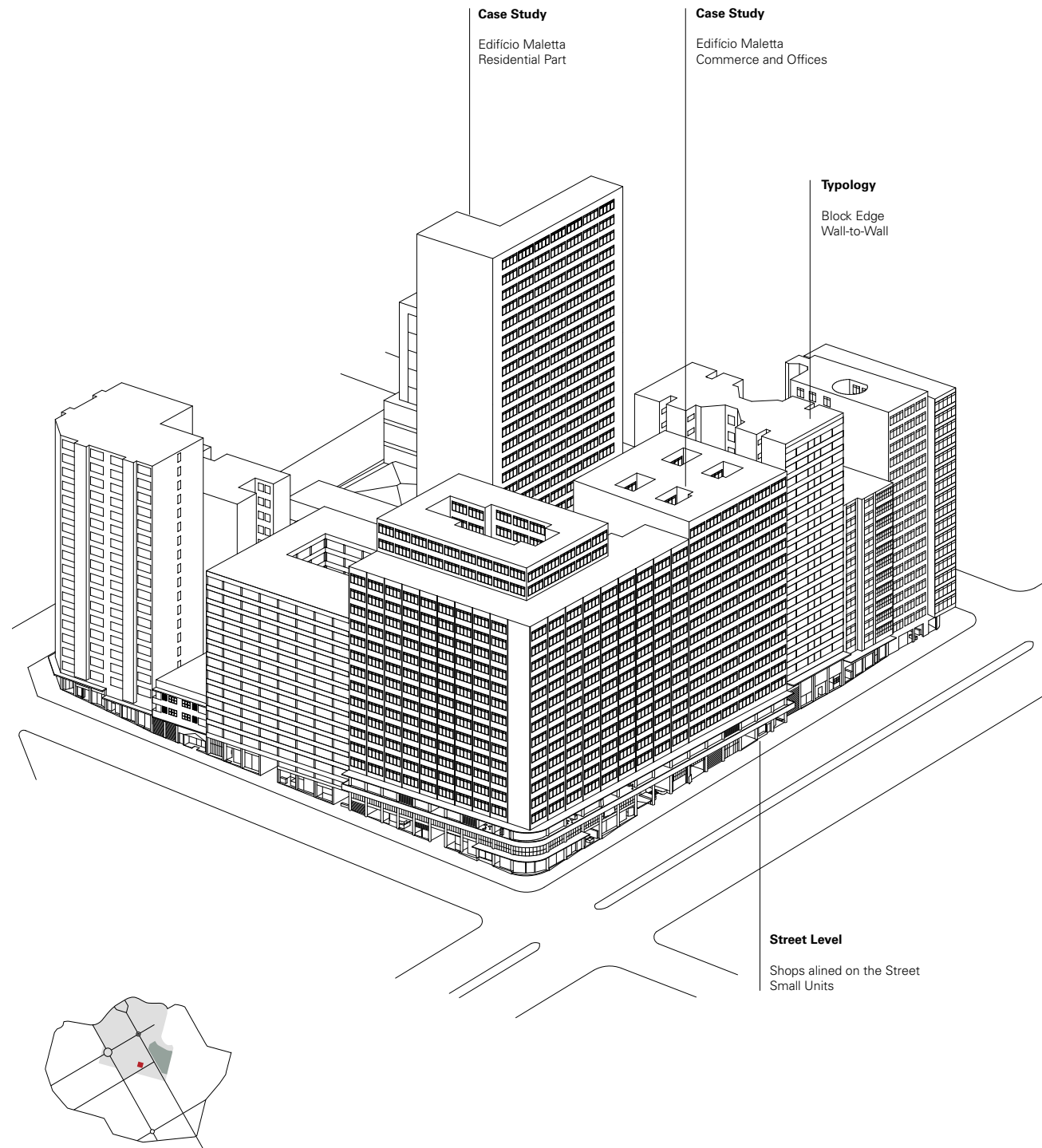
Versatility inside the Grid

Through the development of the central zone the different neighborhoods developed their own specificities and characters. The historical Part around Praça Sete named Centro and the South which developed later on.

CENTRO: DUSTY DOWN TOWN

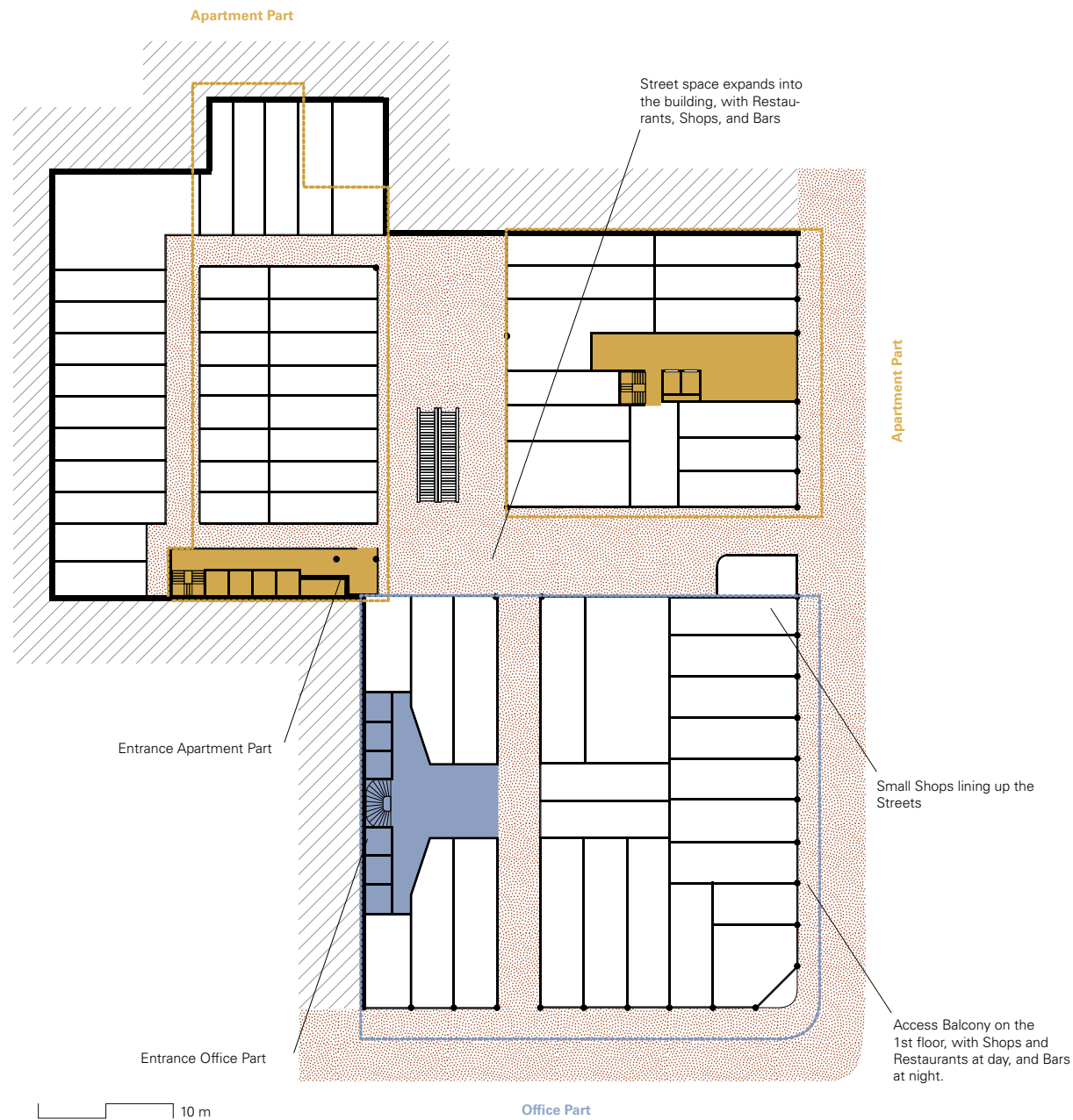
Being the origin of Belo Horizonte, the Centro is in that sense the historic Down Town part of the city. The rather old, partially abandoned built substance, creates an atmosphere and charme of its own kind. The Centro floats in an interplay between neglect and attraction.





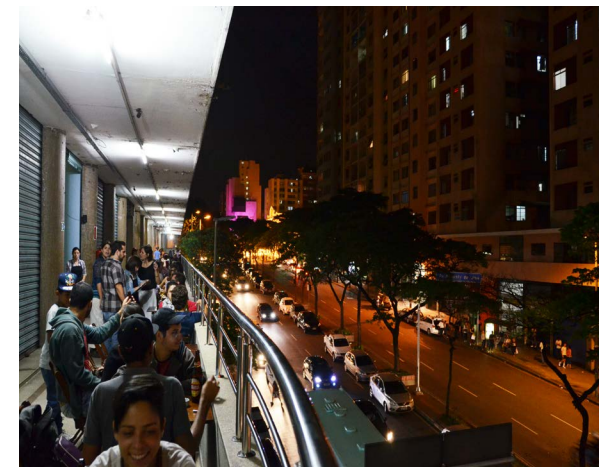
The Composed Quadra

The Down Town Area of the city is the historic centre and consists of buildings mainly from the 60's or older. These were built wall-to-wall, forming a composed image where the linear Avenues can be experienced.



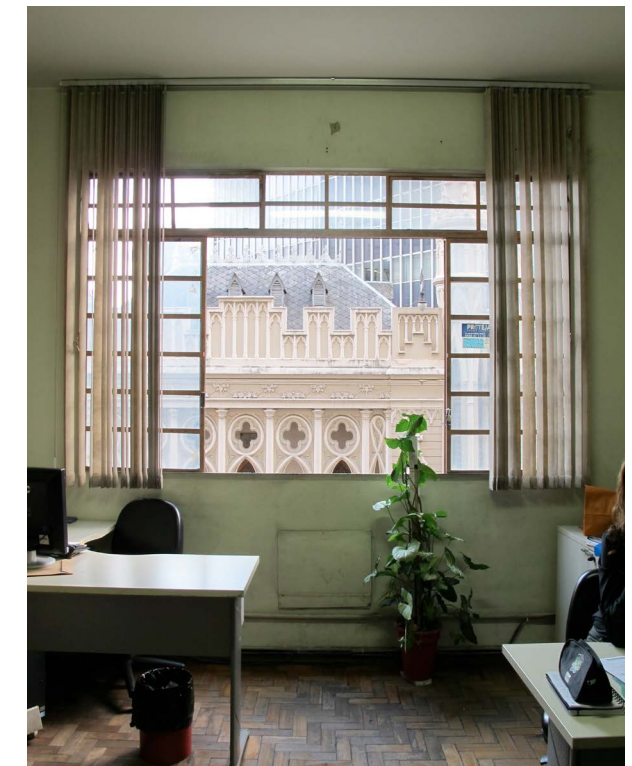
Small Unit Apartments

The 30 storey living part in Maletta has 318 Apartments. They all are 2 bedroom-flats and cost between 900 and 1000 R\$ (Medium wage in BH is 1'500 B\$). There are different people living there, but mainly students and elderly people.



Shops and Bars

The well-known access balcony on the first floor of the Maletta offers different commerce at day, for example a print shop, many book stores, cafés, etc. At night it becomes a lively place for nightlife, visible from the street-side.

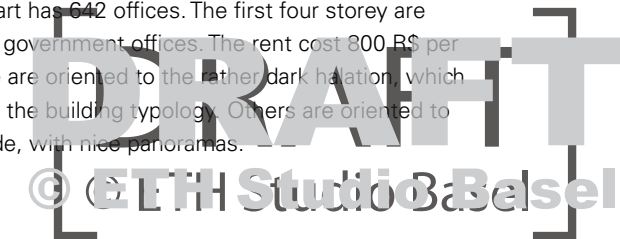


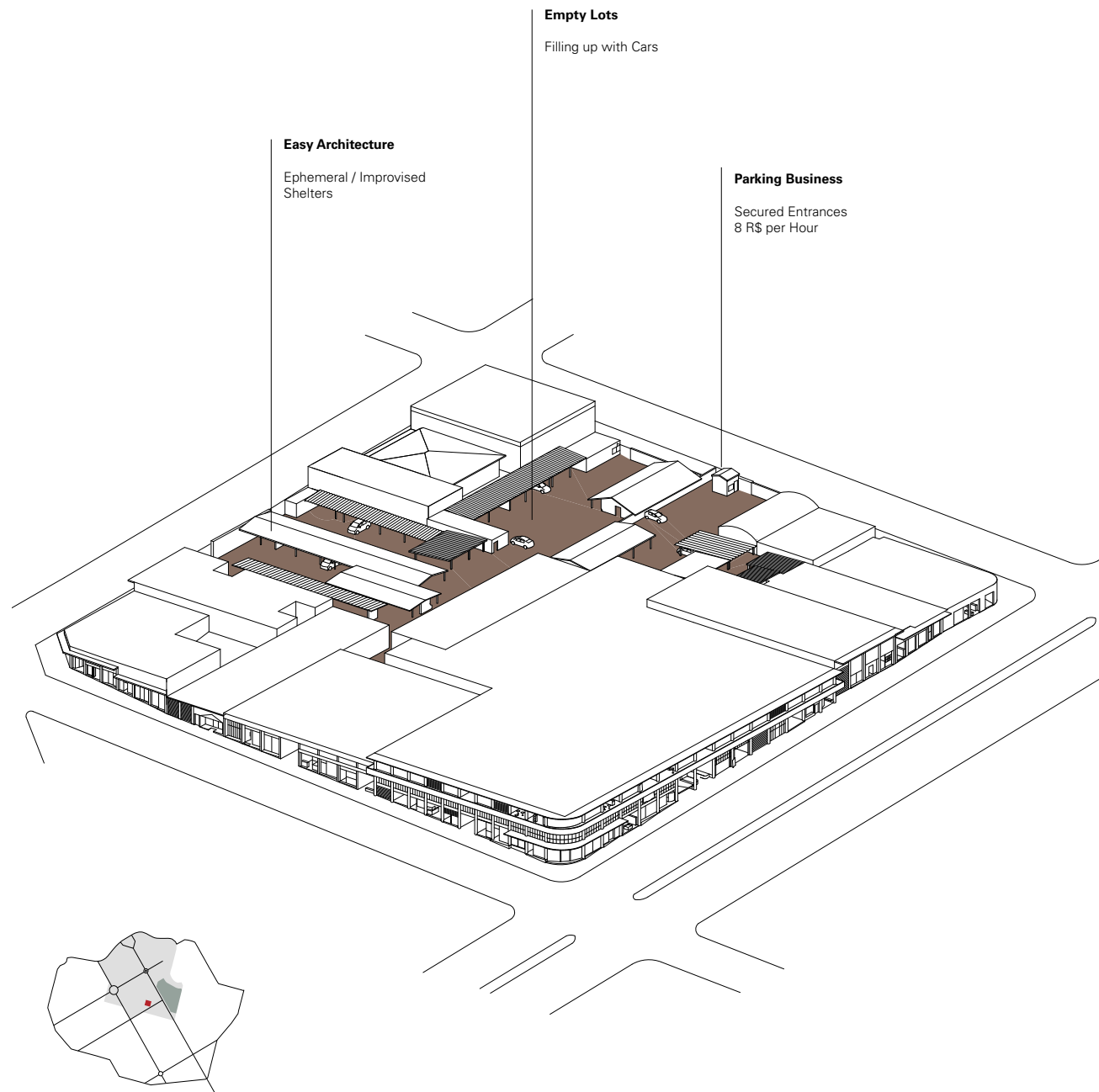
Public and Private Offices

The office part has 642 offices. The first four storey are occupied by government offices. The rent cost 800 R\$ per room. Some are oriented to the rather dark halation, which is a result of the building typology. Others are oriented to the streetside, with nice panoramas.

Edificio Maletta: Merging Functions

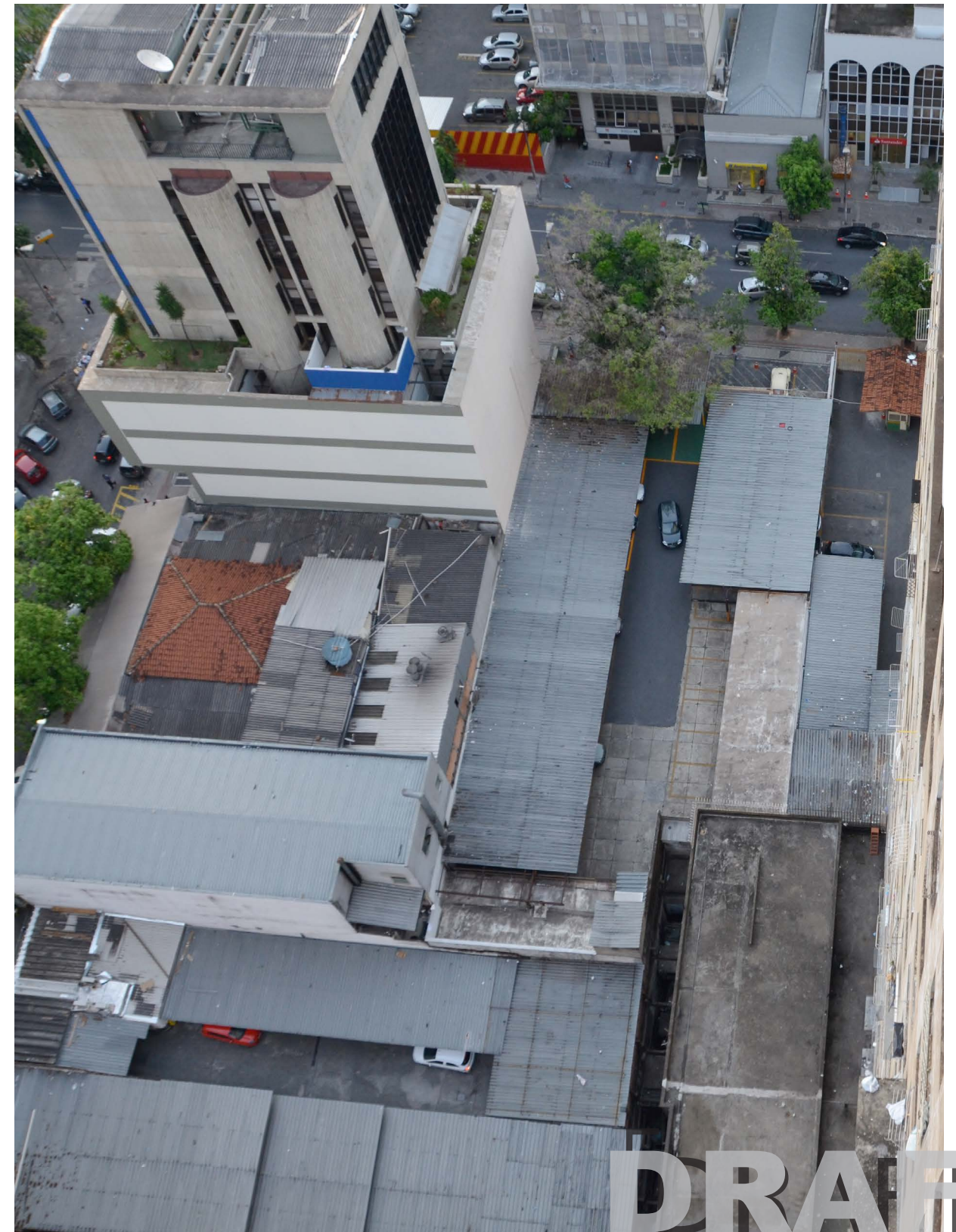
The Edificio Maletta at the crossroad Rua Bahia / Rua Augusto Lima was built in 1957. It is very popular amongst citizens. Even people from the South sometimes come here, to eat at Cantina do Lucas or sit in a bar on the access balcony on the first floor. The building unites the diverse uses Living, Commerce, private and public Offices.





Courtyard: Parking-Landscape on Street Level

The most fundamental reason for the neglect of the Down Town area is due to missing parking lots. Apartments and offices hardly offer car spaces what leads to covering up unoccupied spaces with cars. Land owners of small parcels often create 'Estacionamientos' - improvised parking fields.



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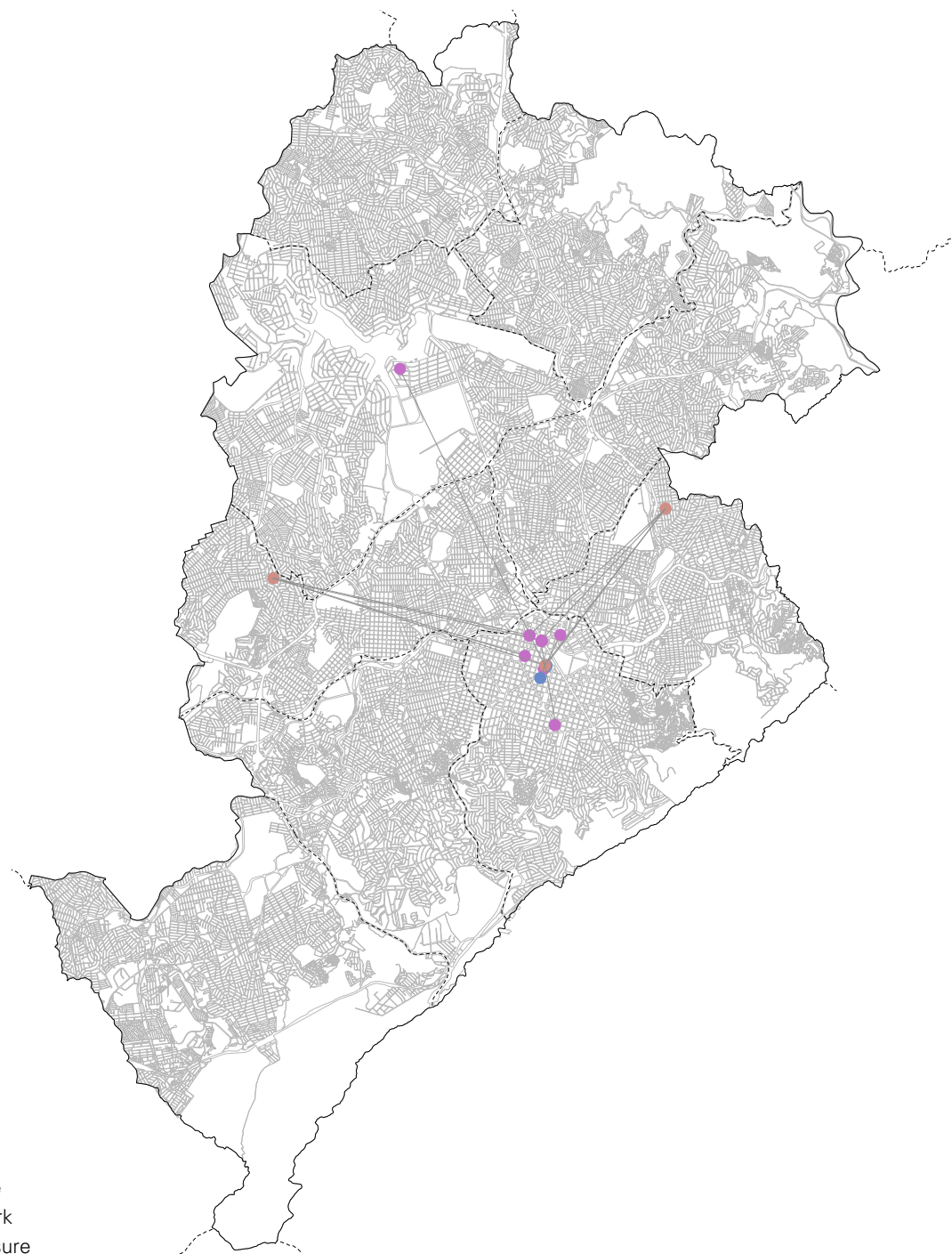


Stores accompanying the Avenues

The ground floor is clearly dominated by commerce. These little shops are lined up along the street and surrounding the whole blocks.

Activating the Streets

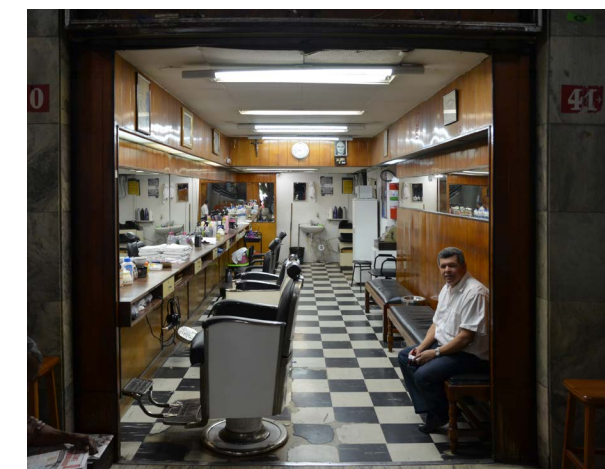
Like little boxes the shops integrate themselves into the bigger building structure. Similar to a garage the shops open fully to the street, liven it up through it's colors and goods.



- Live
- Work
- Leisure

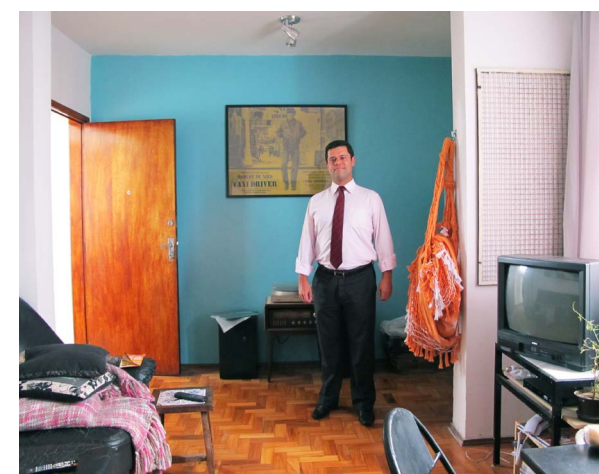
Portraits: Commuting

For many citizens of Belo Horizonte the Centro is still an attractor, mainly as a place to work and for cheap shopping. The residents are often only living there transitionally or when they are dependant on public transportation, like students and elderly people.



Guiberto, 49, Barber

"I'm living in Gloria, west of the centre. I have been working here for 30 years. I have all kind of customers. A haircut costs about 25-30R\$. It's 15m². I come here by bus, it takes between 30 - 60 minutes, depending on the traffic. I would love to live in the centre, because then i wouldn't have to take the bus. Bus is diffucult in Brasil. In my free-time i go to Praça Sete, Av. Amazonas, Mercado Central. For shopping clothes etc i stay in the Centro."



Thiago, 35, Lawyer

"I was born in Pampulha and have been living here in the Centro since 3 years. I moved here because i work just around the corner, 15 minutes by foot from here. I share this 2 bedroom flat in the 26th floor with a friend. Together the rent is 900 R\$. I like living here. It's very practical, everything is near and reachable by foot. So i don't have to get into traffic. I go to Praça Sete for cinema and bars, to Praça Estação for shows and museum, and to Savassi, but only on the weekends. Sometimes i go to Pampulha to visit my friends who still live there. As soon as i have family i will move out of the Maletta."



Aparecida, 53, Sewer

"I'm from St. Ines, in the north-east of the centre, but i practically live here. I have been working here for 34 years. I have many customers. The rent is 2'000 R\$ / month (condominio taxes). But in the meanwhile i own it. But i wouldn't like to live in the centre, because it's too noisy and crowded. I live near a metro station so i take the metro to estacao central and then walk to get here. I do everything in the Centro, but only in the Centro."





Urban Equipment for Diverse Activities

Beside the commercial use the Centro has also a variety of cultural offers. But the image of the centro is quite prestressed due to safety reasons and lack of parking spaces. This condition and the fact of many old abandoned building is the fertile soil for emerging subculture and alternative uses of the urban spaces and equipment.



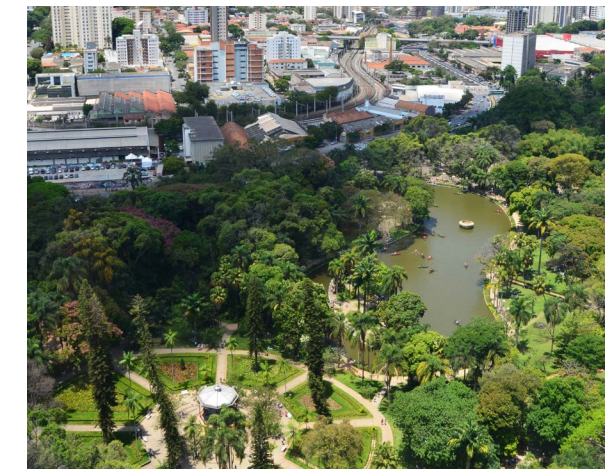
Between Vibrance and Neglect

The most urban square is the Praça Sete, which is the point where most of the traffic passes. Some streetsellers also use this masses of people to sell their products and spend most of their time there.



Concrete as Arena

While in the southern area of the centre the urban space is used in a very formal way, in the Centro this space is used in a creative, diverse, and rather informal way. Concrete is becoming an arena for MCs, like at the Duelo at Santa Tereza Bridge. In the Centro the urban space is used by everyone and transformed for everyone. At the Viaduto Santa Tereza, a bridge connecting the Centro to outside Av. Contorno, the Coletivo Família de Rua, a group of MCs, started the 'Duelo', a weekle Battle on which everyone can participate who thinks his lyrics have to be heard. They chose this place because aalmost all busses pass the Centro, and because the bridge gives them a roof incase of a hard rain.



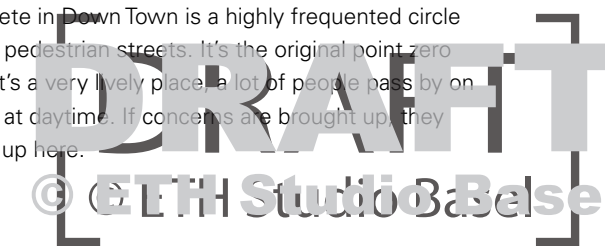
Public Oasis

The Parque Municipal already existed in the Masterplan. With it's vast plot and diverse vegetation it offers a nice alternation to the dense Centro.



The Place to be Heard

The Praça Sete in Down Town is a highly frequented circle square with pedestrian streets. It's the original point zero of the city. It's a very lively place, a lot of people pass by on foot, mainly at daytime. If concerns are brought up, they are brought up here.





Side-by-Side Street Occupation

Four streets around the Praça Sete were turned into Pedestrian ways creating plazas for the happenings. In the evening plastic furniture get occupied by hungry guests coinciding with skaters and bands playing live music. Therefore the Centro has some nightlife even when all the shops and offices are closed and some corners are left dead empty by night fall.

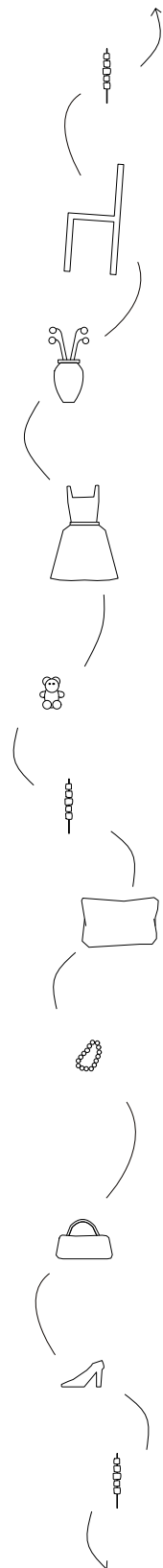
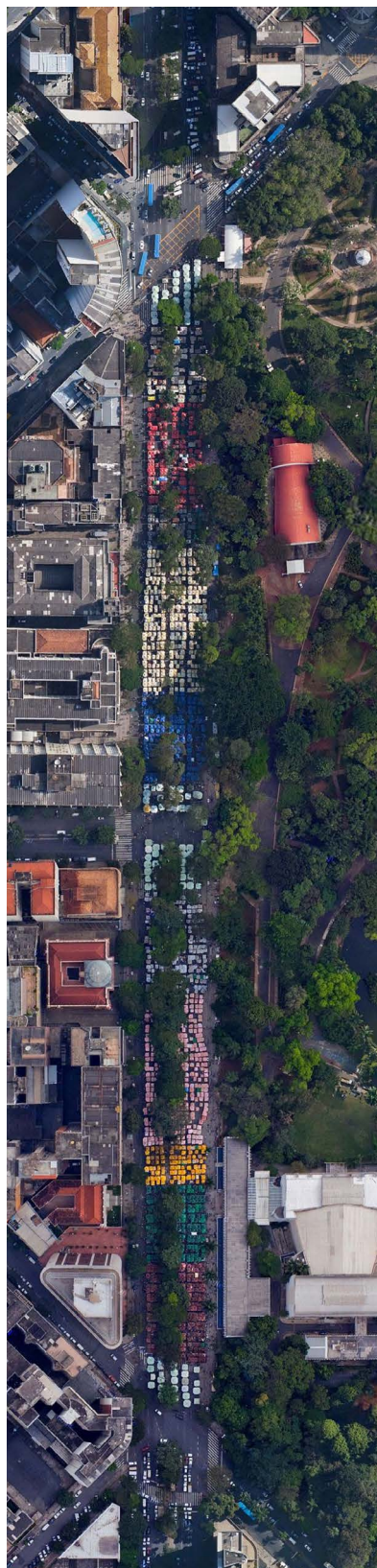
Spontaneity

All it takes is Music. As soon as a loud rhythm starts bumping, people gather around and start dancing. Temporary installations enable these gatherings to occur everywhere and spontaneously turning the paved streets into dance floors. All it takes is a DJ and his VW-Bus with a sound installation. These common happenings bring diverse people together.



Large Scale: Street Event

Every Sunday morning at 5 o'clock, a 600 m long part of Av. Alfonso Pena neighboring the Parque Municipal, gets closed from the 8-line-traffic and an open air market is installed temporarily. The stands are parted into different sectors distinguished by colors for different products.



Green stripes: Food

Beige: Furniture, Flowers, Basketry

Red: Decoration

Yellow stripes: Adult Clothing

Blue stripes: Children Clothing, Toys

Green stripes: Food

Gray: Bed, Table and Bath

Red stripes: Jewelry

Green: Bags, Belts

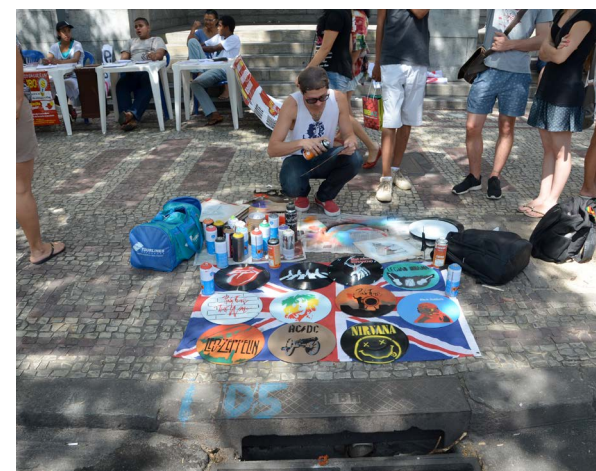
Brown: Shoes

Green stripes: Food



Leo, 63, Furniture Restaurator / Designer

"I'm taking part at the Feira Hippie since 1972, 41 years ago, when it all started. Back then we were only about 50 sellers and it took place at Praça Liberdade. 1991 it was moved to Alfonso Pena. Today there are 3'000 people working here. During the week i repair old furniture at my home and produce my leather products, they are all hand-made. I rent 2 spots, together 4,5 m², for 122 R\$ per month. I sell these bags - the case only - for 105 R\$.



Wagner, 22, Artist

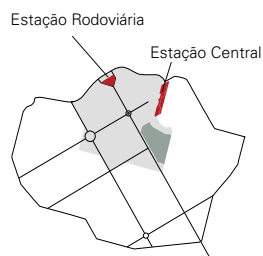
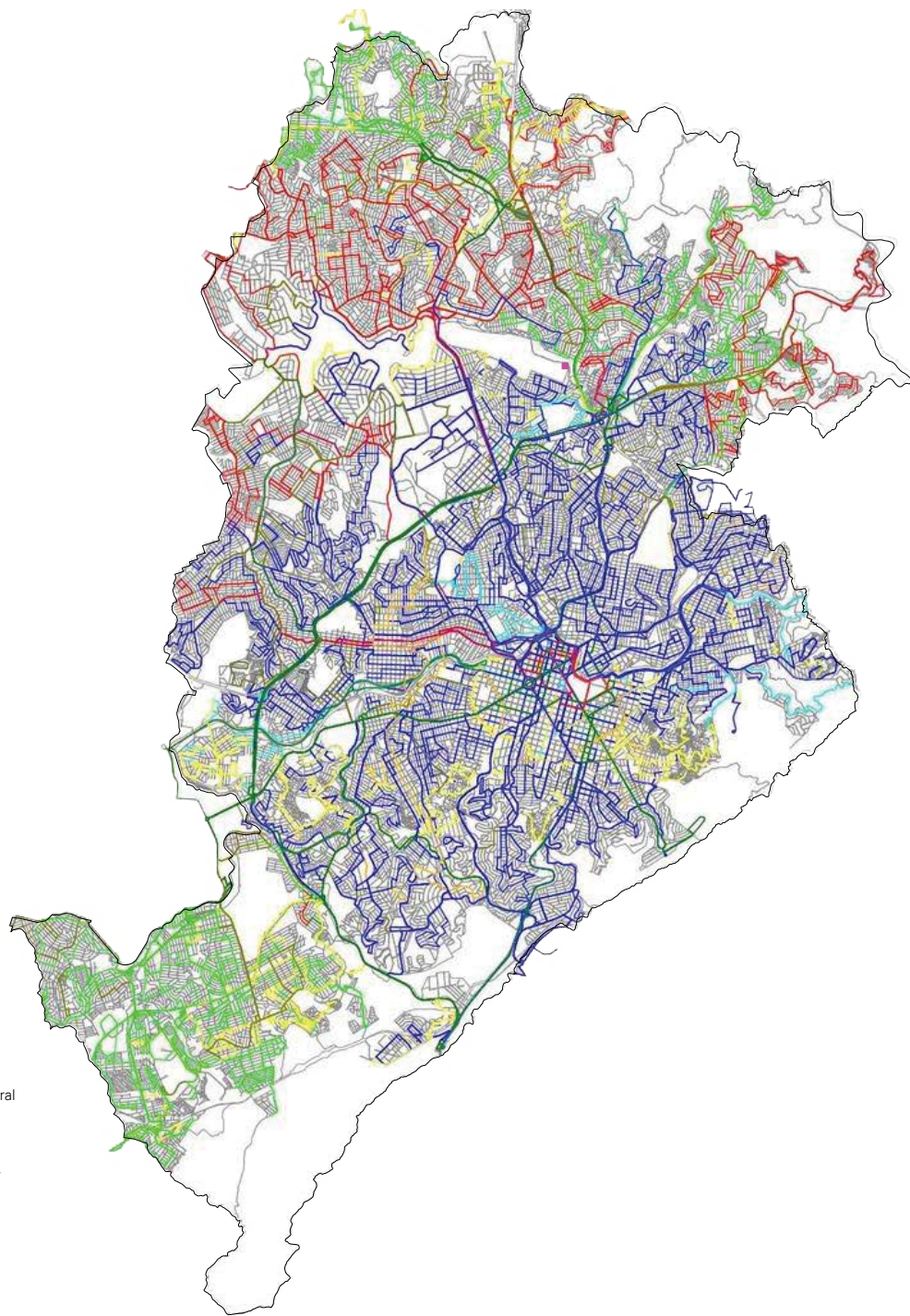
"I'm an coming here every sunday to sell my products. On Saturday i'm at Av. Rio de Janeiro, and on week-days i'm moving around on different streets in the whole centre. It's all handmade artisan products, and i create it straight away on the street, so i don't need to have a license here at the feira hippie."



On and Off

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon Av. Alfonso Pena is reopened and occupied by the cars and the traffic again. Shortly before that, the artisans are rushing to get their things packed and back into the cars.





Linchpin of Movement





Because of the configuration of the radial roadnetwork and the concentration of jobs in the Centro, it unites different flows of traffic on an entrance point which lies at Avenida Contorno. Especially at day and at the rush hours the Centro is the most lively and hectic place in the city. Also the public transportation system is layed out monocentric which leads to big traffic jams constraining the atmospheric quality of the Centro.



Intuition and Colors

The orientation in the complex and dense bus network can be eased by the their coloration. the busses are color-mapped after their typologie of route, and people who live in BH for a while, know by their intuition where to go.

Color-Coded Bus-System

-  Linha Troncais: Neighbourhood to centre and back
-  Linha Circulares: Circuling inside Contorno or an Neighbourhood
-  Linha Diametrais: Neighbourhodd to Neighbourhood, passing the Centre
-  Linha Interbairros: Neighbourhood to Neighbourhood, mostly not passing the Centre



A dense Network

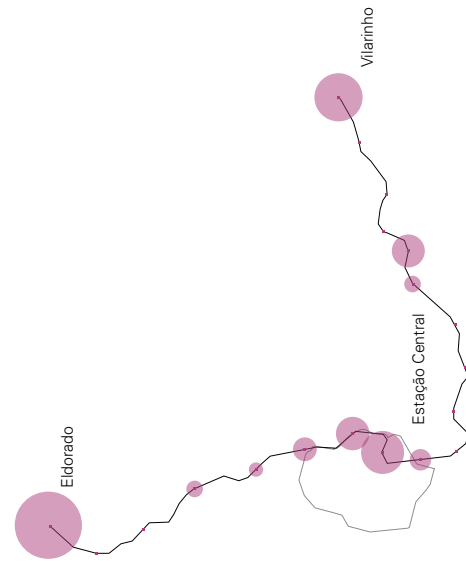
The Busnetwork is very dense, almost 100% of Belo Horizonte are covered by Busstations. The ways of mapping the busplans are very diverse, sometimes not existent.



'Catraca'

The buses are parted into two sections by a turnstile (Catraca), served by a ticket seller. Elderly people travel for free in the front.



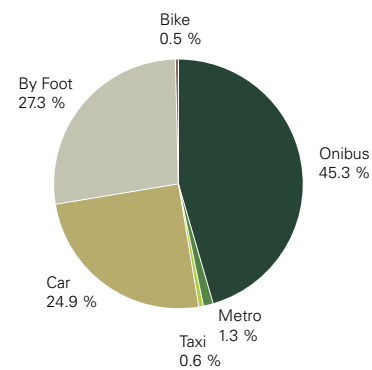


Only for a Few

The Metro of Belo Horizonte consists of only 1 line. It connects the north and west of the City with the Centre. The endstations and the central station are by far the most frequented ones. So the Metro line works mainly as a express connection between the agglomeration and the Centre.

Intersection Bus - Metro

The endstations integrate large bus terminals, where buses from the whole agglomeration stop. The commuters switch here from Bus to Metro to get to the Centre very fast.



Means of Transportation

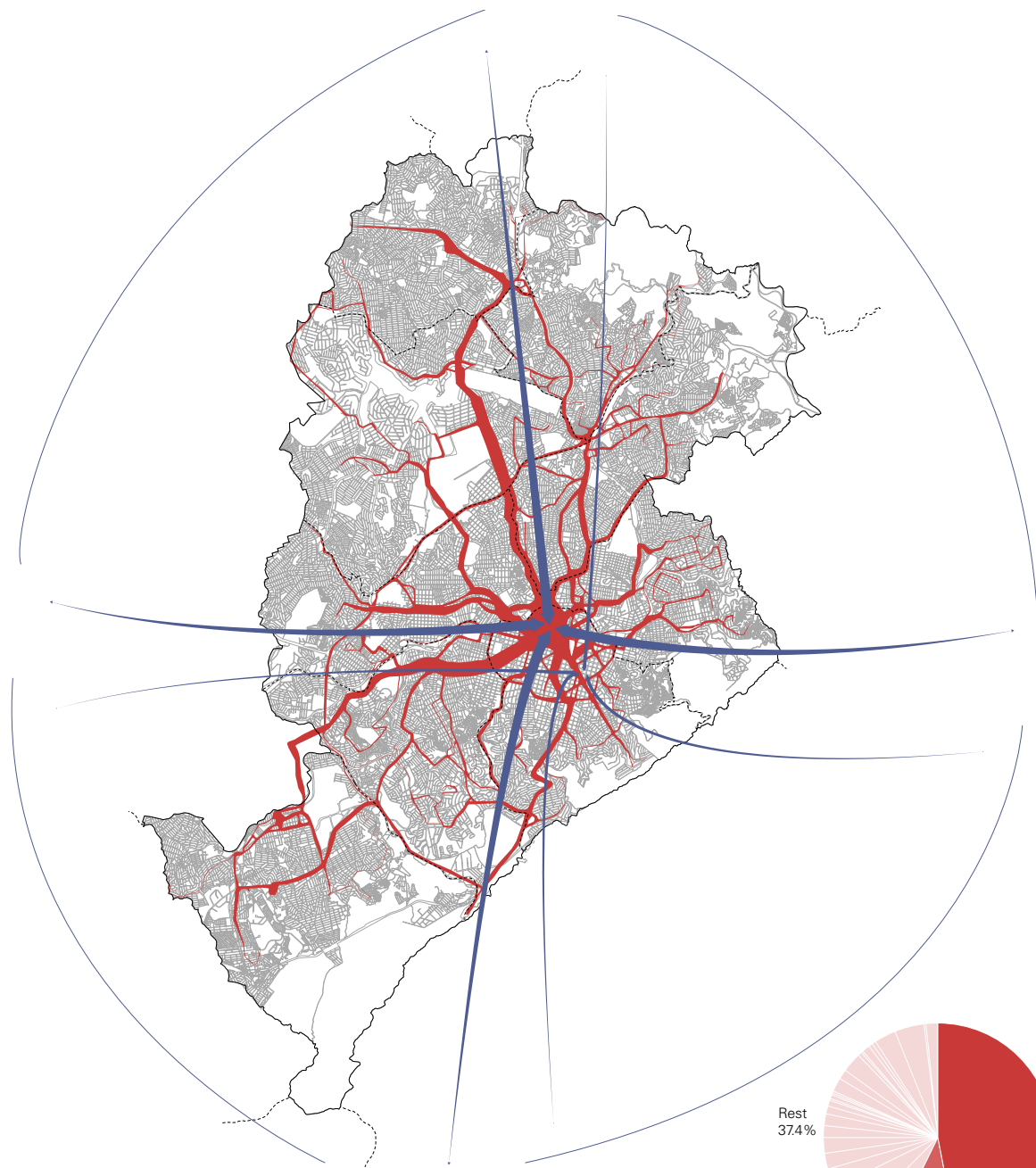
The distribution of the commuters on different transport systems shows the importance that the bus system plays in the general movement in the city. The Metro can be used only by a few because it serves only one line throughout the huge territory that the city covers.

Overground Metro

The Metro goes overground. That is a reason why there never was the capacity to expand it in an already built city. The tracks have been existing from colonial times and were taken over and adapted.

From Nothing to Nowhere: Vilarinho and Eldorado

The citizens label the Metro as going from nothing to nowhere. The places being served by the endstations are small random villages in the agglomeration of Belo Horizonte.



Centro

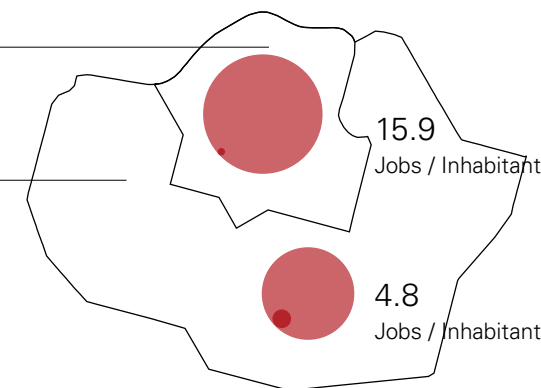
20'000 Inhabitants
320'000 Jobs

South

60'000 Inhabitants
248'000 Jobs

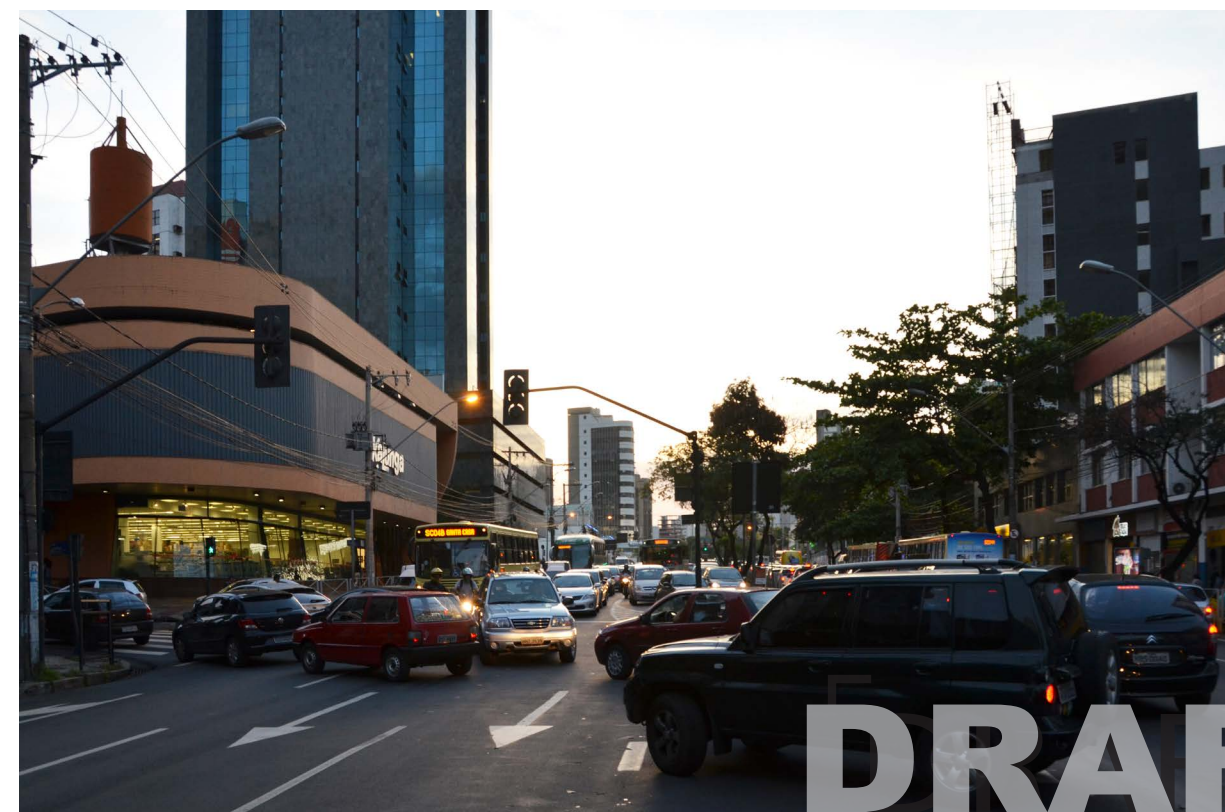
Concentration of Jobs, 2008

■ Inhabitants
■ Amount of Jobs



Remaining only a Passage Way?

The Centro works as a huge hub for commuter flows. Many commuters pass the Centro to go to work outside, because of the radial roadnetwork that leads all the traffic flows through the Centro. This leads to traffic jams mainly at the Av. Contorno but also in the whole centre. The relation between inhabitants and jobs at the Centro is very unbalanced. The population is rather small. So this raises the question, if the old city today only works as a hub for commuters passing through it.

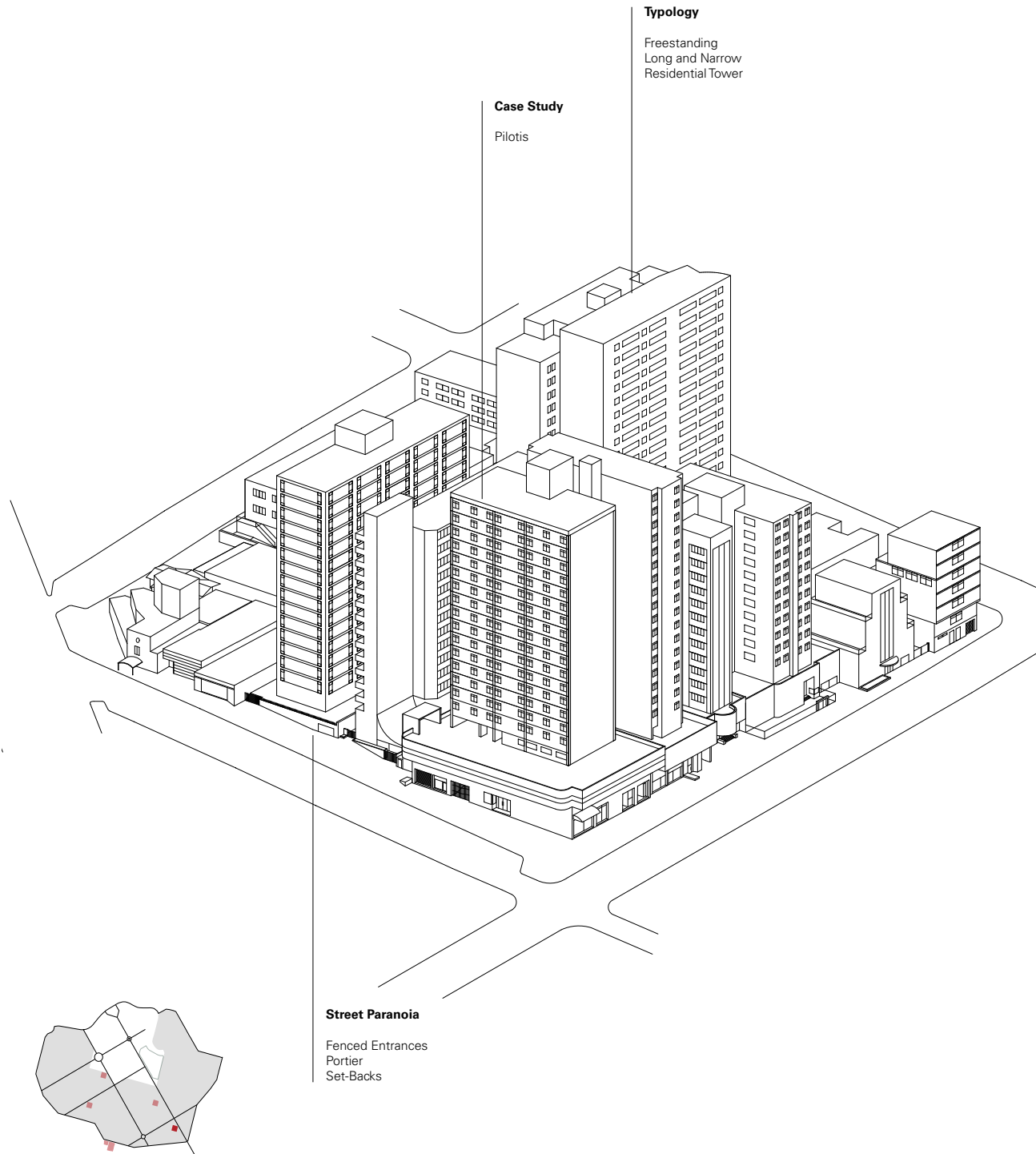


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SOUTH: A NEW LIFE STYLE

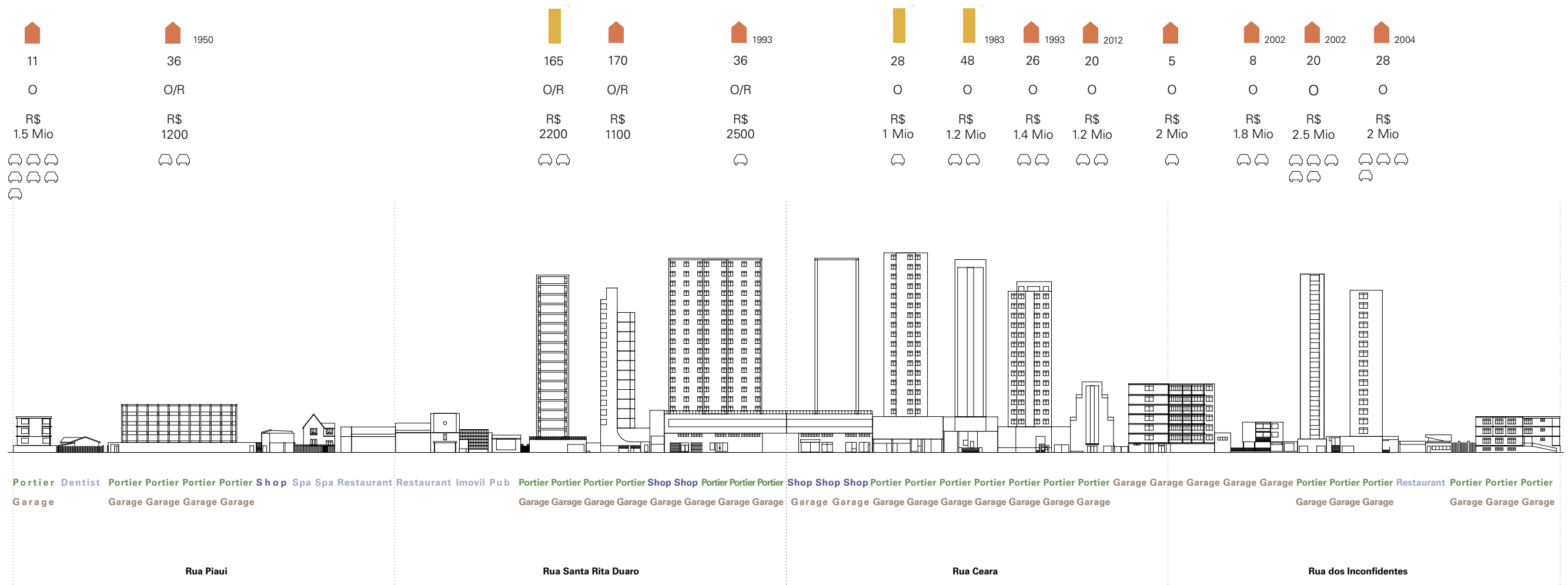
The southern area was always blessed with the best infrastructure of Belo Horizonte. This can be explained due to its relatively young age. The South was left empty for a long time until high-income citizens started to settle there. Today it's a densely occupied area which attracts a lot of service and commerce into its residential environment, becoming more and more independent from downtown.





The Fragmented Quadra

The recent building stock in the South works as single components. The freestanding and partially set back buildings interfere with the typology of the closed block. Introverted and barred ground floors are causing a repellent and rather unactivated street level.



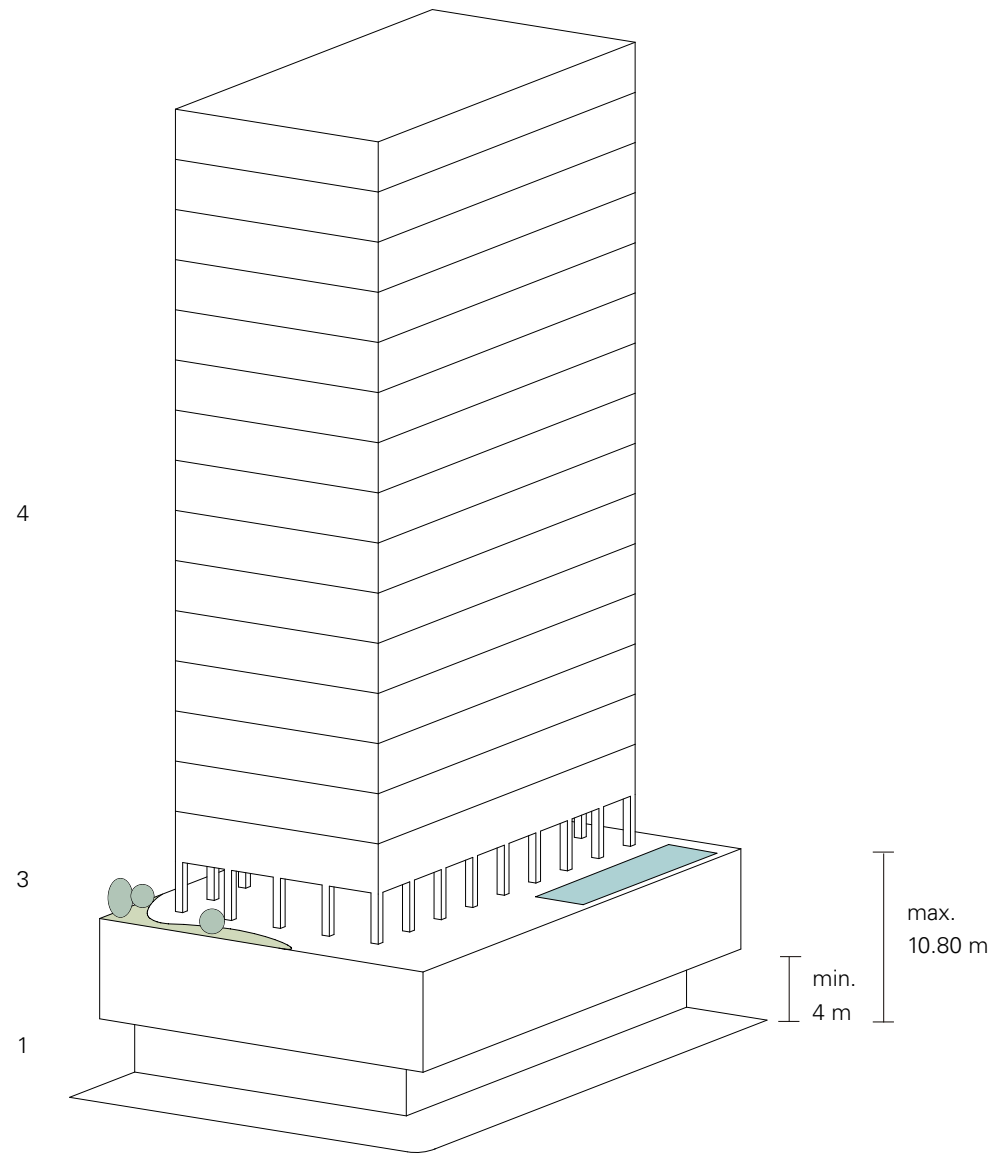
Facts

- Offices
- Residential
- 11 Number of Apartments / Offices
- O/R Own / Rent
- Number of Parking Lots per Flat

Anatomy of a South Block

The South Block integrates new built high-rise apartment buildings and old detached houses. More and more office buildings are forming up into this arrangement.





'Piloti'

Lei 2662, 29 de Novembro de 1976 / 1996 / 2010

The building law of 1976 established the Pilotis because for every building over 4 floors the Pilotis, was obligatory. The Pilotis consists of a floor in which only 40 or 50% of the plot is built and it's function is for recreation and common uses. Besides that, the first and second floors can occupy 100% of the plot, while the ones above that should have a setback and occupy only up to 50%. The maximum height

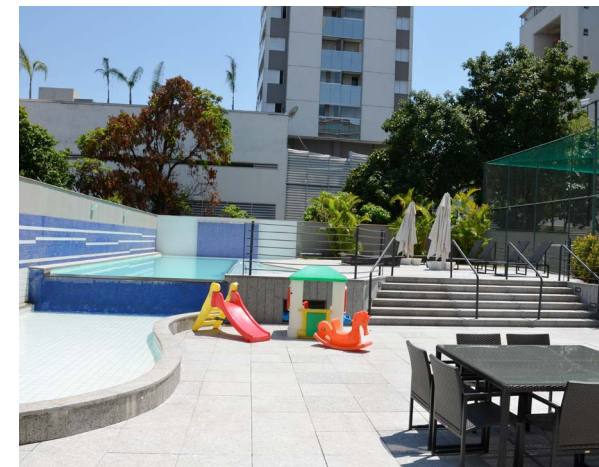
on the alignment of the plot is 10.80 meters in the central area, which means that you could build up to 3 floors without setback. That demands an artificial drainage system though and therefore we find the floor level 20% left free. 1996 the law was changed and the Pilotis no longer compulsory, but after 20 years of practice it was already a culture and remains a programm in residential buildings.



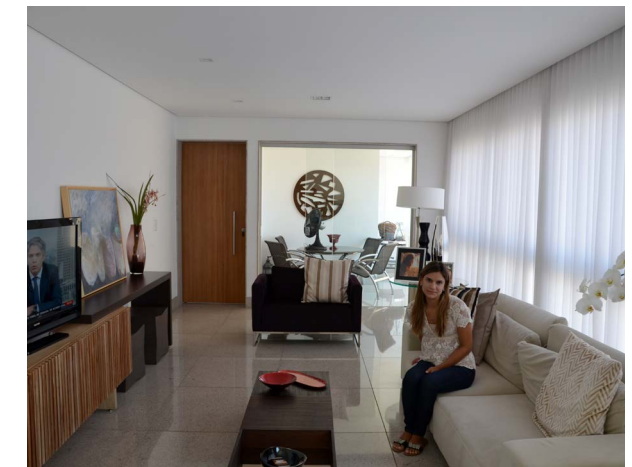
1



2



3



4

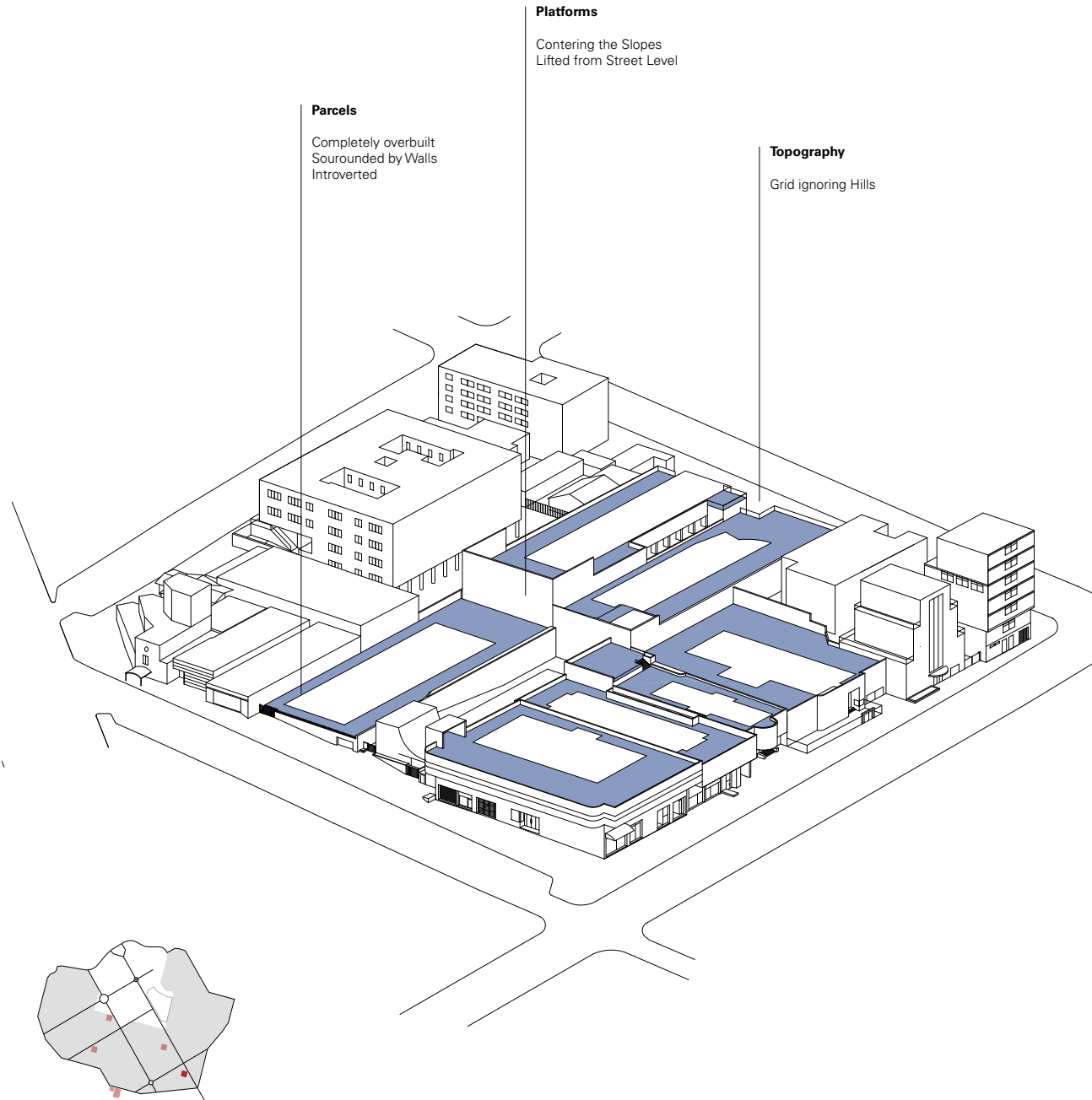
Vertical Condominio

Entering on the streetlevel one have to pass the portier first (1) the garage has room for at least two parking lots per flat (2) vast playground area called Pilotis (3) "the higher the better" the main rule for the apartments (4).



Introverted Leisure

Above streetlevel, the common space of the Pilotis is an all time accessible platform offering all kinds of activities. The variety reaches from Tennis court, soccer field, pool, grill area up to playgrounds for the children. These spaces are quite, clean and safe. But also often unused.



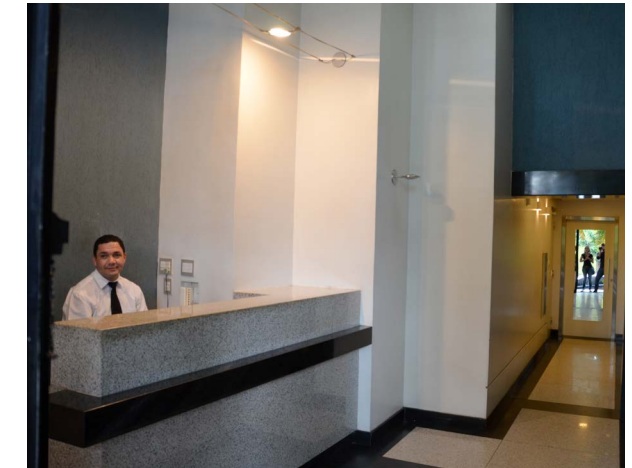
Courtyard: Leisure Landscape on Platforms

Filling up the whole parcels in the first 2-3 levels, the residential buildings clash wall to wall. The courtyard is forming a new topography hiding the parking lots underneath creating an artificial layer of leisure areas.



Elevated Entrances

To create a more privat space for the residence entrances they are often elevated to a higher level. Often the entrances are set back from the streets and garded by the portier which can seem repellent.



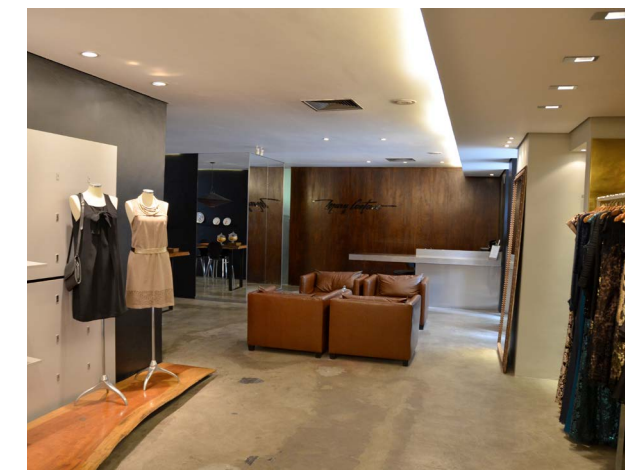
Offices between Residential Buildings

The South is mainly a residential neighbourhood. But more and more offices are situated there. The location in the South is positive for the image of the company, rather than in the Centro.



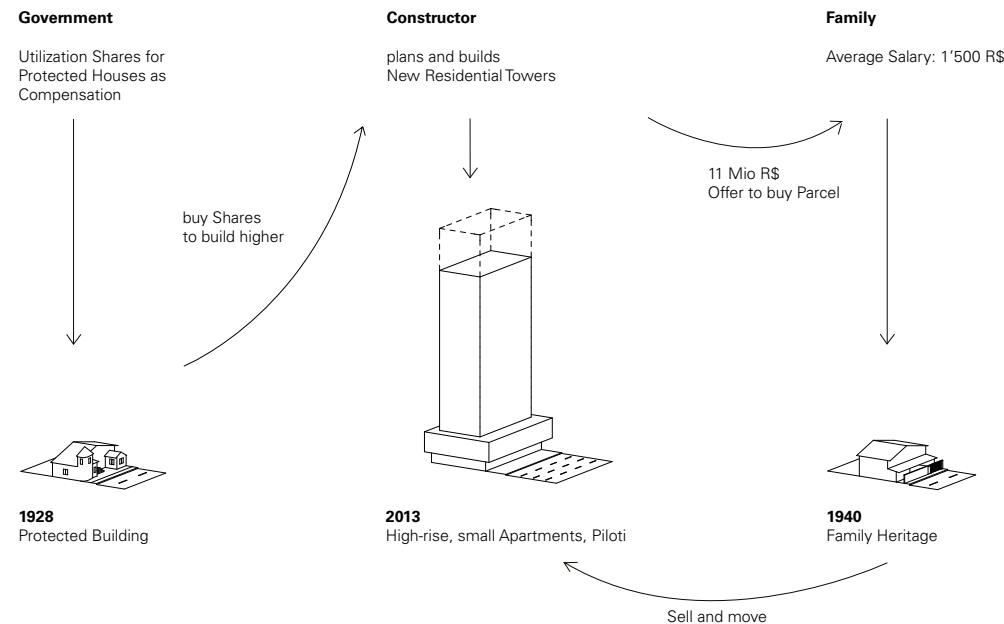
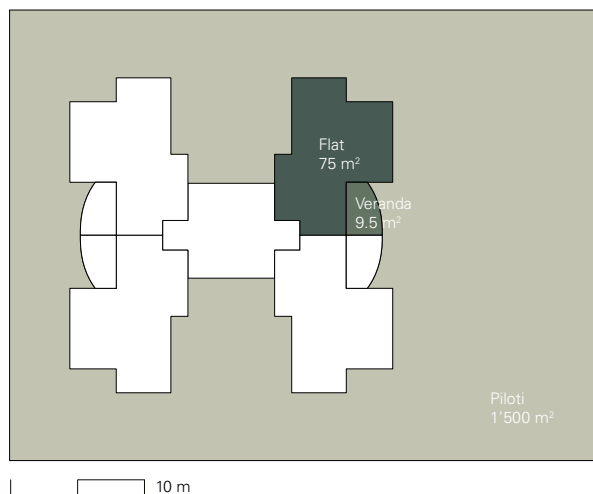
Distancing of Street and Entrance

The buildings in the south are mostly very refusing. The spaces between the street and the entrances are shaped in a variety of distance-making objects. Like a fence with some unused greenspace behind it.



Boutiques

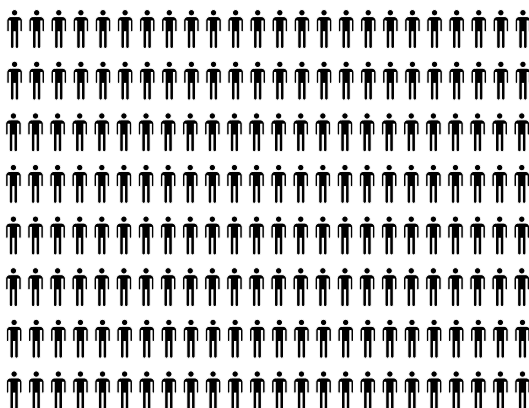
The shops in the south are often seperated in different buildings, mainly in the older ones. The offer is rather for high-income customers. The larger part consists services, like dentist, spa, gym, etc.



People per Flat (3 Bedrooms): 2 - 3



People per Pilotis: 128 total



Compensation

“Honey, the apartment is shrinking, but the veranda, pool and courtyard increases...”
Headline of the veja BH magazin, October 2013 issue.

Setting Priorities

The relation of the Apartment to the Piloti seems to be shifted towards more functions and space in the common area.



Investment Pressure

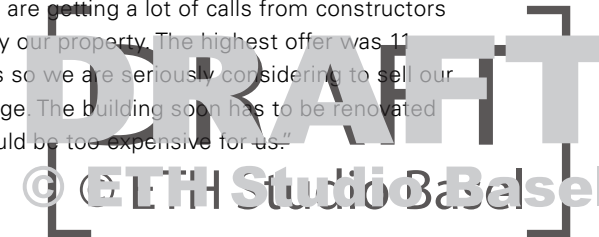
The pressure on old buildings is high as the prices of the southern area are rising. Often old buildings have to make space to high rises, some of them are still left as lost soldiers surrounded by towers.

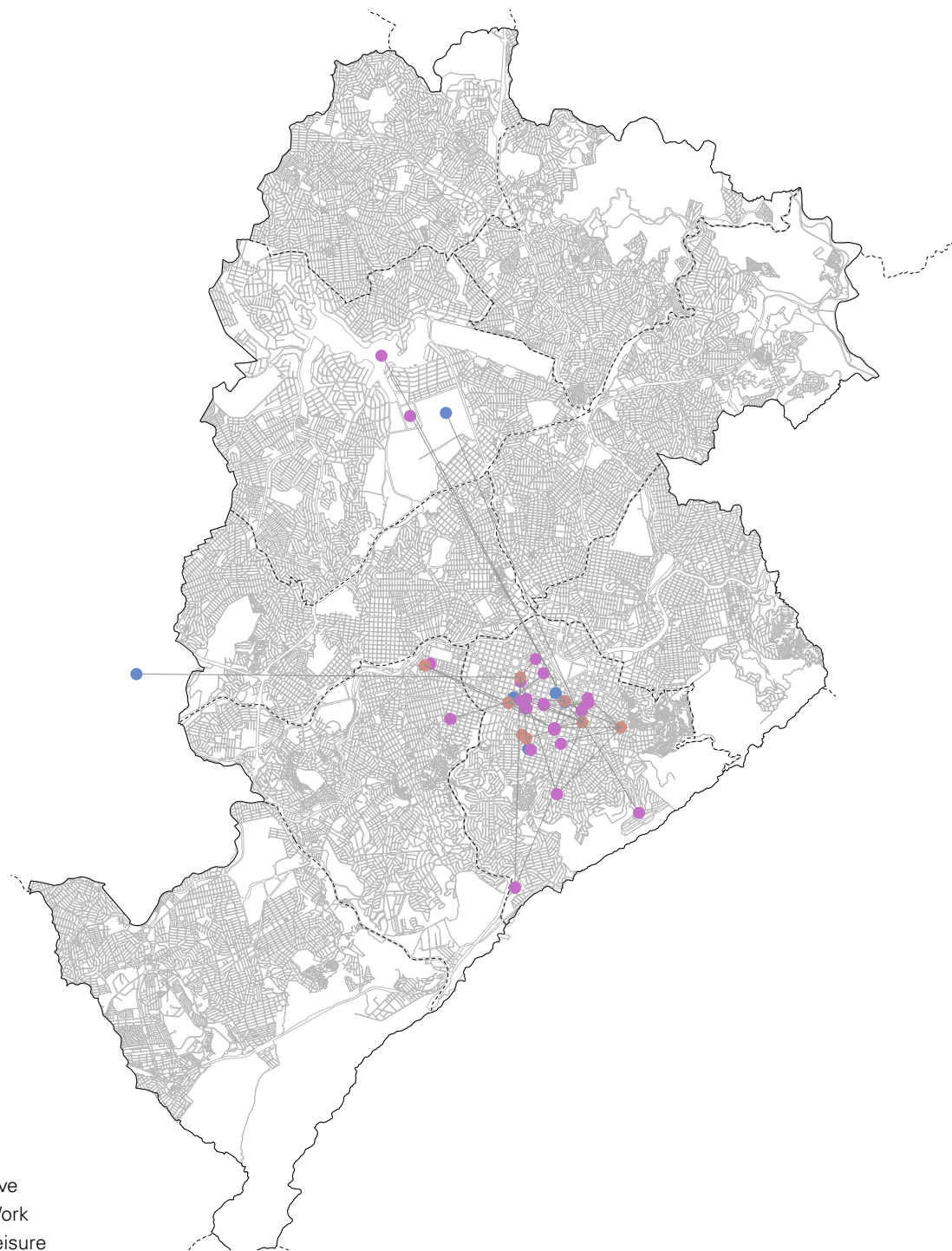


Elena, 61, House Owner, Travel Agent

“I live in Funcionarios, Rua Bernardo Guimares with my two sisters in our parents house, which they built back in 1952. I like to live there because i can walk to work by foot. It’s only two blocks away. And i like the Savassi neighbourhood a lot.

Recently we are getting a lot of calls from constructors willing to buy our property. The highest offer was 11 Million Reais so we are seriously considering to sell our family heritage. The building soon has to be renovated and that would be too expensive for us.”





- Live
- Work
- Leisure

Portraits: 30min Radius

The Citizens of the South have a high quality of life. Preferably they like to have all services and family members close by. The workers mainly commute between the agglomeration and the South.

Residents



Vito



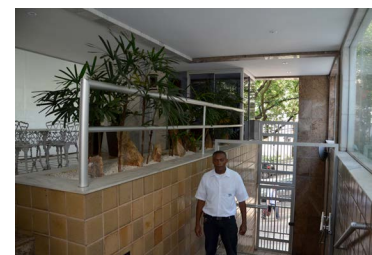
Fred



Ana Isabel



Restaurator



Portier



Laundry

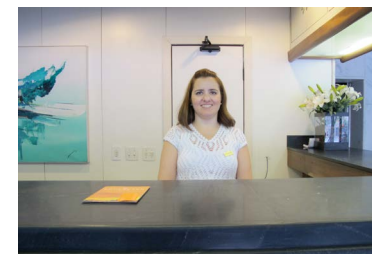
Service



Dog Stylist



Personal Trainer



Hotel Receptionist

Street Commerce



Garagist



Kiosk Owners

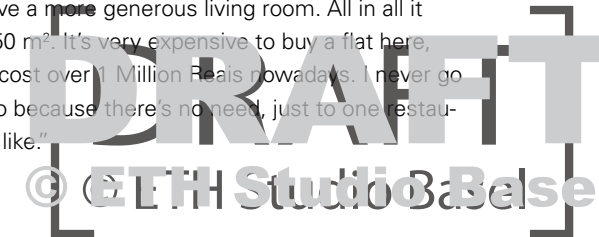


Poet

Fred, 33, Media Designer

"I was born in Lourdes Belo Horizonte and still live in this neighborhood today. It's very comfortable because i can go to work by bike and my family lives just around the corner. Apart from that there are many bars and restaurants around here. Savassi is the new heart to go out. I live here with my 'other Mom'. She was our housekeeper and she

brought me up. My apartment has 3 rooms, i changed it from 4 to have a more generous living room. All in all it measures 150 m². It's very expensive to buy a flat here, mine would cost over 1 Million Reais nowadays. I never go to the Centro because there's no need, just to one restaurant, which i like."





Controlled Environment

At the main square of Savassi, the most lively neighbourhood in the South, four streets were modified into pedestrian public spaces and meant to attract commerce, bars and restaurant. The formal occupation of these streets creates a popular space for the inhabitants and is well known for it's night life.

Shopping Paradise

The artificial climate and the easy accessibility of different stores in a totally controlled environment is a very favored place to spend time. Shopping malls replace the outdoor public spaces, functioning also as meeting points. The Prices are though relatively high.



Large Scale: Leisure Enclave

The Minas Tennis Clube shows the Life Style of the South to a large extent. In the middle of the dense city scape the Minas Tennis Clube is occupying two block and offers a large landscape of diverse leisure activities. It all happens behind a wall embracing the whole two blocks.

1897

The masterplan envisaged a zoological garden covering six blocks. But the plots stayed empty and unused for a long time and were informally used as waste dump.

1935

In the 1930s the governors wife got inspired by an article about the sports club in the USA and suggested this for Belo Horizonte. Several other actors were also starting ideas about a tennis club at that time.

At the same time the planned zoological garden raised hygienic doubts as the surroundings was more and more covered with residential buildings.

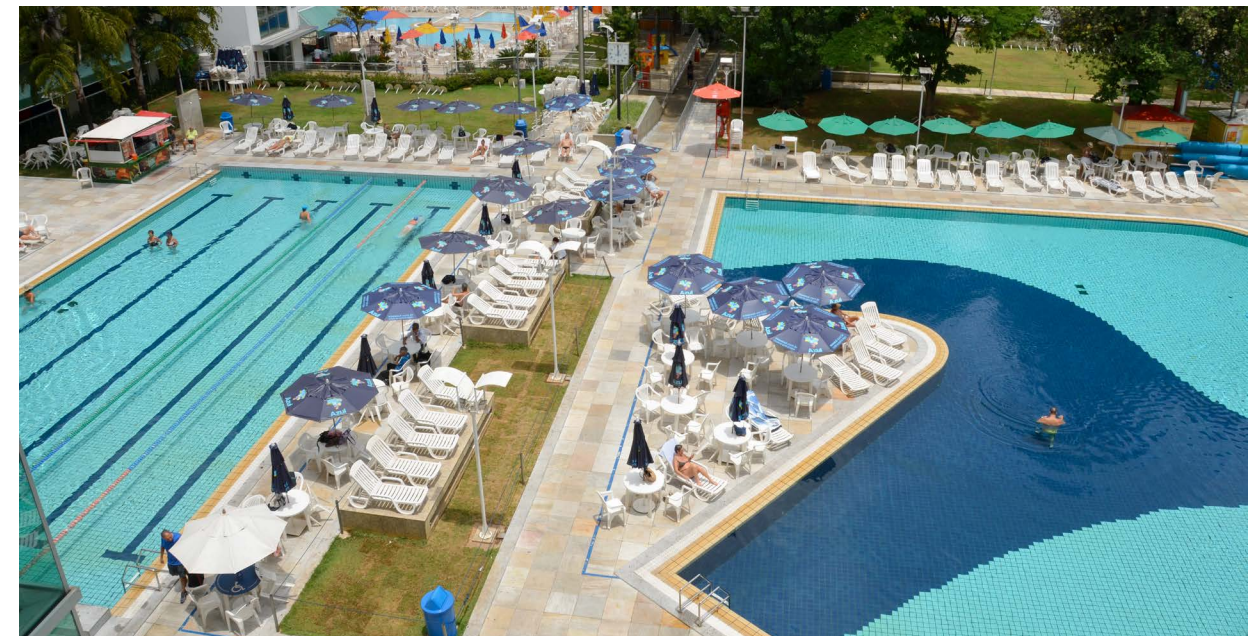
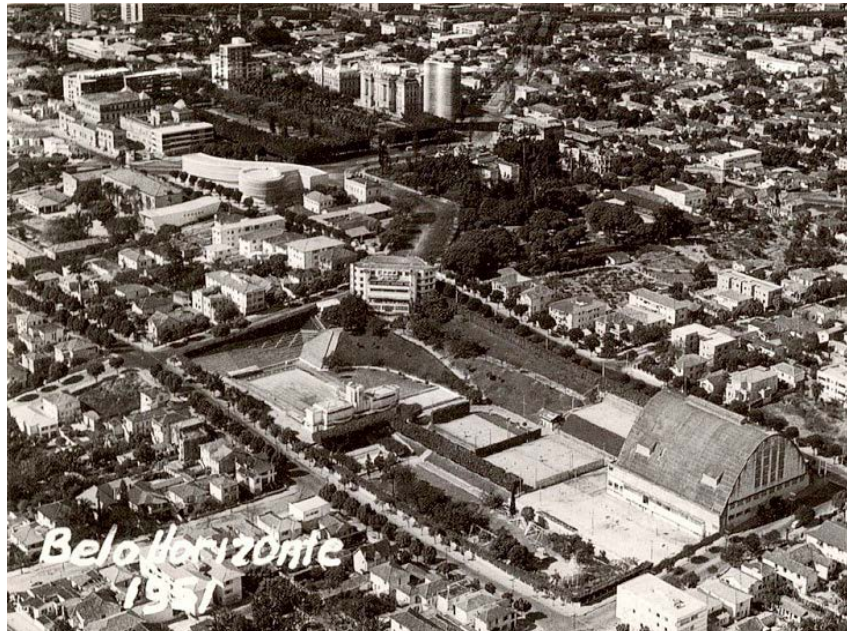
So the governor decided, that a sport and recreation space would be a better necessity for the city and declassified two lots of the former zoological garden to a sports club and developed it together with privat actors.

At the beginning the Club was a public institution providing a recreation space for the citizens of Belo Horizonte.

Over the time it got more and more privatized and equipped with different activities. Memberships were sold for 40'000 R\$.

2013

Today the Minas Tennis Club offers a vast composition of different sport and recreation elements. Memberships are not sold anymore but can be traded. It's value went up to 100'000 R\$. There is still a part opened to the public, but costs 60 R\$ entrance fee per day.



From Public Space to Sport Club

The history of the creation of the Minas Tennis Club is representative for the development of the southern area.

Private Oasis

Except the one entrance the Club divides itself from the city by a wall, embracing it over the whole two blocks. Except the silhouettes of the surrounding high-rises, the visitor leaves the city behind by entering the Club.



Shift of Qualities?

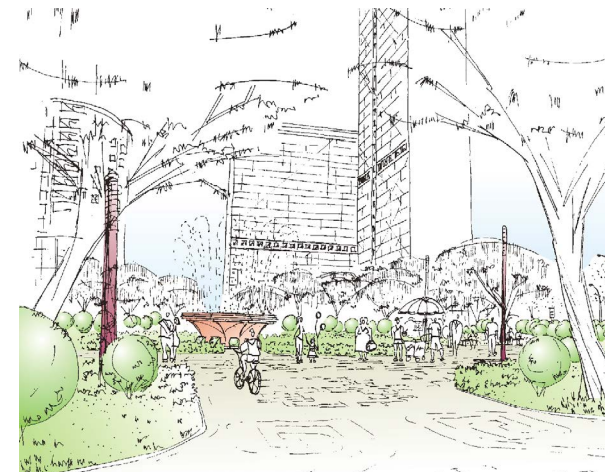
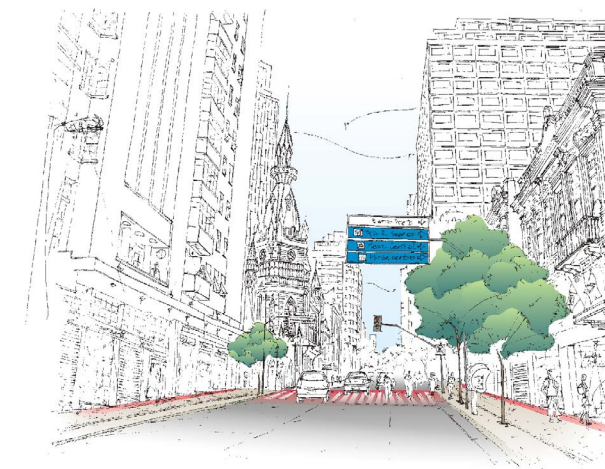
The South became a new hub of centralities over the time by implementing commerce, work and leisure activities, which used to be more dominant in the Centro. With the new built character of the environment and the own life style of the southern inhabitants, the South set itself apart of the historic centre. This shift raises the question of the correlation of the Centro to the South. The very formal and often introverted atmosphere of the southern spaces are standing against the collective use of space in the Centro.

'CENTRO VIVO'

The masterplan plot reaches its limit in case of the huge traffic flows. Agglomeration villages are becoming more independent of the centre.

The Prefeitura of Belo Horizonte started the project 'Centro Vivo' with the intention to strengthen the role of the whole central area. The main idea is to revitalize the Centro by implementing housing, and integrating commerce in the southern area. This should attract investment and liven up the centre.





Official Strategies

The plan ‘Centro Vivo’ started in 2007 by the city council with an analysis of the Centro. The goal was to improve the bad image of the Centro and to unify the whole central area as an attractive vibrant place. Several projects were realized so far. It acts on different scales, from pedestrian improvement to housing projects.

Reabilitação do Hipercentro

The upgrading of the Centro led to better safety conditions. Cleaning up the streets and Parks like Raul Soares. After a decrease of population between 1990 and 2000 it started increasing again.

Requalificação Savassi

The main square of the neighbourhood Savassi in the South was modified into pedestrian boulevards to attract commerce in 2007. It's success can be seen today because Savassi became the new heart to go out, where most bars and restaurants are located.





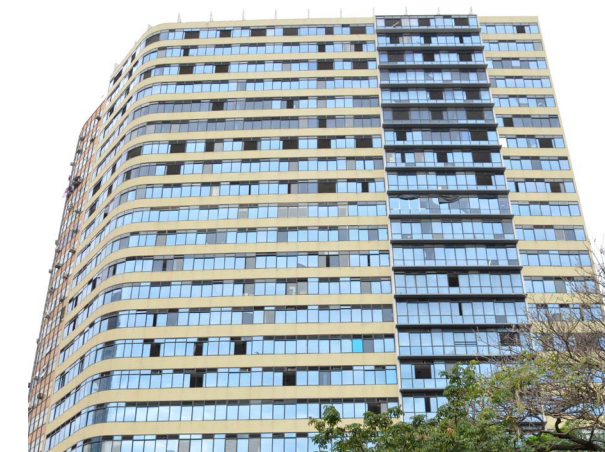
Built Strategies

The former Ciné Brasil, built in art déco style in 1932 at Praça Sete and showed it's last session at 1999. After that it was left empty and plans of destroying the building were made. Finally the Ciné Brasil was restored and reopened in 2013 as a museum. So far it attracted a lot of visitors.



Oiapoque - Removal of Street Vendors

As part of the Centro Vivo Plans the government removed the street vendors from the Centro, and gave them a space in the new arranged 'Oiapoque'. This should bring more order and safety into the Centro.



Hotel Excelsior - Renewal for Residential Uses

The Hotel Excelsior is getting renewed for residential uses. The inhabitants shall be students, elderly people, but also business man. A common leisure space will be implemented in the building to match with the new life style tendencies. A lot of projects like this - implementing residential use at the Centro - were started.



Luxus Hotel Tulpi - New Built

New-built Hotel Tulpi at the northern most abandoned edge of the Centro.



BRT / Linha Verde

The new BRT Line will stop at the Centro. Improving the traffic situation even though it's only a drop on a hot stone.





Renewal or Saving the Memory?

There is the strong tendency to destroy old, low-rise buildings and build new ones, which bring all the comfort and rentability needed. These old buildings are abandoned deliberately to bypass the laws of building protection. Some protected buildings are renewed by the state, but because of lack of state-money, they are shaped by private enterprises. There is an opposing tendency of a small group of people, who occupy these old buildings - instead of just the streets - and give them a meaning again. They are convinced that the cultural heritage of the city should not be forgotten and should be used as a space to implement cultural activities, brought up by the citizens themselves. They started this movement by occupying a building built in the 1920ies, and are convinced that many more projects like this will follow.

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Filipe, Street Vendor, Lourdes
Fatima, Bus Traveler
Eliza, Bar Tender, Mercado Central
Naima, Club Member, Minas Tennis Clube

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Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais