

# **UBICAR PROJECT, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN FACULTY**

**A. Solano de Fransisco**

**Pontificia Universidad Javeriana**

## **1 MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY JAVERIANA**

In the immediate future, the Javeriana University will stimulate as a priority the investigation and the formation focused on the curricula; it will strengthen the university condition of interdisciplinary; and it will invigorate its presence in the country, contributing specially to the solution of the following problematic situations:

- The ethical crisis and the instrumentalization of the human being.
- The little estimate of the nationality values and the lack of conscience on the cultural identity.
- The intolerance and the ignorance of the plurality and the diversity.
- The social discrimination and the concentration of the Economic and Political power.
- The inadequacy and inefficiency of the main institutions.
- The deficiency and the slowness in the scientific and technological development.
- The irrationality in the managing of the environment and the natural resources

## **2 COLOMBIA**

Colombia is located in the northwestern corner of South America, has an extension of 1.141.748 square kilometres and is the fourth biggest country in South America, after Brazil, Argentina and Peru. It has borders in the northern part on the Caribbean Sea, in the eastern part with Venezuela and Brazil, In the southern part with Peru and Ecuador, in the western part on the Pacific Ocean, and to the Northwest with Panama. (see Appendix Note 1)

It has 2.900 kilometres of coast, of which 1.600 border to the Caribbean Sea and 1.300 to the Pacific Ocean. In addition the Colombian continental territory has several islands, among which are San Andrés and Providencia Archipelago located in the Caribbean Sea and Gorgona, Gorgonilla and Malpelo in the Pacific Ocean. The mountainous chain of the Andes entering into Colombian territory is divided in three mountain chains, marking the diverse natural regions: Atlantic, Pacific, Orinoquía, Amazonía and the Andean Region, where one finds the city of Bogota. It is in the Andean zone where there centers the majority of urban population. The rest of the country is constituted by low lands: in the northern part the plains of the Caribbean to the west the coastal and rural band of the Pacific Ocean and to the east the plains of the Orinoquía and the tropical jungles of the Amazonia. (See Appendix note 2)

Its political and administrative division is by departments, with a main capital, and several municipalities. (See Appendix note 3)

Though most of the country is situated in the Torrid Zone, there is variety of climates in agreement with the altitude. In the high lands the moderate rains are frequent, but there are two seasons of drought: from December to March and from July to September.

With regard to the transportation in general, there exist 74 airports, of which five are international: Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla and Cartagena. The mountainous system impedes the transport by road, in spite of which an important road network exists. The main cities are connected by good routes; in regions more isolated from the main routes there can be sections in deficient conditions, especially in periods of rain. For terrestrial tours they can be chosen and organized by the travel agencies, public service transportation or car rental agencies.

In the high lands there is cultivated mainly the coffee bean (Colombia is the second largest world producer). From the rich subsoil there is extracted 95 % of the world production of emeralds. With the rich deposits discovered in the Guajira Peninsula, Colombia possesses the major coal-bearing reserves of Latin America.

Though Colombia is situated in the equatorial zone; the mountainous system of The Andes awards to the country a topographic variety. This includes from humid jungles and tropical plains, up to high plateaus and perpetual snows. Therefore, the climatic variations do not obey stations but the altitude, and the temperature descends approximately 6 deg. C for every 1.000 meters ascended; to sea level, where the temperature approaches 30 deg. C.

The topographic and climatic variety also promotes an enormous diversity of agricultural products and natural diverse resources. Colombia is the first world producer of excellent quality emeralds and also it occupies an important place in the production of platinum, gold and silver.

Among the many industries of Colombia textiles and confections, metallurgical, chemical, petrochemical, plastic, leather, graphical arts, food and drinks are the most prevalent

**POPULATION:** Colombia has approximately 30 million inhabitants, of which nearly 70 % reside in the cities and the rest in rural sectors. The zone most densely populated is the Andean one, since in this area 75 % of the national population is concentrated. (See appendix note 4)

It is followed by the Caribbean coast with 21 %, whereas in the Pacific Ocean and in the vast regions of the Orinoquía and the Amazonia only inhabits 4 % of the Colombians.

The Colombian population is for the most part half-caste, a mixture of Spanish and their descendants, aborigines who were existing in the region from before the Conquest, and African Americans originally arriving as slaves.

This racial diversity helps to give Colombia an extraordinarily rich culture full of folklore, as well as diversity of cuisine.

**POLITICAL SYSTEM:** The system of government answers to a representative democracy, with a president that is chosen by popular vote every four years

**CURRENCY:** the currency presently used is the Colombian Peso, The denominations for the coins are 50,100,200,500,1.000. and for bills 1.000, 2.000, 5.000, 10.000, 20.000 and 50.000

### **3. THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPLACEMENT FORCED BY THE VIOLENCE IN COLOMBIA**

(See appendix note 5) To understand the displacement depending on the interest for the territory. Persons are considered to be displaced when they are forced to migrate inside the national territory leaving his/her locality of residence or economic habitual activities, because his/her life, physical integrity, safety or freedom have been damaged or directly threatened. People become displaced in any of the following situations: armed conflict, disturbances and interior tensions, widespread violence, massive violations of the human rights, infractions to the Humanitarian International Law or other circumstances that could alter drastically the public order<sup>1</sup>.

#### **forced Displacement by the violence in Colombia**

#### **SOURCE: Trends of displacement in Colombia. CODHES. 2002**

The displacement forced by the violence in Colombia is tied to the territorial control of some zones of the country and the urgency of possession of natural resources on the part of national or international organizations. In the last decade, different sources of information have realized calculations of persons in situation of displacement that they go from one million and a half up to three million persons. According to the CODHES, the country had experienced the exodus of two million nine hundred thousand Colombians since 1985. Colombia is indicated as the third country in the world in a situation of humanitarian crisis.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Ley 387 del 18 de Julio de 1997. Medidas para la prevención del desplazamiento forzado; la atención, protección, consolidación y estabilización socio-económica de los desplazados internos por la violencia en la República de Colombia. DesarrolloLaw 387 of July 18, 1997. Measures it(he,she) stops the prevention of the forced displacement; the attention, protection, consolidation and socio-economic stabilization of the displaced boarders for the violancia in the Republic of Colombia.*

The report from the United Nations High Commission for Human rights, refers to the Social Solidarity Network that attributes to the paramilitary 53,6 % of the cases of displacement for the violence in 2002, whereas to the guerrilla warfare there is assigned to them a responsibility of 19 % of the cases<sup>2</sup>.

The majority of the exiled persons are peasants that are forced to leave their homes and lives in order to seek safe shelter at the cities marginal perimeters, this demands radical changes in their social and cultural dynamics. These transformations are impeded because the majority of times they are stigmatized and discriminated by the receptor communities; which observe them in a polarized way, or consider them as victims and therefore they are treated mercifully or underestimated in their capacities, or consider them to be a threat and they are perceived as potential delinquents. The majority of homes are under the responsibility of women and more than the half of the displaced population are 19-year-old and younger men.

Other difficulties which the displaced ones face, is the precarious attention from the State, the assaults on individuals that performed community actions in an effort to assist the displaced, the difficulty for their mobilization, the misinformation or decision not to inform certain entities about their situation, the deterioration of their standard of living that accelerates the impoverishment processes, inequality and exclusion.

According to the Social Solidarity Network the departments(states) that expelled more families in the year 2001 were in order Antioquia, Bolivar, Magdalena, Sucre, Cesar, Meta, Caquetá, Tolima, Valle del Cauca y and the departments(states) witch received more displaced were Antioquia, Bolivar, Sucre, Santander, Bogota and Valle del Cauca, they are 28 departments(states) which expelled people and 31 recipient departments (states). Also of important is the problem of interurban displacement.

### **Answers of Organizations of the State and Not governmental Organizations**

Among the entities that attend to the problematic of displacement for the violence there are the State organizations, NGO's and ecclesiastic authorities. Included in the State organizations there are: The Social Solidarity Network, The Colombian Institute of well being in the Family, The SENA, The People defending department, The Direction for the Woman Equity, The Colombian Institute for the Agrarian Reform, The General System of National Health Service, The Department and

---

<sup>2</sup> Naciones Unidas (2003) *Informe del Alto Comisionado de la Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Colombia*. Comisión de Derechos Humanos. 58 período de Sesiones. Dirección Electrónica: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

United Nations (2003) Inform(Report,Find out) of the High place Commissioned of the Naciones Unid it(he,she) stops the Human rights on the situation of the human rights in Colombia. Commission of Human rights. 58 period of Meetings. Electronic direction: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

Agriculture and Rural Development, Territorial entities, among others. Also there are many International and Non governmental Organizations that direct efforts and resources to the displaced Colombians such as: The Red Cross, The United Nations, Codhes, Cinep, Community Organizations, Episcopal conference and Pastoral Social. Many are the efforts and institutional resources directed to these citizens, nevertheless are insufficient opposite to the dimension of the problem.

For its part, the Colombian government has created an extensive normative scheme. The law 387 of 1997, is considered to be one of the most important in this topic, this law stipulates:

- The necessary conditions which the persons have to meet in order to be considered as a displaced of the internal conflict,
- The principles that govern the law,
- The rights that must be recognized
- The disposition of the institutions for its work.

In spite of the fact that the State relies today on a great legislation and jurisprudence, the measures are not sufficient, since they do not contribute in the prevention of the displacement, they answer to an assistencialist model, the coverage of attention is insufficient, does not affect structural reasons of the displacement, is not framed inside a humanitarian policy, neither the reestablishment nor lasting solutions are achieved, do not present guarantees for the return, rely on scanty resources and do not point at lasting answers, nor sustainable .all the previous, have contributed in the public rules deslegitimation and of the design policies for this matter. The forced displacement by the Violence in Colombia, is an everyone matter, this is why it requires responsible, creative and sustainable answers, this also an important reason for the involvement of the academy.

#### **4- “UBICAR” PROJECT PRESENTATION**

The “Ubicar” project is a work team of students and teachers who labor at the search for real solutions to the displacement problem, in conformity with the Mission of the Javeriana University. The “Ubicar” project initiated its operation in January, 2002 with students of Architecture and industrial Design careers and a group of teachers of different disciplines of the University, led by the Faculty of Architecture and Design. Its main purpose is the contribution of physical solutions (spatial - objects) from an interdisciplinary vision, from the incipient knowledge and solutions developed in this sense, and the contributions of the investigation developed by other disciplines. In additional support there are some existing documents, laws and governmental directives pertaining to this matter, and the ones developed by some NGO and international entities.

**For its development , the “Ubicar” Project establishes 4 work instances, which interact and feed back permanently, each one from its own dynamics:**

**- The Investigation Proposition workshop**

It has as its function to know the problem of the displaced and to propose solutions. It is constructed to receive students from different careers of the Javeriana University and other universities. Starting on the "Vertical Workshop" concept, into which are admitted students of different levels, who are tasked with a responsibility according to the semester they are coursing. The workshop relies on a Project director for every participating discipline - *architecture and industrial design* - and a teacher for each of the components: Anthropology, sociology, aesthetics, urbanism, ergonomics, technology, psychology, management.

**- The practices**

Their function is to develop into reality the offers made by the Investigation Proposition Workshop, along the intern semester of the different careers. It is constructed to receive students of different careers of the Javeriana University and other universities. It counts with one or more intern tutors, for every participant discipline.

**- The multidisciplinary investigation group**

Its intention is the formal investigation focused on acquiring knowledge on the displacement forced by the violence, from a spatial and objectual perspective. Along with the basic disciplines of the Investigation proposition workshop it invites the participation of new disciplines.

**- The consultancy**

It takes the professional support as an aim to the “ubicar” Project and to the communities with which it works. It develops its labor from the Consultancies Office of the Architecture and Design Faculty.

**5-SOME POINTS OF ITEM(GAME) FROM THE ARCHITECTURE AND THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN:**

The “Ubicar” project considers as a fundamental starting point, the fact that the displacement forced by the violence in Colombia is a true story that is going to have a significant influence in the major cities development in addition, the ramifications of this problem will be present long into the future. This consideration receives more importance due to the fact that “Ubicar” has concluded that the highest percentage of the displaced population located nowadays in the main cities, doesn’t have interest nor intention of going back to rural places. The resulting situation is the consequence of the fear, and also of the attractions of the city.

“Ubicar” has its starting point on the postulate that the displacement problem is overdiagnosed and the effort must explore and rapidly discover solutions of physical order (spatial - objetual) considering " the displaced one cannot shelter under a law, needs a house; cannot sleep on a decree, needs a bed; cannot feed of institutional directives, needs to eat. and not over an investigation but over a table and in addition he does not beg, he has knowledge and experiences to teach". In this way, eventhough “Ubicar” recognizes the magnitude of the problem, it believes that it is an immense opportunity to improve our country. “Ubicar” in addition knows that the displacement forced by the violence has coexistent with man’s history of conflict.

On the other hand “Ubicar” thinks that the solution to the problem is everyone’s responsibility, professionals, citizens, students etc. Inside this criterion, the university, its mission and its educational project has the duty and the responsibility of doing all the necessary efforts in order to contribute to the solution of this problem and particularly regarding to its obligation to educate persons with service conscience, especially in the national priority topics. In this sense given the physical and spatial condition of the problem, “Ubicar” works from the perspective of the architecture and the industrial design but under an interdisciplinary vision. “Ubicar” thinks that the contribution that it can do from the university is very important provided that its approach is about service and training and is totally foreign of economic or political interests.

## **6-THE WORK OF THE INVESTIGATION PROPOSITION WORKSHOP**

### **WORK METHODOLOGY OF THE INVESTIGATION PROPOSITION WORKSHOP. (See appendix note 6 methodological matrix)**

The work Methodology tends to the training of an investigative spirit in the students, for moving in an interdisciplinary environment of permanent knowledge construction and for the systematized record of the same one. For this, the following actions are realized:

- a) investigative phase that contain the investigation definition, information, analysis and conclusions
- b) Project Phase that contains: propositions and projects.

These actions in addition are done by the Architecture and the industrial design and from each of the multidisciplinary components that take part, like they are: anthropology, sociology, ergonomics, technology, urbanism, aesthetics and psychology

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

We try to construct a psycho-spatial and psycho-objectual interpretation of the statements of life, which influences the spatial and objectual designs. It advances in the analysis of the changes in the relations of power, which imply new ways of conceiving the world, the city and the urban spatiality in itself.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

From the correct decisions that take in the matter and in coexistence with other factors like cultural and the social – just to mention two - they depend on the feasibility, efficiency and reliability of the solutions; as well as its suitability and commitment with the environment, with a region and with a particular community.

## **SOCIOLOGY**

Projects that allow the integration of displaced to their new life: other spaces, different values, the challenges of the cities, the training steps needed to survive in a competitive way and the impact of an indifferent society that does not even recognize the phenomenon like it is our last national tragedy.

## **ERGONOMICS**

In some parts they called Quality of life; in others is nicknamed "survival". Independently of how it is called and of how is defined the term housing, it s clear, that if it is stable, own property and territorialized, or if it is temporarily and without property; in it the human being lives and acts, develops his/her own existential movie, every minute of his/her short existence. Living is to act.

## **URBANISM**

The displacement is considered to be an opportunity to consolidate the context, to built a country.

The Colombian city has not stopped being constructed, bets on a constant process of consolidation that allows it to have a cultural diversity expressed in an aesthetics result from a conglomerate of shared experiences.



## **MANAGEMENT**

It is necessary to construct from a very simple question: what makes a projects that is developed specifically for displaced population not for the rest of the population? The "discrimination" ghost will be always present. In order to this be properly managed government intervention must not be allowed The paternalism is the least right option. The promotion of the autonomy and auto management in the processes that are carried out will be decisive.

## **AESTHETICS**

Colombia is characterized, just like most of the Latin-American countries, by the territorial, ethnic and cultural multiplicity. In consequence, the codes that base their language, their perception forms, their changes, the fundamental representations, their techniques, their empirical modalities, shape a set of elements that, for its singular and specific character, they must be submitted to an analytical work in relation with the problematic that provokes the forced displacement.

## **INDUSTRIAL DESIGN**

The developed projects must have the intention of attending to the displaced persons, who are not antisocial, or physical or mental handicapped and that as members of the society must receive an equal response like everybody else.

## **ARCHITECTURE**

There abound laws and social and economic studies that show this phenomenon is over diagnosed, but the physical solution feels absent, the interest shelters in the quantitative thing and hides in politics.

Only in the tangible, in the physical, is where real solutions can exist. It is there when architecture enters as the fundamental discipline.

## **6-2 SOME PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY THE WORKSHOP.**

### **ATTACHED PHOTOS**

Inside the developed projects they can be outlined:

**Silvania** - Project of housings with communal productive zones,for families from choco

**Camel:** Project of productive individual housings that contemplate shops or workshops, located in the locality of "Ciudad Bolivar" at Bogota.

**Integral station of Emergency** - Which gives basic housing and service solution in the immediate moment of the displacement, with transportable and reusable modules.

**Integral self-sufficient farm**, which foments the agricultural potentials proper of the population displaced from an autosustainability concept .

**Housing with cans.** Project that re-uses as basic material of construction the tin cans that had been rejected. Also it is used to solve the kitchens, the baths and the system of cultivating on covered wing/porch.

**Agrovivienda** project that solves the housing and the production together, using materials and familiar images for the displaced ones, with an auto construction system.

**Habitagua**, which solves the topic of the water supply across water compilation rains stored in individual containers for each house. It solves in addition the problem of the solid tailing and raises the elimination of the sewer system which is a very significant economic saving. It works with a detachable unit that occupies a minimal space.

**Quarries.** Provides a work possibility for the displaced in the reforestation of the ancient zones of quarries in the periphery of the city. Providing with a temporary housing for three months of urban reintegration, which includes the furniture as integral part of the modular housing system.

**Productive park in Neiva** proposes a complex for training, production and sale of handcrafted products in an environment that relates with the recreation of the visitors and the care and education of the children.

**Challenge.** Finds a new opportunity of design, in the reutilization of "shipping containers" for the training, production and children's care, in an environment of integration to the urban way.

**Walking Project** Is for the production of elements for the daily life with end purposes of export. The basic material used is Mache paper, a product of the recycling of newspaper. it proposes a project itotally integrated to the nature search of an environmental familiarity for the displaced ones, which leads to an adjustment to the urban way. In addition it possesses a child-care facility for the children of the community, achieving a permanent contact with their parents.

### **6-3 PROJECTION EVENTS. (COOKING IN THE PARKS)**

#### **ATTACHED PHOTOS**

Inside the intentions of the "Ubicar" Project to make tangible realities the projects that proposition investigation Workshop develops with the help of the Practices instance with the students. In this sense cooking in the parks. Event that proposes to promote the culinary knowledges of the displaced ones and to do of them a contribution to the city. The displaced ones have the opportunity to give cooking

lessons without leaving their children and to sell them every Sunday in designed modules to establish themselves in public spaces. This event has an experimental initial part in which students and displaced people took part, the formative intention was to educate the students as to tangible reality.

#### **6-4 EVENTS OF TRAINING - (ATTACHED PHOTOS VILLETA WORKSHOP)**

The “ubicar” Investigation Proposition Workshop, realizes systematically activities where the students understand the problematic from a direct experience. among them the already mentioned cooking to the Parks and the displacement workshops, where the students get involved in a reenactment, in which they must solve the immediate problems of housing after displacement, involving conditions of fear, insecurity, threat in a natural hostile environment. After the reenactment the students must realize very fast exercises of design and feasibility using the housings.

#### **.7 - BIBLIOGRAPHY.**

“Ubicar” project. Architecture and Design Faculty. Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Bogota, D.C. Colombia.  
dic 2003 Report Room of Humanitarian Situation. United Nations Colombia.