



Architecture: the effect of and on the individual

The definition of an architectural language in Colombia has been the mixture of different historical facts which have contributed to define what we have architecturally talking. Since the beginning of our history we have been influenced by different foreign cultures which have helped us to create a proper language and style in the definition of our architecture.

Depending on the historical period, there have been a lot of constructions which were designed to satisfy people's needs. Since the rustics indigenous huts to contemporary buildings, are all of them created for a specific function, making a balance between human being and architecture.

If we think about what monumental architecture is in comparison to the function, there are some buildings which were made thinking about function but undoubtedly they are also monumental as well, especially those religious buildings which were created thinking more in ostentation.

The enlargement of the cities have contributed strongly in the definition of our territory, the urban plans, the modern designs and the ideas of the creation of the new cities are based on the idea of granting a privilege to the life quality of each inhabitant, however, the economic factors have changed this basic principle of urbanization. The cities are not now designed for the pedestrians but cars, the native green spaces have turned grey due to the concrete, and during many time the cities grew up rapidly without any type of ordering or pattern, so it gave us as a result disorganized cities without any type of planning.

Nowadays, the new policies of urban planning have begun to think about the risks of having unplanned cities, and it has contributed to generate new politics to design habitats to be inhabited thought the habitability and it has qualified the quality of life of the human beings.

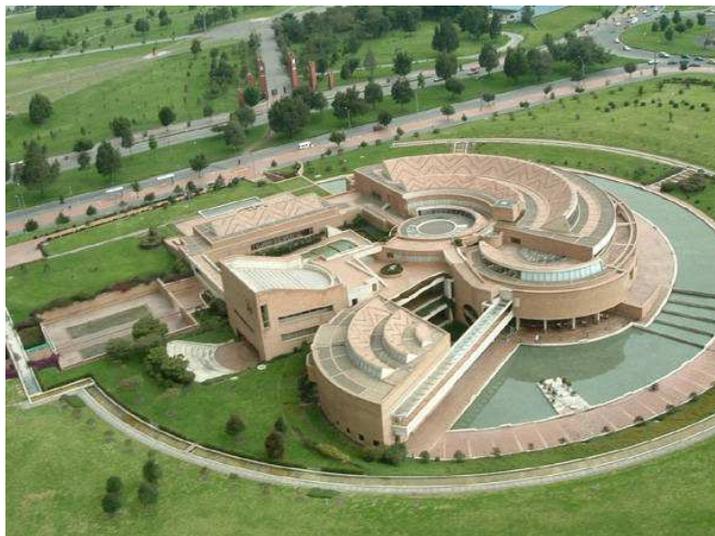
The open spaces in the different Colombian cities are nowadays topics with a superior importance when designing and planning the new cities; a congested cities like Bogota need spaces that help the city to improve that quality of life for the citizens.

Parks, boulevards, green streets, artificial lakes, green facades and terraces are now more common that years before, and it shows the need of having green open spaces in very single corner in every city built.

The exercise of projecting architecture should have into account mainly that everything is created to be habited by the humans, the moment when the building is habituated we can talk about architecture. The new designs should be centered in the reduction of energy to approach them, the use of bicycles, the use of nature lights, the green terraces, the recycling of raining water.

Bogotá has created new strategies to combined health, architecture and urbanization, the creation of cyclo lanes in order to make people use fewer cars and to have a different alternative of mobilization, nowadays it is common to see people taking advantage of those spaces created from the urban design.

Those new theories have been supported with the planning design ideas of some Colombian architects who have contributed with the construction of better places to live, example **Rogelio Salmona**, one of the biggest modern architects of Colombia, he designed buildings to be inhabited and not to be monuments, open spaces full of water and routes which invite you to reflect and enjoy nature.



Virgilio Barco's library Bogota Colombia. Architect Rogelio Salmona.

The Rogelio's designs are full of components which remind us the nature and the connectivity with the human being, buildings full of water and light, using the brick as the main material which give us a notable sensation of peace, harmony and home warming.

Rogelio Salmona contributed considerably in the creation of a Colombian architectural language, the use of bricks as a local material to avoid the waste of energy.

Another important architect who has helped to develop a language based on sustainable architecture is **Simon Velez**. The architect that developed techniques of design using the Bamboo as a construction material creating beautiful eco-friendly buildings which help us to improve our quality of life. The bamboo as a sustainable material which grows rapidly in the Colombian forests, it is used to design beautiful buildings which invite you to reflect and contemplate the kindness of nature.



Church without any religion, architect: Simon Velez.

The new architectural offices have an important challenge in the development of the urban cities, on the one hand they have to respond to the accelerated industrialized processes of building, on the other hand they also have to guarantee the minimum conditions for qualifying the life of the citizens through of the exercise of planning, designing and producing architecture.