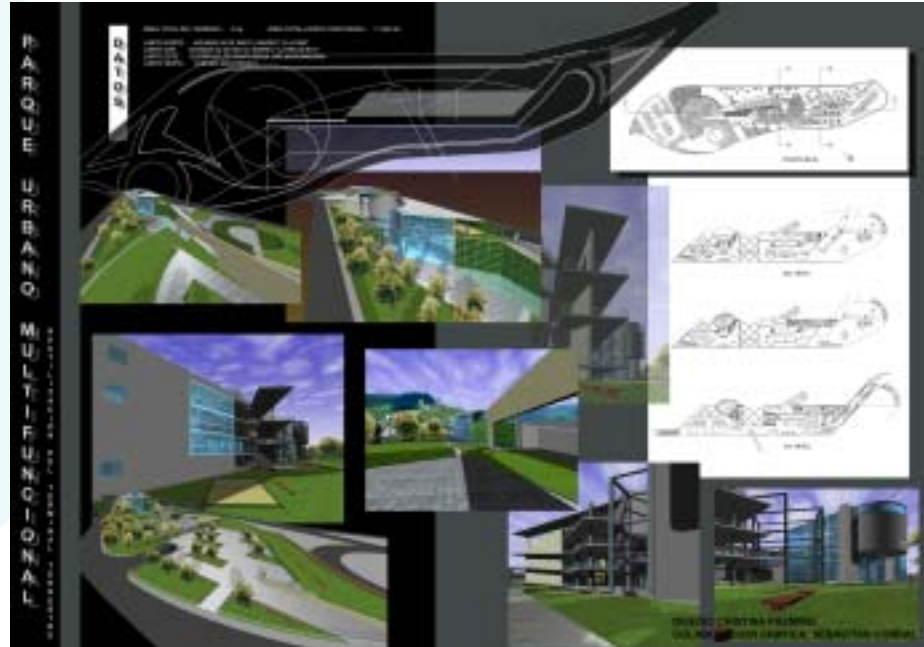


Re-utilization of Quito's bus terminal as a multi-use urban park.

The area where Quito's bus terminal *El Cumandá* is located has turned into an important transition and convergence point, where several roads and urban conditions meet. Nevertheless, the current state of the bus terminal does not contribute in any significant way to ameliorate its surrounding areas and the quality of life of the people who inhabit the adjacent neighborhoods. Instead, this juncture has become an isolated, insecure, congested, and contaminated urban discontinuity. Therefore, this thesis proposes to re-use the infrastructure of the bus terminal and to integrate it with the multi-use urban park. The fusion of both is intended to act as a social condenser, through the provision of a green patch, entertainment facilities, and community services.



Reasons for the nomination:

There is a growing awareness of the importance of "infrastructure" in the shaping of contemporary cities. These elements, which were once seen as involved solely in operational conditions of large scale urban phenomena, are now understood as affecting urban life not only in quantitative but also qualitative terms. In cities of developing nations like Quito, these structures, which generally date back to the middle of the 20th century, have either become obsolete or have been outgrown by an ever increasing urban population. Within this scenario the need to rethink and study possible new uses that may involve the recycling of large and ultimately costly structures is of vital importance for cities like Quito, where economic concerns do not permit urban elements to simply be torn down. It is within this framework that the conversion of this urban bus terminal into a multi-use urban park has been selected to represent the efforts of the student body.

URBAN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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