

NI UNA MAS, NI UNA MENOS

Combating centuries old machista culture in Mexico City.



Not One More



Not One Less

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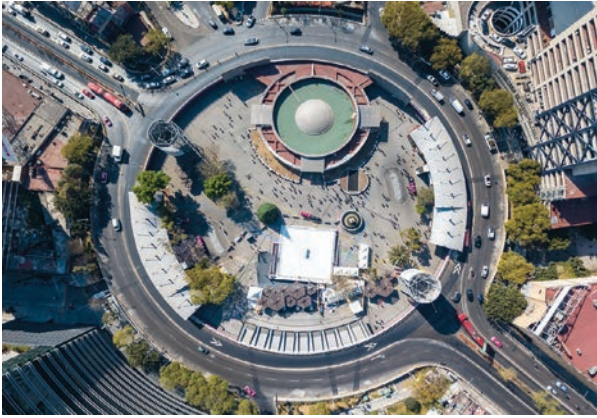
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Cut Sheet

Photo of Glorieta de Insurgentes



Location: Mexico City, Mexico

Glorieta de Insurgentes

Status: Transit Center 1969, Cultural Hub 1970s

Project Type: Diversity and Equity

Client: Women, Indigenous Women, and Men
residing in Mexico City

Dilemma Introduction

Mexico City has seen a decline in crime over the past couple of years, however their targeted crime against women has increased. A large part of this problem is the cultural backgrounds dealing with 'Machismo', which is aggressive masculine pride. This culture norm in Mexico has caused a divide between men and women because men see women as inferior to men.

The law enforcement within the city has been part of the problem because they disregard cases that women report and are also the assaulters within the city. Mexico City is a growing city with changing views following the new generation, which is why this is the perfect location for progress to be made for the safety in landscapes for women. Designing safer cities and addressing gender equalities within the landscape is a fundamental goal of landscape architecture.

Mission Statement

The approach for Glorieta de Insurgentes is to show representation of women within the landscape, educate the public on the targeted crime of women, provide safety measures within the site, and offer programs of empowerment for women and indigenous women.

Approach

Most of the statues in Mexico City show representation of only men, and specifically the men who conquered Mexico and heightened the problem of machismo in the country. If women see themselves in the landscape, they will feel safer and more comfortable within that space, this also brings awareness of them within the city. Indigenous women are the most affected and the least represented within public landscapes. By providing digital screens throughout the site and banners with current events of crime and other issues women face, this will bring awareness to the public and hopefully incline people to make changes and help women when in need of assistance. Programs led through various feminist and women lead organizations will be provided on site to help empower women with new trades or sharing stories and building each other up. Other elements include spaces for events, amphitheaters, play areas for kids, restaurants, shops, water features, therapeutic gardens, and bus station outlets. There will be plazas designated for indigenous women vendors to sell their handcrafted items safely without discrimination. This inclusive design will once again awaken this transit center plaza and provide spaces for all.

Site Facts

-This transit center was designed by Bernardo Quintana in 1969 as one of the initial tracks/stations for the metro system in Mexico City.

-The name of the site, "Insurgentes" means revolt against the authority, which was named for those who fought for the independence of Mexico from Spain.

-The project was redesigned after the first proposal from Mario Pani was never carried out.

-During the 1970s the younger generation took over this sleepy transit center and revived it for a while as a space for meeting and hanging out. There were concerts, coffee shops, restaurants, stores, local vendors, and other amenities added with the younger generations' interest of the site.

This location is a roundabout, public plaza, and transit center with some of Mexico City's central streets passing through, such as, Avenida Chapultepec, Avenida Oaxaca, and Avenida Insurgentes

Thesis

Reimagining the urban construction of Mexico City to promote safety for women of all ages and reduce the number of sexual assaults is the priority. The focus of the project is to empower, educate and show representation.



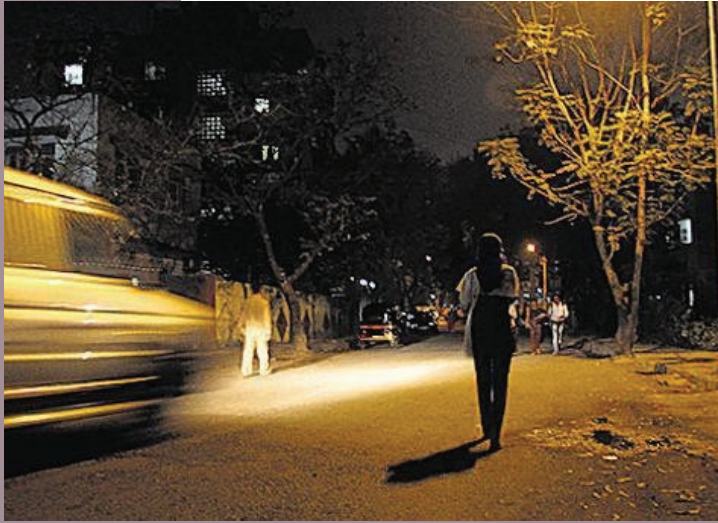
Photo of feminist march in Mexico City

Project

Need



Christopher Columbus statue replaced with a silhouette of a woman in Mexico City Center



Woman walking alone in a dark street of Mexico City

It is no secret that women are harassed in one way or another performing daily tasks while using public transportation. Within this research performed in Mexico City, in a process of collecting data over three years, the results showed an outstanding number of women have been harassed. "In 2008, the National Board for the Prevention of Discrimination conducted an in-depth study on the details of violence against women in public transportation, finding that nearly every single woman (90 per cent) had experienced sexual violence while using Mexico City's transit system (Dunkel)". The amount of harassment within the public transportation system doesn't even account for other situations women are in. "A 2016 survey found that 66% of women over the age of 15 had experienced a form of violence at some point in their lives. Since 2018, an average of 10 women are killed every day (Rios)."

Women activists put themselves in harm's way to fight for the much-needed rights because the government hasn't done much to make changes to improve the situation for women. Little Progress has been accomplished within the past 20 years and cases remain to spike. "The scope of the issue remains poorly understood: Most gender-related violence is not reported to police, and less than a quarter of murders of women are investigated as femicide, which is the killing of a woman or girl on account of their gender (Rios)."

Project

Need



Art piece created to empower women creators



Woman reimagining the city for other women

Cities have often overlooked women as an element to design the cities, they are designed to meet men's stereotypical role as the provider. Therefore, cities are not built to meet women's roles in cities which are what society has deemed for women, as the caretaker. Public transportation is designed to take men to work and back but not for women with children or for women going to multiple places.

"A vast body of literature recognizes that design and planning do not take into account women's uses of and experiences in public space, even though they differ considerably from those of men... Women, for instance, are disproportionately responsible for caring and domestic duties and are overrepresented in part-time work. This results in women having more complex daily movement patterns and ultimately spending more time in public space than men (Levy, 2013; Garcia Ramon et al., 2004; Whitzman, 2013). Generally, these considerations are not taken into account in urban planning, which instead bases its modeling methods on the male breadwinner's daily trajectory of "home-work-home". Current transport planning models thus find a failure to reflect "trip-chaining" travel patterns more common amongst women.

Culture Context

What is Machismo?



Women being silenced by a man

Femicide will not go away on its own because it is closely linked to certain aspects of Mexican culture and society, such as the concept of machismo, which embodies traditional male gender roles. Many Mexican men believe that they must provide for and protect their families and may resort to physical violence to take control of a situation because they equate violence to power. Machismo culture increases the likelihood that Mexican women will become victims of physical abuse. The more a situation escalates, the more likely that the abuse will result in femicide.

What is femicide?



Women asking for help, after being abused.

Femicide is the murder of a woman simply because she is a woman. It is a hate crime, which occurs within the framework of gender violence, that is, the submission to humiliating, cruel or painful treatment of an individual motivated by their gender or sexual orientation.

Location



Angel of Independence in Mexico City



Palacios de Bellas Artes in Mexico City

Mexico City

Mexico City is the capital and largest city of Mexico, and the most populous city in North America. It is one of the country's 32 federal entities. Mexico City is one of the most important cultural and financial centers in the world. The heart of the city is the Zócalo and connecting to the area of this project. This city is culturally rich but has major safety issues that need to be redesigned to better meet the needs of all its residents.



Street Markets in Mexico City.

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1 Safety: 1. Create safe spaces for women to utilize at all times of the day comfortably.

1. The design provides well-lit spaces that discourage dangerous situations.
2. The site is activated by providing spaces that can be used at all times of the day minimizing dangerous situations from happening.
3. The use of security measures through smart city technology to provide an extra sense of safety within the landscape (Use of cameras and emergency post).
4. Free Wi-Fi on site is provided to allow everyone to stay connected if they need to reach help.
5. Charging outlets are made accessible so that women aren't left stranded without their emergency lines.
6. The design provides spaces where there is an equal amount of private and open spaces for a sense of security.
7. The design provides spaces with views as a priority so that there aren't any blind spots for potential dangers to happen within the site.
8. The creation of an app that allows users to anonymously share potential dangers to everyone on the app creating a sisterhood or community within the site.

Goal 2 Education: Utilize multipurpose spaces that provide trade programs for indigenous community and women.

1. Utilize digital banners to inform users of current events related to women.
2. Design interactive spaces that inform the general users of the dilemma through art exhibitions telling a story or sending a message.
3. Tell a story through the landscape of women's history and uplift them through the landscape or through a design feature.
4. Provide the general users tools on how to help women and not be part of the problem through the digital banners on site.
5. Provide programmed events in multiuse spaces such as the amphitheater and the memorial to inform on topics such as gender equality.

Goals & Objectives

Goal 3 Empowerment: 1. Provide opportunities for personal stories to be shared and build each other up.

- 1.Utilize multi-use amphitheater for storytelling and women empowerment presentations.
- 2.Provide trade workshops that help women find jobs and become independent.
- 3.Work with feminist organizations to provide programs and provide the tools needed to empower women.
- 4.Design spaces that uplift women and their hardworking nature.
- 5.Design plazas for indigenous women vendors which allows them to make a living by selling their artisanal merchandise free of charge and discrimination.

Goal 4 Representation: Provide a space of inclusion and promote gender mainstreaming within the design.

- 1.Showcase empowering art and sculptures of women to show representation throughout the site.
- 2.Promote women owned business on site.
- 3.Design spaces that tell a women's story in the landscape through features or art.
- 4.Provide amenities that meet the needs of women such as safe and accessible restrooms and seating. Since a lot of women take on more domestic roles in Mexico, they need more resting areas to take a break. Designing Playground areas for women with families.

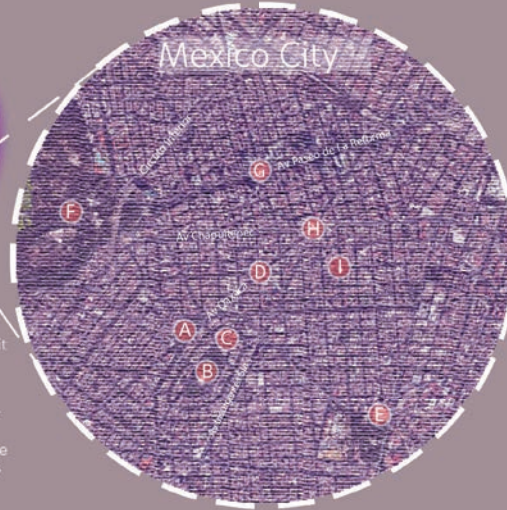
Site Inventory: Zoning

WHY MÉXICO? ¿POR QUÉ MÉXICO?



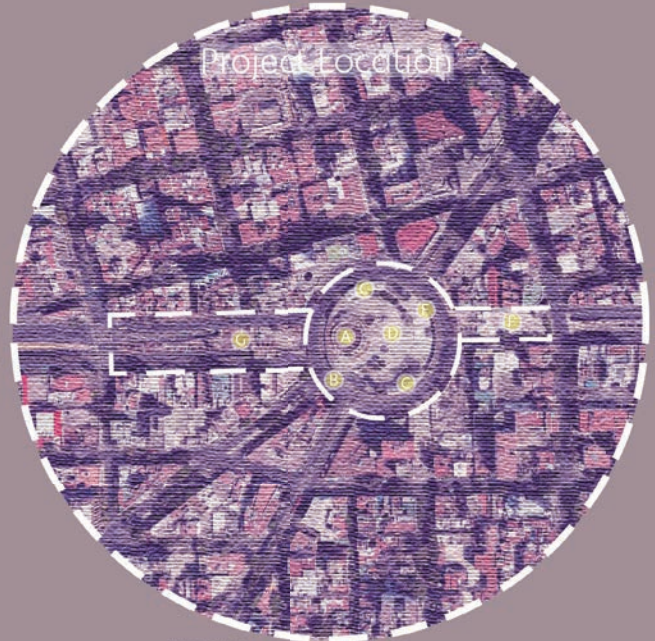
LOCATION

The site is located in Mexico City, it is a public transit center with a lifted roundabout road surrounding the central station. There are commercial spaces built under the street. There is little seating, poor lighting and little site activation besides the restaurants and souvenir shops. The site consist of a large concrete plaza.



LEGEND

- A Plaza Popocatepetl
- B Parque México
- C Plaza Popocatepetl
- D Fuente de Ciboles
- E Jardín Ramón López Velarde
- F Bosque de Chapultepec
- G El Ángel de la Independencia
- H Glorieta de los Insurgentes (Project Site)
- I Plaza Río de Jainero
- J Jardín Ramón López Velarde



LEGEND

- A Existing Metro Station
- B Lifted Roundabout
- C Transit Center Entrance
- D Existing Plaza
- E Shops & Restaurants (Under the Street)
- F Recreational Area
- G Public Area

SITE CONDITIONS



PUBLIC TRANSIT CENTER



POOR CONNECTION



LITTLE ACTIVATION



POOR MAINTENANCE



LACK OF SEATING



POOR LIGHTING

WHY THIS LOCATION?

This location was chosen because a large part of the sexual assaults targeted against women happen in public transportation within Mexico City. This location will bring the representation that women desperately need and make offenders think twice before acting. The location is central and will have a domino effect in future designs within the country.

Site Inventory:

History



- Some historians identify La Conquista, during which Spanish colonizers such as Hernán Cortes and his conquistadors arrived in the American continent and raped indigenous women, as the beginning of a culture of gender violence, there is little doubt that sexism in Latin America was heightened by European colonization.
 - Shockingly, despite this violence, Mexico has one of the world's most progressive constitutions with regard to gender and also leads the world in many feminists' policies.
 - Femicide increased 137 percent in the past five years alone, four times the increase in the homicide rate. In Mexico, 93 percent of all criminal defendants in cases of gender violence are men.
 - In Mexico, however, this number is actually two in three women. Despite the massive number of potential cases, few women choose to go to the legal system with 98 percent of all gender-related killings, mostly femicides, going completely unprosecuted.
 - Girls as young as three and women as old as 74 are frequently abused and killed by men close to them. In the next ten minutes, approximately three women in Mexico will have been a victim of abuse. Ten femicides will occur by the end of the day.
-
- The term femicide is not homicide of those that simply happen to be female, but rather females who are systematically murdered because of the fact that they're female.
 - In March 2020, millions of women and men flooded the streets surrounding the Angel de la Independencia in Mexico City. A few days after the march, millions of women refused to go to work as part of the protest #UnDiaSinNosotras, or #ADayWithoutUs. Moreover, local, state and federal government officials joined in the various protests as well. These movements build on the back of #NiUnaMenos to signal that not even one more femicide will be tolerated. They are giving the silenced a voice. They are shifting the way we perceive women within Mexico and challenging insufficient action.
 - On March 8th, 2022, 3,000 policewomen surrounded tens of thousands of feminist activists at the International Women's Day march in Mexico City
 - Instead of "generating violence" as the politicians anticipated, members of civil society organizations carried scarves, flags, and musical instruments as they sought to bring visibility to the phenomenon of gender-based violence and the urgent need for justice for its victims.
 - In May 2020, López Obrador questioned his own cabinet's announcement that Mexico's emergency call centers had processed more than 26,000 reports of violence against women in March 2020, the highest since the line was created

Site Inventory: History

HISTORY OF MACHISMO AND FEMICIDE



15
19

LA CONQUISTA
During which Spanish colonizers such as Hernán Cortes and his conquistadors arrived in the American continent and raped indigenous women, as the beginning of a culture of gender violence.



18
04

FRENCH AND CIVIL COURT
Inspired much of early Mexican law, women were listed as dependents of men in all aspects of life from the law to finances.



19
00

FEMICIDE BECOMES A TERM
The term has a history in the English language since the beginning of the 19th century, but began to be used in a popular way since 1976 when Russell used it before the International Tribunal for Crimes against Women.

Site Inventory: History



MACHISMO IN LATIN AMERICA

Machismo, similar to toxic masculinity, is the set of ideals and beliefs that support the notion that men are superior to women. Men assume a dominant role in society where they may show little weakness and must protect the vulnerable, usually by exercising control over women.

MASS FEMICIDES

In 1993 the mass murders of women in Ciudad Juárez were made public.

GENDER VIOLENCE

1,678 missing youths were quantified, 150 of them minors (state alert) Guerrero, Michoacan, Chihuahua, Jalisco, and Oaxaca.

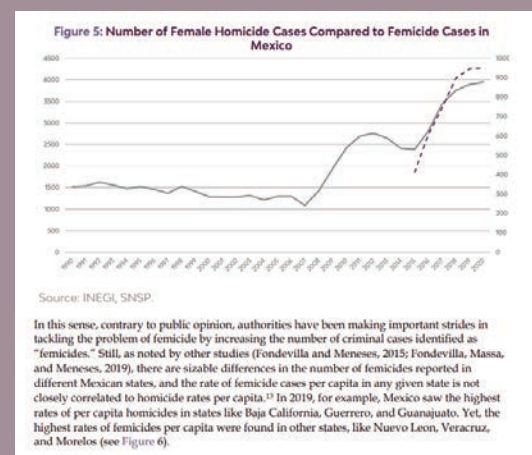
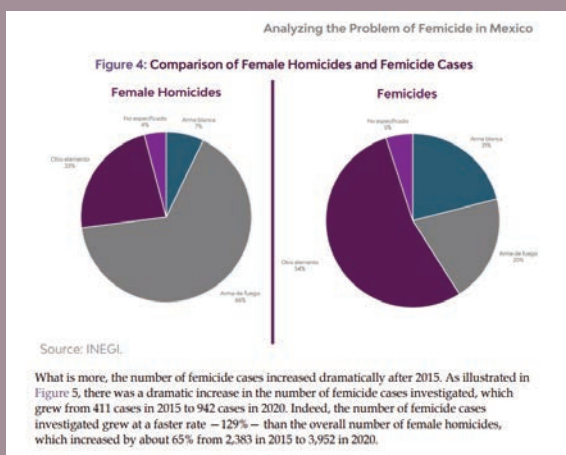
FEMINISM

Feminist protest in Mexico City, millions of women refused to go to work #UnDiaSinNosotras. Femicide increased 137% in the past 5 years, 4 times the increase in the homicide rate

Site Inventory: Crime



- In 2021, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) reported that 70.3 percent of women feel at risk in their daily lives, and that 10.8 percent of the reported crimes against women are sexual. Under COVID-19 confinement measures, more women reported that they faced violence in the family environment compared to pre-lockdown statistics.
- insults or humiliation and threatened or actual expulsion from their home. Regarding criminal violence, 23.2 percent of female homicides occur in the home.
- Reported 3,723 killings of women (at least 10 women killed every day), of which the police investigated only 940 cases as related to gender. These are known as “femicides:” the killing of women both because they are females
- According to data presented by the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System, at least 1,199 femicides occurred in Mexico from January 1, 2019, to April 30, 2019 (Pereda Martínez, 2020). This figure equates to an average rate of 10 femicides a day in Mexico.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the number of murder cases classified as “femicides” —crimes in which a woman is killed because of her gender— grew by 129%, compared to a roughly 79% increase in homicides overall.
- Women were 43.75% more likely to be killed by another type of weapon (otro elemento), a category that includes blunt objects and other forms of physical trauma (e.g., strangulation).



Importance

Why is this project important?

977 National cases of femicide were reported in Mexico for 2021.

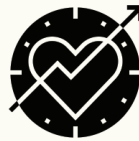
10-11 women are victims of femicide per day in Mexico.

74,600 emergency calls related to violence against women were made in the first quarter of 2022 in Mexico.

129% growth of femicide related crimes in Mexico from 2015-2020.



In the next 10 minutes, approximately 3 women in Mexico will have been a victim of abuse.



Life expectancy of trans women in Latin America is only 35 years due to hate crimes.



By the end of the day 10 women will have suffered from femicide.



Women earn 34% less than men in the workplace, performing the same functions and same professional training.



Girls as young as 3 and women as old as 74 are frequently abused and killed by men close to them.



93% of all crime defendants in cases of gender violence are men.



Women spend 40 more hours a week in domestic duties while men spend 10.



In Latin America 1 in 3 women has been a victim of gender violence.



30% more men than women in corporate.



In Mexico this number is 2 in 3.



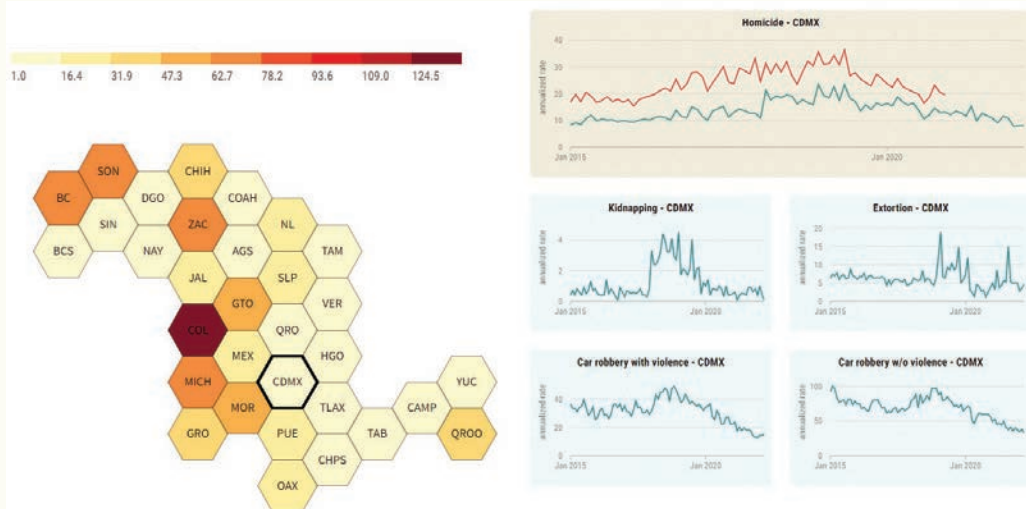
75% of men report being head of the household.



98% of all gender related killings, mostly femicide go completely unprosecuted in Mexico.

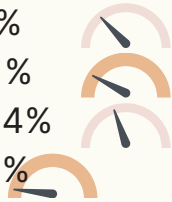
Demographics

Map of Crime Rates - March 2022



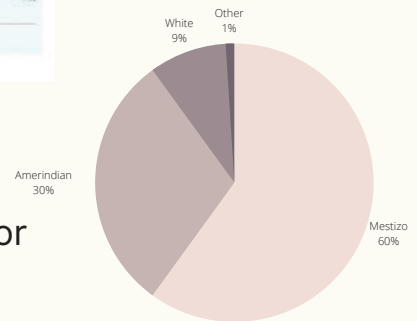
Mexico City by Age

0-14 years: 27.9%
15-24 years: 18.1%
25-54 years: 40.4%
55-64 years: 6.6%



Mexico City by Race

mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) 60%, Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian 30%, white 9%, other 1%.



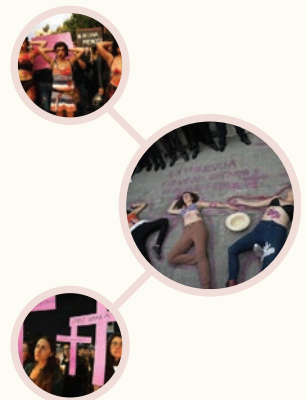
Why do people want to live there?

The reason people move to Mexico City is the hope for a better life. Mexico City has a large amount of manufacturing jobs and a demand for people to fill them.



Push Factor

The reason many people leave Mexico City is due to the high amount of crime. For example, in the year of 2011 there was 27,199 homicides in Mexico City. In the first half of the year there were 700 kidnappings. There are also many gangs such as the Mongols, Latin kings, and the Mexican Drug cartel. These gangs cause many troubles in the city and create a large push factor for Mexico City.



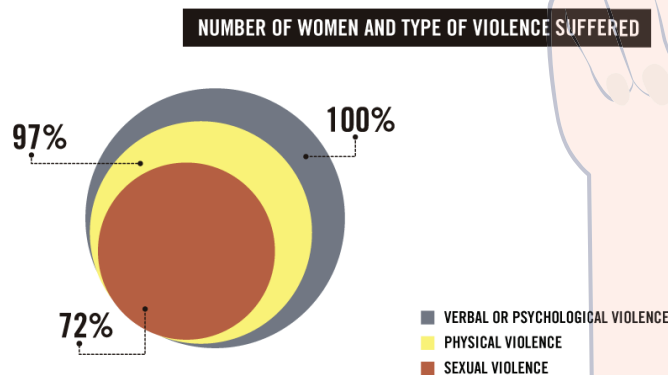
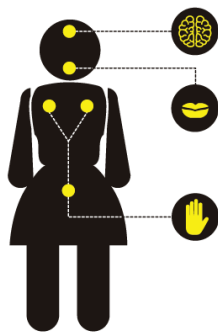
Demographics



Gender of Mexico City?

The majority of the gender in Mexico City is female and short behind them is male.

Armed Forces attack on Women



Summary of Findings

This information shows the great diversity that exists within this city, but most importantly the fact that there is a higher percentage of women to men. Despite the difference in number women are the biggest target for assault related crime within the city. Women do not feel safe to report the cases due to the police's notorious corruption within Mexico. The truth is that women are not safe within their own country; they are in dire need of safer urban cities, designed with them in mind. The fact that crime rates have reduced over the past years but crimes against women have increased is ridiculous.

Theory



Reclaiming urban space through collective action against gender-based violence

It is no secret that women are harassed in one way or another performing daily tasks while using public transportation. Within this research performed in Mexico City, in a process of collecting data over three years, the results showed an outstanding number of women have been harassed. "Among all public spaces, public transportation is the place where women must face the greatest levels of violence. It represents a grave problem of discrimination that limits security, freedom to travel, and mobility for women in urban spaces, all of which affect their capabilities and opportunities for success (Dunkel)". The organization INMUJERES, provided pink taxis and buses driven by women specifically for women to provide a safer transportation alternative. However, resources are limited, and the routes are less than normal buses which makes this an ineffective solution. Women in Mexico City decide not to report the sexual harassments as the police is ineffective in responding to women as the culture is very masculine oriented. "Many women I interviewed told me that they did not bother to report crimes because they could not trust or feel safe with the police. Many women felt that the police were worse than the criminals (Dunkel)".

Pink transportation was introduced as a way to segregate women from men in transportation, however, this put a target on women who used this service in the workforce. The issue is deep within the roots and culture of Mexico, which is that men see women within the household role. "In 2008, the National Board for the Prevention of Discrimination conducted an in-depth study on the details of violence against women in public transportation, finding that nearly every single woman (90 percent) had experienced sexual violence while using Mexico City's transit system (Dunkel)". The amount of harassment within the public transportation system doesn't even account for other situations women are in. During an interview with a woman who uses the public transportation in Mexico City she reported, "Once on the subway, a man started masturbating in front of me. You couldn't see anything, but you knew what he was doing. He was staring right at me and touching himself. I just got off and boarded another train car. That's the only thing that you can do (Dunkel)".

Dunkel brought up a lot of good information regarding women's situation in public transportation in Mexico City. It is an everyday battle for women to be heard and treated with respect since they can't count on authorities, who are predominantly male to help them with these situations. In regard to the segregated transportation option, they created for women and are having backlash for using this option, there may be a more discrete option. If an app was developed similar to Uber for pink taxis or to see the bus route for Athena pink buses, women would be able to have a more direct access to these transportations. There would also be no need for the pink coloring of the vehicle and therefore help with the negative reaction the women are receiving for using these alternative safer options. Public transportation or mobility is definitely something that I want to address as a solution in my final project since this is affecting women every day.



Private transit for women in Mexico City.



Experiment in the transit center to make men feel like they make women feel.

Theory



How A Feminist Uprising Reshaped Mexico City

Protest within Mexico City have given women the courage to speak up for all the brutality, abuse, assault, murder, and sexual assaults they have all endured in Mexico, with no justice and no justice system to protect women from the abuse of men. “Ciudad Juárez, the border town across from El Paso, Texas, made international headlines in the 1990s for grisly serial murders of working-class women that spanned nearly two decades. Despite national and international laws subsequently created to protect women and prosecute gender violence, little has changed: The number of murders of women has continued to rise across Mexico, as have crimes like domestic violence and sexual assault (Rios).” As the number of cases of murder against women rise in Mexico, women are tired of being victims to the culture, this protest although they can be damaging to surroundings are needed, because women are not being heard or taken seriously and change needs to be immediate. “A 2016 survey found that 66% of women over the age of 15 had experienced a form of violence at some point in their lives. Since 2018, an average of 10 women are killed every day (Rios).”

Women activists put themselves in harm's way to fight for the much-needed rights because the government hasn't done much to make changes to improve the situation for women. Little Progress has been accomplished within the past 20 years and cases remain to spike. “The scope of the issue remains poorly understood: Most gender-related violence is not reported to police, and less than a quarter of murders of women are investigated as femicide, which is the killing of a woman or girl on account of their gender (Rios).” The government officials are more worried about the city statues that have been tagged with graffiti more than the lives of women that are lost every day. The activists believe that statues and art within the city shouldn't be static but rather adapt to the cultural changes and historical changes that cities undergo over the years, therefore they should be replaced to speak out for women. “Daniela Cerva, a professor at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos who studies feminist movements and the criminalization of their protests in Mexico, said that Mexico actually has a surplus of laws in favor of women's rights, but those in charge of enforcing them fail to do so (Rios).” Since the culture of machismo is big in Mexico and majority of law enforcement are men; little is done to ensure the safety of women in Mexico.

Women in Mexico City want to see action, not just broken promises or silence from the government. Learning from the struggles women endure in Mexico and reading about them wanting change in the representation they see around the city such as art and statue, I want to incorporate their voices being heard through art that speaks for all women in Mexico. “The collective believes that monuments should not be static but rather a medium through which an evolving society expresses itself. Should the city erase it without documenting the graffiti and addressing the core crisis, “they would be silencing women's voices,” the group wrote in a letter to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in 2019 (Rios).” It is important that I make sure that the women are heard and incorporate their message in my design. It is important that I can make a statement with art or a visual that gives women hope that there will be change to the discrimination they face in their mother land. A strong message that was repeated in the article resonates with me, it states, “The motherland kills.” The burden women carry is heavy within this country and the world, it is crucial that they feel safe wearing anything they want and not be victim blamed for assaults.



March 8, 2020, Protest



Protest in Mexico City

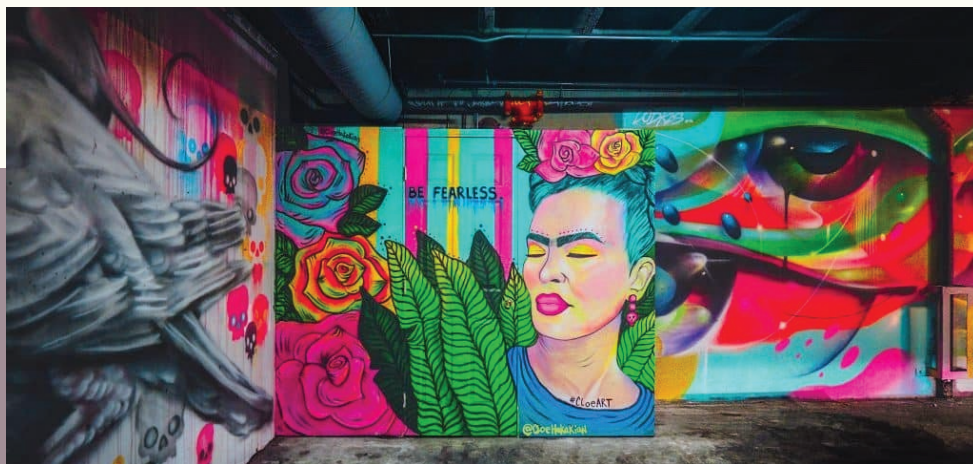
Theory

Is an 'other' city possible? Using feminist utopias in creating a more inclusive vision of the future city

Cities have often overlooked women as an element to design the cities, they are designed to meet men's stereotypical role as the provider. Therefore, cities are not built to meet women's roles in cities which are what society has deemed for women, as the caretaker. Public transportation is designed to take men to work and back but not for women with children or for women going to multiple places. "A vast body of literature recognizes that design and planning do not take into account women's uses of and experiences in public space, even though they differ considerably from those of men... Women, for instance, are disproportionately responsible for caring and domestic duties and are overrepresented in part-time work. This results in women having more complex daily movement patterns and ultimately spending more time in public space than men (Levy, 2013; Garcia-Ramon et al., 2004; Whitzman, 2013). Generally, these considerations are not taken into account in urban planning, which instead bases its modeling methods on the male breadwinner's daily trajectory of "home-work-home". Current transport planning models thus find a failure to reflect "trip-chaining" travel patterns more common amongst women (Navarrete)."

There are many simple things for men that we have no reaction towards but affect women differently. A group of men can intimate a man but it only takes one man to make a woman feel uncomfortable. The cleanliness of a location is important as well because if an area is not well cared for a woman walking alone may be uncomfortable but for men they may be oblivious to the surroundings. "Finding supports claims that more isolated streets – with fewer opportunities for surveillance and bystander intervention – make women feel more unsafe than men in the same location; a gendered interpretation of the "eyes on the street" theory (Navarrete)." We need to incorporate women in urban design and planning and understand the needs of them to make cities a more inclusive space for all and not only for men. Since most of the stem fields are impacted by men, the design of cities has been oriented towards other men in similar positions.

There are many ways in which we can incorporate the thoughts of a safer city design for women some include: imagining alternative cities, 'Missing' women in planning and future studies, and Women's visions. These are a few categories which can be addressed and explored to make urban designs more inclusive towards women. "Is an 'other' city possible? Using feminist utopias in creating a more inclusive vision of the future city (Navarrete)." For my project, I would like to consider the safety measures that need to be in place to allow women to feel safe in public spaces during the day and the evening. Incorporating the ideas of women into the actual design because only women themselves know what makes them comfortable in public spaces. Addressing the potential harms and finding solutions for these situations and learn from other cities that have already taken the steps to design cities and urban spaces specifically for women safety.



Visual art of Frida Kahlo

Precedent

Studies



Gardens within hospitals to help with mental health



Therapeutic gardens within a hospital

Nancy Wicks

April 17, 2018

Therapeutic Gardening for an Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

The therapeutic garden group takes place each week on the adult inpatient psychiatric unit. It is an integral part of programming for acutely ill patients in recovery from a range of psychiatric diagnoses including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, and anxiety. Establishing such a program for the inpatient psychiatric unit was the result of several months of interdisciplinary and quality improvement-focused work between occupational therapists, nurses, social workers, doctors, and patients. This collaborative approach is ongoing and remains key both to the therapeutic programming, and future development of the garden group program.

This small project takes a different approach at helping people who suffer from mental illness, instead of medication they choose gardening. By creating a space for patients to garden and raising the small funds, this provides better mental health results in the long run, this also gives patients who suffer from mental illness a solution that they can continue to practice for the rest of their lives. Many of the women in Mexico City have dealt with difficult situations regarding assaults they have endured and providing safe spaces similar to this will benefit their mental health. I plan on understanding how spaces similar to this project help create a sense of safety and calmness and implement that into my design. My design will promote safety so that women feel comfortable enough to gather and empower each other.

Precedent Studies



Shows the restored water system



Part of the restored river system, created by aztecs

Mario Schjetnan
1993

Ecological Park Xochimilco

Xochimilco is a cultural landscape in Mexico. It contains “chinampas” which are floating gardens designed by the Aztecs to prolong agriculture throughout the year. The lakes which held these islands receded over the century due to growing civilizations after the Spanish arrived. This wetland was home to many species of birds and was once a transportation system through canals. Mario and his team GDU (Grupo de Diseno Urbano) created a system to filter, contain, and pump the water back into these lake fragments. They also restored the existing floating islands.

By bringing water back to these wetlands and filtering the existing water, many species of birds return to the wetlands. Part of the design included creating jobs for the local people. Mario did this by designing a giant botanical garden where all the plants of Mexico are grown by the locals and can be sold. Although the design is not heavy on ecological restoration, this project is based in Mexico and is a great demonstration on how to redesign culturally significant areas. Mexico City is over 500 years old and any redesign to the city is significant. My location lies in an historic part of Mexico City which means I have to pay respect to the history but also design for the future generations. This approach of paying homage to the cultural landscapes in Xochimilco gives me an insight on how to approach my site.

Precedent Studies



Green corridors through a busy city.



Green corridors with healthier transportation options.

SWA Group
2009

Sustainable Transportation

The Buffalo Bayou Promenade connected Houston's downtown core to the river park to the west under and through a neglected and near impossible mess of freeways and bridges, adding 23 acres of parkland to Houston's inner city. The landscape architect's early visioning and then implementation converted a trash-soaked eyesore intimidating to pedestrians and detrimental to flood control efforts into 3,000 linear feet of urban park that provides a prominent gateway to downtown Houston.

This project is beneficial because it provides an alternative to public transportation and how Mexico City center could be designed to be more bike friendly and allow for better connections. This would help promote a healthier alternative to public transportation and reduce sexual assaults in public transportation. A big part of sexual assaults women face happens in public transportation within Mexico City and this project helps me understand how to unify the city through a green and safe corridor. I plan on redesigning over part of a central street where I will tell the story of women within Mexico City and this project will help me take a sustainable approach to help the environment as well as write a narrative.

Precedent

Studies



New public sea front plaza



Reflection of past ancestors

Walter Hood

Charleston, SC 2013 - Present

IAAM

The landscape design concept for the International African American Museum is inspired by both the cultural significance of the museum's story and the local landscape of the Carolina low country. The landscape strategy takes cues from the tradition of 'hush harbors' landscapes where enslaved Africans would gather often in secret, outside the view of slave owners, to freely assemble, share stories and keep traditions from their homeland alive. As many as half of African Americans today have an ancestor who arrived at Gadsden's Wharf from West Africa.

Closest to the building, low-country planting includes a sweet grass field and curving brick walls defining the edge. Site objects mark the history and archeology of the site. This area also allows for informal and programmed gatherings where stories and traditions can once again be shared. This cultural project is significant because they worked with the historical significance of the area to project a strong message. This applies to the project in Mexico City because there is a big message that needs to be heard and helped in regard to women's safety within the city and femicide. The way that this project used art to tell a strong message about African Americans is similar to my approach on telling a story about femicide and women's endurance in Mexico

Precedent Studies



Redesign of existing cultural park in Mexico City.



Redesign of an existing historic site.

Mario Schjetnan
2007

Chapultepec Park Rehabilitation

Chapultepec Park is the most important urban park in Mexico. It's divided in three sections, the first is the historic area. The development of the Master Plan project includes environmental, historic, landscape and hydraulic restoration, as well as specific projects for services and reorganization of vendors. With the objective of bringing visitors to the underutilized areas that were designed and redesigned gardens, landscapes and new projects like a water mirror that connects the National Museum of Anthropology and the Tamayo Museum. This project is a very significant landscape within Mexico and the way that the design was approached can be applied to help guide my project. This project has a lot of criteria it must meet since it is a historical site, and by researching more about the approach and techniques used to make this design successful that could be applied to my own design of Mexico City. Some of the highlights I took away were how to work with the culture, with the community, with the landscape and the way it is used currently.

Precedent Studies



Woman interacting with cities.



Woman interacting with city layouts.

Whitney Tidd

July 28, 2016

Smart City, Safe City

Each city deals with their unique and complex challenges but what they all can agree on is the lack of security for women in cities. "A woman's mobility in the city is also impacted by her role as a caregiver or mother. Using public transportation, grocery shopping, eating, or simply walking on the sidewalk are all quite different when you are responsible for another person, adult or child. Holding the hand of a child, pushing a stroller or wheelchair, and carting around shopping bags all change how an individual navigates in a city." Smart technologies can be a step into creating safer cities for all.

To prevent crime, many cities have installed motion sensors that trigger security cameras in areas of high crime. Apps like Safe City and Hollaback allow women to share stories of experiences with creeps and pinpoint locations to warn others. Smart technologies can be implemented into my design by adding an extra measure of security to the landscape for women to feel safer at all times of the day. Motion activated cameras or emergency call posts can be implemented into the design and quickly capture the crime and call police to the area for immediate help. Although technology has advanced a lot in the past couple of years, there hasn't been a big spread between technology being used in landscape design for safety besides cameras. I think today is as good as any to push for advancements in security technology to be implemented into landscape designs.

Precedent Studies



Neighborhood of Aspern, Vienna.



Signage of women in landscapes.

Elle Hunt
2019

City with a Female Face

Aspern is branded with an identity, one which is not seen in many places, all of the streets and public spaces are named for women. This is symbolic but makes a clear statement by putting a female face to Aspern. Gender mainstreaming is the practice of ensuring women and men are accounted for equally in policy, legislation and resource allocation. They found out that $\frac{2}{3}$ of car journeys were made by men compared to $\frac{2}{3}$ of journeys made on foot were by women, this proves that women and men's experience in cities are different. "Our aim is to make sure that all the infrastructure and services of the city can be equally used by women and men ... and contribute towards a more gender equal society." The idea to take away from this approach and implement into my design is that the goal isn't to divide the city into separate designs for different genders but rather be inclusive and create equality within the landscape. I plan to add more features that would benefit women in landscapes because currently landscapes are designed for men. I am not excluding men from the design but rather including women since they have been in the outs for as long as cities have been built. This approach allows me to design for the female users who experience the city differently than for men who cities were designed for. Aspern didn't happen in one day, and there was a lot of backlash but through educating the public on gender mainstreaming and proving that this will enhance everyone's quality of life, gender inclusive landscapes are a possibility.

Precedent Studies



Redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza.



Inclusive approach in the design.

SWA

June 2021

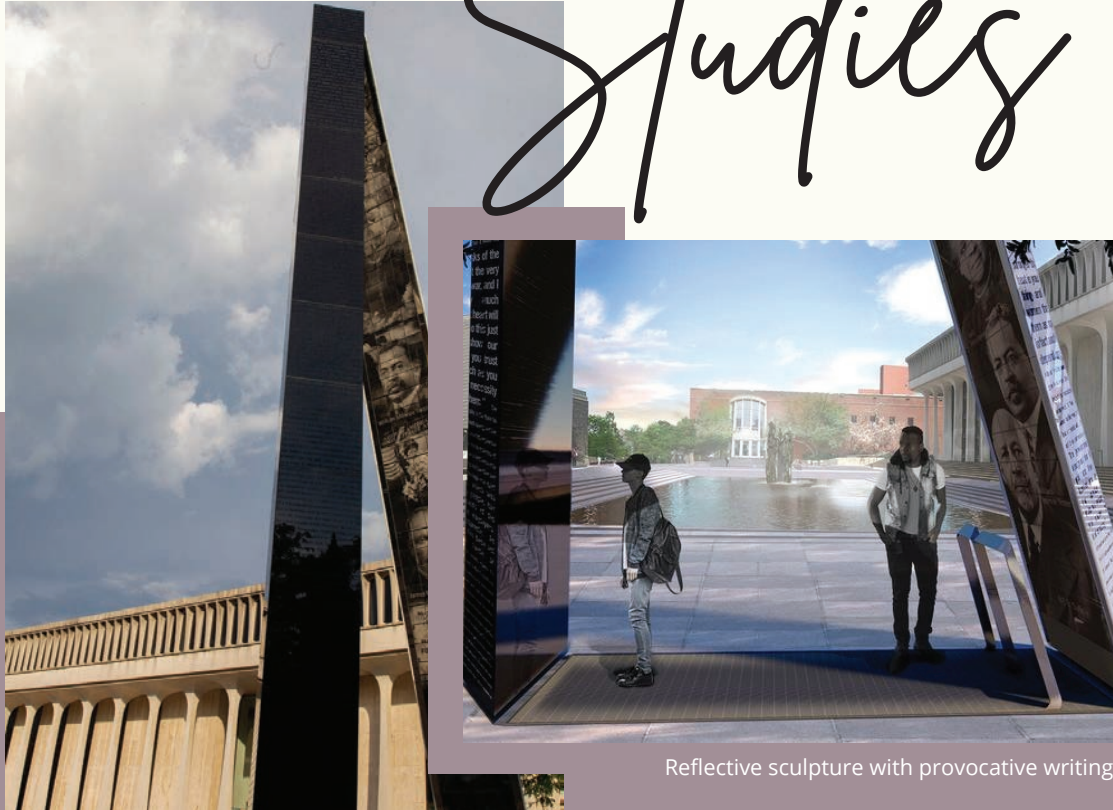
The Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza

Harvey Milk Plaza is located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro Neighborhood, and hosts one of the city's busiest transit hubs. The plaza has been the site of countless gatherings and protests, including a candlelight vigil the night of Harvey's untimely death and the White Night riots. The design of the plaza features dedicated to visibility and representation of the wide spectrum of people encompassed by the LGBTQ+ community. Public art and interactive elements celebrate LGBTQ+ culture and history while also promoting a call to action in support of social justice movements, making the Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza a place where hope and action live on forever.

This plaza is a representation of the groups who have been oppressed by society but continue to fight for their rights. Similar to my project, women in Mexico are second thought but with my design it will bring light to the issues. The Harvey Milk Plaza functions as a space for inclusivity and empowerment, similar to how this plaza serves the community, this project influences what my project could do in Mexico City. I plan on taking a similar approach to this plaza and implementing ideas that will make women feel comfortable within my project as well as empower them through different trades.

Precedent

Studies



Redesign of existing courtyard in Princeton University

Reflective sculpture with provocative writing

Hood Design Studio 2018

Double Sights

Double sight is a vertical sculpture of two columnar elements, wrapped with surfaces of black and white and etched with words and images representing the complex aspects of Wilson's legacy, both positive and negative. "Some statements are hard to read because they represent his overt racism and sexism, some illustrate his progressive thinking of the time." This sculpture was created by Walter Hood after the black justice league in Princeton University protested the lack of diversity curriculum and spaces for people of color within the university. The sculpture focused on Woodrow Wilson's legacy because he had a big influence on Princeton after being a student there, even though he had a controversial legacy that followed him due to his racist comments and thinking.

This project directly correlates with the ideas that I plan to implement into my project. There is a strong message that is transparent and direct towards the general public, I plan on incorporating a strong message that is powerful within my site. Strong and impactful messages are what lead to changes, controversial ideas help push initiatives. This project by Hood Design Studio helps put into perspective what positive influences can happen when you speak about the unspoken out loud through art. Through a similar idea I will use a functional piece of art to tell a message within my own design.

Precedent Studies



Redesign of park with representation of a community



Representation within landscape design.

Hood Design Studio 2007

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park

Written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and put to song by his brother, John Rosamon Johnson, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" is a traditional hymnal song. To some it's the Black National Anthem evoking the history and resiliency of African American peoples. On the site of the brother's historic birthplace and home, a new park is proposed that celebrates the brother's life and achievements. The new park features a raised lawn for seating, an illuminated Poet's Walk, a shotgun house and stage, and a small garden with sculptures of the brothers.

This site has historical significance similar to my site and paying respect to the location, but empowering future generations is the same approach I plan to take. The anthem is powerful and bold art piece that sends a message. I plan on being as bold as this design if not more to really give a voice to the women of Mexico City and all of the victims of femicide, sexual assaults and targeted crime against women. Representation is part of this design to give a space for minorities and this is a key element that I will focus on within my design by giving women a safe space. The space of this project isn't very big but holds a strong message and similar to my site I will tell the story of women's endurance in the city and their empowerment in my design

Rhetorical Efforts

1. How can public transportation be made safer for women?
2. How can safety be addressed in public/commercial landscape design?
3. If we are in the 21st century why are women still a bigger target than men for sexual harassment?
4. Why are women not able to freely and comfortably go out at night?
5. Why does Mexico City have higher rates of sexual assault towards women than other cities?
6. Can safety for a certain demographic be addressed directly in landscapes?
7. Can cultural norms such as machismo be unlearned in society?
8. How can a society change their perspective on a women's role and worth?

Dilemma - Thesis

Dilemma: How can we change the perspective of a city's culture that puts women down and address this change in the landscape?

Thesis: Through community outreach, education and awareness an urban city's identity can be redesigned to better meet the needs of underrepresented and affected groups.

Dilemma: How can we prioritize women's safety in urban design in a country that doesn't take women's rights seriously?

Thesis: Working with the community directly and women's rights organization within the city, current issues will help guide the redesign of Mexico City to be safer for women.

Dilemma: How can inequalities between genders be addressed in urban design?

Thesis: Through inclusion of underrepresented groups in the design process, the site design will be better suited to meet the needs of the affected groups.

Design Approach



Representation

Designed spaces that show women being represented within the landscape, which creates comfort and belonging.



Safety

Designed safe spaces for women to utilize at all times of the day comfortably and provided needed amenities.



Empowerment

Designed spaces personal stories to be shared and cultural demonstrations that empower others.



Education

Designed spaces that teach women Entrepreneurial careers that can open opportunities and educate site users through visual arts and cultural demonstrations.

Models



Model 1

- This model is showing how more greenery can be added to the vertical and horizontal elements of the design
- This model also plays with my idea of connecting one end of the site with the other through a curved bridge
- The central area is circular to represent the circular site in the center and show the heart of the site.



Model 2

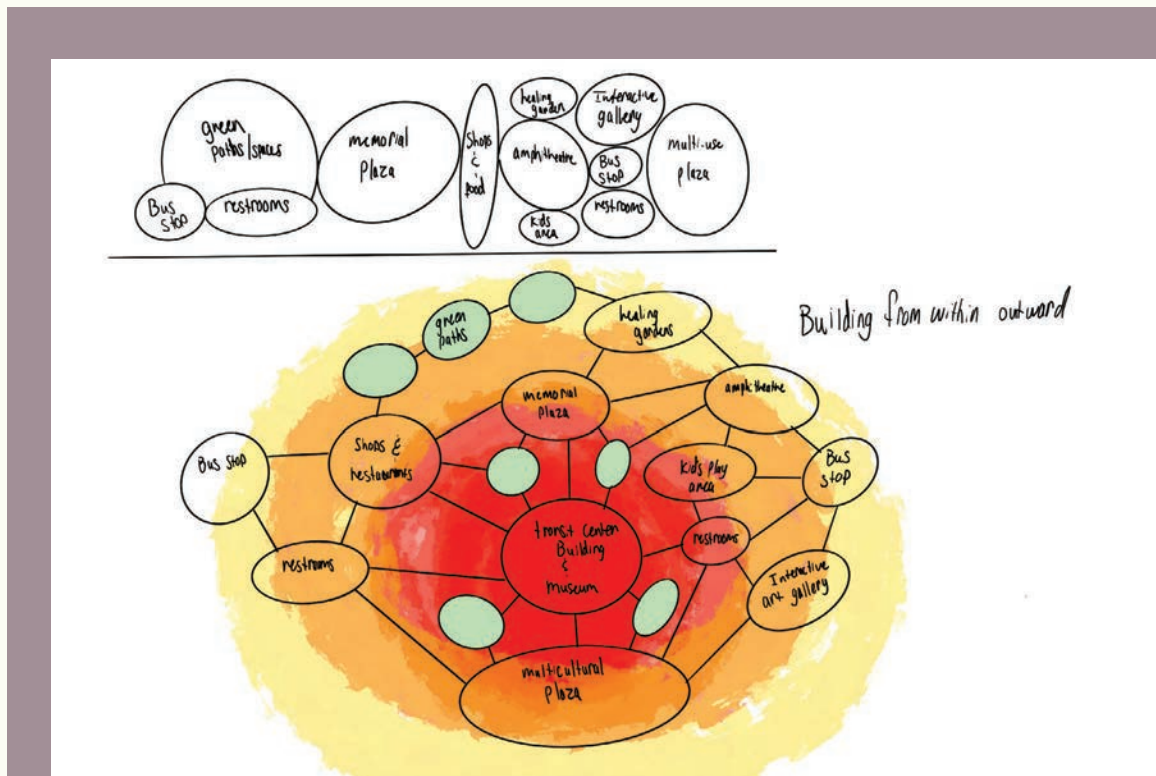
- This one is supposed to show the central tree that is growing from within the main building in the center, this is a metaphor for my site of how this is a site of growth and the growth starts from within and out.
- The interweaving form of the paper and the inner pieces are supposed to show the interweaving design from the schematic
- The central area has more elements to show the that movement is toward the center where the main elements will be on site.



Model 3

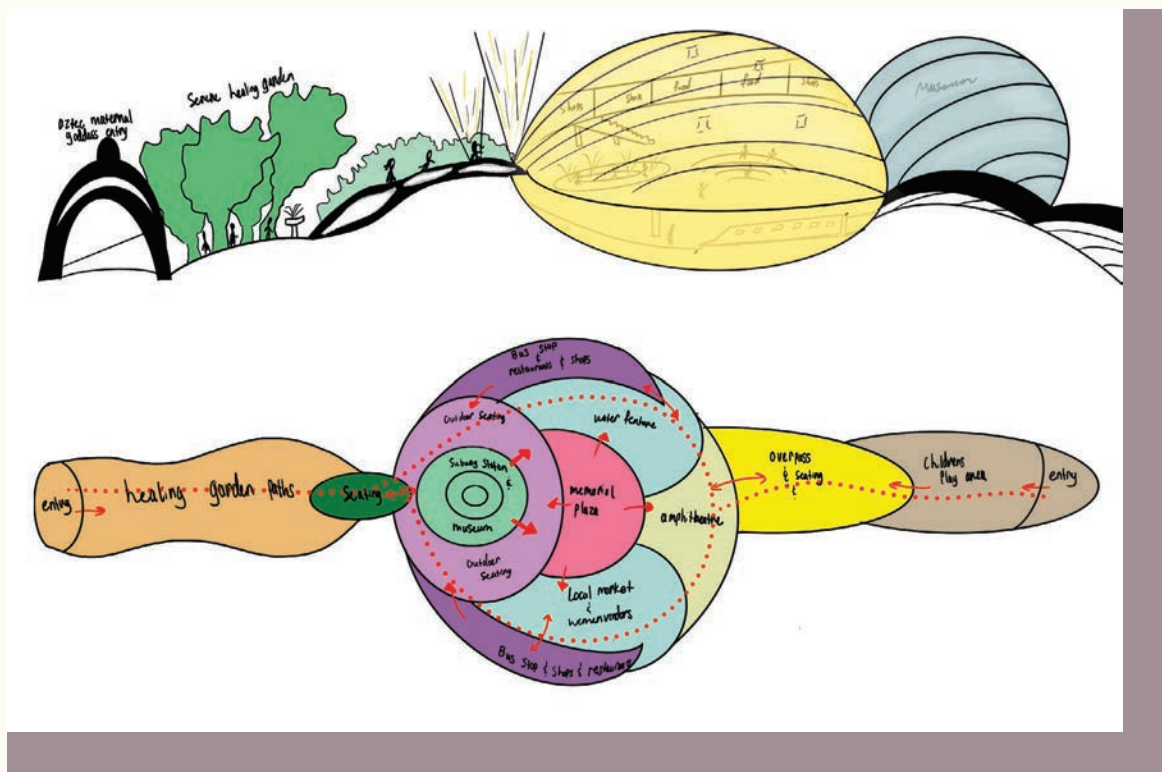
- This model is supposed to represent how you can experience elements from a vertical and horizontal perspective
- This model also represents the patterning of the site and how this site will encourage a lively atmosphere and provide a variety of elements
- The different direction of the forms that are on the ground level also represents experiencing different things when you turn different corners

Concept Diagrams

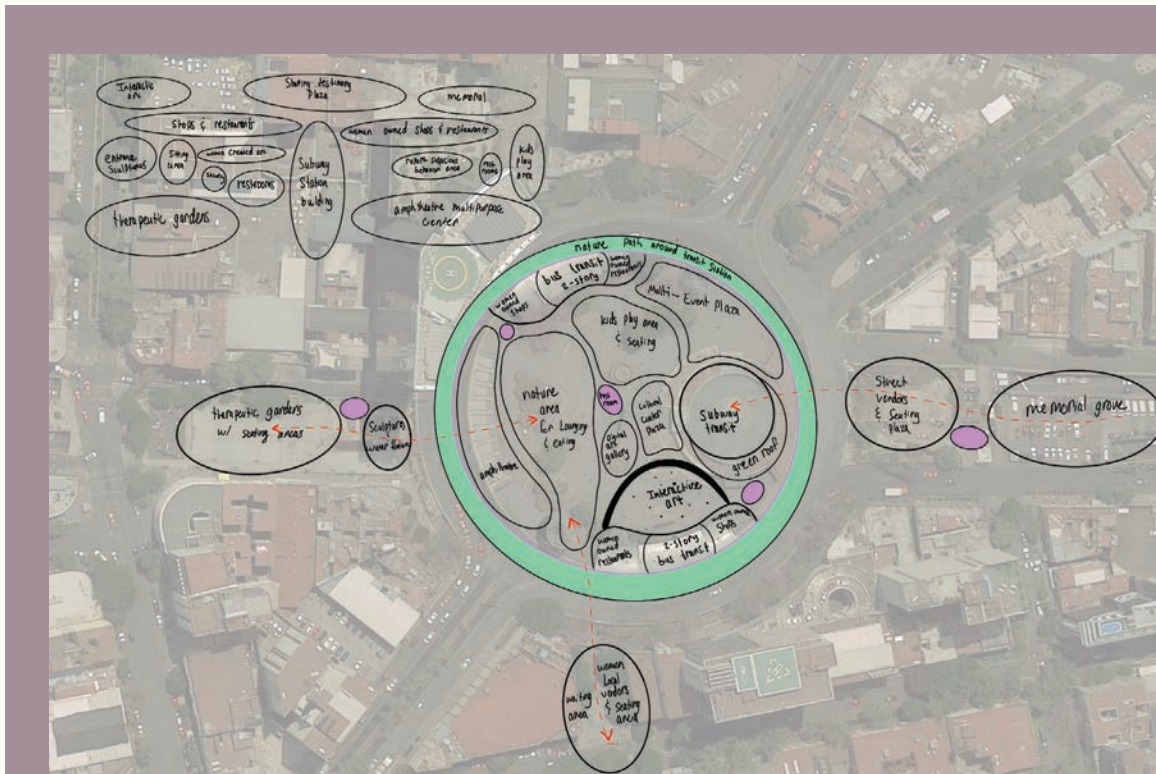


Top: The first concept plays with the idea of spatial arrangements and how all the design elements can be cohesive with each other

Bottom: The second concept plays with the arrangement of vertical and horizontal elements within the site.

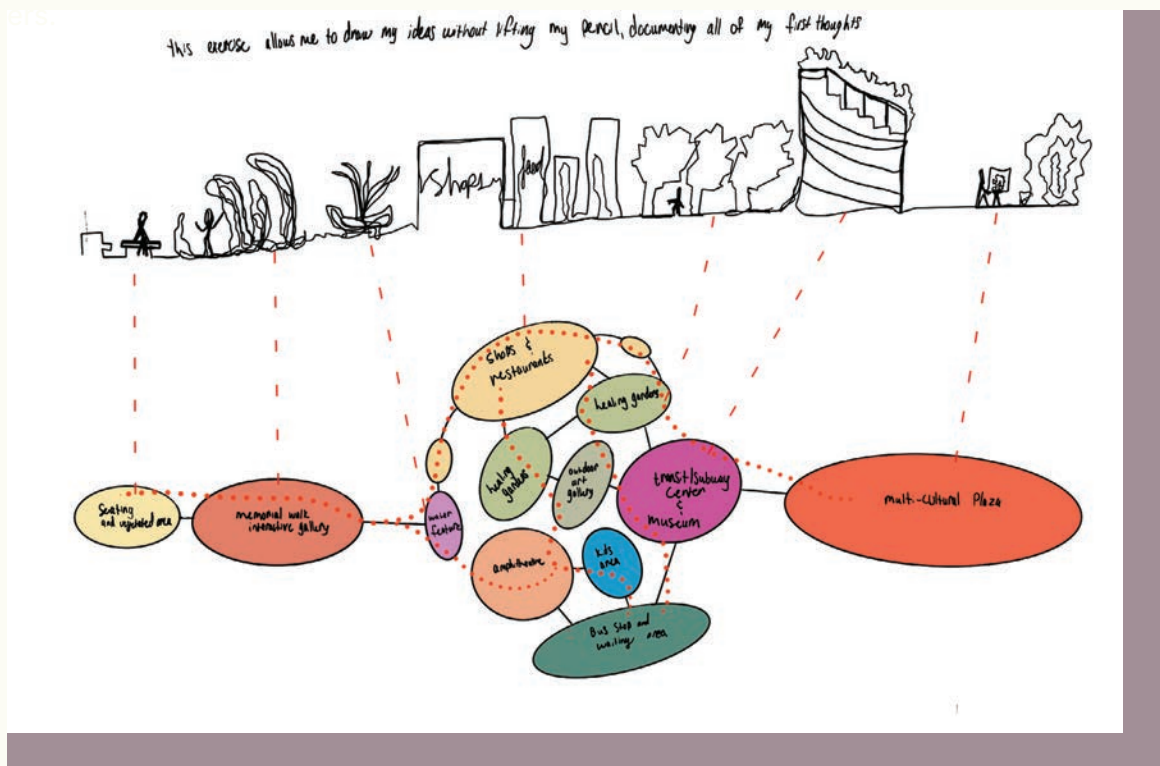


Concept Diagrams

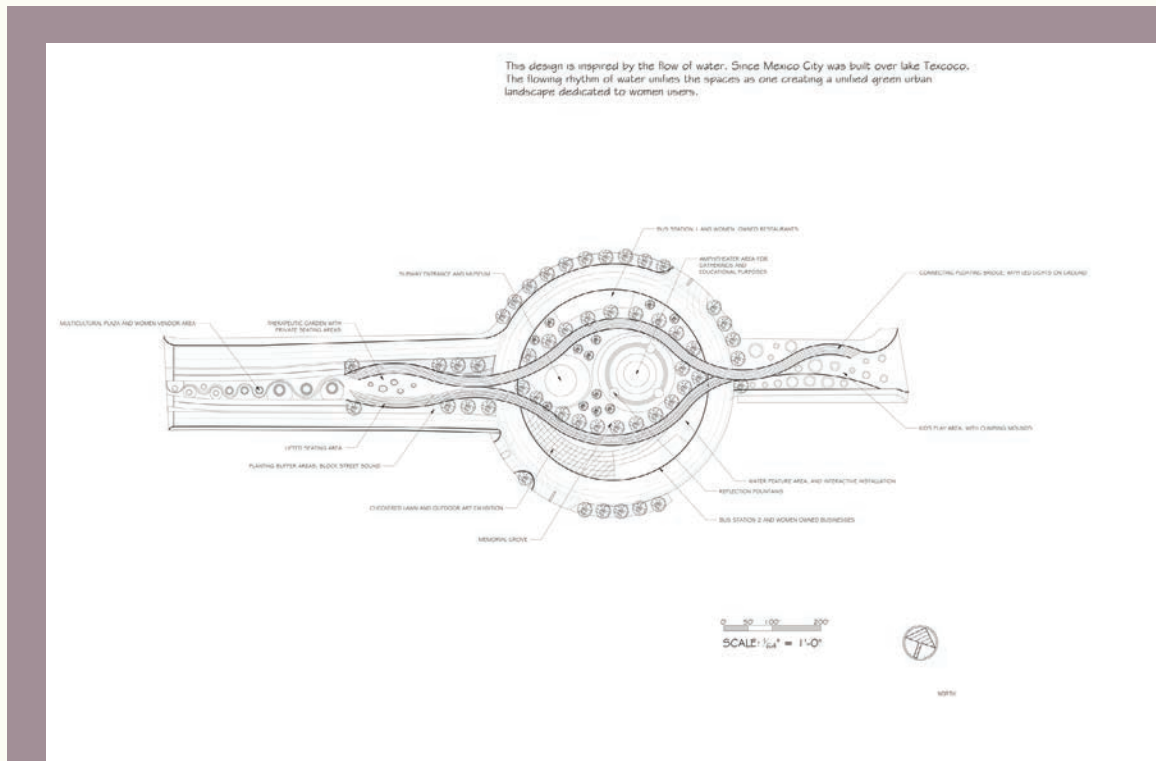


Top: The first concept lays out spatially the design elements that are proposed into the existing site.

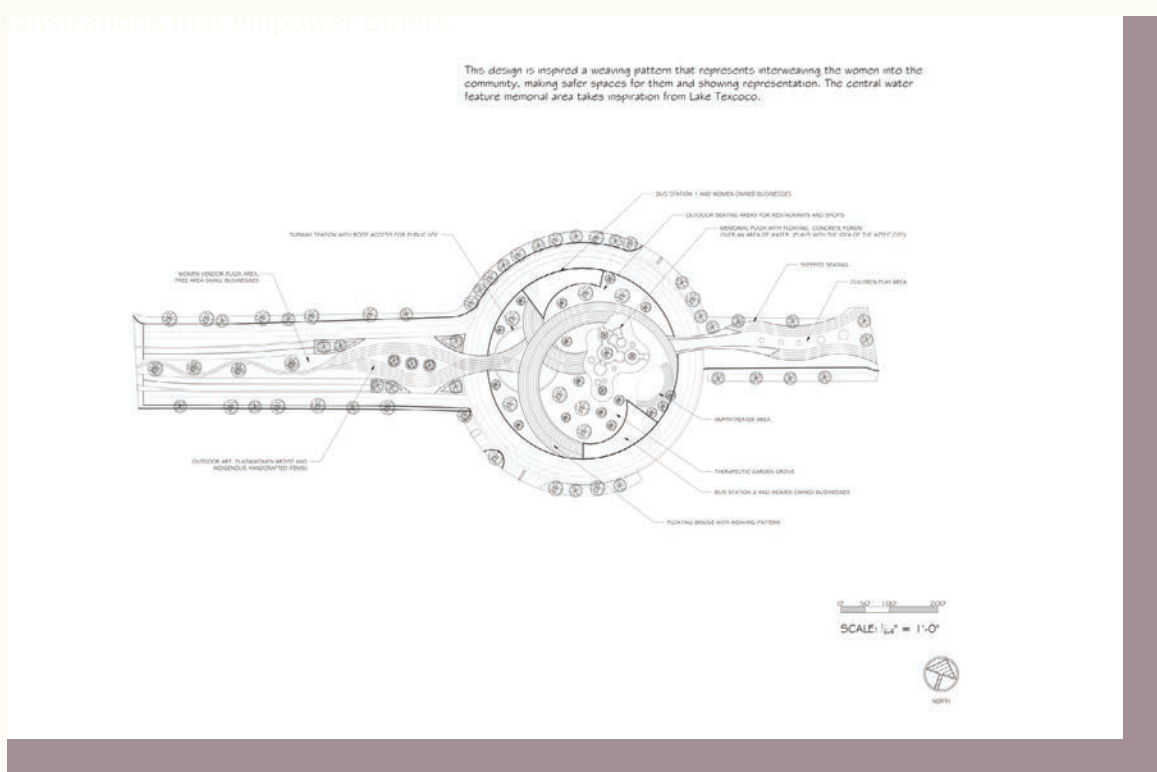
Bottom: The second concept lays out the design elements proposed and shows a quick idea of how they would work spatial with one another.



Initial Schematics

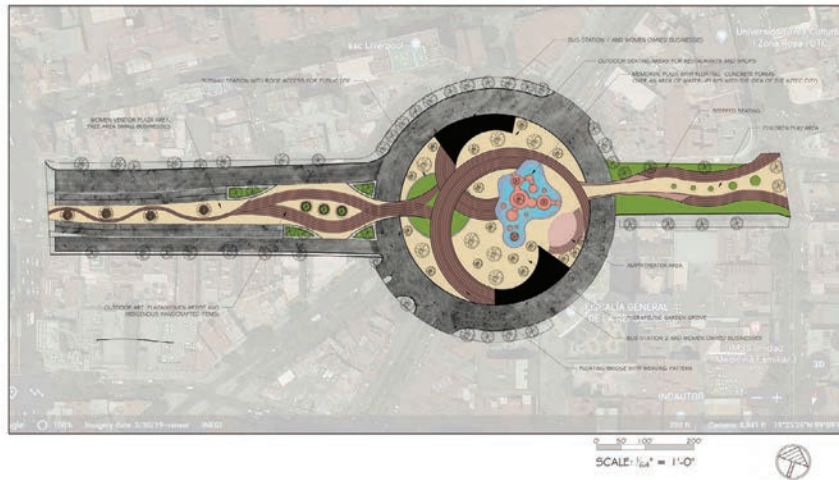


Top: The first schematic considers the cultural context of the site and is inspired by the preexisting lake Texcoco. The forms move the users and are inspired by water movement. Bottom: The second schematic considers how to move the users through the site and focuses on slowing down the pedestrian traffic closer to the center of the site.



Final Schematics

This design is inspired a weaving pattern that represents interweaving the women into the community, making safer spaces for them and showing representation. The central water feature memorial area takes inspiration from Lake Texcoco.

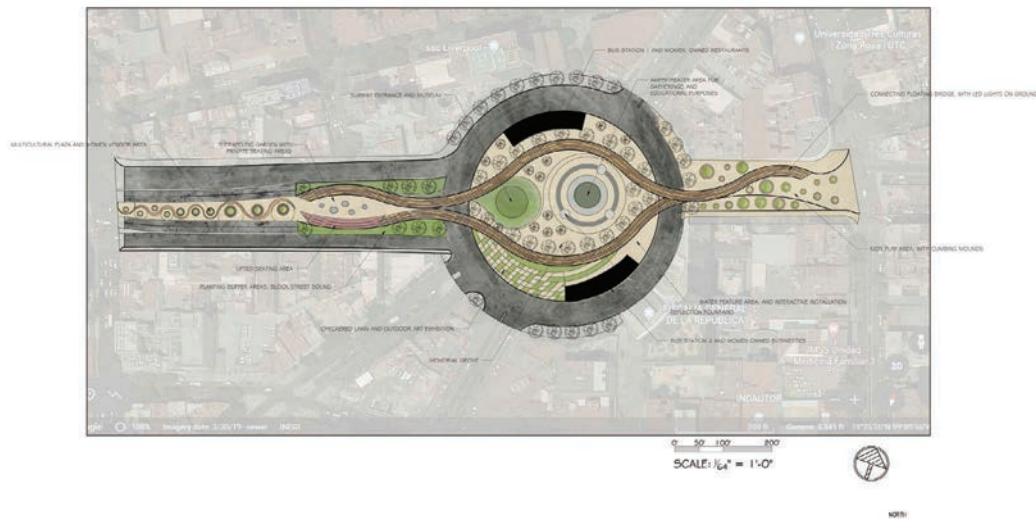


The model shows one of the main features of the site, which is a sculpture memorial, and how it would function in a central location.



Final Schematics

This design is inspired by the flow of water. Since Mexico City was built over lake Texcoco, The flowing rhythm of water unifies the spaces as one creating a unified green urban landscape dedicated to women users.



The model shows how the connecting bridge would work as an access point but also can be used, as "eyes from above" for safety within the community.



Precedent Applications



Precedent Applications



Precedent Applications



Safety Approach



The approach for these safety diagrams is to provide amenities required to make a space safer for use as well as consider the layout and use of each space for a safer design.



Master Plan

The master plan contains a series of open multiuse plazas, commercial areas, memorials, resource centers and even a museum. There are murals, digital screens, and other art to really show the representation and empowerment that the project aims to do for women.



42

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Indigenous Women Vendor Walk/Entrance | 5 Bridge Pathway & View Point | 9 The Kahlo Amphitheater & Art Exhibition | 13 Lydia Cacho Plaza |
| 2 Plaza Chicomecáatl | 6 Subway Access & Museum | 10 The Kahlo Performing Center | 14 Ofrenda (Pebbles represent victims) |
| 3 Maria Izquierdo Memorial | 7 Station Entrance & Resource Center | 11 Silvia Torres-Peimbert Center | 15 Play Area |
| 4 Bridge Access / Interior Amenities | 8 Exhibition Rosario Castellanos | 12 Women Owned Shops & Restaurants | 16 Mural Walls with Waterfall feature |

0' 40' 80' 120' 160' 240'
SCALE 1"=40'-0"



MARÍA IZQUIERDO MEMORIAL



María Izquierdo was the first Mexican woman to have a solo exhibition in the United States when her art was displayed at the Art Center in New York during a time in which she had to fight to be recognized at the same level as her male counterparts.



This space educates users on the side effects femicide has on women.



There are sculptures that tell the experience of femicide through a women's experience.



PLAZA CHICOMECÓATL



Representation of indigenous women in the landscape.



Safe space for indigenous women vendors to make a living.



Spaces represent education the importance of visualization landscape



Aztec goddess of sustenance and, hence, of corn (maize), one of the most ancient and important goddesses in the Valley of Mexico. The number seven in her name is associated with luck and generative power. She was often portrayed as the consort of the corn god, Centéotl.

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Emergency
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THE KAHLO PERFORMING CENTER



6 murals representing 6 feminist who have broken down the stereotypes of women in the country.



Frida Kahlo is one of Mexico's most famous painters and most famous female artists. Frida is known for her introspective and sometimes gruesome work that touched on the subjects of infertility, disability, mestizaje (having a combination of European and American Indian heritage), and her deep Mexican roots. She is equally known for her eccentric and wild persona that included leftist politics, sexual ambiguity, and the rejection of cultural and social norms.

Open and intimate spaces



Baile folklórico empowers viewers and creates on the positive aspects of the culture.



SILVIA TORRES-PEIMBERT CENTER



The design integrates intimate spaces for prospect refuge.

Torres-Peimbert is the first Mexican woman to receive her doctorate in astronomy. She studies the creation of stars and the mass thrown out by mid-size stars and has been awarded for her work in determining the chemical composition of nebulae. She is the former editor of the very important Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics and was named president of the International Astronomical Union between 2015 and 2018, becoming the second woman to have held that position.



EXHIBITION ROSARIO CASTELLANOS



Interactive screens create a unique way to learn and experience a women's point of view on gender inequalities and leave your own message.



The murals and interactive screens are a creative way to educate on the rise of femicide and machista culture.



Rosario Castellanos Figueroa was a Mexican poet and author. She was one of Mexico's most important literary voices in the last century. Throughout her life, she wrote eloquently about issues of cultural and gender oppression, and her work has influenced Mexican feminist theory and cultural studies.



Murals of impactful feminist in Mexico who have helped break down the cultural narrative of women.



PLAZA SOR JUANA INES DE LA CRUZ



Site entrance and resource center building which provides food, clothing, shelter and job training.



Women representation encourages a welcoming environment for female users.



Abstract sculptures female artist help p
visualization in lan

One of the first and foremost feminists of colonial Mexico, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz was so dedicated to continuing her lifelong love of learning that she joined a nunnery and refused to marry. She argued with bishops, offended polite society, and generally made a ruckus with her writings on philosophy, religion, and education. She is also one of Mexico's most beloved poets.

s by
promote
andscape.



Stage area allows for visual performances that educate users on current femicide and machismo problems.



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About Me.



Cover Letter

I am Jose Andrade, a 5th year at California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo. I am from Manteca, CA a small agricultural town in Northern CA. As a first-generation student I have always had big dreams for what I want to accomplish. I am passionate about landscape architecture and traveling. Traveling inspires my creativity in design, learning about new cultures and seeing different landscapes is a rush for me.

Given my choice of career in Landscape Architecture I feel like I can give back to a community in need, similar to programs that helped get me to where I am. A big reason I chose a project to help women in México City is because I had strong female role models growing up, and I want to bring exposure to this big problem happening in Mexico. I grew up with the machismo culture and if I can help those women out through landscape design, I will. I hope that in my future I can work with a firm who has the same goals and values that I do, to help communities in need.

