

Country / City ..... Brazil, São Paulo  
University / School ..... Escola da Cidade  
Academic year ..... 6th year  
Title of the project ..... Free Spaces & Children's Freedom: a new path for children to play outdoors everyday  
Authors ..... Guega Rocha Carvalho (author), Juliana Flahr and Mateus Loschi (co-authors)







# PERFORMATIVE NATURE

Barcelona International Landscape Architecture Biennial

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SCHOOL PRIZE

X International Landscape Architecture Biennial

Máster d'Arquitectura del Paisatge -DUOT - UPC

ETSAB- Escola Tècnica Superior

d'Arquitectura de Barcelona

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## TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Free Spaces & Children's Freedom: a new path for children to play outdoors everyday
Authors	Guega Rocha Carvalho (author), Juliana Flahr and Mateus Loschi (co-authors)
Title of the course	Graduation project
Academic year	6th year
Teaching Staff	Ana Carolina Tonetti (tutor), André Vainer, Martin Corullon and Silvio Oksman (co-tutors)
Department/Section/Program of belonging	Graduation project
University/School	Escola da Cidade

Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

In great metropolis, such as Sao Paulo, the majority of children live imprisoned inside the walls of their houses, schools and shopping malls. This is bad both for the children's physical and social health, as for the city's life, because a city that is suitable for children is healthier, friendlier, funnier and more democratic, meaning it is better for everybody. We wish for children to be able to play outside everyday. That is why we designed a path connecting squares and schools, selecting commercial and service establishments to create a support net for children and projected playing areas along these paths.

Our study, from the cartography with the children to the analysis of school path's manuals, has shown us the importance of continuity and of clear signalling. Since the project's premise is to work with materials that already exist in the city, instead of infantilizing the city itself, we decided to create different combinations of São Paulo's most recognized paving: the black and white sidewalk floor. For this, we have defined four patterns: 1. traditional pattern: indicates the pedestrian path; 2. black floor: indicates garage entrances; 3. white floor: indicates pedestrian crossing; 4. free pattern: fun design to designated playing areas.

In these new areas for kid's playing, we developed a project with different scales, thus taking advantage of the city's sidewalks, parking lots and walls. Besides the new pavement design, we sometimes interfered in the topography and created urban furniture designed for playing, to be used by all of the city's inhabitants.

For further information

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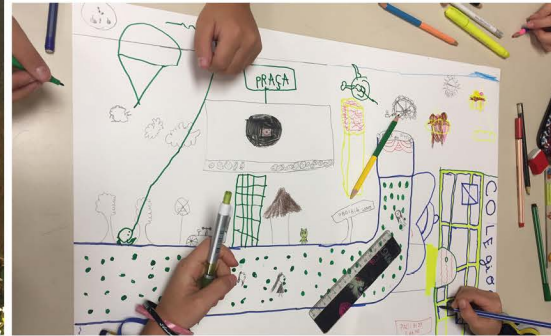
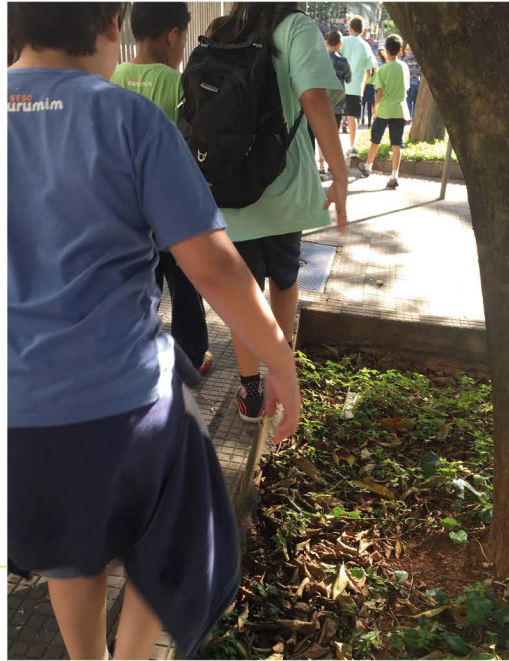


# A NEW PATH FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY OUTDOORS EVERYDAY

In great metropolis, such as São Paulo, the majority of children live imprisoned inside the walls of their houses, schools and shopping malls. That is why we designed a path connecting squares and schools, selecting commercial and service establishments to create a support net for children and projected playing areas along these paths.

The first step was to develop a Cartography Study with children from 7 to 12 years old in order to understand their relationship with the city and public spaces.

Public school's students walking from school to the square, paying attention on what could bring more security and fun to the path.



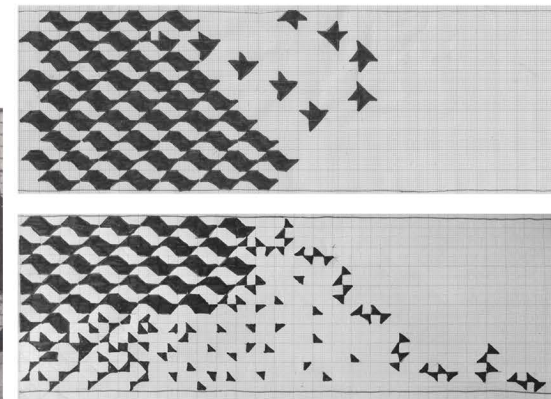
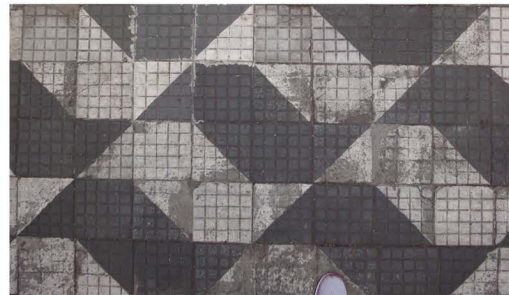
Public school's students saying what they can do (green), can not do (red) and would like to do (yellow) at home, at school and in the public square.

Private school's students drawing their ideal path from school to the square.

## The sidewalk design

Our study, from the cartography with the children to the analysis of school path's manuals, has shown us the importance of continuity and of clear signalling, what is not a reality in Sao Paulo. Since the project's premise is to work with materials that already exist in the city, instead of infantilizing the city itself, we decided to create different combinations of São Paulo's most recognized paving: the black and white sidewalk floor.

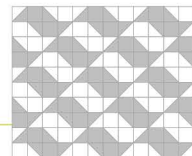
The starting point: city's most recognized paving, which stamps the SP states' map.



After playing with black squares and triangles, we came up with the solution: **4 different patterns to clearly sign the children's path.**



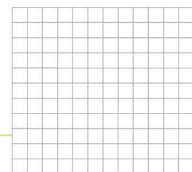
**1 traditional pattern:** pedestrian path.



**2 solid black:** garage entrance.



**3 solid white:** pedestrian crossing.



**4 free pattern:** playing areas.

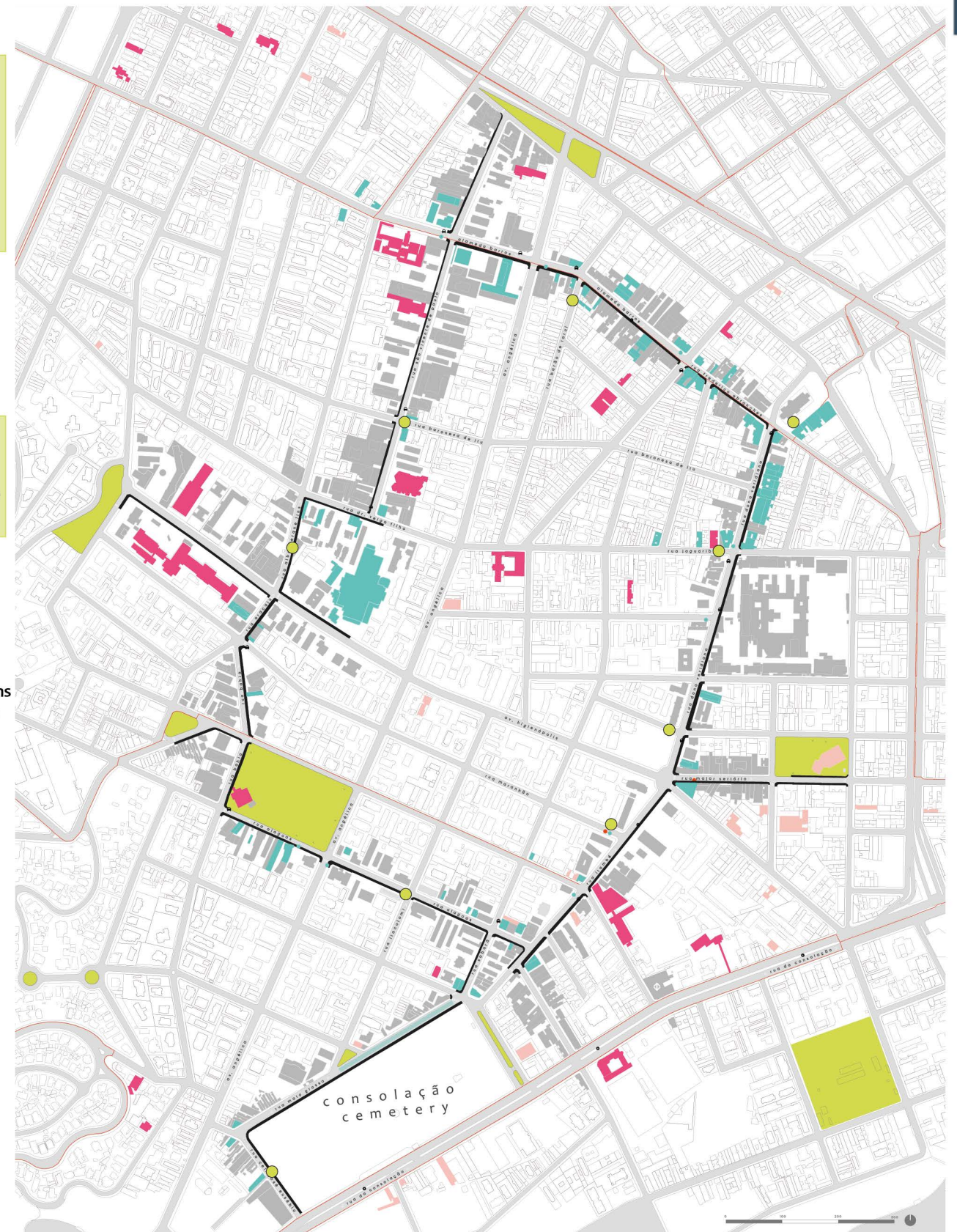
example a deleting black triangles

example b deleting black squares

example c total free

## Criteria to define new Playing Spaces

- SIDEWALK**  
Possibility of creating a good spacial condition (continuity and width).  
Avoid sidewalk with high pedestrian traffic, such as areas close to public equipments.
- STREET**  
Choose streets that are able to apply Traffic Calm measures, such as, one-way street orientation, speed limit reduction, sidewalk and corners increase.



SQUARE-SCHOOL PATH MAP  
consolação . downtown . são paulo

- square
- school
- new playing spaces
- other educational site
- support net
- taxi stop
- bus stop
- bike stop
- cycle paths
- project path

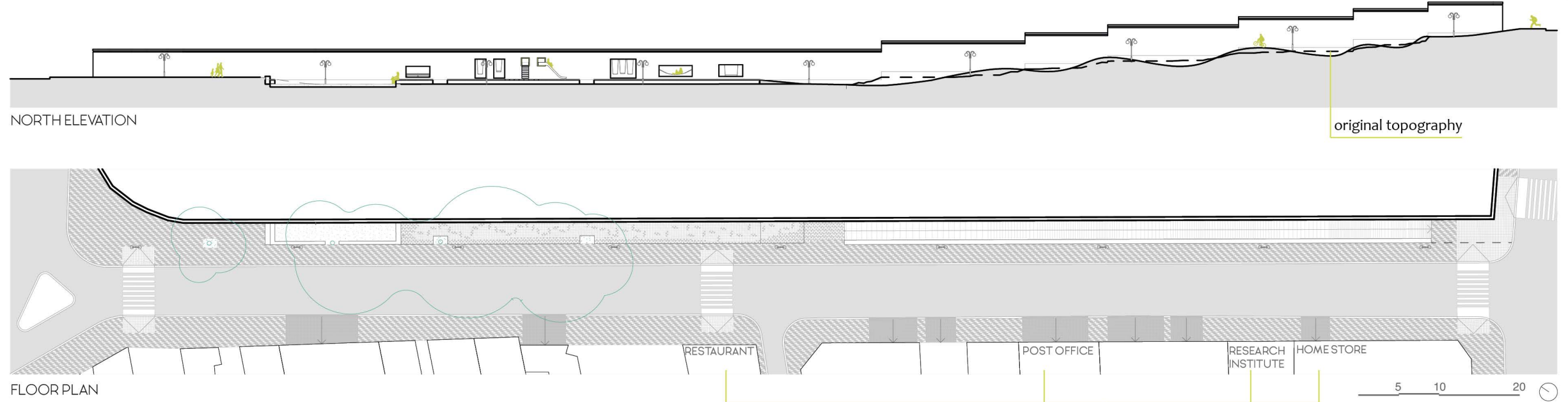
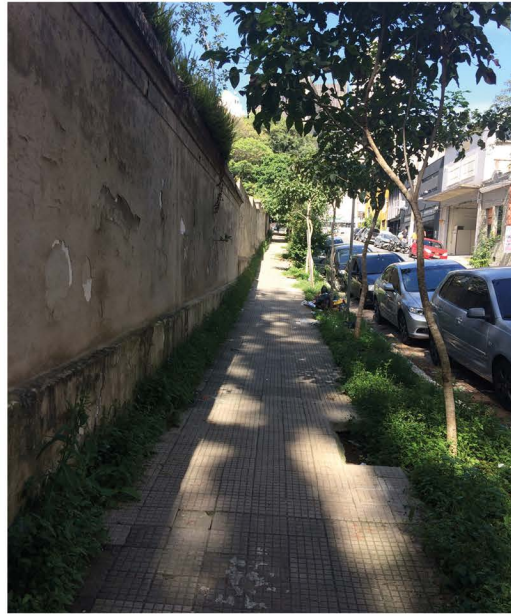
**FACADE**  
It is essential to be close to Support Net for Children establishments, in order to guarantee children's assistance and safety.

**COVERAGE**  
Preference for places with good coverage (trees and marquees).





# PLAYING SPACE . BIG SCALE

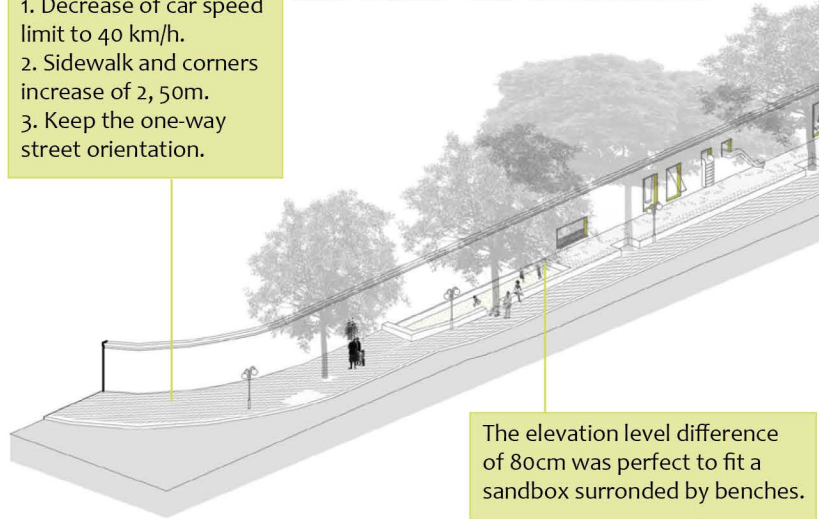


The Consolação Cemetery, is part of city's history, since it was the first cemetery. It is very charming and has pleasant gardens, that is why we opened windows for children to play inside walls.

The 6m of elevation level difference along the 80m of a gradient ramp allowed us to create a skate / bicycle ramp, one of the top five children's desire.

Commercial and service establishments selected to take part in the support net to giving assistance and security for children.

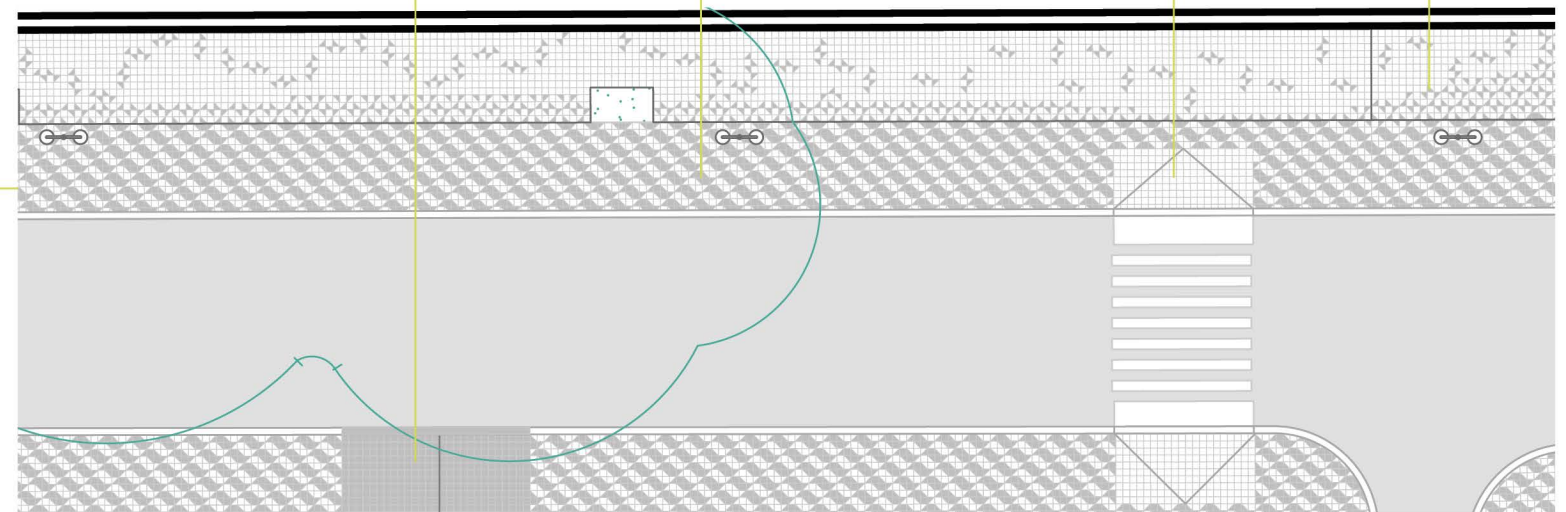
Traffic calm measures:  
 1. Decrease of car speed limit to 40 km/h.  
 2. Sidewalk and corners increase of 2,50m.  
 3. Keep the one-way street orientation.



The elevation level difference of 80cm was perfect to fit a sandbox surrounded by benches.

We removed all parking spaces from this side of the street, increasing the sidewalk in 2,50 meters. This new area became the pedestrian path, and the old sidewalk was converted into the playing area.

## FLOOR PATTERNS



Solid black: indicates danger, garage entrance.

Traditional pattern: indicates pedestrian path, the regular sidewalk.

Solid white: indicates attention, pedestrian crossing.

Free pattern: indicates freedom, playing areas.

Contrary to our expectations, the cartography with children revealed that the 170m continuous block on which Consolação Cemetery is located is a great place for one of our urban interventions along the school-square path.

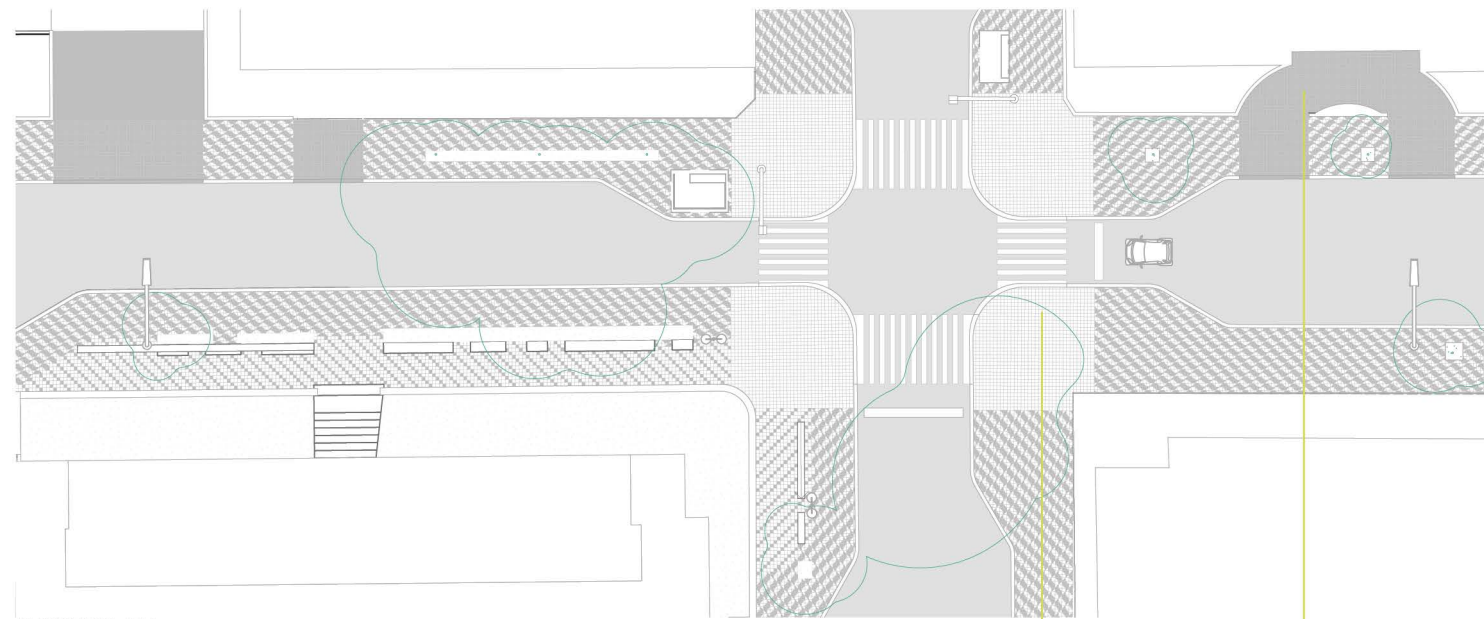


In the children's eyes there are much more beyond cars, dirt and neglect. There is a long ramp which they can run and jump.





# PLAYING SPACE . MEDIUM SCALE



FLOOR PLAN



This playing space is in front of the only building that has neither walls nor fences, located in a corner with 45 meters of continuous sidewalk.

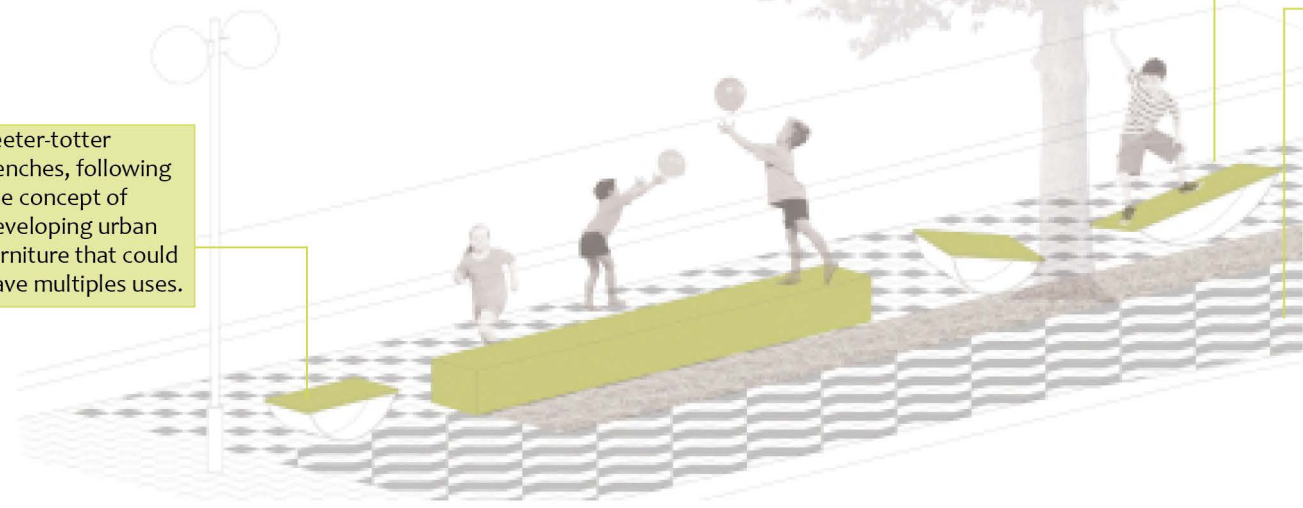


Solid black: indicates danger, garage entrance.

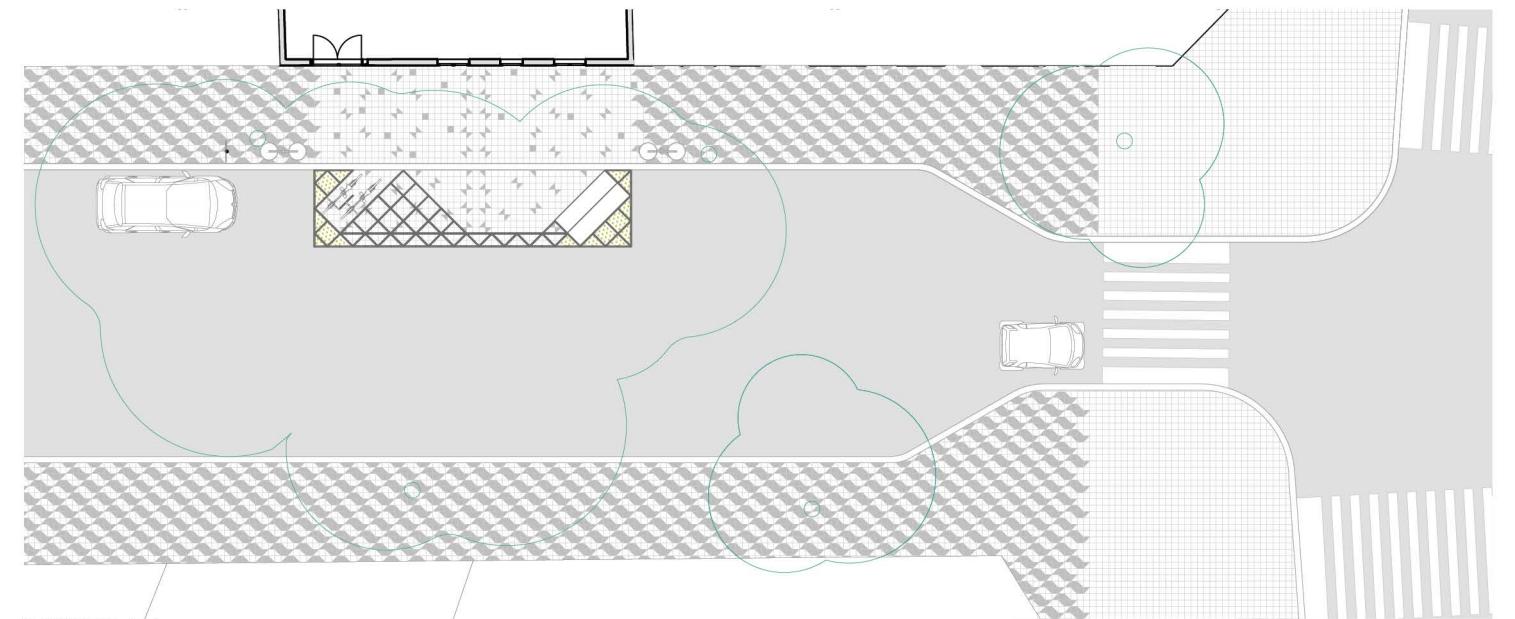
Solid white: indicates attention, pedestrian crossing.

Free pattern: indicates freedom, playing areas.

Teeter-totter benches, following the concept of developing urban furniture that could have multiples uses.



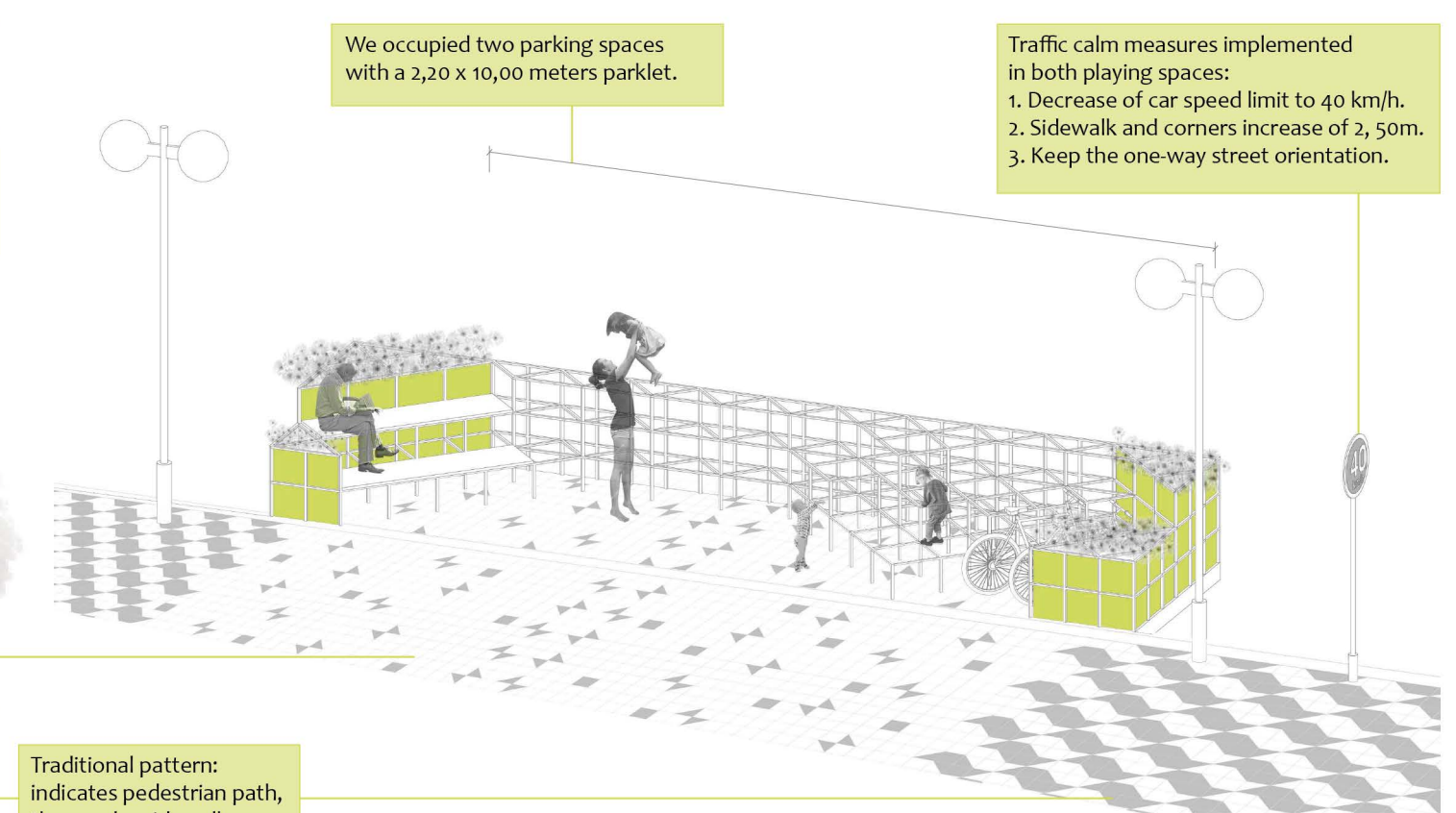
# PLAYING SPACE . SMALL SCALE



FLOOR PLAN

We occupied two parking spaces with a 2,20 x 10,00 meters parklet.

Traffic calm measures implemented in both playing spaces:  
 1. Decrease of car speed limit to 40 km/h.  
 2. Sidewalk and corners increase of 2, 50m.  
 3. Keep the one-way street orientation.



Traditional pattern: indicates pedestrian path, the regular sidewalk.



Here we used an urban intervention tool already applied in the city, the parklet. The difference is that we installed it in front of a very ordinary residential building in downtown, instead of putting it adjacent to a commercial establishment, a move that usually results in privatizing public space. (See below example of a parklet in front of a bar)

