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One Day in LA

Revisiting an architectural project is to open the mind to new knowledge

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Synopsis

Could an architecture project be revisited repeatedly, and still surprise you with new possibilities? That question crossed the mind of this author when she read the approach suggested by EURAU this year. This was the reason why she decided to produce a new review of her own Master Final Project by a different focus, discovering, however, dimensions which have been always there. This project titled One Day in LA, submitted itself like a personal travel in which its author approached to Los Angeles and its imaginaries by exploring some ways of life that take place in the multiple architectures of that provisional city. An experimental research whereby was possible to explore new scenarios which emerged by the combination of architectural techniques with others from different fields, like the films one. With the aim of starting a discourse about some political, social and cultural factors, which are universally valid, exemplified in this work in Los Angeles.

Key words: Architecture, Film, Transgressor, Social, Pedagogical.

1. *One Day in LA: Networked Dreamers Build the Global City*

One Day in LA: Networked Dreamers Build the Global City is a project that targets different situations and issues from diverse perspectives. The result is a short film¹ which operates by means of numerous layers (Fig. 1). It is a story that shows how the architecture project, understanding the architecture in all its cultural and political aspects, is able to originate the circumstances to a proper discussion about the ideas and contexts of the global city, reflected, in this case, in Los Angeles.



Figure 1. Film Poster.

The situations of that global city are produced by the design and the development of a screenplay and some scenes that approach the spectators to a reality that queries the day by day of Los Angeles (Fig. 2). In fact, this work shows the permeability of some spaces that evolve, acquiring new cultural and political connotations. This architectural project focuses on the social, cultural and political practices of four different communities that build their own city (Fig. 3). For this purpose, the architecture must target diverse scales as the residential, the urban and the territorial infrastructure one, from different points of view fiddling with the scale of the objects.

¹ The film, *One Day in LA*, is available in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP4sJLIGmiA&t=3s>

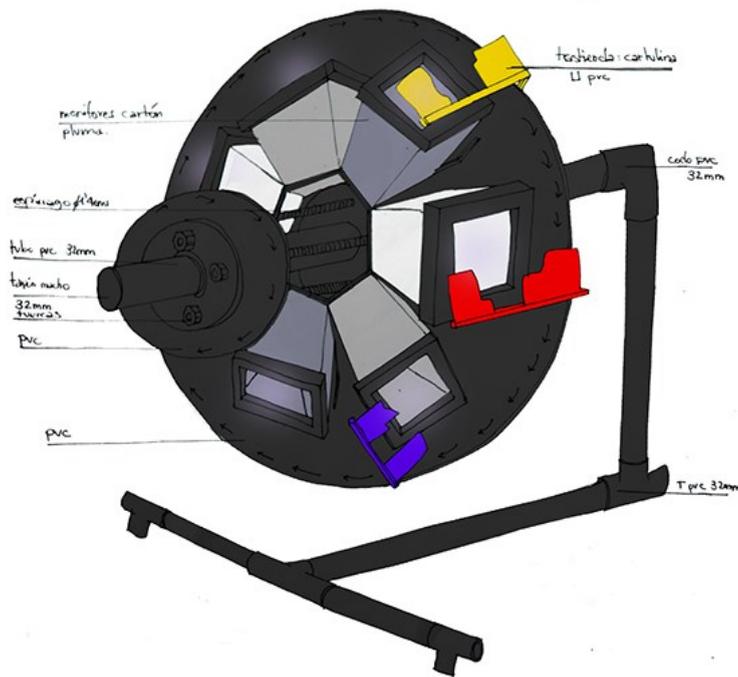


Figure 2. Asian Stock model design.

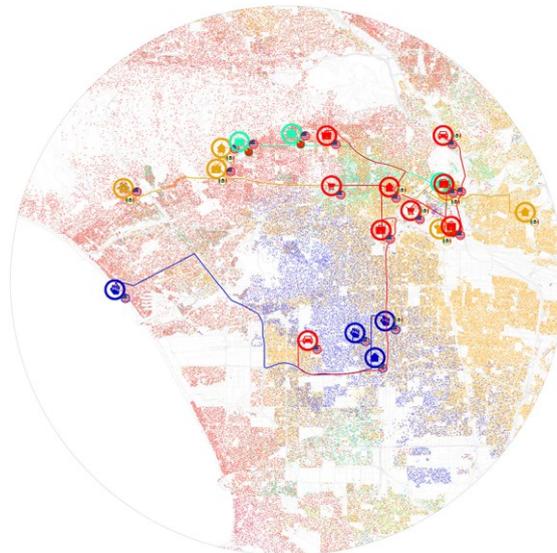


Figure 3. LA sociological film map.

Therefore, this project places value on the space and also on the objects, which acquire the symbols class, related with the feelings and living arrangements of citizens that fight every day claiming their space in the public sphere. The objects give sense to the story and allow the approach to the city and its multiple imaginaries by the personal vision of the author. The objects used by the characters and the different chapters provide insight the functionality of the complex organism called Los Angeles (Fig. 4).



Figure 4. *El taller de los sueños* objects.

This research, thus, is concerned about the aspirations and challenges that the Angelinos deal with. However, this is an imaginary travel to a city which has never been visited physically by the author. For this reason, was essential, like in all the architecture projects compromised with the reality, a substantial research that incorporates new perspectives from external experts. In this case, the films and the literature transform the research into a multidisciplinary one, in which the architecture disseminates and imagines a universe that reflects about the current situation.

2. Methodology: Films and Architecture

One of the main objectives of this proactive research was to propose a work methodology which combined film methods with the architecture one. In this sense, the work achieves an experimental approach that allows the progress of the architecture project to unsuspected ways. Furthermore, by combining this approach with the architectonic object and the political status of the characters through the camera perspective, the architecture project gets an imaginative dimension which acts as communication vehicle of a specific as well as a global reality (Fig.5).



Figure 5. *Reflejos en la ciudad oscura* frame.

The connexion between the architect role and the diverse film facets were used to research on the production of a screenplay and some scenes constantly changing (Fig. 6). Although, it was a process of trial and error, the support in other fields' experts, whose ideas are the basis of this project, was crucial. The research draws on texts as City of Quartz by Mike Davis or films as Crash to create a basis which reconfigures an own imaginary. An imaginary that was built in order to establish a dialogue about the social, cultural and political issues of this heterogenic society, as well as with the architecture and the territory.

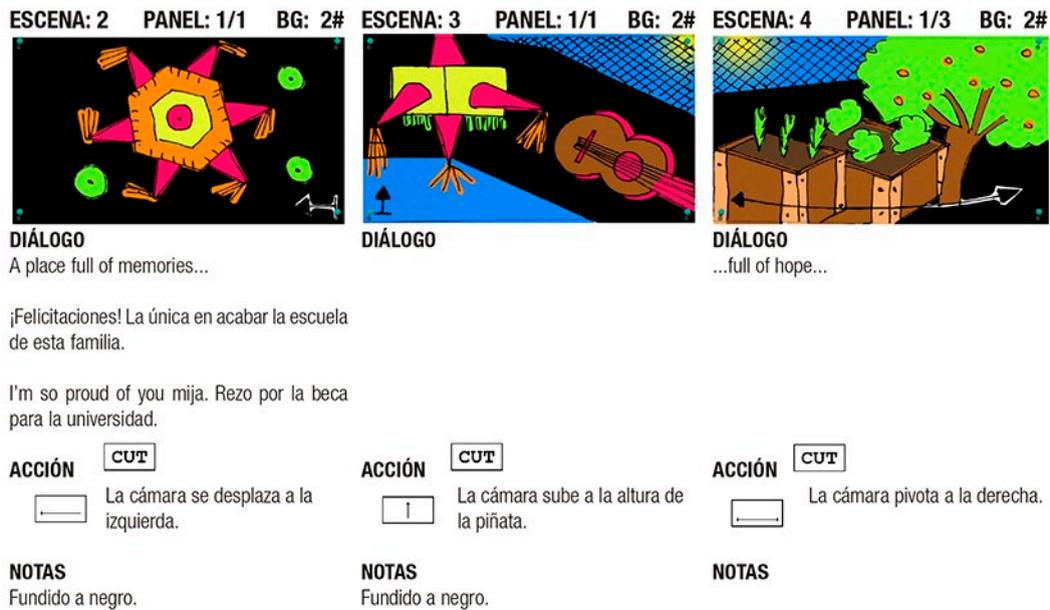


Figure 6. Urbanismo mágico storyboard.

3. Creative Research: Retroactive and Pedagogy

Therefore, this Master Final Project² is a multidisciplinary project, because the architect draws on other disciplines to extend its knowledge and starts using other tools from its own imaginary. In addition, this project extends the limits of the architecture to approach itself to the city, its urban culture, and its socio-spatial and political issues by an imaginative and suggestive way providing a discussion about the social situation.

The project targets topics of global relevance like the illegal immigration, the anchor babies' issue, the wars of water or the racial tensions and the segregation (Fig. 7). The architecture cannot ignore these current social situations. The architecture must call upon its ethic status and acts disseminating all these problems to create a discourse that involves agents of very different fields, indeed.

² The document, One Day in LA, is available in <https://rua.ua.es/dspace/handle/10045/72253>



Figure 7. Burn, Baby Burn frame.

In conclusion, this project also has an educative dimension. By the construction of this story with a huge social charge and by the design of the scenes, the project makes feel the spectator the agony of that people, so they can empathise with their situation. It is a project of social pedagogy which shows complex situations through the architectural language in order to send a message (Fig.8). Furthermore, this research constitutes a teaching to all people that visit it, surprising with their possibilities not just its author, but also its spectators. Therefore, this research lays a project foundation which can be valid for the architecture field and beyond.



Figure 8. One Day in LA exhibition.

One Day in LA
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Biography

Andrea Olivares López. Architect graduated with honours by the Polytechnic School at the University of Alicante (2016) and Master's Degree in Architecture by the University of Alicante (2017). Her degree's project, "Los Ángeles Hardware & Software: Una lectura contemporánea de las cuatro ecologías de Reyner Banham", and her master's project "One Day in LA: Networked Dreamers Build the Global City", got the highest recognition by the University of Alicante. Currently she collaborates with the Department of Graphic Expression, Composition and Projects at the University of Alicante by designing and producing a book about history of architecture. She has participated in different international contests as BEAU VI (2017) and the Spanish Pavilion of the Architecture Biennial of Venice (2018) where her projects are exhibited. Recently her master project has been selected to represent the University of Alicante in the nacional and internacional contest "Archiprix 2019".