

CCPAS - URBAN CENTER

The Centrality Consolidation and Polycentric Articulation Strategies project

One of the most important challenges for some Latin American cities revolves around planning and adapting their territory to reduce the consequences of a dual city and avoid urban expansion, dispersed growth, and the impacts this entails—being essential to consolidate strategic sectors of major cities. This is the case for Cartagena de Indias, located on the Colombian Caribbean coast, which began its growth process in the '50s, due to population expansion caused by massive forced displacement resulting from the nationwide armed conflict. Such growth was not planned by the corresponding entities back then, and is currently generating a significant disarticulation between the urban elements of the city, and is also causing massive road congestion in several sectors.

Over the years, the city generated different centralities from the dynamics of its population. However, there are currently large congestions due to the presence of purely residential use in many sectors of the city, forcing citizens to take long trips to do their daily activities. In this sense, it is important to create strategies applicable to consolidate the city's centralities, while preserving and adapting the different urban facilities and infrastructure for their use and articulation citywide.

These strategies were essential in the design process of the Centrality Consolidation and Polycentric Articulation Strategies (CCPAS) project, which also seeks to consolidate the centrality of Los Cuatro Vientos—a sector characterized by the high degree of institutional use due to its important educational, university and health centers—which is currently disjointed.

The CCSPA project articulates the existing facilities based on roads, ramps, platforms, and new complementary uses—currently scarce—in the city. This way, buildings such as theaters, cultural centers, auditoriums, private and public offices (destined for the Mayor's Office) are contemplated. Despite the lack of public space, and the city's structural issues of flooding, new spaces for recreation and sports (such as small courts and parks) are still under construction in current underground rain channels.

Applying these strategies together with a civil registration system according to the place of residency, it is possible to control flows within the city, urban facilities, and the needs of the overall population, which is essential in the context in which we are currently living.