



Luces de Barrio Huertos

[Neighborhood Lights : Orchards]
Sevilla (España), 2016

PREVIOUS STATUS

Together with the diversity of consolidated public green spaces, cities present secondary spaces, which do not enjoy the same institutional recognition and which -still- affect a minority of citizens. This is the case of urban orchards that are beginning to proliferate in the city of Seville thanks to the management of civic collectives without any type of institutional planning.

Specifically, we consider relevant the capacity of these marginal situations to anticipate future scenarios that could affect broader collectives, turning the gathered experience into an incalculable value to face future social, environmental and economic challenges in a different way.

In fact, this urban orchards informal network faces a growing demand that puts on the table the need to rethink these situations within the public spaces system.

From the festival of ephemeral architecture in nature “Luces de barrio”, we like to think that the city functions as an emerging system with the capacity to self-organize, adapt or dream of itself and that, perhaps naively, with the initiative of illuminating some of those “dreams” of the future, we are helping to promote them.

PURPOSE OF THE INTERVENTION

These situations rise without an external or regulated plan. Rather they appear as a consequence of the daily desires and actions of social collectives, who find in these spaces, around them, a place to express their purposes. They demonstrate the capacity to create hospitable human scale landscapes, surrounded by an indifferent and even hostile context to their existence.

It is curious to see, for example, how children, groups of pensioners or unemployed people living on the fringes of the labour market, recover and claim their social usefulness through participation in these public spaces.

In this context, it is advisable to learn from these experiences where a close civic relationship with nature is shown, where people can be actively and meaningfully involved in the production of their living environments.

Thus, “Luces de barrio” selected six Seville’s urban gardens with different characteristics to celebrate and help consolidate them by creating landscaping devices and performative actions realized with the participation of the involved com-

munities along with city’s architects, landscapers and artists.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

Contemplating these arguments, maybe it could be understandable the proposal’s will to “illuminate” such situations - the urban gardens - and to ensure that any intervention, however ephemeral, would be carried out from the same principles of inclusion and participation.

To this purpose, a series of collective creation laboratories was articulated and coordinated by different teams of young local creators who lit the orchards of six urban gardens in the city.

The teams were chosen, not only for their background in alternative production, but also for their ability to support and spread the voice of the real creators of these edible gardens. Several months of discussions and workshops led to six ephemeral proposals. Three of them tried to be a sounding board for the qualities and desires already existing in the gardens (San Jerónimo, Rey Moro, Parque Alcosa). On other occasions, the lighting proposals were chosen as answers to technical problems or deficiencies in the places (IES Romero Murube, Hacienda San Antonio). In other cases, the artists worked to reinforce the social construction of the space (Vega de Triana).

EVALUATION

In the design and construction of this experience 100 artists, 10 teachers, 80 students, 35 institutions, among them the Fab-Lab Sevilla (ETSAS.US) have participated, more than 750 neighbors were involved in the experience and in the collective report, 3250 spectators attended the creative illuminations, many of them did not know these public gardens and visited them for the first time during the initiative. The promoters of the “Luces de Barrio” program, the Seville City Council’s ICAS, decided to continue the program in the following year.

Meanwhile, the city’s six urban gardens continue to be cared publicly and civically by neighbors, schoolchildren and associations. The demand for this type of public space is increasing every day in the city and they are beginning to be known for their beauty as places of special interest by foreign visitors.



1. HUERTOS DE SAN JERÓNIMO

This orchard, one of the most mature in the city, is located on the east bank of the Alamillo Park and, with the support of Ecologistas en Acción, is characterized by the multitude of programs that started from it. The grazing of native sheep or the production of organic eggs called “tu basura vale un huevo” (your garbage is worth an egg) are some of them, where the neighbors’ organic waste is food for the animals. However, the orchards community tired of recurrent vandalism needed to send a message to the city. With the help of

Lugadero and “Mansilla y los espías” they decided to plant the garden with letters that were arranged freely and seemingly randomly, inviting to walk the garden in a different way. Until you reach the correct vanishing point where the light revealed the plea: RESPECT, WALK WITH ME.

Design and creation: Lugadero **Participants:** Comunidad hortelanos San Jerónimo, Ecologistas en Acción **Music:** Mansilla y los espías
Photography: Marta Morera, Juan Duque Oliva, Sur_names
Production: El Mandaito **Media:** Sur_names **Curated by:** Nomad Garden
Cultural promoter: Ayuntamiento de Sevilla (Spain)

