Many celebrations do overlap at Christmas time: Christian nativity, the winter solstice or the fertility of agriculture, all of which incarnate in some way the cyclical and fraternal relation that we have with the sky, nature and society. The Nativity scene, the Saturnalia banquets, the Yule candles or the Christmas tree are some of the mechanisms around which these forces combine in a liturgical way. They bring spaces and occasions for meetings and for communion which, since ancient times, regularly illuminated with candles, torches or stars. The question is: where can we find these spaces nowadays? Where does Christmas take place today?

The initiative focuses in six exceptional urban locations that, being taken care of and cultivated by citizen collectives, already incarnate and foster, during all the year, the ecosystemic alliances that blend at Christmas time. We are talking about the neighborhood streets appropriated and decorated by the residents of El Carmen; the vegetable ark created by the Friends of the Jardines de la Oliva; the educative urban gardens that blossom in Miraflores district; the garden and spaces cultivated by the artisans of Rompemoldes and other groups in San Julian; and the solidarity and intercultural tissue that exists in the suburban areas of Parque Amate and San Jerónimo. Supported by the Instituto de la Cultura y las Artes de Sevilla (ICAS), several workshops and interventions were developed in these neighborhoods.

To illuminate these places and situations also means to convey their stories, their commitment, their alliances, their good feelings. For that reason, the curators gathered a group of architects linked to both creative projects and editorial practices, groups that support and spread the voice of others through public projects and platforms. Closely looking at existing elements and using recycled materials, new ephemeral and singular Christmas lighting were explored and developed with the participation of the local inhabitants involved in the phenomena above described (1500 people all in all). In parallel, diverse musicians, actors, dancers and other performers joined this atypical festivity, reinvigorating the celebration of ancient bonds and rituals. For some weeks, these places were no longer places of passage but they were transformed into places to stay, places that invite us to stop, to hold the lights that expand, the nature that emerges, the real and imagined encounters taking place.

To celebrate the exceptionality of these urban situations, as well as to recognise the work of the local groups that manage them in a quotidian basis. To diffuse the exemplary value of these prototypes to the rest of citizens. To encourage the involvement of the inhabitants in the creative regeneration of their environment. To promote the playful and festive side of the city. Those were the goals, these are the stories:

A.1. A nursery in the neighborhood
La Oliva is one of the districts of Seville with greater plant biodiversity, thanks to the work of different associations that ensure the preservation and dissemination of nature in the city.

B.1. Pikivolley networks...
The Paraguayan and Ecuadorian community of Seville have made of this park a meeting and socializing point around sport. They mount and dismantle their sport networks several days a week throughout the whole year.

C.1. Identity
The Barrio del Carmen in Triana is an urban example of how to appropriate the public spaces through nature and community. The neighbors take their pots, chairs, and even the clothes hanging on the street to mark their place.

D.1. 160 gardeners
This story begins in 1983, when a group of neighbors joined to form the Educational Park Miraflores Committee association with a single purpose: to recover for their children and grandchildren a historic agricultural land which, at the time, was just a waste dump construction. Since then, 160 gardenersrown this garden annually for the rest of the city.

E.1. Industrial Corrala
Rompemoldes is an industrial corrala in which craftsmen and designers live and work. In the community yard, they have slowly created a small and unexpected green oasis inside the dense urban fabric of the neighborhood of San Julian. Vegetation and patio lighting have been two of the wires of the coexistence of this community.

F.1. A myriad of spaces for culture and solidarity in a disadvantaged neighbourhood
Heritage, social housing, slums, regionalism, modernity and multiculturalism mix in the disadvantaged neighborhood of San Jerónimo, forming an unusual landscape in which a myriad of solidarity and cultural associations silently operate to enhance their environment, in the broader of senses.