2015 Roche Scholarship Recipient

POLITICAL URBANISM

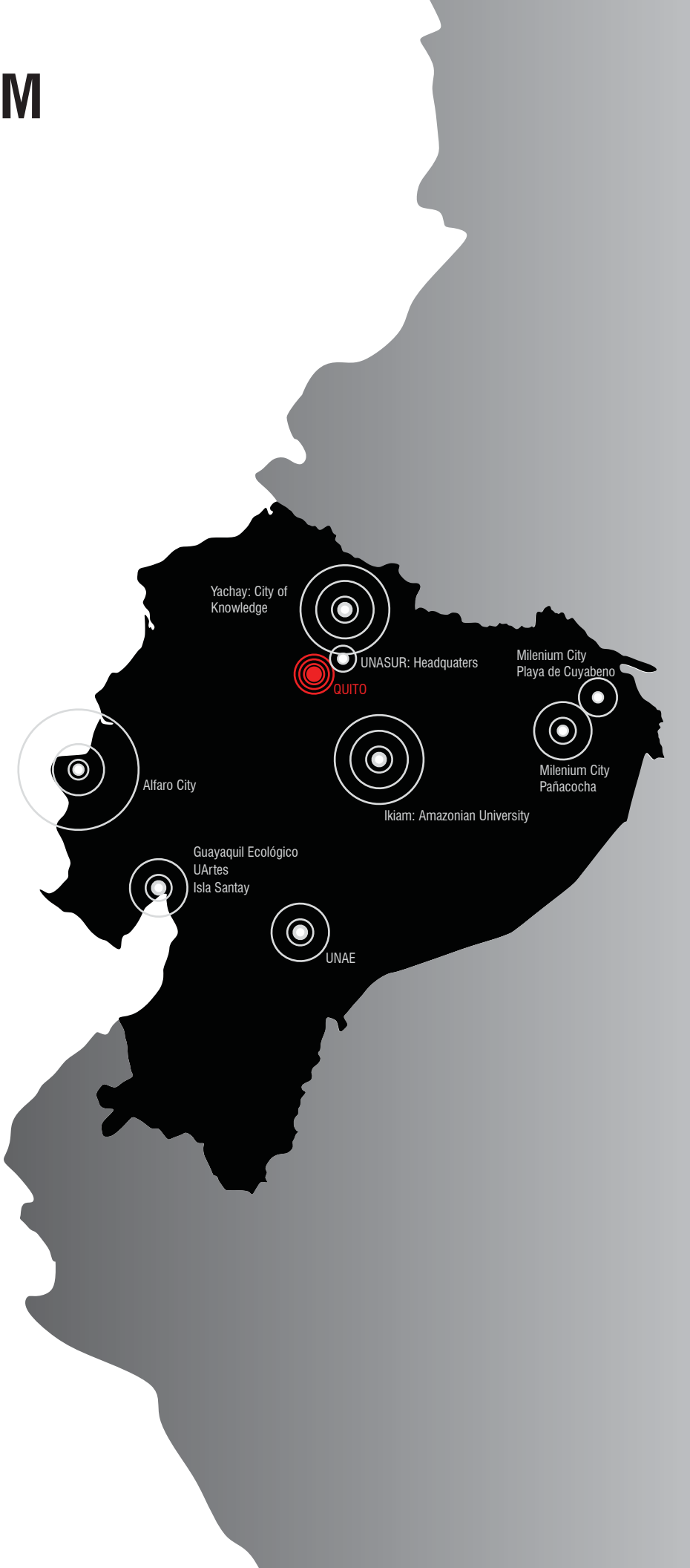
The development of society , the rise and fall of political leaders, economic demands and crises have shaped cities and architecture through out history. Dissecting the factors that frame, create and drive the appearance of new urban conditions has conventionally been done as a historical task. To do so at a time of transformation when history is in the making is an opportunity worth seizing.

The Republic of Ecuador after years of unstable, temporary governments, most of which were overthrown by the people, is now experiencing one of the longest and deepest political movements in the past 30 years. This *Revolución Ciudadana* (Citizen Revolution) as the local authorities call the movement, has deeply reshaped the urban landscape of the country. The master plan for the movement: *El Plan del Buen Vivir* (The Plan for Good Living) has massively increased the investment of the government in different development and social projects all across the country.

The traces of this strong movement are seen through out the country. The projects range from the micro buildings with a singular purpose, to the development of mega cities in remote areas . These urban interventions witnessed by the country vary in type and scale, but all carry a concrete agenda of the state's development plan. *Ciudad Alfaro* was one of the first infrastructural project of the government. It was built to be the hub for the new constitution to be written. Today after 8 years it stands as a monument for the beginning of a new nation. The project of *Yachay: Ciudad del Conocimiento* (City of Knowledge) is the largest of 4 Mega Universities which aims to create a self sustainable city that will operate in industry, agriculture, and education. The remote location of this project and other constructions in settings such as the Amazonian jungle like *Ciudades del Milenio* (Millennium Cities) show the investment in areas traditionally overlooked by past leaders.

The Urban Interventions carry an agenda of a participatory and decentralized democratic republic, which is clearly depicted by the large range of location, scale, and type of projects. Ecuador presents a unique setting that is in the core of a massive urban, infrastructural, social and political development. The study aims to catalogue how from the beginning of this deep political movement the country has been reshaping it's urban landscape. Ecuador is an urban experiment in which the government is using architecture and urbanism as a key vehicle to declare a new democratic republic of "Good Living".

Covering an area only twice as large as the State of Illinois, the trip will focus on the places where these projects are now being developed : Manabí, Imbabura, Napo, Cañar, Guayas. The lessons of these ambitious interventions will be collected through mappings, interviews, photographs among other tools of analysis . Through the collections of data, this unique model will be examined through different lenses. These devices will allow the discovery of how all these interventions condense into a unique type of urbanism that shapes the history of a country. The study will be compiled in a book that will be showcased at UIC.



TIMELINE

The representatives of the local government agencies that manage the selected projects have been contacted and tentative site visits have been proposed. They have offered to promote the study and be accompanied in their site visits to allow access to the most remote locations that cannot be accessed through conventional travel.

I have conducted research on the topic for the past, and compiled a bibliography that includes books such as : “Lucio Costa: Brasilia's Superquadra” El-Dahdah, “Socialist Architecture: The Vanishing Act” Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss, Form and Pedagogy: Carlos Garciavelez on the university city in Latin America. Armed with that knowledge, I will embark on a journey of discovery of a unique environment characterized by a catalytic set of conditions that are shaping a new republic.

WEEK 1 : Further Research and Planning

Assemble required equipment: Hiking gear, camera, audio recorder

Confirm contact with local Authorities and Architects involved in selected projects

Establish trips, routes, accommodation and appointments for site visits

ORD ····· UIO

WEEK 2: Equip and Prepare

Base at capital city Quito

Establish accommodation

Meet with local authorities

1 ····· 2

WEEK 3: On the Road

UNASUR site visit and interview with architect : Diego Guayasamin

Photograph and explore site and project

2 ····· 3

WEEK 4: Headed North

Yachay: City of Knowledge site visit

Interview of local authorities : M. Sc. Héctor Rodríguez, Project Manager

Document site and explore

3 ··· 4 ··· 5 ··· 6

WEEK 5+6: Headed West

Millennium Cities site visit

Interview of local authorities

Document site and explore

6 ····· 7

WEEK 7: South Route

IKIAM: Amazonian University site visit

Interview of local authorities and current students

Guillaume Long, Coordinating Minister for Knowledge and Talent

Document site and explore

8 ····· 9 ··· 10

WEEK 8+9: Southeast to the coast

UArtes, Isla Santay and Guayaquil Ecologico site visits

Interview of local authorities, current students

Document site and explore

10 ···· 11 ··· 12

WEEK 10: North Bound

Ciudad Alfaro and Manta site visits

Interview of local authorities, current students

Document site and explore

12 ····· 1

WEEK 11: Back to Base and Synthesis

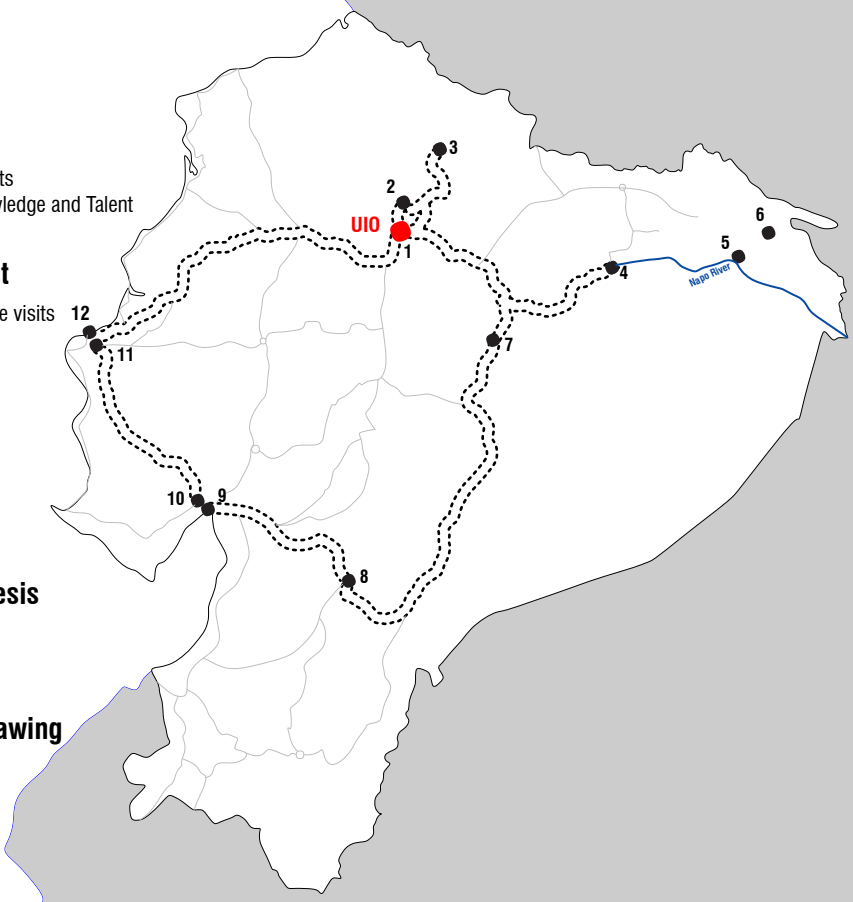
Back to the Capital to Organize and Compile

UIO ····· ORD

WEEK 12: Data Processing and Drawing Production

Data Analysis : Mappings, Drawings and Interview transcribe

Book Layout and Publish



GENERAL BUDGET

	AIA	Local Authorities	
TRANSPORTATION			
Airfare	725.00 USD		Round Trip: ORD-UIO Approximate dates 09/15-12/15 Sources: expedia.com , skyscanner.com
Buses	80.00 USD		Approximate 10 bus rides at 10 USD each Sources: panamericana.com
Car Rental + Gas	100.00 USD		Approximate 1 week of car rental to travel to remote areas. Source: avis.com, rentacar.com
Other : Boat Rental	95.00 USD	100.00 USD	Amazon and Island Access Source: ecuadortravel.com
LIVING EXPENSES			
Rent	600.00 USD		2 Months Quito Furnished Studio Source: numbeo.com
Hotels	880.00 USD	50.00 USD	Average of 20 USD a night for hotel stays Source: xpatulator.com, numbeo.com
Meals	1775.00 USD	50.00 USD	Average of 18 USD a day Source: numbeo.com
Health Insurance	313.00 USD		Source: imglobal.com, medexassist.com
EQUIPMENT			
Hiking Gear , Camera, Audio Recorder	250.00 USD		Source: ebay.com, amazon.com
Publication	150.00 USD	200.00 USD	Printing and Publishing of Book Source: blurb.com, lulu.com
TOTAL	4 968.00 USD	400.00 USD	