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A Manifesto for (De)growth. Disruptive (De)growth Repository of Southern Ecosystems

Original
A Manifesto for (De)growth. Disruptive (De)growth Repository of Southern Ecosystems / Berlanda, T., Khensani de, K., Scott, L., Nerea Amoros, E., Sunniva, V., Tao, K.. - In: ARQ. - ISSN 0716-0852. - 11:(2022), pp. 108-117. [10.4067/S0717-69962022000200108]

Availability:
This version is available at: 11583/2980363 since: 2023-07-15T08:57:02Z

Publisher:
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Published
DOI:10.4067/S0717-69962022000200108

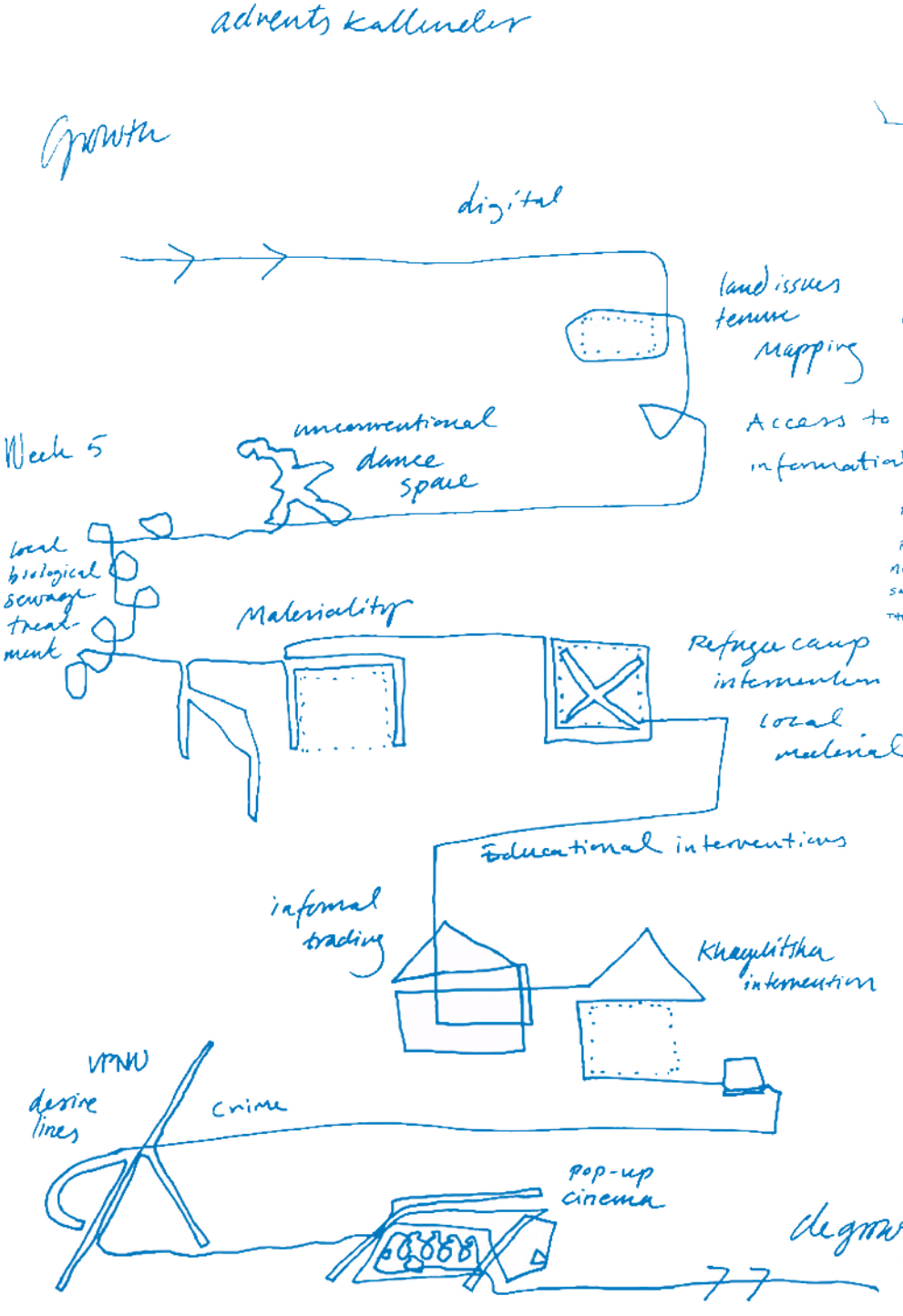
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27 November 2026

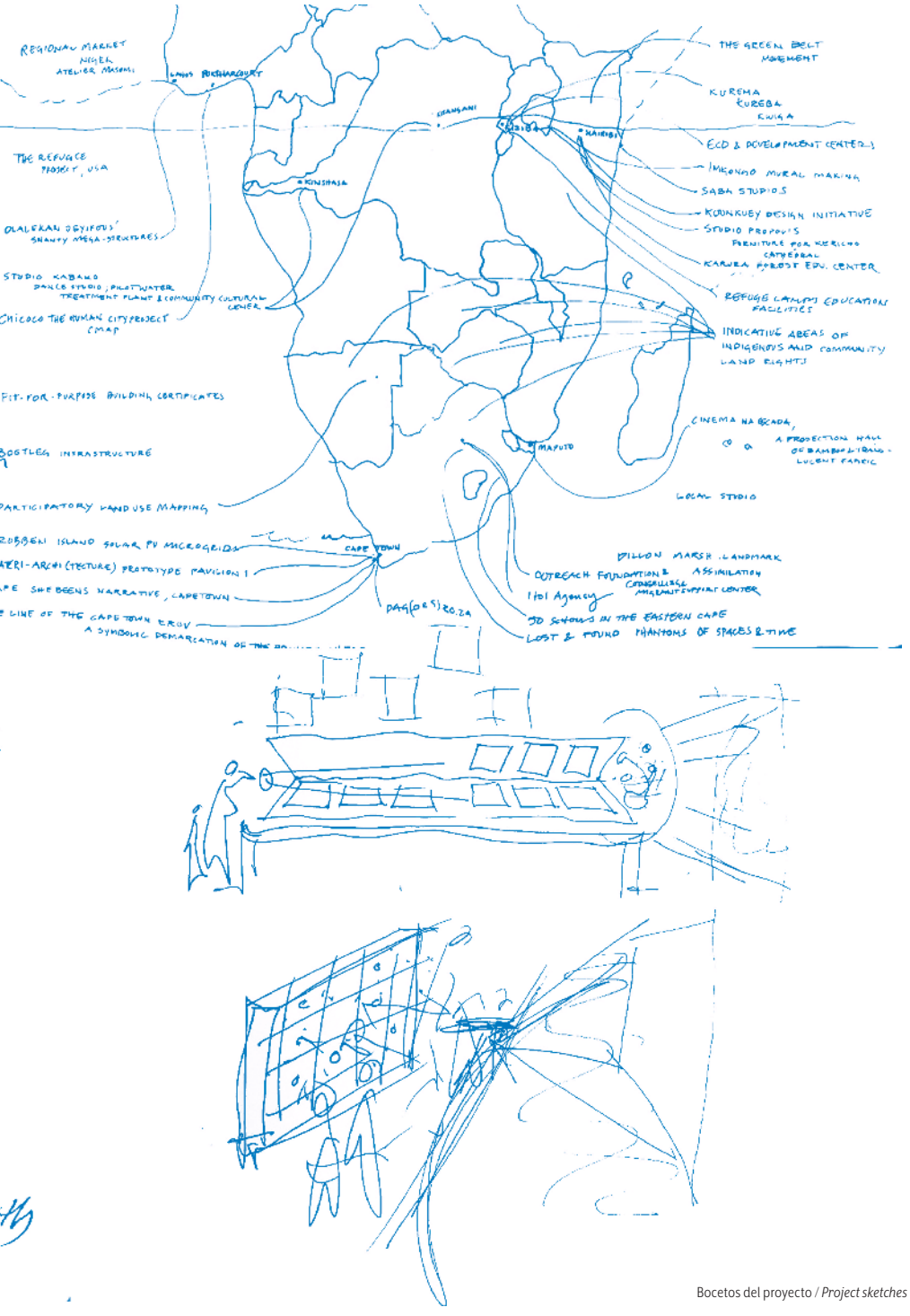


Hunguta

Palabras clave Colonialismo
Colaboración
África subsahariana
Proyecto
Decrecer

A MANIFESTO FOR (DE)GROWTH

DISRUPTIVE (DE)GROWTH REPOSITORY OF SOUTHERN ECOSYSTEMS

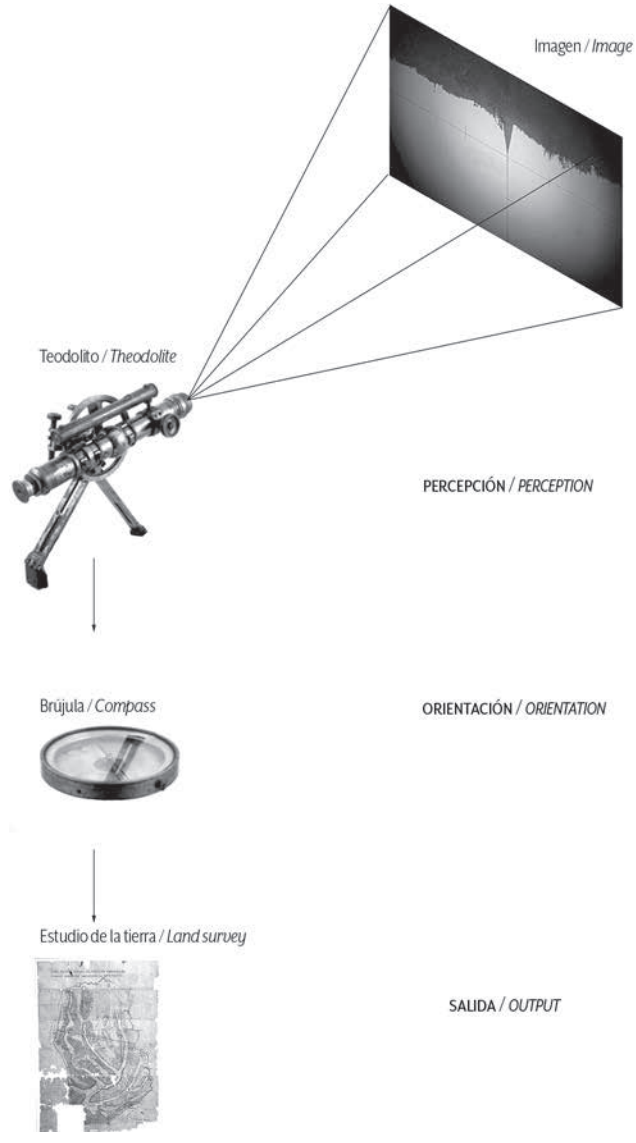


Bocetos del proyecto / *Project sketches*

Hunguta formed after the open call for the 2019 Oslo Architecture Triennale, taking the Xitsonga word for 'decrease' as its name. The multidisciplinary collective engages with degrowth practices in the context of the Global South. The project in Sub-Saharan Africa – developed through months and in dialogue with local communities –, was transformed into an atlas exhibited in Oslo in 2019. Through images, diagrams, and photographs, the collective both tests and challenges degrowth principles in a manifesto on the dynamic repository of southern ecosystems. In doing so, the atlas questions the absolute viability and application of degrowth principles in territories subjected to exploitation and 'slow growth' over decades – if not centuries.

OSLO, NORUEGA
JOHANNESBURGO, SUDÁFRICA
2019

Keywords Colonialism
Collaboration
Sub-Saharan Africa
Project
Degrowth


Imagen / *Image*
Teodolito / *Theodolite*
PERCEPCIÓN / *PERCEPTION*
Brújula / *Compass*
ORIENTACIÓN / *ORIENTATION*
Estudio de la tierra / *Land survey*
SALIDA / *OUTPUT*

Is degrowth an absolute term?

Hunguta is a collective of architects, designers, and multidisciplinary artists loosely centred between Cape Town, Cambridge, Harare, Kampala and Zurich. We draw our name from the Xitsonga word *'hunguta'* meaning 'decrease'.

We established our collective as a response to the call launched by the 2019 Oslo Architecture Triennale curators under the theme "Enough, an Architecture of Degrowth". During an 8-months-long process the team – formed by Tomà Berlanda, Nerea Amorós Elorduy, Khensani de Klerk, Tao Klitzner, Scott Lloyd, Maxwell Mutanda and Sunniva Viking – co-produced research to explore how degrowth is understood in, and embodied across, spatial practices of sub-Saharan Africa ecosystems. As architects, designers, researchers, teachers, and artists either from, based in, or working on, the African continent, we decided to engage with the audience by providing access to a collection of novel case studies. We conceived an installation to present a living atlas, a room-scaled learning tool that subverts established modes of conceiving degrowth as an easily transported, translated, and imposed paradigm.

The rethought repository, or matrix of objects/methods/systems was initiated by a gathering of the collective's previous experiences as we questioned the ecosystemic relationship between context and degrowth, the use of diverse languages and methods. The sequence which launched in Oslo promoted further collaborations to trigger new languages that added richness and layers to the work.

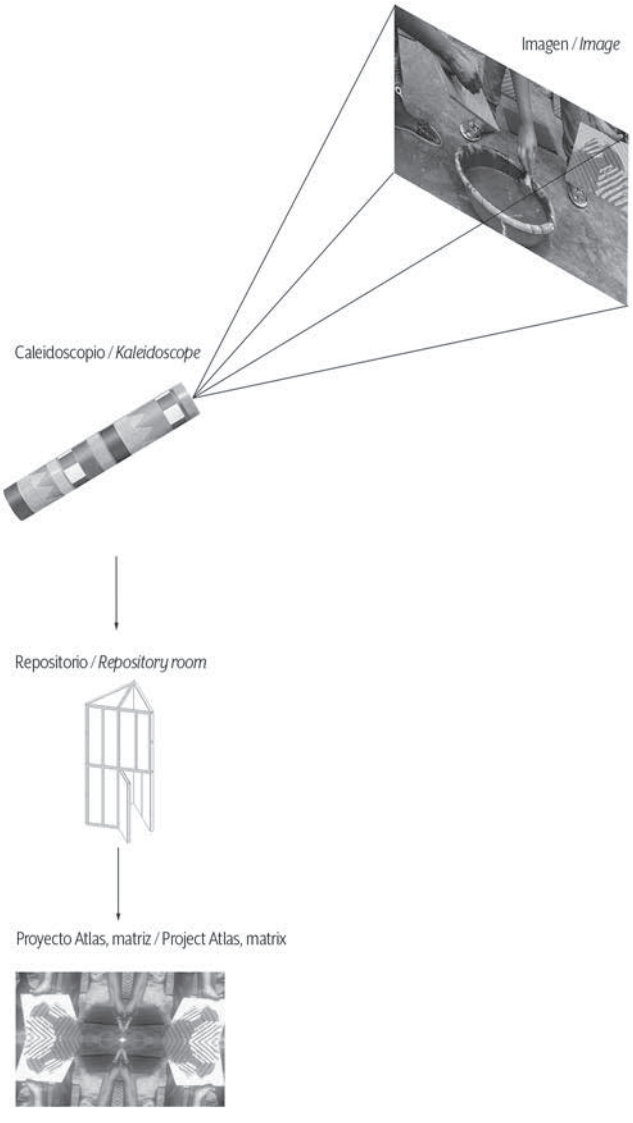
Throughout the process we challenged the reading of the 'South' through the divisive lens of the colonial theodolite, positing as an alternative the use of a kaleidoscopic perspective. Discussing how the kaleidoscopic analysis and representation of the work might create new practices, we engaged in discussing our different agencies as an ecosystem of our own. Through its ever-changing conditions, our understanding of a contemporary archive intended to trigger a subversion of Western-based canonical modes of conceiving how architects, designers, and makers facilitate the building of, and learning from, human settlements. The references we chose to document in our repository are representative of the richness of practices, narratives, viewpoints, and experiences taking place in sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, the kaleidoscopic view we present of them has been designed to entice discussion, questions, and trigger new actions amongst makers and viewers.

Taken as a whole, the repository is dynamic, ever-changing with each member of the audience creating its own experience, thus reflecting the context of Southern ecosystems which is characterised by flux. Envisioned as an unconventional spatial experience allowing for multiple readings, "Disruptive Degrowth, a repository of Southern ecosystems" articulates a multifaceted position of what it means in the Anthropocene to understand degrowth from a southern vantage point, and how to engage with validating diverse spoken, visual, iconographic, and material languages. These concepts optimise their existence and archive outside of the conventional Western canonical understanding of repository. We believe the current immobility, closure, and impermeability of knowledge created by a minority world and applied to the majority world is not suited to revealing and advancing disruptive degrowth globally, and especially to projects in southern ecosystems.

By sharing the atlas of southern ecosystems emerging from our remote collaboration, we aim for it to be understood as a layered lens into established and evolving spatial practices in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a lens developed both through our method of finding, interpreting, and sorting projects, and through the creation of an alternative and participative spatial device in order to document, display, and archive the work. For us, thinking about human-made and evolving Southern ecosystems became an ignition point of agency. We hope that analysing and talking about these practices might serve for continuous collaborative learning and participation across the globe: a transition from a relative to a relational experience of thought, space creation and place. **ARQ**

NOTE

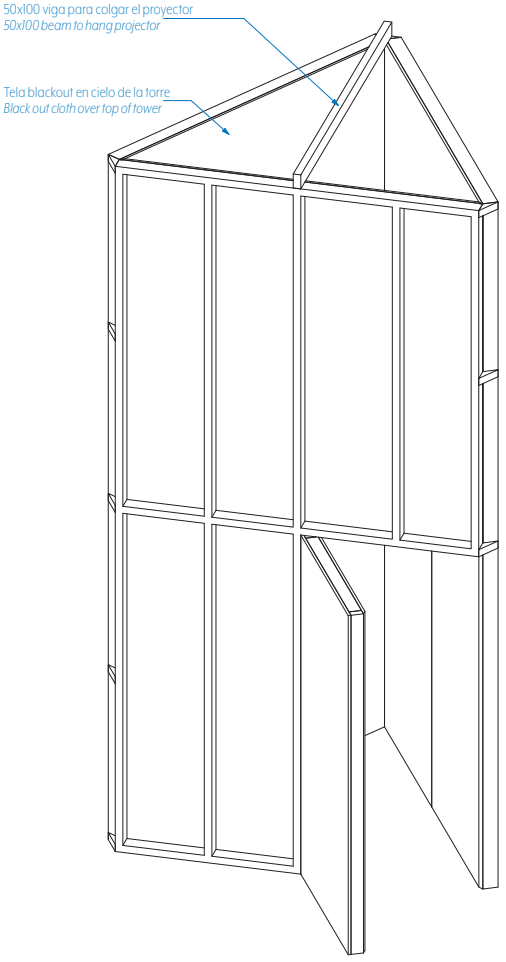
Hunguta Design is collaborative assembly of architects, designers and multidisciplinary artists loosely centered between Cape Town, Harare, Kampala, Cambridge, and Zurich. The collective includes Tomà Berlanda, Nerea Amorós Elorduy, Khensani de Klerk, Tao Klitzner, Scott Lloyd, Maxwell Mutanda, and Sunniva Viking.



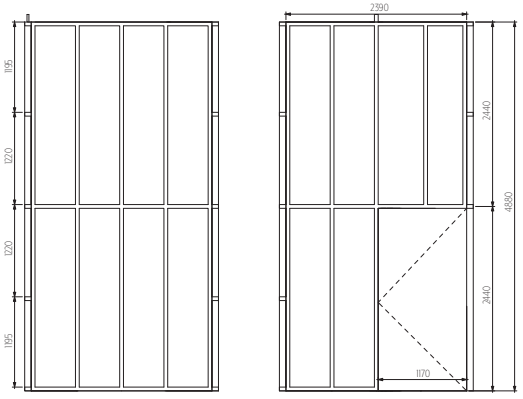
Diagramas de Hunguta Scroope / *Hunguta Scroope diagrams*



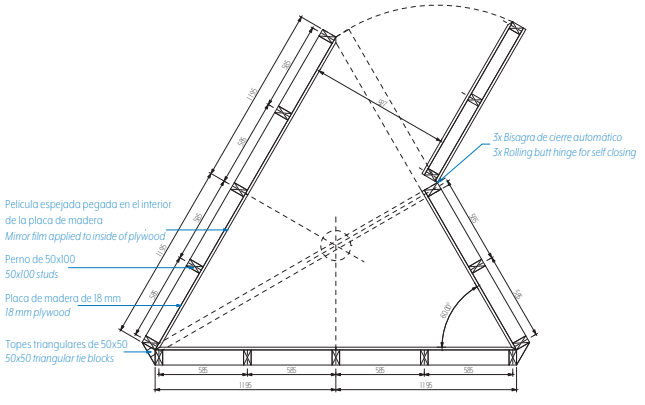
Torre del caleidoscopio / *Kaleidoscope Tower*
© Istvan Virag



Vista tridimensional torre del caleidoscopio / *Kaleidoscope tower 3D view*
S. E. / *N. S.*



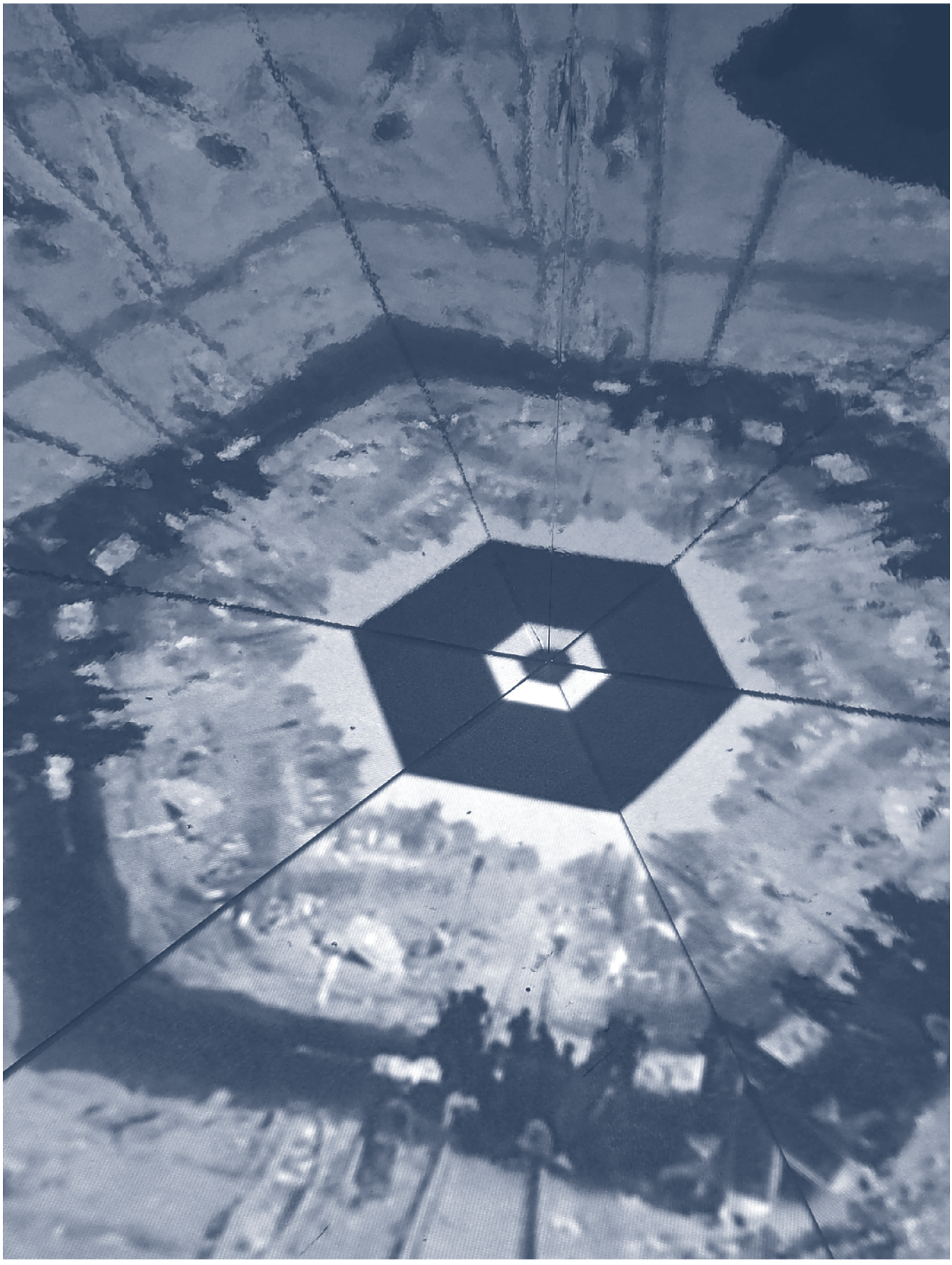
Elevaciones torre del caleidoscopio / *Kaleidoscope Tower elevations*
E. / *S.* 1: 50



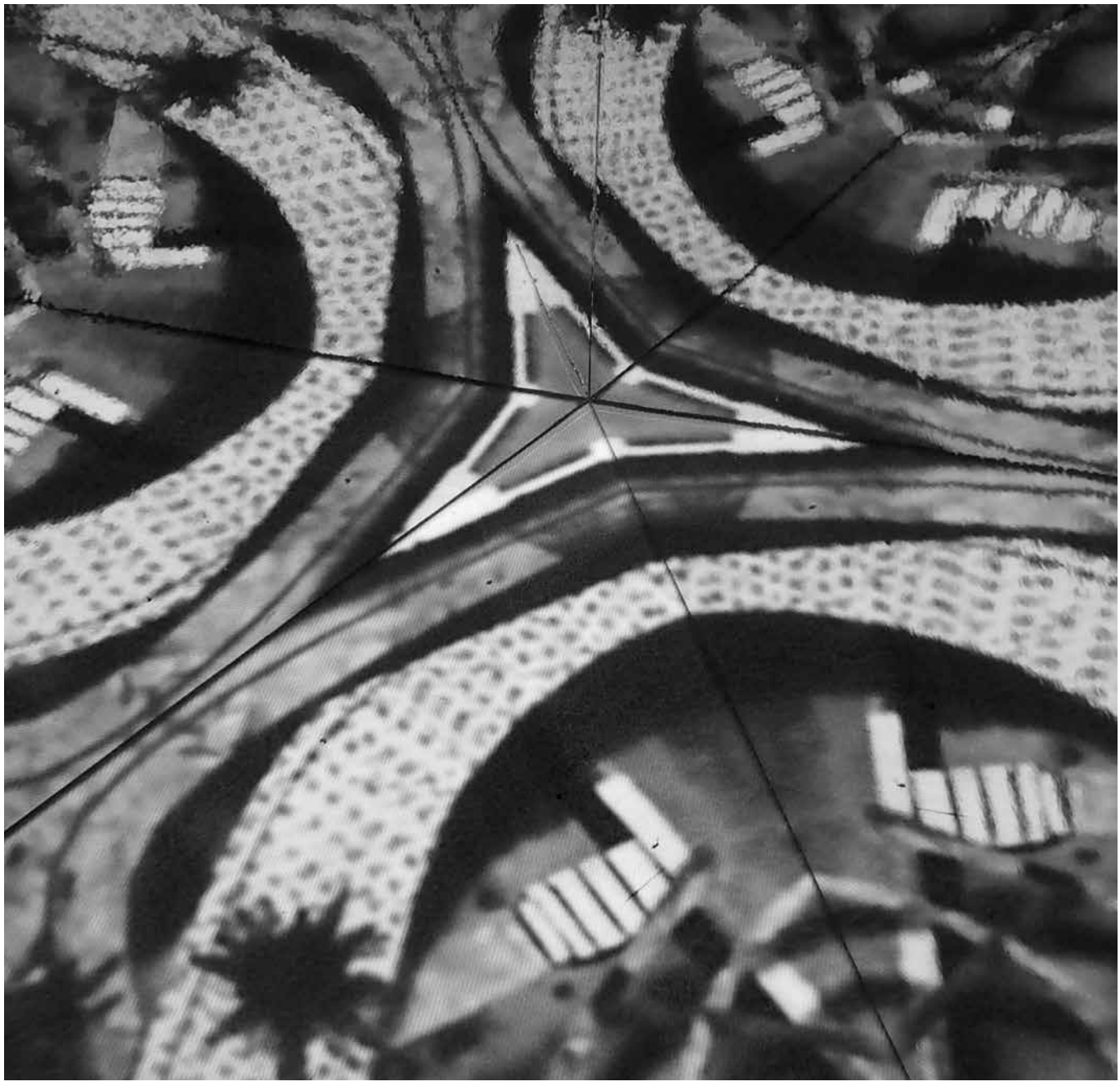
Detalle de planta torre del caleidoscopio / *Kaleidoscope tower detail plan*
E. / *S.* 1: 25



Torre del caleidoscopio / *Kaleidoscope Tower*

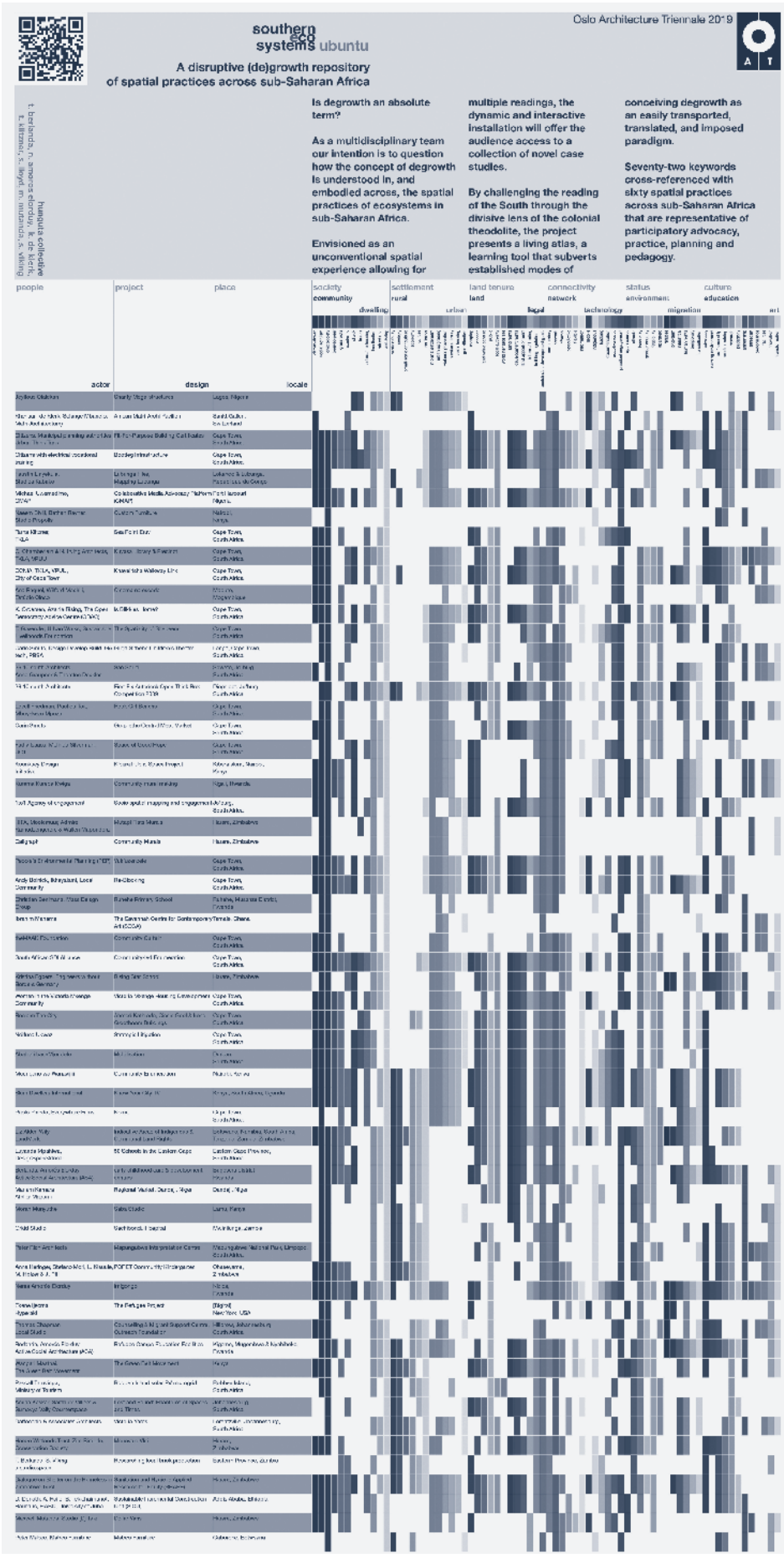


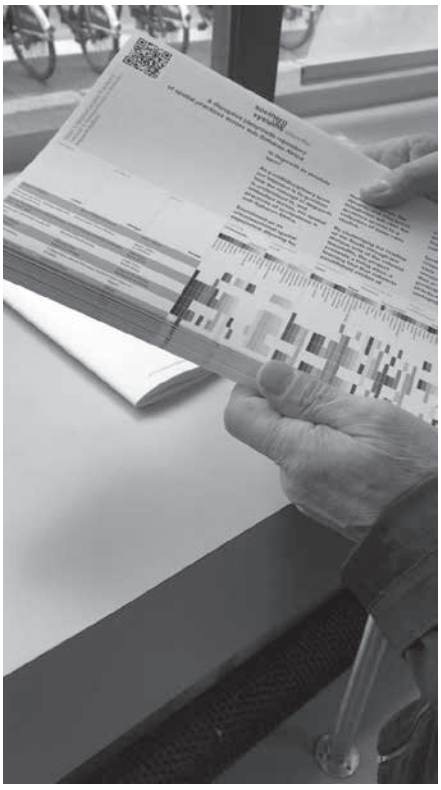
Interior del caleidoscopio / *Interior of the kaleidoscope*





Interior del caleidoscopio / *Interior of the kaleidoscope*





Folleto de la muestra / *Installation brochure*



Dentro del caleidoscopio / *Inside the kaleidoscope*

DECRECIMIENTO DISRUPTIVO, UN REPOSITORIO DE ECOSISTEMAS DEL SUR / *DISRUPTIVE DEGROWTH, A REPOSITORY OF SOUTHERN ECOSYSTEMS*

Autores / ***Authors***: Hunguta Design (Tomà Berlanda, Nerea Amorós Elorduy, Khensani de Klerk, Tao Klitzner, Scott Lloyd, Maxwell Mutanda, Sunniva Viking)
Ubicación / ***Location***: Museo Nacional de Arquitectura, Bankplassen 3, 0102 Oslo, Noruega / *National Museum of Architecture, Bankplassen 3, 0102 Oslo, Norway*
Exhibición / ***Exhibition***: Trienal de Arquitectura de Oslo 2019 (26 de septiembre-24 de noviembre de 2019) / *2019 Oslo Architecture Triennale (September 26-November 24, 2019)*
Curadores de la exhibición / ***Exhibition curators***: Interrobang (Phineas Harper, Maria Smith, Matthew Dalziel, George Kafka)
Autoridad adjudicadora / ***Contracting authority***: Museo Nacional de Arte, Arquitectura y Diseño / *The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design*
La Trienal de Oslo 2019 contó con el financiamiento de: / ***The 2019 Oslo Triennale was funded by***: Kluge, The Municipality of Oslo, Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Nordic Culture Fund, Nordic Culture Point, The British Council, E-Flux Architecture, Urban Future Global, Conference 2019, ArchDaily

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