Limitless cities and urban futures: planning for scale

The application of micro-regeneration strategy in urban renewal in northern Lima, Peru

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Aim of research

• Background
Urban scale top-down interventions have little positive impact on individuals. Informal groups has good mass base in social fields.

• Study & methodology
Summarize problem → Categorize cause → Review policy, project and comment → Find positive action and potential → Introduce strategy to make great use of potential → Put into effect

• Work & Focus
Introduce micro-regeneration strategy in promoting the development
Make great use of bottom-up and individual advantages
Combine space plan and policy-making into a dynamic balanced process.
2. Current condition
2.1. Basic information

- Lima - Pacific coast
- Colonial city center - Rimac River
- Later expanded to Callao (west), Miraflores and Chorrillos (south)
- Grow northward towards the Chillon river corridor mainly during the second half of the twentieth century
2. Current condition
2.2. Problem – Northern Area

- Unlimited and low-quality urban sprawl
- Inequality and geographically segregation
- Main north-south road and the city center
- Informal and formal
2. Current condition
2.3. Cause & Conclusion

- Government’s oppression on informal sectors
  Invest in formal area / widen the gap between formal and informal
- Low quality of informal groups
  Unable to provide infrastructure / unemployment
- Urban scale top-down interventions VS residents’ bottom-up activities
- Illegality barrier VS Benefit of informal sector
- Suitable rights VS Right position
3. Exploration and practice on informal sector

- 3.1. Need for space design
It is more acceptable for informal residents to receive the changes of surrounding space and daily activities in relatively small scale.

- 3.2. Inefficient policies
The gap between formal and informal sectors is widening because of the de-legalization of informal sectors and government’s focus on formal area.

- 3.3. Reform of informal sectors
The voice of constructing informal legalization system in metropolitan Lima is getting higher while it is difficult to predict and control the consequences caused by major changes in policy and system based on past events.
4. The concept of micro-regeneration and its application

4.1. Origin & definition

- Micro-regeneration ---- Micro concept + urban planning and design
- Base on organic renewal ---- Keep city structure
- Emphasize Bottom-up process + Residents’ association
- Part of local sites → Continuing self-regeneration
4. The concept of micro-regeneration and its application
4.2. Operation process

• (1) Urban catalysts selection
  × Final product of simple urban renewal
  √ Stimulate & lead follow-up development

• (2) Space design
  Practical plan & Multi-level implementation
  Static planning → Dynamic planning
  Planning-making + Construction action.

• (3) Corporate mechanism construction
• Main information of every step
• Bottom-up feedback mechanism

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5. Proposal of micro-regeneration in northern Lima

5.1. Selection of focus area

- San Martin de Porres near Los Olivos
- Gap between rich and poor

- Proximity of space to wealthy area brings certain opportunity to the informal area (Janice & Fernando, 2011). In-place renewal and upgrading residential area are highly supported by the public.
5. Proposal of micro-regeneration in northern Lima
5.2. Selection of catalysts

- Poor operating of social environment
- Disordered informal market
- Insufficient supply of public facilities
- Low quality public space.
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5.3.1 Site 1: Main street and central market

- Residential houses & Undeveloped space
- Large population but lacking enough infrastructure and basic central markets
- Use the core function of commercial and daily living activities to form a cluster space involving multiple functional activities in district level.

- (1) Early market formation period.
- (2) Market upgrade period
- (3) Complete development of market leisure area
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5.3.1 Site 1: Main street and central market

- Form a self-renewal mechanism
- Residents’ association & Government & Interest groups
- Integrate informal economy carriers
- Improve the upgrading of physical public space in the surrounding area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period / Step</th>
<th>Early market formation</th>
<th>Market upgrade</th>
<th>Complete development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gather &amp; conduct activity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finance from different groups</td>
<td>Manage &amp; supervise the area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set up market committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Transform buildings</td>
<td>Build up street leisure area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide the use of space</td>
<td></td>
<td>Manage the chaos of market</td>
<td>Mixed use of space &amp; building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest groups</td>
<td>Resident/Seller</td>
<td>Market committee</td>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interrelation</td>
<td>Raise fund</td>
<td>Demand feedback</td>
<td>Policy support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Appeal demand</td>
<td>Information feedback</td>
<td>Participative management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Safeguard right</td>
<td>Provide subsidy</td>
<td>Transform house</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negotiate decision</td>
<td>Provide plan</td>
<td>Transform street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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5.3.2 Site 2: Community center

• Undeveloped area within community

• Good for the internal and external exchanges of various activities

• Large undeveloped space has the potential to supplement the infrastructure

• (1) Early community center formation period

• (2) Community management upgrading period

• (3) Community training maturity
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5.3.2 Site 2: Community center

- Existing informal groups → Social networks.
- Infrastructure level & Community & Managing groups

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5.3.3 Site 3: Neighborhood public space

- Undeveloped area & Demolition space between residential houses
- Lack of activity space and physical contact
- Increase the possibility of daily activities inside the neighborhood and to interact formal and informal sectors

- (1) Partial transformation period
- (2) System formation period
- (3) Systematic connection period
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5.3.3 Site 3: Neighborhood public space

- Promote the connection between formal and informal area
- Encourage bottom-up renewal from the perspective of spiritual and institutional support.
6. Conclusions

- Informal sector ---- Dominant factor ---- Urban politic & economy & culture
- Recognizing informal factors & Establishing status ---- not dramatic / rapid
- Slight changes in policies ---- Difficult to have positive effect
- Informal residents ---- Space plan and suitable legalization

- Recognizing situation --- Construct the space and policy action mechanism
- Gradually renew by themselves ---- Form an independent system
- Promote the development of informal area & whole city
6. Conclusions

• Limitless cities come from limitation and control over social wisdom.
• A city is limitless means that it is not realistic to use simple policies to completely solve all the problems.
• Planning for scale means that different social scales/identities should be given considerable rights to participate in planning for the city.
• The dynamic changing in limitless cities should be given much concern.
• The order of planning process could be changed to fit the social reality.