



GENDERED DESIGN IN STEAM



ID80

Reimagining urban territories for women's autonomy in Colombia



This project builds on ongoing work in the neighborhood of Belén in Bogotá to resist gentrification and redevelopment efforts through the creation and expansion of community spaces with a gendered perspective. Researchers from Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano worked with a local group of women, the Circle of Women Aisha, to create a community kitchen and expand and renovate an existing community garden at a local community space Casa B. This project focuses on domestic spheres to argue that they are important spaces of feminist politics and community knowledge.



Team members cooking together in the community space.

Team

Adriana María Botero Vélez
Principal Investigator
Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Design, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Communication

Santiago Forero Lloreda
Co-Principal Investigator
Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Design, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Participatory design

Círculo de Mujeres Aisha
Participating group

Casa B
Participating group

Proyectar Sin Fronteras
Participating group

Semillero Políticas Sancocho
Participating group

Institution

Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano

Outcomes

- The creation of a community kitchen and a community garden for use by residents of the Belén neighbourhood.
- Development of their "Feminzine" (Feminine + zine) to communicate the project's goals, philosophy, and progress.
- Creation of a documentary film about their project's methods and the community spaces.



Filming of documentary "Apron philosophies".



The new community garden.



Kitchen appliances being installed in the community kitchen.

Methods

- Collaboration was crucial to the design methods of this project from the very beginning, and members of the Circle of Women Aisha were involved from the very first planning stages.
- The Feminzine was created through collaborative workshops, and they include reflections from both team members from the community and those from the university.
- It was community members who asserted the kitchen should meet all official regulations to ensure it could be used for commercial purposes in the future.
- The project's social media presence also highlights the knowledge and expertise of community members.

"[We must] see the kitchen not as something about and for women but rather as a stage upon which care takes form as a human value that can be practised by persons of every gender."

— Angélica Fabiola Bernal, Co-Investigator

Lessons & Future Directions

- The team is still working together on supporting community initiatives.
- Their dreams include connecting with projects elsewhere to learn from collaborative approaches in other cultural contexts and to share their own experiences with this kind of gendered design.



Left: Members of the Circle of Women Aisha cooking together. Middle: Team members working together to create the community garden. Right: Team members designing the project's logo.

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