



No Man's Land

The vacant lots are internal to the city yet external to its everyday use. They remain unproductive, waiting for some economic attention to become useful. At least if we think of them from a human perspective. If we separate from that perspective, however, they appear to be extremely productive for other agents and functions. First and foremost, as the nodes of a neglected **ecological network** serving insects, birds and soils.

With some minor operations, we propose to draw a different kind of attention on these voids, just the right amount to provide this network with a **sense of identity and public recognition**. In so doing, the fascination they elicit as spaces of otherness may trigger appropriation and preservation.

Deep Surfaces

This project is all about the surface. A cosmetic intervention of the vacant areas on and around the site.

Like all cosmetics, however, the intervention goes beyond what is visible: it **moistures** the skin –or, in other words, it hydrates the soil by using pervious paving solutions that filter water– it **freshens** the air around –the preservation and enhancement of big green areas mobilize air and humidity–, and it is **eye-catching** –the embellished vacant lots turn into seductive devices that aspire to gather both attention and collective activities. The shade of the intervention is *terracotta*: a range of red colors that connect to the brick facades that wrap most buildings in Carabanchel.

Fit Architecture

The proposed agreement between the built and the void establishes clear conditions for the new constructions: they must get in shape, slimming down as much as possible in order to make room for the void. And yet, without renouncing its ability to repair the urban fabric and to catalyze public activities.

Inevitably, such agreement results in a compression of built cubic meters with important programmatic implications: different functions will need to coexist within the same spaces. Also, those functions typically associated with public space: playgrounds, courts, plazas... To facilitate this **coexistence**, the new buildings provide a variety of outdoor and indoor spatial conditions using a repetitive tectonic palette.

