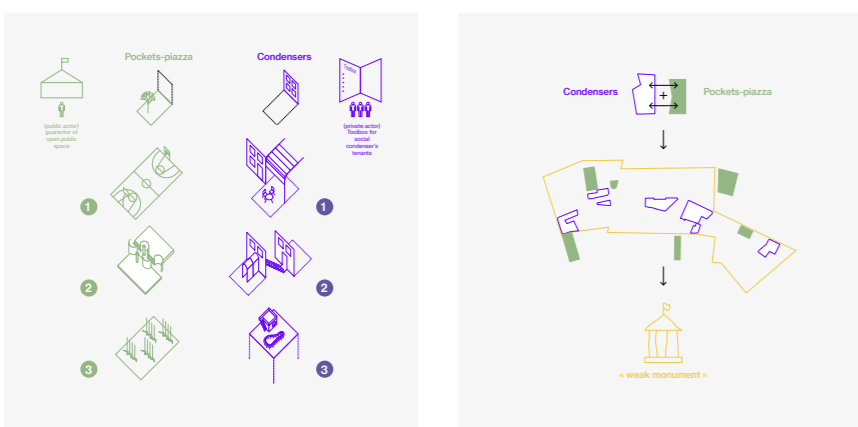


A strategy of openness: two actors and their specific ground

- 1) ISO does not need additional square meters, but rather to increase the porosity and accessibility of existing ones. We propose a «toolbox» for private cultural condensers tenants, designed to increase their porosity by means of «low-tech» solutions.
 - 1 Coffee behind garage door
 - 2 Public pathway through building (Plešnick, Prague Castle)
 - 3 Roofbar
- 2) ISO doesn't need to build vacant plots, but to affirm them as public spaces. We propose that the role of public authorities should be to keep these spaces open against real estate pressure. Once preserved, the land can be made available to the management committees of the closest cultural condensers to use as their forecourt or as their «outdoor room».
 - 1 Soccer ground
 - 2 Playground
 - 3 Garden



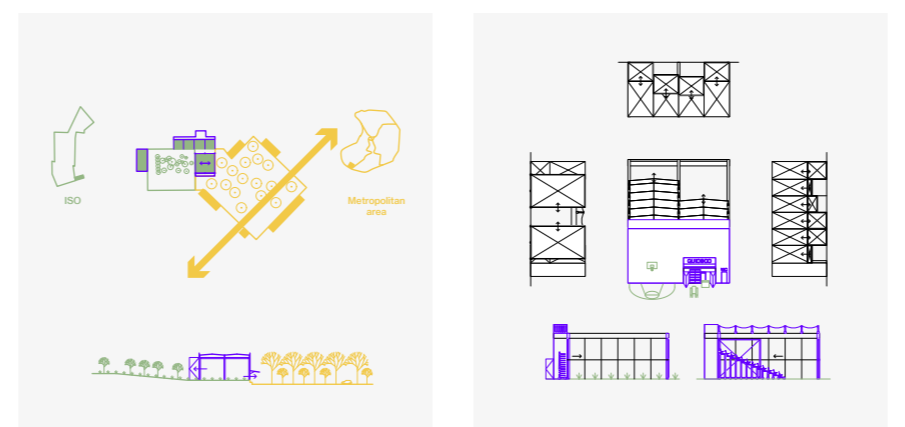
ISO as «weak» monument

While the European brief called for a new monument to embody the cultural renewal of Carabanchel, our project proposes instead to reveal the neighborhood itself in its «after-monumental» nature. Rather than condensing energy into a hot spot, designed to radiate and showcase the cultural production of the entire neighborhood, we propose to disseminate our intervention, which, through the new visibility it gives to cultural condensers, projects the neighborhood itself as a site worthy of interest.

One building and two public square instead

Highlighting the importance of enabling public void we intend to invert the approach suggested by the brief: instead of 2 buildings and 1 public square, we propose one building and two public squares. Located at the interface between the metropolitan axis of Av. de Ntra. Sra. de Valvanera and the residential fabric of Carabanchel, the new building offers the plaza Almodovar its missing facade and on the north side, give to the ISO town's entrance a new «parvis».

A landscape strategy is implemented at the scale of the reflection perimeter to precisely define each of the two created void. The plaza de Almodovar further supported in its existing perimeter is unified by a dense plantation of pin trees, which high reach allows a free circulation on ground level. Thereby absorbing its vis-a-vis on the other side of the Avenue, the plaza Almodovar declares its metropolitan figure. The second void generated on the northern part belongs to an already existing constellation of pocket parks. Away from the turmoil of the metropolis and managed by ISO's association this space allows gardening. Its surface kept unsealed is densely populated by trees of lower amplitude giving the park a more intimate environment.



Silent cultural machine

In addition to the created void, a small cultural condenser is implanted so has to activate the surrounding public space in different manners. The condenser is made of three basic elements: a shell, a flat programmable surface and an adaptable facade. The shell are used to accommodate kitchen, basic sanitary facilities or a stage for 300 people. Always adjoining a shell the free programmable surface varies their degree of accessibility to the public thanks to easily operable facade and roof shade.

Facades provide a visual framework for public open space. Operable and performative, they engage in diverse dialogues with the public space they frame. The new facades materialize latent urban fronts: on one side, the kiosk provides the last facade for the Almodovar square, while on the other, it creates a forecourt for the ISO zone. The enfilade space closes the hollow tooth.

