

DIASPORE

Frances Whitehead & The Cultural Futures Studio & The Municipality of Metropolitan Lima

Cercado De Lima, (Historic District), Lima, Peru

Panel Discussion at Nasher Sculpture Center

Diaspore \dī'ə spōr\ – In botany, a dispersal unit consisting of a seed or spore, plus any additional elements that assist dispersal.

Diaspore began in 2010 as a research project on seedbanks. It has become a constellation of collaborative projects, an international experiment in reciprocity, enacting themes of dispersal, interiority, and public space in the global context. The pan-Atlantic exchange of plants and people that began in 1533 with the first European encounter with the Peruvian potato is extended today through collaboration and redistribution of cultural and knowledge assets.

We were introduced to the City of Lima, Peru through potato research at the *Centro Internacional de la Papa*, which holds over 4000 varieties of Andean potatoes, the cultural heritage of ten thousand years of hybridization by indigenous growers. Lima has exploded in population in the last two decades, as highlanders relocate to coastal Lima, growing the city from 2 to 8 million inhabitants. The historic center of Lima, a crumbling but magnificent UNESCO world heritage site, now houses the urban poor, who also have inadequate food security.

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At the invitation of Lima's new urban agriculture director, we assembled a team of artists, architects, and preservationists from *The School*

of Art Institute of Chicago to provide creative support to the City of Lima in their efforts to design a meaningful urban agriculture program, addressing both the needs of current inhabitants and the historic buildings. Understanding that communities of artists and designers are cultural resources barely tapped, we envision our work as an open source response to Lima's colonial legacy — a redistribution of capacity — between Chicago and Lima. As a model of cooperation and reciprocity, our work with the City of Lima offers us, in turn, true agency to effect change.

Paradoxically, it is the ruined architecture and vacated facades that offer the greatest potential for green space. There are few parks and public spaces in the center of Lima — most of the open space is interior. Extending the architectural tradition of the courtyard house, this spatial pattern of interiority is a growing cultural idiom, as communities in every social strata create private, gated communities for self security. The dominant challenges for civic life in Lima are socio-spatial. However, the diminishing glacier-fed water supply, visible in the dry beds of local rivers, also creates a challenge for this desert city. Urban agriculture programs in Lima must inevitably be seen against the underlying ethical and pragmatic dilemma of sustaining a city that is arguably in the wrong place — a perpetual colonial legacy that must be examined as an unsustainable settlement pattern.



Andean tubers, courtesy Centro Internacional de la Papa, cipotato.org

These contradictory conditions inform our strategies in Lima: First, the immediate need for urban agriculture programs must enhance participation in civic life by the creation and use of public space. Secondly, urban agriculture must help prepare the citizens of Lima to address their environment. Our work at such sites as the City Hall roof and the neighborhood surrounding the Central Market, address these civic aims and spatial conditions, symbolically and practically. They include local distribution strategies which mirror the regional and the global.

The *Diaspore* project and the ongoing *Diaspora Papa* connect these civically driven interventions to all sites where food production and cultural production are intertwined, extending from Peru to urban sites in Chicago and beyond.



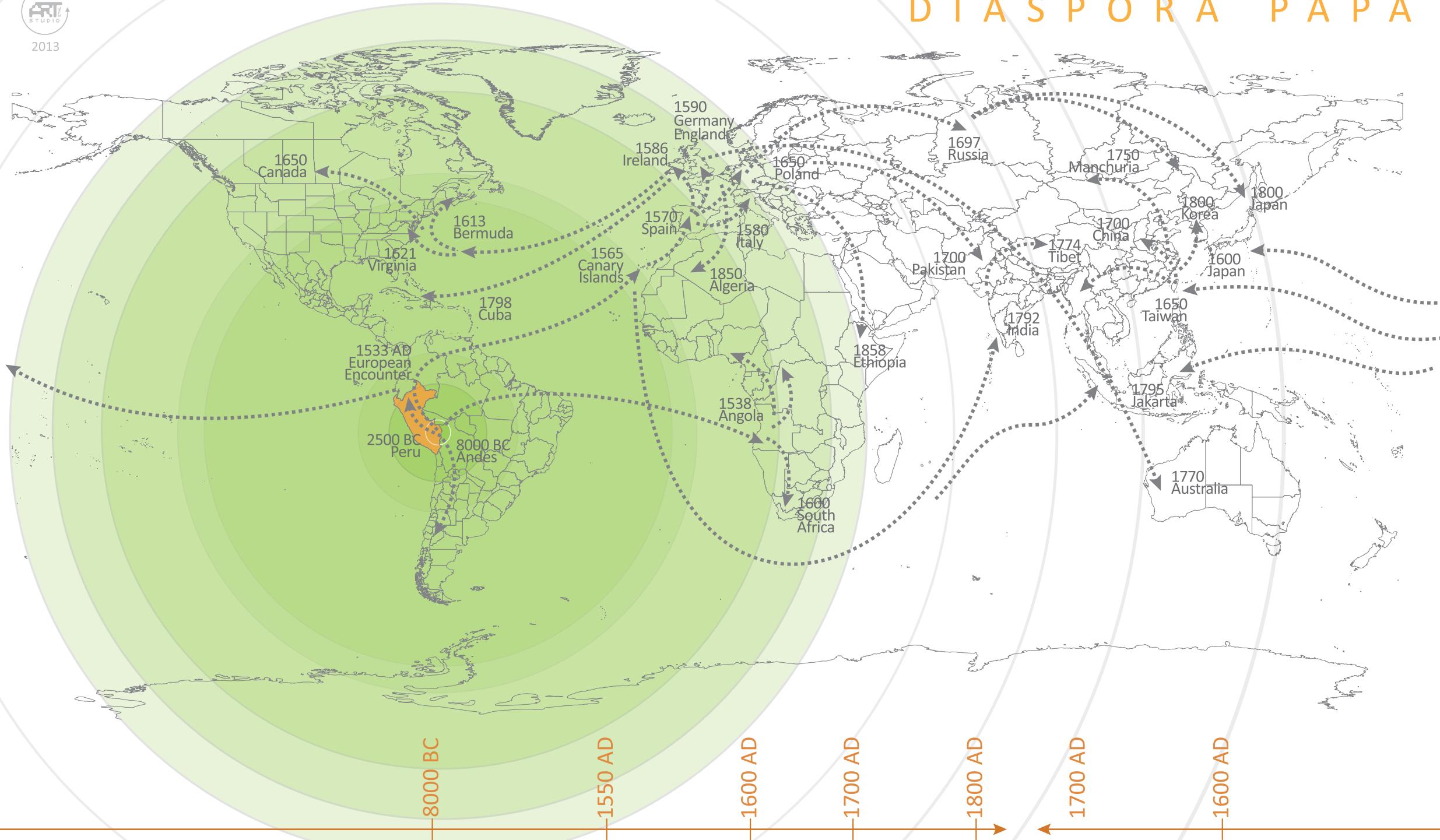
Overleaf Diaspora Papa Map, digital graphic, Frances Whitehead, 2013

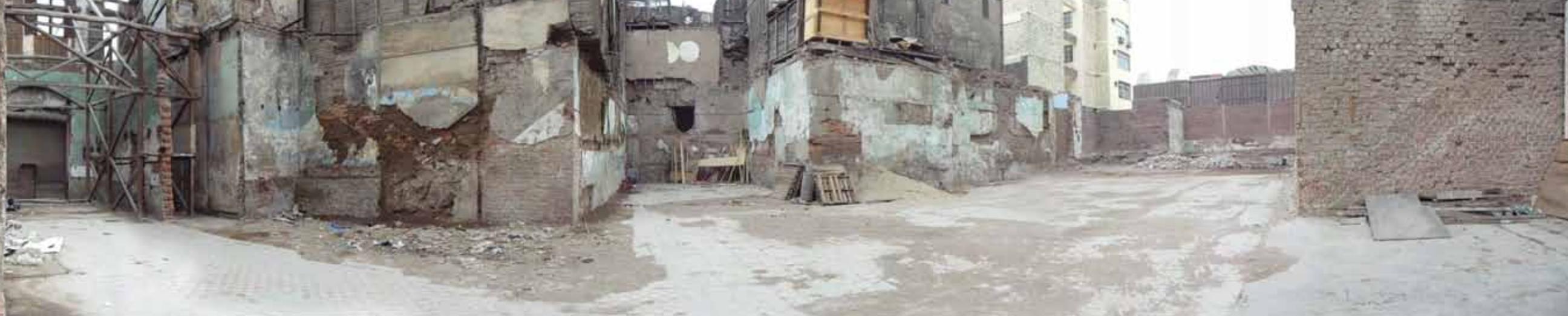
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DIASPORA PAPA



2013



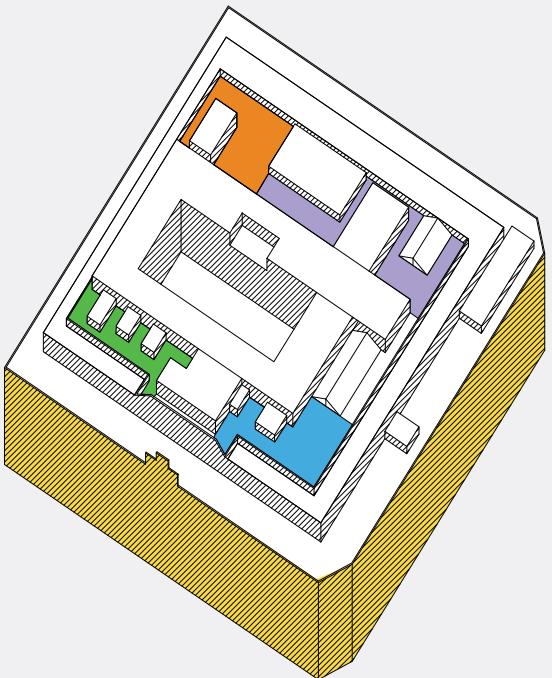




ENFOQUE GRADUAL DE ZONAS

ZONA DEL CAFÉ

Un espacio multifuncional y social creciente, la cafetería ofrece un lugar de descanso para los empleados de la Municipalidad y ofrece la participación del visitante.



ZONA DE COMPOSTAJE

Esta área se dedica al compostaje in situ de los residuos de alimentos de la cafetería, que pueden ser reciclados en el área de producción del azotea y ofrece educación a los visitantes.

ZONA DE POLINIZACIÓN

Esta área se dedica a la apicultura para la polinización de las plantas en la azotea, y la educación a los visitantes.

ZONA DE PRODUCCIÓN

Esta área ofrece más espacio de producción para la expansión del techo verde a una fecha posterior, dando más oportunidad para la participación ciudadana.

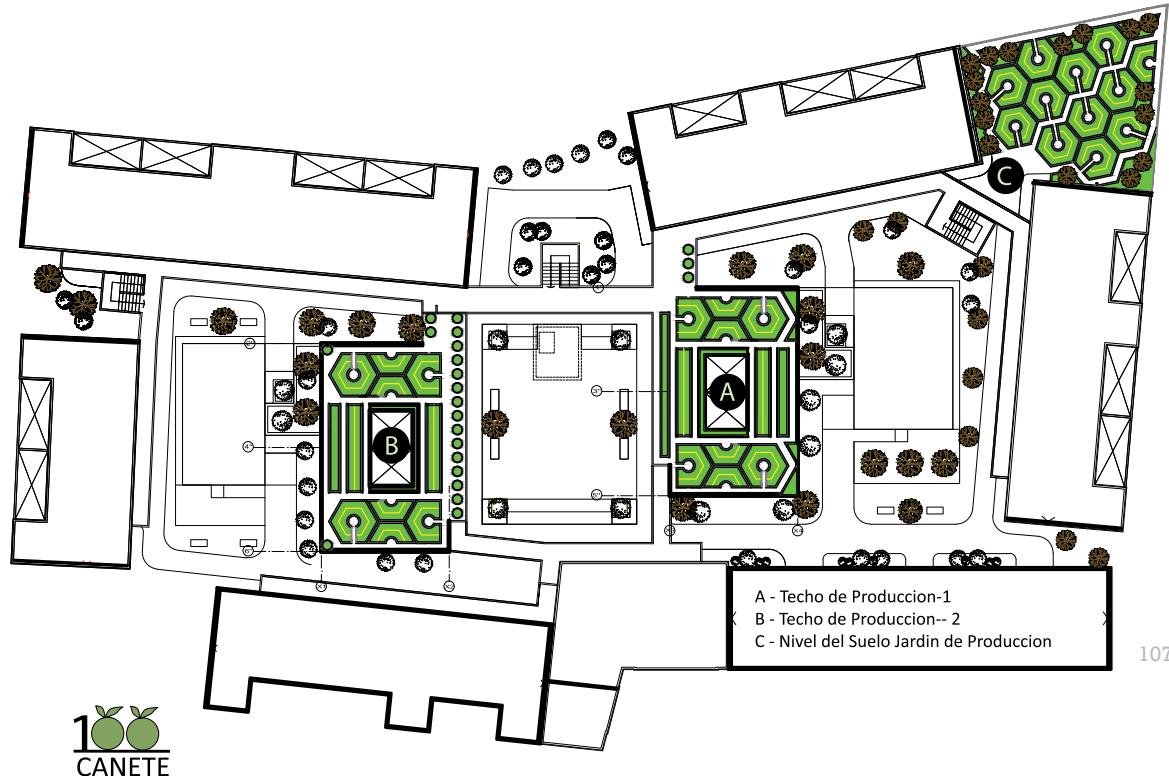


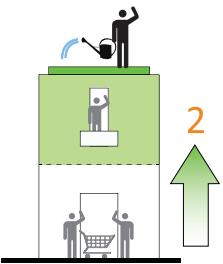
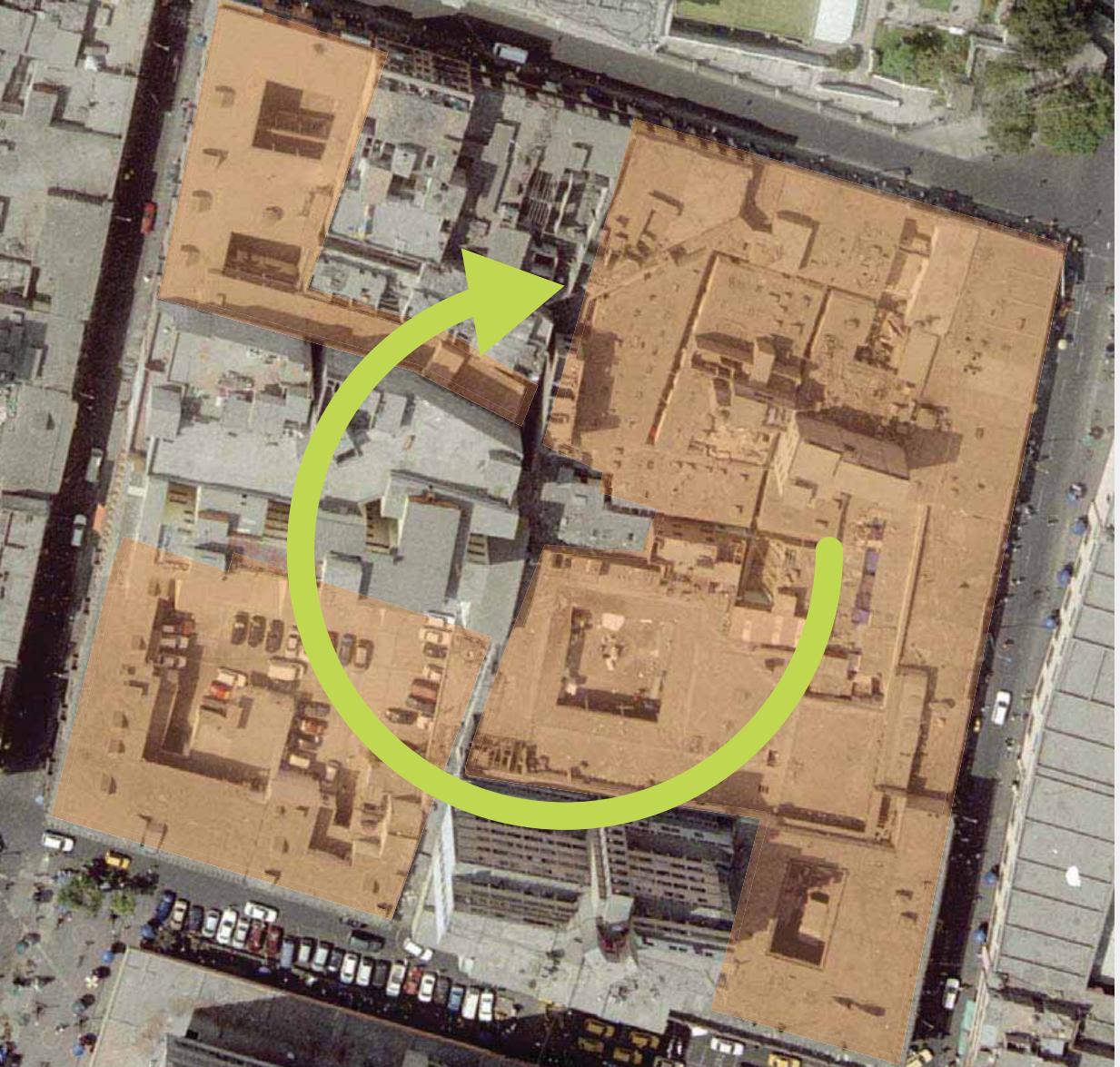
Previous Spanish colonial adobe brick vacant facade in the Cercado de Lima; Low water levels of Rimac River; Palacio Municipal (City Hall) at Plaza del Armas, photographs, Frances Whitehead, 2011-2012

Opposite Phased design for green roof improvements at Lima City Hall including: The Civic Hive Cafe. Modular hex funiture provides flexible components for demonstration kitchen

Left Students participate at the Civic Hive with a rotating greens program

Below Hex inspired rooftop gardens maximize available growing space in new social housing and community gardens





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|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| El flujo de la Empresa | | Mercado Central |
| El flujo de Información | | El Museo Nacional |
| Los Voluntarios | | Palacio del Congreso |
| Los Trabajadores | | Edificio Religioso |
| Vegetacion/Planta/Semillas | | Universidad del Arte |
| El flujo de Ideas | | Colegio |

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BARRIOS VERDES flujos y dispersiones



Opposite above & left This speculative site analysis for the Barrios Altos neighborhood in the Ceracado de Lima is catalyzed by the untapped potential of the Central Market complex. Possible cycles of inputs and outputs of information, labor, and produce are investigated.

Opposite below left The proposal focuses on utilization of the upper floors of the Central Market and the largely vacant second levels of existing storefronts in the neighborhood.



CHICAGO TEAM

Frances Whitehead, *Artist*
 Douglas Pancoast, *Architect*
 Vince Michael, *Historic Preservation*

SAIC Cultural Futures Studio

Sia Khorrami	Samantha Alaimo
Karin Karuda	DJ Catrow
Danielle Potts	Laura Crane
Cassie Rogg	Veronica Diaz
Marie Socha	Duane Hagerty
Sara Tietje	Julie Hess
Emily Wallrath	Brooke Ingram
Michelle Yuan	Dina Khordorkovskaya

LIMA METROPOLITAN TEAM

Anna Zucchetti Agosti, *Deputy Manager of Environment*
 Gunther Merzthal Yupari, *Urban Agriculture Specialist*
 Miriam D'iganzio, *Architecture Without Borders*

Opposite 'Huerta Pública dentro de la Ruina'
 (Public Orchard Inside the Ruin), proposal for
 public, participatory container orchards for
 vacant facades, shown with mobile hex
 planters conceived for City Hall green roof

Above Vacant facade in the Cercado de Lima,
 typical site for proposed public orchards,
 photograph, Frances Whitehead, 2012

