


31 **According to Guillermo de la Peña,** "the definition of the most powerful actors (among the informal vendors) imply an agreement with authorities and representatives: of the least powerful is conditioned by necessity to reduce uncertainty and to find sustitutive forms of political representation." De la Peña, "Corrupción e informalidad," *Espiral: Estudios sobre Estado y Sociedad* 3, no. 7 (September–December 1996): 105–127, http://www.escritorio.df.gob.mx/portal/docs/normas/2011may29/GODF.pdf.


33 **Between October and November 2007, an event demonstrated the real weight of the intervention. Already under Marcelo Ebrard, three historic buildings that were part of the Cultural Heritage acknowledged by the National Institute of History and Anthropology were altogether demolished, along with 14 others, in order to “give way to some space to relocate street vendors.” (See http://www.recorrid.com/portaal/index.php/mexico/4-ciudades-75488-demolida-golf-del-edificio-con-considerables-monumentos-historicos.html).**

34 **According to some specialists, despite the minor recovery of the zone’s habitability, the claims of residents and the alleviation of poverty had little to do with the Rescue Plan for the Historic Centre. The housing actions corresponded to a different public management policy and targeted population, although the territory is also named Historic Downtow (Delapalque-Palacio, “Repopulation and Resuing,” 837).**


39 **Ibid.**

40 **Duhau and Giglia,** “Nuevas centralidades y prácticas.”

41 **One could also argue that large retail stores provide only low-quality jobs, and that the quality of their products clearly sometimes questioned, but in this respect, too, their smaller counterparts do not fare much better. See ibid.**

42 **This does not mean that there are no grounds for regulation of large retail stores in urban areas, but it is a field which cannot be treated under such simple signifiers as the “social” or so-called “economic justice,” and it certainly implies a different urban order, precisely of the type that would end intrusiveness of the intrusiveness of the privatization of sidewalks, the world’s largest negative impact on the public realm. What would happen if instead of allowing shops to pay rent and take possession the sidewalk, any person could donate furniture for the public in a joint venture with the city?**

Furniture for Public Use is a project that rethinks the use of sidewalks through a public-private program where anybody can purchase and place concrete planters and furniture on their sidewalks. The goal of this easy-access program is to incentivize and actively contribute to the use of public space at a local scale.

This project is currently in a pilot phase in Mexico City, where it aims to partner with the local government to provide affordable sidewalk furniture and create relationships with individuals to improve sidewalks. Within this model, anyone can transform...
his or her sidewalk into a quality space that encourages public social interaction. The use of the furniture demonstrates the potential of sidewalks not only as pedestrian passageways, but as places to rest, work, eat, and participate more actively in outdoor city life.

The first prototype is located on the sidewalk of Avenida Sullivan, between Miguel Schultz and Serapio Rendón, colonia San Rafael, delegación Cuauhtémoc, 06470, Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico.

The second prototype is temporarily located, from December 2013 to March 2014, on the sidewalk in front of the Border Warehouse of the bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture in Shenzhen, China.