

PLAN: B  
est. 2000

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Medellin, Colombia

# ORQUIDEORAMA

Category: Parks / Plazas

Location: Medellin, Colombia

Surface: 4000 sqm

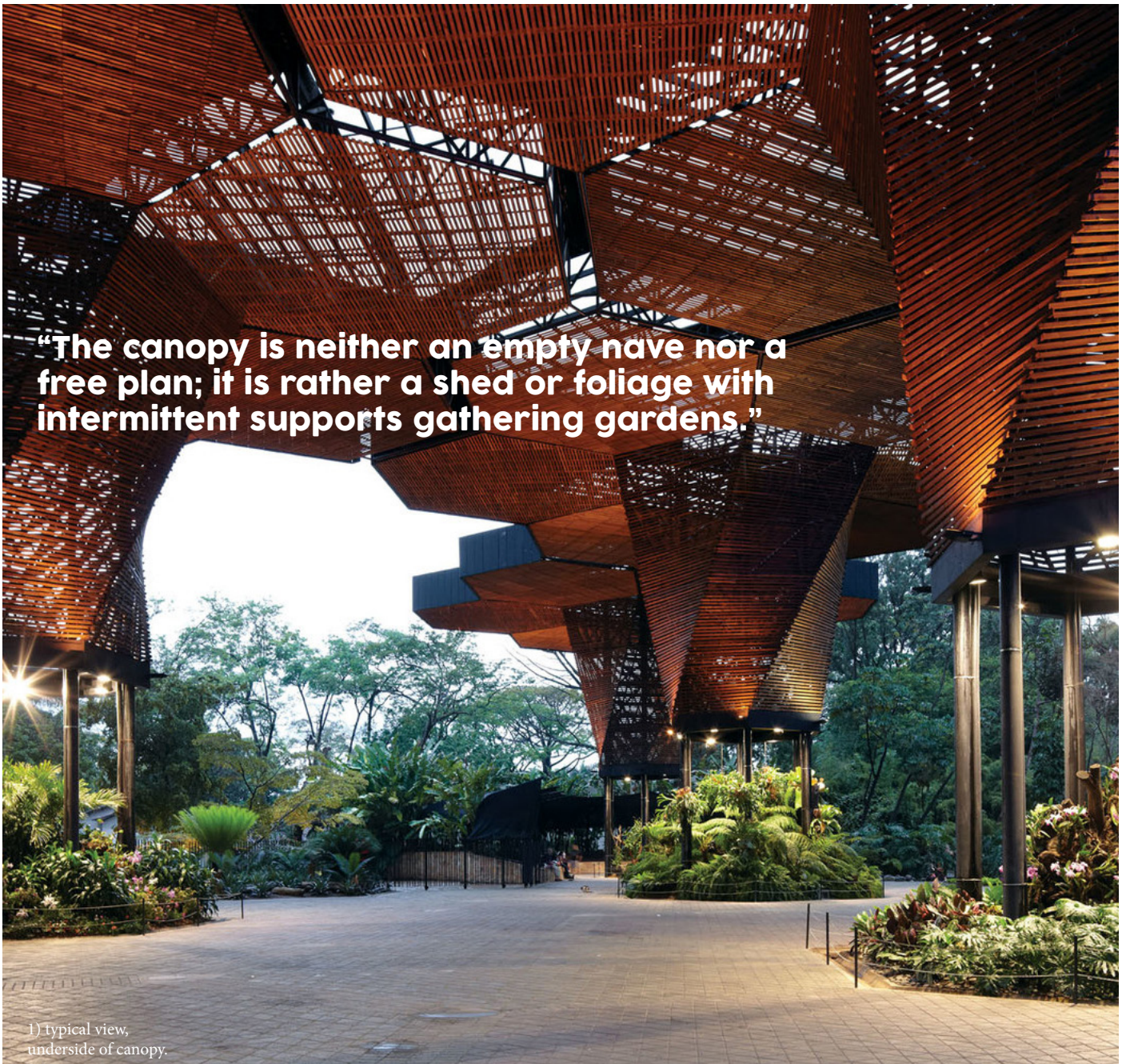
Project Year: 2006

Client: Jardín Botánico de Medellín



dms - 06° 16' 15" N / 75° 33' 49" W

elevation - 1,495 m / 4,905 ft



**“The canopy is neither an empty nave nor a free plan; it is rather a shed or foliage with intermittent supports gathering gardens.”**

1) typical view, underside of canopy.

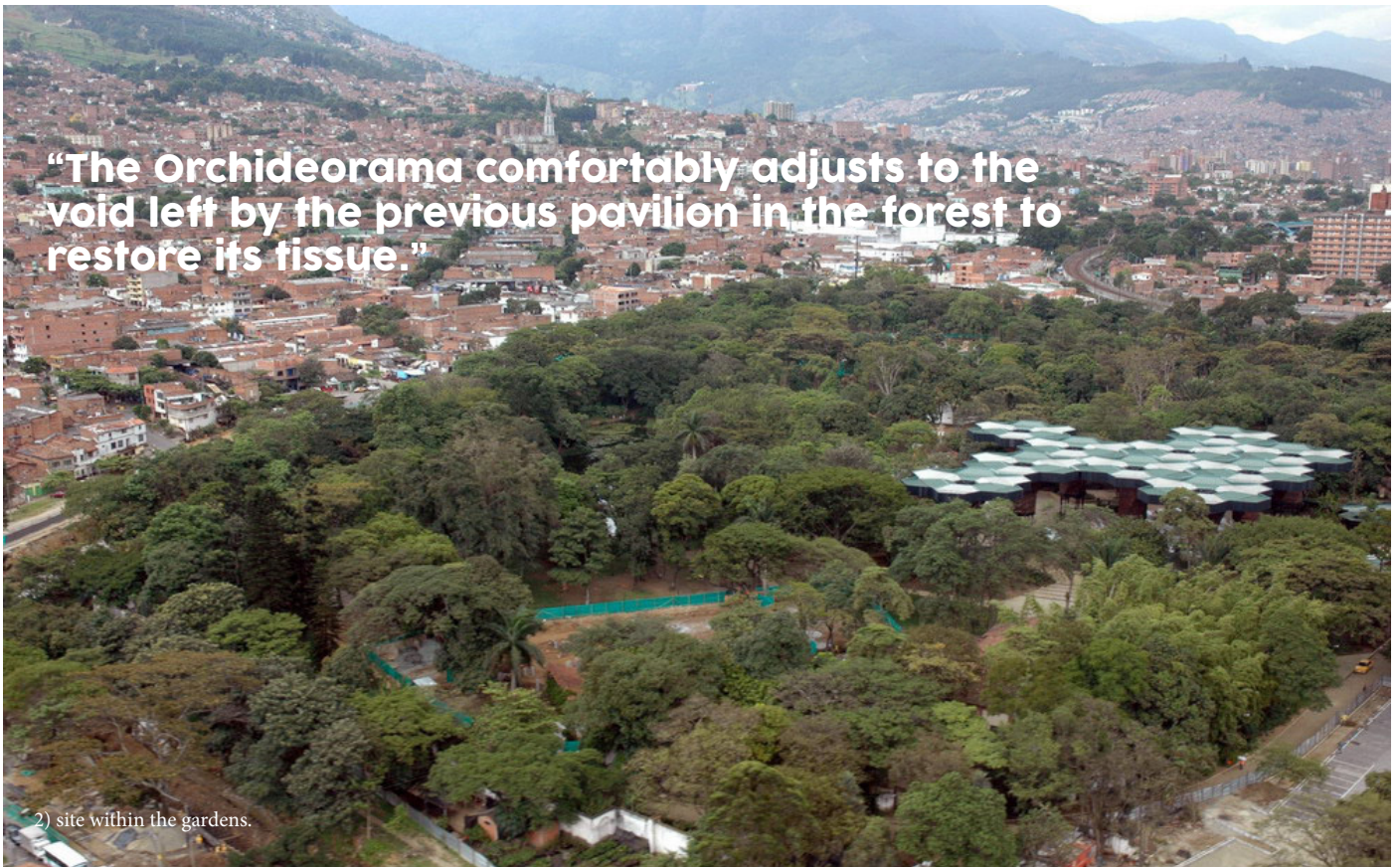
**I**n a humid pre-montane forest ecosystem where the temperature oscillates between 16° C and 31° C the Orchideorama canopy acts at the urban scale as a zone delineator where the mixing and blurring of different activities occur. The landscape structure houses an orchid exhibition and acts as the avenue for medium scale congregational events. It was conceptually designed for continuous growth of the module until the complete

system is defined and the adaptation ability of this system leaves the structure to the shelter where it is needed.

The intellectual territory that the Orchideorama lies within is the relationship between architecture and the living organisms. The project aims dismantle any distinction between the natural and artificial, rather on the contrary, it attempts to accept them as a unity that allows architecture to be conceived as a material, spatial,

environmental organization that is deeply related to the processes of life.

The canopy is neither an empty nave nor a free plan; it is rather a shed or foliage with intermittent supports gathering gardens. This allows mixing and blurring the different activities to which the Orchideorama is subject with vegetation, the fauna and the weather of the botanical Garden: birds and plants exhibitions, weddings, concerts, fashion shows or



“The Orchideorama comfortably adjusts to the void left by the previous pavilion in the forest to restore its tissue.”

2) site within the gardens.

gastronomic festivals enjoy the garden instead of being isolated from it.

Each module of seven hexagons constitutes the spatial, structural and bioclimatic pattern that allows repetition, orderly growth over time, flexibility to avoid touching the existing trees and adaptation to budget. The module has a central hexagon which serves as a hollow trunk with six columns in which technical installations are housed (structure, lighting, water collection), as well as gardens, hot air ventilation and access to rainwater. These patios were conceived as convergence vortices and gathering of landscape and architecture, therefore the geometry of the wooden envelope shows the torsion concentrated there.

When considering

architecture as organism, the organic is to be read at two different scales, and each allows understanding of different aspects of the project. Firstly, the organic as material organization. The microscale of the organic has the potential to be aggregated and organized through precise geometric laws to in turn allow the growth of structures. Thus, the single module, the Flower, when systematically distributed reveals the properties of growth, geometry, and evolution and its adaptability. Secondly, the organic as environmental phenomena. Large scale of biomorphic structures allows the definition of perception as a situation where one can feel the extension of a forest, specifically, a shadow garden. Additionally, it puts on display a set of technical facilities such as water collectors and structure.



3) misc. activities on the groundscape.

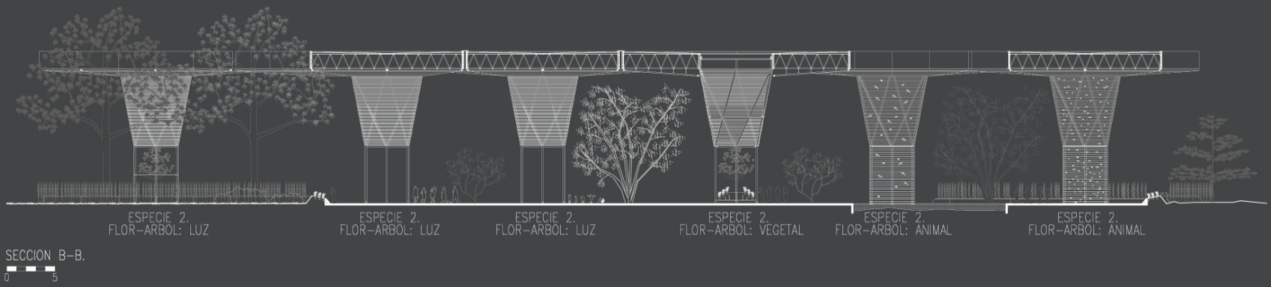


5) garden view.  
glimpse of 'flower' emerging from the garden.



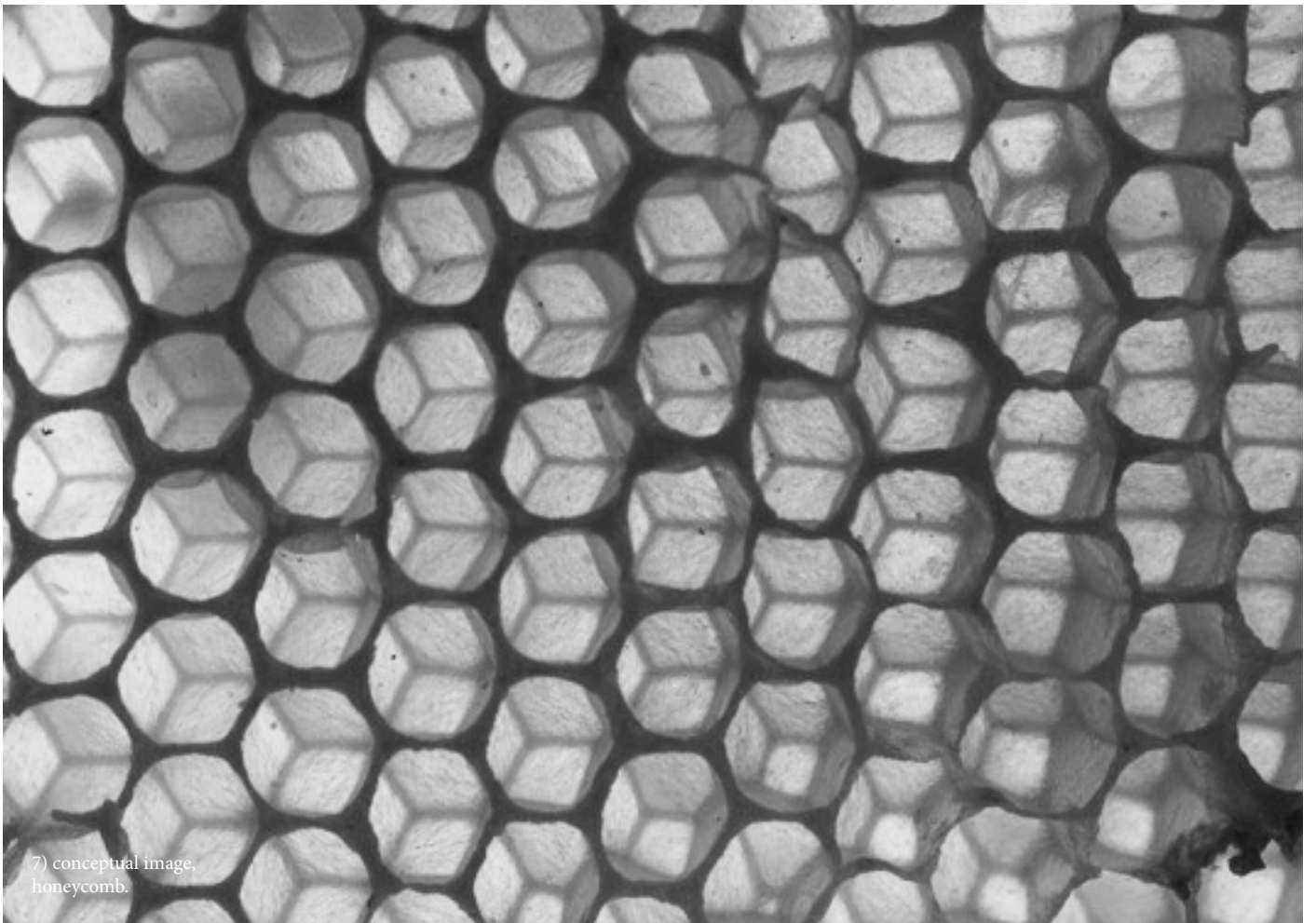
PLANTA GENERAL ORQUIDEORAMA  
 JARDIN BOTANICO DE MEDELLIN

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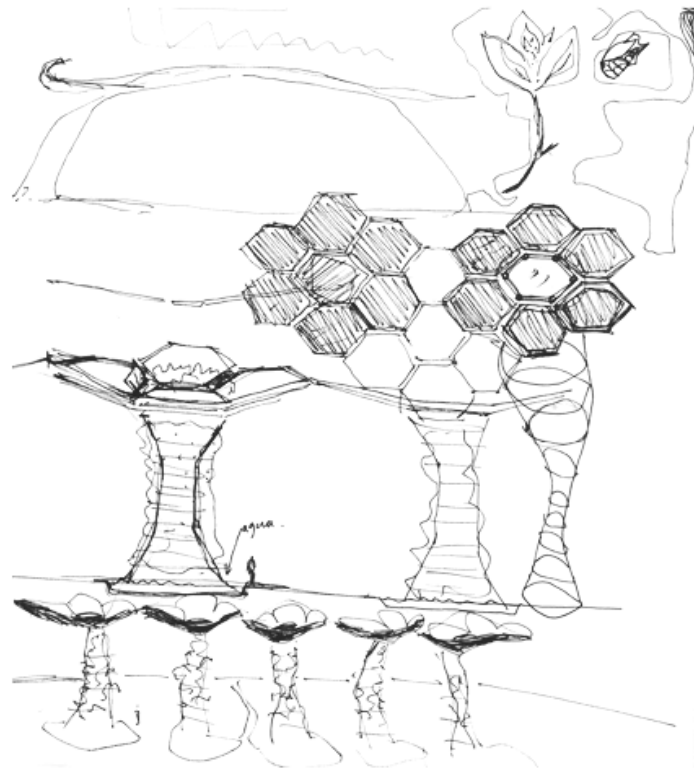


SECCION B-B.

6) plan and section,  
 moment in growing structure.



7) conceptual image,  
honeycomb.



8) sketch,  
process drawing.