



SECTION 5. Colonia Santo Domingo



SECTION 5.1



PEDREGAL DE SANTO DOMINGO¹



Mexico City grew very rapidly from the 1930's to the 1970's. To give an idea of the situation, between 1940 and 1950 the population of Mexico City nearly doubled. Irregular settlements were growing all over the city and, in 1953, the government tried to stop it by forbidding the construction of any new urban zones. This only resulted in illegal construction that quickly grew into poor 'squatter-type' neighborhoods called 'colonias populares'. In 1950, 22% of the urban population lived in 'colonias populares' and by 1976, 50% of the population lived in this kind of settlement which occupied 64% of the area of the city (Romero p21). Many of these areas were originally 'terreno ejido', which is land that is owned by the government and loaned to the people. The people are allowed to use it but they can never sell it, as it does not officially belong to them. These areas tend to have very little to no services and were often taken illegally by the people.

Santo Domingo is defined as a 'colonia popular' in Mexico City but today it is more prosperous than it appears. It is located towards the south of the city in the area called 'Los Pedregales', the volcanic region, and belongs to the Delegation of Coyoacan. Many houses have been built by their owners in stages over a number of years so it is common to see re-bars left exposed and much of the houses left without plaster, giving the area an unfinished and uncared for appearance.

1. Information for this section has been taken from:

Barrios, Francisca G. Lima, *Familia Popular, Sus Practicas y la Conformacion de Una Cultura*. Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia, Mexico, DF, 1992

Romero, Gustavo, Mesias, Rosendo, Enet, Mariana, Rosa, Oliveras, Lourdes, Garcia, Manuel, Coipel, Daniela, Osorio, *La participacion en el diseno urbano y arquitectonico en la produccion social del habitat*. CYTED, Mexico, DF: 2004

Santo Domingo was once 'terreno ejido' and, in 1971, it was invaded by people who had no other possibility to acquire land to live on. They took it by force and slowly started building the area up through negotiation, more force, alliances and collective work. After some time, their acquisition was legalized and Santo Domingo was included in the city's official zoning as a legitimate neighbourhood.

In the 1980's, 80% of the people who inhabited Santo Domingo were part of that original group of invaders. Over time, they managed to improve the area to a point where it became attractive to a slightly higher economic class. This shift pushed some of the original settlers out as the prices became too high. Those who remained still to this day harbor a tinge of resentment towards those who had 'come when all the work was already done (Barrios p22).'

One of Santo Domingo's particularities is its location in the city. In the following demographic studies, one can see how the area stands out like an island when comparing population and levels of education to that of its neighbours. It is quite close to very important zones like the campus of UNAM and the high class centre of Coyoacan, but at the same time, it is culturally very removed from them and inhabited by an entirely different social class. It is an overpopulated area with a high index of violence and gangs. It still has a lack of services and infrastructure and suffers from the stigma of being 'Los Pedregales', an area characterized by a deficit of houses, schools, transportation, protection, cleaning services, garbage collection, etc.

The occupations of the inhabitants of Santo Domingo are quite varied. There are clerks, laborers, construction workers, professionals, unemployed people, beggars, traveling vendors etc. The most prominent are laborers (29.30%), masons (19.92%), drivers (7.16%), and carpenters (9.31%).

In these types of neighbourhoods, two elements occupy a central role: schools and finding a place to live. Both schools and housing have been fundamental to the construction and character of Santo Domingo. It is believed that by reaching a higher level of education, one reaches a higher status in society. One can see by the statistics the impact education has had for the children of those who took Santo Domingo by force. 46% of the older generation had obtained basic elementary education while the majority of the present day youth has secondary education and 6.7% have preparatory education. Although this is a great improvement the figures are still quite low; most students do not even finish high school.

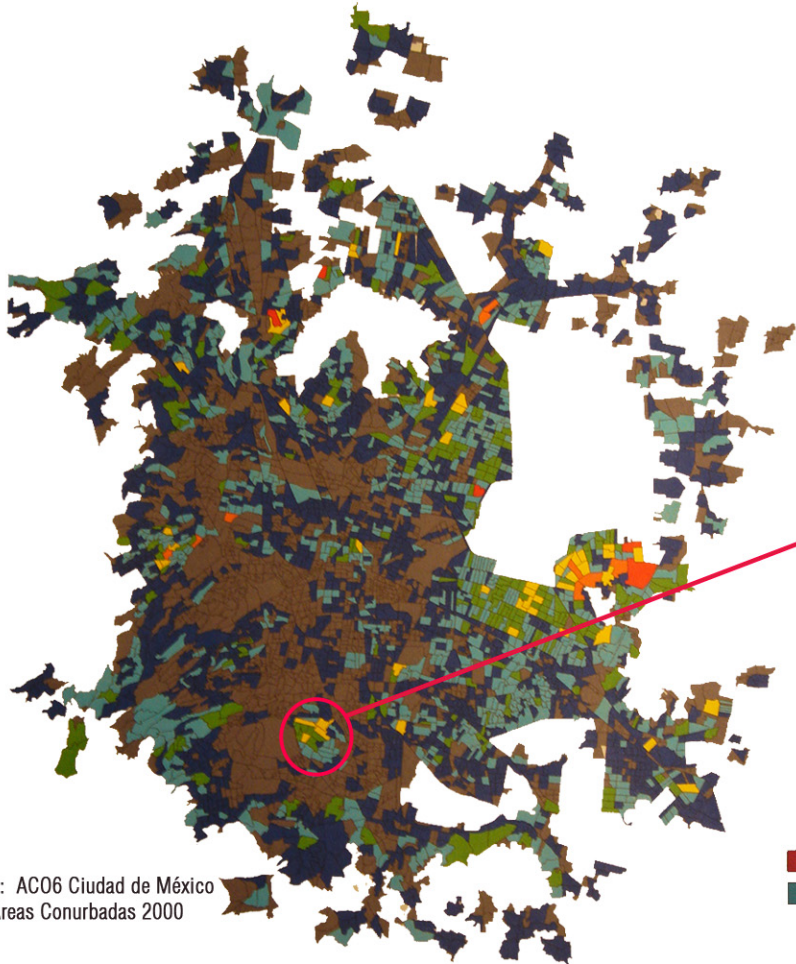
One of the biggest needs in Santo Domingo is for schools. Los Pedregales has a population of 64 690 school-age children (44% of Coyoacan's population aged 0-14) making it the densest area of Coyoacan with only 18% of the delegation's schools. In 1985 there were two kindergartens, six official primary schools, three secondary schools and one telesecundaria. Presently there are four kindergartens, ten primary schools and three secondary schools, all of which are public. Although there was an increase in schools, one must question their quality. Often governments wish to boost popularity by creating 'educative spaces' but tend to be tricky with their statistics and inconsistent with the quality of the education being offered. One quote states:

'The quality of the schools has been disregarded; it seems as though it is more important to acquire a document that certifies the level of education than the quality or quantity of knowledge that is acquired in school (Barrios p26).'

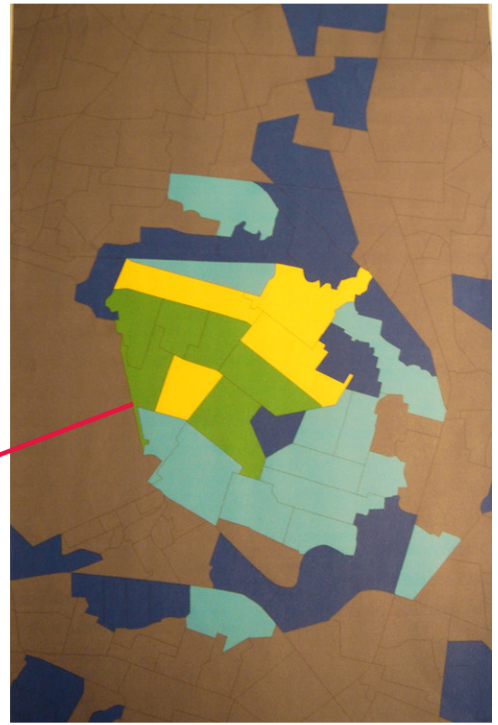
Today Santo Domingo is an active area, that despite its run-down appearance, is improving its services and living conditions. New development is attracting families with slightly higher incomes to settle there and its proximity to the university makes it a convenient place to live for those working or studying on the campus. Santo Domingo is a neighbourhood that has potential but still needs a significant boost in the quality of their infrastructure and services.



SANTO DOMINGO-POPULATION AGES 5-14



Santo Domingo has the highest population of school-age children in the area.

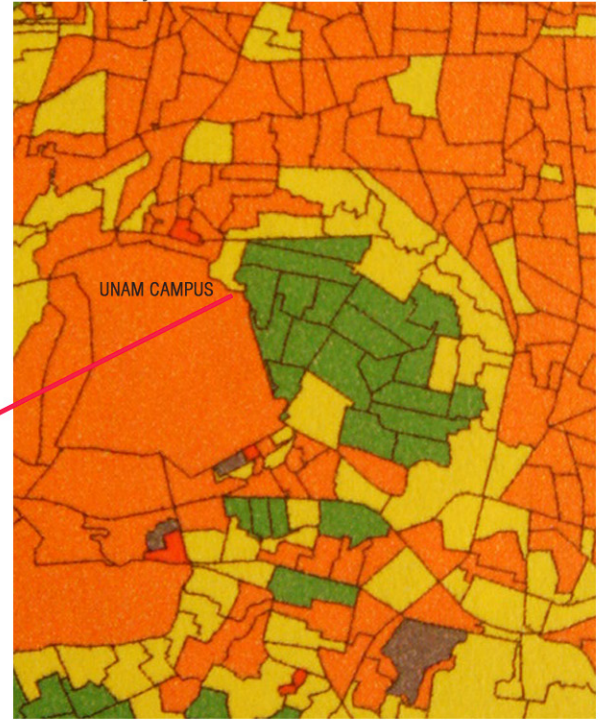
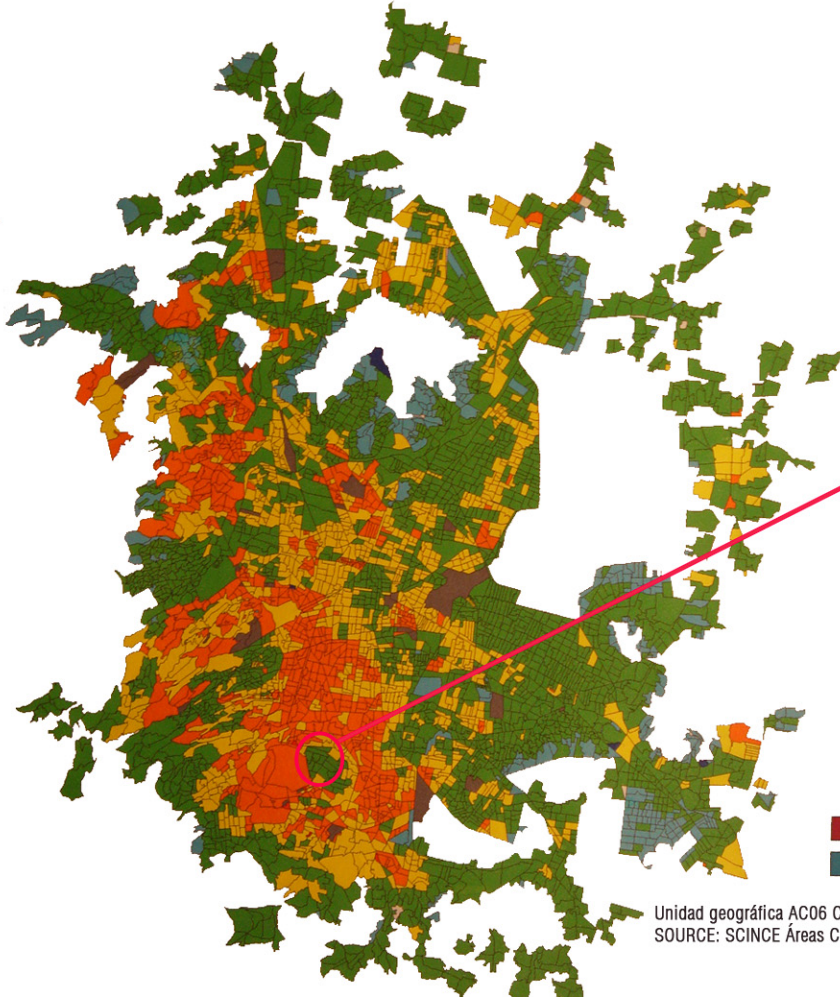


Unidad geográfica: ACO6 Ciudad de México
SOURCE: SINCE Áreas Conurbadas 2000



AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS OF EDUCATION

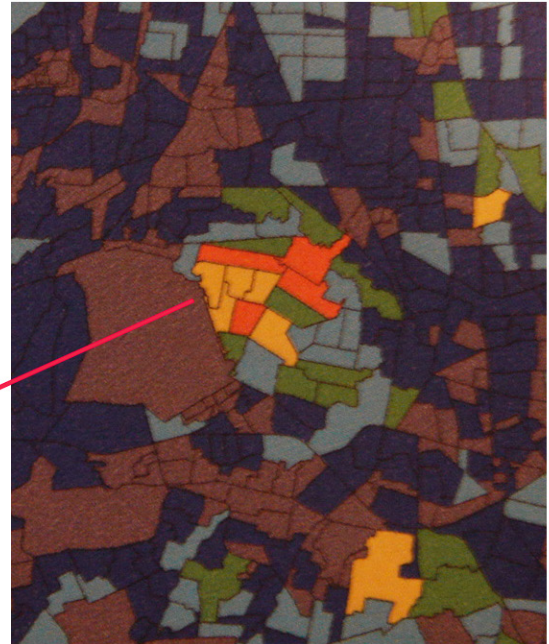
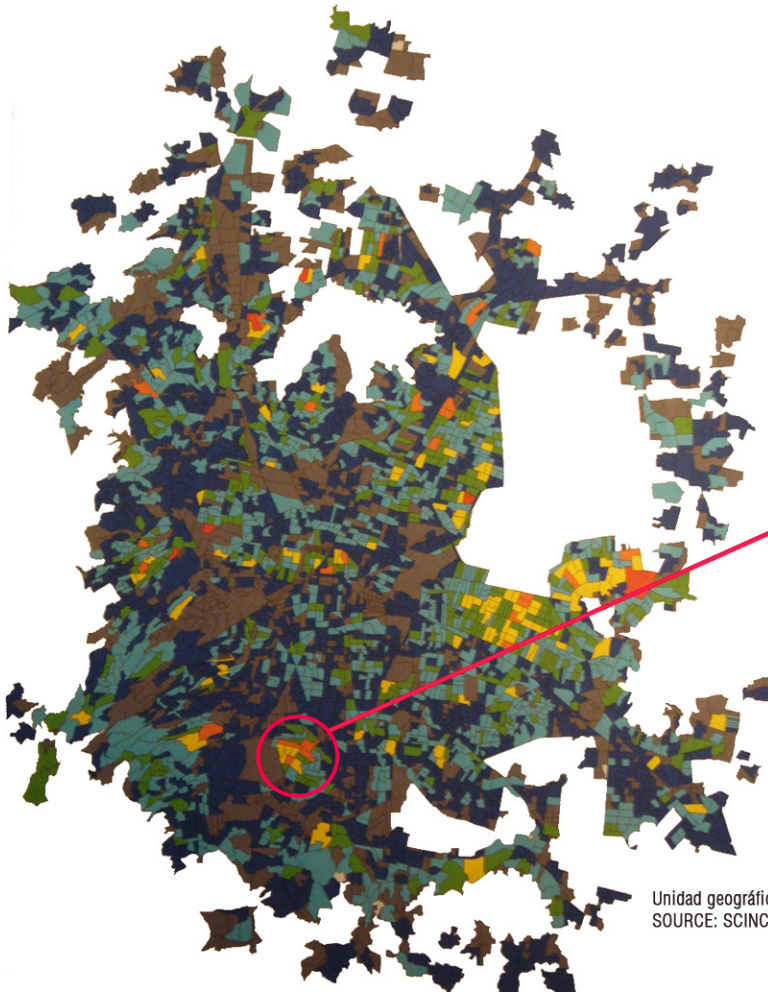
Santo Domingo also stands out with a surprisingly low average of years of education given its location next to the university.



Unidad geográfica AC06 Ciudad de México
SOURCE: SCINCE Áreas Conurbadas 2000

SANTO DOMINGO - TOTAL POPULATION

Santo Domingo stands out with one of the highest populations in the area.



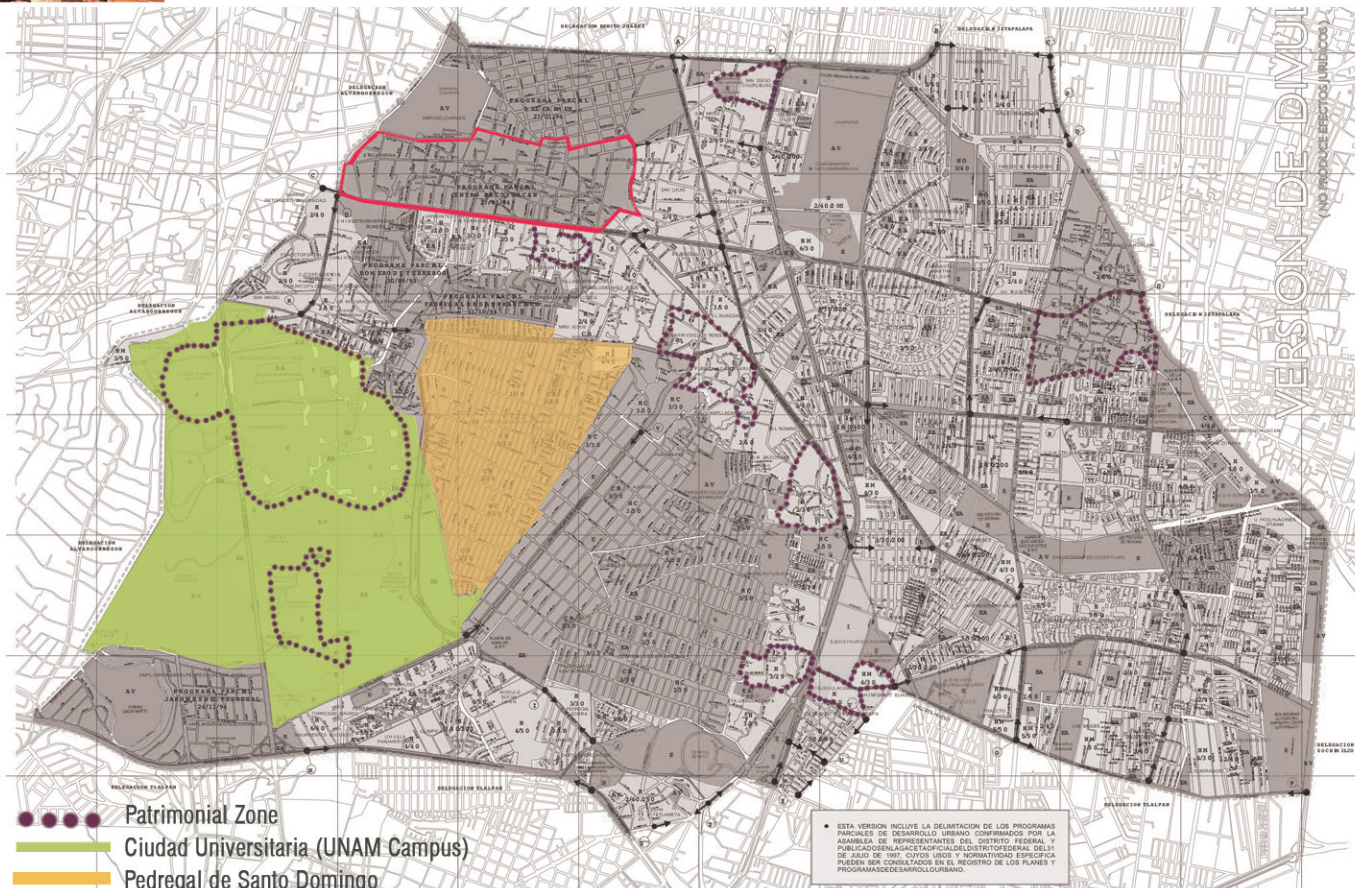
Unidad geográfica AC06 Ciudad de México
SOURCE: SCINCE Áreas Conurbadas 2000



SECTION 5.2



IMPORTANT AREAS CLOSE TO SANTO DOMINGO



PERSONAS DIVULGADAS (NO POR CATEGORIAS JUDICIALES)

-  Patrimonial Zone
-  Ciudad Universitaria (UNAM Campus)
-  Pedregal de Santo Domingo
-  Historical Zone

• ESTA VERSION INCLuye LA DELIMITACION DE LOS PROGRAMAS PARICIALES DE DESARROLLO URBANO CONFIRMADOS POR LA ASAMBLEA DE REPRESENTANTES DEL DISTRITO FEDERAL Y PUBLICACION DE LAS CATEGORIAS DE LOS DISTRITO FEDERAL DEL 1 DE JULIO DE 1997, CUYOS USOS Y NORMATIVIDAD ESPECIFICA PUEDEN SER CONSULTADOS EN EL REGISTRO DE LOS PLANES Y PROGRAMAS DE DESARROLLO URBANO.



SECTION 5.3



MAIN TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

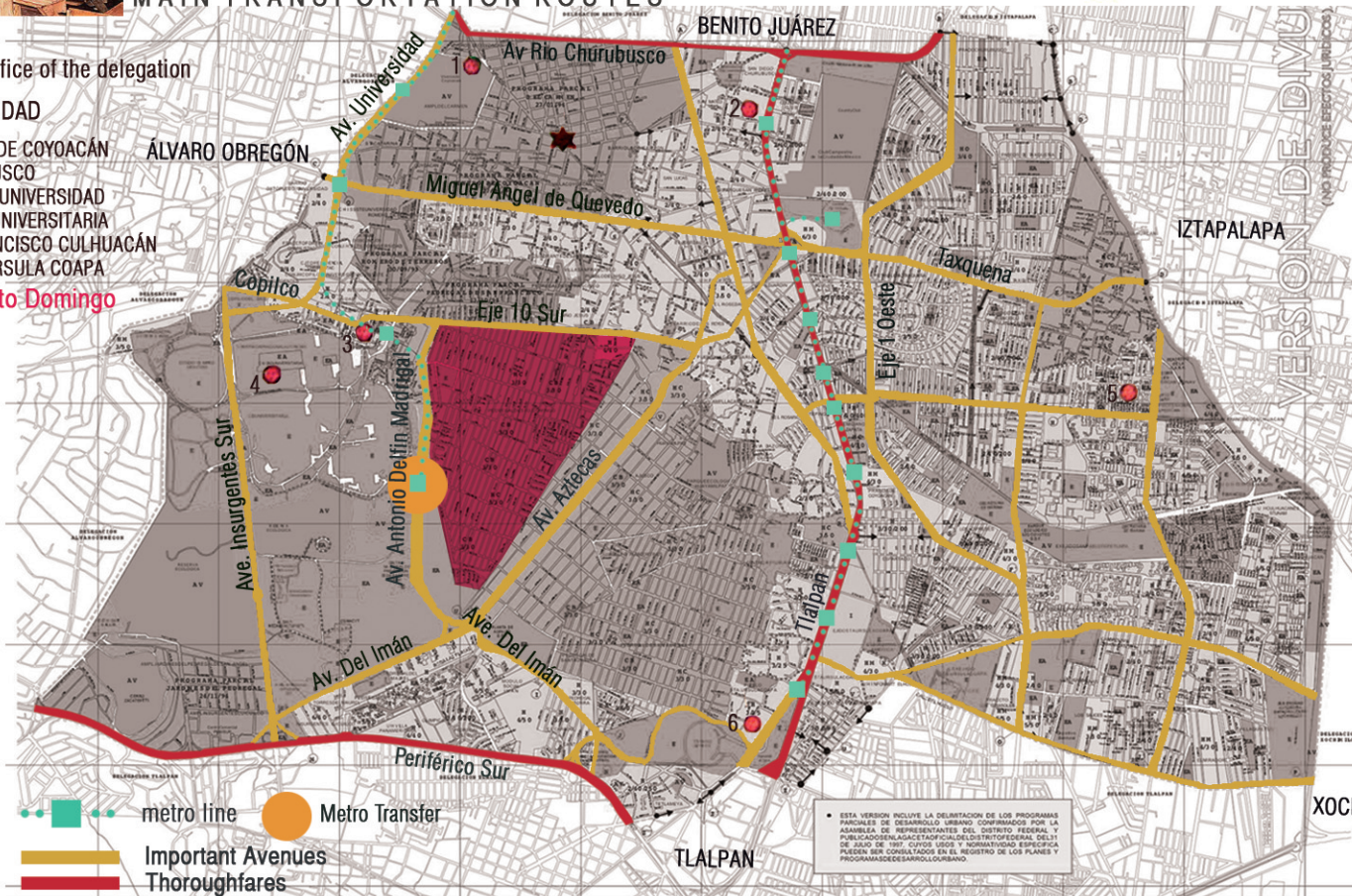


★ head office of the delegation

● LOCALIDAD

- 1. VIVEROS DE COYOACÁN
- 2. CHURUBUSCO
- 3. COPILCO UNIVERSIDAD
- 4. CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA
- 5. SAN FRANCISCO CULHUACÁN
- 6. SANTA ÚRSULA COAPA

Santo Domingo



●—● metro line ● Metro Transfer

— Important Avenues

— Thoroughfares

• ESTA VERSION INCLUYE LA DELIMITACION DE LOS PROGRAMAS PARCELALES DE DESARROLLO URBANO CONFIRMADOS POR LA ASAMBLEA DE REPRESENTANTES DEL DISTRITO FEDERAL Y PUBLICACIONES EN EL CATÁLOGO DE LOCALIDADES DEL DISTRITO FEDERAL. LOS PLANES Y PROGRAMAS DE DESARROLLO URBANO PUEDE SER CONSULTADOS EN EL REGISTRO DE LOS PLANES Y PROGRAMAS DE DESARROLLO URBANO.








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SECTION 5.4



ZONING AND SERVICES

-  residential and commercial
-  central areas
-  infrastructure
-  residential
-  parks/public squares
-  block where site is located
-  site

-  health centre
-  market
-  church
-  pre-school
-  primary school
-  secondary school



The site is within a block of 3 other public schools (1 preschool, 1 primary school and 1 secondary school) and just off of the main street Escuinapa. This street is lively and full of small businesses mostly related to food. There is also a small community centre and health clinic across the street from the site.

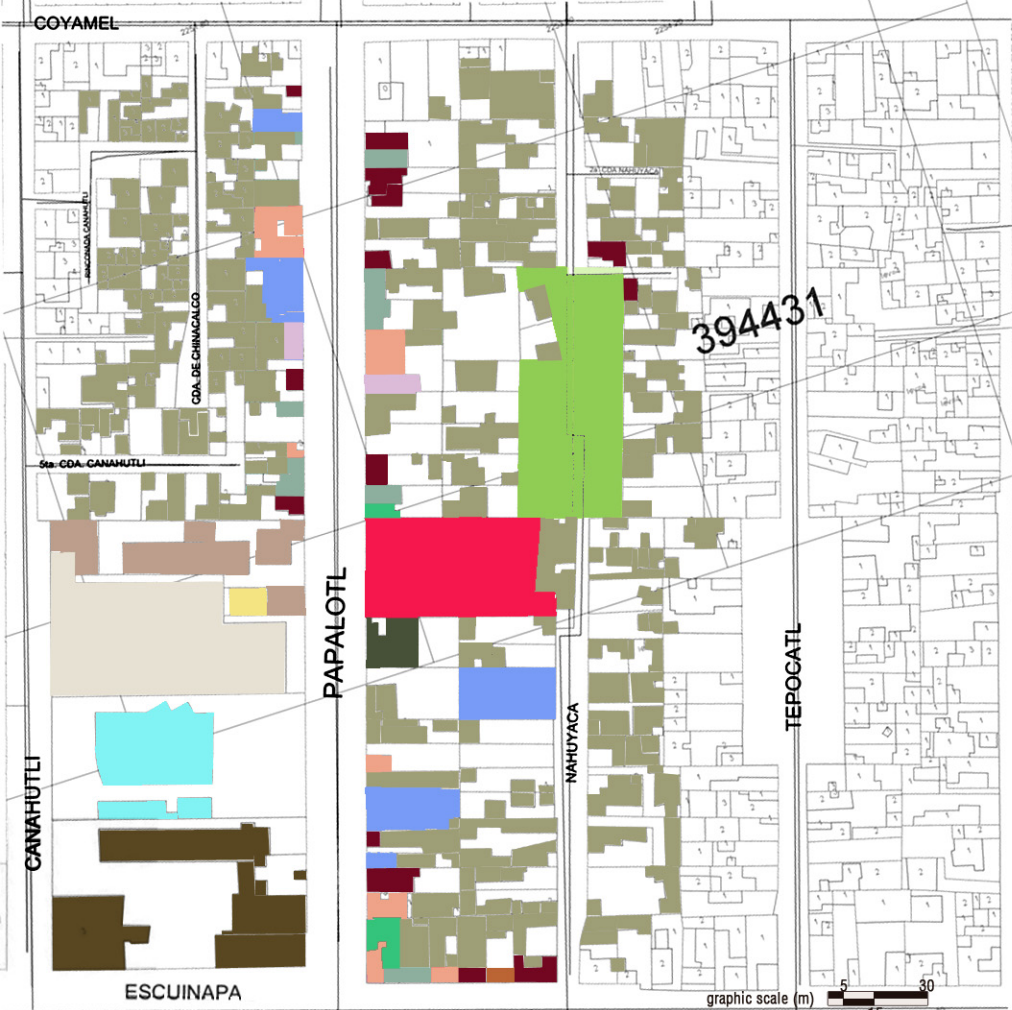


SECTION 5.5



SERVICES

-  site
-  community garden
-  church
-  office building
-  community centre
-  non-food store
-  food store
-  residential
-  garage
-  sit-down restaurant
-  take-out food
-  market place
-  health service
-  school
-  hair salon
-  internet









SECTION 5.6



NOLI PLANS

-  community garden
-  site
-  builings



-  1 storey buildings
-  2 storey buildings
-  3 storey buildings





SECTION 5.7



SITE IN DETAIL

