

UNDERCOVER

4000 YEARS OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE: **LIMA, PERU**

PERU IN THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - VENICE BIENNALE

In a clear, concise manner and in a visually engaging and alluring way, Marianela Castro de la Borda, Janeth Boza and Javier Lizaraburu, the curatorial team, present in their proposal, **UNDERCOVER**, the reality of the 447 *huacas* (monumental pre-Hispanic pyramidal buildings) that lie beneath Lima's urban fabric.

This new edition, under the slogan **FREESPACE**, is guided by the curatorial direction of Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara (Grafton Architects). They invited proposals showing architecture generously acting on our reality. Peru participates in this edition with the certainty that it is necessary to acknowledge the value of our past and its relationship with the present, in our quest for a city that makes its heritage visible and recognises its possibilities in the process of building our own identity.

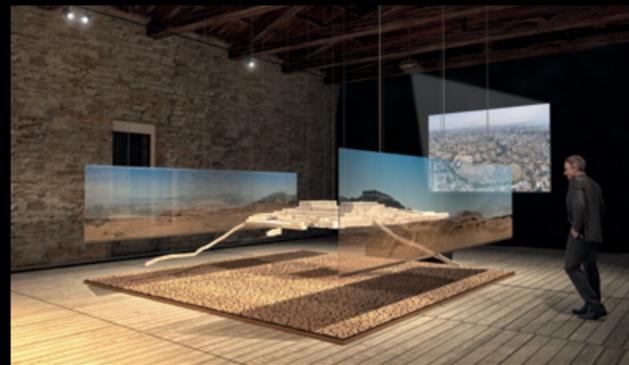
The visitor to this pavilion is immersed in an urban dychotomy where past and present overlap, where the city's organic growth has turned the *huacas* into background noise, fencing them in, disowning them, covering them up, looting them or neglecting them; in spite of all this, they are always there.

At the end of the tour the curators present *huacas* as possibilities, showing different initiatives to prepare them for public use and their rehabilitation as new public spaces. In some cases they already are places of celebration or worship, symbols of belonging or venues for public activities, and are given surprising uses sparked by the community. A video shows with optimism the emergence of contemporary Peruvian architecture, where the *huaca* is a source of inspiration within the search for a local modernity.

JOSÉ ORREGO HERRERA / COMMISSIONER - PERU PAVILION



PUCLLANA (400 AD), SPLIT IN TWO
Photo: Picchio Wasi



MUSIC GROUP LOS SHAPIS AT MATEO SALADO (1100 AD)
Photos: Peruvian Ministry of Culture

1. KNOTS. CONFLICT AND POSSIBILITY

Each of these knots represents one of Lima's 447 surviving *huacas*. To name them is to rescue them from centuries-old oblivion; the knots are a symbol of conflict, but also of possibility. They are made of Peruvian native cotton; Peru was one of the first places where this plant was domesticated, around 6000 years ago. The work of Peruvian artist Jorge Eduardo Eielson has been a major inspiration. / Handcrafted by a group of artisans led by Florentino Guevara at Jicamarca, Lima / Native cotton: Naturtex

2. DATES. TEMPORALITY

The panel shows the dates available for the 447 *huacas*. Together, they represent an architectural continuity of more than 4000 years. This vast civilisation span began with a society noted for its U-shaped temples; they were followed by the Lima culture, some 2000 years ago, then by the Wari and the Ychsma, and reached their culmination with the Incas, who dominated Lima for decades before the arrival of the Europeans in the 16th century. / Sources: PLAM 2035, Peruvian Ministry of Culture

3. THREADS. NEW CODES

Each of the *huaca*/knots has been georeferenced. A thread connects it to its location in the following map. The threads link the *huacas* to the territory, but above all they represent the social, political and economical relationships and tensions between them. The 447 threads are inspired by the Inca *quipus*, a numerical system based on cords and knots. The information they contain needs to be decoded in order to reach the next level. Lima has never decoded the messages hidden in its *huacas*; this exhibit is an invitation to change this.

4. PRE-HISPANIC LIMA MAP

Map presenting a hypothetical image of how Lima looked before the arrival of the Spaniards. The 447 *huacas* still standing are located in the map; the number of *huacas* existing at the time is unknown. This map is the result of an interinstitutional effort that shows, for the first time, all the available information about *huacas*, roads, canals, valleys, *lomas* (fog oases) and wetlands previous to the 16th century, in the entire metropolitan area. Some of the most important sites still standing can be seen: Pachacámac, Maranga, El Paraíso, Pucllana. / Sources: Qhapaq Ñan Peru, Peruvian Ministry of Culture, PLAM 2035, IGN, José Joaquín Narváez Luna, Ph.D., National Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

5. CONTEMPORARY LIMA. SATELLITE IMAGE

This satellite image of Lima, captured in April 2018, is the contemporary counterpart to the previous map. It shows the complete dimensions of the city, the receding valleys, the vanishing green spaces. The high demand for space

and the resulting pressure on the land have spread the urban sprawl, reaching ravines and areas unfit for human inhabitation. Red spots indicate *huacas*. On both sides there is information gathered from several official sources, offering an overview of the Peruvian capital city's present urban condition. / Sources: INEI, PLAM 2035, MVCS, Urban Black Holes, CONIDA, FMI

6. PHOTOS. A LANDSCAPE IN TRANSITION

Two suspended translucent photographs show the landscape surrounding the Pachacámac Archaeological Sanctuary. The images transport us to the space occupied by the Temple of the Sun, placing us in its present territorial and urban context. They allow us to see, on the one side, the earth covering the temple and, on the other, the architecture peering out. / Photos: Gonzalo Cáceres Dancuart / With the support of Museo de Sitio Pachacamac (MSPAC-MINCU)

7. MODEL. ARCHITECTURE REVEALED

A 4m x 3m model in a 1:75 scale, based on the hypothetical reconstruction of the Temple of the Sun, and made using digital development and manufacture, allows us to picture this building as it may have appeared 500 years ago, and to recognise in the architecture that preceded us strategies that can be applied to contemporary architecture. / Archaeo-architectural study of the monument and architectural recomposition hypothesis proposal: M. Arch. Alfio Pinasco Carella / With the institutional support of: Instituto Arqueo-Arquitectura Andina (IAAA), Museo de Sitio Pachacamac (MSPAC-MINCU), Universidad Ricardo Palma (URP) / 3ds Max digital modeling: Architects Paolo Díaz and Brenda Garabito / Digital development and manufacture: CIT (Universidad de Lima Centre for Technological Innovation)

8. VIDEO. IN SEARCH OF A CITY

4000 years of architectural continuity unfold in a video showing a selection of several archaeological sites in Metropolitan Lima. These spaces make evident the urban, architectural and social relationships in a contemporary city that cohabits with a millenary architecture. / Video: PROMETEO - Universidad de Lima production company / Creative consultancy: Gonzalo Benavente

9. SOUND DESIGN. SPACE IN FLUX

Sounds captured in Lima's archaeological sites, together with the city's everyday sounds, are processed using synthesizers, evoking the dialogue between the different eras traversed by Lima's *huacas*. These living, breathing spaces mark a sequence of time in the pavilion and guide us during the visit. / Sound design: Pauchi Sasaki / With the support of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative / Technical assistance: Nomi Sasaki

What is essential is invisible to the eye
ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

- LIMA lies on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Its scanty rainfall and gelid ocean waters have contributed to a unique cultural landscape.
- This has made possible the survival of 447 buildings as old as 4000 years.
- Most of these ancient structures are under huge pressure, as part of a city of 10 million inhabitants with a fast and unplanned growth.
- Years of oblivion have buried these buildings under sand and soil. Their legacy has remained forgotten and concealed.
- Only now, thanks to archaeological excavations, are *huacas* beginning to resurface.
- Huacas* carry surprising gifts, such as their integration as public spaces to their city, a concept that is disappearing in 21st century LIMA's urban vision.
- Pre-Hispanic LIMA is one of the earliest models of urban planning, a fact largely unknown to the rest of the world.
- Our aim is to share this legacy, which remains undercover in LIMA, an unexpected place.

UNDERCOVER

COMMISSIONER
José Orrego Herrera

CURATORS
Marianela B. Castro De La Borda
Janeth Boza
Javier Lizaraburu Montani

COLLABORATORS
Toshio Pardo Tanamachi
Alejandro Lapouble Barrios
Lucero Chiclla Díaz

INVITED ARTIST
Pauchi Sasaki / Sound Installation
Universidad de Lima
Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative
Nomi Sasaki / Assistance

PRODUCTION
Patronato Cultural del Perú

WITH THE PATRONAGE OF
El Comercio
Fundación Wiese

COORDINATOR IN VENICE
Eiletz | Ortigas Architects

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Arturo Higa Taira

TRANSLATION
Alessandra Pinasco García Miró

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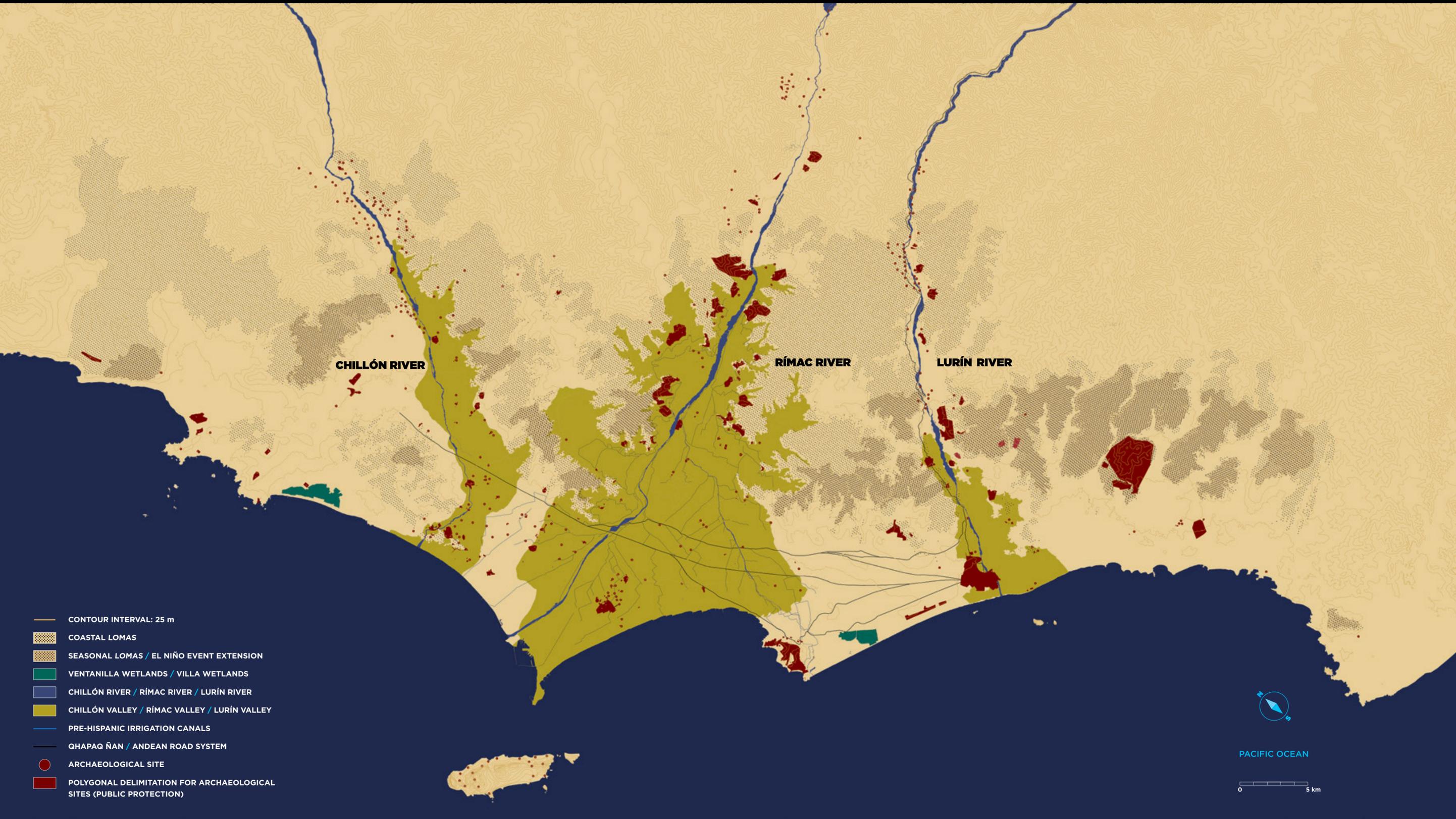
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Peruvian Architecture Firms Association

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Gonzalo Benavente / Creative consultancy
Gonzalo Cáceres Dancuart / Photographer
Alfio Pinasco / Model of the Temple of the Sun in Pachacámac
James Vreeland / Naturtex
Florentino Guevara / Native Cotton Artisans
Omar Valladolid



PRE – HISPANIC LIMA

2000 BC – 1535



SOURCES:
PLAM 2035. METROPOLITAN URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR LIMA AND CALLAO
IGN. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE
ANA. NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
MINAGRI. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
JOAQUÍN NARVÁEZ Ph.D.
QHAPAQ ÑAN PROJECT - MINISTRY OF CULTURE

MAP OF PRE-HISPANIC LIMA:
CARTOGRAPHY BY THE PERU PAVILION CURATORIAL TEAM
DRAWING BY JANETH BOZA, ALEJANDRO LAPOUBLE, TOSHIO PARDO

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