

Research

Territorial problems are analysed taking into account different historic, urban and socioeconomic studies to support the planning process. Two censuses (taken in 1995 and 2001) allowed the indispensable approach to the demographic dynamics. The main research lines are aimed at the legal and institutional framework of rehabilitation, the socio-economic dimension of urban processes and housing in patrimonial areas, as well as at the development and implementation of new socio-cultural and socio-economic projects.

Social Projects

It promotes innovative projects in the context of the rehabilitation process emphasising on social, cultural, economic and environmental subjects (accessibility to heritage, dwellings at risk, management of solid waste and climate change, among others). It has the support of local and national institutions and even of the International Cooperation.



Urban Detail Studies

As part of the plan for integral development, it presents proposals of small-scale interventions in which it defines the vocation of use, the guidelines for urban development actions and a framework of institutional management with social

participation. Several ones stand out: the re-functionalising of the Port Waterfront, the commercial axis Obispo – O'Reilly, the Prado Promenade, the Block No. 148 and the Christ Square.

Publications

With the creation of the Arcos collection by the Bologna publishing house, the Master Plan spreads the rehabilitation works in the historic centre, plans and other urban subjects. The book entitled "A singular experience, balance of the work for 10 years after the implementation of the new management model" was published in 2006 with the support of UNESCO. A book that systematises the work of the five Historian's and Preservationist's Offices in Cuba has recently been published.

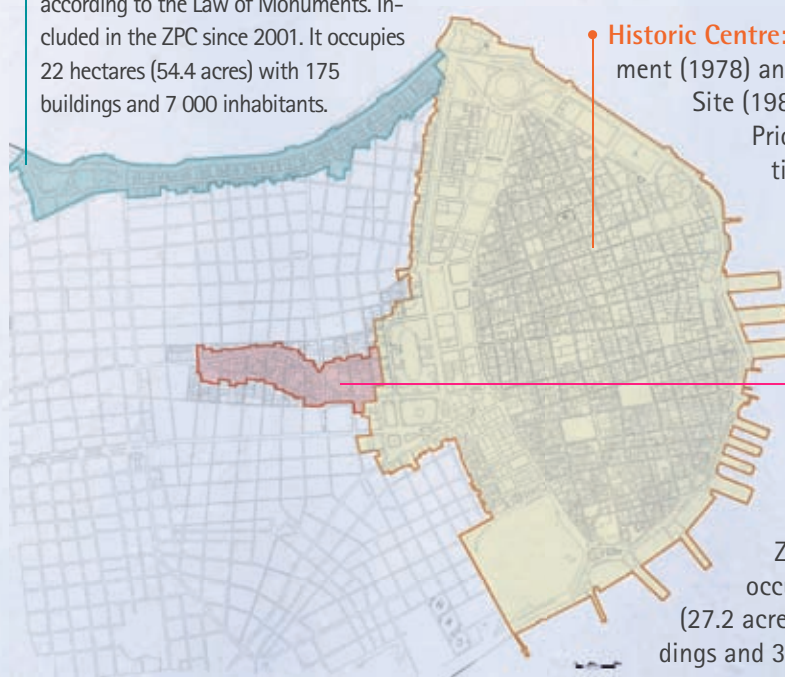


The Roberto López Bastida («Macholo») Documentation and Information Centre

It gives specialised assistance to users in the subjects of town planning and management of heritage. It contains hundreds of books, brochures and serial publications, information on digital supports, photogrammetric surveys, files of buildings, manuscripts and plans. It is part of a network of libraries and archives that allows to offer a more efficient and integral service.

Prioritised Preservation Zone (ZPC)

Traditional Malecón (Waterfront): Protection Zone according to the Law of Monuments. Included in the ZPC since 2001. It occupies 22 hectares (54.4 acres) with 175 buildings and 7 000 inhabitants.



Historic Centre: National Monument (1978) and World Heritage Site (1982). Declared as a Prioritised Preservation Zone in 1993.

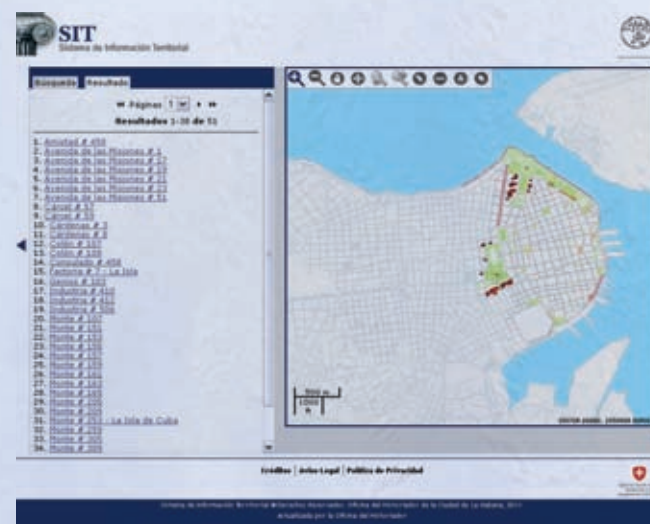
It occupies 214 hectares (528.8 acres) with 3 370 buildings and 66 752 inhabitants.

Chinatown:

Included in the ZPC since 2003. It occupies 11 hectares (27.2 acres) with 195 buildings and 3 900 inhabitants.

The Territorial Information System (SIT)

Interactive platform with multiple data referred to a territory with exceptional values and subject to a dynamic rehabilitation process. The Territorial Information System has become an articulating tool between the Master Plan and other actors, aiming at one goal: to support technicians and executives in decision-making, as well as to achieve greater informational transparency and participation. It has had the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE).



« Every Monday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. the Master Plan broadcasts a programme in 106.9 FM on the Habana Radio station belonging to the City Historian's Office. The Habáname programme informs and reflects on town planning and cultural heritage »



Image Bank

The Plan has a data bank with thousands of digital images, including maps and old prints, buildings, public spaces and details of the daily life at present in the Historic Centre. An exceptional witness to the rehabilitation process in Old Havana.

Procedures processed at the Master Plan

Since the enactment of the Decree-Law 143 in October 1993, the Historian's Office has had authority regarding the regulation and management matters in the ZPC. The Master Plan is the entity in charge of approval and control of constructive actions and use of land based on what is established in the plans and regulations currently in effect.

Consequently, it issues several reports including the use of land, change of use, technical report, licence for preliminary works and works in streets or service networks. In case of a new work or change of use, the governing institutions will have to be consulted concerning matters such as electric capacity, water consumption, environment and heritage. Once approved, the Master Plan will issue the micro-location, the construction licence and finally the Certificate of Usable or Habitable Property as appropriate.

The Master Plan evaluates and issues reports related to self-employment in the ZPC, including the use of spaces in dwellings, the use of public spaces and the renting of locals. For further information or if in doubt, you can write to: tramites@planmaestro.ohc.cu

The Commission for Approval of the Use of Land is in session once a week at the Master Plan. Assistance to the public is available on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. It closes in August and during the second half of December.

The Historian's Office of Havana City was founded in 1938 within the mayor's office in order to protect, spread and promote the historical and patrimonial values of the city. Its first director was Dr Emilio Roig de Leuchsenring until he died in 1964. Dr Eusebio Leal Spengler succeeded him in 1967 as the City Historian and he was given the task of restoring the Palace of the Captains-General to turn it into the City Museum. He became the leader of the restoration programme for the historic centre in 1981 and got subordinated to the State Council in 1993 through which he was given special prerogatives to implement the Integral Development Plan for the Prioritised Preservation Zone.

The Master Plan was created in 1994 within the structure of the Historian's Office in order to study the problems of the Historic Centre and to outline the strategies for its recovery, just when a new management model had been implemented with the enactment of the Decree-Law 143. The project, which had initially the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID), gathered institutions and specialists with several years of work in the territory that were given the task of preparing a «master plan» based on the experience in the fields of heritage and town planning. What seemed to be a circumstantial call became a space of agreement. So, the Master Plan was not a simple document, but an institution that would last – and get stronger – in time.

Composed by some 40 professionals involved in the studies of the city and heritage, it is subdivided into six working groups: Planning and Management, Applied Research, Territorial Control, Territorial Information System, Communications and Documentation Centre.

The Master Plan is responsible for announcing the integral development policies in the Prioritised Preservation Zone (ZPC) based on the design and monitoring of planning, management and control tools. It is also in charge of generating, processing and spreading specialised information, as well as of evaluating, systematising and eventually adapting or transferring experience considered innovative in this field.

The Special Plan for Integral Development (PEDI) is the most important tool of the process of territorial organisation and in management of development in the historic centre. It diagnoses the problems and potentialities of the territory –intensely populated and having high patrimonial values– for which it defines acting strategies and a short-term investment programme (2011–2015). This plan was widely consulted with the acting institutions and the citizens.

The Urban Development Regulations constitute a guide on what and how to build in the Historic Centre based on criteria such as location, architectural typology and protection degree of the building. An easy consultation tool for designers, investors, builders and citizens. The Master Plan has also established regulations for self-employment by adapting the new stipulations in this matter to the requirements of a zone with high patrimonial values.

The Urban Profile Specialities at San Gerónimo College
The Master Plan is responsible for the speciality of Urban Management studied at the San Gerónimo College, reopened in 2007 in the place where the first University of Havana was founded. The Degree in Preservation and Management of Historical-Cultural Heritage consists of a basic 4-year curriculum and a 2-year specialisation course and also prepares specialists in Museology, Archaeology and Socio-cultural Management. The student of Urban Management will learn more deeply about methods of urban research, historic centres, economics, sociology and urban environment.

Meeting on Management of Historic Centres

The Master Plan opens a space for reflection every year for those involved in urban rehabilitation. Its venue is the former monastery of Saint Francis of Assisi and it dedicates each edition to a current topic about historic centres and their planning and management tools. The week before the

event, specialists of the Master Plan give a course which analyses in greater depth the tools of urban management, social projects, environment, information systems, urban economy and tourism.

For further information or requests write to:
evento.manejoygestion@ohc.cu

The Office Network

The Network of Historian's and Preservationist's Offices of Cuban Patrimonial Cities was created in 2008 with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) in order to promote exchanges by using the existing experience in the field of rehabilitation of heritage in the historic centres of Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Camagüey, Trinidad and Cienfuegos. Executives and technicians –particularly those in their «master plans»– meet periodically to identify potentialities and develop research and programmes of common interest.

The Master Plan coordinates locally the actions regarding the declaration of Old Havana and its fortification system as a World Heritage Site.

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MASTER PLAN FOR THE INTEGRAL REVITALISATION OF OLD HAVANA

Its headquarters is the former Palace of the Counts of Casa Lombillo, located at 151 Empedrado Street on the corner with Mercaderes Street in Cathedral Square. You can contact us over the telephone (8604311 to 14) or via e-mail (info@planmaestro.ohc.cu).



The Palace of the Counts of Casa Lombillo

Built for José Pedroso in 1737, an arcade onto the square was added nine years later which gave it hierarchy and an elegant formal unity with the surrounding buildings. By the mid-19th century it housed a sugar warehouse and a cigar factory. Concepción Montalvo, the wife of the Count Lombillo, acquired the property in 1871, hence the name of the house. In the 20th century it was the Headquarters of the Department of Health and in 1947 the City Historian's Office. It was restored in 1987 to be the Education Museum and then in 2002 to be the headquarters of the Master Plan, the Opus Habana magazine and the office of the City Historian.