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Reimagining the Civic investigates and describes the design challenges of three studios led by the three Kahn Visiting Assistant Professors: architect Fernanda Canales, of Mexico City, with David Turturo, critic in architecture; Luis Callejas and Charlotte Hansson, directors of LCLA office, based in Oslo and Medellín, with Marta Caldeira, lecturer; and Stella Betts, of LEVENBETTS, in New York. Each studio focused on different environments and social contexts while scrutinizing age-old questions pertinent to the architectural discipline's understanding of civic space.

Fernanda Canales's studio, "Postprivacy," took a critical look at the housing dichotomy in Mexico, where empty homes coincide with a shortage in dwellings. Stella Betts's studio, "Free Library," focused on the politics of freedom and information, considering the library as a catalyst for the organization of social programs. Luis Callejas and Charlotte Hansson's studio, "The Forest," studied the woods of Norway as both a mythical space and site of the civic parliament.

While diverging in methodology and technique, the studios intersected in functional approach and the possibilities that emerged by multiplying the program. All of the programs were condensed through the design of a single building, dissolving a monolithic type whether it be a house, a library, or a parliament building. Through the cross-examination of all three studios, the multiprogram's pluralism of activities emerges as a tool for defining the civic. Whether through manipulating trees in a forest, expanding the definition of the house in Mexico City, or shifting the discourse in reimagining the library, the students regarded existing cultural and spatial contexts as transformative conceptual and physical materials, defining the act of editing as a mode of civic responsibility and invention.

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