Outdoor life has had a new boost after the pandemic. Since contagion patterns depend on the air’s viral load, the more ventilated space is, the lower the possibility of contagion. Perhaps by chance, this restaurant in Ecuador takes this condition to an extreme. But not only that: it also does so by incorporating the community and, thereby, generating bonds of trust.
In a central area, very important in the social and commercial life of the city of Babahoyo, in the province of Los Ríos, Ecuador, the urban restaurant La Pesca was conceived as a reactivating incision between the private and the public. Tania sought to expand and dignify a seafood business that had been going on for 20 years. She needed a place of her own, where she could invest and adapt to better serve her clients.

The acquired premises are located on the ground floor of an apartment building of collective housing — in noticeable abandonment due to uncoordinated management — and are adjacent to a small social area before reaching the street. Since it is a place of community use, every building inhabitant has a right to use it by law. In turn, because it is an urban space, the local city hall also has a say over it. As a space of appropriation by nature, the project needed to be socialized with the inhabitants of the property so it could be built and come to fruition. There is no easy way to define the line of the public and the line of the private, where the limit blurs and space becomes an amalgam of shared circumstances and experiences. On the ground floor of a building, the social life of its inhabitants takes place: children play, people circulate and interact, and so on. It can even be invaded by
Elevación frontal / Front elevation
E. / S. 1:100

Planta / Plan
E. / S. 1:100
people who will misuse it, shielded by the lack of street lighting. These factors forced us to generate dialogues and negotiations in order to avoid conflict. The idea was to generate an intervention that would not only respond to a local reality but develop a more participatory and open architecture where the city becomes lighter, more humane.

The construction was carried *in situ*, with local labor. Wood, the material used for years in this river and fishing city, is the unifying and activating element of the context. The absence of walls allows the space to merge, becoming part of the current urban landscape. ARQ
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Colaboradores / Contributors: Astrid Acaro Chacón, Herman Laroze, Aparecida Arguello, Gabriel Cuenca, Lissete Arteaga, Fausto Quiroz
Ubicación / Location: Martín Icaza y 10 de Agosto, Babahoyo, Ecuador
Cliente / Client: Tania Zurita
Cálculo estructural / Structure: Cristian Jaramillo
Construcción / Construction: Natura Futura
Instalación sanitaria / Plumbing: Klever Cuesta
Ingeniería eléctrica / Electrical engineering: Víctor Guerrero
Especialidades / Specialties: Marriott

Materiales / Materials: Metal (estructura) y madera de pino (estructura y terminaciones) / Steel (structure) and pine wood (structure and details).
Presupuesto / Budget: $ 22,000
Superficie construida / Built area: 25 m²
Área de proyecto / Project area: 60 m²
Año de proyecto / Project year: 2017
Año de construcción / Construction year: 2017
Fotografía / Photography: KLIWADENKONOVAS
Visualizaciones / Visualizations: Natura Futura
Maquetas / Models: Natura Futura
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Architecture and Urbanism, Universidad de Guayaquil, 2011. Master in Advanced Architectural Design, Instituto Superior de Arquitectura y Diseño, 2013. He received nominations for the awards of the Americas and the Pan American Biennale of Quito. He has exhibited at the Architecture Festival in Bali, Indonesia and at the Architecture Biennial in Valparaiso, Chile. He is currently researching proposals on urban set-top boxes and satellite city identities.