

PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING IN ARGENTINA USING HYDRAULIC MOSAICS IN COMMUNITY SPACES

Since 2010, the [Estudio Valija](#) based in the city of Rosario in Argentina, through the Anda Project has carried out participatory urban planning initiatives using hydraulic mosaics and involving communities in the co-design and construction of creative floors for their own living environments.



[Created and implemented by Inés Martino and Fabricio Caiazza](#) from Estudio Valija, the Anda Project began by interviewing master tile makers and investigating the traditional ways of manufacturing hydraulic mosaic in South America, Spain and India, replacing these processes with lighter and more contemporary procedures, taking advantage of materials and tools available in the non-specialized market of each place. The Project was designed to bring a new touch of creativity to the common spaces of the city, taking into account its structure, traditional elements and resources and with the contribution of citizens.



Estudio Valija takes advantage of the potential offered by this type of tiles in the construction of public spaces, collaborating with local governments, institutions and associations of the cities and neighborhoods concerned. The hydraulic mosaics are placed at bus stops, in squares, school yards, in play centers or as urban signs.



In 2017, for example, in collaboration with the Mobility Entity of the Municipality of Rosario, with the support of the Anda team, the project [Collective Invention: collaborative construction of urban passenger transport stops](#) was developed. The project brought together interested neighbors, the construction workshops were developed in the private homes of the neighborhood participants and the illustrated tiles were placed on the floor of public transport stations.



The website presents the experiences of some of the [projects implemented in different contexts](#) in Argentina and Spain. The documents show the wide range of possible applications of the tiles and hydraulic mosaics in degraded or recovered urban public spaces for community initiatives, the institutional and associative actors involved and the participatory methodologies adopted in the design of the projects.

In all cases, hydraulic tiles are installed in common spaces, basically on the deteriorated sidewalks of the city. The hydraulic mosaics and tiles are designed and built through workshops open to all, with the participation of artists, architects, students and neighbors. The Anda Project team teaches how tiles are manufactured and laid in public spaces.



The Project team works together with institutions and associations, empowering communities in creating a new value to the places they inhabit and where they travel, by offering training and advice in a tutorial format. It also promotes and supports the development of social community-based enterprises, providing technical assistance so that they are in a position to permanently plan and carry out creative solutions to urban problems.

In addition to these initiative of direct support to specific projects requested by local actors, the Anda Project carries out an intense activity of workshops and seminars in person and remotely, offering spaces for experimentation in different locations in Argentina and Spain. The training initiatives are aimed at professionals and amateurs of all ages, individuals, companies, NGOs and public entities.

The Anda Project established a collaboration with the Civics Platform, an interactive and open digital map of all citizen innovation developed by citizens throughout Ibero-America. Based on the icon system that Civics uses, the Project works with the [iniciativa de Señalética para la innovación ciudadana](#) by developing a unique signage based on raised tiles to install on public roads, marking each mapped initiative. The pieces are made by the neighbors who work collectively to build a more livable, sustainable, inclusive and participatory city. This collaboration contributes to disseminate the technologies and methods adopted by the Anda Project and to promote new experiences in the Ibero-American countries.

The Anda Project has been recognized in Argentina and abroad. Among these mentions, in Argentina in 2013 it was declared of cultural interest by the Ministry of Culture of the Nation and in 2016 it was included in the *Future Platform* by the Ministry of Culture of the Nation. In 2018 the Project received the Madrid Ibero-American Design Biennial Mention (Spain).

The Inter-American Development Bank, in its publication [La innovación de America Latina y el Caribe](#), mentions the Anda Project as one of the 50 outstanding ventures of creative and cultural industries that are improving lives on the continent through innovation.

A relevant aspect of the Anda Project is having made its know-how available to everyone from the beginning. In addition to providing support to projects requested by different institutions and organizations, transferring the necessary knowledge to replicate the production of hydraulic mosaics, the Project publishes manuals with Creative Commons license and open source, to promote the widest use of technical knowledge and elaborated methodologies.

The publication [Proyecto Anda - Baldosas hidráulicas para la construcción de espacio público](#) produced by Inés Martino and Fabricio Caiazza is an example of a material that offers the necessary knowledge to replicate this practice in other contexts.

The Anda Project website [invites all interested stakeholders to establish contacts and operational collaborations.](#)

To know more



[Proyecto Anda in Estudio Valija website](#)

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