

7th UPR-MIT Conference on
Tren Urbano
January 10-16, 2001

Children and Their Neighborhoods –
Implications for Transport Policy
Carmen Sanz, Psychologist



Overall Approach

- It begins as a children drawing contest, with prizes awarded by the local Mayor



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Overall approach

- The children and their street:
 - The urban space do not help children to grow up, people do
 - They learn how to live in society through example
 - The street as the link between the unknown city and the familiar grounds

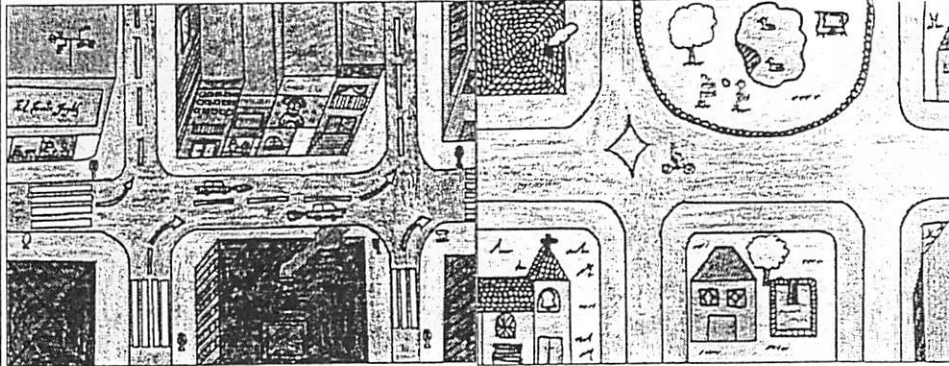
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Overall approach

- "How is your neighborhood? How would you like it to be?":
 - We learn through their answers about their perception of their environment
 - No significant differences between children of wealthy urban areas and those from industrial suburbs
 - Even in small villages with available space, they are affected by automobiles

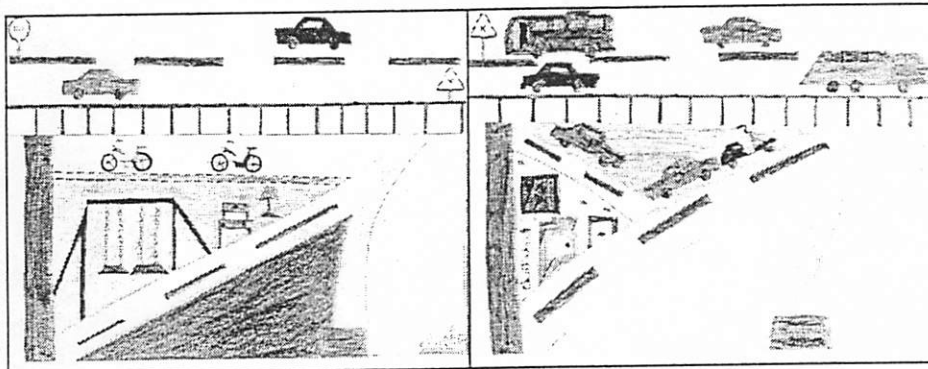
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Still in downtown Bilbao



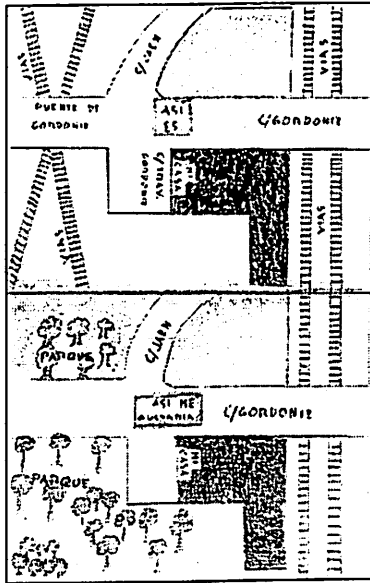
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In a congested area by the highway



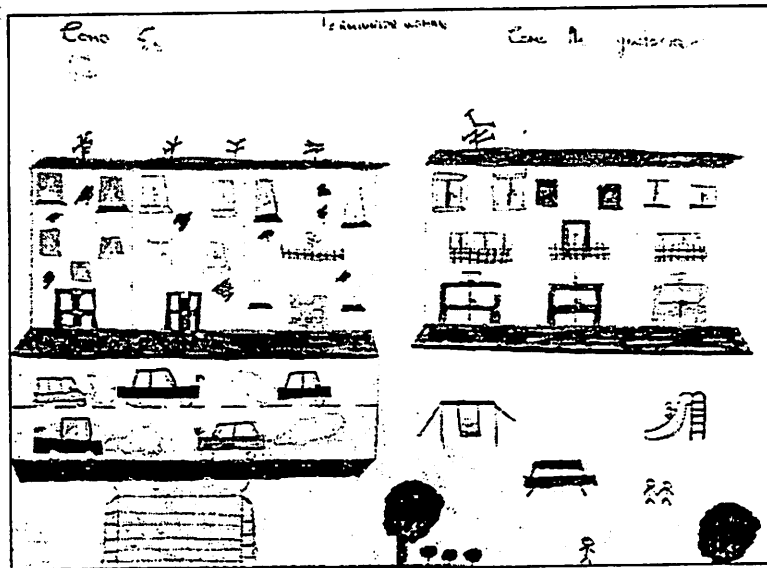
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Surrounded by the train tracks



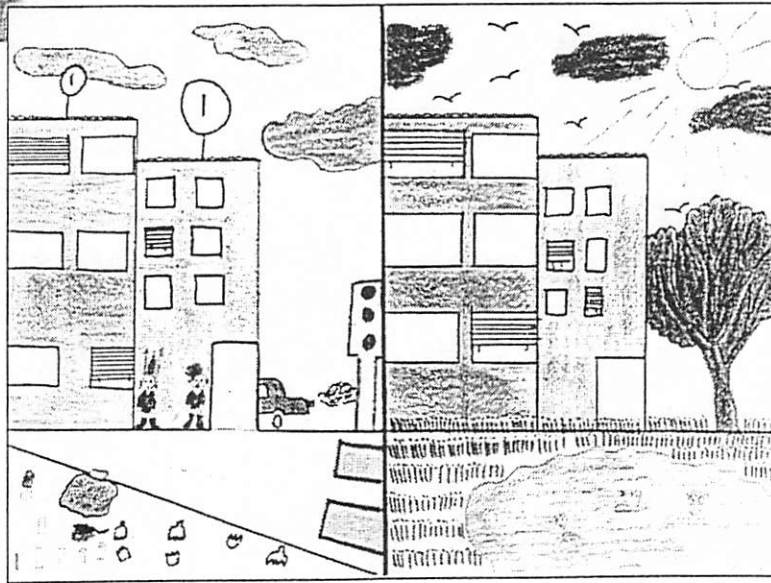
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Industrial suburbs of Bilbao



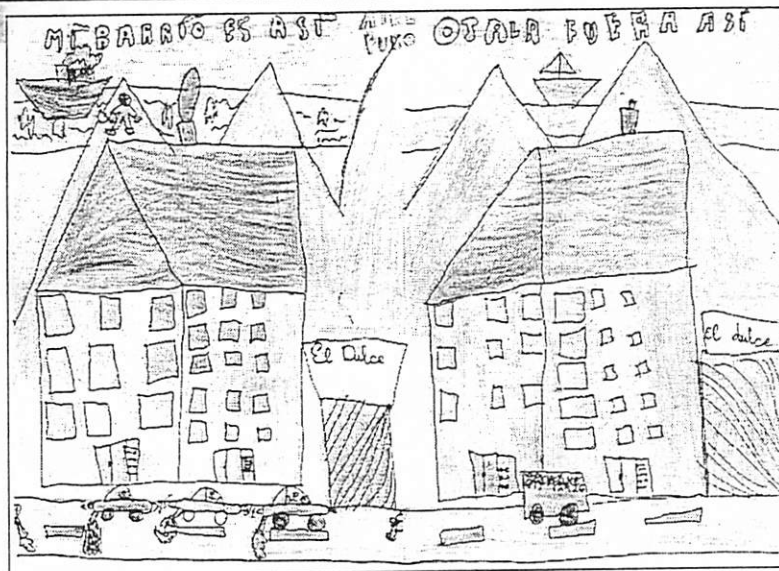
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In public housing projects



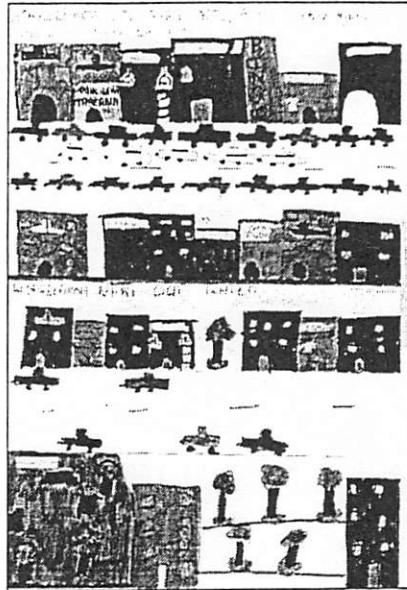
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They only ask for a bus



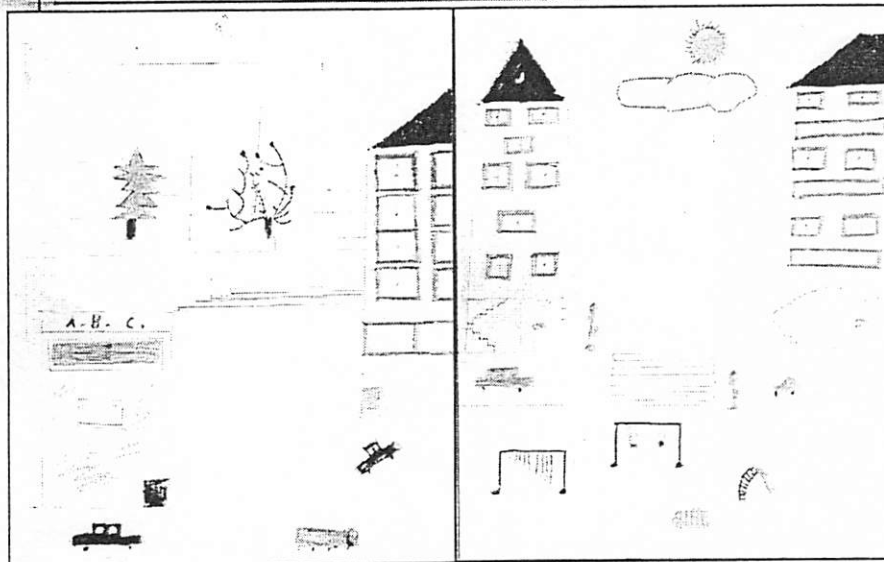
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Let us reduce traffic!



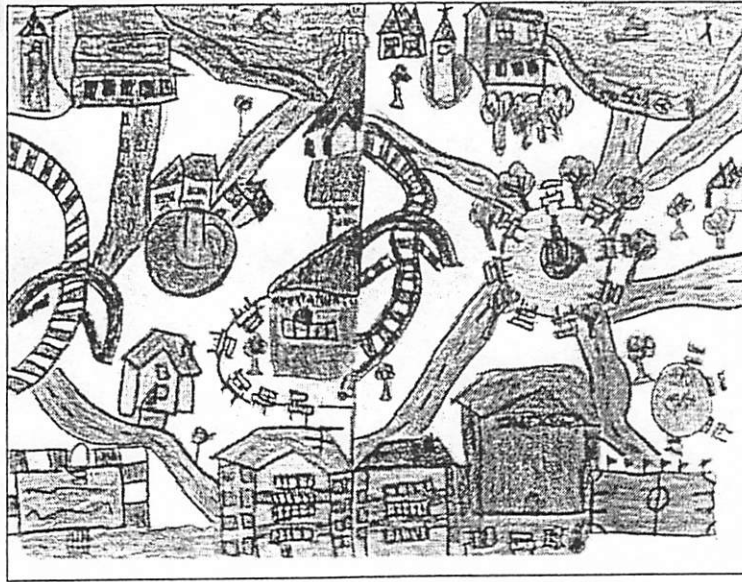
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We need new urban planning



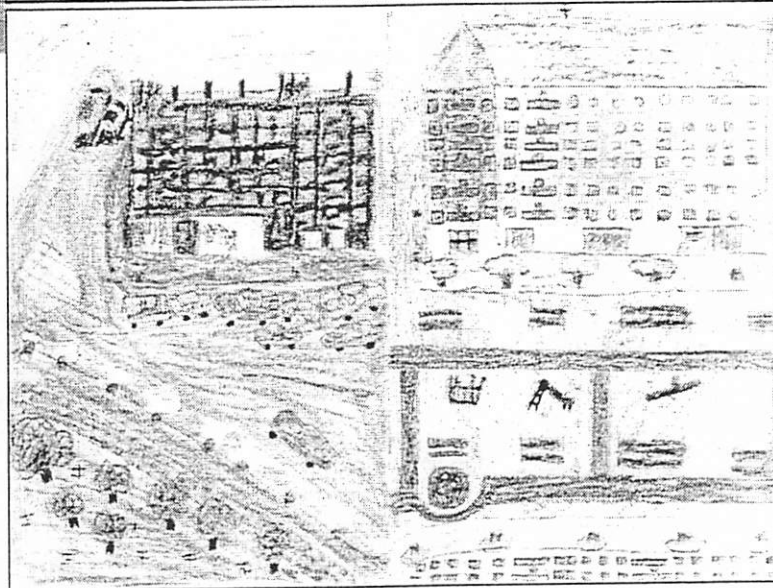
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A more focused space



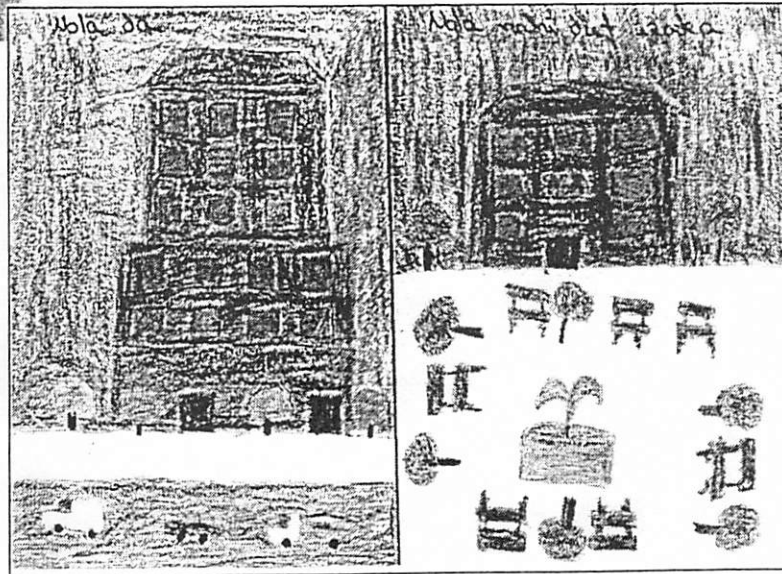
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Less cars and more space to play



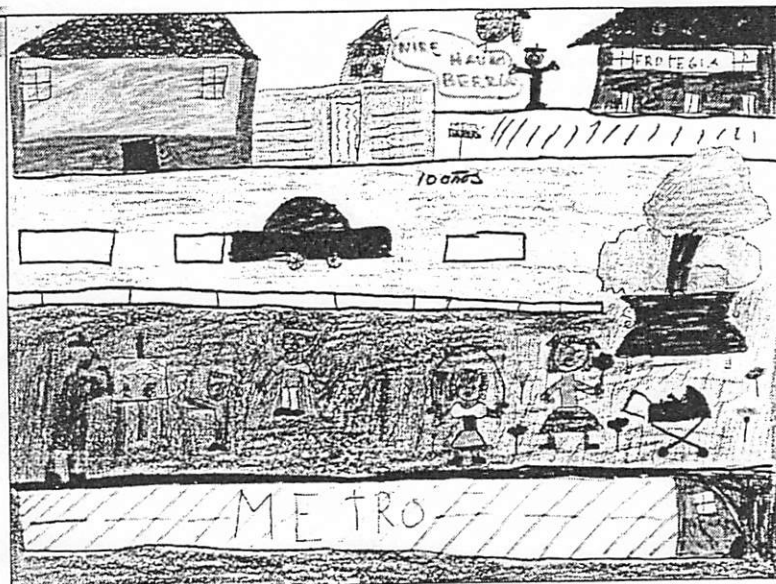
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Space for people, not for cars



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Let's use the space liberated by Metro



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In a nutshell...

- Children have a very realistic perception of their surroundings
- We cannot design the cities only for children, but we should cater to their needs as members of our society.
- They need street space to develop their social links and roots with their community
- Only then our cities will survive as livable and sustainable centers

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Thank you for your attention!



Hoping you will not forget our children

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