

CONTENTS



List of Illustrations ix

Preface xiii

Acknowledgments xvii

Part I: Introduction

Chapter One: Notes from the Field 3
A Personal Account

Chapter Two: Public Space and Culture 31
The Case of the Latin American Plaza

Part II: Histories

Chapter Three: The History of the Plaza in San José, Costa Rica 47
The Political Symbolism of Public Space

Chapter Four: The European History of the Plaza 84
Power Relations and Architectural Interpretation

Chapter Five: The Indigenous History of the Plaza 101
The Contested Terrain of Architectural Representations

Part III: Ethnographics

- Chapter Six: Spatializing Culture 127
*The Social Production and Social Construction
of Public Space*
- Chapter Seven: Constructing Difference 154
The Social and Spatial Boundaries of Everyday Life
- Chapter Eight: Public Space and Protest 180
The Plaza as Art and Commodity

Part IV: Conversations

- Chapter Nine: The Park and the Plaza in Costa Rican Literature 207
Imagined Places
- Chapter Ten: Conversations on the Plaza 219
Remembered Places
- Chapter Eleven: Public Space, Politics, and Democracy 238
- Appendix: Recent Costa Rican Presidents and Their Terms 248
- Bibliography 249
- Index 267