Abstract
This article presents an analysis of the process of urban development in Barranquilla. Since the early years of the XXth century, the private sector has played a central role in urban planning decision-making. First, the article discusses general aspects of urban and population growth in Barranquilla and seeks to contextualize the city within the greater metropolitan area of Barranquilla. Second, the article analyzes the problem of social and spatial segregation. A third part focuses on the so-called modern urban and spatial development of Barranquilla. This period was characterized by the permanent presence of the private sector. Finally the article presents the basic parameters of the growth process, focusing on the different stages of growth, types and forms of urbanization, mechanisms of urbanization policies in the north western part of the city, as well as the demands generated by new urban settlements and high-end services in the Barranquilla-Puerto Colombia corridor.

Keywords
Urban development, private sector, planning.