

Mexico City

Clip: DD304_02_99_clip1

Transcript:

Doreen Massey:

My first time up in a helicopter...

You really get a different feel for the city up here. Down in the dancehall, or in the streets or the market, you get the feeling of how the city brings people together. The intensity of it all. Up here, you feel more how the city pulls people apart, how people are spaced out into different areas. Different kinds of people, through the market, or through discrimination, in different parts of the city.

I flew over some of the very poorest areas. The places they call parachute settlements. Right on the edge, they seem to be not just clinging on to the hills, but clinging on to their claim on the city as well.

Below me now, the classic working-class areas, huddled together in their serried ranks and tightly-packed streets. And here from the air I can see over the defences of the rich, and spy on their spacious gardens, trees and swimming pools.

Now we're over the centre. Of course, although being up here you get the impression of people being organised into different areas – somehow 'sorted out' – actually down there on the street it's not organised at all. In almost all parts of the city there are battles going on over who has the right to be where. And maybe most of all, down here in the centre city, there are contests over space.