

Editorial

Fernando G. Vázquez Ramos

This special issue of the academic journal (magazine) *arq.urb* is dedicated to the debate of participatory processes involved in experiences of appropriation and production of the urban space and, by extension, to the discussion of conflicts involving the construction of citizenship. It presents articulations between conceptual references and certain urban practices, with the perspective of opening new possibilities of interpretation and, above all, of action. The organization of this thematic edition was the responsibility of the researchers Eneida de Almeida, Professor of the Graduate Program in Architecture and Urbanism of the University São Judas Tadeu, co-editor of this journal, and Maria Carolina Maziviero, Professor in Exclusive Dedication Regime of the Department of Architecture and Urbanism of the Federal University of Paraná - UFPR.

The edition consists of articles written by important national and foreign professionals dedicated to urban problems from unconventional points of view, such as Jeffrey Hou (University of Washing-

ton); Bruna F. Montuori (School of Architecture of the Royal College of Art) and Marcos L. Rosa (researcher whose academic formation is associated with Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft and the London School of Economics); Maira Ramirez Nobre and Natacha Silva Araújo Rena (the Built Environment and Sustainable Heritage Postgraduate Program of the Federal University of Minas Gerais); Alana Moraes (Brazilian College of Higher Studies, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro); Simone Scifoni (Department of Geography of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences of the University of São Paulo) and Mariana K. Nito (Management Council of the Paulista Heritage Network); Daniela Sandler (University of Minnesota); Todd L. Laester (collectives Lanchonete.org and ArtistSafety.net, whose work is directed to the right to the city themes) and Paula Van Erven (Graduated from Bard College of New York, now a professor at the Escola da Cidade, SP) ; Bianca Jo Silva (MSc at UNICAMP and PhD student at the Graduate Program in Architecture and Urbanism at Mackenzie Presbyterian University) and Silvia

A. Mikami G. Pina (Full Professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Urban Planning at UNICAMP); Cintia Elisa de C. Marino (PhD from Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, with experience in public policy in the municipalities of São Paulo and Taboão da Serra); Adriana Sansão (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) and Fernando E. Galarce (Graduate Program in Architecture of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), with the participation of the architecture students from UFRJ: Leticia M. do Valle, Victor F. Motta and Thais da S. Faria.

Opens this issue the article Public Space Activism and the Space for New Commons by Jeffrey Hou, which introduces the reader to new models of interaction in a society that can be facilitated through design, planning and place-making practices. In the first part of the article, the author reviews the notions of commons and communalization, exploring the contemporary interest in the theme. The theme addressed is central to understanding urban insurgent practices based on citizen practices. In the second part, it presents two case studies, one in communities in Seattle and the other in Taipei, to demonstrate how to respond to challenges and opportunities to create new social arrangements and new commons through participatory design and planning with communities.

The article that follows, Public Utility. The process structured by the 11th São Paulo Architec-

ture Biennial: a platform of investigation and the articulation of a constellation of actions in the territory, written by Bruna F. Montuori and Marcos L. Rosa, also retakes the concept of co-production of space, as “practices based on partnerships and forms of collaboration that seeks to approach non-architects, recognizing non-institutionalized knowledge”. Based on a review of the participatory models and activism developed in Brazil, supported by the observation of local issues, the authors present the process of building the 11th edition of the São Paulo Architecture Biennial, held between 2016 and 2018, focusing its structuring as a research platform.

Starting from a critical revision, from renowned authors, of the concepts of revolution, revolt, uprising, insurrection, among others, the article From revolutions to uprisings, by Máira Ramirez Nobre and Natacha Silva Araújo Rena, draw attention to the differences regarding the internal organization, objective and the activism of social movements, in order to contemporaneously understand them. The authors point out that the main current uprisings, insurrections, and counter-conducts, even though they have very particular motives and disputes, are related to the urban issue by means of agendas that connect to the right to the city and to housing, to the right to mobility, to the occupation of public spaces, in addition to incorporating a questioning of private property through the discussion of the common.

The article *Before and after the walls: what is common among women in the outskirts of São Paulo*, by Alana Moraes, explores the spaces of collective construction in everyday life in order to discuss another “political spatiality” present in the occupations of vacant lots in the city of São Paulo. The report includes the presentation of the relationship that women members of the Homeless Workers Movement, the MTST, weave in their immediate space, and the possibilities of resistance possible from invisibilized work. The narrative is built starting from a careful ethnographic approach added to a theoretical rescue of important thinkers of feminist political theory, with the objective of reinterpreting social problems and urban struggles as new political forms from the perspective of care and as experiences of an urban commonplace.

In *Urban activism and cultural heritage*, Simone Scifoni and Mariana K. Nito elected an approach to the practices of heritage aimed towards the central areas of the city of São Paulo, deliberately removed from both the official inventory processes of cultural goods adopted by the preservation agencies and the tendencies of economic vaporization and urban cultural consumption- commonly employed in interventions for the requalification of pre-existing of historical and cultural interest implemented in the city. They report an experience of heritage education promoted by Repep (Rede Paulista de Educação Patrimonial) and by the Movimento Baixo

Centro, exercised in the manner of an urban activism, in direct opposition to the mechanisms of social exclusion reproduced in the discourse of degradation of the center, which turns the defense of heritage into a source of legitimacy of the phenomena of gentrification.

Focused on the relevance of cultural expression as an integral force to the formation of urban space, Daniela Sandler’s text, *Culture as Urbanism, or the Territorial Dimension of Culture*, explores the use of culture in public spaces in the periphery, with the purpose of expanding the epistemological premises of urbanism, incorporating the practices and knowledge of the communities living in the areas under study. The author describes the course of her research that leads her to expand the disciplinary boundaries and to understand the territorial dimension of culture, based on empirical observation of contributions of subjects and groups of urban activists who, traditionally excluded from conventional professional and academic assignments, merge culture and territory in tactical actions and initiatives of different natures, achieving significant transformations of urban space, with social inclusion and spatial acuity.

Todd Zanier Laester and Paula Van Erven, in the article *São Paulo, a mosaic as viewed from Paim Street*, address the various experiences of the cultural platform *Lanchoente.org*, conducted by artists, among which are architects, designers, video mappers, journalists, gardeners, bookse-

llers, with the aim of understanding and documenting “how people live, work, navigate and share the contemporary city, having the center of São Paulo as their panorama of observation”. Interested in the Right to the City theme, the components of this cultural platform compare theoretical approaches and strategies of community organization of existing occupations in the central areas. Rather than talking about the artistic intent of such urban interventions, the intention is to recognize the forms of community organization involved in these contexts, how much the behaviors reproduce or contradict patterns broadly accepted by them.

In the subsequent article, Immaterial production of space and urban desires accomplishment, by Bianca Jo Silva and Sílvia A. Mikami G. Pina, the authors present the case of the performance of the urban social movement “A Batata Precisa de Você” in the close relationship with what the authors call the immaterial production of public space. The hypothesis defended throughout the text is that the low availability of public resources combined with the convenient interest of private initiative in the construction sector, forged urban tools of another order, more flexible and experimental. The authors emphasize the positive aspects of the experience of Largo da Batata in the sense that it offers the city a wide and public space, with real possibilities of occupation.

Continuing on the report of experiences connec-

ted with participatory initiatives, the article Citizen Tactics for activation of underutilized areas: the case of community gardens in Rio de Janeiro, by Adriana Sansão, Fernando Espósito Galarce, Leticia Martins do Valle, Victor Fernandes Motta and Thais da Silva Faria, is dedicated to citizen community initiatives aimed at transforming everyday spaces, as forms of reoccupation of underutilized residual areas, characterized by alternative and proactive ways that challenge and tension the procedures of traditional urban planning. The study dialogues with the themes of tactical and insurgent urbanism, in order to analyze the cases of the urban vegetable gardens of Park Sitiê (Vidigal) and General Glicério (Laranjeiras).

Concludes this special edition the article Cintia Marino, Activism and appropriation of urban space in São Paulo, which discusses the different modalities of collaborative construction and appropriation of spaces, whether public or private, through the direct action of urban activism groups. It initially explores theoretical concepts and propositions, in the sense of bringing together an essential theoretical framework that can support the analysis of two specific territories, adopted as objects of activist action in the city of São Paulo: the elevated expressway of the center-west link known as “Minhocão”, and the case of “Parque Augusta”. The study pays special attention to the impasses between the institutionalization and spontaneity of existing actions in the dispute for urban spaces and the right to the city. ■