

Editorial

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This special edition of the **arq.urb** journal gathered its articles in four sections, corresponding to thematic axes proposed by the editors invited for this issue, Profas. Myrna de Arruda Nascimento, from the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), and Ana Esteban Maluenda, from the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain), as the new paradigms for understanding the issues and debates posed nowadays, in the field of Architecture, as announced in the presentation text: Globality; Sustainability; Diversity; Heredity. As a result, it is possible to verify that each of the articles collected here offers important repositioning in relation to methodological paths and traditional interpretations, finding the necessary means to bridge a gap that still exists between theoretical foundations, critical reflection, and architectural practice.

Bringing together reflections from the Global North and South, the texts are presented in three languages - Portuguese, English and Spanish -, respecting the origin of authors from different countries, who express themselves in the language that best allows their communication and their institutional connections.

There are three articles dedicated to the paradigm of **globality**.

The first of them, Architecture and globalization, by Fernando Luiz Lara, University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture (United State), revisits his vast production of the last twenty-five years related to the theme, under two different approaches. On the one hand, it deals with the diffusion of Brazilian modern architecture in different parts of the world; on the other hand, he deals with the dissemination and popularization of elements of modernism in different parts of Brazil. Dealing with these writings in the light of contemporary reflections allowed the author to reposition in the face of recurrent asymmetries in the exchange of ideas between the Global North and the South, which tend to despise Latin American epistemologies. A central

aspect of the discussion, according to Lara, corresponds to the abstract understanding of space that removes reality from the mind, “placing European men above it as *res cogitans* and everything else below as *res extenso*. This is what we naturalize as globalization”. Therefore, he concludes that “history is telling us that we lost something important when we developed spatial abstraction and that we must find ways to unlearn this intimate relationship between architecture and globalization”.

The second, Tacos de Falafel, by Fernando Nespral, Institute of American Art and Aesthetic Investigations of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina), re-examines the historiographical production focused on the modern movement, centered on the works of Oscar Niemeyer. It points out, on the one hand, Le Corbusier's sphere of influence on the work of the Brazilian architect; on the other, the inspiration in the elements of the “exuberant Brazilian geography”. These more recurrent analyses, Nespral points out, reproduce a persistent tendency to privilege the circulation of ideas and models from the Global North, disregarding their production in Lebanon, or in Israel. With the purpose of recovering forgotten histories, the author dedicates himself to the production of Latin American architects in the Middle East, seeking to contribute to the construction of a decolonized history, committed to strengthening the intersections between regional and global processes.

The third article, Geopolitics and spatial experimentation: other narratives of modernity in Guanajuato, Mexico, by Reina Loredó-Cansino, Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro, Facultad de Ingeniería (Mexico), explores a scenario identified as an accumulation of diversities, exchanges and interpretations, related to the concept of modernity, in what constitutes a “network of architectural objects, languages, authors, cities, quite diversified”, sustained by power relations formed by a wide arc that goes from the geographic sphere, passing through the institutional sphere, including

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the historiographical sphere. The author points out that, from a geopolitical point of view, there is a tendency to avoid analyzing modern architecture from broader structures, as observation through the lens of globality would allow. This tendency, according to the author, tends to produce narratives that focus on the styles and forms adopted by architects, to configure national cultural identities, and/or canonical influences of northern European origin. As a way of subverting this conventional analytical route, she adopts Teatro Juárez in Guanajuato, Mexico, as a case study, thus proposing a route change, according to which peripheral contexts would be references of identity experimentation.

Sustainability was addressed in three other articles.

In *Climate Crisis. Social response through Social Housing*, Jan Johansson, Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, Department of Research and Innovation (Denmark), considers that, although there is wide convergence in the understanding that sustainable development is one that must satisfy current needs without, however, compromising future generations to satisfy their own, the concept of sustainable architecture points to very different solutions, which contest not only a condition of relevance and adequacy, but even an alleged “correction”. By analyzing social housing proposals, the author traverses the paths of sustainable architecture in Denmark, starting with the energy crisis of the 1970s, building a broad framework of references, through which he examines certain responses to public and private incentives, related to conditions of infrastructure, financing, and means of technological innovation, while appreciating the changes in logic and values achieved, in concurrency with social advances.

In *Urban Ramblings*, James Harty, Copenhagen School of Design and Technology (Denmark), travels through time with the purpose of capturing the transformations that cities have undergone, and which it is assumed will still undergo, not only in their physical elements, but also in their dynamics and spatial practices, and how this interaction can impact the lives of citizens. The analyzed situations make it possible to perceive the intensity of the changes caused by technological innovations and new scenarios to respond in a minimally responsible way to the environmental challenges we are facing today. These changes can turn serious problems into transformation catalysts, from a perspective of course correction, with a view to improving the quality of life.

In *Urban Resilience*, Marcelo Roméro, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (Brazil), discusses a methodological proposal for the elaboration of urban resilience plans. The author initially proposes the resumption of the etymological concept of “resilience”, with the perspective of examining it under more contemporary connotations, supported by Bausista-Puig (2022). Next, it explores in detail the premises, the implementation phases, and the fundamental conditions to ensure the effectiveness of resilient plans, as multidisciplinary works, which must bring together all city management agents, from public entities, universities, civil society organizations, and private sector agents. Aware that cities are fragile organisms, in continuous transformation, subject to severe impacts due to climate change, global warming, scarcity of resources, socio-spatial disparities, the author signals that management plans will not be enough to generate resilient cities if they do not reconcile economic aspects with social concerns.

The **diversity** paradigm brought together several authors around three articles.

The first of them, *Architects in the first generation of Spanish democracy, Madrid, 1978-2008: reflections on domestic space*, by the authors: Ángel Cordero Ampuero, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Elia Gutiérrez Mozo, Universidad de Alicante, and Héctor Navarro Martínez, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain), is dedicated to the production of female architects from Madrid, focused on housing projects, over a period of thirty years, starting in 1978, a period that coincides with the Spanish Transition, until the year 2008, corresponding to the much-debated economic crisis. The qualitative study, from a gender perspective, underlines the role of women in leading certain professional processes. When facing quite comprehensive issues in conducting the work, ranging from aspects related from housing programs to housing typologies, focusing on the organization of domestic spaces, the architects aim at the articulation with the urban space, with the intention of enhancing sociability relations, with repercussions on the surrounding territory quality of life.

The outsider as Insider, by Kathleen James-Chakraborty, University College Dublin (Ireland), weaves a comparative analysis between the trajectory of Louis Kahn and Choethiel Woodard Smith, contemporary architects whose professional paths crossed and overlapped in different circumstances, highlighting Kahn's pre-eminence in the international scene. The report highlights Kahn's greater ease in moving from a peripheral position to a prestigious one, working on projects of a monumental nature,

which transcend the local sphere. On the other hand, the author underlines the uniqueness of Smith's professional practice, which sought to overcome discrimination associated to gender relations, which reserved a secondary role for women in the professional environment, dedicating himself to accurately meeting the daily needs of those who used his buildings. This professional practice assured him longevity and constancy in his experiences, regarding the willingness to deal with budgetary restrictions, without sacrificing the quality of spaces and their suitability for environmental insertion.

Narrating women architects histories, by Hilde Heynen, KU Leuven (Belgium), and Lucía C. Pérez-Moreno, KU Leuven, Universidad de Zaragoza (Spain), also deals with gender issues and overcoming asymmetries to which women are subjected, whether in the professional environment or in historiographical reports. Based on an extensive bibliographic review, from this thematic approach, the authors discuss the methodological dilemmas of research committed to feminist approaches, pointing out the need to go beyond conventional procedures, distancing themselves from the narratives of heroic figures, to prioritize the social production of the space, the political and cultural contextualization that considers the role of the different local social actors on one hand, and glimpses the sensitization with values of repair and environmental preservation in a planetary dimension, on the other hand.

Heredity was addressed in two articles.

Recent ruminations: reform/recycling/restoration, by Carlos Eduardo Dias Comas, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Research and Graduate Program in Architecture (Brazil), focuses on the analysis of architectural interventions that have come across, throughout history, with the preexisting elements, giving them a value comparable to that of the new work, conventionally, traditionally, considered of greater relevance in the architect's activity, especially from modern times onwards. The author walks through the concepts, their different connotations, and their applications in different works, times and cultural contexts, pointing to the wide expanse of the disciplinary culture that encompasses everything from "fantasy reform or normal reform, stylistic restoration and orthodox restoration, new creation and even copying and reconstruction (like the Barcelona Pavilion) or posthumous construction (like Firminy)", an action that aims above all at the quality of the intervention "in terms of firmness, convenience, delight and cost".

Heredity and inheritance: redoubling strength, by Maria Cecília França Lourenço, University of São Paulo, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism (Brazil), proposes a discussion about the relationship between past and future through the improvement of legacies received "on renewed bases, capable of glimpsing a different future, (...) a more solar, luminous, fair and equitable tomorrow for a broad social spectrum". The closing of this edition could not be more opportune, as a perspective that manages to amalgamate desires, resources and strategies, as a perspective that manages to amalgamate desires, resources and strategies, to articulate individual thoughts and practices to a collective, responsible, transforming dimension.

It is with immense satisfaction that we offer this dense and diversified number of contributions for the reflection of our readers, thanking the guest publishers for the precious partnership that provided this rich interlocution.