

How does the form lose shape?

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The modern city is the sum of the interpretations (more or less despoiled) and results of the transformation of the models of the past, mixing all the pieces in successive superposition.

A common denominator of all the models will be the incompetence to deal with the preexistences integrating. This necessity gained special importance from the industrial city. Remain the outlines of this incompetence more clear when we talk about morphological, but also (and especially?), patrimonial, social and cultural preexistences. In other words, the present preexistences in urbane territories assume more and more complex configurations.

This mixture of experiences is done in cycles of actions/reactions that (and it is obvious), just in very specific cases, or puts out, or it minimizes the influence of the past in order that the new is affirmed, and less realistic will be still to remove the structures in force to introduce integrally new urbane spaces.

If the models are formal, rigid and extremist (at least in some aspects) his application, because it have to coexists with preexistences, turning in corruption of the initial form, creating fragments of "experiences of city", very frequents in expansion areas.

Boarding firstly the interpretation that separates the City Garden (introduced horizontally, of preventive dimension), of the Radiant City (vertical manufactured in series, functionally rational, soon impersonal), we reflect about the implementation of these models.

For example, from Howard's model there result expansion areas suited the dwelling like dominant typology. In this respect CARVALHO (2003) says that the "urbane fabrics dominated by residences in green bottom (...) and some new cities meantime created, but al so residential suburbs and increases next to the existent city".

On the other side, the model of Le Corbusier, materializes in the linear growth where they develop the sets of isolated towers (construction in height) responding to the growing search of the post-war period potentiated by the use of concrete in forms-types standardized where " the isolated, loose buildings, they were allowing the expansion of the city of quick and massive form " for independent systems: roads, infrastructures, buildings and green space, each one could be projected and built in the almost autonomous form, which was creating great facilities in the implementation " (op. cit.).

We think about the city while experience which command or stops processes of appropriation, boarding the principles defended by the movement Townscape (first for Gordon Collem then followed Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch, Cristopher Alexander) in so far as it is from this what the criticism grows to the modern city, proposing an individual vision for each place, endowing the city of simple reading and " allowing his

appropriation for his residents and returning life, sense and symbolic functions to his public spaces contained by streets and quite definite squares that could welcome these functions. The principal necessity of the city resides in the mixture of functions” (ARRABAÇA, 2003) and (LAMAS, 2007).

We will refer to the proposals that indicate the necessity of interconnect the set of fragments into which the city was turned, but also to the investment politics that defend the return to the city (specially to his historical center where environments of the past are staged when this return is responding, for standard, to the selective demands of the gentrification), quickly it was circumscribed to the support of the concepts like gentrification. His impact is valued face to the initial expectation.

The vast specter of the new theoretical prescriptions, riddled firstly by the political option, and then, for the technical application, is purified, in the processes of expansion. We will put a special approach in the fragmentation of the city, in the increase of the privatized, shut spaces (in the center and in the extern crowns of the city) and in the options for models of urbanization “in completely dependent of automobile access peripheric nucleus, with areas of job, public spaces and of leisure own and in complete independence of the urbane traditional centers” ELLIN (1999), quoted by ARRABAÇA (2003).

In the end of the proposed discussion, we underline the approach to the sustainable city, which it easily slides for the scale of the urbane one. Besides the empty consensus around the doctrine of the Report of Brundtland of 1987, we discuss the pragmatism of his everyday application.

While we wait for concrete answers that circumscribe the speeches focused in the rehabilitation, in the gentrification, in the expansion of compact models interconnecting the fragments or, in the legitimation of the urban sprawl, the urban process is still marked by the obedience of the urban form to the strength of the housing market.

To analyses the models presents in the current city and exactly how they were used in the areas of expansion we propose a synthesis where the principal characteristics of the models show up stabilized with which there were built the cities in what today we lived. We approach the classics models giving special attention to his characteristics and distinguishing the form how in each one of them, there was prosecuted the expansion of the urbane fabric.

Rather to the most recent forms of the urban expansion there will be presented results achieved in the city of Caldas da Rainha.

City, morphology and urban sprawl

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