

EXPANDED ABSTRACT

Ibero-America, Future City. Sustainable Cities and Environment

“Cities are complex architecture works. Cities are the physical manifestation of the largest union of forces. Economic forces, social forces, environmental forces”. (Urbanized, 2011)

Cities are explored as a critical component to transform human life, but when we talk about cities of the future, we mean that existing cities are not as blank pages but they are existing cities and our ability to transform them. We stand by this century will be the century of cities and the future of humanity will put into practice in them. Success of cities will lie in sustainability and environment. We must rethink the design of cities and approach to them from multiple perspectives and scales to recover their human side.

This paper proposes a critic exploration of some of the tools we can use to plan the city of the future to get alliances between current cities and future cities. The conjoined actions of these alliances configures a strategy that makes possible these future cities to remain essentially successful throughout time.

Thematically, the article begins with a dissertation about the Forum of Latin-American cities where aforementioned tools and other ideas to imagine the ways to change Ibero- American cities into innovative cities were debated. Next, the text examines the concept of sustainable cities and environment through various experiences in Mexico City to deduce, secondly, new ways of acting in the urban-design of cities.

In order to sustain such argument, the paper proposes a review of cases to establish the viability of areas of collective use within both the geographic landscape and time. As a result, every concept is researched and put on an example of Mexico City.

The first example of the research studies an architectural ensemble, formed by a garden and two residential buildings called Isabel and Ermita buildings and they were designed by Juan Segura Gutierrez in the first thirties of the last century. Residents used to share the common spaces in a natural environment and there, they created social structures that brought together. At the present time,

that garden doesn't exit and the two buildings are tumbledown but the neighbors remind the daily nature character there used to be there, and they demand to get back into that routine because it is part of their collective imagination.

Secondly, we will analyze a neighborhood called President Miguel Aleman designed with Modern Movement criteria by Mario Pani Darqui in 1949. This social condominium has public resources as swimming pool, tennis court, post office, laundromat and other installations. The film *Elevator* describes the evolution of the common spaces—inside and outside the residential buildings—and the current everyday life by elevator operator's testimony.

The last Mexican example consists in a territorial landscape project called Mexico: Future City by a collective of citizens, architects, engineers, geographers, biologists, sociologists and specializes in other disciplines that propose the complex interactions of multiple scales between territorial and anthropomorphic to recover the originally lake system of the metropolis, across four strategies: water, territory, energy and public spaces. This global project tries to generate a new system of lakes fed by the waste water that take place in the capital and seeks to give solution to the problem.

Methodologically, the research consisted on elaborating a database of good practices and selected sources from historical newspaper and periodicals library, social network, films and work in situ such as air-flies, interviews and inquiries related to the three Mexican examples and consequently synthesizes them in three deduced urban concepts. As a result, the research could obtain a timeline-poster to put on Latin American City.

The present experience is a way of communicating urban history, an applied example of the use of the timeline through the history of Latin American City, on an urban example: Mexico City. The suitability of this method of research is justified in the concurrency of urban, architectural and social details and in chronological order. The timeline offers an alternative to the academic model and to the inherited learning process, which identifies and exposes the transversal possible strategies to transform Ibero-American City.

The present article approaches three scales of the city, the first one is the scale of buildings, the second one relating to urban architectural ensembles and the last one in response to the territorial projects scale. The three scales must always improve and renew the public space and get the compactness of the city that has to offer to the users of urban projects that resolve their needs. We should not fear to turn urban highways into avenues or to re-formulate the shared spaces. Beside possessing the people, we will strain for realizing economically profitable practices, a solution to this problem is recycling—this suggests to transform our urban heritage, instead of demolish and build again. We will investigate the geography trying to revert the hurts caused to the environment.

Our cities must take advantage of the resources and resign the culture of commanding discarded cards of an irrational way. Architecture and consistently City are inspired by nature that governs the and at the same time, nature offers architecture and city, the necessary instruments to give then harmony and form. The urban experimental spaces —as closed to the traffic streets during the weekends or the creation of new temporary topographies that are part of culture urban festivals— are contemporary urban actions that attract and assemble citizens. These kind of urban projects can transform cities as playful to support the festive environment during the accomplishment of an event and they can turn into a completely new way of working as urban designers by this methodology of large-scale work.

The Architecture of Future City point to urban models that take advantage of the nature resources, offer solutions that respect environment and propitiate spaces of conviviality and social harmony.

The main goal of this article is to discover the contemporary rules to put on practice in Latin-American Cities as Mexico City; therefore, the dissertation explores the urban evolution since the thirties to this moment through the study of three urban concepts: an idea of historical present, an idea of recovered city and the reversionary urban conversions. Metropolis will change this century into megalopolis ally with environment if they want to survive. Nature and citizens will be two of the highest players to encourage this sustainable revolution

KEY WORDS: Sustainability, Participatory Urban Design, Historical Present, Recycling, Reversibility, Water Basins.