The crux of our argument is that renovation policy in the historic centers of Mexico has been influenced by a zeal for modernization, precipitating the selective appropriation of the qualities of centrality and reinforcing social-spatial segregation. This process has translated into the loss of complexity of the places that encapsulate the history and identity of a society. Such policies are not propagated in isolation. Instead, they operate entwined with specific mundane actions, so that both forms of intervention are incorporated into the economic models and urban paradigms through which they acquire feeling and expression. Fervent Modernization exploits these historic centers, in which speculative real-estate rental and destruction of cultural patrimony (resources) are recurrent. We use important examples from the historic centers of México City and Puebla, both located on Mexico’s central plateau.

Keywords
Renovation policy, modernization, social-spatial segregation, historic centers, Mexico.