MOREIRA, TOMÁS ANTONIO

NOTA DO EDITOR

Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas
Campinas, Brasil

Available in: http://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=351732474001
EDITOR’S NOTE

Developing critical analyses and foreseeing the urban space is an important reflective exercise in architecture and urbanism, for the urban space has become a place of reference, which is alive and dynamic. This field involves different works: developing a relationship between critical thinking and proposals to understand, qualify, and foresee space. Within this context, volume 11, number 2 of the journal Oculum Ensaios (Journal of Architecture and Urbanism) reinforces its multidisciplinary nature by proposing and conducting discussions toward the understanding and analysis of the processes of development and transformation of the urban space.

The article by João Henrique Bonametti and Andrei Crestani, “Public open spaces and contemporary landscape theories”, initiates the discussion on the major focus of the present volume, that is, the territory and ways of envisaging and understanding it. The authors define current landscape architecture by showing that it is based on several landscape theories with a wide possibility of design concepts that seek to respond to new modes of appropriation of public open spaces. The method of analysis for their reflection is a formal and functional analysis of the various contemporary landscape theories, their conceptual definitions, meanings and contributions to landscape architecture in the recent decades.

In a further reflection on collective spaces, Viviane Zerlotini da Silva discusses collective workspaces. In her article, “Collective workspaces: other principles of analysis”, the author focuses on the investigation of concepts that can guide future technical interventions in appropriate spaces for groups of workers who cooperate to ensure objective and subjective conditions of survival.

In the second set of articles, two articles discuss territory and its transformations by developing and reflecting on new elements of analysis. Fernando Tadeu de Araujo Lima writes “The parameterization of the concept of compact city: a postmodern approach for contemporary sustainable urban centers” in which he discusses indispensable elements for understanding the reality of cities. The author discusses the approach of urban design based on a new conceptual and creative logic in order to broaden the cognitive operators of the architect and urbanist and simultaneously transcend the rationalist principles of understanding and planning cities. Within the same frame of mind, Marinês da Conceição Walkowski, Mirtz Orige Oliveira and Carlos Loch in their article “The mapping of rural tourism in Joinville, Santa Catarina: methodology development, technical records and geoinformation” corroborate the discussion by pointing out that the challenge for planning
resides in using geoinformation when making decisions related to the management of tourism in rural areas in order to strengthen tourism.

The other set of three articles present the classification of urban areas under different approaches: reverse logistics, division of land, and social exclusion. From the discussion of reverse logistics the authors Lais Galileu Speranza and Ricato de Souza Moretti examine important issues related to the instruments of the National Solid Waste Policy. In their article entitled “Reverse logistics — analysis of implemented processes”, the authors discuss the importance of structuring reverse logistics, legislation, enforcement and environmental education initiatives for the effective practice of reverse logistics. In her article entitled “The influence of the division of land in the urban transformation of historical industrial peripheries”, based on examples of urban interventions in Paris and Barcelona, Anamaria de Aragão Costa Martins investigates the influence of division and ownership of land in the final design of urban space, as well as the definition of operational stages and the relevance of the vestiges of the past in the development of future projects in many cities. In the article “State, investments and social exclusion: the production of poverty in Curitiba” the authors André de Souza Carvalho and Maria Inês Sugai point out that the institutional barriers of the process of urban planning in Curitiba has often been praised while sometimes criticized for its authoritarianism and preference for local business sectors. They explain that concomitantly with the development of areas of well-maintained and organized urban space restricted to the elite, the growing periphery, inhabited by low-income inhabitants with low educational and professional qualification is spatially and socially excluded from privileged areas of the city. To make their point of view clear, the authors discuss how state investments have favored and consolidated social exclusion.

From the discussion of contributions from the media, other authors offer elements that reinforce the importance of reflecting and strengthening alternative actions in architecture and urbanism. In this respect, the article “Challenges of university extension courses and model offices in architecture and urbanism”, Anna Lucia dos Santos Vieira e Silva, Camila Matos Fontenele and Luna Esmeraldo Gama Lyra discuss the issue of how universities are included into the reality of cities. These authors point to new approaches of university extension courses as a way of dissolving the boundaries between teaching and learning; university and society; theory and practice. In his article entitled “Contributions for the conceptualization of new dwellings: II and III Conferences of Modern Architecture”, Juan Jose Calle Cuervo helps to identify the modern reflections concerning housing in order to contribute to the epistemological reconstruction and reevaluation of human dwellings. The development of the author’s reflections are based on documents of the proceedings of the II and III Conferences of Modern Architecture, which considered rational building methods and housing as a minimum standard of living, both with the purpose of solving the problem of scarcity.
The last article of this volume written by Elane Ribeiro and Adriana Mara Vaz Peixoto de Oliveira is a reflection on the history of the city through its daily life by means of comic strips about an airport that turned into a neighborhood. The authors sought to translate the dynamics of memory into the language of the comic strips: the irruption of images and their present dimension.

We finalize volume 11, number 2, of the Journal Oculum Ensaios thanking the authors from different research centers and reviewers from different nationalities for their contributions, which reinforce the integrative and multidisciplinary approach of the journal. We hope this volume may encourage a series of further contributions with the purpose of continuously improving the profile of the Journal as an increasingly pluralistic medium capable of stimulating different researchers and research groups to come up with new ideas. Finally, we wish you a fruitful reading of the articles and that these may arouse the interest and expectation for the next volume.

TOMÁS ANTONIO MOREIRA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF