

BETWEEN DREAMS AND ORDINARY LIFE: THEORETICAL DIGRESSIONS ON A PARK PROPOSAL FOR EVERYDAY LIFE IN BRASILÂNDIA

*ENTRE SONHOS E COTIDIANOS: DIVAGAÇÕES TEÓRICAS PARA UMA PROPOSTA DE
PARQUE NO COTIDIANO DE BRASILÂNDIA*

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ABSTRACT

What are the implications of a new park in the district of Brasilândia, in northern Sao Paulo city? This paper presents a few theoretical digressions that were made during the development of a proposal for Brasilândia Municipal Park. The district has a considerable portion of green space, which is currently addressed by civil campaigns to be turned into a park. This article discusses the proposed insertion of the park in that neighborhood as a strategy to create a physical and symbolic space. The proposal suggests the use of pre-existing opportunities in the informal city structure to establish new relationships and to intertwine built space with green natural space, everyday life with leisure time. As an attempt to increase relations between the built environment and the its biophysical basis (BONZI, 2015), the proposed plan makes use of urban water management solutions based on both the principles of Best Practice Management (MPM) from the Low Impact Development (LID) and the creation of an “Edge of Amiability”, a gradual transition between urban use and space of natural life protection.

Keywords: Landscape, Ordinary life, Edge of Amiability

RESUMO

O que significa um parque para Brasilândia na região norte do município de São Paulo? Este trabalho apresenta as digressões teóricas que foram permitidas ao longo do desenvolvimento de proposta para o Parque Municipal da Brasilândia. O distrito possui uma porção de área verde alvo de campanhas para transformação em parque. A proposta aqui discutida tem como diretriz o enraizamento do parque no bairro como estratégia para assegurar sua inserção como espaço físico e simbólico. Para isso são sugeridas novas relações entre o espaço construído e a área verde, utilizando-se das oportunidades encontradas na estrutura da cidade informal para entrelaçar espaço construído e zonas de natureza, tempo de lazer e vida cotidiana. O projeto apresentado utiliza-se de soluções de manejo das águas urbanas baseadas nos princípios de Melhores Práticas de Manejo (MPM) e Desenvolvimento de Baixo Impacto (Low Impact Development – LID), numa tentativa de melhorar a relação entre o espaço construído e a base biofísica, e da proposta da Borda de Amabilidades como costura suave entre o uso urbano e o espaço de proteção à vida natural.

Palavras-chave: Paisagem. Cotidiano. Borda de Amabilidade.

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<http://lattes.cnpq.br/1536594461814681>

BRASILÂNDIA, CITY AND PARK

But no, but no
The dream is mine and I dream that
There should be green alleys
The city of my dreams"
(*Os saltimbancos*, Chico Buarque, 1977)
(Free translation.)

In the children's musical *Os Saltimbancos* written by Sergio Bardotti and Luiz Enríquez and adapted to Portuguese by Chico Buarque de Hollanda, the main characters sing about their ideal cities, mythic spaces that bear no resemblance to the adverse reality in which live. At first, they have their individual dreams: the dog sings about street lamps, the cat imagines tinned sardines and the hen asks for worms. Only the donkey, which is "old and wise", understands the hostility of the real city: "The city is a strange lady that smiles today and devours you tomorrow"¹.

The choir, a collective of children's voices, presents the risks of each individual dream and advises the characters to hear the wisdom of experience. The choir then presents the key to a better possibility: when all the citizens, from street cleaners to the mayor, could dream like children, the city would be like a city of hearts, a city of dreams, permeated by green streets.

The remarkable subtlety of the lyrics may be the subject of a much deeper analysis. However, for the scope of this paper, suffice it to say that they depict the combination of dreams, hearts and greenery. This combination may also be associated to the path taken during the proposal for the *Municipal Park of Brasilândia*, in the north of the city of São Paulo, designed as an academic group work² for the discipline Public Collective Urban Open Spaces, as part of the postgraduate program of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAUUSP), during the first semester of 2016.

The aim of this article is to present some reflections on the theoretical digressions, the intellectual considerations that permeated the work after several group discussions, both in class and among the members of the work team.

The professors in charge of the course, Catharina Lima and Eugênio Queiroga, along with guest professors Caio Boucinhas and Sylvia Dobry, suggested that the theoretical discussions in the course should be anchored to the specificities of the District of Brasilândia, where the park would be inserted. The area of the intervention consisted of an existing open space requested by the local residents to become to the future Municipal Park of Brasilândia. Only a part of the area used in the project is

¹ "A cidade é uma estranha senhora, que hoje sorri e amanhã te devora". (Original text.)

² I would like to thank the courtesy of the teammates Carmem Procópio, Gabriela Albornoz, Gustavo Kerr, Marina Mello, Rafaela Izeli, Tatiana Francischini and Tiago Lourenzi, that not only allowed the use of the collective proposal as basis for this article, as well as for the great contributions throughout the group debates to my own understanding of the world.

officially intended to be made into a park. To us, however, it made sense to add the not officially included neighboring green areas, as desired by the association of residents.

The link between the lyrics of Buarque's song and the academic discipline can be made from the selection of the place. Brasília can be seen as that place of dreams, a setting of struggles for the constitution of a park in a green area. The area is like an emerald in a context where opposites complement each other: high urban density in a difficult terrain and the treeless open area with patches of vegetation. It is also a place of conflicts, as the urgency to build housing collide with the right to it as a unified set of spaces for living.

The professors suggested a methodology that considered the understanding of the territory in its analytical categories, including its physical morphology, the existing functions, its structures and specially the processes (QUEIROGA, 2012) as the start of the intervention. Thus, the work followed the writings by Milton Santos (2012) who understands space as an inseparable set of system of both objects and actions complementing each other. Any subspace, whose totality is the world, includes a fraction of those two systems.

The insertion of that theoretical position occurs through the understanding of the place of intervention. One of our premises considers interventions in the landscape as cultural manifestations in space. They are produced as historic processes, depictions of the social relations and materializations of the practices and ideologies in the local concrete space (LEITE, 1998, p. 81, in QUEIROGA, 2012). This understanding guided not only the approach to the reality of the place during the study, but also the resulting propositions listed, as they put together physical interventions that emerged from and are combined with actions connecting it to the place they will blend into.

The time assigned to this work (an academic semester) is evidently not sufficient to address all the various challenges and contradictions found in Brasília. Nonetheless, the richness found in the real world in such short time provided the participants of the group with a great deal of rewarding experiences. Therefore, the additional goal of this article is to focus on the thinking process that generated the guidelines of the project, as a temporary product of a process that still has much to grow. We believe and hope that even what is unfinished may have a meaning, as the many gaps can be seen as possibilities to future developments.

This paper presents a summary of our effort to approach the local reality, the procedures used in this effort, the dialogue between the local perceptions, the theory that supported the process, and, finally, the guidelines and proposals that derived from those debates.

A PARK FOR THE DISTRICT, A DISTRICT FOR A PARK

The production of space by architectural designs (meaning architecture in its broader sense, including architecture, urban and landscape design) should always start by the knowledge of the place. However, the methodology of data collection itself

already may show an ideological position, as it mirrors a specific attitude towards the theme.

The paradigm of modernity, first thought for the production of immediate solutions for European territories shattered by the World War II, is characterized by pragmatism. The adopted model of mass-production turned individuals into discrete units, fragmenting and dividing the society and the individuals themselves, in such a way that the citizen is progressively replaced by a sum of needs and requirements, to be met in standardized solutions (MARTINS et al., 1996). This awkward ensemble should use a space that is imposed to them by a systemic rationality, or, as CERTEAU (1997) puts it, a "concept-city".

We believe this type of rationality and fragmentation to be an undesirable alienation of the individual from the space of life. To avoid this, the team's first step was to recognize the reality of Brasília in its unique characteristics, considering the dialectical relations between the inhabitants and the place. The process of acquiring knowledge about the place consisted of adding different layers, such as readings, discussions, theoretical reflections and, more importantly, the cartography of the real ground. It was by means of these objective and subjective significations that the images of Brasília and its future municipal park were formed.

The actual visits by the team to the context was of high importance due to a necessary harmonization of rationalities between both the designers' and the inhabitants' logics. The structure of the course allowed that to happen, as it included a number of meetings with the residents and the development of a "corpography"³ in the group's agenda, so that instead of designing an imposed representation of space, the proposal enables, in the words of Lefebvre⁴, a real "requalification of the spaces of representation."

The adoption of this posture – that came from group reflections – pointed out to the need for a second complementary visit, after the first presentation by the group to the class. The theoretical considerations that guided the project are presented in this article by the insertion of the theoretical concepts throughout the discussion of the proposal. We believe that this is the best way to clarify the underlying concepts that guided the proposal.

BRASILÂNDIA: OCCUPATION AND GROWTH

The occupation of the district of Brasília started officially in 1947, in a distant periphery of São Paulo, primarily by migrants from other regions and people removed

³ The notion of corpography means a type of cartography drawn by and in the body itself, i.e., the urban memory inscribed in the body, the register of its experience of city, a type of urban spelling, of the lived city itself, that is inscribed but also shapes the body of those who experience it. (JACQUES, 2008).

⁴ LEFEBVRE, Henri. The production of space. Trad. Doralice Barros Pereira and Sérgio Martins (from original: *La production de l'espace*. 4e éd. Paris: Éditions Anthropos, 2000). First version: Feb.2006. Accessed in July 18th, 2016. http://www.mom.arq.ufmg.br/mom/arq_interface/1a_aula/A_producao_do_espaco.pdf

from the central zones, who, according to DNA da Brasília (2010) were not recognized as citizens. The configurations of its urban fabric took place in the absence of official regulations, as is clear in the constructions and social characteristics that can still be seen in the neighborhood.

The physical structures in Brasília depict a contradiction. Whereas the informal and precarious conditions of the irregular appropriations is generated by the socioeconomic system, they may also be seen as materializations of an urban creativity, that gets lost in the formal city and, in the words of JACQUES (2008) its “urbanism of the spectacle”. The consolidation of the periphery and its deficient integration to the city can be understood as a dialectical process, as they oppose the forms of crude commercialization of urban land to the irregularity of the occupations. As shown by Angileli (2012, p. 5), half of Brasília is occupied by irregular allotments and slums, which reflect the conflictual relation between the area and the formal city.

As a result, the appropriation of the space was only possible through creative tactics as pieces of resistance in an area of rugged topography, irrigated by streams and creeks (which become problematic in the context of high density and low public investments) and far from the city center.⁵ The balance between traditional knowledge and innovation, created by individuals from most different cultural backgrounds, brought together various techniques, sociocultural values and levels of access to knowledge and power. Thus, other urban cultures, other ways to look, are produced. SERPA (2007) calls this process subdominant cultures: variations more or less distant of the hegemonic culture that imposes itself by laws and cultural norms. Those variations, combinations that differ from the ever-totalizing culture, can be seen as what SANTOS (1985) calls “opaque resistances”.

This transformation process – a relearning of the deep relations between men and their surroundings, according to Milton Santos’ (in QUEIROGA 2012, p. 242) may occur consciously or unconsciously. The former can be seen as what Burke (2010) calls hybridization, the second, translation. Either way, it produces a physical legacy passed on to the new generations to whom it guides a way of understanding the world. This way of comprehending the world stems from the dialectical relation between the senses and spatial forms, built by the successive deposition of symbolic layers upon the space of life, a cumulative process of daily actions.

This is the cumulative process of the comprehensibility of the space of life, that Assunto (2011) named “temporality”: the insertion of the moment (temporality) in a broader timeline, simultaneously past, present and future. According to the author, without this temporality, the city becomes a frank space, with no roots, no subjectivity, an impersonal space that typifies the “senseless industrial megalopolis”, affecting negatively the ecological, social and political crisis of today civilization.

⁵ It is vital to understand that the peripheral condition is not given by the geometric distance to the core city, by the differential access of the residents of a certain zone to urban opportunities and services (QUEIROGA, 2012, p.244). (Free translation.)

The continuous occupation stiffens the urban structures, up from its original characteristics. The occupation of Brasilândia is defined by its topography. The neighborhood is delimited by the natural line drawn by peaks and riverbeds. The main roads that structure the urban fabric, such as Avenue Deputado Cantidio Sampaio are located on valley floors. The routs of secondary road systems sometimes accompany the sinuosity of the contour lines, or defy them, along steep streets and curves that are technically questionable.

This organic design may enable a richness of perspective, but, due to its lack of technical orientation, conforms spaces that do not follow the logic of urban infrastructure systems, leading to a permanent exclusion of pieces of the urban fabric from the formal infrastructure. An example is the public transportation system, whose adaptation to those streets would require site-specific solutions. Nonetheless, the concept of system is standardized, and as long as it is, there will always be a shortage in the transport supply in the region, as all the bus lines are grouped in the main avenues and do not access the organic urban fabric of the area.



Photos 1, 2 e 3 Stairs in Brasilândia
Source: Archives of the work team,
2016



Photos 1, 2 e 3 Stairs in Brasília
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016



Photos 1, 2 e 3 Stairs in Brasília
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

A number of informal solutions were found to address these problems. The long, narrow blocks are cut by stairs, whose steepness is more suitable for rainwater speed reduction than as proper steps for the inhabitants. Even so, due to the inefficiency of public transportation, and the low income of most residents, most journeys are taken on foot (Metro, 2007).

In spite of its problematic geometry, the stairs (pictures 1, 2 and 3) are morphological and structural elements of that urban fabric, responsible for reducing paths as they connect streets in different levels inside the neighborhood. They are possibly the most distinctive aspect of the region, used as both circulation and meeting places, spaces to pass and to stay.

Brasilândia is one of the most densely constructed districts in São Paulo (GUSSON, 2014). Nevertheless, and despite its natural constraints, the district continues to grow - there was an increase of 30.000 new residents from 2000 to 2010 (ANGILELI, 2012), for example. This process reflects the “run for survival in cities”, translated in São Paulo City by the remarkable growth in its periphery borders, where the informal practices of urban land appropriation remains the primary expansion method (BASTOS, 2010). The insertion of urbanity in the district goes at the same pace as the formation of new centers of irregular occupation. Thus, both the existing State Park Serra da Cantareira and the future Municipal Park of Brasilândia are threatened by the urban sprawl.

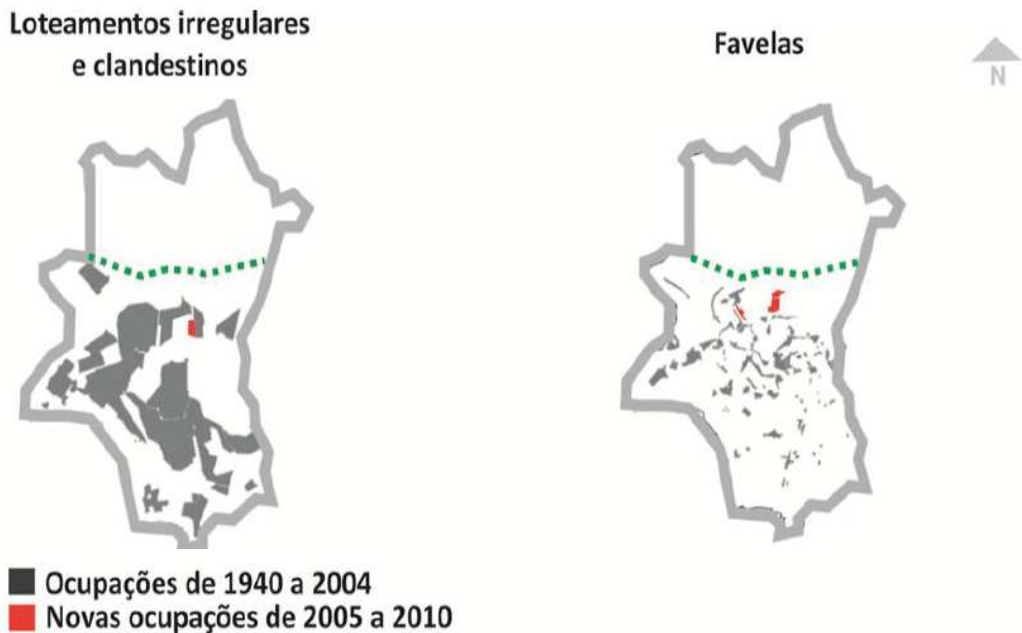


Image 1 Irregular and illegal allotments and slums in Brasilândia between 1940 and 2010. Source: ANGILELI, 2012.



Photo 4 Irregular occupation of the urban Area for permanent protection of the Municipal Park of Brasilândia.
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

Between 1991 e 2010, the pressure caused by population growth upon the remaining open spaces has been confirmed by the deforestation of 31 hectares of the State Park Serra da Cantareira. According to the documentary *Brasilândia, Neighborhood Story/ SP* (2006), the last occupation in the district was Jardim Paraná, in 1994. (Image 1). However, we know that since mid-2005 the area reserved for the Municipal Park of Brasilândia⁶ has also gone through recurrent irregular occupations by social vulnerable individuals– which resulted in a great deal of conflicts in the area. (Photo 4).

It is particularly important to point out that land speculation and the demands for housing are not the sole factors that lead to conflicts inside the area's ecological protected spaces. Another risk factor for the ecological reserve – both in the environment and social domains – is the construction of the north stretch of Rodoanel Mario Covas (a ring road around Greater São Paulo), which started in 2012 after 8 years of controversy among residents, environmental groups, and the State. Hence, the area of study constitutes a delicate urban space in the middle conflicts of interest. Consequently, it is a constant object of discussions in both academia and society. A great deal of those discussions end up in lawsuits. The following chart displays the main socioenvironmental conflicts of Brasilândia, related by the ecological protection area they reach. (Chart 1).

6 According to art. 375 of the Strategic Municipal Plan of São Paulo – PDE, by the law 16.050/2014 (SÃO PAULO, 2014).

Chart 1 – Spacialization of socioenvironmental conflicts in Brasília

SPECIAL ZONES	SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS
Special Zone of Social Interest I - ZEIS -1	Scattering of ecosystem (Park of Brasília X State Park Serra da Cantareira) Lack of qualification of the park borders; lack of physical accessibility, soil erosion, pressure for construction.
Special Zone of Environmental Protection – ZEPAM	Irregular occupation and degradation due to misuse of natural resources.
MUNICIPAL PARK OF BRASÍLIA	Irregular occupation and degradation due to misuse of natural resources, pressure for construction.

Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

MOBILIZATION, PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC SPHERE

The census of Brasília reveals that the population is composed by mostly young, low-income residents, with little access to public culture, health, sport or recreation facilities, and subject to the inefficient offer of public education. In spite of the unsatisfactory amount of open spaces to accommodate the specialities of the general public sphere⁷, there is intense public activity that may be understood as a “popular public sphere”⁸, perhaps stimulated by the insufficient institutional supply.

The historical difficulty to receive public services created a number of articulation groups and communal associations. A message posted on Facebook in June 5 2016 by a participant of the group Nossa Organização Social no Fundão da Brasília (NÓS na BRASA) – illustrate the strong commitment of this articulation:

Union is fundamental, prioritizing public over private interests and never forgetting to value local leaders, who deeply understand the necessities of the community, as already emphasized at the opening of the Integrated Action of the Regional Administration of the District that took place at Elisa Maria [One of the neighborhoods of the district]. Real heroes and those who understand our needs have to come from the community. Therefore, dear public administrators, get down to business, for in each neighborhood, in each street, in each slum, in each alley, there is a local leadership that must be heard. The solution of the problems shall be the success of the government.”⁹

⁷ Queiroga (2012) defines the general public sphere as all the actions in public, in a broader way, including its expressions in spaces of public access and visibility, whether of public or private property. (p. 258)

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 54.

⁹ “É fundamental a união, sempre colocando o interesse público, acima do particular e nunca esquecer de valorizar as lideranças locais que entendem quais as necessidades da comunidade como já frisado na abertura da Ação Integrada do prefeitura no bairro acontecido no Elisa Maria: ‘É do meio do povo que surgem seus verdadeiros heróis e aqueles que sabem do que o povo precisa, portanto senhores administradores públicos, mãos à obra, pois em cada bairro, em cada rua, em cada favela, em cada viela, há uma liderança local que deve ser ouvida e a solução dos problemas apontados será o sucesso do governo’.” (Original text)

By adopting tactics that unite solutions to individual problems to collective problems (like the construction of stairs in high and steep terrains) up to the struggle for quality open spaces (that already shape a proposal for more citizenship in the district) it is possible to appreciate the “daily creativity” in the area, a concept so important to Michel de Certeau (1997). According to him, residents’ actions “correct” the given space even if the urban configuration is a direct result of planned interventions (that virtually do not exist in the area). It is the logic of the “Concept-city” that produces, contradictorily, the “informal City”, as it establishes norms and ways to occupy the urban space that are disconnected of local reality, excluding the majority of the urban population.

Yet, there is always a risk in participatory process, as pointed out by Emília Maricato¹⁰. The need to expand the places of coexistence, acknowledging the alterity and shared desires while shaping a wider view of reality is still mandatory in order to escape the trap of individualization of struggles or the dispute for individual demands presented as collective ones, instead of a greater objective, which would require a common effort of the population.

Therefore, the need for qualified spaces of conviviality is the basis to foster the communication density¹¹. Only through a shared understanding is that “[...] I may accept, with more or less confidence, inside the truly lived (experienced) reality [...] , that what is seen is what it really is, and it is real in all possible perspectives” (SANTOS, 2012, p.160-1) (free translation). The truth is only established by communication.

This is the scenario where the fight for the Municipal Park of Brasília takes place. The desire for a park reveals the awareness by the population of the right to the city beyond the basic needs of subsistence. The walks across the district, the talks with residents and the spatial analysis undertaken enable glimpses over a desire: more than a park facility, a truly worthy coexistence with the city. In a place where the shortage of urban equipment is clear, something else also showed: different forms of human-space relationships, based on most site-specific appropriations and meanings.

THE MUNICIPAL PARK OF BRASÍLIA: BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY

The land delineated by the residents to become the future Park is located in a 500 thousand km² lot, between the districts of *Brasília* and *Freguesia do Ó*. Around two

¹⁰ Accordingly, to reflexion published by the 3rd Brazilian Conference of the Cities, under the name “We were never so participative”.

¹¹ Santos (2012) presents that the territories are marked by its technical density, informational density and/or communicational density. The technical density is given by the many degrees of artifices to the transformation of nature in ‘mature technical objects’, more docile to the human’s desires. The informational density informs about the level of exteriority of each place, a vertical up-down intervention, at the service of specific sectors and actors. The communicational density, but its turn, results of the plural time of the shared everyday life, the conflictual time of co-presence, the banal space of the solitary happening, shared or complementary, creator of the solitary and the obligatory interdependence. (p.160).

thirds have already been acquired by the Municipality, but are still in the middle of legal proceedings. The land represents one of the most significant green areas remaining in the region. The intense, highly dense occupation of the district up from the 1990s, left few open spaces suitable for leisure and conviviality. Most of the unoccupied spaces are environmentally sensitive, and must be solely used in environmentally safe ways.

The area has 05 water springs, a waterfall, plateaus with lookout potential. It also shelters various species of animals and plants. The area of study and its surroundings are inserted in a conflictive urban context that involves, among others, areas defined as environmental significant ¹² and of social interest (Image 2). Moreover, they present issues connected to land speculation, which reinforces the need of special planning of the district.

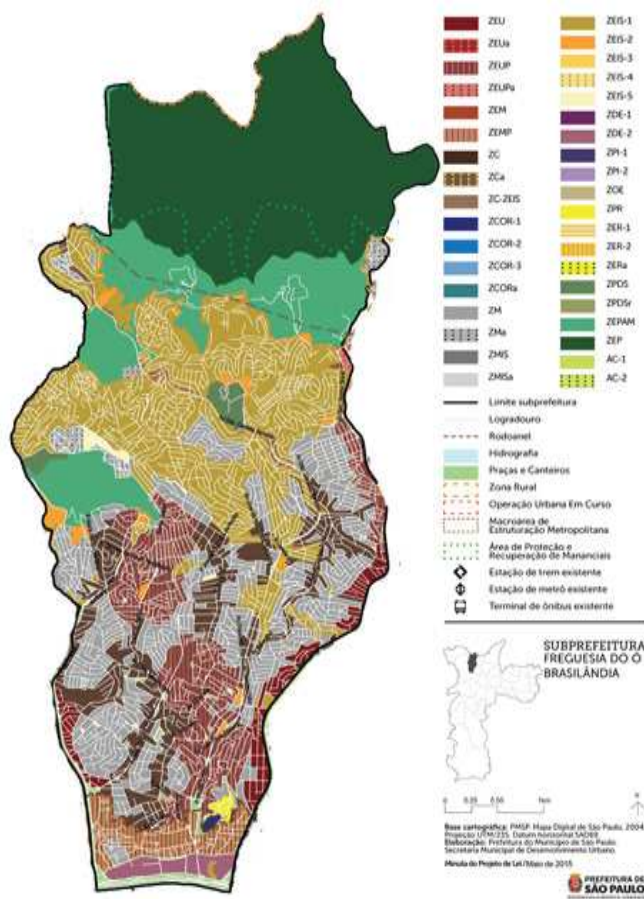


Image 2 Special Zones in Subprefecture of Freguesia do Ó/Brasília
 Source: http://www.paulofrange.com.br/site/images/Freguesia_Mapa.jpg. . Access in May 2016

However, even if the Municipality estimates to implement the park by the end of 2016, a number of challenges, such as the presence of illegal housing occupation

¹² The area of the Municipal Park of Brasília was set as Environmental Protected Zone in 2002. Subsequently its protection has been reinforced at the revisions of the Strategic Municipal Plans that followed.

(with approximately 1,400 families), water pollution and accumulated waste, among others, have required a continuous popular mobilization and a number of joint work strategies with new social actors to ensure the Municipal Park of Brasília becomes a reality.

The significance of the Park is evident due to its visual presence. The topography of the district virtually turns the windows and slabs of the houses into grandstands, from which the park can be seen. The conjunction of objective and subjective factors, conditioned by the topography of the territory is possibly the root of the strong desire for a landscape and park, revealed by the presence of improvised benches on the “lookout-slabs” in the houses. (Photos 5 e 6).



Photo 1 Slabs and Windows of the dwellings in Jardim Damasceno are turned to the Park of Canivete and the future Municipal Park of Brasília.
Source: Archives of the participants of the course, 2016



Photo 2 A lookout from the roof slab
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

STRUCTURING THE PROPOSAL: RATIONALITY AND DAILY FRUITION

The Municipal Park of Brasilândia could, according to QUEIROGA (2012:61) enable the primary attribute of a park: a place of enjoyment of landscape through walking. However, in the specific context of Brasilândia, it may have much more significance. It may structure a framework for the entire district, turning the daily life of the residents into a much more rich and dignified experience. Based on the information gathered and on this theoretical framework, the proposal intends to expand the Park beyond the limits of its green area.

In order to do so, an invitation to the park is essential, like a dance between the park and the city, with movements from the Park toward the daily space of life, and back from daily life to the park. The adoption of a green infrastructure structured the guidelines of the intervention towards urban landscapes that, in the words of (BONZI, 2015) “mimic ecological and hydrological functions of natural environments”, attending both urban drainage and mobility solutions, access, environmental comfort, leisure and local image. Thus, the proposal explores the existing linear axes in the area: streams, streets and stairs, which expand like a network over the territory (Image 3). At same time, the park must possess the characteristics of a truly public shared place, an amiable place to its citizens.



Image 3 Synthesis of the analysis: place of meeting of many connection lines, existing and potential, punctuated by green patches in middle of the high-densely built environment. Highlighted in the image: the road corridor of Av. Cantídio Sampaio (pink), the visible hydrography (blue and green), the eletroduct (red), the Park of Canivete (orange), the Axis of Corumbe Stream (piped in moss-green) and possible green connections among the vegetation islands. The yellow and green points mark the location of the educational and health equipment, and its potential connections are displayed by the red dashed arrows. The red circle emphasized the sector chosen by the team to receive more detailed analysis, due the combination of many elements considered of relevance.

Source: Archives of the workteam, 2016

The first premise of the proposal is that the park must be always present in the lives of the inhabitants. Located at the heart of the District, it must be also in the heart of the residents. Due to topography and the type of occupation, the area of the Park is always visible. However, plain visibility is not enough. We firmly believe that an intervention must contemplate more than that, it must constitute an important part of people's experience their daily life, their memories, their life.

The Park must not be one of those scenic spaces, designed solely to dazzle the eyes, as so many contemporary urban interventions. Fortunately, its position in the urban territory already minimizes this risk. In order to make the park alive at the citizens' rhythm, its design must respect the slow pace of the district's movement. It must be traversed and inscribed in the "corpography" of its experiencers.

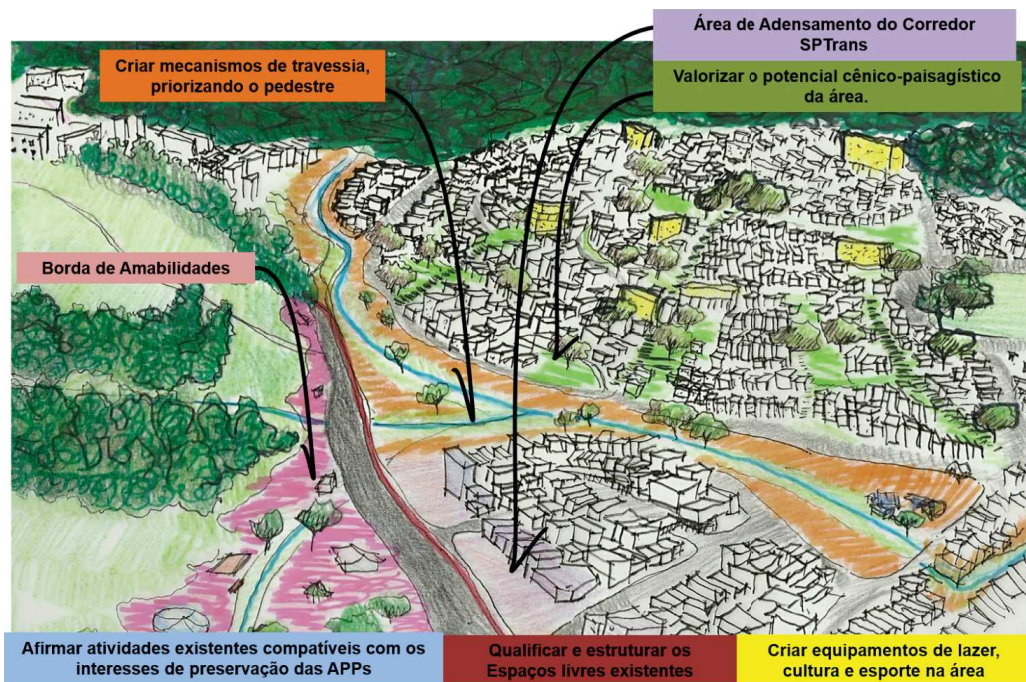


Image 4 Display of use of guidelines at the sector chosen for detailing of the proposal, including the relation between the new and existing, and the arrangement of the Amiability Border.
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

An important part to the feasibility of this transformation is the internalization of the significations that derive from the intervention in the physical space. The theoretic basis of the proposal is the concept of "environmental aesthesis", as developed by Arnold Berleant (2011). According to him¹³ "[t]he values in our environment expand

¹³ The author defends the importance of the focus on the human well-being and the intrinsic satisfaction that derive from a positive aesthetic experience. Those, present also in the art aesthetics, are even more clear in environment (which the author understands as the surroundings of men, a part of the man outside its body). The importance of the positive aspect of those experiences is, according to Berleant (1997, p. 11), "Thus the things we make

when we enlarge our sensibility and awareness and no longer confine appreciation to special occasions.” (1997, p.21) (Free translation.)

How that appreciation would happen in the daily routine of Brasilândia? How would one apprehend the environment by the subjective perception from, for example, a walk down the stairs of the district? Those concerns arose as the aesthetes possibilities of the neighborhood were investigated from the point of view of the residents. Acknowledging this sensibility shown by the inhabitants of Brasilândia, the experience¹⁴ of place was taken into consideration in order to organize the adequate interaction among activities, spaces and experiencers.

The decision to use the structures available derived from an attempt to both rationalize interventions and to respect the history of the place. The implementation of the park in a peripheral region is not a priority to public administrations as a rule. The possibility for it to be implemented in stages, the design of reasonable proposal and the qualification of places to acceptable technical standards were the three core concepts that guided the design.

This low-impact posture, however, does not imply the use of only standardized solutions without technical innovations. On the contrary, there are a great number of possibilities of dialogue between the academic world and the community regarding site-specific characteristics. This type of intervention is called “landscape adaptive” intervention by Ahern and Pellegrino (2013). Exchanging knowledge can reinforce environmental and citizenship awareness as a way to overcome the incomplete development of citizen rights that marks the Brazilian civilization process.

This opportunity is enriched by the insertion of students from local institutions, encouraged by the presence in the territory of a course called Environment in the Sao Paulo State Technical School. This fact turned the experience into a laboratory open to creativity and innovation from which the use of environmental principles and solutions arising from research in the area, and the monitoring and analysis for the production of knowledge could be applied in future interventions.

CONSOLIDATION OF GUIDELINES: NETWORK AND LAYERS

The presentations and exchanges among the teams revealed complex spaces, structured in networks (continued and discontinued) and composed by many layers.

make us.[...] Inside and outside, consciousness and world, human being and natural processes are not pairs of opposites but aspects of the same thing: the unity of the human environment.” (Free translation.)

¹⁴ The use of the term *experience* is given from the understanding presented by Angelo Serpa (2007) over the thinking of Walter Benjamin, as perceptions merged from the living moment and the impressions of individual and collective memory, and, therefore, much more enriching for the human life, as an opposition to the *vivence*, whose fugacity and objectivity foster the alienation of the citizen from its living space. The choice for using *experiencers*, in place of the traditional *user*, indicates the recognizing of its role as player in its own landscape, in criticism to a pragmatic view of urban planning, that separates the man according to levels of needs and specific roles, denying then the co-creation of its space of life (CARVALHO; NETTO, 2011). (Free translation.)

The existence of a hydrographic network (visible and underground) inspired a solution based on linear elements to forge a new network, interlacing the many paths and interests that build Brasília.

The expansion of the proposal out of the limits of the park would shape a network of public places, through what Queiroga (2012) considers a “public place” i.e. where the public sphere is established being it public or private. For the scope of the course, schools and other public equipment available where chosen as nodes, due to their symbolism and presence in the daily life of the Brasília population. The underlying idea was to unite the elements supplied by the state with the communicational logic reinforced by the interventions. In order to be really implemented, the definition of nodes would demand a more careful study and a participative process of local actors, taking the potential use and the sanctioned practices in the everyday life into consideration during the analysis. (Photos 7 e 8).

It may be said that the materiality of the place guided the boldness of the design as an alternative to the concept of network space as a hierarchical space of informational density. The work valued the horizontal connections of the points of interest ratified by the local perspective, allowing dreams of change in the vertical relations (according to the understanding of Milton Santos, 2012). Instead of an up-down imposition of an abstract space to the local place, a bottom-up perspective was adopted.

The interventions take place mainly in public spaces, in order to expand the green areas. Due to the high construction density in the district, the use of the green infrastructure typologies¹⁵ were the chosen strategy. This would allow for gradual insertions of nature in the daily life, up from the private garden to the most meaningful environmental element, the park itself.

This kind of management respects Low Impact Development (LID) practices. Whilst the traditional technics of rainwater management focus solely in reduction of peak outflows in order to control and prevent floods, the LID practices aim to reduce the water volume drained, using bio retention and infiltration systems¹⁶ that mimic the pre-urban conditions and foster the increase of naturalized areas and remove nutrients, metals and pathogenies.

The water pathways, particularly the streams and its margins, are the structural elements of proposal. The Park of Canivete was the object of analysis and source of valuable information. The difficult implementation of that equipment, the avoidance of mass removals, the reports of underuse and suggestions of improvement, together with the shortage of public space and leisure equipment generate the concept of

¹⁵ Some typologies of the green infrastructure – raingardens, bioswales and green grids – chosen for this proposal – incorporate those functions to urban open spaces, as they use high performance technologies, that emulate and adapt to the projects the natural processes and cycles. (Ver. COMIER; PELLEGRINO, 2008)

¹⁶ More natural-like solutions of rain drainage in that an organic matrix, composed generally by soil, 03 inert fillings, geotextile and vegetation, displays a more fundamental role among the steps of initial treatment of the outflow, involving sedimentation, filtration, absorption and biological action. (Ver. HATT *et al.*, 2008).

Amiability Border, a reinterpretation of the notion of “urban amiability”, presented by Adriana Fontes (2012). According to her,



Photos 7 and 8 Potentials and re-appropriations
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

[...] the quality that arises from articulation among the physical characteristics of place, the temporary interventions over that space and the people that use it and connect themselves, been a concept forged, therefore, by physical, temporal and social dimensions (FONTES, 2012). (Free translation.)

Fontes works mainly with temporary intervention in urban spaces. In Brasilândia, the concept can be expanded in two ways. The first would help reinforce existing spaces, temporarily changing their common use. Inspired in some references such as the “cine-

degrau” (the projection of movies using the stairs as seats), the “*vieladas culturais*” (cultural parties in the alleys), it would rely on the participation of local and non-local cultural associations in order to give new meanings the city and help to create the triangulation mentioned by Fontes. The idea is to encourage unexpected connections between residents through events, using requalified places as a support. An “*amiable space*” arises, then.

The second aspect would be to create a physical layer connecting the city and the natural space, a transition zone, an Amiable Border. The idea is to use the logical of protection zones and work with gradual appropriations that permit a reasonable coexistence of the various interests. Therefore, a public space strip of variable width defined from local vocations and the physical and social space surrounding the park area would be implemented. The idea, based on the terrain itself, is that all the park surroundings would have their specific appeal that would insert them in the daily life and would sanction the park’s presence through a balanced distribution of equipment. As the experienter enters the park itself, the use would change to more environmentally suitable needs.

GENERAL GUIDELINES OF INTERVENTION

From those general concepts, the group proposed 10 guidelines. The intervention had to:

- Benefit the environmental resilience by the balance between the new functions of the area and the existing natural systems;
- Qualify and structure the existing open spaces, in other to ensure their use and appropriation by the residents;
- Create leisure, cultural and sport equipment, based on its environmental possibilities, its scenic potential, as well as the already established activities and the demands of the experienters;
- State the development of existing activities in the area that are compatible with the environmental demands;
- Reinforce the scenic potential of the local landscape;
- Create green corridors to assure the biotic flow between the green areas (Cantareira and the Park);
- Allow permeability and accessibility in the urban fabric;
- Create new mechanisms for pedestrian crossing by methods of traffic calming;
- Restructure the sanitation and solid waste systems;
- Prioritize equipment that do not negatively interfere in the natural drainage of the soil, in order to avoid the increase of erosion and other environmental problems.

Those guidelines were detailed in 06 axis of intervention, related to the elements understood as the primary connections and internal forces of the district:

STREAMS (BORDERS)

The proposal includes the treatment of streams as a way of reintegrating them to the residents' daily life. To do so, it will be necessary to treat the water trough microsystems of treatment, studied case-by-case. Besides, the group recommended the re-naturalization of the Corumbé Stream, together with adequate urbanization of its margins. For all others streams, the proposal included linear parks along the margins, whose implementation should be sensitive to the existing uses and buildings of the area, avoiding unnecessary relocation. Finally, the group suggested the creation of new paths over the rivers destined to the various transportation modals, allowing a more gentle coexistence between the inhabitants and the hydrography. (Photo 9 and Image 3).



Photo 9 and Image 3 Proposal for the occupation of stream's margins
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

URBAN CONNECTIONS – STAIRS, SLOPES AND OTHER MECHANISMS OF ACCESSIBILITY

The stairs represent a visual mark of the daily life of the neighborhood. The group understood that they should play an important role at the expansion of public space for conviviality, connecting the local streets and establishing lookouts at strategic points. The intervention aims to provide these stairs with new meanings, requalifying their geometry and expanding their signification to turn them into more valuable spaces inside the urban fabric. To do so, they shall be transformed into urban paths, with adequate design and the addition of basic infrastructure. (Photo 10 and Image 4).

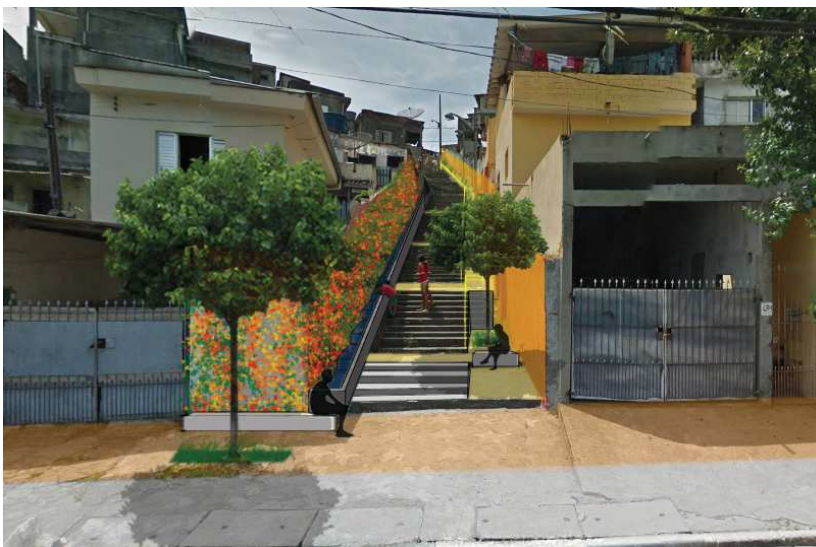


Photo 10 and Image 4 Proposal for the stairs
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

SIDEWALKS AND RESIDUAL SPACES – FROM ALLOTMENTS AND SPONTANEOUS OCCUPATIONS

The project proposes the requalification of residual spaces existing at the Systems of Open Spaces (SEL, in Portuguese) of Brasília, with restructuring of sidewalks, abandoned spaces, and other potential spaces, to stimulate the creation “plazas”. This will create areas for breathing and environmental comfort to the residents and at same time may reinforce the presence of Park in their daily life. In order to do that, the mapping of residual open spaces is fundamental (Photo 11 and Image 5).

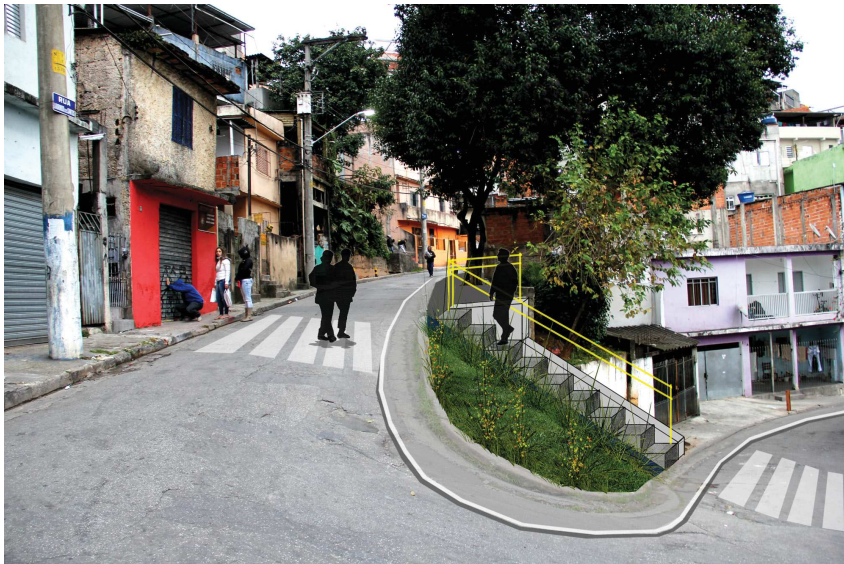


Photo 11 and Image 5 Proposal for a residual area
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

PARKS: BRASILÂNDIA AND CANIVETE

In this axis, the proposal aims to meet the demands of a mostly young, low-income population, living in a context of shortage of cultural, leisure and sport facilities. In order to do so, the concept of Urban Amiability is used in its two ways. The first, as we said, will be the implementation of a strip of variable width, in which the open spaces and public equipment would line up for different appropriations. Their use will be defined by the local vocations as physical and social spaces. The second, to bring new meanings to space by means of temporary interventions and cultural events. Those spaces would be physically connected by “green corridors” of open public spaces among the parks and important equipment, such as the CEU Paz (Photo 12 e Image 6).



Photo 12 and Image 6 Proposal for Municipal Park of Brasília
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

PATHS

Continuing the treatment of residual areas for the qualification of the Public Open Spaces of Brasilândia, the streets shall be restructured to a better adjust the different transport modes and aesthetic treatment. Special attention shall be given to the sidewalks, prioritizing the pedestrian scale and the paths to non-motorized transportation modes through the setup of traffic-calming measures, widening of sidewalks and implementation of bicycle lanes (Photo 13 and Image 7).



Photo 13 and Image 7 Proposal for the green paths of Brasilândia
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

ELECTRODUCT PATH

The electroduct path also can be understood as a structural element of the urban area of Brasília. The connective potential shall be used as a new open space harmonized with the existing laws, as bicycle lanes and urban vegetable plots. (Photo 14 and Image 8).



Photo 14 and Image 8 Proposal for the Eletroduct Park
Source: Archives of the work team, 2016

IN CONCLUSION

The proposal for the Municipal Park of Brasília was designed as a dialogue, in which the intervention was not the end. The discussion is still ongoing, as the analysis and the design can be continually refined. However, the richness of exchange in such short time is a true inspiration for hope and questioning.

The program of the course allowed for frequent opportunities of dialogue among students, professors, residents and activists and, not less importantly, with the place itself. These dialogues posed the question: Should more moments like those not be part of the professional training in university?

It is of major importance to remember the role of university at the exercise of critical analysis as a tool to enrich knowledge (LIMA, QUEIROGA, GONÇALVES, 2007). We believe the exchange between theory and praxis to be essential for the development of the architectural and urban design discipline. If universities, places of production and reproduction of knowledge, lack this exchange between knowledge and the praxis, it may risk producing only ideological productions, theories unconnected to reality.

The experience of being in the physical context, and of interpreting what is being expressed in different ways (silent are those who can only express themselves with words, as Paulinho da Viola sings in Philosophy of Samba) can change the exclusively technical eye. Architectural production is by no means pure technique; it also demands a sensitive subjectivity in order understand the most adequate solution. The effort to see through the eyes of other, from different points of view, to dialogue in order to create a common logic, is most welcome, particularly in such a place-sensitive field as architecture.

The Brasília proposal deals not only with the restructure of an area in São Paulo City, but, first and foremost, with the revision of world perceptions and values, a process which always occurs when we allow ourselves to experience the place.

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