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REATIVE PLANNING AND  
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

ABSTRACT

This text presents the paradigmatic case called *Cantinho do Céu*, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as an illustration of how extrapolating the concepts of “Creative Planning” and the “social” pillar of sustainability further than the shallow usual capitalistic practices can lead to sustainable development change. The project, which started in 2008, deals with a precarious settlement illegally seated in an environmental protection area, result of the unplanned and disorganized urban sprawl of the city. The study explains how the overcoming of orthodox and restrictive processes of planning practices was possible through interdisciplinary knowledge, collective actions, proactive approach and creative planning, which helped to recognize the existence of a consolidated settlement as a potential tissue to build up a place where social, environmental and economic pillars work together. The debates and negotiations between top and bottom players were essential to materialize the social-ecological coexistence, enhancing social interaction and the care of the community about the environment, recovering its inter and intra generational attributes and seeking to integrate the informal settlement into the formal city.

KEYWORDS

Social sustainability. Territorial planning. Proactive approach. Multilevel governance.

## PLANIFICACIÓN CREATIVA Y SOSTENIBILIDAD SOCIAL

## PLANEJAMENTO CRIATIVO E SUSTENTABILIDADE SOCIAL

### RESUMEN

Este texto presenta el paradigmático caso llamado “Cantinho do Céu” (Rinconcito del Cielo), en São Paulo, Brasil, lo que ilustra el cómo extrapolar los conceptos de “Planificación Creativa” y el pilar “social” de sostenibilidad, además de las rasas prácticas capitalistas habituales, llevando a transformaciones del desarrollo sostenible. El proyecto, iniciado el 2008, trata de una ocupación precaria ilegalmente asentada en un área ambientalmente protegida, resultado de la expansión urbana no planificada y desorganizada de la ciudad. El estudio explica cómo fue posible el proceso de superación de prácticas de planificación ortodoxas y restrictivas, a través del conocimiento interdisciplinario, de *acciones colectivas*, enfoque proactivo y planificación creativa, lo que ayudó a reconocer la existencia de un asentamiento consolidado como un tejido con potencial para construir un lugar donde los pilares social, económico y ambiental trabajan juntos. Los debates y negociaciones entre actores de la cumbre y de la base fueron indispensables para materializar la convivencia socioecológica, aumentando la interacción social y la atención de la comunidad al medio ambiente, recuperando los atributos inter y intrageracional y buscando integrar el asentamiento informal a la ciudad formal.

### PALABRAS CLAVE

Sostenibilidad social. Planificación creativa. Enfoque proactivo. Multiniveles de gobernación.

### RESUMO

Este texto apresenta o paradigmático caso chamado Cantinho do Céu, em São Paulo, Brasil, que ilustra como extrapolar os conceitos de “Planejamento Criativo” e o pilar “social” de sustentabilidade, além das rasas práticas capitalistas habituais, levando a transformações de desenvolvimento sustentável. O projeto, iniciado em 2008, trata de uma ocupação precária, ilegalmente assentada em uma área ambientalmente protegida, resultado da expansão urbana não planejada e desorganizada da cidade. O estudo explica como foi possível o processo de superação de práticas de planejamento ortodoxas e restritivas, através de conhecimento interdisciplinar, ações coletivas, abordagem proativa e planejamento criativo, o que ajudou a reconhecer a existência de um assentamento consolidado como um tecido com potencial para construir um lugar onde os pilares social, ambiental e econômico trabalham juntos. Os debates e negociações entre atores de topo e de base foram indispensáveis, para materializar a convivência socioecológica, aumentando a interação social e o cuidado da comunidade com o meio ambiente, recuperando os atributos inter e intrageracional e buscando integrar o assentamento informal à cidade formal.

### PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Sustentabilidade social. Planejamento criativo. Abordagem proativa. Multiníveis de governança.

## INTRODUCTION

Historically, “creativity” has always guided, even if implicitly, the production process of cities (LANDRY, BIANCHINI, 1995). However, over the last decades, several academic researchers (LANDRY, BIANCHINI, 1995; LANDRY, 2000; MICHALKO, 2001; HEALEY, 2004; ALBRECHTS, 2005; SORENSEN, TORFING, 2010; BORÉN, YOUNG, 2013) have been concerned towards a more in-depth understanding of how “creativity” can be generated and how its being part of the policy-making can contribute to a more inclusive and balanced urban development.

The recent debates on “creativity” as an important device in urban policy result from a gradually shifting conceptualization – associated with studies such as the ones by Lewis Mumford<sup>1</sup> and Jane Jacobs<sup>2</sup> – from “city” as the physical space to “city”, as the physical spaces and its psychological effects on people (LANDRY; BIANCHINI, 1995). Coupled with this process, there is an increasing understanding that contemporary urban complexity requires flexible and critical alternatives instead of imperative and restricted thinking (LANDRY, 2000; HEALEY, 2004; ALBRECHTS, 2005).

Patsy Healey (2004) states the importance of creativity as part of the governance ideas, but also as part of the governance structure, for instance, a multi-level governance, whose new arrangements can contribute to new ways of approaching problems, while the opposite, rigid organizations of governments<sup>3</sup>, can inhibit creative innovations (WORPOLE, GREENHAULGH, 1999; COOKE et al., 2000; LANDRY, 2000). As many case studies show, it is easier to conceive creative urban policies within unsuccessful situations rather than in cases where everything seems to be satisfactory, and in which actions are made towards the maintenance of the *status quo* (LANDRY, 2000).

According to Albrechts (2005), planning must tackle crucial problems with creativity by answering questions such as: “What kind of place should it be?” “What kind of future would people like to enjoy in that environment?” and “How do we get there?” It has to do with wondering critically whether the traditional way, probably result of a process of temporal continuity, is unquestionably the best way of doing things or whether it is possible to come up with a more appropriate and desirable future with the qualitative aspects that the present lacks.

Besides Albrechts (2005), authors such as Michalko (2001) and Healey (2004), argue it is possible to enhance creativity: through critical analyses regarding institutionalized thoughts and practices, being aware patterns can be changed and; through techniques that envision several combinations of ideas and images about possible futures. In order to prevent the envisioning technique from being a banal process, which will not leave the drawing board, as stated by Borja and Castells (1997), the proposition of possible futures must be based on solid analysis of the social, cultural, economic, environmental and political driving forces in order to think about a decision that can best respond to multiple possible consequences (ALBRECHTS, 2005, p. 255-256).

<sup>1</sup> MUMFORD, Lewis. *The city in history*. London: Secker and Warburg, 1961.

<sup>2</sup> JACOBS, Janes. *The death and life of great American cities*. London: Pelican Books, 1979.

<sup>3</sup> “I use the term ‘governance’ to refer to collective action arrangements designed to achieve some general benefit, and government to refer to the formal organizations of the ‘public sector’”. (HEALEY, 2004)

Given that creativity and analytical approaches are essential tools for the construction of possible futures, Creative Planning does not follow any established pattern; instead, it assumes the specificities of each site. In this sense, the concept of sustainability comes as a lens through which it sees, an instrument to think of a solution that considers the natural resources, the qualitative link of economic growth, and above all, that awakens in society the perception that not only such concepts, but also different social groups are interdependent. (ALBRECHTS, 2005, p. 254-260).

First and foremost, the term sustainability and its three pillars – economy, ecology and social – from the origin of its conception onwards urges to more categorical understanding and practices to the challenges posed over a time of intense and problematic urbanization. What is seen is an eco-capitalist order that owns nature as a commodity in order to increase the value of the built environment. This order normally subordinates or even neglects the social on behalf of the economic pillar, where nature is a differentiated capital investment in the spatial competition for profit (SWYNGEDOUW, 2013). As said by Parra (2013, p. 143), it is, more often than not, lip service paid to sustainability rather than a solid program combining social diversity participation, human needs, environmental care and economic development.

The analysis through the case study *Cantinho do Céu* tries to contribute as a counterpoint, understanding that sustainability requires much more than the casual mix of the three pillars, being necessary a more balanced and favorable relation between them. Thus, it is urgent to have a more accurate approach of the social term, as well as to overcome the naive idea that it is the weakest pillar, so that we understand it is an essential device to make the process of sustainability work (HEALEY, 2007).

The “social”, primarily conceptualized into a globalist, and it may also be said economic perspective, was limited to a concept of balanced distribution of the commons between northern and southern hemispheres. It is true that for societies with deep social exclusion, it is essential to think of a better allocation of resources, but restricting the social concept to an egalitarian material distribution is to hold it hostage to economy. On the ground level, social exercise has to do with every single daily practice, with interaction that solidifies the identity of a particular society and therefore can be used as an important tool to materialize actions to preserve human and environmental goods (PARRA, 2013, p. 142-144).

Despite all the attempts to better conceptualize the social dimension, it remains entangled to its initial years meaning of macroeconomic equity in resource sharing and material conditions “[...] *rather than referring to the ‘relational’ content of the social and to the role of society and governance in dealing with the difficult interaction between the socio-economic and ecological dimensions of sustainable development.*” (PARRA, 2013, p. 143).

In this regard, the social pillar needs to be extrapolated to an actual social comprehension of human relations and the dynamics of everyday life, in the same way that is necessary to extrapolate the social pillar from the raw concept

<sup>4</sup> Part of a larger set of interventions called Watersheds Program, led by Municipality of Sao Paulo. Executive project authored by the office Boldarini Arquitetura e Urbanismo.

of a justice and moral imperative to the emphasis on equality to make government decisions through participatory process and governance (SWYNGEDOUW, 2013).

Participatory process means including several citizens associations, not only specialists, politicians, and the elite of the society (who normally play the key role), but also and especially the local dwellers because “[...] *values and images are not generated in isolation but are socially constructed, given meaning and validated by the traditions of belief and practice; they are reviewed, reconstructed and invented through collective experience.*” (ALBRECHTS, 2005, p. 257).

The quest for a more democratic process inevitably lies on the confrontation between different political actors and the establishment of a negotiation platform, where the concept of social innovation as new forms of social relations and social participation come together and support the positive socio-ecological interaction (PARRA, 2013; MINA, 2013).

## STUDY CASE *CANTINHO DO CÉU*. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The title of this article “Translating planning concepts into planning practices” has no pretension or illusion to find that project *Cantinho do Céu* a supreme model of sustainable planning because its embryo was conceived based on the same eco-capitalist purpose, which looked to the strong relationship between nature and economic gains. However, this text aims to show the arduous process of overcoming a naturalized vision, the subordination of the social and the environment over economy, and understanding that is possible to have alternative and creative planning that, through interaction between various players, considers the triad in a more balanced way based on a solid structure that triggers their mutual benefit.

Started in 2008, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the works and decisions made for *Cantinho do Céu*<sup>4</sup> are an exemplary approach to the challenges posed by the intense urbanization of the city that has taken place in the last 50 years, whose unplanned and disorganized urban sprawl spread to the environmentally fragile peripheral areas (MEYER; GROSTEIN; BIDERMAN, 2004, p. 45). Several laws, mostly after 1970, were enacted with strong restrictions to the use and occupation of environmental interest areas, limiting the subdivision of land and infrastructure establishment. Nevertheless, those laws created within the context of intense urbanization and high demand for housing, combined with the lack of supervision by the government, strongly contributed to the depreciation of privately owned land. As a result, instead of protecting the environmental area, they contributed to its degradation, mainly a result of illegal settlements in several green areas of Sao Paulo (ALVIM, 2011; FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 84-85).

This sprawl process, held in opposition to the legislation, shows both connivance by public officials and the inadequacy of public policies to solve the issue. The project *Cantinho do Céu* deals with an occupation from the late 1980s inserted within this context, illegally seated in an environmentally protected

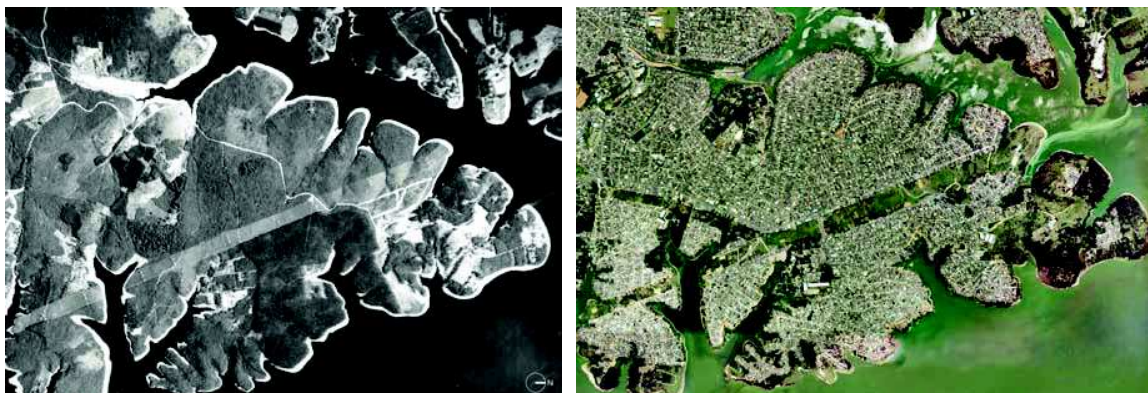


Figure 1: Peninsula Cocaia in Billings Reservoir, Sao Paulo, 1962 and 2010  
 Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete ; BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 79 e p. 81.

area on the bank of the Billings Reservoir in the extreme south of the city, 33km from its center (ALVIM, 2011).

This glebe is one of the examples of radio centric, extensive and precarious expansion processes resulting from the inefficiency of public administration to respond to the migration flows to the Metropolitan Region of Sao Paulo and favored by the job offer in the industrial and service sectors. In the area of *Cantinho do Céu*, such fact fostered, between 1950 and 1987, the progressive deforestation of the Atlantic Forest, aggravated after 1987 as an outcome of the subdivision and sale of illegal settlements to low-income families (fig. 1) (ALVIM, 2011).

The allotment of approximately 154.37 ha, had been developed without any technical support or basic infrastructure and with houses precariously built on flood and slip risk areas, recording in 2010 about 30.000 residents, 9.500 housings (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 106). In 1997, the Water Source Protection Act was promulgated (*Lei de Proteção aos Mananciais*), identifying the need to differentiate the specificities of each hydrographic basin. For each watershed, the Act required different formulations of land use and occupation to answer environmental and local urban development needs, “[...] since then, a new perspective opened for the recovery of environmental degradation in these regions.” (ALVIM, 2011).

In the same year, an Emergency Plan (*Plano Emergencial*) was regulated which allowed the deployment of infrastructure by municipality and public bodies (POLLI, 2010, p. 199). After several claims by the local inhabitants, it was provided progressive, though insufficient infrastructure such as water supply, sewage system, power grid and, in 1998, some of the settlers acquired the land tenure. In 2006, the Public Ministry, supported by the laws of the 70s, requested an uncritical planning that aimed to remove all families from the area as the only measure for its environmental recovery, since this occupation was in a Permanent Preservation Area (*Área de Preservação Permanente*) (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 102).



## GOVERNANCE, VISIONING AND CREATIVITY

In order to solve such environmental, social and economic conflicts, it was necessary to restructure the interaction and dialogue among several players “[...] centred on the elaboration of a mutually beneficial dialectic between top-down structural policies and bottom-up local uniqueness” (ALBRECHTS, 2005, p.258). Composing a Multilevel Governance, which involves the civil society, Federal, State and Municipal Governments, and their different Departments: Housing, Education, Green and Environment, Sanitation and Energy Secretariats, as well as the Basic Sanitation Company of Sao Paulo State (*Companhia de Saneamento Básico do Estado de São Paulo – Sabesp*) (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012).

The interdisciplinary knowledge was indispensable for the critical analysis of such a problematic and specific context searching for a convergent vision and strategic cohesion to achieve sustainable development. It was acknowledged the need to overcome the bureaucratic practices which Brazilian planning had undergone in the last decades and in which the ideal measure was the reproduction of the “formal” tissue configuration regardless of real contexts (BOLDARINI; CANUTTI, 2013).

The precarious settlement in the dam edges was handled as an option to cover the housing deficit of the city through an innovative vision and qualification of the built space. After the impasse between preservation and housing exacerbated with the public action in 2006, the Housing Secretariat played an important role in dialoguing with local residents, the Public Ministry and the State Environment Secretariat, that together agreed it was possible to keep the majority of the existent population through a set of actions that combined social relations, culture, environment and economic recovery (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 116). Although there were limits prescribed by environmental improvement assumption, the participatory dynamics was largely explored, and the maintenance of the urban fabric features and existing homes, besides the designs of the urban facilities, was made through public involvement and collective decisions (KUBRUSLY, 2012, p. 40).

The project consists of the environmental amelioration and preservation of the reservoir without disregarding the housing issue (URBANIZATION..., 2014). Under these circumstances, the only families evicted were those living in high slope areas with risk of erosion, as well as those whose connection to the basic sewage network was unfeasible and could jeopardize the quality of the reservoir. Initially, it was planned 2.483 housing removals, but after dialogues with the community and further analyzes, the number was reduced to around 1.650, 17% of that area’s population (fig. 2) (ALVIM, 2011).

Efforts were made to integrate the illegal settlements into the formal urban tissue, yet admitting and preserving the physical, social, and cultural identity by legalizing the housing tenures, readjusting the road system, connecting power grids, water supply and sewer system. The recognition of the complexity and the relevant social and ecological variables led to the creation of specific laws for Watershed Protection and Recovery Areas, consenting with the reduction of *non aedificandi* area to less than 50 meters wherever eviction was necessary. In order to support the lowest number of removals, it was created an environmental compensation device, i.e. houses suited within

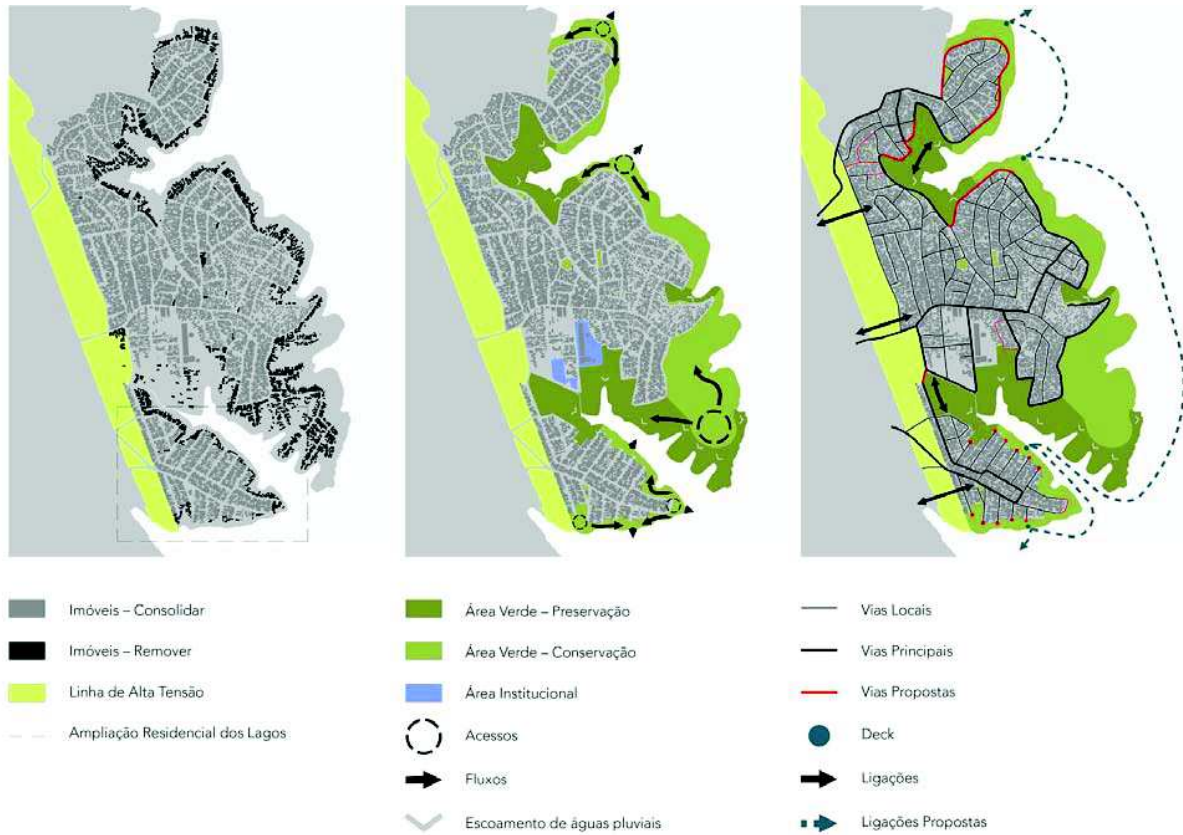


Figure 2: Urbanization Project

Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete; BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 27.

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<sup>5</sup> Código Florestal (Lei Federal nº 4.771/1965) - Forest Code (Federal Law nº 4.771/1965).

<sup>6</sup> Term used by Louis Albrechts (2005, p. 248) “to describe those innovative changes that contribute to the more sustainable, qualitative, just and open places.”

<sup>7</sup> “I define creativity as an individual – or preferably social – process that stimulates the ability to view problems, situations and challenges in new and different ways and to invent and develop original, imaginative futures in response to these problems, situations and challenges.” (ALBRECHTS, 2013, p. 249).

non-risk standards were preserved despite being at a distance of less than 50 meters. Those were counterbalanced by other areas compulsorily evacuated whose ranges were over 50 meters as required in the Forest Code<sup>5</sup> (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012).

The final resulting strip of 250.000 m<sup>2</sup> meets what is required by the legislation to Permanent Preservation Areas, ranging from 15 meters to 100 meters, intended for a seven-kilometer-long linear park, a system of public space for collective use and an environmental zone attenuator between the settlement and the reservoir (fig. 3) (ALVIM, 2011; URBANIZATION..., 2014; INTRODUCTION..., 2012).

The structural change<sup>6</sup> and creativity<sup>7</sup> has elapsed through various urban scales, from metropolitan to street contexts. *Cantinho do Céu's* planning logic reverses the process of abandonment of the rivers intensified in the 1950's in Sao Paulo city, a process that occurs even in the formal urban fabric and that has led to the current hydrographic scenario, featured by the little contact with the water. Given the lack of sanitation and the waste discharge in Billings





Figure 3: Linear Park  
Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete; BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 104.

Figure 4: Situation prior to urbanization project  
Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete; BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 109.



Reservoir, the urban morphology which arose in the precarious occupation did not guide buildings towards the water (fig. 4). Thus, the decision to keep part of the existing buildings, “[...] *the material and social investment of the residents [...]*” (ALVIM, 2011), has also maintained the practical and sensitive detachment from the water.

The insight was exactly in the inversion of the concept: incorporating water as a structuring element of the park, weaving a sensible relationship, important to the construction of the use value, and at the same time triggering subjective and collective identification with the space (KUBRUSLY, 2012, p.40; BOLDARINI; CANUTTI, 2013, p.58-59; URBANIZATION..., 2014). In the local scale, the park, established over the margins of Billings Reservoir, surrounds and connects areas of three neighborhoods (*Residencial dos Lagos, Cantinho do Céu e Gaivotas*) that were previously geographically isolated (ALVIM, 2011).

The widest streets of the neighborhood had their geometric characteristics adjusted, other new routes have been created to provide access to areas previously disconnected to the road system and the local roads with narrower dimensions had their use preserved – as places which combine auto and pedestrian circulation (ALVIM, 2011). The streets that surround the park were made of interlocking concrete blocks, a visual and tangible signal of another dimension of appropriation, primarily for pedestrians.

The existing roads, which were the natural drain lines, were paved with permeable materials to facilitate the absorption of water before it reaches the reservoir. The gutter, normally bordering the curb of the sidewalk, was designed at the center of the street aiming to hamper the entry of rainwater in the houses, and the design of elevated wooden walkways which also assists the infiltration of water, the slope correction and adjusting to the existing trees to avoid their removal (PARQUE..., 2012). In the park, facilities were designed for play and

entertainment as wooden decks, panoramic terraces, large rest areas, football field, skate track, open-air cinema, and living spaces (fig. 5).



Figure 5: Entertainment facilities  
Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete; BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 124.

The emphasized materialization of coexistence between people and the water takes place on a floating deck (fig. 6), where inhabitants come close to the water, previously unnoticed and neglected. The project also counts on the creativity of the visual artist Maurício Adinolfi, who takes advantage of the house gables facing the dam to create a colorful panel that animates the ambience and serves as an inhibitor for illegal expansion (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 58). In 2012, the intervention band intended for public use officially became a municipal park (fig. 7) (BOLDARINI; CANUTTI, 2013, p. 58).



Figure 6: Floating deck  
Source: Diversão São Paulo.  
*Linear Cantinho do Céu*.  
Available at: < <http://www.diversaosp.com.br/parquesmunicipaispsul.html>.  
Accessed in: 09 aug. 2016.



Figure 7: Linear Park  
Source: FRANÇA, Elisabete;  
BARDA, Marisa (Org.). *Entre o Céu e a Água: O Cantinho do Céu*. São Paulo: HABI – Superintendência de Habitação Popular, 2012, p. 124.



Elements of simple technique format, however, stress the design decision for that particular case. The recent experience in dealing with such sensitive socio-environmental areas has led to actions implemented in sectors, in order to mitigate the uncertainty of inhabitants toward public action, enhancing their adaptability and making room for adjustments to the demands of the community (FRANÇA; BARDA, 2012, p. 119). In this case, the long-term perspectives for a possible future were combined with short-term actions in order to enable the community to trust in the implementation of the project and to the immediate perception of the residents as to where the decisions made in several instances were bound to.

## CONCLUSION

The debate among different local and regional subjects enabled mutual understanding, allowing to materialize the envisioned, in order to enhance social-ecological coexistence and interaction. As argued by David Harvey “[...] the ‘right to the city’ may be an empty signifier but that does not mean it is irrelevant [...]” (in AALBERS, 2012, p. 18). The creative planning *Cantinho do Céu* recovers and warrants the right to housing through the provision of basic infrastructure, but it is mainly through the system of public spaces where local empowerment and collective appropriation take place, as well as the enjoyment of the city as a step for an inclusive society (JUWET, 2013; INTRODUCTION..., 2012, URBANIZATION..., 2014; BOLDARINI; CANUTTI, 2013, p. 58).

Such inclusion fosters social interaction and cooperation, the appreciation of public goods and the care of the community with the environment. This helps recover and preserve the commons not only for the local population and city dwellers (geographical and intra-generational vision), but also for present and future generations (temporal and inter-generational vision), given that the *Billings* Reservoir supplies slightly over 10% of the water of Sao Paulo Metropolitan Area (PARQUE...,2012, p. 69), which makes it a strategic environmental and economic resource.

This social dimension brings the character of intrinsic mutability of sustainable projects. In that sense, there is no model to be followed, as the program was derived of a selection of cultural components taken from spatial and time diversity. It is up to each of us citizens, to require the “right” to decide and enjoy the city, and the “duty” to contribute to it, knowing that sustainability is neither created nor maintained without social participation.

Despite the fact that creative planning must be critically analyzed and made for a specific place, its results are nowise spatially or temporally limited. The co-operation and mobilization of top and bottom players boost the results scale, since both concrete measures and (mainly) the learning with challenges from specific situations can be transmitted to other locations. (OOSTERLYNCK et al.,2013, p.3)

The calling for co-operation and mobilization of several players aims to promote structural changes in the societal institution “[...] towards social change through the deepening and broadening of participation, the establishment of more inclusive organizational procedures, the development of the capacity for collective action and the fundamental change of human attitudes and behavior [...]” (OOSTERLYNCK et al., 2013, p.3 apud MOULAERT et al., 2005)

*Cantinho o Céu* is indeed what Albretchts (2005) denominated “creative planning”: an intervention which enabled a scenario that should, but did not yet exist, a future that is not merely the continuation of the past, but a discontinuity of the inflexible bureaucratic way to solve problems. It is about dreaming and predicting alternative possible futures, searching for a transformative agenda and materializing it through social participation.

The players involved in the planning recognized that not only its conception, but also the implementation and maintenance are collective responsibilities.

*Cantinho do Céu* has been recognized worldwide as a model and a proactive approach<sup>8</sup> (SERVILLO, 2013) in search of a better qualified city in social, environmental and economic terms; for dialoguing with various fields of knowledge; respecting the preexistence and making a set of innovative policies and principles, such as the flexibility of the legislation in force in order to build the right to the city and truly sustainable development<sup>9</sup>, beyond utopia.

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- <sup>8</sup> “[...] proactive approach (need of flexibility, involvement of several actors, no deterministic scenarios, definition of strategy toward a specific and shared goal – discourses in sustainability). Procedural and experimental character as structural aspects.” (SERVILLO, 2013).
- <sup>9</sup> “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” (WCED, 1987)

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