

Editorial

A thematic dossier on the broad theme of the relation between cities, cultures and arts is the main core of this 32nd issue of *Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios*. This thematic section is dedicated to the discussion of a diversity of articulations between artistic manifestations and urban territory, in a variety of empirical contexts, both industry- and geographically wise. The introductory text of Ana Oliveira, organizer of this dossier, “Cidades, culturas e artes: um caleidoscópio simbiótico”, sets the floor to this discussion, drawing our attention to the symbiotic processes that embed the multiple relations between art and the city, both on the side of the (re)production of urban territories and on the perspective of the (new?) (re)appropriations that occur in that domain.

Christina Ballico’s text, “Live music, liquor and the city: An examination of the influence of liquor regulation on place-specific live music activity”, examines the tensions at play between place-specific live music activity and regulation mechanisms which affect the live music sector, from empirical work developed in Perth, Australia. The author highlights the way this regulation conditions the cultural vibrancy of the city in spite of a range of initiatives to support and foster a strong sense of local cultural and creative identity being undertaken by several authorities and local actors.

Ana Oliveira and Paula Guerra, in their article “Espaços urbanos: entre a cultura, a imagem e a intervenção”, drive us through the symbiotic relation between culture, urban space and cultural policies through a photographic-based approach to three cultural projects developed in Porto, Portugal. For the authors, these projects document, on one hand, the invasion of cities by images and by a symbolic dimension and, on the other hand, the valorisation of cultural activities in the transformation of urban space, be it more temporarily or permanently.

Thiago Meneses Alves, in “Desmaterialização da Música e a Produção Fonográfica do Rock Independente de Teresina no Século XXI”, leads us to an overview of the deep contemporary restructuring processes of recorded music art worlds and their business models, in order to analyze the recent evolution of the indie rock scene in the city of Teresina, in Piauí, Brazil. The author stresses the potential of digitalization as an opportunity for the nurturing of “peripheral” musical contexts, from the case of phonographic production of indie rock.

Still in Brazil, but in a more historiographical perspective and in the field of experimental cinema, we find the text of Edwar Castelo Branco, “A cidade como expressão do desejo: filmes experimentais dando a ver a micrologia do cotidiano de cidades Brasileiras”. Departing from a dichotomization between the “voyeur city” and the “flâneur city”, the author analyzes a set of 6 experimental films directed in two Brazilian cities (Teresina and Rio de Janeiro) in the 1970s. The assumption of a “city of desire”, expressed in the daily practices of the directors of the films that were studied, contributes to a symbolical renewal of these Brazilian cities, according to the author, bringing everyday life to the front of the significance of the city.

This dossier is closed with another paper exploring the field of music, and its imbricated extensions, now in Portugal. Luiz Alberto Moura and Paula Guerra present us the text “Contributos para a emergência de uma juventude sónica: a constituição da cena noise das Caldas da Rainha”, which explores the rise of the noise/experimental scene in Caldas da Rainha, in the 1980s/90s. Drawing upon the concept of scene, the authors analyse the activity of local bands (particularly those developed around the personality of the musician João Paulo Feliciano) and the influence that this local scene had in the development of the noise/experimental scene on a national level.

Beyond this thematic dossier, in the scope of the permanently open call section, the first article deals with culture-related issues as well. The text delivered by Vera Borges and Tiago Faria, “Organizações culturais e apoio público local: Que territórios e desafios?”, analyzes the Portuguese cultural organizations funded with public support through three-part agreements (central state, the municipalities and the local cultural structures) considering the cultural work of the organizations, the trajectories of its professionals and their connections with the territory. The authors present a typology concerning the territorial relations of these practices and an illustrative case study which illustrates the reinforcement achieved with this kind of partnership, involving local state support.

The text of Saúdy Giovanna Niñon and Jenny Paola Danna, “Los sistemas de información geográfica (SIG) en turismo como herramienta de desarrollo y planificación territorial en las regiones periféricas”, summons a discussion on the potential of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to tourist activity enhancement and territorial development, focusing particularly on peripheral areas. Departing from an overview of the potential of GIS and their use for information management in the case of tourism planning, and drawing upon some illustrative cases (in Spain, Venezuela and Nigeria), the authors debate the ways GIS can be seen as a tool to promote tourism in peripheral areas.

The article delivered by Felipe Anitelli and Marcelo Tramontano, titled “Abordagens incomuns na política habitacional Brasileira: Reabilitação de edifícios ociosos e sua conversão em habitação de interesse social”, pulls our attention to the field of housing public policies. Drawing upon the analysis of São Paulo (Brazil), the authors aim to identify premises that can contribute to the debate on the development and management of housing public policies, which could be able to include the poorest people in their programmes, besides locating the dwellings set up downtown by rehabilitating empty buildings and converting them to social housing use. They argue that technical inputs from knowledge areas such as architecture and urban planning, that generally contribute to formulate urban laws and public housing programmes, are not enough to embrace the complexity of this issue, defending the importance of ideological options and of a strong political conduction on these processes.

The relation between planning and urban rehabilitation is also present at the core of Alexandra Paisana Belo’s discussion on the paper “Em busca da(s) centralidade(s) urbana(s): planeamento e reabilitação urbana em Castelo Branco”. This article leads us to the debate on the notion of centrality and its evolution, through the case of Castelo Branco, in Portugal. Considering a set of strategic planning options that configure the recent evolution of this city (reinforcing both the city expansion and the valorization of its historical centre, via different mechanisms), and drawing upon a revision on the valuation processes of historic centres, as well as on the national planning and rehabilitation instruments, and its application in Castelo Branco, the author discusses the complexity of regeneration processes, endorsing new perspectives over the way public space and the notion of urban centre are being considered.

Finally, the article “As Novas Práticas da Arquitetura e a Formação Académica dos Arquitetos”, presented by Teresa Madeira da Silva, Madalena Matos and Ana Catarina Ferreira, brings us the discussion about the relation between architecture courses and the “emerging practices” in this profession. Departing from the identification of these new architect intervention practices, and the issues they arise, the authors reflect about the results of a pedagogical experience they have developed in the context of a Summer School, in Lisbon (and its extension to ISCTE-IUL’s integrated Master in Architecture), where several questions were explored, in terms of rehabilitation and touristic pressure in urban historic centres. Assuming the need to understand the value of architectural heritage on a broad and integrated manner, as well as the importance of greater involvement of the architect in the territorial contexts where he/she intervenes, the forms of educational adequacy of the project to the new constraints of professional practice of architects are debated.

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