

# REFLECTION /

## P4 REFLECTION

### Research and design

The graduation project is called 'A VALUABLE CONTRAST, Paraisópolis - Morumbi', 'Reinforcement of the municipal urbanization process of Paraisópolis through an integrative spatial strategy based on local socio-spatial and socio-economic assets.'

The aim of the research project is to reinforce the municipal upgrading program by providing appropriate spatial design variants and process improvements that will benefit the community of Paraisópolis, but also will be beneficial for the continuation of the Favela Urbanization Program.

The graduation project is derived from the main topic of urban division in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. Through this main topic research on globalization, the urban divide, informality, inclusive cities and residential segregation are discussed.

Subjects as municipal policies, actions and programs regarding slums and urban poverty are researched to obtain a proper understanding of the Brazilian approach towards informality.

The subject of the graduation project is the municipal urbanization process of Paraisópolis, a municipal slum upgrading process that consists of multisectoral interventions based on the location of environmental risks areas. The hypothesis puts forward the focus on the local assets of the community.

Research on the topic of daily systems, local assets, public space in slums, the role of streets and community participation provided input for the final products, the appropriate spatial design variants and the process improvements, of the graduation project.

### Complex Cities and the favela Paraisópolis

The studio Complex Cities focusses on contemporary cities in global and regional contexts and the urban development of cities.

In general cities have the ability to generate wealth, prosperity, economic growth and human development. However for many global cities, developing in the 20th century, this is accompanied by unpredicted challenges of urbanization, such as unequal conditions and opportunities for the urban population. Cities can be places of high inequality, as increased prosperity often does not result in a more egalitarian distribution of wealth or income. The urbanization process is then resulting in the urban divide, creating a gap between the rich and the poor.

The negative consequences of urban growth in developing countries are characterized by informality, illegality, unplanned urbanization, poverty and slum growth. The challenge here is to adopt public policies that maximize the benefits of urbanization, manage the negative consequences of urban growth and decrease the urban divide.

The large amount of slums, their consolidation in global cities and the large amount of inhabitants in slums, the challenge of slums is incredibly actual. Countries must revise and increase the 'slum target' to take into account both existing and potential new slums. When governments adopt new ambitious, well-devised targets and allocate adequate budget resources countries and cities can increase the prospects for all their inhabitants.

The favela Paraisópolis is located in the global city São Paulo. The history of Paraisópolis embodies the urban divide in social, spatial and economic aspect. Complex processes in the city, such as globalization, urbanization, economic development, industrialization, modernization and social movements have created an urban divide in the city and between its citizens.

Paraisópolis is located in a high-end residential neighborhood where the difference between social groups is extreme. Because of exclusion, hard boundaries, spatial segregation and the social and economical development of Paraisópolis the favela is functioning as a 'city within a city'.

All these socio-spatial and socio-economic conditions and complex processes define this research project as a project for the studio Complex Cities of urbanism.

### Methodology

The studio emphasizes on an integrative approach that touches upon the complex processes within society. The spatial conditions related to other process, such as social and economical activities. Also there is strong focus on the actors within a planning process.

The methodology of the research project is divided into five segments, in the following order: the subject definition, the theoretical framework, the empirical framework, the analytical framework and the final product. Part of the analytical framework is the conceptual framework to capture the functioning of the community and the daily life of the inhabitants.

The analytical framework is a threefold analysis: combination of a site analysis (conditions of the favela), stakeholder analysis (planning and decisions-making process) and a planning framework analysis (municipal response in policies, instruments and actions). The site analysis focusses on a related set of variables concerning the social, spatial and economical conditions on different scales. The aim of the site is to define the flow/ movement, urban structure and activities in the favela and point out the local assets of the community.

(1) By comparing the problems of the analysis and the existing planning framework a conclusion can be given on the degree of accomplishment of an existing plan. Is the plan a sufficient solution to solve the current problem of the system?

(2) By comparing an existing plan with the demands of the stakeholders a conclusion can be given on what the plan is proposing and if that is in conflict with the demands of the stakeholders. The outcome of the two comparisons will provide the necessary input for the final product. If there is a spatial system that is not integrated and the existing plans do not solve this problem, in the final product the spatial design needs to integrate this system.

The results of the analytical framework are translated into an integrative strategy based on local socio-spatial assets and socio-economic integration. Within this phase there will be defined a new set of variables with an integrated goal, which consider the capacities of each actor, their need and potentialities within each scale.

### Social relevance

There the pressing urgency for commitment throughout Latin America and developing countries towards slum upgrading. Observing slum upgrading experiences in Latin America may offer important lessons in the transformation of slums and the reduction of slum growth. There are few slum initiatives that have received funding and undergone the complete process of slum upgrading. The most upgrading programs are initiated as models for replication and represent the projects of future development. Research that evaluates the transformation of these few slums can provide a valuable contribution to the academic resources on slum upgrading programs, overall slum upgrading efforts, methodologies, policies and innovations.

This research focusses on the transformation and urbanization process of the favela Paraisópolis in the city São Paulo. The city São Paulo has made an tremendous progress over the last years regarding poverty reduction and informal urbanism, it is becoming a city that serves all its citizens. The city recognised the importance of investing in a slum upgrading program and legitimising land tenure in subdivisions on a city-wide scale. Support, funding and collaboration from local, state and federal government show the efforts given to combating urban poverty and informality. In 2005 the city government started with slum upgrading in the Program Urbanização de Favelas (Favela Urbanization Program). The aim of the municipality with this upgrading program is to transform favela's into an integrated, desirable neighborhoods within the city of São Paulo. The upgrading process of Paraisópolis is a

first attempt for developing a replicable approach that can be implemented within other favelas of the city. It is part of the municipal Program Urbanização de Favelas (Favela Urbanization Program).

The outcomes of this master thesis can contribute to the already remarkable progress made in São Paulo. The planned ending and the efforts for repeating the program to the other favelas in the city make it even more valuable to research this subject. The outcomes of the master thesis can have a valuable impact in the continuation of the Favela Urbanization Program.

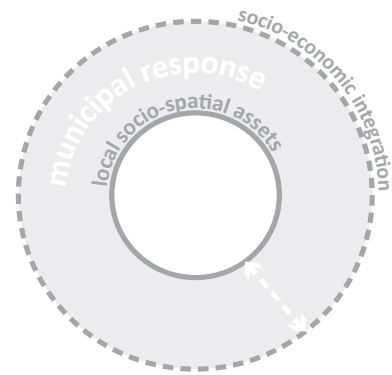
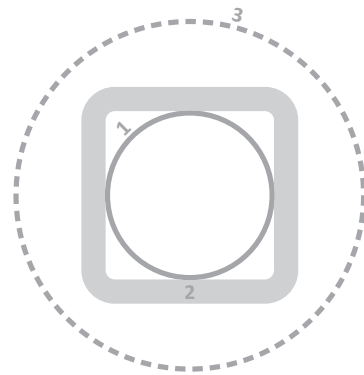


Figure 1. The desirable future: a cohesive social-morphological structure that anchors the municipal interventions in the life of the community and strengthens the socio-economic integration of Paraisópolis within the city. Source: scheme is made by the author.

Figure 2. Scheme of the inside-out approach; 1. local socio-spatial assets, 2. municipal interventions, socio-economic integration. Source: scheme is made by the author.

Figure 3. The three scales: local assets, municipal response and socio-economic integration. Source: scheme is made by the author.

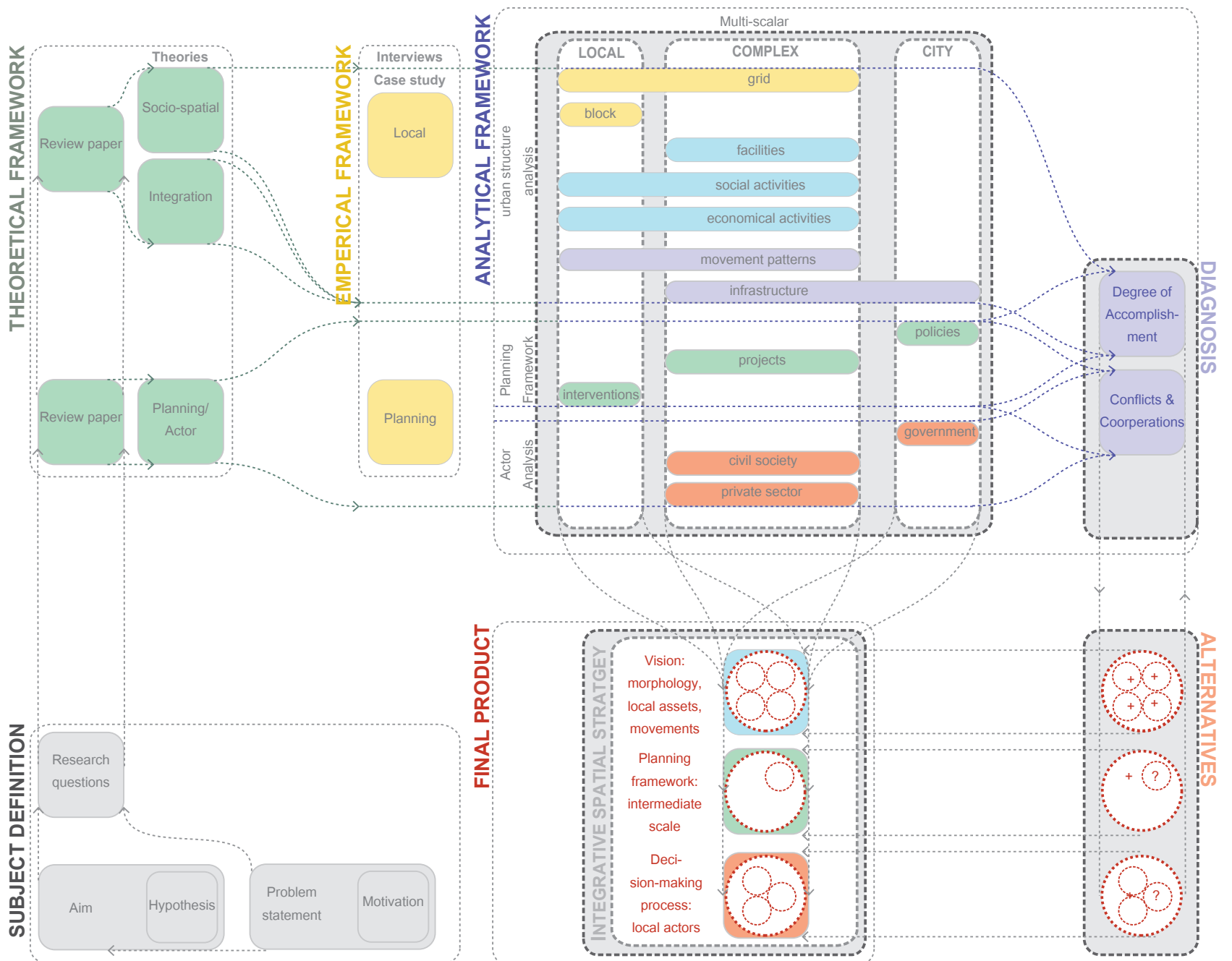


Figure 4. Methodology scheme of the graduation project.