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Publication date
2018

Document Version
Final published version

Citation (APA)

Important note
To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

25th ISUF International Conference
Krasnoyarsk 2018. 5-9 July

Urban Form and Social Context:
from traditions to newest demands

SIBERIAN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY
Scientific Editors:
I. Kukina, I. Fedchenko, Ia. Chui

Б906  Book of Abstracts. 25th ISUF International Conference:

ISBN 978-5-7638-3952-4

The content of this publication have been evaluated by the Scientific Committee which it relates and the procedure set out http://conf.sfu-kras.ru/en/isuf2018.
Planning codes and the emergence of anti-urban form
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Abstract
The result of recent urbanisation in Brazilian cities has been consistently described
by the use of images such as ‘gated city’, ‘anti-urban typologies’, or ‘the city of
reflect a narrative of loss (Arefi, 1999) regarding the connection between places and
people. They reflect a dominant pattern of segregation in cities, what is sometimes
described as ‘anti-urban’. As cities continue to transform following this anti-urban
model, the risks of exacerbating social and spatial divides increases and possible
progressive responses are made very difficult. Segregation in this context follows a
new logic, no longer a mere opposition centre-periphery but a hybrid and intertwined
set of “…architectural typologies, spaces and transportation systems that favour a
few ways of life over all others.”(Figueiredo, 2012, p. 1)
Some of the recent developments of this discussion about urban form and
segregation have focused on the street interface. This interface is described as the
place to negotiate the demands of both the private and public realm and to provide
the means or affordances to sustain public life.
This paper investigates the connections between urban morphology and planning
design codes and normative in a Brazilian city, Recife. It describes the associations
of the street interface with planning. The initial phases of the research (Carvalho
Filho & van Nes, 2017; Carvalho Filho, Van Nes, Filho, & Van Nes, 2017) revealed
significant relations between the spatial parameters regulated on planning
instruments and the emergence of several typologies of the street interface. One of
these types, building with blind plinths, resonates characteristics of the anti-urban
typology described in the literature (Caldeira, 1996b; Figueiredo, 2012). Correlating
in time the changes in parameters present in the planning codes with the emergence
and spread of this typology in Recife demonstrates that the methodological approach
of the research can identify relations not so evident currently between planning and
urban form and the possible implications for public life.

Keywords
Segregation, planning codes, ant-urban form