



## **A Suburban Neighborhood in Vitória as a New Downtown**

**Eneida Maria Souza MENDONÇA**, Lecturer  
Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Brazil  
eneidamendonca@gmail.com

This paper shows aspects of the urbanization process in Vitória, the main city of Espírito Santo, in Brazil, in order to debate specially two periods related to the urban modernization. As method, the research was based in documents like urban projects, studies about local economy and data about the evolution of the urban infrastructure. The first period begins in 1896, when Saturnino de Brito, a remarkable Sanitaire Engineer of that time, designed in Vitória a new suburban neighborhood, called “Novo Arrabalde”. It was five or six times bigger than the existing city and intended to change the ancient and small appearance of Vitória. This project would permit urban growth without sanitary problems. The period ends in the 1920’s when the trolley system was installed to easily the contact between the new neighborhood and Vitória. The second period begins in the 1950’s when the suburban neighborhood was already completed urbanized and started to lose the suburb’s character. At this time, buildings with four floors began to make part of the Novo Arrabalde’s landscape. In the 1970’s, when the second period ended, that was the preferential place to construct skyscrapers in Vitória. Emphasizing the urban and landscape’s transformations it’s valuable also to mention the enormous landfill added to east, at that time. The urban process occurred at the two periods, 1896-1920’s and 1950’s-1970’s is related to the modernization. At the first one, the modern remark was the sanitary neighborhood, with larges avenues and all of the urban infra-structure, built at the same rhythm of the coffee exportations. The second one shows the modern face through the high of the buildings, attracting the downtown’s functions. The economic activity was not anymore the coffee business, but the iron industry exportation. It is interesting to notice that at the both cases the port maintains its place as a modern urban element.

**KEY WORDS:** Urbanization, modernization, land use.