



Implementations of Museums as Agents in the Renewal of Old Belo Horizonte Center - Minas Gerais

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In a relatively short period of time, it has been noticed that the implementation of museums in cities around the world has become a strategic element in the processes of urban regeneration and also an important tool for creating and socio-economic innovations in their cultural landscape. In Belo Horizonte, third larger Brazilian metropolis, some of these museums are already well established and consolidated, while others have been programmed for short term implantations, mostly in its traditional city center. This study examines the significance of these initiatives in the light of the increase in the services economy, the impacts of urban renewal and the valorization of the cultural image of the oldest part of the city. It intends also to verify the increase of the attention given by public and private sectors in these investments related to the implantation and concentration of the museums and its consequences in urban society. The following equipments will be regarded as study subjects: the Mineiro Museum, the Inimá de Paula Museum, the Museum of Arts and Crafts, the Museum of Mineralogy, the Museum Abilio Barreto and the other museums and cultural centers integrated in the new cultural circuit planned for the Liberty Square.

KEY WORDS: Belo Horizonte, central area, museums, urban renewal, urban culture, trade activities.