



The Role Played by the Architect-Engineers from the City of São Paulo in Defining the Field of Urban Planning. São Paulo - Brazil: 1920-1960

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The Brazilian Republic, proclaimed in 1889, as well as its federalist Constitution from 1891, removed the institutional constraints from the Imperial period (1822-1889) and made it possible for the states, by their own initiative, to found institutions of higher learning. In the City of São Paulo, the founding of the School of Poly-technology (Escola Politécnica) in 1894 and the Mackenzie School of Engineering answered to the demand for specialized professionals in the various branches of engineering: industrial, agricultural, civil and architect-engineering. The large number of European immigrants and the expansion of the economic activities brought about an unprecedented growth to city, capital of the São Paulo State, and demanded reforms in the areas of the old city as well as plans for the ordained expansion of the urban area. The presence of professors and former students from the Escola Politécnica, particularly in the municipal administrative offices, fostered the formation of networks of professionals still active today.

Among such professional workers, I'd like to highlight the activities of architect-engineer Luiz Ignacio de Anhaia Mello, graduated in 1913 and started teaching in 1918. He was responsible for introducing the teaching of urbanism into the Escola Politécnica (1926) and forming several generations of engineers and architects. He also played a very important role in the making of the conceptual framework of the fields of planning and urbanism. In this paper I'll explore his activities on a couple of different areas, namely: as professor at the Escola Politécnica (1919-1961); as one of the founders of the Department of Urbanism at the Institute of Engineering of São Paulo (1928); as the founder of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (1948) and, up until the 1960s, as an active lecturer and writer.

By studying his earlier writings *Problemas de Urbanismo. Bases para a resolução do problema técnico* (1929) up until his work entitled *Plano Regional de São Paulo. Uma contribuição da Universidade para o estudo de Um Código de Ocupação Licita do Solo* (November, 8th, 1954, for the international day of Urbanism) it's possible for us to keep track of continuities and ruptures in the making of the conceptual framework of the Brazilian urban planning. Aware of the challenges posed by the rapid growth of the city, he proposes, ever since 1928, to reshape the radial concentric layout of São Paulo's urban structure. He based his proposals on the concept of poly-centered city and on garden city "models". Many of the challenges faced by the architect-engineer Anhaia Mello not only remain, even if in a different dimension, but still represent serious challenges faced by the municipal urban policies today: the slums or the irregularly occupation of spaces between areas already urbanized or in precarious plots located in areas of environmental protection or in regions offering risks.

KEY WORDS: Urbanism, planning, concepts, models, engineer, architect.