



Social Housing and the Garden City: The Work of Ulysses Hellmeister at the Institute Of Commerce Workers Insurance

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This study aims to analyze the trajectory of building an ideology that had as an achievement the housing "City Garden for the Commerce Workers", located in the neighborhood of Olaria in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Built by the Institute of Retirement and Pensions of the Commerce Workers (Instituto de Aposentadoria e Pensões dos Comerciantes - IAPC), between 1944 and 1945, this project was carried out in the Engineering Division which was coordinated by engineer Ulysses Rodrigues Hellmeister. Beginning by the detailed account of the performance of this engineer, we will show how the theme of social housing was being changed from a technical, hygienic and space problem to a social and political issue. This issue will be understood from analyzing the historical context, the debates and disputes made around it, between 1920 and 1940. Also is important to comprehend the political objectives of the period. This understanding is important to substantiate conflicts and to evoke the contradictions of the period, elucidating diverse concepts that based the housing production between 1930 and 1964. Thus inserting the Garden City of Commerce as a historical problem is important to understand a subject and a period so little studied. We will also study some projects from the Engineer Division of the IAPC to understand how worked the practical field of architects and engineers, specialized on social housing projects. We seek to see how this issue was understood by each of these professionals - architect and engineer -, and so the differences between the engineering and architecture. This approach is inserted in the historiography of modern culture, which seeks to recover the performance of professionals that worked with this theme. We will also describe how the decision made at the time of the project is reflected in the housing complex that exists today. This paper has as a goal to demonstrate how this interpretation is important for the perception of a part of the history of Brazilian modern architecture and urban planning, that so few know.

KEY WORDS: Housing planning, Garden City, Ulysses Hellmeister, IAPC.