



Hybrid Territories in Rio de Janeiro: New Challenges in the Unplanned City

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In Rio de Janeiro, a large number of favelas formed around factories during the twentieth century; at the end of the century, with the de-industrialization, large productive areas have been abandoned and occupied by homeless, forming a new type slum. A new relationship was defined, this time between the slums and the de-industrialization. The industries have withdrawn, but the fragile slums remained, not only around but also inside the fabrics (plants). Sheds and warehouses were turned to housing, working, religious and cultural spaces. We propose to analyze the transformation of a region in Rio de Janeiro, composed of a small industrial area and a large shanty town. At its borders can be noticed the emergence of a new land: a hybrid territory, with some outstanding cultural venues, many of them in old factories that have been appropriated by the slum's inhabitants. Favelas and rehabilitated factories exist in many Brazilian cities, and some of these, used as cultural venues, too. But this agglomeration, and this bottom-up process of creation make this example, as far as we know, a unique case of such hybrid territory.

This paper presents a study of the formation of these two areas, as well as its transformation in this hybrid territory, inquiring about the approaches that can allow us to understand them, and proposing the discussion of the challenge of planning this very particular area. How to characterize and how to plan for unplanned spaces that overlap with reappropriated, reutilized and resignified planned areas? A cultural regeneration promoted by the population?

Since the municipal planning does not bring contributions to this new territory, the study emphasizes the context and the process of space transformation, both architectural and urban (hybrids of housing, work, culture), in order to guide, through the arrangement of the elements of the problem, to possible planning proposals. This is an interdisciplinary study, and the theoretical and conceptual framework come from different fields of knowledge.

In this sense, we work with the concepts of opaque spaces, by Milton Santos, of spaces of insurgence by Holston, and of resistance by Ribeiro and by Porto, who link the cultural forms of resistance to the forces of social exclusion. We favor the approach of the spatialization of culture presented by Fortuna and Silva, who seek to understand the territories of hybridization of cultures. To develop the hypothesis of the constitution of places and territories we report to Barker, and Bonnemaïson. About planning, we report to Bianchini and Parkinson (1994), Meyer (1999), Zukin (1995), Miles (2001) and Vaz and Jacques (2006).

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