

DIFFERENT VISIONS FOR THE SAME CITIES, TRANSLATIONS AND APROPRIATIONS OF URBAN IDEOLOGIES IN MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT

The urban transformations proposed to the cities of Minas Gerais, Brazil, developed by planners, reveals multiple and diverse paths followed. Translations and appropriations of urban ideologies are proposals part as a result of cultural and artistic routes study, teaching and research, both in terms of the coming of foreign professionals, and in terms of return of Brazilians abroad. These routes provided the widening of the scope of technical information on urban problems. From the 1930's, the discussion of the problems are not limited to the state capital, Belo Horizonte. The contrast between tradition and contemporaneity, the latter represented by more and more distant language of historicism, marked cities transformation. For masterplans and urban proposals they also showed appropriation of different concepts to planning, particularly focused on Garden Cities theory and Le Corbusier's modernity. We intend here to explore these pathways, to understanding the discourse offered these opportunities. Also aims to understand the concepts' transposition of other countries. We emphasize experiences that are linked to different generations of planners from the pioneers such as Aarão Reis, through Lincoln Continentino, Angelo Murgel, Francisco Baptista de Oliveira and others, until the 60's. From the mid-40, calls for a modern city - a meaning related to the Modern Movement - would reach a larger number of cities. This process will also include the important participation of Oscar Niemeyer, but would also involved the action of other professionals, mostly architects. Many of these interventions were not tied to plans set in accordance with the rules of modern urban planning. This text is linked to previous publications as the Thought and urban practices related to the ideology of the Modern Movement (1930-1965), in: GOMES, Marco Aurélio A. de Filgueiras Gomes. Cadernos PPG-AU/FAUFBA (2005). The paper also linked the activities for Research and Extension Center to Urban Planning in Minas Gerais, at Federal University of Juiz de Fora, with support of FAPEMIG, CNPQ, CULTURE Department and Cities Department.

INTRODUCTION

The institution of urbanism as a field of knowledge in first decades of the twentieth century in Brazil is linked to action of technicians experts of the cities' problems, particularly architects and engineers. The recurrence of these professionals to urbanism as a discipline, practice and professional field falls to the expansion of the urban problems. International and national conferences, lectures, papers and newspapers, as well as publishing books scope for urban flow of ideas. From the 30's, the concerns focused on the control of cities development, applicants in engineers discourses in the late nineteenth to the twentieth century, would mark the brazilian urban scenery. At this moment, there was a turning point in terms of increased urbanization and city growth, which coincides with the acceleration of the industrial revolution in the country. Heated debates and proposals involving professionals with diverse graduation, reflecting the search for a modern city. This as a planned city with its urban system working and the assumption of spatial expansion, which was already an aspiring in technical means. Other issues would be highlighted in the background leaving concerns about sanitation and aesthetics, that together with urban traffic marked the first cycle of brazilian cities modernization. General issues related to sprawl, problems of urban transport and housing would discussed in a systematic way in meetings, conferences and congresses organized by centers of knowledge, beyond the publicity disseminated through journals and through newspapers articles.

Transfers and translations from concepts like urban reinterpretations and adaptations to the brazilian reality reflect a search focused on solving urban problems. The experience of other countries, particularly what was done in U.S. and Europe cities, is a matter of routine as a benchmark for what should be put into practice in Brazil's urban centers. The list of accomplishments included plans for renovations since even the implementation of new cities, among which the cases were located in factory towns as Letchworth and Welwyn, who followed the design of Howard, and another examples. These examples were lined up according to the rules of modern urbanism, as opposed to uncontrolled urban development, place - common in brazilian cities, which prevailed in the interests of entrepreneurs to the detriment of the community.

In the State of Minas Gerais, issues relating to urban problems tied initially to the tradition connected with the work of sanitary engineering. In the late nineteenth century in terms of benchmarks, the technicians were attentive to the scientific progress that incessantly operates new and wonderful discovery, so they can not be ruled out other interventions over the old cities of Europe, and the practical sense assimilated by American engineers, as was the case of proposals developed by engineer Francisco Rodrigues Saturnino de Brito in his extensive work and the work of its followers. In the first decades of the twentieth century, Minas Gerais state, highlight paths of engineers as Lourenço Baeta Neves and Lincoln de Campos Continentino. Neves led the Municipal's

Commission Improvements, between 1910 and 1914, and has developed proposals for assistance for small and medium-sized cities in the state. Continentino already had a large role, with proposals for several towns in Minas Gerais, besides the urban plan development elaboration to the Capital - Belo Horizonte, developed from 1934. Neves and Continentino also joined the staff of the Technical Advisory Committee of Belo Horizonte, first as president, and, second, by the subcommittee of Architecture and Urbanism. The intense movement of ideas from the conferences and international exhibitions, as well as through specialized publications contributed greatly to this.

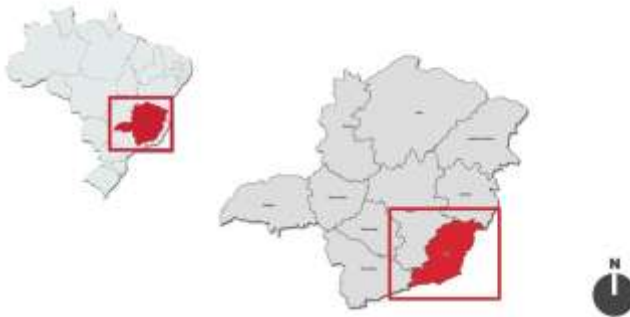


Figure 1. The State of Minas Gerais in Brazil and its planning regions, particularly the Zona da Mata, where is the *Federal University of Juiz de Fora - UFJF*. IBGE; João Pinheiro Foundation.

It is important emphasizing the effect on inland state towns, than it did in Belo Horizonte - the modern planned city in the late nineteenth century, by a committee of engineers and architects, led by engineer Aarão Reis. In the late nineteenth century in a letter dated October 22, 1894, addressed to Fernando Osorio Reis, then led the construction of Minas Gerais' new capital, mentioned the intention to a trip to meet the modern cities of Argentina. The intent of this communication was in order to update with regard to knowledge about cities, particularly on the Argentina cities. Still, the engineer planned to visit at the earliest opportunity the great modern cities in order to be informed more precisely about what was done there.

TRANSLATIONS AND APROPRIATIONS OF URBAN IDEOLOGIES IN MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

In the first decades of the twentieth century, raises the performance of engineer Lourenço Baeta Neves, the head of Municipal's Commission Improvements, between 1910 and 1914, as mentioned, which developed numerous proposals for action in terms of sanitation and improvements to the towns of the state. In his "*Cities' hygiene*" Baeta Neves demonstrates enough grip on the issues of urban sanitation, with references to foreign authors and mention the work of engineer Francisco Rodrigues Saturnino de Brito. This, with whom Neves maintains dialogue and develop joint work, was well considered. In this sense, following the apostolic work of engineer Saturnino de Brito, Neves calls for a hygienic environment, this appeal that already shows a transfer of different ideologies. Examples cited from concrete achievements, as the city of Pasadena in the United States, refer to the concept of garden city.

From the 30s, issues related to the cities' modernization, applicants with district authorities, began to be combined with other issues such as zoning, traffic and urban traffic, the town planning legislation and leisure. Thus we note the proposals outlined by Francisco Rodrigues Saturnino de Brito engineer, from the late nineteenth century, and even in Minas Gerais case, in the performance of the engineer Lourenço Baeta Neves in favor of municipalities' development.

In this endeavor, another tecnicien Lincoln de Campos Continentino established contact with many professionals, between the years 1930 and 1960, through participation in technical and scientific events. Between the years 1927 and 1929, Continentino expertise in sanitary engineering from Harvard University in the United States as a mission of state government, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. This specialization, offered by the engineering course, involved issues related to urban sanitation, addressing the State and Municipal Sanitation, prioritizing issues relating to water supply and sewage treatment in cities. The course consisted of lectures and seminars with specific evidence and practical laboratory work, which involved global analysis on projects. These tests were developed through practical examples of cities like Cleveland, Milwaukee and Buffalo, among others. The topics studied by Continentino been following, Requisite Qualities of Water Supplies, The U.S. Treasury Standards, Natural Purification, Control of Catchment Areas and Reservoirs, Sanitary Control of Water Supplies, Sedimentation and Coagulation; Dosing Apparatus, Devices Mixing, Sedimentation and Coagulation Basins; Filtration Analysis of Filtering Materials, Sand and Sand Handling Washing, Control Laboratory of Filtration Plants, Design of Slow Sand Filters, Design of Rapid Sand Filters, Iron Removal, Water Softening, Disinfection, Iodization; Sewage Disposal by Dilution,

and Screening Grit Chambers, including the Activated Sludge Treatment Tank; Design of Settling Tanks and Activated Sludge Tanks, Sewage Filters, Quality of Water Supplies, Planning catchment areas and reservoirs, Sanitary control of water supplies, Scoring systems, Aeration, Corrosion. In addition these subjects studied, Continentino also highlighted other issues relating to urban planning as airports, by Hubbard and colleagues, Neighborhoods of Small Homes, by Robert Whitten and Thomas Adams and Urban Land Uses by Harland Bartholomew. This specialization was one of the most important benchmark in the history of Lincoln Continentino. In this sense, the approximation strategy on urban problems in a practical and objective manner, such as seized at Harvard, has always been present in the performance of this technical.

In this sense, terms of translations and transfers, Continentino stood out for its technical mastery, as found in his own book "Sanitation and Urban Development", published in 1937, which discusses various topics, presenting the final plans for Belo Horizonte and Monlevade cities, and a conference on municipal administration and urban development, held at the Rotary Club in 1933. The book bibliography related many Brazilian authors, such as Saturnino de Brito, Reis, Prestes Maia, Baeta Neves, among others, and various books and magazines, including *Der Städtebau*, by J. Stübben, Town planning in practice, by Raymond Unwin, *Urbanisme et Ville Radieuse* by Le Corbusier. The cast of this Continentino sources further stated the signs of the books Life and growth of cities, Joaquim de Almeida Matos, City planning, of Harols Lewis, Recent advances on town planning, from Thomas Adams, Outline of the great avenues of São Paulo, by Prestes Maia, *Remodelation d'une capital*, from Agache, Harvard city planning studies, and President Hoover's conference on housing.

Participation in technical and scientific events was another important strategy by Continentino, like, in 1935, the III Pan-American Conference of Red Cross, held in Rio de Janeiro, where he presented a paper entitled: Sanitation - Sanitary's Engineering Contribution to improving the health conditions in the cities. During this period presented the thesis organization leprosariums in Congress Unification of Leprosy in Brazil. This work combined the projective components used in the plans developed by Continentino for leper, which were thought of as autonomous urban centers, compared to other cities. Segregation of patients constituted a vital element for the organization of these settlements. Thus were conceived the master plan of the Leper of Ibiá and to Santa Isabel Colony, both in Minas Gerais. In 1938, Continentino presented a paper at the Congress of Hygiene in Bogota, entitled Rural Sanitation - water supply - sewage - refuse collection and waste - what you do, if you want, and can be done in Brazil on the subject. Already in 1958, was promoted in Belo Horizonte, the third seminar of Teachers of Sanitary's Engineering, which had the participation of American experts. Continentino was primarily responsible for organizing the seminar, having delivered the opening speech in which he made an overview on the health issue in Brazil. Already in 1960, he participated on the Congress of the Interamerican Association of Sanitary's Engineering (AIDIS), held with the Fifth Congress of Teachers of Matters Related to Sanitary's Engineering, in Rio de Janeiro. Also at this event was held the Seminar on Control of Water Pollution. Continentino presented the work

URBAN TRANSFORMATION: Controversies, Contrasts and Challenges

entitled Potable Water, and proposal for creation of Municipalities Department. Concerns Continentino focused on localized problems, such as the proposed interventions to existing cities or to create new cities, was extended so progressive. Issues covering regional problems become frequent in his performance, in addition to proposals for rural towns and even cities in other states. And there were several projects undertaken by him, beginning with the urban plan to São Lourenço city, a plan to Araxá Hidromineral (1933), the Urban Development Plan of National Aircraft Factory of Lagoa Santa (1938) and Santa Isabel's Colony Leper (1931-32), near Belo Horizonte. Particular attention deserves its share in 1934, the contest held by *Companhia Siderurgica Belgo-Mineira*, to the urban plan of Monlevade, which won. Yet developed plans for Belo Horizonte (1941), Dores de Boa Esperança (1942), Belo Vale (1942), Curvelo (1943), among others. In the late '50s, incorporating the *Comissão do Vale do São Francisco*, Continentino developed plans for urbanization Pirapora (MG), Propria (SE), Penedo (AL), Juazeiro (BA), Petrolina (PE). In 1955, forwarded a proposal of urbanization plan for Januária city (MG). For these plans Continentino always counted on the participation of other professionals to enable the implementation of their urban planning ideas. The land development plans involving interventions on certain existing realities, they studied through site visits and through surveys. It is believed that the more accurate these surveys, the greater the level of detail of the technical solutions defined in the plan. These questions covered the sphere of urban planning, combining issues related to economy, transportation and urban policies.

Another professional, Angelo Alberto Murgel active at the early 30's also participated in technical and scientific events. As a student in 1931, Murgel expressed their concerns regarding possible alternatives for the Brazilian architecture. Taking advantage of the presence, at that moment, the architect Frank Lloyd Wright, speaking at Fine Arts National School, he directed a question to the american architect on the new directions of architecture: What was at stake the best way then copy between modernism abroad or to create a style according to local needs? Wright was in Brazil, as invited by the Pan American Union, to participate as a judge of the International Competition. In response, Wright introduced the concept of organic architecture, which, depending on local conditions could offer multiple solutions and approaches. This reference was important to Murgel, both in his final course work, as to throughout his professional practice, in seeking a suitability of their proposed intervention to local conditions, whereas some regional particularities. Murgel also participated in technical and scientific events, such as the V Pan American Congress, where he did work with the title "The profession of architect: considerations on its legislation". This congress had the foresight to occur in the Cuban capital, Havana, in 1933, held only seven years later, in 1940, in Montevideo, Uruguay. Murgel developed a plan for Monlevade city in 1934, along with ideas and plans for National Parks (Itatiaia, Serra dos Órgãos and Foz do Iguaçu) in the years 1939-40, and Agroindustrial Center in Itaparica in 1942.

During this period another professional, Francisco de Oliveira Baptista also had performance in Minas Gerais. To Baptista de Oliveira, urban planning theories, were intended to end the mass balance built component of the urban landscape

with the elements of nature. To solve the problems it depends on the observation of some aspects such as: legislation, hygiene, traffic, finance, buildings, which are closely linked and should be treated concurrently. In 1937 he published the book "Elementary Notions of Urbanism " and in the same period the book "Urban Notes," both of which discuss issues relating to urban problems. From July 1938, Oliveira would edit the journal "Planning and routes", whose main focus refers to the problems of urbanism, in which he extolled the need for improved living conditions in cities with the appeal centered on issues of urbanism. The editorial "First Plan", which announced the first issue, stressed the magazine as a vehicle for vulgarization of the subjects concerning the matter and the interests so particularly Brazilian.

The following year, Baptista de Oliveira represented the Engineering Club at the "1st Pan American Congress of People's House" held in Buenos Aires. This congress, Baptista de Oliveira presented paper on the house and popular aspect of urban cities, where he said the problem of urban slums, in shacks and hovels, exemplifying the characteristics of each, its materials, its residents, the area of coverage and its peculiarities. This work also stressed on the settings in the area and stressed that all these models are substandard housing and very low income. After this assignment, he had model homes proletarian least, why he developed cost housing within the reach of low-income residents. Then highlights the experiences in other countries with homes, plans and projects for popular neighborhoods, with examples from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and the United States, explaining the solutions given in each case. Oliveira has developed proposals for land development plans and neighborhoods in Juiz de Fora, as the model for the proletarian neighborhood Companhia Industrial Mineira in 1938. In 1941, Oliveira organized the "1 st Brazilian Congress of Urbanism" held in Rio de Janeiro. Commissions study harbored predominantly architects and engineers, which persisted in discussions already underway in previous events, about the professional attributes related to interventions on the cities. Among the participants, again noticed the presence of experts, like Alfred Agache. Addressed several issues in this Congress, with emphasis on the conceptualization of the term "urbanism" discussed emphasized problems related to urban zoning, master plans, housing, sanitation, street traffic, and even tourism. As in other scientific events reiterated the need for an orientation to the urban development of cities, based on an accurate zoning established by a regulatory strategy and regional levels. It recommended also that the plan system should fit the topography of the land, beyond the necessity of creating parks and gardens. In addition, land should be acquired by the municipality, preserved with reforestation suitable for adaptation to future needs of city and rural areas in the vicinity of urban areas should be aimed at training forest parks for the use of population, forming a kind of green belt. Another important consideration relates to the city and its region, for which regional plans should be developed that took into account the ordering of the suburbs, as well as neighboring cities related to urban center. The issue of housing should be addressed so systematized, under the master plan, with specific technical studies aimed at quick and economical, and was also the solution advocated the construction of garden cities by the proletarian government.

Still, from the mid '40s, calls for a modern city - in a sense related to the Modern Movement - would reach a larger number of cities. This process will also see the important role of Oscar Niemeyer architect, but would also involve the action of other professionals, mostly architects, like Francisco Bologna, Henrique Mindlin, Sergio Bernardes, Icaro de Castro Mello, Eduardo Mendes Guimarães, Raphael Hardy and engineers also as Arthur Arcuri. With Niemeyer highlight the Pampulha in 1942 in Belo Horizonte, with extensive program involving Casino, Church, Hotel, Restaurant and Dance Hall, and a Yacht Club and Golf Course. Bologna has already developed Araxá complex waters in 1945, year of graduation, which involved the deployment of equipment in a public park with extensive landscaping by Roberto Burle-Marx. The proposal was inserted in the expansion area of Araxá city understood by Barreiro Araxá in which, even in 1933, was defined as an overall plan by engineer Continentino. In 1954, interventions jointly developed a modern language, have been developed to different towns in Minas Gerais. The proposal for the Garden City neighborhood Eldorado, by Sérgio Bernardes architect, involved the fragmentation of farmland adjacent to Industrial district of Belo Horizonte, Contagem city, for the deployment of joint residential self-sufficient. In Uberaba/MG, in this same period, a sports complex, for Icaro de Castro Mello, composed of the Jockey Club, which covered a significant part of this city. The joint assembly functional, defined in different blocks, wrapped program comprising parking, gym, office, support equipment and sporting goods. In Belo Horizonte, the planning of Pampulha University city of involved a long process, begun in 1928, the competition for University of Minas Gerais campus, generating controversial discussions that stretched well into the 50s. The competition was attended by twenty-three competitors, among them the architects Angelo Bruhns, Eduardo V. Pederneiras and Flavio de Carvalho. In 1955, the works in progress, showing the technological innovations and modern urban language incorporated by the Commission on Planning and Construction, headed by Eduardo Mendes Guimarães architect. In 1955, another architect Henrique Ephin Mindlin developed project for Companhia Siderurgica Mannesman in Barreiro, a district of Belo Horizonte/MG that involving a housing. The set up around the factory as a real new city, with a comprehensive program to serve a population of about twelve to thirteen thousand. Another important intervention, set up by the project developed by Raphael Hardy in 1957 to Ipatinga/MG. The proposed new city involved the assemblage of an urban center adjacent to the premises of the steel mill in Minas Gerais SA - Usiminas. Already in 1965, we have the proposal submitted by Arthur Arcuri, the competition for the University of Juiz de Fora campus. This was defined by a sectorial development plan, which included a road system adapted to the topography of the site. The competition for the implementation of the project involved four proposals, they originated in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte, in addition to the winner's own Arcuri.

The modern language, written in different scales, would lead to the disruption of traditional urban design. In the proposals developed for the cities, we identifies the assimilation of certain principles related to the thought of Le Corbusier and the ideas disseminated through the International Congress of

Modern Architecture - CIAM's, allied to other urban parts - such as the garden city ideal in terms of assemblage of buildings and their insertion into the urban environment. This plans establish new conception of public space in which to integrate the building with the city's largest, surrounded by artistic inserts and landscape - sculptures, murals and tiles are combined with different plants species, which extended the limited space and defined in the traditional city street. Despite the impact on the modernization of cities as we shall see, most of these interventions - except for proposals for new cities - were not linked to the overall planning of urban development. Proposals and achievements for the Minas Gerais towns reveal a multifaceted penetration process of urban planning ideologies in the State. Different themes were addressed in interventions, expansion plans and proposals for the creation of new cities. Different strands of modern urbanism attend, in many cases, combined simultaneously. Moreover, the proposed interventions, particularly those involving the insertion of large urban objects, occurred in structures that are already consolidated. In this sense, it appears that the cities modernization, in many cases, by insertion of the paradigms of the Modern Movement, was implemented through a disconnected architectural planning. The impact of these interventions in urban dynamics, and the significance of those in urban transformations, can not be overlooked especially when dealing with small and medium-sized cities. The new concepts of city built on these propositions passed part of the routine of residents and the speech of its public servants. After all, through these interventions, there was a change in cities panorama, the new language of the buildings included in the urban as well as the quality and character of his distinguished public spaces, which widened the street space and altered the traditional logic fragmented urban occupations.

Finally, reflections on city environmental, which emerge in these translations and transfers of ideologies, configured as a long, extended for decades, which involved discussions, proposals and achievements to the cities. The presence of experts, in the main events after between 30 and 40 years, shows interest in issues related to urban planning. Through writings and drawings from private or even in front of public offices, architects and engineers interfered in the construction of an urban thinking and practices on cities. And this construction involved the translation and transfer models applied to the reality of Minas Gerais' towns, with trajectories that reveal the process of assimilation of urban ideologies at stake. Strands differentiated attend the discourses and practices on cities, as hypotheses to be demonstrated or even dismantle, in other approaches, which we intend to continue ...

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