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from traditions to newest demands**



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Planning codes and the emergence of anti-urban form

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Abstract

The result of recent urbanisation in Brazilian cities has been consistently described by the use of images such as ‘gated city’, ‘anti-urban typologies’, or ‘the city of walls’. (Caldeira, 1996a, 1996b, 2000; Figueiredo, 2012; Netto, 2017) Such images reflect a narrative of loss (Arefi, 1999) regarding the connection between places and people. They reflect a dominant pattern of segregation in cities, what is sometimes described as ‘anti-urban’. As cities continue to transform following this anti-urban model, the risks of exacerbating social and spatial divides increases and possible progressive responses are made very difficult. Segregation in this context follows a new logic, no longer a mere opposition centre-periphery but a hybrid and intertwined set of “...architectural typologies, spaces and transportation systems that favour a few ways of life over all others.”(Figueiredo, 2012, p. 1)

Some of the recent developments of this discussion about urban form and segregation have focused on the street interface. This interface is described as the place to negotiate the demands of both the private and public realm and to provide the means or affordances to sustain public life.

This paper investigates the connections between urban morphology and planning design codes and normative in a Brazilian city, Recife. It describes the associations of the street interface with planning. The initial phases of the research (Carvalho Filho & van Nes, 2017; Carvalho Filho, Van Nes, Filho, & Van Nes, 2017) revealed significant relations between the spatial parameters regulated on planning instruments and the emergence of several typologies of the street interface. One of these types, building with blind plinths, resonates characteristics of the anti-urban typology described in the literature (Caldeira, 1996b; Figueiredo, 2012). Correlating in time the changes in parameters present in the planning codes with the emergence and spread of this typology in Recife demonstrates that the methodological approach of the research can identify relations not so evident currently between planning and urban form and the possible implications for public life.

Keywords

Segregation, planning codes, ant-urban form