

Beyond the classroom: some experiences of brazilian universities

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This roundtable will discuss five community outreach experiences coordinated by architecture and urban planning professors from four different Brazilian universities from different regions of Brazil. The dissemination of these experiences is significant in a way to show possible paths of how the urban planning under graduation courses can happen also beyond the classroom, with community outreach and social engagement from our professors and students. 1 - Lapenna Neighbourhood: Housing Upgrading and Mapografia Project – Profs. Camila D'Ottaviano and Jorge Bassani. Since the partnership with Tide Setubal Foundation, the USP team is working in Jardim Lapenna in two different projects: the Housing Upgrading Project and the Mapografia. The first project aims to provide technical knowledge for the improvement of housing conditions. The second emphasis on high school students understanding and appropriation of the urban environment and public space where they study and live.

The project enables the University' students to have a social engagement experience in areas of São Paulo's East Zone and interventions that empower household improvement. The project has the support of the Division of Community Outreach of USP.

2 – Community outreach: report of an students autonomous experience on housing improvement in a rural settlement - Prof. Caio Santo Amore, Bárbara Muhle, student, and Marina Bottini, student. This experience is an autonomous initiative of the "Group of Agro-ecological building" that involves graduate and undergraduate students of FAUUSP. From an earlier approach to a rural settlement with 28 families, organized by Rural Workers Landless Movement (MST) in Cajamar, a students group works recognizing housing needs and develops upgrading projects and search for funding to enable the improvements and even the construction of new houses. Decisions and technical work are shared and discussed, involving students and the settlement families with a very clear subject, which recognizes and tries to deal with housing needs. The experience is relevant because on the way it interferes potentially in the University education process as recovers some principles defined by the student organizations of architecture and urbanism in the 1990s.

3 – Orquídea Libertária Project – Prof. João Farias Rovati and Bibiana Borda, student. The Orquídea Libertária Project is developed by the Mutual Working Solidarity Cooperative Utopia and Struggle (COOPSUL-Cooperativa de Trabalho Mista Solidária Utopia e Luta) in partnership with the Gravataí Association of Waste Charioteers and Pickers (ATRACAR) and with the support of City NGO (ONG Cidade). In a plot with 1.2ha in Gravataí conceded by Federal government will be constructed 50 housing units. The housing complex design is supported by City-in-Design laboratory and by the Faculty of Architecture/UFRGS Laboratory of Research and Community Outreach. This experience means an important exchange of knowledge, which provides opportunities to teachers and students learning about the particularities of architectural design for the population in conditions of extreme social vulnerability.

4. Popular Urban Planning School Project Alagoas – Profs. Regina Dulce Lins and Debora de Barros Cavalcanti. In a context of major social and political changes, citizen participation in defining public policies must be rethought. The Popular Urban Planning School Project Alagoas arises from the need to empower everyone involved in urban and housing management, especially

community leaders. The idea is to create an articulated training program to territorialized processes of local development, to strengthen the institutional aspects of popular organizations, preparing the participants to think and act on the territory where they live and circulate. Moreover, given the difficulty of dialogue between popular and public and private sectors, the Planning School will seek to innovate creating new spaces of confrontation and discussion of ideas. 5 - The Right to Dignified Housing and City Communities Meeting – Prof. Renato Pequeno. Coordinated by the Housing Studies Laboratory of Federal University of Ceará (LEHAB) and the Housing Struggle Front the Right to Dignified Housing and City Communities Meeting aims to bring together members of social movements and field researchers to dialogue about urban and housing conflicts and to collectively think up resistance strategies and alternatives. The meetings allow the debate about the lack of integration between urban policies and the proper housing agenda and contribute to the joint and strengthening of popular movements. The meetings aim to promote the empowerment of the population directly affected by excluding city model. Ford Foundation, CNPq and Brazil Human Rights Fund support the meetings.