

Urban Regeneration in Sao Paulo: New Waterfront as Possibilities for Transformation

Lessons Learned from Sao Paulo



On Tuesday 25th October, 2022, Pedro Martin Fernandes (Advisor, City Hall of Sao Paulo), was invited to give a lecture at the Politecnico di Milano, Master Program in Building and Architectural Engineering. The impact of the lecture was significant as students had the opportunity to understand theoretical perspective from a new point of view, applied to a real project and based on integrated strategy for problem solving.

The **IMM Design Lab** investigates the interaction of **urban-morphology and environmental (energy) performance** of a city, seen as complex urban systems, through **the IMM methodology**, developed for this purpose. Since 2016, the IMM Design Lab has also been working on the relation between environmental performance as driver for upgrading informal settlements.

These relations are **multi-faceted**, as persistent social tend to be **interconnected** with complementary problems and influenced by multiple and often conflicting values, interests, and perspectives.

In the framework of IURC-LA, a delegation from Milan had the opportunity to undertake a **Study Visit in Sao Paulo**, in September 2022. One of the field visit carried out was to the "**Cantinho do ceu** - South Sao Paulo waterfront project" to recover the waterfront through a linear park in a favela.

The delegation have been positively impressed by Sao Paolo Municipality's project, showcasing **high levels of awareness about the environmental performance and social inclusion complex and intertwined relationship**, through a systemic, holistic, and integrated approach. The involvement of citizens in decision-making processes also promoted **social justice and equity**.

The visit resulted in an invitation from the IMM Design Lab for Pedro Fernandes to present related topics at the Politecnico. The invitation will be reconducted to **open-up the possibility for Sao Paulo's team to deliver future lectures**.

"The exchange of knowledge taking place during the lecture allowed all the participants to be fully aligned on the nature of problems faced by contemporary cities and in this regard, to share possible methodological approaches and actions to develop common solutions."

- Prof. Massimo Tadi



3 Lessons learned from Milan

1 Interconnectivity of environmental and social issues: A holistic approach recognises that environmental performance and social inclusion are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Addressing one issue cannot be done in isolation from the other.

2 Importance of community participation: recognizes the critical role that informal settlement residents and communities play in shaping territorial development and improving social outcomes. Importance of involving communities in decision-making processes and of building their capacities to participate effectively.

3 Value of a systemic approach: displays challenges linked to promoting environmental performance and social inclusion in informal settlements are part of larger systemic issues, therefore highlighting the need to consider their interconnectivity.



3 Lessons learned from Sao Paulo

1 Zoning and land uses: showcases the importance of not only seeing projects as infrastructural. Sheds a light on beauty and importance of organic processes happening in informal settlements and their role in strengthening community aspects of the urban fabric.

2 "Thinking global, Acting Local": to use systemic approach for urban centres and peripheral favelas, but applied locally and adapted.

3 Value of cooperation: Sharing the same point of view across different geographical contexts allows to exchange experiences and open up dialogue on common points of views.

"The lecture allowed to trigger new questions through a productive dialogue, that highlights the importance and relevance of cooperation."

- Pedro Martin Fernandes

