CULTURAL IDENTITY IN URBAN SPACES
SANTO AMARO DAS BROTAS, BRAZIL

INCLUSIVE AND GREEN PUBLIC SPACES CONTRIBUTING TO THE EXPRESSION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Santo Amaro das Brotas is a city in the state of Sergipe, Brazil. In the century during the eighteenth century, during the Portuguese colonization, the city was one of the most important nuclei of population in the state, thanks to its proximity to the Rio Sergipe, which favored the flow of sugar production. In this context, there are two public spaces that are fundamental because they reflect the local history and the population’s identity. The Plaza Cel. Jacinto Ribeiro was constructed to form the initial urban center and is characterized as a civic-religious space and main stage of the cultural manifestations of the population. In contrast, the Plaza São Benedicto is characterized by its residential environment and history marked as a place of cultural resistance from the city’s black community. The objective of this project, considering goal 11 is to help build sustainable cities and communities, in this specific case promoting green and inclusive public spaces, allied with the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Therefore, in this project we seek the urban and landscaping requalification of these two plazas, taking into account their historical relevance, making them more inclusive, accessible and attentive to the people’s needs. A participatory process with local people, including children, was held in order to understand their needs and aspirations. During this project, goal 17 - Partnerships for the objectives was also relevant, as partnerships were established with the SEL-RJ Group/ PROARQ –UFRJ study group under the coordination of professor Vera Tângari, the NGO Ciranda Alternativa, the Oliva Ribeiro Foundation and the Santo Amaro das Brotas civil society.

THEMES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

Plazas: Typologies and uses as public space
Cultural and Natural Heritage: Forms of Appreciation and Preservation
Participatory process: Inclusion of civil society in government decisions about cities.
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PROJECT PROCESS

1 Analyzing the public spaces of Santo Amaro das Brotas
   • Documentation of local history and culture, topography, use of public spaces and morphology.
   • Identification of the most relevant public spaces for the community: Plazas Cel, Jacinto Ribeiro and São Benedito.
   • Definition of project objectives and concepts.

2 Involving the local community for the Participatory Process
   • Identification of local partners.
   • Identifying the target audience and main users of public space: children, women and adults over 60 years.
   • Definition of the approaches used during the participatory process to ascertain their perceptions of plazas.
   • Holding of the first Participatory Workshop on Plazas Cel, Jacinto Ribeiro and São Benedito.

3 Elaboration of the architectural project proposal for Plazas Cel, Jacinto Ribeiro and São Benedito
   • Determination of local community claims.
   • Application of claims in Project Proposals.

4 Stage 2 Participatory Success - Presenting Project Proposals
   • Production of models of initial proposals.
   • Second Participatory Workshop on Plazas Cel, Jacinto Ribeiro and São Benedito.
   • Readjustments indicated by the community.
   • Final presentation of project proposals.

A COMMUNITY VOICE:
A participatory process was designed with the purpose of having community collaboration through meetings and workshops. This participatory process was divided into three phases: First, some activities were developed to highlight how young people and adults could perceive and use the open spaces, like squares, and what would be their desire for improvements in these spaces. Allowing the idea of perception and reading of open spaces, a cognitive mapping was carried out with children to understand the children’s appropriation of these spaces. The third phase of the participatory process, still in progress, will be the final presentation of the projects and guidelines for the community.

PROJECT IMPACTS:
We highlight as main positive aspects of this project the dissemination of SDG’s, as well as the participatory process favored the understanding of the community about its political voice in the face of governmental decisions. We also mention the disclosure of heritage values and the community’s recognition of its cultural heritage. If implemented the project should also favor the local economy, also helping in the social development of the city. In addition, the partnerships established enabled the creation of a support network for cultural and natural preservation of Santo Amaro das Brotas.

THE PROJECTS:
sought to secure civil society demands for green and accessible spaces, while respecting the cultural and religious functions related to Plazas Cel, Jacinto Ribeiro and São Benedito. They also aimed at the establishment of a playground with the maintenance of elements that favor the playfulness and imagination of children. The plazas along with the surrounding areas to the Porto das Redes were determined as areas of preservation of local cultural and natural heritage. The project also foresees the creation of a heritage circuit that extends from the Porto das Redes to the plazas.

FUNDERS:

PARTNERS:

PROJECT TEAM:

LOCAL CHALLENGE PROJECT 2020 is a partnership between The Center for Sustainable Urban Development, The Center for Cultural Diversity, and the Faculty of Architecture, Federal University of...