



OBSOLESCENCE and RENOVATION

20th Century Housing in the New Millennium

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form: // Resumen (Formulario de Propuesta Inicial:

1. Title / Título: From trekking boots to high heels. A perspective towards the role of academia and technicians within urban renovation processes

2. Format / Formato: Written paper

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6. Abstract (300 words): / Resumen (300 palabras):

In recent times new governance processes have gradually begun playing a central role in urban regeneration: the user's point of view, proposals and requirements are now supposed to be taken into consideration as the basis for the formulation of policies and projects. However, the absence of strategies to promote participation in official documents, together with the obsolescence of those traditionally used and tested, have led to failure when turning theoretical methods into reality.

Current experiences of renovation of obsolete neighbourhoods and housing stock reveal the need to build bridges between users, society and public authorities, so that public participation and governance practices do not consider citizens as an advisory board but, on the contrary, as actual, proactive agents in the process.

In this context, the figure of the academician/technician - and its vantage point implying the ability to incorporate disparate languages and aims - emerges as a catalyst for change, translation, the transfer of opinions and implementation in practice. In this sense, naming a person or institution as a mediator between two opposing parties has been seen as useful process. This "valid representative", being recognised by both parties, is able to speak with them in their own linguistic register.

This paper will reveal the key issues to take into consideration, discuss the theoretical bases of participation, and focus on the analysis of best practices in the southern regions of the Iberian Peninsula (formerly Andalusia, Alentejo and Algarve).

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):

Biografía del Autor(es) (200 palabras máximo para todos los autores):

Blanca Del Espino Hidalgo is a Doctor in Architecture, specialized in Urban Heritage and Sustainability. She is currently a Post-Doctoral researcher and at the University of Seville, at the Urban Studies and Land Management Department of the Higher Technical School of Architecture, where she has been working for four years as research personnel in training with a PhD grant. She also got a Master Degree in Architecture and Heritage and a Master Degree in Sustainable Architecture and Cities from the University of Seville, Spain. Her main research area deals with the idea of sustainability in urban heritage, focusing on small intermediate cities in the centre of Andalusia, and extending her hypothesis to the networks of cities in the Southern regions of Portugal: Alentejo and Algarve. Since October 2014, she has been the Coordinator of the Strategic Plan of Lucena (Córdoba). She also works in the fields of Landscape, particularly Historic Urban Landscape and Intermediate Landscapes, Strategic Planning, Architecture and Gender studies. In addition, she covers the integration of creativity, architecture and urbanism in primary schools. She has developed several

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