



Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Sustainability in metropolitan planning: urban ecology, a different perspective on urban dispersion

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Written paper

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5. Abstract (300 words):

Sustainability in metropolitan planning: urban ecology, a different perspective on urban dispersion

The urban phenomenon at the turn of the 21st century, prompted by the restructuring in the capitalist way of production and accumulation, presents contrasting patterns:

densification of cities and dispersion of urban fabric in peri-metropolitan spaces. In short, it marks the beginning of regional urbanization. Theorists of urbanism already speculate about a new global spatial order (Marcuse & Van Kempen, 2000), or anticipate the end of cities as we know them (Choay, 1994). In fact, still to be well understood, the cities in the post-metropolitan transition are emerging to a new configuration (Soja, 2000).

Studies on new propositions that consider sustainability already account for some valuable experiments, including the inspiring plan for the metropolitan region of Istanbul, Arnavutkoy. Based on urban ecology concepts, interdisciplinarity and specificities of the natural environment, this plan presents highly innovative urban planning and design proposals by integrating urban areas as parts of a socio-ecological system. In addition, the Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry Program (UPF/FAO-UN) proposes a strong effort in protection and restoration of urban forests. Both plans create new perspectives for planning metropolitan regions.

Our case study focuses on the expansion of Salvador, a liberal-peripheral metropolitan region in Brazil, with population of 3.6 million, reached by international capital during the 1980's, mainly in the industrial and tourism sectors. The requirements for this international capital wave and the interest in engaging in a global economy favored the specialization of territory. These events gave way to urban transformations, including the processes of disperse urbanization throughout the 1990's-2000's and the need for innovation in order to create resilient, sustainable and more evenly distributed development. This region is treated analytically with the purpose of envisioning a more balanced relation between society and nature in the post-metropolitan transition.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Maria das Graças B. Gondim dos Santos Pereira

Brazilian Architect, bachelor's degree in Architecture from the Architecture College at the Federal University of Bahia (1979), specialization in Urban Design at the Architecture College at the Federal University of Bahia (1985), Master's Degree in Sustainable Development from the University of Brasilia (2008), and PhD candidate in Architecture and Urbanism at the Federal University of Bahia since 2013.

Assistant professor of Architecture and Urbanism at the Federal University of Bahia and Lead researcher at the Advanced Studies in City, Architecture, and Digital Technology Laboratory (LCAD). Professional positions as Coordinator of the Technology Project and Planning Group at the Federal University of Bahia (2014-2016) and Superintendent of the Urban Development Agency of the State of Bahia (2007-2011). Part of the Urban-Environmental Regional Tourism Planning Team (1997-2007).

Founded architecture firm and has held activities as a consultant for architectural and urbanistic projects as a member of the team at Santos Pereira Arquitetos Associados (1979-present).

Danilo Antônio Viana Lima

Agronomical Engineer, Bachelor's degree at the College of Agronomy and Animal Husbandry "Manoel Carlos Gonçalves" – UNIPINHAL (1986); Post graduate certificate in Environmental Management and Technology in Production Processes at the Polytechnic School, UFBA – Federal University of Bahia (2009); Currently a Master's degree student in Ecology Applied to Environmental Management at the Postgraduate Program in Ecology and Biomonitoring, Institute of Biology, UFBA (2015-2017); Contributor to the publications of the Plantarum Institute of Plant Studies (Brazilian Trees vol 3, Brazilian Palms, Fruits in Brazil and Garden Plants in Brazil); Participated in the Riparian Forest Project, Institute of Botany, at the São Paulo State Environmental Department; Field training in plant nursery production at the J. A. Ramcke Baumschule, Germany and Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, USA (visitor); Volunteer work in environmental conservation projects for: WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature, WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society, and IFF – Forest Factory Institute. Worked as Sustainability Manager in real estate developments at Sauipe Destination, Bahia. Currently works as a consultant and project developer in ecological restoration in restinga and atlantic forest ecosystems, native species landscaping, and nursery plant production for Agripalm Ambiental company.

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