

## Estudo Prévio 1 – Architect Suburb - Editorial

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Around the 1980s, in Portugal, following a trend that was already observable in many European cities, there was a paradigm shift in the attraction of cities, moving from the centripetal phase (where the city attracted people to its center) to a centrifugal phase (where the city expanded in a horizontal and dispersed movement). Since then, until today, many of these suburbs have grown without planning and with no ambition of spatial planning, which results in an expanded territory, dispersed and uncoordinated.

Despite the efforts of some initiatives to resolve various peri-urban areas, the truth is that most of them resulted in specific arrangements for some medium-sized cities and did not indicate any resolution for the disconnectivity of the various suburban centers, still dependent on the mother city. The figure of the planner – whether he is an urban planner or an architect – is often distant from any discussion of the suburbs, resulting in the production of territorial management instruments without a “concept”, which results in an overlap of instruments that do not help to solve problems effectively, creating growing contradictions. Even in terms of architectural production, few author architects receive orders placed in the suburbs, generating a professional myth that “you can’t do anything properly” except in the cities – excluding, of course, holiday homes or holiday homes. weekends, in bucolic spaces.

In this context, the widening of the discussion, and the possible demystification of the suburbs, is hampered by the ambiguity and dispersion that the concept is capable of assimilating. The suburb has become a word capable of integrating and signifying



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completely disparate spaces such as the segregated neighborhood (r), the periphery, the city limits, the neighborhoods, the industrial zones, satellite cities, outskirts, garden-cities, informal city, non-place, or, peri-urban territories.

In a general and agglutinating way, we can affirm that the word suburban bodes somewhat imprecise, in the process of becoming tangible and recognizable; something that over the years has been used to fix a series of undefined territories, or that were beginning to be understood; something that is diffuse and complex. However, we have to face these new territories, with a positive proactivity, looking for new operational concepts and deepening our knowledge of the different real situations, so that we can better understand the various types of suburbs, and act on them in the best possible way.

We hope that this number Estudo Prévio will start the debate around this extensive problem that wanders in the unconscious of all of us and that it is possible to transform the suburbs into fertile territories that promote solutions for “well-being and well-being” of the human being.