

Estudo Prévio 4 – Neighborhood Architect - Editorial

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As research topic, the neighborhood (Bairro) still is an urban object that goes side by side with the city's history and remains alive in the daily life and in the collective memory of its inhabitants, beyond the physical and functional changes that are occurring.

The debate of the Bairro as a place for proximity, identity and the promotion of architectural, social and cultural practices has reemerged in the last decades, somewhat counteracting the dynamics of change that characterize contemporary cities in the globalized world. This resurgence seems to be linked to the purpose of preserving aspects of the city that are more specific, in its cultural and heritage identity. To answer to this and other emerging goals, multiple local movements, social agents, actions and projects, both public and private, are arising today.

In this scenario, it seems to make more and more sense to speak of Bairro in the current map of large cities, where – perhaps paradoxically – housing, work, consumption and leisure are located several kilometers away and require motorized travel. It is though justified, on one hand, to register and publicize what is happening on a local scale and, on the other hand, to analyze local trends and phenomena having as a goal to include them into a broader theory of urban studies, supporting the debate and interventions in the contemporary city. Several questions arise: is the reemergency of the idea of the Bairro a contemporary urban need? Is the importance and availability of municipal



funds for interventions in Bairros within the city linked to the resurgence of the debate around the Bairro? Are these interventions underlining local authenticity or recreating glocal neighborhoods (global+local)?

The dossier published in this issue results from a research project where different knowledges were gathered, around the theme of the Bairro in contemporary Lisbon, starting from existing works towards an approach that seeks to deepen the concept itself, its multiple meanings and spatializations. Enquanto tema de investigação, o Bairro continua a ser um objeto urbano que acompanha a história da cidade e se conserva vivo no quotidiano e no imaginário coletivo dos seus habitantes, para além das alterações físicas e funcionais que vão ocorrendo.