

7th ICLA - INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF LANDSCAPE

Landscape is a fundamental paradigm for dealing with the challenges that the Earth has faced in recent decades. Its holistic essence allows several dimensions of reality to be amalgamated and, thus, support a wide range of professional activities, linked to design, planning and management. Understanding this potential allows the development of fair, innovative and sustainable proposals for the major problems that surround us, from socio-spatial inequalities to face the climate crisis.

However, Brazil, like several countries around the world, and especially Latin Americans, does not have a legal framework that supports the totality inherent to the concept of landscape. Despite the existence of laws and administrative bodies that protect the environment and cultural heritage, among other devices concerning the landscape, the landscape itself, in its complexity and transcendentality, does not appear in a forceful way in the different dimensions of public life, despite configuring a common good, perceived and experienced by every individual. In this aspect, its universality appears fragmented and diminished.

It can, therefore, be stated that Brazilian society has not yet assumed the potential of this concept, to understand and think about its past, present and future, to reflect on its identity, anchored in its rich and diverse tangible and intangible heritage, to act against the effects of the inequalities that marked its formation and, finally, to face the consequences of the global climate crisis. It is in this sense that landscape must be understood as a fundamental right and fulfill its social function.

International efforts to enforce this right, so that the landscape can fulfill its social function, have already been undertaken over the last few decades. Since the end of the last century, in the formulation of the European Landscape Convention (2000), its increasing value as an essential resource for all peoples of this portion of the Earth has been perceived. On our continent, some actions are part of a set of intellectual and political undertakings in light of the perspective opened by the European agreement. Among many, we can highlight the Brazilian Landscape Charter (2010), prepared by ABAP, the Landscape Charter of the Americas (2018), with the leadership of the International Federation of Landscape Architects, Americas Region (IFLA-AR) or (IFLA Americas), the Carta del Paisaje del Ecuador (2022), a collaborative work that was awarded at the V Latin American Landscape Architecture Biennial and, finally, the effort registered in the Latin American Landscape Agreement, led by LALI, in 2023. This succinct overview proves that we are in the right time for Brazil to take a firm stance in defending the social function of the landscape.

However, the challenges to consolidate this paradigm are enormous and they impact the capacity to consolidate the professional field of Landscape Architecture in Brazil. Taking advantage of the event in Curitiba, the case of Paraná State could be an



interesting motif for part of this reflection. Given that a state law requires municipalities to have Master Plans (MP) to capture state financial resources, since the promulgation of the The Statute of the City (2001), a study carried out in 2016* indicates the difficulties of applying this concept in the field of urban planning. Thus, of the almost 400 MP approved by municipal bodies, there were few in which the landscape was referenced and in those in which it had a certain protagonism in the documents, restrictive ideas and standard models were the keynote of this presence.

On the other hand, observing issues in the field of qualification and teaching, it is known that the number of subjects and educational time dedicated to reflection and debate on issues that emanate from the landscape is, increasingly, aggravated by the incisive reduction of its presence in the course schedule, under various subterfuges. However, it is important to highlight the great added value of scientific production on landscape in theses and dissertations in Postgraduate Programs in the areas of Architecture and Urbanism and Design and Urban and Regional Planning and Demography, proving the effective contribution of academia for the consolidation of the field of knowledge.

* CAETANO, F.; ROSANELI, A. A paisagem no Plano Diretor Municipal: uma reflexão sobre sua referência na legislação urbanística dos municípios paranaenses. In: EURE, 45, 134, pp.193-212, 2019.

With this concern, ABAP makes this public call to the professional, academic and scientific community to present and publicize their professional practices and activities, their research, their teaching and extension projects, among other possibilities, with the aim of discussing them and composing a general framework as an expression of our contribution to the ongoing process of learning and defending the landscape. To this end, contributions must be framed within the following thematic tracks:

1. **Right to the landscape** (Ethics, principles and values, Environmental racism, Environmental justice, Landscape democracy, Landscape citizenship, Inclusiveness, Accessibility, Participatory design, Community activism, Co-design, Socio-spatial inequality, Aging, Social Function of Landscape, Tourism, Public safety, Food safety, Public space, Open space, Design practice, Planning and Management).

Coordinator: Alessandro Filla Rosaneli

A right can be understood as a social construction, when at a given historical moment, it is based on an inviolable core, a framework that aims to guarantee, through politics, freedom, equality and human dignity. It is constituted, doubly, as a limitation imposed on the powers of the State and as an objective recognition of the relevance of its content for a given social arrangement. In this sense, it can function as a possible platform for demanding compliance with omissions by public authorities, also transforming into a guiding utopia for the social struggle. In turn, the landscape, given its diffuse nature and field of



epistemological disputes, has limited scope as a framework that supports a social or cultural right in many societies. In Brazil, although present in various legal and normative contexts, applied by different administrative spheres and studied and investigated by various fields of knowledge, it still lacks greater penetration in the legal dimension. Given that we interact with other living beings on Earth and with ourselves, the right to landscape can be established as a way of formally, materially and routinely implementing a more holistic, fair, equitable and sustainable relationship with life. Thus, it is configured as an expansion of human rights and a way of amalgamating different possibilities of thinking about the world. To this end, the work in this track seeks to indicate the limits and potential for asserting the social function of the landscape.

2. **The human dimension of landscape design, planning and management** (Appropriation, Landscape Perception, Everyday Practices, Public Space, Open Space, Accessibility, Landscape Perception, Aging, Urban Fear Coping, Urban Form, Identity Issues, Health and Well-being in the Landscape, Sustainable Urban Mobility, Active Mobility, Design Practice, Planning and Management)

Coordinator: Danielly Cozer Aliprandi

Working with the landscape presents several challenges, whether in design, planning or management, due to its numerous and complicated dimensions. Human beings construct their experiences and environments by acting on them because they carry out their everyday practices in and with them, molding them and being molded by them. The human dimension of landscape is the most direct and sensitive relationship between people and places. Working on this relationship requires us to consider the barriers in these spaces that make them less accessible and inclusive: facing fear; otherness; diversity; health and well-being; environmental quality; possible perceptions and apprehensions; the notion of identity and belonging; daily commuting; and so many other activities that are enhanced, particularly in open public spaces. These relationships are reflected and influenced by the landscape and urban form, confirming Landscape Architecture's sensitive function.

3. **The biophysical dimension of landscape design, planning and management (The project, planning and management biophysical dimension)** (Sustainable urban development, Urban form, Ecology, Agroecology, Urban agriculture, Urban afforestation, Urban forest, Public space, Open space, Environmental resource management, Ecological planting, Nature-based solutions, Green and blue infrastructure, SDGs, Productive landscapes, Ecotourism, Ecological footprint, Sustainability, Climate crisis, Climate-wise design, Urban brownfields, Resilience, Ecological restoration, Design, planning and management practice)

Coordinator: Camila Gomes Sant' Anna.



In the face of contemporary challenges such as climate catastrophe and biodiversity loss, how can we consider occupying the territory in balance with natural and cultural landscape processes? As a way to understand, imagine, plan, and manage the landscape, the contribution of various multi-scalar urban green strategies has been discussed, such as green and blue infrastructure, nature-based solutions, urban afforestation, urban forestry, and ecological restoration. Many of these recommendations address Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) such as lowering inequality, gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, safe drinking water and sanitation, clean and inexpensive energy, zero hunger, and sustainable agriculture.

4. **The historical and heritage dimension of landscape design, planning and management** (Heritage, Heritage values, Cultural identity, Public art, Historic urban landscape, Cultural landscape, Historic Landscapes Restoration and conservation, Traditional knowledge, Native people wisdom, Cultural tourism, Design practice, planning and management)

Coordinator: Aline de Figueirôa Silva

The current stage of urbanization in Brazilian cities, the profound inequalities that have characterized their social formation, and the consequences of these processes, manifested in urban and rural landscapes through the mischaracterization or suppression of open spaces, the mutilation of historical references, and the occupation and contamination of environmentally sensitive areas, necessitate reflection and action on a sustainable and inclusive basis. In this way, understanding the history of landscapes and the valorization of culturally significant areas is critical to tackling the issues that current society faces. There is a need to understand the historical formation of Brazilian landscapes, including basic open spaces such as squares, parks, and gardens, among other types of public open spaces and urban green spaces, as well as the establishment of actions to preserve the landscape heritage in both tangible and intangible dimensions, affirming the contribution of Landscape Architecture within the scope of design, planning, and management.

5. **Landscape formative processes** Landscape Architecture education formation; Methodologies and teaching resources; integrated studies; study of Brazilian and Latin American landscapes; teaching design and planning; extension applied to training)

Coordinator: Gutemberg Weingartner

Landscape Architecture educational formation in Brazil takes place within the interdisciplinary and generalist environment of undergraduate Architecture and Urbanism programs. Ideas are experienced, skills are developed, critical vision is polished, foundations are consolidated, and the prospect of renewing society's



thinking and actions on the landscape is opened up in the academic environment built up by project studios, extension activities, and research groups. This academic training has grown increasingly difficult due to the diversity of topics relevant to Brazilian reality - rich, complex, and unique - in contrast to the reduction in the number of studies available that deal objectively with landscape issues. The challenge applies to both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. There is a need to integrate these disciplines in order to strengthen overall training, particularly undergraduate instruction. As a result, in order to contribute to the discussion of issues concerning the teaching of Landscape Architecture, this axis proposes the following topics: integrated methodological dynamics for the apprehension and critical reflection on the landscape in the formation of architects and urban planners; interfaces of the reality of the Brazilian and Latin American landscape and its application in professional training; contemporary approaches and themes for the study of Brazilian landscape.

- 6. Landscape technology and innovation** (New construction technologies; New construction materials; New construction techniques; Landscape Architecture Innovations, Creative economy and the landscape; Smart cities; Design practice, Planning and Management)

Coordinator: Raquel Weiss

Technological advancements have made it possible to improve the quality of life for all living things on earth. Various benefits can be provided for the population in conjunction with technological innovations and with attention to social needs, economic constraints, and environmentally sustainable development, such as modernization of public services and urban infrastructures, digital transformation of production in various sectors of the economy and everyday life in cities, increased efficiency in the use of natural resources, safeguard of biodiversity, and so on. This predicament necessitates that cities constantly reinvent how they generate and organize themselves. In the field of Landscape Architecture, new construction techniques and materials are important allies for innovation to occur in professional practice, i.e., in projects, planning processes, and management, with continuous and systemic incorporation into public policies, programs, and development actions. The challenges are enormous, particularly in consolidating innovative, productive services and investment in human and social capital that is inclusive, equitable, environmentally friendly, and as broad as possible for society as a whole, so that it can also be used to combat socio-spatial segregation and the challenges imposed by the climate crisis.