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The Alameda de Hércules in Seville. The metamorphosis of a heritage space through experimentation in the 21st century. The evocation of the symbolic versus the morphological

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Abstract

The Alameda de Hércules is one of Seville's most famous and busiest spaces for local society and sporadic visitors. Its inherent condition of urban container, enclosure, has been accompanied since its construction in the sixteenth century by an indisputable social character. Although the various governing powers of the city have carried out spatial interventions aimed at control and order, its use has always been associated with a certain ungovernability, with a situation on the margins where "otherness" or marginalization have had a place. The last urban renewal, completed in 2008, has meant the "sanitization" of its most immediate urban context, while at the same time, it has led to the beginning of a process of gentrification and touristification, effects that are present throughout the Historical Complex. This text offers an integral perspective of a singular historical evolution in which a great capacity to host multiple events, festivities, claims and daily social life coexists with an invariability of its perimeter. Thanks to this functional entropy and material permanence, the Alameda condenses unique heritage values that define a way of inhabiting public space and a rare social resistance strategy to the dogmas of traditional urban planning discipline.

Keywords: Public Space, Mediterranean City, Isotropic Space, Urban Entropy, Festivities