

An appropriation experience of the empty space

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Abstract

Growing cities often leave empty spaces on historic and consolidated areas. The city of São Paulo (Brazil) experienced during the late 20th century a growth movement towards an every expanding area, leaving decaying buildings and public spaces in the city center. After decades of lack of investment on spaces for public interaction, the city experienced an emerging debate over who was entitled to use those spaces, from parks to streets and avenues.

This paper studies some of the spontaneous events that need the appropriation of public spaces for them to exist. Focusing on one of the most important São Paulo landmarks, the Paulista Avenue, it is developed a system to list residual spaces left on the urban fabric of the area. Studying concepts of public intervention, public space, and architecture heritage developed by authors as Bernard Tschumi, Jan Gehl and Marta Bogéa it is then proposed an intervention on one of the most representative residual spaces left by real estate speculation at Paulista Avenue.

The intervention proposed is the building of a new museum, the Sexual Diversity Museum, to exemplify the importance the avenue has as the stage for the fight for LGBT rights in Brazil. The final object is a building that is successful in its intention to open some of the last heritage buildings in the region to the population and creates a new public square.

Keywords: space; occupation; connection; museum; heritage.