Research Article

The Street and Habitat: Reflections in Times of Social Isolation

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Introduction

Thinking of a city in times of epidemic is nothing new. The first actions related to urbanism have their origins in the health issue. The theme of an urbanism that considers health and infrastructure issues has exponents around the world, with a highlight for the first plans of global relevance made in the nineteenth century in Western Europe, such as the Haussmann Plan for Paris and Cerdá for Barcelona (*SOUZA, 2010*) [1]. If on the one hand the opening of great avenues is questioned as being a political process of social control (reducing the possibility of demonstrations and increasing the efficiency of public services) (*HARVEY; 2015*) [2], on the other hand the advances achieved in the sense of a city that values the landscape, with consolidated urban fabrics, wooded roads, more qualified public spaces and with concerns for environmental comfort (lighting, ventilation and sanitation). This model of planned city had a world influence, especially by the current European academics, reaching Brazil in the first master plans formulated in the early twentieth century, especially for the cities of Rio de Janeiro Porto Alegre and Santos, the same period in which it manifested in other Latin American countries, such as in the urban planning of the city of Buenos Aires. Such plans often referred to as improvement or beautification plans did not yet make a strategic plan like the one we currently have, but they were fundamental from the perspective of new infrastructures that allowed a more orderly growth and addressing these fundamental issues for health, which made it possible. Future events such as the verticalization of buildings. The highlight here goes to the retreats that have long been mandatory in certain areas, especially in taller buildings. The incorporation of Urban Regimes into certain areas of the city aims to maintain the quality of the ambience and the urban landscape in consolidated areas and the balance between the supply of infrastructure and urban densification. In this sense, For these seem to be elements of urbanization that become valued and even re-signified in the city. Moments of pandemic are times when we seek respite. A comfort in the middle of a chaotic scenario. In this context, in which much of the contact of people with the city and others is through its window, have a beautiful landscape, bright and ventilated environments, longer roads and trees, a piece of garden that is a little more private, are elements that make a lot of difference in everyday life and in the emotional and psychic question. If on the one hand the urbanization planned by means of Urban Regimes was a mark of the 20th century in Brazil, being an element found in most of the Master Plans of medium and large cities, on the other hand it is understood that the result was not as planned. In addition, this is the scenario set at the beginning of the 21st century, characterized by a process of social distancing and exclusivity of coexistence between groups of the same socio-economic status where the territories are well delimited. Even in the face of seemingly peaceful coexistence between different groups, big capital promotes the construction of borders. Walled residential condominiums, shopping malls, large office buildings in coworking, industrial parks and other forms of dominant territorial organization in the construction of cities are set in a trend that suffers a shake from the new perception of the territory as interconnected, interdependent and consequently vulnerable within its borders (*VILLAÇA, 2012*) [2]. Now we have no more secure territory than to be the individual: the home. *Sennet (2018)* [3] cites Aristotle in Politics when he states that it is the city "made up of different types of men" and that "such people cannot give life to a city". Therefore, the vision of the house as living does not consider the needs of the citizens contrasting with the search for territorial segregation in the society of the first quarter of the century. The pandemic imposes a blow on the conception of contemporary cities and architecture. It unquestionably explains the gregarious character of humankind. Bitter remedy, can serve as a support for reflections on the inescapable need to extend social security to all by reconstituting the primacy of the private over the public and promoting a definitive appreciation of what is of collective and diversified use. The central question here is to problematize how the social isolation that is currently experienced, arising from a pandemic scenario, is configured as an opportunity to think elements related to urbanism, contemporary architecture and its effects on collective health and balance. Social. Even in the urban and collective dimension, *Esteban (2020)* [4] considers in a recent reflection on post-COVID Madrid that the main key to the decontamination process is to make the most of living spaces and adapt them to the new demands of safe use. When referring to parks and open spaces, when the return of post-COVID society the impasse over how to enjoy these collective open spaces will at first put in check what *Sennet (2018)* [1] states "The well-meaning urbanist will seek to satisfy and even stimulate the desire for closeness ". The proposal of banks, Entertainment areas, restaurants, cinemas and theatres require care and a readjustment in their furniture, their ventilation, in the availability of more airy spaces and consequently open having to go through a process of rehabilitation in front of the new design of spaces and equipment. Public.

Thus, outdoor spectacles become more important in opposition to the most sheltered and exclusive places and are translated as symbolic spaces of return to coexistence and diversity. Especially with regard to the housing issue, there is the valuation of living spaces both under the sanitary approach and (and perhaps mainly) with regard to the process of appropriation by users. This is a time of adequacy of expectations, in which one of the highlights is the realization of the importance of contemplating in the residential program interface spaces with the open environment in the form of patios, gardens, terraces, piles and outlets. In a way, these places, which have not always had a more expressive appreciation, become places (in the sense of an appropriate space), once they are revealed not only in the sense of environmental comfort of the dwelling, but also as spaces. Very powerful in the balance of neighbourly relations and contact with the external environment to the dwelling. Such possibilities, Due to the demand for space and monetary investments, they are still protected from the most privileged social classes (especially in the scenario of inequality expressed in Latin American cities), failing to serve communities with greater social vulnerability. According to *Da Mata (1991),* the place of coexistence and sociocultural interaction of the populations located in the great popular settlements, in the favelas, shortened is the street, which becomes appropriate as a courtyard, a place of socialization. In addition, it is through the courtyard, the interface between the public and the private, that, little by little, it enters the private environment. As stated, urban vitality, especially in its public dimension, has been problematized since the second half of the twentieth century, especially since *Jacobs (2009 [1961]).*

In criticizing the model of modern urbanism, one of the elements that the author defends is the clear separation between public and private, understanding the need for a demarcated contact with relational, enabling the existence of "street eyes", that is, a social control from neighbourhood relationships. In the contemporary scenario, some theoretical rereading's of the

author have made critical veins to the setbacks, especially frontal and lateral, attesting that these result in an urban prejudice, especially under the bias of the urban vitality, once they promote the reduction of positive interfaces or active street facades. However, the arguments presented here are that they trace to the private areas, in addition to lighting and ventilation, the courtyard. An element that provides not only the transition between interior and exterior, but also between the public and the private - a strongly marked relationship in times of isolation. Formerly sometimes understood as areas for residential exclusive use, at this time of isolation it is common to have dinner, whether in smaller or larger cities, with relatives socializing or even playing with the children of the house in the front gardens. In addition, whether in the interior space or in the courtyards, having a space to perform physical activities (even the most basic), becomes valued. In the case of apartments, as set out, there is the appreciation of the terraces and terraces that, in the same sense, present a scenario of close relationship, whether for conversations, glances or even shows and serenades. In addition to this relationship between the private, isolated, and the city and other people, these are spaces often associated with the natural environment, whether with plants and gardens, whether to feel the wind and look at the sky with more breadth and freedom. According to Professor Juliana Suzuki, as in urban planning, the issues of hygiene, cleanliness, organization and separation of environments in the residences and even the design of furniture were also greatly influenced by epidemics, such as the 1918 flu, tuberculosis and dysentery. Variations range from the end of cortices and environments such as alcoves to more healthy spaces *(HARADA; 2020)* [5]. Even according to the professor, elements such as the wardrobe (as a functional requirement of organization) and other furniture came to be thought of as a more elementary language from modernism (having as exponent Le Corbusier, including in this sense), seeking greater ease of organization. In addition, cleaning the home environment. In the same direction go the ceramic coatings and the use of light colours on floors and walls. Entry into the home will be gradual, comfortable to comfortable, respecting the processes that are lived in times of redoubled care. Again, the social question is considered, given that the valuation of a house with various environments is a bourgeois scenario of privileged classes. However, in any case, it is understood that it is fundamental once there is an ideal house model, which can be adapted in many cases to different realities. Then, the first space that happens to have a new focus is the residential hall or lobby. At present, the intersection of public and private space is strengthened, and its role in protecting home safety conditions in relation to possible external contagions has been strengthened. Do not pass clothes, shoes or products without the necessary sanitation. In this sense, some original elements of this space are re-operated, such as their furniture: the sideboard, the cabinet, the rug. Some habits return such as the exchange of shoes (enabling the inclusion of a shoemaker), the removal of coats and the guarding of other belongings that are not internalized to the environment of the house. Cups and kitchens have been incorporated into the daily lives of people and families, becoming a permanent use in the preparation of food, reception, hygiene, storage and production of their own food wrapped with garnishes and crockery in a routine recovered in contrast to previous meal times. Work, snacks and executive restaurants away from home in work rituals. Actions such as tidying the table, thinking about meals and promoting general hygiene after food are integrated into the ritual of social isolation, promoting reflections on these spaces and enhancing ancient rituals around the meal. Workplaces and virtual home coexistence have been valued in the housing program as support for home office and social interaction actions.

According to *Mitchels (City of Bits, 1961)* [6], the future of social relations, for many citizens subjected to home isolation, has been found on the keyboard and on the screens, a place to share information, varied choices and potential zed possibilities. As the form of contact with the outside. Spaces to work from home: an activity that, regardless of pandemic times, tends to be more and more frequent. E-commerce relationships are becoming part of everyday life, requiring more than just adaptations to living rooms and bedrooms. Already the dormitories are those places that become more strongly associated with the isolation regime: they are either the residential place of recovery and isolation of COVID-19 infected people, or the improvised home office place. There is, however, no alteration in its typology, being highlighted in particular its condition of ventilation and insolation, natural attributes of comfort, as opposed to the air-conditioned environment. In this experience, the need to relate to the environment in the most natural, convalescent, healthy and protected way is recovered. Similarly, the bathroom itself does not present significant functional innovations, except for its more frequent use and basic cleaning care. The highlight goes to the sink, apiece generally associated with more public environments of the residences, then closer to the entrance, becoming more accessible for frequent daily sanitation. For Suzuki, this is already the historical function of washing: to distinguish the most public use (as in the case of visits) of a more every day, intimate and familiar one, associated there with the bathroom *(HARADA; 2020)* [5]. Thus, as presented in the hall, the habit of carrying out a sanitation immediately after entering the residence can be one of the changes from this epidemic, to stimulate the existence of washes near the main entrance.

Be it for these reflections on the internal environments, the courtyards and gardens or even the urban environments, the eminently relational aspect between architecture and the city, between the public and the private is always in the pattern. In addition, neither these issues nor even the house will be radically altered. However, it is, as stated, an evolutionary process throughout history, which shows that it is in times that are more recent that the gaps, cracks and respites necessary for these crucial issues are found. If it was from globalization that the virus spread across the planet, this is also the key factor for new reflections. The transversally of contemporary architecture potentiates an influence in the framework of architecture in a Trans scalar way - from the local to the global in a simultaneous process. In this sense, *Gardiner (2002)* [5] states that, analysing the evolution of architecture in a historical way, it can be considered that this is marked by advances and some moments of resumption (as in the figure of taking two steps forward to go back one). Perhaps this moment of isolation, which provides a greater relationship (for now obligatory) of people with their home, is a moment of re-signification of experiences, ambiences, configuration of places and, thus, re-signification of historical elements of architecture. If on the one hand there is a forced evacuation of public space, on the other, there is a valorisation of the areas of sociability and habitability within private premises, be they interiors (hall, living room, work space and kitchen), as well as exteriors (patios, terraces and taken out). The street and the dwelling are also rethought as they are being revisited and re-signified. It is the person in a situation of isolation looking at another time in the city through a window. With all the questions of physical and mental health, they are the natural elements that people miss the most: people and nature. It is not just a matter of thinking of more pleasant places, but essentially of rethinking places and practices for self-care, socialization and the relationship with nature [7-9].

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Page 2/3

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