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Interface Design _ theory and practice

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Keywords
Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and

Partner Institutions
FAUL

Expected Future Partner Institutions
Municipality, Project Offices, Industry, Certification institutions

OBJECTIVES

This research proposal is developed within the limits of theory and practice of architectural and urban design. Confronting domains and scales of apparently concerted project scopes, but which are often in conflict or imbued with great ambiguities.

With a particular focus on urban control systems and the formal requirements of most licensing processes, we intend to analyze and evaluate the effects of these mechanisms on the processes of architectural design and representation. In this way we find more specifically some of the following objectives. Systematization of the main urban control mechanisms at the level of local licensing, with emphasis on housing. An analysis of its legal and regulatory framework is intended, considering the main formal references (REGEU, RM, civil code, etc.) or environmental (temperature, noise, etc.), among others. It is also intended to evaluate the implementation of some of these mechanisms in construction processes, with emphasis on aspects of certification at the level of construction and sustainability requirements (LEED, industry certification products, etc.).

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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

The theory and practice of design is increasingly assumed as a dialectic in deep revision, permanently lacking new and old inputs on its dynamics and interactions. Both are self-feeding and are hardly conceived in isolation, even if at times some misconceptions or extremisms may emerge. Among a vast framework of references that address the dialectics of the project, we have established as our main focus the boundaries and domains of architectural design and urban and territorial regulation.

In this scope, apparently broader, but simultaneously with a greater precision in its control mechanisms, we appropriate the concept of interface. This, understood as something that provides the physical or logical connection between parts of a system that cannot be directly connected, a place where different things interact. In our interface proposal, design theory and practice emerge in its various conceptions, mainly at the level of design scales. This interaction needs, therefore, greater depth, where the mechanisms of regulation and control of the project are confronted with some of its conceptual bases.

Design theory and practice is not alien to these processes of social and even technological transformation, being deeply influenced, and even fed by different mechanisms, where criticism itself, often distanced from design knowledge, also plays a relevant role. Within the various positions on the mechanisms of conception and design regulation, it is formed by improving forms and processes that somehow contributed to guide and even systematize the communication and commitment on the particular and specific value of the project, even as economic, technological, and cultural transaction.

Among the various possible areas to clarify or deepen these design and disciplinary limits, some of which have already been tested in ongoing research projects, we chose the interactions between urban regulation processes and design practice as support for systematization and criticism for the theory and practice of project.

The investigation resorts to the systematization of legal regulation and control instruments, mainly at the municipal level, and to the analysis of some case studies representative of the influence of an architectural and urban framework. In this process, it is intended to involve stakeholders from professional practice, from municipal control and from the academic field, among others. Reference is also made to the relevance of positions of collective and individual interest, which often emerge in confrontation, with forms and processes of plasticity that reveal the ideological expressions and the predominant mechanisms of power.

The idea of an interface also plays a didactic role on the confrontations between the value of the project as the materialization and representation of an idea and its social, professional, legal and economic commitment. In this context, it is also intended to recover or even revitalize the discussion around more specific matters of the project, without neglecting the value of its interdisciplinary relationship.

As there is a strong operational component in this project, involving partners who sometimes find themselves defending less convergent interests, the systematization of control and regulation mechanisms is also accompanied by references from theory and design criticism. In these last references, where we include some of the old Vitruvian, Albertine, Serlian contributions, or others, we are interested in consolidating some guiding threads, passing through the modernist, postmodernist influence and the most current trends, including positions more or less favorable to the reflexes of the globalization of author architecture or the star system.

All these dynamics are reflected in an exercise, sometimes complex, but very typical of the mechanisms of architectural and urban design over time, helping to shake certainties and even some current methodologies, without, however, suspending the design processes, regulation and construction.

It is in this context that we intend to contribute to the consolidation and confidence in the design exercise, demonstrating that it is a solid and referenceable process subject to a permanent review of the variables that involve it, which is important to synthesize and evaluate in its context.

Tianshu Liu, Linshen Xie, 2017 Skyscraper Competition

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SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

The scientific relevance is supported by the need for a greater approximation between theoretical and academic training with the challenges of professional practice and its response mechanisms.

This relevance, tested based on premises to be established, contributes to the development of reading parameters and design criticism, confronting several of the procedural and regulatory requirements of current design practice with guiding principles of the architect's conceptual training. The scientific value of this investigation resides in the reduction of barriers and prejudices between the value of academic training, the exercise of professional practice and the role of the project regulator and inspector. It is also intended to reference the relevance of market mechanisms and industrial and technological production that are linked to many of the design decisions.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The spectacular social and economic return develops around a clarification and improvement of design mechanisms and project operation between various interlocutors, with emphasis on a more solid professional relationship between designers and an improvement in their communication with other actors in the design processes. These improvements constitute a more solid basis for the technological, economic and educational value of the project, with emphasis on its privileged position as a reflection of social needs and as an economic resource of added value in the construction of habitats.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

The research plan presented in summary form (which may be the subject of a more detailed request later based on our research schedules) includes a work program for a maximum period of two years. We divided this period into four phases (semesters of work – partial objectives).

In the first semester, the state of the art is consolidated, referenced in various areas aimed at the idea of an interface that involves theory and design practice, consolidating a referential theoretical base, including scientific production meanwhile produced by the team. In this same period, the partnerships necessary for the interface concept in theory and design practice were established, with emphasis on the relationships between the academy, some municipal officials and representatives of professional practice, including the relevance of the legal scope (applicable regulations).

In the second semester, the bases of a referential framework of case studies representative of the established problems are tested, trying to elaborate some of the first premises and respective work parameters. During this period, work meetings are promoted with the various stakeholders and the first meetings or conferences that add related research or case studies considered relevant. Some of these areas should also be related to research guidelines in theses.

In the third semester, the parameters should be stabilized and reveal some convergence of positions between theory, professional practice and regulation. In this period there should be a more intense production and dissemination of research covering up to now the minimum of four international scientific articles with blind review and eventual indexing.

The fourth and last semester is dedicated to the organization and closure of the investigation, systematization of the archives, organization of results and final reports. During this period, some of the results may be included in theses, in addition to the continuity of dissemination in scientific articles, possible catalogs and books. In this period, the results in contents of partial or even total curricular units in the case of more specific optional units in the study plan should already be considered.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Scientific results focus on three main domains. The first on the systematization of the literature that involves the issue surrounding the idea of interface in design theory and practice. A second on the construction of a referenceable base of case studies, where the interface issues between project design and its regulation and control mechanisms are parameterized. Finally, the definition of a set of convergence parameters on the design mechanisms and design regulation.

These results will be the object of dissemination work through articles, conferences and some theses, as well as inclusion in the contents of curricular units.

BUDGET: € 7.000,00

The estimated budget for 7000 (seven thousand euros) includes expenses for equipment (25%), human resources (50%) and dissemination support (conferences, publications, travel, etc.) (25%).

Being a modest budget compared to the proposed objectives, the premises launched by the investigation will be achievable in its entirety, verifying the consolidation of a work structure that needs greater investment in the inclusion of more actors and the increase of representative case studies, as well as the complexity of the parameters and their operative scope.

This budget is expected to last for two years. If there are overheads, they may be included in human resources or equipment. There may be other complementary financial resources established from protocols with external entities.