

The impact of a public space "de-semantization": the Lacet Curve case in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais

Jorge Nassar Fleury ^{1*}, Leandro Saar Pereira ², Thais de Almeida Gonçalves ³

¹*Professor Doutor da Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora FAU/UFJF*

² *Graduando em Arquitetura e Urbanismo pela Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora FAU/UFJF*

³ *Graduanda em Arquitetura e Urbanismo pela Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora FAU/UFJF*

* *jorgefleury@gmail.com*

Introduction

This article aims the public space de-semantization issue - the Lacet Curve, located in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Brazil. This process develops from the local government interference, when it pulled away from there a soccer field, which was mainly used by a part of the society with a lower purchasing power. As a result, this place lost its social function. Since then, this fact has caused the local population commotion, leading all to discuss the city, the urban space and also the urban planning as a discipline. The main goal of this article is precisely to understand as a problem the repercussion that this fact has caused in the society.

Methods and Materials

For the development of this article, deep research on the related event was needed. For a better comprehension, it was created a chronology, which means, a line time where the events were punctuated. These were put together, separated by theme and then, the data were crossed. For better knowledge of the facts, primary sources as pictures, processes, laws, season books and newspapers were surveyed, as well as many related bibliography references.

Discussion

Despite of been "officially" labeled as "Square" José Gattás Bara, this place is commonly called simply as "The Lacet Curve" even in reports, official statements, newspapers and magazines.

It was designed to attempt the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF) needs of a south access, especially for vehicles. The answer to this need was translated as a lacet (loop) shape, resulted from the pathway drawing in which the access was made.

The proposal mainly focuses car's locomotion in this city and in its connection to the university campus. That is just the reflex of an urban planning where the privilege is always to the automobile traffic in spite of pedestrian, or even the public transportation.

For a long time there was a soccer field in this space. Today, it can no longer be identified any use linked to it. It is nowadays configured as a "non place", or even a "between space", becoming a passage place. This urban environment has been consolidated in Juiz de Fora since 2006, when the law nº 11.235 authorized the soccer field transference. It was then that the place lost its identity. The society could no longer feel that they own this space.

Results

What is evident in this situation is not only the fact of a public space de-semantization, but also the society commotion in recovering an use for it. Several publications in the local newspapers showed what the society claims: in order to affirm its value and potential to the authorities, people protested throughout community action and temporary appropriations of that space.

In the events course related to the Lacet Curve, the first manifestations started from the soccer field withdrawn with the proposal to transfer it to a nearby location. This field was actually used by the Dom Bosco neighborhood residents. The authorities plan was to build a recreational area with sports courts and physical education teachers to the community in that same location. However, this project was not carried out and the field was built in a secluded place with a poor infrastructure. Currently is in a state of neglect.

In October 2007, another fact has led the society to claim their interests: the Juiz de Fora city government would put for sale 25 lots in the city, including the Lacet Curve. The population was mobilized and accomplished what was then called the field "Symbolic Hug" in order to suspend the land sale.

In 2014, in the Dom Bosco neighborhood newspaper, a resident shown his

dissatisfaction state with the social barrier that residents were submitted, showing, among other things, the gentrification process to which the shopping building underwent the neighborhood, by affirming that "once again the black, the poor are taxed as social garbage. Remove an area destined to the population leisure to give access to the mall is a clear prejudice example." He also stated that "if the mall did not want the presence of these people in front of its establishment, it should seek a prime area to settle" (DOM BOSCO, 2014:03).

In community actions favor, the local society has mobilized temporary interventions at the Lacet Curvet and promoted social debate about this public space. This fact can be perceived as a loss sense result among the population, which saw a soccer field to be replaced by a lawn without any meaning or use for the city.

In September 2014, according to the Tribuna de Minas (2014) newspaper, a new cultural occupation brought together a thousand people audience with music performances, dance and films, plus workshops and storytelling. Another situation that prompted the society to reflect about the urbanism as a discipline was the recent fences placement along the Lacet Curve. This was a government intervention in order to try to prevent people crossing in the area.

Final Considerations

Even with such interventions, these still present themselves sporadically, leaving the Lacet Curve, most of the time, at the disuse and abandonment mercy, further reiterating its character of "non place", by the time it comes down to a "flow space".

Therefore, it can be seen that the area intervened occupation process has significantly changed the landscape, whether as urban transformation result or even because of social processes by which passed the city.

It is important to be noticed that the people responsible for the mentioned actions are not the same who used this area previously. Now, who claims for the place utility is a class with greater purchasing power in relation to those who used the space while still existed the soccer field.

According to Lefebvre (2008), the city's right is a utopian political nature aspect based mainly in the popular classes struggles, opposed to the urban space taken by

the capital power. Such segregationist urbanism suggests and states, categorically, the lower income people distancing in urban centers and positioned in a peripheral area without any healthy living conditions. Civil society, which holds the capital power, will remain enjoying the urban space privileges that was built with this intention and segregated goals.

Bibliographic References

AUDIÊNCIA debate projeto de praça poliesportiva. **Panorama**, Juiz de Fora, p.6, 21 set. 2006.

BIDOU-ZACHARIASEN, Catherine. **De Volta à Cidade**: Dos processos de gentrificação às políticas de “revitalização” dos centros urbanos. São Paulo: Annablume, 2006.

CAFÉ, Carlos. Álvaro Siza e RemKoolhaas: **a transformação do “lugar” na arquitetura contemporânea**. São Paulo: Annablume, Ed. 1, 2011.

CAVALCANTI, P. B. *et al.* **A humanização dos ambientes de saúde**: atributos ambientais que favorecem a apropriação pelos pacientes. IV Projetar. Projeto como investigação: ensino, pesquisa e prática, São Paulo, p. 1-11, outubro. 2009.

CURVA do Lacet terá passarela para pedestres. **Tribuna de Minas**, Juiz de Fora, 12 mar. 2008.

EVENTO chama atenção para a Curva do Lacet. **Tribuna de Minas**, Juiz de Fora, p.3, 16 set. 2014.

HERTZBERGER, Herman. **Lições de Arquitetura**. 2ª Ed. São Paulo: Martins Fontes, 1999.

JURISDIÇÃO. Juiz de Fora. DPGE - **Análise Técnica para Verificação de Viabilidade de Construção de Edifício Multifuncional Pertencente a Sociedade Independência LTDA 05277**, vol. 1, 2002.

JURISDIÇÃO. Juiz de Fora. SPGE/SEP/DPI - **Operação Urbanística com o Independência Shopping 001767**, vol. 1, 2007.

LEFEBVRE, Henri. **O Direito à cidade**. Tradução Rubens Eduardo Frias. São Paulo: Centauro, 5ª ed, 2008.

LEI prevê mudanças urbanísticas. **Panorama**, Juiz de Fora, p. 3, 26 jul. 2007.

LYNCH, Kevin. **A imagem da cidade**. 1ª ed. São Paulo: Martins Fontes, 1997.

OLIVEIRA, Paulino. **Crônicas**: Avenida Independência. Belo Horizonte: BDMG Cultural, 2001. p. 109-110.

REGIÃO Sul deve ter valorização dos imóveis: Independência Shopping terá investimento de 75 milhões. **Nosso Bairro**, Juiz de Fora, p. 3, mai./jun. 2003.

SÁ, Teresa. **Cidade Contemporânea e os Não Lugares**. Sociedade: Crise e Reconfigurações. VII Congresso Português de Sociologia. Universidade do Porto, Porto, 2012.

SHOPPING de R\$ 75 milhões cria até 2 mil empregos: Obras do Independência Shopping começam em julho e devem ficar prontas em outubro de 2005; empregos diretos podem chegar a dois mil. **Tribuna de Minas**, Juiz de Fora, p. 4, 31 mai. 2003.

TRINDADE, Thiago Aparecido. **Direitos e Cidadania**: reflexões sobre o direito à cidade. Lua Nova, São Paulo, 87: 139-165, 2012.

TUAN, Yi-Fu. **Espaço e lugar**: a perspectiva da experiência. Tradução de Livia de Oliveira. São Paulo: Difel, 1983.

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE JUIZ DE FORA. **Plano de Desenvolvimento da UFJF, Organizado para o Quatriênio 1973 – 76**. 1973.

UNWIN, Simon. **A Análise da Arquitetura**. 3^a Ed, Porto Alegre: Bookman, 2013.