

Look, act, activate: creative tactics in public space

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In urban space always something is happening. (...) Here or there a crowd can gather, objects can be piled up, a party can take place, an event, terrifying or pleasant, can occur. Hence the fascinating character of urban space: the centrality always possible. (Lefebvre, 1999:121) The aim of this panel is to present different perspectives on some of the creative contemporary tactics of intervention and activation of public space in contemporary cities, focusing on Brazil. Contemporary society is experiencing a very dynamic time, with characteristic of ephemerality in various spheres of social and economic relations. This prints some characteristic features in the spaces of collective life, such as feelings of hostility, individualism and superficial relations between individuals. This state of urban anesthesia – or even “exception” – tends to reflect itself on physical spaces, building ultra-protective situations and privatization, whose side effects of social exclusion and abandonment of places call for creative and forceful responses by professionals and citizens in general. Faced with these issues, we will present actions and reactions (temporaries or permanents) to this state of

passivity, which can leverage existing situations, intensify the everyday urban experience, regain places and give identity to degraded areas, contributing to permanent changes in the medium and long term. Temporary interventions, tactical actions, affective cartographies, insurgent appropriations, subversive occupations and guerrilla urbanism are examples of emerging approaches that are object of this panel. These actions allow the subjects to experience other possibilities for the present time and opportunities for the future. They are actions of the “right to the city” that prioritize public space as a site for democratic engagement, and not as business (Ferguson, 2014:15), creating suspended spaces-times, separated from the logic of production-consumption. These actions, which we have called “creative tactics”, have focus on extra small intervention (“XS”). This scale has historically been undervalued, but recently has proven relevance due to its bottom up characteristic. Identified as “emerging” processes, they let professionals (such as architects, designers, artists) work near the ground, reinforcing social responsibility and encouraging cooperation with other professionals and society. Such features, associated to the facility of implementation (when compared to more permanent interventions), link these actions to practices of urban activism. As tactical actions, they are decentralized, extraordinary, agile, networked, hands-on, low cost and low tech, making them quick answers to specific circumstances of the twenty-first century (Duany in Lydon and Garcia, 2015: xi), escaping from the slow pace of conventional urban projects. All of these “micro-political practices of everyday activism and projects to create alternative worlds” (Montaner, 2014: 245), studied and practiced by people, by researchers and by professionals from different institutions, are parts of this panel, helping to improve the quality of life through the activation of public spaces. They can open new perspectives of observation and action in the city, reinforce the reflection on how spaces are appropriated and indicate paths for future interventions and researches in the fields of architecture, urban planning, art and design. The panel will be composed by Adriana Sansão Fontes (PROURB-FAU/UFRJ - Programa de Pós Graduação em Urbanismo da Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), Aline Couri (EBA/UFRJ - Escola de Belas Artes da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), Joy Till (DAD/PUC-Rio - Departamento de Artes e Design da

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro), Giodana Holanda (EAV- Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage) and Laura Sobral (Instituto A Cidade Precisa de Você). Each participant will present the main results and contributions of their work on the main topic of this panel. References BAUMAN, Zygmunt (2000). Modernidade líquida. Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar, 2001. CHASE, John; CRAWFORD, Margaret; KALISKI, John. Everyday Urbanism. Nova York: The Monacelli Press, 1999. DE CERTEAU, Michel. The Practice of Everyday Life. Trad. Steven F. Rendall. Berkley: University of California Press, 1999. DEBORD, Guy (1967). A Sociedade do Espetáculo. Rio de Janeiro: Contraponto, 1977. FERGUSON, Francesca. Make_Shift City. Renegotiating the Urban Commons. Berlim: Jovis Verlag, 2014. FEIREISS, Kristin e HAMM, Oliver G. (eds.). Transforming cities. Urban interventions in public space. Berlim: Jovis Verlag, 2015. HARVEY, David. Cidades Rebeldes. Do direito à cidade à revolução urbana. São Paulo: Martins Fontes, 2014. JOHNSON, Steven. Emergencia. A vida integrada de formigas, cérebros, cidades e softwares. Rio de Janeiro: Zahar, 2003 LA VARRA, Giovanni. "Post-it City. El último espacio público de la ciudad contemporánea". In: Post-it City. Ciudades Ocasionales. Barcelona: CCCB, 2008. LEFEBVRE, Henri. O Direito à Cidade. 5ª ed. São Paulo: Centauro, 2001 _____ (1992). Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time and Everyday Life. Londres: Continuum, 2004. _____ (1970). A revolução urbana. Belo Horizonte: Ed. UFMG, 1999. LIPOVETSKY, Gilles. O império do efêmero. A moda e seu destino nas sociedades modernas. São Paulo, Cia das Letras, 1989. LYDON, Mike; GARCIA, Anthony. Tactical Urbanism: Short-term Action for Long-term Change. New York: Island Press, 2015. MAKOWER, Timothy. Touching the city. Thoughts on urban scale. United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2014. MONTANER, Josep Maria e MUXÍ, Zaida. Arquitetura e política: ensaios para mundos alternativos. São Paulo: GG Brasil, 2014. RHEINGOLD, H. Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution. Cambridge: Perseus Publishing, 2002 SANSÃO FONTES, Adriana. Intervenções temporárias, marcas permanentes. Apropriações, arte e festa na cidade contemporânea. Rio de Janeiro: Casa da Palavra, 2013.