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ARCHITECTURES IN THE POST GLOBALISM ERA

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Abstract

THE ESSENTIAL MEANING OF A NEW ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is the meaning of its forms. The description with words is useless. The architecture speaks with the suggestions, with the emotions created by his forms. The functions, which are called to play an architecture, are subject only to its forms. Paradoxically this emerged with the present post-Functional Architecture. The suggestion, created by the shape, by the form, build and justifies the function. The forms of architecture will be returned to the essentials: a ground level. Thus the form will coincide completely with the content. The deconstruction will be imposed by the collapse of the current system, that is the mirror of the absolute and blind power of the great anonymous capital. Architecture speaks through the meaning of its forms. The forms of reading code is known through the heritage, transmitted by genetic means: association of emotions with forms. This is an attempt to predict the architecture of the after global collapse, that all fear but that neither wants to face.

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1. Sustainable communities

In the near future shall exists only Modern towns that are complicated, and therefore frail, structures.

The entire economic system is based, nowadays, on a giant speculative bubble: an uncontrollable succession of financial crises could easily destroy most of our towns (in their present form) in the near future.

After such a collapse, a system of favelas will grow, around each old city, together with the technological poles devoted to the production, both, of energy and primary goods, and technical innovation shall become accessible only

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to small dominant groups. These new *technologic* favelas will arise also close to places of religious worship, in search of spiritual sources. The now current obsessive pursuit of happiness as an escape from transcendence, such as dipping into the banality of a clinging life today, will be out of fashion.

Along the pipelines, in remote areas, some people are now engaged in tapping the oil. A sustainable activity flourishes. Many similar activities shall grow up in the future, when more areas shall be out of the control of the industrial power.

In the future, when the existing urban structures collapse, the housing units will be the size of a medium, large village, close to the workplace of the inhabitants. The new dwellings will provide water and electricity to individual homes

The individual housing will be movable, preferably the size of a large container. The population of "villages" will change according to business needs. The distance from the workplace will be a speedometer zero.

The economic system shall then evolve, or go back, towards the direct and limited exchange, or barter, of goods. People mobility shall mostly be ensured by the very displacement of homes, which shall be therefore preferentially endowed with a modular structure.

The requirement of displacement and travelling by car shall be strongly reduced by the competition of telematic means.

2. Illustrations

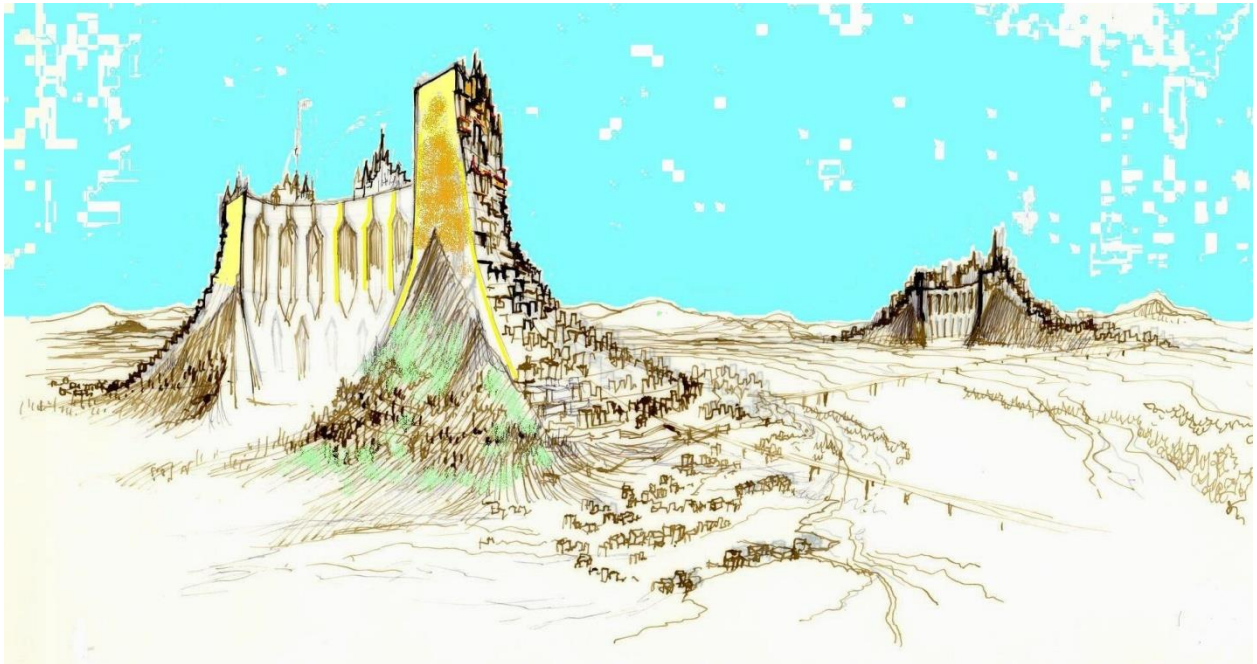


Fig. 1- Perspective view of a landscape populated by these housing facilities

Housing facilities are designed to accommodate mobile homes and provide all necessary services. The mobile homes will pay a rent to the operators of the facility that will be under an authority of state control.

These designs are sufficient to represent a possible solution that could be given to housing facilities after a collapse of the financial and political system. Nor would it make sense to conceive future solutions with precise technical details

Appendix

The favela is constituted by a spontaneous set of individual single family dwellings. After a worldwide political and economic collapse, for its characteristics, the favela will be the best candidate to become the new housing system. The future favela, with the contribution of all the new technologies to provide the necessary services to homes, will become efficient and with low operating costs.

Today Favelas are places increasingly recognized by planners and architects.

In the city of Rio, close to 1.5 million people – around 23-24% of the population – live in favelas. That's comparable to the percentage living in affordable housing (public, rent controlled, cooperatives, community land trusts and other models) in major cities worldwide. Rio's favelas *are* our affordable housing market. Rio has more favela residents than any other Brazilian city and, all together, Rio's favelas would comprise the ninth largest city in the country.

The increased presence of computers and other technologies allow for the fact that, as of 2012, nine out of ten favela residents under 30 could access the internet. 2015 data showed that favela residents are more technologically connected than those living on the normal city.

The 12 million people living in favelas across Brazil are responsible for generating R\$38.6 billion per year in commercial activity, which is equivalent, for example, to the GDP of Bolivia. In 2001, 60% of favela residents belonged to the lower class and 37% to the middle class. By 2013, 32% were in the lower class and 65% in the middle class. This shift corresponded with a 54.7% increase in the average wage in favelas from 2003 (US\$269) to 2013 (US\$460). This is significantly greater than the national average wage increase of 37.9% over the same period. According to a study released in 2013 by the Data Popular Institute, 85% of favela residents like the place where they live, 80% are proud of where they live and 70% would continue to live in their communities, even if their income doubled.



Fig. 2 - This is a top view of a housing structure populated by people of low income, assuming a similar appearance to that of a today's favelas

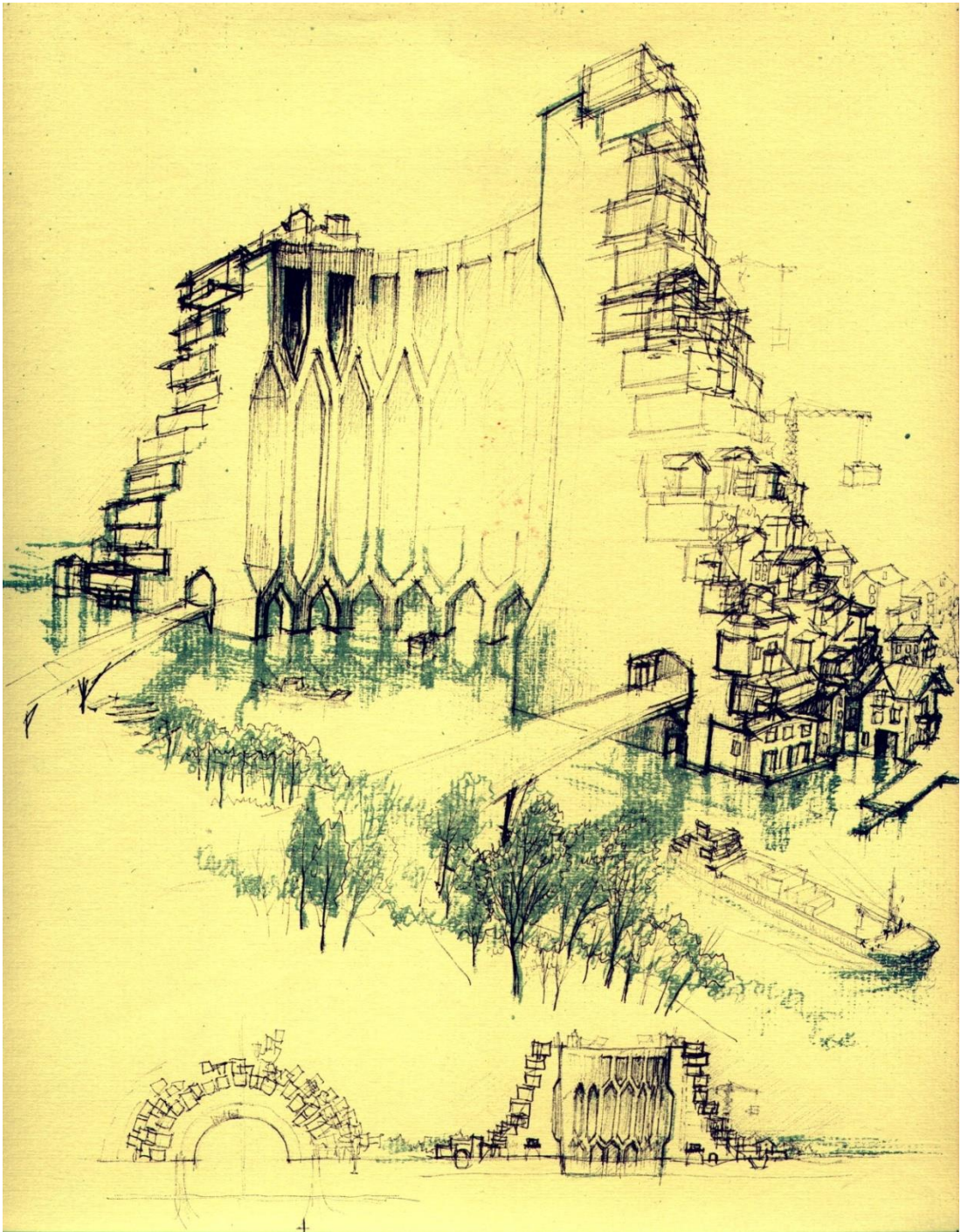


Fig. 3. View of a structure located near a small river as waterway.

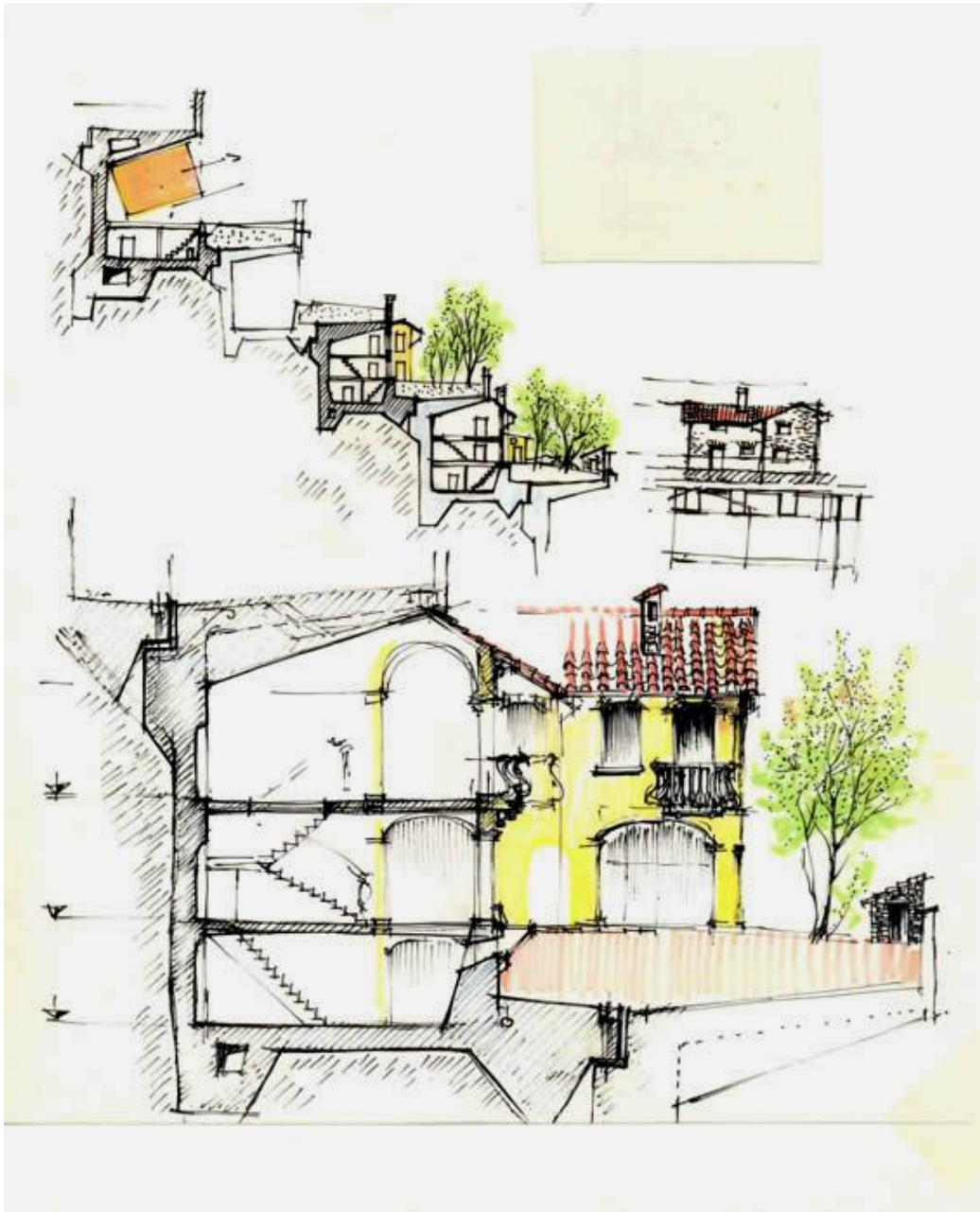


Fig. 4- Some individual mobile or fixed homes, placed in residential facilities, that provide essential services with centralized plants

A City Planner Responds: What is a Favela?

http://www.google.it/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj0pKG-mOTNAhXKvBQKHT9lB7EQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcatcomm.org%2Fplanner-on-favela%2F&usg=AFQjCNFvF6J9SH3UQqe5_yBW6lWDpTH8UQ&sig2=zmNGy_m_KB38dNN5WI-uwA

by Theresa Williamson, Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning and Executive Director of Catalytic Communities

After fifteen years visiting favelas across Rio on a weekly basis, I still marvel at the creative adaptations of the built environment that favela residents have established over time. “Favelas” are often translated to English as “slums” (i.e. squalor), “shanty-towns” (i.e. precarious building materials), “squatter communities” (i.e. illegal) or “ghettos” (i.e. marginal), when in actuality today only a minority of Rio de Janeiro’s favela communities are characterized by any of these factors. For one thing, let’s take the notion that favela homes are precarious shacks. According to a recent survey.., 95% of favela homes are built of brick, concrete, and reinforced steel. 75% have tile floors. Residents put decades-worth of income and physical labor into the construction and consolidation of their homes. Peek inside and you’ll not only see the basics of electricity, running water and indoor plumbing, but television and, in over 44% of cases, a computer. Actually, what characterizes all favelas is pretty simple. Favelas are:

1. Neighborhoods that emerge from an unmet need for housing.
2. Established and developed with no outside or governmental regulation.
3. Established and developed by individual residents (no centralized or outside ‘developers’).
4. Continuously evolving based on culture and access to resources, jobs, knowledge, and the city.

Imagine the incredible diversity of neighborhoods this recipe has produced over 115 years of informal urban settlement in Rio de Janeiro. Today there are over 600 favelas in Rio which range from newer or more challenged communities with slum-like conditions and a desire to resettle, to highly-functioning, vibrant neighborhoods determined to maintain their qualities and continue developing in their own extraordinary ways. Walk around in a favela and you will have an entirely unique experience from one day to the next, even more so in different communities. And this is why Rio’s favelas are incomparable cultural incubators. Their legacy should be appreciated and their future development fostered through empowerment, participatory planning, and provisions to guarantee affordability.

A number of qualities of the built environment in favelas have caught the attention of international planners, architects and sustainability practitioners in recent years. Favelas are places of:

- Low-rise, high density development
- Pedestrian orientation
- High use of bicycles & public transportation
- Mixed use (homes above shops)
- Residence close to workplace
- Organic architecture (architecture evolves according to need)
- New urbanism
- Collective action
- Intricate solidarity networks
- Vibrant cultural production

There is an incredible efficiency created through favela-style development. Because neighborhoods are low-rise and high density, encouraging exchange rather than isolation through vertical units, and due to limited financial resources, residents historically have worked together to guarantee everything from daycare to housing. The non-financial investment in the form of exchange and mutual support among residents is as critical, if not more, as financial investment in the form of income, to safeguarding positive outcomes for communities. As Providência’s Mauricio Hora says, “There are no beggars in the favela.”

In addition to the aforementioned characteristics, favelas developed through being located to areas of employment, residents’ knowledge of construction (many are construction workers with building expertise), numerous legal victories over the years recognizing adverse possession and squatters rights, and provision of public utility services such as electricity and water, which although often substandard is available to individual homes in most favelas today.

Though the favela qualities described are rarely recognized, let alone celebrated, from an urbanist perspective favelas are not only an enormous achievement but a source of inspiration, presenting solutions for sustainable urban development from which we can, and should, learn.