

Urban Design and Social Capital in Spontaneous Settlements

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Abstract : Rapid urbanization have made of spontaneous settlements one of the dominant's social subjects of the XXIst century. Currently, it's recognized that these territories cannot easily be eradicated and are a way of life to many populations of emergent countries. Since late 90s, there is an urgent concern in finding planning and efficient urban design strategies to poverty reduction, spatial integration and social inclusion of low-income communities. The article aims to identify, understand and evaluate the social inclusion's processes through the urban transformation that has been undertaken in Moravia and how they affected the community's social capital. To achieve this objective, we start to analyse the PPMIM's planning discourse in which prevails the sustainability's concept, to further identify, through the analysis of the project carried out, the urban design strategies implemented and their impact on the perception and on the community's experience, and, finally, how these focused on the social capital. It relies on concepts such as urban design, social capital, local development and sustainability. At the urban design level it starts on the current principles of "making places", on the new urbanism concepts and on the practices on the ground carried out by a new generation of architects/planners whose have the main ethical approach in order to create more opportunities and greater social impact to these territories. At the social capital's level and on the development's theory, relies on authors such as Coleman, Putman Kliksberg and Amartya Sen. Finally, it aims to address a general discussion about the positive and negative implications of slum upgrading programmes and some necessary recommendations for urban design and social capital can really be translated into real resources for the self sustainable development of low-income communities and their future generations.

Keywords : local and sustainable development, social capital, spontaneous settlements, urban design

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