

Urban culture of transition: or a new culture of living the city

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Within the actual context of uncertainty and mutation in cities like Maputo, residential “typologies” allow to read social extension of urbanization: types of housing representing moments in to the process of city transformation and indicating inhabitant’s levels of integration or marginalization on urban space. Raposo and Salvador (2002, 2007), likewise Forjaz (2001), wonder if it express the genesis of a new culture of living the city or, like Saúte (2001) point out, it is just a syncretic transition process from the rural towards the urban, a subculture relative to the dominant model – occidental urbanism. The urbanize image of city was transform by a growing «ecchymosis» which penetrates the interstitials of urban structure, occupying available and non edificandi spaces, originating others morphologies and new typological series.

Maputo citizens develop innovating processes on their relation within the urban space, by living in it and appropriating it with innovative forms. Juxtaposition, contamination, hybridization or interpretation of distinct syntaxes expresses diversify experiences but simultaneous often commons, explaining the permanent and the ephemeral, the regular and the irregular, textures and patterns – formal and informal – in which overlapping of scales (macro and micro) and languages its quite intricate, express by complex geometries. Imply changes in the way how urban space is use and in urban qualities types, making them more consentaneous with their own customs of space appropriation – defining the Mozambique capital image by promoting real-time solutions (Koolhaas 2002) in real-time forms. The article will approach this phenomenon.

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