

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

From favela to district.

Proposal of urban integration for the favela BA Mutinga, Osasco, Brazil

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Our experience in Brazil has been carried out thanks to the cooperation agreement between the Research and Documentation Centre in technology, architecture and town in developing countries of Politecnico di Torino and the Osasco municipality. We worked together with architects, engineers and social assistants of the Secretaria de Habitação. We have taken the field with them and have kept in touch with the problems of favela, the techniques and the intervention's priorities, that are different from those of the formal town.

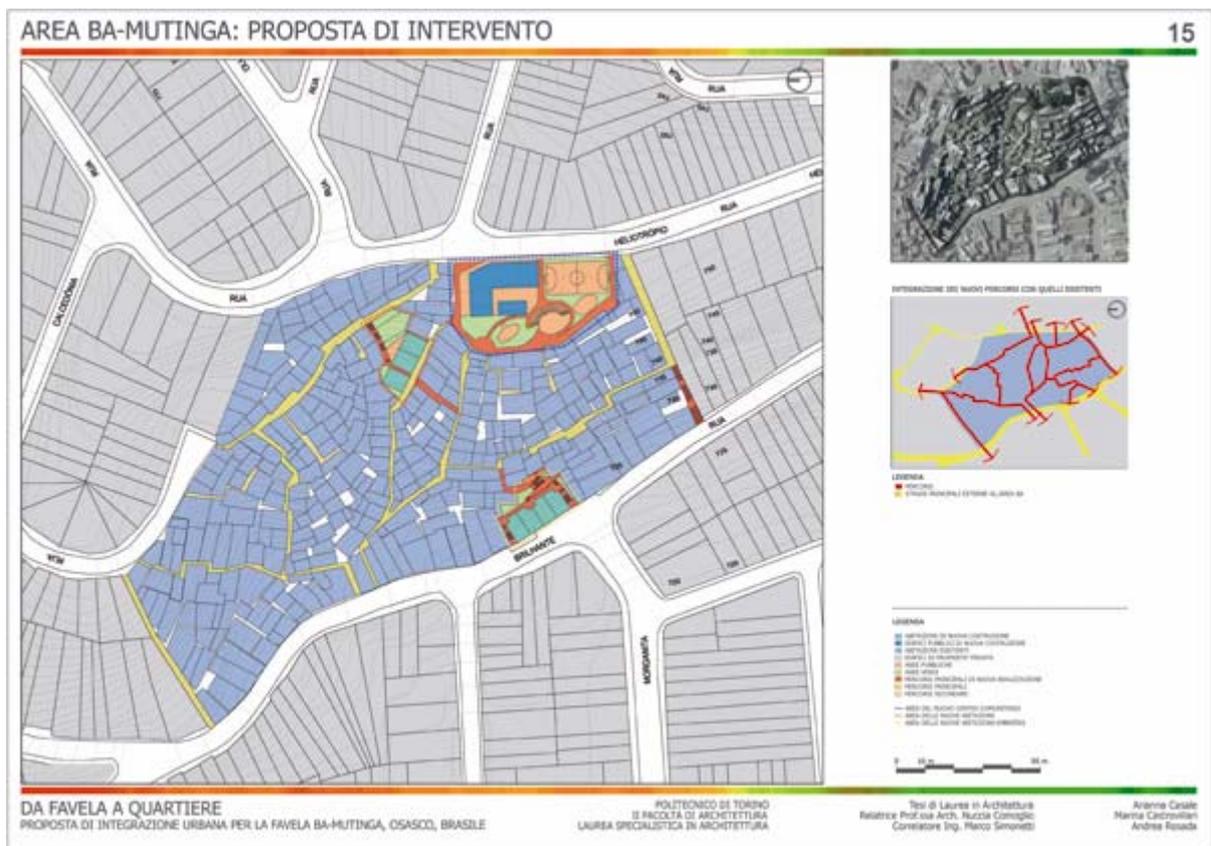
The location in risky and unhealthy places characterizes an unauthorized settlement. It is a shelter for people who have been moved out from cyclones, erosion and floods, or from the economic development, new insecurity generator for many people. The informal settlements find place in areas that are contaminated by hazardous wastes or with an hydro-geological instability. Geomorphological surveys have been carried out in 1990 in São Paulo: one fourth of the favelas lies upon eroded grounds and the rest upon slopes that can slide down.

Many cities around the world have been also grown up in similar grounds, like Los Angeles and Tokyo. In this cases, the risk is reduced thanks to public investments: many engineering techniques are used to prevent natural disasters, insurances for fires and earthquakes are provided and residential maintenance and rebuilding are guaranteed. This doesn't happen in such countries, with slums or favelas, where there is a lack of infrastructures and basic facilities.

New artificial hazardous have also to be taken into account: they arise from poverty, tossic industries and unregulated viability. This brings to dramatic situation in all the big cities in developing countries. For instance, in 1984 a gas pipeline exploded in Cubatão, the "Pollution Valley" near São Paulo, where 500 people, living in a favela not far from there, have lost their lives.

Everybody has a city inside, and sometime there is more than one: a childhood city, that appears tenaciously in dreams, transfigured from memory and from affection's topography, like Peter Pan's Neverland, which preserve us children; the city in which we live, that is beloved, accepted, tollerred or refused, every day's life theatre; the choosen city, the one in which we feel at home, with whom we share a misterous correspondence, in which we can live happily, like nowhere else. For many people those three cities are together in one. It is common believe that the own city should have more respect, more investments and more partecipation. Big cities in developing countries need more attention. Time after time, favelas have become permanent urban spaces and requalification is the most applied intervention. Enlarging the legal residential market and promoting the inclusive urban management are needed to face favelas proliferation. Moreover, is also important to integrate existing favelas with the formal city.

This is the main feature of our intervention: integrate a thirty years old favela inside the surrounding urban context and preserving everything that the inhabitants have built in the meanwhile.



Proposal of urban integration for the favela favela BA Mutinga, Osasco, Sao Paulo



Proposal for a new community centre for the favela BA Mutinga



Proposal for a developing house

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