



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE CONSTRUCTION AND CITY

The rural reform issue, the housing deficit, the subnormal agglomerates problem and the dramatic life conditions of the poorest Federal District rural communities are some of the more urgent debates in Brazil. This thesis analyses Brazilian rural settlements (both formal and informal), aiming to find a new way of living them.

The JuntARQ group chose a bottom-up approach, starting from the analysis of peculiar cases in order to gradually achieve a general vision of DF rural areas real conditions. Visits and interviews were the most effective means to be used for this kind of work, providing a careful observation and analysis of the places and the direct contact with the dwellers and the institutions involved.

During the research, some particular topics prevailed over the others: the housing issue, due to the inefficiency of MCMV (Minha Casa Minha Vida) rural program and the great potential of Brazilian rural areas future development. These two main topics definitely inspired the final objectives of the JuntARQ project that developed according to two different directions and scales of study: the architectural and the territorial one.

From an architectural point of view, the first step was that of identifying and analysing MCMV rural housing program shortcomings. MCMV is in fact a low income housing program offered by the Brazilian government to the poorest families both of rural and urban areas which provides rigid and dead set standards as a result of a top-down approach: only one general solution proposed for an endless number of different and peculiar cases. Secondly, thanks to the adoption of some participatory techniques and the direct collaboration of the DF rural communities, it was possible to identify the dwellers' common needs, as well as the more urgent ones. The aim was that of finding an architectural solution that could be easily applied and controlled through a solid method of implementation, in order to meet the needs and interests of the two opposite factions: the government and the rural communities.

To sum up, the main objective of this phase was the elaboration of an effective and considerable alternative to the current MCMV rural housing program. This new solution

would consist in a neutral housing model originated from all the independent (common) variables identified during the visits, able to adapt to any particular case, by responding to its dependent variables and by integrating prefabrication and self-building principles. Besides designing a new architectural solution, the JuntARQ group also tried to define a new organizational set-up and a new specific method for the implementation of the housing program, by considering both the architectural advantages introduced by the new solution and the shortcomings of the current MCMV program. The aim was that of providing the Brazilian government with a new effective tool, able to satisfactorily respond to the rural communities' primary housing needs.

As the research developed, some valuable and very interesting considerations emerged also on a territorial scale.

After a first look at DF rural environments and the dwellers' life standards and principles, an initial remark was made on the great potential of this particular category of space. In fact, some considerations emerged about rural settlements' true identity. Following this path, the JuntARQ group focused on these areas' peculiarities that distinguish them from other categories of social spaces, such as the city (urban space) and the periphery (suburban space) and even the countryside, which is a purely rural space. Since rural areas are peculiar spaces, with proper dynamics, both from social, spatial, cultural and productive points of view, it was not easy to imagine the future evolution of these places, especially if considering their communities' great ability to change and adapt to extremely diverse conditions (resilience). In other words, the main objective of this phase was that of theorizing a new typology of space, the Rural City, by joining both rural and urban life factors (whose traits can be already identified in some of the dwellers' habits). This way it was possible to conceive an innovative way of experiencing the so called "life in the fields", by integrating and linking the rural environment to the rest of the Brazilian social space set-up. In order to reach this goal, a dense network of spatial and social connections was theorized, aiming to guarantee both primary and secondary services to rural communities (a rudimentary version of a urban sprawling controlled process).

Since that of Brazilian rural settlements is still a new and pretty much unexplored topic, the elaboration of a Methodology Guide, was pivotal for the spread and comprehension of the whole work's acknowledgments and strategies.

JuntARQ: aiming to find a new way of living Brazilian rural settlements

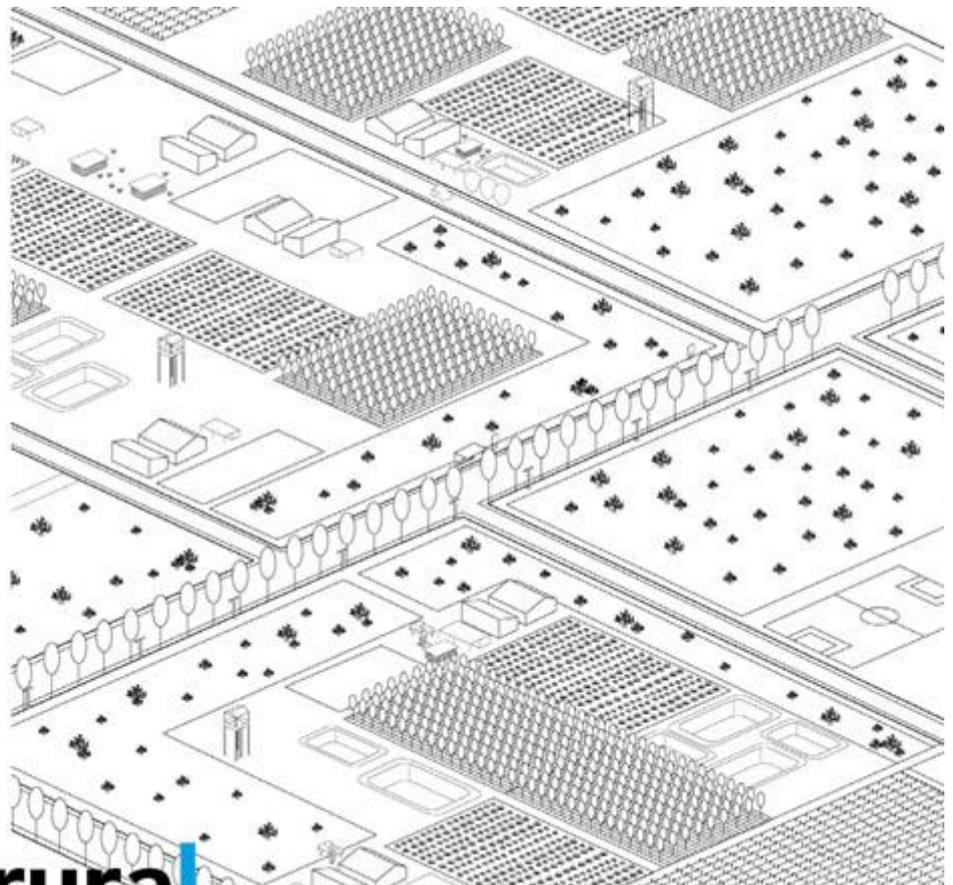
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cidade rural



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