

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Honors theses

**Requalification project for the Paula Machado favela (Sao Paulo - Brazil).
The experience with “Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos”**

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The project focus of this thesis is the two-month journey that has seen us working with the NGO “Centre de Gaspar Garcia Direitos Humanos” in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There we dealt with to help a community, settled in a slum, to prepare the necessary documentation in order to ask the Government the title of occupation of public land where they reside illegally. It was a survey work of residential buildings, inventory of the families and reorganization of the numbering of houses.

Following the Brazilian experience our work suggests a possible next step: the redevelopment of the area. The proposal is based on two fundamental principles: community participation and re-use of local materials. The association of the inhabitants of the favela, acts as a hinge around the which rotates the project. For its requirements it will born new spaces that will handle itself dealing with the revenue they generate. Aggregation, recreation and production go hand in hand with the theme of re-use.



Fig. 1 – survey and photos of the area

The absence of vegetation and disorganization in terms of enjoyment of the streets led us to think of a change of use of the main street that becomes a linear park only pedestrian with paths, seating, vegetation, urban gardening, socializing spaces, areas for recreational and other for market's activities.

Residences that are identified by size or characteristics do not guarantee decent living conditions will be removed and relocated, according to the new living module, into the expansion area adjacent to the favela.

The needs of the area led us to identify 2 main functions should be placed in:

- Production, with urban gardens, the market area, the cages for the storage of tools, cages for market's needs and a warehouse for storage products.
- Aggregative/recreative, which would occupy the rest of the green areas.

Each access at the area has an installation made of pallets, a kind of theatrical backdrop, inviting the customer to the new park. Through graffiti, a practice already in use in the area, the scenes are an opportunity for residents to present themselves to outsiders, to send a message, or even advertise.

The design of the park is based on a grid, born from the need to orient the new houses along the NW / SE to promote natural ventilation. It allows to obtain orthogonal forms easily achievable even by unskilled labor.

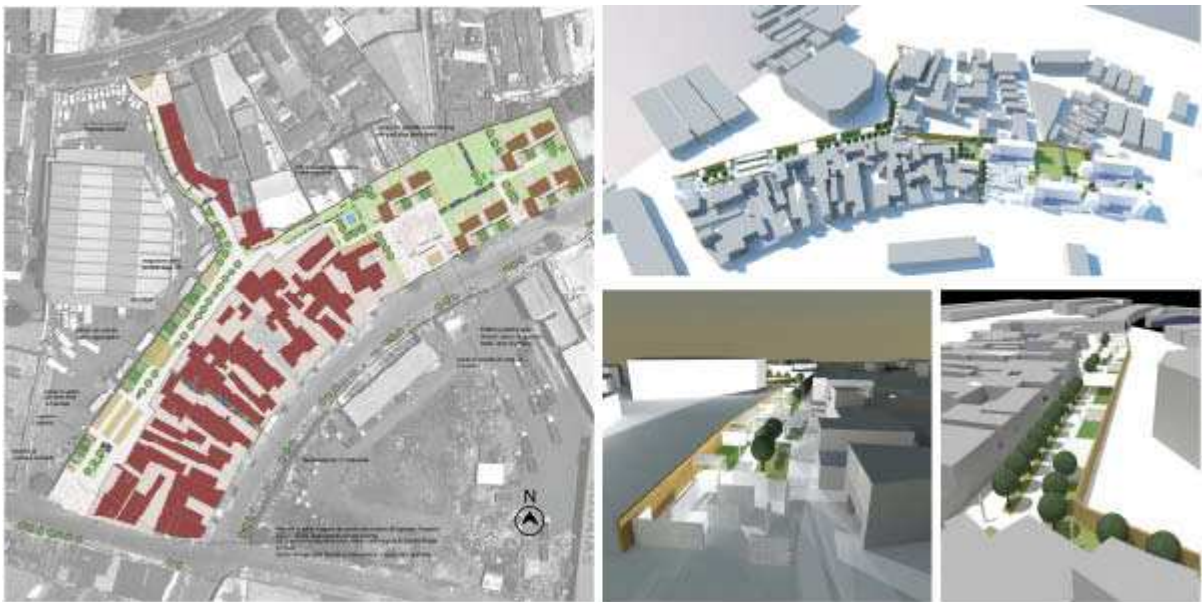


Fig. 2 - The masterplan

The theme of this redevelopment is the pallet. We chose to use this element, as in the area, mainly industrial, which insists the favela would be readily available as waste material.

A construction system mixed steel-wood (pallets) enables collaboration, under construction, by the inhabitants.

The reflection of a housing solution plausible leads to **self-construction**, construction system that can be easily understood and integrated with the knowledge already possessed by the population. Other important elements are:

a **dry assembly structure**

the possibility of **expansion** and **customization**

the **cheap cost** of the project.

The composition chosen, in continuity with the existing settlement, provide for two or three houses of three storeys, articulated around a courtyard.



Fig.3 - Summary of housing units

The project does not pretend to solve all the problems in the area but it is a point of departure for further studies in various subject areas that constitute it.

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