

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
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***Honors theses***

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**Planaltina/DF Problems and Strategies for the Historical Centre Development**

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This thesis addresses the revitalization of the historically significant urban core of Planaltina, a traditional city within the Federal District of Brazil.

From the mid-1950s, the Brazilian architectural and political establishment intended to bring about the idea of a modern city designed from the ground up into the construction of the new national capital. To achieve this goal, the history of part of Goiás was restated in terms that made the Federal District rectangle be looked upon as the middle of nowhere.



Over the past decades, local history all but erased the traces of the preexisting settlement. Recently however, the Federal District began to retrieve its memory in order to reclaim the historical and cultural links with its surroundings.

One of the threads that can stitch back together the territory of Brasilia with that of Goiás is the restoration of the system of eighteenth-century routes connecting inland settlements with the Atlantic coast. Two such routes crossed central Goiás during colonial times, one of them the major pathway, Estrada do Nascente, and, forking off it, the Estrada da Bahia. For this reconnection to be successful, the historical and cultural values of the individual settlements on the routes need to be acknowledged first.

Planaltina ranks among the most endangered historical sites on this network, not the least because it is the only one to have found itself within the confines of the Federal District and thus politically disenfranchised. Although its architectural heritage is not up to par with places registered at the national level, it is of fundamental importance with respect to the global coherence of the network of traditional towns in Goiás and to the links of this traditional network with the modernist capital.



For the past half century Planaltina, as a satellite town of Brasilia, underwent strong transformations in its territorial structure due to the sharp increase in its population, now overwhelmingly made up of migrants from other regions of Brazil. In the middle of all this sprawl, however, the original urban core subsists. Despite having lost much of its earlier character, it is home to a local community that actively fights to protect what is left of the memory of the Federal District's oldest urban settlement.

With the assistance of the residents in this so-called Traditional Sector, we have been able to compensate, partially, for the lack of planning directives and of historical documentation about Planaltina, so as to establish guidelines for the preservation and revitalization of its historic center.



We took as a starting point the intention of reclaiming an identity for the city as a focal point of regional history and of regional urban culture, and devised for this goal two concurrent courses of action.

The first was to identify within a core of historical and cultural interest—previously defined—a number of structures and a site with particular relevance. This ensemble is to be valued as a set of nodes in a heritage path so as to tell the history of Planaltina in its own built fabric. The second was a study of principles for the drafting of a revitalization plan for the historic core of Planaltina. This plan should identify the modes of intervention to which each building of historical interest will be subjected, as well as strategic actions to be taken within the urban fabric to improve living standards and develop the urban economy.

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