**The impact of a public space "de-semantization": the Lacet Curve case in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais**

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**Introduction**

This article aims the public space de-semantization issue - the Lacet Curve, located in Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Brazil. This process develops from thelocal government interference, when it pulled away from there a soccer field, which was mainly used by a partof the society with a lower purchasing power.As a result, this place lost its social function. Since then, this fact has caused the local population commotion, leading all to discuss the city, the urban space and also the urban planning as adiscipline. The main goal of this article is precisely to understand as a problem the repercussion that this fact has caused in the society.

**Methods and Materials**

For the development of this article, deep research on the related eventwas needed. For a better comprehension, it was created a chronology, which means, a line time where the events were punctuated. These were puttogether,separated by theme andthen, the data were crossed. For better knowledge of the facts, primary sources as pictures, processes, laws, season books and newspapers were surveyed, as well asmanyrelated bibliography references.

**Discussion**

Despite of been“officially” labeled as “Square” José Gattás Bara, this place is commonly called simply as “The Lacet Curve” even in reports, officialstatements, newspapers and magazines.

It was designed to attempt the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF) needs of a south access, especially for vehicles. The answer to this need was translated as a *lacet* (loop)shape, resulted from the pathwaydrawing in which the accesswasmade.

The proposal mainly focuses car’s locomotion in this city and in its connection to the university campus. That is just the reflexof an urban planning where the privilege is always to theautomobiletraffic in spite of pedestrian, or even the public transportation.

For a long time there was a soccer field in this space. Today, it can no longer be identified any use linkedto it. It is nowadays configuredas a “non place”, or even a “between space”, becoming a passage place. This urban environmenthas beenconsolidated in Juiz de Fora since 2006, when the law nº 11.235 authorized the soccer field transference. It was then that the place lost its identity. The society could no longer feel that they own this space.

**Results**

What is evident in this situation is not only the fact of a public space de-semantization, but also the society commotion in recovering an use for it. Several publications in the localnewspapers showed what the society claims:in order to affirm its value and potential to the authorities, people protestedthroughout community actionand temporary appropriations of that space.

In the events course related to the Lacet Curve, the first manifestations started from the soccer field withdrawn with the proposal to transfer it to a nearby location. This field was actually used by theDom Bosco neighborhoodresidents. The authorities plan was tobuilt a recreational area with sports courts and physical education teachers to the community in that same location. However, this project was not carried out and the field was built in a secluded place with a poor infrastructure. Currently is in a state of neglect.

In October 2007, another fact has led the society to claim their interests: the Juiz de Fora city government would put for sale 25 lots in the city, including the Lacet Curve. The population was mobilized and accomplished what was then called the field "Symbolic Hug" in order to suspend the land sale.

In 2014, in the Dom Bosco neighborhood newspaper, a resident shown his dissatisfaction state with thesocial barrier that residents were submitted, showing, among other things, the gentrification process to which the shopping building underwent the neighborhood, by affirming that "once again the black, the poor are taxed as social garbage. Remove an area destined to the population leisure to give access to the mall is a clear prejudice example." He also stated that "if the mall did not want the presence of these people in front of its establishment, it should seek a prime area to settle"(DOM BOSCO, 2014:03).

In community actions favor, the local society has mobilized temporary interventions at the Lacet Curvet and promoted social debate about this public space. This fact can be perceived as a loss sense result among the population, which saw a soccer field tobe replaced by a lawn without any meaning or use for the city.

In September 2014, according to the Tribuna de Minas (2014)newspaper, a new cultural occupation brought together a thousand people audience with music performances, dance and films, plus workshops and storytelling. Another situation that prompted the society to reflect about the urbanism as a discipline was the recent fences placement along the Lacet Curve. This was a government intervention in order to try to prevent people crossing in the area.

**Final Considerations**

Even with such interventions, these still present themselves sporadically, leaving the Lacet Curve, most of the time, at the disuse and abandonment mercy, further reiterating its character of "non place”, by the time it comes down to a "flow space".

Therefore,it can be seen that the area intervened occupation process has significantly changed the landscape, whether as aurban transformation result or even because of social processes by which passed the city.

It is important to be noticed that the people responsible for the mentionedactions are not the same who used this area previously. Now, who claims for the place utility is a class with greater purchasing power in relation to those who used the space while still existed the soccerfield.

According to Lefebvre (2008), the city´sright is a utopian political nature aspect based mainly in the popular classes struggles, opposed to the urban space taken by the capital power. Such segregationist urbanism suggests and states, categorically, the lower income people distancing in urban centers and positioned in a peripheral area without any healthy living conditions. Civil society, which holds the capital power, will remain enjoying the urban space privileges that was built with this intention and segregated goals.

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