

Goiânia, new city, recent heritage: residential architecture as a pioneering Core landscape element



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Abstract

Goiânia (1933-34) fits the hall of New Cities designed as expression of modernity in Brazilian hinterlands. The landscape of its pioneering core is featured by an architectural diversity inspired by mainstream trends in the early 20th century. It displays a multifaceted and hybrid architectural identity, within the apparent rigidity of its urban layout. Since its inception, the city has been the scene of representations that have contributed to rebuild meanings to configure its landscape, assuming the anthropophagic and modernizing trend that does not value history. Such a fact had direct impact on the preservation of its urban complex, due to lack of acknowledgement towards a still recent heritage by both the population and administrative spheres. The residential heritage of a given city comes the closest to society, as well as to its history and memory, since

it is more directly linked to its daily life and to the ways of inhabiting the built and urban space. The current article reports the UFG/IPHAN-GO partnership experience, which counted on resources from Goiás State Public Prosecutor's Office, and aimed at identifying and featuring the residential heritage of the early Goiânia City construction stage, as well as its contribution to build a representative landscape for the city. The methodology adopted throughout the aforementioned experience comprised bibliographic, iconographic and iconographic research, geoprocessing and field surveys that involved place- and landscape-apprehension drift, urban morphology analysis and contact with residents. Training workshops were added to this process in order to broaden the scope of the present study to the heritage education sphere. This study was pioneer in incorporating the diversity of languages expressed in the urban landscape of the investigated city, since this aspect has not yet been assimilated, mainly with respect to its valorization. The aim was to bring society closer to the local architectural heritage and to establish guidelines for its preservation.

Keywords: City and Memory; Inventory; Historical Residences; Urban Landscape; Goiania.

GOIÂNIA, NEW CITY, RECENT HERITAGE

Goiânia City was initially planned to house 50,000 inhabitants and to be the capital of Goiás State; however, nowadays, it has approximately one million and four hundred thousand inhabitants. The project of its initial core was developed by Atilio Corrêa Lima, from 1933 to 1935, and subsequently, by Armando Augusto de Godoy, from 1936 to 1938 (Figures 1 and 2). It was based on a “pendular urban proposition” substantiated by “formulations of the City Beautiful movement and of the French school of ‘Scientific Urbanism’, as well as by the English ideal of Garden City, in the North American suburb variant” (FROTA; CAIXETA, 2012, p.1-9).

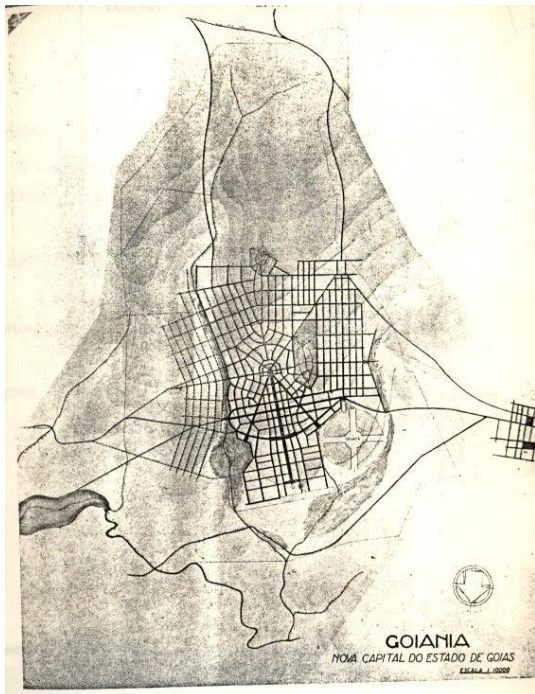


Figure 1 – Plan by Atilio Corrêa Lima, from 1933 to 1935. Source: SEPLANH's Documentation, Cartography and Topography Management

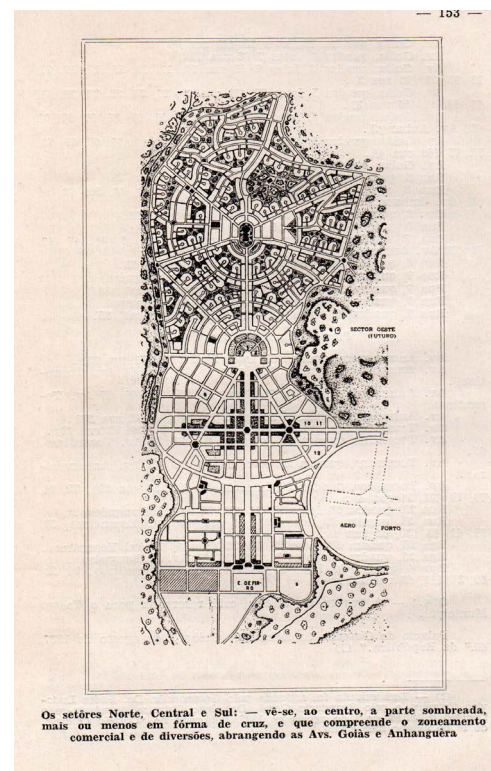


Figure 2 – Final plan of the initial nucleus of the city, based on Armando de Godoy's proposition for the Southern Sector, 1938.

Source: ALVARES, 1942, p 153.

The designed city is overall featured by large extensions of green areas and by a rationalist road system based on zoning, terrain topography and road dimensioning. Its urban fabric comprises wide tree-lined avenues and buildings with at most four floors - among them, one finds institutional and representative buildings -, which features the dichotomy between the domestic and monumental scales.

The Central Sector is featured by a grid-shaped layout that opposes the network of roundabouts and diagonals deriving from a central square called and featured as

“Civic Square”, which comprises public buildings, monuments and gardens. The main avenues structuring its urban layout, which lay next to the aforementioned square, form a design typical of the French School of Urbanism. It has traditional blocks that give a “corridor street” nature to the road system, with emphasis on the peculiar insertion of streets and internal areas – of service – in some of the blocks.

On the other hand, the Southern Sector’s layout comprises winding streets - some of them are dead ends - associated with radial avenues that converge to a central square. Its irregular blocks have large green areas for leisure and residents’ social interaction. These areas are interconnected by pedestrian streets and it creates a sort of continuous public park.

The space built up over the first city-formation decades resulted in the prevalent domestic-scale rhythm and volumetry of buildings, in association with vegetation clusters. It enabled a modest and pleasant landscape to be seen closer to the one envisioned in the Garden City propositions than to the monumentalism found in the principles of the City Beautiful movement and of the French school of “Scientific Urbanism” (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – Seventh Street and Standard Houses built by the State, in the Central Sector, in the 1940s.
Source: SEPLANH’s Documentation, Cartography and Topography Management.

Much of the architectural structure of the initial city core derived from the eclecticism and pragmatic rationalism that, sometimes, got close to the Déco and Modernist aesthetics. Modernist architecture has implemented its first works in Goiânia

City, from the 1950s onwards. The city developed at slow pace until the construction of Brasília City, when it received architects and engineers who migrated to the region, first from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and later from Belo Horizonte and Brasília.

As relevant part of the urban fabric, this multifaceted and hybrid architecture ratifies the equally mestizo identity of its urban spaces, which ends up configuring itself as the greatest value of this still recent heritage.

The destruction and de-characterization of this heritage started in the 1960s, through the verticalization of the Central Sector, which underwent an emptying and deterioration process in the late 1970s and early 1980s (VAZ, 2017, p. 1-22). The same process was observed in the Southern Sector of the city. Although it was preserved from the verticalization experienced by other residential neighborhoods - its free areas were, and remain, victims of marginalization processes.

The built heritage of Goiânia City has been gradually depleted over the last two decades. This process was accelerated by the last master plan (2006), which authorized the verticalization of the entire urbanized area, on behalf of the “compact city” model that, supposedly, would rationalize investments in infrastructure and improve the quality of life of the population. However, it truly expresses the prevalence of real estate speculation over public interests. Likewise, its environmental and urban heritage - which was linked to parks, environmental protection zones, as well as to the afforestation of streets, avenues and squares that, until then, provided a green identity to the city¹ - has been equally depleted.

Experiments aimed at relaunching the Central Sector were carried out from the 1990s onwards, although without success. Among them, one finds: Projeto Goiânia 21 - Operação Centto (1998); Reconsideración del Sector Histórico de Goiânia (2000) and Gecentro (2004). In 2002, this area was subject to Federal listing process, which was conducted by IPHAN. It listed a set of 22 elements and public buildings representative of art déco in the city (LIMA FILHO; MACHADO, p. 246-247), as well as of the layout proposed by Atílio Corrêa Lima. During that very same period, the original layout of the 1938 Plan, which comprised the Central, Northern and Southern sectors of the city, was also listed by the municipal legislation (AMARAL, 2015, p. 48). Punctual actions focused on the appropriation and resignification of obsolete urban spaces and buildings located in the Central and Southern sectors are still going on in Goiânia City², although in a hesitant manner. However, it is necessary travelling a long way to fully use the urban potential of these spaces.

1 For further information on the green identity of Goiânia City, in the 1980s, see Graeff (1985).

2 Recently, actions taken by residents' associations and urban collectives have been undertaking artistic interventions in the service alleys of the city's downtown blocks and in the green areas of blocks in the Southern Sector.

The experience in Goiânia City has shown that layout preservation without taking into consideration the other elements configuring the urban space, and the preservation of some buildings without taking into account the architectural and urban ensemble they are part of, have been ineffective. There is lack of more effective actions linked to continued public policies, to heritage education actions and to urban projects addressing the issue as a whole; as well as of adequate instruments to address this issue, which takes on particularities in the case of “New Cities”³.

Nowadays, the 86-year-old Goiânia city can be considered a metropolis that incorporated the modernizing anthropophagic trend of constant self-renewal, which does not value history, in its growth process. The frenetic pace of transformations experienced by it, from its construction in the 1930s to present times, has strongly marked its landscape, where important events telling its story are quickly suppressed. These events did not even have the necessary “time” to create memory ties. Speed, which is the main feature of modernity, is impregnated in its history and it has been the great challenge faced by those who deal with recent heritage. The rapid and diffuse growth of cities such as Goiânia, in association with lack of memory ties with their residents, makes it hard for preservation agencies to work, since they are not prepared to deal with such an issue.

Society’s lack of knowledge about, and acknowledgement of, this heritage is the main obstacle to its conservation and preservation. Thus, acknowledgement and society approximation strategies adopted in inventory processes⁴, in addition to educational actions, are a fruitful path to be explored.

Based on this perspective, the study developed by UFG, in partnership with IPHAN-GO, aims at identifying, featuring and valuing the residential heritage of Goiânia’s initial construction stage as important element in the construction of its “historic urban landscape”⁵- it was done by having in mind the view that landscape is an interpretation. It is not about what one sees, but how one sees it. It goes beyond physical limits and results from several layers of meanings necessary for its preservation. It is well-known that residential heritage is the one mostly close to society, as well as to its history and memory, since it is more directly linked to its daily life and to the ways of inhabiting

3 According to Trevisan (2009), New Cities are the ones built to be innovative and dynamic within their respective contexts; they form a new territory for the occupation and modernization of a given country. Overall, they are planned and implemented outside urbanized areas, in order to develop pioneer regions for political purposes of internalization.

4 Nowadays, inventory actions are not limited to cataloging the identified properties; they also extend to actions capable of encouraging dialogue, reflection, research and the protection of heritage assets. The complexity of this work in the Architecture field involves identifying its links to the urban context and social practices, as well as requires an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional action capable of relating different actors.

5 “Historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic center” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting”. (UNESCO, 2011).

the built and urban space. thus, it is an excellent way to interpret latent meanings in the landscape and, consequently, to raise awareness about the conservation and preservation of its built heritage.

Residential Architecture and Landscape in the Pioneer Nucleus

The herein reported experience was based on the research titled “Reconstruindo Documentações: Narrativas e Caminhos do Projeto Moderno em Goiânia” [Reconstructing Documentations: Modern Project Narratives and Pathways in Goiânia City]; it refers to the partnership between UFG and IPHAN-GO, which counted on financial support from the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Goiás State (MPGO - Ministério Público de Goiás), based on the Reference Term “Modern Architecture Inventory in Goiânia City/GO”, which is part of the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between UFG and IPHAN-GO, in 2015. This Term aimed at training a technical team to continue the process to identify and inventory the set of residential properties forming the modern architectural heritage in the first neighborhoods of Goiânia City, namely: the Central, Southern, Airport and Western Sectors. IPHAN - which has specific knowledge on the subject and accounts for the adopted inventory methodology - participates in this partnership as work supervisor. This agreement aimed at providing information capable of substantiating the work conducted by IPHAN-GO, the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Goiás State, and other local heritage protection spheres, as well as at enabling knowledge and documentation production, by promoting the use of IPHAN’s Integrated Knowledge and Management System at national level.

Research Methodology and Dynamics

The research started by identifying the assets of interest built in the first neighborhoods of Goiânia City, between the 1930s and 1970s. This scanning process, which had started in previous research, gained volume after the formation of an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional research team comprising UFG, IPHAN-GO and State Government members, as well as the participation of architects, geographers and undergraduate students enrolled in the Architecture and Urbanism course at UFG⁶.

6 Project work team - Eline Maria Mora Pereira Caixeta (coordinator), Dafne Marques de Mendonça (IPHAN/GO). Architects: Danielle Radis Alves, Elana da Silva Romualdo, Guilherme de Andrade Bento, José Artur D’Aló Frota, Julia Macedo Monteiro, Lívia Maria Pereira da Silva Moreira, Márcia Guerrante Tavares, Marília Pereira Santos, Mayra de Paula Nascimento Almeida, Renata Lima Barros, Rosângela Furtado MacDowell, Simone Borges C. de Oliveira. Geographers: Bruno Magnum Pereira, Juheina Lacerda R. Viana, Wilson Mendonça Lopes. Academics: Aline Izabella de O. Lopes, Amanda Karolyne Sousa, Ana Carla Paiva, Eduarda Vinhadelli, Gabrielle Ribeiro Costa, Guilherme Ferreira, Laís Oliveira, Maryan S. A. Nascimento and Roberto Cociello Neto

In view of the 306 identified properties, it was necessary developing a methodology to select the residences to be inventoried, in separate; as well as a methodology to analyze the formation of ensembles in the landscape. Collected data were spatialized and systematized in maps and database to enable building a solid methodology to be applied in cities experiencing similar reality to that of Goiânia.

The theoretical framework was presented in parallel to support the classification of the architectural language of the assets. The observed languages comprised: 1) Standard houses - houses built by Goiás State's government and houses built by private individuals, based on formal and spatial construction patterns similar to those used by the government; 2) Eclectic houses - which included mission-, Norman- and neocolonial-style houses and houses built based on the syncretism of languages called synthetic eclectic; and 3) Modern houses – they were divided into déco, modernist, transitional modernist and brutalist houses. In addition to this classification, the search for iconographic and ichnographic documents of some properties was carried out in historical archives to help better understanding the design of these residences. (See Figures 4 to 9, , which show examples of households' classification based on the architectural language).



Figure 4 – Standard House, Central Sector, Goiânia City, 2016.
Photo: Research Team
Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.



Figure 5 – Neocolonial Synthetic Eclectic House, Central Sector, Goiânia City, 2016.
Photo: Research Team
Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.

M301, M302 and M303 model forms were used to register individual properties (residences) based on the SICG-IPHAN methodology, whereas M1.01 and M1.02 forms were used to analyze and feature the architectural ensemble. The initially registered group of residences derived from a previous database comprising surveys and listings available in local public agencies, historical research, as well as from field surveys and a training workshop carried out in

2015. However, it was possible seeing that the group of identified residences did not comprise the total number of existing residences in the investigated regions. Thus, new drifts were set to identify more residences of interest to the research in three neighborhoods that have played pioneer role in the city formation process, namely: Central, Southern and Western Sectors. These residences were mapped and systematized in the database. As for the field work, neighborhoods were divided into 17 regions (Figure 10).



Figure 6 – Eclectic Typological House – Missions, Central Sector, Goiânia City, 2016.

Photo: Danielle Radis.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.



Figure 7 – Transitional Modernist House, Central Sector, Goiânia City, 2015.

Photo: Oficina de Inventários.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; PHAN/GO.



Figure 8 – Modernist House, Central Sector, Goiânia City, 2016.

Photo: Research Team

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.



Figure 9 – Modern House - Brutalist, Western Sector, Goiânia City, 2016.

Photo: Research Team.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO

After the drifts were carried out, the number of houses has increased by more than 50%. This significant increase has mainly influenced the city's historic landscape analysis, as well as the identification of ensembles.

Data spatialization and geoprocessing enabled identifying the formation of sets of residences in clusters (Figure 11). The landscape, ambience and morphological

changes observed in these areas were analyzed; data were used to complete the M101 and M102 forms.

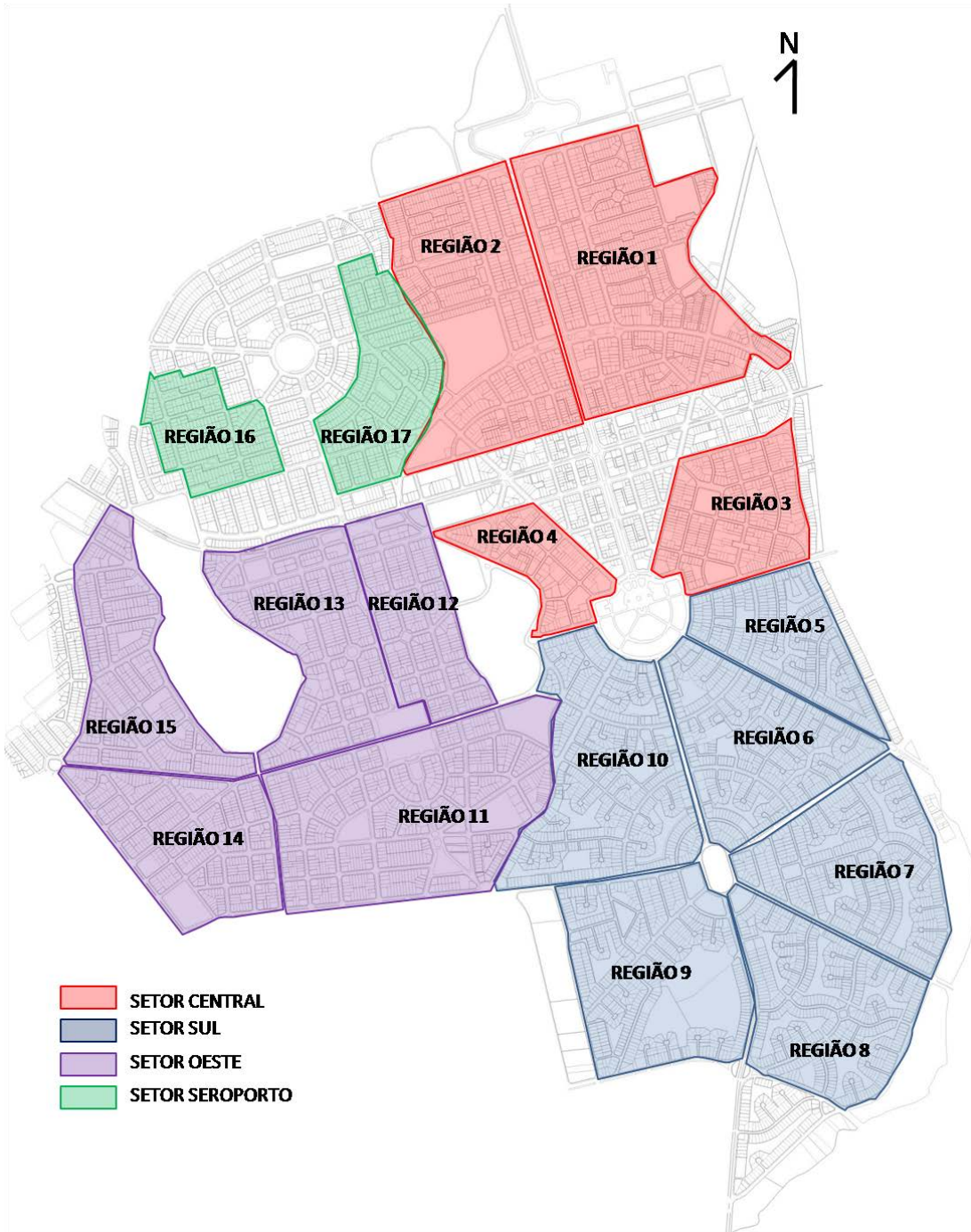


Figure 10 – Division of Regions per Sector: Pioneering Core of Goiânia City, February 2016.

Author: Wilson Lopes.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.

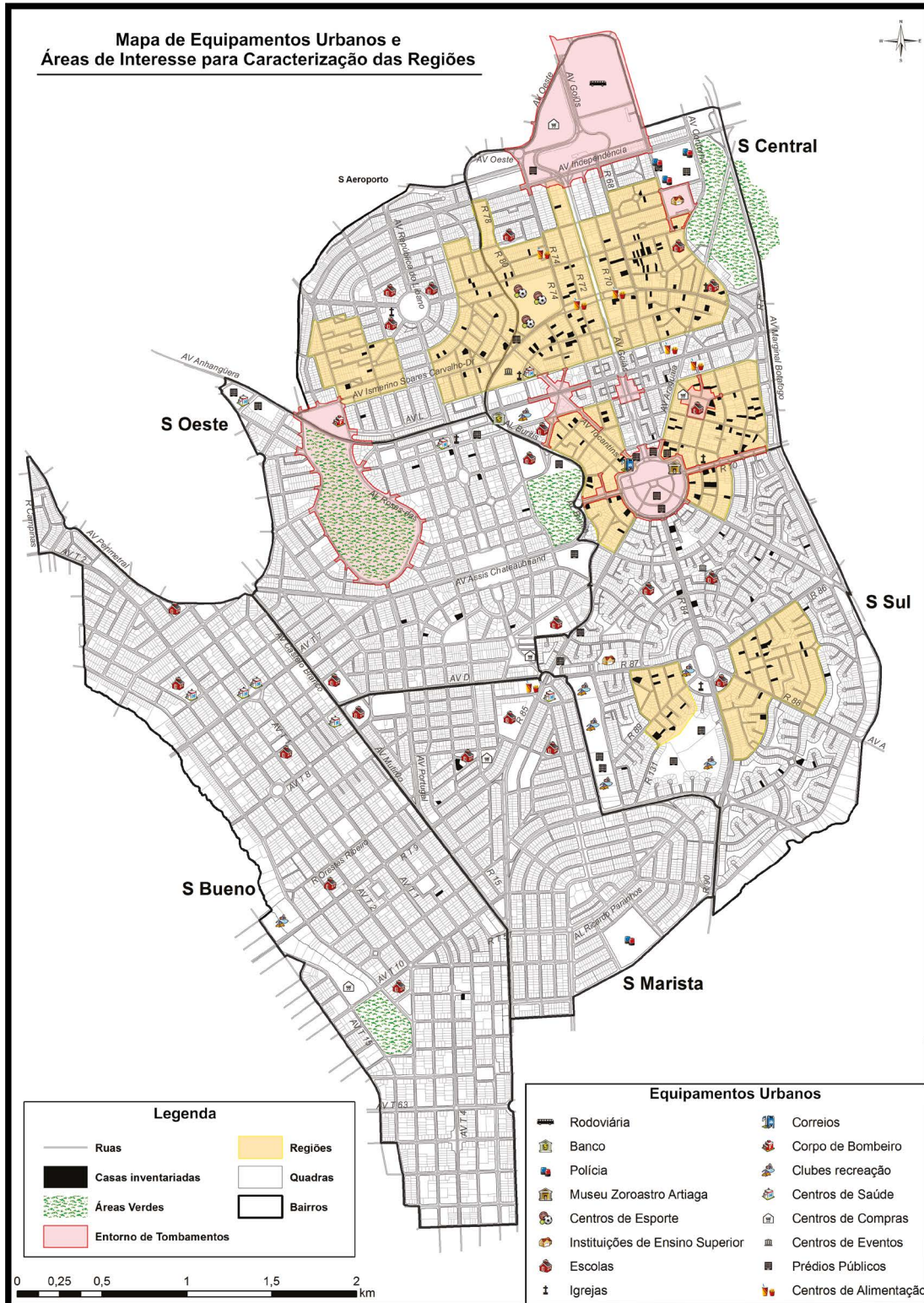


Figure 11 – Map of Urban Equipment and Areas of Interest to Feature the Regions: Central, Southern, Airport, Western, Bueno and Marista Sectors, August 2016. Author: Wilson Lopes. Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.

The database created from forms M3 and M1 enabled plotting thematic maps that contributed to the analysis of well-isolated architectural ensembles. This procedure enabled featuring them, identifying preserved contexts: the ones with potential for degradation, as well as degraded and isolated properties of architectural relevance.

INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY

The selection methodology adopted for the individual inventory took into consideration criteria such as conservation, preservation (attributes from the M3.01 form) and density (that results from spatialization). Weight up to 1 was attributed to conservation status and up to 2, for the other criteria. Houses were pre-selected based on measured data. Architectural value - which was used to filter and enable a reasonable number of houses to be visited - was included in this selection methodology, based on which, the percentage of forms to be filled according to architectural language, was defined.

Internal access to the houses was required – upon homeowners’ written consent – in order to fill in forms M3.02 and M3.03. Thus, an educational brochure was developed to outspread the importance of the topic, as well as to prepare residents for the first contact with the research group (Figure 12). The brochure was handed in to residents at the first access to their homes or deposited in their mailbox, when they did not get to the door. Completed forms worked as sampling of relevant residences within their architectural language.

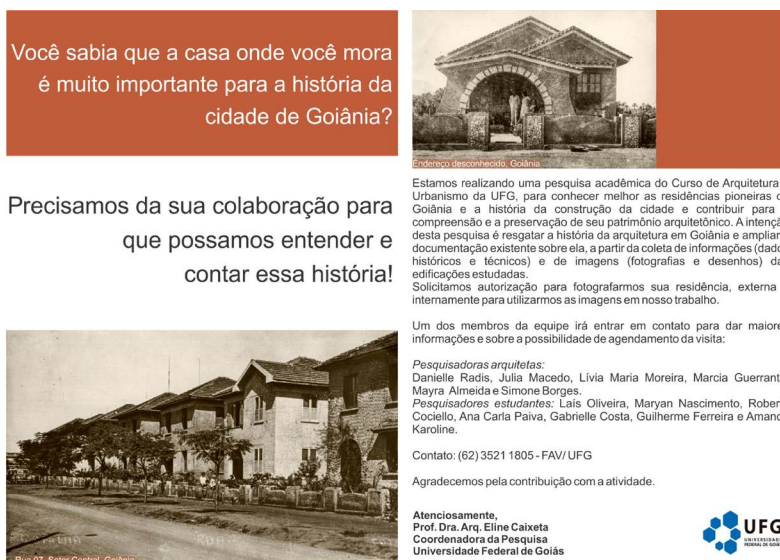


Figure 12 – Educational and awareness-raising pamphlet presented to residents of the visited homes, April 2016.

Authors: Roberto Cociello and José Artur D. Frota

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.

As these buildings were selected based on their individual representativeness, the inventory has contributed to better understand the property, in its formative and essential features. Completing the forms required performing an architectural and photographic survey in order to meet the following aspects: 1) M3.01 form – overall features capable of identifying the architectural language, preservation and conservation state, and the existence of integrated assets; 2) M3.02 form - floor plan sketch, implementation plan sketch, façade sketch, brief architectural description, overview of construction materials; 3) M3.03 form - floor plan sketch, details of all rooms in the house, specifying the construction materials used on the floor, walls and ceilings, pictures taken inside the house, and details of materials

Landscape Reading

Landscape reading was carried out to help defining and featuring the ensembles and isolated properties, since we realized that it could not be done in a superficial way – only based on the density of houses – since the macro view of a densification map is not enough to assess the complexity of elements involving the architectural ensembles and the context properties are inserted in. Analysis sections were defined, as well as the routes to be followed, based on the densification map (Figure 13), which comprised all residences registered in the project in order to carry out the landscape reading.

The landscape analysis started in the Central Sector, since it is where the largest number of houses of interest are located in – 162 houses, in total. This analysis was based on observation conducted in loco, by walking on the streets where houses identified as properties of interest were located in. By travelling these routes, it was possible seeing visual barriers and limits. The landscape was analyzed based on use type, height, building typology, incidence of vegetation and street dynamics; “ensembles” and “isolated properties” were recorded and the “spatial gap” between them was featured (Map 4). Landscape reading has also contributed to assess properties’ preservation state, as well as to complete the M1 inventory form associated with the historical and morphological context of visited neighborhoods, since it was used as resource to help better understanding the urban evolution in these areas.

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Figure 13 – Architectural Languages and Density Spots: Modern Residences in Goiânia City, March 2016.

Author: Wilson Lopes.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.



A análise da paisagem foi iniciada no Setor Central, pois é onde se localiza o maior número de casas de interesse, 162 no total. Esta análise foi realizada a partir da observação in loco, percorrendo a pé as ruas onde se localizam as casas identificadas como bens de interesse. Nesses percursos, observam-se, a ocorrência de barreiras e limites visuais e analisa-se a paisagem a partir dos usos, das alturas, das tipologias edilícias, da presença de vegetação e da dinâmica das ruas; demarcando a ocorrência de “conjuntos” e de “bens isolados” e caracterizando o “intervalo espacial” entre eles. (Mapa 4). A leitura contribuiu também para a avaliação do estado de preservação, bem como no preenchimento das fichas de inventário M1, relativa ao contexto histórico e morfológicos dos bairros, ao servir como recurso para compreensão da evolução urba- na destas áreas.

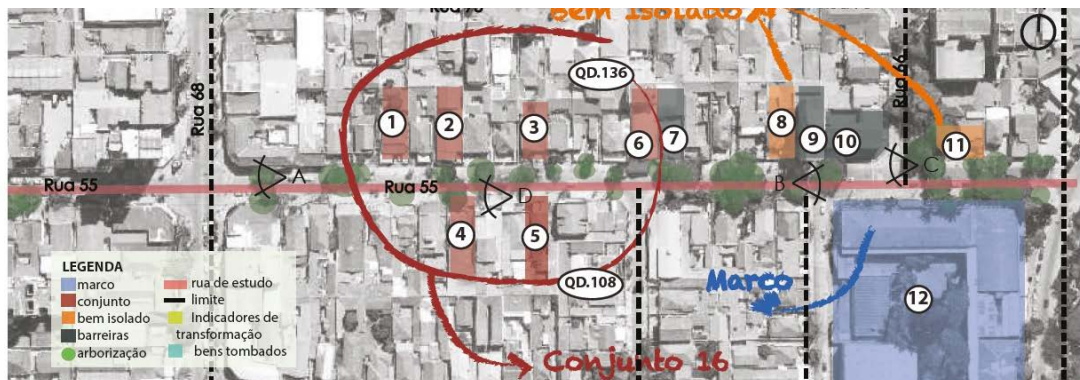


Figure 14 – Ensemble of Houses at 55th street, Central Sector, September 2016.

Author: Research Team.

Source: LAU/FAV/UFG; IPHAN/GO.

The landscape of the pioneering core of Goiânia City was originally unitary and presented homogeneous association between buildings and the plot, and in its subdivision. Nowadays, it is featured by juxtaposed areas and by fragmented immediate surroundings, where the reading of the original landscape is lost. This condition gets worse day after day, due to the demolition of houses to be replaced by non-residential buildings, as well as to empty spaces and elements breaking the local scale. Preserving the ensembles, rather than isolated properties, is an urgent task to be put into practice.

The key point of the analysis lied on assessing the ambience of stretches where properties of interest were located in, by taking into account some aspects classified as follows: landmarks (reference elements in the landscape); limits (paths defining the analysis section); barriers (elements or buildings restricting or hindering the visualization of the ensemble); transformation indicators (elements

causing, or deriving from, changes in the environment) and vegetation. The landscape reading enabled identifying three ambience types, namely: Domestic, Varying and Transition.

“Domestic” ambience is featured by environments whose material aspects of landscape and, in some cases, subjective and sensory aspects, refer to the time when the investigated residences were built. Aspects featuring this condition comprise urban afforestation and front setback gardens; prevalently domestic scale with low-quality buildings; visual permeability between houses and streets; residents’ movement in the streets and reasonable number of buildings with single-family residential use.

On the other hand, the “Varied” ambience has consolidated uses other than the residential ones and presents the following features: prevalently commercial, institutional or service typology; afforestation and incipient vegetation; poor visual permeability of buildings, looking from public areas; and incidence of visual barriers.

The ambience “in Transition” is featured by clear signs of changes in progress, although of undefined nature, for example: streets showing a considerable number of transformation factors in buildings, land subdivision and uses, and in the urban area, as well as little vegetation, either in front setbacks or on public roads. The landscape and ambience analyses enabled identifying 18 ensembles and 97 isolated properties in the Central Sector, alone.

Limits and Challenges, a New Perspective on Material Heritage

This is an ongoing project, whose first evaluation leads one to classify it as quite complex, due to the very variety presented by this heritage. New City – which was born from a plan that developed very fast at a time when the science of urbanism in Brazil was consolidating itself based on master plans and urban projects - did not have the opportunity to consolidate itself as built heritage at the heart of society. Its heritage - still recent - cannot maintain enough affective ties to guarantee its permanence in the collective memory.

The most evident factors identified so far comprised the growing abandonment and destruction of this heritage due to lack of information and incentives to its preservation, and the existence of particularities and specificities in each city neighborhood or region, which should be taken into consideration at landscape reading time. On the other hand, the fast and often uncontrolled development of the city changes urban areas and their landscape, as well as triggers the built and urban heritage fragmentation and deterioration phenomenon,

which has deep impact on community values. Reading this heritage and the city's dynamics has shown that one cannot work based on models, but on references used to develop strategies focused on guaranteeing its vitality.

Nowadays, Goiânia City has a quite heterogeneous contemporary landscape with traces of history; thus, it must be assessed and valued, based on its heterogeneity. This is the modern cityscape in its essence. As the offspring of modernity, Goiânia City behaves as such.

The primary challenge of understanding the diversity of non-homogeneous local heritage, whose main feature lies on its diversified aspect, is clear in the current research. At the same time, it hinders the performance of public policies, as well as the acknowledgement of what is important and what is not. The understanding of different architectural languages was built and consolidated throughout the current research, by refining the look towards the never seen, the modest, the non-classified and the fragmentary.

The second challenge lies on disentangling these remnants of mischaracterizations, changes and interferences, which result from the dynamics of new cities, as well as on reinterpreting them by taking into consideration their relationships with other urban fragments. Ambience readings have indicated a methodology to help understanding the historic urban atmosphere of Goiânia City, by taking into consideration the important role played by households in filling the gaps in the designed layout, which presents domestic scale, although it aspires to monumentality.

The third challenge, which the current research aims to support, lies on how to preserve it, since heterogeneity and the fast cycle of transformations - which have already left marks - are also part of the historical urban-core formation process. Differences between architectural languages and between morphological features of the analyzed Sectors (such as the Central and Southern ones) make preservation measures complex. At the same time, Goiânia City's specificities enrich the debate about how and what to preserve, since they distance new cities from urban centers traditionally protected by public policies that prioritize the identification of elements capable of unifying urban landscapes, rather than their differences.

Challenges faced in dealing with this heritage essentially comprise interdisciplinary and interinstitutional work, contact with residents and heritage education. They require understanding the city's territory as living document, as the result of dialogue and collective construction; they also involve the interaction between researcher and peripheral actors, and residents, as well as

the transit between material and immaterial heritage. Mobilizing the city towards this territory, its places and its problems is fundamental in this case. Goiânia plays the role of city that signals, that provides guidance to other New Cities built in Brazil from the 1930s to the 1960s, which do not know how to “walk”, how to plan their future, and how to re-signify themselves as modern heritage.

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