

Urban Renovation Within Public Space

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Summary:

The concept of Urban Renewal gives rise to spaces that have been transformed by the need to convert their use and function, one of the most notable and representative changes has been the participation of citizen in the history of developing cities; also represents one of the main fields of action for the transformation and improvement of unfavorable conditions and quality of life. Its importance in the evolution and improvement of developing cities should be recognized by anyone who intends to be part of the change and proper management of public urban space. This article reviews the evolutionary development of the concept as a starting point of the research, to later know and analyze the different transformations and strategies used in the development of the urban public space of the city.

Keywords: Urban Renewal, Public Space, Planning, Development, Social Inclusion.

Introduction

The term 'urban renewal' refers to the renovation of infrastructures and equipment that address the public space in the city; the initiation of urban renewal in the city was coined around 1950 by Miles Calean, an American economist who saw the need to recreate and implement new modifications as a result of the aging and deterioration of existing infrastructures, thus giving them new uses applied to different activities; Urban renewal is a term that can cover different areas and can also be related to urban processes such as rehabilitation and redevelopment.

The objective of this review article is to making know the transformation that the public space has had within the city and how it has been coupled to the city given the needs of the environment in which it is located, becoming a generator of social

integration without public and social limitations, empowering the most critical areas and maintaining the historical and patrimonial resources within the city, through a review of the impact generated by urban transformations through the growth of the city.

Methodology

The development of the article is based on the review of thirty authors and is structured in four parts. Initially, the concept of cities and their public space is exposed to contextualize the origin and development of public space within the city, then, an analysis is made from the result of urban transformations and the impact that this has generated in the most vulnerable and conflict areas of developing cities. Subsequently, a review of the historical and cultural heritage is carried out with the aim of seeing the transformation and the impact that this has had on the different areas of urban renewal. Finally, the planning of citizen inclusion and planning strategies is exposed within urban public spaces where the whole process of transformation is welcomed and represented by the participatory community.

Cities and their public space

To understand the origin of public space within cities, it is necessary to know the series of processes that resulted in the transformation of public spaces and their use within it.

Public spaces emerge at the same time that the human being begins to settle in sedentary communities, in the so-called Neolithic Revolution. Already from that period begin to build the foundations of what we know today and call public space, and its functioning as such is observed as social relations and specialization of work multiply and become more complex.

The main fact of development of the public space was the appearance of commerce, when they begin to generate excess production, the need for new public spaces for the merchandise of services is generated, making use of existing spaces such as streets and feet of buildings, giving new denotations and uses to existing places. Thus, the role of the State also arises due to the need and duty to ensure the protection of these public spaces, to guarantee their destination for common use and meet the needs of the city.

The city is a social construction that is transformed while the life of human beings passes. "These transformations are both the product of the notion of a common space that contributes to the encounter between people, as well as the conflicts that underlie the different ways of living the city and give it a meaning. It is this character, which allows cities to be understood as a space for social relations and human relations with it". (Silva, 2006)

We know the public space as the articulator of the existence of the city, not only in the physical-functional plane but also in the symbolic-interpretative one. If we start from

recognizing that the urban beyond the vision of the merely a building and recognizes the fact that its own nature involves cultural, social, economic and identity, it is understood why intervening public space denotes intervening the living space of those who inhabit the territory in which it takes place as Daza (2008) said.

Calero, Delgado, and Armas (2014) pose that the parks, streets, and squares of the city can act as places of emancipation, and contribute to the liberation of some groups; although they can also be perceived as dangerous and inaccessible spaces.

At present, contemporary cities that have modernized suffer, for the most part, from “popular overflow” (Matos, 1988) Agudelo, 2009), due to historical errors in the planning and management of their developments. These cities have very strained and contradictory relationships with the very societies that inhabit them, with their cultural identities, with their urban normativity, and with their environments.

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Finally, Vidal (2012), suggests that the recovery of public space should be based on the construction of a shared vision, based on agreements and commitments that progressively lead to the construction of shared responsibility of each of the groups of people involved.

Results of urban transformations

Colombia in the last fifty years has registered a strong tendency to urbanization. In 1950, the population living in the cities was 39% of the total population, and it is expected that by 2020 it will be approximately 80% about a statistic from National Development, (Plan 2006-2010, 2007, and p.168). The problem of this accelerated growth has serious consequences at present; Cortes (2011) suggest that therefore, urban growth was not planned and areas built in the periphery demanded a greater investment of resources to provide citizens with minimum conditions of basic sanitation, equipment, infrastructure, and complete public services.

To analyze the concept of urban transformation in the city, we will review the transformations that the most vulnerable cities have had in recent years:

For Herrera (2005), the objective of urban transformations is to evaluate the objectives and socio-cultural effects for the recovery of inclusive and recreational spaces. Ocampo (2008) on the other hand suggests that recreational areas within a daily context, are of vital importance to have a better performance in the activities that are carried out in daily life, either as a whole or as individuals.

“Amador, Rivera, and Ramírez (2013) postulates as an example the current condition of the people in the San José Commune and concludes that an urban renewal project cannot be planned without first having made a prior investigation of the needs and problems of the community, since this could affect the citizen’s behavior and could lose the patrimonial character that has been conserved by then for so long.

Riaño (2011) also suggests that a management proposal involving landowners, tenants, and the state is necessary to achieve a balance between the private and the public and generating new alliances to offer new public space and new green areas.

Rebollo (2012), concludes that the result that can be expected from community action must be sought in the most micro scales of urban life. If we adopt a global vision, and the incidence of community processes is compared with that of other actors and other processes dominated by the logic of the market and globalization, it does not seem that the community has the capacity they have the seconds to make a mark in the city.

The urban transformation in the city of Bogotá has had the following impacts:

Martínez (2010) states that Bogotá has had an accelerated demographic and economic growth during the last 50 years, which implies rapid urban growth. This disorganized and unplanned growth has brought irreversible consequences on the infrastructure of the city.

About Hurtado (2011), “Bogotá for its growth rates requires the implementation of urban renewal plans that mitigate the impacts generated by the vegetative growth and migrations from all over the country that demand housing, services, and equipment that allows them to have a life worthy”.

Poirier (2015), indicate that public space should not be understood specifically as an institutional reality, or as a place of the geographically located city, nor as an informal organ by which society up to reflect on itself to seek reform.

Gonzales (2009), advance the underlying needs to the generation of social networks that articulate systems to themselves, to their customs, that allow the appropriation and respect for the urban memory of cities.

The public space within urban transformation

For Da Silva Mello and Vogel (2007), a place is always a space of something (or some event); in the same way that just things (or events) can only take place in some

specific place. The ethnography of social space has to be, for that reason, the careful record of what actually happens in it. This is a condition for the system if we can still speak of a system, to present itself in its complex and dynamic synthesis.

For Arteaga and Escallón (2012), urban strategies are more focused on the result than on the process and, in this sense, the learning has not been identified and the experiences that the projects can carry out have been valued. The effort should focus on bringing together and making coherent the good intentions of the technical proposals with the good purposes of political discourses where citizens clearly perceive the evidence of changes in benefit of the quality of life both their own and the community.

Garcia (2008), shows that the existing city, not very dense and with few signs that urbanism has been concerned with the preservation of spaces and forms of urban-rural or urban-natural interpenetration that occur in transit; instead, the city disappears those mosaics little by little.

For Montero (2014), also the absence of vitality in the few planned public spaces is the joint result of his lack of physical accessibility, of furniture and maintenance, the offer of services and recreational activities. These factors do not allow people to appropriate public spaces.

Giglia (2013), obtains as a conclusion on how urban renewal is accompanied by a process of expulsion and distancing from populations considered discordant with the new image of space.

Within the definitions given by the previous authors highlights the importance of the community in the development of urban planning activities, and its optimal compliance, it can also be deduced that the planning must be accompanied by a research and exploratory process that defines the opportunities, disadvantages, and problems posed by a sector, so that the entities in charge can generate strategies that benefit in favor the entire community. Starting from the urban expansion, a social conflict begins to be generated whose affected people tend to be the common people, the community itself, from the daily pedestrian to the child who recreates in a park, since the expansion leads to the creation of new spaces and the renovation of existing spaces that significantly alter the existing context of the city.

Historical and cultural heritage

The study of urban dynamics and the public management of historic centers understood as the main component of public space is currently a central theme of the urban planning of Colombian cities. Since the mid-twentieth century, after the issuance of Law 163 of 1959, both the institutions responsible for ensuring the care of heritage as Colcultura and academic sectors undertook the preparation of studies on recovery, revitalization, and restoration of monuments based in architectural and historical works. “The main objective

of these works was to counteract the permanent destruction of the immovable cultural heritage” (Cortez, 2011).

Considering that heritage is understood as the preservation of historical, artistic or architectural objects that symbolize a past, all urban public spaces constructed through time are recognized as urban patrimony of heritage conservation, knowing that public spaces are a clear reflection of the changes in the ways of thinking of society and different construction theories over time take the different points of view of the following authors.

For Spósito (2009), it is of great importance to forge the idea of heritage as a right, to legislate about it and to implement active participation in its exercise, it is constituted as high points in the construction of the civic culture.

Rodríguez (2005), shows the following example as a solution to the need to preserve the landscape of the local territory of La Atalaya, in the municipality of Santa Brígida, considered as cultural heritage, to use it as a tourist resource, is committed to the recovery of intangible heritage, through the largest possible number of interviews, oral testimonies, that historical memory that has given life to a population, which is not only particular for the characteristics of its habitat but also for its identity.

Over time it can be deduced how the historical heritage becomes the recognizable and identifiable image of a city before the world, as its conservation over the years has acquired a cultural value and appropriation in the community, some conserving the use towards which it was destined and others recovered and renewed for the improvement and use of the space within the context of the city.

The sale of the image of the city is done through the creation of different senses from discourses (institutional and media) without a doubt (looking at the effects on citizenship) to increase the sense of belonging, social self-esteem, optimism and trust in the city and its leaders (Galindo, 2011).

Planning of inclusion strategies and citizen planning within the public space:

The association of the different scenarios of the sporting, recreational and inclusion zones to the community with special conditions and inhabitants of the street of different places is made according to the different authors citing, thus, the strategic planning of each one of the projects and its adaptation of infrastructure, recreational areas, recreational areas and social inclusion and participation, studies were carried out by the community and the municipal and departmental entities, as described below:

Sport has been one of the most important scenarios in urban development. Arevalo & Correa, (2007) Affirm that sport and recreation in Santa Rosa de Cabal has presented several periods of development is as well as until the year 1995 sports and recreational activities focused on the community with special emphasis on the organization of events

and the confirmation of diverse selected ones; activities developed by monitors attached to the Municipal Mayor's Office.

Based on the foregoing, it is explained how in the project it is proposed to develop that the administrative entities of Santa Rosa de cabal which was added to the national census with the company of entities such as COLDEPORTES NACIONAL, FONDANE, LA SECRETARIA DE DESARROLLO and DANE, in order to obtain information as they find the sports and recreational scenarios of the municipality and the needs according to the inhabitants of Santa Rosa de Cabal taking advantage of the improvement proposals to be implemented for sport and recreation according to the study.

The municipal administration committed together with the community with a series of organizational principles such as mission, vision, planning, management, institutional collaboration, transparency and solidarity. (Arevalo & Correa, 2007)

The participation of people with disabilities is not very active, which led for the first time a working group in the congress of the SPANISH NETWORK OF SOCIAL POLICIES of the University of Alcalá in Spain, to make proposals, dedicating the problems presented by this sector vulnerable in relation to public and social policies and to reduce the rate of poverty that occurs in these people in this population (Belzunegui and Bornones, 2013).

By implementing a strategic plan for the sports area of the democracy park in the city of Guatemala, in its degree project, it carries out a specific study of sports and recreational spaces, which lack the population with different capacities, thus achieving the inclusion and participation of this group and that the recreational centers that exist are for the normal population. (Belzunegui & Bornones 2013).

The investigation of the indigent of the street their behavior, dialect, gestures and others such as the experience and communication between them which the intention is to promote the social inclusion of the inhabitants of the street with the rest of society through institutions directed by the Balcans Personal Development Center, institutional bodies which direct and advise these people to improve their quality of life (Alvarez & Urre, 2005).

Consequently the implementation and strategic planning of each of the authors are to bring their ideas and knowledge, providing improvements to the community both in urban areas and citizen participation, regardless of any condition, must plan, control and direct without excluding the social, urban and physical conditions of each community (Shardell & Pérez, 2012)

It can be concluded that the quality of life of people with disabilities and their inhabitants can be improved based on action plans and research, planning and strategies taking into account their participation and execution for decision making (Shardell & Pérez, 2012)

Discussion

Within the review articles we find that for Silva (2006), the city is built from experiences and conflicts over time and from these are denoted and given meaning to public spaces within the city, Perahia (2007), supports this theory by considering the public space as the one that gives identity and character to the city, which makes it recognizable to the world through its urban, natural and heritage sites. Although Daza, w. (2008) warns that intervening in public space is intervening the vital space of the population and modifying their way of living, throwing possible conflicts and future adaptations for society. For Ceballos (2012), the importance of public space is to encompass the need for recreation and free spreading of society within the city as well as for Calero, Delgado, and Armas (2014), where parks and squares contribute to the liberation of society but can also be perceived as dangerous and unaffordable spaces. Although Agudelo (2009), shows how the transformation affects contemporary cities because of their planning and development management, these cities are contradictory in their cultural identities and the regulations that they are obliged to apply. Ocampo (2008), leisure areas within a daily context, are of vital importance to have a better performance in the activities that are carried out in daily life, but as Riaño (2011), suggests these should be accompanied by proposals for management involving landowners, tenants, and the state to achieve a balance between private and public. The sale of the image of the city is done through the creation of different senses to increase the sense of belonging, social self-esteem, optimism and trust in the city and its leaders. Galindo (2011), but Giglia (2013), urban renewal is accompanied by a process of expulsion and distancing of populations considered discordant with the new image of space.

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