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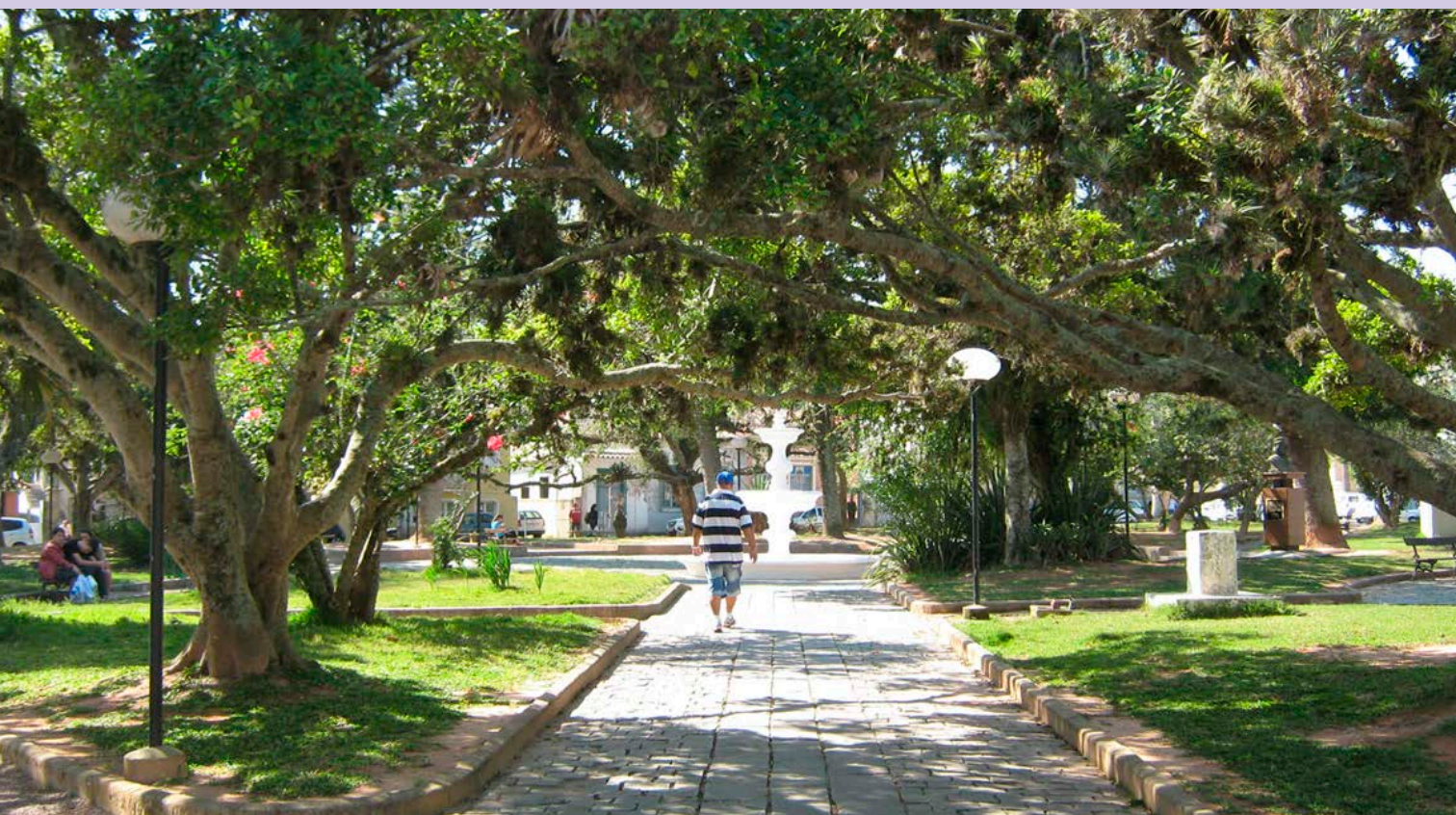
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## REFLECTIONS ON PUBLIC SPACE IN PROTECTED CENTER: POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HERITAGE AND URBAN DESIGN

Reflexiones sobre el espacio público en los centros  
conservados: posibles relaciones entre patrimonio y  
diseño urbano

Reflexões sobre o espaço público em centros  
preservados: possíveis relações entre patrimônio e  
desenho urbano



**Figure 0** Even though the public spaces are deficient in infrastructure and configuration, the most diverse uses can be perceived throughout the day, such as the sale of fish every morning. Source: Own elaboration

## RESUMO

O espaço urbano de uma cidade é o resultado das interações sociais com e entre as pessoas que utilizam e vivenciam esse espaço, configurando assim a esfera pública de uma cidade. Podemos considerar também, que a construção desses espaços está diretamente relacionada com a maneira como seus espaços livres de edificação se relacionam com os seus espaços edificados. Numa cidade de caráter patrimonial, à essas características são acrescidos os valores históricos e culturais que devem ser protegidos e valorizados através de ações de salvaguarda e proteção. No entanto, a legislação brasileira vigente atua mais sobre o edifício, e mesmo incluindo conjuntos urbanos e seus entornos, não parece considerar que a salvaguarda e proteção do patrimônio de uma cidade também passa pelo planejamento urbano, ou seja às ações de salvaguarda e proteção devem estar relacionadas ações de planejamento urbano, presentes tanto no planos diretores quanto nas ações de intervenção e manutenção do espaço público existente. O objetivo geral dessa pesquisa foi estabelecer e identificar as relações existentes entre o desenho urbano e o patrimônio ambiental urbano que considerassem tanto os aspectos da salvaguarda e proteção quanto os aspectos da qualidade urbana. Foi utilizada a metodologia do estudo de caso, sendo escolhida a cidade de Laguna, no litoral sul de Santa Catarina. Os procedimentos utilizados foram: a análise histórico-estrutural mediante através do estudo da evolução urbana da cidade, o processo de tombamento e as características atuais de seus espaços públicos. Para além da revisão teórica, buscou-se metodologias de análise do espaço público que considerassem as peculiaridades de uma cidade que possui seu centro histórico protegido. Podemos considerar que a pesquisa contribuiu assim para a reflexão das práticas de proteção do patrimônio ambiental urbano relacionadas com as ações de desenvolvimento urbano e qualificação dos espaços públicos.

**Palavras-chave:** espaço público; desenho urbano; planejamento urbano; centros históricos; patrimônio urbano;

## RESUMEN

El espacio urbano de una ciudad es el resultado de interacciones sociales con y entre las personas que utilizan y experimentan este espacio, configurando así la esfera pública de una ciudad. También podemos considerar que la construcción de estos espacios está directamente relacionada con la forma en que sus espacios libres de construcción se relacionan con sus espacios construidos. En una ciudad de carácter patrimonial, estas características se suman a los valores históricos y culturales que deben ser protegidos y valorados a través de acciones de salvaguarda y protección. No obstante, la actual legislación brasileña actúa más sobre la edificación y, a pesar de incluir los conjuntos urbanos y su entorno, no parece considerar que la salvaguarda y protección del patrimonio de una ciudad implican también el planeamiento urbanístico, es decir, las acciones de salvaguarda y protección se deben asociar con acciones de planificación urbana, presentes tanto en los planes directores como en las acciones de intervención y mantenimiento del espacio público existente. El objetivo general de esta investigación fue establecer e identificar las relaciones existentes entre el diseño urbano y el patrimonio ambiental urbano que abarcaran tanto los aspectos de salvaguarda y protección como los aspectos de calidad urbana. Se utilizó la metodología de estudio de caso, eligiendo la ciudad de Laguna, en el Estado de Santa Catarina, Brasil. Los procedimientos utilizados fueron: el análisis histórico-estructural mediante el estudio de la evolución urbana de la ciudad, el proceso de registro y las características actuales de sus espacios públicos. Además de la revisión teórica, se buscaron metodologías de análisis del espacio público que consideraran las peculiaridades de una ciudad que tiene protegido su centro histórico. Podemos considerar que la investigación contribuyó, así, a la reflexión sobre las prácticas de protección del patrimonio ambiental urbano relacionadas con las acciones de desarrollo urbano y calificación de los espacios públicos.

**Palabras Clave:** espacio público; diseño urbano; urbanismo; centros históricos; patrimonio urbano

## ABSTRACT

The urban space of a city is the result of social interactions with and between people who use and experience this space, thus configuring the public sphere of a city. We can also consider that the construction of these spaces is directly related to the way in which their free building spaces relate to their built spaces. In a city of heritage character, these characteristics are added to the historical and cultural values that must be protected and valued through safeguard and protection actions. However, current Brazilian legislation acts more on the building, and even including urban complexes and their surroundings, it does not seem to consider that the safeguarding and protection of a city's heritage also involves urban planning, that is, the safeguarding and protection actions must be related to urban planning actions, present both in the master plans and in the intervention and maintenance actions of the existing public space. The general objective of this research was to establish and identify the existing relationships between urban design and urban environmental heritage that considered both the safeguard and protection aspects and the aspects of urban quality. The case study methodology was used, choosing the city of Laguna, on the southern coast of Santa Catarina. The procedures used were: the historical-structural analysis through the study of the urban evolution of the city, the registration process and the current characteristics of its public spaces. We can consider that the research thus contributed to the reflection on the practices of urban environmental heritage protection related to urban development actions and qualification of public spaces.

**Keywords:** urban space; urban design; urban planning; historic center; urban heritage

## INTRODUCTION

The urban space of a city comprises the combination of its built and its open areas, whether related to one another or not, depending on the characteristics of the city. It is the result of social interactions, of the people who use it and experience it. According to Habermas (2003), the public space resides in the public sphere, therefore being a suitable network for the formation of positions and opinions.

In a more specific point of view, urban space also comprises infrastructure networks, urban facilities and furniture, and public services that support the development of urban functions. Thus, it can be considered that the urban space of a city is formed by the relationships established between its different spheres, such as the physical, territorial, morphological, social, economic, historical, and also affective ones.

When studying the urban space in a city of heritage value, whose downtown area is listed as such, as is the case of the city of Laguna on the south coast of Santa Catarina, this definition does not change, but other components must be added to it.

While in an unprotected or non-heritage city, urban space management follows the municipal urban planning legislation, such as a Regulatory Plan and Works Code, with its decisions made directly by state power; in a protected city, this management must also follow specific rules. In these cases, through federal designation, applied by the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage – IPHAN in Portuguese, they must follow the preservation legislation and respect standards for interventions both in built-up and in open areas.

Currently, the main objective of the IPHAN legislation, which focuses on urban heritage, is its preservation as an asset of historical value, and is focused mainly on the built areas and has little regulation on interventions in unbuilt areas (roads, sidewalks, parks, and squares) or, more specifically, in their public spaces, which are the spaces of urban sociability.

This article is based on the understanding that the urban space is complex, non-static, and comprises different elements, which, by relating to one another and to their users, make up what we call a city; and that, when this same urban space is protected by the action of being listed, its relations of history and collective memory attribute qualities to it that are different from those of other cities, that end up affecting this same space. (POULOT, 2009)

Thus, this work presents a reflection on the protected downtown and public spaces of the city of Laguna, on the southern coast of Santa Catarina, under the focus of urban design, without disregarding the concepts linked to heritage and cultural landscape, but rather considering the inseparability between them.

The city went through the federal designation process in the early 1980s, when its downtown area or historic center was listed, a process that in many ways significantly altered how its residents relate to the city as a whole and to the downtown area in particular.

Brazilian legislation acts on both movable and immovable heritage property and, although it includes urban groups in the preservation action, it does not seem to consider that the safeguarding and



protection of urban heritage also includes urban planning, namely, that the protection actions must correspond to relevant actions of urban planning.

In the case of Laguna, it can be seen that, even if its Municipal Regulatory Plan has considered the preserved area of its historic downtown area in its preparation, this is managed by municipal public entities as the responsibility of the responsible Federal entity, the IPHAN. Hence, there is a polarization between what the responsibility of one and the other is. Perhaps this relationship still has remnants of the listing process, which placed on one side, part of the population that opposed it, and on the other, the IPHAN experts with other residents who were supporters of preserving the downtown area.

In the case of buildings in the preserved area<sup>1</sup>, built heritage has specific legislation on its upkeep and possible interventions, namely the Preservation Standard for the Urban Historic Site of Laguna, of 2004. However, for the case of public space –roads, sidewalks, parks, and squares–, this manual does not exist, and a case-by-case analysis is made considering information from Laguna's IPHAN experts. (IPHAN, 2004)

The authors feel that the way in which one interferes in these protected public spaces has as much relevance to the valorization of existing heritage as the interference in the buildings there are in the same place. Thus, when analyzing the 2004 Standard, the following dichotomy emerges: although some items refer to interventions in public spaces within the ensemble, the main focus of the standard is put on the buildings.

The public spaces of a city have their own individual characteristics and can reveal the character of a city as a whole. By experiencing these spaces, one also experiences the city and its singularities. When talking about a heritage city, as is the case of Laguna, this intrinsic value gains greater relevance, its public spaces –streets, sidewalks, parks, and squares– bring with them not only a social value, but also a historical and cultural one.

Although Decree in Law N° 25/1937 fulfilled its purpose in safeguarding and protecting architectural assets, it did not act in the same way when considering the preservation of urban heritage. In France, England, and Italy, the legislation brings into the sphere of urban and regional planning, the safeguarding of heritage urban ensembles; in Brazil, despite several attempts by the responsible entities, the proposed actions were not continued (SANTANNA, 2015). This seems to be a general issue regarding the management of Brazilian heritage: not to act on public spaces.

The objective here was to reflect on the public spaces in the preserved downtown areas, seeking the possible relationships there may be between urban environmental heritage and urban design, with downtown Laguna being the object of analysis.

The definitions of urban design were mainly based on Del Rio and Sambieda (1990)(2015), who handle the topic as a field of the

<sup>1</sup> In Brazil, designations are recognized as the most traditional national heritage recognition and protection instruments, and were instituted by Decree in Law No. 25 of November 30th, 1937. Applied to goods of a material nature since 1937, by 2014 there was a total of 1,113 material goods listed by IPHAN, including monuments, urban and landscape ensembles, art collections, and objects. There is a total of 78 urban ensembles, resulting in approximately 70,000 listed real estates (IPHAN, 2017). In Santa Catarina, a total of 26 cultural assets are listed by IPHAN including buildings, heritage, collections, integrated real estate, architectural, rural, and urban arrangements. The largest urban sets are located in São Francisco do Sul, on the north coast, and in Laguna, on the south coast.

## METHODOLOGY

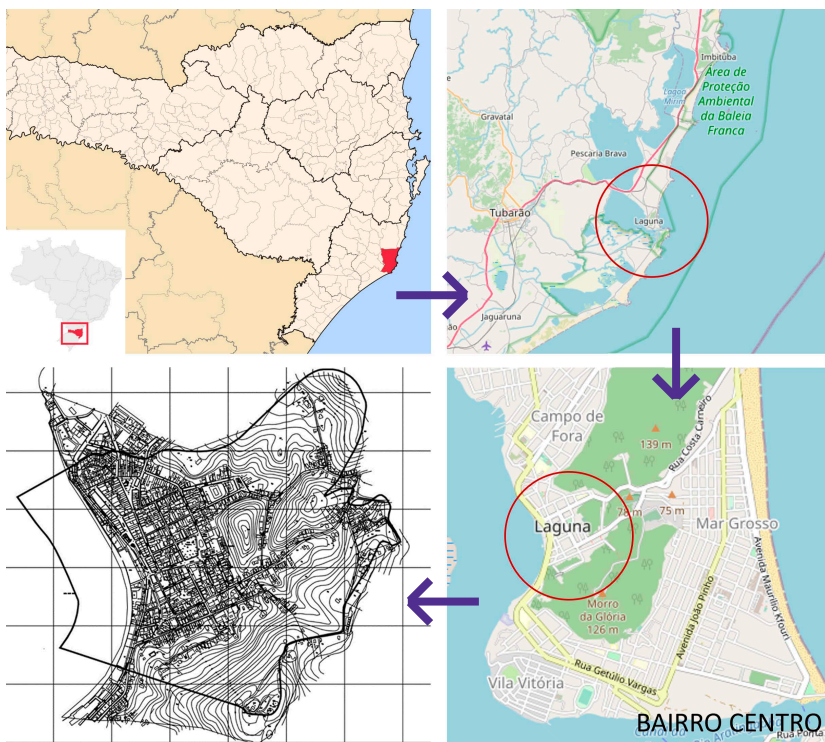
physical-environmental dimension of the city, considering a set of systems and activities that interact with the population during their everyday experiences and perceptions.

Urban environmental heritage and the city's heritage have been studied, starting from the idea that the valorization of the urban environmental heritage, and the need to protect and add value to the oldest downtown areas in Brazil, as well as their integration with other parts of the city, have become the key focus of discussions on the sustainable development of cities and their urban planning. This is because these old downtown areas are an important part of the environmental and urban identity, which have been inherited from previous generations, and that must be preserved for the next ones. The theoretical background on which the research can be supported was thus backed in this way (Castriota, 2009).

In the field of urban design, methodologies were sought to assess the urban quality and landscape that best suited the Brazilian urban and sociocultural reality. Four different approaches to analysis and urban space intervention methodologies were chosen to study. First, the methodology for measuring the urban quality developed by researchers at the University of Maryland (Ewing; Clemente, 2013), who focused their analysis on urban roads and on pedestrians, on considering that in terms of the public domain, no element is more important than the streets. Parks, squares, trails, and other public places also play an important role in daily tasks, but considering the critical and ubiquitous role of the streets, this methodology seeks to identify the attributes that make a street more appealing and transitable than another. Secondly, the Public Spaces Manual (Gatti, 2013), which was developed with the goal of guiding the point of view of public administration, technical experts, and the city's public spaces administrators, to seek problems and the potential that may be the basis for restructuring existing public spaces, or even creating new ones. Third, the OSS (Open Spaces System) methodology, the analysis of free spaces developed by QUAPÁ –SEL of FAUUSP–, was studied. This looks to study all existing urban open spaces, regardless of their size, aesthetic quality, function, location, and real estate, whether public or private (Macedo; Queiroga, 2018). The idea of an open spaces system is linked to their functional and organizational (socio-environmental) relationship, since physically only open public spaces are connected to each other, mainly by the road network.

Fourth, two of the IPHAN manuals were studied, the Manual on Interventions in Historic Gardens (DELPHIN, 2005), which looks to meet the technical requirements for the conservation and preservation of historic gardens under the responsibility of IPHAN, and the Preservation Standard for the Urban Historic Site of Laguna (IPHAN, 2004), whose role is standardizing the interventions made there. This standard has as a legal basis, Decree in Law Nº25/1937, which, although it fulfills its role in the protection and preservation of architectural assets, does not say the same about the urban environmental heritage.

The selection criteria considered not only the application on public spaces in heritage areas, but also on public spaces without this specific characteristic, considering that this research sought dialog between areas that do not usually talk: the protection of heritage and urban design.

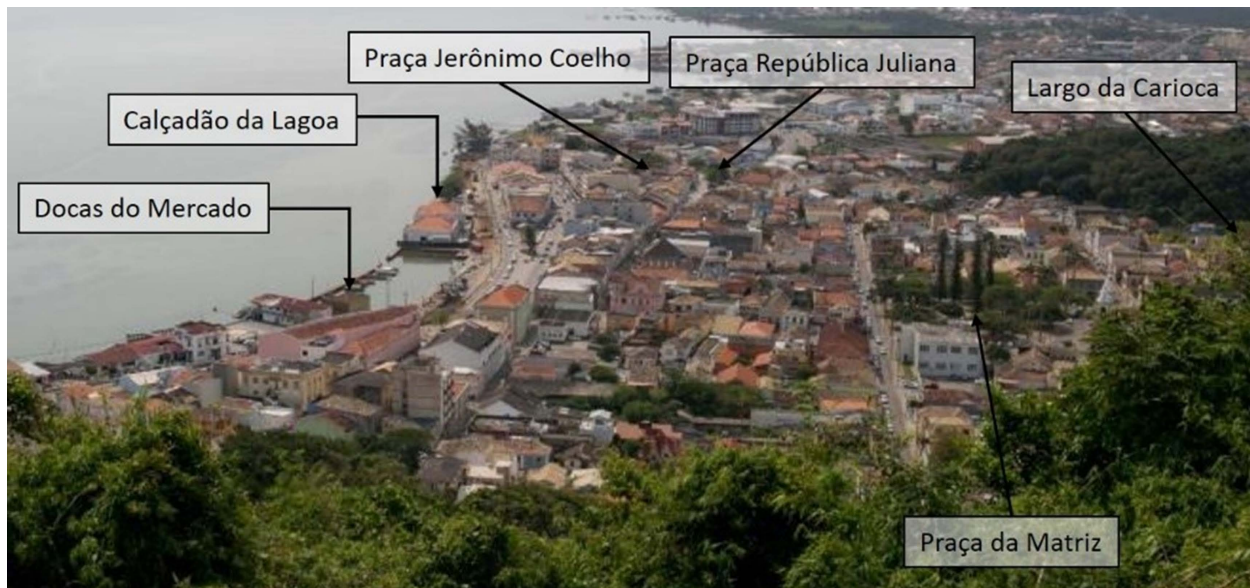


**Figure 1** Part of Sector 1, around Praça Vidal Ramos, to the right right Santo Antônio's Church and at the bottom a view of Morro Morro da Glória.  
Source: Elaboration own elaboration

The municipality of Laguna (**Figure 1**) is located on the southern coast of the state of Santa Catarina, 126 km from the capital, Florianópolis, on BR-101. It has a territorial extension of 336,396 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated population of 40,000 in 2018. The last census of the IBGE, 2010, indicated that the city had 51,562 inhabitants, but in 2012, the District of Pescaria Brava was recognized, which at the time had approximately 10,000 inhabitants (IBGE, 2018). According to Municipal data (PML, 2018), the city has 35 neighborhoods, with the downtown area and Magalhães being the oldest in the city. It is bordered to the east by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west by the municipalities of Tubarão and Capivari de Baixo, to the north, the municipalities of Imaruá and Imbituba and, finally, to the south, the municipality of Jaguaruna.

According to historian Oswaldo Cabral (1937), until mid-1658, the southern coast of Brazil, today Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul, had no stable foundations. However, São Francisco do Sul, Nossa Senhora do Desterro, São José da Terra Firme, and Santo Antônio dos Anjos da Laguna, were already known by sailors and explorers of the region for being places where vessels could get fresh water supplies. It was only from 1658 that colonization expeditions became more effective, with the aim of ensuring the domination of the territory for Portugal. The region was at the heart of the dispute between the Portuguese and Spanish crowns, which resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 which, according to local history, it passed through the city of Laguna. According to Lemos (2016, pg. 133) "this meridian was never defined, and the gigantic hinterland was occupied with a total depoliticization of those nations"; only in 1750, with the signing of the Treaty of Madrid, were the true boundaries between the Portuguese and

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS



**Figure 2** Part of Sector 2, surrounding Lauro Müller Square, to the right the Pinto Ulysséia House and left the Carioca Fountain. Source: Own elaboration

Spanish lands demarcated. Back then, many regions had already been occupied by the actions of the Bandeirantes of São Paulo, as is the case of Santo Antônio dos Anjos da Laguna.

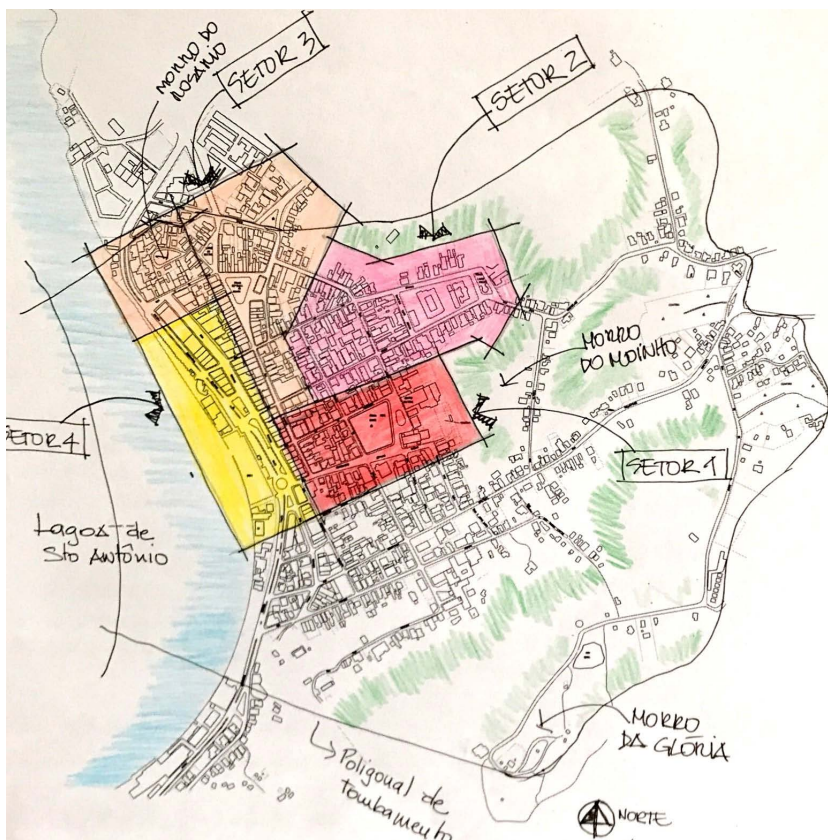
The urban shape of the city of Laguna was influenced by the layouts of the great Portuguese urban centers, where the structuring elements were: the church and the town hall; the difference in Laguna is that those elements are not in the main square itself, as the Portuguese custom dictated. The location of the city was determined by the site, which is protected by hills, with the port protected from rough seas, and the presence of a source of fresh water onsite. The street layout was based on the European Renaissance design, with blocks of 100 to 150m, and some irregular ones due to the topography (Tavares et al., 1983).

The downtown neighborhood includes public administration institutions, such as the town hall, and banking institutions, as well as different types of services and commerce, along with areas intended for leisure and the use by the population. What makes this area rich in possibilities is the presence of residential use, which associated with other leisure, trade, and service activities, forms a living environment that dialogs with the contemporary city, "which gives it a symbolic value above other neighborhoods of the city" (Cittadin, 2010, pg. 124).

The downtown neighborhood has few urban voids, as it is a very consolidated area. The voids mostly comprise public spaces, such as streets, sidewalks, and squares. The sites analyzed were The Main Square, the Juliana Republic Square, Rosário Hill, Carioca Square, the Public Market, the dock, and Paulo Carneiro Square, which is across the street from the market. This analysis also includes the adjoining areas and the surrounding road network, because they are also part of the public space. **(Figure 2)**

For the study, the neighborhood was divided into four sections. The selection criterion was based on sociocultural relevance, urban configuration, and the oldest areas of the neighborhood, identified





**Figure 3** The Centro neighborhood with the delimitation of the four sectors analyzed, in red the Sector 1 treated in this article. Source: Elaborated by the author

during the research. The initial idea was to study the neighborhood as a whole, because it was felt that it is configured as the same public space connected by streets, sidewalks, and squares, but for logistical reasons, the other areas were left out, for future analysis.

As such, it was seen that the oldest public spaces, in chronological order, are The Main Square, Juliana Republic Square, and Carioca Square. The definition of the sections followed the OSS criteria, seeking open public spaces, connected to each other, but it is worth noting that due to its size and spatial configuration, the entire downtown neighborhood is considered as a single section, as the subdivision had a functional character.

The four sections (**Figure 3**) defined were: Section 1, which includes the Main Square, the surrounding streets, and the Boardwalk; Section 2, which includes the Carioca Fountain, the Pinto d'Ulyseia House, and the small square across from it, as well as the streets that surround them. This section is surrounded by hills that are also part of the listed polygon. Section 3 includes the squares of República Juliana and Jerônimo Coelho, and also Rosário Hill, as well as the surrounding streets. This section is considered to be of extreme importance, because it includes the northern boundary of the listed polygon and is directly adjoined to the Progresso neighborhood. Finally, Section 4, encompasses the waterfront of the Santo Antônio lagoon, from the start of the boardwalk to the dock, and runs to the small square across from the Müssi Theater, the Domingos de Brito Peixoto Square.

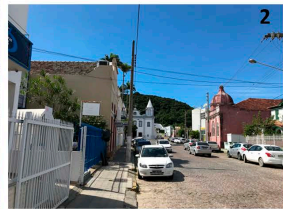
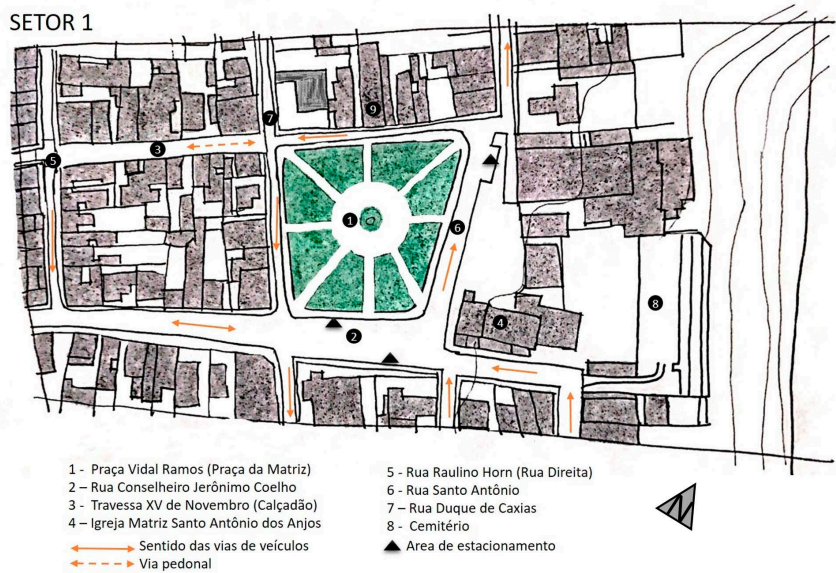




Bairro Centro



SETOR 1



**Figure 4** Part of Sector 4, view of Avenida Colombo Machado Salles avenue and Gustavo Richard Richard street, to the left the Municipal the right the surrounding buildings. Source: Own elaboration

However, due to restrictions on the size and format of the article, only Section I (**Figure 4**) will be described.

According to Marx (1980, pg.50), the square owes its existence above all to religious buildings, such as churchyards, but “civic squares, across from important public buildings, are rare, so these are exceptions”. In the case of Laguna, the two types of squares, the religious and the civic ones, were present from the beginning.

Currently, the municipal public administration, as well as private entities, promote some events in the downtown neighborhood, some of a monthly and others of an annual nature, to foster the presence of people in the area and to promote urban dynamics. Among these events, the Open Craft Fair, held monthly, and the Pre-Carnival and the Feast of Saint Anthony, annually, can be noted.

Three approach scales were defined: The city, neighborhood, and section, subdivided into street and square scales. On a city scale, legislation, forms of land subdivision, the ways of ground division; the physical support, and urban policies were analyzed; on the neighborhood scale, urban infrastructure, and its relationship between private and public open spaces, was analyzed; and finally, on the street and square scale, which is the pedestrian scale, the attributes that can define the quality of urban design on the pedestrian scale were analyzed.

The analysis of the way people use the space was made through a behavioral map, which records user behavior and activities in the environment. This instrument contributes towards identifying the uses, layouts, flows, spatial relationships, interactions, movements, and distribution

of people in time and space (Rheingantz et al, 2009).

Considering the urban infrastructure as the set of technical systems of facilities and services needed for urban purposes (Marcaró, 2016), the road network was considered on the section scale, more specifically the paving of streets and sidewalks and urban furniture. The infrastructure analysis considered the entire neighborhood, the dimensions and homogeneity it has, but it was not felt pertinent to analyze the infrastructure by section, since the results would be very similar.

As for the road network, the streets are paved, as are the sidewalks, but irregularly in size and type of covering. Despite the heritage character, vehicles move freely on the streets of the neighborhood, and only two parts, the boardwalk area and the surroundings of the República Juliana Square, have exclusive areas for pedestrians. Some interventions have already been made in recent years, which can be perceived by the varying types of paving the sidewalks and streets of the area have.

In addition, it can be seen that most of the sidewalks are suitably sized for the use foreseen, considering the flow of pedestrians that circulate through the neighborhood. Here, it is worth noting that in an area of small proportions, such as the downtown district, it would be more appropriate to restrict the movement of vehicles on certain streets.

Section I was analyzed from the initial reading of the surrounding urban space and then, with the reading of the space from the user's point of view, measuring Ewing's adapted attributes; and also Clemente (2013), according to the characteristics of the analyzed area, along with a behavioral map, and a walkthrough.

Section I comprises Vidal Ramos Square (the Main Square), The Boardwalk (Trav. XV de Novembro) and other adjacent streets. This is where the city began, the site of the first chapel and the first residences and one of the oldest parts of the city, as well as being one of the most traditional ones. The behavioral map made in Vidal Ramos Square showed that the area is widely used both for leisure and as a circulation and connection area with the surrounding streets. **(Figure 5)**

In terms of use and quality of the public space, it can be said that the most significant urban element is the Vidal Ramos Square which, as the city developed, underwent changes until, in 1930, it reached its current configuration.

Apart from the Square, a more recent urban element is the Boardwalk of XV de Novembro Street, built in the early 2000s. This has recently undergone a reconfiguration of its space, with the installation of new paving, new urban furniture, and a drainage system based on green infrastructure, which proposes a more natural form of urban drainage.

Compared to the other areas of the city center, this sector plays an attracting role, in terms of the variety of uses found in it: two of the four banks present in the municipality, a variety of businesses and





**Figure 5** The Human Presence and urban dynamics of Sector 1, highlighting Praça Vidal Ramos square and Jerônimo Coelho street, where the banking banking institutions. Source: Own elaboration

services, residences and religious buildings, such as the Main Church and Spiritual Center, which is considered to be one of the oldest in the State, and also buildings of a cultural nature, such as the San Antonio Cultural Center and the Casa de Anita.

Because of all this, it is quite a frequented area, housing both the residents of the area and the users and workers of the services and businesses present in the neighborhood.

It can be seen that Section I also has both daily and seasonal uses. Daily is considered as the uses of residents and visitors of the downtown neighborhood, like during times when mass is held; and seasonal are those that occur once a year, such as the Feast of Santo Antônio, which uses Vidal Ramos Square and the adjoining streets for the celebrations that take place in the first half of June.

As for the urban design qualities analyzed, it was seen that, although its public space is not suitably up-kept nor does it have quality infrastructure, it is a space that has not lost its qualities.

When considering the measurements made of urban design qualities, a very similar response was noted in all sections, demonstrating that the area has the potential to become a place of urban quality, inasmuch as it is of heritage quality. Also, the problems related to quality of urban infrastructure also resemble one another.





Even with the lack of suitable urban furniture and facilities, it could be seen during the analysis that the spaces are used, showing that the population uses them, even if they do not have the necessary quality.

Although downtown Laguna has established infrastructure with different uses and functionalities, on being a listed site and having gone through some interventions, on certain days and times it is deserted. In addition, the Lauro Muller and Orla Squares have limited infrastructure and leisure options that invite one to gather and stay. There is also a lack of suitable spaces for children; the streets and sidewalks do not have suitable accessibility; and the landscaping of the squares Vidal Ramos, Jerónimo Coelho, Dr. Paulo Carneiro and Orla lacks upkeep. The area is potentially rich for people to stay, whether residents or not, but is not attractive due to lack of suitable infrastructure, such as street furniture.

During the analysis, one characteristic that stood out was the expressive presence of vegetation in this section, as well as in the other sections analyzed. Both nearby and distant vegetation, formed by the hills that surround the historic hub, also included in the listed perimeter, contribute to making the public spaces in the downtown neighborhood more pleasant for the user, both in terms of comfort and beauty (Figure 6). In the case of Vidal Ramos Square, the upkeep of the oldest species follows the intervention criteria established by IPHAN's Manual on Interventions in Historic Gardens (DELPHIN, 2005). This suggests a possibility of landscape quality that could be more exploited and cared for by the administrative power. The existing vegetation provides pleasant spaces and complements the protected surroundings.

**Figure 6** Even if the public spaces are deficient in infrastructure and configuration, the most diverse uses can be perceived throughout the day, such as the sale of fish every morning. Source: Own elaboration.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this way, some considerations and conclusions are initially reached regarding the way the city and the public spaces of Laguna have developed, since its foundation in 1676 to its current setup. It can be considered that the different periods of urban growth interspersed with periods of economic stagnation and, consequently, also moments of stagnation of urban space, contributed to the configuration of its current public spaces and what they were like in 1985, when the neighborhood was listed.

It is understood that the urban space is complex, non-static, and made up of different elements, and that these elements, by relating to one another and their users, form what we call a city. When this space was listed, its relations of history and collective memory attributed different qualities to it compared to other cities, which ended up generating some kind of impact, both positive and negative.

The public spaces of the study area were constituted as the city itself changed over the decades. It can be assumed that it was initially spontaneous, following the flow of urban growth, according to the need for use and the spatial configuration generated by human occupation. It was possible to realize that the oldest public spaces of Section I presented here, such as Vidal Ramos square or simply the Main Square (Management Field) and the Carioca Fountain (Fountain Field), which appeared configured by the daily and everyday use of the city residents, still maintain their daily use roles in the city's context.

This aspect was noted in the studies made in Section I. From the analyzes and diagnoses of its public spaces, it can be confirmed that, even with all the changes that a city can undergo throughout its existence, its public spaces can remain almost unchanged, perpetuating its social, cultural, and also functional relations and roles, as occurred with downtown Laguna.

As for the public space analysis methodologies chosen, it can be seen that, either by its urban setup or by its small scale, the studied area has a spatial relationship that is reflected in the relations of use. There was initially a notion, that was not confirmed, that the public spaces of Section I had little or no use and that, despite the aesthetic quality assigned to the architectural ensemble, there was no reflection of this in the public space.

It is understood that the built space, aside from delimiting the public space, is also part of it. This occurred mainly while measuring the qualities of urban design where, by identifying the attributes of imaginability, framing, human scale, transparency, and complexity, the importance of building facades in the composition and configuration of public space are considered. When considering the aesthetic and beauty attributes of historical buildings, its relevance, in the case of Laguna, acquires greater importance. In the specific case of Section I, residential use is still the predominant use, which seems to contribute to the upkeep of the sector's buildings.

Another important issue was realizing that public spaces in a protected city differ little from the rest, perhaps only in terms of impermanence, because, when listed, its configuration and relationship

between built spaces and open spaces remains unchanged for longer. However, even so, the way spaces relate maintains the same traits of other cities. However, it is worth noting that the layout of public spaces found in downtown Laguna are directly related to the size of the neighborhood and the city as a whole, and can only be compared to the public spaces of other cities of the same size and characteristics.

It is also important to think and reflect on the upkeep of public space in listed areas. The lack of clear norms regarding interventions in public space ends up negatively interfering in the qualities that these spaces can naturally possess. It can be understood that the public space of a city, actually due to its public nature, is collective and must meet the basic and technical needs to allow the proper use of the city, such as urban infrastructure systems, drainage, lighting, landscaping, street furniture, and also public transport, leisure areas, and free movement. For this, its constant upkeep is needed, which in general is handled by the town hall and the municipalities that provide the services mentioned.

It could be said that the quality of the public space can contribute to the protection and consequent valorization of protected urban space, provided that it is considered that public space, due to its characteristics of function and use, is in constant movement. In order for this relationship to be established in a practical way, the norms and criteria for intervention in listed sites must include, apart from the norms for interventions in buildings, intervention criteria for their public spaces that consider urban design aspects. This in order to have public spaces that are in aesthetic and functional harmony with the buildings that contain them.

From these conclusions, some initial guidelines to guide possible and future interventions in the public space of Section I and also the downtown neighborhood can be outlined, always considering the local history and culture:

- Propose compatible uses that consider local reality and culture;

- Value the traditional places that are already part of the local culture, respecting their characteristics;

- Whenever possible, propose diversity of activities, respecting the local culture;

- Bring the expert's vision closer to the population's;

- Whenever possible, make use of participatory workshops to prepare projects;

In spite of being a field that is still little studied by Brazilian architects and urban planners, since there are two areas that still interact a little with each other, urban design and heritage, fields that are still feel very closed in and of themselves, the authors feel that this is a potentially rich, wide-ranging, and extremely relevant area, when it is understood that, for the appreciation and preservation of historical sites, this entails the valorization of these public spaces, with the involvement not just of architects and urban planners, technical experts, preservation entities, and local governments, but also of society as a whole.



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