

CITÉ INTERNATIONALE, AN EMBLEMATIC CASE

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It is estimated that by 2050 the world population will exceed 9 billion, 6,000 of whom live in cities...

“...Far from being considered as a source of problems, it could be seen as well as, a possible way to solve them, and a place to exchange ideas, a promising field to both individual and collective growth.” (Redaction, 2011, Science and research. Monographic number N° 95)



Cities are the true future scenario in which most of the world population will develop their habitat. In this regard, few investigations demonstrate the urgency and importance of seeking the best proposals for a better quality of life, which becomes increasingly complex, given that while we have gained comfort thanks to rapid technological advances but we have lost a sense of belonging and identity.

From this perspective, we can consider the city as a pedagogical scenario, in so far as, we learn, we discover and we manifest, exerting actions on it, by making the city as a collective construction...



Therefore, **we become leading characters** within this field of discussion, it is essential to reflect on the urban projects developed in it, **because they "speak" to us... they are a "reflection of the soul" of the society they are immersed in...**

The urban projects are the most clear actions where it manifests where society is going to, and where **we can make profound readings**, both from the governmental and private sectors in their encounter or not, with those towards whom their efforts are directed, the citizenship.

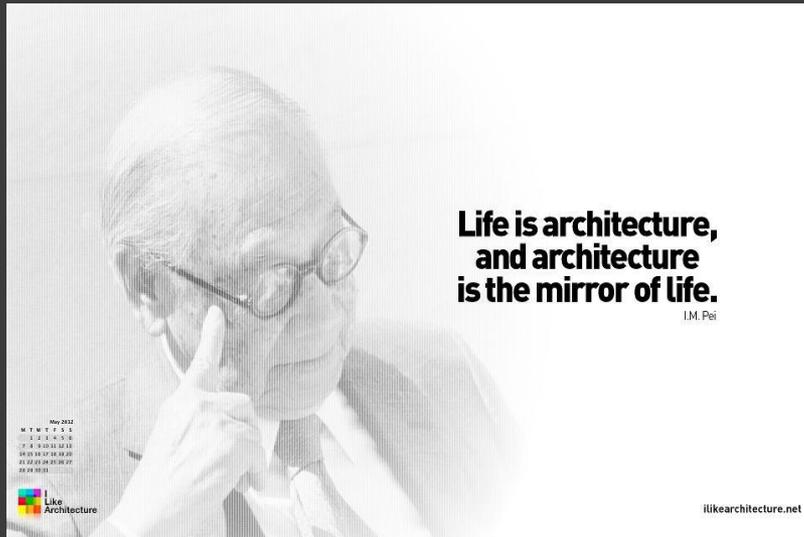


The contemporary urbanism, seems to have forgotten its social objectives, as a result of the dominance of the market, image and urban marketing. These are representative and negative aspects of postmodernism.

"If you want to change life, change the space..." Henri Lefevre

"It isn't possible, the sustainability of cities, if not done with the confidence of citizens on their organizations. We are forced to also redesign participation"

(Puig, Toni, 2008. www.tonipuig.com)



Arocena (1995) states, after numerous studies on different experiences, that it is not possible the existence of successful local development processes, without a strong **identity component that encourages and gives structure to the initiatives of our society." (Etulain, Juan Carlos. 2209. PhD thesis. Buenos Aires, Argentina).**

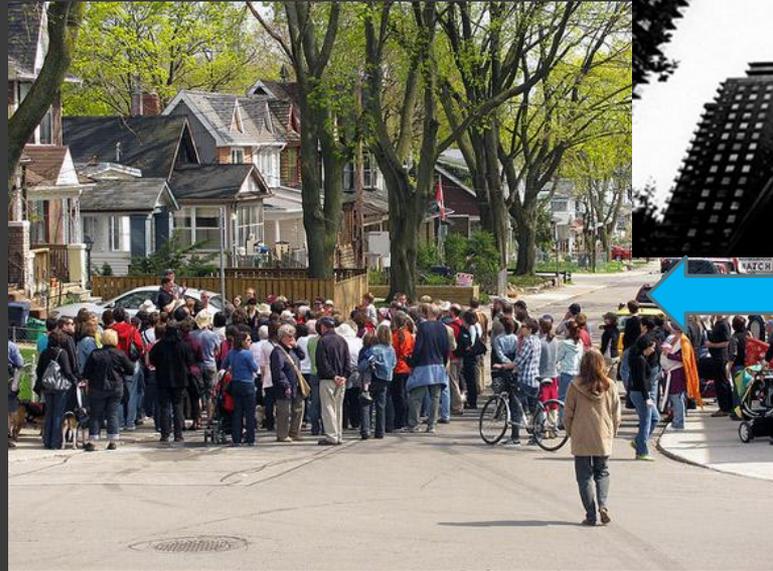
A deep thought by the famous mexican activist Lydia Cacho defines identity:

"When you think that your city streets belong to you, you come out to defend them"



William H. Whyte

Jane Jacobs



Jane's Walk



The big ones inspirers...



Toni Puig



Kevin Lynch



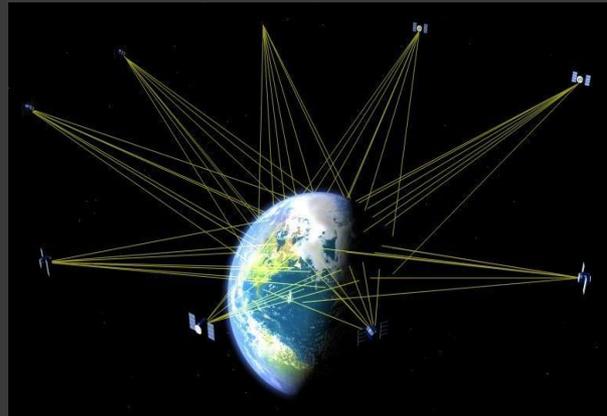
Jan Gehl



Lewis Mumford

During the first decades of the twentieth century, urban projects were translated in all of their richness and complexity as residential neighborhoods (protagonists of urban growth on a large scale), architecture of the city center (civil architecture) and the streets layout as a form of array urban areas.

*“ Later, working on urban decentralization and deconcentration, **urban projects were no longer applied on urban voids**, instead, they were developed mostly on satellite towns, ville nouvelle, or new town.” (Etulain, Juan Carlos, 2009, PhD Thesis. Argentina)*



In the second half of the twentieth century major environmental, social and political transformations took place on a large scale, modernity comes to an end and a complex world is uncovered, increasingly unequal in economic and social terms.

Different versions and theories emerge between the public-private coordination for the implementation of urban interventions.

Urbanism reveals two processes, spatial forms and social processes, both concur in parallel, ergo, **every social strategy will be followed by an urban transformation**, revealing an increasingly fragmented and unequal world where differences are an image of cities.



A model shift, seeking answers to neoliberalism as a new form of capital accumulation, promoted the urban project of the twentieth century revaluing large vacant spaces that technological transformation produced.



“Urban investment” became a new source of indiscriminate profits over land and urban property, so this market recovery, in certain cases, although helped improve the growth of urban fragments, in others, it increased social and economic inequalities.

In the era of globalization the question is:



Where to invest to get a better return on investment? (Etulain, Juan Carlos)

However "Urban voids or interstitial spaces" can be considered a field with plenty of opportunities and social potential to rethink the city.



The concept of urban void takes different denominations according to the context, **terrain vague** adopted by the French, would be the richest because it gives different meanings: vacant, empty, obsolete, imprecise, indefinite, vagues...

(Etulain, Juan Carlos)

The urban spaces offer us the opportunity to ammend the negative consequences that arise from excessive land exploitation or soil use, and to give a solution to the lack of certain equipment or infrastructure.

Urban projects should be part of a project or plan for the town, which should promote social benefits...



The new urban paradigm shows us an action more strategic and associative than regulatory and technocratic, based on greater social legitimation.

Through urban projects, we can evaluate the different urban managements and social needs, accepting the limits of existing regulations, but at the same time, recognizing the uncertainties that allow us to generate new methodologies that will lead us to improve future urban environments.

Programs for transformation and reconquering of public spaces have placed Lyon as one of the most outstanding laboratories for urban landscape that is based on the care and observance of fluctuating dynamics of city life and potential of the place.



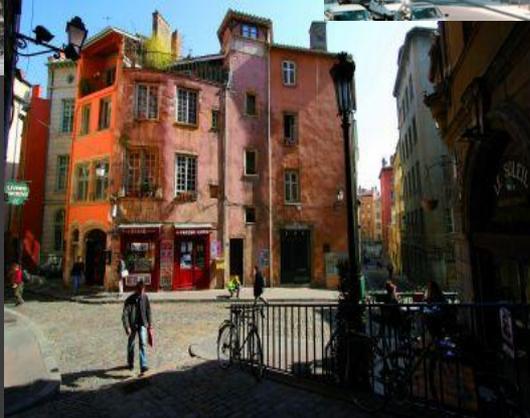
Lyon: Located in Central-East France, is the third largest city after Paris and Marseille. With more than 500.000 inhabitants, is the second largest metropolitan area of France.

Lyon is characterized by an urban uniformity next to an harmonious and balanced diversity, which is achieved because each project is a representation of what happens in the whole city.

From this urban point of view, **Lyon** is a dual city, a mixture of rivers and hills, with a strong historical past for which it was named **HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY**. Situated in the middle of France, right next to Paris, it is the third in urban concentration with over 2 million inhabitants, which makes it a dynamic city, and open to the progressive and global tendencies that arrive from outside of town.

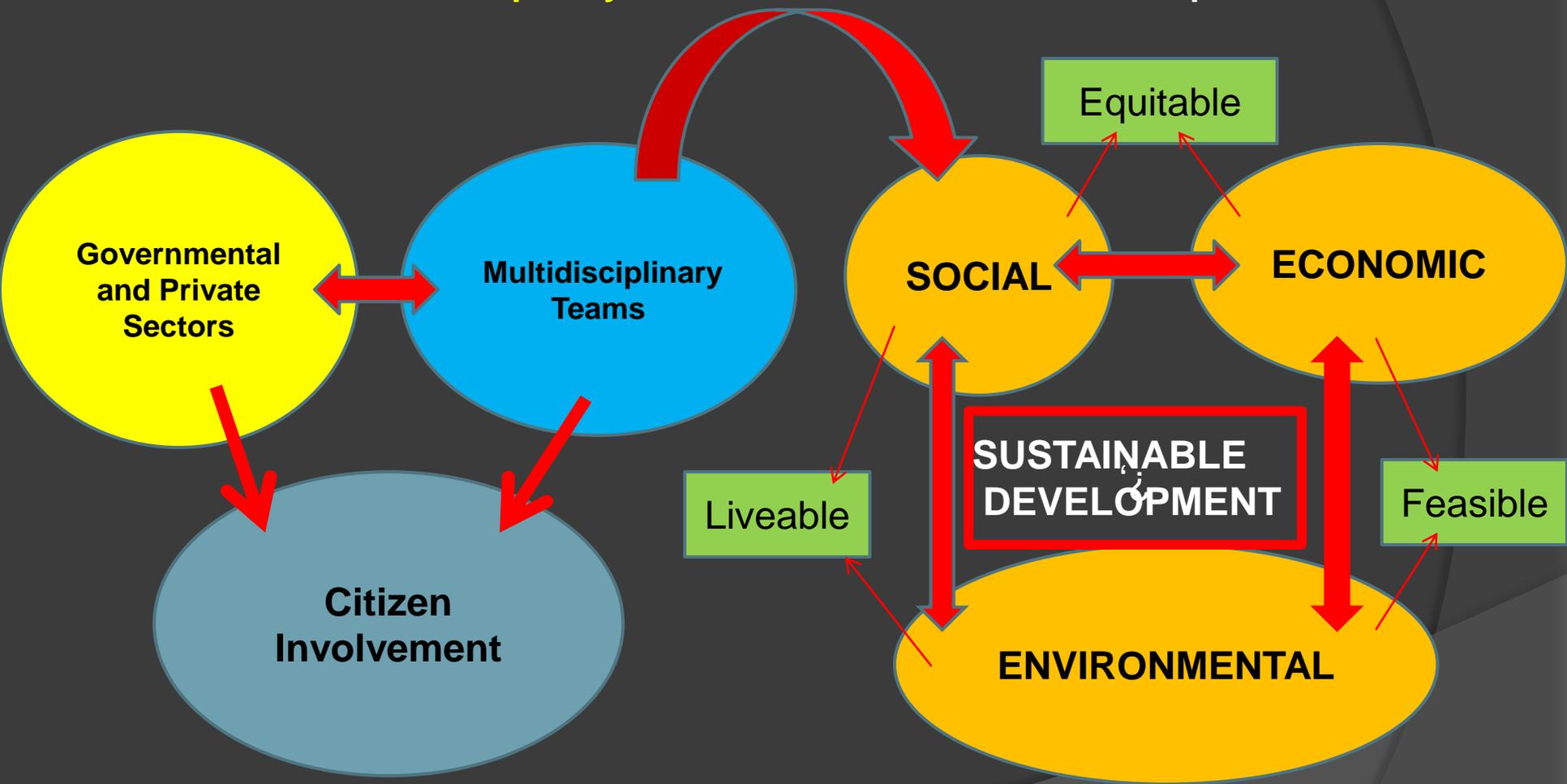


In Lyon we can appreciate a significant evolution from a concept of static monuments to a concept of dynamic heritage where we can observe the human work over the last 2,000 years.



A revalorization of its heritage, along with the city modernization, in preparation for the Lyon 2020 project with the goal of establishing a metropolitan vision of Greater Lyon (*Lyon Urban Community*) with the intention of achieving a return to the city, revitalizing its economic and cultural importance.

In continental Europe, especially in France, the model of urban management is focused on achieving a participatory urban culture, tending to the interaction of the governmental-private sectors, along with the multidisciplinary teams and a great deal of citizen involvement. And this is how urban management is established on *Cité Internationale* where consequently tends towards sustainable development.



Since 2001, **Jean Pierre Charbonneau** is in charge of urban planning, major projects and sustainable development for Grand Lyon.

The design of public space affects life in the city, because, most of our life is spent in it...

In the search for a better quality of life, adequate **social strategies**, participative and operational must be implemented:

- **Appropriate use of urban and natural areas**, preserving its resources.
- **Cohesion and social mixing, promoting economic development**
- **Promoting transport with low environmental footprint** thus facilitating better coexistence among users, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.



THE LUMIERE PLAN

It is inspired by a custom from the XIX century, when it celebrated the *Feast of Light*, which considers **the lighting of the city and its monuments as a transformative element of the city**. Renzo Piano and the french landscape architect Michel Corajoud were responsible for the renovation of public buildings facades.



ACTIONS TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Lyon, France: rethinking urban mobility and development projects...

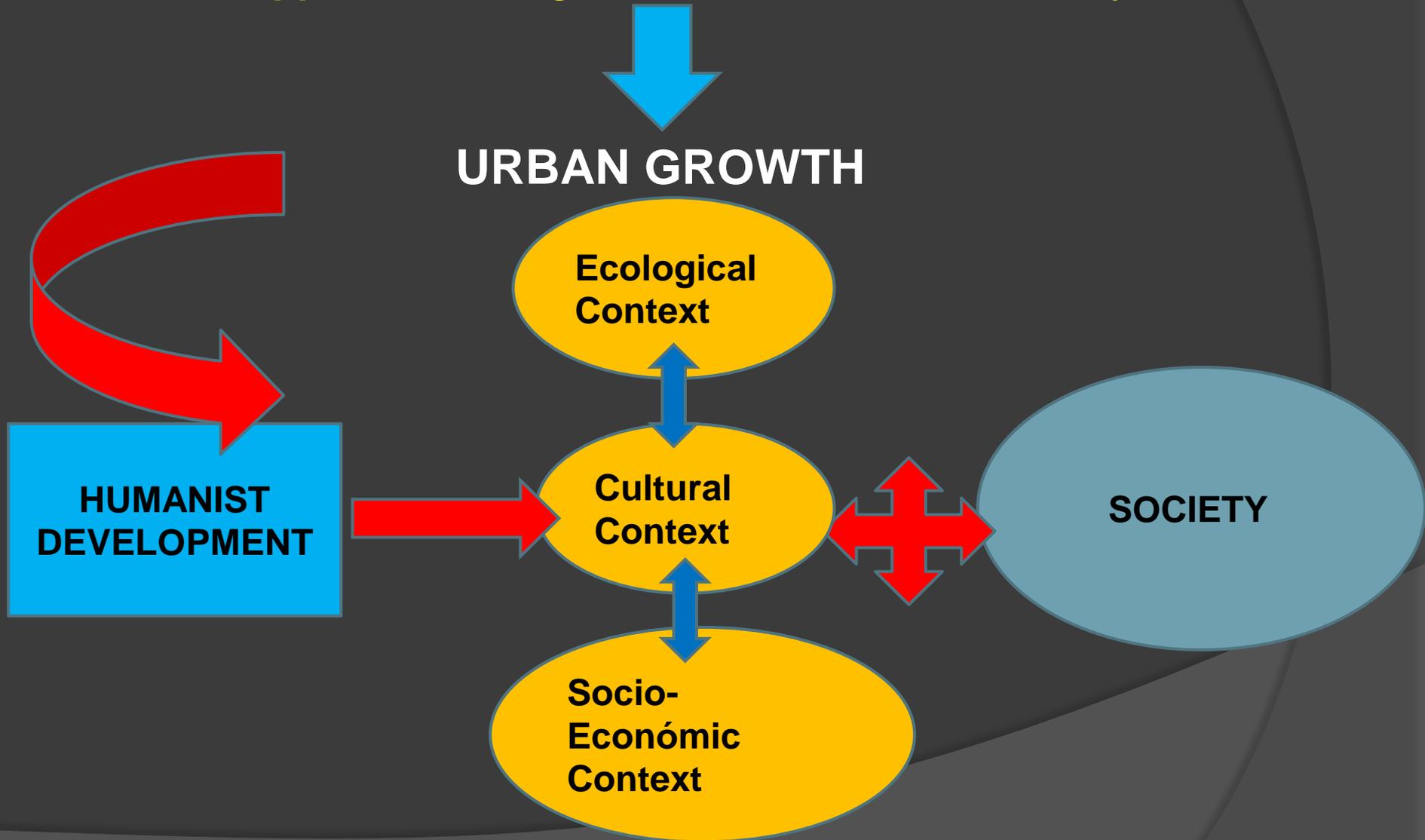


The Lyon River Bank. Credit: IN SITU Architectes Paysagistes.

In search of an urban reordering logic that pays attention to environmental issues, **they have developed a new transportation planning, imposing green modes of locomotion**, such as **the tramway**, both in Lyon and in many French cities, while **bicycles** are gradually being used over cars.



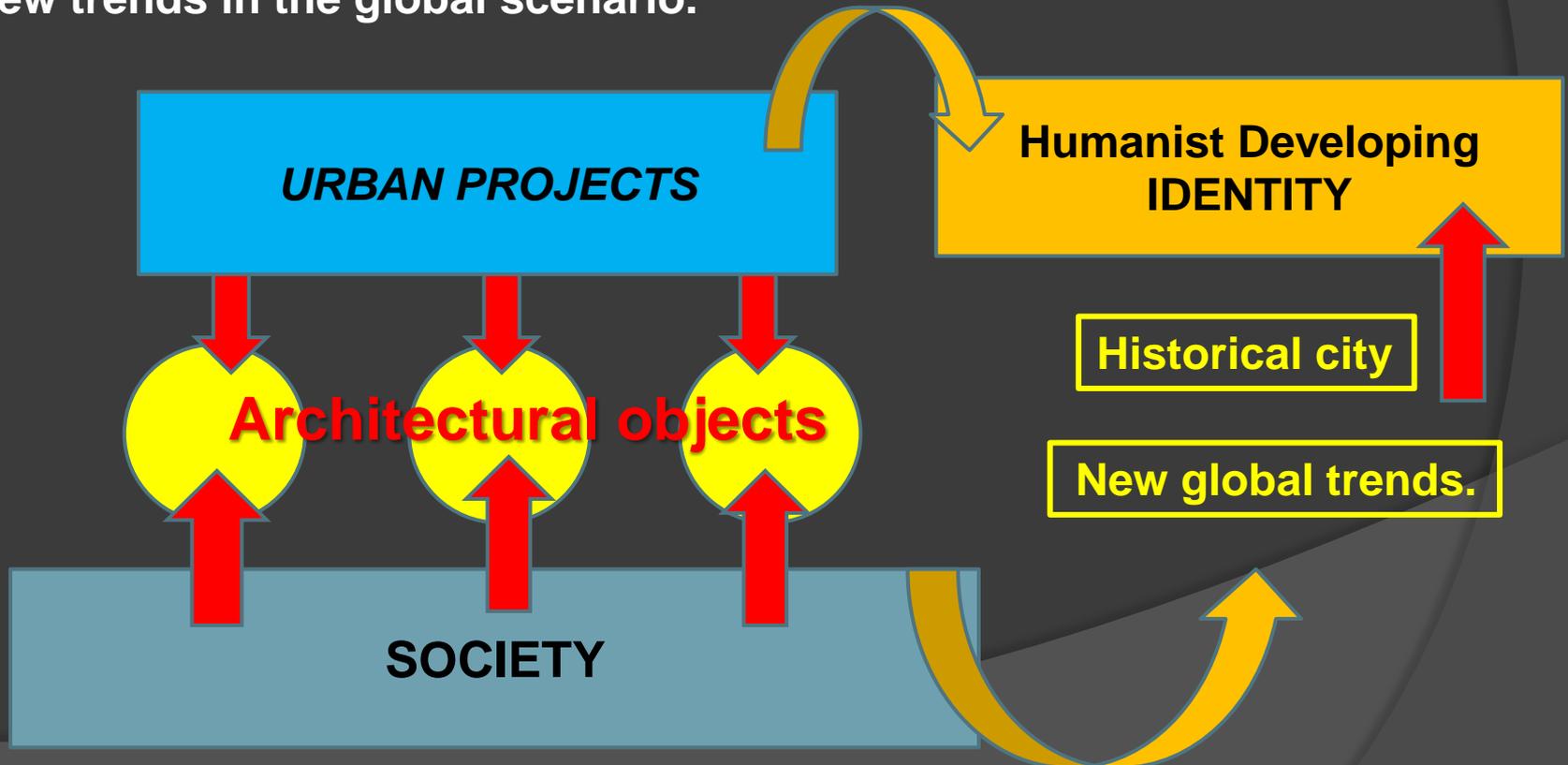
Future urban growth requires a profound review that reconciles ecological, cultural and socio-economic contexts, from a more humanistic approach, with greater involvement of society.



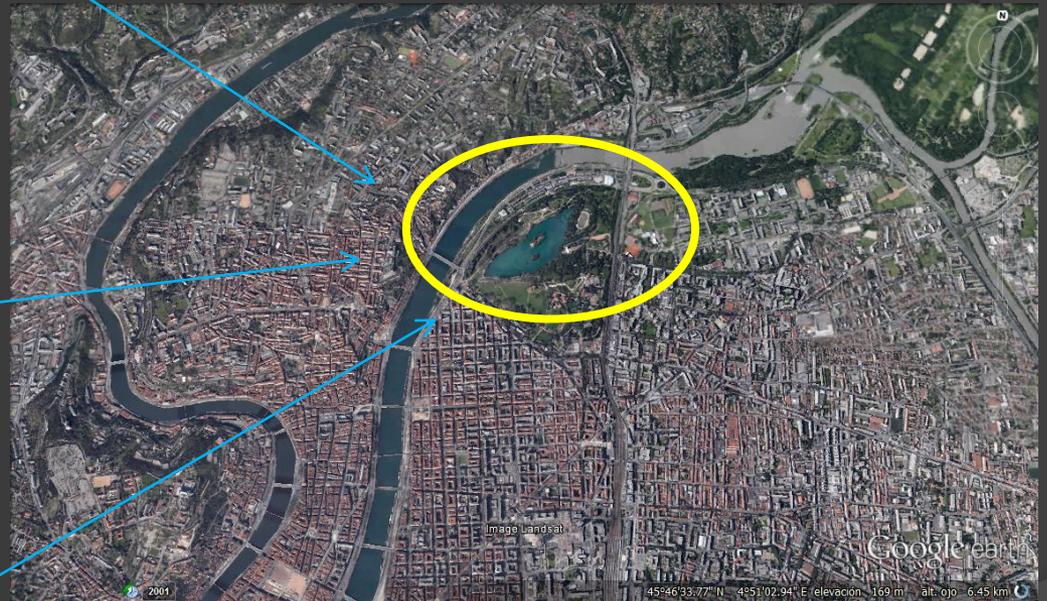
TRILOGY OF AGREEMENT

Within a large urban project, like *Cité Internationale* whose management is focused on humanist development, the series of architectural objects that comprise it, also respond to this outlook or patterns of action, characteristics of the Lyon's society.

Uniformity and diversity encompass the project, because it is representative of what happens in the historical city, at the same time open to new trends in the global scenario.

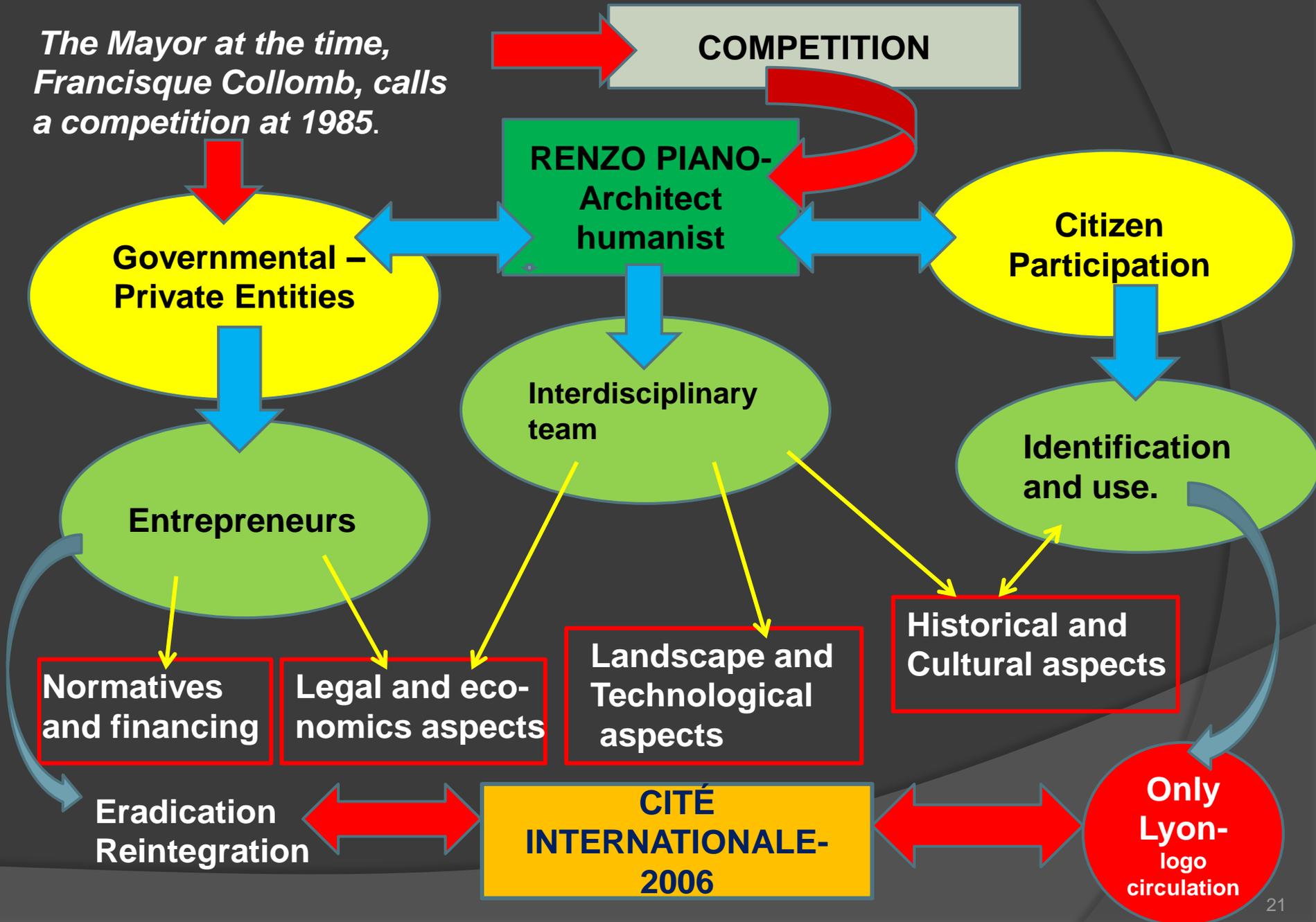


CITÉ INTERNATIONALE, LYON, FRANCE



HUMANIST THOUGHT - Historical Values- CITÉ INTERNATIONALE-2006

The Mayor at the time, Francisque Collomb, calls a competition at 1985.



Renzo Piano (Genoa, Italy, 1937)

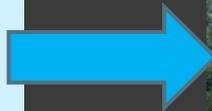
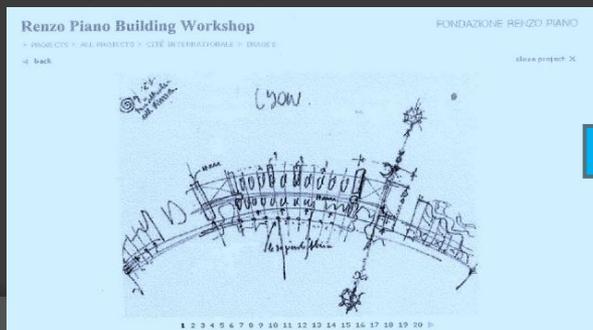
Inspires those who seek to generate architectural changes to the ways of living and conceiving the future, not only for its committed approach to technology, but mainly by environmental concerns under a humanist concept.



"I aspire to an identical XVI century architect dignity, while designer: the architect as 'machinatore' inventing and projecting even the tools to do what they conceived".

CITÉ INTERNATIONALE

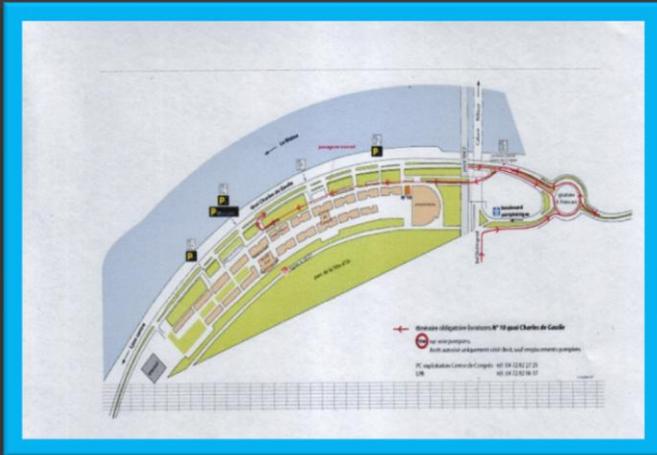
In 1986, the 6 most industrialized countries met in Lyon, leading to the Cité Internationale project, which began in 1995 and was completed in 2006, where the International Fair was located, between the Parc Tete d'Or and the Rhone River.



Conceived as a pedestrian precinct, with a superlative meaning of what the use of public space means.

Conceptually designed for continuous passage from one space to another.

This passages sequence evokes the famous "**Traboules of Vieux Lyon**" also like a chained succession of space, especially along a path; as in the old, primitive Fair of Lyon, in the early twentieth century.



La Cité is an ecological site, with a system of bioclimatic control in a clear symbiosis between city and nature. In this project, Renzo Piano began using his famous "double skin" system that optimizes energy savings.



The Cité Internationale represents the realization of a successful project, the most ambitious conference center, with a strong international vocation, combining **Economy, Culture, Recreation and Habitat**.



The landscaper Michel Corajoud along with architect Renzo Piano, joined their genius to describe their vision of the city in this project Cité Internationale developed on 20 acres along the river, being the largest intervention, emulating the language of the Rhone, through the use of longitudinal layers, each superimposed, with different uses. A work of great magnitude in which Renzo Piano worked for over 20 years.

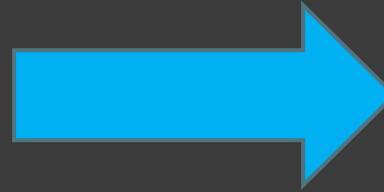




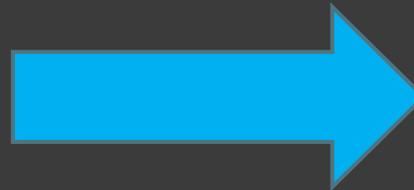
Right in the northeast entrance to the city, served by a dense network of infrastructure, the expert hands of the genovese architect gave birth to the pavilions with transparent covers, inspired by the greenhouses of the nineteenth century which are used as guide, accompanying the visitors along the tour.



According to Corajoud. this set, characterized by large volumes of medium height is **fully assimilated into the environment** - in terms of scale - bringing to light the **modesty and respect in the architectural work of Piano**, who conceals his work behind the scenery.



The statues, illuminated by LEDs serve as reference points. These monumental statues painted with polyester resin, reaching their highest point up to 8.20 m in height.



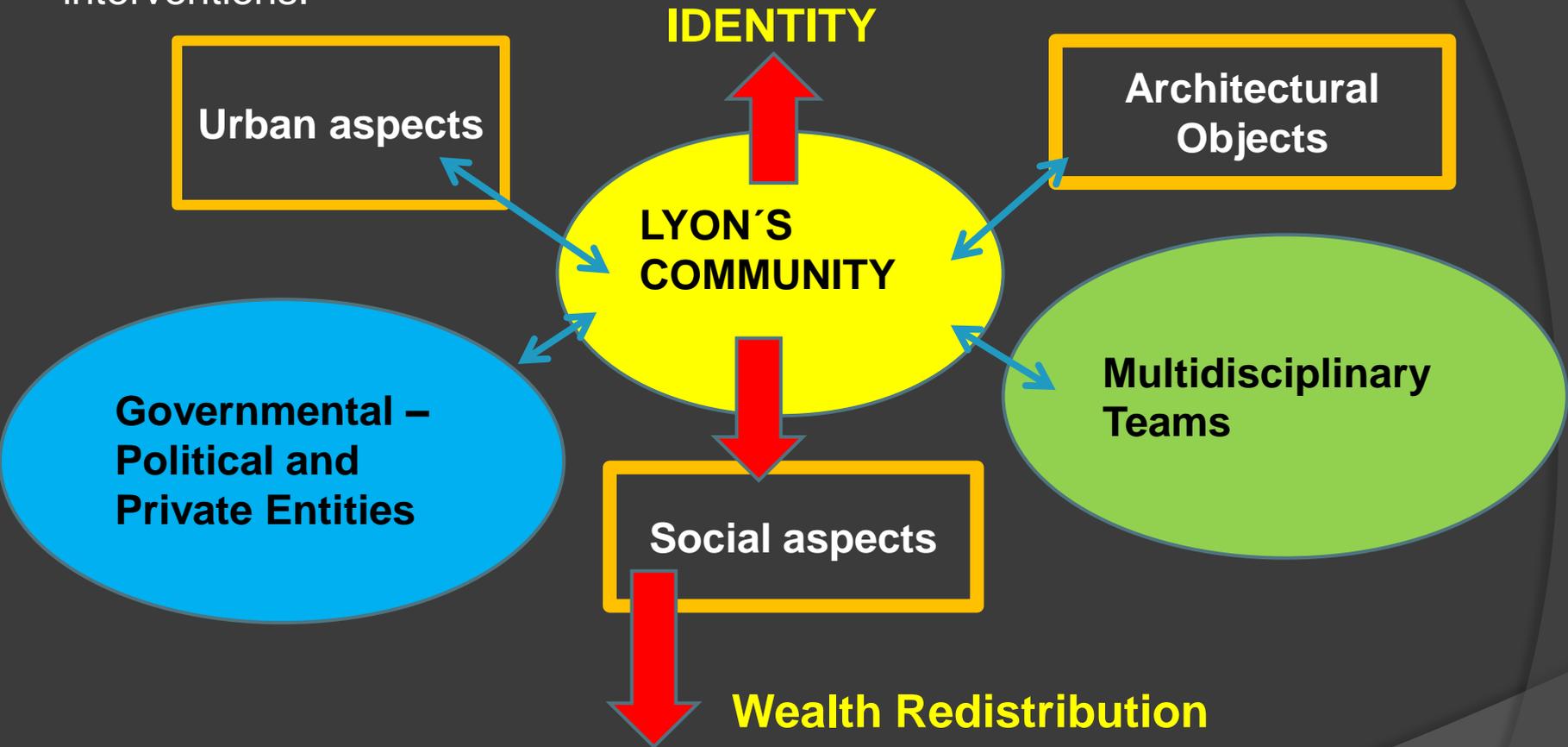
The Amphitheatre, scenically situated as a prow announces the entrance to the history and heritage of Lyon, representing the culmination of this 750 meters itinerary, being one of the most important and emblematic meeting places.

The contact with the outdoors enhances public spaces, opening the back of the stage to the public square of 4000 square meters, where you can see the stage for performances.



"The city should be designed by people and for people, with a clear human and environmental sense, within the perspective of sustainable human development, where the dimensions and physical attributes of the city are treated and managed in a balanced and rational way for the benefit of all citizens in a quest for better opportunities and raising living standards. " (Jahir Rodríguez Rodríguez, The palimpsest of the city: educating city, Colombia)

This case study stands out both from the urban aspect, as well as from the analysis of the architectural object itself, (Amphitheater, offices, houses, shops) and converging dynamics and inescapable links to the achievement of these interventions.



It is essential the contemplation of social and urban goals, through social participation since the initial project stages, using mixed management as a tool, considering efficient control mechanisms involving the private sector as well as mechanisms to allow future wealth redistribution in degraded or neglected parts of the city.

Therefore, it is necessary to reverse the logic that underlies behind the formulation that understands the world as a mere utilitarian tool, to enforce the defense of a more comprehensive and benefactor architecture, both individually and collectively.



"... The right to the city is much more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is the right to change ourselves by changing the city..." (Harvey, David 2008)

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