DYNAMIC INTEGRITY

A new concept to approach the conservation of Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)

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Methodology of conservation

*Identification*

Objects and Processes + Attributes

*Assessment – First Step*

Cultural Meanings

*Assessment – Second Step*

Values

*Judgment – Third Step*

Integrity of the Attributes

*Judgment – Fourth Step*

Authenticity of the Attributes

*DYNAMIC INTEGRITY:*

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Cultural landscape

- Heritage category to protect larger areas considering the **sustainable development paradigm**

- Focus on the **resources** that should be preserved
The HUL category

- Urban landscape is a highly abstract concept that exists within an interpretative model.

- It is a category difficult to assess without recurring to analytic and discursive scientific approaches

- Drafted to protect urban areas that are suffering rapid transformations, where traditional boundaries aren’t efficient to protect significant attributes → new scale of space and time of analysis

*Dynamic Integrity:* A new concept to approach the conservation of historic urban landscape (HUL)
The HUL approach

An approach to deal with heritage areas associated with a surrounding zone, in complex urban context

Focus on the significant relations between protected and unprotected areas (protected limits)

Two central ideas

- Complexity
- Significance
Complex systems

- “… one made up of a **large number of parts** that **interact** in a non simple way …

- … the **whole is more** than the sum of the parts …

- … given the properties of the parts and the **laws of their interaction** it is not a trivial matter to infer the properties of the whole …”

*(Herbert E. Simon, 1969, p.86)*

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**DYNAMIC INTEGRITY:**

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Complex urban heritage areas (CUHA)

- Have many **layers of significance**, overlapped in space and time
- Are composed by subsets that **do not have necessarily spatial continuity**, but show some significant relations
- Are inserted in a urban context of development and subject to **pressure for change** in use, spatial and social configuration
- Are subject to changing political, economic, and cultural interests, therefore, to a large, and not necessarily known, **type and number of social actors** (emergence of new stakehoders)
Conservation

Broad definition of conservation *(James S. Kerr 2000)*

- To retain the **significance**
- To manage **change**

New definition

- To maintain the condition for the interpretation of the relation **object/meanings/value** between generations

→ **Continuity** of meanings with adaptation of values

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Significance

- Significance is a synthetic representation of past and present meanings/values associated to complex urban heritage areas.

- “... significance is tied not only to the period that created its original meaning, but to today, and the future ...” (Mirian Clavir, 2009, p. 142)

- Significance depends on intersubjectivity and supports of memory (records of memory).
Significance of CUHA

1. **Orderly and chaotic**: Significance is not totally controlled
2. **Non reducible to elements**: Significance may mean more than the set of single meanings/values
3. **Partially modeled**: Significance cannot be organized totally in comprehensible models
4. **Boundaries and uncertainty**: Significance is tied to the urban areas but its composition/territory is not completely known
5. **Adaptation and emergence**: Significance is changing continuously
6. **Conscious actors**: Significance depends on social agents acting consciously and independently

**DYNAMIC INTEGRITY**

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Current understanding about integrity

- “... a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes ...”

- Links attributes to meanings and values

- Establishes significance linking meanings between generations

- The definition of integrity conveys an idea of static situation and permanence
Gaps, damages, losses and additions in the attributes

- May mean **reduction** in the condition of integrity
- Would lead to **problems for interpreting** significant relations between elements of the complex urban areas as the HUL`s
- Records of memory **cannot fill the gaps** and express cultural significance

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Integrity and dynamics

If cultural significance is dynamic the integrity concept must be dynamic

- **Not** → “stable and self-evident values”

- **But** → “renewal and adaptation of values”

Conservation is about **continuity** in the **interpretation of meanings** not change of them

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CONDITION OF INTEGRITY

Expected to express past and present meanings/values without canceling the emergence of new meanings/values and the reinterpretation of old ones

DYNAMIC INTEGRITY

The capacity of the attributes of heritage to express dynamically past and present meanings, in a context of change, without relying exclusively on records of memory to fill gaps in the set of attributes

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HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE OF OLINDA AND RECIFE
Integrity analysis

- Social-functional Integrity
- Structural integrity
- Visual Integrity
XVI – XVIII Centuries

Social functional
- Olinda – Political and religious center
- Isthmus – Pedestrian path and defense
- Old Recife – Harbor
- Recife – Urban center (housing, commerce, etc.)

Structural
- Portuguese colonial type of settlement adapted to the tropics with large empty fields among the elements

Visual
- Integration among the three groups, the rivers and the ocean – Main view: Olinda ➔ Recife
XIX Century

Social functional
- Olinda – Residential and religious center
- Isthmus – Pedestrian path
- Old Recife – Harbor and services
- Recife – Urban center (political, housing, commerce, religious and cultural)

Structural
- Modernization of the fabric and continuity with the building tradition
- Large empty fields between the elements

Visual
- Integration among the three groups, the rivers and the ocean
  - Main views: Olinda → Recife
XX Century

Social functional
- Olinda – Residential
- Isthmus – empty land cut from Recife
- Old Recife – Harbor and services
- Recife – Urban center (political, housing, commerce, religious and cultural)

Structural
- Rupture of the building tradition and land occupation in Recife
- Some empty fields between the elements

Visual
- Integration among the three groups, the rivers and the ocean – Main view: Olinda → Recife

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Synthesis

Continuity in the topological organization of the urban and regional structure

Continuity in the visual relations

Rupture in the functional and structural relations

Continuity of the integrity of the significant attributes
Conclusions

The condition of integrity has to be assessed considering:

- the complexity of the city
- the context of the heritage and the city
- the transformations on the significance

- If the urban areas are submitted to change, integrity has to reflect this dynamic
Conservation has to be focused on the continuity of significant attributes and relations, in spite of the changing context and states of the attributes.

**Dynamic Integrity:**
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Thank you
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