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

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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

HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE OF OLINDA AND RECIFE

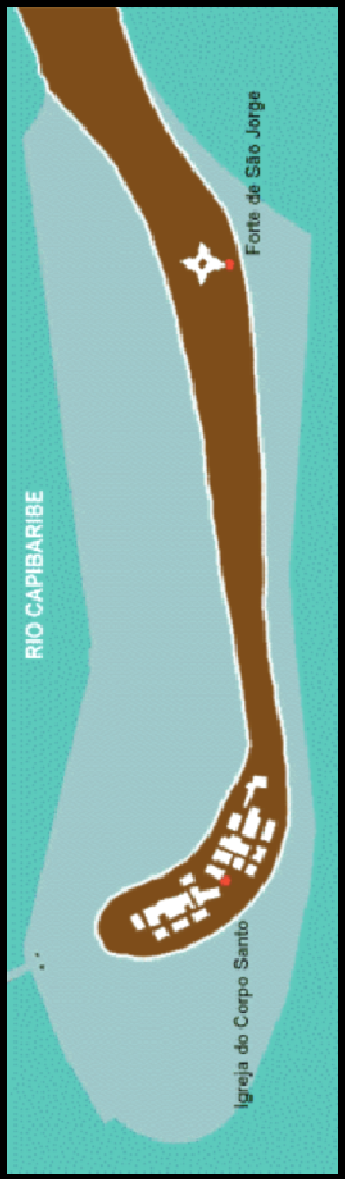
Olinda - PE, Brasil
Olinda
Isthmus
Old Recife
Recife
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2012 TerraMetrics
Google earth
imagens: 11/24/2009
8°02'24.55"S 34°51'25.61"O elev 0 m
Altitude do ponto de visão 9.89 km

Olinda and sthimus

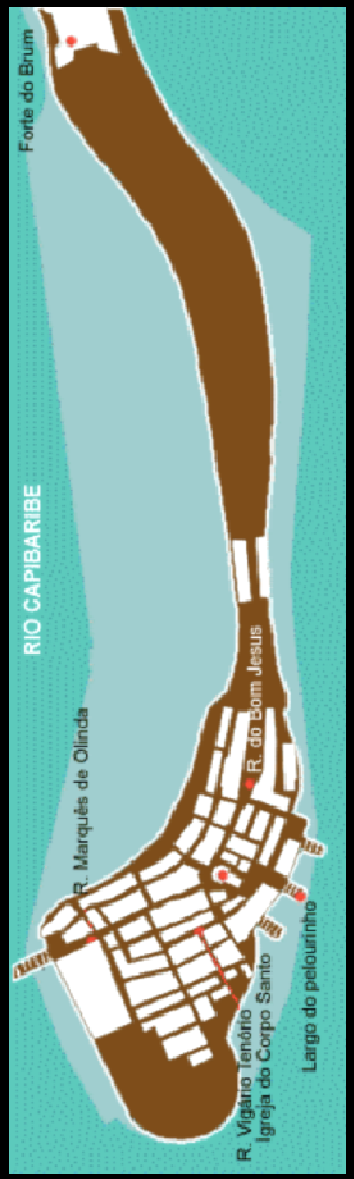
1641

Old recife

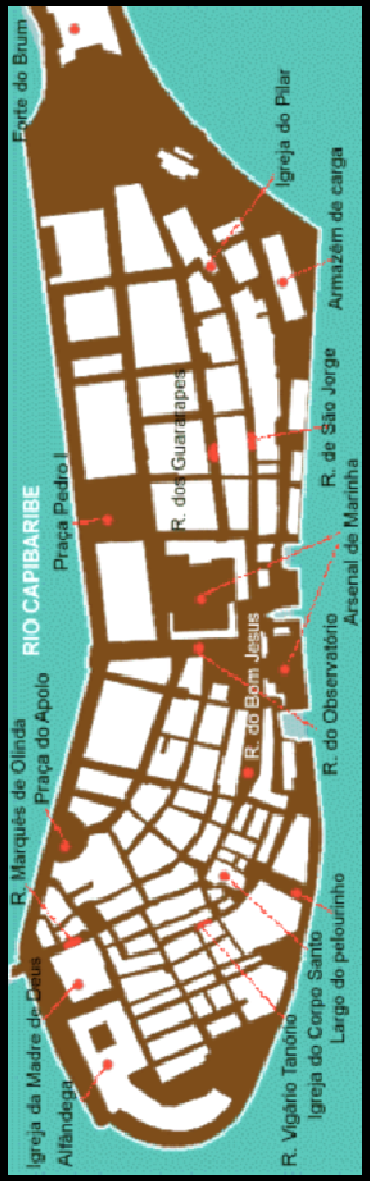
1631



1733



1906

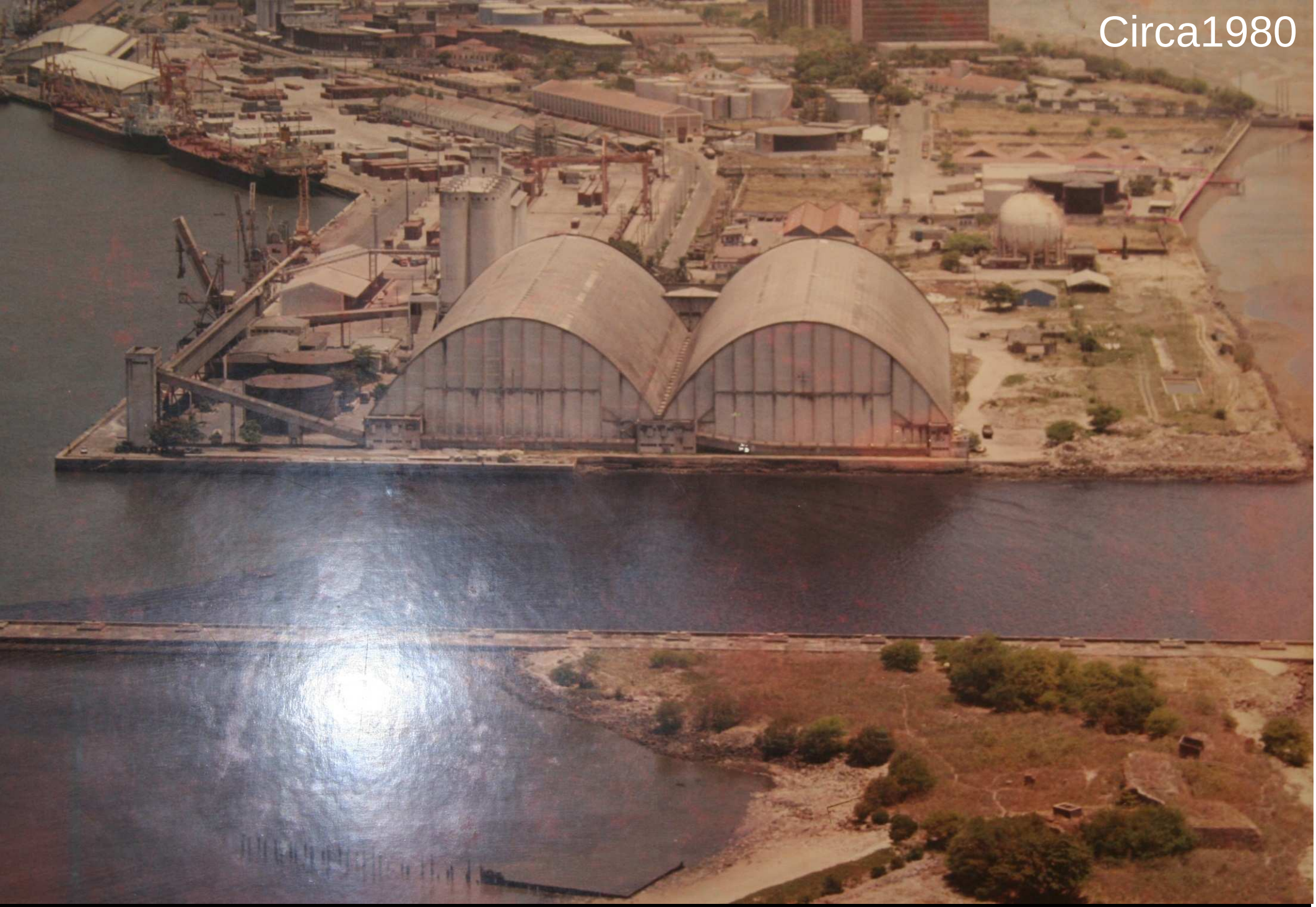


1637

1759

1759

Circa 1880


Circa1980

2000
SINDACUCAR
SINDACUCAR
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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

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

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Conservation has to be focused on the continuity of significant attributes and relations, in spite of the changing context and states of the attributes.

Thank you

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