**Introduction**

This research addresses the problem of dwelling, from the specific case of the islands of Porto. We interpret housing from a broader perspective, as a socio-economic problem, in the line defended by Maden and Marucce, as a problem of political economy.

The construction of the problem and the geometry of housing that is structured is related to the actors involved and the way they articulate and manage priorities, values, needs, and resources. Thus, we reflect and explore the "re-ensambiar"1, trying to put into contact isolated or even unrecognized parts, to critically reflect on the construction of the housing problem as a way of motivating the transformation. We seek to explore the disciplinary contribution of Architecture, through processes of holistic nature, participative, and proximity bases.

**Objectives**

This paper is an epistemological investigation of two design processes, for and with people. We reflect on the construction of the problem of housing in the "islands" of Porto, focusing on the social consequences and the viability of policies and design processes. Since this work is inserted in the positioning that we call "islands" yes 2, we seek to understand and deepen the approaches and the ways of acting from this assumption.

Having reality as a starting point and through the rehabilitation of the "islands", contributing to the promotion of sustainable social and territorial development. Our objective is to add reflection about the responses to problems and concrete opportunities regarding the democratization of access to dignified urban housing, accessible to a majority.

**Structure and methodology**

The research developed will address the problem of dwelling, from the specific case of the islands of Porto, through two design processes, for and with people, and its organized in three sections.

*For the people.* The main object of the first chapter is the practical experience that took place through the participatory platform that constitutes the workshop Arquitetos de Família, in which the "island" at Campo Alegre Street, 442 is placed as an object-subject.

*With the people.* Following, we approach the participative methodologies and the object and case study itself will be explored, seeking the critical construction of the housing problem from the perspective of the residents of the "island" through the action-research methodology.

From this, we move on to the third moment, of critical reflection on the previous chapters. What are the contributions, constraints, viability, and reproducibility of participation as methodology and process. We will question the available tools, programs, public policies, and regulatory framework.

**Conclusion**

The investigation is still in course, so further conclusions are to be made. However, we see the need for legislative reforms and better articulation of partnerships between actors. Especially the private and with the third sector, regarding the impact of the slowness of the processes on the viability in the rehabilitation process. Also important is to question not only the agenda but the process and how the resources are managed, of which seems to be better achieved through proximity to people and to the reality as it is.

---
