Effective Urban Planning, Social Equity, and Health

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Latin America: Greatest Social Disparities

Highly urbanized: Formal/Informal

Escalating Tension and Violence

“If we want to live better our neighbors also have to enjoy a better quality of life.” Oscar Grauer
Pros and Cons of Informality

Quick Occupation, Adaptability and Transformation.

Compactness.

Low Energy Consumption. Mixed uses.

Identity and Strong Social Ties.

High Risk Locations. Difficult Accessibility.

Scarce Infrastructure, Services, and Open Spaces.

Poor Sanitary Conditions, Environmental Problems.

Segregation. Weak Political Representation.

Violence.
Conventional Urban Planning and Public Housing are not the Answer

They Work Against Informality and Cannot Cope with the Demand
Improvement of Informal Settlements
“Corrective Urban Surgery”

Time consuming and costly. Projects work well at neighborhood scale but do not address larger urban demands.
Challenge: In two decades, 2 billion people will live in new informal areas

The Informal Armatures Approach
Preemptive Method
Simple On-site Design and Management

Corridors + Patches + Stewards
Gradual Transformation of the Public Realm and Self-Constructed Areas

Adapted to Local Conditions
Medellín, Colombia

Open Spaces for Occupation of Defunct Quarries
El Litoral Central, Venezuela

Flood Control and Eco-Tourism
Valparaíso, Chile
Resilient Landscapes, Protection Against Fire, Evacuation routes
Political Will to Apply the Method, Proactive Teams
Pivotal Role of Academia: Planning and Design Studios /Alliances

Hopley Farms, Harare, Zimbabwe
Syrian Refugee Camp, Bekaa, Lebanon

Better Cities = Equitable and Healthy Societies

Gracias!