



Editorial

Water, city, citizenship

The urbanization of populations on the planet has reached proportions never before observed in human history. Over half of the 8 billion inhabitants live in urban areas, and projections indicate that this number could reach 68% by 2050 (UN Habitat, 2022). This rapid population growth brings the increasing scarcity of resources, particularly concerning water, with a projected 55% increase in water demand by 2050. This complex challenge is intricately linked to the impact of climate change, population and urban expansion, and pollution of water sources.

The history of human civilizations demonstrates the significance of the relationships between human groups and their water sources. Primary hydraulic cultures flourished due to interventions in riverbeds and valleys for agricultural irrigation and navigation purposes. With the progress of industrialization, new water uses emerged, such as the supply of drinking water, energy generation, flood control, and the diversion of waters from wet areas to arid ones, aiming to stimulate urban growth.

However, this accelerated development did not occur equitably, resulting in an unequal and unjust distribution of essential resources such as water, energy, and food, with significant impacts on health, human well-being, the environment, and the economy. Riparian communities are forced to relocate, and human settlements lacking basic infrastructure form high-risk areas susceptible to hydrological and geological disasters.

This situation is exacerbated by the dominance of an urban planning approach that prioritizes grey infrastructure and treats water as a private commodity governed by financial market interests. In this context, promoting a transition towards sustainable and resilient water management in cities is crucial, adopting Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to mitigate urban drainage issues and considering the transdisciplinary science of the multi-perspectival nature of social actors.

A profound reevaluation of the technical paradigms underpinning urban planning is essential to address these challenges, seeking a conscious and responsible adaptation to climate change. This involves a shift in values and concepts, working at multiple scales with a systemic approach that transcends compartmentalized models of public policies. Furthermore, it is





crucial to acknowledge that overcoming this scenario requires adaptation actions that signify long-term political, managerial, and structural changes, aiming for a sustainable state rather than a condition of persistent unsustainability.

To achieve the goal of water-sensitive cities and promote environmental justice, sharing experiences and knowledge to co-create solutions, expand and universalize access to clean water and basic sanitation, and establish supportive policies for the most vulnerable populations is necessary. Additionally, addressing the effects of climate change requires adapting urban infrastructure and city landscapes while educating people about the responsible use of this vital resource for life on the planet.

In the face of these complex and urgent challenges, governments, civil society, and the private sector need to collaborate and be committed to seeking innovative solutions. The path to a sustainable future lies in holistic urban planning that values the preservation of water resources, social equity, and city resilience in the face of climate change. Investing in research, clean technologies, and inclusive public policies is crucial to ensure everyone can access a dignified and prosperous life in harmony with the environment.

Furthermore, sustainable urban water management efforts must be aligned with broad and ongoing public awareness. We can cultivate a culture of respect for water and the environment through environmental education and civic engagement. This shift in mindset will be decisive in constructing genuinely resilient cities dedicated to people's quality of life and the preservation of the planet.

Therefore, the future of cities and humanity is intricately tied to how we manage water resources and the environment. The challenge is substantial, but the opportunity to bring about significant and positive changes is even greater. We must take responsibility for this collective journey towards sustainable, inclusive, and water-sensitive cities where everyone can thrive harmoniously with nature.

From a postcolonial perspective, the call for papers for the edition 2/2023 proposed a reflection on the landscape, aiming to reclaim water as an essential right. In this context, it invited faculty, postgraduate students, and project professionals to submit articles discussing the theme or broadening their horizons to mobilize concepts and practices related to landscape restoration and integrating experiences.

Considerations/Recommendations/Insights for the Project, derived from case studies, or reflection on new conceptual and methodological frameworks in:





Housing technical assistance in slums in the Metropolitan Region of Rio de Janeiro: an approach to the issue of water and healthiness of habitat; Strategies for the economic and territorial regeneration of the Magdalena River: the case of the city of Girardot, Colombia; Social components and the use of target images for the Piraquara River restoration in Realengo (RJ); Landscape, race, and environmental justice in Macapá (AP): discussions on the water system and socio-racial fabric of an Amazonian City.

Other papers explore the importance of legislation protecting watercourses in the **Dimension of Permanent Preservation Areas (PPAs): considerations on the Itaquarinchim River**, as well as the uniqueness of urban development linked to water through the lens of history and social and economic development, as seen in **When thermal springs shape cities: the cases of Caldas da Rainha (Portugal) and Poços de Caldas (Brazil)**; questioning urban transformations that prioritize tourism over the environment in **The city and the sea: reflexions about Rio de Janeiro's port region**; social engagement against urban expansion challenges in collaboration with regional planning agencies, as discussed in **Social Engagement as Principle for Creating a Waterway Sub-Basis Committee Project and Institutional Integration of Water Planning: practices of the water-sensitive community of Serrinha do Paranoá (DF)**; and **São Paulo Water Museum: an opportunity for urban infrastructure utilization**.

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