

“QualificaURB” tool: analysis of the socio-environmental quality of renovated urban squares

Ferramenta “QualificaURB”: análise da qualidade socioambiental de praças urbanas reformadas

Herramienta “QualificaURB”: análisis de la calidad socioambiental de las plazas urbanas renovadas

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Abstract

This article analyzes the socio-environmental quality of urban squares, with an emphasis on those located in the municipality of Vila Velha (ES) that underwent renovations during the 2021–2024 municipal administration. The methodology involved the application of the analytical-classificatory tool "QualificaURB," which, based on specific indicators organized into thematic categories, assesses the quality of the squares, assigning a rating ranging from "insufficient" to "excellent." All renovated squares showed improvements, focusing on the square in the Jockey neighborhood, which serves as the case study for this research. Previously rated as "insufficient" and in a state of abandonment, the square was rehabilitated by installing new equipment, paving, and urban furniture, achieving a "good" classification, with advancements in nearly all evaluated categories. The results confirm the positive effects of the interventions and the potential of the "QualificaURB" tool as a method to assess squares and as an instrument to support the planning of new projects and future rehabilitations.

Keywords: Urban Planning; Socio-Environmental Assessment Tool; Public Open Spaces; Urban Intervention

Resumo

Este artigo apresenta uma análise da qualidade socioambiental de praças urbanas, com ênfase naquelas localizadas no município de Vila Velha-ES e que passaram por reformas durante a gestão municipal 2021-2024. A metodologia adotou a aplicação da ferramenta analítico-classificatória "QualificaURB" que, com base em indicadores específicos – organizados em categorias temáticas – avalia a qualidade das praças, atribuindo uma classificação que varia de "insuficiente" a "ótimo". Todas as praças reformadas apresentaram melhorias, com destaque para a praça do bairro Jockey, objeto de análise neste estudo. Anteriormente avaliada como "insuficiente" e em estado de abandono, a praça foi requalificada por meio da instalação de novos equipamentos, pavimentação e mobiliário urbano, alcançando a classificação "bom", com avanços em quase todas as categorias analisadas. Os resultados confirmam os efeitos positivos das intervenções realizadas, bem como o potencial da ferramenta "QualificaURB" enquanto método de avaliação de praças e instrumento de apoio ao planejamento de novos projetos e futuras requalificações.

Palavras-chave: Planejamento Urbano; Ferramenta de Avaliação; Espaços Livres Públicos; Intervenção urbana.

Resumen

Este artículo presenta un análisis de la calidad socioambiental de plazas urbanas, con énfasis en aquellas ubicadas en el municipio de Vila Velha (ES) que fueron objeto de reformas durante la gestión municipal 2021-2024. La metodología adoptó la aplicación de la herramienta analítico-clasificatoria "QualificaURB" que, basada en indicadores específicos organizados en categorías temáticas, evalúa la calidad de las plazas,



asignando una clasificación que varía de "insuficiente" a "excelente". Todas las plazas reformadas mostraron mejoras, con especial atención a la plaza del barrio Jockey, objeto de análisis en este estudio. Anteriormente evaluada como "insuficiente" y en estado de abandono, la plaza fue rehabilitada mediante la instalación de nuevos equipamientos, pavimentación y mobiliario urbano, alcanzando la clasificación de "buena", con avances en casi todas las categorías evaluadas. Los resultados confirman los efectos positivos de las intervenciones realizadas, así como el potencial de la herramienta "QualificaURB" como método de evaluación de plazas y como instrumento de apoyo a la planificación de nuevos proyectos y futuras rehabilitaciones.

Palabras clave: Planificación Urbana; Herramienta de Evaluación Socioambiental; Espacios Públicos Abiertos; Intervención Urbana.

INTRODUCTION

For appropriation and use to occur, squares must also inspire a sense of territoriality within communities, enabling their users to become actively engaged agents in processes of improvement and maintenance. Encouraging community use and appropriation of these spaces is the most effective strategy against the trend, already identified by Dias (2005), of replacing public spaces with air-conditioned, controlled, and "protected" spaces removed from urban life.

The renovation of squares tends to encourage the use and appropriation of public spaces by the population, promoting an increased sense of safety through natural surveillance resulting from the constant presence of people. However, such interventions must be understood within a broader context of urban policy, in which public space represents an arena of negotiation between the State and society (Fernandes, 2011).

In the municipality of Vila Velha-ES, the spatial scope of this study, there has been a movement aligned with municipal management initiatives between 2021 and 2024 aimed at requalifying the city's squares. This measure is also related to funding from the Development Fund of the Plata Basin (FONPLATA), approved by the Federal Government and directed toward projects under the Urban Requalification and Environmental Improvement Program (Vila Velha, 2019).

Beyond their recreational function, squares also serve as instruments of inclusion and citizenship, requiring approaches that integrate research, outreach, and social participation into urban planning actions. In this context, by recognizing the importance of squares in enhancing urban life, the relevance of studies analyzing the socio-environmental quality of these spaces becomes evident, as they provide guidance for such interventions. These studies should emphasize not only the elements that promote integration, accessibility, and connectivity but also the shortcomings that undermine user well-being.



Although national and international methodologies for evaluating public spaces exist, a gap remains regarding specific tools for analyzing the socio-environmental quality of squares based on scoring and classification systems with predefined parameters. In this regard, the research group “Urban Landscape and Inclusion” — composed of researchers from Vila Velha University and Espírito Santo Federal University — developed the analytical and classificatory tool “QualificaURB”, which evaluates and classifies urban squares. The tool facilitates understanding the dynamics experienced in these spaces and the identification of aspects that can be improved to redefine the function of squares within the urban context.

Therefore, this research presents a reflective analysis of the socio-environmental quality of squares in Vila Velha-ES, based on applying the “QualificaURB” tool. It focuses on the set of squares built and renovated during the 2021–2024 municipal administration, located in four administrative regions: Regional 1 – Centro, Regional 2 – Grande Ibes, Regional 3 – Grande Aribiri, and Regional 4 – Grande Cobilândia. Pre- and post-intervention scenarios are also discussed, identifying improvements and shortcomings in the quality of these public spaces. As a case study, the square in the Jockey de Itaparica neighborhood was selected due to the significant improvements in socio-environmental quality, demonstrated by the most substantial positive difference between pre- and post-renovation evaluations.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OF THE SQUARE

With the advancement of urban studies regarding the influence of public open spaces on the city, squares have increasingly been recognized as indispensable elements for urban environmental quality. The progressive densification of cities has an adverse effect on the reduction of green areas and public open spaces, often relegated to residual plots, neglecting their social and environmental function as places of interaction, leisure, and connection between individuals and nature.

Public spaces are instruments for promoting social interactions, community life, and public safety, contributing to social cohesion (Lennard, 1984). To attract people and be appropriated by them, public spaces must encourage socialization while also being accessible, safe, visually appealing, and promoting user well-being. This attractiveness can be achieved through the presence of equipment, furniture, and vegetation, which directly influence people's relationship with the environment (Whyte, 1980).

For public open spaces to fulfill their social, environmental, and urban functions, they must include qualities that promote interactions between people and space. Squares must also meet qualifying criteria—including those linked to the human scale established by Gehl (2014) and exist in sufficient quantity and dimensions, equitably distributed within the urban fabric. When adequately planned, squares



promote inclusive, connected, and vibrant cities, principles emphasized by UN-HABITAT (2024).

In this sense, squares can also be characterized as "third places," a concept developed by the American urban sociologist Oldenburg (1989). This concept refers to welcoming and informal public spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all. These spaces are where people can establish interactions beyond those occurring in the first and second places (home and work), making them essential for well-being in large cities.

However, to achieve this goal, it is essential to consider the relationship between the square and the surrounding urban morphology, as such configurations may discourage people from using these spaces. Newman (1973) explores the relationship between squares and the promotion of urban safety, arguing that the design of these spaces can either foster or inhibit criminal activities. Abandoned squares tend to attract illicit practices. Conversely, when well-lit and equipped with furniture and activities that encourage social interactions, they become "defensible spaces," where crime is inhibited by the natural surveillance established (Newman, 1973).

Public open spaces must, therefore, be qualified to fulfill this role, and be perceived by the community as an extension of their private lives. This notion is confirmed in squares that reflect the needs and culture of their communities, encouraging appropriation and active social participation in space management (Gehl, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

This applied research study was conducted in four methodological stages, with exploratory and descriptive objectives and a mixed quantitative-qualitative approach. Following the literature review (Stage 1), which provided the theoretical framework for the study, all squares renovated during the 2021–2024 municipal administration within the regions under analysis were identified and mapped in the open-source geoprocessing software QGIS (Stage 2). Stage 3 consisted of on-site visits for data collection, which were then applied using the "QualificaURB" tool. Based on the evaluations, Stage 4 comprised the analysis of results, identifying squares with higher and lower classifications, emphasizing the Jockey de Itaparica neighborhood square, which was selected for detailed analysis.

The "QualificaURB" tool (Ramos & Jesus, 2024) was the method adopted to evaluate the squares. It is freely available as a web platform and as an application for iOS and Android (<https://www.qualificaurb.com.br/>). Its interface allows the generation of reports with charts that highlight the strengths and opportunities for improvement of the evaluated spaces. It also enables comparisons with other squares from the same locality or from different regions.



Structured into four categories of analysis — "Protection and Safety," "Comfort and Image," "Access and Connections," and "Sociability, Uses, and Activities" — the tool is subdivided into 25 indicators, grouped into nine attributes. Based on the performance of these indicators, scores ranging from 0 (insufficient) to 3 (excellent) are assigned, as shown in Table 1, allowing for a general classification of the squares and their indicators, attributes, and categories.

Score 0,00 to 0,75	Score 0,76 to 1,50	Score 1,51 to 2,25	Score 2,26 to 3,00
Insufficient	Regular	Good	Excellent

Table 1: Scoring for Evaluation Based on the Indicators. Source: Ramos e Jesus, 2024

The category "**Protection and Safety**" evaluates public and pedestrian traffic safety within and around the squares, considering elements of urban morphology that may compromise users' physical integrity and positive experience. This category consists of two attributes: "Traffic Safety" and "Public Safety," which include six indicators addressing the typology of streets and crossings in the surrounding area, as well as public lighting, surveillance strategies, spatial configuration, and the relationship between neighboring façades and public space.

The category "**Comfort and Image**" analyzes the aesthetic, environmental, and ecological aspects of the squares, focusing on elements that encourage permanence and user well-being. Comprising three attributes and seven indicators, it assesses maintenance, cleanliness, noise levels, weather protection elements, tree canopy and permeable areas, and the availability and variety of seating — all essential for promoting comfort, a sense of belonging, and a pleasant atmosphere in the squares.

The category "**Access and Connections**" considers the accessibility of facilities, internal routes, and access to the squares, through six indicators grouped into two attributes: "Mobility" and "Routes and Facilities." It verifies whether circulation spaces meet width and pavement standards in accordance with NBR 9050 (ABNT, 2020), and whether available facilities ensure access and use by people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility. The availability of routes leading to the squares is also analyzed, as well as integration with the surroundings through proximity to bus stops, bike routes, bicycle racks, and shared bicycle stations.

Finally, the category "**Sociability, Uses, and Activities**" analyzes factors influencing the square's vitality and users' appropriation of it. It is structured into six indicators, distributed across two attributes: "Attraction" and "Facilities and Activities." These indicators assess the diversity and condition of fixed equipment and services, as well as community activities and appropriations. The analysis also includes the predominant land use in adjacent blocks, expanding understanding of the integration between the square and its immediate surroundings.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Characterization of the study area

Located within the Metropolitan Region of Grande Vitória, Vila Velha is the oldest and second most populous city in the state of Espírito Santo, with 467,722 inhabitants (IBGE, 2022). As previously mentioned, the study focuses on the following administrative regions: Regional 1 – Centro, Regional 2 – Grande Ibes, Regional 3 – Grande Aribiri, and Regional 4 – Grande Cobilândia, as identified in Figure 1. These four regions encompass 71 neighborhoods, where 62 squares are distributed: 22 in Regional 1 – Centro, 24 in Regional 2 – Grande Ibes, 10 in Regional 3 – Grande Aribiri, and 6 in Regional 4 – Grande Cobilândia.

The municipality of Vila Velha has predominantly flat terrain, with some Special Environmental Interest Zones (ZEIAs) located in hillside areas and along canal banks. These currently polluted canals are under constant pressure from urban densification, which negatively impacts their surroundings. The neighborhoods with the highest concentration of income - such as Praia da Costa, Itapuã, and Praia de Itaparica - are located along the coast, in Regional 1 – Centro. On the other hand, neighborhoods with the highest population density are concentrated in the central part of the urban area, mainly in Regions 2 and 3.

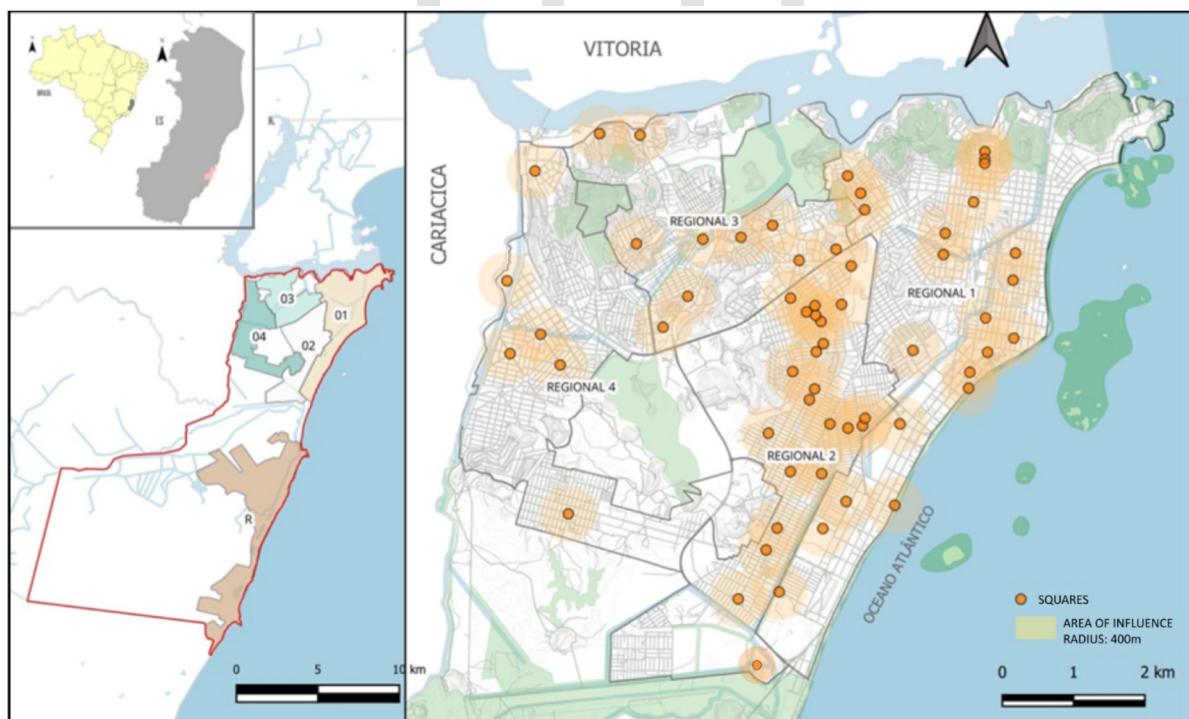


Figure 1: On the left, a location map of the municipality of Vila Velha and its 5 Administrative Regions. On the right, a map shows the distribution of squares in the regions under study.
Source: Authors, 2024.

Of the 62 squares analyzed, 17 were renovated during the 2021–2024 municipal administration. Among them, 9 are in Regional 1 – Centro, 5 in Regional 2 – Grande Ibes, 1 in Regional 3 – Grande Aribiri, and 1 in Regional 4 – Grande Cobilândia. It is noteworthy that government requalification initiatives did not evenly cover the four administrative regions, concentrating mainly in Regionals 1 and 2, the most consolidated ones.

Application of the "QualificaURB" tool

The results were spatialized after applying the "QualificaURB" tool to the renovated squares, highlighting the general evaluations of the squares and the performance by category (Figure 2). Out of the analyzed squares, 5% were classified as "insufficient," while 95% received classifications of "fair" and "good," reflecting an intermediate socio-environmental quality scenario. It should be emphasized that none of the analyzed squares reached the classification of "excellent."

When observing the spatial distribution of the squares and their respective classifications, it becomes clear that Regionals 1 and 2, which have better infrastructure conditions and a larger number of planned neighborhoods, also concentrate the highest number of squares classified as "good" (represented in blue in Figure 2). In Regional 1, for instance, 9 squares were requalified, contributing to 14 of the 22 existing squares being classified as "good," which corresponds to more than 60% of the total in Regional 1.

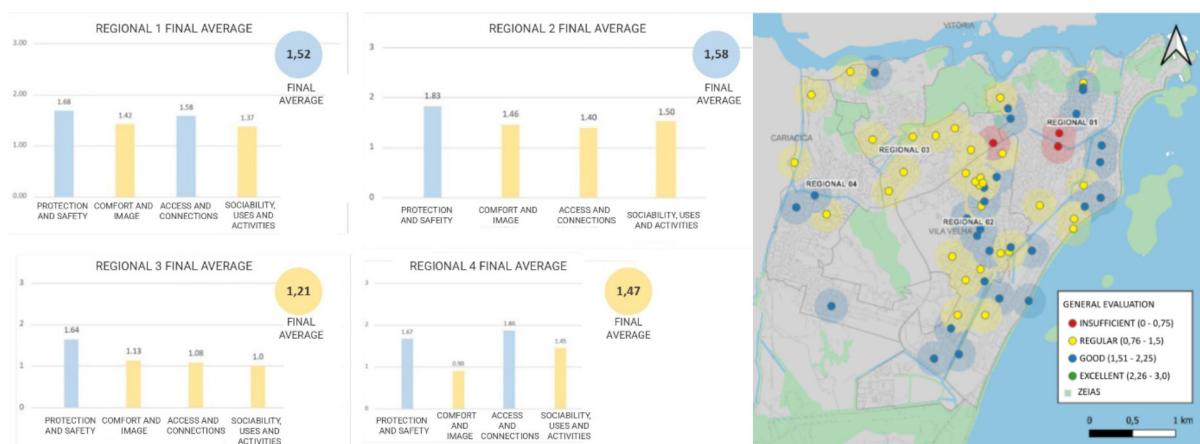


Figure 2: On the left, charts of the four Regions with the classifications and scores, by category, of the evaluated squares. On the right, the spatial distribution of the squares with their respective socio-environmental quality results.

Source: Authors, 2024.

The maps presented in Figure 3 correlate the squares' socio-environmental quality assessment with their neighborhoods' socioeconomic conditions, considering demographic density data (inhabitants/ha) and per capita income, based on IBGE Census data (2010). It is observed, therefore, that there is a greater concentration



of squares with better evaluations ("Good" and "Fair") in coastal neighborhoods with high per capita income and in squares located in planned and traditional communities of the city. Conversely, squares classified as "insufficient" are predominantly located in low-income neighborhoods with high demographic density.

The maps in Figure 3 also highlight an unequal distribution of squares in quantity and quality. Regional 3, for example, where neighborhoods with the highest demographic densities in the municipality are concentrated, has only 10 squares distributed among its 18 neighborhoods. Among these, only one was evaluated as "good," while the others received classifications of "fair" or "insufficient." This scenario reinforces the urgency of investments in public spaces, especially in the squares of Regional 3, both for the creation of new ones and for the requalification of existing ones.

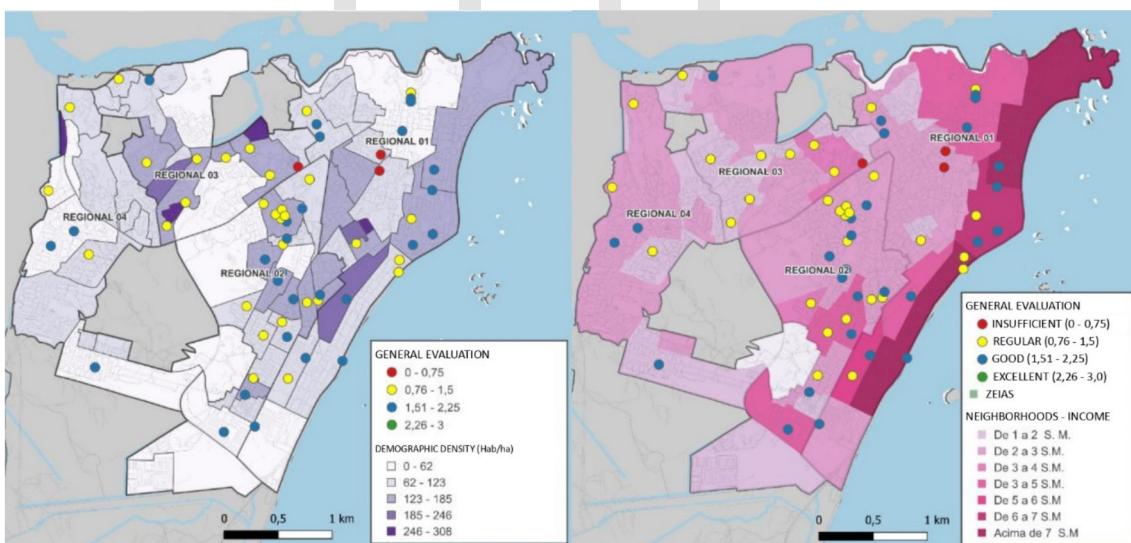


Figure 3: On the left, a map presenting the overall evaluations of the socio-environmental quality of the squares in relation to population density (inhabitants/ha). On the right, a map showing the overall evaluations of the socio-environmental quality of the squares in relation to per capita income (minimum wage).

Source: Authors, 2024.

The analysis of the results, spatialized in the maps in Figure 4, became a fundamental step in understanding specific factors that influenced the evaluations of the squares. This approach made it possible to identify, through the indicators, the elements responsible for the assigned scores, offering a more detailed and strategic perspective to guide future interventions.

When analyzing the averages by region, the category "Protection and Safety" stands out for presenting the best performance in almost all Regionals. Meanwhile, the category "Comfort and Image" registered the lowest averages across all regionals. These data highlight both weaknesses and potentialities of

the squares—aspects directly related to the quality of user experience and which can guide intervention projects.

In the context of the renovated squares, the results reveal, therefore, that, in most cases, the interventions carried out significantly contributed to improving the socio-environmental quality of the squares, positively impacting both the overall evaluation and the category-specific assessments. However, it should be noted that the reforms were not articulated with integrated policies nor involved participatory processes, revealing a municipal management model that is still sectoral and ignores urban dynamics. Such a situation can affect both the production and requalification of these spaces, directly influencing the socio-environmental quality and the appropriation of the renovated squares.

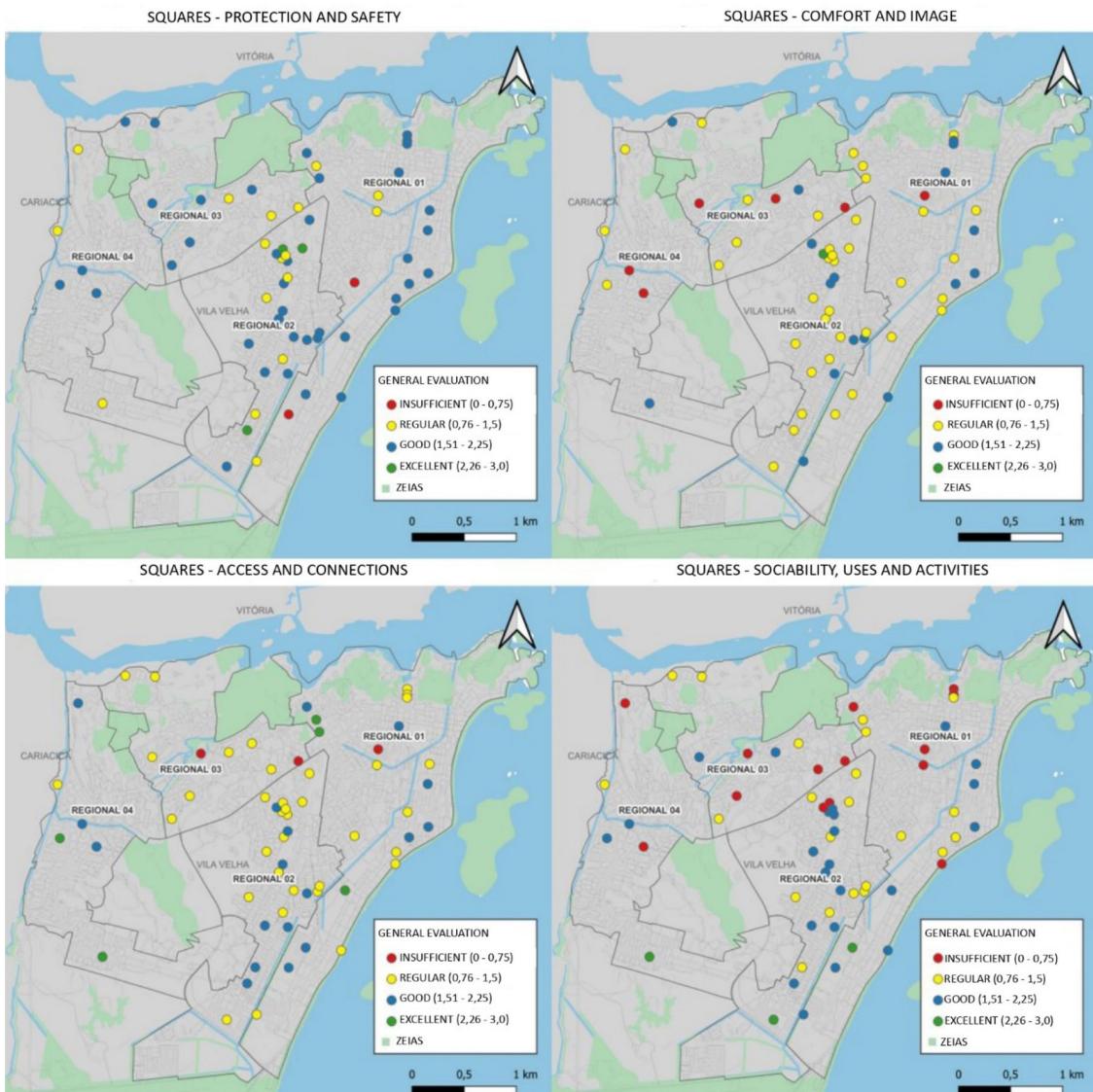


Figure 4: Spatial distribution of the squares, by classification category in the socio-environmental quality assessment.

Source: Authors, 2024.



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Evaluation of Jockey Square

Jockey Square, selected as the case study in this article, is in Regional 01—Grande Centro, in the Jockey de Itaparica neighborhood (Figure 5). It has an estimated population density of 19.70 inhabitants/ha and an average per capita income of 2 to 3 Brazilian minimum wages (IBGE, 2010). However, it is a neighborhood undergoing expansion, with recent activity from the real estate market.

With an area of approximately 2,000 m² and a rectangular layout, the square is located on a block corner, with three of its four façades bordered by walls (Figure 5). This configuration limits access and connections with the square, obstructing the visual field and contributing to a greater sense of insecurity in the area. Single-family housing predominates in the square's surroundings, without community facilities (Figure 5). It is also worth noting that the square is located at the boundary with the Guaranhuns neighborhood, near vacant urban land and an area characterized by informal settlements.



Figure 5: Location and aerial view of Jockey Square and its surroundings.

Source: Google Maps and Authors, 2024.



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When the "QualificaURB" tool was applied before the renovation, Jockey Square received an "insufficient" rating (score 0.43). Characterized by the absence of facilities, furnishings, and aesthetic quality, the square offered minimal lighting, public safety infrastructure, and a lack of accessibility, landscaping, and seating areas, resulting in low pedestrian flow during both day and night (Figure 6). These aspects defined the square as an abandoned space, compromising the safety of residents.



Figure 6. Images of Jockey Square before the renovation.

Source: Google Maps and authors, 2024.

However, after the intervention, the square received a new evaluation, with an overall rating of "Good" (score 1.71), representing a significant improvement in its socio-environmental quality. The "**Protection and Safety**" category improved from an "Insufficient" rating (score 0.25) to "Regular" (score 1.25). The changes that enhanced performance in this category included the installation of public lighting and the regularization of sidewalks. Following the renovation, the square gained an accessible route, with even flooring and tactile warning surfaces. It lost its previously inhospitable character, becoming a more inviting environment for users, including at night. However, it is worth noting that the surroundings of the square remained unchanged, with no interventions to enhance or stimulate the vitality and safety of the area.

Regarding the "**Comfort and Image**" category, before the renovation, Jockey Square was rated as "Regular" (score 1.08), a situation reflected in the space by the absence of landscaping, aesthetic quality, seating, shaded areas, and adequate waste collection. These characteristics also contributed to insecurity in the square, which affected the entire neighborhood. Following the intervention, new garden beds, wooden and concrete benches, ramps to address level changes, and pergolas over the chess tables were added (Figure 7).





Figure 7: Images of Jockey Square after the renovation.

Source: Authors, 2024.

These elements resulted in a "Good" rating (score 2.24) for the "Comfort and Image" category, representing a considerable improvement compared to the previous "Regular" rating (score 1.08). It is worth noting that in the "Shade and Vegetation" indicator, the square did not reach satisfactory conditions; however, it presents a level comparable to other squares in the city, which are generally arid, heavily paved spaces lacking greenery.

In the "Access and Connections" category, there was also an improvement from an "Insufficient" rating (score 0.25) to "Regular" (score 1.33). The renovation added new paving, adjusted pathways to a width suitable for comfortable pedestrian circulation, and installed bicycle racks to facilitate bicycle use. Although well laid, the new interlocking concrete block paving has wide joints, limiting full accessibility of the area (Figure 8). The square still lacks connectivity, mainly due to its isolated location within the neighborhood, which hinders connections with the surrounding community.





Figure 8: Jockey Square after renovation. The images show the new paving, benches in the garden beds, the bicycle rack installed near the sports court, the rotomolded plastic playground, the outdoor gym in stainless steel, the sports court, and the chess tables under pergolas.

Source: Authors, 2024.

Regarding the **"Sociability, Uses, and Activities"** category, the square improved from a previous "Insufficient" rating (score 0.13) to a "Good" rating (score 1.84). The previous score reflected the complete absence of facilities and activities in the square before the renovation. The intervention added intergenerational facilities such as a playground, sports court, outdoor gym, chess tables, and a walking circuit (Figure 8); however, as previously noted, there was no change in land use in the surrounding area to promote integration between the square and the community.

The results of the indicators for each category of the "QualificaURB" tool are illustrated in the charts in Figure 9, where the performance of each indicator is compared before and after the renovation. Indicators that showed no improvement are primarily associated with the characteristics of the square's surroundings, where no interventions occurred, such as morphology, land use, façade typology,



connectivity of access points, and the presence of community facilities. The lack of interventions in the surrounding area also highlights structural limitations in municipal urban planning, characterized by a lack of coordination between responsible sectors and the population, and weaknesses in the Master Plan.

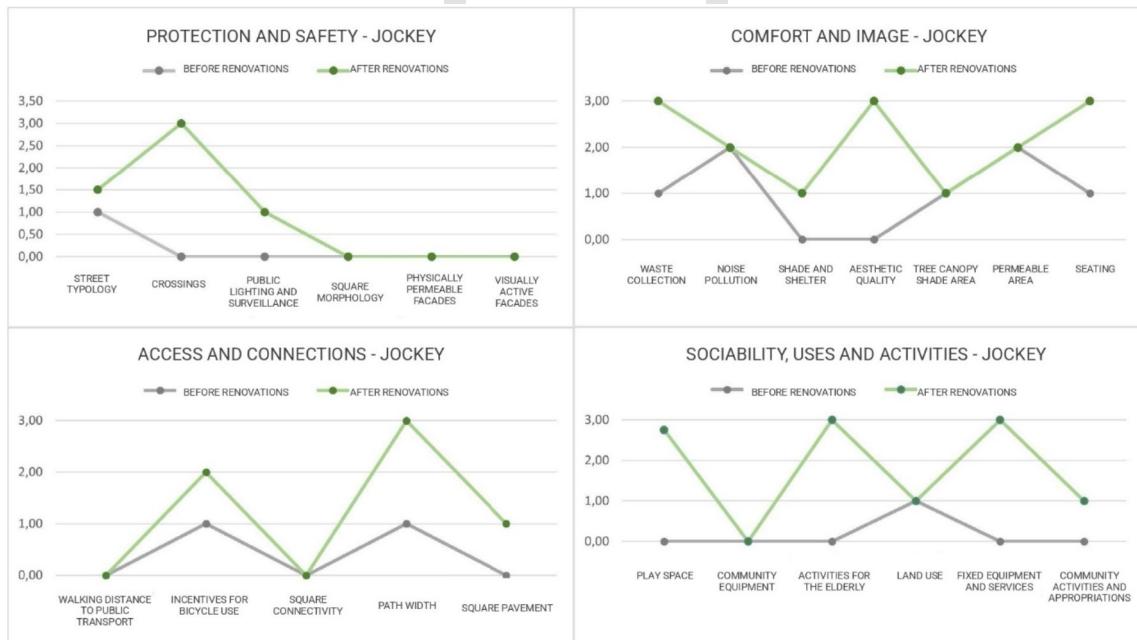


Figure 9: Graphs of the overall evaluation results of Jockey square using the "QualificaURB" tool, divided by category and their specific indicators.

Source: Authors, 2024

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Public spaces provide opportunities for interpersonal interactions and strengthening community ties; however, to achieve this, they must meet qualifying criteria that should be considered in urban planning. In this study, the analyses highlight the importance of investing in maintaining and improving public spaces, including those already well-established. Such interventions contribute to improving the urban environment and support urban planning theories, which recognize the role of squares and other open spaces in promoting healthier and more inclusive cities.

The absence of squares classified as "excellent," even after the renovation of many of them, highlights the need for further interventions and a more in-depth analysis of aspects that require improvement. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of understanding the criteria that define a high-quality square. In this context, the "QualificaURB" tool for assessing the socio-environmental quality of squares stands out as an effective instrument for identifying the strengths and weaknesses of these spaces, providing essential information to support urban planning decisions and guide the strategic and efficient allocation of public resources.



The municipality's squares continue to require investments and interventions, with particular attention to Regional 03—Grande Aribiri, which showed the poorest results. This scenario reinforces the need to implement new squares and promote improvements in existing ones. The condition of these spaces directly reflects the region's social vulnerability and infrastructural deficiencies.

In the case study of Jockey Square, the comparison between pre- and post-renovation scenarios indicates that the interventions were generally successful, with improvements across all analyzed categories. The square became more attractive, offering a greater diversity of uses and opportunities for user engagement. However, the impact of the renovation was limited to internal aspects of the square, with no investments in its surroundings or in the neighborhood's infrastructure, which continues to present an unfavorable context for safety and vitality.

Despite improvements, the results in the “Protection and Safety” category—one of the worst-performing categories before the renovation—still reflect significant limitations. This category is determined by traffic and public safety attributes, characteristics that are inherently linked to the square's surroundings. As upgrades to the surrounding infrastructure did not accompany the renovation, the positive outcomes—particularly in this category—remained confined to the square's internal features. The absence of interventions in the surroundings highlights potential structural gaps in local urban policy and a fragmented approach by the public authorities, driven by isolated demands rather than coordinated and participatory planning.

Therefore, although the renovation of Jockey Square was satisfactory, it exemplifies the need for interventions in squares to include improvements to their surroundings. Given the conditions of the surrounding urban environment, Jockey Square still does not fully fulfill its social function as an instrument for promoting social cohesion and urban vitality, nor does it effectively serve its role in enhancing urban safety in the area.

Regarding the assessment of existing squares, it can be concluded that there is a need to better understand the aspects that qualify public open spaces and use this knowledge to guide urban planning decisions. Enhancing the urban and social function of squares is an essential step in urban planning decision-making, and applying the “QualificaURB” tool proves to be a qualified method to assist in this process.

Beyond the classification and application of the tool, this research aims to contribute to the development of a diagnostic of Vila Velha's squares, identifying which aspects support the vitality of these spaces, and highlighting their existing strengths and vulnerabilities. The data consolidated and validated through the “QualificaURB” tool can be used in future urban planning initiatives and in the revision of local central and strategic plans, facilitating the optimization and targeted allocation of public resources. Finally, this research contributes to social



participation by providing objective data supporting community discussions, strengthening the dialogue between technical assessment and social demands.

Thus, this study aims to contribute to the consolidation of the "QualificaURB" tool, encouraging its dissemination and application in squares located in different Brazilian urban contexts. Its interface allows for generating reports with charts highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the evaluated spaces, enabling comparisons between squares within the same locality or across different regions. Regarding the replicability of "QualificaURB," it is believed that cities with weaker institutional structures can benefit from its use as a technical support tool in decision-making, especially when accompanied by participatory mechanisms. Given the scarcity of specific methods to assess public spaces, particularly squares, this research demonstrates scientific relevance and potential impact.

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