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Post-disaster recovery: the role of design and the introduction of social innovation architecture features.

Introduction

Goals
The research aims to inquire the architects' role on recovery processes led by international agencies and NGO's. In order to achieve this goal the discussion will be framed in a broader context
Secondly, keeping the focus on the works and in the role of architects inside agencies and NGO's emergency-development operations, the research aims also to give a contribution to the strengthen Portuguese cooperation with CPLP members in areas yet not covered by this cooperation such as post-disaster rebuilding, disaster risk prevention and post-recovery assessment.

Background
The UE countries signed both the UNISDR and the HFA and have on-going discussions in order to build a new framework for the period 2015-2020. Portugal, a founder member of the CPLP, the community of Portuguese speaking countries, incorporated this strategy into the governmental policy in 2004. Countries such as S.Tomé e Principe, Guiné-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique, Brazil and Timor-Est present different realities, put different problems and face different challenges, demanding special approaches, analyses and propositions. Although an increase number of NGO's are establishing their work on the field, urban field, certainly, they are mostly specialized on emergency response and just a few of them have been dedicated to building. Therefore there is a important lack of planning and enduring action, which must be fulfilled.
Hypothesis
Research outlines a main hypothesis:
- In disaster recovery, the more sustainable, transforming and resilient accomplishments occur when architects work as both designers and community facilitators, assuming a creative but also a supporting and educational role near stakeholders, instead of merely working as self-sufficient designers or as omnipotent process controllers.

Discussion
Dealing with severely affected communities involves a few crucial points. The research addresses these points in the form of questions to be responded in order to stimulate discussion:
- How to assist people build to meet their long term physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual needs?
- How to measure the long term impacts of on-field actions?

Methods and tactics
As a primary tactic the research will review the National and European strategies for disaster reduction in regard to design strategies and programs that might expand the potential of resilience and transformation, while questioning the role played by architecture and architectural designers. Regarding the contribution to the Portuguese speaking geography, research will seek to investigate which specific sub areas, within this geography, are less attended- less studied, less intervened. It is, therefore, relevant to establish a encompassing regional framework concerning theory and practice, planning and building, innovation and traditional knowledge.

The method of analysis comprises systematic observation, interviewing and digital mapping. Selected ongoing projects of Portuguese based NGO Building 4Humanity Design and Reconstructing Communities Association in Africa, will be taken as study cases. A research-action project addressed to the African Portuguese speaking countries, a joint international project leaded by a Portuguese University, focusing on local building types and energy efficiency will also be mentioned and taken under consideration for particular research purposes..

Final remarks
A prior conclusion points out that as much as the role of architects continue to evolve, to prioritize local cultures, knowledge and resources and paying special attention to vulnerable groups (such as women, people with disability, ethnic minorities, youth, elderly and migrant) throughout the design process while exploring and widening design tools (such as digital mapping, charretes, participatory models, interactive graphic, written and verbal presentations, sketch and 3D print models, etc) acquire a more significant meaning in both before and after disaster actions, plans and programs.
At the end of the research it will be suggested that the moving from user-centre-designer to experts in facilitation in relation to design and rebuilding issues can smooth the process of reconceptualization of which bodies matter in the practice of architecture in humanitarian aid context and which bodies are yet to emerge as critical matters of concern to be materialized within long term recovery process by an updated design palette in the years to come. Resilience, transition, green design, action planning, communities participatory action, social change, local building types, cultural landscapes, spirituality, Well-Being, Quality of Life seemed to be critical trends to nourish a social innovation architecture that seek to meet both people emergency needs and aspirations.

Key words: post-disaster rebuilding, design tools, disaster reduction, Well-Being, Quality of Life