

Continuities and transformations: two frames of vertical dwelling experimentation in São Paulo

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Abstract

At the end of the 1920s, in São Paulo, Brazil, the first vertical apartment buildings began to emerge, although, at the time an absolute innovation, it did not have great acceptance. After decades of vertiginous population growth associated with an intense verticalization process, a recent study found that, for the first time, the city has a predominance of vertical housing typologies. This new factor emphasizes the relevance of the paper's subject: vertical dwelling I São Paulo. The research considers two frames: from 1940s to 1950s, in Higienópolis neighborhood; and from 2000s, in Vila Madalena.

The first frame stands out with the consolidation of the modern movement and the presence of an important group of architects working in the residential real estate market. In this context, Higienópolis became the stage for many vertical dwellings with architectural interest, with a positive impact by their architectural language and relation with the city.

Nevertheless, in 1970s, due to several factors, many architects moved away from the real estate market and the verticalization process started to be driven by constructions without design quality or urban relation. In contrast, from the early 2000s, small initiatives that seek to resume the dialogue between architecture and housing real estate production have gained strength, and began to emerge, in Vila Madalena, buildings with architectural concern and greater urban integration.

The paper presents the analysis of representative study cases, in order to understand their design options, compositional themes and draw parallel guidelines. Thus, we intend to contribute to the understanding of São Paulo's architecture within the ways of living debate. This study is part of a master thesis in FAUP's MIArq Course 2020/21, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro.