• 12751 | Reactivating neglected spaces

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The economic reality and shortage of funding in Europe, conditioned by the crises that has affected the real estate market and urban planning, triggered new architectural approaches, particularly, in resources management associated with small and medium scale urban interventions. Consequently, alternative forms of intervention have been verified, where the main protagonists are multidisciplinary teams combined with interested citizens in the problems of the city and their public spaces, that is, concerned about reactivating neglected areas and buildings. These proposals, mainly financed through crowdfunding or other community support, prioritize values absent in the economic market modus operandi namely social justice, environmental awareness and social ethics.

The present paper focuses on these issues through the study of bottom-up strategic interventions that respond more effectively and rapidly to urban and social needs. The study aims to understand the specific attributes of urban actions, that are quick in their response, that awaken the regeneration of the surrounding areas and interfere in their social dynamics. Through three case studies, selected with rigorous criteria relevant to place reactivation with community funding, we propose to analyze the pertinence of these interventions in the development of the urban landscape at an architectural and social level. Nevertheless, we understand that this is only one of several ways to interpret these urban issues, therefore, they should not be taken as the only plausible solution but rather as another contribution to this complex contemporary urban dilemma.

The present paper is part of an ongoing research within the master thesis integrated on Master's Degree in Architecture, at FAUP, 2016/2017, underway the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro.