

**Resource Architecture –
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Final Plenum: Perspectives and Visions

City – Sustainability - Heritage

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In the possibility of defining the perspectives and positions towards the optimization in the use of the architecture resources, three are the ones I consider fundamental, without excluding other themes that have been approached in these four days of intense labor.

The trinomial "*City - Sustainability – Heritage*", and how we architects define our participation in them, starting from the nominative definitions regarding to the model of sustainable city, related to the heritage protection policies, are the sustenance of our activity.

Technology on Sustainability

An attractive city is in which the memory and the innovation are mixed; the new and the old dialogue and cohabit, and their presences become more intensive when they get in touch.

The typology of *own house* and *own land* housing that we have adopted in Mexico has generated a growing model of disperse or diffuse city that repeats lengthwise and breathdwise in our country. This city model has the characteristic of consuming an enormous quantity of energy and other services that strikes in the damage of the support systems, as well as to consign to a second place the preservation of the cities' downtowns, and the protection of

the architectonic heritage as a result of the emigration of the population from the center to the peripheries.

The progressive extension of the city and the exploitation of its resources, derived from this way of growth, put in risk the sustainability of the systems. The sustainable development is understood as the one that assumes the necessities of the present without committing the future's development; challenge that motivates to a reflection related to the model of city that we must foster.

According to the analysis of the Spanish ecologist Salvador Rueda (member of the Experts of the Urban Environment of the European Union Committee), in a diffuse city the surface edified by the habitant is very large, so it requires more maintenance. In general, the mobility model relies on the private vehicle. This is the reason why more energy is consumed in these semi-detached typologies and the infrastructure webs are dispersed.

It would be essential that in a state level and especially in the municipal one, a profound analysis about the continuous growth of the cities to the peripheries would be done, since it would be desirable to stimulate the densification towards the inner city for propitiating the model of compact city. This is a basic idea that centuries ago spurt up the concept of city that permitted the proximity of uses and functions that the citizen demands and raises the value of the intense life in the city's downtown zones and the identity with the local and regional heritage, in counterpart to the actual dispersion of the functions that generate large extension urban webs and concentrated activity just in certain hours of the day.

The city depends on ecosystems that in all instances have an specific charge capacity, that makes necessary to settle limits to its exploitation. For

that, it would be necessary to change the generalized model of horizontal housing, and to densify it starting from a higher height in the housing estates. In this model, the place, the climate and the way of life must be considered, starting in the duplex houses, then in the medium heights of 4 and 5 levels, and finally getting to the maximum height that the regulation permits. In all instances, the norm should be the medium height, making efficient the social and physic infrastructure at the time of reducing the use of energetics and the population mobility.

The dream of having an own house and land could not be feasible at long-term. We must continually send the message in relation to architecture, urbanism and ecology sustainability; they must be allies for propitiating an urban environment in which the value of the historic centers, the vital rescue of its heritage and the intensity of the use of space be the norm within the framework of the dynamic communitarian and citizen life, where sharing with the neighbor and respecting the mutual privacy is ideal.

To finish, I would like to quote Sigfried Gideon, who in 1995 said: "In 1920 one should be forced to relegate the XIXth Century tendencies and initiate again from cero. Today, the situation is completely different, we are at the beginning of a new tradition, there's not the necessity to destroy the accomplishments of the generation who precede us, we must expand them..."

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