The 1st ABAPInternational Congress

Brazilian Society of Landscape Architects, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 22-24

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Under the general theme of Design Practices and Methodologies in Landscape Architecture in Latin America this Congress was one of the main events organized by the local association – ABAP - to mark its 30 years of its existence, with the support of the Graduate Program in Urbanism of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro PROURB. With the participation of more than 300 attendees from 11 countries of this sub-region, a general view of the state of the art of the profession in the Region was presented by 20 speakers bringing contributions from 6 different countries - Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colômbia, México e Venezuela, divided in six sessions that addressed specific topics: the representation of landscape design; landscape and memory; culture and nature; and designing the future.

These presentations and discussions allowed an assessment of the differences and similarities that the profession faces in all these countries, and despite all the multiple identities that the Latin–American landscape present, the social and ecological challenges are amazingly in the same level of development and in the same level of urgency that need to be addressed by the local landscape architects, if they want to have a more prominent participation in the shaping of their built environment.

The process of urbanization and consume of the landscapes here, are in a pace and in a scale that is very difficult to understand outside its boundaries. And in order to clarify some basic principles that emerged from this congress, that should guide the professional practices and methodologies, we could list:

- The recognition of these multiple and specific landscape identities from all the Latin-American sub-continent;
- The permanent quest to suit the designs and landscape interventions to these specificities;
- The fundamental role of landscape architecture nowadays in the Latin-American countries;
- The necessary integration of the professional practice with the allied disciplines and social agents, trying to reach more participatory and fair landscapes;
- The latent search in the practice to meet an esthetical, ecological and social synthesis trough the design expression;
- The need to clarify the role of landscape architecture in the public realm;
- The recognition of the responsibility of the Landscape Architect in the making of better urban environments;

As a first step to run for these challenges, and with the idea to help IFLA and the local associations in this task, it was announced, based on the consideration of:

- The similar stage of education in Landscape architecture in the sub-region
- The same necessity to develop the professional practice in all its potential
- The convenience to establish a common professional accreditation system

The launching of the Latin-American Associations of Landscape Architects Group, with the mission:

- To empower the profession and its acknowledgement by all the professional regulatory levels in all of its countries
- to build a common policy for education and of standards for the professional practice
- to make landscape architecture contributions to our societies more visible;
- to promote the creation of local landscape architects associations in all of the countries that they are still lacking, and to strengthen the existing ones.

Finally, the former IFLA President, Martha Fajardo was invited to assume its inaugural presidency, in order to start the formatting process of this Group, the GALAP.

At the same time, in the Gallery of the Gustavo Capanema Palace, a modernist icon in downtown Rio, overlooking recently restored Burle-Marx gardens, the site where the Congress was held, occurred the exhibition of selected 110 works from Latin-American landscape architects, divided by themes, and showing all of the creativity and capacity to respond to the challenges that the profession presents today.

1º CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL DA ABAP

30 anos Associação Brasileira de Arquitetos Paisagistas

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