

adaptables'06

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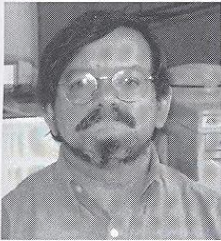
Editor:
Frits Scheublin
Arno Pronk

Eindhoven University of Technology,
Department of Architecture
The Netherlands

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Adaptability in self Produced Housing in Mexico



Jorge Andrade-Narvaez, Andrea Martin-Chavez
Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana Unidad
Xochimilco.

Taller de vivienda División de Diseño
Calzada del Hueso 1100 , col Villa Quietud, Coyoacan Mexico D.F.
Jandrade@correo.xoc.uam.mx

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PAPER

Self production of housing accounts for more than 60% of the housing stock in Mexico. Nevertheless little attention and support has been given to it by the public or private sectors. Low income families are unable to afford house produced by both public and private sectors. They can only access self produced house and generally prefer it because it's a production process that adapts better to their economy, needs and changes in lifestyle.

Self production processes in Mexico adapt to several backgrounds, very diverse and complex according to the different natural and cultural environment of our country.

In this paper we make a synthesis of these different environments in Mexico, picking one region as an example. We will make a brief history of the vernacular housing produced mainly between the self produced housing and the one produced by the private sector, by contrasting the structure that prevails (support) from the one that suffers changes (infill).

Housing regions in Mexico.

We used the study presented by "taller de vivienda" to the "Instituto Nacional del Fondo para la Vivienda de los Trabajadores" (INFONAVIT) in 1994 (Andrade et al 1994), to define regions of self-produced housing.

According to that document, there are two main factors which are basic to define housing regions, these are natural and cultural environments. Cultural factors are determinants and natural factors are condition ants (Rapoport 1975)

The following aspects were considered: in order to define cultural regions:

1. - The location of indigenous communities.
2. - The location of different religious orders in the colonial time.
3. - The location of current vernacular housing.
4. - the location of socio-economic urban regions.

By Doing so three main zones were found in Mexico:



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At the beginning of a new millennium the world is economically and socially changing at a fast pace. The consequence is that the performance requirements for buildings are also under review. During the life cycle of buildings these requirements change, adaptation to new circumstances is therefore a must.

Adaptables 2006 wanted to focus on the needs and drives for adaptation and look at the new technologies and materials that are available. Adaptables 2006 brought together clients, designers, structural engineers and the construction industry each with their own visions and interests to exchange views and experiences in the field of adaptable buildings.

Adaptables 2006 was organized around two themes. One is the relationship between clients and the construction industry regarding adaptable buildings. The other concerns the design and engineering of adaptable buildings.

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