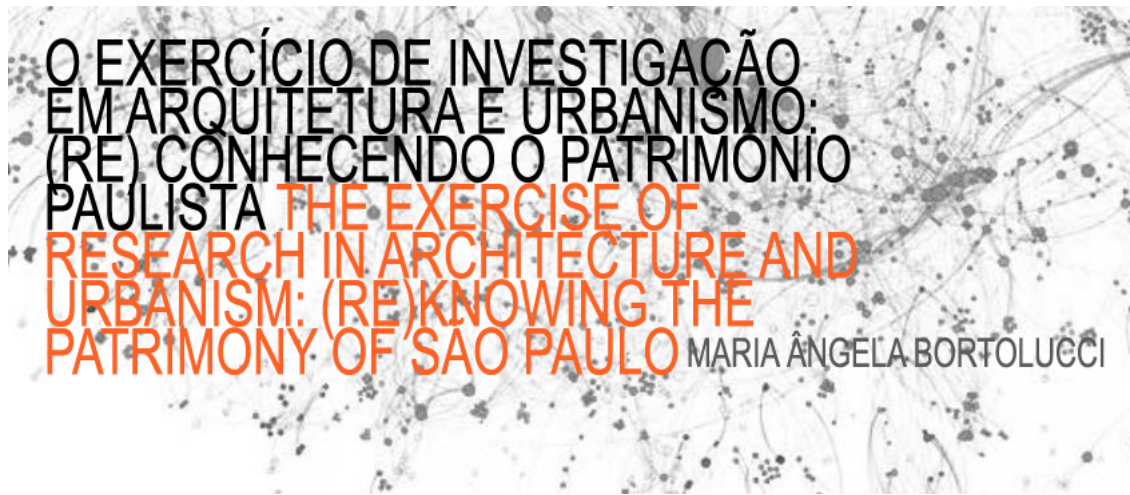


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"[...] I thought that the best I could do was to continue [...], to use my whole life to cultivate my reason and to progress, as far as I could, in the knowledge of the truth [...]." (Descartes, 1980, p. 77).

In Descartes' discourse we find a reciprocity: the search for "truth" was what instigated us to choose the research to help us to give meaning to our existence. Discovering what is not perceivable at first sight, what is erased, hidden, camouflaged, or forgotten, moved us and involved us in those years of activity, strongly enriched by the coexistence and contribution of our students. Perhaps, also as a result of this search for "truth", we have adhered, even in the early eighties of the twentieth century and even without being aware of it at that moment, to the progressive wave of historiographical re-evaluation of eclecticism, art-nouveau and art-deco which occurred in Europe and which would extend, in Brazil, to include the neocolonial and the missions, promoting a break-up with prejudices planted by the defenders of the modern movement (Fabris, 1987). It was with this prejudiced view that we identified ourselves until the coming to São Carlos to the masters course in 1977, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Luis Gastão de Castro Lima, when we developed a dissertation that discussed the subject of the preservation having as object of study the Alto da Sé de Olinda.

At that moment, this new reality in São Carlos, very impacting due mainly to the almost total presence of urban and rural production of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, was decisive in triggering a process of reflection and allowing us to suspect of our mistakes, to start uprooting...(Descartes, 1980). To the point of adopting new ideas and ideals, in a way so clear and evident that, when having to elaborate the research project to fulfill the probationary stage in Full Time Professorship in the Department of Architecture and Planning of the School of Engineering of São Carlos in 1983, we did not hesitate to propose the Survey of Cultural Goods of São Carlos. This project was submitted to FAPESP, the Sao Paulo Agency for Research Funding, under the responsibility of our colleague Prof. Dr. José Claudio Gomes, and developed in the years 1986-87, with the participation of several students of the undergraduate course of architecture and urbanism.

At the same time, we attended the doctorate at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of Sao Paulo, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Carlos Lemos, concluded in late 1990, in which we analyzed the urban dwellings of São Carlos of the "coffee period". These first years of deepening the readings on the occupation of the territory of São Paulo, together with the data collection of the region of São Carlos, showed us part of the great wealth of this heritage and how much of it was still unknown. It was necessary to unravel it! As in the image of the palimpsest used by Pesavento (2004, p. 26), it was necessary to reach deeper layers to identify the "marks of historicity left in time [that] extend beyond the material or writing traces."

This has been one of the main focuses of our research and advising, fulfilling a kind of a mission, because the prejudice has not yet ended completely. Allied with ignorance, these had become strong threats for the survival of this production, situation aggravated by the absence of a more effective conservation policy (Marins, 2013).

To encompass this universe, diversified in time and space, and of different cultural, social and economic complexities, an amplitude of different methodological approaches is required, exploring the interdisciplinarity and making it possible to perceive the multiple faces of the research objects inserted in the whole of this human production - ordinary urban and rural, domestic and work day to day, action of the various agents involved, styles, techniques and constructive materials, form of occupation of the rural and the urban territory, etc.

Therefore, besides a wide bibliographical revision of transdisciplinary character (history, sociology, anthropology, geography, economics, etc.), the researches require, in general: the search for documentary sources - primary and secondary (old

photographs, laws, decrees, minutes, administrative reports, certificates, inventories, wills, writings, letters, collections of newspapers, albums, reports of travelers and memorialists) in public and private archives; the wide use of iconography - cartography (old and recent maps), aerial photographs (old and recent) and remote sensing images; metric surveys (in site, plans, elevations and details); photographic surveys (panoramic views, external, internal, details). It is also essential highlight the significant contribution of oral history in all researches, some more, some less. Whether through single or multiple interviews, spontaneous or based on questionnaires, scripts or images - they always constitute an important documentary source, just like any other, even considering that the testimony is revealed from an appeal to memory

Since 1986, when we began the first studies, to the present moment we have had the opportunity to guide several researches linked to this process of historical and documentary investigation for the construction of the memory of São Paulo, especially within the State. There are eleven studies of scientific initiation (Mancini, 2014; Costa, 2009; Sant'anna, 2008; Rosada, 2004; Cardoso, 1993; Jardim, 1989; Benincasa, 1989; Escovar, 1989; Rossi, 1988; Gonçalves, 1988; Bisinotto, 1988). There are eleven Master's dissertations (Costa, 2012; Ferreira, 2011; Rosada, 2010; Oliveira, 2008; Garcia, 2008; Mascaro, 2003; Ferraz, 2003; Farah, 2003; Benincasa, 1998; Meca, 1997; Soubihe, 1992). And there are six doctoral theses (Rosada, 2016; Ferreira, 2016; Oliveira, 2015; Garcia, 2013; Mascaro, 2008; Benincasa, 2008).

It is necessary to say that our case is not an exception, because since the last years of the twentieth century we have noticed a growing expansion in academic production related to the subject. Unfortunately, almost to the same extent, valuable material and immaterial manifestations disappear, perhaps leaving to us, after all, the consolation of securing much of the documentation of this heritage through these studies.

The following pictures show some examples of built heritage assets within Sao Paulo State (Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 e 6):



Fig. 1. Main house of the Restoration Farm, from 1867, Queluz city. Source: Author, 2010.



Fig. 2. Barn of the Santa Eudoxia Farm, from around 1872, São Carlos city. Source: Author, 2016.



Fig. 3. Home of Mandaguahy Farm, from the end of the 1880s, Jaú city. Source: Author, 2017.



Fig. 4. Building of the Sao Carlos Former Teachers School, from 1916. Source: MAPCSB, 2013.



Fig. 5. Art déco-like style ensemble, Bocaina city, from early 20th century. Source: Author, 2010.



Fig. 6. Neocolonial style house, Mococa city, from early 20th century. Source: Author, 2009.

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