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Systemic network around education and community gardens
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SYSTEMIC NETWORK
AROUND
EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY GARDENS

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Our Academic Team

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In 4 years

- Some things we have done working with Systemic Design:
  - Connecting academic activities and the movement of Community Gardens
CULTURAL MOVEMENTS AND EXPRESSIONS
AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
In 4 years

- Teaching real sustainability
  - instead of just Environmental Education
    - as required by the brazilian Law n. 9.795, from April 27th, 1999, that establishes the National Environmental Education Policy,
  - to future Visual Arts teachers of basic education.
In 4 years

- Offering academic extension activities
  - with short courses on vegetable and flower urban gardens in small spaces, which create a dialog
    - on different aspects of Design,
    - on products lifecycle,
    - on new Economies (such as Distributed and Sharing)
    - promoting exchanges between the academic community and the society.
• Making exchanges between the academic community and the society

• Practicing diversity
Sharing Economy - Coworking
In 4 years

- Fostering Systemic Networks of Integral Endeavours for the:
  - awakening of designers of the importance that every productive activity is based on economic, social and environmental sustainability
    - and their roles as entrepreneurs, consultants or specialized employees
  - teaching Economic Factors
  - doing social work with slum communities
  - proposing research to make connections within the university itself
In 4 years

- connecting with other institutions for these actions:
  - federal and private universities;
  - a local public institution (URBEL);
  - local producers (for seedlings) – Fábrica de Hortas e BeGreen
  - independent agronomist and gastronomic professionals
  - the communities (including a kindergarten) and
  - a renowned construction company (MRV)

- using the knowledge of
  - many professionals (e.g. architects, engineers, sociologists, agronomists, gastronomes, designers, economists)
  - and also empirical knowledge, also from students.
Community Work

- Also the communities of four slums in different areas of Belo Horizonte (the third most populated and developed city of Brazil) connect:
  - They have in common a vacant area within the community
    - that can be a threat if left unused or
    - an opportunity to make some action for the collectivity, (food, culture) >> a community bond
Community Work

• Communities:
  • “Morro das Pedras”:
    ✷ workshop to produce fertilizer from organic waste to enrich the soil
    ✷ land beneath a high voltage powerline was transformed in a community vegetable garden (6 persons doing volunteer work – 2 hours/working days; 5 hours/Saturdays).
      » organic waste, seeds and seedlings are donated by 11 families >> exchange for a weekly bag of vegetables distributed to the children of the local school
Community Work

» 1 year later:

- community has won support of the Brazil Foundation;
- one of the community leaders has won a photography contest with this image:
TecMundo Contest
Smartphone Photography

Autor: Horacius de Jesus
Community Work

- “Santa Lucia”
  - geological risk area been made vacant by local authorities
  - professors from a local private university (UNA) have been asked by locals to give support to make a community garden.
  - from the partnership built among UNA, ED-UEMG and UFMG in reason of prior identification of common interests in research and extension projects
    - the group is trying to engage the community in this initiative
      - making surveys to understand the community and their needs,
      - workshops and collective actions, called “mutirões”.

23/09/2017 – Spring Mutirão
Sorta
NOSSO
QUINTAL
Esperança

Esta Sorta é de todos!

Para continuar tendo um audáceo NÃO PODE ter LIXO.

Colha 50 que por consumir...

Este espaço é NOSSO!

Contribua. Participe.
Community Work

• “Santa Lucia”
  • It is being an interdisciplinary effort:
    » of designers,
    » architects,
    » economists,
    » sociologists,
    » engineers,
    » gastronomists,
    » nutritionists,
    » with the support of URBEL
    » TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
Community Work

• Taquaril
  • URBEL has invited the academy (represented by UNA, UEMG and UFMG) to support some families to develop their urban gardens, in a preservation area.
  • Dense bushes nearby the residences represented a danger to the families for hiding illicit activities as well as synanthropic animals that are a threat to human health.
  • Since a retired resident had expertise with agriculture, he should be the reference and inspiration for the neighbours.
  • He is succeeding in having very productive space, but the neighbours are not quite engaged yet.
  • We have promoted a composting workshop with the families and will be making activities to involve and foster collaboration within the community.
Community Work

• “Aglomerado da Serra”
  ♦ A rather independent group having already a practice of involving the community in the selective collect and organic compost making with and without worms.
  ♦ Some leaders of the community give workshops on this practice and sell boxes for vermiculture.
  ♦ We have participated as students in their workshop and afterwards have invited them to take part in a short extension course on vegetable and flower urban gardens that was promoted in the ED-UEMG.
  ♦ Agroecological practices have been the main focus of the group, as a way of life, along with healthy eating and income generation.
Spiralixo – Roots Ativa

http://www.spiralixo.com.br/rootsativa/
Community Work

- All these initiatives have as main objective:
  - the strengthening of social cohesion within the communities and of their autonomy to be reflected in self-management,
  - broadening of collective identity and health promotion by food sovereignty,
  - strengthening conscious agents, protagonists of relationships and of their living space.
Foundations

- Our theoretical foundations:
  - Systemic Networks of Integral Endeavours:
    - Connecting people, their activities and businesses:
      » aware that the base of their endeavours must consider the balance among economic, social and environmental aspects.
      » that culture is the essential energy that move individuals to choose and engage in an activity bearing in mind the Systemic Design Principles
    - Output/input (optimization of resources)
    - Relationships (stimulating connections)
    - Valorization of local resources and culture
    - Human centered (quality of life)
    - Autopoiesis (virtuous examples and minimum hierarchy)
Foundations

- Our theoretical foundations:
  - Agroecology for Food Sovereignty
    - Local definition of politics and strategies for sustainable production, distribution and consuming of adequate, safe and healthy food, treating the integration of plants, animals, humans and the environment within agricultural systems, adequate to territorial, cultural and socio-economic conditions.
Foundations

Recognizing Wild Plants as Food
 Foundations

♦ Our theoretical foundations:

• Social and Solidarity Economy
  ♦ Economic activities based on solidarity for the integrated development of the community and the individual
  ♦ It privileges the voluntary associations aiming at addressing specific local problems, with the objective of contributing to the improvement of collective quality of life and the environment, which neglect the rigors of cost/benefit analysis, typical of private management (FRANÇA, 2001)

• Social inclusion, valorisation of diversity, exchange of academic and empirical knowledge are also cornerstones of our work.
Traditional Network Typologies

a) Centralized; b) Decentralized; c) Distributed
SYSTEMIC NETWORK, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY GARDENS
Systemic Network, Education, Community Gardens
Obrigada!

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