



REGENERATING THE CITY

Conditions and limits of an integrated urban strategy.

Deadline: 12-September-2016

The new issue of *Revista Ciudades* lays out 'urban regeneration' as the main strategy for the current city, reviewing existing urban areas, not only the historical but also the most recent ones. Urban regeneration channels in Europe, and particularly in Spain, the latest urban discussion forums. It is part of an integrated urban development context and it pretends to pay attention to the most vulnerable urban areas (Leipzig Charter, 2007). Right after a criticised expansionary period, many of the consolidated urban spaces demand our urgent attention. Those areas demonstrate a need for regeneration because of their deficits and based on the rooting of their urban communities. The potential for transformation and improvement of the city is called into question by the discipline and it leads to an evolution of the policy framework.

The criticism of previous urban growth model has lead debates, publications, laws and proposals that have kept this topic between the main urban matters. A variety of contributions are making the effort to interpret contemporary urban processes and to classify the characteristics of the inherited spatial areas. Several attempts to clarify needs and degrees of interventions have been done, even pointing out the design criteria that should follow the proposed operations. Furthermore, efforts to identify areas that need to be regenerated have been made, from perspectives such as social vulnerability, building conditions or social and functional segregation.

Interventions tent to evolve into a generalized action in the built city, under criteria of sustainability, energy efficiency or social action in the most fragile environments. All this is accompanied by a review of other major issues such as mobility, public space, distribution of functions, green infrastructure, housing and even a possible revival of the job market to this sector. After focusing on rehabilitation of historic areas and later in deprived residential neighbourhoods; urban regeneration still has to demonstrate the integrity of this new model.

All these elements provide the possibility of a new approach: from coordination of actions concerning recovering vulnerable urban areas, as well as management models in order to combine property rights with social rights, or mechanisms for assessing the suitability of proposals for an integrated planning strategy. Is it possible to draw a new line of regenerative action capable of guiding the entire city, a truly integrated one?

Therefore, this edition of *Revista Ciudades* pretends to collect the recent innovations in the evolution of this matter. Different types of contributions are accepted, for instance: research projects that aim to demonstrate the needs or the regenerative potential, the approach which is being taken by recent regulations and regeneration plans, or even the analysis of cases that allow us to assess the successes and failures that are being achieved.

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-To send the articles (only by e-mail) to the secretary of Ciudades: **revistaciudades@arq.uva.es**.

-The editorial guidelines for the elaboration and the remission of the articles are explained in: **http://www3.uva.es/iuu/Marcos_R.htm**