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Placemaking and urban rivers: memory as a driver for connecting people with riverscapes

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Abstract

Rivers are among the most endangered ecosystems in the world, although they play a fundamental role in the urban environment, for public health and well-being. The role of rivers in the production of urban spaces is one of the research strands within the scope of the Ibero-American Network RUN | Naturalized Urban Rivers (CYTED - www.run.ulusofona.pt). RUN combines knowledge and experiences about the regeneration processes of rivers under strong pressure in urban areas with nature-based solutions, citizen science and placemaking approaches. Our contribution focuses on the role of memory as a link between past, present and future in connecting people with rivers and cityscapes. Two studies provide the base for this reflection. In the first, we analyse diverse placemaking experiences that, using memory, recover imaginaries of riverscapes with the aim of reconnecting people with their environment and with rivers that are not visible anymore. The second study refers to an experience with kindergarten children and placemaking. Through walking tours in a neighbourhood crossed by a river and playful games, we aimed to make children more aware and sensitive to this natural element. Both experiences contribute to raising more awareness, creating new senses and giving new meanings to the rivers in the future.

Placemaking e rios urbanos: a memória como dispositivo de conexão das pessoas com as paisagens fluviais

Os rios estão entre os ecossistemas mais ameaçados do mundo, embora desempenhem um papel fundamental no ambiente urbano. O papel dos rios na produção de espaços urbanos é uma das linhas de investigação no âmbito da Rede Ibero-americana RUN | Rios Urbanos Naturalizados (CYTED - www.run.ulusofona.pt). RUN conjuga conhecimento e experiências sobre processos regenerativos de rios sob forte pressão da urbanização, com o paradigma de soluções baseadas na natureza, ciência cidadã e placemaking. No âmbito da Rede RUN, esta discussão foca o papel da memória como elo de ligação entre passado, presente e futuro na conexão das pessoas com os rios urbanos. Dois estudos dão sustentação a reflexão. Um deles relaciona-se com a análise de experiências diversificadas de placemaking que, fazendo o uso da memória, recuperam imaginários de paisagens fluviais com o objetivo de reconectar as pessoas com os rios urbanos. O segundo estudo refere-se a uma experiência de crianças com o placemaking em que, através do ato de caminhar em ambiente urbano cruzado por um rio, sensibiliza-se as mesmas para este elemento natural, contribuindo para outorgar novos sentidos e significados para a memória e futuro do rio.

Placemaking and urban rivers: memory as a driver for connecting people with river-landscapes

Rivers are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world, although they play a fundamental role in the urban environment. The role of rivers in the production of urban spaces is one of the ~~lines of investigation research strand~~ within the scope of the Ibero-American Network RUN | Naturalized Urban Rivers (CYTED - www.run.ulusofona.pt). RUN combines knowledge and experiences about regeneration ~~onve~~ processes ~~in of~~ rivers under strong pressure ~~from in~~ urban ~~areas~~ ~~ization~~, with ~~the paradigm of~~ nature-based solutions, citizen science and placemaking ~~approaches~~. ~~Within the scope of the RUN Network, t~~ This discussion focuses on the role of memory as a link between past, present and future in connecting people with urban rivers ~~and riverscapes~~. Two studies ~~support provide the base for~~ this reflection. ~~One of them relates~~ ~~In the first, we to the analysis analyse of~~ diverse placemaking experiences that, using memory, recover imaginaries of river-~~landscapes~~ with the aim of reconnecting people with urban ~~rivers~~ ~~environment and with the rives~~. The second study refers to ~~a children~~ ~~kindergarten children's~~ experience with placemaking. ~~in which, t~~ Through ~~the act of walking tours with them in an~~ ~~through a neighbourhood urban environment~~ crossed by a river, ~~they become~~ ~~through playful games they become~~ more aware and sensitive of this natural element, contributing to giving new meanings and meanings for the memory and river's future.

