

EVOLUTION NEW URBAN HERITAGE CONTEXT IN THE RODRIGO FACIO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, COSTA RICA

Ofelia Sanou
ICOMOS Costa Rica
CIVVIH

Our objective: to assess the new intervention model and the application of experimental practices in terms of compliance with the SDGs, adaptation to climate change and the safeguarding of the 'architectural historical heritage.

The Costa Rica University campus can be considered as an index of Costa Rican architecture of the second half of 20th century.

1957-1966 There was a high-quality constructions with clear intentions of harmoniously between buildings and relating to the immediate environment.

From the 1970s to the end of the 20th century, new buildings were built in the University City, which were representative of the techniques and languages used at that time.



3. NEW UNIVERSITY PLANNING CHALLENGE: HOW TO ADDRESS THE GROWTH OF THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

The main objective of the project was to meet the need to increase the space of some faculties and research units. Given the load capacity limitations of the existing buildings and the need to preserve the density and urban design of the original campus

The expectations were to manage the reuse and rehabilitation of abandoned buildings. Raise new buildings on a new estate, ensuring the safeguarding of the local natural cultural heritage. The buildings should meet the new demands for space and technical equipment, and apply the current construction regulations for new constructions.



XXI Century. The exponential growth of university campus facilities. Dependence on external financing. World Bank financing **favors technocratic careers** defines execution time.

Lease trust (temporary loss of property, adjustments in the supply of contracts / construction operations. Future maintenance. **The terms of execution of the works and the time of return are defined. (2015-2018).**

The use of available land was recharged. Absence of master plans and management of public works that anticipated the potential socio-environmental impacts on the local ecosystem.



Various actors from different disciplines and interests participated in the process. This was a critical moment where the results of the New Project could be visualized.

We have selected a debate -among the many held-:

Seminar: “Radiography of the artistic, architectural and natural heritage of the Rodrigo Facio Brenes university city” UCR Museum. 2018



We highlight from the debate the conceptual differences from different professional fields regarding the values in landscape conservation. **The values:**

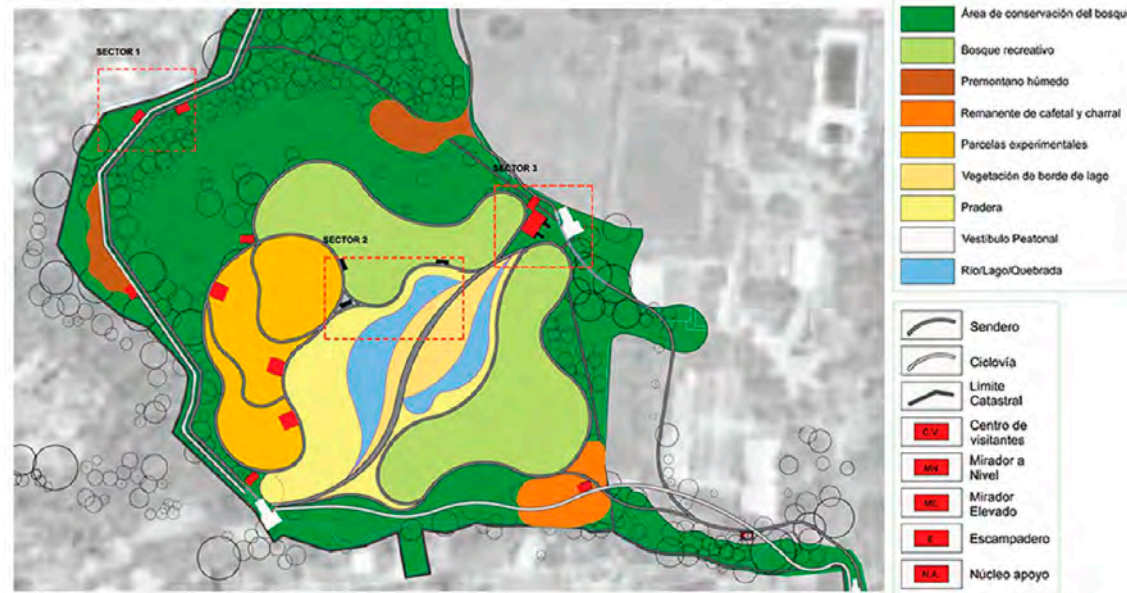
The conception of forest conservation from biology. “The nature of the forest has a reason for being. We cannot intervene in most of the cases because this is refuge, inhabit and food for many native species”. (Gustavo Gutierrez).

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION. Case studies case in the dry areas of Latin America.. “The relationships between human activity and the environment have created ecological patterns” UICN

Local discussion

An interdisciplinary group of experts in landscaping from the UCR presented presented an innovation project: landscaping, ecological recovery and uses for Finca4, a thematic park: to implement patches of present ecological patterns to explain how natural history and urban history were configured.

The residents of the town preferred the alternative of maintaining the rugged characteristics of the landscape – a natural refuge for local fauna – and a protected area for springs.

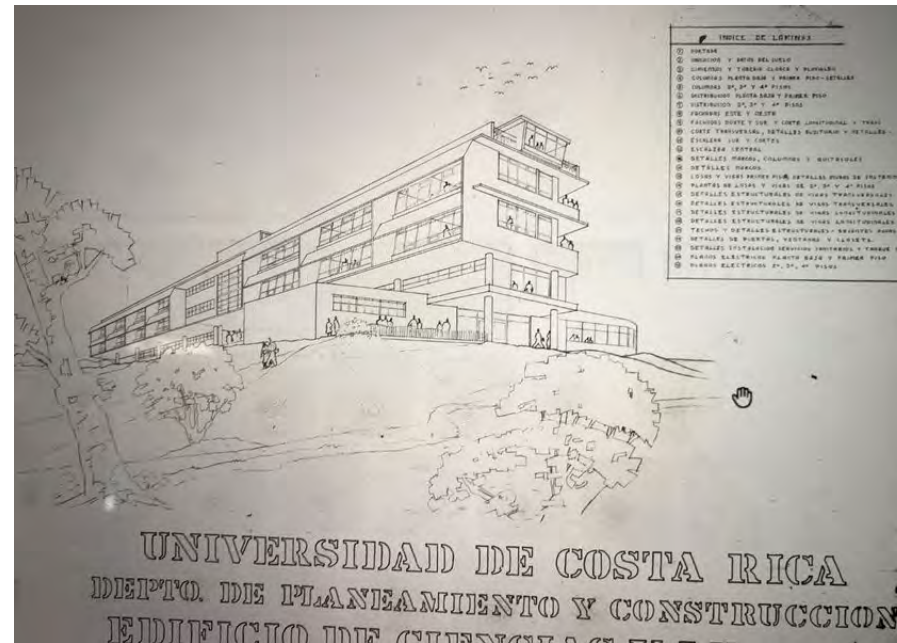


The values:

Historical urban landscape is understood as the urban area resulting from a historical stratification of cultural and natural values and attributes, which transcends the notion of "ensemble" or "historic center" **to encompass the general urban context and its surroundings. geographic...** The Recommendation on the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscape (2011)..

Costa Rican Historical Architectural Heritage Law (Law 7555)
establishes analogous parity
between the importance of the
historical **architectural heritage of**
the urban order with private forest
property. (Claudio Vargas)

—



Panoramic view of the urban 2022

Theoretical framework.

The **“figure-ground”** (psychology of form, Gestalt theory) figure background plane

Dispersion and fragmentation

The Collage City by Colin Rowe and Fred Kotter legitimizes an urbanism of fragmentation in two opposite tendencies. Fragment regrouping inside a mega-object and mass building sand the unrecoverable dispersion of the fragments in autonomous and decontextualize objects. J. MONTANER Sistemas Arquitectónicos Contemporáneos GG.

To articulate the different areas of the university campus, an internal circuit of vehicular roads was designed. The private car parking buildings are linked to the institution's bus stops. The design of the internal pedestrian articulation between the different academic units has been omitted.

The road circuits that surround the mega-objects are due to the segregation of land imposed by the loan's financial management unit, in accordance with the lease trust agreement. It has left little room for the design of green areas and the public and semi-public spaces of the complex.

A participatory project was not carried out with the surrounding communities, which would allow the design of the transition zone between the surrounding neighborhoods and the campus with friendly and regenerative design projects.



Panoramic view of the urban 2022

Empirical visits to the site under the gaze of the new contemporary theoretical and practical framework
New representations of plan designs to assess the results in terms of:
Balance nature / culture.

New regrouping and connectivity alternatives were applied on the site, according to contemporary theoretical-practical proposals

As we have seen in the figure background plane, the buildings seem to float in an empty space. Small spaces between the contours of the buildings would be the semi-public spaces of both mega projects.

The rest of the complex lacks a design project for public squares and green areas, with the exception of the outline of the “la Plaza de la Autonomía.”



Mega objects

An evolution of the key typologies in Rem Koolhaas's proposals has been the mass building that reinterprets the technological mega structures and continues the tradition of the work that led to the invention of mass-building, the Center Georges Pompidou in Paris. Massive building is defined by the plant and the free sections, by the spatial overlap and the multiple interior connections.

Koolhaas would try to regroup the fragmentation and dispersion of the objects in a new mega object.

.Josep Maria MONTANER
SISTEMAS ARQUITECTÓNICOS
CONTEMPORÁNEOS GG .p.162



En la maqueta del edificio se aprecian varios espacios de encuentro para estudiantes y docentes, así como la vinculación entre el edificio, los árboles y las zonas verdes que darán abrigo a actividades académicas y recreativas, según dijo el rector Henning Jensen (foto Anel Kenjekeeva).

Let's analyze the mega object of the Faculty of Social Sciences A mechanism that centralizes access to the lobby and stair lifts and, we suppose, bathroom batteries.

Four prismatic components are articulated in concentric axes to the access system and open to the East and West.

It is in this meeting of volumes where the contemporary systems of aluminum parasols were designed.

The climatological orientation of the mega object was studied. In reality, it responded consciously or unconsciously as an echo to the climatological location design of the buildings on the Rodrigo Facio campus and to the use of concrete parasols where they were required. However, a meteorological phenomenon -the Venturi effect- hits the site at different times of the day and weather conditions.



Critical reflection.

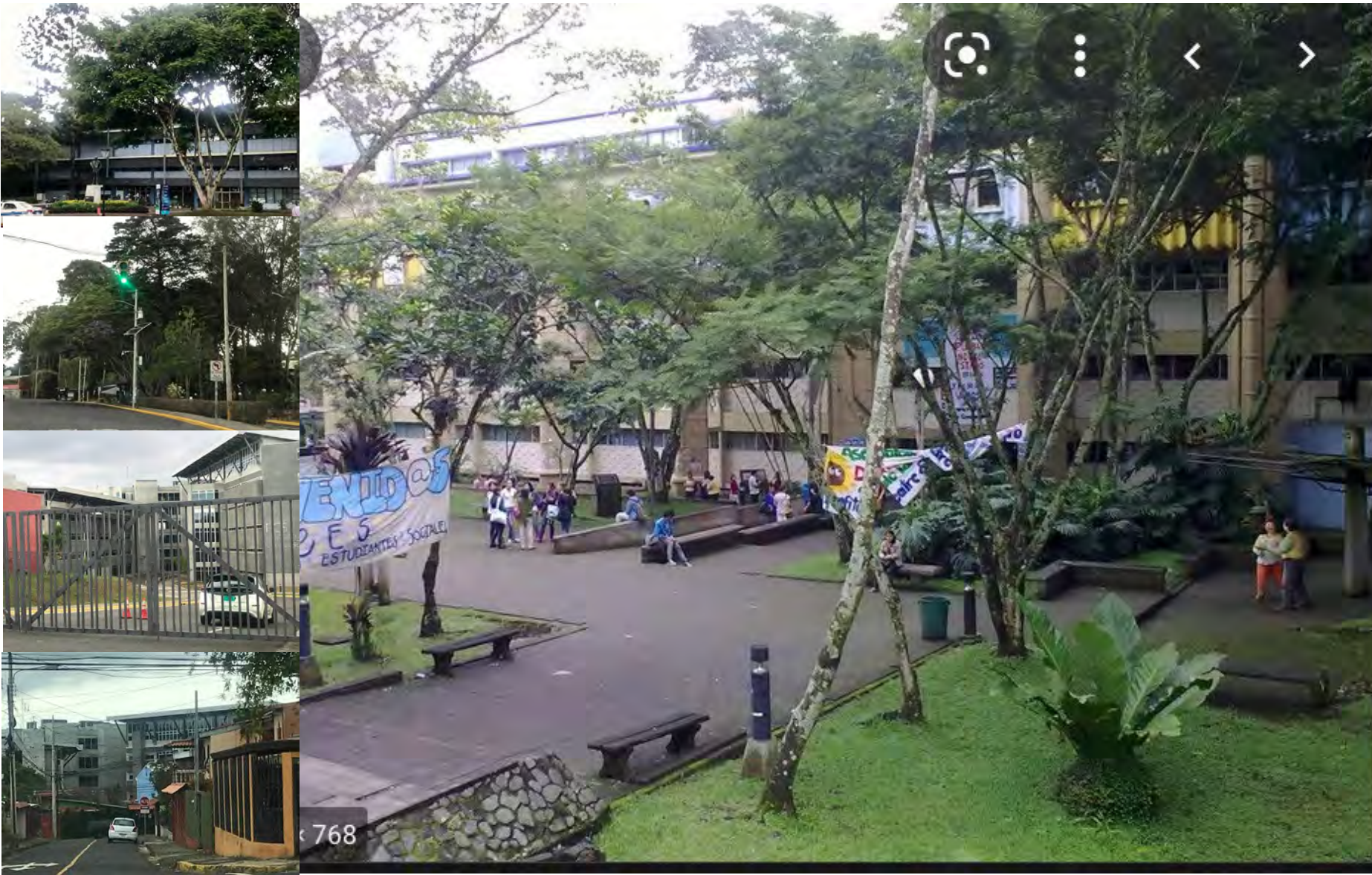
The case of the original campus of the University of Costa Rica (1958-1970) that offered a semi-public garden area in front of the urban settlement where it was inserted, including an area of regenerative forest. In the last stage of growth towards new farms.

This aspect was not considered, there was an overexploitation of the land with massive construction. A corporate language contrasting with its housing context was used, regenerative forest reserve areas were invaded. The alternative of offering a more socially and culturally friendly co-planned transition design duly integrated into the local ecosystem was not accepted.

Proposal for a New adapted governance:

Create an option for the use of the territory similar to that of the buffer zone of the WH World Heritage projects. But in this case in the opposite direction from the monument to the context.

Public domain assets that for their institutional use and protection establish different qualities of public and private access, must have the design of a transition area that is friendly to the socio-cultural and natural context in which they are inserted.



University autonomy meanings: “Public universities have been endowed with faculties and administrative powers to carry out the purpose entrusted to them, without external interference.

New adapted governance. For the purposes of the conservation of the cultural/natural heritage in the face of changes in an integral and global manner.

The decision-making of the agencies responsible for the management and planning of public works and the use of local territory and public domain assets must have a data dematerialization system, IT, virtual exchanges, databases, internet. Guarantee that the information shared is of a scientific and socially friendly nature and carried out with an informed and interdisciplinary approach.

These information systems must be publicly accessible, both internally for decision-making bodies and externally to create networks of citizen responsibility and asset formation.

The management and planning units must guarantee their capacity for political, technical and administrative management and be consistent with their commitments to respond to the guidelines to promote sustainable development- respect human rights, adaptation to climate change and safeguarding of the urban & architectural historical heritage.

They must be guarantors that they have supported decision-making with the use of data sources in a binding way: inventories, records and monitoring of the state of conservation of movable and immovable assets, artistic works and technical specifications for conservation.

- « Using the principle of "university autonomy", the UCR ignored the observations of the competent artistic authorities and gave the green light for the construction of the new building. Already in October 2018, after cutting down several decades-old trees, the building began to rise in what had been a parking lot in front of the School of Musical Arts.» 30/04/2022 Amelia Rueda.com

