EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC CENTERS

PROF. SILVIO MENDES ZANCHETTI (ICOMOS/BRAZIL & CECI)

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE X CONSERVATION

An increase in the number of people that agree upon the conservation meanings of an object can result in an increase in the significance of a given object. (Muños Viñas, 2005, p.160).

Tested hypothesis

The level of conservation of the residents properties in the HC depends on the level of the perception of cultural significance of the HC by the residents.

METHODOLOGY

A statistical account of the state of conservation of the properties against the:

1. Factors about the state of conservation of: monuments, scenic views, urban layout and public space.
2. Indicators of: Perception of significance, Urban infrastructure, Supply of urban services and Management of urban conservation.
3. Socioeconomic conditions of residents.

Data: 138 properties in the Historic Center of Marechal Deodoro (Alagoas, Brazil) Maximum error of 7%.

TESTS OF THE MODEL

Model 1: SCHC x Factors.
Model 2: SCHC x (Factors + Indicators);
Model 3: SCHC x (Factors + Indicators + Socioeconomic conditions + State of property conservation and public space).

Best result: Model 3 (reflects the contemporary theory of conservation)
RESULTS

Most important variables to explain the state of conservation of the residential properties:
1) The state of Conservation of monuments;
2) The level of Supply of services;
3) The level of Perception of cultural significance.

The practice of revitalizing urban centers is focused on the infrastructure, services and management
Leads to an over-standardization, which is not always well received by locals and users of the historic center.

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Need of a review of the practice of revitalizing historic urban centers.

Cultural significance can be a way to find what makes each place different, and may well contribute to an enhancement of local development and sustainable urban conservation.

Thank you!

smz@ceci-br.org