Abandoned Architectures in Santa Catarina: A window's cartography

Lucas Rodrigo Nora
PhD Student, UFSC, Brazil.
arq.lucasnora@gmail.com

Evandro Fiorin
PhD Professor, UFSC, Brazil.
evandrofiorin@gmail.com

SUMMARY

This article aims to identify characteristics of abandoned architecture in Santa Catarina territory through a cutout: the window. The window, as an object of study, is configured as the element that promotes the connection between the architectural space and the urban space, however, many windows of buildings in disuse no longer open and, many times, do not allow a great relationship between them. what is internal and what is external. Our observations were carried out in different parts of Santa Catarina using the Google Street View tool and the interpretations regarding the locations were described following the cartographic method of doing to know. Thus, maps and montages were organized that allow the visualization of intersections. In this sense, maps serve to promote a link between different territorialities that have common characteristics. This exercise allowed the visualization of singularities in each studied clipping. In this way, the results present some characteristics of the abandoned architectures in the state of Santa Catarina through approximations, but also, critical distance to pave the way for the deepening of research on the subject.

KEYWORDS: Abandoned Architectures, Cartography, Santa Catarina.

INTRODUCTION

This article explores the State of Santa Catarina searching for abandoned architectures spread across 10 cities, an investigation that could reveal similarities and particularities present in each portion of the territory. An exercise of approximation, but also of critical distancing, in order to identify some emblematic buildings that could indicate abandonment, given that this sense is not directly linked to the physical commitment of the building.

As the procedure to develop this analysis, we used the Google Street View tool of Google Maps platform. The use of virtual tools to investigate the cities allows us to achieve a curve in space, resizing urban meanings (FIORIN, 2022). During the years of the COVID-19 pandemic, this exploratory sense could reveal some similar characteristics present in the urban space of the municipalities studied, regarding the presence of buildings in disuse, ruin or in an apparent stage of abandonment. Therefore, visual perceptions are the product of this work, to the detriment of others that are yet to be realized. However, this dimension of visuality does not obfuscate its visibility, as a procedure that understands and is able to elaborate hypotheses.

For these reasons, the window became our object of study. Because, through it, a procedure of understanding the building can be revealed. It is through the window that we will build the reading procedure, as an orifice that reveals the interior and exterior space of architecture in the city. The windows that once opened onto the streets, now appear closed, sealed with siding or with broken glass. Through them we see and are seen. Here is a device to reveal a possible seizure of properties that may be unoccupied or serving different uses.

Based on the analyzes realized in each portion of Santa Catarina's territory, we started to create cartographies that promoted the apprehension of the windows. Diagrammatic constructions based on images of architectural windows in an apparent stage of abandonment. A procedure that is based on a method that consists in doing to know (KASTRUP, 2009), and the window appeared to us as one of the clues for this action research. In these experiences through the screen, which is still another window, the images that we were able to find (to our surprise) were always intertwined with some common characteristics.

Therefore, analogies were made in order to seek some particularities between the windows. With this idea, at the same time that we territorialized a window by its singularities in

relation to another, from a distant place, we also deterritorialized it. Based on this methodology, the geographic map gradually became meaningless. With its multiple inputs and outputs (DELEUZE; GUATARRI, 2000), the map of the common characteristics of each window of an abandoned architecture allowed connections with others from other places, in a rhizomatic image, which always extrapolated the idea of a markedly delimited territory. This is because despite globalization, the diffusion of technique and technical objects occurs unevenly, arriving in different ways and intensity to the places where they are installed (SANTOS, 2003).

In this sense, as a result of this article, we have notes on several maps of the windows of buildings in disuse or, endowed with other uses, in the State of Santa Catarina, which dialogue with each other, but can also compose a possible hypothesis for reading probable abandoned architectures. A cartography that was built through clues from the images of the windows. A look that is intended to be open, not necessarily unique or final, but a look that is here to reveal a critical understanding of memory, heritage and landscape.

THE WINDOWS OF ABANDONMENT

The abandonment process is not necessarily linked to the physical decay of the building, but fundamentally to the fact that it is no longer being used for any reason. This is because abandonment is the result of a global system motivated by obsolescence, but it can also be seen as a symbol of resistance to become the stage of an operative architecture: socially, politically and economically viable (ALMEIDA; SALDANHA, 2014).

Before any other destination, architecture is still a shelter, in this way, as envelopes, they establish relationships in different ways. This is because, in the same way that the walls create the protection of the architectural space for those inside, together with other enclosures, it constitutes the architectural space that is also urban, ornamented or not, preserved or not (ZEVI, 1996). The construction of this space can take place through the doors and, above all, the windows that establish relationships between what is external and what is internal. This is because it is the window that relates the interior space of the building to its surroundings: the space of the city. Activating urban reflections, regarding image and visibility, as well as aspects more intrinsic to the object, such as form, function, proportion and composition (JORGE, 1995).

In this idea, when the doors and windows close, the architectural senses are also altered. Something that could indicate disuse or other destinations, but not necessarily the impossibility of showing its character as a shelter. Therefore, to identify the abandoned architectures here, we pay attention to elements that could indicate abandonment, such as: state of conservation of the painting, the elements that constitute the facade and the gardens; sales boards; the graffiti; the indications of invasion; the partial or total ruin of the building (ROCHA, 2010).

The selection of the window as a guiding element of this text was an involuntary perception, as a clue that emerged during this research. And, given this assumption, the abandoned architectures are read here, at first, through this point of view: the window. It allows us to have multiple inputs and outputs for the construction of maps that interconnect territories through analogical approaches, creating credible connections between materials, textures and colors. In addition, they will also allow us to build critical distances that allow us to look at these

buildings in another way. Therefore, we start from the methodological assumption of cartography as a method that allows doing to know, in a constant process of comings and goings (KASTRUP, 2009).

From the initial analyses, we developed the map of the abandonment windows (Figure 1). In this way, we were able to make the abandoned architectures visible through windows in several cities in Santa Catarina, such as: São Miguel do Oeste, Chapecó, Joaçaba, Lages, Criciúma, Laguna, Florianópolis, Joinville, Blumenau and Mafra. This investigation in each of the municipalities started from an unsystematic exploration, without prior knowledge of each of the areas, in random movements within each city, without worrying about possible redundancies. Reading the city in this way, we let ourselves be carried through the interstices of the city, encountering what is not routine, visualizing the city beyond the image of a postcard (FIORIN, 2021).

As nomads on the computer screen, we slide the mouse over the maps, in order to reveal windows that could open other windows in a logic of and... and... and..., as Deleuze and Guattari (2000) teach us. As a result, we have a network of windows of abandonment that interconnect in different cities in Santa Catarina.

Figure 1 – The Windows of Abandonment in Santa Catarina.

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

A WINDOW'S CARTOGRAPHY

The observation of the windows reconfigured our field of research, in order to produce new observations that allowed the creation of another observation territory. From the windows of abandonment, we were able to create new maps, not in the conception of a stricto-sensu map, from the Latin, mappa, as a visual representation of a region, but as the apprehension of a world that already existed as virtuality and now comes into existence. through the observations made during the development of the research.

In the virtual drifts, we started to create cartographies that promoted connections between different areas of Santa Catarina's territory. Thus, the cartograms we create here, more than establishing some relationships, also indicate the particularities present in each area, not in a linear sense, but in a non-linear spectrum, configuring a transversal geography; composing and recomposing the continuities and discontinuities of the processes. After all, the current urban conformations are configured much more by disconnections; interruptions, splits, jumps and tensions that are not necessarily linked (FIORIN, 2020).

In this conception, the space gains lines of force constituted of a dynamic field, without fixed rules or predetermined models. This same space seeks to expand the gaze to reach the process that marks the events of the world. In this way, research as an intervention affects the genesis conditions of objects, allowing new modulations and individualities, never exhausting the possibilities of creating new cartographies (KASTRUP; BARROS, 2009). After all, objects work through systems, symbolic or social, where an isolated object only has value as a thing; that can only acquire social value through their relationships (SANTOS, 2003).

From the map of the abandonment windows, we started to draw straight lines that indicated similarities between the buildings. The lines divide in two ways: solid lines indicate the similarity of the group as a whole, while dashed lines establish relationships that were found in smaller groups. We will also use lines that will evade the map, deterritorializing it, seeking connections with other territories and other phenomena; we will leave these as an open link, to be investigated. We didn't control these lines and connections, so they will always extrapolate the geographic territory. In this way, the map becomes connectable across multiple dimensions; removable, reversible, susceptible to constant modifications (DELEUZE; GUATARRI, 2000).

Cities closer to the coast have a greater urban concentration, with a greater diversity of buildings from different periods. Mostly with masonry buildings. We selected here only the residential architectures (Figure 2), with different architectural expressions on their facades, and often heavily closed off by bricks, railings, wood, among other elements.

Figure 2 - The windows of residential masonry architectures.
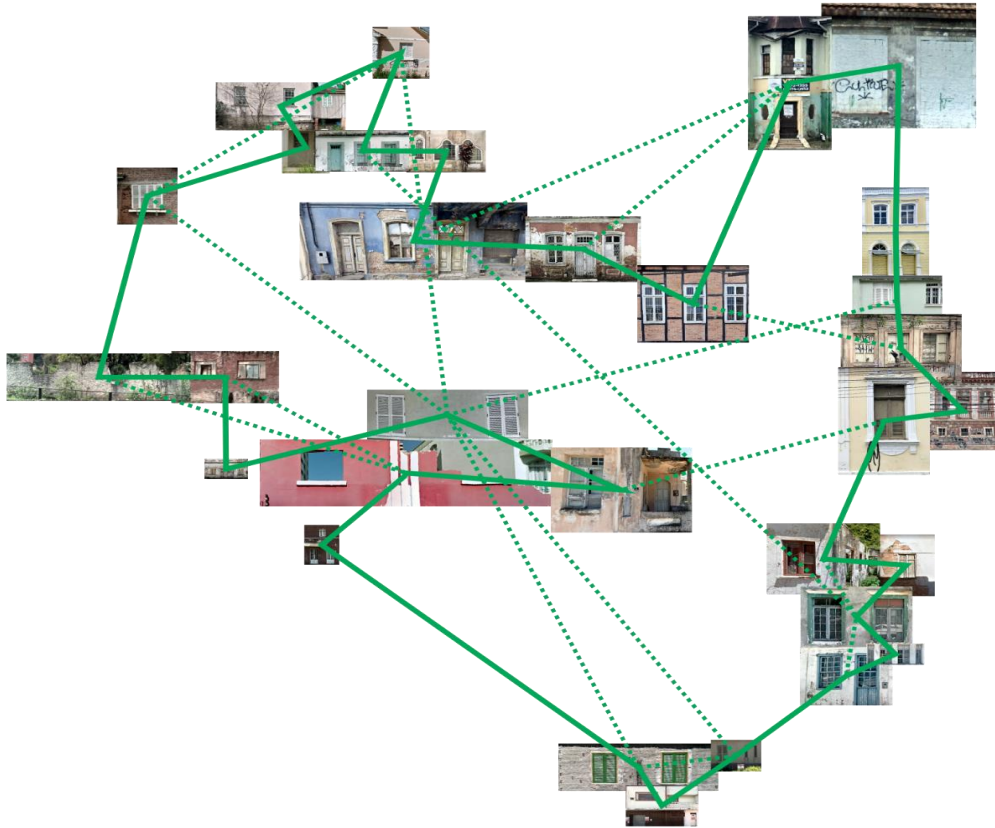
Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

As we moved away from the coast, we also went back in time. Verticalization and densification gave way to smaller architectures: the wooden house, the bar on the corner, the unpaved streets. Although we have found wooden architectures in almost the entire territory, they are concentrated from Lages to São Miguel do Oeste, they have different characteristics, different colors and, above all, different states of conservation. The further as we went west, the greater the amount of wooden architecture preserved and in use.

It became difficult to find abandoned examples, and even those that had characteristics of abandonment were often better preserved than masonry buildings that we found along the way. We leave here two open links, connections between the Santa Catarina territory and Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul, in view of the possibility that these characteristics are also repeated in the interior of the two states (Figure 3).

Figure 3 - Windows in wooden residential architectures.
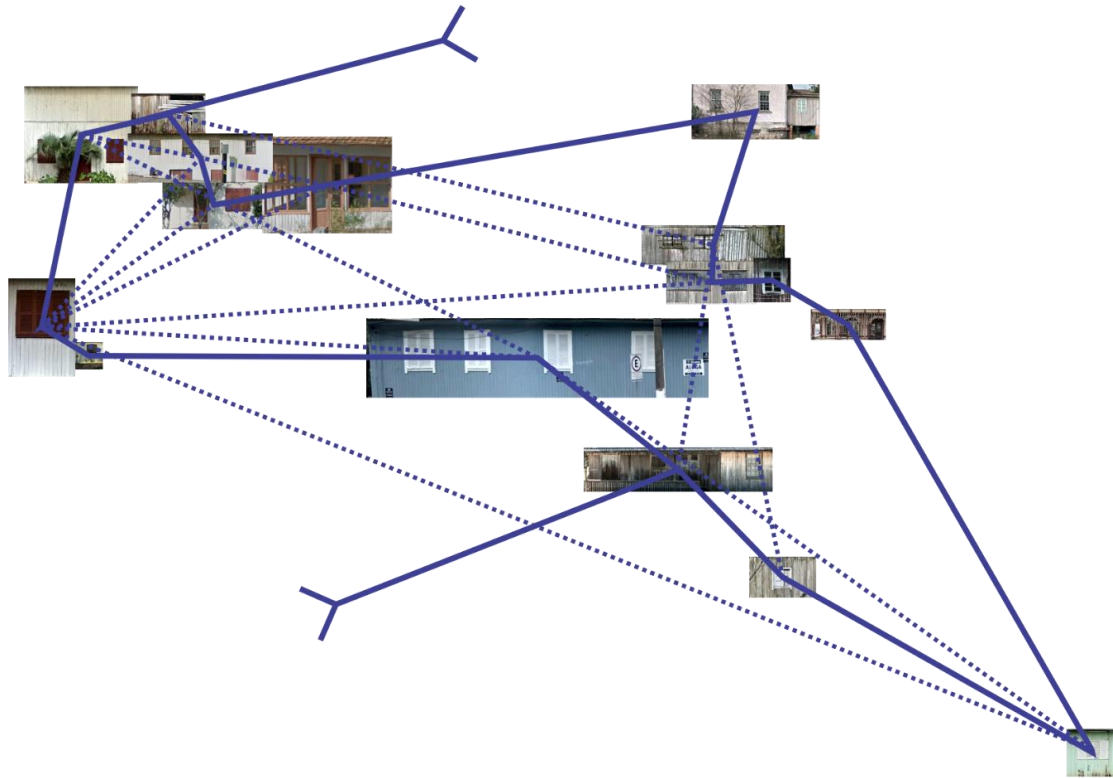
Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

The visualization of the residential architectures shows that, despite being spread throughout the territory of Santa Catarina, they present a clear difference between the different materials used in their construction, according to each of the regions in which it was built, indicating a possibility of this phenomenon being associated with economic movements. On the other hand, we noticed the abandonment of industrial buildings throughout the Santa Catarina territory (Figure 4), which may indicate deindustrialization processes. Aspect that leads us to seek information outside the state's territory, including in other countries; or assess whether this change has occurred to other points within the state itself. In this way, we leave four links open that seek to relate the abandonment of these buildings to these other phenomena. Secondary lines refer to similar architectural features between buildings.

Figure 4 - Industry windows.
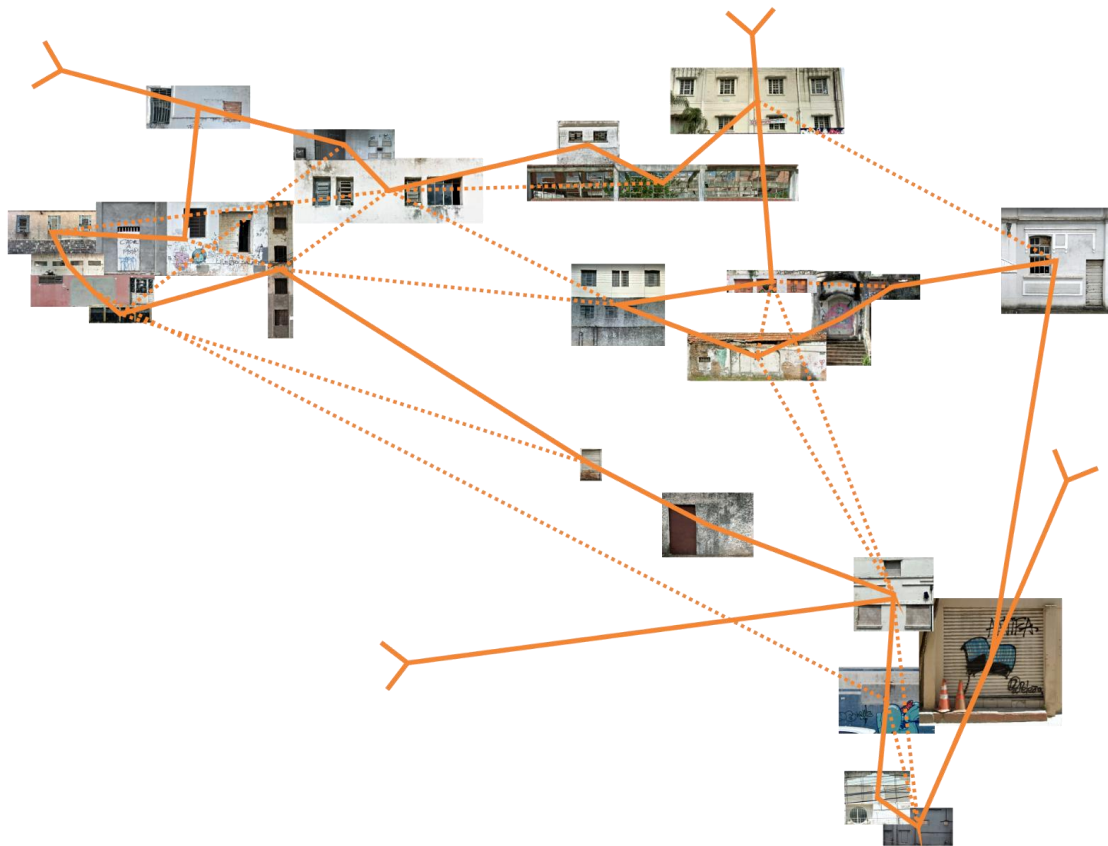
Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

The observation of the destruction of abandoned architectures in Lages and São Miguel do Oeste also led us to group the buildings in ruins (Figure 5) that are spread throughout the territory of Santa Catarina. This observation leads us to the question: Would destruction be the next step for these architectures? Another point that deserves attention is that the difficulty in finding abandoned architecture in Criciúma is also reproduced in this map, which may indicate that these buildings have already gone through a process of destruction.
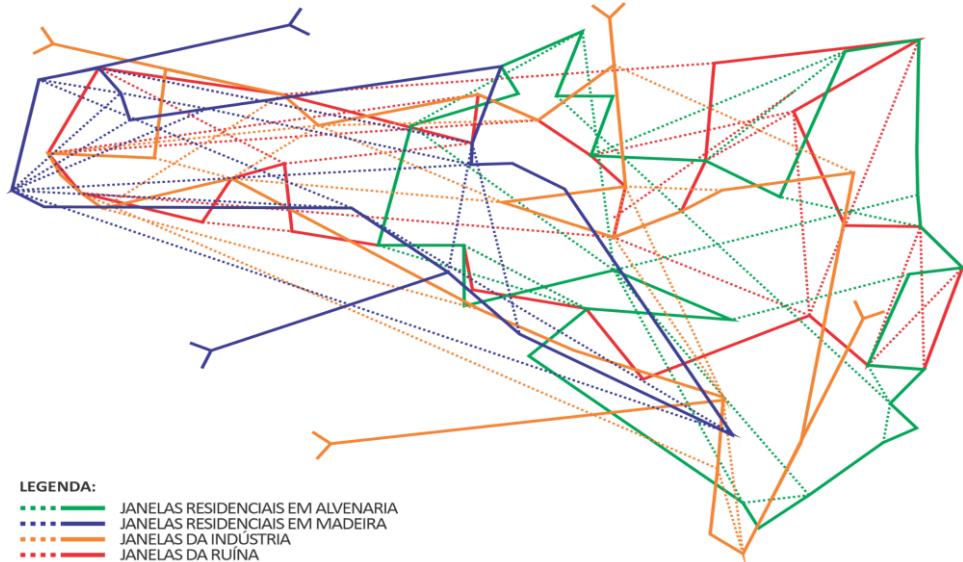
Figure 5 - The windows of ruin.
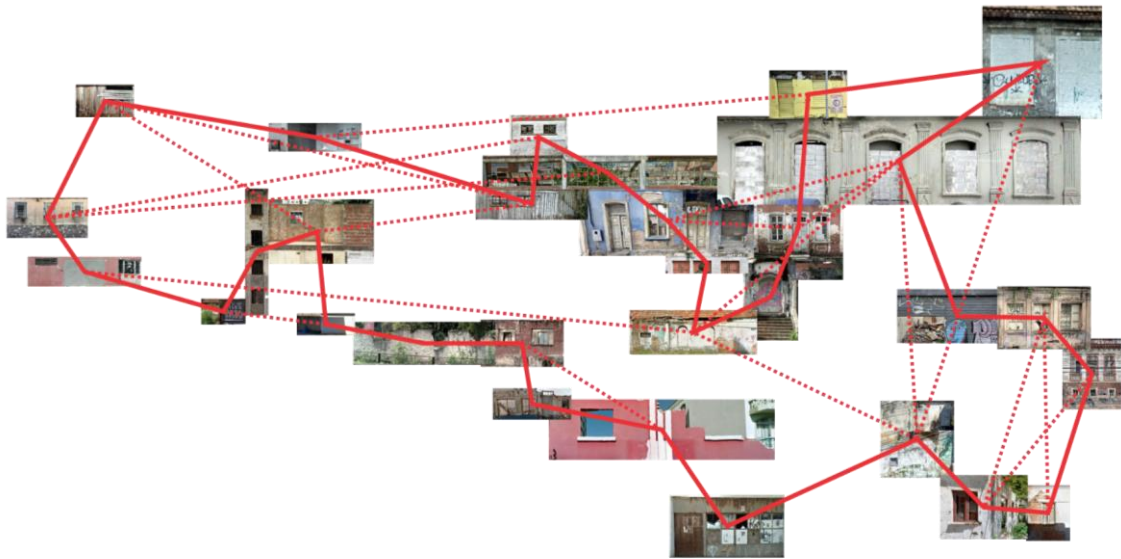
Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

The different links established here allow us to combine these clues in a single map, which allows us to visualize all the points where the themes that were studied intersect, interconnect and distance themselves (Figure 6). From this information we can relate other aspects, such as: historical determinations, concepts, individuals, groups and social formations (DELEUZE; GUATARRI, 2000).

Figure 6 - The lines of abandonment in Santa Catarina.

LEGENDA:
JANELAS RESIDENCIAIS EM ALVENARIA
JANELAS RESIDENCIAIS EM MADEIRA
JANELAS DA INDÚSTRIA
JANELAS DA RUÍNA

Source: The authors, 2022.

In the course of this study, we were also able to make other observations that relate to the aspects addressed by Deleuze and Guatarri (2000), elements that indicate that abandonment is a space for other phenomena, such as: manifestations through graffiti (Figure

7) ; the gates that closed off many of the lands, making it impossible to see any architecture that might have been inside (Figure 8); the demolitions (Figure 9) and destructions (Figure 10) and the tightly closed windows that brought us here (Figure 11). These observations end up offering us new clues about abandonment, aspects to which we must pay attention.

Figure 7 - Graffiti

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

Figure 8 - The gates of abandonment.

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

Figure 9 - The demolition of wooden architectures.

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

Figure 10 - The destruction of architecture.

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

Figure 11 - The covered windows.

Source: Google Street View, 2022. Layout: The authors, 2022.

CONCLUSION

We virtually travel through the cities of Santa Catarina in search of buildings in disuse, in ruins or in a stage of apparent abandonment. We ended up finding the windows of abandonment, which emerged as clues for this action research and allowed us to make analogies between the different points of the territory, promoting territorialization experiences, grouping through their similarities. These groupings also allowed us to connect with other places, in a rhizomatic image that always extrapolated the idea of a markedly delimited territory, gaining multiple entrances and exits.

It was possible to notice marked differences between the buildings present in the eastern portion of the state, where the masonry buildings were concentrated and, in the western portion, where we could observe the wooden buildings. On the other hand, there are architectures that are spread throughout the territory of Santa Catarina, such as: industries and ruins. In the same way as architectures, we witness other phenomena in different parts of the State that offer us new possibilities of observation that bring us closer to historical determinations, concepts, individuals, groups and social formations.

The associations carried out in this work provided us with other clues about the abandoned architecture of Santa Catarina. Therefore, this is not expected to be a unique or final look, but a look that is a means to reveal other characteristics. After all, this look made it possible for us to prove that many of these buildings, in the State of Santa Catarina, dialogue with each other, being able to generate another doing to know.

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