Revista Nacional de **Gerenciamento de Cidades** ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

Appropriation of Public Space: The case of two distinct squares in Cuiabá-MT

Joel Marcos Gatto

Master Professor, UNIVAG, Brazil. joel.gatto@hotmail.com

Jeane Aparecida Rombi de Godoy

PhD Professor, UNIVAG, Brazil urbanista.jeane@gmail.com

Revista Nacional de

Gerenciamento de Cidades

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

SUMMARY

Between 2017 and 2020, the city of Cuiabá-MT carried out a revitalization and construction program for approximately 100 (one hundred) squares. Using it as a temporal and thematic cut, the present study aimed to understand to what extent these squares, through their physical attributes, contributed to their appropriation as a public space. With this intention, the research was placed in a practical nature through a single case study in multiple units of analysis, choosing the city of Cuiabá as a case study, and two squares as distinct units of analysis. Issues such as the meaning of public space and its role in appropriation were addressed in the theoretical review. To this end, an inventory survey of the squares in Cuiabá was carried out before and after the aforementioned intervention program, with subsequent selection of a sample for the two squares. Finally, by carrying out visits to these units, it was observed that the physical attributes and the more centralized insertion in the neighborhoods proved to be appropriation inducers. In addition, the design qualification more suited to the needs of local users revealed higher levels of appropriation, with a greater variety of users.

KEYWORDS: Public Space. Square. Appropriation.

1 INTRODUCTION

The contemporary city is complex given its disorderly growth accompanied by growing peripheries devoid of infrastructure and public spaces. When one thinks of the relationships between the organization of this urban space and the social life that takes place there, the public space plays an important role. It has the function of promoting and encouraging appropriation and socialization among the different people who inhabit the city (LEITE, 2004).

In these contexts, public spaces are places where equality of opportunities, physical freedom, and expression to be experienced by individuals are manifested (SERPA, 2004). However, their fruition depends on the use given to them. Such characteristics come from the material capacity of these places to promote unscheduled meetings, enabling social relations between citizens, specifically, in terms of conviviality. Its capacity depends on its physical attributes, for example, accessibility, urban furniture, and mainly, the quality of its equipment, that is, the quality of the urban project (CERQUEIRA, 2013).

Due to its various physical attributes, the square, as the most well-known typology, presents itself as a scenario of significant value in the construction of a positive image of cities, both for its materiality, and also for its subjectivity, insofar as it enriches the affective memory of those who use it (QUEIROGA, 2012).

However, by assuming this role in urban landscape and the memory of the population, public spaces become – and here we emphasize the squares – important objects of promotion for local public policy. Its potentiality has attracted not only the interest of researchers but also of technicians, and public administrators for the execution of programs and projects for the rescue, reformulation and new implantations of these spaces, seeking to give them promotion and visibility. In this perspective, the City Hall of Cuiabá, during the municipal management between 2017 and 2020, carried out a revitalization and construction program of approximately one hundred squares, which were the study object of this research.

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

2 OBJECTIVES

Based on this approach, the present study generally aimed to understand to what extent two of these squares, located in neighborhoods with different income standards, through their physical attributes, contributed to their appropriation as a public space.

To fulfill this purpose, the following specific objectives were outlined: carry out a bibliographical review on the subject; carry out an inventory of the squares in Cuiabá in 2017 - before the interventions - and in 2020 - after the interventions; relate the spatial patterns and local attributes of the squares studied with the respective levels of appropriation observed.

3 METHODOLOGY

To accomplish this, the study explored the potentialities of empiricism, placed itself in a practical nature, and took place, as demonstrated by Yin (2015, p.70), through a single case study in multiple units of analysis, in which the city of Cuiabá was understood as a case study, and each square studied as a distinct unit of analysis, due to the different contexts of each project and each neighborhood.

To this end, the study was divided into four stages. In the **first stage**, a review of the specialized literature was elaborated, to establish the conceptual bases of analysis of the studied phenomenon, bringing the understanding of the main notions and concepts involved.

In the **second stage**, the cataloging and mapping of the inventory of all existing squares in the urban perimeter of Cuiabá until the beginning of 2017, and later at the end of 2020, highlighting the revitalized and new squares, inserted in this period. The data used for this cataloging were collected from official sources in the city of Cuiabá. Finally, the squares in the program were classified according to their area and type of use.

At this stage, data were collected through consultation with managers and technicians from the city hall responsible for carrying out the indicated interventions, with complementation on local news sites and official web pages of the city hall and the city council of Cuiabá. Both catalogings were complemented with resources available on Google Earth and GIS Cuiabá (Geographic Information System).

The high number of interventions made it extremely difficult to undertake an analysis of all squares, especially concerning physical attributes and levels of appropriation. For this reason, it was necessary to list selection criteria for the selection of two units that could represent the object studied in its spatial area – Cuiabá.

Thus, the **third stage** of the study was the choice of these two squares considering the following criteria: Location by region — each square should be located in a different region (north, south, east, or west); Location by income pattern — each square should be located in neighborhoods/regions with opposite income patterns; Size — both squares should have larger dimensions, among the hundred squares; Typology according to use — both squares should have similar uses.

From the sample, field visits were carried out in each square, in which the appropriation was observed and recorded, to relate it to the physical aspects. To this end, two types of tables were developed for this study. The first one entitled *Documental-Physical Survey*

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

for verification and documentation of physical aspects through quantitative analysis was based on previous tables, present in the methodology applied by Mattos (2017) and by De Angelis and Castro (2004).

The other table, titled *Behavioral Survey*, was used to register users and their behavioral aspects, as well as to measure the level of appropriation. This was based on the "survey of public life" method by Tenório (2012), and on the model created by Cabral (2015) that allows one "to identify pedestrian traffic and stationary activities in selected locations" (TENORIO, 2012, p. 127) as well as defining appropriation values. In this method, for appropriation, for each person staying in the space, a value three times greater than each person passing through was conferred.

With the values resulting from the quantitative surveys and the appropriation levels of each of the two squares in the sample, it was possible, in the **fourth stage**, to interpret and discuss the results found. Parallel lines were drawn, relating which spatial factors and local attributes influenced the appropriation of these spaces. Then, the appropriation levels of squares inserted in opposite income patterns were compared, allowing one to verify if the economic condition of the users influences the appropriation of the squares.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Thematic Cutout

The concept of public space is distinctly defined according to the theoretical current with which it works. According to Soriano (2006), there are four distinct currents: philosophical, sociological, legal, and urbanistic.

From a philosophical point of view, public space is associated with the notion of expression of thought, the exercise of dialogue as a discourse, and the practice of democracy. If analyzed from the sociological point of view, the public space is characterized as a space for the encounter between individuals of the same community, corroborating with the notion of belonging to the place, and strengthening collective relations in social life. From a legal/administrative perspective, the public space is defined by the notion of property and appropriation, opposing it to private spaces, managed and owned by the public power. In the urban field, the public space is materialized through the open spaces defined in the design of the city.

As the object of this research, the public space was delimited according to the urban line. In this approach, public space is treated in its material dimension, as the field of analysis used is the space of the city.

For Gomes (2018) public space takes on countless shapes and sizes, ranging from a sidewalk to the landscape seen from the window. It also encompasses designated or designed places for everyday use, whose best-known forms are streets, squares, and parks. The word "public" indicates that the places that materialize this space are open and accessible, without exception, to all people. Currently, the public space is multifunctional, with countless possibilities of use in the city, which adapt according to the transformations of the city.

Regarding appropriation, to Jacobs (2007) cities that have their cultural life effectively

Revista Nacional de

Gerenciamento de Cidades

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

established and fed by their residents are cities that offer activities for everyone, and, for the author, corroborate the feeling of belonging within the community that inhabits, and thus, when they feel "owners" of public spaces, they help in the quality of life and even in economic growth.

Lang (1994) and Gehl (1987) state that for social interactions to exist in public spaces, there must be common denominators among people, be they common interests, local cultural, factors or even common problems. One way to create these common bonds is, for Gehl (1987) to bring people together.

Under the same approach, Whyte (1980) draws attention to accessibility as a stimulus for appropriating a space. For this author, appropriation is influenced by the proximity of the flow of people (physical accessibility), the ease of viewing the space (visual accessibility), and the existence of a certain concentration of people. Thus, so that they are not empty, squares and pedestrian paths must be located where people are or intend to be. People tend to use places that are well located, safe, and that provide appropriate levels of privacy and interest (LANG, 1994).

Hillier (1988) also defends this idea, for him, the greater the natural presence of people, the greater the natural surveillance of the space. And to achieve this occupation, the author uses some techniques, such as the need for lines of sight that allow the recognition of the larger spatial structure, integration with the surrounding roads, and the existence of wide access to these spaces.

The union of the terms public space and appropriation lead to the typology of these spaces used in the research cutout, square. The term is conceptualized primarily as a public space, as observed by Vargas (2011, p. 10). The square, in its Latin origin, is characterized as a space for meeting and conviviality, urban by nature, a space that is formed by several openings in the urban fabric, which naturally direct the most diverse flows in search of, also, the most diverse uses, that give this space the character of a place and central point of manifestation of public life. It is, in a broad sense, the space for exchange. In this logic, the square in our culture is linked to the concept of public space, accessible to all individuals.

4.2 Squares of Cuiabá

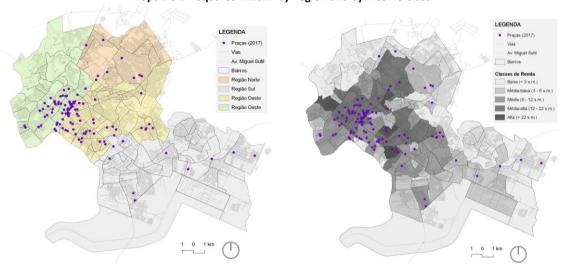
4.2.1 Inventory of squares in Cuiabá in 2017

To fulfill the objectives listed for this study, it was essential to map the inventory of all existing squares in the urban perimeter of Cuiabá until 2017 - before the start of the 2017-2020 municipal management¹.

⁻

¹ Data collected from the official website of the city of Cuiabá, from the publications of the book *Perfil Socioeconômico de Cuiabá*, prepared by IPDU (*Instituto de Planejamento e Desenvolvimento Urbano*) – and from the list of squares available on Google Maps.

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022



Maps 1 e 2 - Squares in 2017 by Region and by Income Class

Source: Own Authorship 2020.

From this survey, it was possible to catalog 112 squares distributed in the four geopolitical regions of Cuiabá (Maps 1 and 2). The location of the squares showed that certain locations were privileged, there was a high concentration of squares within the perimeter corresponding to the delimitation of Avenida Miguel Sutil, and a certain concentration from the axes of the main avenues of the city, confirming that the growth of the city was more structured up to the edges of Avenida Miguel Sutil – 1970s, and more disorderly from there onwards, structuring itself from the axes of the city's main thoroughfares.

When looking at the intra-urban space, the inequality of distribution also occurred between its regions, considering that the ones closest to the forming nucleus presented a more balanced distribution of squares - east and west. By juxtaposing the location of these squares with the income class by neighborhood², their distribution was even more unequal, most of them were in middle to high-income neighborhoods. Just over 13% of all squares in 2017 were in lower-income areas, those where access to leisure is scarce and therefore becomes a priority.

In addition, the distance of these neighborhoods from the areas most served by squares is highlighted. This fact brings inferences about the inaccessibility of these locations to these public spaces, mainly because public transport at such distances is costly and time-consuming, in addition to the poor capacity for urban mobility, making the use of these public spaces unfeasible.

4.2.1 Inventory of squares in Cuiabá in 2020

This stage refers to the survey of revitalized squares created during the administration (2017 and 2020). According to the city of Cuiabá, in its various means of communication with the citizen, there were more than 100 squares between new and revitalized. However, the surveys, as well as the consultation with technicians and managers of the extinct SMSU -

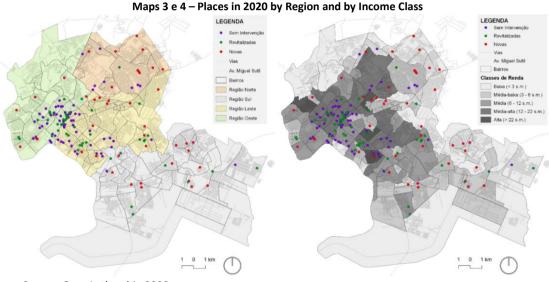
_

² The data are taken from the 2010 Socioeconomic Profile of Cuiabá, which is referenced by the 2010 IBGE demographic census. These data take into account the income per family in minimum wages (S.M.)

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

responsible for the interventions - informed that the intervention program included 2 parks and 92 squares, 44 of which were revitalized and 48 were new. Thus, in updated numbers, the total network of squares, which had 112 squares until 2017, increased to 160 units in 2020, an increase of 42%, with 39% of the originally existing units being revitalized.

The location of these squares draws attention due to their distribution (Maps 3 and 4), especially concerning the new squares, which were mostly inserted on the edges of the urban perimeter, comprising the most deprived areas of these spaces until 2017. The revitalized squares are located part closest to the original core of the city, and the rest are in the intermediate portions to the center, comprising the squares originally more distant in 2017.



Source: Own Authorship 2020.

Overlapping its location with the regions, it can be seen that the north and south regions, previously devoid of these spaces, received a significant number of units, ceasing to be discrepant, and reaching a certain uniformity. The income factor was also relevant. By juxtaposing the location of the new squares to the income classes per neighborhood, it is observed that the vast majority were built in low-income and lower-middle-income neighborhoods, improving access for the portion of the population most dependent on public and free spaces.

In addition to the location, a survey and classification of areas and the predominant function of each square were carried out. It was based on studies by Foguel (2020, p. 9-11), which consider the functions of Brazilian squares according to their structure and furniture. In this case, the main functions found in the squares of Cuiabá were sports, recreational, mixed, contemplative, and civic squares. From these types, it was possible to divide them into two large groups: group A, which has functions that favor the action of users, and group C, which has functions that favor the contemplation of the space.

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

4.3 Sample for study

Based on these classifications, it was possible to apply the four criteria for choosing the two units that made up the sample: location by region, location by income pattern, size, and type of use, shown in the table below (table 1).

Table 1 – Sample Choice

Titles	Situation	Area	Туре	Income
Praça do Jardim das Américas	Revitalized	Group 04	Action	High
Praça do CPA I	Revitalized	Group 04	Action	Medium-high

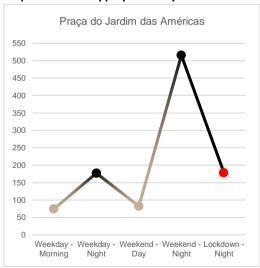
Source: Own Authorship 2021.

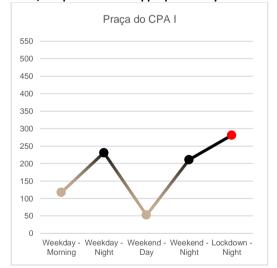
With the sample defined, to understand the relationships between the spatial patterns and the local attributes of the squares where there was an intervention, with the existing levels of appropriation, a case study was conducted. Field surveys were carried out, from which data were collected through the developed tables. Then these data were represented through graphs and compared employing summary tables organized by region.

4.4 Appropriation X Local and spatial attributes

After summing the values resulting from the behavioral surveys, which are derived from the formula that assigns weight 3 for permanence and weight 1 for passage, graphs 1 and 2 were arrived at for the studied squares. As a way of summarizing the data found in the field, the summary table below was created (table 2).

Graph 1 - Level of appropriation by P. do Jardim das Américas / Graph 2 - Level of appropriation by Pdo CPA I





Source: Own Authorship 2021.

Gerenciamento de Cidades ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

Table 2 – Summary Square Surveys

Appropriation				
	Praça do Jardim das Américas	Praça do CPA I		
Income	High	Medium-high		
Most used period	Night	Night - Lockdown		
Most used day	Weekend	Without differentiation		
	1.Adults	1.Youngs		
Predominant age groups	2.Kids	2.Adults		
	3.Youngs	3.Teenagers		
Predominant Gender	Both	Masculine		
Predominance of	Both during the day	Flow during the day		
permanence or flows	Both during the night	Flow during the night		
Environment / Project				
	Praça do Jardim das Américas	Praça do CPA I		
Insertion in the neighborhood	Centralized	Centralized		
	Multifamily residential	Commercial		
Surroundings	Single-family residential	Institutional		
	Commercial	Single-family residential		
Most used places	Playground	Concrete courts		
	Dog Park	Sand courts		
	Seats in general	Seats in general		
	Gym	Gym		
	Calisthenics	Playground		
Little or Unused environments	-	_ Dog Park		
		Football field		
Conservation/Maintenance	Excellent	Bad		
Day shading	30%	30%		
Night lighting	Excellent	Reasonable with		
		insufficient portions		
	Various playful paintings,	playful paintings,		
Aesthetic Qualification	various pergolas,	Flowerbeds with foliage and		
	Flowerbeds with foliage and	flowers		
	flowers			
Landscape Qualification	Variety of tree species	Variety of tree species		
	variety of palm trees	variety of palm trees		
	variety of bushes	few bushes		
	Variety of coverings	Few coverings		
	Variety of ground cover	Variety of ground cover		

Source: Own Authorship 2021.

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

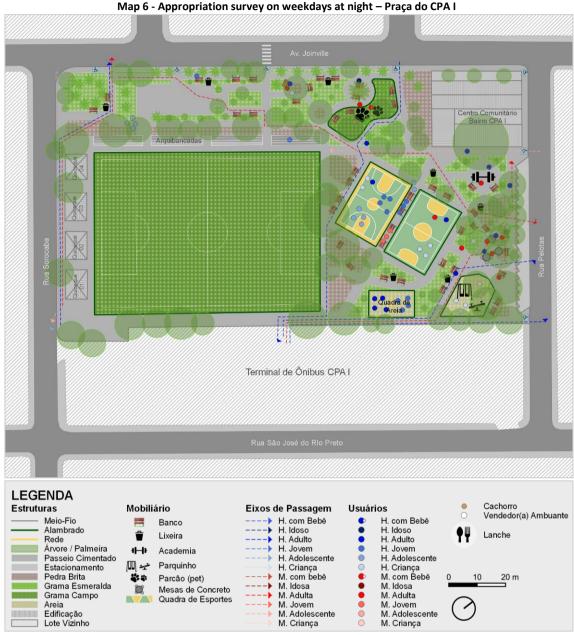
When analyzing them, it is noticed that the values are discrepant, in Praça do Jardim das Américas the level of appropriation varied from 75 (seventy-five) to 520 (five hundred and twenty - illustrated by Map 5), while in Praça do CPA I obtained an appropriation level between 50 (fifty) and 280 (two hundred and eighty - illustrated by Map 6). Since in the first square there was a crucial difference between the days raised, the weekend night had a significantly higher level of appropriation concerning the week, while in the second square there was a balance between the days raised, with no day of prominence.



Source: Own Authorship 2021.

Within the scope of the study, the surveys showed that Praça do Jardim das Américas, which is inserted in a neighborhood with high purchasing power, surrounded by shops and residential buildings, even equipped with leisure and recreation areas, obtained significantly greater appropriation. Such results were identified at the weekend, a period when most businesses are closed, and residents are free from their routine commitments. This fact leads us to believe that the observed users are residents of the neighborhood itself, therefore, they prefer to experience the public space of the square to the private leisure spaces of their condominiums. This conclusion is strengthened when observing that the predominant public is of both sexes, in the age groups corresponding to adults, children, and young people, respectively, as well as a portion of the elderly.

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022



Source: Own Authorship, 2021.

This preference for the space in the square, coming from a population with high purchasing power, residing in buildings with high security, reveals that users feel safe in the square, a place that is open and free for anyone to circulate. This concept confirms the position of Hillier (1988) who, when addressing the issue of security, argues that the natural presence of people brings surveillance to the space, enabling a greater sense of security for users. This author also states that to achieve this occupation, there are design techniques, arguing that it is necessary to have lines of sight that allow the recognition of the spatial structure, as well as integration with the surrounding roads and wide access to the place. Such characteristics are present in the Jardim das Américas square, which, because it is centralized in the neighborhood, is surrounded by local roads of weighted circulation, and entered by accesses on all sides. This configuration, joined by internal diagonals and transversals, makes it possible to walk around,

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

to enjoy the environments created by its implementation in most shortly and visibly way.

Whyte (1980), with this same emphasis, says that appropriation is influenced, in addition to the ease of viewing the space, also by the proximity of the flow of people from the street to the square (physical accessibility), and by the existence of a certain concentration of people. Thus, so that they are not empty, squares and pedestrian paths must be located where people are or intend to be. Lang (1994) also confirms these points by exposing that people tend to use places that are well located, safe and that also provide appropriate levels of privacy and that correspond to their interests.

Uniting the views of Whyte and Lang, we have a dichotomy, where the public space needs to be visible and accessible, but at the same time reach the privacy and individual interests of the users. When considering the importance of these aspects for the analysis of appropriation, it can be said that the design arrangement of Praça do Jardim das Américas meets these two criteria, since the design of its wide and straight paths, by interconnecting all the directions of the square, meet the visibility criterion. Likewise, the conformation of their living environments creates the notion of enclosures, which, as they are used by specific groups of people, generate a pattern of appropriation that reveals privacy, to the extent that they have different functions from one another, they also serve different uses, inviting different groups to use the space. When observing the level of appropriation of these environments by groups with uniform age and gender, illustrates this reality.

Alex (2011) points out that the location of the square in the city, its permeability, access, and the impression that radiates from its interior, are aspects that invite you to enter it, as well as amplify its condition of public space. This positioning explains that, by being inviting to appropriation, a square has its public character expanded, a fact that is also evidenced by the levels of appropriation of Praça do Jardim das Américas since its aesthetic and landscape qualification was greater, and its levels of appropriation too.

In this sense, it is emphasized that the visual aesthetic aspects of his playful paintings and his various flowerbeds composed of trees and ornamental species, as well as the thermal comfort provided by the density of the vegetation and the implanted lighting system, create this atmosphere with which the author refers to. Likewise, it can be said that, as the conservation of the space is kept in good condition, as observed, this impression of aesthetic care also intensifies, maintaining good levels of appropriation throughout the days and nights.

On the opposite, the results observed in Praça do CPA I, did not identify aspects that allow the measurement of the same appropriation and corroborate with the cited authors, they also did not meet the listed physical attributes.

Praça do CPA I is inserted in one of the most important subcenters of Cuiabá, in a lower-middle-income neighborhood, surrounded by shops and institutional properties the region's bus terminal. occur daily, factors that would drive greater appropriations. However, this was not what was observed, lower levels of appropriation were seen, especially when comparing night hours. The score, despite not being low, was boosted to a certain extent by people passing through, which confers a disadvantage about the previous square, which had higher values resulting from the appropriation of permanent users. This situation brings reflections, it can be said that most users are due to the characteristics of the surroundings of the square, especially the bus terminal, and not by the characteristics of the square itself.

Revista Nacional de

Gerenciamento de Cidades

ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

As it is inserted in a neighborhood with less favored socioeconomic characteristics, where the provision of public spaces plays a fundamental role as the residences in these locations normally have little space for leisure, it was expected that there would be greater interest on the part of the population in using the square space.

In terms of possibilities of use, the study of this square identified a high number of furniture and functions. There are three sports courts, a gym, a playground, and several spaces for contemplation. This variety can be explained when considering the socioeconomic profile of the neighborhood and the particularities of the immediate surroundings, where the space needs to meet the different leisure and recreation needs of the local community.

However, little care was observed with the maintenance of the space, especially regarding cleaning and gardening. Such characteristics are pointed out with significant importance by Hannes (2016) when he states that the aesthetic function is responsible for the diversification of the built landscape and the beautification of the city. And by presenting the carelessness of its environments, this square brings undersized aesthetic values when compared to the previously analyzed square.

In this sense, of the diversity of uses, Hall (2005) emphasizes that culture influences people's habits and that these collaborate with how these people appropriate the space. This explains one of the most emblematic details of the comparison between both squares: the Parcão. While in Praça do Jardim das Américas this equipment stands out for its wide use and the possibility of meeting people, in Praça do CPA I, on the contrary, it was the least used equipment, and can be considered useless. Bearing in mind that in the surveys carried out, no more than two people were registered using their structures.

The lesson learned from this little use in CPA I stems not only from the lack of habits related to walking and exercising with pets, as inserting pet spaces alone will not encourage their use, but a fact that illustrates this situation well was also the amount loose dogs found roaming the square, while the space designated for them was empty. First, it is necessary to understand the sociocultural habits and lifestyles of the neighborhood, that is, to try to understand the context of local daily life to implement equipment that will indeed be useful for the community.

In summary, both squares have good levels of appropriation. However, due to its centrality in the region, and the intense flow of people resulting from the bus terminal and the institutional and commercial uses of the surroundings, Praça do CPA I has the potential to attract an even greater number of users. However, it is necessary that the space is better illuminated and with a greater periodicity of maintenance so that it results in better general conservation. In addition, it is also necessary to improve its design, rethinking the functions of existing equipment to truly meet the desires and needs of the local population.

Revista Nacional de **Gerenciamento de Cidades**ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

5 CONCLUSION

The analysis of the distribution of new squares inaugurated by the program identified that there was a correction, in a way, in the scarcity of public spaces in regions beyond the perimeter of Avenida Miguel Sutil. His analysis, from the scale of the city, showed that the simple implementation of these public spaces, with the study of more detailed aspects, such as their insertion in the neighborhood, could result in more satisfactory design quality, enabling very positive results. However, to verify whether these new spaces contribute to the daily life of the local population, more in-depth analyzes are necessary, such as the measurement of appropriation carried out in this research.

In this sense, the results found confirmed the performance of the physical attributes of the squares analyzed as inductors of appropriation in the public space. However, the urban insertion, the discrepant design quality, misaligned furniture misaligned with the users' needs, and a lower aesthetic and landscape qualification revealed less appropriation in some squares. In addition, there was a more restricted and uniform profile of users in the squares with less project qualification, a fact that characterizes a smaller reach of the potential for coexistence and leisure that this equipment could cause in the residents of these localities. The readings carried out also showed that the use of squares is directly influenced by the perception of their appearance and safety, and by the diversity of activities that make possible in their environments. It also shows the role of public open spaces, as of great importance in terms of the search for comfort and well-being, spacious environments, fresh air, shade, physical activities, and user-friendship.

Studies of this nature, in which different socio-economic realities are contrasted with visible design disparities, bring to light important understandings about the planning of public spaces. Equipment of this nature should be implemented, but it is necessary to strongly consider its insertion in the neighborhood, as well as the uses of the surroundings, and to what extent they can impact the modes of appropriation. Secondly, standardized projects should not only follow rigid goals in which the objective is to implement as many new units as possible. The quality of the project should be pursued so that it is consistent with the wishes and needs of the population. Otherwise, standardized, overly simplified projects, equipped with inadequate furniture for local demands, will certainly be destined to constitute empty and deteriorated spaces. This point also leads to the need to involve popular participation in decision-making.

In short, although design and conservation mistakes in the CPA I square have been revealed, the perception of the importance that these public spaces play in the lives of urban populations is undeniable, especially those who live in areas of the city with little infrastructure, many times in distant regions. Living in a place close to high-quality public spaces, above all, allows not only to alleviate the critical situations arising from socio-spatial inequalities but also allows people to benefit from the advantages of living in cities, allowing them to live with their neighbors and allow themselves moments of well-being, regardless of the socioeconomic reality in which they are living.

Revista Nacional de **Gerenciamento de Cidades**ISSN eletrônico 2318-8472, volume 10, número 79, 2022

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

ALEX, S. Projeto da praça. 2. ed. São Paulo: Editora Senac, 2008.

AZEVEDO, A. DE. Cuiabá: Estudo de Geografia Urbana. Anais da Associação dos Geógrafos Brasileiros, v. 7, 1957.

FOGUEL, I. A Nossa Praça. São Paulo: Editora Yolbook, 2020.

GEHL, J. Life between buildings: using public space. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company Inc, 1987.

GOMES, P. C. DA C. Espaço Público, Espaços Públicos. GEOgraphia, v. 20, n. 44, p. 115, 2018.

HALL, E. T. A dimensão oculta. São Paulo: Martins Fontes, 2005.

HANNES, E. Espaços abertos / espaços livres: um estudo de tipologias. Paisagem e Ambiente, n. 37, p. 121, 2016.

HILLIER, B. Against eclosure. In: TEYMOURE, N.; MARCUS, T.; WOOLEY, T. (Ed.). **Rehumanising house**. London: Butterworths, 1988. p. 63–88.

JACOBS, J. Morte e vida das grandes cidades. 3a ed. São Paulo: Martisn Fontes, 2007.

LANG, J. Urban Design: the american experience. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company Inc, 1994.

SORIANO, A. G. W. **O** Espaço Público e a Cidade Contemporânea: as praças de Salvador entre o discurso e a intervenção. [s.l.] (Dissertação de Mestrado) Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Universidade Federal da Bahia, p.184, 2006.

WHYTE, W. H. The social life of the small urban spaces. Washington: The Conservation Foundation, 1980.

YIN, R. K. Estudo de Caso Planejamento e Métodos. 5a ed. [s.l.] Bookman, 2015.