Editorial

Urbe has positioned itself throughout its brief history, and the collection of articles presented, as a journal of urban studies – pushing the boundaries of its own title, with strong reference to urban management. This is not a diversion, but the completion of the initial goals. After all, we want to discuss the city and the formation of the urban world, in its various aspects and dimensions.

In this sense, we expanded the spectrum of these discussions. Urbe presents, here and in its next edition, a special section on “the migration of urban ideas in Portuguese speaking world”, divided into two parts (because of the quantity of good articles received and positively assessed). The section is entirely organized by the guest-editors, Fabio Duarte and Clovis Ultramari, both professors of the Postgraduate Program in Urban Management at PUCPR, and who enjoyed recent exchanges with scholars and research programs in Portuguese speaking countries.

As it could be expected, the historiographical approach is noticeable, which is another positive aspect in the total diversity of issues and views, advocated by Urbe’s editorial board. And this time, we will be brief in this short editorial, as the guest-editors have accurately described, especially in the editorial of the special section that follows, the complexity of their challenge in putting these papers together. From the proposed “migration” of ideas, to the identification of inflection moments in the history of cities, the dossier proposed in this and the next issue of urbe promises to contribute to the expansion of the debate on this important aspect of understanding the spatiality of the city in time.

We apologize to our readers of other languages, but for obvious reasons, these two sections of the journal will be “abusively” more Portuguese than usual.

But this issue does not end with the special section. As usual, there is always room for articles received outside the call for papers, and that stand out for their continuing contribution to the discussions planted by the journal. In this issue, we present three articles with completely different approaches, again contributing to the breadth of topics covered.

In the first paper out of the special section, “(Looking for) The social effects of architectural morphology”, Vinicius de Moraes Netto, Julio Celso Vargas and Renato T. de Saboya bring another innovation with regard to the ways we interpret and understand the material and immaterial relations present in the definition of space in the city. The authors have used quantitative and qualitative methods to so daring and challenging, to outline the relations of physical, social and cultural ties between public spaces, citizens and the form of architecture and urban design. In the words of the authors, the article attempts “an approach able to identify precisely the existence and extension of effects of architectural morphology”.

In the following paper, Angie Carolina Torres Ruiz presents a reading still unusual in urban studies, by appropriating theories related to the field of Science, Technology and Society (STS) to interpret the story of a Colombian telecommunications company and its relationship with the city of Bogotá. In the article “Socio-technological urban infrastructure. To sell or not to sell the ETB – Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Bogotá”, this important contemporary infrastructure is analyzed and its recent history is reconstructed from visions that intertwine political, social, economic and cultural factors. This is done by an interesting connection of
the relations between actors and controversies in the history of a recent episode of dispute to sale the telecommunications company.

Finally, Waldecy Santana and Willian Cardoso Rodrigues, discuss a major problem in the city since ancient times, the management of solid waste. In the article “Economic analysis of urban’s systems of solid waste management: the case of selective garbage collection in Palmas, TO”, the authors take ownership of a specific case study to propose an economic discussion of this important urban issue. The details of waste management are presented and discussed from the point of view of the economic feasibility of its management, with the reference of the specific model used in the city of Palmas. Surprisingly, the authors fall under the economic aspect when compared to the other benefits of an ecologically responsible management.

We hope that the diversity continues guiding the next issues of urbe, and that the journal can continue to contribute broadly to the discussions surrounding the “urban question”.

Rodrigo Firmino and Harry Alberto Bollmann
PPGTU/PUCPR, Curitiba, November 2012