

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (21383) - CO-DESIGNING A TEMPORARY INTERVENTION WITH CHILDREN FROM FAVELA PINDURA SAIA IN BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL: LESSONS TOWARD HEALTHIER CITIES

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Background and objectives

There has been a proliferation of adult-only urban open spaces with children withdrawn to indoor spaces. Girls and boys have been increasingly confined to home, school, and child-specific spaces (e.g., playgrounds) due to a range of social, physical, and legal factors. Yet, freedom to access, play, move around, meet friends, and explore urban open spaces is very important for their health and sense of well-being.

In contradiction with the right of every child to be heard and have their views to be taken seriously in decision making processes that will impact on the quality of their lives, planning, designing and management of urban open spaces have been informed most and foremost by the values of producers and consumers of goods and services: adults. Recently, there has been a move towards co-design: people not trained in design co-creating together with designers. Co-design with children matters because it can challenge the adult hegemony in the decision-making that has shaped the built environment while contributing towards the creation of more playful and, therefore, healthy cities for all.

Given the potential of co-design with children to promote health, this exploratory qualitative research aims to explore what aspects of co-design process facilitate creative encounters with children.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

To do so, we report the lessons learned by architecture students during the co-design process of a temporary intervention with children from the favela Pindura Saia at Nossa Pracinha, an urban square in Belo Horizonte (Brazil).

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Drawing on the thematic analysis of the reports written by the students, the findings revealed the value of temporal in-betweenness, behavioural looseness and functional openness in facilitating creative encounters with children during the design process.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

Our findings have implications for design education, practices and policymaking processes aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal: Good health and well-being.

Palavras-chave : co-design, children, temporary intervention, design education, urban open space