citizen participation,
urban planning and
global-local constraints

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summary:

1. One-Dimensional Models
2. Multi-Dimensional Models
3. Social Mechanisms and Conditions
4. Actors’ Will and Mobilization
   Conclusions
the architect’s kingdom
(Le Corbusier 1943)

architect’s maximum control and responsibility

politicians and civil servants apply law

educated and respectful population

1_One-Dimensional Models
the ladder of participation
(Arnstein 1969)

self-management: people decide directly

\[ \cdots \]

co-operation between people, authorities and technicians

\[ \cdots \]

false and simulated participation

1_One-Dimensional Models
the patterns’ language
(Alexander 1976)

architects propose building and urban patterns

users express basic needs and aspirations
general features

_Technical Hierarchy
_Efficiency using Resources and providing Solutions
_Citizen Participation requires Technical and Legal Education
_Urban Planning as a Rational Tool: Market Control, Human Needs…
_Degrees of Citizen Participation in Decision-Making Processes
_Population Involvement depends on Elites’ Will and Help of Experts

1.One-Dimensional Models
urban movements’ approach
(Castells 1983)

Measured by Effects on Social Change
Autonomy from Political Parties
Protest, Contest and Social Conflict
Dependence on Class Struggles and Global Processes

Claims for Collective Consumption (spaces and services),
Political Decentralization and Local Self-Managed Institutions,
Cultural Identity related to Community Spaces
post-modern social spaces
(Young 1990)

Diverse Social Groups with Different Social Positions, Needs and Knowledge

Direct and Strong Democracy vs. Representative and Closed Democracy

Necessity of Public Spaces for Deliberation and Negotiation

Interdependence of Neighbourhoods, Cities, Regions and Countries

Risks of Planning Fragmentation and Fragile Consensus
empowerment practices
(Friedmann 1998)

Deprived Groups Deserve Privileged Attention, Resources and Qualified Information

Advocacy Planning and Consultancy
Subordinated to Community Initiatives

Participatory Planning within Processes of
Participatory Action-Research and Participatory
Budgets in Local Governments

Citizen Participation is a Means for Public
Interest and Public Goods (peace, solidarity, environmental sustainability…)

1996 Istanbul Declaration of United Nations for Settlements (HABITAT)

2_Multi-Dimensional Models
general features

_Reveals Social Conflict, Inequalities and Hierarchies
_Democratic Means and Social Reforms
_Institutional Openness and Support favour Citizen Participation
_Urban Planning as a Result of Multiple Processes and Rationales
_Multiple Levels and Dimensions of Possible Citizen Participation
_Population Involvement depends on Its Own Will and Initiatives

2_Multi-Dimensional Models
socio-political positions
(Villasante 1995)

M *ODERATES*
c.p. accomplishes modern democratic laws

REFORMISTS
c.p. provides social innovation and change

TECHNOCRATS
c.p. is impossible or inefficient

REVOLUTIONARIES
c.p. delays great social transformations

2 _Multi-Dimensional Models_
virtues of citizen participation

(from a reformist’s point of view)

Efficiency 1: more information and knowledge in planning and development processes

Efficiency 2: adhesion of people to planning in which they have participated

Costs: time, money and all actors’ will to co-operate, negotiate and decide

Changes 1: social needs, aspirations, conflicts and inequalities are revealed or solved

Changes 2: collective action experiences connected to actual possibilities of change

Democracy improvement: promotes public debate, attends social differences, makes transparent decisions, approaches institutions to people

Limits: power conflicts, voluntary vs. professional dedication

2_Multi-Dimensional Models
how to reach **virtues** of citizen participation?

3. **Social Mechanisms and Conditions**

- **Social Mechanisms**
  - Practices of C.P.
    - Distinguishing Convenience and Possible Combinations of **Levels** and **Dimensions** of C.P.

- **Social Conditions**
  - Contexts of C.P.
    - Removing **Global** and **Local** Constraints on C.P. and Promoting Methods and Opportunities

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3. **Social Mechanisms and Conditions**
Social Mechanisms and Conditions

levels and dimensions of citizen participation

Public Exhibition of Technical, Political and Social Proposals
Negotiations and Consults Previous to Decision-Making
Collective Decision-Making on Actions and Norms
Co-operative Execution of Actions

Referendum / Accusation / Disobedience on Non-Legal / Non-Legitimate Actions/ Norms
Social Control / Supervision of Technicians’ and Politicians’ Actions
Self-Organization / Decentralization of Social Initiatives

Individual or Collective Allegations to Norms
Public Presentation of Social Projects / Proposals
Public Debates Between Different Ideas and Social Groups
Reports / Surveys on Social Practices, Needs and Opinions

3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions
levels and dimensions of citizen participation

_degrees of c.p. related to decision-making
_possible co-existence and mutual exclusion of levels

_independent and transversal social actions of c.p.
_reveal or provoke social conflict inside / outside institutions
_hidden references and collective experience of c.p.

_degrees of c.p. related to public hearing
_possible co-existence and mutual exclusion of levels

3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions
3\_Social Mechanisms and Conditions

**Global and Local** constraints on citizen participation

Inter-Linked Scales Affecting Urban Planning and C.P.: Municipal, Metropolitan, Regional and Global

Information, Investment, Merchandise, Services and Migratory Flows: Crossing Local Spaces Transnationally

Strategic Planning Challenging Normative Planning: Economicism, Neo-Corporatism, Environmentalism and Big Projects

Reproduction Processes of Social Divides According to: Scientific Specializations, Gender, Age, Class, Culture, Organization…

3 Social Mechanisms and Conditions
3. **Social Mechanisms and Conditions**

- **Global and Local** constraints on citizen participation

  - Translation of **Technical Language** into levels of social understanding
  - Divulgation of limits and opportunities content in **Legislation on urban planning**
  - Fitting **Rhythms** of social organizations and deadlines in urban planning and developing

  - Dominance of exhibitions and legal allegations over **Public Debate** and collective proposals and criticisms
  - Connection to **Local History** of c.p. and experiences of different civil servants
  - Transparent agenda, principles, skills required, **Method** and economic budget for c.p.
techniques / tactics improving citizen participation

Meetings, Forum, Public Hearings, Workshops and Committees

Publicity and Available Information about All the Proposals and Plans

Technical Assistance and Consultancy to Population

Social Involvement through Schools, Families, Mass Media, Neighbourhood Associations, Representatives…

Simulation Experiments and Cognitive Maps in Urban Design

Participatory Action-Research Processes

3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions
who may participate?

Unions, Professional, Neighbourhood, Female and Environmental Organizations

Technicians from the Planning Team and the Public Administration

Politicians in Government and Representatives

Entrepreneurs in Real State, Building and Land Sector, and other Economic Organizations

4_Actors’ Will and Mobilization
who may participate?

People…

- small owners of land, buildings and houses
- tenants in private and public housing
- users and inhabitants of public spaces
- children
- young people
- elder people
- women
- tourists
- immigrants and ethnic minorities
- people with disabilities
- associations, committees, sellers, media, schools…
general features

_direct intervention: individual proposals, collective actions and meetings

_representative intervention: organizations, lawyers and technicians working for people

_compensation principle: to promote balance of power and to open opportunities / spaces for all

_pragmatic principle: to produce commitments / contracts of each group who wants to participate

4_Actors’ Will and Mobilization
_Conclusions

c.p. is a **democratic** command and a basic political good

_**Uncertainty** in the results of social transformation and efficiency

_**Possible divergence**: conflict-solution or conflict-increasing

_**Complexity 1**: different levels and dimensions of c.p.

_**Complexity 2**: different social groups, interests and dynamics

_**Context** of global and local processes constraining actor’s will

Actor’s commitments and actions punctuate **ends** of c.p. practices


LE CORBUSIER. *Principios de urbanismo (La Carta de Atenas)*. Barcelona: Planeta, 1993 [1957].


_____ La participación social en el urbanismo, en los límites de la realidad.

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