

citizen participation,
urban planning and
global-local constraints



Miguel Martínez López



summary:

- 1_ One-Dimensional Models
- 2_ Multi-Dimensional Models
- 3_ Social Mechanisms and Conditions
- 4_ Actors' Will and Mobilization
- _ Conclusions

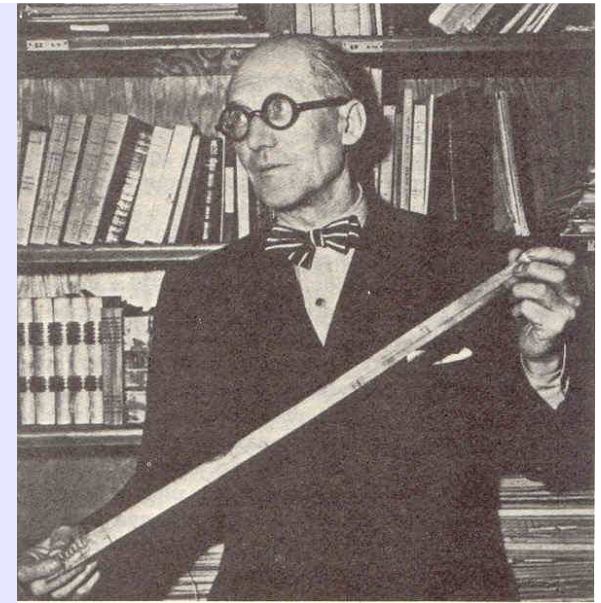
the architect's kingdom

(Le Corbusier 1943)

architect's maximum control and responsibility

politicians and civil servants apply law

educated and respectful population



the ladder of participation

(Arnstein 1969)

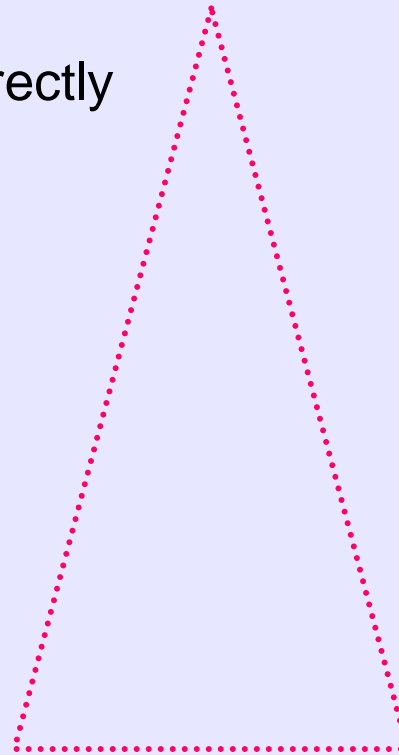
self-management: people decide directly

...

co-operation between people,
authorities and technicians

...

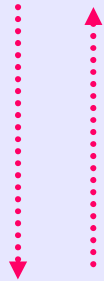
false and simulated participation



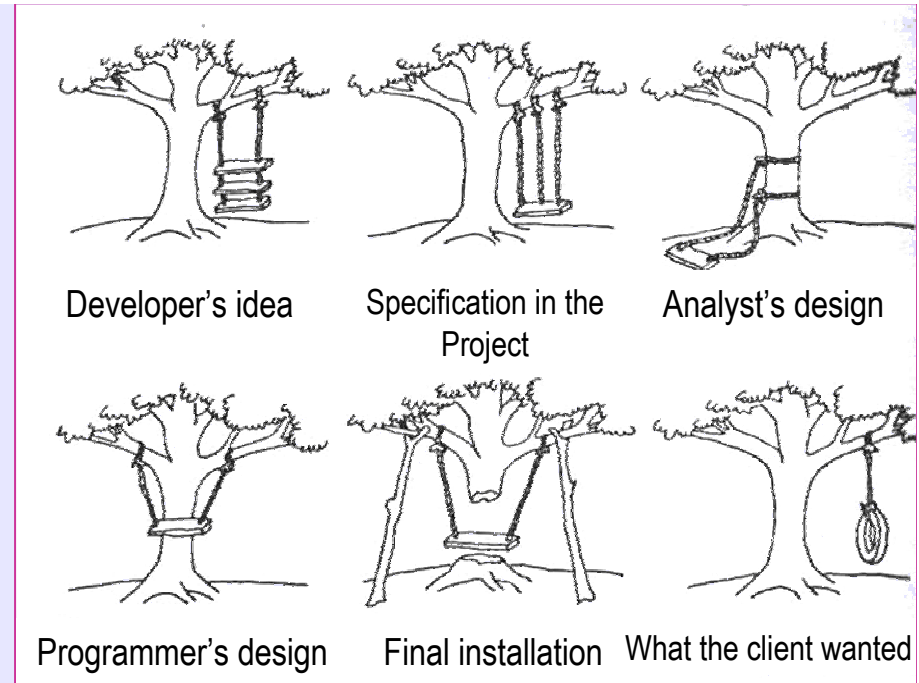
the patterns' language

(Alexander 1976)

architects propose building and urban patterns



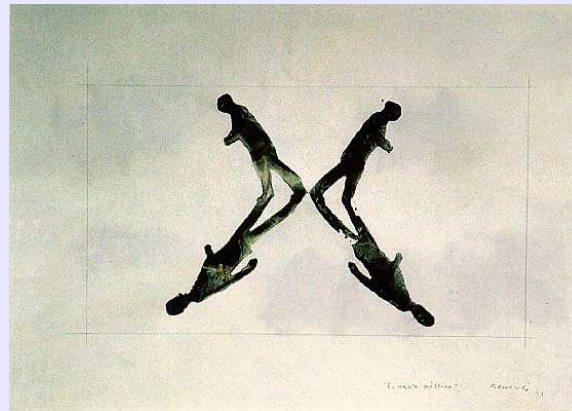
users express basic needs and aspirations



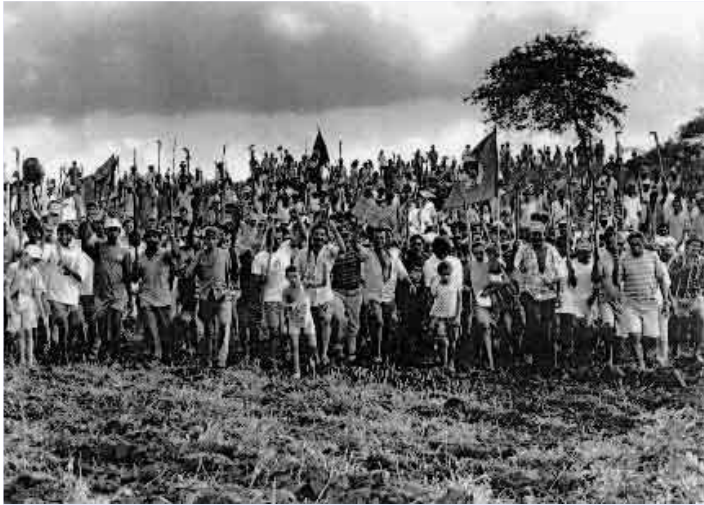
1_One-Dimensional Models

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)

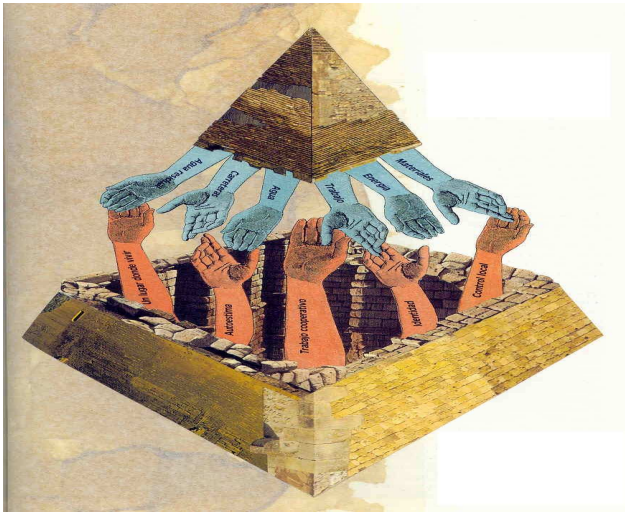
Risks of Planning
Fragmentation and
Fragile Consensus

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



empowerment practices

(Friedmann 1998)

1996 Istanbul
Declaration of United
Nations for
Settlements
(HABITAT)

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...)

general features

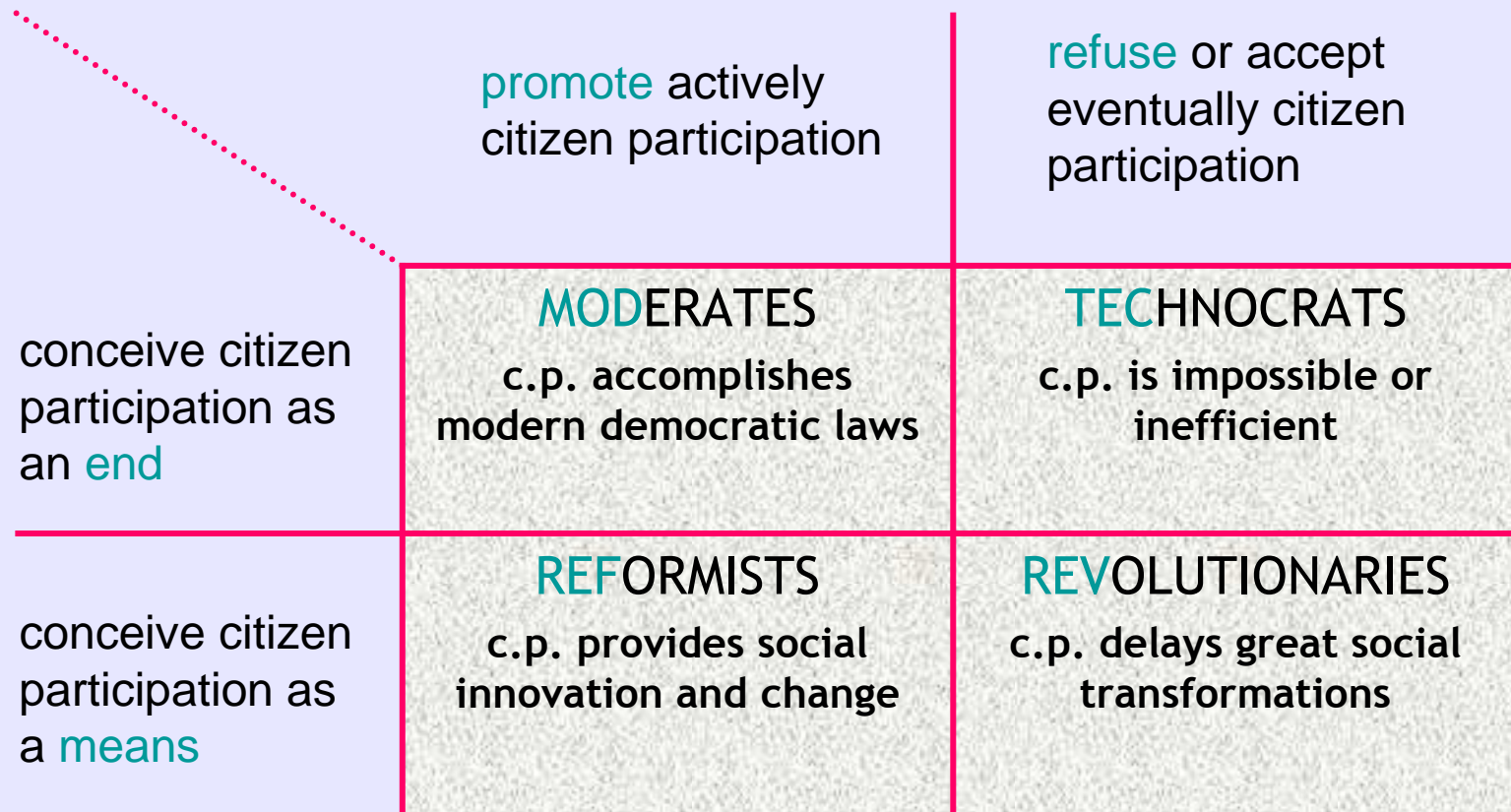
- _Reveals Social Conflict, Inequalities and Hierarchies
- _Democratic Means and Social Reforms
- _Institutional Openness and Support favour Citizen Participation
- _Urban Planning as a Result of Multiple Processes and Rationales
- _Multiple Levels and Dimensions of Possible Citizen Participation
- _Population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



2_Multi-Dimensional Models

socio-political positions

(Villasante 1995)



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

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

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

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

Limits: **power conflicts, voluntary vs. professional dedication**

how to reach virtues of citizen participation?



Social Mechanisms

Social Conditions

Practices of C.P.

Contexts of C.P.

Distinguishing Convenience and Possible Combinations of Levels and Dimensions of C.P.

Removing Global and Local Constraints on C.P. and Promoting Methods and Opportunities

3_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

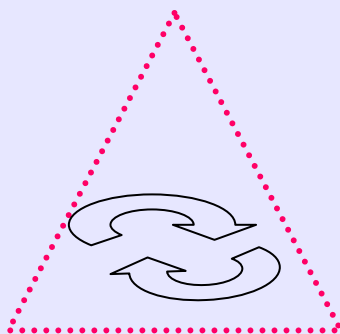
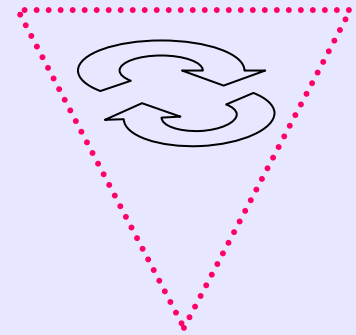
Self-Organization / Decentralization of Social Initiatives

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

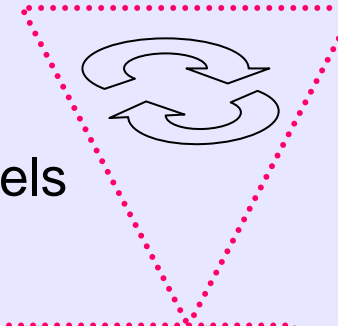


3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions

levels and dimensions of citizen participation

_degrees of c.p. related to **decision-making**

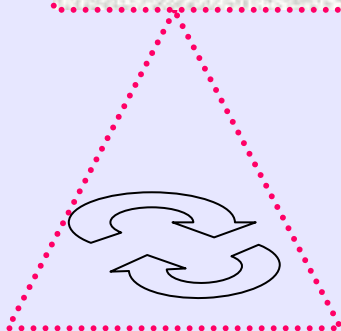
_possible co-existence and mutual exclusion of levels



_independent and transversal social actions of c.p.

_reveal or provoke social conflict inside / outside institutions

_hidden references and collective experience of c.p.



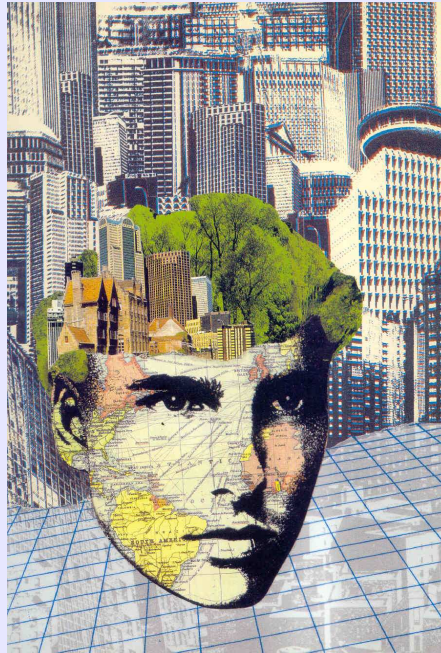
_degrees of c.p. related to **public hearing**

_possible co-existence and mutual exclusion of levels

3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions

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...

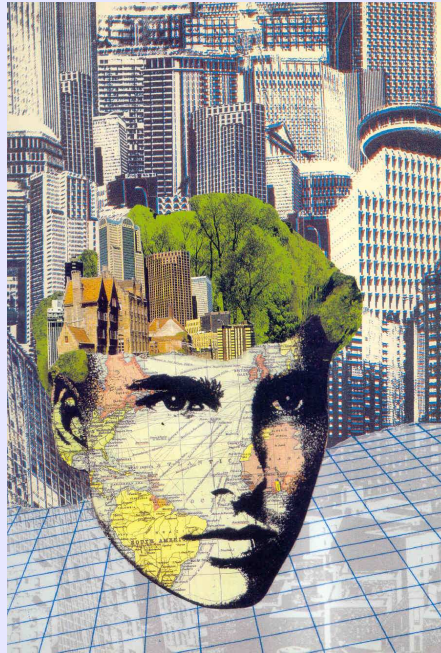
3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions

global and local constraints on citizen participation

Translation of **Technical Language** into levels of social understanding

Divulgence 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.

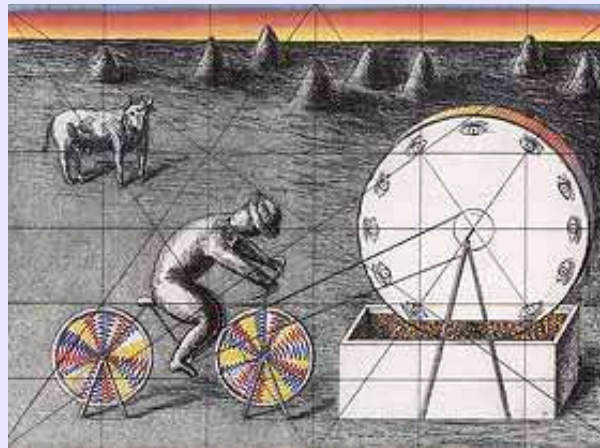
3_Social Mechanisms and Conditions

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

who may participate?



Unions, Professional, Neighbourhood, Female and Environmental Organizations

Technicians from the Planning Team and the Public Administration

People...

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

associations, committees, sellers, media, schools...

users and inhabitants of public spaces

women

children

tourists

young people

immigrants and ethnic minorities

elder people

people with disabilities



4_Actors' Will and Mobilization

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

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

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

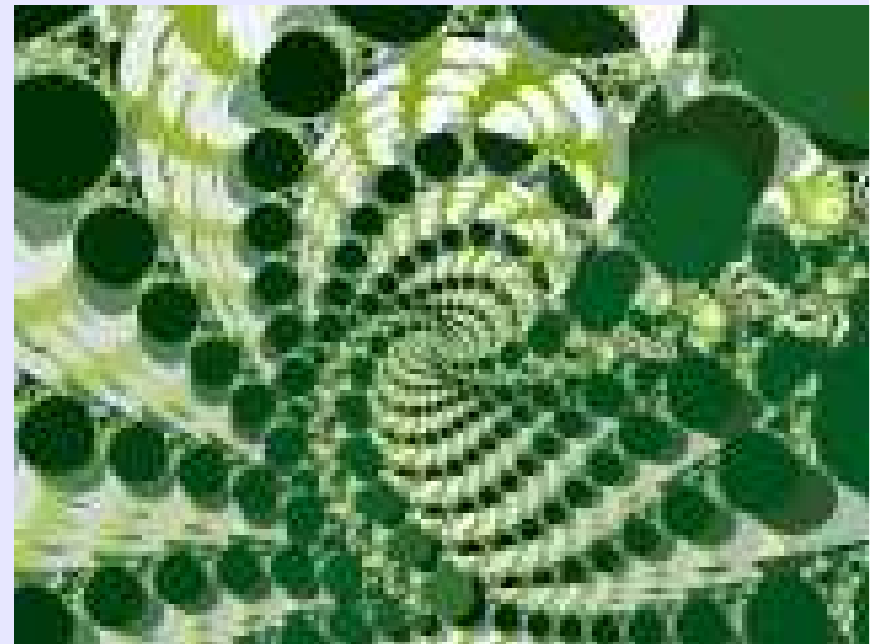
_possible **divergence**: conflict-solution or conflict-increasing

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

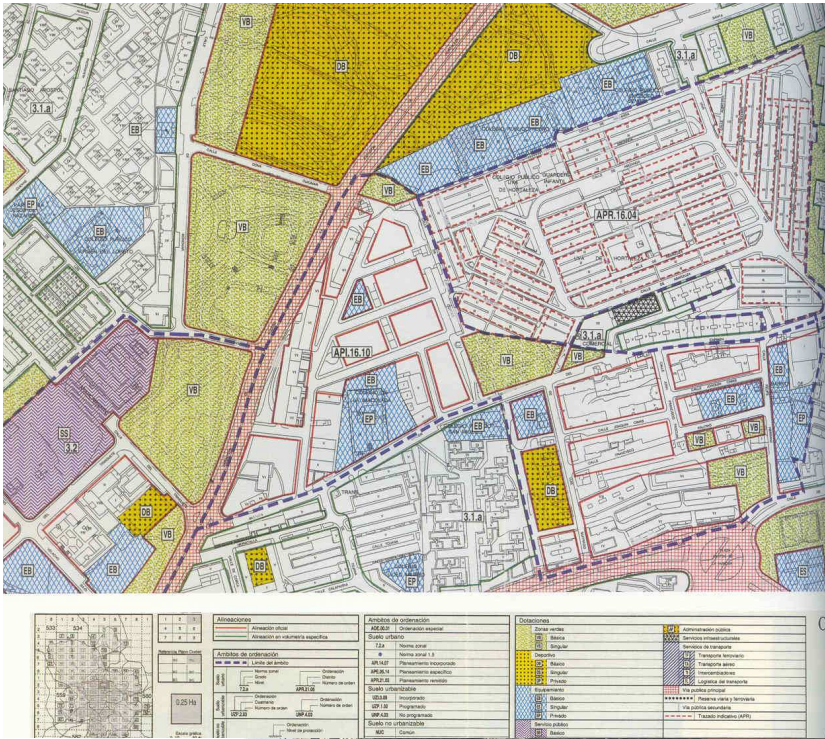
_**complexity** 2: different social groups, interests and dynamics

_**context** of global and local processes constraining actor's will

_actor's commitments and actions punctuate **ends** of c.p. practices



_Conclusions

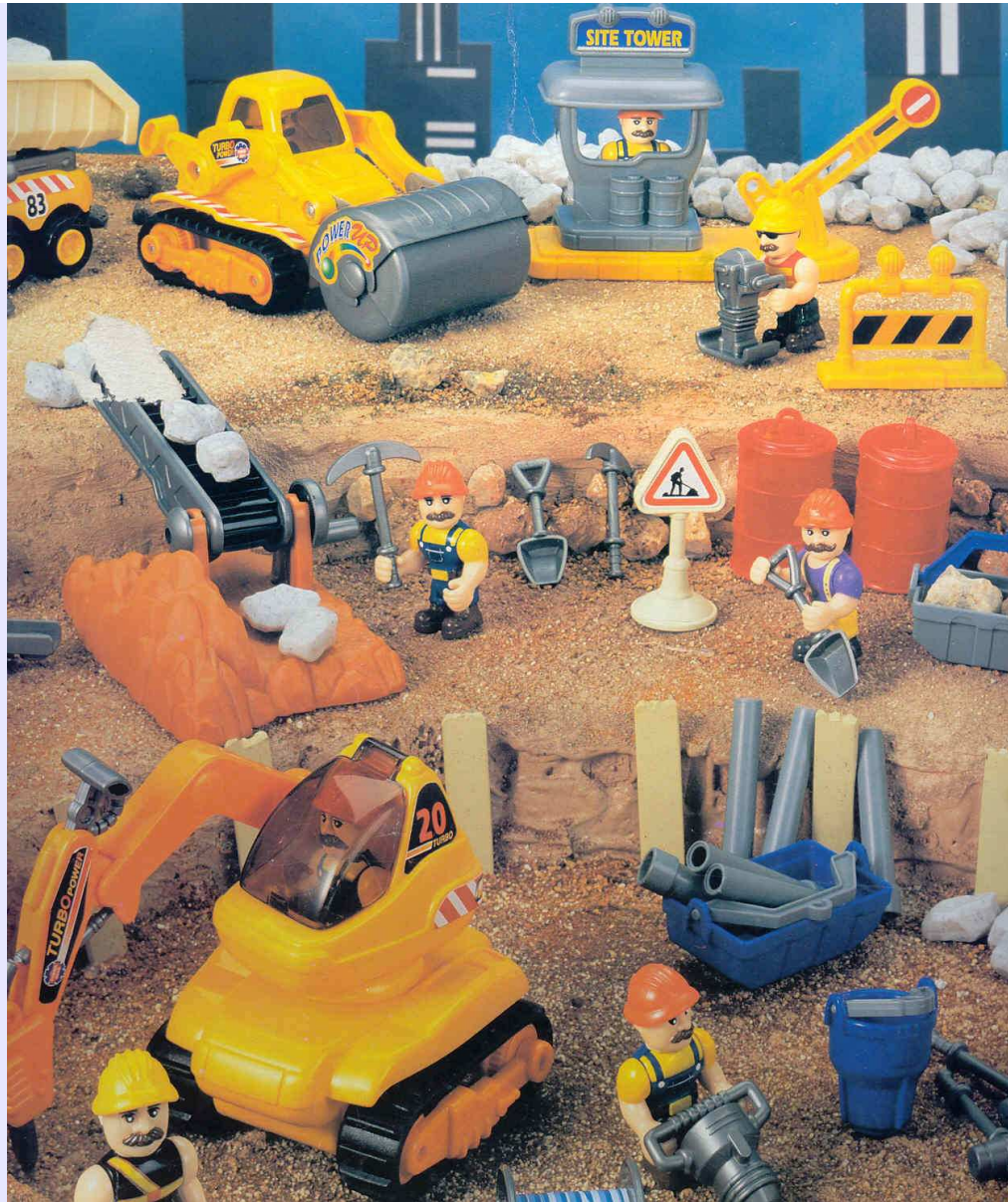


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Porto June 2007





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