# FEDERACION: A MID-SIZED CITY PROJECT. FROM UPROOTING FRUSTRATION TO A FRIENDLY CITY

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**ABSTRACT.** The aim of this paper is to show one of the fewest cases of moving project and materialization of a whole city en Argentina and South America in the 20<sup>th</sup> century recognizing many agents role who participated in such a complex process in meaningful technical and political circumstances. Apart from referring to the way of presenting and carrying out the process and the relationship of the proposal with nowadays urban production, we are interested in subject, aspects related to the population frustration degree regarding the uprooting avatars and the following becoming new city's "friendliness", to fulfill this seminar.

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# **INTRODUCTION: CONTENTS**

Transferring old Federación city as an hydroelectric dam building consequence. The population from a gentle provincial city had to live in an external office with planned spaces. The moving circumstances worsened the situation: dictatorship, hastiness, connections problems, lack of trees, public spaces, equipment, and the old city remains. Twenty years later, the drilling allowed profiting thermal tourism related enterprises. The physical environment is the same but the city and its inhabitants rediscovered a reason of being thanks to the natural resource and its exploitation from a local management that involves everybody.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Case presentation

Federación City (Entre Ríos province) situated in the north east center of Argentina nowadays has an approximate population of 18,000 inhabitants[1]. It is on the right bank of Uruguay River on the shores of the reservoir formed by the dam of Salto Grande. The city had several previous locations to the current date. The first one, from 1777, with the name of Mandisoví to the west of the current location. In 1847 the population was moved to the River Uruguay

and received its current name. From that moment passed as a small provincial town.

But this settlement would remain largely under the waters of a lake that would settle as result of the construction of a hydroelectric dam. It was in 1978 and the population should have been moved again. The conditions of the new exodus will mark the mood of the people for many years.

A promising new milestone in its development was the exploitation of thermal waters since 1997 and the mutation of the existing city and its expectations in terms of tourism role. Inaugurated in 1995, the thermal baths of Federation are the first thermal drilling from the Argentinian Mesopotamia. Its waters come from a depth of 1,260 meters and belong to the "Tacuarembó Aquifer" or "Guaraní Aquifer", which also the hot springs nourish the neighboring country Uruguay and southern Brazil.

This paper aims to show one of the few cases of project and realization of the transfer of a city complete in Argentina and Latin America in the twentieth century , characterize the negative conditions occurred in that transfer to the people and reveal the reversal of such negativities and allow us to speak of a friendly city.



Source: www.federacionturismo.com.ar y www.todotermas.com; 2016. Figure 1: Maps to show the situation of the city in the country, the province and the Uruguay River

#### Regional structure

As regards its regional context, and taking National Route No. 14 as the structuring axis, the Uruguay river corridor is organized in a string of midscale cities complexes with the presence of international bridges that link them with the Uruguay Republic territory and manifesting, at present, a state of internal balance (in their relationships, in their nests in its continuity, etc.) as a result of the involvement of all cities to a new role: spa tourism

## Natural support

The Uruguay River, whose seaworthiness is important to Concepcion del Uruguay, at its northern end and has altered its course by Lake Salto Grande dam of 82,000 hectares, it is in all its provincial extension, the fundamental role of the region.

Environmental conditions have been affected by the flooding produced as a result of reservoir mentioned in the first months of 1979.

In this region the El Palmar National Park is situated, which is a great tourist attraction of relevance to the coast of Uruguay and the whole province. It has 8,500 hectares, where it is preserved especially yatay palm tree, native species that can live 200 to 400 years. In addition to its natural attractions, it has services for tourists, lookouts for bird watching, etc.

# Urban system

The cities that exist today arose in relation to productive activities related to river settlements and foundations of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (refrigerators, piers, etc.). An important contribution to its formation was contributed settlements and colonies of immigrants stands Pueblo Liebig, a company town , a town linked to certain industrial

productive specialization. Established in 1863 from the presence of an original meat salting establishment and dedicated to the cooling activity (also with distorting and aggressive interventions).

In the circuit of the lake environment itself, the caused flooding as a result of the Salto Grande dam and multiple arms, defined situations of isolation among small towns.

# Productive profile

The productive economic profile of the region is characterized by a strong development of the citrus industry and afforestation in the north, chained to the food industry and forestry. Craft fishing purposes trade is an important activity.

The great economic complement brings the robust growth in tourism throughout the region, with great development in recent decades. A variety of offers and intelligent planning has given notoriety to the so called Uruguay River Tourism Corridor. The thermal development in several cities, attractive beaches with services and events of national projection as carnivals and top quality craft fairs have set a precise, organized and relevant profile to the territory.

### Sociocultural dimension

This region is characterized by a strong local identity and a common sense of belonging. Local features are very marked and have a noticeable dynamics.

As urban centers natural receptors of internal migration, there have been excesses in his capacity infrastructure, social and urban; resulting in landscapes of exclusion and poverty linked to migration collectors seasonal fruit, from Northern provinces, low quality labor force, eventually set up a complex and critical economic and cultural social frame.

#### What was taken by the waters

The city had several locations and subsequent transfers. The first was in 1777, with the name of Mandisoví the west of the current location until 1847 when the population was moved to the banks of Uruguay River and shortly thereafter received its current name.

The old town: there is fragmentary recognition of it. No inventory was made before flooding. Possibly the causes are complex and of different nature. Some linked to the euphoria of the first decade of the 70s, the desire to renew and no assessment of the existing (-1966-input from Rossi on the theory of permanence and monuments arrive a few years after our middle) and other conditions hasty by political changes and the climate of fear that the move marked by, in those moments, recent military coup took place.

You can only register, a unique and very important recognition: the provincial government, having now a "vacant" city, organized a contingent of artists to "relieve "their own way to what soon would be under water [2].

They can be listed in a quick inventory: Police Headquarters, the church, the Museum Settlements (moved to the new site piece by piece), the Popular Library, the Taborda (1860-1890) and many homes house heritage.

It has spoken repeatedly of the underwater capital today mutilated remains and the possibility of systematic recognition. And in parts of the not flooded old city are pressing a consideration to the cemetery and the old maternity.





Source: http://www.skyscrapercity.com; 2009. Figure 2: Moments of the destruction of the old city

# What "arrived": the new city. Projects and materialization. Popular participation

Speaking of the new city leads to a true dissociation. It seems that the city could be separated from the architects (not only designers but all we see in the proposal to the city of Modern Movement) and from the city dwellers, from the community.

In 1972, before the imminent start of construction of the dam of Salto Grande, the Executive Provincial (de facto but already started the democratic election process) entrusted the project of the new city of Federation to IAPV (Autarchic Institute Provincial Housing Entre Rios).

It was "to resolve the issue satisfying the interests of the population [... ] but taking advantage of the situation to set for the Institute and the Province of Entre Rios, a team capable of facing back or parallel to this

experience regional planning and urban development studies that it requires "[3]

Professional staff, from Buenos Aires , Rosario , Córdoba is constituted with specialists from various disciplines in the economic, sociological , physical - regional, physical - urban areas , social , legal and topographical work including own staff Institute.

It has agreed to an April 1973 [4] (Mimeographed and bound) presenting the problem highlighting the uniqueness of the subject [5] -and opportunity- and need to generate transformations not only at the city level, but also regional, acquiring this bias source process that places it as a project thought to double scale: the area and the city planning and urban design, stress will manifest throughout the initial phase of work and has to attenuate the final draft of the city.

It stresses that the proposal a "broad working knowledge of multiple systems" of which

involved the city as an urban fact should be recognized.

The proposed herein appearing as outlined first model is performed prior to the location where plebiscite defined. That is why it takes place in a location that does not end up being the final but on the north bank bordering the lake forming a discontinuous linear structure whose axes are integrated connectors different urban functions.

# Thus you can read:

- The habitat as a subsystem catalyzes the tourism role of the lake edge community facilities locating there, as an integrator between city dwellers and visitors. The higher density housing is located as opposed to the outer edge equipment as a way to generate "cross-tensions".
- The industry as a subsystem, catalyze existing elements in the town of Santa Ana also affected by the flood consistent at the railway station, rails and water infrastructure and energy.
- The circulatory system is considered as urban outliner that from the traces of the

- mesh rural areas incorporates a farm sector integrated urban edge.
- The passage of the theoretical structure (or "generating idea") to the urban structure is made from a clear functional zoning, determination of the circulatory system and growth forecast.

While it has not been possible to find reliable records, knowledge of the innovation capacity of all professionals to suggest that the idea of building a new city awoke in them clear expectations that would enable the application and experimentation of avant-garde ideas in the field of studies: those linked to the crisis of the paradigms of the International Style, especially TEAM X influences and systems theory. The location also allowed applying theories of territorial planning.

This scheme rather than decentralized, dispersed in a positive and advanced meaning in its organization that recognized polarities residential - town city tourism, urban -rural and valued circulations and structuring capacity, became just an academic exercise, when defined, by plebiscite, the final location of the new city.







Source: Soijet; 2010.

Figure 3: Left: descentralized scheme. Middle: area selected.Right: final project.

# The final project and its theoretical support. The view from the discipline. The view from the population

The adopted project moves away from the regional proposal in 1973 and concentrates the uses in the selected location for the site through a popular plebiscite held in 1974.

The original urban party is structured on the basis of a linear urban center development compatible with an organization of functions in parallel stripes to the lake.

The main street is the shopping street and connects three centers: the civic center south of the city concentrates public administration, police headquarters, courts and parish church,

cultural and sports center in the middle section of the city center (includes two schools, clubs and municipal spa facilities), and the tourist center on the northern edge of the city center with the bus terminal and hotels, bungalows and camping site linked to the thermal park opened in 1997.

As the original projected as a continuous ceiling of urban sidewalks covered corridor defines a characteristic field that ranks the street. On the top floor of the shops in the main street there are houses.

Residential areas have been designed based on two prototypes: ground floor units fully duplex and of two floors. Both variants have

their own land and external links to vehicular streets.

The original built heritage carries the imprint of some elements of the architecture of the sixties utopian proposal in its formal aspects and materials that allies the use of new materials (plastics, etc.) not sufficiently tested and no maintenance, have defined an endowed park that today is much deteriorated.

The coup of `76, in addition to the known conditions, involved dismembering the germ of this planner momentum, esprit the seeds and the possibility of formation and continuity of the technical staff in public administration, conditions to install and to continue a policy of territorial planning that still appears and shows certain deficiencies, in cases like those of the same Federation, serious problems arising from the absence of such an approach.

The described scheme remained frozen for about 20 years. The transfer had occurred amid strict military control and that the "demolition" had been sold and no one could take their materials memories. The city lived its new status as a real punishment that the waters had condemned. The new city had no trees and much of the expected public spaces were removed for reasons of "security" and the project budget. The waterfront of the old city neighborhood had changed odorous muds produced by an unattractive coast.

Nostalgia for the lost overflies that modern living artifact. But in turn, the new city was faced with the vestiges of the old (the productive area of sawmills and the cemetery) had I been "from other side" and there was no bridge to link them: it was seen as part of that past that they missed.





Source: Soijet; 2010 Figure 4: Main street and school



Source: Pasinato-Soler-Viarenghi; 1978 Figure 5: The city designed



Source: <a href="www.federacionturismo.com.ar">www.federacionturismo.com.ar</a>; 2016
Figure 5: Thermal and aquatic parks

# Testimonials

Today Federación is desolated without the vegetation ... "(Gutierrez, 1982) "There were only homes built. Not all of them finished. There have been cases of people who have moved with no doors, no windows, and in the case of the duplex without staircase, was not it? ( ... ) There was no street lighting, no sidewalks, and no phones. There were the homes not yet finished and nothing else. In other words, it continued for two years, more inclusive, under a workroom. Because the municipality did not interfere, was not it? The company was working and it was annoying the public, even it had security problems. I think it was a situation quite teasing at that time, was not it? ( ... )

"We had to move when the city was not finished. As a matter of time we had to move when it was not ready and they were simultaneously destroying the old city. Then you were in your house and you saw .., you felt how everyday bulldozers were approaching your home. Then they were moving upward by bands as bulldozers were arriving. It was awful ... we moved into the second round, in May; the first batch moved in March ... We moved in May or it was a month and a half or almost two months later. During those two months systematically heard the noises of the bulldozers ... There was one that was pi, pi, pi, it started at six o'clock, you felt more or less like you were in a war situation, something like that. The feeling was really awful. (Center Dweller Federation) (Catullo, 1987)

"They were the houses but all outer space was land. There was no grass, no trees. I remember the sound of crickets the first night. The neighbors were not going to sleep because it cost them to enter those houses that did not feel belonging to themselves. "(Young Teacher who was a child when the transfer occurred, 2002).

#### **METHODOLOGY**

In my capacity as author of several texts that had followed the case and as a teacher of patrimonial valuation courses, I could have access to primary source documentation from professionals Involved in the New City Project, plastic artists production, talks with locals of different ages and visiting tourists.

But also, we will have to review disciplinary publications and dissemination, both before and later the tourist activity starting date. Without neglecting the description of the urban aspects, we must recognize how these inhabitants (adults, youngsters and children) burdened by an unwanted change become the architects of a promising future nationwide future. The physical environment is the same but the "social" city was transformed thanks to the natural resource en its exploitation from local management that involves everybody.

# RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS: THE NEW CITY

Two events came together for the change to occur: in 1997 the drilling of the aquifer to find hot springs, driven by the Municipality gives positive results enabling the development of tourism in regional scale and strong impact on the population of Metropolin Area of Buenos Aires and, moreover, the end of period exchange rate in 2002 overturned demand to the local tourism.

"Open wounds so that the water had been removed, other waters began to repair". 2002

Young teacher who was a child when the transfer occurred.

And along with the diversity of activities, the influx of population, proportionately extremely high rates built to provide services area, came the problems associated with excessive increase in the value of land (and difficulties in accessing housing, foreign owners, new use conflicts with previous (agribusiness), the absence of regulations or its outdating -, lack of training of municipal technical staff, legal

fragility of the settlement (lack of definition of the level of the lake, formal adjudications), poor infrastructure network services, etc.

Some unresolved issues are now recognized, paradoxically, as unfinished process of relocation: An architectural heritage "late modern" deteriorated remains of submerged urban heritage, parts of the old not flooded city and slummed, overexploitation of land for restrictive enterprises. zonina inaccessible to the local population soil, issues not resolved by legal uncertainty shore line, enabling permanent expectations of further extension of developable land. But besides these almost common problems to our cities. as a structuring scheme urban project city is in danger of becoming unrecognizable in that condition [6].

#### CONCLUSION (IN FIRST PERSON...)

Conclusions The aim of this exhibition was to show a valuable case from his dual role: as planned architectural object (in the building industry scale and urban scale) but also the same city as object / subject of transformations in the lives of its inhabitants.In short, as "artifact to live ..." Living pleasurably one's life and contributing to make life pleasant for visitors.

Women and men wrapped in robes walk the streets of a new city while enjoying an orange juice freshly squeezed. Children play and run on the sidewalks and known for some time that when they get tired just have to go to "the baths" to rest ago. The historic meeting of the villagers that were made in some corner has moved honed in hand, into the thermal resort. Some have even changed the sacred siesta time for hot water. The thermal water, why not say, has been charged in a short time to change habits and customs. http://www.welcomeargentina.com/federacion/t ermas-federacion.html

In little more than twenty years, Federation became one of the most preferred destinations for travelers looking for a variety of landscape and quality of service options. Old people, previously walked the streets covered with ancient trees and colonial buildings, adapted, slowly but surely, to the new geography. Young people who grew up with azaleas, walk proud 8 km of uninterrupted waterfront, ideal for hiking, biking, bird watching and photographic safaris. Many times, the waters are up to the tragedy. In other cases, create legends of lost civilizations. Federation case is

entirely different: it is the story of a city that the water took away everything and then returned it handsomely. Sandra Bonetto. CLARIN Journal. 2005/11/27

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

To the people of Federación.

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- [2] It has been informed of this through conversations with the artist Juan Gerardo Zapata slides and took photographs of his works (the church "entering the waters"). Part of this material is now exposed in areas of Federación rate house.
- [3] First Report. Federación. New Town project. April 1973. IAPV
- [4] The proposed location is presented in it is not the ultimate defined in a query in the year 1974
- [5] Meanwhile unique experience in the country of relocation
- [6] The urban structure is the relationship between the various component parts of the city. The notion of structure presupposes that the city is governed by a specific order and it is the essential organization that governs (Munizaga Vigil, 2000). The concept relates the structure of "hierarchy"," planning ", "organization" and "systems". In that sense, the urban structure refers to the organization that adopts the constituent elements of the city at a given point of time (Caballero, 1990) and relationships that determine organization and modes of growth. They are intended to ensure their internal operation and representativeness.

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