

Luanda's New Frontier: The Peri-Urban Growth in Angola

The original paper [contains](#) 26 sections, with 8 passages identified by our machine learning algorithms as central to this paper.

Paper Summary

SUMMARY PASSAGE 1

Introduction

In order to address such challenges a general reconstruction strategy, which particularly emphasizes the need to mitigate the lack of housing and related social problems, has been put in place. Understanding and rehabilitating the country's built environment, particularly within urban areas, represents a paramount but much needed task to rebuild Angola as a whole. The complexity of this task is further enhanced by the many difficulties currently affecting the poorer fringe of the population -those who have been failing to sustainably accompany the emerging economic development of Angola.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 2

Introduction

Over the years, these thriving cities became points of attraction to many thousands of people arriving from Europe as well as from different parts of Angola, generally seeking a better life. The of stabilizing, the issues associated with lack of housing and urban-poverty are a difficult reality for many. In a time when sustainable development is a global issue, the question of how Angola will be able to mitigate the acute housing shortage arises as one in urgent need of an answer.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 3

Peri-Urban Growth In Angola, The Example Of Luanda

As Fonte (2007) explains, during the colonial period of Angola, architecture and urbanism generally reflected the policies in place at the time, a fact that clearly influenced the early planning and laying out of Luanda. The city revealed distinct layers or types of occupation, in which location and morphology of buildings were fundamental variables. Given that these were mostly determined by occupants' social status, one could find for example the planned area made by Europeans for Europeans to occupy, other planned areas of the city occupied by a mixed race population, and finally the indigenous bairros, planned by Europeans but to be occupied by indigenous population.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 4

Peri-Urban Growth In Angola, The Example Of Luanda

The existence of areas of informal huts scattered throughout the outskirts of Luanda date back to its origins and their physical expansion has been developing in parallel with the growth of the city, up until the present date. The massive growth of peri-urban Luanda is mainly attributed to continuous fluxes of rural-urban internal migrations or displacements of African population, nevertheless, over the years the musseques also provided shelter for poor population with different origins and backgrounds. This meant that having a weak economic condition became the main feature of the musseques' resident population, rather than a racial one.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 5

Building And Inhabiting The Musseques: Adapting To A Life Of Uncertainty

With respect to the nature of the dwellings, unlike the main city, in which European concepts of architectural and urban space were gradually introduced, construction activities in the musseques during the 20th century tended to be associated with absence of planning and infrastructure and, therefore, with self-building activities. These were areas frequently described as dense labyrinths of wattle and daub huts which spontaneously occupied any piece of land available. Moreover, given the diverse ethnic backgrounds of its inhabitants, the buildings frequently resembled traditional rural dwellings found elsewhere in Angola.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 6

Building And Inhabiting The Musseques: Adapting To A Life Of Uncertainty

Overall, the building envelope was altered into something that accommodated elements of both modern and indigenous forms of construction. Therefore, despite the growing use of materials such as metal sheets or asbestos for the roofs; concrete blocks, fired bricks or timber for the walls and cement for the floor, one could still find references to indigenous construction in the musseques. This view is further supported by the data provided by the 1970s census which reveal that the majority of houses in the musseques had wattle and daub walls (Monteiro,1973).

SUMMARY PASSAGE 7

Able Future For The Musseques And Its Inhabitants

Since the colonial period, efforts have been made towards finding the most adequate solution to tackle both the acute housing shortage as well as the problems resulting from the almost total lack of infrastructure in the musseques. Nevertheless, according to Amaral (1968), these urban planning experiments were not always very successful, since they often failed to consider natural and human environments. An example provided by the same author was the inadequacy of the building's design to people's cultural context, ignoring for example the importance of the outside space to cook or socialize.

SUMMARY PASSAGE 8

Able Future For The Musseques And Its Inhabitants

In 1983, we were reminded by Amaral (1983) that the research focused on the evolution of the musseques' environment is very scarce. He further adds that the Considering all the aforementioned, if on the one hand it is a reality that the musseques are lacking even the most basic infrastructures and are, therefore, in urgent need of an intervention; on the other hand one has to wonder whether a radical solution based on demolishing the existing to rebuild according to western models is the most adequate one for this particular context. The flexibility and adaptability which characterizes these informal settlements, despite reflecting a sustainable practice, is also often regarded as a sign of insecurity.