

MORPHOLOGIES OF ENJOYMENT

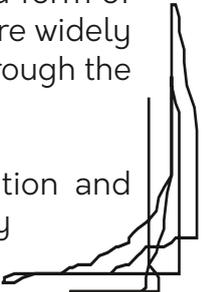


What can a project, a place, or an architecture – filtered through the everyday eyes and footsteps of a community – reveal to us in the search for an idea of a morphology of enjoyment? In the ongoing research, it is argued that in the organic centrality of the city of Porto, within a *post-touristic* scenario of *staged authenticity*, where the boundaries between what belongs to the tour and what belongs to everyday are no longer felt, an entanglement of cultural and creative projects is, spontaneously, carrying out a double process, resisting and promoting gentrification and touristification. The research seeks to analyse a set of what we call spatial-objects, related to an idea of everyday public space for enjoyment, and to interpret their role in urban flows and vitality.

The study starts from an autoethnographic position, shaped by a ten-year experience in a curatorial and critical project – SCAR-ID, in Bombarda, in Porto's art district – fully aware of the need for a carefully relationship of *maximum internality and maximum distance* with the object of study. The research analyses a spatial (and special) niche phenomenon located within a fluid geographic and symbolic field, with its epicentre in a corner store-gallery, in its streets, in its neighbourhood, and with the affinities these establish with the broader morphology of the city of Porto. Methodologically, the study analyses a specific local phenomenon through a living archive and employs a co-mapping, designed *not by the community but through the community*, enabling a transition from a temporal dimension to a cartographic dimension, essential for interpreting the spatial dynamics of enjoyment. The study seeks to identify, map, and theorize a set of spatial-objects – composed of projects, places, and architectures – accustomed to a certain invisibility in the architectural theory, yet acting as key activators of cultural and urban transformation. Among the methods, particular importance is given to the interviews with a group of enjoyers and creatives, those who use, inhabit, create, and are responsible for sustaining the everyday vitality of the place. The purpose is to lead the interviewee to reflect on their experience in the city – Porto and all other cities – while revealing an alternative urban itinerary that extends beyond touristic paths and seeks the banality of everyday life, thus designing what can be understood as a morphology of enjoyment.

The research aims to develop a reflective and critical insight on the role of these spatial-objects in the sustainable urban development, informing and influencing the debate around city planning, and potentially serving as a guide for the city itself, its decision-making agents, its consumers, and, above all, its agents of action. At the same time, it seeks to return a form of specific knowledge to the participatory community. If the routes of *the grand tour* are widely studied, this research seeks to design a guide for travelling this *petit tour*, created through the everyday footsteps of the community.

KEYWORDS: Urban morphology of enjoyment, Everyday public space, Gentrification and touristification, Cultural and creative projects, Participatory cartography, Urban vitality





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