



**PRAXIS**  
PRÁTICAS SOCIAIS NO ESPAÇO URBANO  
(www.arq.ufmg.br/praxis)

PRAXIS is a research group that aims to investigate the contemporary conditions of design, production and use of urban space, to map critical aspects of socio-spatial dynamics of Brazilian cities and to develop shared practices through mediation between technology, design, construction, information, experience and creativity around the actors involved in these processes.



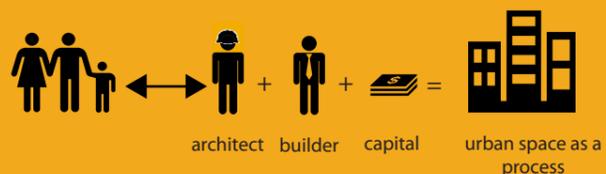
## Occupation Eliana Silva

Urban occupations occur as a response of the low-income population, who do not access public housing policies or real estate offers. Organized groups and families together occupy land or empty buildings, often seen as illegal by the official regulations.

The occupation Eliana Silva was settled down in April 2012, when about 200 families, organized by MLB (*Movimento de Lutas nos Bairros, Vilas e Favelas*) occupied public land on the outskirts of Belo Horizonte. Families remained on the ground in canvas tents for a little less than a month.

The families were removed by the military police, who served the eviction with strong repressive apparatus. The police action was considered illegal.

In August 2012, with the support of MLB, the families underwent a new occupation, located approximately 1km from the site initially occupied. A new attempt of families remains in order to ensure the right to adequate housing and the right to the city.



April 2012



April 2013

# DIALOGUES

The partnership with the families and university researchers occurred with guidelines for the division of land. Since then, the issues related to the occupation were incorporated into the research group PRAXIS aligned with undergraduate discipline named Upgrading and Urbanization of Slums.

The main activities undertaken by the group aims to present adequate urbanistic and architectonic solutions to the families demands. The research investigates the means of communication between the people involved, promoting an interactive, shared, appropriate and desired relationship. Because of this understanding, the views and experiences of residents are preserved, ensuring the prevalence of their own decisions. It is a process that undoes existing hierarchies between scientific and unscientific knowledge.



## [TEVAP]

The rejects are retained by the different granulometries range which constitute the system. The water runs clean by evapotranspiration.

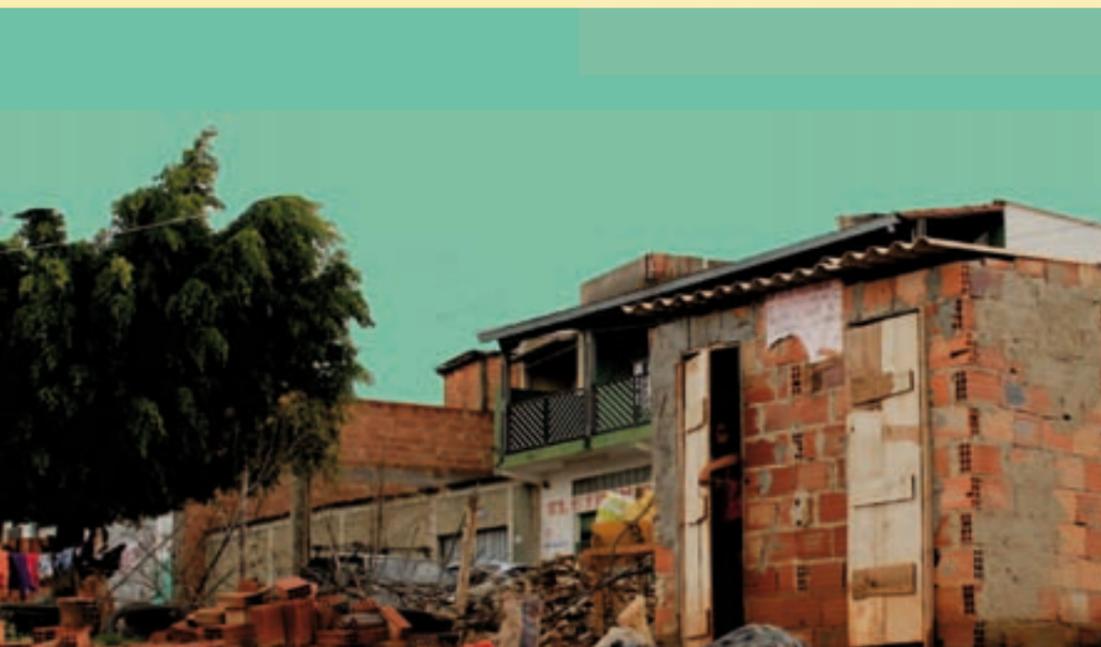
## [Circle of banana plantation]

The trunks, branches and sticks filter impurities and the banana plantation absorbs water. The circle is permeable, the treated water infiltrates the soil.



## [Nursery]

Was the first masonry building for its social importance but also as a symbol of a solid construction and socially organized occupation. The building, which at first was erected without planning, mobilized residents and supporters in various task forces. Expansions are still demanded and all of them have been accompanied by the PRAXIS together with the families.



Sewage treatment is not provided by the public agent and, due to this, households use a communal bathroom. As an answer to this urgent problem, circle of banana plantation has been built to receive the domestic wastewater and a Tank of Evapotranspiration (TEVAP) has been built to receive sewage. The systems were together implemented with the participation of the dwellers, undergraduates and researchers from the Architectural course.





- Execute by dwellers
- Execute by the research group and the undergraduates of discipline Upgrading and Urbanization of Slums.
-  ENTRANCE
-  TEVAP
-  EROSION TREATMENT
-  NURSERY
-  COMMON BATHROOM
-  PARK
-  PLANTATION
-  COMMON LIGHTING

- Water + sewage + light
- Circle of banana plant
- Water + light
- Light

