WE ARE AND WE ARE QUEER! - SURVIVAL TACTICS ON THE CLOSET CITY

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Résumé

This theoretical/conceptual paper has the objective of questioning how cities are built and debate how the work of architects maintains the heteronormative oppressive logic that contributes for the violence propagation of dominant groups over minorities. The basis of this essay is grounded on the necessity of including queer studies in every debate, specially in architecture, as well as the analysis of the queer body and the queer space as a potential and positive social transformative force, and how they are struggling and resisting in the city.

In Brazil, a country where, only in 2016, over 340 LGBTQI+ were murdered, and also according to the Gay Group of Bahia’s NGO: an LGBTQI+ is killed in every 19 hours due to homophobia, which makes Brazil the world’s “champion” of crimes against minorities, in absolute numbers, and it’s growing exponentially: From 130 reported homicides on the year 2000, to 260 in 2010 and 343 in 2017, with a 30% growth in relation to the year before, and a 10% growth on 2019 on homophobia related homicides comparing to 2018, it is imperative that queer studies break the limits of academia and starts influencing every profession through the point of view of queer people.

The methodology starts with a bibliographic research of texts of comportamental and space theory, and also the analysis of philosophers and LGBTQI+ architects, and how they can be related to theory and the act of building spaces in architecture. Then, interviews with LGBTQI+ residents as means to understand how these debates could materialize on everyday practice in the closet-city.

The first Chapter consists on the analysis and bibliographical research of Michel de Certeau and Michel Foucault, both French philosophers who tried to elucidate matters related to behavior and space theories, and also the clarification of terms regarding the LGBTQI+ universe, such as heteronormativity and what is queer. Afterwards, on chapter two, an attempt to understand the city (here named as the “closet-city”) as the object that disseminates oppression, then, how can architecture’s design can be used to expose and hide vulnerabilities, through analysis of Paulo Preciado and Gabrielle Esperdy’s work. The third Chapter is based on the texts os J. Matthew Cottrill, Aaron Betsky, Joey Michelle-Hutchingson, Christopher Reed, etc. as an attempt to define queer space inside architecture.

Finally, the fourth chapter is an analysis of the surroundings of the Casa Nem’s travesty/transsexual occupation, and the Casa Nem itself, as it is also the main object of study in this paper. After the analysis, architectural proposals are offered for debating as practical

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and physical manifestations of possible resolutions, as well as directions on how we can try to build spaces pursuing the survival and resistance of the LGBTQI+ population in the Closet-city of Rio de Janeiro and in the rest of the world.

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**Mots-Clés:** urban planning