

INNOVATIVE SOCIAL HOUSING

The European urbanism at the beginning of the 20th century proposed by the CIAM put its emphasis on the attainment of a minimum housing unit of maximum quality for its citizens. These experimentations were based on the repetition of typological units and defined the rationalist slab. They were tried in German cities for reconstruction after World War I and many other European cities in the 60s and 70s. These operations of massive social housing were unfortunate because they were placed in peripheral zones, without planning of free spaces in between buildings, inhabited by social groups who were cut off from direct relations with the street.

At the moment, due to the ground shortage of the cities or by city-planning negligence, most of the social housing interventions are confined to the residential buildings.

As housing is the material base of construction of the city, it seems advisable that the new social housing projects become greater scale that integrate mixed use amenities and open spaces, creating interaction with the surroundings.

In addition to the CIAM's rationalization of the minimum housing, that introduced variety of types, views and crossed ventilation, the new projects should incorporate an innovating use of materials of energy saving and utilize to the maximum the constructive processes of facade and structure.