

Brazilian Architects Congress between 1945-54: Debates for the construction of a modern architecture school

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Abstract

The research consists in the gathering and organization of documents related to I and IV Brazilian Architects Congress. They took place in 1945 and 1954, respectively, and they tried to synthesize a picture of events that points the context in the political, educational and cultural fields. With the proposed objects of study, it was developed the gathering and systematization of the organizers, themes and, when available, adopted resolutions. When overlapping these topics with the context, it was noticeable that the ideology treated in the congresses permeates the production of the modern architects at this period. In constant dialog with the State, which envisioned in the architecture the image of the future they were proposing, the congresses filled the space between architecture and politics while maintaining the developmentalist ideology. At last, the results of this research are visually presented through a time line and tables that allowed a panoramic look at this period of Brazilian architecture.

Key Words: Architecture Congress; modern architecture; modern architecture education

Introduction

In the period between the decades of 1930-60, happened in Brazil a series of activities that, immersed within the developmentalist ideology, aspired to break with the colonial tradition and to build a "modernized" country. In the scope of architecture began the transition process of education (until then guided by the "beax arts" model) towards a modern architecture that proposed the practices and its intention reviews. The theme evolved during the decade of 1930, until it encountered, in the debates promoted by the Brazilian Architects Congress, space to articulate resolutions that seek to contribute for the consolidation of modern architecture in Brazil. The education, saw as essential element to perpetuate the progress made, presented itself as a fundamental element to the consolidation debate, so that by proposing curriculums based in modern ideals, the architecture showed itself linked to developmental proposal of the State, which saw in architecture the answer to its needs.

Results and Discussion

The consultation of files of the Brazilian Architects Institute (IAB), of the Architecture and Urbanism School of USP (FAUUSP), and of newspapers and magazines of that period, result in the compilation of news, images and resolutions. In the power of these elements, combined with the literature review, a time line was developed and also a systematization of the organizers of the events. This action allowed the comprehension of facts that were occurring internationally and were related to the event in Brazil. At a later time, the systematization of the organizers contributed to the study of the active members in IAB and FAUUSP, which conceived to this moment the

intricate relationship between practice and education in architecture.



Figure 1. Disclosure panels of I¹ and IV² Brazilian Congress of Architects.

Conclusions

The activities of the Congresses allowed to the architects of that time a evaluation of the context and the perpetuation of modern proposals. As atividades dos Congresso permitiram aos arquitetos da época uma avaliação do contexto e a perpetuação das propostas modernas. Besides that, it allowed the politic articulation with the State and with agents that shaped construction, granting the architects viability for the implementation of what they presented. By targeting education, Congress discussed ideology, social function and training in an architectural statement process promoted by a avant-garde of modern architects. In order to establish its continuity, the IAB and its member used the Congresses as a tool, unfolding itself close to Schools and to the State. In the association of politics, practice and education, the modernity proposed achieved international recognition as the progress image, staking out a remarkable phase in the history of Brazilian architecture.

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¹I Congresso Brasileiro de Arquitetos, Acrópolis, jan.fev, 1945.

²IV Congresso Brasileiro de Arquitetos, Acrópolis, jan.fev, 1954