

Chico Rei Movement: extitutional practices for the right to housing

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Right to Housing
Occupation
Chico Rei Movement

In recent decades, the struggle for housing in Brazil has meant not only a confrontation with innocuous public housing policies, but have constructed new tools, articulations in networks and methodologies which pursue, through the struggle for housing, the right to the city. In this sense, traditional forms of urban planning have been inoperative and, therefore, self-organized movements have sought collaborative ways to deal with the production of space. In this context, in Ouro Preto, Brazil, the Chico Rei Movement, that struggles for the right to housing, has become a reference. Since 2015, the movement has been facing the challenge of a city that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980, but which historically carries the contradictions of the colonial period. Ouro Preto's hills, mostly located in areas of geological risk, are occupied, to a large extent, by a population historically vulnerable – due to mining exploitation. Its surroundings, following the inheritance of extractive mineral practice, have created a speculative land market that prevents the expansion of the urban area to sites with better conditions. Still, the tourism has been conforming a gentrification process in the historical centre and in neighbourhoods that surround it. Through the cartographic method, we have produced, with the people of Chico Rei Movement, tools and strategies that aim, on the one hand, to contribute to emancipatory and social transformation practices. Yet, on the other hand, we have been constructing new ways of urban planning practices by the creation of works that we consider extitutional. In the last three years, the results of our collaborative actions have shown the non-linearity of the movements of actors and spaces in the daily tactics of Chico Reis's struggle.