Uses, perceptions and possibilities in the riverfront of the Tomebamba in Cuenca – Ecuador

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The riverfront of the Tomebamba is fundamental for the city of Cuenca (Ecuador). Accessibility to water sources was protagonist in its location and growth, fulfilling a key role in its historical development. A research project started to develop an analytical framework to identify criteria on the banks of this river in which behavioural perspectives and perceptions of the population are incorporated to strengthen the public dimension of the city. It focuses in three areas: 1) behaviour and perception of the population in the study areas; 2) characterization of spaces, integration, connectivity and pattern analysis; and 3) design solutions for building a green public network, integrating population and enabling the construction of a resilient city. The hypothesis is that the quality of public life is affected by segregation of public space, in this context urban design becomes a tool that allows a better spatial connectivity and promotes social cohesion and thus contributes to building resilient cities. The presentation will focus on how to map the complex configuration of the modest heritage (tangible and intangible aspects), giving special attention to local identities such as the complexity of locals and newcomers, and how this can be linked to resilience.

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