**Museum of Slavery and Freedom at the Valongo Wharf: Dissent and Design of Territory and Memory**

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In 2011, two anchorages—Valongo and Imperatriz—were discovered during the excavations carried out as part of revitalization works in the port area of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that were accelerated by the mega-events hosted by the city. Rio’s City Hall was busy with works for the mega-events, but it did not fail to realize the historical value of that discovery. In fact, Rio de Janeiro today is a city entirely affected by the mega-events that took place there and the urban transformations required in order to accommodate them. For example, the renowned MaracanãStadium was completely renovated for the FIFA World Cup in 2014 and once again for the Olympic Games in 2016. Yet the Olympic park in Barra da Tijuca that houses the main venues for the Games now lies abandoned.

Efforts to resist these processes occurred throughout the city, but they were largely defeated. Ways of life were lost, as were actual lives. In record time, soon after the closing ceremonies of the Olympics, newspapers were pointing out abandoned equipment, diverted funds, and a deep financial and social crisis facing the city and the state of Rio de Janeiro. It is important to recognize that the crisis isn’t due solely to the mega-events but also largely to the economy’s dependency on oil, unpredicted market fluctuations, and the inefficient management of resources and corruption. Still, the crisis that affects Rio de Janeiro is serious, and today its citizens struggle with the city’s and the state’s complete incapacity to grant basic services.

Now, even in the midst of crisis, some accomplishments are emerging. In 2016, the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (*Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional*, or IPHAN) and the city of Rio de Janeiro prepared for UNESCO an application that finally allowed the Valongo Wharf (*Cais do Valongo*) to be declared, in 2017, a World Heritage Site. Faced with the surprise discovery of this historical landmark and the urgency of constructing a memorial—the Museum of Slavery and Freedom—to welcome the archaeological findings, we intend to discuss the possibilities of a “design of territory” and a “design of memory.” Although the path that took Rio to the Olympic Games was marked by heavy protest against urbanization and conflict over its implementation without the participation of citizens, the current situation might open itself up to the exercise of citizenship, with ongoing resistance but always aimed at the resurgence that must characterize the democratic process.