





## Editorial

Alejandro Pérez-Duarte Fernandez<sup>1</sup> , Patrícia Rodrigues Samora<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> ITESO, Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara. Jalisco, México. *E-mail*: apdf@iteso.mx

<sup>2</sup> Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas (PUC-Campinas), Escola de Arquitetura, Artes e Design, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Arquitetura e Urbanismo. Campinas, SP, Brasil. Correspondência para: P.R. Samora. *E-mail*: patricia.samora@puc-campinas.edu.br

**How to cite this article:** Pérez-Duarte Fernandez, A.; Samora, P.R. Editorial. *Oculum Ensaios*, v. 22, e2517738. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.24220/2318-0919v21e2025a17738en>

In this second issue of the *Dossier on Aging, Territory, and Environment*, we present nine papers organized into three thematic categories that complement the themes explored in the previous edition.

The first category includes studies on **public policies**. The paper by Vaccaro, Martins, and Gomes examines the dynamics of the *Fund for the Rights of the Elderly in Brazil*, a mechanism that has operated in Brazil since 1994 and enables the allocation of financial resources to municipalities. Based on recent data on the fund's performance, there is significant territorial heterogeneity, as the southern and southeastern states account for almost two-thirds of the total amount allocated in the year, revealing the need to address operational issues, particularly in areas with greater needs.

The study *Integrating climate planning into the Age-Friendly Cities agenda in Latin America: a necessary debate*, by Salvalaio, Rembiski, and Álvarez explores the current double agenda of cities: on one hand, becoming age-friendly, and on the other, addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The authors analyze a list of Latin American cities involved in both initiatives, extract case studies, and reveal gaps that require coordinated responses, particularly concerning the vulnerability of older adults to heatwaves and related challenges.

The second category focuses on **urban mobility** and comprises four papers. The first, by Cerqueira and collaborators, entitled *Mobility of the elderly and family structure*, explores the motorized mobility of older adults in the metropolitan region of Belo Horizonte through nearly 500 origin-destination questionnaires, aiming to identify patterns. Among other findings, there is a significantly higher number of trips made by men, which decreases more rapidly with age, highlighting a fundamental issue of Latin American aging: the need to remain in the workforce after the age of 60.

The article *Public recreational spaces and recreational walking for people aged 60 and over*, by Demarco and Casarin analyzes a database that complements another paper published in the first issue of the *Aging, Territory, and Environment Dossier* by Schmitt *et al.* (2024). It compares two groups of older adults based on walking distance: those who walk more and those who walk less. By observing the urban environment of each group, the authors identify qualitative aspects drawn from the

literature – such as accessibility, landscape, safety, and land-use diversity – which corroborate the hypothesis that the higher the quality of the urban environment, the stronger the incentive to walk.

The study *Paths to urban mobility and accessibility: challenges and perceptions of senior citizens in the city of Pelotas (Rio Grande do Sul)*, by Xavier *et al.*, employs participatory mapping and focus groups in three Brazilian cities to identify factors influencing older adults' walking practices. A strong attachment to their neighborhood is recognized, since, despite problems (such as poor pavement maintenance and insecurity), residents do not wish to move, stating that they “would not switch it for another,” which highlights the emotional bond with place in the aging process.

The final category concerns **housing studies**. Rachid and Bestetti review the literature on the *Senior Cohousing* model – which, in Portuguese-language literature, appears as *Cohousing Sênior* – using a large sample drawn from 11 databases, in which they identified 1,353 published articles and selected 72 for content review. The large number of publications suggests that this lifestyle has been widely observed in recent years, indicating that the Danish model warrants attention, particularly in Latin America, where studies remain scarce. The authors present it as a housing model that promotes autonomy, cuts operational costs, and offers socioemotional support. However, it also faces significant challenges, particularly in terms of social relations.

The article *Contemporary vertical multifamily housing: challenges in the face of changes in the age profile of the population*, by Bazzarella and Ramos aims to characterize the niche of high-rise residential buildings targeted at older adults, based on nearly 100 questionnaires. The results indicate a preference for proximity to commercial areas, plazas, and green spaces, as well as features of universal accessibility and comfort features within the buildings.

The last in the category, entitled *Assessment of the resilience of homes in relation to the impacts of aging*, by Braga and Villa, employs questionnaires and conducts direct observations in 11 homes of the *Minha Casa Minha Vida (MCMV)* housing program in Minas Gerais to assess housing resilience in relation to aging. The results highlight aspects that require special attention, mainly related to vision (lighting, window openings), mobility (doorways, steps), and temperature, among other factors.

Finally, the paper *Spatial relationships and sensitive environments in the daily lives of elderly people with Alzheimer's disease*, by Salarini da Rosa, Duarte, and Damazio addresses a specialized housing subgenre for Alzheimer's patients, presenting an ethnographic study based on four women living in a long-term care institution. Through an engaging narrative, the authors describe spatial relationships and objects that trigger emotional memories, identifying nodal points in space – those that foster interpersonal or nature-based interactions. These aspects should inform an architecture that is more sensitive to the needs of this stage of life – one to which we all aspire to reach.

With this and the previous issue, we aim to initiate a broad debate in Brazil – and across Latin America – on the urgent need to recognize that aging is a situated process, and that it is impossible to study this phenomenon without being immersed in the habitat, territory, and space – a call addressed to architects and urban planners.