

RUTH RIVERA DE CORONEL
COMMENTARY CONCERNING THE
REMODELLING OF THE URBAN CENTRE
OF MEXICO CITY

The objective of restoring what we could call in the future the "Historical Heart of Mexico City", is the protection of a peoples' cultural and architectural heritage.

This new project is based on the dynamic socio-economic evolution of our city, and would create an area incorporating the principal monuments and constructions that have survived the constant transformation of the urban center. The government, with the participation and advice of private enterprise, hopes to integrate these elements in an extensive project of urban renewal.

By means of a large network of streets and highways, the *plazas* and buildings will recover their proper proportions. They will represent what today constitutes our pride in the past: a fusion of pre-historic and european culture. The first university in America, the first printing press, the first hospital, the Plaza of Santo Domingo, the Building of the Inquisition, the Cathedral and the Plaza of the Constitution are all included in this area, which by its very nature is a historical monument of the culture of Mexico and Latin America.

The criteria in resolving the traffic problem, will assure the visitor easy circulation and will guarantee him the opportunity to contemplate and enjoy the architectural treasures fully. These, abundant in plastic expressions, will have their true character restored by the dignity of their original materials. Among the objectives of this project is that of providing function, purpose and use for these architectural elements, thus incorporating them into the life of the city.

The anarchistic development of the urban areas has been in the process of rectification. Examples of this are the new traffic systems, the amplification of the *Bosque de Chapultepec* Park and its transformation into a cultural center zone. Here the Museums of Anthropology, of Botany, of Modern Art, and the Galleries of History such as "The struggle of the Mexican People for Their Liberty", are located next to the Castle of Chapultepec and modeled within the geological characteristics of the Hill of Chapulín. There are also the House on the Lake, a University institution, and the amplification of the Zoological Park.

There has also been a reconstruction of high density living areas. Modern living units have been created, such as the Nonoalco-Tlatelolco development, whose center is the Plaza of the Three Cultures.

On the basis of all we have mentioned, we affirm that in the foreseeable future, our city will have bettered not only its physical development, but its economical development as well. The civil and moral conciousness, transmitted from those who have dealt with the problems, to each individual, will de-

monstrate to them the importance of the protection and conservation of our cultural patrimony: symbol of the personality of a people.

The Project for the Remodeling of the Urban Center will give the city a "Historical Heart", it will be a fundamental contribution to the dignity of the Mexico City of the future.

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COMMENTAIRES SUR L'AMÉNAGEMENT
DU CENTRE URBAIN DE LA VILLE DE MEXICO.
RÉSUMÉ.

Le nouveau projet de restauration de ce qui pourra être appelé dans le futur « le Coeur historique de Mexico » veut créer une « région » incorporant les principaux monuments et constructions qui ont survécu aux transformations constantes du centre urbain. Au moyen d'un large réseau de rues et d'autoroutes, les plazas et les constructions retrouveront leurs propres proportions. Elles représenteront ce qui aujourd'hui constitue notre orgueil du passé: la fusion de la culture pré-hispanique et de la culture européenne.

Le critère, en résolvant le problème de la circulation, est d'assurer au visiteur une circulation facile et de lui garantir de pouvoir contempler à son aise les trésors architecturaux dans leur ensemble et d'en jouir pleinement. Ces trésors, qui abondent en expressions plastiques, retrouveront ainsi leur vrai caractère. Parmi les objectifs de ce projet se trouve celui de leur attribuer une fonction qui permette de les utiliser, c'est-à-dire de les incorporer à la vie de la Cité.