

ABSTRACT

This work presents itself as a study of the relations between political action and the production of the city space, focusing on the construction of popular housing in the peripheries through the perspective of women, focusing on the space occupied by women in the city. In this way, it seeks to understand the participation of women in the processes of housing production in *mutirão* collective construction, as well as its effects on the built space and the transformation of their political role in the city, based on the case study of the Paulo Freire housing, located in the district of Cidade Tiradentes, at the extreme of the East Zone of São Paulo. An analysis was made from three perspectives: the starting conditions for the *mutirão* - territory, municipal politics and the condition of women in society -, the project itself, contemplating design, construction and occupation and discussion about the potentialities and limits of this alternative way of producing popular housing. This analysis based itself on the use of bibliography as a theoretical basis, based on the analysis of gender, city and work, together with interviews and analysis of the project, highlighting the experiences and memories of the residents of the group. In this way, a discussion arose around the individual and collective transformations that affected the life of the *mutirão* women, which brought new perspectives on the processes of housing production by *mutirão*, highlighting their protagonism in all the different stages: the housing project, the organization and construction at the site and the political articulation that permeates this whole process. This study shows that these participatory processes can change the relationship between city, space and people. However, this process is restricted by the precarious conditions imposed on this part of the population. Only the act of building one's own house is not enough to transform the cities and oppressive relations that exist. Above all, it is interesting as a production process because of the other relationship that exists between work and the worker, especially compared to conventional construction. The gender particularities are also very marked in all the stages: a group of people who usually are not part of the decision-making and are in a situation of vulnerability can find strength through the formation of this collective.

Keywords: Women; Collective construction; Self-management; São Paulo