

Tamanduateí yesterday and today: perspectives for an urban river

La Tamanduateí hier et demain: perspectives pour une rivière urbaine

Introduction

- The Tamanduateí river was essential for the formation of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo (MRSP)'s cities (Mauá, Santo André, São Caetano and São Paulo), growing along the river's margins, as it was a means of transportation, provision of food and water and leisure for them.
- This valorisation of the river was turned over mainly after the fulfilment of the engineer Francisco Prestes Maia's (1896-1965) Plan of Avenues, in the 1930s onwards, with the rectification, channelization of the river and its confinement between marginal avenues.
- Since the 1980s new experiences of revitalization of urban rivers have been arousing all around the world, part of a global movement for the acknowledgment of the role of rivers and their importance in the urban fabric.
- Our findings specific to the MRSP show that both examples of the old, aggressive approach to the river, as well as the new manifestations of inclusion and reconnection to the river have been arousing along the Tamanduateí with different actors shaping contrasting experiences:

- The interests promoted by high profit water retention tanks and avenues
- Urban projects integrating citizens and nature and smaller scale social projects and community initiatives.

We aim to, through analysing both practices, bring forward discussion of what could be done to bring the Tamanduateí and human interactions back and to, indeed, revitalize this urban river.

Methods

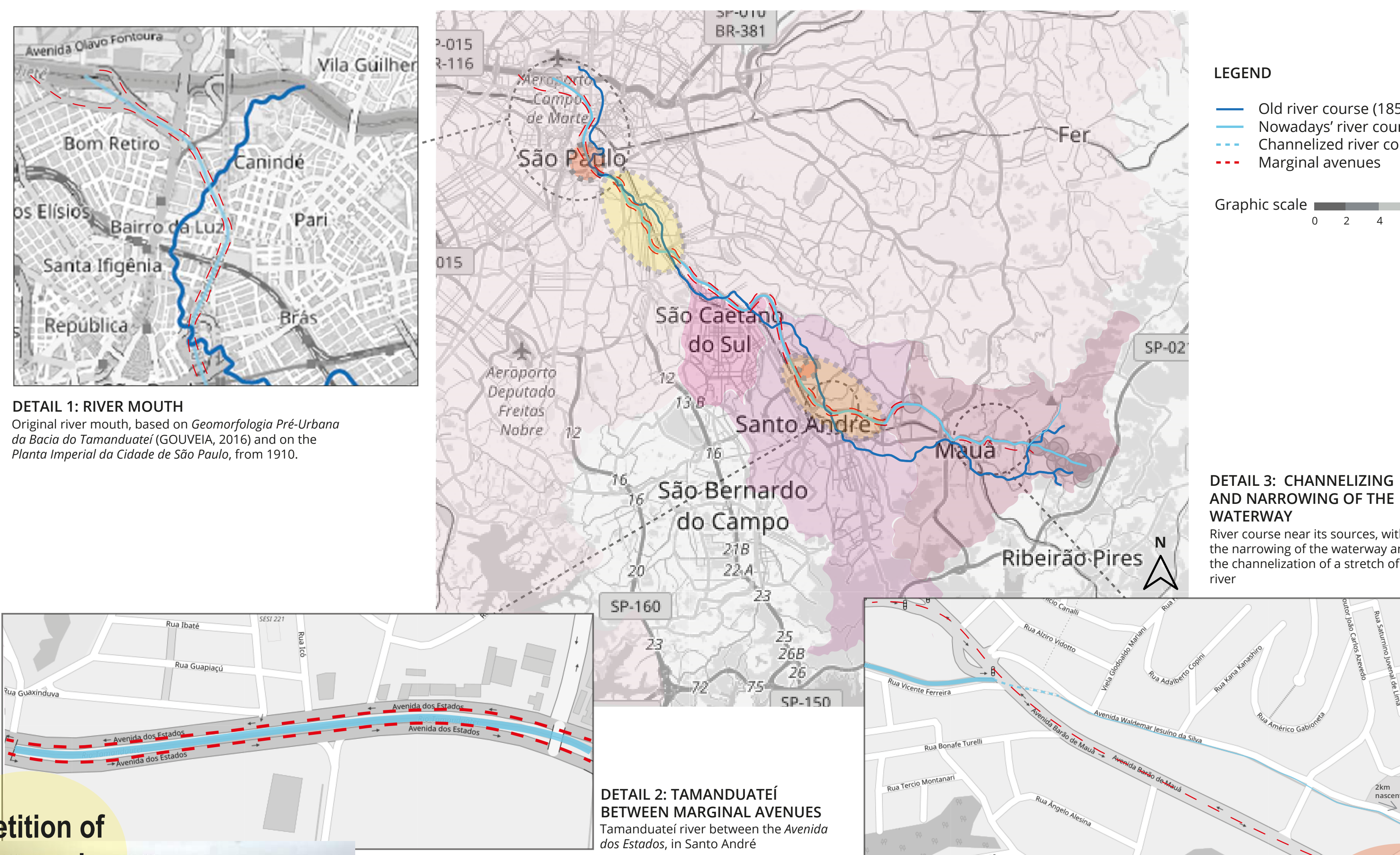
- Literary review of papers and books;
- Survey of projects, maps, photographs and newspapers on the cities' municipal archives
- Participation in expeditions and scientific events;
- Production of a river-cities timeline;
- Production of a critical-analytical text.

Results and Discussion

River-cities timeline

| 1. The river Tamanduateí in the formation of São Paulo (1500-1762) | 2. São Paulo and the ABCM in growth and the first transformations to the Tamanduateí (1762-1849) | 3. São Paulo in expansion and urban development and constitution of the cities in interaction with the Tamanduateí (1849-1889) | 4. Expansion and development in the Republican period and interventions in the Tamanduateí (1889-1930) | 5. Rodovionism, channelization and disconnection between river and Metropolitan Region of São Paulo (1930-1960) |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>1730 ABCM: Ceramic Production along the Tamanduateí's farms</p> <p>1760 SP: Increase occupation of the floodplains</p> <p>1849 SP: End of navigation in a stretch of the river</p> | <p>1850 SP: People ask for the river's original course</p> <p>1852 SP: Elite neighbourhoods in the highest territories</p> <p>1857 SP: Operary villages in the floodplains</p> | <p>1867 ABCM: Operary villages among the train</p> <p>1900 - SP e ABCM: More industries in the Tamanduateí area</p> <p>1920 - ABCM: allotments along the Tamanduateí</p> <p>1912 ABCM: Law N° 105: Free exploration of the river by the industry</p> <p>1923 ABCM: Ceramic industries in Mauá</p> <p>1950 - SP e ABCM: Increase in pollution of the river - water improper for using</p> <p>1960 - ABCM: Increased complaints about house floodings</p> | <p>1963 ABCM: Tamanduateí waters deemed scarce</p> | |
| <p>1744 SP: First water fountain</p> <p>1782-1786 SP: rectification in the "Várzea do Carmo" (Carmo's Floodplain)</p> | <p>1810 SP: Ditch along the "Várzea do Carmo"</p> <p>1848-1851 SP: Bresser's Rectification Plan: 7 turns, change of mouth and grounding of floodplain</p> | <p>1872-1875 - SP: Ilha dos Amores (Lover's Island) in the Tamanduateí</p> <p>1882 SP: Water supply</p> <p>1893-1897 SP: Channelization of the Tamanduateí</p> <p>1892 SP: Destruction of the water fountains</p> | <p>1905 - SP: Marginal avenues = Avenida do Estado</p> <p>1922 - SP: Park Dom Pedro II in the Várzea do Carmo</p> <p>1930, 1938-1945 SP: Prestes Maia's Plan of Avenues</p> <p>1945 SP: Increase of marginal avenues</p> <p>1966-1978-1998 SP e ABCM: Channelization of Tamanduateí in MRSP</p> | <p>1971-1980 ABCM: Marginal Tamanduateí = Avenida dos Estados</p> <p>1973 ABCM: Formalization of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo (MRSP)</p> |
| <p>1553 ABCM: Village of Santo André</p> <p>1554 SP: São Paulo de Piratininga</p> <p>1711 SP: São Paulo becomes a city</p> | <p>1850 - Richness from coffee production in São Paulo</p> <p>1877 ABCM: Colonial nuclei São Caetano and São Bernardo among the Tamanduateí</p> | <p>1890-1914 SP e ABCM: Immigration</p> <p>1889 - ABCM: Light and Power Co. = electrical provision of electricity</p> <p>1910 ABCM: District of Santo André</p> <p>1949 ABCM: County of São Caetano do Sul</p> <p>1953 ABCM: County of Mauá</p> <p>1960 Juscelino Kubistchek: incentive to the use of the car</p> | <p>1953 ABCM: County of Mauá</p> <p>1960 Juscelino Kubistchek: incentive to the use of the car</p> | |
| Colony | Reign | Empire | Old Republic | Vargas Age |

1980's onwards: River-cities/ citizens' relationships



Conclusions

As a conclusion, we could realize that the disconnected relationship the Tamanduateí has had with the citizens of the MRSP since the 20th century has been progressively – although slowly – transforming, since the 1990s with popular initiatives and new urban projects. About such projects and their implementation we could conclude:

- Effective transformation in this relationship has to go through a cultural change in the perception of the river, regarding its social value and enormous potential in uniting people, cities, fauna, flora, mobility and leisure;
- Many of these latter new initiatives - especially the bigger ones, made by public and private investments - weren't concluded or done as were initially planned, with and promoting real connection to the river;
- The smaller, more punctual projects, could reach more connection to the river, however small the scale of the intervention was.
- The river is a common good and a natural living structure, society has to understand and relate to those values so that old and aggressive practices don't continue to be implemented by actors more connected to the land value and profit generated by such practices.

References

- GORSKI, M. C. B. (2010). Rios e cidades: ruptura e reconciliação. São Paulo: Editora SENAC São Paulo., 2010.
- RAMALHO, Daniela. Rio Tamanduateí: da nascente à foz: percepções da paisagem e processos participativos. Dissertação (Mestrado em Arquitetura e Urbanismo) – Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2005.