LIVING
ON
A
LARGE
SCALE

Inhabiting is not just occupying a physical space; it is having an intimate relationship with the surroundings. When we inhabit, we bring places to life, filling them with meaning and memories. Inhabiting also implies care, attention, and responsibility toward what surrounds us. It is an invitation to be aware of our footprint, of how we interact with nature, objects, and people. Inhabiting is about building an ongoing dialogue between the self and the space.

Inhabiting can be entirely different for each individual, influenced by countless factors that make the experience of living unique for every living being. Inhabiting a big city and a small town offers very contrasting experiences. In a big city, life tends to be faster-paced and filled with stimuli. There is an abundance of services, entertainment, and job opportunities, but also a sense of anonymity and often a disconnection from nature. The senses become overwhelmed by constant noise, traffic, and crowds of people.

On the other hand, living in a small town offers greater tranquility, with a slower rhythm and a closer connection to the natural environment and the community. Relationships are often more intimate, and the sense of belonging is stronger. However, there may be less access to services or resources, requiring more dependence on local offerings or traveling to other cities.

Living in the city is a sensory and complex experience, where urbanism and daily life intertwine to generate dynamics that impact both individuals and the collective. Urbanism, whether planned or emergent, shapes how we interact with our surroundings, dictating how we move, relate, and perceive spaces.

In cities that have grown organically, without strict planning, there is a diversity that invites discovery. Old neighbourhoods, local markets, and squares create an emotional connection that goes beyond functionality; they are spaces that stimulate the senses: the smell of street food, the sound of conversations on a corner, the texture of buildings with history. These elements create a sense of belonging that is often lost in overly planned and homogeneous spaces.

Cities are also the stage for social tensions and conflicts. Inequality is reflected in spatial division: wealthy neighbourhoods with quality services and large green areas contrast with marginal zones, where access to infrastructure is limited. This spatial segregation creates barriers, not only physical but also social and economic, creating tensions between different groups. Urban design can either aggravate or mitigate these inequalities, depending on whether inclusive policies are prioritized, or exclusionary structures are reinforced.

The challenge for modern cities is to integrate big dimensions in an equitable and sustainable manner, ensuring that all the citizen can live, move, and enjoy the city fully and without barriers.