

## Knowledge that Disqualifies: The reinforced concrete system in Brazilian building construction

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In Brazil it is the common belief that the technological lag in building construction would be the result of workers' lack of qualification. Thus the building construction industry would fulfill a social task, employing a huge mass of unskilled workers who do not find jobs in other branches of industry. Nevertheless, construction has always been a highly profitable activity and the basis of so-called national development. Concrete's diffusion began around the mid-1920s, precisely in the context in which construction activity was consolidated in the construction industry, concurrently with the Brazilian modern architecture's emergence, the architect's social rise and the reorganisation of work on the building site. The replacement of widespread construction techniques by the reinforced concrete system increased capitalist profit via the imposition of a new kind of division of labour. Besides not organising know-how at construction sites, the technology of reinforced concrete also destroys any type of apprenticeship beyond the mere training to perform heteronomous tasks.

### Biography:

Roberto Eustaáquio dos Santos is a Brazilian qualified Architect (UFMG, 1983), MArc(UFGM, 2002), and PhD in Education (UFMG, 2008). He is a Senior Lecturer teaching both on graduate and undergraduate programmes at the School of Architecture at UFGM, Brazil. He is a member of the research group at MOM (Living in Other Ways).