

# a dug into the air swimming-pool in Sao Paulo

Angelo Bucci  
2012

UT Austin  
PLATFORM, UTSOA's journal on the Poetics of Building

---

Clouds, drizzle, rain, snow or hail, in all its physical states water is related to sky.

However if we are requested to think about a [swimming] pool our imagination automatically starts to dig into the ground. Seas, lakes, and ponds maybe show why we react in that direction: mainstream, a pool as a piece of a lake. It makes sense, the image which corresponds to the word, water that rests smoothly on the ground. Water defines the surface.

But if I mention a specific pool, a water tank or a water tower, we first think about an elevated volume of water, a pool detached from the ground level. In this case, hydrostatic pressure is a requirement to fulfill pipes, to supply water. Water level holds a potential possibility.

While walking on the ground, the question would sound completely non-sense, anyway: where is the surface? In the specific sense of the word, surface has no layers or thickness. In this sense, if one walks in a city like Sao Paulo, actually the ground level does not correspond to the surface anymore. There are some pieces of the ground that has not been touched by the sun light for decades since buildings have permanently shaded them.

In this specific site, the neighborhood height was defined by law: 6m high. No side setbacks are required. A building shades the side site since the borderline. An east neighbor building shades it for the entire morning up to the noon, when the west neighbor building will start to shade it for the whole afternoon. I mean, here if I have to build a pool exposed to the sunlight it is crucial to define the surface: it is pretty flat six meters above the ground level.

The assumption here is like to swim in a water tower and to enjoy that potential as a design possibility. One more 'state' to the water related to the Sao Paulo sky.