

THE STATE IS NO LONGER A DRIVING FORCE FOR QUALITY HOUSING PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED FROM A STRATEGIC VISION FOR SOCIETY



DARWINIAN PHOENIX, CODE FOR HUMAN EVOLUTION AN EVOLUTIONARY URBAN REGENERATION DYNAMICS. A LIVING AND LEARNING CREATURE



THE STRANGENESS OF SOMETHING FAMILIAR TO RETHINKING THE NOTION OF HOMELAND AS SOMETHING THAT GOES BEYOND SOIL AND BLOOD

News from Portugal

June 20140114th International Architecture Exhibition Venice

hometown

DIRECTOR PEDRO CAMPOS COSTA

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Post-modern without ever having been modern?

Somewhere between the exotic and the peripheral, Portugal remains (even for the Portuguese) somewhat indecipherable. The mythical past and an unclear future collide in a present moment of crisis and commonplace – tragic destiny, now that the crisis has returned to once gain tax the people of this country, sentenced to swing back and forth between opulence and decadence without ever having found a happy medium between the two. We have been known to lose the plot; to start things without finishing them. Those who inhabit this space are the Portuguese, scattered all around the world in increasingly larger numbers and, occasionally, in their homeland. Forty years ago they lived under a dictatorship and had an empire. In 1974 there was a revolution, the empire was dissolved, democracy was instated and modernization came charging in; some thirty years later the country has seen more change than in the entire course of its history; we are now in the midst of a crisis in a foggy Europe – post-modern without ever having been modern; European and peripheral; nomads in the age of globalization. P.37

Portuguese architecture and film P.38



MIGUEL HENRIQUES

In Portugal as elsewhere, the way architectural modernity matured during the twentieth century was not simply a process of erasing national characteristics in favour of universal trends: it was a negotiated adoption of modernity tropes (of language and others) layered onto local custom and circumstance. The result was a varied and rich modern built environment, which can be discovered upon a closer inspection.

Portuguese Pavilion

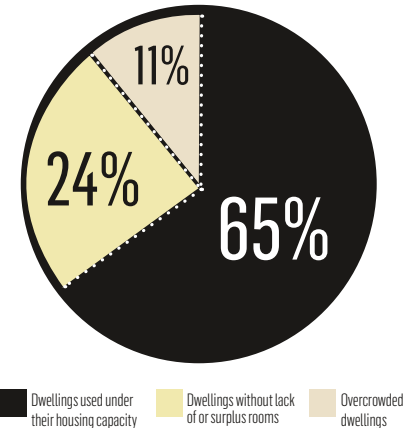
Portugal is officially represented at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia through a newspaper

Extensively distributed in different editions, over the six month period of the exhibition, Homeland, News from Portugal intends to report news about current architectural, social and economic life in Portugal, reflecting on and informing about a variety of aspects of the modernization of the country over the past 100 years. Specifically, Homeland aims to address the issues raised by architect Rem Koolhaas (Fundamentals – Absorbing Modernity: 1914-2014) through a critical and purposeful reflection on housing, a field of excellence for experimentation with modernity which has always been an essential element of urban and rural environments and a social and cultural reflection of its inhabitants.

Modern Housing 1914-2014, Porto and Lisbon P.04

55 notable examples of multi-family housing selected for their importance as prototypes of the last 100 years from Lisbon and Porto. Designed by such masters as Cassiano Branco, Ruy Athougua, Nuno Teotónio Pereira, Vítor Figueiredo, Fernando Távora, Conceição Silva, Alvaro Siza, Gonçalo Byrne, Eduardo Souto de Moura, they range from single-house clusters to terrace houses and urban high-rises. The buildings are illustrated with plans and photographs.

Housing Overview in 2011



Colective

1914/2014 Policies for social housing/ Alessia Allegri, Miguel Eufrásia

1933 Affordable Houses Programme
"A family that takes shelter under its own roof is naturally more economical, more stable and better constituted. That is why we are not interested in big phalansteries, the colossal constructions for housing the working class (...) To our independent character and to benefit our well-mannered simplicity, we rather wish for the small-sized, independent house, inhabited and fully owned by the family."



Alto da Ajuda / Alto da Serafina / Belém, Lisbon

1945 Affordable Rents Housing Initiative
"The Ramalde neighbourhood" was also the first, legitimate and even necessary opportunity to (...) erect our own Siemens neighbourhood, countering the narrow and petty bourgeois spirit of the recently finished Alvalade, with its functionalist method, with its outspoken subordination to façade exposure, with its concept of cure and free space, in a minutely defined zoning" Nuno Portas, 1961



Ramalde neighbourhood, by Fernando Távora (1952)

1974 Local Ambulatory Support Service
"There was never an attempt to prefigure the city, daily life or the forms of socialist life, there was never an attempt to elaborate a counterplan outside the realm of the dwellers' conscience. The point was to propose, through practice, a methodological alternative born out of a dynamic process of struggle and organization, which would constitute a process in itself and create its own provisional images and build its own theory." Alves Costa, 1978



Bairro da Bouça [Bouça neighbourhood], Porto

1993 Special Rehousing Programme
"For the construction of affordable housing, the State grants subsidized loans for both the purchase of land and respective infrastructure development, as well as the construction works; in addition to fiscal and para-fiscal benefits, materialized in the exemption or reduction of taxes, fees and other costs." Decree-law no. 162/93



Social Housing Estate, Lugar do Outeiro by João Álvaro Rocha, (1996-1999)

2004 Urban Rehabilitation Societies
(...) This [Porto municipal] policy rests on a deterministic logic of real-estate promotion of the "prêt-à-porter" kind, aimed at a medium to high "standard", abstract client, in detriment of a participatory (re)housing process. That logic in fact leads to the destruction and imperviousness of the central core of neighbourhoods, because it relies on "urban cosmetic" operations, where usually very little is left of the pre-existing fabric beyond the scenography of historical façades." Nuno Grande, 2013



Quarteirão das Cardosas [Cardosas Block], Porto

On the verge of a nervous breakdown

Can revolutionary verve trigger a new engagement between architecture and politics?

MIGUEL EUFRÁSIA

The widespread demonstrations that took place in North African (Arab Spring), North American (Occupy Wall Street) and European cities (the Indignados) illustrate how the contemporary condition is characterized by a growing, and generalised, sentiment of discontent and social dispute towards the Democratic ideals in a world increasingly dominated by the ever-expanding processes of Globalization. The choice of public space as the place in which to show public dissatisfaction seems an all too obvious one, but there is no overstating the capacity of public space to function as a vehicle of collective cohesion. In this respect, it is revealing to consider, for instance, that the 2013 Turkish protests were triggered by the government's intention to privatize (by building a shopping centre) a public space in Istanbul, the Taksim Gezi Park. In Portugal, the frequent protests targeting the austerity reforms, illustrate the generalised depressing disbelief in the future, in progress, in politicians, in politics and its institutions. The social welfare state is in regression, 4 out of 10 employees have had salary cuts, youth unemployment rate is of 35% and someone emigrates every 4 minutes, so it does not come as a surprise that social tension is very high.

"Architecture or Revolution. Revolution can be avoided." These are the last words in Le Corbusier's 1922's "Towards a New Architecture", arguably the single most important architectural document of the 20th century. "It is the question of building which lies at the root of the social unrest today", he argues. Despite celebrating the technological revolution sparked by scientific and industrial progress, for Le Corbusier, architecture's core task is to address social dissatisfaction, and therefore, to abort social turmoil. Urban transformations brought on by Modern Architecture, especially to Housing, would become the revolution's avatar. Ninety-two years later, the question of how Architecture can represent and embody the Collective appears to be even more relevant, but more importantly, it seems as though the debate has only just begun.

If the convergence between social goals and economic rationality was at the core of the Heroic Modernity's



Public Workers Protest, Lisbon, 14-03-2014. Notwithstanding the ubiquity of social media, these overwhelming exercises of the Collective show the resilience and the vigor of the intimate nexus between citizen rights and urban space. Transformation of the city seems to be an indispensable prefiguration of potential change in democracy. RITA FUZA

“Architecture or revolution. Revolution can be avoided.” These are the last words on Le Corbusier’s 1922’s Towards a New Architecture

promises of a better future, today's world reveals a clear and present rupture between the two. As Boaventura Sousa Santos puts it “we are the heirs of Modernity's promises and, though the promises were auspicious and grandiose (equality, liberty, fraternity), we have accumulated a spoil of debt”. This becomes exceedingly noticeable in the European countries in crisis, the derogatorily branded PIIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain). Therefore, the state of crisis sets an appropriate stage for a critical analysis of the achievements of the Modern Project and its erosive effect on the values and institutions that structure the Collective domain.

In the Portuguese cities, the inexistence of public investment, narrow prospects of future private commissions and scarce design competitions have caused an enduring stagnation of the real-estate and construction sector and the appearance of a new substance: unfinished and abandoned buildings. It seems contradictory that, in a country in crisis, the 'rationality' of the system dictates the waste

of resources and energy, furthering the deterioration of the public realm and the dissolution of the social fabric. These aborted urbanscapes unveil the fundamental inner pathology of a fully-functioning irrational capitalist system, but ultimately, they epitomise Contemporary Architecture's failure to respond to Collective concerns. In the current state of affairs, how can architecture counter

market speculation without compromising its very existence? Should housing be erased from the architect's agenda in the coming years? How can architecture remain a vital force in Portuguese contemporary cities? Can we become modern once again? Should we scrap Modernity's extraordinary conquests regarding housing? Or trigger revolution and forget architecture? How can a responsible answer take shape?

The project Architecture and Crisis: Summoning the collective will explore a possible escape route from the straightjacket that currently constrains the architectural profession. It has the objective of addressing the challenges posed by the current crisis in Portugal by directly engaging architecture's political agency in the construction of critically responsive new models that assemble and mediate the interests of the multiple stakeholders that converge on the architectural project today. It is not an ambitious proposal; It is a rather orthodox vindication. Architecture or Revolution?

CRISIS QUOTES

“Residential mortgage markets are now equivalent to more than 40 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in developed countries. (...) When a country's system is more developed and mature, the public sector can encourage a secondary mortgage market, develop financial innovations, and expand the securitization of mortgages. Occupant-owned housing, usually a household's largest single asset by far, is important in wealth creation, social security and politics.”
World Bank's World Development Report, Reshaping Economic Geography, 2009

“In 1994, Portuguese banks had loaned out 3 thousand million euros for housing purchase. In 2007, the value raised 5 fold: 15 thousand million. When the crisis happened, the total sum of outstanding mortgage credits was 104 thousand million euros, a much higher amount than the 78 thousand million of the troika loan package. (...) In less than 10 years, the banks depleted the Portuguese families' debt limits. We broke all the records. Between 1999 and 2001, 3 out of every 4 loans concerned housing purchase. In fact, the Portuguese bankers built a marble tower on a swamp. And it is a mix of cheap money, absolute self-reliance, euphoria, and belief in the virtue of the alleged virtues of financial innovations that has brought us to this point.”
The destructive power of finance: real estate, offshore and shadow-banking, Público, 13 april 2013

“More than 11m homes lie empty across Europe – enough to house all of the continent's homeless twice over (...) hundreds of thousands of half-built homes have been bulldozed in an attempt to shore up the prices of existing properties. (...) In Spain more than 3.4m homes lie vacant (...) The Spanish government estimates that an additional 500,000 part-built homes have been abandoned by construction companies across the country. During the housing boom, which saw prices rise by 44% between 2004-08, Spanish builders knocked up new homes at a rate of more than 800,000 a year. (...) In Portugal there are 735,000 vacant properties – a 35% increase since 2001 – according to the 2011 census.”

Scandal of Europe's 11m empty homes – Housing campaigners denounce 'shocking waste' of homes lying empty while millions cry out for shelter in The Guardian, 23 february 2014

“Many people no longer trust mainstream politicians. Worst of all, many are losing faith in democracy itself. This antiestablishment, anti-foreigner, anti-EU mood is fertile ground for extremists and snake-oil salesmen. Xenophobic and reactionary parties such as Britain's Ukip and France's Front National look set to do exceptionally well. They peddle a return to a romanticised past when the world seemed less threatening: when Europe was less open, less diverse and everyone knew their place. Europe desperately needs to change. We need a European Spring: economic and political renewal.”
The eurozone crisis has tipped many into disillusionment, despair and extremism – we need a European Spring – The Independent, 27 april 2014

Colective



Architectural crisis

“Crisis could not be more architectural, or less. The field of architecture is devoted to suppressing a sense of crisis but is propelled by the very thing it represses. As the art of limits, architecture is always in dialectic with crisis. The most crucial insights into the evolutions, complications, and responsibilities of the field can be found within the most traumatic scenes.”

MARK WIGLEY, SPACE IN CRISIS, 2014

In this recent text, Mark Wigley focuses on the intricate and underrated relationship between crisis and architecture. On the one hand he states that to declare a crisis is to declare the need for architecture, and focuses on the paradoxical idea that architectural design it is propelled by crisis but at the same time its purpose is to removing the sense of crisis. On the other hand, Wigley portrays crisis as a potential and inventive force stating that 'since the nineteenth century, theorists have often portrayed crisis as a primary agent of forward progress in all aspects of individual and collective life', conjecturing that 'it could be that every part of the built environment has been shaped by prior crises'. To Wigley, Crisis is a crucial, unacknowledged and recurrent concept in Architecture, acting as an avant-garde trigger. However, the actual experience of crisis is not so intellectually stimulating. It is one of dramatic and intensified standoff between Social values and Economic processes.

“The right to the city is far more than the individual liberty to access urban resources: it is a right to change ourselves by changing the city. It is, moreover, a common rather than an individual right since this transformation inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power to reshape the processes of urbanization. The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is, I want to argue, one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights.”

DAVID HARVEY, THE RIGHT TO THE CITY, 2008

The problem with the increasing inter-twinement between urban substances and the processes of capitalism is that the former has an ever-present readiness to segregate urban space when time comes to accumulate and distribute the profits. This is the main reason why the aborted urbanscapes of unfinished buildings emerge as such a remarkable example of the embodiment of the on-going short-circuit between architecture, economy and politics. But, in a state of crisis, if architecture is to instigate urban transformation regarding the needs and ambitions of the collective, thereby opposing to leave the city in the hands of the market (as David Harvey seems to be suggesting), its manoeuvring space seems to be primarily located in the realm of micropolitics rather than of straightforward design practice. This is not to suggest a new focus on architecture's role as a representation of political concepts or to posit revolution as architecture's political ambition. It is to push for the clarification of the current state of affairs and to directly engage with the 'real', allowing experimental models and proposals to emerge from these processes. Ultimately, it is a call for the constitution of a political agency in Architecture as an effective tool to produce change.

Colective



Crisis intensifies the visibility of the (lightly debated) influence of economics in urban transformations and architectural criteria. Moscovide #12 HELDER SOUSA

Summoning the collective

The first venture: An unfinished building in Moscovide

ADOC
& MIGUEL EUFRÁSIA

A survey carried out in the Loures Council unsurprisingly pinned down several unfinished and empty buildings. One of them, located in the vibrant, compact and well connected urban setting of Moscovide(38°46'53.13"N; 9° 6'11.12"W), assembled the ideal requirements for our venture. It is a 100x180m, 3 storey bare concrete structure (see apicture above), which was designed for 37 300 m2 of commercial and office space plus 36 000 m2 of belowground parking space. Its construction had halted due to the failure in finding potential buyers. However, precisely because of its impending usage (commerce), with qualities such as the forthrightly exposed concrete slabs, columns and staircases, high ceiling heights and spatial flexibility, the structure condenses an immanent potentialthat in a way resonates with

The state of Crisis does not imply a lesser need for Architectural ingenuity. On the contrary, Crisis demands an increase of out-of-the-box thinking and radical intervention

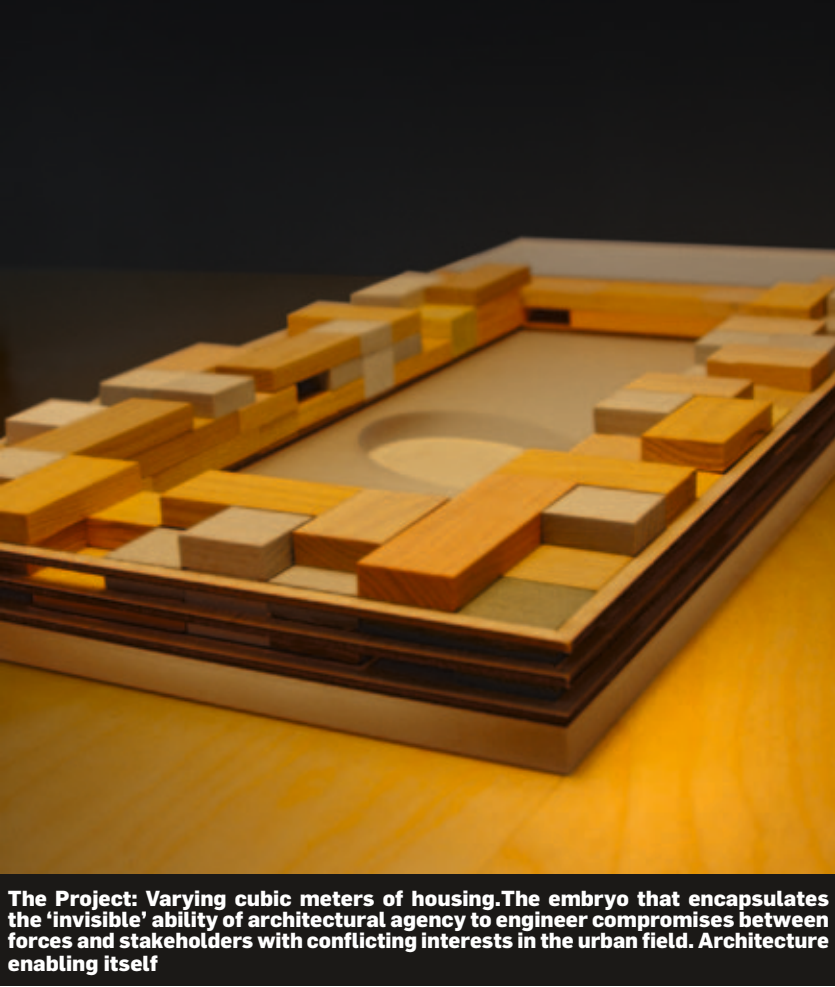
Le Corbusier's 1914's Dom-ino prototype. Therefore, this project can be understood both as a tribute and a site-specific, contextual and retroactive departure from the pervasive Modernist model.

The project

The Summoning the Collective initiative gathered the necessary information and drafted a proposal converting of the oversized and futureless commercial construction into a 'no-frills' tailor-made housing experiment, maximizing typology diversity, ensuring future spatial adaptability as a method to warrant financial and economic feasibility. Surprisingly, the city council, the proprietor, the developer and the building company, displayed enthusiastic support for the project. Through the mediation of architectural agency, financial and bureaucratic stalemates have been overcome, but further challenges lie ahead. One of the project's economically indispensable premisses is the reduction of structural changes to a bare minimum, that is to say, to undertake the already built construction as an *object trouvé*. However, features such as the depth of 22m, the 4m floor to ceiling, the position and the size of existing staircases raises flags regarding building regulations and municipal planning law. In fact, even if light abundance, air salubrity and spatial quality are ensured by fragmenting the built mass (see model picture on the right), a strict reading of current legal framework can thwart this or any housing project for the site, an issue that reveals a lack of touch with contemporary reality that will be addressed further on.

The Politics

The state of Crisis does not imply a lesser need for Architectural ingenu-



The Project: Varying cubic meters of housing.The embryo that encapsulates the 'invisible' ability of architectural agency to engineer compromises between forces and stakeholders with conflicting interests in the urban field. Architecture enabling itself

ity. On the contrary, Crisis demands an increase of out-of-the-box thinking and radical intervention. The current gridlock in the real estate market and the construction sector forces all of its agents to make structural changes and to search for innovative practices if they want to endure. This is the reason why this is such an absolutely unique opportunity for architecture to destabilize current homogenised procedures and models that compose urban

planning: Crisis opens up the prospect for the intensification of Architecture's operative influence regarding the decision-making forces in the contemporary city. The Summoning the Collective project intends to exemplify the possibility of a more micro-politically engaged architectural practice. The project will be developed throughout the three issues of Homeland and will continue beyond the 2014 Venice Biennale.

LOURES CITY HALL

TIAGO MATIAS
Alderman for Urbanism

Beyond crisis

The participation of the municipality of Loures in the Portuguese representation at the Venice Biennaleoccurs during the review and public discussion of its main instrument for managing the territory – the Municipality Local Development Plan.

At a time when interests act quickly on issues that occur mostly in major urban centres, how can this document facilitate interventions that introduce positive reactions? The challenge that is being proposed for the Municipality of Loures as part of the participation at the Venice Biennale could be one of the answers!

In a moment of near paralysis in construction, it is interesting to re-think the priorities of intervening in the territory. Ensure better quality of public space and better public facilities; complete unfinished housing projects (also a result of the economic difficulties of this sector) are priorities in city planning.

The Lawful expectation of seeing built the green spaces, playgrounds, schools or a sports facility, that were patent in the drawings of the urbanization plans when a person purchases a house, may even become a requirement of the residents for a better quality of life.

The needs of citizens and politicians are, nowadays, so different from the past. Loures has, beyond the structural imbalances of a city belonging to the Lisbon metropolitan area, with an excess of "dormitory areas" that need balancing, a lot of unfinished construction that might have a solution.

The needs of citizens and politicians are, nowadays, so different from the past.

The theme proposed to Loures – Convene the Collective – “*aims to initiate and coordinate procedures that allow the conclusion of an incomplete building whose works have been suspended and which have not seen any expectation of being taken over*”. Thus, this subject is most current in the context of the reality of our territory.

Convene the architecture, through the redefinition of existing uses and often deteriorated and abandoned spaces can, and should, be synonymous of transformation and revitalization of our territory, in order to have more balanced urban experiences in the future.

The Municipality of Loures still believes that this is a possible way for the transformation of urban territories, and the opportunity presented by this project – being developed in the scope of Portugal's participation at the Venice Biennale's – with the coordination of a team of designers and developers, should be a vehicle able to produce great transformation.

But what is really crucial is the chance to experiment with new forms of urban intervention, meaning that for different urban situations there should be innovative ways of acting.

Beyond the crisis and beyond the pause or halted construction developments, the key signal is that we mustn't stop and there are many ways of dealing with the same issues in a broad partnership, and liaising with the agents that intervene on the territory. Therefore, the population as a critical mass of these territories is an agent who can never be forgotten and must always be part of the urban equation.

Politics

Be here now: wasted homeland

Dichotomy between center and periphery today does not make sense, it has arrived the time for rebuild and demolish



Rua General Silva Freire, Olivais, Lisbon MIGUEL HENRIQUES

RICARDO CARVALHO
Founder Partner at Ricardo Carvalho + Joana Vilhena Architects and head of the Department of Architecture UAL, Lisbon

The open city

The point of arrival of the contemporary city in general, not only in Portugal, is a far cry from the learned debates about the polis. A far cry from a possibility of citizenship that emanated from a radiant centre of enlightened power. The city's limits are no longer set by its founding neighbourhoods, its symbolic places, nor does it even attempt to replicate that idea of centre. It is a vast subjective city, a fractal metropolis that no longer has an identifiable centre and is now founded on ambiguity and de-politicization, often without the boundaries that separate private from public – as described by the philosopher Giorgio Agamben.

Portuguese architecture has known times when the experience of collective housing laid the foundation for policy. In the 1940s with the Alvalade neighbourhood in Lisbon, a social city/garden city; later with the "new-town" of Olivais in Lisbon or the participatory approach to architecture of the

the practice of land division, the uncritical cutting up of the territory and housing that is not a certainty for everybody coincides with the State no longer taking on the responsibility of creating housing with a social interest.

The subjective city

The Greater Lisbon area displays all the themes of the contemporary city, though not entirely free from conflict with a more traditional idea of city. The country's 40 years of democracy do not seem to have brought into question the fledgling public space, the dubious access to public transports, the absence of leisure areas or presence of qualified architecture – at least in public buildings. But the fact is that this rarefaction of the metropolitan city has not stopped life and generations of citizens from running their course, and this urban world,

S.A.A.L. operations – mobile (pode sair) architectural units set up to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing following the carnation revolution. With these projects a recognizable effort was made by several generations to use housing as a tool for policy, but for today's generations of architects there is nothing like it that they can hope for.

The subjective city

For the last two decades, any type of housing, regardless of its spatial characteristics and organization, solar exposure, connection to public space or access to public transports, was easily sold, through credit, to a population that concentrated itself in large metropolitan areas.

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young by opposition to the ageing centres, from being perceived as city.

This is already the younger generations' memory of the city.

Today, the centre-periphery dichotomy is anachronistic. Characteristics of the periphery can be found to exist inside the city. Neighbourhoods meant for middle classes, with purchasing power, have no added value when compared with peripheral neighbourhoods. The building and construction industry has become everyman's opportunity, as the urban expanse is increasingly scattered. Investment in suburban motorways accelerated the process. The car is the key element in this off-balance system.

This new, fast and discontinuous city that involved centres and generated metropolitan areas could not be farther from the models imagined by learned urban design and city-engaged architecture. The Olivais model, designed in the 50s, affirmed an alternative to the city championed by the historical vanguards.

The scattering of buildings across the landscape, with trees surrounding the buildings, stands as its most obvious characteristic. The buildings' autonomy has allowed for a large variety of types.

Demolized for decades even by architects, this neighbourhood emerges today as symbol of an effort that could hardly be reproduced in the contemporary world. An alternative to the speedy, discontinuous periphery – semi-rural settlements pressured by urban growth. Its social and even morphological heterogeneity affirms an unexpected, collective space with public spaces where cafés and shops coincide.

But public funded housing development, capable of actual city-building, lost steam after this endeavour. Bureaucratic tools of planning and the cir-

cumstances of its absence were unable to replicate past experiences. Today, the subjective city holds but few instances capable of fixating urban life – this is a city of brief moments, not systems, and so architecture takes on a prominent role in creating places.

The challenge of the new city

Democracy's 40 years of existence were also times when the static character of neighbourhoods changed. Researchers do not always agree about whether gentrification processes are present, or how they happen. But the fact is that a return to the historical city is only possible with these tensions between new inhabitants and the original ones (the ageing population). Bouça, an old fragment of the participatory housing process in Porto, was completed in 2006. Álvaro Siza's design is nowadays much more than a housing project with social interest, born of a revolutionary dream, that it once was.

It is a small, socially heterogeneous neighbourhood, unique in its architectural features that allows for a collective way of life – both open and protected. Today, at a time when urban rehabilitation seems to be the most operative form for architects to participate in the city, it is well worth returning to this heritage, and think about a strategy for intervening in the city based on the complex identity of each neighbourhood.

Demolition will also be inevitable. But in past decades, the rhetoric of increasing the space for circulation allowed for the biggest atrocities to be committed to the urban form of Portuguese cities. The appeal of demolition poses a vital question: how can we guarantee the quality of what will be built in its place? That is the challenge for architects.



Rua Sargento Armando Monteiro, Olivais, Lisbon MIGUEL HENRIQUES

Call for tenants

In Portugal 4 out of 5 people live in an owner-occupied home, whilst the remaining are tenants. Facing this reality the government is making an effort to change the country's housing structure by introducing programs to encourage and facilitate citizens to rent instead of buying their own homes.

The first public incentive to be launched in 2007 was Porta 65 Jovem (Door 65 Youth). Through this program, youngsters from 18 to 30 years old, can benefit from a monthly support for their rents, a percentage based on their incomes and social situation. In the last years the average wages from the selected candidates were between 727 to 1455 Euros. For those choosing to live in historic centers the funding increases 10 to 20%.

In the archipelago of Azores, it's autonomous government felt the need to adapt this program to it's local reality, so in 2009 it began Famílias com Futuro (Families with future), which extended its cut-off age for applicants to 35 and focused on young families, rather than individuals. Around 1000 families under this program are being helped with an average of 184 euros a month and in the last year the candidates increased 37%, indicating the initiative is being effective.

Joana Oliveira



T2+Marquise

Glazed structures that end in balconies earned in the real estate the statute of rooms! During the XXth century the illegal proliferation of the marquises brought a new image to the Portuguese urban landscape. To build a marquise would end up being much more than an illegal process, or the negligence of the global esthetics: it became a cultural action. This is a consequence of the space appropriation freedom when there isn't enough space or the antique housing typologies don't suit the now-a-days necessities, and the difficulty of legalizing the marquises is a constant battle to the bureaucracies, taxes and the missing of mutual consensus.

During the XXIst century, the awakening to the impact and roots of the marquises' trend took us to reversed opinions and initiatives. In 2009, Luis Mesquita Dias, Unilever manager, created an impacting anti-marquises campaign. The autarchies of Oeiras (2002) and Amadora (2011) challenged the residents to legalize them. Applications for urban rehabilitation programs (like Recria and Recriph) were flunked by illegal marquises. The real estate values this informal adaptation and marquises earned the statute of a room instead of being perceived just like a laundry or a tidying up space.

SARA NEVES