

Abstracts

I C A R 2 0 1 2

International Conference on Architectural Research

(RE)writing history

Editors

Beatrice-Gabriela Jöger, PhD Arch

Andra Panait, PhD Arch

Marina Mihăilă, PhD Arch

Daniel Comșa, PhD Arch

Abstracts - ICAR 2012



Design

Andra Panait, PhD Arch

We acknowledge the help in preparing this volume to the following assistants
PhD candidates: arch.Dorin Dascalu, arch.Ionuț Mândrișcanu, arch.Irina Pața,
arch. Livia Rus, arch.Matei Stoian, arch.Ovidiu Teleche.

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João Paulo Cardielos, PhD

Departamento de Arquitectura - FCTUC (PORTUGAL)

Architecture Department - Faculty of Sciences

and Technology - University of Coimbra

jcardielos@uc.pt

João Paulo CARDIELOS was born in Viana do Castelo, Portugal, 1963. He is Architect by Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto (FAUP 1986) and Ph.D. in Architecture by Universidade de Coimbra (2009) and also Auxiliary Professor at Departamento de Arquitectura da Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra. J.P.C. is a member of Scientific Committees of the Department of Architecture and Energy for Sustainability Initiative of University of Coimbra. He is also a member of CES (Center for Social Studies) where he is a researcher involved in some international cooperation projects. He has been Coordinator of the Integrated Masters Course in Architecture - UC (2009-11), President (2005-07) and Vice-President (2008-10) of NAAV - Núcleo de Arquitectos de Aveiro, da Ordem dos Arquitectos (national board of architects).

ARCHITECTURE PERCEPTION THROUGH A LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVE

João Paulo Cardielos, PhD

Abstract

This paper proposes an objective methodology to allow architectural analysis incorporating, or embedding creatively, the signals of a blossoming sensibility towards landscape, while rehearsing a parallel interpretative and critical analysis of the most recent architectural forms of expression. It is based on a simple set of descriptive (non-exhaustive) characteristics - that are commonly found in recent representative (or major) architectonic masterpieces, but also in some particular or more exquisite examples -, and allows double crossing, facilitating an easy and understandable interpretative grid. The purpose is all about setting a challenging reference to landscape, for a refreshed and stimulating critical sense over all architectonic reviews. We also seek to promote the development of discontented spirits in relation to disciplinary forms of architectural practice, while being part of a teaching method, or a mean to transform simple aspiring architects into active agents, committed or compromised with the conception of better landscaped architectures and friendly environments. There is no longer time to ignore or hide the pressure induced by the complex framework of territorial, cultural and social demands, under any type of formal reduction. The present condition requires from future professionals, involved in the reshaping of existing architectures into future spatial environments, much more than common projects or easy urban designs, demanding a committed architecture that progressively reinvents and strengthens the connections with a neighbouring-landscape, constantly improved. It's also important to remember that all architectures are new architectures, always, even when they deal with subjects like urban renewal or buildings refurbishment, or even when they reuse historical sites and emotional collective memories. All occidental architecture is, somehow, the rewriting of André Corboz's palimpsest, if we want to look at it, and understand it, like a landscape object or a neighbouring landscape. Indeed, neighbouring landscape, as a real landscape of proximity, is not only about social integration or desirable multicultural city, but the mode conception and designs or projects can enable a comprehensive recognition of dreams and aspirations recombined, as a reflect of local societies committed to their landscapes, out in their own places and time, and looking at the future of urban and environmental condition with the same optimism. In an indirect way this paper also addresses some emerging problems, such as the new type of citizen's movements that start to participate in the government of cities and in decision support, under the pressure of the media and other queries on-going about urban democracy, questioning urban development and other related city forms and regeneration designs. Advantages may be as promising as risks if one doesn't establish very effective dialogue conditions to mediate, in real time, the inevitable tension due to divergences that always anticipate collective consensus. Free participation, that is usually quite poorly informed cultural and technically, may constrain or even prevent city's governments of that desirable experimental and exploratory capacity that urban forms have always revealed, through a strong palimpsest, inhibiting all effective developing capacities and quick progressive jumps.

Keywords: architecture, landscape, neighbouring landscape, architectonic perception, research and design, teaching instruments, environmental requalification.