Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

- Paper / Proposal Title:

Depicting architecture through fiction short-films. The case-study of the research project Silent Rupture

- Author(s) Name:

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- University or Company Affiliation:

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- Presentation Method. I would like to:

i. present in person (with a written paper)

- Abstract (300 words):

The research project Silent Rupture (Faculty of Architecture, University of Porto) studied the intersections between architecture and cinema in the Portuguese 1960s and early 1970s. This period was marked by dramatic social, cultural and political events and embodied a new vision of space and the city both in architecture and film. Drawing on a range of disciplinary approaches, Silent Rupture shared insight into a filmic discourse on architectural design as well as a spatial reading of film, crossing the boundaries of both disciplines. Outcomes include filmed interviews with notable architects and filmmakers, publication of books and the journal JACK (Journal on Architecture and Cinema), organization of international conferences and summer courses, master and PhD dissertations and the creation of a new optional course on architecture and cinema at FAUP master’s programme. The research has been presented at multiple forums and has attracted wide media coverage, a sign of its scientific, cultural and social relevance. For the Moving Images - Static Spaces Conference, highlight will be given to the most public side of the research, the production of ten short-films that portray the key buildings being studied. Using moving images not merely as a means of architectural
representation but, first and foremost, as a process to explore space and its narrative qualities, the short-films explore the sense of place that derives from architectural usage, materials, light and sound. These short-films were presented at public events in cinema houses as well as film festivals and particular insight will be given into Sizígia (Luis Urbano, 2012), shot on location at Álvaro Siza’s ‘Leça Swimming-pool’, a short-film that received national and international acclaim.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Luis Urbano (1972) graduated in Architecture from the University of Coimbra, from where he later concluded a post-graduation in ‘Architecture, Territory and Memory’. He holds a PhD in Architecture from the Faculty of Architecture at University of Porto (2015), where he began teaching in 1999. Since then he has been lecturing in architecture schools, museums and conferences, chiefly focusing on the intersections between architecture and cinema. On this theme he has contributed with essays and reviews to academic journals and professional magazines. He has coordinated the international seminar ‘Designing Light’ (2007); the workshop ‘Cinemarchitecture’ (2008-2010); the summer course ‘Architecture and Film’ (2010-2012), and the research project ‘Silent Rupture. Intersections between architecture and film. Portugal, 1960-1974’ (2010-2013). He has edited the books ‘Designing Light’ (2007); ‘Perfect World: Fernando Guerra Photography’ (2008) and ‘Revolutions, Architecture and Cinema in the 1960s/70s’ (2013). He is the editor of ‘JACK- Journal on Architecture and Cinema’. He authored the book ‘Straight Stories. Texts on Architecture and Cinema’ (2013) and directed the short films on architecture ‘Sizígia’ (2012), ‘The house next door’ (2012) and ‘How to draw a house’ (2014).

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