Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Designing the In-Between: an alternative approach based on interdisciplinary design studios

• Author(s) Name:
Cavaco, Cristina (1)
Labastida, Marta (2)
Costa, Pablo (3)

• University or Company Affiliation:
(1) University of Lisbon, Faculty of Architecture, CIAUD
(2) University of Minho, School of Architecture, Lab2PT
(3) University of Lisbon, Faculty of Architecture, CIAUD

• Abstract (300 words):
Abandoned urban spaces such as ruins and vacant lands are an ever more ubiquitous presence in contemporary cities. Since the turn of the millennium, with the slowdown of the global economy, an increasing number of such obsolete spaces became the stage for alternative temporary occupations. Usually based on informal and bottom-up initiatives, these occupations provide interim usage for areas that have long been neglected and unoccupied.
However, most of these initiatives and occupations happened in a spontaneous or at least non-designed basis, while the proliferation of abandoned urban spaces within cities challenges architects and urban planners to look for other approaches alternative to the more conventional, definitive and long-term design solutions.

Supported by the research project NoVOID focused on urban ruination and abandonment, this paper aims at exploring alternative methods and strategies for designing the in-between, i.e., designing for interim uses.

Concepts such as versatility, adaptability, sustainability, multi-functionality, low-cost and reuse were adopted as design criteria. At the same time, a methodology based on the creation of interdisciplinary design studios was embraced in a twofold implementation model: short-term design workshops and medium-term design classes.

A number of different case studies were addressed in four Portuguese cities (Lisboa, Barreiro, Guimarães and Vizela), ranging from vacant lands and ghost estates to ruined factories and obsolete infrastructures. Students were challenged to developed intervention scenarios for the in-between, working in interdisciplinary environments that include not only architects and urban planners, but also geographers and landscape architects, as well as other practitioners such as designers, filmmakers, artists or biologists.

Results evidence the emergence of multidimensional approaches where conventional design methods and tools are combined with other innovative ones: e.g. based on immaterial or mutable elements such as sounds, odors and flavors, or on the use of alternative communication means such as videos and sound recordings.

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

Cristina Cavaco born in Lisbon in 1973. She holds a PhD in Architecture with a thesis on urban development (2009) by the Faculty of Architecture - Technical University of Lisbon (FA-UTL), a Master Degree in Contemporary Architectural Culture (2001) and a Degree in Architecture (1996) by the same University.

She is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Lisbon – Faculty of Architecture (FA-ULisboa) where she has been lecturing since 1999.

She is a member of the Research Center of Architecture, Urbanism and Design (CIAUD), where she develops research on urbanism and spatial planning, ranging from urban development and spatial planning policy issues to tourism planning and urban morphology. She has been coordinating and participating in several research projects funded by FCT, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, EFDR, EEA Grants, among others.

Between 2012 and 2016 she served as a Deputy Director General the Directorate General of Territorial Development, where she was in charge of projects and national
Among others, she was a representative of Portugal on the EU’s URBACT III and ESPON 2020 Programmes, and a National Focal Point on UN’s Habitat III.

**Marta Labastida:** Architect from the Architecture School of Barcelona (ETSAB_UPC, Spain); Master in Landscape Architecture from ETSAB_UPC and PhD Architecture and Territory from the School of Architecture of University of Minho (EAUM, Portugal).

Since 2002 Professor at the EAUM, teaching Territory, Landscape and Public Space Design.

Visiting professor of architecture, urban and landscape architecture at the International Master in the KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture, Ghent/Brussels (Belgium); at the Architecture School of Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (Italy); at the Master of Landscape architecture (UPC), Barcelona (Spain); Professor at Urban and Territory Design studies of the MBiarch. (Master of Barcelona Institute of Architecture, Spain) with J.A. Acebillo and E. Zenghellis.

Since 2014 Integrated Researcher in the Lab2PT (Landscape, Heritage and Territory Laboratory) of the University of Minho focused and Society - University of Minho, focused on the Social Sciences and Humanities, integrating a wide research team from different scientific areas (Archaeology, Architecture and Urbanism, Design, Geography, Geology, History and Visual Arts). Her research relates the study of the contemporary landscape and territory - particularly from the diffuse occupancy of northern Portugal - in order to enrich strategies, planning policy making and design tools.

Since 2016 Coordinator of the Design Center of EAUM.

**Pablo Costa:** Brazilian Architect and Urbanist graduated from Pontificia Universidade Católica de Campinas – Brazil (2006) and master in Urbanism from the same institution (2010) where he produced his thesis entitled “The Railway Complex in Campinas: contemporary readings” (research line: Urban Renewal). In 2014 he began his teaching career by becoming a professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the Universidade Paulista UNIP, teaching the classes of Architectural Project, Urban Project and Computer Science. He was Managing Partner of RS Architects (2010- 2013) and INOVARQ Architecture (2013-2016) developing projects in several areas such as residential, commercial, interior design, urban planning, etc. In the second semester of 2016, he started his PhD in Urbanism at the Lisbon School of Architecture in the University of Lisbon (ULisboa) - Portugal, where he develops his thesis entitled “The Obsolete and the City: the in-between uses in the urban transformation”, approaching the themes of urban obsolescence and the alternative urban planning. He is currently a researcher on the project “NoVOID - Ruins and vacant lands in the Portuguese cities: exploring hidden life in urban derelicts and alternative planning proposals for the perforated city” at the Center of Geographical Studies (CEG-IGOT) of the University of Lisbon.