CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The New City, That Was Born Too Old

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• Abstract (300 words):
Quoting Kevin Lynch (1960, p.1), "Looking at cities can give a special pleasure, however commonplace the sight may be". This beautiful aphorism admits today, new readings. Looking at the new (albeit old) European cities, one would think that had been a sudden reversal of time or an abrupt change in the development paradigm. They became quiet, walkable, cyclable, and therefore also much less polluted. The industrial city of the early 20th century was the trigger for the flowering of utopian socialism and visions of the future, though none could have predicted what happened a century later. The pandemic outbreak, March 2020, brought a kind of return to pre-industrial societies. We work from home today, with almost no regulation of labor rights. Our living space became a phalanstery, not by intentional choice but forced to be so constituted. Outside, the city awaited, and still awaits, our return. The symbiotic link of city life, the street, became empty. The nightmare of the metaphysical paintings turned out to be real, as a general view from our windows. The city now stood outside, unchanging, inaccessible, static like a frame, a memory of what was enshrined as our life in society, the relationship with the
city and with others through it. The industrial city was born too old. Perhaps it was never designed for human walking, too slow for the machine speed. It is not possible to quantify the extent of the global social catastrophe and the consequences it will bring to the city life and landscape. Almost nothing will ever be the same again, because something must change. The new values that represent our physical life in society will bring new urban choreographies that we are not yet able to decipher.

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

Luis Miguel Ginja was born in 1976 and have a degree in Architecture. For more than 15 years he worked in ateliers in the city of Lisbon, while coordinating his own works. Now he is finishing his PhD investigation in Design, at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon and is a researcher at CIAUD – Center for Research in Architecture, Urbanism and Design, coordinating his own project and being associated to other research projects as well. Beyond the research activity, he also teaches the Architectural and Project Laboratory disciplines at the Architecture course in the Faculty of Architecture of Lisbon, as a guest assistant. He has been member of several scientific event’s Organizing Committees and member of various Executive Committees as well.

Leonor Ferrão is an architectural and design historian, assistant professor with “Agregação” in Design at Faculdade de Arquitetura, Universidade de Lisboa. She holds a master’s and a PhD in Art History from Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Main teaching topics: history of architecture (15th-18th centuries), design history and theory, design criticism, creative cognition in design. Main areas of research and publication: history of architecture, history of design and creative cognition in design.