

Call for papers

City Portraits: Porto

In the context of the international cycle of conferences entitled “City Portraits” - promoted and organised by IUAV’s Doctoral School - the meeting dedicated to the city of Porto will be held from the 15th to the 16th of June in Venice.

Abstract

Porto, image of a city and reflection of a larger narrative, declined between the flashes of the Atlantic and the deep shadows of the Douro Valley.

Here, the melee between architecture and topography has created an urban space so distinctive as to stimulate, at different times, an articulated series of portraits that attempt to define its character, not only in the form of a landscape, but also in literature, photography and film sequences; on the other hand, this condition implied for the architectural project to measure itself against a way to make the city understood as a collective Act. In fact, the pivotal moments for the rethinking of the urban structure, the experimentation of the constructive possibilities inherent in the territory-in the definition of its physical boundaries- is an ever present theme of the different transformation strategies.

Porto is, therefore, a city, but also the name that identifies a school of architecture, or rather a way to intend the project that interprets the dialogue between design and site as an opportunity to give new meaning to the nature-artifice relationship. The interconnections between urban transformations and reflections on architecture define the peculiar character of Porto, a city that has been able to trust the possibilities offered by architecture, aware of the necessity of projects that are at the same time rooted in the tradition, but also oriented towards the design of future scenarios.

In the past two decades, following a period of critical stagnation, Porto has been addressing a number of dynamic transformations. However, a profound change in the triggering factors of this transformation emerges: in fact, the territorial production systems no longer reconnect the old core of the city to the vast territory to which it refers, now it is the enhancement of the cultural heritage that has defined the history of these relations and the introduction of new visions for areas now devoid of identity.

Call for papers_Guidelines

The call for papers aims at selecting research contributions that, focusing on the city of Porto, analyse the actions that are transforming the city, in order to understand the forms and the role of the architectural and landscape project in these processes.

To orient the contributions, we propose two guidelines here below:

Water line/ground line

Porto, as its name suggests, is a city inextricably linked to water, on one side the Ocean, on the other its river. In the past the Douro was the infrastructural system needed for the production of the Vinho do Porto, while the Atlantic opened the doors to the Americas. Today these ties have changed and in the changes of these relationships we can read

political choices and cultural trends that define a new way to look at traditions and open up new opportunities for reading the territory.

Porto's metropolitan area plays a key role in the North of Portugal, in fact the definition of its physical margins is reflected in the design of the hinterland. The boundary, far from the river, is the border of the suburbs, but also the point in which the urban reality is confronted with smaller centres and micro rural-realities. Opportunities for new projects and interpretations of the urban form and its limits open up in the margin between the last fringes of urban design and the first territorial geography inserts.

Porto Line/International Line

In Porto, the role that architects have had in defining the transformation processes is essential. In particular, the 1970s represented a fertile moment, in which the inhabitants themselves translated social needs by participating in the construction of new parts of the city, with the help of young architects, who soon re-founded the same teaching of the architectural project. Not a movement, nor a trend: an original experience, poised between the inclusion of external contributions and the research of local roots, free of theoretical discourses.

Today, while the urban reality changes with the introduction of new infrastructures and the realization of *landmarks* designed by famous architects, the international context bestows to the celebration of the "authorial myth" what was structured as a multifaceted and complex reality. In this context, the recent generations and a renovated school overlooking the urban scene, experimenting with the possibilities offered by tradition and, at the same time, tracing new horizons for the architecture of Porto.

The abstract should count a maximum of 400 words and must be submitted in pdf format to the email address portocityportrait@gmail.com. The pdf file must include the following information: full name, date of birth, representative institution (University/Institution), email address, title of the intervention, 4 key words and a brief description of the area where the research was carried out (maximum 200 words).

official languages

Italian and English

timings

call for papers opening

February 2017

deadline for the abstract submission

March 31, 2017

notification of acceptance

April 30, 2017

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