9th INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION

Venice . Artiglie dell'Arsenale
12_09 >> 7_11_2004
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01
9th ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL OF VENICE ■ PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATION

Curators ■ Pedro Gadano
Luis Tavares Pereira

Participants ■ Guedes + deCampos
Inês Lobo
João Mendes Ribeiro
Promontório Arquitectos
Serôdio, Furtado & Associados

a.s * atelier de santos
Bernardo Rodrigues
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Augusto Alves da Silva
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Nuno Cera + Diogo Lopes
Pedro Bandeira
Rui Toscano

Dates | Place ■ Portuguese Presentation
12_09 >> 7_11_2004
Artiglerie dell’Arsenale, Venice

Organized and Produced by ■ Institut of Arts | Ministry of Culture
Architecture and Design Department
Internationalization Department
Communication Department
The previous edition of the Architecture Biennial of Venice had received the Portuguese participation of the landscape Architect João Nunes/ PROAP, who has brought for Portugal the Lion of Gold for the best Architecture Project, attributed by the International Jury of the Biennial to the Architect Alvaro Siza Vieira for the Foundation Ibere Camargo project, in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The Metaflux exhibition - two generations in the recent Portuguese architecture is the Portuguese Official Representation at the 9th Architecture Biennial of Venice, an initiative of the Institute of Arts, curated by Luis Tavares Pereira and Pedro Gadanho, who have come to develop a work on the “culture of project” and the critical speech in Architecture, the promotion and spreading of new generations of Portuguese architects, as well as the establishment of relations between the Architecture and other areas of creation in a transdisciplinary way.

About the Biennial

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Theme ■ Metamorph

Curator ■ Kurt W. Forster

Dates | Place ■ 12_09 >> 7_11_2004
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Metamorphosis is a theme of non-conformity, an issue that is solved through metamorphosis. When a form or an idea is ill at ease in itself, it seeks metamorphosis, which makes metamorphosis the strategy for life. In turn, this is the strategy for a space (or a form) that changes over time as time itself changes and the form adapts or moves ahead. Metamorphosis is also the concrete form of a will to transform, a desire for otherness and for difference.

As architecture is a formal discussion of bodies, life and time, it is a laboratory for metamorphoses in habits and in architecture itself. At one point, two seminal works on the sense of metamorphosis appeared: Goethe's *The Metamorphosis of Plants* and Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, both of which refer to the issue of the essential dissatisfaction of a form or of a content with its destiny. Life is based on solving this dissatisfaction. An egg does not wish to remain an egg for the rest of its days. Rather, it wants to fulfil an inner meaning, and therefore metamorphoses into an embryo or a body. Thus, metamorphosis means discontinuity. Although the process may seem continuous, a transition from one form to another, the end result is discontinuous: the second form wishes to be radically different from the first.

Given the above, the response from Pedro Gadanho and Luís Tavares Pereira, the curators of the Portuguese delegation at the 9th Architecture Biennial of Venice, strikes me as particularly appropriate to the challenge thrown down by Kurt W. Forster, the head curator. Challenged with metamorphosis, they have replied with “Metaflux”, two generations of recent Portuguese architecture (generation x and generation y), with an additional five visions on the urban context, commissioned from five artists or “meta-artists” who work on this theme.

The metamorphosis examined here is the metamorphosis of practices and discourses in recent Portuguese architecture, plus the five visions that themselves act as a change in perspective, or a metamorphosis in the point of view.

This delegation at the Venice Architecture Biennial also signals the start of a strategy adopted by the Instituto das Artes to promote and divulge contemporary Portuguese culture, what I would call a transference strategy. In addition to presenting the projects, the institute asked the curators to include a dislocation/shift that would reinforce this vision. This led them to embrace the vision presented by the artists, for this vision - while may perhaps naturally be contaminated - always has an explanatory clarity. After Siza Vieira won the Golden Lion at the last biennial, I am convinced that this exhibition is the best way to represent Portugal.

Paulo Cunha e Silva, Director of the Portuguese Institut of Arts
Presentation by the Curators

Why and when do attitudes change? How do the evolving landscapes and realities around us shape architectural intentions and answers?

Metaflux explores the fluxes of cross-influence and context as drawn into the realm of architecture. After a critical overview of recent Portuguese architecture was gathered in influx—a group of five exhibitions previously promoted by the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art in Porto—this new show explores how evolving cultural identities define new attitudes and positions in the practice of architecture. In this context, Metamorphosis is bounded by circulation, exchange, translation, and adaptation.

Two generations separated by only half a decade show how, even within well-rooted local situations, architectural practices mutate with the fast-pace that characterises the evolution of contemporary European identity. Signs of a recognised aesthetical tradition now mix with globalising everyday cultures and the urban creative environment. The experience of blending local input with international culture acquires new shades and reveals new sensibilities at work. From minimalism to diversity, 10 offices are thus confronted in their idiosyncrasies, languages and attitudes.

Generation X is represented by 5 practices around 40. They transform the continuities and traditions of recent Portuguese architecture. As the direct apprentices of traditional studio practices such as Souto Moura or Carrilho da Graça, they slowly modify their approaches through new conceptual tools and interdisciplinary references: substituting pure form for abstract ideas, re-inventing creative collaboration, drawing from the performative and visual arts, and even exploring market conditions.

The five younger practices standing for Generation Y reflect an increasing nomadic nature in architectural formation. References become diffuse and may include contradictory and conflictive sources, both local and international. Just as their expressive character may seem less and less identifiable with a specific architectural culture, it is from a specific context and identity that they draw more intimate drives: poetics, humour, and the ‘return of the repressed’ mingle with an expansive communication mode.

Another five architects and artists present specially commissioned installation pieces that create a parallel narrative to the exhibition. From these works emerge utopian, ironic, or critical insights on the urban and social landscapes that inform the nature and diversity of contemporary creative thinking. It is from this perspective that the genetic mutation of recent practices can be fully understood.
Luis Tavares Pereira

Graduated from the architecture school of University of Porto (FAUP, 1991), M.Arch (Princeton University, 1996) and PhD Candidate (FAUP). Currently holds a scholarship from Ministry of Science and Technology to prepare PhD Thesis. He worked with Francesco Venezia (Napoli, 1989-90) and is the founding partner of [A] ainda arquitectura. Since 2002 he is one of the editors of Prototypo magazine. He was co-curator of the multimedia project “Registos de uma Transformação” on the urban transformation of Porto 2001, and of the Prototypo Architecture Seminar Performing the city, an international seminar held in Oporto.

Pedro Gadanho

Graduated from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Oporto in 1992, where he currently teaches, he has an MA in Art&Architecture from the KIAD, UK. He is a founding member and director of CUC, centre for contemporary urban culture, in Oporto, and, between 2000 and 2003, he is one of the directors of experimentadesign, an interdisciplinary design biennial taking place in Lisbon. Besides other projects and series, he curated two international exhibitions: Post.Rotterdam, for Porto2001, and Space Invaders, on young British architects, for the British Council London and experimentadesign2001.
Catalogue and Itinerance

Catalogue

A catalogue, published under the seal of the publishing company Civilization, in partnership with the Institute of Arts, will complement the exposition. New texts are introduced with reflections on the theme of metaflux by Gerrit Confurius, João Fernandes, Luis Tavares Pereira and Pedro Gadanho, registering about 60 projects of the 15 participants in the exhibition.

Itinerance

After the presentation in Venice, the Metaflux exhibition will also be presented in Lisbon [Cordoaria Nacional - 2004/2005] and Sao Paulo, Brasil, in the Tomie Ohtake Institut (2005).
Guedes + DeCampos
Calém Bar, Vila Nova de Gaia, 1999-2002

Guedes + de Campos is the office created in 1992 by Cristina Guedes and Francisco Vieira de Campos, in Oporto. Both graduated from FAUP in 1991. Guedes worked with Alvaro Siza Vieira and de Campos with Eduardo Souto Moura. They both teach at Lusíada University in Oporto. Their built work includes the acclaimed Café do Cais, in Oporto, the Crafts Pavillions for Oporto’s School of Beaux Arts, and 3 Bar Pavillions in Gaia, where attention to detail and abstract architectural expression are prominent.

Serôdio, Furtado & Associados
"Bessa-Pérez Home-Patio ", Miramar, 1994-2004

Serôdio, Furtado & Associados is João Pedro Serôdio and Isabel Furtado, both graduated from F.A.U.P. in 1991. Furtado worked with Michael Alder, in Basel, and has a post-graduate degree in building construction from FEUP. After training at Herzog & de Meuron’s office, Serôdio is currently invited teacher at F.A.U.P. The office is characterized by an intense participation in competitions and commissions for public work with complex programmes. Their work combines conceptual elaboration with an expressive and tectonic reduction characteristic in their work.
João Mendes Ribeiro set up his own office after he graduated in 1986 at F.A.U.P. Since 1991, he teaches at the Architecture Department of the FCT in the University of Coimbra. He has received numerous awards, won various competitions, two Architécti awards and his work has been mentioned internationally in different contexts. His extensive portfolio includes scenographic work, interiors, renovations, and urban scale works.

Promontório Arquitectos
"Xerox" Building, Av. Infante D. Henrique, Lisbon, 1996-2001

Promontório arquitectos is an architecture practice founded in Lisbon in 1990 by João Perloiro (UTL, 87), João Luís Ferreira (UTL, 88), Paulo Perloiro (UTL, 88), Paulo Martins Barata (UTL, 88, PhD ETH, 00) and Pedro Appleton (UTL, 93). With over 40 collaborators, Promontório has developed different projects, both in terms of scale and program, ranging from museums, and cultural institutions, to housing, offices, hotels, shopping centers and leisure parks. Their work has often been identified with the pursuit of a system of robustness both in terms of representational meaning and technical research.
Inês Lobo set up her own office, in Lisbon, in 2002, after extensive collaboration with Carrilho da Graça and many competition prizes together with Pedro Domingos and others. Graduated from F.A.U.T.L. in 1989, she is currently Invited Professor at the Universidade Lusíada, in Lisbon. She also lectures at Universidade Autónoma. From the rigorous neo-modern style of the initial projects, she evolved to a more experimental character, where relationships to nature and collaboration play a definitive role.

a.s*, atelier de santos
"Do it yourself" (auto-silo), several different locations, 2003

a.s*, atelier de santos was founded by Pedro Machado Costa and Célia Gomes in 1997, after they have won a sequence of major public competitions in Azores. Both graduated from FAUP in 1996, having also studied in the Technische Universiteit Delft in the Netherlands and worked in different moments in the office of Manuel Vicente. Their work reveals the ingenuity and openness of a short but multi-layered path. Their current projects under construction include a University Library, a Cultural Center and the Student Residences for Azores University.
Bernardo Rodrigues
"House of the Flight of Birds", São Miguel, Azores, 2002-2004

Bernardo Rodrigues graduated at F.A.U.P. in 1996. He worked at Donald Insall Associates in London and later he concluded his Master at Columbia University, New York, in 1999. In Oporto, he collaborated with Alexandre Alves Costa and Sérgio Fernandez, and initiated independent activity in 2000, after he designed the Capela do Céu. The intuitive character of his work gives privilege to emotions. The design emerges from the senses, demonstrating how physical reality is filtered through the perception of architectural space.

Nuno Brandão Costa
“Affife House”, Afife, 2001-2004

Nuno Brandão Costa graduated at F.A.U.P. in 1994 and worked with Herzog & de Meuron, in Switzerland, and José Fernando Gonçalves and Paulo Providência, in Oporto. He established his own office in 1998, after he won the competition for the F.C.S.H.U.N. Library in Lisbon. He teaches architectural design at F.A.U.P. and he has won prizes in several competitions. Working in both the public and domestic scale, his research reveals a structural clarity based upon the exploration of opposed meanings manipulated with remarkable economy of means.
S’A Arquitectos

S’A Arquitectos is the office established by Carlos Sant’Ana in Barcelona, in 2000. After he finished his degree in F.A.U.T.L. in 1998, Sant’Ana moved to Barcelona and enrolled in the ‘La gran Escala’ Master at ETSAB-UPC. He collaborated with ACTAR and participated individually in several exhibitions, including Archilab 2001. Currently he develops a joint-venture with Pedro Silva Arquitectos for new projects in Lisbon, including one of the new city car parks.

marcosandmarjan architects
“Bai Jia Zhuang” Building, Beijing, 2003

marcosandmarjan architects is the office of Marcos Cruz and Marjan Colletti since 2000. Cruz is based in London since he finished his Architecture Degree at the Escola Superior Artistica do Porto, in 1997. In the U.K., he concluded his Master at the Bartlett School of Architecture UCL, in 1999, where he also met Marjan Colletti, architect by the Innsbruck University, in Austria. Since then, besides lecturing and developing PhD research at the Bartlett, they have completed several competitions and project, as well as numerous publications and exhibitions.
Didier Fiuza Faustino was born in France, of Portuguese parents. Graduated by the Paris-Villemin School, he works both in Lisbon and in Paris. His work includes several experimental fields, such as architecture, the visual arts, publications and exhibitions. His interest for space as physical and bodily experience is shown in his artistic and architectural projects. In 2001, with Pascal Mazoyer, he founded the Bureau des Mésarchitectures. This atelier has been awarded a prize in the Albuns de la jeune Architecture 2002 and obtained international recognition after concluding Auditório Móvel para a Expo’02, in Switzerland. Faustino has been awarded the Arte Pública Tabaqueira / MC 2001 Prize for his work “Stair Way to Heaven - Espaço Público para Uso Individual”, which will be shown this year in Castelo Branco. Other important works include “Love Me Tender” and “Body in Transit”.

Pedro Bandeira (1970) has a Diploma in Architecture by the Faculty of Architecture, University of Porto (1996). In 2000, Metropolis postgraduate degree by the Universidad Politècnica de Barcelona (directed by Ignasi de Solà-Morales), with a thesis with the title “Apenas o Mundo, Hoje, Onde as Revoluções são Impossíveis – da ilusão à desilusão de imaginários de pouca arquitetura entre os anos 60 e 90”. Since 1998, he teaches at the Autonomous Department of Architecture, University of Minho. Co-editor of IN Si(s)TU, Journal of Urban Culture, and LAURA (DAAUM), Journal of Architectural Culture. Recently, part of his professional activity is devoted to developing “projects for a generic client” and “projects for specific clients” (in co-operation with Luís Miguel Fareleira).
Nuno Cera + Diogo Lopes
"Cimêncio Top 10+1", outskirst and environs of Portuguese cities

Diogo Lopes

Born in Lisbon, 1972.
Architect, graduated in 1966 by the Faculty of Architecture of the Universidade Técnica of Lisbon. Since 2000, has been teaching at the Department of Architecture of the Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa. Tutor of architecture workshops in Wurzburg and Lisbon. Has been granted a scholarship by the Luso American Foundation for the Development (FLAD) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Has collaborated with Daniel Libeskind (Berlin), Asymptote (New York) and Santa-Rita Architects (Lisbon). In 1998, has created its atelier and publishing house Stereomatrix Arquitectura. He is one of the directors of the magazine Prototypo, a bilingual publication on architecture and theory of architecture. Has been writing about music, cinema and arts in newspapers and magazines (Já, O Independente, Vida Mundial, Icon, Premiere, Pangloss, Tabacaria) and catalogues (Rui Calçada Bastos, LisboaPhoto, Imagens Médicas). In 2003, accompanied by Nuno Cera, he edited Cimêncio (Fenda Edições), a survey of suburban landscapes of Lisbon metropolitan area.

Nuno Cera

Rui Toscano

Rui Toscano (Lisbon, 1970). Studied painting and sculpture at the AR.CO (Centre of Arts and Visual Communication) and at the FBAUL (Fine Arts School/ Faculdade de Belas Artes of the University of Lisbon). Since 1993, his work has been shown in group and individual exhibits in alternative rooms, galleries and museum institutions. In the videos, installations and drawings exhibited in 1 (MACS, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, 2002) or in Sampa Works (Espacio Distrito4, Madrid, 2004) he works the urban landscape as an exploratory mean of perceptive possibilities for the image construction.

Augusto Alves da Silva

"Our freedom", 2004

Augusto Alves da Silva studied at the London College of Printing (B.A. Hons Photography) and at the Slade School of Fine Art (M.F.A., Media) with two scholarships granted by the Gulbenkian Foundation. In 1999 he has been nominated for the Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize. His work is regularly shown since 1990. He is represented in several national and international collections. For two years (2000/2002) he has closely observed the activity of the National Ballet Company and produced several projects on it. Recent individual and group exhibits were shown at the Museu do Chiado, Portuguese Photography Centre of the Ministry of Culture, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Serralves Museum and Centro Cultural de Belém. Forthcoming exhibitions include the participation in a group show at the Museum Folkwang and a solo exhibition at the Museu de Angra do Heroísmo. He works with photography and video. He has several books published.
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[A]ainda arquitectura with Pedro Gadanho

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barbara says...

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