



# **THE ARCHITECTURE OF NEED: COLLECTIVE-USE FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
LISBON AND ÉVORA, 29TH - 31ST OCTOBER 2024**

**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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COLLECTIVE-USE FACILITIES  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN  
THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

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## **THE ARCHITECTURE OF NEED: COLLECTIVE-USE FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Human need is one of the foundations of architecture. Its expression becomes particularly intense when conveyed by the community or in the name of the community, as a collective, shared necessity. Yet we often lose sight of this essential aspect of built environment production processes, focusing instead on matters such as design intentions, formal or technical innovation and authorship. The international conference *The Architecture of Need* wants to bring together current research efforts to reconsider the role of need in the equation of architectural production by examining how collective-use facilities, devised for community service in response to specific needs, originated and came to fruition in the twentieth century, in any geography. We want to reassess essential need as a key proviso in architecture, and how this determined our existing building stock, at a time when resource scarcity demands that architectural practice and thought contribute towards sustainable, participated built environment management strategies and resist the lure of often questionable building growth trends.

### ***Common Needs, Common Buildings***

Scholarship has only partly explored the built translation of collective needs. While the provision of built infrastructure to address the essential, everyday needs of communities has long been a fertile ground for architecture work, the history, theory, criticism and culture of the discipline have tended to single out notable design objects to feed its canon, from school buildings to housing ensembles. Yet by applying art-historical hierarchies of value to this output, we overlook the substantial array of collective-use structures that inconspicuously punctuate local urban and rural communities, serving them: their architecture of proximity.

These buildings, mostly architect-designed, are part of our daily lives and testify to architecture's attempts at social relevance, as material bonds between creators and users of the built environment. They can be common buildings: common in essence, as borne out of joint initiatives, drawing on common funds and aimed at collective utility; and common in their appearance. They are often seen more as functional pieces for pragmatic service and less as works of architecture deserving study.

In fact, in all their commonness and inconspicuousness, these are meaningful structures: they speak of how the most basic needs of a community were formulated, and by whom; how diverse agents – from local individuals and groups to authorities and institutions at all levels, from the State to charities and philanthropies – interacted and negotiated the assessment, prioritisation, translation and fulfilment of such needs; how the provi-

sion of collective facilities fitted (or countered) the official and unofficial strategies of those agents; and how their fortune over time signals changing requirements, adjustment imperatives and potential resilience. At a time of heightened tensions between the collective and the individual, the infrastructure of common necessity fulfilment, as materialised through collective initiatives in the past, has the potential to mobilise architectural thought today.

### **Needs: Past, Present, Future**

Collective-use facilities are therefore repositories of common needs and their forms of built expression. Today, they combine material worth – as sturdy testaments to the popularisation of reinforced concrete construction and long-lasting cladding choices, for example – with less palpable values such as their significance for collective life. They are the stage of community living: where we reside, work, study, convalesce, protect, and enjoy ourselves, and where individual and collective identities are forged – where the experiences of groups and single people concur. Often, de-functionalisation and obsolescence entail these facilities' decay and eventual demise, regardless of their decades of community service, materiality, and embedded energy. Understanding these buildings, their production and use processes means understanding the communities they serve, their history, their current concerns, and their prospects for tomorrow. Can this exercise of historical and critical research be put towards strategies of refunctionalisation, reuse and life extension of existing structures? How can this be done together with citizens in a shared, participated way, which might be relatable, appropriable, and integrated with people's daily lives? Can better scholarly knowledge result in improved living standards, where collective-use facilities are concerned?

The international conference *The Architecture of Need* convenes scholarship on any geography that investigates how built-environment-related disciplines, and architecture in particular, addressed the basic needs of local communities in the twentieth century; it examines how needs were expressed and translated in collective-use structures, and how knowledge of these objects can be cocreated with users and communities. Conference papers cover, among other topics:

- a. Architectural responses to disparate collective needs, from subsistence to sanitation, from emergency and minimum-rent housing to healthcare and security, from compulsory schooling to senior living, from sports practice to culture.
- b. The expression and negotiation of needs by disparate agents and through different means and media, from official procedure to public campaigning, paying close attention to the on- and off-the-record discourses and voices and their

- repercussion on solutions proposed (Who were the subjects of need here? Who spoke for them and how, in dictatorship and democracy? Who decided on priority, on what grounds and conditions?).
- c. The origin, nature and position of those agents, their strategies and scope of action, and the mechanisms established to channel resources and resolve towards the provision of infrastructure to mitigate need (funding, legislation, administration, bureaucracy, advocacy, cooperation, mutuality; e.g. How did specific programmes and answers follow local specificities? How were generic or transnational approaches adjusted locally?).
  - d. The challenges posed to architectural design by particular aspects of collective need, such as its scale, its economic imperative, its replicability potential (How did architectural design issues overcome quantity and economy constraints? How did this impact on architecture's purported capacity to embody national, regional, and local identities? Did pragmatism trump creativity? Did these buildings add to / alter recognised architectural typologies?).
  - e. The objects produced, their fortune over time and their current and potential roles in local communities, including their ability to adapt and the challenges posed by de-functionalisation, obsolesce and disuse (What was the essential toolkit employed in this architecture of proximity? Which mechanisms, of design, technology, and materiality, proved lasting? What enables, and hinders, reuse?).
  - f. Attempts at reconstructing the use history of these facilities over time (What can we learn from this? How do we approach and record the history of use?), and
  - g. Experiments in co-producing knowledge on collective-use facilities and rendering it appropriable by communities in support of built environment management (How can methods such as oral history, public history and ethnography be employed? What might the specific contribution of architectural thought be, and how can this be communicated clearly and broadly?).

The conference features papers that focus on little-studied contexts, cultures, agents and objects, and work that is grounded on primary source material by using history methods and those of other disciplines; research that looks at institutions, programmes, administration, and law, or adopt more specifically architectural lines of enquiry (e.g. morphological and spatial analysis). This event is an opportunity to debate new approaches to the metadata of architectural design and production – with the archive at its core – and the methodological challenges facing architectural history, theory, and criticism as they deal with the ubiquitous mass of common buildings created to address common needs, on the one hand, and with the urgency of inclusiveness in knowledge creation, on the other.

The international conference ***The Architecture of Need: Collective-Use Facilities and Community Service in the Twentieth Century*** is organised in the context of the initiative "Arquitetura Aqui – Community, Proximity, Action: Collective-use Facilities in Portugal and Spain 1939-1985" (<https://arquitecturaaqui.eu>), an output of the research projects *ArchNeed – The Architecture of Need: Community Facilities in Portugal 1945-1985* (national funds through Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, FCT, grant PTDC/ART-DAQ/6510/2020), based at CIDEHUS Interdisciplinary Centre for History, Culture and Societies, University of Évora, and *ReARQ.IB – Built Environment Knowledge for Resilient, Sustainable Communities: Understanding Everyday Modern Architecture and Urban Design in the Iberian Peninsula (1939-1985)* (funded by the European Research Council, ERC, under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, grant agreement 949686), based at DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte Centre for Socioeconomic and Territorial Studies, Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

The conference is co-organised by DINÂMIA'CET-Iscte, CIDEHUS – University of Évora and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a Participating Institution of the research project *ArchNeed – The Architecture of Need: Community Facilities in Portugal 1945-1985* (PTDC/ART-DAQ/6510/2020). We are thankful to the foundation for generously hosting the conference.

### **Key dates:**

Call for Paper Proposals – 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Communication of CFP results – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Publication of conference programme – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Participant registration – 9<sup>th</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Conference sessions and keynote addresses – 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024,

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

Study tour to Évora – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

The conference sessions and keynote addresses take place at the

**Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation headquarters** (Av. de Berna, 45A, 1067-001 Lisbon),  
**Conference Area, Room 2** (lower ground floor).



# Day 1

29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Headquarters, Conference Area, Room 2

**9.00h—9.30h** Welcome & Registration

**9.30h—10.15h** **Opening**

› **'The Architecture of Need' in Arquitectura Aqui**

Arquitectura Aqui team, UÉvora & Iscte-IUL

**10.15h—10.30h** **Coffee Break** (Main Auditorium Bar, floor 0)

**10.30h—12.30h** **Session 1 – *The Urban Presence of Need*** Chair: Ricardo C. Agarez

› **The Presence of Places for Education and Play in Stockholm, from the 1950s to 2019**

Matilde Kautsky, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

› **Mass Housing and Collective-Use Facilities in 20th-Century Turin:  
An Urban History of Stratification**

Filippo De Pieri and Aurora Riviezzo, Politecnico di Torino

› **Recollecting the Architecture of Distribution.**

**Maurice Cauwe and L'Urbanisme Commerciale in Belgium, 1960-1985**

Tom Broes and Michiel Dehaene, Ghent University

› **Building Communities Over Time: The Case of Collectivities  
and Churches of Two Neighbourhoods in Lisbon**

Maria Amélia Cabrita and Teresa Marat-Mendes, Iscte-IUL

**12.30h—14.00h** **Lunch** (Calouste Gulbenkian Staff Restaurant, floor 3)

**14.00h—16.00h** **Session 2 – *Programmes for Need*** Chair: Joana Brites

› **An Architecture for Health in Spain: The Buildings of the Health Facilities Plan  
in Palencia and Zamora from the 1950s to the present day**

Alba Zarza Arribas, Iscte-IUL

› **Contested Comforts: Nordic-Designed University Buildings in East Africa**

Maryia Rusak, ETH Zurich

› **When in Need, Band Together: Postmodern Housing of Small Cooperatives  
in Wrocław in the 1980s and 1990s**

Adam Pacholak, University of Wrocław

› **The Benefits of a Build-to-Rent Model as Opposed to a Build-to-Sell Model:  
The Example of Évora**

Sónia Alves, ICS-ULisboa

**16.00h—16.15h Coffee Break** (Main Auditorium Bar, floor 0)

**16.15h—18.00h Session 3 – *Bureaucracies of Need*** Chair: Catarina R. Pereira

› **An Institutional Solution to the Needs of the State and its Citizens.**

**Architectural Production of Austrian Ministry of Public Works  
in the Lands of Bohemian Crown before World War I**

Jan Galeta, Masaryk University

› **Building Corporative Empires: A Trans-Imperial Genealogy of Recreational  
and Social Centres across Portugal, Angola and Belgian Congo, 1930s-1960s**

Beatriz Serrazina, Iscte-IUL

› **The Socialist-Era Council Building of Harghita County in Miercurea-Ciuc, Romania**

Dániel Vass, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

**18.00h—18.15h Break**

**18.15h —19.15h Keynote Address 1**

› ***Anganwadis: A Spatio-Political History  
of Woman and Child Welfare Centres in India***

Tania Sengupta, UCLondon / The Bartlett School of Architecture

# Day 2

30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Headquarters, Conference Area, Room 2

9.00h—9.30h Welcome

9.30h—10.30h **Keynote Address 2**

› **Building Stories: On Ficto-historicism in the Architectural Humanities**

Janina Gosseye, TU Delft

10.30h—10.45h **Coffee Break** (Main Auditorium Bar, floor 0)

10.45h—12.30h **Session 4 – Answering Need Over Time** Chair: Ana M. Pascoal

› **“To Build a School”: L’Association pour l’Environnement Pédagogique and the Experimental School of L’Établette in Brittany, France, 1960s-1980s**

Johanna Sluiter, University of Bern

› **Building Schools, Equipping Territories. An Urbanization-Oriented Perspective on the Italian Educational Infrastructure in the XXth Century**

Cristina Renzoni, Politecnico di Milano

› **Density and Community-Building. Collective-Use Facilities Under Transformation in the Housing Complex Autobahnüberbauung Schlangenbader Straße in Berlin, Germany (1982-2024)**

Karlis Ratnieks, Estonian Academy of Arts

12.30h—14.00h **Lunch** (Calouste Gulbenkian Staff Restaurant, floor 3)

14.00h—16.00h **Session 5 – Building Types for Need** Chair: Ana Rosado

› **Kruisgebouwen: Nurses and Community Care Centres in the Netherlands, 1940-1960**

Jess Chang and Amy Thomas, TU Delft

› **The Architecture of Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Centres by Cândido Palma de Melo: Beja, Coimbra, and Faro, 1970-2000**

Francisco Alves, Universidade de Coimbra

› **Collective-Use Care Facilities for Older People in Spain: From Asylum-like to Person-Centred Models in the Region of Aragon**

Irene González-Fernández and Lucía C. Pérez-Moreno, University of Zaragoza

› **Architecture for the Ages: Building Community Through Social Infrastructure. The Case of Mexilhoeira Grande in the Last Quarter of the 20th Century**

Leandro Arez, Iscte-IUL

**16.00h—16.15h Coffee Break** (Main Auditorium Bar, floor 0)

**16.15h—18.00h Session 6 – *Subjects of Need*** Chair: Tânia Rodrigues

➤ **Stonemasons Cooperative of Porto / SCPOPP – Collective Uses of the Iconic Architectural Settlement in Portugal (1937-2024)**

Inês Moreira and Kadu Tomita, ESAP

➤ **Collective Life, Collective Memory. Children’s Institutions in Twentieth Century Switzerland**

Maria Kouvari, ETH Zurich

➤ **The Call of Architects to Beja in the 1960s: an Approach to the Municipal Market by Alberto Cruz**

Joana Nunes, Universidade de Évora/Iscte-IUL and Francisco Freitas, Iscte-IUL

**18.00h—18.15h Break**

**18.15h—19.00h Closing**

# Day 3

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

## ÉVORA STUDY TOUR

**9.00h—10.30h** Lisbon–Évora (by coach)

**10.30h—12.30h** Tour of Malagueira Housing Scheme (Arch. Siza Vieira, 1977-...) and other public-funded housing ensembles, Évora

**12.30h—14.00h Lunch** (location TBC)

**14.00h—15.30h** Collective-use buildings in and around the centre, Évora

**15.30h—17.00h** Valverde chapel (16th-C) and University campus buildings (Arch. Manuel Taínha and Vitor Figueiredo, 1960s-1990s), Mitra (Évora)

**17.00h—18.30h** Évora-Lisbon (by coach)

### **'THE ARCHITECTURE OF NEED' IN ARQUITECTURA AQUI**

Arquitectura Aqui team, UÉvora & Iscte-IUL

Ricardo Costa Agarez


Ana Mehnert Pascoal

Catarina Ruivo Pereira

**RICARDO COSTA AGAREZ**, currently Senior Researcher at Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, is an architect and architectural historian, specialised in the history and theory of 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century cities and buildings, national and regional identities, knowledge dissemination and the circulation of forms, ideas and techniques, housing and public architecture and the architectural culture in bureaucracy.

**ANA MEHNERT PASCOAL** is currently an integrated researcher at ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon, and a PhD in Art History. Her main research interests encompass architectural history (focusing on public buildings), intersections between architecture, state power and bureaucracy, and the built and architectural heritage of 20<sup>th</sup>-century dictatorships.

**CATARINA RUIVO** is currently an integrated PhD researcher at ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon. Her research explores the articulation of quantitative methods of spatial analysis with the sociological and historiographic aspects of architectural research as a means of illuminating the spatial forms of political, social and economic processes.




We all reside, work, study, convalesce and enjoy ourselves in buildings we know little about. If we have better knowledge, and if this is collectively built – by those who research the buildings’ history and architecture together with those who created and experience them – we might contribute to better informed decisions on which structures to maintain, reuse and replace: how to update and perfect this collective-use heritage. Today, as dwindling available resources, material and economic, must be rationally employed, repurposing and revalorising existing buildings is a priority over new built. These largely sturdy structures were the outcome of collective, community efforts across decades, expressing essential needs, and deserve to be better known to continue to serve all, with quality and dignity.

Arquitectura Aqui aims to support sustainable, resilient local communities with solid knowledge about the buildings and ensembles where our daily life unfolds: collective-use buildings and ensembles planned and built in Portugal and Spain between 1939 and 1985, following the parallel, shared history of the Iberian countries from dictatorship to democratic transition and European integration.

Our attention is drawn specifically to proximity structures devoted to welfare and medical care, general and social services, minimum-rent and emergency housing, security, education, culture and leisure, and cooperative farming facilities. Originating in local and central initiatives, launched and supported by public and private entities with state technical support and funding, these structures often drew on non-governmental, philanthropic aid from foundations, groups and individuals with strong community links.

This presentation focuses on how Arquitectura Aqui seeks to integrate detailed information and critical thinking on such objects, key in potential management and transformation initiatives, while advancing scientific and historical knowledge on the architecture and urban design of Portugal and Spain and reinforcing the social relevance and pertinence of these fields. The platform combines knowledge drawn from the archives with the memories and experiences of stakeholders, creators and users, testimony to generations of living histories, co-creating a new narrative, plural and shared, to empower appreciation, maintenance and change.



### **ANGANWADIS: A SPATIO-POLITICAL HISTORY OF WOMAN AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES IN INDIA**

Tania Sengupta, UCLondon / The Bartlett School of Architecture

**DR TANIA SENGUPTA** is Associate Professor and Co-Director of PhD Research in Architectural History and Theory at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. Her research and teaching explore postcolonial and transcultural histories of built environment in colonial South Asia and global postcolonial contexts (including Britain), and the inequities stemming from these inheritances today. Her research themes include spaces of colonial bureaucracy; colonial provinciality and rural-urban relationships; race, gender and subaltern practices; hybrid/composite building knowledge, spatial practices and their social relationships; and ephemeral architecture and urbanism. Her research *Papered Spaces*, on how paper-bureaucracy shaped British-colonial office spaces in India's interiors, received the RIBA President's Award and Medal for Research 2019. Tania co-curated the open-source curriculum/resource *Race and Space: What is 'Race' Doing in a Nice Field Like the Built Environment?* (2020; Colvin Prize of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain 2021 shortlist). She is presently co-authoring a book on Kolkata's (India) annual Durgapuja festival involving temporary pavilions erected through city-wide, community- and locality-driven mobilisation. Recipient of a Paul Mellon Centre Mid-career Fellowship (2022-23) and Melbourne University's Macgeorge Fellowship (2024), Tania is also a contributor to the Bloomsbury *Global Encyclopedia of Women in Architecture*, Co-Chief Editor of the journal *Architecture Beyond Europe*, and steering group member of the Architectural Humanities Research Association.



In the mid 1970s, the Indian government set up a system of centres called *anganwadis* for delivering woman and child health and welfare services (as part of the Integrated Child Development Scheme or ICDS), starting with just a few administrative blocks. Numbering almost 1.3 million across the country today, they together constitute a vast infrastructure, serving specific types of collective and communal needs, that have made inroads into remote villages as well as the dense urban fabric of thickly populated cities. Exploring this fairly recent history (given its relatively short life of less than 50 years), this talk charts a spatial and political story of these centres since their inception till today. Despite being seemingly rudimentary in terms of infrastructural delivery and having minimal spatial/built provisions, these diminutive structures are complex infrastructures. They have been and are entangled in an array of political economic, social, cultural, national, local as well as geopolitical conditions and processes. I take an overview of their programmatic shifts, assorted physical forms and the contextual relationships they are part of, given India's federated structure and the fact that no standard design was usually handed out through a centralised system. This enabled different developmental, design and even corporate agencies to enter this arena in a variety of ways and equally, for the *anganwadi* to enter multiple realms of public discourse and engagement including built environment education and practice, and serving varied purposes within these spheres. I think about some of the shifts and re-workings over time of *anganwadis'* spatial schemes and material characteristics as built entities. I read the *anganwadi* as a space formed through the biopolitics of the socialist and later developmental nation state; international development; social and political attitudes to state subjects such as the child and the woman; female labour and work; and corporate and neoliberal economies. In summary, the talk explores how these small buildings and spaces have historically embodied particular political, economic, social motivations and contingencies, and held different meanings and currency for a range of sites and spheres far beyond the *anganwadis* themselves.






# **BUILDING STORIES: ON FICTO-HISTORICISM IN THE ARCHITECTURAL HUMANITIES**


Janina Gosseye, TU Delft

**JANINA GOSSEYE** is Professor of Building Ideologies in the Department of Architecture at the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment (The Netherlands). Her research is situated at the nexus of 20th century architectural and urban history on the one hand, and social and political history on the other. Janina has previously held academic positions in Belgium, Australia and Switzerland. She is currently series editor of the 'Bloomsbury Studies in Modern Architecture' book series (with Tom Avermaete), a member of the European Science Foundation College of Expert Reviewers, Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Queensland, and Honorary Member of the Australian Institute of Architects. Janina has authored and edited more than ten books, including *Urban Design the 20th Century: A History* (2021, with Tom Avermaete) and *Speaking of Buildings: Oral History in Architectural Research* (2019, with Naomi Stead and Deborah van der Plaats).



In July 2017, Naomi Stead and I organized a PhD workshop on oral history at the CCA in Montreal. One morning, the conversation focused on the questions ‘who asks’ and ‘who speaks’. In response, one PhD candidate asked: ‘who cares’. Despite the facetious tone, this question stayed with me. It got me wondering ‘why do people care’ and ‘how are people moved to care’ about histories of the built environment. Such questions, of course, quickly recall the importance of situated knowledges and the embeddedness of knowers within the known. People care when they feel connected to stories that are told about a building or a neighbourhood. The ‘who cares’ question also led me to the History Workshop movement that emerged in Britain in the 1960s, and that promoted ‘history from below’. The History Workshop believed that history should be a collaboration between researchers, activists, curators, local historians, and do-it-yourself enthusiasts. Acknowledging that knowing is deeply interwoven with political agency, the History Workshop set up alternative means for producing historical knowledge with deep roots in subordinate groups of British society, to counter the political conservatism of the dominant historical profession.

Oral history became a popular tool for the History Workshop; not only because of its ‘ease-of-use’ but also because History-Workshop affiliates had likely well-understood that thinking differently requires different tools, for, as Audre Lorde wrote: ‘The master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house’. Acknowledging that replicating established traditions of knowledge production serve only to reproduce the same knowledges and structures of power, this paper will focus on the possibilities afforded by other forms of thinking-in-making and explore their capacity to create ways to know and imagine a world beyond ‘the master’s house’. In this paper, I will first discuss emergent methodologies by feminist scholars in the built environment and then reflect on work that I have undertaken with TU Delft students in a course called ‘Building Stories’. This course, which uses graphic novel short stories as a way of thinking-in-making takes its cue from Rebecca Solnit’s dictum that ‘liberation is always in part a storytelling process’ and bell hook’s belief that ‘imagination plays a vital role in the struggle for liberation globally’.



**THE PRESENCE OF PLACES FOR EDUCATION  
AND PLAY IN STOCKHOLM, FROM THE 1950S TO 2019**

Matilde Kautsky, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

**MATILDE KAUTSKY** is a PhD candidate in Architecture and Applied Urban Design at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Her research investigates how societal changes are materialised in everyday architecture, exemplified by schools and schoolyards in Stockholm Municipality. She teaches, since 2021 in the master's program Sustainable Urban Planning and Design at the Royal Institute of Technology.

One of the responsibilities of society is education and the architecture of schools is of interest in the task of understanding society. By interpreting the spaces that are planned and built for children we can understand the strivings of a past society, and see the changes this society has done clearer.<sup>1</sup> Planned and constructed in line with urban planning ideals, building regulations, and economic and political decisions, schools are an important part of many people's everyday lives. For this reason, their presence and visibility in the city are of particular interest. A 'school' is simultaneously a built structure, an educational institution, and a social space: schools are a formative institution in shaping the character of children; school buildings materialise education and shape public space<sup>2</sup>; and schoolyards are both part of the educational functions of a school and a space for children to play.

The Swedish state published architectural guidelines for schools already in 1865, followed by seven further architectural guidelines published from 1878 to 2015. The guidelines include, amongst other, recommendations for the location of schools, which had an impact on how schools were located, together with planning ideals and economic considerations. This paper proposes an investigation of how local municipal architectural guidelines and general planning ideals informed the design of public compulsory schools in Stockholm, influencing their location and presence in the city.

Spatial analysis can aid in furthering our understanding of how societal changes are materialised and how society values education and play. The location and visibility of schools affects their impact on the everyday lives of people, and 'societal presence' is in turn affected by spatial configuration.<sup>3</sup> Through spatial analyses of 14 public compulsory schools in Stockholm, constructed every decade from 1886 to 2018 and still in use as schools, the presence and visibility of them in the neighbourhood is revealed. Visibility and presence are important, affecting both the relevance of an institution in a society and the social encounters that can occur on a micro level and thus the daily life that is led in a city.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Håkan Forsell, *Urbana Infantil: Stadsmiljö, pedagogik och kunskapssamhälle i metropolernas tidevarv 1900-1930* (Lund: Sekel, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas A. Markus, *Buildings and Power: Freedom and Control in the Origin of Modern Building Types* (London: Routledge, 1993).

<sup>3</sup> Ann Legeby, Daniel Koch, and Pablo Miranda Carranza, "Schools at 'Front Row': Public buildings in relation to societal presence and social exclusion" (paper presented at the 12th International Space Syntax Symposium, Beijing, 2019).


<sup>4</sup> Sharon Zukin, *The Cultures of Cities*, 2006 ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995).

## MASS HOUSING AND COLLECTIVE-USE FACILITIES IN 20<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY TURIN: AN URBAN HISTORY OF STRATIFICATION

Filippo De Pieri, Politecnico di Torino  
Aurora Riviezzo, Politecnico di Torino

**FILIPPO DE PIERI** is Professor of Architectural History at Politecnico di Torino, Italy. His research covers topics such as the history of early 19th-century planning, the history of 20th-century urban conservation, the history of collective housing, the environmental history of architecture. He has been a visiting scholar/professor at Harvard University, EPFL, Tsinghua University, South China University of Technology. He is one of the coordinators of the EAHN Interest Group on Housing since 2014. His publications include: *Storie di case. Abitare l'Italia del boom* (Rome, Donzelli, 2013, with G. Caramellino, B. Bonomo, F. Zanfi); *Beijing Danwei. Industrial Heritage in the Contemporary City* (Berlin, Jovis, 2015, with M. Bonino); *Explorations in the Middle-Class City: Torino 1945-80* (Siracusa, LetteraVentidue, 2015, with G. Caramellino, C. Renzoni, M. Pace); *Porter le temps. Mémoires urbaines d'un site horloger* (Genève, MetisPresses, 2021, with F. Graezer Bideau; IPHS Koos Bosma Prize in Planning History Innovation, 2022); *Tra simili. Storie incrociate dei quartieri italiani del secondo dopoguerra* (Macerata, Quodlibet, 2022).


**AURORA RIVIEZZO**, architect, PhD, is currently a post-doctoral fellow in Architectural History at the Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino. Her research investigates the connection among design practices, public policies and urban dimension in Italy, with a focus on specific mass housing programs. Aurora's interests focus on the history of contemporary architecture and art in Italy, especially in the South, and on the methodological aspects related to historical research. Since 2017, she has taken part in several editorial projects, collaborating with Italian publishers, magazines and institutions. From 2020, she is part of the editorial board of "Ardeth / Architectural Design Theory", currently with the role of journal manager.



Historians of public housing schemes in Italian cities have usually approached the history of public facilities from within the limits of a given housing complex, observing which collective-use infrastructures were built for a specific neighborhood (a parish, a school, a public market, etc.). This approach has been guided by a representation of 20th-century public housing schemes as separate entities within the urban landscape, each with its own narrative of design decisions, community dynamics, and outcomes.

Our paper aims at challenging this perspective by examining a case study of an Italian city where the development of public housing was intertwined with broader transformation processes. We concentrate on an urban transect in the northern periphery of Turin, Italy, punctuated by housing complexes built at different times under various funding programs. These schemes are part of a heterogeneous landscape in which they coexist side by side with piecemeal suburban developments, private housing initiatives for the lower middle classes, fringes of nineteenth-century planned neighborhoods, traces of former rural buildings, and other urban materials.

In such a context, collective-use facilities, although generally situated within or near public housing complexes, followed specific design, construction, and transformation strategies. They often came after the residential units had been completed and responded to separate sectoral programs and bureaucratic procedures. The social services that they offered were targeted at a broad and diversified population and aimed at covering a plurality of underequipped areas. Over time, their role and impact followed the ups-and-downs of an urban sector that was touched by various migration waves and by phenomena of social marginalization. Their spatial distribution and organization were also shaped by urban renewal campaigns aimed at ‘regenerating’ neighborhoods and public spaces. Rather than isolating individual neighborhoods or architectural typologies, our study therefore examines the interconnected co-evolution of public facilities. We will analyze the stratification of collective buildings and changes in their social function over several decades, illustrating how the city’s history was partly shaped by unintended consequences and the interplay of diverse sectoral policies.



**RECOLLECTING THE ARCHITECTURE OF DISTRIBUTION.  
MAURICE CAUWE AND L'URBANISME COMMERCIALE IN BELGIUM,  
1960-1985**

Tom Broes, Ghent University  
Michiel Dehaene, Ghent University

**TOM BROES** is post-doctoral research fellow and teaching assistant at the department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University. He holds a degree as Engineer-Architect (2004) and Urban Planner (2005), and a PhD in Engineering and Architecture (Ugent, supervisor prof. Michiel Dehaene, 2021). His PhD studies a forgotten episode in Belgian planning history, referred to in historical sources as L'Urbanisation des Grandes Agglomérations, as a model case that contributes to grounding urbanism in a theory of urbanization. Since 2021, he is involved in the Excellence of Science project Construction History: Above and Beyond, What History can do for Construction History, in which he investigates the nexus between urbanization policies, material industries, architectural production and construction labor. His specific interest lies in theorizing urban, architectural, construction, etc., practices from an urbanization perspective.

**MICHEL DEHAENE** is professor in Urbanism at the department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University, where he teaches courses in urban analysis and design. He holds a degree as Engineer-Architect (KULeuven 1994), Master of Architecture in Urban Design (Harvard 1997) and a PhD (KULeuven, supervisor prof. Marcel Smets). His work focusses on sub-urban renewal, the (planning) history of dispersed urban development, sustainable cities and food planning. His long-term research has been structured around incorporating urban theories and theories of urbanization in planning and design, moving away from normative design theory. With Thomas Block and Griet Roets he has cofounded 'De Stadsacademie', a transdisciplinary collaboratory of Ghent University and the City of Ghent engaging researchers from different faculties, urban policy makers, civil society organizations and students to jointly address and study wicked urban sustainability challenges in Ghent ([www.destadsacademie.be](http://www.destadsacademie.be)).



Throughout the twentieth century, urbanizing societies became ever more dependent on the distribution of goods and services for their daily functioning. From 1954 onwards, the Comité Royal Belge de la Distribution (CRBD) – a close collaboration between public authorities, national politics and the business world – started promoting more rational modes of distribution, increasing the efficiency of the country’s commercial apparatus, boosting the national economy, raising living standards, and meeting citizen’s recalibrated needs. The paper unpacks how, in the early 1960’s, Maurice Cauwe – a true captain of the distribution industry in Belgium - co-negotiated the abolition of the Grendelwet (a law prohibiting the establishment of large stores) to roll out a true empire of iconic GB-supermarkets across the nation. Supplemented with gas stations, restaurants, small commercial centres, road hotels, the well-known chain Innovation, DIY-stores, garden centres, etc., many of these places grew into suburban centralities and places of collective use. Other than Belgium’s fully fledged shopping malls, these small centres mostly catered to the needs of local communities. Nevertheless, Maurice Cauwe, who maintained close ties with American figures such as Bernardo Trujillo and Victor Gruen, became a leading figure in the European movement of L’urbanisme Commerciale.

The paper draws on the GIB-archives, stored at ULB university, GB-archives stored by former GB-employee Fred Lams, and Maurice Cauwe’s personal and unpublished chronicles to weave webs of interaction between the little studied architecture of distribution and the advance of science, technology, bureaucracy, business, management, etc. in the up-and-coming distribution sector. Inspired by Michael Osman’s book *Modernism’s Visible Hand*, the paper aims to write a history of the confluence of ‘distribution thinking’ and ‘building design’ in the Belgian context. It aims to broaden our understanding of how the adages of distribution infrastructures shaped the built environment; established an urbanism that was ‘built’ rather than ‘planned’; provided flexible containers of commercial use over time; undergirded the rise of a new sense of aesthetics in Belgium’s sprawling urban landscapes, etc.






**BUILDING COMMUNITIES OVER TIME: THE CASE OF COLLECTIVITIES  
AND CHURCHES OF TWO NEIGHBOURHOODS IN LISBON**

Maria Amélia Cabrita, Iscte-IUL  
Teresa Marat-Mendes, Iscte-IUL

**MARIA AMÉLIA CABRITA** is an architect and develops social projects in her own architectural office. She is an assistant researcher at DINÂMIA'CET - ISCTE-IUL; She completed her Masters in Architecture of Contemporary Metropolitan Territories at ISCTE. Areas of interest: interdisciplinary themes related to issues of housing, typologies, habitat, the construction of territory through history; arts and literature. Archives are the main and preferred source of data.

**TERESA MARAT-MENDES** is a Full Professor in Architecture and Urbanism at ISCTE-IUL, the Department of Architecture and Urbanism. She is a Senior Researcher at DINÂMIA'CET. Her teaching activity includes courses on Architecture, Urbanism and Ecological Urbanism. Teresa's research activity is centered on the domains of Architecture and Urbanism, Urban Morphology, Urban Design, Urban Sustainability, Socio-ecological Metabolism, Portuguese Architecture and Urban Planning. She coordinated the DINÂMIA'CET the research teams for Project MEMO - Evolution of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area Metabolism. Lessons towards a Sustainable Urban Future (financed by the Portuguese Science Foundation - PTDC/EMS-ENE/2197/2012); and Project SPLACH Spatial Planning for Change (POCI-01-0145-FEDER-01643). Her latest book 'Atlas of the Food System. Challenges for a Sustainable transition of the Lisbon Region' was published by Springer.



This presentation focus in the analysis of specific urban facilities, object of our study, the collectivities and churches of the neighborhoods *Encarnação* and *Caselas*, in Lisbon, built under the affordable housing Program *Casas Económicas* promoted by *Estado Novo*, in the 1950s.


The main sources of research are the unpublished documents located at the archives of *Forte de Sacavém* and *IHRU*, in Lisbon. The adopted methodology involved the organization and a chronological analysis of data, local visits, interviews and morphological analysis.

We thus intend to unveil the aspects that intersect official initiatives, strongly informed by the political strategies of social control and the associative movements that have preceded those initiatives. Our research has allowed to witness the convergence of two specific “needs”, the collective and the political, in the situation that will give rise to the material formalization, including buildings, outdoor spaces, fixed and mobile equipment. The collectivities, which can be found everywhere throughout the country, emerged in urban areas with a strong incidence of uprooted populations, to surpass collective needs, embodied through associations promoting activities of common interest, capable of bringing people together and creating a community.

For the collectivities in focus, stands out the role played by *FNAT* (*the ‘National Foundation for the happiness at work’*, nowadays renamed as *INATEL* Foundation, an institution created by the regime to regulate popular recreational, cultural and sporting initiatives, which will also be responsible for those neighborhoods of affordable housing.

Churches bring together religious communities, function at the level of spiritual needs, guarantee social support and do also present themselves as elements of reference, representative and symbolic — they transmit security, they give meaning to the urban space where they stand.


The history of these structures, from the manifestation of their need to their effective occupation and use, including the circumstances and processes of their construction, and the observation of their present situation, allow us to evaluate the way they have responded to social and cultural changes over time, in the use of buildings and spaces, which today show signs of degradation and obsolescence, but also reveal a great capacity for adaptation and resilience.



**AN ARCHITECTURE FOR HEALTH IN SPAIN: THE BUILDINGS  
OF THE HEALTH FACILITIES PLAN IN PALENCIA AND ZAMORA  
FROM THE 1950s TO THE PRESENT DAY**


Alba Zarza Arribas, Iscte-IUL

**ALBA ZARZA ARRIBAS** is architect (Bachelor Degree in Fundamentals of Architecture, 2015; Master in Architecture, 2016), PhD in Architecture (2023, International Mention) and University Specialist in History and Aesthetics of Cinematography (2020) from the University of Valladolid (Spain). She is currently an integrated researcher at Dinâmia'CET – ISCTE of the Iscte- University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal), working in the EU-funded project "ReARQ.IB – Built Environment Knowledge for Resilient, Sustainable Communities: Understanding Everyday Modern Architecture and Urban Design in the Iberian Peninsula (1939-1985)" (ERC Starting Grant GA949686). She has been a researcher at Centro de Estudos Arnaldo Araújo | CEAA of Escola Superior Artística do Porto (Portugal, 2018-24) and is correspondent for the journal revista *Progreso, Proyecto, Arquitectura*, and associated member of the Instituto Universitario de Urbanística | IUU of University of Valladolid. She developed her doctoral thesis through a grant from FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (Portugal) at the Department of Architectural Theory and Projects of the University of Valladolid and the CEAA. Her research focuses on the relationship between architecture and cinema, mainly in the representation of housing in the Iberian Peninsula during the central decades of the twentieth century.



The architecture of the Plan de Instalaciones Sanitarias (Health Facilities Plan, 1945-1982) defined the configuration of hospital buildings throughout Spain, creating buildings that still survive today, transformed to adapt them to new medical and social needs. The Plan was conceived with a clear vocation to alleviate the scarce number of existing healthcare facilities and to guarantee universal coverage for those affiliated to the Seguro Obligatorio de Enfermedad (Compulsory Health Insurance), promoting the development of healthcare in the main Spanish municipalities. Specifically, the buildings of the health care residences configured the network of hospitals that exists today, based on the typologies developed internationally and which contributed to the introduction of modern architecture and functionalist principles in official buildings.

Starting from the general principles and characteristics that defined the main lines of the Plan, this communication takes a closer look at two specific examples, both located in medium-sized cities in Castile and Leon: the Lorenzo Ramírez Health Care Residence in Palencia (now the Río Carrión Hospital), designed by Eduardo de Garay y Garay and inaugurated in 1954; and the Ramiro Ledesma Ramos Health Care Residence in Zamora (now the Virgen de la Concha Hospital), designed by Martín José Marcide Odriozola and inaugurated in 1955. Their specificity and historical evolution of these buildings from their conception to the present day will be addressed through a study based on primary sources, including the documentation and publications produced by official bodies, mainly the editions of the Ministry of Labour and the National Social Security Institute, the architectural projects themselves and the information disseminated about them in the different media. Together, all this information will reconstruct the history of these buildings throughout their existence and provide a broad overview of the transformation they have undergone, opening up new ways of understanding them as a living heritage of the city.



## CONTESTED COMFORTS: NORDIC-DESIGNED UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS IN EAST AFRICA

Maryia Rusak, ETH Zurich

**MARYIA RUSAK** is an ETH Postdoctoral Fellow (2022-24) at the Chair of the History and Theory of Urban Design, ETH Zurich. Her postdoctoral project investigates the Nordic architecture of foreign aid in postcolonial Africa, with a focus on the pragmatic and economic rationale behind its production. Prior to joining ETH, Maryia completed her PhD at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO). As a researcher, Maryia is particularly interested in the histories of everyday objects, networks of bureaucratic institutions, obscure intricacies of architectural production and, in general, how buildings are made. In her current work, she is exploring post-colonial narratives across cultural and geographic divides. Maryia holds an M.Arch. in Sustainable Urban Planning and Design from KTH, Stockholm, and a BA in Architecture from Princeton University, USA. Recently, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Architectural Theory Research Centre at the University of Queensland, Australia (2023) and a research fellow at the Bauhaus Global Modernism Lab in Dessau (2020).



National educational institutions are often designed to respond to the perceived educational and “manpower” needs. Their architecture, on the other hand, mediates between the projected representational values and everyday experience of these buildings, inhabited by students, educators and administrative staff. This duality is complicated further when the designers of these institutions come from different cultural and political contexts. This was the case of the University of East Africa, first established in 1961 as a college of the University of London but, as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda acquired independence in the early 1960s, divided across campuses in three capitals. These universities played an important role in the processes of building self-reliance and “Africanization” of all aspects of social and political life. For example, a complete Tanzanization of public administration and leadership was envisioned by the 1980s. For that, national educational institutions had to expand to accommodate an increasing number of students and provide not only educational buildings but also shared common spaces: libraries, study rooms, student dormitories and staff housing. These expansions required large investments, which were often sought abroad, and Nordic countries were among the most generous donors furnishing both financial capital and technical expertise. This cross-cultural collaboration revealed not only different approaches to education but also different conceptions of “need”, comfort and shared spaces. Focusing on the two projects for student dormitories at the University of Dar es-Salaam and Nairobi, this paper investigates how these ideas of “need” were projected, imagined and negotiated by different local and foreign agents. The question of “need” was complicated further by limited budgets and elaborate funding demands of global lending institutions like the World Bank. Equipped with original archival sources documenting negotiations behind the design and construction of shared university spaces, this paper dissects the many subjectivities embedded into the transnational architecture of collective-use facilities. In doing so, it explores the histories of construction centred around “need” and points to a host of future potentialities regarding the use and management of these spaces.




**WHEN IN NEED, BAND TOGETHER:  
POSTMODERN HOUSING OF SMALL COOPERATIVES  
IN WROCLAW IN THE 1980S AND 1990S**

Adam Pacholak, University of Wrocław

**ADAM PACHOLAK**, MA - Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences at the University of Wrocław, preparing a dissertation about architecture of the 1980s and 1990s in Wrocław.

In 2019 he defended his master's thesis "The electronic brain of the city. The idea of modern Wrocław and the ZETO building". It was published as part of the Wrocław Publishing Program. It won second place in the Mieczysław F. Rakowski competition for the best master's thesis on the history of the People's Republic of Poland by Polityka Weekly, and an honorable mention in the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning's "Common Space is a Value" competition for the best master's thesis. Member of Wikipedia's Caryatid Collective. Museum assistant at the National Museum in Wrocław, in the Museum of Contemporary Art. His research interests include architecture and urbanism of the 20th century, especially modernist and postmodernist architecture and its perception.




The rapid development of so-called “infill” construction in Wrocław of the late 1980s was a response of local cooperatives to the economic and social crisis of the state of a scale and creativity unprecedented in Polish history. I would like to point out this unique episode of Polish contemporary architecture, full of surprising solutions, particularly from the perspective of the younger generation raised under neoliberal capitalism.

The 1980s in communist Poland saw mass state construction, which had provided housing for citizens in previous decades, virtually stopped. Faced with the lack of fulfillment of the basic need for housing, the young generation of the time organized themselves in small cooperatives, often within workplaces, which managed to build their own homes. Wrocław had a lot of empty spaces going all the way to the center of the city. It was those sites that have been filled with new housing projects, the so-called “plomby” (translated as *infills* or sometimes as *fillings*), which manifested great diversity in their postmodern architecture.

The crisis of the 1980s also manifests itself through the lack of sources in the systematic documentation. In the absence of documents and archives, the primary source remains search of the press, local and professional, and oral history - interviews with architects, cooperatives and residents of the “infills” who, better than anyone else, remember for what reason and by what means they tried to build their own place to live. Through these interviews I have been able to bring out important intergenerational differences in Poland, as well as to show the older generation a new perspective on their own history.

In my presentation I would like to briefly sketch the process of the formation of cooperatives and the conditions under which they acquired land for the construction of their houses. I would like to answer the following questions: how did they overcome economic constraints? Who was building? How did they negotiate their needs? What was their relationship with the architect? Did the new constructions meet their expectations? Can the new generations, faced with their own housing crisis, learn anything from them?






**THE BENEFITS OF A BUILD-TO-RENT MODEL  
AS OPPOSED TO A BUILD-TO-SELL MODEL:  
THE EXAMPLE OF ÉVORA**

Sónia Alves, ICS-ULisboa

**SÓNIA ALVES** is a research fellow at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa (ICSULisboa) and a visiting researcher at BUILD - the Department of the Built Environment, Aalborg University. With a BSc in Geography, a master's degree in urban planning and a PhD in Sociology, her research is guided by several overarching and often intersecting themes in the fields of human geography, housing policy and urban planning – fields that, although distinct, each offer perspectives necessary for grasping a complex reality.

Her academic career has been characterized by transdisciplinary comparison and internationalization. Between 2012 and 2013 she worked at the Danish Building Research Institute, and between 2018 and 2020, as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, at the Cambridge Centre for Planning and Housing Research at the University of Cambridge. Since 2021 at ICS-ULisboa, she has been the Principal Investigator of several projects, such as SustainLis (FCT) and DASH – Deliver Safe and Social Housing (Horizon MSCA SE 2021) and co-PI of LOGO (The Local GOVERNance of housing policy).




The institutionalization of housing policies occurred in Portugal during the “Estado Novo” (New State), a right-wing authoritarian regime that ruled Portugal for 41 years (1933–1974). The regime implemented a statist development strategy based on a significant programme of public works, including housebuilding.

During the 1933-1945 period a housing system was developed to support the expansion of cities, and the construction of housing for the upper-middle class (those with better jobs and income), who were regime’s main supporters. The Estado Novo proclaimed that ownership was the ideal tenure for achieving social stability, promoting a build-to-sell model. Specifically, the government declared the ideological association between the house/yard model (detached houses with gardens) and the homeownership model (houses were paid through monthly rents and over a period of 25 years, eventually becoming the property of the family).

Based on the analysis of primary data (namely archived correspondence, plans, and policy documents) at the municipal archive of Évora and the Associação of Legado do Operário, this paper shows that at the local level, in Évora, the board of a not-for profit association advocated that renting without selling was the most beneficial option for the association and its members.


By examining the concerns, conditions and circumstances that allowed local actors with state bureaucrats to alter existing rules in the case of Bairro do Legado do Operário (1947), this paper aims to advance the current debate about the benefits of a build-to-rent model as opposed to a build-to-sell model.



**AN INSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE STATE  
AND ITS CITIZENS. ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTION  
OF AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE LANDS  
OF BOHEMIAN CROWN BEFORE WORLD WAR I**

Jan Galeta, Masaryk University


**JAN GALETA** studied art history at the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno (PhD 2020). His primary focus is 19th and 20th-century European architecture, but he generally deals with topics like architecture and nationalism, architecture and propaganda, architecture and politics and sociology of art. He is also interested in the historiography of art history. Jan Galeta is an assistant professor and editor at the Department of Art History, Masaryk University in Brno, and a research assistant at the Czech Academy of Sciences. He edited some books (like *Admired as Well As Overlooked Beauty. Contributions to Architecture of Historicism, Art Nouveau, Early Modernism and Traditionalism*, 2015 together with Zuzana Ragulova) and is the author of some papers in journals and book chapters (like in *The Strength and Future of the Nation is National Identity*, 2021 edited by Jindřich Vybíral).



In 1908, the Ministry of Public Works was established for the Austrian part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During its short existence, limited by World War I and ended by the dissolution of the Habsburg Monarchy, the ministry managed to project, construct and support thousands of buildings. Part of its mission was in civil engineering (roads, dams and bridges). Still, the production of architecture was equally important, including schools, universities, buildings for state authorities, posts, courts of law and more. Their design was the task of a department called "Atelier für Hochbau". Most of the constructed buildings still stand and serve their public purposes. However, they are somewhat invisible, as they (and the ministry itself) are rarely subjects of interest in (art)historical surveys. The proposed paper thus focuses on the architectural production of the Austrian Ministry of Public Works from two points of view. At first, from a quantitative position. Based on archival research of the ministerial agenda (containing hundreds of files), I want to show the amount, the typological range and the geographical distribution of the architecture produced by the state and its strategies. For a large volume of archival documents, the research was, for practical reasons, limited to the territory of three crownlands of the Empire: Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. Still, this territory could be taken as a representative sample.

Second, in some short case studies, I want to show the whole process of a building designed and constructed by the Ministry of Public Works. Therefore, there are questions about the mechanisms behind it, such as funding, legislation, and administration. However, I also want to touch on questions like: Who needed this building more? Was it the issue of collective need fulfilled by the state, or on the contrary, an intention of the state that dictated to the community? What was the role of local officials? How could local artisans and companies take part in the state-managed construction?


The ministry's agenda was undoubtedly connected to the state's and its citizens' needs. My goal is to examine how exactly and to what extent.



**BUILDING CORPORATIVE EMPIRES:  
A TRANS-IMPERIAL GENEALOGY OF RECREATIONAL  
AND SOCIAL CENTRES ACROSS PORTUGAL,  
ANGOLA AND BELGIAN CONGO, 1930S-1960S**

Beatriz Serrazina, Iscte-IUL

**BEATRIZ SERRAZINA** holds a PhD in Architecture (*Patrimónios*, CES/III-Univ. Coimbra, 2024). Master's degree in architecture (FA-ULisboa, 2016). Researcher in the "Archwar" and "WomArchStruggle" projects (Dinâmia'CET-Iscte). Research interests span the history of architecture, imperial companies, transnational connections, circulation of knowledge, and (post)colonial heritage. Scientific contributions include the co-organization of the exhibition *Colonizing Africa...* (AHU, 2019), participation in national and international meetings and research publications.




From the latter half of the 1930s onwards, several social facilities were planned by “gentlemanly capitalism” corporations in extractive regions. These buildings, which had recreational, social, cultural, and assistance purposes, along with productivity affairs, were primarily located in central areas within company towns, thereby underscoring their significance in shaping the corporate environment. This paper aims to examine a long genealogy of social and recreational centers in still-overlooked (post)colonial corporate landscapes in Europe and Africa, focusing on the strong interactions between Portuguese and Belgian ventures. The initial *Casas do Pessoal* [Clubs] from Maceira-Liz, Leiria, Portugal (1934) and Diamang, Lunda, Angola (1937) will be compared in terms of their objectives and forms, while exploring a potential correlation between these plans and the inaugural *Foyer Sociaux* [Social Centers] established during the same period for African women and workers in the Belgian Congo.

Subsequently, the greater relevance of these social and recreational centers after the Second World War will be questioned in the context of mounting “developmentalist” and “modernizing” drives, particularly in Africa. This resulted in a more detailed design of the buildings, larger dimensions, and a broader audience, including “European” settlers and African communities. Diamang planned singular structures for the *Casa do Pessoal*, while Forminière and the Union Minière du Haut Katanga constructed new *Foyer Sociaux* in Bakwanga and on the Copperbelt, respectively.

The synchronous appearance of these buildings, in two key historical periods, suggests the existence of both significant metropolitan-colonial and trans-imperial connections concerning the spatializations of welfare strategies, sponsored by states and companies, which remain largely unexamined. In addition, many of these facilities continue to serve a pivotal role in the lives of resident communities, hinting at their ability to adapt in the face of different political and social contexts.


The presentation will draw on an analysis of the aforementioned buildings’ proposals, intersecting written documents, photographs, and re-drawings. It will grasp changes over time and across geographical locations as well as consider the interconnections between the production contexts and socio-spatial purposes. The principal sources will be the companies’ corporate archives, located in Portugal and Belgium. These archives include plans, reports, and correspondence.



**THE SOCIALIST-ERA  
COUNCIL BUILDING OF HARGHITA COUNTY  
IN MIERCUREA-CIUC, ROMANIA**

Dániel Vass, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca


**DÁNIEL VASS** is an architect and co-founder of MVAA Molnar & Vass Associated Architects, Romania. He graduated from the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania in 2013, having spent semesters abroad during his studies at HCU Hamburg in 2010 and Sint-Lucas Brussels in 2011-2012. Prior to co-founding his own practice, he gained professional experience (among others) at Winking Froh Architekten Hamburg, E2A Eckert Eckert Architekten Zürich and Exhibit Arhitectura Braşov. Presently he is a doctoral student at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Arch. Virgil Pop, with his research focusing on the civic centres of Romanian towns during the socialist period.



This presentation focuses broadly on the socialist-era civic centre of Miercurea-Ciuc and more specifically on the county council building. Miercurea-Ciuc (Csíkszereda) is a town in the Szeklerland (Ținutul Secuiesc/Székelyföld) area of Romania. The town underwent far-reaching interventions into its urban fabric during the late seventies and eighties by the then ruling socialist regime, to make way for the new civic centre, consisting of the “manifestation square”, flanked on two sides by the “cultural center” and the “political-administrative building”, known today as the Harghita county council building. Other buildings that were initially also part of the plan (library, cinema, shopping centre, etc.) have never materialized due to a shortage of funds, a lack of political will and finally the end of the regime.

In Romania (like in other Eastern European countries), the socialist ruling class pursued a program towards the industrialization of the economy and the urbanization of the population. Thus, most towns that were declared county seats received new urban planning proposals with the aim of building civic centres, which usually consisted of a large open square for the organization of political manifestations, an administrative building for the state apparatus, as well as a cultural building. Miercurea-Ciuc is one of the most extensively built examples of this building program in Romania.

Sources for the research are represented by archival material such as plans, maps, photographs, state decrees and other government documents concerning the planning and building of Miercurea-Ciuc civic centre, which enable a qualitative analysis of the architectural aspects of the project. These are further interpreted through the lens of literature available on the wider subject of civic centres in Romania, analysing the influence that economic and political aspects had on the architectural product. Finally, an attempt is made to gauge the change in perception of locals about the project, by comparing historical accounts to present-day observation.





**“TO BUILD A SCHOOL”: L’ASSOCIATION POUR L’ENVIRONNEMENT  
PÉDAGOGIQUE AND THE EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL  
OF L’ÉTABLETTE IN BRITTANY, FRANCE, 1960s-1980s**

Johanna Sluiter, University of Bern

**JOHANNA SLUITER** is a postdoctoral fellow in the Institut für Kunstgeschichte at the University of Bern where she is currently researching modern architecture, (de)colonization, nation- and school-building projects. She received her PhD from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University in 2023 with a dissertation on the global development of minimum need housing entitled: “Building Habitat: Reconstruction, Decolonization, and the Atelier des Bâisseurs, 1945-1962.” In addition, she is a Senior Researcher for MAMMA – the association for the Memoire des Architectes Modernes Marocains – and co-director of the archival and outreach project, “Building Memory in Casablanca, Morocco (1917-1980),” as part of the UCLA and Arcadia Foundation’s Modern Endangered Archives Program.




The planning and pedagogy bureau, l'Association pour l'Environnement Pédagogique (AEP), produced numerous school buildings over the course of its activity between 1968 and 1993. Dedicated to developing radically new learning environments, AEP sought to bridge longstanding divisions between classroom and curriculum, teacher and pupil, school and community. As a result, AEP's operations were inherently multidisciplinary, counting not only architects, urbanists, and pedagogues among its staff, but also psychologists, economists, engineers, and additional specialists, as needed. AEP's commitment to collaboration extended beyond the organization to its partners and clients, involving local communities in design and decision-making processes through interviews, surveys, and observational analysis. Some of AEP's most ambitious experiments in coproducing educational facilities include the school complexes in the "new town" of Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (1971) and programming of the École St. Merri (1972) as part of the plateau Beaubourg urban renovation project. After introducing these precedents and the history of AEP's formation, this presentation will focus on the fullest achievement of AEP's aims in the experimental school of L'Établette (1978) in St. Brieuc, France, where AEP was in charge of building design, program, and pedagogy, from classroom furniture to teacher training. However, this experimental program had to be realized within the budgetary limitations of the French National Ministry of Education, the political ambitions of the mayor of St. Brieuc, and the diverse desires of parents, teachers, and the community, at large. The collective efforts, participation, and negotiation among these bodies resulted in an experimental school in which all members of the St. Brieuc community saw themselves reflected in the design, layout, and programming, and were invited to use the school in unexpected and unprecedented ways. AEP's focus on flexibility, adaptation, and reuse ensured that the school transformed to suit changing needs of the community over time, and even served as the model for a parallel project in Chenini Gabès in Tunisia (1990). Drawing upon the archives of AEP, interviews with the architect, Claude Bensimon, and lead teacher, Françoise Héléard, this presentation will analyze the origin of L'Établette, its relation to the local community, and how the project is used and viewed today.




**BUILDING SCHOOLS, EQUIPPING TERRITORIES.  
AN URBANIZATION-ORIENTED PERSPECTIVE  
ON THE ITALIAN EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN THE XX<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Cristina Renzoni, Politecnico di Milano

**CRISTINA RENZONI** is an Associate Professor of Spatial Planning and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU) of Politecnico di Milano. Her research focuses on the history of national and regional planning in post-WWII Italy and the roles and spaces of public services in the contemporary European city, with particular attention to educational facilities. Among her recent publications: *Diritti in città. Gli standard urbanistici dal 1968 a oggi* (Donzelli 2021); *School Squares. Reinventing the dialogue between schools and cities* (Corraini 2022); *Les Espaces d'apprentissage: une question urbaine et territoriale* (CRAUP 2022).




This proposal focuses on Italian school infrastructures after World War II, looking closely at how the construction of new schools has helped to accompany, legitimize, and partly direct the country's urbanization process. As central elements of the "infrastructures of everyday life", schools are an integral part of the narratives that consider the construction of cities and territories in the broader process of the country's modernization. School buildings have accompanied and partly supported the processes of settlement dispersion of rural areas or the expansion of metropolitan areas; they have contributed to the formation of peripheral areas and new urban sectors; they have played a role in defining the boundaries of the urbanized area of medium-sized cities and the configuration of interventions within historical central areas. Moving from the observation of a panorama that, in recent years, has strengthened the knowledge of the national school building stock, it appears necessary to root it in the local contexts and, in the long run, reframe some interpretative hypotheses on the spatial production of these legacies and their territorial specificities. This contribution proposes three insights that shaped the intertwining of instruments, locational strategies, and urban transformations: they allow us to root the construction of relations between schools and territories through time and at an intermediate scale. The three cases presented concern different urban and local conditions: the space of schools within a new residential neighborhood in the expansion process of a metropolitan city in the early 1960s; the definition of a large school district of higher education in a medium-sized city during the 1970s; and finally, the fragmented and pulviscular process of school provision of polycentric towns between the end of the 1970s and 1980s. These stories represent broader processes that have affected the Italian territory and propose interpretative lines that, both from a historical and an operational perspective, can contribute to a renewed understanding of how schools have made and are making cities nowadays.




**DENSITY AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING.  
COLLECTIVE-USE FACILITIES UNDER TRANSFORMATION  
IN THE HOUSING COMPLEX AUTOBAHNÜBERBAUUNG  
SCHLANGENBADER STRASSE IN BERLIN,  
GERMANY (1982-2024)**

Karlis Ratnieks, Estonian Academy of Arts

**KARLIS RATNIEKS** is an architect and urbanist based in Berlin. Educated at the Technical University, Berlin, and Estonian Academy of Arts. His research interests include history of production and representation of mass housing, as well as historic preservation projects. Since 2015, he has been a guest lecturer at the chair for urban studies at the Faculty of Architecture at the Estonian Academy of Arts.



This paper explores the turn to community-building in late-modernist housing mega-structures in West Berlin, with a particular focus on the social housing complex Auto-*bahnüberbauung* Schlangenhader Straße (1971-80). The 600m long megastructure is famous for its location directly on top of the city freeway A104. While considered a milestone development due to its scale and unique architectural disposition, the conception and transformation of shared spaces and collective-use facilities of this complex have been little studied. Through an examination of the original architectural plans by the office “Georg Heinrichs und Partner”, building documents and reflections of the stakeholders linked to the project, I trace the ways how a particular imaginary of community life was placed at the centre of the architectural concept. Some of the shared facilities included a “community street” running through the building’s 4th floor and the generous community rooftop terraces. The guiding principles behind the design proposal can be traced to the architecture conference “Gesellschaft durch Dichte” (Society through density) in 1963, Gelsenkirchen, Germany, where the focus on density was proclaimed crucial for developing a new type of urbanity. How has the role of collective-use facilities changed over time? What are the influences the state institutions exert over the residents engaged in the processes of expanding and transforming the use of shared spaces? What are the regulatory mechanics behind these processes? Following on-site observations and interviews, I argue that recently a new set of self-provisioning and commoning practices (rooted in grassroots activism) have emerged, challenging the initial understandings of collective needs.




**KRUISGEBOUWEN:  
NURSES AND COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES  
IN THE NETHERLANDS, 1940-1960**

Jess Chang, TU Delft  
Amy Thomas, TU Delft

**JESS HSIU-JU CHANG** is a PhD Candidate engaged in interdisciplinary research within the Design, Data and Society Group and the Building Ideology Group in the Department of Architecture at TU Delft. Her current research explores the synergies between data technology, nursing, and architecture, ordering insights from historical, contemporary, and future viewpoints for the workplaces of nurses.


**AMY THOMAS** is Associate Professor of architectural history in the Department of Architecture at TU Delft where her research explores the relationships between design, people, and political economy in the city, at every scale. She is the author of the book *The City in the City: Architecture and Change in London's Financial District* (MIT Press, 2023) which details the post-war development of the City of London, and co-editor of the open-access book *Teaching Design for Values: Concepts, Tools, and Practices* (TU Delft Open, 2022). Thomas has published articles in *The Journal of Architecture*, *Grey Room*, *Architectural Theory Review* and *ARCH+*. In 2020 she was awarded a 'VENI' grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO) for a three-year project on gender inequality and workplace design. She is an advocate for equality, diversity, and inclusion in architectural education, collaborating internationally on projects of this theme.



In recent years, decentralization has become a prominent trend in the healthcare landscape. In the Netherlands, new technologies combined with increased pressure on healthcare providers have brought into sharp focus the need for more specialized local care services. This paper examines a little known yet widespread building type in the Netherlands that offers a precedent model of community healthcare. Known as the Kruisgebouwen or 'Cross Buildings' these care centres were established in the 19th century by local Kruisverenigingen or 'Cross Associations' and went on to thrive between the 1940s and 1960s under the welfare state. These organisations, defined by their religious affiliation, were established to improve public health by reaching those in the countryside, in the pillarization context, where institutionalised medical resources were hardly accessible.

This paper explores the ways that these ubiquitous buildings communicated broader biopolitical drives in the postwar period. Established in towns across the Netherlands, the Cross Buildings were designed to reach the maximum number of individuals through their proximity. The buildings were intended as community centres where local people could not only receive care and education, but, through participation on Cross Association boards, involve indecision-making process of the clinics' operation. Within them, a central figure, the community nurse, was responsible for a vast range of healthcare and educational programs, ranging from disease control, mental health control, and maternity care to combat infant mortality. Due to its nature of diverse services, the Cross Building contained many healthcare functions that are often separated nowadays, typically consisting of spaces for check-ups, rental services for medical appliances, and a residential section for nurses.

The paper investigates the building through community nurses. Predominantly female, these nurses were the core employee-users of the Cross Buildings, but were also required to be exceptionally mobile within the neighborhood. We explore the extent to which these (often) architect-designed structures mediated between the state, religious institutions, communities and the nurses themselves to produce specific ideas about public health and society during the postwar period. As gendered spaces, we explore the buildings at the interface of different forms of labour, with specific material and spatial consequences.





**THE ARCHITECTURE OF CEREBRAL PALSY  
REHABILITATION CENTRES BY CÂNDIDO PALMA DE MELO:  
BEJA, COIMBRA, AND FARO, 1970-2000**


Francisco Alves, Universidade de Coimbra

**FRANCISCO ALVES** (b.1993) holds a master's degree in architecture from ISCTE-IUL (2016) and is currently a PhD student at "DARQ" (Departamento de Arquitectura da Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Coimbra) since October 2022.

While studying, he worked as a lab assistant for "FabLab Lisbon" between 2013 and 2016 – where he engaged in digital fabrication activities and taught short training courses, namely at Lisbon Maker Faire-European Maker Week. During that period, he had his work featured at "Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes" in the 2014 exhibition "Juventude – Projectos".

Francisco collaborated at "Roseta Vaz Monteiro Arquitectos" (2016-2018) as he completed his professional internship – he is a member of "OASRS" since 2018. Francisco is currently a senior architect at NOZ Arquitectura (focussing mostly on Residential, Sports, Commercial and Hospitality architecture) and has co-founded FARPA – Architecture Studio.

In 2017 he produced a presentation based on his master thesis at "Changing Cities III: Spatial, Design, Landscape and Socio-economic Dimensions". Most recently he presented "Corbusian readings in the Church of Santa Joana Princesa and in the oeuvre of the architect Luiz Cunha" at the "3rd International Seminar: Architectures of the Soul" and was an invited jury for the final master exams at ISCTE-IUL (2020).




The Calouste Gulbenkian Rehabilitation Centre for the Portuguese Cerebral Palsy Association – APPC, in Lisbon, is perhaps the most celebrated building by Portuguese architect Cândido Palma de Melo (1922-2002). Completed in 1969-1970, the project draws from a modular hexagonal shape whose spatial distribution and scaling defines both individual and collective spaces.

Through his own personal ties, Palma de Melo would later become responsible for that institution and engage in the design of other APPC facilities during the 1990's in Coimbra, Beja, and Faro. However, there are substantial differences between the first and later buildings. Whereas the first suggests the overall configuration could expand and contract to better cope with its uses, that same structuralist approach is subsequently lost. Quite contrastingly to the perceivable flexible layout the architect conceives in the late 1960's, following APPC facilities all abide by and derive from the same "T" shaped footprint repurposed to distinct urban contexts and plot geometries.

Consequently, one can infer different typological responses to the same collective needs develop towards a more stable solution as Palma de Melo learns from the exploratory Calouste Gulbenkian Rehabilitation Centre and the architect's understanding of these healthcare facilities programmatic requirements develops. In Lisbon the design is replicated within itself, whereas in Coimbra, Beja, and Faro it seemingly replicates as a whole from one site to another. This raises several questions towards element standardization, the degree of the architect's intervention throughout the construction process and typological research, that require examination.

Historiographical accounts usually acknowledge Palma de Melo's contribution towards accessibility and inclusivity in architecture. However, Lisbon's Rehabilitation Centre single recognition among other APPC facilities is mostly due to the building's formal play – with little to no research directed towards later experiences, the typological research invested in them, or implemented solutions.

In this context, we target such particular communitarian-focused facilities, encompassing both healthcare professionals, caregivers, parents, and children living with cerebral palsy. Through archival elements we focus on how such architectural solutions relate to contemporaneous experiences and how they outline an architectural typology of its own to which Palma de Melo devoted great attention throughout his career.




**COLLECTIVE-USE CARE FACILITIES  
FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN SPAIN: FROM ASYLUM-LIKE  
TO PERSON-CENTRED MODELS IN THE REGION OF ARAGON**

Irene González-Fernández, University of Zaragoza

Lucía C. Pérez-Moreno, University of Zaragoza

**IRENE GONZÁLEZ-FERNÁNDEZ** is a PhD candidate in the doctoral program 'New Territories in Architecture' at the University of Zaragoza in Spain. Her PhD thesis (Fellowship DGA 2021-2025) focused on developing an certification system to renovate Collective-Use care facilities for older people from an inclusive and sustainable perspective. Dr. Pérez-Moreno supervises the thesis as part of the Research Group Built4Life\_Lab (Aragon Government, Spain). She holds a Double Bachelor's in Architecture and Integral Design (2019), a Master's in Architecture from Rey Juan Carlos University (2020), and a Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2023).


**DR LUCÍA C. PÉREZ-MORENO** is a History of Architecture Professor at the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and a Visiting Professor at KU Leuven (Belgium) focusing on Feminist Philosophy. She co-leads the Research Group Built4Life\_Lab (Aragon Government, Spain). She holds a PhD in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (2013), an MsAAD from Columbia University (New York, 2008), and postgraduate studies from Aalto University (Helsinki, 2004). She is a licensed architect, urban planner (University of Navarra, 2003), and philosopher (KU Leuven, 2024). In 2021, her research on Architecture and Feminist Theory won the "Celia Amorós" Award (Aragón Investiga Programme). Previously, she was nominated for the International Architecture Critics Awards in 2017 by the CICA (International Committee of Architectural Critics) and awarded at the Spanish Biennials of Architecture and Urbanism (2016, 2018, 2021). In 2022, the Spanish Government included her in its Women and Science Unit as one of Spain's most innovative researchers.



Southern European countries are facing a challenging demographic ageing. By 2050, more than a third of their population would be up to 65 years old —Greece (35,5%), Portugal (33,9%), Italy (33,7%) and Spain (32,7%)—, which imply a higher prevalence of age-related diseases and cognitive impairments exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic with a rise in loneliness and depression rates. The majority of them are women who face elevated instances of under-diagnosed mental and neurodegenerative diseases —especially those living alone. This socio-demographic situation is a challenge for collective-use care facilities, which play an essential role in meeting the needs of older people, primarily dependent ones with severe physical and mental problems such as dementia.

This paper focuses on the case of Spain, where around 1.9 million older people receive financial and care support. It presents a longitudinal historical overview to reconstruct the history of this kind of collective-use care facility since the 1940s. During Franco's Dictatorship Regime, the dominant model of collective-use care facilities was the 'asylum-like': a survival-based care typology with scarce economic resources and central governance (Madrid-based). Since the 1980s, with the political transition to Democracy and the subsequent advance to a 'welfare state', a new model arose: the 'institutional medicalized hotel-like'. It was a recognized architectural typology (with hospital-geriatric inspiration) ready for standardization and repetition along the country in years when their public administration became non-central but regional.


Despite innovative home-like models in other European countries, Spain has persisted with the 'institutional medicalized hotel-like' typology even in the 21st century. Nevertheless, in the last decade, regional administration programs have invested in refurbishing existing facilities built in the 1980s using EU Next Generation Funds. This is the case in the Aragon region, where the government invests in urban and rural facilities. The paper presents nine case studies (3 in urban and 6 in rural areas) in which these hotel-like buildings have been re-designed following person-centred models. We discuss this refurbishment program's improvements, limitations, and potential shift towards an inclusive design paradigm.



**ARCHITECTURE FOR THE AGES:  
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.  
THE CASE OF MEXILHOEIRA GRANDE  
IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Leandro Arez, Iscte-IUL

**LEANDRO AREZ** holds a Master's degree in Architecture from Instituto Superior Técnico (Lisbon), which he completed in 2021, including an exchange program at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland). With a diverse professional background, Leandro has garnered experience from multiple architecture offices and organisations such as Docomomo International, Bak Gordon Arquitetos, Manuel Cervantes Estúdio, and Promontório Arquitetos. His Master's thesis project received an Honourable Mention at the 2022 Archiprix prize. Following his studies, Leandro joined Studio-LPP, where he contributed to competitions and housing projects. In 2022, he collaborated with architect Paulo David on the development of the Estúdio Vertical #4 workshop at Da/UAL. Currently, Leandro is furthering his academic pursuits as a post-graduate student in research methodologies and techniques at Instituto Superior Técnico, while also serving as a first-stage researcher at CiTUA, through the project "Alvaro Siza's collective housing: projects, contexts and experiences (Porto-Lisbon-New York)".




Throughout the past five decades, Domingos Monteiro da Costa, a jesuit priest, promoted a vast amount of social infrastructure ranging from churches to community centres, and even a medical outpost in the parish of Mexilhoeira Grande, Southern Portugal. Arriving to the Algarve in 1975 and facing a turbulent context of post-revolutionary Portugal, this priest assumed the challenge of building trust (and communities) in a region rife with religious skepticism and economic hardship.

His initial projects, such as the reconversion of the sacristy into a kindergarten, or a civic center in Pereira, strengthened his position as a powerful actor that could, and did, enact tangible change in these long forgotten communities. In 1988, addressing the loneliness and lack of support among the elderly population of the parish, he spearheaded the ambitious project of Aldeia de São José de Alcalar: a dignified and active assisted living environment for the elderly, integrating their familiar rural living patterns and promoting a sense of continuity and community among residents.

Designed by the then mayor and architect Martim Gracias, this complex is materialised in an oneiric landscape of dispersed curved volumes, generating rich and varied exterior common spaces between them. With his daring design, Gracias playfully deconstructs and distorts the mediterranean patio typology, creating a cooler inner atmosphere for the common courtyards through which the residents access their dwellings. This unique layout, allows residents to have an accompanied autonomy, characterised by a sense of proximity and community, where the community itself can define its own fluxes of daily life.

The success of Aldeia de São José de Alcalar shows the potential of community-driven projects to transform social infrastructure. The village not only improved the quality of life for the elderly of the parish, but also became a model for similar initiatives. Father Domingos Monteiro da Costa's journey from overcoming hostility to creating an engaged community highlights the power of socially driven architecture. Aldeia de São José de Alcalar stands as proof to his vision and the collaborative spirit of the community.




**STONEMASONS COOPERATIVE  
OF PORTO / SCPOPP - COLLECTIVE USES  
OF THE ICONIC ARCHITECTURAL  
SETTLEMENT IN PORTUGAL (1937-2024)**

Inês Moreira, ESAP  
Kadu Tomita, ESAP

**INÊS MOREIRA** is a researcher, curator and editor based in Porto (Portugal). Along her academic and professional paths, she has been developing interdisciplinary research in the fields of Architecture, Visual Cultures, Urban Cultures and Curatorial Studies, focusing on the transformation of abandoned buildings, post-industrial structures and other manmade territories. Her curatorial work is interdisciplinary and research oriented, pursuing curatorial processes of knowledge production. Her education includes: PhD in Curatorial / Knowledge from Goldsmiths College, University of London, 2014; Master's degree in architecture and urban Culture from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, 2004; Master's in architecture from University of Porto, 2001. She is an Auxiliary Researcher at Centro de Estudos Arnaldo Araújo (2023-2029) where she develops the project "[Infra]Structures - Transformation of urban infrastructure through artistic practice". She served as a Principal Researcher in Visual Arts at Lab2PT University of Minho (2022-23). She was a Postdoctoral fellow at IHA/NOVA/FCSH (2016-2022) with the individual project: "Curating and revitalizing buildings - Intervening in post-industrial spaces in Europe in the 21st century". She was a Guest Auxiliary Professor at the School of Architecture, Art and Design of University of Minho (2022-2023). Guest Auxiliary Professor at Fine Art Faculty of University of Porto (2014-2022). Assistant Professor at Arts and Humanities Faculty of University of Porto (2007-2009). Assistant Professor at Fine Art Faculty of University of Porto (2009-2011).


**KADU TOMITA** is an architect, urban designer and educator from Curitiba, Brazil and currently a Master's Student at ESAP (Porto, Portugal). He has been a visiting student at Parsons School of Design (New York, NY) and at University of Coimbra (Portugal), and holds a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urbanism from Escola da Cidade (São Paulo, Brazil). He has taught Urbanism for undergraduate and postgraduate students at the latter, between 2021 and 2023; and during the same period, he attended specialization classes in Mobility and in Graphic Design at the same institution.



The Stonemasons Cooperative of Porto's headquarters (SCPOPP - Sociedade Cooperativa de Produção dos Operários Pedreiros do Porto) is a unique architectural piece in Portugal. Created to accommodate the collective needs of the stonemasons, a workers' organization who produced and built most of the modern architectural pieces of Porto and Northern Portugal, SCPOPP was the main builder of Porto's XX century public and private buildings - such as banks, insurance companies, city hall, factories, houses, monuments, and dozens of other significant architectural buildings. As an architectural facility, SCPOPP is simultaneously a site of architectural construction and stone production, as it is the site of improvement of labor conditions for stonemasons, also actively contributing to the social support of masons' families through the rental income of its specially-built rental facilities.

Since its foundation in 1914, the need and ambition for a stable headquarters has led to the design and investment in industrial and social facilities. The architectural buildings were designed in 1937 and underwent relevant expansions in two phases: in 1937 by architect David Moreira da Silva and the engineer J. Bastian (with modifications in 1949-50 by architects Maria José Marques da Silva and David Moreira da Silva), followed by the design of a modern tower by architects Maria José Marques da Silva and David Moreira da Silva, initiated in 1963, affirming the masons' dominance as the tallest building in the city's skyline.

We propose to consider a wide reading of its life, construction and communal use, bridging the golden era of 1940's-1970's to the needs and challenges of the present moment. We argue to consider five different socio-economic phases and its five architectural manifestations: Industrial and social (granite quarry, factory settlement and social services); External services (multifunctional tower and property rental); Post-production (collective housing and educational facilities); Transition (industrial dismantlement); Contemporary (cultural and creative industries). Our research presents original archival and photographic documents, along with new visual interpretative material, following historical research methods along with interviews with members and inhabitants of the cooperative.






**COLLECTIVE LIFE, COLLECTIVE MEMORY.  
CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS  
IN TWENTIETH CENTURY SWITZERLAND**

Maria Kouvari, ETH Zurich


**MARIA KOUVARI** is an architect, urban designer, and currently a doctoral candidate at the ETH Zurich. Her doctoral research entitled *Minor(s)' Heritage: Built Swiss Child Aid in Greece* has been awarded grants from the Sophie Afenduli Foundation and the Foundation for Education and European Culture. It also forms part of the larger project "A Future for Whose Past? The Heritage of Minorities, Fringe Groups, and People without a Lobby" at the Chair of Construction Heritage and Preservation in collaboration with ICOMOS Suisse, where she is a research member of the homonymous working group. Previously, she practiced architecture at the Swiss architectural office IttenBrechtbühl, where she was made an Associate. Maria holds a professional degree in architecture from the University of Patras, Greece with the highest distinction (2013); in 2015, she completed the Master of Advanced Studies in Urban Design at ETH Zurich as a scholar of the Foundation for Education and European Culture, and in 2016 she obtained her second Master of Advanced Studies, this time in Housing, as a scholar of the Bodossaki Foundation. Her academic interests lie at the intersection of architectural history and heritage studies, with a particular focus on underrepresented heritage parts and their changing values.



In 2012, the Mümliswil Children’s Home—designed by Swiss architect Hannes Meyer and built in 1939 in the Canton of Solothurn, Switzerland—was designated under protection in the canton’s monument inventory. Criteria for this classification were its architectural design, authorship, and progressive pedagogical concept, three aspects which have been celebrated in numerous publications related to the built artifact and its architect. In 2013, the Mümliswil Children’s Home was declared the First National Memorial for Children in Homes (Heimkinder) and “Contract Children” (Verdingkinder), attached as it is to a dark chapter in Switzerland’s social history, one associated with coercion, abuse, and exploitation in institutional care, and one that occupies a special place in contemporary Swiss public discourse.

The case of the Mümliswil Children’s Home not only exemplifies the shortcomings of formal heritage processes in addressing the stories, memories, and emotions of the children who lived in such institutions, but also highlights the necessity to revisit the built heritage of institutional care in the Swiss national context, which remains largely unexplored and uninventoried. The paper discusses the built legacy of children’s institutions in Switzerland, focusing on their architecture, social history, and memory culture. It aims as such to scrutinize the evolving concept of “need” in this context. A more explicit pursuit is to untangle how contemporary concerns and values shape new interpretations and meanings for these built artifacts. Silenced for decades in the field of heritage, and thereby transformed free of preservation limitations according to the needs of their users, built artifacts of children’s institutions are called to perform a new role within society today: as care facilities, as documents of the collective life of institutional care, and as bearers of collective memory.

The research originates from my doctoral project entitled *Minor(s)’ Heritage*, which examines the built environment of Swiss child aid in and beyond Switzerland. The methodology has been developed at the intersection of archival research, site visits, discourse analysis, and oral history, combining historicity and situated agency analysis.



**THE CALL OF ARCHITECTS TO BEJA IN THE 1960s:  
AN APPROACH TO THE MUNICIPAL MARKET  
BY ALBERTO CRUZ<sup>1</sup>**

Joana Nunes, Universidade de Évora / Iscte-IUL  
Francisco Freitas, Iscte-IUL

**JOANA NUNES** is an architect, a research assistant at DINÂMIA'CET-IUL and a research fellow at "ArchNeed – The Architecture of Need: Community Facilities in Portugal 1945-1985" (PTDC/ART-DAQ/6510/2020), at CIDEHUS – University of Évora. She is currently developing a PhD in Architecture of Contemporary Metropolitan Territories at ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon and holds a MS in Architecture (2015) and a MS in Building Rehabilitation – Non-Structural Rehabilitation of Buildings (2017), both from the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra. Between 2018 and 2020 Joana was a research fellow at "CuCa\_RE: Cure and Care\_the Rehabilitation" (PTDC/ATP-AQI/2577/2014), at Instituto Superior Técnico – University of Lisbon. Joana collaborated with Docomomo International between 2016 and 2017.

**FRANCISCO FREITAS** completed his master's in architecture in 2019, with the thesis "Problems and Perspectives: an investment in the critical reflection of architecture", under the guidance of architect and researcher Ana Vaz Milheiro, with an ECTS scale classification of A. Tutor at the course unit of Final Project of Architecture (MIA Iscte) in 2021, 2022 and 2024, respectively, with the themes "Lisbon between lines: new public typologies for the city of tomorrow", "The Critical Monumentality of Álvaro Siza: projects of urban renovation after the 1998 Lisbon World Exposition" (FCT Project), and "Architectures on the margins: what makes you happy?". Since 2021, is enrolled in the doctoral program of Architecture of Contemporary Metropolitan Territories, with the thesis "Paths through Modernity: the practice of Alberto Cruz (1920-1990). Contributions to the Modern Portuguese Architecture Historiography", integrated in CIES Iscte. In 2023-24, was part of the main research team for the publication "Alberto Cruz. Architecture, Tradition and Modernity", financed by Cascais City Council and to be launched in July 2024, for which he was also responsible for the graphic design and co-author of the article "The Caramulo of Alberto Cruz". Professionally, since 2020 has worked as a design architect, integrated in the team responsible for the expansion and requalification of Iscte Campus (GMARC).

<sup>1</sup> This paper combines contributions from two research projects: ArchNeed - The Architecture of Need: Community Facilities in Portugal 1945-1985 (PTDC/ART-DAQ/6510/2020) and Problemas e práticas na arquitetura de Alberto Pereira da Cruz (1920-1990). Tradição e Modernidade.




In the 1960s, architecture in Portugal reached a new level of intervention, driven by the commissioning of public facilities, aimed at the social and cultural progress of the country. This initiative caused a proliferation of diverse approaches in architectural expression. The subsequent historiography identified prominent works of the twentieth century, yet a gap remains in the various approaches to the modernity of architecture in Portugal. The work of Alberto Cruz is an example of this breach by offering a broader and more diverse understanding of the country's construction beyond the narratives of more frequently studied authors.

In Beja, this type of intervention was crucial for the growth of an area predominantly associated with rural activities. This development materialized in the construction of significant urban facilities such as the Hotel and Restaurant of Bairro Alemão (Francisco Keil do Amaral), the District Hospital of Beja (Raúl Chorão Ramalho), the Municipal Market (Alberto Cruz), the Bus Station (Luís Bevilacqua and Francisco Botelho de Sousa), and the Municipal Swimming Pool (José da Silva Lourenço).

This research focuses on the Municipal Market of Beja, a recurring typology in the professional practice of Alberto Cruz. Inaugurated in 1965, its design aims to reflect the local architectural tradition. The project's evolution was a result of an enhancement of local conditions and constant program requirements.

The paper aims to construct a comprehensive narrative by identifying the agents and processes in the architectural design, discussing the differences and progress in the solutions presented, based on documentary sources. In doing so, it debates against a deliberately modern iconography, favoring instead an integration into the transversal and traditional grammar of the municipal market network across the country. This approach translates into a collective architecture that creates places of permanence and belonging, contemporary and expressive of real needs, with a pragmatism attentive to local customs. The intention is to highlight the built heritage in Beja during the 1960s, particularly the role of collective use facilities, and their capacity to mobilize current architectural thought.



## **The Architecture of Need: Collective-Use Facilities and Community Service in the Twentieth Century**

International Conference

Lisbon and Évora, 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

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