BIP workshop INVISIBLE CITY CASCAIS
Faculty of Architecture / University of Lisbon
08 to 14 of April, 2024 (physical mobility)
February to May 2024 (on-line component)
(within the PARALLEL STUDIOS' program)

#### 1. Theme

In the center of Fedora, that gray metropolis, stands a metal building with a crystal globe in every room. Looking into each globe, you see a blue city, the model of a different Fedora. These are the forms the city could have taken if, for one reason or another, it had not become what we see today. In every age someone, looking at Fedora as it was, imagined a way of making it the ideal city, but while constructed his miniature model, Fedora was already no longer the same as before, and what had been until yesterday a possible future became only a toy in a glass globe.

The building with the globes is now Fedora's museum: every inhabitant visits it, chooses the city that corresponds to his desires, contemplates it, imagining his reflection in the medusa pond that would have collected the waters of the canal (if it had not been dried up), the view from the high canopied box along the avenue reserved for elephants (now banished from the city), the fun of sliding down the spiral, twisting minaret (which never found a pedestal from which to rise).

On the map of your empire, O Great Khan, there must be room both for the big, stone Fedora and the little Fedoras in glass globes. Not because they are all equally real, but because all are only assumptions. The one contains what is accepted as necessary when it is not yet so; the others, what is imagined as possible and, a moment later, is possible no longer.

In Invisible Cities, Italo Calvino.

Housing models were being experimented long before the fateful years of Covid. They refer to the possible relationship of distributive freedom. Also, after the pandemic years (AC), architecture should aim to respond to an organic social integration, supportive of interpersonal relationships, that promotes transpacial qualities. An architecture which not reads by the spatial objectification of architectural models celebrating different institutionalities, but by invisible models recovered or reinvented from a city that is present to us, factual, but which we can no longer glimpse due to the desire to obtain global answers.

Social space persists in the centers of historic cities, but today they are continually devastated by the accelerated phenomenon of gentrification, especially in the AC era, through the mass touristification of its centers. Mitigating this phenomenon means recovering the "invisible" places of the dense city, offering it, among its rubble and ruins, vacant buildings, vacant plots, gutted interiors, urban ruptures and areas "forgotten" by tourists, new "houses", houses to live in, where people sleep and eat, but also houses where culture, activities and interests in city politics meet.

Based on this statement, on the imaginative possibilities its probable invisibilities, the students are asked to look at the modern-historical centre of Cascais, namely the basin of *Ribeira das Vinhas*, and to raise possibilities for intervention that relaunch the relationship between the space of housing and the social space of the city. It's not about social housing, it's about inhabiting the social space of the city, and by doing so, to make it visible.

With what model can we begin a typological research project on models of inhabiting, through the continuous act of sewing urban tissues, that shall guarantee us operative results, possibly conclusive, but above all, to be essentially speculative in pursuing the ambition to inhabiting the whole city and not just its poorly resolved leftover fringes resulting from the harsh encounter between the "city" and the "countryside"?

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Finally, we will respond to the challenge launched by the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Porto in the MAIS DO QUE CASAS (More than Houses) initiative, in which the country's various Schools of Architecture are called upon to rethink the housing program for the next 50 years.

# 2. Organization

Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade de Lisboa CIAUD – Research Center in Architecture, Urbanism and Design, FA.ULisboa stemmed from the *INVISIBLE CITY*, embryo research project

### 3. Scientific Coordination - Pedro Belo Ravara

#### 4. Local Tutors

Pedro Belo Ravara, FAUL

Amer Obied, FAUL

Jorge Fava Spencer, FAUL

Pedro Lima Gaspar, FAUL

## On-line tutors (some of these tutors are coming for the BIP March Workshop)

Marta Pellegrini, Hochschule Mainz, Germany.

Mario Algarin, University of Seville, Spain

Roberto Goycoolea Prado, Alcalá, Spain

Paz Núñez-Martí, Alcalá, Spain

Saša Randić, University of SPILT, Croacia

Sanja Matijević Barčot, University of SPILT, Croacia

Polona Filipic, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tadei Glazar, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Olivier Boucheron, Paris La-Villete, France

## 6. Scientific Board (names listed on 4 and 5)

## 7. Academic Partners

University of Alcalá, Alcalá de Henares, Spain (to be confirmed);

University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia (to be confirmed);

University of Split, Croatia;

Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette (ENSAPLV), Paris, France (to be confirmed);

School of Architecture, University of Seville, Spain;

Hochschule Mainz, Germany (to be confirmed).

## 8. Admission no and Credits ECTS

15 to 20 students

3 credits ECTS corresponds to 44 contact hours (28 workshop sessions' hours + 8 field trip hours + 8 lectures and crits' hours), 16 to 20 on-line sessions and 15 hours individual work, total of 75 to 79 hours

### 9. Design Workshop Stages

The design stage consists of three stages:

Presentation and research stage (2/3 online sessions):

Tuesdays (09:00-13:00), February 20, March 05 and 19

Field week in Lisbon at the FAUL, April 08 to 14 (presential work):

- 08 morning: arrivals; afternoon: welcome and workshop presentation
- 09 morning: field trip to Cascais; afternoon: workshop session at FAUL
- 10 morning: lectures at FAUL; afternoon: workshop session at FAUL
- 11 morning: social housing field trip (Lisbon); afternoon: workshop session at FAUL
- 12 morning and afternoon: workshop sessions at FAUL
- 13 morning: final workshop session at FAUL; afternoon: final crits
- 14 departures

Final work and conclusions (2 online sessions)

Tuesdays (09:00-13:00), April 23 and May 02

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#### **Assesment**

Students will be graded on their attendance (online and presential), their group and individual work. More details are to be given at a later time.

08 January 2024

Pedro Belo Ravara, Associate professor, FAUL