

Laboratory of Project VI · 5.º year

Integrated Master in Architecture, specialization in Urbanism · 2020/2021

CLASS MIURB5A · Prof. Sérgio Padrão Fernandes

RE IMAGINING THE CITY . UTOPIAN VISIONS



Guillaume Pelloux, *Melancholia Artificialis*, 2018

Rome is an interrupted city because it is no longer imagined.

Giulio Carlo Argan, in Roma Interrota, 1978

• Theme

A critical reflection on the existing City is proposed, focused on the formulation of experimental and innovative urban visions based on the historical reference of ROMA INTERROTA exhibition, organized by Piero Sartogo in 1978.

The use of UTOPIA is a need to open a debate about the historical continuity of the city and about the relations between the present, the past and the future in urban form terms. I.e., utopia as a radical and optimistic, concrete and transforming vision, which, based on the formulation of an ideal solution, supports the project for a specific and real context.

IMAGINATION is adopted as a critical process that allows an interaction between fiction and reality. Its transfer to an urban and architectural imagination is a means to organize, structure and reveal the experience of the world, but also, to explore the potential of spaces that may exist, be inhabited and explored by themselves.

• Context

The south bank of Tagus river, between Cova do Vapor and Margueira, constitutes a complex and challenging territory, where different phenomena of abandonment and obsolescence of the built structures are identified, some classified features and others are not yet accredited. The challenge that is proposed to the students is thinking in ways to give sense of the forgotten fragments of the South bank, to reactivate urban forms, articulating the city's memory with the needs of the society's Habitation in the future. The re-signification of places is the stimulus that should be used to research and develop speculative, bold and creative scenarios centered on 3 preferred thematic urbana territories, namely: Cova do Vapor - URBAN TISSUE; Almaraz + Ginjal Pier + Battery of Raposeira - HERITAGE; Margueira - INFRASTRUCTURE.

• Methodology

The approach to the urban and architectural design explores visions from the city, which relates theory and practice, reading and design process. The last design studio laboratory of the master is centered on a topic and from an exercise of urban composition allows the demonstration of all the learning obtained during the course.

The methodology is always based on direct experience with reality and uses experimental and innovative pedagogical approaches based in manual tactics, namely: building of models in plaster, clay or styrofoam in articulation with technical drawing and collages.

Thus, in methodological terms three essential phases are considered:

1. READING, means the interpretation of the context: This phase is based on a series of itineraries made by the students for recognizing the territory. This preliminary moment of analysis of the context are adopted as the first act of the design.
2. CONCEPT, means the formulation of intervention scenarios. This phase is based on the construction of a graphic narrative that, based on a collection of images and references, defines the theoretical fundamentals to design the city.
3. DESIGN, means an integrated process that encompasses all scales to define the form of the urban and architectural space. This phase combines the definition of a strategy for a territory with the urban and architectural design of its elements.

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The syllabus of the UC Laboratory of Project VI is structured to give the main support and contents in order to continue with the Master Thesis. Thus, the theoretical and conceptual support of the master thesis may also be linked to the ongoing research projects at the **formaurbis LAB** laboratory (<http://formaurbislab.fa.ulisboa.pt/>).