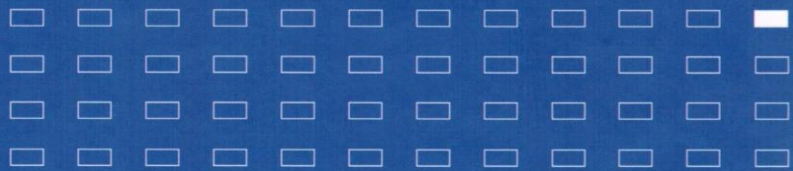


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The Creation of an Urban Landscape

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The Headquarters and Park of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (FCG), in Lisbon, are probably the first structure in Portugal where the relation between exterior and interior lead to an outstanding result. Designed and conceived based on the continuity between interior and exterior, refusing the conceptual attitude of interior plus exterior, this unitary system reveals clear understanding of the proposed site, sensibility of what could have been Calouste Gulbenkian expectations, and concretizes Modern Movement ideals regarding de landscape design and architecture.

Moreover, the aim is to present and discuss formal aspects, material options (natural and unnatural) and technological solutions that define the architecture of this structure and how that solutions materialize the relation between exterior and interior.

Finally, the paper will argue the role played by architects, landscape architects, and engineers in a wide ideological frame that perceived building and garden as a global gesture of social and cultural dimension, present in the FCG Headquarters and Park.

The aim of the paper is to analyse FCG as spatial continuum, as the confirmation of a refined aesthetic sensibility and of a humanized way of seeing the world capable of enhancing the qualities of architecture through the creation of landscape attaining universality values and a timeless aura. The argument is that, bringing together modernity and monumentality, FCG have launched the link between matter and idea as an organic and biological whole.

1. INTRODUCTION

The headquarters and park of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (FCG) in Lisbon represent the first modern Portuguese environment with an outstanding relation between exterior and interior as a spatial continuum. As such, the project refused the more common conceptual attitude of interior plus exterior. This unitary view revealed a clear understanding of the proposed site for the project and what could have been Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian (1869-1955) expectations, while concretizing Modern Movement ideals regarding landscape architecture and architecture.

Through its design the park mediates the relation between the buildings' super-structures, the urban context, and the human scale, while generating a unifying system established by the complicity between natural and synthetic materials. From the first moment of the project's design process, this complicity resulted in a set of strategies that met programmatic guidelines – an effort for achieving a new monumentality in a project that would become a fundamental element in Lisbon's green infrastructure.