

Loreta Castro Reguera
José Pablo Ambrosi [eds.]

Retroactive

Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

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Of Latin origin, the word that titles the 6th edition of the Lisbon Triennale is profoundly polysemic. *Terra* simultaneously means the name of our planet, or its solid part as opposed to the sea. In Portuguese, it also means a space or territory, as in a home country – *terra mãe* (motherland) – or one's birth town – *terra natal* (homeland). In a denser or poetic understanding, it alludes to a place or a *community*.

Terra is one of the four classic elements that make up nature – fire, air, water, and earth (*terra*). More literally, it is the disaggregated and loose layer of the terrestrial surface, where vegetation is attached and grows to create essential ecosystems for life with the living beings that dwell above and below it.

As a material, *Terra* has been fundamental to some of the most sustainable building techniques developed by humans since ancient times. *Terra* summons feelings of awareness or security, whether through the phrase *com os pés assentes na terra* (with your feet on the ground), or even setting your feet on *terra firma* (solid ground).

Retroactive is a reflection to coincide with the exhibition of the same name curated by Loreta Castro Reguera and José Pablo Ambrosi. It is co-produced with and presented at the MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, on the occasion of the Triennale 2022, chief curated by Cristina Veríssimo and Diogo Burnay.

In this edition, the Triennale seeks to research how we can think, design, and build, and how regeneration can be fostered to decisively contribute to environmental and social sustainability and, ultimately, the survival of humanity and Earth itself.

José Mateus
Chairman of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale

PUBLICATION

Editorial Concept

Loreta Castro Reguera
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Texts

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Translation of Román Meyer Falcón's essay

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Copy Editing and Proofreading

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Published by

Circo de Ideias: Magda Seifert,
Pedro Baía – *Editorial Coordination*;
Beatriz Takahashi, Catarina Matos,
Patrícia Coelho – *Editorial Assistants*

Graphic Design

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António Silveira Gomes – *Project Lead*;
Luísa Tudela – *Design Assistant*

Printing and Binding

Gráfica Maiadouro

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Triennale

ISBN [volume 1]: 978-989-33-3797-4

Legal deposit: 505244/22

Print run: 750

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This book is published to coincide with the main exhibition entitled *Retroactive* co-produced with and presented at MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology in the context of *Terra*, the sixth edition of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale (29 September to 5 December 2022).

The Lisbon Triennale would like to thank the EDP Foundation and MAAT – Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology, namely board of administration member José Manuel dos Santos, general director Miguel Coutinho, museum director João Pinharanda, head of communication Catarina Seixas, head of production Fernando Ribeiro and their dedicated teams for all the support and commitment.

Through eight essays focusing on pressing issues in the architectural and urban design fields, *Retroactive* reflects on the challenges and opportunities in addressing broken cities, which fail to provide services and optimal liveable conditions to their inhabitants, and in which one third of humanity dwells. Migration, land tenure, water, sanitation, overcrowding, waste, violence and mobility are the guiding topics explored by the authors, creating a heterogeneous corpus of knowledge nurturing past, present, and future discussions on the fragile and constantly evolving relationship between human life and its environment.

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