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Urban Devices for the City of Évora

Aleixo, Sofia¹; Santa Rita, João² with Master students Francisco Dias and Adrian Burzacovschi

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First-year students of the Integrated Master in Architecture programme developed proposals on the topic of Follies in the academic year 2022-2023 within the framework of a UOU (University of Universities) international workshop in the Design Studio II unit. The challenge was to conceive temporary spatial structures that allow different perceptions of the identifying elements of a specific place, aiming to encourage the creation of new meanings for a transitional urban space—one where individuals do not stay but move, indifferent to what defines and characterises it. This was presented to the students as a challenge to design a temporary urban device for two public spaces in the historic city of Évora where the temporality of the place is captured. The final proposals demonstrate that it is possible to create moments of pause in a device that relates time to the enjoyment of space in a city, where the constant movement of its residents and visitors often superimposes itself on the pleasure and prolonged appreciation of its simplest values.

1. The Évora University team.

2. The two classrooms: studio space in Évora University and online UOU classroom with the international students.
3. UOU workshop: participating countries.

3. Largo do Chão das Covas, model scale 1:50
3. Follie Meet.
4. Follie Modular in construction.

5. Making process.
7. Three proposals for Praça do Sertório, 1/100 model, 1/200 drawings, photo montage, descriptive text, documents.

8. Two proposals for Largo do Chão das Covas, 1/100 model, 1/200 hand drawings, photo montage, descriptive text, documents.

9. Three proposals for Largo do Chão das Covas, 1/100 model, 1/200 hand drawings, photo montage, descriptive text, documents.
The Exhibition Museography, Museology, and Communication

As a second exercise, the works were exhibited in the city. The temporary exhibition designed for the Church of Salvador, located in the historic core of Évora, is the result of a second exercise carried out by ten groups of Évora students who then participated in the development and production of the exhibition. The museography group developed the exhibition details, enhanced the organisation of the visiting route and the spatial organisation of all physical display stands. The museology group curated the outputs of the intense international workshop and the subsequent development process. Finally, the communication group prepared new content, whilst considering effective communication with a non-specialised public. The videos produced during the exercise were edited, and promotional and publicity materials for the exhibition were created in the form of posters, leaflets, Instagram posts, and the dissemination of QR codes in the city.

The temporality of the exhibition’s contents required consideration of the life cycle of materials, involving both students and academics in adherence to the Sustainable Development Goals promoted by the United Nations. The aim has been to encourage, on the one hand, the reuse of all exhibition support elements and, on the other hand, the future recycling of all materials produced. It is also worth noting that materials from non-renewable sources, especially plastics, were excluded. By publicly presenting these eight proposals within and for the city, the connection between architectural education and the community from where the Architecture Master programme is delivered has been strengthened.

Tutors: Sofia Aleixo and João Santa Rita, with Master students Francisco Dias and Adrian Burzacovschi


(*) improved the proposal for the Exhibition.

Other participants in the International workshop:
UEvora: Camila Araújo, Claudia Valente, Maria Eduarda Albano, Mariana Santos, Heviny Lima, Gabriel Guedes, Emanuel Samuel, Victor Peixoto, Yassine el Jamoussi.

OU: UA/Juan Espiñeira, UA/Nadim Monzer, UA/ Natalia Lozano, TU Graz/ Julia Bauer (*), UA/Salma Magzoub (*), UA/Atul Mehta, ENSAM/Andres Galarza, NTUA/ Antonis Zaranis, UA/Noemi Busichella, CUT/ Magdalena Konik (*) UMA/Emilia Hörnfeldt (*), Saxion/Sem Ijsenagger (*), BME/Krzysztof Rudnicki, BME/Mateusz Wojtkowski, UA/Malak Benmoussa, UA/Salwa Fartali, UA/Ana Barranco, UA/Carla Garcia, UA/Marc Pérez, UA/Rudolf Schwarzl, CUT/Małgorzata Maslanka, UA/Wiktoria Bloch, UA/Joshua Kwok, UA/ Aleksandra Fijołek, UA/Castejón, UA/Moe Yagan, UA/ Dilara Kutay, UA/Belgacem Sana, UA/Laura Öblak, UA/Hanna Belgacem, UA/Zaynab Aboudou, UA/John Loughlin, UA/Patrick Rawlins, UA/Phoebe Turner and UA/Laura Cosgrave
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01 February 2024
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01 March 2024
Outcome of double-blind peer review process.

01 April 2024
Final submission of completed papers.

LIMINALITIES sets out to engage our entangled nature, exploring implications across drawing, design, research, education, and architectural space. Authors are encouraged to submit studies, essays, and works through the proposed but not limited topics:

Reflections of entanglement in spatial experience (analogue and/or digital)
  • Discourse between virtuality and embodiment (digital and/or analogue).
  • Engagement of body/mind and space.

Design implications
  • Works which engage dynamic interweavings of spaces, times and places.
  • Works which employ strategies of spatial.

Design processes within an entangled setting
  • Methodologies which evolve ways of working, and works that respond to liminalities.
  • Dialogic/responsive conversations within designing, drawing and/or making for constructing.

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UOU is the scientific journal of UNIVERSITY of Universities. It is born out of the collaboration of international schools of architecture, sharing their intercultural interests.

Every issue underlines a specific topic addressed by one of the universities involved in the Research Project, with a focus on Pedagogy in Architecture.