

A Place to Be:

International Conference on Placemaking



14 - 15 MARCH 2024
ÉVORA, CASA BRANCA | PORTUGAL

PROGRAMME

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A Place to Be: International Conference on Placemaking

ÉVORA, 14-15 MARCH 2024



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Évora 27



DETAILED PROGRAMME

14TH MARCH

D. MANUEL PALACE, ÉvORA

9:00

Welcome and registration

9:30

Opening

João Nabais (Vice-rector for University Life Policies and Community Relations, UÉvora, PT)

9:45

Temporary places: Events and prospects

Ali Madanipour (University of Newcastle, UK)

Moderation: Ana Brandão (ISCTE - IUL, PT)

The presentation investigates the potentials and limitations of urban development through the construction and use of temporary places. It is structured in three parts. First, it examines the contexts in which the temporary production and use of space emerges. Second, it critically analyses the perspectives and expectations of the different participants in these urban development processes. Third, it explores the creative potentials of temporary urbanism through three themes of questioning, experimenting, and innovating.

Keywords: temporary places.

Professor Ali Madanipour is an architect and urbanist (MArch and PhD) with a diverse background, having practiced, researched, and taught architecture, urban design and planning. Throughout his career, he has earned recognition for his work through design and research awards, collaborating with academic and

municipal partners globally.

His research interests center around the design, development, and management of cities, particularly focusing on understanding urban spaces, their social and psychological significance, the influential processes shaping them, the agents responsible for urban change, and the implications of such transformations for marginalized social groups and the environment.

Among his numerous published works, some notable books include "Cities in Time: Temporary Urbanism and the Future of Cities" (2017, Bloomsbury), co-editing the "Handbook of Planning Theory" (2017, Routledge), co-editing "Reconsidering Localism" (2015, Routledge), "Urban Design, Space, and Society" (2014, Palgrave-Macmillan), co-editing "Public Space and the Challenges of Urban Transformation in Europe" (2014, Routledge) and Rethinking Public Space (2023, Edward Elgar).



10:45

Break

11:00 am

PLAY/ACT: Placemaking as Youth Activism

Leonel Alegre (Universidade de Évora, PT)

PLAY/ACT - Placemaking as Youth Activism is an Erasmus+ project that aims to build capacity on university students from Portugal, Spain, Italy and Hungary to develop placemaking projects. As part of the project, a prototype for a lifelong learning course was created. The course follows a project based learning methodology in which the knowledge and skills acquired during the learning activities are applied to local challenges. In this session the structure and main results of the project will be presented.

Keywords: PLAY/ACT; training; capacity building; youth; higher education



Leonel Alegre is a chemist by training (PhD) who has devoted much of his professional career to science communication and education in non-formal environments. He is currently a researcher at the University of Évora, where he coordinates transdisciplinary projects related to cultural and creative entrepreneurship and civic participation. Recently, he has been involved in projects related to placemaking and urban regeneration.

11:20

PANEL 1: PLACEMAKING & CULTURE

Moderation: Paula Garcia (Évora27, PT)

Paraíso Bruto: Could Paradise Be Here?

Elizabete Paiva (Materiais Diversos, PT)

Paraíso Bruto is a project developed by Teatro do Frio with young people from Cartaxo, which was part of the programme of the Festival Materiais Diversos in 2021. We wish to share how the project was developed and how it can be equated with the concept of placemaking, since it set out to act from and on an emblematic and problematic garden in the city, identified both by the community and the Municipality of Cartaxo.

In the exploration of "Paraíso Bruto," three thematic inquiries emerged over three artistic residencies: "Is Paradise Here?", "Touching Paradise", and "Raw Paradise". These themes are not merely rhetorical questions but serve as foundational pillars for understanding the project's essence and its multifaceted dimensions. Each theme seeks to dissect the intricacies of paradise – we delve into the constitution of paradise not as an elusive utopia, but as a tangible reality, urging us to reimagine and reconnect with the environment that envelops them. We wish to identify the actors in the project and the ways in which they related to each other, namely artists, curator and production team, citizens, politicians. To identify practices of participatory art in the context of an ephemeral event, a festival questions the limits of this programming format and proposes to act on and with the territory, aspiring to a more extended temporality. To reflect on the reasons for the project's simultaneous success and failure. To speculate about its continuity, which has not materialized in the meantime.

Key words: art, participation, curating, imagination, paradise, (re)connect



Elisabete Paiva is the artistic Director of *Materiais Diversos* since 2015. She regularly collaborates as a trainer and teacher with *Forum Dança*, *Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema de Lisboa*, *Acesso Cultura* and *Plano Nacional das Artes*. She began her professional career in production in 1999 and moved into artistic education in 2003, in collaboration with *CENTA*. She was head and programmer of the Educational Department of *A Oficina* (Guimarães, 2006 - 2014), where she created and edited the newspaper *LURA*, conceived the *Mais Dois* Programme and directed the Educational Department of Guimarães 2012 European Capital of Culture. She holds an MA in Theatre Studies, by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto. She is interested in promoting common spaces of encounter, debate, and creation between different people.

Building-up “Évora 2027”: community engagement, tourism and placemaking

Marisa Fragoso (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning - ULisboa, PT)

As cities seek to position themselves on the global stage, particularly through cultural and artistic events, placemaking strategies are gaining prominence as important factors for a more harmonious integration of local art, culture and heritage, as well as stimulating the active participation of tourists and local communities. This intersection enhances the offer of enriching experiences for visitors and promotes the construction of meaningful urban spaces and identities. This study focuses on the preparation of Évora and Alentejo for the title of European Capital of Culture

(ECoC) in 2027, and explores the interconnections between the stakeholders of art, culture and heritage, including the participation of tourists and local communities. The investigation examines how tourism can be a catalyst for the development of Évora as an outstanding cultural destination and analyzes the importance of tourist and local community participation in recreating and redefining urban spaces, fostering a deeper sense of place and local identity.

As we face contemporary societal challenges, it becomes essential to understand how placemaking can be an effective tool for creating more meaningful, inclusive and dynamic urban spaces.

The organization of Évora 2027 serves as a propitious context to investigate these dynamics, as the city and the region face unique challenges and opportunities associated with promoting their heritage and cultural identity.

This ongoing research proposes a reflection on the experiences, practices and challenges involved in placemaking, highlighting its relationship with tourists, cities and local communities.

To this end, a qualitative approach was adopted, using a critical literature review that seeks to establish a dialog between the key concepts under analysis. A document analysis of publications related to Évora 2027 was also carried out, including the bid book, press releases, conferences, news, among other official documents and digital sources.

Keywords: tourism; community engagement; placemaking; European Capital of Culture



Marisa Fragoso is a PhD candidate in Tourism at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon (IGOT-ULisboa) and Estoril Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotel Studies (ESHTE). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Tourism, Leisure and Heritage from the Faculty of Letters, University of Coimbra and a Master's degree in Tourism and Communication from IGOT-ULisboa and ESHTE. Marisa has also completed a Postgraduate course in Economics, Tourism Management and Hotel Management at the Institute of Economics and Management, University of Lisbon. Throughout her professional experience, she had the opportunity to work in different areas of the tourism sector such as hospitality, airline industry, travel agency and events. More recently she dedicated herself to teaching at a secondary school in the field of tourism. Her research interests are related to creative tourism, sustainable and inclusive tourism, urban and local development, tourism policies, placemaking, tourism and urban design.

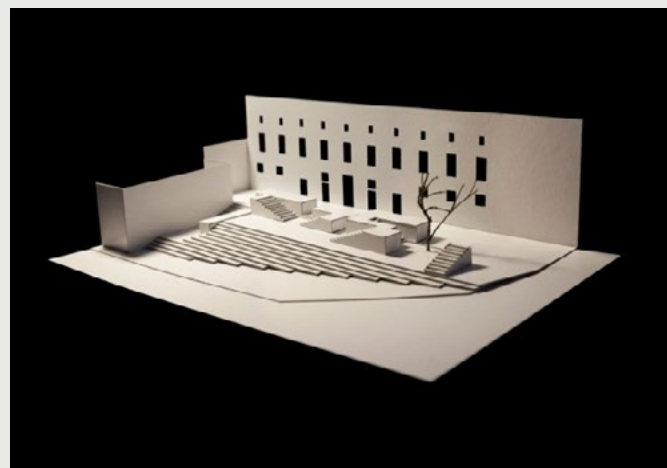
For a poetics of slow spaces

José Alberto Ferreira (CHAIA - UÉvora, PT)

When Hans-Ulrich Obrist defines the curator as the one who creates free spaces—and not the one who occupies existing spaces—, he brings forth not only the most fundamental challenge of curatorial practice, but he also inserts in it the horizon with which artistic practice dialogues. In effect, curating and its dialogues with art and artists are necessarily inscribed in the texture of the living, in the interstices of the political, in the very fabric of everyday life, addressing non-existing places and bringing them "to be". And, in doing so, they are an affective placemaking strategy. Places to be are what make the city, that is where the voices that inhabit it arise. It is also through this strategic (and tactical, as de Certeau reminded) generation of spaces (sometimes re-generation, frequently transformation, difference building) that citizenship and participation acquire consistent expression, along with a policy of experimentation (creation, enjoyment and participation interconnected) and the possibilities of a laboratory of challenges addressing the public condition of the city. In this communication, I will present some examples of curation and programming carried out over the last few years, highlighting their placemaking potential. I will also present the project «No labirinto da cidade», de-

signed by me and the architect João Mendes Ribeiro for the context of Évora European Capital of Culture.

Keywords: curation; cultural programming; art; European Capital of Culture



José Alberto Ferreira is a guest lecturer at the Theatre Department of the University of Évora, Portugal. He has collaborations in several national and international publications, and a number of published books on Portuguese theatre, puppets theatre, contemporary theatre, curating, artistic research. José is the director of Festival Escrita na Paisagem / Writing in the Landscape (2004-2012) and the curator of the INTERsection: Intimacy and Spectacle, project of the Prague Quadrennial 2011. He was the Artistic Director of the Art and Culture Center of the Eugénio de Almeida Foundation (2018-2023), in Évora.

Arkopolis: a free space in Elefsina, an Ark of eternal youth

Georgia Voudouri (2023 Eleusis, GR)

In February 2023, Elefsina/Eleusis (GR) as one of the European Capitals of Culture for 2023, welcomed the Belgian Artists Collective "TimeCircus", who had set off from Antwerp on 27 May 2022, and traveled 3,000 km on foot in nine months, crossing all of Europe, in what was the largest pilgrimage procession in the 3,500 years of the city's history. With them they would carry the Landship, a large structure which moves only by human power. Their long journey was an exercise in being "on the road" and a vivid commentary on the 21st century of recession, climate change and the unmitigated consumption of natural

resources. Arriving in Elefsina, the TimeCircus started the construction of The Ark (MYSTERY 99 THE ARK). Within a few months, following sustainable practices, they created a cultural, recreational and creative space in the heart of the city, named ARKOPOLIS. This new cultural park includes original architectural & sculptural structures - the Ark & the Sphere - but also the only Skatepark in the wider area, a long-standing desire and request of the city's youth, which was finally constructed with the intervention of the Cultural Capital and with an exclusive private sponsorship. In the framework of the action MYSTERY 66 VOICES IN THE CITY, Cultterra team, group of youngsters from Elefsina, has now undertaken the ARKOPOLIS, and -in continuous collaboration with TimeCircus- enriches and activates the park systematically as a place of meeting, cooperation, inclusion and free creation. It is a free space, an "Ark of Eternal Youth" and culture, open to all without restrictions. It brings together communities of all ages, hosting and empowering new ideas from institutions or individuals who wish to use the park. A place that is constantly evolving dynamically, proving that culture is not a commodity for the few but a right accessible to all.

Keywords: European Capital of Culture



Georgia Voudouri is an Architect [NTU, Athens], and holds a Master in Advanced Architecture [IAAC, Barcelona] with a specialisation in Parametric Design & Digital Fabrication. She also holds a Master's degree in Cultural Management from Panteion University, Athens. She has practiced architecture in Greece and abroad, and since 2010 she has worked as a curator and cultural project manager. She has significant experience in the management of projects ranging architecture, art and technology to gastronomy, fashion and social entrepreneurship, as well as large-scale site-specific art projects. Since 2018 she is a member of the team of 2023 Eleusis European Capital of Cul-

ture. As the Director of Cultural Development she has been in charge of the curation and project management of a varied portfolio of projects within the ECoC programme, including the CCIs, Digital technologies and Innovation, Sustainability, Agriculture, Cinema and Photography.

13:00

Lunch break

14:30

PANEL 2: PLACEMAKING & SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Moderation: Rosalina Pisco Costa (CICS - Nova - UÉvora, PT)

Beyond the Blueprint Exploring the Presence and Absence of Business Improvement Districts as Catalysts for Urban Placemaking

Diogo Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning - ULisboa, PT)

Urban planners, local governments and business communities are increasingly embracing placemaking strategies to revalorize urban areas experiencing symptoms of decline. These strategies, particularly the 'activation' approach, often use symbolic and tangible efforts to enhance the local business climate. Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)-a business-led public-private partnership that acts in a geographically bounded area in which businesses democratically vote to pay a levy that is then ring-fenced to finance a range of services, including cleaning, security and marketing-have been set in motion through policymaking circuits as a successful place management structure tasked with tackling urban decline through a range of placemaking strategies. While adopted and transformative narratives have been widely discussed, sites and situations where BIDs as placemaking structures were rejected or de-activated have been empirically overlooked. Building upon a growing body of geographical literature, termed urban policy mobilities studies, this paper puts into relational conversation four English town centers (Blackpool, Great Yarmouth, Wellingborough and Tamworth) to examine the local circumstances that explain the presence/absence of BIDs and their associated

placemaking strategies. Drawing on over 50 semi-structured interviews with elites and other key informants along with documentary analysis, this communication makes three points. First, there is much to be gained by combining the urban policy mobilities literature with that on placemaking as it allows us to understand the reasons why some BIDs as placemaking structures have been (or not) adopted in particular 'off-the-map' contexts. Second, it argues for a greater conceptual and empirical sensitivity to sites and situations of placemaking rejection, deactivation or absence as learning instances. Third, it argues that such sites and situations can produce generative outcomes in different spatialities and temporalities.

Keywords: Policy mobilities, business improvement districts, placemaking, comparative urbanism, urban governance



Diogo Gaspar Silva is a PhD candidate in Human Geography at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning and a researcher at the Centre for Geographical Studies at the University of Lisbon. His current research interests are on issues of comparative urbanism, urban policy mobilities and urban experimentation by exploring where

urban policies come from, how and why they are moved and experimented across different contexts and what these journeys mean for urban politics. He has also conducted research in geographic thought by discussing the role of epistemic communities and informational infrastructures in the making of relationships between national and international geographic communities. He was a visiting postgraduate researcher at the University of Barcelona and The University of Manchester.

Understanding short and long mobilities together: Place attachment and community dynamics in a multicultural, historic and touristified Lisbon neighborhood

Maria Alba (ISCTE - IUL, PT)

In our globalized societies, mobilities are shaping the everyday life. From long-term mobilities to search for better living conditions to short-term mobilities such as tourism, communities are facing change processes, and cities are being transformed. In the last years, several cities in Southern Europe have been confronted with touristification, resulting in a lack of housing and broken community ties, to name but some impacts. Through an Environmental and Community Social Psychology perspective, this study analysed how short and long-term mobilities intertwine in the same place and how people who live there adjust to these processes of urban change. We explored place attachments to a Lisbon neighbourhood, Mouraria, that has been facing a touristification process. Moreover, we analysed how the consequences of touristification shaped intergroup relations in this neighbourhood, which is simultaneously considered historical, traditional, and multicultural. Through walking interviews with Mouraria residents (N = 20), both 'traditional' and migrants, we concluded that touristification's negative consequences were associated with a sense of common fate based on structural social injustices that, in some cases, fostered an effacing of intergroup differentiation, and in others contributed to discrimination towards migrants. Additionally, we found an essentialization of Mouraria's social life as 'bairrismo' mainly made by 'traditional' residents and related to a conditional acceptance of new residents. Finally, most of the interviewed migrants presented a traditional-active place attachment, both connected with Mouraria's proximity to their culture of origin and practices that envision the wellbeing of all

neighbourhood community. Our findings contribute to the current debate on migrant's citizenships and the role of public policies and urban planning in fighting against touristification and with it reducing intergroup conflict and the loss of community ties and dynamics.

Keywords: mobility, place attachment, touristification



Maria Alba holds a degree in Social and Organizational Psychology and completed her master's degree at ISCTE in December 2022, with a focus on themes related to Community, Environment, and Intercultural Relations Psychology. Her master's thesis centered around place attachment and the integration of migrants in contexts of touristification, using the Mouraria neighborhood in Lisbon as a case study. She recently worked as a research assistant on the project JUSTENERGY, investigating the impacts of energy transition in rural communities and its connection to far-right populism—a project funded by FCT. Her research interests encompass people-place relationships, community dynamics, intercultural relations and participatory methodologies. Currently, she works for Associação Renovar a Mouraria as Community and Cultural Manager at the Mouraria Creative Hub. In this role, she is responsible for socio-cultural programming, and organizing community engagement initiatives at the Hub. Manchester.

Street experiments during pandemia to transform urban mobility and public space - Kit A Nossa Rua in Aveiro

José Carlos Mota (GOVCOPP - UAveiro, PT)

Experimentation to transform public space emerged during the pandemic in response to the need to offer quick and low-cost solutions to needs, namely hygienic walks and active urban mobility. Micro interventions in public space can be an effective way to make streets safer and more attractive. These interventions can be made through low-cost, efficient, and quick actions, and they can strengthen socialization and neighbourly relations. These tactical and temporary interventions allow to test concepts and models with the future users of public spaces, and to measure the impact of alternatives, providing information for future permanent solutions and, ultimately, reducing risks. An example of this approach is the Kit a Nossa Rua developed under the Participatory Budget promoted by the Municipality of Aveiro. This kit consisted of a set of portable benches, tables, planters, sound equipment, design materials, various children's games, and an electric bike with a trailer to carry them, was made available to citizens.

The goal was to temporarily close streets to car traffic and streamline recreational and social activities, open to all who wanted to participate, previously combined with meetings with residents and local merchants. Two initiatives were carried out with a strong impact in creating opportunities for public spaces appropriation beyond mere recreation; reinforcing a sense of community and belonging while highlighting the lack of nearby quality public spaces; mobilizing children and families, fostering intergenerational connections around a playful public; engaging citizens, friends, and relatives from other neighbourhoods who took the time to socialize; emphasizing that parks, gardens, and playgrounds, while important, may not fulfil this cohesive function due to their inherent nature and location. The aim of this article is to explore the potential and limitations of the applied methodology and provide insights for replication and dissemination of this concept.

Keywords: pandemic; low-cost interventions

José Carlos Mota is assistant Professor at the Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences at the University of Aveiro and researcher at GOVCOPP. He was the Director of the Master in Urban and Regional Planning (2016-2020). He has been involved in several national and international research projects on territorial-based participatory planning. He has been promoting several civic initiatives in favour of cities and citizenship.

Colors of Change: Urban Art, Community Participation and Public Policies in Social Housing Neighborhoods

Ana Castro (Universidade do Minho, PT)

Urban Art serves as a powerful tool for communication and city promotion, fostering cultural decentralization, reshaping landscapes, and igniting territorial dynamics. However, it's often noted that political entities embrace Urban Art primarily for its aesthetic enhancement of cityscapes, sometimes neglecting the voices of the communities inhabiting these areas. This oversight compromises the inherent public nature of such interventions. Exploring the dynamic interplay of urban art, community participation and public policies, this presentation immerses into social housing neighborhoods, particularly focusing on noteworthy urban art projects in Portugal. It addresses the role of urban art as a strategic instrument wielded by political powers to reconfigure the external perception of these territories. Following this exploration, the presentation delves into a comprehensive analysis of Bairro das Enguardas in Braga, a focal point of Ana Muska Castro's current Ph.D. research in Cultural Studies.

Keywords: urban art; social housing; public policies



Ana Castro, also known as **Ana Muska**, born in 1990 in Barcelos, has been immersed in the art world from a young age. After attending an arts course in Guimarães, she pursued Communication Design at FBAUP. In 2012, her final project, Circus, explored illustration and urban art through an event at Maus Hábitos. Following a Multimedia master's at FEUP, with a thesis on "Urban Art: An Exploratory Study of its Relationship with the city of Porto," Ana co-founded the Circus Network in Porto in 2015. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at the University of Minho, Ana conducts interdisciplinary research aiming to contribute to the emerging field of communication and art.

15:50

PLAY/ACT in Practice: the students' projects

Leonor Almeida, Pedro Retzke (Universidade de Évora, PT), Óscar García Campanón, Rocío Asensio Ortiz, Sara Peligros García, María José Martín Giner (Universidad de Extremadura, ES), Carlo Piacerno (Università degli Studi della Basilicata, IT), Anita Heiner, Ilona Erzsébet Tóbiás, Anett Tomoko Molnár, Virág Garamvölgyi, Adrienn Simon, Eszter Boróka Zalányi (KÉK Contemporary Architecture Centre, HU)

During the lifelong learning course implemented as part of the PLAY/ACT project, students from Évora, Mérida/Badajoz, Matera and Budapest had to implement a placemaking project in their cities, applying the knowledge and skills acquired during the course. In this session, the students will present the processes and the results of their work in Largo do Chão das Covas, a square in the historic centre of Évora; in Economato, a youth leisure centre in Mérida; in the Serra Venerdi neighbourhood in Matera, where efforts are being made to strengthen the relationship between residents and green spaces; and in the Kelenföld City Center, a shopping centre in Budapest at risk of being demolished but with an important role for local communities.

Keywords: placemaking; higher education

16:45

Break

17:00

PANEL 3: PLACEMAKING & YOUTH

Moderation: Pedro Seiça (Universidade de Évora, PT)

Living in the City: An interventional education approach

Andrew Shaw & Petya Plachkova (Breda University, NL)

The Urban Life and Placemaking specialisation at Breda University of Applied Sciences offers a unique international experience for students of Leisure & Events Management. We want to share the experiences of the students and advocate for this expedition-style of applied education.

As part of their studies, students move to a different European city with a group of their peers for 20 weeks. Here they are taught at distance, while participating in work/voluntary experience, addressing a local societal issue through an interventional approach, and exploring the city through a range of 'Urban Scope' themes, culminating in an exhibition of their findings. Over the past 2 years, students have moved to Porto, Seville, Turin, Leipzig and Bilbao.

We will focus on the experiences and outcomes of these expeditions, with a particular focus on Porto and how our development of the 'European classroom' led to more in-depth and culturally-aware insights for all the students in the class. Session participants will learn about the educational vision and design of Urban Life & Placemaking, especially this 'Living in the City' component.

We feel Placemaking education in the more formal setting of schools and universities is imperative if we want to alter the narrative of the way civic engagement is perceived. By educating students to work from community-need we can help create a future generation of planners and designers with a bottom-up mindset.

Additional insights into the current European DUT project: InclusiveCity that we are currently engaged with will also be shared, as an example of how we

include students in the design of their own education and empower them to grow into professional roles. The session is led by a lecturer and a student connected to the DUT project, currently researching 'critical placemaking'.

Keywords: higher education; youth; capacity building



Andrew Shaw is a lecturer and researcher in the specialisation Urban Life & Placemaking, at Breda University in the Netherlands. His work focuses on the intersection of urban design and community engagement. His interests are participatory processes and interventional research to make a city more loveable and liveable.

Petya Plachkova is a fourth-year student in the program International Spatial Development at Breda University of Applied Sciences [BUAS]. For her graduation project she joined the DUT research team in the Netherlands. Her focus is on defining the inclusive city in the context of Rotterdam and applying the specific principles of placemaking and the 15-mins city to Rijnhaven - inner city harbour area which is currently undergoing development.



From Resistance to Curiosity: Fostering community engagement and inter-generational bridges through shared play

Pedro Reis (Komuhn, PT)

Within the RUA+ placemaking project we delved into the transformation of public spaces, emphasizing their potential as platforms for community engagement, experimentation, and inter-generational connection.

One of the experiments we carried out focused on the unmet needs of teens and youth in public spaces, highlighting the importance of addressing their interests and energy, particularly within streets. Streets, as immediate public spaces, can evolve beyond mere accessibility to become hubs for shared rights to livable, healthier environments. Recognizing the challenges posed by the energetic nature of youth activities, we suggest that embracing and channeling such energies, as seen in skateboarding, can give rise to unique cultures that embody freedom, creativity, and individuality.

Our case study takes place in Peniche, Portugal, where a passionate skateboarder proposed the organization of the "Skate Video Festival ON THE WALL!" in collaboration with RUA+ community, and it created the perfect opportunity to emphasizing the need for inclusive spaces that recognize every subculture within the community.

The event, held in a residential neighborhood, turned streets into shared spaces, breaking down barriers between skaters and residents. Through active participation and mentoring during a skate jam session, different generations found common ground, bridging the gap between them. We want to share how such initiatives turn resistance into vulnerability and curiosity, fostering diversity, understanding, and compassion.

Our argument is that transformative approaches like this celebrate shared humanity, challenging preconceptions and fostering inclusive coexistence within public spaces. By celebrating the essence of what makes us human, we have the potential to create harmonious communities that embrace diversity and actively engage in the creation of more inclusive public spaces.

Keywords: inter-generational; neighborhood



Pedro Reis is a relentless optimist, designer by chance, father by vocation. He has always had a strong sense of what could be a source of possibility, being more often encouraged by what felt right than by what might be perceived as inescapable circumstances. For Pedro, design came as a learned ability to create and to make the impossible possible, a language that enabled hi to speak about making with others. As a father of six Pedro is deeply hopeful of the future and does everything he can to expand our perspective of what can be together.

Empowering Communities through Co-Design: A Case Study at Casa San Vincenzo, Brescia

Maddalena Duse (University of Pavia, IT)

The paper aims to present a case study that arises from an ongoing Erasmus+ project titled "Socially Situated Architectural Pedagogies" (www.sarpe.org), involving the Universities of Pavia, Istanbul, Delft, and Malaga. In September 2023, the University of Pavia, in collaboration with the University of Brescia, organised a summer school at Casa San Vincenzo, a community in the city of Brescia (near Via Milano neighbourhood), where several guests with diverse needs and varying levels of independence temporarily reside.

The building is composed of: a ground-floor common area equipped with various services like a tailor shop, library, and dining room; individual rooms and small flats upstairs. Preliminary meetings with Casa San Vincenzo's administrators unfolded a range of needs and aspirations from dwellers' perspective. Hence, it was previously determined that the primary focus of students' activity would be on the outdoor space

including the garden, which is freely available to all tenants.

The research team led a five-day workshop at Casa San Vincenzo, where students engaged with residents, listened to their desires, aspirations, and requirements. Equipped with safety kits and toolkits (containing materials like pre-formed wooden boards, plastic water containers, and rods), students engaged in self-construction practices to design and create various unique supplies and/or furniture. At the end, these elements were exhibited to and shared with the dwellers, who expressed satisfaction with the outcomes achieved.

Throughout this workshop, learners (students and staff) situated themselves in the local context, moving beyond the academic environment and developing methods and processes directly on-site. This allowed for the co-creation of artefacts for dwellers (including migrants and disadvantaged profiles), bringing elements that were felt as truly useful and readily usable by them.

Keywords: higher education; capacity building; self-construction.

Maddalena Duse is a PhD student at the University of Pavia, focusing on tactical urbanism and bottom-up strategies analysing situated interventions, social interactions, and the phenomena of gentrification and its correlations with bottom-up strategies. Maddalena is involved in the Erasmus KA+ project SARPE.



15TH MARCH

ESTAÇÃO COOPERATIVA, CASA BRANCA

9:00

Train departure

9:20

Welcome

9:30

Visit to Casa Branca and Estação Cooperativa

Tânia Teixeira & Inês Santos
(Estação Cooperativa, PT)

With around 55 individual and 10 collective cooperators, the Estação Cooperativa aims to contribute to the integrated regeneration of Casa Branca by involving its population and recognising the abandoned public heritage as a common asset that should be returned to community use and management. Casa Branca is a stereotype of the desertification of the Alentejo, with abandoned industrial heritage, closed schools and uninhabited houses. With only around 80 inhabitants and a railway station that, although active, no longer attracts workers or retains inhabitants, this village can nevertheless be considered as a potential scenario for creating new models for revitalising rural settlements and territorial resilience.

Keywords: regeneration; rural areas; abandoned heritage; co-governance



Tânia Teixeira graduated in Architecture from the Department of Architecture at the University of Coimbra and the Politecnico di Milano. Passionate about craftsmanship, with her in-depth research and experience in building with vernacular materials and techniques, she contributes to spreading knowledge of these practices and the best way to carry them out in Portugal and around the world.

She is in constant contact with the Basehabitat network, with which she has already worked, and founded the BION network (Building Impact Zero Network) - a network whose aim is to educate young people and adults, nationally and internationally, in building with vernacular solutions and materials and with minimal environmental footprints.

Inês Santos became fascinated by social movements and identity politics before she became fascinated by architecture. Over time, he discovered the possibilities for the spatial configurations to translate social and political demands, as well as the countless techniques made with earth, fibres and lime that allow us to build within the premises of the urgent ecological transition in the paradigm of Architecture and Construction.

In this way, Architecture becomes a training ground and through it one can learn how to design and build a fairer - and freer - support for everyone.

The Tree Temple: A Playful Placemaking Initiative Based on a Participatory Approach on Living Architecture

Stephanie Geihs (DE)

Sustainability today is not only a resource issue; Global unsustainability rather issues humanity's treatment of Earth's nature as a mere pool of resources.

In the theoretical part, we provide a perspective on the cultural - ontological and ethical - conditions of the crisis, pointing to a dysfunctional ontology of instrumentalism, that dominates the modern human identity. We then propose several guidelines for a crisis-informed cultural learning process referring to concepts such as Gaia, symbiosis, interbeing, flourishing and pluriversality.

The objective of the ontological design approach is then to induce the cultivation of such a self-reconfiguration in a realistic and relevant context

and scale. Based on a participatory approach on Living Architecture (tree shaping) combined with strategies of creative place-making, envisioning and gamification, we propose an initiative framework called The Tree Temple to be realised in public urban space - as this context usually forfeits experiences of symbiotic interbeing with the more-than-human web-of-life, while on the other hand offers an important vehicle for practical discourses about social identity. The Tree Temple process essentially consists in communally designing, raising and shaping a living tree building (temple) within a community garden, while the long-term material routines implied by this project are joint with cultural practices to enliven the place in regards to a shared vision of flourishing. These practices are also intended to playfully enhance the interaction with the living trees, fostering a recognition of their active participation in the local place-and-community-building endeavour. We furthermore present the design and functioning of the central tool for realising the outlined framework in a co-creative manner: The Tree Temple board game serves for mission engagement and guides the players (initial group of participants) through understanding, negotiating, planning and modelling their temple space and culture. Finally, we speak about the current state of our first Tree Temple implementation in Casa Branca (Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal) during spring 2024, the specific challenges and objectives of this context.

Keywords: living architecture; creative place-making; gamification; ontological design; sustainability as flourishing



Stephanie Geihs completed her Master's degree in Design for Sustainability at the University of Lisbon in 2023 with a proposal for a playful placemaking initiative based on a participatory approach on botanical architecture ("The Tree Temple"). She is implementing a first tree temple in Casa Branca (Montemor-o-novo) during spring 2024, funded by the "Culture Moves Europe" program. Her interests as a sustainability designer lie in the areas of ecological consciousness, participatory and regenerative design, public space, green-blue-infrastructure and circular system design. Stephanie further holds a Bachelor (LMU, Munich) and a Master (HU, Berlin) in philosophy with a focus on epistemology, philosophy of language and philosophy of nature. She has worked as a teacher and in various cultural projects, including the organisation of the art festival "Sinstruct" in Northern Italy. She also pursues freelance projects in the field of illustration and graphic design.

Apeadeiro for all

Lea Hartmann & Christina Gärtner (BASEhabitat Kunst-universität Linz, DE)

The main purpose of our design-build project was to create a space which strengthens the interaction of the cooperative with the local community and contributes to daily community life. The structure provides a roofed space that is open for individual appropriation and multiple activities. At the same time it enhances the visibility of the cooperative and therefore the project locally to the different points of interest, such as the train station, the local restaurant and café and the main square. It is a distribution point and in the future, it may play an important role for the orientation and navigation through the widespread area.

The design offers an intervention with first provisional uses like outdoor furniture, an info board for the communication between the cooperative, the village inhabitants, the local community and people coming for transiting purposes. It is an attraction point and offers space for informal interactions, as well as public meetings. It is a light, modular and adaptable structure that can be relocated during the development of the whole project, while its placement in the corner space at the main public space seems to us to be the most fitting. There it creates a basket, connected to the daily routes,

points of interest low key inviting to meet, join or observe.
 The shading structure was built within one month by Knu.ko + friends and has been complemented since by further workshops, co-lead by Knu.ko members. In these workshops flexible seating elements were built to offer seating option, as well as fixed elements. It the built structure creates base for further complements. The design is supposed to be an ongoing process in cooperation with the members of the cooperative, locals, artists and creators.

Keywords: co-design; outdoor furniture



Lea Hartmann & Christina Gärtner are two architecture students that are in their master studies of responsible, sustainable and social architecture at BASEhabitat in Linz, Austria. During their master studies they learned about natural building materials, inclusive planning and hands on projects. Their construction site semester brought them to Casa Branca for the first time, where they fell in love with the Alentejo area. Lea and Christina are a part of Knu.ko, a collective that formed around the design-build project we would like to present.

11:20

Break

11:45

PANEL 4: PLACEMAKING & PUBLIC POLICIES

Moderation: Alexandra Libânio & Mariana Mata Passos (Estação Cooperativa, PT)

Place dissonance. Addressing contemporary urban design practices in small medium-sized cities

Hugo Reis & Ana Brandão (ISCTE – ULisboa, PT)

In this presentation, we explore the implementation of contemporary urban design practices, as placemaking, temporary urbanism or participatory practices, in small and medium-sized cities in Portugal. These approaches, centred on rapid, low-cost actions, and small-scale projects with community participation, present novel perspectives on the way public spaces are conceived, managed and experienced. While many of the experiences have initially been developed by the initiative of artists, architects and urban designers or local associations and collectives, the adoption of these practices has spread among city agents, as planning and cities authorities, or even private actors that recognize its relevance and usefulness, from large to small cities or even rural areas. Recognising their growing interest, examine how this practices are developed in four small and medium-sized cities in Portugal, analysing how they are conceived and implemented by different agents and their impact on public space design. The methodology combines documentary analysis, interviews, and ethnographic studies on public spaces. This work is part of ongoing doctoral research that explores the relationship between Art and Urbanism, understanding how cultural and artistic practices are linked to urban development and urban design. Are all cities necessarily aligned and prepared to make use of these new urban design practices? By discussing the different understandings of these urban design practices, and their spatial and social implications on public space in the four cities, this work intends to delve into the process of placeshaping and its impact on the quality of urban life, social cohesion and local identity. Preliminary results suggest that while there is growing interest in these innovative approaches to urbanism, their implementation faces challenges related to a lack of resources, rigid regulatory frameworks and the need for greater involvement and empowerment of the local community.

Keywords: urban design; temporary design; participatory practices



Ana Brandão is an architect and assistant researcher at DINÂMIA/CET-Iscte, Ph.D. in Public Space and Urban Regeneration (Universitat de Barcelona, 2015). She has research expertise in interdisciplinary work on the intersection of public space, urban design, and urban planning. Specifically, her research has focused on the design, development, and management of city processes and their impacts on urban design and public space. At present, she is developing work on where and how to redesign public spaces to deal with transition challenges in the extensive city. She participated in several research projects in these areas. Among them, the executive coordination of "Public Space Service System", with the handbook "COMMON PLACES. Guide for the Assessment and Interpretation of public space" (2018) and the "Grand Projects" research on the impacts of the Expo'98 event, editing the book "Os Grandes Trabalhos e o Desejo da Cidade de Exceção" (2023).

Hugo Reis is an architect and PhD researcher in architecture at Iscte, Lisbon. As an architect he worked between 2008 and 2012 in Porto and Berlin, at Arquitectos Anónimos and Jürgen Mayer H. respectively. In 2012, together with Filipa Frois Almeida, he founded FAHR 021.3. An experimental and creative studio which, by combining the disciplines of art and architecture, seeks to rethink and redefine space and place. It covers projects of different scales and typologies, from temporary architecture, public space, landscape interventions, scenography, as well as the programming and coordination of cultural projects. Territory, landscape and public space are cross-cutting themes in his career, with different collaborations and collective projects in these areas.

As a PhD researcher (2020-), he is part of the DINÂMIA/CET-Iscte where, funded by an FCT grant, he studies the relationship between Art and Urbanism in small and medium-sized cities in Portugal.

Participatory processes with territorial impact: case studies of co-design in Lisbon (Sê Bairrista) and Cascais (Cabra Figa)

Margarida Marques (Rês-do-Chão, PT)

Some areas of architectural practice are changing due to the growing demand for collaborative projects involving the community. Also, municipalities play a key role in ensuring citizens' trust in democracy, due to their local proximity, which should be valued and improved through community involvement in territorial transformations. This is the scope of the communication proposed here by R/C - an organization specialized in architecture, urbanism and participation - based in Lisbon and with activities in these areas over the last 10 years.

R/C thus proposes to present its active experience in the field with 2 projects (Sê Bairrista, in Lisbon, and Cabra Figa, in Cascais), as well as the preliminary results of a study it has developed on the role of public bodies in citizen participation in architecture and urbanism, consulting 26 international organizations active in these fields.

In the Sê Bairrista project in Lisbon, 5 public spaces have been redesigned for activities such as playing, gardening, talking or debating, with the aim of strengthening social cohesion such as the relationships of trust between residents and between residents and local institutions. The results of the impact of these interventions and its process will also be shared.

The second project is the design of a children's playground and park in Cabra Figa, Cascais, with the support of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) programmes. On this topic, we propose to share the tools of citizen participation used in the co-design and prototyping sessions, as well as the preliminary study of the architectural project.

Finally, we present some of the results of the systematic study based on the review of scientific information, various institutional guidelines and the conclusions of a consultation of 26 international organizations on their experiences in promoting participatory processes with territorial impact.

Keywords: citizen participation; co-design



Margarida Marques graduated in Architecture from the University of Lisbon (2009). She has worked in architecture offices in São Paulo, Quito and Lisbon. She is co-founder of Rés do Chão, where she develops architectural and urban planning projects with citizen participation.

Maria Victória responsible for supporting local interventions in the local development department. Bachelor of Science in Local Development and specialized in urban design.

BIP/ZIP Programme: A Participatory Instrument for Local Development

Maria Victória (Lisbon Municipality, PT)

The BIP/ZIP Program - finances and promotes community projects that aim to respond to local needs, promoting partnerships with local organizations and empowering the population for sustainable integrated local development. The Programme also promotes active citizenship, self-organisation and community participation in the search for collective solutions to improve their living conditions. Contributing to a positive image of these territories, in order to enable and strengthen their integration in the city.

Keywords: active citizenship; self-organisation; community participation

13:00

Lunch and goodbye

14:45

Train departure



The international conference **A Place to Be** was organised as part of the project **PLAY/ACT - Placemaking as Youth Activism**, co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme, and was the project's final multiplier event.

The conference took place in Évora and Casa Branca, Portugal, on 14th and 15th March 2024. With the exception of the guest speaker, the communications were selected from an international open call by the Conference's Scientific Committee.

More complete articles on each of the communications will be published in the **PLAY/ACT Handbook on Placemaking**, available on the Erasmus+ results platform.

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Scientific committee:

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 David Ruah (Community Impact)
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 Blanca Monge (Junta de Extremadura)
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